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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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DOI In The News

Lawmakers Take Aim At Trump's Interior Budget.

[The Hill](#) (6/8, Henry) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "defended the Trump administration's budget request for the department as 'what a balanced budget looks like' in the face of bipartisan criticism on Thursday." Members of a House Appropriations Committee subcommittee "raised a handful of complaints about the \$10.6 billion budget request for the Interior Department." The article notes that "the budget proposal is \$1.6 billion, or 13 percent, lower than current levels, and it slashes funding from programs members said Thursday they support."

[The Hill](#) (6/8, Cama, Henry) reports that Rep. Ken Calvert, the chairman of the subcommittee, "said he was upset about cuts to earthquake early notification systems." Appropriations Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen "raised objections to National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife spending measures." Rep. Hal Rogers "said he was 'flabbergasted' by a Trump administration proposal to end funding for a workforce redevelopment pilot program for coal country." Meanwhile, "Democrats said they deeply oppose cuts to climate science and adaptation accounts, as well as several policy proposals in the budget, including potential drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge."

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (6/8, Chaney) reports that Zinke assured lawmakers "he would work together to get priorities balanced."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (6/8, Steelhammer) and the [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (6/8, Connelly).

Zinke Says Interior Department Will Continue Climate Research. The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/8, Siciliano) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told lawmakers "that his agency is doing research on climate change, but it will be focused in one division of the sprawling department instead of four or five." Zinke "said all of Interior's climate research will be done at the U.S. Geological Survey." He explained that "the change was done partly for budget reasons, but also because too many agencies were getting involved, which was making the effort confused and unfocused."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (6/7, Henry).

Secretary Zinke Suggests More Money Won't Help Indian Education. The [Nation Sun News](#) (6/8) reports that "during an appearance on Capitol Hill on Thursday," Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "said the federal government spends far more money per capita on Indian students than it does elsewhere." But "the 'results are far worse,' he said, a reference to high drop out rates and low achievement levels." Zinke told members of the House Committee on Appropriations, "We have to have a candid discussion on how to provide better service for Indian education."

Interior Secretary To Visit Katahdin Monument Amid Review.

The [AP](#) (6/8) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will visit Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument on June 14. Zinke will "also be in the area the following day to meet with local officials, the Maine Woods Coalition, American Indian tribal representatives and business people." He is "also scheduled to make a 'major sportsmen and conservation announcement' in Hooksett, New Hampshire, June 13."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (6/8, Sambides), the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (6/8, Russell), [WMTW-TV Portland \(ME\)](#) Portland, ME (6/8), and

[WMEA-FM Portland \(ME\)](#) Portland, ME (6/8, Mitchell).

Mohegans To Host NCAI Conference, Interior Secretary Next Week.

The [New London \(CT\) Day](#) (6/8) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will “attend next week’s National Congress of American Indians’ 2017 Mid-Year Conference & Marketplace at Mohegan Sun.” Zinke is “scheduled to speak Tuesday, as are Mohegan Chairman Kevin Brown, Gov. Dannel P. Malloy and U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut. Lynn Malerba, chief of the Mohegan Tribe, will give an invocation.” NCAI President Brian Cladoosby said in a statement, “We are looking forward to hosting Secretary Zinke during NCAI Mid-Year. This year’s theme, ‘Sovereign Infrastructure: Building our Communities through our Values,’ is an important conversation we will continue to build upon with the Department of the Interior and the administration in the years to come.”

As Law That First Saved Grand Canyon Turns 111, Trump Takes Aim At Its Legacy.

The [Huffington Post](#) (6/8, D’angelo) reports that Thursday marked “the 111th anniversary of the Antiquities Act, signed into law by President Theodore Roosevelt and used by him and 15 other presidents, both Republicans and Democrats, to designate more than 150 national monuments.” But “rather than celebrating that legacy, President Donald Trump has taken aim at the 1906 law, claiming that recent administrations have abused it to ‘lock up millions of acres of land and water.’” According to the article, “conservationists and lawmakers took to social media on Thursday to celebrate the Antiquities Act, with many using the hashtag #MonumentsForAll and expressing outrage over the Trump administration’s actions.”

An Open Letter To Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. For the “Pundits” blog of [The Hill](#) (6/8, Stritzke, Contributor), Jerry Stritzke, president and CEO of outdoor retailer REI, writes that Interior Secretary’s Ryan Zinke’s call for public input on America’s national monuments has unleashed “an unprecedented groundswell of love for our public lands.” Thanking Zinke for “giving citizens a chance to raise their collective voice,” Stritzke urges Zinke to “listen to the people who love the outdoors” and “to leave our public lands stronger, for generations to come.”

Zinke’s Monuments ‘Review’ Is Land Seizure In Disguise. For the “Pundits” blog of [The Hill](#) (6/8, Rowland, Contributor), Jenny Rowland, the research and advocacy manager for the Public Lands Project at the Center for American Progress, acknowledges that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has expressed support for public lands in the past, but raises concerns that “his allegiance to keeping public lands in public hands has blurred.” Rowland warns that “his ongoing ‘review’ of national monuments, with a view to shrink or revoke them, could result in a sell-off of America’s lands to the highest bidder.” Rowland believes “the review appears to be little more than a cover for President Trump and Zinke to appease Utah’s anti-park politicians, whose end-goal has long been to sell off national public lands.” She concludes that “any changes made to the protection of the monuments should be seen for what they are: A sell-off of America’s parks and public lands.”

Trump Administration Can’t Alter California National Monuments, State Attorney General Says.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/8, Boxall) reports that “California’s attorney general argued Thursday that President Trump has no legal authority to revoke or modify national monuments created by previous administrations.” In an 11-page letter to the Interior Department, state Atty. Gen. Xavier Becerra “vowed ‘to take any and all legal action necessary’ to preserve six California monuments, including one in Los Angeles’ backyard, that the Trump Administration may attempt to revoke or shrink.” Becerra added, “I expect that I will be joined by many of this country’s state attorneys general in using all of the legal tools at our disposal to ensure that the rule of the law is followed.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Huffington Post](#) (6/9, Papenfuss) and the [YubaNet \(CA\)](#) (6/8).

Carbajal Tells Zinke To Respect Carrizo Plain. The [Santa Barbara \(CA\) Independent](#) (6/8, Welsh) reports that “joining with 86 other members of Congress, Salud Carbajal signed a letter demanding that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke respect the existing boundaries of the Carrizo Plain National Monument and back away from President Donald Trump’s executive order that would allow the boundaries to be redrawn.”

San Gabriel Mountains National Monument Faces A Huge Threat: Guest Commentary. In an op-ed for the [San Gabriel Valley \(CA\) Tribune](#) (6/8, Quintero), Andre Quintero, the mayor of El Monte, raises concerns that the review of national monuments will affect the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument. He urges residents to “speak up now to ensure the continued

protection of these sacred places.”

The piece also appears in the [Whittier \(CA\) Daily News](#) (6/8, Quintero).

Interior To Review Sage Grouse Protections.

The [Washington Times](#) (6/8, Wolfgang) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “reignited a battle with western conservationists and environmental groups” by ordering a review of federal policies protecting the greater sage grouse. Zinke said in a statement, “destroying local communities and levying onerous regulations on the public lands that they rely on is no way to be a good neighbor.” The current limits on activities that can take place in sage grouse habitat, falling short of listing the bird on the endangered species list, was “praised at the time as a compromise.” Environmentalists cast the move as “groundwork for unchecked energy development across sage grouse habitat.”

Additional coverage was provided by [NPR](#) (6/8, Kennedy), [TIME](#) (6/8, Worland), the [Idaho Statesman](#) (6/8, Yardley), the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (6/8, Wiles), the [Wyoming Business Report](#) (6/8), and [KTVN-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (6/8, Jay).

[Review Sans Lawsuit Fix ‘Doesn’t Solve The Problem’](#). [E&E Publishing](#) (6/8, Yachnin, Lunney) reports that House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop “applauded the Interior Department’s review of greater sage grouse conservation efforts but warned that potential new lawsuits could undermine any administrative changes to the plans.” Bishop “told E&E News ahead of Zinke’s announcement that the review was ‘appropriate’ and something that ‘should have been done a long time ago.’”

Environmental Groups Try To Block Montana Mine Expansion.

The [AP](#) (6/8, Volz) reports that “environmental advocacy groups launched a new attempt Thursday to halt the expansion of Montana’s largest coal mine over its effects on climate change, after federal officials said it wouldn’t contribute significantly to the nation’s greenhouse gas emissions.” WildEarth Guardians and the Montana Environmental Information Center claim in their lawsuit that the Interior Department’s “environmental review was shoddy, and argue the federal official who authorized the Spring Creek Mine expansion didn’t have the authority to do so.” Jeremy Nichols, WildEarth Guardians’ climate and energy program director, said, “From our perspective, they fell miserably short in accounting for the environmental implications of rubber-stamping more coal mining. It’s scandalous that the coal industry seems able to survive only because of the federal government cutting corners and turning its back on climate change.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [ABC News](#) (6/8, Volz), the [Daily Mail](#) (6/8), [Fox Business](#) (6/8, Volz), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/8, Volz), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/8, Volz), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (6/8, Volz), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/8, Matt Volz |, Ap), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/8, Volz).

Hoping For Greener Days At Interior.

[Axios](#) (6/8, Geman) reports that “when President Donald Trump tapped then-Montana congressman Ryan Zinke to lead the Interior Department, the National Wildlife Federation had supportive words for the move even as some other big groups – including the Sierra Club and Natural Resources Defense Council – bashed the choice.” Now, “around 100 days into Zinke’s tenure, NWF is still waiting for Zinke to become the conservation advocate they were hoping for, and they’re not happy with some early moves.” NWF President Collin O’Mara said, “100 days in, we are hoping there is going to be much more focus on conservation in the months ahead. We have a few areas that we are really proud that we have worked with him on, but I think we also have a lot of areas that we feel like industry’s needs have come well before conservation.”

Fossil Fuels Lead The Interior Department’s New Energy Webpage.

[Motherboard](#) (6/8, Emerson) reports that “shortly after Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s confirmation on March 1, 2017, the agency’s energy webpage was changed to reflect Trump’s ‘America First Energy Plan.’” It states, “The Department of the Interior will increase access to public lands and balance conservation with the unleashing of America’s energy opportunities. And removing burdensome regulations at the Department, the United States will benefit from a stronger economy.”

Salena Zito Is On The Road Interviewing Paul Ryan.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/8) reports that Salena Zito will interview Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, “the man who rode a horse into work for his first day in President Trump’s Cabinet.”

According to the article, "as Zito puts it, whether you like him or not, 'that's pretty badass.'"

Additional Coverage: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Reviews Bears Ears National Monument.

Additional coverage that the deadline for Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's review of the Bears Ears National Monument is June 10 was provided by [The Atlantic](#) (6/8, Bullinger).

Additional Coverage: Trump Weighs Combining Agencies Separated After Gulf Spill, Sources Say.

Additional coverage that the Interior Department could combine the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management was provided by [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/8, Dlouhy), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/8, Dlouhy), the [New Orleans \(LA\) Times-Picayune](#) (6/8), the [Houma \(LA\) Courier](#) (6/8, Dlouhy), the [Thibodaux \(LA\) Daily Comet](#) (6/8, Dlouhy), the [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (6/9, Dlouhy), [Workboat](#) (6/8, Dlouhy), and [Rigzone](#) (6/8, Dlouhy).

It Will Take A Nation To Combat Trump's War On Wildlife.

For the "Pundits" blog of [The Hill](#) (6/8, Corwin, Contributor), Jeff Corwin, who has hosted "numerous wildlife TV series," writes that "bringing back endangered species is one of our nation's greatest conservation success stories." However, under the Trump Administration, "our nation is employing disastrous policies that could take hundreds of uniquely American species back to the brink of extinction." Some of the concerns Corwin raises are the abandonment of the Paris Agreement, the proposed border wall, and the review of national monuments.

Bureau Of Land Management

BLM Nets \$1.2 Million From Sale Of Gas Leases.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (6/9, Webb) reports that the Bureau of Land Management brought in over \$1.2 million in revenue from a federal oil and gas lease sale on Thursday for 85 parcels in Colorado. Companies bid on 70 of the parcels, from the minimal allowable of \$2 an acre to \$102 an acre that Baseline Minerals paid for a parcel in Rio Blanco County. The sales revenue will be split between the federal government and the state.

Feds Sell Land Under Corpus Christi Water Supply For Fracking.

[KRIS-TV](#) Corpus Christi, TX (6/8) reports that the Center for Biological Diversity has released a response to the decision by the Bureau of Land Management "to move forward with the auction of 4,300 acres of federal land for fracking and drilling in Texas and Oklahoma – despite pending legal protests from the City of Corpus Christi and conservation groups concerned about public health threats." According to the group's statement, "the oil and gas leasing auction also comes over the objections of the City of Brenham, state representatives and U.S. Rep. Michael McCaul (R-Texas)." Wendy Park, a senior attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity, said, "It endangers public health and safety to frack dams, lakes and reservoirs. And it's reckless for the BLM to go forward with this sale knowing these dangers. When oil industry profits matter more than people and safe drinking water, our government is broken."

Iceberg Point Dig Could Locate Artifacts, But Harm Native Wildflowers.

The [Journal of the San Juan Islands \(WA\)](#) (6/8, Day) reports that "future projects, like trail maintenance, can't be completed" on protected land at Iceberg Point "without an inventory of buried artifacts, but dredging the land could destroy native wildflowers." Last fall, "a Central Washington University class was picked by Bureau of Land Management officials to dig up to 190 holes on Iceberg Point to locate remnants of local tribes." According to the article, "an environmental review of the proposed BLM plan is currently being finalized," and "if it's not accepted in about a month, a higher level review will be needed; if it is accepted, the project will start in July."

Mining Claims Increasing In Nevada.

The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (6/8, Harding) reports that "exploration in Nevada is seeing better days, according to the Nevada Division of Minerals and U.S. Bureau of Land Management numbers." Kyle Hendrix, the public affairs officer for the Battle Mountain office, "said the district

had 44 notice-level exploration projects from September to April of the 2015-2016 fiscal year, but 84 notice-level projects from September 2016 to April 2017." However, "the BLM's Ely district isn't seeing as much of a change." Stephanie Trujillo, assistant field manager for lands and minerals in the Bristlecone Field Office, said, "There are currently 48 notice-level or plan of operations authorized in the district. This number has remained steady."

BLM Extends Public Comment Period For Dixie Meadows Geothermal Development Project.

The [Northern Nevada Business Weekly](#) (6/8) reports that "the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Carson City District, has extended the public comment period for an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Dixie Meadows Geothermal Development Project." According to the article, "public comments have been extended an additional three weeks and will be accepted through June 30, 2017."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

BOEM Launches GoM Marine Species Assessment.

[Offshore Engineer](#) (6/8) reports that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is "funding and participating in a federal research partnership that has launched an intensive three-year program to improve assessment studies of protected marine species in the Gulf of Mexico." The initiative is "using aerial surveys, ship-based surveys and satellite tagging to collect the best information possible on the abundance and distribution of marine mammals, seabirds and sea turtles in the Gulf to inform federally mandated environmental assessments related to offshore energy and marine minerals development." According to the article, "the partnership, known as the Gulf of Mexico Marine Assessment Program for Protected Species (GoMMAPPS), was recently finalized through signed agreements between the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM); National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries; US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Southeast Region; and the US Geological Survey's (USGS) Wetlands and Aquatic Research Center."

[WWNO-FM](#) New Orleans (6/8, Lux) reports that environmental scientist Rebecca Green, who is leading the survey and works for the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, said, "So what we're trying to do is figure out who is there, and when."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Reclamation Seeks Volunteer Boaters And Participants For The 17th Year Of Shasta Lake C.A.S.T. For Kids Event.

The [East Valley Times \(CA\)](#) (6/8) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation's Northern California Area Office, "in partnership with the C.A.S.T. (Catch a Special Thrill) for Kids Foundation, will host their 17th year of C.A.S.T. for Kids fishing event at Shasta Lake on Saturday, June 10, 2017." The event will be held at Packers Bay Marina at Shasta Lake. According to the article, "each child will receive a fishing pole, tackle box, T-shirt, and other prizes and spend the morning fishing with local volunteer anglers."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Public Input To Help Shape Management Plans For Montana Wildlife Refuges.

[Montana Public Radio](#) (6/8, Ouellet) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was "in Polson and Kalispell this week, seeking public input on a pair of management plans for wildlife refuges in northwest Montana." According to the article, "about 15 people showed up to each meeting, hosted by Service staff, like Bernie Petersen, a regional refuge supervisor helping oversee the process." Petersen said, "We're just in the state of gathering information from the public, of what they want to see, what they think is important to protect, and how they think we should be managing those resources."

Editorial: Warbler Should Be Delisted As An Endangered Species.

In an editorial, the [Tyler \(TX\) Morning Telegraph](#) (6/8) says that "golden-cheeked warbler

populations are fine, and continuing to list it as endangered is affecting everything from school funding to military preparedness." It notes that "researchers now say there's five times more habitat (about 6,480 square miles) and about 19 times more warblers than previously thought." The warbler's inclusion on the Endangered Species list is "also depressing land values and frustrating land owners."

Keep Protections In Place For Grizzly.

In an op-ed for the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (6/8, Baum), wildlife and wilderness advocate Bill Baum, opposes the removal of grizzly bears from the endangered species list. Baum harshly criticizes the members of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee's Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) Subcommittee. Baum writes that during a meeting, he "read no compassion in their faces, only an egotistical arrogance of human superiority that was unconscionably dismissive of Indian culture and the plight of the grizzly bear, and wishing the pleading on behalf of the great bear would end soon."

National Park Service

Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program To Expire In 2 Years.

The [AP](#) (6/9, Barker, Levin) reports that the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program is set to expire in 2019. Kaisa Barthuli, program manager with the National Park Service for the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program, said, "Unless there's legislative action taken to extend it, we are expecting it to sunset on Oct. 1, 2019." According to Frank Butterfield, director of the nonprofit group Landmarks Illinois, "preservationists fear that small towns along the highway will miss out on much-needed investment if the funding program is not extended, or if the route does not get federal historic trail designation."

No More Weekend Free Parking On The National Mall.

[WRC-TV](#) Washington (6/8, Ward) reports that "free parking on the weekends is coming to an end on the National Mall." Now, drivers must "pay \$2 an hour to park along the National Park Service roads on the National Mall, which includes popular parking spots like Ohio Drive." According to the article, "the idea is to encourage turnover of limited parking spaces and to encourage people to use public or alternative transportation."

Amtrak Showcasing National Park Service Destinations This Summer.

[Travel Pulse](#) (6/8, Wood) reports that rail company Amtrak has teamed with the Interior Department "to showcase the natural and cultural attractions that the National Park Service offers tourists." According to the article, "to ensure travelers optimize their summer vacations, Amtrak is extending its 75 percent discount to fourth-graders, with the purchase of one regular adult fare." The article notes that "the discounted rate is part of the Every Kid in a Park initiative and is available through Aug. 31 for travel through Sept. 3."

'Natchez History Minute' Gets National Park Service Regional Award.

The [Natchez \(MS\) Democrat](#) (6/9, Hamilton) reports that the National Park Service "recently recognized the Natchez National Historical Park for an outstanding achievement in multimedia." The "Natchez History Minute" project earned the NPS Southeast Region "Achieving Relevance" award, "winning out against approximately 60 other parks in the region." The project "commemorated the Natchez Tricentennial throughout 2016, as a one-minute video was posted every day of the year, providing a look at a historical event that occurred each day."

How To Succeed In Business While Really Trying.

Drawing from profiles of industry leaders it has written since May 2013, [Bloomberg News](#) (6/8) quotes various executives on how they achieved their success and reached their current positions. Included in the list is former National Park Service director Jonathan Jarvis' advice: "Take time to get outside. It's good for you. And though the odds are very low that you'll be eaten, carry your bear spray."

Office Of Insular Affairs

US Virgin Islands Receives Federal Grants.

[Marianas Variety](#) (6/9) reports that Interior Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula and “other officials met with U.S. Virgin Islands Gov. Kenneth Mapp to discuss issues facing the territory.” According to the article, “they discussed infrastructure challenges related to the hospitals and various initiatives Governor Mapp has implemented and is developing to bring greater fiscal stability to the Virgin Islands.” Mapp’s “trip coincided with the release of \$704,000 in technical and maintenance assistance funding from the Office of Insular Affairs which will support the governor and his administration in several important ways.” Pula said, “The governor and I were able to have frank discussions on his priorities for the U.S. Virgin Islands. I am pleased OIA is able to provide some assistance to worthy projects that will directly impact and enhance the government’s ability to deliver services and opportunities.”

US Geological Survey

Valley District Renews USGS Agreement.

The [Highland \(CA\) Community News](#) (6/8, Hernandez) reports that the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District “approved a cooperative joint funding agreement with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for a variety of studies and investigations.” According to the article, “in renewing its cooperative agreement with the USGS the Valley district will receive the benefit of valuable scientific data from geological surveys and environmental studies used throughout the District’s planning including the Upper Santa Ana River Habitat Conservation Plan.”

Restore Quake Alert Funding To Federal Budget: Editorial.

In an editorial, the [Los Angeles Daily News](#) (6/8) says that “when the proposed federal budget from the Trump administration eliminated ongoing funding for ShakeAlert, a cost-efficient early-warning system that would provide up to a minute of crucial time for those of us who live here to prepare for a major earthquake, it did so at our peril.” It argues that “in a massive federal budget, we’re not talking about a lot of money here.” The paper urges Congress “to restore ShakeAlert funding as it crafts its budget.”

Top National News

Comey Accuses Trump Of “Lies,” Says He Felt Directed To Drop Flynn Probe.

Former FBI Director Comey’s [testimony](#) received saturation coverage last night and this morning, with the major network newscasts devoting more than 46 minutes of combined airtime to the story. The CBS Evening News, in fact, was entirely devoted to Comey’s appearance before the Senate Intelligence Committee – an event a [Reuters](#) (6/8, Simpson) story called the “Super Bowl of Washington.” Across mainstream media outlets, reporting describes the hearing in terms that are often ominous for the White House, raising the specter of troubling days ahead for the Trump presidency. Lester Holt, for example, said in the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/8, lead story, 4:55) that Comey left “questions of potential obstruction of justice...hanging in the air,” and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/8, Tanfani, Tanfani) calls the hearing “explosive,” and says it created “the certainty that what Trump has called the ‘cloud’ of criminal and congressional investigations will not lift anytime soon.” [McClatchy](#) (6/8, Gordon) refers to “extraordinary testimony,” the [New York Times](#) (6/8, Apuzzo, Huettner) to an “extraordinary” hearing which “squarely raised the question of whether Mr. Trump tried to obstruct justice,” and [Politico](#) (6/8, Purdum) to “a quietly devastating indictment of...Trump.”

Under the headline “Comey Gets His Revenge Against Trump In Day Of Riveting Testimony,” Susan Page similarly writes in [USA Today](#) (6/8) that Comey “painted a devastating portrait of a president whom he says lied in public and bulldozed in private through the governmental norms designed to protect the rule of law.” The [Washington Post](#) (6/8, Barrett, Nakashima, O’Keefe) says Comey “grimly recounted the events that he said showed the president sought to redirect the Russia probe away from his former national security adviser, Michael Flynn, and get the FBI to publicly distance the president himself from the probe.”

In its lead story, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/8, lead story, 6:00, Muir) reported Comey outlined “his growing unease with” Trump, beginning with his first one-on-one meeting at Trump Tower in January. Comey then described what was to him “the most troubling interaction of all: a February 14th meeting in the Oval Office, with Comey, the President and his top advisers. At the

end, the President tells Comey to stay, ordering everyone else out of the room." Comey was shown saying, "My impression was something big is about to happen. I need to remember every single word that is spoken. My sense was the Attorney General knew he shouldn't be leaving, which is why he was lingering. And I don't know Mr. Kushner well, but I think he picked up on the same thing. So I knew something was about to happen that I needed to pay very close attention to." ABC (Thomas) said Comey claimed that Trump then "asked him to back off the investigation into" Flynn. Comey said, "I took it as a direction." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/8, Wilber, Tau) runs a similar story under the headline "Comey Says He Felt Trump Directed Him To Drop Flynn Probe."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/8) reported Comey also explained how Trump asked him "for what he took as a loyalty pledge." Comey was shown saying, "I could be wrong, but my common sense told me what's going on here is, he's looking to get something in exchange for granting my request to stay in the job." [Politico](#) (6/8, Purdum) notes Comey disclosed that "he had kept contemporaneous notes of their every conversation." In its lead story, the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/8, lead story, 4:45, Pelley) showed him saying, "I was honestly concerned that he might lie about the nature of our meeting, so I thought it really important to document." Moreover, the [AP](#) (6/8, Tucker, Werner) quotes him as saying, "It's my judgment that I was fired because of the Russia investigation."

Jan Crawford cautioned on the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/8, story 3, 2:05, Pelley) that Comey "was careful not to say whether he thought the President broke the law," and instead deferred to Special Counsel Robert Mueller. [Reuters](#) (6/8, Zengerle, Cornwell) quotes Comey as saying, "I don't think it's for me to say whether the conversation I had with the president was an effort to obstruct. I took it as a very disturbing thing, very concerning."

To the [Washington Post](#) (6/8, Zapotosky), however, Comey "essentially laid out an obstruction of justice case against...Trump and suggested senior leaders in the bureau might have actually contemplated the matter before Trump removed him as director." Dan Balz, also in the [Washington Post](#) (6/8), writes that "for months, the focus has been on what happened last year and outside of government," but "now, for the first time," Comey's "damning" testimony "has moved to inside the White House and specifically to questions about the president's personal conduct in office."

[USA Today](#) (6/8, Heath) reports "former prosecutors said Comey's testimony laid out sufficiently clear evidence to justify a deeper investigation of whether Trump had broken the law." Tom Nichols, "a Russia expert and a professor of national security affairs at the Naval War College," writes in [USA Today](#) (6/8) that Comey's testimony "cannot be considered anything but a political disaster for an administration already embroiled in a major scandal of its own making." Michael Gerson, in the [Washington Post](#) (6/8), writes that "Comey seemed to be setting up the factual basis for an obstruction case, like a tennis-serve toss for his friend...Mueller...to smash home." [Politico](#) (6/8, Samuelsohn) reports that Comey "gave...Mueller plenty to work with," and the [New York Times](#) (6/8, Savage) reports that "if one believes...Comey's account...it could present a prosecutable case of obstruction of justice."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/8, Miller) reports that "the reason for Trump's alleged efforts on Flynn's behalf remain unclear," and adds that "Flynn's attempt to secure immunity in exchange for congressional testimony have prompted speculation that he may have potentially incriminating information to share." Trump "might also feel guilty over how quickly he discarded the most high-ranking US national security official to endorse him and campaign for him during the 2016 race."

[Politico Magazine](#) (6/8) offers disparate assessments from legal professionals on what it all meant for Trump. Harvard's Laurence Tribe, for example, said "the case against Trump seems 'considerably stronger now,'" while former Watergate prosecutor Jill Win-Banks heard "echoes" of "what led to articles of impeachment against President Nixon." To Florida International University's Elizabeth Foley, however, "the most remarkable thing about Comey's testimony was its vapidness," as "other than thoroughly exploring the legally inconsequential issue of whether Trump asked Comey for his 'loyal honesty' or 'his honest loyalty,' the hearing yielded nothing." Ilya Somin of George Mason University said it was all "'dramatic theater' – but not much more."

Eugene Robinson writes in the [Washington Post](#) (6/8) that "as perhaps should have been expected, the most important takeaway from Comey's testimony may be what he didn't say. Topics he scrupulously avoided may give a hint of where the investigation is headed." For example, "he declined...to answer a question in open session about Vnesheconombank (VEB), a Russian government-owned development bank linked to President Vladimir Putin. Trump's adviser and son-in-law, Jared Kushner, met last year with VEB executives."

[Reuters](#) (6/8, Zengerle, Cornwell) reports Comey also “said Trump’s administration had defamed him in comments made after his firing by saying that the FBI was in disarray.” [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (6/8) showed Comey saying, “The Administration then chose to defame me and, more importantly, the FBI by saying that the organization was in disarray, that it was poorly led, that the workforce had lost confidence in its leader. Those were lies, plain and simple.” The [New York Times](#) (6/8, Poniewozik) says “Comey’s camera manner is more suited for a human-resources video than a reality-show throwdown,” but he “demonstrated that he was not there to make friends – at least not with the president.”

The [Washington Post](#) (6/8, Fisher) says that Comey, “finally free to speak his mind about the president who sacked him, decided to play two roles at once: the prototypical G-man, always on the straight and narrow, dedicated only to truth and justice, and the aggrieved victim of an undisciplined, line-crossing president.”

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/8, story 2, 2:10, Holt), House Intelligence Committee ranking member Adam Schiff was shown saying, “What was among the most striking to me is the President basically telling everyone else to get out of the room. As a former prosecutor, that says to me he is conscious of what he’s about to do is improper.” Schiff also appeared on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (6/8), saying he found Comey’s testimony “quite stunning. Not every day you have a former director of the FBI saying he couldn’t trust the President, that the President had demanded loyalty from him in a conversation that at least in part centered around whether the director would keep his job, and most significantly that he was asked to drop a criminal case involving a high profile surrogate of the President on the campaign trail.” Schiff [added](#) that “there’s evidence that was presented in the testimony that the President they have sought to interfere or obstruct the investigation.”

Rep. Joaquin Castro said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (6/8), “Yes, the evidence seems very damning, what we heard is very damning, but we have to make sure that we compile all of the pieces of evidence that we can.”

Former DNI Clapper said on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/8), “The big difference in my mind between Watergate, which I lived through, and this is the backdrop of the Russian interference in our political process as opposed to a burglary, a break-in. To me that is hugely different. I thought Jim Comey’s testimony was riveting, compelling, and to me reinforced the comparison, at least in my mind, between Watergate and what we confront now.”

Sen. Dick Durbin said on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (6/8), “You don’t need to be a legal scholar to realize that absolutely no one, including the President, should either try to stop a criminal investigation or influence the outcome.”

Sen. Joe Manchin said on [CNN’s The Lead](#) (6/8), when asked whether he thinks Trump obstructed justice, “I’m not there yet. ... The thing that I can tell you that’s comforting is that we have Bob Mueller, the special prosecutor. Everybody, Democrats and Republicans, has the utmost confidence and reliability in this man who’s beyond approach. ... I think we are all going to take whatever he comes back with, his recommendations, and that’s what we’ll run with.”

Rep. Joaquin Castro said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (6/8), “I do think we need to wait to let the special counsel do his work. He just started that but it’s hard to imagine if you’re James Comey and you’re in a one on one meeting at the White House with the President, which is very rare...and he says I hope this is what happens with this investigation, that you don’t take that as either directive or pressure of some sort.”

Sen. Angus King said on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/8), “I think Mr. Comey’s response was what would be almost all of us, this is something the President wants done.” While leaving the question of obstruction of justice to the special counsel, King also said, “I think one of the most significant things that came across today was this moment – you played it – with Mark Warner, where the President was in the Oval Office with a group of people including Mr. Comey and the attorney general and Jared Kushner and others and the President said, everybody out, including the attorney general, closed the door, alone with Mr. Comey,” which “I think...makes it hard for the President to argue, well, I didn’t really intend it and it was a casual conversation.”

Rep. David Cicilline said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (6/8), “What we saw today was testimony from Director Comey that the President of the United States attempted to impede, influence, prevent an investigation from proceeding. And that should be concerning to everyone.”

Nick Ackerman from Dorsey and Whitney, assistant special prosecutor in the Watergate scandal, said on [CNBC’s Closing Bell](#) (6/8), “There’s no question Trump was involved in an obstruction of justice. The Comey testimony today makes that crystal clear.”

Robert Ray of Thompson and Knight, independent counsel for the Whitewater investigation,

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said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (6/8), "Whatever the President's hopes and intimations were, he didn't issue a directive or an order to the FBI director to end any investigation. And furthermore, the fact anybody argues replacing the FBI director amounts to obstruction of justice doesn't give the President credit that his office is due, which is, how can you make a personnel decision into an obstruction of justice? That's a ridiculous notion. No prosecutor would ever bring such a case, ever."

Political analyst Carl Bernstein said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (6/8), "It was a bad day for the President of the United States, because what we see are these investigations and incredible testimonies closing in on his conduct and nearing a discussion of obstruction of justice and abuse of authority. ... And now there is a credible Senate investigation."

Democratic strategist Paul Begala said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/8), "I don't think the President can afford many more days this good." In Watergate, "the smoking gun, the chief of staff for the President said the way to handle it now is for us to have Vernon Walters call Pat Gray, the head of the FBI, and just say stay the hell out of this," and Nixon says "uh-huh. ... So if uh-huh was enough to drive Nixon out of office, what the hell did we just hear James Comey testify on?"

The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/8, story 8, 1:45, Pelley) reported that "Comey was everywhere today" as the public took to bars to watch the hearing. CBS (Blackstone) added that there were also 3.6 million tweets about Comey's testimony. [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/8, story 5, 1:50, Holt) reported, "From coast to coast today, the Comey hearing was must see TV for millions of Americans." NBC (Schwartz) added, "For the most part, those who turned up for parties in San Francisco, DC, Houston, Los Angeles rooting on the former FBI director. ... But in places like Gilbert, Arizona, liberals, conservatives, independents, making their way to work agreed on one thing. The debacle is getting way too complicated to follow." [Politico Magazine](#) (6/8) says the "blockbuster" hearing "lived up to its billing," [The Hill](#) (6/8, Williams) that it was "one of the most riveting and historic congressional hearings in decades," and [Reuters](#) (6/8, Zengerle, Cornwell) that it was "the most eagerly anticipated" one "in years." The [New York Times](#) (6/8) runs a feature of bar crowds under the headlined "Comey Testimony A Prism For Viewing American Politics."

In the [Washington Post](#) (6/8), David Ignatius describes the hearing as "the stuff of high drama – the temporizing ethicist meets the amoral bulldozer," and concludes that "the story didn't have a happy ending for Comey – or, it seems, for the country."

[USA Today](#) (6/8) editorializes that "two supreme ironies stand out: One is that Trump wasn't a target of the Russia investigation, but because of his own actions in the Oval Office, the president is surely now in Mueller's crosshairs." The second one is "that Comey, who helped... Trump become president with an October-surprise announcement that the Clinton email inquiry had been re-opened (only to find nothing), could turn out to be the man most responsible for hastening Trump's departure from office."

The [New York Times](#) (6/8) editorializes that "there is an aspect to public servants like Mr. Comey that Mr. Trump and his administration seem unable to comprehend, to their peril – a dedication to their roles that places service above any president's glory." The Times notes that Comey said the FBI's mission "is to protect the American people and uphold the Constitution of the United States." Concludes the Times, "Let's hope that the principles he articulated, and those who hold them, guide this investigation in the days ahead."

In an editorial, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/8) calls Comey's testimony "sensational, riveting and sickening," and adds that "Trump's behavior toward Comey may or may not meet the legal definition of obstruction of justice, but any American can see that it was grossly inappropriate. It's yet another misstep by an undisciplined, arrogant president who appears to have no compunction about breaking the rules when it comes to advancing his own interests." The [Detroit Free Press](#) (6/8) editorializes that "if there is any cause for optimism, it is that the institutions and legal mechanisms established to assure the rule of law have so far withstood the extraordinary strains the White House has placed on them."

Comey: "Lordy, I Hope There Are Tapes." [USA Today](#) (6/8, Kelly, Johnson) reports that Comey "said that he hoped the president was serious when he tweeted that there might be tapes" his conversations with Trump. Said Comey, "Lordy, I hope there are tapes. ... The president surely knows whether he taped me, and if he did, my feelings aren't hurt. Release all the tapes. I'm good with it." The [New York Times](#) (6/8, Apuzzo, Huetteman) says "the White House has not commented on whether recordings exist," but Comey "repeatedly baited Mr. Trump to produce them if they did."

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/8, story 2, 3:30, Muir), Jonathan Karl reported White

House Deputy Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders yesterday said she has “no idea” if such tapes exist.

Rep. Joaquin Castro said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/8) that he thinks Congress “should send over a subpoena to the White House for those tapes and they should be produced if they exist.”

The [Washington Times](#) (6/8, Dinan, West), meanwhile, reports that Senate Minority Leader Schumer “demanded...that...Trump ‘play the tapes’ of any conversations he had with...Comey, saying that unless the White House produces recordings, it cannot contradict Mr. Comey’s ‘eye-opening’ testimony.” Said Schumer, “Play the tapes for all of America to hear or admit that there were no tapes.”

Comey Admits He Leaked Memos To Trigger Special Counsel. [McClatchy](#) (6/8, Gordon) reports that “from their first meeting, Comey said, he felt uncomfortable with the president’s demands that he demonstrate loyalty, so he started taking detailed notes because he suspected Trump ‘might lie’ about their conversations.” Then, “after being fired...he felt the need to leak some of those notes to the media, through a friend, so that the Justice Department would be compelled to appoint a special counsel to probe the Trump campaign’s ties with Russia, which is what ultimately happened.”

The [Washington Times](#) (6/8, Boylan, Noble) also reports that Comey’s “gripping testimony...revealed that he orchestrated the leak of details of his memos of those presidential conversations because he hoped it would spur the Justice Department to announce an independent prosecutor to probe the Trump operation.”

Sean Hannity said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (6/8), “The fired, disgruntled ex-employee leaked details of his memo hoping that it would bring about a special counsel? This is beyond ridiculous and inappropriate and by the way, it shows you how calculated and political this guy really is.”

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/8), former Special Prosecutor Michael Zeldin said of Comey leaking the memos, “I’ve never seen that from anyone in the government or who has been fired from the government. It is an extraordinary measure which I think reflects Jim Comey’s lack of trust of the President and the Justice Department apparatus to do the right thing.”

Eugene Robinson writes in the [Washington Post](#) (6/8), “What do you do if you’ve just been fired as director of the FBI, the administration has chosen to ‘defame’ you with ‘lies plain and simple,’ and you believe the president of the United States may be trying to obstruct justice? You leak bombshell information to the media in hopes of forcing the appointment of a special counsel. It might work.” Adds Robinson, “Actually, it did work.”

However, the [New York Times](#) (6/8, Thrush, Haberman) reports “Trump and many of his aides believe that Mr. Comey’s unexpected admission that he leaked details of private Oval Office discussions to the news media, along with questions he raised about the conduct of Loretta Lynch...has given them fresh ammunition for a political counterattack that Mr. Trump badly wants to wage.”

Schiff said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/8), “I think if the Director was as concerned as he evidently was that either this evidence might not be preserved or that the true story ought to get out, I think the Director should have come to the public directly himself or come to Congress and made those statements and clarify the record and not gone through a third party. That’s what I think the Director should have done.”

Sen. Angus King said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/8), “He wasn’t in the FBI when this occurred. Number two, it’s a legitimate question, although when you use the word ‘leak,’ it implies something is classified. ... You stated it, government property perhaps, but these were his personal recollections in the FBI files. The important thing to me is we’re going to get a hold of those memos.”

The [New York Post](#) (6/8, Brown, Sheehan) reports “a Columbia University professor from Brooklyn went into hiding Thursday after pal James Comey revealed during his Senate testimony that the man leaked memos detailing the former FBI chief’s conversations with...Trump.” Daniel Richman “confirmed by e-mail to several reporters that he was the ‘good friend’ and law-school prof who Comey slipped the documents – then hightailed it out of his tony Brooklyn Heights home and refused to answer any more questions.”

Panetta: White House Staff Should Have Known Better. Former CIA Director Leon Panetta said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/8, story 6, 2:25, Pelley) that Trump’s move to have everyone leave the room before he spoke privately with Comey “was a serious breach in the relationship between the President and the director of the FBI. It was at that point that somebody in the room should have made clear that the President ought not to be alone with the director of the FBI and,

obviously, no one did, and I think that was a serious lapse in terms of good discipline at the White House." Panetta added that Comey's testimony "raised at least a pattern in the meetings and discussions [Trump had] with the director that raises the issue of whether or not he was trying to influence or obstruct that investigation."

Comey Hinted There's More To Sessions' Recusal From Russia Probe. [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/8) reported that Comey also "hinted information not yet known about Attorney General Jeff Sessions" when the former director stated that Sessions "was close to and inevitably going to recuse himself for a variety of reasons – we also were aware of facts that I cannot discuss in an open setting – that would make his continued engagement in the Russia investigation problematic." Former CIA officer Phil Mudd said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/8) that Comey's comment on sessions is "a message that says, 'you have to investigate this because the reasons he had to recuse himself are not incidental; they're secret reasons and ugly.'"

The [Washington Post](#) (6/8, Horwitz) reports Sessions "has acknowledged meeting twice with Sergey Kislyak, the Russian ambassador to the United States, during the 2016 presidential campaign – once on the sidelines of the Republican National Convention in July and a second time in his Senate office." However, "lawmakers have asked the FBI to investigate whether Sessions had a third, undisclosed encounter in April with Kislyak at a hotel in Washington where Trump gave a major foreign policy address. The Justice Department denies the hotel meeting occurred."

The [AP](#) (6/8, Gurman) reports "the Justice Department responded late Thursday, saying that after consultations with department ethics officials Sessions recused himself because of his involvement in Trump's 2016 presidential campaign, 'for that reason, and that reason alone.'" The [Washington Post](#) (6/8, Demirjian, O'Keefe) notes "Sessions is scheduled to appear Tuesday before a Senate Appropriations subcommittee to discuss the Justice Department's budget."

Comey Says NYTimes Story "Almost Entirely Wrong"; Times Stands By It. The [Washington Times](#) (6/8, Scarborough) reports that "a major New York Times story that helped spawn the unproven Trump-Russia collusion narrative for months in Washington was debunked on Thursday by...Comey." Asked by Sen. Tom Cotton whether "the story was 'almost entirely wrong,' he answered, 'Yes.'" Comey added that when the story came out, he "knew it was not true," and "alerted both Republican and Democrat senators not to believe the Times." It was "a rare public moment in Washington. A former FBI director was totally discrediting a major investigative story by the nation's most influential newspaper." In fact, notes [The Hill](#) (6/8, Easley), Comey also said yesterday, "There have been many, many stories based on – well, lots of stuff, but about Russia that are dead wrong."

The [New York Times](#) (6/8, Schmidt, Mazzetti, Apuzzo) reports that Comey "disputed" its article, which "was the first to reveal direct contacts between Trump advisers and Russian officials – contacts that are now at the heart of FBI and congressional investigations." The Times goes on to defend its reporting, claiming that "multiple news outlets have since published accounts that support the main elements of The Times's article," and that its "original sources could not immediately be reached after Mr. Comey's remarks, but in the months since the article was published, they have indicated that they believed the account was solid."

Tucker Carlson said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (6/8), "We learned that many of the other leaks and big scoops for major news outlets are lies." He added that "nameless leakers, the group that has been responsible more than anyone else for fueling the past seven months of media hysteria, often lied. ... Maybe reporters ought to take that into account before acting as their stenographers, as they usually do."

Sean Hannity said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (6/8), in reference to other news outlets, "We were the only ones in the media that cared about looking into this deeply and telling you, the American people, the truth and not going with lies and innuendos and propaganda and misinformation, because they were advancing a political agenda."

Schiff said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/8), "Certainly some of the stories are wrong. As you know, some of the stories on Fox about the British being participants and surveillance of President Trump were wrong. That doesn't excuse the President's conduct here. We do need to get to the bottom of what allegations aired in public in these stories are true and what's not true. Certainly there's been press reporting that's been erroneous at times, press reporting that's been all too accurate. I will say any reporting that reveals sources and methods, anyone that is disclosing sources and methods, it's a real problem."

Media Analyses: No New Revelations On Russian Meddling In Election. [Reuters](#) (6/8, Zengerle, Cornwell) reports Comey "did not make major new revelations about any links between Trump or his associates and Russia, an issue that has dogged the president's first months in office and distracted from his policy goals such as overhauling the US healthcare system and making tax

cuts.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/8, Tanfani, Tanfani) similarly says “Comey’s charges provided riveting political drama but no new bombshells about Russian meddling in the 2016 election or improper contacts by the Trump campaign or the White House with Russian authorities. ”

The [Washington Post](#) (6/8, Barrett, Nakashima, O’Keefe) recounts, however, that “onside the hearing room, people audibly groaned or gasped when Comey said he had ‘no doubt’ that Russian government officials were behind the hacking of the Democratic National Committee last year.”

Matthews: Accusation About Trump-Russia Collusion “Came Apart.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/8, Scarry) reports that “liberal MSNBC host Chris Matthews said Thursday the accusation that...Trump directly colluded with Russia to interfere in the US election ‘came apart’ following...Comey’s testimony.” Matthews said on [MSNBC’s Andrea Mitchell Reports](#) (6/8), “The assumption of the critics of the President, of his pursuers, you might say, is that somewhere along the line in the last year is the president had something to do with colluding with the Russians...to affect the election in some way,” but “what came apart this morning was that theory,” as it turns out “Flynn wasn’t central to the Russian investigation,” and “secondly, he said that kills the idea that Flynn might have been in a position to testify against Trump.” Asked Matthews, “And if that’s not the case, where’s the there there?”

Tucker Carlson similarly said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (6/8), “We’ve learned that the Russian collusion story, the one we’ve been force fed by Democrats in the Congress and their handmaidens in the media for months now, is starting to look weaker than ever.” He added that Comey “confirmed that Trump was never under investigation, and offers no evidence saying that he should be under investigation. We have also been told that if Trump did not collude with Russia himself, he maneuvered to protect those around him who did collaborate or collude with Russia. But Comey declared just the opposite today.”

Comey Says British Dossier Led To FBI Probe. The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (6/8, Gertz) reports that “a private intelligence dossier containing false and salacious claims about...Trump took center stage,” after Comey “revealed the document drove the FBI’s counterspy probe into alleged Russian collusion with the Trump presidential campaign.” The Free Beacon adds that “many of the claims in the...dossier have been exposed as false, including charges that Trump was compromised by prostitutes working for the FSB intelligence service at a Moscow hotel.” Comey said yesterday, “If the FBI receives a credible allegation that there is some effort to coopt, coerce, direct, employ covertly an American on behalf of the foreign power, that’s the basis on which a counterintelligence investigation is opened.”

Bharara Seated Near Comey. The [Washington Times](#) (6/8, Boylan, Noble) reports that while Comey “sat at the committee hearing desk alone and had no obvious legal counsel directly at his side, Preet Bharara, former United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York was seated nearby.”

NYTimes, LATimes Analyses: Comey’s Reaction To Trump Reminiscent Of Sexual Harassment Victims. The [New York Times](#) (6/8, Steel) reports that “for some people who watched...Comey’s Senate testimony on Thursday, the questions that Mr. Comey...faced and the situations he described brought to mind a seemingly unrelated topic: sexual harassment.” That is so, according to the Times, because senators pressed him “why he did not immediately report any behavior by...Trump that he thought was inappropriate, why he did not quit as FBI director and why he continued to take private calls from” him. Emily Nussbaum, The New Yorker’s “television critic, said that the situation reminded her of the sexual harassment scandal at Fox News that led to the ouster of Roger Ailes...and Bill O’Reilly, the former Fox News host.”

TV critic Lorraine Ali, in the [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/8) writes that the Comey saga is “not the Bill Cosby trial or a new, sordid allegation against...Ailes,” but there “were similarities between one of the most powerful men in America and the relatively unknown women testifying this week against Cosby.”

The NYTimes and LATimes may have been reacting to attitudes such as the one espoused by the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/8) editorial page, which sounds a skeptical note on Comey’s testimony – as well as on his motives – and wonders why, if his allegations are true, he did not resign his position.

Comey Says Exchange With Lynch On Clinton Probe Gave Him “Queasy Feeling.”

[USA Today](#) (6/8, Johnson) reports that “during the course of the FBI’s investigation into Hillary Clinton’s use of a private email server, former FBI director James Comey said he had a troubling exchange with then-attorney general Loretta Lynch.” According to Comey, she told him, “Don’t

call it that (an investigation). Call it a matter. Just call it a matter.” Comey “said the direction gave the ‘impression’ that the government was aligning its work with the Clinton campaign,” and that gave him ‘a queasy feeling.’”

To the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/8, story 7, 1:05, Pelley), Comey testified that Lynch “let politics influence the FBI’s description of its investigation of...Clinton’s classified emails.” Lynch responded Thursday, saying she chose the word “matter” because “she didn’t want to confirm or deny an ongoing investigation.”

The [Washington Post](#) (6/8, Gearan) reports “a former US official close to Lynch challenged Comey’s description of events,” saying, “The AG told Director Comey that she had used the term ‘matter’ in response to press inquiries, in order to ensure that she neither confirmed nor denied the investigation, in accordance with longstanding Justice Department and FBI policy. She suggested that she and the director should be consistent in their language, and at the end of the meeting, she asked if everyone was comfortable with using the term ‘matter.’ No one, including the Director, contested that view.” The [New York Times](#) (6/8, Baker) similarly cites “a person close” to Lynch who “said Mr. Comey requested the September 2015 meeting to ask for guidance on his coming congressional testimony. Ms. Lynch said he should follow normal department policy of not discussing open investigations.”

[Politico](#) (6/8, Nelson) notes “Comey said Clinton’s presidential campaign had been referring to the investigation into her use of a private email while at the State Department using ‘all kinds of euphemisms: security review, matters, things like that for what was going on.’” The [New York Post](#) (6/8, Fredericks) quotes Comey as saying that Lynch’s direction “tracked how the campaign was talking about the FBI’s work.” Comey added that “former President Bill Clinton’s surprise meeting with Lynch at an Arizona airport also prompted him to go public with results of the FBI probe into the email server.” Said Comey, “That was the thing that capped it for me, that I had to do something separately to protect the credibility of the investigation, which meant both the FBI and the Justice Department.”

Tucker Carlson said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (6/8), “We learned that while investigating Hillary Clinton’s private email server, Loretta Lynch asked Comey to soft-pedal what was happening. She instructed him to call the whole thing a matter rather than what it was, and investigation. That is political pressure if there was such a thing, but Comey went along with it anyway.” He added, “Why did Comey agree to make [an] untrue statement that echoed the Clinton campaign’s talking points – and he’s admitted he did that – and then refuse to publicly say something completely true about President Trump, namely that he was not under investigation? Why did Comey make, and then leak, detailed memos about his meetings with President Trump, but do nothing in response to the political pressure that he received from the previous attorney general, Loretta Lynch?”

Sean Hannity said on [Fox News’ Hannity](#) (6/8) that Comey “created a two-tiered justice system, one for Hillary and Bill Clinton and one for the rest of America, by ignoring the many, many crimes we know she committed.” He added, “Comey literally explained that Hillary Clinton broke several laws, committed several felonies, but then what – we saw him do what he’s done now multiple times. He started to play politics instead of doing his job.”

Donald Trump, Jr. said on [Fox News’ Hannity](#) (6/8), “The double standard between the way he handled that with Loretta Lynch and the way he handled my father, that shows you how politicized this has all been. His credibility in DC has to be shot because that shouldn’t be happening.” Of news media reporting on alleged collusion between Russia and the Trump campaign, he [added](#), “Even when they know it’s wrong, as long as it fulfills their narrative, they will leave it up there. They will leave it up for a couple hours. ... It’s not about reporting the truth anymore. It’s not about journalism.”

Schiff said on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (6/8), “I think Director Comey didn’t shed additional light on how the Justice Department was viewing or handling or talking about the Clinton investigation.”

Kasowitz: Trump “Completely Vindicated,” Comey Leaked “Privileged Communications.”

With the media’s attention focused on former FBI Director Comey’s [testimony](#), the President’s camp yesterday sounded a confident note.” A source close to the president crowed” to the [New York Post](#) (6/8, Morrongiello, Fears), in fact, “that the hearing ‘couldn’t have gone better,’ claiming that ‘everyone saw through’ Comey.” The “source” added, “No bombshells, nothing the White House wasn’t expecting.” John Roberts similarly reported on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (6/8) that the “White House and the Republican Party are trying to put the best spin possible on today’s hearing, insisting that Comey’s testimony proves the President did nothing wrong and

that it is 'time for this witch hunt to end.'"

In addition, the [Washington Times](#) (6/8, Boyer) reports "Trump's personal lawyer said Thursday that Mr. Comey 'makes clear that the president never sought to impede' the FBI's investigation of Russia's alleged interference in the 2016 presidential election." Lawyer Marc Kasowitz "also said Mr. Comey made 'unauthorized disclosures' of 'privileged communications' that he had with the president."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (6/8, story 3, 2:20, Holt) noted the "combative statement" by Kasowitz, while [USA Today](#) (6/8, Jackson) says "Trump's lawyer was referring to the memos Comey kept on conversations he had with the president." According to Comey's testimony, "he moved to make aspects of his contemporaneous memos public by enlisting a friend to share contents of his own notes with a reporter, after the president suggested in a tweet there might be secret recordings of his conversations with Comey." Comey "said he hoped news reports would prompt the appointment of a special counsel." [Reuters](#) (6/8) quotes Kasowitz as saying of the memos, "We will leave it the appropriate authorities to determine whether these leaks should be investigated along with all the others that are being investigated."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/8, story 2, 3:30, Muir) reported that Trump's team "declared victory" after the hearing, and ABC showed Kasowitz saying, "Mr. Comey has now finally confirmed publicly what he repeatedly told President Trump privately. That is, that the President was not under investigation as part of any probe into Russian interference." ABC (Karl) added that "Kasowitz hotly disputed almost everything else Comey had to say, effectively accusing him of lying about his conversations with the President."

However, John Dickerson said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/8, story 4, 2:00, Pelley) that while Comey did tell Trump he was not under investigation "back then," Comey on Thursday "suggested the President was under investigation in his testimony," and "yesterday the acting FBI director also said he couldn't answer certain questions because the President was either under investigation now or will be. So the President who was putting pressure on Comey to say he wasn't under investigation may have given evidence to the investigators who are now looking into him."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/8, Epstein) notes Kasowitz also "disputed Comey's claim that Trump demanded loyalty from the FBI chief or directed him to back off a probe of former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn." He went on to say "the former FBI chief's testimony proved Trump was innocent of wrongdoing." Kasowitz told reporters, "These important facts for the country to know are virtually the only facts that have not leaked during the long course of these events. ... The president feels completely vindicated."

[Roll Call](#) (6/8, Garcia) quotes the President's attorney as saying, "Of course, the Office of the President is entitled to expect loyalty from those who are serving the administration. ... It is overwhelmingly clear that there have been and continue to be those in government who continue to undermine this administration with selective and illegal leaks." [Townhall](#) (6/8, Pavlich) noted Kasowitz also said, "Contrary to numerous false press accounts leading up to today's hearing, Mr. Comey has now finally confirmed publicly what he repeatedly told the President privately: The President was not under investigation as part of any probe into Russian interference. He also admitted that there is no evidence that a single vote changed as a result of any Russian interference."

[The Hill](#) (6/8, Fabian) reported that "the blunt remarks and denials of the former FBI director's allegations are in keeping with Trump's reputation for counter-punching, and indicates the legal team led by Kasowitz intends to take a hard-nosed approach in pushing back against Comey." However, "critics accused Kasowitz of making a statement that was riddled with errors and dubious claims. For example, Comey was a private citizen when he leaked the memos, which he said were unclassified." [Politico](#) (6/8, McCaskill) also reports that "it's unclear" whether the leak "would be a violation."

White House Spokeswoman: "The President Is Not A Liar." [Politico](#) (6/8, Palmeri) reports White House Deputy Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders "said 'the president is not a liar' after former FBI director James Comey blasted the White House for telling 'lies, plain and simple' about the circumstances surrounding his firing last month." She added, "It's frankly insulting that that question would be asked." Sarah Murray said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/8), "Certainly not a good day when you have to make that statement as a White House spokesperson."

NYTimes Feature: New Yorkers Disagree With Christie On Loyalty Comment. The [New York Times](#) (6/8, Leland) reports that "Chris Christie, a native son of Newark and the governor of New Jersey, suggested on Wednesday that...Trump's remarks to...Comey, including demands of

loyalty, were 'normal New York City conversation.'" But "on Thursday, New Yorkers of various stripes begged to differ." The Times goes on to interview a number of random New Yorkers who strongly disagree with Christie.

NSA Leaker Of Russian Documents May Have Been Planning To Burn Down White House. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/8, story 8, 0:20, Muir) reported that prosecutors said Thursday in federal court that Reality Winner, the NSA contractor accused of leaking classified documents "about the Russians looking to hack election software here in the US," had notes in her home "indicating she wanted to burn down the White House." [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/8) reported Winner at the hearing plead not guilty to the government's accusation that she revealed government documents to an online news source.

The [New York Times](#) (6/8, Blinder) reports, meanwhile, that Winner "might have stolen or exposed other secrets before her arrest last week. ... It was not clear, either in Courtroom No. 1 or even to federal investigators, whether Ms. Winner had distributed classified information beyond a single NSA report related to Russian hacking activities."

White House Holds "Infrastructure Summit."

[USA Today](#) (6/8, Korte) reports that despite former FBI director James Comey testifying on Capitol Hill, "the White House largely tried to stick to script" of Infrastructure Week, with Vice President Pence welcoming governors, mayors, county officials, and tribal leaders to what the White House called an Infrastructure Summit. He said, "The truth is that our roads, bridges, and airports are crumbling in too many cases. And America, as a result, has been falling behind."

Rural Congressmen Raise Concerns With Infrastructure Plan. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/8, Mann) reports congressmen representing rural districts are wary of President Trump's plan to tap the private sector for most of the funds for infrastructure improvements, because the steady revenue from such projects that investors seek tend to be near urban areas. Republicans such as Sen. Jerry Moran of Kansas have suggested that privatizing the air-traffic control system could hurt small rural airports, and Sen. John Barrasso, chairman of the Senate's environment and public-works committee, has called for an infrastructure package to not require tolls his state's highways.

Bloomberg View Supports Trump Air-Traffic Control Plan. In an editorial, [Bloomberg View](#) (6/8) writes that President Trump's proposal to turn the air-traffic control system over to a nonprofit corporation is "a pretty good idea," citing the success of similar approaches in Canada and much of Europe. The move would shield the system "from Washington's budgetary madness, procurement requirements and onerous hiring rules" and provide a chance to "rationalize an often irrational system." It also could allow more rapid adoption of new technology. While Bloomberg acknowledges "plenty of reasons for skepticism," it concludes, "the plan still represents progress."

House Approves Bill Undoing Much Of Dodd-Frank.

The [AP](#) (6/8, Freking, Gordon) reports the House approved a bill "to undo much of former President Barack Obama's landmark" Dodd-Frank Act, which was enacted after the 2008 economic crisis "to prevent another meltdown." Under the bill banks could again trade for their own profit using federally-insured deposits and form "certain relationships with private equity funds," investment advisers who collect commissions would not need to put their clients' interests before their own, and would "sharply curtail" the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's "power to pursue companies that it determines have participated in unfair or deceptive practices in their financial products and services." While Republicans argue the current rules hurt community banks' lending, Democrats say the changes "would encourage the kind of risky lending practices that invite future economic shocks."

The [New York Times](#) (6/8, Rappoport) reports that bill's passage "keeps alive the Republican Party's dream of unwinding one of President Barack Obama's signature accomplishments." The [Washington Post](#) (6/8, Merle) calls the bill "the opening salvo in what is likely to be a protracted battle over deregulation of the powerful banking industry" and "a critical part of the Trump administration's multifront effort to ease banking industry regulations and could set the terms of a potentially explosive debate." Under the bill, banks can "avoid many of the regulatory burdens imposed during the Obama administration" if they "significantly increase their emergency financial cushion."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/8, Dexheimer) reports the legislation "has little chance of winning approval in the Senate in its current form." In that chamber, "small tweaks to Dodd-Frank, such as providing relief for community banks, is more likely to win Democratic support." Also covering this story are the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/8, Ackerman, Tracy, Witkowski), [The Hill](#) (6/8, Lane), the

[Washington Times](#) (6/8, Sherfinski), [Politico](#) (6/8, Warmbrodt), the [New York Post](#) (6/8, Dugan), and [Reuters](#) (6/8, Lambert).

WSJournal Lauds Bill. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/8) applauds the bill, arguing that Dodd-Frank's empowering regulators will not stop the next inevitable mania and panic while having hampered the economy and helped big banks. The Journal, in particular, welcomes removing the CFPB's independence from the President and Congress, although the Journal would prefer it be eliminated or made part of the Treasury Department.

Lawmakers Push Bill To Address "Super Pollutants."

[The Hill](#) (6/8, Henry) reports that a bipartisan group of lawmakers introduced a bill that would create a task force to "optimize existing efforts at various levels of government to reduce super pollutant emissions." Described as "low-hanging fruit," Reps. Scott Peters (D-Calif.) said that "existing technologies have been proven effective at reducing these potent gases."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Mr. Comey And All The President's Lies." The [New York Times](#) (6/8) editorializes that "there is an aspect to public servants like Mr. Comey that Mr. Trump and his administration seem unable to comprehend, to their peril – a dedication to their roles that places service above any president's glory." The Times notes that Comey said the FBI's mission "is to protect the American people and uphold the Constitution of the United States." Concludes the Times, "Let's hope that the principles he articulated, and those who hold them, guide this investigation in the days ahead."

"Public Works, Private Benefit." A [New York Times](#) (6/9, Board) editorial says President Trump's infrastructure plan "is turning out to be a mirage." While Trump "had talked about a \$1 trillion, 10-year effort," the White House is now proposing allocating "only \$200 billion, which would come from cutting aid to states and localities and giving it to Wall Street investors as tax credits." The Times argues, "It's bad enough that Mr. Trump is not tackling the nation's critical infrastructure needs. It's worse that he seems determined to use the limited funds he has scrounged to enrich private investors at taxpayers' expense."

"Kansas Rises Up Against The Trickle-Down Con Job." The [New York Times](#) (6/9, Board) editorializes that the "Republican Legislature and much of Kansas has finally turned on Gov. Sam Brownback in his disastrous five-year experiment to prove the Republicans' 'trickle down' fantasy can work in real life — that huge tax cuts magically result in economic growth and more, not less, revenue." The Times argues that President Trump's federal tax proposals "are rooted in the same supply-side nonsense."

Washington Post.

"Mr. Comey's Vivid Testimony." The [Washington Post](#) (6/8) editorializes that "disappointingly, Republican senators at the hearing for the most part tried to play the part of Trump defense lawyers, challenging or playing down Mr. Comey's testimony. ... Overall," their "effort to minimize the president's transgressions served only to make those senators look small."

"The End Of The Beginning?" The [Washington Post](#) (6/8) editorializes that as the end draws near for the DC Metro's "SafeTrack" maintenance initiative, the Metro's "indefinite forecast of revenue shortfalls" leaves open the possibility of a budgetary crisis. As a result, the editorial says, "SafeTrack has not returned Metro to a state of good repair; it has, at best, diminished the odds of catastrophic and life-threatening track mishaps in the near to medium term," but further maintenance will be required that will compound the Metro's budgetary problems.

Washington Post. Welcomes State Department's Criticism Of Turkey. A [Washington Post](#) (6/8) editorial says that while there has been some concern about the Trump Administration's stance on human rights, "there was a glimmer of hope" that the State Department, "at least, has not thrown in the towel." The State Department this week "issued a statement in defense of Taner Kilic, the chairman of Amnesty International Turkey, who was detained in recent days on suspicion of links with the movement of Fethullah Gulen." The Post says "no one should harbor any illusions that Mr. Trump has changed his views overnight, but it is promising that Mr. Tillerson's department has seen fit to issue the statement."

Wall Street Journal.

“James Comey’s Passion Play.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/8) editorial page sounds a skeptical note on Comey’s testimony – as well as on his motives – and wonders why, if his allegations are true, he did not resign his position.

“A Choice For Wall Street.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/8) applauds the bill, arguing that Dodd-Frank’s empowering regulators will not stop the next inevitable mania and panic while having hampered the economy and helped big banks. The Journal, in particular, welcomes removing the CFPB’s independence from the President and Congress, although the Journal would prefer it be eliminated or made part of the Treasury Department.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[UK Voters Deliver Stunning Setback To Leader May](#)
[Comey: I Felt Directed To Drop Probe](#)
[How The Comey Relationship Turned Into A Problem For Trump](#)
[Nordstrom Family Weighs Taking Retailer Private](#)
[Why Stock Pickers Are Having A Good Year: Tech Giants](#)

New York Times:

[Comey Bluntly Raises Possibility Of Trump Obstruction And Condemns His “Lies”](#)
[Comey’s Testimony Sharpens Focus On Questions Of Obstruction](#)
[For Trump, The “Cloud” Just Grew That Much Darker](#)
[Theresa May In Danger Of Losing Her Majority In UK Parliament](#)

Washington Post:

[Testimony Lays Out A Case For Obstruction](#)
[Tweeter In Chief Is Uncharacteristically Silent — For Now](#)
[May’s Gamble Appears To Fail](#)
[House Moves To Roll Back Rules For Wall Street, Banks](#)
[Comey Says Trump Lied About Him, FBI](#)
[Blunt And Folksy, Leading Man Plays Dual Role](#)

Financial Times:

[Comey Accuses Trump Of “Lies, Plain And Simple”](#)
[May’s Snap Election Gamble Backfires](#)
[Amazon To Ramp Up Lending In Challenge To Big Banks](#)
[Banco Popular Burnt Through €3.6bn Ahead Of Rescue](#)

Washington Times:

[James Comey Accuses Trump Of Lying, Says He Hopes President Taped Their Talks](#)
[Comey Cracks Credibility Of Lynch On Clinton Email Case, Sessions On Russia Investigation](#)
[Trump’s Reversal Allowing Amnesty For Dreamers Enrages Conservative Base](#)
[“Smart Growth” Policies Attract Younger, Wealthier Newcomers At The Expense Of Longtime Residents](#)
[British Snap Election Backfires On Theresa May As Conservative Seats In Parliament Slip Away](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: Comey Testimony; Comey Testimony-WH; Comey Testimony-Expert Opinion; Comey Testimony-Congress; Russia Meddling Investigation-Comey; Iran Terror Attack; Police-Bystander Beaten; NSA Intelligence Leak-Trial; Atlanta-Bus Crash; Barbara Bush Birthday; Utah Boy Patriotism.

CBS: Comey Testimony; Comey Testimony-WH; Comey Testimony-Legality; Comey Testimony-Expert Opinion 1; Russia Meddling Investigation-Comey; Comey Testimony-Expert Opinion 2; Clinton Email Investigation-Comey; Comey Testimony-Public Response.

NBC: Comey Testimony; Comey Testimony-Legality; Comey Testimony-WH; Comey Testimony-Expert Opinions; Comey Testimony-Public Response; Wall Street News; Atlanta-Bus Crash; Autism Prevention; Auschwitz Reunion; Barbara Bush Birthday.

Network TV At A Glance:

Comey Testimony – 46 minutes, 20 seconds

Barbara Bush Birthday – 40 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Comey Testimony; House-Dodd Frank Repeal; DC Police-Traffic Accident.

CBS: Comey Testimony; UK Elections; NSA Intelligence Leak-Trial; US Retail Closures.

FOX: Comey Testimony; UK Elections; Alabama-Capital Punishment; DC Police-Traffic Accident.

NPR: Comey Testimony; House-Dodd Frank Repeal; UK Elections; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in the Roads, Rails, and Regulatory Relief Roundtable; holds a bilateral meeting with the President of Romania.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Delivers remarks to airmen, service members and their families; attends a Karen Handel for Congress luncheon.

US Senate: No public schedule announced.

US House: 9:00 AM Health Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining H.R. 772, The Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act of 2017' Location: Rm 2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

12:00 PM Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee debate on the future of work – Advisory Committee to the Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee debate on 'A well oiled machine? Work in the age of AI, Automation, and the Gig Economy', featuring NetChoice Executive Director Steve DelBianco, R Street Institute Associate Vice President of Federal Affairs Lori Sanders, and SHIFT Commission on Work, Workers & Technology Executive Director Kristin Sharp Location: Rm 2226, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.netcaucus.org [#futurework](https://twitter.com/NetCaucusAC)

Other: 9:00 AM Faith & Freedom Coalition 'Road to Majority' Annual Conference continues – Faith & Freedom Coalition 'Road to Majority' Annual Conference continues, with day two speakers including President's Senior Advisor Kellyanne Conway, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, House Majority Whip Steve Scalise, Republican Reps. Ann Wagner and Louie Gohmert, Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Ron Dermer, Americans for Tax Reform President Grover Norquist, singer Mariana VanHoose, talk show host Michael Medved, Hillsdale College President Dr Larry Arnn, and syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer Location: Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert St NW, Washington, DC www.ffcoalition.com <https://twitter.com/FaithandFreedom>

9:00 AM National Housing Conference Annual Policy Symposium – National Housing Conference Annual Policy Symposium. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson delivers keynote speech Location: Washington Marriott at Metro Center, 775 12th St., NW, Washington, DC <http://www.nhc.org/> <https://twitter.com/NHCandCenter>

9:30 AM Israel Ground Forces commander lays wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier – Israel Ground Forces Command Commander Maj. Gen. Yaacov Barek participates in Army Full Honor Arrival ceremony at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, hosted by U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley (9:30 AM EDT) and lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, hosted by Joint Force Headquarters-National Capital Region and the U.S. Army Military District of Washington Commanding General Maj. Gen. Michael Howard, Arlington, VA (10:00 AM EDT) Location: TBD <http://mdwhome.mdw.army.mil/> https://twitter.com/MDW_USARMY

9:30 AM House Freedom Caucus members speak at Heritage Foundation on tax reform – House Freedom Caucus Chairman Rep. Mark Meadows and members Reps. Dave Brat, Warren Davidson, Jim Jordan and Mark Sanford speak at the Heritage Foundation on 'Principles for Tax Reform' Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave., Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

10:00 AM Bipartisan Reps. Jared Polis and Blake Farenthold speak at release of CCIA 'Fair Use in the Economy' study – Updated 'Fair Use in the Economy' study released by the Computer & Communications Industry Association, on the value of industries like technology and media, which rely on copyright exceptions like fair use. Speakers at launch event include Democratic Rep. Jared Polis, Republican Rep. Blake Farenthold, Capital Trade, Inc. Economist and report author Andrew Szamosszegi and CCIA Vice President of Law and Policy Matt Schruers Location: TBD www.ccianet.org <https://twitter.com/ccianet>

6:00 PM Robert Mueller honored at INSA William Oliver Baker Award Dinner – Intelligence and National Security Alliance Annual William Oliver Baker Award Dinner, honoring former FBI Director Robert Mueller * Mueller was appointed in May to serve as a special counsel investigating possible ties between President Donald Trump's campaign and Russia's Govt. Fired FBI Director James Comey yesterday testified to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence that he was 'sure' Mueller was investigating President Trump for obstruction of justice Location: Omni Shoreham Hotel, Calvert St., Washington, DC <http://www.insaonline.org/> [#INSABaker](https://twitter.com/INSAAlliance)

American Constitution Society National Convention continues – American Constitution Society for Law and Policy 2017 National Convention, bringing together over 1,000 of the nation's leading lawyers, judges, law students, policymakers, scholars, and activists to discuss critical legal and public policy issues, and to network with lawyers and company representatives from around the country. Day two speakers include Democratic Sen. Mazie Hirono Location: Capital Hilton, Washington, DC www.acslaw.org <https://twitter.com/acslaw>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Stephen Colbert: "Happy St. Comey's Day, everybody! Of course, everybody celebrates Comey Day in their own way. We're kind of traditionalists around here. We watched TV and wrote jokes."

Stephen Colbert: "That would be a Trump family law firm: 'Lies, Plain, and Simple.'"

James Corden: "Now of course, everybody here is talking about the election. Now if you are watching this in Britain, you already know who the prime minister is. If you are watching this in America, you already don't care who the prime minister is."

James Corden: "Just so you know, we taped this show a day before, so as it stands right now, we don't know what happened in this [UK] election. Meanwhile, in America, their election was last year and they still don't know what the hell happened in their election. Regardless of that, we can assume Donald Trump has already congratulated the winner in his traditional fashion by insulting them on Twitter."

Trevor Noah: "Whoa, whoa, whoa, James Comey, calling the President a liar? How dare you tell us things we already know!"

Trevor Noah: "This is why white people always die in horror movies. 'I was getting a bad feeling about this, and then I stayed to investigate further. I stayed to try and figure it out.' If you had a black FBI director, after the first meeting with Trump, he would have been like, 'Oh, hell, no, this is some obstruction, yo!'"

Trevor Noah: "Today's hearing was cool and everything, but basically it was like listening to a clean version of a hip-hop song. It felt like we missed all the explicit parts."

Jimmy Fallon: "Despite Comey's testimony, a White House spokesperson said today is a regular Thursday at the White House. America was like, 'Yeah, that's what worries us.'"

Seth Meyers: "President Trump did not post on Twitter during James Comey's Senate testimony today. Well, he thought he did, but his aide switched his phone with a Speak and Spell."

Seth Meyers: "Former President Barack Obama's White House ethics lawyers said yesterday that, 'Comey's accounts of his meetings with President Trump sounds like trial testimony,' which is also what Trump thinks Comey did today. 'This is just a trial testimony, right? We'll see how it goes, then decide if we like it?'"

Conan O'Brien: "Former FBI Director James Comey testified that he met privately with President Trump on February 14. Folks, this is good news for everyone who thought they had the worst Valentine's Day ever."

Conan O'Brien: "James Comey also testified that every time he thought President Trump was lying, he wrote it down, which explains why Comey was rushed to the hospital for carpal tunnel syndrome."

Conan O'Brien: "House Speaker Paul Ryan defended Donald Trump's behavior, saying the President is new at this. Ryan said, 'And by this, I mean following the law.'"

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Daily Caller: Additional Coverage: Interior Sec Zinke Grants \$1.1 Billion To State Wildlife Agencies.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Man Arrested Following Death On Crow Reservation.

Bureau Of Indian Education

- America Spent Centuries Mistreating Native American Children.

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- Associated Press: Agencies Slow Methane Rules Opposed By Oil, Gas Industry.
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- Wisconsin Gazette: Trump Administration Auctioning 304 Square Miles Of Public Land For Fossil Fuel Development.
- USA Today: Burning Man: Yes, We've Noticed The Water On The Playa.
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- Alaska Public Radio Network: Federal Officials Make Formal Apology For WWII Internment Of Unangan People.
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- WRC-TV Washington: National Park Service Celebrates 101st Birthday.
- Washington Business Journal: National Park Service Wants You To See Lincoln's Underside.
- U.S. News & World Report: Park Service Analyzes Maui Haleakala Sunrise Reservations.
- U.S. News & World Report: Kayak Guide Dies In Yellowstone Lake During Rescue Attempt.

US Geological Survey

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- NBC: Trump Calls Russia Probe "Greatest Witch Hunt In American Political History."
- Associated Press: Trump Touts Apprenticeships Order As Step Toward Closing "Skills Gap."
- Washington Times: Trump Deregulation Has Boosted Manufacturing, Coal Industry.
- Washington Post: Labor Department: Weekly Jobless Claims Fall More Than Expected.
- Reuters: Mulvaney: No Strategy Determined Yet For Debt Ceiling Hike.
- Washington Post: Pruitt Defends "Trimmed" EPA Budget Before House Panel.
- Science Magazine: Despite Trump's "Pencils Down" Order, Agency Still Studying Cost Of Carbon.

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DOI In The News

Interior Secretary: Maine National Monument Should Stay In Federal Hands.

[The Hill](#) (6/15, Cama) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke says federal ownership of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument is "settled," but left open its management. In a public meeting Thursday, "Zinke said the monument area's management might change to allow logging and other 'traditional uses.'" Zinke said, "I think the solutions should be made-in-Maine solutions, not made-in-Washington, D.C. I think there are opportunities to do something different here."

The [AP](#) (6/15) reports that Zinke said "he may recommend an upgrade to a national park." Zinke "didn't share Maine Gov. Paul LePage's opinion that the land was unworthy of the federal designation." At a chamber of commerce breakfast Thursday, "Zinke went even further in suggesting that he might recommend that Congress elevate the land's status to a national park."

The [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (6/15, Miller) reports that "Zinke wrapped up a three-day visit to Maine by meeting in the morning with dozens of Katahdin-area business leaders who say the monument is already paying dividends, and then in the afternoon with some of its most vocal critics." The article notes that "Zinke made repeated statements about the beauty of the 87,500-acre Katahdin Woods and Waters monument and the surrounding region, as well as people's passion for the land." Zinke said, "overall, I would say it was a very positive experience, really good people, beautiful country with excellent potential to be something special."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (6/15, Sambides), [WCSH-TV Portland \(ME\)](#) Portland, ME (6/15, Blanchard), [WABI-TV Bangor \(ME\)](#) Bangor, ME (6/15, Tadlock), [WMEA-FM Portland \(ME\)](#) Portland, ME (6/15, Sharon), [WCSH-TV Portland \(ME\)](#) Portland, ME (6/15, York), [WAGM-TV Presque Isle \(ME\)](#) Presque Isle, ME (6/15), [WLBZ-TV Bangor \(ME\)](#) Bangor, ME (6/15, York), and [WLBZ-TV Bangor \(ME\)](#) Bangor, ME (6/14, Komulainen-York).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/15), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/15), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/15), the [Quincy \(IL\) Herald-Whig](#) (6/15), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (6/15), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (6/15), the [Elizabeth City \(NC\) Daily Advance](#) (6/15), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (6/15), [ABC News](#) (6/15), the [Daily Mail](#) (6/15), and [Yahoo! News](#) (6/15).

Keep America Wild. In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (6/16, Powers), author Richard Powers writes in support of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. According to Powers, "far from being a federal land grab, the more than 87,000 acres of forest and waters around Mount Katahdin were donated to this country by private owners, along with \$40 million earmarked for the land's preservation and care in perpetuity." He also notes that "the land's status as a public monument has already begun to return considerable economic value to the local tourist economy."

Interior Secretary Zinke Visiting Mass.

The [Greenfield \(MA\) Recorder](#) (6/15, Metzger) reports that "when Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke visits the Boston area on Friday, environmentalists plan to greet him by rallying for the preservation of national monuments that are under review by the Trump administration." According to a Zinke press aide, Zinke will "meet with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service official and officials from the New England Aquarium about marine wildlife around the monument." He will "then attend a roundtable meeting with lobstermen and fishermen about the impact of the monument designation on their industry." Zinke will also "join the National Park Service for a tour of Boston Harbor and a number of park sites in the afternoon, according to the aide."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Gloucester \(MA\) Times](#) (6/15, Metzger).

Additional Coverage: Interior Sec Zinke Grants \$1.1 Billion To State Wildlife Agencies.

Additional coverage that the Interior Department is “allocating \$1.1 billion in grants to state wildlife agencies for state-led wildlife and fish conservation efforts in 2018” was provided by the [Daily Caller](#) (6/15, Pearce), the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (6/14, French), the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (6/15, Martinson), the [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (6/15), and [Ammoland](#) (6/14, Evans).

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Man Arrested Following Death On Crow Reservation.

The [AP](#) (6/15) reports Travis Burrows, supervisory senior resident agent with the FBI, said that an 18-year-old man has been arrested in connection with the death of a 29-year-old man in Crow Agency on the Crow Indian Reservation. The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (6/15) reports, “The Bureau of Indian Affairs took the suspect into custody, and the FBI and BIA are jointly investigating the death.”

Bureau Of Indian Education

America Spent Centuries Mistreating Native American Children.

Trump Is Making It Worse. The [Huffington Post](#) (6/15, Klein) reports that former President Obama “made unprecedented investments in Native American youth,” but President Trump, “who released his full budget proposal in May, plans to dismantle all of that.” Community leaders claim “that if the budget passes in its current form, the results will be beyond devastating for their children.” Although Native American “students are some of the nation’s most vulnerable,” instead of investing in this group, the White House budget “proposes over \$303.3 million in cuts to the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Indian Affairs, including a \$64.4 million cut to Indian education programs.” The budget also “proposes nearly \$60 million in cuts to education construction projects that help replace and repair dilapidated Bureau of Indian Education schools.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Agencies Slow Methane Rules Opposed By Oil, Gas Industry.

The [AP](#) (6/15, Daly) reports in continuing coverage that the Trump Administration is delaying two Obama-era regulations designed to restrict methane emissions from oil and gas production. The EPA is seeking a two-year delay for companies to follow the rule, while the agency conducts a review of the regulation. The Interior Department is indefinitely postponing a separate rule designed to reduce the amount of methane released from oil and gas wells on federal lands. Kathleen Sgamma, president of the Western Energy Alliance, said, “Both rules vastly exceeded federal authority. ... The Trump administration is correcting that overreach from the prior administration, thereby saving jobs and supporting American energy independence.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up [U.S. News & World Report](#) (6/15, Daly), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#), the [Daily Mail](#) (6/15, Daly), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/15, Daly), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/15, Daly), the [Dallas \(TX\) Morning News](#) (6/15), the [Business Insider](#) (6/15, Daly), and the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (6/15, Daly).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Caller](#) (6/15, Follett), the [Denver \(CO\) Westword](#) (6/15, Prendergast), and [Voice of America](#) (6/15).

Trump Administration Falling Behind On Rule Reconsideration.

[E&E Publishing](#) (6/15) reports the Trump Administration has failed to meet its own target date for starting a review of an Obama-era regulation for hydraulic fracturing on public and tribal land. The Interior Department told a federal court last month that it would publish a review by June 13 on whether to repeal or revise the rule, but the agency has yet to release any notice. Earthjustice attorney Mike Freeman said the delay shows the problems in putting the case before the 10th US Circuit Court of Appeals on hold. He said, “That delay just underscores our concerns that by holding the appeal in abeyance, it could be allowing BLM to stall this whole issue for literally years.”

Trump Administration Auctioning 304 Square Miles Of Public Land For Fossil Fuel

Development.

The [Wisconsin Gazette](#) (6/15) reports that “despite legal protests from conservation groups, the Bureau of Land Management is auctioning off 195,732 acres – 304 square miles – of public lands in Nevada for fossil fuel development.” The BLM “dismissed the protests this week, ignoring or downplaying legal and environmental concerns about fracking impacts to public lands, surface and groundwater, wildlife and the climate.” The bureau’s “denial of the groups’ protest begins a 30-day period for appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals.”

Burning Man: Yes, We’ve Noticed The Water On The Playa.

[USA Today](#) (6/16, Kane) reports that Burning Man is “set for Aug. 27 to Sept. 4,” but “about an inch of water still stands on much of the playa.” Event organizers have “been in talks with state officials at the Bureau of Land Management, the federal agency which oversees the Black Rock Desert and issues Burning Man’s multimillion-dollar special event permit each year. Both are monitoring the situation.”

BLM Issues Fire Prevention Order For Five Utah Counties.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (6/15, Manson) reports that “in the wake of recent blazes caused by people, the Bureau of Land Management is reminding the public about year-round and seasonal fire restrictions.” The BLM’s West Desert District on Thursday “re-issued a fire prevention order that applies to BLM lands in Salt Lake, Utah, Tooele, Rich and Box Elder counties.” Erik Valdez, acting fire management officer of the agency’s Utah West Desert District, said in a news release, “With recent record temperatures, low humidity, and strong winds, the vegetation in the West Desert is drying out quickly.”

BLM Implements Fire Restrictions On Colorado River District Public Lands.

The [Kingman \(AZ\) Daily Miner](#) (6/15) reports that the Bureau of Land Management’s Colorado River District will “implement fire and smoking restrictions on all 5.4 million acres of public lands in western Arizona and southeastern California along the Colorado River effective Friday.” William Mack, BLM district manager for the Colorado River District said, “Due to the above average winter and spring rainfall, the district experienced above average grass growth. Recent hot and dry conditions have created an abundance of very dry vegetation that is now highly combustible.”

Sheep Mountain Is A Public Investment Worth Making.

The [Powell \(WY\) Tribune](#) (6/15, Baker) editorializes that that “recently, both the Park County Commission and the Greater Yellowstone Coalition – entities that often find themselves on the opposite sides of an issue – sent letters calling on the federal government to buy land on the top of Sheep Mountain west of Cody.” The paper urges Congress and federal officials to “take action by finding the money to buy the roughly 1,800 acres of critical wildlife habitat.” According to the editorial, “the acreage west of the Buffalo Bill Reservoir is already surrounded by public lands and is a haven for species that include grizzly bears, birds and migrating bighorn sheep, elk and mule deer.” It concludes: “We don’t see any losers if a sale to the BLM goes through, but we can think of plenty if we fail to find a way to permanently protect Sheep Mountain.”

Brenda Love Bennett: What Would ‘Wild Horse Annie’ Say?

In an op-ed for the [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (6/15, Bennett), Brenda Love Bennett calls on the public “to hold the Bureau of Land Management accountable for protecting wild horses and burros.” Bennett warns that “language in the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) 2018 budget could spell the demise of these national icons.” Bennett wants the BLM to follow the recommendations of the National Academy of Sciences, which in 2013, “outlined economically-sound and workable recommendations that would humanely and effectively manage wild-herd populations on our Western public rangelands.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Drilling Foes Try To Simplify Comment Process.

The [Coastal Observer \(SC\)](#) (6/15, Best) reports that “five permits are filed for approval through the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management” and “a public comment period is open regarding the permits’ Incidental Hazard Authorizations.” A local environmental group Stop Offshore Drilling in the Atlantic (SODA) is “working to help format comments for any citizen to submit.”

You Can't Find What You Can't See – Seismic Surveys Shine A Light On Atlantic Oil.

For the "Pundits" blog of [The Hill](#) (6/15, Keyte), Roger Keyte, the retired former board chairman of the International Association of Geophysical Contractors, welcomes the decision by the Trump Administration to overturn "President Obama's denial of five Atlantic outer continental shelf seismic survey permit applications." The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management "can now thoughtfully and objectively review those permit applications and potentially put us on course for desperately needed new surveys." Keyte argues that "conducting new seismic surveying of our offshore territory is a logical and prudent step to building a secure energy future."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Udall, Heinrich Advance Legislation To Address Drought Challenges In N.M..

[KRWG-FM](#) Las Cruces, NM (6/15) reports that Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich "introduced the New Mexico Drought Preparedness Act that would improve the efficiency and effectiveness of water management across the state." The New Mexico Drought Preparedness Act "authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to pilot a voluntary water acquisition and leasing program in certain New Mexico basins and to provide funding and technical assistance for the installation of modern water metering infrastructure in the Middle Rio Grande Valley, while giving more flexibility to water managers."

Lake Mead Forecast Drops Sharply, May Trigger CAP Water Shortage.

The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (6/15, Davis) reports that "a federal forecast of water levels at troubled Lake Mead took a big turn for the worse this week — a 20-foot drop in the lake's expected January 2019 elevation." The Bureau of Reclamation's "monthly prediction for Colorado River reservoir levels says the lake could drop to 1,076.53 feet by the end of 2018 or Jan. 1, 2019." The article notes "that would be a foot and a half above where a Central Arizona Project water shortage would be declared." According to the article, "the forecast is down sharply from the bureau's May 2017 prediction because this spring's river runoff levels are less than expected a few months ago although still above normal."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Federal Officials Make Formal Apology For WWII Internment Of Unangan People.

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (6/15, Sobel) reports that "on Wednesday, Federal officials apologized for their role in the World War II internment of the Unangan people." Jim Kurth — acting director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service — "traveled to St. Paul Island to speak with survivors and descendants." Kurth said, "As much as we wish, we cannot take back the course of history. But what we can do now is heal together. We can work together."

Removal Of Pawcatuck River Dam Begins.

The [New London \(CT\) Day](#) (6/15) reports that "work to remove the Bradford Dam on the Pawcatuck River began this week, The Nature Conservancy announced Thursday." According to the article, "the \$1.8-million project is being overseen by The Nature Conservancy and is supported by \$821,000 in federal funding for Hurricane Sandy recovery and resilience projects." U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Northeast Regional Director Wendi Weber said, "We're proud to join with The Nature Conservancy and other partners in restoring our rivers and river systems to better withstand future storms and other environmental and land-use changes. Healthy rivers are lifelines for communities in the Northeast — providing recreation, water quality, strong economies and other benefits. By connecting and opening waterways like the Pawcatuck River, we're helping wildlife thrive and creating more resilient communities for people."

Wolf First To Be Caught, Collared, Monitored In Western Washington.

The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (6/15, Landers) reports that "field staff for state and federal wildlife agencies trapped, collared and released what is believed to be an adult male gray wolf east of Burlington near Marblemount, officials say." The animal was "found and captured last week after reports of wolf tracks, howling and chickens being attacked." According to the article, "blood and saliva were taken from the animal and sent to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service forensic

lab to confirm whether the animal is a full-blooded wolf and to help determine its origin."

Additional coverage was provided by [KING-TV](#) Seattle (6/15, Morrow).

National Park Service

National Park Service Celebrates 101st Birthday.

[WRC-TV](#) Washington (6/15) reports that "former Olympian, Dominique Dawes is celebrating the National Park Service's 101st birthday." In partnership with the National Park Foundation and National Park Service, Dawes is "helping people find and rediscover parks in the Nation's Capital and all over the U.S."

National Park Service Wants You To See Lincoln's Underside.

The [Washington Business Journal](#) (6/15, Cooper) reports that the National Park Service is "embarking on a renovation" of the Lincoln Memorial "funded by D.C. philanthropist David Rubenstein, and it includes opening up vantage points in the cavernous, columned area beneath the monument." Rubenstein contributed "\$18.5 million for the project last fall." The NPS "also requested \$2.2 million in the FY2017 budget to replaced the memorial's roof."

Park Service Analyzes Maui Haleakala Sunrise Reservations.

The [AP](#) (6/15, McAVOY) reports that the National Park Service on Thursday "said it would study whether to keep its new system requiring reservations to drive up to Haleakala's summit to see the sunrise." The park service "plans to conduct an environmental assessment for the program, which was implemented on an emergency basis earlier this year to address overcrowding." The study will "also analyze other possible solutions."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Daily Astorian \(OR\)](#) (6/15), [Business Insider](#) (6/15, Mcavoy), the [Daily Mail](#) (6/15), the [Kaua'i \(HI\) Garden Island News](#) (6/15), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/15, McAVOY), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (6/15, McAVOY), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/15, Audrey McAvoy |, Ap), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/15, McAvoy), the [Honolulu Civil Beat \(HI\)](#) (6/15), and [ABC News](#) (6/15).

Kayak Guide Dies In Yellowstone Lake During Rescue Attempt.

The [AP](#) (6/15) reports that "a kayak guide in his first season on the job in Yellowstone National Park has died while trying to rescue a park visitor who capsized on Yellowstone Lake." According to the National Park Service, "Timothy Hayden Ryan Conant, 23, of Salt Lake City died Wednesday in the West Thumb area of the lake." Park officials "say the client whom Conant attempted to save was rescued by other guides in the group and was treated for hypothermia at a park clinic."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Connecticut Post](#) (6/15), the [Daily Mail](#) (6/15), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/15), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/15), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/15, Press), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/15), the [Edwardsville \(IL\) Intelligencer](#) (6/15), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (6/15).

US Geological Survey

Study: California's Seasonal Rain And Snow Triggering Earthquakes.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (6/15, Alexander) reports that "California's Mediterranean climate, with its wet winters and dry summers, brings enviable weather to the Golden State but also earthquakes, according to UC Berkeley research." The article says that "in a study over nine years, university scientists found that the weight of winter snow and rain on California's mountains puts enough pressure on both the Sierra Nevada and coastal ranges that when the state dries out come summer, the Earth's crust lunges back up, triggering increased fault movement." Nicholas van der Elst, "a research geophysicist for the U.S. Geological Survey in Pasadena, who had not seen the paper but studies earthquake triggers," said, "We have a pretty good understanding of earthquakes on a basic level and why they happen. However, we don't know things like how quickly stress accumulates and what is the breaking point of a fault."

Top National News

Trump Asks For Prayers For Scalise As Some Partisan Bickering Resumes In DC.

Media reports sounded a note of concern about the condition of Rep. Steve Scalise, who is said to remain critical after undergoing surgery for the third time since Wednesday's shooting. According to [Politico](#) (6/15, Bade), "the third surgery was routine for gunshot victims," and "doctors went in to check on the work they performed the night before." [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/15, lead story, 3:25, Costello) reported that Scalise "was shot in the left hip," and "the bullet traveled across his pelvis, fracturing bones, damaging internal organs and causing severe bleeding that required multiple transfusions." The [Washington Post](#) (6/15, Bernstein) explains that "even a single penetrating wound to the pelvic region...is extremely dangerous," and the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/15, lead story, 3:00, Cordes), in fact, described doctors as working "to save" Scalise's "life," and referred to a "sobering update" from the President. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/15, story 2, 2:00, Bruce) showed Trump saying, "It's been much more difficult than people even thought at the time. It's been, he's in some trouble, but he's a great fighter and he's going to be okay, we hope."

[USA Today](#) (6/15, Jackson) notes the President went on to ask "for prayers" for both "Scalise and lobbyist Matt Mika," who was "also critically wounded during Wednesday's attack," and expressed hope that "universal support" for the victims "might help heal the country's many political differences." Added Trump, "We've had a very, very divided country for many years." The [Washington Times](#) (6/15, Miller) quotes Trump as saying, "I have a feeling that Steve has made a great sacrifice, but there could be some unity brought to our country. Let's hope so." [Townhall](#) (6/15, Rousselle), [Roll Call](#) (6/15, Bennett) and [The Hill](#) (6/15, Savransky), among other news outlets, run similar reports on Trump's words.

However, just a day after the attack some partisan sniping was once again in evidence in the nation's capital. Says the [AP](#) (6/15), "It didn't take long for the capital's post-shooting talk of unity to begin fraying," after "some Republicans on the far right" said "vitriolic rhetoric on the left could be to blame for the gunfire." Rep. Steve King, for example, said "the violence is incited by the leading cultural voices of the Left." Chris Cilizza lamented on [CNN's Out Front](#) (6/15) that King "will pay no political price for comments like that. It may do him some good" if he did.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/15, lead story, 3:00, Cordes) reported that the fact that suspected shooter James Hogkinson's "Facebook page was filled with anti-Trump, anti-GOP messages" sparked some debate in Washington. Newt Gingrich was shown decrying "an increasing intensity of hostility on the left," and CBS noted "New York Republican Chris Collins told a local radio host, 'I can only hope that the Democrats do tone down the rhetoric. Some people react to things like that.'" Minority Leader Pelosi said in reply, "How dare they say such a thing," and "all of a sudden be sanctimonious as if they've never seen such a thing before."

To the [Washington Examiner](#) (6/15, Kasperowicz), "one day after House Speaker Paul Ryan declared 'we are united' after a gunman targeted Republican lawmakers, the bright light of bipartisanship...started fading, and was steadily being replaced by the usual partisan bickering."

[McClatchy](#) (6/15, Roarty) similarly points out that "even amid the moment of political Kumbaya," it is "suddenly" Democrats — "paired with a political base that hates the new president — who are on the defensive about their rhetoric." McClatchy adds that "even for a party that believes deeply in opposing Trump, the shootings are spurring reflection about how its leaders talk about the president — and whether they need to be more careful with their words."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/15, Langille) reports that Rep. Claudia Tenney, "the House Republican who received a threatening email Wednesday that warned 'one down, 216 to go' after" Wednesday's shooting, "argued Democrats are willing to do anything to make sure she loses in 2018." Tenney told [Fox News](#) (6/15), "They want me to lose and they want to put somebody else in place. So they're willing to do almost anything and they're encouraging people to do this unfortunately." Added Tenney, "I think this has reached a level that violence in the situation has been normalized. I have to say that the Resist movements, the Indivisible movements, this movement that has been supported unfortunately by the Democrats."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/15, Mascaro) reports on additional threats to GOP lawmakers, "The voice-mail messages left at Arizona Republican Rep. Martha McSally's office were explicit: 'Our sights are set on you. Right between your [expletive] eyes.' Another said, 'Your days are numbered.'" The Times also reports that "a female caller recently warned Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-Ill.) that he would soon know her name — because she was coming for him."

Sean Hannity said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (6/15), "Let's not be deceived. The vice of rhetoric and vile hatred of the left, it's not going to end. It's only going to get worse. Democrats, liberals, the media will not stop until they absolutely destroy this President's agenda."

The [New York Times](#) (6/15, Badger, Chokshi) reports that "today, partisan prejudice even

exceeds racial hostility (although the two are intertwined) in implicit association tests that measure how quickly people subconsciously associate groups (blacks, Democrats) with traits (wonderful, awful).” And that is “remarkable, given how deeply ingrained racial attitudes are in the United States, and how many generations they’ve had to harden.” The Times adds that “political scientists suspect that attack ads, which have grown in number and nastiness, have played a role,” as has “the rise of partisan media — Fox News on the right, MSNBC on the left, for example.”

Under the headline “America Is Riding A Carousel Of Hate,” Michael Gerson writes in the [Washington Post](#) (6/15) that “in our politics, dehumanization is far along,” and “this should be a reminder to opponents of...Trump as well. His violation of norms is a reason for criticism and opposition; it is not a justification for demonization.” Fareed Zakaria, also in the [Washington Post](#) (6/15), argues that “the dangerous aspect of this new form of politics is that identity does not lend itself easily to compromise,” because it its the “divide” is “about identity, culture and religion (think of abortion, gay rights, Confederate monuments, immigration, official languages),” and as a result “compromise seems immoral. American politics is becoming more like Middle Eastern politics, where there is no middle ground between being Sunni or Shiite.” Zakaria goes on to deride criticism of the Julius Caesar production in which the protagonist “resembles...Trump” and is cast is “a mixed, somewhat favorable light.”

Charles Krauthammer said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/15), “People ought to fight over policy but once you begin to question the motives, the patriotism of your opponents, you have gone too far. The worst thing, and I think this is overlooked, the two parties, the two ideologies, you might say, speak about the politics in apocalyptic terms. If the other guy wins, it’s the end of the republic. If the other guy wins, it’s the end of the world. ... And it’s up to the leadership to say these are policies. This is not the fate of the republic.”

At any rate, a number of key lawmakers continued to sound a call for unity and civility. Rep. Collins said on [CNN's New Day](#) (6/15), “I will admit that early yesterday...my good friend Steve Scalise was gravely wounded,” and “in that emotion I did lash out...putting the blame on the Democrats’ doorstep. And then after, you know, the emotion of that instance wore off, you know, an hour or two later, I looked in the mirror and I said, ‘That’s not the right tone.’ ... So I released a statement that subsequently said I’m willing to admit that was wrong for me to say, that would actually be going in the wrong direction and I myself am going to try to tone down some of my rhetoric and I would invite my Democrat friends – and they are friends – to do likewise.”

Senate Majority Leader McConnell said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/15), “We want everybody to know we have always had a robust discussion of the issues in this country throughout our history. But we don’t dislike each other. We work together all the time, Senator Schumer and I do on a daily basis, and we have our political arguments, but at the end we’re all Americans. Everybody needs to remember that because we’re all in this thing together.”

Senate Minority Leader Schumer said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/15), “We worked together pretty closely before this tragedy but if it can help bring things closer together and help us all work closer together, it’s a horrible way to do it, and we all pray for Mr. Scalise’s and all the other people’s speedy recovery, but let’s hope we can get some good out of this tragedy.”

House Speaker Ryan said on [CNN's Out Front](#) (6/15), “All of us have a responsibility to watch our rhetoric. But we’re passionate and we believe passionately about our causes and about our issues. So, we can do that without being vitriolic and fomenting the kind of anger that is out there in the country. So that’s what leaders do and members of Congress have incumbent upon them to have the responsibility to do that.”

Rep. Rodney Davis said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (6/15), “We have got to ratchet down this hateful political rhetoric that we see all over social media, all over the news media in Washington, in our state houses. We can argue about policy differences but we have to always realize that we’re Americans first. ... Let’s settle our policy differences at the ballot box not with bullets on a baseball field like many of us had to witness yesterday.” Davis said on [Fox News' Fox & Friend](#) (6/15) that “it makes me resolved to do what I cannot only as a member of Congress but as an American first to ratchet down this hateful rhetoric that we have seen on all sides and ensure that we take this lesson, this lesson that I saw yesterday of an attack on innocent people and innocent civilians in a park and turn it into something good. Let’s take this day and make yesterday’s attack the new beginning so that we can all work together, which is what we do a majority of the time out here. Many people would be surprised that Republicans and Democrats that serve in Congress actually get along.”

Rep. Gary Palmer was asked on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (6/15) if he is optimistic that “there is going to be more Democrats and Republicans getting along and setting the tone from

Washington." Palmer said, "I hope we do. I think we saw some of that yesterday when we all came together. I have got a number of Democrat friends who came over to see me. I was very encouraged by that. The country is fraying at the edges. We have got to pull the country back together. We have got to be able to reestablish a civil discourse. Otherwise, the future of the nation, I think, is in grave danger."

Rep. Ron DeSantis said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (6/15), "I'm a little bit pessimistic that anything much is going to change. I got a call after this happened to my congressional office, praising what had happened and hoping that Donald Trump was next. One of my colleagues got an email saying one down, 217 to go. When you talk about people like this, with the virulence and the hatred, that's a small minority of the country but it does have an outside impact. I look around here. We do have tough debates but I'm not sure that if Congress fixed a little bit of the debate, made it a little bit more civil that you're going to change a guy like that."

Sen. John Thune said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (6/15), "I think we've got to set the example and dial down the rhetoric and soften the tone in our public communications. With respect to a lot of the social media chatter that goes on, sometimes there's value in an unexpressed thought. Sometimes it is better not to just say everything that comes in to your mind. I think we see a lot of that today, and I think restraint should be applied when it comes to things public officials say."

In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (6/14) offers hope for the future, "In the final analysis, a shock like Wednesday's is best seen for what we can learn from it. Play ball, and let the learning begin."

Pelosi Puts Spotlight On Trump, "Assaults" On Hillary Clinton, Fox News. While Pelosi's "how dare they" comment was noted on a variety of news accounts, some of her other remarks received a lot less attention. The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/15, Kasperowicz) reported that she also said, "We have a president who says, 'I could shoot someone on 5th Avenue and nobody would care.' ... When you have people saying, 'beat him up and I'll pay your legal fees.' When you have all of the assaults that were made on Hillary Clinton." [Breitbart](#) (6/15, Key) also noted Pelosi's full remarks. Initially, [Politico](#) (6/15, Lahut, Tesfamichael) reports, Pelosi said, "I don't even want to go into the president of the United States in terms of the language he has used." She offered the comments above when pressed by a reporter.

The [Washington Times](#) (6/15, Persons) reports that Pelosi also described "one person who threatened her and was later put in jail, saying his behavior toward her was from watching Fox News."

On [Fox News The Fox News Specialists](#) (6/15), Mike Huckabee reacted to Pelosi's comments saying, "Everybody was saying, 'How long will this civility last?' Well, now we know. Not long."

CBS Analysis Of Troubling Rhetoric Singles Out "Political Blog Sites," Sanders, Trump. The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/15, story 11, 1:55, Pelley) reported that "too many leaders and political commentators who set an example for us to follow have led us into an abyss of violent rhetoric, which, it should be no surprise, has led to violence." CBS noted that "in December last year, a man with an assault rifle stormed into a Washington-area pizzeria to free child sex slaves whom Hillary Clinton was holding there, or at least that's what political blog sites had said." Bernie Sanders "has called the President the most dangerous in history. And the shoot or yesterday was a Sanders volunteer." In February, "the President tweeted that the news media were the 'enemy of the American people.' Later, at a lunch for reporters" he "was asked whether he worried that that language would incite violence. His pause, indicating it had never crossed his mind. And then he said, 'no, that doesn't worry me.'"

Sanford: Trump "Partially" To Blame. The [Washington Times](#) (6/15, Persons) reports Rep. Mark Sanford said Thursday on MSNBC that Trump "was 'partially' to blame for some of the hostility in the country that led to the shooting of... Scalise and others this week." Said Sanford, "I would argue the president has unleashed, partially, again not in anyway totally, but partially to blame for the demons that have been unleashed." Sanford also told [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (6/15), "There's some heavy soul searching going on right now because it was so dramatic and because it was so out of the ordinary and because people realize if it weren't for those two Capitol Hill police, it would have been a bloodbath. Maybe there would have been 15 or 20 members of Congress dead on a given day. I think people are registering it as such. What the Speaker said yesterday, what Nancy said in reaction to what the Speaker said yesterday is symptomatic of people saying, 'Wait a minute, we've got to find a way to slow this down.'"

White House Points To Trump's Call For Unity. The [Washington Times](#) (6/15, Miller) reports the White House said Thursday that "Trump was doing his part to tone down political rhetoric and was heeding his call for unity after a gunman attacked Republican lawmakers." White House

deputy press secretary Sarah Sanders "said the president is not solely responsible and does not 'own' the heated rhetoric in American politics, and she said he was justified in responding to attacks." Said Sanders, "I think the president was extremely clear yesterday. ... There's been quite a bit of attacking against the president. ... As a whole, our country could bring the tone down a little bit. I think that's the goal the president laid out yesterday and hopefully we can all be reasonable."

At Baseball Game, Democratic Fans, "Dozens Of Aides" Boo Trump's Remarks. The [AP](#) (6/15, Werner) reports "Republicans and Democrats joined in friendly rivalry Thursday at their annual Congressional Baseball game, many fresh from the penetrating horror of the ballfield shooting rampage a day earlier and all playing in honor of their grievously wounded colleague." The President, in a recorded message that was played before the game, said, "By playing tonight we are showing the world that we will not be intimidated by threats, acts of violence or assaults on our democracy." The AP adds that "despite the unifying nature of the event, there were boos for the president...from the section for Democratic fans on the third base side." The [Washington Times](#) (6/15, Dinan) says "dozens of congressional staffers erupted into boos, jeers and even vulgar gesticulations when Trump...appeared in a video." The Times adds "the episode marred what had been a night celebrating those wounded in Wednesday's murderous attack on GOP players practicing for the game."

[Politico](#) (6/15, Bade, Cheney) doesn't mention the incident, and instead reports that "Republicans and Democrats were wracked with emotion even before the game started," and that "in a gesture to Scalise, both teams knelt at second base in prayer for their colleague, who was shot while playing that position at yesterday's practice." The [New York Times](#) (6/15, Flegenheimer) and [USA Today](#) (6/15, King) run similar stories, which likewise don't mention the booing of Trump's speech. In a separate report, [USA Today](#) (6/16, Fitzgerald) notes that special agent Bailey, who was "injured in the line of fire during Wednesday's shooting in Alexandria, delivered the first pitch."

GOP Candidate Karen Handel Receives Letter With White Powdery Substance. [WSB-TV](#) Atlanta (6/15) reports online that on Thursday afternoon, police said "authorities were called to the neighborhood" of the residence of Karen Handel, the Republican candidate for the Congressional Sixth District in Georgia, after "at least five homes in the neighborhood have received an envelope with a 'white powdery substance' in it." Police said "the FBI has joined the investigation." Roswell Police Department's Lisa Holland said, "We've been having a lot of issues with political signs over the past months. This has just been a situation over the campaign on both sides. We do not know the nature of the substance right now."

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (6/15, Scher) reports letters accompanying the powdery substances called Handel a "dirty fascist," among other graphic threats. Handel confirmed, "This afternoon we had some suspicious packages delivered to our house and to our neighbors."

Drudge Highlights Shooting Of Truck With Trump Slogan. The [Drudge Report](#) last night highlighted incidents of violence against Trump supporters. [WXIN-TV](#) Indianapolis (6/15) reported that "Indiana State Police say shots were fired at a truck carrying a 'Make America Great Again' flag and an American flag on eastbound I-465 Tuesday." [WJZY-TV](#) Charlotte, NC (6/14, Baldeck), meanwhile, said "on a day when lawmakers from both sides of the aisle in Washington are asking Americans to unite, a loyal Starbucks customer says she was targeted for supporting...Trump." Starbucks "said they are making sure this incident won't happen again."

Analyst Identifies "Media Lies" That She Says "Radicalized The Violent Left." The [Washington Times](#) (6/15, Harper) reports PJ Media columnist Megan Fox "identified the top-six strategic headlines, which she says are 'media lies that radicalized the violent left.'" Fox's "meticulous analysis" pointed to the following headlines: "Trump is colluding with Russia!", "Donald Trump hates the planet and so do all Republicans," "Republicans hate gays," "Republicans have launched a war on women's health," "Republicans want you to DIE," and "Nationalism is synonymous with racism." The Times cites other studies as finding "liberal leanings" in the press, with one study conducted 31 years ago finding "81 percent to 94 percent of the nations journalists voted Democratic in presidential elections from 1964 to 1976."

Sanders, Stein Supporter Paglia: Democrats In "Nationwide Orgy Of Rage And Spite." The [Washington Times](#) (6/15, Ernst) reports "renowned feminist Camille Paglia says the Democratic Party's leaders are in 'a nationwide orgy of rage and spite' that prevents them from connecting with millions of potential voters." Interviewed by [The Weekly Standard](#) (6/15, Last), "the author and professor, who supported Vermont Sen. Bernard Sanders in the 2016 primary election and Green Party candidate Jill Stein in the general election, said Democrats are widening an unnecessary political chasm with voters."

Palin May Sue NYTimes For Claiming Her PAC Incited Giffords Shooting. [Townhall](#) (6/15,

O'Brien) reported that "former Gov. Sarah Palin appears to be seriously considering a libel case against The [New York Times](#)," which "published an editorial Wednesday night in which they revisited a conspiracy theory regarding the attack on Rep. Gabrielle Giffords." The editors "surmised" that "the shooter, Jared Lee Loughner, was inspired to attack Giffords after seeing a map published by Palin's political action committee pointing out electoral districts." The theory "has [been] debunked time and again," and the Times "has since issued a correction for their obvious error."

In a "Fact Check" analysis, the [Washington Post](#) (6/15, Lee) says "this episode showed how pervasive this debunked talking point still is on the political left, and we wanted to set the record straight." In fact, the shooter's "focus on Giffords began as early as 2007, long before the map was published. He became fixated on her since he met her at a constituent event in 2007, and decided he was unsatisfied by her answer to his question: 'If words could not be understood, then what does government mean?'" The Post warns that "any future references to this talking point by politicians or political groups will receive Four Pinocchios."

Pence Visits Wounded. The [Washington Times](#) (6/15, Persons) reports Vice President Pence "tweeted Thursday that he visited Rep. Steve Scalise and Capitol Hill Police Officer Crystal Griner in the hospital and asked for continued prayers." Wrote Pence, "Karen & I just left @MedStarWHC. Thanked docs & staff. Keep @SteveScalise, Officer Griner & all involved & their loved ones in your prayers." The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/15, story 2, 1:30, Pelley) noted that "also injured...were Special Agent Crystal Griner of the Capitol Police, shot in the ankle, but she's in the hospital in good condition." Special Agent David Bailey "was treated for minor injuries," while "Texas Congressman Roger Williams suffered a broken ankle" and "his staffer Zach Barth was shot in the leg, but is out of the hospital."

Hodgkinson Bought Weapons From Licensed Dealer. The [Washington Post](#) (6/15, Jackman, Hermann) reports "law enforcement officials worked Thursday to piece together the final nomadic months of the shooter." The FBI "announced...that the gunman, James T. Hodgkinson, purchased the two firearms he used in Wednesday's assault from licensed gun dealers."

The [New York Times](#) (6/15, Fandos, Goldman) reports that "the SKS weapon that the authorities said was used in the attack is a semiautomatic infantry rifle designed in the 1940s in the Soviet Union." While it "is not as accurate as many modern infantry rifles and carbines...it has lingered as a ceremonial weapon in Russia and models from both Russia and China can be readily purchased in the United States, where it is popular with collectors."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/15, story 3, 2:15, Ross) reported that Sue Hodgkinson, the suspect's wife, "said she cannot explain what her husband did on that ball field." She "said her husband made preparations to go to Washington at the beginning of the year, selling off almost all he owned." Said the widow, "I can't believe he did this, I cannot believe."

The [New York Times](#) (6/15, Cochrane) reports from Alexandria that "the colorful neighborhood of Del Ray is very quiet, very charming and very liberal," and on Wednesday "was shaken by an outsider who was very destructive, very unwelcome and very liberal." The Times adds that "the liberal bubble in Del Ray is cushioned by signs calling for kindness and resistance, babies and rescue dogs both in bows and in strollers, and chalk signs asking for introspection from neighbors."

Massie Bill Would Recognize Out-Of-State Concealed Carry Permits In DC. The [Washington Times](#) (6/15, Sherfinski) reports "Rep. Thomas Massie on Thursday said he's introducing legislation that would recognize out-of-state concealed carry permits in the District of Columbia, in the wake of the shocking attack on...Scalise and others in Northern Virginia on Wednesday." Massie told the Fox Business Network, "What I'm trying to do is anticipate how to avoid a tragic situation in the future. ... As soon as we step into Washington, D.C. or anywhere in the public, we are unarmed and unaccompanied, for the most part."

Trump Calls Russia Probe "Greatest Witch Hunt In American Political History."

In the wake of reports that special counsel Robert Mueller is investigating President Trump for possible obstruction of justice, Trump posted a series of tweets Thursday, arguing that in the absence of evidence of collusion with Russia, investigators are trying to "go for obstruction." Media coverage of the Trump's tweets is heavy and generally negative toward the President, casting him as lashing out and describing a "sense of unease" inside the White House.

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/15, story 2, 2:50, Holt), White House correspondent Kristen Welker cited "a former senior intelligence official" who said Mueller "has launched a criminal investigation into President Trump for possible obstruction of justice." According to the official, "Mueller has requested interviews with top intelligence officials, including Director of National

Intelligence Daniel Coats to appear in a closed question." Welker added that "146 days into Mr. Trump's presidency," the criminal inquiry is "starting earlier than any other modern day President, including Richard Nixon and Bill Clinton."

Cecilia Vega said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/15, story 4, 2:55, Muir) that "it's no longer just he said/he said" as investigators are now "looking into whether the President repeated something he did with Comey, telling all government officials to clear out of a White House meeting so he could be alone with CIA Director Mike Pompeo and the Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats. There, the President reportedly asked Coats to intervene in the investigation into fired National Security Adviser Mike Flynn." Trump "also reportedly called Coats and NSA Director Admiral Mike Rogers and asked them to publicly declare there was no collusion with Russia. They refused." Mueller's investigators now "want to talk to all three men." However, the [Washington Times](#) (6/15, Boylan, Noble, Taylor) says Mueller "could have a tough time making an obstruction of justice case stick against President Trump, according to legal analysts, who said he will have to overcome a number of 'unique hurdles' – not the least of which is a decades-old Justice Department ruling that a sitting president can't be charged."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/15, Wagner, Parker) describes a "heightened sense of unease gripp[ing] the White House," while [The Hill](#) (6/15, Savransky) says Trump "pushed back" on reports of the obstruction probe. [Reuters](#) (6/15, Ainsley) says he "lashed out," engaging in what [USA Today](#) (6/15, Jackson) describes as a "day-long tweet storm," during which he "criticized reports that he is now under investigation for obstruction of justice in connection with the firing of FBI Director James Comey," [writing](#), "They made up a phony collusion with the Russians story, found zero proof, so now they go for obstruction of justice on the phony story. Nice." About an hour later, he [tweeted](#), "You are witnessing the single greatest WITCH HUNT in American political history – led by some very bad and conflicted people! #MAGA." Some eight hours later, USA Today says, Trump [tweeted](#), "Why is that Hillary Clintons family and Dems dealings with Russia are not looked at, but my non-dealings are?" [and](#), "Crooked H destroyed phones w/ hammer, 'bleached' emails, & had husband meet w/AG days before she was cleared- & they talk about obstruction?" The [Washington Times](#) (6/15, Persons) also reports briefly on Trump's tweets.

The [New York Times](#) (6/15, Shear) says Trump "mocked federal investigators," adding that his tweets indicate that "he remains dismissive of the investigation," while the [AP](#) (6/15, Bykowicz) says the tweets "are the latest – and most direct – attacks on the leader of an investigation that he insists is unnecessary and distracting." To [Politico](#) (6/15, Nelson), the tweets "marked a dramatic shift in tone from the president, who spent Wednesday in a unifying mode following a shooting at a GOP congressional baseball practice in Virginia." The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/15, Quinn) reports deputy press secretary Sarah Sanders told reporters Thursday that "Trump's tweets were likely prompted by 'some developments' in the Russia probe."

[Roll Call](#) (6/15, Bennett) reports that Trump "never referred to Mueller or the Justice Department," but points out that Trump's tweets came "after some of the president's surrogates have attempted to ding" Mueller's credibility, questioning "how Mueller can lead the probe given he is friends with Comey," and citing "campaign contributions some of the staff he has hired made to the Hillary Clinton campaign." On the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/15, story 5, 2:40, Pelley), Jeff Pegues cited "a former FBI official" who said that "the President's tweets could be used by the special counsel as evidence."

Sen. Richard Blumenthal said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/15) that the investigation is "very far from a witch hunt. In fact, calling it a witch hunt and these continuing tweets are almost themselves a continuing course of obstruction because they are transparently an attempt to put pressure on the special prosecutor and the FBI to abandon a lawful investigation that's based on some very, very clear facts."

Jonathan Swan writes on [Axios](#) (6/15) that while no one in the White House will say who Trump meant when he referred to "very bad and conflicted people," Trump's "close allies outside the administration...believe they know exactly who these people are." Swan adds that he received a call from "a close Trump ally outside of the White House," who encouraged him to look into the backgrounds of some of Mueller's investigators. The source said that "these people were Democrats with malicious intent, who in some cases had donated to Hillary Clinton." Swan adds that he cannot confirm whether "the attacks on Mueller are part of a strategic plan, or whether what we're seeing is surrogates freelancing" but adds that "what I can confirm is that some prominent outside allies are not working off a plan here. They're simply taking cues from Trump and saying what they think he'd like to hear."

Manu Raju said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/15) that "a lot of Republicans are uncomfortable the way the President is going after Bob Mueller...who has gotten praise on both

sides of the aisle." [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/15) reported "some Republican lawmakers cautioned that the tone isn't exactly helpful or accurate."

[Politico](#) (6/15, Dawsey) reports that Trump's advisers "say they're more worried that the things he's done since the inauguration may have left him exposed to obstruction of justice or other charges." Politico says Trump "has bristled almost daily about the ongoing probes. He has sometimes, without prompting, injected." While aides "have tried to change the subject" and "buck up the president by telling him to be patient, agreeing that it is a 'witch hunt' and urging him to just let it play out" it has not "changed Trump's response." Aides "fear his incendiary tweets and public comments have spurred 'countless' leaks of damaging information, in the words of one," and while they "have urged Trump to stop meddling...he won't."

Commentary is also decidedly negative toward Trump. Chris Cillizza said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/15) that Trump "has one frame, one lens through which he sees everything, which is basically the lesson he learned in New York tabloid back and forth media politics, which is, this is a story. I knock it down, I put my version of the story out, I declare victory and I move on. It worked for him, for a long time. He was good at it, frankly, but this is not that. This is a special counsel. ... I don't think he understands the seriousness of it. Yes, I am certain people have tried to emphasize the seriousness of it to him."

Jeff Zeleny said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/15) that Trump is "clearly showing his frustration with this widening investigation here and many people inside the [White House] and many Republicans on Capitol Hill simply wish the President would stop weighing in on all of this and wish they would wall this off and talk about issues, but he's simply not following this instruction." Jake Tapper said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (6/15), "One might think because President Trump's own friends and advisers have explained to him how much his impulsive tweeting has hurt him in various ways, that he might handle this news by being cautious, by being circumspect. But one would be wrong." Charles Krauthammer said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/15), "The President could be right about all that but I think it's unbelievably imprudent for him to be tweeting about it."

Eugene Robinson writes in his [Washington Post](#) (6/15) column that Trump is "exactly where he doesn't want to be: under investigation by a dogged, highly respected prosecutor who owes him no personal or political loyalty" and he "has only himself to blame." Robinson concludes his piece with the question, "Why would the president object to a thorough investigation – unless he had something to hide?"

Mueller Reportedly Investigating Kushner's Finances, Business Dealings. The [Washington Post](#) (6/15, A1, Horwitz, Zapotosky, Entous) reports that "officials familiar with the matter" says special counsel Robert Mueller "is investigating the finances and business dealings of Jared Kushner, President Trump's son-in-law and adviser." The Post stresses that the investigation "is in a relatively early phase, and it is unclear whether criminal charges will be brought when it is complete." Kushner's attorney, Jamie Gorelick, said in an email, "We do not know what this report refers to. ... It would be standard practice for the Special Counsel to examine financial records to look for anything related to Russia. Mr. Kushner previously volunteered to share with Congress what he knows about Russia-related matters. He will do the same if he is contacted in connection with any other inquiry."

Rosenstein Warns Public About Reports Based On Anonymous Sources. [USA Today](#) (6/15, Miller) reports that in a statement that was circulated on social media, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein warned Americans to be "skeptical" of stories using anonymous sources. Rosenstein said in the statement, "Americans should exercise caution before accepting as true any stories attributed to anonymous 'officials,' particularly when they do not identify the country – let alone the branch or agency of government – with which the alleged sources supposedly are affiliated." Rosenstein did not "mention any specific story," but the statement "comes the same day as a Washington Post story citing an anonymous source reported that Mueller was investigating the business dealings of the president's son-in-law, Jared Kushner."

Sessions May Have Had Meetings With Russian Lobbyist. Yahoo News and Finance Anchor Briana Golodryga said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/15) that there are reports that Attorney General Sessions "may have lied once again in his testimony." She said the report states that Sessions "may have met with a powerful and a known Russian lobbyist for dinners over the past year. Obviously, that wasn't disclosed in what we heard from the testimony from the attorney general."

Pence Hires Personal Attorney. Kristen Welker reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/15, story 2, 2:50, Holt) that according to his office, Vice President Pence "has retained a personal lawyer to represent him in the special counsel investigation." The [Washington Post](#) (6/15, Wagner, Parker)

says Pence has hired Richmond-based attorney Richard Cullen “to handle fallout from investigations into Russian election meddling.” The Post notes that Pence “was one of the small group of senior advisers the president consulted as he mulled his decision to fire Comey, which is now a focus of Mueller’s investigation.” [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/15, story 4, 2:55, Muir) and the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/15, story 5, 2:40, Pelley) also reported on Pence’s hiring of Cullen.

Senate Intelligence Panel Won’t Investigate Obstruction. [The Hill](#) (6/15, Greenwood) reports that in the wake of special counsel Mueller’s meeting with the leaders of the Senate Intelligence Committee, CNN reported Thursday that the panel will not investigate whether Trump attempted to obstruct justice. Chairman Richard Burr said, “Obstruction is criminal – there’s a criminal aspect to that. ... It’s never been part of our [investigation].” Ranking member Mark Warner said that “while the intelligence panel will not focus its efforts on Trump’s potential obstruction of justice, it will turn over any evidence it finds related to the matter to the special counsel.”

Coons, Blumenthal Say Judiciary Committee Also Probing Obstruction Of Justice. Sen. Chris Coons, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (6/15) that he considers Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley’s announcement that the panel will pursue investigations into efforts to interfere in FBI probes to be an investigation into obstruction of justice. Blumenthal similarly said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (6/15) that the Judiciary Committee’s probe “is very definitely an investigation into possible” obstruction of justice.

Schiff: House Intel Committee Should Investigate Obstruction Allegations. Meanwhile, Rep. Adam Schiff, the ranking Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee is negotiating with Rep. Mike Conaway, who has been the GOP leader of the panel’s probe since Chairman Devin Nunes stepped away in April, about whether to investigate possible obstruction by Trump as part of their committee’s investigation, [Politico](#) (6/15, Wright) reports. Schiff said in an interview, “I think it needs to be part of the investigation. ... Congress has to get to the bottom of whether anybody is interfering or obstructing any investigation in any way.” Schiff told [CNN’s The Lead](#) (6/15), “I think what James Comey testified to a week ago, if accurate, is very well evidence of an effort to impede or obstruct the investigation. If he was fired as a way of changing the course of that investigation, that seems to me evidence of obstruction. Now, whether it’s sufficient evidence is another story. Similarly, I believe there is evidence of potential collusion that we need to get to the bottom of.”

Thune Advises Trump Against Firing Mueller. Sen. John Thune was asked on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (6/15) for his view “of the President’s authority and the potential propriety of removing Mueller,” Thune said, “I would certainly advise against that and I don’t think legally he can. ... I don’t expect that to happen, and I would certainly advise that step not to be taken.” In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (6/15, Starr), former independent counsel Kenneth Starr agrees, arguing that Mueller “should be allowed to do his work unhindered and unimpeded. Absent the most extreme circumstances, the president would be singularly ill-advised to threaten, much less order, Mueller’s firing.”

Poll: 61 Percent Think Trump Tried To Interfere With Investigation. Trump’s tweets came as a new Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll shows that “a clear majority of the American people” believe he “has tried to interfere with the investigation,” the [AP](#) (6/15, Lederman, Swanson) reports. According to the poll, [USA Today](#) (6/15, Estepa) reports, “61% of Americans surveyed believe the president has tried to obstruct or impede the investigation,” while “37% said they don’t think Trump has done this.”

Starr: Questioning Was Intended To “Embarrass” Sessions. The [Washington Times](#) (6/15, Persons) reports that former independent counsel Kenneth Starr said Thursday that Attorney General Sessions “was within his right to refuse to answer questions over possible claims of executive privilege.” Starr told CNN, “The attorney general was exactly right. He was protecting executive privilege, he wasn’t asserting it.” Starr added that “the repeated question of Mr. Sessions in open session was designed to “embarrass” the attorney general rather than get answers.” Said Starr, “He was asked continuously, repetitively, what conversations did you have with the president – to me, it was in fact a very well-known drama. ... I think it was an entire exercise that was intended in large part to embarrass the attorney general.”

Sen. Angus King said on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (6/15), “I’ve done fair amount of research on executive privilege over the last couple of weeks. Usually what happens in these situations is a negotiation. Some kind of negotiation about what you want answered, which of the questions, what’s the specific information, what are the documents. ... I was frustrated because when you say ‘I’m going to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,’ the basic premise is you’re going to tell everything you know. And if you aren’t, there has to be some legal basis for

that and Mr. Sessions was asserting, I call it 'son of executive privilege.' I mean the President is the only one that can exert it, assert it, he didn't. Therefore, I thought the question should be answered."

CNN Sues To Force FBI To Turn Over Comey Memos. Brianna Keilar said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/15) that CNN has filed a lawsuit in Federal court "trying to force the FBI to turn over the memos [former FBI Director] Comey wrote about his conversation with President Trump. The memos are not classified and the FBI has not explained its refusal so far to release them, despite a ruling from the Justice Department that it should expedite a Freedom of Information Act request to do so."

Putin Jokingly Offers Comey Asylum In Russia. The [AP](#) (6/15, Isachenkov, Vasilyeva) reports that in an appearance on a national call-in show Thursday, Russian President Vladimir Putin "sarcastically offered political asylum to fired FBI Director James Comey." Likening Comey to NSA leaker Edward Snowden, Putin said, "It sounds and looks very weird when the chief of a security agency records his conversation with the commander in chief and then hands it over to media via his friend. ... What's the difference then between the FBI director and Mr. Snowden? ... In that case, he's more of a rights campaigner defending a certain position than the security agency chief." Putin "added that if Comey 'faces some sort of persecution in connection with that, we are ready to offer political asylum in Russia to him as well.'" The [Washington Times](#) (6/15, Ault) also reports on Putin's comments.

Trump Touts Apprenticeships Order As Step Toward Closing "Skills Gap."

Media analyses offered mostly favorable assessments of the President's latest executive order, which aims to boost apprenticeship programs as part of an effort to close the so-called skills gap. The story, largely overshadowed by coverage of Wednesday's attack on GOP lawmakers and the Russia probe, was not mentioned on the major network newscasts, and wasn't a significant topic of discussion on cable. The [AP](#) (6/15, Kellman) reports that Trump's order will "roughly double to \$200 million the taxpayer money spent on learn-to-earn programs," leaving it "to industry to design apprenticeships under broad standards to be set by the Labor Department." As the [Washington Post](#) (6/15, Wagner) indicates, the order "seeks to reorient and expand ApprenticeshipUSA, a grant program that was previously championed by the Obama administration and has been supported by Democrats and Republicans alike." The [Washington Times](#) (6/15, Miller) also says "the push for more apprenticeships, technical schools and other training for trades has been a touchstone for both Republican and Democratic presidents."

Several analysis, however, see a discrepancy between Trump's stated goal and proposed cuts to separate job training programs in the budget plan he submitted recently. [CNBC](#) (6/15, Breuninger), for example, said that "Trump wants to blow out the number of apprentices working for US companies – but it doesn't look like he'll spend the money to do it." [Money](#) (6/15, Bahler) cautioned that "critics" say yesterday's "announcement doesn't jive with the deep cuts...in his proposed budget," and [Fortune](#) (6/15, Abramson) that "advocates worry" Trump's initiative "won't come to fruition if the White House's proposed budget is implemented." Fortune also quoted Maria Flynn, President and CEO of Jobs for the Future, "who said she has had informal conversations with the White House about this initiative," as saying, "The Apprenticeship expansion would not have a negative impact. ... That comes if the proposed [budget] cuts are enacted because that would take a toll on lower skilled lower income young people and adults."

The coverage also included references to the names of Trump's old TV shows. The [New York Post](#) (6/15, Fredericks, Morrongiello) reports the President "made a mint as the longtime host of 'The Apprentice' and later 'Celebrity Apprentice' — and on Tuesday he signed an order that will boost funding and cut red tape to expand a popular federal apprenticeship program." [Townhall](#) (6/15, Pavlich) noted that "White House Special Advisor Ivanka Trump has been leading the apprenticeship project with Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta." The [Daily Caller](#) (6/15, Pfeiffer) reported Trump signed the order "surrounded by workers, as well as his daughter and...Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker."

To the [New York Times](#) (6/15, Scheiber), "Trump is taking one the most concrete steps of his presidency on Thursday to address the employment prospects of workers left behind by the current economic expansion." [US News & World Report](#) (6/15, Soergel) noted that "earlier in the day, a senior White House official said the order would direct the Department of Labor to work with the private sector on setting up what the administration is calling 'earn and learn' programs that would include some form of on-the-job training and compensation." According to this "official indicated... 'third-party' entities like companies, unions and trade associations would establish industry-specific criteria for such training programs, which the Labor Department then would

consider for approval." In addition, "an apprenticeship task force also will reportedly be set up to gather additional skills-training input from those in the private sector."

[Fox Business](#) (6/15, De Lea) reported that the Administration "said Thursday that 90 percent of apprentices find employment upon completing their training programs and the average starting salary is \$60,000." The Administration also said "technical program grads...see a '\$300,000 lifetime increase in earnings' and don't owe student loans." The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/15, Pappas) quotes an unnamed "official" saying before the signing, "This is not in any way a negative comment on a traditional four-year university education. ... What this is about is choice, that there shouldn't be a one size fits all answer for education for the American worker. That there should be multiple pathways for workers to decide what is the best answer for them." The [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) (6/15, Mangan) reported that apprenticeships are "popular in Europe but...slow to catch on in the United States, partly because businesses balk at the cost and some students feel that career training carries a second-class stigma."

The [Nation's Restaurant News](#) (6/15, Ruggless) noted that "the National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation and the American Hotel & Lodging Association on Feb. 21 signed a \$1.8 million contract with the US Department of Labor to launch the national Hospitality Sector Registered Apprenticeship project." The project "is seeking more than 450 apprentices in its inaugural year," with a focus "on management-level positions across the hospitality and foodservice industries." The News added that "foodservice partners so far include Chipotle Mexican Grill, Firehouse Subs, Golden Corral, Red Robin Gourmet Burgers, Sodexo and White Castle. Hotel partners span DoubleTree, Embassy Suites, Hilton, Waldorf Astoria and Wyndam."

[Politico](#) (6/15, Kullgren, Levine) reports that Trump "will cut back the federal government's role in creating and monitoring apprenticeship programs, a move that the White House says will help fill vacant jobs," and the [AP](#) (6/15, Kellman) refers to "questions about oversight of apprenticeship programs that begin and operate almost completely under the control of the company."

NYTimes Analysis: "Little Evidence" Of A "Skills Gap" In US. The [New York Times](#) (6/15, Scheiber) reports that with his order, Trump "joins a long-running and occasionally contentious debate over whether those workers have the skills they need to land desirable jobs." Acosta told reporters last week, for example, "The US faces a serious skills gap." The Times adds, however, that "there is little evidence that the economy is suffering from an unusually large skills gap." Economic indicators "do show a historically high number of job vacancies, as Mr. Acosta pointed out," but "research economists tend to believe that the skills gap accounts for, at most, a limited portion of this development. Many experts believe it plays almost no role at all."

[Fortune](#) (6/15, Abramson), meanwhile, said "both employers and economists agree with the White House that the skills gap...is something the country needs to address." The White House "noted that there are currently six million job vacancies in the United States, the highest number in nearly 40 years, but workers don't necessarily have the skills to fill them."

Obama Deputy Labor Secretary: "As Trump Discusses Job Training," Consider "Trump University." [Politico](#) (6/15, Kullgren, Levine) reports that "Chris Lu, former deputy Labor secretary under former President Barack Obama, said on Twitter that the executive order 'will remove gov't oversight of apprenticeship standards, which will reduce quality.'" He added, "As Trump discusses job training...consider his last foray into this area: Trump University. That worked out well." The [Chronicle of Higher Education](#) (6/15, Mangan) also noted that Lu added "a reference to the president's previous involvement in education."

Trump Deregulation Has Boosted Manufacturing, Coal Industry.

The [Washington Times](#) (6/15, Miller) reports in an analysis that rolling back what President Trump calls "job-killing regulations" has been "the only area" where he "has chalked up big wins on his economic agenda so far," but "that has been enough to quickly bolster confidence across the manufacturing sector and help revive the coal industry." Deregulation "has had the most immediate impact on the coal industry after Mr. Trump revoked Obama-era rules to combat climate change" as "Corsa Coal Corp. opened its first new deep mine in Pennsylvania in six years" last week and Alpha Natural Resources "announced the opening of a new mine in West Virginia." The Times adds that according to the National Association of Manufacturers, "the Trump administration's deregulations have played a major role in boosting business confidence to a 20-year high."

Labor Department: Weekly Jobless Claims Fall More Than Expected.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/15) reports that "the number of Americans filing for unemployment

benefits fell more than expected last week, pointing to shrinking labor market slack that could allow the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates again this year despite moderate inflation growth." The Post adds, "Initial claims for state unemployment benefits dropped 8,000 to a seasonally adjusted 237,000 for the week ended June 10, the Labor Department said Thursday." [Reuters](#) (6/15, Mutikani) reports that the greater-than-expected fall in jobless claims "point[s] to shrinking labor market slack that could allow the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates again this year despite moderate inflation growth." The article quotes RDW Chief Economist John Ryding saying, "Labor is scarce and separations are low as companies try and hang onto skilled labor." Ryding adds, "At present, it appears the labor market data rather than the inflation data are in the driving seat for data-dependent Fed policy."

Mulvaney: No Strategy Determined Yet For Debt Ceiling Hike.

[Reuters](#) (6/15, Rascoe) reports that OMB Director Mulvaney said Thursday that the White House has yet to settled on a plan for working with Congress to raise the federal debt limit. Mulvaney said, "There are various thoughts about how to get something passed, but I don't think we've settled on how to move forward yet. Will it be a clean debt ceiling vote? Will it be a debt ceiling vote with some type of reforms attached to it? I don't think we've settled on that."

Pruitt Defends "Trimmed" EPA Budget Before House Panel.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/15, Dennis) reports that EPA Administrator Pruitt appeared before a House Appropriations subcommittee on Thursday to defend President Trump's budget proposal for his agency. Pruitt said, "I believe we can fulfill the mission of our agency with a trimmed budget, with proper leadership and management." Pruitt said the "proposal 'supports EPA's highest priorities' while aiming 'to reduce redundancies and inefficiencies.'"

Despite Trump's "Pencils Down" Order, Agency Still Studying Cost Of Carbon.

[Science Magazine](#) (6/15, Hess) reports that despite President Trump's "pro-coal rhetoric" and "pencils down" order, some of the federal government's "most influential number crunchers are still working on the social cost of carbon." While Trump has ordered "pencils down" on "federal work to estimate the monetary damage of greenhouse gas emissions," parts of the government "are still assessing the costs of using coal and other carbon sources." For example, the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs' Jim Laity, who leads the Natural Resources and Environment Branch, "said yesterday his office is 'actively working on thinking about the guidance' Trump gave in March."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Mr. Trump, Afghanistan Is Your War Now." The [New York Times](#) (6/16) editorializes that it is "not at all clear that adding 5,000 more troops — a roughly 50 percent increase over the current troop level of 9,800 — can make a difference, especially when the administration has yet to confront the basic problem of ensuring public safety and the larger political and economic issues that must be part of a comprehensive strategy to resolve the conflict." The Times argues that in order to "achieve any worthwhile outcome, the president must be committed and involved, as must his entire national security team. So far the Pentagon is running the show, largely by default."

"Taking The President's Self-Dealing To Court." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/15) says President Trump "seems determined not to let the Constitution stop him from doing what he wants," as he has "refused to divest his hotels, real estate properties, golf courses and other businesses, many of which earn money and receive other benefits from foreign governments and federal and state agencies." The Times argues that his "callous disregard for ethical norms is exactly the attitude that the founders sought to protect the country against, through the emoluments clauses they put into the Constitution."

Washington Post.

"Trump Promised To Do 'A Big Number On Dodd-Frank.' That Looks Unlikely." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/15) writes that the "most striking" part about Treasury Department's proposal for financial regulatory reform, alongside the House's bill to repeal Dodd-Frank "is how little they actually have of resulting in a 'big number' on Dodd-Frank." The Post

says the “most concerning aspect” of the proposal is its “disparagement” of Dodd-Frank’s mechanisms to ensure systemically important banks are adequately capitalized, as “swapping growth for stability is an acceptable trade-off in view of the disastrous buildup of risk that pre-crisis regulations permitted.” The proposal’s espousal of a regulatory “off-ramp” for well-capitalized banks is more palatable to the Post, as “the basic idea of trading regulatory relief for solid capital has promise, provided that the capital buffer is, indeed, high-quality and subject to rigorous and regular review.” The Post also endorses the proposal’s call for a looser regime for credit unions and community banks, as they aren’t important sources of systemic risk.

“Trump Needs To Be More Transparent – No Matter What The Courts Say About Emoluments.”

The [Washington Post](#) (6/15) says in editorial that regardless of how the courts rule in the suit filed by Maryland and DC accusing President Trump of violating the Constitution’s emoluments clause, Trump’s business operations “should be run by caretakers.” While his “current arrangement calls for no new foreign deals, but he should proscribe new domestic enterprises as well.” The Post adds that “there must be far more transparency. Mr. Trump should release not only his tax returns but a detailed, complete accounting of his businesses and ties.”

“FIFA Has A Human Rights Problem Of Its Own Making.” The [Washington Post](#) (6/15) editorializes that a new Human Rights Watch report shows preparations for the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia to follow the trend of allowing for human rights abuses in preparations for such events, as there are “intolerable labor conditions at seven stadium sites”: unpaid wages, sub-zero working conditions, irregular provision of work documentation, and up to 17 deaths. The Post says that Russia was called upon to improve worker protections post-Sochi, but “it would be naive to expect drastic change from a government that has thus far shown little respect for human rights.” However, the report’s recommendations for FIFA are “viable and necessary,” as the organization looks to solidify its commitment to human rights. FIFA should expand its monitoring system and improve transparency and reporting to allow for accountability to external observers. Ultimately, FIFA should follow through on its promise to take human rights considerations into account in the World Cup selection process.

Wall Street Journal.

“Lessons Of The Energy Export Boom.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/15) says in an editorial that the US has become the world’s energy leader, exporting oil and gas, because of free trade and investment. The Journal says that Steve Bannon and Julia Hahn, then of Breitbart and now at the White House, criticized a 2015 GOP compromise with the Obama Administration to lift a decades-old ban on oil exports as a betrayal of conservative values, but that time has proven the compromise to have been the right decision.

“Washington Isn’t Istanbul.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/15) endorses the DC police’s arrest warrants for 12 Turkish security agents serving on Turkish President Erdogan’s detail. The Journal says that while the warrants are symbolic since the agents are back in Turkey, they send an important message: America’s welcoming of foreign leaders doesn’t allow for the import of their brutal tactics against protesters.

“Congress Steps Up On Russia.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/15) voices its approval of the Senate-passed measure to impose new sanctions on Iran and Russia and expresses hope that the House will pass it and Trump will sign it.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Senate Passes Bill That Would Expand Russia Sanctions, Limit Trump’s Say](#)

[Facebook Boosts AI To Block Terrorist Propaganda](#)

[Flush With Cash, Top Quant Funds Stumble](#)

[Rural America Is Stranded In The Dial-Up Age](#)

New York Times:

[How We Became Bitter Political Enemies](#)

[Secrecy Surrounding Senate Health Bill Raises Alarms In Both Parties](#)

[Shooting Brings Rare Comity To The Capital, But Will It Last?](#)

[Mueller, Known For Being Above The Fray, Is Now In The Thick Of It](#)

[The Dutch Have Solutions To Rising Seas. The World Is Watching. With Largest Staff Ever, New York City Reimagines How It Works](#)

Washington Post:

[Student's Father Chastises N. Korea](#)
[Huffington Steps Forward To Steady Embattled Uber](#)
[Trump Decries Mueller Probe](#)
[Day Before Attack, A Profane Tirade](#)
[Transactions By Kushner, Others Under Investigation](#)

Financial Times:

[Berlin Anger At US Move To Tighten Russia Sanctions](#)
[Fed Unwavering Despite Softer Inflation Data](#)
[Facebook Turns To AI To Help Block Terror Posts](#)

Washington Times:

[Mueller Faces "Unique Hurdles" If He Wants To Press Obstruction Case Against Trump](#)
[Trump Deregulations Quickly Boost Confidence And Hiring In Manufacturing Sector](#)
[Pollsters Miss Mark Again On Trump Voters In Virginia Republican Governor's Primary](#)
[Fort Meade To Celebrate 100 Years Of Secrecy, Cybersecurity And Military Innovation](#)
[Invasive Species Threaten To Wipe Out Native Flora In National Arboretum, Surrounding D.C. Area](#)
[Central African Republic On Road To Recovery As Christians, Muslims Make Peace](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: North Korea Detainee Released; Congressman Shot; Congressman Shot-Suspect; Special Counsel-Trump; New Russia Sanctions; Bill Cosby Trial; London-Apartment Fire; Turkish Brawl Arrests; Wisconsin Blimp Crash; Georgia-Escapees Manhunt; Ohio-Killing Spree Trial; John Lennon Song; Acrobat Over Niagara; Congressional Baseball History.

CBS: Congressman Shot; Congressman Shot-Conditions; Congressional Baseball Game; Congressman Shot-Officers; Special Counsel-Trump; Bill Cosby Trial; North Korea Detainee Released; Turkish Brawl Arrests; London-Apartment Fire; Wisconsin Blimp Crash; Congressman Shot-Politics.

NBC: Congressman Shot; Special Counsel-Trump; North Korea Detainee Released; Bill Cosby Trial; Wisconsin Blimp Crash; London-Apartment Fire; Trump-Cuba Policy; Ringless Robocalls; US Flag Maker; Acrobat Over Niagara.

Network TV At A Glance:

Congressman Shot – 16 minutes, 5 seconds
Special Counsel-Trump – 8 minutes, 25 seconds
North Korea Detainee Released – 6 minutes, 55 seconds
Turkish Brawl Arrests – 1 minute, 50 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Bill Cosby Trial; Georgia-Escapees Surrendered; Special Counsel-Kushner; North Korea Detainee Released.

CBS: Congressional Baseball Game; Congressman Shot; US Afghanistan Deployment; Special Counsel-Trump; NCAA News.

FOX: Trump-Cuba Policy; US Afghanistan Deployment; Congressman Shot; Georgia-Escapees Surrendered; Wall Street News.

NPR: Congressman Shot; Congressional Baseball Game; Bill Cosby Trial; Trump-Cuba Policy; China-Kindergarden Explosion

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Gives remarks and participates in a signing on the United States' policy towards Cuba.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President as he gives remarks and participates in a signing on the United States' policy towards Cuba; participates in a Great America Committee event.

US Senate: No public schedule announced.

US House: 9:00 AM Actress Mariska Hargitay speaks at Bipartisan Task Force to End Sexual Violence roundtable – Bipartisan Task Force to End Sexual Violence co-chairs Reps. Annie Kuster, Patrick Meehan, Jackie Speier, and David Joyce hold first Task Force roundtable on the ‘Rape Kit Backlog and access to Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners’, featuring actress and Joyful Heart Foundation founder Mariska Hargitay, former International Association of Forensic Nurses President Jenifer Markowitz, Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Michael O’Malley and Special Investigations Division Chief Richard Bell, Congressional Research Service Analyst in Crime Policy Nathan James, and a sexual violence survivor

Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC kuster.house.gov
<https://twitter.com/RepAnnieKuster>

10:30 AM POSTPONED: House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on FBI budget – POSTPONED: Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee ‘Federal Bureau of Investigation – Budget Hearing’, with testimony from FBI Acting Director Andrew McCabe

Location: Rm 2359, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

House meets in pro forma session – House of Representatives meets in pro forma session, in change to the previously scheduled session following the 14 Jun shooting of House Majority Whip Steve Scalise and others at a Republican training session for yesterday’s Congressional Baseball Game

Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

Other: 9:30 AM U.S. Chamber of Commerce wrap-up briefing – U.S. Chamber of Commerce Litigation Center holds 13th Annual Supreme Court End-of-Term Media Briefing, to discuss business cases argued during the Court’s term, featuring Morgan, Lewis & Bockius partner Allyson Ho, Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher partner Eugene Scalia, and USCLC Senior Vice President and Chief Counsel Kate Todd

Location: USCC, 1615 H St NW, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com
<https://twitter.com/USChamber>

12:30 PM Capitol Hill briefing on child labor – 2014 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Kailash Satyarthi and former child laborer who worked in tobacco fields speak at Capitol Hill briefing on child labor worldwide and efforts to end it, including the upcoming launch of the 100 Million for 100 Million campaign, which aims to mobilize 100 million youth to help the 100 million less privileged children in the world

Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: “This morning at 7:57 a.m., Trump tweeted, ‘You are witnessing the single greatest witch hunt in American political history led by some very bad and conflicted people. #maga.’ He’s even making witch hunts great again. I don’t think witches play golf every weekend.”

Jimmy Kimmel: “Negotiating with Kim Jong-Un goes like this. ‘You do everything I say and I won’t feed you to a boa constrictor. That is a deal, mom?’”

Stephen Colbert: “Looks like Trump’s going to need to change the hat, ‘Make justice obstructed again.’”

Stephen Colbert: “Mueller’s like Batman getting Flash, Green Lantern, and Wonder Woman to create an ‘Obstruction of Justice League.’”

Stephen Colbert: “Yesterday, the Senate overwhelmingly voted to impose new sanctions on Russia over election meddling. 97 to 2. Who voted against it? As usual, it was Wyoming Senators Boris and Natasha.”

Stephen Colbert: “Fox News is dropping its ‘Fair and Balanced’ slogan. I assume because they finally watched themselves.”

James Corden: "It was revealed yesterday that the FBI is now investigating President Donald Trump for obstruction of justice. Now, I don't know if Trump obstructed justice, but I'll tell you what he has obstructed: my ability to talk about anything other than Trump every night on this show."

James Corden: "Democrats are hoping that this will lead to impeachment. Republicans, on the other hand, are secretly hoping this leads to impeachment."

James Corden: "How do you guys think the President of the United States responded to these very serious allegations? If you guessed, on Twitter, I'm sorry to report that you were correct."

James Corden: "I have to say, Donald Trump is the first President to make regular use of the sarcastic 'nice.' Isn't he? You never heard FDR go, 'This is a date which will live in infamy. Nice!' Well, actually, Bill Clinton did use 'nice,' but it was different. It was when he said, 'I did not have sexual relations with that woman, nice!'"

James Corden: "[Donald Trump] tweeted: 'Why is that Hillary Clinton's family and Dems dealings with Russia are not looked at, but my non-dealings are?' It's a good question, and I think I can answer this one, Mr. President. It's because she's a grandma living in New York and you are the President of the United States. Well, for a few months, at least. Nice!"

Trevor Noah: "How long is President Trump going to talk about Hillary Clinton? In the distant future, President Trump will be in a hospital bed. The grim reaper will visit and he will be like, 'What about crooked Hillary?' And the grim reaper will be like, 'I am crooked Hillary.'"

Trevor Noah: "For seven years, Republicans have had one major legislative priority and that's been building a 60-foot-tall coal-powered mechanical Jesus to defend America. Just kidding. ... The main goal repealing and replacing Obamacare."

Trevor Noah: "Republican senators are so ashamed of the healthcare bill they are working on, they're putting it inside a porn magazine so no one will know what they're reading."

Jimmy Fallon: "Get this, though, the news that Trump is being investigated actually came out on his birthday, marking the first time someone blew out their candles and everyone else's wish came true."

Jimmy Fallon: "This morning, Trump responded to an article on Twitter and called it a phony story. I guess at this point, even Trump's tired of saying 'fake news.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that Fox News is dropping its slogan, 'Fair and Balanced.' Instead it will be replaced with the more appropriate slogan, 'Blonds and Hannity.'"

Seth Meyers: "President Trump will speak in Miami tomorrow. He'll be comfortable, because he still has strong support in Florida. Plus he's the state fruit."

Conan O'Brien: "Sunday is Father's Day. And the Trump kids are planning to give their father a tie. It will be the first time in a while that Trump has a tie that's not linked to Russia."

Conan O'Brien: "President Trump is under investigation for obstruction of justice. That was confirmed today, when President Trump said he is not under investigation for obstruction of justice."

Conan O'Brien: "Expert say if President Trump were to fire Special Prosecutor Robert Mueller, all hell would break loose, or, as Trump calls that, Thursday."

Conan O'Brien: "Vladimir Putin has offered asylum to former FBI Director James Comey. When she heard, Melania Trump said, 'Hey, what about me?'"

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Westerly (RI) Sun: Bradford Dam Removal Work Is Underway.
- Arizona Daily Sun: New Mexico Water Official Moves To Clarify Ranchers' Rights.
- Syracuse (NY) Post-Standard: Finally, A Real Public Hearing On Onondaga Lake Restoration Plan Will Be Held.
- Yellowstone Insider: New Details Regarding Scarface Death Released In FOIA Request.
- WXOW-TV LaCrosse (WI): Prestigious Award Presented To Genoa National Fish Hatchery Biologist.

National Park Service

- Mohave Valley (AZ) Daily News: Gosar Introduces Bill To Manage Grand Canyon Bison Population.
- U.S. News & World Report: Glacier National Park Trail Reopens After Grizzly Activity.
- Salt Lake (UT) Tribune: Zion National Park Is Short On Money And Staff – So A Nonprofit Hopes To Supply \$3 Million.
- Clark County (WA) Columbian: Pearson To Celebrate 80th Anniversary Of Chkalov Flight.
- TIME: A Confederate Monument Solution, With Context.
- Savannah (GA) Morning News: Editorial: An Encouraging Development For Cumberland Island.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Pacific (GUM) Daily News: Trump Budget Would Cut Insular Affairs Funding For Guam.
- Big Island (HI) Now: Hawai'i Delegation Leads Effort To Restore Healthcare For FAS Citizens.
- Hawaii Public Radio: Dengue Outbreak In Palau; Mumps In The Marshall Islands.
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DOI In The News

Lawmakers Urge Zinke To Crack Down On Sexual Harassment At Interior.

[The Hill](#) (6/22, Costello) reports that "lawmakers on Thursday urged Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to crack down on sexual assault in his agency and pressed him on the steps he is taking to address the issue." Zinke was "testifying before the House Committee on Natural Resources on the department's fiscal 2018 budget request, but faced tough questions from Democrats on protecting agency employees from harassment and assault." Reps. Donald McEachin and Niki Tsongas "pushed Zinke to hold surveys on workplace satisfaction in the many offices making up the vast Interior Department." Zinke "told lawmakers he was taking the issue seriously and was committed to working with Congress." He said, "I share your concerns about sexual harassment and intimidation in the workplace. I think our overall survey of job satisfaction reflects something is wrong."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Petersburg \(VA\) Progress-Index](#) (6/22) and the [Washington \(DC\) Patch](#) (6/22, Luttrell).

GOP New Mexico Lawmaker Wants To Shrink National Monument. The [AP](#) (6/22) reports that "members of New Mexico's delegation to Capitol Hill are at odds over whether to reduce the size of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument under a review by the administration of President Donald Trump." At a congressional hearing, Republican Rep. Steve Pearce on Thursday urged Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "to reduce the land area of the monument on the outskirts of Las Cruces to about one-tenth of its current size." But New Mexico's four Democratic U.S. lawmakers are urging Zinke "to leave intact both the Organ monument and the Rio Grande del Norte monument near Taos."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#).

Darren Soto Pins Down Everglades, Drilling Assurances From Interior Secretary. [Florida Politics](#) (6/22, Powers) reports that during a House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee meeting, Rep. Darren Soto "pinned down Interior Department Secretary Ryan Zinke for assurances that the off-shore drilling ban is 'in no real jeopardy.'" Soto also "pressed Zinke on whether he would support a Wild & Scenic River Program designation for the Kissimmee River, and the secretary replied that he is coming to Florida soon to examine Everglades issues and would work with him, Gov. Rick Scott and others for solutions."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Orlando \(FL\) Political Observer](#) (6/23, Torres).

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's testimony this week was provided by the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (6/22, Kapoor).

Yellowstone Grizzly Bear To Lose Endangered Species Protection.

The [New York Times](#) (6/22, Robbins) reports the Interior Department announced on Thursday that the Yellowstone grizzly bear will lose its protected status after 42 years on the Endangered Species list, though this move won't affect other populations of grizzlies in the lower 48 states. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said in a statement that long-term efforts have allowed the bear to thrive – its population has grown to 700 from fewer than 150. The Times says the conservation community is "split" on the de-listing. American Indians and some groups say ecological uncertainty prompted by climate change could lead to problems for the bear in the future. Meanwhile, others say the bears are adaptable and that their population is recovered.

[The Hill](#) (6/22, Cama) reports that Zinke said, "This achievement stands as one of America's great conservation successes; the culmination of decades of hard work and dedication on the part of state, tribal, federal and private partners. As a Montanan, I am proud of what we've achieved together."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/22, Brulliard) reports that the decision is “highly controversial and almost certain to be challenged in court by conservation organizations that still view the bears as vulnerable to both human and environmental threats.” Critics point to “several concerns about the move, including a decline in the white bark pine that grizzlies eat; that argument prompted a federal court to rule against an initial delisting in 2007.” Conservation groups also claim “that the Yellowstone grizzlies are an isolated group and that their routes to other bears in the region must be protected if they are to maintain genetic diversity.”

The [Washington Times](#) (6/22, Richardson) reports that “the governors of Idaho and Wyoming cheered the ruling, saying their states are prepared to take over management of the species from the Fish and Wildlife Service, while environmental groups ripped the move as premature.” Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead “commended the work of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team and said the grizzlies ‘will be managed appropriately by our experts and Game and Fish.’” Mead said, “Grizzly bears have met or exceeded recovery objectives since 2003 and have long warranted delisting.”

The [AP](#) (6/22) reports that “Wyoming, Montana and Idaho officials say they won’t declare open season on grizzly bears once federal Endangered Species Act protections are lifted for the bruins in the Yellowstone National Park region.” The three states will “take over jurisdiction of Yellowstone-area bears once federal protections are lifted this summer have submitted management plans that allow for limited hunting.” However, “state officials say there is no rush. ”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [ABC News](#) (6/22), [Business Insider](#) (6/22), [Fox News](#) (6/22), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (6/22, Press), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/22, Volz), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/22, Volz), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/22, Matt Volz |, Ap), the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (6/22, Volz), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/22, Press), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (6/22, Volz, Press), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (6/22, Volz), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/22, Volz), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (6/22, Volz), the [Daily Mail](#) (6/22), [Yahoo! News](#) (6/22, Volz), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (6/22, Volz), [WRTV-TV Indianapolis \(IN\)](#) Indianapolis (6/22), [WWJ-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (6/22), [WCVB-TV Boston \(MA\)](#) Boston (6/22, Volz), and [WXYZ-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (6/22).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (6/22, Siciliano), [USA Today](#) (6/22, Stanglin), [USA Today](#) (6/22), [Reuters](#) (6/22, Zuckerman), the [Huffington Post](#) (6/22, D’angelo), [Newsweek](#) (6/22, Miere), [TIME](#) (6/22, Volz), [NBC News](#) (6/22), [NPR](#) (6/22, Dwyer), [CNBC](#) (6/22, LeBlanc), [CNN](#) (6/22, LeBlanc), [CNN International](#) (6/22, LeBlanc), the [Cedar Rapids \(IA\) Gazette](#) (6/22, Zuckerman), the [New Orleans \(LA\) Times-Picayune](#) (6/22, Brulliard), the [Missoula \(MT\) Independent](#) (6/22, Sakariassen), the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (6/22, Wright), the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (6/22), the [Fairfield \(MT\) Sun Times](#) (6/22), the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (6/22), the [Idaho Falls \(ID\) Post Register](#) (6/22), the [Powell \(WY\) Tribune](#) (6/22, Volz), the [Riverton \(WY\) Ranger](#) (6/22, Volz), the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (6/22), [Yellowstone Insider](#) (6/22, Reichard), the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (6/22, Schimel), the [Daily Mail](#) (6/22, Zuckerman), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (6/22, Press), [Vox](#) (6/22, Resnick), [KTWO-AM Casper \(WY\) Casper](#), WY (6/22, Learned), [WLRN-FM Miami \(FL\)](#) Miami (6/22, Dwyer), [KITV-TV Honolulu \(HI\)](#) Honolulu (6/22, LeBlanc), [KIFI-TV Idaho Falls \(ID\)](#) Idaho Falls, ID (6/22), [WHEC-TV Rochester \(NY\)](#) Rochester, NY (6/22), [KREM-TV Spokane \(WA\)](#) Spokane, WA (6/22, Stanglin), [WUSA-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (6/22, Stanglin), [KTVO-TV Billings \(MT\)](#) Billings, MT (6/22), [KAML-FM Gillette \(WY\)](#) Gillette, WY (6/22), [KHQ-TV Spokane \(WA\)](#) Spokane, WA (6/22), [KTVO-TV Billings \(MT\)](#) Billings, MT (6/22), [KXLF-TV Butte \(MT\)](#) Butte, MT (6/22), and [KIFI-TV Idaho Falls \(ID\)](#) Idaho Falls, ID (6/22).

At Independence Mall, Federal Workers Protest Trump Budget.

[Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/22, Von Bergen) reports that demonstrators on Thursday rallied on Independence Mall to protest budget cuts proposed by the Trump Administration. According to the article, organizers “hoped hundreds of federal employees would pop out of nearby federal office buildings to support the rally.” The article says that “about 100 people showed up.”

National Monuments Review Must Be Full And Fair.

In an op-ed for the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (6/22, Pfund, Baruch), Nancy Pfund and Tom Baruch, Co-Chairs of the Conservation for Economic Growth Coalition, argue that “the protection of national public lands – and the designation of national monuments, in particular – are important to the health and growth of entrepreneurial, innovative companies across America.” Since the authors “hold our public lands in such high esteem, Interior Secretary Zinke’s recommendation last week to shrink the boundaries of the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah raises serious concerns.” They inform President Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke that

their “coalition, and a large majority of western voters that support keeping protections for existing monuments in place, will be paying close attention to their next move.”

Don't Let Trump Open Cascade Siskiyou National Monument To Industry. In an op-ed for the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (6/22, Molidor), Jennifer Molidor, who leads sustainable food initiatives for the Center for Biological Diversity, warns that the review of national monuments is “the first step toward opening monuments to industrial development, including oil and gas drilling and large-scale logging.” Molidor asserts that the Cascade Siskiyou National Monument is “overwhelmingly supported by local communities, including mayors, city councils, state legislators and local tribes.” She urges the public to comment.

Additional Commentary. Additional commentary appeared in the [Greeley \(CO\) Tribune](#) (6/22, Lien), the [Boulder \(CO\) Weekly](#) (6/22, Cortina) and the [Steamboat \(CO\) Pilot & Today](#) (6/22, Harmon).

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Court Sets Final Deadline For Remaining Payments From Cobell Settlement.

The [Nation Sun News](#) (6/22) reports that “the overwhelming majority of the \$3.4 billion Cobell trust fund settlement has been distributed but some Indian beneficiaries still haven't been paid.” According to the article, “those beneficiaries, or their heirs, are now facing a court-ordered deadline of November 27 deadline to submit documentation to Garden City Group, the entity that has been administering the settlement since it was approved by Congress.”

Navajo Nation Implements Stage 1 Fire Restrictions.

The [Navajo-Hopi Observer \(AZ\)](#) (6/22) reports that “the Navajo Nation moved to Stage 1 fire restrictions June 21 to help suppress human-caused fires and wildfires in forest lands on the Nation, Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye said.” Begaye, “along with Vice President Jonathan Nez and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Navajo Regional Director Sharon Pinto signed an executive order June 21 implementing the fire restrictions.” Begaye “said that he has met with the BIA Fire and Aviation, the Navajo Nation Rangers and the Navajo Forestry Department to determine the proper restrictions.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Trump Administration Outlines Strategy To Rescind Or Revise BLM Venting/Flaring Rules.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (6/22, Passut) reports that the Trump Administration has “outlined its plans in federal court to ultimately rescind or revise a rule promulgated by the Department of Interior's (DOI) Bureau of Land Management (BLM) governing flaring and venting of associated natural gas on public and tribal lands.” Lawyers with the Justice Department on Tuesday filed a motion in U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming. According to the motion, the Interior Department has “developed a three-step plan to revise or rescind the rule, while preventing any harm from compliance with the rule during the interim.” The BLM “took the first step last week, when it published a notice in the Federal Register that it wants to postpone the compliance dates for the rule from January 2018, pending judicial review.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Business First](#) (6/22, Sapin).

400 More Homes Evacuated By Growing Fire Near Utah Ski Town.

The [AP](#) (6/22) reports that “a wildfire near a southern Utah ski town that has forced hundreds of people to evacuate has doubled in size in high winds and drove out residents of 400 additional homes, authorities said Thursday.” According to Erin Darboven of the Bureau of Land Management, “the fire has spread to 17 square miles (44 square kilometers) and is heading toward a lake used by recreationists and where some homes stand.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

BOEM To Identify California Offshore Platform Decommissioning Issues.

The [Oil and Gas Journal](#) (6/22, Snow) reports that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is “trying to help identify issues that could arise as 27 offshore oil and gas platforms off southern

California – all but three of which are in federal waters – are decommissioned, officials from the agency's Pacific Region told members of BOEM's Committee on Offshore Science and Assessment." The platforms, however, "could present unusual problems because they are attached to the ocean floor in considerably deeper water and have attracted different fish and mammals that will need to be dealt with, other BOEM Pacific Region specialists told OGJ during a break in the proceedings."

Airgun Blasts To Search For Oil Kill Plankton.

[Florida Today](#) (6/22) reports that "new research shows sound from airguns – like those proposed for surveying the Atlantic Ocean for oil and gas offshore of Florida – can kill zooplankton at distances of up to three-quarters of a mile away, more than 100 times the distance previously thought." The study by "Australian researchers found that blasts from a seismic airgun caused a two-to-threefold increase in dead adult and larval zooplankton within a day of the airgun blast."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (6/22, Correspondent) and [Nature News](#) (6/22, Tollefson).

Bureau Of Reclamation

House Passes Bill To Speed Permitting For Dams, Reservoirs.

[The Hill](#) (6/22, Henry) reports that "the House passed a bill on Thursday that supporters say will speed up permitting decisions for water-storage projects such as dams and reservoirs in drought-stricken areas of the United States." The legislation "would filter all permit requests for new dams and reservoirs through the Bureau of Reclamation, which would coordinate environmental permitting decisions from other agencies and allow some regulators to drop out of the process." Republican "supporters of the bill say it's a necessary step toward alleviating droughts and overhauling the federal permitting process." However, "most Democrats opposed the legislation, calling it a 'sham infrastructure bill' that takes aim at federal environmental rules."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (6/22, Wire), the [Sterling \(CO\) Journal-Advocate](#) (6/22, Rice), and [Breitbart](#) (6/22, Street).

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Operators Shut 16 Percent Of Oil Output In U.S. Gulf Of Mexico: Regulators.

[Reuters](#) (6/22, Hampton) reports energy companies had shut down approximately 16 percent of Gulf of Mexico oil output as of midday Thursday because of Tropical Depression Cindy, according to the US Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. Around 288,186 bpd of the region's production was affected. The BSEE also said that 39, around 5 percent, of oil platforms in the Gulf had been evacuated. [Reuters](#) (6/22, O'Brien, DiSavino) reports the US National Hurricane Center said flash flooding was possible in parts of Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas, while heavy rainfall was expected in Mississippi, Alabama and Florida. The Louisiana Offshore Oil Port suspended vessel offloadings, but did not expect interruptions to operations at its hub in Clovelly. Energy companies reported little impact on production. Shell suspended some well operations, while Anadarko, Eni and Enbridge evacuated non-essential personnel. Offshore natural gas production in the Gulf declined from about 3 bcfd to 2.3 bcfd on Wednesday, before increasing to 2.4 bcfd on Thursday. Gelber & Associates market analyst Daniel Myers said, "The tropical storm...promises to bring rain and cooler temperatures, curbing demand in the region."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Plan To Protect Salmon Backfires As Predator Birds Flee.

The [AP](#) (6/22) reports that "a plan to protect young salmon by killing double-crested cormorants on an island in the Columbia River has backfired after the birds fled the area halfway through their nesting season." The Army Corps of Engineers has "put a hold on killing the birds until it is clear if the colony will re-establish itself on the island." Conservation groups claim the plan to cut "the island's population of cormorants in half by 2018" is "harming the colony of birds." Bob Sallinger, conservation director for the Audubon Society of Portland, wrote in a letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "It's very possible that the combination of eagle predation activity and

lethal control activity being conducted by the federal agencies are acting in a cumulative manner to put pressure on this colony. While the colony may have been able to withstand the pressure of eagles alone, the added impacts of pervasive shooting, egg oiling and other elevated human activities has significantly increased the scope, scale, frequency and intensity of threats to the cormorants."

Drought Helps North America's Largest White Pelican Refuge.

The [AP](#) (6/22, MacPHERSON) reports that "abnormally dry weather may bedevil farmers and ranchers, but is a boon for American white pelicans nesting on a North Dakota island known as North America's largest refuge for the big-billed birds." According to Neil Shook, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist and refuge manager, "a dry spell appears to have curbed years of wet weather and surging water levels that threatened to swamp the main nesting island at the Chase Lake National Wildlife Refuge." The article says that "an aerial survey completed this week showed some 27,120 breeding adults have returned from as far away as California and the Gulf Coast to raise their chicks."

Bradford Dam Removal Work Is Underway.

The [Westerly \(RI\) Sun](#) (6/23, Drummond) reports that "excavators have begun to carve a temporary channel around the Bradford dam in preparation for the dam's removal in July." The project, "a joint effort by The Nature Conservancy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is part of a larger initiative to open 31 miles of the Pawcatuck River to allow the passage of migratory fish such as blueback herring, alewife, American shad and American eels, which breed upstream." John Torgan, the Nature Conservancy's Rhode Island director, said, "We're changing the way the Pawcatuck River and the Atlantic Ocean speak to each other. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is a terrific partner, and we're working closely together on fish passage and other conservation work all across the country."

New Mexico Water Official Moves To Clarify Ranchers' Rights.

The [AP](#) (6/22, Bryan) reports that "New Mexico's top water manager has fired the latest salvo in a battle with the federal government over the protection of an endangered mouse and the barring of livestock from certain streams and watering holes on national forest land." State Engineer Tom Blaine is "offering licenses to ranchers that clarify their water rights and allow them to use all sources of surface water on their grazing allotments." According to the article, "access to watering holes on the Lincoln National Forest has been an issue since federal managers began ordering closures and installing fences in the Lincoln and Santa Fe forests in 2014 after the mouse was listed as endangered."

Finally, A Real Public Hearing On Onondaga Lake Restoration Plan Will Be Held.

The [Syracuse \(NY\) Post-Standard](#) (6/22, Coin) reports that "after months of criticism that the public wasn't being adequately heard on the proposed Onondaga Lake restoration plan, a bona-fide public hearing will be held" Thursday night tonight. According to the article, "representatives from the state Department of Environmental Conservation and the federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife service will take comments and answer questions about the plan."

New Details Regarding Scarface Death Released In FOIA Request.

The [Yellowstone Insider](#) (6/22, Reichard) reports that "new details regarding the death of famous Yellowstone grizzly bear Scarface (Bear No. 211) have been released to the public." The article notes that "in the aftermath of Scarface's death, some grizzly advocates pointed to the murky circumstances behind Scarface's death as reason to preserve and even bolster protections for Yellowstone area grizzly bears under the Endangered Species Act."

Prestigious Award Presented To Genoa National Fish Hatchery Biologist.

[WXOW-TV](#) LaCrosse, WI (6/22, Amundsen) reports that "on Thursday morning, Angie Baran Dagendesh with Genoa National Fish Hatchery received the FWS Region 3 2016 Recovery Champion Award." Dagendesh was selected "because of her work with an endangered dragonfly species." Dagendesh "said she is honored to be recognized, but conservation is a team effort." She said, "I'm a little sheepish accepting it, because it's been such a collaborative program, and I'm very fortunate to be where I am to have the facilities and the staff and the support behind it with our Friends group and the other stations nearby."

National Park Service

Gosar Introduces Bill To Manage Grand Canyon Bison Population.

The [Mohave Valley \(AZ\) Daily News](#) (6/23) reports that Rep. Paul Gosar “introduced on Thursday the Grand Canyon Bison Management Act, which would allow the use of wildlife management and conservation techniques on the bison population within Grand Canyon National Park.” Specifically, the legislation would require both the Interior Department and the Arizona Game and Fish Commission “to coordinate on a plan to manage the bison population utilizing volunteer sportsmen holding a valid state-issued hunting license” and “the volunteers would then be allowed to cull bison and remove the harvested animal from the park.”

Glacier National Park Trail Reopens After Grizzly Activity.

The [AP](#) (6/22) reports that the National Park Service has “reopened the Avalanche Lake Trail after the path was closed due to grizzly bear activity.” The trail “on the west side of Glacier National Park reopened Wednesday afternoon.” It was “closed earlier this week after the park service received multiple reports of grizzly bears approaching people.”

Zion National Park Is Short On Money And Staff – So A Nonprofit Hopes To Supply \$3 Million.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (6/22, Maffly) reports that “taxed to the hilt taking care of roads, bathrooms, shuttles and year after year of record visitation, Zion National Park lacks the budget and personnel” for “needs park officials would like addressed.” The Zion Natural History Association, the park’s private nonprofit partner, is “announcing a major reorganization Thursday at Salt Lake City’s Red Butte Gardens.” According to the article, “the association and its subsidiaries Zion Canyon Field Institute and Zion National Park Foundation are being folded under a single new name, Zion National Park Forever Project.” The group has “released a 2018 ‘field guide,’ outlining \$3 million in funding needs it hopes to meet through private fundraising this year.”

Pearson To Celebrate 80th Anniversary Of Chkalov Flight.

The [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (6/22, Vogt) reports that “Russian officials from Seattle will visit Pearson Air Museum on Saturday to celebrate a much more harrowing trip to Vancouver by three countrymen.” The National Park Service will “observe the 80th anniversary of Valery Chkalov’s landmark transpolar flight from Moscow to Pearson Field.”

A Confederate Monument Solution, With Context.

[TIME](#) (6/22, Sanburn) reports that on July 15 the city of Richmond will “unveil a statue of Maggie Walker, the first black woman to charter a bank, and the National Park Service will conduct walking tours about her life.”

Editorial: An Encouraging Development For Cumberland Island.

The [Savannah \(GA\) Morning News](#) (6/21) editorializes that “although it came at the last minute, the National Park Service should be saluted for offering to help broker a settlement between the Park Service and private landowners over future land use on Cumberland Island.” The paper calls the development “encouraging, as it opens the door to a final, lasting resolution concerning Cumberland and it takes the matter out of the political arena.” It hopes the Park Service and private property owners, “who also have a stake in keeping Cumberland in its natural state, can negotiate in good faith and make a deal.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

Trump Budget Would Cut Insular Affairs Funding For Guam.

The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (6/23, Mora) reports that “Guam Del. Madeleine Bordallo raised concerns about proposed cuts to the Office of Insular Affairs in President Trump’s budget request during a hearing of the House Committee on Natural Resources.” In a press release, Bordallo “said the budget will reduce technical assistance to the territories by \$1 million and eliminate \$3 million in discretionary compact-impact funding.” Bordallo said, “I am very concerned by the proposed cuts to the Office of Insular Affairs contained in the president’s budget. The government

of Guam and many of our nonprofit organizations rely on technical assistance from (Insular Affairs) to modernize equipment, support programming and provide services in our community, and while relatively small, could have significant impacts on their abilities to carry out their missions.”

Hawai'i Delegation Leads Effort To Restore Healthcare For FAS Citizens.

The [Big Island \(HI\) Now](#) (6/21) reports that Sens. Mazie Hirono and Brian Schatz, and Reps. Colleen Hanabusa and Tulsi Gabbard “introduced legislation to reinstate Medicaid coverage for Freely Associated States (FAS) citizens living in the U.S.” The Covering our FAS Allies (COFA) Act would “restore Medicaid coverage, known in Hawai'i as Med-QUEST, for FAS citizens.” Hirono said, “We have a moral obligation to provide FAS citizens living in Hawai'i and across our country with access to medical care. The COFA Act will ensure that each FAS citizen in the United States can access healthcare and help states like Hawai'i dealing with unfunded mandates created by the compacts.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Honolulu Civil Beat \(HI\)](#) (6/21, Blair).

Dengue Outbreak In Palau; Mumps In The Marshall Islands.

[Hawaii Public Radio](#) (6/21, Conan) reports on the “outbreaks of disease in two Pacific Island nations...dengue fever in Palau, and mumps in the Marshall Islands.” The article says that “at least a thousand cases have been confirmed” in the Marshall Islands “since an outbreak began in March.” Meanwhile, “three people are reported dead among 200 infected by Dengue fever in Palau.”

Return Of Hokulea Canoe Raises Insights About Past, Future.

[Courthouse News](#) (6/21, Fillmore) reports that “the Polynesian voyaging canoe Hokulea completed the last leg of a historic three-year, round-the-world voyage on Saturday, pulling into port at Oahu's Magic Island under full sail. Kayaks, paddleboards, surfers and jet skis trailed in its wake—along with the spirits and names of those dreamers who first conceived of the canoe as a champion of Polynesian history.” According to the article, “tens of thousands of people cheered as the vaka's (main hull's) earth-red ‘crab claw’ sails passed.” Hokulea came “full circle, conquering both the perils of the sea and of self-doubt.”

BEECAM: NMCB 1 Brings Humanitarian Assistance To Kosrae.

The [DoD Live](#) (6/21) reports that “Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 1 is forward deployed to execute construction, humanitarian and foreign assistance, special operations combat service support, and theater security cooperation in support of U.S. Pacific Command.”

Top National News

Trump: “I Did Not Make, Do Not Have” Tapes Of Comey Conversations.

Media coverage of the President's [tweets](#) Wednesday declaring that he “did not make, and does not have” tapes of his conversations with former FBI Director Comey is largely negative for the President, with outlets tying the tweet to the reported obstruction of justice probe over Comey's firing. Outlets and lawmakers alike questioned why it took the President so long to set the record straight. For example, in its lead story, the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/22, lead story, 2:25, Mason) said that “for 41 days, the President kept us guessing after putting out a tweet that suggested he might be recording conversations, or at least those he had with...Comey. Today, we got the answer, it was a bluff.” Jonathan Karl reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/22, story 2, 3:10, Muir), “After six weeks of drama and controversy, President Trump today finally put an end to the speculation he started.” The President [tweeted](#), “I have no idea whether there are ‘tapes’ or recordings of my conversations with James Comey, but I did not make, and do not have, any such recordings.”

The [AP](#) (6/22, Lemire, Tucker) says the President “end[ed] a month-long guessing game that he started,” but the [New York Times](#) (6/22, Landler) says he “left open the possibility that the conversations may have been taped without his knowledge.” [The Hill](#) (6/22, Fabian, Smilowitz) too says Trump “raised the possibility that a third party could have recorded his conversations with the ousted FBI director.”

[USA Today](#) (6/22, Jackson) reports the President “did not explain why he made the suggestion that he might have secretly recorded conversations” with Comey – “nor why he waited

41 days to clear up the confusion." According to [Reuters](#) (6/22, Becker, Mason), Trump "has privately told aides that the threat of the existence of tapes forced Comey to tell the truth in his recent testimony, a source familiar with the situation said."

Trump attorney Jay Sekulow said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (6/22) that Trump's tweet was "100 percent accurate. ... I'm hearing the left say this tweet compelled James Comey to tell the truth. Well, why is that a bad thing? James Comey, the only thing we know about him is that he is a leaker and he did tell the truth" about whether Trump was under investigation. Sekulow added, "That's not an illegal act, getting someone...to tell the truth. It wasn't interfering with anything. ... It was the President stating what everybody knows. ... James Comey leaked a private conversation he had with the President of the United States to a friend, who leaked it to The New York Times. That's the only evidence we have of everything and that is what the crime is."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/22, Rucker, Demirjian) says that "for five and a half weeks, the president and senior White House officials refused to tell the public whether such tapes exist. But after an inquiry from congressional investigators about the tapes," Trump tweeted Thursday that no such recordings exist. [Politico](#) (6/22, Staff) says the tweet "came a day before a House Intelligence Committee deadline for the White House to produce any such tapes."

[McClatchy](#) (6/22, Welsh) likewise says that since the May tweet, "the White House had refused to confirm or deny the existence of such tapes. Press Secretary Sean Spicer would not comment, and Trump said cryptically in a press conference two weeks ago that 'maybe sometime in the very near future' he would elaborate on his tweet." [Bloomberg News](#) (6/22, Jacobs, Pettypiece) reports deputy press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders "declined to elaborate in a briefing with reporters afterward," saying, "The president's statement via Twitter today is extremely clear. I don't have anything to add." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/22, Ballhaus), [Washington Times](#) (6/22, Boyer), and [Roll Call](#) (6/22, Bennett) also report Sanders' remarks.

Sen. Brian Schatz said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/22) it's "baffling" it took Trump 41 days to say there are no tapes, adding, "I think what shouldn't be lost on the American people is that his first tweet around tapes was essentially designed to intimidate James Comey."

[Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/22) reported House Intelligence Committee ranking member Adam Schiff said Trump's tweets "raised even more questions." In a statement, Schiff asked, "If the President had no tapes, why did he suggest otherwise? Was he trying to intimidate or silence James Comey? If so, did he take other steps to discourage potential witnesses from speaking out?" Schiff said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/22) that Trump's tweet in May, in which the President said "Comey better hope there are no" recordings of their conversations, "certainly seems like an effort" to intimidate Comey, and "when you consider that also in light of James Comey's testimony," when he said Trump asked him "to drop the Flynn case, to make the Russia cloud essentially go away – and ultimately the firing of James Comey – you have to potentially ask...was this part of a concerted effort to alter the course of the Russia investigation? And that is obviously deeply troubling."

The [New York Post](#) (6/22, Moore) reports former House Speaker Newt Gingrich "said those who know the president realized all along he was bluffing." Said Gingrich, "I think he was in his way instinctively trying to rattle Comey."

A front-page [Washington Post](#) (6/22, A1, Phillip) analysis says the incident "highlights a new reality for Washington, which now must spring into action to bolster or refute presidential assertions of dubious origin and with no evidence to back them up." In many cases, the Post says, the claims have had "the opposite effect than what the president presumably intended — feeding into doubts about his credibility, deepening his legal woes and generating unflattering accounts that dominate the news for weeks at a time. And even when Trump has walked back a questionable comment, he has sometimes planted a new and similarly unsubstantiated claim."

Paul: Intelligence Community May Be Spying On Trump. Sen. Rand Paul said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/22) that he's "concerned" the intelligence community may be spying on the President, "and I think the rules need to be explicit they don't listen to the President, and that they don't listen to members of Congress, and that the President doesn't listen to members of Congress." When asked for evidence to back that "startling accusation," Paul pointed to media reports about former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn's conversations with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak. Paul added that a recent Washington Post article, which he says has "been somewhat disputed," said the intelligence community listened in on former President Obama's conversations with foreign persons "1500 times."

Sen. John Cornyn, asked about Paul's claim on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/22), said, "I don't find [Paul's claim] very believable."

Schiff said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/22), "I hate to see members of the Senate or House make such claims without any factual basis. It echoes, of course, what the President has suggested or did suggest not only in this tweet, but when he earlier accused his predecessor of wiretapping him. ... Of course, it's not the case, and I think it brings disrespect to the office of the presidency to make such a suggestion."

Grassley: Comey Fanned "Conspiracy Theories" About Russian Election Interference. The [Washington Times](#) (6/22, Dinan) reports Sen. Charles Grassley "took to the Senate floor Thursday to blame...Comey for fanning 'conspiracy theories' about the US election that 'played right into Russia's hands.'" Grassley charged that Comey "kept hidden the fact that the president wasn't under investigation — allowing conspiracy theories and speculation to run wild" — and claimed he personally appealed to Comey "to reveal publicly...that the president wasn't a target of the Russia probe."

Breitbart: Comey May Have Leaked Information To Press While FBI Director. [Breitbart](#) (6/22, Wong) reports former FBI Director Comey "may have misled senator on May 3, when he testified to the Senate Judiciary Committee that he had never been an anonymous source in news reports related to the Russia investigation." According to Breitbart, "By that time, he had already leaked several private conversations he had with President Trump to his friend Benjamin Wittes," editor-in-chief of the blog Lawfare and former editorial writer for the Washington Post. Wittes wrote in a piece on May 18 that Comey had shared those conversations "over the previous few months." [Breitbart](#) (6/22, Pollak) reports separately that Comey was seen entering the New York Times building on Thursday.

Trump Says Mueller Team Staffed By "Hillary Clinton Supporters."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/22, Siegel) reports President Trump is "questioning the independence" of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation because his staff "is full of people who backed his Democratic opponent in the 2016 campaign." In a clip of an interview set to later this morning on "Fox & Friends," the President said, "I can say that the people that have been hired are all Hillary Clinton supporters." [Politico](#) (6/22, Lima) reports Trump, however, "would not say whether he believed...Mueller should recuse himself," but cast Mueller's relationship with James Comey as "very bothersome."

Coats Reportedly Says Trump "Obsessed" With Russia Probe. [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/22, story 3, 2:20, Holt) reported it "has learned from a US official familiar with the conversation that the President's Director of National Intelligence testified today behind closed doors" that President Trump has "seemed obsessed with that Russia investigation." [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/22) reported that DNI Coats and NSA Director Rogers in a closed meeting "confirmed that the President suggested they put out statements denying any collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia."

The [CNN](#) (6/22, Bash, Perez, Raju) website reports that "sources say both men went further than they did in June 7 public hearings, when they provided little detail about the interactions," and [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/22) reported that multiple sources say that in meetings with special counsel Mueller's team, Rogers and Coats described their "interactions with the President as odd and uncomfortable."

Congress Investigating Russian Investment Fund With Ties To Trump Officials. According to [CNN](#) (6/22, Frank, Investigates), Senate investigators are "examining the activities of a little-known \$10-billion Russian investment fund whose chief executive met with a member of President Donald Trump's transition team four days before Trump's inauguration, a congressional source" said. The source said the Senate Intelligence Committee is investigating the Russian fund "in connection with its examination of discussions between White House adviser Jared Kushner and the head of a prominent Russian bank," Vnesheconombank (VEB), which oversees the fund.

Russian Official Investing In Trump Palace Real Estate. The [Miami Herald](#) (6/22, Dobrovolskaya, Nehamas) reports that Igor Zorin is "a Russian government official who's spent nearly \$8 million on waterfront South Florida homes, hardly financially prudent given his bureaucrat's salary of \$75,000 per year." Zorin's real estate holdings include three condo units at Trump Palace, "a ritzy tower in Sunny Isles Beach built by a local developer and branded by the Trump Organization."

Beijing Fears Mueller Will Investigate White House Dealings With China. The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (6/22, Gertz) reports that the "political hysteria sweeping Washington over allegations of Russian meddling in the presidential election is reverberating in China," where the government is "worried that a similar wave of anti-China sentiment will take hold in the United States." According to "China watchers in and out of government," Beijing fears special counsel Robert

Mueller “will add White House dealings with China to his investigation of Russian election meddling.”

Congress Urged To Subpoena Administration Officials. Former general counsel of the House of Representatives Irvin B. Nathan writes in the [Washington Post](#) (6/22) that the Administration “has no right to stonewall like this. It’s time for members of Congress to start using their legal powers to compel answers.” Nathan argues that “Congress and the public will not get the answers they deserve until lawmakers issue subpoenas and pursue contempt charges against officials who deem questions ‘inappropriate’ to answer. If congressional committees are serious about getting to the bottom of their investigations, they will have to be much more aggressive and use the tools provided by the Constitution and the courts.”

Trump Defense Lawyer Says He’s No “Snowflake.” In an interview with [Reuters](#) (6/22, Freifeld), President Trump’s defense lawyer John Dowd said, “I fight hard. I believe that’s what I’m supposed to do. I am not a snowflake, I can tell you that.” Reuters says the 76-year-old Washington lawyer “brings criminal defense and government investigation experience to Trump’s legal team.”

Trump Touts Johnson Testimony, Questions Why Obama Didn’t Stop Russian Hacking.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/22, story 2, 2:30, Mason) reported Trump “blasted the Russia investigations again last night.” Trump was shown saying, “I mean, they have phony witch hunts going against me.” CBS (Pegues): “And he [continued](#) on Twitter this morning. ‘Former Homeland Security Adviser Jeh Johnson is latest top intelligence official to state there was no grand scheme between Trump & Russia.’” Johnson and other DHS officials testified yesterday about Russian hacking during the 2016 election. Officials said Russian hackers attacked election-related systems in 21 states, but “today, sources told CBS News, nearly twice that many showed evidence of breach.” While Trump in another [tweet](#) asked why the Obama Administration “didn’t stop them,” Pegues reported that congressional investigators are now “interested in whether Trump campaign associates obtained information from hacked voter databases.”

The [Washington Times](#) (6/22, Persons) also reports on the President’s tweet, while [Politico](#) (6/22, Nelson) says he “sought to turn the tables Thursday morning on the ongoing investigations into the 2016 campaign, wondering online why his predecessor had been unable to stop Russian government efforts to interfere in last November’s presidential race.” Trump also “suggested that his position — that there was no connection between his campaign and the Kremlin’s efforts to interfere in the race — had been vindicated” by Johnson’s testimony. An [AP](#) (6/22, Lucey) “Fact Check,” however, disputes Trump’s claim, saying Johnson testified that “he was not aware of any information beyond what’s been reported publicly and what the US intelligence community has gathered.”

[CNN’s Situation Room](#) (6/22) reported White House deputy press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, when asked Wednesday if Trump believes Russia interfered in the 2016 election, “said, he thinks ‘it probably was Russia.’”

“Pushing Back” Against Johnson, DNC Says Russians Ejected From System Before DHS Offer. [Politico](#) (6/22, Wright) reports the Democratic National Committee is “pushing back” after former DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson testified before Congress that the DNC “rebuffed the agency’s offer to help.” According to DNC officials, it “had kicked Russian hackers out of its computer systems by June of last year — two months before the Department of Homeland Security called to offer assistance.” [CNN](#) (6/22, Raju, Lobianco), meanwhile, reports that the House Intelligence Committee next week plans to interview John Podesta, Hillary Clinton’s 2016 campaign chairman “whose hacked email account became central to Russian meddling in the US election last year, according to multiple sources familiar with the matter.”

[Townhall](#) (6/22, Pavlich) reports Rep. Trey Gowdy said Thursday that he “is baffled as to why DNC officials wouldn’t take Johnson up on the offer and wonders what they may have been hiding.” Rep. Jason Chaffetz, meanwhile, said on [Fox News’ Fox & Friends](#) (6/22), “Remember, all of this hacking happened during the Obama Administration and the Homeland Security Secretary is trying to help Democrats. The Democrats put up their stiff arm and say, ‘Back off. No help needed.’ Now after the fact they’re somehow claiming it was Donald Trump’s problem and Donald Trump’s fault.” Chaffetz added that “they thought they were on a glide path to the presidency. They didn’t want to have any hiccups. But Donald Trump ran a much more effective campaign. And now after the fact, the Democrats want to blame the hacking on Donald Trump.”

Media Analyses: New GOP Healthcare Bill Faces Tough Odds For Passage.

The draft healthcare [bill](#) released Thursday by Senate Republican leaders receives extensive

media attention, including nearly 11 and a half minutes of reporting on the network evening newscasts – all three of which led with the story Thursday evening. Coverage and commentary are generally negative both in terms of the content of the bill – with much attention paid to proposed changes to Medicaid – and in terms of its chances for passage – with a great deal of focus on the fact that four conservative Republican senators have voiced their opposition and a number of Republican moderates have expressed concern while GOP leaders can afford to lose only two votes from within their caucus. [USA Today](#) (6/22, Kelly, Collins), for example, says it is unclear whether the measure “can attract enough support from both moderate and conservative Republicans to pass,” as Democrats “are united against it,” meaning McConnell can lose only two Republican votes. In the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/22, lead story, 2:50), Lester Holt said that while Democrats “predictably are unhappy” about the plan, it is “dissent among a handful of Republicans that threaten to doom” it.

Also on [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/22, story 2, 2:05), Holt said that “there are real people with very real problems across this country, left in suspense over the future of healthcare. Many are caught between uncertainty of how the Republican plan will affect them and the dwindling choices and rising premiums under Obamacare,” and a pair of analyses made some dire predictions about what the potential impacts of the Senate proposal might be. A [USA Today](#) (6/22, Groppe) story outlines “how the bill released Thursday could affect you,” including the potential loss of subsidies and Medicaid coverage and higher costs for older people, among others, and [McClatchy](#) (6/22, Pugh, Douglas) says the bill, which was “negotiated in secret by a hand-picked group of 13 male senators,” would “likely cause millions of Americans to lose their Medicaid and private insurance marketplace coverage,” and “could make coverage more expensive for many sicker, older and low-income individuals.”

The [New York Times](#) (6/22, Pear, Kaplan) reports that the Senate GOP bill takes “a major step” toward Republicans’ goal of repealing the ACA. The Times adds that while Senate Republicans had said their bill would be “a top-to-bottom revamp of the health bill passed by the House last month,” the measure they delivered “maintains its structure, with modest adjustments.” [USA Today](#) (6/22, Kelly, Collins) says the bill “would make deep cuts in Medicaid, end the mandate that everyone buy insurance, repeal taxes on wealthy Americans and insurance companies, and strip funding from Planned Parenthood for a year.” [Bloomberg News](#) (6/22, Dennis, Litvan) reports that the GOP plan “would provide an additional \$50 billion over four years to stabilize insurance exchanges, relying on a mechanism Republicans have criticized in the past as a way to keep insurers in the marketplace.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/22, A1, Armour, Peterson, Radnofsky) says that while the measure relies on the ACA’s tax credits to provide subsidies, it would impose stricter income eligibility requirements for the subsidies, which means fewer people would be eligible. [USA Today](#) (6/22, O’Donnell) reports the bill would extend “funding for subsidies to reduce out-of-pocket insurance costs” for two years, which could benefit insurers and millions of consumers. Insurers have cited “uncertainty over these cost sharing subsidies” as a reason why they increased premiums or left certain markets.

A [New York Times](#) (6/22, Sanger-Katz) analysis says that while the ACA “gave health insurance to millions of Americans by shifting resources from the wealthy to the poor and by moving oversight from states to the federal government,” the Senate proposal “pushes back forcefully on both dimensions.” Its “largest benefits go to the wealthiest Americans, who have the most comfortable health care arrangements, and its biggest losses fall to poorer Americans who rely on government support.”

The [National Review](#) (6/22, Lowe) says the “discussion draft” unveiled by McConnell “largely resembles” the House bill, while the [Washington Times](#) (6/22, Howell) says the Senate measure “softens the edges of the House bill that President Trump reportedly called ‘mean,’” but “maintains the same basic outline as the House proposal” McConnell, the Times adds, must now “sell it to wary conservatives and moderates within his own party, and with a narrow margin of error.” A [Washington Post](#) (6/22, Goldstein) analysis says the details of the plan “suggest that it helps insurers and many consumers primarily in the near term and, in important ways, offers less support than a comparable plan the House GOP adopted last month.” The analysis states that “by the end of the coming decade,” the Senate bill would offer \$38 billion less to states “to help them make insurance affordable” than did the House bill.

[Breitbart](#) (6/22, Boyle) describes the challenge facing McConnell in shepherding the bill through the Senate as “a tightrope walk,” a “difficult dance,” and a “hurdle-filled battle,” but to the [AP](#) (6/22, Fram, Alonso-Zaldivar) McConnell “seemed determined to muscle the measure through his chamber next week.” The [New York Times](#) (6/22, Steinhauer) reports that McConnell may “be convinced that the Senate can pass this bill” but if he is “unable to pull together enough

support on the health care bill over the next week, it would seem likely at first glance that he would make the dreaded call to the White House to let the president know that he lacked the votes." However, he may "decide that the matter cannot be closed without a vote and take his chances that recalcitrant members can be pulled along."

Mary Bruce said in the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/22, lead story, 3:50, Muir) that "few Republican Senators are racing to defend" the plan. This, as Sens Ted Cruz, Mike Lee, Ron Johnson, and Rand Paul who the [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/22, Mascaro) describes as "four key conservative senators," on Thursday announced their opposition to the bill, saying in a statement, "Currently, for a variety of reasons, we are not ready to vote for this bill, but we are open to negotiation and obtaining more information before it is brought to the floor."

Paul told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/22), "I think the marketplace works better. I think freedom works better than coercion. And I think the federal government shouldn't be giving any money to insurance companies. Insurance companies made \$15 billion in profit last year. The new Republican bill will give them \$110 billion to bring down prices, but to me that's a ludicrous economic concept. That would be like telling America, new cars cost too much, we're going to have a stabilization fund so your new car will cost less." In an interview before the draft was released and before he announced his opposition, Johnson said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (6/22), "From my standpoint, what I've been saying, we should be repairing the damage done by Obamacare and working with our Democratic colleagues to transition to a system that does work, that restrains, the growth in healthcare costs, brings down those premiums that were artificially driven higher and really works for the American people."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/22, A1, Sullivan, Eilperin, Snell) says that there were some "doubts about whether GOP senators who came out swiftly and forcefully against the bill were simply posturing in order to try to move it in a more favorable direction when it heads to the Senate floor...and eventually claiming credit for reshaping the legislation before a final vote." Sen. James Lankford said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (6/22), "I have a lot of questions still, a lot of things we have talked about. It's 142 pages of text, but there's things piled into that text that we've got to decipher. Put me down as a solid undecided. I'm quite confident we will have quite a few suggestions over the weekend." Lankford added that he has "identified about six areas where I have problems and suggestions. None of those are show stoppers, but things that...are problems we need to fix before we get this into law."

At the same time, "key centrists" have raised "initial concerns about the cuts to Medicaid," the [Washington Examiner](#) (6/22, King) reports. Sen. Dean Heller said in a statement, "At first glance, I have serious concerns about the bill's impact on Nevadans who depend on Medicaid," and Sen. Susan Collins "also has a 'number of concerns,' according to a statement." Collins said that she "wants to see what the Congressional Budget Office thinks about the draft's impact on insurance coverage and spending." The agency is expected to release a score early next week.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/22, A1, Sullivan, Eilperin, Snell) says the senators' opposition "places the effort to overhaul the American health-care system in jeopardy as it heads for an anticipated vote in the Senate next week." Likewise, John Roberts said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/22) that "many on both sides of the aisle" say "the prognosis is not good." [Townhall](#) (6/22, Pavlich) says that given the uniform Democratic opposition, "the legislation as it stands is sunk and will not pass." Nancy Cordes reported in the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/22, story 4, 2:35, Mason) that "within hours," the bill "went from being a secret to being a lightning rod." GOP leaders, she added, "must now find ways to appease both wings of their party, in the face of universal opposition from Democrats."

However, in a somewhat more positive assessment, [The Hill](#) (6/22, Bolton) says the conservative opposition "is a blow to the bill but doesn't mean it's dead yet." That said, McConnell is under pressure from conservatives "to revise the legislation and move it further to the right" at the same times he "under pressure from GOP centrists, creating a difficult balancing act" in which any move he makes "to one of the two sides risks losing support from the other."

Senate Majority Whip Cornyn was nonetheless optimistic about the prospects for winning over the senators, telling [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/22), "I talked to senator Cruz after this statement was released, and basically, he reaffirmed that they're not opposed to getting the bill, getting the yes eventually, they're not there yet because of the way the bill is written so far. But that's why we call this a discussion draft so we can have that discussion so we can build on it and get to the 50 plus one that we need." [Politico](#) (6/22, Everett, Haberkorn, Cancryn) cites senators who said Republicans are hopeful that "health insurance groups will ultimately come to the legislation's defense," but adds that "the bill's fate will rest on how factions on either end of the conference's ideological spectrum react to the bill's sweeping proposals," and "conservatives,

moderates and senators from Medicaid expansion states all remained on the fence.”

In a separate story, [Politico](#) (6/22, Everett) reports that while McConnell “is far away from having a commitment for the 50 votes needed for passage, according to senators who spoke on anonymity,” no one “seems to be betting against the wily majority leader as he plans for one of the most critical roll call votes of his career next week.” Politico adds that McConnell has followed a “slow burn” strategy, “allowing his members to vent in private party discussions while gradually writing a bill that takes in their considerations over the past six weeks.”

A [USA Today](#) (6/22, Page) analysis says that after promising to repeal the ACA “almost from the day it was passed,” for Republicans, the “political bill has now come due, whether [they] are ready to pay it or not.” USA Today adds that if the measure passes, and the House agrees to it, “GOP voters can cheer the first big legislative victory of the Trump presidency,” and if it does not, “they can hold responsible the handful of Republicans who bring the bill down.” However, if it is never brought to a vote, “they could blame the entire party.”

The [Washington Post](#) (6/22, Phillips) considers several “very possible scenarios” that could cause the measure to fail. Among them: “anti-Obamacare purists draw a line = the bill is dead.” Under another scenario, “Midwest senators just can’t agree to cut off Medicaid = the bill is dead.” In a third scenario, “at least three senators who have state-specific issues draw a line = the bill is dead.” In another, the CBO “estimates 20+ million fewer people would be insured than are under Obamacare AND/OR doesn’t predict significant premium decreases = the bill is dead.” [Reuters](#) (6/22, Cowan, Cornwell) reports that the CBO is expected to deliver its score of the new measure early next week.

Trump: Bill Needs A “Little Negotiation.” The [Washington Times](#) (6/22, Boyer) reports that President Trump told reporters Thursday that the Senate bill “is in good shape but needs a ‘little negotiation.’” Trump said, “It’s going to be very good,” adding that “a little negotiation” is necessary to get the measure to his desk. The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/22, Siegel) reports that Trump expressed his support in a [tweet](#) Thursday, writing, “I am very supportive of the Senate #HealthcareBill. Look forward to making it really special! Remember, ObamaCare is dead.”

Meanwhile, [Politico](#) (6/22, Nussbaum) says Trump’s aides “refused to commit” on whether the President will support the bill. Deputy press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders “demurred” Thursday when asked during a news briefing whether Trump supports the bill, and “on two of the most controversial issues at hand — cuts to Medicaid and to Planned Parenthood — Sanders declined to indicate whether Trump has any firm position.” Sanders said, “He wants to bring the stakeholders to the table, have those conversations and we’ll get back to you. ... We’ve been talking about reforming health care for a number of years; I don’t think it’s moving too fast.” [Roll Call](#) (6/22, Bennett) describes a “striking silence” from the White House in reaction to the bill, highlighting that there was no “paper statement about the bill, either under Trump’s name or that of any senior official,” and that Sanders “declined to discuss any of its contents.” According to Sanders, “there are no plans – for now, at least – for the president to comment on any provision in the Senate bill.”

HHS Secretary Price discussed the bill on [Fox News’ Hannity](#) (6/22), saying, “Is it everything that everybody wants, absolutely not. But we’ve got 52 senators and we are working to try to make certain that it is able to pass the Senate and then have the House support it. But what it does is move us in such a better direction than where we are right now. Remember where we are. We’ve got over a third of the counties in these nations were not going to have any choices for the purchase on the exchange next year. ... Where we are right now is in a terrible place in the individual and small group market. That is what we are trying to fix.”

Cruz Advocates “Consumer Freedom Amendment” To Bill. [The Hill](#) (6/22, Hellmann) reports that Cruz wants to offer what he is calling a “Consumer Freedom Amendment” to the bill that “would allow insurers to sell plans that are not compliant with ObamaCare requirements.” The amendment “would leave existing ObamaCare plans on the individual market, while also allowing insurers to sell plans that don’t comply with requirements of the Affordable Care Act.” Cruz told [The Hill](#), “It will enable a lot more people to be able to afford buying health insurance.”

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/22, story 2, 2:05), Holt said that “there are real people with very real problems across this country, left in suspense over the future of healthcare. Many are caught between uncertainty of how the Republican plan will affect them and the dwindling choices and rising premiums under Obamacare,” and a pair of analyses made some dire predictions about what the potential impacts of the Senate proposal might be. A [USA Today](#) (6/22, Groppe) outlines “how the bill released Thursday could affect you,” including the potential loss of subsidies and Medicaid coverage and higher costs for older people, among others, and [McClatchy](#) (6/22, Pugh, Douglas) says the bill, which was “negotiated in secret by a hand-picked group of 13 male

senators," would "likely cause millions of Americans to lose their Medicaid and private insurance marketplace coverage," and "could make coverage more expensive for many sicker, older and low-income individuals."

Obama, Democrat Lawmakers Blast Senate GOP Bill. Opposition to the plan was vocal Thursday as former President Obama joined Democratic lawmakers in criticizing the plan. [Politico](#) (6/22, Conway) reports that former Obama, "who has largely stayed out of the political fray and refrained from publicly criticizing" Trump, on Thursday "denounced the Senate proposal...calling the Republican bill a massive transfer of wealth to the richest people in America with a 'fundamental meanness' at its core." Obama wrote in a Facebook [post](#), "Simply put, if there's a chance you might get sick, get old, or start a family — this bill will do you harm. ... And small tweaks over the course of the next couple weeks, under the guise of making these bills easier to stomach, cannot change the fundamental meanness at the core of this legislation."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/22, Eilperin) says Obama called the Senate bill "a massive transfer of wealth from middle-class and poor families to the richest people in America," and urged "Americans to push back against congressional Republicans." The [Washington Times](#) (6/22, Howell) reports that Obama "said he realizes that repealing and replacing his namesake law is a 'core tenet' for Republicans," but added, "Still, I hope that our Senators, many of whom I know well, step back and measure what's really at stake, and consider that the rationale for action, on health care or any other issue, must be something more than simply undoing something that Democrats did."

Chief Deputy Minority Whip Sen. Brian Schatz said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/22), "What strikes me is that it moved to the right. I think there was a sense that maybe in order to accommodate the folks who have concerns about Medicaid populations that it would be as President Trump was talking about less mean. They went totally in the opposite direction and cut Medicaid really deeply. ... This is not to make the program more sustainable. This is not to fund other government priorities. This is specifically for the purpose of giving a tax cut of about \$800 million to the wealthiest Americans."

Sen. Bernie Sanders said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/22), "If you throw 23 million people off of health insurance, if you cut Medicaid by over \$800 billion, there is no question but that thousands of Americans will die." Sanders added, "The purpose of this whole legislation" is "to provide \$500 billion in tax breaks for the top two percent, for the insurance companies, for the drug companies, and other major corporations. This is barbaric. This is what oligarchy is all about."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/22, Ernst) describes Sen. Elizabeth Warren as having been "enraged" by the bill, adding that she "took to her social media accounts to accuse 'cruel' Republicans of enriching those 'who make a lot of money' by shortchanging '30 million kids who get their health care through Medicaid.'" Warren wrote in a [tweet](#), "I've read the Republican 'health care' bill. This is blood money. They're paying for tax cuts with American lives."

Sen. Al Franken said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (6/22), "This is a terrible bill" because "it cuts Medicaid to the same degree that the House bill does. It just delays it some, and it's hundreds of billions of dollars from Medicaid, which helps kids, the disabled, seniors. Sixty percent of seniors get their nursing home care from Medicaid. And all of that money that's cut from Medicaid pays for huge tax cut for people who are doing very well."

Sen. Claire McCaskill was asked on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (6/22) about Trump's claim that Democrats do not want to work with Republicans on healthcare. McCaskill said, "That's just dumb. It's just dumb. Of course, we want to fix health care. Many of us have been trying for several years to put fixes in place that would stabilize the individual market. But our colleagues were interested in using Obamacare or ACA as a political 2X4. They wanted to win elections with it because healthcare is hard and obviously, we made mistakes and things do need to be fixed."

[USA Today](#) (6/22, Estepa) reports that protesters, some of whom were in wheel chairs, staged a sit-in Thursday in front of McConnell's office "to voice their opposition to health care legislation that would make deep cuts to Medicaid." The [Washington Post](#) (6/22, Dvorak) highlights "real-life lobbying done by a brigade of 12 intrepid families who pushed their way through Capitol Hill's offices and shared their stories and the stories of nearly 150 other families from across the country who feel ignored." These families were "showing Capitol Hill folks the actual kids their wheeling, dealing, backroom bargaining and political gamesmanship will affect in the repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act."

Commentary about the plan is almost universally critical as well. Michael Hiltzik writes in his column for the [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/22) that the plan is "a rollback of health coverage for millions of Americans that could cost the lives of tens of thousands a year." In an op-ed for the [Wall](#)

[Street Journal](#) (6/21), Alan S. Blinder, a professor of economics and public affairs at Princeton University and a former vice chairman of the Federal Reserve, is highly critical of the secrecy with which the Senate bill was prepared.

A [Bloomberg View](#) (6/22) editorial says the proposal is “a travesty,” and argues that attempts “to shame Republicans for this attack on the poor, old and sick, who will face the brunt of the cuts, are unlikely to succeed.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/22) says the plan, if enacted, might “end up as mostly a massive, unpaid-for tax cut for wealthy people and industries with pull on Capitol Hill.” The Post casts the plan as a “choice between Americans’ physical health and the nation’s fiscal health,” and calls on senators to “end this repeal-and-replace disaster now.”

In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/23) writes that Senate Republicans have not produced a healthcare bill but “a plan to cut taxes for the wealthy by destroying critical federal programs,” including Medicaid. The Times adds the bill is not any “less brutal” than the House’s version, and the Senate per-person cap on Medicaid spending could be worse. The Times calls on Republican senators opposed to the bill to not fall for the “cheap gimmicks” that will be offered in an effort to buy their support and to vote against the bill.

[USA Today](#) (6/22) says in an editorial that the plan “deserves the old surgeon general’s warning about cigarettes: This product may be hazardous to your health.” USA Today adds that the measure “is mean in ways that are abundantly clear, and havoc-wreaking in ways are not,” and argues that attempting “to ram it through, before those impacts become clear for all to see, is no way to deal with life-and-death issues and a big chunk of the American economy.”

The traditionally conservative editorial page of the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/22) is an outlier this morning, arguing that while the plan is not perfect, it represents a significant improvement over the current situation.

Trump Vows To Build Wall, Calling Mexico World’s “Second Deadliest Country.”

President Trump [tweeted](#) Thursday evening, “Mexico was just ranked the second deadliest country in the world, after only Syria. Drug trade is largely the cause. We will BUILD THE WALL!” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/22, Wigglesworth) says that Trump “appeared to refer to [a report](#) released May 9 by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, which concluded that criminal violence in Mexico had reached ‘a level akin to armed conflict’” due to 23,000 homicides in 2016. However, “some observers raised objections to the report’s methodology and argued that it incorrectly characterized Mexico as a country in armed conflict.” But [Breitbart](#) (6/22, Starr) says the President “may have been referring to [a new report](#) by Mexico’s National Public Security System” that recorded violence in Mexico since the start of 2017.

Trump, Peña Nieto Urged To Build Solar Panel Field, Not Wall, Along Border. In a [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/22) op-ed, Vasilis Fthenakis of the Center for Life Cycle Analysis at Columbia University, and Ken Zweibel, the former director of the Solar Institute at George Washington University, write that rather than building a US-Mexico border wall, President Trump and President Enrique Peña Nieto should construct a 2,000-mile string of photovoltaic panels on the Mexican side of the border. Building it there would reduce costs, and provide enough energy for about 500,000 US homes or many more in Mexico. The vast field would also be difficult to sneak across.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“The Senate’s Unaffordable Care Act.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/23) writes that Senate Republicans have not produced a healthcare bill but “a plan to cut taxes for the wealthy by destroying critical federal programs,” including Medicaid. The Times adds the bill is not any “less brutal” than the House’s version, and the Senate per-person cap on Medicaid spending could be worse. The Times calls on Republican senators opposed to the bill to not fall for the “cheap gimmicks” that will be offered in an effort to buy their support and to vote against the bill.

“The Young And Brash Saudi Crown Prince.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/23) writes that newly-designated Saudi crown prince Mohammed bin Salman is “more in tune with the nation’s overwhelmingly young population,” and in some ways “is just what his country needs.” However, the Times warns against his “impetuosity and hard-line foreign policy.” In both the country’s escalation in Yemen’s civil war and the current tensions with Qatar, “the prince

acted without thinking through the consequences.” The Times calls for him to be guided by “more experienced hands, including the deposed crown prince, whom many American officials consider the United States’ best friend in the royal family and a singular partner against terrorism.”

“Albany Turns Its Back On City Schools.”

Washington Post.

“Senate Republicans’ Obamacare Replacement Is Bad For America’s Health.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/22) says the Senate GOP’s healthcare plan, if enacted, might “end up as mostly a massive, unpaid-for tax cut for wealthy people and industries with pull on Capitol Hill.” The Post casts the plan as a “choice between Americans’ physical health and the nation’s fiscal health,” and calls on senators to “end this repeal-and-replace disaster now.”

“Philando Castile’s Death Poses Questions That Still Need Answering.” The [Washington Post](#) (6/22) editorializes that while police officer Jeronimo Yanez’s acquittal from all charges in last year’s fatal shooting of Philando Castile “must be accepted.” However, it is imperative that an independent review by federal law enforcement look into why Castile, a black man with a legal gun permit who follow Yanez’s directions, was killed – including the question of race. The Post asks whether the current Administration can acknowledge the need for such a probe, which “should be vigorously pursued despite the change in administrations to one openly disdainful of the need for police reform.” The Post says the case “demands better answers than have so far been supplied.”

“The Trump Administration Fails To Call Out Vietnam On Its Dismal Human Rights Record.” A [Washington Post](#) (6/22) editorial says that following President Trump’s meeting last month with Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, their public statements failed to mention on topic: human rights. The Post writes, “This was a glaring lapse. Vietnam has a long history of stifling dissent and cracking down on political activists.” Members of Congress “from both sides of the aisle have raised concerns about Vietnam’s human rights abuses, showing that the administration’s heedlessness does not represent American values. The State Department should take note and speak out in support of the activists who have championed democracy at grave personal risk.”

Wall Street Journal.

“The Senate’s Healthcare Advance.” The traditionally [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/22) argues in an editorial that while the Senate GOP’s healthcare plan is not perfect, it represents a significant improvement over the current situation.

“All DeBlasio’s Children.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/22) writes that New York Mayor Bill de Blasio’s ceding mayoral control of the city’s schools rather than permit an increase in the cap on the number of charter schools reflects his distaste for nontraditional public schools. Despite de Blasio’s campaign pledge to be a mayor for all children – those in traditional public schools, charter schools, and religious schools – the Journal says he has played right into the hands of the anti-charter teachers union. At least, says the Journal, state lawmakers and Gov. Andrew Cuomo support school choice and have reined in de Blasio’s mayoral control. However, de Blasio’s failure to increase the cap on charters threatens the futures of children who might be better educated in such alternatives to traditional, union-run public schools.

“Singapore And The Fighting Lees.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/22) editorializes that the feud between the offspring of Singapore’s late founder, Lee, Kuan Yew, while ostensibly about the leader’s house is in fact over the nation’s political system. Lee’s son and daughter, Lee Hisen Yang and Lee Wei Ling, are accusing his other son, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, of abusing his power, saying that there are few checks and balances built into Singapore’s political system. However, the prime minister denies allegations of such abuse and especially of nepotism. The Journal says that while the country was reputed to have a clean government based on meritocracy under its late founder, another part of Lee Kuan Yew’s legacy was the suppression of criticism. As such, the Journal wonders whether the infighting could result in a more democratic society.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Senate Health Bill Sets Up Showdown Among GOP](#)
[Fed's Stress Tests Bolster Case For Easing Bank Rules](#)
[American Airlines CEO 'Not Happy' About Qatar Plan To Buy 10% Stake](#)
['King Of Good Times' Gives Diageo A Hangover](#)

New York Times:

[Senate Health Care Bill Includes Deep Cuts To Medicaid](#)
[Shifting Dollars From Poor To Rich Is A Key Part Of The Senate Health Bill](#)
[Nancy Pelosi Tells Democratic Critics, 'I Think I'm Worth The Trouble'](#)
[Insurers Battle Families Over Costly Drug For Fatal Disease](#)
[Why Migrants Keep Risking All On The 'Deadliest Route'](#)

Washington Post:

[Senate GOP's Health Plan Debuts Amid Doubts](#)
[From Little Tweets Can Grow Great Firestorms](#)
[Richmond Forges New Path For Monuments](#)
[A Tipping Point For Uber](#)
[Proposal Doesn't Address Stability In The Long Term](#)

Financial Times:

[Big China Companies Targeted Over 'Systemic Risk'](#)
[Refugees To Be Jobless For Years, German Minister Warns](#)
[Qatar Airways Seeks 10% Stake In American](#)

Washington Times:

[Senate Health Care Bill Softens Edges Of House Plan, With Tax Subsidies And Medicaid Expansion](#)

[Lobbyists Who Helped Write Obamacare Legislation Locked Out Of Republican Process](#)
[Pelosi Says She's Staying: 'I Think I'm Worth The Trouble'](#)
[Sealing And Transfer Of Susan Rice Records Angers House Committee Investigating 'Unmasking'](#)
[Trump Suggests Solar Panels To Help Pay For \\$20 Billion Border Wall](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Healthcare Reform Bill; Russia Meddling Investigation-WH Tape; Severe Weather-Tropical Storm Cindy; Weather Forecast; North Korea Detainee Warmbier Funeral; Michigan Airport Terror Attack; Bill Cosby Trial; July Fourth Travel Tips; California Bush Fire; Idaho-Murderer Manhunt; Alzheimer Prevention; Congressman Shot-Recovered Officer.

CBS: Russia Meddling Investigation-WH Tape; Russia Meddling Investigation-Hacking; Michigan Airport Terror Attack; Healthcare Reform Bill; Severe Weather-Tropical Storm Cindy; London High Rise Fire Investigation; US-Russian Jet Intercept; California Highway Crash; Women's Heart Disease; Congressman Shot-Recovered Officer; Vacation Package Scam; Night Surfing.

NBC: Healthcare Reform Bill; Healthcare Reform Bill-Impact; Russia Meddling Investigation-WH Tape; Michigan Airport Terror Attack; Severe Weather-Tropical Storm Cindy; Bill Cosby Trial; North Korea Detainee Warmbier Funeral; Vacation Package Scam; Alzheimer Prevention; UK Heatwave-School Uniform; Congressman Shot-Recovered Officer.

Network TV At A Glance:

Healthcare Reform Bill – 11 minutes, 20 seconds
Russia Meddling Investigation – 10 minutes, 25 seconds
Weather – 5 minutes, 50 seconds
North Korea Detainee Warmbier Funeral – 3 minutes, 25 seconds
Michigan Airport Terror Attack – 2 minutes, 35 seconds
Alzheimer Prevention – 2 minutes, 20 seconds
Congressman Shot-Recovered Officer – 2 minutes, 5 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Healthcare Reform Bill; Russia Meddling Investigation-WH Tape; Michigan Airport Terror Attack.

CBS: Healthcare Reform Bill; Russia Meddling Investigation-WH Tape; Severe Weather-Tropical Storm Cindy; Severe Weather-Heat Wave; Michigan Airport Terror Attack; Wall Street News.

FOX: Healthcare Reform Bill; Michigan Airport Terror Attack.

NPR: Healthcare Reform Bill; Russia Meddling Investigation-WH Tape; LGBT Service Denial Trial;

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Signs the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Delivers remarks at the Focus on the Family 40th Anniversary Celebration; participates in a walking tour of the National Space Defense Center; participates in a walking tour of Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station; participates in a Gardner Victory Event.

US Senate: No public schedule announced.

US House: 7:00 AM GOP Rep. Markwayne Mullin leads all-Member and Congressional staff Circuit Workout to mark Men's Health Month – Congressional Men's Health Caucus co-chair Republican Rep. Markwayne Mullin leads all-Member and Congressional staff Circuit Workout, for men and women, in recognition of Men's Health Month. Other participants include bipartisan Reps. Bruce Westerman, Martha McSally, Jason Smith, and Josh Gottheimer, former NFL player Clifton Crosby, Herbalife Nutrition Director of Global Fitness Samantha Clayton Location: Rayburn Park, Washington, DC www.menshealthnetwork.org <https://twitter.com/menshlthnetwork>

9:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on safety net health programs – Health Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining the Extension of Safety Net Health Programs', with testimony from Cook Area Health Services CEO Michael Holmes; Manatt Health partner Cindy Mann; and Texas Health and Human Services Commission Associate Commissioner for Medicaid/SCHIP Services Jami Snyder Location: Rm 2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

9:00 AM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on ethical responsibilities regarding attorney advertising – Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice hearing on 'Examining Ethical Responsibilities Regarding Attorney Advertising', with testimony from William Beaumont Hospital Troy Director of Atrial Fibrillation Services Dr Ilana Kutinsky; Novant Health Vascular Specialists surgeon Dr Shawn Fleming; The Shely Firm partner Lynda Shely; and University of Oregon School of Law Assistant Professor Elizabeth Tippet Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

9:00 AM House votes on Accelerating Individuals into the Workforce Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including completion of consideration of 'H.R. 2842 – Accelerating Individuals into the Workforce Act' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

9:15 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on 'illicit activity in the antiquities and art trade' – Terrorism and Illicit Finance Subcommittee hearing on 'The Exploitation of Cultural Property: Examining Illicit Activity in the Antiquities and Art Trade', with testimony from Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Policy Alyson Grunder; Smithsonian Institution Research Associate Dr Brian Daniels; and Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations Assistant Director for International Operations Raymond Villanueva Location: Rm 2128, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM Legislative Branch Subcommittee markup hearing on FY 2018 Appropriations Bill Location: HT-2, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

Other: 9:00 AM VA Secretary Shulkin and former President George W. Bush at National Veterans Convening – The George W. Bush Institute Military Service Initiative hosts 'Stand-To – A National Veterans Convening', with leaders from across the public, private, non-profit, and philanthropic sectors outlining 'key priorities and an action plan to drive improved outcomes for veterans and their families'. Speakers include former President George W. Bush (9a) and former First Lady Laura Bush (10a), Secretary of Veteran Affairs David Shulkin (9:30a), former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Peter Pace, Democratic Rep. Tim Walz, Got Your 6's Bill Rausch, The Boeing Company's Leanne Caret, Johnson & Johnson's Courtney Billington, Bank of America's Dan O'Hare, Hilton Worldwide's Melissa Stirling, Starbucks' John Kelly, USAA's Harriet Dominique, Student Veterans of America's Jared Lyon, U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Eric Eversole, University of North Carolina System's Margaret Spellings, University of Texas Systems' William McRaven, and Members of Congress for Congressional panel (about 1 p.m.) Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H St. NW, Washington, DC www.bushcenter.org <https://twitter.com/TheBushCenter> #STANDTO

House Intelligence Committee deadline for White House to confirm tapes of President Trump and FBI Director James Comey – Deadline set by the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for the White House to confirm whether any tapes exist of conversations between President Donald Trump and then-FBI Director James Comey and, if so, to provide them to the committee * Request followed a tweet from President Trump last month reading ‘James Comey better hope that there are no ‘tapes’ of our conversations before he starts leaking to the press!’, and testimony from Comey to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence last week in which he repeated his claims that President Trump had said he hoped he could end his investigation into former National Security Advisor Mike Flynn, and detailed President Trump’s requests for loyalty and his noncommittal responses. In the committee hearing, Comey told the committee he had not previously considered that there might be tapes of their meetings until he saw the tweet, but said ‘Lordy, I hope there are tapes’ Location: TBD <http://intelligence.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseIntelComm>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: “This morning, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell showed us a draft of his top secret new healthcare legislation. They opened the vault. They laid the bill out on a table, rubbed lemon juice all over it, and the text magically appeared for all to see. And wouldn’t you know it, the bill includes a big tax cut for rich people. So unless you just got drafted by an NBA team, it’s not great news.”

Jimmy Kimmel: “Trump held a rally in Cedar Rapids, Iowa last night where he explained why he would only ever hire a rich person to help him run the economy. ... Right. The more money you have, the smarter you are. Look at the Kardashians, for instance. It makes sense.”

James Corden: “Today, Donald Trump tweeted, ‘I have no idea whether there are tapes or recordings of my conversations with James Comey. But I did not make and do not have any such recordings.’ He’s now fact-checking himself.”

James Corden: “Of course Trump doesn’t have a tape. Secretly taping someone would require thinking ahead.”

James Corden: “Trump thinks only rich people should be in charge of the economy. Putting rich people in charge of the economy is like putting the Cookie Monster in charge of Oreos.”

James Corden: “Senate Republicans released their version of their new healthcare bill designed to replace Obamacare today. And it features massive cuts to Medicaid and defunds Planned Parenthood. But don’t worry, this isn’t the final version of the healthcare plan, because tonight, Trump said he thinks he can make the proposal even better. He’s going to add solar panels to it.”

Trevor Noah: “Republicans went into a room saying, ‘Let’s fix healthcare,’ and came out saying, ‘All right, so we’ve cut Americans healthcare so that we can give people tax cuts.’ That was the point of this, right? That was the point? No, it’s not the point. It’s like a fireman running into a burning building and saving the fire instead of the baby.”

Trevor Noah: “The House bill was like a rapper; it was going to screw people hard and fast. The Senate bill is like Barry White; it’s going to go slower, but so much deeper.”

Trevor Noah: “Fortunately, with a bill this shaky and unpopular, it should be easy for the Democrats to rally people against it. Unfortunately, they are the Democrats.”

Jimmy Fallon: “The Senate healthcare bill came out today, and I saw that it would cut a tax on indoor tanning.”

Jimmy Fallon: “White House officials said Russia targeted election systems in 21 states last year. Trump was furious. He said ‘I paid for all 50.’”

Jimmy Fallon: "Today, Trump tweeted that he doesn't have recordings of his conversations with former FBI Director James Comey. He doesn't have it. Then one guy said, 'Don't worry, you can borrow ours.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Last night was the congressional picnic at the White House. Trump spent the picnic chatting with lawmakers, while Pence spent the night avoiding eye contact with the hot dogs."

Seth Meyers: "Senate Republicans today released a draft of their bill to repeal and replace Obamacare, which would cut taxes for richer Americans and insurance companies, and defund Planned Parenthood for one year. The bill is so bad, President Trump said, 'Does anyone have any questions for me about Russia?'"

Seth Meyers: "Following losses in two special congressional elections this week, one Democratic staffer reportedly said, 'We have 80-year-old leaders and 90-year-old ranking members. This isn't a party, it's a giant assisted living center.'"

Seth Meyers: "An article published in the North Korean state newspaper today called President Trump a psychopath, which means their official foreign policy towards North Korea is now 'takes one to know one.'"

Seth Meyers: "According to a report, President Trump spent about \$133,000 in taxpayer money on furnishing for the White House between January and May, compared to the \$51,000 former President Obama spent during same period. Though, to be fair, Barack and Michelle only needed the one bed."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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DOI In The News

Trump Launches 'Dominant' Energy Policy Focused On Exports.

[Reuters](#) (6/29) reports the President Trump on Thursday "promoted a 'golden era' of the US energy business by seeking to assert power abroad through a boost in natural gas, coal and petroleum exports," in what he "called a policy of 'energy dominance.'" Under this approach, he "re-branded efforts to export liquefied natural gas (LNG) to markets in Eastern Europe and Asia that had been set in motion during the previous presidential administration." The US "will offer to export coal to Ukraine, where energy consumers often have suffered from cuts in natural gas supply by Russia." Moreover, says [Bloomberg News](#) (6/29, Dlouhy), Trump is "lifting an Obama-era policy that curtailed the financing of coal-fired power plants overseas, as he seeks to reorient the US government away from fighting climate change and toward American 'energy dominance.'"

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (6/29, Osborne) notes that the President said yesterday, "The truth is we have near limitless supplies of energy in our country. ... This administration is looking not just American energy independence but American energy dominance. We will export American energy all over the world." The [Washington Times](#) (6/29, Wolfgang) quotes Trump as further stating, "We're going to be an exporter. ... These energy exports will create countless jobs for our people and provide true energy security to our friends, partners and allies all across the globe. But this full potential can only be realized when government promotes energy development... instead of obstructing it like the Democrats."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/29, Westwood) reports Trump also spoke of "the efforts his administration has made to roll back Obama-era environmental regulations and approve a pair of high-profile pipeline projects his predecessor stalled or blocked, the Dakota Access Pipeline and the Keystone XL Pipeline." Said the President, "Under the previous administration, so much of our land was closed to development, but we're opening it up."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (6/29, Cama), [CNN](#) (6/29, Klein), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (6/29), the [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (6/29, Daly, Boak), the [Daily Caller](#) (6/29, Bastasch), and [KTVO-TV](#) Billings, MT (6/30, Jay).

Also providing coverage are the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/29, Mufson, Mooney), the [Huffington Post](#) (6/29, Sargent, Contributor), and the [Daily Signal](#) (6/29, Tubb, Loris).

Trump Urges 'Energy Dominance' As He Promotes Exports, Jobs. The [AP](#) (6/29, Daly, Boak) reports one of the "initiatives that the president unveiled Thursday in hopes of generating more energy exports and jobs" was its move "to expand oil drilling in the Arctic and Atlantic oceans." The Interior Department "is rewriting a five-year drilling plan established by the Obama

administration, with an eye toward opening areas in the Arctic and Atlantic oceans that now are off-limits to drilling." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said in a speech last week "increased offshore drilling could provide more than enough revenue to offset an \$11.5 billion maintenance backlog in national parks." Said Zinke, "There's a consequence when you put 94 percent of our offshore off limits. ... There's a consequence of not harvesting trees. There's a consequence of not using some of our public lands for creation of wealth and jobs."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/29, Fears) reports "Vincent DeVito, Interior's counselor for energy policy, said a 45-day comment period will start Monday with a request for public comment in the Federal Register." DeVito also "said stakeholders such as state governors would be contacted for their input, as will the Department of Defense, which frowns on exploration near bases and areas where ships conduct training exercises." Said DeVito, "Our country has a massive energy economy, and we should absolutely wear it on our sleeves, rather than keep energy resources in the ground. ... This work will encourage responsible energy exploration and production, in order to advance the United States' position as a global energy force and foster security for the benefit of the American citizenry."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/29, Daly, Boak), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (6/29, Daly, Boak), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (6/29, Daly, Boak), [Business Insider](#) (6/29, Daly, Boak), the [Daily Mail](#) (6/29), [Fox News](#) (6/29), the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (6/29, Daly, Boak), the [Orangeburg \(SC\) Times And Democrat](#) (6/29, Daly, Boak), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/29, Daly, Boak), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (6/29, Daly, Boak), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (6/29, Daly, Boak), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/29, Daly, Boak), and [PBS NewsHour](#) (6/29, Daly, Boak).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (6/29, Siciliano), [Offshore Engineer](#) (6/29, Boman), [Oil & Gas 360](#) (6/29), the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (6/29, Rosen), [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (6/29, Ruskin), and [E&P Magazine](#) (6/29, Addison).

Florida Members Of Congress Tell Trump To Back Off Atlantic Drilling. The [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (6/29, Leary) reported that "a large, bipartisan contingent of the Florida House delegation has a firm message for President Donald Trump: Lay off plans for oil drilling in the Atlantic." The letter to Zinke and "was signed by Florida Reps. John Rutherford, Darren Soto, Bill Posey, Alcee Hastings, Matt Gaetz, Charlie Crist, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Frederica Wilson, Brian Mast, Dennis Ross, Val Demings, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Ted Yoho, Kathy Castor, Francis Rooney, Al Lawson, Ted Deutch, Ron DeSantis, Lois Frankel, Vern Buchanan and Stephanie Murphy."

Additional coverage was provided by the [St. Augustine \(FL\) Record](#) (6/30, Keever), the [Florida Times-Union](#) (6/29, Patterson), and [Florida Politics](#) (6/29, Gancarski).

Trump Vows To Build Oil Pipeline Under Border Wall. The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/29, Westwood) notes that the initiatives Trump addressed yesterday included "a pipeline that will pump petroleum south to Mexico." Said Trump, "That'll go right under the wall, right? ... Have it go down a little deeper in that one section." The [AP](#) (6/29, Daly, Boak) notes "the State Department said it had issued a permit to NuStar Logistics for the construction and operation of the New Burgos Pipeline, which would have the capacity to deliver 108,000 barrels a day and would cross the US-Mexico border near Peñitas, Texas."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (6/29, Cama).

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke On US Energy Dominance. On [CNBC](#) (6/29), Interior Ryan Zinke talked about the Trump Administration's "push to make America energy independent." On [Bloomberg News](#) (6/29), Zinke explained "how energy dominance can increase national security and discusses the future of natural gas and coal energy."

Perry Introduces The 'Three Musketeers' Of Energy. The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/29, Siciliano) reports that Energy Secretary Rick Perry, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt "are three individuals that do believe that the future of America is inextricably intertwined with the energy industry," Perry "said in opening an energy conference at his agency." He added, "Some call us the Three Musketeers for whatever reason that might be." Perry, Zinke and Pruitt will "host a panel discussion later Thursday afternoon after hearing from industry representatives."

LEWANDOWSKI: Trump's Energy Plan Will Energize The Economy. Corey R. Lewandowski writes in [The Hill](#) (6/29), "An America First energy policy allows more domestic drilling and exploration, both offshore and on federal lands." The President "has taken decisive action that will increase American energy production, and, in turn, wean the United States off foreign sources of energy." Lewandowski concludes that "the media will not give him credit, but...Trump is a far better steward of the economy than the Obama Administration."

Interior Announces \$3.4M In Energy Grants For Territories.

[Marianas Variety](#) (6/29) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “informed American Samoa Gov. Lolo Moliga, Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo, and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Gov. Ralph Torres that he has approved a total of \$3,489,427 in energy grants for their respective territories.” In addition, Zinke “announced energy grants for the U.S. Virgin Islands.” Zinke said, “We recognize that the cost of electricity in the U.S. territories is three times higher, on average, than the U.S. national average. The energy needs of the territories are unique and I am pleased to help bring them into focus as President Trump highlights energy strategies across America during Energy Week.”

Dems Say Oil And Gas Industry Calling The Shots At Interior Dep’t.

[Courthouse News](#) (6/29, Buchman) reports that the House Natural Resources Committee “held their last hearing before recess to discuss the future of oil and gas development on federal lands.” According to the article, “talk of permitting access to federal lands was dominated by sharp critiques of the oil and gas industries who, in the opinion of one committee member, stand at the ready to scoop up all control of the nation’s public lands and resources if given the chance.” Katharine MacGregor, deputy assistant secretary of the Interior’s land and minerals management agency, “didn’t dive deeply into budgetary questions but moved focus back to the ease and access of permitting for developers.” MacGregor told lawmakers “that the back log of permits was dwindling swiftly and that this was to be celebrated because in her view quicker permitting equates to positive returns on investments not just for developers, but also all Americans.”

Montana Wants To Defend Federal Coal Leases.

The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (6/29, Nerbovig) reports that “Montana’s attorney general is jumping into the legal battle over Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s decision to lift the moratorium on coal-mining leases on federal land.” Zinke’s order “reversing the Obama administration’s pause on issuing new coal mining leases on March 29” was “quickly challenged in federal court by environmental groups.” Montana Attorney General Tim Fox is “seeking to join the suit supporting Zinke because Fox says Montana’s economy relies heavily on taxes paid by coal mining operations.”

Trump — A Conservative Conservationist.

For the “Pundits” blog of [The Hill](#) (6/29, Anderson, Contributor), Terry L. Anderson, a senior fellow at the Stanford University Hoover Institution, writes that President Trump could “leave a legacy of conservative conservation” by “getting the incentives right in both the private and public sectors.” For examples of “conservative conservation,” Anderson points “Trump’s proposed budget for the big land management agencies,” Interior Secretary, Ryan Zinke’s proposal “to form partnerships with private companies and contract out campground services,” the proposal to fund “\$12 billion backlog of maintenance projects in national parks” with royalties from off-shore oil leases, “recreational access to federal lands,” and the Trump Administration’s approach to “national monument designations it inherited from President Obama.”

Vail Daily Column: An Important Week For Western Water Users.

In an op-ed for the [Vail \(CO\) Daily](#) (6/29, Tipton), Rep. Scott R. Tipton writes that he has introduced the Water Rights Protection Act (H.R. 2939) “to prevent federal water grabs.” The bill “would prohibit the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of the Interior from requiring the transfer of water rights as a condition of any land-use permit.” The legislation “would also ensure that any future water directives issued by federal agencies are consistent with state water law.”

No, Cleaning Up After Ourselves Is Not ‘Un-American’.

For the “Pundits” blog of [The Hill](#) (6/29, Holst, Contributor), Eric Holst, associate vice president of working lands at advocacy organization Environmental Defense Fund, writes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was “simply wrong when he called conservation efforts ‘un-American’ during his keynote speech at the Western Governors’ Association meeting this week.” Zinke was “criticizing compensatory mitigation, a prudent and well-accepted environmental protection grounded in a basic ethic that we all practice when we go camping in one of our beautiful National Parks: Always leave the campground cleaner than you found it.” But Holst argues that “offsetting harm to our natural resources — our land, water and wildlife — is a basic American value that not only benefits public health and the environment, but also the long-term viability of our economy.”

Senator Skepticism.

In a piece for the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (6/29, Brown), Kellyn Brown praises Sens. Jon Tester and Steve Daines for their pointed questioning of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who was defending President Trump's proposed budget last week. According to Brown, "the senators' tones and verbiage during their respective committee meetings reflected their political parties — Tester more pointed and Daines mixing praise with questions — but both men clearly know what's at stake for Montana if the president's proposed budget is passed as is." Brown concludes that the senators are "in the position to stop" the budget "from disproportionately hurting Montana," and concludes that "it appears they will."

Time To Fire Up The Burn Barrel Again.

In a satirical piece for the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (6/29, Heinlein) columnist Parker Heinlein writes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "busy removing as many protections on the land and critters as he can, de-mumenting and de-listing at a furious pace." Heinlein proposes: "Let's disregard that foolish talk about climate change, accept the fact that our presence has no impact on the planet, and get back to work."

Thomas: Craters Of The Moon Fate Hangs On Antiquities Act Interpretation.

In an op-ed for the [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (6/29, Thomas), Terry Thomas, a wildlife biologist and naturalist, "crux of the issue" of the debate over recent national monument designations under the Antiquities Act is "determining what is the smallest area that still protects the specific values of the monument is a challenge." Thomas asks: "How do you establish the smallest area for a resource with scientific value such as Craters of the Moon? What is the letter and what is the spirit of the law?"

Team Trump Deems Rural Funding 'Critical,' Expendable.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (6/29) editorializes that the Interior Department "this week announced nearly half a billion dollars in subsidies for local government services on federally owned land, the largest share of which went to California." But it notes that President Trump is "at the same time suggesting a steep reduction in the very same funding, known as payments in lieu of taxes, or PILT." According to the paper, "a substantial decrease in PILT funding would be most painful in the largely rural counties that tend to support Trump."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Blackfeet Voters Reject Proposed Constitution.

The [Cut Bank \(MT\) Pioneer Press](#) (6/29, McGill) reports that "in unofficial results, a total of 2,923 Blackfeet voters determined the outcome of the June 27 Secretarial Election to accept or reject a proposed new Constitution when 1,644 residents voted against the proposal and only 1,279 were in favor." The article notes that "on-reservation voters voted against the proposal, 1,359 to 396, while those living off the reservation voted 883 to 285 in favor of the proposal."

Bureau Of Land Management

BLM State Chief Reassigned.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (6/29, Harmon) reports that Bureau of Land Management Colorado State Director Ruth Welch has been reassigned to the Bureau of Reclamation. Welch, "who has served state BLM director for three and a half years, begins her new assignment as director of policy and administration for Reclamation on July 10." Gregory Shoop, the associate state director, "will take over as Colorado state director on an interim basis."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (6/30, Harmon).

Input Sought On 108 Oil Wells.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (6/28, Webb) reports that "an environmental assessment of a proposal to drill more than 100 oil wells south of Palisade and west of the Grand Mesa has been released for public comment after it was revised to account for impacts such as anticipated hydraulic fracturing of the wells." The updated analysis by the Bureau of Land Management

"evaluates a proposal by Fram Operating LLC, to drill 108 wells from 12 new pads over four years." The BLM is "asking for public comments by July 28 on the 239-page revised assessment."

US Attorney Asks Judge To Toss Beaver County Suit Over Wild Horse Programs.

[KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (6/28, Knox) reports that "the U.S. Attorney for Utah Wednesday asked a federal judge to toss Beaver County's case alleging that federal managers have not done enough to address growing populations of feral horses." The county claims in a lawsuit filed in February that the Bureau of Land Management "broke the law by failing to prevent explosive population growth of feral horses." On Wednesday, John Huber's office "filed the motion to dismiss the suit in U.S. District Court in Utah, saying federal managers were not on the hook to corral all horses there immediately and that the county allegations didn't include enough specifics or proof."

BLM Announces Burning Man Closure.

The [Gardnerville \(NV\) Record Courier](#) (6/29) reports that "the site of Black Rock City, where twice as many people as live in Carson Valley will take up residence for the week, will be closed to the public July 31 through Sept. 20, according to a release issued by the Winnemucca District Office of the Bureau of Land Management." BLM Black Rock Field Manager Mark E. Hall said, "Similar temporary closures for the Burning Man event in past years have been implemented with minimal disruption to other public uses within the area."

\$115M Transferred From Amarillo-managed Federal Helium Reserve To U.S.

Treasury. The [Amarillo \(TX\) Globe News](#) (6/29) reports that "a total of \$115 million generated from the 2016 sale and auction of crude helium from the Federal Helium Reserve — which is managed by the Amarillo Bureau of Land Management field office — is being transferred to the U.S. Treasury." The Helium Reserve has "returned more than \$1.75 billion to the US Treasury between 2005-2017 through the sale and auction of crude helium, according to the BLM."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Beaufort Mayor Ready For Another Offshore Drilling Fight.

[Bluffton \(SC\) Today](#) (6/29, Murdaugh) reports that Beaufort Mayor Billy Keyserling and "other state municipal leaders were successful in their first effort to oppose offshore drilling, but now they are preparing for another fight." President Trump" on April 28 instructed the Department of the Interior to lift offshore drilling restrictions that former President Barack Obama put in place for the Arctic and Atlantic oceans."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Reclamation Nominee Wins Mostly Acceptance And A Little Wait-and-see.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (6/29, Harmon) reports that President Trump's nomination of Brenda Burman to lead the Bureau of Reclamation "won the endorsement of U.S. Rep. Scott Tipton and a cautious reaction from U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner, both Republicans." Also, Arizona Sens. Jeff Flake and John McCain praised her. Chris Treese, spokesman for the Colorado River Water Conservation District, said, Burman has a "deep background and a great reputation in the Colorado River basin — and beyond. She is the one nominee from this administration who should be confirmed easily and unanimously."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Feds Release Long-Awaited Recovery Plan For Mexican Wolves.

The [AP](#) (6/29, Bryan) reports that "after repeated failures over decades, U.S. wildlife officials have finally drafted a recovery plan for endangered wolves that once roamed parts of the American Southwest and northern Mexico." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is "under a court order to complete the plan for the Mexican gray wolf by the end of November." The draft document released Thursday "calls for focusing recovery of the wolves in core areas of the predators' historic range."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [ABC News](#) (6/29, Bryan), the [Boston \(MA\) Globe](#)

(6/29, Bryan), the [Arizona Republic](#) (6/29, Bryan), the [Daily Mail](#) (6/29), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/29, Bryan), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/29, Bryan), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/29, Bryan), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (6/29, Bryan), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/29, Bryan).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (6/29, Maffly).

Lawsuits Challenge Ambitious California Water Tunnels.

The [AP](#) (6/29, Smith) reports that "Gov. Jerry Brown's ambitious plans to build two massive tunnels, reengineering the hub of California's water system, would destroy native fish species already on the brink of extinction, lawsuits filed Thursday said." The \$16 billion project "won a critical first round of approval from two federal agencies early this week, but days later a group of fish and conservation groups filed federal lawsuits attempting to stop the project." John McManus, executive director of the Golden Gate Salmon Association, said, "This version of the tunnels will wipe out California's salmon fishery and the families and communities that rely on salmon." McManus is "joined in the two lawsuits by the Natural Resources Defense Council, Defenders of Wildlife and the Bay Institute."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (6/29, Sabalow).

Animal Refuges Threatened By Flooding In Florida Everglades.

The [U.S. News & World Report](#) (6/29) reports that "parts of Florida's Everglades are so waterlogged that deer, wading birds and other animals are running out of dry ground." According to the article, "heavy rains this month have left water levels 2 feet (0.6 meters) higher than normal in the wetlands in western Broward and Miami-Dade counties." The [Miami Herald](#) (6/29, Staletovich) reports that "this week, the U.S. Corps of Engineers opened flood gates into the western Everglades, flooding nesting grounds for the endangered Cape Sable seaside sparrow for the second year in a row." According to the article, "the dilemma pits flood control against conservation efforts and while it's an old battle in Florida, water managers have now faced back-to-back years of emergency operations."

A Grizzly Proposition.

In an op-ed for the [Teton Valley \(ID\) News](#) (6/29, Conboy), Brendan Conboy considers "what de-listing entails for the Yellowstone grizzly at this critical juncture in its recovery." Conboy thinks whether the de-listing is premature will "almost certainly be decided by the courts and it is possible and perhaps likely that the Yellowstone grizzly will be re-listed." He concludes that "however this issue is decided, the debate over grizzlies is symptomatic of a bigger question about our relationship to wilderness and the impacts of past, present, and future development in the Yellowstone region."

National Park Service

Alexander: Senate Energy And Natural Resources Bill Takes Next Step To Preserve Polk Home.

The [Chattanooga \(TN\)](#) (6/29) reports that Sen. Lamar Alexander "on Thursday said the Senate's bipartisan energy and natural resources bill includes several Tennessee priorities – including taking the next step in making President James K. Polk's home part of the National Park System and designating 20,000 acres of the Cherokee National Forest as wilderness area." Alexander said, "We talk a lot about the importance of science and math, but, according to the National Assessment of Education Progress, most high school seniors in America score the worst in history. I can think of no better way to encourage the study of U.S. history than to protect and preserve sites like President Polk's home, Shiloh National Military Park and important landmarks of the Civil Rights Movement."

Park Service Officials Gather Ideas For Freedom Riders Monument.

The [Anniston \(AL\) Star](#) (6/30, Fiscus, Burkhalter) reports that "National Park officials spent most of Thursday sharing their vision for the Freedom Riders National Monument but also took suggestions from Anniston city officials and the public during two meetings." Ben West, the chief of planning with the National Park Service southeast region, "started the morning meeting with city officials and community leaders by talking about how far-reaching the monument can be." Later, at the evening meeting, "National Park officials met again to hear from residents about their thoughts on the national park, and to seek photos, memories and stories about the former

bus station to help in its restoration.”

Draft Of NPS Report On Chimney Tops 2 Fire Complete.

[WBIR-TV](#) Knoxville, TN (6/28, Crowe) reports that “a National Park Service official is shedding new light on the pending wildfire after-action report on the response to the Chimney Tops 2 fire.” Bill Kaage, the chief of Fire and Aviation Management for the National Park Service, said, “We owe all citizenry involved our due diligence and a good solid report with facts and findings, and we owe our engagement as part of that larger effort because of the natures of the fires that affected those local communities.” He “said the report is scheduled to be released in mid-August.”

Park Service Gives Green Light For Zion Monument Redesign.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (6/29) reports that the National Park Service has “concluded that a redesign of Zion National Park’s south entrance monument will create no significant impact to the park, meaning the project can move forward.” The aim of the project is “to enhance visitor safety, expand cultural resource protection measures, and help mitigate factors contributing to vehicle congestion experienced at the south entrance.” The monument will be “moved approximately 28 feet to the east, and a plaza will be installed around the site.”

Drakes Estero Project Sparked Investigations.

The [Point Reyes \(CA\) Light](#) (6/29, Guth) reports that “numerous allegations made by a former employee tasked with helping remove the aquaculture debris and defunct oyster racks from Drakes Estero led the Department of the Interior’s Office of the Inspector General late last year to request the National Park Service to investigate the project.” According to the article, “though the status of that probe is unclear, hundreds of pages of documents and private emails obtained through the Freedom of Information Act and passed along to the Light show that the park service steadfastly pushed back against the findings of another federal investigation—by the Department of Labor—into claims made by the diver, Matt Zugsberger, whose allegations center on the rate at which he was paid, the project’s safety protocols and environmental mitigation measures.” Documents reveal “that the Labor Department found that the park and its contractors significantly mischaracterized and undercompensated Mr. Zugsberger’s work—and also that the department reversed its finding multiple times.” The article says that “those reversals were made amid strong pressure from the park and the companies hired to complete the restoration project, T.L. Peterson and a subcontractor, Galindo Construction.”

Federal Judge Denies Motion To Halt High-impact Activities At Sauk Prairie Recreation Area.

The [Madison \(WI\) Capital Times](#) (6/29, Prinsen) reports that “a local conservation group’s request to halt helicopter training exercises, dog training with firearms and off-road motorcycling at the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area was denied Monday in federal court.” The Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance last week “filed a request for a preliminary injunction in the U.S. District Court of Western Wisconsin” seeking restriction of “‘high impact’ recreation on the state-owned property until its lawsuit challenging state and federal agencies’ management of the site are settled.” U.S. District Judge James D. Peterson stuck down the motion. Peterson “stated in a court order that while high-impact recreation may disrupt wildlife, it is unlikely to cause sufficient environmental harm to warrant immediate court action before the case is decided next year.”

New Trails Coming To Monocacy National Battlefield.

The [Frederick \(MD\) News-Post](#) (6/28, Dodd) reports that the National Park Service “approved a new public access plan Wednesday for Monocacy National Battlefield.” The plan will “allow for expanded walking trails at the increasingly popular park.”

Joe’s Trail Has Been Deemed Nationally Historic.

The [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (6/29, Miceli) reports that the National Park Service has “partnered with the city of Saratoga to designate Joe’s Trail as part of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, a 1,210-mile stretch of land that contains hundreds of years of history, tracing back to the Anza expedition in 1776.” Joe’s Trail will “receive new signs highlighting historical stories and artwork at the wayside of the trail, and other National Park Trail insignia throughout the 1.4-mile Saratoga stretch.”

Fort Pulaski Open Again, But Tornado Repairs Continue.

The [Savannah \(GA\) Morning News](#) (6/29, Coleman) reports that on Thursday morning, the National Park Service rangers allowed visitors to access the Cockspur Island again. On May 23, "an EF-2 tornado hit Cockspur Island, striking Fort Pulaski's visitor center and knocking down trees, doing about \$400,000 worth of damage." The article says that "the damage prompted the National Park Service to close the island to the public on the eve of Memorial Day weekend and the traditional summer vacation period that brings thousands of visitors to the fort from nearby Tybee Island and Savannah."

Central Avenue Beach Access Reopens In Beverly Shores.

The [Times of Northwest Indiana](#) (6/29, Cross) reports that "Central Avenue Beach will reopen Saturday after a roadway collapse and flooding of its access roads this spring prompted a months-long closure, the National Park Service announced Thursday." The article notes that "the popular Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore beach has been shut down since April 5."

Report: Famous Yellowstone Bear Shot At Close Range In 2015.

The [AP](#) (6/29) reports that "the investigation into the death of a famed Yellowstone National Park grizzly bear killed by an elk hunter in late 2015 determined that the bear was shot three times at close range with a .30 caliber rifle." The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (6/29, French) reports that "Scarface, the name given by bear watchers in the park to bear No. 211, was killed in the Little Trail Creek drainage, near Gardiner, Montana, outside of the park the night of Nov. 18."

Bison Rams, Injures Couple At Yellowstone National Park.

The [AP](#) (6/29) reports that "a bison rammed and injured a husband and wife as they were taking photographs in Yellowstone National Park." The [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (6/29) reports that "Utah residents Theodore Schrader, 74, and Patsy Holmes, 72, were taking photos on a boardwalk when a bison approached them."

Bear Killed By Grand Teton Officials After Multiple Reports.

The [AP](#) (6/29) reports that Grand Teton National Park officials have "killed a 4-year-old black bear after it approached three different groups of people, destroyed a tent and walked on a person's porch." Officials started "looking for the bear on June 21 and trapped it on Tuesday."

Smithsonian Folklife Festival Kicks Off Thursday Under The Big Top.

[WRC-TV](#) Washington (6/29, Rozen) reports that the 50th annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival kicks off Thursday. The article notes that "in its 50th year, the festival will feature daily performances and craft activities hosted by the Smithsonian Institution and co-sponsored by the National Park Service."

Gettysburg National Military Park Issues Several First Amendment Permits For The Weekend.

[WPMT-TV](#) Harrisburg, PA (6/29, Ready) reports that "this weekend, several protests are expected to take place in Gettysburg during the 154th Anniversary of the Civil War Battle." According to a spokesperson at the Gettysburg National Military Park, "they've issued three first amendment permits to separate groups for Saturday, including the 'Sons of Confederate Veterans M-C' and a group called 'Real 3% Risen,' both of which are expected to have hundreds of participants and take place north of Mead's headquarters." In addition, "a third permit was issued to the 'Maryland Sons of Confederate Veterans' which will be a smaller group of re-enactors that will be marching in formation along several memorials, with a ceremony at each one."

Going-to-the-Sun Road Reopens In Glacier National Park.

The [Montana Standard](#) (6/28, Szpaller) reports that the Going-to-the-Sun Road "opened to motorists Wednesday."

Editorial: National Parks Budget Cuts Won't Go Unnoticed.

The [Everett \(WA\) Herald](#) (6/29) editorializes that "a year after a record 323.6 million visitors helped the National Parks Service celebrate its centennial, proposed budget cuts of \$378 million by the Trump administration are threatening to force the layoffs of more than 1,000 full-time park service employees, resulting in reduced staffing at 90 percent of parks and loss of programs and services enjoyed by park visitors." Moreover, "those cuts would be on top of a long-standing backlog of \$12 billion in maintenance and restoration work at the service's 400 parks,

monuments, recreation areas, memorials and historical parks and trails in all 50 states on more than 84 million acres of public land." The paper says that "as Congress continues the process of considering the administration's budget proposals — and having already rejected some cuts — those who benefit from the programs and services above need to show their support."

Top National News

Trump's Tweets About Brzezinski Spark Bipartisan Criticism, Sexism Accusations.

The President's tweets about MSNBC host Mika Brzezinski led all three major newscasts — which devoted nearly 12 minutes of combined airtime to the story — and dominated discussion on cable news shows. Trump [tweeted](#), "I heard poorly rated @Morning_Joe speaks badly of me (don't watch anymore). Then how come low I.Q. Crazy Mika, along with Psycho Joe, came... to Mar-a-Lago 3 nights in a row around New Year's Eve, and insisted on joining me. She was bleeding badly from a face-lift. I said no!" With near unanimity, media reports and analyses cast Trump in an extremely unfavorable light, often placing his words in the context of past controversial statements about women. [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/29, lead story, 3:00, Holt), for example, showed Trump saying of Megyn Kelly, "You could see there was blood coming out of her eyes, blood coming out of her wherever." The broadcast also ran footage of the President saying, "Grab them by the [beep]."

Media reports reflect the immediate outrage caused by Trump's tweets. To [Politico](#) (6/29, Gold), "It takes a lot to shock reporters in the Trump era," but he "managed to do that on Thursday morning." The [New York Times](#) (6/29, Grynbaum) reports "the personal and crude nature of Mr. Trump's Twitter remarks...proved to be an equal-opportunity stunner, sparking a backlash that spanned the news industry's usual divides," and [USA Today](#) (6/29, Estepa) says the President's words "sent shockwaves through the political universe."

[Politico](#) (6/29, Conway) refers to "widespread condemnation." Meanwhile, David French called the President "crass, vicious, and petty" on [National Review](#) (6/29), while Charles Krauthammer said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/29) that when presidents "talk like this...it reduces the United States from a grand republic to a banana republic." The [AP](#) (6/29, Ortutay) concludes that if Trump "were anyone else, he'd be fired, or at least reprimanded," and "if he were to look for a job...these and past tweets would raise red flags." Chris Cillizza, in a piece for [CNN](#) (6/29), asked, "Then why, when that person is the President of the United States, should we treat that sort of behavior any differently?" [The Hill](#) (6/29, Kurtz), meanwhile, reported the reaction led to "a wave of new accusations of sexism and cyberbullying."

To many Trump critics, in fact, it was all about sexism. The [New York Times](#) (6/29, Davis) says "Trump's invective threatened to further erode his support from women and independents, both among voters and on Capitol Hill, where he is in need of negotiating leverage for the stalled Senate health care bill." [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/29, lead story, 3:00, Holt) showed House Minority Leader Pelosi calling Trump's tweets "so blatantly sexist," and the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/29, story 2, 2:55, Cordes) reported "it wasn't the first time this week that the President's comments about women have drawn attention," and added that "what drew scrutiny earlier this week wasn't an insult, but a compliment." Trump was shown saying of a reporter — during a phone conversation with Ireland's Prime Minister — "She has a nice smile on her face, so I bet she treats you well." Sara Murray, on [CNN's The Lead](#) (6/29), referred to just "the latest example of Trump making tasteless comments about women."

[Reuters](#) (6/29) reports "Democrats seized on the remarks as an example of what they view as Trump's sexism." CNS spokeswoman Adrienne Watson said in a statement, "Trump's bullying tweets are an attack on women everywhere. ... From his Twitter slurs to his policies, we have a president who continues to show us he has no regard for women and whose comments demean the office he holds."

Susan Chira, "senior correspondent and editor on gender issues" for the [New York Times](#) (6/29), writes that "there is something about the way" Trump "strikes back at women who anger him that seems to resonate for some men — and which, at least so far, has not cost him the support of the women who backed him." To Chira, "the uncomfortable larger question is whether this president's behavior is encouraging and unmasking resentments about women's place in society," after "the women's movement spent decades attempting to change attitudes among Americans so that tweets like Mr. Trump's would be out of bounds."

Sean Hannity said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (6/29) that while "everyone...is rallying around the sweet couple," they are "completely nuts and...not innocent victims in this case. In fact, they

have called the President a liar, a schmuck, and every vicious, vile name in the book. They have lobbed insult after insult in every way, every single morning for months on end. They are not so innocent." Writing for [Townhall](#) (6/29), Guy Benson agrees that "holding up Brzezinski as some sort of victim here, after beckoning the president down into the gutter, is silly," but adds that "Trump isn't in second grade; he is the president," and "unfortunately, it is painfully obvious that he is temperamentally incapable of picking battles and transcending the noise."

Mercedes Schlapp similarly argued on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/29) that "that particular show has been a relentless smearing campaign against the President." However, Trump "has now made these two television anchors into the heroes of the mainstream media and the left." On that topic, the [New York Times](#) (6/29, Grynbaum) says the two hosts "have openly questioned Mr. Trump's mental state, comments that particularly upset the president, according to a senior administration official."

Jim Acosta said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/29), "When it comes to the White House message, the President is again his own worst enemy, stepping all over his Administration's announcements." Tucker Carlson similarly argued on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (6/29) that the "real tragedy" of the tweets is that they "are a diversion. When the President talks about the people who elected him, he wins. When he talks about himself, the left does. The President was not elected to pick fights with TV hosts. He was elected because he promised an agenda the country actually needs but nobody else but him was offering."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/29, Johnson) quotes Mark Kornblau, the NBCUniversal News Group's senior vice president for communications, as saying, "Never imagined a day when I would think to myself, 'It is beneath my dignity to respond to the president of the United States.'" Meanwhile, "an MSNBC spokesman said in a statement: 'It's a sad day for America when the president spends his time bullying, lying and spewing petty personal attacks instead of doing his job.'"

The [Washington Post](#) (6/29) editorializes that "it's obvious that there is no point in urging President Trump to act with greater dignity, respect for his office or, for that matter, self-respect," and "that makes it all the more urgent for the rest of us to think about how to safeguard civility and democratic values until his presidency ends. ... What gives us hope is the conviction that the American people are better than the misogyny and rudeness we see spewing from the White House."

Republicans Criticize Tweets. Across the coverage, much was made of Republican criticism of Trump. The [Washington Post](#) (6/29, Lac, Holley) reports "defenders of Trump's Brzezinski tweets were elusive on Capitol Hill" – whereas GOP critics made their displeasure clear during the day.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/29, lead story, 3:15, Llamas), for example, showed Sen. Susan Collins saying, "It clearly was inappropriate and not something that he should have done. It is beneath the dignity of the office." Collins said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/29) that "these kinds of tweets, which attack individuals, have got to stop. The President has to better appreciate that there are three branches of government, plus the media, that we may not always get along, that we may disagree, but his tone should always be civil and respectful. And I hope that perhaps the response to this latest tweet will tell him that he really needs to change his ways if he hopes to get his accomplishments through and be successful." Collins said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/29). "I think the President failed to show both respect and civility. The President should be modeling good behavior and this language falls far short of that. ... It's unworthy of the office of the President of the United States. I'm concerned about how we look in the eyes of the world, as well as our own citizens."

Criticism by Sen. Lindsey Graham and Speaker Ryan was also featured in nearly every story. [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/29, lead story, 3:00, Holt) noted that Graham said, "Tweets like this are inconsistent with the greatness of the country and the office." Ryan also weighed in, "What we're trying to do around here is improve the tone, the civility of the debate, and this obviously doesn't help do that."

Sen. Pat Toomey said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (6/29) that Trump's comments are "maddening because it's beneath the President of the United States, or at least it should be, and it's a distraction. And really, ultimately, it starts to undermine the President's ability to get his agenda done."

[Reuters](#) (6/29) reports that "another Republican senator, Ben Sasse, tweeted, 'Please just stop. This isn't normal and it's beneath the dignity of your office.'"

Rep. Michael McCaul said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/29), "I think it is a huge distraction from the real issues at hand. ... I wish he would tweet more about those issues that I think the

American people are more concerned about, real issues that face real Americans." [Roll Call](#) (6/29, Garcia), [Politico](#) (6/29, Tamborrino, McCaskill) and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/29, Stokols), among other news outlets, run similar rundowns of GOP lawmakers' criticism. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/29, Bennett), meanwhile, reports that that Jeb Bush said of Trump's tweets, "Inappropriate. Undignified. Unpresidential."

White House Defends Trump, Says "Morning Joe" Routinely Launches "Personal Attacks" Him.

The [Washington Times](#) (6/29, Miller) reports White House deputy press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders yesterday defended the President's tweets, saying the show "routinely launches personal attacks on Mr. Trump and his staff, including calling them 'utterly stupid,' 'liars' and mentally ill.'" Sanders continued, "It's kind of like we're living in the Twilight Zone. They do this day after day after day and then the president responds and defends himself and everybody is appalled and blown away."

The [New York Post](#) (6/29, Fredericks) notes that Sanders also said, "If this had happened in the previous administration, the type of attacks launched on this program, the things they say [about Trump]: 'utterly stupid,' 'personality disorder,' 'mentally ill,' constant personal attacks. ... The rest of the media would have said, 'Guys, no way. Hold on.' But nobody does that. But the president, he's not going to step back. He's showed that, and that's exactly what he did today." [The Hill](#) (6/29, Fabian, Hagen, Kamisar) quotes her as adding, "He's not going to sit back and be attacked by the liberal media, Hollywood elites – and when they hit him, he's going to hit back."

In addition, [Bloomberg News](#) (6/29, Olorunnipa) reports, Sanders said "the American people got 'a fighter'" when they elected Trump, arguing that "they knew what they were getting when they voted for...Trump and he won overwhelmingly." [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/29, lead story, 3:00, Holt) showed Sanders saying of Trump, "He fights fire with fire. ... I don't think you can expect someone to be personally attacked day after day, minute by minute and sit back." The First Lady's press secretary "declined to comment on this morning's tweet specifically, instead pointing to this past statement, when her husband gets attacked, he will punch back ten times harder."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/29, lead story, 2:35, Garrett) noted that Sanders was asked whether Trump's words "create an atmosphere that is either dangerous or one we need to avoid." She replied, "The President in no way, form, or fashion has ever promoted or encouraged violence. If anything, quite the contrary." CBS added, "That is true as President. It is not true when Mr. Trump was a candidate," as "at four separate rallies, Mr. Trump specifically encouraged supporters to punch, rough up, or hurt protesters. Twice he promised to pay the legal bills of any supporter who did." Aaron Blake, in an online piece for the [Washington Post](#) (6/29), called Sanders' response "laughable," because "even if you don't believe Trump has technically incited violence (which he has been sued for), he clearly nodded toward violence at his campaign rallies."

Jake Tapper said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (6/29) that Trump believes that "criticism from the media or anyone needs to be fought back. It's been very clear ever since the Trump campaign banned reporters from the Des Moines Register back in 2015 because Mr. Trump didn't like the editorial the newspaper wrote that he has a problem with criticism."

David Axelrod said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/29) the Trump's "enablers" say "he's a fighter," but "there is a difference between being a fighter and being an epic jerk and one shouldn't mistake the two."

Brzezinski Tweets Back Apparent Jibe At Trump's Hands; Hosts Delay Vacation To Respond On Air. The [Washington Post](#) (6/29, Johnson) reports "Brzezinski responded on Twitter on Thursday morning with a photo of the back of a Cheerios cereal box that reads: 'Made for Little Hands.'" While "Brzezinski did not explain what she meant by the tweet...she seemed to be subtly attacking the president for the size of his hands." Trump, adds the Post, "has long been defensive about the size of his hands." "An MSNBC source told" the [New York Post](#) (6/29, Smith), meanwhile, that "Joe and Mika were supposed to start their July 4th weekend early by taking Friday off – but following Trump's tweet, they postponed their trip by day so they can be back on air Friday morning to sling some 'bad blood' back at Trump."

Limited Travel Ban On Entry From Six Muslim-Majority Countries Takes Effect.

All three broadcast networks briefly reported that a limited version of President Trump's executive order on immigration went into effect Thursday. The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/29, story 4, 0:15, Mason) reported that Trump's "travel ban" restricts "many visitors from six mostly Muslim countries" – Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen – for 90 days, while [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/29, story 5, 0:25, Llamas) reported that while this "scaled-back version of the travel ban" will allow people into the country who have a visa, the Trump Administration is still

“sparking controversy” with the criteria that must be met for people to get a new visa.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (6/29, story 2, 1:50, Holt), which ran the most detailed report, said that the Supreme Court said people from those six countries can still apply for a visa to come here if they have a “close familial relationship with someone in the US.” The Administration “narrowly” defined such relationships to include “a parent or child including in-laws, a sibling, or a spouse.” However, the Administration’s definition “does not include fiancée, grandparent, aunt or uncle, niece or nephew, cousin, or brother- or sister-in-law. Advocates for immigrants say those distinctions don’t make sense,” and civil liberties groups “say they may go back to court over what counts as close family and what kind of connection refugees must have before they can come here.”

[USA Today](#) (6/29, Gomez) says the “scaled-back travel ban against majority-Muslim countries” took effect at 8 p.m. ET Thursday. The [New York Times](#) (6/29, Harris, Nixon, Shear) reports that the Administration “moved aggressively” on Thursday to implement the policy, “banning entry into the United States by refugees from around the world and prohibiting most visitors from six predominantly Muslim countries,” and “critics immediately denounced the administration, accusing the White House of violating the Supreme Court’s directive to exempt anyone with a ‘bona fide’ family connection” to the US.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/29, A1, Meckler) reports that late Thursday, the Administration reversed course and included those who are engaged to be married among those permitted to enter. The [Detroit News](#) (6/29, Kozlowski) has a profile of an Ann Arbor, Michigan engaged couple that was concerned that the ban would keep them apart.

Hawaii Challenges Administration’s Implementation Of Ban. [Politico](#) (6/29, Gerstein) reports that Hawaii has asked a federal judge to rule that the Administration’s implementation of the “travel ban executive order defies the ruling the Supreme Court issued on the subject just four days ago.” The state argues that guidance issued by the Administration “takes too narrow a view of what family relationships qualify” for exemption from the ban. The [Washington Times](#) (6/29, Dinan) reports that Hawaii Attorney General Douglas S. Chin said, “In Hawaii, ‘close family’ includes many of the people that the federal government decided on its own to exclude from that definition. Unfortunately, this severely limited definition may be in violation of the Supreme Court ruling.”

Lawyers Offering Advice At LAX. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/29, Tchekmedyian, Parvini) reports that attorneys set up tables at Los Angeles International Airport three hours before the ban took effect “where they offered free legal aid and distributed copies of an eight-page travel advisory with information about the status of the new ban, as well as advice for travelers on interacting with customs officers.” There were also “a handful of activists” protesting outside the international terminal.

McConnell Cites “Good Progress” In Revising Healthcare Legislation.

While Senate Majority Leader McConnell said Thursday that progress had been made in negotiations over the Republican healthcare legislation, media reports indicate that Republicans are unlikely to meet the Friday deadline they set for revising the measure. [Reuters](#) (6/29, Cowan, Becker) reports that McConnell cited “good progress” in efforts to reach agreement “on retooled draft legislation aimed at repealing and replacing the 2010 Affordable Care Act.” On [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (6/29), Sen. John Thune described the process as “three steps forward, two steps back,” adding, “It’s a very, very difficult, complicated task with lots of moving parts. But what we know is that we have got to get to yes eventually.”

However, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/29, Mascaro) says Senate Republicans “appear unlikely to hit” their “self-imposed Friday deadline” for revising the bill. Jonathan Karl said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/29, story 2, 0:25, Llamas) that Vice President Pence “was on Capitol Hill [Thursday] meeting with Republican senators,” but “there is no indication whatsoever of any further progress,” and the [Washington Times](#) (6/29, Sherfinski) says GOP senators “fled Washington...without a clear resolution on health care, leaving them to face voters back home after having failed to make their own self-imposed deadline.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/30, Drucker) cites complaints from Republicans that “President Trump is wasting the power of the bully pulpit as the party struggles to partially repeal Obamacare.” According to lawmakers and “top strategists,” Trump’s “limited public engagement is hampering their ability to corral votes for their bill in the Senate.” His effort, they conceded, with disappointment...pales in comparison to what former President Barack Obama did to push the Affordable Care Act across the finish line.

Matt Vespa writes on [Townhall](#) (6/29) that Democrats “don’t want to work with Republicans

on this issue." Ahead of the midterm elections, "Democrats feel that they have a shot at retaking Congress, or at least the House, and if ginning up the health scare tactics gets them there – so be it. They feel the GOP is screwed either way" as "the bad poll numbers on their health care bills could sink them," if they cooperate with Democrats "to fix but not repeal Obamacare, their base could abandon them." However, Sen. Joe Manchin said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (6/29), "No one is trying to find the middle, trying to find a pathway forward. I have not spoken to Mitch McConnell. and I heard him say the Democrats don't want to work with him. That's not factual and it's accurate. I am one that wants to work with my friends."

Republicans Mull Leaving Some ACA Tax Increases In Place. [Politico](#) (6/29, Everett) reports that Thursday's "furious round of deal-making" included "a potential agreement to scrap some of their Obamacare repeal bill's tax cuts." Sen. Bob Corker said Thursday morning that "the party is leaning toward maintaining Obamacare's tax on wealthy individuals' investments" and "reallocat[ing] that money to help more low-income people pay for insurance." Politico adds that Republicans said that while a final decision has not been made, "the party is leaning strongly toward reshaping the bill to be less of a tax cut for the wealthy and more to supplying health insurance options to the working poor." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/29, Rubin, Hughes) says keeping the tax would provide up to \$172 billion that can be used to make health insurance affordable for low-income consumers and it would insulate them from Democrat claims that the Republican bill weaken people's healthcare to provide tax cuts for a few.

The [New York Times](#) (6/29, A1, Pear, Kaplan) calls the "open talk of leaving in place a tax on investment income" a "big break from the House-passed health care bill and from the Senate's initial approach." The Times adds that the idea "was championed by reliably conservative Republicans who acknowledged the tough choices that the health bill would force on lower-income Americans." To the [AP](#) (6/29, Fram), the idea is "a bid" by GOP leaders "to placate moderate GOP lawmakers and salvage their struggling health care bill," but Kasie Hunt said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/29, story 4, 2:00, Holt) that the changes "might not be enough for moderates who want to start over completely."

Cruz, Lee Plan Would Let Insurers Offer Non-ACA Compliant Plans. [USA Today](#) (6/29, Collins, Shesgreen) says "a controversial proposal floated by a band of hard-line conservatives is gaining ground." Sens. Ted Cruz and Mike Lee "are pushing a provision that would allow insurance companies to offer health plans that don't cover services that are mandatory for insurance plans under Obamacare," on the theory that "if insurance plans cover less, they'll cost less." In what USA Today describes as "a nod to moderate Republicans," the proposal would "require insurance companies to offer plans that do cover all the minimum benefits required by the Affordable Care Act." [The Hill](#) (6/29, Sullivan, Roubein) says that "the proposal has drawn resistance from other Republicans who want to maintain ObamaCare's protections for people with pre-existing conditions and worry that the change would allow plans to be sold without those protections."

The [New York Post](#) (6/29, Morrongiello) reports that McConnell and Cruz are "working closely" on the amendment, which would "satisfy a key conservative demand to improve consumer choice and give McConnell more leeway to court moderates with increased spending on Medicaid and fewer tax cuts for wealthy Americans." A [Washington Post](#) (6/29, A1, Sullivan, Eilperin, Snell) analysis says that while it is unclear if the changes, "if adopted, would garner enough support for the bill to pass," they "may represent the most viable path forward if Republicans want to rewrite the 2010 health law known as Obamacare without any help from Democrats."

Paul Advocates Splitting Bill Into Two Pieces. Sen. Rand Paul offered another suggestion on Thursday, telling [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (6/29) that the bill should be broken "into two pieces. We pass one that looks like repeal, that conservatives like, and the other one you load up with Christmas ornaments, and gifts, and money, and just pile money on it that the Democrats will vote for and some of the Republicans will vote for. Then I think both end up passing." Paul said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (6/29), "I think the President is a leader, and I think he has the ability to lead the way on this. ... I think if he leads the way and tells them, 'Guys, we're going to do two bills.' ... I don't know, I think he could do it. I think he has the force of personality and the bully pulpit of the presidency to do it."

WSJournal: State Waivers Could Foster Innovation. A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/29) editorial argues that the Senate bill would make the process by which states apply for waivers faster and more flexible, which, it says, could result in innovation at the state level.

Centrist House Republicans Building Opposition To Draft GOP Budget.

In what [Politico](#) (6/29, Bade) calls "the latest in House Republican's budget woes," centrist

Republicans are quietly gathering opposition to a draft GOP budget that would cut entitlement spending, and “are threatening to vote against the plan without a bipartisan deal to increase spending caps.” Tuesday Group co-chairman Charlie Dent “is gathering signatures on a letter asking Speaker Paul Ryan (R-Wis.) to intervene in House Budget Chairwoman Diane Black’s plan to curb \$200 billion in mandatory spending in the GOP budget.” According to a draft, the letter warns that the proposal is “not practical” and “could imperil tax reform.”

CBO: Congress Must Raise Debt Limit By Mid-October.

The [New York Times](#) (6/29, Rappeport) reports that the CBO said in a report Thursday that lawmakers have until mid-October to increase the debt limit or the country “will risk defaulting on its debt obligations.” Treasury Secretary Mnuchin has been urging lawmakers to raise the limit before their August recess, while Republicans have been considering “whether to have a ‘clean’ increase or to attach other policy priorities or spending cuts to legislation that lifts the limit.”

House, Senate Divided Over Privatizing Air Traffic Control.

[Reuters](#) (6/29, Shepardson) reports that Congress is divided over efforts to privatize the air traffic control system. The Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee on Thursday approved legislation that includes FAA reforms, but “does not spin off air traffic control” like a measure approved by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/29, Halsey) says the “increasingly independent Senate, emboldened by Trump’s legislative failures, opted to disregard the White House push to privatize the controllers and those working on modernizing the aviation system.” Senate Commerce Committee Chairman John Thune said, “I remain open to moving the FAA’s functions into a not-for-profit nongovernment body, but I also appreciate that sincerely held concerns exist. ... I hope and expect that we will consider this proposal more fully as the bill advances.” The ranking Democrat on the panel, Sen Bill Nelson, “was blunter: ‘The support is not there on this committee or in the Senate.’”

Study: Climate Change Would Hit Southern States Harder Than Others.

The [New York Times](#) (6/29, Popovich) reports a new study in the journal *Science* on the potential economic harm of climate change found that America could face damages worth 0.7 percent of GDP annually by the 2080s for every one degree Fahrenheit rise in global temperature. The researchers concluded that the impacts could prove highly unequal, with states in the Northeast and West faring relatively well and parts of the Midwest and Southeast suffering the most harm. For instance, the worst-hit counties in already-warm states such as Arizona and Texas could see losses of up to 20 percent of GDP if emissions to continue to rise unabated. The greatest impact would come from heat wave deaths, with high temperatures also leading to energy cost spikes, flagging labor productivity, and increasingly flood-prone coasts that would heighten hurricanes’ potential for destruction.

Despite Appeals Court Ruling, EPA To Evaluate Job Impacts Of Regulations.

The [AP](#) (6/29, Lovan) reports that a federal appeals court ruled Thursday that the Environmental Protection Agency does not have to evaluate the economic and job impacts of its air pollution regulations. Regardless, the agency said it will consider the job impacts of the its policies.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“A Sign Of Hope From Mr. Tillerson.” A [New York Times](#) (6/30) editorial notes that when the State Department rolled out its annual human rights report in March, Secretary of State Tillerson “was nowhere to be found. Unlike his recent predecessors, he didn’t introduce the findings at a press briefing.” The Times welcomes Tillerson’s participation this week in the release of the Department’s annual human trafficking report, which it calls “a hopeful sign” that Tillerson chose to put his “own political weight behind the report, and more broadly, the American effort to press other governments to improve anti-trafficking laws and prosecutions.”

“Mr. Trump’s For-Profit Campaign.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/30, Board) notes that President Trump hosted “a \$10 million re-election fund-raiser at his own hotel in Washington on Wednesday,” which it says “may have been a first in recent presidential history: an event that lined a chief executive’s campaign coffers and his pockets at the same time.” The Times says the

event “also suggested that Mr. Trump plans to run his second campaign much like his first, as an opportunity to not only further his political ambitions, but also to make a bit on the side.”

“Please Let This Be A Pivot Point For The Subway.” The [New York Times](#) (6/29) editorializes that New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s declaration that New York City’s subway system is in a state of emergency is “a welcome statement from on high” that fixes “are needed right away.” Still, “it is tempting to point out that Mr. Cuomo’s focus on the subway...could have come a lot sooner.” It’s also tempting to “arch an eyebrow” at his MTA Genius Transit Challenge offering \$1 million in prize money, which would seem unnecessary. The Times proposes obvious fixes: decrease overcrowding with upgraded signals, replace “prehistoric” cars, and find new money sources.

Washington Post.

“A Syrian Activist Was A State Department Ally. Now, The State Department Won’t Grant Him Asylum.” A [Washington Post](#) (6/29) editorial says Syrian activist Radwan Ziadeh “was a go-to ally for the Obama administration’s State Department when it sought to create an alternative to the Assad regime.” Now, “inexplicably, Mr. Ziadeh is being threatened with deportation” from the US on grounds that he had “provided material support” to “an undesignated terrorist organization” — namely, members of US-backed rebel groups. The Post says the “blinkered judgment is a gross violation of common sense and an embarrassment to the federal government bureaucracy. It ought to be reversed before it has a more damaging impact on the faltering US effort to find a formula for peace in Syria.”

“Trump Clearly Won’t Change. Here’s What The Rest Of Us Can Do.” The [Washington Post](#) (6/29) editorializes that “it’s obvious that there is no point in urging President Trump to act with greater dignity, respect for his office or, for that matter, self-respect,” and “that makes it all the more urgent for the rest of us to think about how to safeguard civility and democratic values until his presidency ends. ... What gives us hope is the conviction that the American people are better than the misogyny and rudeness we see spewing from the White House.”

“Virginia’s Governor Still Has Time To Save A Mentally Ill Man From Execution.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/29) says that while there is no doubt as to the guilt of William Morva — who is scheduled to be executed in Virginia next Thursday — it’s less clear whether “jurors would have sentenced him to death they had been aware of the true extent of his mental illness.” The Post says that while “capital punishment is dehumanizing,” executing “a man suffering from severe mental illness is an act of particular barbarism — especially if his condition may have been misdiagnosed in trial.” The Post lauds Gov. Terry McAuliffe’s commitment to upholding state law despite personal opposition to the death penalty. However, the Post encourages the governor to commute Morva’s sentence on grounds of mental illness — a move for which there is precedence.

Wall Street Journal.

“Central Banks And The New Abnormal.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/29) editorializes that currency and bond market fluctuations this week show investors’ sensitivity to signals central banks are sending about eventually tightening monetary policy. The Journal insists, however, that ECB Mario Draghi and Bank of England Governor Mark Carney actually said very little in their policy announcements this week, especially as it will be years until either the UK or EU reaches anywhere near their pre-2008 interest rates. Even the Federal Reserve’s monetary policy tightening isn’t very tight, says the Journal. Rather, market reactions come because they’ve forgotten what normal, pre-crisis monetary policy looks like. This makes central banks’ jobs difficult because signaling even gradual tightening is interpreted as drastic, but the Journal says this is their own fault because policy is increasingly divorced from definable metrics such as inflation.

“How Long Is Three Years?.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/29) editorializes that the Supreme Court’s 5-4 decision on Monday is to be celebrated, as it ruled that the case the California Public Employee’s Retirement System filed in 2011, past the three- year deadline specified in the law. The Journal says the four liberal justices’ voting in favor of Calper reflects their openness to creatively interpreting laws, even when Congress unambiguously has written that a statute of repose — meant to protect “the defendant from an interminable threat of liability” — can be changed in “no event.”

“The ObamaCare Waiver Breakthrough.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/29) editorial argues that the Senate healthcare bill would make the process by which states apply for waivers faster and more flexible, which, it says, could result in innovation at the state level.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Trump's Travel Ban Takes Effect, Setting Strict Entry Limits](#)
[Walgreens Ends Rite Aid Merger, Will Buy Half Its Stores](#)
[Inside GE's Decision To Build More Factories Outside The US](#)
[Islamic State Is Near Defeat In Iraq, Prime Minister Says](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Mocks Mika Brzezinski: Says She Was "Bleeding Badly From A Face-Lift"](#)
[Projected Drop In Medicaid Spending Heightens Hurdle For GOP Health Bill](#)
[Administration Moves To Carry Out Partial Travel Ban](#)
[Once A Model City, Hong Kong Is In Trouble](#)
[All-Clear For Big Banks Raises Fears Of A Return To Risk](#)
[Vatican Sex Abuse Scandal Reveals Blind Spot For Francis](#)

Washington Post:

[Trump's Travel Ban Involving Six Countries Goes Into Effect](#)
[Abuse Case Against Cardinal A Setback For Francis](#)
[In GOP Talks, It's Richer Vs. Poorer](#)
[Trump's Insulting Tweets Criticized](#)

Financial Times:

[Xi Backs "One Country, Two Systems" In Hong Kong](#)
[Global Bond Market Sell-Off Infects Equities](#)
[Airports Prepare For Tougher Passenger Security](#)
[Warning Fox-Sky Deal Could Give Murdochs Too Much Clout](#)

Washington Times:

[House Passes Toughest Illegal Immigration Crackdown In Two Decades With Aid Of Some Democrats](#)
[State Attorneys General, Governor Threaten To Sue Trump To Stop Amnesty For Dreamers](#)
[Senior Justice Department Lawyer Double Dips With Mueller's Russia Investigation](#)
[GuideStar Removes "Hate Group" Tags On Nonprofits After Conservative Backlash](#)
[Hard-Fought Victory In Sight: Iraq Close To Retaking Mosul From Islamic State](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Trump-Sexist Tweet Controversy; Healthcare Reform Plan; Russia Meddling Investigation; North Korea Threat-China Bank Blacklisted; Immigration Order; San Antonio Shooting; Tennis Star-Traffic Accident; Severe Weather-Storms; Weather Forecast; Heat Wave-Wildfires; NYC Subway Accident; Cardinal-Sex Abuse Scandal; SUV Ramming Thief; Kentucky-Indiana Police Chase; Capsized Boat Rescue; Impromptu Wedding; Police-Child Friendship.

CBS: Trump-Sexist Tweet Controversy; Trump-Sexist Comments History; State Secretary-WH Feud; Immigration Order; Cardinal-Sex Abuse Scandal; Heat Wave-Wildfires; Mosul Assault; Healthcare Reform Plan-Impact; Mid-Life Career Switch; Inter-Border House.

NBC: Trump-Sexist Tweet Controversy; Immigration Order; Illegal Immigration Crackdown Bill; Healthcare Reform Plan; Cardinal-Sex Abuse Scandal; Heat Wave-Wildfires; Nevada-Recreational Marijuana; College Loan Rate Hike; St. Louis Sinkhole; Apple iPhone History; -Extraordinary Company Benefits.

Network TV At A Glance:

Trump-Sexist Tweet Controversy – 11 minutes, 45 seconds
Cardinal-Sex Abuse Scandal – 5 minutes, 5 seconds
Healthcare Reform Plan – 4 minutes, 40 seconds
Heat Wave-Wildfires – 2 minutes, 45 seconds
Immigration Order – 2 minutes, 30 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Immigration Order; Immigration Crackdown Bill; Trump-Sexist Tweet Controversy; Wall Street News.

CBS: Trump-Sexist Tweet Controversy; Immigration Order; War In Afghanistan; Heat Wave-Wildfires; Cardinal-Sex Abuse Scandal.

FOX: Immigration Order; Immigration Crackdown Bill; Trump-Sexist Tweet Controversy.

NPR: Immigration Order; Trump-Sexist Tweet Controversy; Healthcare Reform Plan; Heat Wave-Wildfires; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Speaks to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey; meets with President Moon of the Republic of Korea.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins President Moon of the Republic of Korea for a wreath-laying ceremony; joins the President for an expanded bilateral meeting with President Moon of the Republic of Korea; participates in a meeting with Secretary of Labor Alex Acosta.

US Senate: Congress breaks for Independence Day District Work Period until July 10.

US House: Congress breaks for Independence Day District Work Period until July 10.

Other: 6:00 PM South Korean President Moon speaks at CSIS on U.S.-Korean relations – South Korean President Moon Jae-in speaks at the Center for Strategic and International Studies on foreign policy and U.S.-Korean relations * Follows two days of talks at the White House with President Donald Trump Location: CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Ave., Washington, DC
<http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Stephen Colbert: "Let's stop pretending Trump is a symptom of something. He's the disease, and the only cure is three and a half years of liquor and bed rest."

Stephen Colbert: "The Supreme Court OKed partial implementation of the ban and will revisit the full ban when it hears oral arguments in October, which will be followed by oral arguments with your family at Thanksgiving."

Stephen Colbert: "The decision allows in travelers from the six affected countries if they have 'a bona fide relationship with a person or entity in the United States.' Yes, it has to be a 'bona fide relationship with a foreigner,' so that will exclude your imaginary Canadian girlfriend and the totally hot guy you made out with in France."

Jimmy Fallon: "This morning, President Trump sent a pretty crazy tweet about MSNBC's Mika Brzezinski, where he accused her of getting a face-lift. Then he went back to combing his hair with a Dyson Air Blade."

Jimmy Fallon: "Trump accused Mika Brzezinski of getting plastic surgery, which is odd, 'cause that's the only thing covered by his healthcare plan."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump, last night, hosted the first fundraiser for his 2020 re-election campaign. The event was black tie, but white guests."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump today met with the newly elected President of South Korea. 'Do you speak English?' asked the President of South Korea."

Seth Meyers: "You know things are bad when five months into your presidency, you have to tell people, 'Hey, I'm not going anywhere.' That's like hearing a couple is renewing their vows a month after the wedding."

Seth Meyers: "If the Cubs found themselves in the unenviable position of standing awkwardly next to Trump while he rambled on about healthcare, they maybe should have taken their cues from pitcher Carl Edwards Jr., who skipped the meeting. Asked what he would do instead of

meeting the President, Edwards says, 'I'm trying to go see, like, the dinosaur museum.' So, apparently, he went to the Senate."

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DOI In The News

Senators Question Interior Nominee On Conflicts Of Interest, Science.

[The Hill](#) (5/18, Henry) reports the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee "dug into the background of" Interior Department Deputy Secretary nominee David Bernhardt, "raising concerns about conflicts of interest and his time in the George W. Bush administration." Democrats probed "his work as a lobbyist and the possible influence he could have over government decisions involving his former clients." Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) called for him to "recuse himself from any decisions involving former clients for his entire tenure, not just the one-year period established by administration ethics rules." Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) "asked about his approach to science, noting reports that Interior changed scientific research related to oil drilling during his tenure" in the Bush Administration. However, "the hearing was less contentious than was expected, given the intense opposition Bernhardt's nomination has garnered."

The [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (5/18, Boxall) reports Sen. Cantwell "pressed Bernhardt about his involvement with the Central Valley's Westlands Water District, the nation's largest irrigation district, and Cadiz Inc., which has for years been embroiled in a controversial effort to pump water from a Mojave Desert aquifer." Barnhardt is a partner at "high-profile lobbying-law firm" Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, which has "represented Westlands in four lawsuits against Interior Department agencies" and lobbied for Cadiz. Cantwell said about those relationships, "Westlands and Cadiz represent such large public policy issues with financial interests that it would be better if you recused yourself from [their matters] the entire time that you were at the department."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (5/18, Natter, Dlouhy) reports Bernhardt said he would "step down from Brownstein Hyatt if confirmed and said he would forfeit his capital account with the law firm if it's not refunded first," meaning he would forfeit "potential revenue tied to the Mojave Desert project."

[ABC News](#) (5/18, Ebbs) reports Bernhardt told the committee "that he will consider science on climate change but that Trump's policy opinions that prioritize jobs could outweigh scientific conclusions." When pushed on his prioritization of addressing climate change by Sen. Al Franken (D-MN), Bernhardt responded, "Here's the reality, we're going to look at the science whatever it is, but policy decisions are made, this president ran, he won on a particular policy perspective."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/18, Siciliano) reports that after Bernhardt said "we're not

going to sacrifice jobs” to deal with climate change, Sen. Franken told Bernhardt, “I think it’s very short-sighted to talk about the extra jobs you get by drilling for fossil fuels.” Franken asked, “What about the jobs we are going to have dealing with climate dislocation and refugees? What about the jobs we’re going to have when the East Coast is flooded?”

Another [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (5/18, Sciliano) article says Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) said she would move Bernhardt’s nomination “to a vote as soon as possible, despite opposition raised by Democrats over his past experience.” She pointed out “two past appointees to the Interior Department under the Obama administration with similar backgrounds to Bernhardt’s.” If Bernhardt is confirmed as deputy secretary, [McClatchy](#) (5/18, Doyle) reports that he would “effectively serve as chief operating officer of a department with 70,000 employees, a \$12 billion annual budget and management responsibility for some 500 million acres.”

Additional coverage and commentary on Bernhardt’s nomination can be read at [Huffington Post](#) (5/18, Erbenraut, Kaufman), [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (5/18, Sciliano), [Politico Europe](#) (5/18, Whieldon), [Think Progress](#) (5/18, Page), [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (5/18, Martinson), [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (5/18, Ruskin), [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (5/18, Shogren), and [Southern California Public Radio](#) (5/18, Guerin).

Conservation Group Takes Out Full Page National Ads Supporting Monuments.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (5/18, O’Donoghue) reports the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance purchased full page ads in the Thursday national editions of The Washington Post and The New York Times in support of saving the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante monuments. The ads “question if Trump’s legacy will measure up to that of another New York Republican, Teddy Roosevelt, and the first U.S. president to declare a national monument under the Antiquities Act.” The ads’ placement come “the heels of a four-day visit to Utah by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who is conducting a review of 27 national monuments as the result of an executive order signed by Trump in April.” The Trump Administration’s order “asks for a probe to determine if the designations comply with the provisions of the Antiquities Act, which was passed by Congress in 1906 out a desire to protect antiquities – or cultural artifacts – from looting and vandalism.”

Meanwhile, Mike Matz, Director, US Public Lands for the [Pew Charitable Trusts](#) (5/18, Matz) writes in its “Compass Points” blog that all citizens need to “speak up for our national monuments.” He encourages readers to submit their comment “by May 26 to urge President Trump and Secretary Zinke to preserve Bears Ears as it was approved.”

Additional commentary concerning the Administration’s review of national monument designations can be read at the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (5/18, Canon), [Santa Clarita Valley \(CA\) News](#) (5/18, Castro), [Santa Clarita Valley \(CA\) Signal](#) (5/18, Holt), [Adventure Journal](#) (5/18, Barronian), and [Las Vegas \(NV\) Sun](#) (5/18, Rothberg).

Zinke Has Made It Harder To Comment On Monument Review Process. Zoe Carpenter writes in [Nation](#) (5/18, Carpenter) that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke claimed last week while visiting Utah to inspect the Big Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments: “This is the first time in a monument that we’ve given the public a say.” He said when President Trump ordered the review of national monuments, “Finally, rural America has a voice again.” Carpenter argues Zinke “has not made it easy for the public to participate in the review process—in fact, in some ways he’s made it more difficult.” Carpenter points out Zinke held no public meetings during his Utah trip, “in contrast to his predecessor Sally Jewell, who held a four-hour meeting prior to the designation of the Bears Ears monument, with more than 1,000 in attendance.” It took six years to establish Big Ears, whereas the “public comment period DOI opened as it considers rescinding its protections lasts just 15 days.”

Legal Experts: Congress, Not President, Solely Has Power To Weaken Monument Protections. Chris D’angelo writes in the [Huffington Post](#) (5/18, D’angelo) that four legal scholars argue in a new analysis that if President Trump tries to rescind monument status or “at least shrink” sites like Big Ears National Monument, the Administration “will almost certainly be challenged in court.” Two law professors from the University of Colorado and UCLA, an assistant law professor at the University of California, and a law school fellow at UCLA “conclude that Congress, not the president, has sole legal power to rescind or weaken protections for monuments designated under the Antiquities Act of 1906.”

Bear Ears National Monument Proclamation Shows Tension Between Natives, Farmers. [Voice of America](#) (5/18, Hilleary) reports on the tension between Native Americans and non-Native farmers over then-President Barack Obama’s proclamation last year naming Bears Ears a national monument “and established a commission of tribal representatives to consult with the government on how the land should be used.” Utah lawmakers in January “appealed to Donald

Trump to rescind Obama's proclamation and return Bears Ears to its former status." On April 26, the president "called on the Department of the Interior (DOI) to review all national monuments larger than 4,047 hectares with an eye toward their status and use." Interior announced May 5 a 15-day period for public comment on the debate, starting May 12.

Lawsuit Filed Over Opening Of Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

[Reuters](#) (5/18, Aubin) reports "several environmental groups" have filed suit against the US Department of Interior and allege "that it failed to properly investigate the presence of plutonium in the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge before deciding to open it to the public." The lawsuit "seeks an in-depth environmental study of the 4,883-acre area before its scheduled opening to visitors in the summer of 2018 to assure that it is safe."

[Greenwire](#) (5/18) reports the refuge "encircles the site of the former Rocky Flats weapons plant that manufactured plutonium detonators for nuclear bombs." Although "that central area remains closed to the public," the refuge "is set to open its gates in summer 2018," over "a decade after U.S. EPA and state regulators declared a \$7 billion cleanup had succeeded in remediating the land."

The [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (5/17, Brennan) reports the lawsuit was filed by the "Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center, the community activist groups Candelas Glows/Rocky Flats Glows, Rocky Flats Right to Know, Rocky Flats Neighborhood Association and the Environmental Information Network Inc."

Zinke Dances With Second Lady In Montana.

The [Independent Journal Review](#) (5/18, Johnson) reports Vice President Mike Pence visited Montana to support the Republican candidate a special election last weekend, and after the headliner campaign rally in Billings, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke tapped Karen Pence on the shoulder, who commence to lift "the Second Lady off the ground and went side-to-side."

American Petroleum Institute Sues Interior Department.

[Legal Newsline](#) (5/18, Torres) reports the American Petroleum Institute is suing the Interior Department, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, the Office of Natural Resources Revenue and director Gregory Gould, "alleging they eviscerated the hierarchy of the civil penalty provisions of the Federal Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act." API says in the complaint it was "damaged due to the final rule's net effect. The plaintiff alleges the defendants replaced the provision of the Oil and Gas Royalty Management Act, which could risk federal and Native American oil and gas lessees for enforcement actions."

America's Great Outdoors

National Park Service

Seniors Can Get NPS Lifetime Pass For \$10.

The [Arizona Republic](#) (5/18, Johnson) reports people 62 and older can purchase a National Park Service lifetime pass for \$10 for a limited time, as it will soon increase to \$80. The senior pass "offers lifetime admission to more than 2,000 recreation sites managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Forest Service, National Park Service and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers." The pass is called an "incredible bargain" considering, for example, admission to Grand Canyon National Park is \$30 for seven days. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (5/18) and [Tacoma \(WA\) News Tribune](#) (5/17, Cockrell) also report on the senior pass.

NPS Temporarily Closes Bunker Hill Monument Due To Record Heat Thursday.

The [AP](#) (5/18, Salsberg) reports that heat records in the Northeast US Thursday were a preview of summer. According to the National Weather Service, the "mercury reached 92 degrees in Boston shortly after noon Thursday, breaking the old record of 91 degrees for May 18 set in 1936." The National Park Service said on Twitter that it had to close Boston's Bunker Hill Monument to visitors for a time due to the heat. Alan Dunham, a meteorologist at the Massachusetts office of the weather service, "said 90-plus degree heat in mid-May was unusual in the Northeast, but far from unheard of." The AP story was also picked up by [Bloomberg News](#) (5/18), [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (5/18), [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (5/18), [WSMV-TV Nashville \(TN\)](#) Nashville, TN (5/18), and the [Japan Times](#) (5/19).

Washington Monument Accepts Plaque From Ireland.

In continuing coverage, the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (5/18) carries an AP article about the National Park Service accepting a plaque on Thursday from the people of Ireland that will be hung in the staircase of the Washington Monument. The park service says new donations to the monument are accepted "only in very rare circumstances." Other sites that carried the AP article include the [Owosso \(MI\) Argus-Press](#) (5/18), [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (5/18), and [WUSA-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (5/18).

NPS Investigating Vandalism To Perry's Victory And International Peace Memorial.

[WJW-TV](#) Cleveland (5/18, Sutyak) reports the National Park Service and US park rangers "are investigating vandalism to Perry's Victory and International Peace Memorial, which is the final resting place of three American Naval officers and three British officers." Around May 13, "an unknown person or persons scaled a fence to enter an area which was closed for restoration." Investigators are offering up to \$1,000 for information "leading to the identification, arrest, and conviction of those responsible."

White House Website Survey Asks Americans If They Want Government To Dismantle NPS, FWS.

[Wilderness Society](#) (5/18) reports a new White House website asks Americans which agencies they would like the federal government to dismantle. Included among the choices are the National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and "other critical environmental departments." The Wilderness Society claims the survey is "keeping with the worldview of an administration that has previously advised starvation-diet funding for conservation agencies and programs, even though they are considered to provide a great return on taxpayer investment." The society urges citizens to "take a minute to tell the White House you REJECT its attack on public land agencies."

Fish and Wildlife Service

FWS Restarts Process To Chart New National Bison Range Management Plan.

The [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (5/18, Wilson) reports the US Fish and Wildlife Service has restarted the process to draft a new 15-year management for the National Bison Range "after a proposal to transfer the lands back to the Flathead Indian Reservation was rescinded last month." The announcement comes about a month after Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "reversed course on an Obama Administration proposal to return the Bison Range to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes." The agency has not released any information regarding "whether the plan might grant the tribes increased management authority over the Bison Range," but the notice does "invite the tribes to participate as a 'cooperating agency' in the process, meaning they will work alongside the Fish and Wildlife Service to help develop the plan and an accompanying environmental review."

Flathead National Forest Withdraws Logging Proposal After FWS Reverses Bull Trout Opinion.

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (5/18, Chaney) reports the Flathead National Forest withdrew a "proposal to log in a popular hiking area west of Condon after environmental groups threatened to sue and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reversed an ecological opinion." FWS biologists in 2015 "told the Forest Service the Cold Jim project would probably not have adverse effects on bull trout in the area." But after several conservation groups "sent a 60-day notice of intent to sue in November 2016," FWS reanalyzed and reversed its position. Arlene Montgomery, program director for Friends of the Wild Swan, said in an email, "It is ironic that the agencies were fine with this project until we raised concerns and threatened to sue." Nevertheless, Flathead Forest Supervisor Chip Weber "said the Cold-Jim project would only need some adjustments in its documentation to resume the activity."

Bureau of Land Management

BLM Organizing Yearly Cleanup Of Snake River Canyon Rim Saturday.

The [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (5/18) reports the Bureau of Land Management is partnering with several groups for an annual cleanup of the north rim of the Snake River Canyon starting at

8 a.m. Saturday. Volunteers should bring rakes and square point shovels, and trash bags will be provided. [KLIX-AM Twin Falls \(ID\)](#) Twin Falls, ID (5/18, Baeza) also covers this story on its website.

Bruneau Canyon Outlook Holding Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony June 1.

[KLIX-AM](#) Twin Falls, ID (5/18, Weeks) reports on its website the BLM announced the Bruneau Canyon Outlook in Idaho will open with a June 1 ribbon-cutting ceremony. The overlook "offers a dramatically improved area from which to take in the breathtaking vistas along the canyon rim," reads information from the Twin Falls District of the Bureau of Land Management. The site will offer "a variety of new amenities, including an ADA-accessible trail along the edge of the wilderness."

US Geological Survey

Debris Caused Erroneous Gauge Readings Along Boise River.

The [Idaho Statesman](#) (5/18, Poppino) reports debris downstream of the Glenwood Bridge on the Boise River "backed up water at the streamgauge the U.S. Geological Survey maintains there," causing the gauge to "overreport the flow of water passing under the bridge." USGS said the gauge height is accurate, but the flow "was thrown off by the debris slowing the water and increasing the area it covered at the gauge."

USGS Estimates Spraberry Formation Contains 4.2 Billion Barrels.

The [Midland \(TX\) Reporter-Telegram](#) (5/18, McEwen) reports the completed assessment of the Spraberry formation by the US Geological Survey estimates it "holds an estimated 4.2 billion barrels of technically recoverable oil and 3.1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas." The new reading is significantly higher than the 2007 assessment of 500 million barrels.

Securing America's Energy Future

Offshore Energy Development

Production Growth Outside Of US, OPEC Poses Problem For Oil Supply.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/18, Kantchev) reports while oil traders are primarily concerned with US shale output and OPEC cutting supply, a new wave of production from countries including Canada and Brazil may pose unexpected problems. Most of the attention has focused on the larger producers, but the gains from Canada and Brazil, along with the UK and Norway, are adding to the global oversupply. A Wall Street survey found that outside of the US and OPEC's coalition, the next five biggest producing countries are set to increase their combined output by about 300,000 bpd.

Onshore Energy Development

McCurdy: Greater Access To Natural Gas Will Help US Economy, Businesses.

Dave McCurdy, president and CEO of the American Gas Association, writes in [The Hill](#) (5/18, McCurdy, Contributor) "Pundits Blog" that upgrading and extending the nation's natural gas infrastructure is "key" to helping "businesses operate more efficiently." McCurdy continues, "Greater access to natural gas can help move our communities and our nation forward." However, "because America's natural gas infrastructure is privately owned and operated, we are not asking for government funding to meet the market's demand." Instead, McCurdy says, the natural gas industry is "advocat[ing] for reforms to policies developed during a time of perceived scarcity," namely the "modernization of federal permitting policies."

Renewable Energy

Administration Expected To Propose Cuts To Wind, Solar Energy Research.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/18, Mooney) reports that "current and former Energy Department officials familiar with budget discussions" say the Administration "is expected to propose massive

cuts to federal government research on wind and solar energy next week." Citing a Department budget document Axios first [reported](#) (5/17, Harder) that the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy "would face a roughly 70 percent cut in 2018, carving about \$ 1.45 billion from its \$2.09 billion 2017 budget," and two officials contacted by the Post "cited numbers very similar or, in some cases, identical to those in that report." While it "was unclear whether these were the final budget figures," Josh Freed, vice president for the Clean Energy Program at Third Way, called them "extremely troubling."

Maryland Approves Off-Shore Wind Project, Seeking Economic Boost.

[E&E Publishing](#) (5/18) reports Maryland approved 368 megawatts of offshore wind power last week in an effort to become "the industry's 'first mover' and the supplier for the East Coast." The approval is the first policy in the US "to explicitly marry an offshore wind goal to an economic one." The Maryland Public Service Commission required developers US Wind and Deepwater "to build part of their supply chains in Maryland," including spending at least \$76 million on steel manufacturing in the state, using ports in Baltimore and Ocean City, and "pump[ing] \$40 million into Tradepoint Atlantic, a vast shipyard east of Baltimore." Maryland offers offshore renewable energy credits worth about \$130 per megawatt-hour generated for "20 years once the windmills start generating power," creating "a premium price for power" but also a cash stream the developers "say will enable them to raise the cash to build the projects."

California Sets Renewable Energy Record.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (5/18, Fracassa) reports that on Saturday "renewable sources produced a record 67.2 percent of the electricity on the portion of state's power grid controlled by the California Independent System Operator." The year is expected to be record-setting for renewable energy production in the state, due to "the growing number of solar power plants in the state, the seasonal increase in sunshine and the flush hydroelectricity reserves produced by last winter's rain." Steven Greenlee, a spokesman for the ISO, said that the regular pace of record breaking days "shows how our grid is shifting from the old paradigm, the old grid we used to have."

Empowering Native American Communities

Tribes Challenging Dakota Access Pipeline Drop Appeal On Sacred Water Argument.

The [AP](#) (5/18, Nicholson) reports the Native American tribes that are continuing their legal challenges to the Dakota Access pipeline voluntarily dropped an appeal of a decision that allowed final construction to proceed on the project. US District Judge James Boasberg refused to stop completion of the line on grounds that the Sioux tribes considered the water sacred. The Cheyenne River Sioux appealed the decision, but in late April submitted a motion to voluntarily dismiss the claim. A number of tribes continue to challenge the project in federal court.

Other sources carrying the AP story include the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (5/18, Nicholson), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (5/18, Nicholson), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (5/18, Nicholson) and the [Daily Mail](#) (5/18, Nicholson).

Federal Judge Grants Mashpee Tribe's Request For A Stay In Appeal Of Land-In-Trust Ruling.

The [Brockton \(MA\) Enterprise](#) (5/18, Lindahl) reports a federal judge "granted the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's request for a stay in its appeal of a lower court ruling that rejected the way the government took the tribe's land into trust." The tribe requested the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals "pause the appeal proceedings earlier this month in anticipation of a decision by the Bureau of Indian Affairs" by June 19 "that could preserve the tribe's trust land on an alternate track, outside of court." Judge David J. Barron granted the request Monday, and "the tribe will be required to inform the court how it wishes to proceed within 10 days of the bureau's decision."

Utility Board Panel Backs Replacement Lease For Navajo Power Plant.

The [AP](#) (5/18) reports, "A Salt River Project board committee is recommending the full board approve a proposed replacement lease" for a coal-fired power plant on the Navajo Nation, which would allow it to continue operation beyond this year.

Office Of Insular Affairs

Over 7,000 Public Comments Oppose Redesignation Of Marine Monuments.

[Samoa News](#) (5/16, Sagapolutele) reported that as of Monday, there have been 7,000 public comments submitted online “opposing any move by the federal government to remove previous presidential designation of the five marine monuments in the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean, such as the Rose Atoll in American Samoa.” One anonymous commenter wrote, “Rose Atoll must be protected as an uninhabited wildlife refuge, as it is home to an immense fish population, is a critical nesting site for two species of threatened turtles, and is home to a vast majority of the seabird population of American Samoa.” The comments are in response to President Trump’s executive order “directing the Interior Secretary to review land and marine monuments throughout the US and its territories that were designated by previous presidents going back to 1996.”

Marshall Island President Criticizes Australia, US Over Inaction On Climate Change.

The [Australian Broadcasting Corporation](#) (5/17, Fettes) reports Marshall Islands President Dr, Hilda Heine “questioned Australia’s standing in the Pacific over its inaction on climate change.” During a lecture at the Australian National University in Canberra, Dr. Heine said, “It is hard to explain the feeling of being the President of a country reading a report that supposedly condemns your country to oblivion.” The Marshall Islands also is a “fierce defender of the Paris Climate Accord, which it says is critical to the very survival of the nation.” In response to President Trump’s consideration of withdrawing from that agreement, Dr. Heine said, “Paris is the last chance for the world. We must hope the President sees that strong international cooperation based on climate science is the way to avert the catastrophic threat to our very existence.”

World Bank Approves Grant Financing For Marshall Islands Resilience Project.

The [Financial](#) (5/10) reported the World Bank’s Board of Executive Directors “approved on May 9 grant financing for a project that is expected to help communities in the Marshall Islands...prepare better for the impact of climate change.” The Pacific Resilience Project II “will receive a US\$19.6 million grant for the Marshall Islands and a US\$4 million grant for the Pacific Community (SPC) to support this important initiative, according to the World Bank.” The project will “Improve disaster preparedness and strengthen early warning systems” and “invest in coastal adaptation and shoreline protection.”

Opinion: Climate Change Disproportionately Impacts Health Of Small Island Nations.

Hugh Sealy, a professor in the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at St. George’s University in Grenada, writes in [STAT](#) (5/17, Sealy) that the Marshall Islands recently “became the first nation to sign onto the Kigali pact, a major international agreement aimed at limiting the emission of an extremely potent class of greenhouse gases called hydrofluorocarbons.” He explains that the Marshall Islands, like many smaller island nations, faces health hazards from rising sea levels that “threaten to someday submerge the islands,” a higher risk of disease from growing mosquito populations in increasingly warmer weather, and other climate change-induced perils. Sealy urges larger nations to adopt more responsibility for climate change impact, writing that “for residents of small island nations,” climate change is “an immediate public health challenge.”

OIA Economist Collects Input On Economic Development In America Samoa.

The [Talanei \(ASM\)](#) (5/11) reported the Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs Economist, Wali Osman briefed about a dozen members of the American Samoa business community May 10 “concerning a project he is doing with the US territories aimed at creating economic growth and stimulating the economies of these jurisdictions.” According to the article, the OIA “is compiling a report on doable economic development projects in the insular areas, and Osman is in the territory to collect input from the government and private sector on what they feel should be included in the list.” Osman said there is no guarantee that the identified projects in the report would be implemented, but there is “hope that the report would be considered beyond the Department of Interior.”

Amphibious Military Exercises On Guam Continue After French Landing Craft Ran Aground.

The [AP](#) (5/13) reported multinational amphibious exercises on Guam moved ahead as scheduled Saturday, a “day after being suspended when a French landing craft ran aground.” A spokesman

for the US 3rd Marine Division “said Japanese soldiers will practice rubber craft raids” on Saturday, and on Sunday, US Marines “plan to conduct live-fire training with French troops.” According to the AP, the “weeklong maneuvers” around Guam and Tinian islands also involved the UK and “were intended to show support for the free passage of vessels in international waters amid concerns China may restrict access to the South China Sea.”

Australia’s Simplot Praises Sustainability Of PNA Pacific Tuna.

The [Marshall Islands Journal](#) (4/26) reported Parties to the Nauru Agreement’s Pacific tuna label was praised by Australian-based Simplot for being the “only true sustainable” fishing model in the world. Over the past 15 months, the company “has sold 100 million cans of tuna with the Pacific/Marine Stewardship Council logos. This is tuna sourced from Parties to the Nauru Agreement (PNA) waters that is the subject of what is known as a “chain of custody” that verifies the tuna was caught without the use of fish aggregation devices (FADs).”

Palau, FSM Sign Interconnect Agreement With Philippines, Indonesian Carriers.

[Marianas Variety](#) (5/5) reported Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia reached an interconnection agreement “with Philippines and Indonesian carriers that will allow the two Pacific island states to tap into a new submarine cable network that directly connects Southeast Asia and the United States.” The high-speed undersea cable system “is currently being installed by Japan’s NEC Corp., the cable network supplier, and is anticipated to be up and running by the end of the year.” Palau President Tommy Remengesau praised the deal, saying, “The submarine fiber network will be critical to so many aspects of our life in Palau, from healthcare to education, from social networking to business.” NEC Corp. said in a statement that “it has commenced construction of three submarine cable links that will connect Palau, Yap and Chuuk to the rest of the world.”

Tax Breaks For UVI Research Park Have Not Helped Virgin Island’s Budget Crisis.

[St. Croix Source](#) (5/16, Kessler) reports on the Virgin Islands’ budget crisis, discussing how in recent years the government has used local money to “create a research and technology park at the University of the Virgin Islands to foster a local tech industry.” Data show the RTPark “has arguably reduced tax revenues with little development in exchange.” The article says it is unlikely, in the near term, for Congress to rescind the tax breaks because “the current governing majority and president are broadly in favor of corporate tax breaks. Meanwhile, whether or not tax breaks are an effective strategy for creating real economic development.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges

California To Repair Oroville Dam’s Spillway.

The [AP](#) (5/18) reports that, in “an all-out race to get” the Oroville Dam’s “shattered main spillway” operational before the next rainy season, California will shut it for the summer to accommodate “a \$275 million project to rebuild and strengthen the” spillway. The water-release gates in the dam’s hydroelectric power plant will be “the main way of releasing water from behind the dam during summer construction.”

Idaho Water Resource Board Suspends Snake Plain Aquifer Recharge Program.

[KIFI-TV](#) Idaho Falls, ID (5/18) reports on its website that the Snake Plain Aquifer recharge program has been suspended as of Thursday. The Idaho Water Resource Board “took the action to accommodate efforts to fill the reservoir system.” According to the article, the “U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is decreasing flows below Minidoka Dam to meet irrigation demand.” If conditions change and the Bureau of Reclamation permits flows past Milner Dam, “the board will reassess managed recharge opportunities.”

Shoshone Falls To Decline Due To Bureau Of Reclamation Changes.

The [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (5/18, KEnnison) reports “flows at Shoshone Falls are declining rapidly, and should be around a minimum of 300 cubic-feet-per-second this weekend” because “of Bureau of Reclamation operations in the Upper Snake River system, and increased diversion for irrigation upstream.” The falls’ peak flows this spring “were nearly 20,800 cfs April 13-14. In May, the flows have been between 11,000 and 13,000, but began dropping below that on Wednesday.”

Lake Tahoe Nears Maximum Capacity.

[KCRA-TV](#) Sacramento, CA (5/18) reports on its website that Lake Tahoe “has filled well above its natural rim and is inching closer to reaching its maximum legal capacity, thanks to record precipitation and snowpack over the winter.” John McEldowney, emergency manager for the Placer County Office of Emergency Services, “said the dam that releases water from the lake into the Truckee River is fully open to allow for as much water release as possible.” According to McEldowney, “the lake is projected to go higher than what it is legally allowed to hold, so the water master has to manage it and be as safe and proactive as possible in order to get Lake Tahoe’s water level down over the next several months.”

Top National News

Trump Calls Investigation A “Witch Hunt” Amid Bipartisan Praise For Special Counsel.

Coverage of the beginning of special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into possible Trump campaign ties to Russia led two of the three broadcast network newscasts, and combined for more than 22 minutes of related coverage between the three. While coverage itself of President Trump’s Thursday morning [tweet](#) calling the Russia investigation “the single greatest witch hunt of a politician in American history,” and his repetition of that phrase later in the day, is basically straightforward, legislators and commentators reacted negatively. Reaction to Mueller’s appointment is also heavily covered, and praised by legislators of both parties. While Trump told reporters that he hopes the investigation can be wrapped up quickly, several analyses say it could consume much of his term.

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/18, story 2, 3:00, Muir), Jonathan Karl reported, “Asked for the first time about the appointment of a special counsel to investigate Russian meddling in the campaign, President Trump insisted the whole investigation is a ‘witch hunt.’ ... Behind closed doors, in a meeting with network anchors, the President went even further. David Muir asked him about his upcoming foreign trip, saying that world leaders would undoubtedly ask him if he supports the idea of a special counsel. The President’s response: ‘I believe it hurts our country terribly, because it shows we’re a divided, mixed-up, not-unified country. It also happens to be a pure excuse for the Democrats, having lost an election that they should have easily won, and I think it’s a very, very negative thing. And hopefully, this can go quickly.’”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/18, lead story, 3:00, Pelley) reported, “For the first time, the President has denied trying to shut down the FBI investigation of whether his campaign colluded with Russia to influence the election. The President called the investigation today ridiculous.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/18, lead story, 3:00, Pelley) reported, “In a brief news conference, the President saying yesterday’s appointment of the special counsel to take over the Russia investigation is a ‘witch hunt’ that divides the country, and he offered an emphatic ‘no’ when asked whether he asked former FBI Director Comey to stop investigating his National Security Advisor Michael Flynn.”

Jeff Zeleny reported on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (5/18) that even though the appointment of special counsel has been widely approved “by many Republicans...the President is seething.” Zeleny said “Russia’s role in the 2016 election...is undisputed by any leader of the intelligence community” but Trump “did not take that opportunity to say anything negative about Russia at all.” Trump also “defended his decision to fire Comey, saying he thought it would be a very popular, bipartisan decision.”

The [AP](#) (5/18, Werner, Superville) reports that the President “denounced the appointment of a special counsel to investigate his campaign’s ties with Russia Thursday, repeatedly calling it an unprecedented ‘witch hunt’ that ‘hurts our country terribly.’ Even as he erupted anew, fellow Republicans expressed hopes the move would restore some calm to a capital plunged into chaos.” [Reuters](#) (5/18, Chiacu, Zengerle) says the President’s “defiant Twitter comments stood in contrast to his measured statement on Wednesday night...in which he said ‘a thorough investigation will confirm what we already know – there was no collusion between my campaign and any foreign entity.’” Abby Phillip of the [Washington Post](#) (5/18) writes, “President Trump’s silence lasted just over 12 hours. Then, he let it all out.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/18, Bierman, Bennett) says the President “returned from a brief Twitter hiatus” with tweets “illustrating his anger over the appointment of a special counsel to head the investigation.”

The [New York Times](#) (5/18, A1, Landler) reports, “In a pair of early morning tweets, Mr. Trump cited, without evidence, what he called the ‘illegal acts’ of President Obama and Hillary Clinton’s campaign. “With all of the illegal acts that took place in the Clinton campaign & Obama

Administration, there was never a special counsel appointed!' Mr. Trump [wrote](#), misspelling counsel." [USA Today](#) (5/18, Jackson) reports that "it was unclear what 'illegal acts' Trump was referring to." The [Washington Post](#) (5/18, Parker) says that it "was not the first time Trump has made baseless claims without providing any evidence."

The [New York Daily News](#) (5/18, Silverstein) writes that Trump "awoke in paranoia Thursday morning with a defensive tweetstorm about the probe into his alleged Russia ties – contradicting reports that he calmly received news of a special counsel taking over the investigation." [Politico](#) (5/18, Nussbaum) says Trump "is tired of not winning. He wants to talk about jobs, or trade, or combating illegal immigration, or his victory in the 2016 election. But reality continues to intervene." The [New York Post](#) (5/18, Moore), the [Washington Times](#) (5/18, Miller), and [Roll Call](#) (5/18, Bennett) also cover the President's remarks.

Senate Minority Whip Durbin said on [CNN's New Day](#) (5/18), "This president has no one to blame by himself for the mess that he's in. Things that he has done, things he has said, the tweets that he continues to incessantly release, just make his life much more complicated." Sen. Jack Reed said on [CNN's Wolf](#) (5/18) that Trump's comments were "inappropriate, frankly." Rep. Jim Himes (D-CT) told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/18) that there's nothing about Trump's "behavior that suggests that there's absolutely nothing to hide here." Himes also said that he has "seen things that cause me to say this investigation needs to continue."

Some Republicans were critical as well. ABC News [tweeted](#) video of Sen. Jeff Flake saying, "Witch hunt? No, I think it's a serious investigation." Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL) said on [CNN's New Day](#) (5/18) that Trump's tweet was "unfortunate. ... Not only do I think we need this independent counsel and I think Mr. Mueller will do a good job, but I think that Congress also has to allocate additional resources to this effort by appointing a select committee." Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (5/18), "I don't think it's a witch hunt. Look, if the President thinks there's nothing to hide in this, this will exonerate him."

Philip Bump of the [Washington Post](#) (5/18) calls Trump's "witch hunt" comment "an extraordinary complaint," writing, "Any number of other politicians with lower profiles or further back in history have been subjected to unfair and relentless criticism." Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA) [tweeted](#), "As the Representative of Salem, MA, I can confirm that [Trump's assertion] is false."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (5/18, Pettypiece) reports, "During a news conference at the White House Thursday, Trump rejected any suggestions that he tried to interfere with the investigation." The [Washington Post](#) (5/18, Parker, Nakamura) reports, "Asked whether he urged Comey to ease up on the Flynn investigation, Trump said at a news conference, 'No, no,' before ordering the media to move onto the 'next question.'"

The [New York Daily News](#) (5/18, Joseph) reports that Trump "adamantly denied" that he asked Comey "to stop investigating his close ally." [Politico](#) (5/18, Lima) reports that Trump said he fired Comey "in part because of his 'poor, poor performance' during recent testimony before lawmakers on Capitol Hill, as he shifted his explanation of the much-criticized decision." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/18, Stokols), the [New York Post](#) (5/18, Fredericks), the [Washington Times](#) (5/18, Miller), the [Washington Examiner](#) (5/18, Pappas), and [Breitbart](#) (5/18, Key) also have brief coverage of the President's remarks about whether he asked Comey to halt the investigation.

In his [Washington Post](#) (5/18) column, Eugene Robinson writes, "Trump believes he is being persecuted, and that is a frighteningly dangerous mind-set for a man with such vast power." Michael Gerson writes in his [Washington Post](#) (5/18) column, "Donald Trump offered America a deal: He might cut ethical corners and trash democratic norms, but he would fix the country. After all, the argument went, things could hardly get worse. They could. They did." Catherine Rampell writes in the [Washington Post](#) (5/18), "Our saving grace – as a country and, perhaps, as a planet – is that so far the United States has not experienced any major external shocks. Woe betide us when the Trump administration is tasked, as it inevitably will be, with handling a crisis not of its own making."

Mueller May Make Probe A Criminal Investigation. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/18, story 5, 1:05, Thomas) reported that Mueller "is already at work on the investigation. ... In his new role, he'll have broad powers, the power to seek subpoenas, to convene a grand jury, and add as many FBI agents as needed as he digs for evidence of any crimes, ranging from collusion with the Russians to obstruction of justice." On the [CBS Evening News](#) (5/18, story 3, 1:35, Pelley), Jan Crawford reported, "In authorizing the appointment, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein gave [Mueller] broad powers to investigate any links and/or coordination between the Russian government and individuals associated" with Trump, "as well as other matters that may arise directly from the investigation."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (5/18, story 3, 2:20, Pelley) reported that the probe “may become a criminal investigation under the man leading it.” Sen. Lindsey Graham: “I think the biggest legal change seems to be that Mr. Mueller is going to proceed forward with the idea of a criminal investigation versus the counterintelligence investigation.” [Fox News Special Report](#) (5/18) similarly reported that “some senators told us that they think the ongoing FBI case has crossed a threshold from a counterintelligence probe” to “an investigation of criminal allegations that are extremely serious, including possible obstruction of justice.” Brian Todd reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/18) that “there is a lot of sentiment in Washington tonight that this new investigation and the man leading it are going to turn out to be a positive development.”

Legislators of both parties praised the selection of Mueller and called for a wide inquiry. Sen. Richard Blumenthal said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (5/18), “I want to know what the Russians did to interfere with our election, what Trump campaign's collusion was there, and what obstruction of justice there may have been, because there's mounting evidence of obstruction. No charges. No proof. But certainly evidence that needs to be pieced together.” Sen. Ben Cardin said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (5/18) that with the appointment of Mueller, “we are assured that this investigation will go without any political involvement and we'll have the resources it needs in order to do a thorough investigation. I think it was well-received by both Democrats and Republicans.”

Sen. Susan Collins said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (5/18) that her biggest concern is “the steady, drip, drip, drip of stories and allegations. And I worry that the allegations and the speculation are getting ahead of the facts. ... And that's why we need the special counsel to take care of the criminal aspects but we also need the Senate Intelligence Committee to continue its investigation.” Sen. Dianne Feinstein told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/18), “I think it is a terrific appointment. I think it says to both sides this is going to be a strong, independent investigation.”

Sen. John McCain said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (5/18), “This is the classic scandal in the nature that there's another shoe that drops every day or two. ... This is the drip system, and that's why it's good to have Mueller doing what he's doing, and it's important for the Congress of the United States to do what they're supposed to do.” Sen. Chris Murphy said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (5/18), “The question is, if he starts to find new leads, if he starts to want to have a more expansive portfolio and has to go back to [Attorney General] Sessions or Rosenstein to get that, whether that's going to be run up the chain.”

Rep. Yvette Clarke [said on Facebook](#), “The appointment of Robert Mueller as special counsel is a step in the right direction, but we need an independent commission as well so that the American people can finally know the truth of Donald Trump's ties to Russia.” Rep. Elijah Cummings said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (5/18) that Rosenstein “did the right thing. I have a lot of respect for Counsel Mueller. I think it was a good choice.” Rep. Charlie Dent said on [CNN's New Day](#) (5/18), “Director Mueller has impeccable credentials. I think this is the right thing to do and I think this will help the situation.” Rep. Peter King said on [CNN's New Day](#) (5/18), “I was opposed to the appointment of a special counsel. However, if you are going to have a special counsel, you cannot have a better man than Bob Mueller.”

Rep. Kathleen Rice told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/18) that she thinks “Rosenstein did not only the right thing but the only thing that he could do under the circumstance. ... Robert Mueller, you can't find one person to say anything about his character, his integrity. They're both unimpeachable.” Rep. Maxine Waters said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (5/18) that the investigation is “going to be very revealing. And I know a lot of people don't like to hear the word impeachment, but I believe it's going to lead right to impeachment.”

Charles Krauthammer said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (5/18) that while “the appointment of a special counsel is what the President needs and helps him in the short run” because all questions can be “dumped on to the special counsel,” the “problem is in the long run. The long run is he has lost control.” Krauthammer added, “I think the vulnerability is that Mueller can take this anywhere he wants for as long as he wants and no one is in control except Mueller.”

[National Review](#) (5/18) editorializes, “Ideally, Mueller will be able to conclude his investigation expeditiously, but it's possible this could drag out: The special counsel appointed to investigate Whitewater in 1994 outlasted the Clinton administration. For this reason, among others, no administration ever wants a special counsel. Trump has no one to blame but himself that he now has one.” The [New York Times](#) (5/18, Hulse) writes, “Just four months into President Trump's tenure, he faces the prospect that an aggressive, high-powered and well-resourced inquiry into any connections with Russia could become a near permanent fixture of his presidency.”

[The Hill](#) (5/18, Budowsky) columnist Brent Budowsky writes that “the decision to name the universally-respected” former Mueller as special counsel “is a defining moment in modern American history that sets off a chain reaction that probably leads to the ultimate resignation of President Trump. ... Readers should carefully read the articles of impeachment of Richard Nixon passed by the House Judiciary Committee that involves obstruction of justice. More than one of the accusations in the obstruction article of impeachment passed by the committee is present today in the coverup of Putingate that is now imploding in real time.”

Hugh Hewitt writes in the [Washington Post](#) (5/18), “Given the charges of collusion and obstruction that have dogged” Trump and his Administration, the appointment “is a greatly encouraging development. ... Rosenstein has made an excellent choice that will allow Republicans to again concentrate on turning the country around.”

Andrew Rosenthal of the [New York Times](#) (5/18) says that the Mueller appointment does not go far enough, “a classic too-little-too-late action. ... There is strong reason to believe that Trump’s firing of Comey was a grave abuse of power aimed at thwarting an investigation that could harm the president and his associates. That, as many legal experts have pointed out, is a violation of the president’s oath of office and possibly an obstruction of justice.”

Kimberley Strassel writes in her [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/18) column that Mueller may have a hard time being objective given his long ties to Comey, a history that both the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/18, Viswanatha) and [Politico Magazine](#) (5/18, Graff) recount. Meanwhile, the [Washington Post](#) (5/18, Gold, Helderman) reports that Mueller “will undergo a Justice Department ethics review that will examine possible conflicts of interest regarding his former law firm, which represents several figures who could be caught up in the probe.”

Rosenstein Said He Knew Trump Planned To Fire Comey Before Drafting Memo. The [New York Times](#) (5/18, Rosenberg, Ruiz) reports that Rosenstein told senators on Thursday that he knew President planned to fire Comey “before he wrote a memo outlining the reasons for his dismissal, according to three Democratic lawmakers who were in the briefing.” The [Washington Post](#) (5/18, A1, Horwitz) reports that Senate Minority Whip Durbin said Rosenstein told the senators “that he was not pressured into writing his memo.” Durbin said, “He learned the President’s decision to fire him and then he wrote his memo with his rationale.” On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/18, story 3, 2:45, Muir), Mary Bruce reported Rosenstein went to the Capitol to brief “all 100 senators on why he decided a special counsel was necessary.” Durbin: “He said to make sure the integrity of the Department of Justice was protected, to make certain the American people felt this was going to be handled firmly and justly.”

David Leonhardt of the [New York Times](#) (5/18) writes, “Rosenstein is a widely admired longtime Justice Department official.” But last week, he “disappointed – shocked isn’t too strong a word – his many admirers in the legal community by doing Trump’s bidding. ... Rosenstein wrote a shoddy memo that gave Trump a rationale for doing so. Shortly thereafter, Trump admitted the truth, making Rosenstein look all the worse.”

The [New York Times](#) (5/18, Schmidt) reports that Comey wanted to keep the President “at a distance. ... Comey told the president that if he wanted to know details about the bureau’s investigations, he should not contact him directly but instead follow the proper procedures and have the White House counsel send any inquiries to the Justice Department.” The [Washington Post](#) (5/18, Barrett, Nakashima, Entous) reports that Comey “prepared extensively for his discussions with President Trump, out of concern that the president was unlikely to respect the legal and ethical boundaries governing their respective roles, according to associates.” Comey “was very apprehensive heading into a dinner with the president in late January.” He “felt as if Trump did not understand or did not like the FBI director’s independence and was trying to get Comey to bend the rules for him, the associate said.”

Advisers And Associates Urge Trump To Hire An Outside Lawyer. The [New York Times](#) (5/18, Haberman) reports, “Several White House advisers and personal associates of President Trump have urged him to hire an experienced outside lawyer to help him deal with” the investigation. The recommendations “came even before a special counsel was named on Wednesday.” The [Washington Post](#) (5/18, Kranish) reports that Jay Goldberg, who represented Trump from 1990 to 2005, said, “He needs a good lawyer, someone who is strong, not that he would go against the lawyer’s advice, but everybody should have a lawyer who sees things through and comes up with good advice.”

Ryan Says House Committees Will Continue Their Investigations. [Politico](#) (5/18, Bade) reports that House Speaker Ryan told reporters Thursday that House committees will “continue their investigation of Russia’s meddling in the 2016 presidential election – despite the Justice Department’s move to name a special prosecutor to probe the matter.” Ryan said, “We are going to keep these investigations going here, as I’ve always said. ... These committees are going to

continue their investigations.”

The [Washington Post](#) (5/18, Demirjian, Zapotosky, Sullivan) reports on its front page that “behind closed doors, lawmakers are growing increasingly nervous that with Mueller’s rise, their committee probes may be pushed aside,” and in the Senate, some Intelligence Committee members “are bracing for at least a temporary slowdown while Mueller determines the breadth of his probe.”

House Democratic Leaders Try To Tamp Down Impeachment Talk. The [New York Times](#) (5/18, Martin, Burns) reports that House Democratic leaders “took great pains” this week “to show they were not seeking to railroad [Trump] out of the White House.” House Intelligence Committee ranking member Rep. Adam Schiff said, “No one ought to, in my view, rush to embrace the most extraordinary remedy that involves the removal of the President from office.” The Times says that the “barrage of reports about Mr. Trump’s chaotic and controversial administration has helped revive Democrats, raising their hopes that they can ride a Trumpian backlash to great success in next year’s elections. But with the cloud over the White House darkening each day, liberal activists are courting a backlash of their own as they demand of their lawmakers nothing short of driving the president from office by any means necessary.”

Lieberman Is Trump’s Top Choice To Lead FBI.

President Trump told a group of television anchors gathered at the White House Thursday that former senator and vice presidential nominee Joe Lieberman is his top choice to replace former FBI Director Comey. The [AP](#) (5/18, Superville) reports that Trump discussed the job with Lieberman at the White House on Wednesday, but he also interviewed three other potential candidates: “former Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating, former top FBI official Richard McFeely and Andrew McCabe,” who “became acting director after Trump fired James Comey as director last week.” [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/18, story 4, 0:30, Muir) reported briefly on Trump’s comments.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/18, Bender) says that by picking Lieberman, the White House could argue the President made a bipartisan choice, but the [Washington Post](#) (5/18, Parker) reports that some senators “were expressing skepticism Thursday about choosing a politician to lead the independent investigations bureau.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/18, Bennett) says it “would be unusual to name a former politician to run the FBI, a law enforcement agency that views itself as outside partisan politics.” Nonetheless, Lieberman “got a vote of confidence” from Sen. Lindsey Graham, who told reporters, “I think Joe Lieberman is a pillar of credibility. ... I think he would be a good choice.” Rep. Peter King also offered a strong endorsement of Lieberman, telling [Fox News The Story](#) (5/18), “Joe Lieberman is a true patriot. There is nobody in politics or government that I have had more respect for than Joe Lieberman. He is a good friend. More than that, he is a great American. He is a man of total integrity. Strong as can be. Totally independent.”

Senate Democrats meanwhile, said they will not accept an FBI director who comes from a political background,” which would seem to rule out” Lieberman and Keating, the [Washington Times](#) (5/18, Dinan) reports. Senate Minority Leader Schumer said on the Senate floor Thursday, “A career politician of either party or anyone who suggests a lack of impartiality should not be considered.” Similarly, Sen. Richard Blumenthal said during a judiciary committee meeting, “This appointment is so important that we should try to insist on someone who has no political background.”

Pence Stands By Claim He Was Unaware Flynn Was Under Investigation.

Peter Alexander reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/18, story 2, 2:20, Holt) reported that the White House is denying a New York Times [report](#) that former National Security Advisor Flynn “informed the Trump transition team’s chief lawyer, Don McGahn, weeks before the inauguration that he was under federal investigation for secretly working as a paid lobbyist for Turkey during the campaign.” Vice President Pence, who chaired the transition team, “maintains he was unaware of Flynn’s ties to Turkey.” An “Administration aide” said that “if McGahn knew and didn’t tell Pence, it’s either malpractice or intentional and either is unacceptable.” Trump, Alexander added, “remains unflinching defender of Flynn.” According to Yahoo! News, “late last month, Flynn told loyalists, ‘I just got a message from the President to stay strong.’”

[USA Today](#) (5/18, Groppe) says that in the wake of the Times report, Pence is “standing by his claims that he did not know...Flynn had been secretly lobbying for the Turkish government until March.” Pence’s office said in a statement Thursday that the Vice President “stands by his comments in March upon first hearing the news regarding General Flynn’s ties to Turkey and fully

supports the president's decision to ask for General Flynn's resignation."

Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr, meanwhile, has retracted a statement he made Thursday saying former Flynn's attorney had told the committee Flynn would not comply with its subpoena for private documents. The [AP](#) (5/18, Day, Braun, Jalonick) reports that according to Burr, Flynn "hasn't responded to a subpoena from the panel in its probe of Russia's meddling in the 2016 presidential election." The AP adds that "legal experts say it's unlikely Flynn would agree to turn over the personal documents because he would be waiving his constitutional protection against self-incrimination by doing so."

House Oversight Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz said on [ABC's Good Morning America](#) (5/18), "General Flynn is a former officer and should have never taken money from Turkey nor should he have taken money from the Russians. You just can't do that unless you seek permission and get permission. He evidently didn't get that. That's why we referred the matter to the Department of the Army for the final determination." Chaffetz said on [NBC's Today Show](#) (5/18) that Trump "did make the right decision in that he let him go 24 days into it." Asked if Flynn should have been hired in the first place, Chaffetz said, "You can argue he probably shouldn't, and maybe in retrospect, knowing what we know now, he probably shouldn't have. Nevertheless, he did hire him. He was there for just over three weeks and then he did dismiss him."

A [Washington Post](#) (5/18, Phillips) analysis says Flynn "was involved in a lot of questionable Trump administration actions," but "perhaps the most damning of all of Flynn's troubles – and the one that could keep haunting the Trump administration" is his work "for the Turkish government while working for Trump, which means that he was advocating for policies that benefited Turkey while serving as Trump's national security adviser. And Trump may have known about this." According to the Post, "Flynn's decision to lobby for Turkey and work for Trump at the same time could indefinitely haunt the Trump administration."

Media Analyses: Pence's Defense Of Administration Presents Credibility Problem. As "more than a few people [now] look at Vice President Pence and see President Pence," the [Washington Post](#) (5/18, Blake) presents "three big instances" in which Pence's remarks in defense of the Administration "have been pretty directly contradicted in ways that seriously call into question his credibility." First, Pence maintains that White House counsel Don McGahn did not inform him of former National Security Adviser Flynn's status as a foreign agent for Turkey – which McGahn learned on January 4. Second, Pence's insistence that Trump fired FBI Director Comey based on Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein's recommendation was discredited by the President just a day later. Third, Pence said on CBS' "Face the Nation" on January 15 that Flynn hadn't discussed US sanctions with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak, which the Post says "turned out to be flat-out wrong." While it is unclear in these instances that Pence knew his statements were false, "none of [them] is good for Pence's political future."

Meanwhile, [USA Today](#) (5/18, Groppe) finds that Pence "has somehow managed to stay arm's length from the multiplying scandals now engulfing the Trump White House." Furthermore, Pence's move to launch a leadership PAC likely "will enhance his already-strong popularity among Republicans." However, the Vice President "hasn't escaped totally unscathed," according to USA Today. His "credibility has been questioned" over his explanations as to President Trump's firing of FBI Director Comey, and "new questions are swirling" about what Flynn told the Pence-led transition team about his Turkey involvement.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Trumpcare Is Already Hurting Trump Country." A [New York Times](#) (5/19) editorial says the "mere threat that Obamacare will be dismantled or radically changed — either by Congress or by President Trump himself — has persuaded several big insurance companies to stop selling policies or significantly raise premiums," leaving "some lower-income and middle-class families" with "no good options for insurance." President Trump, however, "claims that uncertainty in the insurance industry is evidence that Obamacare is collapsing and needs repeal, not that he and his allies have created the uncertainty. This is disingenuous nonsense."

"Turkey's Mr. Erdogan Does Not Get His Way." A [New York Times](#) (5/18) editorial says Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan came to Washington this week "with hopes of achieving a 'turning point' in an alliance that is vitally important to both sides," but his demands were "mostly unreasonable, which means continued tensions." The Times writes that instead the

"enduring image of Mr. Erdogan's visit will not be the pomp at the White House but that of his security guards and other supporters beating up protesters outside the Turkish ambassador's residence."

"As Cities Raise Wages, States Push Back." The [New York Times](#) (5/19, Board) editorializes Missouri and Minnesota are "the latest battlegrounds where Republican-led legislatures are determined to block local pro-labor laws." In both states, "lawmakers who are fighting to keep wages low, benefits measly and localities subservient to the states are doing the bidding of their corporate backers. But political momentum favors higher minimum wages." The Times argues that if the governors in Missouri and Minnesota "don't veto the bills, voters will be back, driven by necessity to demand and win higher minimums and other labor protections."

Washington Post.

"Trump Has Made An About-Face On Saudi Arabia. He Shouldn't Get Too Cozy." A [Washington Post](#) (5/18) editorial says that while candidate Trump "suggested, among other things, that the United States had no business defending the Persian Gulf" and said the Saudis should "pay for the protection we extend as allies," he is expected to "celebrate what is being described as a renaissance of the US-Saudi relationship" during his trip. The Post says US-Saudi ties are "worth preserving," but the Trump Administration's "new fervor for the tie appears to lack the healthy skepticism the Obama administration developed about Saudi enmity toward Shiite Iran."

"A Judge's Snoozing Puts A Vital Transit Link In Peril." The [Washington Post](#) (5/18) editorializes that last fall, US District Judge Richard J. Leon, "who blocked funding and construction of the light-rail Purple Line in Maryland's suburbs ordered federal officials to go back to the drawing board." Judge Leon "wondered if safety and maintenance problems on Metro, which would account for about a quarter of the Purple Line's passengers, required a rethink of the new project's finances and forecasts," and "the answer was delivered in December," as the Federal Transit Administration said "Metro's challenges, including falling ridership, would not materially change the Purple Line's prospects or warrant a months-long delay to update its environmental study." The Post adds that "the stately pace the judge has set for himself is divorced from the real world and from the needs of tens of thousands of real people whose daily lives would be enhanced by the Purple Line."

"There's No Clear Winner For America In Iran's Presidential Election." A [Washington Post](#) (5/18) editorial says today's election in Iran "is a familiar contest between a relative moderate, the incumbent Hassan Rouhani, and a hard-line conservative backed by the Revolutionary Guard and, it seems, Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei." From the US point of view, the Post says, "it's not clear that there's a side to root for," because both candidates have promised to uphold with the 2015 nuclear deal, and "both appear committed to Iran's aggressive bid for hegemony in the Middle East by other means, including military interventions." The Post argues that "real transformation in Iran will require a collapse of the Islamic Republic," and a Raisi victory could "bring a reckoning for the regime closer."

Wall Street Journal.

"The Lessons Of Amazon." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/18) editorializes that as Amazon marks 20 years since its IPO this week, it's timely to reflect on business and policy takeaways from the hugely successful tech giant. On the one hand, Amazon's success from focusing on what its customers need – even if they don't know what that is – is a testament to the well-being of capitalist innovation. But on the other hand, the fact that the number of publicly listed companies trading on US exchanges currently is down 37 percent since Amazon's 1997 IPO shows that excessive regulation and filing requirements are harming nonrich investors' chances. The Journal therefore praises SEC Chairman Clayton's ambitions to revive the public capital markets.

"Roger Ailes." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/18) praises former Fox News chairman and CEO Roger Ailes, who died Thursday, saying he brought balance back to both TV and politics in America.

"Cuomo's Nuclear Short Circuit." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/18) writes that New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo's move to close the Indian Point nuclear plant – which provides electricity for about 25 percent of New York City and Westchester County – not only harms state residents and taxpayers, but also potentially is illegal. Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino has sued Cuomo for flouting the State Environmental Quality Review Act, because the governor never conducted a full environmental review before negotiating the plant's closure. Not only will the plant's electricity be difficult and expensive to replace due to Cuomo's 50 percent

renewable-energy mandate, but the Journal says the closure will leave 1,000 workers jobless and cut \$30 million in local tax revenue.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Trump Denies He Asked Comey To End Flynn Probe](#)

[US Plans To Start NAFTA Talks](#)

[How The FDA Approved A \\$300,000-A-Year Drug Its Own Experts Didn't Believe Worked](#)

[IBM Orders Its Remote Workers Back Into The Office](#)

New York Times:

[Trump, Citing "A Witch Hunt," Denies Any Collusion With Russia](#)

[Comey, Unsettled By Trump, Is Said To Have Wanted Him Kept At A Distance](#)

[Saudi Arabia, Ignoring Trump's Slight, Will Give Him A Royal Welcome](#)

[One Dead And 22 Injured As Car Rams Into Pedestrians In Times Square](#)

[Roger Ailes, Who Built Fox News Into An Empire, Dies At 77](#)

[States Trim Penalties And Prison Rolls, Even As Sessions Gets Tough](#)

[A Basquiat Sells For "Mind-Blowing" \\$110.5 Million At Auction](#)

Washington Post:

[Europe Alarmed About Chaos In US](#)

[Trump Denies Asking Comey To Back Off](#)

[Mueller's Work On Probe May Complicate Other Inquiries](#)

[Couple's Story Of Love, Hope Comes To Sudden End](#)

[Controversial Fox News Founder Made People Listen](#)

Financial Times:

[The Big Green Bang: How Renewable Energy Became Unstoppable](#)

[Brazil Shares Tumble On Temer Bribery Claims](#)

[Hardliners Illustrate High Stakes In Iran Poll](#)

[Chinese Group In Talks To Aid Jet Maker Bombardier](#)

Washington Times:

[Russian Election Meddling Probe Now A Criminal Investigation](#)

[Trump Says Investigation Distracts From His Agenda And Divides The Country](#)

[State Department Under Obama Made US Participation Vital To Paris Climate Pact](#)

[They're Back: Dakota Pipeline Protesters Set Up Camp To Back Iowa Farmers](#)

[Trump Says Border Wall Will Stop Drug Cartels That Have "Literally Taken Over Towns And Cities"](#)

[Roger Ailes, Fox News Founder, Remembered As Flawed Man, TV Revolutionary](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Times Square Car Plowing; Russia Meddling Investigation-WH; Russia Meddling Investigation-Congress; FBI Director Candidate; Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; Severe Weather; Roger Ailes Dies; Tulsa Police Shooting Trial; Police Custody Death; Philadelphia-Amtrak Crash Trial; Breast Cancer-Life Expectancy; Toy Choking Hazard; Dutch Monarch.

CBS: Russia Meddling Investigation-WH; Russia Meddling Investigation; Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; Russia Meddling Investigation-Public Opinion; Trump-First Foreign Trip; Roger Ailes Dies; Times Square Car Plowing; Chris Cornell Dies; Texas Police Shooting; Russia Meddling Investigation-Expert Comment.

NBC: Russia Meddling Investigation-WH; Flynn-Russian Contacts; Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; Times Square Car Plowing; Severe Weather; Roger Ailes Dies; Sun Screens; Chris Cornell Dies; First Birth-Average Age; George W. Bush-Photo Bomb; Kid Friendship.

Network TV At A Glance:

Russia Meddling Investigation – 22 minutes, 25 seconds

Times Square Car Plowing – 7 minutes, 45 seconds

Roger Ailes Dies – 5 minutes, 35 seconds

Severe Weather – 3 minutes, 40 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Russia Meddling Investigation-WH; Congressman Chaffetz-Retirement; Washington State Ferris Wheel Accident; Severe Weather; Confederate Monument Removal; Wall Street News.

CBS: Russia Meddling Investigation-WH; Russia Meddling Investigation; Syria-US Bombing; Airbag Recall Settlement; Chris Cornell Dies; Times Square Car Plowing; Wall Street News.

FOX: Russia Meddling Investigation-WH; FBI Director Candidate; Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; Russia Meddling Investigation-Kellyanne Conway.

NPR: Russia Meddling Investigation-WH; Congressman Chaffetz-Retirement; Times Square Car Plowing.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with Director of the Office of Management and Budget Mick Mulvaney; departs Washington, DC en route to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Hosts a breakfast meeting with President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia; joins the President to participate in a meeting with Director of the Office of Management and Budget Mick Mulvaney; delivers remarks at the Business Council's Annual Meeting; delivers remarks at the Council for National Policy's 2017 Meeting.

US Senate: No public event scheduled.

US House: 9:00 AM POSTPONED: House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on international antitrust enforcement – POSTPONED: Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law Subcommittee hearing on 'Recent Trends in International Antitrust Enforcement', with testimony from Covington & Burling Antitrust and Competition Law Practice Group Co-chair Deborah Garza; Global Antitrust Institute Director Koren Wong-Ervin; Heritage Foundation Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies Deputy Director Alden Abbott; and New York University School of Law Professor of Trade Regulation Elanor Fox Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

9:00 AM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on the national security space enterprise in FY'18 – Strategic Forces Subcommittee hearing on 'Fiscal Year 2018 Priorities and Posture of the National Security Space Enterprise', with testimony from Air Force Space Command Commander Gen. John Raymond; U.S. Strategic Command Joint Functional Component Command – Space Commander Lt. Gen. David Buck; National Reconnaissance Office Director Betty Sapp; National Geospatial Intelligence Agency Director Robert Cardillo; and Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Space Policy John Hill Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

9:00 AM Oversight Subcommittee hearing on 'IRS Reform: Lessons Learned from the National Taxpayer Advocate' Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

9:00 AM House expected to vote on Probation Officer Protection Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of 'H.R. 1039 – Probation Officer Protection Act of 2017' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

9:30 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on the Drinking Water System Improvement Act – Environment Subcommittee hearing on 'H.R. XX, Drinking Water System Improvement Act and Related Issues of Funding, Management, and Compliance Assistance under the Safe Drinking Water Act', with testimony from Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Safe Drinking Water Director Lisa Daniels (on behalf of Association of State Drinking Water Administrators); Washington County Water Company Manager Steve Fletcher (on behalf of National Rural Water Association); California Water Service Group President and CEO Martin Kropelnicki (on behalf of National Association of Water Companies); Nashville Metro Water Services Director Scott Potter (on behalf of Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies); McWane Senior Vice President and General Counsel James Proctor; Clean Water Action National Campaigns Director Lynn Thorp; and Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility Special Projects Director Kurt Vause (on behalf of American Water Works Association) Location: Rm 2123,

Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

Other: 8:30 AM Committee of 100 Annual Summit – Committee of 100 Annual Summit, themed ‘Seeking Common Ground’, to strengthen U.S.-China relations and advocate on behalf of Chinese Americans. Speakers include Democratic Rep. Ted Lieu, former Rep. Charles Boustany, Brookings Institute Director Cheng Li, Rhodium Group Founding Partner Dan Rosen, MegaToys CEO Charlie Woo, and Producer Janet Yang Location: JW Marriott, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave, Washington, DC <http://www.committee100.org/> <https://twitter.com/Committee100>

8:30 AM GOP Rep. Marsha Blackburn discusses broadband infrastructure at U.S. Chamber of Commerce – U.S. Chamber of Commerce Chamber Technology Engagement Center (C_TEC) and Telecommunications & E-Commerce Committee host Republican Rep. Marsha Blackburn for a discussion on the deployment of advanced broadband technology in support of emerging technologies, as part of Infrastructure Week 2017 * Event is part of C_TEC’s TecTalk series, which brings together industry leaders and lawmakers for discussions on Capitol Hill Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce Capitol Hill Office, 430 1st St SE, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com <https://twitter.com/USChamber>

9:30 AM Dem Sen. Ron Wyden speaks at NPC on hardwood plywood trade practices – Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden and members of the Coalition for Fair Trade of Hardwood Plywood, including Columbia Forest Products CEO Brad Thompson, speak at NPC new conference to highlight ‘how China’s illegal trade practices are threatening the jobs of thousands of American hardwood plywood workers’ Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC www.hardwoodplywoodfairtrade.com <https://twitter.com/HPFairTrade>

10:00 AM Media invited to view copies of President Trump’s FY’18 budget being bound – Photo opportunity at the Government Publishing Office with copies of President Donald Trump’s budget for Fiscal Year 2018 running in the binding lines and being inspected by Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney and GPO Director Davita Vance-Cooks, ahead of next week’s release Location: GPO, 732 N Capitol St NW, Washington, DC www.gpo.gov <https://twitter.com/USGPO>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: “This morning at 7:52 a.m., [President Trump] got on Twitter and wrote, ‘This is the single greatest witch hunt of a politician in American history.’ Even his witch hunts are the greatest in American history.”

Jimmy Kimmel: “Trump will be out of the country for nine days. See, this is when they should put that travel ban in place.”

Jimmy Kimmel: “There may be some changes when the President gets back from his trip. White House Stress Secretary Sean Spicer might not be allowed to do the daily press briefings anymore, which would be a shame because that’s one of my favorite shows right now.”

Jimmy Kimmel: “He hosted a lunch at the White House with all the cable and network news anchors. He invited them all to the White House. He definitely spit in their food, though.”

Stephen Colbert: “The announcement of the special counsel shocked everyone, including the White House, which reportedly only got 30 minutes warning before the announcement went public. Sean Spicer barely had time to dive in the hedges and cover himself with mud. He learned that from Schwarzenegger in ‘Predator.’”

Stephen Colbert: “Last week, when the Administration was looking for someone to blame for the Comey fire, they tried to throw Rosenstein under the bus, forgetting that he is deputy AG, he’s actually the bus driver, okay. ‘Next stop, Indictment Avenue.’”

Stephen Colbert: “Once the room cleared, Trump started by saying that Mr. Comey should consider putting reporters in prison for publishing classified information. You can’t put reporters in prison just because you don’t like what they are publishing? That’s like burning down a movie theater because it’s showed ‘King Arthur: Legend of the Sword.’”

James Corden: "On Wednesday, the Justice Department appointed a special counsel to investigate Trump's connections to Russia. Former FBI Director Robert Mueller will be the special counsel. And today, Trump reacted by saying, 'No fair, why does that guy get to be called special?'"

James Corden: "This morning, Donald Trump tweeted that he is the victim of 'the single greatest witch hunt of a politician in American history.' 'The single greatest.' Even when he's whining, Trump still has to be the greatest."

Trevor Noah: "Here's a rule, guys, in 2017 you should always assume you're being recorded. I assume I'm being recorded right now. I just assume that. That's why I won't share my real views on koala bears. I won't."

Trevor Noah: "I've been swamped with all the scandals happening right here with President Trump. It honestly feels like this guy stops all other news. There are probably asteroids headed to us right now."

Trevor Noah: "I guess this is the world we live in now, world leaders have second jobs. The King of Holland is a pilot, the Queen drives for Uber, possibly. And Donald Trump is a task rabbit for Putin."

Trevor Noah: [Referring to the violence between protesters and the Turkish president's bodyguards] "A foreign leader brought his goons into America to turn a peaceful protest into a surprise Black Friday. It's actually worse than that because you don't get to leave with a TV."

Trevor Noah: [Referring to Special Counsel Robert Mueller] "Wow, forget investigating the President. Just make this guy the President. Seriously, good at his job and everybody likes him? He's a reverse Donald Trump. I bet his hands are huge."

Jimmy Fallon: "A recording just came out from a closed-door meeting where Republican Congressman Kevin McCarthy says he thinks Vladimir Putin actually pays Donald Trump. Trump said he never accepted any money from Putin because he was paid entirely in KFC gift cards."

Jimmy Fallon: "Meanwhile, Trump started tweeting again. Today he criticized the Russia investigation, saying, 'This is the single greatest witch hunt of a politician in American history.' Then one guy was like, 'Do you still want to see my birth certificate?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Tomorrow, Trump will leave for Saudi Arabia, even though he publicly bashed the country while he was campaigning. The only way staffers got him to go was by telling him he gets to meet Aladdin and Princess Jasmine."

Jimmy Fallon: "I heard that a princess in Japan is giving up her royal status so she can marry a commoner, which is something she'll definitely bring up in every single fight she has with her husband."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump today called the appointment of a special counsel to investigate his campaign's ties to Russia 'the single greatest witch hunt of a politician in American history.' Though it didn't help his case much when he flew away on a broom."

Seth Meyers: "During a press conference this afternoon, President Trump said that his Administration is getting things done at a record-setting pace. For example, most Presidents take four years to finish a term, but it looks like Trump's gonna get it done in like eight months."

Seth Meyers: "The Justice Department yesterday appointed former FBI Director Robert Mueller as special counsel to oversee the investigation into Trump and Russia. 'I'm gonna get to the bottom of this,' said Donald Trump to a pint of Haagen Dazs."

Seth Meyers: "This isn't Watergate, it's the Watergate Express."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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DOI In The News

Senators Spar Over Proposal To Drill In Alaska Wildlife Refuge.

[The Hill](#) (11/2, Henry) reports that "lawmakers on Thursday fought over the possibility of drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), the opening act of a legislative push to allow oil production in the Alaskan Arctic." According to the article, "Republicans from Alaska and on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee cast drilling in the refuge as an operation that can be done safely and one that would help the economies in both the state and the nation." However, "Democrats vowed to fight drilling there, saying the area is too ecologically important to allow industrial production."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/2, Siciliano, Seigel) reports that Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, chairwoman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, "expressed confidence Thursday morning that drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, a longtime Republican goal, could raise \$1 billion over 10 years to help pay for tax reform." She said, "The first 10 years are just the start of a 40-year period where responsible production raises billions of dollars in revenues for our country every year. We will see the benefits over decades, not just over the 10-year budget window."

The [AP](#) (11/2, Daly) reports that Alaska Gov. Bill Walker and members of the state's congressional delegation said Thursday that drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge "would create jobs and enhance energy security, while maintaining important environmental protections and conserving caribou and other wildlife." The recently-passed budget resolution "allows lawmakers to pursue legislation allowing oil and gas exploration in the remote refuge on a majority vote." Walker, speaking at a Senate hearing, "said opening a small section of the 19.6 million-acre site to drilling would provide billions of dollars in revenue to Alaskans and the rest of the nation, create thousands of jobs." In addition, Walker said, the drilling would "significantly improve our national security and international influence while fully protecting the wildlife and environment of the coastal plain."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/2, Carlton) reports that Fish and Wildlife Service Acting Director Greg Sheehan testified at the same hearing that if Congress authorizes production, the Administration believes it will bolster US national security and energy independence, give Alaskans more economic opportunities, and provide necessary revenue to both the federal government and the state of Alaska.

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico Morning Energy](#) (11/2, Adragna), [Fox Business](#) (11/2, Carlton), the [Huffington Post](#) (11/2, D'Angelo), the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (11/2, Ruskin), and [KTVF-TV](#) Fairbanks, AK (11/2, Zampa).

ANWR Tests Spirit Of Bipartisanship In Developing Energy Bill. The [Washington Post](#) (11/2, Grandoni) reports that a bipartisan effort to craft a comprehensive energy bill "was tested Thursday as Republican Chair Lisa Murkowski (Alaska) and ranking Democrat Maria Cantwell (Wash.) clashed over whether to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling." ANWR is

back on the legislative table, and, on one hand, “Republicans and virtually every Alaskan elected to statewide office, who argue that opening ANWR to drilling will boost the state’s economy and the nation’s energy security. Using modern drilling techniques, they argue, it can be done with little environmental impact.” On the other, “virtually every Democrat” contends “that the region is too ecologically critical to indigenous caribou hunters and the broader Arctic ecosystem to bore for oil.”

U.S. To Exit Global Anti-Corruption Effort Aimed At Oil Money.

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/2, Dlouhy) reports that the Trump Administration said it plans to exit a global anti-corruption initiative that requires oil, gas, and mining organizations to disclose the payments they give to international governments. Gregory Gould, the director of the Interior Department’s natural resources revenue office, wrote in a letter to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative that the US government “remains committed to fighting corruption in the extractive industries sector and the ideals of transparency enshrined in the EITI principles,” but “domestic implementation of EITI does not fully account for the US legal framework.” Bloomberg notes that “in February, amid oil industry pressure, Trump signed a congressional resolution” repealing an SEC rule “that required oil, gas and mining companies publish the payments they make to governments.” The rule, mandated under Dodd-Frank, “was seen as critical to compelling disclosure and satisfying the EITI requirements.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (11/2, Bowden), the [Washington Examiner](#) (11/2, Siciliano), and [Reuters](#) (11/2, Simon).

Rosselló Denies Reported Ties To Whitefish Energy.

Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló was asked on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (11/2) about claims that his campaign manager is a lobbyist for Whitefish Energy. Rosselló said, “He has no ties to that effort. I personally have no ties. I had nothing to do with this contract. ... As soon as the allegations came about with Whitefish, I did two things. Number one, I invoked two investigations. Those investigations are ongoing. And secondly, even if we didn’t have the information, on the best interest of the people of Puerto Rico, I decided to cancel that contract.”

Groups Sue For Details On Trump Plan For National Monuments.

The [AP](#) (11/2, Brown) reports that environmentalists sued the Trump Administration on Thursday “seeking to pry loose details of plans to shrink national monuments and marine areas and open them to more resource development.” The lawsuit claims “the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the Interior Department illegally ignored Freedom of Information Act requests for documents related to the issue.” Yvonne Chi with Earthjustice, the law firm representing the environmentalists, said, “If the Trump administration thinks what they are about to do is legal, why are they keeping it secret? We expect the record to show that the administration has been speaking with industry groups.”

Additional coverage of the national monuments issue was provided by [Colorado Public Radio](#) (11/2, Babits).

The Teddy Roosevelt Legacy At Ryan Zinke’s Interior Department.

[Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (11/2, Boyce) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “often pays his respects” to the legacy of Theodore Roosevelt, “while still pushing the pro-industry agenda of the Trump administration.” The article says that the “ideological struggle over public lands...goes back at least to Roosevelt.” It adds that “the country’s different land designations all have different rules, creating a conservation spectrum.”

Tester Joins Western Senators: Congress Can’t Balance Budget By Selling Public Lands.

The [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (11/2, Kidston) reports that Sen. Jon Tester “joined five senators from four western states this week in urging congressional leadership to change language in the 2018 budget resolution that opens the door to selling off public lands to reduce the federal deficit.” The letter “urges Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Lisa Murkowski not to use the federal budget as a tool to sell public lands to raise revenue.” The senators said, “We strongly believe we must tackle our debt but are concerned this partisan, fast-track process could be used by those in Congress who support selling off our public lands. We strongly oppose these efforts and respectfully urge you not to allow any such legislation to move forward.”

Counties, Timber Group Want To Resume Cascade-Siskiyou Litigation.

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (11/2, Perkowski) reports that “groups representing Oregon counties and timber companies want to resume litigation against the federal government’s expansion of the Cascade-Sisikiyou National Monument.” But a federal judge is “delaying proceedings in the two lawsuits until Dec. 1 to give the Trump administration more time to consider scaling back the monument’s size.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Bureau Of Indian Affairs Planning To Re-Open Montana Jail.

The [AP](#) (11/2) reports that the Bureau of Indian Affairs “expects to re-open a privately-built jail on the edge of the Crow Indian Reservation in coming months after it sat vacant for much of the last decade.” The BIA’s director “recently told a U.S. Senate committee that the agency is finalizing a contract to begin operating the Two Rivers Detention Facility in Hardin within the next three months.” The bureau “has not said who would operate the jail.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (11/2, Wilson).

Calif. County Calls Off BIA Land Suit After Deal With Tribe.

[Law360](#) (11/2, Westney) reports that “a California county on Wednesday dropped its lawsuit over the federal government’s decision to take more than 1,400 acres of land into trust for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians, a day after the county approved a settlement with the tribe.” Santa Barbara County “had sued the Bureau of Indian Affairs in January in California federal court over its decision to take land in the county known as ‘Camp 4’ into trust for the Santa Ynez Band for tribal housing and economic development.”

What’s Next For A Grand Canyon Tram?

Prospects Are Bleak. The [AP](#) (11/2, Fonseca) reports that “lawmakers on the country’s largest American Indian reservation have shot down a measure to build an aerial tram to take visitors to a riverside boardwalk in the Grand Canyon, with stores, hotels and restaurants above on the East Rim.” The prospects of “moving forward with the Grand Canyon Escalade project now appear slim.” The measure was “opposed by environmentalists and outdoor enthusiasts who are trying to keep open spaces wild.”

Bureau Of Land Management

BLM Takes Step To Undo Gas Venting And Flaring Rule.

[Law360](#) (11/2, Phillis) reports that the Bureau of Land Management on Wednesday “sent to the White House for review a proposal to rescind or revise an Obama-era regulation aimed at limiting venting and flaring from gas wells on federal lands, which is the final step before it is made public.” The Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, “which is part of the executive branch, posted a brief notice that said it received the BLM’s proposal.”

Map Shows Spills, Blowouts And Other ‘Undesirable Events’.

[E&E Publishing](#) (11/2, King) reports that this week WildEarth Guardians issued a map of “undesirable events” on public US lands from the oil and gas operations. According to the Bureau of Land Management’s Automated Fluid Minerals Support Systems, since 2010, there have been 2,360 blowouts, fires, and spills which was obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request. WildEarth Guardians Climate and Energy Program Director Jeremy Nichols said “if the oil and gas industry can’t prevent spills, fires, blowouts and other calamities, then they shouldn’t be allowed to develop our public lands, period.”

Drilling Proposal For Nev.’s Ruby Mountains Under Fire .

[E&E Publishing](#) (11/2) reports that a proposal to open the Ruby Mountains in Nevada for oil and gas developments, which has raised “hackles among a coalition of groups that see it as an unnecessary concession of iconic land to an industry with a scant history of operations in the state.” Patrick Donnelly Nevada State director of the Center for Biological Diversity said “we feel this particular oil and gas leasing proposal stands out above the rest in terms of its egregiousness and inappropriateness.” The Nevada Service is likely to make a final decision during the month of

February.

Federal Court Jury Picked For Bundy Standoff Trial In Nevada.

The [AP](#) (10/30) reports from Las Vegas that “a jury has been picked for the trial of rancher Cliven Bundy, two sons and one other co-defendant on federal charges stemming from an April 2014 armed standoff with federal agents.” The AP adds that “U.S. Attorney’s office spokeswoman Trisha Young said the judge, prosecutors and defendants finished Thursday choosing a panel of 12 jurors and four alternates to hear what is expected to be a four-month trial.” Opening statements are scheduled for Tuesday.

The [Oregonian](#) (11/2, Bernstein) reports that Cliven Bundy, 71, sons Ammon Bundy, 42, and Ryan Bundy, 45, and co-defendant Ryan Payne, 34, “are accused of conspiring to block federal agents from enforcing court orders to confiscate the Bundys’ cattle on public land near the family ranch after the patriarch failed to pay grazing fees and fines for more than two decades.” They have “each pleaded not guilty to conspiracy to impede a federal officer by force, threats and violence, using or carrying a firearm in a crime of violence, threatening a federal law enforcement officer, obstruction of justice and extortion.” Jury selection “lasted three and a half days, with the last 90 minutes done to the violin strains of classical music and pop tunes piped into the courtroom as lawyers quietly made peremptory challenges.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Reuters](#) (11/2, Smith).

Waste Dumping Being Investigated.

The [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (11/2) reports that Bureau of Land Management staff are “seeking information on two incidents involving dumping of human waste on public lands along Copper Gulch Road.” Keith Berger, field office manager, said, “It is important that those responsible are held accountable. Their actions pose risks to public health, as well as wildlife in the area and ultimately, taxpayers end up paying for the clean up.”

BLM Citizen Council To Meet For First Time Since National Monument Review.

The [Taos \(NM\) News](#) (11/2, Hooks) reports that “the Bureau of Land Management Farmington District will host a public meeting of its resource advisory council for the first time since the U.S. Interior Department canceled all such meetings earlier this year.” The council will “convene for a day-long meeting in Farmington Dec. 5 and 6.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Offshore Drilling: House Panel Looks For Common Ground.

The [Coastal Observer \(SC\)](#) (11/3, Topper) reports that environmentalists, business leaders and legislators hesitant about offshore energy development are seeking opportunities to work with oil advocates to limit the impact of offshore drilling. According to Frank Knapp, president and CEO of the S.C. Small Business Chamber of Commerce, “If we can get the petroleum industry to agree to force the technology to come up with a testing procedure that has very minimalistic impact on marine life, and if we can get the industry to tell BOEM to require only one exploration that everybody would have to share instead of five of them for a whole year, we’d have something to talk about.” Knapp, along with other environmentalists, has been tasked with working with Bonnie Loomis, director of the S.C. Petroleum Council to come up with a potential agreement regarding offshore surveying. According to Loomis, “I believe seismic is coming. I believe that the permits will be issued early in 2018. I think that we owe it to ourselves to work to manage that change.”

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Settlement Talks Continue In Suit Over 13-Year-Old Oil Leak.

The [AP](#) (11/2, Kunzelman) reports that Taylor Energy Co. is seeking additional time to enter a settlement, which “could allow it to recover millions of dollars it set aside for work to end” a leak that started in 2004. US officials have met with the company “four times in the past year to discuss possible terms of a settlement that would resolve the company’s lawsuit against the federal government.” Interior Department Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Director Scott Angelle took part in a September 26 meeting.

Fish And Wildlife Service

Yellowstone Grizzlies May Soon Commingle With Northern Cousins.

The [New York Times](#) (11/3, Robbins) reports that the bears in Yellowstone National Park, "protected from hunting, have been cut off from the rest of their kind," and "their closest kin prowl the mountains some 70 miles north, in and around Glacier National Park." In a new study, "biologists say that as grizzly populations increase in both Glacier and Yellowstone, more adventurous males from both parks are journeying farther to stake out territory, winding up in places where they have not been seen in a century or more." If the bears "keep roaming and expanding, the two populations will likely reconnect, perhaps as soon as five or 10 years from now." Frank van Manen, leader of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team, said, "It's very encouraging for the long-term future of the bear."

Groups Want Protections Restored For Louisiana Black Bear.

The [AP](#) (11/2, McGILL) reports that "environmental groups put federal officials on notice Thursday that they intend to file legal action to return the Louisiana black bear back to a list of threatened species." Officials announced the "removal of the bear from the list in March 2016," but "some conservationists and environmentalists opposed the move when it was announced." On Thursday, the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility "released copies of its letter to the Department of the Interior, announcing plans to sue under provisions of the Environmental Protection Act unless the department's Fish and Wildlife Service restores federal protections for the bear and its habitat."

Is The California Gnatcatcher Truly Endangered? Lawsuit Wants Feds To Take Another Look.

The [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (11/2, Steinberg) reports that "seeking to free up about 200,000 acres from Ventura County to San Diego for housing, a group representing property owners, homebuilders and others has filed a lawsuit seeking to loosen the endangered species status for the coastal California gnatcatcher." The lawsuit, filed Thursday by the Pacific Legal Foundation, "asks the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct a fair review of scientific evidence that has emerged casting doubt on the rarity of the bird." According to the foundation, the data shows "that the gnatcatcher is not an imperiled subspecies living only in Southern California, but part of a large and healthy species found from Southern California to the southern tip of Baja, Mexico."

National Park Service

Interior Official Compares \$70 Entry Fee To Cost Of A Movie.

[E&E Publishing](#) (11/2, Hotakainen) reports that Deputy Interior Secretary David Bernhardt on Thursday "defended a plan to charge \$70 for a peak-season entry fee at 17 of the busiest national parks next year, saying it's roughly the same cost as taking his family to a 3-D movie." Bernhardt "said park fees have not kept pace with inflation." He added "that higher fees would not keep most low-income Americans from visiting the parks, adding that a bigger problem for them is the cost of transportation and lodging associated with traveling to the parks."

Most US Voters Oppose Fee Hikes for National Parks. [Morning Consult](#) (11/2, Gheorghiu) reports that "a majority of U.S. voters oppose increasing fees for national parks during peak season to pay for park infrastructure and maintenance." A Morning Consult/Politico poll "conducted Oct. 26-30 shows a majority of registered voters oppose the proposed fee hikes, regardless of the region they live in or their political ideology." According to the poll, "fifty-two percent of registered voters said they do not support increasing the cost — currently between \$25 and \$30 — to \$70 for each private vehicle entering one of the parks during peak season, while 36 percent support the higher fees." Meanwhile, "in the West, where most of the affected parks are located, 55 percent oppose the fee increase and a third support it." The article notes that "a majority of Democratic, independent and Republican voters also oppose the cuts."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the proposal was provided by the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (11/2, Brea), the [Summit \(CO\) Daily](#) (11/2, Pace), the [Nisqually Valley \(WA\) News](#) (11/2), the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (11/2, Roth), the [Powell \(WY\) Tribune](#) (11/2, Davis), and [WBEZ-FM Chicago](#) Chicago (11/2, Wamsley).

US House Backs National Park Designation For Indiana Dunes.

The [AP](#) (11/2) reports that the U.S. House has approved the bill to make the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore “the country’s 60th national park.” The House “approved the bill in a unanimous voice vote Wednesday, sending it to the Senate for consideration.”

Eisenhower Memorial Commission Gets Digging.

[Roll Call](#) (11/2, Connolly) reports that Sen. Pat Roberts delivered the “final remarks at the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial’s groundbreaking Thursday.” The commission has “set a target date to complete and dedicate the memorial on May 8, 2020, the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day in the Second World War.” According to the article, “every hurdle has been cleared after the National Park Service on Monday issued the Eisenhower Memorial Commission a permit to begin construction.”

Musical Lineup Announced For National Christmas Tree Lighting.

[WTOP-FM](#) Washington (11/2, Massimo) reports that the National Park Service has “announced the musical acts for the lighting of the National Christmas Tree.” According to the park service, “Craig Campbell and Us the Duo will headline the ceremony, which will be held Nov. 30 on the Ellipse at the White House.” The NPS “said more entertainers will be announced in the next few weeks.”

GMP Details Emerge At Park Open House.

The [Point Reyes \(CA\) Light](#) (11/2, Guth) reports that the National Park Service “hosted two public meetings last week to discuss its future management of agriculture and tule elk in the Point Reyes National Seashore, which will ultimately be codified in an amendment to the seashore’s general management plan.” The NPS has proposed six strategies that “range from extending ranch leases to 20-year periods and limiting elk on ranchlands to eliminating ranching altogether while allowing the elk to expand.” According to the article, “the park’s ‘initial proposal,’ the option the agency has suggested the public focus on, allows for 20-year leases, operational flexibility and diversification on ranches, along with increased elk management in the pastoral zone.”

Incident Renews Importance Of Following Assateague Island’s Pet Laws.

The [Maryland Coast Dispatch](#) (11/2, Soper) reports that “after an incident emerged related to dogs going after one of the wild horses on Assateague, National Park Service officials this week are reiterating the importance of the laws regarding pets on the barrier island.” According to the article, “photos of two dogs harassing one of the famed wild horses on Assateague began circulating on social media platforms last weekend, prompting Assateague Island National Seashore officials to begin an investigation into the incident.” Assateague Island National Seashore Chief of Interpretation and Education Liz Davis “this week confirmed the incident was being investigated, but could not comment specifically on it because the investigation is ongoing.”

Mysterious Debris Washed Ashore In Outer Banks Could Be Part Of Historic SpaceX Rocket.

The [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (11/2, Hampton) reports that “debris found washed ashore last month was what it looked like: part of a SpaceX rocket that possibly made history.” Photographer Erin Everlee and “neighbors found the piece, about 15 feet long, lying on the beach and reported it to the National Park Service.” Officials with Cape Hatteras National Seashore “contacted the Air Force and NASA to find out who it belonged to.”

Isolated Gustavus Deals With National Park-sized Garbage Problem.

[KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (11/2, Resneck) reports that the National Park Service pays the city of Gustavus, “which is small, with less than 500 year-round residents,” to handle Glacier Bay National Park’s waste. National park maintenance worker Dan Grivois said, “We typically get around anywhere from 100 to 200 pounds of trash every day. My job is basically to get the biggest diversion rate out of that as I can.” According to the article, “to cut down on space – and expense – the park burns its waste in a towering incinerator.” But “aside from the faint smell of mulch from the compost heap, there’s almost no odor.”

Yosemite Mountain Pass Closes Ahead Of Snowstorms.

The [AP](#) (11/2) reports that “a mountain pass across the Sierra Nevada that runs through Yosemite National Park was closing to traffic Thursday ahead of storms expected to dump up to 2

feet of snow on the highest peaks, park officials said." Tioga Road, "the soaring eastern entry to Yosemite, was closing to traffic shortly before nightfall Thursday." Also closing was Glacier Point Road, "which offers sweeping views of Yosemite Valley." According to the article, "both roads are to be shut through Monday, when the storms are expected to dissipate and road conditions can be assessed."

Office Of Insular Affairs

World 'Running Out Of Time' On North Korea, Trump To Tell Asia: White House.

[Reuters](#) (11/2, Holland) reports National Security Adviser McMaster said Thursday that President Trump will tell leaders on his upcoming five-nation Asian tour that the world is "running out of time" on North Korea's nuclear crisis and "that he will give his strategy to isolate Pyongyang a few months before making adjustments." Trump's goal during the trip "will be to increase international support for an effort to deprive North Korea of resources as leverage to coerce it to give up nuclear weapons." Said McMaster, "The President recognizes that we're running out of time (to deal with North Korea) and will ask all nations to do more."

The [Washington Times](#) (11/2, Miller) reports McMaster also said Americans should not expect President Trump to tone down his rhetoric while visiting Asia. "I don't think the President really modulates his language, have you noticed that," McMaster told reporters. According to the Times, he "bristled at criticism in the news media that Mr. Trump uses inflammatory rhetoric toward North Korea," saying, "What's inflammatory is the North Korean regime and what they are doing to threaten the world." [USA Today](#) (11/2, Jackson) reports Asian leaders fear Trump's "aggressive rhetoric on 'Rocket Man' Kim could lead to a military confrontation with North Korea, possibly involving nuclear weapons."

Meanwhile, President Trump, in an interview with [Fox News' Ingraham Angle](#) (11/2), said, "We have a problem called North Korea. ... If we don't solve it, it won't be very pleasant for them. It won't be very pleasant for anybody, but China is helping us."

According to the [AP](#) (11/2, Superville), McMaster also suggested that North Korea could be returned to the US' list of countries sponsoring terrorism as part of Trump's strategy to counter the North's growing nuclear threat. "You'll hear more about that soon, I think," McMaster said. Citing the killing in a Malaysian airport earlier this year of the estranged half-brother of North Korea's leader, McMaster said, "A regime who murders someone in a public airport using nerve agent, and a despotic leader who murders his brother in that manner, I mean, that's clearly an act of terrorism that fits in with a range of other actions."

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/2, Tweed, Sink, Reynolds) says "there's little sense of a way forward" in the crisis before Trump travels to the region as his "team struggles to articulate a unified policy on dealing with Pyongyang." In a piece titled "Trump Heads To Asia With An Ambitious Agenda But Little To Offer," the [New York Times](#) (11/2, Landler) says Trump departs on his first trip to Asia "weakened and scandal-scarred, ready to face off against newly empowered Chinese and Japanese leaders in a region increasingly determined to set its course without American direction." While the White House is "framing the trip as a chance for Mr. Trump to showcase his budding personal relationships with President Xi Jinping of China and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan," his "erratic statecraft, compounded by the shadow of the Russia investigation, leaves him in a questionable position to extract concessions from Mr. Xi or even allies like Japan and South Korea."

[CNN](#) (11/2, McKirdy) reports on its website that Trump may be "looking forward to his upcoming Asia trip as a moment of respite from domestic strife, but he will face a new set of unique challenges across the Pacific, analysts say." With issues like North Korea and "foundering trade deals in the wake of the scuppered Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)," CNN says the trip will be "a test of Trump's dealmaking – and diplomatic – skills."

[Reuters](#) (11/2, Spetalnick, Thul) reports that Trump's first trip "will bring him face-to-face with a number of leaders with poor human rights records" as his Administration "has been taking a more muted approach than his predecessor to such concerns, said current and former US officials, rights activists and diplomats." They cite "what they see as a slow, overly cautious response" to Burma's Rohingya crisis and Trump's "eagerness to engage with the Philippines' controversial president, Rodrigo Duterte, and a less vocal approach to human rights in China." But McMaster "pushed back against the notion that Trump would downplay human rights" on his trip, saying he would speak out "about the importance of promoting freedom and individual rights."

Tillerson To Travel With Trump. [Reuters](#) (11/2) reports the State Department said Thursday

that Secretary Tillerson will visit Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam, the Philippines and Burma as part of President Trump's trip to Asia. In a statement, the Department said Tillerson would represent Trump at the East Asia Summit in Manila before traveling to Burma.

US Bombers Fly Over Korean Peninsula; Kelly Warns Of Missile Advancements. [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/2) reported that ahead of President Trump's Asia trip, the US Air Force has flown two B-1 bombers over the Korean peninsula. The "show of force" comes as White House Chief of Staff Kelly is "hinting" North Korea has made progress in their weapons program. CNN showed Kelly saying, "The American people should be concerned about a state that has developed a pretty good ICBM capability and is developing a pretty good nuclear re-entry vehicle."

Administration Dubs Region "Indo-Pacific." The [AP](#) (11/2, Pennington) reports President Trump "isn't just remaking American foreign policy in Asia by tearing up trade deals and getting tough on North Korea. His administration is giving the region a whole new name." For decades, the region has been referred to in Washington as the "Asia-Pacific," but "White House officials and even the president himself are steering clear of that term" and using "Indo-Pacific" instead. The AP notes McMaster "used it repeatedly when he previewed" the President's trip on Thursday.

Trump To Visit Pacific Military Command In Hawaii. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/2, Hennigan) reports that two days after the Navy "blamed sloppy seamanship and navigational blunders for two 'avoidable' collisions at sea that killed 17 sailors this summer," President Trump departs today for Hawaii to visit the "troubled" Pacific Command. Trump will receive a briefing at command headquarters in Honolulu and visit the battleship Arizona memorial at Pearl Harbor before he leaves for his first official visit to Asia.

US Geological Survey

Walrus Threatened After U.S. Declines To List As Endangered.

[NPR](#) (11/2, Raphelson) reports that "walrus are facing a 'death sentence' after the Trump administration declined last month to list the Pacific walrus as endangered, according to the Center for Biological Diversity." The center, "which took legal action starting in 2008 to get walrus on the list, says the White House's decision puts the species in a dire state as it confronts the effects of climate change." Chad Jay, who leads the walrus research program at the U.S. Geological Survey Alaska Science Center, says that walrus are confronting a loss of their habitat due to sea ice melt. Jay says, "The sea ice model projections indicate that the sea ice decline is going to continue through the end of the century, so a good deal of their habitat is still going to be lost in the future. It's really hard to say how well they're going to deal with that as conditions get worse." While the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "acknowledged sea ice is declining due to climate change, it said the Pacific walrus is not 'in danger of extinction for the foreseeable future,' suggesting walrus will likely be able to adapt to their changing environment."

State Officials Want Earthquake Early Warning System Funded.

The [Pasadena \(CA\) Weekly](#) (11/2, Coleman) reports that "in a letter to Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney, 34 members of Congress, including Adam Schiff (D-Burbank), urged the Trump administration to include funding for the continued development and operation of the West Coast Earthquake Early Warning System (EEW) in the 2019 budget." The lawmakers wrote in the Oct. 31 letter, "To follow through on the funding made by the federal government, as well as growing commitment from states and the private sector, it is critical that this program be fully funded at \$16.1 million annually so the West Coast will be prepared for the next catastrophic earthquake. This technology will save lives and reduce the economic impact of an earthquake; it simply needs to be properly funded."

Additional Reading.

- ***USGS Threat Rankings Of Haleakala, Hawai'i Volcanoes.*** [Maui \(HI\) Now](#) (11/2).
- ***Great Salt Lake's California 'Sister' Shows Lingering Impacts Of Water Use.*** [Ogden \(UT\) Standard-Examiner](#) (11/1, Larsen).
- ***USGS Records Trio Of Quakes In Area.*** [Enid \(OK\) News & Eagle](#) (11/2, Rains).

Opinion Pieces

Ryan Zinke Is Erasing ‘Public’ From Lands He’s Meant To Guard.

In an op-ed for the [Seattle Times](#) (11/2, Krupp), Chris Krupp, who works for WildEarth Guardians, claims that “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s actions show his priority is to fossil-fuels companies and whether they will be able to profitably access the public lands they’ve long relied on for cheap natural resources.” Krupp criticizes the proposal to raise entrance fees at the 17 most popular national parks, the decision to rescind the federal moratorium on coal leases on public land, and the move to repeal “an Obama administration rule that ended a scam coal, oil and gas companies had long relied on to make deceitfully small royalty payments to the federal treasury.” In Krupp’s view, “when Zinke talks of improving public access to federal lands, he has an extremely narrow subset of the public in mind.”

National Parks For The 1 Percent.

In his column for the [New York Times](#) (11/3, Egan), Timothy Egan criticizes the plan to raise fees at national parks because it would “make it prohibitively expensive for many to enter the most popular national parks.” As “a birthright of citizenship,” Egan asserts that “all national parks should be free, like the great museums of Washington.” He argues that “we should care for these special places with a budget commensurate to their value, treating them like the huge income generators they are, producing \$34 billion to local businesses.”

Four Dams In The West Are Coming Down — A Victory Wrapped In A Defeat For Smart Water Policy.

In an op-ed for the [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/2, Leslie), Jacques Leslie writes that “when a top Interior Department official acknowledged recently that the Trump administration wouldn’t try to block removal of four hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River, he signaled a monumental victory for local Native American tribes, salmon fishermen and the national dam removal movement.” However, “this development is less momentous than it would have been in 2015, when dam removal was just one component of a broad plan for the Klamath Basin, which straddles the California-Oregon border.” Leslie points out that, “the dams are going to come down, but no water-sharing plan will accompany their removal.” As a result, “the ranchers and farmers in the Upper Klamath Basin, where Republican voters predominate, will not have a reliable source of irrigation water.”

Additional Reading.

- *Zinke Is Right To Explore New Ways To Prevent Forest Fires.* [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (11/2, Hartman).
- *Don’t Let Secretary Zinke Dismantle Sage Grouse Conservation Plans.* [AmmoLand](#) (11/2, Evans).
- *Raising National Park Gate Fees Will Punish Those Who Live Nearby.* [Modesto \(CA\) Bee](#) (11/2).
- *Keep National Parks Affordable.* [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (11/2).
- *A \$70 Fee To Enter National Parks Is Ludicrous.* [Olympian \(WA\)](#) (11/2).
- *Editorial: Fee Increase Would Do Little To Aid National Parks.* [Everett \(WA\) Herald](#) (11/2).
- *National Parks Need A Fix-up: Proposed Fee Increases Are A Good Investment For Overdue Projects.* [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (11/2).
- *Funt: Fix The Parks, Not The Fees.* [Lakeland \(FL\) Ledger](#) (11/3, Funt).
- *Keep National Parks Affordable.* [California Aggie](#) (11/2).
- *Retiring Marine Going The Distance For Public Lands.* [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (11/2, Seymour).
- *Glacier Park Maintenance Requires Action.* [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (11/2, Cuffe).
- *Saving Wilderness From The Land Grabbers.* [San Luis Obispo \(CA\) New Times](#) (11/2, Hewes).
- *Value Of Wild Places.* [Cedar Springs \(MI\) Post](#) (11/2, Mueller).
- *Our View: Tribe Must Take More Control Of Tourist Trade.* [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (11/2).
- *A Letter To The Secretary Of Interior: It’s Wrong To Remove Klamath Dams.* [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (11/3, Linthicum).

Top National News

Trump Calls House GOP Tax Plan “A Big Beautiful Christmas Present” To Taxpayers.

Coverage of the House Republican tax plan unveiled Thursday paints the plan as primarily reducing taxes on corporations and the wealthy, but also offering some benefits to the middle class. It would also markedly increase the federal deficit. Reports highlight Republican divisions over some aspects of the measure, with less focus on the expected Democratic opposition.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/2, lead story, 4:00, Muir) opened with the “new tax plan unveiled today by President Trump and House Republicans, and the President’s promise that it will be law by Christmas.” ABC’s Mary Bruce: “A beaming President Trump today welcomed the sweeping new Republican tax bill with a smooch, and a holiday promise to the American people.” Trump: “We are giving them a big beautiful Christmas present in the form of a tremendous tax cut.” Bruce: “On the Hill, it looked like Christmas morning for many House Republicans.” House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady: “This is the beginning of the end of this horrible tax code in America.” Bruce: “The number of tax brackets drops from seven to just four. A family making up to \$90,000 would pay 12%; up to \$260,000, 25%; up to \$1 million, 35%; while the wealthiest Americans would still pay the same rate as they do now, 39.6%. ... The plan also offers some big potential breaks for the rich, including repealing the estate tax after six years.” Senate Minority Leader Schumer: “They’re doing tax giveaways to the wealthy and the powerful, and telling the middle class, ‘Take a hike, you’re on your own, baby.’”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (11/2, lead story, 2:45, Holt) also opened with the story, reporting, “With great fanfare, Republicans in Congress announced their plans to dramatically overhaul the US tax code today – a business-friendly blueprint for tax cuts that also carries a promise to lower the tax bite on middle-income families.” NBC’s Kasie Hunt: “Trump and Republicans in Congress today rolling out the biggest rewrite of the tax code in a generation, racing to pass a bill that will affect every American family.” Trump: “This is a middle-income tax reduction.” Hunt: “But it’s not necessarily that clear-cut. The bill slashes the corporate tax rate from 35 to 20. It eliminates the estate tax, helping wealthy Americans, and it ends deductions that many families rely on for medical expenses, student loans and state and local taxes.”

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/2, story 3, 2:55, Mason), Nancy Cordes reported, “Democrats noted that the GOP proposal would also eliminate deductions for student loans and medical expenses, and it would slice the mortgage deduction cap for new homes in half, from \$1 million to \$500,000.” House Minority Leader Pelosi: “What they give you with one hand, they take away with the other.”

Trump said on [Fox News’ Ingraham Angle](#) (11/2), “They are big tax cuts – the biggest tax cuts in the history of our country. We have reform and we have simplification. ... We really have had tremendous receptivity to it to a point that I don’t think I have seen anything like it.” [Reuters](#) (11/2) reports that National Economic Council Director Cohn said at the Economic Club of Washington that the President supports the plan. Cohn said, “The bill that the House has delivered today...is a bill that the President can support. If it delivers middle class tax relief and a 20% corporate tax rate and it shows up on his desk, I can guarantee he’s going to sign it.”

Asked on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (11/2) if it is realistic to expect that the bill will be signed by Christmas, Brady said, “I believe it is, and here’s why: We’ve worked six years towards this moment, held hundreds of town halls around the country. ... The American people are sick of the current tax code.” Asked why it is necessary to “jam it through so quickly and secretly,” Brady said, “The House Republican tax reform plan was introduced a year ago. The President’s plan working with us, three months ago. We’ve incorporated in this more than 50 lawmakers’ ideas. We consulted and they’ve consulted with their families and businesses all the way along.”

The [AP](#) (11/2, Fram, Gordon) says the plan “would touch virtually all Americans and the economy’s every corner, mingling sharply lower rates for corporations and reduced personal taxes for many with fewer deductions for home-buyers and families with steep medical bills.” The measure “is the product of a party that faces increasing pressure to produce a marquee legislative victory of some sort before next year’s elections.” [Bloomberg News](#) (11/2, Wasson, Kapur) reports that the plan “is estimated to add \$1.49 trillion to the deficit over a decade – just fitting in under the amount allowed under the congressional budget adopted last week.”

[USA Today](#) (11/2, Jackson) reports that while “Republican leaders touted savings for the average family and said lower rates and new write-offs for businesses would spur job creation,” Republicans from New Jersey and New York “were angered their states would be hurt by the elimination of the deduction for state income taxes and a new cap on the deduction for property taxes,” and “some groups on the conservative end of the spectrum were sounding alarms” over the deficit and “a corporate tax provision aimed at overseas companies selling products into the United States that could raise costs for consumers.”

The [New York Times](#) (11/2, Tankersley, Kaplan, Rappoport) says the bill “includes several

land mines that could complicate its passage," including the limits on the mortgage interest deduction and the state and local tax deduction. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/2, Rubin) reports that while most Republicans rallied behind the measure, some expressed skepticism or called for revisions. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/2, Peterson, Hughes) says in another item that groups like the Club for Growth, the National Association of Realtors, and the National Federation of Independent Business offered criticism.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/2, Paletta, Debonis) says the bill's "true impact on the middle class will be difficult to immediately measure. The bill would create a new 'Family Credit' and expand the child tax credit used by working families," and "would nearly double the standard deduction that many Americans claim on their taxes, raising it from \$12,700 to \$24,000 per family. But this benefit would be partially offset by the personal exemption many Americans can claim."

Before the measure was unveiled, Senate Minority Whip Durbin said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (11/2), "There is an element of political desperation here. Here we are at the end of the calendar year. I can count on one hand, maybe three fingers, what we've done substantively in the United States Senate during the course of this year. ... Now there's a desperate effort to get something done before the end of the year."

Sen. Elizabeth Warren said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (11/2), "If they really wanted to sit down and write a tax proposal that would help middle-income families, I would be all on this. ... This is a tax proposal that will raise taxes on some people who are middle-class." Warren said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (11/2), "What's happening right now is the Republicans are saying, 'Let's give \$2 trillion to giant corporations,' and then when it blows a hole in the debt, which we know it will do, they come back in a year, two years and say, 'Gee, really, really sorry, but we're going to have to cut Medicare, going to have to cut Medicaid, going to have to make cuts in all the investments here in America.'"

The [New York Times](#) (11/2) editorializes, "With their new bill that would slash taxes on the wealthy and blow up the federal budget deficit, House Republicans and President Trump are making it absolutely clear whom they are working for – the top 1 percent – and whom they consider dispensable. Well, that's pretty much everybody else." The bill "contained multibillion-dollar gifts for corporations, Wall Street titans and rich families," with "a few peanuts thrown at lower-income and middle class families."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/2) editorializes, "Republicans promised Americans a smart, careful tax reform that would simplify the code without adding a penny to the debt. The bill that House Republicans released Thursday betrays that promise. It also betrays the nation's children, and their children, who would eventually have to pay for this big, unpaid-for tax cut that the country does not need." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/2) says in an editorial that the bill fails to mirror the 1986 tax reforms, offering needed pro-growth reforms but also making parts of the individual tax code worse.

The [New York Times](#) (11/2, Cohen) writes that "economists are divided over whether the plan is likely to revitalize the economy or merely bestow a windfall on the wealthiest investors," and the [Washington Post](#) (11/2, Long) writes that among the plan's "winners" are "big corporations," "the super-rich," and "edge funds, doctors and lawyers," while the "losers" include "people in high-tax blue states," "the working poor," and "charities." The [Washington Post](#) (11/2, Long) reports that budget experts say the measure "jeopardizes what could otherwise be one of the great legacies of Republican-controlled government: fixing the US tax code and improving the economy." Maya MacGuineas of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget said, "I do think this is a sensible framework. It emphasizes the need for corporate reforms and how our tax system works. But this is still a deficit-exploding tax cut at a time when the deficit is at near-record levels." [Politico](#) (11/2, Faler) also reports on the broad outlines of the plan.

New Yorker Analysis: Trump Would Benefit From Tax Plan. The [New Yorker](#) (11/2, Cassidy) reports that "Donald Trump himself" would benefit from the changes. According to Trump's 2005 tax return, "parts of which were leaked earlier this year, he paid \$38.4 million in federal taxes on income of \$152.7 million. ... If this tax bill had already been in effect, Trump would have seen his tax bill reduced by more than eighty per cent." He also "stands to be a big beneficiary of the new flat rate on pass-through income" and "the abolition of the estate tax."

Plan Caps Property Deduction At \$10,000, Limits Mortgage Deduction. [USA Today](#) (11/2, Jackson) reports that the proposed "sweeping overhaul of the tax code" would "cap the deduction for property taxes at \$10,000 and preserve the mortgage interest deduction only for existing mortgages and new purchases with loans of \$500,000 or less." Brady said the change "was being made to drive tax relief to middle income families, but it also will go to offset lower corporate

rates that sponsors believe will spur the economy and job creation." The [New York Times](#) (11/2, Dougherty) says that in taking of "the deduction of interest on mortgage debt," the plan "takes aim at the most sacred of cows."

Child Tax Credit Would Be Expanded, Child Care Pre-Tax Benefit Eliminated. [McClatchy](#) (11/2, Wise) reports, "Working parents would no longer be able to use pre-tax money to help pay for child care" under the plan, though it "would increase another per-child tax credit from \$1,000 to \$1,600 and add a new \$300 credit for each parent and non-child dependent in a household, such as a grandparent." [Politico](#) (11/2, Cook) notes that the plan includes one of Ivanka Trump's "pet issues – the child tax credit – but expands it less generously" than she "had hoped."

Plan Expands American Opportunity Tax Credit. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/2, Mitchell) reports that the plan would increase aid available under the American Opportunity Tax Credit, which helps defray higher-education costs. Students can collect a credit of up to \$2,500 a year or an annual tax refund of up to \$1,000 for a maximum of four years. The GOP plan would add a fifth year credit of up to \$1,250 or a maximum refund of \$500.

Plan Eliminates \$7,500 Electric Vehicle Credit. [Reuters](#) (11/2, Shepardson) reports that the plan eliminates a \$7,500 tax credit for electric vehicles "that could hurt automakers like General Motors Co, Tesla Inc and Nissan Motor Co that are selling larger numbers of vehicles."

Trump Tells Senators To Leave Dreamer Protections Out Of Year-End Spending Bill.

In a meeting with GOP senators Thursday, President Trump rejected including language addressing the status of "dreamers" in a must-pass year-end spending bill. The [Washington Post](#) (11/2, O'Keefe) reports that in doing so, Trump "rais[ed] the stakes for year-end negotiations that could force a government shutdown or finally resolve an emotionally fraught element of immigration policy." Trump's request "could set up a high-stakes spending showdown in early December if GOP leaders don't take up immigration legislation beforehand," as Democrats have threatened to withhold their support for the spending legislation if Congress does not pass legal protections for "dreamers." [Politico](#) (11/2, Kim) says that if Trump maintains that stance, "it will increase the odds of a government shutdown, as Republican leadership will almost certainly need a large chunk of votes from Democrats to keep the government open."

[The Hill](#) (11/2, Bolton) reports that Sen. David Perdue and other Republicans at the meeting "said Trump was 'emphatic' about keeping the immigration bill separate from the year-end spending bill." [Bloomberg News](#) (11/2, Litvan, John) reports that Trump "said he wants Congress to adopt separate border security legislation that includes an extension of the immigrant protections established under President Barack Obama known as the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA."

Trump: Ending Chain Migration Will Be Part Of DACA Deal. [Reuters](#) (11/2) reports that President Trump told [Fox News' Ingraham Angle](#) Thursday that ending chain migration will be part of any legislation to address "dreamers." Trump said, "Yes it will be part of a DACA deal. ... I don't think any Republican would vote for anything having to do with leaving chain migration. Chain migration is a disaster for this country and it's horrible."

Trump: US Will Have "A Great Wall" For "\$18 Billion Or Less."

President Trump said on [Fox News' Ingraham Angle](#) (11/2), "We are going to have a wall. ... First of all, they say the wall is going to cost \$40 billion. It won't cost anywhere near that. ... We are talking about less than half. ... I think for \$18 billion or less, we are going to have a great wall. We are doing prototypes right now. We are going to make the choice."

Trump Nominates Powell To Replace Yellen As Fed Chair.

President Trump announced Thursday that he has nominated Fed Governor Jerome Powell to replace Janet Yellen as Federal Reserve chair. The [AP](#) (11/2, Crutsinger) reports that Powell, "who has backed Yellen's cautious approach to interest rate hikes," is "seen as a safe pick whose selection will likely assure investors hoping for continuity at the central bank." To the [New York Times](#) (11/2, Swanson, Appelbaum), while Powell "is expected to stay the course on monetary policy if the economy continues its steady growth," it is "less certain" where he "would lead the Fed if the economy falters."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (11/2, story 3, 0:20, Holt) reported that this marks "the first time in decades a new president has not renominated a sitting Fed chair for another term." Similarly, [Reuters](#) (11/2, Schneider, Mason) says that by denying Yellen a second term, Trump broke with precedent, but casts his selection of Powell as a signal of "a continuation of her cautious monetary policies." Powell has supported Yellen's "direction on monetary policy and, in recent

years, shar[ed] her concerns that weak inflation justified a continued cautious approach to raising interest rates." [USA Today](#) (11/2, Davidson) says Powell "is likely to maintain the Fed's strategy of gradual interest rate hikes but may be open to easing some regulations on banks."

[Politico](#) (11/2, Guida, White) says Trump "has made a habit of jettisoning anything associated with the Obama administration, and the Fed became no different." Nonetheless, he praised Yellen as "a wonderful woman who has done a terrific job." [Bloomberg News](#) (11/2, Jacobs, Talev, Olorunnipa) reports that Trump considered renominating Yellen, according to "people close to him." However, "people familiar with the matter" said that Treasury Secretary Mnuchin "wielded outsized influence as Trump deliberated on the Fed" and he "favored Powell." Mnuchin's stance even "bested that of Vice President Mike Pence, who urged Trump to make a more dramatic change of direction at the Fed by nominating Stanford University economist John Taylor, a favorite of conservatives across Washington."

A front-page story in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/2, Timiraos, Harrison) says Powell's career indicates he will be a Fed chairman like Yellen and former chairman Ben Bernanke, meaning his Fed will be similar to those since former chairman Alan Greenspan retired in 2006. The Journal adds that the markets, which eschew uncertainty, would welcome that consistency. Greg Ip writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/2) describes Trump's choice of Powell as a gamble because he is changing Fed chairs at a time when unemployment is low, the economy is growing, and the stock market is posting records. However, Ip adds that Powell appears to be a safe bet because, of all the people Trump considered for the job, Powell's positions are closest to Yellen's.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (11/2), Scott Sumner, an emeritus professor of economics at Bentley University and director of the Program on Monetary Policy at the Mercatus Center, writes that while Trump's choice of Powell "can be seen as a vote for continuity," there are "a few reasons to be concerned about his appointment." Sumner points out that Powell is a lawyer, not an economist, like the past four Fed chairs. In addition, Powell "believes the Fed should focus not just on macroeconomic stability, but should also try to prevent financial market excesses," a position many economists are skeptical. Nonetheless, Sumner writes that he expects Powell "to do fine in the near future" as "the real danger occurs at the extremes of high inflation or a deep recession," when "a deep understanding of monetary policy is most essential. A job as important as Fed chair should be given only to the most highly qualified individuals."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/2) says in an editorial that while it would have preferred to see Yellen renominated, Powell "is a good choice – and by far the best non-Yellen option floated," while a [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/2) editorial expresses concern about Powell's ability to manage the next financial crisis given that his years on the Fed board have been relatively turmoil-free.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/2, Lee) reports that Powell is likely to "face an immediate test as stronger economic growth exerts greater pressure on the central bank to step up the pace of interest rate hikes." Trump has expressed a desire to keep rates low, and Powell "has shown he is in no hurry to raise rates." However, amid a strengthening economy and high stock prices, he "soon could find himself in the uncomfortable position of having to build consensus around making more rapid rate increases, seldom a popular or easy thing to do."

Trump Says He Does Not Get Enough Credit For The Economy. President Trump was asked on [Fox News' Ingraham Angle](#) (11/2) if he is getting enough credit for the "economic revival." Trump said, "I am in here now 10 months and we are setting record after record, day after day. I think we hit another one today. No, I am not getting enough credit for it because a lot of the reason is enthusiasm level and the fact they cut regulations to the extent that I have cut them."

Stocks Finish Mixed. The [AP](#) (11/2, Jay) reports that stocks posted mixed results Thursday. The Dow climbed 81.25 points to a record 23,516.26, and the S&P 500 added 0.49 points to close at 2,579.85, while the Nasdaq ended the day 1.59 lower at 6,714.94. The [New York Times](#) (11/2, Hsu) says the major indexes "initially plunged as lawmakers circulated a set of talking points covering the House's highly anticipated \$1.51 trillion package on Thursday morning," but "recovered by midday." The Times adds that the GOP's "proposed caps on the popular mortgage-interest deduction" sent "shares in home-building companies lower."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"A Tax Plan For A New Gilded Age." The [New York Times](#) (11/2) editorializes, "With their new bill that would slash taxes on the wealthy and blow up the federal budget deficit, House Republicans and President Trump are making it absolutely clear whom they are working for – the

top 1 percent – and whom they consider dispensable. Well, that’s pretty much everybody else.” The bill “contained multibillion-dollar gifts for corporations, Wall Street titans and rich families,” with “a few peanuts thrown at lower-income and middle class families.”

“Mayor De Blasio Has Earned A Second Term.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (11/2) endorses New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio for reelection, saying he “has been an able mayor who can point to an impressively low crime rate, sound municipal finances and progress on revivifying schools and on creating reasonably priced apartments.” The election will be held on Nov. 7.

“Catalonia Tottering.” A [New York Times](#) (11/2) editorial says that if Catalan parties “are in fact prepared to participate in a new regional election,” Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy “should display magnanimity by apologizing for the behavior of the police on Oct. 1 and pledging greater respect for Catalan national yearnings. The crisis has done great damage to Spain and Catalonia, and the sooner the mending can start, the better.”

Washington Post.

“Republicans Break Their Promise On Tax Reform.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/2) editorializes, “Republicans promised Americans a smart, careful tax reform that would simplify the code without adding a penny to the debt. The bill that House Republicans released Thursday betrays that promise. It also betrays the nation’s children, and their children, who would eventually have to pay for this big, unpaid-for tax cut that the country does not need.”

“Can Hamas And The Palestinian Authority Reconcile In Gaza? Be Skeptical.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/2) editorializes that a recent reconciliation agreement between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority “demands a healthy dose of skepticism: Half a dozen previous unification pacts between the two movements have broken down since their violent split a decade ago, and the most difficult questions about this one have yet to be tackled.” The Administration “has taken a cautious interest in the ongoing negotiations between the Palestinian factions, rightly insisting that Hamas disarm and recognize Israel before it joins a unity government. Were that to happen,” the Post argues that there “might be a genuine opening for a peace process.”

“Trump’s Fed Pick Is Incredibly Important. And He Made A Good Call.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/2) says in an editorial that while it would have preferred to see Fed Chair Janet Yellen renominated, Fed Governor Jerome Powell “is a good choice – and by far the best non-Yellen option floated.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Half A Tax Reform.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/2) says in an editorial that the Republican tax reform bill fails to mirror the 1986 tax reforms, offering needed pro-growth reforms but also making parts of the individual tax code worse.

“Mnuchin Gets His Man.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/2) editorial expresses concern about Fed Governor Jerome Powell’s ability to manage the next financial crisis given that his years on the Fed board have been relatively turmoil free.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Republicans Stick With Big Corporate Tax Cuts In House Bill](#)
[Winners And Losers Of Republican Tax Plan](#)
[Prosecutors Weigh Charging Russians Over DNC Hacking](#)
[Mr. Ordinary: Who Is Jerome Powell, Trump’s Federal Reserve Pick?](#)
[US Considers Suit Against AT&T’s Deal For Time Warner](#)

New York Times:

[Republican Plan Delivers Permanent Corporate Tax Cut](#)
[‘Major, Major’ Tax Cut May Not Be In Store For Middle Class](#)
[Trump And Sessions Denied Knowing About Russian Contacts. Records Suggest Otherwise.](#)
[Islamic State Claims Responsibility For Lower Manhattan Terrorist Attack](#)
[Robert Mercer, Bannon Patron, Is Leaving Helm Of \\$50 Billion Hedge Fund](#)
[Trump’s Female Accusers Feel Forgotten. A Lawsuit May Change That.](#)

[The Mayor Sought Money, A Donor Sought Access: Both Said "Yes"](#)
[China's Newest Film Festival Tests The Limits Of Independence](#)

Washington Post:

[A Familiar Fear Of Backlash For Muslims In One NJ City](#)
[In Besieged Syria, Health Of Ill Children Worsens](#)
[Trump Remarks May Snag NY Trial](#)
["A Sensible Framework" — But "Still A Deficit-Exploding Tax Cut" For The Rich](#)
[GOP Unveils Sweeping Tax Overhaul](#)

Financial Times:

[Trump Choice Of Powell Is A Vote For Continuity](#)
[Republicans Risk Backlash With Sweeping US Tax Reform](#)
[Italy's Berlusconi Back On Campaign Trail Ahead Of Sicily Poll](#)
[Bank Of England Lifts Rates For First Time In A Decade](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump, House Republicans Optimistic About Speedy Approval Of Proposed Tax Cuts](#)
[At Current Pace, Democrats Can Draw Out Debate For 8 Weeks On Trump's Circuit Court Nominees](#)
[Republicans Cut Tax Break For NFL, Let Churches Pick Sides In Political Elections](#)
[Top Figures Caught Up In 'Weinstein Effect' At Liberal News Outlets](#)
[Brazile Says She Found DNC Deep In Debt From Obama, Controlled By Clinton A Year Before Nomination](#)
[Trump's Choice Of Powell As Chairman Signals Steady Policy At Federal Reserve](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Tax Reform Plan; Colorado Walmart Shooting; Russia Meddling Investigation; NYC Truck Attack; Niger US Casualty Investigation; Family Organ Transplant; New Jersey-Police Violence; Kevin Spacey Sexual Harassment; Alabama-Kidnapped Victim; Fire Extinguisher Recall; Pyramid-Hidden Space Found; World Series.

CBS: Niger US Casualty Investigation; Weinstein Sexual Harassment; Tax Reform Plan; NYC Truck Attack; White House-NYC Attack, Russia Meddling; Trip Advisor Review Deleting; Health-Heart Stents; Colorado Walmart Shooting; Fire Extinguisher Recall; World Series.

NBC: Tax Reform Plan; Russia Meddling Investigation; Federal Reserve Appointment; Colorado Walmart Shooting; NYC Truck Attack; Russia Meddling Investigation-Social Media; Trip Advisor Review Deleting; Health-Umbilical Cord Use; Fire Extinguisher Recall; Pyramid-Hidden Space Found; Fall Colors; World Series.

Network TV At A Glance:

Tax Reform Plan – 9 minutes, 40 seconds
Russia Meddling Investigation – 9 minutes, 5 seconds
NYC Truck Attack – 6 minutes, 55 seconds
Colorado Walmart Shooting – 4 minutes, 5 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Tax Reform Plan; Trump-Twitter Account; Trump-Asia Trip; NYC Truck Attack; Wall Street News.

CBS: Tax Reform Plan; Federal Reserve Appointment; NYC Truck Attack; Navy Collisions Investigation; Wall Street News.

FOX: Tax Reform Plan; NYC Truck Attack; Trump-Twitter Account.

NPR: Tax Reform Plan; Federal Reserve Appointment; Russia Meddling Investigation; NYC Truck Attack; Colorado Walmart Shooting.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in a United States Pacific Command briefing in Aiea, HI; participates in a tour of the USS Arizona Memorial.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a series of briefings and demonstrations at the United

States Secret Service James J. Rowley Training Center.

US Senate: No public schedule announced.

US House: 9:00 AM House votes on CHAMPION Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including completion of consideration of ‘H.R. 3922 – Community Health And Medical Professionals Improve Our Nation Act of 2017’ Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

9:15 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on improving access to capital – Capital Markets, Securities, and Investment Subcommittee hearing on ‘Legislative Proposals to Improve Small Businesses’ and Communities’ Access to Capital’, with testimony from Metropolitan Transportation Authority of New York Director of Finance Patrick McCoy (on behalf of Government Finance Officers Association); University of Mississippi School of Law Lecturer and Professor Mercer Bullard; FS Investments Executive Vice President of Corporate Affairs Michael Gerber; Investment Company Institute CEO Paul Stevens; and U.S. Chamber of Commerce Center for Capital Market Competitiveness Executive Vice President Tom Quaadman Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

Other: 9:30 AM Brookings discussion on the opioid crisis – ‘Policy approaches to the opioid crisis’ Brookings Institution USC-Brookings Schaeffer Initiative for Health Policy conference on how public policy can address the opioid epidemic. Speakers include Democratic Rep. Ann McLane Kuster, economist Angus Deaton, and University of Michigan School of Public Health Health Management and Policy Assistant Professor Rebecca Haffajee Location: The Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> [#OpioidCrisis](https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst)

10:00 AM Freedom House / Global Americans discussion on democracy and human rights in Latin America – ‘Revisiting Latin America’s Foreign Policy Commitment to Democracy and Human Rights’ Freedom House / Global Americans discussion, to analyze the foreign policies of govts in the Americas and select countries of the Global South regarding democracy, human rights, social inclusion, and international norms. Includes keynote from Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Michael Fitzpatrick, and panelists Argentinian Ambassador to the OAS Juan Jose Arcuri, Satin Lucian Ambassador to the U.S. Anton Edmunds, Mexican Ambassador to the OAS Jorge Lomonaco, Peruvian Ambassador to the U.S. Carols Pareja, Paraguayan Ambassador to the U.S. German Rojas, Paraguayan Ambassador to the OAS Elisa Ruiz Diaz Barreiro, and Guyanese Ambassador to the U.S. Riyad Insanally Location: Freedom House, 1850 M St NW,

11:30 AM POLITICO Playbook Interview with GOP Rep. Kevin Brady – POLITICO Playbook Interview, with Republican Rep. Kevin Brady interviewed by POLITICO’s Anna Palmer and Jake Sherman Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.politico.com <https://twitter.com/POLITICOEvents>

2:00 PM ‘Preserving Public Broadcasting at 50 Years’ symposium at the Library of Congress – ‘Preserving Public Broadcasting at 50 Years’ symposium, hosted by Library of Congress and Boston public broadcaster WGBH to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the passage of the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967, with panels featuring pioneers and experts in public broadcasting. Speakers/participants include Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden, Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) President and CEO Patricia Harrison, American Archive of Public Broadcasting (AAPB) advisers Cokie Roberts and Democratic Sen. Ed Markey, former FCC chairman Newton Minow (via video), former FCC commissioner Nicholas Johnson, NPR co-founder Bill Siemerling, TV anchor Jim Lehrer, former TV host Dick Cavett, ‘Frontline’ creator David Fanning, and ‘Sesame Street’ co-creator Lloyd Morrisett Location: Library of Congress, James Madison Memorial Bldg, 101 Independence Ave SE, Washington, DC <http://www.loc.gov/homepage/lchp.html> <https://twitter.com/librarycongress>

Israeli American Council National Conference – Israeli American Council National Conference. Speakers include U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Amb. Nikki Haley Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place NW, Washington, DC www.israeliamerican.org <https://twitter.com/israeliamerican>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jennifer Lawrence: “I am your guest host for the night, Jennifer Lawrence. I am the fourth and final guest host of the week. Jimmy will be back on Monday, so until then, it is up to me to save

healthcare.”

Jennifer Lawrence: “Congratulations to the Astros. They not only won the championship, but a one-in-a-lifetime chance to turn down the visit to the White House.”

Stephen Colbert: “Today, [Congress] announced a \$1.5 trillion overhaul of the tax code, with major tax cuts to corporations and the rich. This is the biggest story! Or it would be, if we hadn’t just heard that Beyonce will be starring in the new ‘Lion King!’”

Stephen Colbert: “The President hasn’t taken [Steve] Bannon’s advice. Instead, he’s listening to friends like Newsmax exec Christopher Ruddy, who said of Bannon, ‘I like Steve, but his advice is not always the most helpful. Whatever Steve says, the President should do the opposite.’ So, be a black supremacist?”

Trevor Noah: [Referring to Russia meddling in 2016 elections using social media] “This is really depressing both for America and for Russian spies because in the old days, espionage meant using exploding pens and poisoned-tipped umbrellas. Now they have to use the same tools as your divorced aunt.”

Trevor Noah: “I’m sorry. Al Franken is hilarious. This guy is so funny, he should go do comedy.”

Seth Meyers: “Security researchers have reportedly discovered that recently indicted former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort used ‘bond007’ as one of his computer passwords. He also signed his checks, ‘From Russia with love.’”

Seth Meyers: “In an interview, Trump said he enjoys being President, and leaves the office late. In fact, he was supposed to only be there til May.”

Conan O’Brien: “President Trump tweeted, ‘Congratulations to the Houston Astros for winning the World Series.’ Yep. Trump said he’s so happy for the Astros, he’s only going to deport some of their players.”

Conan O’Brien: “Thinking of politics, the Republican tax plan came out today. And President Trump announced, ‘It will bring trillions of dollars to the US.’ He then said, ‘Specifically to three members of my cabinet.’”

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



DATE: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2017 6:00 AM EST

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DOI In The News

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- Washington Post: Watchdog Says Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Failed To Properly Document Travel.
- Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel: US Lands Open For Biz.
- U.S. News & World Report: Congress Debates Oil Drilling In Largest US Wildlife Refuge.
- U.S. News & World Report: Justice Department Won't Release National Monument Documents.
- Public News Service: Groups Call For Zinkes Commitment To Public Lands.
- Independent Journal Review: Int Sec Ryan Zinke Spent The Day In Moccasins And A Fashion Staple That Would Make George H.W. Bush Proud.

- NBC News: Drones Are Fighting Wildfires In Some Very Surprising Ways.
- WXPR-FM Rhinelander (WI): Wisconsin Trump Supporters: Hands Off Our Public Lands.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Tribes Hoping Overhaul Of BIA Regs Will Catalyze Deals.
- Tribes Make Renewed Push For Pipeline Protections.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Elko (NV) Daily Free Press: Kinross Earns First Sage-Grouse Conservation Credit.
- E&E Publishing: Bundy Would Have Received BLM Permit.
- Nevada Appeal: BLM Plans To Reseed Wildfire Affected Areas.
- U.S. News & World Report: 3 Injured In Plane Crash Near Wyoming Airport.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- House Energy Bill Promotes Offshore Wind Development.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Arizonan Confirmed As First Woman To Lead U.S. Bureau Of Reclamation.
- Spring Runoff, Late Rains Boost Reservoirs In New Mexico.

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

- Chemical Safety Board Scraps Recommendation On Offshore Safety.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- WTVY-TV Dothan (AL): Alabama Getting Additional \$33 Million In BP Oil Spill Settlement Funds.
- Alabama Live: Endangered Alabama Fish Expands Its Range After Dam Removal.

National Park Service

- U.S. News & World Report: Wounded Veterans Dive For History, Healing In Waters.
- San Jose (CA) Mercury News: In A U.S. First, Muir Woods To Require Reservations For All Cars.
- U.S. News & World Report: National Park Service Seeks Ways To Manage Non-Native Fish.
- Mount Desert (ME) Islander: Acadia To Take Over Lighthouse.
- Arizona Daily Sun: Park Service To Create New Fish Plan For Grand Canyon And Glen Canyon.
- U.S. News & World Report: Yellowstone Sees Fewer Visitors In Snowy October.
- Asheville (NC) Citizen-Times: Land Trust Conserves 127 Acres Bordering Smokies.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Saipan (MNP) Tribune: Robotics Kits Arrive In Yap.
- St. Croix Source: Echols Named Acting Superintendent As VINP Undergoes Changes.

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- High Plains and Midwest AG (KS) Journal: New Map Of Worldwide Croplands Supports Food And Water Security.
- Kallanish Energy News (UK): Additional Coverage: USGS: 40 Million Pounds Of Uranium In Southern High Plains.

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- America's Statue Wars Are A Family Feud.
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- Feds Must Bolster Resources To Eradicate Invasive Snakes: Our View.
- Worst Engineering Failure In U.S. History Made Us Safer.
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- Washington Times: Media Analyses: House Passes Sweeping Tax Reform Bill In Win For Trump, Ryan.
- NBC: Senate Panel To Investigate Franken After Sexual Harassment Accusations.
- CBS: White House: Trump Finds Moore Allegations "Troubling," But Fate Up To Alabama Voters.
- New York Times: US Strikes "More Conciliatory" Tone At Climate Talks.
- Associated Press: Keystone Pipeline Leaks Oil In South Dakota.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "A Tax Cut Bill To Make Scrooge McDuck Proud."
 - "The Da Vinci Lode."
- Washington Post.
 - "The Destructive Part Of The Republican Tax Bill You're Not Paying Attention To."
 - "Al Franken Is Just The Start Of Congress's Reckoning With Sexual Harassment."
 - "The Pentagon Has Detained A US Citizen For More Than Two Months – And Said Little."
- Wall Street Journal.
 - "A Solution For Ron Johnson."
 - "No Republicans Need Apply."
 - "Trump's South China Sea Message."

Big Picture

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Washington Schedule

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Last Laughs

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DOI In The News

US Reverses Ban On Elephant Trophies From Zimbabwe, Zambia.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/16, story 9, 0:20, Mason) reported the Fish and Wildlife Service is reversing an "Obama-era ban on elephant trophies" that will allow hunters to bring "elephant remains" into the US from Zimbabwe and Zambia. Animal protection groups argue that killing elephants for sport "could threaten an already endangered species," and [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/16, story 9, 0:25, Holt) said the move "has left many animal lovers and animal rights groups outraged," although a Fish and Wildlife spokesman "says that legal hunting in and management programs actually help species survive by putting much needed revenue back into conservation." [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (11/16) reported on the ban reversal while noting that Donald Trump Jr. has gone to Africa "many times to hunt" elephants and "defends it."

Also reporting are the [AP](#) (11/16, Biesecker), the [New York Times](#) (11/16, Chokshi), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/16, Pearce), [Reuters](#) (11/16, Malone), [Reuters](#) (11/16, Malone), [USA Today](#) (11/16, Diebel), [TIME](#) (11/16, Worland), [TIME](#) (11/17, Hincks), [NPR](#) (11/16, Wamsley), [Fortune](#) (11/16, Meyer), [Forbes](#) (11/16, Nace), [USA Today](#) (11/16), the [Huffington Post](#) (11/15, D'Angelo), the [Huffington Post](#) (11/17), [CNN](#) (11/15, Wallace), [NBC News](#) (11/16, EDELMAN, WELKER), [CBS News](#) (11/16, Tillett), and [CNBC](#) (11/16, Diebel).

White House Says Elephant Trophy Decision Not Yet Finalized. [Reuters](#) (11/16, Malone) reports that the White House on Thursday "said it had not yet finalized a decision to allow trophy hunters who kill elephants in two African countries to bring the endangered animals home as trophies, a move that had outraged U.S. conservation groups." The proposal, "disclosed this week by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, had triggered protests from conservation groups and a frenzy on social media." White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said, "There hasn't been an announcement that's been finalized on this front. Until that's done I wouldn't consider anything final."

Fox's Laura Ingraham Rips Trump For Ending Ban On Importing Elephant Trophies From Africa. [The Hill](#) (11/16, Savransky) reports that "Fox News' Laura Ingraham on Thursday ripped the decision by the Trump administration to lift the ban on importing elephant trophies from Africa." Ingraham tweeted Thursday morning, "I don't understand how this move by @realDonaldTrump Admin will not INCREASE the gruesome poaching of elephants. Stay tuned."

Trump Admin. Began Accepting Permits To Import Lion Trophies Last Month. [ABC News](#) (11/16, Ebbs) reports that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials "began issuing permits for lion trophies hunted in Zambia and Zimbabwe about a month ago." FWS officials "said the decision was made after concluding that regulated hunting would help the survival of the endangered species in the wild." An agency spokesperson "said they found that 'legal, well-regulated sport hunting' can benefit conservation by providing incentives to local communities and generating

revenue that can be directed to conservation programs, saying that the programs in Zambia and Zimbabwe will enhance the survival of the species in the wild."

Watchdog Says Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Failed To Properly Document Travel.

Interior Department Deputy Inspector General Mary Kendall told department officials this week that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "has failed to keep complete records – and in some cases kept none at all – of his travel since taking office," the [Washington Post](#) (11/16, Rein, Harwell) reports. In "a rare alert" to Zinke's office, Kendall "said her investigation into allegations of improper travel practices by Zinke has been stymied by 'absent or incomplete documentation for several pertinent trips.'" In addition, Kendall wrote that lawyers and ethics officials have not shown investigators that they can "distinguish between personal, political and official travel" or cost-analyses to justify Zinke's use of military or charter flights. The alert also says the IG is looking into "the travel of Zinke's wife, Lola, who often accompanied him on official trips." According to Kendall, the department's documentation was so deficient that investigators were unable to determine "the full extent" of her travel and how it was paid for.

The [AP](#) (11/16, Daly) reports that Deputy Interior Secretary David Bernhardt "said in a memo Thursday that travel procedures followed by previous Interior secretaries were "dysfunctional," adding that most of those policies and procedures remain in effect, 10 months into the Trump administration." Bernhardt "promised to turn over documents for all travel by the secretary in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, including at least 10 travel vouchers related to trips taken by former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell." He added that "the department also will provide information related to trips where Zinke's wife or Jewell's husband traveled in government-owned vehicles, watercraft or aircraft, and document whether payments were made or if reimbursements were required."

Also reporting are [The Hill](#) (11/16, Henry), [Bloomberg News](#) (11/16, Natter), [Reuters](#) (11/16, Gardner), [Politico](#) (11/16, Wolff), the [New York Daily News](#) (11/16, Sommerfeldt), [My Central Oregon](#) (11/16), [ABC News](#) (11/16, Ebbs), the [Huffington Post](#) (11/16, D'Angelo), and [The Week](#) (11/16, Lange).

US Lands Open For Biz.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (11/16, Hamilton) reports that "more than 250 people applauded" Kate MacGregor, acting assistant secretary for land and minerals management, "who came to Grand Junction on Thursday night with news that the federal government is dedicated to making federal lands welcome to energy development." MacGregor "outlined President Donald Trump's and U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's plans to remove roadblocks to mining and drilling." MacGregor said, "This Department of the Interior supports energy and mineral production in all of its many forms but recognizes where those raw materials come from. that's because one barrel of oil, one mcf of gas or one ton of coal produced here in this nation is better than one that we have to import. Under Secretary (Ryan) Zinke's leadership we are committed to serving as agents of change. We have been charged by this president to identify and eliminate the obstacles to development of these important resources."

Additional coverage was provided by [KKCO-TV](#) Grand Junction, CO (11/16, Prechtl).

Congress Debates Oil Drilling In Largest US Wildlife Refuge.

The [AP](#) (11/16, Joling) reports that Congressional Republicans are pushing for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge "with a projected \$1 billion from lease sales to help pay for President Donald Trump's proposed tax cut." The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Wednesday "advanced the drilling measure." Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski "says oil production later would bring in much more revenue."

Also reporting are [UPI](#) (11/16, Graeber), [Forbes](#) (11/16, Blackmon), and [Yale University \(CT\) Environment 360](#) (11/16, Wight).

Justice Department Won't Release National Monument Documents.

The [AP](#) (11/16, Ridler) reports that "documents possibly outlining legal justifications for President Donald Trump to shrink national monuments don't have to be provided to an Idaho environmental law firm because they're protected communications, federal officials say." The U.S. Department of Justice on Wednesday "asked a federal judge to dismiss a lawsuit from Advocates for the West seeking the information." The Justice Department "released more than 60 pages in May," but the agency "withheld 12 pages...contending they are protected by attorney-client privilege and intra-agency communication rules, making them exempt from Freedom of

Information Act requests.”

Groups Call For Zinke's Commitment To Public Lands.

[Public News Service](#) (11/17) reports that “on Thursday, a national coalition of sportsmen and women, recreation, business and conservation groups challenged Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to make good on his promises not to hand over public lands to states.” Also on Thursday, Zinke “announced the appointment of Brian Steed – a vocal proponent of transferring public lands to private interests – to head the Bureau of Land Management.” The article notes that “Zinke has also recommended removing national monument protections, claiming previous administrations over-reached their authority by limiting fossil-fuel development.”

Int Sec Ryan Zinke Spent The Day In Moccasins And A Fashion Staple That Would Make George H.W. Bush Proud.

[Independent Journal Review](#) (11/15, Fink) reports that on Wednesday, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “marked Native American Heritage Month by participating in #RockYourMocs.” Throughout the day, Zinke “experienced ‘beautiful craftsmanship’ and ‘rich culture’ and met with Indian Affairs Acting Secretary John Tahsuda II.” Zinke also “offered a statement of remembrance of Native American Veteran Michael Bell and was given a quilt his family made as a gift.”

Drones Are Fighting Wildfires In Some Very Surprising Ways.

[NBC News](#) (11/16, Baggaley) reports that aerial drones are “showing that they can detect, contain and even extinguish fires faster and with greater safety.” Drones “give firefighters a bird’s-eye view of the terrain and help them determine where a fire will spread – so they can make swift decisions about where fire crews should go and which residents need to be evacuated.” According to the article, “as fires raged across California last summer, dozens of helicopters were grounded.” Brad Koeckeritz, chief of the Interior Department’s unmanned aircraft systems division, said, “The drones provided an opportunity to gather intelligence at a time when we wouldn’t be able to gather it any other way.”

Wisconsin Trump Supporters: Hands Off Our Public Lands.

[WXPR-FM](#) Rhinelander, WI (11/16, Morrissey) reports that “a new survey shows Wisconsinites clearly disagree with President Donald Trump’s proposals to roll back federal protections on public lands.” According to the poll commissioned by Wisconsin for Public Lands, “while 68 percent of Wisconsin Trump voters approve of the job he’s doing, 69 percent don’t support selling off public lands for commercial development.” The article notes that “the poll by RABA Research showed similar sentiment among Trump supporters in Michigan, Ohio and Pennsylvania.” In fact, “large majorities of voters in all four states recommended instead that Trump create new national monuments, or leave the current monuments as they are today.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Tribes Hoping Overhaul Of BIA Regs Will Catalyze Deals.

[Law360](#) (11/16, Westney) reports that “the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ invitation for tribes to comment on the potential impact of updating the federal government’s regulations for doing business on Native American lands elicited stories of economic development deals hampered by red tape and calls to stop state governments from imposing taxes in Indian Country.” The article “looks at why and how tribes and tribal organizations say the so-called Indian Trader regulations need to be changed.”

Tribes Make Renewed Push For Pipeline Protections.

The [AP](#) (11/16, Nicholson) reports that on Wednesday the Standing Rock and Cheyenne River Sioux tribes made “a renewed push to bolster protections for their water supply while federal officials further study the potential impact of the recently completed Dakota Access oil pipeline.” The groups are requesting that the court reject arguments made by the Army Corps of Engineers and Energy Transfer Partners over the tribes’ proposals. Attorneys for the groups’ submitted documents that said, “neither (the company) nor the Corps even attempts to make the case that” the proposed protections “present any hardship to either of them, or that the public interest would be disserved.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Kinross Earns First Sage-Grouse Conservation Credit.

The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (11/16) reports that “the Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and Kinross Gold U.S.A. announced the first sage-grouse credit transaction under the Nevada Conservation Credit System program.” It is “expected to protect nearly 10,000 acres of primary sage-grouse habitat in northeastern Nevada.” It also “sets a precedent and is expected to make the process more efficient for landowners to participate in the CCS in the future.” Marci Todd, acting Nevada Director of the Bureau of Land Management, said, “This is an excellent example of partnership and stewardship by federal, state and private sector stakeholders to conserve sagebrush habitat. This is about working cooperatively and working smartly. The BLM is proud to be a part of this first-ever transaction under the Nevada Conservation Credit System.”

Bundy Would Have Received BLM Permit.

[E&E Publishing](#) (11/16, Yachnin) reports that “even after Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy had defied court orders and grazed his cattle illegally for nearly 15 years, the government would have given him a new grazing permit if he had only responded to repeated entreaties,” a Bureau of Land Management official testified Wednesday. Mary Jo Rugwell, “who served as BLM’s Southern Nevada District office manager from 2008 to 2011, said the agency tried to reach Bundy via local law enforcement, his spouse and letters to his home, all of which he ignored.” As their first witness, “federal prosecutors called Rugwell, who is now BLM’s Wyoming state director, to testify about her tenure in the office, including her decision in 2011 to initiate impoundment proceedings against Bundy’s cattle.”

BLM Plans To Reseed Wildfire Affected Areas.

The [Nevada Appeal](#) (11/16, Ranson) reports that the Bureau of Land Management gave “an overview to Churchill County Commissioners on Wednesday to reseed areas burned by several big fires in Churchill County during the summer.” Ken Collum, field manager for the Stillwater Field Office, Carson City District, “said the agency will rehabilitate the land through both drill and aerial seeding.” According to Collum, “drill seeding will occur on about 8,088 acres, and the aerial seeding over another 6,364 acres.”

3 Injured In Plane Crash Near Wyoming Airport.

The [AP](#) (11/16) reports that “three people suffered minor injuries in a plane crash near a Wyoming airport.” Bureau of Land Management Wyoming spokeswoman Kristen Lenhardt “says the people on board included a United States Geological Survey staff member, a member of the Rock Springs Grazing Association and a Bureau of Land Management ‘range technician.’”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

House Energy Bill Promotes Offshore Wind Development.

[North American Windpower](#) (11/16, Lillian) reports that the House Committee on Natural Resources recently “passed H.R.4239, the ‘Strengthening the Economy with Critical Untapped Resources to Expand American Energy Act,’ which promotes the further development of offshore wind power but also the exploration and production of oil and gas.” The legislation “reforms existing regulatory frameworks for energy development on the Outer Continental Shelf and the onshore acreage under federal ownership.” The article notes that “for offshore wind, the bill requires the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to conduct feasibility studies for offshore wind lease sales off the coasts of California, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

Arizonan Confirmed As First Woman To Lead U.S. Bureau Of Reclamation.

The [Arizona Republic](#) (11/16, Baietto) reports that Brenda Burman has been confirmed as the new commissioner of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. She is the first female to lead the agency.

Burman, “who was nominated for the post in June by President Donald Trump, was confirmed on a unanimous voice vote by the U.S. Senate on Thursday, according to the Senate record.”

Spring Runoff, Late Rains Boost Reservoirs In New Mexico.

The [AP](#) (11/17) reports that “federal water managers say good spring runoff and heavy rains in the fall helped to boost reservoir levels in New Mexico this year.” The Bureau of Reclamation “announced this week that the Rio Grande in 2017 marked its highest spring runoff since 2008.” According to officials, “the good flows allowed for the first time in four years a full allocation of water to those who depend on the San Juan-Chama project.”

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Chemical Safety Board Scraps Recommendation On Offshore Safety.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (11/16, Blum) reports that the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board has “opted to withdraw recommendations made in the aftermath of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon tragedy in the Gulf of Mexico” after the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement refused to enact the protections. The recommendations, put forth in 2016, “would have allowed oil rig employees to stop work in the event of safety concerns and provide them legal whistleblower protections against retaliation.” The head of the BSEE’s offshore regulatory program, Douglas Morris, “told the chemical safety board that it should instead work with industry groups such as the American Petroleum Institute and International Association of Drilling Contractors to develop voluntary guidelines for protecting offshore workers and whistleblower.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Alabama Getting Additional \$33 Million In BP Oil Spill Settlement Funds.

[WTVY-TV](#) Dothan, AL (11/16) reports that Alabama is “getting another \$33 million related to the BP oil spill settlement.” The funds will be “used for land acquisition, habitat restoration and preservation of coastal resources.” Among the new projects is the acquisition by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of “251 acres to be included within the ‘Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge.’”

Endangered Alabama Fish Expands Its Range After Dam Removal.

[Alabama Live](#) (11/16, Pillion) reports that “populations of the endangered vermilion darter have been found in new areas of Turkey Creek, near Pinson, upstream of where a dam was removed four years ago in an effort to expand the fish’s range.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “partnered with the Freshwater Land Trust to remove the nearly 100-year-old Shadow Lake dam in 2013, and this month confirmed the darters have expanded their range upstream of the old dam site.”

National Park Service

Wounded Veterans Dive For History, Healing In Waters.

The [AP](#) (11/17, Brean) reports that on WAVES, “short for Wounded American Veterans Experience Scuba, a California-based nonprofit that provides dive training to vets with service-connected injuries or disabilities.” According to the article, “seven members of the group spent the week at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, diving down to historic sites alongside a team from the National Park Service’s Submerged Resources Center.” The article notes that “it was the first outing in a new partnership between WAVES and the park service that will train wounded warriors to become scuba stewards for underwater resources at the nation’s parks.”

In A U.S. First, Muir Woods To Require Reservations For All Cars.

The [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (11/16, Rogers) reports that in an effort “to reduce traffic jams and overcrowding, Muir Woods National Monument will become the first national park unit in the United States to require reservations for all vehicles to enter the park year-round.” Park managers of “announced Thursday that starting Jan. 16 everybody who plans to bring a car to Muir Woods will need to book a reservation online or by phone.” Darren Brown, a transportation planner with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, which manages Muir Woods, said,

"Visitation has continued to increase. The problem is too many cars. It's extremely crowded and we can't handle as many cars that end up going there."

National Park Service Seeks Ways To Manage Non-Native Fish.

The [AP](#) (11/17) reports that the National Park Service is "looking for ways to manage non-native aquatic species in the Colorado River system below Glen Canyon Dam." The park service is "holding webinars and open houses over the next few weeks to solicit input from the public."

Acadia To Take Over Lighthouse.

The [Mount Desert \(ME\) Islander](#) (11/16, Good) reports that Acadia National Park Superintendent Kevin Schneider and Management Assistant John Kelly "met with Tremont selectmen Monday to discuss the transfer" of the Bass Harbor Head Light "to the park from the current owner, the U.S. Coast Guard." According to the article, "the Coast Guard's need for the property has been diminished, and the General Services Administration has been considering how to dispose of the lighthouse." The National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act allows the transfer of the lighthouse to the National Park Service.

Park Service To Create New Fish Plan For Grand Canyon And Glen Canyon.

The [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (11/16, Cowan) reports that the National Park Service is seeking "public input as it creates a plan for managing nonnative aquatic species in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and Grand Canyon National Park." The plan looks "to address increases in potentially harmful non-native fish like brown trout and green sunfish that have been documented since 2013."

Yellowstone Sees Fewer Visitors In Snowy October.

The [AP](#) (11/16) reports that Yellowstone National Park "recorded nearly 212,000 visits in October, down 12.4 percent from October 2016." The park "noted that snowy weather during the month may have contributed to the decline."

Land Trust Conserves 127 Acres Bordering Smokies.

The [Asheville \(NC\) Citizen-Times](#) (11/16, Chávez) reports that the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy has "purchased 147 acres bordering the Great Smoky Mountains National Park that will serve as prime habitat for elk and other wildlife." The land, "known as Stevens Creek, is a bowl-shaped pocket just outside the Cataloochee Valley area on the park's eastern edge." Carl Silverstein, the organization's executive director, "said the land trust hopes to partner with other land management agencies and reserves the right to transfer the land to another state or federal land management agencies such as the state wildlife commission."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Robotics Kits Arrive In Yap.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (11/17) reports that "robotics clubs at five high schools in Yap received VEX Classroom and Competition kits earlier this month, kicking off expansion of the popular Yap Robo League." Yap's Robo League was established in 2011 by the Unonprofit Hablele, and "itt is now expanding across that state through a pilot grant award by the Office of Insular Affairs." OIA director Nik Pula said, "We were inspired by the students from Yap who represented the Federated States of Micronesia this summer at the 2017 FIRST Global Challenge international robotics competition for high school students here in Washington, D.C. Through robotics, the Hablele Outer Island Education Fund has been promoting the broadening of students' experience in applying basic Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math skills in a positive, competitive, and hands-on way, and we are pleased to support expansion of this opportunity for more students in Yap."

Echols Named Acting Superintendent As VINP Undergoes Changes.

The [St. Croix Source](#) (11/16, Roberts) reports that when Hurricane Irma struck on Sept. 6, "much of the employee housing within Virgin Island National Park was severely damaged by either storm surge or high winds." According to the article, "within a matter of a few days, park rangers, resource managers, and even the deputy superintendent – the highest-ranking official in the VINP – received notice of mandatory evacuation and reassignment to other parks." However,

“some regular maintenance and administrative employees remained on the job, as did three law enforcement rangers, including Chief Ranger Rick Gupman who was named acting deputy superintendent.” Also, Darrell Echols “arrived on St. John Nov. 5 to serve as acting superintendent of the VINP.”

US Geological Survey

New Map Of Worldwide Croplands Supports Food And Water Security.

The [High Plains and Midwest AG \(KS\) Journal](#) (11/16) reports that “a map released Nov. 14 details croplands worldwide in the highest resolution yet, helping to ensure global food and water security in a sustainable way.” The study was “led by the USGS and is part of the Global Food Security-Support Analysis Data @ 30-m Project.” Prasad Thenkabail, USGS research geographer and Principal Investigator for the GFSAD30 Project Team, said, “The map clearly shows individual farm fields, big or small, at any location in the world. Given the high resolution of 30 meters and 0.09 hectares per pixel, a big advantage is the ability to see croplands in any country and sub-national regions, including states, provinces, districts, counties and villages.”

Additional Coverage: USGS: 40 Million Pounds Of Uranium In Southern High Plains.

Additional coverage that the U.S. Geological Survey “in a new report estimates 40 million pounds of uranium remains undiscovered in the Southern High Plains of Texas, New Mexico and Oklahoma” was provided by [Kallanish Energy News \(UK\)](#) (11/16) and the [Laredo \(TX\) Morning Times](#) (11/16, Hawes).

Opinion Pieces

National Monuments Have A Military Defense Mission, Too.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (11/16, Dowdy), Ian Dowdy, AICP, a program director for the non-partisan research-oriented Sonoran Institute, highlights “the important role that national monuments and public lands play for our country – particularly for national defense.” Dowdy argues that “national monuments serve as irreplaceable buffers on lands that are critical for military readiness,” as shown in a report “analyzing the role public lands in the West play in protecting the military mission” released by Sonoran Institute. The report showed “that the open and undeveloped landscape in the West is well suited for training activities.” Dowdy asks the Trump Administration to “recognize the often-overlooked benefits that national monuments and other protect lands provide to military training and readiness, among the many other considerations, before moving forward with boundary adjustments or other reductions to the effectiveness and scale of our nation’s protected lands.”

America’s Statue Wars Are A Family Feud.

Author Sarah Vowell opines in a 1223 word op-ed in the [New York Times](#) (11/16, Vowell) that the debate over which statutes to dismantle and which to keep could become increasingly more complex as time passes. Vowell recounts stories of American Indians who fought with the Confederacy and their own decisions regarding statutes of people from that era to put the debate in a new perspective. Vowell also mentions that controversial statues of Christopher Columbus may not have been erected with hateful intentions, but as symbols of civic pride for oppressed Italian-Americans.

The World’s Strongest Conservation Law Is Under Attack. It Needs To Be Fixed Instead.

Peter Alagona, “an associate professor of history, geography and environmental studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara,” and James Salzman, the Donald Bren Distinguished Professor of Environmental Law at the UCLA School of Law and UCSB’s Bren School of the Environment, assert in an op-ed in the [Washington Post](#) (11/16, Alagona, Salzman) that five bills currently in Congress that seek to weaken the Endangered Species Act would not “make the law more efficient or effective.” The two academics opine that “the fundamental political problem with the act is that its incentives don’t match its ethics,” and they propose shifting funds or providing “deductions for landowners who successfully enhance and maintain their habitat for endangered species.” The two conclude by declaring that “reform is not a binary choice between weakening the law or keeping the status quo. There is a better path.”

Feds Must Bolster Resources To Eradicate Invasive Snakes: Our View.

In an editorial, the [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (11/15) urges the federal government “to significantly ratchet up its efforts and its funding to eradicate the brown tree snake on Guam.” The paper says that “more money and resources need to be channeled into finding ways to eliminate the snake entirely from Guam, as well as the coconut rhinoceros beetle, little red fire ant and other pests.” It notes that the Office of Insular Affairs will “spend about \$2.8 million for brown tree snake eradication and control projects” this year, but “given the damage done by the snakes, that’s just not enough.”

Worst Engineering Failure In U.S. History Made Us Safer.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (11/16, Weste, Spragens), Santa Clarita mayor pro tem Laurene Weste and Association of State Dam Safety Officials executive director Lori Cannon Spragens discuss the Saint Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Act, explaining how the rupture of the St. Francis Dam in 1928 “brought about a new era of engineering oversight and methods for dam building across the nation.” Weste and Spragens mention that, “When the dam burst, Native Americans, agricultural farmworkers and Southern California Edison work crews were among those who perished in the path of destruction.”

Additional Reading.

- *A Barrier To Recovery From War.* [Moab \(UT\) Sun News](#) (11/16, Bricker).
- *Zinke Is A Clown Pretending To Be A Cowboy.* [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (11/16, Heinlein).
- *Administration Shrugs Off Public Process For Public Lands.* [Aspen \(CO\) Daily News](#) (11/16, Newman).
- *Park Service Budget Woes.* [Jamestown \(ND\) Sun](#) (11/16, Kuntz).
- *A National Park Fee Increase: The \$70 Land Grab.* [Boulder \(CO\) Weekly](#) (11/16, Malotky).
- *Honor Veterans By Maintaining National Parks.* [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (11/17, Perry).
- *Resume Health Study On Mining.* [Wheeling \(WV\) Intelligencer](#) (11/17).

Top National News

Media Analyses: House Passes Sweeping Tax Reform Bill In Win For Trump, Ryan.

Media analyses cast yesterday’s tax reform vote in the House as a significant win for both the President and Speaker Ryan, though nearly all reports warn that the measure faces a challenging path before it gets to Trump’s desk. The [Washington Times](#) (11/16, Dinan) says Republicans acted “with spines stiffened by a presidential pep talk,” as Trump met with the GOP caucus ahead of the 227-205 vote. According to the [Washington Post](#) (11/16, A1, Debonis, Paletta), his “parting words to Republicans” were: “I love you. Now go vote.” [USA Today](#) (11/16, Jackson) notes Rep. Tom Cole later said, however, that “Trump didn’t try to twist arms.” Said Cole, “There’s not a lot of people left to persuade. ... You’ve got a bunch of happy Republicans around here.” In fact, [The Hill](#) (11/16, Jagoda, Marcos) recounted, “once the bill reached the magic number for passage, Republicans in the chamber erupted into applause.” Democrats “mockingly joined in, with some singing ‘na na na na, hey hey, goodbye,’ like they did when the chamber passed an ObamaCare repeal bill earlier this year.”

All three major network newscasts reported the story. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/16, story 3, 2:35, Vega) offered a decidedly grim view of the legislation, calling the vote a “small victory” for Trump “on a bill that would add \$1.4 trillion to the deficit over ten years.” Also markedly unfavorable was the report on [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/16, story 3, 2:00, Welker), which said that “according to an NBC News analysis based on Mr. Trump’s leaked 2005 tax return, the House bill...would save the President more than \$20 million and his heirs could potentially save \$1.1 billion.” John Heilemann, “NBC News National Affairs Analyst,” was shown saying, “What they got to try to do is convince most Americans that this is not going to be just a sop to the wealthy, but it will help the middle class. That will be a hard sell given what’s in this bill.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/16, story 3, 2:25, Cordes), meanwhile, said “the ‘Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017’ shrinks the number of brackets from seven to four, lowering rates and eliminating some deductions,” and added that “the independent Tax Policy Center estimates that Americans who make between \$50,000 and \$90,000 a year would get an average tax cut next

year of about \$800.”

[Politico](#) (11/16, Bade, Bresnahan, Lorenzo) says the vote provided “a sorely needed legislative victory for...Trump,” as well as “for Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady and Ryan, who GOP sources joke has been dreaming of this moment since he was in diapers.” [Bloomberg News](#) (11/16, Edgerton) refers to “a key milestone in...Trump’s quest to cut taxes for businesses and individuals,” the [New York Times](#) (11/16, A1, Kaplan, Rappeport) to “a significant leap forward as Republicans seek to...deliver the first major legislative achievement of...Trump’s tenure,” the [Washington Post](#) (11/16, A1, Debonis, Paletta) to “a key win for...Trump and...Ryan,” and [USA Today](#) (11/16, Jackson) to “a victory for...Ryan,” who “predicted a tax bill would pass before Thanksgiving and needed to show his party could deliver on a major campaign promise.” Another [Politico](#) (11/16, Bresnahan) analysis concludes “Trump got a boost,” but “the biggest winner may be...Ryan,” a figure “loathed by the Breitbart wing of the Republican Party.”

[Reuters](#) (11/16, Morgan, Becker) calls the vote “an important step toward the biggest tax code overhaul since the 1980s,” but warns “the tax debate now moves to the US Senate, where that chamber’s separate plan has already encountered resistance from some Republicans.” The [AP](#) (11/16, Fram, Gordon) similarly cautions that “the mostly party-line...vote masked more ominous problems in the Senate,” and adds that “even so, Republicans are hoping to send a compromise bill for Trump to sign by Christmas.” [Breitbart](#) (11/16, Moran) also indicates that “Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell will face more dire circumstances to pass the upper chamber’s version,” [Roll Call](#) (11/16, McPherson) warns that “the road ahead...won’t be an easy one.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/16, A1, Rubin, Hughes) runs a similar story on the vote, and the [Washington Free Beacon](#) (11/16, Meyer) titles its favorable assessment of the day’s events “House Passes Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Giving Americans a Tax Cut Not Seen in 31 Years.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/16, Mascaro, Puzanghera) reports “Democrats were unified against the plan, and the only GOP defections in the House came mostly from lawmakers in the Northeast and California, who were concerned about the plan’s limits on deductions for state and local income taxes important to their districts.” The [Daily Caller](#) (11/16, Crowe) lists the Republicans who oppose the measure: California Reps. Tom McClintock, Dana Rohrabacher and Darrell Issa, New Jersey’s Frank LoBiondo, Chris Smith, Leonard Lance and Rodney Frelinghuysen, and New York’s Lee Zeldin, Pete King, Daniel Donovan, John Faso, Elise Stefanik and Walter Jones.

Ryan said on [Fox News’ Fox & Friends](#) (11/16), “We actually added back a \$10,000 property tax deduction in addition to the tax cuts that are already in the bill that everybody gets. So we’ve actually run numbers on these districts and shown that taxpayers in those districts, in those states still get tax cuts – itemizers and nonitemizers. Most people won’t have to itemize. So, what we’ve done is added a \$10,000 property tax deduction for these people in those high tax states. Everybody gets it, but it’s really the high-tax state people that would feel it the most – that deduction.”

Rep. Tom Cole was asked on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (11/16) about the opposition of Rep. Peter King and others to the elimination of the SALT deduction. Cole said, “I think we’ve made a reasonable compromise in the House bill. Look, I respect Peter King as much as any member we have, and I respect all members who are fighting for their constituents. But at the end of the day, you know, personally, if you make \$250,000 in Oklahoma City or \$250,000 in New York City, you ought to be paying the same amount of federal taxes. Now, again, the tax code is skewed to the advantage of people in high-tax states. That’s fair enough. People need to look after their constituents. I think we’ve tried to accommodate that in the House bill. I think we’ll be able to sustain that accommodation in a final bill.”

NYTimes: GOP Taking Money Way “From Working Families” To “Give It” To The Wealthy. Under the headline “A Tax-Cut Bill To Make Scrooge McDuck Proud,” the [New York Times](#) (11/16) editorializes, “Let that sink in. This tax bill would take money from working families and give it to the wealthiest people in the world. ... Republicans have made clear where their values lie. Well-heeled campaign funders matter. Middle-class families don’t.”

Along similar lines, a [New York Times](#) (11/16, Tankersley) analysis says “there are tough choices at the heart of the Republican tax bills speeding through Congress, and they make clear what the party values most in economic policy right now: deep and lasting tax cuts for corporations.” The Times adds that “the bill that sailed through the House on Thursday chooses to take from high-tax Democratic states, particularly California and New York, and give to lower-tax Republican states that...Trump carried in 2016, particularly Florida and Texas.” It also “allows for tax increases on millions of families several years from now, if a future Congress does not intervene, but not for similar increases on corporations.”

Senate Panel To Investigate Franken After Sexual Harassment Accusations.

The sexual harassment accusations against Sen. Al Franken dominated the news cycle, with the major network newscasts devoting nearly nine minutes of airtime to the story. [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/16, lead story, 2:50, Holt) opened its broadcast reporting that “the eye-opening list of powerful men outed for sexual misconduct now includes a sitting US senator,” and [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/16, lead story, 3:05, Muir) also led with the “explosive charge” against Franken, “accused by a woman of forcibly kissing her during a USO tour.” The [New York Times](#) (11/16, Fandos) indicates Franken had “been mentioned as a possible presidential candidate,” and the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (11/12, Brooks, Spencer, Rao) that “in recent weeks,” he “had repeatedly cheered the accounts of other women in the #metoo movement.” For example, notes the [Washington Post](#) (11/16, Wang, Lee, Bever), “in a Facebook post last month...Franken applauded the bravery of the women who shared their stories,” writing, “As we hear more and more about Mr. Weinstein, it’s important to remember that while his behavior was appalling, it’s far too common.”

Leeann Tweeden recounted her experiences with Franken on the website of [KABC-AM Los Angeles](#) Los Angeles (11/16), where she is news anchor on the “McIntyre in the Morning” show. In her account, she says the now-US senator “put his hand on the back of my head, mashed his lips against mine and aggressively stuck his tongue in my mouth. ... I walked away. All I could think about was getting to a bathroom as fast as possible to rinse the taste of him out of my mouth. I felt disgusted and violated. ... I tried to let it go, but I was angry.” The [St. Paul \(MN\) Pioneer Press](#) (11/16, Orrick) reports that Tweeden, “a California radio host,” also presented “a photo that shows Franken grinning at the camera with his hands hovering over the clothed breasts of the sleeping woman.” Tweeden initially “provided the picture with a [tweet](#) saying: ‘I’ve decided it’s time to tell my story. #MeToo.’” [USA Today](#) (11/16, Przybyla, Estepa) notes Tweeden later said of the picture, “I couldn’t believe it. He groped me, without my consent, while I was asleep. ... I felt violated all over again. Embarrassed. Belittled. Humiliated. How dare anyone grab my breasts like this and think it’s funny?” The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/16, lead story, 2:20, Goldman) also showed the picture that “Tweeden says...shows...Franken groping her while she was sleeping,” but closed the segment reporting that it had “reached out to 16 women who used to work for Franken in the Senate. Six got back to us. They all said they never witnessed or experienced anything inappropriate.”

Tweeden also described the incident with Franken on [CNN’s The Lead](#) (11/16) and said, “I’ve been angry about it for over ten years, and...my circle of friends and my husband have known how I felt about it for so long. ... I wanted to come out with it ten years ago, and, you know, it wasn’t the right time and, you know, I don’t want anything. I didn’t come out for it to destroy anybody. I came out because I want, you know, if he did this to somebody else or if somebody else has been sexually assaulted or if they’ve been, you know, abused in any way, that maybe somebody else can come out in real time because they find strength in numbers.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/16, Andrews) similarly surveys Tweeden’s recollections of the 2006 incident, while [Breitbart](#) (11/16, Nolte) reports that “Franken, who has been married since 1975, was elected to the United States Senate in 2008.” The [New York Times](#) (11/16, Fandos) notes Tweeden also “wrote that she had been compelled to share the story after an on-air conversation with Representative Jackie Speier, Democrat of California, who has been a leading voice sounding alarms about sexual harassment on Capitol Hill in recent weeks.” Asked about the allegations, Speier told the [Washington Examiner](#) (11/16, Ferrechio), “I think it’s disgusting. ... Here is the issue. It’s about whether you have the approval to come on to someone and unwelcome sexual advances are prohibited. ... And I don’t care what initial you have next to your name. It should apply to everybody.”

The [AP](#) (11/16, Daly, Potter) reports Franken “initially released a brief statement in which he apologized but questioned Tweeden’s recollection of his behavior.” Then, “in a longer statement Thursday afternoon, he again apologized while maintaining that he remembered the rehearsal differently.” [Reuters](#) (11/16) says it “was unable to independently verify Tweeden or Franken’s accounts.”

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (11/12, Brooks, Spencer, Rao) focuses on Franken’s “extended apology” and call “for a Senate ethics investigation into his behavior.” Said Franken, “The first thing I want to do is apologize: to Leeann, to everyone else who was part of that tour, to everyone who has worked for me, to everyone I represent, and to everyone who counts on me to be an ally and supporter and champion of women. There’s more I want to say, but the first and most important thing – and if it’s the only thing you care to hear, that’s fine – is: I’m sorry.” Added Franken, “While I don’t remember the rehearsal for the skit as Leeann does, I understand

why we need to listen to and believe women's experiences."

Congress, says [USA Today](#) (11/16, Przybyla), "may be gridlocked when it comes to policy battles – but the condemnation from lawmakers after allegations" against Franken "was incredibly swift on both sides of the aisle." The [Washington Post](#) (11/16, Phillips) also reports Franken "faced swift and bipartisan condemnation," and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/16, Decker) that for Democrats, such "expressions of disappointment...and calls for Ethics Committee action" were "necessary to avoid the suggestion of hypocrisy, since most of them have condemned Roy Moore."

[McClatchy](#) (11/16, Magness) reports Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell "said in a statement...that 'with all credible allegations of sexual harassment or assault, I believe the Ethics Committee should review the matter.'" McConnell "added that he hoped Democratic leader Chuck Schumer would join him on the issue." [Politico](#) (11/16, Schor) quotes McConnell as saying, "Regardless of party, harassment and assault are completely unacceptable – in the workplace or anywhere else." Schumer quickly agreed, calling for a Senate Ethics Committee investigation. The [Boston Globe](#) (11/16, Andersen) reports Sen. Elizabeth Warren also "condemned...her liberal colleague," saying, "The behavior reported today is unacceptable and deeply disappointing. ... I am glad Senator Franken has acknowledged as much and has agreed to cooperate with an ethics investigation."

To [Bloomberg News](#) (11/16, John, Litvan), "Republicans sought to capitalize on the accusations against a Democrat." The National Republican Senatorial Committee "sent a series of press releases calling on Democrats on the ballot in 2018 to return campaign contributions from Franken's leadership political action committee." Bloomberg adds that "senators targeted included Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota, of Bob Casey of Pennsylvania, Debbie Stabenow in Michigan and Jon Tester of Montana."

[Roll Call](#) (11/16) reported that "Republican Party of Minnesota Chairwoman Jennifer Carnahan called for Franken to resign his Senate seat," while the NRSC communications director "questioned whether Florida Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson would still hold his fundraising date with Franken." Meanwhile, "Iowa Democratic candidate Abby Finkenaur, who's challenging Rod Blum, quickly announced she would donate Franken's contribution to her campaign to a nonprofit for survivors of sexual assault." The [New York Post](#) (11/16, Brown), meanwhile, notes "Sen. Claire McCaskill's campaign said she will donate \$30,000 from...Franken's political action committee to a 'Missouri-based charity,' while Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand will give \$12,500 she's received to Protect our Defenders, which fights rape and sexual assault in the military."

Sen. Richard Blumenthal said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/16), "Unwanted groping and sexual advances are never funny or acceptable." Asked if he believes Tweeden Blumenthal said, "I believe the photograph of Al Franken, in effect groping her, cannot be denied." Blumenthal added, "We need the truth about all of what happened and if there are other facts that we should know about this incident, about other incidents, about other people, they have to be known as well. And then the ethics investigation is going to have to determine whether any sanctions or penalties are appropriate. I also believe, as a prosecutor and someone who really trusts the rule of law and impartial decision makers that this investigation ought to be allowed to proceed without any of us interfering in it."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/16) editorializes that as the Senate Ethics panel "looks into Mr. Franken's behavior, it will have to consider what comes next. What level of misconduct merits a lawmaker's departure from Congress? Should the legislature have a zero-tolerance policy, or can gradations of offense be recognized? If a member's wrongdoing took place entirely before his time on the Hill, should that affect continued service?" The Post adds that "members of the House of Representatives should be asking these same questions," and that "both Democrats and Republicans should support measures to hold predators to account, provide victims with support and make clear that all people deserve to be treated with respect."

Political commentator Amanda Carpenter said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (11/16), "I think...Franken needs to do a lot more than issue a public apology via press release. She has a lot of class. She said she believed his apology. I think he needs to try to make it in person. She may not to want see him. He needs to make a much bigger gesture than a press release because she has gone through a lot over the last ten years."

Mollie Hemingway of The Federalist said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/16), "There is absolutely no question that by the standard recently set by the political and media establishment that...Franken should be expelled. They have been saying for days that conduct 40 years ago should lead to expulsion from the Senate. There is no question this is a credible allegation. This is behavior that was just before he was a senator, and that's the standard that was being used for

the last few days. But I do kind of wonder if maybe what should happen here is a little bit of everybody taking a deep breath, thinking through how to properly handle credible allegations of sexual assault and sexual impropriety, how to balance the allegations with the defense and whether we should institute better systems for handling this."

A.B. Stoddard of Real Clear Politics said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/16), "I just feel, like a lot of people do, that this is the beginning of a big cascading event. I don't believe Senator Franken is the last lawmaker in the House or senator in the Senate to have done something like this. Women are coming together...in solidarity with each other, but also just try to stop it from happening again. It's going to really be a very difficult time on Capitol Hill."

Sean Hannity said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (11/16) that Franken "has a long history of making all kinds of vicious, vile, completely out of line comments. He is also a massive hypocrite for sexual harassment." Hannity added, "We have to ask again, given this information, everything we now know, now considering everyone is raising questions who is fit for this office and who is fit for that office, is Sen. Franken fit for office? Sen. Franken clearly is a pretty sick, twisted individual with a warped sense of humor in his own mind that really isn't funny, but his actions do need to be evaluated. At the end of the day it will be the people of his home state that decide."

The USO, the [Washington Examiner](#) (11/16, Quinn) reports, "said Thursday the allegations...are 'deeply disturbing' and don't reflect the organization's values." Ashley McLellan, a spokeswoman for the USO, "told the Washington Examiner in an email the USO didn't have any knowledge of the incident."

Two "Prominent" Minnesota Democrats, NYTimes' Goldberg Call On Franken To Resign. The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/16, Nelson) reports, "Two prominent members of Minnesota's Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party," state auditor Rebecca Otto and Megan Thomas, "president of the party's official Feminist Caucus," are "calling on...Franken to resign his Senate seat following allegations of sexual misconduct." Otto, who is "a candidate for governor in Minnesota, said in a statement that 'I believe it's in the best interest of Minnesotans and of women everywhere for Senator Franken to resign, and to set an example to powerful men across America that sexual harassment will not be tolerated.'" Thomas, meanwhile, "told the Washington Examiner that Franken's misconduct was 'every woman's nightmare on a bus.'" She also said in a Facebook post, "No one should fear their elected representatives, so, sadly, for me, I think the Senator should resign."

Michelle Goldberg, in a [New York Times](#) (11/16) column, writes she had "hoped Franken would run for president in 2020," but though she "would mourn Franken's departure from the Senate...he should go, and the governor should appoint a woman to fill his seat. The message to men in power about sexual degradation has to be clear: We will replace you."

Franken Photographed Groping Another Woman In 2000. [The Federalist](#) (11/16, Payton) reports that "Tweeden isn't the only woman Franken has been photographed groping. At a roast hosted by Comedy Central in 2000, Franken was photographed groping Joy Behar's breast."

Another Woman Accuses Franken Of Harassing Phone Calls Until She Threatened To Call Police. The [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (11/16, Ross) reports "Melanie Morgan, a longtime Bay Area conservative radio anchor, claimed Thursday that she was harassed with phone calls by...Franken...in 2000, following a contentious debate on Bill Maher's ABC late-night show 'Politically Incorrect.'" Morgan "made the allegations on [Media Equalizer](#), a blog she co-founded," saying "the harassment consisted of Franken aggressively trying to continue the argument off air and repeatedly calling her personal phone number to 'badger' her." Wrote Morgan, "He wouldn't leave me alone, he kept following me. As a woman, his presence and proximity to me felt very threatening and intimidating." She also "said he later approached the show's producer to get her phone number, 'which was a clear violation of network protocol,'" but "Franken got the phone number and 'shocked' her by calling her home at least three times." Adds Morgan, "By the third phone call I was outraged and terrified, as he is really disturbed." Morgan also "said he finally left her alone after she threatened to call the police and report him."

White House: Senate Investigation "Appropriate." [Politico](#) (11/16, Lima) reports "White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Thursday it would be 'appropriate' for the Senate to investigate allegations" against Franken. Said Sanders, "On Sen. Franken, it appears that the Senate is looking into that, which they should, and we feel that that's an appropriate action."

Trump Weighs In On Allegations Against "Frankenstien" On Twitter. The President commented on the accusations against Franken last night, [tweeting](#), "The AI Frankenstien picture is really bad, speaks a thousand words. Where do his hands go in pictures 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6 while she sleeps?" Trump [added](#), "And to think that just last week he was lecturing anyone who would listen about sexual harassment and respect for women. Lesley Stahl tape?" [Politico](#) (11/16, East)

says "Trump's acknowledgment of the accusations against Franken comes at the same time that he has distanced himself from...Moore, who has been accused of pursuing and harassing teenage girls when he was in his 30s." [Axios](#) (11/16, Lawler) similarly indicates that "Trump weighed in quickly on Franken, but has declined to address the child sexual abuse allegations against...Moore."

White House: Trump Finds Moore Allegations "Troubling," But Fate Up To Alabama Voters.

The White House on Thursday weighed in on the controversy engulfing Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore, though President Trump, himself, didn't comment on the situation. The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/16, story 2, 2:30, Mason), in a report that covered several aspects of the Moore controversy, showed a clip of White House press secretary Sarah Sanders saying, "The President believes that these allegations are very troubling and should be taken seriously, and he thinks that the people of Alabama should make the decision on who their next Senator should be."

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/16, Wayne, Olorunnipa) reports that Sanders "said Trump continues to believe that 'if any of these allegations are true' Moore should withdraw from the race. That led to a series of questions from reporters about how the allegations might be substantiated. Sanders said 'that should be determined, possibly, by a court of law' but that it is 'a decision the people of Alabama should make, not the president.'"

[USA Today](#) (11/16, Korte, Berry) reports that Sanders' remarks "ended days of silence from the White House, since the allegations first arose last week while Trump was on a 12-day Asia trip. But Sanders stopped short of calling for Moore to drop out of the race, as a chorus of other Republican senators – including Majority Leader Mitch McConnell – have done."

The [Washington Times](#) (11/16, Miller) reports that Sanders "did not say whether Mr. Trump believed the women" who've accused Moore "of pursuing them or making inappropriate sexual contact. Most of the women were teens, although of legal age in Alabama, when the incidents occurred in the 1970s." Asked "why Mr. Trump had not called for Mr. Moore...to quit the race, Mrs. Sanders repeatedly said that it was up to Alabama voters. 'The president has been clear that if any of these allegations are true...then he should do the right thing and step aside,' Mrs. Sanders said."

Under the headline "Trump Stops Short Of Saying US Senate Candidate Moore Should Leave Race," [Reuters](#) (11/16, Mason, Alexander) quotes Sanders as saying, "The president said in his statement earlier this week that if the allegations are true, then Roy Moore should step aside. He still firmly believes that." However, [Politico](#) (11/16, Nelson) reported that Sanders "refused to outline what it would take for Trump to become convinced of the accusations' veracity. Sanders also declined to say whether or not Trump would vote for Moore if he were an Alabama voter and would not commit to following up with reporters on the issue."

Under the headline "Trump Ducks Moore Scandal," [Politico](#) (11/16, Johnson, Isenstadt) reported that "Trump has steered conspicuously clear of the" Moore controversy. His "absence from the race has compounded GOP worries the party is about to lose a seat it has no business relinquishing to Democrats. Republicans say a denunciation of Moore from Trump, a beloved figure in Alabama despite his problems elsewhere, offers the only hope of keeping the seat in the party's hands. But Trump sees nothing but negatives in getting involved, according to three White House aides, who say they consider the options laid out by McConnell and his team far-fetched."

Asked to comment on Moore, Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (11/16) "that I was the first person in the Administration last Thursday when this news broke...at the time to come out against the conduct as it was described, and I went a step further. I said – because I tried to make this an issue over a year ago on October 9, 2016, when I talked about maybe, when I was younger and prettier, folks on Capitol Hill behaving in such a way that we should take a look at. ... Nobody wanted to listen to me, because of the campaign I was managing. This is an important topic but in terms of this particular issue and this particular Senate race, I will not get ahead of the President and anything he wishes to add."

Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/16), "Roy Moore is unfit to be a United States senator on various grounds and those grounds include the kinds of sexual advances he made to children."

Alabama GOP Steering Committee Backs Moore. Meanwhile, the [New York Times](#) (11/16, Blinder) reports that the Alabama GOP on Thursday said "that it would stand behind...Moore, most likely leaving Republicans with a nominee facing numerous allegations of sexual misconduct and unwanted overtures to women. The decision, which a committee of 21 party leaders reached

Wednesday evening but did not formally announce until Thursday, placed the state's Republicans at bitter and public odds with national party leaders, who had demanded that Mr. Moore leave the race."

The [Washington Times](#) (11/16, McLaughlin) reports that in a statement, the Alabama GOP said, "The ALGOP Steering Committee supports Judge Roy Moore as our nominee and trusts the voters as they make the ultimate decision in this crucial race." The statement added, "Judge Moore has vehemently denied the allegations made against him. He deserves to be presumed innocent of the accusations unless proven otherwise. He will continue to take his case straight to the people of Alabama."

Gov. Ivey Won't Change Date Of Dec. 12 Special Election. On its website, [CNN](#) (11/16, Bradner) reported that Gov. Kay Ivey (R-AL) on Thursday said "that the state's Senate special election date will not change, despite national Republican leaders' efforts to get...Moore off the ballot. ... Asked if there are any circumstances in which the date of the election or the candidates included could change, Ivey" said, "The election's going to be December the 12th."

[The Hill](#) (11/16, Kamisar) reported that Ivey torpedoed "the idea that Sen. Luther Strange (R-Ala.) could resign and delay next month's special election." The Hill added that a "long-shot option that's been mulled" by Washington Republicans "is that Strange, who was appointed to fill the seat temporarily after Jeff Sessions left it to become attorney general, could step down before the election and reset the clock." However, "Ivey shot that prospect down."

Moore: Allegations "Not Only Untrue, But They Have No Evidence To Support Them." The [Montgomery \(AL\) Advertiser](#) (11/16, Lyman) reports, "Speaking at the end of an event" yesterday in Birmingham, "where 'pro-family' speakers expressed support for" Moore, the candidate "declined to answer questions about accusations that he pursued relationships with teenagers in the late 1970s and early 1980s, and that he engaged in sexual misconduct with them. Moore and his wife left the event without answering questions."

However, [CNN](#) (11/16, Watkins) reported on its website that Moore on Thursday "continued to deny the allegations against him as more women continue to come forward. 'They're not only untrue, but they have no evidence to support them,' Moore said in Birmingham." And referring to the Washington Post story that first detailed the accusations against him, Moore said, "The Washington Post is certainly not evidence."

NBC News Interviews Moore Accuser. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/16, story 2, 2:45, Holt), Gabe Gutierrez reported that Moore on Thursday "vowed to stay in the race," even "as more women are coming forward to accuse Moore of unwanted advances ranging from flirting to sexual assault." NBC News interviewed Tina Johnson, who, according to Gutierrez, "says Moore groped her at his law office in 1991 when she was 28 and trying to settle a child custody case." Johnson was shown saying, "I was in shock. And I was so humiliated and sickening. ... When I got up and went out, he grabbed my behind. He had power over me. He had me in a position where I couldn't do nothing."

ABC News Highlights WPost Report On New Accuser's Claims. On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/16, story 2, 3:20, Muir), Tom Llamas reported that "Moore has tried to push past the allegations, but new ones pop up nearly every day. The latest, [from](#) the Washington Post. Gena Richardson says she was a teenage girl, around 18 years old, when Roy Moore approached her at the local mall where she was working. ... A few days later, Richardson says she was sitting in trigonometry class when she was called to the principal's office. She tells the Post she was startled, and thought maybe her dad was calling. Instead, she says, the man on the phone was Roy Moore. 'He said 'what are you doing?' I said, 'I'm in trig class.' Richardson says Moore asked her out, but she told him she couldn't talk. A few days later, at the mall, she says he asked her out again, and that night, they went to the movies. After, Richardson says Moore offered her a ride, and in his car gave her what she calls a 'forceful' kiss. 'I'd never been kissed like that,' she says, 'and the minute that happened, got scared, and so I said I've got to go, because my curfew is now.'"

Moore Seizes On Franken Allegations To Hammer McConnell. [Alabama Live](#) (11/16, Gattis) reports that in the wake of Sen. Al Franken (D-MN) on Thursday being accused of groping a woman and forcing a kiss on her, Moore "suggested that there was a double standard for how he is being treated." In a tweet targeting Senate Majority Leader McConnell, Moore said, "Al Franken admits guilt after photographic evidence of his abuse surfaces. Mitch: 'Let's investigate.' In Alabama, ZERO evidence, allegations 100% rejected. Mitch: 'Moore must quit immediately or be expelled.'" McConnell, who has repeatedly called on Moore to drop his bid, on Thursday "called on the Senate Ethics Committee to review the allegations against Franken." The [Washington Times](#) (11/16, Morton) offers a similar report.

NRCC Chief: Moore Should “Step Aside.” [The Hill](#) (11/16, Manchester) reported that during a Thursday appearance on CNN, National Republican Congressional Committee chief Steve Stivers “called on...Moore to step aside.” Said Stivers, “I think that Roy Moore should step aside,” adding, “I do believe these women.” Stivers, “who had previously donated to Moore’s campaign,” also said, “I’ve subsequently asked for my money back.” The [Washington Times](#) (11/16, Persons) also reports on Stivers’ remarks.

Fox News Poll: Democrat Jones Leads Moore 50%-42%. On its website, [Fox News](#) (11/16, Blanton) reported that a Fox News poll of 649 Alabama likely voters, taken Nov. 13-15, shows ex-US Attorney Doug Jones (D) leading Moore 50%-42% in the Dec. 12 special election. Fox News said, “Support from women is the key to the Democrat’s” edge, “as Jones is their choice by 26 points (58-32 percent). The gap grows to 49 points among women under age 45 (69-20 percent), and he’s up by 11 among women ages 45 and over (51-40 percent). Jones even receives 19 percent support from Republican women (to Moore’s 68 percent).” [The Hill](#) (11/16, Anapol) also reported on the poll results.

[Politico](#) (11/16, Debenedetti, Strauss) reported that while Jones “remains an underdog in a state” Trump carried by 28 points, “he does have a path. Here’s how it looks, according to interviews with nearly a dozen Democrats within and near Jones’ team since Moore was hit with accusations of pursuing – and in two cases abusing – teenage girls. First, create a permission structure for alienated Republicans who are skeptical of Moore...to cross the aisle. At the same time invigorate the base, especially African-Americans.” Lastly, “keep the national Democratic Party and its despised brand as far out of the picture as possible, while still benefiting from its money.”

Under the headline “Democrat Doug Jones, Roy Moore’s Rival, Gains Traction In Alabama Senate Race,” the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/16, Jamerson, Hook) reports that Jones is picking up momentum as Moore continues to battle allegations of sexual misconduct. Jones, according to the Journal, is largely focusing on issues such as healthcare and jobs

Alabama Evangelicals Divided Over Whether To Support Moore. Under the headline “For Some Evangelicals, A Choice Between Moore And Morality,” the [Washington Post](#) (11/16, Fisher) reports on the debate among Alabama Christians over whether to support Moore, saying, “What’s happening in the churches of Alabama – a state where half the residents consider themselves evangelical Christians, double the national average, according to a Pew Research study – is nothing less than a battle for the meaning of evangelism, some church leaders say. It is a titanic struggle between those who believe there must be one clear, unalterable moral standard and those who argue that to win the war for the nation’s soul, Christians must accept morally flawed leaders.”

US Strikes “More Conciliatory” Tone At Climate Talks.

The [New York Times](#) (11/16, Friedman) reports State Department acting undersecretary Judith G. Garber, in the “first official American remarks to the United Nations climate body” since President Trump announced the US would abandon the Paris climate accord, offered “a far more conciliatory message than a presentation earlier in the week by White House officials promoting fossil fuels, which drew catcalls and a walkout.” Garber said, “We remain open to the possibility of rejoining [the accord] at a later date under terms more favorable to the American people.” She also promised to help other countries “adapt to the impacts of climate change.” Environmentalists at the event “found Ms. Garber’s message confusing, and a sign of the awkward tightrope that America’s diplomats are walking as they work on a deal Mr. Trump has disavowed.”

The [AP](#) (11/16, Frank Jordans) reports Garber added that the US “will continue to be a leader in clean energy and innovation, and we understand the need for transforming energy systems.” Garber stated, “We remain collectively committed to mitigating greenhouse gas emissions through, among other things, increased innovation on sustainable energy and energy efficiency, and working towards low greenhouse gas emissions energy systems.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/16, Siegel) reports, “Garber never used the word ‘coal’ in her Bonn address, although she reaffirmed the White House position that transitioning to renewable energy sources such as solar and wind must coincide with economic prosperity and energy security.”

However, the [Washington Times](#) (11/16, Hill) reports, that also on Thursday, “U.S. government officials said Washington will push for a change to World Bank rules blocking funding for coal-related projects, while seeking to build ‘a clean-coal alliance’ of like-minded nations across six continents.” The top US representative at the conference George David Banks “said it was vital that developing countries be able to generate electricity and that the structures of the Paris deal work against poorer countries trying to meet their emissions targets.” The position by the US “was announced even as Canada and Britain were unveiling their own Global Alliance to

Power Past Coal to phase out the use of coal." Several US states have signed on to the alliance to phase out coal.

[The Hill](#) (11/16, Henry, Cama) highlights the "dueling US delegations" at the conference "the official team and a competing one made up of Democratic officials opposed to President Trump's decision to remove the U.S. from the Paris climate accord." Sen. Brian Schatz said, "Whatever the president may say about climate, he cannot stop clean energy. ... He's a powerful man, but he's not a monarch, and we are going to continue the clean energy revolution." California Gov. Jerry Brown added, "The rest of the world's got to carry the ball while we're temporarily in America off to the sidelines. ... But there's still California, there's still New York, Washington, Oregon, all these other places, and there's still corporations."

Supporters Stick By Trump On Leaving Paris, Rolling Back Regulations. [Bloomberg News](#) (11/16, Natter) reports that while the conference goes on in Germany, "the president's backers in the industrial heartland are cheering him on. Whether it's ditching Paris, moving to slash funding for the Environmental Protection Agency or rescinding a series of environmental regulations, interviews in the industrial area of Lordstown, Ohio, show those moves are popular among factory workers. They see them as Trump making good on his pledges to restore factory jobs." [CNBC](#) (11/16, DiChristopher) reports that last week at the Heartland Institute's America First Energy Conference, Trump supporters "gathered to celebrate and take stock of Trump's progress rolling back Obama-era regulations and his blueprint for achieving U.S. 'energy dominance.'" The conference "offered a glimpse into an organized and highly dedicated corner of conservatism that is committed to shrinking the EPA, demolishing the foundations of greenhouse gas regulations and minimizing the government's efforts to combat climate change wherever possible."

Pope Francis Calls Climate Denial A "Perverse" Attitude. The [AP](#) (11/16, Nicole Winfield) reports Pope Francis yesterday "rebuked those who deny the science behind global warming and urged negotiators at climate talks in Germany to avoid falling prey to such 'perverse attitudes' and instead accelerate efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions." In his message to the conference, Francis said climate change is "one of the most worrisome phenomena that humanity is facing." [Reuters](#) (11/16, Pullella) reports Francis said, "We have to avoid falling into these four perverse attitudes, which certainly do not help honest research and sincere and productive dialogue on building the future of our planet: negation, indifference, resignation and trust in inadequate solutions." The [Daily Caller](#) (11/16, Bastasch) also provides coverage of this story.

Keystone Pipeline Leaks Oil In South Dakota.

The [AP](#) (11/16, Dexter) reports that "TransCanada Corp.'s Keystone pipeline leaked an estimated 210,000 gallons of oil onto agricultural land in northeastern South Dakota," although officials in South Dakota "don't believe the leak polluted any surface water bodies or drinking water systems." Regulators in Nebraska "are scheduled to announce their decision Monday whether to approve the proposed Keystone XL oil pipeline, an expansion that would boost the amount of oil TransCanada is now shipping through the existing line." TransCanada indicated "in its statement that it expected the pipeline to remain shut down as the company responds to the leak."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/16, story 4, 0:15, Muir) reported that "officials say the cleanup could take some time." The [New York Times](#) (11/16, Smith, Bosman) reports that Kim McIntosh, an environmental scientist for the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources, said, "This is not a little spill from any perspective."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/16, Mufson, Mooney) reports that Jane Kleeb, an activist who opposed Keystone XL and is also head of Nebraska's Democratic Party, said, "TransCanada cannot be trusted. ... I have full confidence that the Nebraska Public Service Commission is going to side with Nebraskans, not a foreign oil company."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"A Tax Cut Bill To Make Scrooge McDuck Proud." The [New York Times](#) (11/16) editorializes, "Let that sink in. This tax bill would take money from working families and give it to the wealthiest people in the world. ... Republicans have made clear where their values lie. Well-heeled campaign funders matter. Middle-class families don't."

"The Da Vinci Lode." A [New York Times](#) (11/16) editorial.

Washington Post.

“The Destructive Part Of The Republican Tax Bill You’re Not Paying Attention To.” A [Washington Post](#) (11/16) editorial says the “assault on higher education” in the House tax bill “is one of the less- examined unwise provisions in a tax bill full of unwise provisions.” The bill would require graduate students to “treat tuition waivers as taxable income.” While that “bad idea” is not in the Senate bill, it “contains other provisions that would undermine the nation’s colleges and universities.” For example, both plans “would slap a 1.4 percent excise tax on investment income that universities earn on endowments that Republicans deem to be too large,” a provision which “would mainly hit elite institutions,” that are “generally the ones that offer the most tuition aid to students from needy – and even securely middle-class – families.”

“Al Franken Is Just The Start Of Congress’s Reckoning With Sexual Harassment.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/16) editorializes that as the Senate Ethics panel “looks into [Sen. Al] Franken’s behavior, it will have to consider what comes next. What level of misconduct merits a lawmaker’s departure from Congress? Should the legislature have a zero-tolerance policy, or can gradations of offense be recognized? If a member’s wrongdoing took place entirely before his time on the Hill, should that affect continued service?” The Post adds that “members of the House of Representatives should be asking these same questions,” and that “both Democrats and Republicans should support measures to hold predators to account, provide victims with support and make clear that all people deserve to be treated with respect.”

“The Pentagon Has Detained A US Citizen For More Than Two Months – And Said Little.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/16, Board) editorializes that the US government must provide an American citizen, who has been detained in Iraq for over two months on suspicion of aiding the Islamic State, “with legal counsel and access to the justice system if he wishes it.” The Post also calls on the Pentagon to make basic information about the case public “in the spirit of accountability and transparency.” The Post asserts that “it can’t be the case that the government is effectively allowed to block the courts from reviewing a person’s detention by keeping the prisoner anonymous and incommunicado.”

Wall Street Journal.

“A Solution For Ron Johnson.” Citing Sen. Ron Johnson’s concern over the bill’s treatment of large corporations versus “pass through” business, which are taxed at the individual rate, a [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/16) editorial says President Trump’s call to reduce the top rate to 35% could be the solution to win Johnson’s support because a 35% rate would provide a more powerful incentive for growth against the Senate bill’s 17.4% pass-through deduction than the Senate bill’s current 38.5% top rate.

“No Republicans Need Apply.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/16, Board) criticizes the Congressional Hispanic Caucus’ decision to reject Republican Rep. Carlos Curbelo’s bid for membership, saying that while the group can set its own rules, Curbelo’s rejection confirms criticisms that the group has less to do with promoting Hispanic interests than pushing a liberal Democratic agenda.

“Trump’s South China Sea Message.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/16) praises President Trump for his challenging China on its territorial aspirations in the South China Sea. The Journal focuses on China’s conflicts in the area with Vietnam and Philippines, and concludes by lauding Trump for seeking to keep shipping lanes open and deter Chinese territorial expansion.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Comcast Approached 21st Century Fox About An Acquisition](#)

[House Backs GOP Tax-Overhaul Bill](#)

[Google Has Picked an Answer For You—Too Bad It’s Often Wrong](#)

[Wal-Mart Posts Strongest US Sales In Nearly A Decade](#)

New York Times:

[House And Senate Panel Pass Tax Bill In Major Step Toward Overhaul](#)

[Al Franken Issues Apology After Accusation Of Forcible Kissing And Groping](#)

[Alabama GOP Says It Stands Behind Roy Moore](#)

[Bill Signals GOP Prioritizes Corporate Tax Cuts](#)

[Corruption Case Against Senator Menendez Ends In Mistrial](#)
[Downing North Korean Missiles Is Hard. So The US Is Experimenting.](#)

Washington Post:

[The Rapid Cycle Of Gun Violence](#)
[CEO Nightmare: Dreaded Endorsement Of The Alt-Right](#)
[House Passes Tax Bill, Upping Heat On Senate](#)
[Al Franken Accused Of Groping Woman In 2006](#)
[Mistrial Declared In Menendez Case](#)

Financial Times:

[Norway Wealth Fund Proposes End To Oil And Gas Investment](#)
[Saudi Authorities Offer Freedom Deals To Princes And Businessmen](#)
[Volkswagen Commits €10bn To Build Electric Cars In China](#)

Washington Times:

[Republicans Rally For A 'Comeback,' Push \\$1.4 Trillion Tax Cut Through House](#)
[Franken To Face Ethics Investigation, Outraged Colleagues From Both Parties](#)
[NFL Steps Into Politics, Fights Tax Cut Bill With No Stadium Bond Breaks](#)
[Researchers Confirm First Living CTE Diagnosis, Look For Early Detection And Treatment](#)
[U.S. Defends Coal Use In Developing Countries, Proposes International Alliance At Climate Summit](#)
[In Odinga Strongholds, Kenyans Grapple With Frustrating Election Loss](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Al Franken Sexual Misconduct Allegation; Roy Moore Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Tax Reform Plan; Keystone Pipeline Oil Leak; Russia Meddling Investigation-Kushner; Robert Menendez Trial; Starwood Waypoint-Complaints; Black Friday Shopping; Baltimore-Police Officer Shot; California House Explosion; Weather Forecast; Da Vinci Painting Auction.

CBS: Al Franken Sexual Misconduct Allegation; Roy Moore Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Tax Reform Plan; Robert Menendez Trial; Russia Meddling Investigation-Kushner; Russia-Crimea Occupation; Distracted Drivers; Baltimore-Police Officer Shot; Elephant Trophies Ban Reversed; Amazon Key-Security Concerns; Da Vinci Painting Auction; Bike Riding Benefits.

NBC: Al Franken Sexual Misconduct Allegation; Roy Moore Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Tax Reform Plan; Russia Meddling Investigation-Kushner; Robert Menendez Trial; Baltimore-Police Officer Shot; Congress-Gun Control; Russia Meddling Investigation-Russian Troll Farm; DC Bible Museum Opening; Elephant Trophies Ban Reversed; California House Explosion; Da Vinci Painting Auction; Kansas Town Revival.

Network TV At A Glance:

Roy Moore Sexual Misconduct Allegations – 8 minutes, 35 seconds
Al Franken Sexual Misconduct Allegation – 8 minutes, 15 seconds
Tax Reform Plan – 7 minutes
Russia Meddling Investigation – 5 minutes, 30 seconds
Robert Menendez Trial – 2 minutes, 35 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Ohio State Univ-Hazing; Tax Reform Plan; Roy Moore Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Al Franken Sexual Misconduct Allegation.

CBS: Tax Reform Plan; Al Franken Sexual Misconduct Allegation; Roy Moore Sexual Misconduct Allegations; VA-PTSD Waiting List; Keystone Pipeline Oil Leak; Latin Grammy Award.

FOX: Roy Moore Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Al Franken Sexual Misconduct Allegation; Tax Reform Plan.

NPR: Tax Reform Plan; Robert Menendez Trial; Al Franken Sexual Misconduct Allegation; FCC-Media Ownership.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Receives his daily intelligence briefing; hosts NCAA National Championship

teams; has lunch with Vice President Mike Pence; meets with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a meeting with Governor Kenneth Mapp of the U.S. Virgin Islands; participates in a meeting with Chief Executive Dr. Abdullah Abdullah of Afghanistan; participates in a meeting with Vice President Oscar Naranjo of Colombia; has lunch with the President.

US Senate: Congress breaks for Thanksgiving recess until Nov. 27.

US House: 2:00 PM House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee oversight field hearing and education and transition – Economic Opportunity Subcommittee oversight field hearing on 'Best Practices in Veterans Education and Transition to Civilian Life', with testimony from Texas Tech University student vet Kai Iuta, Director of Military and Veterans Programs Col. (Ret.) Lou Ortiz, and Health Sciences Center President Dr Tedd Mitchell and School of Nursing Veteran Liaison Aaron Kyle Chapman; Angelo State University student vet Nicole Meyer; and StarCare Specialty Health System Director of Veterans Services Col. (Ret.) David Lewis Location: Texas Tech University System, 1508 Knoxville Ave, Lubbock, TX Lubbock <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

Congress breaks for Thanksgiving recess until Nov. 27.

Other: 9:30 AM Museum of the Bible opens in Washington, DC – The Museum of the Bible opens, using cutting-edge technology to bring 'The Bible' to life. The museum invites everyone to engage with 'The Bible' through three permanent sections: History of the Bible, Narrative of the Bible and Impact of the Bible, alongside a space for temporary exhibits. Highlights include a 140-by-15-foot digital arcade ceiling, and the World Stage Theater with 3-D digital mapping Location: Museum of the Bible, 409 3rd St SW, Washington, DC www.museumofthebible.org <https://twitter.com/museumofbible>

10:00 AM Dem Rep. Robin Kelly speaks at CAP on 'Women of Color and Mental Health' – 'Women of Color and Mental Health: From the Shadows of Silence to Solutions for Leadership' Center for American Progress discussion on how racism, cultural stereotypes, economic insecurity, gender discrimination, stigma, and shame all impact the mental health of women of color, preventing them from getting the support and treatment they deserve. Speakers include Democratic Rep. Robin Kelly, A Mother's Sanctuary Founder and Director LaShonta Edwards, Black Women's Health Health Policy and Legislative Affairs Director Christy Gamble, University of Wisconsin–Madison Department of Counseling Psychology Associate Professor Carmen Valdez, and Center for American Progress Senior Fellow Jamila Taylor Location: Center for American Progress, 1333 H St NW, Washington, DC www.americanprogress.org <https://twitter.com/amprog>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Meanwhile, here on Earth, the House passed the GOP-backed tax plan today, which is very good news for billionaires and also just your average run-of-the-millionaires too. The bill would shift the tax burden from the wealthy to people who really should be paying more, like college students. Time for those little punks to start eating bottom ramen for a while."

Jimmy Kimmel: "The President is also about to reverse a law that made it illegal to import elephant parts from African trophy hunts. That's right, struggling families of America, you asked for it, and the President delivered. We can finally bring our elephant tusks back home from Zimbabwe."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Roy Moore has been accused of sexual misconduct and worse by nine women, seven of whom were teenagers when the events allegedly happened. But when Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell called for him to step aside, this is how he responded on Twitter. He wrote, 'Dear Mitch McConnell, bring it on.' Now I'm not an expert in PR, but when you're accused of putting moves on high school girls, maybe don't reference the title of a movie about high school cheerleaders."

Jimmy Kimmel: "There are a bunch of new accusations made today against a wide variety of people, including Sylvester Stallone, the first PBS, and Senator Al Franken, whose story was amplified because it had a visual aid."

Jimmy Kimmel: "There is so much of this [sexual harassment news]. I mean, at this point I know

it sounds extreme, but it might be time for guys, I think, we might all need to hand our penises over to the police for a few months."

Stephen Colbert: "Every day, it seems like we find out about another high-profile sexual harasser. And today is no exception. Brace yourself, because it is Sen. Al Franken. He's been accused of kissing and groping a woman without her consent. Come on, Franken! I guess there are no good people left, so let's just get it over with. Just tell us whatever you did, Jimmy Carter, Barack Obama, Tom Hanks."

Stephen Colbert: "Moore isn't afraid of the Washington Republicans, tweeting, 'Dear Mitch McConnell, bring it on.' A strong sentiment, leading the head of the National Republican Senatorial Committee to tweet, "'Bring It On' is a movie about high school cheerleaders.'"

James Corden: "Have you guys been following this story about the UCLA basketball players who were arrested in China for shoplifting? Well, President Trump helped get them released, and yesterday they publicly thanked him. So today, Donald Trump tweeted, 'To the three UCLA basketball players I say, You're welcome.' He also tweeted, 'Have a great life be careful, there are many pitfalls on the long and winding road of life!' There are many pitfalls on the long and winding road of life? The guy goes on one presidential trip to Asia, and now he's writing Chinese proverbs."

James Corden: "[Donald Trump] is right, though. There are so many pitfalls on the long and winding road of life. For example, there's bankruptcy, and there are lawsuits against a scam business you started. Then there's bankruptcy a second time. Then there's the FBI investigating you about Russia. And then bankruptcy again."

James Corden: "A piece of wedding cake from Donald and Melania Trump's wedding is currently up for auction. The 12-year-old piece of cake is being marketed as a rare collector's item. I can't believe it lasted this long. Not the cake, the marriage."

Trevor Noah: [Referring to sexual misconduct allegations of Sen. Al Franken and Senate candidate Roy Moore] "Al Franken is going with the whole 'I'm sorry, I'm going to look at myself. I understand this disgusting.' That's so boring. This guy is like, 'You know who needs to step down for what I did? Someone else!'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Radio host Leeann Tweeden came forward and said Sen. Al Franken groped her without her consent. And she posted a photo as evidence. In fact, it's so bad that Franken is already a front-runner for President in 2020."

Jimmy Fallon: "Meanwhile, it's been reported Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore would hang out in the mall in the '80s and try to get teenagers' phone numbers. He got a lot of numbers, but they were all for 'Jenny at 867-5309.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "It's crazy, though, two more women have come forward accusing Roy Moore of making unwanted advances at the mall, which explains that new slogan, 'Amazon, so you don't run into Roy Moore at the mall.'"

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DATE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2017 7:00 AM EDT

Holiday Message

In observance of the U.S. federal Columbus Day holiday, we will not publish on Monday, October 9, 2017. Service will resume on Tuesday, October 10, 2017. We wish our readers a safe holiday.

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- Law360: House Dems Want DOI Monument Review Info Released.
- Washington Post: Notes From Closed Meeting Show How Interior Aims To Weaken Environmental Laws.
- Politico: Additional Coverage: Trump's Interior Chief 'Hopping Around From Campaign Event To Campaign Event'.
- CNN: Additional Coverage: Interior Department Whistleblower Resigns After Reassignment From Climate Change Duties.
- New York Times: NYTimes: 48 Environmental Rules Targeted For Elimination Under Trump Administration.
- Washington Examiner: The Media Are Missing Trump's Much-Needed Regulatory Relief.
- Flathead (MT) Beacon: Pleasing Everyone And No One.
- Flathead (MT) Beacon: 'Blame Game' Not An Effective Way To Fight Fires.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- BIA Floats Rule Changes For Tribal Land-Into-Trust Bids.
- Wino Round Up BIA Investigation Finds Fault, Fails To Deliver Justice.
- Tribe Delivers Bottled Water To Crow Agency After Treatment Facility Was Vandalized.

Bureau Of Land Management

- E&E Publishing: BLM Proposal Would Revive Mining In Renewable Energy Zone.
- KGUN-TV Tucson (AZ): House Approves Bill To Allow Tucson Full Ownership Of Udall Park.
- Wichita Falls (TX) Times Record News: Defendants In Land Dispute Await DOJ Approval On Proposed Settlement.
- San Francisco Chronicle: Judge: BLM Broke Law In Plan To Sterilize Idaho Wild Horses.
- Salt Lake (UT) Tribune: Feds Target Popular Utah Wild Horse Herd For Roundup.
- E&E Publishing: Additional Coverage: Court Restores BLM Methane Reg In 'Stinging Rebuke' To Trump.
- Conversation (UK): Bundy Trial Embodies Everything Dividing America Today.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- Additional Coverage: New York Submits "Area For Consideration" Identifying Four Potential Wind Development Sites Off Atlantic Coast.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- State Auditor Faults Handling Of Delta Tunnels Planning Contracts.
- "Takings" Outcome Seen As Win For Tribes.
- Federal Grant To Help C.O. Irrigators Swap Water, Boost Flows.
- Bureau Will Ask Water Board To Help Fund Water Storage Study.

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

- Exxon Evacuating Staff From U.S. Gulf Platform Ahead Of Nate.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Washington Post: Interior Department Rejects 25 Endangered Species Petitions, Including Several Linked To Climate Change.
- Washington Examiner: Congress Moves Closer To Allowing Oil And Gas Drilling In Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
- Courthouse News: Battle Over Two Owl Species Takes Flight At 9th Circuit.
- WRNI-FM Providence (RI): Block Island Wind Farm Helps Researchers Monitor Offshore Bird And Bat Migrations.

National Park Service

- U.S. News & World Report: Indiana Lakeshore Closer To Becoming National Park.
- Newsweek: For The First Time Ever, LGBT Pride Flag Will Fly On Federal Land.
- Washington Post: Hey, You Can't Park There! Dockless Bike-share Bikes Ending Up In Inappropriate Places.
- U.S. News & World Report: Report Recommends Capping Yellowstone Bison Removal At 1,250.

- U.S. News & World Report: Freeway-Crossing Mountain Lion Dies In Southern California.
- U.S. News & World Report: Researchers: Pythons Changed Mosquito's Diet In Everglades.
- Seacoast Online (NH): Emery Farm Named To National Historic Register.
- The Hill: Additional Coverage: Activists Plan To Move 45-foot-tall Nude Female Statue To National Mall.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- The Hill: White House Rules Out Debt Forgiveness For Puerto Rico.
- Marianas Variety: GAO: NMI Faces Labor Shortages, Fiscal Risks.
- Fiji Sun: Marshall Islands Lady President, Heine Opens Pacific Women Meeting.
- Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR): Mapp Can't Promise That Payroll Will Be Met Next Week; Territory's 'Limping Along' Financially.
- Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR): WAPA Receives \$35 Million For Territory-Wide Restoration Effort; Curfews Eased Further; UVI Classes Resume Monday.
- Papua New Guinea Today: Hitting Where It Hurts: Pacific Waters Off-limits To North Korean Vessels.
- Washington Times: Puerto Rico, The U.S. Virgin Islands And Their Debt.
- Additional Reading.

US Geological Survey

- Daily Mail: Category 5 Hurricanes Hammered Florida 12,000 Years Ago.
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- ABC: NRA, Both Parties Move Toward Consensus On Banning Bump Stocks.
- USA Today: Trump To Resume Tax Cut Push During Oval Office Meeting With Manufacturers.
- CNN: Trump: Meeting With Top Military Leaders Represents "Calm Before The Storm."

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 - "Why Decertifying The Iran Nuclear Deal Would Be A Bad Idea."
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DOI In The News

Trump Administration To Reconsider Sage Grouse Conservation Plans.

[The Hill](#) (10/5, Henry) reports that the Interior Department has "begun the process of reconsidering and potentially revising a 2015 plan to protect the greater sage grouse, a Western bird that has seen its habitat dwindle." In a notice published Thursday, the Bureau of Land Management "said it would review land use provisions in the federal sage grouse conservation plan, which limits new development on some of the sage grouse's range in 10 western states and

defines ways to expand its habitat there." BLM is "also set to reverse an Obama administration effort to block mining on 10 million acres of land in six Western states." The ban was "part of the administration's efforts to protect the sage grouse."

The [AP](#) (10/5, Daly) reports that the BLM "said a recent analysis showed that mining or grazing would not pose a significant threat to the sage grouse." According to officials, "the proposal would affect less than one-tenth of 1 percent of sage grouse-occupied range across 11 states from California to the Dakotas."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/5, Siegel) reports that Rep. Rob Bishop "applauded Zinke's decision to reconsider the sage grouse policy." Bishop said in a statement, "These withdrawals were never about Sage Grouse conservation. It was all a ploy to assert more federal power, ignore actual data and best science, and diminish the influence and authority of states. Secretary Zinke is developing a better policy through input from states and people on the ground with local knowledge and expertise."

The [Washington Times](#) (10/5, Richardson) reports that the notices "drew cheers from Western Republicans and industry groups that have decried the sage-grouse restrictions as unnecessary and politically driven." Kathleen Sgamma, president of the Western Energy Alliance, said the Obama Administration's efforts represented a "top-down, one-size-fits-all approach." She said, "The attitude of this Interior Department, which is much more interested in real collaboration with states and counties, is welcome after the prior administration's process that ignored real threats to sage-grouse and exaggerated impacts from human activities."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/5, Grandoni) reports that the move was condemned by environmental groups. Whit Fosburgh, president of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, said, "If they go too far in unraveling the basic framework of the agreement, it will lead to a listing. That's what everyone was trying to avoid."

Also reporting are the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/5, O'Donoghue), the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (10/5, Harding), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/5, Richards), the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (10/6, Hamway), and [KIFI-TV Idaho Falls \(ID\)](#) Idaho Falls, ID (10/5).

Lake Okeechobee Dike Repairs 'Priority' For Trump, Zinke Says.

The [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (10/5, Bennett) reports that "repairing the Herbert Hoover Dike around Lake Okeechobee and restoring the Everglades are important to President Donald Trump, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said Thursday after visiting a construction project along the lake." Trump has "proposed spending \$82 million on rehabilitating the dike in 2018, up from about \$68 million approved by Congress in 2017." Zinke said, "From President Trump, we want it done yesterday. He wants to win, so anything I can do to remove the regulations, streamline the process, to get it moving quicker — we can do it right. The Army Corps of Engineers is the best this country has as far as engineering goes. So I'm comfortable if they're given the green light they can complete the task quicker."

[WPEC-TV](#) West Palm Beach, FL (10/5, Weber) reports that Zinke added, "Above everything else is to make sure we restore the system, to make sure long-term, the Everglades and the system return to health."

Three Trump Cabinet Members Attended Mining Lobbyist Meeting At Trump International Hotel.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/5, Grandoni, Eilperin) reports that three members of the President's Cabinet attended a meeting of the National Mining Association at the Trump International Hotel in Washington this week, "according to a schedule of the event obtained by The Washington Post." Commerce Secretary Ross on Tuesday "headlined a general session." Tuesday afternoon, Labor Secretary Acosta "spoke with NMA members during a lunch sponsored by Jenmar Corp. and Royal Gold," and on Wednesday, Energy Secretary Perry "spoke at a breakfast sponsored by Komatsu Mining Corp." Interior Secretary Zinke also had been scheduled to attend, "but according to the department's deputy communications director, Russell Newell, he 'is traveling and so was unavailable for the meeting.'" Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt "attended Wednesday in his place."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (10/5, Grandoni).

House Dems Want DOI Monument Review Info Released.

[Law360](#) (10/5, Phillis) reports that claiming "the process has been far too secretive, 26 House Democrats introduced a resolution Wednesday that would direct Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to release information on the Trump administration's review of national monuments." Rep. Raul M.

Grijalva, "and his colleagues said that Zinke has not been open about the administration's monument review process."

Baker Team Swims Around Marine Monument Controversy. The [Gloucester \(MA\) Times](#) (10/5, Lannan) reports that "fishing industry interests are hopeful that restrictions will be loosened" in the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument "while environmentalists are fighting to uphold Obama's designation." Gov. Charlie Baker's administration "began highlighting concerns with the monument designation process as early as November 2015, when the governor wrote to Obama saying the a monument designation could undermine work by the New England Fishery Management Council to establish protections for the canyons and seamounts and to develop a broader ocean management plan." Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton has "declined to say if he agreed that commercial fishing should return to the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts, instead pointing back at the process by which it was declared a monument."

Notes From Closed Meeting Show How Interior Aims To Weaken Environmental Laws.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/5, Fears) reports that near the end of September, Bureau of Land Management officials "hosted a conference with state, county and local government representatives to discuss ways to loosen environmental rules." BLM "hosts told attendees and those joining the invitation-only meeting remotely that they wanted to streamline a powerful law that protects wildlife and public land, the National Environmental Policy Act." But "at least two groups not on the invitation list obtained the call-in information for the meeting and secretly sat in and took notes, which one group provided to The Washington Post." Leah Baker, the BLM division chief for planning and NEPA, said in an interview Tuesday, "We're seeking a better decision-making process that's more productive and getting decisions faster. We heard through this process that we should try and streamline regulations ... and that the agency leaves a little to be desired in how effectively we coordinate" with states and local governments.

Additional Coverage: Trump's Interior Chief 'Hopping Around From Campaign Event To Campaign Event'.

Additional coverage of the scrutiny over Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's travel habits was provided by [Politico](#) (10/5, Lefebvre, Whieldon), [Reuters](#) (10/5, Heavey), and the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (10/5).

Additional Coverage: Interior Department Whistleblower Resigns After Reassignment From Climate Change Duties.

Additional coverage that Joel Clement, "who blew the whistle on the Trump administration for reassigning him from measuring climate change to a different department has resigned." was provided by [CNN](#) (10/5, Green), the [Huffington Post](#) (10/5, D'Angelo), [MSNBC](#) (10/5, Benen), and [Federal News Radio \(DC\)](#) (10/5, White).

NYTimes: 48 Environmental Rules Targeted For Elimination Under Trump Administration.

An analysis in the [New York Times](#) (10/5, Popovich, Albeck-Ripka) examines nearly 50 environmental rules that the Trump Administration is seeking to reverse. The analysis includes a chart identifying each policy targeted by the Administration as well as who lobbied to get the regulations changed.

The Media Are Missing Trump's Much-Needed Regulatory Relief.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/5, Harbin), Americans for Prosperity VP of External Affairs Christine Harbin states that "American consumers, businesses, and families have all paid the price" for decades of creating additional federal regulations without removing any. The Trump Administration's efforts "in regulatory relief" have "not grabbed a lot of headlines in the media, but they have had significant impact in peeling back the regulatory state left over from President Barack Obama and prior administrations." Consistent with these efforts, "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has reined in restrictive land use policies of previous administrations and reduced red tape to domestic energy production." Harbin encourages President Trump and Congress to continue these regulation streamlining efforts so that the federal government "works better for all Americans."

Pleasing Everyone And No One.

In a piece for the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (10/5, Brown), Kellyn Brown finds Interior Secretary

Ryan Zinke contradictory in many of his positions, especially on his “his proposal to shrink national monuments, except in Montana.” As a result, “fewer are pleased on any side.” Brown notes that “Zinke is nothing if not ambitious — he’s rumored to perhaps run for U.S. Senate in 2018 or governor in 2020.” However, Brown concludes that “in his effort to be so many different things to so many different stakeholders, it’s hard to know what he believes at all.”

‘Blame Game’ Not An Effective Way To Fight Fires.

In an op-ed for the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (10/5, Powers), Debo Powers criticizes “the outrageous and opportunistic comments made by Sen. Steve Daines, Congressman Greg Gianforte, Interior Secretary Zinke, and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue at the Lolo Fire.” Power says that “to use a time when many Montanans were evacuating their homes, firefighters were risking their lives, and all of us were tired of breathing smoke to start a ‘blame game’ and push a political agenda was insensitive and unethical.” Power suggests that “rather than playing the unproductive ‘blame game,’ real leaders should be working together, pushing for real solutions to address this complicated problem, like renewable energy and decreasing the use of fossil fuels.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

BIA Floats Rule Changes For Tribal Land-Into-Trust Bids.

[Law360](#) (10/5, Westney) reports that John Tahsuda III, the principal deputy assistant secretary for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, “sent a letter to Native American tribal leaders Wednesday that laid out proposed changes to the process tribes must follow to request that the federal government take their land into trust, including provisions that could make it harder for tribes to launch off-reservation casinos.”

Wino Round Up BIA Investigation Finds Fault, Fails To Deliver Justice.

Covering the “The Wino Round Up” of 2013, the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (10/5, Murray) reports that a “class action complaint claiming widespread civil rights violations on the Fort Peck Indian Reservation is dead in the water, despite the fact that a federal investigation conducted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 2014 concluded that Fort Peck Tribal Police officers ‘unlawfully arrested and detained 29 individuals without legal justification, this depriving these individuals of various civil rights.’” As of now, “no additional legal action is being taken against any of the individuals named in the IAD report, and there is no tribal, state or federal effort to financially compensate the individuals caught up in the 2013 Wino Round Up.”

Tribe Delivers Bottled Water To Crow Agency After Treatment Facility Was Vandalized.

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (10/5, Wilson) reports that “crews of Crow Tribe employees worked into the night Wednesday and again Thursday morning to deliver trailer-loads of bottled water to homes in Crow Agency, where the municipal water supply has been shut down after a break-in at the water treatment plant.” The Gazette adds, “Investigators with the Federal Bureau of Investigation were also at the plant Thursday morning. Those at the scene declined to comment, and an FBI spokesman in Billings said the agency is investigating, but would not comment on whether any arrests had been made.”

Also reporting are the [AP](#) (10/5), [Montana Public Radio](#) (10/5, O'Brien), and [KXLH-TV Helena \(MT\)](#) Helena, MT (10/5, Jay).

Bureau Of Land Management

BLM Proposal Would Revive Mining In Renewable Energy Zone.

[E&E Publishing](#) (10/5, Streater) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has “proposed that the Interior Department cancel the withdrawal of more than a million acres of federal lands from new mining claims within a formally designated renewable energy development zone in the Southern California desert,” according to multiple sources. According to the sources, “formally canceling the two-year withdrawal from new mining claims signals the first step in a broader effort by Interior to eventually dismantle federal participation in the 22.5-million-acre Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan (DRECP) that it partnered on with the state of California.” A draft submitted by acting BLM Director Mike Nedd “argues that the cost of between \$4 million and \$6 million to conduct the environmental impact statement evaluating the withdrawal is cost

prohibitive and necessitates a cancellation of the withdrawal, formally published in the Federal Register in December.”:

House Approves Bill To Allow Tucson Full Ownership Of Udall Park.

[KGUN-TV](#) Tucson, AZ (10/5) reports that “earlier this week the House of Representatives passed Congresswoman Martha McSally’s bill to allow Tucson to take full ownership of Udall Park.” The legislation “resolves a 28-year-old land exchange between the city and the Federal Bureau of Land Management.” McSally said, “Udall Park is a beautiful place in our Southern Arizona community to gather, but this long-standing land dispute has prevented the City of Tucson from improving the park and growing to its potential for too long.”

Defendants In Land Dispute Await DOJ Approval On Proposed Settlement.

The [Wichita Falls \(TX\) Times Record News](#) (10/5, Ingle) reports that “defendants are awaiting final approval of a proposed settlement that would end an almost two-year-old land dispute lawsuit that pits the federal against private landowners and local and state governments and agencies.” The Department of Justice was “required by U.S. District Court Judge Reed O’Connor to notify the court of the federal of it’s progress of reaching a settlement in the case.” In a filing Wednesday, the DOJ “said it is awaiting final approval of the proposed settlement, which comes from the assistant attorney general for the Environmental and Natural Resources Division of the DOJ.”

Judge: BLM Broke Law In Plan To Sterilize Idaho Wild Horses.

The [AP](#) (10/5, Kruesi) reports that the Bureau of Land Management “violated environmental law in its plan to sterilize a herd of wild horses in southwestern Idaho, according to a recent ruling from a federal judge.” U.S. District Judge Edward Lodge held Friday the BLM “failed to analyze consequences of the action and ordered the agency to reconsider its decision.” Lodge wrote in his ruling, “The BLM’s decision in this case is arbitrary and capricious because it did not consider the significant impacts its decision may have on the free-roaming nature of the herd nor explain why its decision is appropriate despite those impacts.”

Feds Target Popular Utah Wild Horse Herd For Roundup.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (10/5, Maffly) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is “proposing to remove up to three-fourths of the 450 horses that populate the Onaqui herd about 40 miles southwest of Salt Lake City.” The action is “needed to reduce effects the herd is having on vital sage grouse habitat occupied by Utah’s most imperiled population of the famous ground-nesting bird, the BLM said in announcing a public comment period through Oct. 31.” BLM spokeswoman Lisa Reid said, “It’s a beautiful herd loved by many, so we want to make sure we approach this in an open fashion. There are several factors playing a role in this and livestock grazing is not one of them.”

Additional Coverage: Court Restores BLM Methane Reg In ‘Stinging Rebuke’ To Trump.

Additional coverage that “the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California ruled that the Interior Department violated federal law in June when it froze key provisions of the Bureau of Land Management’s methane rule” was provided by [E&E Publishing](#) (10/5), the [New York Times](#) (10/6, Lipton), [Courthouse News](#) (10/5, Iovino), the [Carlsbad \(NM\) Current-Argus](#) (10/6, Hedden), and [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (10/5, Passut).

Bundy Trial Embodies Everything Dividing America Today.

In a piece for the [Conversation \(UK\)](#) (10/5, Eisenberg), Ann Eisenberg, Assistant Professor of Law, University of South Carolina, writes that “so much is at play in the trials of the Bundys and their supporters: the debatable phenomenon of white, rural, male, working-class alienation; longstanding conflicts over public lands; the role of race in the criminal justice system; and the deep racial and geographical divisions that weigh on the country.” But she concludes that “perhaps the clearest theme is that distrust of our legal institutions abounds, fueled by both the perception and reality of being excluded.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Additional Coverage: New York Submits “Area For Consideration” Identifying Four

Potential Wind Development Sites Off Atlantic Coast.

Additional coverage that New York has asked the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management "to consider identifying and leasing at least four new Wind Energy Areas off New York's Atlantic Coast" was provided by the [Windpower Engineering & Development](#) (10/5, Froese).

Bureau Of Reclamation

State Auditor Faults Handling Of Delta Tunnels Planning Contracts.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/5, Boxall) reports that "California water managers awarded a multimillion-dollar contract to a Sacramento consulting firm without going through the required competitive bidding process, according to the state auditor." In a report released Thursday, state auditor Elaine Howle "criticized the California Department of Water Resources for the way it handled a planning contract for California WaterFix." However, "in the department's response, attached to the audit, director Grant Davis disputed the findings."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/5, Sabalow, Kasler).

Gov. Brown Visits L.A. To Lobby For The \$17-billion Delta Water Project. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/5, Boxall) reports that "with two key California WaterFix votes looming, Gov. Jerry Brown expressed confidence Thursday that water agencies will commit to enough funding to sustain the massive project." Brown visited Los Angeles "to lobby for the \$17-billion proposal." The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California's board is "scheduled to vote Tuesday on a \$4.3-billion buy-in to WaterFix, which is a top priority for Brown. Two days later, the Kern County Water Agency board is expected to take its vote."

"Takings" Outcome Seen As Win For Tribes.

The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (10/5, Dillemoth) reports that "the Klamath Tribes shared positive reactions on Wednesday to the outcome of the 'takings' opinion, viewing the outcome filed Sept. 29 by Judge Marian Blank Horn as a win for tribal water rights in the Klamath Basin." The decision "denies Klamath Basin irrigators compensation of upward of \$30 million sought through the lengthy case stemming from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's water shutoffs in 2001." The judge "noted in the opinion the superiority of the in-stream water rights deemed "time-immemorial" held by the Klamath, Yurok and Hoopa Valley Tribes over irrigators with junior water user rights." Don Gentry, tribal chairman, said, "We are pleased with the decision. This affirmation of the Tribes' water rights should be another positive step towards the healing and restoration of our tribal treaty fisheries."

Federal Grant To Help C.O. Irrigators Swap Water, Boost Flows.

[KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (10/5) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation has "awarded a \$400,000 grant to the Central Oregon Irrigation District." In partnership with the Deschutes River Conservancy, the money will "help finance the development of a WaterSMART marketing strategy, an innovative water transactions program to facilitate the trading of water between irrigation districts and boost stream flows in the Deschutes River." The \$400,000 award will cover half of the \$800,000 total estimated cost.

Bureau Will Ask Water Board To Help Fund Water Storage Study.

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (10/5, Ellis) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation is "expected to ask the Idaho Water Resource Board this month to provide matching funding for a proposed study that would seek ways to store more water on the Boise River system." According to the article, "the study would cost \$5.6 million and would require a 50 percent match from non-federal partners, such as the IWRB and irrigation districts."

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Exxon Evacuating Staff From U.S. Gulf Platform Ahead Of Nate.

[Reuters](#) (10/5, Scheyder) reports ExxonMobil is evacuating all staff from its Lena platform in the Gulf of Mexico ahead of Tropical Storm Nate. [Reuters](#) (10/5, Scheyder) reports BP is shutting in all oil and natural gas production from its platforms in the Gulf. The company is also evacuating staff from its four platforms in the area. [Reuters](#) (10/5, Scheyder) reports Chevron started shutting in its Gulf oil and natural gas production. The company is closing the Blind Faith,

Genesis, Jack/St. Malo, Petronius and Tahiti facilities and evacuating staff. [Reuters](#) (10/5, Scheyder) reports Anadarko is shutting in production at the Horn Mountain and marlin platforms on Friday. Non-essential personnel are being evacuated from the company's Constitution, Holstein, Lucius and Marco Polo platforms.

Fish And Wildlife Service

Interior Department Rejects 25 Endangered Species Petitions, Including Several Linked To Climate Change.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/5, Mooney, Grandoni) reports that the Fish and Wildlife Service on Thursday "declined 25 separate petitions to list a variety of species as endangered or threatened, including the high-profile Pacific walrus, which is contending with sharp climate change trends in the Arctic where it spends much of its life atop floes of floating sea ice." The FWS "also declined a listing petition for the Florida Keys mole skink, a subspecies of lizard that lives on beaches and in coastal forests that face rising seas and were just swept by Hurricane Irma." The article notes that "other rejected listings included Bicknell's thrush, a songbird that lives at high mountain altitudes, the Big Blue Springs cave crayfish, and the Kirtland's snake." In addition, "fourteen separate species of Nevada springsnails were also rejected for listing."

Feds Say Black Hills Woodpeckers Not Endangered Or Threatened. The [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (10/5, Tupper) reports that "woodpeckers found in the Black Hills will not be listed as threatened or endangered, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has decided."

High-altitude Colorado Boreal Toad Left Unlisted As Endangered Species. The [Summit \(CO\) Daily](#) (10/5, Fixler) reports that "the eastern boreal toad population in the high elevations of Colorado and other Rocky Mountain states may be in decline, but it will not be granted protected status under the national Endangered Species Act."

Feds Protect Four Florida Plants, Stall On Pinesnake. [Courthouse News](#) (10/5, YOUNG-GRINDLE) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has "finalized federal protection for four Florida pine rockland plants, but it has delayed the listing for the Louisiana pine snake." The agency has "listed the shrubby Everglades bully, the Florida pineland crabgrass, and the pineland sandmat, an herb, as threatened species under the ESA." In addition, "another shrub, the Florida prairie-clover, has been listed as an endangered species."

Congress Moves Closer To Allowing Oil And Gas Drilling In Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/5, Siegel) reports Congress is moving towards allowing oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as both chambers made progress on budget legislation on Thursday. The House passed its 2018 budget resolution, which instructs the National Resources Committee to approve legislation reducing the deficit by \$5 billion over 10 years. The Senate Budget Committee approved its 2018 budget resolution that contains a similar provision intended to facilitate drilling in the ANWR. [E&E Daily](#) (10/5) reports Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer is warning Republicans that they will have a tough time passing the budget if they move to open drilling in the ANWR to help pay for tax cuts. Schumer said, "I think it's going to be a tough fight for them to do it. There are some Republicans who at least expressed privately some distaste for opening up ANWR."

[Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/5, Martinson) also provides coverage.

What The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Means For Conservationists And The Energy Sector.

On [WWNO-FM](#) New Orleans (10/5), Matthew Kotchen, professor of economics at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, discussed "the history and importance" of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to "the environmental and the energy sectors."

Battle Over Two Owl Species Takes Flight At 9th Circuit.

[Courthouse News](#) (10/5, Brown) reports that a Ninth Circuit panel seemingly express interest on Thursday "in an environmental advocate's novel argument against what has become an increasingly standard practice in wildlife management – killing droves of one wild species in an effort to benefit another." Friends of Animals sued the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "over a 2014 plan to kill thousands of barred owls, which in recent decades have encroached on the old-growth forest habitat of threatened spotted owls." The FWS "said it wanted to kill the birds as an experiment to determine whether reducing barred owl numbers would benefit spotted owls." Friends of Animals claimed the plan ignored the fact that the real problem was habitat destruction caused by deforestation, and instead unfairly scapegoated a protected wild animal for

the spotted owl's human-caused decline."

Block Island Wind Farm Helps Researchers Monitor Offshore Bird And Bat Migrations.

[WRNI-FM](#) Providence, RI (10/5, Brookins) reports that the Block Island Wind Farm "now has a wildlife tracking station aimed at helping researchers learn more about offshore flight patterns of small birds and bats that are likely to become endangered or extinct in the foreseeable future unless federal action is taken." In August, Deepwater Wind, "developers of the wind farm, installed four antennas and a receiver on the foundation of one of the wind turbines to collect data from birds and bats previously tagged with tiny, high-frequency transmitters." Researchers from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "in collaboration with University of Rhode Island and University of Massachusetts Amherst have been monitoring what time of day and in what weather conditions small-bodied bats and birds, such as piping plovers, roseate terns, and common terns, fly by the station."

National Park Service

Indiana Lakeshore Closer To Becoming National Park.

The [AP](#) (10/5) reports that the House Natural Resources Committee has "advanced a plan to make Indiana's Dunes National Lakeshore a national park." The committee "unanimously approved the plan Wednesday." The full House will next vote on whether to send it to the Senate.

Additional coverage was provided by the [La Porte \(IN\) Herald-Argus](#) (10/5) and the [Michigan City \(IN\) News Dispatch](#) (10/5).

For The First Time Ever, LGBT Pride Flag Will Fly On Federal Land.

[Newsweek](#) (10/5, Ziv) reports that "a rainbow flag will soon fly at the Stonewall National Monument in Manhattan, the first such flag to be permanently placed on federal land and maintained by the National Park Service, activists announced on Thursday." Michael Petrelis, "the LGBT and AIDS activist who initiated the effort," said, "It is a victory for our community to have these symbolic colors flying majestically over our Stonewall, designated as a National Monument by President Obama, even as our LGBTQ brothers and sisters are under attack by the current regime in power."

Hey, You Can't Park There! Dockless Bike-share Bikes Ending Up In Inappropriate Places.

In its "Dr. Gridlock" blog, the [Washington Post](#) (10/5, Lazo) reports that "in the two weeks since Spin and other dockless bikeshare operations launched in Washington, the colorful bikes are proving popular — but also showing up in unwanted and inappropriate places." The National Park Service has "seized more than a dozen found abandoned inside memorials, sidewalks and parking lots." NPS spokeswoman Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles "said the dockless bike-share services do not have authorization to operate on NPS land in the D.C. area, and park officials have reached out to DDOT and bike-share companies to address the issue."

Report Recommends Capping Yellowstone Bison Removal At 1,250.

The [AP](#) (10/5) reports that "a recently released Yellowstone National Park bison status report says officials are looking to cap this winter's cull of bison at 1,250." The recommendations "released late last week also include banning bison hunting the West Yellowstone area because the officials have noticed the portion of the herd that migrates there has been decreasing." The article says that "various state, federal and tribal officials are expected to finalize winter cull details as early as November."

Freeway-Crossing Mountain Lion Dies In Southern California.

The [AP](#) (10/5) reports that "a mountain lion that managed to cross a Southern California freeway and make its home in the mountains north of Los Angeles has died." The National Park Service "says the 10-year-old male dubbed P-41 was found dead Wednesday on the edge of the Verdugo Mountains, a small range surrounded by urban sprawl." According to spokeswoman Kate Kuykendall, "the carcass had deteriorated so the cause of death is unclear but it's possible a recent wildfire may have been a contributing factor." A necropsy will determine how P-41 died.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/5, Smith).

Researchers: Pythons Changed Mosquito's Diet In Everglades.

The [AP](#) (10/5) reports that “University of Florida researchers have more data showing invasive Burmese pythons decimating populations of native mammals in the Everglades.” Entomology professor Nathan Burkett-Cadena “led a team collecting *Culex cedecei* mosquitoes in Everglades National Park.” The researchers “analyzed animal DNA in the mosquitoes’ guts to determine what they had bitten.” According to Burkett-Cadena, “rats now make up three-quarters of the mosquitoes’ diet because pythons have eaten so many other mammals.”

Emery Farm Named To National Historic Register.

The [Seacoast Online \(NH\)](#) (10/5) reports that Emery Farm was added to the National Register of Historic Places “this week for its long associations with local agricultural life in New Hampshire, specifically market gardening.”

Additional Coverage: Activists Plan To Move 45-foot-tall Nude Female Statue To National Mall.

Additional coverage that “activists are planning to move a sculpture of a 45-foot-tall nude woman to a spot on the National Mall facing the White House” was provided by [The Hill](#) (10/5, Savransky).

Office Of Insular Affairs

White House Rules Out Debt Forgiveness For Puerto Rico.

After President Trump “appeared to signal an openness to wiping out Puerto Rico’s debts during an interview with Fox News on Tuesday,” the White House “threw cold water” on the idea, [The Hill](#) (10/5, Kamisar) reports. Asked about Puerto Rico’s more than \$70 billion in debt, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders “said that the best thing for the island will be for it to use the normal process set up to deal with its debt.” Sanders said, “There’s a process for how to deal with Puerto Rico’s debt, and it will have to go through that process to have a lasting recovery and growth. ... That is a process that was put in place and set up under [former President] Obama, and has a board of advisers that deals with that debt. It’ll go through that process as we move forward.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/5, Sink, Olorunnipa, Spalding) says Sanders’ comments “were another attempt by administration officials to clarify Trump’s intentions regarding the territory’s debt” after he told [Fox News](#), “We have to look at their whole debt structure. ... They owe a lot of money to your friends on Wall Street. We’re going to have to wipe that out. That’s going to have to be – you know, you can say goodbye to that. I don’t know if it’s Goldman Sachs but whoever it is, you can wave goodbye to that.”

AP Fact Checks Trump’s Claims About Puerto Rico. The [AP](#) (10/5, Woodward, Borenstein) reports that Trump “struck false notes in addressing Puerto Rico’s crisis in recent days, exaggerating both the ferocity of a truly ferocious hurricane and the pace of recovery.” The AP Fact Checks some of Trump’s statements including his claim in Puerto Rico that Hurricane Maria “has been a Category 5, which — few people have ever even heard of a Category 5 hitting land. But it hit land and, boy, did it hit land.” Maria “actually made landfall on Puerto Rico as a Category 4 hurricane, not 5.” In addition, Trump “said at one point that Maria had winds of 200 mph (322 kph),” but “no official reports put the winds that strong.” On Trump’s claim that Puerto Rico’s debt will be wiped out, the AP says, “Washington doesn’t have the authority to force investors to take massive losses, if that’s what he meant.”

Ninety-One Percent Of Puerto Rico Remains Without Power. David Begnaud Mason reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/5, story 5, 2:00, Mason) that 91 percent of Puerto Rico is without power. One hospital had to be evacuated when “the power grid went down.” Officials are now “assessing all the hospitals to make sure the power grids are up to date, and they’re pre-planning for possible evacuations of other hospitals if need be.” Begnaud added that in the interior of the country, the situation is “much worse,” as people “are drinking and bathing with stream water.” The governor “has said some people could be without power for up to a year.”

Statistics On Drinking Water, Electricity Removed From FEMA Web Page. The [Washington Post](#) (10/5, Johnson) reports that on Wednesday the FEMA web page documenting the federal response to Maria showed that “half of Puerto Ricans had access to drinking water and 5 percent of the island had electricity.” However, by Thursday morning, both of those figures had been removed from the page. A spokesman for the agency “noted that both measures are still being reported on a website maintained by the office of Puerto Rican Gov. Ricardo Rosselló,

www.status.pr," but "didn't elaborate on why they are no longer on the main FEMA page."

Thousands Of Puerto Ricans Fleeing For Mainland US. The [New York Times](#) (10/5, Healy, Ferré-sadurni) reports that "thousands of Puerto Ricans are cramming onto the small number of scheduled flights and charter jets and are fleeing for the mainland United States, rather than endure months more without power, cellphone service or regular running water." Mainland cities and states "with large Puerto Rican populations are preparing for the influx by trying to help people find housing, work and schools."

Case Made For Stronger Electric Grid In Puerto Rico. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/5), Mark P. Mills, a senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute and faculty fellow at Northwestern University's McCormick School of Engineering, argues that despite calls from environmentalists to rebuild a greener electric grid for Puerto Rico, what the island needs is a harder grid including stronger poles and wires, waterproofed substations, pre-emptive tree removal near wires, and buried wires.

GAO: NMI Faces Labor Shortages, Fiscal Risks.

[Marianas Variety](#) (10/5, Villahermosa) reports that "the CNMI's economic outlook has improved, but it faces growing labor shortages that may affect its ability to repay public debt, the U.S. Government Accountability Office said in a report titled 'U.S. Territories: Public Debt Outlook.'" The GAO "reiterated its earlier finding that removing all permitted foreign workers from the CNMI would result in a GDP decline of 26 to 62 percent — 'a relatively large negative effect on the economy.'" In its most recent report, the GAO said "planned reductions in permitted workers could worsen the effect on GDP going forward and hamper the territory's ability to repay existing debt."

Marshall Islands Lady President, Heine Opens Pacific Women Meeting.

The [Fiji Sun](#) (10/5, Kumar) reports that President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands Hilda Heine made opening remarks at the 13th Triennial Conference of Pacific Women and the sixth Pacific Ministers for Women meeting on Monday. Heine "said every woman, in our Pacific countries, our communities, our clans and families need to 'walk the talk' and make sure that women enjoy the same economic right as men." Heine emphasized "that women's economic empowerment is essential for building resilience and driving sustainable development for the region."

Mapp Can't Promise That Payroll Will Be Met Next Week; Territory's 'Limping Along' Financially.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (10/5) reports that Gov. Kenneth Mapp commented on the financial state of the U.S. Virgin Islands during his daily press briefing on Wednesday. Mapp said, "We're limping along." He added, "I don't know that I can say to the people tonight that I will meet payroll next week."

WAPA Receives \$35 Million For Territory-Wide Restoration Effort; Curfews Eased Further; UVI Classes Resume Monday.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (10/4) reports that Gov. Kenneth Mapp "announced during his Wednesday press briefing that the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority today received \$35 million in federal disaster dollars to commence what is expected to be a major, territory-wide power restoration push from WAPA." According to the article, "the effort will include hundreds of linemen from around the U.S. mainland, with 240 workers being part of the first batch to arrive."

Hitting Where It Hurts: Pacific Waters Off-limits To North Korean Vessels.

[Papua New Guinea Today](#) (10/5) reports that President Trump has "ordered new economic sanctions against any financial institutions or other companies doing business with North Korea, a move designed to slow down Kim Jong-un's saber rattling." In turn, "China has announced a ban on petroleum products to the rogue nation, which has recently launched ballistic missile tests." Also, "during the recently concluded Pacific Island Forum, state leaders voted to deregister any North Korean trade or fishing vessels currently flagged on Pacific nation shipping registries." The forum "agreed to perform an audit of every ship registered in the Pacific to search for any links to North Korea."

Puerto Rico, The U.S. Virgin Islands And Their Debt.

In a piece for the [Washington Times](#) (10/4, Simmons), Deborah Simmons writes that President

Obama “signed into law the Puerto Rico Oversight, Management and Economic Stability Act (PROMESA), which, similar to the D.C. control board, was designed to alleviate financial pressures in the U.S. territory.” However, she says, “the thrashing Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have taken from Hurricanes Irma and Maria mean both are now awash in deeper shades of red ink.” As a result, “PROMESA might need to be revised.”

Additional Reading.

- *Between The Lines – Eric LeCompte: Urgent Call For Debt Relief After Hurricane Shatters Puerto Rico And U.S. Virgin Islands (Week Ending Oct. 13, 2017).* [Between the Lines](#) (10/4).
- *While Puerto Rico Fights For Aid, This Long-Forgotten Island Remains ‘Slum Of The Pacific’.* [EcoWatch](#) (10/5, Webb).

US Geological Survey

Category 5 Hurricanes Hammered Florida 12,000 Years Ago.

The [Daily Mail](#) (10/5, Borkhataria) reports that “according to new research, category 5 hurricanes may have slammed Florida repeatedly 12,000 years ago, during a climatic shift called The Younger Dryas.” The study, “published in the journal *Geology*, involved analyzing turbidites: a type of undersea landslide deposit that can provide a record for storm events.” Dr Michael Toomey, a researcher with the US Geological Survey and the lead author of the study, “has previously used turbidites in the Bahamas to link them with modern hurricanes.”

Additional Reading.

- *On 100th Anniversary, Charleston Water System Digs Up A Bit Of Its Well Water Past.* The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (10/5, Behre)
- *The Tech Is Effective, But Lacks Needed Funding.* [Government Technology](#) (10/5, Williams)
- *In A Body Farm For Trees, Scientists Root Out The Killers.* [Scientific American](#) (10/5, George)
- *Yellowstone Earthquake Storm One Of The Longest On Record.* The [Daily Mail](#) (10/5, Collins)

Top National News

Trump Expected To Decertify Iran’s Compliance With Nuclear Deal.

Multiple news outlets report that President Trump intends to decertify Iran’s compliance with the 2015 nuclear agreement, not killing the accord but giving Congress the option of reimposing sanctions. Coverage indicates that top national security personnel, including Secretary of State Tillerson and Defense Secretary Mattis, oppose the move. Analyses say that Trump may be seeking a way to act on his campaign promises opposing the agreement, without fully dismantling it, effectively shifting the matter to Congress.

Two US officials have told [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (10/5) that Trump plans to decertify the Iran nuclear deal. CNN’s Elise Labott reported that Tillerson is working on a plan to rewrite the legislation so that “instead of certifying that Iran is or is not in compliance,” Congress would “shift the focus to the other behavior that President Trump is also very concerned about. We’re talking about the ballistic missile program, we’re talking about human rights, their activity in Syria and Yemen.”

[Fox News Special Report](#) (10/5) reported the White House is “pushing back on the notion that anything is completely set in stone.” However, Fox’s Kevin Corke said UN Ambassador Haley may have “tipped the Administration’s hand yesterday,” when she [tweeted](#) that Sen. Tom Cotton “has clear understanding of the Iranian regime & flaws in the nuclear deal.” Corke noted that Cotton, who met with the President on Thursday, “has repeatedly called for the Administration to abandon the deal.”

[CNN’s Situation Room](#) (10/5) reported that Trump’s apparent decision to decertify comes despite “a lot of his national security advisers...seemingly suggesting [that’s] not necessarily such a good idea.” Both Tillerson and Mattis have previously said Iran is in compliance with the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action – though [Fox News](#) (10/5) reports on its website that though Tillerson has said Iran is “violating the spirit of the agreement because of its testing of ballistic missiles.”

The [AP](#) (10/5) reports that officials say that Trump “is planning to deliver an Iran policy

speech next week," with the event tentatively scheduled for Thursday. [Reuters](#) (10/5, Holland) reports that an official said the speech will outline a "broader US strategy on Iran that would be more confrontational." The [Washington Post](#) (10/5, A1, Gearan) reports that while Trump will "open the door to modifying the landmark 2015 agreement...for now he would hold off on recommending that Congress reimpose sanctions on Iran that would abrogate the agreement," according to "four people familiar with aspects of the president's thinking."

Margaret Brennan writes on the [CBS News](#) (10/5) website that if the President decertifies the deal by declaring that Iran is not in compliance, "the deal would still be intact, but he would effectively be putting the decision about what to do about the deal in the hands of Congress. Lawmakers would then be able to consider punitive measures like sanctions to punish Iran for non-compliance." Joshua Keating of [Slate](#) (10/5) writes that this would let Trump "(sort of) keep his campaign promise to dismantle the 'worst deal ever' while still keeping the JCPOA mostly intact."

[CNN](#) (10/5, Labott, Liptak, Cohen) reports on its website that White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said that the President "had made a decision on the agreement and would announce it 'soon,'" and the [New York Times](#) (10/5, Landler) reports that while Trump had reportedly "made up his mind what to do," he "has not yet signed a decision memo on the deal itself."

Dennis Ross, who served in several diplomatic positions under Presidents George H.W. Bush and Clinton, and as an adviser to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/5) that while decertification alone would not kill the deal, it would place pressure on Congress to reimpose sanctions – and if it were to do so, the US would then be in noncompliance. [AFP](#) (10/5) and [Reuters](#) (10/5) both report that European ambassadors are working Capitol Hill, urging against any imposition of sanctions.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/5, A1, Deyoung, Morello) reports on its front page that decertification "could start a chain of events that would sharply divide the United States from its closest traditional allies in the world." None of the three European signatories – Britain, France, and Germany – "believes Iran is in violation, and each has said publicly it will not renegotiate the nuclear agreement." Bianna Golodryga said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/5) that European allies have already expressed concern about the US leaving the deal after Trump's UN speech last month.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/5) editorializes, "Thanks the unanimous counsel of his national security team, President Trump appears to be edging away from his long-standing threat to junk the international accord that limits Iran's nuclear program. But it seems likely that he will embark on a dangerous and pointless game of brinkmanship with Tehran by refusing to recertify the deal to Congress," which "would be manifestly dishonest, and it could trigger a process that could cause the agreement to unravel."

The [New York Times](#) (10/5) says in an editorial that decertification "ignores that the deal is working," would "alienate our allies," and would "give Iran an excuse to resume a full-blown nuclear program." It also would not "help in the fight against" ISIS and would undermine "trust in America and the country's ability to negotiate in the future. At a crucial moment, Donald Trump is forcing the world to confront core questions it really shouldn't have to ask: Can he be trusted? And, more saliently, can America be trusted?"

David Ignatius writes in his [Washington Post](#) (10/5) column that Trump "should certify that Iran is complying with the nuclear deal because it's true. Even Cotton conceded as much this week, arguing against certification 'not primarily on the grounds related to Iran's technical compliance, but rather based on the long catalogue of the regime's crimes and perfidy against the United States.'"

Richard Haass of the Council on Foreign Relations [tweeted](#), "Decertification not warranted given Iran's compliance. Whether JCPOA is in US nat'l interest is a policy question." The CFR's Max Boot [tweeted](#), "Trump is making a mistake by decertifying Iranian deal despite Iran's compliance. He will isolate US, not Iran." David Rothkopf of the Washington Post [tweeted](#), "Trump JCPOA position isolates America from the world, Trump his national security team, our national position from reality."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/5, Bennett, Wilkinson) and the [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (10/5, Raymond) also have brief reports on the President's expected action.

House Democrats Urge Trump To Stay In Agreement. The [Jerusalem Post](#) (10/5, Wilner) reports, "In recent days, Republican and Democratic senators alike have questioned the wisdom of a full withdrawal, making it unlikely they will vote to reimpose the sort of crippling sanctions that once were in force." While "many Democrats voted against the nuclear deal" two years ago, "the caucus is united against any effort to scuttle it today." In [a Wednesday letter](#) to the

President signed by nearly every House Democrat, they said, "Some of us voted for, and some of us voted against, the nuclear agreement with Iran. Nonetheless, we are united in our belief that enforcing the agreement to the fullest extent will provide the United States with more leverage to stop a potential Iranian nuclear weapons program and push back on Iran's destabilizing activities."

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) [tweeted](#), "I'm appalled Trump plans to decertify Iran deal. This is dangerous for the American people. Is it only because Obama helped negotiate deal??" Rep. Betsy McCollum (D-MN) [tweeted](#), "The Iran deal is keeping us safe. @realDonaldTrump's plan to decertify defies logic and threatens global security." Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA) [tweeted](#), "Mr. President: Do not defy your Secs of Defense & State, & intel community leadership, who have advised Iran IS in compliance w/ #JCPOA".

Iran Imprisons Deal Negotiator For Espionage. [Al-Araby Al-Jadeed \(UK\)](#) (10/5) reports that Abdolrasoul Dorri Esfahani, a member of the Iranian team that negotiated the agreement, "has been convicted of espionage and sentenced by an Iranian court to five years in prison," according to Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency. While the report did not mention him by name, Esfahani "is the only negotiator known to be facing charges in Iran."

NRA, Both Parties Move Toward Consensus On Banning Bump Stocks.

The emerging agreement between both parties and the National Rifle Association that bump stocks of the sort used by Las Vegas shooter Stephen Paddock should be banned is generally portrayed in news coverage as rare consensus on the divisive issue of gun rights. However, several sources say that the NRA and Republicans differ with Democrats on how the ban should be imposed, and that the move is a strategic one that aims to head off talk of further gun control.

David Muir asked in opening [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/5, story 3, 2:00), "After the massacre took 58 lives, could there be bipartisan movement now on this in Washington?" There is a "growing call tonight to ban or regulate those so-called bump stocks." ABC's Cecilia Vega: "From the nation's most powerful gun lobby today, a call for change in the wake of the nation's deadliest mass shooting. ... The NRA now says, 'Devices designed to allow semiautomatic rifles to function like fully automatic rifles should be subject to additional regulations.' And tonight, a growing number of top Republicans say they would consider legislation banning bump stocks altogether." Vega added that while the White House has been "so far silent on gun control in the wake of the Las Vegas massacre," President Trump "signaled he'll be weighing in on the bump stock debate, too." Trump: "We'll be looking into that over the next short period of time."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/5, story 3, 2:25, Mason) reported, "The carnage in Las Vegas has led to a highly unusual development on Capitol Hill. Republicans signaled they're open to regulating the kind of equipment that enabled the shooter to gun down hundreds." CBS' Nancy Cordes: "In a sea change for Republicans, lawmakers from the House speaker on down today, said they're open to banning bump stocks." In 2010, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms "ruled that bump stocks are a firearm part, and, therefore, not regulated as a firearm under the Gun-Control Act or National Firearms Act." On Thursday, three GOP House members "sent a letter to the ATF today, urging them to re-evaluate these devices."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/5, story 5, 1:55, Holt), Hallie Jackson reported, "After decades of Republican resistance on gun control, tonight a new narrow opening on bump stocks, which let semiautomatic guns fire faster." House Speaker Ryan: "Apparently this allows you to take a semiautomatic turn it into fully automatic, so clearly that's something we need the look into." Senate Majority Whip Cornyn: "I think it's worth our serious consideration." Jackson: "And the President himself willing to consider new regulations." White House press secretary Sarah Sanders: "We're open to having that conversation. We think we should have that conversation, and we want to be part of it moving forward."

The [AP](#) (10/5, Werner) reports that the NRA "joined the Trump administration and top congressional Republicans Thursday in a swift and surprising embrace of a restriction on Americans' guns, though a narrow one: to regulate the 'bump stock' devices the Las Vegas shooter apparently used to horrifically lethal effect." The devices, "originally intended to help people with disabilities, fit over the stock and grip of a semi-automatic rifle and allow the weapon to fire continuously, some 400 to 800 rounds in a single minute."

[USA Today](#) (10/5, Jackson) reports that the NRA said in a statement, "Devices designed to allow semi-automatic rifles to function like fully-automatic rifles should be subject to additional regulations." But while "some lawmakers have proposed congressional legislation for bump stocks...the NRA and others said the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms should issue new regulations." The [New York Times](#) (10/5) reports that the NRA said the ATF "should revisit the

issue and 'immediately review whether these devices comply with federal law.'" The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/5, Peterson) reports that GOP leaders including Ryan said bump stocks are a loophole in existing law.

NRA Executive Vice President and CEO Wayne LaPierre said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (10/5) that bump stocks take "a semiautomatic firearm and makes it perform like a fully automatic firearm. It makes it function like one. What the NRA has said is we ought to take a look at that and see if it is in compliance with federal law and it's worthy of additional regulation. That being said, we didn't say ban, we didn't say confiscate."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/5, Debonis, Viebeck, O'Keefe) reports, "A House Republican with close ties to leadership...said there was a growing willingness to address the accessories among GOP lawmakers – if only to combat the perception that Congress has done nothing to address mass shootings." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/5, Mascaro) reports that some Democrats "denounced the move as dodge by the gun lobby to avoid new legislation" and a path that "could provide a way for Republicans to deflect pressure for congressional action that might lead to broader gun restrictions."

The [Washington Times](#) (10/5, Miller) calls the statement a "jarring pivot by the NRA," but [Politico](#) (10/5, Bade, Dawsey, Bresnahan) says that it is "designed to head off a messy gun control debate in Congress." [Breitbart](#) (10/5, Hawkins) writes that the NRA "is calling on members of Congress to squash talk of more gun control by moving the bump stock discussion back where it began in 2010: with the ATF," and the [Daily Caller](#) (10/5) reports that the NRA "said it would continue to push against efforts to restrict access to firearms."

Two Democratic legislators from Nevada backed the proposed move, but said it would not be enough. Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/5), "We had a massacre that occurred here Sunday night because somebody was able to accumulate all of these weapons and use a bump stock to turn a semiautomatic into fully automatic. ... I believe we need to do everything we can to bring these gun safety measures forward. I think there should be background checks. I think we should do everything we can to make sure that the mentally ill and terrorists do not access to weapons and we have to do something about the devices, like these bump stocks."

Rep. Ruben Kihuen (D-NV) said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/5), "It is time for Congress, Republicans and Democrats, to take action, to set in place commonsense gun legislation that will prevent gun violence in the future. ... The majority of the American people want commonsense gun legislation and I believe that now is the time. If now is not the time, then when?"

The [Washington Post](#) (10/5) asks in an editorial, "Why focus solely on bump stocks – 'a goofy little doodad,' in the words of a former firearms official – while ignoring the danger posed when people are allowed to purchase and possess assault-style weapons that were designed for war, with the capacity to kill in large numbers?" Former Clinton and Obama Administration official Ronald Klain writes in the [Washington Post](#) (10/5), "The Constitution does not require our loved ones to face the daily risk of being the next victims of a mass shooting, and the NRA does not get the final word in mandating it: That is up to our representatives and senators – and a president who promised the American people, on his first day in office, that such 'American carnage [would] stop...right now.'"

[McClatchy](#) (10/5, Clark, Dumain) headlines its report "NRA Gives Green Light To GOP To Discuss Gun Restriction." [Reuters](#) (10/5, Sage, Bernstein), [Bloomberg News](#) (10/5, Dennis, Litvan), and [The Hill](#) (10/5, Bolton, Wong) also report on the NRA's statement.

Conway: "Obama's ATF" Decided Against Regulating Bump Stocks. David Weigel of the [Washington Post](#) (10/5) writes that on CNN on Thursday morning, Kellyanne Conway argued "that the deregulation of bump stocks had been an Obama administration blunder." Conway said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (10/5), "It was President Obama's ATF...in 2010 that decided not to regulate this device. That should be part of the conversation and part of the facts that you put before your viewers."

Bump Stock Sales Surge; Walmart, Cabela's Remove Item From Websites. The [New York Times](#) (10/5, Hsu) reports that bump stock sales "jumped this week...even as Walmart and [outdoor products retailer] Cabela's stripped them from their websites." Walmart "said in a statement that the products never should have been sold on its site, that they were sold by third-party sellers, and they were 'immediately removed' because they violated the company's prohibited items policy." Amazon "does not sell bump stocks."

District Of Columbia Will Not Appeal Concealed Carry Gun Ruling To Supreme Court. The [Washington Post](#) (10/5, Jamison, Marimow) reports that the District of Columbia will not appeal a court order "blocking enforcement of the city's restrictions on the carrying of concealed guns in

public" to the Supreme Court, "setting the stage for what could be a marked increase in firearms on the streets" of Washington. District Attorney General Karl Racine said, "I continue to believe the District's 'good reason' requirement is a common-sense, and constitutional, gun regulation. However, we must reckon with the fact that an adverse decision by the Supreme Court could have wide-ranging negative effects not just on District residents, but on the country as a whole."

Paddock May Have Scouted Targets In Chicago And Boston. Coverage of the investigation into the shootings once again led all three broadcast network newscasts. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/5, lead story, 4:00, Muir) reported that Paddock "may have scouted other potential targets in Chicago and in Boston." On [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/5, lead story, 2:35, Holt), Pete Williams reported that officials say Paddock "did Internet research earlier this year on Lollapalooza, the summer music festival in Chicago's Grant Park. He even reserved rooms in a hotel that overlooks the park for a few days, though he never actually showed up. He also researched events at Boston's Fenway Park and nearby hotels." On the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/5, lead story, 2:40, Mason), John Blackstone reported that while "investigators are no closer to understanding what may have inspired" Paddock, they "believe Paddock may have had an accomplice."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/5) reports that while investigators have made progress in piecing together Paddock's "movements in the hours and days before the attack...what local and federal investigators say remains elusive" is an "explanation for why Paddock carried out the rampage." The [New York Times](#) (10/5, Medina, Burns, Goldman) reports, "No grandiose manifesto has been found. No account of Mr. Paddock behaving dangerously or holding extremist views has emerged from neighbors or relatives. Unlike past killers, Mr. Paddock did not dial up the police to explain his actions." FBI agents have interviewed his girlfriend Marilou Danley, but Clark County Sheriff Joseph Lombardo "said he was 'not at liberty to say' what information had been learned." On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/5, story 2, 2:35, Muir), Brian Ross reports that Danley "told FBI agents Paddock was a caring man who showed no sign of violence."

ISIS Continues To Claim That Paddock Was Member. [Townhall](#) (10/5, Rousselle) reports under the headline "ISIS Triples Down Claiming Las Vegas Shooting" that ISIS "is continuing to insist" that Paddock was a member of the organization. The ISIS newsletter Naba says that Paddock "converted to Islam six months ago and used the Islamic name Abu Abdul Barr al-Amriki. The newsletter boasts that 'brother Abu Abdul Barr' fired on concertgoers using dozens of weapons and then died after exhausting his ammo supply." Townhall writes that as in its earlier claims, "ISIS does not provide any proof that Paddock was a Muslim or was connected to ISIS."

YouTube Alters Algorithm After Searches About Shootings Return Conspiracy Theories. [USA Today](#) (10/5, Guynn) reports, "YouTube has changed its powerful search algorithm to promote videos from more mainstream news outlets in search results" after searches for information on the Las Vegas shootings returned "conspiracy theories and misinformation." YouTube confirmed the changes, but "didn't say how it decides which news sources are authoritative."

Trump To Resume Tax Cut Push During Oval Office Meeting With Manufacturers.

[USA Today](#) (10/5, Przybyla) reports, that President Trump on Friday "will resume his push for tax cuts" during an Oval Office meeting at which he will "host more than a dozen manufacturing industry employees and executives and issue a proclamation making Oct. 6 'National Manufacturing Day.'" USA Today highlights that Sen. Joe Manchin will not attend the meeting because, according to an aide, he "can't support the plan outlined last week by GOP congressional negotiators." Manchin "believes the proposed plan differs from the one Trump described during a dinner earlier this month with moderate Democrats and Republicans at the White House, the aide said." He "believes the current plan benefits the wealthy more than the middle class," but "wants to work with Trump on a deal."

Trump: Meeting With Top Military Leaders Represents "Calm Before The Storm."

[CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (10/5) reported that during a reception Thursday night for top military leaders at the White House, President Trump delivered some "ominous remarks." As he took pictures with his guests, Trump said, "You guys know what this represents? The calm before the storm." When reporters asked what he was referring to, Trump repeated his remark, adding that the "world's great military people" were present. The White House did not provide further clarification. [USA Today](#) (10/5, Miller) says the President sent a "cryptic message" to White House pool reporters. When reporters asked the President what he meant, Trump "did not clarify his comments," saying only, "You'll find out."

The [Washington Times](#) (10/5, Boyer) reports Trump also told the senior military leaders

“that he wants them to give him military options ‘at a much faster pace’ when national-security emergencies erupt around the world.” Said the President, “I know that government bureaucracy is slow, but I am depending on you to overcome the obstacles of bureaucracy.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Cuba And The Mystery Of The Sonic Weapon.” A [New York Times](#) (10/5) editorial says the symptoms of US and Canadian officials in Havana “are real and deeply worrisome,” and Cuba “must be the prime suspect.” If Cuba “is found to have used some new surveillance machine, the United States would have the obligation to respond angrily.” But the Times writes that “until there is concrete evidence about the source of the attacks, the Trump administration is wrong to expel Cuban diplomats from Washington.”

“Why Decertifying The Iran Nuclear Deal Would Be A Bad Idea.” The [New York Times](#) (10/5) says in an editorial that decertification of the Iran nuclear deal “ignores that the deal is working,” would “alienate our allies,” and would “give Iran an excuse to resume a full-blown nuclear program.” It also would not “help in the fight against” ISIS and would undermine “trust in America and the country’s ability to negotiate in the future. At a crucial moment, Donald Trump is forcing the world to confront core questions it really shouldn’t have to ask: Can he be trusted? And, more saliently, can America be trusted?”

Washington Post.

“Trump’s Dangerous Folly On The Iran Deal.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/5) editorializes, “Thanks the unanimous counsel of his national security team, President Trump appears to be edging away from his long-standing threat to junk the international accord that limits Iran’s nuclear program. But it seems likely that he will embark on a dangerous and pointless game of brinkmanship with Tehran by refusing to recertify the deal to Congress,” which “would be manifestly dishonest, and it could trigger a process that could cause the agreement to unravel.”

“Banning Bump Stocks Is Not Nearly Enough.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/5) asks in an editorial, “Why focus solely on bump stocks – ‘a goofy little doodad,’ in the words of a former firearms official – while ignoring the danger posed when people are allowed to purchase and possess assault-style weapons that were designed for war, with the capacity to kill in large numbers?”

“Ed Gillespie Wants Virginians To Be Very, Very Afraid.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/5) criticizes ex-RNC chief Ed Gillespie, who is battling Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam in this fall’s race to succeed term-limited Gov. Terry McAuliffe, over ads he’s been running on the topic of his “wedge issue of the day...gang violence – specifically, violent Hispanic gangs such as MS-13 – to which he hopes to harness the xenophobic fervor that propelled Donald Trump to the White House.” The Post says Gillespie “has twisted truth to suit his purpose, and pandered to nativists in the Republican base, by trying to link [Northam] to the MS-13 scourge” for having, as a narrator says in an ad, “cast the deciding vote in favor of sanctuary cities that let illegal immigrants who commit crimes back on the street.” The Post calls the ad’s claim “hogwash,” and says “Gillespie ads seek to dupe and terrify Virginians by using the racialized specter of Hispanic violence.”

“House Republicans’ Unforgiving Assault On The Freedom To Choose.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/5, Board) criticizes House’s passage of a measure to “ban abortions of fetuses that have passed 20 weeks of gestation.” The Post calls the bill “an unforgiving assault on the freedom to choose,” and adds that the fact that the Senate “almost certainly will not pass the bill,” does not matter because Republicans “need money and passion from antiabortion groups, who insisted on moving the bill.” The Post highlights that one the measure’s co-sponsors was Rep. Tim Murphy, who on Thursday announced his resignation after text messages were published which “appear to show the congressman and a woman he had a relationship with discussing how he had pressured her to get an abortion this year, when she had a pregnancy scare.” To the Post, this is an “exquisite reminder that politicians’ embrace of divisive cultural wedge issues is often less than principled.”

Wall Street Journal.

“President Cordray Strikes Again.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/5) writes that the CFPB’s new restrictions on payday lending may appear well-intended, but they in practice

allow lending only to unprofitable customers with good credit and remove lenders' ability to take recourse against borrowers who fail to pay. The Journal concludes that the new rule gives President Trump more cause to dismiss CFPB Director Cordray.

"Pacific Trade Advances Without The US." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/5) writes that the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade agreement is advancing without the United States, with leaders of 11 TPP member countries meeting last month to push for ratification as early as November in hopes Washington would rejoin. The Journal argues that if the 11 remaining members of the trade pact wait for a US return, it is possible that the US will reject protectionism and embrace the agreement.

"Tax Reform Down Payment." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/5) editorial stresses the necessity of House and Senate Republicans to come to agreement on a budget outline in order to pass tax reform, which it casts as a key moment for Republicans if they want to retain control of Congress after 2018.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Russian Hackers Stole NSA Data On US Cyber Defense](#)
[From Broken Home To Real-Estate Riches: The Life Of The Las Vegas Shooter](#)
[No End In Sight For Stocks' Longest Streak In 20 Years](#)
[Shale Juggernaut Shows Signs Of Fatigue](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Is Expected To 'Decertify' The Iran Deal And Let Congress Deal With The Fallout](#)
[Decades Of Sexual Harassment Accusations Against Harvey Weinstein For Republican Leaders In Congress. The Headaches Keep Mounting](#)
[Search For A Motive In Las Vegas: Slow But 'We'll Get There'](#)
[Kazuo Ishiguro Is Awarded The Nobel Prize In Literature](#)
[Deadly Ambush Of Green Berets In Niger Belies A 'Low-Risk' Mission](#)
[Catalonia Separatism Revives A Long-dormant Spanish Nationalism](#)

Washington Post:

[President's Iran Decision Imperils Vital Alliances](#)
[Trump Likely To 'Decertify' Deal With Iran](#)
[ACA Supporters See Sabotage In Cuts For Funds, Enrollment](#)
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Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Las Vegas Shooting; Las Vegas Shooting-Person Of Interest; Las Vegas Shooting-Congress; Chief Of Staff Kelly-Phone Compromised; Niger-US Army Casualty; Tropical Storm Tracking; Penn. Rep. Sex Scandal; Justice Dept-Transgender Protection Rollback; NFL Player-Sexist Comment; Hollywood Sex Harassment Scandal; NYC-High Rise Murder; Atlanta Train Derailing; Rock N Roll Hall Of Fame; Adventurous Father And Son.

CBS: Las Vegas Shooting; Las Vegas Shooting-Venues; Las Vegas Shooting-Congress; Niger-US Army Casualty; Hurricane Recovery-Puerto Rico; Penn. Rep. Sex Scandal; Hollywood Sex Harassment Scandal; Mexico City Earthquake Casualty; Modern Cars-Distractions; Rock N Roll Hall Of Fame; Las Vegas Shooting-Therapy Dogs.

NBC: Las Vegas Shooting; Las Vegas Shooting-Crime Scene; Trump-Tillerson Relations; Niger-US Army Casualty; Las Vegas Shooting-Congress; Penn. Rep. Sex Scandal; Tropical Storm Tracking; Modern Cars-Distractions; NFL Player-Sexist Comment; Rock N Roll Hall Of Fame; Las Vegas Shooting-Victims.

Network TV At A Glance:

Las Vegas Shooting – 25 minutes
Penn. Rep. Sex Scandal – 3 minutes, 35 seconds
Niger-US Army Casualty – 2 minutes, 10 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Trump-Iran Nuclear Deal; Las Vegas Shooting-Congress; Tropical Storm Nate; Penn. Rep. Sex Scandal; Wall Street News.

CBS: Las Vegas Shooting-Congress; Las Vegas Shooting; Penn. Rep. Sex Scandal; Hollywood Sex Harassment Scandal; NCAA Bribery Scandal, Tropical Storm Nate, Wall Street News.

FOX: Las Vegas Shooting; Las Vegas Shooting-Congress; Tropical Storm Nate.

NPR: Las Vegas Shooting; DACA-Renewal Deadline Past; Tropical Storm Nate; Hurricane Recovery-Puerto Rico; Trump-Military Dinner.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Hosts a Hispanic Heritage Month event; signs the National Manufacturing Day Proclamation; meets with Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin; meets with the US Ambassador to Russia Jon Huntsman.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Receives a briefing on Hurricane Maria recovery efforts; meets with members of the community affected by Hurricane Maria; takes an aerial tour to survey storm damage to the US Virgin Islands; participates in a prayer service and meet with the Puerto Rican community; receives a briefing on Hurricane Maria relief efforts.

US Senate: 11:00 AM Senate Energy Committee field hearing on reducing industrial energy costs – Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources field hearing to examine efficient approaches to reducing industrial energy costs, with testimony from Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Advanced Manufacturing Office Director Dr Mark Johnson; Professional Logging Contractors of Maine Executive Director Dana Doran; Maine Wood Pellet Company President Bob Linkletter; Island Institute Community Energy Director Suzanne MacDonald; Robbins Lumber Vice President Alden Robbins; and ReEnergy Facility Manager Mark Thibodeau Location: Robbins Lumber Mill, intersection of Rt. 131 and Robbins Mill Rd, Searsmont, ME www.energy.senate.gov

Until Oct. 16 Senate breaks for Columbus Day State Work Period.

US House: No votes scheduled in the House of Representatives

Other: Congressional Budget Office releases 'Monthly Budget Review for September 2017' report Location: TBD www.cbo.gov/ <https://twitter.com/USCBO>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Tillerson decided to hold a press conference at which he denied ever wanting to resign, but did not answer the moron question. That's got the President's little thumbs tingling. This morning, he again tweeted, 'Why isn't the Senate Intel committee looking into the fake news networks in our country to see why so much of our news is just made up, fake!' I guess he's moved on from Puerto Rico and Las Vegas."

Jimmy Kimmel: "This is Donald Trump's rating on Politifact, the nonpartisan fact-checking organization. According to them, only five percent of the things that come out of his mouth are true. More than two-thirds, 69 percent, are either mostly false, false, or pants-on-fire false."

Jimmy Kimmel: "[The leaders of North Korea] have a fundamental misunderstanding of what Americans care about. They're always like, 'Your President is a dangerous simpleton pig!' We're like, 'Yeah, yeah, we know.' They think Dennis Rodman is still a big star. 'Look, we brainwashed your number one celebrity!' 'Yeah, it's okay, his brain has been washed for a long time.' Now they're trying to provoke on Columbus Day, the most cherished of all the American holidays."

Stephen Colbert: "Yesterday, NBC reported Tillerson was on the verge of resigning his position this summer and had openly disparaged President Trump, referring to him as a 'moron.' That's usually something you say right before you quit."

Stephen Colbert: "And administration officials are confident that Tillerson will stay because, apparently, there's an agreement between Defense Secretary James Mattis, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Tillerson, whereby all three cabinet secretaries vow to leave in the event that the President makes moves against one of them. And Trump is known for making moves. Rex, if the President offers to take you furniture shopping, get out of there. Just get out of there! And take your cat with you! Because he's grabbing it!"

Stephen Colbert: "Yesterday, congressional Republicans signaled that they would be open to banning gun conversion kits called 'bump stocks,' which takes advantage of a semiautomatic gun's natural recoil, allowing it to bounce back and forth off a shooter's trigger finger and unleash up to 100 rounds in seven seconds. It's great for hunting, if you've got seven seconds to kill every animal in the forest."

Trevor Noah: "Tim Murphy would make the world's worst spy. He would be undercover. Some dude would be like, 'Are you Tim Murphy?' 'You got me! I have been leaking secrets to other governments!' ... Whether you are pro-choice or pro-life, I think we can all come together to laugh at this man."

Jimmy Fallon: "Trump has more Twitter followers than Pope Francis, but the Pope doesn't mind. He said, 'My boss only had 12 followers, and he's still pretty popular.'"

Seth Meyers: "According to the New York Times, people close to Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said he had to be convinced not to resign on more than one occasion, while others at the White House have to be convinced every morning."

Seth Meyers: "Vice President Mike Pence will visit Puerto Rico tomorrow. Pence will survey the damage caused when Donald Trump made landfall. That's right. Vice President Mike Pence plans to visit Puerto Rico tomorrow, and somehow he's already sunburned."

Seth Meyers: "Pence will also visit the Virgin Islands tomorrow, where he will remind them to stay the Virgin Islands until marriage. 'Stay away from Turks and also Caicos. I don't trust those fellas.'"

Seth Meyers: "President Trump and First Lady Melania had dinner with senior military leaders at the White House. And if there's one thing Melania loves, it's a man in uniform. 'Officer, please help me!'"

Seth Meyers: "Vice President Pence said in an op-ed yesterday that the US will lead in space again under the Trump Administration. Space? It took him two weeks to figure out how to get to Puerto Rico."

Conan O'Brien: "The Spanish region of Catalonia is expected to declare independence on Monday. On Tuesday, they'll be looking for a job. And by Wednesday, they'll be back in Spain saying, 'Hey, can I crash here for a month?'"

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- Yellowstone Insider: NPS Approves Plans For New Yellowstone Youth Campus.
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- Delmarva (MD) Daily Times: Assateague Nonprofit Aims To Save Island Horses From Human Food.
- Washington Times: Longtime Park Ranger Tells Tales Of History, Natural Beauty.
- Sacramento (CA) Bee: Have You Seen This Man? He Is Suspected Of Stealing Firefighters' Equipment.
- Daily Inter Lake (MT): Additional Coverage: Sperry Chalet Stabilization Nearly Finished.
- Great Falls (MT) Tribune: Congress Must Fund Glacier National Park Repairs Now.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Marianas Variety: Interior Hosts FAS Economic Forum.
- Virgin Islands Daily News: Curfew Hours Changed, St. Croix Schools To Reopen.
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- Public Finance International: Illegal Withdrawals Made From Marshall Island's US-based Trust Fund.
- Guam Daily Post: Forum Focuses On Firefighters' Health.
- Saipan (MNP) Tribune: 30 Coconut Trees On Rota Flagged For Rhino Beetle Infestation.
- NewSecurityBeat: Making The Decision To Migrate In The Marshall Islands.

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- NBC News: 'Great ShakeOut,' World's Largest Earthquake Drill, Helps Millions Prepare For Disaster.

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- ABC: Kelly Offers Impassioned Defense Of Trump's Phone Call To Soldier's Widow.
- New York Times: Senate Passes Budget Blueprint With Key Provision For Tax Reform.
- Associated Press: Pompeo: North Korea Months Away From Perfecting Nuclear Capabilities.
- Associated Press: Jobless Claims At Lowest Level In 44 Years.
- Houston Chronicle: EPA Chief Tells Oil, Gas Leaders That Agency Not Like Previous Administration.

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DOI In The News

Interior Secretary Details Trump's Priorities In Alaska Native Country.

[KTUU-TV](#) Anchorage, AK (10/19, Baird) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke addressed the Alaska Federation of Natives on Thursday. Zinke said the priorities of the Trump Administration are to "clean up contaminated lands in rural Alaska, get strong Native voices into positions of power, and make sure the thousands of Vietnam-era Alaska Native veterans finally receive land they were promised," according to the article. Saying that "there is already progress on one of those fronts," Zinke noted that he recently "appointed Inupiat Tara Sweeney to serve as assistant secretary of the Interior Department, leading the Indian Affairs office." Zinke said, "I'm proud that we're nominating the first Alaska Native to any Senate confirmed position."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/19, Demer) and the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (10/19, Hughes).

Local TV coverage was provided by [KTUU-TV](#) Anchorage, AK (10/19).

Democrats Fail To Block Arctic Reserve Oil Drilling.

[Reuters](#) (10/19, Gardner) reports Senate Democrats failed to pass a measure blocking oil and gas drilling in parts of the Arctic National Wildlife Reserve, losing 48-52 on a mostly party-line vote. The amendment, sponsored by Sen. Maria Cantwell, would have eliminated a budget measure directing the Senate energy committee to find \$1 billion in revenue over 10 years.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/19, Siegel) reports that Sen. John McCain, "who in 2005 voted against allowing drilling in the refuge, provided a decisive vote this time, refusing to vote with Democrats who tried to block it." Sen. Susan Collins, "who also voted against drilling in the refuge before, did the same Thursday night, siding with Democrats." Sen. Joe Manchin voted with Republicans.

[The Hill](#) (10/19, Henry) reports Cantwell said during the floor debate, "The notion that we, tonight, after 60-plus years, would give up what is a biologically important area, a critical habitat for polar bears, a breeding ground for caribou, migratory birds and over 200 species — for what? For oil we don't need?" Sen. Lisa Murkowski countered, saying, "Those who would support this amendment will deny us the opportunity to do something constructive in this country, when it comes to our opportunities to produce energy, to produce wealth." Sens. Joe Manchin and Susan Collins both crossed party lines on the measure.

The [Huffington Post](#) (10/19, Visser) reports Sen. Ed Markey said in a statement, "Republicans are trying to use the budget process to ram through drilling in the crown jewel of America's wildlife refuge system because they know they don't have the votes to do so through regular order. ... Republicans are moving forward with a budget that includes this poison pill to hand over the wildest place left in America to Big Oil. This is nothing more than fossil fuel folly."

Trip Van Noppen, president of Earthjustice, said, "This is a blatant attempt to use the budget reconciliation process to pass a divisive and controversial proposal that would lead us in the wrong direction on climate."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/19, Eilperin) reports that the vote "represented a victory for the GOP and a defeat for environmentalists." It adds that "environmentalists said they would continue to fight any move to drill in the refuge, which has been subject to fights in Congress for years."

Additional coverage was provided by the [nd Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/19, Martinson) and [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (10/19, Passut).

Senators Introduce Bipartisan Bill To Combat Wildfires.

[The Hill](#) (10/19, Henry) reports that "a bipartisan group of senators introduced a bill Thursday to address severe wildfires in the West." The bill "establishes a strategy for combating future wildfires like those that have burned millions of acres of forest so far this year." It "provides \$100 million to help at-risk communities prepare for wildfires and requires firefighting agencies to use unspent suppression funds for preparedness activities ahead of future wildfire seasons." The legislation "also establishes a pilot program for the U.S. Forest Service and the Interior Department in which the agencies would 'treat' the top 1 percent most at-risk and least-controversial forest lands for future fires."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/19, Siegel) reports that "five Western senators introduced a bill that is intended to be a compromise between competing factions in Congress who are weighing how to help fund wildfire response while imposing forest management changes that can prevent fires from starting." The legislation was "quickly endorsed by the timber industry, firefighting, and conservation groups, including the American Forest Resource Council, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, and the National Wildlife Federation." However, "the big test will come in the House, where Republicans have called for a more comprehensive forest management response."

Also reporting are the [Daily Caller](#) (10/19, White), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (10/19, Grandoni) and the [Washington Post](#) (10/19, Grandoni).

Four National Monuments Cover 10,000 Square Miles, And This Group Wants Them Gone.

The [Daily Caller](#) (10/19, Pearce) reports that "a group of 37 free-market organizations, trade associations, businesses, former federal officials and current lawmakers signed a letter sent Wednesday requesting that President Donald Trump completely rescind four national monuments that cover more than 10,000 square miles." The National Center for Public Policy Research "sent the letter to the White House in response to a Department of the Interior review of 22 national monuments over the summer, after which Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke suggested changes to six designations and rollbacks to four others, according to an early draft of his report obtained by The Washington Post." The letter calls for a full rescission of Bears Ears National Monument, Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, and Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument.

Blackfeet Hesitant About Proposed National Monument At Badger-Two Medicine.

[Montana Public Radio](#) (10/19, Hegyi) reports the Blackfeet Nation is "hesitant to fully embrace" a recommendation by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to create a new national monument at Badger-Two Medicine "before having a say in how the proposed monument is managed." Blackfeet Tribal Chairman Harry Barnes "says making Badger-Two Medicine a national monument allows the land to fall under further federal control." Ideally, members "want the land returned to the tribe but Barnes says that's unlikely. So the council opposes the designation unless the Interior Department allows them to co-manage the monument."

King Cove And Feds Exploring Options To Build Road Without Congressional Approval.

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (10/19, Sobel) reports that "the city of King Cove is working closely with the Trump administration to find a way to build a road to Cold Bay through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge." However, "city leaders are taking issue with a recent Washington Post article that describes the administration attempting to conceal a behind-the-scenes deal to build the road." According to the article, they are hoping for a deal that "could avoid Congress entirely."

Additional coverage was provided by [KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (10/19, Sobel).

Lara Trump Swings White House Behind Pets For Vets Campaign.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/19, Bedard) reports that “a building ‘pets for vets’ campaign to link troubled war veterans with abandoned pets in shelters won a huge White House backing Wednesday when Lara Trump, the president’s daughter-in-law, hosted an unprecedented West Wing meeting to get key Cabinet officials on board.” According to the article, “in an hour-long Roosevelt Room session hosted by Trump, top presidential aides, two cabinet secretaries, House lawmakers pushing legislation on the issue and the president of the Humane Society of the United States pledged to take the therapy dog campaign nationwide.” The article says that “Trump, long a passionate campaigner for animals, was joined by presidential advisor Kellyanne Conway, and brought in Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Rep. Ron DeSantis, author of the PAWS Act, and others together to show support for efforts to help warriors suffering from PTSD and other ailments by teaming them with shelter animals.” The article notes that “Zinke attended because he has a policy allowing dogs at the office, and is also a retired Navy SEAL leader.”

House Panel: 15 Trump Agencies Yet To Provide Travel Costs.

The [AP](#) (10/19, Yen) reports the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is “demanding” that 15 federal agencies – including the White House – provide adequate information regarding senior officials’ air travel after reports of expensive trips by Cabinet secretaries. In letters sent this week, the committee threatened to subpoena the Departments of Agriculture and Justice if officials failed to provide requested information, and warned that 13 other agencies have only partly responded to information requests. For all 15 agencies, the panel “also requested additional travel information for the time period of Jan. 1 to Jan. 19.”

Spotted.

[Politico Influence](#) (10/19, Meyer) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was seen at a National Geographic forum on ocean conservation Wednesday afternoon at the Library of Congress.

Public Getting Raw Deal On Royalties.

In an op-ed for the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/20, Alexander), Ryan Alexander, President Of Taxpayers For Common Sense, writes that “for decades, industry has been picking up land for pennies on the dollar, thanks to outdated Bureau of Land Management rental and royalty rates that allow oil and gas companies to rent federal lands at \$1.50 per acre and pay outdated royalties that are far lower than many western states, including New Mexico, charge.” Alexander hopes that the Royalty Policy Committee will “recognize how the current system is in dire need of reform and takes steps to ensure that New Mexicans are receiving the money they deserve when industry drills, mines and produces on our public lands.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Federal Officials Target Harassment In Arizona Tribes.

The [AP](#) (10/19, Silber) reports that “a scathing new report released this week by the U.S. Department of Interior casts a critical light on the Bureau of Indian Affairs response to sexual harassment complaints by Colorado River Indian Tribes workers and members involving a bureau employee.” The report by the department’s Office of Inspector General “states BIA officials took insufficient action after an employee sent Tribes workers and members sexually explicit text and Facebook messages.” Officials “released the summary of the report, which highlights the BIA officials’ lack of response among supervisors, managers and human resources regarding the employee’s actions.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KNXV-TV](#) Phoenix (10/19).

Native American Leaders Seek Federal Climate Change Action.

The [AP](#) (10/19) reports that “Native American leaders are asking the Trump administration to do more to combat climate change.” According to the article, “tribal leaders attending this week’s National Congress of American Indians in Milwaukee told Wisconsin Public Radio that recent wildfires and hurricanes are a sign of rising global temperatures.” They want the federal government “to take action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.” John Tahsuda, an Interior Department official, said “federal agencies are working to understand the science behind climate change,” according to the article. Tahsuda said, “What is the science of it, what’s going on,

because if we don't understand the science, then we don't know how to address it adequately."

Sisseton Man Sentenced To Prison In Grazing Fraud Scheme.

The [AP](#) (10/19) reports that "a Sisseton man has been sentenced to nearly four years in prison for his role in a cattle grazing fraud scheme." According to authorities, "Keith Hagen and his former wife, Amanda Holy Bull, provided custom grazing services to ranchers on land they leased from the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs." U.S. Attorney Randolph Seiler "says the two entered into fraudulent contracts and pocketed the money, defrauding ranchers out of \$236,000."

Bureau Of Land Management

Report Expresses Concern About Methane Emissions In Oklahoma.

The [Oklahoman](#) (10/19, Wilmoth) reports that Earthworks and the Coalition for Oklahoma's Renewable Energy called emissions from methane a threat to the public's health in a new report. The report "said efforts by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management and Environmental Protection Administration to roll back methane emissions could harm Americans." Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association VP of Regulatory Affairs A.J. Ferate said that the "oil and gas companies do not want methane emissions flowing away." "Oil and gas companies do a very good job and work hard to control the methane emissions that come off the wells. The reason is very simple. If they don't, they are letting money float away."

Kudos For Wild Horse Operation.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (10/19, Harmon) reports that "speakers lauded the Little Bookcliffs Wild Horse Area during comments to the Bureau of Land Management's Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Committee, which heard public comments Tuesday in Grand Junction." Callie Hendrickson, speaking on behalf of the Wild Horse and Burro Rangeland Coalition, told the committee that "the handling of the Little Bookcliffs band of horses is 'one of the best examples of management' of wild horses in the nation." Also, "the Cloud Foundation, which opposes euthanasia, praised the Little Bookcliffs approach to managing the horses."

Bureau Of Reclamation

NMSU, Bureau Of Reclamation Host Desalination Workshop.

The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (10/19) reports that New Mexico State University and the Bureau of Reclamation will hold a workshop on Tuesday, Oct. 24 to discuss "the future role of desalination." According to the article, "members of the New Mexico Water Resources Research Institute will discuss current desalination research in the Mesilla Basin."

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

More Oil Spilled Into Gulf Of Mexico By LLOG Than Originally Estimated.

The [AP](#) (10/19) reports that the US Coast Guard, in a news release Thursday, "said...that offshore oil and gas operator LLOG Exploration Offshore reports about 16,000 barrels of oil were discharged" after originally estimating that between 7,950 to 9,350 barrels spilled into the Gulf of Mexico. According to the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, oil spilled out from a fractured underwater pipe last Saturday. Clean Gulf Associates and Marine Spill Response Corporation have skimming vessels on standby.

Additional coverage was provided by [KATC-TV](#) Lafayette, LA (10/19).

Fish And Wildlife Service

Jefferson County Receives \$15.8 Million For Dune Restoration.

The [Beaumont \(TX\) Enterprise](#) (10/19, Teitz) reports that "an almost \$16 million grant will go to restore the dunes and coastal habitat at McFaddin Wildlife Refuge, Jefferson County announced Thursday." The grant, "which will fund about one-third of the \$45 million project to rebuild lost beaches and dunes along 20 miles of the Gulf Coast, is part of the settlement funds from the

2010 BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill.”

Also reporting are the [Port Arthur \(TX\) News](#) (10/19) and [KFDM-TV Beaumont \(TX\) Beaumont, TX](#) (10/19, Scott, Cunningham).

Sandhill Crane Hunting Resolution Introduced By Gratiot County House Rep.

The [Mt. Pleasant \(MI\) Morning Sun](#) (10/19, Bradley) reports that “a Sandhill crane hunting season has been proposed by House Rep. Jim Lower in an effort to control its population and reduce crop damage.” House Resolution 154 would “encourage the Michigan Natural Resources Commission to add Sandhill cranes to the game species list and seek approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for a hunting season in Michigan,” according to a news release from Lower. The House of Representatives adopted the resolution on Wednesday.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Traverse City \(MI\) Record-Eagle](#) (10/19, Nie).

Endangered Red Squirrels Might Be Unable To Recover From Arizona Wildfire.

The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (10/19, Davis) reports that “a top U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service official said Wednesday that he’s ‘not optimistic’ about the endangered Mount Graham red squirrel’s ability to survive in the wild after a new survey estimated its numbers have fallen to 35.” According to the article “the annual survey estimated the squirrel population has dropped from a 2016 estimate of 252 squirrels because of the impacts of this summer’s Frye Fire.” Steve Spangle, Arizona field supervisor for the wildlife service, said, “We’re very worried about a critter going extinct under our watch. It doesn’t mean we won’t do what we can.”

In Puerto Rico, A Hopeful Sight: Endangered Parrot Spotted After Hurricane Maria.

[NBC News](#) (10/19, Gamboa) reports that “since Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico about one month ago, a team of scientists has trekked daily into El Yunque National Forest hoping to pick up signs or sounds of endangered Puerto Rican Parrots.” On Wednesday, 28 days after Maria, “someone spotted a cotorra, the Spanish word for parrot, with a radio collar and an orange leg band in Barrio Caguitas in Aguas Buenas.” The article notes that “before the hurricane, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had counted 56 to 60 parrots, the highest number of the parrots since 1967, thanks to a program to restore the species.”

National Park Service

National Park Service Kills Proposed New Rules For Dog Access In GGNRA.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (10/20, Johnson) reports that the National Park Service “pulled the plug Thursday on a 14-year-long process for restricting dog access in the 80,000-acre Golden Gate National Recreation Area, 10 months after revelations emerged that agency officials had improperly corresponded about the process from their personal email accounts.” The NPS “abandoned its effort to draw up new rules for where dogs can be walked off-leash and said it would stick with regulations that have been in effect since 1979.” Acting park service Director Michael Reynolds said in a statement, “We can do better and in the interest of upholding the highest standard of transparency and trust with our Bay Area neighbors. We have determined that it is no longer appropriate to continue with the current dog management rule-making process.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (10/19) and the [Marin \(CA\) Independent Journal](#) (10/19, Prado).

A City Campsite, Amenities Included.

The [New York Times](#) (10/19, Stapinski) reports on the rise of “glamping” or “glamour camping.” The article highlights Camp Rockaway, “the second of two glamping pilots this year.” Daphne Yun, a spokeswoman for the National Park Service, said, “At this point we don’t know what the future holds. But everything’s on the table.”

Maryland Continues Commitment To ‘Every Kid In A Park’.

The [Southern Maryland News Net](#) (10/19) reports that “the Maryland Department of Natural Resources once again is partnering with the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Every Kid in a Park program, which provides fourth-grade children and their families free admission to Maryland state parks along with national parks and other federal lands across the country.” The Maryland Park Service will “accept this year’s Every Kid in a Park pass now through August 31, 2018 at all 72

state parks.”

YNP To Replace Sewer Line Related To Arsenic Lawsuit.

The [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (10/20, Wright) reports that Yellowstone National Park will “replace a stretch of sewer line sometime over the next two years in an attempt to solve arsenic problems that led to a lawsuit against the park last year.” A U.S. Department of Interior lawyer “sent a letter to an attorney for the Gardiner-Park County Water and Sewer District that says Yellowstone plans to remove 2,700 feet of clay sewer line near Mammoth Hot Springs and replace it with PVC pipe.” The Interior attorney, Colleen Burnidge, “wrote that the pipe project may take two years to complete, but they think it will help solve the problem.”

Gateway Arch Shows Off Progress On Visitor Center And Museum.

The [Riverfront \(MO\) Times](#) (10/19, Hayes) reports that the Gateway Arch Park Foundation and the National Park Service on Thursday “provided a media tour of the renovations for the Arch’s visitor center and museum.” According to the article, “even though renovations are still underway, workers have added a 46,000 square-foot multi-level addition and significantly reshaped the monument’s connection to downtown St. Louis.” The article says that “Rhonda Schier, chief of museum services with the National Parks Service and Ryan McClure, director of communications and activation at Gateway Arch Foundation, led the tour.”

NPS Approves Plans For New Yellowstone Youth Campus.

[Yellowstone Insider](#) (10/19, Reichard) reports that Yellowstone National Park has “approved a new plan for the Yellowstone Youth Campus, following a period of public comment earlier this year.” The park will “opt to build a new campus in Mammoth Hot Springs to replace the current one.” Superintendent Dan Wenk commented, “The youth campus will be funded through a combination of philanthropic donations received by our non-profit partner, Yellowstone Forever, and federal support. The campus we build together will teach sustainability. It will facilitate high quality learning experiences and inspire students to be life-long learners and stewards of Yellowstone long into the National Park Service’s second century.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Livingston \(MT\) Enterprise](#) (10/19).

Seashore Releases Visions For Ranchlands.

The [Point Reyes \(CA\) Light](#) (10/19, Guth) reports that “six alternative strategies that could guide the Point Reyes National Seashore’s management of lands currently leased for ranching and dairying were released on Monday, marking the first step toward amending the seashore’s General Management Plan.” The release commenced “a 30-day public comment period that will end on Nov. 15.” According to the article, “two public meetings have been scheduled to share information and gather input on the alternatives, including one alternative that has been chosen as the seashore’s ‘initial proposal.’”

Assateague Nonprofit Aims To Save Island Horses From Human Food.

The [Delmarva \(MD\) Daily Times](#) (10/19, Shelton) reports that “in July, Assateague Island National Park lost one member of its most well-known pony herd: a 7-year-old mare, which was found dead in a campground.” Investigation by NPS “officials revealed the mare – known officially as N2BHS-AI, but more affectionately as ‘Chama Wingapo’ – had ingested large amounts of dog food, which caused an intestinal blockage, and then a rupture which led to its early death.” According to the article, “in an effort to prevent any further deaths of the island’s iconic horses, the nonprofit Assateague Island Alliance is working to address food related to wildlife and human interactions through a program called ‘A Fed Horse is a Dead Horse: A Project to Protect Assateague’s Wild Horses.’”

Longtime Park Ranger Tells Tales Of History, Natural Beauty.

The [AP](#) (10/19, Soergel) reports on Craig Morris, lead ranger at the Fort Caroline National Memorial and at the Theodore Roosevelt Area. According to the article, “Morris joined the park in 1987, when he was 25 years old.” Now, 56, he “has bucketfuls of good stories to tell, and a natural storyteller’s way of spinning them.”

Have You Seen This Man? He Is Suspected Of Stealing Firefighters’ Equipment.

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/19, Egel) reports that “El Dorado County Sheriff’s deputies are searching for a man who allegedly stole two backpacks’ worth of firefighting equipment from

outside a Placerville hotel." According to the Sheriff's Office, "pictured in a white-and-red gingham shirt, vest and shaved head in security footage, the man stole two 'Mystery Ranch' backpacks out of the back of a U.S. National Park Service fire truck the night of Oct. 10."

Additional Coverage: Sperry Chalet Stabilization Nearly Finished.

Additional coverage that "Glacier National Park construction crews were wrapping up a project this week to stabilize the Sperry Chalet for the winter" was provided by the [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (10/19, Peterson).

Congress Must Fund Glacier National Park Repairs Now.

In an op-ed for the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (10/19, Cuffe), Rep. Mike Cuffe calls on Congress to "dedicate funding to our national parks to fix years of neglect and wildfire devastation." Cuffe notes that "our National Park System needs \$11.3 billion for deferred infrastructure repairs" and argues that "postponing maintenance can be more expensive in the long run." Cuffe urges Congress to pass the National Park Service Legacy Act, which "offers a practical solution to reduce infrastructure backlog at national parks."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Interior Hosts FAS Economic Forum.

[Marianas Variety](#) (10/20) reports that Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Doug Domenech "on Wednesday hosted several presentations focused on economic performance, policies, and possibilities for the Freely Associated States of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Republic of Palau." Domenech said, "Today's presentations are meant to inform and encourage policy discussions for the U.S. government and the governments of the FSM, the RMI, and Palau. We are committed to the partnerships we have under the Compacts of Free Association and to working collaboratively towards enhanced social and economic development for the people now and into the future."

Curfew Hours Changed, St. Croix Schools To Reopen.

The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (10/19, O'CONNOR) reports that Gov. Kenneth Mapp "extended curfew hours Wednesday back to where they were about a week ago during a radio address from Government House on St. Croix." According to the article, "residents of St. Thomas, St. Croix, St. John and Water Island now have a window of between 5 a.m. and 8 p.m. each day — 15 hours — to conduct business outside of their houses."

Guam Business, Political Leaders Push For Lifting Of Jones Act.

[Marianas Variety](#) (10/17, Losinio) reports that "business and political leaders on island are saying that now may be the best time for Guam to push for exemption from the Merchant Marine Act of 1920, or the Jones Act, after President Trump suspended the Jones Act for Puerto Rico to facilitate hurricane aid shipments bound for the storm-battered commonwealth." Bobby Shringi, chairman of the board for the Guam Chamber of Commerce, "said the recent shipping issues with Puerto Rico and the lifting of the Jones Act open the door for Guam to pursue exemptions for the marine law, which was enacted nearly a century ago." He said, "However, it's more than the adverse impacts during times of disasters, as our residents pay dearly at the registers because of the Jones Act on a daily basis. With the recent decision of Delta Airlines to end services on Guam, what is truly needed are changes towards cabotage laws in general."

Military Seeks To Dispel 'Misconceptions'.

[Marianas Variety](#) (10/20, O'Connor) reports that "military officials on Guam are continuing their efforts to dispel what they called 'misconceptions' about the plan to build facilities for almost 5,000 Marines who are being moved to the island from Okinawa." At a Mayors' Council of Guam special monthly meeting Wednesday, Col. Brent Bien, head of the Marine Corps on island, said, "There's a few misconceptions and three primary ones. One you may be hearing is that the military is bad for the environment. The other is we're closing down Ritidian, and that our plans look to potentially destroy the cultural sites in that area." Bien contends the arguments by activist groups are "the main 'misconceptions' about the buildup."

Illegal Withdrawals Made From Marshall Island's US-based Trust Fund.

[Public Finance International](#) (10/19, Rensch) reports that “almost a million dollars have been illegally removed from the Marshall Islands government’s US-based trust fund, officials have reportedly said.” The article says that “a series of 12 unauthorised withdrawals from the fund at Boston’s State Street Bank were sent – \$982,265 to bank accounts in Ireland and Malaysia in June and July, local media has reported.” According to newspaper Marianas Variety, “the withdrawals of \$273,883 to Ireland were recovered but the \$708,382 to accounts in Malaysia is yet to be returned.”

Forum Focuses On Firefighters’ Health.

The [Guam Daily Post](#) (10/18, Losinio) reports that “around 50 representatives gathered for the 6th Annual Western Pacific Islands Association of Fire Chiefs (WPIAFC) Training Forum at the Lotte Hotel.” According to Tom Jenkins, president of the International Association of Fire Chiefs, “firefighters are at risk of post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and suicide as part of their job.”

30 Coconut Trees On Rota Flagged For Rhino Beetle Infestation.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (10/19) reports that “the Department of Lands and Natural Resources has identified 30 coconut trees in the Twerksberry area on Rota as habitats of the invasive coconut rhinoceros beetles.” According to the article, “to contain the insect and prevent infestation of other coconut trees, DLNR will be closing off the Twerksberry area starting at 6:30pm everyday.”

Making The Decision To Migrate In The Marshall Islands.

In a piece for [NewSecurityBeat](#) (10/18, De Souza), Mickael De Souza, an undergraduate student at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada, writes that “the specter of climate change” threatens Republic of the Marshall Islands, “raising sea levels, salinizing soils, and sapping freshwater resources.” De Souza “assisted with a study spearheaded by Maxine Burkett, a Wilson Center global fellow and a professor at the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai’i, that sought to find out how the impacts of climate change have affected decisions within the Marshallese community that migrated to Hawai’i.” The study “found that to date, Marshallese do not perceive climate change as playing a large role in the decision to migrate.”

US Geological Survey

‘Great ShakeOut,’ World’s Largest Earthquake Drill, Helps Millions Prepare For Disaster.

[NBC News](#) (10/19, Chuck) reports that “millions of people dropped to the ground and crouched under their desks Thursday as part of the world’s largest earthquake drill.” The “Great ShakeOut” was held “at 10:19 a.m. local time around the world.” According to the article, “about 21 million people practiced what to do if a quake strikes, with more than 10.2 million of them in California — which experts say is likely to experience a massive quake in the next several decades.” David Schwartz, a geologist with the United States Geological Survey, said, “The Bay Area sits right in the boundary zone between the Pacific plate and the North American plate. They’re sliding past each other at about 40 millimeters a year, a little less than 2 inches. Doesn’t sound like a lot, but over the years, that builds up to a lot of stress and motion.”

Top National News

Kelly Offers Impassioned Defense Of Trump’s Phone Call To Soldier’s Widow.

White House Chief of Staff Kelly’s unexpected appearance at the daily White House briefing, where he defended President Trump’s phone call to the widow of Sgt. La David Johnson, gets heavy and mostly laudatory coverage. Kelly is described as speaking in very personal terms about what it is like to be informed that one’s child has been killed in action, and reports offer extended segments from his remarks with little commentary. This is undercut somewhat by the initial response to President Trump’s late-night [tweet](#) about Rep. Frederica Wilson (D-FL), who had publicly criticized Trump’s comments on the call. Several journalists tweeted in response that Trump’s tweet undid some of what Kelly had achieved.

In opening [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/19, lead story, 5:20), David Muir called Kelly’s appearance a “deeply personal moment,” while on the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/19, lead story,

4:45), Anthony Mason opened by calling it “an extraordinary scene at the White House.” Muir reported that Kelly defended Trump’s phone call, “and in doing so, Gen. Kelly talking about the loss of his own son” in Afghanistan, and then “blasted the congresswoman who said the family was offended by the President’s call.” On CBS, Mason reported that “Kelly said he’d recommended early on that the President not call families of the fallen, but Mr. Trump told him [that] he wanted to call the families of the four soldiers killed two weeks ago in Niger.” Kelly: “And he said to me, ‘What do I say?’ I said to him, ‘Sir, there’s nothing you can do to lighten the burden on these families. But let me tell you what I tell them. He was doing exactly what he wanted to do when he was killed. He knew what he was getting into by joining that one percent. He knew what the possibilities were, because we’re at war.’”

In opening [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/19, lead story, 3:50), Lester Holt called it an “extraordinary moment” when Kelly, “a Gold Star father, broke his public silence over the deaths of four American soldiers in Niger in deeply personal terms.” NBC’s Peter Alexander reported that Kelly “fiercely denounc[ed] criticism” by Wilson. Kelly: “I was stunned when I came to work yesterday morning, and brokenhearted. It stuns me that a member of Congress would have listened in on the conversation. Absolutely stuns me.”

The [AP](#) (10/19, Lemire, Lucey) says that Kelly “delivered an extraordinary denunciation” of Wilson “in an unexpected and emotional appearance in the White House briefing room.” [USA Today](#) (10/19, Przybyla) reports that Kelly said the comments Trump made to Myeshia Johnson “were similar to those spoken to him after his son was killed in Afghanistan. ... Kelly said that the conversation in the aftermath of a military death is one of the only aspects of American life that has not been politicized.” The [Washington Times](#) (10/19, Miller) quotes Kelly saying, “Let’s try to somehow keep that sacred. But it eroded a great deal yesterday by the selfish behavior of a member of Congress.”

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (10/19, Rutz) reports that Wilson responded by saying that Kelly “‘will say anything’ and is trying to keep his job.” The [Miami Herald](#) (10/19, Daugherty) reports that Wilson also responded to Kelly’s criticism that she bragged about getting the funding for an FBI building at its dedication; the building was being named for two slain agents. Wilson said, “He shouldn’t be able to just say that, that is terrible. This has become totally personal.”

The President weighed in on Twitter at 10:53 p.m., [tweeting](#), “The Fake News is going crazy with wacky Congresswoman Wilson (D), who was SECRETLY on a very personal call, and gave a total lie on content!” Blake Hounshell of Politico [tweeted](#) in response, “So I had thought that Kelly had put a coda on this story today, but I guess Trump wants it to continue.” CNN’s Jim Acosta similarly [tweeted](#), “Appears POTUS wants to have last word on this... not Kelly.” NBC News’ Benji Sarlin [tweeted](#), “Kelly put himself in a deeply uncomfortable place to lend some small dignity to this story and this is how he’s repaid within hours.”

In other coverage of Kelly’s remarks, the [New York Times](#) (10/19, Shear) reports that Kelly “delivered an emotional, personal defense of President Trump’s call” to Myeshia Johnson “after Mr. Trump and the White House were consumed by criticism after the president’s actions this week.” Kelly defended Trump “by offering a detailed, even excruciating description of what happens to those killed in combat,” and “testified to the deep pain that parents feel when they get an early-morning knock on the door from an official there to tell them that their son or daughter has been killed in action.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/19, Bennett) also says Kelly “gave an emotional defense of Trump’s calls,” saying that Trump “was echoing words that Kelly had suggested.” The [New York Post](#) (10/19, Fredericks) says Kelly “gave a powerful defense of President Trump’s handling” of the call, while [McClatchy](#) (10/19, Daugherty, Kumar) calls it “a somber but passionate defense.” Kelly “recalled how difficult it is for presidents to speak with the families of veterans killed in action” and “said that Trump made a ‘brave’ decision to call the four families” of soldiers killed in the Niger ambush. [Breitbart](#) (10/19, Spiering) says that Kelly “delivered a stirring speech.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/19, story 2, 3:25, Mason) aired a long clip of Kelly’s remarks that ran about three minutes. The [Washington Post](#) (10/19, Gearan, Rucker, Wagner) reports that Kelly spoke for about 18 minutes, “answering a few questions before departing, and ignoring others that were shouted at him as he left.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/19) says in an editorial that Kelly elevated the discussion and brought the focus back to the bravery of the soldiers, where it should be.

The [AP](#) (10/19, Kellman, Burns) writes in an analysis, “The public controversy this week clearly was painful for Kelly, whose son had been awarded the Purple Heart.” Trump’s “willingness to raise the tragedy set many in the military community seething.” Obama Administration Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel told the AP, “To use Gen. Kelly and his family in this disgusting political way is sickening and beneath every shred of decency of presidential

leadership." In an interview with [USA Today](#) (10/19, Brook), Hagel said, "I'm offended by the way he's handled it. You just don't use the families of the fallen to score political points."

Ex-Defense Secretary, CIA Director, and White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/19), "I have a lot of respect for John Kelly" and "I understand where John was coming from." However, "I think he was trying to do damage repair here on this whole issue." Panetta later said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (10/19), "I would wish that the focus would be on those men and women who are willing to serve and put their lives on the line and on the families that have lost loved ones, that's where the focus ought to be."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/19, Westwood) reports, "Trump has denied saying anything insensitive." But in his [Washington Post](#) (10/19) column, Eugene Robinson writes, "Trump is a weak, narcissistic man in a job that requires strength and empathy. I'm not sure that empathy is a concept he even understands. He acts as if he believes that feeling someone else's pain is strictly for losers, not winners." The [AP](#) (10/19, Woodward, Davies) reports that it "tried to reach the families of all 43 people who have died in military service since Trump became president and made contact with about 20 families. More than half said they had not heard from Trump."

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/19, Talev, Sink), [Politico](#) (10/19, McCaskill), [The Hill](#) (10/19, Fabian), the [Daily Caller](#) (10/19, Pfeiffer), and the [Washington Free Beacon](#) (10/19, Beck) also have brief reports consisting mainly of Kelly's comments.

Senate Passes Budget Blueprint With Key Provision For Tax Reform.

The [New York Times](#) (10/19, Kaplan) reports that, in "a significant step toward rewriting the tax code," the Senate passed a budget blueprint that prevents Democrats from filibustering a \$1.5 trillion tax cut. The measure also allows drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska "can pass with only Republican votes." The blueprint passed 51-49, with Sen. Rand Paul, complaining about excessive spending, the only Republican voting against it. The budget debate offered Republicans the opportunity "to showcase their main goal in the coming months:" a tax overhaul. Meanwhile, Democrats "lamented the approach that Republicans are taking on taxes, which mirrors the strategy that they employed in their failed effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/19, Viebeck) reports that "by agreeing to the massive tax cut, Senate Republicans have officially moved the party far away from its promised goal of ensuring that the tax plan would not add to the deficit," as, in search of "a political win after months of frustration on Capitol Hill" GOP "abandoned longstanding party orthodoxy of deficit reduction." Before the budget blueprint was approved, the Senate saw about six hours of amendment votes "in which Democrats sought to call attention to controversial aspects of the GOP tax plan." Democratic plans focuses on highlighting "four key tax-reform topics intended to make Republicans cast politically awkward votes: tax cuts for the wealthy, tax increases for the middle class, reductions to Medicare and Medicaid spending, and increases to the budget deficit."

In an analysis piece, the [New York Times](#) (10/19, Kaplan) reports that "perhaps all that really matters" is the language that would allow passing a tax overhaul with only Republican votes; everything else in the bill "even Republicans admit, is filler." The Times adds, "Senators are not even pretending that plotting out the government's finances is the task at hand." Similarly, the [Washington Times](#) (10/19, Sherfinski) reports, "Republicans said [the budget resolution's] numbers were probably irrelevant." Meanwhile, top GOP leaders "expressed doubt" there is time to pass a tax overhaul this year. Sen. Roy Blunt, the vice chairman of the Senate GOP conference, even said, in the Times' words, that "they'll be able to take a 'second look' at reforming the tax code in 2019 or 2020."

The [AP](#) (10/19, Taylor) reports, "Republicans have said failure on taxes would be politically devastating in next year's midterm elections, when control of the House and Senate are at stake."

Also covering this story are the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/19, Andrews, Peterson, Rubin), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/19, Mascaro), and [The Hill](#) (10/19, Carney, Elis).

Ryan, McConnell Said To Have Reached Bicameral Budget Deal. [Politico](#) (10/19, Bade, Everett, Ferris) reports multiple sources in both chambers said that House Speaker Ryan and Senate Majority Leader McConnell have reached "a bicameral budget deal allowing Congress to swiftly move to tax reform." GOP leaders, House Budget Chairman Diane Black, and Senate Budget Chairman Mike Enzi "crafted a Senate amendment full of House-requested tweaks" that was approved by the Senate.

Barrasso: Trump To Meet With GOP Senators. The [Washington Times](#) (10/19, Dinan) reports Sen. John Barrasso, head of the Senate Republican Policy Committee, announced that President

Trump will meet with Republican senators next week, in the Times' words, to "rally them ahead of a months-long push to approve a massive tax reform deal." The event will also allow Trump "to meet with many of his chief Capitol Hill critics."

GOP Hoping Aggressive Timeline Will Prevent Loss Of Support For Tax Plan. The [New York Times](#) (10/19, Tankersley) reports GOP "party leaders are preparing to move ahead on a timeline" to pass tax reform "even more aggressive than their unsuccessful attempts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act," despite few having seen the bill and "key details" remaining unsettled. The GOP seeks to move with "striking – and strategic" – speed in the hopes that their narrow Senate majority will be kept together by the "breakneck pace" amid the anticipated "deluge of lobbying and Democratic criticism." Part of the issue is that campaign donors, business groups, and the White House are pressuring congressional Republicans "to deliver a major legislative victory."

Van Hollen: Democrats Willing To Work On Tax Reform, Not Helping The Rich. Sen. Chris Van Hollen said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (10/19), "The President is running around the country telling people that this is going to reduce the tax burden on the middle class. Uh-uh, that's not the case." Van Hollen added that the GOP plan "will increase taxes on tens of millions of folks in the middle, in order to finance tax breaks for the folks at the very, very top, the top one percent." He also said, "So we're all in, if we're talking about simplifying the tax code and helping folks in the middle. We're not in, if we're talking about increasing taxes on folks in the middle to finance tax breaks for millionaires."

Pompeo: North Korea Months Away From Perfecting Nuclear Capabilities.

The [AP](#) (10/19, Riechmann) reports CIA Director Pompeo warned Thursday that North Korea is "months away from perfecting its nuclear weapons capabilities." Addressing a national security forum in Washington, Pompeo said, "They are close enough now in their capabilities that from a US policy perspective we ought to behave as if we are on the cusp of them achieving" their objective of being able to strike the US. However, he stressed that "there's a difference between having the ability to fire a single nuclear missile and the capability of producing large amounts of fissile material and developing an arsenal of such weapons." Speaking at the same event, National Security Adviser McMaster said, "We are in a race to resolve this short of military action. We are not out of time, but we are running out of time." [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/19) said McMaster made a "veiled threat" when he said President Trump is "not going to accept this regime threatening the United States with a nuclear weapon."

North Korea Threatens "Unimaginable Nuclear Strike" On The US. Reporting from inside North Korea, [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/19, story 5, 2:15, Holt) Kier Simmons said the North is "not backing down from the international condemnation of their nuclear program." Simmons was able to speak with North Korea's vice foreign minister, Pak Myong Guk, who told him "negotiation is only possible if US nuclear weapons are also on the table. A nonstarter in Washington." Meanwhile, when Simmons asked a North Korean lieutenant colonel about President Trump, the military official said, "He is mentally ill," and added, "If there is a war, we will win." The remarks come as a "furious" North Korea is "warning that it will unleash an 'unimaginable nuclear strike on the US'" after American military forces, including an aircraft carrier, conducted joint drills with South Korea this week.

Scarborough: Trump Should Learn From JFK How To Handle A Nuclear Crisis. Joe Scarborough writes in the [Washington Post](#) (10/19) that 55 years ago today, President John F. Kennedy was navigating the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the US now faces another nuclear showdown, this time with North Korea. In an address to the nation at the height of the crisis, Kennedy said, "Our goal is not the victory of might, but the vindication of right. Not peace at the expense of freedom but both peace and freedom. ... God willing, that goal will be achieved." Scarborough writes, "That is the kind of White House address US presidents once gave. A speech of hope, not hyperbole. A speech that sought peace instead of flirting with war. A speech seeking solutions instead of stirring up the anger of an embittered political base."

Jobless Claims At Lowest Level In 44 Years.

The [AP](#) (10/19, Wiseman) reports "the number of Americans collecting unemployment benefits fell last week to the lowest level since Richard Nixon was president." The Labor Department said yesterday that "claims for jobless aid dropped by 22,000 to 222,000, fewest since March 1973. The less volatile four-week average slid by 9,500 to 248,250, lowest since late August." In a story that led the Drudge Report last night, [Bloomberg News](#) (10/19) also notes "filings for unemployment benefits plunged last week to the lowest level since 1973."

EPA Chief Tells Oil, Gas Leaders That Agency Not Like Previous Administration.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/19, Stuckey) reports that EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt spoke at the Texas Oil and Gas Association's annual Lone Star Energy Forum yesterday, where he "gave a succinct message to oil and gas industry leaders: The Trump administration's agency will be nothing like the last." He said that the Trump administration is "focused on results and that's been the primary focus of my first months at the EPA," and referred specifically to the EPA's fast pace in approving waste removal from the San Jacinto Waste Pits after years of inaction.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"The Self-Dealing Presidency Of Donald Trump." The [New York Times](#) (10/19) editorializes about the lawsuit alleging that President Trump has violated the emoluments clauses of the Constitution, one prohibiting officials from accepting "any present, emoluments, office, or title, of any kind whatever" from foreign governments without congressional approval, and another that "bars presidents from getting payments from federal or state governments other than their salaries." The Times argues that "Presidents have been generally transparent about their financial holdings, placing assets in blind trusts and releasing their tax returns," but President Trump, "whose global empire of hotels, real estate, golf courses and other businesses is awash in foreign money," has "refused to take those steps." The Times contends that "even if the case is thrown," Trump "is still a walking emoluments-clause violation," and "he still refuses to release his tax returns and other financial records, preventing the public from seeing the full extent of his business entanglements, debts and interests."

"A Chance To Defuse The Catalonia Crisis." A [New York Times](#) (10/19) editorial says the crisis "started spiraling out of control on Thursday," but stresses that "the door is not yet closed. Mr. Rajoy has not said exactly what he intends to do at the emergency cabinet meeting he called for Saturday." Puigdemont's government also "has not unequivocally declared independence. Both sides can still offer concessions, or at least conciliatory signals, that could move them back from the brink."

Washington Post.

"Strike Three." The [Washington Post](#) (10/19) editorializes that "once again, the courts have blocked President Trump's travel ban from going into effect." On Tuesday, a federal judge in Hawaii "stopped the ban from taking effect," and a federal judge in Maryland "followed suit on Wednesday, blocking enforcement of the ban as applied to travelers with 'bona fide' ties to the United States." The Post notes that the Supreme Court "just dismissed a suit against the second version of the travel ban last week, and will likely do so with another challenge at the end of October when the existing ban on refugee admissions expires." The Post adds that "both judges noted" that "the administration has failed to provide any evidence that nationality has anything to do with the security threat an individual poses." According to the Post, the ban "alienates many while achieving nothing," and it concludes that "the wisest move for the administration would be to let the ban fade away."

"Hailing A Subsidy For Mass Transit." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/19) reports that the Chicago City Council's new proposed fee on ride-hailing companies, such as Uber, would provide needed revenue to the city's aging transit infrastructure and offers a concept that "makes sense and merits consideration in other cities, including Washington." The Post argues that because ride-hailing service "are used disproportionately by wealthier passengers," such a fee would support a transit system serves everyone, including poorer passengers.

"A Superpower For Liberty." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/19) praises George Soros for his three decades of support for civil society organizations and for his \$18 billion in contributions over recent years – but disclosed only this week – to his Open Society Foundations. The Post adds that Soros' work is "urgent now as President Trump turns his back on decades of U.S. support for democracy and human rights," and concludes that for all Soros' contributions to democracy, "it would be doubly good if the government of the United States were walking in tandem with him, and it is a tragedy that it is not."

Wall Street Journal.

"A Fed For A Growth Economy." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/19) urges Trump to select a Fed chairman who supports faster economic growth, and casts Powell as too similar to

Janet Yellen. The Journal, which blames Yellen and Obama-era economic policies for the slow GDP growth over the last decade, goes on to defend the potential nominations of Kevin Warsh and John Taylor.

“Another Republican Retirement.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/19, Board) calls Tiberi’s decision a bad sign for GOP hopes of maintaining its House majority in next year’s elections, and argues that if Republicans don’t pass tax reform, it will likely further hurt the party in 2018.

“John Kelly’s Heroes.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/19) says in an editorial that Kelly elevated the discussion and brought the focus back to the bravery of the soldiers, where it should be.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Tillerson Balances Trump’s Goals And His Own](#)

[Beneath The Market Rally: A Lot Less Trading](#)

[WeWork: A \\$20 Billion Startup Fueled By Silicon Valley Pixie Dust](#)

[Walmart Courts Lord & Taylor For Online Challenge To Amazon](#)

New York Times:

[Kelly Delivers Fervent Defense Of Trump Call To Soldier’s Widow](#)

[Without Saying “Trump,” Bush And Obama Deliver Implicit Rebukes](#)

[Ebola’s Legacy: Children With Cataracts](#)

[Senators Demand Online Ad Disclosures As Tech Lobby Mobilizes](#)

[Puerto Ricans Ask: When Will The Lights Come Back On?](#)

[Bomb School Wasn’t For Lulu, But The CIA Wishes Her The Best](#)

Washington Post:

[Bush Denounces “Bigotry,” “Fabrication”](#)

[Gillespie’s Former Clients May Be Ethics Challenge](#)

[In Amazon’s Boomtown, Lessons For The Next One](#)

[For Rohingya, Suu Kyi A “Bright Light” No More](#)

[Kelly Defends Call To Widow](#)

Financial Times:

[Theresa May Asks EU Not To Back Her Into Corner On Brexit](#)

[Lyft Wins Alphabet Backing In \\$1bn Funding Round](#)

[Kurds Fearful And Angry After Iraqi Forces Take Kirkuk](#)

[FBI Probes US Links To South Africa’s Gupta](#)

Washington Times:

[Muslim-Run Messaging Center Wages Cyberwar On Islamic State](#)

[“Keep That Sacred”: Disgusted Kelly Berates Congresswoman, Defends Trump In Green Beret’s Death](#)

[Senate Passes \\$4 Trillion Budget In Crucial Step For Trump’s Tax Overhaul](#)

[Argentine Elections A Bellwether On Left’s Hopes For A Comeback](#)

[Gillespie Blames Rise Of MS-13 In Virginia On Democratic Opponent](#)

[Weinstein Scandal Exposes Depth Of Abuse, Harassment In Hollywood](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: White House-Fallen Soldiers Call; Niger US Casualty Investigation; Former Presidents Public Appearances; Florida-White Nationalist Speaker Protest; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery; Flight-Close Call; Flight-Emergency Landing; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal; Amazon-New HQ City Selection; Lunch Time Musician.

CBS: White House-Fallen Soldiers Call; Kelly-Fallen Soldiers Call; Former Presidents Public Appearances; Fallen Soldiers Call-Expert Opinion; Niger US Casualty Investigation; Walking-Healthy Habit; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal; School Name-Confederacy.

NBC: White House-Fallen Soldiers Call; Niger US Casualty Investigation; Former Presidents Public Appearances; Florida-White Nationalist Speaker Protest; North Korea Threats; Puerto Rico

Hurricane Recovery; Maryland Shooter Arrested; Seasonal Forecast; Retail-Holiday Shopping; Food Truck Explosion; Kids-Mobile Device; NFL News; California Wildfires-Mailman.

Network TV At A Glance:

White House-Fallen Soldiers Call – 19 minutes, 25 seconds
Niger US Casualty Investigation – 6 minutes, 45 seconds
Former Presidents Public Appearances – 6 minutes, 30 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Florida-White Nationalist Speaker Protest; Former Presidents Public Appearances; White House-Fallen Soldiers Call; Tax Reform-Congress.
CBS: Tax Reform-Congress; Niger US Casualty Investigation; White House-Fallen Soldiers Call; California Wildfires; Florida-White Nationalist Speaker Protest.
FOX: Tax Reform-Congress; White House-Fallen Soldiers Call; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery.
NPR: Bipartisan Healthcare Plan; Honest Media Act; Tax Reform-Congress; White House-Fallen Soldiers Call.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public events scheduled.

US Senate: No public schedule announced.

US House: 2:30 PM House Small Business Committee field hearing on capital access – Field hearing on 'Small Business Capital Access: Supporting Community and Economic Development', with testimony from Opportunity Finance Network Vice President of Public Policy Dafina Williams; Entrepreneur Works President Leslie Benoliel; EMSCO Scientific Enterprises CEO Lin Thomas; and Bright Yellow Creamery owner Steve Dorcelien Location: The Enterprise Center, 4548 Market St, Philadelphia, PA Philadelphia <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>
On recess until 23 October.

Other: Meridian Global Leadership Summit – Meridian Global Leadership Summit, on the 'importance of international engagement and how the United States can more effectively utilize its global leadership position to benefit the entire nation'. Speakers include Republican Rep. Ed Royce, Democratic Rep. Eliot Engel, Under Secretary of State Wendy Sherman, and Coca-Cola Company President James Quincey Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.meridian.org
<https://twitter.com/MeridianIntl>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Everyone be careful. We got snakes and fire and everything. ... That was the Coney Island Circus sideshow, or members of Donald Trump's cabinet, I'm not sure."

Trevor Noah: "I don't know if you know, but there's a guy named Donald Trump who is the President. From day one of his presidency, he's possessed an ability to conjure scandal out of thin air. ... How do you start so clear and veer off-track? He was handed the baton, and instead of staying in his lane, he walks off the track, drives a car down the cliff, gets out and dusts himself off and says, 'Why didn't Obama drive?'"

Trevor Noah: [Referring to the controversy with President Trump's call to the fallen soldier in Niger] "Do you think a phone is going to magically transform [President Trump] into an eloquent man? Like Trump will be talking about all these losers and haters, bing, bing, bong, bigly! 'Hold on, I've got to make a call. Greetings and salutations! My soul is awash in a great flood of sorrow as I reflect upon your circumstance. Fare thee well. Right, where was I? Little Rocket Man!' It's not going to happen."

Trevor Noah: "Donald Trump sucks at making these calls, which is unfortunate, because I don't know who at the White House can make these calls, right? Jared Kushner can't do it because he's on the line, one fixing the Middle East. You don't want Sarah Huckabee Sanders calling because she'll tell you your son didn't die. Then 30 other people can't do it because they've all been fired."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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Bureau Of Indian Affairs

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- Tribes Say DOI Already Gave Them OK For 3rd Conn.
- Bill To Build Grand Canyon Tram Goes Before Navajo Lawmakers.

Bureau Of Land Management

- San Francisco Examiner: Federal Agent Describes Car Break-In That Led To The Killing Of Kate Steinle With Stolen Duty Weapon.
- High Country (CO) News: Defense Wants 'Domestic Terrorism' Out Of Bundy Case.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- New Oil Drilling Potential Concerns Gaetz.
- Del Mar Takes Stand Against Trump's Vision For Offshore Drilling.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Groups File Lawsuit To Halt Chimney Hollow, Windy Gap Project.
- Delta Tunnel Project Decision Time Has Arrived.

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

- US Considers Overhauling Offshore Drilling Rules.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- ABC News: Records: Tentative Deal Reached On Deadly 'Cyanide Bombs'.
- U.S. News & World Report: Judge Rejects Challenge To Part Of Jaguar Recovery Plan.
- U.S. News & World Report: Wetlands Group Donates 107 Acres To Patoka Wildlife Refuge.
- Delmarva (MD) Daily Times: Chincoteague Refuge Leader Retiring.

National Park Service

- Washington Post: Park Service Denies Permit For A 45-foot Statue Of A Naked Woman On The Mall.
- San Francisco Chronicle: National Park Service Veteran Named To Head Golden Gate National Recreation Area.
- MLive (MI): Coast Guard Veteran Hired To Oversee Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.
- Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review: Meet Glacier National Park's First Female Packer.
- KSJR-FM Collegeville (MN): The Future Of Minnesota's Only National Park.
- Marin (CA) Independent Journal: West Marin Ranchers On Edge As Lease Talks Begin.
- Pensacola (FL) News Journal: Gulf Islands National Seashore Announces New Entrance, Camping Fees.
- San Francisco Chronicle: John Muir's Gravesite Will Finally Open To The Public, Under A Very Muir-like Plan.
- Pensacola (FL) News Journal: Dark Mass Discovered At Gulf Islands National Seashore On Perdido Key.
- Orange County (CA) Register: Well-known LA Mountain Lion Dead, New Male Found In Santa Monica Mountains.
- Moab (UT) Sun News: Arches Proposes Flood Mitigation Work.
- U.S. News & World Report: Doctor Noted For Role In Mississippi Beach Desegregation.
- U.S. News & World Report: Former Stone Church In Lakota Listed In National Register.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Sydney (AUS) Morning Herald: Take Atmospheric Nuclear Test Threat 'Literally', North Korea Diplomat Says.

- Marianas Variety: Trump Administration Looking Into CW Issue.
- Bustle: Was Jeff Flake's Reality Show Easier To Survive Than Donald Trump's Drama?
- Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR): While Some VI Residents Suffer And DSNAP Rollout Delayed, MREs Are Sitting In Limetree Bay Parking Lot.
- Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR): Dept. Of Education Has Received 'Hundreds Of Requests' For Student Transcripts As Families Move Stateside.
- The Hill: Hurricane Maria Caused Largest-ever US Blackout.

US Geological Survey

- Boulder (CO) Daily Camera: CU Boulder Study Links Raton Basin Earthquakes To Oil And Gas Wastewater Injections.
- PBS NewsHour: 2.1 Million Americans Use Water Wells With Hazardous Levels Of Arsenic, USGS Estimates.
- West Hawaii Today: USGS Maps Identify Lava Inundation Zones For Mauna Loa.
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- NBC: Trump Declares Opioid Crisis A National Public Health Emergency.
- Los Angeles Times: House Passes Budget Resolution, Setting Stage For Tax Cuts.
- ABC: Trump Decides Against Full Release Of Remaining JFK Files.
- Washington Post: Cohn Tells Lawmakers White House Considering Gas Tax Hike To Pay For Infrastructure Plan.
- Associated Press: Labor: Solar And Wind Energy, As Well As Oil And Gas Sectors, To Spark Jobs Bonanza.
- Washington Post: Studies: Climate Change Could Result In Larger, More Rapid Than Projected Sea Level Rises.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
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 - "Powerless Puerto Rico."
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DOI In The News

House Panels Investigating \$300M Puerto Rico Power Grid Contract.

[The Hill](#) (10/26, Cama) reports two committees in the US House and the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General "have started investigating a \$300 million repair contract that Puerto Rico's electricity utility signed with" Whitefish Energy of Montana. The investigations "come amid growing questions in Puerto Rico and the mainland about how" the company, "which had only two employees before Hurricane Maria decimated the island, got the contract, and how it is managing the task of restoring electricity to millions of residents who have

been without power for more than a month." The CEO of the company Andrew Techmanski "is from the same town as Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and the two know each other, but they have denied that Zinke played any role in Whitefish getting the no-bid contract."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/26, Siegel) reports Rep. Greg Walden and Rep. Rob Bishop, both Republicans, are both seeking information on the "controversial contract." Walden wrote to the company, "In light of the questions that have been raised about your company's involvement in recovery efforts, however, it is important to develop a clear understanding of the facts. Therefore, to assist the committee with our ongoing oversight of hurricane response and recovery efforts, we request Whitefish provide a briefing for committee staff." Several prominent House Democrats joined him in the request. Bishop is demanding PREPA provide documents to "show under what circumstances PREPA has authority to deviate from normal contracting and procurement processes." [Bloomberg News](#) (10/26, Smith) reports, "Prepa's hiring of Whitefish contrasted with recovery efforts in the wake of other recent hurricanes, where utilities in Texas and Florida tapped into a mutual assistance network of other major utility companies."

[The Hill](#) (10/26, Savransky) reports Sens. Maria Cantwell and Ron Wyden have also "sent a letter to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) requesting a probe."

[USA Today](#) (10/26, Dorell) reports Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló wants the DHS IG "to look into a contract." He has also "asked his own Office of Management and Budget to audit the Whitefish contract to make sure it followed Puerto Rico and federal law."

Additional coverage was provided by [CNN](#) (10/26, Marsh, Wallace).

Whitefish Energy Apologizes After Arguing With San Juan Mayor. [The Hill](#) (10/26, Savransky) reports Whitefish Energy has apologized after it "feuded with the mayor of San Juan, Puerto Rico, over Twitter and threatened to pull out of recovery efforts on the island." In a statement the company said, "Mayor Cruz and everyone in Puerto Rico – on behalf of our employees, we would like to apologize for our comments earlier today, which did not represent who we are and how important this work is to help Puerto Rico's recovery." After Cruz had criticized the contract, Whitefish wrote on Twitter, "We've got 44 linemen rebuilding power lines in your city & 40 more men just arrived. Do you want us to send them back or keep working?"

Democrats Seek Investigation Of Whitefish Energy Contract. [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/26, story 7, 2:25, Holt) reported that as President Trump "has signed a \$36 million emergency aid bill, which includes relief money for Puerto Rico." there are "growing calls" among Democrats "for an investigation into how a small company landed the largest government contract to restore the island's power." NBC (Gutierrez) added, "A founding partner a private equity firm that finances Whitefish donated thousands of dollars to the Trump campaign," and "Democrats demanding an investigation as they ask for more federal aid." House Minority Leader Pelosi: "This next bill will be very, very substantial. Not at the mercy of cronyism and incompetence as I believe the Whitefish contract was."

A [New York Times](#) (10/26) editorial says the Whitefish contract undermines confidence that Puerto Rico's power grid will be rebuilt quickly.

Trump Nominates Mining Engineer To Be Top Federal Coal Mine Regulator.

[The Hill](#) (10/26, Henry) reports that the White House on Thursday announced the nomination of J. Steven Gardner, the president of engineering firm ECSI, LLC, to be the director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke lauded the nomination, calling Gardner "an unbelievable asset to coal country and the entire team at the Department of the Interior." Gardner said in a statement Thursday, "My whole life, I have been involved with mining on multiple levels, and I understand the importance of these issues to the communities we serve."

The [AP](#) (10/26, Lovan) reports that Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul said the nomination is a "welcome relief" to the coal industry. However, "environmentalists criticized Gardner's lack of experience as a government regulator and defense of mountaintop removal mining, a controversial mining technique that alters landscapes with blasting and dumping into valleys."

Also reporting are [Reuters](#) (10/26, Volcovici), the [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (10/26, Ward), the [Lexington \(KY\) Herald-Leader](#) (10/26), and [Montana Public Radio](#) (10/26, Speier).

GOP Targets Environmental Rules After Wildfires.

The [AP](#) (10/26, Daly) reports that House Republicans are "targeting environmental rules to allow faster approval for tree cutting in national forests in response to the deadly wildfires in California." Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy "said lawmakers will vote next week on a bill to loosen environmental regulations for forest-thinning projects on federal lands." The Republican

bill “includes reforms to keep our forests healthy and less susceptible to the types of fires that ravaged our state this month,” McCarthy said Thursday.

Firefighting Is Eating Up The Forest Service Budget. [Courthouse News](#) (10/26, Buchman) reports that “battling wildfires is sapping the U.S. Forest Service of 50 percent of its funding and threatening its ability to fight wildfires in the future, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works heard Wednesday.” The Forest Service and the Interior Department “must pay for wildfire response out of their own budgets.” Dylan Kruse, policy director at the nonprofit Sustainable Northwest, “warned senators that ‘reactive, not proactive’ wildfire response will devour 67 percent of the budget in 2021 unless Congress takes action.”

Wildfires At Your Doorstep. In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (10/26, Kodas), Michael Kodas, associate director of the Center for Environmental Journalism at the University of Colorado, Boulder, offers suggestions to combat the issue of wildfires. He suggests “focusing forest thinning operations and prescribed burns on overgrown woodlands near communities.” Also, he argues that “modernizing the airpower used to hold back wildfires and carefully considering when and how to use it will make airborne firefighting safer and more effective, as will new technologies aiding the firefight every year.” He concludes that “most important, however, is an ‘all hands on deck’ engagement from everyone who lives or works in our nation’s increasingly fire-prone lands.”

Senate Hearings Expected As Bipartisan Concerns Rise Over National Park Fee Hikes.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/26, Siciliano) reports that Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski “said Thursday morning she is concerned about the Interior Department’s proposed doubling of entrance fees for 17 of the most popular national parks and will be looking at holding a hearing on the National Park Service proposal.” The committee’s top Democrat, Sen. Maria Cantwell, “raised the issue at Thursday’s hearing on protecting the electric grid from cyberattack.” According to the article, “Murkowski agreed with Cantwell and said she would look into the increased costs.”

Additional coverage of the proposal was provided by [E&E Publishing](#) (10/26, Hotakainen), the [Washington Post](#) (10/26, Ingraham), the [Washington Post](#) (10/26, Fears), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/26, Daly), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (10/26, Fonseca), the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (10/25, Alexander), the [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (10/26, Raymond), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/26), the [Arkansas Times](#) (10/26, Brantley), the [Wilson \(NC\) Times](#) (10/26, Funt), the [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (10/26), the [Huffington Post](#) (10/26, Peterman), [MSNBC](#) (10/26, Benen), [Slate](#) (10/26, Wiegand), and [WNIJ-FM DeKalb \(IL\)](#) DeKalb, IL (10/25, Ryssdal, Bodnar).

Trump Administration Plans To Approve Southern California Solar Farm.

The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (10/26, Roth) reports the Trump administration is planning “to approve a massive solar power plant in the Southern California desert.” The Interior Department announced Thursday “it will move forward with the Palen solar farm, which...would be built on public lands between Joshua Tree National Park and Interstate 10, in the open desert east of the Coachella Valley.” However, the Desert Sun says “some environmental groups have spent years fighting Palen, saying it would disrupt sensitive desert ecosystems and harm lizards, tortoises, birds and other animals,” while Native American groups have said the project “would destroy ancient tribal artifacts and sacred sites.”

Trump Pledges To Speed Up Lake Okeechobee Dike Repairs.

The [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (10/26, Bennett) reports that President Trump has “agreed to speed up repairs to the Herbert Hoover Dike around Lake Okeechobee, a top priority of Florida Gov. Rick Scott, the White House announced Tuesday night.” The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is “scheduled to complete a \$1.7 billion renovation of the earthen berm in 2025, but Scott has pressed for the project to be completed by 2022.” The article notes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “called dike repairs ‘a priority’ during a visit to Palm Beach County this month.”

Susan Combs Again Delayed For Trump Administration Post.

The [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (10/26, Recio) reports that Susan Combs, who was nominated in July to be the Interior Department’s assistant secretary for policy, management and budget, is still waiting to be confirmed. She is “now in the thick of a much larger political fight over appointees that has delayed her confirmation vote in the Senate for nearly three months – with no end in sight.” According to the article, “the latest hurdle to Combs’ new job was erected by Sen. Jim Inhofe.” Inhofe and Environmental Protection Agency administrator Scott Pruitt “want

to ensure Senate approval for several controversial free-market advocates who President Donald Trump nominated to key EPA leadership positions – and to gain leverage, Inhofe has held up a Democratic nominee to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.”

Trump’s Push For Coal Mining Will Endanger Dinosaur Discoveries In Utah, Scientists Fear.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/26, Finnegan) reports that “more than two dozen new species of dinosaurs [have been] discovered in [Utah’s] Grand Staircase-Escalante in the 21 years since President Clinton preserved it as a national monument.” The majority of the “1.9 million acres of desert wilderness, one of the world’s richest fossil sites for studying the age of dinosaurs, remains unexplored. But scientists now fear President Trump will soon spoil it. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, ordered by Trump to reassess the biggest national monuments named since 1996, has proposed shrinking Grand Staircase-Escalante. Whatever area is removed would be open to coal mining, oil drilling and mineral extraction.”

Interior Sets Strategic Goals Absent Data To Verify Its Work.

[E&E Publishing](#) (10/26) reports a draft of the Interior Department’s fiscal 2018-2022 strategic plan “details the agency’s priority goals and performance metrics.” Six “mission areas” outlined in the document include topics such as “land and water conservation, recreation expansion, and border control. Interior’s second mission area, revenue generation and natural resource utilization, is heavily geared toward oil, gas and mineral extraction – although renewables are mentioned as well.” The plan says DOI “will continue to expand production of both offshore and onshore conventional and renewable U.S. energy resources while ensuring safety and reliability through efficient permitting, appropriate standards, assessment, and oversight.” According to E&E Publishing, the phrase “climate change” does not appear in the draft document, but it does contain one important new keyword: “energy dominance.”

Interior, EPA Each Outline Efforts To Reduce Regulatory Burdens.

[PennEnergy](#) (10/26, Snow) reports the US Department of the Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency “separately reported energy regulatory burdens discovered within their operations and steps under way to relieve them.” The reports were in response to a March executive order “directing departments and agencies across the government ... to review and possibly change rules that impede in the nation’s energy development.” Interior Sec. Ryan Zinke said, “Developing our energy resources to grow our economy and protecting the environment are not mutually exclusive. However, while conducting the review outlined in the executive order, we found that several costly and burdensome regulations from the past threaten that balance by hampering the production or transmission of our domestic energy.” EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said, “We can be both pro-jobs and pro-environment. At EPA, that means we are working to curb unnecessary and duplicative regulatory burdens that do not serve the American people—while continuing to partner with states, tribes, and stakeholders to protect our air, land, and water.”

The Energy 202: GOP Lawmakers Want More Alaska Drilling. The Trump Administration Isn’t Waiting.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/26, Grandoni) reports in continuing coverage that the Interior Department announced it will lease 900 tracts encompassing 10.3 million acres in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. The sale will offer all available blocks, adding substantially to the 1.4 million acres that are currently leased for drilling.

Also reporting are the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/26, Siegel), [Axios](#) (10/26, Geman), the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/26, Siciliano, Seigel), the [AP](#) (10/12), and [E&E Publishing](#) (10/26).

Activists At Meehan’s Office Protest Drilling In The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. [Delaware County News Network \(PA\)](#) (10/26, Carey) reports six environmental advocates met with staff of US Rep. Patrick Meehan (R-PA) Wednesday to encourage him to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil or gas drilling. The effort, led by the Sierra Club, “was being replicated at approximately 20 other congressional offices throughout the country to coincide with a rally in Washington, where advocates for the Gwich’in community were meeting with lawmakers to lobby on behalf of preserving the area.”

NPR-A Promises Wealth Of Oil And Strong Presence In Arctic. In an op-ed for the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/26, Mack), Andy Mack, commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, writes that the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska is “magnificent and its oil resource potential is world class.” Mack suggests three things necessary “to increase positive momentum

for NPR-A oil exploration." First, he says "we need Alaskans in the pilot seat when it comes to developing plans for the NPR-A." Second, he argues "we need to empower local groups to have more control of the process." Finally, he writes that "we need to think long term."

William Thornton: Why America Needs The Antiquities Act.

In an op-ed for the [Arizona Daily Star](#) (10/27, Thornton), William Thornton, vice president of the Friends of Ironwood Forest, raises concerns about HR 3990 as a "a new threat to public lands." Thornton writes that "despite gloom and doom predictions by naysayers who have consistently opposed their creation, they continue to create billions of dollars of economic benefits for states that host them." He urges readers to contact lawmakers and "respectfully request that they oppose HR 3990."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

High-Ranking BIA Official Addresses Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council Quarterly Meeting.

[Char-Koosta News](#) (10/26, Azure) reports that John Tahsuda III, Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, "gave an introductory address at the Rocky Mountain Tribal Leaders Council quarterly meeting held the past week at the KwaTaqNuk Resort and Casino." In his address to nearly 50 attendees, Tahsuda said, "I am only in my sixth week on the job and I am still learning. I ask for your patience. I want to do the best job for you. I am a big proponent of self-governance. The decision-making should be left with the tribes – you should have control over your destiny."

Tribes Say They Want An Open Dialogue To Protect Cultural Sites In Wyoming.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/26, Richards) reports that representatives from the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes attended a meeting Wednesday before the Wyoming's Select Federal Natural Resource Management Committee "to explain why tribal consultation about energy development on federal land matters to the Native American tribes that once lived or hunted in Wyoming." According to the article "after a full day of testimony, the sentiment that landowners had a legitimate issue and that federal agencies needed to do a better job was clear." But "what any changes could mean for tribal consultations on historic sites was less so."

Complaint Filed To Block Illegal Camp 4 Agreement.

The [Santa Barbara \(CA\) Edhat](#) (10/26) reports that "a complaint was filed against the County of Santa Barbara to prevent it from allowing the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians to develop over 1,400 acres of agricultural land in the Santa Ynez Valley known as Camp 4." The complaint claims "that the County cannot agree to a development that violates the Santa Ynez Community Plan."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Santa Barbara \(CA\) Independent](#) (10/26, Brugger).

Texas Attorney General Sues Feds, Seeks To Help Family Adopt Native American 2-Year-Old.

The [Texas Tribune](#) (10/26, Svitek) reports that Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton is "suing the federal government over a law that seeks to keep Native American children from being separated from their families." Paxton claims in a lawsuit that the Indian Child Welfare Act is "unconstitutional and should be struck down." According to the article, "the lawsuit is on behalf of a non-Native American foster family from Texas that wants to adopt a Native American boy."

Tribes Say DOI Already Gave Them OK For 3rd Conn.

Casino. [Law360](#) (10/25, Westney) reports that "a company co-owned by the Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot tribes on Wednesday assailed former U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ken Salazar's recent warning that the tribes' proposed third Connecticut casino might jeopardize their revenue sharing with the state, saying the tribes already have federal approval for needed changes to their tribal-state gaming compacts."

Bill To Build Grand Canyon Tram Goes Before Navajo Lawmakers.

The [AP](#) (10/26) reports that "Navajo Nation lawmakers are scheduled to take up legislation to build an aerial tram into the Grand Canyon next week." Navajo Nation Council spokesman Jared

Touchin "says the Grand Canyon Escalade is the only item on Tuesday's special session agenda so far."

Bureau Of Land Management

Federal Agent Describes Car Break-In That Led To The Killing Of Kate Steinle With Stolen Duty Weapon.

The [San Francisco Examiner](#) (10/26, Barba) reports, "The federal ranger whose stolen weapon was used to shoot a woman in San Francisco triggered a chain of events that led to the killing, a defense attorney for the undocumented immigrant charged with the crime argued Thursday." Bureau of Land Management ranger John Woychowski "testified Thursday that he and his family had stopped in San Francisco on a trip up the California coast when someone busted into two rear windows of his car, stealing a fully loaded handgun he stashed in a backpack underneath the driver's seat." The Examiner says the police officer "who tested [Jose Ines] Garcia Zarate's hands for gunshot residue after police arrested him also testified in court Thursday." Officer Andrew Clifford "said in court that he took the samples within an hour of the arrest," and the samples "resulted in the San Francisco Police Department crime lab finding just one gunshot residue particle." The [AP](#) (10/26) reports Garcia Zarate's attorney Matt Gonzalez "told the jury Monday that the negligent storage of the gun started a chain of events that led to the accidental shooting of Steinle."

[Fox News](#) (10/26) reports the prosecution "brought out a P239 weapon as evidence which Woychowski confirmed was his and showed the jury how it worked, adding that he'd never had trouble with it." Fox News says SFPD Officer Craig Dong took the stand on Wednesday. Dong was "on the scene on the day of the shooting and worked on enhancing video from a nearby fire station that appeared to capture video of Zarate and also [Kate] Steinle and her father at the moment of shooting." During Dong's testimony, "jurors saw a video that showed Steinle falling, the suspect walking away and something splashing in the water." During the part of the video that showed Steinle falling, "people in the gallery of the court room could be heard gasping."

Defense Wants 'Domestic Terrorism' Out Of Bundy Case.

The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (10/26, Wiles) reports that "when the third in a series of trials over the 2014 Bundy Ranch standoff in Nevada gets underway, prosecutors will be able to use testimony from an expert in extremism and domestic terrorism, the judge in the case has ruled." HCN says "defense attorneys for one of the accused Bundy supporters, Ryan Payne, of Montana, had sought to keep much of the federal agent's testimony out of the case, saying his expertise on militias and terrorism would prejudice the jury." HCN notes that "jury selection for the trial – which includes Payne, Cliven Bundy and his sons Ammon and Ryan – begins next week."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

New Oil Drilling Potential Concerns Gaetz.

[Northwest Florida Daily News](#) (10/26, Blanks) reports that Rep. Matt Gaetz "said Thursday he was 'very concerned' about a Trump administration proposal that would make 77 million acres in the Gulf of Mexico available for lease by federal oil and gas companies." According to the article, "though the waters off Florida are protected from drilling for at least the next five years thanks to the existence of the military mission line, Gaetz said statements made by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke alarmed him." Gaetz said, "Zinke told me that the moment the military mission line goes away, he intends to issue oil and gas leases nine miles off of Florida's shores. That would be catastrophic to our military, and to our local tourism economy."

Del Mar Takes Stand Against Trump's Vision For Offshore Drilling.

The [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (10/26, Montes) reports that Del Mar is "taking a stand against President Donald Trump's efforts to loosen restrictions on offshore drilling and energy exploration in federal waters – the first city south of Los Angeles County to do so." The Del Mar City Council "unanimously agreed on Oct. 16 to call on California's congressional delegation to join the city in making clear that expanded offshore drilling poses too great a threat to the state's \$44.8 billion ocean economy."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Groups File Lawsuit To Halt Chimney Hollow, Windy Gap Project.

The [Loveland \(CO\) Reporter-Herald](#) (10/26, Johnson) reports that “a coalition of environmental groups has filed a lawsuit in federal court to stop construction of Chimney Hollow Reservoir southwest of Loveland, calling the project ‘a terrible idea’ and claiming it will cause irreparable damage the Colorado River.” The lawsuit filed Thursday “asks the judge to throw out the records of decision by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S Army Corps of Engineers, claiming they violated the National Environmental Policy Act and the Clean Water Act in approving the project.” Gary Wockner, who heads both Save the Colorado and Save the Poudre environmental groups, said, “The idea that you could take more water out of this river system that is already severely degraded and drained in addition to the prediction that climate change is going to take even more water out of the river is just insane.”

Also reporting are the [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (10/26, Johnson), the [Greeley \(CO\) Tribune](#) (10/26, Silvy), the [Estes Park \(CO\) Trail-Gazette](#) (10/26, Johnson), and [KUNC-FM Greeley \(CO\)](#) Greeley, CO (10/26, Runyon).

Delta Tunnel Project Decision Time Has Arrived.

In an op-ed for the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/26, Lund), Jay Lund, a Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Director of the Center for Watershed Sciences at UC Davis, writes that due to recent developments, California’s WaterFix proposal “could shrink to become a single-tunnel state-only project supported mostly by urban water users and some Tulare basin agricultural contractors.” Lund argues that “there are no perfect solutions.” He concludes that “sustained state leadership is needed to craft imperfect but workable solutions among the Delta’s many conflicting interests.”

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

US Considers Overhauling Offshore Drilling Rules.

[Argus Media](#) (10/26) reports the Trump Administration is considering revising parts of offshore drilling safety regulations that were implemented to prevent the type of blowout that led to the Deepwater Horizon spill. The Administration says the changes will look to “strike the appropriate balance” between safety, the environment, and energy production. However, critics say the plan to let operators reduce blowout prevention tests by 50 percent is increasing the risks of another major oil spill.

Fish And Wildlife Service

Records: Tentative Deal Reached On Deadly ‘Cyanide Bombs’.

The [AP](#) (10/26, Brown) reports that “U.S. officials have reached a tentative deal with wildlife advocates trying to stop the use of predator-killing traps, including devices called ‘cyanide bombs’ that earlier this year injured an Idaho teenager and killed his dog, according to court documents filed Thursday.” Government lawyers “asked U.S. District Judge Dana Christensen to put on hold for 60 days a lawsuit over the poisoned traps pending final approval of the agreement by senior officials at the Interior Department.” Terms were not disclosed.

Judge Rejects Challenge To Part Of Jaguar Recovery Plan.

The [AP](#) (10/26) reports that “a federal judge has rejected a challenge to the federal designation of parts of New Mexico and Arizona as critical habitat for the endangered jaguar.” Judge Kenneth Gonzales’ order Wednesday “rejects farming and ranching groups’ arguments that the Fish and Wildlife Service’s inclusion of 181 square miles (469 sq. kilometers) in New Mexico’s Hidalgo County and Arizona’s Cochise County was arbitrary and capricious.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Courthouse News](#) (10/26, Prieskop).

Wetlands Group Donates 107 Acres To Patoka Wildlife Refuge.

The [AP](#) (10/26) reports that the Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge has “grown by 107 acres (43 hectares) after conservation groups donated a tract to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.”

The land was donated by Wetlands America Trust and Ducks Unlimited.

Chincoteague Refuge Leader Retiring.

The [Delmarva \(MD\) Daily Times](#) (10/26, Vaughn) reports that Kevin Sloan is “retiring after more than three decades with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.” Sloan, “whose last day at work is Oct. 27, has been project leader at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge since October 2014.”

National Park Service

Park Service Denies Permit For A 45-foot Statue Of A Naked Woman On The Mall.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/26, Stein) reports that the National Park Service is “denying a permit to a group wanting to place a 45-foot statue of a naked woman on the Mall near the Washington Monument.” Mike Litterst, a spokesman with the agency, said earlier this month “the agency issued the group an exception to have a structure taller than 45 feet, meaning the agency wouldn’t deny permits because it exceeded the height limit.” However, “in the letter denying the permits, Rick Obernesser, acting regional director of the Park Service, wrote that the height exception should never have been approved and the agency was revoking the variance.” Obernesser “also wrote that the permit was denied because the agency was concerned the statue would damage the Mall’s turf.”

Also reporting are the [New York Times](#) (10/26, Stevens), [WRC-TV Washington](#) Washington (10/26, Barnes) and [WUSA-TV Washington](#) Washington (10/26, Cirruzzo).

National Park Service Veteran Named To Head Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (10/26, Alexander) reports that “Laura Joss, a 27-year veteran of the National Park Service who has led the agency’s West Coast office for the past year and a half, was appointed to the top post at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area on Thursday.” Joss said, “I’m thrilled to have the opportunity to work in an iconic park like Golden Gate. There’s such a diversity here, from the beaches to Muir Woods, a quiet hike or an urban experience. I’m looking forward to welcoming visitors and getting to know the park better myself.”

Coast Guard Veteran Hired To Oversee Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

[MLive \(MI\)](#) (10/26, Champion) reports that “David Horne, Chief Ranger for the Southeast Region of the National Park Service with 23 years of experience,” has been selected as the next superintendent of the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Regional Director Cam Sholly said in a statement, “We are very pleased to welcome Dave as the new Superintendent of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. He has a proven track record of successfully managing complex operations, building strong teams, and collaborating closely with communities and partners.”

Meet Glacier National Park’s First Female Packer.

The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (10/26, Scott) reports that Jill Michalak “landed a job” at Glacier National Park this season “as the first female packer in the program’s century-old history.” Glacier’s lead packer Dave Elwood said, “We hired two young people this summer, including Jill, and we got really lucky. She’s just excellent, with a lot of experience and a lot of energy.”

The Future Of Minnesota’s Only National Park.

[KSJR-FM](#) Collegeville, MN (10/26, Weber) reports that Bob DeGross, superintendent to run Voyageurs National Park, “joined MPR’s Tom Weber to talk about the first year of his tenure — and the future of Voyageurs.”

West Marin Ranchers On Edge As Lease Talks Begin.

The [Marin \(CA\) Independent Journal](#) (10/26, Prado) reports that “the debate over the future of ranching in federal park lands in West Marin is underway and support for the practice was voiced this week as hearings kicked off.” This week National Park Service officials “held a pair of public sessions — one in Point Reyes, the other in Sausalito — to look at the various alternatives for ranching.” The NPS’ “initial proposal would allow existing ranch families to continue beef and dairy operations with 20-year leases, the agency announced earlier this month.”

Gulf Islands National Seashore Announces New Entrance, Camping Fees.

The [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (10/26) reports that Gulf Islands National Seashore officials have “announced increased fees for admission into the park and for use of the Fort Pickens Campground.” Beginning Jan. 1, “admission to the park will be \$20 per private vehicle, up from the current \$15.” Also, “individuals on foot, on bicycle or in large non-commercial vehicles will pay \$10 per person, as opposed to the current \$7.” In addition, “motorcycle admission will increase from \$10 to \$15, and the cost of the annual pass will increase to \$40.”

John Muir’s Gravesite Will Finally Open To The Public, Under A Very Muir-like Plan.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (10/26, Keraghosian) reports that the National Park Service announced Wednesday “it will begin offering van tours to Muir’s Martinez gravesite sometime in December, four times a week.” Then, “when the 1.3-acre site is fenced off, it will open to pedestrians and bicyclists as well during daytime hours, though cars will not be allowed.” Visitors will be able to enter for free.

Dark Mass Discovered At Gulf Islands National Seashore On Perdido Key.

The [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (10/26) reports that “a dark mass discovered at Gulf Islands National Seashore on Perdido Key on Wednesday has been determined to be naturally occurring peat mass, according to a National Park Service biologist.” Officials say it is not hazardous.

Well-known LA Mountain Lion Dead, New Male Found In Santa Monica Mountains.

The [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (10/25, Fonseca) reports that “a young, male mountain lion has been discovered in the Santa Monica Mountains — in the same area where an older male puma was recently found dead, federal wildlife officials said.” According to Kate Kuykendall, spokeswoman for the National Park Service’s Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, “the juvenile male, dubbed P-61, was captured last week ‘on the eastern end of the Santa Monica Mountains.’” Kuykendall said in a Facebook post, “We will be sending in tissue samples to determine how, if at all, he may be related to other lions in the area.”

[KCAL-TV Los Angeles](#) (10/26) reports that “the discovery comes after P-27 — described by NPS spokesperson Kate Kuykendall as ‘the dominant male in this area for the past few years’ — was found dead of unknown causes.” P-27 is “believed to have been dead for at least one month when his remains were discovered.”

Arches Proposes Flood Mitigation Work.

The [Moab \(UT\) Sun News](#) (10/26) reports that the National Park Service has “announced that its Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Salt Wash Rehabilitation Project in Arches National Park is now available for public review and comment.”

Doctor Noted For Role In Mississippi Beach Desegregation.

The [AP](#) (10/26, Pettus) reports that “the National Register of Historic Places now includes the office of an African-American physician who faced arrests and violence as he led a nearly decade-long effort to desegregate beaches on the Mississippi Gulf Coast.” The National Park Service “recently approved the listing for the office of Dr. Gilbert Mason Sr., who died in 2006.”

Former Stone Church In Lakota Listed In National Register.

The [AP](#) (10/26) reports that the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Lakota has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Office Of Insular Affairs

Take Atmospheric Nuclear Test Threat ‘Literally’, North Korea Diplomat Says.

The [Sydney \(AUS\) Morning Herald](#) (10/25) reports that “the North Korean foreign minister’s warning of a possible atmospheric nuclear test over the Pacific Ocean should be taken literally, a senior North Korean official has told CNN.” Ri Yong-pil, a senior diplomat in North Korea’s Foreign Ministry, said, “The foreign minister is very well aware of the intentions of our supreme leader, so I think you should take his words literally.”

Trump Administration Looking Into CW Issue.

[Marianas Variety](#) (10/27, Villahermosa) reports that Press Secretary Kevin Bautista “on Thursday said the governor was informed in early October that due to the language of H.R. 339 and the

'rhetoric regarding outdated unemployment figures from the congressional office,' U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services proposed a substantial reduction in the CW permits for fiscal year 2018." Bautista "said Gov. Ralph Torres spoke directly with the White House through the deputy chief of staff of the president and the White House Intergovernmental Affairs Office to request their assistance on behalf of the CNMI." Bautista said the Trump Administration "is looking at the CNMI's position" so it can base policy "on accurate and up-to-date information about our economy and the needs of the CNMI."

Was Jeff Flake's Reality Show Easier To Survive Than Donald Trump's Drama?

[Bustle](#) (10/25, Lahitou) notes that in 2014, Sen. Jeff Flake and Sen. Martin Heinrich appeared in a one-off reality show called Rival Survival. The show was filmed on a tiny island of the Marshall Islands called Eru. According to the article, "Flake had visited several times before, and pitched the Discovery Channel a show featuring himself and a Democratic senator spending a week there together, using Go Pro cameras to film some of their adventures." The senators said Rival Survival was "meant to demonstrate that two members of opposing political parties could still work together."

While Some VI Residents Suffer And DSNAP Rollout Delayed, MREs Are Sitting In Limetree Bay Parking Lot.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (10/24) reports that "during one of his many press briefings following the storms and before Oct. 14, Governor Kenneth Mapp announced that his administration would stop distributing meals ready to eat (MREs), because residents would have soon received their Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (DSNAP) checks, which he said most Virgin Islands households would qualify for, since approval was based on the loss of power, which would have caused refrigerated items to spoil." Mapp "also said he wanted to save some MREs because the hurricane season was still active." However, "even as there's no clear date for the DSNAP rollout, there are pallets of MREs and other relief supplies sitting in the Limetree Bay Terminals east parking lot, as the governor has decided that it's best to not distribute the remaining MREs, with no good reasons as to why."

Dept. Of Education Has Received 'Hundreds Of Requests' For Student Transcripts As Families Move Stateside.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (10/26) reports that "the Virgin Islands Department of Education, which was already struggling to retain teachers, maintain schools badly in need of repair, and keep essential curriculum in place because of the lack of funds, has found itself in a precarious position following Hurricanes Irma and Maria, with the department receiving hundreds of requests for student transcripts, as families move to the U.S. mainland seeking better education for their children and better lives for themselves." Dept. of Education Commissioner Sharon McCollum revealed a Senate hearing Wednesday "that of the 13,000 students in the territory, only half had returned to school." According to the article, "the department expects the number to increase as more schools open, but the timeline of reopening was hard to pin as many were condemned and are in need of repair."

Hurricane Maria Caused Largest-ever US Blackout.

[The Hill](#) (10/26, Cama) reports that according to the findings of a new report by the "economic consulting firm Rhodium Group," the "blackout caused by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands is the United States' largest in history." The firm determined "that Maria caused 1.25 billion hours of electricity supply disruption to households, the most in recorded history." [CNN](#) (10/26, Levenson) reports the "analysis largely relies on data on electricity loss provided to the Department of Energy, as well as news reports for storms prior to 2000."

US Geological Survey

CU Boulder Study Links Raton Basin Earthquakes To Oil And Gas Wastewater Injections.

In continuing coverage, the [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (10/25, Lewett) reports new research by the University of Colorado Boulder's Department of Geological Sciences links small earthquakes in the Raton Basin, located in southern California and northern New Mexico, to wastewater injections by oil and gas companies. The research supports "and builds upon the findings of two previous studies linking earthquakes to the wastewater injections in Raton Basin." CU doctoral

student Jenny Nakai, the lead author of the study, said, "What makes our research different is by having established a causative mechanism for the seismic activity — which is the increase in pore pressure from the area's wells."

2.1 Million Americans Use Water Wells With Hazardous Levels Of Arsenic, USGS Estimates.

[PBS NewsHour](#) (10/26, Akpan) reports that "in a new report, the U.S. Geological Survey estimates 2.1 million Americans use water wells with high levels of arsenic, a naturally occurring metal linked to cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes and neurological deficits." According to the article, "this analysis offers one of the first nationwide appraisals for the groundwater contaminant and spotlights regulatory gaps in the nation's water infrastructure." The USGS model, "published in *Environmental Science & Technology*, predicts 2.1 million people drink from wells with arsenic at greater than 10 micrograms per liter of water, which is the maximum contaminant level allowed by the Environmental Protection Agency."

USGS Maps Identify Lava Inundation Zones For Mauna Loa.

[West Hawaii Today](#) (10/26) reports that researchers at the U.S. Geological Survey's Hawaiian Volcano Observatory "have produced maps that will help Hawaii County Civil Defense and other emergency managers identify people, property, and facilities at risk during future eruptions." According to the article, "using detailed geologic mapping and modeling of how a fluid (in this case, lava) responds to surface topography, USGS-HVO constructed nine maps depicting 18 inundation zones on Mauna Loa. Each zone identifies a segment of the volcano that could erupt lava and send flows downslope."

Additional Reading.

- *Federal Government Rolls Out Eight Border Wall Prototypes.* [KGBT-TV](#) Harlingen, TX (10/26, Aguilar).
- *Misplaced Monarchs: Clusters Of Butterflies Stuck Up North.* [U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/26, Borenstein).
- *Small Undersea Quake Occurs Off Southern California.* [U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/26).
- *4.6 Earthquake Strikes Off California's Central Coast.* [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/26, Quakebot).
- *Yellowstone Eruptions Plunged Earth Into Volcanic Winter.* [Daily Mail](#) (10/26, Macdonald).

Top National News

Trump Declares Opioid Crisis A National Public Health Emergency.

Coverage of President Trump's [declaration](#) of the opioid crisis as a "national public health emergency" – but not a national emergency – is widespread, leading two broadcast network newscasts. Reports are somewhat critical, with many echoing Democratic charges that the President's action does not free up significant new funding and falls short of his earlier vow to declare a national emergency. Several reports more sympathetically highlight the President's comments about his late brother, who died of complications related to alcoholism in 1981.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/26, lead story, 3:00, Holt) opened by reporting on the "dramatic White House announcement and pledge for action in the face of a catastrophe, literally killing communities and destroying families across the country. ... Today the Administration elevated the fight, the President declaring it a public health emergency. ... More federal help comes as welcome news to cities and towns struggling under the weight of the burden. But even now, worries that today's declaration may fall short." The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/26, lead story, 2:50, Mason) similarly reported that Trump "declared a public health emergency to fight the epidemic, but critics were quick to say that does not provide the money to get the job done." CBS' Major Garrett: "President Trump stopped short of declaring the opioid crisis a national emergency, opting instead for a public health emergency declaration. It will streamline some access to addiction treatment, but provides few new resources."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/26, story 2, 3:50, Muir) reported that Trump is "declaring war on the nation's opioid crisis...offering a very personal story. But the President was careful with his words, calling it a 'public health emergency,' and why the words he chose could determine how much money the government will spend to fight this." ABC's Cecilia Vega: "The declaration means patients in rural areas can reach doctors and obtain prescriptions to treat

addiction by phone or Internet. Unemployed workers who lost their jobs because of addiction will receive job training and assistance. And it lifts bureaucratic red tape, allowing more funding for treatment centers in all 50 states. But the President stopped short of declaring a sweeping national emergency, something he has repeatedly promised."

[WTOC-TV](#) Savannah, GA (10/26, 4:12 p.m. EDT) reported that Trump declared "an opioid crisis, a national public health emergency. The President announced this afternoon that the Administration's goal is to reduce addiction to prescription pain medication and drugs like heroin and fentanyl. The declaration gives states the ability to shift funds away from other medical issues such as HIV, diabetes and even maternal care to provide more opioid treatment." Hundreds of similar reports aired across the country. Some typical examples include [WYFF-TV](#) Greenville, SC (10/26, 4:09 p.m. EDT), [WGAL-TV](#) Lancaster, PA (10/26, 4:02 p.m. EDT), and [WPLG-TV](#) Miami (10/26, 4:08 p.m. EDT).

The [AP](#) (10/26, Colvin, Johnson) reports, "In ringing and personal terms," Trump "pledged to 'overcome addiction in America,' declaring the opioid crisis a nationwide public health emergency and announcing new steps to combat what he described as the worst drug crisis in US history." Trump's declaration "will allow the government to redirect resources, including toward expanded access to medical services in rural areas. But it won't bring new dollars to fight a scourge that kills nearly 100 Americans a day." [Reuters](#) (10/26, Abutaleb, Mason) also reports that Trump "stopp[ed] short of a national emergency declaration he promised months ago that would have freed up more federal money," and as he "told Fox Business Network he would do" earlier this week.

[USA Today](#) (10/26, Korte) reports that Trump "tried to rally the nation to pay attention to a growing epidemic that claimed 64,000 American lives last year, and advocated for a sustained national effort to end to the addiction crisis," but "stopped short of declaring a more sweeping state of national emergency." The [New York Times](#) (10/26, Davis) reports that the President appeared at "an elaborate and emotional ceremony in the East Room of the White House, attended by families affected by opioid abuse, members of Congress and administration officials," but "his directive does not on its own release any additional funds...and the president did not request any, although his aides said he would soon do so."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/26, Levey) reports under the headline "Trump Issues Limited Emergency Declaration To Combat The Opioid Epidemic" that Trump "has been under pressure for months to step up the federal government's response to the drug epidemic and has been promising since the summer that he would declare an emergency." [The Hill](#) (10/26, Roubein, Hellmann) reports the move "won't free up much additional federal funding," but will allow Acting HHS Secretary Hargan "to loosen certain regulations that he otherwise would not be able to."

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (10/26, Lehman) reports that the designation will also "permit several medical policy shifts. It will expand telemedicine services, making addressing substance abuse in rural areas easier. And it will allow the shifting of resources to better address substance abuse among those with HIV/AIDS." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/26, Radnofsky) reports that Trump also said the Administration might bring lawsuits against unspecified "bad actor" companies, but it was not immediately clear what steps might be taken. Purdue Pharma, which sells OxyContin, said earlier this week that the US attorney's office in Connecticut was investigating the company over the drug.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/26, Johnson, Wagner) reports that the President "invoked the story of his late brother, Fred Trump, who died of complications related to alcoholism. The president credited his brother for warning him of the effects of drinking and said a concerted advertising campaign could keep people from becoming addicted to opioids and other drugs." [Politico](#) (10/26, McCaskill) reports, "Trump said Fred would frequently tell him 'don't drink' and 'don't smoke.' He said he listened because he respected his brother." The President said, "And to this day I've never had a drink, and I have no longing for it. I have no interest in it. To this day, I've never had a cigarette." [Townhall](#) (10/26, Rousselle) also reports Trump "said that due to his brother's warnings, he has never had a drink of alcohol nor has he smoked a cigarette, and he thinks that the best way to stem the crisis is to make it so that people never take these drugs to begin with."

Kellyanne Conway said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (10/26) that the President delivered "a long and heartfelt speech," during which he "took a moment to speak passionately and personally about his older brother's struggle with alcoholism and his death at a young age. The President echoed the message many healthcare providers and elected officials say which is that the best way to stop people from dying from overdose and drug abuse is by not starting the first place."

Some GOP members of the House expressed their support on Twitter. Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA) [tweeted](#), "I agree with @POTUS, the opioid crisis is a public health emergency. Let's focus the efforts of all levels of gov't to tackle this epidemic." Rep. Neil Dunn (R-FL) [tweeted](#), "I commend President Trump's call to action on the opioid epidemic." Rep. Chuck Fleischmann (R-TN) [tweeted](#), "Opioids are taking lives & action is needed." Rep. Erik Paulsen (R-MN) [tweeted](#), "The opioid epidemic affects communities across the US, including our own in #MN03. Glad the Admin is joining Congress to help those in need." Rep. Jason Smith (R-MO) [tweeted](#), "In the last year, we lost 175 Americans per day to #opioid overdoses. Proud to support @realDonaldTrump in fighting this epidemic."

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (10/26, Caralle) reports that before the President spoke, the First Lady said in opening remarks that "she looks forward to working more with these individuals and families and she knows there is a lot of work to do." The First Lady said, "This can happen to any of us. Drug addiction can take your friends, neighbors, or your family. ... Which is why my husband and his Administration has dedicated itself to combating this health crisis by using every resource available."

The [New York Times](#) (10/26) editorializes, "President Trump's brother died an alcoholic, so it's hard to dispute that Mr. Trump understands the horrors of addiction. But in what was billed as a major speech," the President "demonstrated that he has not grasped what's needed to combat the opioid problem and, more important, the ways in which his own policies impede recovery for millions of Americans. ... It is still not clear who will lead the response to the epidemic, since Mr. Trump has yet to appoint a number of officials who could do so." The Times concludes, "As deaths from addiction escalate," the President is "still just in the talking stages." In its editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/26) also approvingly highlights Trump's comments about his brother, and writes that the opioid crisis is a highly complex problem that can only be mitigated through innovation, not just through more federal spending.

In an editorial, the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (10/26) writes that President Trump public health emergency declaration "has value beyond high-profile words," as his signature "will allow states and cities to redirect money from other sources and loosens laws and regulations in the drug fight." However, the move "falls short" because "there are no new funds for drug treatment, the biggest gap in efforts to repair the damage done by pain-killer drugs that are fatally abused." The Chronicle says Trump's declaration "begins the battle, but declaring a crisis doesn't solve it."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/27) editorializes that President Trump's plan to address the opioid crisis "doesn't rely on a magic bullet or even a handful of big policies," but rather reflects a "conservative mindset" as the Administration "has proposed more than a dozen small policies."

Physician Lloyd Sederer writes for [US News & World Report](#) (10/26, Sederer) that President Trump declared the opioid crisis a public health emergency "after considerable delay," and that is "yet another illustration of the administration's continual problem with turning words into action." Sederer argues the "cruel paradox about any grant money that may derive from a declaration of an opioid public health emergency is that the White House, HHS and the Republican Congress have been dead set on reducing funding for Medicaid, a principal payer for addiction and mental health services."

[Facebook reaction](#) was mostly negative, with most posting about the issue saying that Trump did not go far enough. [Bloomberg News](#) (10/26, Talev, Hopkins, Edney), the [Washington Times](#) (10/26, Howell), [Roll Call](#) (10/26, Rahman), and the [Daily Caller](#) (10/26, Pfeiffer) also report on the President's action and remarks.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/25, Keating) has an online interactive graphic about how common certain "deadly street opioids like 'elephant tranquilizer' have become," and the [New York Times](#) (10/26, Ugwu) reports on the [online publication](#) of an opioid overdose video "on the Facebook page of the Volusia County Sheriff's Office in Florida on Tuesday." By Thursday evening, the post had been viewed more than 50,000 times.

Democrats Say More Funding Is Needed. The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/26, King) reports, "Congressional Democrats urged President Trump to commit to more funding to fight the opioid epidemic, charging that his emergency declaration Thursday isn't enough." House Minority Leader Pelosi said, "It is deeply concerning that this declaration, which comes a full three months after the President's Commission on the Opioid Crisis' report, fails to authorize federal funding to help those Americans locked in a life-or-death struggle with opioid addiction." Sen. Maggie Hassan "called for additional funding to combat the epidemic," and said that HHS should negotiate lower prices for overdose reversal drug naloxone.

Sen. Joe Manchin said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (10/26), "I'm ground zero, West Virginia, I got more deaths per capita, more people addicted per capita. When sometimes the money gets divided up, it goes on population. ... This is like fighting a war. You have your soldiers on the

front line fighting. You ration out all the bullets to all the bullets equally and you've got soldiers not fighting, the guys on the front line run out of the bullets."

[The Hill](#) (10/26, Beavers) reports New Hampshire Sens. Maggie Hassan and Jeanne Shaheen "are calling on President Trump to pledge financial resources to combat the widespread opioid crisis." Shaheen said Thursday on MSNBC's "Andrea Mitchell Reports," "I'm pleased he's designated this as a public health emergency, but I really want to see the resources" needed to fight addiction. Hassan called the health emergency a "first step," saying the lawmakers "will continue to push for real dollars to accompany this declaration so we can get people the treatment they so desperately need."

Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-IL) [tweeted](#), "I welcome this announcement from @POTUS – but it's overdue, and we need to do more." Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-VA) [tweeted](#), "Every day, we are losing more than 91 of our friends and loved ones to an opioid overdose. This is unacceptable and we must do better." Rep. Gene Green (D-TX) [tweeted](#), "In order to confront the #opioidcrisis more funding and a comprehensive solution is absolutely necessary."

Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY) [tweeted](#), "@POTUS's announcement is a weak half-measure, insufficient to meet #OpioidEpidemic scale." Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-NM) [tweeted](#), "The President finally called the opioid epidemic what it is: a public health emergency." Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ) [tweeted](#), "President Trump's declaration is essentially meaningless w/out new \$\$\$ to fight the opioid crisis." Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME) [tweeted](#), "While I appreciate that @POTUS has finally taken a formal step, his #opioid declaration is short on specifics & lacks critical funding."

Melania Trump Taking Role In Fighting Opioid Addiction. [USA Today](#) (10/26, Puente) reports Melania Trump was front and center at the White House opioid event Thursday, "another indication that drug addiction will be her leading cause as first lady." While President Trump spoke for longer, Melania "spoke first and she was more focused in her brief remarks, sharing the stories of people she's met in recent weeks about how drug addiction hurts children and destroys families." USA Today says the first lady "praised her husband for declaring a public health emergency and directing the federal government to do everything to combat the opioid crisis."

Sessions: "People Should Say No To Drug Use." [Reuters](#) (10/26, Lynch) reports that during a question-and-answer session at the Heritage Foundation on Thursday, Attorney General Sessions "equated the opioid epidemic to a personal failing by many Americans who cannot 'say no' to drugs on Thursday, and he said that marijuana could be serving as a gateway to the problem." Sessions said, "People should say no to drug use. They have got to protect themselves first." Benjy Sarlin of NBC News [tweeted](#), "'Just say no' makes little sense as an opioid crisis slogan, where people often start for clear medical reasons."

Holding Says DEA Did Not Express Concerns About Controversial Drug Legislation. [McClatchy](#) (10/26, Murphy) reports that Rep. George Holding (R-NC) says that "no one from the Drug Enforcement Administration expressed concerns to him about a now controversial drug bill that he co-sponsored twice before it became law." Holding co-sponsored the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act in 2013 and 2014, and though neither became law, "a Senate bill with the same name – and only small changes – unanimously passed both chambers of Congress in 2016 and was signed into law" by President Obama. The bill is now "in the spotlight after an explosive report from The Washington Post and '60 Minutes'" that said the measure made it harder for the DEA to stop illegal opioid sales. Holding said that the legislation was intended to clarify previous law.

Insys Therapeutics Founder Arrested In Illegal Opioid Distribution Case. [USA Today](#) (10/26, Wiles) reports that John Kapoor, the founder and majority owner of Insys Therapeutics and "one of Arizona's richest men," was arrested Thursday and "charged with the illegal distribution of a fentanyl spray intended for cancer patients and for violating anti-kickback laws." The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/26, story 2, 3:00, Mason) reported that Kapoor is "the most prominent pharmaceutical executive to be criminally charged in the opioid crisis after a lengthy investigation by federal prosecutors in Boston."

CDC: Overdose Deaths Doubled Over Last Decade, Fentanyl Drove Latest Spike. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/26, Whalen) reports preliminary data from the CDC show deaths linked to fentanyl and other synthetic opioids drove a 21% jump in annual drug-overdose deaths in the 12 months from January 2016 to January 2017. Carfentanil drove soaring overdose deaths in some parts of the country, including Ohio, Michigan and Florida.

House Passes Budget Resolution, Setting Stage For Tax Cuts.

In a story that generated no coverage on the major network newscasts, the [Los Angeles Times](#)

(10/26, Mascaro) reports "House Republicans on Thursday gave final approval to a 2018 GOP budget resolution, allowing for a \$1.5-trillion deficit increase that sets the stage for President Trump's tax cuts." The House's "largely party-line vote was 216-212, with 20 Republicans joining all Democrats to oppose." According to the [Washington Free Beacon](#) (10/26, Meyer), meanwhile, the plan "balances within a decade, achieves a \$9 billion surplus, and is projected to increase GDP growth by 2.6 percent." [Politico](#) (10/26, Scholtes, Bade) says that "by passing the measure...Republicans unlocked procedural powers that allow the Senate to pass a tax bill with just 51 votes – and evade Democratic filibusters," but the [AP](#) (10/26, Taylor) warns that Republicans' "legislative landscape is strewn with land mines...as GOP tax-writers pick winners and losers among interest groups, business sectors and rank-and-file voters."

The [New York Times](#) (10/26, Kaplan) also cautions that "overhauling the tax code is an exceedingly difficult task, as evidenced by the decades that have passed since it was last achieved." Moreover, "in the first year of Mr. Trump's presidency, Republican lawmakers already failed in their long-promised quest to repeal the Affordable Care Act, an outcome that makes the tax effort even more critical to the party's fortunes."

Along those lines, [Reuters](#) (10/26, Morgan, Cornwell) reports Republicans are "looking for a signature achievement to tout as the 2018 congressional election year approaches," and [USA Today](#) (10/26, Jackson) that they "have rejected rhetoric that characterized the plan as a giveaway to the rich, saying the final details would show how families across the country would benefit." As the [New York Post](#) (10/26, Schultz) reports, Democrats yesterday "blasted the plan as 'the billionaires' budget' that will roll back Medicaid and Medicare spending to deliver tax relief to the wealthiest Americans."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/26, Debonis) reports that "congressional tax writers have been quietly crafting the legislation behind closed doors for months," but "Thursday's vote formally kicks off the bill-writing process." The [Washington Times](#) (10/26, Sherfinski) notes "Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady, the House's top tax-writer, said the plan is now to release a tax bill next Wednesday, Nov. 1, and start marking it up in committee the following week." The White House "cheered the vote," with Press Secretary Sarah Sanders saying, "President Trump has always made cutting taxes for hard-working American families, creating more jobs for American workers, and simplifying the rigged and burdensome tax code a priority, and he looks forward to further cooperation with Congress to advance the administration's pro-growth and pro-jobs agenda." [Roll Call](#) (10/26) notes that the President also "called the adoption 'big news' in a [Twitter](#) post."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/26, Rubin) also reports the story under the headline "House Approves Budget Plan, Paving Way For Tax Action," and [The Hill](#) (10/26, Elis, Marcos) notes that "most of the 20 [GOP] defectors were centrists hailing from populous states that could stand to lose from eliminating the state and local tax deduction." They "included Reps. Dan Donovan (NY), John Faso (NY), Brian Fitzpatrick (PA), John Katko (NY), Pete King (NY), Leonard Lance (NJ), Frank LoBiondo (NJ), Tom MacArthur (NJ), Chris Smith (NJ), Elise Stefanik (NY), Claudia Tenney (NY) and Lee Zeldin (NY)."

Steve Hayes of the Weekly Standard said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (10/26), "The real question is what happens between now and November 13, if that is, in fact, the date the House votes on this. This is when all the details are going to be pounded out, not only in negotiations on Capitol Hill, but also in negotiations with the White House and, of course, with President Trump. Will he tweet about something that Republicans have in the package that he decides later he doesn't like that could potentially derail the process as we have seen it unfold so far?"

A.B. Stoddard of Real Clear Politics said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (10/26), "I've spoken to so many Republicans in the Senate and the House...this week and I have not found one who is doubtful. They all say, 'We are going to this. We are really, really up for this this time. This is going to happen.' Then, I say, 'How?'," and they say, 'I have no idea'"

Cornyn: Senate May Vote On Tax Reform On Thanksgiving Week. [Bloomberg News](#) (10/26, Wasson, Litvan) reports "senators may have to change their Thanksgiving plans – they may wind up staying in Washington at least part of the week to pass a tax-cut bill, Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn said Thursday." Said Cornyn, "We need to get the tax bill out of the Senate by Thanksgiving."

Key Questions Remain Unresolved As Deadline To Offer Tax Bill Approaches. A front-page story in the [Washington Post](#) (10/26, A1, Debonis, Paletta) reports that GOP leaders and the White House are under pressure "to resolve major disagreements" about tax reform legislation "before a Wednesday deadline to introduce a bill." Lawmakers "have not resolved basic questions about how the tax overhaul would affect the wealthy, the middle class or lower-income earners."

Still unresolved were several questions: whether the legislation would moderate the expected benefits for the wealthy; whether it would cap or eliminate popular middle-class tax breaks like the state and local tax deduction or the tax benefit of 401(k) retirement plans; and how dramatically it would expand a child-care tax credit that helps working-class families. Also on the table were several critical questions about how the corporate tax code would change."

Trump Decides Against Full Release Of Remaining JFK Files.

All three broadcast networks covered the partial release of the remaining files on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. In its lead story, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/26, lead story, 3:25, Muir) reported that while President Trump on Wednesday tweeted that the remaining classified JFK assassination files would be released today, possibly providing details about Lee Harvey Oswald's trip to Mexico and his visits to the embassies of Russia and Cuba, Trump on Thursday "announc[ed] some of the secret documents scheduled to be released today will not be, because they pose a danger to national security." Roughly 2,800 files were still set to be released Thursday night, and the other files will be re-examined. The decision to withhold some of the documents "is now going to add more fuel to all those conspiracy theories." Chip Reid reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/26, story 4, 1:05, Mason) that CBS has been told the reason some of the files will be subject to further review is that "numerous agencies, including the CIA and the FBI, have lodged protests" claiming those files "could endanger national security or law enforcement operations." However, [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/26, story 3, 2:05, Holt) showed Kennedy historian Philip Shenon saying, "We've heard about chaos on this issue the last couple of weeks with agencies going to the President to appeal. I will say, the government has had 25 years to prepare for this release. You got to believe it should have been handled in a more orderly fashion."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/25, Shapira) reports that "the papers could also reveal more about the careers and activities of Watergate burglars E. Howard Hunt and James McCord, both of whom were longtime CIA operatives," but "experts do not believe the documents will contain information to shake the Warren Commission's conclusion that Oswald, a troubled former Marine who'd temporarily defected to the Soviet Union at one point, acted as the lone gunman in Dealey Plaza." The Post adds that "it is not clear how many documents scheduled for release Thursday will be new and never seen before, and how many will be previously released but partially redacted files that will now contain fewer blanked-out sections."

[CNN](#) (10/26, Diamond, Liptak) reports that President Trump "wanted more of the documents" released, but "when the final requests from government agencies hit his desk on Thursday, there wasn't enough time to go through the hundreds of records the agencies wanted to keep secret, two US officials said." According to CNN, "as the deadline ticked away, Trump was confronted with a choice: release all of the 3,100 records without any redactions, or accept the redactions of intelligence and law enforcement agencies and release 2,800 of those documents." Trump "agreed to the second option, while also requiring agencies to conduct a secondary review of the information they believed should be redacted within 180 days," but he "was still miffed by his decision. 'He was unhappy with the level of redactions,' a White House official said, adding that Trump believed the agencies were 'not meeting the spirit of the law.'"

Media Selects Eclectic Revelations To Highlight In Early Analysis. Late on Thursday and into Friday morning, the media began to digest the documents that were released. Given the volume of the documents, the media selection of items to highlight tends to be fairly scattershot. As of their publication times, media outlets had not uncovered anything it was tagging as a significant revelation about either the JFK assassination or the era's politics. Among those items drawing media attention:

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (10/26, Tarrant) reports that an "initial review of the thousands of pages of material – including FBI interviews, reports of CIA activity and other official but long secret records – surfaced household names of the era," from Marilyn Monroe to "mobster Sam Giancana and, over and over, John F. Kennedy, whose death in Dallas spelled an end to an age of American innocence." However, the documents "reviewed late Thursday did offer significant information related to the investigation into Kennedy's murder, the figures involved in it, and a Cold-War era defined by the government's fight against communism as well as its fear of the burgeoning civil rights movement."

[CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (10/26) reported that an initial examination of the released files shows there is a record of Oswald "calling a KGB agent while he was in Mexico City a few weeks before the assassination, asking about something going on in Washington, D.C. This seems to have been tied to his attempt to get a Russian visa or a Cuban visa, neither of which he

obtained.”

[Fox News](#) (10/26, Chamberlain) reports that then-FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover “said it was ‘inexcusable’ that” Oswald “was shot and killed before he could be fully interviewed.” Hoover “made the comment in what appeared to be a dictated aide-memoire dated on the afternoon of Nov. 24, 1963, hours after Oswald was shot and killed by Jack Ruby,” a document that was among those released on Thursday. [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (10/27, Yuhas, Dart) reports that the documents reveal “that the FBI had warned Dallas police about a threat to kill Lee Harvey Oswald, and claims that Soviet officials feared an ‘irresponsible’ US general could launch a missile strike in the wake of the crisis.”

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (10/27, Yuhas) reports that Hoover wrote that the FBI had warned Dallas police of a death threat against Oswald, “according to a memo by director J Edgar Hoover, but the police failed to protect him.” Hoover wrote on November 24, 1963, “Last night we received a call in our Dallas office from a man talking in a calm voice and saying he was a member of a committee organized to kill Oswald. We at once notified the chief of police and he assured us Oswald would be given sufficient protection. This morning we called the chief of police again warning of the possibility of some effort against Oswald and again he assured us adequate protection would be given. However, this was not done.”

[USA Today](#) (10/26, Editors, Today) runs a list of “highlights,” including: “There’s a 413-page document that details everyone that Secret Service was watching between March and December 1963, including Puerto Rican nationals, Klansmen and others. Each had a description of why they were angry at the president and their threat level. The document is a window into how Secret Service viewed potential threats.”

Cohn Tells Lawmakers White House Considering Gas Tax Hike To Pay For Infrastructure Plan.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/26, Halsey) reports “the White House is revisiting an increase in the federal gas tax to pay for infrastructure improvements President Trump promised to deliver on the campaign trail.” The Post adds that the “news was conveyed to House members Wednesday in a meeting by...Gary Cohn.” Says “a GOP House staff member familiar with the long-standing resistance to a gas tax hike by many” Hill Republicans, “Probably whatever we end up being able to do in Washington, it’s going to take administration leadership to get out there and push for it.”

Labor: Solar And Wind Energy, As Well As Oil And Gas Sectors, To Spark Jobs Bonanza.

The [AP](#) (10/26, Biesecker) reports that while the President “pledges to revive the nation’s struggling coal mines...new data from the federal agency that tracks employment growth suggests blue-collar job seekers would do better to look to clean energy.” According to “projections” by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, “the top growing job classification over the next nine years will be solar photovoltaic installers,” which “are expected to double by 2026.” Moreover, “wind turbine service technicians came in No. 2, with those jobs projected to grow by more than 96 percent.” The AP also reports that “employment is expected to continue to boom in the oil and gas sector.”

Studies: Climate Change Could Result In Larger, More Rapid Than Projected Sea Level Rises.

According to three new studies, climate change “could lead to sea level rises that are larger, and happen more rapidly, than previously thought,” the [Washington Post](#) (10/26, Mooney) reports. One [study](#) “suggests that previous high end projections for sea level rise by the year 2100 – a little over three feet – could be too low, substituting numbers as high as six feet at the extreme if the world continues to burn large volumes of fossil fuels throughout the century.” In [another](#), a team of scientists in the Southern hemisphere detected “ancient iceberg ‘plough marks’ etched deep into the seafloor of Pine Island Bay,” which researchers believe “signal a very rapid retreat of Pine Island over roughly a thousand years.” A [third](#) study projected “future sea level rise in light of recent science suggesting that Antarctic ice in key regions could collapse relatively rapidly.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“*Words, Not Action From Mr. Trump On Opioids.*” The [New York Times](#) (10/26) editorializes,

"President Trump's brother died an alcoholic, so it's hard to dispute that Mr. Trump understands the horrors of addiction. But in what was billed as a major speech," the President "demonstrated that he has not grasped what's needed to combat the opioid problem and, more important, the ways in which his own policies impede recovery for millions of Americans. ... It is still not clear who will lead the response to the epidemic, since Mr. Trump has yet to appoint a number of officials who could do so." The Times concludes, "As deaths from addiction escalate," the President is "still just in the talking stages."

"Powerless Puerto Rico." A [New York Times](#) (10/26) editorial says the Whitefish Energy's contract to restore power in Puerto Rico undermines confidence that island's power grid will be rebuilt quickly.

Washington Post.

"Looks Like Congress Is Bowing To The NRA Once Again." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/26) says the NRA's signals that "it was open to restrictions on the kind of devices the Las Vegas gunman attached to legal semiautomatic weapons to create the rapid fire that killed 58 people," were "nothing more than a gambit and, sad to say, it looks as if Congress is once again falling into line." After "the horror of those killed and wounded in Las Vegas receded slightly from the headlines," the NRA "announced its opposition to legislation that would ban the production and sale of bump stocks" and "it didn't take long for [House Speaker] Ryan to get the message, backing away from legislation supported by 20 House members from both parties in favor of a supposed regulatory fix."

"Gillespie's Ads Are Poisonous To Virginia And The Nation." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/26) blasts Virginia Republican gubernatorial candidate Ed Gillespie for airing an ad attacking Democratic candidate Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam for backing Gov. Terry McAuliffe's restoring of "voting and other rights" for felons, saying the spot "is in keeping with the recent thrust of" the Republican's "campaign, which, taking a page from the Trump playbook, has been more about scaring and dividing Virginians than inspiring and uniting them." The Post says, "Once known as a pragmatist and a centrist, Mr. Gillespie increasingly has been turning in his political advertising to President Trump's brand of divisive, scaremongering politics. It's a poisonous strategy for the nation and for Virginia."

"Could This 2-Month-Old's Death Have Been Prevented?" A [Washington Post](#) (10/26, Board) editorial.

Wall Street Journal.

"The Opioid Puzzle." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/26) approvingly highlights President Trump's comments about his brother when he declared the opioid crisis a national public health emergency, and writes that the opioid crisis is a highly complex problem that can only be mitigated through innovation, not just through more federal spending.

"Puerto Rico's Backlog." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/26) editorial faults the Jones Act for delaying the delivery of relief supplies to Puerto Rico and calls on Congress and the White House to support legislation to waive or permanently repeal the law.

"A Talcum Powder Tort Blowout." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/26) editorializes in favor of a judge's decision to dismiss a \$417 million verdict against Johnson & Johnson in a case brought by a woman who claimed her ovarian cancer had been caused by using the company's talcum powder. A Los Angeles jury in August awarded the plaintiff \$70 million in compensatory and \$347 million in punitive damages, but on appeal, California superior court judge Maren Nelson dismissed the verdict, citing several reasons, including insufficient evidence. The Journal lauds the decision as a defeat for the torts bar.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[CVS, Aetna Plot \\$66 Billion Tie-up](#)

[House Approves Budget Plan, Paving Way For Tax Action](#)

[Democrats Are United Against Trump, Divided On Everything Else](#)

[Tech's Big Get Bigger In Earnings Blowout](#)

New York Times:

[House Passes Budget Blueprint, Clearing Path For Tax Overhaul](#)
[US Soldiers Were Separated From Unit In Niger Ambush, Officials Say](#)
[JFK Files, Though Incomplete, Are A Treasure Trove For Answer Seekers](#)
[Low Turnout In Kenya's Do-Over Election Raises Concerns](#)
[Vegas Gunman's Brain Will Be Scrutinized For Clues To The Killing](#)
[Fear Vs. Hope: Battle Lines Drawn Over A Constitutional Convention](#)
[Border Wall Prototypes Are Unveiled, But Trump's Vision Still Faces Obstacles](#)

Washington Post:

[Trump Targets Opioid Scourge](#)
[Big Divisions Remain After GOP Sets Its Tax Deadline](#)
[Release Of Some JFK Documents Is Delayed](#)
[Political Journalist Faces Claims Of Harassment](#)
[US Drive To Roll Back Iran's Influence Raises Regional Tensions](#)
[Buying Health Plans: A "Game" Without Rules](#)

Financial Times:

[Fresh Kenyan Poll Marred By Boycotts And Opposition Protests](#)
[Draghi Refuses To Call End To ECB Crisis Measures](#)
[Germany's Left Fears Years In The Wilderness](#)
[Deutsche Börse Chief Resigns Amid Insider Trading Investigation](#)

Washington Times:

[Dossier Wielded By Democrats Proves Only Clinton Campaign Collusion With Russians](#)
[House Narrowly Passes Senate Budget In Republican Quest For Tax Reform](#)
[Justice Department Admits IRS Wrongdoing, Agrees To \\$3.5 Million Settlement With Tea Party Groups](#)
[Senate Democrats Warned Against Double Standard For Female Judicial Nominees](#)
[Germans Still Soul-Searching On 500th Anniversary Of Martin Luther's Reformation](#)
[Hollywood Under Pressure To Crack Down On Child Sex Abuse](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: JFK Files Released; White House-Opioid Crisis; Tampa Bay-Serial Killer Investigation; Georgia-High School Attack Foiled; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal; NBC Analyst Sexual Harassment; Kansas City-Lawyer Murdered; Twitter-Russian Ads Blocked; Severe Weather; Mid-Pacific Ocean Rescues; Kenny Rogers Final Performance.

CBS: White House-Opioid Crisis; Opioid Crisis Investigation; Niger US Casualty Investigation; JFK Files Released; China-Xi Jinping Power Grab; Disabled Illegal Immigrant-Possible Deportation; Sexual Harassment Scandals; Pope-Astronauts Communication; Puerto Rico Recovery; Mid-Pacific Ocean Rescues; Baseball World Series.

NBC: White House-Opioid Crisis; Opioid Crisis-Victims; JFK Files Released; Tampa Bay-Serial Killer Investigation; George H.W. Bush Apology; NBC Analyst Sexual Harassment; Puerto Rico Recovery-Controversy; Mid-Pacific Ocean Rescues; Maryland-Restaurant Car Crash; Retail Closures; Alaska Airport Closure; Babies-Seeing New Faces.

Network TV At A Glance:

Opioid Crisis – 15 minutes, 15 seconds
Sexual Harassment Scandals – 8 minutes, 15 seconds
JFK Files Released – 6 minutes, 35 seconds
Mid-Pacific Ocean Rescues – 2 minutes, 30 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Mattis-South Korea Visit; JFK Files Released; Tax Reform Plan; Syria-Chemical Gas Attack.

CBS: JFK Files Released; Tax Reform Plan; White House-Opioid Crisis; Niger US Casualty Investigation; Wall Street News.

FOX: JFK Files Released; White House-Opioid Crisis; Tax Reform Plan; Louisiana-University Shooting.

NPR: JFK Files Released; White House-Opioid Crisis; Puerto Rico Recovery-Controversy; Syria-Tillerson Meeting.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Tours Minot Air Force Base; delivers remarks to airmen.

US Senate: 10:00 AM Helsinki Commission briefing on international parental child abduction – ‘The Crime of International Parental Child Abduction’ Helsinki Commission briefing, with Leo Zagaris (a survivor of parental child abduction to Greece), advocate and former left-behind parent Alissa Zagaris, Augusto Frisancho (the father of three children abducted to Slovakia), Bring Abducted Children Home (BAC Home) Executive Director Jeffery Morehouse (the father of a child abducted to Japan), and iStand Parent Network President and former left-behind parent Dr Noelle Hunter examining the measures that have been most effective in resolving international parental child abduction Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2103, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

US House: 9:30 AM House Transportation and Infrastructure subcommittee field roundtable on water resources infrastructure – House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee field roundtable on ‘America’s Water Resources Infrastructure: Concepts for the Next Water Resources Development Act’. Participants include Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez (on behalf of National Association of Counties), PortMiami’s Juan Kuryla (on behalf of American Association of Port Authorities and Florida Ports Council), National Waterways Conference’s Amy Larson, Ingram Barge Group’s Dan Mecklenborg (on behalf of American Waterways Operators and Waterways Council), South Florida Water Management District’s Federico Fernandez, Everglades Foundation’s Dawn Shirreffs, Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority – East’s Robert Turner (on behalf of National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies), American Shore and Beach Preservation Association’s Derek Brockbank, and Florida Department of Transportation’s Douglas Callaway Location: PortMiami, 1751 N Cruise Blvd, Miami, FL <http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM Helsinki Commission briefing on international parental child abduction – ‘The Crime of International Parental Child Abduction’ Helsinki Commission briefing, with Leo Zagaris (a survivor of parental child abduction to Greece), advocate and former left-behind parent Alissa Zagaris, Augusto Frisancho (the father of three children abducted to Slovakia), Bring Abducted Children Home (BAC Home) Executive Director Jeffery Morehouse (the father of a child abducted to Japan), and iStand Parent Network President and former left-behind parent Dr Noelle Hunter examining the measures that have been most effective in resolving international parental child abduction Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2103, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

No votes scheduled in the House of Representatives.

Other: 11:45 AM ‘Transforming Health Care to Drive Value’ NIHCM Foundation briefing – ‘Transforming Health Care to Drive Value’ National Institute for Health Care Management Foundation briefing, with experts from policy, business, and academia sharing their insights on ‘how to improve health outcomes for Americans while managing the cost of care’. Speakers include former Congressional Budget Office Director Bob Reischauer, Harvard Medical School Professor of Health Care Policy Mike Chernew, Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity President Avik Roy, BlueCross BlueShield of Western New York and BlueShield of Northeastern New York President and CEO David Anderson, Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield President and CEO Curtis Barnett, and NIHCM Foundation President and CEO Nancy Chockley Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm G50, Washington, DC www.nihcm.org #NIHCMBrief17

5:00 PM Human Rights Campaign National Dinner – 21st annual Human Rights Campaign National Dinner, celebrating successes of the LGBT community, with keynote from Democratic Sen. Kamala Harris. Actress Uzo Aduba receives the HRC Ally for Equality Award, and other attendees include Hillary Clinton, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos, athlete Billie Jean King, band DNCE, and Gold Star father Khizr Khan Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place NW, Washington, DC www.hrcnationaldinner.org <https://twitter.com/hrc> #NationalDinner

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "President Trump's approval rating is at a new low, or maybe I should say at a new, new low. According to the latest Fox News poll, President Trump has a 38 percent approval rating. And only 6 percent on Rotten Tomatoes. It's very low. Turns out, bringing the country to the brink of nuclear war while golfing every day isn't playing as well with the voters as he'd hoped. ... The poll is especially painful because it comes from Fox News. And they love Trump. This is the lowest rating Trump has ever been given by Fox. The good news is the President still has a very high opinion of himself. And that's all that really matters."

Stephen Colbert: "So why would this tiny company located in the woods of Montana win a massive contract to fix Puerto Rico? Well, it didn't hurt that Whitefish Energy is based in Whitefish, Montana, the hometown of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, and that Zinke's son had a summer job at one of the company's construction sites. ... It turns out it was a no-bid contract. No competition. None. That's like the last guy on Earth naming himself 'People's Sexiest Man Alive.'"

Stephen Colbert: "This week, on Twitter, Vice writer Eve Peyser compiled a list of all the words Ivanka [Trump] has used incorrectly, and it's a real fortnight. For example, when talking about her and Jared's morning routine, she said, 'My husband has incredibly long hours, so I try to keep mine on a relative basis.' You think she'd know how to use 'relative,' because her who career is on 'a relative basis.'"

Trevor Noah: "Congress unanimously passed a law – yeah, I said it – unanimously passed a law greatly cutting the DEA's power to go after these shady distributors. If you're wondering why would Congress pass a law helping to protect drug companies in the middle of a drug crisis? Because of the thing they're addicted to: money."

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that President Trump did an interview with Lou Dobbs on Fox News last night. At one point, Dobbs said Trump is one of the most loved and respected Presidents in history. Even Trump was like, 'Now, that's fake news. I mean, that can't be true.'"

Seth Meyers: "Fox News host Lou Dobbs interviewed President Trump last night and told Trump he is, quote, 'one of the most loved and respected Presidents in history.' I don't know about that, but he's definitely in the top 45."

Seth Meyers: "White House Chief of Staff John Kelly reportedly told the Trump Administration that if it were up to him, the number of refugees admitted into the US would be between zero and one. Said Betsy DeVos, 'So, 13?'"

Conan O'Brien: "Today, President Trump had the JFK files declassified. Yeah. Trump said, 'I can take the class out of anything.'"

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DATE: FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2017 7:00 AM EDT

Holiday Message

In observance of the U.S. federal Labor Day holiday, we will not publish on Monday, September 4, 2017. Service will resume on Tuesday, September 5, 2017. We wish our readers a safe and happy holiday.

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DOI In The News

National Park Service Releases Review Of Chimney Tops 2 Fire.

The [Chattanooga \(TN\)](#) (8/31) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "issued an independent review on Thursday of the Chimney Tops 2 Fire that burned 11,410 acres in Great Smoky Mountains National Park in November 2016 and merged with other area fires, which caused 14 deaths and millions of dollars in damage in the Gatlinburg area." The report "outlines the origins and growth of the Chimney Tops 2 Fire within the boundaries of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park." Zinke said, "While visiting the Great Smoky Mountains National Park last week, I met with park staff, local officials, and members of the Gatlinburg community that were impacted by this devastating fire. Based on those meetings and my review of the report, I am satisfied that it accurately describes the unusual and unexpected conditions that resulted in the largest fire in the park's history and a series of other fires around the park, which caused so much devastation to the community of Gatlinburg. I am committed to leading efforts to ensure that the National Park Service, along with other land management agencies, state and local governments take the lessons learned from this horrific fire and make changes that will help us prevent tragedies like this in the future"

The [AP](#) (8/31, Mattise) reports that that the review said "drought-stricken Great Smoky Mountains National Park was not prepared for last year's catastrophic fire, and climate change is among the factors that will likely make conditions that led to the disaster the 'new normal' for the park, according to a federal review released Thursday." At a news conference, National Park Service officials "said it was impossible to predict that hurricane-force winds around 90 mph would blow the fire from the remote, rough terrain of the park into the Gatlinburg area in November." Zinke said via webcam at the news conference, "No one expected a tragedy of this scale 5.5 miles from the city to occur."

The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (8/31, Ahillen, Lakin) reports that "because park rangers had never seen a fire on such a scale and amid such conditions, they failed to anticipate how quickly the flames could spread and how soon the blaze could erupt out of control, the review found." The report "found no wrongdoing by park crews, terming their actions 'commensurate within their knowledge and experience in fighting wildland fires in the region,' but urged 'enhanced preparedness on fire condition assessments and adherence to National Park Service

wildland fire program(s) and policies.”

[WBIR-TV Knoxville, TN](#) (8/31, Hoar, Barclay, Erickson) reports “park officials said they learned they needed better communication between first responders, the park and police.” The NPS will be “working to upgrade the GSMNP’s radio communications system through a \$2.5 million initiative funded through the Friends of the Smokies partnership.” The measure will “also issue portable radios and protective equipment to seven neighboring fire departments.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (8/31), the [Daily Mail](#) (8/31), [Fox News](#) (8/31, Mattise), the [Houston Chronicle](#) (8/31, Mattise, Press), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (8/28, Mattise), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (8/31, Mattise), the [Washington Post](#) (8/31, Mattise), the [Washington Times](#) (8/31, Mattise), the [Lexington \(KY\) Herald-Leader](#) (8/31, Mattise), the [Olean \(NY\) Times Herald](#) (8/31), [ABC News](#) (8/31, Mattise), the [Napa Valley \(CA\) Register](#) (8/31, Mattise), the [North Platte \(NE\) Telegraph](#) (8/31, Mattise), [WRCB-TV Chattanooga \(TN\)](#) Chattanooga, TN (8/31), and [WSMV-TV Nashville \(TN\)](#) Nashville, TN (8/31).

Also reporting are the [Maryville \(TN\) Daily Times](#) (8/31), [WCYB-TV Bristol \(VA\)](#) Bristol, VA (8/31), [WKRN-TV Nashville \(TN\)](#) Nashville, TN (8/31), [WATE-TV Knoxville \(TN\)](#) Knoxville, TN (8/31), and [WKRN-TV Nashville \(TN\)](#) Nashville, TN (8/31).

Groups Gird For Legal Battle Over Monuments.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (8/31, O’Donoghue) reports that “although there’s been no formal announcement from the White House on what may happen to monument boundaries based on recommendations from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, a coalition of conservation groups Thursday said it’s readying a lawsuit.” Bryan Sybert, the foundation’s executive director, “moderated a teleconference hosted by the foundation on the looming announcement by the White House and the fear that monuments, particularly in Utah, will see significant boundary reductions.” He said, “The Conservation Lands Foundation and its partners are prepared to make every effort possible to ensure that our national monuments remain as they are. We are prepared to pursue that protection and defense in the courts if necessary.”

Bruce Babbitt Blasts Asarco Over Request For Ironwood Monument Land. The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (8/31, Davis) reports that “the former U.S. interior secretary and Arizona governor who helped create Ironwood Forest National Monument is blasting Asarco for seeking the removal of 11,000 acres from the preserve to mine copper.” The company is “simply trying to take advantage of a favorable political climate during the Trump administration, said Bruce Babbitt in an interview this week.” The article says that “while Asarco’s formal request was to modify the monument’s boundaries, Babbitt accused the company of framing its request in a way to make a case for its elimination.”

The Antiquities Act Is Not A Blank Check To Create Federal Land. For the “Pundits” blog of [The Hill](#) (8/31, Hawley, Contributor), Erin Hawley, a legal fellow at the Independent Women’s Forum, argues that “the text and legislative history of the Antiquities Act...make clear the statute was not intended to set aside hundreds of millions of acres of federal land and water.” Hawley lauds Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for taking “the act’s limitations seriously” in his report following the review of national monument designations. Hawley concludes that the law’s “text includes clear internal limitations and the Trump administration is right to review prior designations for executive largess.”

Why Trump Should Leave National Monuments Alone. The [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (8/31) editorializes that “President Donald Trump has taken a monumentally bad idea and made it worse by shrouding it in secrecy.” The editorial adds that President Trump should “let go of his misguided notion” to reduce “the size of three or more national monuments” in order to open “them up to logging, grazing and oil and gas drilling.”

Montana Watchdog Group Sues For Records Related To Trump Official’s Calls To Alaska Senators.

The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (8/31, Herz) reports that the Montana-based Western Values Project is suing Interior Department “to accelerate its request for records connected to reported threats to Alaska’s U.S. senators from a top Trump administration official.” The watchdog group is “asking the department for records and correspondence related to calls that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke made to Alaska’s two U.S. senators, Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, both Republicans, amid the health care debate in July.” The Interior Department’s inspector general “on Tuesday said it had dropped a probe into the calls after Murkowski and Sullivan declined to cooperate.”

Also reporting are the [Ketchikan \(AK\) Daily News](#) (8/31, Halaschak), [MSNBC](#) (8/31, Benen), and the [Daily Caller](#) (8/31, Phippen).

Top Research Journal Rips Trump For Shutdown Of Coal-health Study.

[Newsmax](#) (8/31, Hoffmann) reports that “a prestigious science journal has accused President Donald Trump of folding a \$1 million study about the potential health risks of living near coal mining regions of Central Appalachia.” The journal Nature “says research by the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) was halted two weeks ago by Department of the Interior (DOI), which commissioned it in 2016 to study the coal regions of West Virginia, Virginia, Tennessee, Kentucky, Ohio and North Carolina.” In an editorial published Wednesday, Nature ‘said it appears the federal government “would rather quash the review than risk it producing results that cast aspersions’ on the coal industry.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (8/31, Correspondent) and the [Washington \(IN\) Times-Herald](#) (8/31, Murakami).

Court Stops Bid To Nix Obama Energy Rules.

The [Daily Caller](#) (8/31, Pearce) reports the US District Court of Northern California has blocked the Interior Department’s postponement of an Obama-era rule regulating royalties paid by companies operating on federal and tribal lands. Secretary Ryan Zinke had started repealing the Consolidated Federal Oil and Gas and Federal and Indian Coal Valuation Reform Rule to replace it with “more workable” regulations, but the court ruled the department violated the Administrative Procedure Act when it postponed the rule after it was in effect and did not seek public comment on its repeal. However, [E&E Publishing](#) (8/31) reports that Magistrate Judge Elizabeth Laporte did not vacate the delay because the agency’s more recent move to completely repeal the rule, which did go through notice and comment, takes effect on September 6.

Also reporting are the [Associated Press](#) (8/31), the [New Mexico Political Report](#) (8/31, Paskus), and [Law360](#) (8/31, Rodriguez).

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

California Legislature Approves Compact For \$500 Million Elk Grove Casino.

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Business Journal](#) (8/31, Anderson) reports that “the California State Assembly ratified the Wilton Rancheria tribe’s gaming compact with the state, completing a key step in the tribe’s effort to develop a \$500 million casino in Elk Grove.”

Where Federal Agencies Are Failing Indian Country.

The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (8/31, Baca) reports that “the health and safety of thousands of Native American students and their families continue to be at risk as the federal agencies that oversee Indian education and health lag in fixing serious problems, according to a government report.” The Government Accountability Office “identified 34 high-risk areas among the Bureau of Indian Education, Indian Health Services and the Bureau of Indian Affairs in its May report.” The agencies have “implemented some of the GOA recommendations but several dozen remain unaddressed.” The agencies have “a history of inadequacies and face funding woes that could make problems even more difficult to fix.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Colorado’s Biggest Methane Emitter May Get A Discount.

The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (8/31, Shogren) reports that “as Arch Coal struggles to survive in a declining coal market, it’s asking the federal government to reduce the royalties it pays on some of the coal it extracts.” Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper and some local officials “want to make methane capture a condition of the royalty cut.” The Bureau of Land Management is “poised to cut Arch’s royalties from 8 percent to 5 percent for a part of the mine where the geology makes extracting coal technically challenging and thus more expensive.” Hickenlooper has given “his support for the discount,” but he “wants the mine to commit to developing a strategy to capture its methane.” The article says that “although the BLM sought Hickenlooper’s input, the agency says the final decision, which it expects to release within a few weeks, is its own and it won’t require capturing methane as a condition of the discount.” Courtney Whiteman, a BLM spokeswoman, said, “For us, it’s a different issue and it’s not related to the royalty reduction.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (9/1, Webb).

BLM Hands Over Land Patent To Virgin's 'Most Scenic Track'.

The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (8/31, Reina) reports that "in a brief ceremony held at the Virgin BMX Track located at the foot of the Kolob Terrace section of Zion National Park Wednesday evening, the Bureau of Land Management officially handed over the land patent for the 10-acre parcel of land the track sits on to the town of Virgin." Brian Tritle, St. George Field Office manager with the BLM, said, "This came about by a grassroots effort, you know, a grassroots interest in riding BMX bikes. It was a group of riders who had a dream and said, 'Hey let's see if we can get a real track built.'"

Trial Date Set For Cliven Bundy, 6 Others In Nevada Standoff.

The [AP](#) (8/31, Ritter) reports that "an October date was set on Thursday for the trial of Nevada cattleman and state's rights figure Cliven Bundy and six other defendants in an armed standoff that stopped government agents from rounding up Bundy cattle near Bunkerville in 2014." Jury selection will begin "Oct. 10 in Las Vegas for Bundy, two of his sons and four other men, Chief U.S. District Judge Gloria Navarro decided." The trial will "include two defendants who were released to home detention after their recent retrial ended with no verdicts on assault on a federal officer and related firearm charges, but acquittal on other charges."

Scheme To Kill Nevada's Wild Horses Built On Greed: Opinion.

In an op-ed for the [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (8/31, Roe), Charlotte Roe, director of the Wild Horse and Burro Project for In Defense of Animals, opposes sending wild horses to slaughterhouses. According to Roe, "this despicable plan was conceived through propaganda, deception and what conservative columnist David Horowitz terms a takeover by the cattle lobby." Roe urges readers to press lawmakers "to maintain the ban on selling wild equines to slaughter and to oppose budget language that allows killing these iconic animals."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Bureau Of Reclamation Awards \$3.6 Million For Desalination And Water Purification Research.

[EurekAlert](#) (8/30) reports that Bureau of Reclamation Acting Commissioner Alan Mikkelsen has announced "that Reclamation will provide \$3.62 million to conduct laboratory and pilot-scale desalination and water purification research in 13 states." Mikkelsen said, "Desalination and water treatment provide a potential new source of water for communities throughout the West. The research funding provided today will enable new technologies to be studied to see if they can help improve the treatment of water."

Benson Irrigation Company Awarded Federal Funds For Canal Rehab.

The [Logan \(UT\) Herald Journal](#) (8/31, Zsiray) reports that "in an effort to improve the efficiency of its canal network, the Benson Irrigation Company began looking into lining the canals years ago and was recently awarded federal money to help the project." Rick Reese, president of the Benson Irrigation Company, "said with the announcement of organization receiving \$1 million from the Bureau of Reclamation, they can begin designing a pressurized irrigation system for their shareholders." According to a press release from the BOR, "the lining of the nearly 9-mile canal will result in an annual water savings of 2,130 acre-feet of water."

Mesa Hosts Engineering Teams From Spain, Across Nation.

The [Greeneville \(TN\) Sun](#) (8/31) reports that "engineering teams from Spain, Denver, Houston and Knoxville converged last month at Mesa Technologies Inc., located at 1612 Industrial Road, to perform validation testing of a new computerized control system that will be used to automate the Hungry Horse Power Plant, a hydroelectric dam in northern Montana operated by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Reclamation." Citing a news release, the Sun says that "the system being tested is for the first of four power generation units that will be automated at the dam."

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Harvey's Toll On Refineries Sparks Widespread Gasoline Shortages, Price Hikes.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (8/31, Blum, Chronicle) reports that as floodwaters recede, Texas motorists are "returning to streets to realize there are potentially widespread gasoline shortages in Houston, Dallas and San Antonio." Regional fuel prices could also "spike by 50 cents a gallon in the coming days – and perhaps 40 cents nationally – after Harvey forced more than 20 percent of the nation's oil refining capacity offline...said Patrick DeHaan, senior petroleum analyst for GasBuddy." [Reuters](#) (8/31, Kumar, Renshaw) reports US fuel shortages are set to hamper Labor Day travel as a significant portion of gasoline stockpiles are held in places where it cannot be accessed because of floods or is too far away from where it is needed. Some of the supplies are also incomplete, and would need to be blended before going to gas stations. At least two East Coast refiners, Philadelphia Energy Solutions and Irving Oil, have already run out of gasoline for immediate delivery as they rushed to send supplies to the US Southeast, Caribbean, Mexico and South America.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/31, Sider) reports gas prices rose to \$2.46 a gallon Thursday, up 11 cents a gallon from last week, GasBuddy said. Prices in some cities could reach an average of \$2.60 to \$2.75 a gallon in the next 10 days, according to Tom Kloza of the Oil Price Information Service. [Reuters](#) (8/31, Seba, Kumar) reports Harvey's impact on the energy industry also "spread worldwide" as millions of barrels of fuel were rerouted "to the Americas to avert shortages." US gasoline futures RBC1 topped \$2 per gallon on Thursday "for the first time since 2015, up more than 20 percent since just before the storm began." The [AP](#) (8/31, Lauer, Martin) reports service stations in Texas have already start to run out of gas and pump costs have risen dramatically. The Texas attorney general's office said anyone seeing gas over \$4 should take pictures and report the stations as price-gouging. DeHaan said if people start hoarding gas, "that's going to make the problem worse, and prices shoot higher and the event will last longer, with more disruption and shortages." The [AP](#) (8/31) reports Dallas had the most expensive gasoline in Texas with an average of \$2.37 a gallon. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (8/31, Blum) reports Texas Railroad Commissioner Ryan Sitton said there would be enough fuel if people avoiding panicking at the pump. He said the state has 230 million barrels of gasoline on hand, but it is not all in tanks beneath gas stations. The [Dallas Morning News](#) (8/31, Mosier) reports Jay Hatfield, portfolio manager of InfraCap's AMZA fund, said the "chances of this being a long-term shortage is zero. The only question is does it last one week, two weeks or three weeks, not a month, two months, three months."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/31, story 4, 2:05, Morgan) reported that "more than a dozen refineries across the Gulf are closed, including this Conoco-Phillips plant outside Houston and the Exxon-Mobil facility in Bay Town, the nation's second largest." In total, "about a third of the nation's refining capacity is offline on the Gulf Coast." [The Hill](#) (8/31, Henry) reports that as of Wednesday evening, up to 4 million bpd, 22 percent of total US refining capacity, was offline. [Reuters](#) (8/31, Seba) reports sources familiar with plant operations said Motiva's Port Arthur refinery may be shut for as long as two weeks for assessments and repairs. The company said, "Given the unprecedented flooding in the city of Port Arthur, it remains uncertain how quickly the flood waters will recede, so we cannot provide a timeline for restart at this time."

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (8/31, Blum) reports the Lake Charles refineries are planning to maintain operations. Phillips 66 and Citgo said area refineries are still running. Phillips 66 is already accessing some of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to keep crude supplies available while pipelines remain shuttered. The company said, "The SPR release will help ensure that we can maximize our refined product supply in order to provide reliable energy during a difficult time that includes supply and logistics challenges following Hurricane Harvey."

[Reuters](#) (8/31, Kumar) reports Colonial Pipeline said Thursday that its main lines east of Lake Charles, Louisiana will remain operating, while lines between Houston and Hebert, which were shut in by Harvey, are expected to return to service Sunday. [The Hill](#) (8/31, Manchester) reports that in an earlier statement, Colonial expected to completely shut down the line to the East Coast. The [Daily Caller](#) (8/31, Rodgers) also provided coverage.

[Reuters](#) (8/31, Ngai) reports Magellan Midstream Partners restarted limited service on a portion of its Houston crude pipeline and distribution system on Thursday. However, the Longhorn and BridgeTex pipelines remain shut in, while other refined products pipelines in the Houston are also remain suspended. Magellan is currently removing floodwater, assessing electric services and inspecting facilities at its Galena Park and East Houston assets, but there is no timeline for restart.

The [Oklahoman](#) (8/31, Wilmoth) reports "ONEOK Inc. said Wednesday its Mont Belvieu, Texas, complex is operational and has not experienced significant damage from the storm, but some...facilities are operating at reduced volumes."

About 13.5 Pct Of U.S. Gulf Oil Output Still Shut In By Harvey -BSEE. [Reuters](#) (8/31) reports

that "about 13.5 percent of oil production in the Gulf of Mexico was shut in on Thursday due to Tropical Storm Harvey, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement said." Meanwhile, "17.6 percent of natural gas production in the region, or 568.09 million cubic feet per day has been shut in, BSEE said, down from 611.09 million on Wednesday."

The Southeast Can Take Harvey's Colonial Pipeline Cutoff ... For Now. Gadfly columnist Liam Denning writes in [Bloomberg Business](#) (8/31, Denning) that Harvey's biggest impact on the energy industry is on logistics and not raw supply. While the storm has depressed crude prices, the cost of refined products has surged over the inability to transmit over pipeline. Denning says that half the weekly gain in gasoline came on Thursday morning because Colonial Pipeline announced it was shutting down portions of its infrastructure carrying products from the Gulf Coast to the East Coast. Jim Collins writes a contributing piece for [Forbes](#) (8/31, Collins) saying that while the US has more refining capacity than it did in 1982, the compound annual growth rate in capacity has only increased 0.35 percent. Today, the US has 137 operable refineries, compared to 254 in 1982. Collins hopes that Harvey will call attention to the problem and cause a "refocus of priorities toward energy infrastructure."

\$4.2 Million Penalty Approved In Deadly 2012 Platform Fire.

The [AP](#) (8/31) reports Black Elk Energy has been formally sentenced to a \$4.2 million penalty for its connection to a 2012 offshore oil platform fire that killed three workers. The company agreed to the penalty in May and pleaded guilty to eight counts of violating federal laws on safety and pollution. However, it is not clear how much the government will collect, as the Justice Department's claim will be among those imposed by various creditors in bankruptcy proceedings.

Fish And Wildlife Service

Long Wait To Learn Fate Of Gulf Coast Wildlife Refuges Hit By Harvey.

[Reuters](#) (8/31, Szekely) reports that "as devastating as Hurricane Harvey was to people in Texas and Louisiana, they were buffered by wildlife-rich barrier islands and marshlands, where the extent of wind and flood damage will not be known for weeks." The article notes that "more than a dozen national wildlife refuges, home to water fowl, reptiles and migratory birds, line the Gulf coast where Harvey made landfall last Friday." According to Jeffrey Fleming, spokesman for the Fish and Wildlife Service's southeast region, "the full impact of Harvey to their environments and animals will be 'hard to know for sure until the water levels go down and get back to normal.'"

Additional coverage was provided by [PBS NewsHour](#) (8/31, Akpan).

Feds Extend Comment Period On Sought NPPD Transmission Line.

The [AP](#) (8/31) reports that "federal officials are giving people more time to comment on a controversial transmission line that would run through the Nebraska Sandhills." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has "decided extend the comment period by two months, through Nov. 7, on the Nebraska Public Power District's plan to build the 225-mile long, 345,000-volt transmission line." NPPD "says the line will alleviate congestion, increase reliability and allow for wind power development." However, "opponents say construction will disrupt wildlife and cultural gems, such as wagon ruts from the Oregon and Mormon trails, and that wind farms associated with the proposed line will destroy unspoiled vistas."

Additional coverage was provided by [Nebraska Public Radio](#) (8/31, Knapp).

Judge Rules Against Iron County Land Owners In Prairie Dog Protection Plight.

[KSTU-TV](#) Salt Lake City (8/31, Edwards) reports that "a federal judge has ruled against Iron County land owners in a lawsuit filed over prairie dogs in southern Utah." A group called "The People for the Ethical Treatment of Property Owners" sued "over prairie dog protections and actions they are allowed to take if the animals are on their land." In a new order, a judge held in favor of the Fish and Wildlife Service.

New Group Of Rare, Slinky Ferrets Released On Wyoming Ranch.

The [AP](#) (8/18) reports that "biologists have released 13 more black-footed ferrets on a ranch where scientists more than 30 years ago rediscovered the slinky predators after they were thought to have gone extinct." The article notes that "those releasing ferrets Monday included Dennie Hammer, a former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employee who in the early 1980s fitted a black-footed ferret with a radio collar and released it back into the wild in the Meeteetse area."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Powell \(WY\) Tribune](#) (8/31, Davis).

Zoos, National Parks Work To Save Endangered Frogs.

The [Porterville \(CA\) Recorder](#) (8/31) reports that "Oakland Zoo, San Francisco Zoo, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service partnered for a third year in efforts to recover endangered mountain yellow-legged frog populations in the wild." According to the article, "tadpoles were emergency-airlifted from remote park locations and transported to Oakland Zoo and San Francisco Zoo to be cleared of disease, raised into frogs, immunized, and released back into their natal lakes in hopes of restoring their dwindling populations in the wild."

NM's Lobos Need Our Help To Survive.

In an op-ed for the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (9/1, Nixon), freelance writer Paula Nixon writes that "Mexican wolves need more help from us to be truly saved from extinction." Nixon says that the Fish and Wildlife Service has "issued a new recovery plan in draft form" and "its success depends on New Mexico to allow releases from captivity, both families of wolves and pups fostered into existing wild packs." Nixon urges officials to support Mexican wolf recovery.

National Park Service

NPS Chief Scraps Climate-focused Order.

[E&E Publishing](#) (8/31, Hotakainen) reports that "in a move that's drawing fierce criticism, the acting head of the National Park Service has rescinded a 2016 order by the Obama administration that called for a focus on climate change in managing natural resources in U.S. parks." Former NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis "signed the order — formally known as Director's Order No. 100, or DO 100 for short — on Dec. 20, 2016, as one of the last acts of his tenure as director." Jeremy Barnum, an NPS spokesman, "said the order was rescinded by acting Director Michael Reynolds on Aug. 16 'to eliminate confusion among the public and NPS employees regarding current NPS policy in light of the Department of the Interior's new vision for the long-term protection of America's unparalleled national parks.'"

Gillibrand, Katko Visit Fort Ontario, Urge Senate To OK National Park Study.

The [Auburn \(NY\) Citizen](#) (8/31, Harding) reports that Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand and Rep. John Katko visited the Safe Haven Holocaust Refugee Shelter Museum on Thursday. They have "introduced legislation that would initiate a study to determine" whether Fort Ontario, "which was used as a military installation dating back to the French and Indian War, should receive national park status." The House passed the legislation, "but it didn't advance in the Senate." However, "because there weren't substantive concerns with the bill, Gillibrand is hopeful that it could be added to a larger spending bill in order to ensure passage."

Julie Galonska Named Superintendent At St. Croix National Scenic Riverway.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (8/28, Giles) reports that Julie Galonska, "a 23-year veteran of the National Park Service, is the new superintendent of St. Croix National Scenic Riverway." She was "appointed the park's acting superintendent in February 2016 when Chris Stein was assigned temporarily to the new Pullman National Monument in Chicago." Galonska will "guide the riverway into a challenging era beyond its golden anniversary next year."

Zion National Park Studies Feasibility Of Electric Buses.

The [AP](#) (8/31) reports that "a new electric bus has been added to Zion National Park's transportation fleet as part of a three-month pilot program to determine the feasibility of electric shuttle buses." The bus was "added this month, with officials eyeing a looming overhaul of the park's busing system." John Marciano, public information officer at the park, "says the bus will be evaluated on things like passenger comfort, driver efficiency, battery performance and charge time."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/31, Maffly).

National Parks Service Orders Stop To Construction Of Ice Complex In Creve Coeur Park.

[KWMU-FM](#) St. Louis (8/31, Chen) reports that the National Parks Service has "ordered the Missouri Department of Natural Resources to stop construction work for a proposed ice recreation facility in Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park." In a letter to the Missouri Department of Natural

Resources last Friday, the park service “expressed its concerns about the St. Louis Ice Center.” Carol Edmondson, an outdoor recreation planner at the National Parks Service, wrote, “We are concerned that the Ice Center would act as a stand-alone attraction and would not encourage further outdoor recreation at the rest of the site.”

Also reporting are the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (8/31, Messenger) and [KBIA-FM Kirksville \(MO\)](#) Kirksville, MO (8/31, Chen).

Fire Torches Historic National Park Chalet In Montana.

The [AP](#) (8/31, Volz) reports that “the main building of an historic, backcountry chalet in Glacier National Park in northern Montana burned in a wildfire Thursday evening.” The Sperry Chalet was “lost despite efforts by firefighters to protect it and save it, fire officials said.” According to the article, “no one was hurt, and firefighters were working to save other buildings of the chalet.”

Mount Rainier National Park Valor Memorial Dedicated.

The [Nisqually Valley \(WA\) News](#) (8/25) reports that “a new memorial was dedicated at Mount Rainier National Park last Friday on the 101st anniversary of the National Park Service.” The memorial “honors four people who lost their lives in the park while in the act of saving or rescuing others.” Rep. Dave Reichert, Mount Rainier National Park Superintendent Randy King and Deputy Superintendent Tracy Swartout “spoke at the ceremony.”

National Park’s Puppycam Shows Off New Alaskan Sled Dogs.

[MLive \(MI\)](#) (8/31, Gmitter) reports that Alaska’s Denali National Park and Preserve is showing off its new batch of sled dogs on by “turning on the puppycam.” This summer’s litter was “born to Clove, a feisty 4-year-old who is intuitive on the trail and ‘one of the most opinionated dogs in the yard,’ according to staff.” According to the article, “on Aug. 4, she gave birth to five boys and 2 girls – all healthy puppies who are now playful enough for the world to watch.”

Mesa Verde National Park Launches Podcast Series.

The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (8/31) reports that Mesa Verde National Park announced that “a podcast series about the prehistory of ancestral Puebloans in the Four Corners will launch Friday with three introductory episodes.” The podcast, “Mesa Verde Voices,” is “a result of a partnership between the national park, Mesa Verde Museum Association, KSJD Public Radio and Mesa Verde Country Tourism Bureau.” Kristy Sholly, Mesa Verde’s chief of interpretation, said in a news release, “This project represents the highest ideals of the National Park Service around education, inspiration, conservation and action. And we’re really proud to be able to bring the relevance of ancient cultures forward to our challenges today.”

Mid-Columbia Mastersingers Offer Concerts Inside B Reactor National Historic Landmark.

The [Walla Walla \(WA\) Union-Bulletin](#) (8/31) reports that “the Mid-Columbia Mastersingers and the National Park Service will present a set of concerts inside the B Reactor National Historic Landmark, a highlight of the newly created Hanford Unit of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park.” The performances will be held “Sept. 8 and 9 at 7:30 p.m. and Sept. 10 at 3 p.m.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

Mattis Says No Rift With Trump On North Korea.

Jennifer Griffin reported on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (8/31) that Defense Secretary Mattis on Thursday “chastised” reports “suggesting that he and the President were not on the same page” regarding North Korea. Fox showed Mattis saying, “If I say six and the President says half a dozen, they’re going to say we disagree. ... My job is to provide military options. We are never out of diplomatic [options], diploma[cy] is a lot more than just the narrow slice of talking to North Korea. There was no contradiction there at all.”

[Politico](#) (8/31, Klimas, Morgan) reports Mattis “pushed back on the perception that he disagrees with the president,” and the [Washington Post](#) (8/31, Lamothe) likewise says Mattis “disputed...that there is daylight between him and President Trump on key issues,” and “also expressed frustration that a speech he gave recently to troops in Jordan was also interpreted as an indictment of Trump’s comments.” The [New York Times](#) (8/31, Gordon) reports asked if he had ever considered resigning because of policy differences with Trump, Mattis said, “I don’t care

if it's Republican or Democrat, we all have an obligation to serve. That's all there is to it." He added that the President "is not a man who's immune to being persuaded if he thinks you've got an argument."

U.S. Flies Bombers, Fighters In Show Of Force Against North Korea. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/31, story 8, 0:20, Llamas) reported two days after North Korea tested a ballistic missile that flew over Japan, the US conducted a "show of force," with US bombers and fighter jets flying in the region "alongside Japanese and South Korean allies, releasing live weapons at a bombing range in South Korea."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (8/31, story 5, 2:00, Holt) reported the US and South Korea war planes that flew over South Korea "were visible inside North Korea" before they veered off to drop bombs on the South Korean range, sending a "clear message to Kim Jong-un about the firepower he could face." NBC (Engel) added, "And the US isn't just showing it can fight from the air. Today, American Marines were honing their skills in live fire exercises" with South Korean forces. Still, US military officials reportedly said they don't expect Kim "to back down after this," and "that it's now a game of one-upmanship with the next move likely to come from North Korea."

The [AP](#) (8/31, Tong-Hyung) reports the US show of force sent "clear warning" to North Korea, which "hates such displays of US military might at close range and will likely respond with fury."

The [New York Times](#) (8/31, Choe) reports Gen. Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy, commander of the US Pacific Air Forces, said, "This complex mission clearly demonstrates our solidarity with our allies and underscores the broadening cooperation to defend against this common regional threat," referring to North Korea. [Reuters](#) (8/30, Ali, Kim) also reports O'Shaughnessy's comments.

US Sees Signs Of North Korean Nuke Test. The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (8/31, Gutowski) reports that US intelligence agencies "recently detected increased activity at the North's main underground nuclear testing facility in the northeastern part of the country that signal preparations for a sixth underground test blast." According to US officials familiar with intelligence reports, the test "could come as soon as Sept. 9, coinciding with the anniversary" of the nation's founding.

U.S. Humanitarian Groups Say North Korea Travel Ban Hurts More Than Helps. Jennifer Griffin reported on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/31) that a new State Department travel ban to North Korea goes into effect Friday. The [New York Times](#) (8/31, Choe) reports that by imposing the travel restriction, "Washington hopes to discourage people from visiting North Korea...but at the same time, the sweeping ban threatens the efforts of hundreds of humanitarian workers in the North — Americans and those who collaborate with them — and the lives of North Koreans who badly need help."

Why Aren't We Talking About Regime Change In North Korea? [Washington Post](#) (8/31) columnist Jackson Diehl writes that the Administration's "principal response to North Korea, intentional or not, is sowing confusion," and that if "an actual US policy lurks beneath all that noise, it's a lot like that pursued by the Obama administration. ... Yet, as the experts keep pointing out, it has almost no chance of working." Instead, Diehl argues that "regime change is the only way to definitively end the North Korean nuclear threat."

'Territories Must Be Represented In Congress'.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (8/31, Encinares) reports that Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan said Wednesday "that he believes 'non-state areas' of the U.S. should have 'full representation in the U.S. Congress.'" In an email to Saipan Tribune, Sablan said he agreed with Sen. Justo Quitugua's "statement last Monday when asked for comments on the Republican National Committee's resolution pushing for 'equal U.S. citizenship.'" The resolution would be submitted to President. Trump, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, House Speaker Paul Ryan, and Senate Majority leader Mitch McConnell.

Palau Stresses New Radar System Designed For Commercial Protection, Not War.

The [Australian Broadcasting Corporation](#) (8/31) reports that "a matter of days before North Korea first warned that it planned to target Guam with long range missiles, government officials from Washington and Palau met to discuss the installation of new radar systems to monitor the skies and Palau's National Marine Sanctuary." Questions were raised "about how much the US initiative actually had to do with the long-standing concerns over the rogue state on the Korean Peninsula." However, President Tommy Remengesau Jr "has been at pains to explain that while

the radar system may well make the country more secure, the American package has more to do with protecting Palau's economic interests when commercial fishing in its waters comes to an end."

KBE Council Wants To End US Control of Spending.

The [Marshall Islands Journal](#) (9/1) reports that "the Kili-Bikini-Ejit (KBE) Local Council wants to end US government oversight of its Resettlement Trust Fund." In a recent letter, KBE Mayor Anderson Jibas wrote to Isaac Edwards, the senior majority counsel for the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, "informing him that 'the time has come to end the Federal oversight of the Resettlement Trust Fund.'" Jibas "said the KBE Local Government was drafting a 'rescript' to show its official position for terminating US oversight of the trust fund as well as KBE's annual budget."

Office Of Surface Mining

Watershed Volunteers Honored For Efforts.

The [Clarksburg \(WV\) Exponent-Telegram](#) (9/1) reports that "watershed volunteers were recognized for their efforts of working for clean water in West Virginia for the 19th year at Watershed Celebration Day, an event hosted by Friends of the Cheat and the West Virginia Watershed Network." Volunteers participated "in tours of the Cheat River watershed as they floated down the river to learn about the positive impact of tourism or hiked into the mountains to see how volunteers can plan, fund, and implement remedial projects that treat acid mine drainage." Rick Buckley of the Office of Surface Mining, "an original partner helping Friends of the Cheat clean up pollution from old coal mine drainage in the Cheat Watershed," said, "The Friends of the Cheat has been in existence for 23 years and are both locally and nationally recognized for their leadership role and determination to restore, preserve, and promote the outstanding natural qualities of the Cheat Watershed. It is exciting for us to have them host other volunteers and demonstrate the keys to their many successes."

Top National News

Trump Could End DACA Program As Early As Today.

President Trump is expected to end President Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, possibly as early as Friday, though the White House says no determination has been made. Coverage is minimal and basically straightforward, though critics say the move could strain Trump's relations with the business community, and could also undercut his efforts to appear compassionate in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. For example, Ed Kilgore of the [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (8/31) writes that "the timing isn't ideal, with Trump trying to show a compassionate side in the wake of the disaster in Houston, where an estimated 68,000 DACA-eligible immigrants live," and it "could curdle an already sour relationship between Trump and key elements of the business community." [Re/code](#) (8/31, Romm) reports that Trump has "renewed his long-simmering war with tech industry, which has fiercely defended immigration programs – in no small part because of the high concentration of foreign workers and families in tech hubs like Silicon Valley."

[Reuters](#) (8/31) reports that Trump is expected to end the "Obama-era policy that protects nearly 600,000 immigrants who entered the country illegally as children, but plans to let them stay until their work permits expire," according to "a senior administration official." [Fox News](#) (8/31) reports on its website that an official said Trump "is expected to announce the program's end but will allow so-called 'dreamers' currently in the program to stay in the US until their work permits expire." John Roberts said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (8/31) that the President "would allow the program to lapse, meaning so-called Dreamers could stay until their work permits expire, which for some could be as long as two years."

[McClatchy](#) (8/31, Kumar, Ordoñez) reports that a source said an announcement "could come as soon as Friday, just days before a deadline imposed by 10 states that threatened to sue" the federal government "if it did not stop protecting people brought into the country illegally as children." The [Texas Tribune](#) (8/31, Aguilar) reports that Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton's office said Paxton "was sticking with a Tuesday deadline" for Trump to act "or face a lawsuit." [Townhall](#) (8/31, O'Brien) also has a brief report on Trump's expected action.

[Politico Magazine](#) (8/31, Columbus) writes that Trump “once suggested that he intended to leave the Dreamers alone, but it’s clear that wasn’t an ironclad promise. Recent stories suggest [Trump] is ‘conflicted’ and ‘torn’ over DACA, and the fate of its beneficiaries weighs heavily on him. ... But if Trump has a bad hand to play, it’s because he dealt himself the cards.” The program “is imperiled only because Neil Gorsuch, who is likely skeptical of the program’s constitutionality, sits on the Supreme Court instead of Merrick Garland, who was likely not.”

[Breitbart](#) (8/31, Munro) reports under the headline “Left Protests Likely End Of DACA Amnesty” that “an activist at the Center for American Progress – which has very close ties to the Democratic Party – portrayed Trump’s enforcement of popular immigration reforms as a ‘white supremacist’ priority,” and “Democratic affiliated groups are also protesting Trump’s reform of the program.”

Pence Says Trump Will Make Decision With “Big Heart.” [ABC News](#) (8/31, Kelsey) reports on its website that Vice President Pence “says that the determination is one that Trump will make with ‘big heart.’” Pence told ABC, “President Trump has said all along that he’s giving very careful consideration to that issue and that when he makes it he’ll make it with, as he likes to say, big heart.” [TIME](#) (8/31, Abrams) reports that Press Secretary Sarah Sanders told reporters that Trump has yet to make a decision, and [Politico](#) (8/31, Conway, Restuccia) reports that homeland security adviser Tom Bossert said, “As soon as the President’s ready to announce the result of our policy process, he’ll do so.”

WPost Analysis: DACA’s Success Led To Obama’s Action That Brought Lawsuit. The [Washington Post](#) (8/31, Nakamura) writes that “in a cruel irony for those enrolled, DACA’s very success could lead to its undoing.” DACA was not meant to be permanent, but “buoyed by the program’s achievements, Obama moved in November 2014 to use more executive power to create another deferred action program for an additional 4 million immigrants, a decision made despite his own repeated public disavowals of the power to do so.” That led the states to file their lawsuit.

Tillis Working On Path To Permanent Residency For Dreamers. [McClatchy](#) (8/31, Ordoñez) reports that “conservative lawmakers led by” Sen. Thom Tillis “are crafting a bill they call the conservative Dream Act that would provide a path to permanent residency to people brought here illegally as children,” offering Trump “an escape hatch on one of his most vexing immigration challenges. The legislation creates an avenue for Trump to both fulfill a campaign promise to end an Obama-era program known as DACA while yielding to what appears to be his personal desire to let these immigrants remain in the country.” While details are still being worked out, the Tillis plan, like a House bill by Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL), “would offer an eventual path to US citizenship for immigrants who entered illegally before Jan. 1, 2012, and were 16 years old or younger.”

USA Today: “Let The Dreamers Be.” [USA Today](#) (8/31) editorializes, “Dreamers, more than any other immigrant group, are well integrated into American society.” And “unlike other undocumented immigrants, they did not make an affirmative decision to break the law. They merely followed the instructions of parents in coming here. ... Using 800,000 members of American society as political pawns is not the answer. The best answer is simply to let the dreamers be.”

White House: Revelation About Comey, Clinton Probe Vindicates Decision To Fire Him.

The revelation that then-FBI Director Jim Comey began drafting a statement exonerating Hillary Clinton in the investigation of her email use before the bureau had interviewed her or other key witnesses drew widespread coverage, particularly on conservative media outlets – though it wasn’t mentioned on any of the major network newscasts. The [Washington Times](#) (8/31, Boyer) reports that the White House on Thursday said that the revelation about Comey “provides more vindication of President Trump’s decision to fire him. White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said she wasn’t sure whether” Trump “had heard about the development revealed by Senate investigators. But she added, ‘If it is as accurate as they say it is, that would certainly give cause and reason that Jim Comey was not the right person to lead the FBI.’ She urged other media outlets to devote more coverage to the story.”

In what Bret Baier said on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (8/31) is “a fascinating twist...on the...Clinton email investigation,” Senate Republicans “say they’ve got evidence that...Comey came to his conclusions on the Clinton case long before all the facts were in about Clinton’s mishandling of classified information.” Chief intelligence correspondent Catherine Herridge added that “senior Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee” say “FBI records indicate that...Comey drafted a conclusion apparently exonerating...Clinton in the email case two months

before the investigation was over and before the FBI interviewed Clinton aide Cheryl Mills, IT specialist Brian Pagliano, and Clinton herself." FBI transcripts from interviews with "two senior Comey aides" came to light "after a records request from the Republican leaders on the Senate [Judiciary] Committee. They said it appears that in April or early May 2016, Comey had decided against criminal charges before 17 interviews were complete."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/31, Quinn) reports that the revelation came in a letter Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley and Judiciary Subcommittee Chairman Lindsey Graham wrote to the FBI. The GOP lawmakers are quoted as writing in the missive, "Conclusion first, fact-gathering second – that's no way to run an investigation. The FBI should be held to a higher standard than that, especially in a matter of such great public interest and controversy." The Examiner adds that the Judiciary Committee "reviewed transcripts, which were heavily redacted, indicating Comey began drafting the exoneration statement in April or May 2016, before the FBI interviewed up to 17 key witnesses, including Clinton and some of her close aides."

On its website, [Fox News](#) (8/31, Pappas) reported that Grassley and Graham "said they learned about Comey's draft 'exoneration statement' after reviewing transcripts of interviews with top Comey aides. 'According to the unredacted portions of the transcripts, it appears that in April or early May of 2016, Mr. Comey had already decided he would issue a statement exonerating Secretary Clinton,' the senators said. They added, 'That was long before FBI agents finished their work. Mr. Comey even circulated an early draft statement to select members of senior FBI leadership. The outcome of an investigation should not be prejudged while FBI agents are still hard at work trying to gather the facts.'"

[McClatchy](#) (8/31, Schofield) reports, "A statement accompanying the Grassley-Graham letter notes states: 'The draft statement also came before the [Justice] Department entered into immunity agreements with Cheryl Mills and Heather Samuelson where the Department agreed to a very limited review of Secretary Clinton's emails and to destroy their laptops after review.' Mills was a top aide to Clinton at the time. Samuelson, an attorney and former Clinton campaign worker, reportedly reviewed Clinton's emails before they kept as federal records, determining which were purely personal."

On its website, [CBS News](#) (8/31, Watson) reported that Grassley and Graham drew their "conclusion from transcripts of interviews with people close to Comey and provided by the Department of Justice's Office of Special Counsel (OSC)." Their "letter said OSC attorneys interviewed James Rybicki, Comey's chief of staff, and Trisha Anderson, the Principal Deputy General Counsel of National Security and Cyberlaw, as a part of an investigation into whether Comey's July 5 announcement violated the Hatch Act governing government officials' political activity. OSC dropped the probe when Comey was fired. The Republicans' letter included parts of the texts of the transcripts."

The [Washington Times](#) (8/31, Noble) reports, "Last July, Mr. Comey announced the closure of the Clinton probe and publicly described why the FBI opted not to bring charges against Mrs. Clinton or any of her State Department aides." Comey "testified earlier this year before he was fired that he took the unusual step because he believed that a June 2016 airport tarmac meeting between Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch and Mrs. Clinton's husband, former President Bill Clinton, had undermined the Justice Department's credibility to independently investigate the case. The transcripts cited by the Republican lawmakers indicates that a draft statement about the conclusion of the investigation was being circulated among a select group of FBI officials as early as April 2016."

Manu Raju said on [CNN's Out Front](#) (8/31) that "a source close to Comey [pushed] back on [the] assessment, saying he had not reached a conclusion and was looking at this as a possibility, that she would not be actually charged with anything criminally. But clearly possibly more fodder for the White House. Sarah Huckabee Sanders jumping on this report earlier today. Clearly, the White House sees this, as well, to give them covering in the firing of James Comey."

And in an online report, [CNN](#) (8/31, LoBianco, Brown, Mallonee) said, "A person familiar with the matter pushed back on the notion that Comey had already reached a conclusion that affected the investigation. The person said back in spring 2016, agents and Justice Department officials were talking about how the investigation would end and there was a belief that the evidence was going in a direction to not support bringing charges. This individual said by April 2016 the FBI had reviewed most of the evidence and didn't find evidence suggesting that Clinton had violated federal law." CNN added, "A second person familiar with the matter told CNN that Comey had not already made up his mind, and that it did not influence the investigation. The second source says the FBI had already reviewed much of the evidence by spring and it was becoming more clear that it was not likely to support bringing charges."

[Politico](#) (8/31, Gerstein) reported, "At a House hearing last September, Comey vehemently denied any decision had been made not to charge Clinton before the July 2 interview [with her]. He was not asked when he began preparing his public statement." The [Daily Caller](#) (8/31, Ross) reported that Clinton "was interviewed for several hours on July 2, just three days before Comey's announcement." The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (8/31, Russell) reported that Comey "ultimately called Clinton's actions regarding her private email 'extremely careless,' but announced in July 2016 that he would not recommend criminal charges against the former secretary of state." Under the headline "CONFIRMED: Comey Decided He Wasn't Going To Refer Hillary For Prosecution Long Before FBI Investigation Was Over," [Townhall](#) (8/31, Pavich) also reported on the story.

Trump Attorneys Argue To Mueller That Comey's Firing Wasn't Obstruction Of Justice. Under the front-page headline "Trump Attorneys Lay Out Arguments Against Obstruction-of-Justice Probe To Mueller," the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/31, A1, Nicholas, Orden, Sonne) reports that attorneys for the President have held several meetings with special counsel Robert Mueller and presented memos contending Trump's firing of Comey wasn't an act of obstruction of justice and raising questions about Comey's trustworthiness as a possible witness, according to people familiar with the situation. For example, citing those people, the Journal says that in a June memo submitted to Mueller, Trump's attorneys charged that Comey tends to exaggerate, wasn't reliable when testifying before Congress, and leaked information to the news media.

Law Professor Lists Questions About Clinton, Comey That Russia Probes Should Address. On its website, [Newsweek](#) (8/31, Dunlap, Jr.), posted a piece that initially appeared on "Just Security," in which Duke Law School professor Charles J. Dunlap, Jr. offered a list of questions – a number pertaining to Clinton and Comey – that he says should be addressed by the various Russia probes. For example, Dunlap wrote, "In March of 2016, Hillary Clinton told CNN's Jake Tapper that foreign leaders had contacted her about wanting to endorse her to 'stop' Trump. ... Shouldn't the public know who those foreign leaders were who wanted to influence the outcome of the election?" And, for example, Dunlap asked of Comey, "Did his memos (about his conversations with President Trump regarding the Russia investigation) that he retained after leaving government service contain unmarked but actually classified information as some media have reported?"

Judge Orders FBI To Release Some Details About Clinton Email Probe. The [Washington Times](#) (8/31, Dinan) reports US District Judge James E. Boasberg on Thursday ordered the FBI to release more information about its investigation into "Clinton's secret email account." Boasberg ruled "court papers describing the grand jury subpoenas the FBI obtained to compel information from Mrs. Clinton's internet service providers can be made public," overruling Trump Administration objections insisting that "making the information public would violate grand jury secrecy rules." Judicial Watch President Tom Fitton questioned the Trump Administration's push for secrecy, saying, "President Trump ought to be outraged his appointees are protecting Hillary Clinton. The State Department should initiate action with the Justice Department – and both agencies should finally take the necessary steps to recover all the government emails Hillary Clinton unlawfully removed."

DeSantis Explains Reasoning Behind Legislation Aimed At Putting Time Limit On Mueller Probe. Rep. Ron DeSantis (R-FL) was asked on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (8/31) about his legislation to put a time limit on special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation. DeSantis said, "What we want to do is say very clearly we don't want to fund fishing expeditions. And when the Deputy Attorney General appointed Mueller, he issued an order that did not identify a crime. He identified a counter-intelligence investigation that Comey had been conducting." DeSantis added that "with the special counsel, it's not like the normal prosecutor, where have you all these other cases you have to worry about. This is all you're doing. If you don't have obvious evidence of a crime, your incentive is to just find something. So, my amendment basically says, 'Look, this thing needs to be limited to the campaign and Russia and it needs to have an end date.'"

Michael Cohen "Expected" To Testify Before House Investigators. [Politico](#) (8/31, Dawsey, Watkins) reported that longtime Trump attorney Michael Cohen, a lawyer for the Trump Organization, "is expected to appear in front of House investigators in upcoming weeks, according to sources briefed on the Hill investigations into Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election." Cohen plans "to testify privately, one of these people said, though a specific date hasn't been set. Cohen has provided reams of documents to investigators and is expected to provide more before the testimony, two people said." Politico added that Cohen has emerged as "a key player in the matter after emails showed he tried to reach Vladimir Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, over a Trump building project in Russia during the presidential campaign."

Robinson: Latest Revelations On Russia Probe “Quite Bad” For Trump. In his [Washington Post](#) (8/31) column, Eugene Robinson writes, “Just so there’s no confusion: Donald Trump’s longtime personal lawyer emailed Vladimir Putin’s personal spokesman? Seeking help from the Kremlin on a deal to build a Trump Tower in Moscow? During the presidential campaign? Yes, this really happened. While most attention was rightly focused on the devastating flood in Houston, there was quite a bit of news on the Russia front – all of it, from President Trump’s perspective, quite bad.” Meanwhile, “Politico reported that Mueller is now cooperating and sharing information with New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman. Presidents can only issue pardons for federal offenses, not state crimes. Uh-oh.”

Daily Beast “Exclusive:” IRS Criminal Investigations Unit Aiding Mueller With Probe. In an “exclusive,” Betsy Woodruff reports for the [Daily Beast](#) (8/31) that “Mueller has teamed up with the IRS. According to sources familiar with his investigation,” Mueller “has enlisted the help of agents from the IRS’ Criminal Investigations unit,” which “focus[es] exclusively on financial crime, including tax evasion and money laundering.” Woodruff adds that “it goes without saying that the IRS has access to Trump’s tax returns – documents that the president has long resisted releasing to the public.”

Manafort’s Notes From Trump Tower Meeting Reference Political Donations, RNC. Notes that former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort typed on a phone about the “controversial Trump Tower meeting with Russians during the campaign included a reference to political donations and ‘RNC,’” sources “briefed on the evidence” have told [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/31, story 6, 1:55, Holt). Investigators are now trying to determine whether there were any discussions of foreign donations to Trump’s campaign or to the Republican Party – “contributions that would be illegal.” NBC noted that “Manafort’s spokesman [is] telling NBC News the suggestion is 100 percent false.”

Russian Lobbyist At Trump Tower Meeting Testifies To Mueller Grand Jury. Bret Baier reported on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (8/31), “A Russian-American lobbyist who attended the Trump Tower meeting last summer with Donald Trump Jr., Jared Kushner, and...Manafort has given secret testimony” to Special Counsel Mueller’s grand jury, according to the [Associated Press](#). Baier noted that emails released by Trump Jr. “said he took the meeting expecting to receive damaging information about Hillary Clinton.”

Senate Intelligence Panel May Seek To Hear From Rohrabacher On Assange Meeting. On its website, [CNN](#) (8/30, Tapper, Raju, Lobianco) reported that the Senate Intelligence Committee “is considering calling” Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-CA) to discuss “his meeting earlier in August with WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange,” according to a pair of “congressional sources.” Rohrabacher “met with Assange earlier this month in the Ecuadorian embassy in London, where Assange was granted asylum after Sweden sought to question him in a rape investigation that has since been dropped. Assange said, according to Rohrabacher, that he was not behind the leak of Democratic National Committee emails last year.” Rohrabacher has “said he planned to debrief” President Trump on his meeting with Assange. Drawing from the CNN story, [Roll Call](#) (8/31, Garcia) reported that Rohrabacher “is by not any indication under investigation by...Special Counsel Robert Mueller.”

CBP Announces Four Bid Winners For US-Mexico Border Wall Prototype Construction.

The [New York Times](#) (8/31, Nixon) reports that DHS “took the first major step on Thursday toward building a barrier on the border with Mexico, a key campaign promise of President Trump, as officials announced that they had awarded contracts to build several prototypes of a concrete wall.” Customs and Border Protection said four companies “will each have 30 days to complete the projects after the agency gives them the order to proceed.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/31, Caldwell, Meckler) reports that the four bid winners are Caddell Construction of Montgomery, Alabama; Fisher Sand & Gravel/Fisher Industries of Tempe, Arizona; Texas Sterling Construction of Houston; and W.G. Yates & Sons Construction of Philadelphia, Mississippi.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/31, Jan) reports that CBP Acting Deputy Commissioner Ronald Vitiello said, “Today we mark a significant milestone. This is the first tangible result of the action planning that has gone on. This is the use of the resources we had available for this year.” [USA Today](#) (8/31, Johnson) reports that Vitiello said construction “could begin in a matter of weeks in a stretch along the San Diego border sector.”

[Breitbart](#) (8/31, Moons) reports that the prototypes “will feature characteristics such as reinforced concrete and heights between 18 and 30 feet. They have been ‘designed to deter illegal crossings in the area in which they are constructed,’ according to a CBP press release.” The [Washington Times](#) (8/31, Dinan) also reports.

Mnuchin: Detailed Tax Plan Will Be Released In Coming Weeks.

Treasury Secretary Mnuchin told the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/31, Rubin, Davidson) that the Trump Administration and lawmakers will release a more detailed tax plan in the coming weeks. While the bill is being written by congressional committees, Mnuchin indicated the Administration will remain engaged in the debate and will stand by its push for an overhaul of the tax code this year. Mnuchin was asked on [CNBC Squawk Alley](#) (8/31) why there is no tax reform package “or details about rates and things like that coming from the White House.” Mnuchin said, “First of all, there absolutely is a package. ... Since January, I’ve been working with Gary Cohn and the leadership on this plan. So we have a very detailed plan.” Mnuchin added that “we’ve been working on the details. ... We wanted to bring the three of us together, make sure that there was one plan with the Administration, the House and the Senate we’ve done that. The House and Senate are now socializing. The plan with their members. We’re going to release a blueprint and it’s going to go to committee and we’re going to turn this into a bill which the President will sign.”

Presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway said on [Fox News’ Fox & Friends](#) (8/31) that “these Republican and Democratic senators and Members of Congress are accountable to their constituents and their constituents are telling them we need tax relief, and we want tax reform. We want a system that is simpler, fairer, get rid of this draconian, byzantine several thousand page tax code that people need to a flotilla of attorneys and accountants and lobbyists just to be able to navigate the code. And we want this to be a job bill. If you reduce the tax burden on job creators and job holders, you’re giving people a pay raise, and you’re helping them to create more jobs.”

NYTimes Analysis: Trump, Lawmakers Should Look To DC For An Example Of Tax Reform. The [New York Times](#) (8/31, Stewart) reports in an analysis that as Trump and Congress pursue tax reform, they should look at the city of Washington, DC, which “has done exactly that.” In 2014 the city council cut “corporate and business taxes, reduced individual rates for everyone earning less than \$1 million and broadened the tax base by eliminating many loopholes” and in subsequent years, “economic growth and tax receipts have surged, enabling the city to accelerate cuts that were being phased in.” While the measure “was not revenue neutral, in the sense that broadening the tax base offset the reduction in rates,” in “a development that would surely warm the hearts of pro-growth Republicans, the economic lift was so strong that tax receipts increased, and last year hit a record.” Moreover, “the plan drew praise from across the ideological spectrum.”

State Officials Blast EPA Guidance On Climate Regulation.

[Reuters](#) (8/31, Hurley, Volcovici) reports that fourteen Democratic state attorneys general and “officials from six cities and counties” on Thursday “blasted” the EPA “for telling governors in what they describe as a ‘legally incorrect’ letter in March that they do not need to comply with a major climate change regulation.” They “said the guidance that EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt sent to states on March 30 was misleading because the Clean Power Plan enacted under former President Barack Obama, a Democrat, remains on the books despite the Republican Trump administration’s plans to unravel it.” According to the officials, the regulation “remains the law of the land’ even if it is currently on hold and that Pruitt’s ‘unsolicited legal advice’ to governors was ‘premature and legally incorrect.’”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“How Federal Flood Insurance Puts Homes At Risk.” A [New York Times](#) (8/31) editorial says “it was clear long before Hurricane Harvey...that the National Flood Insurance Program...needed to be overhauled,” because it “fails to account for the full extent of flood risk, encourages development in areas known to be flood-prone and is not realistically funded.” The Times blames Congress for failing to act, and urges it to make “premiums reflect the actual overall risk.” However, it says “if Congress is unwilling to raise premiums, it ought to properly finance the subsidies.”

“Blocking A Bad Immigration Law In Texas.” The [New York Times](#) (9/1) editorializes, “Anyone watching the storm devastation in Texas had to be stirred by the mix of resilient victims and valiant rescuers – a mix of people from all backgrounds united in a struggle for survival. The heroic images of community resolve could not have been a more apt backdrop” for a federal judge’s decision to block a new law intended to “crack down on so-called sanctuary cities.” The

new law “blocks local limits on immigration enforcement, allows the police to question the immigration status of people they detain or arrest, and seeks to punish uncooperative officials with fines, jail time and removal from office. ... The fate of the law’s draconian assault on civil rights will depend on further litigation. But it is impossible this week to ignore the contrast with struggling Texans...helping one another without demanding immigration papers.”

Washington Post.

“FEMA Avoids Disaster In Houston – So Far.” The [Washington Post](#) (8/31) editorializes, “Tragedy on this scale cannot be fully managed, and the response is only beginning.” FEMA Administrator Brock Long “warned before the hurricane hit that rebuilding would take years,” but “given the effort so far, Harvey may not become synonymous with government mismanagement, as Katrina did.” But “there are more tests ahead. ... Much of FEMA’s outrageous waste and mismanagement came well after Katrina’s floodwaters subsided. Even as recovery proceeds, the nation must also learn from Harvey as it did from Katrina.”

“In Guatemala, The Rule Of Law Strikes Back.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/31) writes that the investigations of the United Nations’ anti-corruption commission in Guatemala into President Jimmy Morales have “uncovered a staggering number of systemic scandals” – prompting Morales to issue an expulsion order on the principle investigator in a move the Post describes as “political suicide.” The Post concludes, “If the country’s Supreme Court and Congress agree to strip him of official immunity, his days in office, and possibly as a free man, may be numbered,” as may be “Guatemala’s systemic corruption.”

“Trump’s Homeland Security Department Gives Right-Wing Extremists A Pass.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/31) says the Trump Administration’s decision to rescind funding for a \$400,000 grant awarded by the Obama Administration to Life After Hate, “a nonprofit dedicated to helping right-wing extremists move away from radical ideas,” seems “tragically shortsighted” in the wake of the violence in Charlottesville, and it “underlines the indifference of President Trump and his administration toward the problem of far-right violence.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Texas, Thou Hast Sinned.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/31) editorial criticizes what it views as a political assault on Houston’s pro-growth development policies, which some are blaming for the severity of flooding in the city. The Journal argues that zoning regulations and the loss of wetlands are not responsible, and that no amount of flood control could have prevented damage from Harvey’s record-setting rainfall.

“Hopeful News Of The Week.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/31) writes that this week’s purchase of the cancer research pharmaceutical company Kite Pharma Inc. by Gilead Sciences offers encouraging news for cancer treatment innovation – particularly because of Kite Pharma’s CAR-T treatment, which has shown promising results in patients.

“L.A.’s Gift To Trump.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/31) editorial criticizes the Los Angeles City Council for its decision to remove Columbus Day from the city calendar in favor of Indigenous Peoples Day. The Journal argues that the move puts the council on the side of the early 20th century the Ku Klux Klan. Which opposed memorials to Columbus because he was Catholic, and gives a gift to President Trump by showing that many on the left oppose Western civilization.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Gasoline Prices Jump In Harvey’s Wake](#)

[Trump Lawyers Say Probe Of Comey Firing Shouldn’t Target President](#)

[Wells Raises Tally Of Unauthorized Accounts By 67%](#)

[US To Block Potential Russian Move Into American Energy](#)

New York Times:

[New Hazard In Storm Zone: Chemical Blasts And “Noxious” Smoke](#)

[Storm With “No Boundaries” Took Aim At Rich And Poor Alike](#)

[Storm’s Impact On Oil Industry Is Felt At Gasoline Pumps](#)

[Hurricane Harvey Shifts Political Winds In Washington](#)

[Republicans Want To Sideline This Regulator. But It May Be Too Popular.](#)
[France Unveils Contentious Labor Overhaul In Big Test For Macron](#)

Washington Post:

[The Boat's Here. In An Instant, Decide: What Will You Take?](#)
[Chemicals Ignite At Flooded Plant In Texas As Harvey's Devastation Lingers](#)
[Flood-Sparked Fire Renews Fears About Chemical Industry On Gulf](#)
[China Exporting Its Bike Revolution To The World](#)
[Trump Chafes At Criticism, Restrictions](#)
[US Orders Russia To Close 3 Of Its Facilities](#)

Financial Times:

[Harvey Aftermath Hits A Third Of US Oil Refineries](#)
[Brexit Negotiators Impatient Over Scant Progress](#)
[New Uber Boss's First Task Is To Reconcile Deeply Divided Board](#)
[French Government Unveils Jobs Market Liberalization](#)

Washington Times:

[Federal Relief And Recovery From Harvey Kicks Into High Gear With \\$6 Billion Down Payment](#)
[Assad Gains Confidence For Victory In Syria's 6-Year-Old Civil War](#)
[Trump's Tough Trade Tactics Have Negotiators Looking At Options](#)
[Left-Wing Activists Launch 'No Red Cross' Campaign, Ask For Donor Dollars](#)
[Four Companies Selected To Build Prototypes For Trump's Border Wall](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Hurricane Harvey-Airborne Rescues; Hurricane Harvey-Water Rescues; Hurricane Harvey-Chemical Plant Danger; Hurricane Harvey-Flooded Neighborhoods; Hurricane Harvey-Forecast; Hurricane Harvey-White House; Hurricane Harvey-Toxic Water; North Korea Threats; Hurricane Irma-Forecast; Florida-Serial Car Crash; Hurricane Harvey-Donations.

CBS: Hurricane Harvey-Damages; Hurricane Harvey-Chemical Plant Danger; Hurricane Harvey-Casualties; Hurricane Harvey-Gasoline Shortage; Hurricane Harvey-Financial Cost; Hurricane Harvey-White House; South Asia Flooding; West Coast-Wildfires; Wells Fargo Scandal; Undocumented Immigrant Released; Georgia Police-Racial Comment; Princess Diana-Passing Anniversary; Hurricane Harvey-Evacuee Singer.

NBC: Hurricane Harvey-Chemical Plant Danger; Hurricane Harvey-Damages; Hurricane Harvey-Red Cross Transparency; Wells Fargo Scandal; North Korea Threats; Russia Meddling; Georgia Police-Racial Comment; Back To School Spending; Twenty Dollar Bill; Apple-New Product Announcement; Princess Diana-Passing Anniversary.

Network TV At A Glance:

Hurricane Harvey – 36 minutes, 55 seconds
Princess Diana-Passing Anniversary – 4 minutes, 50 seconds
Georgia Police-Racial Comment – 2 minutes, 35 seconds
Wells Fargo Scandal – 2 minutes, 25 seconds
North Korea Threats – 2 minutes, 20 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Hurricane Harvey; Travel Restriction-Visa Application Open; Russia Meddling Response; Wall Street News.

CBS: Hurricane Harvey-White House; Hurricane Harvey; Hurricane Harvey- Chemical Plant Danger; Hurricane Harvey-Donations; Florida-Death Penalty; Iraq-ISIS Battles.

FOX: Hurricane Harvey; Russia Meddling Response.

NPR: Hurricane Harvey; Hurricane Harvey-White House; Hurricane Harvey- Chemical Plant Danger; Border Wall-Vendors.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Speaks with President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan by telephone; receives a an update from disaster relief organizations on Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No scheduled public events.

US Senate: 3:00 PM Senate convenes for pro forma session

On recess until 5 September.

US House: 1:00 PM House of Representatives convenes for pro forma session

On recess until 5 September.

Other: No notable event scheduled.

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Trevor Noah: "Antifa, that is a great name – short, punchy – excuse the pun – and most importantly, you don't have to know how to spell 'fascist.'"

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- The Hill: Conservation Efforts Must Reckon With Diversity And Inclusion.
- Deseret (UT) News: My View: Bears Ears: Perhaps There's A Third Way.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Fate Of Casino Still Undecided.
- Community Calls For Action And Justice On The Crow Reservation.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun: Policy Shift Criticized For Giving Cadiz 'Free Pass' For Water Project.
- Associated Press: Parcel Next To ND's Roosevelt National Park May Be Leased For Oil.
- Associated Press: New Mexico Democrats Push Feds To Limit Drilling Near Chaco.
- Duluth (MN) News Tribune: Emmer, Nolan Add Amendment To Defund Mining Study.
- Elko (NV) Daily Free Press: BLM Seeks Input On Proposed Greater Phoenix Mine Project.
- The Hill: DOI Should Be Allowed To Collect Royalties Owed To The Taxpayer.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- State Moves To Support OCS Leasing.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Kevin Moran: Bold Action Still Needed For The Colorado River.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Reuters: Monarchs In Western U.S. Risk Extinction, Scientists Say.
- Belgrade (MT) News: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Seeks Comments On State DNRC Plan.
- Nisqually Valley (WA) News: County Residents Deal With Feds Over Pocket Gopher.

National Park Service

- Charleston (SC) Moultrie News: All Charleston Area National Park Sites Will Be Closed Starting September 8.
- WTOP-FM Washington: Park Service Using Lasers To Remove Jefferson Memorial's Grimy Coating.
- Pine River (CO) Times: Mesa Verde Faces \$65.7 Million In Backlogged Maintenance.
- U.S. News & World Report: Zion National Park Remains On Pace For Record Visitation.
- U.S. News & World Report: Carlsbad Caverns Elevator Service To Be Suspended For Work.
- U.S. News & World Report: Trails Reopen At White Sands After Cleanup From 2014 Crash.
- Harrison (AR) Daily Times: National Park Service Confirms Weapon In Shooting Was An Air Pistol.
- Hampton Roads (VA) Virginian-Pilot: Cape Hatteras National Seashore Open To Privately Run Businesses.
- Gettysburg (PA) Times: Park Service Plans Deer Kill.
- KPIX-TV San Francisco: Fees At 2 Marin Headlands Campgrounds May Rise.
- Charlotte (NC) Observer: Additional Coverage: Fast Thinking Businessman Files Claim On NC's New Island.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Washington Times: Trump, Pence, Long Tout Government Preparations For Irma.
- Washington Post: Irma Causes Widespread Destruction In Caribbean.
- NBC: Trump: I'd "Prefer Not Going" Military Route With North Korea, But It "Could Happen."

US Geological Survey

- Smithsonian: The World's Parasites Are Going Extinct.
- KIFI-TV Idaho Falls (ID): USGS Digs Trench On Teton Range Mountain To Study Fault Line.
- Reuters: At Least Two Die In Mexico Quake; Small Tsunami Triggered.
- Midland (TX) Reporter-Telegram: USGS: Earthquakes Pepper Pecos, Snyder Areas.

Top National News

- Associated Press: Senate Approves Hurricane Relief Funds, Raises Debt Ceiling.
- Washington Post: Trump-Schumer "Gentlemen's Agreement" Will Seek To End Debt Ceiling Votes.
- Bloomberg News: Graham, Cassidy To Introduce Revised Version Of ACA Replacement.
- Associated Press: Trump To Dreamers: "You Have Nothing To Worry About" For Next 6 Months.
- Reuters: Mnuchin, Ryan Predict Tax Overhaul Will Pass By Year's End.

- The Hill: EPA Expected To Finalize Review Of Clean Power Plan This Fall.
- Washington Examiner: Senate Appropriations Committee Approves \$10 Million For UN Climate Change Fund.
- USA Today: Nordhaus: "Impossible Environmentalism" Precludes Realistic Approaches To Climate Change.
- Wall Street Journal: Lomborg: Costly Climate Change Measures Can Divert From More Meaningful Solutions.

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DOI In The News

Wildfires In The West Revive Push To Thin Federal Forests.

The [Washington Times](#) (9/7, Richardson) reports that for years, "Republicans have sought to reduce the fire danger by thinning the overgrown federal forests, meeting with resistance every time from environmentalists, who insist the problem isn't too many trees, it's global warming." Now, "as treacherous late-season wildfires burn millions of acres from California to Montana, the level of frustration among elected officials and their constituents may have finally combine to break the political logjam." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue have "teamed to figure out ways to clear the dense thicket of litigation and regulation that has for years stalled projects aimed at cutting back the federal forests, many plagued with diseased and dying trees."

Interior Secretary Calls For 'Active Forest Management' To Check Wildfires. [Montana Public Radio](#) (9/7, Ripley) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was a guest on the Northern Broadcasting Network's radio program Voices of Montana Tuesday, and he took a question from a listener about wildfires. Zinke called for "active forest management," and asked for "a little help from my congressional friends to do it." Zinke said, "You go into Glacier, there's trees everywhere. And I'm not proposing we log Glacier, but other parks do use prescribed burns, they have mechanical extraction of timber, just to remove the fuel load."

This US Wildfire Season Is Among The Worst: Here's Why. The [AP](#) (9/7, Elliott) reports that "wildfires are chewing across dried-out Western forests and grassland, putting 2017 on track to be among the worst fire seasons in a decade." The article says that "a snowy winter across much of the West raised hopes that 2017 wouldn't be a dried-out, fire-prone year, but a hot, dry summer spoiled that." Meanwhile, "federal spending to fight fires appears to be headed for a record." The U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Department of Interior "report spending of more than \$2.1 billion so far." According to the article, "that's about the same as they spent in all of 2015, the most expensive wildfire season on record."

Gianforte Focuses Washington's Attention On Montana's Wildfires. [KBZK-TV](#) Butte, MT (9/7)

reports that Rep. Greg Gianforte “took to the House floor” yesterday “to bring attention to the wildfires in Montana.” Gianforte said, “I met with leaders and firefighters at five fires this summer and witnessed the destruction firsthand. I hope this image and the others from back home will make my colleagues more aware of the fires’ devastation and the need for relief in the Treasure State.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KXLF-TV](#) Butte, MT (9/7).

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by the [AP](#) (9/8, Elliott), the [AP](#) (9/7), the [AP](#) (9/7), the [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (9/7, Peterson), the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (9/8, Baughman), and [Yellowstone Insider](#) (9/7, Reichard).

Feds Release \$4M To N Carolina County Over Unfinished Road.

The [AP](#) (9/7) reports that “the federal government has resumed paying a settlement to a North Carolina county over a never-completed road designed to replace one flooded decades ago for a dam near the Tennessee border.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Thursday announced that Swain County is “getting \$4 million earmarked in a 2012 law but never released due to legal concerns.” Swain County “reached a \$52 million settlement with the department in 2010 but had received only one-quarter of the funds.” Sen. Thom Tillis and Sen. Richard Burr “praised the release and said they’d keep working for remaining funds.”

Also reporting are the [Asheville \(NC\) Citizen-Times](#) (9/7, Barrett), the [Asheville \(NC\) Mountain Xpress](#) (9/7, Daffron), and [WLOS-TV Asheville \(NC\)](#) Asheville, NC (9/7, Hart).

FERC, DOI Nominees Move One Step Closer To Confirmation.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (9/7, Bradley) reports that a hearing was held Thursday by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee “to consider the nominations of Kevin McIntyre and Richard Glick to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and Joseph Balash and Ryan Nelson to positions at DOI.” At the conclusion of a hearing, Sen. Lisa Murkowski said, “It is my hope that we will be able to advance your names out of committee shortly.” Balash is nominated to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management; Nelson to be Solicitor at DOI.

Alaska Nominee To Interior Department Advances In Senate. The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/7, Martinson) reports that Balash “pledged to work on speeding permits and allowing drilling and mining on some federal lands at his Senate confirmation hearing Thursday.” Balash “spoke of speeding permitting at the backlogged agency and allowing more drilling and mining on federal lands”

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (9/7, Ruskin) reports that “Balash said he’s a consensus builder, a guy who likes to bring all sides to the table.” He “said he’s fully committed to listening to people affected by the Department’s decisions and really taking what they say into account.” Balash said, “I believe that you get much further when people come to an understanding, jointly, collaboratively, by first understanding the problems that each other has and then identify solutions together.”

Protesters Fail To Stall Hearing On Trump’s Energy Nominees. The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/7, Siciliano) reports that the hearing was interrupted by protesters that chanted “no eminent domain for private gain.”

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by [Politico Morning Energy](#) (9/7, Adragna) and the [Idaho Business Review](#) (9/7).

ND Gov. Meets With Feds To Advocate For Drought Relief.

The [AP](#) (9/7) reports that North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum “says he has met with federal officials to advocate for drought relief for North Dakota.” Burgum says he met Thursday with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue.

The [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (9/7, Dalrymple) reports that “Burgum, who a month ago requested a presidential major disaster declaration for the severe drought affecting much of North Dakota, said Thursday the state may need to pursue a different avenue for federal funding.” The request for “a disaster declaration was sent to President Donald Trump through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is now responding to people affected by Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Harvey.” Burgum said, “There’s a very high probability that through the current path that we’re on with FEMA that there may not be money available.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KXMC-TV](#) Minot, ND (9/7, Kelly).

Emails Show Trump Appointees Undermined Facebook CEO Zuckerberg’s Glacier Visit.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/7, Rein) reports that “when Facebook’s communications chief approached the National Park Service to ask the agency to show company founder Mark Zuckerberg how the warming climate is melting ice sheets at Glacier National Park, scientists, park rangers and public affairs staff were giddy with excitement.” However, “their eagerness to accommodate Zuckerberg on his high-profile tour quickly turned into a high-wire scramble for Park Service staffers, as political appointees at the Interior Department, the Park Service’s parent agency, demanded that they walk back their generosity, according to documents The Washington Post obtained through a Freedom of Information Act request.” The Trump Administration was “far less keen on Zuckerberg — who has been increasingly vocal in his criticism of the president — and apparently balked at giving him the red-carpet treatment that national parks often roll out for lawmakers, potential donors and dignitaries.”

The Shrinking Glaciers At Glacier National Park. In a piece for the [Huffington Post](#) (9/7, Coplon-Newfield), Gina Coplon-Newfield, Director of Sierra Club’s Clean Transportation for All Campaign, writes that “only 26 shrinking glaciers remain” in Glacier National Park, “and these are expected to be completely gone by approximately 2030 —a mere 13 years from now.” Coplon-Newfield is “grateful” that park officials are engaged in “thoughtful work to protect the park for today and with an eye toward many generations to come.” Coplon-Newfield thanks them for not focusing “on the politics of the day but on serving the public and protecting the parks.”

Alaska Hatches Plan For Vast Road Network Across The Arctic.

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (9/7, Harball) reports that Alaska has allocated \$7.3 million in funding in this year’s capital budget “to plan the construction of a vast network of roads across the Arctic.” The Arctic Strategic Transportation and Resource Project is “being sold as a lifeline for both oil development and remote communities, but it’s already facing criticism.” The state “wants to get the project moving during today’s favorable political climate — the industry-friendly Trump administration is now reviewing its management plan for the National Petroleum Reserve.” Andy Mack, who heads Alaska’s Department of Natural Resources, “hopes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will be open to the idea of permanent roads across the Arctic.”

Utah Commission Under Scrutiny In Push For Lands Control.

The [AP](#) (9/7, McCOMBS) reports that “Utah lawmakers leading the push for the state to seek control of federal lands are under scrutiny again for their work with outside legal consultants, this time for a perceived lack of transparency about what the firm is doing as preparations for a lawsuit drag into a third year with no action.” The Campaign for Accountability on Thursday “called on the co-chairs of Utah’s Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands to produce a full review of expenditures and accused the commission of allowing the \$2 million set aside for the project to become ‘a slush fund.’” The group “said its numerous public records requests have been denied.”

Conservation Efforts Must Reckon With Diversity And Inclusion.

For the “Pundits” blog of [The Hill](#) (9/7, Bryan, Contributor), Kevin T. Bryan, a senior policy director at the Keystone Policy Center, writes that grassroots organizations are “collectively” seeking to shape “the next 100 years of conservation” by “empowering constituents to see themselves in the natural world and to understand how nature shapes their lives.” Now, “traditional conservation groups are beginning to support these advocacy groups already working on the frontlines.” However, “they are by no means sufficient.” According to Bryan, “there is a need for broader dialogue about increasing access of communities of color to public lands.” he also calls for addressing “the lack of diversity among the workforce of public land management agencies, particularly at the federal level.”

My View: Bears Ears: Perhaps There’s A Third Way.

In an op-ed for the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/7, Keshlear), Bill Keshlear, who was a manager last year of Democratic candidate Heidi Redd’s campaign bid for state Senate District 27, writes that there might be a “third way” to protect Bears Ears National Monument. He notes that “in June 2015, a group of ranchers, environmentalists, Native Americans, ATV riders, miners, hunters and archeology buffs — collectively known as the San Juan County Lands Council — produced a plan to protect the Bears Ears and Cedar Mesa area of southeastern Utah.” According to Keshlear, “while the results of the Lands Council efforts didn’t please everyone (shortly after the plan was adopted, a group of Native Americans submitted its own monument proposal to President Barack Obama), it demonstrated that a bit of face-to-face civility, transparency and a spirit of

compromise can overcome even seemingly intractable, deeply held racial, cultural and political beliefs.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Fate Of Casino Still Undecided.

The [Kings Mountain \(NC\) Herald](#) (9/7) reports that the fate of a proposed Catawba Indian Nation resort and casino is “still undecided and that decision remains, as it has for four years, with the US Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington, DC.” Thursday was “the fourth anniversary of the signing of an application by the Catawba Nation to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) for the securing of 16 acres of land on Dixon School Road off I-85 in Kings Mountain for the development of a casino.” The article says that “the rumor mill was grinding out more rumors during the past several weeks about a casino announcement coming soon,” but “there has been no announcement.”

Community Calls For Action And Justice On The Crow Reservation.

[KULR-TV](#) Billings, MT (9/7, Monte) reports that “a silent protest was held in front of the Bureau of Indian Affairs office in Crow Agency Thursday.” According to the article, “community members said they feel BIA is not doing enough to combat crime in the reservation.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Policy Shift Criticized For Giving Cadiz ‘Free Pass’ For Water Project.

The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (9/7, James) reports that opponents of Cadiz’s water “plan say they fear” a “federal policy change, which was formalized in a Sept. 1 memorandum, is one more step that could clear the way for the company to build a pipeline alongside a stretch of the Arizona and California Railroad to the Colorado River Aqueduct.” The memorandum, signed by Interior Department Acting Solicitor Daniel H. Jorjani, “does not refer to the Cadiz project but rather focuses broadly on the rights of railroads holding easements across public lands under the 1875 law.” The new opinion “follows another policy change by the Interior Department in March, when the agency announced it was scrapping guidelines that detail how officials are supposed to evaluate the uses of public lands running alongside railroads.”

In an op-ed for the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (9/7, Clarke), Chris Clarke, the California Desert Program Manager for the National Parks Conservation Association, asserts that “any objective desert scientist would tell you that Cadiz probably means crucial springs drying up.” While the Trump Administration “appears undeterred in its efforts to advance the Cadiz proposal,” Clarke writes that “Californians have the opportunity to fight back by urging passage of AB 1000, the California Desert Protection Act.” If passed, the legislation “will require state agencies to further review Cadiz’s water claims.”

Parcel Next To ND’s Roosevelt National Park May Be Leased For Oil.

The [AP](#) (9/7) reports that “A parcel of land bordering Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota may be included in a federal oil and gas lease sale.” The Bureau of Land Management is getting pressure from conservationists to not include a 120-acre plot in the lease sale, according to a Bismarck Tribune report. North Dakota’s Land Commissioner Lance Gaebe said the plot’s surface is managed by North Dakota Department of Trust Lands and the minerals beneath the surface are owned by the Common Schools Trust Fund.

New Mexico Democrats Push Feds To Limit Drilling Near Chaco.

The [AP](#) (9/8) reports that “Democratic members of New Mexico’s congressional delegation are pushing federal officials to uphold an agreement that limits oil and gas leasing on public land near Chaco Culture National Historical Park.” The Bureau of Land Management “previously agreed to defer all leases within a 10-mile radius around the park as the agency works to update its resource management plan for northwestern New Mexico.” Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich and Rep. Ben Ray Lujan are asking Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “to maintain the buffer until the planning process is complete.”

Emmer, Nolan Add Amendment To Defund Mining Study.

The [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (9/7, Myers) reports that Reps. Tom Emmer and Rick Nolan “late Wednesday successfully added an amendment to a House appropriations bill to defund a proposed U.S. Forest Service study of all mining near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.” Amendment No. 70 to the Interior Environment Appropriations portion of the omnibus bill “would prohibit the Forest Service from spending any money on the study.” The full bill was set for a House vote late Thursday or Friday.

BLM Seeks Input On Proposed Greater Phoenix Mine Project.

The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (9/7) reports that the public can submit comments “on Newmont’s USA Ltd.’s proposal to expand the existing gold and copper Phoenix Mine, which employs about 500 people and is approximately 12 miles southwest of Battle Mountain in Lander County.” The Bureau of Land Management “published a notice in the Federal Register of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed expansion.” Comments will be accepted “during the 45-day public comment period that will end Oct. 16.”

DOI Should Be Allowed To Collect Royalties Owed To The Taxpayer.

For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (9/7, Alexander), Ryan Alexander, president of Taxpayers for Common Sense, urges Congress to allow the Interior Department to rewrite the Bureau of Land Management’s methane waste rule. Alexander opposes an amendment offered by Rep. Steve Pearce “that would prevent the agency from using any funds to enforce the new rule.” She says that “the government has a chance to get more natural gas to the market and increase revenue for federal and state governments.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

State Moves To Support OCS Leasing.

The [Cordova \(AK\) Times](#) (9/7, Bauman) reports that Alaska officials have “filed a motion in U.S. District Court in Anchorage to intervene in litigation to allow for offshore oil and gas leasing in the Beaufort and Chukchi seas.” Their “objective is to make sure that Alaska has future development opportunities in the Arctic OCS, said Gov. Bill Walker.” He said, “State agencies routinely balance environmental conservation and protection with responsible resource development and the Arctic OCS is no different. This gives the state a unique stake in the outcome of this litigation and puts us in the best position to defend those interests.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

Kevin Moran: Bold Action Still Needed For The Colorado River.

In an op-ed for the [Arizona Daily Star](#) (9/8, Moran), Kevin Moran, the Senior Director for the Environmental Defense Fund’s Colorado River Program, writes that the Bureau of Reclamation “recently issued its annual projections for water levels at Lake Mead for the next two years.” The report “shows the tremendous progress that has been made on water conservation in the region and the Tucson Basin.” Moran argues that “we should use this brief reprieve to redouble our efforts to improve how we use, manage and share our limited supply of Colorado River water.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Monarchs In Western U.S. Risk Extinction, Scientists Say.

[Reuters](#) (9/7, Zuckerman) reports that “monarch butterflies west of the Rocky Mountains are teetering on the edge of extinction, with the number wintering in California down more than 90 percent from the 1980s, researchers said in a study published on Thursday.” The study, “published in the scientific journal Biological Conservation, was funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which is considering giving monarch butterflies Endangered Species Act protections.” Washington State University biologist Cheryl Schultz, the study’s lead author, said, “If the population continues to decline at that rate, we will lose migratory monarchs in the western United States over the next several decades.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (9/8, Fimrite) and the [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (9/7, Cary).

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Seeks Comments On State DNRC Plan.

The [Belgrade \(MT\) News](#) (9/7) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is “seeking public comment on the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation’s application to amend an incidental take permit to authorize additional incidental take on 81,416 acres of proposed Habitat Conservation Plan land.” The amendment would “change incidental take numbers for the threatened grizzly bear, Canada lynx, bull trout, and unlisted westslope cutthroat trout as a result of the additional proposed lands.”

County Residents Deal With Feds Over Pocket Gopher.

The [Nisqually Valley \(WA\) News](#) (9/7, Perednia) reports that “desperately trying to build their home faster, one Thurston County couple created their own habitat conservation plan to mitigate impacts to the Mazama pocket gopher instead of waiting for the county to create one.” Deborah and Steve McLain were “unable to obtain permits without mitigating the impact construction would have on the gopher.” In order to do so, the McLains “had to work directly with the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife (USFW) to create a mitigation plan.” Their plan was “approved last month and has entered into a 30-day public comment period.”

National Park Service

All Charleston Area National Park Sites Will Be Closed Starting September 8.

The [Charleston \(SC\) Moultrie News](#) (9/7) reports that “all Charleston area National Park Service sites will be closed starting Friday, September 8, 2017 because of the potential threat of Hurricane Irma.”

Irma Forces Evacuation Of Cumberland Island. The [Brunswick \(GA\) News](#) (9/7, Jackson) reports that Hurricane Irma forced the evacuation of more than 20 campers from Cumberland Island National Seashore on Wednesday. Jill Hamilton-Anderson, “chief of interpretation, education and visitor services for the national seashore, said the National Park Service had to cancel more than 100 reservations to the island for this weekend because of the storm.” According to the article, “no date has been set for when the seashore will re-open.”

Park Service Using Lasers To Remove Jefferson Memorial’s Grimy Coating.

[WTOP-FM](#) Washington (9/7, Moore) reports that the National Park Service is “testing a high-tech treatment using lasers to remove a grimy, black film that has plagued the Jefferson Memorial for years.” The NPS “contracted with a Chicago-based company to test its laser-ablation treatment on a portion of the monument in an attempt to remove the filthy-looking coating, known as biofilm.” Beginning next week, the Conservation of Sculpture and Objects Studio, Inc. will “perform a test of its laser-ablation treatment on about 1,000 square feet on the northeast side of the memorial.” According to the article, “the full test will take about four weeks, but the park service said the results should be immediately noticeable.”

Mesa Verde Faces \$65.7 Million In Backlogged Maintenance.

The [Pine River \(CO\) Times](#) (9/7, Mimiaga) reports that “a campaign by the Pew Charitable Trust to raise awareness of eroding infrastructure at national parks recently swung through Cortez.” Restore America’s Parks seeks “to address an estimated \$11.3 billion worth of deferred maintenance needs across 400 national park units, according to a Pew Charitable Trusts report.” The National Park Service, “citing aging facilities, increased visitation and unreliable funding, hasn’t kept pace with infrastructure repairs, campaign organizer Michael Dabbs said during an Aug. 18 meeting at the WildEdge Brewing Collective in downtown Cortez.”

Zion National Park Remains On Pace For Record Visitation.

The [AP](#) (9/7) reports that “new numbers show the stunning red rocks at Zion National Park are on pace to set another record for visits, as park managers consider a first-of-its-kind plan to require reservations.” According to the article, “the official July count shows 2.7 million visitors to the park.” Park officials are “developing a visitor management plan to address overcrowding, with drafts suggesting a reservation system could be implemented.”

Carlsbad Caverns Elevator Service To Be Suspended For Work.

The [AP](#) (9/7) reports that Carlsbad Caverns National Park officials “say elevators to take visitors into the park’s underground cavern will be unavailable for use from Sept. 11-29 while structural

work is being done." According to officials, "consulting engineers determined that structural steel beams need to be reinforced and anchoring clips replaced in the secondary elevators. Other work will include realignment of steel guide rails and replacement of one elevator's large control cable that travels up and down with the elevator."

Trails Reopen At White Sands After Cleanup From 2014 Crash.

The [AP](#) (9/7) reports that "two trails and other facilities at White Sands National Monument have reopened after being closed for three years for the cleanup of soil contaminated from the 2014 crash of an unmanned Air Force target jet." According to monument officials, "the Dune Life Nature and Playa trails and visitor facilities along Dunes Drive reopened Thursday."

National Park Service Confirms Weapon In Shooting Was An Air Pistol.

The [Harrison \(AR\) Daily Times](#) (9/7) reports that National Park Service officials have "confirmed that the Branson, Missouri, man shot and killed by a park ranger in August had an air pistol that looked like a real firearm." According to a statement released Thursday, rangers were "confronted by a white male, later identified as Jonathan Bolger, 34, of Branson, Missouri." The statement said, "The preliminary investigation has revealed that Bolger was armed with a Umarex XCP air pistol, which resembles a two-toned semi-automatic handgun, and does not have an orange tip to identify it as an air pistol."

Cape Hatteras National Seashore Open To Privately Run Businesses.

The [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (9/7, Hampton) reports that entrepreneurs are "taking advantage of the 'commercial use authorization' offered for decades at Cape Hatteras National Seashore." The park "allows private money-making operations within the 67 miles of beaches from Ocracoke to Bodie Island, including kayak excursions, off-road driving trips, photography classes, kite-boarding lessons and interpretive nature and history hikes." According to Sarah Merrill, management analyst for the park, "the park has 20 business ventures functioning, the average for recent years."

Park Service Plans Deer Kill.

The [Gettysburg \(PA\) Times](#) (9/8) reports that "from October 2017 through March 2018, the National Park Service (NPS) will continue managing white-tailed deer at Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site." The sites are "reducing the number of deer in the parks directly by shooting. All venison will once again be donated to Gettysburg area food banks." Bill Justice, acting superintendent, Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site, said, "We continue to manage the deer population at Gettysburg and Eisenhower parks to bring the deer density numbers to a level where we can preserve and protect historic woodlots and farm fields."

Fees At 2 Marin Headlands Campgrounds May Rise.

[KPIX-TV](#) San Francisco (9/7) reports that the National Park Service is "proposing overnight camping and day use fee increases at two campgrounds in the Marin Headlands in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area." According to the article, "fees at the Kirby Cove campground would increase from \$25 to \$30 per night, and day use fees at Kirby Cove would increase from \$35 to \$45 per day."

Additional Coverage: Fast Thinking Businessman Files Claim On NC's New Island.

Additional coverage that a Virginia businessman has filed a Quit Claim Deed to North Carolina's newly formed Shelly Island was provided by the [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (9/7, Price).

Office Of Insular Affairs

Trump, Pence, Long Tout Government Preparations For Irma.

The [Washington Times](#) (9/7, Boyer) reports President Trump said Thursday that emergency officials are ready for Hurricane Irma's expected impact on Florida. "Florida is as well-prepared as you can be for something like this," Trump told reporters at the White House. "Now it is just a question of what happens. We are with everybody in Florida. We are working very hard." [Politico](#) (9/7, Conway) reports Trump also said he is "very concerned" about Hurricane Irma, but "the people of Florida, like the people of Texas, Louisiana, you're seeing how the people of our country

have reacted under this tremendous pressure.”

Vice President Pence similarly said in an interview with [WTVJ-TV](#) (9/7, 5:07 p.m. EDT), “I can assure all of your viewers that, at President Trump’s direction, we’re bringing the full resources of the United States to support all of the efforts of state and local officials as you prepare for Hurricane Irma.” Asked if the federal government is prepared to help South Florida, Pence said, “Rest assured the federal government has been making diligent preparations. ... If I had one message to your viewers it’s take this storm seriously. ... We just urge every one of your viewers, be confident that your state, local, and federal officials are making every necessary preparation, but take the warnings of your state and local officials seriously and please put your safety and the safety of your family first.”

FEMA Director Long said on [Fox News’ Fox & Friends](#) (9/7), “The states of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina all need to be monitoring this closely. We are already in good communication with all of those states and working with them to be prepared.” Long added, “I do know that the President has been in clear communication with Gov. Scott and other governors. ... Just like we had in Harvey, the President stands ready to support disaster declaration requests and communication lines are open and he has given me the authority I need to move forward.”

Florida Gov. Rick Scott said on [Fox News’ Hannity](#) (9/7), “I have spoken to the President multiple times over the weekend and this week. I’ve spoken to the Vice President. ... The President says he really cares about this state. I know he does. I appreciate everybody’s help. ... I am appreciative of everything they are doing.”

Trump Approves South Carolina Disaster Declaration. [The Hill](#) (9/7, Manchester) reports President Trump approved South Carolina’s request to declare a state of emergency in the state on Thursday, as Hurricane Irma approaches the East Coast. Earlier this week, Trump declared a “pre-landfall emergency” for Florida, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands. Trump’s approval of the declaration allows DHS and FEMA to begin coordinating disaster relief efforts. Gov. Henry McMaster (R) “said a mandatory evacuation order will go into effect on Saturday morning, but has encouraged people to evacuate early.”

According to the [Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (9/7), the “latest projected track of Hurricane Irma has the powerful storm shifting to the west, with the center of the storm moving from Florida into Georgia, not South Carolina.” The State cautions that “while still too soon to predict with certainty, the latest track would spare South Carolina some of the highest winds and rain from the storm.”

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/7, lead story, 2:25, Glor), chief weather forecaster Lonnie Quinn likewise said, “The new information pushes things a little bit more to the west.” It now could continue “in some way, shape, or form right up the spine of Florida, up the East Coast, still maintaining its hurricane strength as it makes its way into Georgia sometime on Monday.”

Trump Issues US Virgin Islands Disaster Declaration. The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/7, Quinn) reports the White House said President Trump on Thursday approved a US Virgin Islands disaster declaration, which makes the territory eligible to receive federal aid as it recovers from Hurricane Irma damage.

FEMA Readies Relief Supplies For South Florida. The [Miami Herald](#) (9/7, Ostroff) reports FEMA said Thursday that it has readied “millions of supplies in Alabama to distribute in a disaster-relief mission” once Hurricane Irma has passed. FEMA has prepared “nearly 3 million gallons of water and 7.5 million meals, as well as medical supplies, infant care kits, cots, blankets, generators and tarps,” according to the agency. Most supplies are being stored at Maxwell Air Force Base in Montgomery, Alabama, but “more than 500,000 meals and 264,000 gallons of water are also being stored in Selma, Alabama.” In addition, two emergency response teams are positioned in Tallahassee and one is in South Carolina, while “liaisons are also in North Carolina and throughout Florida and Georgia areas in Irma’s path.”

Irma To Test New Building Codes Put In Place After Andrew. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/7, Campo-Flores, McWhirter, Grant) reports that after Hurricane Andrew devastated parts of Florida 25 years ago, local and state officials responded by creating some of the strictest building codes in the country. The Journal says Hurricane Irma will pose the toughest test yet of those new codes.

Georgia Taps New Head Of Emergency Management. The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/7, story 6, 1:05, Glor) reported Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal is “taking no chances, ordering a mandatory evacuation for Savannah, as well as other coastal areas,” starting Saturday. The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (9/7, Taylor) reports Deal’s “overhauled storm response strategy — and his new head of the state’s emergency management agency — face what could be their most significant

weather-related challenge yet as Hurricane Irma barrels toward the Atlantic coast." The Category 5 storm "will be the biggest weather threat since Homer Bryson, a former corrections commissioner, was tapped to lead the state's emergency management agency." The storm will also "test Deal's weather response plan — and his better-safe-than-sorry mantra — in new ways." On Thursday, Deal ordered the mandatory evacuation of "much of coastal Georgia, activated 5,000 members of the Georgia National Guard," and declared a state of emergency in 30 counties.

Zakaria: Americans Should Stop Fearing More Government. In a [Washington Post](#) (9/7) column, Fareed Zakaria writes that the United States needs to stop being "wary of too much government" and embrace greater intervention, as highlighted by federal assistance needed after recent natural disasters. Zakaria concludes, "We need government to be more than a passive observer of these trends and forces. It needs to actively shape and manage them. ... I imagine that this week, most people in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico would be delighted to hear the words 'I'm from the government, and I'm here to help.'"

USA Today: Government Should Make Flood Insurance Reflect Actual Risk. In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (9/7) writes that the National Flood Insurance Program – the government-run insurance fund for homeowners in flood-prone areas – is "costly and counterproductive" and "is certain to take a massive loss this year" after Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. USA Today argues that taxpayers "can't simply absorb ever increasing tabs for flood losses" due aid packages following low flood insurance payouts and that government should create more accurately-priced premiums that encourage people to build their homes in safe places by making flood insurance reflect actual risk.

In a responding [USA Today](#) (9/7, Brown) op-ed, National Association of Realtors President William E. Brown writes that although National Flood Insurance Program premiums "should accurately reflect a property's specific risk of flood," these premiums should not increase dramatically on homeowners who purchased properties not knowing the true risk. Instead, rates "should phase in gradually over time so homeowners have the opportunity to consider their options before reaching a 'full risk' rate."

Irma Causes Widespread Destruction In Caribbean.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/7, Achenbach, Berman, Alvarado) reports Hurricane Irma is "battering Caribbean islands, causing widespread destruction, as it barrels toward" the US mainland. Several islands "pummeled" by Irma on Wednesday "began to grapple with the monster storm's toll on Thursday." The storm is now "grinding onward toward the Bahamas with winds hitting 180 mph and higher gusts registered," according to the National Hurricane Center. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/7, lead story, 3:25, Muir) reported Irma left a "deadly and devastating path across the Caribbean." On the island of Barbuda, "nearly every building and home damaged or destroyed." In the Virgin Islands, Coast Guard teams "have been flying in and out...rescuing people."

In a second segment, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/7, story 3, 1:20, Muir) spoke with Gaston Browne, Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, who said, "I never contemplated that we could have such damage. I mean, the Barbuda landscape is just totally decimated. Ninety percent or more of the buildings were damaged. It literally destroyed the country."

The [New York Times](#) (9/7, Times) reports that the death toll in the Caribbean was "at least seven on Thursday afternoon, and the authorities warned that the number could rise as communications improved." French Prime Minister Édouard Philippe said that four people were confirmed dead on St. Martin, "lowering a previous toll of eight deaths given by local rescue officials." A St. Martin official said on Wednesday night that "95 percent of the island is destroyed." The [AP](#) (9/7, Abiu, Coto) reports that French, British and Dutch rescuers "rushed aid to a heavily damaged string of Caribbean islands Thursday." Warships and military planes carrying food, water, and troops were dispatched to the region.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/7, story 2, 1:30, Glor) reported that in Puerto Rico, "Irma left thousands homeless and most of the island in the dark." [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/7, story 4, 2:10, Holt) reported from San Juan that Puerto Rico "was spared a direct hit, but raging winds tore down power lines" and "almost a million people are still without power."

Hurricanes Jose And Katia Could Hit Land This Weekend. The [Washington Post](#) (9/7, Samenow, McNoldy) reports that two other "menacing" hurricanes, Jose and Katia, are swirling in the Atlantic Ocean basin and are "forecast to strengthen and impact land areas late Friday into the weekend." Hurricane Jose "could hit some of the same small islands in the northern Lesser Antilles decimated by Irma," but the storm's exact track is "still somewhat in question."

Meanwhile, Hurricane Katia is "forecast to track westward toward Mexico and make landfall as a hurricane on Friday night in the state of Veracruz." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/7, story 7, 1:55, Muir) also reported Jose is "likely to impact some of the islands that were devastated by Irma. The last time this situation happened was back in 2010."

Irma Hits Trump's Vacation Home On St. Martin. The [Fox News](#) (9/7) website reports that "one of the casualties" of Hurricane Irma has been President Trump's vacation home, Le Chateau des Palmiers, on the island of St. Martin. The extent of the damage "is not known."

Trump: I'd "Prefer Not Going" Military Route With North Korea, But It "Could Happen."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/7, story 7, 2:15, Holt) reported as the White House is "bracing for the possibility of another missile test by North Korea," President Trump is "again leaving open the option of military force against Kim Jong-Un, saying if he did, and he hopes he doesn't have to, it would be what he called a very sad day for North Korea." Bret Baier reported on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/7) that President Trump on Thursday said war with North Korea is not inevitable. Trump was shown saying, "I would prefer not going the route of the military, but it's something certainly that could happen."

[USA Today](#) (9/7, Jackson, Przybyla) reports that during a joint news conference with the emir of Kuwait, Trump "refused to say whether he would demand that North Korea give up all its nuclear weapons, saying he did not want to reveal his negotiation strategy." Said the President, "I can tell you that North Korea is behaving badly and it's got to stop." The [Washington Post](#) (9/7, Gearan) says Trump also "cast doubt that further negotiations could work," saying that US presidents have been "talking and talking and talking" to North Korea for 25 years while North Korea has been developing its nuclear capability.

[Roll Call](#) (9/7, Bennett) reports Trump warned North Korea by saying the US military "has never been stronger," but notes that "as a candidate he said it was a force weakened by unwise wars as well as budgetary neglect by the Obama administration and Congress." [Politico](#) (9/7, Nelson) reports that he "boasted of the uptick in military spending since his inauguration," telling reporters that "each day, new equipment is delivered, new and beautiful equipment, the best in the world, the best anywhere in the world by far."

State Dept.: "Pressure Campaign" Against North Korea Working. The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/7, Kasperowicz) reports that the State Department said Thursday that the international campaign to pressure North Korea to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile program "is working." Spokeswoman Heather Nauert said it's a "legitimate question" to ask if the international campaign is working, and responded, "Yes, I can say that the pressure campaign is working." She added, "Now, when you see a test that took place on Sunday, you may think, 'Goodness, that is not working.' But that is not the case, and here's why. It can take a long, long time for sanctions to work. It can take a long time for a pressure campaign to work. It is not an overnight thing."

China Agrees UN Should Action Against North Korea For Nuclear Test. Greg Palkot said [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/7) there are reports that Kim Jong-un's assets "could be frozen by new US-backed UN sanctions," while "oil imports, textile exports, and North Korean foreign workers could be cut." Russia is "rejecting" the measures, and China is "dragging its feet," although it "agrees the UN Security Council should take further action." China, [Reuters](#) (9/7, Shepherd, Golubkova) reports, agreed Thursday that the UN "should take more action against North Korea after its latest nuclear test, while also pushing for dialogue to help resolve the standoff." The [Washington Post](#) (9/7, Rauhala) says the comments by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi "suggested possible room for cooperation over US-drafted plans to increase pressures on North Korea after its nuclear test earlier this week."

UN Report: Sanctions Being Subverted By Member States. A draft UN report obtained by the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/7, Talley) says member countries are helping North Korea evade international sanctions, including through prohibited trade in arms and commodities and financing. The Journal quotes the UN report as saying, "Despite an increased rate of member states' submission of national implementation reports to the Security Council, the actual implementation of the sanctions lags far behind what is necessary to achieve the core goal of denuclearization."

South Korea: North Korea Could Another Conduct ICBM Test Soon. The [New York Times](#) (9/7, Sanger) reports that South Korean Prime Minister Lee Nak-yon "is saying publicly what American officials will not: In the next few days, intelligence reports predict, North Korea will launch another intercontinental ballistic missile." At the White House and the Pentagon, however, US officials are "scrambling to decide how the United States should react, particularly if the North

Koreans demonstrate without doubt that they can reach" Guam, or "even a distance equivalent to striking the West Coast of the United States."

Experts: North Korea Nearing Its Nuclear Goal. The [AP](#) (9/7, Talmadge) reports North Korea's latest nuclear test was "part theater, part propaganda and maybe even part fake. But experts say it was also a major display of something very real: Pyongyang's mastery of much of the know-how it needs to reach its goal of becoming a full-fledged nuclear state." However, it remains unclear whether North Korea tested, as it claims, a hydrogen bomb ready to be mounted on an ICBM.

North Korea Threatens Electromagnetic Pulse Attack For First Time. [Breitbart](#) (9/7, Nazarian) reports that North Korea, "for the first time, threatened to wage an EMP (electromagnetic pulse) attack" against the US. Shortly after North Korea launched its latest nuclear test using a hydrogen bomb, its state-run Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) claimed the weapon "is a multi-functional thermonuclear nuke with great destructive power which can be detonated even at high altitudes for super-powerful EMP (electromagnetic pulse) attack according to strategic goals." Breitbart warns that "such an attack has the potential to cause catastrophic damage to North America, Canada, the West, and many of its neighbors."

Analysts: South Korea's Moon "Sandwiched" By North's Threat. The [Washington Post](#) (9/7, Lee) reports South Korean President Moon Jae-in took office earlier this year "with a pledge to foster warmer ties with North Korea. But the North Korean nuclear threat has rapidly escalated in the months since his election," leaving him "sandwiched" between "his supporters' expectations and the realities of dealing with an increasingly volatile regime, analysts say."

Dennis Rodman Wants To "Straighten Things Out" With Friend Kim Jong-Un. The [Washington Times](#) (9/7, Blake) reports former NBA star Dennis Rodman said in an interview Wednesday with "Good Morning Britain" that he'd like to "straighten things out" with his friend, North Korea leader Kim Jong-Un. Rodman said, "I just want to try to straighten things out for everyone to get along together." Rodman, who was also a contestant on President Trump's reality television show, "The Apprentice," added, "I think if the president even tries to reach out for Kim, I think it will be a great possibility. Things can happen if Donald Trump, if they sit down, and have some type of mutual conversation."

US Geological Survey

The World's Parasites Are Going Extinct.

Here's Why That's A Bad Thing. The [Smithsonian](#) (9/7, Panko) reports that "in a study published this week in the journal Science Advances, researchers warn that climate change could drive up to one-third of Earth's parasite species to extinction by the year 2070." The article says "that kind of mass die-off could spell ecological disaster." Kevin Lafferty, "an ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey who has extensively studied parasites and biodiversity, says the study raises important questions about our attitudes toward parasites as they face increasing risks of being wiped out." Lafferty said, "The field of conservation biology has moved to view species neutrally when considering the need for protection, and this view requires that parasites be protected alongside their hosts."

USGS Digs Trench On Teton Range Mountain To Study Fault Line.

[KIFI-TV](#) Idaho Falls, ID (9/7, Keleher) reports that "researchers came to Teton Village hoping to study the Teton fault line." Chris DuRoss, USGS Research Geologist, said, "What we're hoping to find here is a history of earthquakes over the past, say, 10,000 years. We're really interested in how many earthquakes have occurred in that period and how large they were. And that information together gets used to estimate the hazard from this fault."

At Least Two Die In Mexico Quake; Small Tsunami Triggered.

[Reuters](#) (9/8) reports that "an earthquake of magnitude 8.1 struck off the southern coast of Mexico late on Thursday, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) said, killing at least two people, triggering small tsunami waves and damaging some buildings." [CNN](#) (9/8, Berlinger, Castillo) reports that "the quake, which was felt as far as Mexico City and Guatemala City, struck 74 miles (120 kilometers) off the Pacific Coast at 12:49 a.m. ET Friday." The epicenter was "southwest of Tres Picos, Mexico, which is 600 miles (1,000 kilometers) southeast of Mexico City."

USGS: Earthquakes Pepper Pecos, Snyder Areas.

The [Midland \(TX\) Reporter-Telegram](#) (9/7) reports that “there have been a total of six earthquakes in the last 10 days near Snyder and Pecos, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.”

Top National News

Senate Approves Hurricane Relief Funds, Raises Debt Ceiling.

The Senate yesterday voted 80-17 to approve a bill providing \$15.25 billion in hurricane relief, raising the federal debt ceiling and funding the government through December 8. The [AP](#) (9/7, Taylor) reports the House is expected to “easily pass” the measure on Friday, and [Bloomberg News](#) (9/7, Litvan, Wasson) that “even small-government Republicans in opposition predict it will pass because of the urgent need for storm funds.” The Senate vote received just 35 seconds of combined coverage on the major network newscasts, and ABC World News failed to mention it altogether. The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/7, story 7, 0:20, Mason) reported that “the Senate overwhelmingly approved” the aid package, and [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/7, story 6, 0:15, Holt) that the measure stems from “a surprise deal that the President cut with the Democrats.”

The [AP](#) (9/7, Taylor) reports “the aid money comes as Harvey recovery efforts are draining federal disaster aid coffers and Irma is taking aim at Florida,” and is “just the first installment on a recovery and rebuilding package for the twin hurricanes that could eclipse the more than \$110 billion cost to taxpayers of Hurricane Katrina.” In a “surprise move late Wednesday,” Senate Majority Leader McConnell “added \$7.4 billion in rebuilding funding to Trump’s \$7.9 billion request.” The aid package is “crafted in such a way to free up another \$7 billion in Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster relief funds.”

The [New York Times](#) (9/7, Kaplan) notes that the bill would also “extend the National Flood Insurance Program, which is to expire on Sept. 30,” and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/7, Mascaro) that the vote came “days before the Federal Emergency Management Agency was expected to run out of money.” According to [Politico](#) (9/7, Ferris), FEMA’s “disaster money” was “expected to run out as soon as Friday, and no later than Tuesday.”

The [Washington Times](#) (9/7, Dinan) calls the Senate vote the “first test of Mr. Trump’s willingness to undercut his own Republicans and work instead with Democrats on Capitol Hill.” The Times notes “all 17 ‘No’ votes came from Republicans who disliked the terms of the deal.” Among them, notes [The Hill](#) (9/7, Carney), were Sens. Lindsey Graham, John McCain and Rand Paul. Sen. Ted Cruz, “whose state was hit hard by Hurricane Harvey, supported the measure.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/7, Peterson) quotes Cruz as saying, “I think it was a mistake to tie it to the debt ceiling, but I’m grateful that we have the first step in significant federal relief for the devastation wrought by Hurricane Harvey.” [USA Today](#) (9/7, Gaudiano) also reports “some Republicans balked at the package, with Sen. Ben Sasse of Nebraska calling it Schumer’s ‘art of the steal.’”

The [Washington Post](#) (9/7, Snell) reports McConnell “praised that agreement Thursday morning despite broad GOP concerns that Trump caved to Democrats on the their request that any deadline for extending the federal borrowing limit line up with a short-term spending package.” McConnell said on the Senate floor, “It will provide certainty and stability for first responder, state officials and the many others involved in preparing for and recovering from these storms with critically needed emergency funds that will not be interrupted by the prospect of a shutdown or default. ... Let’s work together and act on this legislation very quickly.” The [AP](#) (9/7, Taylor) reports “GOP leaders are fuming, but Ryan backed the idea on Thursday, telling reporters that the president didn’t want to have ‘some partisan fight in the middle of the response.’” In an interview with the [New York Times](#) (9/7, Rappeport), however, Ryan also said yesterday that “he continued to believe that short-term debt limit extensions were not a good idea.” Said Ryan, “I personally believe, for the credit markets’ sake, we should have longer extensions of these.”

Michael Crowley of Politico said on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (9/7), “This poisons the well going forward. Republicans in Congress are never going to know when Trump might sell them out, when he might tell them one thing on Monday and doing something else Tuesday.” Under the headline “Trump’s Dealmaking Makes Him Look Unreliable To His Own Party,” [Politico](#) (9/7, Johnson, Everett, Caygle) reports “the president has made clear he has little interest in leading the Republican party – whether that means acting to defend its majorities or serving as its ideological ballast.” In fact, “Trump tends to govern more by sentiment than by substance, and he likes Schumer and Pelosi more than...Ryan and...McConnell, who have stomached him but never done a good job disguising the fact that he makes them nauseous.”

Laura Ingraham, however, said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/7), "Where were [Republicans] for the last seven weeks? ... They kept telling...Trump for several months that 'don't worry, this is a complex process,' 'Obamacare repeal, but we've got it.' Then they said we almost have it on the skinny repeal. It's not as good, but it's going to be pretty good. McCain comes in and blows it up. Time after time after time...Trump trusted what was going on on Capitol Hill and they could not deliver a piece of legislation to his desk that actually could be signed. It wasn't possible. What does someone who is a conservative populist do when he wants to move the ball down the field, he's going to find another player to throw to. ... The Republicans have no one to blame but themselves."

The [Washington Times](#) (9/7, Dinan) reports, meanwhile, that "Democrats heaped praise on...Trump Thursday." The [New York Times](#) (9/7, Kaplan) notes Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer "continued to revel in the sudden deal with the president, describing the agreement as a 'ray of hope for both parties' and talking up the virtues of bipartisanship." Said Schumer, "This agreement is a reminder that we don't always have to wait until the 11th hour – risking shutdown, risking default – in order to compromise and do the right thing." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/7, Mascaro), meanwhile, quotes House Minority Leader Pelosi as saying, "Let's hope this is a sign of something to come. ... What I do know is that the world we live in is a giant kaleidoscope. ... Everybody you work with is a resource to you, or can be."

"Super Upbeat" Trump Calls Schumer And Pelosi, Dines With Ryan. [Politico](#) (9/7, Dawsey) reports that "in calls with...Schumer and...Pelosi Thursday morning, Trump raved about the positive news coverage it had received, according to people familiar with the calls, and he seemed very pleased with his decision." According to "one person familiar with the calls," Trump "seemed super upbeat." Politico adds that "another person familiar with the calls said Trump told Pelosi her coverage was even better than his." Moreover, "several White House aides said Trump seemed to be in a good mood Thursday morning, and was planning to have dinner Thursday night with...Ryan." Press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders "confirmed the calls with the Democratic leaders but declined to confirm the tweet or the contents."

Mulvaney Defends Deal, Says Both He And Trump Annoyed At GOP Leaders. [Politico](#) (9/7, Conway) reports that in an [interview](#) with Neil Cavuto on the Fox Business Network, OMB Director Mulvaney "said Thursday that the president is probably annoyed with members of the Republican leadership." Said Mulvaney, "Is he annoyed at Republican leadership? Yeah, I think he probably is. ... And believe me, as a Republican, so am I. ... As a citizen, I am too. I was promised that they would have repealed and replaced Obamacare by now." Mulvaney went on to defend the deal, "All we simply did is move this out of the way for now so that we could run the government during these very critical times. ... I don't think we ever had two major hurricanes hit the country in the same week. So there's other priorities right now. Moving it off to December is not burning any bridges, it's not meeting the swamp, it's simply looking at the realities of the day."

House Conservatives Blaming GOP Leaders, Not Trump, For Deal. [The Hill](#) (9/7, Elis) reports "conservatives are blasting the fiscal deal brokered by...Trump and Democratic leaders, but are blaming GOP leaders in Congress more than the White House." RSC Chairman Mark Walker wrote in a letter to Ryan, "While some have advocated for a 'clean' debt limit increase, this would simply increase the borrowing authority of the government while irresponsibly ignoring the urgency of reforms." The Hill notes "Walker's missive didn't mention Trump," and adds that "in a phone call following the deal's announcement, Tea Party Patriots co-founder Jenny Beth Martin said the deal was 'a fool's play, a trap, and Republicans should reject it out of hand.'"

To the [Washington Post](#) (9/7, Debonis), meanwhile, "on Wednesday...Trump sent the hard right a new message: Your enemy's enemy is not necessarily your friend." The deal "set the stage for a grand negotiation later this year that will hand leverage to the minority and frustrate the majority's governing ambitions," and "if history is any guide, that likely includes any hopes conservatives had for ambitious spending cutbacks and a thorough recalibration of the federal government's size and scope." While "outwardly, key conservative leaders blamed Ryan...and McConnell...for the concessions...others openly wrestled with the reality that Trump...would ultimately prove to be an unreliable partner."

Rep. Ted Deutch, meanwhile, said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/7), "There is no question that Congress must – this isn't a question of whether or not Congress will – Congress must ensure that FEMA has the resources to be able to continue to help the people of Texas whose lives were devastated by the storm there last week, but this is a large, dangerous storm with high winds and high surge that's coming up potentially right through Florida. Six million people at risk in south Florida alone, 20 million people throughout the state. I know that FEMA has food and

water and generators ready to come into the state...but they need to be funded and Congress needs to do that right now. We can't leave the people of Florida to wonder whether or not FEMA's going to be there for them. They have to be there for them."

Cole Defends Deal. Rep. Tom Cole said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (9/7), "I'm sort of thrilled. This is what I've been arguing for. I think the President made the right decision. I think getting the three months buys you the time to deal with the natural disasters we have bearing down on us right now. I think it also gives you the time to negotiate a larger appropriations deal. ... I think the President was wise to clear the decks. ... Again, count me as pleased with what the President did, and I think he's positioned us well as a party and frankly, has positioned the country well to come to a larger deal in November and December that will give us stability for a long stretch of time."

Democratic Leaders Working To Address Caucus "Discontent" About Deal. In a story mostly devoted to House conservative anger over the spending deal, [Politico](#) (9/7, Cheney, Caygle) also reports that "Democrats began grappling Thursday with the reality that they're likely going to be asked to provide the bulk of votes to support" it, and that "discontent simmered in their ranks as well." Politico adds that "some voiced frustration that their leaders may have bargained away leverage to protect" so-called Dreamers. In fact, "House Democrats from various Democratic caucuses – including representatives from the Hispanic, progressive, Asian-American, black and LGBT groups – met secretly Wednesday night to vent about the deal Democratic leaders cut with Trump." At any rate, "Democratic aides...have not done a formal whip count," and "say it's unclear how many members will actually vote against the bill."

Another [Politico](#) (9/7, Caygle, Kim, Schor) piece refers to "Democratic leaders...facing increased furor within their own ranks," as "a growing coalition of liberals and immigration advocates feel burned that the agreement did nothing to rescue nearly 800,000 Dreamers after Trump's decision this week to cancel protections for them after six months." Schumer and Senate Minority Whip Dick Durbin "popped in to the House Democratic whips' meeting – a rare move – to talk up the fiscal deal."

Robinson Refers To Trump's "Betrayal" Of GOP Leaders, Klain Says Democrats "Suckered Trump." In a column titled "Trump's Betrayal Of The Republican Leaders Should Surprise No One," Eugene Robinson writes in the [Washington Post](#) (9/7), "Does it really surprise anyone that President Trump betrayed the Republican leaders who have been trying their best to carry water for him on Capitol Hill...and is playing footsie with their Democratic rivals? It shouldn't. ... I just hope Schumer and Pelosi know not to trust him the way Ryan and McConnell did."

Ron Klain, also in the [Washington Post](#) (9/7), titles his article "Schumer And Pelosi Just Totally Suckered Trump," and argues that "in creating a mechanism to require Trump to repeatedly seek Democratic support for must-pass legislation, Schumer and Pelosi have gotten themselves previously unimaginable future leverage. That's legislative genius, even without a genie."

NYTimes Analysis: Cooperation Between Trump, Democrats Unlikely To Last. A [New York Times](#) (9/7, Baker, Stolberg) analysis says there are "reasons to doubt whether Democrats would sustain a partnership with Mr. Trump beyond the deal they have cut to keep the government open for three months and paying its debts. The centrifugal forces of partisanship tug from the left as well as the right, and the liberal base has put pressure on Democratic lawmakers not to meet in the middle a president it loathes."

WPost: Bipartisan Deal "Encouraging." The [Washington Post](#) (9/7) writes in an editorial that while the deal "is hardly an ideal solution...the president's decision to reach out to Democrats to ensure against a disastrous default on the nation's debts is encouraging, both as a matter of responsible governing and for its bipartisan character." The Post concludes that "even better would be a serious bipartisan effort to come to grips with the nation's long and deep fiscal disorder, including a long-term solution for the debt ceiling and passage of a responsible 2018 budget. Too much to hope for? Probably. But for now, at least, the worst has been avoided."

Amid Trump Outreach, RNC Ad Slams Pelosi And Schumer. [CBS News](#) (9/7, Watson) reported on its website that a new RNC ad "for...Trump assails...Schumer and...Pelosi as 'career politicians' who are 'trying to stop him,' a day after Mr. Trump snubbed his own party to cut a deal with those same Democrats on the debt ceiling."

Trump-Schumer "Gentlemen's Agreement" Will Seek To End Debt Ceiling Votes.

Citing "three people familiar with the decision," the [Washington Post](#) (9/7, Paletta, Parker) is reporting that the President and Senate Minority Leader Schumer "have agreed to pursue a deal that would permanently remove the requirement that Congress repeatedly raise the debt ceiling."

The Post adds that "one of the people familiar described it as a 'gentlemen's agreement,'" and that "the two, along with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi...agreed to work together over the next several months to try to finalize a plan, which would need to be approved by Congress." The Post also reports that "another person familiar with the meeting said Vice President Pence is open to changes he considers in line with the 'Gephardt Rule,'" which makes it "easier to tie raising the debt ceiling with Congress passing a budget."

[Reuters](#) (9/7) reports that White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders was asked about the possibility of such a deal, and said, "The president encouraged congressional leaders to find a more permanent solution to the debt ceiling so the vote is not so frequently politicized." Trump also addressed the topic yesterday. [Roll Call](#) (9/7, Lesniewski) reports Trump "signaled...he could support terminating the debt limit, a radical departure from Republican orthodoxy." Said the President, "For many years people have been talking about getting rid of the debt ceiling altogether and there are a lot of good reasons to do that. ... So certainly that is something that could be discussed. We even discussed it at the meeting we had yesterday." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/7, Peterson, Radnofsky) runs a similar report under the headline "Trump, Democrats Weigh Eliminating Need For Debt-Limit Votes."

To the [Washington Times](#) (9/7, Dinan), the potential deal is "part of a new detente Mr. Trump has struck with Democrats, who appear to have found a willing partner in a president still trying to gain his footing when dealing with Congress." Pelosi, says [Politico](#) (9/7, Dawsey, Everett), "appeared interested in the deal but was noncommittal." She "confirmed the conversation in a new conference on Thursday," saying, "The president even said, 'Has anybody thought about eliminating this vote?' ... We said, 'We'll take it back to our caucus.'"

[Roll Call](#) (9/7, Lesniewski) notes, however, that Speaker Ryan "may not be on board with such an effort." Ryan said yesterday, "I won't get into our private conversation that we had, but I think there's a legitimate role in the power of the purse and Article One powers and that's something that we defend here in Congress."

In an analysis piece, the [Washington Post](#) (9/7, Paletta) sees "a remarkable political evolution for Trump, who has long cheered weaponizing the debt ceiling, no matter the cost." In 2013, for example, he tweeted, "I cannot believe the Republicans are extending the debt ceiling – I am a Republican & I am embarrassed!" The Post adds that an agreement "could mark the end of Congress' greatest political weapon – a legislative hand grenade that has never exploded but unnerved financial markets for decades." Rory Cooper, "former top adviser to House GOP leadership, said Trump's reversal on the issue should come as no surprise, even if it insults the Republican leadership." Said Cooper, "There's definitely support on the Hill on the Democratic side and even among some Republicans for doing away with debt-limit votes altogether."

Graham, Cassidy To Introduce Revised Version Of ACA Replacement.

[Bloomberg News](#) (9/7, Litvan, Dennis) reports that Sens. Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy "said Thursday they will introduce a revised version of their proposal to replace Obamacare." The proposal "would send federal money to the states in block grants while repealing Obamacare's mandates that all Americans have insurance and most employers provide it." Cassidy said in an interview that President Trump "is supportive of the plan" and Majority Leader McConnell "has promised a vote in September if the senators can line up 50 of their colleagues to back the measure." However, the AP adds that the "longshot move" faces "significant obstacles, including Senator John McCain's insistence that any health-care plan go through 'regular order' of committee hearings and debate on amendments." Sen. Dean Heller is joining Graham and Cassidy in introducing the measure.

[USA Today](#) (9/7, Collins, Berry) calls the measure "a last-ditch effort to pass legislation" as senators "are running short on time because the budget procedure they would use to pass the legislation with a simple majority will expire at the end of the month." [Reuters](#) (9/7, Morgan) says Cassidy "told reporters he was optimistic the legislation could pass before a Sept. 30 deadline, if it can attract the bare minimum of 50 votes needed to succeed in the Republican-led Senate with tie-breaking support from Vice President Mike Pence." The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/7, King) says it is "unclear if Cassidy and Graham have enough support for the bill."

Meanwhile, [Politico](#) (9/7, Everett) reports that Senate Republicans "are throwing cold water on the idea of holding another" vote to repeal the ACA before the end of September. They say this would be nearly impossible, even though President Trump and some Republicans are urging a vote on the Graham-Cassidy plan. Politico says the proposal is still incomplete, "there is no Congressional Budget Office score, and some Republicans are working with Democrats on a bipartisan plan to shore up insurance markets." In addition, it remains unclear if such a bill would garner 50 votes, all of which "means the dream of repealing the law with all GOP votes is slipping

away, at least for now." However, [McClatchy](#) (9/7, Dumain) describes Graham as being "on a lonely crusade to repeal and replace Obamacare," but says he "disputed the notion he's on a fool's errand," saying, "Here's what would be crazy for a Republican: The promise of repealing and replacing Obamacare for seven years, throwing your up hands and saying, 'Sorry, we can't do it.' ... This idea has never been tried. It's the best idea to replace Obamacare. It's never been given a shot. You want to kill the Republican party?" he continued. "You want to have us divided forever? Walk away from the promise to repeal and replace Obamacare without taking your best shot."

Trump To Dreamers: "You Have Nothing To Worry About" For Next 6 Months.

The [AP](#) (9/7, Werner) reports House Minority Leader Pelosi urged President Trump Thursday "to tweet reassurances" to the so-called Dreamers, and the President "obliged, in the latest instance of Trump doing the bidding of leaders of the opposition." Trump [tweeted](#), "For all of those (DACA) that are concerned about your status during the 6 month period, you have nothing to worry about – No action!" Pelosi told reporters at her weekly news conference that Trump "has indicated his support and willingness to sign into law the Dream Act," but in response, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said only that Trump "is focused on responsible immigration reform and wants to work with both sides to achieve it."

[Politico](#) (9/7, McCaskill) says Trump "reassured" Dreamers, and the [Washington Times](#) (9/7, Dinan) says he "assured...Dreamers they remain safe for at least six more months."

The [New York Times](#) (9/7, Baker, Haberman) says Trump acted "at the request of...Pelosi," but "did not get the language of his tweet exactly as she wanted." Still the Times says it was "another sign of an effort by the president to work more closely with Democrats." However, [USA Today](#) (9/7, Estepa) says Sanders "did not confirm the reports about Pelosi's tweet request," but [Breitbart](#) (9/7, Spiering) says she did confirm "to White House reporters that Trump did speak with Pelosi," as well as Senate Minority Leader Schumer, Senate Majority Leader McConnell and House Speaker Ryan. "The President is committed to working across the aisle and doing what is needed to best serve the American people," Sanders continued. "The President is also having dinner with Speaker Ryan later tonight."

[Reuters](#) (9/7, Cornwell) reports Schumer said the President "said he wanted to help lawmakers pass legislation aimed at helping" Dreamers. Sen. Richard Durbin likewise said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (9/7), "I think the President can help us. We need his voice in support of a good approach, passing the DREAM Act, making sure that we do it in a bipartisan fashion."

The [Washington Times](#) (9/7, Dinan), meanwhile, reports Pelosi also said yesterday that the phaseout of DACA was part of a racist alt-right push for "purification of America."

Rep. Eric Swalwell said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (9/7), "I want to say that I believe that Donald Trump's wall and the premise for his well, yes, is racist. Having border security is a responsibility we have, but these Dreamers are a part of our country."

Bannon: Conservatives "Are Not Happy" With Trump's DACA Decision. [Politico](#) (9/7, Nelson) reports former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon "said he doesn't agree" with President Trump's decision to end the DACA program and "blasted" the Catholic Church's support for undocumented immigrants because "they need illegal aliens to fill the churches." In an excerpt of his upcoming interview with 60 Minutes aired on [CBS "This Morning,"](#) Bannon said, "I don't agree with that DACA decision, but I understand how he struggled with it. I understand how he's giving a possibility of a legislative thing." He added, "The Catholic Church has been terrible about this. ... Because [they're] unable to really — to come to grips with the problems in the church, they need illegal aliens. They need illegal aliens to fill the churches."

[Politico](#) (9/7, McCaskill) reports Cardinal Timothy Dolan calls Bannon's comments so "preposterous," "insulting" and "ridiculous" that it doesn't merit a response.

Mnuchin, Ryan Predict Tax Overhaul Will Pass By Year's End.

[Reuters](#) (9/7, Chiacu, Heavey) reports that a day after President Trump "reached a deal with Democrats to avert an unprecedented default on US government debt, keep the government funded at the outset of the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1 and provide aid to victims of Hurricane Harvey," Treasury Secretary Mnuchin and House Speaker Ryan "expressed confidence...that Congress will pass an overhaul of the US tax code by the end of this year." Reuters adds that the White House is hopeful that the deal Trump reached with Democrats "clears the decks for Congress to tackle the tax overhaul, a top Trump campaign promise."

Ryan told the [New York Times](#) (9/7, Rappeport) that "an outdated tax code was a drag on the economy and that the changes that Republicans are proposing would raise wages and

accelerate economic growth." However he said that "Trump's call for a 15 percent corporate tax rate was unrealistic and suggested that the president's math did not add up." Ryan added that "getting the corporate tax rate to the mid to low 20 percent range was more likely and would make American businesses more competitive." Said Ryan, "He obviously wants to push that as low as possible. ... At the end of the day we have to make these numbers work." The Times adds that after "months of meetings between Trump administration officials and Republican leaders in the House and Senate, fundamental differences remain" including "whether the eventual legislation will be 'deficit neutral' and whether they would support temporary tax cuts that add to the deficit as a last resort."

EPA Expected To Finalize Review Of Clean Power Plan This Fall.

[The Hill](#) (9/7, Henry) reports that in a court filing yesterday, the EPA said that "federal officials expect to finalize their review of the Obama administration's climate rule for power plants this fall." Earlier this year, President Trump ordered the agency "to review and consider repealing the Obama administration's Clean Power Plan, which sets carbon reduction targets for states to apply to their energy sectors." The agency "is widely expected to formally order the rule off the books at the end of its review." The filing said, "At this time, EPA expects that the administrator will sign the proposed rule in the fall of 2017."

Senate Appropriations Committee Approves \$10 Million For UN Climate Change Fund.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/7, Siegel) reports a "handful of Republicans" yesterday joined Democrats in a Senate Appropriations Committee vote "to give \$10 million to the United Nations' climate change agency, defying President Trump, who had proposed eliminating the funding." The committee, "by a vote of 16 to 14," approved "an amendment providing funding for the U.N.'s Framework Convention on Climate Change in a spending bill for the State Department." Sen. Jeff Merkley said, "[This] fits in with Secretary of State [Rex] Tillerson's desire that we both continue to monitor the changes in the world's climate and that we keep a seat at the table." Republican Sens. Lamar Alexander, Susan Collins and Lindsay Graham "joined all Democrat committee members except Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia in supporting the amendment." [E&E Publishing](#) (9/7) reports that during the "rollout" of the budget earlier this year, "White House Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney dismissed climate science spending as 'a waste of your money.'"

Nordhaus: "Impossible Environmentalism" Precludes Realistic Approaches To Climate Change.

In an op-ed in [USA Today](#), (9/7, Nordhaus) Ted Nordhaus, co-founder and executive director of the Breakthrough Institute, claims that some environmental groups "promote utopian fantasies" while utilizing tactics that preclude more pragmatic approaches to climate change, a strategy that he calls "impossible environmentalism." Nordhaus says "the targets vary but the tactics are the same: identify speculative or infinitesimally small health or environmental risks, exaggerate those risks wildly in the media, [and] ignore or downplay trade-offs and the far greater and more prosaic risks associated with present day production."

Lomborg: Costly Climate Change Measures Can Divert From More Meaningful Solutions.

In an op-ed in the [Wall Street Journal](#), (9/7, Lomborg) Bjorn Lomborg, president of the Copenhagen Consensus Center, urges people to maintain a sense of perspective on climate change, arguing that overreactions to every social and economic ill tenuously linked to climate change can divert resources from more practical solutions. For example, Lomborg cites the argument that rising temperatures caused by climate change has increased the places malaria-carrying mosquitoes can become endemic. Although the science in the argument is unambiguous, he says that reducing temperatures in line with Kyoto Protocol would cost \$180 billion while only saving 1,400 lives from malaria. Meanwhile, \$500 million spent in one year on measures like mosquito nets, sprays, and treatment could save up to 300,000 lives.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Why The Return Of Bigger Banks Means Bigger Risks For Everyone Else." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/8, Board) criticizes the Administration for having "made it clear" it favors

big financial institutions, “that Wall Street need have no real concern about Dodd-Frank’s provisions and that the lessons of the financial crisis will be ignored.” In particular, the Times blasts an upcoming Treasury Department report that is expected to recommend restricting the government’s ability to designate financial firms other than banks too big to fail. Such a move “would be blind to history,” as during the financial crisis “non-banks proved as unstable as banks.” The Times laments that “financial corporations are being given the nod to re-establish their unholy alliances,” spreading risk throughout the financial system. While the greater risk means greater potential returns for bank executives and traders, for everyone else it “means greater economic peril, including threatened destruction of jobs, pay, savings, home equity and career opportunity.”

“Myanmar Intensifies Its Abuse Of Rohingya.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/8) criticizes Myanmar for the resumption of “scorched-earth tactics against Muslim Rohingya.” The Times calls their “persecution...a colossal moral failure” by the nation’s government. In particular, the Times condemns Myanmar leader and Nobel Peace laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, especially “her ridiculous accusation last week that international aid groups were supporting the insurgency.”

“School Lunch Without Shame.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/8, Board) praises New York City’s public school system for making free lunch available to all its students, calling the move “an important national example.” The change will not only ensure more children get proper nutrition, but “relieve the sense of stigma and shame that often leads children to refuse subsidized meals.” The Times also condemns other school systems’ “barbaric policies under which children are openly humiliated when their parents cannot pay lunch bills” as “cruel, counterproductive and costly.” The Times urges schools that serve poor children to register for the federal Community Eligibility Provision to “increase reimbursement for meals...improve nutrition, eliminate stigma and cut administrative costs.”

Washington Post.

“Trump’s Deal With Democrats Saves Us From Disaster – But Not For Long.” The [Washington Post](#) (9/7) writes in an editorial that while the President’s deal with Democrat leaders “is hardly an ideal solution...the president’s decision to reach out to Democrats to ensure against a disastrous default on the nation’s debts is encouraging, both as a matter of responsible governing and for its bipartisan character.” The Post concludes that “even better would be a serious bipartisan effort to come to grips with the nation’s long and deep fiscal disorder, including a long-term solution for the debt ceiling and passage of a responsible 2018 budget. Too much to hope for? Probably. But for now, at least, the worst has been avoided.”

“Another Cyberattack Alarm Is Going Off. We Need To Pay Attention.” The [Washington Post](#) (9/7) says in an editorial that the Dragonfly malware is the second instance this year of evidence “of a serious potential threat to electrical and industrial systems from cyberattack.” The Post says, “The latest disclosure should serve as yet another alarm that cyberattacks and intrusions are not just about stealing data or emails. They can lead to real-world damage.”

“School Officials Should Decide How Long Summer Vacation Is – Not Larry Hogan.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/7) criticizes Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan’s decision to open the state’s public schools after Labor Day, arguing that the postponement “caused child-care headaches for many parents, disrupted the operations of local school districts and may well have exacerbated the summer learning loss that is particularly pernicious for low-income students.” The Post contends that local school officials, not the governor, should have final authority to make such decisions.

Wall Street Journal.

“The DeVos Guidance Speech.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/7) defends Education Secretary DeVos, and casts her plans as an attempt to restore due process to the handling of campus sexual assaults.

“The Next Middle East War.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/7) writes that Israel’s airstrike on a Syrian military facility on Thursday – a facility linked with Iran – should draw focus to the fact that the danger of a proxy war or a direct war between Israel and Iran over southern Syria is steadily growing.

“Democrats And Dogma.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/7) editorial is critical of Senate Democrats’ questioning of Notre Dame Law School Prof. Amy Barrett’s religious views, arguing it is part of a larger effort on the part of the left to exclude people with strong religious beliefs from public life.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Senate Passes Bill On Storm Aid, Debt Limit And Spending](#)
[The Corporate Hurricane: Houston CEOs Race To Mend A Battered Workforce](#)
[Equifax Data Breach Potentially Affected 143 Million In US](#)
[Amazon Seeks Prime Location For \\$5 Billion Second HQ](#)

New York Times:

[The Fake Americans Russia Created To Influence The Election](#)
[Devastation In The Caribbean As Irma Heads Toward Miami](#)
[Energized Trump Sees Bipartisan Path, At Least For Now](#)
[Trump Jr. Says He Wanted Russian Dirt To Determine Clinton's 'Fitness' For Office](#)
[Equifax Says Cyberattack May Have Affected 143 Million Customers](#)
[Graydon Carter To End 25-Year Run As Vanity Fair's Editor](#)

Washington Post:

[Trump's Shift Shakes Parties](#)
[Equifax Breach Hits Credit Data Of Millions](#)
[Florida Bracing For A Direct Hit From Irma](#)
[At Least 10 Dead As Massive Storm Pounds Caribbean](#)
[NFL's Most Talked-About Player Is Also A Player Without A Job](#)

Financial Times:

[ECB Begins Discussions On Tapering QE Despite Stronger Euro](#)
[Emmanuel Macron Makes Case For 'Ambitious' Overhaul Of Eurozone](#)
[Irma Set To Hit Florida As 'Dangerous Major Hurricane'](#)
[Saudi Arabia Redrafts Crown Prince's Transformation Plan](#)

Washington Times:

[Ruthless Iranian Militia Vows To Turn Against U.S. Troops Once Islamic State Is Defeated In Iraq](#)
[Depth Of War Carnage Comes Into Focus As Syrians Start Long Struggle To Rebuild Their Lives](#)
[Trump Hails New Era Of Bipartisanship After Lawmakers Vote For More Debt, Spending](#)
[More Than 5,000 Out-Of-State Voters May Have Tipped New Hampshire Against Trump](#)
[DeVos To Overhaul 'Shameful' Obama-Era Campus Sexual-Assault Regulations](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Hurricane Irma-Caribbean; Hurricane Irma-Forecast; Hurricane Irma-Barbuda; Hurricane Irma-Florida; Hurricane Irma-Miami; Hurricane Irma-Travel Disruption; Hurricane Irma-Wind Strength; Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Junior; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach; West Coast-Wild Fires; Las Vegas-Police Violence; Hurricane Irma-Neighbor Generosity.

CBS: Hurricane Irma-Forecast; Hurricane Irma-Caribbean; Hurricane Irma-Miami; Hurricane Irma-Florida; Hurricane Irma-Storm Surge; Hurricane Irma-Georgia, Carolinas; Senate-Hurricane Relief; DeVos-Campus Sexual Assault Policy; Steve Bannon Interview; Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Junior; West Coast-Wild Fires; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach; Amazon-New Headquarters Plan; US Womens Tennis.

NBC: Hurricane Irma-Florida; Hurricane Irma-Travel Disruption; Hurricane Irma-Forecast 1; Hurricane Irma-Caribbean; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach; Senate-Hurricane Relief; Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Junior; Hurricane Irma-Infrastructure; Amazon-New Headquarters Plan; British Royal Family-Prince Returns To School; Hurricane Irma-Forecast 2.

Network TV At A Glance:

Hurricane Irma – 37 minutes
Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Junior – 4 minutes, 20 seconds
Equifax-Cyber Security Breach – 2 minutes, 30 seconds
West Coast-Wildfires – 45 seconds
Amazon-New Headquarters Plan – 45 seconds
Senate-Hurricane Relief – 35 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Hurricane Irma; Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Junior; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach.

CBS: Hurricane Irma; Hurricane Harvey-Former Presidents Fundraising; North Korea Threats; California-Travel Restriction Lawsuit; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach.

FOX: Hurricane Irma; Senate-Hurricane Relief. Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Junior.

NPR: Hurricane Irma; California-Travel Restriction Lawsuit; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Receives a hurricane update; Departs the White House to Camp David.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President to receive a hurricane update; Joins the President at Camp David.

US Senate: No public schedule announced.

US House: 9:00 AM House expected to vote on omnibus funding bill – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of 'H.R. 3354 – Make America Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act, 2018', and possibly also consideration of legislation related to a continuing resolution, Hurricane Harvey supplemental funding, and the debt ceiling Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

10:00 AM Dem Reps. Bobby Scott and John Conyers hold forum on affirmative action, racial climate on college campuses – Democratic Reps. Bobby Scott and John Conyers hold a forum titled 'Affirmative Action, Inclusion, and Racial Climate on America's Campuses', convening student officers, representatives from institutions of higher education, and key legal experts to discuss the role of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act in 'ensuring that students are welcomed to a safe, inclusive learning environment free of harassment and intimidation on the basis of race, color, or national origin'. Attendees include NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund President and Director-Counsel Sherrilyn Ifill, Southern Poverty Law Center Executive Director Richard Cohen, University of Virginia President Theresa Sullivan, Duke University Office for Institutional Equity Vice President Dr Benjamin Reese, and University of Maryland Chief Diversity Officer Roger Worthington Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2203, Washington, DC www.bobbyscott.house.gov <https://twitter.com/repbobbyscott>

12:00 PM Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee briefing on Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act – Advisory Committee to the Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee hosts 'Carving Out Exceptions to Section 230: How Will It Affect The Internet?' educational briefing, featuring Georgetown University Law School Professor in Law & Technology Julie Cohen, Santa Clara Law School Professor Eric Goldman, and Engine Policy Director Rachel Wolbers Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2237, Washington, DC www.netcaucus.org <https://twitter.com/NetCaucusAC> #Sec230

Other: 9:00 AM Commerce Secretary Ross speaks at The Washington Post – Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross speaks at The Washington Post, interviewed by the newspaper's James Hohmann, about Trump administration efforts to 'reshape the playing field for international trade', the future of NAFTA, the tax reform push, and other 'pressing domestic and international economic issues' * Event held as part of The Daily 202 Live event series, sponsored by Bank of America Location: The Washington Post Live Center, 1301 K St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.washingtonpost.com/> <https://twitter.com/washingtonpost>

9:00 AM '9/11 to ISIS and Beyond' BPC conference – '9/11 to ISIS and Beyond: The Future of Terrorism (And What We Can Do About It)' Bipartisan Policy Center conference examining 'the evolution of terrorism from 9/11 to ISIS and beyond, the effectiveness of U.S. counter-terrorism strategy, and how to break the cycle in the future'. Participants include Republican Rep. Michael McCaul, State Department Coordinator for Counterterrorism Nathan Sales, former New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean, former Rep. Lee Hamilton, Atlantic Council Senior Fellow Jasmine El-Gamal, Coexist President Tarek Elgawhary, Middle East Broadcasting Networks President Alberto Fernandez, Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy Senior Fellow Hassan Hassan, International Institute for Strategic Studies Middle East Corresponding Director Sir John Jenkins, Talisman-gate.com's Nibras Kazimi, IREX President and CEO Kristin Lord, and American Enterprise Institute Critical Threats Project Research Manager Katherine Zimmerman Location: Sofitel Washington DC Lafayette Square, 806 15th St, NW, Washington, DC www.bipartisanpolicy.org

https://twitter.com/BPC_Bipartisan

9:15 AM Ohio Gov. Kasich and Colorado Gov. Hickenlooper discuss bipartisan proposal to stabilize health insurance market at AEI – American Enterprise Institute and Center for American Progress host conference on health care, with Governors John Kasich (Ohio) and John Hickenlooper (Colorado) discussing their bipartisan proposal to 'stabilize the individual insurance market and reform the health system'. Also at the event, a panel discusses the challenges of ensuring access to affordable health coverage Location: American Enterprise Institute, 1789 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.aei.org/> <https://twitter.com/AEI>

11:00 AM Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue ceremonially swears in Tony Tooke as the 18th U.S. Forest Service chief Location: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC www.usda.gov <https://twitter.com/USDA>

Congressional Budget Office releases 'Monthly Budget Review for August 2017' report Location: TBD www.cbo.gov/ <https://twitter.com/USCBO>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Said [Donald Trump Jr.] only took the meeting because he felt it was his responsibility to find out if the Russians had any information that could call into question 'the fitness, character or qualifications of a possible future President of the United States.' For real, that's what he, has he ever met his father?"

Stephen Colbert: "I'm going to say something a little weird right now, so bare with me. The Democrats won something. Because, during a White House meeting about the upcoming agenda in Congress, 'Trump sides with the Democrats on the debt limit and funding for Hurricane Harvey.'"

Stephen Colbert: "You guys remember the debt limit, right? We talk about it every so often, okay. It's the amount of debt America is legally allowed to carry, and, if we don't raise it every once in a while, we default on everything and America gets repossessed by China."

Stephen Colbert: "Steve Bannon, technically, I guess Bannon wasn't fired because on the day he left, the administration issued a statement 'White House Chief of Staff John Kelly and Steve Bannon have mutually agreed today would be Steve's last day.' Yes, it was mutual. Same way my college girlfriend and I mutually agreed that she'd be happier having sex with Gary."

James Corden: "Donald Trump went against his own party and sided with Democrats in a deal to raise the debt ceiling. And because it's Trump, the debt ceiling will not only be raised, it will also be covered in gold leaf and feature a tasteless painting of Donald Trump holding a sword riding a lion."

James Corden: "Former White House Chief Strategist Steve Bannon gave an odd interview to Charlie Rose where he criticized the Catholic church, saying they had been terrible on the issue of immigration and that they need illegal aliens to fill their churches. This is just in case you had any doubt that Steve Bannon is literally the Anti-Christ."

Trevor Noah: "We covered this part of the news last night on the show, Donald Trump making a deal with the Democrats. What we didn't know last night, though, is how it actually went down, because it seemed like the negotiation was a carefully choreographed ballet. Today we learned it was more like a Molly seizure at Bernie land."

Trevor Noah: "The President of the United States abandoned his party's legislative strategy because the words made him tired? If Donald Trump was Winston Churchill, Britain would have folded before tea time. 'We will fight them on the beaches, we will fight them...you know what? They can have the beaches. I'm tired.'"

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel: 46 Wild Horses Caught From Piceance Herd.
- KOBI-TV Medford (OR): Protests Over BLM Timber Sale.
- Ontario (OR) Argus Observer: Group Will Work With BLM To Repair Corral At Historic Ranch.
- Ontario (OR) Argus Observer: Company Submits Mine Plan.
- Farmington (NM) Daily Times: What's Happening With Those Permits BLM?

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Fish And Wildlife Service

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- Minneapolis Star Tribune: New Video Shows Wild Jaguar Roaming In Southern Arizona.
- Santa Fe New Mexican: Feds Kill Wolf That Was Preying On Livestock.
- Las Vegas Review-Journal: Researchers Fear Worst For Vole After Wildfire Burns Habitat.
- The Hill: Science Supports Keeping Grizzlies Endangered Species Protections.

National Park Service

- WAMU-FM Washington: National Park Service Uses Lasers to Battle Jefferson Memorial Grime.
- Daily Caller: Berkeley Gets Black Panther Tribute \$98K.
- U.S. News & World Report: Campsite Raiding Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Captured, Killed.
- Seattle Times: Mountain Goats In Olympic National Park: Their Days May Be Numbered.
- Carlsbad (NM) Current-Argus: Elevators Down At Carlsbad Caverns.
- U.S. News & World Report: Water Pipeline Breaks Again At Grand Canyon National Park.
- Kingston (NY) Daily Freeman: National Park Service Proposes Fee Increase At FDR Site.
- Great Falls (MT) Tribune: The 16-year Major Rehabilitation Of The Many Glacier Hotel In Glacier National Park Is Completed With The Unveiling Of The Helical Staircase.
- Delmarva (MD) Daily Times: Beach Relocation Part Of Final Assateague Management Plan.
- Nisqually Valley (WA) News: Mount Rainier National Park Releases Fish Management Plan.
- U.S. News & World Report: Microburst Swamps, Sinks Powerboats, Jet Skis At Lake Powell.
- Lasalle (IL) News Tribune: Column: Time To Talk About Starved Rock Being A National Park.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- ABC: North Korea Launches Missile Over Japan.
- ABC: Relief Supplies Flowing Into St. Maarten.
- Virgin Islands Daily News: Angry Mapp Chastises Community For Unreal Expectations.
- St. Croix Source: Mapp Acknowledges Police Fell Down On The Job On STJ.
- Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR): U.S. Labor Department To Provide Immediate Grants And Assistance For Hurricane Irma Recovery Efforts.
- Additional Reading.

Office Of Surface Mining

- Fund Health Study On Surface Mines.

US Geological Survey

- Associated Press: Hoeven, Industry Want Study Of North Dakota Oil Potential.
- Beckley (WV) Register-Herald: Monroe County Water Study Launches Oct. 1.
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- The Hill: As Right Lashes Out, Trump Says DACA Deal Would Include "Massive Border Controls."
- Washington Post: Trump Meets With Irma Survivors, Praises Federal And State Response.
- Associated Press: By 211-198, House Approves Spending Bill Boosting Military Spending.
- The Hill: Trump Dismisses Impact Of Climate Change On Hurricanes Harvey, Irma.
- Politico: Administration May Replace Obama Climate Rule Rather Than Repeal It.
- E&E Publishing: Green Groups Intend To Sue EPA For Blocking Methane Emissions Limit.

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DOI In The News

US Wildfire Costs Hit Record \$2.3 Billion; Season Isn't Over.

The [AP](#) (9/14) reports that "the U.S. government says it has already spent a record \$2.3 billion fighting wildfires this year, and 64 major fires are still burning in 10 states." The Forest Service "said Thursday it has spent more than \$2 billion, and the Interior Department says it has spent \$345 million." The article notes that "the previous record for combined federal firefighting costs was \$2.1 billion in 2015."

The [AP](#) (9/14, Daly, Elliott) reports that Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue "said the severe fire season means officials 'end up having to hoard all of the money that is intended for fire prevention, because we're afraid we're going to need it to actually fight fires.'" The Agriculture Department "has been asking Congress for years to change the way firefighting is funded so the Forest Service does not have to raid non-fire programs in bad years."

Oregon Legislators Ask For More Drones To Fight Fires. The [Coos Bay \(OR\) World](#) (9/14) reports that Sen. Ron Wyden and Rep. Peter DeFazio have "asked federal officials what's being done to deploy more unmanned aerial systems (UAS) to fight wildfires raging throughout Oregon and the West." The letter from Wyden and DeFazio "seeking answers about using UAS as a firefighting tool comes in the wake of their meetings last weekend in Oregon with emergency responders battling wildfires around the state." In their letter to Michael Huerta, Administrator for the Federal Aviation Administration, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Forest Service Chief Tony Tooke, the lawmakers wrote, "These tragic yet foreseeable events make it necessary to explore all ways to better fight wildfires. Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) have the potential to help this effort significantly."

Herbert: Zinke Signaled Grand-Staircase Should Be Shrunk.

The [AP](#) (9/14, PRICE) reports that Utah Gov. Gary Herbert “said Thursday that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has signaled that he’s recommending President Donald Trump shrink Utah’s two-decade old Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.” Herbert “doesn’t specifically know what Zinke has recommended for the 1.9-million acre (7,700-square kilometer) area or Utah’s new Bears Ears National Monument, but the governor said at his monthly news conference, taped at KUED-TV Thursday, that Zinke felt former President Bill Clinton’s 1996 declaration of Grand Staircase-Escalante went too far.”

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/14, O’Donoghue) reports that Herbert said the Grand Staircase-Escalante “could be reduced to two or possibly three smaller monuments.” Herbert said, “You won’t find 1.9 million acres in the Grand Staircase-Escalante that need protection. It doesn’t mean that there aren’t Bureau of Land Management lands and BLM doesn’t manage, but to have the enhanced protection of the monument, I think, was overreach.”

Also reporting are [KSTU-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (9/14, Winslow) and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (9/14, O’Donoghue).

National Mining Association To Hold Conference At Trump International Hotel: Report.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/14, Phillips) reports that the National Mining Association will “hold a private conference at Trump International Hotel in Washington, D.C., next month.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is scheduled to speak at the event. He also spoke at an oil industry event at the hotel in March.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Intercept](#) (9/14, Fang, Surgey).

Darby Appointed To U.S. Interior Department Advisory Panel.

The [San Angelo \(TX\) Standard-Times](#) (9/14) reports that Texas state Rep. Drew Darby “announced Thursday he has accepted an appointment to an advisory committee for the U.S. Department of Interior.” Darby “will be part of a group working with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on energy and mineral resource development on Indian and Federal lands, evaluating current and emerging issues.” Darby said, “It is my honor to accept an appointment from Secretary Zinke for the Royalty Policy Committee within President Trump’s administration. I will continue to fight for the best interests of Texas.”

2 Trump Advisers Slated For Conference.

The [Williston \(ND\) Herald](#) (9/15) reports that two senior advisers to President Trump will attend the North Dakota Petroleum Council’s annual conference. Vincent DeVito, the counselor on energy policy for the Interior Department, and Stephen Moore, economist for the Heritage Foundation and a policy adviser to Trump, “join more than 20 other distinguished panelists and speakers that include business leaders, innovators, regulators and policy makers.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Minot \(ND\) Daily News](#) (9/14).

Hualapai Colorado River Settlement Bill Reintroduced In U.S. Senate.

[KNAU-FM](#) Flagstaff, AZ (9/14, Heinsius) reports that Sens. John McCain and Jeff Flake have “reintroduced a bill that would settle claims by the Hualapai Tribe to the Colorado River.” The agreement “between the Hualapai, federal government and other water users would allocate 4,000 acre feet, or 1.3 billion gallons, per year to the tribe.” The tribe has “limited access to groundwater, and says the \$170 million project would benefit tourism and boost employment.” However, Interior Department officials “last year testified that the project’s costs would exceed estimates, and don’t justify the relatively small amount of water it would provide.”

What Arizona Needs To Secure Our Water Future. The [Arizona Republic](#) (9/14) editorializes that “with the kind of planning and foresight the state pioneered decades ago, Arizona can continue to have the water it needs for future prosperity and economic growth.” But “without a clear focus and willingness of diverse stakeholders to work for the greater good, Arizona could face water distribution and supply problems that make our state look risky to investors.” One key issue is the resolve tribal water rights. The paper says that the Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act “helps move the state toward that certainty.”

Many Inspectors General Spots Vacant.

The [Daily Caller](#) (9/14, Tapscott) reports that “a dozen top federal departments and agencies have gone without Inspectors General (IG) — the government’s front line of defense against waste and fraud — for more than two years on average, including the Department of Interior,

which has been without a permanent watchdog for 8.5 years, according to data compiled by the Project on Government Oversight.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Tribal Agencies Cite Progress On Audit Issues, Senators Want To See More.

The [Havasu \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (9/14, Clair) reports that “leaders of federal agencies serving Indian Country told a Senate panel Wednesday they have made some progress on dozens of problems cited in Government Accountability Office audits, but lawmakers said much more needs to be done.” The GAO “put the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Education and Indian Health Services on its ‘high-risk’ list of government areas in need of major improvement after nearly a decade in which the agencies addressed just two of a total of 41 recommendations on ongoing problems.” Officials from the three agencies “told the Senate Indian Affairs Committee they have started to address the issues in the GAO report, reducing bureaucratic roadblocks and implementing improved technology.” However, “the GAO’s Melissa Emrey-Arras testified that the number of problems identified at the agencies has grown from 41 when the high-risk list was published in February to nearly 50 after the completion of two additional reports on safety and construction in tribal schools.”

Alaska Communities Request Land Be Put Into Federal Trust.

The [AP](#) (9/15) reports that “two Alaska tribal communities are hoping to take advantage of a policy change that allows for land to be placed into federal trust.” The Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich’in Tribal Government for the village of Fort Yukon “submitted a request to place into trust a series of contiguous lots adding up to as much as 83,750 square feet (7,780 square meters).” Also, “the village of Ninilchik has requested to place 2.5 acres (10,100 square meters) into trust.”

Judge Trims Tribe’s Suit Over Okla. Fracking Approvals.

[Law360](#) (9/14, Rodriguez) reports that “an Oklahoma federal judge on Thursday trimmed a slew of claims from the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma’s lawsuit alleging the federal government approved oil and gas leases and fracking permits on the tribe’s land without properly considering their environmental impacts.” U.S. District Judge James Payne “granted the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Bureau of Land Management’s motion to dismiss the tribe’s claims relating to the lease approvals, but because the government did not address the permits in its motion, the claims related to those will proceed.”

Okla. Landowner Urges 10th Circ. To Revive Drill Permit Suit.

[Law360](#) (9/14, Lidgett) reports that “an Oklahoma landowner on Wednesday urged the Tenth Circuit to reinstate his suit that claimed the Bureau of Indian Affairs granted an energy exploration company permission to drill on his land without first conducting a required environmental review, saying the lower court made various reversible errors.” Merrill Chance “filed an opening brief in his appeal of U.S. District Judge James H. Payne’s ruling that found Chance sued the BIA and the secretary of the interior almost two decades after the statute of limitations had passed.”

Bureau Of Land Management

BLM: Wyoming Working To Fulfill Trump Energy Agenda.

The [Wyoming Tribune Eagle](#) (9/14, Funk) reports that “with a very different energy agenda in the administration of President Donald Trump than his predecessor, the Bureau of Land Management in Wyoming is ready to adapt to those changes,” according to Duane Spencer, BLM of Wyoming deputy state director for minerals and lands. Spencer “spoke Wednesday during the 2017 BLM Industry and Government Conference in Rawlins.” Spencer said, “We have been working very closely with our Washington (D.C.) office to bring them up to speed on what Wyoming is working on, what resources we offer, and that we believe BLM Wyoming is strategically positioned to deliver on what some of the administration’s priorities are – in particular, the goal of making America safe through energy independence and contributing to economic development and local economies.”

46 Wild Horses Caught From Piceance Herd.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (9/15, Webb) reports that the Bureau of Land Management on Thursday "rounded up 46 wild horses as it began work on trying to remove up to 100 horses that have wandered outside the designated Piceance-East Douglas Herd Management Area." The BLM "said it expects the work to last less than a week." According to BLM spokesman David Boyd, "no horses were hurt or injured as a result of the operation."

Protests Over BLM Timber Sale.

[KOBI-TV](#) Medford, OR (9/14, Jordan) reports that "an auction for logging rights to hundreds of acres of Bureau of Land Management property drew a crowd of protesters in Grants Pass." The BLM "says the land needs logging to prevent fires." But "protesters were concerned about the thinning of old growth trees."

Group Will Work With BLM To Repair Corral At Historic Ranch.

The [Ontario \(OR\) Argus Observer](#) (9/14) reports that Friends of the Owyhee will "work with the Bureau of Land Management to repair an old corral at the Birch Creek Historic Ranch on Sept. 22." The BLM will "supply all tools needed for the repair."

Company Submits Mine Plan.

The [Ontario \(OR\) Argus Observer](#) (9/14, Meyer) reports that Paramount Gold Nevada Corp. has "filed its mining plan of operation for its Grassy Mountain site with the Bureau of Land Management, which has launched its environmental review of the proposed mine."

What's Happening With Those Permits BLM?

In an editorial, the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (9/14) says that the Bureau of Land Management has not been forthcoming about efforts "to speed up the onshore drilling permitting process." The paper says that the Trump Administration is "completely behind overhauling this bureaucratic, business-choking monstrosity of a permit process, which is why we're stunned that neither the Department of the Interior nor BLM has decided to take a call or email and tell our Energy magazine what they're up to."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Deep-Sea Study To Begin Off Southeast Coast.

The [Coastal Review](#) (9/14) reports that "a team of scientists is set to launch in the coming weeks a four-and-a-half year study of deep-sea coral, canyon and gas-seep ecosystems in the mid- and south Atlantic." The team will "travel aboard the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's ship Pisces to explore biological features and geological processes, such as corals and naturally occurring gas seeps and the organisms that inhabit them." The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the U.S. Geological Survey and NOAA's Office of Exploration and Research are "supporting the study intended to shed light on little-known natural resources of the deep ocean off the Southeast coast."

Guest Editorial: S.C. Opposes Efforts To Expand Drilling And Testing.

The [Aiken \(SC\) Standard](#) (9/14) publishes a guest editorial from The Sun News of Myrtle Beach, which says that "offshore oil drilling and exploration is overwhelmingly opposed along the U.S. Atlantic Coast, including off South Carolina, and the opposition has become increasingly bipartisan." The American Petroleum Institute "claims more production in the Atlantic, eastern Gulf of Mexico and the [Arctic] will strengthen national security, as well as create more domestic energy, jobs and government revenue. The fact is, the nation has more oil and natural gas than was imagined only a few years ago."

Bureau Of Reclamation

U.S. And Mexico Set To Sign Landmark Colorado River Water-sharing Deal.

[USA Today](#) (9/14, James) reports that "the U.S. and Mexican governments are close to signing a landmark Colorado River deal that will establish rules for sharing water over the next decade and lay out cooperative efforts intended to head off severe shortages." Officials have "scheduled a

signing ceremony on Sept. 26 in Ciudad Juárez, officials at California water districts said this week." They said "that formal event will be followed by a ceremonial signing in Santa Fe, N.M., on Sept. 27 attended by representatives from the states involved."

Additional coverage was provided by the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (9/14, Benson).

Editorial: Gov. Brown — Don't Demand A Decision On The Delta Tunnels.

In an editorial, the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (9/14) reports, urges water agencies to oppose the WaterFix project. The paper claims that the twin tunnels project is "environmentally destructive." Furthermore, "the project financing is in question."

Fitzgerald: Feds Sneak Money To Tunnels.

In his column for the [Stockton \(CA\) Record](#) (9/14, Fitzgerald), Michael Fitzgerald notes that "federal auditors found mid-managers at the Bureau of Reclamation made \$50 million of our money in roundabout payments to water contractors and gave \$34.8 million (the number is variously reported) in water credits." He says that "the Bureau of Reclamation scandal shows again certain subservient officials enthusiastically put the public interest and the Delta's health second to pleasing special interests." For this reason, Fitzgerald asserts that the "tunnels won't work."

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

To Repeal Or Not To Repeal: Reviewing The US Well Control Rule.

An analysis for [Offshore Technology](#) (9/14) discusses President Trump's "review of the Well Control Rule, which tightened requirements for blowout preventers on oil rigs as a result of failures found in the Deepwater Horizon explosion." Davies says, "The recent decision taken by Donald Trump to revise regulations implemented by Barack Obama did not come as much of a surprise. However, while Trump's attempts to repeal the likes of Obamacare have generated incalculable headlines in the mainstream media, the proposed rollback of offshore drilling rules has been met with less commotion." In the wake of Trump's announcement, "many groups, such as the American Petroleum Institute (API) and the National Ocean Industries Association (NOIA), voiced their support for the move, arguing that the regulations were too costly to implement and ineffectual, in any case."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Environmental Groups Challenge Use Of Waivers To Build At Border.

The [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (9/14, Moran) reports, "A coalition of environmental groups on Thursday sued the Department of Homeland Security challenging the use of sweeping power under a federal law to ignore environmental laws in order to build walls, fences and roads on the border." The lawsuit was filed in federal court in San Diego by Defenders of Wildlife, the Sierra Club, and the Animal Legal Defense Fund. The Union-Tribune says the lawsuit "targets a section of the REAL ID Act of 2005 which granted the Secretary of Homeland Security the power to waive complying with federal laws such as the Endangered Species Act, Clean Air Act in order to expedite border security building projects." The lawsuit "contends that the use of the law was limited to a certain time period after it was passed by Congress, and was not meant to be a perpetual tool the government can use to avoid laws." The [AP](#) (9/14) reports the lawsuit "largely mirrors a lawsuit filed by another advocacy group, the Center for Biological Diversity, but the three organizations each say they have hundreds of thousands of members, bringing more attention and resources to a legal fight over one of President Donald Trump's key campaign pledges."

New Video Shows Wild Jaguar Roaming In Southern Arizona.

The [AP](#) (9/4) reports that "wildlife conservationists have released new video footage showing what is believed to be one of three jaguars to be seen in the United States in the past few years." The Center for Biological Diversity "released the video taken this summer on Thursday, saying the big cat was the same one first seen on camera in November 2016." Conservationists believe "the recent sightings are evidence that the jaguar is returning to the U.S."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arizona Daily Star](#) (9/14, Davis).

Feds Kill Wolf That Was Preying On Livestock.

The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (9/15, Moss) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “recently killed an endangered Mexican gray wolf, a rarely used tactic for managing an animal the federal government is charged with protecting.” The Arizona Department of Game and Fish “said in a monthly report issued Thursday that a female wolf, a member of the Diamond Pack in Arizona, was ‘lethally removed’ last month following a series of confirmed livestock deaths.” John Bradley, a spokesman for the FWS, “said the female wolf and her pack were responsible for eight livestock deaths since January, a number he called excessive.”

Researchers Fear Worst For Vole After Wildfire Burns Habitat.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (9/14, Brean) reports that “researchers are assessing the damage after a wildfire near the California-Nevada border burned through critical habitat for one of North America’s most endangered rodents.” Janet Foley, a veterinary professor at the University of California, Davis, said the fire burned 10 to 20 percent of the remaining natural habitat for the Amargosa vole, a small, brown critter found nowhere else in the wild.” Foley “said a member of her research team is headed to Tecopa to examine the burned area and check the neighboring marshes for any recent arrivals.”

Science Supports Keeping Grizzlies Endangered Species Protections.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (9/14, Mattson), David Mattson, a researcher and teacher recently retired from the U.S. Geological Survey, claims that “some arguments for the removal of Endangered Species Act protections for Yellowstone’s grizzly bears have little to do with science and instead rely on innuendo and unsubstantiated assertion.” In particular, Mattson takes issue with Hoover Institution fellow Terry Anderson’s recent op-ed in The Hill. Mattson claims that “Anderson is not an expert on wildlife ecology, but rather has built a career promoting free-market capitalism.” Mattson asserts that “to secure the future of Yellowstone’s grizzlies, we need contiguous populations of thousands — not mere hundreds — of bears.”

National Park Service

National Park Service Uses Lasers to Battle Jefferson Memorial Grime.

[WAMU-FM](#) Washington (9/14, Lefrak) reports that the “workers are using lasers” to battle “biofilm” at the Jefferson Memorial. Chicago-based Conservation of Sculpture and Object Studio, Inc. will “use a laser ablation treatment to clean a test area of 1,000 square feet on the northeast side of the memorial.” According to the article, “the test will be carried out over the next four weeks.”

Additional coverage was provided by [WRC-TV](#) Washington (9/14, McGrath).

Berkeley Gets Black Panther Tribute \$98K.

The [Daily Caller](#) (9/14, Krayden) reports that the National Park Service is “giving \$98,000 to commemorate a violent student protest group: the Black Panther Party.” The NPS is “offering money to UC Berkeley so that it might ‘honor the legacy’ of the ‘60s-era organization that preached a communist revolution and upheld black nationalism.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Fox News](#) (9/14, Harrington).

Campsite Raiding Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Captured, Killed.

The [AP](#) (9/14) reports that “a grizzly bear that has been raiding backcountry campsites and chasing campers in Yellowstone National Park since last year has been captured and killed.” The National Park Service “says biologists killed the immature, male grizzly on Sept. 8 after their nonlethal attempts to alter its behavior failed.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (9/14, Wilson) and the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (9/14, Landers).

Mountain Goats In Olympic National Park: Their Days May Be Numbered.

The [Seattle Times](#) (9/14, Bush) reports that “officials are nearing a decision on what to do with an overpopulation of mountain goats — some of which are aggressive — in Olympic National Park.” The National Park Service has “published four plans for goat management.” It is “accepting public comment on goat management through Sept. 26.”

Elevators Down At Carlsbad Caverns.

The [Carlsbad \(NM\) Current-Argus](#) (9/14, Hedden) reports that the elevators at Carlsbad Caverns National Park are "closed again for maintenance." According to Valerie Gohlke, spokesperson for Carlsbad Caverns National Park, "workers are aiming to replace rusted structural steel on the secondary elevators, along with a traveling cable." Gohlke "said the park's \$4.7 million modernization plan for the elevators should reduce down times for maintenance."

Water Pipeline Breaks Again At Grand Canyon National Park.

The [AP](#) (9/14) reports that "several locations within Grand Canyon National Park will be without water or on stored water until at least Monday while crews repair another pipeline break." Phantom Ranch will "be on stored water with standard water restrictions while Cottonwood Campground and Roaring Spring will be without water."

National Park Service Proposes Fee Increase At FDR Site.

The [Kingston \(NY\) Daily Freeman](#) (9/14, Kemble) reports that "National Park Service representatives are taking comments on a proposed \$1 increase in the admission fee this January at the Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site in Hyde Park." The hike was "discussed at a Rhinebeck Town Board meeting Tuesday evening." Site Superintendent Larry Turk "said the increase, to \$10, would only cover tours of the Roosevelt home." He said, "It would get us in line with the other historical homes around the local area. Right now we're less than they are, and we're just trying to ... bring in some revenue to help maintain the parks."

The 16-year Major Rehabilitation Of The Many Glacier Hotel In Glacier National Park Is Completed With The Unveiling Of The Helical Staircase.

The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (9/14, Dettmer) reports that "after 16 years of rehabilitation," the Many Glacier Hotel has "been restored to its original grandeur as the 'Gem of the West' in Glacier National Park." According to the article, "the multi-partner, multi-million dollar effort reached its completion this summer with the unveiling of the helical staircase, the final major rehabilitation project."

Beach Relocation Part Of Final Assateague Management Plan.

The [Delmarva \(MD\) Daily Times](#) (9/14, Vaughn) reports that "an abbreviated version of the final general management plan for Assateague Island National Seashore has been posted on the National Park Service website." The article notes that "among the plan's elements is the relocation of the recreational beach on Assateague in Virginia about 1½ miles north of the existing beach area to a more stable part of the barrier island."

Mount Rainier National Park Releases Fish Management Plan.

The [Nisqually Valley \(WA\) News](#) (9/14) reports that the National Park Service has "prepared an environmental assessment that considers the implementation of a Fish Management Plan at Mount Rainier National Park." The objective of "the plan is to guide management of native and nonnative fish populations in the park, according to a news release."

Microburst Swamps, Sinks Powerboats, Jet Skis At Lake Powell.

The [AP](#) (9/14) reports that "a sudden, powerful downward gust of wind swamped or sank dozens of powerboats and jet skis Thursday at Lake Powell along the Arizona-Utah border." According to authorities, "at least three people were injured with a 60-year-old woman suffering a severe arm injury that required amputation."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (9/14, Gundran).

Column: Time To Talk About Starved Rock Being A National Park.

Columnist Tom Collins pens an open letter in the [Lasalle \(IL\) News Tribune](#) (9/14, Collins) to Rep. Adam Kinzinger, urging him "to draw up legislation or convene a task force to weigh the merits of designating Starved Rock State Park a national park." Collins notes that "the park has long enjoyed great popularity and its average yearly attendance puts it squarely in the company of the most popular units of the National Park Service." But "the state of Illinois, mired as it is in ongoing budget problems, has failed to provide the resources needed to properly maintain the tourist infrastructure." Collins asserts that "Starved Rock is every bit as worthy of joining these glories and enjoying the resources and protections available only through the U.S. Department of the Interior."

Office Of Insular Affairs

North Korea Launches Missile Over Japan.

News Thursday evening that North Korea fired a missile towards Japan is generating significant media attention. Two of the three networks last night led with the story. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/14, lead story, 1:10, Muir) said Japanese television is “reporting the missile has passed over Japanese air space,” and “several population centers have now been warned. This launch is yet another provocative move on the part of North Korea.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/14, lead story, 1:25, Holt) said the launch “comes weeks after North Korea claimed it tested a hydrogen bomb. King Jong-Un continuing to rapidly develop his nuclear and missile programs, defiant from the face of threats from President Trump.” NBC’s Ron Allen said the missile “flew some 1,700 miles, in the air for about 14 minutes. Interestingly, the Japanese nor the Americans decided to try to shoot this missile down.”

Calling the latest launch “a direct challenge” to the US and China, the [New York Times](#) (9/14, Choe, Sanger) reports that the Administration “chose not to take out the missile on the launching pad, even though they saw it being fueled up a day ago.” According to the Times, “neither the United States nor Japan tried to shoot down the missile, perhaps because it was clear moments after the launching that it was not aimed at land.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/14, story 4, 0:25, Mason) said it was not immediately “clear what type of missile” was fired, “or where it landed,” but [USA Today](#) (9/14, Eversley, Maresca) reports Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono “said it appeared to be an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile based on its range, according to NHK.” The White House said President Trump was briefed on the launch by Chief of Staff Kelly.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/14, Fifield, Lamothe) notes the launch marked “the second time in less than three weeks that North Korea sent a projectile over Japan.” While the “details were still emerging,” it “appeared similar to the previous launch, on Aug. 29” of an intermediate-range ballistic missile, and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/14, Landers, Jun) reports South Korea’s joint chiefs of staff said the missile was launched from a suburb of Pyongyang, the same site used for the Aug. 29 launch.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/14, Stiles) reports that in a “show of defense, South Korean military officials said they immediately retaliated by sending a missile of their own about 150 miles into the East Sea, also known as the Sea of Japan — the same distance as the base where the North Korean missile originated.”

Tillerson Presses China To Use Oil As Leverage. The [AP](#) (9/14, Pennington) reports Secretary of State Tillerson on Thursday “urged China to use its leverage as North Korea’s principal supplier of oil to press” Pyongyang “into reconsidering its development of nuclear weapons.” Speaking to reporters in London, Tillerson said it was going to be “very difficult” to get China to consent to an oil embargo against of its neighbor, but he still urged China as a “great country and a world power” to use its leverage as its top oil supplier. “That is a very powerful tool and it has been used in the past,” Tillerson said at a news conference. “We hope China will not reject that.”

Zakaria: North Korea Unlikely To Give Up Nuclear Weapons Program. Fareed Zakaria writes in his [Washington Post](#) (9/14) column that Kim Jong-Un is the world figure he would like to interview, and “because I am unlikely to get that interview, I have decided to imagine it instead.” Zakaria writes that Kim would likely defend his nation’s nuclear weapons program as a means of survival and vow never to give it up, because “it’s all that is keeping us alive.”

Relief Supplies Flowing Into St. Maarten.

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/14, story 3, 1:25, Muir), David Wright reported on the “devastation in St. Maarten...and the urgent effort to get people out.” Wright said that while “relief supplies are flowing in,” recovery “is going to take some time.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/14, story 5, 1:40, Holt) also reported on recovery efforts in the Caribbean.

Angry Mapp Chastises Community For Unreal Expectations.

The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (9/13) reports that Gov. Kenneth Mapp “led off his nightly press conference on Wednesday with an angry condemnation directed at members of the community he said have unreal expectations about the recovery efforts in the wake of Hurricane Irma.” On Wednesday, Mapp “first acknowledged the death of WAPA lineman Jason Julius before launching into a diatribe about the community’s complaints about the progress of recovery efforts.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/14).

WAPA Halts All Hurricane Restoration Work Territory-Wide Following Death Of Lineman On Tuesday. The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) reports that “the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority confirmed on Tuesday night that one of its linemen died today, while working in the Sugar Estate area as part of a Wide Power Restoration Effort September 11, 2017” The lineman’s “death was the fifth confirmed fatality since Hurricane Irma struck on September 6.”

Mapp Acknowledges Police Fell Down On The Job On STJ.

[St. Croix Source](#) (9/12, Kossler, Bogolub) reports that “police failed to do their jobs on parts of St. John in the first days after the storm, Gov. Kenneth Mapp said during his update on storm recovery efforts Tuesday evening.” Mapp said, “I understand tremendously the concern, particularly of folks on the eastern end of St. John and Coral Bay who are very concerned about the lack of a security presence in Coral Bay, particularly following the storm.” He continued, “There was some breakdown in the leadership in the early days following the storm at the VIPD and the commissioner, I and his chief had a conversation about that and I will leave that to the police commissioner to deal with those particular issues.”

U.S. Labor Department To Provide Immediate Grants And Assistance For Hurricane Irma Recovery Efforts.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/12) reports that “the U.S. Department of Labor, in cooperation with state and local partners, is setting aside funding and will be making grants to assess workforce needs in the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Florida, and other states in response to Hurricane Irma, the U.S. D.O.L. announced today.”

Additional Reading.

- *V.I. Port Authority Answers Questions About USVI Air And Seaports.* [St. Croix Source](#) (9/13).
- *Help Pouring In To St. John.* [St. Croix Source](#) (9/12, Roberts).
- *Plaskett Gives Update On Hurricane Aid.* [St. Croix Source](#) (9/13, Plaskett).
- *The Damage On St. John Is Unimaginable; Hear The People’s Stories.* [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/13).
- *STT-STJ Ferry Resumes Limited Service, Air Travel And Mail Coming Soon.* [St. Croix Source](#) (9/13).
- *Neither Rain Nor Snow- But Hurricane Stopped The U.S. Mail In St. Thomas And St. John.* [St. Croix Source](#) (9/13, Kossler).
- *SBA Offering Disaster Assistance Loans For Businesses, Homeowners And Renters In Wake Of Hurricane.* [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/14).
- *FEMA Encourages U. S. Virgin Island Residents To Register For Federal Assistance.* [St. Croix Source](#) (9/14).
- *Dept. Of Health Reopens 4 Clinics On St. Thomas Post Hurricane Irma.* [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/14).
- *U.S. Virgin Islands Hurricane Irma.* [Yahoo! Finance](#) (9/14, Roche).

Office Of Surface Mining

Fund Health Study On Surface Mines.

In an editorial, the [Wheeling \(WV\) Intelligencer](#) (9/15) calls on the Trump Administration to allow a “proposed \$1 million study on the health effects of living near a surface mine” to proceed. The paper says that “this could be an important study — and it is not one commissioned in an attempt to harm the coal industry.” According to the paper, “a scientific, objective study could balance claims by some environmental radicals that people living near any coal mine are at risk,” and “if not, we ought to know it.”

US Geological Survey

Hoeven, Industry Want Study Of North Dakota Oil Potential.

The [AP](#) (9/14, Macpherson) reports North Dakota oil drillers and Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND) “want

federal geologists to reevaluate the amount of recoverable crude oil in the state, saying a new assessment likely would show stronger production potential and attract investment." Hoeven "wants the USGS to take into account other formations in western North Dakota's oil patch that could be exploited using technology developed for the Bakken and the Three Forks directly below it." He is quoted saying, "The industry wants a broader study. ... The industry feels it will show a larger resource if the other formations are included."

Monroe County Water Study Launches Oct. 1.

The [Beckley \(WV\) Register-Herald](#) (9/15, Alvey) reports that "under the leadership of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), various federal, state and local agencies will launch a major hydrogeological study in Monroe County on Oct. 1." The purpose of "the three-year, \$480,000 project is to develop hydrogeologic maps that can be used to manage the county's groundwater resources."

Additional Reading.

- *Scientists Listen In On Volcano's Inner Workings.* [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (9/14, Pesanti).
- *Scientists Record Spattering At Kilauea Lava Lake.* [Big Island \(HI\) Video News](#) (9/14).
- *You May Not Believe It, But The Number Of California Wildfires Has Been Going Down.* [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (9/14, Tedford).
- *Drought Spreads Across Three-quarters Of Washington, Half Of Oregon.* [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (9/14, Jenkins).
- *'We Should Have Been Here 10 Years Ago:' Army Corps Urged To Hasten Asian Carp Plan.* [MLive \(MI\)](#) (9/14, Ellison).
- *County Asks For Post-flood Study Of Big Wood River.* [Idaho Mountain Express](#) (9/14).
- *Irving Rattled By Second Earthquake In Less Than A Month.* [Dallas Morning News](#) (9/14, De Bruijn).
- *Magnitude 3.3 Earthquake Strikes Near East Foothills, California.* [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (9/15).
- *Second Earthquake This Week Shakes Kansas.* [Hays \(KS\) Post](#) (9/14).

Top National News

As Right Lashes Out, Trump Says DACA Deal Would Include "Massive Border Controls."

Media coverage of the DACA talks between the President and Democratic leaders Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer highlighted the seeming sense of anger and betrayal on the part of some on the right. The contours of the emerging agreement reportedly include a legislative fix to the DREAMers' legal status and beefed-up border security – but not a border wall. [The Hill](#) (9/14, Easley), for example, described Trump's supporters as "apoplectic and lashing out at 'Amnesty Don,'" the [New York Times](#) (9/14, Peters) says he "came under withering attack...from some of his strongest supporters, who were outraged and unforgiving," and the [Washington Post](#) (9/14, Costa) that his "staunch conservative allies...have erupted in anger and incredulity." Rep. Steve King "issued a dramatic warning to the president after he scrolled through news reports," declaring Trump's base "blown up, destroyed, irreparable, and disillusioned beyond repair." [Townhall](#) (9/14, Pavlich) noted that King told CNN, "The base will leave him. They can't support him anymore." Ann Coulter, meanwhile, [tweeted](#), "At this point, who doesn't want Trump impeached?" [USA Today](#) (9/14, Estepa) reports that she later added, "If we're not getting a wall, I'd prefer President Pence."

The President defended his actions yesterday, starting with three morning tweets. Trump [wrote](#), "No deal was made last night on DACA. Massive border security would have to be agreed to in exchange for consent. Would be subject to vote." He also [said](#) "the WALL, which is already under construction in the form of new renovation of old and existing fences and walls, will continue to be built." Trump [added](#), "Does anybody really want to throw out good, educated and accomplished young people who have jobs, some serving in the military? Really!....." White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (9/14), "The President has been very clear in what his position is. He wants to get a deal done. He wants to do that with DACA, but also to include massive border security and interior enforcements. That's what he's tweeted this morning. That was the message he relayed last night."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/14, Mascaro, Bennett, Lauter) reports Trump further "defended

his negotiations with Democratic leaders on immigration" later yesterday, telling reporters en route to Florida, "We're working on a plan – subject to getting massive border controls. We're working on a plan for DACA." The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/14, lead story, 3:25, Cordes) showed Trump saying, "There was no deal. They didn't say they had a deal." [Roll Call](#) (9/14, Bennett) noted that White House deputy press secretary Lindsay Walters also told reporters, "There was no deal made."

On the other hand, the [AP](#) (9/14, Werner, Colvin) quotes Trump as saying "he was 'fairly close' to a deal with congressional leaders." He added that "his promised wall along the US-Mexico border would 'come later,' but would need to happen soon." In fact, "after he landed in Florida, he declared repeatedly, 'If we don't have a wall, we're doing nothing.'" The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/14, lead story, 3:25, Cordes) reported that later Thursday, Trump "was back to criticizing the Democrats about the wall," telling reporters, "If the Democrats aren't going to approve it, then we're not going to do what they want." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/14, Meckler, Peterson) runs a similar story under the headline "Trump, Democrats Hagggle On Contours Of A 'Dreamers' Deal,"

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/14, story 4, 2:25, Vega) showed Trump saying, "We're talking about taking care of people, people that were brought here, people that have done a good job and were not brought here of their own volition. ... We're not looking at citizenship, we're not looking at amnesty. We're looking at allowing people to stay here." [Breitbart](#) (9/14, Spiering) reported that "on Air Force One, however, a White House spokesperson confirmed that 'legal citizenship over a period of time' for DACA recipients would likely be part of a deal." Pelosi, moreover, "insisted that the plan would offer them a 'path to citizenship.'" [Politico](#) (9/14, Nussbaum), meanwhile, reports "the White House is against 'amnesty,' but won't say what that means," and [The Hill](#) (9/14, Fabian) described Trump as "trying to soothe his base, which is incensed."

Eamon Javers said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (9/14), "That's something that we haven't really seen much of in Washington since the Clinton Administration, but it looks like...Trump is trying a little triangulation here as well." The [Washington Times](#) (9/14, Dinan) reports, however, that the President also said yesterday that "GOP leaders in Congress are 'very much on board' the deal he's working with...Schumer and...Pelosi." The [Washington Post](#) (9/14, Viebeck, O'Keefe, Debonis) reports Speaker Ryan dismissed "the potential deal...as little more than a preliminary discussion," but also "agreed in broad terms with the president's goal of protecting hundreds of thousands of undocumented immigrants while postponing talk of a border wall but toughening US border security in other ways."

Sen. Bill Cassidy said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (9/14), "The American people obviously want the border security. But if you look at polls, the American people want something done with DACA in a way which doesn't kick out a lot of kids who came here when they were young. So, I think the President is probably looking at the polls and realizes the sweet spot is to work out that compromise. So, I think that's what the President seems to be aiming for."

Sen. James Lankford was asked on [CNN's The Lead](#) (9/14) if he could support a deal with Democrats on Dreamers that does not include funding for a border wall. Lankford said, "I would actually. ... I've been clear for years with people that the Dream Act is not going to pass, but it doesn't solve the problem to ignore the issue on the kids that are on DACA. ... As far as the issue of not having a border wall, that doesn't surprise me, quite frankly. ... The Department of Homeland Security has yet to explain to the" Appropriations and Homeland Security committees "exactly what the wall would look like, where they would put it exactly, how it'd be constructed, the final cost of it. All of those things are still up in the air. Until they can resolve those things, we shouldn't have a border wall funding issue. ... We're not ready for that at this point. We are ready to be able to deal with DACA."

Rep. Ted Yoho said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/14), "I don't think any deal's been cut. I think there was talks. You can't fix a problem if we don't talk about it, but I can tell you one thing is border security has to happen. Enforcement of laws has to happen before you'll see this go anywhere. But to talk about it and bring it out on the table I think is a winner for all of America."

Rep. Louie Gohmert said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (9/14), "I refuse to talk about legalizing anybody until that border is secure. There are places we have got to have a wall, we've got to secure it, and once that is done, then we'll talk about this other stuff."

[McClatchy](#) (9/14, Glueck) describes Trump as "hedging on a border wall" and "threatening to betray core campaign promises in the process," though "according to the GOP base, this is all the fault of the Republican-controlled Congress." Along those lines, Joe Scarborough, in the [Washington Post](#) (9/14), calls King's comments yesterday "a primal scream" and mocks "poor

Ann Coulter," but adds that "Hannity, Bannon and King are about to learn the same lesson that Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz, Hillary Clinton, Jeff Zucker, Mika Brzezinski and I discovered in 2016: With Trump, it is never over. His base will stick with him no matter what."

[Breitbart](#) (9/14, Poor) noted that Rush Limbaugh did not join the choir of conservative criticism of Trump. Instead he said, "I'm asking myself: Would Trump really do that? Is he that...? Fill in the blank. But a lot of people do think it, a lot of people did think it, and right there pushing that narrative is the Drive-By Media – and certain Republicans are helping that narrative be pushed."

Rep. Tim Ryan said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (9/14), "These are kids. These are kids who came here with family members. They did nothing wrong, and we are trying to solve a problem. Of course we want to talk about jobs, but this is an immediate crisis that, quite frankly, the President created. He could have handled this in a much better way of just saying, let's figure out if he wants to go through the legislative process to formalize this. We could have done that without all the drama. But here we are."

Rep. Adriano Espaillat said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (9/14) that the President "doesn't have to send it back to Congress. In fact, in Congress, we've got several pieces of legislation that takes care of the problem. We have the DREAM Act that is sponsored by Congresswomen Lucille Roybal-Allard and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, a bipartisan piece of legislation that seems to have the provisions in it that would resolve this problem. ... All he needs to do is a hop, skip, and a jump to the Capitol. Let's roll up our sleeves and go over the provisions in the bill. Let's see what's good and what's bad and make sure we pass it."

"Sources": House GOP Leaders Want Wall As Part Of DACA Deal. [Politico](#) (9/14, Bade) reports that according to "sources close to leadership...House Republicans plan to ask Trump to push for the wall as part of any DACA fix."

Meadows Tells Conservatives Not To Worry, Says Group "Working Very Closely" With White House. [USA Today](#) (9/14, Collins) reports Rep. Mark Meadows, chairman of the hard-line House Freedom Caucus, "says conservatives should not be concerned about reports...Trump has struck an immigration deal with Democrats, because the Freedom Caucus is taking the lead in drafting the bill." Meadows "downplayed talk of a deal Thursday, because he said members of his caucus are working in conjunction with the White House to get conservative legislative proposals drafted." Meadows told USA Today, "We're working very closely with the administration and conservative members of Congress...on how to address this (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) issue."

In fact, [Politico](#) (9/14, Cheney, Hesson) says "many conservatives on Capitol Hill made clear this week that there is, in fact, a window for the president to win buy-in from the right for a deal that would protect some undocumented immigrants...in exchange for stepped-up immigration enforcement measures." According to "interviews with more than a dozen conservative lawmakers...many envision a deal much like the one Trump and Democratic leaders purportedly reached." Politico adds that "the real test will be what kind of border security measures Democrats are willing to stomach, and whether the right will insist on a border wall despite Trump's decision to put it off."

Pelosi To Democratic Whips: "We Made A Deal To Make A Deal." [Politico](#) (9/14, Schor, Caygle) reports that Pelosi told "House Democratic whips that despite 'some misunderstandings in the press about a deal, we made a deal to make a deal. We made a deal to go forward.'"

House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (9/14), "My understanding, I wouldn't call it a deal. What I would say is a plan to get to a deal. I think it was very clear that the President understood and there was an agreement that the Dreamer Act would be the substance of whatever agreement is ultimately reached and also what was reached was that security, enhanced security at the border would be part of whatever program was ultimately agreed to."

Pelosi: "I Do Trust The President Is Sincere." [Reuters](#) (9/14) reports that Pelosi also said yesterday "she trusted...Trump's sincerity in working to protect so-called Dreamers." Pelosi told reporters, "When we're talking about this legislation to protect the Dreamers, yes I do trust that the president is sincere in understanding that the public supports that overwhelmingly, the public supports not sending these young people back."

Schumer On Hot Mic: "He Likes Us" Or "Likes Me Anyway." [Roll Call](#) (9/14, McKinless) reported that "the Senate chamber microphones picked up...Schumer commenting on his relationship with...Trump Thursday morning." Said Schumer, "He likes us. ... He likes me anyway." [Politico](#) (9/14, Nelson) says "it was not clear about whom Schumer was speaking."

Sources: Trump Has Difficulty Speaking To McConnell, Has Better Rapport With Schumer And

Pelosi. [Politico](#) (9/14, Bade, Dawsey) reports that "in recent weeks, Trump has complained in private that it's difficult to have any sort of relationship – or even make small talk – with...McConnell," and has "told staff that he finds...Ryan, whom he's dubbed a 'boy scout,' dry as well, but the two have some rapport." A "senior administration official" said "the only Republican in leadership with whom Trump has a personal connection is House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy." Politico adds that "by contrast, Trump can relate to Democratic leaders...Schumer and...Pelosi," and "wants to keep meeting with them." A "White House source" tells Politico, "Schumer just talks to him. You get Mitch and Paul in here, and they're trying to explain this or that, and there is no personal connection."

Breitbart: "Amnesty Don" Number One Trend In DC On Twitter. [Breitbart](#) (9/13, Binder) indicated, in fact, that "'Amnesty Don' peaked at the number one trend in Washington, D.C. on Twitter, the social media outlet the President is most known for using." [Breitbart](#) (9/14, Moons) also runs a series of pieces highly critical of Trump, including one titled "9 Family Members Of Americans Killed By Illegal Aliens Respond To Possible DACA Deal With Democrats."

Another [Breitbart](#) (9/14, Munro), titled "Trump Voters Throw MAGA Hats into Twitter Bonfire," warns the President that "the hat-burning may presage a huge demoralization among Trump's loyal followers, and cause his support to drop down to the basement levels achieved by President George W. Bush when he pushed for an amnesty in 2006 and 2007."

Hispanic Lawmakers, Immigration Activists Upset At Pelosi And Schumer. [Politico](#) (9/14, Schor, Caygle) reports "Democratic leaders are facing fresh trouble with their left flank after cutting their latest deal with President Donald Trump to protect Dreamers." Politico adds that "Hispanic lawmakers were blindsided by the Wednesday night announcement from" Pelosi and Schumer "that they'd support legislation to help the nearly 700,000 undocumented immigrants in exchange for an unspecified boost in border security," and "immigration activists were frustrated to see Democrats claim victory only days after calling for a stand-alone vote on a path to citizenship for Dreamers." Pelosi "sought to assuage her caucus' concerns Thursday morning."

WPost, USA Today, WSJournal Among Those Defending Trump. The [Washington Post](#) (9/14) editorializes that it "doesn't often agree with...Trump, but we're on board with his observation that most Americans oppose deportation for 'dreamers,'" and believe he is "right to ratchet up the pressure on Congress to extend" DREAMers "the protections he is set to withdraw." Democrats "should reciprocate in good faith by providing new funding for border security." [USA Today](#) (9/14) editorializes on the "fierce backlash from conservatives, as well as opposition from the far left, where anything other than resistance to Trump is considered treasonous." Yet it also concludes that "assuming a deal gets done, it will provide something for both sides."

In an editorial, meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/14) urges Trump to dismiss the criticism from some on the right, and predicts those same critics will be soon in his corner. To the Journal, an agreement on DACA would be a major accomplishment for the President.

Jim Acosta said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (9/14), "The President said he is getting close to a deal to help those Dreamers, but he did warn talking to reporters on Air Force One he's going to have to start working with Democrats if he's not getting enough cooperation from Republicans, and that capped a day of confusion for the White House as the President was being contradicted by his aides and vice versa all day long on the subject of immigration."

Juan Williams said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/14), "Steve King, the Iowa congressman, said basically the President risks blowing up his base as this point. You think about that base...it's about 35, 40 percent. You think about the high retention of Republican support for the President. If that starts to deteriorate, if you get the Ann Coulter voices, the right wing talk radio voices pulling away from this President, that could crater what is not a high level of support for him in that base."

Tucker Carlson said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (9/14), "It would be a massive amnesty, maybe the biggest ever granted in American history. This is thrilling news for Democrats and for open borders advocates everywhere. In return for this concession, the President receives nothing, no reduction in overall immigration totals, no tightened restriction on foreign workers who take jobs from Americans, no E-Verify to prevent illegal immigrants from working under the table, no end to chain migration. The President isn't even getting a border wall, though he insisted he will somehow get one later, possibly."

Hannity: Schumer And Pelosi Will "Stab The President In The Back." Sean Hannity said in his opening monologue on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (9/14) that Schumer and Pelosi are essentially claiming that "the Democrats get everything they want, they get DACA and the President doesn't get his wall. It is the one thing everybody needs to understand about Schumer and Pelosi. They don't like this President. They can't stand him. They want the President to fail and they certainly

don't have his best interests at heart or in mind. Schumer and Pelosi only care about scoring cheap political points because they want to gain seats in 2018. ... As soon as it doesn't serve them politically, I can promise you, Chuck Schumer, Nancy Pelosi, they are going to turn around and stab the President in the back. That's a fact."

NBC News Analysis: "No Formal Plan" To Build Border Wall, "Obstacles Piling Up." [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/14, story 4, 2:05, Alexander) reported that "eight months into his presidency, there's no formal plan for building the kind of wall the President's been touting for two years. ... NBC has learned the study...Trump ordered in January on how to fully secure the border yet to be finalized." Moreover, "the obstacles are piling up," with "many construction firms fearing political retaliation are shying away from what typically would be a highly sought after and lucrative contract." Moreover, there is, NBC continued, "a wall of opposition" to "one of the President's top priorities."

Trump Meets With Irma Survivors, Praises Federal And State Response.

The President visited Southwest Florida yesterday to meet with Hurricane Irma survivors. The trip sparked largely favorable coverage, particularly on Florida print outlets and local TV newscasts. Encapsulating the tone of the reporting across much of the media spectrum, Aaron Blake writes in the [Washington Post](#) (9/14) that the visuals from the trip show "a guy who is actually pretty adept at pressing the flesh with not-necessarily-Trump-supporters and doing the small-talk thing. These are all good images for the White House." A number of reports, however, take a more critical tone when addressing Trump's encouragement to Gov. Rick Scott to challenge Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson in next year's elections. The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/14, story 3, 1:35, Evans), for example, said Trump "couldn't resist injecting a little politics," the [AP](#) (9/14, Lucey, Thomas) that he "couldn't resist injecting a political flavor into his visit," and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/14, Lee, McDonnell) that he "raised some eyebrows by injecting politics into Thursday's visit."

As the [Sunshine State \(FL\) News](#) (9/14, Smith) notes, the President "thanked...Scott for his work, saying he's doing an 'incredible' job" and adding, "I hope this man right here, Rick Scott, runs for the Senate." Scott "returned the compliment, praising the president half a dozen times during his four-minute remarks for his support even while Irma was thousands of miles away." The [New York Times](#) (9/14, Sullivan) says "Scott's compliment was notable, as the federal government's response to hurricanes is regularly measured against its botched efforts after Hurricane Katrina hit Louisiana in 2005." [Politico](#) (9/14, McCaskill) reports Scott "has publicly said he is weighing a Senate run, but he has insisted that he feels little pressure to make an early decision."

The [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (9/14, Stanley), meanwhile, reports that in Naples, Trump "handed out half-sandwiches and bananas with the first lady, vice president and...Scott," and "met with a handful of residents who sat waiting on front lawns of the mobile home community, with punched out windows, collapsed porches and wrecked carports." In Fort Myers, the President "thanked the Marines, Navy, Army, National Guard, Federal Emergency Management Administration and everyone who helped keep lives safe during the hurricane."

[WTVJ-TV](#) Miami (9/14, 6:16 p.m. EDT) described the President as "consoler in chief, hugging and handshaking with folks clobbered by the fist of Hurricane Irma," and [WFTX-TV](#) Fort Myers, FL (9/14, 6:05 p.m. EDT) reported "people" say that "even though they've lost everything, they are encouraged by some personal attention from the White House." [WTXL-TV](#) Tallahassee, FL (9/14, 6:03 p.m. EDT) showed Trump saying, "The job that everybody has done is incredible. I just want to thank everybody, the first responders. We've seen the devastation." [WPEC-TV](#) West Palm Beach, FL (9/14, 5:09 p.m. ET), meanwhile, showed Vice President Pence saying, "We are with you today. We are going to be with you tomorrow, and we are going to be with you until Florida rebuilds bigger and better than ever before."

Upon his arrival in Florida, [USA Today](#) (9/14, Jackson) reports, Trump spoke "in front of a Coast Guard helicopter at Southwest Florida International Airport" to thank "first responders and other officials working to rescue stranded residents, restore utilities and ensure public safety – even thanking the media for keeping people informed."

Reporting on Trump's Naples stop, the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/14, story 3, 1:35, Evans) showed a person in the crowd telling the President, "Where was Obama in the last hurricane? He was playing golf." Trump replied, "Was this a good vote?" The unidentified speaker responded, "Yes." Trump was shown saying, "He said best vote of his life." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/14, story 5, 0:25, Muir), meanwhile, only mentioned that Trump was in Florida "surveying the damage from...Irma" as the preface of a report on the path of Hurricane Jose, and [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/14, story 4, 2:05, Alexander) did the same at the tail end of a story that concluded

Trump is struggling to fulfill his campaign promises.

Jim Acosta said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/14) that Trump "did come face to face with some storm victims," and showed him saying, "We love the people of Florida. And they went through something I guess the likes that nobody's ever seen before. They've never seen a category like this coming. Because it came in really at a five. All you have to do is look what happened in the Keys. We love these people and we're going to be back and we're going to help and the job that everybody has done in terms of first responders and everybody has been incredible."

The [AP](#) (9/14, Lucey, Thomas) describes Trump as "brimming with enthusiasm for the state and federal response effort," and says he and the First Lady "encountered piles of broken siding and soggy furniture heaped on front porches, and residents who were happy to get a presidential visit." Said Trump, "We are there for you 100 percent. ... I'll be back here numerous times. This is a state that I know very well." [NPR](#) (9/14, Kelly) said that "the surrounding area was littered with downed trees and ripped-out signs; mobile homes were totaled; and tarps covered roofs, according to pool reports. Gas stations along the way advertised that they didn't have fuel."

The [New York Times](#) (9/14, Sullivan) similarly indicates that in his "third visit to storm-ravaged parts of the United States in the past few weeks after two major hurricanes," the President "again praised the federal government's performance," saying, "I think we're doing a good job in Florida." The [Washington Times](#) (9/14, Miller) notes he "commended" both Scott and the "fantastic" job FEMA "had done preparing and responding to the massive hurricane." [Reuters](#) (9/14, Oliphant) reports Trump also had praise for "first responders and local officials for their handling of the storm." Said Trump, "When you think of the incredible power of that storm, and while people unfortunately passed, it was such a small number. ... People thought thousands and thousands of people may have their lives ended and the number is a very small number, which is a great tribute to you." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/14, Ballhaus) runs a similar report.

The [New York Post](#) (9/14, Steinbuch) reports that "before leaving the White House on Thursday morning, Trump said that 'historically there's never been anything like this.'" He added, "But the United States Coast Guard, FEMA, working along with Gov. Scott, they've really done an amazing job. ... We have the largest assemblage of human beings ever in one area for power, and rapidly it's being turned on."

A couple of reports focused on Trump's offhand comments yesterday. Under the headline "Donald Trump Really Can't Stop Talking About His Hands," [Vanity Fair](#) (9/14, Weaver) reported that "Trump has been traveling to the southern parts of the country to respond to the first natural disasters of his presidency, or in his case, to talk about himself." When "he prepared to put on a pair of latex gloves while helping with Harvey relief earlier this month, Trump claimed 'his hands were too big' for the gloves," and "in a clear move to recycle his bit, he said the same thing while helping with Irma relief in Florida on Thursday." [Business Insider](#) (9/14, Abadi) ran a similar report.

Yoho Also Praises Recovery Effort. Rep. Ted Yoho said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/14) that his district is "recovering. There's a stellar effort by everybody on the ground and I'm happy to report that all six of the counties in District 3 of north-central Florida got individual assistance where people can qualify for \$33,000 of assistance, public assistance and hazard assistance." Yoho added, "We have got 21,000 MREs coming in later on today and 10,000 gallons of water. Power is being put up. The important thing is that the FEMA money is here to help alleviate hazard release, picking up trash and debris. We're happy with the progression and I think the greatest thing I saw was people coming together as Americans, as we always do in tough times like this to make a tough situation better."

Trump To View Irma Relief Efforts In Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands. [McClatchy](#) (9/14, Daugherty) reports that the President will visit Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands "to view Hurricane Irma relief efforts first hand," Puerto Rican Gov. Ricardo Rosselló said Thursday. Rosselló "has been in regular communication with the White House over the past week and said that White House officials have pledged to support Puerto Rico's needs." According to McClatchy, Puerto Rico "sustained an estimated \$1 billion in damage from Irma, up from an initial estimate of \$600 million," and that "will play a role when Congress discusses an Irma relief package, which will cost billions of dollars after Irma moved through the Keys and along Florida's Gulf Coast."

Trump Dismisses Impact Of Climate Change On Hurricanes Harvey, Irma. [The Hill](#) (9/14, Henry) reports that following his visit to Florida, Trump "dismissed the impact of climate change on Hurricanes Harvey and Irma," telling reporters on Air Force One, "We've had bigger storms," and "ignor[ing] a question about his views on climate change, according to reporters traveling with him."

Jim Acosta said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/14) that Trump said "he is not changing his mind on the issue," though "the scientific community believes that there is a very strong likelihood that there is a connection between climate change and...these violent storms that we're seeing not only here in the United States, but around the world. ... This remains a tough issue for this White House where you have the President of the United States essentially saying hasn't changed his mind on the issue of climate change. Apparently, he still believes it's a hoax, while officials inside the Administration agree climate change is happening. They just don't know what to do about it, and they don't know how to change the President's opinion on it."

By 211-198, House Approves Spending Bill Boosting Military Spending.

The [AP](#) (9/14, Taylor) reports "the Republican-led House on Thursday passed a sweeping \$1.2 trillion spending bill that provides billions more dollars for the military while sparing medical research and popular community development programs from deep cuts sought by President Donald Trump." The 211-198 vote moved forward a "massive measure that wrapped the 12 annual spending bills into one in advance of the end of the budget year on Sept. 30."

WSJournal Praises House Passage Of All 12 Spending Bills. A [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/14) editorial praises the House Republicans for passing all 12 individual spending bills for the first time since 2004 and argues that while the bills will face Democratic filibusters in the Senate, perhaps the House's responsible action will encourage the Senate to act.

Trump Dismisses Impact Of Climate Change On Hurricanes Harvey, Irma.

[The Hill](#) (9/14, Henry) reports that following his visit Thursday to Florida to survey the damage from Hurricane Irma, President Trump "dismissed the impact of climate change on Hurricanes Harvey and Irma," telling reporters on Air Force One, "We've had bigger storms," and "ignor[ing] a question about his views on climate change, according to reporters traveling with him."

NYTimes Analysis: Hurricanes May Be Changing GOP Thinking On Climate Change. In an analysis, the [New York Times](#) (9/14, Burns) reports that "an array of political leaders — including some members of Mr. Trump's party, along with emboldened Democrats and environmental activists — see the underlying dynamics of climate politics bending, as drastic weather events throw up practical challenges for red and blue states alike." Republican party strategists believe that to be safe, Republicans are "embracing proposals to mitigate certain effects of environmental change, while skirting debate about more drastic actions that experts see as essential." The Times continues, "That approach reached even the White House this week, with Thomas P. Bossert, Mr. Trump's Homeland Security adviser, declaring that the administration takes 'seriously the threat of climate change.' He added, somewhat vaguely, 'Not the cause of it, but the things that we observe.'"

Jim Acosta said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/14) that Trump said "he is not changing his mind on the issue," though "the scientific community believes that there is a very strong likelihood that there is a connection between climate change and...these violent storms that we're seeing not only here in the United States, but around the world. ... This remains a tough issue for this White House where you have the President of the United States essentially saying he hasn't changed his mind on the issue of climate change. Apparently, he still believes it's a hoax, while officials inside the Administration agree climate change is happening. They just don't know what to do about it, and they don't know how to change the President's opinion on it."

[CNBC](#) (9/14) similarly reports, "Some see signs that the recent blitz of hurricanes is reshaping strategies in the Trump White House." After the flooding of Houston, "Bossert...said a new plan was being developed to insure federal money would not increase flood risks." In addition, as Irma weakened over Georgia on Monday, "Bossert used a White House briefing to offer more hints of an emerging climate resilience policy, while notably avoiding accepting climate change science: 'What President Trump is committed to is making sure that federal dollars aren't used to rebuild things that will be in harm's way later or that won't be hardened against the future predictable floods that we see. And that has to do with engineering analysis and changing conditions along eroding shorelines but also in inland water and flood-control projects.'"

Wenonah Hauter is executive director of the national advocacy organization Food & Water Watch, writes in a piece for [The Hill](#) (9/14, Wenonah Hauter —) that comments on climate change from Administration officials — like Bossert saying, "We continue to take seriously the climate change, not the cause of it, but the things that we observe" — are "no surprise: Trump has dismissed fossil fuel-driven climate change as a hoax, and stacked his administration with a who's-who of oil and gas industry backers." However, Hauter says, it's "clearer than ever that our climate has already been significantly altered by decades of fossil fuel carbon emissions. ... All we

need now is the public and political will to act.”

[Politico](#) (9/14, Caputo) reported that Florida Gov. Rick Scott “is again weathering criticism over global warming in the wake of Hurricane Irma, and won’t say if he believes man-made climate change is real.” Politico quoted Scott as saying this week, “Clearly our environment changes all the time, and whether that’s cycles we’re going through or whether that’s man-made, I wouldn’t be able to tell you which one it is. But I can tell you this: We ought to go solve problems. I know we have beach renourishment issues. I know we have flood-mitigation issues.” Politico added, “In not taking a position on climate change, Scott’s views and responses to questions about” the issue “have remained markedly steady for years.”

Administration May Replace Obama Climate Rule Rather Than Repeal It.

[Politico](#) (9/14, Holden) reports that the Trump Administration is indicating that it may offer “its own replacement for former President Barack Obama’s landmark climate regulation — rather than just erasing it altogether.” Politico cites “a source close to the process” who said that the EPA “aims by early October to issue a proposal to undo Obama’s climate rule, along with a separate advance notice of its intent to consider a replacement.” Politico adds that while such a “mend-it-don’t-end-it approach on Obama’s 2015 rule could appease power companies that say the EPA needs to impose some kind of climate regulation,” it “would run afoul of demands from some conservative activists, who have pressured EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to reject the idea that climate change is a problem requiring federal action.”

Green Groups Intend To Sue EPA For Blocking Methane Emissions Limit.

[E&E Publishing](#) (9/13) reports that several environmental groups have already said they intend to sue the EPA for blocking implementation of Obama-era methane emission limits for the oil and gas industry. “EPA’s ongoing failure to control emissions from the vast majority of harmful pollution sources in the oil and gas industry violates the Clean Air Act,” the green groups said in the letter, which is dated Aug. 28.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“A Hypocritical Battle Over Blue Slips.” The [New York Times](#) (9/15, Board) editorializes that “now that Republicans control both the White House and Congress, top party officials, including Mitch McConnell, the Senate majority leader, are itching to eliminate the last remaining tool the minority party has to influence a president’s picks for the federal courts — the so-called blue slip.” The Times notes that “back in 2009, Mr. McConnell and the entire Republican Senate caucus — then in the minority — implored President Barack Obama to honor all blue slips.” The Times argues that “the blue slip is no longer the answer.”

Washington Post.

“Trump Dares To Dream Of A Deal.” The [Washington Post](#) (9/14) editorializes that it “doesn’t often agree with...Trump, but we’re on board with his observation that most Americans oppose deportation for ‘dreamers,’” and believe he is “right to ratchet up the pressure on Congress to extend” DREAMers “the protections he is set to withdraw.” Democrats “should reciprocate in good faith by providing new funding for border security.”

“Kris Kobach Is The Real Fraud.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/14) writes that Kris Kobach’s recent claims of New Hampshire voter fraud have “no evidence” to back them and that an examination of the data Kobach references as proof shows that “more than two-thirds of 5,900 day-of-election registrants who had out-of-state driver’s licenses lived in college towns, indicating most were students voting perfectly legally.” The Post argues that the “real fraud is Mr. Kobach himself...who will torture any truth, distort any data and fudge any fact in service to his long-standing goal of suppressing votes, specifically those likely to favor Democrats.”

“Israel’s Strike In Syria Should Be A Wake Up Call For Trump.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/14) writes Israel’s September 7 airstrike on an Iran-linked Syrian military facility highlighted the difference between US and Israeli interests in Syria, in light of President Trump’s statement the day of the strike that the US has “very little to do with Syria other than killing ISIS.” The Post argues that although the Administration still should preserve the Iranian nuclear deal, the US “should be taking its own steps to block the Iranian ‘entrenchment’ in Syria” about which Benjamin Netanyahu has spoken.

Wall Street Journal.

"One Last ObamaCare Try." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/14) concedes that Graham-Cassidy is not an ideal solution to the country's healthcare problems, but concludes it does signify progress toward undoing the ACA. Moreover, the Journal warns Republicans that if they miss this opportunity to repeal Obamacare, their voters will remember in 2018.

"The Return To Regular Order." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/14) editorial praises the House Republicans for passing all 12 individual spending bills for the first time since 2004 and argues that while the bills will face Democratic filibusters in the Senate, perhaps the House's responsible action will encourage the Senate to act.

"Trump's Dreamer Dealing." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/14) urges President Trump to dismiss the criticism from some on the right, and predicts those same critics will be soon in his corner. To the Journal, an agreement on DACA would be a major accomplishment for the President.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[GOP Pushes Back On "Dreamers" Deal Sought By Trump, Democrats](#)
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Washington Post:

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Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: North Korea-Missile Test; Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths; Hurricane Irma-Caribbean; White House-DACA Deal; Hurricane Jose Tracking; Washington State-School Shooting; Ft. Bragg Training Accident; NYPD-Police Shooting Bodycam; Treasury Secretary-Gov Plane Use; Maryland-School Teacher Murdered; San Diego-Hepatitis Outbreak; Young Driver-Guardrail Crash; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach; Plane Overbooking-Compensated Woman.

CBS: White House-DACA Deal; White House-Democrats Relations; Hurricane Irma-Trump Visit;

North Korea-Missile Test; Trump-Charlottesville Comment; Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths; Hurricane Irma-Relief Efforts; NYPD-Police Shooting Bodycam; Washington State-School Shooting; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach; Treasury Secretary-Gov Plane Use; Google-Gender Discrimination Lawsuit; Crayola-New Crayon Name; Selena Gomez-Kidney Transplant.

NBC: North Korea-Missile Test; Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths; White House-DACA Deal; White House-Campaign Promises; Hurricane Irma-Caribbean; Google-Gender Discrimination Lawsuit; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach; Selena Gomez-Kidney Transplant; Ft. Bragg Training Accident; Cartoonist Parent.

Network TV At A Glance:

Hurricane Irma – 14 minutes, 25 seconds
White House-DACA Deal – 10 minutes, 35 seconds
Equifax-Cyber Security Breach – 4 minutes, 45 seconds
North Korea-Missile Test – 3 minutes

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: North Korea-Missile Test; White House-DACA Deal; Ft. Bragg Training Accident; Wisconsin-Foxconn Facility; NBA News.

CBS: North Korea-Missile Test; White House-DACA Deal; Washington State-School Shooting; Dallas-Confederate Statue Removal.

FOX: North Korea-Missile Test; UC Berkeley-Conservative Speech; White House-DACA Deal; NBA News.

NPR: North Korea-Missile Test; Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths; Washington State-School Shooting; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Delivers remarks to members of the military at Joint Base Andrews.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: No public schedule announced.

US House: House breaks for recess until September 25.

Other: 8:00 AM National Latina Symposium and Awards – Annual National Latina Symposium. Includes the Distinguished Military Service Awards Luncheon, honoring Latina military and civilian personnel 'who through their service have enhanced the role of Latinas in their organizations'. Speakers include Democratic Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto, and Department of Defense Office of Diversity Management and Equal Opportunity Director Clarence Johnson * Event is preceded by an invitation-only welcome reception Location: Marriott Marquis Washington, DC, 901 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://nls.latinastyle.com/>
<https://twitter.com/LATINASTyleMag>

National POW/MIA Recognition Day – National POW/MIA Recognition Day, with annual ceremony featuring members of each branch of military service held at the Pentagon, hosted by the secretary of defense * Black-and-white flag honoring the nation's prisoners of war and those missing in action flies over White House, U.S. Capitol, Departments of State, Defense, and Veterans Affairs, Selective Service System headquarters, World War II Memorial, Korean War Veterans Memorial, Vietnam Veterans Memorial, U.S. post offices, national cemeteries, and other locations * Presidential Proclamation urges Americans to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities Location: TBD <http://www.defenselink.mil/>
<https://twitter.com/DoDPOWMIA>

11-year-old boy helps cut White House lawn after writing President Trump – 11-year-old 'Frank from Falls Church, VA' visits the White House, working with the groundskeeping crew and helping cut the grass in the Rose Garden, having written President Donald Trump earlier this year offering to mow the lawn, for free, in order to 'show the nation what young people like me are ready for'. White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders read the letter out in the regular press briefing last month * The reading followed widespread skepticism after Sanders had read out another letter in July from a nine-year-old that had had a President-Trump themed birthday party and wanted to be friends with the president. The White House even released a copy of the letter to media Location: The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.whitehouse.gov/> <https://twitter.com/whitehouse>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Almost every weekend since [Donald Trump] was sworn in, he has personally flown to Florida to make sure there were no hurricanes there. Sometimes he even carries a golf club to fend them off."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Hillary Clinton is promoting her new book. She told Anderson Cooper that a lot of people come up to her now to apologize for not voting. And when they do that, she says she doesn't forgive them. I guess she used all her forgiveness up on her husband."

Jimmy Kimmel: "White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders was asked about Clinton's book. She said she thought it was sad, which is true. I mean, I don't want to spoil it for anyone who's planning to read it, but at the end of the book, Donald Trump becomes President."

James Corden: "So big news out of the White House last night, Democratic leaders Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi had dinner with Donald Trump, and they said that they struck a deal regarding immigration and border security that might not even include the wall Trump keeps promising. At the dinner, Pelosi and Schumer had the chicken while Trump ate his words."

James Corden: "Trump supporters were really angry today that it looks like he was making deals with the Democrats and abandoning the border wall. They said that Trump never betrays anyone, aside from Sean Spicer, Anthony Scaramucci, Reince Priebus, Steve Bannon, his two ex-wives, and that one daughter he never talks about."

James Corden: "Trump did try to reassure his supporters by tweeting this. He said the wall, which is already under construction in the form of new renovation of old and existing fences, will continue to be built. Now I'm sorry, you cannot fix an existing wall and then say that you built a wall. That is not how it works. That is like taking \$14 million from your father and saying you are a self-made businessman."

Trevor Noah: "One deal, now he's Mr. Bipartisan? Okay, you can't call someone a philanthropist because they tossed a quarter at a homeless person. Doesn't work that way."

Trevor Noah: "Let's talk for a minute about the Twitter. It's a wonderful invention, but we have learned that if you ever tweet something that offends too many people, you could get fired from your job, or you could become President."

Jimmy Fallon: "Trump went on Twitter to criticize Hillary's new book. So she responded by saying she'd send him a copy of her children's book instead. Trump was like, 'Got anything shorter?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Meanwhile, Ivanka Trump said that she doesn't speak out against her dad publicly because when you're part of a team, you're part of a team. I think what she meant to say was, 'When you're part of a will, you're part of a will.'"

Seth Meyers: "In an interview with CNN yesterday, Hillary Clinton said that the electoral college needs to be eliminated. 'Same with regular college,' said Betsy DeVos."

Seth Meyers: "So the big, beautiful wall that would be paid for by Mexico and begins construction on day one is now an old existing fence that will be paid for later because we all remember those famous chants from Trump rallies. 'What do we want?' 'To renovate old and existing fences.' 'And when do we want it?' 'A little bit later than now!'"

Seth Meyers: "That's right. Donald Trump is a party of one. Although, usually you hear that phrase associated with Eric Trump. 'Eric, party of one.'"

Conan O'Brien: "President Trump now says he wants the wealthy to pay more taxes and he

wants undocumented minors to be allowed to stay in the country. That's what he said. Then this morning, Trump accused himself of being born in Kenya."

Conan O'Brien: "Trump supporters are angry, outraged over President's recent reversals on immigration. Trump supporters are very upset. This is the first time they've ever been this angry at a white male."

Conan O'Brien: "President Trump was very busy all night last night tweeting about Hillary Clinton. As a result, Melania Trump spent all this morning thanking Hillary Clinton."

Conan O'Brien: "Facebook is under fire because during last year's election, Facebook sold lots of ad space to Russia. Facebook said the problem has been fixed. Now they're selling that ad space to a really nice lady named ISIS."

Conan O'Brien: "The US government has announced a deal to sell 18 fighter jets to Canada. Those jets will help Canada protect itself from its most hated enemy, bad manners."

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DOI In The News

Zinke Doles Out \$94M To Showcase The Benefits Of Trump's Pro-Drilling Policy.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/21, Siciliano) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "added some sweeteners to his conservation push Thursday by handing out \$94 million to states from payments the agency collects from offshore oil and natural gas drillers." Zinke "suggested that the funding was a test of the administration's pro-drilling policies that will seek to increase revenue to states as part of its energy dominance agenda." He said, "By advancing the administration's offshore energy goals, we will be able to generate more revenue for the [land conservation] fund to improve conservation and recreation opportunities for generations to come," Zinke said. The funding came from the Land and Water Conservation Fund program, which Zinke called "a resounding success" in making "physical investments in our communities."

Additional coverage was provided by [WLUC-TV](#) Marquette, MI (9/21).

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Rides Horses At Wilson's Creek, Announces Missouri Parks Grant.

The [Springfield \(MO\) News-Leader](#) (9/21, Schmitt) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Thursday "trekked through Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in Republic and announced a \$1.75 million grant for outdoor recreation and conservation in Missouri." At Wilson's Creek, Zinke "rode a horse on a tour, met with local fourth-graders from Lyon Elementary, took part in a fence-building exercise, fired a Civil War-era cannon and spent time with U.S. Rep. Billy Long, R-Missouri, who did not ride a horse due to his injured foot." The article notes that "the students attending the event were the winners of an art contest meant to celebrate fourth-graders in the U.S. being allowed to enter national parks for free throughout the year, according to the Republic School District."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Springfield \(MO\) News-Leader](#) (9/21).

Is Sexual Harassment A Problem In Our National Park System? [KSPR-TV](#) Springfield, MO (9/21, Pettit) reports that during a tour of Wilson's Creek, Interior National Battlefield Thursday, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke discussed sexual harassment problems at national parks. Talking to Wilson's Creek employees, Zinke said, "There is a problem and I have a couple investigations on my desk that are credible about sexual harassment and intimidation." During a question and answer period, Wilson's Creek employee, Connie Langum "stood up and pressed the Secretary how exactly he is going to fix the problem." The article says that "she was relieved to hear Secretary Zinke's honesty and willingness to try to change that culture."

Secretary Zinke Declares October National Hunting And Fishing Month.

[KAIT-TV](#) Jonesboro, AR (9/21, Weston) reports that days before National Hunting and Fishing Day on September 23 Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “declared October will officially be recognized as National Hunting and Fishing Month at the Department.” The order “comes on the heels of several major sportsmen actions from Interior including Wednesday’s announcement of the addition of 600 acres of land in Arizona’s Santa Teresa Mountains to make Wilderness Areas accessible for hunting and fishing.” Zinke said, “Hunters and anglers are the backbone of wildlife and habitat conservation in America, and they contribute billions of dollars to conservation. From my perspective, the more sportsmen we have in the woods and waters, the better our wildlife and land will be. Formally recognizing the contributions of hunters and anglers to wildlife and habitat conservation is long overdue.” The declaration was signed Wednesday night at the grand opening of the Wonders of Wildlife Museum in Springfield, Missouri.

Also reporting are [KUSA-TV Denver](#) Denver (9/21, Nee) and [WCSH-TV Portland \(ME\)](#) Portland, ME (9/21, Nee).

Industry Praises Zinke’s Land Moves.

[Politico Influence](#) (9/21, Meyer) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s “moves to open up protected swaths of land and ocean to industry, recreational hunting, shooting and fishing” are receiving mixed reactions, according to The Wall Street Journal’s Jim Carlton. Environmental groups are “unhappy, while some trade groups are applauding Zinke’s moves toward scaling back former President Barack Obama’s national monument designations.”

Analysis Points Out What Zinke Failed To Tell Trump. [E&E Publishing](#) (9/21, Yachnin) reports that “when Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke recommended that President Trump roll back the boundaries of a handful of national monuments last month, he pointed to the previously 18 instances in which presidents had struck land from memorials — more than 460,000 acres of federal land.” However, “a new analysis from conservation lobbyist Andy Kerr suggests Zinke’s comparison omitted a key fact: The bulk of that acreage remains under strict protections, with the majority now under the control of the National Park Service.” Kerr said “he hopes his analysis will assist conservationists and others who have vowed to challenge any attempt by the Trump administration to alter the monuments without congressional action.”

Navajo Nation Vows To Sue Trump If He Shrinks Bears Ears National Monument. The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/21, Siegel) reports that Navajo Nation attorney general Ethel Branch said Thursday the tribe is planning to sue the Administration if it attempts to reduce the size of the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah. The Navajo Nation “argues changing the boundaries of Bears Ears would violate the Antiquities Act, a century-old law that permits presidents to unilaterally protect sacred sites, cultural artifacts and other historical objects.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Reuters](#) (9/21, Volcovici).

Stewart Teases Compromise On Bears Ears, Other National Monuments. The [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (9/21, DeMille) reports that the Trump Administration and “members of Utah’s congressional delegation have a plan that could be a ‘win-win-win’ on the national monuments controversy in Utah,” Rep. Chris Stewart said on Thursday. Stewart “offered no details on the proposal but hinted that it ‘could surprise some people’ and would strike a balance between shrinking the actual boundaries of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante monuments and providing some level of protection for antiquities.” He said, “We think we’ve got a real, sincere win-win-win where those people who want to protect these incredible places, including antiquities, and those people who rely on tourism, I think are going to be really happy with this outcome. And we were able to protect the local communities.”

SUWA Files Lawsuit Against San Juan Commissioners Over Zinke Meeting. The [Moab \(UT\) Times-Independent](#) (9/21, Marcello) reports that “San Juan County’s commissioners are facing legal scrutiny for allegedly violating Utah’s Open and Public Meetings Act when they met this spring with Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke during his review of Bears Ears National Monument.” The lawsuit was filed Sept. 15 by the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance. Stephen Bloch, attorney for SUWA, said, “It’s clear the San Juan County Commission intentionally violated Utah’s Open and Public Meetings Act as a way to hide their conversations and negotiations with the Interior Department and Trump administration officials regarding the fate of Bears Ears. We are looking for an order from the court confirming that the commissioners violated the law and ordering them to follow the law moving forward.”

White House Proposals Put The Oceans At Risk. The editorial board of [Bloomberg View](#) (9/21) asserts that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is “wrong – especially when it comes to the ocean monuments currently in the secretary’s sights.” It notes that “Zinke’s preliminary

recommendation is to let commercial fishing resume in the Pacific Remote Islands and in the nearby Rose Atoll Marine National Monument." However, the board argues that "commercial tuna fishing is precisely what put these ecosystems under pressure."

Also reporting are [Science Magazine](#) (9/21, Pala) and [WBUR-FM Boston](#) Boston (9/21, Bodden, Chakrabarti).

Congress Must Challenge Ryan Zinke's Attack On National Monuments. The [Seattle Times](#) (9/21) editorializes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's report "goes beyond the scissoring of monument boundaries and recommends altering management plans designed to harmonize wildlife, recreation and public use. It's also riddled with inaccuracies, including basic details on hunting and fishing rights at two monuments in New Mexico." The paper notes that "only Congress has the power to shrink or abolish national monuments, not the president," and it urges lawmakers to give the report "the heave-ho."

Trump Administration Monument Recommendations Favor Extraction Over Conservation. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (9/21) editorializes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's memo on national monuments is "less a thoughtful analysis and more the imposition of a mindset that nothing should be off limits to extraction, whether it be logs, fish, oil or coal." Moreover, the paper says that "the problem is, without Zinke formally releasing his recommendations, and explaining them, the public is left wonder what, if any, changes will be made to the Katahdin monument." It concludes that "Zinke and the Trump administration owes it to the region to explain their plans for Maine's monument."

Jeff Mitton: Archaeological Treasures In Bears Ears. In an op-ed for the [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (9/21, Mitton), Jeff Mitton, a professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Colorado, raises concerns about the recommendation to reduce the size of the Bears Ears National Monument. Mitton asserts that public lands "do not belong to the citizens who live adjacent to them, nor are they at the disposal of the state in which they reside, or the whims of current government officials." He concludes that "our parks and monuments have been established in perpetuity not only for us, but more importantly, for the generations of Americans to come."

Zinke's Got Shrinkage. In an op-ed for the [Durango \(CO\) Telegraph](#) (9/21, Mehall), Luke Mehall urges Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to change his national monument recommendations to President Trump.

Additional Coverage: Road Closure Issue Clouds Monuments Review. Additional coverage of the review and leaked memo was provided by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (9/21, Last).

Maryland Proposes \$9 Billion Plan To Relieve Traffic Congestion.

[Reuters](#) (9/21, Shepardson) reports on Thursday, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan (R) proposed "an ambitious \$9 billion public-private partnership" to "add four new lanes to the Capital Beltway (I-495)...and four new lanes on Interstate-270." Hogan said he wants "private developers to design, build, finance, operate, and maintain" the new lanes. Hogan started this process during a recent meeting with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/21, McCartney) reports the proposal "would also widen the Baltimore-Washington Parkway (MD 295) by four toll lanes after taking over ownership from the federal government." Under Hogan's proposal, "only the new lanes would have tolls; the others would remain free." Hogan said "the plan would not cost taxpayers any money" because of the private-sector involvement; "instead, he said, because of the toll revenue, the state could potentially reap billions of dollars of additional funds."

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (9/21, Cox) quotes Zinke spokesman Alex Hinson as saying, "Secretary Zinke and Governor Hogan recently had a wide ranging conversation about a number of issues of mutual interest. No decisions related to issues involving the Baltimore-Washington Parkway were made during that meeting." Hogan said, "It was actually the Department of Interior's decision to" hand over ownership of the B-W Parkway, adding, "we're happy to take it from them." Hogan said the Interior "doesn't love [the road] because they're in the park business and not the road business, and their intention is to dispose of all roads that they have under their control."

Additional coverage is provided by [WBAL-AM Baltimore](#) Baltimore (9/21, Waldman) online and the [Baltimore Business Journal](#) (9/21, Neibauer, Wilen).

White House Begins First In Series Of Meetings To Shape Climate Goals.

A "White House representative" has confirmed to the [Washington Examiner](#) (9/21, Siciliano) that the White House on Thursday began "the first of a series of meetings...that will lead to the reshaping of the Trump administration's climate change goals and policy." The spokesman

described the meeting between “the White House and officials from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Energy Department, State Department and the Department of Interior,” as “a forward-looking meeting on strategy and how to prioritize the administration’s climate goals and objectives moving forward.” The spokesman added, “This particular meeting was more big picture strategy,” and its purpose was to bring together “a whole group of stakeholders ... that are involved in climate issues and looking ahead to what policy initiatives we may put in place.”

Next Merman At Sip ‘n Dip Lounge Won’t Be Tester, Bullock, Daines, Fox, Baucus Or Zinke.

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (9/21, Fraser) reports that “the Sip ‘n Dip Lounge announced on Twitter Monday it was looking to hire a new merman to swim in its live mermaid tank for Tiki Tuesdays.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke participated in “a tidal wave of tweets” that “included several other prominent state leaders, ... a former U.S. ambassador, and a Hollywood actor who will soon appear in a movie remake as a mermaid.” Zinke spokeswoman Heather Swift “said the tweets were ‘definitely not’ a planned attempt to boost the Sip ‘n Dip’s campaign.”

Also reporting are the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (9/21, Inbody) and the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (9/21, Fraser).

County Council Sends MLP Letter Of Support To Zinke.

The [Moab \(UT\) Times-Independent](#) (9/21, Marcello) reports that “despite mixed opinions regarding politics and public land processes, the Grand County Council voted Sept. 19 to send a letter to Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke supporting the Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM’s) Master Leasing Plan (MLP) process.” BLM representatives “have said that the Moab MLP — completed in 2016 and encompassing 785,000 acres of public land — aims to guide ‘responsible’ mineral development around Moab while also protecting natural resources and recreational opportunities.” The “letter — citing an upcoming lease sale within the Moab MLP area slated for March 2018 — urges Zinke to uphold the decisions made by the ‘locally-driven’ plan, which includes oil and gas stipulations like no surface occupancy and other protections, they state, that would limit impacts on the recreation economy.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Moab \(UT\) Sun News](#) (9/21, Herndon).

Additional Coverage: Wonders Of Wildlife Museum: Presidents, Actors Attend Springfield Grand Opening.

Additional coverage of the grand opening Springfield’s Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium was provided by the [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (9/21, Londberg), the [Springfield \(MO\) News-Leader](#) (9/21, Zhu), and [Yahoo! News](#) (9/21, Miller).

Don’t Speak For Westerners When Exploiting Public Lands.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (9/21, Molvar), Erik Molvar, a wildlife biologist and serves as the executive director of Western Watersheds Project, criticizes those “calling for public land selloffs, tax breaks, and an end to government regulations.” According to Molvar, “it would seem that these folks have a direct line to the Trump administration, but conservation-minded westerners are starting to see the sham for what it is.” He says that “as more and more westerners rally to the defense of their public lands, the good old boys are losing their stranglehold on the public debate.”

Gun Lobby Co-opts Sportsmen’s Agenda With SHARE Act.

For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (9/21, Hartl), Brett Hartl, the government affairs policy director at the Center for Biological Diversity, claims that the Sportsmen’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act, or SHARE Act, “does almost nothing to actually enhance sportsmen’s access.” However, he claims that “it does contain massive giveaways to the National Rifle Association and the gun lobby that would sweep aside common-sense measures to limit gun violence — not to mention continuing the assaults on the Endangered Species Act and environmental protections that have become the hallmark of the current Congress.” Hartl argues that “whatever legitimate grievances sportsmen’s groups have with access to hunting and fishing, this bill is a terrible way to address them.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Key Republican Revives Bill To Strip Bureau Of Indian Affairs Of Recognition Powers.

The [Nation Sun News](#) (9/21) reports that Rep. Rob Bishop is “once again pushing a bill that requires all tribes seeking federal recognition to go through Congress.” Bishop, the chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, “introduced H.R. 3744, the Tribal Recognition Act last week.” While the legislation “establishes standards for the Bureau of Indian Affairs to research petitions submitted by tribes seeking recognition, it bars the executive branch from making decisions on those petitions.”

Ownership Of Controversial Native American Artifacts Transferred To Peabody Essex Museum.

[WBUR-FM](#) Boston (9/21, Gorel) reports that “a controversial collection of about 150 Native American artifacts are staying at the Peabody Essex Museum.” The Andover Newton Theological School “announced Thursday it was transferring ownership of the collection to the museum where it’s been housed since 1946.” In a statement, the Peabody Essex Museum “pledged to complete the work to bring the collection into compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA).”

Browning Ordered To Give Assets To Montana’s Blackfeet Tribe.

The [AP](#) (9/21) reports that “a state judge has ordered the northern Montana town of Browning to turn over most of its assets to the Blackfeet Tribe to settle lawsuits between the two governments.” The settlement, “approved by District Judge James Reynolds last month, is part of Browning’s efforts to dissolve itself as a town.” According to the article, “Glacier County and the tribe will take over municipal services for Browning residents, including water, sewer and garbage services and fire protection.” The Blackfeet Law Enforcement Services and the Bureau of Indian Affairs will provide law enforcement.

Bureau Of Land Management

Appeals Court Throws Out Case On Obama Fracking Rule, Citing Trump Repeal Effort.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/21, Siciliano) reports that the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed a case on whether the federal government is able to regulate fracking under an Obama Administration rule. The court dismissed the case “based on the Trump administration’s move to repeal the Bureau of Land Management regulation.” The court dismissal read, “Our proceeding to address whether the district court erred in invalidating the ... fracking regulation when the [Bureau of Land Management] has now commenced rescinding that same regulation appears to be a very wasteful use of limited judicial resources.”

Also reporting are the [AP](#) (9/21, Elliott), [Reuters](#) (9/21, Aubin), [The Hill](#) (9/21, Wheeler), the [Denver Post](#) (9/21), the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (9/22, Webb), and [Law360](#) (9/21, Rodriguez).

Purchase Opens 32,600 Acres Near Coronado Forest To Hiking, Hunting.

The [Cronkite News](#) (9/21, Windes) reports that “the Interior Department’s purchase of a plot of private land will allow public access to 32,600 acres of previously isolated forest land, a move that drew praise from wilderness advocates and hunters alike this week.” The deal announced Wednesday “opens up two parcels of public land, one in the Coronado National Forest and one northwest of Safford, that had been inaccessible because they were surrounded by private property.” The Bureau of Land Management “worked with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the South Eastern Arizona Sportsmen Club and the Trust for Public Land over several years to acquire the land needed for access.”

Nevada Bureau Of Land Management Rangers Helping In Puerto Rico After Hurricane Maria.

[KTNV-TV](#) Las Vegas (9/21) reports that “Bureau of Land Management Law Enforcement Rangers from Nevada are currently deployed to San Juan, Puerto Rico and are assisting with relief and search and rescue efforts in the wake of Hurricane Maria.” According to the article, “rangers Bill Hart from the Ely District and Paul Zohovetz of Fernley, who is assigned to the Carson City District, arrived in San Juan prior to Hurricane Maria, which blew ashore Wednesday morning as a Category 4 storm with winds of 155 mph.” Hart and Zohovetz are “among several other Bureau of Land Management officers nationally who were on a roster to assist with national emergencies

through the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Emergency Support Function."

Cliven Bundy Wants To Fire Attorney Just Before Trial.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (9/21, Ferrara) reports that "Bunkerville rancher Cliven Bundy wants to fire his lawyer less than a month before he is to stand trial on charges related to a 2014 standoff with the Bureau of Land Management." Defense lawyer Bret Whipple, "whom Bundy retained, filed court papers Thursday asking for a hearing as soon as possible."

Also reporting is the [Arizona Republic](#) (9/21).

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Cape Cod Environmental Group In Opposition To Atlantic Ocean Offshore Drilling Proposal.

The [Cape Cod \(MA\) News](#) (9/21, Gottlieb) reports that the US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has proposed a five-year program allowing offshore exploration and drilling in the Arctic and Atlantic oceans. In response, the Association to Preserve Cape Cod (APCC) sent the acting BOEM director a letter within the public comment period stating that the area held too many inherent risks for drilling. APCC Executive Director Andrew Gottlieb said, "The relatively small amount of oil and gas that might be available offshore is not anywhere near worth the risk Cape Cod would be assuming were those resources allowed to be developed."

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

BSEE Director Charts Path For Robust Offshore U.S. Energy Production.

The [World Oil](#) (9/21) reports that Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Director Scott Angelle "discussed the work underway at BSEE with industry members at the Louisiana Oil & Gas Association Fall Meeting Tuesday in Lafayette." Angelle said, "We are in a time of change. Now is the time to move beyond the goal of energy independence to energy dominance." Angelle explained "that regulatory reform, integrating a risk-based protocol into the inspection program, and reviewing permit processes to increase efficiency are all efforts underway at BSEE." He said, "BSEE is clearly moving from creating hardships to creating partnerships, from an era of isolation to an era of cooperation. To safely develop our OCS energy resources as the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act requires, BSEE and industry must work together as partners recognizing that we have different roles, and collaborating to make it happen."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Lafayette \(LA\) Daily Advertiser](#) (9/21, Stickney).

DOI Ducks Taylor Energy FOIA Suit Over Oil Spill Comments.

[Law360](#) (9/21) reports that "a D.C. federal judge on Thursday nixed Taylor Energy's suit accusing the U.S. Department of the Interior of holding back information used in public statements gauging the company's cleanup of a decade-old Gulf of Mexico oil spill, saying the agency had adequately complied with Taylor's Freedom of Information Act requests."

Federal Scientists: Dispersants From BP Spill Make People Sick.

The [Mobile \(AL\) Press-Register](#) (9/21, Raines) reports that the National Institutes of Health published a new study showing that dispersants, used to clean up the BP oil spill, can cause illness in humans. The study surrounded more than 31,000 workers that handled or were in close proximity of the dispersants. According to the article, "1.8 million gallons of Corexit EC9500A or Corexit EC9527A were applied in the Gulf" to clean up after the BP spill. The study is the largest ever on Corexit products' impact on human health.

Fish And Wildlife Service

Industry Groups Sue FWS To Delist Endangered Beetle.

[Law360](#) (9/21, Phillis) reports that "nonprofit and industry groups filed suit in Oklahoma federal court on Thursday against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service arguing that it hadn't addressed a petition to remove the American burying beetle from the endangered species list in a timely fashion and must do so."

'Adverse Effect' Up For Debate At Bottling Plant Hearing.

The [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (9/21, Reilly) reports on "day three of the Montana Artesian Water Company's water-use permit hearing in Kalispell." Attorneys "representing the company and its opponents remained focused on its request to draw up to 450 gallons per minute from the aquifer for a proposed bottling plant in Creston." Objectors sought "to show that these plans will have an 'adverse effect' on nearby water users."

Scientists Measure Damage To Endangered Species' Habitat.

The [Victoria \(TX\) Advocate](#) (9/21, Priest) reports that "when Hurricane Harvey made landfall last month, a game camera at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge snapped pictures about 5 miles from the eye of the storm." This week, Elizabeth Smith, senior whooping crane scientist with the International Crane Foundation, "found the camera unscathed and replaced it with another." Wade Harrell, whooping crane recovery coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "said because there are no tide gauges at the refuge, Smith's pictures, along with the debris line, will help scientists estimate the height of the storm surge there."

Additional Coverage: Trump Aims For Arctic Oil And Gas.

Additional coverage that the Trump Administration is "trying to lay the groundwork to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) for oil and gas drilling" was provided by [Oil Price](#) (9/21, Cunningham) and the [Citrus County \(FL\) Chronicle](#) (9/21).

National Park Service

Melania Trump To Tend The White House Garden Friday.

[CNN](#) (9/21, Bennett) reports that the First Lady will hold her first event at the White House Kitchen Garden on Friday. According to communications director Stephanie Grisham, the First Lady will host "will host 'a local children's group' at a garden event Friday at noon" during which she and members of the National Park Service "will plant and harvest vegetables" alongside the children.

[The Hill](#) (9/21, Kurtz) notes that former First Lady Michelle Obama established the garden in 2009 as part of her "Let's Move" initiative aimed at fighting childhood obesity.

DeVos: Eisenhower A 'Gorgeous Memorial'.

The [Daily Caller](#) (9/21, Phippen) reports that Education Secretary Betsy DeVos "endorsed the proposed design of the widely panned design for the Eisenhower Memorial, saying the expansive monument 'looks to be a gorgeous memorial.'" DeVos "prepared a video message in support of the memorial for a meeting of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (USCFA) where architect Frank Gehry's latest design received unanimous approval."

At Ferry Summit, A Vision Emerges For A Commuter System Along The Potomac River.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/21, Lazo) reports that Northern Virginia officials and business leaders are pushing "a high-speed ferry system connecting the region via the Potomac River, from as far as Woodbridge to the D.C. waterfront," as an alternative daily commute. On Thursday, a 149-seat ferry successfully "made a test run from Occoquan Harbour Marina in Prince William to Fort Belvoir in Fairfax County, replicating the modern ferry experience with free WiFi, charging stations and onboard concessions."

Fort Sumter To Reopen On Friday After Closing Due To Hurricane Irma.

[WCSC-TV](#) Charleston, SC (9/21) reports that Fort Sumter will "reopen to the public starting on Friday after closing earlier this month due to Hurricane Irma." Officials said on Thursday, "Starting tomorrow, normal operations resume for the daytime trips to Fort Sumter. There will be five trips to the fort- three from the Liberty Square departure site and two from Patriots Point. The evening sunset has been canceled for tomorrow."

New Superintendent Named For Redwood National And State Parks.

[Redheaded Blackbelt \(CA\)](#) (9/21, Kemp) reports that the National Park Service has named Steven Mietz superintendent of Redwood National & State Parks. Mietz is currently the superintendent of Great Basin National Park in Nevada. Mietz replaces Steven Prokop who retired earlier in the

year. Laura E. Joss, regional director for the National Park Service's Pacific West Region, said, "Steve is an exceptional leader who is passionate about building positive relationships to preserve our parks. He has a proven track record of collaborating with partners. Along with his strong science background, this makes him an excellent fit for Redwood."

New Cape Lookout Superintendent Named.

The [Coastal Review](#) (9/21) reports that "after serving as acting superintendent of Cape Lookout National Seashore since May, Jeff West has been selected to serve as superintendent effective Nov. 12, National Park Service Southeast Regional Director Stan Austin announced Thursday." Austin said in a statement, "Jeff is deeply committed to protecting America's most treasured resources. He approached his acting assignment at Cape Lookout as a critical mission and quickly earned the community's trust. Jeff's skills and experience are ideal for the superintendency, which requires astute leadership and collaboration."

St. Joseph's School Listed In National Register Of Historic Places.

The [Fond du Lac \(WI\) Reporter](#) (9/21) reports that St. Joseph's School in the city of Fond du Lac, Fond du Lac County, has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Office Of Insular Affairs

Trump Says He Will Visit Puerto Rico To Survey Damage From Hurricane Maria.

During a meeting at the UN General Assembly Thursday, President Trump said "he plans to visit Puerto Rico to personally assess the devastation from Hurricane Maria," the [Washington Times](#) (9/21, Miller) reports. Trump, who "did not say when he would make the visit," said, "Puerto Rico is in very, very tough shape. Their electrical grid is destroyed. It wasn't in great shape to start with." Earlier Thursday, Trump "declared a major disaster in Puerto Rico that made federal funds available to those affected by the storm." A [Washington Post](#) (9/21) calls Trump's disaster declaration for Puerto Rico "a welcome and needed step as it will make federal assistance available to Puerto Ricans affected by the storm," and adds that his announcement that he will visit the island is "equally welcome" because "in doing so he sets an example for the rest of the country."

Vice President Pence said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (9/21), "With regard to Puerto Rico, we have people coming ashore now who were pre-positioned on ships. We're about to deliver eight million meals over eight million liters of water, 31 industrial generators. We are there with the people of Puerto Rico as President Trump has said and we are going to stay there until Puerto Rico and all the good people there build all the way back."

Meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/21, De Córdoba, Campo-Flores, De Avila) reports on the damage Maria left in Puerto Rico and says officials have warned residents that a difficult road to recovery lies ahead. According to Abner Gómez, executive director of Puerto Rico's emergency-management agency, residents will likely have to do without aid for 72 hours, due to the severity of the damage and the demands on government resources. A front-page story in the [Washington Post](#) (9/21, A1, Schmidt, Somashekhar, Zezima) reports that on Thursday, "emergency management teams and the National Guard rescued dozens of residents, taking them to nearby shelters. But many more remained stuck in their homes with almost no cellphone reception, some of them waiting on their rooftops."

A front-page story in the [New York Times](#) (9/21, A1, Ferré-sadurní, Alvarez, Robles) says "the road to recovery just went from long to seemingly endless" for Puerto Rico, which has been "long crippled by enormous debt and an essentially bankrupt financial system." The island "faces a mountain of need in the coming months just as the federal government is stretched to the limit grappling with the destruction left by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma." The [Miami Herald](#) (9/21, Mazzei, Martínez) also reports on the devastation in Puerto Rico, saying "the enormity of Maria's destruction [is] still unknown even to the overwhelmed Puerto Rican government."

Carlos Mercader, executive director of the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration was asked on [CNN's The Lead](#) (9/21) what the island's most immediate need is. Mercader said, "Right now, definitely that would be restoration of the communication on the island. Right now we're working with FEMA in what we call PREMA, which is the emergency agency in Puerto Rico, to reestablish down there in that location satellites so we can start getting communications. ... And also, obviously, electricity. Right now we have 100 percent of the island without electricity. Hospitals that are being operated with generators and other buildings that basically depend on

generators. That's why we're also asking for more generators because we know that the infrastructure was hit so bad with the winds and the flooding that to restore that kind of infrastructure is going to take a long time."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/21, story 3, 0:15, Holt) reported that Maria "regained strength after it struck Puerto Rico" and is "expected to cut close to Turks and Caicos late tonight, and after that, the current track shows it barreling between the US east coast and Bermuda."

Maria Kills 15 On Dominica. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/21, lead story, 2:45, Holt), Gabe Gutierrez reported, "In hard-hit Dominica, officials confirm 15 people died from the storm." [USA Today](#) (9/21, Stanglin, Rice) says Dominica Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit, who "cried as he spoke to a reporter on the nearby island of Antigua," said, "We have buried in excess of 15 people. ... It is a miracle there were not hundreds of deaths."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/21, story 3, 1:05, Muir) reported that there is "great concern for American medical students on Dominica" as the island has been "wiped out" by Hurricane Maria. ABC (Oquendo) added that there are many "missing in communities that are completely cut off." Yet, late Thursday, there was "word that 1,000 medical students, many of them American, whose condition was unknown, have been reached and are confirmed safe."

'We Need Help': U.S. Virgin Islands Governor On Devastation After Maria And Irma.

In an interview on [WBUR-FM](#) Boston (9/21), U.S. Virgin Islands Governor Kenneth Mapp talked about the recovery effort following the passage of Hurricane Maria. Mapp said, "We need help. With our FEMA partners and our cruise ship partners, we're bringing in a lot of food, water, tarpaulins, personal hygiene packs, cots and blankets. That's really the immediacy of the need. We're asking folks who can to go to USVI Recovery and they can donate there." He added, "I was able to speak to our Administrator William Brock Long of FEMA, and had a very good conversation with him, as well as the Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke, as we coordinate the relief for St. Croix."

Office Of Surface Mining

Enviros Win Suit Forcing DOI To Inspect Va. Coal Mine.

[Law360](#) (9/21, Phillis) reports that "a Virginia federal judge on Wednesday gave environmental groups a quick win in their request for an inspection of a Red River Coal Co. mine where elevated levels of selenium were recorded nearby, saying that the Department of the Interior ignored key data when it denied the request." Judge James P. Jones "granted the Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards and the Sierra Club's summary judgment bid that sought a federal inspection of the Greater Wise No. 1 Mine."

US Geological Survey

Hurricane Irma: How Storm Surge Flooded The Florida Keys But Drained Tampa.

The [Miami Herald](#) (9/21, Staletovich) reports that a crew of six surveyors from the U.S. Geological Survey are racing "to find and measure water marks, the tiny traces of seaweed and sand that stick to walls, sign posts and anything left erect" in Hurricane Irma's wake. According to the article, "those marks provide the real-life evidence hurricane forecasters need to construct the powerful computer models used to issue warnings and keep people safe from a hurricane's most lethal weapon: storm surge." Jamie Rhome, who heads the National Hurricane Center's storm surge team, said, "In my 18 years here, I haven't seen a peak surge where it was measured by an instrument. You have to figure it out by surveying the damage."

USGS Geologist Says 15,000 Buildings Could Be Seriously Damaged If Major Quake Strikes LA.

The [Epoch Times](#) (9/21, Phillips) reports that "if a massive earthquake, like the one in Mexico City earlier this week, struck Los Angeles, it could be devastating, according to an expert." Dr. Ken Hudnut, with the U.S. Geological Survey, "cited a recent study that found some 15,000 Los Angeles structures are vulnerable to collapse during a significant earthquake, according to ABC7."

Additional Reading.

- *How Prepared Is The U.S. For Earthquakes?* : NPR. [NPR](#) (9/21).

- *Will A Catastrophic Earthquake Strike The U.S.?* [TIME](#) (9/21, Gajanan).
- *We Know Where The Next Big Earthquakes Will Happen.* [Vox](#) (9/21, Irfan).
- *Mount Rainier Fears As 'Swarm' Of 20 Mini Quakes Hit.* [Daily Mail](#) (9/21, Macdonald).
- *Recent Earthquakes Likely Aftershocks In Oklahoma.* [KOTV-TV](#) Tulsa, OK (9/21).
- *Researchers Dig For Answers About How Often Big Earthquakes Hit Tetons.* [Wyoming Public Radio](#) (9/21, Edwards).
- *Scientists Track Forces Behind Mormon Lake's Rise And Fall.* [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (9/21, Cowan).
- *Living In A Liquefaction Zone.* [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (9/21, Moffitt).
- *Sinkhole Appears In Spokane Family's Backyard.* [KHQ-TV](#) Spokane, WA (9/21, Chen).
- *Alternate Solution Proposed To Army Corps' Great Lakes Invasive Species Plan.* [WUWM-FM](#) Milwaukee (9/21, Bence).

Top National News

US, China Impose New Sanctions On North Korea.

Media coverage of the President's announcement Thursday of new sanctions against North Korea is generally positive. Reports cast China's cooperation as a significant development. Two of last night's network broadcasts reported the announcement. Calling it "a major victory for this White House," [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/21, story 4, 2:00, Muir) said the President announced "tough new sanctions against North Korea, and with the promise of help from China." Jonathan Karl said, "After threatening to annihilate the entire nation of North Korea," the President "put aside war talk in favor of diplomacy."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/21, story 5, 2:20, Holt), Kristen Welker said the US, Japan, and South Korea presented a "united front at the UN" as the President "ordered some of the toughest sanctions yet against North Korea." In what Welker called "a surprising move," the President "said China's central bank has ordered its other banks to cut off North Korea." Analysts say China's involvement "is critical." [Reuters](#) (9/21, Holland, Brunnstrom) reports Trump "stopped short of going after" China, and "praised its central bank for ordering Chinese banks to stop doing business with North Korea." Four sources told Reuters China's central bank "has told banks to strictly implement United Nations sanctions against North Korea."

However, the [AP](#) (9/21) reports that while Trump "praised China for instructing its banks to cut off business with Pyongyang...neither the Chinese nor Trump officials were ready to say so." Treasury Secretary Mnuchin said he spoke Thursday with the head of China's central bank, but "I am not going to comment on confidential discussions." If enforced, the AP says the "Chinese action Trump described could severely impede the isolated North's ability to raise money for its missile and nuclear development."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/21, Morrongiello) says Mnuchin "provided limited details about the latest sanctions...and the impact they will have with major North Korean trading partners like China," while the [New York Post](#) (9/21, Moore) reports Mnuchin said companies around the world "are now on notice" about doing business with North Korea.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/21, Phillip) reports Trump announced new financial sanctions "that target North Korea and foreign companies or individuals that do business" with the regime, and "significantly...said that Chinese President Xi Jinping had ordered Chinese banks to cease conducting business with North Korean entities." Trump praised Xi, calling the move "very bold" and "somewhat unexpected." The [Washington Times](#) (9/21, Boyer) similarly reports Trump thanked Chinese President Xi Jinping "for action Thursday by China's central bank," which he acknowledged "was a somewhat unexpected move." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/21, Radnofsky, Talley) also notes Trump's praise for China, which accounts for more than 90% of Pyongyang's trade.

Similarly calling China's move "a crucial step," [Bloomberg News](#) (9/21, Talev) says "it isn't clear what effect the heightened sanctions will have on North Korea," but the announcement it "shows that Trump, who earlier this week threatened to 'totally destroy' North Korea...is continuing to pursue economic and diplomatic means to address Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programs." Ambassador Haley said the new sanctions won't necessarily "change Kim's attitude," but "will slow down" the regime's weapons programs. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/21, Wilkinson) reports that the new measures target North Korea's "textiles, fishing industry and shipping. In fact, sanctions against those industries are already in place, so it was not clear what was different about the additional ones."

The [Daily Caller](#) (9/21) says the executive order signed Thursday by the President “significantly” expand sanctions on Pyongyang, while [Politico](#) (9/21, McCaskill, Nelson, Toosi) says the move “escalat[ed] the US campaign of economic pressure” against the regime. [The Hill](#) (9/21, Easley) reports Trump “expressed an urgency to curb North Korea’s nuclear and ballistics programs,” which he called “a grave threat to peace and security in our world.”

Trump, [USA Today](#) (9/21, Jackson) reports, “appeared to hold out the possibility of negotiations” with North Korea. When asked by a reporter if diplomacy was still possible, Trump responded: “Why not?” The [New York Times](#) (9/21, Baker, Sengupta) reports that some Trump critics “praised him...for focusing on diplomatic pressure rather than saber rattling.”

Vice President Pence said on [Fox News’ Fox & Friends](#) (9/21) before the new sanctions were announced that “most Americans know and, frankly, the world knows that a strong, tough-minded, plain-spoken American President contributes to the security and peace in the world. I mean, the simple truth is that North Korea’s continued provocations, a nuclear test, ballistic missile test threats against the continental United States of America and allies in the region is unacceptable.” Pence added that “the world is in agreement: We cannot permit a rogue regime in Pyongyang to possess ballistic missiles and use nuclear weapons. That represents a threat to the United States, to our allies and other nations in the region and we’re going to continue to bring that pressure.”

David Ignatius, writing in his [Washington Post](#) (9/21) column, says US officials need “to decide how serious a threat North Korea truly poses to America.” If we see Kim “as a regional threat, rather than a global one,” Ignatius writes that “then perhaps the right response is an intelligence strategy that begins with the reality of his split with China – and takes off from there.” He notes that in 2003, China “suspended oil deliveries for several days (blaming the problem on a supposed pipeline malfunction) and North Korea quickly began negotiations. In the deniable realm of intelligence operations, it’s always possible that a pipeline could ‘malfunction’ again, or that other crippling difficulties could arise for Pyongyang and its mercurial leader.”

Kim Calls Trump “Deranged,” Warns He Will “Pay Dearly” For Threats. All three networks last night reported on North Korean leader Kim Jong-un’s reaction to President Trump’s address to the UN General Assembly earlier this week – during which he threatened to “totally destroy” North Korea and repeated his “Rocket Man” nickname for Kim. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/21, story 4, 2:00, Muir) said Kim responded to the President’s remarks, calling him “mentally deranged and said that he will make him pay dearly...for his speech at the UN.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/21, story 6, 2:30, Mason) said Kim “shot off his mouth, calling President Trump a ‘mentally deranged dotard,’ and warning he’ll pay dearly for his threats.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/21, story 5, 2:20, Holt) also reported the North Korean leader’s remarks, saying “for now, the war of words continues.”

The [AP](#) (9/21) says the “war of words” between the two leaders “escalated Thursday” when Kim, “speaking in a rare personal address on North Korean television”, called Trump a “rogue” and a “gangster.” Kim concluded his address vowing: “I will surely and definitely tame the mentally deranged US dotard with fire.” [USA Today](#) (9/21, Ventura) reports that soon after Kim’s address, Merriam-Webster tweeted the definition of “dotard” after it went viral as “a state or period of senile decay marked by decline of mental poise and alertness.”

Another [USA Today](#) (9/21, Estepa) report, meanwhile, examines Trump’s use of the nickname “Rocket Man” for Kim, noting that the President “isn’t the only US leader who loves nicknames.” Former President George W. Bush “shared that penchant and was known for it during his time in office.”

North Korean FM Warns Of Possible Hydrogen Bomb Test In Pacific. The [AP](#) (9/21) reports South Korea’s Yonhap news agency said North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho said Thursday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly that his country may test a hydrogen bomb in the Pacific Ocean.

Lavrov Warns Against “Warlike Hysteria” Over North Korea. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/21, Sonne) reports Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov warned against “warlike hysteria” over North Korea at the UN on Thursday. While he did not mention Trump by name, the Journal says his remarks were nonetheless an implicit rebuke to the President. “The escalation of wartime hysteria is not only a dead end but a ruinous path,” Lavrov said.

USA Today Analysis: Trump “Sets Up Showdown” With Iran, North Korea. A [USA Today](#) (9/21, Jackson) analysis says President Trump’s visit this week to the UN General Assembly “will likely be remembered for its unusual and unadorned attacks on Iran and North Korea that could set the stage for months or even years of nuclear-fueled tension and uncertainty.” While Trump “did make some headway Thursday on his push to pressure North Korea to back off its weapons

program," it was his threats to "totally destroy" North Korea – and his "Rocket Man" nickname for its leader – "that drew headlines and fueled chatter on the sidelines of the United Nations." According to USA Today, "some allies are concerned about the war-of-words from both Trump and North Korea and want to see more of a diplomatic focus," while others fear he will soon withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal.

Russia, China Conducting Military Exercises 100 Miles From North Korean Border. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/21, Ayres) reports that the navies of Russia and China this week "engaged a maritime joint exercise less than 100 miles from the North Korean border with Russia." While Russia and China have been holding joint military exercises since 2012, the timing of the latest drills "is significant" amid rising tensions.

Spotlight On Murkowski And McCain As GOP Seeks 50 Votes For Graham-Cassidy.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/21, story 6, 2:00, Muir) reported on "the new effort to kill Obamacare. The Senate has until next week to pull off this newest attempt." ABC's Mary Bruce said that the fate of the bill is expected to come down to four Republicans: Sens. Susan Collins, John McCain, Lisa Murkowski, and Rand Paul. [USA Today](#) (9/21, Collins) reports that much of the focus is on Murkowski. An ad urging her to oppose the bill "started airing on televisions across Alaska on Tuesday," and "supporters of Obamacare are showing up at her offices, calling, tweeting and blitzing her with ads asking her to vote against the Republican repeal bill. White House officials and her Senate colleagues are doing all they can to convince her to support it."

The [Daily Caller](#) (9/21, Donachie) reports that Sen. Lindsey Graham "specifically wrote his bill...to provide concessions" to Alaska, according to "a conservative Hill staffer with first hand knowledge and one conservative strategist," and [Politico](#) (9/21, Haberkorn) reports that the bill "may protect Alaska and up to four other sparsely populated states from major cuts to Medicaid through 2026." The [New York Times](#) (9/21, A1, Zernike, Abelson, Goodnough) calls the bill the "most far-reaching" of this year's ACA replacement measures, through which the GOP "has come up with a way to repackage the funding for the law it loathes into a trillion-dollar pot of state grants." [Independent Journal Review](#) (9/21, Byrd) headlines its report "Republicans Attempt To Buy Murkowski's Vote In New Draft Of Health Care Bill." Still, [Axios](#) (9/22, Owens) reports that a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services estimate projects that Alaska "would lose 38% of federal funding for premium subsidies and Medicaid by 2026" under the measure.

Meanwhile, [Bloomberg News](#) (9/21, Edgerton) reports that Republicans are working to win McCain's support "for a likely vote next week on the GOP's 'last best hope' for repealing" the Affordable Care Act, according to Senate Majority Whip Cornyn. [USA Today](#) (9/21, Sanchez) reports that President Trump called Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey on Saturday to urge him to support the bill; McCain has said that Ducey's opinion is important in his determination. Ducey now supports the legislation.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/21, Feldscher) reports that Rep. Matt Cartwright (D-PA) told voters in his district that he expects McCain to oppose "the latest attempt to overhaul Obamacare because 'he's staring death in the face right now.'" Cartwright said, "The governor of Arizona came out in favor of the Lindsey Graham-Bill Cassidy bill so that puts pressure on McCain. But, man, something tells me McCain, he's staring death in the face right now, so he's probably going to make good choices and he's not going to bend to political pressure."

The [Washington Times](#) (9/21, Howell) reports that Paul, who has criticized the bill for leaving too much of the ACA intact, is facing pressure from opponents of legal abortion to back the measure.

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/21) says that Democratic arguments against the bill by Graham and Sen. Bill Cassidy are overwrought, and that Democrats' insistence that the process must be bipartisan flies in the face of liberals' own intransigence. But the [Washington Post](#) (9/21) says in an editorial that "even Republicans know their new health-care bill is horrible," citing Sen. Charles Grassley, "who candidly explained GOP thinking. 'I could maybe give you 10 reasons why this bill shouldn't be considered. ... But Republicans campaigned on this so often that you have a responsibility to carry out what you said in the campaign.'"

Eugene Robinson writes in the [Washington Post](#) (9/21), "Motivated by the cynical aims of fulfilling a bumper-sticker campaign promise and lavishing tax cuts on the wealthy, Republicans are threatening to pass a health-care bill they know will make millions of Americans sicker and poorer. Do they think we don't see what they're doing?"

Graham Says Vote Will Take Place Regardless Of Expected Outcome. The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (9/21, Lovegrove) reports that Graham said Thursday that the Senate will vote even if there are not 50 firm votes in favor. Graham said, "We are going to vote. I don't think it's

possible for the Republican Party not to try everything to repeal and replace Obamacare.”

Graham said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (9/21), “If you want money and power out of Washington, you want to end the march to single-payer healthcare, this is your last, best chance. ... I think we are going to get 50 Republicans to vote for federalism and I’ll make a prediction: a couple Democrats are going to come on board because their state does so well.”

AARP: Older Americans Could Pay More Than \$16,000 More Per Year Under Bill. [The Hill](#) (9/21, Sullivan) reports that an AARP study “finds that older people could pay as much as \$16,174 more per year for health coverage” under Graham-Cassidy as “a result of the possible elimination of two kinds of ObamaCare subsidies, which help people afford their premiums and out of pocket costs.”

Kimmel Continues To Criticize Graham-Cassidy. [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/21, story 7, 1:40, Holt) reported that the “war of words” between the sponsors of the legislation and ABC’s Jimmy Kimmel is continuing. Kimmel devoted 10 minutes of his [Wednesday night](#) show to the topic, and seven and one-half minutes on [Thursday night](#). On Thursday’s [ABC’s Jimmy Kimmel Live](#), he said, “I should not be the guy you go to for information on healthcare. And if these guys...would tell the truth for a change, I wouldn’t have to. ... We have until September 30 to dodge this.”

The [New York Times](#) (9/21, Qiu, Victor) writes, “A review of the factual statements in Mr. Kimmel’s Wednesday night monologue suggests he has a strong grasp on the proposal, though there are nits to pick.” The [New York Times](#) (9/21, Deb) also looks at past times when late-night hosts have gotten involved in political debates.

Cassidy was asked on [Fox News’ Fox & Friends](#) (9/21) if he can guarantee that under the Graham-Cassidy bill, governors will make sure that people with preexisting conditions are covered. Cassidy said, “The legislation says that nothing the governor asks for will be approved unless there is affordable and adequate coverage for those with preexisting conditions. President Trump tweeted last night he will not sign legislation unless it protects those with preexisting conditions.”

Graham, Cassidy To Debate Klobuchar, Sanders On CNN. [CNN](#) (9/21) reports that on Monday, CNN will host a 90-minute primetime town hall on the bill, with sponsors Graham and Cassidy facing off against Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Bernie Sanders.

NYTimes “The Upshot”: States Will Face Challenges In Building Health Systems. Margot Sanger-Katz writes in the [New York Times](#) (9/21) “The Upshot” that the Graham-Cassidy bill would require states to build their own health systems, which would be a complex process. After then-Gov. Mitt Romney’s plan was adopted in Massachusetts in 2003, “it took four years before Romneycare was fully up and running,” and the bill “would require every state in the country to make a similar soup-to-nuts evaluation of how they’d like their health care systems to work, to build such a system and be ready to open their doors in substantially less time – just over two years.”

Premiums Expected To Climb In Illinois, South Carolina. The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (9/21, Meyer) reports that the four insurers serving Illinois via the ACA exchange “have requested an average premium rate hike of 35 percent for next year,” requesting “a range of 15 to 43 percent in premium hikes.” The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (9/21, Sausser) reports that the South Carolina Department of Insurance said on Thursday that average ACA premiums in the state “will skyrocket 31 percent” next year.

White House Tax Cut Plan Gaining Momentum.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/21, Paletta, Debonis) reports that the White House’s tax cut plan “is gaining new momentum as Republicans attempt to set aside months of intraparty squabbling and unify behind a key part of President Trump’s agenda.” The effort is being aided by “a tentative deal” between “key Republicans” to “allow for as much as \$1.5 trillion in tax reductions over 10 years,” as well as “a growing willingness within the GOP to embrace controversial, optimistic estimates of how much economic growth their tax plan would create.” However, there are still “numerous pitfalls...and Republicans have not yet agreed on major aspects of the plan.” The [Washington Times](#) (9/21, Sherfinski) says the deal struck by Sens. Bob Corker and Pat Toomey “paving the way for potentially \$1.5 trillion in tax cuts over the next decade, suggest[s] broad outlines of a plan to be presented next week.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/21, Mascaró, Puzanghera) says that while Republicans have “a blueprint and principles” and have “held countless strategy sessions for what could be the biggest tax overhaul in decades,” Congress and the White House “have yet to agree on how to revamp the tax code, including how much to reduce corporate and individual tax rates, how tax cuts would be paid for or whether they will be offset at all.” The Times says a “key problem” is a

continuing division within the party “between fiscal hawks who insist that any tax cut not add to the deficit and those who are willing to risk ballooning the debt in hopes that it will spur enough economic growth to cover the price tag.”

Stewart: Tax Reform Must Address The Biggest Tax Breaks. James B. Stewart writes in his “Common Sense” column for the [New York Times](#) (9/21) that when the Administration reveals details of its tax reform plan, rich taxpayers “will be under the microscope” because “they take advantage of so many tax breaks that few, if any, pay the top rate of 39.6 percent.” Eliminating some of those deductions “would make it possible to reduce tax rates for the highest earners (and everyone else) while raising the same or even more in total revenue.” Stewart calls long-term capital gains, capital gains at death, state and local taxes, and mortgage interest “the big four” deductions that “will cost the government \$4.1 trillion over 10 years” and argues that “if proposed reforms don’t address the biggest tax breaks, there will be little room to reduce rates over all – which is the carrot to make reform more palatable.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“World Hunger Haunts The UN Festivities.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/22) writes that as “the leaders of the world posture and sermonize for the United Nations General Assembly this week, a growing global specter should spur common concern among them: World hunger, after a decade-long decline, spiked last year, because of scourges like global warming and civil conflicts that show little sign of abating.” Ahead of the meeting, a new UN report said the “number of undernourished human beings on the planet increased from 777 million in 2015 to 815 million in 2016.” The Times argues that if diplomats at the UN “are paying attention to the world out there, the report should prod them into a fresh look at hunger and an increased resolve to drive it back down.”

“Jake LaMotta And The Art Of Taking A Punch.” A [New York Times](#) editorial.

Washington Post.

“Don’t Forget Puerto Rico.” A [Washington Post](#) (9/21) calls President Trump’s disaster declaration for Puerto Rico “a welcome and needed step as it will make federal assistance available to Puerto Ricans affected by the storm,” and adds that his announcement that he will visit the island is “equally welcome” because “in doing so he sets an example for the rest of the country.”

“Even Republicans Know Their Healthcare Bill Is Horrible.” The [Washington Post](#) (9/21) says in an editorial that “even Republicans know their new health-care bill is horrible,” citing Sen. Charles Grassley, “who candidly explained GOP thinking. ‘I could maybe give you 10 reasons why this bill shouldn’t be considered. ... But Republicans campaigned on this so often that you have a responsibility to carry out what you said in the campaign.’”

“St. Louis Is What Happens When The Justice Department Won’t Do Its Job.” The [Washington Post](#) (9/21) argues in an editorial that, although the “specifics” of the case against former St. Louis police officer Jason Stockley for the shooting death of Anthony Lamar Smith “are unique...the questions it raises about racial bias in policing are grindingly familiar.” The verdict “demonstrates how hard it is for prosecutors to successfully bring cases against police officers.” The Post argues “the facts as they stand in St. Louis are more than enough to merit federal review of the city’s police force,” but Attorney General Jeff Sessions – in his “disdain for police reform” – has ordered the Justice Department to “roll back a program designed to assist local law enforcement with reforms.” The Post concludes, “Stockley’s case is one more reminder of how much is lost under a Justice Department that refuses to rise to the task.”

Wall Street Journal.

“The Panic Over Graham-Cassidy.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/21) says that Democratic arguments against the healthcare bill by Sens. Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy are overwrought, and that Democrats’ insistence that the process must be bipartisan flies in the face of liberals’ own intransigence.

“Right To Work Isn’t Theft.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/21) writes that the West Virginia Supreme Court and Wisconsin’s District Three Court of Appeals both made recent decisions defending their states’ right-to-work legislation in what the Journal describes as the courts’ shooting down of unions’ legal campaign to save coerced dues

“The SEC’s Cyber Embarrassment.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/21) criticizes the SEC for revealing its EDGAR system breach in a four-line admission in the middle of a 4,000-word statement on cybersecurity released Wednesday – an admission the Journal describes as burying the lead. The Journal writes the disclosure provided little information after weeks of learning about the incident, and argues the disclosure was particularly embarrassing in the wake of the Equifax breach.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[SEC Draws Scrutiny For Slow Response To Hack](#)
[Trump Expands North Korea Sanctions](#)
[How Grocery Giant Aldi Plans To Conquer America: Limit Choice](#)
[Facebook Says It Will Hand Over Russia-Backed Ads To Congress](#)

New York Times:

[Facebook To Turn Over Russian-Linked Ads To Congress](#)
[Latest Obamacare Repeal Effort Is Most Far-Reaching](#)
[Puerto Rico Faces Mountain Of Obstacles On The Road To Recovery](#)
[Trump Poised To Drop Some Limits On Drone Strikes And Commando Raids](#)
[Aaron Hernandez Found To Have Severe CTE](#)
[Black Detectives In New York Were Bypassed For Promotions, Panel Finds](#)

Washington Post:

[Maria Passed, Then Terror Began](#)
[Trump Tax Cut Picks Up Steam](#)
[Mexico: No Child Trapped In School](#)
[US Tightens Sanctions As Kim Offers Own Threats](#)
[In Ala. Senate Race, An Outsider Preaches The Gospel Of Defiance](#)
[Facebook To Give Congress Thousands Of Russian Ads](#)

Financial Times:

[Kim Jong Un Says US Will “Pay Dearly” For Trump’s Insults](#)
[Theresa May To Offer Stronger Protection For EU Citizens In Florence Speech](#)
[Drop Separatism Calls And We Can Talk Money, Madrid Tells Catalans](#)
[Potato Farmer Uprooted For €1bn Google Investment](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump’s Financial Strategy Persuades China To Put Screws To North Korea](#)
[Manafort Wiretaps Raise Questions About Political Motives, Evidence Presented To FISA Court](#)
[With Teens At Risk Of Substance Use Disorder, Activists See Need For More Recovery High Schools](#)
[Pro-Life Activists Pressure Rand Paul To Support Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill](#)
[Republicans To Introduce \\$1.5 Trillion Tax Cut Blueprint In Senate Next Week](#)
[Sanders Calls War On Terror “A Disaster” In Long-Awaited Speech On Foreign Policy](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: Mexico City Earthquake; Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Hurricane-Caribbean; Trump-North Korea Sanctions; Russia Meddling Investigation-Facebook; Congress-Healthcare Reform; Oklahoma-Police Shoots Deaf Man; Atlanta-Fiery Car Rescue; California-House Explosion; NFL Player-Head Injury; Tom Cruise-Negligence Lawsuit; College Football News.

CBS: Russia Meddling Investigation-Facebook; Russia Meddling Investigation-Sean Spicer; NFL Player-Head Injury; Mexico City Earthquake; Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Trump-North Korea, Iran Sanctions; Flint, Michigan Water Contamination; Turkey-New York Anti-Protester Violence; BYU Soft Drink Policy; Star Trek Technologies.

NBC: Hurricane-Caribbean; Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Hurricane Tracking; Mexico City Earthquake; Trump-North Korea Sanctions; Russia Meddling Investigation-Facebook; Congress-Healthcare Reform; Securities And Exchange Commission-Cyber Attack; Opioid Epidemic- CVS Opioid Cap; MLB-Foul Ball Injury; NFL Player-Head Injury; 2018 South Korea Winter Olympics-Medal Design;

Children's Birthday Parties Charity.

Network TV At A Glance:

Hurricane – 10 minutes, 35 seconds

Mexico City Earthquake – 8 minutes

Russia Meddling Investigation – 7 minutes, 55 seconds

Trump-Sanctions – 6 minutes, 50 seconds

Congress-Healthcare Reform – 3 minutes, 40 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Trump-North Korea Sanctions; Hurricane; Congress-Healthcare Reform; Wall Street News.

CBS: North Korea Threats; Russia Meddling Investigation; Trump-Iran Sanctions; Hurricane; NFL Player-Head Injury; Wall Street News.

FOX: Trump-Sanctions; North Korea Threats; St. Louis Protests; Russia Meddling Investigation.

NPR: Hurricane; Mexico City Earthquake; North Korea Threats; Trump-North Korea Sanctions.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in a US Senate Rally for Luther Strange.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a meeting with Maine Governor Paul LePage to discuss health care and tax reform; arrive in Indianapolis, IN on Air Force Two; meets with local business leaders and Hoosier families to discuss health care and tax reform; delivers formal remarks to the community regarding health care and tax reform.

US Senate: 8:30 AM Senate convenes for pro forma session – Senate convenes for a pro forma session * No votes scheduled in the chamber today or tomorrow Location: Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

No votes scheduled in the Senate.

US House: On recess until 25 September.

Other: 10:00 AM Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Legislative Conference continues – Congressional Black Caucus Foundation 47th Annual Legislative Conference continues, themed 'And Still I Rise'. Agenda today includes 'Restore the Vote: Election Integrity in the Era of Trump' panel discussion, hosted by Democratic Rep. Terri Sewell, with journalist Roland Martin, California Secretary of State Alex Padilla, NAACP Chairman Leon Russell, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law President and executive director Kristen Clarke, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights President and CEO Vanita Gupta, and Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies President Spencer Overton (10:00 AM EDT); and 'Policing Black Men: Are the Odds Against Them?' town hall, hosted by Democratic Reps. Frederica Wilson and Eleanor Holmes Norton, with National Action Network Founder Rev. Al Sharpton (3:30 PM EDT) Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt Vernon Pl, Washington, DC www.cbcfinc.org/alc <https://twitter.com/CBCFInc> #CBCFALC17

10:30 AM Bank of England chief economist speaks in Washington, DC – Bank of England chief economist Andy Haldane speaks at joint conference on agent-based modelling Location: Washington, DC www.bankofengland.co.uk <https://twitter.com/bankofengland>

Treasury Secretary Mnuchin chairs Financial Stability Oversight Council meeting – Financial Stability Oversight Council executive session, chaired by Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin, with agenda including an update on the annual reevaluation of the designation of a nonbank financial company, and consideration of the Council's 2018 budget * Council was created by the Dodd-Frank Act to provide comprehensive oversight over the stability of the U.S. financial system for the first time, charged with identifying threats, promoting market discipline, and responding to emerging risks. Other members include the Federal Reserve Board chairman, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau director, Comptroller of the Currency, Federal Housing Finance Agency director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation chairman, National Credit Union Administration chairman, and Securities and Exchange Commission chairman Location: Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC www.treas.gov <https://twitter.com/USTreasury>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Because for Donald Trump, this isn't about the Graham-Cassidy bill. It's about getting rid of Obamacare, which he hates, primarily because Obama's name is on it. ... At this point, he would sign anything if it meant getting rid of Obamacare. He'd sign copies of the Quran at the Barnes & Noble in Fallujah if it meant he could get rid of Obamacare."

Jimmy Kimmel: "After I accused Bill Cassidy of not telling the truth, the President wrote a tweet of support for him personally. 'Senator (Doctor) Bill Cassidy is a class act who really cares about people and their health (care), he doesn't lie, he just wants to help people.' So I tweeted back, 'That's great news, Mr. President, does that mean he'll vote against the horrible bill he wrote?'"

Jimmy Kimmel: "People tell me, give [Senator Cassidy] the benefit of the doubt, and I do give him the benefit the doubt. I doubt all the benefits he claims are part of the new healthcare bill."

Jimmy Kimmel: "We haven't seen this many people come forward to speak out against a 'bill' since Cosby. Okay?"

Stephen Colbert: "One of the emails contains cryptic mentions of 'black caviar,' which investigator believe is a veiled reference to payments Manafort hoped to receive. Either that, or black caviar describes how Steve Bannon reproduces."

James Corden: "Today, North Korea's foreign minister responded to Donald Trump's speech at the United Nations, saying that Trump's threats to destroy their country are just, quote, 'the sound of a dog barking.' Now that's not a fair statement because when a dog barks, you actually understand what he is trying to communicate."

James Corden: "North Korea's foreign minister also added that he felt sorry for Trump's staff. So just to recap, a guy who works for the most oppressive dictator on the planet feels sorry for people who work for Donald Trump."

Trevor Noah: "Thanks to the Russian investigation, we've learned so many new ways to evade questions. Manafort with the stutter step. Mike Pence with the smoke screen. And if you really want to know how to not answer a question, there's only one man you can go to, Master Spice [Referring to Sean Spicer]."

Trevor Noah: "Donald Trump is so screwed because with anyone else, they would probably just destroy the evidence. But with Sean Spicer, he'd try to start to burn the notebooks but then somehow end up setting himself on fire, and it just wouldn't work."

Jimmy Fallon: "Some good news for President Trump. A new poll shows that his approval ratings just rose three points. That's right, it's now at four points."

Jimmy Fallon: "Did you see this? North Korea's foreign minister said Trump's speech sounded like a dog barking. Trump didn't respond because he was chasing after a fire truck."

Jimmy Fallon: "In an interview today, Sean Spicer said that he has never knowingly lied to the American people. Then Spicer said, 'Starting now.'"

Seth Meyers: "Former White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer said in an interview today that he never knowingly lied to the American people while in office. Oh, really? Then how do you explain this? 'It's another busy day here at the White House.'"

Seth Meyers: "A teacher in South Carolina has been suspended after she gave her fifth grade class a homework assignment asking them to justify the KKK's treatment of African-Americans. Also suspended, the kid who got an 'A.'"

Seth Meyers: "[Donald Trump] talks about Middle East peace the way people talk about getting back together with their ex."

Seth Meyers: "The Affordable Care Act includes definitions, in law, of what's reasonable for an individual to spend on premiums, given his or her income. By comparison, the new GOP bill has none of those details. ... And I don't know if you've met the guy who will be signing this bill, but I'm not sure we should go by his definition of affordable."

Conan O'Brien: "Former White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer said he never knowingly lied to the American people. He then said, 'Damn it, I just lied again. I can't help myself. It's a habit.'"

Conan O'Brien: "This afternoon, North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un lashed out at President Trump, called him 'mentally deranged and a frightened dog.' As a result, Kim Jong-Un is now the Democrats' top pick for President in 2020."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Price (UT) Sun Advocate: BLM Asserts Ownership Of Abandoned Building.
- Elko (NV) Daily Free Press: Additional Coverage: BLM Offers Grazers More Flexibility.

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- KTVH-TV Helena (MT): Wildlife Managers Could Remove North-central Montana Grizzlies From Endangered Species Act.
- KWYB-TV Butte (MT): Daines, Gianforte Urge For Prioritization Of Rock Creek, Montano Mines.
- U.S. News & World Report: Threatened Desert Tortoises Set Free South Of Boulder City.
- Redding (CA) Record-Searchlight: Record Low Number Of Salmon Expected To Return To Coleman.
- Kaua'i (HI) Garden Island News: Lights On, Birds Safe.
- Eastern Arizona Courier: Opinion: Feeding 'Wild' Wolves.

National Park Service

- NBC News: Another Rockfall At El Capitan, Day After Person Killed.
- Washington Post: March For Racial Justice And March For Black Women Will Converge In D.C. This Weekend.
- U.S. News & World Report: Plan For Moccasin Bend Archaeological District Finalized.
- South Florida Sun Sentinel: New Fight Breaks Out Over Oil Drilling In Everglades.
- Atlanta Journal-Constitution: King District's Visitor Center Shut Down For Repairs.
- Mount Desert (ME) Islander: Park Fire Crews Help Out West.
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- ABC: Lt. Gen. Buchanan To Oversee Relief Operation.
- Associated Press: China Orders North Korean-Owned Businesses Closed.

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- WJXT-TV Jacksonville (FL): US Geological Survey Crews Examine Extent Of Flooding From Irma.
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- CBS: Administration Waives Jones Act For Puerto Rico Amid Calls For Stronger Response.
- Fox News: Trump Says Tax Plan Is Intended To Help "The Working People."
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DOI In The News

Interior Department To Overhaul Obama's Sage Grouse Protection Plan.

The [New York Times](#) (9/28, Friedman) reports that the Interior Department is intending to issue a formal notice to change management plans for sage grouse habitats this week. The move "could lead to new mineral leasing, grazing and other commercial activities across the quirky bird's Western habitat."

[The Hill](#) (9/28, Cama) reports that "industries that use federal land have long complained that the management plans still go too far." Kathleen Sgamma, president of the Western Energy Alliance, said, "This Interior Department is much more willing to cooperate with states, and I think that is very positive for ensuring the sage grouse is protected without killing jobs and economic opportunities."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/28, Siegel) reports that League of Conservation Voters VP for Government Affairs Tiernan Sittenfeld said that "Secretary Zinke is turning his back on a bipartisan, collaborative conservation effort to protect the greater sage-grouse habitat and Western economies." Sittenfeld also said, "...Zinke is looking to sell out the sagebrush to his friends in the fossil fuel industry. This is yet another example of the Trump administration undermining sound management of our public lands."

Also reporting are the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (9/28, Landers), [Courthouse News](#) (9/28, Renda), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (9/28, Flatt), and [KUOW-FM Seattle](#) Seattle (9/28, Flatt).

Interior Secretary Zinke Traveled On Charter, Military Planes.

[Politico](#) (9/28, Lefebvre) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and aides "have taken several flights on private or military aircraft, including a \$12,000 charter plane to take him to events in his hometown in Montana and private flights between two Caribbean islands."

[The Hill](#) (9/28, Manchester) reports that "in addition to using charter flights, Zinke used a military to travel to Norway with his wife earlier this year, from which they flew to Alaska to attend events for the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee." Zinke also "used a military plane to survey wild fires in Montana last August, alongside Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue." According to a USDA spokesperson, "the two agencies said they would reimburse the Air Force."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/28, Correll) reports that Heather Swift, Interior Department spokeswoman, "said Zinke's use of these aircraft was scheduled when commercial flights did not fit Zinke's schedule." She added that the flights were "pre-cleared by career officials in the ethics office."

Also reporting are the [Washington Post](#) (9/28, Harwell, Rein), [Reuters](#) (9/28, Cornwell), the

[Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (9/29, Brea), the [New York Daily News](#) (9/29, Slattery), and [Newsweek](#) (9/28, Valencia).

FAA Restricts Drone Flights Over U.S. Landmarks.

[Reuters](#) (9/28, Shepardson) reports the Federal Aviation Administration said Thursday it was restricting drone flights over 10 US landmarks at the request of national security and law enforcement agencies. The FAA and Interior Department said they are restricting drone flights up to 400 feet within the boundaries of the USS Constitution in Boston, Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, Folsom Dam, Glen Canyon Dam, Grand Coulee Dam, Hoover Dam and Shasta Dam. The restrictions will be effective Oct. 5.

[NPR](#) (9/28, Gonzalez) reports the announce said it marks the first time the FAA has restricted drone flights over Interior Department landmarks. However, national parks banned "launching, landing or operating unmanned aircraft" in 2014.

Also providing coverage are the [AP](#) (9/29), [The Verge](#) (9/28, Deahl), [CNET News](#) (9/28, Musil), [MarketWatch](#) (9/28, French), [Engadget](#) (9/28, Lumb), and [Quartz](#) (9/28, Murphy).

Is Zinke Signaling A Shift From Solar? It's Complicated .

[E&E Publishing](#) (9/28) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke this week "delivered a string of comments" that suggest "large-scale solar power development might not be a wise use of public land." At a Clean Energy Week conference, "Zinke said the United States will be hooked on fossil fuels for the next two decades without better battery technology to store electricity generated by sun, wind and other renewable energy sources, so extraction of fossil fuels on public lands is going to be in the nation's best interest." He "then said land used to host solar panels has no other use outside of energy production, adding that rooftops — not public land — are the best platforms for producing solar power going forward." E&E adds that "conservation groups and public lands advocates jumped on Zinke's comments as further evidence the Trump administration does not view renewable energy development as a priority."

Energy Department Needs To Push Harder On Energy Development: Study.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/28, Siciliano) reports the Department of Energy isn't "pulling its weight when it comes to developing energy on its own lands," according to a National Academies of Sciences study released yesterday. The Interior Department "on the other hand" has "led by example on that front, primarily on renewable energy development." The report, which was sponsored by the DOE, said, "While other government agencies, such as the Department of the Interior, have examined and marketed opportunities to promote renewable resource development on public lands, [the Department of Energy] appears to have done much less." The report "said the Department of Energy, now led by former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, has the skills and technical ability to do a lot more." The study stated, "But with DOE's depth and breadth of skills and technical capabilities with energy resources, it too could leverage such opportunities and play a major role in forging private-public partnerships in land development serving the national interest."

Energy Industry Says 'No Thanks' To Trump Offer Of Marine Sanctuaries.

[Reuters](#) (9/28, Volcovici, Groom) reports that "President Donald Trump's administration is considering shrinking or eliminating 11 marine sanctuaries designed to protect 425 million acres of coral reefs, marine mammal habitats and pristine beaches." However, interviews with energy industry representatives signal the effort "will likely miss its target," because "opening up these areas would likely help wind power companies — which Trump has lambasted — more than oil producers, they say." The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management estimates that there are 10 billion barrels of oil in the Pacific Offshore Continental Shelf, some of which "may overlap with marine sanctuaries off California's coast." Referring to four marine sanctuaries off California's coast, Western States Petroleum Association president Catherine Reheis-Boyd said, "Our members are not currently pursuing this opportunity."

Rob Bishop Asks Trump Administration To Review Obama Order Barring Mineral Withdrawals.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/28, Siegel) reports that House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop asked Interior Secretary Zinke and Agriculture Secretary Purdue Thursday "to review an Obama administration order blocking mineral access on more than 100,000 acres of federal land." In a letter to both secretaries, Bishop wrote, "Under the prior administration, mineral

access on federal land was regularly and systematically blocked, harming our nation's economic and strategic potential. ... Indeed, millions of acres of federal lands were inappropriately withdrawn from mineral access due to false premises of environmental protectionism and the intentional misuse of statutory authority."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (9/28, Cama).

Colorado's Delegation Urges Trump Administration To Help.

The [Denver Post](#) (9/28, Paul) reports that "nearly every member of Colorado's congressional delegation has signed a letter to the Trump administration asking for help with the emerging crisis of tiny invasive mussel larvae found in Green Mountain Reservoir." In a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, the delegation wrote, "We urge you to respond rapidly, deploy available resources and work with the state and local communities to prevent this initial detection from growing into a full infestation. A rapid response is critical during the window of opportunity immediately after the detection of invasive species." The letter, dated Thursday, was signed by Sens. Cory Gardner and Michael Bennet, as well as Reps. Diana DeGette, Scott Tipton, Doug Lamborn, Jared Polis, Ed Perlmutter and Mike Coffman.

Department Of Interior Investigating ADA Complaint In Clyde.

The [Port Clinton \(OH\) News Herald](#) (9/28, Carson) reports that the Department of Interior's Civil Rights Division has asked Clyde City "to address park accessibility issues raised in an American with Disabilities Act complaint filed by residents John and Jan Brewer." In a Sept. 19 letter, the department "asked City Manager Paul Fiser to address the alleged ADA violations and provide a timeline for fixing possible deficiencies by Oct. 31." According to the article, "concerns raised by the Brewers included multiple inclusion issues involving parking and ADA accessibility at Gus Wolf Park, Limerick Park, Community Park's upper and lower levels, Hurd Park's trail, Hendricks Park and the Anderson Depot Plaza."

Zinke Shows Thoughtful Approach To Wildfire.

In an editorial, the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (9/29) supports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's decision to pursue "a more aggressive approach to preventing wildfires." The paper acknowledges that "while he set no specifics, he did give agency leadership five goals, including using policy aggressively, working with other groups and agencies to use resources efficiently, and making sure that landscapes are restored and maintained." It adds that "what Zinke must know, but did not mention, is the need for more money if serious inroads against unhealthy, unsafe fuel loads are to be accomplished. That will have to come from Congress."

Federal Employees Honored At Gala Get Trump's Praise.

In his column for the [Washington Post](#) (9/28), Joe Davidson writes that it was "good, if not ironic, to see a top appointee of President Trump give his greetings to a formal banquet honoring federal employees, particularly given the disrespect, disappointment and dismay his administration has heaped on the workforce." Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney addressed the event, saying he is "honored to serve alongside you in government and have a great appreciation for your important contributions on behalf of the American people."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Sold For Sex: Senate Committee Investigates Human Trafficking Of Native Women And Children.

[Rewire](#) (9/28, Brewer) reports that on Wednesday, the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs "heard testimony on the findings and recommendations of a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report examining the growing problem of human trafficking in Indian Country and among Native Americans, one of the most vulnerable populations in the United States." During the hearing, Sen. John Hoeven "announced that he is introducing several pieces of legislation aimed specifically at improving public safety in Native communities." Also, "members of the SCIA recently co-authored a bipartisan letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price, and Jonodev Chaudhuri, chair of the National Indian Gaming Commission, urging that the federal agencies bolster their training and education efforts among their employees to identify and respond to human trafficking and domestic violence in Indian Country."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (9/28, CLAIR).

Bill Would Give Federal Recognition To Lumbee Tribe.

[WUNC-FM](#) Chapel Hill, NC (9/28, Michaels) reports that “a bill that would give full federal recognition to the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina has gotten a hearing in Congress.” The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, which has been opposed to Lumbee recognition, “says the Lumbee should go through the Office of Federal Acknowledgement in the Bureau of Indian Affairs rather than push for an act of Congress.” During the hearing this week, Lumbee Chairman Harvey Godwin said, “The petition process is long, expensive – very expensive – and riddled with issues of fairness. Requiring a petition for review by the OFA would be to further delay the justice we deserve.”

9th Circ. Urged To OK Challenge To Tribal Leadership Ruling.

[Law360](#) (9/28, Lidgett) reports that “a faction of a California Native American tribe on Thursday urged the Ninth Circuit to revive its challenge to a U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs decision finding that a general council established to serve as California Valley Miwok’s governing body in 1998 isn’t the tribe’s valid representative.”

Cayuga Nation Evictions From Seneca Falls Properties On Hold.

The [Auburn \(NY\) Citizen](#) (9/28, Craig) reports that “attorney Joseph Heath, who represents a group of Cayuga chiefs and clan mothers in opposition of Halftown and his council, said he filed paperwork last week in federal court in Washington D.C. challenging the Bureau of Indian Affairs’s decision to recognize Halftown’s council as the new leaders.” Heath “hoped to delay state Supreme Court Justice Dennis F. Bender’s earlier decision requiring the Seneca Falls properties be vacated by Tuesday, Sept. 26 and turned over to Halftown.”

Workshop Helps Local Tribal Artists With Marketing.

The [Lake County \(MT\) Leader & Advertiser](#) (9/28, Fox) reports that at a workshop held by the Interior Department on Sept. 20, representatives from the Indian Arts and Crafts Board “helped artists learn to market their authentic, hand-made goods against growing competition.” According to the article, “each of the workshop participants received a folder complete with pamphlets and printed slideshows containing information about various federal and State laws that protect Indian arts and crafts.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Enviros Get Hollow Victory In 10th Circ. Frack Rule Fight.

[Law360](#) (9/28, Rodriguez) reports that “environmentalists are cheering the Tenth Circuit’s recent decision to toss a legal challenge to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management’s rule strengthening fracking regulations on federal and Native American lands, but experts say litigation delays and a BLM effort to revoke the Obama-era rule could prevent it from ever taking effect.”

BLM Asserts Ownership Of Abandoned Building.

The [Price \(UT\) Sun Advocate](#) (9/28, Sherman) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has “disputed ownership of an abandoned building that Carbon County previously put on the auction block for back taxes.” During a meeting held September 20, Commission Chairman Jae Potter explained, “The BLM has contacted us and have staked a claim on the building that we discussed in our last meeting at the Wildcat load-out. So we are now going to need to enter into negotiations with the BLM and to establish ownership.” Commissioner Jake Mellor added, “The BLM told us one thing and now they’ve told us another.”

Additional Coverage: BLM Offers Grazers More Flexibility.

Additional coverage of the “outcome-based grazing demonstration program recently announced by the Bureau of Land Management” was provided by the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (9/28, Featherston), the [Taos \(NM\) News](#) (9/29, Hooks), and [AGDAILY](#) (9/28).

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Cape Wind Has A New Lease On Life.

The [Martha's Vineyard Times](#) (9/28, Brennan) reports that "Cape Wind's lease of 46 square miles of Nantucket Sound was reaffirmed this week, even though the project has appeared dead in the water for several years." The decision, filed Wednesday by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, "states that Cape Wind, which proposes to build 130 wind turbines in Horseshoe Shoal, has met the requirements to show that it's taken 'all practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm...'" The decision "came despite dozens of letters from political leaders, municipalities and the Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound in opposition to the project."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Reclamation Official To Make Third Trip To The Basin.

The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (9/28, O'brien) reports that Alan Mikkelsen, the Bureau of Reclamation's deputy commissioner, "will be making a third trip this year to the Klamath Basin with the focus on working toward resolution myriad water issues." In a phone interview from his Washington, D.C., office on Wednesday, Mikkelsen said, "Believe it or not, when I was asked what other assignments I wanted from the Interior Secretary, I said resolving Indian water rights settlements and the Klamath Basin. I have been doing conflict resolutions on water issues for over three decades." Mikkelsen will "be in the Basin Oct. 8 through Oct 10. He plans to meet with Copco Reservoir landowners in California and with ranchers in the Upper Klamath Lake area. He also plans to tour the Sprague and Sycan rivers."

Sunday Deadline For Interest In Navajo Coal Plant Approaches.

The [AP](#) (9/28, Fonseca) reports that the Navajo Generating Station in Northern Arizona may close in 2019 without a new owner if Sunday's deadline is not met by interested buyers. The plant's current operator, the Salt River Project, said the deadline will help decide whether to plan for a tear down or to maintain the facility for long-term use. Peabody Energy owns the mine feeding the power plant and hired Lazard, an investment firm to find a new owner for the plant.

Fish Fry: Endangered Salmon Pay For Feds' Errors At Shasta Dam.

The [Sacramento \(CA\) News & Review](#) (9/7, Bland) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation has "blamed drought and technical failures at Shasta Dam for the second lowest return of endangered winter-run Chinook salmon in 20 years, but environmentalists say the federal agency has itself to fault." According to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, "just 1,123 of the adult fish returned to the Sacramento River system to spawn in 2017."

Additional Coverage: US, Mexico Share Benefits And Burdens In New Colorado River Pact.

Additional coverage of the signing of Minute 323 was provided by the [Arizona Daily Star](#) (9/28, Davis).

Fish And Wildlife Service

Wildlife Managers Could Remove North-central Montana Grizzlies From Endangered Species Act.

[KTVH-TV](#) Helena, MT (9/28, Ambarian) reports that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials "say they could soon make a proposal to remove grizzly bears in north-central Montana from federal protections under the Endangered Species Act." The announcement was made "Thursday during a presentation to the state Environmental Quality Council." Hilary Cooley, the FWS's grizzly bear recovery coordinator, "said there are still several steps to take before the Northern Continental Divide population can be formally delisted. That includes analyzing habitat in the area and getting a formal status evaluation."

Additional coverage was provided by [KRTV-TV](#) Great Falls, MT (9/28, Ambarian) and [KXLH-TV](#) Helena, MT (9/28, Ambarian).

Daines, Gianforte Urge For Prioritization Of Rock Creek, Montano Mines.

[KWYB-TV](#) Butte, MT (9/28) reports that Sen. Steve Daines and Rep. Greg Gianforte are urging the Trump Administration "to prioritize the Rock Creek and Montanore Mines, projects located in Lincoln County and Sanders County." The article notes that "both projects require additional

analysis and coordination among the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service after decades of analysis and litigation." The lawmakers "say that the projects have been thoroughly vetted, researched and reviewed, beginning as early as the 1990s for Rock Creek Project and 2001 for the Montanore project."

Threatened Desert Tortoises Set Free South Of Boulder City.

The [AP](#) (9/29, Brean) reports that a dozen desert tortoises were "released Sept. 22 into the Boulder City Conservation Easement, a 86,423-acre swath of public land set aside in 1995 to conserve habitat for the federally protected reptile." Also, "another 26 tortoises were set free in the same general area, 16 of them with tracking devices glued to their shells." The article notes that "it was the first organized release by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its partners in southern Nevada in two years."

Record Low Number Of Salmon Expected To Return To Coleman.

The [Redding \(CA\) Record-Searchlight](#) (9/28, Arthur) reports that "the number of salmon returning to spawn at Coleman National Fish Hatchery in Anderson could reach historic lows this year — a legacy of the five-year drought that ended last year." Officials with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service noted that "three years ago they disrupted their typical life cycle by hauling the fish down to the Bay Area." According to Bret Galyean, project leader at the hatchery, "the number of fish returning this year is low because in 2014 hatchery officials put all 12 million baby salmon from the hatchery into tanker trucks and drove them down to the Bay Area and released them at Rio Vista and Mare Island." Galyean said that "many of that year's brood will not make it back to Coleman, and instead they will likely spawn in other streams."

Lights On, Birds Safe.

The [Kaua'i \(HI\) Garden Island News](#) (9/28, Else) reports that "no seabirds were grounded during the first night football game during fledgling season in seven years on Kauai." The article says that "the first of the night games was held Friday, hours after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the county regarding the night games." As part of the agreement between the two parties, "a trained team monitored Hanapepe Stadium Friday night for any downed Newell's shearwaters or Hawaiian petrels." That will "continue throughout the scheduled night games this season, using members of Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps to keep their eyes on the skies."

Opinion: Feeding 'Wild' Wolves.

In an op-ed for the [Eastern Arizona Courier](#) (9/28, Oliver), Dexter K. Oliver, a wildlife consultant, criticizes the recently released draft Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan. According to Oliver, "because the new recovery plan is demanding so many more Mexican wolves in the United States, more tax dollars will be necessary to pay for personnel providing these free meals." He expects that "the same problems will escalate." Oliver concludes that "having to provide food to 41 percent of the 'wild' wolves currently in Arizona and New Mexico, after two decades of reintroduction follies, is ludicrous."

National Park Service

Another Rockfall At El Capitan, Day After Person Killed.

[NBC News](#) (9/28, HELSEL, WALTERS) reports that "a new rockfall occurred at Yosemite National Park's famed 'El Capitan' monolith Thursday afternoon, park officials said, a day after a huge boulder broke free from the face and killed one person and injured another." It was unclear if anyone was injured. The National Park Service "said that a road was closed after the new rockfall."

Also reporting are [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/28, story 9, 0:20, Muir), [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/28, story 6, 1:25, Holt), the [Washington Post](#) (9/28, Press), the [Washington Post](#) (9/28), [USA Today](#) (9/28, Press), [CNN](#) (9/28, McKirdy, Levenson), [CBS News](#) (9/28), [NPR](#) (9/28, Campbell), [TIME](#) (9/28, Abrams), [TIME](#), [Reuters](#) (9/28, Whitcomb), [Reuters](#) (9/28, Whitcomb), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/28, Serna, Tchekmedyian), the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (9/27), the [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (9/28, Rogers, Krieger), the [Arizona Republic](#) (9/28), the [New York Daily News](#) (9/28, Schladebeck), [National Geographic](#) (9/28, Gibbens), the [Telegraph \(UK\)](#) (9/28, Reporters), [BBC News \(UK\)](#) (9/28), and the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (9/28, Mortimer).

March For Racial Justice And March For Black Women Will Converge In D.C. This Weekend.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/28, Stein) reports that “two marches aimed at highlighting racial injustices — particularly those facing women of color — will converge Saturday on the National Mall.” The March for Racial Justice and the March for Black Women will “have independent rallies in the nation’s capital, then meet at Lincoln Park in the Capitol Hill neighborhood before marching together to the Justice Department and the Mall.” The article notes that “both marches are waiting for final permits from the National Park Service, which is typical.”

Plan For Moccasin Bend Archaeological District Finalized.

The [AP](#) (9/28) reports that “a long-gestating general management plan to overhaul Tennessee’s Moccasin Bend National Archaeological District has received final approval.” The National Park Service “approved the plan to bring a national park visitor center to the new gateway site, add signs along trails to showcase area history, provide recreational opportunities and improve access to the hundreds of acres of historical land that played a key role in the Trail of Tears and Civil War on Sept. 14.” The project will be “completed over the next 15 to 20 years.”

New Fight Breaks Out Over Oil Drilling In Everglades.

The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (9/28, Fleshler) reports that “a new fight has broken out over oil exploration in the western Everglades as environmental groups try to stop a Texas company from completing a search for oil at Big Cypress National Preserve.” Burnett Oil Co. has applied for a renewal of its state permit, but “four environmental groups oppose the permit renewal, filing letters with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection that describe the oil company’s work so far as a sloppy operation that has harmed the preserve.” They also claimed “National Park Service staff weren’t always able to keep ahead of the trucks, as required under the company’s permits, to head off disturbances to denning panthers, nesting birds or other wildlife.”

King District’s Visitor Center Shut Down For Repairs.

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (9/28, Suggs) reports that “the Visitor Center at the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site will be closed for two weeks for repairs starting Monday in anticipation of massive crowds in 2018.” From Oct. 2 to Oct. 16, “workers will clean the building’s HVAC system, remove and reinstall wall panels and repair and reseal the ceiling and floor.” Park Superintendent Judy Forte said, “It is our mission and goal to maintain and preserve the Visitor Center so it can continue to serve park visitors for many years to come.”

Park Fire Crews Help Out West.

The [Mount Desert \(ME\) Islander](#) (9/28, Broom) reports that “this year, the risk of wildland fires here has been low, so Acadia was able to send four firefighters and a fire truck to help battle blazes in Montana in July and August.” According to the article, “a crew from Acadia flew to Montana last week to help complete the fire-fighting operation and drive the park’s engine back home.”

Largest US Gumbo Limbo Tree In Danger After Irma.

[WTSP-TV](#) St. Petersburg, FL (9/28) reports that “the largest gumbo limbo tree in the United States is in Bradenton, but its future is now uncertain after Hurricane Irma.” The tree at DeSoto National Memorial “received two new cracks from the storm.” Nathan Souder, National Park Service Superintendent at DeSoto National Memorial, said “officials are looking at all options for saving the tree.”

Why Do We Tolerate The Mediocrity Of Independence Park?

[Philly \(PA\)](#) (9/28) editorializes that Independence National Historical Park, “designed to honor and celebrate the founding of modern democracy, is under stress.” The paper says that the park is “showing its wear.” The paper says that “it’s time to create an inspiring and uplifting experience that not only provides a coherent narrative of our founding, but inspires the next chapters of our democracy and our future.”

‘A Disturbingly Empty Space In The Very Center Of The City’. In a piece for [Philly \(PA\)](#) (9/28, Bilger), Oliver Bilger criticizes the “look” and feel of Independence Mall. He suggests that “a cultivated lawn would be an easy thing to begin with.”

How Independence Park Brought Drama From The Start. In a piece for [Philly \(PA\)](#) (9/28,

Rowan), Tommy Rowan traces the history how Independence Hall and its nearby blocks have become “part of what we now know as Independence Mall.” Rowan describes it as “a saga of controversy and missteps.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

Lt. Gen. Buchanan To Oversee Relief Operation.

□ [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/28, story 2, 2:55, Muir) reported that President Trump “has now sent a three-star Army general to command the relief operation, amid images of thousands of cargo containers sitting there, full of supplies, but not delivered.” [Reuters](#) (9/28, Respaut, Graham) reports that Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan will oversee operations and be the Pentagon’s link to FEMA. [USA Today](#) (9/28, Stanglin) reports that US Northern Command spokesman John Cornelio “said Buchanan is being sent to the island to better assess the situation so the military can provide the highest level of support for the disaster.” [McClatchy](#) (9/28, Ordoñez, Daugherty) reports that Sen. Marco Rubio had urged the appointment of a military supervisor.

Lawmakers Approve Tax Breaks For Harvey, Irma, Maria Victims. [USA Today](#) (9/28, Jackson) reports that the House and Senate on Thursday “approved reduced taxes for victims of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria...over the objections of some Democrats who said Superstorm Sandy victims did not get the same treatment.” The tax provisions were combined with a bill to extend the authorization for the FAA through March.

NFIP Depletes Borrowing Authority In Wake Of This Year’s Hurricanes. [Politico](#) (9/28, Warmbrodt) reports that in the wake of the “devastating hurricanes over the past several weeks,” the National Flood Insurance Program “has depleted its borrowing authority.” FEMA “said it notified Congress on Sept. 20 that it borrowed \$5.8 billion from Treasury to fund losses this year,” and the balance of its remaining borrowing authority now stands at zero. A FEMA spokesperson said, “Ultimately, the claims payments on Harvey and Irma will exceed the current spending authorities of the National Flood Insurance Program. ... We will be collaborating with Congress so that every claim is paid in full.”

China Orders North Korean-Owned Businesses Closed.

The [AP](#) (9/28, McDonald) reports China on Thursday ordered North Korean-owned businesses “to close, cutting foreign revenue for the isolated North under UN sanctions imposed over its nuclear and missile programs.” China’s Ministry of Commerce ordered “North Korean businesses and ventures with Chinese partners” to close “within 120 days of the UN Security Council’s Sept. 11 approval of the latest sanctions,” which would be “early January.” [Bloomberg News](#) (9/28) says “non-profit and non-commercial public utility and infrastructure projects are not subject to the order,” the ministry said. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/28, Chin) notes that China accounts for more than 80% of North Korea’s trade.

Thornton: Chinese Enforcement Of UN Sanctions Improving. [Reuters](#) (9/28, Zengerle, Brunnstrom) reports that Acting Assistant Secretary of State Susan Thornton said Thursday that China is making progress in enforcing UN sanctions imposed on North Korea. “We are working closely with China to execute this strategy and are clear-eyed in viewing the progress – growing, if uneven – that China has made on this front,” Thornton told a Senate hearing. “We do see Chinese policy shifting,” she added.

Thornton, the [AP](#) (9/28, Lardner) reports, also “acknowledged Thursday that US intelligence agencies don’t believe North Korea will ever pull the plug on its nuclear program.” Thornton said the State Department and other federal agencies are “testing” the conclusion reached by the intelligence agencies by ratcheting up “international isolation and pressure” on North Korea, with help from China. “We’re trying to turn China’s position from looking at North Korea as some kind of asset, to looking at them as a liability,” Thornton said. “I think that [Secretary of State] Tillerson has made a lot of progress on that front.”

South Korea Expects More Provocative Acts By North Korea In Mid-October. [Reuters](#) (9/28, Kim) reports South Korea “expects more provocative acts by North Korea next month, to coincide with the anniversary of the founding of the North Korean communist party” and China’s Communist Party Congress. During a meeting with President Moon Jae-in on Thursday, national security adviser Chung Eui-yong “said he expected Pyongyang to act around Oct. 10 and 18, but gave no details.”

US To Send “Strategic Assets” To Seoul Amid North Korea Tensions. The [Washington Post](#) (9/28, Fifield, Lamothe) reports South Korean national security adviser Chung Eui-young said

Thursday that the US will send “strategic” military assets to South Korea “on a more regular basis” amid growing tensions with North Korea. Chung told lawmakers in Seoul that American “strategic assets” could be deployed to South Korea on a “rotational” basis before the end of the year. “This will help us expand our defense capabilities,” he told the lawmakers, without defining “strategic assets.”

The [New York Times](#) (9/28, Choe) reports South Korean President Moon Jae-in also said Thursday that the nation’s military “would speed up efforts to strengthen its pre-emptive strike, missile defense and retaliatory capabilities against North Korea.” In a speech to mark South Korea’s Armed Forces Day, Moon “said he would push for the South to move more quickly to retake wartime operational control of its military from the United States.”

Coroner: No Certain Cause For Oxygen Loss That Led To Warmbier’s Death. The [Washington Post](#) (9/28, Svrluga) reports that a coroner “could not determine what caused Otto Warmbier, the University of Virginia student who was imprisoned in North Korea, to suffer a dangerous loss of oxygen to his brain, according to a report released this week.” At some point “more than a year ago, Warmbier’s brain was starved of oxygen, but many causes could explain that, and the report from the Hamilton County coroner could not point to a definitive cause.” However, the coroner, Lakshmi Kode Sammarco, said, “I’m not denying that he was tortured. I don’t know that he was tortured or not tortured.” Sammarco added, “We didn’t have physical evidence of torture other than the anoxic encephalopathy in the brain,” using the medical term to describe oxygen deprivation in the brain.

The [New York Times](#) (9/28, Kolata) reports Warmbier’s parents appeared Tuesday on Fox News’ Fox & Friends, saying their son had been “tortured,” and after the interview, President Trump said in a tweet that Warmbier “was tortured beyond belief by North Korea.” The Times says the autopsy “did not find signs of torture,” but Sammarco “could not rule out the possibility.” Said Sammarco, “There are a lot of horrible things you can do to a human body that don’t leave external signs behind.”

Two North Korean Spies Arrested In Ukraine Attempting To Steal Missile Technology. The [New York Times](#) (9/28, Higgins) reports on the July 2011 arrest of a North Korean spy – first reported earlier this month by CNN – who posed as a member of his country’s trade delegation in Belarus. The spy, 56-year-old Ri Tae-gil, “thought he was photographing a secret scientific report on missile technology,” but the report “was a fake, part of a sting operation mounted by Ukraine’s security service to prevent the leak of missile secrets.” The Times says Ri’s arrest along with a fellow North Korean spy “shows the extent to which Pyongyang has scoured the world for foreign technology to reinvigorate what had been a faltering program to develop long-range missiles.”

Ignatius: Trump’s Asia Visit Offers A Clue To His Foreign Policy. [Washington Post](#) (9/28) columnist David Ignatius writes that “one simple rule for decoding foreign policy is that presidential trips often drive the agenda. So the fact that President Trump is planning to visit Beijing and other Asian capitals in just over a month may tell us more about what’s ahead in that region than all the tweets, rumors and palace intrigue.” Ignatius says it is unlikely Trump will fly to Beijing in November “through a cloud of nuclear fallout.” As for “ceaseless rumors” that Secretary of State Tillerson will be fired, Ignatius notes that Tillerson “was on his way to Beijing Thursday to prepare the way for the Trump visit,” so “it’s unlikely that the Sherpa will be thrown off the mountain before the president reaches the summit.”

US Geological Survey

US Geological Survey Crews Examine Extent Of Flooding From Irma.

[WJXT-TV](#) Jacksonville, FL (9/28, Peel) reports that “after Hurricane Irma, U.S. Geological Survey crews are making their way to Northeast Florida to find out the extent of damage.” Documenting water levels, USGS officials said, will allow the data to “be used for flood inundation maps.” USGS Field Office Chief Bill Hazell “said if storm damage ever gets this bad again, the USGS data will give the community an idea of how high the water can get before the storm hits.”

Additional Reading.

- **Moab Times-Independent – USGS Study Shows Moab Has Less Water Than Previously Thought.** The [Moab \(UT\) Times-Independent](#) (9/28, Egelhoff)
- **Small Collapse On Lava Delta.** [Maui \(HI\) Now](#) (9/28)
- **USGS: Another Two Earthquakes Take Place Near Pecos.** The [Midland \(TX\) Reporter-Telegram](#) (9/28)

- *Series Of Earthquakes Shake Kansas.* The [Hays \(KS\) Post](#) (9/28)
- *USGS Geologist Details Survey's Permian Assessments.* The [Midland \(TX\) Reporter-Telegram](#) (9/28, McEwen)

Top National News

Administration Waives Jones Act For Puerto Rico Amid Calls For Stronger Response.

Coverage of the Administration's decision to waive the Jones Act for Puerto Rico for 10 days is somewhat critical, with most reports focusing on the delay in the decision and on complaints that the 10-day period will be too brief. Coverage focuses more strongly on continued criticism of the federal response to hurricane relief efforts there, and on congressional pressure for a more robust response.

Anthony Mason opened the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/28, lead story, 2:20) by reporting that "the Trump Administration, under growing pressure to speed things up, temporarily waived the Jones Act, allowing more foreign ships to deliver aid." On [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/28, lead story, 3:10), Lester Holt reported, "The Trump Administration today waived rules that prevented some ships from delivering goods, but the root of the problem runs much deeper." NBC's Gabe Gutierrez: "Thousands of shipping containers sit at San Juan's main port, a distribution bottleneck stifling the relief effort. ... With little phone service in Puerto Rico, communication is crippled, [and] private truckers aren't showing up for deliveries."

The [AP](#) (9/28, Coto, Kellman) reports that the President "cleared the way Thursday for more supplies to head to Puerto Rico...but on the island, food and water remained scarce in devastated towns where a growing number of people decried the federal response as an uncoordinated disaster." Jose Enrique Melendez, a member of the Puerto Rico legislature, "said the Trump administration had focused more on making a good impression on members of the media gathered at San Juan's convention center than bringing aid to rural Puerto Rico."

[USA Today](#) (9/28, Jansen) reports that members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus also "continued to blast the administration for a slow response and said the 10-day waiver isn't long enough." Rep. Luis Guterrez (D-IL) said, "This is Katrina 2017. Think of 3.4 million people who have no escape route from the island of Puerto Rico." [The Hill](#) (9/28, Zanona) reports, "Lawmakers in Congress since Monday have been pushing for a one-year waiver," and [Reuters](#) (9/28, Gardner) that Sens. Mike Lee and John McCain "introduced a bill on Thursday to permanently waive shipping restrictions on Puerto Rico, saying a temporary waiver from the Trump administration is 'insufficient.'"

[Voice of America](#) (9/28, Heinlein) reports on its website that Acting DHS Secretary Duke said in a statement, "This waiver will ensure that over the next ten days, all options are available to move and distribute goods to the people of Puerto Rico. It is intended to ensure we have enough fuel and commodities to support lifesaving efforts, respond to the storm, and restore critical services and critical infrastructure operations in the wake of these devastating storms." And Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló said earlier on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (9/28), "I can say that the President has been very diligent. He has been essentially talking to us every day." But the [New York Times](#) (9/28, A1, Cooper, Nixon, Robles) reports in a front-page story that the Administration is facing "increasing pressure on Thursday to mount a more aggressive response."

[The Hill](#) (9/28, Lillis) reports that House Democrats are pressing "both the administration and congressional Republicans to step up their response to Hurricane Maria." House Minority Leader Pelosi, "characterizing the devastation from Maria as 'almost Biblical in its proportions,'" said that the "response has been too slow." [Bloomberg News](#) (9/28, Wasson) quotes Pelosi as saying, "This is a national emergency. We want everything to move faster."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/28, Wagner) reports that Duke and others "offered a vigorous defense of the federal response." Duke "said she is 'very satisfied' with the federal response since Maria made landfall eight days earlier, calling it 'a good news story in terms of our ability to reach people and the limited number of deaths that have taken place in such a devastating hurricane.'" On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/28), Puerto Rico Del. Jenniffer Gonzalez responded, "This is not a good news story. ... I do understand the Secretary wants to project and to explain to people that all the federal efforts and agents are there, are doing the job, but we still need to see the things, the water, electricity, the medicines, the food to arrive to the direct hands of the people. That's what we're looking for."

[The Hill](#) (9/28, Zanona) reports that Homeland Security Adviser Bossert said that the Puerto Rico "waiver was granted 'immediately' after Rosselló had petitioned Trump for the exemption

Wednesday night." [McClatchy](#) (9/28, Ordoñez; Daugherty) reports that Bossert said 10,000 federal forces on are the island. Bossert added, "At this point, the federal government is there at every level providing assistance."

[CNN](#) (9/28, Diamond) quotes Bossert as saying, "I think we had more workforce in Puerto Rico than we did for any other storm in history. It's been an unprecedented storm, it's been an unprecedented response, and the President and I have absolutely 100% confidence in what Secretary Duke, and [FEMA Administrator] Brock Long, and the men and women of Puerto Rico are doing. We're going to get through this." On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/28), Bossert said the "logistics plan starts with the prioritization of goods and commodities. ... What FEMA and the local officials have to do is use the military presence that's there now to augment the diminished capacity...of the local authorities and state authorities to push out food and water first, and medicines."

[USA Today](#) (9/28) says in an editorial, "More than a week after Hurricane Maria blasted through Puerto Rico, the misery factor is broad and deepening. ... The first weekend after Maria struck, President Trump said almost nothing about the island's carnage and instead ignited a culture war over NFL protests. When he finally tweeted about Puerto Rico, he included irrelevant asides about the island's history of government debt. And, citing opposition from shipping interests, he hesitated in suspending" the Jones Act. By Thursday, "the administration seemed finally to grasp the gravity of the situation."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/28, story 3, 1:40, Mason) and [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/28, story 2, 1:50, Holt) both broadcast features on relief efforts in rural Puerto Rico.

Administration Will Not Charge Full Price For Evacuation Flights. [Newsweek](#) (9/28, Price) reports that the Administration "will not require impoverished Puerto Rican hurricane victims to pay full price for evacuation flights – contradicting earlier reports that it would maintain the pricey flight policy for the US territory." State Department policy "does force emergency evacuees to sign a promissory note for the full-fare flight before leaving."

WPost Analysis: US Responded "More Forcefully" To Haiti Earthquake. The [Washington Post](#) (9/28, A1, Davis, Lamothe, O'Keefe) writes that the US responded "more forcefully" to the 2010 earthquake in Haiti than to the Puerto Rico disaster. Immediately after the 2010 earthquakes, "the US military mobilized as if it were going to war. ... Within two days, the Pentagon had 8,000 American troops en route. Within two weeks, 33 US military ships and 22,000 soldiers had arrived," and "more than 300 military helicopters buzzed overhead, delivering millions of pounds of food and water. By contrast, eight days after Hurricane Maria ripped across neighboring Puerto Rico, just 4,400 service members were participating in federal operations."

White House Says At Least 16 Have Died In Puerto Rico. The [Washington Times](#) (9/28, Boyer) reports, "The White House said Thursday that at least 16 people have died in Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane Maria." Bossert "said Puerto Rican authorities have confirmed the deaths." The [Washington Post](#) (9/28, Wagner) reports that Bossert said at the White House, "No fatality's acceptable. If that number increases significantly, that will be a devastating blow. We are doing everything we can to prevent that."

Tesla Sending Battery Packs To Puerto Rico. [Bloomberg News](#) (9/28, Hull) reports, "Tesla Inc. is sending to Puerto Rico hundreds of its Powerwall battery systems that can be paired with solar panels. ... The equipment is sorely needed, since the island remains largely without electricity more than a week after Hurricane Maria made landfall."

McClatchy Examines Trump's Claimed Ties To New York Puerto Rican Community. [McClatchy](#) (9/28, Douglas) looks at President Trump's relations with the New York Puerto Rican community, noting that he has said, "I grew up in New York, so I know many people from Puerto Rico. I know many Puerto Ricans. And these are great people, and we have to help them." McClatchy writes that "Puerto Ricans don't recall him having a particular affinity for or ties to the predominately Democratic-leaning community." New York political consultant Jaime Estades said, "There are no footprints that are permanent in terms of his relations with the Puerto Rican or Latino community. ... Yes, he has met Puerto Ricans, he grew up in the city. But to have a permanent relationship? I don't think there are pictures of Trump with Puerto Ricans, unless they're with J-Lo."

Puerto Rican Korean War Veterans Stranded On Trip Home. The [New York Times](#) (9/28, Gonzalez) has a feature on the surviving members of the "Borinqueneers," the 65th Infantry Regiment that "has seen action from World War I through Korea, and was the last segregated military unit to be disbanded." Sixteen Korean War veterans were stranded "en route to Puerto Rico from South Korea, where they had been honored by its government for their wartime service, when Hurricane Maria devastated their island home, leaving them stranded with little word from relatives and friends."

NFL's Watson Donates First Game Check To Harvey Victims. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/28, story 12, 1:10, Muir) reported that rookie NFL player Deshaun Watson of the Houston Texans donated his first game check to three stadium cafeteria workers "whose homes were damaged by Harvey." [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/28, story 12, 1:35, Holt) reported that Watson "donated about \$27,000 from his base salary of \$465,000."

Trump Says Tax Plan Is Intended To Help "The Working People."

The President, Administration officials, and Republican lawmakers made a case Thursday for the Republican tax plan, arguing that it is aimed at helping the middle class and will spur economic growth. Coverage of the plan is much lighter today than it was yesterday and the tone is generally negative, with reports and analyses saying the plan will increase the deficit and will benefit the wealthy more than the middle class.

President Trump was asked on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (9/28) who the tax plan is intended to help. Trump said, "Really, the working people. We say the working people. The middle class, the people that really haven't been treated right. ... Also it's going to be for businesses where they are going to bring in jobs. This is a tax plan for jobs and growth. ... It will be the largest reduction in terms of dollars of any plan ever in the history of the country."

House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (9/28) that middle class families will see "lower tax rates. They can keep more of their money by doubling the standard deduction. We protect more of their dollars from being taxed at all. And as you know, we take the 10 percent bracket and make it zero so incredibly important for modest earning families as well."

The [New York Times](#) (9/28, Gelles) focuses on how the plan will benefit corporations, reporting, "corporate America had a long wish list" and Trump "gave companies just about everything they wanted." Business leaders were "quick to applaud the broad outlines of the proposal, claiming that tax cuts they would spur new investment and grow the economy," but "skeptics are questioning whether companies would actually invest tax savings in things like factories and jobs, and whether such cuts would meaningfully help the economy, which is already expanding." [Reuters](#) (9/28, Becker) says "Wall Street financiers could be unintended winners" from a section of the plan intended "to help mostly small, 'mom-and-pop' businesses." Trump's call for "a new 'pass-through' tax rate of 25 percent...could mean big savings for owners of sole proprietorships and partnerships who now pay 39.6 percent," but "it could also mean a windfall for partners in private-equity, venture-capital and hedge funds, unless Congress can figure out a way to block them from taking advantage of the new rate."

House Majority Leader McCarthy touted the economic benefits of the package on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (9/28) saying, "The last eight years under Barack Obama, if you take his very best growth year, that is actually lower than the worst year under Bill Clinton. We have got to get America moving again and that means a tax code that can be competitive. Today, American companies that are competitive around the world, our tax code forces them to take the money to invest in another country, instead of bringing it back to America and investing here." Likewise, Americans for Tax Reform president Grover Norquist told a Capitol Hill press conference Thursday that President Trump's tax reform proposal "can achieve 4 percent growth," the [Washington Free Beacon](#) (9/28, Meyer) reports. Norquist said, "We have a jobs bill in front of us if we keep these rates down, we'll go to 4 percent growth, that's what we had under Reagan. ... The big winner of tax reform and tax reduction are the millions of Americans who could not get a job in the last eight years and now will get jobs."

A [Washington Post](#) (9/28) editorial blasts the plan, calling it "another irresponsible GOP tax cut, paid for with magical thinking, that would erode the nation's fiscal health and burden future generations." According to the Post, "the plan is packed with giveaways to the wealthy and threatens to add even more to the debt." It is, the Post argues, tax reform "for dishonest political cowards."

Pence Pushes "Largest Tax Cut In American History" In Michigan And Wisconsin. The [Detroit Free Press](#) (9/28, Egan) reports that Vice President Pence visited Auburn Hills, Michigan on Thursday, where he "promoted what he said would be 'the largest tax cut in American history.'" Addressing a crowd of "close to 300 people," Pence said, "We're going to cut taxes across the board." He was joined by Gov. Rick Snyder, who has eliminated the state's business tax and replaced it with a corporate income tax that only "a minority of Michigan businesses are subject to."

The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (9/28, Glauber) reports that Pence later "came to the Milwaukee area Thursday on a whirlwind visit to push for the Republican plan to overhaul taxes

and raise campaign cash." At a welding and fabrication company alongside Gov. Scott Walker, Pence said, "Tax cuts create jobs. Tax cuts create growth. It works here in Wisconsin. and it's going to work all across the United States." He later attended a fundraiser to benefit the Trump Victory Fund and the Republican National Committee.

Cohn Will Not Guarantee That Every Middle-Class Family Would Get Tax Cut. Jonathan Karl reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/28, story 3, 2:25, Muir) that National Economic Council Director Cohn claimed Thursday that "Trump's tax plan could save the average American family up to \$1,000 a year." Cohn: "If we allow a family to keep another \$1,000 of their income, what does that mean? They can renovate their kitchen, they can buy a new car, they can take a family vacation." Karl: "But the details are still sketchy, and the President's top economic adviser today couldn't guarantee that every middle-class family would benefit." Cohn: "I guarantee you, you can find someone in this country, maybe one person, who their taxes may not go down."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/28, story 5, 1:50, Holt) reported that "the White House is facing a barrage of questions struggling to explain how the Republican tax plan matches up with the President's promises about benefits for the middle class and not breaks for the wealthy." NBC's Peter Alexander: "Will all middle-class Americans get a tax cut? Doubts fueled in part by the President's top economic adviser, refusing to say that's true." [USA Today](#) (9/28, Przybyla) reports that Cohn "refused to repeat Trump's Wednesday claim that the wealthy wouldn't benefit. Instead, he said the US taxpayers only care about their own pocketbooks." The [Washington Times](#) (9/28, Miller) also reports that Cohn said that he "could not guarantee that every middle-class American would pay less under the GOP tax reform plan, but that is the goal."

Cohn: Business Tax Rate Proposal Is GOP's "Final Offer." [Politico](#) (9/28, Nelson) reports that Cohn also said that the business tax rates outlined in the plan "represent the GOP's 'final offer'...unless Democrats are interested in cutting rates even further." Cohn said, "We were happy to start at 25 and we're happy to go lower, and we're happy to start at 20 on corporate and go lower. ... If [Senate Minority Leader Schumer] wants to counter something lower, we're very negotiable."

Price Apologizes For Using Private Planes For Official Business.

As the controversy surrounding HHS Secretary Price's use of private planes to travel on official business continued to grow Thursday, Price apologized and promised to discontinue the practice and repay taxpayers for the cost of his travel. The story led one of the network news broadcasts Thursday evening and garners heavy media coverage, nearly all of which is negative. Most reports focus on President Trump's displeasure with Price and many question whether his job is in danger. Several also point out that while Price, who is one of several Administration officials who have used charter flights and military aircraft, has said he will repay the cost of his seat on the chartered flights, the amount he is repaying will cover only a fraction of the total cost of the flights.

[USA Today](#) (9/28, Estepa) reports that Price "apologized for his use of private planes to travel on official business, vowing to put an end to the practice and promising to pay for his previous flights himself." The [Washington Post](#) (9/28, A1, Sun, Eilperin) reports that Price said "he would reimburse the government for a fraction of the costs of his flights on charter planes in recent months." According to an HHS official, Price "would write a check for \$51,887.31, which appears to cover the cost of his seat on chartered flights but not those of his staffers." However, [Politico](#) "has estimated the total expense of these trips exceeded \$400,000." The [New York Post](#) (9/28, Fredericks) says Price is paying back "only...a fraction of the hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars he blew on chartered flights."

[Politico](#) (9/28, Pradhan, Diamond) reports that the White House "approved the use of military aircraft" for trips by Price "to Africa and Europe this spring, and to Asia in the summer, at a cost of more than \$500,000 to taxpayers." White House deputy press secretary Raj Shah said, "Use of military aircraft for Cabinet and other essential travelers is sometimes an appropriate and necessary use of resources." Jeff Zeleny said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (9/28), "Clearly, the White House is trying to get hands around a drip, drip, drip over the last several days."

The [AP](#) (9/28, Alonso-Zaldivar, Lucey) reports that in the wake of a "rebuke" from President Trump, Price "issued a public apology" as he "fought to keep his job." Price said in a statement, "I regret the concerns this has raised regarding the use of taxpayer dollars. ... I was not sensitive enough to my concern for the taxpayer." While Price "said he hopes to keep his job," White House press secretary Sarah Sanders "wouldn't go that far," telling reporters, "We're going to conduct a full review and we'll see what happens." This, after Trump said Wednesday that he is "not happy" about Price's use of charter flights.

The [New York Times](#) (9/28, Rogers, Thrush) cites “two people familiar with Mr. Trump’s thinking,” who said he “had been telling people around him that Mr. Price was wealthy enough to solve this problem by paying for the flights himself,” and that “this was the least the secretary could do to make up, or compensate, for what he believed to be turning into a damaging political story line.” The [Washington Times](#) (9/28, Howell) reports that the President “fumed at Mr. Price, causing many to wonder if the secretary’s job was in danger.” For their part, Democrats “called for his resignation.” [The Hill](#) (9/28, Weixel) says the controversy “seems to have put Price’s job at risk,” and [Politico](#) (9/28, Pradhan) reports that Trump “wouldn’t commit to keeping Price in his administration, saying only ‘we’ll see’ when asked whether Price would be fired.”

Asked on [Fox News Special Report](#) (9/28) if the President has spoken to him about the situation, Price said, “He has talked about and he has said publicly, he wasn’t happy. He expressed that to me very clearly.” Asked if he is concerned that he has lost the confidence of the President, Price said, “I work at the pleasure of the President.” [Bloomberg News](#) (9/28, Edney) reports that as Price arrived for a speaking engagement at the National Press Club on Thursday morning, Price told reporters, “We’re going to work through this. I think we’ve still got the confidence of the President and we continue to work on important issues like the flu.”

The [Washington Post](#) (9/28, Sun) says Price “declined to comment about whether his taxpayer-funded use of charter jets was appropriate, saying he is waiting for the outcome of an HHS inspector general review.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/28, Stokols) reports Price said he would cooperate fully with the IG investigation and that he has launched a separate internal HHS review.

Gloria Borger said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (9/28), “This is somebody who just should have known better and it’s not surprising to me that the President and other members of the Administration are quite upset about this because the President clearly understands the optics of all of this, particularly in the middle of the fights they’re in the middle of, heading into tax reform.” Rebecca Berg of Real Clear Politics said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (9/28), “If I’m Tom Price, I don’t want to hear the President saying about my future, ‘We’ll see what happens.’ That’s not exactly a vote of confidence.”

[Reuters](#) (9/28, Cornwell) says Price is “one of a handful” of senior Administration officials “put on the defensive over reports about their use of charter flights and government aircraft, sometimes for personal travel, when they could have flown commercial for less money.” In addition to Price, EPA Administrator Pruitt and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin were also “in the spotlight for their travel habits.” [Politico](#) (9/28, Lefebvre) reports that Interior Secretary Zinke and aides “have taken several flights on private or military aircraft, including a \$12,000 charter plane to take him to events in his hometown in Montana and private flights between two Caribbean islands.” According to a department spokeswoman, the trips “were booked only after officials were unable to find commercial flights that would accommodate Zinke’s schedule, and that all were ‘pre-cleared by career officials in the ethics office.’”

[BuzzFeed](#) (9/28, Parti) reports that watchdog groups and congressional Democrats are looking into whether SBA Administrator McMahon and Education Secretary DeVos “are violating the Antideficiency Act, a law that bars the federal government from accepting free services,” by using “private jets for government work, even though they say they’re paying for the travel themselves.” Julianna Goldman said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/28, story 7, 2:10, Mason) that because “Trump’s White House hasn’t issued guidelines for Cabinet member travel,” there is “a wide range of behavior.”

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/28, story 4, 1:55, Holt), Hallie Jackson described Republican senators as “concerned,” and in the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/28, lead story, 3:00), David Muir said that “one top Republican is now delivering a stern warning to President Trump.” ABC’s Cecilia Vega added that Senate Judiciary Chairman Charles Grassley “wrote a letter to the President, saying, ‘I’m urging you to emphasize to cabinet secretaries the necessity of using reasonable and cost effective modes of travel.’”

In his [Washington Post](#) (9/28) column, Eugene Robinson criticizes Administration officials’ use of private jets, writing, “Trump may not have Made America Great Again for you or me, but he has made it pretty sweet for political appointees who want to jet around like billionaires at other people’s expense.” A [New York Times](#) (9/28) editorial expresses a similar sentiment. Citing Administration officials’ use of private jets as well as the use of private email accounts for government business, the Times says White House Chief of Staff Kelly should deliver an “all-hands lecture on the difference between public service and self-enrichment and the importance of sunlight as a disinfectant,” although they “seem to have already absorbed a more persuasive lesson from the chief executive – get it while you can and to hell with the rules.”

Democrats Seek Bipartisan Support For \$500 Billion In Infrastructure Spending.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/28, Halsey) reports that Senate Democrats are seeking bipartisan support for a \$500 billion investment in infrastructure. The Post describes the Democrats as “emboldened by the GOP’s failure to unilaterally pass a health-care bill,” and says they “hope infrastructure spending will emerge as a desirable legislative win for Congress and the White House.” On Thursday, Democrats on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee sent a letter seeking a meeting with Transportation Secretary Chao, “reminding her of her confirmation-hearing promise to work in bipartisan fashion in delivering on Trump’s campaign promise.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Private Emails, Private Jets And Mr. Trump’s Idea Of Public Service.” A [New York Times](#) (9/28) editorial cites Administration officials’ use of private jets as well as the use of private email accounts for government business, and says White House Chief of Staff Kelly should deliver an “all-hands lecture on the difference between public service and self-enrichment and the importance of sunlight as a disinfectant,” although they “seem to have already absorbed a more persuasive lesson from the chief executive – get it while you can and to hell with the rules.”

“Puerto Rico Deserves Better.” A [New York Times](#) (9/28) editorial says “far more and far faster help is needed” in Puerto Rico as the island struggles with “vast devastation that only the federal government has the resources to repair.” The Times welcomes President Trump’s agreement Thursday to temporarily waive restrictions on shipments by foreign vessels to the island’s ports and the appointment of “a three-star general to focus on faster distribution of emergency supplies, addressing one of the main problems on the wreckage-clogged island.”

Washington Post.

“Trump’s Tax ‘Miracle’: Cowardice And Dishonesty.” A [Washington Post](#) (9/28) editorial blasts the Republican tax reform plan, calling it “another irresponsible GOP tax cut, paid for with magical thinking, that would erode the nation’s fiscal health and burden future generations.” According to the Post, “the plan is packed with giveaways to the wealthy and threatens to add even more to the debt.” It is, the Post argues, tax reform “for dishonest political cowards.”

“This Tyrant’s Reach Knows No Borders.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/28) writes that Afghan Mukhtarli, a former independent journalist in Azerbaijan who had fled the country two years ago fearing government persecution, was abducted and brought back to Azerbaijan in May and now remains in detention. The Post condemns Azeri President Ilham Aliyev for his “tyrants’ reach.”

“Montgomery County Considers Risking Thousands Of Jobs.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/28) writes that Montgomery County, Maryland’s all-Democratic County Council “is pushing for a 30 percent minimum-wage hike, despite evidence it would cost thousands of jobs.” The Post highlights research showing about 47,000 residents would lose their jobs by 2022 if the minimum wage rose to \$15 by 2020, and argues that council members should “resist the populist fervor that would put county jobs at risk.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Hazing Justice Gorsuch.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/28) writes that Justice Gorsuch already has drawn displeasure from the political left for the fact that he will likely rule against unions in the case *Abood v. Detroit Board of Education*, which will decide the fate of unions’ so-called agency fees. The Journal also argues that the left’s displeasure toward Gorsuch is highlighted in their vocal disapproval of his speaking before a conservative group at Trump International Hotel – a type of event, the Journal says, that is not out of the ordinary for justices.

“The Meaning Of ‘Xi Jinping Thought.’” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/28) writes that the next Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, starting October 18, will be noteworthy for two reasons: President Xi Jinping may defy tradition and seek to extend his tenure in power beyond the standard 10-year term, and the Congress may add the so-called “Xi Jinping Thought” phrase to the Party charter, which would place Xi’s importance on the level of Mao Zedong and further cement his authority.

“Macron’s European Dream.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/28) writes that although French President Emmanuel Macron was bold to tout the importance of the EU in a recent speech and is right to push for economic reforms in France, his dreams of a fiscal and

economic union, harmonized corporate taxes, and EU regulation are a recipe for political failure.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Republican Tax Plan Quickly Hits First Hurdle](#)

[Food, Fuel And Medicine Slowly Distributed Across Puerto Rico](#)

[World's Biggest Oil Company Promised Expats Idyllic Lifestyle—Then Fire Erupted](#)

[China Sets Tough Electric-Car Production Target](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Administration Is Pressed To Step Up Hurricane Recovery In Puerto Rico](#)

[With Tax Cuts On The Table, Once-Mighty Deficit Hawks Hardly Chirp](#)

[Alabama Victory Provides Blueprint For New Bannon Alliance](#)

[Three Months After Shooting, Steve Scalise Makes Emotional Return To House](#)

[A Legal Industry Built On Private School Sex Abuse](#)

[Student Charged In Bronx School Stabbing Felt Bullied, Police Say](#)

Washington Post:

[Price To Pay Part Of Costs Of Flights](#)

[Twitter Reports Closing 201 Accounts With Ties To Russia](#)

[Fewer Deported Under Trump](#)

[From Tragedy To A Supreme Feat](#)

[Scalise Returns To Capitol Hill](#)

[Response To Puerto Rico Pales Next To Haiti Actions](#)

Financial Times:

[US Cities Brace For Arrival Of Fleeing Puerto Ricans](#)

[Value Of Private Equity Dealmaking At Highest Level Since 2007](#)

[UK And EU Hail Progress In Latest Round Of Brexit Talks](#)

[Catalan Vote Puts Regional Police At Centre Of Political Tug Of War](#)

Washington Times:

[Partisanship Prevails Over Promises When Democrats See Republican Tax Reform](#)

[NFL Risks Billions In Publicly Funded Stadiums As Millionaire Players Stage Kneeling Protests](#)

[Russian Strikes On US Allies Seen As Move For Power In Postwar Syria](#)

[How To Fix The Federal Debt: Budget Analysts Say It's Only Politics That Stand In The Way](#)

[Catalonia And Spanish Government Escalate Battle Of Wills Over Independence Referendum](#)

[Fifth-Grade Teacher Gets Schooled By Parents After Gender-Neutral Grammar Lessons](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Trump Administration-Excessive Travel Expenses; Hurricane-Puerto Rico; White House-Tax Reform; NFL-Kneeling Protest; Rep. Scalise Recovered; Russia Meddling Investigation-Twitter; Hugh Hefner Dies; Actress With Breast Cancer; Yosemite National Park Accident; Indiana Hiker Teen Murder Case; Prince Harry-Viral Popcorn Video; NFL Player-Hurricane Relief.

CBS: Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Hurricane-Puerto Rico Health Crisis; Hurricane-Puerto Rico Rural Areas; Rep. Scalise Recovered; Russia Meddling Investigation-Twitter; NFL-Kneeling Protest; Trump Administration-Excessive Travel Expenses; Actress With Breast Cancer; Former Presidents Appearance; Hugh Hefner Dies.

NBC: Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Hurricane-Puerto Rico Rural Areas; Rep. Scalise Recovered; Trump Administration-Excessive Travel Expenses; White House-Tax Reform; Yosemite National Park Accident; Hugh Hefner Dies; Actress With Breast Cancer; Health-Flu Season; Prince Harry-Viral Popcorn Video; Former Presidents Appearance; NFL Player-Hurricane Relief.

Network TV At A Glance:

Hurricane – 13 minutes, 55 seconds

Rep. Scalise Recovered – 7 minutes, 15 seconds

Trump Administration-Excessive Travel Expenses – 7 minutes, 5 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Hurricane-Puerto Rico; White House-Tax Reform; Russia Meddling Investigation-Twitter; Yosemite National Park Accident.

CBS: Hurricane-Puerto Rico; White House-Personal Email Use; Trump Administration-Excessive Travel Expenses; White House-Tax Reform; Russia Meddling Investigation-Twitter; Yosemite National Park Accident; NFL-Kneeling Protest.

FOX: Trump Administration-Excessive Travel Expenses; White House-Personal Email Use; Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Yosemite National Park Accident.

NPR: Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Russia Meddling Investigation-Twitter; Burma-Haley Comment.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Gives remarks to the National Association of Manufacturers; has lunch with Vice President Mike Pence and Governor Rick Scott of Florida.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a meeting with President Hashim Thaçi of Kosovo; joins the President for lunch with Governor Rick Scott of Florida; visits the National Reconnaissance Office.

US Senate: No public schedule announced.

US House: No votes scheduled in the House of Representatives.

Other: 9:00 AM GOP Sen. Joni Ernst speaks on security challenges at CSIS – Center for Strategic and International Studies host a 'Smart Women, Smart Power conversation' with Republican Sen. Joni Ernst on North Korea, Syria, Afghanistan, and other global hotspots, and also examining the defense budget Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

11:30 AM Interior Secretary Zinke delivers policy address on 'energy dominance' at the Heritage Foundation – Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke delivers 'major policy address' on 'A Vision for American Energy Dominance' at the Heritage Foundation, discussing 'President Donald Trump's U.S. energy dominance agenda, focusing specifically on the importance of American energy production and how the federal govt can be a better business partner' and 'outlining the administration's 'all of the above' energy strategy' Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Avenue Northeast, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

12:30 PM Dem Sen. Jack Reed speaks at Council on Foreign Relations – Democratic Sen. Jack Reed speaks at the Council on Foreign Relations, in conversation with ABC News Chief Washington Correspondent and Chief White House Correspondent Jonathan Karl, to discuss President Donald Trump's approach to dealing with North Korea and Russia, Iran's compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and the U.S. military's state of preparedness Location: Council on Foreign Relations, 1777 F St NW, Washington, DC www.cfr.org https://twitter.com/CFR_org

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Zuckerberg did admit Facebook does bear some responsibility for all the fake news that abetted the Trump campaign during the election, but he insists overall, Facebook gave ordinary people a voice to help millions of people learn how to vote. Right? Facebook helps democracy the same way hurricanes help us water our lawns."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Between the Russians and all our uncles, Facebook is the most dangerous place on Earth."

Jimmy Fallon: "This week, President Trump unveiled his new tax code, and he said that it will be simpler to understand. When asked how simple, he said, 'Even I can understand it.'"

Seth Meyers: "White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders today said there isn't anything to clarify about Trump's position on NFL players kneeling during the national anthem, because the issue is, quote, 'Pretty black and white.' And then she winked so hard, her podium

fell over.”

Seth Meyers: “Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price apologized this afternoon for flying on taxpayer-funded private jets, though there was probably a more cost-efficient way to apologize.”

Seth Meyers: “You know, I almost feel bad for Sarah Huckabee Sanders. She always sounds like she’s at a parent-teacher conference for the kid who keeps trying to burn down the school.”

Conan O’Brien: “San Diego started building a border wall, not to stop immigrants but to keep the LA Chargers from coming back.”

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Washington Post: After Zero-Tolerance Vow, A Park Chief Cited For Sexual Harassment Gets A Bonus And New Job.
- New York Times: At Statue Of Liberty, Words That Resonate Even If They're Unfamiliar.
- Associated Press: Yellowstone To Create Temporary Bison Quarantine Facility.
- Associated Press: Geese Rounded Up From DC Park Will Be Made Into Meals.
- Associated Press: Nation's Oldest Coal-fired Steamboat Returns To Mystic River.
- Jackson (WV) Herald: Park Service To Host Civil War Railroad Program.
- Denver Post: Outdoor Industry In Colorado Aims To Become Political, Economic Force.
- Denver Post: Historically Black Beach Enclaves Are Fighting To Save Their History And Identity.
- Chicago Tribune: Century Of Progress Homes Tour, Plus Lots To Discover In Columbus.
- Oregonian: Editorial: Zinke Should Leave Cascade-Siskiyou Protections In Place.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- The Hill: Senate Panel Approves Five Interior, Energy Nominees After Delayed Vote.
- Saipan (MNP) Tribune: NPS Awards \$27K Grant To Preserve WWII Sites On Saipan.
- Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR): Dept. Of Interior Awards Territory \$2.4 Million Grant For Infrastructure Improvements On Schools.

Office Of Surface Mining

- Pruitt: Obama EPA "Failed" To Protect Environment After Gold King Mine Spill.

US Geological Survey

- Popular Science: Growing Skin In A Lab Has Benefits For Humans And Turtles Alike.
- Newsweek: Yellowstone Supervolcano Earthquake Swarm Surpasses 1,500 Events.

- Reuters: Magnitude 6.0 Quake Hits Philippines -USGS.
- Los Angeles Times: How A 9.2 Earthquake In Alaska In 1964 Changed Our Understanding Is Explained In "The Great Quake."

Top National News

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- CNN: Mueller Impanels At Least Two Grand Juries In Russia Investigation.
- NBC: Pence Calls Report That He Is Readying A 2020 Campaign "Laughable And Absurd."
- Bloomberg News: Kelly Tells White House Staff To Put Country Before Trump, Warns Against Leaks.
- The Hill: House Democrats From Border Districts Alarmed Over DHS Waiving Environmental Laws To Build Wall.
- Axios: Axios' Swan: Government May Shut Down Over Border Wall Funding Fight.
- Reuters: Infrastructure Borrowing Down As State, Local Governments Await Federal Plan.
- Wall Street Journal: WSJournal A1: Regulator Penalties On Wall Street Down In Trump's First Six Months.
- Bloomberg News: Cohn: US Must Cut Corporate Tax Rate To Below 23 Percent.
- Financial Times: US Formally Notifies UN Of Withdrawal From Paris Climate Deal.
- Breitbart: Obama Administration Spent Over \$300,000 On Climate Change Museum.

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DOI In The News

Interior Won't Change Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument Designation.

The [AP](#) (8/4, Daly) reported, "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said Friday he is not recommending changes to Arizona's Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, the fifth site Zinke has removed from an ongoing review of national monuments for possible elimination or reduction." The AP noted, "Zinke is reviewing 27 national monuments designated by previous presidents. The review was ordered by President Donald Trump, who says many monument designations are unwarranted land grabs by the federal government. Zinke has removed five sites from review ahead of a final report due later this month. Others removed from consideration are in Montana, Colorado, Idaho and Washington state."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/4, Siciliano) quoted Zinke as saying Friday, "Today I'm announcing that Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument's review process has concluded and I am recommending no changes be made to the monument." Zinke added, "The land has some of the most pristine and undeformed geological formations in North America, which show the scientific history of our Earth while containing thousands of years of human relics and fossils."

In a rundown of upcoming Congressional deadlines, [E&E Publishing](#) (8/4, Cahlink, Lunney) mentioned that "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's final recommendations on whether to alter 27

national monuments is due Aug. 24.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Times](#) (8/4, Wolfgang), the [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (8/5, Sullivan), and the [Arizona Republic](#) (8/4, Altavena, Devoid).

Under Trump, Coal Mining Gets New Life On US Lands.

A 2,700-word, front-page [New York Times](#) (8/6, A1, Lipton, Meier) report says the Trump Administration is “encouraging more coal mining on lands owned by the federal government – part of an aggressive push to both invigorate the struggling American coal industry and more broadly exploit commercial opportunities on public lands.” The Times comments, “companies and individuals with economic interests in the lands, mining companies among them,” have not “held such a strong upper hand” since “the so-called Sagebrush Rebellion during the Reagan administration.” In late June, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “visited Whitefish, Mont., to attend a meeting of Western governors, where he vowed to find a balance between extracting commodities from federal lands and protecting them.” Zinke said in a speech, “Our greatest treasures are public lands. It is not a partisan issue. It is an American issue.” Yet, according to the Times, “The alliance between Mr. Zinke and the coal industry is well documented in his campaign finance disclosures.”

[Newsweek](#) (8/6, Shaffer) covers the Times analysis, reporting that “Zinke has been in the state of Utah since Sunday talking with state and local officials and touring the Bears Ears National Monument and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, to help determine their future status under the Trump Administration.” Zinke said, “You know our nation can’t run on pixie dust and hope, and the last eight years showed that.” A tribe member is quoted as saying, “We don’t have money. But we have land, water and air. Snuff that out and we are gone.”

Interior Watchdog Reviewing Zinke’s Calls To Alaska Senators.

The [AP](#) (8/4, Daly) reported Interior Department Deputy Inspector General Mary Kendall said “her office is launching a ‘preliminary investigation’ of” Interior Secretary Ryan “Zinke’s July 26 calls to Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan” in which Zinke allegedly “warned the senators of repercussions for their state if Murkowski failed to support the” GOP healthcare bill. The AP added that “Zinke has called the notion that he threatened Murkowski ‘laughable,’ but he tweeted a photo Thursday of himself and Murkowski smiling over Alaskan beers at his Washington home. ‘I say dinner, she says brews. My friends know me well,’ Zinke wrote, adding a beer emoji and ‘thanks’ to Murkowski.”

[CNN](#) (8/4, Green, Marsh, Wallace) reported online that the IG’s preliminary investigation follows “a letter sent Thursday to Democratic Reps. Frank Pallone and Raul Grijalva, who initially requested the investigation on July 27.” Additional coverage was provided by [Reuters](#) (8/4, Volcovici) and the [International Business Times](#) (8/4, Prasad).

3 Goals Zinke Has During Time At Interior.

The [Daily Caller](#) (8/5) reported, “President Donald Trump’s Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke is frustrated with ‘the resistance’ to getting his senior leadership staff in place,” and he “most of the blame on the Office of Government Ethics, which many quietly report to be overzealously abusing its position to review nominees.” Zinke also told the Daily Caller News Foundation that he “has three goals for his time in the cabinet: He hopes to restore trust with all the partners of the Interior Department, improve the languishing infrastructure, and thin out the headquarters staff while bolstering the front line staff.”

Trump Says States Can Count On Federal Cash In Emergencies.

The [AP](#) (8/4, Thomas) reported, “President Donald Trump said Friday that states can count on his administration to dispense U.S. emergency funds efficiently.” Touring FEMA’s command center, Trump was “accompanied by Vice President Mike Pence, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Energy Secretary Rick Perry, and Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price.”

The Battle Over Science In The Trump Administration.

[CNN International](#) (8/5, Green) reported online, “President Donald Trump has made no secret of his desire to roll back environmental regulations and change the playing field for the fossil-fuel industry,” and “his administration’s actions over its first six months have followed that lead, including what many scientists say is a full-fledged battle against research and facts.” CNN cited how “Joel Clement was director of the Office of Policy Analysis at the Interior Department, until

three weeks ago. Now he's a senior adviser at the department's Office of Natural Resources Revenue – a position he labels an accounting job." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told Congress in June that reassignments will be part of the process meant to reduce the department's "physical footprint."

Meanwhile, [The Hill](#) (8/5, Henry) said that "government employees are growing increasingly willing to criticize or defy the White House and President Trump's top appointees," citing how "a handful of current and former career staffers in the Interior Department and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have openly shredded their superiors within the last several weeks, continuing a trend that has developed throughout the government over the course of Trump's tenure in the Oval Office." The Hill specifically cited how "in the Interior Department...Clement, has filed a whistleblower complaint against Trump administration political appointees like Secretary Ryan Zinke, saying he was reassigned to the agency's revenue office because of his former research and advocacy over climate change." Yet, an "agency spokesman said last month that reassignments are 'conducted to better serve the taxpayer and the Department's operations.'"

Continuing Coverage: Interior Department Reaffirms Protection Of Upper Missouri River Breaks As National Monument.

The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (8/6, Lipton) reports, "The Interior Department announced Wednesday that the Upper Missouri River Breaks, a famous chunk of river in central Montana that holds a national monument designation, would remain fully protected by federal land-use restrictions." Zinke said, "The monument is one of the only free-flowing areas of the Missouri that remains as Lewis and Clark saw it more than 200 years ago." Zinke said in June, "There is no doubt that" the Bears Ears National Monument "is drop-dead gorgeous country and that it merits some degree of protection," before he added "that the Bears Ears site seemed too large and that different kinds of uses of the land are too restricted, meaning it is 'not the best use of the land.'"

The [Sidney \(MT\) Herald](#) (8/5, Jean) reported similarly, and the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (8/6) provides coverage in a brief.

Why Our Large-Scale National Monuments Should Stay Intact.

Pew Charitable Trusts VP Tom Wathen wrote in [The Hill's](#) (8/4, Wathen) "Pundits Blog" blog that as Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke considers elimination or modification of national land monuments, he should "recommend that the monuments under review remain as they are now for future generations." Wathen argued, "Not only are large-scale monuments vital to protect important 'objects,' but they also provide open spaces to find recreation or seek solitude, serve as habitat for thousands of plant and animal species, and strengthen the economies of surrounding communities."

CEO of adventure travel company "Off the Beaten Path" Cory T. Lawrence similarly wrote in the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (8/4, LAWRENCE) urging the protection of national park lands, opining that President Trump's proposed budget cuts leave "an annual operations shortfall of about half a billion dollars" for the Interior Department.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

3 Killed, 2 Injured In Shootings On Montana Indian Reservation.

[CBS News](#) (8/6) reports online that Crow Tribal Chairman Alvin Not Afraid Jr. said in a statement that Methamphetamine "and gang activity were factors in a residential shooting that killed three people and injured two others on Montana's Crow Indian Reservation" on Friday. Not Afraid said in his statement on Saturday, "Drugs have a devastating affect on our communities, and yesterday's incident is a reminder of that." The FBI, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Montana Highway Patrol and the Big Horn County Sheriff's Office are investigating the shooting.

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (8/6) and the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (8/5, Kordenbrock).

A Hard-Fought Victory To Restore Tribal Land Faces New Threat In Trump Era.

In a 2,000-word analysis, [Huffington Post](#) (8/4, D'angelo) contributor Chris D'angelo wrote that although "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke vowed to be an advocate for America's indigenous communities and their right to self-determination," "a major change to the Department of the Interior's Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations...is the latest example of Zinke and the

Trump administration not living up to their promises to native peoples, former Interior officials say." The Interior Department reportedly announced a "revised strategy" last week that it said "will more effectively allocate" the remaining \$540 million from the landmark settlement in *Cobell v. Salazar*. D'angelo highlighted opinion that this was "a move that will widely impact Indian communities without any formal government-to-government consultation."

Cherokee Nation, BIA Place Ochelata Health Center Land Into Trust.

The [Bartlesville \(OK\) Examiner-Enterprise](#) (8/4, Day) reported, "The Bureau of Indian Affairs' Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office agreed to place 240 acres owned by the Cherokee Nation into federal trust." The deed was signed by Principal Chief Bill John Baker and BIA Deputy Regional Director Jessie Durham. The Examiner-Enterprise noted that "the \$10 million facility was part of the tribe's \$100 million health-care improvement program," and it "replaced a 5,000-square-foot health center in Bartlesville."

Cayuga Nation Leadership Battle Heads Back To Court.

The [Auburn \(NY\) Citizen](#) (8/4) reported, "The ongoing battle for control of the Cayuga Nation in central New York is heading back to court," as the "Cayuga Nation Council on Friday said that the federal Interior Board of Indian Appeals had rejected a motion by the Unity Council seeking to overturn a federal decision recognizing Clint Halftown and his council as the official governing body of the Nation." In response, "Joseph Heath, the attorney for a Nation group formerly known as the Unity Council, filed a motion questioning the validity of the decision to the Interior Board of Indian Appeals." In addition, Halftown's group "said that it filed a complaint Friday in New York State Supreme Court seeking the return of properties, inventory and other assets taken from its control in 2014."

Creek Indian Tribe Breaks Ground On Native American Cultural Center.

The [Northwest Florida Daily News](#) (8/5, Adams) reported from Milton, Florida, "The Santa Rosa Creek Indian Tribe broke ground on their Native American Cultural Center Aug. 1 at their tribal grounds." The article described how "the cultural center will include an artifact museum with more than 3,000 Native American artifacts, including a peace pipe used in the signing of a treaty between the head of the Crow Nation and the head of U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, and ashes and embers descended from a fire that burned in the Cherokee town of Tahlequah more than 1,000 years ago."

Bureau Of Land Management

Trump Readies Repeal Of An Obama-Era Coal Rule Right After West Virginia Rally.

The [Daily Caller](#) (8/4) reported that the "Interior Department has filed a repeal of an Obama-era rule to raise mineral royalties on federal lands." In a Friday regulatory filing, "officials noted the royalties rule had 'several significant defects in the rule that would have undermined its purpose and intent' and made it ripe for repeal." President Trump had said at a rally Thursday night, "We are putting our coal miners back to work. We have ended the war on beautiful, clean coal. We have stopped the EPA intrusion. American coal exports are already up."

[Greenwire](#) (8/4, Marshall) reported similarly.

As E-Bikes Gain Popularity, Land Managers Ponder Future.

The [AP](#) (8/5, Condon) reported, "E-bike use has exploded over the past year," creating enforcement challenges in parks prohibiting motorized vehicles. Pitkin County Open Space and Trails director Gary Tennenbaum "said the program's rangers are receiving an increased number of reports of scofflaws on the trail." The AP added that the BLM "often accommodates mountain bikes and motorcycles on the same trails," and "many routes in the Crown, the popular mountain in the midvalley" in Colorado "are open to both uses." Roaring Fork Mountain Bike Association Executive Director Mike Pritchard commented that "when cyclists are huffing and puffing their way up a climb, it strikes some of them as cheating when they encounter an e-biker covering the same ground quicker and easier."

In Gold Butte In Nevada, Ancient Rock Art And Rugged Beauty.

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (8/6, Caldwell) carries a 2,200-word analysis praising Gold Butte In Nevada, which "was deemed worthy of monument designation for historical and cultural assets

but also for environmental and conservation reasons." The piece mentions that the BLM "designated routes for off-road vehicles and a main road, Gold Butte Road, which is designated as a National Backcountry Byway."

Utah Commission: Keep "Negro Bill Canyon" The Same.

The [AP](#) (8/6, McCombs) reported that the Utah Committee on Geographic Names said Friday that it "voted to recommend retaining the name of Utah's Negro Bill Canyon after receiving conflicting opinions about whether it is offensive." This "recommendation next goes to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, which is expected to make a final decision on canyon's name later this year." The article noted, "Last September, the federal Bureau of Land Management administratively changed the signs at the 'Negro Bill' trailhead to read instead 'Grandstaff Trailhead.'"

Federal Court Orders Restoration Of 23,000 Acres For Wild Horses.

The [Washington Times](#) (8/6, Dinan) reports that the US Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia "delivered a victory to wild horse enthusiasts, ordering the U.S. Forest Service to restore 23,000 acres of critical land as protected horse country in California – and showed judges taking an increasingly dim view of agencies' decision-making." The Times notes, "The horse campaigners won another legal battle last year when a federal appeals court out west ruled that the Bureau of Land Management...illegally removed wild horses from Wyoming territory."

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Interior's Rhetoric Ineffective Against Low Oil Prices.

[E&E Publishing](#) (8/4, King) reported that the Interior Department's pro-energy policies will not be effective as crude prices remain depressed below \$50. Pavel Molchanov, SVP and equity research analyst at Raymond James, said, "If oil prices were as low as they were 18 months ago, the best rhetoric in the world could not change the fact that companies are suffering from low oil prices." The Interior is also restricted by the agency's scope, as the department controls drilling activity on federal land. However, the Permian and Bakken are primarily located on state and private land.

Denver Post Analysis: Permits Show Tensions Likely Between Communities, Producers.

A [Denver Post](#) (8/6, Svaldi) analysis of Colorado's drilling permits suggests that the clash between growing communities and energy production in northeastern Colorado will intensify in the coming years. The analysis found that pending and approved drilling permits are being issued for locations in and near towns and other populated areas twice as often as in remote locations. Eight of the 10 fastest growing towns and cities in the state, along with the two fastest-growing counties, are directly in the path of drilling.

Murray Energy CEO: Trump Supporting American Coal Industry, More Changes Needed.

Robert E. Murray, Chairman, President and CEO of Murray Energy Corp., writes at the [Wheeling \(WV\) Intelligencer](#) (8/6) that President Trump has followed through on his promises "to preserve coal jobs and low-cost, reliable electricity for all Americans." He discusses several of the actions Trump has taken, including the repeal of the Stream Protection Rule, an executive order directing agencies to repeal the Waters of the United States Rule, and the rescinding of the Clean Power Plan, among others. Moving forward, Murray says the Trump Administration should eliminate the Coal Combustion Residuals Rule, eliminate tax credits for windmills and solar panels, and end the electric utility Maximum Achievable Technology and Ozone regulations, among other actions. He concludes that "we must continue to fight for fair treatment of the coal industry by the United States government and a level, unsubsidized playing field for our coal in electric power generation."

Database Illustrates Safety Of US Drinking Water.

The [CBS Weekend News](#) (8/6, story 9, 2:20, Quijano) reported that a new database managed by the Environmental Working Group "allows consumers to go online and see exactly what contaminants are in the water in their area" – a tool that so far has shown, among other things, that "almost 19,000 water systems in the US have levels of lead that could affect formula-fed babies, and 93 contaminants in the nation's water are linked to an increased risk of cancer." CBS adds that although the EPA says that more than 90 percent of the nation's water meets its safety

standards, the EWG says these standards are not “purely” health standards. The EWG also “says water filters can reduce or even eliminate many of the contaminants, but depending on what is in the water coming to your home, the price of a filter could be anywhere from about \$20 to more than \$1,000.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Let Forest Fires Burn? What the Black-Backed Woodpecker Knows.

In a 1,700-word analysis, the [New York Times](#) (8/6, Gillis) reports that many scientists are calling for a new approach to combating wildfires that “basically involves letting backcountry fires burn across millions of acres” – an approach based on the idea that suppressing wildfires has imperiled certain plants and animals that prefer burned forest habitats and has damaged long-term health of forests that need periodic thinning. The same scientists argue that communities should redirect fire safety funds to fireproof homes. The Times adds, however, that such an effort would face political opposition and that “considerable disagreement remains among scientists about exactly how forests should be managed.”

Blanding Turtle Finds Safe Haven In Nebraska.

A 1,300-word [AP](#) (8/5, Ursch) report analyzed the classification of the Blanding’s turtle, which “is considered endangered throughout much of its range east and west of the Great Lakes and in Canada.” Assessing threats to the animal, the AP noted that “in 2013, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials reported that trade of the turtle appeared to be on the rise.”

D.C.’s Only Endangered Species Is Shy And Sightless, But It’s Having A Moment.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/4, Moyer) reported on the District of Columbia’s “lone endangered species: the mysterious Hay’s Spring amphipod.” FWS spokeswoman Meagan Racey indicated “the Hay’s Spring amphipod was discovered in 1938 on property belonging to the National Zoo. ... They were found at additional sites along Rock Creek in subsequent decades and act as metaphorical canaries in the coal mine.” Racey said, “They’re very sensitive to water quality. The fact that they exist here is good news.” Yet, the Post highlighted that much remains unknown about the animal.

Marion Refuge Open For Solar Eclipse Viewing.

[KFVS-TV](#) Cape Girardeau, MO (8/4, Ross) reported online, “The entirety of the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge” in Montana “will fall under the path for the majority of the August 21st solar eclipse.” KFVS added, “The refuge is not planning any organized public events, but viewers may view the eclipse on their own.”

Congressmen Oppose Texas Wildlife Refuge As Border Wall Site.

The [AP](#) (8/5) reported, “A group of Texas Democratic congressmen are questioning preliminary plans to build a section of President Donald Trump’s proposed border wall through” the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge. The congressmen say cutting through the refuge “could do serious environmental and economic damage,” and are calling for transparency.

Outdoors Notebook: Survey Shows Growth In Number Of Anglers.

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (8/5, Sasser) reported, “Americans took 855 million fishing trips last year, according to a report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Outdoor Foundation,” which “showed fishing increased by 2.5 million anglers over the previous year.” FWS survey data also showed “that the average mourning dove hunter brought home 22.2 birds during that season, and the average white-winged dove hunter bagged 14.7 birds.”

With ‘Wind River,’ Taylor Sheridan Continues To Smash Western Stereotypes.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/5, O’Sullivan) reviewed filmmaker Taylor Sheridan’s latest film “Wind River,” which is “a loosely fact-based thriller about the investigation of the murder of a Native American teenage girl on Wyoming’s Wind River reservation,” and in which actor Jeremy Renner plays FWS officer Cory Lambert.

National Park Service

Deadline Nears For \$70 Increase In NPS Passes.

The [Columbus \(GA\) Ledger-Enquirer](#) (8/4, Adams) continued coverage of the upcoming price hike for NPS lifetime senior park passes. The article explained, "U.S. citizens and permanent residents age 62 and older have until Aug. 27 to purchase a lifetime senior park pass for \$10, rather than the \$80 it will cost starting Aug. 28. The \$10 fee has been in effect since 1994, but federal legislation passed last year increased the fee." The [Cape Cod \(MA\) Times](#) (8/4, Bragg) reported similarly.

Mixed Reactions, NPS Pass Sales Boom Ahead Of Price Hike. [WLBZ-TV](#) Bangor, ME (8/4) reported, "Acadia National Park is one of 59 parks across the country inundated with seniors trying to get their hands on lifetime passes. The demand for the passes, accepted at parks across the country, has overwhelmed National Park Service websites and info centers ahead of the anticipated price hike." NPS staffer "Dave Williams said he has been selling the passes nonstop at the Acadia Visitor Center." Acadia National Park spokesperson John Kelly said, "An increase from 10 to 80 dollars is a big leap. An increase in these fees is really part of the ability for the park service to raise funds to do good things for visitor services and other amenities in the park."

Martelle: Make A Reservation To Visit Yosemite Or Zion? It Might Become Necessary. [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/4, Martelle) contributor Scott Martelle wrote that Zion National Park "administrators are considering a reservation system for park entry, or for specific park attractions," and "as unappealing as that might be, it could be the best solution to a vexing problem that has been building for years." Martelle added, "A reservation system makes sense, but it may need to be done by lottery to truly be fair"; however, "reducing the load on the most-used and most-overrun of the parks is necessary." Martelle commented, "The parks system has for years faced underfunding problems, with \$11.3 billion in deferred maintenance projects in a department with a \$3.4-billion annual budget – which president Trump wants to slash to \$2.6 billion."

"Wrong Turn" Kills Doctor In Grand Canyon Hike With Girls.

[BBC News \(UK\)](#) (8/4) reported 38-year-old Sarah Beadle "died after a 'wrong turn' when she ran out of water while hiking with her daughter and niece in the Grand Canyon, her husband has said." The NPS "confirmed that a woman's body was found on Wednesday less than a mile from the Phantom Ranch along the South Kaibab Trail." NPS spokesman Kirby Shedlowski "told WFAA-TV that although the South Kaibab trail is shorter, 'that trail has limited shade and no water accessibility on it.'" Officials said "rescuers, who had been searching since 1 August, found her backpack near the junction of the South Kaibab Trail and River Trail."

Jeff Schwartz, a ranger who works in the inner canyon, told the [AP](#) (8/5, Snow, Davenport) that "hiking there can be dangerous, with high temperatures at the canyon bottom routinely topping 100 degrees during the summer," adding, "There is no potable water available along the South Kaibab Trail between the South Rim trailhead and Phantom Ranch or even creek water to use for cooling." The AP added, "Schwartz said rangers advise hikers to hike in the morning or evening when temperatures are milder and there's more shade. Still, it's not uncommon to have one or two deaths a year primarily due to heat or dehydration." Schwartz said, "The environment down there is much less forgiving during the summertime."

[USA Today](#) (8/5, Mo) reported similarly.

One-Time Seasonal Worker Landed Dream Job At Yellowstone.

The [AP](#) (8/5, French) profiled Yellowstone National Park photographer Jim Peaco, chronicling his rise from garbage truck driver to obtain his "dream job" with the NPS. The AP said that over the course of Peaco's "career he's photographed presidents, flown over the park during the height of the 1988 fires, boated onto the 160-degree waters of Grand Prismatic Spring and captured shots of grizzly bears and geysers that have circulated around the world – one of which appeared in a text book."

After Zero-Tolerance Vow, A Park Chief Cited For Sexual Harassment Gets A Bonus And New Job.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/4, Rein) reported that although "in his first day in office, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke pledged 'zero tolerance' for sexual misconduct," the NPS gave former De Soto National Memorial Superintendent Jorge Acevedo "a new job and performance bonus" after investigators found he "made unwanted advances to a woman he supervised – with hugs, lingering handshakes, inappropriate comments about her appearance, and sitting or laying on her desk while she was trying to work." Acevedo "is no longer supervising employees but kept his

\$82,000-a-year salary, according to an agency official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a personnel issue." Acevedo has "denied the allegations and said his staff perceived his actions differently than he intended them."

At Statue Of Liberty, Words That Resonate Even If They're Unfamiliar.

The [New York Times](#) (8/4, Tarbell) covered a Wednesday debate between "Stephen Miller, a senior adviser to President Trump, and Jim Acosta, a reporter for CNN," who "argued about the meaning of the Statue of Liberty and its connection to" Emma Lazarus's 1883 poem, "The New Colossus." The Times said, "Acosta had asked if the administration's immigration policy conflicted with the ethos of the statue. Mr. Miller countered by noting that the poem was not in place when the statue was dedicated in 1886. Instead, the plaque was added to the pedestal in 1903." The Times reported that "Dennis Mulligan, who has been a ranger for 20 years with the National Park Service, which operates the statue, said 'The New Colossus' plaque had been in several locations" and "there are no photographs of its original location as part of the statue's pedestal, but it is believed to have been in one of the balcony areas of the colonnade."

Yellowstone To Create Temporary Bison Quarantine Facility.

The [AP](#) (8/4) reported, "Yellowstone National Park has decided to convert part of its bison capture facility into a temporary brucellosis quarantine facility after livestock and animal health officials resisted efforts to ship potentially disease-carrying bison across Montana to be quarantined." Yellowstone "Park Superintendent Dan Wenk said Thursday the park would bring a portion of the space up to federal and state standards to open a facility where animals could be certified as free of brucellosis, a disease that causes animals to abort calves." Meanwhile, "Park biologist PJ White said the biggest change will be lining two pens with an extra layer of fencing to ensure quarantined bison do not come into contact with other bison or elk, which also carry the disease."

The [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (8/4, Wright) reported similarly.

Geese Rounded Up From DC Park Will Be Made Into Meals.

The [AP](#) (8/4) reported that the NPS said "in a statement that meat from 116 Canada geese was donated to the D.C. Central Kitchen last week," which "will be used in meals the kitchen prepares for homeless shelters, rehabilitation clinics and after school programs." The AP added, "It's the second year the park service has donated goose meat to the kitchen." The NPS explained "the geese were caught in Anacostia Park and euthanized in July as part of an effort to manage the park's wetlands."

Nation's Oldest Coal-fired Steamboat Returns To Mystic River.

The [AP](#) (8/5, Eaton-Robb) reported that the 109-year-old coal-fired steamboat "The Sabino, billed by the Mystic Seaport maritime museum as the nation's oldest coal-fired steamboat in regular operation, resumed public cruises Wednesday from the maritime museum." The more than \$1.1 million restoration of the steamboat "was paid for with public and private grant money, including...a National Maritime Heritage Grant of \$199,806 administered by the National Park Service in partnership with the U.S. Maritime Administration."

Park Service To Host Civil War Railroad Program.

The [Jackson \(WV\) Herald](#) (8/4) reported that the "Petersburg National Battlefield and its park rangers will sponsor a lecture about the importance of railroads in the Civil War at the city's Southside Train Depot." The Herald explained, "This tour is part of a series of weekend programs offered by the National Park Service in Old Towne Petersburg throughout the summer."

Outdoor Industry In Colorado Aims To Become Political, Economic Force.

A 1,200-word [Denver Post](#) (8/6, Blevins) analysis says, "As the heavyweight Outdoor Retailer trade shows decamp for Colorado, the outdoor industry is" an increasingly powerful lobbying force. The Post adds that "with the Trump administration and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke plowing ahead with a review of national monuments that could result in downsizing swaths of federally protected open spaces, the outdoor industry is not about to ease up on the fight for public lands – the lifeblood of outdoor recreation, inspiring a lifestyle that prods Americans to buy more gear that is essentially researched and developed on those wildlands."

Historically Black Beach Enclaves Are Fighting To Save Their History And Identity.

The [Denver Post](#) (8/6, McMullen) writes, "Sag Harbor Hills and the neighboring districts of

Ninevah Beach and Azurest are unique among beach communities in the Hamptons” because “they rank as the oldest African American developments in the Hamptons and are among a handful of beach communities in the United States with African American roots.” In contrast, in other cities, “As values soar in surrounding locations, pricing out many second home buyers, historically black beach enclaves from American Beach near Jacksonville, Fla., to South Carolina’s rural Sea Islands are seeing sharp increases in development and new home buyers.” The piece mentions that “though much of the island chain in South Carolina has been declared a Cultural Heritage Corridor by the National Park Service, that has not stopped developers from chipping away at waterfront locations.”

Century Of Progress Homes Tour, Plus Lots To Discover In Columbus.

The [Chicago Tribune](#) (8/4, Lamorte) reported, “The Century of Progress Homes Tour (Oct. 14-15) offers a rare glimpse inside five iconic houses that helped shape the way we live today.” The Tribune noted that “the homes were sold to private owners before coming into the possession of the National Park Service and then into the care of Indiana Landmarks, which subleases them from NPS.” The piece added, “If you’re just interested in a casual peek inside the homes, your best bet is a Saturday (Oct. 14) tour led by National Park Service rangers.”

Editorial: Zinke Should Leave Cascade-Siskiyou Protections In Place.

The [Oregonian](#) (8/6, Board) editorializes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke should preserve the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument designation, arguing “Scientists from a variety of disciplines have pushed since 2015 to extend the boundaries of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in hopes of protecting a variety of rare species of plants, animals, butterflies and fish increasingly threatened by climate change and development.” The editorial further asserts that the monument has “helped attract tourists to the businesses that have operated successfully on the private land within the boundary,” and “in turn, the expansion holds the potential to link the Pacific Crest Trail to Ashland, providing an economic boost to a number of communities along the way.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

Senate Panel Approves Five Interior, Energy Nominees After Delayed Vote.

[The Hill](#) (8/3, Cama) reported that on Thursday, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee “approved Doug Domenech, who led Interior’s transition effort for Trump, to be assistant secretary of insular affairs at the department by a 13-8 vote.” The Hill said that “Domenech formerly led the Fueling Freedom Project at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, which advocates for fossil fuels, and previously worked at Interior under President George W. Bush,” and “in his new role, he’ll oversee the federal responsibilities for American Samoa, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Northern Mariana Islands.”

NPS Awards \$27K Grant To Preserve WWII Sites On Saipan.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (8/4) reported that on Friday, the NPS announced “\$1.2 million in grants that will be used to help communities preserve and protect America’s significant battlefields, to include a project in the Northern Mariana Islands for \$27,000.” Acting National Park Service Director Michael T. Reynolds said, “We are excited to partner with public and private organizations committed to protecting and preserving our country’s historic national treasures. Through these grants, and the work the grantees are accomplishing, we are ensuring that these hallowed sites are protected and maintained for future generations.” The Tribune briefly outlined the funding goals of the American Battlefield Protection Program Battlefield Planning Grants.

Dept. Of Interior Awards Territory \$2.4 Million Grant For Infrastructure Improvements On Schools.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (8/4) reported, “The U.S. Department of Interior has awarded the territory a \$2.4 million grant for infrastructure improvements on Virgin Islands schools,” which “have been made available through the Office of Insular Affairs’ (OIA) Capital Improvement Project (CIP) program.” Delegate to Congress Stacey Plaskett announced the award on Friday, saying, “The first Grant the Insular Assessment of Buildings and Classrooms (ABCs) Initiative (FY 2017) is worth \$1,947,000 and will be used to address high-priority health and safety deferred maintenance needs across the territory as identified through the Insular ABCs assessment. ... The next Grant, the St. Croix Schools’ Potable Water Infrastructure Replacement

Project is worth \$500,000 and will be used to begin replacement of the aging and collapsing portions of the potable water infrastructure at schools on St. Croix to prevent water loss and ensure a supply of clean and safe water."

Office Of Surface Mining

Pruitt: Obama EPA "Failed" To Protect Environment After Gold King Mine Spill.

During a visit to the site of the Gold King Mine spill in Colorado, EPA Administrator Pruitt said former President Obama's EPA "'failed' at its mission to protect the environment," [Breitbart](#) (8/6, Starr) reports. Pruitt said, "EPA should be held to the same standard as those we regulate. ... The previous administration failed those who counted on them to protect the environment." Pruitt added, "I think it's safe to say if this had been any other company, a BP-type of a situation, there would have been an investigation that would ensue by the agency and there would have been accountability. ... That didn't take place here. The federal government should not be able to hide behind sovereign immunity when the facts don't meet the protections. ... In my estimation, the EPA walked away from those folks and left them in a position of incurring damages without taking accountability."

US Geological Survey

Growing Skin In A Lab Has Benefits For Humans And Turtles Alike.

[Popular Science](#) (8/4, Baggaley) reported on the research of USGS wildlife disease specialist Thierry Work, who "is studying the virus responsible for a deadly disease called fibropapillomatosis, which causes tumors to grow all over sea turtles' skin and inside their bodies." Popular Science said, "Work's efforts represent the first time that scientists have engineered reptile skin," although researchers have been building "lab-grown versions of mammalian skin for decades." In addition, "now that reptile skin has been successfully grown in the lab, the technique could be put to work investigating other reptile and amphibian skin diseases." The piece speculated that Work's lab-grown reptile hide could "also be used instead of skin from actual snakes or alligators for bags and shoes."

Yellowstone Supervolcano Earthquake Swarm Surpasses 1,500 Events.

[Newsweek](#) (8/4, Lowe) reported, "Observers have now recorded more than 1,500 earthquakes on the western edge of Yellowstone National Park as part of an ongoing 'swarm' currently in its seventh week." An unnamed USGS spokesperson said activity appeared to be "slowly winding down."

Magnitude 6.0 Quake Hits Philippines -USGS.

[Reuters](#) (8/5, Maler) reported in a brief, "A magnitude 6.0 earthquake struck south Mindanao island in the Philippines on Saturday, the U.S. Geological Survey said."

How A 9.2 Earthquake In Alaska In 1964 Changed Our Understanding Is Explained In "The Great Quake."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/4, Phillips) summarized Henry Fountain's "The Great Quake," which is a book "dedicated to the five terrifyingly convulsive minutes around dinnertime on March 27, 1964, when the forces of geological upheaval, normally beneath our threshold of perception, violently obtruded into human time, reconfiguring not only the landscape of south central Alaska but our understanding of earthquakes and the risk posed today by the Big One and Really Big One." The Times mentioned that the USGS tasked George Plafker to assess the quake-wrought destruction on the ground, and his work "supplies a master key for understanding not only earthquakes but 'all the geological features and processes that humans have wondered about for centuries,'" Fountain wrote.

Top National News

Media Analyses: UN Vote Shows US Efforts To Isolate North Korea Are Working.

Media reports cast the unanimous vote at the UN Security Council over the weekend to impose

new sanctions on North Korea, as well as comments Sunday by the Chinese foreign minister urging Pyongyang to halt its missile and nuclear tests, as signs that the Administration's efforts to isolate the nation are finding some success.

In its lead story, for example, the [CBS Weekend News](#) (8/6, lead story, 2:30, Quijano) reported, "The Trump Administration's effort to further isolate North Korea may be working. Today, China urged its outcast neighbor to make a smart decision and stop conducting nuclear tests. The scolding follows the passage of the UN resolution at the UN Security Council that imposes tough new sanctions on the regime that could cost the country a billion dollars in lost trade." CBS' Errol Barnett noted that Russia and China "didn't use their veto power and supported sanctions" in "a sign of diplomatic progress for the Trump Administration, which has been trying to convince China to use more of its economic leverage over Pyongyang." [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/6, story 2, 2:20, Snow) similarly said the Administration's strategy is "bolstered" by the new UN resolution. At an ASEAN summit in Manila on Sunday, "Even China, North Korea's only ally, told it publicly to stop being provocative."

[Reuters](#) (8/6, Shepherd, Mogato) reports Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Sunday that new UN sanctions "were the right response to a series of missile tests, but dialogue was vital to resolve" the crisis, which he said was now at a "critical juncture." During what he described as "very thorough" bilateral talks with North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho, Wang said he had advised him to not carry out further nuclear tests.

On its front page, the [Washington Post](#) (8/6, A1, Morello) says the "US push to further isolate North Korea appeared to be reaping some dividends Sunday" as China urged Pyongyang to make a "smart decision" and stop conducting missile launches and nuclear tests. Said Wang, "Do not violate the UN's decision or provoke international society's goodwill by conducting missile launching or nuclear tests." Wang, however, quickly added, "Of course, we would like to urge other parties like the US and South Korea to stop increasing tensions." [USA Today](#) (8/6, Bacon) reports Wang said "the dual proposal is the most practical, viable and reasonable solution to de-escalate tensions on the Korean Peninsula while providing a 'way out' of the nuclear issue."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/6, Chaitin) reports South Korean President Moon Jae-in "requested a call Sunday evening with President Trump," and the two "welcomed the new international sanctions on North Korea unanimously passed" by the UN Security Council on Saturday.

The [New York Times](#) (8/6, Harris) reports Secretary of State Tillerson "hailed in his typically understated fashion the United Nations vote." Speaking to reporters in Manila, Tillerson said "with a smile" that "it was a good outcome." According to the [Washington Times](#) (8/6, Boyer), the Administration "says it has momentum to exert more international pressure on North Korea," following Saturday's unanimous vote. In a statement, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said President Trump "appreciates China's and Russia's cooperation in securing passage of this resolution," and "will continue working with allies and partners to increase diplomatic and economic pressure on North Korea to end its threatening and destabilizing behavior."

[USA Today](#) (8/5, Stanglin) reports Ambassador Haley said the vote "put the North Korean dictator on notice" and represented a "strong, united step holding North Korea accountable for its behavior." [The Hill](#) (8/6, Beavers) reports Haley also praised the new sanctions on [Fox News Sunday Morning Futures](#), saying that it was time for North Korea to "realize we are not playing anymore."

The [AP](#) (8/6, Lederman) reports the Administration "cautiously embraced China's apparent newfound cooperation" after it voted Saturday in favor of new sanctions, "while putting it on notice that the US would be watching closely to ensure it didn't ease up on North Korea if and when the world's attention is diverted elsewhere." Still, there were "no signs the US would acquiesce to China's call for a quick return to negotiations."

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/6) reports Chinese President Xi Jinping "appears to again be back in Donald Trump's good graces – at least for now." Last week, "it looked as if the leaders of the world's biggest economies were on a collision course," but that "all changed with a breakthrough at the United Nations on Saturday." After a month of talks, the US and China agreed on new sanctions targeting North Korea's exports.

However, North Korea responded to Saturday's vote at the UN, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/6, Otto) reports, by telling China there would be no change in its policy. According to Chinese state media, North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho restated Pyongyang's policy on the nuclear weapons issue during talks with Wang, but indicated a "willingness to maintain communications with the China side on this point."

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/6, Watts, Otto) report says that while the US scored a victory with Saturday's passage of toughest new sanctions against North Korea, the challenge now is making them stick amid Pyongyang's continued efforts to improve its missile and nuclear programs.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/6, Whoriskey), meanwhile, reports the new sanctions plug "a loophole that allowed North Korea to sell coal to China under the guise of 'humanitarian' trade, even though much of North Korea's coal trade has been devoted to weapons development, not humanitarian purposes, according to recent US court filings." Documents from a recently unsealed US court filing, "combined with another federal case, suggest that much of the money China has paid to North Korea for coal over the years went toward the country's weapons and military efforts."

Mueller Impanels At Least Two Grand Juries In Russia Investigation.

As President Trump kicks off his summer vacation, coverage of special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election intensified. The cable and network newscasts focused heavily on Mueller's decision to impanel at least two grand juries in what was cast as an overall broadening of the probe. Meanwhile, reporting in print and online examined other major developments, including revelations the FBI monitored the dissemination of "fake news" from Russia on Election Day and that Republican staffers from the House Intelligence Committee traveled to London this summer in an attempt to interview a former British intelligence operative behind a controversial dossier on the President's ties to Russia.

In the lead [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/4, 5:01 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) segment, Wolf Blitzer said Trump has begun "a 17-day vacation at the end of a tumultuous week that's seen a dramatic escalation to the Russian investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller"; a revelation that "House Intelligence Committee Republican staff members traveled to London hoping to speak with a former British intelligence agent who compiled a dossier of alleged Russian ties to...Trump's campaign"; and multiple sources' say that "the FBI monitored social media on Election Day last year in an effort to track a suspected Russian disinformation campaign spreading false stories and conspiracies, many aimed at Hillary Clinton."

According to [USA Today](#) (8/4, Johnson), Mueller "is using at least two grand juries – in Virginia and Washington, D.C. – to advance a wide-ranging federal inquiry into possible coordination between President Trump's campaign and Moscow, a lawyer involved in the case said Friday." USA Today adds that "the use of the grand jury located in Washington is potentially significant, analysts said, as it likely means investigators are probing activities that happened within that jurisdiction." Correspondent Kristen Welker said [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/4, story 3, 1:45, Holt) "confirmed special counsel Robert Mueller has multiple grand juries working on the investigation, including in Washington, DC and Virginia," although the President's legal team is "insisting they haven't been made aware of the grand jury, and say he's not under investigation."

[CNN's Situation Room's](#) (8/4, 6:15 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Wolf Blitzer reported that Mueller is also "already issuing subpoenas for financial records, other documents involving the Trump organization, seeing if there is any connection with the Russians." Sullivan said Mueller's question on whether investments in question had an impact on the election is "perfectly legitimate," and "really is investigation 101." Sullivan explained that Mueller "is following the money, and he wants to see where it leads." In the lead story for [CNN's Situation Room's](#) (8/4, 6:00 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) second segment, senior White House correspondent Jim Acosta said Mueller's probe is "ramping up" as Trump takes "time off." During his rally in West Virginia on Thursday, said Acosta, Trump "did not mention his eldest son, Jared Kushner, and campaign manager held a meeting with a Russian lawyer" in hopes of securing "promising research on Hillary Clinton."

[CNN's Situation Room's](#) (8/4, 6:39 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Blitzer acknowledged "some have suggested" Mueller is "going too far," and said the President "has suggested there is a red line," but he said CNN "went back and we looked at the instructions that Robert Mueller received from the Deputy Attorney General, Rod Rosenstein when he was appointed back in May. And it said that he should 'investigate any links and/or coordination between the Russian government and individuals associated with the campaign of President Donald Trump, and any matters that arose or may arise directly from the investigation, and any other matters within the scope of 28 CFR,' which is the special counsel authorization legislation, the law. So, this is wide open. He can basically go wherever the suspicion leads him." National security and legal analyst Susan Hennessey agreed that Mueller has "a very, very broad scope," so if the investigation "leads him to Trump businesses, Trump tax returns, Trump family members, anything else – any other indication of criminal activity," then "that's all completely fair game." While [Breitbart](#) (8/4, Mason) is critical of CNN's assessment, the piece says that "if Mueller does overstep the bounds

of his commission it would fall to [Rosenstein] to recognize that occurrence and take steps to refocus the investigation."

However, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/4, story 3, 1:10, Muir) reported that just "hours after the news broke" Thursday that Mueller impaneled a grand jury, the President was "downright defiant during a campaign rally in West Virginia." [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/4, 5:30 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) broadcast Trump saying, "The Russia story is a total fabrication." He continued, "Most people know there were no Russians in our campaign. There never were. We didn't win because of Russia, we won because of you. That I can tell you." The President added, "Have you seen any Russians in West Virginia or Ohio or Pennsylvania? Are there any Russians here tonight, any Russians?"

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/4, Olorunnipa) says "Trump and his allies are trying to rally his political base with warnings that any outcome other than vindication will be an attempt to thwart the will of voters." Bloomberg adds that the President "followed up" on his remarks with a [tweet](#) Friday morning "highlighting a cable news commentator predicting a national 'uprising' if a member of Trump's family is indicted." According to Bloomberg, "Trump is going on the offensive in seeking to cast the investigation into Russian meddling in last year's campaign in political terms." In an analysis, the [Washington Post](#) (8/4, Borchers) says that Trump's tweet of a clip from the "Fox & Friends" morning show featuring Jeanine Pirro, "Judge Jeanine," has "invited speculation that he or a family member could be indicted" by a grand jury.

Nonetheless, [Politico](#) (8/4, Conway) reports senior counselor Kellyanne Conway in an interview with Fox News' "Fox and Friends" on Friday "sought to downplay the investigation," saying, "Let me remind everyone what the president has said about this. It's a witch hunt. It's fake. Last night I believe [Trump] called it a fabrication. And we know that the nature of these types of investigations become fishing expeditions, where you're just throwing Jell-O up against the wall and hoping it will stick." Conway continued "this White House and everybody involved has said that they would comply and share whatever information that they do have." She added, "On this matter of the investigation, Ty Cobb, a special counsel to the president, has said that anything that accelerates the process, we are for. And we will continue to cooperate."

Meanwhile, [The Hill](#) (8/4, Concha) reports former House Speaker Newt Gingrich "ripped Robert Mueller on Thursday night, telling Fox's Sean Hannity that the special counsel in the Russia investigation represents 'the deep state at its very worst.'" Gingrich added, "The Mueller threat has probably been the most deadly [facing the Administration]. He has the power of the law, he has the ability to indict people, the ability to negotiate and let some people off if they'll testify against other people." Regardless, Gingrich asserted the President is "making progress every week, he's getting things done. He's beginning to move toward a tax cut bill that will be historic. He's gotten more judges approved than Obama had at this point, Obama and a Democratic Congress. Despite everything, I think the Trump system is beginning to work."

[The Hill](#) (8/4, Carney) "Floor Action" blog reports Sen. Lindsey Graham told Fox News on Friday that while he and Sen. Cory Booker have introduced legislation to protect Mueller from dismissal, he plans to "hold Mueller accountable" for any leaks. Graham stated, "If we get constant leaks coming out of the grand jury then he needs to be held accountable for that. That's not fair to the president." He added, "No American, including President Trump or his team, should have the contents of a grand jury leaked out into the press selectively."

The Daily Beast's Washington bureau correspondent, Jackie Kuchinich, said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/4, 5:35 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) that she viewed Trump's comments at the Thursday rally as not "just a rant," but an "us-versus-them message" that appeals to his base's unhappiness with the Administration's struggles.

NYTimes A1: Mueller's Team Has Asked White House For Documents On Flynn. The [New York Times](#) (8/4, A1, Rosenberg, Apuzzo, Schmidt) reports in a front-page article that investigators working for Mueller have "asked the White House for documents related to the former national security adviser Michael T. Flynn, and have questioned witnesses about whether he was secretly paid by the Turkish government during the final months of the presidential campaign, according to people close to the investigation." The Times states that while "not a formal subpoena, the document request is the first known instance of Mr. Mueller's team asking the White House to hand over records." According to the Times, Flynn declined to comment while Trump's special counsel Ty Cobb stated, "We've said before we're collaborating with the special counsel on an ongoing basis." Cobb added, "It's full cooperation mode as far as we are concerned."

FBI Tracked "Fake News" From Russia On Election Day. In an exclusive, [CNN](#) (8/4, Prokupecz, Brown, Perez) reports that on Election Day last year, "dozens" of agents and analysts at the Federal Bureau of Investigation "huddled at a command center arrayed with large

monitoring screens at the FBI headquarters in Washington watching for security threats, according to multiple sources," and "monitored social media...in an effort to track a suspected Russian disinformation campaign utilizing 'fake news.'"

□ [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/4, 5:06 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) crime and justice correspondent Shimon Prokupecz reported the counterintelligence analysts and investigators tracked social media activity and suspected Russian links revealing disparaging information about Hillary Clinton, "including about her health." Justice correspondent Pamela Brown said various agencies were "holding these conference calls every three hours" and that "some issues...popped up across the country," though FBI officials said no major incidents or disruptions to the vote took place and "the FBI has declined to comment on this one."

□ [CNN's Situation Room's](#) (8/4, 6:06 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Brown added "there certainly was coordination between the FBI, Homeland Security, and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence," and that "those agencies were holding phone calls every three hours, we are told, with the team at the Situation Room in the White House to discuss any possible problems." Prokupecz stated that the FBI also concluded or at least suspected that the fabricated stories did indeed "come from entities from places associated with Russia," though they did not "necessarily come straight out of Russia."

Congressional Staffers Traveled To London To Interview British Spy Behind Trump Dossier.

[Politico](#) (8/4, Watkins) reports "two Republican House Intelligence Committee staffers traveled to London earlier this summer to track down the former British intelligence operative who compiled a controversial dossier on President Donald Trump and Russia, according to three people familiar with the matter." According to Politico, "The previously unreported trip underscores the importance of the 35-page dossier Christopher Steele wrote last year to congressional probes into possible collusion between Moscow and the 2016 Trump campaign." Politico says the trip has "inflamed simmering tensions between House and Senate investigators" since "House Intelligence Committee Republicans did not tell Democrats on the panel, the Senate Intelligence Committee nor special counsel Robert Mueller's office that the investigators were pursuing Steele."

Rep. Andre Carson told □ [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/4, 5:20 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) he "was deeply disappointed" that Republican staff members did not inform Democratic staff members about their efforts to discuss the dossier with its author. Carson asserted, "If we're really concerned about digging into keeping America safe, we have to work together, both Republican staffers and Democratic staffers." He did not say whether he believed the Republican staffers tried to discredit the dossier, but lamented "it certainly causes me great discomfort."

Emails Show NYTimes, WPost Reporters "Less Than Enthusiastic" About Covering Clinton-Lynch Meeting. The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/4, Scarry) reports "the non-profit American Center for Law and Justice published emails Friday that showed reporters" from the New York Times and Washington Post asking Justice Department officials about "the controversial private meeting between then-Attorney General Loretta Lynch and former President Bill Clinton just months ahead of the 2016 election." The Examiner says that based on the emails, the reporters seem "less than enthusiastic about covering" the meeting.

Experts Warn Trump "An Easy Mark" For Foreign Spies. "Trump is proving to be an easy read for foreign intelligence services gauging how his mind works," [McClatchy](#) (8/4, Johnson) reports, according to former intelligence officials, as "the steady stream of tweets flowing from Trump's phone and the leak this week of candid conversations he's had with two foreign leaders throw open a window on Trump's views of the world, his moods and sensitivities." Former CIA director Michael Hayden said, "The president's tweets are an absolute gold mine of personal, detailed information on his personality and his emotional state." Meanwhile, McClatchy says that while "it would be tempting to believe that senior intelligence officials opposed to Trump may be leaking secret information to the Washington Post and New York Times," Hayden and other experts "cautioned against assuming the provenance of leaks." Hayden added, "I have consistently been emphasizing that the leak of intelligence information does not necessarily mean that the leaker is from the intelligence community."

Reuters Analysis: Trump, Pence Seemingly Disconnected On Russia. In an analysis, [Reuters](#) (8/4, Rampton) says while Vice President Pence pushed for new US sanctions against Russia during his four-day tour of Estonia, Georgia, and Montenegro this week, President Trump "took to Twitter to complain that the sanctions legislation, which he grudgingly signed, would send U.S.-Russia relations to 'an all-time & very dangerous low.'" However, Jarrod Agen, Pence's deputy chief of staff, insisted Trump and Pence are "completely aligned" on the issue of Russia. "It was the president's decision to send the vice president to the region. It was the president's decision to deliver the message that the vice president delivered," Agen asserted. Reuters also describes the

apparent disconnect as “an anomaly,” and added that Pence typically “goes to lengths to emphasize his loyalty to his boss and to downplay any differences.”

Veselnitskaya Recounts Meeting With Trump Jr. The [Washington Times](#) (8/4, Sands) reports Natalia Veselnitskaya, “the Russian lawyer whose June 2016 meeting with Donald Trump Jr. and other top Trump campaign officials has become a prime focus of the Russian election collusion probe,” in a 10-minute interview with Russian news program Vesti “den[ie]d the meeting involved Hillary Clinton or the U.S. campaign, adding the congressional probes into the scandal are not interested in hearing her side of the story,” according to the Moscow Times on Friday. Instead, Veselnitskaya “said she sought the meeting as part of her efforts to help Russian businessman Denis Katsyv, a client who was accused of money laundering after the U.S. imposed new financial sanctions on Moscow in 2012.” Veselnitskaya asserted the meeting “had nothing to do with [then-candidate Donald Trump’s] rivals or the presidential election. ... That never happened. That’s not true.”

German Foreign Minister: New US Sanctions On Russia “More Than Problematic.” [Reuters](#) (8/4, Martin, Nasr) reports German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel said Friday that new US sanctions against Russia “more than problematic” because “the draft law makes clear that they’re pursuing economic interests and we think that’s not acceptable.” He added, “Aggressively combining foreign policy issues with American economic interests and saying: we want to drive Russian gas out of the European market so we can sell American gas there is definitely not something we can accept.”

In an analysis headlined “Who Loses The Most In U.S.-Russia Sanctions Fight,” [Bloomberg News](#) (8/4, Arnold) says that whereas the sanctions impact on the Russian economy seems “less than dramatic, from all appearances,” the EU in contrast “could suffer collateral damage.” Bloomberg also notes that Russia is also expelling US diplomats and their families in retaliation.

Marcus Pledges Columns Castigating Trump “Will Continue Until The Danger Subsides.” In her [Washington Post](#) (8/4, Marcus) column, which is titled “Trump Is A One-man Assault On The Rule Of Law,” Ruth Marcus condemns the President for his reaction to learning that Mueller has impaneled a grand jury. She asserts that Trump dominates the topic of her columns because “his behavior is so extreme and so dangerous that to respond only episodically and occasionally is to risk allowing it to appear acceptable.” Marcus concludes “outrageous words and outrageous actions require expressions of outrage in return, each and every time. That will continue until the danger subsides.”

Pence Calls Report That He Is Readying A 2020 Campaign “Laughable And Absurd.”

In a Sunday morning statement, Vice President Pence strongly rebuked a New York Times report that he may be laying the groundwork for a 2020 presidential run. Most reporting is brief and focuses on the statement, but several commentators expressed skepticism via Twitter, and Politico’s Josh Dawsey [tweeted](#), “Some in/close to Trump world perplexed by Pence statement pushing back on NYT story. ‘He’s just fueling the fire,’ one adviser said.”

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/6, story 3, 1:25, Snow), Kelly O’Donnell reported that on Sunday, “the adrenaline out of the Trump Administration came from...Pence after a New York Times report described a shadow campaign for 2020” with Pence as a possible presidential candidate. In a [lengthy rebuke](#), the Vice President called the assertions ‘disgraceful and offensive to me,’ ‘laughable and absurd,’ and pledged his efforts to see “the President reelected.

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/6, story 3, 0:35), Tom Llamas said, “Given the President’s current predicament, a growing number of Republicans are already testing the waters for a possible presidential run in 2020. And the Vice President is shooting down reports he’s one of them.” The [CBS Weekend News](#) (8/6, story 3, 0:20, Quijano) reported that Pence “strongly denied” the Times report. The [New York Times](#) (8/6, Baker) reports, “Danielle Rhoades Ha, a Times spokeswoman, said in response: ‘We are confident in the accuracy of our reporting and will let the story speak for itself.’”

The [AP](#) (8/6, Lucey) reports that the Times article “notes Pence’s political schedule and active fundraising, though it also says unnamed advisers have signaled that he’d only run if Trump doesn’t.” The Times also reported that Pence “raised about \$1 million at a Washington fundraiser last month” for his own fundraising committee. [USA Today](#) (8/6, Gaudiano) reports that the Times “says Pence’s schedule is so full of political events that Republicans joke he’s ‘acting more like a second-term vice president hoping to clear the field’ for 2020.”

Sahil Kapur of Bloomberg News [tweeted](#), “Pence is remarkably defensive about that NYT piece. He knows how sensitive POTUS is about even a hint or a perception of loyalty breach.” Bill Kristol [tweeted](#), “It’s bold of Team Pence to plant the front-page NYT story on plans for 2020,

then object vociferously. Multi-dimensional chess!" Columnist Clarence Page [tweeted](#), "Does VP Pence protest too much???"

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/6, King) writes that "the vehemence" of Pence's statement "underscored how sensitive the White House is to any questioning of whether Trump will seek a second term." The [Washington Post](#) (8/6, Wagner) reports that Kellyanne Conway told ABC "that she has 'zero concern' about a 2020 campaign by Pence." Conway said on [ABC's This Week](#) (8/6), "It is absolutely true the Vice President is getting ready for 2020 – for reelection as vice president."

[Reuters](#) (8/6, Cornwell) writes that while Pence is "a Trump loyalist, and there is typically little distinction between his public statements and the policies of the president...as investigations deepen" into Russia's alleged role in the 2016 election, Pence "has put some distance" between himself and the President "on the best way to approach Moscow."

Kelly Tells White House Staff To Put Country Before Trump, Warns Against Leaks.

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/6, Jacobs, Talev) reports that in a meeting with about 200 White House aides on his fifth day as White House chief of staff, John Kelly "spelled out in blunt terms the way things are going to work in the West Wing he now oversees." Kelly told those gathered that "they all work for the president now...and they had to act as one team." Kelly added that "he expects all of them to put country first, the president second, and their own needs and priorities last." Citing the Bloomberg report, the [Washington Examiner](#) (8/6, Siciliano) says Kelly was "adamant that passing along even a small innocuous bit of classified information to someone without clearance constitutes a crime." Kelly "is also reining in the president in imposing new oversight to constrain Trump's Twitter account by offering advice on how to mitigate his often inflammatory tweets." However, "Trump has made clear that he reserves the right to ignore advice on tweeting."

In her [Washington Post](#) (8/6) column, Margaret Sullivan questions whether Kelly can "take on the hardest job of all – hacking through the thicket of lies that the Trump White House produces," and argues that "the prospects for that are grim." Sullivan adds that Kelly "may well be Trump's best hope for saving the White House from utter chaos," but "a grounding in reality – yes, truth – needs to be a part of that salvation."

"Face the Nation" host John Dickerson said on the [CBS Weekend News](#) (8/6, story 2, 1:35, Quijano) that "the reviews from [Kelly's] first week are good, both because General Kelly has been able to tighten up the White House staff, having meetings in which basically, he gets everybody moving in the same direction. He has gotten some of the fight of the egos, apparently in line, it's only been one week of course. And then his other challenge which he seems to be making some inroads on is, how to manage up, which is to say working with the President, a President who loves improvisation, but who is in a job where it is very hard to improvise and not cause chaos."

House Democrats From Border Districts Alarmed Over DHS Waiving Environmental Laws To Build Wall.

[The Hill](#) (8/4, Marcos) reports five House Democrats representing districts along the US-Mexico border raised concerns on Friday that the Trump Administration's plan "to waive certain environmental laws to build a wall could hurt wildlife." The Department of Homeland Security "announced earlier this week that it will use its authority under a 2005 law to bypass laws and regulations when necessary for enhancing infrastructure along the border." The Hill says the waiver "applies only to a 15-mile segment around San Diego" and "exempts projects to build infrastructure like fencing or a wall from laws like the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, National Environmental Policy Act and Safe Drinking Water Act." Reps. Vicente González and Beto O'Rourke wrote a letter to Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Duke asking whether DHS was extending its authority over other areas of the southwestern border. Reps. Henry Cuellar, Filemon Vela, Lloyd Doggett and Joaquin Castro also signed the letter.

Collins: Keeping Up Pretense About Trump's Border Wall Will Mean Money Wasted. In her [New York Times](#) (8/4, Collins) column, Gail Collins writes that every day it seems like there is "a new dramatic development" regarding President Trump's border wall. This includes revelations his recent move to bar transgender people from the military was about "getting money to start building" the wall. Collins says Trump's vision for the wall keeps shifting and that it is unclear whether he thinks a wall "would do any good." She says "he certainly believes it makes him look good" and that "its all about image." She argues there is a "minimal" change the \$20 billion wall will be built and that "keeping up pretenses will mean an enormous waste of money and effort."

Axios' Swan: Government May Shut Down Over Border Wall Funding Fight.

Jonathan Swan of [Axios](#) (8/6) reports that "sources inside and close to Republican Hill leadership...say there's a good chance of a government shutdown before the end of the year because of deep rifts over spending priorities. No one sees" President Trump's proposed US-Mexico border wall "getting much more than a symbolic nod." Swan writes that congressional leaders "have discussed ways to get Trump 'enough' on border security so he feels they're making enough progress to sign their funding bills," but the President "will accept no substitutes to a huge, long, physical wall, which he believes his voters viscerally want."

Infrastructure Borrowing Down As State, Local Governments Await Federal Plan.

[Reuters](#) (8/6, Respaud, Russ) says that while President Trump took office "having promised a bold \$1 trillion infrastructure investment plan over 10 years," the Administration "has produced few details on the future of federal infrastructure funding, one reason why state and municipal governments have issued fewer bonds to improve roads, water systems and other projects so far in 2017." According to James Grabovac, a managing director at McDonnell Investment Management, "state and local governments may be 'reluctant to engage in long-term infrastructure financing given that there's a promise of a trillion-dollar federal investment program somewhere on the horizon.'" Reuters adds that the lack of "infrastructure-related bond issuance has left a 'bond picker's market,' with more buyers than sellers."

NYTimes: Trump's Infrastructure Promise "Hollow As A Pothole." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (8/6) calls Trump's campaign promise of "a \$1 trillion investment" in infrastructure "one of the few practical job-building promises of the Trump presidential campaign," but adds that it is "turning out to be as hollow as a pothole" as Republicans "now concede that a fully detailed plan might not surface from the administration until next year, if ever."

WSJournal A1: Regulator Penalties On Wall Street Down In Trump's First Six Months.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/6, A1, Eaglesham, Michaels, Dougherty) reports in a front-page analysis that in the first six months of the Trump Administration, Wall Street regulators have imposed lower penalties than in the first six months of 2016. Lawyers who defend financial cases attribute the decline to a more business-friendly agency stance under President Trump as well as delays due to the change in administrations and a slowing of cases from the financial crisis.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/6) argues in an editorial that acting US Attorney Joon Kim made the right decision in dismissing charges against former J.P. Morgan Chase traders Javier Martin-Artajo and Julien Grout.

Cohn: US Must Cut Corporate Tax Rate To Below 23 Percent.

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/4, Leondis) reports National Economic Council Director Cohn in a Bloomberg TV interview Friday "suggested that the U.S. must cut its corporate tax rate by at least a third to compete with other developed countries." Cohn asserted, "We cannot be substantially higher than the OECD average tax rate," which is about 23 percent. Cohn added, "We've got to get in line with the rest of the world, we've got to entice capital to be invested in the United States." Cohn said, "My No. 1 priority for now until the end of the year is taxes. My second priority is taxes. And if you're confused, my third priority is taxes." According to Bloomberg, "Cohn's comments...may signal President Donald Trump's call for a 15 percent corporate rate – which would represent a far larger cut – is a starting point for negotiations as the administration and congressional tax writers begin drafting legislation."

Short: White House "Confident" Democrats Will Support Tax Reform. "Worried about the Republican Senate's inability to deliver on big campaign promises, the White House and its allies are making a strong push to get at least three vulnerable Senate Democrats to back the administration's tax reform agenda," [McClatchy](#) (8/4, Clark) reports, according to White House Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Short, who said, "We are confident right now that we will be able to earn [Democrats'] support with our tax reform agenda." Short added the White House has "learned how difficult it is to thread the needle with 52 senators." McClatchy notes "Republicans were particularly cheered when Democratic Sens. Joe Donnelly of Indiana, Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota and Joe Manchin of West Virginia declined to sign a Senate Democratic caucus letter to Trump and congressional leaders detailing what is not acceptable in a tax plan, notably a tax cut for the top 1 percent of Americans. Every other Democrat and the two senators who caucus with them signed the letter."

Administration Is Considering Lowering Mortgage Deduction. [Politico](#) (8/4, Wilhelm) reports that "despite promises from the Trump administration in April that it would 'protect the

homeownership...deductions,' multiple sources tracking tax reform said that the cap on the mortgage interest deduction – currently set at the interest on up to \$1 million of mortgage debt – could be lowered in tax reform." Politico says such an action "would be a slap in the face to an industry that strongly supported President Donald Trump during his presidential bid." According to Politico, Cohn "and his lead deputy on tax reform, Shahira Knight," presided over a White House roundtable on tax reform on Monday and one attendee said, "'They're willing to ruffle some feathers. ... Everything was on the table,' including capping the deduction that the Trump administration has said it would preserve."

Hatch: Attaining Trump's Tax Reform Goals Would Be "Miraculous." The [New York Post](#) (8/6, Schultz) reports that Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch said in Sunday that "it would be 'miraculous' if President Trump could achieve his lower tax brackets for Americans." On Fox News' "Sunday Morning Futures," Hatch "cast doubt on the ability of Congress to pass legislation to lower tax rates to 10 percent, 25 percent and 35 percent." Said Hatch, "If we could get to those rates that would be miraculous." Hatch likewise, "poured cold water on Trump's plans to lower the corporate tax rate to 15 percent," saying, "We'd be lucky if we could get the corporate tax rate down to 20 percent, even 25 percent. ... But we're going to try. We're going to have to have some Democrat help to do it, so far that hasn't been materializing." Hatch also "said the wealthy shouldn't be optimistic either," warning, "They're not going to get anything – hardly anything – out of any tax reform that we do."

Samuelson: Economic Growth Predictions Should Be Viewed With Skepticism. In his [Washington Post](#) (8/6) column, Robert J. Samuelson writes that the White House's projected annual inflation-adjusted 3 percent GDP growth over the next decade should be viewed with some skepticism, noting that many economists assert that an aging population and slumping productivity will contribute to slower growth in the coming years. Samuelson adds, however, that observers generally should view economists' predictions of productivity with a degree of doubt because economists "have failed to predict major productivity changes" in the past. He concludes that the growth debate's larger significance is that growth will not likely support the White House's budget ambitions and that the country "can no longer grow" its way "out of serious conflicts."

US Formally Notifies UN Of Withdrawal From Paris Climate Deal.

The [Financial Times](#) (8/6, Crooks) reported that on Friday, the US State Department submitted notification to the UN that the US will withdraw from the Paris climate agreement, formalizing President Donald Trump's June announcement.

Obama Administration Spent Over \$300,000 On Climate Change Museum.

[Breitbart](#) (8/5, Starr) reports the Obama Administration spent over \$300,000 to create a climate change museum in Washington, DC in its final days. Breitbart says that according to the Washington Post, the museum was a "pet project" of former EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy, and was designed to focus on "an Obama administration-centric narrative." Nancy Grantham, the EPA employee that brought the museum to the attention of the Trump Administration, conceded that many of the museum's panels focused on the prior Administration and climate change may "be altered and possibly shelved."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Trying To Make America A Little Better." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (8/6) calls President Trump's campaign promise of "a \$1 trillion investment" in infrastructure "one of the few practical job-building promises of the Trump presidential campaign," but adds that it is "turning out to be as hollow as a pothole" as Republicans "now concede that a fully detailed plan might not surface from the administration until next year, if ever."

"Trump Embraces A Senseless Immigration Proposal." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (8/7, Board) says a bill introduced by Republican Sens. Tom Cotton and David Perdue "would slash the total number of green cards issued by 41 percent in the first year and by 50 percent in the 10th year, with most of the cuts coming from family-based immigration." President Trump has endorsed the proposal, but the Times argues it "would do nothing to solve the country's immigration and economic challenges." Instead of taking a hostile position on immigration, the Times says, a better approach "to immigration reform would be bipartisan and comprehensive,"

and “include stronger enforcement, better worker protections and a pathway to citizenship for the country’s 11 million unauthorized immigrants.”

Washington Post.

“Does The Nation Still Need Affirmative Action?” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/6) writes that the racial makeup of university students has changed modestly in recent years, with African American enrollment increasing from 32 to 35 percent from 2003 to 2015, Latino enrollment increasing from 24 percent to 37 percent, and white enrollment increasing by 15 percent. With these figures in mind in the context of the Justice Department’s examination into affirmative action policies, the Post argues that a wider federal effort “challenging affirmative action policies would represent a drastic change in the department’s priorities and, if the idea was to protect whites, a perversion of civil rights law meant to protect disadvantaged minority groups.”

“Police Chiefs Need The Freedom To Weed Out Bad Cops.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/6) writes that police chiefs should have the authority to fire officers in their ranks guilty of misconduct without the heavy influence of arbitrators pushing the reinstatement of problem officers following appeals required by union contracts. Although the Post acknowledges that “some of the responsibility for having to reinstate undesirable officers falls on police agencies that make careless errors during disciplinary proceedings,” it adds that there is “a tilt in the system that makes it difficult to hold officers accountable for bad acts.”

“Trump Promised A Trade War. Here’s What He’s Doing Instead.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/6) writes that the Administration’s NAFTA negotiation objectives laid out in a July 17 report to Congress “were in many respects necessary and proper” despite the President’s past rhetoric towards the trade agreement. The Post adds that trade experts say the negotiating blueprint has many similarities to the objectives established in the TPP talks but does include a harmful provision calling for the elimination of Chapter 19 of NAFTA’s dispute-resolution mechanism – a provision the Post concludes would constitute a “dealbreaker” for Canada.

Wall Street Journal.

“The United Auto Workers Lose Again.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/6) writes that the 2-to-1 vote late last week at a Canton, Mississippi Nissan plant against unionizing under the United Automobile Workers marks a defeat for a campaign characterized by race-baiting and for an effort to effect stifling work rules on a factory that has created jobs and lifted wages in the community. The Journal concludes that the reason for the UAW’s failure to organize workers in the South is that workers increasingly think that a union does not offer much and places their jobs at risk against global competition.

“The Morgan Whale That Got Away.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/6) argues in an editorial that acting US Attorney Joon Kim made the right decision in dismissing charges against former J.P. Morgan Chase traders Javier Martin-Artajo and Julien Grout.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Recess, Full Plate Keep Heat On GOP Lawmakers](#)
[Penalties Against Wall Street Are Down Sharply In 2017](#)
[Egypt’s Leader Makes A Risky Bet On The Healing Power Of Economic Pain](#)
[North Korea Sanctions Race With Pyongyang’s Missile Development](#)

New York Times:

[Under Trump, Coal Mining Gets New Life On US Lands](#)
[US Troops Train In Eastern Europe To Echoes Of The Cold War](#)
[Bill De Blasio Will Push For Tax On Wealthy To Fix Subway](#)
[Take The Generic, Patients Are Told. Until They Are Not.](#)
[Weaning Itself From Elephant Ivory, China Turns To Mammoths](#)
[Diplomats Question Tactics Of Tillerson, The Executive Turned Secretary Of State](#)

Washington Post:

[Administration Offers Scant Details On ACA Enrollment Trapped, Jobless And Bored: Gaza's Wasted Generation](#)
[Fix For Schools Remains Elusive](#)
[Republican Governors Stir Tension On Policing](#)
[North Korea Can Show It's Ready For Negotiations By Stopping Missile Launches](#)

Financial Times:

[US Haul From Credit Crisis Bank Fines Hits \\$150bn](#)
[German Party Hit By 'Dieselgate' Whitewash Claims](#)

Washington Times:

['This Is A War': Trump Goes On Offensive To Spread Distrust Of Mueller Investigation](#)
[Trump's Deals In Russia Once Encouraged Even By Clintons Now Under Scrutiny](#)
[Trump's Former Las Vegas Cohorts Gird For Battle To Stop His Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Plan](#)
[After U.S. Experience, Germans Brace For Russian Election Mischief And Fake News](#)
[DeVos Dedicated To Empowering Local Schools Against Federal Bureaucracy](#)
[With Republican Turnaround, State Legislatures Now Foil Liberal Ballot Measures](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Severe Weather; WH-Russia Meddling Investigation; Vice President Pence-2020 Campaign Comment; Ohio-Escapee Manhunt; Australia-US Marines Accident; Italy-UK Model Abduction Attempt; Florida-Sinkhole; Taylor Swift-DJ Groping Lawsuit; Eiffel Tower-Terror Scare; California-Chemical Leak; Ohio State Fair-Ride Accident; Wingsuit Video; Maine Lobstermen.

CBS: North Korea-UN Sanctions; WH Staff Shakeup-Expert Comment; Vice President Pence-2020 Campaign Comment; Australia-US Marines Accident; Sanctuary Cities Crack Down; Severe Weather; US College-Affirmative Actions; Chicago Gun Violence; Drinking Water Safety; Teenage Drivers-Risk; Ocean Mammals-Approach Ban.

NBC: Severe Weather; North Korea-US Responses; Vice President Pence-2020 Campaign Comment; WH-Russia Meddling Investigation; NATO-Russia Tension; Minnesota-Mosque Bombing; Philly Inbound Flight-Severe Turbulence; Ohio State Fair-Ride Accident; Cross Border Dental Care; Commercials-Racial Biases; Girls' Baseball Team.

Network TV At A Glance:

Severe Weather – 5 minutes, 45 seconds
North Korea Missile Test-Responses – 4 minutes, 50 seconds
WH-Russia Meddling Investigation – 4 minutes
Vice President Pence-2020 Campaign Comment – 2 minutes, 20 seconds
Australia-US Marines Accident – 1 minute, 55 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Sanctuary Cities Crack Down; North Korea Missile Test-Responses; Justice Dept-Intel Leaks; Ohio State Fair-Ride Accident.

CBS: North Korea Missile Test-Responses; Vice President Pence-2020 Campaign Comment; Sanctuary Cities Crack Down; Minnesota-Mosque Bombing; Wall Street News.

FOX: North Korea Missile Test-Responses; Vice President Pence-2020 Campaign Comment; Severe Weather; Minnesota-Mosque Bombing.

NPR: Sanctuary Cities Crack Down; Israel-Al Jazeera Ban; Minnesota-Mosque Bombing; Vice President Pence-2020 Campaign Comment; Trump-South Korea Call.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — No public events scheduled.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Has lunch with Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos; participates in a meet-and-greet with Department of Education staff.

US Senate: On Recess until 5 September.

US House: On Recess until 5 September.

Other: Congressional Budget Office releases 'Monthly Budget Review for July 2017' report

Location: TBD www.cbo.gov/ <https://twitter.com/USCBO>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel: They Protest Too Much, Methinks.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- BIA, FWS Improved Dam Hazard Readiness, Watchdog Says.

- Drilling Halted At Van Hook Oil Well Site.
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- Washington's Wild Grouse Chase.
- Tribe Appeal Pushed Back.
- Cobell Family Welcomes Presidential Medal Of Freedom To Browning.

Bureau Of Indian Education

- Piece By Piece: New Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School Comes Together In Sections.

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- U.S. News & World Report: US Cattle Grazing Plan For Idaho National Monument Approved.
- Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel: BLM To Remove Horses Southeast Of Rangely.
- Salt Lake (UT) Tribune: Human Activity — Racing Included — Is Shrinking The Bonneville Salt Flats, U.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- Offshore Air Gun Blasts Spark Debate.
- Researchers Eye Marine Mammals In Offshore Surveys.
- URI/BOEM Visit Block Island | Block Island Times.
- Comment Period On Seismic Testing Leases Near Grand Strand Closing Aug. 17.
- OBX Says No To Offshore Drilling.
- Service Companies Shift To Wind To Weather Downturn.
- Survey Says...Offshore Seismic Is Safe.

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- U.S. And Mexico Finalizing Colorado River Water-sharing Deal.
- Federal Judge Clears Way For Completion Of Water Project.
- Hydroelectric Plant Coming; 7.5 MW Facility Should Be Online Next Spring.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- New York Times: In South Texas, Threat Of Border Wall Unites Naturalists And Politicians.
- U.S. News & World Report: Federal Money Targets Water Pollution From Vessel Sewage.
- U.S. News & World Report: Wildlife Agency: Review Won't Jeopardize Panther Protections.
- Bradenton (FL) Herald: Sen. Bill Nelson Introduces Manatee Protection, Research Bill.
- Bend (OR) Bulletin: Deschutes Conservation Planning Picks Up This Week; Public Meetings Slated For Madras, Bend This Week.
- Detroit News: Saving Detroit River Is Dingell's Legacy.
- Arizona Republic: Wolf Recovery Plan Is Biased.

National Park Service

- International Falls (MN) Daily Journal: National Parks Plan For Solar Eclipse.
- Washington Post: Park Police Briefly Detain Two Youths For Selling Bottled Water On Mall.
- U.S. News & World Report: US Mint To Feature Georgia's Largest Island On A Coin.
- U.S. News & World Report: Fire Blocks Route For Dozens In Glacier National Park Chalet.
- Fort Collins (CO) Coloradoan: What's In The Worst Shape At Rocky? The Stuff You Can't See.
- U.S. News & World Report: Florida Congressman Helps Kill 5 Pythons In Everglades.
- Arkansas Democrat Gazette: Hopes High 1919 Events Make Parks List.
- Olympian (WA): Here's Your Chance To Weigh In On Plans To Move, Kill Mountain Goats In Olympic National Park.
- Bradenton (FL) Herald: Volunteers Help To Restore Shoreline At De Soto National Memorial.
- U.S. News & World Report: America's National Parks Offer Valuable Learning Experiences For Children.
- Modesto (CA) Bee: We're Suffocating Yosemite; It's Time To Consider A Reservation System For All Visitors.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- NBC: Trump: North Korea Will "Truly Regret" Attack On Guam, Warns US Military "Locked And Loaded."
- New York Times: Trump To Launch Investigation Of China Trade Policies Amid Growing Frustration With Beijing Over North Korea.

US Geological Survey

- Seattle Post-Intelligencer: With 8 Threatening Volcanoes, USGS Says California Deserves Close Monitoring.

Top National News

- CNN: Trump, White House Under Bipartisan Criticism For Response To Charlottesville Violence.
- Washington Post: Trump Condemns “Hatred, Bigotry” After Charlottesville Violence, But Fails To Blame White Nationalists.
- Washington Post: Trump: US May Consider Military Option To Venezuelan Crisis.
- Politico: Trump: “Unacceptable” That McConnell, Senate Republicans Failed To Pass Healthcare Reform.
- Bloomberg News: White House Committed To Releasing Tax Reform Outline In September.
- Politico: Politico Analysis: Trump Aides Anticipating “Really Tough” September.
- USA Today: US Labor Force Participation Continues To Rise.
- Politico: Pruitt Calls For “Objective” Evaluation Of National Climate Assessment Report.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - “The Hate He Dares Not Speak Of.”
 - “Mr. Macron’s Homefront Flub.”
 - “The Real Suspense In Kenya.”
- Washington Post.
 - “The Specter Of Civil War In Venezuela.”
 - “Don’t Ignore A Major Threat To The Chesapeake Bay.”
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 - “Dan Loeb’s Political Offense.”
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Last Laughs

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DOI In The News

27 National Monuments Are Under Review. Here Are Five To Watch.

The [New York Times](#) (8/11, Friedman, Popovich, McCann) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is “reviewing 27 national monuments to determine if previous administrations exceeded their authority in setting aside craggy vistas, ancient cliff dwellings and other large tracts of land for protection.” However, “not all of the monuments are truly in the administration’s cross hairs, and Mr. Zinke has already declared some of them safe from changes.” The article highlights five monuments to watch: Grand Staircase-Escalante, Bears Ears, Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks, Katahdin Woods and Waters, and Papahānaumokuākea.

Free Map Denotes Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument. The [AP](#) (8/13) reports that Maine Gov. Paul LePage “isn’t allowing signs on highways to direct motorists to the Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument,” but now there’s a map. The Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument has “created a new topographical map that identifies key features, like the loop road.” The maps are “available for free at the monument’s visitor stations in Millinocket and Patten and at the Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce.”

Whose National Monument Claims Are Disingenuous? Not Ours. In an op-ed for the [Arizona Republic](#) (8/11, Gosar), Rep. Paul A. Gosar attacks Rep. Raúl Grijalva for penning an op-ed criticizing a letter signed by 17 members of Congress providing comments on the review of national monuments. Gosar takes issue with Grijalva’s “eccentric far-left environmentalism” and his apparent conflicts of interest. Gosar urges Grijalva “to drop the partisan nonsense, debate these issues’ merits and let’s work together to solve problems facing hard-working Arizonans.”

Scientists Urge No Changes To Cascade-Siskiyou Monument (Guest Opinion). In an op-ed for

the [Oregonian](#) (8/13, Parker, Trail, Williams), Michael Parker, Ph.D., professor and chair of the biology program at Southern Oregon University; Pepper Trail, Ph.D., a fellow of the American Ornithological Society and conservation co-chair of the Rogue Valley Audubon Society; and Jack Williams, Ph.D., the senior scientist for Trout Unlimited and a former Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Supervisor, urge Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to propose no changes to the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. They urge Zinke “to respect the science, the grassroots collaboration and the sustained support of Senators Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden and Gov. Kate Brown.”

In an editorial, the [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (8/13) also supports leaving the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument alone.

National Monuments Support Jobs, Innovation. In an op-ed for the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (8/12, Hayes), Marne Hayes, the executive director of Business for Montana’s Outdoors, writes that “Montana may have dodged a bullet” when Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “declared the Missouri River Breaks safe from changes, but our western neighbors are still experiencing the fear and uncertainty of the ongoing review process.” According to Hayes, “that’s why business leaders from across the West converged in Montana last week to protest changes to western national monuments still in the crosshairs of Sec. Zinke’s review.” Hayes argues that “rolling back existing protections in any of these states is just not good for business. It also sets a dangerous precedent that undermines every other existing monument, including the Upper Missouri River Breaks.”

Fleeing To The Mountains. In his column for the [New York Times](#) (8/12, Kristof), Nicholas Kristof writes that “public lands are at risk today.” According to Kristof, “more aggressively than past administrations,” the Trump Administration is “systematically handing over America’s public lands for private exploitation in ways that will scar the land forever.” Kristof encourages readers to visit public lands to get a sense of “what is being lost.”

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the review of national monuments was provided by the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (8/11), the [Daily Caller](#) (8/11, Pearce), the [Arizona Republic](#) (8/13, Loomis), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (8/12, Breaun), and [Montana Public Radio](#) (8/10, Ripley).

Additional Coverage: Trump Appointee Wants More Hunting And Fishing On Federal Lands.

Additional coverage that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “wants to allow more hunting and fishing on federal wildlife refuges, relaxing regulations in some places, opening up moose and turkey hunting in other places,” was provided by the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (8/11), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (8/11), and the [Roseburg \(OR\) News-Review](#) (8/11, Urness).

We Cannot Let Heinrich, VeneKlasen, Zinke And The Trumps Define Wilderness.

In an op-ed for the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (8/13, Bedner), Marc Bedner, a writer for Tea Party for Animals, writes opposes increasing access to the Sabinoso Wilderness for hunting. He argues that “increased public access to previously inaccessible areas is a threat to wild areas.” Bedner writes that “it is time for the 95 percent of the public who do not hunt to protect the few remaining wild areas and the wildlife who live there.”

They Protest Too Much, Methinks.

In an op-ed for the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (8/11, Walcher), Greg Walcher, president of the Natural Resources Group, writes that “nearly every new administration’s natural resources policy is immediately blasted by the environmental industry as a complete disaster,” and “in many cases, the bombast is so over-the-top that it loses all credibility.” Walcher highlights two recent examples: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s “order to revise management plans for the greater sage grouse” and the Interior Department’s “proposed repeal of the Obama BLM’s rule against fracking.” According to Walcher, “the accusation that anyone would purposely destroy nature, whatever side they’re on, reveals more about the accuser than the accused.” He concludes that “calling each other names (wilderness-rapists, eco-nazis or any other) does not enlighten the conversation; it just reveals the insincere agenda of those who protest too much.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

BIA, FWS Improved Dam Hazard Readiness, Watchdog Says.

[Law360](#) (8/11, Powell) reports that “the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have successfully implemented a slew of recommended measures for boosting emergency preparedness at high-hazard dams, the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Office of Inspector General said Thursday.”

Drilling Halted At Van Hook Oil Well Site.

The [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (8/11, Holdman) reports that “drilling of a series of oil wells near the Van Hook Resort boat ramp has been stayed by the federal government at the request of the Three Affiliated Tribes.” The tribe appealed the federal permitting of the well site, known as the Torpedo pad, “because it violates tribal setback requirements from the lake, said Tribal Chairman Mark Fox.” The Interior Board of Land Appeals “stayed the project in response to the tribe’s appeal Thursday.”

Activists Challenge Federal Officials Over Proposed Elk Grove Casino.

The [Elk Grove \(CA\) Citizen](#) (8/11, Armstrong) reports that a casino watchdog group and “three Elk Grove residents are challenging the federal government’s decision to place land into trust for the proposed, \$400 million Wilton Rancheria casino-resort in Elk Grove.” According to the article, “a record of decision approving the taking of 35.9 acres of land by Highway 99 and Kammerer Road into a federal trust for the tribe’s benefit was issued on Jan. 19.” However, “the plaintiffs seek to have that decision reversed, and have the land returned to the authority of the city of Elk Grove and the state.”

Washington’s Wild Grouse Chase.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/11) editorializes that regulatory relief is the Trump Administration’s biggest economic policy achievement so far and cites as a recent example of this the greater sage grouse. The Journal says the Interior Department is considering revising 15 Federal land-use plans to better protect the sage grouse, including reducing some restrictions that can benefit conservation efforts, and lauds collaborative models in the Agriculture Department, which runs a Sage Grouse Initiative. The editorial acknowledges that the Interior Department deserves credit for seeking ways to preserve the sage grouse’s habitat while still spurring economic development.

Additional coverage of changes to sage-grouse management plans was provided by the [Idaho Mountain Express](#) (8/11, Moore).

Tribe Appeal Pushed Back.

The [Falmouth \(MA\) Enterprise](#) (8/11, Houghton) reports that “a US Court of Appeals First Circuit judge agreed this week to extend the opening of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe’s pending appeal regarding its land in trust application.” Appellate judge O. Rogeriee Thompson “seeing no objections, agreed on Tuesday, August 8, to extend a deadline to November for the tribe to submit a status report.”

Cobell Family Welcomes Presidential Medal Of Freedom To Browning.

[KPAX-TV](#) Missoula, MT (8/11, Van Middendorp) reports that “former President Barack Obama awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Elouise Cobell in 2016, four years after her passing in 2011.” Welcoming the medal to Browning earlier this week, Cobell’s sister Joy Ketah said, “this is home for us, for all of us, and y’know it’s good to have it back with the Blackfeet people first.”

Bureau Of Indian Education

Piece By Piece: New Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig School Comes Together In Sections.

The [Bemidji \(MN\) Pioneer](#) (8/13, Bowen) reports that “workers have been busy putting together a new, 45,000 square-foot Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig junior and senior high school using a new-to-the-area method that school and project leaders say is faster and cheaper than a more traditional build.” Mary Trapp, Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig’s superintendent, said that the Bureau of Indian Education and “school leaders drew up a \$20 million construction plan several years ago that never came to fruition.” According to a Department of the Interior spokesperson, “the design that’s being realized now is about \$14.5 million.”

The piece also appears at the [Park Rapids \(MN\) Enterprise](#) (8/13, Bowen).

Bureau Of Land Management

US Cattle Grazing Plan For Idaho National Monument Approved.

The [U.S. News & World Report](#) (8/11, Ridler) reports that "cattle grazing will continue" at Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve "following a challenge by an environmental group, federal officials announced this week." The U.S. Bureau of Land Management said in a statement Wednesday said grazing on BLM-administered portions of the monument "not covered by lava flows will stay at about 99 percent of current levels." The bureau said in a written statement, "The decision demonstrates the Trump Administration's effort to support traditional uses such as grazing on public lands while providing opportunities for recreation and promoting conservation."

BLM To Remove Horses Southeast Of Rangely.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (8/12, Webb) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has "approved a plan to remove up to 100 wild horses from private and other land southeast of Rangely this fall, a decision made more controversial due to activists' concerns that animals could end up being euthanized." The bureau "said Friday it plans to use a helicopter operation to round up horses that have strayed outside the designated Piceance-East Douglas Herd Management Area." The decision, "which is subject to a 30-day appeal period, also will allow future gathers to remove other horses outside the management area."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (8/11).

Human Activity — Racing Included — Is Shrinking The Bonneville Salt Flats, U.

Researcher Says. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/12, Penrod) reports that "two years of research on unique ecosystem indicate speed racing, mining, government management and climate change may all be factors in depletion of salt crust" of the Bonneville Salt Flats. University of Utah geologist Brenda Bowen's "research still is incomplete — her first paper is expected out this fall, and a final report isn't due until 2018." However, "the more data Bowen collects, she said, the more she's convinced human activity is changing the landscape." Meanwhile, Louise Noeth, a spokeswoman for the Save the Salt Coalition, "believes mismanagement by the Bureau of Land Management is at least partly responsible for the salt flats' condition." Hannah Cowan, a spokeswoman for the BLM, "said the agency stands by its decisions on managing the Bonneville Salt Flats."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Offshore Air Gun Blasts Spark Debate.

The [Thibodaux \(LA\) Daily Comet](#) (8/12, Magill) reports that "environmentalists and oil industry representatives are sparring over a new federal report that says high-powered air gun blasts used to search for oil in the Gulf of Mexico can harm whales and other sea creatures." The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management "issued the preliminary environmental impact statement about two weeks ago as part of a settlement in a lawsuit filed by environmental groups." Environmentalists point to "the report as proof the oil companies' seismic testing harms marine life." On the other hand, "oil industry representatives counter the practice is safe and that environmentalists have exaggerated the federal report's findings."

Researchers Eye Marine Mammals In Offshore Surveys.

The [Arctic \(AK\) Sounder](#) (8/11, Oliver) reports that "bowhead whales and other marine mammals are the focus of a four-month survey project this summer in Arctic waters." According to the article, "led jointly by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the Alaska Fisheries Science Center, the Department of Interior and the Marine Mammal Laboratory, the Department of Commerce, and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, this summer's research is part of a series of years-long studies of the region's biodiversity." The project, Aerial Surveys of Arctic Marine Mammals, "aims to gather data about the populations of these animals in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas, specifically in areas where there is potential for future oil and gas development."

URI/BOEM Visit Block Island | Block Island Times.

The [Block Island \(RI\) Times](#) (8/12, Shuman) reports that a research study is "being conducted examining the effects of the Block Island Wind Farm on recreation and tourism in the Ocean State." Researchers were contracted by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management "to conduct the

study, which is titled 'Identifying Indicators of Offshore Wind Benefits.'" BOEM will "use indicators gleaned from the research in National Environmental Policy Act analyses to evaluate the effects of proposed offshore wind energy facility development."

Comment Period On Seismic Testing Leases Near Grand Strand Closing Aug. 17.

The [Myrtle Beach \(SC\) Online](#) (8/11, Johnson) reports that "environmentalists say the best way to stop oil drilling off the South Carolina coast is for Gov. Henry McMaster to file a statement as the federal government solicits comments." However, "McMaster, who has said before that he opposes offshore drilling, hasn't sent in a comment yet — and the window closes Aug. 17." According to the article, "the federal government relies heavily on the comments of governors as it reviews oil exploration. McMaster has previously said publicly that he is not in favor of oil drilling off the South Carolina coast, but has not yet submitted a comment to BOEM."

OBX Says No To Offshore Drilling.

Additional coverage that a hearing was held last Thursday in Manteo "to gather public comments on a new five-year plan to explore for oil and gas in the Atlantic" was provided by the [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (8/11, Hampton) and the [Outer Banks \(NC\) Voice](#) (8/11, Lay).

Service Companies Shift To Wind To Weather Downturn.

[Offshore Magazine](#) (8/11, Livingston) reports "many industry analysts do not expect offshore exploration activities" to grow "until sometime in 2018 at the earliest." Offshore adds that installed assets are expected to grow "45% less than 2014 levels." Meanwhile, "offshore services contractors are quickly filling their backlogs with wind-related projects."

Survey Says...Offshore Seismic Is Safe.

In a piece for [Forbes](#) (8/11, Bradley), Robert Bradley Jr. dismisses fears that seismic surveying in the Atlantic Ocean will negatively impact marine life. He argues that "Atlantic drilling would create economic benefits at virtually no environmental cost." Bradley concludes that "environmental groups who oppose seismic surveying are really fighting against good paying jobs – gainful employment that does not depend on government but free consumer choice."

Bureau Of Reclamation

U.S. And Mexico Finalizing Colorado River Water-sharing Deal.

[USA Today](#) (8/12, James) reports that U.S. and Mexican officials are "finalizing a water-sharing deal for the Colorado River, and a newly released summary of the accord's key points shows negotiators have agreed on a cooperative approach geared toward boosting reservoir levels and trying to stave off a severe shortage." The document, "which federal officials have circulated among water agencies, outlines a series of joint measures that build on the current 5-year agreement, which expires at the end of this year." The article says that "the new accord – titled Minute No. 323 to the 1944 Mexican Water Treaty – is expected to be signed sometime this fall, perhaps as early as September, and would remain in effect through 2026."

Federal Judge Clears Way For Completion Of Water Project.

The [AP](#) (8/11, Nicholson) reports that "a federal judge has cleared the way for completion of a \$244 million project to bring Missouri River water to residents of northwestern North Dakota, though the state of Missouri and the Canadian province of Manitoba can appeal." U.S. District Judge Rosemary Collyer held Thursday "that the Northwest Area Water Supply project complies with federal environmental law." Collyer wrote, "This court's work is done because the Bureau of Reclamation has finally done its work."

Also reporting are [Reuters](#) (8/11, Aubin), the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (8/11), and [Law360](#) (8/11, Rodriguez).

Hydroelectric Plant Coming; 7.5 MW Facility Should Be Online Next Spring.

The [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (8/11, Pompia) reports that "in what's being hailed as an historic moment for the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District, construction of a hydroelectric generation plant at Pueblo Dam will begin in September." The project is "the result of an agreement, signed Friday, between the district and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation."

Fish And Wildlife Service

In South Texas, Threat Of Border Wall Unites Naturalists And Politicians.

The [New York Times](#) (8/13, Hardy) reports that the specter of a border wall “has loomed over the Rio Grande Valley since 2006, when President George W. Bush signed the Secure Fence Act authorizing 700 miles of fencing along certain stretches of the southern border.” But Presidents Trump’s election “has spurred renewed concern about the economic and environmental consequences of such a wall.” Current plans have the wall running “through countless pieces of private property and bisect[ing] several major wildlife refuges.” Due to the “anticipated resistance from private landowners, the first sections of the border wall most likely will be built on federal land.”

Additional coverage of the border wall was provided by [USA Today](#) (8/12, Crow).

Federal Money Targets Water Pollution From Vessel Sewage.

The [AP](#) (8/13) reports that “federal grants totaling \$2.5 million has been awarded to prevent sewage pollution in Washington state waters.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grants will be “used to add more locations where recreational boaters and other vessels can pump out their vessel sewage.” According to the article, “nearly \$1.5 million will go to projects on the coast, while \$1 million will be used for inland waters.”

Wildlife Agency: Review Won’t Jeopardize Panther Protections.

The [AP](#) (8/13) reports that “wildlife officials say a federal review of the Florida panther’s endangered species status will not jeopardize protections for the big cats.” Panther biologist David Shindle said that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s “review aims to gather the best available data on panther biology, habitat and conservation plans, as well as threats to their survival.” According to Shindle, “any change to the panther’s status would require separate action from the wildlife service.”

Sen. Bill Nelson Introduces Manatee Protection, Research Bill.

The [Bradenton \(FL\) Herald](#) (8/12, Nealeigh) reports that “an email from Florida Democratic Sen. Bill Nelson’s campaign team signed by Nelson mourning the loss of Snooty the manatee also announced a new bill introduced by the senator.” On Aug. 3, Nelson introduced a bill “to authorize research and recovery activities to provide for the protection, conservation, and recovery of the Florida manatee, and for other purposes.” An email from Nelson for U.S. Senate said, “The outpouring of support that we’ve seen in the wake of Snooty’s tragic death shows just how beloved these gentle giants are. Yet despite the constant threats these iconic creatures continue to face throughout our state, the federal government has removed them from the endangered species list. Florida’s manatees are a special part of our state’s heritage, and I believe we should continue to protect them.”

Deschutes Conservation Planning Picks Up This Week; Public Meetings Slated For Madras, Bend This Week.

The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (8/13, Hamway) reports that “the next phase of the nearly decadelong process of creating a habitat conservation plan for the Deschutes River Basin will begin in Bend and Madras on Monday.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be “hosting a total of four meetings — two in Bend, two in Madras — where members of the public can learn about the process of creating a long-term plan that will meet the needs of farmers and other water users, while also ensuring that the Oregon spotted frog and other threatened species living in the basin will be protected in the future.”

Saving Detroit River Is Dingell’s Legacy.

In a piece for the [Detroit News](#) (8/12, Finley), editorial page editor Nolan Finley writes that when John Dingell “weighs the impact of his life’s work, he doesn’t look to the Congressional Record, but to an undisturbed stretch of the Detroit River known as the Humbug Marsh,” which is now part of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge. Dingell, “who retired in 2015, is an avid outdoorsman who dreamed of seeing the Detroit River as again a haven for hunters and fishermen.” The refuge is planning “to open a visitor’s center in Humbug, and by spring hopes to complete a fishing pier that will stretch into the river and allow those without boats a chance at landing one of the trophy walleye or sturgeon that have returned to make the Detroit River a

prime fishing venue.”

Wolf Recovery Plan Is Biased.

In an editorial, the [Arizona Republic](#) (8/11) criticizes the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s draft wolf recovery plan. The paper argues that “states shouldn’t have veto power” over wolf releases, and that “without wolf releases, the recovery effort is doomed.” The paper asserts that “final language should make it clear that the states can offer input, but do not have veto power over releases.”

National Park Service

National Parks Plan For Solar Eclipse.

The [International Falls \(MN\) Daily Journal](#) (8/12) reports that “America’s national parks will be premiere viewing sites for one of nature’s amazing natural phenomena, as a total solar eclipse crosses the continental United States on Aug. 21.” According to the article, “there are 21 parks and seven trails of the National Park System that are within the 60- to 70-mile-wide total eclipse pathway.” Also, “several national parks will stream live video during the eclipse.”

Also covering the eclipse are [MarketWatch](#) (8/14), [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (8/11, Whitehouse), the [Charleston \(SC\) Moultrie News](#) (8/13), and the [Times of Northwest Indiana](#) (8/13).

Park Police Briefly Detain Two Youths For Selling Bottled Water On Mall.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/11, Williams, Hermann) reports that “U.S. Park Police officers handcuffed a teenager and detained a second youth for attempting to sell bottles of water on the Mall this week, police officials acknowledged Friday.” The incident occurred “about 3 p.m. Tuesday near the intersection of Ninth Street and Constitution Avenue NW when a uniformed Park Police officer tried ‘to make contact with multiple individuals who were observed illegally selling water on the National Mall,’ according to a statement released by the Park Police.” The article notes that “Park Police were roundly criticized by city leaders earlier this summer after plainclothes officers handcuffed and detained two 17-year-olds and a 16-year-old for the same violation June 22.” On Friday, Park Police Chief Robert MacLean said in a statement, “In this incident, officers responded with a measured approach to ensure the safety of everyone involved. We hold ourselves to the highest standards of professionalism and strive to ensure that any contact with the public is tactful and considerate.”

US Mint To Feature Georgia’s Largest Island On A Coin.

The [AP](#) (8/13) reports that “the federal government plans to pay tribute to Georgia’s largest barrier island by issuing a special coin.” The National Park Service “says 25-cent coins with a design recognizing Cumberland Island will be produced by the U.S. Mint next year.” The coin’s design “features a snowy egret perched on a branch with a salt marsh in the background.” It’s scheduled to be released in August 2018.

Fire Blocks Route For Dozens In Glacier National Park Chalet.

The [AP](#) (8/12, Volz) reports that “a wildfire has cut off the return route for dozens of people staying in a Glacier National Park backcountry chalet, leaving them the choice of remaining until rangers tell them it’s safe or hiking out along a longer and more difficult trail, park officials said Friday.” Park rangers also “planned to lead out 39 other hikers who were staying in backcountry campsites near fires that broke out after a passing lightning storm on Thursday, Glacier spokeswoman Lauren Alley said.”

Additional coverage of the fire danger at the park was provided by the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (8/11, Puckett) and the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (8/11, Backus).

What’s In The Worst Shape At Rocky? The Stuff You Can’t See.

The [Fort Collins \(CO\) Coloradoan](#) (8/11, Marmaduke) reports that Rocky Mountain National Park will “celebrate its birthday next month with 102 candles and more than \$75 million in deferred maintenance.” According to the article, “it’s the heftiest repairs backlog the park has seen in seven years, and a recent funding award from the Department of the Interior won’t do much to change that.” In the face of “a growing maintenance to-do list and an uncertain funding future, park officials say they’ll spend the next several years focusing on the nuts and bolts: waterlines and septic systems.”

Florida Congressman Helps Kill 5 Pythons In Everglades.

The [U.S. News & World Report](#) (8/12) reports that Rep. Francis Rooney “helped catch and kill five invasive Burmese pythons during a nighttime hunt in the Everglades.” Rooney “joined hunters hired by the South Florida Water Management District in the wetlands Thursday night.” He “said it’s important for the state to continue funding the hunting program because pythons pose a threat to Everglades restoration efforts.” Rooney “also said he’d like the U.S. Department of Interior to allow python hunting within Everglades National Park as well.”

Hopes High 1919 Events Make Parks List.

The [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (8/13, Mulder) reports on dual efforts to “erect a memorial to all those killed” in the Elaine Massacre of 1919 and to save the Centennial Baptist Church. Committees have been formed “dedicated to each task: the Elaine Massacre Memorial Committee, which has gained nonprofit status, and the Centennial Church Foundation, which is seeking such status.” However, “only the Centennial Church Foundation has made park service overtures to congressional members.”

Here’s Your Chance To Weigh In On Plans To Move, Kill Mountain Goats In Olympic National Park.

The [Olympian \(WA\)](#) (8/11, Spegman) reports that “officials will discuss plans to manage the growing number of mountain goats in Olympic National Park at a meeting in Olympia next week.” Meetings also are planned “for next week in Everett, Port Angeles and Seattle.”

Volunteers Help To Restore Shoreline At De Soto National Memorial.

The [Bradenton \(FL\) Herald](#) (8/12, De Leon) reports that “dozens of volunteers joined the National Park Service and the University of Central Florida on Saturday in a project to help restore the living shoreline along De Soto National Memorial that has been eroded by tropical storms and boat wakes.” They “spent several hours placing bags of oyster shells, previously filled by volunteers, along the shore at different areas in the park. Later, young red and black mangroves, grown by volunteers, were planted behind them.”

America’s National Parks Offer Valuable Learning Experiences For Children.

In an op-ed for [U.S. News & World Report](#) (8/11, Mead), Sara Mead, a partner with Bellwether Education Partners, writes that national parks “provide abundant learning opportunities for both children and adults.” According to Mead, “by illustrating both the great moments and heroic figures and the less admirable parts of our nation’s history, these parks and historic sites can help both adults and children to know and value our history and to understand that the America we have today is not a foregone conclusion to be taken for granted, but a hard-fought patrimony that we as citizens have the opportunity and obligation to continue working to maintain and improve.” She adds that “at a time when many question the value of government, National Parks also illustrate what is possible when Americans, both in government and outside of it, work together to achieve a goal that is bigger than individual interest.” Mead calls for improving access to these “types of learning experiences” for “disadvantaged children.”

We’re Suffocating Yosemite; It’s Time To Consider A Reservation System For All Visitors.

In an op-ed for the [Modesto \(CA\) Bee](#) (8/12, Buckley), John Buckley, executive director Central Sierra Environmental Resource Center, argues that Yosemite National Park must confront its overcrowding issue. He argues that “allowing excessive vehicle congestion conflicts with park service mandates to ensure visitors can have a positive experience.” According to Buckley, “the challenge is to identify the best steps to take – not just to improve the deteriorating visitor experience, but more important, to truly protect the ecological health of Yosemite Valley, its Wild and Scenic River corridor, and other stressed resources.” He concludes that “visitors can support seasonal limits on vehicles if they recognize that with a reservation they can avoid traffic jams and actually stop, park and savor the precious natural cathedral of Yosemite Valley.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

Trump: North Korea Will “Truly Regret” Attack On Guam, Warns US Military “Locked And Loaded.”

President Trump met on Friday with Secretary of State Tillerson, Ambassador Haley, and National

Security Adviser McMaster and in a news conference, the President warned North Korean leader Kim Jong-un that he would “truly regret” any attack on US territories and allies, hours after Trump [tweeted](#), “Military solutions are now fully in place, locked and loaded, should North Korea act unwisely. Hopefully Kim Jong Un will find another path!” The President’s remarks received saturation coverage on the cable and network newscasts, which all led with the story and devoted more than 13 and a half minutes combined, while print and online reporting was also extensive. Analyses and commentary were primarily negative of Trump’s continued aggressive rhetoric toward North Korea and portrayed his latest comments as an troubling escalation of the crisis.

In the lead [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/11, lead story, 3:15, Holt) segment, White House correspondent Kristen Welker reported that “flanked by his secretary of state, UN ambassador, and national security advisor,” Trump “turn[ed] up the heat on North Korea for a third time this week.” Bret Baier of [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (8/11, 6:09 p.m. EDT, Baier) similarly said at the joint news conference, Trump took “a number of questions” on several issues, including “the biggest issue at hand this moment,” the threat from North Korea. In its lead segment, [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (8/11, 6:00 p.m. EDT, Baier) broadcast the President, who said his meeting with Tillerson, McMaster, and Haley was “very good,” and that they “talked about North Korea as you can imagine. We are very much in agreement, we have been right from the beginning. This is something we have to stop. We all feel that very strongly.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/11, A1, Kesling, Radnofsky) reports on its front page that the President said the US is looking “very carefully” at military options and asserted, “I hope that [Kim is] going to fully understand the gravity of what I said. And what I said is what I mean.” [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (8/11, 6:07 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) broadcast Trump saying that the US is considering further, “very strong” economic sanctions against North Korea. When asked about North Korean state media outlets’ assertions that the US is easily defeated, [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (8/11, 6:06 p.m. EDT, Baier) broadcast Trump asserting, “Let me hear Kim Jong-un say it.” Asked whether his Administration is open to regime change in North Korea or Venezuela, Trump declined to comment because “they are very different places,” but he stressed his support for peace and safety, as well as “having to get very tough if we have to protect the American people and also to protect our allies.”

To the [AP](#) (8/11, Lemire, Talmadge), Trump “all but drew a red line that would trigger swift U.S. action” when the President warned if Kim “utters one threat in the form of an overt threat – which by the way he has been uttering for years and his family has been uttering for years – or he does anything with respect to Guam or anyplace else that’s an American territory or an American ally, he will truly regret it and he will regret it fast.” [Reuters](#) (8/11, Oliphant, Kim) reports that when asked about his tweet, Trump said, “Those words are very, very easy to understand.” According to Reuters, “The term ‘locked and loaded,’ popularized in the 1949 war film “Sands of Iwo Jima” starring American actor John Wayne, refers to preparations for shooting a gun.”

Meanwhile, [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (8/11, 5:56 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) broadcast the President saying that the US has “been working very closely with China and with other countries” on the matter, and that he planned to discuss the issue with Chinese President Xi Jinping later Friday night. Trump added that “as far as reassurance,” the South Korean peoples “probably feel as reassured as they can feel. Certainly they feel more reassured with me than with other presidents from the past because nobody’s really done the job they’re supposed to be doing, and that’s why we’re at this horrible situation right now.” Trump added that he also “think[s] Japan is very happy with the job we’re doing.” Although the President [said](#) he has not yet spoken with the governor of Guam, he added, “I feel they will be very safe. Believe me, they will be very safe. And if anything happens to Guam, there’s going to be big, big trouble in North Korea.”

The [Washington Times](#) (8/11, Boyer) reports Trump also “dismissed criticism that his rhetoric is raising the danger level of a potential confrontation.” He said, “My critics are only saying that because it’s me.” He added, “We have tens of millions of people in this country that are so happy with what I am saying, because they say finally we have a president that’s sticking up for our nation and frankly, sticking up for our friends and our allies. And this man [Mr. Kim] will not get away with what he is doing, believe me.”

According to a front-page [New York Times](#) (8/11, A1, Baker) article, Trump “continued to beat war drums on Friday against North Korea,” but despite his latest comments, “there were no indications of imminent action in either part of the world.” The Times reports that “for all the bellicose language emerging from the president’s golf club in Bedminster, N.J., the United States military was taking no visible steps to prepare for a strike.” The Times states that “the juxtaposition between the heated words and the lack of apparent preparations suggested that Mr.

Trump may still be counting on a resolution to the standoff with North Korea as it works to develop a nuclear arsenal capable of reaching the United States."

In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (8/11, A1, Lamothe) similarly reports "the U.S. military does not appear to be moving toward a wartime footing with North Korea despite President Trump's repeated threats this week of military action against Pyongyang, with few if any additional military forces moving into the region and the Pentagon chief emphasizing diplomacy over bloodshed." According to the Post, "Among the signals that a major U.S. operation is not imminent is a trip just underway by Marine Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and a small cadre of his staff. He arrived Friday in Hawaii with plans to visit Japan, South Korea and China, all of which would be in peril if a war between North Korea and the United States explodes." The Post adds that "The aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan and its accompanying flotilla of destroyers and guided-missile cruisers also returned to port Wednesday in Yokosuka, Japan, the Navy announced."

[USA Today](#) (8/11, Wolf) reports that "as he has done all week, the president appeared more eager to herald U.S. military readiness," but senior White House correspondent Jim Acosta led [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/11, 5:01 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) in reporting that although Trump "insists his team is on the same page," Defense Secretary Mattis on Thursday sought to "tone down the Administration's rhetoric emphasizing diplomacy."

In the lead [CBS Evening News](#) (8/11, lead story, 2:35, Mason) segment, chief White House correspondent Major Garrett said Tillerson and Haley sought "to reassure allies despite the President's tough talk," even as Mattis stated, "the American effort is diplomatically led, it has diplomatic traction, it is gaining diplomatic results. And I want to stay right there right now." Mattis conceded his "responsibility is to have military options should they be needed," but [The Hill](#) (8/11, Greenwood) reports Mattis recognized, "The tragedy of war is well enough known. It does not need another characterization beyond the fact that it would be catastrophic."

While [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/11, 5:33 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) chief national security correspondent Jim Sciutto said Mattis "declined to give details on what military options he's given the president," in broadcast footage, Mattis asserted, "I don't tell the enemy in advance what I'm going to do. Our readiness – we are ready." [Bloomberg News](#) (8/11, Biggs, Sink) reports "a White House national security official... said the Pentagon has contingency plans for any crisis that are updated constantly to provide the president with options and that there was nothing new about the U.S. readiness stance." Former Deputy Assistant Secretary and retired US Marine fighter pilot Col. Stephen Ganyard told the lead [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/11, lead story, 3:20, Vega) segment "the US military has been planning for North Korean aggression for 60 years. They're ready and they're not going to get caught off guard."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/11, Wagner, DeYoung, Johnson) reports that "as Trump continued his bellicose rhetoric Friday – a tactic criticized by some U.S. leaders and allies – North Korea kept up its verbal salvos as well." North Korea's state-run newspaper ran a commentary claiming that the "U.S. military warmongers are running amok" and warned "the U.S. and its vassal forces will dearly pay for the harshest sanctions and pressure and reckless military provocations."

According to [CNN's Situation Room](#)'s (8/11, 6:18 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Will Ripley, Trump's demand for an answer from Kim has thus far gone unanswered, and a recent North Korean statement omitted any mention of its "recent rhetoric" on Guam or any "direct response to President Trump like earlier this week. We haven't seen that kind of response from North Korea today. Also there are no indications, no imminent indications of a North Korean missile launch according to US intelligence. So at this point, North Korea is quiet. And what does that mean? We have to, of course, watch their words, but we also have to watch very closely what their actions are going to be."

Correspondent Will Ripley said as of Friday evening, [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/11, 5:06 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) "did see statements from North Korea threatening to make the United States – the mainland – a stage for nuclear war, saying that President Trump is pushing the Korean Peninsula to the brink of nuclear war." Noticeably, Ripley said "what we did not hear today was any further detail about [North Korea's] supposed plan to simultaneously launch four intermediate range ballistic missiles to Japan, within 20 miles of Guam," which is "home to key US military assets and more than 160,000 American citizens. And this could be because North Korea has given this plan to Kim Jong-un, as they said he would, for his review – or it could be they're dialing back the rhetoric a bit."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/11, 5:49 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) correspondent Brian Todd reported "there certainly is" evidence from US intelligence officials and outside analysts suggesting Kim Jong-un's family has a history of aggression, and they are suggesting Trump should not "push

this dangerous man into a corner." Furthermore, Todd said, "analysts say it is possible North Korea's elites may get nervous and move against Kim if he keeps taking his country from one crisis to another. But one expert points out Kim keeps his elites and generals under such close surveillance, it's tough for them to gather forces against him." Todd [added](#) that Kim "has two sisters," and many "observers believe those are possibly the only people around him who he can really trust."

Trump Retweets US PACOM Pledging USAF Bombers On Guam "Stand Ready" To Support USFK. [Politico](#) (8/11, Nelson) reports that Trump on Friday "[retweeted](#) a post from U.S. Pacific Command that featured images of U.S. military aircraft and a message that '#USAF B-1B Lancer #bombers on Guam stand ready to fulfill USFK's #FightTonight mission if called upon to do so.'" Politico notes "USAF is an abbreviation for the U.S. Air Force and USFK stands for U.S. Forces Korea."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/11, Lamothe) reports the President's "message, including the dramatic hashtag, may sound ominous to the uninitiated. But combined with comments Thursday from Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and decades of history between North Korea and the United States, it suggests that while the present situation between Pyongyang and Washington is quite serious, Pacific Command is more signaling its readiness to fight if need be than spoiling for a battle within days." The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/11, story 3, 1:20, Mason) noted "American B-1 bombers flew from Guam to the Korean Peninsula last month in a show of force after the North's last ICBM launch."

Meanwhile, the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/11, story 2, 2:05, Mason) national security correspondent David Martin also reported, "When it comes to North Korea, the US military has been 'locked and loaded' for years. The motto of the 28,000 American troops in South Korea, as well as long-range bombers based 2,000 miles away on Guam, is 'fight tonight,' meaning be ready for an attack that could come with little or no warning." Martin added US officials say that if North Korea "fired a missile at the American homeland or a US military base overseas, the Pentagon would first try to shoot it down, and second, retaliate with an attack of its own, perhaps with a cyber weapon. In the unlikely event the North used a nuclear weapon, the US would mount a much more devastating attack." A [New York Times](#) (8/11, Doyle) analysis also considers how the US could intercept a ballistic missile bound for Guam or the continental US.

Administration "Quietly" Conducting Back Channel Negotiation With North Korea. According to the [AP](#) (8/11, Pennington), "the Trump administration has been quietly engaged in back channel diplomacy with North Korea for several months, addressing Americans imprisoned in the communist country and deteriorating relations between the long-time foes." The AP reports "people familiar with the contacts say the interactions have done nothing thus far to quell tensions over North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile advances, which are now fueling fears of military confrontation. But they say the behind-the-scenes discussions could still be a foundation for more serious negotiation." The AP adds that US officials say "the diplomatic contacts are occurring regularly between Joseph Yun, the U.S. envoy for North Korea policy, and Pak Song Il, a senior North Korean diplomat at the country's U.N. mission." However, Trump told reporters on Friday, "We don't want to talk about progress, we don't want to talk about back channels" and the State Department and White House both "declined to comment on Yun's diplomacy."

Correspondent Rich Edson of [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/11, 6:11 p.m. EDT, Baier) noted Tillerson just returned from a diplomatic trip to Asia, and is "focused on North Korea while the president was conducting his own diplomacy from home." Steve Hayes of the [Weekly Standard](#) told [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/11, 6:34 p.m. EDT, Baier) that Trump "brings a couple advantages to the debate, a global debate of North Korea. He is not going to settle for the failed diplomacy on North Korea that we've seen from three successive Administrations" in "the past 25 plus years." Hayes added that "there is a believability to the threats." Byron York of the [Washington Examiner](#) said Trump and Tillerson have seemingly adopted a "good cop, bad cop thing" over "the last several days," which is "consistent with stressing diplomatic solutions." Chief foreign affairs correspondent Andrea Mitchell of [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/11, story 3, 2:20, Holt) similarly stated, "The secretary of state has been playing good cop to the President's bad cop when it comes to talks." In video footage, Tillerson confirmed, "We have other means of communication open to them, to certainly hear from them if they have a desire to want to talk."

However, while [The Hill](#) (8/11, Fabian) acknowledges that "Tillerson has expressed openness to negotiations with Pyongyang if the authoritarian regime ceases ballistic missile tests," he "made enemies within the administration over his approach." The Hill highlights that Sebastian Gorka, a deputy assistant to the President, on Thursday "knocked Tillerson for offering

a softer message than Trump on North Korea" as "nonsensical."

Pentagon: US-South Korea To Stage Annual Military Exercise Later This Month. [Reuters](#) (8/11, Ali) reports a Pentagon spokesman announced Friday that the annual joint US-South Korean military exercise, called Ulchi-Freedom Guardian, "is expected to go ahead as originally scheduled and will start on Aug. 21."

Guam Prepares Ahead Of Possible North Korean Attack. [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/11, story 2, 2:45, Holt) reported the "ramped-up rhetoric is being closely followed in Guam, the US territory that sits in striking distance of North Korea. Tonight, the 160,000 US citizens on the island have been given some grim warnings on what to do should the worst-case scenario occur, after North Korea threatened to land missiles just off Guam's coast." Correspondent Miguel Almaguer said that as tourists enjoy "the sun-drenched beaches," Homeland Security officials are issuing "stark warnings – what to do if North Korea carries out its threat to lob four ballistic missiles in this direction. In the event of a missile attack, 'do not look at the flash or fireball – it can blind you,' 'take cover under a concrete structure or below ground,' 'lie flat on the ground and cover your head – it could take 30 seconds or more for blast wave to hit,' and if caught outside, 'shower with lots of soap and shampoo to help remove radioactive contamination.'" The [AP](#) (8/11, Kelleher) and [Reuters](#) (8/11, Chiacu) report Guam's Office of Civil Defense on Friday began distributing the fact sheets titled "Preparing for an Imminent Missile Threat."

[ABC World News Tonight](#)'s (8/11, story 2, 1:15, Vega) Jim Avela explained, "North Korea is four hours away by plane from here, but just 14 minutes by ballistic missile. Today on the island known as the 'tip of the spear,' families fully aware they are in the middle of two nuclear nations." He added that "Guam is always a target because of the military bases here, but this time, it's different because it's a very specific threat with a specific date in mid-August. And you can see from the local paper, Guam is taking this threat seriously." Guam Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo said, "We're staying calm, living our lives, but yeah, at the same time, making preparations."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/11, Craymer) reports Calvo also said Guam is in "typhoon alley," so the island's residents are used to preparing for threats. He added, "Our buildings standards are the best in the U.S. – they're built out of concrete and reinforced steel." Calvo acknowledged, "The worst-case scenario for my community is obviously a missile attack, particularly if they had a nuclear payload," but he asserted, "I think that would be catastrophic not only for Guam but for East Asia."

"Amid fears over potential warfare," the [AP](#) (8/11, Bordallo, Vejpongsa) "asked several Guam residents what they want to know about the situation and what they want the people of North Korea and the United States to know about Guam," and although the [New York Times](#) (8/11, Ives) reports "some Guam residents told reporters that they worried what might happen if North Korea's leader, Kim Jong-un, were actually to follow through" on his threat, scientists in Guam "have at least one other major threat in mind: climate change." The Times adds that "like other Pacific islands, Guam may be affected in the coming decades as climate change prompts shifts in weather, temperature and oceanic acidity, according to the Environmental Protection Agency." In interviews with the Times, the "experts said...that the primary consequences may include people suffering heat stress because of an increase in heat waves, a rise in the intensity of tropical storms, and the damage or destruction of Guam's exceptionally biodiverse coral reefs."

Meanwhile, [Washington Post](#) (8/11, Park) social media editor Gene Park, a Guamanian, laments that "lots of people are asking 'What is Guam?'" but "nobody is asking 'Who is Guam?'" Park contends "the media has been sketching a caricature of sorts describing the people of Guam" this week because "they are powerless. Their voices are heard only whenever North Korea rattles its sword." Park argues Guam is "America's afterthought."

Moran Calls For Classified Briefing On North Korea, As Cicilline Urges Ryan To End Recess Early Over Threat. [The Hill](#) (8/11, Carney) "Floor Action" blog reports Sen. Jerry Moran, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, told KMAN-AM on Friday that he has asked the Administration to give him a classified briefing on North Korea in the coming weeks for "details on both the 'economic situation' in North Korea as well as potential military options and 'capabilities.'" He said, "What are our capabilities of taking out ... the silos, the locations of where these devices are, are they spread across the country, what do we know?" Moran added, "What are our capabilities for missile defense? ... Do we have the ability to bring that [North Korean] missile down before it does damage to the United States or our allies?"

Meanwhile, [The Hill](#) (8/11, Bowden) reports Rep. David Cicilline, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, sent a letter Friday to House Speaker Ryan asking him to "immediately" reconvene the House in the face of escalating tension between the U.S. and North

Korea." Cicilline said, "In light of the ongoing standoff between the United States and North Korea, as well as President Trump's reckless words, I ask that you immediately call the House of Representatives back into session to debate legislation prohibiting the U.S. from conducting a preemptive nuclear strike without prior congressional authorization." The Hill adds Cicilline also "accused the president of making 'a dangerous situation even worse' in the Korean Peninsula with his promise that North Korea would face 'fire and fury' if it continued to threaten the U.S. and its allies."

Rep. Gregory Meeks, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/11, 5:08 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) that while Trump is "drawing red lines," he is "also acting like a child. When you look at Kim Jong-un, we don't go down to his level. That's what they've been doing forever." Meeks added Trump is "supposed to be the leader of the free world." Meeks also said Trump's "credibility is shot with reference to the North Koreans and the rest of the world in this sense. Listen, everybody knows how strong the United States of America is and the military fire power we have. Everybody knows." Meeks added that he hoped Tillerson, McMaster, and Haley would explain to Trump "in terms he will understand that he's being unpresidential, and he's not helping the scenario and in fact, endangering."

[The Hill](#) (8/11, Greenwood) reports Rep. Ted Lieu, a colonel in the Air Force Reserves, on Friday also "slammed President Trump's rhetoric toward North Korea as 'reckless' and urged him to pursue a diplomatic solution to Washington's escalating tensions with Pyongyang." In a video posted on Twitter by progressive advocacy group VoteVets, Lieu said, "We need to engage in diplomacy. That's the one thing that Donald Trump has not yet done." He added, "before the president takes us down the dark and bloody path of a catastrophic war, he needs to first engage in diplomacy. ... He owes that to the American people and I call on the president to do that first before issuing provocative and senseless and reckless statements."

US Allies, China, Russia Urge Trump To Proceed Carefully With North Korea Threats. In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (8/11, A1, Deyoung, Wagner, Johnson) reports "calls for more intense diplomacy on North Korea vied Friday with threats of force, with little sense of what strategy would prevail in Washington or Pyongyang or which leader would blink first." The [New York Times](#) (8/11, Chan) reports German Chancellor Angela Merkel and other world leaders "expressed alarm on Friday at the bellicose language emanating from North Korea and the United States, but also [signaled] support for President Trump, as they sought to allay their citizens' fears of a nuclear war on the Korean Peninsula." The Times adds that "among America's allies, Australia was perhaps the most decisive in denouncing North Korea's weapons program." While Merkel "said diplomacy offered the only way out of the crisis," Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull asserted his country stands "shoulder-to-shoulder with the United States."

However, the [New York Times](#) (8/11, Sang-Hun) reports South Korea on Friday said that "the White House had agreed not to do anything on the Korean Peninsula that would catch the South off guard." Chung Eui-yong, the top national security adviser for South Korean President Moon Jae-in, spoke with McMaster by phone for 40 minutes on Friday morning. A spokesman for Moon said, "Both South Korea and the United States reaffirmed their promise that as they take step-by-step measures to ensure their security and the safety of their peoples, they will coordinate with each other closely and transparently."

The [New York Times](#) (8/11, Soble) reports Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has been put in "a tough spot," as Trump has become "an American president who seems overtly eager to confront their mutual adversary, North Korea." Although "the latest escalation of tensions might seem to play into Mr. Abe's hands," the Times says that "Trump's combative language on North Korea makes matters trickier for Mr. Abe." The Times adds that because "North Korea's neighbors would probably bear the brunt of its attacks," in both Japan and South Korea, "support for military action against the North is low," which Trump's rhetoric "is hardly helping to change."

Meanwhile, [Reuters](#) (8/11, Solovyov) reports Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov "said on Friday the risks of a military conflict over North Korea's nuclear program are very high, and Moscow is deeply worried by the mutual threats being traded by Washington and Pyongyang." Lavrov stated, "Unfortunately, the rhetoric in Washington and Pyongyang is now starting to go over the top. We still hope and believe that common sense will prevail." He added, "Direct threats of using force are heard. ... The talk (in Washington) is that there must be a preventive strike made on North Korea, while Pyongyang is threatening to carry out a missile strike on the U.S. base in Guam. These (threats) continue non-stop, and they worry us a lot."

However, the [Washington Post](#) (8/11, Denyer) reports the Global Times, a Chinese state-owned newspaper, warned in a Friday editorial that "China won't come to North Korea's help if it launches missiles threatening U.S. soil and there is retaliation," but Beijing "would intervene if Washington strikes first." The Post adds "the Global Times newspaper is not an official

mouthpiece of the Communist Party, but in this case its editorial probably does reflect government policy, experts said." Nonetheless, [Reuters](#) (8/11, Wen) reports Chinese tourists appear to be "undeterred by escalating tensions between Pyongyang and Washington rattling nerves" and continue to travel to North Korea. Reuters adds "tour operators said their industry remains robust."

Kissinger, Panetta, Mudd, Bolton, Gore Discuss Trump's Options On North Korea. In a [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/11, Kissinger) op-ed, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger lauds the UN Security Council for passing new sanctions on North Korea earlier this month, but warns the time for waiting is over and action is necessary to stop Kim from developing a full-scale nuclear capacity. While he urges the Administration to embrace restraint, Kissinger argues the US should not rule out the use of military force against Pyongyang. He also calls for China, South Korea, and Japan to step up and participate in the peace process.

Former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/11, 6:22 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) that Trump's rhetoric "raises a lot of concern," and that the North Korean threat poses "possibly the most serious crisis involving a potential nuclear war since the Cuban missile crisis." He said Trump must "speak in a steady and calm and stable and responsible way, because the rhetoric that's going on is simply fueling this situation and creating something that concerns me, which is that at some point there is a miscalculation, a mistake." Panetta [continued](#) that "one of the things we've learned over 60 years in dealing with various North Korean dictators is that you can't outbully a bully. And the reality is that rather than engaging in this kind of loose talk, which I think, very frankly, undermines the power and prestige of the United States of America," that "the rest of the world" is simultaneously "listening and trying to figure out what is going on."

Panetta [added](#) he finds "it hard to believe that countries throughout the world are not deeply concerned about what is happening here," because they "see the prospect of two countries, because of miscalculation, because of words, because of a misstep, that may wind up in a nuclear war, potential for a nuclear war. Nobody in the world wants that to happen. Nobody. And for that reason, I think there are a lot of nervous world leaders in countries around the world that are trying to figure out just exactly what's going to happen here. And I would certainly include Japan and South Korea and the countries in the South Pacific being worried about just exactly what's going to happen."

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/11, 5:37 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), Philip Mudd, a former deputy director of the CIA's Counterterrorist Center and the FBI's National Security Branch as well as a former Director for Gulf Affairs on the National Security Council, said he does not believe Trump "is losing traction" on the matter, and "we have an end game." Senior political analyst Mark Preston said Jong-un's unpredictability constitutes the "big wildcard" right now. Mudd also [acknowledged](#) that intelligence on the North Korean threat "is difficult intelligence to acquire," because it entails "technical information" about a missile launch, which is "an intelligence bonanza" and "not golden intelligence." Second, "North Koreans don't get out of North Korea much," and finally, "I think people in this country don't understand well the power of propaganda." Mudd [added](#) that Trump is endangering national security because in his social media actions, he "threatening a fourth-rate national power and ensuring Kim Jong-un realizes the President is going to elevate his profile internationally by engaging in this game every day."

Meanwhile, [The Hill](#) (8/11, Delk) reports former Vice President Al Gore told Newsweek on Friday that Trump "can't be blamed" for the tensions with North Korea. Gore asserted, "I think it's only fair to point out he inherited this crisis." He added, "The previous three presidents were not able to find an adequate solution, so he can't be blamed for all of this." However, Gore warned Trump's "intemperate comments on North Korea were really unwise."

Former UN Ambassador John Bolton in a [Breitbart](#) (8/11, Hayward) interview "proposed reunification as the solution to the North Korean nuclear missile crisis." He said Trump "made it clear that this is a different president than the one that North Korea and China have faced for the last eight years," though Bolton cautioned "there's a limit to" the President's rhetoric, as Trump should understand that the more he "makes these kinds of remarks, it gets harder and harder to back away from a very tough stance without risking grave damage to his credibility." According to Bolton, "No amount of negotiation is going to talk North Korea out of it. We've tried that, mistakenly in my view, for 25 years. It's failed." He added, "Either we do something dramatically different diplomatically – my proposal is to convince China to reunite the Korean Peninsula – then you're down to military action. Nobody wants it, but nobody wants to be in the position Trump finds himself in after 25 years of failure."

WPost, Columnists, Analysts Consider Trump's Response To North Korea. The [Washington Post](#) (8/11) editorializes that President Trump ultimately has two options for dealing with North

Korea and its leader, Kim Jong Un: "to live with a nuclear North Korea, as we have long lived with a nuclear China, hoping to deter its use of nuclear weapons by assuring Mr. Kim that his regime's destruction would immediately ensue. The other is to assemble a coalition of nations to impose economic sanctions sufficiently punitive and targeted at the regime that Mr. Kim decides he would be better off making a deal." The Post contends "it is worth trying the latter before accepting the former," but for this "to be successful, such a strategy also would require patience, diplomacy, coherence and quiet strength. Just to list those qualities is to acknowledge how unlikely success seems at this moment."

New York Times columnist Thomas Friedman said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/11, 5:20 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), "I don't object to the President doing a little madman game here with the North Koreans. It's clearly got their attention," and appears aimed at compelling "the Chinese to act, because they really have the greatest leverage." Ultimately, however, "it's got to be connected to a diplomatic pathway, to a solution. The question is, is it?" Friedman explained Pyongyang will not likely offer a unilateral surrender, so "what's not clear to me here" is what Trump will offer in exchange. Friedman [added](#) (8/11, 5:27 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) that Tillerson, McMaster, and Haley are "serious people," but "what worries me" is whether they constitute a team with "a coherent strategy" because "you see them often out in multiple directions."

[Bloomberg View](#) (8/11, Lake) columnist Eli Lake contends that "the most depressing aspect of the current North Korean crisis is that even if Donald Trump wins, he loses." Lake suggests "The president's recent bellicosity aims for deterrence and leverage," as "in substance, if not style, this is very similar to how past administrations have approached the Hermit Kingdom: threaten, cajole and bargain." While he acknowledges "the critics of war are correct. A pre-emptive strike is not worth the risk," Lake asserts "neither is another deal" for several reasons, namely that "the North Koreans don't keep their promises." Lake argues that "traditional 'regime change' should be off the table. But this should not stop the U.S. and its allies from helping to create conditions for the day when Koreans can take their country back. This requires some patience and imagination."

In her [New York Times](#) (8/11, Collins) column, Gail Collins states that "I believe I speak for a great many Americans when I say I am scared as hell of a confrontation between the head of the strongest nation in the world, who once wanted to play the president in 'Sharknado 3,' and a nuclear power dictator whose favorite house guest is Dennis Rodman." Collins contends "Let's just pray his current bellicosity is all hot air and no balloon" before concluding "our best hope [is] that the guy with the nuclear football is not necessarily the same person as the one sending out loopy messages on his smartphone. People who've dealt with the private Trump often say they found him less crazy than the public version."

In his [New York Times](#) (8/11, Egan) column, Timothy Egan urges Trump on behalf of the residents of California, Oregon, Washington state, Alaska, Hawaii, and Guam to embrace restraint because "We West Coasters can't go our separate way on nukes, as we're doing on climate change, vowing to adhere to the Paris accord even as you turn your back on the rest of the world. We don't have a shield. We don't control the nuclear code." He adds "sanctions, like those just approved by the United Nations, are a good deterrence" and although "diplomacy is hard. ... it beats the alternative."

Trump To Launch Investigation Of China Trade Policies Amid Growing Frustration With Beijing Over North Korea.

White House officials announced Saturday that President Trump this week will direct USTR Lighthizer to probe China's trade policies for intellectual property violations. Media coverage, which includes more than seven and a half minutes on the network newscasts, was also extensive in print and online. Reporting suggested that the investigation is an attempt by Trump to pressure China into taking a more forceful stance toward North Korea while appealing to the President's base at the same time.

In a front-page article on Trump's "diplomatic gamble," the [New York Times](#) (8/12, A1, Perlez, Baker) says that the President is "seeking to enlist China as a peacemaker in the bristling nuclear-edged dispute with North Korea at the very moment he plans to ratchet up conflict with Beijing over trade issues that have animated his political rise." In a separate article, the [New York Times](#) (8/12, Thrush, Rappeport) reports "Trump is planning to jab, not punch, China for allegedly stealing intellectual property from American businesses, part of an effort to fulfill his hard-edge campaign promises on trade without alienating Beijing during the crisis over North Korea's nuclear weapons program."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/12, Schlesinger) reports White House officials announced the

President will sign a directive on Monday ordering Lighthizer to begin the formal probe, which will investigate if the Chinese government and state-owned companies stole or otherwise coerced US companies into giving up patents and other IP. The [Washington Post](#) (8/12, Swanson) reports on its front page that the probe "could result in severe trade penalties, a threat the United States could wield to pressure Beijing into improving its economic behavior and doing more to contain North Korea's nuclear threat." According to the Post, the investigation "would seek to address what the U.S. business community has described as flagrant trade violations by China" and "may also prove to be a source of leverage to push China to do more to help contain a rising security threat from North Korea, which counts Beijing as its only powerful ally." However, analysts warned the Post that "the measure could also backfire, resulting in more hostility and tension between the world's two largest economies at a time when their cooperation is critical to a diplomatic resolution on North Korea."

While [Reuters](#) (8/12, Wroughton) reports an Administration official "insisted diplomacy over North Korea and the potential trade probe were 'totally unrelated,' saying the trade action was not a pressure tactic," [Politico](#) (8/12, Restuccia) states that the investigation "will mark the escalation of Trump's increasingly aggressive posture toward China." Politico adds that in response to North Korea's belligerence in recent weeks, "Trump has raged behind the scenes and in public, urged on by China hawks in his administration like trade adviser Peter Navarro and chief strategist Steve Bannon."

Media Analyses: Trump Unnerves Allies With Comments On North Korea. In an analysis, the [AP](#) (8/12, Lemire) says Trump thus far has "responded to perhaps the sternest international test of his presidency in precisely the way that some supporters had hoped and critics feared." The AP adds "the mix of plain-spoken bluster, spontaneity and norm-breaking risk defined his political rise, and it's guided his approach on North Korea. When the isolated communist nation punched, Trump tried to punch back harder, as he did in campaign debates. But this was not a Florida debate stage or a low-stakes celebrity Twitter spat of the sort Trump perfected before entering politics."

In a front-page analysis, the [New York Times](#) (8/12, A1, Thrush, Baker) says the President's "four-day fusillade of apocalyptic threats against North Korea [has] left many in Washington and capitals throughout the Pacific wondering whether it was more method or madness." According to the Times, "It was not the first time in his unconventional presidency that Mr. Trump had unnerved friend and foe alike, but never before had it seemed so consequential." The Times adds that some of the President's advisers "quietly asked each other in recent days if Mr. Trump's bellicosity toward North Korea is part of some thought-out strategy that they have not been told about or what they suspect is just more on-the-fly instinct. But some aides have found themselves surprised at other moments when Mr. Trump has done something unexpected and seemingly random, only to explain his thinking afterward in a way that indicated more calculation than they had thought."

[USA Today](#) (8/12, Maresca) reports that as the President "ramps up his bellicose rhetoric toward North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, leaders and ordinary citizens across Asia are watching with various states of alarm, unsure which man poses a greater danger to their safety." USA Today states that in Seoul, South Korea, "many say they aren't particularly concerned about the escalating threats coming from the North Korean government, which has long menaced its next-door neighbor," but in the Philippines, "many residents are watching the situation with concern." USA Today adds that "other reaction around the Asian region was a mixture of wariness and confusion."

In her [New York Times](#) (8/12, Dowd) column, Maureen Dowd calls the "precipice of bluster, threatening exchanges between" President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un "particularly disturbing because they mirror each other in so many unhinged ways." She says much "of what Trump does may be loudmouth blather," but the North Korean threat "is real" and poses "the most severe test since the Cuban missile crisis."

[New York Times](#) (8/12, Douthat) columnist Ross Douthat outlines "the sequence of events that gave us the Cuban crisis," and posits President Trump's "showdown" with North Korea's Kim Jong-un "isn't the first time a reckless, lecherous U.S. president obsessed with his own vigor and out of his depth on foreign policy faced off against a thirtysomething dictator armed with nukes." The US ultimately "survived the Cuban missile crisis," Douthat says, so "there's probably a way to get through this one, too." He acknowledges "manifold" differences in the two scenarios, and suggests if the President averts "war, it will be because Trump is fundamentally a bluffer, who will issue threats on Twitter but won't overrule his advisers if they tell him not to give an order that will leave hundreds of thousands dead."

Xi Urges Trump To Embrace Restraint Against North Korea. [Reuters](#) (8/8, Oliphant,

Blanchard) reports Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping spoke in a phone call Friday. According to Reuters, Xi "said there needs to be a peaceful resolution to the North Korean nuclear issue," telling Trump that "he urged all sides to avoid words or action that raise tensions." In a statement, the Chinese Foreign Ministry quoted Xi as saying, "Concerned parties must exercise restraint and avoid remarks and actions that escalate tensions on the Korean peninsula."

[Reuters](#) (8/12, O'Brien) reports the White House in a statement said Trump and Xi "reiterated their mutual commitment to denuclearize the Korean peninsula" and they "agreed that the recent adoption of a United Nations Security Council resolution on North Korea was an important step toward achieving peace and stability on the peninsula." The White House said Trump and Xi "agreed North Korea must stop its provocative and escalatory behavior," adding, the "relationship between the two presidents is an extremely close one, and will hopefully lead to a peaceful resolution of the North Korea problem."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (8/12, story 4, 2:25, Diaz-Balart) said many believe "China, with its strong ties in North Korea, may be key to reining in the regime." Reporting from Dandong, China, correspondent Janis Mackey Frayer explained, "North Korea's economic lifeline – the bridge connecting it to China. More than three-quarters of trade with the regime passes here." Mackey Frayer said as "severe United Nations sanctions could slash a third of North Korea's export revenue, at the choke point, this single-lane bridge, is business as usual. 'It's normal to trade with North Korea,' says this business owner. 'There's nothing to fear.' But these days, tension is running high. Deep suspicion of foreign journalists forced us to keep a low profile. As North Korea's biggest ally and trading partner, China's pressure is crucial. Those sanctions alone have never worked."

[Washington Post](#) (8/12, Von Drehle) columnist David Von Drehle says the North Korean crisis "is very much China's moment," and how it "handles the brinkmanship of Kim Jong Un is the most important test the Chinese have yet faced in their decades-long effort to take a place in the first rank of world powers." He explains the challenge will measure Beijing's reliability, economic strength, and "readiness to lead." Von Drehle says President "Trump's bellicose tone in recent days has been regrettable, but the underlying content of his words is entirely true: The United States possesses the power to destroy North Korea many times over," but in this crisis, "it is China that stands at the crossroads." Beijing's failure, Von Drehle cautions, will "set back China's rise for decades to come."

Trump, France's Macron Discuss Additional UN Sanctions Against North Korea. Errol Barnett of the [CBS Weekend News](#) (8/12, story 2, 2:00, Ninan) reported President Trump is "considering an additional sanctions package" against North Korea "that, in his words, would be as strong as they get." On Saturday, Trump spoke "with French President Emmanuel Macron about enforcing existing UN sanctions, as well as working together to achieve North Korean de-nuclearization."

[Reuters](#) (8/12, Rucker) reports the White House said in a statement that Trump and Macron "discussed the need to confront the increasingly dangerous situation associated with North Korea's destabilizing and escalatory behavior." North Korea Issues Another Threat Toward US.

[ABC World News Tonight](#)'s (8/12, story 5, 3:10, Vega) chief global affairs correspondent Martha Raddatz reported that on Saturday, after almost "a week of threats on both sides," North Korean leader Kim Jong-un issued "a new warning" that was "clearly a response to President Trump's string of warnings." North Korean state-run media cautioned, "If the Trump administration does not want the American empire to meet its tragic doom...they had better talk and act properly."

The [Washington Times](#) (8/12, Taylor) reports Pyongyang's official KCNA news agency released the report "a day after – and appeared to be a response to – international headlines that Mr. Trump had made Friday by asserting that the U.S. is 'locked and loaded' and will take action against the regime of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un 'if he utters one threat.'"

In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (8/12, A1, Fifield) reports "the Kim regime has a history of making bellicose threats that it cannot or does not make good on. This may well be one of those cases. Or it might not." According to the Post, "The problem with trying to figure out what Kim might do in a situation like this is severely complicated by the fact that the outside world knows almost nothing about him."

Trump Says US Stands With Guam "1,000 Percent," Predicts North Korea Threats Will Increase Tourism "Tenfold." The [New York Times](#) (8/12, Cagurangan) reports President Trump on Friday called Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo and told him he predicts the threats from North Korea will help the island territory increase tourism "tenfold." In a recording posted "on the Republican governor's Facebook page and other social media accounts," Trump said, "I have to tell you, you have become extremely famous all over the world. They are talking about Guam; and they're talking about you." The President added when that it comes to tourism, "I can say this: You're going to

go up, like, tenfold with the expenditure of no money." Trump also asserted, "You are safe. We're with you 1,000 percent."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/12, Wagner) reports Calvo told Trump that "as the governor of Guam, representing the people of Guam, and as an American citizen, I have never felt more safe or so confident, with you at the helm." [Breitbart](#) (8/12, Spiering) reports he also "praised Trump for his leadership, lamenting the criticism coming from Washington, DC, bureaucrats and the media." Calvo said that despite "all the criticism going on over there, from a guy that's being targeted, we need a president like you, so I'm just so thankful, and I'm glad you're holding the helm, sir."

However, the [Washington Post](#) (8/12, Phillips, Wagner) reports "in talking about the heightened international attention to the island, Margaret Metcalfe, director of Calvo's Washington office, said: 'None of this is good publicity.'" In an interview, Metcalfe told the Post on Saturday, "I'm just saying that is the result of what's happening. Nobody asked for it. Nobody wanted it. It happened. We pray day and night. ... And we hope that calmness prevail and balance prevail. We certainly don't want to do anything that would put our families at risk." Metcalfe added, "I don't think anyone can really predict what our president may offer, because he is one of those thinkers outside the box. But right now, I can tell you, in Guam, our flights are arriving from South Korea and Japan. ... Tourists are coming as normal even with all these fights from the media."

USAF Commander: Guam Air Base Prepared To Respond To North Korean Attack. Vladimir Dunthiers, in a segment for the [CBS Weekend News](#) (8/12, story 3, 2:55, Ninan) "CBSN: On Assignment" special series, reported the Andersen Air Force Base in Guam, approximately 2,100 miles from North Korea, "has the largest stockpile of fuel and munitions in the Air Force" and "can respond to threats from the Middle East, Asia, and across the Pacific." Col. Sam White of the US Air Force said troops at the base "stand ready to respond to a wide range of things at the President's call. That's the reason why we have the continuous bomber presence mission, is to give the President of the United States sovereign options against threats to the US. So we're ready today." Dunthiers continued, "Due to North Korea's difficult mountainous terrain and deep bunkers, these types of munitions could be of vital importance in the event of a conflict."

Meanwhile, a [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/11, Cheng) analysis examines how South Korea would defend its 25 million citizens living in Seoul against an attack from North Korea. The [AP](#) (8/12, Riechmann) reports that although US intelligence officials "are pretty sure North Korea can put a nuclear warhead on an intercontinental missile that could reach the United States," experts "aren't convinced the bomb could make it all that way intact," as "they cite lingering questions about North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's nuclear know-how."

US Geological Survey

With 8 Threatening Volcanoes, USGS Says California Deserves Close Monitoring.

The [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (8/11, Ellison) reports "the many famous, prominent and dangerous volcanoes of the West Coast will be the subject of field trips and much discussion" at this upcoming annual meeting of the International Association of Volcanology and Chemistry of the Earth's Interior taking place in Portland, Oregon from August 14 to 18. According to the story, USGS says there are eight volcanoes in California worthy of close monitoring, and "among the 18 'very high threat volcanoes,' 11 are along the Cascade Range in three states (Alaska and Hawaii have the others)."

Top National News

Trump, White House Under Bipartisan Criticism For Response To Charlottesville Violence.

Second-day coverage of President Trump's response to Saturday's violence in Charlottesville, Virginia was harshly negative, with near-universal criticism of the President's initial statement and many questions about why Sunday's White House follow-up was not made in the President's name. The two networks that ran Sunday evening newscasts opened with reports on the violence itself, but then ran stories on the bipartisan criticism of the President's remarks. Republican Twitter criticism dissipated somewhat on Sunday, but pundits and Democrats remained vocal. Brian Stelter of [CNN's Reliable Sources](#) (8/13) summed up the general mood: "You could make the case that Saturday was the worst day of the Trump presidency, with so many commentators

– including major Republican commentators and GOP senators and congressmen – criticizing the President for his half-hearted response.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/13, story 3, 2:55, Llamas) reported that the President is “facing intense backlash for his response to all the violence, refusing to specifically condemn the hatred unleashed by the white supremacists.” ABC’s David Wright: “Today, the White House struggled to shore up the President Trump’s equivocal response to Charlottesville. ... ‘Of course that includes white supremacists, KKK, neo-Nazi and all extremist groups,’ an unnamed White House official explained today. But Trump has yet to call out those groups for inciting the violence in Virginia.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (8/13, story 2, 2:40, Snow) reported, “President Trump called for unity after yesterday’s violence, but for some including members of his own party, the message fell flat, and today many called for a more forceful denouncement of white nationalism.” NBC’s Kelly O’Donnell: “For a presidency forged by blunt talk, what Donald Trump did not say is politically deafening. ... The President seemed alone in spreading blame for the violence. His omission, choosing not to call out white supremacist groups, some known to support him. A failure, according to critics and many Republicans.”

The [Washington Post](#) (8/13, Johnson, Demirjian) reports that though the White House said that Trump “condemned ‘all forms of violence, bigotry and hatred’ that were on display in Charlottesville this weekend ‘of course that includes white supremacists, KKK, Neo-Nazi and all extremist groups,’” that “clarification stopped far short of what a growing number of Republicans have urged the president to do: directly call out and condemn white supremacy.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/13, Radnofsky, Michaels) reports that the White House statement was not attributed to any specific official. The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/13, Feldscher) reports that “the spokesperson refused to go on the record with his or her name and would not give reporters in New Jersey a reason why the statement could not be attributed.” [Politico](#) (8/13, Cook) reports that the “clarification came less than 24 hours after Trump seemingly blamed both white supremacists and counterprotesters for the vitriol and clashes.” Kaitlan Collins said on [CNN’s Reliable Sources](#) (8/13, Stelter), “Why not attribute that to a White House official like Sarah Huckabee Sanders or another spokesman or the President himself, if he really does condemn hatred in all forms including neo-Nazism, and the KKK, why not put your name on that statement?”

The [AP](#) (8/13, Lemire) reports that the White House “scrambled Sunday to elaborate on” the President’s response “as he came under bipartisan scolding for not clearly condemning white supremacists and other hate groups immediately after the altercations.” The President “remained out of sight and silent, save for a few retweets.” [Bloomberg News](#) (8/13, House, Talev, Epstein) reports the President “faced a second day of criticism after failing to personally denounce” the white supremacists.

The [New York Times](#) (8/13, Thrush) reports that “criticism” of the President “intensified on Sunday, with lawmakers from both parties calling on him to explicitly condemn the role of white racists and agitators affiliated with the so-called alt-right, some of whom brandished pro-Trump banners and campaign placards during [the] violent protests.” Dan Merica said on [CNN’s New Day Sunday](#) (8/13), “What the President didn’t say yesterday is what is getting the most attention. Yes, President Trump did condemn the violence, the hatred that we saw on the streets of Charlottesville yesterday, but he didn’t condemn the alt-right and white nationalists that really started a lot of that violence.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/13, King) writes, “Sometimes what President Trump doesn’t say causes his aides more headaches than things he does.” The White House “defended the president’s failure to explicitly condemn white supremacists” as “criticism of the president poured in for a second day, including from some GOP allies who added their voices to the chorus of opprobrium from Democrats.” [Breitbart](#) (8/13, Spiering) reports, “Media and political figures were furious after the president failed to specifically condemn the white nationalist forces that triggered the violent uproar.”

Julie Pace of the [AP](#) (8/13) writes, “Why doesn’t President Donald Trump just unequivocally condemn white supremacists? It’s a jarring question to ask about an American president. But it’s also one made unavoidable by Trump’s delayed, blame-both-sides response. ... At times, his approach has seemingly inflamed racial tensions in a deeply divided country while emboldening groups long in the shadows.” [The Hill](#) (8/13, Manchester) reports that the White House “was forced to clarify” the President’s response. [Reuters](#) (8/13, Simpson) and the [Daily Caller](#) (8/13, Bennett) also report on the White House statement.

E.J. Dionne writes in his [Washington Post](#) (8/13) column, “There are not, as Trump insisted

Saturday, 'many sides' to questions that were settled long ago: Racism, anti-Semitism, discrimination and white supremacy are unequivocally wrong. A president who cannot bring himself to say this immediately and unequivocally squanders any claim to moral leadership."

Petula Dvorak writes in her [Washington Post](#) (8/13) column, "President Trump lit every one of those torches in Charlottesville. ... When the mob of white men marched in Charlottesville carrying flaming torches Friday night shouting 'Heil Trump' as the curtain-raiser for a day of violent clashes with counterprotesters that left three people dead, they showed the world that America is once again playing with fire. And Trump was the one with the match."

Kelly Jane Torrance of the Weekly Standard said on [CNN's New Day Sunday](#) (8/13), "We have been waiting for months for Donald Trump really, if not more than a year, to condemn white nationalism and to say these people say that they are doing it in my name and they say they are supporters of me. We've been waiting for him to strongly disavow them and he hasn't done it. And I think it's really about time for him to do so."

Anne Applebaum [tweeted](#), "No post-hoc White House statement makes up for Trump's cowardice. We now know exactly who and what he fears to criticize." Perry Bacon Jr. of FiveThirtyEight [tweeted](#), "If Bannon is telling Trump to go with this weekend's approach, that matters. But I think we are over-covering staff. Trump is the decider." Fox News' Jediah Bila [tweeted](#), "Trump shouldn't only publicly condemn white supremacists, but outright reject their support. They should find no safe space in his realm."

Conservative writer Erick Erickson [tweeted](#), "Never forget how Trump's media propagandists tried to excuse and give cover to the alt-right." Matt Fuller of the Huffington Post [tweeted](#), "People Trump has criticized more harshly than neo-Nazis: -Mitch McConnell -POWs -A Gold Star family -The Pope." Bill Kristol [tweeted](#), "WH staff told Trump they had to put out a statement, but couldn't prevail on him to say it himself, in the first person. A revealing moment." Jeremy Peters of the New York Times [tweeted](#), "The right said Obama was soft on terror for not calling it out, blaming Islamists. By extension, Trump is being soft on white nationalism." Amanda Terkel of the Huffington Post [tweeted](#), "Trump White House, basically: All violence matters."

Pence Denounces White Supremacists While Defending Trump. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/13, Radnofsky) reports under the headline "Pence Goes Beyond Trump In Condemning White Supremacists" that Vice President Pence, who is in Colombia, made a more forceful and explicit statement on Sunday evening. The [Washington Times](#) (8/13, Boyer) reports that Pence said, "We have no tolerance for hate and violence from white supremacists, neo-Nazis or the KKK. These dangerous fringe groups have no place in American public life and in the American debate, and we condemn them in the strongest possible terms." However, Pence "also criticized those who have accused Mr. Trump of not speaking out strongly enough," saying that "Trump on Saturday 'clearly and unambiguously condemned the bigotry, violence and hatred which took place on the streets of Charlottesville.'"

[Politico](#) (8/13, Cohen) reports that Pence "criticized the media for its coverage" of Trump's remarks. He said, "I take issue with the fact that many in the national media spent more time criticizing the President's words than they did criticizing those that perpetrated the violence to begin with." Tim Alberta of Politico [tweeted](#), "Typical needle-threading from @VP: Takes it further than Trump, while clarifying that Trump himself went plenty far enough."

McMaster, Pompeo, Bossert Defend Trump's Statement. On [ABC's This Week](#) (8/13), National Security Adviser McMaster said, "The President called out anyone...responsible for" encouraging "this kind of bigotry and hatred, racism and violence." He added that he thought the President "was very clear on that." On [NBC's Meet The Press](#) (8/13, Todd), McMaster was asked why the President didn't single out the neo-Nazi protesters. McMaster said, "When he condemned bigotry and hatred on all sides, that includes them." He said what was "important to the president" was "to bring all Americans together." On [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (8/13, Dickerson), CIA Director Pompeo said that he believed the President had been specific in condemning bigotry, hatred, and violence.

The [Washington Times](#) (8/13, Wolfgang) reports that White House Homeland Security Adviser Bossert, appearing on CNN's State Of The Union, "said he was proud of the president's comments on Saturday." Bossert said, "I, for one, was with the President yesterday and proud of the fact he stood up and calmly looked into the camera and condemned this violence and bigotry in all its forms."

USA Today: Ivanka Trump Issued "More Pointed Assessment." [USA Today](#) (8/13, Collins) reports, "The day after deadly protests that occurred in Charlottesville, Va. following a 'Unite the Right' white nationalist rally, Ivanka Trump issued a more pointed assessment of blame than her father." She [tweeted](#), "There should be no place in society for racism, white supremacy and neo-

nazis." The [Washington Post](#) (8/13, Phillips) says that she "tweeted a reaction with a level of specificity that was absent in her father's statement."

Gardner, Graham Urge Stronger Statement From Trump. Sen. Cory Gardner said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (8/13, Tapper) that he sent his own message that the white supremacy is evil and asserted that the same message "must be acknowledged as such by the White House." He called the behavior at the protest for what it is: evil. He said, that Trump "should use this opportunity to say this is terrorism." Sen. Lindsey Graham said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (8/13, Wallace) that President Trump "missed an opportunity to be very explicit here." He said that the supremacist groups seem to think they have a friend in the White House and he urges "the President to dissuade these groups that he's their friend."

The [Washington Times](#) (8/13, Wolfgang) reports that Sens. Ted Cruz, Orrin Hatch, Marco Rubio and other Republicans "condemned the deadly demonstration. But Mr. Trump's handling of the situation fueled commentary that he is comfortable with the support of white nationalist groups, some of which praised his remarks." [Politico](#) (8/13, Cook) reports, "Republicans joined civil rights leaders and Democrats who reacted angrily" to Trump's initial statement, "just the latest example of members of his party starting to carefully take on a president whose words and actions many chose to overlook after his surprise 2016 victory."

However, Rep. Tom Garrett (R-VA), who represents Charlottesville, said on [Fox News' Sunday Morning Futures](#), "I think we ought to, on both sides of the aisle, take him at face value right now and not criticize whether the condemnation was condemning enough or what have you. Let's find something to unite over."

House Democrats Continue Criticism Via Twitter. Several House Democrats posted critical tweets about Trump's response, while Republicans were largely quiet on Sunday after some critical tweets on Saturday. Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA) [tweeted](#), "Donald Trump's staff asked him to personally deliver a statement denouncing white supremacists. He refused." Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA) [tweeted](#), "Many sides? This is about one side emboldened by Trump's hateful rhetoric. Must keep standing against violence & bigotry." Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA) [tweeted](#), "There are many sides to @realDonaldTrump, but why does he appear beholden to David Duke and Vladimir Putin?"

Rep. Jacky Rosen (D-NV) [tweeted](#), "The fact President Trump failed to explicitly condemn the white supremacist ideology behind this evil from day 1 is beyond shameful." Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA) [tweeted](#), "Mr President, call it what it is: radical white supremacist terror." The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/13, Lim) reports that Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA) "excoriated President Trump on social media...saying the White House is now the 'White Supremacists' House." She [tweeted](#), "Trump has made it clear – w/ Bannon & Gorka in the WH, & the Klan in the streets, it is now the White Supremacists' House."

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/13) links the violence to the rise of identity politics, and writes that Democrats seemed more interested in tarring Trump this weekend than in addressing racial and ethnic divisions.

Scaramucci: Trump "Needed To Be Much Harsher." Anthony Scaramucci said on [ABC's This Week](#) (8/13), "I think he needed to be much harsher as it related to the white supremacists. With the moral authority of the presidency, you have to call that stuff out." The [Washington Post](#) (8/13, Phillips, Wagner) reports that Scaramucci said, "He likes doing the opposite of what the media thinks he's going to do. I think he's also of the impression that there's hatred on all sides, but I disagree with it."

NYTimes: Trump Was "Placating White Supremacists" With His Statement. The [New York Times](#) (8/13) editorializes, "Let's discard the fiction that President Trump wasn't placating white supremacists by responding so weakly. ... The neo-Nazis heard his message loud and clear." Trump "is alone in modern presidential history in his willingness to summon demons of bigotry and intolerance in service to himself." His "fear of naming the source of Saturday's violence sharply contrasts with his eagerness to call out Islamist terror."

WPost Analysis: White Supremacists "Loved Trump's Remarks." The [Washington Post](#) (8/13, Wang) reports under the headline "One Group Loved Trump's Remarks About Charlottesville: White Supremacists" that the President's "choice of words – and the silence that preceded them – are being cheered by at least a few groups of people: neo-Nazis and white nationalists." The Daily Stormer, "a neo-Nazi website...declared the president's words as a signal of tacit support for their side: 'Trump comments were good. He didn't attack us. He just said the nation should come together. Nothing specific against us.'" (The hacker collective Anonymous [took control](#) of the Daily Stormer early Monday, vowing to shut it down permanently.)

Charlottesville Mayor Says Trump Courted White Supremacists During Campaign. The

[Washington Times](#) (8/13, Wolfgang) reports that Charlottesville Mayor Michael Signer said Sunday that Trump “deserves at least some of the blame.” Signer said on CNN’s State Of The Union, “Look at the campaign he ran. Look at the intentional courting, on one hand, of all these white supremacists, white nationalists...and look on the other hand at the repeated failure to step up, condemn, denounce, silence, put to bed all of these different efforts, just like we saw yesterday. This isn’t hard.”

DOJ Opens Civil Rights Investigation Into Car Attack. The [Washington Times](#) (8/12, Noble) reports that the Justice Department has opened a civil rights investigation “into the circumstances under which a vehicle plowed into a crowd of people” protesting on Saturday. Twenty-year-old James Alex Fields has been charged “with second-degree murder and other crimes” in the death of 32-year-old Heather Heyer. The [Washington Post](#) (8/13, Shapiro, Silverman, Vozzella, Cox) reports that Fields “long sympathized with Nazi views and had stood with a group of white supremacists hours before Saturday’s bloody crash.” His former history teacher said that Fields “had espoused extremist ideals at least since high school.” The New York Daily News [Monday cover](#) features a picture of Fields with the headline “The Nazi Trump Won’t Call Out.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/13, lead story, 4:05, Llamas) and [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/13, lead story, 3:50, Snow) opened by summarizing Saturday’s events and Fields’ arrest. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/13, story 2, 3:00, Llamas), [Reuters](#) (8/13, Woodall), and the [New York Times](#) (8/13, Caron) profile Heyer.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/13, Schneider, Soong) reports, “Activists throughout the country...held vigils Sunday in response to” both the white supremacist rally and the ensuing violence; [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/13, story 3, 2:40, Snow) ran a feature on how tensions rose in Charlottesville in recent months.

McAuliffe Defends Police Response. The [New York Times](#) (8/13, Stolberg) reports, “Gov. Terry McAuliffe on Sunday strongly defended the police response to the violent demonstrations here on Saturday, saying that law enforcement authorities had done ‘great work’ in ‘a very delicate situation.’” McAuliffe said police “estimated that 80 percent of those at the white nationalists’ rally and counterprotests – including members of self-styled militias in camouflage gear – were armed, ‘yet not a shot was fired.’” He added, “You can’t stop some crazy guy who came here from Ohio and used his car as a weapon. He is a terrorist.”

Rally Organizer: “Violence Rules Over Speech” In Charlottesville. [USA Today](#) (8/13, Bacon) reports that Jason Kessler, the organizer of the Unite The Right rally, “tried to hold a news conference Sunday in front of Charlottesville City Hall – and it quickly descended into chaos.” He later tweeted, “I tried my best but once again violence rules over speech and ideas in #Charlottesville. The first amendment is finished it seems.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/13, Kesling, Belkin) reports that Kessler was booed off stage as he tried to address reporters.

Virginia GOP Senate Candidate: “Let’s Condemn Both Sides.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/13, King) reports that Virginia Senate candidate Corey Stewart, a Republican, “said politicians and the media didn’t focus at all on violence perpetrated by left wing people counter-protesting a white supremacist rally.” He said, “You hear all this condemnation of neo-Nazis and all the people that came out there, and they should have been condemned. There are a whole lot of left-wing agitators that went down there. When we are condemning, let’s condemn both sides.”

The [Washington Post](#) (8/13, Vozzella, Nirappil) reports that Stewart “criticized fellow Republicans who condemned the white nationalists,” telling the Post, “All the weak Republicans, they couldn’t apologize fast enough. They played right into the hands of the left wing. Those [Nazi] people have nothing to do with the Republican Party. There was no reason to apologize.” The [Washington Post](#) (8/13, Weigel) reports that “alt-right” and “far-right media” have been warning of left-wing activists “as a rising danger to law and order, a justification for alt-right organizations to organize armed rallies.”

Twitter Account Working To Identify White Supremacist Demonstrators. The [New York Post](#) (8/13, Perez) reports, “White nationalists who appeared at the deadly demonstrations in Charlottesville are being outed on social media – with at least one being fired from their job after his name and picture was posted online.” The “Yes, You’re Racist” Twitter account, with more than 180,000 followers, has been working to identify participants in the demonstrations.

Seattle “Pro-Trump” Rally Met With Counter-Demonstrators. The [Seattle Times](#) (8/13) reports, “The pro-Trump Patriot Prayer group and counter-protesters held opposing demonstrations in downtown Seattle” on Sunday afternoon. The two groups “converged at Westlake Park where police reported stopping people carrying shields and backpacks. Officers spritzed several protesters with pepper spray.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/13, story 4, 1:30, Snow) reported on the

protests.

Trump Condemns “Hatred, Bigotry” After Charlottesville Violence, But Fails To Blame White Nationalists.

After at least three people died and 19 others were wounded at a white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia on Saturday, President Trump condemned the “egregious display of hatred, bigotry and violence on many sides, on many sides” in a speech and series of tweets. Media coverage, which included more than 21 minutes on the network newscasts, was also heavy in print and online. While Trump was lauded for calling for unity, reporting was generally critical of the President for not denouncing the white nationalists, neo-Nazis, and Ku Klux Klan members responsible for organizing the rally.

Typical of the coverage was the [Washington Post](#) (8/12, Wagner, Johnson), which says that Trump “condemned ‘in the strongest possible terms’ the spate of violence unfolding in Charlottesville and called for ‘a swift restoration of law and order’ – but avoided placing blame on any particular party for the hate-fueled upheaval.” [Politico](#) (8/12, Cook) similarly reports the President “never denounced by name the extremist group, or called their behavior unacceptable.” Politico adds that “the furthest Trump went in protesting the white nationalists’ ‘Unite the Right’ rally was to say that his administration wanted to ‘get the situation straightened out in Charlottesville and we want to study it and we want to see what we’re doing wrong as a country, where things like this can happen.’” [The Hill](#) (8/12, Manchester) reports Trump said, “It’s been going on for a long time in our country. Not Donald Trump, not Barack Obama. This has been going on for a long, long time.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/12, House, Epstein) reports the President spoke at his golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey “after two days of violent protests capped by an incident, details of which are still emerging, where a car at the scene plowed into the crowd, leaving one person dead and the driver under arrest.” According to [USA Today](#) (8/12, Johnson), “Trump, interrupting a signing ceremony for legislation benefiting veterans...called the street clashes, ending with a car plowing through a group of counter-protesters, ‘very, very sad.’”

The [Washington Times](#) (8/12, Dinan) reports the President also “called for unity,” asserting, “the division must stop, and must stop right now.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/12, Radnofsky) reports he added, “No matter our color, creed, religion or political party we are all Americans first.”

Meanwhile, the [Washington Times](#) (8/12, Blake) reports Trump “weighed in” earlier in the day on Twitter, [saying](#), “We ALL must be united & condemn all that hate stands for. There is no place for this kind of violence in America. Lets come together as one!” The President [continued](#), “Am in Bedminster for meetings & press conference on V.A. & all that we have done, and are doing, to make it better-but Charlottesville sad!” In [another](#) tweet, he said, “Deepest condolences to the families & fellow officers of the VA State Police who died today. You’re all among the best this nation produces.” Trump [added](#), “Condolences to the family of the young woman killed today, and best regards to all of those injured, in Charlottesville, Virginia. So sad!”

[The Hill](#) (8/12, Greenwood) reports First Lady Melania Trump “was the first member of the administration to respond, drawing a line between ‘freedom of speech’ and violence.” [Breitbart](#) (8/12, Starr) reports the First Lady [tweeted](#), “Our country encourages freedom of speech, but let’s communicate w/o hate in our hearts. No good comes from violence. #Charlottesville.” Vice President Pence [tweeted](#), “I stand with @POTUS against hate & violence. U.S is greatest when we join together & oppose those seeking to divide us. #Charlottesville.” Pence also retweeted the first lady and [continued](#), “As @POTUS Trump said, “We have to come together as Americans with love for our nation... & true affection for each other.” #Charlottesville.” Pence [added](#), “Karen & I saddened by the loss of lives in Charlottesville. Thoughts & prayers w/ families of officers & young woman. Also w/ injured victims.”

[The Hill](#) (8/12, Manchester) reports Attorney General Sessions issued a statement denouncing the violence, saying, “We stand united behind the President in condemning the violence in Charlottesville and any message of hate and intolerance.” Sessions added, “This violence is totally contrary to American values and can never be tolerated.” He also pledged that the Justice Department “would support local and state officers on the scene ‘in any way possible.’”

While [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/12, story 2, 2:40, Diaz-Balart) reported the President struck “a different tone than we’ve heard from him in recent days” with his “call for unity,” Kelly O’Donnell said that despite referring to “bigotry,” Trump “did not specifically rebuke or describe racially motivated protesters, some of whom brought weapons to a planned demonstration.” [ABC](#)

[World News Tonight](#) 's (8/12, story 4, 3:25, Vega) David Wright reported the President's use of "on many sides" in his statement "troubled a lot of people because it [was] ambiguous. Many people heard it as him creating a moral equivalence between the white nationalists and the counterprotesters, blaming both." Wright added the White House now "says the President was condemning hatred, bigotry, and violence from all sources and in all forms."

The [AP](#) (8/12, Lemire) reports Trump's position was not how Charlottesville Mayor Michael Signer "assessed the chaos that led the governor to declare a state of emergency, contending that Trump's campaign fed the flames of prejudice." Instead, Signer "said he was disgusted that the white nationalists had come to his town and blamed Trump for inflaming racial prejudices with his campaign last year." He asserted, "I'm not going to make any bones about it. I place the blame for a lot of what you're seeing in American today right at the doorstep of the White House and the people around the president." In its lead segment, the [CBS Weekend News](#) (8/12, lead story, 2:45, Ninan) broadcast Signer criticizing the "outsiders coming here who've traveled all across the country to try and make Charlottesville a target for their ideology." Signer added, "I refuse to be intimidated."

[The Hill](#) (8/12, Manchester) reports a number of Republican lawmakers also "went after...Trump on Saturday over his statement on violent clashes in Charlottesville." The Hill adds Sen. Cory Gardner went "as far as saying Trump needed to call it a 'terror attack by white supremacists.'" In a separate article, [The Hill](#) (8/12, Manchester) reports Gardner [tweeted](#), "Mr. President – we must call evil by its name. These were white supremacists and this was domestic terrorism." According to The Hill, Sen. Jeff Flake joined Gardner in condemning the aims of the rally, [tweeting](#), "The #WhiteSupremacy in #Charlottesville does not reflect the values of the America I know. Hate and bigotry have no place in this country."

[The Hill](#) (8/12, Seipel) reports Sen. Orrin Hatch also criticized Trump's comments on the rally, [tweeting](#), "We should call evil by its name. My brother didn't give his life fighting Hitler for Nazi ideas to go unchallenged here at home. -OGH." [The Hill](#) (8/12, Thomsen) "Briefing Room" blog reports Sen. Marco Rubio "tore into President Trump Saturday for refusing to single out white supremacists at a white nationalist rally in Virginia." Rubio [tweeted](#), "Very important for the nation to hear @potus describe events in #Charlottesville for what they are, a terror attack by #whitesupremacists."

[The Hill](#) (8/12, Carter) reports House Speaker Ryan condemned the rally, [tweeting](#), "The views fueling the spectacle in Charlottesville are repugnant. Let it only serve to unite Americans against this kind of vile bigotry." [The Hill](#) (8/12, Manchester) reports Sen. Ted Cruz in a statement said, "The Nazis, the KKK, and white supremacists are repulsive and evil, and all of us have a moral obligation to speak out against the lies, bigotry, anti-semitism, and hatred that they propagate. ... Having watched the horrifying video of the car deliberately crashing into a crowd of protesters, I urge the Department of Justice to immediately investigate and prosecute this grotesque act of domestic terrorism."

[The Hill](#) (8/12, Bowden) reports in its "Briefing Room" blog that Democratic lawmakers also "urged President Trump to condemn" the rally, with Senate Minority Leader Schumer [tweeting](#), "March & rally in Charlottesville against everything the flag stands for. President Trump must condemn in strongest terms immediately." Schumer [followed up](#), "Of course we condemn ALL that hate stands for. Until @POTUS specifically condemns alt-right action in Charlottesville, he hasnt done his job." Rep. Steve Cohen, a member of the House Judiciary Committee, [tweeted](#), "Charlottesville alt.right gathering is reminiscent of 1930's Germany and the President needs to condemn it. Make America great; Speak out!"

[The Hill](#) (8/12, Thomsen) "Briefing Room" blog reports former Vice President Joe Biden similarly "took aim at President Trump's comments that 'many sides' led to [the] violence." Biden [tweeted](#), "There is only one side. #charlottesville." [The Hill](#) (8/12, Thomsen) "Briefing Room" blog reports former President Obama [tweeted](#) the Nelson Mandela quote "No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin or his background or his religion..."

[The Hill](#) (8/12, Thomsen) reports in its "Briefing Room" blog that Hillary Clinton "condemned the 'incitement of hatred' which she said led to [the] violence," [tweeting](#), "My heart is in Charlottesville today, and with everyone made to feel unsafe in their country." She [continued](#), "But the incitement of hatred that got us here is as real and condemnable as the white supremacists in our streets." Clinton [added](#), "Every minute we allow this to persist through tacit encouragement or inaction is a disgrace, & corrosive to our values." She [concluded](#), "Now is the time for leaders to be strong in their words & deliberate in their actions."

[The Hill](#) (8/12, Bowden) reports the NAACP and the Congressional Black Caucus also both "swiftly shot back" at Trump. The NAACP [tweeted](#), "Guess it's hard to disavow bigots and hate when they are amongst your key strategists. #Charlottesville." The CBC [tweeted](#),

“.@realDonaldTrump: “Both sides, law & order...” Your false equivalency, dog whistles are sad. White supremacy is to blame. #Charlottesville.” According to The Hill, “the reference is to White House chief strategist Steve Bannon, who formerly ran Breitbart News. Bannon has been called a white nationalist before by Trump’s critics, most notably by House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) in November.”

A [Washington Post](#) (8/12, Board) editorial also criticizes Trump and shares what “a presidential president would have said” following the violence in Charlottesville.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/12, Nirappil) reports on how the various Virginia candidates responded to the rally and violence while [USA Today](#) (8/12, Miller) shares “a look at how social media reacted to the #Charlottesville violence.”

Police: Three Deaths Linked To Rally, 19 People Injured When Car Strikes Counter-Protesters. In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (8/12, A1, Heim, Silverman, Shapiro, Brown) reports “a chaotic and violent day turned to tragedy Saturday as hundreds of white nationalists, neo-Nazis, Ku Klux Klan members – planning to stage what they described as their largest rally in decades to ‘take America back’ – clashed with counterprotesters in the streets and a car plowed into crowds, killing one person and injuring 19 others.” Angela Taylor, a public information officer at the University of Virginia Medical Center, told [USA Today](#) (8/12, Stanglin, Cavallaro) “that 20 patients were taken there and one died. The conditions of the other 19 were not yet determined.” USA Today adds that “about three hours after the car crash, the Virginia State Police’s Bell 407 helicopter crashed about 7 miles from the scene” and according to police reports, “two people on board died.”

While the [AP](#) (8/12, Rankin) reports “the chaos boiled over [when] what is believed to be the largest group of white nationalists to come together in a decade” gathered in order “to protest plans to remove a statue of the Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee,” [Breitbart](#) (8/12, Spiering) says the violence erupted “after leftist Antifa protesters attacked a protest of white nationalists.” [USA Today](#) (8/12, Rossman) states that “Twitter dispatches showed a violent scene with protesters wielding shields, sticks and flags in massive scuffles that left people bloodied.” USA Today adds “there were also reports of urine being tossed at reporters and the air was said to be filled with pepper spray, mace and tear gas.”

A front-page [New York Times](#) (8/12, A1, Stolberg, Rosenthal) article reports “by 11 a.m., after both sides had made their way to Emancipation Park, the scene had exploded into taunting, shoving and outright brawling.” According to the Times, after Charlottesville police cleared the area, “witnesses said a crowd of counterdemonstrators, jubilant because the white nationalists had left, was moving up Fourth Street, near the mall, when a gray sports car came down the road and accelerated, mowing down several people and hurling at least two in the air.” In the lead [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/12, lead story, 3:00, Vega) segment, Eva Pilgrim reported a “silver Dodge Challenger with Ohio plates seen here in this video barreling down a hill. Witnesses say it only stopped after it hit a van and another car. Blocked in, the silver car went in reverse to get away.” Pilgrim added the driver “was picked up just a short distance from the scene, not very far at all. Witnesses telling us whoever the driver was, they did not hesitate. They put their foot on the gas and kept going.”

Meanwhile, the [Washington Times](#) (8/12, Blake) reports Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe “declared a state of emergency late Saturday morning moments before the ‘Unite the Right’ rally and counterprotests were scheduled to begin” in order to “to aid state response to violence.” He subsequently [tweeted](#), “The acts and rhetoric in #Charlottesville over past 24 hours are unacceptable & must stop. A right to speech is not a right to violence.”

[The Hill](#) (8/12, Manchester) reports McAuliffe at a press conference later Saturday “ripped white supremacists who sparked violence in Charlottesville, Va. on Saturday, saying there is no place for them in the country.” He asserted, “I have a message to all of the white supremacists and the Nazis who came into Charlottesville today. Our message is plain and simple. Go home. You are not wanted in this great commonwealth. Shame on you. You pretend that you’re patriots, but you are anything but a patriot.” McAuliffe added, “My message is clear. We are stronger than you. You will not succeed. There is no place for you here, there is no place for you in America.”

[The Hill](#) (8/12, Seipel) reports Attorney General Sessions announced Saturday that the Justice Department “has opened up a federal investigation into the deadly events in Charlottesville, Va. on Saturday after a car plowed into a crowd of protestors and left one dead.” In a statement, Sessions said, “I have talked with FBI Director Chris Wray, FBI agents on the scene, and law enforcement officials for the state of Virginia. The FBI has been supporting state and local authorities throughout the day. U.S. Attorney Rick Mountcastle has commenced a federal investigation and will have the full support of the Department of Justice. Justice will prevail.” The Hill adds that the US Attorney’s office for the Western District of Virginia and the

Richmond Field Office of the FBI confirmed the probe. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/12, story 3, 0:20, Vega) also briefly reported an investigation into the helicopter crash is underway.

In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (8/12, A1, Hermann, Heim, Silverman) says Charlottesville police have also come "under criticism for failing to keep apart warring white nationalists and counterprotesters who battled it out in the city streets Saturday amid what at first seemed an anemic response from authorities." The Post adds that "anger over how the police responded came from all directions and intensified after the death of a woman struck by a car that plowed into a group of counterprotesters. Experts said police appeared outnumbered, ill-prepared and inexperienced."

David Duke: Charlottesville Protests About "Fulfilling Promises Of Donald Trump." [The Hill](#) (8/12, Manchester) "Briefing Room" blog reports former Ku Klux Klan Grand Wizard David Duke "appeared at the 'Unite the Right' rally...prior to [the] violent clashes, saying that the event represented fulfilling the promises of President Trump." Duke said, "This represents a turning point for the people of this country. We are determined to take our country back, we're going to fulfill the promises of Donald Trump, and that's what we believed in, that's why we voted for Donald Trump, because he said he's going to take our country back and that's what we gotta do."

Meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/12, Belkin, Kesling, McWhirter) reports Jason Kessler, the leader of Unity and Security for America, helped organize the demonstration and said in an interview that he wants the President to speak out because Virginia officials and the counter protesters denied the First Amendment rights of Trump's supporters.

Detroit Red Wings Condemn White Nationalists Over Use Of Modified Logo. The [Washington Post](#) (8/12, Bonesteel) reports the "anti-immigrant group called the Detroit Right Wings, which has co-opted" a "bastardized" version of the NHL's Detroit Red Wings logo, prompting the team to issue a statement on Saturday "condemning the use of their logo in such a hateful way and threatened legal action."

White Nationalists Have Held Three Demonstrations In Charlottesville So Far This Year. [ABC World News Tonight](#)'s (8/12, story 2, 2:45, Vega) Stephanie Ramos reported the rally turned "a major American college campus...into a battlefield." Ramos added that the tensions started Friday night at 10 p.m. as "torches in hand, [the white nationalist's] chants [began] echoing across the historic campus" of the University of Virginia. In the lead [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/12, lead story, 3:50, Diaz-Balart) segment, Tom Costello said the "tensions began simmering [Friday] night when white nationalists carried torches in the city, eerily reminiscent of Nazi Party propaganda events in the '20s and '30s."

According to [USA Today](#) (8/12, Penzenstadler, Toy), this weekend's violent demonstrations in Charlottesville mark "the third time white nationalist groups gathered there this year." USA Today says the groups oppose the City Council's decision to sell a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee and rename the Lee and Jackson parks. USA Today says that while "statues of Confederate leaders nationwide have been removed in recent years as communities viewed them as symbols of slavery," its analysis in May found that "more than 700 Confederate monuments in 31 states still stand."

In an analysis of race relations in the US, [NBC Nightly News](#)' (8/12, story 3, 2:30, Diaz-Balart) Morgan Radford reported that "one of the most striking things we found when doing research for this piece is that data reveals that we've come to a point in our country where whites see anti-white bias as more prevalent than anti-black bias." Radford added, "experts on race relations say that this moment, this tension we're seeing will actually pass, but that it might get worse before it gets better."

Lexington Mayor Accelerates Removal Of Confederate Statues In Wake Of Charlottesville. [The Hill](#) (8/12, Manchester) "Briefing Room" blog Jim Gray, the mayor of Lexington, Kentucky, announced Saturday that he "is accelerating his plans to remove Confederate statues from key locations in the city due to violence spurred by white nationalists in Charlottesville."

Trump: US May Consider Military Option To Venezuelan Crisis.

On Friday, President Trump met with Secretary of State Tillerson, Ambassador Haley, and National Security Adviser McMaster to discuss North Korea and Venezuela. While reporting on the joint news conference that followed focused predominately on the North Korean threat, Trump's assertion that he has not ruled out a possible military option in Venezuela received moderate coverage, most of which cast the approach as a strategy that is unlikely to succeed.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/11, Johnson, Wagner) reports Trump asserted he will not "rule out a military option" to confront Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro and the nation's deepening economic and political crisis during the news conference. [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/11, 5:56

p.m. EDT, Blitzer) broadcast Trump calling Venezuela “a mess” and “a very sad situation.” Trump also [stated](#) that the US has “troops all over the world in places that are very, very far away. Venezuela is not very far away, and the people are suffering, and they’re dying. We have many options for Venezuela, including a possible military option, if necessary.”

Trump provided few details about the potential military option, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/11, Kesling, KurmanaeV, Venezuela) reports, but his amplified threat of a possible armed response came just a day after Maduro called for talks with Trump by phone or during a visit next month for the United Nations General Assembly. Ahead of Trump’s remarks on Friday, the White House said the President rejected that request until Maduro restores democracy in the nation.

Senior Pentagon correspondent Barbara Starr of [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (8/11, 6:14 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) noted that “there is a long history, decades-long, of some not very favorable feelings by many governments there about the US military,” which “could be pretty problematic” for such a strategy. She added that “to go into Venezuela with US military force and try and change the political and security landscape in Venezuela using American troops, which is what a typical military option is, I think at the moment the Pentagon is not thinking about doing that.”

Elise Labott of [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (8/11, 6:57 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) also said she does not believe the US will pursue that approach, and “in fact, his National Security Adviser, H.R. McMaster, just said in an interview within the last 24 to 48 hours or so that there is not a US military option” on the table. She said that “obviously the situation in Venezuela, the democracy, the human rights violations, is awful and they’re trying to get some kind of diplomacy together. The US earlier this week imposed sanctions on some members of the Venezuelan government, there’s been talk about oil sanctions on Venezuela, but even H.R. McMaster said if there was a military option, it would be up to countries lower in the hemisphere, like Brazil, like Columbia to be involved in.”

Former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (8/11, 6:26 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) that Trump’s hint of possible military options in Venezuela goes against the need for the President “to speak with some degree of steadiness and responsibility.” He cautioned that “loose talk” in fact “does send mixed signals to the world, and very frankly, it undermines our power.”

Byron York of the Washington Examiner told [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (8/11, 6:52 p.m. EDT, Baier) that Trump’s remarks about Venezuela “kind of surprised me” because he “was not asked about a military option Venezuela. He was asked about the situation there and the United States has actually gotten some good reviews from some of the things it’s done lately, imposing sanctions on some prominent Venezuelans,” but then Trump “just volunteers” the possibility of a military option.

The [Miami Herald](#) (8/11, Mazzei) says Trump’s hard line on Venezuela “has steadily gained allies” in Latin America, however, and in an “unusual” and “striking” display of unity, the foreign ministers of 17 nations gathered in Lima this week “to make the rarest of admissions: When it comes to Venezuela, they agree with President Donald Trump. At least for now.” After the White House publicly labeled Venezuela a dictatorship, “other countries followed.” The “unexpected support explains in part why the White House has appeared to take a more deliberative approach to escalating its response against Venezuela,” says the Herald.

Sources: Russia Poised To Benefit From Venezuelan Crisis. In a special report, [Reuters](#) (8/11, Parraga, Ulmer) examines how “Moscow is using its position as Venezuela’s lender of last resort to gain more control over the OPEC nation’s crude reserves, the largest in the world,” even as numerous multinational firms “have all but written off their Venezuelan operations amid the nation’s tanking economy and chronic shortages of raw materials.” According to two people familiar with the discussions, the Venezuelan state-owned oil firm Petroleos de Venezuela “has been secretly negotiating since at least early this year with Russia’s biggest state-owned oil company, Rosneft,” and even offered “ownership interests in up to nine of Venezuela’s most productive petroleum projects.” Reuters says Maduro’s government now relies on “Russia’s money to finance everything from bond payments to imports of food and medicine amid severe national shortages,” and Rosneft has positioned itself “to acquire Venezuelan oil assets on the cheap.”

WPost A1 Analysis: Economic Collapse Poses Greatest Threat To Maduro. The [Washington Post](#) (8/11, A1, Faiola, Krygier) reports on its front page that Venezuela “is edging toward the economic brink after an internationally condemned election last month created an all-powerful congress loyal to Maduro,” causing the bolivar to fluctuate “more wildly than ever, a significant feat for a country saddled with the world’s highest inflation rate” and doubling “street prices for staples like bread and tomatoes” in under two weeks. According to analysts, “Maduro’s longevity

in office may now depend less on surviving an opposition challenge than on his ability to sidestep a catastrophic debt crisis," the threat of which the Post says "looms larger than any other."

Ousted Venezuelan Attorney General Continues Investigations Into Officials. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/11, Kurmanaev, Magalhaes, Alonso) reports that in the weeks leading to Venezuelan opposition Attorney General Luisa Ortega's flight from her office, she prepared and secured digital copies of documents that she says are crucial in proving that government officials were involved in corruption and conducted human rights abuses against activists. Ortega said she and the Justice Department are now sharing evidence, and attorneys and human rights activists suggested her inquiries could lead to additional sanctions against Maduro's regime, further isolating it financially.

Trump: "Unacceptable" That McConnell, Senate Republicans Failed To Pass Healthcare Reform.

[Politico](#) (8/11, Lima) reports President Trump on Friday said he felt it was "unacceptable" that Senate Majority Leader McConnell and Senate Republicans failed to pass legislation to repeal the Affordable Care Act. According to the President, "People have been talking about repeal-and-replace for seven years, long before I ever decided to be doing what I'm doing. Seven years they've been talking repeal-and-replace and it didn't happen. And not only didn't happen, it was a surprise, and it was a horrible surprise." Trump added he was "not impressed" by the unsuccessful congressional effort to pass a healthcare bill.

House Freedom Caucus Calls For New ACA Repeal Vote. The [AP](#) (8/11, Fram) reports the House Freedom Caucus "began an uphill fight Friday to force a fresh House vote this fall on erasing much of" the ACA without a replacement, which "seemed to have no chance of passing Congress." According to the AP, "the GOP-led Senate turned down a similar repeal-only bill last month, and top House Republicans have little interest in refighting a health care battle they were relieved to put aside after their chamber approved legislation in May." Rep. Jim Jordan insisted the petition for the vote is "not about calling out anyone, it's about doing what we said. ... I do think people deserve to see if their member of Congress is going to do what they campaigned on." He also told [Breitbart](#) (8/11, Moran) in an exclusive interview that GOP lawmakers should "act like Republicans, let's simply repeal Obamacare and do what we told the voters what we said we would do. Let's keep our promise." Jordan added, "I think if this is brought up to the floor, really, that many people are going to vote for the same bill they voted for 18 months ago. That's why we started this effort. We'll see how it unfolds."

Meadows, MacArthur In Talks On Cost-Sharing Reductions. [The Hill](#) (8/11, Sullivan) cites [Axios](#) in reporting House Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows and Rep. Tom MacArthur are engaged "in talks for a bill that would stabilize ObamaCare markets." According to The Hill, "The measure would fund key ObamaCare payments known as cost-sharing reductions, possibly in exchange for expanded flexibility favored by conservatives for states to waive ObamaCare regulations through broadening an existing provision known as 1332 waivers." Alyssa Farah, a spokeswoman for the House Freedom Caucus, said, "I'd emphasize it's merely in discussion phase between MacArthur and Meadows and hasn't been discussed by the Freedom Caucus."

GOP Lawmakers Facing Criticism Over Healthcare Vote At Town Halls. "The long August congressional recess, which Republicans hoped would begin a conversation about tax reform and must-pass budget measures, has so far seen another round of angry town halls focused on President Trump and the stalled effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act," the [Washington Post](#) (8/11) reports, as illustrated by the recent experiences of Reps. Earl "Buddy" Carter, Mark Meadows, and Doug LaMalfa.

Poll: Majority Of Americans Want Administration To Stop Undermining ACA. The [AP](#) (8/11, Fram) reports the Kaiser Family Foundation's new Kaiser Health Tracking Poll of 1,211 "adults" (8/1-8/6) has a "resounding" message for "Trump and congressional Republicans: Stop trying to scuttle the Obama health care law, and start trying to make it more effective." According to the poll, "around 4 in 5 want the Trump administration to take actions that help Obama's law function properly, rather than trying to undermine it." The poll also found "just 3 in 10 want Trump and Republicans to continue their drive to repeal and replace the statute." The AP adds that "ominously for the GOP, 6 in 10 say Trump and congressional Republicans are responsible for any upcoming health care problems since they control government. ... And by nearly 2-to-1, most say it's good that the Senate rejected the GOP repeal-and-replace bill last month."

White House Committed To Releasing Tax Reform Outline In September.

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/11, Sink, Kapur, Gura) reports that according to a White House official,

“White House tax negotiators and congressional leaders are still planning to release a document in September outlining agreed-upon principles that will serve as a framework for a tax bill” and is “expected to expand on a two-page press release last month from the so-called Big Six involved in tax discussions.” Meanwhile, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady said Friday during an interview with Bloomberg TV “that House and Senate tax writers were continuing to work on the details of a revamp over the August recess.” Brady asserted, “We are on schedule to move this to the president’s desk this year. ... It is an aggressive timetable, no question about that.”

GOP Considers Including Retroactive Cuts In Tax Reform Bill. “Republicans are debating whether parts of their tax-reform package should be retroactive in order to boost the economy by quickly putting more money in people’s wallets,” [The Hill](#) (8/11, Jagoda) reports, as “some Republicans argue that having tax changes take effect as early as January [2018] could help their case.” According to The Hill, “The House Ways and Means and Senate Finance committees are weighing the issue as they write legislation that can be introduced after the August recess.” While “several prominent Republicans” have expressed support for “retroactive tax changes in recent days,” The Hill acknowledges that “even if tax changes aren’t retroactive, taxpayers might still be able to see a tangible benefit from lower rates before the midterm elections.” National Economic Council Director Cohn last week said, “The way the American public will know that we’re successful is when they get their first check in 2018, they can have more disposable income in their check.”

DeVos: Tax Reform Discussions Include School Vouchers. The [AP](#) (8/11, Ho) reports Education Secretary DeVos said Wednesday in a interview that school vouchers are “certainly part of our discussion” regarding tax reform. The AP states that President Trump and DeVos have both “promoted the scholarships as a way to give parents greater choice in deciding where their children will go to school.”

Politico Analysis: Trump Aides Anticipating “Really Tough” September.

[Politico](#) (8/13, Dawsey) reported that “senior officials” in the White House are describing September “as ‘brutal,’ ‘bad’ or ‘really tough’ because of the confluence of complicated issues” coming next month. Politico said, “Aides hope to have a better blueprint for how” President Trump wants to move forward “on a series of thorny issues – the nation’s debt ceiling, the 2018 federal budget, tax reform, infrastructure spending and perhaps another stab at repealing Obamacare – after a series of meetings in New York this week. Their goal is to partially temper Trump’s expectations, hammer out some compromises and get a competing band of aides on the same page.”

US Labor Force Participation Continues To Rise.

[USA Today](#) (8/13, Davidson) reports that US employers added 209,000 jobs in July, pushing the labor force participation rate from 62.7 percent to 62.9 percent and representing what many observers consider a “vibrant labor market” that is continuing “to draw hundreds of thousands of Americans back into the labor force” and that is “especially lifting less-educated workers in their prime working years.” The trend “could have significant implications for wage growth and interest rates,” as rising labor force participation slows the decline of the unemployment rate, helping to prevent the acceleration of average pay increases and to temper inflation, “which could prompt the Federal Reserve to put off an anticipated third interest rate hike in 2017.”

Summers: Next Fed Chair Likely To Face Recession. In his [Washington Post](#) (8/13, Summers) column, Harvard economist Lawrence Summers writes that the end of Federal Reserve Chairwoman Janet Yellen’s term in February brings to light the importance of the Administration selecting a successor equipped to address an economy that likely “will go into recession during the next Fed chair’s four-year term,” with the odds of a recession in the next term at “about two-thirds.” Summers highlights several economic indicators – slow underlying growth, low unemployment, high asset prices, and an uncomfortable inflation- targeting framework – and argues that the Fed must be ready “to improvise through a combination of rhetoric and direct market intervention.”

Samuelson: Middle-Aged Capitalism Slowing Economy. In his [Washington Post](#) (8/13) column, Robert J. Samuelson writes that the “persisting puzzle” that the US economy can harbor both robust innovation yet only 2 percent annual growth comes from the fact that the economy is divided between “youthful” companies – such as Google and Apple – that spur innovation, and “middle-aged” companies that have “slowed the recovery.” Samuelson argues that these claims are bolstered by a new study from the Journal of Economic Perspectives that examined all US

public companies from 1975 to 2015 and found that profits have become increasingly more concentrated in large tech firms and that corporate capital investment has dropped. Samuelson concludes that the Administration's efforts to accelerate economic growth through change in government policies may not reach success if the weaknesses of "middle-aged capitalism" persist.

Pruitt Calls For "Objective" Evaluation Of National Climate Assessment Report.

[Politico](#) (8/11, Holden) reports EPA Administrator Pruitt said that his agency will review the accuracy of the National Climate Assessment. In a radio appearance, Pruitt called for "peer-reviewed, objective-reviewed methodology and evaluation," adding that "Science should not be politicized." Researchers claim the report is already peer reviewed by a 14-person committee at the National Academies, and worry that the EPA will attempt to suppress their findings.

As EPA's Pruitt Works In Relative Secrecy, California Sues For Answers. In a front page article, the [New York Times](#) (8/11, A1, Davenport, Lipton) details the "extraordinary measures" that Pruitt is taking "to conceal his actions," as he works to reverse the agency's "activist agenda." According to Christopher Sellers, an expert in environmental history who interviewed several agency employees, "There's a feeling of paranoia in the agency – employees feel like there's been a hostile takeover and the guy in charge is treating them like enemies." While "Such tensions are not unusual," the Times concedes, "they seem particularly bitter at the EPA." The piece goes on to detail problems that Pruitt's approach may cause, including confusion among employees and difficulty implementing policy.

Meanwhile, [Bloomberg News](#) (8/11, Harris) reports California has sued the EPA "to compel it to say what steps were taken to ensure its rule making and procedures remain impartial." The state's attorney general accuses Pruitt of becoming "the head of the agency responsible for implementing the very same rules that he had been working to overturn just moments earlier," and wants to know how Pruitt complied "with federal ethics rules and who can assume Pruitt's powers in the event he's disqualified from participating in a matter or recuses himself."

Gore: Trump Has Increase Momentum Of Climate Movement. [Reuters](#) (8/11, Mills) reports former Vice President Al Gore said on Friday that President Trump's rejection of the Paris climate agreement is "driving much more momentum in the climate movement." He added, "The entire world the next day re-doubled their commitments to the Paris agreement and in the U.S, the governors of our largest states and hundreds of mayors, thousands of business leaders all stood up to fill the gap."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"The Hate He Dares Not Speak Of." The [New York Times](#) (8/13) editorializes, "Let's discard the fiction that President Trump wasn't placating white supremacists by responding so weakly" to the violence in Charlottesville. "The neo-Nazis heard his message loud and clear." Trump "is alone in modern presidential history in his willingness to summon demons of bigotry and intolerance in service to himself." His "fear of naming the source of Saturday's violence sharply contrasts with his eagerness to call out Islamist terror."

"Mr. Macron's Homefront Flub." A [New York Times](#) editorial says the domestic outcry over French President Emmanuel Macron's campaign promise to grant official recognition to the nation's first lady effectively forced Macron on Tuesday "to abandon the idea." In light of Macron's diminishing popularity, the timing of the president's abandonment of the idea "could hardly have been worse," the Times says. Macron's government is now pushing for a "charter of transparency" to grant the first spouse a clearly-defined role, but he will soon face "the hard part" of his "promised agenda – budget cuts and labor reforms." The Times contends the first lady proposal is "not a bad idea," but says Macron cannot afford "squandering any more of his dwindling political capital."

"The Real Suspense In Kenya." The [New York Times](#) (8/13) editorializes, "Kenya's national elections last Tuesday were closely watched around the world, less for the results than for the threat of violence that has marred past elections." Raila Odinga, "a perennial loser, began crying foul long before the election commission declared that President Uhuru Kenyatta was re-elected" by a nine-point margin. Odinga's "unsubstantiated claims have already touched off rioting in parts of the country, and the violence could spread." The Times says that Odinga has "fanned the embers of ethnic strife," which is "disgraceful and unnecessary."

Washington Post.

“The Specter Of Civil War In Venezuela.” The [Washington Post](#) (8/13) editorializes, “Miserable as the people of Venezuela may be under the increasingly repressive and irrational rule” of President Nicolás Maduro, “they had fresh reason for hope last week – until President Trump’s blundering words on Friday.” The Post says that “the damage Mr. Trump did is mostly intangible,” but he “should not give the regime any new excuses to rally its dwindling band of loyalists – or to enforce obedience on everyone else.”

“Don’t Ignore A Major Threat To The Chesapeake Bay.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/13) writes that Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan should proceed with his plan announced last week to conduct limited dredging behind the Conowingo Dam – the power station stopping the Susquehanna River and the source of much of the fresh water flowing into the Chesapeake Bay – but only if he also addresses the bay’s nitrogen and phosphorus pollution, which the Post considers “the bay’s biggest problem.”

Wall Street Journal.

“The Poison Of Identity Politics.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/13) links the violence in Charlottesville to the rise of identity politics, and writes that Democrats seemed more interested in tarring President Trump this weekend than in addressing racial and ethnic divisions.

“Dan Loeb’s Political Offense.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/13) argues that a recent poorly phrased Facebook post by activist hedge-fund investor and charter school supporter Daniel Loeb has drawn heavy criticism not because of Loeb’s choice of language but because of his support for charters in New York. The Journal asserts that unions and their political subsidiaries – particularly, AFT President Randi Weingarten and New York Mayor Bill de Blasio – are choosing to attack Loeb on grounds of racism because they cannot defend their own record of not addressing failing public schools.

“Philadelphia’s Soda Tax Bust.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/13) writes that a recent Tax Foundation report found that Philadelphia’s new 1.5 cent-per-ounce soda tax is harming low-income earners and generating less revenue than proponents anticipated. The Journal highlights lost income and jobs by truck drivers, supermarkets, and gas stations as a result of the post-tax 45 percent decline in soft drink sales; the \$6.9 million less revenue in expected tax collections; and the rise in beer purchases as soda consumption has shifted to ale.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Trump Chips Away At Postcrisis Wall Street Rules](#)

[Trump Pressed To Disavow White-Nationalist Groups](#)

[Top US General Readies Military Plan For North Korea. But Pushes For Diplomacy](#)

New York Times:

[Hurt And Angry, Charlottesville Tries To Regroup From Violence](#)

[White House Acts To Stem Fallout From Trump’s First Charlottesville Remarks](#)

[How A Conservative TV Giant Is Ridding Itself Of Regulation](#)

[In Total Eclipse’s Path, Hope And Uncertainty In Rural Kentucky](#)

[Cuomo Calls Manhattan Traffic Plan An Idea ‘Whose Time Has Come’](#)

Washington Post:

[US Says Nuclear War Isn’t Imminent](#)

[Trump’s Fraying Relationship With GOP Colors Ala. Special Election](#)

[Va. Suspect Was Nazi Sympathizer](#)

[Fighting Fire, Then FEMA](#)

[Hate-Filled Marchers Are ‘Not Charlottesville’](#)

[White House Seeks To Quell Backlash Over Trump Remarks](#)

Financial Times:

[Donald Trump Criticised For Failing To Denounce Hate Groups](#)

[Brussels Seeks Tighter Vetting Of Foreign Takeovers](#)

[Record ETF inflows Fuel Price Bubble Fears](#)

Washington Times:

[Fellow Republicans Pressure Trump To Forcefully And Clearly Condemn White Nationalism](#)
[Chicago Still Leads Nation In Homicides; Violent Crime On Rise In Other Big Cities](#)
[Tillerson: A Calm And Cautious Voice For A Volatile Foreign Policy Messenger](#)
[North Korea Rhetoric Remains Sharp But Shows Signs Of Cooling](#)
[Clashes Over Title VII Protection Of Sexual Orientation Make Way Toward Supreme Court](#)
[Clinton Email Case Far From Closure As FBI Hands Over More Classified Documents To State](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Virginia-White Nationalism Clash; White Nationalism Clash-Victims; WH-White Nationalism Clash; Scaramucci Interview; North Korea Threats; Pharmacies-Price Manipulation Lawsuit; Police Violence Video; Oklahoma-Train Derailment; Tom Cruise-Stunt Action; Football Player-Hospital Volunteering.

CBS: Virginia-White Nationalism Clash; White Nationalism Car Mowing-Suspect; White Nationalism Clash-Victims; WH-White Nationalism Clash; Iraq-US Casualties; Syria-White Helmet Casualties; NFL-National Anthem; Amazon-Eclipse Glasses Recall; Lottery Winner; Milwaukee Police Training; Rice Branding Controversy; Helicopter Parenting.

NBC: Virginia-White Nationalism Clash; WH-White Nationalism Clash; White Nationalism History; White Nationalism Clash-Seattle; North Korea Threats; Opioid Epidemics-Chinese Import; Teen Detectives; NASA-Voyager Probes.

Network TV At A Glance:

White Nationalism Clash – 21 minutes, 50 seconds

WH-White Nationalism Clash – 8 minutes

North Korea Threats – 4 minutes, 20 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Wisconsin-Car Show Shooting; White Nationalism Clash; North Korea Threats;

CBS: White Nationalism Clash; North Korea Threats; Gasoline Price; Wall Street News.

FOX: White Nationalism Clash; WH-White Nationalism Clash; Western Africa-Terror Attack; Southern California-Wildfire.

NPR: White Nationalism Clash; Iraq-US Casualties.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Signs a memorandum on addressing China's laws, policies, practices, and actions related to intellectual property, innovation, and technology; meets with the National Economic Council; speaks with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan by telephone.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Continues trip to Central and South America, on behalf of President Donald Trump, with stops in Cartagena and Bogota, Colombia, Buenos Aires, Argentina, Santiago, Chile, and Panama City, Panama; meets leaders from govt and the business community to 'reaffirm the president's commitment to deepening bilateral trade and investment ties with the region' and 'continue the administration's support of security cooperation, business engagement, agriculture, and infrastructure development.'

US Senate: On recess until 5 September.

US House: On recess until 5 September.

Other: No notable event scheduled.

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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- Federal Government Denies A Native American Tribe Millions.
- Comanche Nation Sues Over New Chickasaw Casino Near Texas Border.

Bureau Of Indian Education

- Tribes Hope For Renewal In Solar Eclipse; Not All Will Watch.

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- Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel: Drilling Proposal Draws Heat.
- High Country (CO) News: At Bundy Ranch Trial, Questions On Guns And Violence.
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- Guest Opinion: Don't Dam Yellowstone River.

Fish And Wildlife Service

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- Philly (PA): Asian Carp Found Near Lake Michigan Got Past Barriers.
- Maui (HI) Now: Endangered Sea Turtle Nest On Maui Relocated.
- Arizona Daily Sun: Coconino Voices: State Management Of Mexican Gray Wolves Not Based On Science.

National Park Service

- The Hill: National Park Service Ends Policy Encouraging Parks To Ban Plastic Water Bottle Sales.
- U.S. News & World Report: New Mexico, Tribes To Share In Historic Preservation Grants.
- WRC-TV Washington: National Park Service Set To Hire Contractor For Washington Monument Renovation.
- Politico: Lawmakers Urge Removal Of Robert E. Lee Statue At Antietam.
- Washington Examiner: Jefferson Memorial Exhibit Update Will Acknowledge Slavery Record.
- WRC-TV Washington: Red Paint Thrown On DC Statue Of Confederate General.
- Hot Springs (AR) Sentinel-Record: Mostly Peaceful Crowd Turns Out For Demonstration.
- Auburn (NY) Citizen: Tubman National Park In Auburn: Another Legal Hurdle, Preservation Work And More Visitors.
- U.S. News & World Report: City May Donate South Dakota Land To National Park Service.
- Washington Post: Beach Drive Rehab Progress: Nearly 2 Miles Of Roadway Rebuilt, 4.6 Miles To Go.
- U.S. News & World Report: Dinosaur Nat'l Monument Creek Due To Septic Line Break.
- U.S. News & World Report: Nonnative Fish To Be Poisoned Off In Yellowstone River.
- U.S. News & World Report: Indiana National Park: Take Those Painted Rocks Elsewhere.
- Chinook (WA) Observer: Rescue Effort Frees Whale Stranded In Olympic National Park.
- U.S. News & World Report: Officials Consider Removing Part Of Bridge After Drownings.
- U.S. News & World Report: 1 Dead In Police Shooting At Buffalo National River.
- U.S. News & World Report: California Fire Forces Evacuations In Yosemite National Park.
- Washington Times: Woman Becomes Glacier National Park's First Female Packer.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Wall Street Journal: North Korean Threat Revitalizes Opposition To US Military Expansion In Guam.
- Honolulu Star-Advertiser: Survey To Track Pacific Migrants.

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- CBS: Trump Expected To Announce Afghanistan Troop Increase In Televised Address.
- The Hill: Trump Praises Boston Protesters Rallying Against "Bigotry And Hate," Condemns "Anti-Police Agitators."
- Washington Post: Bannon Ends Tenure As Chief Strategist, Returns To Breitbart.

- Washington Post: Report: Trump Disbands Federal Advisory Panel On Climate Change.
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- The Hill: Trump Keeping His Promise To Cut Regulations.

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DOI In The News

U.S. National Monument Review To Test Key Land Protection Law.

[Reuters](#) (8/20, Volcovici) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke faces an Aug. 24 deadline to "recommend whether to eliminate or shrink nearly two dozen national monuments, creating the first major test" for the 111-year-old Antiquities Act. Zinke is "expected to recommend that at least some of the national monuments under review – which were all created since 1996 – be rescinded or shrunk in size, responding to an order by President Donald Trump, who believes there should be greater opportunity to increase local resource development and economic opportunities." The article notes that "no president has ever revoked a previous designation." Previous presidents "did reduce the size of some existing monuments," but "this time, environmental groups are prepared to challenge any changes in court – something that has not happened before."

[The Hill](#) (8/19, Henry) reports that as the "review of national monument designations reaches a close," Zinke is "facing more heat than ever from conservationists and outdoor groups." Critics of the review claim "it could close off America's natural treasures to the public, and have poured more than \$2 million into ads targeting Zinke, urging him not to rescind large national monuments established under the last three presidents." However, "industry officials and conservatives want Zinke to loosen the federal government's grip on huge swaths of acreage around the country, and propose reforms to the monuments law."

Additional coverage of the review was provided by [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (8/20, Tobias), [Newsmax](#) (8/19, Reyner), [Bloomberg BNA](#) (8/18, McCutcheon), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (8/20, Lochhead), the [San Luis Obispo \(CA\) Tribune](#) (8/20, Ferreira), the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (8/20, Miller), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Business First](#) (8/18, Sapin), and [National Geographic](#) (8/18, Parker).

Oil Speculation Booms In Area Of No Oil. The [Daily Caller](#) (8/19, Pearce) reports that "millions of acres worth of requests for oil speculation on federal lands were submitted in Nevada just years before former President Barack Obama designated two national monuments in the state, the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) found Friday." The Nevada Expression of Interest documents are "mostly worthless and a waste of taxpayer money, however, according to CBD Nevada state director, Patrick Donnelly." Donnelly said that "CBD is using the information as evidence President Donald Trump's review of national monument designations, and its potential to roll back some of those, is 'a complete sham.'"

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Criticized For Vacationing During Monument Task. In a piece for the [Denver Westword](#) (8/18, Prendergast) Alan Prendergast writes: “with just a week left until the date Zinke is supposed to conclude his review, he has only visited eight of the 27 targeted monuments. And he isn’t likely to meet with stakeholders for the others before the announced deadline. As the Denver-based Center for Western Priorities points out in a recent broadside, Zinke is currently on a Mediterranean vacation with his wife, Lola.”

Marine Monuments Legally Established By Presidents Must Be Preserved. For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (8/18, Schiffer, Contributor), Lois Schiffer, an environmental attorney and former General Counsel of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, decries the review as “unprecedented,” and warns that it “could lead to unlawful decisions to rescind, substantially reduce in size, or change the management.” Schiffer raises concerns that “such decisions would also undermine one of our nation’s most important conservation tools.” Schiffer rejects arguments that “presidents cannot designate them in the ocean, and some of these monuments are too big.”

COMMENTARY: Trump Administration’s Review Of National Monuments Could Set A Dangerous Precedent. In an op-ed for the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (8/18, Guzman, Madrigal), Peter Guzman, president of the Las Vegas Latin Chamber of Commerce, and Norberto Madrigal, vice president of the Latin Chamber, they attended the “Western Businesses for National Monuments” roundtable discussions in Montana because it was important “to discuss how losing national monument protections might affect small businesses who rely on tourism and outdoor enthusiasts visiting protected public lands.” Their goal in Montana was “to connect with other local businesses and share our stories of innovation and job-creation fueled by public lands.” They write that “the big takeaway was unequivocal: The monument review is a dangerous path and threatens future economic development.”

Kevin Timm, the co-founder of Seek Outside, writes similarly in the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (8/20, Timm).

Commentary: The Antiquities Act Was Meant To Protect Indian History. In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/18, Cachora, Wright), Lorey Cachora, a member of the Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe, and Aaron Wright, a Preservation Archaeologist at Archaeology Southwest in Tucson, Arizona, write that the review threatens “the heritage of Native Americans – the groups whose histories the Antiquities Act of 1906 was intended to protect.” They write that if “Trump’s concern is one of scale, he should take the time to listen to Native communities – something Secretary Zinke continuously fails to do – and perhaps his narrow vision could grow to be more inclusive.” According to the authors, “many iconic national monuments in the American West – including some of the ones Trump and company have in their crosshairs – remind us that scale is relative to cultural perspective.” They conclude: “Vast tracts of former tribal lands are now public lands, and national monuments serve to safeguard the cultural heritage of many Native communities. A threat to reduce or eliminate any of them adds to a long list of transgressions against Native Americans.”

Commentary: There Is Much This Native Potato Can Teach Us. In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/19, Wilson), Cynthia Wilson, the Traditional Foods Program Director at Utah Diné Bikéyah, writes that “a native potato recently discovered by two university researchers” could “be one of the most compelling reasons to validate and protect Utah’s two threatened national monuments.” According to Wilson, “this native potato tied to indigenous farming practices dating back 11,000 years is a celebration of, and a plea to keep intact Utah’s two national monuments, Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ear.” She continues, “This potato illustrates in scientific and indigenous terms how important Bears Ears is to Native people, and it also helps us understand how important traditional knowledge is to the stewardship of public lands.”

Additional Commentary. Additional commentary appeared in [Huffington Post](#) (8/18, Arce, Contributor), the [Huffington Post](#) (8/18, Peterman, Contributor), the [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (8/19, Haab, Briggs), the [Bakersfield \(CA\) Californian](#) (8/20, Salvaggio), the [Redlands \(CA\) Daily Facts](#) (8/18, Miller), the [Whittier \(CA\) Daily News](#) (8/20, Duane), the [San Gabriel Valley \(CA\) Tribune](#) (8/20, Duane), the [Pasadena \(CA\) Star-News](#) (8/20, Duane), and the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (8/19, Thibodeau).

Interior’s Orders Troubling For Hunters, Anglers.

In an op-ed for the [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (8/21, Findling), Karl Findling, the owner of Oregon Pack Works in Bend, writes that “when Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was confirmed by the U.S. Senate back in March, hunters and anglers felt their interests would be well-represented by the agency responsible for managing 500 million acres of the nation’s public lands, including

our national parks, wildlife refuges and Bureau of Land Management lands." But "five months later, unless we see some major shifts at Interior — and soon — it's looking as if Zinke will go down as yet another politician who fooled the sporting community by pretending to be one of us, someone who legitimately cares about the future of wildlife habitat and public lands." According to Findling, "ever since the secretary moved into his new D.C. office, hunters and anglers have watched a steady stream of anti-sportsman and anti-wildlife orders flow from his desk." He concludes: "With energy, monument and sage grouse conservation decisions looming in the coming weeks and months, the time is now for the sporting community to judge the secretary. And it's time for Zinke to show that he cares."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

In Montana's Indian Country, Tribes Take Opposite Sides On Coal.

[Reuters](#) (8/21, Volcovici) reports that the Crow Nation and Northern Cheyenne, who "stand on opposite sides of U.S. President Donald Trump's pro-energy agenda," illustrate the "broader divide on drilling and mining among America's 567 federally recognized tribes." According to the article, "for tribes such as the Crow, Trump's rise marks an opportunity to tap more of the vast energy reserves beneath their lands for a needed economic boost." But "for other tribes including the Northern Cheyenne, the administration poses a threat by too forcefully injecting its fossil-fuel agenda into tribal policy while ignoring environmental and social concerns."

Federal Government Denies A Native American Tribe Millions.

[NPR](#) (8/19) reports that the federal government is denying NookSack Tribe in the Pacific Northwest "tens of millions of dollars and have shut down their casino and are taking over tribal health care." That's because the Interior Department "says the tribe improperly disenrolled an extended family of 300 people." The Interior Department "says the tribe does not have a government" and they also "aren't recognizing the disenrollments."

Comanche Nation Sues Over New Chickasaw Casino Near Texas Border.

The [Oklahoman](#) (8/19, Bailey) reports that the Comanche Nation is "suing the federal government over a rival casino the Chickasaw Nation is building two miles north of the Texas border in the Jefferson County town of Terral." The lawsuit claims the Interior Department and the Bureau of Indian Affairs "allowed the Chickasaw Nation and other tribes to skirt requirements to place off-reservation land into trust for new casinos, depriving smaller tribes such as the Comanche Nation of their share of the gaming market." The lawsuit claims, "BIA officials moved the goal line so close to the Chickasaws and other privileged tribes in Oklahoma that they have needed only to fall into the end zone and open up shop, secure in the knowledge that the score was virtually certain to hold up without any replay."

Bureau Of Indian Education

Tribes Hope For Renewal In Solar Eclipse; Not All Will Watch.

The [AP](#) (8/19, Fonseca) reports that "across the country, American Indian tribes are observing the eclipse in similar and not-so-similar ways." According to the article, "some tribal members will ignore it, others might watch while praying for an anticipated renewal, and those in prime viewing spots are welcoming visitors with storytelling, food and celebration." U.S. Bureau of Indian Education spokeswoman Nedra Darling "said the agency's schools, most of which are on the Navajo Nation, were given the option of closing Monday."

Bureau Of Land Management

Enviros Want Governor To Oppose Mine Royalty Request.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (8/20, Webb) reports that "environmentalists are calling on Gov. John Hickenlooper to oppose Arch Coal's request for a reduced federal royalty rate for part of its West Elk Mine operations in the North Fork Valley, arguing that supporting it would run counter to his recently announced initiative to fight climate change." The Bureau of Land Management "wrote to Hickenlooper Aug. 3 to say it is proposing approving the company's

request to reduce the rate to 5 percent from the standard underground coal mine rate of 8 percent in part of the mine because of adverse geological and mining conditions." The BLM "asked Hickenlooper for his comments on the proposal within 30 days."

Drilling Proposal Draws Heat.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (8/21, Harmon) reports that "environmental organizations are gearing up to battle a company's plan to drill 108 oil wells in the Whitewater Basin area, while local governments are looking to the project as a potential boon." The Mesa County Commission is "to consider a letter to the Bureau of Land Management regarding the drilling plan proposed by Fram Operating LLC to produce about 8.7 million barrels of oil in 20 years, creating as many as 70 jobs." The BLM is "accepting comments on the environmental study of the Fram proposal until Aug. 28."

At Bundy Ranch Trial, Questions On Guns And Violence.

The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (8/18, Wiles) reports that the "trial of Cliven Bundy's armed supporters in Nevada is raising thorny issues around the threat of violence and its relationship to free speech." According to the article, "defendants in the first of three Bunkerville trials, which wrapped up this week, have described their actions as being protected by the First and Second Amendments to the Constitution." However, "prosecutors say the trial is about men who used the threat of violence to defy law enforcement, and that the law does not protect people who intimidate, threaten or assault others."

BLM Seeks Comment On Proposed OHV Trail System In Western RBC.

The [Rio Blanco \(CO\) Herald Times](#) (8/19) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is "seeking comments from the public before beginning the environmental analysis for a proposed 364-mile off-highway vehicle trail system primarily in Rio Blanco County." BLM White River Field Manager Kent Walter said, "The BLM strives to be a good neighbor, and we welcome and value diverse views from the communities we serve. Comments on this proposal will be most helpful if received by September 11, 2017."

Burning Man Might Be More Fun Than Usual this Year, Here's Why.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (8/18, Graff) reports that "the dust will be present as always this year" at Burning Man, "but due to the heavy winter rains, it could be less of a nuisance." Kyle Hendrix, a spokesperson for the Bureau of Land Management, said, "The conditions present the potential for a less dusty event."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

With Comment Period Over, Interior Mulls 5-year Lease Plan.

[E&E Publishing](#) (8/18) reported that with the public comment period closing on revisions for the current five-year offshore drilling lease plan, the Interior Department will have to consider what changes to make. Acting assistant secretary for Interior Katharine MacGregor said the BOEM is still a long way from issuing any final decisions. The department will now review the comments and issue a draft plan for additional public review.

Don't Open Restricted Waters To Oil, Gas Drilling. The [AP](#) (8/20) reports Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey is opposing a new five-year national offshore oil and gas leasing program that would include more acreage. Healey filed public comments with the BOEM expressing concern that opening the Atlantic to drilling could threaten the state's economy and coastal environment. She said an oil spill could "devastate" the commercial fishing industry, while harming the state's recreation and tourism industries.

Governor Roy Cooper Voices His Opposition To Oil And Gas Drilling Off North Carolina Coast.

The [Wilmington \(NC\) Port City Daily](#) (8/18, Kane) reported North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper sent a letter to the BOEM and state Department of Environmental Quality Secretary Michael Regan opposing offshore drilling. Cooper cited opposition from residents at public hearings, a coastline that is not conducive to drilling, and an economy that is driven by tourism as reasons to oppose additional leases. The letter said, "Because offshore drilling threatens North Carolina's critical coastal industries and unique coastal environment with limited benefits for our citizens, it is a bad deal for North Carolina. ... Accordingly, I ask that you respect the wishes of our state and maintain in the new OCS Leasing Plan the current prohibition of oil and gas drilling off North

Carolina's coast."

Attorney General Becerra To Trump Administration: Drilling Off Of California's Coast Is A Non-starter. [Orange County \(CA\) Breeze](#) (8/19) reported that California Attorney General Xavier Becerra submitted comments opposing any attempts to open California's coast to new offshore drilling. Becerra said, "Californians have made it clear that they do not want new drilling off the shores of California's coast. ... As their Attorney General, I will do everything possible to protect our state's pristine natural resources. This decision does not make sense since the oil and gas industry have no interest in exploring and developing off California's shore."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by [Platts](#) (8/18), [Oil Price](#) (8/20, Cunningham), the [Bluffton \(SC\) Today](#) (8/18), the [North Jersey \(NJ\) Media Group](#) (8/20), the [Leesburg \(FL\) Daily Commercial](#) (8/18), and the [Fredericksburg \(VA\) Free Lance-Star](#) (8/19, Gerard).

Houston Firm's Plan Moves Ahead To Become First To Drill In Arctic Waters.

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (8/19, Shankman, Email) reported that "a proposal for the first oil and gas drilling in federal offshore waters of the Arctic is taking a step forward, even as regulators raise concerns." The article stated that the Liberty Project, "proposed by Houston-based Hilcorp," would allow the energy company "to build a 24-acre gravel island in about 19 feet of water, from which it would drill up to 16 wells." The article pointed out that the Bureau of Oceans and Energy Management projects that the new facility would ultimately "produce 58,000 barrels a day." Concerns raised by regulators include fears that the project "could negatively impact marine mammals and the communities that rely on them."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Caller](#) (8/18).

Bureau Of Reclamation

Sacramento County Sues State Over Delta Tunnels.

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (8/18, Kasler, Sabalow) reports that "Sacramento County led a cascade of area governments suing the state in an effort to block the Delta tunnels, saying the \$17 billion project would harm local farmers, endangered fish and low-income communities at the south end of the county." According to the article, "elected officials in the Sacramento area long have opposed the project and have formed an alliance, called the Delta Counties Coalition, dedicated to fighting the tunnels." Sacramento County filed its lawsuit last Thursday, "as did the Placer County Water Agency, the cities of Stockton and Antioch and a consortium of commercial fishermen's groups." The article says that "additional lawsuits were expected to be filed by Monday, the legal deadline for attacking the tunnels project with a CEQA suit."

Horsefly Irrigation District Looks To Convert Canal System.

The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (8/18) reports that "the Horsefly Irrigation District has been awarded a WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant through the Bureau of Reclamation to assist with converting approximately 1.68 miles of open canal to subterranean piping." The bureau has "released a Draft Environmental Assessment to disclose potential environmental effects and is seeking public comment on the proposed project."

EDITORIAL: Things Looking Up — At Least Temporarily — On Colorado River – Las Vegas Review-Journal.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (8/20) views last week's projection by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation "that, thanks to heavy snow in the Rockies, Lake Mead's water levels will remain high enough through 2019 to avoid a federal shortage declaration," as "good news" for "Clark County's water supply." The paper credits "conservation efforts along with more efficient agricultural practices."

Guest Opinion: Don't Dam Yellowstone River.

In an op-ed for the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (8/20, Skoglund, Poole), Matt Skoglund, director of the Natural Resources Defense Council's Northern Rockies office, and Kate Poole, director of NRDC's Water and Wildlife Project, opposes a proposal by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation to build "a permanent concrete dam near Glendive." According to the authors, "it will likely cause the last 125 wild pallid sturgeon to lose access to needed spawning grounds and put the nail in the coffin for this species that has survived since the age of the dinosaurs." They

urge the agencies "to revise their proposal to adopt better alternatives to a dam."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Nebraska To Get Nearly \$600,000 For Wildlife Conservation.

The [AP](#) (8/19) reports that "Nebraska will receive nearly \$600,000 in federal funding to help with wildlife conservation projects in the state." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "recently announced that Nebraska agencies will share \$590,000 to help create habitat for different species."

Ga. Awarded \$1.3 Million For Wildlife Protection Projects. The [Marietta \(GA\) Daily Journal](#) (8/19) reports that "Georgia has been awarded more than \$1.3 million in federal funds to support wildlife conservation projects in the state."

Outdoors Notebook: Pennsylvania To Receive Federal Wildlife Enhancement Grants. The [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) (8/20, Hayes) reports that Pennsylvania's fish and wildlife management agencies will receive \$1.5 million

Asian Carp Found Near Lake Michigan Got Past Barriers.

The [AP](#) (8/18, Flesher) reports that "an adult Asian carp found in a Chicago waterway near Lake Michigan this summer began its life far downstream and apparently got around a series of electric barriers intended to keep the invasive species out of the Great Lakes, officials said Friday." According to the Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee, "autopsy results and a scientific analysis showed the silver carp, which was caught June 22, was a 4-year-old male that originated in the Illinois/Middle Mississippi watershed." Charlie Wooley, the Midwest deputy regional director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said that "it could have hatched anywhere along a roughly 200-mile (320-kilometer) stretch of the Illinois River before migrating northwest."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Chicago Tribune](#) (8/18, Flesher).

Endangered Sea Turtle Nest On Maui Relocated.

[Maui \(HI\) Now](#) (8/19) reports that "on Friday, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Hawai'i Wildlife Fund rescued a nest of Hawksbill Sea Turtles (honu 'ea) on the island of Maui." According to the article, "the nest of 241 critically endangered turtle eggs was within inches of collapsing into the surf when the team of biologists and volunteers performed the emergency nest relocation."

Coconino Voices: State Management Of Mexican Gray Wolves Not Based On Science.

In an op-ed for the [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (8/19, CRUMBO, BAHR), Kim Crumbo, the Western Conservation Director of Wildlands Network, and Sandy Bahr is Director, Sierra Club-Grand Canyon Chapter, questions Arizona Game and Fish Commission (AZGFD) Chairman Jim Ammon's assertion that "the recently released Mexican wolf draft recovery plan is based on the 'best available science.'" According to the authors, "the draft plan would allow Mexican wolves to lose protection under the Endangered Species Act with fewer than half the number that scientists say are needed for recovery." They conclude that "given the science supporting wolf recovery in three U.S. populations, not to mention the improper — if not illegal — political interference in what should be a scientific analysis of what is needed for the Mexican wolf's survival, a credible scientific recovery plan is needed, not this recovery sham."

National Park Service

National Park Service Ends Policy Encouraging Parks To Ban Plastic Water Bottle Sales.

[The Hill](#) (8/19, Carter) reports that the National Park Service has "ended a policy encouraging national parks to end the sale of plastic disposable water bottles that was aimed at reducing pollution and plastic waste." Acting National Park Service director Michael T. Reynolds said in a statement, "While we will continue to encourage the use of free water bottle filling stations as appropriate, ultimately it should be up to our visitors to decide how best to keep themselves and their families hydrated during a visit to a national park, particularly during hot summer visitation periods." The article notes that "the announcement came after the recent Senate confirmation of David Bernhardt as deputy secretary for the Department of the Interior." Bernhardt is "a former lobbyist who worked for a law firm that represented one of the largest water bottle companies in the country, according to The Washington Post."

In an editorial, the [Washington Times](#) (8/20) supports the move. It notes that “the ban on water puzzled critics, who observed that it didn’t do away as well with sales of bottled sugary drinks at the parks’ restaurants and concession stands since the advertised aim of the prohibition was to reduce the litter of recyclable plastic bottles.” It also argues that “deploying recycling bins is far less costly than the plumbing required to put in water fountains throughout more than 400 national parks.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (8/20, Glenza) and [Breitbart](#) (8/20, Rodriguez).

New Mexico, Tribes To Share In Historic Preservation Grants.

The [AP](#) (8/19) reports that “New Mexico and nearly a dozen tribes in the state will share more than \$660,000 in federal grants for historic preservation projects.” The National Park Service is awarding the funding “to help communities protect historic places, traditions and cultures.” In total, “federal officials say the National Park Service has funneled \$58 million in historic preservation funding to states and tribes this year.”

National Park Service Set To Hire Contractor For Washington Monument Renovation.

[WRC-TV](#) Washington (8/18, MacFarlane) reports that the National Park Service is “expected to hire a contractor to complete a major elevator repair inside the Washington Monument by the end of August.” The contractor, “once formally selected and announced, will also construct a visitor screening center for the popular attraction.” An agency official said “an announcement will happen by Thursday, Aug. 31.”

Lawmakers Urge Removal Of Robert E. Lee Statue At Antietam.

[Politico](#) (8/19, Wright) reports that “amid the national firestorm over Civil War monuments, Maryland lawmakers are pressing the National Park Service to remove a statue of Robert E. Lee that some view as an egregious attempt to sanitize Confederate history.” Also, “key House Democrats are threatening legislation if the Park Service won’t act on its own to take down the statue at Antietam National Battlefield, site of the bloodiest single-day battle in U.S. history.” Rep. John Delaney said, “The history of this piece, which now resides on this sacred ground, certainly makes it clear it was recently erected by a private citizen out of pro-Confederacy enthusiasm and not to provide historical context or under the direction of a battlefield historian. I don’t think that taxpayer resources should serve that end.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Hagerstown \(MD\) Herald-Mail Media](#) (8/19, Baker).

National Robert E. Lee Memorial Gets A Rewrite. [The Atlantic](#) (8/16, Berman) reports that the National Park Service has changed the description of “Arlington House, the Robert E. Lee Memorial” in Virginia. Before August 14, the NPS described the memorial to honor Lee, and made no mention of the oppression he was fighting for. The description was updated on August 14 to include the “most difficult aspects of American history.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Salon](#) (8/18, Maldonado).

Jefferson Memorial Exhibit Update Will Acknowledge Slavery Record.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/20, Gehrke) reports that the Trust for the National Mall has announced that “an exhibit alongside the nation’s chief memorial to Thomas Jefferson will receive an update that reflects ‘the complexity’ of his status as a founder of the United States and a slaveholder.” The Trust’s president, Catherine Townsend, said in a letter, “In the coming weeks and months, the physical symbols of American history and democracy will be scrutinized and challenged. When that happens, we will work with our partners to ensure the National Mall continues to be a vibrant and relevant place where Americans can learn about our history and imagine our future, together.”

Red Paint Thrown On DC Statue Of Confederate General.

[WRC-TV](#) Washington (8/18, Fitzgerald, Cook) reports that “someone has thrown red paint on a statue that honors a Confederate general in Washington, D.C.” Toward the end of a protest last Friday, someone threw red paint on the statue for Albert Pike. U.S. Park Police are investigating the vandalism. D.C. Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton “said she plans to meet with the National Park Service to discuss removing the statue.”

Mostly Peaceful Crowd Turns Out For Demonstration.

The [Hot Springs \(AR\) Sentinel-Record](#) (8/20, Bryan) reports that “a demonstration in support of

Confederate monuments held Saturday in Hot Springs National Park drew, at its peak, between 350-400 demonstrators and counterprotesters and resulted in only a handful of arrests, mostly for disorderly conduct, city and National Park Service officials said." The rally, "the fourth of its kind this year, drew more attention than the earlier gatherings given the events of the week before, when violence broke out at a Charlottesville, Va., rally to protest the removal of a Gen. Robert E. Lee monument."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (8/18).

Tubman National Park In Auburn: Another Legal Hurdle, Preservation Work And More Visitors.

The [Auburn \(NY\) Citizen](#) (8/20, Harding) reports that "there is another agreement that needs to be finalized between the Harriet Tubman Home and National Park Service" for the establishment of the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park. Karen Hill, president and CEO of the Harriet Tubman Home in Auburn, "said both sides are negotiating what she referred to as an implementation agreement." According to the article, "while the arrangements were detailed in the general agreement signed in January, a more formal accord was required to outline the roles for each party."

City May Donate South Dakota Land To National Park Service.

The [AP](#) (8/19) reports that "a city in southeast South Dakota is considering giving a portion of city-owned land to the National Park Service to provide additional access to the Missouri National Recreational River." The Yankton City Commission "discussed a proposal Monday to draft an agreement for transferring more than 30 acres of land on the Nebraska side of the Missouri River to the park service." River Superintendent Rick Clark "said that getting the land could be a huge boost to the park's ability to obtain funding for trail improvements."

Beach Drive Rehab Progress: Nearly 2 Miles Of Roadway Rebuilt, 4.6 Miles To Go.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/19, Lazo) reports that the reopening of "a newly reconstructed portion of Beach Drive" at the end of the month will "mark completion of a third of a three-year project to rehabilitate the 6.5-mile Beach Drive." According to the article, "in the past year, 1.82 miles in the southernmost portion of the route was rebuilt," but "there are still two years and 4.6 miles to go." At 1 p.m. Sunday, the National Park Service will "welcome neighbors and other road users for a car-free party at the National Zoo entrance on Beach Drive."

Additional coverage was provided by [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (8/20).

Dinosaur Nat'l Monument Creek Due To Septic Line Break.

The [AP](#) (8/18) reports that "a popular fishing spot in Dinosaur National Monument has been closed because of a broken septic line at a fish hatchery." The National Park Service "said Thursday that Jones Hole Creek near the Colorado-Utah border has been temporarily closed to fishing and swimming because of the leak." The article adds that "the adjacent hiking 4-mile trail from the Jones Hole Fish Hatchery to the Green River is also closed."

Nonnative Fish To Be Poisoned Off In Yellowstone River.

The [AP](#) (8/19) reports that Yellowstone National Park officials are "about to deliberately poison off nonnative fish species in one of the park's major river drainages." According to the article, "the operation along the upper Gibbon River begins Monday and will include lakes in the river drainage." Park officials are "targeting lake-dwelling grayling as well as rainbow trout and brook trout. They plan to reintroduce native species after the operation is finished."

Indiana National Park: Take Those Painted Rocks Elsewhere.

The [AP](#) (8/20) reports that the George Rogers Clark National Historical Park is "discouraging visitors from taking part in a scavenger hunt-type fad where people paint rocks and leave them places." Joe Herron, the park's chief ranger says "that park employees have 'had to be a party pooper' and pick up and remove painted rocks left in the park that honors a Revolutionary War hero because they aren't consistent with the National Park Service's 'leave it as you found it' policy."

Rescue Effort Frees Whale Stranded In Olympic National Park.

The [Chinook \(WA\) Observer](#) (8/19) reports that "a rescue effort during high tide late Friday night freed a young gray whale that had been stranded on a remote beach in Olympic National Park

and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary for about three days.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (8/18).

Officials Consider Removing Part Of Bridge After Drownings.

The [AP](#) (8/19) reports that the National Park Service is “mulling new safety measures after two recent drownings by people who jumped off a 101-year-old bridge into the Chattahoochee River.” Officials are “considering removing beams on the Gwinnett County side of the bridge.”

Additional coverage was provided by [WXIA-TV](#) Atlanta (8/18, Richards).

1 Dead In Police Shooting At Buffalo National River.

The [AP](#) (8/20) reports that “authorities in Arkansas say one man is dead after an officer-involved shooting at the Buffalo National River in northern Arkansas.” The incident “occurred Saturday night in the Lower Buffalo Ranger District of the national river.” According to authorities “no officers were injured in the shooting.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Springfield \(MO\) News-Leader](#) (8/20, Schmitt).

California Fire Forces Evacuations In Yosemite National Park.

The [AP](#) (8/20) reports that “evacuation orders remain in place for the tiny California community of Wawona as crews try to surround a stubborn, week-old fire in Yosemite National Park.” According to the article, “authorities ordered residents in and around Wawona to evacuate Saturday as flames came within 1 ½ miles and air quality reached hazardous levels.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (8/19, Panoo) and the [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (8/19, Panoo).

Woman Becomes Glacier National Park’s First Female Packer.

The [AP](#) (8/19, Scott) reports that Jill Michalak is “bucking convention at Glacier National Park, where this season she landed a job as the first female packer in the program’s century-old history.” Glacier’s lead packer Dave Elwood said that “Michalak possesses the mettle of a packing pro; she regards the trade’s traditional roots with deep esteem, she possesses all of the skills and knows how to use them, and she understands the importance of maintaining public lands and wilderness.” Elwood said, “As long as we have wilderness, we’ll have packers, and we need young packers like Jill to carry on the legacy to future generations. I think our forefathers saw the mechanized world coming, and they had the foresight to set some of this aside. It’s up to us and the National Park Service to preserve that.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

North Korean Threat Revitalizes Opposition To US Military Expansion In Guam.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/18, Craymer) reported the North Korean nuclear threat has rekindled a local movement in Guam opposed to a planned US military expansion on the island, which the Pentagon announced in 2006 but delayed over environmental concerns and a series of legal challenges and opposition actions. Activists argue Guam’s security has been jeopardized because of its status as a US territory and residents’ lack of a voice in Washington.

Hagerty Says US, Japan Committed To Calming Rhetoric Over North Korea. [Reuters](#) (8/18, Kelly) reports that on Friday, the US Ambassador to Japan, William Hagerty, met with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Hagerty lamented his visit comes at a difficult time, but that the US-Japanese alliance “is rock solid, in fact in my personal view this is the greatest alliance on earth.” He stressed that the US sought to cooperate with Japan to “calm the rhetoric” over the North Korean threat. On Thursday, Secretary of State Tillerson, Defense Secretary Mattis, and their Japanese counterparts also agreed “to work more closely on North Korea.” Tillerson remarked, “Our effort is to cause them to want to engage in talks but engage in talks with an understanding that these talks will lead to a different conclusion than talks of the past.”

The [New York Times](#) (8/18, Rich) says Abe is keenly aware that Japan “needs the United States as its primary protector in a volatile region,” but analysts suggested he is beginning “to consider a more independent role for Japan in Asia: one that looks beyond the current White House as Japan prepares for an era in which American influence may be waning.” The Times points to Japan’s involvement in the Trans-Pacific Partnership and pledge to cooperate with China’s “One Belt, One Road” infrastructure project as evidence that the nation may be distancing itself. According to some analysts, however, Japan will not likely sever its close relations with the

US, in large part because of the military constraints under Japan's pacifist constitution.

US, South Korea To Conduct Joint Military Exercises. [Reuters](#) (8/18) reports the Pentagon said Friday that from Aug. 21 through Aug. 31, about 17,500 US troops will join South Korean forces in a joint military exercise dubbed Ulchi Freedom Guardian, which the Pentagon described as a "computer simulated defensive exercise designed to enhance readiness, protect the region and maintain stability on the Korean peninsula." Troops from Australia, Britain, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, New Zealand, and the Netherlands will also participate. Reuters notes the joint exercise comes amid escalating tensions "over North Korea's missile and nuclear weapons program."

[USA Today](#) (8/18, Michaels) reports North Korea's official media outlet, Central News Agency, warned that the US-South Korean joint exercise will "further drive the situation on the Korean Peninsula into a catastrophe." Pyongyang's ongoing threats have "triggered a stern warning from Washington," including from Defense Secretary Mattis, who on Thursday asserted, "In the event of a missile launch towards the territory of Japan, Guam, United States, Korea, we would take immediate, specific actions to take it down."

Rohrabacher Urges Pentagon To Conduct "Massive Cyberattack" On North Korea. The [Washington Times](#) (8/18, Blake) reports that on Thursday, House Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia and Emerging Threats Chairman Dana Rohrabacher called on the Pentagon to conduct "a coordinated, massive cyberattack on North Korea's infrastructure, disabling the dictatorship's communications and its missile-launch capabilities." Rohrabacher explained, "The ultimate goal, of course, must be regime change, and we may hope that North Korea's sponsors in China also recognize that necessity."

Survey To Track Pacific Migrants.

The [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#) (8/19, Nakaso) reports that the Interior Department "by December 2018 plans to count the number of people who travel under the Compacts of Free Association in Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa to determine how much federal money Hawaii and the U.S. territories will receive to offset 'the economic and social impacts of these migrants.'"

Top National News

Trump Expected To Announce Afghanistan Troop Increase In Televised Address.

Coverage of the White House announcement that President Trump will address the nation about Afghanistan on Monday evening is brief and straightforward owing to the lack of detail in the statement. Reports say that it appears the President will announce an increase in troop strength, probably by 4,000 troops. Most sources stick to the basic facts, though several look at the ongoing debate within the Administration over Afghanistan policy – as well as the President's own reported reluctance to continue the war there.

The [CBS Weekend News](#) (8/20, lead story, 2:05, Quijano) reported, "Exactly seven months into his presidency, with his economic agenda eclipsed by political turmoil, President Trump is shifting focus to America's longest war. The President will address the nation Monday night with a new strategy for the war in Afghanistan. It could include sending thousands more US troops." On [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/20, story 3, 2:20, Diaz-Balart), Kelly O'Donnell reported that "the President will unveil his plan...after a strategy session with his top advisers at Camp David Friday." In a brief report, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/20, story 4, 3:00, Llamas) said Trump "has repeatedly expressed a desire to bring America's longest war to a close, but his generals are telling him that the job is not finished." The [Washington Post](#) (8/20, Morello, Wagner) reports, "Trump has given Mattis authority to set troop levels in the country, but Mattis has been waiting for Trump to decide a strategic focus before he sends any more troops."

The [New York Times](#) (8/20, Gordon) reports that Defense Secretary Mattis said that Trump, "who had been accused by lawmakers of dragging his feet on Afghanistan, had settled on a new strategy after a 'rigorous' review." On an overnight flight to Jordan, Mattis told reporters, "The President has made a decision. I am very comfortable that the strategic process was sufficiently rigorous." The [Washington Post](#) (8/20, Morello, Wagner) reports, "Trump has given Mattis authority to set troop levels in the country, but Mattis has been waiting for Trump to decide a strategic focus before he sends any more troops."

[USA Today](#) (8/20, Collins) reports that "options on the table include proposals to send roughly 3,000 to 5,000 more US troops. ... The top commander in Afghanistan, Gen. John

Nicholson, has said several thousand additional troops are needed." The [AP](#) (8/20, Baldor, Burns) reports that Nicholson "hailed the launch of the Afghan Army's new special operations corps" on Sunday, an "exhortation of continued support for the Afghans [that] suggested the Pentagon may have won its argument that America's military must stay engaged in the conflict." [The Hill](#) (8/20, Manchester) says an addition of "4,000 troops to the 8,400 now deployed" is expected.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/20, Nicholas, Lubold) and other sources note that the President called for a troop drawdown as a candidate, but that military advisers and Secretary of State Tillerson counseled against it. [Politico](#) (8/20, Griffiths) reports that the "seemingly endless conflict in Afghanistan has been the subject of significant debate within the administration. The president has at times expressed skepticism about the possibility of winning a war there." [Breitbart](#) (8/20, Mora) says Trump "inherited a chaotic situation in Afghanistan from his predecessors."

Jonathan Swan of [Axios](#) (8/20) writes, "Trump's top national security advisers all agree the only way they'll win their missions in Afghanistan is to modestly increase troop levels, keep training the Afghan military, and keep a strong CIA and special forces presence to run aggressive counter-terrorism operations." Mattis has reportedly "been using this line in meetings: 'Mr. President, we haven't fought a 16-year war so much as we have fought a one-year war, 16 times.'" Swan writes that despite his reluctance, Trump "doesn't want to be the president who loses the country to the terrorists."

[Reuters](#) (8/20, Ali) reports that Sen. Tim Kaine said on CBS' Face The Nation, "The troop strength question is sort of cart before the horse. The real question is what is our strategy? And then when you lay out the strategy, the troop strength question can kind of answer itself." Sen. Ben Cardin said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (8/20, Hemmer) that he had not seen the new strategy by the White House but that "our objective needs to be that we have a regime in Afghanistan that can maintain some semblance of security so that we don't see" a growth of "terrorist organizations again within Afghanistan."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/20, Hennigan) headlines its report "Trump To Announce New Strategy – And Probably More Troops – For Afghanistan." The [Washington Times](#) (8/20, Boyer, Muñoz), the [Washington Examiner](#) (8/20, Cohen, Chaitin), and the [Daily Caller](#) (8/20, Pfeiffer) also have reports.

Trump Praises Boston Protesters Rallying Against "Bigotry And Hate," Condemns "Anti-Police Agitators."

President Trump in a series of tweets on Saturday lauded protesters in Boston "speaking out against bigotry and hate" while criticizing "'anti-police agitators." Coverage of the President's remarks was limited, although reports contrast his remarks to comments last week following violence in Charlottesville and compared the violence at that rally to the peaceful demonstrations in Boston.

[The Hill](#) (8/19, Greenwood) reports Trump "heaped praise on counterprotesters in Boston," [tweeting](#), "Our great country has been divided for decades. Sometimes you need protest in order to heal, & we will heal, & be stronger than ever before!" He [added](#), "I want to applaud the many protesters in Boston who are speaking out against bigotry and hate. Our country will soon come together as one!"

However, [Bloomberg News](#) (8/19, Hamilton) reports that "an hour before lauding Saturday's protesters, Trump, who's spending the weekend at his Bedminster, New Jersey, golf resort, was less magnanimous." [Politico](#) (8/19, Griffiths) reports he [tweeted](#), "Looks like many anti-police agitators in Boston. Police are looking tough and smart! Thank you." [The Hill](#) (8/19, Manchester) reports the President in another tweet "also praised Boston's mayor and law enforcement officers amid the protests." Trump [said](#), "Great job by all law enforcement officers and Boston Mayor @Marty_Walsh." In the lead [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/19, lead story, 3:05, Llamas) segment, Stephanie Ramos said the President's remarks amounted to "some mixed messages."

According to a front-page [New York Times](#) (8/18, A1, Seelye, Blinder, Bidgood) article, "thousands of demonstrators, emboldened and unnerved by the fatal eruption of violence in Virginia last weekend, surged into the nation's streets and parks on Saturday to denounce white supremacy and Nazism." The Times says that "the demonstrations were loud but broadly peaceful, even as tensions and worries coursed through protests that unfolded from Boston Common, the nation's oldest public park, to Hot Springs, Ark., and the bridges that cross the Willamette River in Portland, Ore. Other protests were expected on Saturday in Chicago, Dallas and Houston." The Times adds that "Boston faced dueling demonstrations, but a rally to promote 'free speech' was brief and unamplified," as does the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/19, Levitz, Kamp) in an article titled "Right-Wing Rally Is Overwhelmed By Counterprotests In Boston."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/19, Lowery, Pazzanese) reports that “in anticipation of potential violence, city officials corralled more than 500 police officers onto the Common, installed security cameras and constructed elaborate barriers to separate the free-speech rally from the massive demonstration in opposition to it.” The Post adds that “the handful of rally attendees gathered beneath a pavilion near the center of the Common, surrounded by metal barriers and dozens of police. Several hundred feet away, thousands of counterprotesters surrounding them carrying signs declaring ‘Black Lives Matter’ and ‘Hate Has No Home In Boston,’ while mockingly chanting ‘we can’t hear you’ when it appeared the ralliers had begun to speak.” In the lead [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/19, lead story, 2:50, Diaz-Balart) segment, Morgan Radford interviewed participants of both the “Free Speech” rally and the counterprotesters.

On the lead story of the [CBS Weekend News](#) (8/19, lead story, 2:10, Ninan), DeMarco Morgan reported “there were some skirmishes” and “a Trump supporter had to be escorted to safety by police.” The [Boston Globe](#) (8/18) reports the rallies ended early “with few injuries and 27 arrests, officials said at a late afternoon press conference.” The Globe adds “a throng of demonstrators that at times was 2 miles long marched from Roxbury to protest the rally, whose lineup included speakers with extremist ties, and which had prompted fears of a repeat of the violence that rocked Charlottesville, Va., earlier this week. Police estimated that 30,000 to 40,000 people ended up in and around the Common.”

[The Hill](#) (8/19, Greenwood) “Briefing Room” blog reports that after the demonstrations, Boston Mayor Marty Walsh said, “I want to thank all the people that came out to there that message of love, not hate. To fight back on racism, to fight back on anti-Semitism, to fight back on the supremacists that were coming to our city, on the Nazis that were coming to our city” [The Hill](#) (8/19, Manchester) “Briefing Room” blog separately reports Boston Police Commissioner William Evans also “said on Saturday that the vast majority of people who came out to protest a conservative free speech rally were there ‘for the right reason.’” Evans said, “Ninety-nine point nine percent of the people here were here for the right reason, and that’s to fight bigotry and hate for the most part here today.”

Twitter Users Mock Trump For “Heal” Typos. [USA Today](#) (8/19, Miller) reports that “when sending out a response to the counterprotest in Boston that quelled a ‘Free Speech’ rally on Saturday, President Trump attempted to tweet a message about the country needing protest in order to ‘heal,’” but he misspelled the word three times and “some Twitter users captured the typos in screenshots.” USA Today highlights some of the critical responses to the President’s mistake.

Haley: “We All Have A Responsibility To Stand Up And Condemn” Hate. Ambassador Haley “told staff in an email – seen by” [Reuters](#) (8/18) on Friday – that “everyone must stand up and condemn hate.” Haley said, “Those who march spewing hate are few, but loud. We must denounce them at every turn, and make them feel like they are on an island and isolate them the same way they wish to isolate others.” Reuters added “Haley, a former governor of South Carolina, said the ‘horrible acts’ seen in Charlottesville ‘took me back to sad days dealing with the Charleston tragedy in 2015.’” Haley also asserted, “People aren’t born with hate. We all have a responsibility to stand up and condemn it.” Haley continued, “While we should respect diversity of viewpoints, it is incumbent on us to challenge hate with the values we cherish. And it is incumbent on us to never, ever countenance violence as we do so.”

WPost A1: GOP Lawmakers Divided Over Trump Following Charlottesville Response. The [Washington Post](#) (8/19, A1, Balz) reports on its front page that following Trump’s response to the violence in Charlottesville last weekend, “Republican lawmakers and leaders face the most unpalatable set of choices yet in their relationship” with the President, as “they are caught between disgust over his failure to unequivocally condemn neo-Nazism, a desire to advance a conservative agenda and fears of rupturing the Trump-GOP coalition ahead of the 2018 elections.” According to the Post, “many GOP leaders are now personally wrestling with the trade-offs of making a cleaner separation with the president, while finding no good options” and “to some in the party, the hesitancy to act more boldly...falls short of what they believe this moment demands.” However, the Post acknowledges “interviews with Republicans around the country since Charlottesville highlight the dilemma elected officials face.”

Sasse Worries “It Feels Like Violence Is Coming.” [The Hill](#) (8/19, Bowden) “Briefing Room” blog reports Sen. Ben Sasse on Friday “in an extensive Facebook post...shared thoughts he said were prompted by the violence last weekend in Charlottesville, Va. that left three dead and multiple injured.” In particular, Sasse “warned that ‘it feels like violence is coming’ and the president won’t be able to calm the nation in the face of it.” The Hill adds Sasse also “unloaded on...Trump and his administration over the response to the incident, which Sasse called out as

motivated by white supremacists.”

Bera Expresses Support For Censuring Trump Over Charlottesville Response. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/19, McGreevy) reports Rep. Ami Bera at a town hall meeting on Saturday called “Trump’s actions and comments in response to racist violence in Virginia...embarrassing” and he suggested “a case could be made for censuring the president.” Bera said, “I think given his actions, his words post-Charlottesville, you can very well make the case, and we are starting to talk about that, of censuring the president. We can’t do that without Republicans finding the political courage to join with us.” He added, “I, at this particular point, am embarrassed by our president and some of his actions, some of his words.”

NYTimes A1: Trump Supporters Unfazed By His Charlottesville Response. Under the headline “A Deal Breaker For Trump’s Supporters? Nope. Not This Time, Either,” the [New York Times](#) (8/19, A1, Tavernise) states on its front page that although “there are signs that Mr. Trump’s support among Republican leaders and some Republican voters is weakening,” his core supporters are sticking with him despite his comments on the violence in Charlottesville.

NYTimes A1: Charlottesville, Trump’s Reaction Has Redefined Virginia Gubernatorial Race. In a front-page analysis, the [New York Times](#) (8/19, A1, Martin) reports “the bloody white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Va., has thrust race and history to the forefront of this year’s campaign for governor in Virginia,” as has the President’s response to the violence, and the outcome will “inevitably...be read as a harbinger for the 2018 midterm elections.” The Times adds that the unrest will “ensure that the nation’s highest-profile campaign this fall will also be fought in part along the highly combustible lines of racial politics.” However, the Times says both parties will be “somewhat discomfited, both because of Virginia’s bifurcated demography and the cautious nature of the two candidates,” Lt. Gov. Ralph S. Northam (D) and Ed Gillespie (R).

NYTimes: Trump “A Prince Of Discord Who Seems Divorced From Decency And Common Sense.” The [New York Times](#) (8/19) editorializes that “with each day, President Trump offers fresh proof that he is failing the office that Americans entrusted to him,” even as “the rolling disaster of his presidency accelerated downhill last week with a news conference on Tuesday at which he seemed determined to sow racial strife in a nation desperate for a unifying vision.” The Times says Trump’s defense of white supremacists shows “in essence, is where we are now: a nation led by a prince of discord who seems divorced from decency and common sense.” The Times takes comfort in “some signs that our democratic system is working to contain Mr. Trump,” but concludes “the deeper question, to Mr. Trump’s remaining supporters, is not political but moral. It is whether they will continue to follow a standard-bearer who is alienating most of the country by embracing extremists.”

Bannon Ends Tenure As Chief Strategist, Returns To Breitbart.

The White House announced Friday that Strategist Steve Bannon has left the Administration to reclaim his post as executive chairman for Breitbart News. Coverage of Bannon’s departure reached saturation levels in print and online, while the network newscasts, which all led with the story, devoted nearly 12 and a half minutes combined to the announcement. While reporting hailed Chief of Staff Kelly for securing Bannon’s resignation, many analyses cautioned Bannon could pose a serious threat to his opponents who remain in the Administration from his position at Breitbart and highlighted that conservatives are upset with his removal.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/18, A1, Parker, Rucker, Costa, Paletta) reports on its front page that although Bannon had been “an architect” of Trump’s election, the President dismissed “his embattled chief strategist...in a major White House shake-up that follows a week of racial unrest.” The Post adds that “Trump had been under mounting pressure to dispense with Bannon, who many officials view as a political Svengali but who has drawn scorn as a leading internal force encouraging and amplifying the president’s most controversial nationalist impulses.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/18, A1, Bender) reports in a front-page article that the President had stuck with his chief strategist through previous controversies, but Bannon’s recent [interview](#) with the American Prospect likely forced Trump’s hand.

In the lead [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (8/18, 5:01 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) segment, senior White House correspondent Jim Acosta said that according to sources, Bannon’s interview “irked the President” because it “seemed to undercut Mr. Trump’s message.” In the lead story for [CNN’s Situation Room](#)’s (8/18, 5:03 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) second hour, Acosta said “Bannon was supposed to be fired two weeks ago” because he disagreed with White House Chief of Staff Kelly’s “disciplined power structure for the White House,” but it was the “interviews that seemed to undercut Mr. Trump’s message” on North Korea that constituted the last straw.

In the lead [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (8/18, 6:01 p.m. EDT, Baier) story, chief White

House correspondent John Roberts similarly said “an Administration official told Fox News the interview, quote, ‘Didn’t help Bannon’s case.’” [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (8/18, 5:07 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) White House reporter Kaitlan Collins also said Bannon’s interview with the American Prospect, in which he contradicted Trump’s message on North Korea and claimed “he could make personnel changes at the State Department,” had “infuriated” Trump in part because Bannon was effectively “acting like he was the president.”

Politics editor at large Chris Cillizza of [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (8/18, 5:32 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) said that interview was, in his opinion, the final straw for Trump not only because Bannon “granted an extended interview with a liberal magazine,” but because he was touting how he was “moving people around” and contradicting Trump’s message on North Korea. [Fox News’ Special Report](#)’s (8/18, 5:04 p.m. EDT, Baier) Bret Baier quoted Bannon as stating in the American Prospect interview, “There’s no military solution [to North Korea’s nuclear threats], forget it. Until somebody solves the part of the equation that shows me that ten million people in Seoul don’t die in the first 30 minutes from conventional weapons, I don’t know what you’re talking about, there’s no military solution here, they got us.”

Charles Krauthammer told [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (8/18, 6:39 p.m. EDT, Baier) that Bannon’s ouster was the result of “several strikes” against him over the interview, notably over his remarks on “North Korea, the undermining of the President’s policy, basically saying it’s a bluff and it’s an empty bluff. The China part, where he said we’re at war, economic war with China. Just when the President is trying to use Chinese influence on the North Korea problem.”

In a front-page article, the [New York Times](#) (8/18, A1, Haberman) reports that prior to an official announcement, the President “told senior aides that he had decided to remove Mr. Bannon, according to two administration officials briefed on the discussion.” However, the Times says “a person close to Mr. Bannon insisted that the parting of ways was his idea, and that he had submitted his resignation to the president on Aug. 7, to be announced at the start of this week,” but the violence in Charlottesville, Virginia delayed the announcement even as “Bannon’s many critics bore down after the violence in Charlottesville.” The Times adds “human rights activists demanded that the president fire so-called nationalists working in the West Wing. That group of hard-right populists in the White House is led by Mr. Bannon.”

However, the [Washington Times](#) (8/18, Boyer) says the White House “portrayed the move as a mutual parting.” [Breitbart](#) (8/18, Moons) reports White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders in a statement said: “White House Chief of Staff John Kelly and Steve Bannon have mutually agreed today would be Steve’s last day. We are grateful for his service and wish him the best.” [Politico Magazine](#) (8/18, Johnson) reports that “Trump himself, who hates firing people, has not spoken to Bannon personally since his dismissal, according to a White House aide.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/18, Sink, Talev) reports Bannon’s “exit caps a tumultuous four weeks in which a slew of senior officials have announced their departures, including the former White House chief of staff Reince Priebus, former press secretary Sean Spicer and former communications director Anthony Scaramucci, who was hired and fired within the space of 11 days.” The [AP](#) (8/18, Lemire, Colvin) states that “just seven months in, Trump has forced out his hardline national security adviser, his chief of staff, his press secretary (whose last day will be Aug. 31) and two communications directors – in addition to the FBI director he inherited from Barack Obama.” The AP characterizes Bannon’s departure to be “especially significant since he was viewed by many as Trump’s connection to his base of most-committed voters and the protector of the disruptive, conservative agenda that propelled the celebrity businessman to the White House.”

[Reuters](#) (8/18, Mason, Holland) describes Bannon as “a powerful and controversial figure known for far-right political views” who was “behind some of Trump’s most contentious policies, including a travel ban on people from several Muslim-majority nations, and has fought with more moderate factions inside a White House riven with rivalries and back-stabbing.” Reuters adds that the 63-year-old Bannon is “a champion of economic nationalism and a political provocateur” as well as “a former U.S. Navy officer, Goldman Sachs investment banker and Hollywood movie producer.”

In pieces chronicling Bannon’s tenure, [Bloomberg News](#) (8/18, Green) asserts he was “Trump’s most important political relationship” and [Reuters](#) (8/18, Oliphant) says that for the President, the removal of Bannon “was almost like bidding goodbye to a part of himself,” as “Trump’s most polarizing stances on matters such as immigration and national security closely tracked Bannon’s ‘America First’ anti-globalist worldview.”

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/18, story 2, 2:00, Mason), chief Washington correspondent

and "Face the Nation" anchor John Dickerson said that on "issues like immigration, trade, taxes, where Bannon's view was different than the orthodox Republican view – that's now no longer got a champion in the White House. And the same on foreign policy." Dickerson added Bannon "was against the kind of adventurism that we've seen in previous Republican politics. He also was the one who encouraged the President's counter-punching instincts. He was a risk taker during the campaigns." According to Dickerson, "Now that he's out, he may very well become a fierce opponent of the White House from the outside."

Nonetheless, a more than 2,100-word [Politico](#) (8/18, Dawsey, Karni, Nussbaum) analysis contends that "in the end, it was Steve Bannon's ego that did him in." In the lead [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/18, lead story, 4:00, Muir) segment, senior White House correspondent Cecilia Vega said Bannon "seemed to have so much power Time magazine called him 'the great manipulator.' And of course, SNL portraying him as the real mastermind in the Oval Office. It did not sit well with the President, who told the 'Wall Street Journal' in April Bannon was just, quote, 'a guy who works for me.' And just this week, the President making it clear he won the election on his own."

Meanwhile, according to [USA Today](#) (8/18, Jackson, Przybyla), "Bannon's departure triggered immediate speculation as to whether he would seek to retaliate against Trump and enemies inside the White House via Breitbart News or other outlets aligned with the now-former adviser." In an interview with [Bloomberg News](#) (8/18, Green), "Bannon said in his first public remarks since his ouster" asserted, "If there's any confusion out there, let me clear it up: I'm leaving the White House and going to war for Trump against his opponents – on capitol hill, in the media, and in corporate America."

The [New York Times](#) (8/18, A1, Grynbaum, Peters) reports on its front page that Bannon on Friday also resumed his role as chairman of "the hard-charging right-wing website" Breitbart News and he led Breitbart's evening editorial meeting. [The Hill](#) (8/18, Easley) reports Breitbart News editor-in-chief Alex Marlow in a statement said, "The populist-nationalist movement got a lot stronger today. ... Breitbart gained an executive chairman with his finger on the pulse of the Trump agenda." Breitbart President and CEO Larry Solov said, "Breitbart's pace of global expansion will only accelerate with Steve back. ... The sky's the limit."

[Politico](#) (8/18, Isenstadt) reports that "in the days leading up to his exit Friday, Steve Bannon told associates that he felt profoundly constrained by the limits of the federal government and was itching to return to the outside world." Politico adds that "it was time, he told friends, to get ready for 'Bannon da barbarian.'" [Breitbart](#) (8/18, Shaw) cites [Axios](#) in reporting that a source close to Bannon stated that "this week is a good window into what Bannon outside the [White House] would look like: A strong defense of POTUS and 'fire and fury' for enemies of The Trump agenda."

A [Washington Post](#) (8/18, Borchers) analysis predicts Bannon "could have even more of an impact" on the Administration from the outside. While the President may achieve "another amiable split" and retain Bannon as "a valuable ally," the Post warns that Bannon still "could focus his fury on former White House rivals who pulled the president in different directions." [The Hill](#) (8/18, Easley, Fabian) also reports that "while the chief strategist's ouster is a victory for...Kelly and his goal of eliminating leaks and bringing order to the Oval Office, some believe Bannon could be an even more disruptive force for the Trump administration from the outside."

Charles Hurt of the Washington Times told [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/18, 6:38 p.m. EDT, Baier) that Bannon may be the White House's "new enemy" who "is not going to quit." However, Hurt acknowledged Trump has "been unshakeable in his commitment to those things that he and Steve Bannon have both been fighting for, for a long time. I think in the other areas like Afghanistan and some of these global affairs issues or trade with China, things like that. I think that's where we are going to see a lot of the fireworks."

[Washington Post](#) (8/18, Bump) correspondent Philip Bump states that "if Bannon decides to train his well-honed ability to mobilize anger at the White House," he is unlikely to target Trump, "a president who largely agrees with the Breitbart agenda (thanks, in part, to being an avid consumer of it)," but rather may take aim at "the people around Trump who might try to turn him back into the Manhattan moderate he once was."

[McClatchy](#) (8/18, Kumar) reports "several former Trump advisers" are worried that Bannon will target "a trio of top aides he clashed with at the White House: Gary Cohn, director of the National Economic Council and a registered Democrat who is one of the less conservative voices in the White House; National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster; and Dina Powell, deputy national security adviser for strategy." In the lead [CBS Evening News](#) (8/18, lead story, 2:30, Mason) segment, Margaret Brennan reported "Bannon was unafraid to feud with other White House

officials, particularly the President's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, economic adviser Gary Cohen, and National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster."

Conservatives "Expressed Fury And Dismay" Over Bannon's Removal. [The Hill](#) (8/18, Easley) reports "a number of conservatives expressed fury and dismay on Friday after news broke that President Trump has parted ways with his chief strategist, Stephen Bannon," who they view as "a hero on the right [for] harnessing Trump's message of economic populism during the campaign." According to [McClatchy](#) (8/18, Welsh), "leaders of the far-right movement raged against Steve Bannon's ouster from the White House, warning the West Wing is now dominated by fake conservatives led by" Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner. In a Twitter live stream on Friday, "well-known far-right activist Mike Cernovich" asserted, "It's a full on coup now, guys" and he "directly blamed 'Javanka' – the nickname for Ivanka Trump and Kushner – for the ouster of the administration's nationalist ideologue." In addition, Cernovich and "Jack Posobiec, a voice associated with the far-right," told McClatchy "they thought Vice President Mike Pence could be responsible for the effort to oust Trump's inner circle from the administration."

[Politico](#) (8/18, Cheney, Bade) reports Bannon's departure "is alarming conservative lawmakers and their allies, who no longer have a direct pipeline to the Oval Office." Politico acknowledges that he "forged an especially close relationship with the House Freedom Caucus – the influential bloc of hard-line House Republicans – during a bruising health care fight in the spring" as Bannon had "played a central role in keeping the Freedom Caucus in the president's good graces when the group initially appeared to blow up the House's Obamacare repeal-and-replace effort in April."

[The Hill](#) (8/18, Kamisar) reports Rep. Lee Zeldin in a Fox News interview on Friday "lamented...Bannon's departure from the administration Friday, defending the controversial aide and conservative media figure against accusations of racism." Zeldin asserted Bannon has been "getting a really bad rap, characterizing him as a racist," which is "just not accurate from the person that I have had an opportunity to spend some time with." Zeldin added Bannon is "passionately pro-Israel, very consistent with the president's vision in regards to trade policy or moving in a better direction on the Iran nuclear deal. He's someone who brought a lot of talent and wisdom. He understands world history like few others do in this country."

Tucker Carlson, in an appearance on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/18, 6:21 p.m. EDT, Baier), said that Bannon's departure "is a big deal" and "is being framed in terms of identity politics: is Steve Bannon a racist or is he not? But the real story has to do with ideas and politics. Bannon was one of the only populist conservatives in the White House," and he was "at odds with the majority on virtually every possible policy topic," such as "energy, climate, trade, immigration, foreign policy." Carlson added Bannon "was one of the people fighting against H.R. McMaster on sending more troops to Afghanistan," and "he would have fought against, I think, any attempt to send troops to Venezuela, something the President mentioned."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/18, Weigel) reports that even with Bannon's dismissal, "the leaders of the 'alt-right,' which Bannon elevated and then denounced, predicted that their movement would continue." Richard Spencer, "the white nationalist who popularized the term 'alt-right' to rebrand the white nationalist movement," said, "I'm sad to see Bannon go, but I was never sure who Bannon was ideologically and politically. ... He's a fighter, to be sure, and a populist in a basic sense, but what he actually believed was never clear."

Meanwhile, the [Washington Times](#) (8/18, Boyer) reports Tea Party Patriots President Jenny Beth Martin, Americans for Limited Government President Richard Manning, UrbanCure President Star Parker, American Family Association President Tim Wildmon, ConservativeHQ.com Chairman Richard Viguerie, Center for Security Policy President Frank Gaffney, and other "influential conservatives" sent a letter to the President that praised Bannon and senior counselor Kellyanne Conway as "instrumental in helping him to keep his agenda on track." They said, "While the media buffets your presidency on a daily basis, we take comfort in knowing that Steve Bannon and Kellyanne Conway are both ably working for you to assist you in weathering these unfair attacks and keeping your agenda front and center."

Moderate Republicans, Democratic Lawmakers Laud Bannon's Removal, Call On Trump To Make More Changes. In the lead [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/18, lead story, 2:45, Holt) story, Hallie Jackson reported Bannon's departure was "cheered by civil rights groups, Democrats, even some Republicans." [McClatchy](#) (8/18, Glueck, Kumar) reports "Republicans exhaled on Friday after President Donald Trump ousted controversial strategist Steve Bannon from the White House – a move that will help ease lawmakers' return to Washington after a damaging and polarizing period many blame in part on the former Breitbart chairman." McClatchy adds that while "certainly, some GOP insiders warned that blame for the difficult nature of this White House ultimately sits

with Trump," other "operatives inside Washington and out said Bannon's exit signaled chief of staff John Kelly might be successful in bringing some order to what has been a chaotic White House prone to self-inflicted distractions that throw the entire Republican Congress off of its agenda."

Meanwhile, [The Hill](#) (8/18, Manchester) "Briefing Room" blog reports "Democrats are cheering the news that Stephen Bannon is out as White House chief strategist." In a separate article, [The Hill](#) (8/18, Lillis) reports House Minority Leader Pelosi hailed "Bannon's firing [as] welcome news," but she warned in a statement that "it doesn't disguise where President Trump himself stands on white supremacists and the bigoted beliefs they advance." Pelosi added, "President Trump's growing record of repulsive statements is matched by his repulsive policies. ... Personnel changes are worthless so long as President Trump continues to advance policies that disgrace our cherished American values."

[The Hill](#) (8/18, Lillis) reports Rep. Cedric Richmond, the head of the Congressional Black Caucus, similarly said in a statement that Bannon's removal "is not enough because the issue of him working in the White House has never only been about him." Richmond added, "It's also been about the racist and discriminatory policies he's helped draft and implement which hurt African Americans and other communities or color."

[The Hill](#) (8/18, Greenwood) "Briefing Room" blog reports Derrick Johnson, the NAACP's interim president and CEO, in a statement said, "The NAACP is glad to see Steve Bannon out of the White House." However, he added, "Ousting one key staffer...can't erase the words used by President Trump this week in defense of domestic terrorists, neo-Nazis and white supremacists. President Trump provided permission for these hate groups to exist."

Sources Say Trump Is Considering Removal Of Gorka. [Bloomberg News](#) (8/18, Talev, Sink) reports "Sebastian Gorka, an ally of ousted White House chief strategist Stephen Bannon, also faces possible removal from his post as a counterterrorism aide to President Donald Trump, two people with knowledge of the situation said Friday."

Stock Market Rises On Announcement Of Bannon's Departure, But Fails To Maintain Momentum. The [AP](#) (8/18, Jay) reports that while "stocks briefly turned higher following reports that President Donald Trump's chief strategist, Steve Bannon, left his White House post," the market "slumped in the final minutes of trading Friday and ended a rough week with more losses," as does the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/18, Driebusch, Yang). [Breitbart](#) (8/18, Carney) similarly reports that while the announcement of Bannon's removal "sent up a round of cheers on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange," the major indexes "shortly after...began to slide." Breitbart suggests this "may have been a classic case of 'buy the rumor, sell the news.'"

NYTimes, WSJournal, WPost Welcome Bannon's Removal. The [New York Times](#) (8/18) editorializes that while "it would be nice to think the departure of Steve Bannon, chief strategist in a strategy-free White House, signals that President Trump is oh-so-gradually closing the door on white nationalist sentiments," to do so "would require forgetting that Mr. Trump fostered birther lies and racist memes long before he worked with Mr. Bannon, who saw in him a vessel for a more developed nativist agenda." Nonetheless, the Times acknowledges "Bannon's exit is, of course, a relief" and concludes "good riddance, and let's hope other unqualified ideologues, like Sebastian Gorka, the Islamophobic foreign policy adviser, follow Mr. Bannon out the door."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/18) editorializes that Bannon's departure provides President Trump with an opportunity to salvage his Administration by abandoning the Breitbart coalition. However, the Journal concludes Trump still needs to adopt more discipline if he wants to achieve his agenda.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/18) editorializes that with Bannon's departure, "it is at least conceivable that both policy and process will improve with Mr. Bannon no longer among the personnel who are responsible for both" and suggests that "there is some reason to hope that the more moderate, stabilizing figures around the president – that is, the officials with whom Mr. Bannon did relentless bureaucratic battle – may now have more influence." According to the Post, Bannon's ouster "removes a cause of embarrassment (and a constant source of political harassment) for mainstream Republicans in the House and Senate – but it does not end their moral dilemma" because "Trump is still president. And he still does what he feels like doing, to include standing before television cameras and pronouncing on the moral equivalency of neo-Nazi marchers and those who marched against them." The Post concludes "the ultimate benefit of Mr. Bannon's departure may be to clarify the lines of accountability."

However, in his [Washington Post](#) (8/18, Dionne) column, E.J. Dionne Jr. contends Trump's decision to dismiss Bannon "sends a clear signal that the president's 'populism' has always been a ruse" and "underscores that for all of Trump's talk about workers and jobs, his administration's substantive actions have mainly benefited corporate interests." Dionne concludes "the president's

defenders will cheer this decision as an effort to create a more orderly and predictable administration," but "just as likely, we are witnessing yet another erratic move from a leader who doesn't know what he believes and was uneasy with an aide who dared imagine that there was a point to his presidency."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/18, story 2, 1:05, Holt), political director and moderator of "Meet the Press" Chuck Todd also cautioned, "I don't know if it's going to change that much. In many ways, Steve Bannon had been sidelined or marginalized a bit over the last three months." He suggested, "I think on the staff front, it should mean maybe fewer staff in-fights, but I'll tell you, look, it's not as if Steve Bannon...created the Donald Trump ideology. They were kindred spirits. They found each other." He added, "I think just because Steve Bannon goes doesn't mean it somehow changes the President's comments, for instance, on his belief of what happened in Charlottesville, on his belief on the culture sort of aspects of things. So I don't think this changes the President. This simply keeps the White House a little less choppy internally."

Report: Trump Disbands Federal Advisory Panel On Climate Change.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/20, Eilperin) reports the Trump Administration will "disband the federal advisory panel for the National Climate Assessment, a group aimed at helping policymakers and private-sector officials incorporate the government's climate analysis into long-term planning." On Sunday, the charter for the Advisory Committee for the Sustained National Climate Assessment expired. On Friday Ben Friedman, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's acting administrator, "informed the committee's chair that the agency would not renew the panel." The next assessment is "due for release in 2018," and "already has become a contentious issue for the Trump administration."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/20, Cohen) reports the committee "includes academics, local officials and corporate representatives." The move by the Administration "follows the so-called leak of a sweeping federal climate change draft report earlier this month, which actually has been available online since January, that shows the dramatic rising of temperatures" in the US. Scientists are concerned "the Trump administration will attempt to squash conclusions from the draft report, as it has expressed skepticism toward climate change." NOAA communications director Julie Roberts said "this action does not impact the completion of the Fourth National Climate Assessment, which remains a key priority." [The Hill](#) (8/20, Manchester) also provides coverage of this story.

Some Republicans Moving Away From GOP's Climate Change Opposition.

[Politico](#) (8/19, Siders) reported on an "unlikely surge" of Republicans "taking steps to distance themselves from the GOP's hard line on climate change." Detailing some recent efforts by the bipartisan House Climate Solutions Caucus, the piece suggests that some lawmakers may be building up "moderate credentials ahead of the 2018 elections." While few analysts "expect climate change to factor more significantly in 2018 than the economy, health care or myriad other issues," some "Democrats are already hitting Republicans on the issue in competitive districts." Despite this, some activists say the shift is a "sign of GOP movement on climate change."

Trump Keeping His Promise To Cut Regulations.

[The Hill](#) (8/19, Wheeler) reported that President Trump has kept his promise to cut regulations, examining his efficiency in reducing regulations so far. In discussing the Congressional Review Act, The Hill said that before Trump, the 1996 law "had only ever been successfully used once before." And Republicans "are now using it to repeal the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's attempt to prevent banks and credit card companies from stripping consumers of their right to join class action lawsuits."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"After The Terror In Barcelona." The [New York Times](#) (8/21) editorializes, "The hard truth is that there is no sure defense against young men filled with resentment and fired up with the lethal propaganda of militant Islam, especially as they turn to rudimentary weapons" like vehicles. Though ISIS "claimed responsibility, it does not require a global network or intricate training to drive a van into a crowd. Just blind hatred. So we know there will be more attacks...so

long as terrorist organizations like the Islamic State or Al Qaeda continue to spread their murderous blend of religious extremism, victimhood, vengeance and violence among disaffected youths."

"Gov. Cuomo's Wise Move On Congestion Parking." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (8/20, Board) backs a plan for "a system of tolls and taxi fees, known as congestion pricing," in New York City, and says that in supporting some version of it, Gov. Andrew Cuomo "has taken an important step forward. State lawmakers" and Mayor Bill de Blasio "ought to help the governor come up with, and pass, a credible plan."

Washington Post.

"Trump May Be Planning To Make A Very Bad Decision On The Iran Deal." A [Washington Post](#) (8/20) editorial says while the Administration has done "little to counter Iranian aggression," Tehran's "toxic ambition" has "been relatively contained" in one area, "the production of material for use in nuclear warheads." The Post accuses President Trump of "matching his passivity toward Iran's regional meddling with an apparent determination to torpedo" the 2015 nuclear deal. The Post says experts "puzzle over what Mr. Trump could hope to accomplish by announcing that Iran is noncompliant," because the move "would rekindle a dormant Iranian threat while tolerating its truly dangerous behavior."

"The White House's Secretiveness Is Getting So Bad, It's Probably Illegal." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/20) writes that a new lawsuit from the advocacy group Public Citizen contends that the Administration is refusing to release White House visitor records – a refusal that "is likely illegal and certainly wrong." The Post argues that, by rejecting Public Citizen's information requests, the White House is defying its statement in April that it would release on request visitor records "relating to agencies not technically under the executive office of the president." The Post concludes, "It should not fall on the courts to enforce basic transparency from the public's elected leaders. But with this administration, the judiciary may have an essential role to play."

"The ACLU Is Half-Right About Metro's Violation Of Free Speech." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/20) writes that the ACLU's new First Amendment lawsuit against the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's ban on "issue-oriented advertising" is partially correct in that WMATA did reject certain advertisements because of the viewpoints of the advertisers rather than issue advocacy. The Post argues that the lawsuit "goes too far," however, "in arguing for WMATA to accept its advertisements and those of PETA," which "really were issue ads prohibited by WMATA's legally acceptable guidelines." The Post concludes that WMATA "should approve advertisements for all products and services that meet WMATA's other guidelines, no matter how controversial the views behind those products may be."

Wall Street Journal.

"Texas Political Prosecution." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/20) writes that the prosecution of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton over indictment of securities fraud represents another example of Texas' habit of pursuing politicized prosecutions. The Journal notes Paxton's history of challenging state Republican leadership and argues that unless new evidence emerges justifying the case against him, Paxton is almost definitely not guilty despite the legal assault from opponents in the GOP establishment.

"The Seattle Tax Fight." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/20) writes that the Seattle City Council's passage last month of an ordinance instituting an income tax on residents earning more than \$250,000 violates the city charter and Washington state law – which statutorily prohibits a tax on net income – and represents a first step towards the larger goal of the state's progressives to create a statewide income tax. The Journal notes the Freedom Foundation's lawsuit against the city over the tax and Washingtonians' rejection of a income tax ballot measure and concludes by describing the new tax as manifestly illegal.

"The Teamsters' Impunity." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/20) writes that members of the Boston chapter of the Teamsters last week were found not guilty of extortion after allegedly threatening and demanding jobs from staffers of the "Top Chef" cable-TV show in June 2014 – a ruling that the Journal argues resulted from a legal loophole in the 1973 Supreme Court case *US v. Enmons* allowing unions to engage in behavior resembling extortion. The Journal contends that the Teamsters ruling further enforces unions' impunity, and concludes that Massachusetts lawmakers should consider enacting prohibitions on threatening behavior by unions in labor disputes.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[First Round Of NAFTA Talks Reveals Early Friction](#)
[Imam In Spanish Town Emerges As Suspect In Barcelona Attack](#)
[Trump And The CEOs: Behind The Collapse Of An Uneasy Alliance](#)
[Investors Pull Back From Gundlach's Biggest Fund At DoubleLine](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Settles On Afghan Strategy Expected To Raise Troop Levels](#)
[Bannon Was Set For A Graceful Exit. Then Came Charlottesville.](#)
[Lobbyist At Trump Campaign Meeting Has A Web Of Russian Connections](#)
[Barcelona Attack Suspects Had Ties To Imam Linked To ISIS](#)
[Jerry Lewis, Mercurial Comedian And Filmmaker, Dies At 91](#)
[Dick Gregory, 84, Dies: Found Humor In The Civil Rights Struggle](#)
[Before A Solar Eclipse Crosses 14 States, A Great American Road Trip](#)

Washington Post:

[Totally Immersed In Today's Eclipse](#)
[A Monument's Safe Haven](#)
[10 US Sailors Missing, 5 Hurt](#)
[A Comedian Of Antic Joy And Genius](#)
[His Searing Punchlines Landed Hard](#)

Financial Times:

[Trump Targets Tax Reform To Reconnect With Republicans](#)
[Insider Trading Schemes Using Encrypted Apps Alarm FBI](#)
[Law Firm Quit As Barclays Adviser Over Qatar Loan Fears](#)

Washington Times:

[Rise Of Antifa After Violence In Charlottesville Alarms Free-Speech Advocates](#)
[Trump To Unveil 'Update On The Path Forward' For Afghanistan](#)
[Trump Campaign Backers Snubbed For Top National Security Jobs](#)
[Conservatives Concerned For Trump's Populist Agenda After Bannon Departure](#)
[Zika Virus Reduced To Few Cases After Scare In 2016](#)
[Drones Become Latest Tool Drug Cartels Use To Smuggle Drugs Into U.S.](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Solar Eclipse; Weather Forecast; Jerry Lewis Dies; Trump-Public Opinion; Spain Terror Attacks-Aftermath; Florida-Police Shooting; USA Gymnastics Sex Abuse; Lottery Drawing-Hacking; New Jersey-Swimmers Rescue; South Carolina-Water Rescue; Scooter Accident; Dick Gregory Dies; Queen Elizabeth To Continue Her Rule; Solar Eclipse-Kentucky Legend.

CBS: WH-Afghanistan Deployment; Spain Terror Attacks-Aftermath; Solar Eclipse-Oregon; Solar Eclipse-Nashville; Jerry Lewis Dies; Dick Gregory Dies; South Pacific-Climate Change; Maine-Family Restaurant; Solar Eclipse-Hobbyist.

NBC: Jerry Lewis Dies; Dick Gregory Dies; WH-Afghanistan Deployment; Trump-Public Opinion; North Korea Threats; Spain Terror Attacks-Aftermath; Sanctuary Cities Crackdown; Solar Eclipse; Weather Forecast; USS Indianapolis Wreck; Kids Summer Camp.

Network TV At A Glance:

Solar Eclipse – 9 minutes, 50 seconds
WH-Afghanistan Deployment – 4 minutes, 25 seconds
Trump-Public Opinion – 4 minutes, 15 seconds
Spain Terror Attacks-Aftermath – 3 minutes, 50 seconds
Weather Forecast – 1 minute, 40 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Singapore-US Destroyer Collision; North Korea Threats; WH-Afghanistan Deployment.

CBS: Singapore-US Destroyer Collision; WH-Afghanistan Deployment; North Korea Threats; Jerry

Lewis Dies; Solar Eclipse; Wall Street News.

FOX: Singapore-US Destroyer Collision; WH-Afghanistan Deployment; Trump Vacation Over.

NPR: Singapore-US Destroyer Collision; NAFTA Renegotiation; Jerry Lewis Dies; Dick Gregory Dies; WH-Afghanistan Deployment.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Has lunch with Vice President Mike Pence; meets with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson; participates in a swearing-in ceremony of Robert Wood "Woody" Johnson, IV as United States Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; gives a Presidential Address to the Nation.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Has lunch with the President; hosts students from Cornerstone Schools for a Great American Solar Eclipse viewing event; joins the President to participate in the swearing-in ceremony of Robert Wood "Woody" Johnson, IV as United States Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; participates in a swearing-in ceremony for US Ambassador to Portugal George Edward Glass; attends the Presidential Address to the Nation.

US Senate: On recess until 5 September.

US House: On recess until 5 September.

Other: George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group returns to homeport – George H.W. Bush Carrier Strike Group (GHWBCSG) – with more than 7,000 sailors – scheduled to return to Naval Station (NS) Norfolk, VA, after a seven-month deployment * While deployed, the strike group served in the 5th and 6th U.S. Fleet areas of responsibility conducting maritime security operations, theater security cooperation efforts and missions in support of Operation Inherent Resolve over Iraq and Syria Location: Naval Station Norfolk, 1530 Gilbert St, Norfolk, VA <http://www.navy.mil> <https://twitter.com/USNavy>

Total solar eclipse crosses the entire U.S. for the first time in 99 years – Solar eclipse visible in all of North America plus parts of South America, Africa, and Europe, with a thin path of totality running across the U.S., from Oregon through Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, and North Carolina to South Carolina from 10:16 AM PDT to 2:48 PM EDT – the first total solar eclipse to cross the contiguous U.S. since 1918. Longest duration of totality is near Carbondale, IL, where the sun is completely covered for two minutes and 40 seconds * Lunar shadow's first point of contact with the U.S. is Lincoln Beach, OR, at 9:05 AM PDT, and it leaves the East Coast at 4:09 PM EDT Location: Carbondale New York City eclipse2017.nasa.gov <https://twitter.com/NASA> #eclipse2017

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Bloomberg News: Gasoline Prices Spike As Harvey Shuts Refineries.
- Eugene (OR) Register-Guard: Sage Grouse Proposal Draws Mixture Of Praise And Alarm.
- Washington Post: Democrats Might Not Lose Any Ground In The Senate.
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- Associated Press: Sale Of Interior Secretary's Motor Home Raises \$25K Question.
- Government Executive: Interior's High-Profile Whistleblower Gets A Boost From OSC And Legal Community.
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- Bozeman (MT) Daily Chronicle: Zinke's Wife's Tweet Suggests Endorsement In Senate Race.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

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- Pipeline Company Response To Settlement Offer Not Disclosed.
- Lawmakers Say BLM Inhibiting Oil And Gas Development To Protect View From Native American Sites.
- Civil Rights Commission Reviews Alaska Native Voting Rights.
- Oklahoma City Council To Vote On Indian Cultural Center Agreements.

Bureau Of Indian Education

- Most AZ Native Americans Now Speak Only English At Home.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Politico Morning Energy: Report: Democrat Backs BLM Move West.
- Las Vegas Review-Journal: BLM Agent Accused Of Taking Valuable Stones Held As Evidence.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Lake Mead Able To Avoid Water Shortage For Another Year.

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

- Harvey Reduces Gulf Of Mexico Output.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Washington Times: New Mexico Commission Supports Wolf Recovery Proposal.
- Associated Press: Toxic Algae Prompts Health Advisory For SW Idaho Lake.
- Norristown (PA) Times Herald: \$2.4M Grant To Help Preserve Land In Schuylkill Highlands.

National Park Service

- Chattanooga (TN): Sen. Alexander Praises Interior Secretary For Working To Solve National Park Maintenance Problem.
- Associated Press: Grand Teton Sees Record Burst Of Visitors During Eclipse.
- Business Insider: Leaked Emails Show The NRA Has A Close Relationship With The Interior Department.
- Esquire Magazine: Republicans Want More Hunting On Federal Lands.
- U.S. News & World Report: Drone Illegally Buzzes Grizzly Bears In Grand Teton Park.
- St. George (UT) News: Zion National Park Requests Comments On Management Of Bighorn Sheep.
- KUOW-FM Seattle: Forest Service Approves Exploratory Mining Near Mount St. Helens.

US Geological Survey

- GISuser: Many Texas Beaches Likely To Erode, Be Overwashed, Or Inundated By Hurricane Harvey.
- Wall Street Journal: USGS: 75 Million Americans At Live In Areas Of Seismic Risk.
- Charleston (SC) Post and Courier: U.S. Geological Survey: Small Earthquake Shakes Summerville.

Top National News

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- New York Times: Trump To Visit Texas On Tuesday As Hurricane Recovery Gets Underway.
- Sacramento (CA) Bee: Delta Tunnels Sued Over SMUD Hydro Power.
- Washington Post: Tillerson: Trump "Speaks For Himself" On Values.
- Bloomberg News: Trump Renews Vow To Make Mexico Pay For Border Wall.
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- Fox News: Perry: Administration Focused On Texas Having Everything It Needs.
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DOI In The News

Trump's Monument Plan Remains "Shrouded In Secrecy."

[The Hill](#) (8/26, Cama) reports that the Trump Administration's plans to possibly shrink some national monuments "remain shrouded in secrecy." Zinke "was expected to reveal his proposals publicly Thursday as well. But he did not, instead releasing a two-page summary of the process behind his considerations and telling the Associated Press that he's recommending reductions in the size of an unspecified 'handful' of national monuments." The Hill says that withholding the recommendations "spurred a new flurry of condemnation from Trump's opponents and charges that the administration is not living up to its promises of transparency in the monument review process."

The [Telluride \(CO\) Daily Planet](#) (8/25) reported that "almost immediately" after Zinke's announcement, "the Center for Western Priorities, a Denver-based land conservancy organization, shot back in a news release: 'More than 2.7 million Americans told Secretary Zinke what they think – the least he can do is return the favor. This secrecy shows the Trump Administration knows their attack on national monuments is wildly popular.'"

Copper Industry, Environmentalists Battle Over Arizona Monuments. The [AP](#) (8/27) reports Arizona's copper industry, environmentalists, and recreation groups "are fighting over the future of three national monuments in the state." As the Interior Department "reviews the size of 21 national monuments across the country, the multinational mining company Asarco is asking that more than 11,000 acres be pulled from the 129,000-acre Ironwood Forest National Monument northwest of Tucson so it can mine more copper there, next to the company's Silver Bell copper mine, the Arizona Daily Star reports." The state mining industry "also is trying to shrink two other Arizona national monuments that were named by President Bill Clinton: the Sonoran Desert National Monument lying north of Ironwood in Pinal County and the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument in Coconino County." Rep. Raúl Grijalva (AZ-D) "said the Trump administration will be sued if it decides to shrink Ironwood and other monuments."

WPost: Trump, Zinke Threaten Irreplaceable National Monuments. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/27) writes that Interior Secretary Zinke's approach to addressing which national monuments deserve protection – by identifying and separating areas that have significant objects – rejects the approach of previous administrations which aimed to preserve "spectacular, irreplaceable and integrated natural landscapes, not just one butte or cliff dwelling at a time." The Post argues that President Trump and Secretary Zinke should not remove national monument protection from the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and Bears Ears National Monument – both of which the Post describes as "unique and irreplaceable."

LA Times: Trump Should Zinke Monument Plan In Recycling Bin. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/25, Board) editorializes that there's "obviously reason to be concerned" about Zinke's secret proposals, which "were made in response to Trump's order in April for a sweeping review of more than two dozen national monuments that were created or expanded under the Antiquities Act of 1906." The Times said Zinke's two-page report summary, "which the administration did release Thursday, makes it clear that his recommendations are based on second-guessing the decisions of prior administrations that he accuses of overstepping their authority to set aside land for special protections." The Times urges the president to make the report public, "and then, assuming it cuts back protections for important, sensitive, majestic, historic, one-of-a-kind areas of vast open space, throw it in the recycling bin."

Association Heads Applaud Monument Review. Conservation Policy at Boone and Crockett

Club Co-Chairman Paul Phillips, National Wild Turkey Federation CEO Rebecca A. Humphries, and Wild Sheep Foundation CEO Gray Thornton wrote for [The Hill](#) (8/26, Phillips, Humphries, Thornton, Contributors) reports in its "Pundits Blog" blog that while sportsmen have serious concern over regarding the federal government's review, and those concerns "are legitimate in a broad sense, there needs to be some education on why these reviews actually could be better for the natural resources, wildlife and the public who enjoy them." The authors wrote that the Department of the Interior's review "brings forward vital issues of assuring the future of federal public lands and improving their ecological, economic and recreational value." They said they "applaud the review of these and other monuments and urge the Department of Interior to use its results to strengthen the legacy of federal public lands in the United States."

Editorial: National Monuments Survive Trump Administration Review. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (8/27) editorializes that "members of the environmental lobby should be ecstatic that the Interior Department's review of 27 national monuments resulted in minimal changes. But in today's world of all-or-nothing politics, they're instead speed-dialing their attorneys and wringing their hands because a handful of these nature reserves may still be partially downsized."

Editorial: Secretary Zinke's Decision Could Balance Monument Designation. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (8/26) editorializes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "apparently is recommending two national monuments in Utah be reduced in size to more precisely conform to the spirit and letter of the 1906 Antiquities Act, which grants presidents the power to declare monuments." The article added, "We hope the Trump administration will take its stated intentions seriously and provide a credible review of these monuments before making a final decision."

Gov. Brian Sandoval Talks Climate Change, National Monuments. The [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (8/25) provided a video of Republican Gov. Brian Sandoval of Nevada discussing "GOP policy on climate change and the review of national monuments by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and President Donald Trump."

Monuments Review Spurs Call To Overhaul Antiquities Act. [Roll Call](#) (8/25) reported the Interior Department's "conclusion of a contentious review of national monuments might give Congress some impetus to revisit the Antiquities Act of 1906, which presidents of both parties have used to designate monuments through executive action." House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop on Thursday "called for Congress to overhaul the Antiquities Act to place 'reasonable limits' on the way presidents use the statute." Bishop's statements "came shortly before the Interior Department submitted recommendations to the White House after an executive-ordered review of monument designations made over the last two decades."

Mojave Desert Land Trust Response To Department Of The Interior Withholding Recommendations For California Desert National Monuments. The [Highland \(CA\) Community News](#) (8/25) reported the Mojave Desert Land Trust responded to the Interior Department's review by saying, "The Department of the Interior claimed they wanted to involve the public in the review process, and yet they are cutting the public out of the final recommendations," commented Danielle Segura, Executive Director, MDLT. She added, "The 2.7 million people who submitted comments to Secretary Zinke deserve to know the recommendations. And the Mojave Desert community deserves to know whether Secretary Zinke listened to us when we said our desert monuments deserve full protection."

Additional coverage of Zinke's monument plan is provided by the [Washington Times](#) (8/25, Chumley), [USA Today](#) (8/25), the [Circleville \(OH\) Herald](#) (8/25), the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (8/27), [KNPR-FM Las Vegas](#) (5/10), the [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (8/27), and [NPR](#) (8/25).

Oregon Girds For Lawsuit If Trump Shrinks National Monument.

The [Washington Times](#) (8/25, Selsky) reported Oregon's attorney general "said Friday she is ready to take legal action if the Trump administration tries to shrink a national monument in this Pacific Northwest state. Oregon Gov. Kate Brown and other political leaders were seeking a copy of a draft report Friday on 27 national monuments that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke gave to President Donald Trump this week, the governor's press secretary, Bryan Hockaday, said in a telephone interview. So far, no copy has been made available, he said."

The [Oregonian](#) (8/25) reported Oregon Gov. Kate Brown "asked the state attorney general to be prepared to go to court if the Trump administration tries to shrink a national monument in this Pacific Northwest state. Brown and other political leaders awaited word Friday on whether the Trump administration will reduce the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, or leave the 112,000-acre (45,730-hectare) monument along the border with California alone."

[KOB-TV](#) Medford, OR (8/25) reported that Oregon Governor Kate Brown "is calling on the White House to preserve the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument." The Governor "released a

statement late Thursday after reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has recommended President Trump reduce the size of the monument covering parts of southern Oregon and northern California." She said, "I am deeply concerned about the future of Oregon's Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument. ... Although the Secretary of the Interior has yet to publically release recommendations for potential changes to national monuments, the signal from D.C. is that Oregon's public lands are in the crosshairs of the federal administration."

The [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (8/25) and the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (8/25) also reported.

Interior Secretary Zinke's Secret National Monuments Report Comes Under Legal Attack. The [Think Progress](#) (8/25) reported that Zinke's recommendation "could open hundreds of thousands of acres of public lands to oil and gas drilling and mining, according to leaked copies of a report prepared by the Department of the Interior." In the recommendations, the Interior Department "calls for shrinking the size of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments in Utah and the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Oregon, according to the Washington Post. Zinke reportedly did not recommend eliminating any of the national monuments he reviewed." The Western Values Project "filed an expedited Freedom of Information Act request with the Interior Department on Thursday seeking information on the monument review that was submitted to the White House." And on Friday, "the Sierra Club filed its own Freedom of Information Act request seeking details on recommendations from Zinke on the future of public lands protected as national monuments."

Patagonia Joins Forces With Activists To Protect Public Lands From Trump. [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (8/26, McCarthy) reported that environmental activists, Native American groups, and a coalition of outdoor retailers "have vowed to redouble their efforts to protect public lands, after the US interior secretary, Ryan Zinke, recommended on Thursday that Donald Trump change the boundaries of a 'handful' of national monuments." Advocates "fear that Zinke's recommendation, which has not been revealed beyond its most basic outline, could mean the largest reversal of federal monument status in history and the first alteration of any national monument boundary since 1964."

Tribes Call Interior Secretary's Monument Recommendations 'An Insult,' Vow Lawsuits.

The [Washington Times](#) (8/25, Wolfgang) reported tribal leaders on Friday "blasted Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, saying his plan to shrink Utah's Bears Ears National Monument is 'an insult' and shows blatant disregard for their concerns." In a statement, "the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition – a governing body established by the Obama administration to oversee the massive 1.5 million-acre Bears Ears site – said they plan to sue." Carleton Bowekaty, Zuni councilman and Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition co-chair said, "Secretary Zinke's recommendation is an insult to tribes. He has shown complete disregard for sovereign tribes with ancestral connections to the region, as well as to the hundreds of thousands of people who have expressed support for Bears Ears National Monument."

The [Washington Times](#) (8/27, Wolfgang) reports that "other coalition leaders said they're prepared for a lengthy legal battle with the administration. 'The designation of Bears Ears National Monument was a celebratory moment where our voice was finally heard, and our cultural and spiritual heritage was respected,' said Davis Filfred, Navajo Nation council delegate. 'Our tribes stand together and are willing to go into battle in terms of litigation and we are here to fight for our monument.' The threats, which were echoed by environmental groups, came just hours after Mr. Zinke officially completed his review of more than two dozen monuments across the country."

Additional coverage is provided by the [Washington Post](#) (8/27, Stromberg), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (8/25), [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (8/25), [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (8/25), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (8/26), the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (8/25), [KTVX-TV](#) Salt Lake City (8/25).

Gasoline Prices Spike As Harvey Shuts Refineries.

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/27, Summers) reports gasoline surged to the highest level in two years, while oil was steady as Tropical Storm Harvey flooded refining centers along the Texas coast. Gasoline futures jumped as much as 6.8 percent, while oil sat around \$48. Andy Lipow, president of Lipow Oil Associates said, "With pipeline operators beginning to shut down their crude oil and refined product infrastructure, I expect to see further curtailment of refinery operations, resulting in less product being available. A spike in gasoline and diesel prices will drag up crude oil prices."

[USA Today](#) (8/27, Davidson), [Washington \(DC\) Post](#), (8/27, Mufson) [AP](#) (8/25, Koenig), and [San Antonio \(TX\) Express-News](#) (8/25) also contained coverage that gasoline prices are expected

to rise.

Experts Say Gas Prices Going Up Five To 25 Cents Per Gallon. The [AP](#) (8/26, Koenig) reported that even before the Harvey made landfall late Friday, “dozens of oil and gas platforms had been evacuated, at least three refineries had closed and at least two petrochemical plants had suspended operations.” The piece added, “How soon they reopen depends on the severity of flooding and the resumption of power to the areas.” And experts “say it’s still too early to say, with the storm still moving through the region Saturday evening. But they believe gas prices will increase 5 cents to 25 cents per gallon.”

EPA Issues Emergency Waiver To Combat Fuel Shortage From Hurricane Harvey. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (8/26) reported the Environmental Protection Agency “announced late Friday it was waiving environmental standards on fuel, ‘to address shortages resulting from Hurricane Harvey.’” The agency said, “Extreme and unusual fuel supply circumstances exist in portions of Texas as a result of the hurricane.” EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt “has granted a temporary waiver to help ensure an adequate supply of gasoline is available in the affected areas until normal supply to the region can be restored.”

Sage Grouse Proposal Draws Mixture Of Praise And Alarm.

The [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (8/27) reports President Trump’s Administration “has opened the door to industry-friendly changes to a sweeping plan imposed by his predecessor to protect a ground-dwelling bird across vast areas of the U.S. West.” Wildlife advocates “warned that the proposed changes would undercut a hard-won struggle to protect the greater sage grouse.” However, “representatives of the ranching and energy industries cheered the policy shift as needed to give states flexibility.”

Democrats Might Not Lose Any Ground In The Senate.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/25, Rubin) reported in its “Right Turn” blog that Trump “undercut his party’s chances of picking up a seat. He selected as his interior secretary former congressman Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.) and potential Montana challenger to Sen. Jon Tester (D-Mont.)”

Congressman Wants Columbus Statues For Federal Park If City Takes Them Down.

The [New York Post](#) (8/25) reported a Staten Island congressman “wants an iconic statue of Christopher Columbus relocated to federal park land in his borough if the city takes it down in Manhattan in a frenzy of political correctness. ‘Christopher Columbus is a permanent fixture of our national history. Rarely can we trace the wheels of progress over 500 years back to the actions of a single person,’ said Rep. Dan Donovan (R-SI/Brooklyn).” Donovan and his office “spoke with senior U.S. Department of Interior officials on Thursday afternoon about the matter.”

Sale Of Interior Secretary’s Motor Home Raises \$25K Question.

The [AP](#) (8/28) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s “dormant congressional campaign committee recently sold a 2004 motor home at a steep discount to an old friend in the Montana Legislature.” But a “seemingly ordinary transaction between friends, when seen through the optics of stringent campaign finance laws, can raise a bevy of questions – especially when those friends are politically high-powered and well-connected.” After learning about the transaction, campaign finance watchdogs “are raising a \$25,000 question: Why would Zinke’s campaign committee sell the Kountry Star Freightliner for half the price of its apparent \$50,000 market value?”

Interior’s High-Profile Whistleblower Gets A Boost From OSC And Legal Community.

[Government Executive](#) (8/25) reported the federal government’s whistleblower protection office “is investigating the claims of retaliation against perhaps the civil service’s most famous whistleblower in the Trump administration, and he has new backing from a group of legal scholars.” The article adds, “Joel Clement made a name for himself by writing an op-ed in The Washington Post claiming the Interior Department reassigned him to a job for which he was ill suited after he spoke out on the potential dangers of climate change for Native Alaskans. He filed a complaint on the alleged reprisal to the Office of Special Counsel, which handles cases involving potential whistleblower retaliation, and has since told Government Executive that OSC has opened an investigation. On Friday, 13 law school professors with varying experience in federal service and with groups advocating good government submitted a letter to OSC advocating for Clement’s case as a whistleblower.”

Ryan Zinke's Daughter Goes After Trump For Transgender Military Ban.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/26, Mayfield) reported Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's daughter "went after Trump following his announcement of the transgender military ban, calling the president a 'disgrace.'" Jennifer Detlefsen "wrote in an Instagram post in July that was widely circulated Friday." The Examiner said, "Like her father, Deltefsen is a Navy veteran and was frequently mentioned by Zinke as he ran for re-election in the House. Zinke was chosen to head the U.S. Department of Interior by Trump following the election."

Additional coverage is provided by The [Daily Mail](#) (8/26), [The Hill](#) (8/26, Bowden), and the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (8/25).

Zinke's Wife's Tweet Suggests Endorsement In Senate Race.

The [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (8/25) reported that a Republican candidate "challenging Democratic U.S. Sen. Jon Tester in 2018 has garnered the support of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's wife, Lola Zinke." On the social media website Twitter on Friday, "Lola Zinke shared Big Sky entrepreneur Troy Downing's first campaign video and said, 'Great choice for #mtpol.' The hashtag '#mtpol' is a method Twitter uses to gather statements on one feed for particular issues – in this case Montana politics."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Kevin Brown Re-elected To Mohegan Tribal Council, Bozsum Ousted.

The [New London \(CT\) Day](#) (8/27) reports that Kevin Brown, "the retired Army colonel elected chairman of the Mohegan Tribal Council in 2013, won re-election to a second four-year council term in voting among tribal members that concluded Sunday, according to tribal sources who asked to remain anonymous." Brown "and three other incumbents – Kathy Regan-Pyne, William Quidgeon Jr. and James Gessner Jr. – were elected along with a newcomer, Sarah Harris, the daughter of Roland Harris, a former council chairman and first selectman of Griswold." Sarah Harris "is a former chief of staff in the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs. In 2016, the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development named her one of 40 emerging leaders under the age of 40."

Pipeline Company Response To Settlement Offer Not Disclosed.

The [AP](#) (8/25) reports the company "that built the Dakota Access pipeline has responded to an offer by North Dakota regulators to settle state allegations that it improperly reported the discovery of American Indian artifacts during construction." But the response from Energy Transfer Partners "isn't being disclosed yet." According to North Dakota Public Service Commissioner Julie Fedorchak, the agency is meeting with the company on Monday to discuss the response.

Lawmakers Say BLM Inhibiting Oil And Gas Development To Protect View From Native American Sites.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (8/26) reported state lawmakers in Wyoming "say a new interpretation of federal rules is inhibiting oil and gas development near Native American sites on private land." At issue "is section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which seeks to avoid, minimize or mitigate 'adverse effects' to historic sites. ... 'The concern is that nothing has actually changed,' said Sen. Brian Boner, R-Douglas, who's heard from a number of his constituents about the issue." Boner also said, "The federal statute hasn't changed. The only thing that seems to have changed is the BLM's interpretation of the current rules and regulations. There's no public comment. They just showed up with the landowners one day and said 'This is how it's going to be.'"

Civil Rights Commission Reviews Alaska Native Voting Rights.

[KYUK-TV](#) Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, AK (8/25, Eurich) reported the State of Alaska is "under a court order to provide the translation of election materials into Native languages to Yup'ik communities in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, the Bristol Bay region, and Gwich'in country in the Interior." On Thursday, the Alaska Advisory Committee of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights "held a hearing in Anchorage to review the state's work and to look at the implications of a plan to shift the state to voting by mail." The state "unveiled an impressive amount of work accomplished since the court order was handed over to the Walker Administration." However, at

Thursday's hearing, she "heard from election workers in Koliganek that the Yup'ik Ballot they got was unusable by local elders who use another dialect that election workers did not know about." And that's "just one example of the kind of changes the state is making after the 2013 court decision that found Alaska in violation of the Voting Rights Act because it did not provide election materials in Alaska Native languages."

Oklahoma City Council To Vote On Indian Cultural Center Agreements.

The [Oklahoman](#) (8/28) reports the Oklahoma City Council "is to vote Tuesday on agreements intended to clear the way to completing and opening the American Indian Cultural Center and Museum." The latest plans "are to open to the public on April 1, 2021. The museum's primary focus is to be on the cultures and histories of Oklahoma's 39 federally recognized tribes."

Bureau Of Indian Education

Most AZ Native Americans Now Speak Only English At Home.

The [Eastern Arizona Courier](#) (8/26) reported that families "in more than half of Native American homes in Arizona now speak only English at home, according to new numbers from the U.S. Census Bureau." American Community Survey data "covering 2011-2015 showed that 53 percent of people who identified as American Indian in the state said they speak only English at home, up from 49 percent in the previous five-year survey."

Bureau Of Land Management

Report: Democrat Backs BLM Move West.

[Politico Morning Energy](#) (8/25, Adragna) reported that Sen. Michael Bennet "became the latest Colorado politician to back moving three federal agencies – the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service – to the Denver area, according to a report in Western Wire, a project of the Western Energy Alliance." He is quoted saying, "I think anything we can get out of Washington, D.C. and into Colorado, I'm for." Republican Sen. Cory Gardner and Gov. John Hickenlooper "are among the other proponents of the move west."

BLM Headquarters Could Move To Denver. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (8/26) reported US Sen. Cory Gardner's (R-CO) proposal to move the Bureau of Land Management headquarters out of Washington, DC "gained support from Gardner's counterpart, Sen. Michael Bennet, even as discussion emerged that the headquarters of three federal agencies might move to Denver. ... Bennet, a Democrat, said Friday that he supported the idea of moving the BLM, and possibly other agencies, out of the Beltway."

BLM Agent Accused Of Taking Valuable Stones Held As Evidence.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (8/25) reported a Bureau of Land Management agent "who has been scrutinized for past behavior took valuable stones held as evidence and handed them out 'like candy' to colleagues and a contractor, federal investigators said in a report made public Thursday." US Department of Interior investigators "also found Love told an employee to delete some emails that contained bureau information requested by then-U.S. Rep. Jason Chaffetz. Though the report does not name Love, Chaffetz confirmed Thursday that his request had been directed to Love. Chaffetz did not specify the nature of the request."

[Idaho State Journal](#) (8/24) and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (8/27) also reported.

Bureau Of Reclamation

Lake Mead Able To Avoid Water Shortage For Another Year.

[Fox News](#) (8/25, Craft) reported there could be "some promising relief for those residents living in the southwestern United States after a new report declared there will be no water shortage at Nevada's Lake Mead in 2018." A new study by the Bureau of Reclamation "found that water flows slightly improved compared with recent years. A good winter and early spring on the western slope of the Rocky Mountains provided an adequate snow pack, which will eliminate the prospects for a water shortfall for next year."

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Harvey Reduces Gulf Of Mexico Output.

[Reuters](#) (8/27, Scheyder) reports the BSEE said about 22 percent of US Gulf of Mexico oil production is offline on Sunday because of Harvey. Output levels rose slightly from Saturday, when approximately 25 percent of production was offline. On Sunday, 378,633 barrels of the 1.75 million bpd produced in the Gulf was offline. Approximately 26 percent of the Gulf's natural gas production is shuttered, about 828 million cubic feet per day. Around 105 platforms in the region have been evacuated so far. The [AP](#) (8/27) reports the BSEE said it has been monitoring and working with offshore operators so that the storm does not threaten commercial activities in the Gulf. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (8/26, Eaton) reported BP slowed output from its Atlantis and Mad Dog Platforms in the Gulf, while Noble Energy evacuated non-essential personnel from its offshore and Eagle Ford operations. ConocoPhillips halted operations and production in the Eagle Ford and evacuated workers from the Magnolia platform, and BHP Billiton shut its upstream and midstream shale facilities. ExxonMobil evacuated all of its offshore workers that were in the path of the storm and shut its Hoover and Galveston 209 production platforms. [Reuters](#) (8/25, Scheyder) reported BP's Gulf production was affected by the shutdown of the Cameron Highway Oil Pipeline System, controlled by Genesis Energy LP, which was shut down because of the storm. The company said without the pipeline, Gulf operations could not pump crude out of its Atlantis and Mad Dog platforms.

Additional coverage is provided by [CNN Money](#) (8/27) [NBC News](#) (8/25) [National \(ARE\)](#) (8/28), [Reuters](#) (8/27), the [New York Daily News](#) (8/26), [Reuters](#) (8/26), the [Rhea County \(TN\) Herald News](#) (8/25), [WXYZ-TV](#) Detroit (8/25), the [Houma \(LA\) Courier](#) (8/24), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (8/25, Collette), [Fox Business](#) (8/27), the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (8/27, Shepherd), [Reuters](#) (8/27, Scheyder), [WTVR-TV](#) Richmond, VA (8/27), [Reuters](#) (8/26, Scheyder), [Reuters](#) (8/25), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (8/27, Gordon), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (8/27, Press), [WTVR-TV](#) Richmond, VA (8/26), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (8/25, Koenig), [PennEnergy](#) (8/25), the [Financial Times](#) (8/24, Raval), the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (8/27, Shepherd), and [Offshore Engineer](#) (8/25).

Cheniere Does Not Expect Sabine Pass Operations To Be Interrupted. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (8/27, Hunn) reports Cheniere Energy said that as of Sunday, Hurricane Harvey had not significantly affected production at its Sabine Pass facility. Spokesman Eben Burnham-Snyder said early inspections of the company's Corpus Christi expansion site revealed only minor damage. Cheniere evacuated and locked down its Corpus Christi construction site on Thursday, closed Houston offices on Friday and reduced Sabin Pass personnel to essential workers only. Burnham-Snyder said the company does not expect the Sabine Pass facility to close, and will continue operations through the storm. Burnham-Snyder said, "Bottom line. ... we did a lot of work to prepare and respond to the storm, and we appear to be lucky with impacts."

[Engineering News-Record](#) (8/25) reported personnel "have been evacuated off 89 offshore production platforms, or 11.67 % of the manned platforms in the Gulf of Mexico, according to the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. People have also been evacuated from four of the 10 rigs operating in the Gulf, while one dynamically positioned rig has moved off location. BSEE estimates 21.55 % of the current oil production in the Gulf of Mexico has been shut-in, or 377,117 barrels of oil per day."

[Argus Media](#) (8/25) reported Cheniere said on Friday that the storm was not expected to impact production at Sabine Pass. The company said, "While at this time we do not expect production to be affected at our Sabine Pass LNG facility, we will continue to monitor the storm, stay in close contact with local emergency officials, and respond with safety as the paramount concern. ... Cheniere's gas supply and trading unit has activated its emergency protocols and will ensure that all gas flows and contractual obligations needed for production will be met." Cheniere did not discuss if ship loadings would be affected. [Platts](#) (8/25) reported feedgas nominations for delivery to the plant were 1.96 Bcf on Friday, higher than the average nominations in August so far of 1.81 Bcf/d. Atlantic-based trading sources said demand for spot cargoes in the basin were not changed and that there were no expected disruptions to normal trading activity. [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (8/25) reported Burnham-Snyder said, "Cheniere's Gas Supply and Trading unit has activated its emergency protocols and will ensure that all gas flows and contractual obligations needed for production at Sabine Pass LNG will be met."

[Platts](#) (8/25) and [Platts](#) (8/26) also provided coverage.

Fish And Wildlife Service

New Mexico Commission Supports Wolf Recovery Proposal.

The [Washington Times](#) (8/25) reported the New Mexico State Game Commission “has voted to support a federal proposal to recover an endangered wolf species that once roamed parts of New Mexico, Arizona and northern Mexico.” The vote “came Thursday after commissioners received an update from the state Game and Fish Department on the recovery planning process for the Mexican gray wolf. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is under a court order to have a completed recovery plan by the end of November.”

Toxic Algae Prompts Health Advisory For SW Idaho Lake.

The [AP](#) (8/26) reported visitors at a southwest Idaho lake “shouldn’t enter the water due to toxic algae.” Southwest District Health “tells the Idaho Press-Tribune in a story on Saturday that high concentrations of blue-green algae at Lake Lowell led to the health advisory.” Officials “say coming in contact with the algae can cause nausea, vomiting, liver damage and other problems.” The piece adds, “Lake Lowell is part of the Dear Flat National Wildlife Refuge that’s managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.”

\$2.4M Grant To Help Preserve Land In Schuylkill Highlands.

The [Norristown \(PA\) Times Herald](#) (8/27) reports that a federal program “aimed specifically at preserving naturally and culturally valuable land in the East Coast highlands region has awarded more than \$2.4 million for the acquisition of land in the seven-county Schuylkill Highlands.” The grant of \$2,420,000 “was announced by the office of U.S. Rep. Ryan Costello, R-6, and will be provided to the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources through the federal Highlands Conservation Act.”

National Park Service

Sen. Alexander Praises Interior Secretary For Working To Solve National Park Maintenance Problem.

The [Chattanooga \(TN\)](#) (8/25) reported Senator Lamar Alexander (R-TN) on Friday “hiked the Rainbow Falls Trail at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park with Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, park volunteers, and young conservationists to mark the 101st anniversary of the U.S. National Park Service.” Senator Alexander “praised the secretary for his efforts to address the growing maintenance needs in national parks and on public lands and the more than 2,200 Park volunteers who help reduce the maintenance backlog in the Smokies.” He said, “Secretary Zinke is trying to solve a big problem – our national parks are struggling with a backlog of maintenance needs that are not being addressed. The maintenance backlog – which includes roads, buildings, campgrounds, trails, water systems and more – limits access to our national parks and diminishes visitor experiences.”

[WATE-TV](#) Knoxville, TN (8/25) reported US Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “stopped in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on Friday to celebrate the 101st anniversary of the founding of the National Park Service.” Zinke said, “As a former Seal commander, there’s two things that our government needs to fund: our military and our parks.” In his first visit to the park as secretary, he “expressed the need for more funding of our national parks,” saying, “We’re looking at prioritizing and delivering more money on the front line where I think it belongs, more money for our rangers. ... We’re too short in the field. We’ve been regionalized, so our rangers are feeling like they don’t have the right resources, the right manpower, the right funding on the front line, as well as the park system as a whole, we need to catch up and reinvest in our greatest treasures.”

[USA Today](#) (8/25, Ahillen) reported Sen. Alexander “hiked Rainbow Falls Trail in the park with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on the 101st anniversary of the National Park Service, and offered comments on several other topics.”

Ryan Zinke Promises Big Effort To Avoid Another Devastating Fire In Gatlinburg. The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (8/25) reported Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke “said the National Park Service could have done some things better on battling the Nov. 28 wildfire and vowed to do what it takes to make sure a devastating fire doesn’t happen again here.” He is quoted saying during a visit to Great Smoky Mountains National Park on Friday, “I’m convinced people participating in it did as good as they could. ... A lot of people tried to do the right thing.”

Unfortunately, we lost some lives and had 2,500 structures destroyed. ... There were a lot of lessons learned. There are things we'll get better at. Hopefully, we'll put the right things in place so that it is never repeated."

US Must Invest In Its Public Lands, Interior Secretary Zinke Says. The [Asheville \(NC\) Citizen-Times](#) (8/25) reported, "It's past time to take care of an \$11.5 billion maintenance backlog for America's national parks, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said during a visit here Friday to commemorate the 101st anniversary of the National Park Service." He "said his goal is to eliminate the backlog in park infrastructure needs in five years." Zinke is quoted saying, "We're going to catch up. We deserve as an American citizenry and country to make sure that we maintain the park experience."

Also reporting on the 101st anniversary were [Yahoo! News](#) (8/25, Staff) and [WDBJ-TV](#) Roanoke, VA (8/26).

Grand Teton Sees Record Burst Of Visitors During Eclipse.

The [AP](#) (8/25) reported that Monday's total solar eclipse "turned out to be a record-breaking event for Grand Teton National Park as people from around the world jammed into the northwest Wyoming park to get a glimpse of the eclipse against a backdrop of scenic mountain peaks." The weekend before the eclipse and the day of the eclipse "resulted in the 'busiest weekend in the history of the park,' park spokeswoman Denise Germann said Friday." Park traffic data "indicates that there was about a 40 percent increase in park visits, or about 10,000 extra people, in the park on Monday."

Leaked Emails Show The NRA Has A Close Relationship With The Interior Department.

[Business Insider](#) (8/27) reports the National Park Service "raised serious concerns in late June over a bill backed by the National Rifle Association, but they were disregarded entirely by the agency's overseer, the Department of the Interior." According to a memo obtained by McClatchy, "the NPS's acting director, Michael Reynolds, pushed back against provisions that would prohibit his agency from managing commercial and recreational fishing within park parameters. He also objected to language that would prevent the NPS from giving input on certain development projects, and regulating the hunting of bears and wolves in Alaska wildlife preserves." And Interior's response to the memo "was less than accommodating. Casey Hammond, a political appointee of President Donald Trump, simply crossed out Reynolds' comments."

Republicans Want More Hunting On Federal Lands.

[Esquire Magazine](#) (8/25) reported, "It appears that the U.S. Department of the Interior has decided to turn the National Parks into free fire zones, the equivalent of taxpayer funded game ranches similar to the one at which Dick Cheney once ventilated his friend's face. McClatchy has all the details."

Drone Illegally Buzzes Grizzly Bears In Grand Teton Park.

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (8/25) reports Grand Teton National Park rangers "are investigating the illegal use of a drone that buzzed a grizzly bear and her two cubs in the northwest Wyoming park. The incident occurred Wednesday evening." Park spokeswoman Denise Germann "tells the Jackson Hole News & Guide that rangers and others saw the drone hover close to the grizzlies."

Zion National Park Requests Comments On Management Of Bighorn Sheep.

The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (8/26) reported that desert bighorn sheep "are an iconic animal found at Zion National Park, and catching glimpses of them on the red cliff faces is a sought after part of a trip to the park. However, with reductions in habitat quality and disease across portions of their range, there were no documented sightings of bighorn sheep in the park between 1953 and 1973. In 1973, in cooperation with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources and other agencies, bighorn sheep were reintroduced to the park." The biggest threat to Zion's wild bighorn sheep "is disease. ... In order to mitigate this risk, Zion National Park, in collaboration with the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, proposes to transplant desert bighorn sheep from the population inside the park to support other parts of the state's bighorn population, and decrease the risk of disease transmission and potential for large scale mortality in the Zion herd, while contributing to the success of the regional population."

Forest Service Approves Exploratory Mining Near Mount St. Helens.

[KUOW-FM](#) Seattle (8/25) reported that US Forest Service "is moving forward with a plan to allow

exploratory mining near Mount St. Helens." The agency "issued a draft decision approving Canadian company Ascot Resources Ltd.'s plans to drill for copper and gold in Washington's Gifford Pinchot National Forest." The decision "opens a 45-day period for the public to object to the U.S. Forest Service's draft decision."

US Geological Survey

Many Texas Beaches Likely To Erode, Be Overwashed, Or Inundated By Hurricane Harvey.

[GISuser](#) (8/27) reports that "new projections from the U.S. Geological Survey indicate Hurricane Harvey is likely to cause significant beach erosion along the Texas coastline, with water overtopping dunes and in some cases inundating areas." As of Friday morning, the USGS Coastal Change Forecast model is predicting that 94 percent of Texas's 367 miles of coastline will undergo "some level of beach erosion from the storm surge and large waves Hurricane Harvey will produce." USGS Research Oceanographer Joseph Long is quoted saying, "Significant coastal erosion along the coastline of Texas is expected due to the rapid strengthening of Hurricane Harvey. ... While the forecasts are subject to change as Harvey approaches land, we are making these forecasts to help inform emergency managers and communities on the potential coastal erosion hazards to be prepared for during the storm."

USGS: 75 Million Americans At Live In Areas Of Seismic Risk.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/25, Helferich) discussed the risks earthquakes pose to people in Americans and around the world. The Journal cites the USGS saying that 75 million Americans across 39 states live in areas of "significant seismic risk."

U.S. Geological Survey: Small Earthquake Shakes Summerville.

The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (8/25) reported a magnitude 2.4 earthquake "occurred late Friday morning in Summerville." The US Geological Survey "confirmed the quake's strength."

Top National News

U.S. Military Finds Small Ally To Watch North Korea's Kim Jong Un With Big Radars.

[Newsweek](#) (8/24, O'Connor) reported the US "has found a new ally in its quest to undermine North Korea's Kim Jong Un, whose nuclear and ballistic weapons arsenal has increasingly frustrated Washington." The piece added, "The tiny Pacific archipelago nation of Palau and the U.S. Embassy in Koror released a statement Monday announcing the two were preparing to install U.S. radar towers that will give the Pentagon a more expansive look across the Asia-Pacific. While the statement said the plan was devised prior to North Korea's recent threats against the nearby U.S. island territory of Guam, the proposal reportedly came days after North Korea tested its first intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) and days prior to its second test."

[Sputnik News](#) (8/25) and [TODAY \(SGP\)](#) (8/25) also reported.

Trump To Visit Texas On Tuesday As Hurricane Recovery Gets Underway.

Coverage of the Trump Administration's response to Hurricane Harvey indicates that President Trump is projecting an image of focus and engagement in dealing with the first major storm to hit the US mainland since 2005. The President returned to the White House from Camp David early, and convened a second Cabinet meeting late Sunday. The President also plans to visit the affected areas on Tuesday. Most of the coverage deals with Trump's [20 tweets or retweets](#) since Saturday morning, 16 of them about the storm – though the President also faced mild criticism for also tweeting on several other subjects.

The [New York Times](#) (8/27, Landler), for example, reports that though the President "wrapped up a sparkling late-summer weekend" at Camp David, "to judge by his Twitter feed and the photos and statements released by the White House, he did little other than monitor" Harvey. The President "posted regular updates on the status of the storm and praise for the government's response" in "a calculated display of energetic presidential leadership – one hardly unique to the Trump administration. But it also revealed a president who was genuinely engaged by the drama unfolding in Texas." The President also "did not wait long to start doling out praise. On Saturday, as relief efforts were just gearing up, the president [tweeted to Long](#), 'You are doing a great job – the world is watching! Be safe.'" The Times says that "echoed...Bush's premature endorsement of

his FEMA chief, Michael Brown – ‘Brownie, you’re doing a heck of a job’ – in 2005.

[Politico](#) (8/27, Dawsey) also reports that Trump “sought to project tough competence in the face of the biggest natural disaster of his presidency. ... Trump’s friends say he has a short attention span...but he sought to present himself as focused on Texas, posting online about the hurricane repeatedly.” One “close adviser” said, “He enjoys playing the role even if he’s never handled anything like this. He knows what a president is supposed to look like during something like this.”

Coverage of the storm took up the entirety of all three of the broadcast network newscasts, with each spending about two minutes on the White House response, and the remainder on storm coverage, forecasts, and recovery efforts. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/27, story 7, 1:45, Llamas) reported that the President plans to “travel to the storm region Tuesday.” ABC’s Mary Bruce: “President Trump today returning from Camp David, with a wave. ... He’s been monitoring the storm response via video conference. Harvey is a major test for the President. And from the flood zone today, warm words from the Texas governor.” Gov. Greg Abbott: “We could not be more appreciative of what the federal government has one, from the President on down.” Bruce: “On Twitter, the President is touting the great coordination, [saying](#), ‘We have an all-out effort going, and going well!’ But he’s is also tweeting about everything from a book by a controversial political ally to the border wall, NAFTA, and his upcoming visit to Missouri, a state he, quote, ‘won by a lot.’”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (8/27, story 7, 2:05, Holt) reported, “The White House announced late today that President Trump will visit Texas on Tuesday. The President tweeted his comments on the storm today, praising the coordination between the federal, state, and local government, and saying effort was going well.” NBC’s Kelly O’Donnell: “President Trump returned to the White House from Camp David, where he held a second video link conference with senior officials planning the federal government response. But the President did not respond to shouted questions about the storm. ... Instead, he let social media do the talking with a burst of tweets. And just [four words](#) appeared to frame the scope of this crisis: ‘Major rescue operations underway.’ He also seemed eager to get high marks on the response in real time. ‘Good news is that we have great talent on the ground.’ A more urgent, even dire tone came from FEMA Administrator Brock Long.” Long: “We are deep into the life safety mission of helping people be rescued through swift water, swift water rescue, search and rescue.”

The [CBS Weekend News](#) (8/27, story 8, 1:35, Strassmann) reported that Trump has been “briefed regularly about the storm.” Long: “I’d like to say that President Trump is extremely concerned about this.” [The Hill](#) (8/27, Mitchell) reports that the President “held a second Cabinet meeting on Hurricane Harvey to shore up response and recovery efforts, according to the White House.” The President and Vice President Pence “led a video teleconference with Cabinet and senior administration officials ‘to discuss ongoing federal support for Hurricane Harvey response and recovery,’ the White House press office said in a statement.”

White House Homeland Security Adviser Tom Bossert told [ABC’s This Week](#) (8/27) that Long was “coordinating federal efforts across different departments and agencies” to help aid in the relief and rescue efforts. On [CBS’ Face The Nation](#) (8/27, Garrett), Bossert said, “I think there’s two messages for me today. First is that we’re focused on life safety operations, and the second is that we’re not going to lose our focus as the next days and weeks unfold and people need continued assistance.” [USA Today](#) (8/27, Berry) reports, “Federal officials warn the danger is far from over.” Bossert said rain “is expected to continue upward of 30 inches.” Bossert told CBS, “We’re going to posture ourselves for the long-term care of the medical needy, of the elderly, of the weak and then we’ll put ourselves in the position to provide the resources to rebuild and recover.” The [Washington Post](#) (8/27, Baddour) reports that by Sunday afternoon, the National Weather Service “was predicting that parts of Texas could receive nearly 50 inches of rain, the largest recorded total in the state’s history.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/27, lead story, 4:50, Llamas) reported Harvey has caused “disaster” that “is staggering by every measure.” Houston is “a city in crisis” and the “911 system [is] overwhelmed.” The [CBS Weekend News](#) (8/27, lead story, 3:10, Strassmann) reported that the “monster storm, roughly 600 miles wide, is also unleashing tornadoes, though officials say the biggest threat now is the catastrophic flooding.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/27, story 4, 1:45, Holt) meteorologist Dylan Dreyer said, “It’s an incredible amount of rain.” The [CBS Weekend News](#) (8/27, story 11, 0:20, Strassmann) briefly mentioned that “we may not have reached the halfway point in this slow-moving catastrophe. ... Some places may get two more feet by Friday.”

The [AP](#) (8/27, Yen) reports that Trump said “his administration was handling its responsibilities well, approving of the effort in a series of weekend tweets that showcased his

personal involvement. He [marveled](#) over the size of the storm like a TV host and, in a tangential aside, [hawked a book](#) on race and crime in America written by a supporter." Long warned of "a 'landmark event' that could require years to get damaged areas back on track." The AP says the Trump Administration seeks "to offer a contrast" to President Bush's response to Hurricane Katrina. Long said FEMA "is now 'vastly different' than in 2005 and that he has the power he needs to mobilize forces and coordinate staffing." The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/27, Shepherd) reports that Long told CNN, "This disaster is going to be a landmark event. We're setting up and gearing up for the next couple of years."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/27, Phillip) reports that the President "praised the federal government's response to Hurricane Harvey on Sunday morning, comments that came as millions still face the threat of deadly floods from the storm." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/27, King) reports that Trump said he would visit Texas "as soon as it was possible to do so without interfering with rescue efforts." The [Washington Times](#) (8/27, Sherfinski) reports that Trump [tweeted](#), "I will be going to Texas as soon as that trip can be made without causing disruption. The focus must be life and safety." The [Houston Chronicle](#) (8/27, Ellis) and [Politico](#) (8/27, Nelson, Cohen) also briefly report on the trip announcement.

Long: FEMA Will Be In Texas "For Years." Long said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (8/27, Tapper) that FEMA was focused on Houston right now. Long said that FEMA has "nearly five thousand people from the federal government on site in Texas and Louisiana, fulfilling missions." He said that they are not only working on safety and rescue but "care" missions, as well. [Bloomberg News](#) (8/27, Niquette, Schoenberg) reports that Long said FEMA "is prepared to be in the Houston area 'for years' as the fourth largest US city takes the brunt of rainfall and flooding from the 'landmark' storm."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/27, Achenbach) writes that Long "said in an interview a few weeks ago that there was one thing that worried him most when it comes to natural disasters: 'You know what's keeping me up at night? This country has not been hit by a major hurricane since 2005.' That was the right thing to worry about, it turns out." Long, who has been in his job for just two months, is now coordinating the federal response to "the first Category 3 or greater storm to hit the US in 12 years – and its lethal aftermath." Long told the Post on Sunday, "This will be a devastating disaster, probably the worst disaster the state's seen." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/27, Pearce, Jarvie) reports that Long "said that although Houston was taking the brunt of the catastrophic rainfall, it was important to remember that 'there are many communities inside the state of Texas that are hurting.'"

The [New York Post](#) (8/27, Brown) reports that Long said FEMA is "hunkering down for a years-long recovery effort in Texas." Long told CNN, "FEMA is going to be there for years. This disaster recovery – this disaster is going to be a landmark event." The [Washington Times](#) (8/27, Sherfinski) reports that Long added, "This event is nothing like Katrina. This is completely different. Every storm impacts different jurisdictions differently. Every Category 4 storm is different. This is a storm that the United States has not seen yet." [The Hill](#) (8/27, Savransky) reports that Long "added he has 'great lines of communication' with President Trump."

Ex-FEMA Director James Lee Witt writes in [USA Today](#) (8/27), "Trump, who is facing his first hurricane but certainly not his last natural disaster," made an "excellent and experienced choice" in Long, "who knows what buttons to push – and when – to get things done. It is Long's day-to-day responsibility to support the local and state efforts to house and feed those who cannot go home and get the lights turned back on, the toilets working, the roads cleared and the schools open."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/27) editorializes that while the cost of recovery will be great, the United States has the resources to do it, which is one of the reasons the Journal editorial page advocates for policies that foster economic growth and the wealth to which it leads.

Abbott Praises Federal Response. Abbott told [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/27, story 6, 1:30, Holt), "This is really unprecedented. But we're going to find a way to deal with it. We've dealt with hurricanes and storms before. We will rebuild here. One thing that will help us rebuild is that I quickly asked for a presidential declaration of a disaster. We are already getting help from FEMA." Abbott said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (8/27, Tapper) that the President had responded to his request for a state of emergency and sent the resources needed. Abbott said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (8/27, Wallace) that the damage "is large and growing larger, it will be in the billions of dollars but we really will not be able to tell for the next couple of days when better assessments can be made." Abbott said his biggest challenge was "working to save lives and to keep as many people as safe as possible in the Houston area."

The [Washington Times](#) (8/27, Sherfinski) reports that Abbott "said he has spoken to

President Trump several times and that Texans are getting 'absolutely everything we need' from the federal government." [Townhall](#) (8/27, Rousselle) reports that Abbott said, "I give FEMA a grade of A+, all the way from the President down." Abbott also discussed the storm and recovery efforts on [ABC's This Week](#) (8/27) and the [CBS Weekend News](#) (8/27, story 2, 2:00, Strassmann).

[USA Today](#) (8/27, Homer, Bacon) reports that Abbott has "activated 3,000 National Guard troops in addition to hundreds of other state emergency personnel aiding local first responders. He said 600 boats were aiding rescue efforts, and the Coast Guard said at least 16 helicopters were tapped for air rescues."

The [Washington Times](#) (8/27, Sherfinski) reports that Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said at a news conference, "I don't need to tell anyone this is a very, very serious and unprecedented storm. We have several hundred structural flooding reports. We expect that number to rise pretty dramatically." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/27, story 2, 1:50, Llamas) reported that Turner is "facing criticism for telling residents Friday to stay put." [Reuters](#) (8/27, Thevenot) reports that the storm has now killed at least two people.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (8/27, Carroll, Harden, Blakinger), the [Texas Tribune](#) (8/27, Najmabadi), the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/27, Olson, Campo-Flores, Bustillo), and [Bloomberg News](#) (8/27, Sullivan, Skerritt, Carroll) are among the sources detailing storm damage. The [New York Times](#) (8/27, Fernandez) has a feature on early cleanup efforts in Rockport, the coastal town of 11,000 where Harvey made landfall; Matt Gutman of [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/27, story 6, 2:10, Llamas) said that the destruction in the town is "mind-numbing." On its front page, the [Washington Post](#) (8/27, Craig) profiles Corpus Christi Mayor Joe McComb, who "knows the power of water."

Trump Tweeted About McCaskill On Sunday. [USA Today](#) (8/27, Singer) reports, "Trump and his top aides have said he is intently focused on the government response to Hurricane Harvey this weekend, but Trump still took a moment Sunday to poke a Missouri Democratic senator" on Twitter, [tweeting](#) regarding Sen. Claire McCaskill, "I will also be going to a wonderful state, Missouri, that I won by a lot in '16. Dem C.M. is opposed to big tax cuts. Republican will win S!" USA Today writes that that "political tweet posted" while Long "was on CNN describing the government's response to Hurricane Harvey and Trump's focus on the storm." [Politico](#) (8/27) reports that Trump had "an extremely busy Twitter morning."

Shut-Down Refineries Likely To Mean Higher Gas Prices. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/27, story 8, 0:25, Llamas) briefly reported on "a possible aftershock to the unfolding disaster in Texas: a spike in oil and gas prices. Dozens of oil rigs in the Gulf and several refineries shut down ahead of the storm. Today, Exxon closing its refinery complex in Houston, the second largest in the country. Experts predict gas prices could go up five to 25 cents per gallon." [USA Today](#) (8/27, Davidson) reports, "Refineries in the Houston and Corpus Christi areas shut down before the storm hit Friday to minimize damage. ... Nationally, regular unleaded gasoline averaged \$2.36 a gallon Sunday, up from \$2.35 Saturday and \$2.33 a week ago."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/27, Shepherd) reports that about one-quarter of all the oil and natural gas produced in the Gulf Coast region of Texas is now offline. For oil, "that's the equivalent of about 430,000 barrels of oil per day." Tom Kloza of the Oil Price Information service said "gas prices nationwide could see a 5 to 15 cent increase, and that could spike even further if a major refinery suffered direct damage." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/27, Molinski, Matthews) reports that Valero Energy said its two Corpus Christi-area refineries did not sustain significant damage, so the company was looking for ways to restart operations. However, that requires the port to also be functional, and Valero offered no timeline.

Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said on [Fox News' Sunday Morning Futures](#) (8/27, Bartiromo) that as far as he knows, no refineries have been damaged but that a third of the refineries were offline. He said, "All of those people who work on those refineries are focused on their families and their homes." He added that the storm will likely cause the refineries to remain "offline longer than people felt."

Politico Magazine: US Has Not Yet "Learned The Lessons Of Katrina." [Politico Magazine](#) (8/27) runs a 5,000-word piece called "Why America Still Hasn't Learned The Lessons Of Katrina" in which Annie Snider writes, "From the way Congress appropriates money to the specific rebuilding efforts that federal agencies encourage, national policies almost uniformly look backwards, to the last storm, rather than ahead to the next. And the scale of the potential damage has caused agencies to become more risk-averse in ways that can obstruct, rather than help, local communities' attempts to protect themselves." However, "as the effects of climate change play out, the risks posed by storms like Katrina and Harvey only stand to get worse."

Delta Tunnels Sued Over SMUD Hydro Power.

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (8/25) reported that Sacramentans “enjoy cheap electricity compared to most Californians, thanks in part to a string of hydroelectric dams along the American River. Which is why SMUD, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, joined the deluge of regional governments, environmentalists and others suing the state in an effort to block its Delta tunnels project.” Although the project “would have obvious impacts on the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, SMUD said it is concerned about the impact the tunnels, known officially as California WaterFix, would have on its water supplies on the American.”

Tillerson: Trump “Speaks For Himself” On Values.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/27, Gearan) reports that Secretary of State Tillerson “became the latest and highest-ranking administration official to distance himself from President Trump” on Sunday, telling Fox News that the President “speaks for himself” in his response to racial hatred and violence. Tillerson was asked on “Fox News Sunday” whether he thought Trump was “expressing American values of tolerance and equality” in his handling of the violence in Charlottesville earlier this month. “The president speaks for himself,” Tillerson said. Asked by host Chris Wallace if he “separating himself” from Trump’s remarks, Tillerson answered, “I’ve made my own comments as to our values.”

The [New York Post](#) (8/27, Schultz) reports Tillerson “distanced himself – and the nation – from President Trump’s response,” while the [AP](#) (8/27) says the Secretary of State appeared to “repudiate the president’s response,” marking “the second White House official in recent days to appear to more explicitly criticize Trump.” The [New York Times](#) (8/27, Weiland) reports Tillerson’s remarks “stood in stark contrast to those” of Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, who “defended Mr. Trump’s response.”

The [Washington Times](#) (8/27, Sherfinski) and [Breitbart](#) (8/27, Key) also report similarly on Tillerson’s remarks, while [Politico](#) (8/27, Nelson) reports Tillerson also “panned the letter released last Friday by ousted White House national security aide Sebastian Gorka,” who wrote that “outside of yourself, the individuals who most embodied and represented the policies that will ‘Make America Great Again,’ have been internally countered, systematically removed, or undermined in recent months.” Asked about Gorka’s letter, Tillerson said it was “completely wrong.”

Axios Report: Trump’s Frustration With Tillerson “Rising Fast.” According to [Axios](#) (8/27, Swan), “officials inside and close to the White House” say Trump “has been growing increasingly frustrated” with Tillerson, and his “jaw-dropping comments” to Fox “will likely only worsen their relationship.” Axios reports that “we’ve been hearing for weeks, from sources who’ve spoken to the president, that Trump is getting more and more fed up with Tillerson, who has still yet to staff his agency,” but spokesman R.C. Hammond told Axios it’s because “the system is busted. The Secretary sends over recommendations and they sit on the dock.”

Breitbart: Trump’s Inner Circle Disparaging Him. [Breitbart](#) (8/27, Boyle) reports that several members of President Trump’s inner circle have “disparaged” him in recent days and he “has done nothing public to stop them.” In addition to Tillerson, National Economic Council director Gary Cohn told the Financial Times, “Citizens standing up for equality and freedom can never be equated with white supremacists, neo-Nazis, and the KKK.” Breitbart adds that “others in the White House have banded together to form the ‘West Wing Democrats,’” a group which sees “their role as moderating the president’s campaign positions to protect the established order and status quo in Washington.” Breitbart says this “display of lack of control of his own supposed allies weakens his position heading into what is likely to be one of the bloodiest legislative months in recent history.”

Trump Renews Vow To Make Mexico Pay For Border Wall.

After threatening last week “to trigger a government shutdown if Congressional Republicans don’t include funding” for his promised wall along the US-Mexico border in a spending bill due Sept. 30, President Trump on Sunday reiterated his promise to make Mexico pay for the construction of the wall, [Bloomberg News](#) (8/27, Talev) reports. Trump [tweeted](#), “With Mexico being one of the highest crime nations in the world, we must have THE WALL. ... Mexico will pay for it through reimbursement/other.” However, he “did not elaborate on how Mexico would cover the cost.” The tweet followed Trump’s comments at a rally last week in Phoenix where he told supporters, “If we have to close down our government, we’re building that wall,” and that “one way or the other, we’re going to get that wall.”

The [New York Post](#) (8/27, Schultz, Brown) reports that White House aide Tom Bossert was

asked on [ABC's This Week](#) if Trump's threat to shut down the government "meant he is conceding that Mexico is not going to pay for the wall." Bossert "claimed that's not the case," saying, "What we'll do here is go through the mechanism of getting the initial money that we need for that capital project from Congress through an appropriations process and we'll responsibly construct a barrier on the border. ... As we work with the Mexicans and other policies and trade policies and such, we'll determine ways for us to make that right." [The Hill](#) (8/27, Manchester) also reports on the tweet and says that during a phone call earlier this year, Trump "pleaded with Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto...to stop saying publicly that his country would not pay for a wall on the border, according to a transcript of the conversation obtained by The Washington Post."

Brown: "I've Never Supported" Building Wall. Sen. Sherrod Brown was asked on [NBC's Meet the Press](#) (8/27, Todd) if he supported the building of a wall between Mexico and the United States. He said, "No...I've never supported that."

Trump Moving Ahead On Nuclear Overhaul.

The [New York Times](#) (8/27, A1, Sanger, Broad) reports on its front page that the Air Force last week "announced major new contracts for an overhaul of the American nuclear force: \$1.8 billion for initial development of a highly stealthy nuclear cruise missile, and nearly \$700 million to begin replacing the 40-year-old Minuteman missiles in silos across the United States," both programs that were developed during the Obama Administration but were "seized on" by the Trump Administration, "with only passing nods to the debate about whether either is necessary or wise." The Times adds that as the Obama Administration "nurtured the programs," Obama "argued that by making nuclear weapons safer and more reliable, their numbers could be reduced." Trump "has not spoken of any such reduction, in the number of weapons or the scope of the overhaul," and it is "moving full speed ahead on the nuclear overhaul" while "critics are warning of the risk of a new arms race and billions of dollars squandered."

Perry: Administration Focused On Texas Having Everything It Needs.

[Fox News](#) (8/27) reports President Trump yesterday "said he is planning a trip to storm-ravaged Texas and praised the government response to Hurricane Harvey including emergency crews that have rescued 'thousands,' as storm water rises and strands residents across the state." Energy Secretary Rick Perry said yesterday on Fox News' "Fox & Friends," "The administration is being very focused on making sure the state has everything it needs." The former Texas governor "was like Trump careful to make clear that Texas is leading the storm-recovery efforts, praising Republican Gov. Greg Abbott's response, as flood waters reach dangerous levels in Houston, where evacuations are expected to continue for days." Perry said, "We need to be prepared for a really long recovery."

Perry Among Those That Participated In Saturday Teleconference Call. [CNN](#) (8/26, Landers, Taum, Meier) reports the White House on Saturday held a teleconference call, "led by homeland security adviser Tom Bossert, in which Trump asked a lot of questions on a range of issues, including about flooding and mass power outages, an administration official said." Key "administration and Cabinet officials joined the teleconference call from the White House Situation Room, including Bossert, Vice President Mike Pence, chief of staff John Kelly, acting Homeland Security Secretary Elaine Duke, Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Brock Long, Health and Human Service Secretary Tom Price and Energy Secretary Rick Perry, according to photos of the meeting released by the White House."

UVI: Pay Raises Plus Budget Cuts Equals Personnel Cutbacks.

The [St. Thomas Source](#) (8/25) reported "pay increases last year combined with budget cuts this year will force the University of the Virgin Islands to shed faculty and staff, UVI President David Hall told senators during budget hearings Thursday." The "unfortunate development appears to bear out concerns some senators raised about the sustainability of government raises last year, before the Legislature ultimately voted to approve them. Other government agencies appear to be absorbing this year's budget cuts without substantial staff reductions thus far."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Looking Beyond The Obamacare Debate To Improve Health Care." The [New York Times](#)

(8/26) editorializes that with Republicans temporarily abandoning efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, "it seems like a good time for lawmakers to come up with plans to fulfill their promises to increase access to health care and to lower costs." The editorial discusses a number of potential options that lawmakers can pursue, which includes offering the increasingly popular single payer option, or what Sens. Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren call "Medicare for All," allowing people to buy into Medicare earlier, and increasing subsidies for Obamacare exchanges. The editorial concludes that the "Republican campaign to repeal Obamacare, for all its waste of time and energy, has at least gotten people to talk seriously about proposals to improve the health care system."

"The Rush To Exploit The Arctic." A [New York Times](#) (8/26) editorial says the passage of the Russian tanker Christophe de Margerie "carrying liquefied natural gas through the warming Arctic without an icebreaker escort marks a critical milestone in a centuries-old yearning for a shorter, faster route between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans" and "a major triumph for President Vladimir Putin." While it is "probably too much to hope that the success of the Russian tanker will change" President Trump's position on climate change, the Times says, "it should open his eyes to the need to make sure that the struggle for territorial and commercial advantage" in the Arctic "does not get out of hand."

Washington Post.

"The District's Death Wish For Metro." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/26) warns that "just as the region has started coming to grips with reversing Metro's years-long death spiral, top officials in the District are throwing a wrench in the works that could kill any chance of righting a transit system whose maintenance and safety problems have imperiled its future and the region's." The Post criticizes DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson (D) and others for proposing "a radical overhaul of the funding formula in place since Metro's founding in the 1970s" that would require "a massive transfer of the cost-sharing burden from the District to the suburbs, especially Northern Virginia," which the editorial contends "is a recipe for impasse, inaction and inertia, the very ingredients that, over the course of decades, led to Metro's impoverishment and meltdown." The Post concludes "A game of brinksmanship with the District's suburban partners amounts to a death wish for Metro – not exactly the right strategy for a system already on the brink."

"A Judge Ruled Texas's Second Try At Voter ID Laws Is Illegal. She's Right." The [Washington Post](#) (8/26) editorializes that US District Judge Nelva Gonzales Ramos was right in ruling – again – that Texas' voter ID law is illegal. The Post discusses that Ramos ruled once against the "toughest-in-the-nation ballot ID law," which an appeals agreed with, and she has ruled again that a revised law is "not good enough." According to the editorial, it was "unsurprising" that Ramos found the law to be discriminatory "not only in effect, but also in purpose." Given Ramos' ruling, the Post criticizes as shameful the Justice Department's "switching sides," from "Texas's challengers to the state's defenders."

"How Republicans May Break Their Promise That Their Tax Plan Won't Raise The Debt." The [Washington Post](#) (8/26) editorializes that Republicans have repeatedly said their tax reform plan will be "revenue-neutral," which is "Washington-speak" for the rewritten tax code raising "as much money for the government as the old one, so as not to increase the national debt." The Post says, however, there are "signs this promise of fiscal responsibility might be about to get, well, bent." The editorial discusses how the Senate has yet to decide whether to follow the House Budget Committee, which passed a bill requiring that tax reform "produce as much revenue" as "'current law' baseline projects," and that some Republicans are urging lawmakers to "define revenue neutrality down, via adoption of a more fiscally permissive standard known as the "current policy" baseline." The Post argues that for "Republicans to act as though none of those words had any meaning would confirm that not only promises were made to be broken, but rules were, too."

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Harvey Floods Houston, Strands Thousands](#)

[Energy Firms Brace For Harvey Fallout](#)

[Uber Selects Expedia's Khosrowshahi As New CEO](#)

[Arpaio On Criticism Of His Pardon: GOP Should Rally Behind Trump](#)

New York Times:

[In Houston, Anxiety And Frantic Rescues As Floodwaters Rise](#)
[Dramatic Rescues Unfold All Across Waterlogged Houston](#)
[Trump Forges Ahead On Costly Nuclear Overhaul](#)
[Hezbollah: Iran's Middle East Agent, Emissary And Hammer](#)
[Fatigue And Training Gaps Spell Disaster At Sea, Sailors Warn](#)
[Uber Chooses Expedia's Chief As CEO, Ending Contentious Search](#)

Washington Post:

[Civil War Statue Debate Personal, Painful In Va.](#)
[Catastrophic Flooding In Houston](#)
[Moscow Trump Tower Was Proposed](#)
[FEMA Indicates Its Own Limits In First Response](#)
['I Am A Hard Worker'](#)
[Mayor Uses Past To Guide Corpus Christi In Floods](#)

Financial Times:

[Trump Faces Chorus Of Dissent Over Arpaio And Charlottesville](#)
[Wall St's Top Bankers Sell Own Groups' Shares As Trump Rally Reverses](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump's Pardon Of Arpaio Sends Strong Messages To Immigrant Advocates, Mueller Team, Loyalists](#)
[With Gorka Out, White House Is Nearly Cleansed Of Hard-Liners Against Islam](#)
[Tunnels Become Human Smuggling Pathways Across Border While Drug Transfers Go Airborne](#)
[Deadly Storm Harvey 'Unprecedented,' Impacts 'Beyond Anything Experienced'](#)
[Trump Allies Embraces President's Call To Eliminate Senate Filibuster As Means To Advance Agenda](#)
[War-Torn Yemen Now Struggles With World's Worst — And Worsening — Cholera Crisis](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Hurricane Harvey; Hurricane Harvey-Nursing Home Rescue; Hurricane Harvey-Resident Interview; Hurricane Harvey-Local Rescues; Hurricane Harvey-Forecast; Hurricane Harvey-Coastal City Destruction; Hurricane Harvey-White House; Hurricane Harvey-Gasoline Price; Hurricane Harvey-Travel Disruption; Hurricane Harvey-Updated Forecast.

CBS: Hurricane Harvey; Hurricane Harvey-Texas Gov Interview; Hurricane Harvey-Nursing Home Rescue; Hurricane Harvey-Flood Level; Hurricane Harvey-Forecast; Hurricane Harvey-Red Cross Aid; Hurricane Harvey-Truck Driver Rescue; Hurricane Harvey-White House; Hurricane Harvey-Houston Metro; Hurricane Harvey-San Antonio Sanctuary; Hurricane Harvey-Further Rainfall; Hurricane Harvey-High Water Rescues.

NBC: Hurricane Harvey; Hurricane Harvey-Coastal Cities; Hurricane Harvey-Home Destruction; Hurricane Harvey-Forecast; Hurricane Harvey-Evacuation; Hurricane Harvey-Texas Gov Interview; Hurricane Harvey-White House; Hurricane Harvey-Houston Flooding Causes; Hurricane Harvey-Local Rescuers; Hurricane Harvey-Updated Forecast.

Network TV At A Glance:

Hurricane Harvey – 46 minutes, 50 seconds
Hurricane Harvey-Forecast – 7 minutes, 50 seconds
Hurricane Harvey-White House – 5 minutes, 25 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

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CBS: Hurricane Harvey-Houston; Hurricane Harvey-White House; Hurricane Harvey-Gasoline Price; Anti-Hate Protests; Little League News.

FOX: Hurricane Harvey.

NPR: Hurricane Harvey-Houston; Hurricane Harvey-New Orleans; Tropical Storm-East Coast; Anti-Hate Protests.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Has lunch with Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson; meets with Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos; leads an expanded bilateral meeting with President Sauli Niinistö of Finland.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President for lunch with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson; meets with US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley.

US Senate: On recess until 5 September.

US House: On recess until 5 September.

Other: No notable events scheduled.

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

All late-night talk shows were in re-runs or did not run.

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DOI In The News

Trump To Scale Back 2 National Monuments In Trip To Utah.

The [AP](#) (12/4, LUCEY, THOMAS) reports that President Trump is "announcing plans to scale back two sprawling national monuments in Utah, responding to what he has condemned as a 'massive federal land grab' by the government." Trump is "traveling to Salt Lake City on Monday to outline his intention to shrink the Bears Ears and the Grand-Staircase Escalante national monuments spanning millions of acres in Utah." His "plans to curtail the strict protections on the sites have angered tribes and environmentalist groups who have vowed to sue to preserve the monuments."

The [Washington Times](#) (12/3, Wolfgang) reports that the debate over the moves has been viewed by many as a debate over energy development; "environmentalists believe the Trump administration wants to open up land currently in the Bears Ears monument for uranium mining and areas in Grand Staircase to coal mining," while Trump supporters view the moves as an effort to roll back executive overreach by past presidents. Democratic lawmakers and environmentalists plan to explore legal challenges to the moves.

The [CBS Weekend News](#) (12/3, story 5, 2:15, Quijano) reported that "thousands rallied in Salt Lake City...this weekend to protest" Trump's plan to shrink the monuments. However, many local residents support the decision to roll back the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument because it has limited their ability to extract minerals, graze cattle, and build roads.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (12/3, story 5, 2:05, Snow) reported that "the plans have united opposition groups from environmentalists to Native American tribes, who considered the land sacred, stoking fears it could open coal rich areas like the plateau in Grand Staircase to mining." However, "in southern Utah, hundreds rallied in support of the reductions."

Additional coverage was provided by [NBC News](#) (12/4, BENNETT, STELLOH, PATTERSON), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/1, Schneider), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/30, Maffly), [NPR](#) (12/3), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (11/30, Mimiaga), [National Geographic](#) (12/4, Nordhaus), and [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (12/3, Romboy).

Protesters Call For Trump To Preserve Utah Monument Areas. [Reuters](#) (12/2, Means) reports that over 5,000 people protested at the Utah State Capitol in Salt Lake City on Saturday in opposition to President Trump's "expected shrinking of" the Bears Ears National Monument and

the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, which he is expected to announce in a visit on Monday.

The [AP](#) (11/22) reports that “crowds converged on the steps of the Utah State Capitol to denounce Trump’s decision, many chanting and holding signs with messages such as ‘Protect Wild Utah.’” According to the article, “speakers who addressed the throngs of demonstrators included a state lawmaker and an official with the Navajo Nation.”

Also reporting are [Fox News](#) (12/3, Betz), the [Huffington Post](#) (12/3, Papenfuss), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (12/2, Leonard, Cortez).

Utah’s Tenacious Efforts To Take Back Federal Land Stand Out. The [AP](#) (12/3, Riccardi) reports that “in an American West that has a love-hate relationship with the federal government’s ownership of a checkerboard of parks, monuments, forest and desert in states from Washington to New Mexico, Utah stands out.” President Trump is “considering changes to other Western monuments as well, as recommended by his interior secretary, Ryan Zinke.” However, “no state has been agitating for reductions like Utah.” According to the article, “the reasons range from geography to politics to Utah’s unique Mormon history and culture.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/3, Burr).

Democrats To Trump: Ask Forest Service Before Shrinking Monuments. [The Hill](#) (12/1, Henry) reports Sens. Debbie Stabenow and Michael Bennet on Friday sent a letter to President Trump asking him “why he plans to shrink some national monuments without getting the U.S. Forest Service’s recommendation to do so first.” In their letter, the lawmakers said, “In advance of any decision to attempt to modify the boundaries of national monuments, we write to seek specific details regarding your plans for treatment of certain acres within five national monuments that are managed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Forest Service.” They also “said the Forest Service...did not specifically recommend Trump trim any of the monuments.”

Also reporting are the [Washington Post](#) (12/1, Eilperin) and [ABC News](#) (12/1, Ebbs).

Interior Secretary Vows To Slash Red Tape For Coastal Restoration Projects In Louisiana.

The [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (12/2, Hardy) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “vowed to use his clout to fast-track coastal restoration projects during a Saturday visit to Louisiana.” He told reporters at the Water Institute of the Gulf, “Louisiana and the coastline are important, and we’re losing too much of it. ... There’s a lot of things that Interior can do.” Members of the Louisiana congressional delegation invited Zinke “to demonstrate current restoration efforts and ask for federal assistance.”

The [Houma \(LA\) Courier](#) (12/2, Mire) reports that Zinke joined Sen. Bill Cassidy and Rep. Garret Graves “at the Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center in the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve in Thibodaux.” According to the article, “they met with representatives from organizations such as the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, Greater Lafourche Port Commission and Water Institute of the Gulf. Saturday’s tour of the state also included Baton Rouge and Ama.” Zinke “noted the national importance of oil and gas production but said he wants to make sure it’s done correctly.” He said, “It’s a working coast. Right now it seems to be a disappearing coast. But there’s the fishing industry here, there’s the shipping industry, there’s the sugar-cane industry, there’s the refining industry. A lot of it rests upon revenue from offshore, but not all of it. We’re here to make sure we take everything into consideration and be a partner rather than an adversary. Some of it is just learning people’s names and listening to what they have to say, why it’s important to them. I think that makes better government.”

Local TV coverage was provided by [WBRZ-TV](#) Baton Rouge, LA (12/2).

Interior Secretary Meets With Offshore Regulators In New Orleans On Friday. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (12/1, Schleifstein) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke last Friday was scheduled to have lunch with executives of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement at their joint offices in Elmwood, a spokesman for the BSEE confirmed. Following lunch, he was set to “hold an ‘all hands’ meeting with regional staffs of the two agencies, the spokesman said.”

Trump’s Interior Raised \$1 Billion More Revenue Leasing Fed Lands For Energy Development.

The [Daily Caller](#) (12/1, Pearce) reported the Interior Department has increased revenue from energy and mineral leases by almost \$1 billion over 2016 levels. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, “Under President Trump’s American Energy Dominance agenda, we’ve increased energy funds by a billion dollars in our first year alone. ... That money goes right back to communities

for things like public works projects, educational improvements, conservation and parks, and infrastructure upgrades." The Office of Natural Resource's Revenue recorded \$7.11 billion in 2017, of which \$1.44 billion went to states, \$676 million went to private owners and tribal governments, and \$950 million went to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Feds Disband Trinity River Project Watchdog Group.

The [Eureka \(CA\) Times Standard](#) (12/2, Houston) reports that a recent decision "to effectively disband a watchdog group tasked with overseeing a multi-million dollar, publicly funded habitat restoration project for the Trinity River surprised and concerned group members, tribes and government agencies." The Interior Department's reasoning behind the group's disbanding has also come under scrutiny. Interior Department Press Secretary Heather Swift "said the department's decision to deactivate the Trinity River Adaptive Management Working Group was made because the group did not file paperwork justifying why it should continue operating." However, the group's Chairman Tom Stokely, "said the group was never asked to submit such a memo by either the Interior Department or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which has acted as a sort of liaison between the working group and the Interior Department."

Rising Seas May Eventually Submerge Some Important U.S. Historical Landmarks.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/1, Choi) reports that rising sea levels this century may threaten "more than 13,000 archaeological and historical sites on the Atlantic and Gulf coasts," according to a new study. According to the article, "to assess what effect rising sea levels might have on archaeological and historical sites, the researchers analyzed data from the Digital Index of North American Archaeology, which collects archaeological and historical data sets developed over the past century from multiple sources." The article says that "if projected trends continue, there could be a 3.3-foot rise in sea level by 2100, submerging thousands of archaeological and historical sites in the southeastern United States alone, the scientists predicted."

Stefanik Seeks Funding To Combat Invasive Species That Attacks Hemlocks.

The [Glens Falls \(NY\) Post-Star](#) (12/1, Goot) reports that Reps. Elise Stefanik and Peter Welch wrote a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, "asking him to identify strategies and funding to combat the arrival of the invasive species hemlock woolly adelgid." Stefanik said in a news release, "This invasive insect threatens the health of forests in our region and it is critical that we respond quickly to its arrival in our region. As the co-chair of the Invasive Species Caucus, I will continue to work at the federal level to ensure that our natural ecosystems are protected from invasive species that threaten the health of our district's pristine wildlife."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Hopi Last Of Arizona Tribes To Sign Gambling Agreement.

The [AP](#) (12/1, Fonseca) reports that "the Hopi Tribe has signed an agreement with Arizona that allows it to lease or operate up to 900 slot machines – the last of the state's tribes to do so." Hopi Chairman Herman Honanie "signed the compact a day before leaving office, contemplating the loss of up to 85 percent of the tribe's budget with the expected closure of a coal mine in 2019." The Bureau of Indian Affairs "now has 45 days to review the compact that is standard among Arizona tribes, said Caroline Oppleman, a spokeswoman for the gaming department."

9th Circ. Asked To Affirm Tribal Leadership Decision.

[Law360](#) (12/1, Lidgett) reports that "the federal government and a faction of a California tribe both urged the Ninth Circuit on Wednesday not to revive a rival faction's challenge to a U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs' decision that found a general council established to serve as the tribe's governing body in 1998 isn't the tribe's valid representative."

Aquinnah Assists Mashpee Tribe In Land In Trust Bid.

The [Falmouth \(MA\) Enterprise](#) (12/2, Houghton) reports that "the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe received a helping hand from a neighboring tribe in Aquinnah in an effort to secure land in trust in Mashpee and Taunton." Chairman Cheryl Andrews-Maltais of the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head, Aquinnah, "issued a letter of support for the Mashpees to the Office of the Solicitor of the US Department of the Interior." The letter, sent October 30, "further supports the Mashpee tribe in its claim that it was under federal jurisdiction in 1934, and thus eligible for a reservation under

the Indian Reorganization Act.”

Bureau Of Indian Education

Indian Education Officials Meet With School Leaders In Oklahoma.

The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (12/3, Felder) reports that “officials with the Bureau of Indian Education held a town hall Tuesday at Riverside Indian School in Anadarko to present a draft of a new strategic plan, inviting feedback from educators and tribal leaders.” BIE Director Tony Dearman said, “When you look at our system, we have had such a high turnover with directors, that without a plan, every time we lose a director, we lose momentum. With this document ... no matter who is in the director position, it is going to continue moving forward.”

Bureau Of Land Management

BLM Considering Revised Sage Grouse Plans To Emphasize State Issues.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (12/1, Nemec) reports that “rejecting the state-federal collaboration on greater sage grouse protections hammered out by the Obama administration in 2015, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is taking comments in an effort to emphasize state concerns.” According to the article, “BLM’s notice of intent to amend the plans seeks to eliminate what has been characterized as a “one-size-fits-all” approach by the Obama administration and allow states to address issues regarding protection of the ground-dwelling birds’ habitat.”

Additional coverage of the proposal to amend sage grouse plans was provided by the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (12/1, Richards), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (12/1, Richards), the [YubaNet \(CA\)](#) (12/1), [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (12/3), [KHSL-TV Chico \(CA\)](#) Chico, CA (12/1), and [KHSL-TV Chico \(CA\)](#) Chico, CA (12/1).

Southern Utah County Suing To Control Hotly Contested Road.

The [AP](#) (12/1) reports that San Juan County in southern Utah is “suing for control of a canyon road that’s been a longtime flashpoint in the debate over federal control of public lands.” The county “argues in the Wednesday lawsuit that longtime use of Recapture Canyon road gives them legal title to the road on federal land.”

Trash, Lawlessness Targeted At Shooting Range Near Las Vegas.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (12/3, Brean) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has “launched a new effort to address the growing trash and safety problem” at a shooting range near Las Vegas, “with little success so far.” Steph Clark, “chief law enforcement ranger for the BLM in Southern Nevada, said it will take ‘a culture change’ to get the mess cleaned up and get shooters where they are supposed to be.” So far this year, the BLM has “hosted a pair of volunteer cleanups at the site, one in May with the National Rifle Association and another in early November.” The bureau “also has teamed with the Metropolitan Police Department and the Nevada Highway Patrol to step up patrols in the area.”

Reward Offered To Catch Vandals Of Historic Mine Buildings.

The [AP](#) (12/1) reports that “federal officials are offering a reward to help catch vandals who did an estimated \$25,000 in damage to two historic brick buildings originally used to house explosives for a former Black Hills gold mine.” A Bureau of Land Management employee conducting “a monthly check at the property last summer discovered remnants of a backwoods party at one of the powder houses nestled among the pines and aspens southwest of Lead.” After bureau officials “re-secured the buildings, vandals knocked gaping holes in the brick exteriors of two of them.” BLM officials have “offered a reward up to \$1,000 for information leading to the conviction of those responsible after the second break-in was recently discovered.”

Illegal Immigrant Acquitted Of Murder In San Francisco, Trump Slams Verdict.

[Reuters](#) (11/30, Dobuzinskis) reports that an undocumented immigrant from Mexico “was acquitted of murder and manslaughter by a San Francisco jury on Thursday in the fatal shooting of a woman that Donald Trump used as a rallying cry against ‘sanctuary cities’ during his presidential campaign.” Jose Ines Garcia Zarate, who had been deported to Mexico five times, “was charged in the July 1, 2015, killing of Kate Steinle on a San Francisco pier.” Defense

attorneys said Garcia Zarate “found the gun and it accidentally discharged, the bullet ricocheting off the ground...before striking the woman.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Developer Abandons Plans For Long-Stalled Cape Cod Wind Farm.

The [AP](#) (12/1) reported Cape Wind Associates of Massachusetts is ditching “its long-stalled plans for a wind farm” off the coast of Cape Cod. The company “notified the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management this week that it has ceased operations and was surrendering its federal lease for 46 square miles in Nantucket Sound.” Dennis Duffy, vice president of Cape Wind Associates, “disclosed the official notice Friday.” The company “proposed the nation’s first offshore wind farm with a 130-turbine project 16 years ago, but it was dealt major setbacks including the termination of critical agreements with utility companies in 2015.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/1, Ryan) reported Cape Wind has “suffered a slow death.” According to Bloomberg “efforts to develop the 468-megawatt offshore farm, proposed to supply power to Cape Cod and the islands of Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket, began in 2001 but came up against relentless opposition from a mix of strange bedfellows including the Kennedy family and billionaire industrialist William Koch.”

The [Boston Globe](#) (12/1, Chesto) reported that the “first devastating blow for the ambitious offshore installation for Nantucket Sound came in early 2015, when National Grid and Northeast Utilities – which had agreed to buy electricity from Cape Wind – canceled their contracts with the developer.” In 2016, “state regulators yanked permission for a power line connection, further reducing the already slim prospects of the project moving forward.” Later that year, “Cape Wind foes successfully lobbied lawmakers on Beacon Hill to prevent its backers from benefitting from a major energy bill that requires utilities to buy large amounts of offshore wind.”

Also reporting are the [Springfield \(MA\) Republican](#) (12/3, Serreze), the [Providence \(RI\) Journal](#) (12/1, Press), the [MetroWest \(MA\) Daily News](#) (12/1), the [Nantucket \(MA\) Inquirer and Mirror](#) (12/1), the [Boston Globe](#) (12/1, Chesto), the [Martha’s Vineyard \(MA\) Patch](#) (12/3, Claffey), and [gCaptain](#) (12/2, Eckhouse, Ryan).

Fish And Wildlife Service

Senate Passes Sweeping Revision Of U.S. Tax Code.

In a breakdown of the Senate tax bill’s provisions, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/2, Rubin, Hughes) reports lawmakers voted to preserve an amendment opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil drilling. [Reuters](#) (12/2, Gardner) reported that Republicans attached a measure introduced by Alaskan Senator Lisa Murkowski to the tax bill to open a portion of Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which Murkowski called “critical milestone in our efforts to secure Alaska’s energy future.”

However, [The Hill](#) (12/1, Cama) reports 12 House Republicans on Thursday came out in opposition to the proposal, which “puts them squarely opposed to most congressional Republicans, who for years have sought to open a small area of ANWR to drilling.”

Also reporting are [The Hill](#) (12/3, Cama), the [Washington Examiner](#) (12/2, Siegel), the [Huffington Post](#) (12/2, D'Angelo), the [Huffington Post](#) (12/1, D'Angelo), and [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (12/2, Herz).

Endangered Species Protection Stalled In Year 1 Of Trump.

[Courthouse News](#) (12/1, YOUNG-GRINDLE) reports that “a leading environmental group has compiled a list of 63 congressional actions introduced in 2017 that they say attack protections for species or undermine the Endangered Species Act.” The article notes that “after months of inaction regarding at-risk species, Fish and Wildlife – the agency tasked with protecting land-based species – said last month it had determined 25 species did not warrant Endangered Species Act protection, according to the Center for Biological Diversity.” Noah Greenwald, endangered species director for the Center for Biological Diversity said, “You couldn’t ask for a clearer sign that the Trump administration puts corporate profits ahead of protecting endangered species. The Pacific walrus, Florida Keys mole skink, eastern boreal toad and 22 other species are now one step closer to extinction. We’re going to challenge as many of these bogus findings as we can.”

Advocates Say Saving Rare Mussel Could Help Restore River.

The [AP](#) (12/2) reports that “conservationists are hoping efforts to save a rare mussel found in southeast New Mexico could lead to restoring a struggling desert river.” According to the article, “an 8-mile (13-kilometer) stretch of the Black River south of Carlsbad is home to about 48,000 Texas hornshell mussels.” Hornshells were “once plentiful in areas near Carlsbad and Roswell, but now they occupy about 12 percent of their historic range in the state.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “requested for the mussel to be listed as an endangered species last year” and “a final determination is expected in February.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (12/2).

Good News For Mexican Wolf? US Thinks So.

The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (12/2, Davis) reports that “the approval of a new federal plan to dramatically boost populations of the Mexican wolf does little to quell the longstanding scientific debate over how the embattled animal should be managed.” Last Wednesday, “the plan was greeted by formal threats of lawsuits from two teams of environmental groups who see the plan as a path to extinction. The groups, including the Tucson-based Center for Biological Diversity, Western Watersheds Project, Wildlife Guardians and Defenders of Wildlife, want far more wolves released into a much bigger area.” On Thursday, Sen. Jeff Flake, “who has supported ranchers’ efforts to hold down the plan’s scope, issued a news release calling the plan ‘yet another federal regulatory nightmare for ranchers and Arizona’s rural communities.’”

Texas Suit To Delist Warbler As Endangered Trimmed.

[Law360](#) (12/1, Jahner) reports that “a Texas federal judge on Thursday pared a state agency’s lawsuit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service down to one claim, ruling the 1990 determination that the golden-cheeked warbler is endangered falls under sovereign immunity and maintaining that status does not require an environmental impact study.”

Rare Fish Only Found In Area May Receive Federal Protection.

The [Chattanooga \(TN\) Times Free Press](#) (12/3, Pace) reports that the Center for Biological Diversity has petitioned to protect the trispot darter, “which spawned the decision by the Fish and Wildlife Service to review its protection.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is “proposing to list the species as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, which is the final step before it is officially listed.”

Ferret Species Once Thought Extinct Making Modest Comeback On Prairie.

The [AP](#) (12/2) reports that “a ferret species once thought to be extinct is making a modest comeback on the prairie, thanks to the work of staff at a Kansas nature center and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists.” The Prairie Park Nature Center and “volunteers from various institutions across Kansas have surveyed the black-footed ferret recovery site in Logan County annually for the last decade.” Prairie Park staff members “feel optimistic after a November trip to the 1,100-acre tract in western Kansas, where crews help capture, tag and vaccinate wild-born ferrets.”

Newfound Stoneflies Lack Political Clout.

The [Gillette \(WY\) News Record](#) (12/2, Koshmri) reports that “entomologists have discovered a previously undetected species of stonefly in the Teton Range’s glacial-fed streams, a find that expands the known range of the bug and that could halt federal protections.” The article notes that “the expanded range – the new finds are up to 500 miles south of Glacier – prompted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to re-solicit comments from the public.” The FWS is “still examining the 2-inch-long specialized insect for potential ‘threatened’ status under the Endangered Species Act.”

National Park Service

Effort To Fix Aging Arlington Memorial Bridge Receives A \$227 Million Boost.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/1, Aratani) reports on the announcement Friday from the National Park Service “that it had approved a \$227 million project to repair and rehabilitate Arlington Memorial Bridge,” which serves as a crossing point for 68,000 vehicles every day. Calling the announcement “a rare bit of good news for the Washington region’s aging transportation

infrastructure," the Post says the bridge was structurally deficient to the point "that in 2015 officials barred large vehicles, trucks and buses from using it." The project received a \$90 million Fastlane grant last year, but "for the past six years, NPS and the Federal Highway Administration have made emergency temporary repairs of the Arlington Memorial Bridge while planning the larger rehabilitation."

Also reporting are the [Washington Business Journal](#) (12/1, Hansen), the [Augusta \(VA\) Free Press](#) (12/2), the [ARLnow \(VA\)](#) (12/1, Teale), and [Engineering News-Record](#) (12/1, Ichniowski).

Researchers Say National Park Fee Hike Could Cost Montana.

The [AP](#) (12/1) reports that University of Montana researchers say the Interior Department's "proposal to more than double the cost of the seven-day pass for national parks could cause economic harm to neighboring communities." Economists at the university's Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research "say the fee increase would decrease annual spending by \$3.4 million in the surrounding communities within 60 miles (100 kilometers) of Yellowstone National Park." Institute director Jeremy Sage "says the effects found from their research on Yellowstone would likely carry over to other parks and communities."

Also reporting are [Skift](#) (12/3) and [Outside](#) (12/1, Phippen).

No-Shows Not Uncommon At National Christmas Tree Lighting.

[WTTG-TV](#) Washington (11/30) reports that "while a viral photo posted and shared on social media shows many empty chairs in the crowd" during this year's lighting the National Christmas Tree, "the image may be a bit misleading." The National Park Service "explained that no-shows are not uncommon for the National Christmas Tree Lighting." According to the NPS, "of the 20,000 tickets given out, it is believed on average that 12,000 to 15,000 people attend the tree lighting ceremony each year."

Additional coverage was provided by [C-SPAN](#) (12/2).

White House Occupants Complain About Stuck Doors, Roaches, Mice And Ants.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/1, Rosenberg) reports work orders for the White House "reveal the building to be, if not dumplike, well...a little bit worn, like so many other old houses around the country." The Post says NBC Washington obtained "dozens of documents" unveiling "mice infiltrations" in both "the White House's Navy mess food service area and Situation Room," along with "at least four reports of cockroaches on the White House grounds, and ants in the chief of staff's office."

Charred Smokies Town Rebounds, Doubts Fires Are 'New Normal'.

The [AP](#) (12/2, Mattise) reports that a year after a fire "killed 14 people and damaged or destroyed about 2,500 buildings in the Gatlinburg area," local residents and businesses are "forging ahead, even after a National Parks Service report said the conditions that let flames burn into the city could become the 'new normal.'" According to the article, "they say it's unlikely that Gatlinburg will again endure a perfect storm of factors that caused the blaze."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Beast](#) (12/2, SMITH).

Battlefield Teams Up With Preservation Crew To Build Cabin.

The [AP](#) (12/1, Hogan) reports that "a crew of carpenters from the Historic Preservation Training Center in Frederick has spent the last five weeks inside the Thomas barn at Monocacy National Battlefield re-creating a French Creole cabin typical of early settlers along the Mississippi River." The cabin will be "shipped to St. Louis to join a series of new exhibits at the museum of the Gateway Arch at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial." According to the article, "sending the crew down to St. Louis to build the cabin...would have been more expensive than building it locally and shipping the completed structure."

Some Entry Fees Could Rise At Seashore.

The [Brewster \(MA\) Cape Codder](#) (12/3) reports that the National Park Service is "proposing a fee increase for 2018 for the per person and motorcycle daily fees to enter Cape Cod National Seashore." According to the article, "the per person daily fee would increase from \$3 to \$10, and the motorcycle daily fee would increase from \$10 to \$15." The move is "in response to the NPS effort to standardize entrance fees across the National Park System."

Elwha River Takes Out Olympic Hot Springs Road.

The [Seattle Times](#) (12/1, Mapes) reports that “new flood damage” has closed the Olympic Hot Springs Road “not long after the National Park Service spent \$450,000 on a temporary fix to reopen it after the last flood.” According to Penny Wagner, spokeswoman for Olympic National Park, “decisions on repairs to the road won’t be made until conditions subside enough to get a good look at the damage this time.”

Yellowstone Superintendent To Receive Honorary Degree At MSU.

The [AP](#) (12/3) reports that Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Dan Wenk is “set to receive an honorary doctorate degree in letters from Montana State University.” The university says Wenk “supports land-grant universities and has deepened the relationship between Yellowstone’s research unit and faculty and students.” University president Waded Cruzado says Wenk “has reinforced the long-standing ties between Yellowstone National Park and our university, strengthening MSU’s status as the ‘University of the Yellowstone.’” Wenk will “receive the degree during MSU’s fall commencement on Dec. 16.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (12/1).

Office Of Insular Affairs

Interior Gives Bikini Leaders Powers Over Resettlement Trust Fund.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (12/4) reports that Interior’s assistant secretary for Insular Areas Doug Domenech has “authorized full decision-making powers for the mayor and Council of the Kili-Bikini-Ejit local government in the Republic of the Marshall Islands over the annual budget of the Bikini Resettlement Trust Fund for and on behalf of the people of Kili, Bikini, and Ejit atolls.” Domenech said, “One of Interior Secretary Zinke’s priorities is to restore trust and ensure that sovereignty means something. Today, we recognize the leadership role and responsibility for which the people of Bikini have elected the mayor and council leaders and henceforth, will defer to them to fully assume a decision-making role over the Resettlement Trust Fund. It is appropriate that decision-making for the well-being of the people of Bikini be transferred to people of Bikini, rather than be dependent upon policy makers in Washington, D.C. However, our decision today in no way precludes any future consultations between our offices, as partners, for the benefit of the people of Bikini.”

Inspector General Says Audits Back On Track.

[St. Croix Source](#) (12/3, Buchanan) reports that “Virgin Islands Inspector General Steven van Beverhoudt said Friday that his office was getting close to normal operations after almost three months after a pair of hurricanes threw ‘normal’ out the window.” One issue “holding back his staff of 17 was the inability to access the server that held most of the office files, he told the Source Friday.” According to the article, “the server was still having problems early last week, but Beverhoudt indicated it was now fully operational.”

US Geological Survey

Study: Quakes Spurred On Faults Dead For 300 Million Years.

The [AP](#) (12/1, Wallace) reports that “earthquakes that have swarmed North Texas in recent years occurred on faults awakened by human activity after they had been dormant since dinosaurs roamed the area, according to a new university study.” The study by Southern Methodist University researchers “supports recent assertions that the earthquakes were induced by human activity, not naturally.” Michael Blanpied, associate coordinator of the Earthquake hazard program of the U.S. Geological Survey and a co-author of the SMU report, said, “The study’s findings suggest that the recent Fort Worth Basin earthquakes, which involve swarms of activity on several faults in the region, have been induced by human activity.”

Additional Reading.

- *It’s Not A Matter Of “If,” It’s A Matter Of “More Fire Science Data Please!”*. [Sierra \(CA\) Sun Times](#) (12/1).
- *The Ambitious Plan To Stop The Ground From Sinking*. [BBC News \(UK\)](#) (11/30, Ruggeri).

Opinion Pieces

Trump Is Vandalizing Our Wild Heritage.

In a [New York Times](#) (12/1, Babbitt) op-ed, former Interior Secretary and Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt accuses President Trump of “vandalizing” the country’s “wild heritage.” Babbitt says Trump on Monday is expected to say he is “repealing protections for as many as two million acres of public land in the American West, an area more than six times the size of Grand Teton National Park, including vast portions of two national monuments in the state, Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante.” He adds that “this theft of our heritage should awaken us to the damage being piled up across our public lands under this administration.”

Trump Parrots Obama’s Enthusiasm For One-Branch Government.

In his column for the [Washington Times](#) (12/1, Fein), Bruce Fein criticizes President Trump’s move to “unilaterally diminish national monument designations of his predecessor issued under the Antiquities Act of 1906.” Fein argues that like his predecessor, “Trump is claiming limitless presidential power to flout the plain words of the statute by treating them as homonyms: The words sound the same as when they were enacted, but now mean something different or even the opposite.” Fein asserts that if Trump “can’t convince a Republican-controlled Congress that certain national monuments should be abolished or rolled back, then he must accept the status quo until he unearths better arguments that do the job.”

When Trump Guts Two Utah National Monuments Next Week, He’ll Trigger A New Conservation War.

In an op-ed for the [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/1, Trimble), Stephen Trimble, who serves on the board of Grand Staircase-Escalante Partners, writes that President Trump is planning “to wreak destruction on public lands he knows nothing about.” Trimble claims that Trump is only motivated because “he can nullify one more Obama accomplishment.” According to Trimble, “the administration’s attack on national monuments has fired up a national coalition of public lands and Native American rights defenders.” He warns that if Trump goes through, “he will disrupt management on the ground and trigger a years-long taxpayer funded court battle the anti-monument folks will likely lose.”

CONSERVATISM MEANS TO CONSERVE: Why Trump Is Wrong To Reclassify National Monuments.

In an op-ed for the [Daily Caller](#) (12/3, Shirley), Craig Shirley argues that the reasoning behind Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s recommendation to reduce national monuments – “that less federal land means less federal government – is flawed.” Rather, Shirley claims that “reducing federal land in this case would make corporations slobber over their new found pickings” and “corporations hardly ever have the working man in their best interest.” Shirley writes that “Ronald Reagan, the Westerner, understood that conservatism also meant to conserve – our natural resources, our cherished lands, our natural treasures.” Shirley concludes that “these monuments are more than just landscapes or places to gaze pretty sunsets, but essential parts of American history and American identity.”

When Public Lands Are Sacred Lands.

In an op-ed for the [Daily Caller](#) (12/3, Koa), Kambree Kawahine Koa, a radio and television contributor based in California, writes that she has “been an enthusiastic supporter of Donald Trump since the moment he started his campaign for President,” but she asserts that “any effort to reduce the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah is absolutely wrong.” She empathizes with indigenous people and their “special bond and relationship with the land.” Koa urges President Trump “to stand with Native peoples, defend our traditions and defend our sacred lands.”

National Parks Were My Family’s Door To America. Doubling The Entry Fees Would Limit Access To Immigrants Like My Father.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (12/1, Tam), Ruth Tam writes about her family vacations growing up, which “involved road trips across the United States, hitting national parks, battlefields and historic sites.” According to Tam, “these national parks and sites — which would become less accessible if the Trump administration implements a proposal to increase entry fees — did more than history classes ever could: They made us feel American.” She writes if a proposed fee hike is implemented, “the doorway may narrow for families like mine, who visited not just for the views but for a greater understanding of our mixed cultural identity.”

US Oil And Gas Boom Will Actually Help Spur Energy Revolution.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (12/1, Graham), Crosswind Media & Public Relations President and CEO Thomas Graham stated that as “most of our gas will be exported to China, India and Southwest Asia” it will assist those countries in dropping their “dependency on far dirtier coal” and will lower the globe’s carbon emissions. An International Energy Agency study, reported by Fortune, states that reducing hydrocarbons is becoming more difficult for the US as prices are decreasing and production has more than doubled. Graham argues that exporting natural gas as the world’s largest exporter will bring an “economic boost at home,” which “will drive technological advances not just in energy, but in sciences and infrastructure.”

Additional Reading.

- *The Treasures Of Chaco Canyon Are Threatened By Drilling.* [New York Times](#) (12/1, Moe).
- *What Price For A Great Idea Like Our Parks?* [Kearney \(NE\) Hub](#) (12/2, Brown).
- *What Would Teddy Roosevelt Say About Out-of-reach Parks Fees?* [Fort Collins \(CO\) Coloradoan](#) (12/1, Young).
- *Op-Ed: Congress — Use Disaster Relief To Stop Megafires.* [Traverse City \(MI\) Record-Eagle](#) (12/2, Taylor).
- *Their View: Battling Megafires Across Our Country Takes A Toll Here In Illinois.* [Freeport \(IL\) Journal-Standard](#) (12/1, Carr, Littiken).
- *Treat Wildfires Like Disasters — And Fix The Funding Problem.* [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (12/3, Hagenstein).
- *Please Mr. President, Spare The Elephants.* [Huffington Post](#) (12/2, Simms).
- *Why Delisting Of Grizzly Bears Is Premature.* [Idaho State Journal](#) (12/3, Wuerthner).
- *Enormous Issues Hang In The Balance For Horses, Wolves, And Grizzlies In Congressional Spending Bill.* [Wisconsin Gazette](#) (12/3, Pacelle).
- *BLM Should Take Cues From Local Office On Managing Wild Horses.* [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (12/3, Thibodeau).
- *Community Voices: Downsizing Our Pristine Protected Lands Is Worrisome.* [Bakersfield \(CA\) Californian](#) (12/3, Hart).
- *Keeping Our Public Lands In Public Hands.* [Idaho Statesman](#) (12/1, Brooks, Hackworth).
- *Op-ed: Multiple-use Lands Offer A Truly Diverse Outdoor Experience.* [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (12/2, DeYoung).
- *Nest Year Crucial For Businesses To Support Public Lands.* [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (12/2, Hayes).
- *Dan Walters: Brown’s WaterFix Project Could Go Down The Drain.* [Napa Valley \(CA\) Register](#) (12/2, Walters).
- *Eradicate Brown Tree Snake, Bring Native Birds Home.* [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (12/4).
- *President Trump Should Defend Federal Land Use And End Abuse Of Antiquities Act.* [Competitive Enterprise Institute](#) (12/1, Ebell, Smith).

Top National News

Media Analyses: Trump’s Weekend Tweets Raise Specter Of Obstruction Of Justice.

President Trump’s Sunday morning tweets, in which he [said](#) the FBI’s “reputation is in Tatters,” [charged](#) that a “Tainted (no, very dishonest?) FBI ‘agent’s role in [Hillary] Clinton probe under review,” and [cited](#) a report that an “ANTI-TRUMP FBI AGENT LED CLINTON EMAIL PROBE,” contributed to Sunday show conversation about the plea agreement made by former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn. The President’s earlier [tweet](#) that he fired Flynn “because he lied to the Vice President and the FBI” and [another](#) saying that he “never asked [then-FBI Director James] Comey to stop investigating Flynn” drove the bulk of the discussion, which dealt with whether the President is imperiling himself with such tweets and if the President’s apparent admission that he knew Flynn had lied constitutes obstruction of justice.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/3, lead story, 3:25, Llamas) reported that the President is “again firing back at critics...taking aim at FBI leadership, calling their reputation in ‘tatters,’ and the worst in history.” The “tough tweets” come “on the heels of his former national security

adviser pleading guilty to lying to the FBI." ABC's David Wright: "The White House is racing to explain this tweet from @realDonaldTrump that appeared to admit, for the first time, that the President knew his former national security adviser had committed a crime. ... The President tweeted, 'I never asked Comey to stop investigating Flynn. Just more fake news covering another Comey lie!'"

The [CBS Weekend News](#) (12/3, lead story, 2:25, Quijano) reported, "Hours before the rooster crowed Sunday, President Trump was ruffling feathers again on Twitter. He railed about the Russia investigation, defended his firing of Flynn, "and railed on James Comey. The President also took aim at a FBI agent removed from the Russia investigation for sending anti-Trump texts. But another weekend tweet is intensely analyzed." CBS' Errol Barnett reported that Trump "implied via Twitter" that he knew Flynn "lied to the FBI before making the decision to fire him. But that tweet, sources tell CBS News, was drafted by the President's lawyer John Dowd, who didn't mean to imply that the President knew Flynn had lied to the FBI at the time."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (12/3, lead story, 3:50, Snow) reported, "All weekend long, President Trump has been weighing in on Friday's big news. ... The President insists he is not worried about what Flynn might tell investigators, but on Saturday, a tweet from the President's account about why he fired Flynn was scrutinized. And today, a top Republican warned the President to be more careful." Sen. Lindsey Graham: "You tweet and comment regarding ongoing criminal investigations at your own peril. I'd be careful if I were you, Mr. President, I'd watch this." NBC's Kristen Welker: "Tonight, the top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee." Sen. Mark Warner: "I believe FBI Director Comey. I think he was very credible in his testimony and his private meetings with us." On [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (12/3, Tapper), Warner said there is "mounting evidence, almost every week." He said that while he will withhold judgment on the matter until the investigation concludes, "there has never been, in modern American history, a political campaign that had this much outreach to a foreign government, and a foreign adversary, in this case, throughout the campaign, and throughout the transition."

The [New York Times](#) (12/3, A1, Shear) reports that Trump "lashed out at the F.B.I.," and "in an extraordinary attack on the top law enforcement body in his own government...accused the F.B.I. and its career investigators of having a bias against him." The [Washington Post](#) (12/3, Wagner) reports that Trump "issued a fresh denial" that he asked Comey to halt the Flynn investigation, and "also seized on news that Peter Strzok – the former top FBI official assigned to special counsel Robert S. Mueller III's probe" – was taken off that job earlier this year "after his bosses discovered that he and another member of Mueller's team had exchanged politically charged texts disparaging Trump and supporting" Hillary Clinton. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/3, Wigglesworth) reports that the President's "comments closely echoed language used during Sunday morning's episode of Fox News' 'Fox & Friends,' which aired a report on Strzok under the banner, 'Agent's role in Clinton probe under review.'"

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/3, King) calls Trump's tweets "a risky gambit," putting the President "on record to directly dispute his former FBI chief's sworn contention that the president had sought to derail" the investigation. Julie Pace of the AP said on [CNN's Inside Politics](#) (12/3) that the White House is "leaning hard on this idea that the Flynn court documents don't provide a smoking gun on collusion and that is true. But what they do do is continue to undermine the initial White House explanations about why Flynn was fired and what he was up to during the transition."

[Politico](#) (12/3, Restuccia) reports that the tweets "combined to reignite fears among people close to Trump that the president is not taking the special counsel's investigation seriously enough and is getting bad advice from his legal team." The President's "supporters, former campaign aides and former administration officials are beginning to privately raise red flags that the White House can't keep up with the president's own tweets and doesn't have a coherent messaging strategy on the Russia investigation."

[Reuters](#) (12/3, Bigg), the [Washington Times](#) (12/3, Boyer, Noble, Richardson), and [Business Insider](#) (12/3) also report.

Feinstein: Senate Judiciary Committee Sees Possible "Case Of Obstruction Of Justice." [USA Today](#) (12/3, Jackson) reports, "During a weekend-long series of tweets...Trump attacked the FBI" and Comey "over different aspects of the Russia investigation, including Flynn's role," and "further complicated matters by tweeting that he knew Flynn had lied to the FBI when he fired him. Lawmakers said that raises a possible obstruction of justice claim, given Comey's statement that Trump had asked him to drop the Flynn investigation."

The [AP](#) (12/3, Thomas) reports that Sen. Dianne Feinstein, "the top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, said the panel is beginning to see 'the putting together of a case of

obstruction of justice' against Trump." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/3, Sonne) quotes Feinstein saying, "I think we see this in the four indictments, the indictments and pleas and some of the comments that are being made. I see it in the hyper-frenetic attitude of the White House, the comments every day, the continual tweets. And I see it most importantly in what happened with the firing of Director Comey, and it is my belief that that is directly because he did not agree to lift the cloud of the Russia investigation. That's obstruction of justice." Feinstein also said on [NBC's Meet The Press](#) (12/3, Todd) that she assumes that many people in the White House are under investigation.

[Reuters](#) (12/3, Rampton) reports that Trump attorney John Dowd said in an interview that he had drafted the tweet stating that Trump fired Flynn for lying to the FBI, which, Ben Zimmer of [The Atlantic](#) (12/3) writes, "set off a new round of incredulous chatter. Would the president's lawyer really compose a tweet like that on his client's behalf, especially one that seemed so incriminating?"

The [Washington Post](#) (12/3, A1, Leonnig, Wagner, Nakashima) reports on its front page that Dowd said Trump "knew in late January" that Flynn "had probably given FBI agents the same inaccurate account he provided to Vice President Pence about a call with the Russian ambassador." Dowd "said it was inaccurate to say the president was told that Flynn had lied to the FBI."

[USA Today](#) (12/3) editorializes, "Flynn's guilty plea does not look good for President Trump. ... But those Democrats and never-Trumpers who see this as the next step toward impeachment should cool their jets. No judgment should be made until special counsel Robert Mueller presents his full case. And even then, the American people should have a say on the matter."

Schiff: Flynn Deal "Not The End Of It By Any Means." House Intelligence Committee ranking member Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) said on [ABC's This Week](#) (12/3) that the Flynn plea deal tells him "that Bob Mueller must have concluded he was getting a lot of value in terms of Gen. Flynn's cooperation." Schiff added, "I think it indicates to me, at least, that this is not the end of it by any means."

Scott Says Trump Should Not Pardon Flynn. Sen. Tim Scott said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (12/3, Tapper), "I think we'll find out the truth before, hopefully by the end of this year or early next year." He added, "At the end of the day...we have to have a way to restore confidence of the American people in their elected officials and the leaders of this country." [The Hill](#) (12/3, Manchester) reports that Scott also said that Trump should not pardon Flynn.

Newsmax's Ruddy: Mueller Probe "An Existential Threat" To Trump Presidency. [The Hill](#) (12/3, Thomsen) reports that Newsmax CEO Chris Ruddy, a "longtime friend of President Trump," told ABC that "Mueller's investigation 'poses an existential threat to the Trump presidency.'"

"Conservative Operative" Offered To Assist In Setting Up 2016 Trump-Putin Meeting. The [New York Times](#) (12/3, Fandos) reports that an unnamed "conservative operative trumpeting his close ties to the National Rifle Association and Russia" contacted Trump campaign adviser Rick Dearborn in May 2016 to say that he "could arrange a back-channel meeting" between Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin. The operative said he was seeking advice from Dearborn and then-Sen. Jeff Sessions "about how to proceed in connecting" the two men.

House Intelligence Committee Threatens DOJ, FBI With Contempt. The [Washington Times](#) (12/3, Noble) reports that House Republicans could draft a resolution to hold Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein and FBI Director Wray "in contempt of Congress as soon as Monday for failure to turn over documents sought as part of an intelligence committee investigation." House Intelligence Chairman Devin Nunes accuses the FBI and DOJ of "months of stonewalling...as his panel sought access to records related to federal investigators' use of the salacious Trump dossier." [Bloomberg News](#) (12/3, House) and the [Daily Caller](#) (12/3, Ross) have similar reports.

In related news, the [Washington Times](#) (12/3, Scarborough) reports that though "the Trump-Russia dossier may be sleazy and inaccurate," there is "no US election law that expressly prohibits such work by a foreign national," according to the Federal Election Commission.

Russia-Backed Sputnik Adds Second Washington Radio Station. The [Washington Post](#) (12/3, Moyer) reports that the "Russia-funded radio station" Sputnik has added a second Washington-area station "after its partner, a Virginia-based radio company, registered with the Justice Department as a foreign agent." Sputnik has been broadcasting on 105.5 FM since June, and 1390 AM, "a former Spanish-language station based in Capitol Heights, Md., began carrying Sputnik on Saturday."

"SNL" Opened With Baldwin In Flynn-Related Sketch. [USA Today](#) (12/3, Moniuszko) and the [Washington Post](#) (12/3, Izadi) both briefly summarize this weekend's "Saturday Night Live" [cold open](#), a parody of "A Christmas Carol" in which Alec Baldwin's Donald Trump was visited by Flynn

as “the Ghost of Witness Flipped,” as well as spectral versions of Billy Bush, Putin, and Hillary Clinton.

Trump Says That He Fired Flynn For Lying To Pence And FBI, But Laments Former Aide’s Suffering.

President Trump, in response to former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn’s announcement on Friday that he will plead guilty to lying to the FBI about his conversations with former Russian ambassador Sergey Kislyak, told reporters on Saturday he is “very happy” and remains convinced Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation will prove there was “absolutely no collusion” between the Russian government and his campaign. Coverage of the President’s remarks became drastically more negative after Trump tweeted that he fired Flynn because he lied to Vice President Pence and the FBI, which several lawmakers, former officials, and legal experts suggested could potentially result in obstruction of justice charges against the President.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (12/2, story 3, 1:40, Diaz-Balart) Jose Diaz-Balart said the President, in his first public remarks about Flynn, insisted “he is not worried about” Flynn’s plea and maintained “there’s still no proof of any collusion between his campaign and the Russians.” [The Wall Street Journal](#) (12/2, Sonne) reports that Trump told reporters, “There’s been absolutely no collusion, so we’re very happy.” He added, “We’ll see what happens.” [The Hill](#) (12/2, Cohn) reports that Trump, asked if he is worried about what Flynn will tell Mueller’s investigation, asserted, “No, I’m not.”

However, [Politico](#) (12/2, Griffiths) highlights that later in the day, Trump “defended” Flynn’s actions as “lawful.” [Reuters](#) (12/2, Mason, Wolfe) reports Trump [tweeted](#), “I had to fire General Flynn because he lied to the Vice President and the FBI. He has pled guilty to those lies. It is a shame because his actions during the transition were lawful. There was nothing to hide!”

The [AP](#) (12/3, Woodward, Thomas) reports that by “suggesting he knew at the time that Flynn had lied to the FBI as well as...Pence about [Flynn’s] contacts with Russians during the presidential transition,” Trump has “changed his story” justifying his dismissal of Flynn. According to the AP, the new explanation is “a turnabout from his initial explanations that Flynn had to go because he hadn’t been straight with Pence about those contacts.” [The Hill](#) (12/2, Fabian, Manchester) says that the “apparent shift from the reasons Trump stated at the time of Flynn’s ouster” represents “a discrepancy that will catch the attention of prosecutors on Mueller’s team looking into whether the president tried to obstruct the investigation.”

The [New York Times](#) (12/2, Haberman, Schmidt, Shear) reports that although Trump “has long asserted that he fired Mr. Flynn in February, less than a month after he took office,” because Flynn had lied to Pence, “by saying on Twitter...that Mr. Flynn’s lies to the F.B.I. had also contributed to his firing, some took that to mean that Mr. Trump was acknowledging that he had known in February that Mr. Flynn was untruthful with the bureau’s agents.” The Times adds that “any such admission would be important in light of Mr. Trump’s effort that month to persuade the bureau’s director at the time, James B. Comey, to drop the investigation into Mr. Flynn.”

In the lead story for the [CBS Weekend News](#) (12/2, lead story, 2:35, Ninan), justice reporter Paula Reid asserted the President effectively “acknowledged for the first time that he knew Flynn had lied to federal investigators before he was fired.” Reid added that Trump’s “tweet also suggests that he knew Flynn had committed a felony when, on Feb. 14, he asked...Comey to shut down the investigation into Flynn.” The [Washington Post](#) (12/2, Phillips, Blake) says the new “tweet indicates [the President] knew that Flynn lied to the FBI when he fired him, but that wasn’t reported by The Washington Post until three days after his dismissal. At the time, Trump cited only that Flynn had misled Vice President Pence.”

[USA Today](#) (12/2, Jackson) similarly reports “some critics pointed out that Trump’s tweet implies he knew Flynn had lied to the FBI when he fired him – and before he reportedly asked former FBI Director James Comey to go easy on Flynn,” which [The Hill](#) (12/2, Thomsen) says “prompted ethics experts and political observers to question whether Mueller could probe the president for obstruction of justice.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/2, Strohm, Pettypiece) reports “Democratic lawmakers seized on the president’s tweet.” Rep. Adam Schiff, the ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee, [tweeted](#), “If that is true, Mr. President, why did you wait so long to fire Flynn? Why did you fail to act until his lies were publicly exposed? And why did you pressure Director Comey to ‘let this go?’” Sen. Richard Blumenthal [tweeted](#), “Trump’s claim today that he fired Flynn because of lies to FBI, as well as Pence, shows knowledge of lawbreaking he concealed – never before disclosed.” He [added](#), “Obstruction of justice in the Oval Office unfolding before our eyes in real time – as Trump seemingly admits to covering up Flynn’s lies to FBI about Russian contacts.” [The](#)

Hill (12/2, Manchester) reports Rep. Ted Lieu [tweeted](#), "THIS IS OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE. @POTUS now admits he KNEW Michael Flynn lied to the FBI. Yet Trump tried to influence or stop the FBI investigation on #Flynn."

[The Hill](#) (12/2, Carter) reports in its "Briefing Room" blog that Walter Shaub, the former director of the US Office of Government Ethics, [asked](#) whether Trump's tweet was an admission he knew of Flynn's lies to the FBI and [said](#), "Before we slipped into an alternate universe of unabashed corruption, this tweet alone might have ended a Presidential administration." Shaub [continued](#), "Tell us, @realDonaldTrump, did you know Flynn had lied to the FBI when Counsel to the President Don McGahn snubbed Yates as she tried to warn the White House Flynn had been compromised? Did you know Flynn had lied to the FBI when you fired Yates days after her whistleblowing?" In addition, [The Hill](#) (12/2, Carter) "Briefing Room" blog reports Matthew Miller, a Justice Department spokesman during the Obama Administration, [tweeted](#), "Oh my god, he just admitted to obstruction of justice. If Trump knew Flynn lied to the FBI when he asked Comey to let it go, then there is your case."

John Dowd Claims Authorship Of Trump's Tweet On Flynn Firing, Says Comment "Paraphrases" Ty Cobb's Statement. The [Washington Post](#) (12/2, Blake) reports the President's tweet on Flynn "was authored by Trump's personal lawyer, John Dowd, according to two people familiar with the situation." Dowd later said, "The tweet just paraphrases what [White House lawyer] Ty Cobb issued yesterday. I refer you to Comey's testimony about Flynn's answers. I have nothing further." The Post concedes "the fact that Dowd authored the tweet could limit its salience to the investigation," but "Cobb's comments Friday didn't address the timeline like Trump's tweet does. Cobb merely said Friday that the 'false statements involved mirror the false statements to White House officials which resulted in his resignation in February of this year.'"

Trump: "Rigged System" Has "Destroyed" Flynn's Life, Spared Hillary Clinton. [The Hill](#) (12/2, Greenwood) reports Trump, in a series of tweets on Saturday night, "suggested Flynn had his life 'destroyed' for lying to the FBI, while former Democratic rival Hillary Clinton has got off free after deleting emails." The President [tweeted](#), "So General Flynn lies to the FBI and his life is destroyed, while Crooked Hillary Clinton, on that now famous FBI holiday 'interrogation' with no swearing in and no recording, lies many times...and nothing happens to her? Rigged system, or just a double standard?" He [added](#), "Many people in our Country are asking what the 'Justice' Department is going to do about the fact that totally Crooked Hillary, AFTER receiving a subpoena from the United States Congress, deleted and 'acid washed' 33,000 Emails? No justice!"

Trump: "Never Asked Comey To Stop Investigating Flynn." [Reuters](#) (12/3, Bigg) reports the President "said in a tweet on Sunday he never asked former FBI director James Comey to stop investigating...Flynn." Trump asserted, "I never asked Comey to stop investigating Flynn. Just more Fake News covering another Comey lie!"

Trump's Legal Advisers Believe Flynn Cannot Incriminate Trump, Source Says. The [Washington Times](#) (12/2, Scarborough) reports a source close to the President's legal team "said that Special Counsel Robert Mueller filings on Friday is the extent of Mr. Flynn's incriminating statements about White House and campaign officials." The source told the Times, "There is simply no factual basis to implicate the president. He's got nothing else. What you see in the criminal information is it. He's empty." The source also "said that if Mr. Flynn was prepared to testify against the president, that fact would have been part of the pleading." They asserted Mueller would have made Flynn "plead to something that he did with the president," but the filings "contain nothing about the president. That's the key."

Sekulow: "There Is No Crime Of Collusion." [The Hill](#) (12/2, Bowden) reports Jay Sekulow, "one of President Trump's top lawyers," in an interview with the [New Yorker](#) asserted "it doesn't matter if members of the Trump campaign colluded with Russia as long as no crimes were committed." He said, "For something to be a crime, there has to be a statute that you claim is being violated." Sekulow added, "There is not a statute that refers to criminal collusion. There is no crime of collusion."

Trump Advisors Divided Over Cobb's "Play Nice" Approach To Mueller. [Politico](#) (12/2, Samuelsohn) reports that "as Mueller's probe moves deeper into the president's inner circle, some of Trump's longtime advisers are urging him to stick with the approach outlined by White House lawyer Ty Cobb," and continue to "play nice with" Mueller, but "some of Trump's old campaign hands and longtime loyalists...argue that now is the time to ditch Cobb's approach and get more aggressive with Mueller." According to Politico, Cobb and the President's other attorneys believe "cooperation with the Russia probe...is the best path to the exoneration Trump has craved all year – a way not just to get things over with quickly, but also to signal to prosecutors that the administration has good intentions and nothing to hide."

NYTimes A1: Emails Show Flynn Did Not Act Alone In Outreach To Russia. A front-page [New York Times](#) (12/2, A1, Schmidt, Lafraniere, Shane) article reports that while the White House had portrayed Flynn “as a renegade who had acted independently in his discussions with [Kislyak] during the presidential transition and then lied to his colleagues about the interactions,” emails from “top transition officials, provided or described to The New York Times, suggest that Mr. Flynn was far from a rogue actor.” The Times says the emails as well as interviews and new court documents “showed that Mr. Flynn was in close touch with other senior members of the Trump transition team both before and after he spoke with” Kislyak about the US sanctions on Russia, including K. T. McFarland. In the lead [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/2, lead story, 4:20, Vega) segment, David Wright said that according to the Times, McFarland wrote, “If there is a tit-for-tat escalation Trump will have difficulty improving relations with Russia, which has just thrown U.S.A. election to him.” Wright added the White House’s response to the Times was that “‘there’s nothing illegal or unethical about the transition team’s actions,’ and that McFarland was expressing concern about how the Democrats were likely to spin this.”

WPost A1: McGahn Met With Mueller On Thursday. The [Washington Post](#) (12/2, A1, Costa, Leonnig, Dawsey) reports on its front page that “with his stealth morning arrival Thursday, White House Counsel Donald F. McGahn II became the latest in a string of high-level witnesses to enter the secretive nerve center of special counsel Robert S. Mueller III’s investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election.” The Post calls their meeting, when coupled with Flynn’s guilty plea twenty hours later, “the latest indication that Mueller’s operation is rapidly pursuing an expansive mission, drilling deeper into Trump’s inner circle.” The Post adds “among the topics that have been of keen interest to investigators: how foreign government officials and their emissaries contacted Trump officials, as well as the actions and interplay of Flynn and Jared Kushner, the president’s son-in-law.”

Plea Deal Keeps Flynn On “Very Short Leash.” [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/2, story 2, 0:35, Vega) reported Flynn pleaded guilty on Friday to a single count of lying to the FBI; however, correspondent David Wright said, Flynn is “on a very short leash – required to check in weekly with the authorities and still consulting with the special counsel’s team.” The crime to which Flynn pleaded guilty “carries a maximum prison term of five years,” and “his deal is contingent upon his continued cooperation.”

Mueller Removed FBI Agent From Investigation This Summer Over Potential Bias Against Trump. A front-page [Washington Post](#) (12/2, A1, Demirjian, Barrett) article reports Special Counsel Robert Mueller removed Peter Strzok, the deputy head of counterintelligence at the FBI, from the investigation into Russian election interference “this summer after his bosses discovered he and another member of Mueller’s team had exchanged politically charged texts disparaging President Trump and supporting Hillary Clinton, according to multiple people familiar with the matter.” The sources told the Post that Strzok had been “a key player in the investigation into Clinton’s use of a private email server to do government work as secretary of state,” and at the time had been “involved in a romantic relationship with FBI lawyer Lisa Page, who worked for Deputy Director Andrew McCabe.” The Post adds “the extramarital affair was problematic, these people said, but of greater concern among senior law enforcement officials were” their politically charged text messages.

The [New York Times](#) (12/2, Schmidt, Apuzzo, Goldman) reports that “Strzok was reassigned...to the F.B.I.’s human resources department, where he has been stationed since.” A spokesman for Mueller’s office said: “Immediately upon learning of the allegations, the special counsel’s office removed Peter Strzok from the investigation.” The Times adds “the inspector general’s office at the Justice Department said that as part of a larger inquiry it was conducting into how the F.B.I. had handled investigations related to the 2016 election, the office was ‘reviewing allegations involving communications between certain individuals, and will report its findings regarding those allegations promptly upon completion of the review of them.’”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/2, Wilber) reports the FBI also issued a statement insisting its investigation into the matter is consistent with its standard investigations of employee conduct while Attorney General Sessions in a statement said “the allegations that the Inspector General has confirmed are part of his ongoing investigation, if proven to be true, would raise serious questions of public trust.” The Journal notes Mueller’s spokesman said Page had left the investigation prior to the office learning of the allegations against her and Strzok.

House Republicans Draft Contempt Resolution Against FBI, DOJ. [Bloomberg News](#) (12/3, House) reports House Intelligence Chairman Devin Nunes announced Saturday that his committee is “drafting a contempt of Congress resolution against Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein and FBI Director Christopher Wray, claiming stonewalling in producing material in the

Russia-Trump probes and other matters." In a statement, Nunes said, "Unless all our outstanding demands are fully met by close of business on Monday, December 4, 2017, the committee will have the opportunity to move this resolution before the end of the month." He added, "In light of today's press reports, we now know why Strzok was dismissed, why the FBI and DOJ refused to provide us this explanation, and at least one reason why they previously refused to make Deputy Director McCabe available to the Committee for an interview."

ABC News Apologizes, Suspends Brian Ross Over Incorrect Reporting. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/2, story 3, 0:40, Muir) released a statement on Saturday that read: "'We deeply regret and apologize for the serious error we made yesterday. The reporting conveyed by Brian Ross during the special report had not been fully vetted through our editorial standards process. As a result, our continued reporting over the next several hours ultimately determined the information was wrong, and we corrected the mistake on air and online. It is vital we get the story right and retain the trust we have built with our audience. These are our core principles. We fell far short of that yesterday."

The [AP](#) (12/3, Noveck) says ABC News suspended Ross for four weeks without pay for erroneously reporting that an unnamed confidant of Flynn claimed the former national security adviser would testify "then-candidate Donald Trump had directed Flynn to make contact with the Russians," only to say several hours later "that his source now said Trump had done so not as a candidate, but as president-elect."

According to the [New York Times](#) (12/2, Wang), the initial report "would have been a bombshell revelation in the continuing investigation into whether Mr. Trump's campaign colluded with Russia to interfere in the presidential election." In an interview with the Times, Kathleen Culver, the director of the Center for Journalism Ethics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, criticized ABC News and said, "This error plays right into the hands of people who callously try to say that news media all just lie." Culver added, "This is the kind of thing you can see being brought up again and again and again at appearances by the president, where he will take one situation in which something was wrong, and blow that out into a condemnation that all news media are fake."

However, [The Hill](#) (12/2, Seipel) reports the President praised ABC News. Trump [tweeted](#), "Congratulations to @ABC News for suspending Brian Ross for his horrendously inaccurate and dishonest report on the Russia, Russia, Russia Witch Hunt. More Networks and 'papers' should do the same with their Fake News!" [The Hill](#) (12/2, Manchester) reports in a separate article that in contrast, Donald Trump Jr. earlier in the day [tweeted](#), "@ABC retracts their misleading 'bombshell' and removes their tweet approximately 12 hours after they knew it to be false. I know it's rare for you guys to get more than 200 RTs so I guess you milk it when you can?!?! #fakenews." In addition, former White House press secretary Sean Spicer on Friday [tweeted](#), "@ABC 'news' owes it viewers an apology. Calling false reporting a 'clarification' is a cop out and just another reason for the decline in trust of the media."

Western Governors "Shrugged Off" Impact Of Flynn Plea Deal. [Politico](#) (12/2, Siders) reports that although "Flynn's downfall roiled Washington" on Friday, the Republican and Democratic leaders of 10 states "shrugged off the former national security adviser's guilty plea" during a Western Governors Association meeting. Politico acknowledges "efforts to minimize controversy are not uncommon at bipartisan gatherings of politicians who share common regional interests," but the fact that so many governors avoided the "moment of near-hysteria in Washington in the Russia probe also served as a reminder of how much controversy consuming the capital has failed to break through outside of D.C."

Flynn Pleads Guilty To Lying To FBI In Russia Probe.

Former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn on Friday pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his contacts with former Russian ambassador Sergey Kislyak. The long-anticipated announcement dominated coverage, which included the lead segments on all three network newscasts with nearly 25 minutes combined, and was extensive in print and online. Reporting examined how Flynn's cooperation with Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation could impact the ongoing probe of President Trump and other White House officials, including Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner, who allegedly directed some of Flynn's conversations. In addition, analyses suggested that the plea appeared to come as a surprise to the White House and Trump.

In the lead [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/1, lead story, 4:00, Holt) segment, justice correspondent Pete Williams reported that there were "no handcuffs for Michael Flynn. He surrendered and walked into the federal courthouse in Washington to plead guilty to a single charge – lying to the FBI." Williams added that "in a statement, Flynn says his plea is, quote, 'in

the best interests of my family and of our country.' He says, 'I recognize that the actions I acknowledged in court today were wrong and through my faith in God, I am working to set things right.'" [Reuters](#) (12/1, Layne) reports that in the statement, which was issued by the law firm representing him, Flynn "said it was 'painful to endure' the 'false accusations of 'treason' and other outrageous acts' over the past several months but that he recognized 'that the actions I acknowledged in court today were wrong.'"

In a more than 2,600-word article, [Politico](#) (12/1, Gerstein, Nussbaum, Meyer) labels Flynn's plea "a devastating moment for the Trump White House, which has at various times dismissed Russian interference in the election as 'fake news' and predicted that the investigation would wrap up by the end of the year." Politico says that at the court hearing on Friday, prosecutor Brandon Van Grack "offered additional details that appeared to connect Flynn's Russian contacts to the highest levels of the Trump transition team," but "prosecutors did not allege that anyone told Flynn to lie about his talks with the Russian ambassador, which is the crime the former national security adviser admitted to Friday."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (12/1, 6:07 p.m. EDT, Keilar) justice correspondent Evan Perez said Flynn received "an incredible deal" because according to court documents, he allegedly "made four false statements," but he only faced charges for one. In addition, [The Hill](#) (12/1, Williams) states that Flynn "for the time being...will remain free – although the charge he faces carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison." The [Daily Caller](#) (12/1, Pfeiffer) notes that "Flynn is the fourth former Trump campaign official to be charged by special counsel Robert Mueller's wide-ranging probe into alleged Russian election interference."

The [New York Times](#) (12/1, A1, Shear, Goldman) reports on its front page that in pleading guilty to lying to the FBI about his conversations with Kislyak, Flynn became "the first senior White House official to cut a cooperation deal in the special counsel's wide-ranging inquiry into election interference." The Times says these discussions also amounted to "part of a coordinated effort by Mr. Trump's aides to create foreign policy before they were in power, documents released as part of Mr. Flynn's plea agreement show." In addition, the actions "undermined the existing policy of President Barack Obama and flouted a warning from a senior Obama administration official to stop meddling in foreign affairs before the inauguration."

The [AP](#) (12/2, Tucker, Day) reports Flynn also "said members of the president's inner circle were intimately involved with – and at times directing – his contacts" and Brianna Keilar led [CNN's Situation Room](#) (12/1, 5:01 p.m. EDT, Keilar) in reporting that an FBI statement revealed Flynn had "communicated with the ambassador at the request of a senior trump transition official," who sources identified as Kushner.

In the lead segment for the second hour of [CNN's Situation Room](#) (12/1, 6:01 p.m. EDT, Keilar), Keilar stated that the developments constitute "the clearest picture yet of coordination between Flynn and other Trump advisers and their contact with Russian officials aimed at influencing international policy before the President took office." According to [CNN's Situation Room](#)'s (12/1, 6:48 p.m. EDT, Keilar) Brian Todd, the court documents reveal Kislyak told Flynn that the Russian government last year had agreed not to "retaliate immediately to US sanctions" after having "specifically" received a request from Flynn to refrain from doing so.

In the lead [CBS Evening News](#) (12/1, lead story, 3:40, Mason) segment, Jeff Pegues reported the court papers reveal that "on Dec. 22, 2016, Flynn called Kislyak to urge Russia to delay or defeat a United Nations resolution concerning Israeli settlements." Pegues added, "a week later, Flynn spoke to Kislyak again. This time, about new sanctions imposed by the Obama Administration on Russia. He relayed to the ambassador that the Trump team did not want Russia to escalate the situation. Flynn made that call after consulting with someone court papers identify as a 'senior transition official.'" Sources told CBS News that this individual was "Flynn's deputy, K.T. McFarland." [Bloomberg News](#) (12/1, Pettypiece) notes Flynn brought McFarland into "to the transition team and later to the White House," where she "served as deputy national security adviser until being asked to step down in April by Flynn's replacement, H.R. McMaster." Bloomberg adds Trump in May nominated her as ambassador to Singapore, but "her nomination is still awaiting confirmation by the Senate."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (12/1, 5:08 p.m. EDT, Keilar) justice correspondent Evan Perez reported McFarland "has gone in to provide information to the special counsel's office." The documents appear to show that she spoke with Flynn ahead of that meeting "to get a sense of what he should talk to the Russians about, what information he should share, and then he calls back and gives a report on what he learned in his conversation with Kislyak." Perez said that the concern at that time "appeared to be, at least from the Trump transition, was the fact that the Obama Administration was putting these sanctions, it would essentially tie the hands of incoming

Administration." Meanwhile, "we're hearing from people close to the White House" about a "different version, certainly the version that perhaps Jared Kushner testified to," that the phone call related to Israeli settlements. Perez warned the differing accounts could leave Kushner in legal jeopardy.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/1, A1, Viswanatha, Harris) reports on its front page that after Flynn spoke with Kislyak on Dec. 29, 2016, the court documents reveal he spoke to the unnamed official, identified by sources as McFarland. The Journal adds that she was at Mar-a-Lago for meetings with Trump, who at the time was President-elect, and senior advisers Stephen Miller and Kellyanne Conway as well as former White House Chief Strategist Steve Bannon and former White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus, according to a Trump spokesman at the time.

The [New York Times](#) (12/1, Schmidt) reports the day after this call with Kislyak, Russian President Vladimir Putin "announced that Moscow would not retaliate against the United States for its latest round of sanctions, surprising some in the Obama administration who had expected an aggressive response from Mr. Putin," and prompting Trump to praise the Russian leader. The [Washington Times](#) (12/1, Noble, Boyer) notes Trump tweeted, "Great move on delay (by V. Putin) – I always knew he was very smart!" [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/1, story 3, 1:15, Muir) chief legal analyst Dan Abrams explained this is "a technical violation of something called the Logan Act, which prevents a private citizen from intervening in foreign affairs, but I think it's unlikely they're going to rest it on that."

Meanwhile, a front-page [Washington Post](#) (12/1, A1, Dawsey, Barrett) article states that "in an ominous sign for the White House," Flynn "said he is cooperating in the ongoing probe of possible coordination between the Trump campaign and the Kremlin to influence the 2016 election." In the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/1, lead story, 4:15, Muir), chief investigative correspondent Brian Ross reported Flynn is now "telling associates he is prepared to testify, if needed, against President Trump and others in the White House." A confidant of Flynn's said "he is prepared to testify that Trump did direct him to contact the Russians during the transition, initially as a way to work together against ISIS."

[Reuters](#) (12/1, Lynch) reports "Flynn's decision to cooperate with Mueller's team marked a major escalation in a probe that has dogged the president since he took office in January." While Flynn's admission "set Washington abuzz with speculation as to who in the Republican leader's inner circle might next be in Mueller's sights," [AFP](#) (12/1, Handley, Blanc) reports the White House "rejected the idea that Flynn could implicate 'anyone' else."

Jonathan Karl of [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/1, story 2, 1:45, Muir) reported that after the news broke, Trump ignored questions about the indictment, and then "the White House abruptly canceled a planned photo-op with the Libyan prime minister, avoiding questions altogether." Karl added Trump, top White House officials, and Trump's legal team "learned of this when they read it in the news," so the development "came as a surprise," and a source told [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/1, story 2, 3:15, Holt) Kristen Welker "the White House was completely blindsided by this news." [Politico](#) (12/1, Restuccia, Karni, Cook) similarly reports "no one in the White House was prepared" for the announcement of Flynn's plea deal as "there were no leaks in advance." According to Politico, although the President "told associates as recently as last weekend – while he was visiting his Mar-a-Lago resort for Thanksgiving – that he isn't worried about the outcome of Mueller's probe into Russian meddling in the 2016 election, which has grown to encompass his response to the investigation," there is "a growing sense of dread among Trump's closest confidants that the noose is tightening – if not around the president, then around his closest advisers and family members."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/1, story 3, 0:50, Mason), chief White House correspondent Major Garrett reported that Trump "was notified this morning, and he considered it a sad event, for sure, for Gen. Flynn and a serious crime for a three-star general, retired, to admit to. But the President still believes nothing that was revealed today threatens either him or his administration." Garrett added Trump, "we are told, is still clinging to the belief, reinforced by his legal team here, that the special counsel's investigation will be concluded relatively soon."

In the lead story for [Fox News' Special Report](#) (12/1, 6:01 p.m. EDT, Baier), Catherine Herridge reported that Flynn's decision to fully cooperate with investigators "raises the stakes" for the President and Kushner "and other members of his inner circle." According to chief White House correspondent John Roberts, the White House is "turning against Michael Flynn," and "doing its best to diminish Michael Flynn's role here." He added the White House adopted "a nothing-to-see-here approach" to Flynn's guilty plea, and "a source tells Fox News that the White House is absolutely confident that there is nothing else will come to light that they don't know about."

[The Hill](#) (12/1, Fabian) similarly reports the White House on Friday “insisted...Flynn’s guilty plea will not implicate President Trump or anyone else in the White House,” but [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (12/1, 5:34 p.m. EDT, Keilar) senior White House correspondent Jim Acosta said, “it’s clear today that the Russia investigation is creeping closer to the President. A senior White House official insisted there is no anxiety here about what Michael Flynn might tell investigators, but we’re also told there are worries inside the White House as to where this investigation might go next.” Acosta added that Trump “was silent when asked about” Flynn’s guilty plea, but White House attorney Ty Cobb issued a statement in which he “described Flynn as a former National Security Adviser at the White House for 25 days during the Trump Administration, and a former Obama Administration official.” [Reuters](#) (12/1, Rampton, Oliphant) reports Cobb said, “Nothing about the guilty plea or the charge implicates anyone other than Mr. Flynn.” He asserted that “the false statements involved mirror the false statements to White House officials which resulted in his resignation in February of this year” and added Flynn’s plea “clears the way for a prompt and reasonable conclusion” of the investigation.

However, [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (12/1, 5:03 p.m. EDT, Keilar) national security correspondent Jim Sciutto said that “while the White House today, and for some time, has tried to portray Flynn as something of a freelancer here, in fact there is a lot of evidence in this plea agreement that not only was Flynn keeping the Trump transition informed of the conversations he was having and lying about, but that he was being directed in some of these conversations by very senior members of the transition team.”

In addition, [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (12/1, 6:28 p.m. EDT, Keilar) Acosta said that “the White House statement ignores the fact that Obama warned the incoming President to stay away from Flynn in the oval office two days after the election.” Acosta [added](#) that senior White House officials have “said the Obama Administration, quote, authorized Flynn’s conversation with Kislyak, but a former Obama Administration national security official just told me that that claim from the Trump White House is, quote, laughable. As for the President, we are told he feels, quote, ‘sorry for Michael Flynn tonight’ and that he is thinking about Flynn and his family.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/1, Megerian), in a profile of Flynn’s career, says he was defined by testing the rules, but “on Friday, it became clear that Flynn broke one rule too many.” The Times calls his guilty plea “the latest dip in Flynn’s roller-coaster career – an up-and-coming battlefield intelligence officer in Iraq and Afghanistan, promoted to a three-star Army general, named to head the Defense Intelligence Agency and then fired in 2014 for what the White House said was mismanagement.”

Democrats Demand Answers Following Flynn Plea As Republicans Largely Silent. [Politico](#) (12/1, Cheney, Schor, Watkins) reports that while Congressional Republicans “had little to say Friday about” Flynn’s plea deal, Democrats “pounce[d]” on the announcement that he may have “illegally interfered with American foreign policy during last winter’s presidential transition,” with “many” focused on whether he “violated the Logan Act, a 1799 law that prohibits U.S. citizens from attempting to influence ongoing disputes with a foreign government.” The Democrats also “said Flynn’s testimony that Trump transition officials directed his contact with Moscow also raises their suspicions about possible collusion with Russia – and will draw new scrutiny from the three congressional committees investigating the issue.” In a statement, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said, “It’s critical that we determine whether Flynn spoke with the Russians on his own initiative and who knew and approved of his actions.”

[Reuters](#) (12/1, Mitchell) reports Sen. Mark Warner, the ranking member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, told reporters that lawmakers will want to interview Kushner and other Administration officials in light of Flynn’s plea deal, but “added that he remained confident in the panel’s Republican chairman, Richard Burr.”

Sen. Richard Blumenthal told [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (12/1, 5:11 p.m. EDT, Keilar) he views Flynn’s “acknowledgment of criminal guilt is a shattering moment for the Trump presidency, because Michael Flynn is one of the inner circle, one of the top advisers, not just on any old topic, but national security. And he is a potential witness against Jared Kushner, against other top officials, if they fail to be truthful with compelling knowledge and deep credibility because of his position.” Blumenthal [continued](#), “It is increasingly apparent that Jared Kushner knows more than he’s telling,” and thus “a subpoena is more necessary than ever now for him by the Judiciary Committee.” Blumenthal added, “One of the mysteries here” is how President Trump “could tolerate for as long as he did someone who potentially was subject to blackmail by the Russian government as his chief National Security Adviser. That is reckless and irresponsible in the extreme” and places “our troops, our nation in jeopardy in that way is, really – call it improper, call it illegal.”

Blumenthal also told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (12/1, 5:23 p.m. EDT, Keilar) that "Flynn's conversations themselves at this sensitive time, betraying American foreign policy, are really a mystery. But as to why he lied about those contacts, clearly he understood they were wrong. They were illegal and improper and he wanted to cover them up. He wanted to hide them. And he also possibly wanted to spare others in the transition team, possibly Jared Kushner or others, like the Vice President Michael Pence, himself who was part of the transition team. The embarrassment and potential legal exposure of knowing about these calls. The calls were clearly a violation of the Logan Act, on and they betrayed the American interests and national security that Michael Flynn himself worked so hard over those many years to advance. So there are mysteries here, mistakes, but some clarity as to what the motive must have been in lying to the FBI."

Sen. Ed Markey told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (12/1, 6:10 p.m. EDT, Keilar) that the guilty plea signals "that Bob Mueller is continuing to proceed very methodically." With guilty pleas from both Flynn and Papadopoulos, and indictments of Manafort and Gates, "it's clear that he is moving step by step. But in Flynn, he just may have the master key that unlocks the doors to the campaign that Donald Trump was running." Markey [added](#) that if news of Kushner's alleged involvement in trying to sway Russia on the Israeli settlement vote is in fact verified, then "Kushner should not longer have a security clearance," and a "full investigation of this issue" is necessary. Markey added that it "doesn't get any closer than that to the President."

[The Hill](#) (12/1, Bowden) "Briefing Room" blog reports Sen. Tim Kaine, Hillary Clinton's 2016 running mate, "ripped" into Flynn on Friday after being "asked about an incident where Flynn joined the crowd at the Republican National Convention in a chant of 'lock her up' over Clinton's use of a private email server." Kaine said Flynn "would not give the benefit of a fair legal process to anybody else but he gets the benefit of fair legal process."

Meanwhile, [The Hill](#) (12/1, Delk) reports in its "Briefing Room" blog that House Minority Leader Pelosi in a statement called Flynn's plea deal a "a dark moment in our nation's history." She added, "All Americans should be alarmed by reports of President Trump's consistent efforts to obstruct the Special Counsel and Congressional investigations."

[The Hill](#) (12/1, Bowden) reports Rep. Adam Schiff, the ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee, in an interview with CNN on Friday "said Friday that it will be difficult for...Trump and other members of the White House to distance themselves from...Flynn after his guilty plea." Flynn stated, "This is the national security adviser of the country, the chief adviser to the President in terms of protecting our country and basically he has admitted that he was a liar." Schiff added Flynn's actions reflect "part of a broader pattern in which the administration officials as well as campaign officials have dissembled or outright lied about their contacts with Russians." Schiff continued Flynn "told senior transition officials about this, those people all became part of that White House. So it's not going to be that easy for the White House to simply say, 'nothing to see here.'"

[The Hill](#) (12/1, Manchester) reports Rep. Jerrold Nadler, a member of the House Judiciary Committee, in a statement called on Chairman Bob Goodlatte to investigate "the President's obstruction of justice" and "begin our oversight work without delay." Nadler added, "This development adds further weight to our suspicion of President Trump's corrupt motives when he approached former FBI Director Comey about the Flynn investigation and asked that he 'let it go.'"

Media Analyses: Mueller Closes In On White House With Flynn Plea Deal. A [Washington Post](#) (12/1, Blake) analysis contends that while the White House had previously embraced "credulity-straining defenses" distancing the Administration from Trump's former campaign chairman Paul Manafort and campaign adviser George Papadopoulos, these excuses are "not going to work now that former White House national security adviser Michael Flynn has pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI." The Post says that "in Flynn, we have someone who not only actually served in the White House, but someone for whom Trump clearly maintained a huge affinity even after being forced to fire him." The Post adds "Mueller's decision to actually charge Flynn, then, is clearly a significant escalation of an investigation that has already led to charges against Manafort and his deputy, Rick Gates, and a similar guilty plea for making false statements by Papadopoulos."

[Washington Post](#) (12/1, Bump) correspondent Philip Bump similarly asserts that the White House's attempt to "distance itself from" Flynn is "nonsense both because of what we know about Flynn's time with Trump, and because of how hard Trump once fought to defend his friend."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (12/1, 6:39 p.m. EDT, Keilar) White House reporter Kaitlan Collins said Trump "really seems to defend Mike Flynn so often," and "we've seen this affinity from the President for Mike Flynn in ways we haven't seen when other people." Collins posited, "is it

because Flynn knows so much, or feels a sense of loyalty to him, or is it a little of both? It's an interesting dynamic because we've seen him not distance himself from Flynn in the way he's done with others" implicated in the investigation.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/1) editorializes that "with Mr. Flynn's guilty plea, Mr. Mueller's probe into possible collusion between the Trump campaign and the Russian government continues to draw closer to the White House." The Post says "investigators must now determine, if they have not already, who else was involved in this plot and how much the president-elect himself knew." According to the Post, "Any direct involvement by Mr. Trump would cast in an even more concerning light the president's pressuring of then-FBI Director James B. Comey to drop the investigation into Mr. Flynn, along with his subsequent firing of Mr. Comey."

A [New York Times](#) (12/1) editorial says the President "should be very, very concerned" with Flynn's plea deal because "Mueller has no reason to go easy on Mr. Flynn unless Mr. Flynn has valuable information to share." The Times concludes "Trump built and sustained his long, gaudy career by demanding loyalty from people to whom he gave nothing in return. He is not used to being on the short end of that deal."

In an editorial that asks whether Flynn's plea could be "the beginning of the end of the Trump Administration," the [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/1) says that although he may not end up providing "evidence implicating President Trump or other administration officials in criminal wrongdoing," his admission of guilt "certainly bodes badly for the White House, and provides further evidence that the inquiry into what Trump has dismissed as a 'hoax' is a serious one." The Times continues that the probe therefore "must be allowed to run its course without further interference from the White House."

In her [Washington Post](#) (12/1, Marcus) column, Ruth Marcus says that with Flynn's plea deal, "the special counsel's probe inches ever closer to the White House and President Trump." She contends that Flynn's decision to cooperate with Mueller "feels earth-shaking, and for good reason. It may be the moment everything changed."

In her [Washington Post](#) (12/1, Parker) column, Kathleen Parker asserts "the questions raised by Flynn's guilty plea are titillating as well as disturbing: What else was Trump worried about? What was the content of Flynn's conversation with the ambassador that made him feel it was necessary to lie?" According to Parker, "If Trump was worried 10 months ago – and we haven't even mentioned his own alleged sexual misconduct – by now he must be wishing he had lost the election, as he may have expected."

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (12/1, 6:32 p.m. EDT, Keilar), former National Security Agency attorney Susan Hennessey pointed to "the range of exposure Flynn had," and "reports about a pretty astonishing range of potentially illegal conduct from not filling out forms properly, violations," and "the alleged plot to kidnap a Turkish cleric." In light of that alleged illegal conduct, Hennessey said, "this is a pretty good plea deal" for Flynn. Chuck Todd of [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/1, story 3, 1:10, Holt) said, "The information that Mike Flynn may have observed or spoken with or knew about, it has to do with dots that are above his head. And when you start thinking about who was above Mike Flynn during the campaign, during the transition, there's only a few dots to connect. One is Jared Kushner, one is Donald Trump Jr., and one is the President. That's why this is so serious."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/1, story 2, 1:35, Mason), chief White House correspondent Major Garrett similarly said the significance of Flynn's guilty plea "reveals the high-level status of talks with the Trump transition and Russia and suggests, or certainly points to, an openness and an easy level of engagement with a rival nation already suspected at that time, and confirmed by some US officials, of meddling in the 2016 elections. Still, these revelations today do not necessarily suggest that either Jared Kushner or K.T. McFarland committed a crime. "

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/1, Kocieniewski, Farrell, Pettypiece) characterizes Flynn's plea as "a major step for Mueller's quickly advancing investigation" and suggests it "casts a renewed spotlight on Attorney General Jeff Sessions." Legal experts told [McClatchy](#) (12/1, Gordon) that Flynn's guilty plea "signals that he already has provided federal prosecutors with incriminating information about...Trump or senior members of his inner circle, marking an explosive turn in the investigation into whether Trump's 2016 campaign collaborated in Russia's election meddling."

In addition, 11 "practicing attorneys, law school professors, legal consultants," and other experts came to a similar conclusion for a more than 2,300-word [Politico Magazine](#) (12/1) article, as do a [USA Today](#) (12/1, Heath, Korte, Johnson) piece titled "Michael Flynn's Guilty Plea Brings Mueller Investigation To Trump Inner Circle" and an article in [The Hill](#) (12/1, Williams) headlined "Flynn Plea Brings Mueller Closer To The White House."

Meanwhile, Harvard Law School professor Alex Whiting told the [Boston Globe](#) (12/1,

Finucane) that Flynn “probably will not spend a day in jail for lying to FBI agents – and that may say a lot about what he had to offer prosecutors investigating possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia.”

A [New York Times](#) (12/1, Savage) analysis suggests that “in trying to figure out what happened with Russia and the Trump campaign, Mr. Mueller appears to be following a strategy of starting at the fringes and moving inward, pressuring people to cooperate.” [Fox News’ Special Report](#)’s (12/1, 6:08 p.m. EDT, Baier) Chris Wallace said, “We believed that Michael Flynn was in jeopardy on a variety of issues, including money he got from Russia he did not report and from the Turkish government he didn’t report.” Wallace said that because those allegations did not surface on Friday, Mueller “went easy on Michael Flynn,” perhaps because he thinks Flynn “has good information and he has a promise of cooperation.” He added “you can’t over-state how important Michael Flynn was in the early days throughout the campaign” as Trump’s “right-hand man on foreign policy. If there is anything between the President and the Russians – and we don’t know there is – Michael Flynn could be the key figure.”

Jonathan Swan of Axios said on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (12/1, 6:45 p.m. EDT, Baier) that Flynn’s guilty plea is “telling in several ways. One is that by all accounts, Mueller has treated Flynn gently. The question is, what deal has been done? What does he believe he can get in return for the information?” On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/1, story 4, 1:00, Muir), senior justice correspondent Pierre Thomas said “make no mistake. Mueller approved this deal to get something. He is an aggressive, cagey prosecutor who has been targeting the Trump campaign, the transition, and potentially the White House inner circle. Flynn now faces hours of FBI interrogations in the coming months, subject to lie detector tests along the way to prove he’s telling the truth.”

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/1, story 4, 1:30, Mason), justice reporter Paula Reid commented, “Former federal prosecutors tell me an investigation of this scope could take years. And don’t forget, the special counsel is still investigating whether or not the President or anyone else could have possibly obstructed justice in trying to tamp down this inquiry into Mike Flynn.” Reid added, “Robert Mueller is a man of secrets and surprises,” and his ability “to keep his cards really close to the vest, that should really concern anyone in this investigation who has something to hide.”

In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (12/1, A1, Helderman, Hamburger, Deyoung) reports “Mueller is now expected to explore who knew what in the White House about Flynn’s interactions with the Russians – and whether any other Trump aides lied about that knowledge.” [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (12/1, 5:43 p.m. EDT, Keilar) political reporter Rebecca Berg said she believes “Mueller wants at this stage to strike fear into the White House officials that he is going to go back and interview because he wants the full story from them right now. He wants – he wants them to think he has – he knows things they don’t know.”

Writing in the [New York Times](#) (12/1, Painter, Eisen), Richard Painter, the chief White House ethics lawyer in the George W. Bush Administration and the vice-chairman of Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), and Norman Eisen, the White House Special Counsel for Ethics and Government Reform under former President Obama and CREW board chair, consider who Mueller is targeting next. They concede that “it is not yet clear who those individuals are, but transition officials and members included Jared Kushner and Donald Trump Jr. as well as Vice President Mike Pence, Representative Devin Nunes of California; the former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon, and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.” They add Kushner is “probably...in greatest jeopardy now,” though “Trump Jr.’s exposure is also deepened by the Flynn plea.”

[Bloomberg View](#) (12/1, Lake) columnist Eli Lake similarly speculates Kushner will be “the first person” Flynn is “likely to jeopardize.” He says that if Mueller is only pursuing Flynn under a Logan Act investigation, “then the whispers of collusion will look foolish.” However, Lake warns this “may be enough to take out not only Flynn, but also the man who married the president’s daughter.”

In his [Washington Post](#) (12/1, Ignatius) column, David Ignatius also asserts “say what you like about Flynn, but an ex-general follows the chain of command.” Ignatius adds that “given his seniority as the designated national security adviser, there are only two people who would likely have authorized this contact with Russia: Jared Kushner, the president’s son-in-law and senior adviser, who had been conducting his own extensive back-channel contacts with Kislyak and other Russians, and the president-elect himself, who had said throughout the campaign that he wanted to improve relations with Russia.”

However, [The Hill](#) (12/1, Greenwood) “Briefing Room” blog reports former US Attorney

Preet Bharara said in a CNN appearance on Friday that Mueller's team is likely "looking at every member of the campaign." Bharara added, "I think they're looking at every member of the transition team. I think they're looking at everyone up to the president of the United States himself."

In another article, [The Hill](#) (12/1, Anapol) reports retired judge and Fox News analyst Andrew Napolitano called Flynn's guilty plea a "nightmare" for Trump. He asserted, "I think this is probably the tip of a prosecutorial iceberg, so to speak," and added the announcement "keeps the Russia story front and center at a time when the president is beginning to move towards the achievements of his legislative agenda."

In a list of "10 key takeaways" from Flynn's plea deal, Harry Litman, a former US Attorney and deputy assistant attorney general and current lecturer at UCLA Law School, writes in the [New York Times](#) (12/1, Litman) that the "seismic event" "portends the likelihood of impeachable charges being brought against the president of the United States." According to Litman, "The repercussions of the plea will be months in the making, but it's not an exaggeration to say that the events to which Mr. Flynn has agreed to testify will take their place in the history books alongside the Watergate and Iran-contra scandals."

In his [Washington Post](#) (12/1, Eliason) column, former Assistant US Attorney Randall D. Eliason, a professor of white-collar criminal law at George Washington University Law School, similarly says that "given what we know about the nature of these types of investigations, Friday's news has to worry the White House." Eliason adds that like "the charges unveiled against Manafort and Papadopoulos several weeks ago, Flynn's plea has all the hallmarks of the latest step in a classic white-collar investigation that is methodically building cases against people on the lower rungs, flipping them, and moving up the ladder. And once you get as far up the ladder as Flynn, there aren't that many rungs remaining."

[Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (12/1, 8:00 p.m. EDT, Carlson) host Tucker Carlson called the revelation "a major development" and "a betrayal of trust and possibly a betrayal of this country's vital national interest." Carlson called Flynn's actions "appalling behavior," adding that it is "depressingly common in Washington, which may be why Flynn has not been prosecuted for it. It's so conventional, nobody considers it wrong – though it is wrong." However, Carlson stresses that Flynn's guilty plea does not mean the Trump campaign colluded with Russia during the election, and in fact "undercuts" that claim. Carlson [added](#) (12/1, 8:06 p.m. EDT, Carlson) Americans generally assumed that the point of Mueller's investigation "was they believed there was some conspiracy to subvert the election," but the charges against Flynn "undercut that completely." Former federal prosecutor Robert Ray said that it is "a possibility that one of the reasons he may have been lying was because with regard to conduct that occurred in December during the transition, because it was a politically difficult thing to do, he didn't want to disclose to the public or anybody else the fact that there in fact were contacts with Russian government officials. That doesn't mean that it was a crime." Carlson said if that was the extent of the problem, then the investigation is "a complete waste of time."

In his [Washington Post](#) (12/1, Rogers) column, political consultant Ed Rogers, a veteran of the Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush White Houses, calls Flynn's guilty plea "a major disappointment for Democrats" because while "consequential," the documents do not "suggest any collusion occurred and it doesn't even get close to confirming that Donald Trump or his campaign was somehow complicit in a nefarious scheme."

Meanwhile, [Breitbart](#) (12/1, Key) reports Breitbart News Senior Editor at Large Joel Pollak during an appearance on MSNBC on Friday called for Trump to replace and "sue his lawyer, Ty Cobb, for malpractice, because he promised this would all be over by Thanksgiving ... Mueller's basically on a very long fishing expedition."

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/1) questions why Flynn was only charged with lying to the FBI given that his action, meeting with a foreign ambassador as the member of a presidential transition, is not unusual or illegal. The Journal suggests waiting for additional evidence before speculating that Trump or Kushner were involved in collusion.

In his [Washington Post](#) (12/1, Milbank) column, Dana Milbank says that if Fox News host Bret Baier "is correct – as I believe he is – that Trump gets more outrageous when he feels cornered, then this means the nation is entering a perilous period." According to Milbank, "We can expect Trump to grow more dangerous and desperate in his distractions as he hears Mueller's footsteps. Although Trump's erratic behavior is damaging in its own right to alliances and civility, the greatest danger is that while we chase Trump's distractions, we lose sight of real calamity."

In a [Washington Post](#) (12/1, Borchers) analysis, Callum Borchers predicts "the coming refrain from Trump defenders: The media is obsessed with Russia, but voters don't really care. What about all the other, more important things that ought to be covered?"

Mueller's Probe Exceeds \$5 Million Thus Far. [ABC News](#) (12/1, Thomas) reports "Mueller's investigation into the Russian government's efforts to interfere with the 2016 election has cost more than \$5 million," which includes "money for a staff of more than 16 attorneys, dozens of FBI agents, support staff, travel and office supplies."

However, a [Bloomberg View](#) (12/1) editorial asserts Flynn's plea deal "gives a clear view of the strategy of special counsel Robert Mueller – and makes it all the more imperative that he be allowed to continue his work without interference." According to Bloomberg, "The worst scenario would be for Trump to pardon Flynn or fire Mueller (or, shockingly, both)." Bloomberg concludes "Trump will have to resist the impulse – or risk forcing Congress to act to ensure that the investigation proceeds."

Markets Volatile On News Of Flynn's Guilty Plea, Senate Tax Bill Progress. Liz Claman of Fox Business Network told [Fox News' Special Report](#) (12/1, 6:14 p.m. EDT, Baier) that the market reaction to Flynn's guilty plea "was truly fascinating to watch." She said when ABC News "put out the flash just before noon eastern time that perhaps it would be Michael Flynn who would testify against President Trump," the markets responded "very poorly," with the Dow Jones Industrial Average tanking "from its highs" and resulting in "the most volatile day of the year." The market "started to climb right back as soon as that news was digested. A resilient market." [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/1, story 6, 0:15, Holt) similarly reported, "It was a wild day on Wall Street when the news surrounding Michael Flynn sent the Dow plunging 350 points, but it did climb back up after the Senate GOP said it had the votes for its tax bill, eventually closing with a loss of just over 40 points."

Flynn Admits To Working For Turkish Government. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/1, Nissenbaum) reports Flynn in his plea deal acknowledged that he worked as a private consultant for the Turkish government while had been advising Donald Trump's presidential campaign.

Diplomats: Flynn, Kushner Had Lobbied Several Countries On UN Vote Critical Of Israel. [Reuters](#) (12/1, Nichols) reports Flynn "admitted on Friday that he asked Russia to delay a U.N. vote seen as damaging to Israel, but diplomats said it was not the only country he and presidential adviser Jared Kushner lobbied." Reuters states that "Flynn also phoned the U.N. missions of Uruguay and Malaysia, and Kushner spoke with Kim Darroch, the British ambassador to the United States, according to diplomats familiar with the conversations, who spoke on condition of anonymity." However, Reuters notes their efforts ultimately "failed, with the Security Council adopting a resolution demanding an end to Israeli settlement building on land Palestinians want for an independent state. The vote was 14 in favor and one abstention by the United States."

Supporters Of Nuclear Middle East Touted Flynn's Support. "Backers of a U.S.-Russian plan to build nuclear reactors across the Middle East bragged after the U.S. election they had backing from Donald Trump's national security adviser Michael Flynn for a project that required lifting sanctions on Russia, documents reviewed by" [Reuters](#) (12/1, Strobel, Layne, Landay) show, and they also reveal "the proposed involvement of a Russian company currently under U.S. sanctions to manufacture nuclear equipment. That company, major engineering and construction firm OMZ OAO, declined to comment." However, the documents "do not show whether Flynn...took concrete steps to push the proposal with Trump and his aides."

Comey Posts Biblical Quotation Following Flynn Plea Announcement. The [New York Times](#) (12/1, Chokshi) reports former FBI Director James Comey, "in what has become an occasional habit," on Friday "offered what appeared to be a quotation of relevance to the day's unfolding news, in this case a biblical verse about justice." The Times says "the early afternoon tweet and Instagram post came after Mr. Flynn pleaded guilty on Friday to lying to Mr. Comey's F.B.I. about conversations he had with the Russian ambassador last December." However, the Times acknowledges "all subtweets – the term of Twitter art for critical tweets with unnamed targets – have deniability."

Trump Jr. To Meet With Senate Intelligence Committee On Russia Probe. [The Hill](#) (12/1, Greenwood) reports Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr confirmed to NBC News on Friday that Donald Trump Jr. "will meet with Senate Intelligence Committee staff this month as part of the panel's investigation into Russia's role in the 2016 presidential election."

House Intelligence Committee Approves Bill To Crack Down On "Unmasking." The [Washington Times](#) (12/1, Dinan) reports that in reviewing legislation to renew Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, the House Intelligence Committee "approved a bill Friday to crack down on political "unmasking," with Republicans saying the Obama administration abused foreign intelligence to embarrass private citizens and insisting the practice had to stop." Rep. Adam Schiff, the committee's ranking member, "said the GOP was derailing the 702 reforms by tackling the politically charged issue of unmasking." The Times notes "the biggest name to emerge [from

unmasking by the Obama Administration] was Michael Flynn, who was then a top national security adviser to Mr. Trump."

Waters Calls For Update On Investigation Of Deutsche Bank, Trump Over Russia Ties.

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/1, Farrell) reports Rep. Maxine Waters, the ranking member of the House Committee on Financial Services, in a letter to Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, asked for an update on the Justice Department's "inquiry into Deutsche Bank AG's \$10 billion mirror trading scheme," which she worried has "gone dormant." She asserted, "Given Attorney General Sessions's refusal to recuse himself from the investigation and the apparent delay by the Department to take action against the bank, I write to request your assurances that the investigation is being carried out to the fullest extent of the law, free from interference, and that it remains a priority for the department."

Russian Lawmakers Unveil Plan To Bar American Media From Parliament In RT Retaliation. The [Washington Post](#) (12/1, Roth) reports "Russian lawmakers declared Friday that they probably will ban all U.S. media from entering both houses of the Russian parliament in retaliation for a U.S. decision to block Moscow-funded broadcaster RT from Congress." The Post calls the looming decision "part of escalating tit-for-tat actions that began in October with a Justice Department order to add RT to a list of media entities that must register as foreign agents." According to Russian news agency Interfax, the ban "would affect at least 21 news outlets," including "state-funded Radio Free Europe and Voice of America, private news agencies such as Bloomberg News and the Associated Press, and other media entities including The Washington Post, the New York Times, CNN, CBS and NBC." [Reuters](#) (12/1, Nikolskaya) reports Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov "said on Friday [the Russian government] fully understood why the Russian lower house of parliament planned to discuss banning representatives of U.S. media organizations in retaliation for what it says is U.S. mistreatment of Russian media." Peskov "said Russian media had been subjected to 'outrageous' attacks in the United States which violated freedom of speech."

Meanwhile, the [Washington Post](#) (12/1, Moyer) reports the Russia-funded radio station Sputnik, which has been "broadcasting around the clock from a K Street office in June on 105.5 FM," has "found a second home on the dial in Washington after its partner, a Virginia-based radio company, registered with the Justice Department as a foreign agent." To secure a permanent frequency, "1390 AM, a former Spanish-language station based in Capitol Heights, Md., began carrying Sputnik on Saturday" after the company that owns 105.5 FM "was directed to register with the Justice Department under the Foreign Agents Registration Act, a move met with criticism by some of Sputnik's on-air personalities."

Senate GOP Passes Tax Reform Bill.

Senate Republicans, with Vice President Pence presiding, voted 51-49 early Saturday morning to pass tax reform legislation following hours of negotiations and rewrites to the bill. While most of the coverage was updated following final passage to highlight the historic nature of the vote, former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn's guilty plea for lying to the FBI overshadowed the reporting.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/1, Paletta, Werner) reports that "after a frantic round of negotiations" late Friday night, Senate Republicans "passed a \$1.5 trillion tax bill early Saturday morning that bestows massive benefits on corporate America and the wealthy while delivering mixed blessings to everybody else." According to the Post, "The final vote was 51 to 49, with Sen. Bob Corker...the lone GOP holdout. No Democrats voted for the bill." On the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/1, story 6, 2:10, Mason), chief congressional correspondent Nancy Cordes said Corker opposed the measure after he was unable to persuade his colleagues "to scale back the bill" in response to "bipartisan number crunchers," who had "determined that the tax cuts would only spur enough economic growth to cover about a third of the \$1.4 trillion price tag."

According to the [New York Times](#) (12/1), Sens. Susan Collins, Jeff Flake, Steve Daines, and Ron Johnson voted for the bill. [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/1, story 4, 2:25, Holt) Hallie Jackson stated that to secure Flake's vote, he received "a personal promise from" Pence that Flake will be "involved in immigration negotiations down the road."

The Senate "passed the most sweeping tax rewrite in decades," which will "will touch almost every corner of the United States economy, affecting families, small business owners and multinational corporations, with the biggest benefits flowing to the highest-earning Americans," a front-page [New York Times](#) (12/1, A1, Tankersley, Kaplan, Rappeport) article reports, "after lawmakers received a rewritten version, which contained significant changes from the original bill that passed two Senate panels last month along party lines." The Times says these "last-minute

revisions prompted an outcry from Democrats, who said it was impossible – and irresponsible – for lawmakers to read and digest a significant piece of legislation in such a short period of time.” Senate Minority Leader Schumer “called the Republican approach ‘a process and a product that no one can be proud of and everyone should be ashamed of.’”

However, in a front-page article, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/1, A1, Hughes, Rubin, Peterson) reports Senate Majority Leader McConnell in an interview said, “In the end it all came together and we’re pretty excited about what we’ve been able to accomplish for the American people.” He added, “We’ve got a corporate rate at 20% that we think makes us competitive in the world again and provided substantial middle income tax relief.” He also insisted the House and Senate bills “are not all that different. ... We tried to move ours somewhat in the House direction.”

[The Hill](#) (12/2, Carney, Jagoda) reports “Pence presided over the final passage vote. GOP senators, who stayed on the Senate floor until the vote closed after midnight, broke out into applause after Pence announced the bill had passed.” McConnell, at a 2 a.m. press conference, declared, “This is a great day for the country.” He added, “We have an opportunity now to make America more competitive, to keep jobs from being shipped off shore and to provide substantial relief for the middle class.” In an interview with [Politico](#) (12/1, Kim, Faler, Wilhelm), McConnell said, “I think one reason we were able to get there was because there’s widespread interest. ... Every single member of our conference wanted to get to yes, and all but one did.” Politico notes President Trump “praised McConnell and Senate Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch in a [tweet](#) after the bill passed, adding, ‘We are one step closer to delivering MASSIVE tax cuts for working families across America.’”

Nonetheless, [ABC World News Tonight](#)’s (12/1, story 5, 2:40, Muir) Mary Bruce conceded “there are still significant differences between the Senate and House versions that have to be worked out. Republicans know this is do or die for them politically, but there still isn’t a lot of time left.” In a front-page analysis, the [New York Times](#) (12/1, A1, Appelbaum) says “the political imperative to pass what would be the only major piece of legislation of President Trump’s first year, along with a near-religious Republican belief in tax cuts,” was able to “override their previous concerns about fiscal prudence.”

Trump: Democrats Oppose GOP Tax Bill Because Measure Is “Too Good.” [The Hill](#) (12/1, Seipel) reports President Trump took to Twitter on Friday morning to praise Republican efforts “to pass tax reform and accused Democrats of attempting to block the legislation ‘because it is too good.’” He [tweeted](#), “Republicans Senators are working hard to pass the biggest Tax Cuts in the history of our Country. The Bill is getting better and better. This is a once in a generation chance. Obstructionist Dems trying to block because they think it is too good and will not be given the credit!”

Media Analyses: Flynn’s Guilty Plea Overshadows Passage Of Tax Reform. The [New York Times](#) (12/1, A1, Baker, Haberman) reports on its front page that former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn’s guilty plea for lying to the FBI “came on a day that should have been a moment of triumph for the president,” given he “secured enough votes to pass his tax cut plan in the Senate, advancing what, if it ultimately reaches his desk, will be his most far-reaching legislative accomplishment since he took office.” The Times adds the plea “dampened any celebration over developments in Congress” and “raised uncomfortable questions about what Mr. Flynn might be telling the special counsel, Robert S. Mueller III. And it could easily distract a president not exactly known for a disciplined political and policymaking operation.” A front-page analysis titled “Trump’s Best And Worst Day As President,” the [Washington Post](#) (12/1, A1, Tumulty) similarly says “Trump’s young presidency entered a new, surreal dimension Friday, with his 315th day in office delivering both his greatest achievement to date and his darkest omen of peril ahead.”

NYTimes A1: Unclear Whether Tax Reform Will Save GOP Seats In 2018. In a front-page analysis, the [New York Times](#) (12/1, Hulse, Stolberg) reports “Senate Republicans got what they so desperately needed Friday when an ugly process and a series of last-minute concessions put them within reach of a significant legislative victory in the form of major tax legislation,” but “it remained to be seen whether the result – a convoluted measure that would cut corporate taxes and have mixed benefits for individual taxpayers – will spare Republicans from an emerging political backlash that was evident in Democratic election victories around the country last month.”

AP Analysis: Trump Unlikely To Pay More Under GOP Tax Plan. In an analysis, the [AP](#) (12/1, Boak) reports that contrary to President Trump’s claims, he is unlikely to pay more under the GOP’s tax plan. The AP argues that Trump “would enjoy a bonanza of lavish tax cuts,” including a

lower business tax rate, lower personal income rate, and a removal of the alternative minimum tax. The article goes on to say that "it's possible that Trump and other ultra-wealthy taxpayers could lose certain itemized deductions under the legislation," but adds that "those losses would almost surely be dwarfed by the benefits they would enjoy.."

Analyses Suggest Corporations, Wealthy To Benefit From GOP Tax Reform. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/1, Francis) reports multinational corporations will benefit from the GOP tax reform, despite several provisions that may have a negative impact. The article goes on to outline five changes with the greatest impact on corporate activity: a drastically lower corporate rate will help companies with primarily US-based income; a one-time levy on offshore profits encourages them to bring money back to the US; a provision incentivizes returning intellectual property to US parent companies; a "global minimum tax" that punishes overseas tax-law arbitrage; and an additional 20% tax on payments from US companies to foreign affiliates to prevent tax base erosion.

In a front page article, the [Washington Post](#) (12/1, Long) reports on how the GOP tax plan disproportionately benefits "wealthy individuals and corporations." Though many studies believe the law would generate economic growth, "the question remains whether working-class Americans will ultimately reap additional benefits or whether most of the gains will go to the top," the Post adds. The piece highlights the Senate plan's expiring individual tax cuts as a primary example of the law's unequal treatment of taxpayers, and warns that "some economists fear that the inequality created by the bill will deepen social divisions."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (12/1, story 5, 1:55, Holt) analyzed the bill, citing "accusations that the Republican tax plan will hurt, not help, middle class Americans." NBC's Tom Costello explained that tax cuts for "people making between \$75,000 and \$100,000...will largely disappear over 10 years, even though corporations will keep their tax cuts." He added that at a recent gathering of business leaders in Washington, "only a few CEOs" said they would increase investment as a result of the law. What's more, "CNBC survey finds most will use the money to buy back stock."

Senate GOP Repeals Obamacare Mandate In Tax Bill. [The Hill](#) (12/2, Sullivan) reports Senate Republicans on Saturday "approved the repeal of ObamaCare's individual mandate as part of their tax-cut bill, a major step forward toward ending an unpopular part of the healthcare law." Sen. John Barrasso asserted, "Families ought to be able to make decisions about what they want to buy and what works for them – not the government. ... I believe if people don't want to buy the Obamacare insurance, they shouldn't have to pay a tax penalty to the IRS."

Senate Bill Fixed To Benefit Mortgage Lenders. [Bloomberg News](#) (12/1, Light) reports Sen. Mike Rounds introduced a last-minute measure to the Senate tax bill "designed to appease mortgage lenders who worried that the legislation could cost them billions of dollars and drive some small firms out of the business." The change exempts "mortgage service rights from new income inclusion rule," a provision lenders said "would have cost them billions of dollars." The article adds that policy analysts "expected the fix and suspected the provision's impact on mortgage lenders wasn't realized by lawmakers until housing trade groups identified it last weekend."

Senate Rejects Provision To Exempt Hillsdale College From Excise Tax On Endowments. [The Hill](#) (12/2, Carney) reports Sens. Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski, Deb Fischer, and John Kennedy joined with Democrats on Saturday to "nix a provision in the Senate tax bill...that would exempt Hillsdale College, a leading conservative college in Michigan, from an excise tax on schools with more than 500 students or large endowments." [Politico](#) (12/1, Stratford) reports Sen. Pat Toomey had proposed the amendment that sought to exempt "all colleges that don't accept federal student aid from the endowment tax," but "Democrats immediately cried foul over the plan because it appeared to benefit only a single college, Hillsdale College, whose president, Larry Arnn, is influential in conservative intellectual circles." Politico adds that Democrats noted the school's connections to Education Secretary DeVos, as her brother, Erik Prince, is an alumnus.

Meanwhile, writing in [Politico Magazine](#) (12/1, Warner), Douglas Warner, a former chairman of JPMorgan Chase and a member of the Yale Corp, criticizes the tax bill for taking "the unprecedented step of taxing the income of certain private universities – specifically, it imposes a 1.4 percent tax on net endowment income for universities with endowments larger than \$250,000 per full-time student." He warns this will have "dire consequences...that would frustrate everything from access to college in America to the top-notch university research that creates U.S. jobs."

Senators Vote Down Rubio-Lee Child Tax Credit Expansion. [The Hill](#) (12/1, Jagoda) reports the Senate on Friday night voted 29-71 to reject Sens. Marco Rubio's and Mike Lee's "closely

watched amendment to the GOP tax reform bill...that would expand the child tax credit." The Hill states that the "amendment, which received criticism from both Republicans and Democrats, would make the child tax credit refundable to payroll taxes and would pay for it by raising the bill's corporate tax rate from 20 percent to 20.94 percent." The Hill notes the two lawmakers "have been pushing for a more robust child tax credit for years, and their efforts have been supported by first daughter and White House adviser Ivanka Trump."

CBO: Senate Tax Bill To Raise Deficit By \$1.4 Trillion. [The Hill](#) (12/2, Carney) "Floor Action" blog reports a new analysis by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) released late Friday forecast "the Senate GOP tax plan will increase the deficit by more than \$1.4 trillion over a decade." The Hill adds "an earlier CBO estimate on the version of the Senate tax plan passed by the Senate Finance Committee also found the bill would increase the deficit by roughly \$1.4 trillion."

House Tax Plan Provision Changes Tax Treatment Of Alimony Payments. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/1, Saunders) reports the GOP House tax plan includes a provision that would remove the tax deductibility of alimony payments in order to prevent "divorced couples from reducing income tax through a specific form of payments unavailable to married couples." If implemented, the change "would change the economics of many divorces," American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers head Madeline Marzano-Lesnevich explains. However, the Journal notes that it is unclear if it will be included in a final bill since the Senate plan doesn't have a similar provision.

House Tax Plan Provision To Hurt Affordable Housing Development, Experts Warn. [Bloomberg News](#) (12/1, Braun) reports the GOP House tax plan eliminates the tax benefits of private-activity bonds, "wiping out a key tool used to finance more than half of" affordable housing projects according to the National Council of State Housing Agencies. Real estate consultancy Novogradac & Company LLP warns that the change could reduce "the number of affordable rental units built nationwide over the next decade...by as much as 880,000."

57 Percent Of DC Lobbyists Working On Tax Reform, Analysis Finds. [Reuters](#) (12/1, Sanders) reports 57 percent "of the registered lobbyists in Washington have worked on tax issues in 2017," according from data released by advocacy group Public Citizen on Friday. The report also detailed the number of lobbyists hired by industry groups and companies, noting that the US Chamber of Commerce leads the list with 100 lobbying hires.

WSJournal: Conference Committee, Lower Top Rate For GOP Tax Plan. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/1) details of the GOP tax plan as the Senate prepares for a Friday night vote to pass the their version of the bill. The Journal goes on to support a conference committee to combine the best elements of the House and Senate bills, and calls on lawmakers to lower the top tax rate to offset the state-and-local income tax deduction cuts to make the bill as pro-growth as possible.

Dionne: GOP Tax Reform Is Unfair, Reckless. In his [Washington Post](#) (12/1, Dionne) column, E.J. Dionne Jr. criticizes the GOP tax plan, calling it "entirely partisan, full of breaks for favored interests and punishments for those the party regards as its political enemies." He warns that it is "so filled with gimmicks, carve-outs and penalties for various sectors of our economy that its impact will be far greater than the Republican tax cuts of the 1980s and early 2000s." He concludes that "anyone who votes for this bill is endorsing government for the few imposed by the reckless."

House Republican Plan Delays Government Shutdown, Buying Time For Negotiations.

The [AP](#) (12/2, Taylor) reports House Republicans have unveiled a plan to avoid a government shutdown next weekend and keep it running through December 22. The measure also includes a "short-term fix" for state Children's Health Insurance Programs and "would buy time for bipartisan talks on a bigger budget agreement," which Democrats insist must include protections for illegal immigrants brought to the country as children.

NYTimes: Republicans Should Ignore Trump, Compromise To Pass Spending Bill. In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (12/2) calls on Congress to "agree on a new spending bill" and prevent a government shutdown. The Times goes on to say that even though Trump doesn't "see a deal" happening, lawmakers have "a pretty fair chance of success" to compromise because "Republicans are not solidly arrayed against" issues that Democrats want to address and many "worry that a government shutdown could cancel out" the benefits of their tax bill "and damage their chances for re-election next year." The Times concludes that Republicans should "work around their unreliable president and...deliver the solutions Americans are waiting for."

McMaster: Risk Of War With North Korea "Increasing Every Day."

On its website, [Fox News](#) (12/2) reports National Security Adviser McMaster and CIA Director Pompeo spoke at the fifth annual Reagan National Defense Forum. The event launched Saturday morning and “featured eight panels throughout the day of retired generals, sitting senators and members of Congress.”

[The Hill](#) (12/2, Delk) “Briefing Room” blog reports McMaster, in remarks to Fox News host Bret Baier, said the potential of war with North Korea is “increasing every day.” McMaster commented, “The greatest immediate threat to the United States and to the world is the threat posed by the rogue regime in North Korea,” as every time leader Kim Jong-un “conducts a missile launch, a nuclear test, he gets better.” [Fox News](#) (12/2, Pappas) reports online that McMaster stressed that “it’s immensely important that we work together with all of our allies, partners, everyone internationally, to convince Kim Jong Un that the continued pursuit of these capabilities is a dead end for him and his regime.”

On its website, [CNN](#) (12/2, Browne, Starr) reports McMaster said the increasing threat posed by North Korea “means that we are in a race, really, we are in a race to be able to solve this problem.” While the US has “ways to address this problem short of armed conflict,” McMaster continued, “it is a race because he’s getting closer and closer, and there’s not much time left.” He said the US is not asking China “to do us or anybody else a favor,” but it is “asking China to act in China’s interest, as they should, and we believe increasingly that it’s in China’s urgent interest to do more.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/2, Tritten) reports McMaster was also asked whether North Korea was in fact improving its nuclear program, as reports suggested the Hwasong-15 missile tested last week did not successfully re-enter the atmosphere. Said McMaster, “Whether it is a success or failure isn’t as important as understanding that over the years he’s been learning from failures, improving and thereby increasing his threat to all of us.”

North Korea Accuses US Of “Begging” For Nuclear War. [Bloomberg News](#) (12/2, Lee) reports North Korea’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement Saturday accusing the US of “begging” for nuclear war by planning the “largest-ever” joint US-South Korea aerial drill shortly after concluding a military exercise with nuclear-powered aircraft carriers. The ministry’s statement was issued “after Yonhap News reported that six U.S. Raptor stealth fighters planes arrived in South Korea on Saturday for a joint air drill named ‘Vigilant Ace’ scheduled for Dec. 4 to 8.” In the “show of force,” US and South Korean militaries will “stage simulated attacks on mock North Korean nuclear and missile targets, according to Yonhap.”

UN Security Council To Discuss North Korean Human Rights Abuses, Nuclear Threat. [Reuters](#) (12/2, Nichols) reports the United Nations Security Council is expected to meet on Dec. 15 to discuss the North Korean nuclear and missile threat. In a separate meeting on Dec. 11, the ministers will “discuss human rights abuses in the North Asian country, an annual meeting that its ally China has tried to prevent for the past three years.” At last year’s meeting, the US “angered North Korea by blacklisting its leader Kim Jong Un for human rights abuses” alleged in a 2014 UN report. UN Commission of Inquiry chairman Michael Kirby “said at the time that the crimes the team had cataloged were reminiscent of those committed by the Nazis during World War Two,” and that North Korea’s security chiefs “should face justice for overseeing” the abuses.

North Koreans Celebrate Latest ICBM Launch. [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/2, story 5, 0:20, Diaz-Balart) reported briefly that North Korea held a “massive government-sponsored celebration” in Pyongyang “to mark the successful launch of a new intercontinental ballistic missile on Wednesday after the country’s latest long range missile test.” The US has “said North Korea would be utterly destroyed if a war breaks out.”

Rogers, Smith Suggest MDA May Install THAAD On West Coast. [Reuters](#) (12/3, Stone) reports that according to Reps. Mike Rogers (R-AL), a member of the House Armed Services Committee and chair of the Strategic Forces Subcommittee, and Adam Smith (D-WA) the Missile Defense Agency is examining west coast sites for possible installation of Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) anti-ballistic missiles. Rogers said, “It’s just a matter of the location, and the MDA making a recommendation as to which site meets their criteria for location, but also the environmental impact.” MDA Deputy Director Rear Admiral Jon Hill issued a statement saying, “The Missile Defense Agency has received no tasking to site the Terminal High Altitude Air Defense System on the West Coast.”

LLNL Finds Ways To Improve Chances Of Surviving Nuclear Attack. [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/2, story 6, 2:40, Diaz-Balart) asked, “With North Korea’s drumbeat of nuclear threats, just how survivable would such an attack, however unlikely, actually be?” NBC answered, “It could be survivable for millions – if you do the right thing.” Miguel Almaguer cited “Brooke Buddemeier and his team at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory,” for finding that in a city, “There’s a

lot of shelter opportunities" adding, "A concrete structure is the best shelter. The middle floors of a building are safest," and "If there's a basement, it's your best protection." Ventura County has "created public service announcements and an 18-page guide for its residents, with one idea: Get inside, stay inside, stay tuned."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"The FCC Wants To Let Telecoms Cash In On The Internet." The [New York Times](#) (12/3) editorializes that "the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission wants to let Comcast, Verizon and other broadband companies turn the internet into a latter-day version of cable TV, in which they decide what customers can watch and how much they pay for that content." The Times believes that this is what will result from chairman Ajit Pai's proposal to scrap network neutrality rules. The Times anticipates that during the coming federal court battle over the proposal, "judges will be very skeptical of his rationale for getting rid of net neutrality rules and putting nothing in their place."

"Art, Freed From Guantanamo." A [New York Times](#) (12/3) editorial says the Pentagon "allowed its nose to be knocked out of joint by a free exhibition in Manhattan: a display of 36 paintings, drawings and sculptures that eight Guantánamo prisoners produced in the last few years." Art classes have been held at Guantánamo for at least eight years, and detainees were "permitted to give their works to their lawyers, sometimes as thank you gifts. But now the Pentagon says that, while the art instruction will continue, any new creations" will stay at Guantánamo, a spokesman said, and "remain the property of the US government." The Times, however, calls on the Pentagon to allow the American public to view their work.

Washington Post.

"Metro Handcuffs Its Inspector General." The [Washington Post](#) (12/3) editorializes that the Washington Metro's efforts to limit the autonomy of its Office of Inspector General "may protect Metro from embarrassment, but it's no way to run the nation's second-busiest subway system." Among other allegations, the Post claims that Metro has hampered the office "by screening its job applicants; forcing it to use Metro's procurement office (rather than hiring its own outside experts); and denying OIG its own lawyer, thereby ensuring that Metro's lawyers, duty-bound to protect the agency, will vet findings that may cause embarrassment to the agency." The Post opines that a proposal to place Metro's OIG at the federal Transportation Department is "an idea worth exploring and one that might give the inspectors the independence they need to do their jobs."

"Trump's Crusade On Immigrants Is An Attack On America." The [Washington Post](#) (12/3) editorializes that the Trump Administration's efforts to target immigration and immigrants are "largely a resurrection of xenophobia that coincides with a spike, nearly 50 years in the making, in the number of foreign-born residents living in the United States." The Post opines that "the administration's goal is not to reshape America's immigration policy but to prune immigration itself." The Post concludes by asserting that "the Trump administration's crusade against immigration and immigrants is not just a quest to diminish the influence of the 'other'; it is an assault on the nation's future and prospects."

Wall Street Journal.

"Let Them Not Bake Cake." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/3) argues that in the case of a Colorado baker who contends that his Christian faith prohibits him from making wedding cakes for same-sex couples, the Supreme Court should respect the pluralistic tradition in the US that allows people of good faith to disagree. After an examination of several legal precedents, the Journal urges the court to rule for the baker, arguing that failure to do so could encourage other governmental burdens on First Amendment religious rights.

"Lois Lerner's Secrets." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/3) editorializes that Lois Lerner's deposition in a recently-settled lawsuit regarding IRS targeting of conservative groups should be made public. The Journal notes that the plaintiffs, the defense, and the Cincinnati Enquirer all want the deposition to be disclosed, leaving Lerner isolated.

"The Coming Aluminum War." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/3) editorializes that the Commerce Department's self-initiated investigation into Chinese dumping of aluminum imports in the US serves as another data-point to suggest that the Trump Administration was preparing to

launch a trade war that would not benefit Americans. According to the Journal, tariffs on aluminum imports would serve primarily to increase costs for US manufacturers, who remain heavily dependent on aluminum imports from overseas. Job loss in the manufacturing sector due to these higher costs would likely not be offset by any corresponding hiring in the aluminum sector. At the same time, the Journal warns, if tariffs are levied as a result of the investigation, the US risked being subjected to new duties on US exports by China in retaliation.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Tax Plan Opens Business Credits](#)

[CVS To Buy Aetna For \\$69 Billion, Combining Major Healthcare Players](#)

[Like The Cubans Before Them, Venezuelan Exiles Are Transforming Florida Politics](#)

[Overseas Investors \(Finally\) Join The US Stock-Market Party](#)

New York Times:

[Trump, Defending Himself After Flynn Guilty Plea, Says FBI Is In "Tatters"](#)

[11-Year-Old Has Spent Her Life In Jail, A Serial Killer As A Cellmate](#)

[CVS To Buy Aetna For \\$69 Billion In A Deal That May Reshape The Health Industry](#)

[Met Opera Suspends James Levine After New Sexual Abuse Accusations](#)

[GOP Pushes To Avoid Government Shutdown, But The Path Is Tricky](#)

[How A Company Actually Plans To Spend Its Tax Cut Money](#)

Washington Post:

[GOP Must Now Tackle Differences In Tax Bills](#)

[Tax Uncertainty Awaits GOP — And The Country](#)

[Lawyer Clarifies Flynn Timeline](#)

[CVS Bids For Aetna To Widen Its Reach](#)

[Trump Seeks Mideast Peace Kushner Says](#)

[In Europe, Troops Battle Home-Front Burnout](#)

Financial Times:

[Britain And EU On Brink Of Brexit Divorce Deal](#)

[Swiss Banks Step Up Reports Of Suspicious Activity By Saudi Clients](#)

[France's Republicans Look To Rebuild From The Right](#)

[Trump Lashes Out At FBI Over Russia Investigation](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Reignites Feud With FBI After Flynn's Guilty Plea In Russia Probe](#)

[Republicans Push For Final Version Of Tax Cut Bill To Meet Year-End Goal](#)

[Puerto Rico Gives Out Christmas Bonuses After Asking For \\$94 Billion In Hurricane Relief](#)

[Identity Crisis: Alabama Residents Fear Moore Will Carry State Stereotype To Nation's Capital](#)

[Meet The 'Real Indian' Who Plans To Hound Elizabeth Warren To The End Of Her Senate Race](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Russia Meddling Investigation; Moore Senate Campaign; Tax Reform Plan; Tampa Serial Killer Trial; Stanford Swimmer Trial; Weather Forecast; Flu Season Warning; Fake Toy Danger; Nanny Thief Takedown; Teen Runaway Found; Florida Home Explosion; College Football; Disabled High School Athlete.

CBS: Russia Meddling Investigation; Tax Reform Plan-Expert Comment; Russia Meddling Investigation-Expert Comment; Moore Senate Campaign; Utah-National Monuments; Teen Runaway Found; Basketball Player Collapsed; CVS-Aetna Merger; HIV Awareness Day; Saudi Arabia-Gender Equality; Super Moon-Writer.

NBC: Russia Meddling Investigation; NYC Conductor-Sexual Allegation; Teen Runaway Found; CVS-Aetna Merger; Utah-National Monuments; WH-North Korea; WH-Israel Policy; Basketball Player Collapsed; Alternative Paying Methods; Old Dormitory Demolition; Super Moon; Movie Set Excavation; Trash Museum.

Network TV At A Glance:

Russia Meddling Investigation – 10 minutes, 40 seconds
Moore Senate Campaign – 4 minutes, 30 seconds
Utah-National Monuments – 4 minutes, 20 seconds
Tax Reform Plan – 3 minutes

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Russia Meddling Investigation; CVS-Aetna Merger; Flu Season Warning; New York-Traffic Stabbing.

CBS: Russia Meddling Investigation; CVS-Aetna Merger; Tax Reform Plan; Moore Senate Campaign; Wall Street News.

FOX: Russia Meddling Investigation; Tax Reform Plan; Possible Government Shutdown.

NPR: Tax Reform Plan; Atlanta Mayor Race; NYC Conductor-Sexual Allegation; CVS-Aetna Merger.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Leaders; tours The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Welfare Square; gives remarks at the Utah State Capitol.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: No public schedule announced.

US House: House due to vote on motion to send Senate-passed tax reform bill to conference – House of Representatives due to vote on a Motion to Go to Conference and a Motion to Instruct Conferees on 'H.R. 1, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act', following its expected passage through the Senate on Friday Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

Other: 8:30 AM Dem Rep. Gerry Connolly speaks on security in the Maghreb at CSIS – 'Security in the Maghreb: Identifying Threats, Assessing Strategies, and Defining Success' Center for Strategic and International Studies conference, exploring the 'changing threat environments across the region, assess regional governments' counterterrorism strategies, and identify markers of success'. Speakers include keynote Democratic Rep. Gerry Connolly, and Morocco Delegate General of the Penitentiary and Reintegration Administration Amb. Mohamed Salah Tamek, Algeria Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador-Counselor for International Security Issues Amb. El Haoues Riache, and The North Africa Journal Editor and Publisher Arezki Daoud Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

3:00 PM Attorney General Sessions remarks on anti-corruption efforts at Global Form – Attorney General Sessions will deliver remarks on anti-corruption efforts of the Administration at the Global Forum on Asset Recovery (GFAR) . Open Press. Location: International Finance Corporation IFC Auditorium (on lower B2 level) 2121 Pennsylvania Ave NW. www.justice.gov <https://twitter.com/TheJusticeDept>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Kate McKinnon: [Acting as Kellyanne Conway on SNL] "Mr. President, are you sure that you don't want to stay at the Christmas party longer? Because everyone is celebrating the huge tax bill. Mitch McConnell was serving bourbon. I got so drunk I told the truth. ... Oh come on, sir, this tax bill is your biggest achievement yet...in that it is your only achievement."

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- Federal News Radio (DC): Interior No. 2 Details His Intention And Rationale For Reassigning More Senior Executives.

- Associated Press: Senator Proposes Act To Subtract From Wilderness Study Areas.
- Havasu (AZ) News-Herald: Feds Flexing Against Mussels.

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- Associated Press: Oil And Gas Lease Sale Nets \$30M For New Mexico.
- Durango (CO) Herald: Critics Of Oil, Gas Leasing Near Chaco Sense Déjà Vu.
- Casper (WY) Star-Tribune: Wyoming Sage Grouse Leaders Say Debate With Feds Over The Bird Is Improving.
- Associated Press: Burning Man May Eventually Grow To 100,000.

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- Possible Wind Farm Sites 17 Miles Off Hamptons Identified.

Bureau Of Reclamation

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- New York Times: How Arctic Drilling, Stymied For Decades, Made Surprise Return In Tax Bill.
- Associated Press: Judge Stops US From Allowing Destruction Of Miami Forest.
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- Associated Press: Alaska Suffers Resurgence Of Tree-killing Beetle.
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- Associated Press: Ex-US Fish And Wildlife Employee Sentenced For Theft.

National Park Service

- WTOP-FM Washington: Lawmaker Wants To Add This Word To Rock Creek Park's Name.
- Auburn (NY) Citizen: Tubman National Park In Auburn: 'We're Bringing Resources Into The Community Now'.
- Bozeman (MT) Daily Chronicle: Study On Proposed Park Fee Increase Marks Uncertainty For Gateway Communities.
- Ogden (UT) Standard-Examiner: National Park Service Proposes Fee Increase At Golden Spike Historic Site.
- Willoughby (OH) News-Herald: Garfield Historic Site Gets Underground Railroad Designation.
- Associated Press: \$18K Awarded To Aid Restoration Of Constitution Hall.
- Scranton (PA) Times Tribune: Steamtown National Historic Site Hit Hard By Tree-killing Beetle.
- Associated Press: Soda Butte Creek Set To Be Removed From Impaired List.

Office Of Surface Mining

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DOI In The News

Trump Approves Disaster Declaration As California Fires Continue.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/8, Etehad, Sahagun, Vives, Serna, Kohli) reports President Trump on Friday approved a disaster declaration in response to wildfires in California, which lets the state access federal aid and "put[s] the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency in charge of disaster relief efforts."

Meanwhile, according to a front-page [New York Times](#) (12/8, A1, Fuller) article, "around 8,700 firefighters continued working on several fronts on Friday in Southern California as the largest of six major fires – 143,000 acres burned, with 10 percent containment — spread from Ventura County into Santa Barbara County." The Times reports "officials said that fire, which has already claimed at least one life and destroyed 401 structures, was threatening thousands more buildings in several towns." The Times adds that "in San Diego County, where a grass fire that started Thursday morning quickly consumed 4,100 acres, the blaze was only 15 percent contained as of late Friday. Dozens of buildings there were destroyed, thousands of people were forced to evacuate and around 25 racehorses were killed." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/8, A1, Carlton, Phillips) reports on its front page that half a dozen fires raged across southern California, leaving \$27.7 billion worth of homes at risk, according to Irvine, California-based analytics firm CoreLogic.

In the lead [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/8, lead story, 2:50, Holt) segment, Miguel Almaguer reported "this epic firefight spans 200 miles, from San Diego to Santa Barbara. In Ventura county, a staggering 400 structures destroyed." [ABC World News Tonight](#)'s (12/8, story 2, 2:50, Muir) Matt Gutman reported "the Thomas Fire in Ventura County so explosive it looked like a volcano." He added, "Because this fire has been so relentless, firefighters no longer can hope to stop it at its source, so they're trying to cut perimeter lines to create a buffer as far as 10 miles out." The [Washington Post](#) (12/8, Wilson, Berman) reports that "as the fires spread for a fifth day, much of the region also faced a lingering threat posed by the dense smoke."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/8, Carlton, Phillips, Malas) reports more than 100,000 people have fled their homes so far. In addition, the [New York Times](#) (12/8, Medina, Jordan, Smith) reports that "on Friday night, the Ventura County Medical Examiner's Office confirmed the first known, fire-related death this week" and said in a statement "that the remains of Virginia Pesola, 70, of Santa Paula, were found at the site of a car crash on an evacuation route."

However, on the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/8, story 2, 2:10, Glor), Carter Evans stated that in San Diego on Friday, "firefighters took advantage of calm winds by cutting fire lines and water-

dropping helicopters doused hot spots.” On [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/8, story 2, 2:00, Holt), Lester Holt reported that “in the steep canyons north of us in Ojai, where fires are still burning, the winds continue to howl. And just as troubling for firefighters, they are rapidly shifting directions.” [ABC World News Tonight](#)’s (12/8, story 3, 0:40, Muir) Rob Marciano reported there are still “some gusty winds at the higher terrain, but we’re looking for a bit of a break. But long term, it’s not good. Take a look. That pesky high still in control across the inner-mountain West. That means we’ll continue to be dry. No rain in the forecast. And red flag warnings up with dangerously low levels of humidity.”

Nonetheless, [NBC Nightly News](#)’ (12/8, story 3, 1:35, Holt) Kristen Dahlgren said “the one thing almost as fast as the flames is the community that galvanized in an instant to lend a hand.”

Zinke: Reports On Helicopter Use Are ‘Total Fabrications’.

[The Hill](#) (12/9, Delk) “Briefing Room” blog reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Saturday “called reports that he used helicopters to fly between his Washington, D.C. office and nearby locations at taxpayer expense ‘total fabrications.’” Zinke [tweeted](#), “Here are the #facts the DC media refuses to print.” In an attached statement, Zinke said, “Recent articles about official Interior Department helicopter usage are total fabrications and a wild departure of reality.”

The [AP](#) (12/8, Daly) reports that Sen. Maria Cantwell, the top Democrat on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, “said the Interior’s inspector general should add Zinke’s use of taxpayer-funded helicopter rides to an ongoing investigation of Zinke’s travel practices.” Cantwell said, “If the secretary misused public funds, he should write the treasury a check for the full amount and apologize.”

[CNN](#) (12/8, Wallace) reports that the Interior Department Inspector General’s Office “declined to say Friday whether its investigation, which began earlier this year after Zinke’s trips to the US Virgin Islands and Las Vegas combined work with political events, includes the helicopter uses.” Nancy DiPaolo, the inspector general’s spokeswoman, said, “We are taking a comprehensive look at the secretary’s travel since he took office.”

Also reporting are [The Hill](#) (12/9, Manchester), [The Hill](#) (12/9, Delk), [Politico](#) (12/9, Lefebvre), the [Washington Times](#) (12/8, Wolfgang), the [Washington Examiner](#) (12/9, Leach), [CNN](#) (12/9, Diaz, Wallace), [MSNBC](#) (12/8, Benen), the [Huffington Post](#) (12/9, D’Angelo), the [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (12/8, Raymond), the [Daily Mail](#) (12/8), the [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (12/8), [The Cut \(NY\)](#) (12/8, Paiella), and [Government Executive](#) (12/8, Clark).

Republicans Say Resizing Of Utah Monuments Will Not Lead To Energy Extraction.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/7, Karklis, Berkowitz, Meko) reported President Trump drastically reduced the size of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments, which contain oil, gas, uranium, coal and other archaeological and paleontological finds. The day after Trump’s announcement, Utah’s governor and several House Republicans sought to emphasize that the changes would not lead to additional energy development. Rep. John Curtis proposed banning mineral extraction in the original boundaries, while Rep. Bob Bishop said, “The idea that we’re going to give these over to oil and gas companies is a false narrative.”

The [Washington Post](#) (12/8, Eilperin) reports that “a uranium company launched a concerted lobbying campaign to scale back Bears Ears National Monument, saying such action would give it easier access to the area’s uranium deposits and help it operate a nearby processing mill, according to documents obtained by The Washington Post.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and “top Utah Republicans have said repeatedly that questions of mining or drilling played no role in President Trump’s announcement Monday that he was cutting the site by more than 1.1 million acres, or 85 percent.” However, the article notes that “the nation’s sole uranium processing mill sits directly next to the boundaries that President Barack Obama designated a year ago when he established Bears Ears.” According to the article, the documents “show that Energy Fuels Resources (USA) Inc., a subsidiary of a Canadian firm, urged the Trump administration to limit the monument to the smallest size needed to protect key objects and areas, such as archeological sites, to make it easier to access the radioactive ore.”

Scientists Decry Trump’s Move To Strip Fossil Treasures From Utah’s Grand Staircase Monument. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/10, Maffly) reports scientists are concerned that Trump’s move will risk one of the world’s most important paleontological areas, leading some researchers to sue the federal government to halt the order. The Society of Vertebrate Paleontology joined the Conservation Lands Foundation and Grand Staircase Escalante Partners in a federal lawsuit looking to block the Interior Department from resizing the monuments.

Patagonia, Outdoor Retailers Fight Trump On US Monuments.

The [AP](#) (12/8, PRICE) reports that “outdoor clothing giant Patagonia and other retailers have jumped into a legal and political battle over President Donald Trump’s plan to shrink two sprawling Utah national monuments.” Patagonia and outdoor firm like The North Face and REI have “protested Trump’s actions online and through social media.” Patagonia also “filed a lawsuit Wednesday that claims Trump’s order is illegal and threatens natural treasures that the company’s employees and customers use and value.”

The [Washington Times](#) (12/9, Wolfgang) reports that “Republicans in the White House and on Capitol Hill declared war on Patagonia this week after the outdoor clothing giant sued President Trump and told its customers the commander-in-chief ‘stole your land’ by reducing two highly controversial national monuments in Utah.” Republicans in Congress “sent out emails Friday taking direct aim at Patagonia and pushing back hard against its claims that public land had been stolen from American citizens, marking the latest instance of a high-profile company going toe-to-toe with the GOP in a political battle.”

Also reporting are [Bloomberg News](#) (12/8, Bhasin, Mosendz), the [Huffington Post](#) (12/9, D’Angelo), [GO](#) (12/9, Darby), and [Outside](#) (12/8, Strep).

Tribe Wary Of Monument In Montana As Others Reduced By Trump.

The [AP](#) (12/9, Brown) reports that the Trump Administration is “pursuing creation of a new monument” in the Badger-Two Medicine area in Montana, even though officials from the Blackfeet Indian tribe “remain wary of the idea.” Blackfeet Chairman Harry Barnes “sees a ‘workable solution’ in Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s proposal to co-manage the area with the tribe, but stressed that the Blackfeet have never sought a national monument designation for the land.” Zinke “says he’d seek co-congressional approval for the co-management proposal...but Barnes cautioned that the tribe would be unwilling to surrender treaty rights dating to the 1800s that let its members hunt, fish and gather timber from the Badger-Two Medicine.”

Interior Secretary Pushing Controversial Road Project.

[CNN](#) (12/10, Bronstein, Griffin) reports that the Interior Department is pushing a plan that would allow a new road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, according to internal government emails. Local officials “say the road is needed to transport residents of the tiny, isolated city of King Cove to hospitals in the event of medical emergencies.” However, critics claim “it would be disastrous, not just for the Izembek refuge but in setting a precedent for construction in wilderness areas nationwide.” Interior Department press secretary Heather Swift said, “The absence of the road has meant life-and-death for the inhabitants of King Cove. The careful construction of an 11-mile single lane gravel road in a manner that conforms with all applicable environmental laws, rules, and regulations ... makes sense.”

Interior No. 2 Details His Intention And Rationale For Reassigning More Senior Executives.

[Federal News Radio \(DC\)](#) (12/8, Ogrysko) reports that “more than six months after the Interior Department reassigned 30-to-50 of its senior executives, the agency’s deputy secretary is offering more insight into the role he foresees for DOI’s most experienced career leaders.” In a Dec. 4 memo to all Interior senior executives, Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt outlined “his vision for the agency’s Senior Executive Service members.” According to the article, though the memo “didn’t explicitly announce plans to reassign more senior executives, it’s clear Bernhardt sees these rotations as a potentially valuable management tool.” Bernhardt wrote, “It is my view that potentially greater cross-bureau collaboration and innovation can be achieved by bringing new leadership perspectives to our operations by rotating SES members from bureaus to headquarters, from headquarters to the field and across different functional areas and disciplines. Going forward, I will seek to strike a balance between leadership continuity and achieving fresh perspective by reassigning SES employees across bureaus and offices.”

Senator Proposes Act To Subtract From Wilderness Study Areas.

The [AP](#) (12/10) reports that Sen. Steve Daines “introduced the ‘Protect Public Use of Public Lands Act’ to remove more than 700 square miles (1,819 square kilometers) from the state’s Wilderness Study Areas.” Daines describes the West Pioneer Wilderness Study Areas, Sapphire Wilderness Study Area, Middle Fork Judith Wilderness Study Area, Big Snowies Wilderness Study Area and the Blue Joint Wilderness Study Area as “improperly managed public lands.”

Feds Flexing Against Mussels.

The [Havasup \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (12/11, Messick) reports that “the development of a containment strategy for the invasive quagga mussel has been identified as a top priority for the U.S. Department of the Interior.” A two-day meeting was held in Lake Havasu City last week “between a number of state and federal agencies” could lead to more funding and “new initiatives to stop the little mussel from invading waters in other western states.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Industry Celebrates Trump Rollback Of BLM Venting And Flaring Rule.

The [Carlsbad \(NM\) Current-Argus](#) (12/8, Hedden) reported that the oil and gas industry is celebrating the Trump administration’s delay of BLM’s venting and flaring rule. According to BLM deputy director of policy and program, Brian Steed, “By holding off on certain requirements, the BLM now has sufficient time to review the 2016 final rule while avoiding any compliance costs on industry that may not be needed after the review.” Meanwhile, the American Petroleum Institute touted its new voluntary industry program to reduce methane emissions, known as the Environmental Partnership. According to API director of Upstream and Industry Operations, “The environmental partnership will target the greatest sources of emissions, as identified by research and collected data from the EPA and industry sources. To that end, the partnership’s first initiative is focused on further reducing emissions of methane and volatile organic compounds associated with natural gas and oil production.”

The [AP](#) also reports that the rollback of the BLM rule “comes as the oil and natural gas industry announced a voluntary partnership to reduce methane emissions at drilling sites nationwide.” The American Petroleum Institute announced the program and its 26 members on Tuesday. API President and CEO Jack Gerard said the new partnership “seeks to accelerate emissions reductions and we’re headed in the right direction.”

Oil And Gas Lease Sale Nets \$30M For New Mexico.

The [AP](#) (12/9) reported that the latest quarterly oil and gas lease sales by the Bureau of Land Management on parcels in southeastern New Mexico resulted in more than \$30 million in competitive bids. According to the BLM, the parcels include 2,100 acres in Lea and Eddy Counties that partially include the Permian Basin. Federal Abstract Co. offered the highest bid, \$40,001.00 per acre, which “set an agency record for the highest bid per acre.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Artesia \(NM\) News](#) (12/8).

Critics Of Oil, Gas Leasing Near Chaco Sense Déjà Vu.

The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (12/9, Romeo) reports that “an oil and gas lease sale that would sell off more than 4,400 acres in the Greater Chaco region in March is again raising tension between resource development and cultural preservation interests.” On Wednesday, the Bureau of Land Management’s Farmington field office “announced the beginning of a protest period on the lease sale, which would offer 25 parcels covering 4,434 acres in northern New Mexico.” The protest period runs until Jan. 4.

Wyoming Sage Grouse Leaders Say Debate With Feds Over The Bird Is Improving.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (12/10, Richards) reports that “some of Wyoming’s sage grouse leaders say the discord that began after the Interior Department announced it would review the bird’s protections in the West is giving way to Wyoming’s collaborative approach.” The comments were made at a meeting of the state’s Sage Grouse Implementation Team last week. Environmentalists attending the meeting “said they hoped that change was happening and that the federal approach would be methodical.” However, “they’d wait and see what comes out of the government’s response to public comment in January before they felt optimistic.”

Burning Man May Eventually Grow To 100,000.

The [AP](#) (12/8) reports that “Burning Man organizers are seeking permission for as many as 100,000 people to attend the annual counter-culture festival in future years.” The Bureau of Land Management “currently caps attendance at the annual event in the Black Rock Desert north of Reno at 68,000.” Burning Man officials are “proposing their new special use permit be expanded to allow at least 80,000 participants and eventually as many as 100,000.” The BLM is “reviewing the criteria used to set the attendance cap and other guidelines that regulate the festival so as to minimize environmental and other impacts on the high desert and surrounding communities.” The

BLM plans “to issue a rough draft of the new conditions in about a year with a final draft scheduled to be released for public comment in early 2019.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KOED-FM](#) San Francisco (12/8, Myrow).

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Some Are Salivating At Chance To Drill Off Florida.

The [Miami Herald](#) (12/9, Hiassen) reported that twelve House Republicans co-signed a letter asking Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell to remove a provision allowing oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from the tax reform bill. Although Rep. Carlos Curbelo of Miami is among those opposed to expanding oil and gas development in the ANWR, the article suggests that Curbelo is mainly motivated by a desire to prevent offshore oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico and off Florida from becoming the next region where protections are rolled back.

Possible Wind Farm Sites 17 Miles Off Hamptons Identified.

[Newsday \(NY\)](#) (12/9, Harrington) reports the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management “has identified a swath of the South Shore 17 miles off the coast of the Hamptons as a potential area for new offshore wind farms.” If chosen, “the site would encompass 211,839 acres of ocean waters 15 nautical miles from land, from Center Moriches to Montauk.” In recent years, “interest in the waters around Long Island and the Northeast has been heating up.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

Black Canyon Reservoir Maintenance Requires Drawdown.

The [Emmett \(ID\) Messenger-Index](#) (12/8) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation is “lowering Black Canyon Reservoir to perform repairs identified during routine, scheduled maintenance.” Vicki Hoffman, Middle Snake Field Office Operations and Maintenance Program Manager said, “The post-irrigation season is an important time of year for Reclamation and irrigation districts to perform maintenance activities. We want to remind folks to be aware of changing river flows downstream of the dam and to be cautious around the reservoir edge and riverbanks since they may be unstable and pose safety hazards to people and pets.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

How Arctic Drilling, Stymied For Decades, Made Surprise Return In Tax Bill.

The [New York Times](#) (12/9, Hulse) reports Republicans are trying to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to energy exploration as part of their tax reform plan. The move “is expected to generate \$1 billion over 10 years for the government,” and for drilling proponents has the added benefits of avoiding a Democrat filibuster “because of special rules being applied on the floor for considering the tax bill” and securing Sen. Lisa Murkowski’s critical vote in favor of the legislation. Though previous efforts to open the refuge to drilling have failed, other political news has deflected attention from the issue and “the ranks of Republicans willing to side with the conservation groups have been depleted in the years since drilling was last seriously considered.” Even if the measure is approved, the Times notes, “it is unclear that the current economics of the oil business would make it worthwhile for oil companies to lease the land and invest in costly exploration.”

Additional coverage was provided by [PBS NewsHour](#) (12/7) and the [Washington Post](#) (12/8, Grandoni).

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Judge Stops US From Allowing Destruction Of Miami Forest.

The [AP](#) (12/8) reports that “a federal judge has temporarily blocked a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service decision that would have allowed the destruction of a rare forest near Miami to build a shopping center and apartments.” U.S. District Judge Ursula Ungaro “issued an order Friday stopping the clearing of about 50 acres of pine rockland forest that is home to about 20 endangered species, including the Miami tiger beetle.” Ungaro “said the lawsuit filed Friday by the Center for Biological Diversity against the service will likely succeed, so she stopped bulldozers that had begun tearing down trees this week shortly after the wildlife service approved the development.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (12/9), the [Miami Herald](#) (12/8, Staletovich), the [Huffington Post](#) (12/10, Golgowski), and [Law360](#) (12/8, Bayles).

Wildfire Threatens Sensitive California Condor Population.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/8, Sahagun) reports that “federal biologists were concerned Friday that a wildfire that has already consumed 143,000 acres was marching toward a California condor nest where a turkey-sized fledgling was close to taking its first flight.” Kirk Gilligan, deputy project leader of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Hopper Mountain California Condor Recovery Program, said, “There are limited opportunities to protect that nest, which is in a cave on a hillside. But, if necessary, aerial water drops could cool things down.” He added, “This fledgling is expected to take its first flight out of the nest any day now. Trouble is, condors don’t generally get very far on their first flight.”

Alaska Suffers Resurgence Of Tree-killing Beetle.

The [AP](#) (12/8) reports that “the Kenai region experienced a resurgence of the spruce bark beetle this year, an insect with a history of causing tree deaths.” Entomologist Matt Bowser of the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge said, “It’s not a surprise at all — it’s just a matter of when. This is a beetle that’s been here a long time. It’s not a new thing. This is one of the forest happenings we understand better than a lot of others — we know that all it takes is susceptible trees — a mature enough forest — and then runs of warm summers. If you have those things put together, you have at least the potential for an outbreak.”

Biologists With Drones And Peanut Butter Pellets Are On A Mission To Help Ferrets.

[NPR](#) (12/10, Hegyi) reports that in central Montana, “drones are dropping peanut butter pellets on prairie dog colonies” as “part of an effort by biologists to save North America’s most endangered mammal — the black-footed ferret.” According to the article, “a team of scientists and engineers have spent this year vaccinating prairie dogs in central Montana against the plague using drones.”

Ex-US Fish And Wildlife Employee Sentenced For Theft.

The [AP](#) (12/8) reports that “a former employee of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been sentenced to three years’ probation for two felony theft convictions.” John Cochnar, 59, was sentenced Friday in Hall County District Court. According to authorities, Cochnar “burglarized the service office of the Platte River Whooping Crane Trust office on March 21.”

National Park Service

Lawmaker Wants To Add This Word To Rock Creek Park’s Name.

[WTOP-FM](#) Washington (12/8, Moore) reports that under legislation D.C. Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton introduced Thursday, Rock Creek Park would be renamed Rock Creek National Park. The article notes that “the name change would be largely symbolic” since “Rock Creek is already owned and managed by the National Park Service.” However, Holmes Norton said renaming the park “will highlight its significance to the nation.”

Tubman National Park In Auburn: ‘We’re Bringing Resources Into The Community Now’.

The [Auburn \(NY\) Citizen](#) (12/10, Harding) reports that Frank Barrows, the superintendent of Fort Stanwix National Monument in Rome and project lead for the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in Auburn, “said the National Park Service has been invited to more community events in the Auburn area.” Barrows “recently participated in a discussion at Seymour Library about the progress of the park.” During a recent interview, Barrows “outlined three targets for the National Park Service: public programs, capacity building and building relationships in the community.”

Study On Proposed Park Fee Increase Marks Uncertainty For Gateway Communities.

The [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (12/10, Kendall) reports that “a recently released study on the effects of a National Park Service proposal to increase entrance fees at a handful of national parks across the country has businesses concerned about the potential economic impacts on gateway communities.” However, “tourism organizations in the gateway communities around Yellowstone don’t appear overly worried by a potential drop in spending.” On the other hand, “as tourism groups take a wait-and-see approach, local tour guide companies are sweating the proposed changes.”

National Park Service Proposes Fee Increase At Golden Spike Historic Site.

The [Ogden \(UT\) Standard-Examiner](#) (12/9, Kokesh) reports that the National Park Service is seeking public comments on its proposal to hike entrance fees at Golden Spike National Historic Site. The NPS “proposed eliminating seasonal entrance fee prices and replacing them with one year-round price.” The park service said, “The new revenue generated from any future fee increases may be used to provide enhanced visitor services including repair and maintenance of facilities, capital improvements, updated amenities, resource protection and additional visitor programs and services.”

Garfield Historic Site Gets Underground Railroad Designation.

The [Willoughby \(OH\) News-Herald](#) (12/9) reports that the National Park Service has “announced that James A. Garfield National Historic Site has been designated as a contributing site on the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom.” Site Manager Todd Arrington said, “This is a wonderful recognition of Garfield’s long support for the abolition of slavery as well as the civil rights of the formerly enslaved during his time in Congress. President Garfield addressed civil rights during his inaugural address, reminding the nation that while much had been accomplished in this area during the Civil War and Reconstruction, there was still a great deal of work to be done.”

\$18K Awarded To Aid Restoration Of Constitution Hall.

The [AP](#) (12/10) reports that “an \$18,000 grant from the National Park Service has moved a nonprofit closer to refurbishing the facade of a building where slavery opponents met during the Bleeding Kansas era.” Grant Glenn, president of the nonprofit Friends of the Free State Capitol Inc., “said the group will have sufficient funds to begin the work on Topeka’s Constitution Hall if it receives a \$90,000 grant from the Kansas Heritage Trust.” The funds from the National Park Service is “earmarked for the restoration of the front doors and windows.”

Steamtown National Historic Site Hit Hard By Tree-killing Beetle.

The [Scranton \(PA\) Times Tribune](#) (12/10, Singleton) reports that the National Park Service has “removed almost 60 dead or dying ash trees — more than half of the trees” in and around the parking lot at Steamtown National Historic Site — after finding they were infested by the emerald ash borer. According to park Superintendent Debbie Conway, “the trees taken down in recent weeks by park employees were ‘predominately dead’ and posed a potential safety hazard.” In addition, “most of the remaining trees display clear signs of borer infestation, including the distinctive D-shaped holes adult beetles leave in the bark when they emerge.”

Soda Butte Creek Set To Be Removed From Impaired List.

The [AP](#) (12/10) reports that “a creek that flows into the northeastern corner of Yellowstone National Park is set to be removed from a list of impaired waterways next year.” Officials with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality “say that Soda Butte Creek now meets quality standards for heavy metals thanks to abandoned mine cleanups that started in the 1990s.”

Office Of Surface Mining

Scars Of The Past: Cleaning Up Abandoned Mines, And The Fight Over The Funding To Do It.

The [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (12/10, Wright) reports that a mine reclamation fee “expires in 2021 and a major industry association that views it as an unnecessary burden on business and a fund that states have been misusing is pushing for the fee to disappear.” Luke Popovich, a spokesman for the National Mining Association, “said the funds have been misdirected while

hazardous abandoned coal sites remain." However, "some feel that funding for state-based reclamation programs is as important now as ever." Bonnie Gestring, the northwest program director for Earthworks, "said she worries what the Trump administration's proposed cuts may mean for federal abandoned mine lands programs, and that the funding for state programs is critical."

US Geological Survey

USGS Scientists Share Their Research With Community At Open House.

The [Santa Cruz \(CA\) Sentinel](#) (12/9, Zonszein) reports that the U.S. Geological Survey on Saturday held an open house at the Pacific Coastal and Marine Science Center. The center "focuses on issues such as coastal erosion, tsunami hazards and offshore research." Rex Sanders, a physical scientist and director of communications for USGS, said, "We love talking about this stuff. It's a good chance to show our own friends and neighbors and family what we do."

Additional Reading.

- *Grim Video Of A Starving Polar Bear Could Show The Species' Future.* [Mashable](#) (12/8, Kaufman).
- *North Korea Nuclear Test May Have Moved The Earth's Crust With Aftershocks, Study Finds.* [Newsweek](#) (12/10, Silverstein).
- *Yellowstone Supervolcano: An Eruption Isn't Coming, But Here's What Scientists Would See.* [Newsweek](#) (12/8, Bartels).

Opinion Pieces

The Looting Of America's Public Lands.

The [New York Times](#) (12/9) editorializes that President Trump "is doing what [former Vice President Dick] Cheney always wanted to get done" by removing environmental protections and withdrawing land from two Utah national monuments. The Administration argues that "America needs the energy buried beneath these lands," but this argument is "spurious: Coal is in free fall as an energy source. ... Oil, meanwhile, is in such plentiful supply that America's net imports are at their lowest since 1970." The Times argues that "a small handful of Utah lawmakers" is behind the shrinking of the two Utah monuments, and that the move has "shredded what little is left of [Interior Secretary] Zinke's reputation in the environmental community."

Ryan Zinke Just Made Himself Sky Rodeo Clown.

In his column for the [Washington Examiner](#) (12/8, Wegmann), Philip Wegmann criticizes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for recent controversies over his use of private planes and helicopters. Wegmann argues that the nation does want "flashy secretaries of the Interior." He urges Zinke to step away from "the limelight" if he "wants to keep his job."

Bears Ears Is Here To Stay.

In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (12/8, Baca), Angelo Baca, a cultural resources coordinator for the organization Utah Dine Bikeyah, criticizes the Trump Administration for reducing the size of Bears Ears National Monument. Baca writes that the decision "strikes at the heart of a concerted effort to protect the ancestral land of these tribes and others whose histories permeate this land." Baca also asserts that "this reduction of the national monument by a shortsighted president is ultimately illegal (because only Congress has the authority to make such a change under the Antiquities Act), and will not survive a court challenge."

Commentary: Utahns Won't Benefit From More Oil And Gas Production.

Stanley Holmes, co-founder and outreach coordinator for Utah Citizens Advocating Renewable Energy, writes an oped in the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/10, Holmes) saying the citizens of Utah will not benefit from additional oil and gas production. Holmes says federal subsidies have stimulated production and consumption of fossil fuels beyond market forces. Holmes argues that additional drilling in the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments will only lead to additional subsidies for the fossil fuel industry.

Additional Reading.

- *GOP Centrists Can Affirm Conservation Legacy Of Eisenhower, Roosevelt.* [Huffington Post](#) (12/8, Kolton).
- *Op-ed: Systematic Review Of Monument Designations Is An Important Check On Unilateral Power.* [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (12/9, Everton).
- *Viewpoints: Trump's Monumental Mistake | HeraldNet.com.* [Everett \(WA\) Herald](#) (12/10, Bryner).
- *Tom Wharton: Utah Politicians Would Rather Fight Than Manage Public Lands.* [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/8, Wharton).
- *Tom Hannagan: Our Public Lands Are There To Be Protected.* [Arizona Daily Star](#) (12/10, Hannagan).
- *Preserve Integrity Of Castle Mountains Desert Monument.* [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (12/9).
- *Locally Appropriate Solutions – Mount Desert Islander.* [Mount Desert \(ME\) Islander](#) (12/8, MacDonald).
- *Sage-grouse And The Looting Of The American West.* [Idaho State Journal](#) (12/10, Molvar).
- *Don't Toss Out Cooperation In The West's Sage Country: Rohlf.* [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (12/8, Rohlf).
- *The Right Way To Do The Wrong Thing.* [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (12/10).
- *Wan: SECURE Act Bad For Business, Bad For Wyoming.* [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (12/8, Wan).
- *Grand Canyon Could Soon Become A Bison Hunting 'Horror Show'.* [Arizona Republic](#) (12/8, Scully).
- *Opening ANWR Isn't A Given: Alaska Congressional Delegation Is Working Hard, But Hurdles Remain.* [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (12/10).
- *Let's Not Ruin Alaska's Arctic Refuge.* [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (12/8, Miller).
- *A Boondoggle On The Last Wild River In New Mexico.* [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/8, Connors).

Top National News

Trump Says Tax Bill “Getting Closer And Closer,” But Analyses Say Much Work Remains.

President Trump touted the Republican tax plan in a Sunday morning [tweet](#), writing, “Getting closer and closer on the Tax Cut Bill. Shaping up even better than projected. House and Senate working very hard and smart. End result will be not only important, but SPECIAL!” In addition, House Majority Leader McCarthy expressed optimism about a vote by the end of next week. However, coverage and analyses focus on the substantial differences between the House and Senate versions, pointing out that there is a lot of work to be done in a short time.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (12/10, story 4, 1:20, Snow) reported, “Members of the House and Senate will meet this week to come up with final tax bill. President Trump tweeted, ‘The bill is shaping up even better than projected.’ He said the end result will be not only important but special. There are some sticking points, however.” NBC’s Hallie Jackson: “The President and the Republicans in Congress are hoping for a big win with this \$1.5 trillion tax cut bill. ... But when you look at what’s actually the sticking points here, there’s a few of them. One surrounds capping deductions for state and local taxes. That is something that affects people in high tax states the most, places like California and New York. So Republicans, especially in the House, who represent those areas have some real concerns. Lawmakers are also deciding on just how big that corporate tax rate cut should be, 20% or 22%.”

On the [CBS Weekend News](#) (12/10, story 5, 2:05, Quijano), Errol Barnett reported, “Trump tweeted this morning about the stock market’s record highs, the unemployment rate...and the tax cut bill getting closer. He then played golf in West Palm Beach with Republican Sen, Lindsey Graham in an effort to shore up GOP support amid mounting headwinds. ... Sen. Susan Collins is withholding support until she sees the final version. Collins wants her amendment to eliminate automatic cuts to Medicare included.”

The [AP](#) (12/10, Superville) reports that Trump “sought Sunday to gloss over the difficult work ahead for lawmakers laboring to finalize tax cut legislation he can sign by his self-imposed Christmas deadline.” Trump and Graham “discussed the tax bill and upcoming budget talks after they teed off, said White House spokesman Raj Shah.” [Bloomberg News](#) (12/10, Jacobs) reports

that the President is expected to “deliver a closing argument for the proposed Republican tax overhaul in a speech on Wednesday.”

Collins Will Wait Before Deciding On Vote. The [Washington Times](#) (12/10, Sherfinski) reports that Collins said that she “plans to wait until the final conference report on the tax bill is released before she makes a decision on how she’ll vote.” Collins said on [CBS’ Face The Nation](#) (12/10, Dickerson) that she “always waits” to see the final version of the bill before deciding. She added, “I also obviously care very much about amendments that I was successful in getting in the bill that particularly helped middle income families and I’m also concerned about agreements that I have.” [Reuters](#) (12/10, Volcovici) says that Collins’ “support was crucial in passing the Senate tax reform bill earlier this month.”

David Leonhardt of the [New York Times](#) (12/10) writes, “A couple of weeks ago, Collins made a classic Collins deal” that “tried to split the difference between Democratic and Republican positions.” Collins “said that she would vote for the recent Senate tax bill so long as Republicans leaders promised to pass other legislation – in the near future – that would reduce the bill’s knock-on damage to health care programs.” But “within days of the Senate vote on the tax bill, conservative House Republicans started saying that they didn’t care about her deal.” [Bloomberg News](#) (12/10, Niquette) reports briefly on Collins’ remarks.

McCarthy Anticipates Final House Vote Next Week. The [Washington Times](#) (12/10, Sherfinski) reports McCarthy “said Sunday that congressional Republicans are hopefully on track for final passage of their tax bill next week, which would be in line with” Trump’s deadline. McCarthy said on [Fox News’ Sunday Morning Futures](#), “We made great progress.” He added that we “moved the House come back in” and “we were not supposed to start until Tuesday of last week, but we came in Monday.”

The [Washington Times](#) (12/10, Sherfinski) reports, “As Mr. McCarthy indicated, there are a number of differences. For example, the Senate-passed bill includes a repeal of Obamacare’s individual mandate, and the House’s does not.” Both plans also “restore a deduction of up to \$10,000 for local property taxes that had been on the chopping block, but negotiators are now looking at going even further to potentially allow taxpayers a choice between applying the money to their property taxes or to their income taxes.”

WPost Analysis: GOP’s Speed Leaves Bill Open To Errors, Loopholes. The [Washington Post](#) (12/10, A1, Werner) writes that Republicans “are moving their tax bill toward final passage at stunning speed,” leaving it “vulnerable to...expensive problems already popping up in their massive and complex plan. Questionable special-interest provisions have been stuffed in along the way,” and “drafting errors by exhausted staff are cropping up in need of fixes.” The Post writes, “Veterans of congressional tax overhauls, particularly the seminal revamp under President Ronald Reagan in 1986, have been stunned and in some cases outraged at how swiftly Republicans are moving.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/10, Rubin) reports that as drafted, the Senate bill could see some high-income business owners facing marginal tax rates above 100%. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/10, Koren) looks at how the plans “would affect the tax returns of a grad student, a single renter, married renters and middle-class homeowners.”

Sen. Bernie Sanders said on [NBC’s Meet The Press](#) (12/10, Todd), “One of the absurdities of this whole process is Republicans made a decision to go forward without any Democratic Party input, and they made a decision to do so operate behind closed doors.”

Former Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers writes in the [Washington Post](#) (12/10), “The tax-cut legislation now in conference committee on Capitol Hill exacerbates every important problem it claims to address.” Tax cuts “may prolong the sugar high a bit. But they are no substitute for the new economic foundation we desperately need.”

WTimes Analysis: Bills May Allow Those In US Illegally To Continue To Claim Child Tax Credit. The [Washington Times](#) (12/10, Miller) reports that Trump “has been willing to accept almost anything to close the deal on his giant tax cut bill before Christmas, including staying mum about a measure that would allow illegal immigrants to pocket the more generous child tax credit included in the package.” Both the House and Senate bills “neglect to require that the worker have a Social Security number to claim the credit but require only that the qualifying child have a Social Security number.”

House Bill’s Medical Deduction Elimination Would Affect Millions. The [Washington Post](#) (12/10, Long) reports that the House bill would eliminate the medical deduction, which was used by 8.8 million Americans in 2015. The Senate bill “would keep it (and even make it a bit more generous). It’s a key difference that must be reconciled before the final legislation goes to President Trump.”

USA Today Poll: Just 32% Back Tax Plan. [USA Today](#) (12/10, Page) reports that “Americans remain unconvinced that the measure will cut their own taxes or significantly boost the economy.” A USA Today/Suffolk University Poll “finds just 32% support the GOP tax plan; 48% oppose it. That’s the lowest level of public support for any major piece of legislation enacted in the past three decades.” In addition, 53% predicted that “their own families won’t pay lower taxes as a result of the measure, and an equal 53% say it won’t help the economy in a major way.”

[USA Today](#) (12/10) editorializes, “Though many Republican lawmakers have doubts about the tax package working its way through Congress, it is easy to see why many see a yes vote on a final version negotiated between the House and Senate as a political imperative, no matter what’s in the final package.” A “no” vote “risks a potential Republican primary challenge from President Trump’s base” and “could shut off the cash flow from angry GOP donors.” But “the tax measure is – to put it mildly – wildly unpopular,” and supporters who represent even “remotely competitive states or districts” might be “burdened by a grossly unfair tax cutting plan such as this.” However, F.H. Buckley of George Mason University’s Scalia Law School argues in a [USA Today](#) (12/10) op-ed that the bill “is good news for most middle-class Americans,” and that it will “give firms an incentive to invest in the United States.”

WSJournal Says Electric Car Credit Should Be Ended. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/10) calls the electric car tax credit an indulgence for wealthy citizens and urges the US Senate and House to remove it as they work to reconcile their respective tax bills. The Journal says the credit is a prime example of a government policy that subsidizes business, wastes money and also creates additional complications in the tax code.

Trump Honors Civil Rights Heroes At New Mississippi Museum.

President Trump on Saturday traveled to attend the opening of the new Civil Rights Museum in Jackson, Mississippi where he praised the “true American heroes” of the movement. While media coverage credited Trump for staying on message during his speech, reporting highlighted that a number of black leaders boycotted the ceremony over his invitation while others took part in protests about his Administration’s civil rights record.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/9, Brown, Wootson) reports that “amid backlash and boycotts, President Trump addressed an invitation-only gathering Saturday at the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum in Jackson – instead of attending the public opening ceremony.” The [Jackson \(MS\) Clarion Ledger](#) (12/9, Pender) describes Trump as “uncharacteristically reserved during his brief visit to Jackson on Saturday – a visit arranged by Mississippi Gov. Phil Bryant for the state’s bicentennial celebration and opening of two long-planned state landmarks, the Civil Rights and Mississippi History museums.” The Clarion Ledger adds the President “did not mention the protests or boycotts” and he “eschewed politics of the day – also uncharacteristic – [in his] erudite speech to several-hundred people before the main ceremony outside the museum attended by thousands.”

The [New York Times](#) (12/9, Shear, Fentress) says the President’s “presence jolted the opening” of the museum by “generating boycotts from some leaders in the movement and small protests by activists as the state’s attempt to confront its racially violent past clashed with more recent divisions wrought by Mr. Trump’s presidency.” However, according to the Times, “Trump gave brief remarks, largely sticking to his prepared script as he hailed the icons of the civil rights movement and rejected the racism and hatred on display in the new museum.” Trump said, “The civil rights museum records oppression, cruelty and injustice inflicted on the African-American community.” The President continued, “Here we memorialize the brave men and women who struggled to sacrifice and sacrificed so much so that others might live in freedom.”

[Reuters](#) (12/9, Mason) reports Trump added, “We want our country to be a place where every child from every background can grow up free from fear, innocent of hatred and surrounded by love, opportunity and hope.” Trump, referencing murdered civil rights activist Medgar Evers and other civil rights leaders, said: “Today we strive to be worthy of their sacrifice. We pray for inspiration from their example.” He also “acknowledged Evers’ wife Myrlie and brother Charles in the audience.” [Politico](#) (12/9, Cook) says that in his “restrained, formal remarks,” the President “spoke specifically of Evers’ bravery, his love for his family, and his civil rights work for the NAACP in Mississippi.” According to Politico, he also hailed “Martin Luther King, Jr. a ‘man who I studied and watched and admired for my entire life’ and paid tribute to the nine students who protested segregation at the Jackson Public Library.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/9, Pettypiece) reports the President “spent about 40 minutes at the museums, including his remarks, accompanied by Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant, a Republican, and Housing Secretary Ben Carson, among others.”

In addition, [NPR](#) (12/9, Booker) reports that “following the event, Trump tweeted that it was an ‘honor’ to celebrate the museum’s opening.” The President [said](#), “It was my great honor to celebrate the opening of two extraordinary museums—the Mississippi State History Museum & the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum. We pay solemn tribute to our heroes of the past & dedicate ourselves to building a future of freedom, equality, justice & peace.”

Black Lawmakers, Jackson Mayor Boycott Museum Opening Over Trump Appearance. [The Hill](#) (12/9, Delk) “Briefing Room” blog reports Trump’s “highly scrutinized appearance...was boycotted by some Democratic lawmakers,” including Reps. John Lewis and Bennie Thompson, who in a joint statement Thursday said the President’s attendance “attendance and his hurtful policies are an insult to the people portrayed in this civil rights museum.” The Hill adds Jackson Mayor Chokwe Antar Lumumba (D) “echoed Lewis’s remarks on CNN, calling Trump’s visit ‘ill-considered,’ and saying that Trump and ‘the policies he espouses are disrespectful to the legacy and history that is to be portrayed in this museum.’”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) ’s (12/9, story 3, 2:55, Llamas) David Wright reported that “in Jackson, an echo of the civil rights struggle. A peaceful protest of a president who has fanned racial tensions attending the opening of a new civil rights museum.” Wright added that “because Trump was there, civil rights legend John Lewis was not. Congressman Lewis, one of the heroes of Bloody Sunday in Selma, called President Trump’s attendance ‘an insult to the people portrayed in this civil rights museum.’”

[CNN](#) (12/9, Diaz) reports that although the President stayed “on message” in his address at the museum, speakers “at a news conference protesting Trump’s visit on Saturday hit the President on his White House record, including his efforts to repeal Obamacare and enact a travel ban, saying his moves contradict the work of the civil rights movement.” The [Jackson \(MS\) Clarion Ledger](#) (12/9, Harris) reports Lumumba, speaking alongside NAACP President Derrick Johnson, “denounced” the President and “called Trump’s stances an affront to the movement’s goals.” Lumumba said, “It is my appreciation for the Mississippi martyrs not here – the names both known and unknown – that will not allow me, that will not allow many of us standing here today to share a stage with a president who has not demonstrated a continuing commitment to civil rights.”

The [Washington Times](#) (12/9, Boyer) reports Johnson “called Mr. Trump’s appearance ‘a distraction,’ and other black leaders also stayed away from the grand opening in protest.” The Times notes the “civil-rights icon” Lewis skipped the public ceremony “in protest of the president’s visit, calling it a ‘mockery’ of black leaders’ efforts.” [The Hill](#) (12/9, Manchester) “Briefing Room” blog reports the Rev. Al Sharpton, in an appearance on MSNBC, said Trump’s visit was “a missed opportunity,” as he “could have addressed the issue of today that he mentioned people fought for to bring us to today.”

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/9, story 4, 2:00, Diaz-Balart), Peter Alexander acknowledged “Trump has struggled to win over African-American support.” Alexander added Trump before he ran for office “champion[ed] the conspiracy of birtherism of President Obama. And once in office, reigniting divisions after the racial violence in Charlottesville.” The [Huffington Post](#) (12/9, Levine) highlights that “lawyers for his Justice Department are defending a voting law in Texas that a district court judge found intentionally discriminated against black and Latino voters.” The HuffPost adds that “the Texas case is just one of a series of examples of how the Trump administration so far has failed to advance a key civil right: the right to vote.”

Meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/9, Radnofsky) reports White House spokesman Raj Shah last week expressed regret that the lawmakers had decided to boycott in protest and said, “We think it’s a little unfortunate that a moment like this that could be used for unification and bringing people together, some folks are choosing to play politics with it but that’s not going to deter us from honoring heroes of the civil rights movement.” Shah added that the President’s visit was “about honoring icons of the movement; that would include Mr. Lewis.”

AP Analysis: Trump Made False Statement On Black Homeownership At Florida Rally. An [AP](#) (12/9, Boak, Rugaber) “Fact Check” that reviews Trump’s remarks at his rally in Pensacola, Florida on Friday says the President “falsely stated that black homeownership has hit a record high under his stewardship.” While Trump said: “black homeownership just hit the highest level it has ever been in the history of our country,” the AP contends his assertion is “not true or even close,” as US Census data shows “the black homeownership rate peaked during 2004, when 49.7 percent of black households owned homes (the rate for all races that year reached 69.2 percent, also a modern record). The black homeownership rate stayed in similar territory until the recession, when it dropped to the mid-40s.” The AP adds the black homeownership rate this year was “42.7 percent in the first quarter, 42.3 percent in the second and 42 percent in the third.”

That's an uptick from last year but far from a record." On the [CBS Weekend News](#) (12/9, story 3, 2:10, Ninan), Errol Barnett similarly highlighted the President's comments on black homeownership at the rally and said "it seems the key audience for the President's speech were Gulf Coast Republicans, primarily those heading to the polls next week in Alabama's special election."

Trump Signs Short-Term Spending Bill Ahead Of Strong Jobs Report.

President Trump on Friday signed a short-term spending bill in order to prevent a government shutdown hours before the Labor Department released its jobs report for November, which showed nonfarm hiring rose by 228,000 jobs over the previous month. While media coverage was largely favorable about the economy's performance, reporting on the President's action to avert a shutdown was largely straightforward and portrayed his decision as a stopgap measure that funds the government through December 22 and gives Congress more time to reach a deal on major budget disputes.

Typical of the tone of his coverage was [Bloomberg News](#) (12/8, Wasson, Litvan), which reports Trump signed "a two-week extension of federal funding that averts a government shutdown this week but defers contentious decisions on spending on defense and domestic programs." The [Washington Post](#) (12/8, Debonis) similarly reports the bill "does not resolve a standoff between Republicans and Democrats over federal spending levels" and does not "include any agreement on immigration or other policy issues that have divided the parties."

[The Hill](#) (12/8, Fabian) says the President "signed the measure without fanfare." [Reuters](#) (12/8, Cowan, Rampton) notes White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders announced in [tweet](#) that Trump had signed the bill.

According to the [Washington Times](#) (12/8, Miller), by signing the legislation, Trump has given "lawmakers breathing room to pass tax cuts and smooth out budget snags." The Times states that "topping the list is resolving a standoff with Democrats over the fate of 'Dreamers,' illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as children who were given a temporary reprieve by the Obama administration but who could be deported beginning in March." The Times adds another obstacle to the budget negotiations is that GOP lawmakers are also "hurrying to finish a major tax cut bill that is the centerpiece of Mr. Trump's economic agenda and the last chance to score a legislative victory before the end of the year."

Meanwhile, the [New York Times](#) (12/8, A1, Casselman) says on its front page that "the latest evidence" of the US economy's revival "came Friday, when the Labor Department reported that American employers added 228,000 jobs in November" while the unemployment rate "held steady at 4.1 percent, the lowest since 2000." The Times adds "job growth has slowed since its peak in 2014 but remains remarkably steady: For the first time on record, employers have added jobs every month for more than seven years – 86 months, to be precise." Sanders "said on Friday that the jobs report was evidence that 'President Trump's bold economic vision continues to pay off.'" [CNN Money](#) (12/8, Isidore) reports she added, "We're especially pleased to see the manufacturing sector roaring back to life, adding a total of 159,000 jobs since President Trump took office after averaging a loss of more than 1,000 jobs per month during the last year of the previous administration." Sanders continued, "As we continue to unleash the American economy from unnecessary regulation and taxes, we look forward to seeing more reports like this, showing a healthy and thriving jobs market for the American people."

A front-page [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/8, A1, Morath) article touts the November jobs report, as do brief [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/8, story 8, 0:15, Muir), [CBS Evening News](#) (12/8, story 10, 0:20, Glor), and [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/8, story 9, 0:20, Holt) broadcasts. [Breitbart](#) (12/8, Carney) says hiring "exceed[ed] economist expectations of 200,000 jobs," as well as [Business Insider](#) (12/8), which said the data "crush[ed] expectations."

In particular, [USA Today](#) (12/8, Davidson) reports "businesses added 221,000 jobs, lifted by hiring in professional and business services, health care and manufacturing. Federal, state and local governments added 7,000." [Bloomberg News](#) (12/8) reports the jobs report showed "factory payrolls over the last four months have increased 27,000 on average, the most since April 2012," even as "employees at producers of non-durable goods, such as chemicals, fuels and foods, worked longer hours in November and saw their weekly pay advance 3.2 percent from a year ago." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/8, Smith) also reports logistics companies were responsible for 8,100 new jobs, which was the sector's largest amount since December 2015 and its eighth straight month of growth.

However, [Reuters](#) (12/8, Mutikani) reports analysts charge that as the data "paint[s] a portrait of a healthy economy," the US "does not require the kind of fiscal stimulus that...Trump

is proposing, even though wage gains remain moderate." According to Reuters, "the fairly upbeat report underscored the economy's strength and could fuel criticism of efforts by Trump and his fellow Republicans in the U.S. Congress to slash the corporate income tax rate to 20 percent from 35 percent." The [AP](#) (12/8, Rugaber) credits the global economy with having benefited the US job market and says the jobs report "coincided with other signs that the U.S. economy remains on firm footing. In the past six months, economic growth has exceeded an annual rate of 3 percent, the first time that's happened since 2014. Consumer confidence has reached its highest level since 2000."

Acosta Touts Jobs Report, Cohn Says Tax Reform Will Raise Wages. Labor Secretary Acosta said the jobs report "shows steady growth fueled by optimism about the [Administration's] pro-growth, pro-jobs policies" and hailed the manufacturing sector for its "lowest ever" unemployment rate of 2.7 percent, but the [Washington Post](#) (12/8, Paquette) reports wages in the sector "appear especially stagnant, growing only 1.9 percent since last November." The Post says the Bureau of Labor Statistics showed "workers' average hourly earnings grew by 5 cents in November to \$26.55 – part of an overall increase of 2.5 percent since the same period last year," but this growth rate "lags significantly behind pre-recession levels, when year-over-year wage increases exceeded 4 percent." The Post concedes the President and Congressional Republicans believe tax reform "will create more well-paying jobs and supercharge economic growth." The Post adds National Economic Council Director Cohn, during a Friday interview with Fox Business, asserted, "People are going to be very excited when they see their paycheck bigger."

Cohn Downplays Risks As Bitcoin Continues "Meteoric Rise." [Bloomberg News](#) (12/8, Condon) reports Cohn, in a Friday interview on Bloomberg Television, "said he and other administration officials are monitoring the meteoric rise in cryptocurrency bitcoin, while adding that he didn't see any serious threat in the phenomenon." Cohn stated, "We're watching it, of course we're watching it. ... Right now we don't think it's a serious risk, but right now we're watching it." Bloomberg says that when "asked if any new regulation might be required, Cohn noted that the Commodity Futures Trading Commission had recently approved bitcoin futures contracts, giving some investors the ability to short the currency." Cohn added, "We'll see what goes on here. ... It's an evolving market. We've watched this happen before as markets have evolved." Bloomberg highlights that "the digital currency surged in recent days, trading above \$17,000, up from \$9,654 on Nov. 30 and from below \$1,000 at the end of 2016. It was around \$15,500 as of 10:32 a.m. New York time."

Jobs Report Boosts Dow And S&P 500 To New Weekly Records, As Nasdaq Declines. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/8, Gold, Driebusch) reports that following the release of the November jobs report on Friday led the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose by 0.5 percent to 24329.16, the S&P 500 rose by 0.6 percent to 2651.50, and the Nasdaq Composite rose by 0.4 percent to 6840.08; however, the Nasdaq nonetheless ended the week down by 0.1 percent, extending its losses by a second week.

Consumer Sentiment Index Posts December Declines. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/8, Leubsdorf) reports the University of Michigan on Friday said its consumer-sentiment index had fallen to 96.8 in early December, which was also less than economist estimates of 99.9. The Journal adds the reading was down from 98.5 in November and 100.7 in October, which had marked its highest level since January 2004.

WSJournal Hails Latest Jobs Report. A [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/8) editorial hails the latest jobs report and celebrates the health of the US economy. The Journal lauds the Administration's policies for fostering business confidence, but advises President Trump and Commerce Secretary Ross to remember that manufacturing is doing well due to the improving global economy and increased exports. While the Journal suggests tax reform will likely benefit the economy, the editorial warns Trump not to succumb to protectionism by withdrawing from Nafta and says he should not exacerbate the labor shortage by further curtailing legal immigration.

White House Plans To Roll Out Infrastructure Plan In January.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/10, Mann) reports that the White House plans to unveil an infrastructure rebuilding plan in January, wagering that while some lawmakers oppose a road-and-bridge-building, it will be well-received by voters. According to the Journal, Trump's advisers are finalizing a plan to spend some \$200 billion in order to leverage billions in spending from local governments and the private sector for infrastructure projects.

Trump Administration Energy Policy Includes Alarming Challenges For Wind, Solar.

[TIME](#) (12/8, Worland) reports that "Republicans in Washington have launched a campaign against

renewable energy that includes market interventions that alarm other industries, including oil and gas." These efforts to "preserve the coal industry at the expense of wind and solar" include "aggressive attempts at regulatory rollback," a tax bill that hurts the financing of clean-energy projects, and particularly the Energy Department's proposal to prop up coal and nuclear power plants. The article says that the slew of threats to renewable energy "could slow the industry's growth in ways unimaginable just a year ago."

Haley: International Community United On Isolating North Korea.

UN Ambassador Haley said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (12/10, Tapper), "Every ounce of revenue that North Korea receives, they put it toward the nuclear program so the fact that the sanctions have completely squeezed them is less money they can put towards this program." She added that the "international community is with us in isolating North Korea."

Haley also appeared on [Fox News Sunday](#) (12/10, Wallace) where she was asked about Chinese pressure on Pyongyang. Said Haley, "I think what we are saying that China is actually following through with the sanctions." She said, however, "China can do more. ... I think President Xi has his reasons to have red lines, but President Trump and President Xi have a very good relationship and for that I think that's why we've gotten as far as we have in getting what we got done."

On [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (12/10, Dickerson), Haley said, "We're watching North Korea very carefully. If you look at the last ballistic missile launch, it had advanced quite a bit compared to the missile before and it's a concern."

US Officials Warn North Korea Making Gains Toward Biological Weapon. According to a front-page story in the [Washington Post](#) (12/10, A1, Warrick), "Five months before North Korea's first nuclear test in 2006, US intelligence officials sent a report to Congress warning that secret work also was underway on a biological weapon." A decade later, North Korea is "moving steadily to acquire the essential machinery that could potentially be used for an advanced bioweapons program," according to "US and Asian intelligence officials and weapons experts." The gains have "alarmed US analysts, who say North Korea...could quickly surge into industrial-scale production of biological pathogens if it chooses to do so."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Wisconsin's Fire Sale For Big Business." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (12/10) calls the decision of Gov. Scott Walker to offer \$3 billion in state subsidies to draw Taiwanese electronics manufacturer Foxconn to Wisconsin "a low-road scheme to advance big business by scapegoating environmental laws." The Times observes that "the contract grew out of a high-bidding competition with other states, encouraged by the Trump White House with the blessing of the House speaker, Paul Ryan, whose district includes Foxconn's planned site." Under the deal, Foxconn was released from state environmental restrictions that are normally enforced against Wisconsin companies.

"Hate Smears India's Symbol Of Love, The Taj Mahal." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (12/10) reaffirms the importance of preserving the Taj Mahal "as a pledge to an inclusive future" in India, particularly amid increasing "anti-Muslim rhetoric and unprovoked physical attacks on Muslims...under the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi." The Times says that the Taj Mahal, which was built as an Islamic mausoleum, has been criticized as of late by Hindu nationalists as "a blot on Indian culture" that was constructed by "traitors."

"Opening Up New York's Public Records." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (12/10) calls for Gov. Andrew Cuomo to sign legislation that would "remove one of the biggest obstacles facing those who are wrongly denied documents they have requested under New York's open-records law – the cost of hiring a lawyer to fight that denial in court." Under the proposed legislation, plaintiffs would not be liable for their legal fees if they prevailed in any lawsuit concerning the release of information that was wrongly denied by the state of New York. The Times says, "the statewide culture of noncompliance needs to be addressed immediately, and the bill on Mr. Cuomo's desk, which sailed through the Legislature last spring, is one small and simple fix."

Washington Post.

"Virginia Should Stick With Its I-66 Express Lanes – Tolls And All." A [Washington Post](#) (12/10) editorial.

“The Supreme Court’s Privacy Case Shows Congress Needs To Draw New Lines.” The [Washington Post](#) (12/10) editorializes that regardless of the outcome of recent arguments at the Supreme Court over a Fourth Amendment case involving the warrantless retrieval of location data from a man’s cellphone, “it’s past time for Congress to raise the standard for longer-term, larger-scale location record requests.” In this effort, the Post encourages Congress to look toward state legislatures for examples on how to legislate such restrictions and also to be mindful “not to overburden law enforcement in emergency situations.”

“Trump’s Deportation Tough Talk Hurts Law-Abiding Immigrants.” The [Washington Post](#) (12/10) editorializes that President Trump’s “hard-line posture” on immigration fails to address “the broader dysfunction in America’s immigration system” and fundamentally will not “change the scale of illegal immigrants living in this country.” So far, the Post says, the increased number of deportations of illegal immigrants has failed “to make a big dent in the 11 million who remain in the United States,” of which, “the overwhelming majority...have no criminal record.” Moreover, US immigration courts face “an epic logjam,” to which “only an overhaul of America’s broken immigration system offers the prospect of a more lasting fix.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Christopher Wray’s FBI Stonewall.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/10) criticizes FBI Director Wray’s testimony last week before the House Judiciary Committee, saying he stonewalled the panel and seems to have joined an effort by the Justice Department to keep from the public the FBI’s role in the 2016 election.

“Killing The Electric Car Credit.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/10) in an editorial calls the electric car tax credit an indulgence for the wealthy and urges the US Senate and House to remove it as they work to reconcile their respective tax bills. The Journal says the credit is a prime example of a government policy that subsidizes business, wastes money and also creates additional complications in the tax code.

“The Apple ‘Windfall’ That Isn’t.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/8) criticizes claims that the Republican tax plan’s one-time deemed repatriation rate will generate a \$47 billion tax windfall for Apple if the company brings back around \$252 billion it has stored abroad. Though the tax is lower than the standard corporate rate, the Journal explains that Apple would pay no tax if it elected to keep the funds overseas. The true windfall, the Journal argues, is the \$30 billion in taxes Apple would pay to the US government.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Hospital Giants In Talks To Create US’s Largest Operator](#)
[Alabama Hears Final Pitch Ahead Of Tuesday Vote For Senate Seat](#)
[US Bitcoin Futures Climb In First Day Of Trade](#)
[In One Corner Of Afghanistan, America Is Beating Islamic State](#)

New York Times:

[Under Trump, EPA Has Slowed Actions Against Polluters, And Put Limits On Enforcement Officers](#)
[How ISIS Produced Its Cruel Arsenal On An Industrial Scale](#)
[Ahead Of Brexit, Paris Tries A Business Makeover](#)
[Liberal Outsiders Pour Into Alabama Senate Race, Treading Lightly](#)
[Nikki Haley Says Women Who Accuse Trump Of Misconduct “Should Be Heard”](#)
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Washington Post:

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[Speed, Not Precision, Steers GOP Tax Plan](#)
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Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Severe Weather; California Wildfires; Roy Moore Campaign; Detroit-Highway Shootings; Trump Jerusalem Announcement-Responses; California-Plane Crash; Serial Killer Trial; TV Show Scam Alert; Airline-Breastfeeding; College Football News; Rope Walker; Christmas Charity.

CBS: Roy Moore Campaign; Air Force Academy-Sexual Misconduct Cases; California Wildfires; Severe Weather; Tax Reform Plan; Trump Jerusalem Announcement-Responses; FCC Net Neutrality; San Diego Plane Crash; Egypt-Ancient Tombs Opening; Star Wars Premier; Honda-Takata Air Bag Recall; Las Vegas Shooting-Recovery.

NBC: California Wildfires; Roy Moore Campaign; Florida Police Violence; Tax Reform Plan; China-Public Protest; Children-Mental Health Report; FCC Net Neutrality; College Football News; Tiny Book Art.

Network TV At A Glance:

Roy Moore Campaign – 7 minutes, 40 seconds

California Wildfires – 6 minutes, 30 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Roy Moore Campaign; California Wildfires; Detroit-Highway Shootings; Whale Endangered Species.

CBS: California Wildfires; Severe Weather; Roy Moore Campaign; Bitcoin Surge; Wall Street News.

FOX: California Wildfires; Roy Moore Campaign.

NPR: California Wildfires; Al Franken Resignation; Trump Jerusalem Announcement-Responses; North Korea Sanctions.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Has lunch with Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue; participates in a presentation of the Friends of Zion award with Faith Leaders; meets with Congressman Bill Shuster; participates in a signing ceremony for Space Policy Directive; participates in a swearing-in Ceremony for Jamie McCourt as the US Ambassador to France and the US Ambassador to Monaco.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Has lunch with the President and Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue; joins the President to participate in a signing ceremony for Space Policy Directive; joins the President to participate in a swearing-in ceremony for Jamie McCourt as the US Ambassador to France and Monaco; participates in a swearing-in ceremony for Peter Hoekstra as the US Ambassador to the Netherlands; participates in a swearing-in ceremony for Duke Buchan as the US Ambassador to Spain and Andorra.

US Senate: 4:00 PM Senate aims to end debate on circuit judge nominee – Senate convenes and proceeds to executive session to resume consideration of Leonard Steven Graszo to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit, including a vote on a motion to invoke cloture on the nomination
Location: Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

US House: 9:30 AM House Small Business subcommittee field hearing on addressing barriers to business formation and growth – Agriculture, Energy, and Trade Subcommittee field hearing on 'Bridging the Entrepreneurial Gap: Addressing Barriers to Small Business Formation and Growth', with testimony from LifeWorking Enterprise founder and CEO Steven Whittington; The Zen of

Slow Cooking founder Meg Barnhart; Hel's Kitchen Catering owner David Borris; and Grow Well Farms partner Cheryl Besenjak Location: Village of Deerfield Hall, 850 Waukegan Rd, Deerfield, IL <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

12:00 PM House Floor meets – The House will meet at 12 noon for morning hour debate and 2 pm for legislative business. There are no news events scheduled at this time. Location: House Floor, U.S. Capitol Hill

2:00 PM House of Representatives meets for legislative business Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

Other: 8:00 AM Axios event on 'Energy Under Trump' – Axios conversation on 'Energy Under Trump', with Democratic Rep. Paul Tonko, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Commissioner Neil Chatterjee, and Heritage Foundation Energy and Environment Research Fellow Nick Loris Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.axios.com [#Axios360](https://twitter.com/axios)

9:30 AM MDAA Congressional Roundtable on defending against North Korea – Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance Congressional Roundtable Discussion Series event on 'Layered Missile Defense Against North Korea', featuring Joint Integrated Air and Missile Defense Organization Director Brig. Gen. Clement Coward Jr., and Missile Defense Agency Deputy Director Rear Adm. Jon Hill Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 902, Washington, DC www.missiledefenseadvocacy.org <https://twitter.com/missiledefadv>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Colin Jost: "With all the complex issues facing America right now, President Trump decided to relax and solve a much simpler problem...the Middle East."

Michael Che: "Democrats hope by forcing Al Franken to step down, they will paint themselves as the party of the moral high ground. Calm down, Democrats. You are still politicians. ... Nobody is at a party like, 'Do you know who I wish was here? Nancy Pelosi.'"

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Courthouse News: Enviro Groups Lose Bid To Stop Florida Phosphate Mine.

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- Dickinson (ND) Press: Proposed Refinery Near Western North Dakota National Park Spurs Debate Over Economic, Conservation Concerns.
- Las Vegas Review-Journal: Park Rangers Take Over Law Enforcement Duties At Hoover Dam.
- Harrison (AR) Daily Times: PG&S Granted \$5,000 From Park Service.
- Elko (NV) Daily Free Press: Fees To Rise At Great Basin National Park.
- Morristown (NJ) Green: Park Service Eliminating Fees For Washington's Museum In Morristown For 2018.
- Fresno (CA) Bee: Yosemite's Last Native American Village Being Rebuilt.
- Associated Press: Dunes Learning Center Has Educated Youngsters For 20 Years.

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- GISuser: USGS And NASA Select New Landsat Science Team.
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- 'The Case Of The Missing Frog'.
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- New York Times: Republicans Release Consensus Tax Reform Legislation As Rubio, Corker Agree To Back Bill.
- New York Times: Trump Vows To "Rebuild" FBI, Defend Law Enforcement In Speech To Training Academy Grads.
- The Hill: Trump Administration Halts EPA Climate Science Debate Plan.
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DOI In The News

While Most Of D.C. Slept, Sec. Zinke Wandered A Frozen Arlington Cemetery With A Christmas Wreath.

In a brief broadcast, the [CBS Weekend News](#) (12/16, story 8, 0:20, Ninan) reported the nonprofit Wreaths Across America organized "more than 50,000 volunteers" on Saturday to lay wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery "at the grave sites of more than 245,000 service members." The [Daily Caller](#) (12/16, Johnson) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who served as a Navy SEAL, also participated to honor one of his fallen friends. Zinke said, "The first thing I saw Trump do as president was attend the funeral of a Navy SEAL. ... That's the moment I saw him go from being a president to becoming a Commander-in-Chief. Look around. There's no politics here."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/16, Chaitin) reports that Zinke also tweeted: "You can feel the love for country and those who serve."

Zinke Fires Four Senior Officials Over Harassment.

[The Hill](#) (12/15, Thomsen) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has "fired four senior officials in his department over inappropriate conduct, including sexual harassment, he announced in a video Thursday night." Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift said that the officials who were fired "abused their authority to intimidate or harass fellow employees. This includes but is not limited to sexual harassment." Zinke "made the announcement in a video about a survey about harassment and discrimination in the department, in which 35 percent of Interior employees said they were harassed or discriminated against in the last year." Zinke said, "I've already removed four senior leaders that were guilty of inappropriate behavior and I will remove 400 more if necessary."

Also reporting are the [Washington Post](#) (12/15), [USA Today](#) (12/15), the [Washington Times](#) (12/15, Persons), the [Washington Free Beacon](#) (12/15, Beck), [CBS News](#) (12/15), the [Huffington Post](#) (12/15, Frej), the [Independent Sentinel \(NY\)](#) (12/15), [Independent Journal Review](#) (12/15, Charters), and [E&F Publishing](#) (12/15, Doyle).

Zinke Reprimanded Park Head After Climate Tweets.

[The Hill](#) (12/15, Cama) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke summoned David Smith, superintendent of Joshua Tree National Park, to Washington “last month to reprimand him for climate change-related tweets the park had sent via Twitter, two sources close to the situation said.” Zinke “did not take any formal disciplinary action against” Smith, and “the tweets at issue weren’t deleted, because they didn’t violate National Park Service or Interior Department policies.” However, “Zinke made it clear to Smith that the Trump administration doesn’t want national parks to put out official communications on climate change.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Hi-Desert \(CA\) Star](#) (12/15, Moore).

Utah Republican To Patagonia Founder: Come Testify Before Congress.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/15, Grandoni) reports House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rep. Rob Bishop on Friday sent a letter to Yvon Chouinard, founder of Patagonia, to testify before his committee about President Trump’s decision to reduce the size of two national monuments in Utah. Bishop said, “There is much public interest in this matter. ... It is apparent through multiple media accounts and appearances that you have strong feelings on the topic as well.” He continued: “As part of this continuing process, I wish to invite you to testify before the committee about your views on federal land management.” According to the Post, the letter “is an amicable turn in what had become an acrimonious public feud between Republicans and Patagonia.”

Also reporting are the [AP](#) (12/15), the [Washington Times](#) (12/15, Wolfgang), [Reuters](#) (12/15, Volcovici), and [Outside](#) (12/15, Phippen).

Trump Environmental Officials Are Keeping Tight Rein Over Stampede Of FOIA Requests.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/15, Grandoni, Eilperin) reports “the Trump administration’s top environmental policymakers are engaged in a new war with their adversaries – over how much information to release to the media and outside groups, who are often perceived as enemies, as part of a heavy stream of Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests.” The Post says “the Environmental Protection Agency and Interior Department are at ground zero in this growing feud,” as “some high-level officials at both EPA and Interior” are now “keeping closer tabs on these FOIA requests, while at least at the EPA – according to those who have filed such requests – bureaus drag their feet in responding.”

Trump, Congress Praised For Authorizing Palau Compact Deal.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (12/18) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “last week thanked President Trump and commended the U.S. Congress for including authorization for the Palau Compact Review Agreement in the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act.” Zinke said, “The U.S. Insular Areas are on the front lines of North Korean aggression and are an important part of the strategic defense for our nation. Authorizing full funding for the agreement is an important element of the Pacific national security strategy to maintain stability in the Western Pacific Region and we look forward to continuing our work with Congress to get this job done. President Trump’s strong support for the agreement, the Department’s budget request, and Congress’ support for it all point to the strategic importance of our U.S. Territories and the Freely Associated States. I have served with a number of warriors from the islands and I look forward to visiting the people of Palau in my role as Secretary.”

Interior May Lead Way In Spreading Out Jobs.

[FEDweek](#) (12/15) reports that “a long-running idea to shift more federal jobs from the national capital area to other parts of the country is showing signs of gaining traction in Congress, with the Interior Department potentially serving as a model.” A House subcommittee has “held a hearing in support of the department’s interest in moving headquarters of three of its components—the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation and the Fish and Wildlife Service—to Western states on grounds that employees would be closer to those most impacted by their decisions.” According to the article, “the most likely vehicle for making a formal proposal would be the budget plan the administration plans to send to Congress early in 2018 for the 2019 fiscal year.”

Lawmakers Ask Interior Department To Recover 'Misspent' Funds.

The [Willits \(CA\) News](#) (12/16) reports that Rep. Jared Huffman has sent a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, "urging him to recover \$84.8 million in taxpayer money that was identified in a recent inspector general report detailing how the funds were misspent, according to information released Friday by Huffman's office." The article says that "the funds were to benefit a select few California water districts participating in the 'WaterFix' planning process, according to a report titled 'The Bureau of Reclamation Was Not Transparent in Its Participation in the [San Francisco] Bay Delta Conservation Plan.'" The letter "asks that Zinke recover the missing funds and for the department to shed more light on the matter, including whether similar undisclosed subsidies were provided to any other parties, or if the water districts that benefited from this arrangement might still be reimbursed by taxpayers."

North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Work Halted By Interior Department.

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (12/16, Chaney) reports that "work on grizzly bear recovery in the North Cascades Ecosystem has been halted even as the continental United States' two largest grizzly populations near removal from Endangered Species Act protection." North Cascades National Park Superintendent Karen Taylor-Goodrich told the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee last Wednesday "that her staff had been asked to stop work on its environmental impact statement by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's office." The order also stops "discussions with Canadian wildlife managers who oversee a similar grizzly recovery process in British Columbia, she said."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Yakima \(WA\) Herald-Republic](#) (12/18, Thompson).

Gear Up Probe Ends With No Charges.

The [Sioux Falls \(SD\) Argus Leader](#) (12/15, Ellis) reports that "a federal investigation into the embezzlement of money from South Dakota's Gear Up program has concluded with no charges being filed in the case, the U.S. Interior Department's Office of Inspector General has announced." The OIG investigation "concluded that Scott and Nicole Westerhuis were responsible for the embezzlement of funds that were meant to prepare Native American students for post-secondary education." According to authorities, "Scott Westerhuis killed Nicole and their four children before setting fire to their Platte, S.D. home and committing suicide in September 2015." Spokeswoman Nancy DiPaolo said, "The OIG ended our investigation because the responsible subjects are deceased and we did not identify additional subjects."

NOAA Officials Meet With Local Tribal Representatives.

The [Cape Cod \(MA\) News](#) (12/17) reports that NOAA's North Atlantic Regional Team visited Martha's Vineyard "last month to keep local Native American tribes up to date on the agency's work and mission." According to the article, "more than 120 participants representing eight New England tribes met at the Aquinnah Wampanoag Tribal Community Center to discuss preserving cultural practice through environmental protection." The article says that "representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the American Indian Environmental Office discussed a variety of topics relevant to the tribes, from programs and budgets to federal regulations."

California Wildfire Spreads Rapidly Toward Santa Barbara.

In the lead [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/16, lead story, 2:10, Diaz-Balart) broadcast, Steve Patterson reported the Thomas Fire on Saturday "forced thousands of new evacuations...in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties," as the wildfire, which "has been raging since Dec. 4, killing two and burning down more than 1,000 homes and buildings," continued to spread. The [New York Times](#) (12/16, Jordan, Fuller) reports that the fire "burn[ed] through the outskirts of the wealthy enclave of Montecito, home to many Hollywood stars" and was expected to continue to spread because of "strong winds that were forecast to continue through Saturday."

According to the [Washington Post](#) (12/16, Ufberg, Paquette), as of Saturday afternoon, "the mandatory evacuation zone...stretched 17 miles long and about 5 miles wide, running from the mountains northwest of Los Angeles to the Pacific Ocean." The Post notes that "rain isn't expected to quench the area for another 10 days." In addition, the Post states that "the cost of battling the blaze has exceeded \$104 million, officials said, as more than 8,000 firefighters work to suppress it." In a brief report, the [CBS Weekend News](#) (12/16, story 2, 0:30, Ninan) said the fire is the third largest "in California's modern history."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Justice Audit: Tribal Law Enforcement Flawed.

The [Arizona Republic](#) (12/15, Wagner) reports that “an audit issued Thursday by Justice Department inspectors says Indian nations are being short-changed on crime fighting because federal agents, prosecutors and tribal police have failed to develop a coordinated system mandated by Congress.” The DOJ Office of Inspector General review “says the failure to establish an overall plan or controlling agency for law enforcement has created a ‘lack of DOJ-level accountability.’” The report has “14 recommendations, including policy and organizational changes, a uniform crime-tracking method and improved training.”

Jail In Lame Deer Holds More Than Twice Its Capacity, Report Finds.

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (12/17, Tollefson) reports that “the Lame Deer jail has been operating above capacity since 1999, a year after the BJS began collecting data on Indian Country jails.” When asked about the crowding, BIA spokeswoman Nedra Darling “said inmate populations fluctuate daily and the agency’s Office of Justice Services relocates inmates to other facilities ‘as warranted.’” However, “the crowding could soon come to an end.” In November, the BIA “announced it would reopen the privately-owned Two Rivers Detention Facility in Hardin by January.”

Council Bluffs Sues Over Tribe’s Plan For Carter Lake Casino.

The [AP](#) (12/15) reports that “the city of Council Bluffs is suing the federal government to stop a Native American tribe from building a casino just seven miles away in Carter Lake.” City attorney Richard Wade asserts in U.S. District Court documents “that a Ponca Tribe of Nebraska casino would compete with state-licensed casinos in Council Bluffs and cut into millions of dollars in fees, taxes and charitable contributions that benefit the city’s residents.” The National Indian Gaming Commission and the Interior Department “cleared the way for the tribe’s casino plan in November.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Investigator Alleges Misconduct In Armed Nevada Standoff.

The [AP](#) (12/15) reports that “a lead investigator with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management who looked into how his agency handled an armed standoff with ranchers in Nevada is alleging misconduct in a whistleblower memo, a newspaper that obtained the document reported Friday.” Last month, Larry Wooten, lead case agent and investigator for the BLM, sent a whistleblower email to the U.S. Department of Justice, alleging a “widespread pattern of bad judgment, lack of discipline, incredible bias, unprofessionalism and misconduct, as well as likely policy, ethical and legal violations among senior and supervisory staff” at the Bureau of Land Management’s Office of Law Enforcement and Security. The document “obtained by The Oregonian/OregonLive prompted the attorney for lead defendant Cliven Bundy to file a motion to dismiss the case.”

Also reporting are the [Arizona Republic](#) (12/15, Anglen), the [Oregonian](#) (12/17, Bernstein), the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (12/15, Wiles), and [KTVB-TV Boise \(ID\)](#) Boise, ID (12/16).

Conoco Hopes To Crack Open Off-Limits North Slope Land.

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (12/15, Harball) reported that as ConocoPhillips dominates oil development in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska and controls more than 1,000 square miles in the reserve, it is looking to explore more locations in the reserve. Conoco has located more opportunities to the west of its current developments and has asked “the federal government to re-draw the map,” which includes the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area that is off-limits. Currently, “the Interior Department is re-evaluating the Obama-era decision that more than doubled the size of the protected area around Teshekpuk Lake.” The Department of the Interior has not indicated when a decision will be made.

Once-Popular Swim Hole Still Closed As Agency Mulls Its Fate.

The [AP](#) (12/18) reports that “four years after the U.S. Bureau of Land Management shut down the Ash Springs Recreation Site due to safety and environmental concerns, agency officials still haven’t decided what to do with the once-popular swimming hole 100 miles (160 kilometers)

north of Las Vegas." Public meetings have "been held to brainstorm a plan for the site's future, but nobody has swam in the spring-fed swimming hole since July 2013." Assistant Field Manager Shirley Johnson "says the bureau is nearly finished with an environmental assessment draft for the site, but she declined to say when the document might be ready for public viewing."

Agencies Approve Coal Lease Modifications.

The [Montrose \(CO\) Press](#) (12/16, Heidelberg) reports that the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management "in separate decisions this week approved Arch Coal's request to modify two of its leased parcels in the North Fork Valley." Scott Armentrout, forest supervisor for the Paonia Ranger District, "on Dec. 11 signed a final record of decision and by so doing, consented to the BLM allowing one lease to increase by 786 acres and the other, by 915." On Dec. 15, the Interior Department "issued a record of decision concurring, and also authorized on-lease exploration under a host of terms." Katharine MacGregor, a deputy assistant secretary for the U.S. Department of the Interior, wrote in the Friday record of decision, "I have determined that modifying the leases serve the interests of the United States; there is no competitive interest in the lands or deposits and the additional lands or deposits cannot be developed as part of another potential or existing independent operation."

Proposal To Sample Parkdale Area Hard Rock Minerals Prompts Public Comment Query.

The [Mountain Mail](#) (12/15) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is "seeking public comments until Jan. 12 on its draft environmental assessment on a proposal to sample hard rock minerals in the Parkdale area in Fremont County."

Bureau Of Reclamation

KID Board Supports 'Takings' Appeal, Preps For Drought.

The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (12/17, Dillemath) reports that "Klamath Irrigation District board of directors unanimously voted Thursday to support an appeal of the so-called 'takings case' ruling, joining Tululake and Klamath Basin Irrigation Districts." The move "commits the board to financially support an appeal to the ruling, collectively with other districts." According to the article, "the total costs spread out between affected districts is at least \$75,000, which includes funding already gathered by the districts."

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

31 Million Barrels Of Oil Later, New Life For Old Rig.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (12/15, Eaton) reported Shell's retired Cougar platform is being left on the floor of the Gulf of Mexico to serve as an artificial reef for a variety of aquatic invertebrates and migratory fish. Ruth Perry, a marine scientist and regulatory affairs specialist at Shell, said, "These platforms are essentially the gas stations or rest stops in the Gulf. ... The artificial reefs allow ecosystems to grow. We've seen growth within hours or days or weeks." The platform was used as part of the federal Rigs to Reefs program that has recycled more than 450 offshore rigs into artificial reefs in US waters.

Workers Injured In Shell Platform Fire In Gulf Of Mexico File Suit.

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (12/15, Larino) reported that the three workers injured during a fire on Shell's Enchilada platform are suing the company, alleging the oil major, its Gulf of Mexico subsidiary and a pipeline operator disregarded the health and safety of the workers prior to the incident. The lawsuit seeks more than \$1 million in damages through a jury trial.

Fish And Wildlife Service

Drilling In Section Of ANWR Included In Final GOP Tax-reform Package.

The [Washington Times](#) (12/17, Wolfgang) reports that the final tax reform package includes a "controversial provision" to allow a section of ANWR "to be opened to oil exploration," and environmentalists "over the weekend launched a last-ditch effort to halt the initiative, though their efforts almost surely will be in vain." According to the article, "green groups are well aware

that drilling in ANWR would represent a major blow to their agenda, and they're pressuring lawmakers publicly and behind the scenes in the hopes of getting a last-minute change to the tax bill."

[The Hill](#) (12/15, Henry) reported that most of the House Republicans that are against ANWR drilling say the inclusion of the provision in the tax bill is not a deal-breaker. Environmentalists are planning a series of advertisements and awareness campaigns to pressure lawmakers to vote against the provision. The Wilderness Society's senior managing director for government relations Drew McConville said, "Our message is pretty consistent and clear: a vote for this bill is a vote to drill in the ANWR. ... I know there are other issues in this bill, but we fully expect that this is a big part of the calculation: You can't be for preserving the refuge and vote of this bill."

The [AP](#) (12/15) also provided coverage.

Permits For Elephant Hunting Trophies From Zimbabwe Are Still Being Issued.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/15, Fears) reports that "the U.S. government continues to grant permits to hunters seeking to import the remains of elephants shot in Zimbabwe as trophies, federal documents show." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "awarded permits to 16 people in 11 states who requested them between January 2016 and as recently as October, according to Friends of Animals, a nonprofit environmental group that obtained documents through a Freedom of Information Act request." In a statement, the FWS said, "We did not issue new permits for elephant trophies from Zimbabwe in violation of our import. They were only for animals legally hunted during the Obama administration and prior to the 2014 suspension."

Grizzly Bears The Focus Of Forest Plan Amendments.

The [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (12/16, Devlin) reports that "with the preservation of grizzly bear populations in mind, four national forests in western Montana released the final version of proposed management plan changes this week." The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (12/16, Chaney) reports that the Flathead National Forest Plan final draft, "released Thursday, includes the proposed rules for managing grizzlies in four national forests that share management responsibility for the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem. Public comments are due in mid-February."

Additional coverage was provided by The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (12/16, Scott)

Endangered Topminnow's Return To Santa Cruz River In Tucson Is A Big Step To Recovery.

The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (12/15, Davis) reports that "the discovery of endangered Gila topminnows in the Santa Cruz River near Tucson puts the tiny native fish a step closer to recovery, a federal biologist said Friday." According to Doug Duncan, a fish biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "'dozens' of the imperiled minnows were captured as part of a fish survey on the Lower Santa Cruz in early November." The article notes that "it was the first time the endangered minnow has been seen in the Santa Cruz near Tucson since 1943."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arizona Daily Independent](#) (12/17, DuHamel).

Enviro Groups Lose Bid To Stop Florida Phosphate Mine.

[Courthouse News](#) (12/15, Pickett) reports that Mosaic Fertilizer "can proceed with plans to greatly expand mining operations in Florida, a federal judge ruled." In his decision, U.S. District Judge Steven Merryday "dismissed claims brought by four environmental groups who alleged the expansion of an existing mine and creation of three others would significantly damage 57,000 acres wetlands and woodlands in Southwest and Central Florida."

National Park Service

Third Attack By Marine Mammal In San Francisco's Aquatic Park Prompts Swimming Ban.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/15, Lin, Mejia) reports that "a third attack by a sea mammal in San Francisco in a week has prompted officials to ban swimming in the Aquatic Park Cove on the northern edge of the city's waterfront." On Friday, the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park tweeted, "The Aquatic Park Cove has been closed to swimming due to reports of an aggressive marine mammal biting swimmers in the area." The closure is scheduled at least through Monday.

Also reporting are the [Washington Post](#) (12/16, Wang), the [Daily Mail](#) (12/16), [Newsweek](#) (12/15, Perez), and [KNTV-TV San Jose \(CA\)](#) San Jose, CA (12/15).

Proposed Refinery Near Western North Dakota National Park Spurs Debate Over Economic, Conservation Concerns.

The [Dickinson \(ND\) Press](#) (12/15, Hageman) reports that conservationists are fighting a proposed oil refinery near Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The project, proposed by Meridian Energy Group, "hit a major milestone this month when the North Dakota Department of Health released its draft air permit." The National Parks Conservation Association has "already rallied people to urge Meridian to relocate the facility, citing potential threats to air quality, views, night skies and 'natural soundscape.'"

Park Rangers Take Over Law Enforcement Duties At Hoover Dam.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (12/17, Goodyear) reports that "changes have come to security at Hoover Dam, with National Park Service rangers taking over law enforcement duties from the now-defunct Bureau of Reclamation police department." According to the article, "one factor contributing to the decision was construction of the Mike O'Callahan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge, allowing traffic to bypass the dam." The Bureau of Reclamation's security force "continues to handle security needs for the Hoover Dam facility, and when it encounters a situation where law enforcement is needed, the park rangers will come in."

PG&S Granted \$5,000 From Park Service.

The [Harrison \(AR\) Daily Times](#) (12/15) reports that "the Pindall, Gilbert and St. Joe (PG&S) Volunteer Fire Department has been awarded a \$5,000 National Park Service Rural Fire Assistance Program grant from Buffalo National River." Buffalo National River Deputy Superintendent Laura Miller said, "This grant will be used to purchase much needed firefighting equipment and personal protective gear. We appreciate the hard work and dedication of all volunteer firefighters, and we are fortunate to have such a great working relationship with PG&S Volunteer Fire Department."

Fees To Rise At Great Basin National Park.

The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (12/16) reports that the National Park Service has "approved fee changes for cave tours and campgrounds within Great Basin National Park." The fee change will be implemented on Jan. 1. The article notes that "a public comment period was held in 2016, and most comments came back in support of the proposed fee changes."

Park Service Eliminating Fees For Washington's Museum In Morristown For 2018.

The [Morristown \(NJ\) Green](#) (12/15) reports that starting next year, Morristown National Historical Park will "no longer charge an entrance fee to visit the park's Washington's Headquarters Museum." After conducting a cost-benefit analysis of the recreational fee program, "park leadership determined that it is in the best interest of both Morristown National Historical Park and the public to eliminate the entrance charge at the museum (which also includes a guided tour of the Ford Mansion)." Park Superintendent, Tom Ross noted that, "This decision is the right thing to do for both visitors and our staff members, who now can focus their time and talents on the core missions of the National Park Service."

Yosemite's Last Native American Village Being Rebuilt.

The [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (12/16, George) reports that "the last Native American village in Yosemite Valley, destroyed by the National Park Service by 1969," is being rebuilt. The project is led by a committee of the American Indian Council of Mariposa County/Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation. Yosemite spokesman Scott Gediman says, "It's our job as the National Park Service to preserve and protect the park and the resources, but telling the cultural history and telling the story about the Native Americans is equally as important to our mission, not just for us as the National Park Service to tell the story, but to have the tribes and the tribal members tell the story. It's unique and it's exciting and it's great for everybody."

Dunes Learning Center Has Educated Youngsters For 20 Years.

The [AP](#) (12/17, Russell) reports that since opening in 1998, Dunes Learning Center has "taught more than 100,000 youngsters, in grades four through high school, about the uniqueness of the Indiana Dunes." According to Executive Director Geof Benson, "students from the Region, Chicago and as far as central Indiana and southwest Michigan have come to hike the dunes, spend the night in cabins and leave with a greater appreciation of their environment."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Defense Department To Investigate Chinese Aid To Micronesia.

The [Hawaii Free Press](#) (12/17) reports that “the \$700 billion 2018 National Defense Authorization Act, signed by President Trump in mid December, calls on the Department of Defense (DOD) to investigate the growing role of China in former US territories in the Pacific.” According to the article, “that is a recognition both of the islands’ importance to US global strategy, as well as the latest indicator that America’s decades long relationship with its former dependencies is a partnership under stress.” Neil Mellen, founder of Habele, a US educational nonprofit operating across Micronesia, said, “Congress and the Administration are to be commended. America is best served when her allies’ support comes from a position of strength, sovereignty, and real partnership, rather than mere dependency. Careful examination of our nation’s track record in the post-war Pacific, as well as the increasingly caustic role played by others, is long overdue.”

US Geological Survey

USGS And NASA Select New Landsat Science Team.

[GISuser](#) (12/15) reports that a new Landsat Science Team has been selected by the US Geological Survey and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Thomas Loveland, chief scientist at the USGS Earth Resources Observation and Science Center and co-chair for the Landsat Science Team, said, “This oncoming team is really in a pivot-to-the-future mode, as previous team contributions led to significant advancements that give the Landsat program a stronger long-term foundation.”

Additional Reading.

- *Giant Volcano Erupting In Bali Could Help Predict Future Deadly Lava Flows.* [Newsweek](#) (12/17, Bartels).
- *Strong Earthquake Strikes Indonesia; 3 Dead.* [CNN](#) (12/15, Quiano, Sterling).

Opinion Pieces

Frank Miele: Editor’s 2 Cents, Swamp Critters Target Ryan Zinke, But I’m Betting On The SEAL.

In a piece for the [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (12/16, Miele), Frank Miele, managing editor of the Daily Inter Lake, defends Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who has “seemingly” become “the left’s favorite target after President Trump himself.” Miele, who “got to know” Zinke “as a state legislator, a local businessman, and even as a member of our editorial board for a brief tenure,” is bewildered by the media’s treatment of Zinke.

Our Public Lands Need Balanced — Not Extremist — Leadership.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (12/17, Shea), Patrick Shea, a former director of the Bureau of Land Management and deputy assistant secretary for Land and Minerals at the Department of the Interior, raises concerns with President Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s “recent attacks on national monuments and public lands.” Shea is “specifically troubled by the rumors about Secretary Zinke’s choice for BLM Director — Karen Budd-Falen.” According to Shea, Budd-Falen has “a history of effectively undermining the core functions of the BLM.” Shea argues that “Budd-Falen’s narrow perspective and alignment with fringe interests makes her uniquely unqualified to lead an agency charged with managing multiple uses across a diverse landscape.”

The Endangered Species Act Is An Ineffective Regulatory Burden.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (12/15, Henneke), Robert Henneke, general counsel and director of the Center for the American Future at the nonprofit Texas Public Policy Foundation, argues that “when species are endangered, the Endangered Species Act is an ineffective tool for protecting them.” Noting that “less than one percent of the species listed have ever been delisted over the forty-year tenure of the ESA,” Henneke argues that “this shows the ESA is not working, nor accomplishing its goals set by Congress.” Furthermore, Henneke asserts that “when it’s abused to stifle economic development, undermine private property rights and destroy jobs, it’s

counterproductive to one species in particular — our own.”

Commentary: Couldn't Hatch Think Of Something Better Than This Monument Nonsense To Ask Trump For?

In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/17, Hedden), Bill Hedden, the executive director of the Grand Canyon Trust, criticizes the move “to rob protections from more than 2 million acres of the Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears national monuments.” Hedden questions why Sen. Orrin Hatch pushed for the reduction, asking, “Couldn't he think of something else that might have provided greater benefit to Utah?” Hedden writes that “we should pay attention to what” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “learned from the millions of public comments on national monuments: More than 99 percent of Americans who spoke out told him they want the monuments protected.”

'The Case Of The Missing Frog'.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Times](#) (12/17, Miller), Henry Miller, the Robert Wesson Fellow in Scientific Philosophy and Public Policy at Stanford University's Hoover Institution, writes in *Weyerhaeuser v. United States Fish and Wildlife Service*, “the government seeks to seize control of land it does not own, to protect an endangered species of frog that does not live there, force private landowners to tear down a healthy native forest, and install at landowner expense a new forest the landowner does not want.” Miller argues that the Supreme Court should review the case and “in its ultimate decision demonstrate that the Fish and Wildlife Service should be held to the clear language of the Endangered Species Act.” Miller also urges acting FWS head Greg Sheehan to “undo the rule making that produced this overreaching and destructive regulation.”

Tribune Editorial: Bureaucratic Kinks May Block The Lake Powell Pipeline. Good.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/16) editorialized that on Tuesday, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approved a pipeline project, that would bring “water from the rapidly shrinking Lake Powell 140 miles west to the rapidly growing St. George area.” The project has an estimated cost of nearly \$1 billion and could “find itself consumed by federal red tape.” The “red tape” may come in the form of other agencies reviewing the project such as the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management as FERC only approved six hydroelectric generating stations.

Additional Reading.

- *Interior Secretary Zinke Reportedly Dressed Down Joshua Tree Superintendent Over Climate Change Tweets.* [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/15, Martelle).
- *Trump's Deregulatory Promises Are Coming True And Saving \$570 Million.* [The Hill](#).
- *Follow The Founders And Privatize Public Lands.* [Forbes](#) (12/17, Hanke).
- *Reducing Antiquities Act Land Grabs.* [Townhall](#) (12/16, Driessen).
- *Reducing Antiquities Act Land Grabs.* [Canada Free Press](#) (12/17, Driessen).
- *Time To Create A Cascade-Siskiyou National Park.* [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (12/15, Wuerthner).
- *Richards: National Monument Shrinking Undermines Native Voices.* [Daily Utah Chronicle](#) (12/16, Richards).
- *Guy W. Farmer: Preventing Federal Land Grabs.* [Nevada Appeal](#) (12/16, Farmer).
- *Management Tools.* [Mount Desert \(ME\) Islander](#) (12/15).
- *Well-planned, Rapid Taking Of Public Lands In Works.* [Montana Standard](#) (12/17, Schoonen).
- *Editorial: So Much For Access For All.* [Traverse City \(MI\) Record-Eagle](#) (12/17).
- *Dear President, Domestic Food Production Is Connected To Federal Lands.* [Tri-State Livestock News \(SD\)](#) (12/15, Thurm).
- *Trump's Offshore Oil Plan Is Coming.* [Santa Cruz \(CA\) Sentinel](#) (12/16, Haifley).
- *Block Offshore Drilling In Florida.* [Bradenton \(FL\) Herald](#) (12/15).
- *STEPHEN J. WUKELA: Drilling Off SC Coast A Bad Idea.* [Florence \(SC\) Morning News](#) (12/17, Wukela).
- *Protecting National Parks.* [Parkersburg \(WV\) News and Sentinel](#) (12/17, Myer).
- *Urgent: Extended Deadline – The National Park Service Needs To Hear From You.* [Huffington Post](#) (12/16, Carli).
- *Is The Best Science Always Used?* [Escanaba \(MI\) Daily Press](#) (12/16, Kobasic).

- *Rutledge: Protect The Law That Protects America's Birds.* [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (12/15, Rutledge).
- *Hoping Judge Will See My Logic In Using Up My Last Lead Shot.* [Modesto \(CA\) Bee](#) (12/16, Taylor).
- *Hope Next BLM Director Will Listen To Communities.* [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (12/16, Henry).
- *Mike Bleech: Federal Chronic Wasting Disease Legislation Announced.* [Erie \(PA\) Times-News](#) (12/17, Bleech).
- *Let's All Demand Higher Quality Water Management.* [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (12/16, Grubbe).
- *It's Time To Reverse The Damage Caused By Snake River Dams.* [Idaho Statesman](#) (12/16, Jackson).
- *My Experience Photographing For The National Park Service.* [PetaPixel](#) (12/16, L'Ecuyer).

Top National News

Trump Denies Plans To Fire Mueller In Wake Of Controversy Over Transition Emails.

President Trump said Sunday that he is not considering firing special counsel Robert Mueller and in Sunday show appearances, and Administration officials said they were not aware of any such plans. The denials garner heavy media attention, but they came a day after Trump lawyer Kory Langofer said in a letter to Congress that Mueller improperly obtained emails from the President's transition team. Langofer's letter gets a great deal of media coverage, much of which casts the claim as the latest in a series of moves designed to undermine Mueller's investigation, which has prompted speculation among Democrats that Trump is maneuvering to fire the special counsel.

[The Hill](#) (12/17, Manchester) reports Trump said Sunday he is not considering firing the special counsel. Asked by a reporter if he was considering firing Mueller, Trump said, "No, I'm not." Errol Barnett reported on the [CBS Weekend News](#) (12/17, story 4, 1:25, Quijano) that Trump "insisted nothing will be found on his transition team's emails, now in Mueller's possession." [Reuters](#) (12/17) also reports on Trump's denial to reporters that he is considering firing Mueller.

The [Washington Times](#) (12/17, Richardson) reports that Treasury Secretary Mnuchin and White House Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Short "said Sunday in separate interviews that they were unaware of any such discussions." Mnuchin told [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (12/17, Tapper), "I was at dinner last night with the President and Vice President. I haven't heard anything about this, any firing." [Politico](#) (12/17, Matishak) reports that Short said on [NBC's Meet the Press](#), "There's no conversation about that in the White House whatsoever." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/17, King) says that while the White House "sought to tamp down speculation Trump would move directly against the special counsel," Mnuchin "noted the president had the authority to remove Mueller if he wished," saying, "that's obviously up to him."

The [Washington Post](#) (12/17, Rucker, Dawsey, Horwitz) says Trump "sought to douse" the speculation "amid an intensifying campaign by Trump allies to attack the wide-ranging Russia investigation as improper and politically motivated." [AFP](#) (12/17) also reports that Republicans have, in recent weeks, "cast doubt on its impartiality and pressed for a new independent prosecutor to investigate anti-Trump bias," which has "led to speculation that the administration could be laying the groundwork for firing Mueller."

David Wright said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/17, story 3, 2:50, Llamas) that Democrats are concerned that Trump "is searching for a pretext to fire Mueller." Eliana Johnson of [Politico](#) said on [CNN Inside Politics](#) (12/17), "The larger project, really, is to turn the Mueller investigation into the Starr investigation, which some people took seriously, but by the time the findings were released, it was considered a political and politicized process that was dismissed by half the country."

[Politico](#) (12/17, Cheney) describes "a sense of foreboding" among congressional Democrats, "who fear that GOP lawmakers, the White House and conservative media figures are orchestrating a messaging campaign with one logical goal: the firing of special counsel Robert Mueller by President Donald Trump." Democrats, [Politico](#) adds, are "viewing the situation in near-apocalyptic terms."

Several Democrats defended Mueller Sunday. Sen. Chris Van Hollen said on [ABC's This Week](#) (12/17), "I think Republicans should end their concerted effort to undermine the credibility of the Mueller investigation." He added that despite alleged donations to one party or another "people in these jobs have integrity." He defended Mueller saying he was a "straight shooter" and would get to the facts. Sen. Joe Manchin told [NBC's Meet the Press](#) (12/17, Todd), "I do not at all believe that Mr. Mueller's has been compromised, or his investigation. ... I think he's beyond reproach." Sen.-elect Doug Jones said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (12/17, Tapper), "I would be very surprised if Bob Mueller did anything illegally. ... I think he's moving fairly expeditiously because he understands the importance of trying to get this over and out in the open as soon as possible."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/17, Viswanatha) reports that Democrats and other Mueller defenders have expressed concern that Trump may fire Mueller, and several Republicans expressed concern about possible bias in the investigation but said it would be a mistake to fire Mueller. Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn told [ABC's This Week](#) (12/17) the possible conflicts of interest could undermine the investigation, but firing Mueller would be a mistake.

Concerns that Trump is considering firing Mueller come as Langhofer argued in a letter to Congress that Mueller improperly obtained emails from the transition. [The Hill](#) (12/17, Carter) says prosecutors in Mueller's office "reportedly used the emails to question witnesses, and are also looking to the messages to confirm information and follow new leads." However, in what the [New York Times](#) (12/17, Schmidt) calls "the latest in the mounting attacks by the president and his surrogates on Mr. Mueller's investigation," Langhofer wrote that the GSA, which had the transition team emails, provided them to Mueller's investigators without allowing transition team lawyers to review them. According to Langhofer, the documents should have been protected by a number of privileges, including attorney-client privilege.

The [AP](#) (12/17, Braun, Day) reports that Langhofer said then-GAS General Counsel Richard Beckler, who was appointed by Trump but has since died, "had assured the transition in June that any request for records from Mueller's office would be referred to the transition's attorneys." However, GSA Deputy Counsel Lenny Loewentritt "told BuzzFeed that Beckler didn't make a commitment to the transition team that requests from law enforcement for materials would be routed through transition lawyers." Langhofer blames Beckler and other GSA career staff "for providing the transition documents to the FBI."

The [Washington Post](#) (12/16, Gearan, Rucker), which calls Langhofer's letter "the latest in a series of legal and public relations moves by Trump's allies to attempt to undermine Mueller's investigation and portray it as politically motivated," reports that Trump "appeared to back" Langhofer's claims, saying Sunday, that "a lot of lawyers thought that was pretty sad." Asked if Mueller had obtained the documents improperly, Trump said, "Not looking good. It's not looking good." [AFP](#) (12/17) similarly says Langhofer's claims are "the latest attack on the credibility of the probe into Russian meddling in the US election."

[Axios](#) (12/17, Allen) reports that Trump transition officials plan to ask Mueller to return the "many tens of thousands" of transition emails. Axios cites "a source close to" the transition who "said the transition will send a letter to Mueller informing him that some of the emails are privileged, and asking for their return. The transition says it is willing to provide Mueller with vetted emails." Citing the Axios report, the [New York Post](#) (12/17, Schultz) says Peter Carr, "a spokesman for Mueller's office stood by the way the special counsel obtained the documents." Carr said, "When we have obtained emails in the course of our ongoing criminal investigation, we have secured either the account owner's consent or appropriate criminal process."

[USA Today](#) (12/17) reports that Trump "said he was confident that the emails wouldn't show any evidence that his campaign or transition teams colluded with Russia in the 2016 election." Said Trump, "I can't imagine there's anything on them, frankly, because as we said, there's no collusion." Kelly O'Donnell said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/17, story 5, 2:50, Snow) that "White House officials stayed out of it." White House Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Short: "Thankfully I'm not in communication with the transition lawyer for the Trump team."

[Politico](#) (12/17, Cheney) reports that House Oversight Committee Chairman Trey Gowdy said Sunday that the complaint from Trump's transition attorney's should be settled by the courts, not Congress. A Gowdy spokeswoman said in a statement, "These are issues to be briefed by the parties (or others with cognizable legal claims and standing) and decided by the court – not Congress." The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/17, Yilek) also reports on the Gowdy aide's comments, citing the Politico report.

Russian Oligarchs Sue Fusion GPS Over Trump Dossier. The [Washington Times](#) (12/17, Scarborough) reports that "three of Russia's richest oligarchs," Mikhail Fridman, Petr Aven and

German Khan, have filed a lawsuit against Fusion GPS, which produced the so-called "Trump dossier," saying they became "'collateral damage' in Fusion's war to destroy the Donald Trump campaign." A Dec. 12 filing in US District Court for the District of Columbia says, "This is a defamation case brought by three international businessmen who were defamed in widely disseminated political research reports commissioned by political opponents of candidate Donald Trump in the 2016 presidential election cycle. ... The reports are gravely damaging in that, directly or by implication, they falsely accuse the plaintiffs – and Alfa, a consortium in which the plaintiffs are investors – of criminal conduct and alleged cooperation with 'Kremlin' to influence the 2016 presidential election."

Instagram Post From Russian "Troll Farm" Has Spread Quickly. The [New York Times](#) (12/17, Frenkel) reports that an Instagram post of a woman wearing a black hijab and text warning that she "hates everything from Jews and Christians to lesbians and wine – yet she 'complains about Islamophobia'" has been "liked" by more than 6,000 people since it was posted on Nov.8. The post "was created by the Internet Research Agency, or I.R.A., a so-called Russian troll farm that employed hundreds to influence discussions online by stirring debate in comment sections below online stories and creating provocative posts on social media." While the account on which the post first appeared "was banned by Instagram this year...other accounts continue to spread the image." The post, the Times adds, "demonstrates why fighting propaganda on social media will be an uphill battle."

Putin Thanks Trump For Intel That Foiled Terror Attack.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/17, story 3, 2:50, Llamas) briefly reported Russian President Vladimir Putin called President Trump Sunday "to thank him for a CIA tip" that helped the Russians "foil a possible attempted terrorist bombing in St. Petersburg." Noting that the information the US provided helped Russia capture the suspected terrorists, the [CBS Weekend News](#) (12/17, story 5, 0:20, Barnett) briefly said Trump "continues to maintain a positive relationship" with Putin. [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/17, story 5, 2:50, Snow) mentioned that the Kremlin first revealed the call, "and then later, the White House did acknowledge the call and said President Trump sees it as an example of good cooperation."

The [AP](#) (12/17, Isachenkov) reports the Kremlin said, "The information received from the CIA proved sufficient to find and detain the criminal suspects." The White House said in its readout of the call that "based on the information the United States provided, Russian authorities were able to capture the terrorists just prior to an attack that could have killed large numbers of people." The White House added that Trump then called CIA Director Pompeo "to congratulate him, his very talented people, and the entire intelligence community on a job well done!" [USA Today](#) (12/17, Korte) reports the White House summary of the call "also emphasized agreement that the intelligence cooperation was 'an example of the positive things that can occur when our countries work together.'" The [New York Times](#) (12/17, Kramer) says Putin offered "rare words of praise for the CIA."

The [Washington Post](#) (12/17, Filipov) calls the conversation "unusual," noting "countries share intelligence all the time, but presidents rarely publicly thank one another for it," and also notes that it "was the two presidents' second conversation since Thursday." [Bloomberg News](#) (12/17, Rudnitsky) likewise notes that Putin spoke with Trump "for the second time in four days."

[Reuters](#) (12/17) reports the White House "did not disclose details about the plot itself," but said the attack "could have killed large numbers of people." Neither the Kremlin nor the White House "identified the would-be attackers," but Russian media reported last week that the Federal Security Service had detained ISIS militants "who had been planning a suicide bomb attack on Kazansky Cathedral on Saturday." The [New York Post](#) (12/17, Schultz) also reports that the agency "said the suspects were plotting a suicide bombing in a church and a series of other explosions in the city's busiest areas" over the weekend.

Also reporting similarly on the call are [Politico](#) (12/17, Griffiths, Samuelsohn), the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/17, Marson), [Washington Times](#) (12/17, Boyer) and [Washington Examiner](#) (12/17, Scarry), among others.

Trump: Tax Reform Bill Will Be "A Great Christmas Gift" For Middle Class.

President Trump on Saturday called the final Republican tax reform bill released Friday "a great Christmas gift" for the middle class and predicted the US economy will "start to rock" after Congress passes the legislation. While media coverage portrayed the President as taking an early victory lap, analyses were more focused the specific provisions in the plan.

[Politico](#) (12/16, Samuelsohn) reports Trump "took an early victory lap Saturday as

Republicans closed in on his administration's first major legislative accomplishment and the biggest overhaul to U.S. tax policy in 30 years." [The Hill](#) (12/16, Greenwood) reports the President said, "This is going to be one of the greatest gifts for the middle-income people of this country that they've ever gotten for Christmas."

The [AP](#) (12/16, Lemire, Ohlemacher) similarly reports that Trump "defended the Republican tax cut as a good deal for the middle class while boldly suggesting it could lead to explosive economic growth." He told reporters prior to leaving for Camp David for the weekend that the legislation will "be fantastic for the middle-income people and for jobs, most of all." The President added, "I will say that because of what we've done with regulation and other things our economy is doing fantastically well, but it has another big step to go and it can't take that step unless we do the tax bill." The AP states that "no stranger to hyperbole, Trump also predicted the legislation would cause the economy to soar beyond its current 3 percent rate of growth." He asserted, "I think we could go to 4, 5 or even 6 percent, ultimately. ... We are back. We are really going to start to rock."

According to [Reuters](#) (12/16, Volcovici), the President additionally rejected "Democratic charges that it favors the rich, saying it will be 'one of the great Christmas gifts' for the middle class." Reuters reports that although "Democrats have slammed the plan as a giveaway to corporations and the rich that would drive up the federal deficit," Trump said "The Democrats have their sound bite, the standard sound bite before they even know what the bill is all about." He also "repeated on Saturday that the tax overhaul would help bring in \$4 trillion in foreign profits from U.S. companies." Trump said, "This is going to bring money in. As an example, we think \$4 trillion is going to be flowing back into the country. ... That's money that's overseas that's stuck there for years and years." The [Washington Times](#) (12/16, Boyer) reports he predicted "jobs are going to come pouring back into this country."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/16, story 4, 2:15, Diaz-Balart), Kelly O'Donnell said "jobs' is White House code for helping middle class families." O'Donnell added, "Even with unemployment at a 14-year low, the wages are stagnant. Under the GOP tax cut plan, a family of four with an income of \$73,000 could save roughly \$2,000." Nonetheless, she acknowledged "wealthy families and corporations could see the biggest gains. The corporate tax rate drops to 21 percent. The estate tax exemption would allow couples to pass on twice as much – \$22 million with no inheritance tax. The alternative minimum tax intended to prevent overuse of loopholes would kick in at a higher level – \$1 million for couples. But the AMT ends completely for businesses."

On the lead [CBS Weekend News](#) (12/16, lead story, 2:20, Ninan) broadcast, Errol Barnett said that when asked why the middle-class tax cuts are temporary, Trump asserted, "Whichever the Administration is, in years from now, they'll make it, and maybe can even make it more generous." However, House Minority Leader Pelosi insisted: "In every iteration, the GOP tax scam becomes even more cowardly, outrageous, dishonest, brazen theft from middle-class families."

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/16, Voskuhl, Wasson, Kapur) reports White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders also "applauded" the release of the final bill, which she said takes "a major step toward achieving the president's promises of faster economic growth and 'much needed financial relief to all Americans.'"

However, [Washington Post](#) (12/16, Balz) chief correspondent Dan Balz says the bill "represents a big bet on the part of congressional Republicans," who "hope that completion of the tax bill will help shield them from sizable losses in next year's elections." Balz contends that "as a morale boost to beleaguered politicians, its value should not be underestimated. Whether it will translate politically as they hope is a far different question." [Politico](#) (12/16, Schor, Caygle) says that although passage of the legislation "will be a real blow" to Democrats' morale, their "next chance at serious revenge will be at the polls next year."

Meanwhile, the [AP](#) (12/16, Fram) suggests "the quickest and most potent political victory that Republicans would savor" in passing the tax bill "may be what it averts: another big GOP legislative crash in the age of Trump." The AP concedes though that "even if Republicans are correct that tax cuts for business and the wealthy bolster the economy, it can take time for obvious results to show. And even with millions of families likely to enjoy lower taxes, many won't feel much until they file their 2018 tax returns in early 2019." The AP adds this will be "well after the November 2018 elections that may be a coin flip for control of Congress, and recent races suggest those contests may be heavily influenced by...Trump's unpopularity."

In addition, [The Hill](#) (12/16, Wilson) reports "Republicans in state Capitols across the country find themselves in a bind as they plan their own state budget requirements." The Hill adds that while "Republicans at the state level say their party must prove it is able to handle the responsibilities of leadership by notching legislative victories that voters will be able to judge next November," some GOP leaders worry "the tax package being pushed by congressional

Republicans will undoubtedly impact their states in a negative way, foisting new uncertainty into the budgetary process as tax collections have already begun to sag."

Media Analyses Examine Provisions Of Final Tax Bill. In an analysis of "The Winners And Losers In The Tax Bill," the [New York Times](#) (12/16, Drucker, Rappeport) reports "the fine print reveals that some will get a much nicer gift than others, the benefits will change over time, and some will be left out in the cold." According to the Times, "real estate developers and technology companies could see big tax cuts, while low-income households and people buying health insurance could lose out." The [AP](#) (12/16, Boak) says that Trump will be "among the personal winners in the \$1.5 trillion tax package" because in addition to securing a political victory, he will likely see "a windfall for his real estate empire, too." The AP adds also likely to benefit are oil drillers, "multimillionaire and billionaire owners of sports teams" as well as companies, lawyers, and accountants. However, the AP warns "the bill creates plenty of losers, too," including the "estimated 13 million Americans [who are] projected to lose health insurance" and the "millions of American households [that] could face tax hikes in coming years. That's because their new tax breaks are set to expire after 2025. And their taxes could creep up because the IRS has been directed to use a less generous gauge of inflation in adjusting tax brackets."

In front-page article, the [New York Times](#) (12/16, A1, Tankersley) says the legislation "does not pass the postcard test" and "leaves nearly every large tax break in place." The Times adds the final bill "was not the grand simplification of the code that Republicans promised when they set out to eliminate tax breaks and cut the number of tax brackets as they lowered rates," but rather "layers new tax complexities upon businesses large and small, and which delivers a larger share of benefits to corporations and the rich than to the middle class." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/15, Rubin) similarly acknowledged upper-middle-class Americans in states with higher tax burdens are likely to end up paying more under the bill.

In a front-page article, the [New York Times](#) (12/16, A1, Dougherty) reports the bill will "increase many homeowners' monthly housing costs by scaling back deductions that allow them to reduce mortgage interest and property taxes." The Times adds that "by roughly doubling the standard deduction, it reduces the incentive to buy homes by making far fewer homeowners eligible for preferential tax treatment."

According to the [AP](#) (12/16, Lowy), commuters are also "among the losers" since the measure "eliminates the tax incentive for private employers that subsidize their employees' transit, parking and bicycle commuting expenses." The AP reports "the reasoning behind the elimination of the deduction is that since the tax bill substantially lowers the corporate tax rate, smaller tax breaks that complicate the tax code are no longer necessary."

In contrast, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/16, Scism, Tracy) counts US property-casualty insurers, including Berkshire Hathaway Inc., Hartford Financial Services Group Inc., Liberty Mutual Insurance, and Travelers Cos., among the winners of the tax bill since the legislation closes what the Coalition for American Insurance called a loophole that allowed rivals to set up operations outside the country in jurisdictions with low tax burdens such as Bermuda and Switzerland.

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/15, Browning) reported "the top tax rate that U.S. companies would pay on an estimated \$3.1 trillion in earnings they've stockpiled overseas crept up to 15.5 percent in the final version of the GOP tax bill." According to Bloomberg, "Republicans say the 'deemed repatriation' tax imposed by the GOP bill would clear the way for many of those companies to bring their earnings back to the U.S." However, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/16, Rockoff) reports experts predict the companies will use the money to buy back shares and fund mergers rather than hire new employees or invest in their US facilities.

Meanwhile, the [New York Times](#) (12/16, Plumer) reports the bill "largely preserves key tax credits for wind and solar power and electric vehicles, reversing language in earlier versions that could have slowed the growth of renewable energy across the United States." The Times says "the last-minute changes...reflect the growing political clout of the wind and solar industries, which now provide more than 7 percent of the nation's electricity and are two of the fastest-growing energy sources." [Reuters](#) (12/16, Volcovici) similarly says that although the US renewable energy industry "expressed relief" that the bill preserves the "key" credits, several companies "raised concerns about a provision that may threaten investment in the sector." Reuters adds the Base Erosion Anti-Abuse Tax tries "to prevent multinational companies from abusing the tax code but has worried the renewable energy industry because it would limit the ability to claim a portion of production or investment credits."

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/15, Edgerton) reported the bill additionally contains two provisions that "would be a boon to private schools, but risks reducing local funds for public schools, according education advocates." Bloomberg said the legislation "would expand tax-free 529

accounts to let families save money for a child's elementary and secondary education, in addition to college," while public schools "stand to lose resources as the Republican bill also caps deductions for state and local taxes at \$10,000."

WPost A1: Middle Class Utahans Express Concerns About Tax Reform. The [Washington Post](#) (12/16, A1, Frankel) reports in a front-page article that middle class families in Utah "are still seeking basic answers about the plan and how it will affect not just their pocketbooks but their everyday lives." According to the Post, the results will be "hard to tell" because the legislation "is largely an exercise in giving with one hand and taking with the other." The Post adds "any potential effect is amplified in a state like Utah, which has the highest average family size in the nation."

Rosselló: Tax Bill "A Devastating Blow For Puerto Rico." The [New York Times](#) (12/16, Mazzei) reports the tax legislation "could deliver another hit" to Puerto Rico's economy three months after Hurricane Maria slammed into the island because the bill "would treat mainland companies in Puerto Rico, a United States commonwealth, as it does those in foreign countries, and impose a 12.5 percent tax on income they receive from intellectual property." According to the Times, "the bankrupt Puerto Rican government, which lobbied intensely for special tax treatment, fears that the bill could endanger crucial industries and thousands of jobs on the island." Gov. Ricardo Rosselló on Friday said, "This is really a devastating blow for Puerto Rico, in our greatest time of need." He added, "Congress essentially turned its back on Puerto Rico, and essentially failed in its mission. ... It's just penalizing Puerto Rico. It's putting Puerto Rico in a worse-off position."

NYTimes: Rising Inequality Created GOP Tax Bill, Which Will Cause More. The [New York Times](#) (12/16) editorializes "growing inequality helped create" the Republican tax bill, which "will widen economic inequality by lavishing breaks on corporations and the wealthy while taking benefits away from the poor and the middle class." According to the Times, "the top 1 percent of the population by wealth – the group that would primarily benefit from the tax bill – controls nearly 40 percent of the country's wealth." The Times adds that "the power of the one-percenters may help explain why President Trump, who ran as a populist, has not only abandoned any pretense of fighting for the working class but also joined Republicans in Congress in ripping up regulations that protect families and the environment – in order to help business tycoons."

Republicans Release Consensus Tax Reform Legislation As Rubio, Corker Agree To Back Bill.

In a front-page article, the [New York Times](#) (12/15, A1, Tankersley, Kaplan) reports Republican lawmakers on Friday "appeared to secure enough votes...to pass the most sweeping tax overhaul in decades, putting them on the cusp of their first significant legislative victory as leaders geared up to pass a \$1.5 trillion tax cut along party lines and send it to President Trump by Christmas." The Times says Republican leaders "notched two victories on Friday, when Senator Marco Rubio of Florida said he would vote yes after gaining a more generous child tax credit in the final bill and Senator Bob Corker of Tennessee, who voted against the initial Senate bill over deficit concerns, said he would support the legislation. The bill also won praise from Senator Susan Collins of Maine, leaving it likely to pass with all 52 Senate Republicans in support."

The [New York Times](#) (12/15, Stolberg) reports Rubio on Thursday had "threatened to vote no unless House and Senate negotiators expanded the child tax credit," but on Friday, he "won an agreement from party leaders to allow families who owe no federal income taxes to still claim up to \$1,400 of the \$2,000 child tax credit, up from \$1,100 that was in the original Senate bill." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/15, Rubin, Peterson, Hughes) reports Corker changed his stance following discussions with Senate Majority Leader McConnell and Sen. Pat Toomey. In a statement, Corker said, "I know every bill we consider is imperfect and the question becomes is our country better off with or without this piece of legislation. ... I think we are better off with it. I realize this is a bet on our country's enterprising spirit, and that is a bet I am willing to make."

Meanwhile, the [Washington Post](#) (12/15, A1, Paletta, Werner, Stein, Debonis) reports on its front-page that "under the tax plan, Americans would lose the personal exemptions that often dictate how much money is withheld from their paychecks. They would instead pay taxes through a new regime that exempts a higher level of income from taxation and then subjects much of the rest to lower rates." According to the Post, "many more Americans would have access to the child tax credit, but they would also face a new cap on the federal deduction for state and local tax payments." The Post adds that "on net, Republicans believe that the bill would lower most people's taxes. But many Americans – particularly those in high-tax states such as New York, New Jersey and California – would see their taxes go up." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/15, A1, Rubin, Hughes) reports in a front-page article that although the final legislation largely fits with earlier versions of the tax bill, Republicans abandoned some controversial measures on

education.

In the lead [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/15, lead story, 3:20, Vega) segment, senior congressional correspondent Mary Bruce reported “Republicans sealed the biggest overhaul to the nation’s tax code in a generation.” Bruce said that while the bill “is predicted to add \$1.5 trillion to the debt,” the legislation “slashes the corporate tax rate from 35 to 21 percent, a big win for big business. For individuals, it lowers the top tax rate from 39 to 37 percent, a big win for the wealthy. But it limits the new mortgage interest deduction to \$750,000.” Bruce added, “Republican senators say their priority is tax relief for the middle class.”

In the lead [CBS Evening News](#) (12/15, lead story, 2:20, Glor) segment, Nancy Cordes said “the final plan retains seven personal tax brackets, though the rates would drop for almost everyone. A family making \$75,000 a year would see its marginal rate go from 15 percent to 12 [percent].” Cordes added, “If this passes, it will secure two other big GOP priorities as well – repealing Obamacare’s individual insurance mandate and opening up parts of Alaska’s wildlife refuge to oil drilling. And there may be more tucked into the 500-page bill, which lawmakers will now have a single weekend to read.”

In its lead [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/15, lead story, 2:25, Holt) segment, Peter Alexander reported President Trump “prais[ed] the plan as monumental,” but “a majority of Americans disapprove of the Republican bill that Democrats call a sham.” Alexander added that the legislation “also delivers a serious wound to Obamacare, eliminating the individual mandate even as Americans rush to beat today’s 2018 enrollment deadline. One more key element in the final bill: The tax cut for corporations is permanent, but the cut for individuals and married couples expires in eight years.”

In addition, [The Hill](#) (12/15, Delk) reports in its “Briefing Room” blog that Senate Minority Leader Schumer “ripped the GOP’s final tax bill released Friday evening, saying Republicans will ‘rue the day’ they pass the plan.” In a separate article, [The Hill](#) (12/15, Anapol) reports Sen. Bernie Sanders also “slammed the GOP tax bill moments after Republicans released the final version” calling the legislation a “moral and economic obscenity” in a tweet.

WPost A1: Sen. Collins Takes Risk By Supporting Tax Reform In Exchange For Future Healthcare Legislation. In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (12/15, A1, Werner) reports Sen. Susan Collins is taking a “mighty leap of faith” by supporting the GOP tax bill in exchange for future healthcare funding “without knowing for certain that commitments made to her will be honored.” However, the Post adds that Collins is “poised to play an even more pivotal role in the Senate next year,” as the Republican Senate majority shrinks to 51. The piece goes on to detail Collins’ position on the bill, as well as the two healthcare bills she supports, which restore the “cost-sharing” reduction payments for insurers and create a “\$10 billion ‘reinsurance’ program that states could draw on over two years to set up high-risk pools that lower costs for patients who are particularly hard to insure.”

GOP Tax Bill’s Standard Deduction To Affect 85 Percent Of Taxpayers. Appearing on the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/15, story 2, 1:40, Glor), Jill Schlesinger analyzed the GOP tax bill, reporting that “about 85 percent of taxpayer are going to be able to claim” the increased standard deduction, making filing much easier for most Americans. She also detailed changes to mortgage interest and state and local tax deductions, and advised viewers that expect to be affected by the changes to consult with a tax professional ahead of the filing deadline.

WSJournal A1: Republican Tax Simplification Promise Falls Short For Self-Employed, Business Owners. In a front-page article, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/15, A1, Saunders) reports the GOP tax bill has followed through on a promise to simplify tax filing for those covered by the expanded standard deduction, but increases complexity for many self-employed professionals and business owners. The Journal goes on to explain how the bill treats high levels of income and business revenues, noting that some critics warn the system will incentivize complex manipulations by wealthy taxpayers seeking to minimize their payments. However, the Journal concludes that many won’t mind the added complexity, if it results in lower taxes overall.

Johnson Amendment Repeal Removed From Tax Reforms. The [Washington Times](#) (12/15, Persons) reports Senate parliamentarian on Friday blocked the repeal of the Johnson Amendment, which prevents churches and nonprofits “from endorsing candidates and advocating partisan political views.” The Times adds that “Senate rules require any addition to the tax bill must be related to taxes or spending, which they determined this language did not meet.”

Charities Worry Expanded Standard Deduction Will Lead To Fewer Donations. [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/15, story 2, 2:00, Holt) reported the GOP tax bill “is generating a fair amount of concern among the nation’s 1.6 million charities that depend on tax deductible donations,” because the expanded standard deduction is “taking away a financial incentive to donate to

charities." According to one estimate, the change "could lead to a \$13 billion drop in charitable donations."

Tax Reform Bill Retains Private Activity Bonds. [Bloomberg News](#) (12/15, Kapur) reports the GOP tax bill will "continue to subsidize municipal bonds that help businesses to finance infrastructure projects," despite their exclusion from previous versions of the plan. The bill would ensure preferred status for bonds "used to finance valuable infrastructure projects," but does not specify if it "would stop sales of tax-exempt debt for refinancings known as advance refundings, another large segment of the market that was targeted by both the Senate and House bills." Bloomberg adds that negotiations "unleashed a potentially record-setting torrent of bond sales this month, with borrowers rushing to raise money in the \$3.8 trillion municipal market before the end of the year."

NYTimes Analysis Highlights Lobbying Efforts To Influence GOP Tax Bill. The [New York Times](#) (12/15, Vogel, Tankersley) reports, "As the largest tax rewrite in decades powered through Congress, lobbyists found themselves sprinting to keep up and find ways to persuade, influence or cajole the small group of lawmakers empowered to tweak language in the final version of the joint Senate and House bill." Over half of the 11,000 registered lobbyists in Washington "reported working on tax-related issues through the first nine months of the year." The Times goes on to detail lobbyist tactics, which ranged "from boring to brass-knuckled," adding that "No matter how convincing the policy analysis or how steady the constituent pressure, though, personal and financial connections to policymakers remained among the most important currency on K Street during the tax debate."

GOP Tax Bill Incentivizes Offshoring Labor, Experts Say. The [Washington Post](#) (12/15, Lynch) reports tax experts believe the GOP tax bill "fails to eliminate long-standing incentives for companies to move overseas and, in some cases, may even increase them." Though the bill lowers the US corporate tax rate and encourages companies to keep profits in the US, the "fine print" incentivizes moving assembly lines abroad with several provisions that lowers tax burdens, the Post adds. As a result, more companies would move jobs outside of the US, in direct contradiction of President Trump's "America First" policies.

Critics Warn Tax Bill Threatens New York. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/15, Zuckerman, Barbanel) reports critics of the GOP tax bill are warning that it "is an absolute dagger in the heart of...New York." The Journal explains that nearly a third of New York City taxpayers itemize, and the bill's \$10,000 state and local tax deduction cap is far below the city's average of \$57,400. Moody's chief economist Mark Zandi says "New York's economy is a loser under the plan," and adds that some local governments may be forced to cut services. Similarly, Kathryn Wylde, chief executive officer of the Partnership for New York City, warns the bill is a "substantial tax increase for the middle class and high earners who are salaried workers," and will cost resident \$30 billion per year in additional tax payments.

Dow, S&P 500 Rise Over Tax Reform Bill Progress. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/15, Gold, Driebusch) reports the Dow Jones Industrial Average and S&P 500 recorded gains on Friday after Republican leaders announced they had secured the necessary votes to pass their final tax reform bill.

WSJournal: GOP Tax Bill Is Extremely Pro-Growth. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/15) praises the GOP tax bill, suggesting it will be the most pro-growth piece of legislation in decades. The Journal goes on to detail the bill's benefits – which include sweeping changes to corporate rates, personal tax reforms, and a repeal of the Obamacare insurance mandate – but criticizes the decision to increase the child tax credit, which does not incentivize growth.

WPost: GOP Tax Bill Is "Unjustifiable," Will Grow Economic Inequality. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (12/15) calls the GOP tax bill an "expensive, one-sided legislative power play animated by ideological misconceptions rather than a sober assessment of the country's real needs." The cuts, according to the Post, are "unjustifiable," and "will further burden low- and middle-income Americans in future generations as their government loses the means to invest in research, education, health care and infrastructure." The Post adds that the bill will "exacerbate economic inequality and add massively to the debt," and criticizes Republicans for ignoring "experts" and doubling "down on bad policy."

Trump Vows To "Rebuild" FBI, Defend Law Enforcement In Speech To Training Academy Grads.

President Trump in a speech on Friday at the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia congratulated the 2017 graduating class and pledged to "rebuild" the bureau following the "disgraceful" behavior of an agent and lawyer involved in Special Counsel Robert Mueller III's

investigation into the Trump campaign's ties to the Russian government last year. Media coverage, which includes nearly seven minutes on the network newscasts, was also heavy in print and online. Reporting cast the President's remarks criticizing the FBI's leadership while praising the new graduates and law enforcement as sending mixed messages to the bureau. In addition, the broadcasts highlighted that Trump refused to rule out a pardon for former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn, who recently pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about his contacts with the former Russian ambassador to the US.

The [New York Times](#) (12/15, Tackett) reports "Trump escalated his criticism of the F.B.I. on Friday over its investigation of possible links between Russia and his campaign, adding a new round of his own complaints to a growing conservative effort to discredit the inquiry." The Times says that prior to the event, the President told reporters, "It's a shame what's happened with the F.B.I. ... It's a very sad thing to watch." The Times adds that Trump, without citing specifics, also "described an extraordinary 'level of anger' at the F.B.I. over the investigation" and the [Washington Post](#) (12/15, Barrett, Gearan) says the President therefore pledged to "rebuild the FBI." He added, "It'll be bigger and better than ever. But it is very sad when you look at those documents, and how they've done that is really, really disgraceful, and you have a lot of very angry people that are seeing it." [Politico](#) (12/15, Samuelsohn, Gerstein) reports Trump also condemned the investigation "as a 'scam' and 'Democrat hoax' that has wasted 'millions and millions of dollars' that hasn't come up with any evidence of collusion between his 2016 campaign and Moscow."

According to the [AP](#) (12/15, Lemire, Miller), Trump's "broadside appeared to reflect his anger over revelations that senior FBI officials exchanged anti-Trump and pro-Hillary Clinton text messages while working on last year's Clinton probe and" Mueller's investigation. The [Washington Times](#) (12/15, Boyer) reports "FBI official Peter Strzok, who played a key role in the Hillary Clinton email probe, was reassigned from...Mueller's Russia investigation after officials found texts messages from him expressing support for Mrs. Clinton during the 2016 campaign and disparaging Mr. Trump." The Times adds that "Strzok had a big part in changing former FBI Director James B. Comey's early draft language about Mrs. Clinton's actions with her private email server from 'grossly negligent' to 'extremely careless.' He also conducted the FBI's interview of Mrs. Clinton."

Meanwhile, [The Hill](#) (12/15, Fabian) reports "roughly an hour after Trump spoke at the White House," he joined Attorney General Sessions and FBI Director Wray at the graduation ceremony. The Hill says the President "cast himself as a defender of law enforcement and lauded the bravery of police officers and FBI agents." He asserted, "These are great, great people. These are really heroes for all of us." Trump continued that he supports them "100 percent" and promised to "fight for you and I will never, ever let you down. Ever." The [Washington Times](#) (12/15, Miller) reports Trump added, "I am here not only to congratulate you but to honor you for your courage and your devotion and I want you to know that with me as your president, America's police will have a true friend and loyal champion in the White House – more loyal than anyone else can be."

However, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/15, Tanfani) says "Trump gave a distinctly mixed message to the FBI on Friday, saying 'people are very, very angry' about what they see as a political bias in the bureau but vowing unqualified support for law enforcement." The Times adds that although "the speech marked an opportunity for Trump to reaffirm public faith in the federal justice system as the White House faces a special counsel investigation into possible cooperation between his campaign and a covert Russian effort to undermine Hillary Clinton," the President "instead used the address to mock reporters in the room as 'fake news,' slam the visa lottery system, and praise himself" over his support for law enforcement officers.

In another article, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/15) reports Trump subsequently "[tweeted](#) a video clip of his remarks at the ceremony and extended his congratulations to graduates." In a second [video](#) from the speech, Trump "thanked 'our law enforcement families' and included the hashtag #LESM, an acronym for 'law enforcement social media.'" The Times adds that he also [replied](#) to "a message from the official account of the Secret Service thanking Trump for hosting former leaders of the Presidential Protective Division at the White House," and "[tweeted](#) thanks to members of the military, attaching to his message a video clip of his visit after the FBI ceremony to a Marine Corps base in Quantico."

[The Hill](#) (12/15, Manchester) reports Attorney General Sessions praised Trump for becoming the president in 47 years to speak "to the FBI at Quantico, their graduating police academy class." Sessions added Trump "made clear that he supports them 100 percent in their activities and that we are going to be a law enforcement administration that helps the law enforcement be successful."

Trump: Too Soon To Discuss Possibility Of Flynn Pardon. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/15, Ballhaus, Viswanatha) reports the President told reporters on Friday that it was too soon to say whether he plans to pardon former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn, who recently pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI over his contacts with the former Russian ambassador to the US prior to Trump's inauguration. [Bloomberg News](#) (12/15, John) reports Trump said, "I don't want to talk about pardons for Michael Flynn yet. We will see what happens."

[NBC Nightly News](#)'s (12/15, story 3, 2:10, Holt) Kristen Welker said the prospect of a pardon remains "big question as investigators probe potential obstruction charges – when the President learned Flynn had lied to the FBI." However, Julianna Goldman reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/15, story 3, 1:50, Glor) that "Ty Cobb, an attorney for the President, quickly said 'there is no consideration of a pardon.'"

A [Washington Post](#) (12/15, Blake) analysis describes the President's remark as "characteristically noncommittal – but suggestive" and says "nobody should read too much into this." However, the Post concedes that in this case, "the 'yet' and the FBI addendum at the end seem clearly geared toward planting a seed and even justifying a Flynn pardon were Trump to decide to do it."

Trump: US Visa Lottery System Favors "Worst Of The Worst." [Bloomberg News](#) (12/15, Sink, Epstein) reports the President "attacked U.S. immigration policy" on Friday in a speech that "in many ways resembled Trump's campaign rallies, complete with an attack on the media and a jab at Chicago's murder rate." [The Hill](#) (12/15, Delk) in its "Briefing Room" blog reports the President said, "You think the countries are giving us their best people? No." Trump added, "They give us their worst people, they put them in a bin, but in his hand when he's picking them is really the worst of the worst."

Trump Calls For Action To Address Chicago Violence. The [Daily Caller](#) (12/15, Carr) reports the President "pointed to the need for immediate action regarding gun crime in Chicago, asking what the hell is going on in the city during his Friday speech on crime and immigration." He said, "What the hell is going on in Chicago? What the hell is happening there?" Trump added, "In the last two years, America has seen a tragic rise in violent crime. In 2015 and 2016, we witnessed the steepest two year consecutive increase in murders in nearly half a century."

However, the [Chicago Tribune](#) (12/15, Lee) says the President "underestimated how bad the problem has been." The Tribune reports that according to its count, the city has had 3,456 shooting victims this year as of Thursday, which "means there has been a shooting victim every 2 hours and 25 minutes."

Trump Draws Laugh With Joke About "Fake News" Media. [The Hill](#) (12/15, Bowden) reports the President diverged "from his prepared remarks at the FBI's National Academy graduation ceremony" to joke "that many Americans were watching at home through the cameras of the 'fake news' media," though he conceded "about 30 percent" of journalists are "fine people." [Breitbart](#) (12/15, Spiering) says that the line "earned the most laughter from some attendees and members of their families."

White House Condemns FBI Over Its "Extreme Bias" Against Trump. [The Hill](#) (12/15, Manchester) reports White House deputy press secretary J. Hogan Gidley "ripped the FBI in an interview with Fox News on Friday, saying the bureau has an 'extreme bias' against President Trump in the wake of the release of anti-Trump text messages between two FBI officials." In his appearance on "Fox & Friends," Gidley said, "It is troubling, deeply troubling, that the revelations have now come to light that there is extreme bias against this president with high-up members of the team there at the FBI who were investigating Hillary Clinton at the time." Gidley continued, "We're a little concerned at what we're seeing here. Obviously, those text messages give us quite a bit of pause and should be eye-opening at an agency that should be, quite frankly unbiased." The [Washington Times](#) (12/15, Persons) reports Gidley added the President nonetheless remains "absolutely supportive of and has full faith and confidence in the rank and file members of the DOJ and also the FBI."

Sessions: FBI Taking Bias Concerns Seriously, Playing "Fabulously Important Role" Against Violent Crime. [Reuters](#) (12/15, Lynch, Walsh) reports Attorney General Sessions on Friday "offered a tepid endorsement of the nation's leading law enforcement agency," the FBI, amid criticism of the bureau by Trump and Republicans. According to Reuters, Sessions "defended the bureau, which is part of the Department of Justice that he leads, but it was not an enthusiastic endorsement." [USA Today](#) (12/15, Johnson, Jackson) says that unlike Trump, Sessions stated, "I don't share the view that the FBI is not functioning at a high level all over the country." Sessions added, "In my view, the FBI has a huge national security requirement, but it also is fulfilling a fabulously important role" in fighting violent crime. USA Today contrasts Sessions' remarks with

those of FBI Director Wray, who earlier this month “offered a ringing defense of the agency in the wake of Trump’s rebukes in which the president claimed that the bureau’s standing was the ‘worst in history.’”

However, [Bloomberg News](#) (12/15, Strohm) reports the Attorney General “said he’s concerned about allegations of bias within the FBI and will do more to monitor the behavior of employees.” Sessions pledged, “We’re going to take seriously the concerns that have been expressed. ... We will not be reluctant to admit error.” Sessions said, “We intend to monitor our people to maintain high standards. ... Sometimes things that might appear to be bad in the press have more innocent explanations, so fairness and justice should also be provided to our personnel.” The [Washington Times](#) (12/15, Noble) reports Sessions added, “Our responsibility is to provide the highest possible professional standards of law enforcement we can provide to the American people – that we do so in an effective way and we do so honorably and with integrity.”

DOJ Did Not Consult With IG Prior To Its Release Of FBI Agent’s Texts. [The Hill](#) (12/15, Greenwood) reports Justice Department Inspector General Michael Horowitz’s office in a letter to three House Democrats said Friday that it “was not consulted before the agency released an FBI agent’s text messages to Congress and the media.” According to The Hill, the letter “appeared to contradict earlier testimony from Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein as well as a statement from Sarah Flores, the director of DOJ’s office of public affairs, who told CNN that Rosenstein had consulted with the inspector general before releasing the messages.” However, “in a letter to lawmakers sent late Friday and obtained by” [Politico](#) (12/15, Gerstein, Cheney), “Horowitz noted that he’d told a House committee last month that his office had no concern about giving Congress information gathered during his review of potential election-related bias. The inspector general also acknowledged he’d ‘conveyed’ that stance directly to Justice officials.”

FBI Agents Used Texts About Trump, Clinton To Hide Affair, Sources Say. The [Washington Post](#) (12/15, Barrett) reports the texts between “senior FBI lawyer Lisa Page and senior counterintelligence agent Peter Strzok” about Trump and Clinton were sent on “work phones to try to hide their romance from a spouse and [they] made the bureau’s probe of Clinton’s private email server their cover story for being in such close contact, according to people familiar with the matter.” The Post adds that “had Page and Strzok used personal phones instead, people close to case say, it’s unlikely their text messages would have come to the FBI’s attention.” The sources identified a specific text from Page that appeared “to advise Strzok how to explain to his wife why the two of them had been texting each other.”

Kushner’s Legal Team Confirms Efforts To Hire Crisis PR Firm Over Russia Probe. The [Washington Post](#) (12/15, Dawsey) reports “senior White House official Jared Kushner and his legal team are searching for a crisis public relations firm, according to four people familiar with the matter,” including his lawyer, Abbe Lowell, who “confirmed he was looking for a firm that would handle media for all high-profile clients that receive attention from the press.” In a statement, Lowell said, “My law firm and I are considering hiring an outside consultant to handle the time-consuming incoming inquiries on the cases in which I am working that receive media attention. ... This inquiry from you about whether I am doing this is a good example of why we need one.”

Dowd, Sekulow To Meet With Mueller As Soon As Next Week, Source Says. [Bloomberg News](#) (12/15, Talev) reports Trump’s personal lawyers John Dowd and Jay Sekulow “are set to meet with Special Counsel Robert Mueller as early as next week to discuss the next phases of his Russia investigation, according to a person familiar with the matter.” Bloomberg says Dowd and Sekulow “will likely use the meeting to get a sense of the next steps in Mueller’s probe, which has already resulted in indictments and plea deals involving four former associates of the president.” [ABC World News Tonight](#)’s (12/15, story 3, 2:55, Vega) David Wright said the meeting “would be a rare sit-down for the two sides.” He added the lawyers “are hoping to get an update on where the investigation into possible collusion stands, hoping really to get a sense that that investigation might be drawing to a close. But it’s not at all clear whether Robert Mueller will give them that reassurance.”

Senate Intelligence Committee To Interview DOJ Official Tied To Fusion GPS. [CNN International](#) (12/15, Jarrett) reports a source said that the Senate Intelligence Committee on Monday is expected to interview Bruce Ohr, “a Justice Department official with ties to Fusion GPS, the opposition research firm behind the controversial Trump dossier.” CNN states that “Ohr had previously served in the deputy attorney general’s office, but according to a source familiar with the situation, was demoted amid the discovery of certain meetings with Fusion GPS founder Glenn Simpson and Christopher Steele, the former British intelligence officer who assembled the dossier.” However, CNN adds Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein “told the House Judiciary

Committee on Wednesday that Ohr had 'no role' in the Russia investigation, batting away calls for a second special counsel where there is no evidence of criminal wrongdoing."

Republicans Aim To Finish House Intelligence Committee's Russia Probe By Year End. The [New York Times](#) (12/15, Fandos) reports the House Intelligence Committee "is racing to complete its investigation of Russia's interference in the 2016 presidential election, scheduling a host of witness interviews here and in New York for next week as Congress heads for its break, and, Democrats said, leaving other leads unfollowed." The Times says "some of the most important witnesses are to be interviewed in New York by committee staff early next week, possibly leaving Democrats to choose between attending those depositions or voting on the massive tax bill coming before the House." The Times adds that "in an indication that Republicans hope to wrap up their probe, the House committee has yet to schedule a single interview after the holidays, according to two committee officials familiar with the schedule."

Meanwhile, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/15, Megerian, Bierman, Cloud) reports "Trump expects to be publicly absolved of any wrongdoing by special counsel Robert S. Mueller III by year's end or soon after, and several people around him say the often-impulsive president could erupt in anger if that unlikely timeline is not met." However, the Times says "few outside experts believe that the Mueller probe into potential collusion with Russia and obstruction of justice will conclude by year's end, as the White House hopes, given a recent flurry of interviews, indictments and plea agreements."

Special Counsel Asks Deutsche Bank To Turn Over Data On Potential Flynn Transactions. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/15, Strasburg) reports sources say US government agencies acting on behalf of Mueller's probe asked Deutsche Bank AG for information about transactions potentially linked to former national security adviser Michael Flynn.

Judge Agrees To Release Manafort From House Arrest, Retain Other Restrictions. The [AP](#) (12/15, Day) reports US District Judge Amy Berman Jackson on Friday announced she will allow the release of former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort "from his home in Virginia where he's been confined since his Oct. 30 arrest." Jackson will instead allow Manafort "to live in his home in Florida and come and go while he awaits trial. He will remain on GPS monitoring and have to get court permission to travel outside two south Florida counties. He also will have a curfew." [Reuters](#) (12/15, Freifeld, Ahmann) reports Jackson said in her order that "to be released from home confinement, Manafort must execute documents agreeing to forfeit four properties, including two in New York, one in Alexandria, Virginia, and his Florida home." According to Reuters, Manafort "is being prosecuted by Special Counsel Robert Mueller, as part of Mueller's investigation into accusations of Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election and possible collusion between Russia and the Trump campaign."

Gaetz Calls On GOP Colleagues To Support Mueller's Dismissal. [Breitbart](#) (12/15, Poor) reports Rep. Matt Gaetz in a Friday appearance on CNN's "New Day" criticized Special Counsel Robert Mueller and called upon other Republican lawmakers to back his dismissal over "numerous conflicts of interest he said that went beyond just opinion, but were actions." He also said, "It's time for Mueller to put up or shut up. If there's evidence of collusion with Russia, let's see it."

Poll: 63 Percent Of Americans Believe Trump Is Attempting To Obstruct Russia Probe. The [AP](#) (12/15, Day, Swanson) reports a new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research of 1,020 "adults" (12/7-12/11) shows "most Americans think Donald Trump did something illegal or at least unethical regarding ties between his presidential campaign and Russia – and they think he's trying to obstruct the investigation looking into those possible connections," although the "deeply divided country is more concerned about health care and the economy than any collusion with the Kremlin." The poll found 63 percent "say Trump has tried to impede or obstruct the investigations into whether his campaign had Russian ties. According to the survey, 86 percent of Democrats, 67 percent of independents and 24 percent of Republicans agree." In addition, 62 percent of Democrats "think Trump has done something illegal, while just 5 percent of Republicans think the same. Among Republicans, 33 percent think he's done something unethical, while 60 percent think he's done nothing wrong at all." The [Washington Post](#) (12/15, Bump) reports the AP-NORC poll revealed "there's been no change" in public opinions of Mueller's probe since June. The Post says the survey "reinforces" that "Trump's explicit strategy" to "convince his base that the investigations are both meritless and fruitless" is a success.

Trump Administration Halts EPA Climate Science Debate Plan.

[The Hill](#) (12/15, Cama) reports the Trump Administration is "putting a halt" to EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's "plans to organize a forum to challenge consensus on climate change science." The "red team, blue team" proposal was "halted after various administration officials met about it this

week, Climatewire reported Friday." Climatewire was told by a source following a meeting that the idea "has been put on hold." The meeting at the White House "included White House energy adviser Mike Catanzaro, White House deputy chief of staff Rick Dearborn and the EPA's air office chief, Bill Wehrum." The Hill adds "a source close to the situation told Climatewire that there might be disagreements about how to formulate the program and who should oversee it."

Sources: U.S. Opposes Climate Change Mention In New NAFTA Deal.

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/15, Mayeda) reports that sources familiar with the NAFTA renegotiation talks says the U.S. is "pushing against the inclusion of the phrase 'climate change'" and is opposed to "any mention of multilateral cooperation on the environment." Canada and Mexico, meanwhile, "favor recognizing the challenge of climate change in the agreement" and Canada is even pushing for stronger environmental standards within the deal.

Environmental Groups Threaten Legal Action To Stop EPA Reorganization.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/16, Siciliano) reported that environmental groups are considering new legal action against the Environmental Protection Agency to stop EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's plans to reorganize the agency. After a New York Times report "showed the Trump administration is penalizing polluters at a much lower level than previous Republican and Democratic administrations," the Natural Resources Defense Council said it plans to submit a Freedom of Information Act request aimed at obtaining "all records related to the development of Pruitt's enforcement policy."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"The Tax Bill That Inequality Created." The [New York Times](#) (12/16) editorializes "growing inequality helped create" the Republican tax bill, which "will widen economic inequality by lavishing breaks on corporations and the wealthy while taking benefits away from the poor and the middle class." According to the Times, "the top 1 percent of the population by wealth – the group that would primarily benefit from the tax bill – controls nearly 40 percent of the country's wealth." The Times adds that "the power of the one-percenters may help explain why President Trump, who ran as a populist, has not only abandoned any pretense of fighting for the working class but also joined Republicans in Congress in ripping up regulations that protect families and the environment – in order to help business tycoons."

Washington Post.

"Republicans Keep On Telling Voter-Fraud Fairy Tales." The [Washington Post](#) (12/16, Board) editorializes that GOP lawmakers, facing disadvantageous demographic trends, cannot admit that there is "no evidence whatsoever that voter fraud is prevalent in the United States." By creating the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity this spring, President Trump, similarly, is "using the specter of fraudulent voting to justify rules, including tougher state voter ID legislation, tailor-made to deter minority and young voters, who lean Democratic." However, the commission has been plagued with problems, including most recently a lawsuit brought against it by one of its own Democratic members, "alleging that he has been denied basic information on the panel's operations."

"Journalists Around The World Sit Behind Bars For Telling The Truth." The [Washington Post](#) (12/16) editorializes that the Committee to Protect Journalists' annual survey "found that 262 journalists are imprisoned for reasons connected to their work, an increase over last year's historical high of 259." For the second year in a row, Turkey under President Recep Tayyip Erdogan was ranked as "the worst offender," followed by China and Egypt. "Illiberalism is rising in many corners of the world, and when journalists are arrested, it is often a sign of worse to come," writes the Post, which adds that President Trump's "combative slogan of 'fake news'" only "echoes the rhetoric of despots in these countries." The Post concludes in writing, "What's not fake at all is that journalists everywhere are under increased threat because of rulers who take encouragement from Mr. Trump's malice."

"The Unchecked Threat From Russia." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (12/16) says it is "virtually uncontested" that Russian President Vladimir Putin's regime intervened in last year's presidential election "with the intention of harming U.S. democracy," and "will almost certainly seek to do so again." However, the Post writes, "there has been no concerted effort to defend the

country from this national security threat." The Post says President Trump's reasons for denying the claim "are disturbingly unclear," but "whether out of venality or vanity," he "is failing to protect the country against a serious threat."

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[GOP Tax Bill Would Set Up Years Of Challenges](#)
[Prosecutors Treat Opioid Overdoses As Homicides, Snagging Friends, Relatives](#)
[CSX Chief's Death Prompts Tough Questions About Move To Hire Him](#)

New York Times:

[EPA Employees Spoke Out, Then Came Scrutiny Of Their Email](#)
[Image Of Cooperation Between White House And Mueller Starts To Fracture](#)
[Champion Of The "Little Guy"? Trump's Actions Tell Another Story](#)
[As Venezuela Collapses, Children Are Dying Of Hunger](#)
[Toronto Buzzes With Talk Of Billionaire Couple's Suspicious Death](#)
[In One New Jersey Town, Pending Tax Changes Create Anxiety](#)

Washington Post:

[Besieged IRS Loses "Will" For Oversight](#)
[Trump: No Plan To Fire Mueller](#)
[Calif. Pot Offenders Get Chance To Clear Records](#)
[GOP Faces Scramble On Tax Bill, Budget Deal](#)
[Defiant German Mayor Takes In Refugees](#)

Financial Times:

[Zuma Stands Defiant As ANC Rivals Vie For Leadership](#)
[US Companies Set To Be Big Winners From Trump's Tax Reform](#)
[Egypt's President Sets Sights On Megacity To Rival Cairo](#)
[Brussels To Launch Tax Probe Into Ikea](#)

Washington Times:

[Pelosi's Super PAC Keeps Donations From Owners Of Prostitution Website Backpage](#)
[Concessions, Talks With Trump Win Over Tax Reform Holdouts In Senate](#)
[Russian Oligarchs Sue Trump Dossier Producer For Becoming "Collateral Damage" In Smear Campaign](#)
[Center-Left Party May Join Merkel, Giving Long-Term Hope To Germany's Right Wing](#)
[Ebola Survivors In Liberia Demand Prosecutions For Fraud And Corruption That Cost Lives](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Atlanta Airport Power Outage; Atlanta Airport Power Outage-Comment; WH-Russian Meddling Investigation; Tax Reform Plan; California Wildfires; Memphis-Murder; Pentagon-UFO Program; Home Delivery Safety Tips; NYC Apartment Fire; Toronto-Mysterious Deaths; Sky Lift Malfunction; Box Office Results; High School-Christmas Charity.

CBS: McCain Health; California Wildfires; Atlanta Airport Power Outage; WH-Russian Meddling Investigation; Tax Reform Plan; Congress-Children's Healthcare; Air Force Academy-Sexual Misconduct Investigation; Rep. Kihuen-Sexual Allegation; ISS Mission; Daughters Dancing Video; Gun Control-Citizens Interview; Voice Activated Devices-Security Concerns; NFL Player Charity.

NBC: Atlanta Airport Power Outage; California Wildfires; California Wildfires-Impact; MSNBC Host-Sexual Misconduct Settlement; WH-Russian Meddling Investigation; WH-McCain Health; Australia-North Korean Agent Arrested; Pakistan-Suicide Bombing; London-New US Embassy; Rural Homes-Family Farming; Disney World-Tigers Born; Pope Francis Birthday; Holiday Celebrations; Christmas Charity.

Network TV At A Glance:

California Wildfires – 8 minutes, 40 seconds
WH-Russian Meddling Investigation – 7 minutes, 25 seconds
Atlanta Airport Power Outage – 6 minutes, 20 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Atlanta Airport Power Outage; Tax Reform Plan; McCain Health.

CBS: Atlanta Airport Power Outage; WH-Russian Meddling Investigation; Tax Reform Plan; McCain Health.

FOX: McCain Health; Atlanta Airport Power Outage.

NPR: Trump-Putin Call; Pakistan-Suicide Bombing; Philippines-LGBT Rights; Atlanta Airport Power Outage.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Delivers remarks regarding the Administration's National Security Strategy; meets with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 3:00 PM Senate considers HUD general counsel and assistant secretary of defense nominees – Senate convenes and proceeds to executive session to resume consideration of the nominations of J. Paul Compton, Jr to be General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Owen West to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense Location: Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

US House: 5:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 3312 — Systemic Risk Designation Improvement Act of 2017' Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

Other: No relevant event scheduled.

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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DATE: MONDAY, JULY 3, 2017 7:00 AM EDT

Holiday Message

In observance of the U.S. federal Independence Day holiday, we will not publish on Tuesday, July 4, 2017. Service will resume on Wednesday, July 5, 2017. We wish our readers a safe and happy holiday.

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- Houston Chronicle: As Trump Moves To Grow Oil And Gas, House Could Curb Environmental Suits.
- The Atlantic: Democrats Allege The U.S. Doesn't Track Anti-Federal Threats.
- Casper (WY) Star-Tribune: Despite Recent Legislation, Conservation Crosses Party Lines, According To New Poll.
- Southwest Colorado Journal: Outdoor Recreation Industry Generates Billions For Colorado.
- Bozeman (MT) Daily Chronicle: Sec. Zinke Should Fight For An Appropriate Budget.
- Forbes: The Best Deal Going: Privatize US Public Lands.
- Huffington Post: This Land Is Our Land.
- Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner: Progress On King Cove Road: Interior Department Allows Survey Work For Remote Airport Link.
- Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel: Shutting Down RACs Makes No Sense.
- Havasu (AZ) News-Herald: Our View: Continued Federal Funding Necessary For Rural Western Counties.
- Washington Times: Energy Independence In America Can Be Achieved.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Cayugas Awarded Proceeds In Suit.
- Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's Casino Hopes Rekindled.
- Tribe Fights Fed's Bid To Toss Oklahoma Fracking Suit.

Bureau Of Land Management

- NBC: NBC Analysis: Exploding Population, Dwindling Budget Hindering Wild Horse Management.
- U.S. News & World Report: Diving From The Sky, Firefighters Parachute To US Wildfires.
- The Guardian (UK): The New West: Why Republicans Blocked Public Land Management.
- Colorado Springs (CO) Gazette: GUEST COLUMN: Methane Rule Hurts Colorado Residents.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- DOI Opening Public Comment Period For More Offshore Oil/Gas Leasing.
- Seismic Airgun Testing A Bad Deal For Florida.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- River Restoration Work Partially Funded Through Federal Program.

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

- Federal Offshore Well Permits Support Safe Energy And Economic Development, BSEE Says.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- The Hill: Greens Threaten To Sue Trump Over Grizzly Bear Protections.
- Minneapolis Star Tribune: Rare Butterfly Thrives On, And Because Of, US Military Bases.
- Miami Herald: Feds Ask For Public Comment On Florida Panther Endangered Status.
- U.S. News & World Report: Can California Fish Catch Break With Giant Tunnels?
- Courthouse News: Political Deals Rip Throat Out Of Wolf Recovery Plan, Enviro's Say.
- Washington Times: Alabama Bat Blitz Aims To Gauge Area Bat Population.
- Albuquerque (NM) Journal: Endangered Species Act Is Under Assault.

National Park Service

- U.S. News & World Report: Charges Dropped Against 2 Youths In Tennessee Wildfires.
- Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review: Out & About: Blanket Phone Coverage Proposed For Parks.
- New York Times: Green Thumbs Hope To Lead The Trumps Down The Garden Path.
- WTOP-FM Washington: Law Enforcement Prepares For July 4 Events On National Mall.
- Washington Post: Federal City Council To Negotiate Lease For Federally Owned Golf Courses In D.C.
- Philly (PA): The Economic Juggernaut That Is Independence National Historical Park.
- Fox News: Gettysburg Anniversary Seeing Few Flare-ups, Despite Rumors Of Violence.
- U.S. News & World Report: Rappahannock Tribe Renews Ties With Ceremony.

- Missoulian (MT): Getting The Help It Needs: Groups Work To Help Glacier Park Meet Growing Demands.
- U.S. News & World Report: Fees May Increase At Devils Tower National Monument.
- Redding (CA) Record-Searchlight: Fee Increase Proposed At Lassen Park.
- Loveland (CO) Reporter-Herald: Rocky Mountain National Park's Fall River Entrance Up For Historic Status, Possible Changes.
- Las Vegas Review-Journal: UNLV Researcher Works To Eradicate Invasive Plant.
- U.S. News & World Report: Home Of Slain Activist Named As A Historic Place.
- Washington Times: Maine City Plans \$900,000 River-Walk Project For Riverfront.

Top National News

- The Hill: Critics Say Trump's Latest Tweet Promotes Violence Against The Media.
- NBC: Trump Criticizes States Over Reluctance To Share Voter Data, Intensifies Feud With Media.
- Washington Post: Conway Defends Trump As His Feud With "Morning Joe" Hosts Escalates.
- NBC: Trump Hosts South Korean President, Urges Asian Allies To Coordinate On North Korea Efforts.
- ABC: Trump Suggests Lawmakers Should Just Repeal ACA, Replace Later.
- Reuters: Moderate Republican Lawmakers Warn Tax Reform Initiative In Jeopardy.
- Axios: Bannon Pushing Tax Hike For Wealthy To Pay For Middle, Working Class Tax Cuts.
- Forbes: White House Projected To Save \$22 Million.
- Washington Post: Source: Trump Administration Considering Effort To Examine Climate Science.
- The Hill: White House Office Of Science And Technology Policy Unstaffed.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
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 - "Europe's Deadly Paralysis On Migration."
- Washington Post.
 - "What Trump Should Say When He Meets Putin For The First Time."
 - "Trump Launches His Opening Voter Suppression Salvo."
 - "Pope Francis' Toleration Of Sexually Abusive Clergy Leaves A Stain."
- Wall Street Journal.
 - "The Senate's Tax Panic."
 - "Trump's Signals To China."
 - "Pruitt's Clean Water Break."

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DOI In The News

Cabinet Secretaries' Tough Task: Lack Of Funding, Support For Agency Missions.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/2, Eilperin, Brown) reports that "a small group of Cabinet secretaries," including Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, "are running departments with missions they have repeatedly disparaged, with employees who are secretly – and on occasion publicly – hostile." While the Secretaries "have made very public efforts to court their staff," they "frequently are crafting key initiatives in private" as the Trump Administration "sets out to overhaul the federal government." The Post says "they have erected small, secluded citadels within each department, where they can advance policies that reflect the priorities of the president."

Commissioners Show Support For National Monument Protection.

The [AP](#) (7/2) reports that "Wyoming county commissioners have signed a letter asking the U.S. Department of Interior to continue protecting national monuments." Teton County commissioners "voted Thursday to join the Mountain Pact nonprofit in their letter to Interior Secretary Ryan

Zinke regarding President Donald Trump's executive order on national monuments. Trump has asked Zinke to place national monuments designated after 1996 under review." The letter "stresses the importance of public lands to rural communities and tells Zinke to keep that in mind when the department reviews national monument designations."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (6/30, Gross).

Mesquite Council Supports Zinke's Gold Butte Review. The [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (7/1, Thomas) reports that "when Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke visits Southern Nevada next month to review Gold Butte National Monument, he will be doing so with the formal support of the city of Mesquite." The Mesquite City Council, "in a 4-1 vote last week, passed Resolution No. 927 expressing its support for Zinke's review of the recently-designated national monument." The resolution "also expressed support for the Nevada Land Sovereignty Act — a bill introduced by Sen. Dean Heller and Rep. Mark Amodei that calls for congressional action in lieu of the Antiquities Act when designating large swaths of land as a national monument."

Why The Fishing Industry Wants More Say On Papahānaumokuākea. The [Honolulu Civil Beat \(HI\)](#) (6/30, Eagle) reports that comments received on the Interior Department's review of national monuments "overwhelmingly support leaving the monuments alone." However, "not everyone feels each voice should carry the same weight — especially those supportive of Hawaii's commercial fishing industry." NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office administrator, said, "We will treat all commenters fairly."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Kaua'i \(HI\) Garden Island News](#) (7/2, Else).

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the national monuments review was provided by the [Winter Haven \(FL\) News Chief](#) (6/30, Frommer), the [Petaluma \(CA\) Argus Courier](#) (6/30, Kovner), the [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (7/1, Dumain), the [San Luis Obispo \(CA\) Tribune](#) (7/1, Sheeler), and [KCBX-FM San Luis Obispo \(CA\)](#) San Luis Obispo, CA (6/30, Mart).

Additional Commentary. Additional commentary appears in the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (7/1, Busse), the [Montana Standard](#) (7/2, Busse), the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (6/30), the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (6/30, Datko, Epstein, Fugere), the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (6/30), the [Baltimore \(MD\) Sun](#) (6/29, Carmichael), the [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (7/1), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (7/1, Minehart), the [Pagosa \(CO\) Daily Post](#) (6/30, Leentjes), the [Boston \(MA\) Globe](#) (7/1), the [Ellsworth \(ME\) American](#) (6/30, Liebow), and the [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (7/1).

Hero To Receive Medal Of Valor For Aid In Helicopter Crash At Pearl Harbor.

[KHON-TV](#) Honolulu (7/2, Mattison) reports that "a hero will be honored this Independence Day for his bravery after he helped a family involved in a helicopter crash at Pearl Harbor last year." Bryan Eisenberg was "working as a federal police officer for the National Park Service at the time of the crash." On July 4 in Washington, D.C., Eisenberg will receive the Medal of Valor from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

Additional coverage was provided by [WROC-TV](#) Rochester, NY (7/2, Chodak).

Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District Gets Federal Drought-prep Money.

[KBFX-TV](#) Bakersfield, CA (6/30) reports that the Interior Department is "awarding \$6.9 million to 17 drought-preparation projects in five states, including California." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said in a news release, "Drought continues to have serious adverse impacts throughout the West. Reclamation and its partners have been leaders in combating this drought for a hundred years. The newest infusion of Reclamation funds announced today will help communities in five states prepare for and respond to drought."

Companies Push Trump To Outsource Work In National Parks.

[The Hill](#) (6/30, Cama) reports that "companies that operate visitor services in national parks are pushing the Trump administration to outsource more work to the private sector." According to the article, "the hospitality industry is betting that President Trump's desire to cut the National Park Service's (NPS) budget, combined with the GOP's long-standing goal of moving federal functions to the private sector, presents an opportunity to make inroads in campgrounds, fee collection and other services at parks." However, "conservationists fear that increasing the role of concessioners is a slippery slope toward privatizing national parks."

The [Joplin \(MO\) Globe](#) (7/2, Murakami) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has proposed "outsourcing the management of the campgrounds to private companies, reducing labor and maintenance costs in the process." Zinke told a meeting of the RV Industry Association in early June, "As the secretary, I don't want to be in the business of running campgrounds."

As Trump Moves To Grow Oil And Gas, House Could Curb Environmental Suits.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (6/30, Osborne) reported that Republicans in Congress are investigating ways to reduce the delays to drilling and mining project on federal land because of litigation from environmental groups. Rep. Mike Johnson said, "Our legal system is an important avenue for citizens seeking redress of wrongs perpetuated by the federal government...however special interests repeatedly exploit our legal system to further their own agendas." However, Rebecca Riley, a senior attorney with the NRDC, said, "The oil and gas industry routinely files lawsuits under environmental statutes. ... I don't think [Congress] would be looking at cutting the avenue off. It's such an important means to keeping government accountable."

Democrats Allege The U.S. Doesn't Track Anti-Federal Threats.

[The Atlantic](#) (7/2, Meyer) reports that "some supporters of public lands and former federal officials argue" that recent "high-profile occupations are only the tip of a more serious crisis: a simmering and abusive siege on federal employees who work for the Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service, and other agencies that manage public lands." They also claim "that the federal government does not keep track of these types of extremist threats to federal employees." On Friday, Democratic leadership on the House Natural Resources Committee will "ask the Government Accountability Office to investigate whether any of the agencies that oversee public land systematically follow anti-federal threats against public employees. The"

Despite Recent Legislation, Conservation Crosses Party Lines, According To New Poll.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (7/1, Peterson) reports that "clean air and water, access to public lands and protecting wildlife aren't exclusively red or blue issues, according to a survey released recently by the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership." According to the article, "of those contacted, 81 percent said they considered themselves conservationists." Segmented into parties, "83 percent of Republicans, 81 percent of Democrats and 80 percent of Independents described themselves that way."

Outdoor Recreation Industry Generates Billions For Colorado.

The [Southwest Colorado Journal](#) (6/30, Perkins) reports that "Colorado consumers spend \$28 billion annually on outdoor recreation, according to a sneak peek released Tuesday of an economic impact report by the Outdoor Industry Association." The article notes that "in return, the outdoor recreation industry contributes \$2 billion in tax revenue, \$9.7 billion in wages and creates an estimated 229,000 jobs in Colorado." According to the article, "individual reports for all 50 states will be released next month, but Tuesday's sneak peek included annual numbers on the national impact of outdoor recreation: \$887 billion in consumer spending, 7.6 million jobs and a combined \$124.5 billion in federal, state and local tax revenue."

Sec. Zinke Should Fight For An Appropriate Budget.

In an op-ed for the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (7/1, Edwards), Becky Edwards, director of the Montana Mountain Mamas, calls on Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to defend the Interior Department from budget cuts. Edwards warns that "if our campgrounds are overrun with litter and we slash the very programs that keep our fishing access sites and our public lands trails open, we will lose jobs and visitation through our recreation economy, but also some of the beauty of our great state." Edwards writes: "Parents across Montana are urging Sec. Zinke to remember that simple fact: You work for us. We are putting our children's memories in your hands. Stand up and fight for an appropriate budget to manage our public lands, national parks, and recreation programs. Follow through on your promise to protect the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Remember your roots under the big sky."

The Best Deal Going: Privatize US Public Lands.

In a piece for [Forbes](#) (6/30, Hanke), Steve Hanke calls Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's stance against the privatization of public lands disappointing. According to Hanke, "Zinke's misguided views bring back an echo from the past: President Reagan's Secretary of the Interior and Sagebrush Rebel James Watt." Hanke writes that "fortunately, Reagan the intellectual slapped Watt down and fully embraced the idea of privatizing public lands," but whether President Trump will "take Zinke to the woodshed remains to be seen."

This Land Is Our Land.

In a piece for the [Huffington Post](#) (6/30, Rogers, Contributor), Will Rogers, President of The Trust for Public Land, writes that “the recognition that our public lands are a work in progress, a shared responsibility that we must expand, protect and maintain, is embodied in a more than 50-year old federal program, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).” However, “despite its low-profile and high-impact, the Trump Administration’s budget has targeted this wildly successful program for elimination.” Rogers warns that “killing off LWCF, or starving it of funding, would put our national parks, forests and wildlife refuges in jeopardy of commercial development and exploitation.”

Progress On King Cove Road: Interior Department Allows Survey Work For Remote Airport Link.

The [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (7/1) is pleased “to see some movement on the long-overdue King Cove Road project, especially since the movement is in the proper direction in favor of getting this road on the Alaska Peninsula built.” According to the paper, “the lives of King Cove residents are at risk without the road.” It argues that “the solution – one that would allow for timely medical flights and eliminate the risk to Coast Guard personnel – is a road to the all-weather, all-season airport at Cold Bay.”

Shutting Down RACs Makes No Sense.

In an op-ed for the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (7/2, Vasquez), Barbara Vasquez questions the cancellation of Resource Advisory Council meetings. Vasquez stresses “the importance of regularly meeting face to face with people you often don’t agree with.” According to Vasquez, “with the current administration asking for public comment on public land management decisions, the RACs need to keep providing a significant conduit for local involvement and discussion throughout this important process.”

Additional commentary appears in the [Mount Desert \(ME\) Islander](#) (6/30).

Our View: Continued Federal Funding Necessary For Rural Western Counties.

The [Havasupai \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (7/3) editorializes that President Trump’s proposed 2018 budget would “restrict PILT funding to the most recent 10-year average of payments (\$397 million).” The paper notes that “there are more than 1,900 local governments across the US that have come to rely on PILT funding.” One possible solution that the paper supports is Rep. Paul Gosar proposal “for the sale or transfer of some public lands to state control.”

Energy Independence In America Can Be Achieved.

Senior Heritage Foundation fellow Stephen Moore writes in the [Washington Times](#) (7/2, Moore) that “we are entering an age of American energy renaissance that will last not just years but many decades.” Moore credits President Trump’s “robust and realistic strategy” for making significant progress on making the US the 21st century Saudi Arabia. Moore says that since 2007, the US has increased its oil and gas output by 75 percent, while exporting more than 150 million barrels of crude since 2015. Moore argues that “natural gas is the disruptive energy source that is blowing away the competition,” which is “good news for America because we have far more natural gas than anyone.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Cayugas Awarded Proceeds In Suit.

The [Finger Lakes \(NY\) Times](#) (6/30, SHAW) reports that “the leadership dispute within the Cayuga Indian Nation has spilled over into federal litigation out of New Mexico.” The Cayugas are “one of nearly 700 Indian tribes and organizations across the country that have been awarded more than \$862.2 million by a federal district court in New Mexico.” The sum “represents money the federal government would have allocated to the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the Department of Interior to provide a host of programs and services to Indian tribes.” However, “before a tribe can be given its allocation, the federal government needs to know which leadership officials represent the tribe in claiming its share of class action proceeds.” The article says that “distribution of the money to hundreds of other tribes is being held up until the Cayuga Nation and other tribal leadership disputes have been settled.”

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe’s Casino Hopes Rekindled.

The [New Bedford \(MA\) Standard-Times](#) (7/2) reports that the Interior Department on Friday declined a request by the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe “to suspend a review of whether it qualifies for land into trust under an alternative category to the one a federal judge rejected last year.” However, “the move could be good news for the tribe’s hopes to build a casino in Taunton, seemingly dealt a setback earlier in the week when it asked Interior officials to hit the pause button on the review that had, until the latest development, been destined to end badly for the tribe.” According to the article, “instead of suspending its review or moving forward with a decision on the issue prepared on June 19, the agency instead plans to further analyze an aspect of the case that had not been previously explored: whether the state’s authority over the tribe could be considered in place of the federal government’s authority in determining whether it met one of the alternative definitions of Indian required for land to be taken into trust on its behalf.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Taunton \(MA\) Daily Gazette](#) (7/2, Winokoor).

Tribe Fights Feds’ Bid To Toss Oklahoma Fracking Suit.

[Law360](#) (6/30, Powell) reports that the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma on Thursday “defended against the dismissal of its lawsuit accusing the federal government of approving oil and gas leases and fracking permits on the tribe’s land without properly considering the environmental impacts, which links that alleged failure to a recent record-breaking earthquake in the state.” The tribe “responded to the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Bureau of Land Management’s motion to dismiss its suit contending that the agencies’ approvals of the leases and permits violated the National Environmental Policy Act.”

Bureau Of Land Management

NBC Analysis: Exploding Population, Dwindling Budget Hinder Wild Horse Management.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (7/2, story 9, 2:25, Snow) reported that as costs of managing wild horse populations “have skyrocketed” and President Trump’s budget proposal calls for significant federal funding cuts, “there’s growing concern about the future of these horses.” Bureau of Land Management Acting Deputy Director John Ruhs explained that the remaining funding will be targeted at the 46,000 wild horses kept in pastures and facilities, as there are insufficient funds for administering birth control to the 73,000 in the wild. NBC’s Gadi Schwartz said that the exploding population encroaches on grazing lands for ranchers’ cows.

Diving From The Sky, Firefighters Parachute To US Wildfires.

The [AP](#) (6/30, Bryan) reports on the training that smokejumpers receive. The article notes that “nearly 30 wildfires are currently burning — including an Arizona blaze that forced the evacuation of thousands of people plus others in California, New Mexico and Utah.” Federal officials recently “raised the preparedness level for U.S. firefighting forces because of the heightened fire activity.”

The New West: Why Republicans Blocked Public Land Management.

In a piece for [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (7/2, Tracey, Sizek), Caroline Tracey, a PhD candidate in Geography at the University of California, Berkeley, writes that on March 27, President Trump “signed a joint resolution to eliminate planning 2.0.” The article says that “at first, going after planning 2.0 appears to be just one of the new administration’s many rollbacks of federal regulations and defunding of agencies.” However, “what is strange about this cut is that in certain important ways, BLM 2.0 was exactly the kind of federal land management that earlier generations of western Republicans longed for.”

GUEST COLUMN: Methane Rule Hurts Colorado Residents.

In an op-ed for the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (6/30, Chavez-Rey), Hugo Chavez-Rey, the chairman of the Colorado Hispanic Republicans, decries the failure by the Senate “to scrap an Obama-era rule that limits methane emissions from gas and oil production on federal lands.” He argues that “the rule would kill thousands of jobs and cost millions of dollars, while having virtually no impact on emissions.” Chavez-Rey urges that Interior Department “succeeds” in killing or modifying the rule.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

DOI Opening Public Comment Period For More Offshore Oil/Gas Leasing.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (6/30, Cocklin) reports that “following a series of initiatives outlined on Thursday by President Trump, the Department of the Interior (DOI) readied a public comment period for a new five year offshore leasing program that would open more of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) to oil and gas drilling.” Acting DOI Assistant Secretary Kate MacGregor said, “The Trump administration is dedicated to energy dominance, growing the economy and giving the public a say in how our natural resources are used, and that’s exactly what we are doing by opening up the request for information and a new five-year plan.” According to the article, “the 45-day public comment period would kick off an extensive period of analysis that typically takes two or three years to prepare a new five year program.”

Additional coverage was provided by [UPI](#) (6/30, Graeber), the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (7/2, Zullo), the [Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (6/30), the [Delmarva \(MD\) Daily Times](#) (6/30), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (6/30, Milman), the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (6/30, Wiles), [Forbes](#) (6/30, Bradley), the [Coastal Review](#) (6/30), and [World Oil](#) (6/30).

Seismic Airgun Testing A Bad Deal For Florida.

In an op-ed for [Florida Today](#) (7/2, Jackalone), Frank Jackalone, the Florida Chapter director of the Sierra Club, opposes allowing “the use of seismic airgun blasting to map the ocean floor from Florida to Delaware in the search for oil and gas.” Jackalone notes that the Interior Department’s “very own studies estimate airgun blasting will cause 13.5 million instances of harm to Atlantic marine mammals, including the right whale, which makes its breeding ground off the coast of Florida.” Moreover, Jackalone argues “that there is no need for airgun blasting or off-shore oil drilling,” since “the fastest growing form of energy is not oil or gas, but renewables like solar and wind.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

River Restoration Work Partially Funded Through Federal Program.

The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (7/3, Grover) reports that “the Animas Watershed Partnership was one of seven organizations to receive funding from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for WaterSMART Watershed Management Projects.” Bureau of Reclamation Acting Commissioner Alan Mikkelsen said in a press release, “Cooperative watershed groups bring together diverse partners to address water management needs in their local communities.”

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Federal Offshore Well Permits Support Safe Energy And Economic Development, BSEE Says.

The [World Oil](#) (6/30) reports that “the operation of drilling an offshore oil and gas well provides for economic development and supports as many as 450 new jobs.” According to the article, “as Energy Week concludes, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement’s well permit approvals in 2017 total 69.” BSEE Director Scott Angelle said, “I believe BSEE holds the potential to move the U.S. offshore energy program forward in both energy production and economic development, and done in a safe and environmentally-responsible manner. Overall, operators in the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf are producing more oil and gas than ever before and it all begins with drilling the well.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Greens Threaten To Sue Trump Over Grizzly Bear Protections.

[The Hill](#) (6/30, Cama) reports that “a coalition of environmental groups is threatening to sue the Trump administration over its decision to remove protections for the Yellowstone grizzly bear.” The organizations, “led by Earthjustice, said Friday that ending the threatened listing under the Endangered Species Act was premature and that the Yellowstone grizzly hasn’t shown sufficient signs of recovery.” Earthjustice attorney Timothy Preso said in a statement, “With grizzly deaths spiking, now is not the time to declare the great bear recovered and federal protections unnecessary.” He said, “The grizzly is a major part of what makes the region in and around

Yellowstone National Park so special and unique. We should not be taking a gamble with the grizzly's future."

[Reuters](#) (6/30, Zuckerman) notes that "the delisting plan, scheduled to go into effect at the end of July, was initially proposed during Democratic President Barack Obama's administration."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (6/30, Ridler), [NPR](#) (6/30, Neuman), the [Huffington Post](#) (6/30, D'angelo), the [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (7/2, Golowenski) the [Yellowstone Insider](#) (6/30, Reichard), and the [Madison \(WI\) Capital Times](#) (7/2, Randolph).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Daily Mail](#) (6/30, Zuckerman), [ABC News](#) (6/30, Ridler), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (7/1, Ridler), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/30, Ridler), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/30, Keith Ridler |, Ap), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/30, Ridler), [CNBC](#) (6/30), and the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (6/30, Ridler).

Rare Butterfly Thrives On, And Because Of, US Military Bases.

The [AP](#) (7/1, Pratt) reports that "a tiny rare butterfly is flourishing" and the credit goes to the U.S. military, according to experts. The frosted elfin has "found a home at several defense installations because of the way the military manages open spaces, said Robyn Niver, an endangered species biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." The "common thread" among military bases where the butterfly has been confirmed is "the way they manage vegetation through controlled burns, which create the perfect conditions for wild blue lupine and indigo to grow, the frosted elfin caterpillar's two host plants."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (7/2), the [Daily Mail](#) (7/2), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (7/2, Pratt), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/2, Mark Pratt |, Ap), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/2, Pratt), and [WTOP-FM Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (7/2).

Feds Ask For Public Comment On Florida Panther Endangered Status.

The [Miami Herald](#) (6/30, Staletovich) reports that "federal wildlife officials are asking for public comment on a review to determine whether rules protecting endangered Florida panthers need to be changed." The review is "part of a regular check-up and was not prompted by any recent actions, including a push by state wildlife officials, hunters and ranchers in 2015 to reconsider the number of panthers needed for a successful recovery, said U.S. Fish and Wildlife spokesman Ken Warren." The article says that "the assessment will likely include the recent discovery of female panthers north of the Caloosahatchee River."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (6/30, Staats).

Can California Fish Catch Break With Giant Tunnels?

Depends. The [AP](#) (7/1, Knickmeyer) reports that "Gov. Jerry Brown's plan to route much of California's mightiest river into two massive tunnels poses new perils for salmon and other struggling native species, but could give them a couple of breaks as well, experts and project supporters and opponents say in the wake of two newly issued wildlife rulings on the \$16 billion project." Ultimately, water experts say, whether the Delta tunnels "hurt salmon, whales and other imperiled species depends, as always, on the intent and smarts of the officials who manage the Sacramento River's delta with the San Joaquin River, that fought-over, over-tapped spigot for the U.S. state with the most people, most crops and the biggest estuary on the West Coast."

Political Deals Rip Throat Out Of Wolf Recovery Plan, Enviros Say.

[Courthouse News](#) (6/30, YOUNG-GRINDLE) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has "announced its draft recovery plan for the Mexican wolf, but environmentalists say it is more about politics than saving the wolves." Bryan Bird, Southwest program director for Defenders of Wildlife said, "Politics trumps science in this draft Mexican gray wolf recovery plan. It's a backroom deal with the states that resist wolf recovery and fail to understand the transformational benefits to the entire landscape when Mexican gray wolves thrive. Contrary to recommendations from leading wolf biologists, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's draft plan restricts the Mexican gray wolves from moving into millions of acres of suitable habitat in northern Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado. President Trump's plans to build an impenetrable border wall with Mexico will only worsen chances for the wolves' recovery. The lobos would be boxed in, incapable of beating the clock on extinction."

Alabama Bat Blitz Aims To Gauge Area Bat Population.

The [AP](#) (6/30, Pillion) reports that "dozens of bat researchers, enthusiasts and wildlife officials from around the Southeast flocked to Birmingham this week for the Alabama Bat Working

Group's annual Bat Blitz event." The Working Group "consists of bat biologists and enthusiasts working for state and federal wildlife agencies, universities, and non-profit groups, plus a few volunteers who helped conduct bat surveys at Ruffner Mountain, Turkey Creek and Oak Mountain." Shannon Holbrook, "a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Daphne office, said the survey would help them know if there were federally endangered or threatened species living in the area."

Endangered Species Act Is Under Assault.

In a piece for the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/2, Small), Sue Small criticizes "legislative attacks" on the Endangered Species Act. According to Small, "the ESA is so well-crafted that it has effectively protected 99 percent of those species listed at risk of extinction." She also argues that "it offers flexibility for private landowners, states and tribes; and it provides avenues for the public to actively protect species." Small vows to "fight for the Endangered Species Act and its safeguards."

National Park Service

Charges Dropped Against 2 Youths In Tennessee Wildfires.

The [AP](#) (6/30, Mattise) reports that "prosecutors have dropped arson charges against two juveniles in connection with the Tennessee wildfires that killed 14 people and tore through thousands of homes and businesses in November, a law enforcement official said Friday." District Attorney General Jimmy Dunn said in a statement that "after months of investigating, prosecutors can't prove the youth were responsible because there were other factors contributing to the seriousness of the fires, such as 80-mph (130-kph) winds and downed power lines that ignited flames."

Additional coverage was provided by [USA Today](#) (6/30, Satterfield) and [CNN](#) (6/30, Levenson, Burnside).

Out & About: Blanket Phone Coverage Proposed For Parks.

The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (7/2) reports that "proposals for increased cell phone coverage in Mount Rainier, Yellowstone and several other national parks have opened for another round of public comment, with constituents divided on the issue in a previous comment period last year." According to the article, "backcountry purists argue against increased coverage in wilderness areas of the parks while some people point out the potential safety advantages." Jeff Ruch, PEER executive director, said, "There is little evidence that increased cell coverage increases safety but there is ample evidence that drivers on poorly lit, winding park roads distracted by their devices are a hazard. By acceding to industry pressure for more coverage, park superintendents are wiring their wild lands with little thought toward preserving the values that make these cathedrals of nature so special."

Green Thumbs Hope To Lead The Trumps Down The Garden Path.

The [New York Times](#) (7/2, Baumgaertner) reports on the future of the White House Kitchen Garden, started by former First Lady Michelle Obama as part of her Let's Move! campaign to combat childhood obesity. According to the Times, "those outside the White House who support the garden are seeking creative efforts to keep it an East Wing priority." While First Lady Melania Trump's communications director, Stephanie Grisham, said that "the White House kitchen will cook with the homegrown vegetables and will donate the remaining harvest to charity," and that "the Trump family planned to continue the educational nature of the garden," the June harvest "was carried out solely by the National Park Service," and administrators from local schools whose students have worked in the garden "said they had not been invited back since the transition."

Law Enforcement Prepares For July 4 Events On National Mall.

[WTOP-FM](#) Washington (6/30, Murillo) reports that "thousands of people from around D.C., the U.S. and the world will celebrate" Independence Day in the nation's capital. Mike Litterst, with the National Park Service, "said that means a lot of planning goes into keeping things safe." Litterst said, "Security for any event on the National Mall, especially for the Fourth of July, is of tantamount — not only interest, but importance — to the National Park Service and the U.S. Park Police."

Federal City Council To Negotiate Lease For Federally Owned Golf Courses In D.C.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/30, Portnoy) reports that the National Park Service and Federal City Council “this week agreed to begin negotiating a deal that, if successful, could result in a multimillion dollar renovation of three dilapidated golf courses and a tennis center in the District.” The Federal City Council, “a private nonprofit business group, has nine months to convince the federal agency it can overhaul Park Service-owned facilities: Langston and Rock Creek Park golf courses as well as the golf course and tennis courts at East Potomac Park, known as Hains Point.” The article says that “the signing of the ‘letter of intent’ on Wednesday is the first step in what both sides expect will be a long and complicated process.”

The Economic Juggernaut That Is Independence National Historical Park.

[Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/30, Loyd) reports that Independence National Historical Park is “gearing up for more visitors, who descended on the park’s more than 20 houses and buildings in record numbers last year, the most since the Constitution’s 200th anniversary in 1987.” Independence National Park “had 5.1 million visitors, a healthy 17 percent jump over 2015, with the biggest crowds at the Liberty Bell Center, Independence Hall, Congress Hall, Old City Hall, and the Visitor Center at Sixth and Market.” The article notes that “those crowds, which tend to be highest over the summer, show that the park had a ripple effect in turning the surrounding area into something of an economic powerhouse.”

Gettysburg Anniversary Seeing Few Flare-ups, Despite Rumors Of Violence.

[Fox News](#) (7/1, Chakraborty) reports that “despite rampant rumors of violence, protests and counter-protests planned this weekend at Gettysburg that prompted heightened security, there were few flare-ups by midday Saturday.” The article says that “reports of possible disruptions and even violence have the National Park Service acting with an ‘abundance of caution.’”

Additional coverage was provided by [Fox News](#) (6/30, Wallace), the [Huffington Post](#) (7/2, Mathias), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/30, Schaefer), and [WPMT-TV Harrisburg \(PA\)](#) Harrisburg, PA (6/30, Lima).

Rappahannock Tribe Renews Ties With Ceremony.

The [AP](#) (7/2, Hedelt) reports that “with tribal drumbeats and singing in the air, the Rappahannock Tribe joyfully took possession of an acre of ancestral land that leaders hope will reconnect young people with the traditions of their ancestors.” Chuck Hunt, the National Park Service’s Chesapeake Bay Office superintendent, was among those who spoke at Saturday’s ceremony, “noting that the donation of land coincided with a recently released report defining the Rappahannock Tribe’s ‘Indigenous Cultural Landscape.’” Following the ceremony, Hunt “said the expectation was that the study of the Rappahannock Tribe’s history in the region would continue.”

Getting The Help It Needs: Groups Work To Help Glacier Park Meet Growing Demands.

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (7/2, Backus) reports that Glacier Park Superintendent “enjoys partnerships with three key organizations that raise important funding, provide a core of willing volunteers and offer educational programs that create new constituencies.” Glacier Park Superintendent Jeff Mow “said those partnerships have never been more vital.” Mow said, “Our staffing is actually five employees less than what we had in 2002. You can imagine the sort of responsibilities they have with our number of visitors. We couldn’t be doing what we’re doing without having partners to help us.”

Fees May Increase At Devils Tower National Monument.

The [AP](#) (7/2) reports that the National Park Service is “seeking public input before it decides whether to raise fees” at Devils Tower National Monument “for a second time this year.” Prices at the monument were “raised to \$30 for an annual pass, \$15 for a vehicle, \$7 per person and \$10 for a motorcycle in January.” The NPS is “proposing raising the fees to \$40, \$20, \$10 and \$15 respectively to match the prices at other national monuments.”

Fee Increase Proposed At Lassen Park.

The [Redding \(CA\) Record-Searchlight](#) (7/2, Arthur) reports that “National Park Service officials want to hear from the public about a proposal to raise the entrance fees at Lassen National Park.” The article notes that “the proposed \$5 increase per vehicle marks the second entry fee hike since 2015.” According to Lassen park Superintendent Jim Richardson, “money from the fee

increase would be used to maintain and improve facilities at the park.”

Rocky Mountain National Park’s Fall River Entrance Up For Historic Status, Possible Changes.

The [Loveland \(CO\) Reporter-Herald](#) (6/30, Johnson) reports that Rocky Mountain National Park is “looking to add the 1960s-era Fall River entrance to the National Register of Historic Places at the same time officials are looking at a redesign of that same area.” Kyle Patterson, spokeswoman for the national park, said, “That area has morphed in our past, and now we’re looking to see how we continue to manage that entrance with our record visitation and continuing to honor our history.”

UNLV Researcher Works To Eradicate Invasive Plant.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (7/1, Bruzda) reports that a UNLV student is working on a “project to research the best way to eradicate invasive plants and bring new, but familiar life to her ancestral land in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.” Ka-Voka Jackson, “a Hualapai Indian who grew up on a Peach Springs, Arizona, reservation,” is “collaborating with the National Park Service to determine how to best remove and eliminate nonnative ravenna grass weeds from five canyons along the Colorado River.” According to the article, “while she envisions a broader goal, her project’s contract with the National Park Service, designed for Glen Canyon, ends in May 2019.”

Home Of Slain Activist Named As A Historic Place.

The [AP](#) (7/1, Watkins) reports that the home of Wharlest and Exerlena Jackson has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Wharlest Jackson Sr., “a husband and father of five who worked three jobs so his wife, Exerlena, could stay home with the children, was killed in February 1967 by a bomb planted beneath his 1958 Chevrolet pickup and aligned with the driver’s seat.” The article says that “he was treasurer of the NAACP, and his involvement with voter registration, among other things, had angered local white supremacists.”

Maine City Plans \$900,000 River-Walk Project For Riverfront.

The [AP](#) (6/30) reports that “Waterville is planning to install a \$900,000 river-walk project and will start accepting bids in August from interested contractors.” According to the article, “the city applied for a \$300,000 grant” from the Land and Water Conservation Fund and was “notified it was one of three municipalities in Maine to be approved for grant money.”

Top National News

Critics Say Trump’s Latest Tweet Promotes Violence Against The Media.

President Trump continued his Twitter attacks on the mainstream media over the weekend, garnering a great deal of media attention for a Sunday morning tweet featuring a video clip of him at a WWE wrestling match with the CNN logo superimposed over the face of an opponent. While several reports highlight comments from Administration officials and backers supporting the President, the coverage is largely negative, describing Trump’s tweet as promoting violence against the media.

Trump wrote in a [tweet](#) Sunday, “The dishonest media will NEVER keep us from accomplishing our objectives on behalf of our GREAT AMERICAN PEOPLE! #AmericaFirst.” [The Hill](#) (7/2, Shelbourne) says the tweet “included a video of Trump speaking Saturday night at Washington, D.C.’s Kennedy Center, where he also mocked the media.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/2, Radnofsky) reports that in his remarks at the “Celebrate Freedom” concert, Trump said, “The fake media tried to stop us from going to the White House, but I’m president and they’re not. ... The fact is the press destroyed themselves because they went too far. Instead of being subtle and smart, they used the hatchet and the people saw it right from the beginning.”

However, a [tweet](#) from the President hours earlier receives far more media attention. The [Washington Post](#) (7/2, Nakamura) says the earlier tweet, which “appeared to promote violence against CNN,” featured “an old video clip of him performing in a WWE professional wrestling match, but with a CNN logo superimposed on the head of his opponent.” In it, Trump is seen “slamming the CNN avatar to the ground and pounding him with simulated punches and elbows to the head. Trump added the hashtags #FraudNewsCNN and #FNN, for ‘fraud news network.’”

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/2, Krasny) says Trump “ratcheted up his feud with the media” with the

tweet, while [USA Today](#) (7/2, Singer) says Trump was “continuing his jihad against the news media,” and [Reuters](#) (7/2, Mason) says he “stepped up his feud with the media.” Reuters adds that the video “takes his criticism to a new level and drew criticism from CNN,” which said in statement, “It is a sad day when the President of the United States encourages violence against reporters. ... Instead of preparing for his overseas trip, his first meeting with Vladimir Putin, dealing with North Korea and working on his health care bill, he is instead involved in juvenile behavior far below the dignity of his office.”

To the [New York Times](#) (7/2, Grynbaum), “the video is an unorthodox way for a sitting president to express himself.” The Times adds that it “stirred criticism, disbelief and dumbfoundedness.” The Times adds that some journalists described the video’s “portrayal of violence as dangerous...could incite attacks or threats against news media employees.” Tom Llamas said in the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/2, lead story, 3:10) that the “bizarre video” raises the question of whether Trump’s “social media habit [is] hijacking his agenda.” Llamas also questioned whether the “shocking image of the President physically attacking someone [is] just comedy, or could it incite violence against the media?”

Elaine Quijano said on the lead story for the [CBS Weekend News](#) (7/2, lead story, 2:35) that “reporters’ rights groups are outraged,” while the [AP](#) (7/2, Lucey) quotes Bruce Brown, the executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, as “condemn[ing] the video as a ‘threat of physical violence against journalists,’” and saying that “Trump’s tweet was ‘beneath the office of the presidency.’” An [AFP](#) (7/2, Knowlton) report on the video was the lead story on the Drudge Report Sunday under the headline, “Now He Body Slams CNN!” AFP called the video “bizarre even by [Trump’s] standards,” and says it was “immediately condemned by journalists, who said Trump seemed to be promoting physical violence against the media.”

Jim Rutenberg writes in an analysis for the [New York Times](#) (7/2) that the First Amendment “is under near-daily assault from the highest levels of the government.” Rutenberg argues that “all of the attacks against something so central to [America’s] identity must have [the country] in quite the birthday funk.”

In the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/2, lead story, 3:15, Snow), Kelly O’Donnell called the tweet “the art of distraction,” adding that “the media feud squeezes out other issues.” Julie Pace of the Associated Press said on [CNN Inside Politics](#) (7/2), “This is Trump’s agenda. Going after the media, trying to tear us down is as much a part of the agenda as passing a healthcare bill, trying to get a tax overhaul. He sees this as actually part of that effort. If he can undermine the reporting about him, if he can undermine the credibility of the press, he thinks he has a clear lane for doing some of the things he wants to do.”

On [MSNBC AM Joy](#) (7/2), Brian Karem of the Sentinel Newspapers said of his exchange with White House deputy press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders that Sanders “went out of her way to bash us. I had had enough. Look, he started out telling me I am the enemy of the people. I’m not the enemy of the people. We are the people. He’s the enemy of the people because he continually tries to cleave us from the rest of us. That’s not right, that’s not what America is about.”

[Politico](#) (7/2, Morin, McCaskill) says the “incendiary post,” which portrays Trump “physically attacking” the news network, “threatens to take his fraught relationship with the media to a new, dangerous low.” Politico adds that while GOP lawmakers “have called for civility in the wake of a shooting last month at a congressional baseball practice that left House Majority Whip Steve Scalise (R-La.) critically injured and others wounded,” the White House “has declined to follow their lead.”

The [Washington Times](#) (7/2, Wolfgang) reports that Sen. Ben Sasse told [CNN’s State Of The Union](#) (7/2, Tapper) that Trump “wants to ‘weaponize distrust’ in the press and warned that America is headed down a dangerous path if citizens listen only to media outlets and political leaders that reinforce their own personal views.” Sasse said, “There’s an important distinction to draw between bad stories or crappy coverage, and the right citizens have to argue about that and complain about that, and trying to weaponize distrust. The First Amendment is the beating heart of the American experiment and you don’t get to separate the freedoms that are in there.” Sasse “went on to suggest that many Americans, including Mr. Trump, are perpetuating a society in which citizens listen only to those who agree with their own political views.”

The [Washington Times](#) (7/2, Wolfgang) reports that “influential Republicans” are “urging Mr. Trump to stay off of social media.” Ohio Gov. John Kasich told [ABC’s This Week](#), “You know it’s unfortunate, and people are now begging the president not to do this and, you know, he ought to stop doing it and we’ll have to see what happens. It’s one of the few things that I think brought Republicans and Democrats together.”

The [New York Post](#) (7/2, Moore) reports on building “bipartisan condemnation” of the video, while the [Washington Examiner](#) (7/2, Mayfield) says Democrats “took to Twitter to once again condemn President Trump’s tweeting habits.” Rep. Ted Lieu [tweeted](#) that “the president is encouraging violence and the tweet was ‘beyond unacceptable,’” while Rep. Eric Swalwell “[called](#) on all House GOP members to condemn his behavior, saying they were put in place to do just that and if they don’t, they are condoning it.” Meanwhile, a [tweet](#) from House Minority Leader Pelosi “praised journalists as ‘guardians to our democracy’ and called for a rejection to violence against them,” and Rep. Adam Schiff “joined his colleagues,” [tweeting](#) that “the president’s behavior [is] ‘beneath the dignity of the office.’”

CNN White House correspondent Sara Murray said on [CNN Inside Politics](#) (7/2), “I don’t know why Washington think this 70-year-old man is going to change. He’s not going to change. Before we go out handing awards for bravery and courage for senators standing in front of a camera and talking about how ashamed they are of Trump’s behavior, let’s remember that many of these members of Congress watched Trump say things that were equally disturbing, equally sexist, equally horrifying in 2016, and then not only voted for him, they showed up and they told their voters to vote for him too. You got what you paid for. This is not a new person that you elected. ... So it’s a little bit of a sham to say that we should be surprised he’s behaving like this. He’s a 70-year-old man. This was what he was like during the campaign. This is what he is going to be like as President.”

A [USA Today](#) (7/2, Singer) analysis of Trump’s Twitter feed found that since his election, Trump “has published more than 60 tweets disparaging ‘fake news’” but “fewer than a dozen tweets about the border wall that was the hallmark of his presidential campaign.” Moreover, Trump “has posted only 11 tweets with the word ‘trade’ and three more about NAFTA.” USA Today adds that Trump “has posted about 80 tweets referring to ‘health care’ or ‘Obamacare,’” but has “mentioned vets or veterans in only a dozen tweets, about half as many times as he has mentioned NBC.”

Administration officials and Trump supporters were firmly on Trump’s side, however. The [Washington Times](#) (7/2, Wolfgang) reports that White House national security and counterterrorism adviser Thomas Bossert “praised President Trump’s use of Twitter,” arguing on [ABC’s This Week](#) that “the social media account has helped make the commander in chief the ‘most genuine president’ in U.S. history.” Bossert argued, “There’s a lot of cable news shows that reach directly into hundreds of thousands of viewers, and they’re really not always very fair to the president. So I’m proud of the president for developing a Twitter and a social media platform where he can talk directly to the American people. ... In fact, he’s the most genuine president and the most non-politician president that we’ve seen in my lifetime. And he’s demonstrated – whatever the content of that particular tweet is or any tweet – he’s demonstrated a genuine ability to communicate to the people.” Gloria Riviera said in the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/2, lead story, 3:10) that Bossert “defend[ed] the President.” Bossert: “I think that no one would perceive that as a threat. I hope they don’t.”

Asked on [NBC’s Meet the Press](#) (7/2, Todd) to address President Trump’s tweets, HHS Secretary Price said, “What I’m concentrated on is the job he’s given me, and that is to make sure we fulfill the mission of the Department of Health and Human Services and that is the health of the American people.” Secretary Price and host Chuck Todd engaged in a pointed exchange on the subject, with Todd saying, “Mr. Secretary, with all due respect, you’re blaming me for what the President of the United States has spent his entire week focused on?” Price ultimately responded, “The fact of the matter is that he can do more than one thing at a time.”

[The Hill](#) (7/2, Manchester) reports that in an interview with radio host John Catsimatidis on AM 970 in New York that aired Sunday, deputy assistant to the President Sebastian Gorka “claimed...that mainstream news media are losing influence.” Gorka said, “To those supporters of the Trump administration who are worried by all the fake news reporting of the last 23 weeks, I can assure you, just ignore it. ... The fake news complex is collapsing in on itself. We see that with the massive scandal at CNN, having to fire people who were generating totally false stories about the administration. We see that with the severe personnel cuts at The New York Times.”

The [New York Post](#) (7/2, Moore) says Trump’s sons also took to Twitter “to blast the cable news network for being part of the ‘fake news’ media.” On Sunday, Eric Trump [tweeted](#), “I love how CNN looks to #1A [First Amendment] as a justification to not uphold basic journalistic integrity or an ethical standard #FakeNews.” The tweet was in response to a post from CNN reporter Jim Acosta, who [tweeted](#), “Hope you are enjoying #4thofjulyweekend and celebrating our cherished #1A freedoms enshrined in our Constitution which cannot be taken away.” Then, in response to another Acosta [tweet](#) in which the reporter wrote, “Isn’t pro wrestling fake?” Donald

Trump Jr. [tweeted](#), "Yes, just like your coverage."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/2, King) reports that the tweet "prompted renewed expressions of support from backers." [Townhall](#) (7/2, Van Laar) similarly says that Trump's supporters "are chuckling at the video." CBS' "Face the Nation" moderator John Dickerson said on the [CBS Weekend News](#) (7/2, story 2, 2:35, Quijano) that the "political consequence is that it rallies his supporters and that he is basically from the inauguration, onward, been quite consistent with his campaign message, which is that basically, he is going to run the presidency in a different way than we've seen from other presidents, which is basically to stick with the affections of those who supported him, keep those affections tight and roiled up, and there's no better way to do that than in the competition with the media because a lot of his supporters see the competition not based on what the merits of the moment might be, but a fight between somebody who is their champion, fighting for the things that they want, and press corps trying to get on his way."

Sharyl Attkisson said on [Fox News MediaBuzz](#) (7/2), "The President knows by now the kind of response his tweets get and has obviously decided it works in his favor. Whether it does or not, that is clearly what he thinks." Mollie Hemingway of The Federalist said on [Fox News MediaBuzz](#) (7/2), "He's the President and should be held to a different standard than the media. But I don't see any reason that we shouldn't acknowledge the media has been so hostile and so personal in their attacks."

[McClatchy](#) (7/2, Hadley) reports that "a Reddit page dedicated to Trump has claimed credit for inspiring the tweet." The "r/The_Donald" forum "has generated plenty of controversy in the past for its anti-immigration, anti-Semitic and white supremacist posts, according to The Verge." A version of the video was posted by a user on the forum Wednesday, and as of Sunday "it has received nearly 9,000 'up votes.'" McClatchy adds that after the President's tweet, "the forum began to explode with posts claiming credit for inspiring the post and video."

WPost Analysis Compares Trump's Social Media Posts With Other World Leaders' In an analysis, the [Washington Post](#) (7/2, Wootson) examines Trump's defense of his social media activity as "modern day presidential," by comparing his tweets to "what the other leaders of the free world were tweeting out while Trump was disparaging 'Crazy Mika' and 'Psycho Joe' of 'Morning Joe' fame before the start of Thursday's workday and then defending his tweets around dinnertime on Saturday." Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau tweeted, "Last week was the lead-up to Canadian Independence Day, and there's nothing more prime minister-y than donning the Canadian colors and waxing philosophically — and bilingually — about how great America's neighbor to the north is." On the day Trump posted about the "Morning Joe" hosts, Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull "was talking about small business and technology on a live Facebook chat." Other world leaders highlighted by the Post include Russian President Vladimir Putin, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto, and British Prime Minister Theresa May.

WPost Analysis: CNN's Firing Of Journalists Over Retracted Story Did Not Pacify Trump. The [Washington Post](#) (6/30, Sullivan) reports that CNN's decision to fire three journalists "after reporting, editing and publishing a story — based on a single anonymous source — that the network says didn't go through the proper review channels," was praised by some "as welcome accountability, if a draconian form of it." However, if the move "was intended to mollify CNN's chief critic — President Trump — it certainly backfired," as Trump "and his surrogates took the opportunity to bash the network and the rest of the mainstream media more vociferously than ever."

Asked on [Fox News MediaBuzz](#) (7/2) about the story about him which was retracted by CNN, Anthony Scaramucci said, "It didn't seem like they did their homework. ... But when I started to make some calls to the senior leadership to CNN and explain my position, I thought that they moved pretty quickly. I was pretty satisfied that probably 12 to 15 hours I had spoken to them they realized they made a mistake and they took the thing down." Asked about a report that he threatened to sue CNN, Scaramucci said, "It wasn't until it became clear to me that there was still some uncertainty inside their organization about what the facts were that I had to make another phone call, and I said, 'I am not under investigation, I have done nothing wrong. I sort of feel like you guys have to clear this up. If you don't clear it up then of course I have to take action to protect myself and my reputation.'"

Coppins: "Alternative Left Media Infrastructure" Has Arisen In Trump Era. McKay Coppins writes in a piece for [The Atlantic](#) (7/2, Coppins) that "a vast alternative left-wing media infrastructure that operates largely out of the view of casual news consumers" has arisen during the Trump era and it forms "a media universe where partisan hysteria is too easily stoked, and fake news can travel at the speed of light." While "these personalities and publications do not yet

wield the same influence in the Democratic Party that their counterparts do in the GOP," Coppins argues that "ignoring them would be a mistake." Coppins goes on to "attempt to map the topography of the left's modern alternative media landscape" which includes "Twitter conspiracists," "Hyperpartisan Facebook pages," "Blogs and message boards," "Podcasts," and "VIP Validators."

Trump Criticizes States Over Reluctance To Share Voter Data, Intensifies Feud With Media.

President Trump posted nearly a dozen tweets on Friday, which included posts criticizing states for refusing to comply with his Presidential Advisory Commission on Voter Integrity's request for information, denouncing MSNBC's "Morning Joe" hosts Mika Brzezinski and Joe Scarborough, and attacking the "Fake News" media as exemplified by CNN and NBC. Coverage, which included more than five minutes combined on the network newscasts, was also extensive in print and online. The mostly negative reporting characterized Trump as upset and lashing out against his critics, though some analyses suggested his tweets could help galvanize the President's core supporters.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (7/1, story 3, 1:10, Snow) Kelly O'Donnell reported that while Trump traveled to New Jersey for the day with his family, he is "taking no holiday from Twitter." O'Donnell said Trump moved from "a friendly shoutout" to "more fireworks in his running media feud, deriding the cable news hosts at Morning Joe as 'crazy' and 'dumb,' then firing a rocket at more than two dozen states."

The [Washington Post](#) (7/1, Erickson) reports the President began the day with a "shout-out" for America's northern neighbor, [tweeting](#), "Happy Canada Day to all of the great people of Canada and to your Prime Minister and my new found friend @JustinTrudeau. #Canada150." Although the relationship between Trump and Trudeau has "gone south" in recent months, the Post says the President's tweet "perhaps reflects Trudeau's wide-ranging efforts to win Trump over, even as he opposes many of the president's policies." In a more than 2,300-word analysis, [Politico Magazine](#) (7/1, Lindzon) reports Trudeau was initially criticized when he first took office, but now "it's no exaggeration to say that Donald Trump is saving Justin Trudeau's Canadian bacon." Politico adds that "in Trump, Trudeau has the most unnatural of confederates: a man whose policies he must oppose and whose professional partnership he requires."

[The Hill](#) (7/1, Greenwood) reports the President then "accused MSNBC's parent company on Saturday of firing anchor Greta Van Susteren for refusing to go along with the network's negative coverage of him and his administration." He [tweeted](#), "Word is that @Greta Van Susteren was let go by her out of control bosses at @NBC & @Comcast because she refused to go along w/ 'Trump hate!'"

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/1, Riley, Sullivan) reports Trump next "fired off a tweet Saturday aimed at the growing number of secretaries of state resisting a broad request for data by his voter-fraud commission, including officials from deep red states whose support the controversy-laden White House can ill afford to lose." Trump [said](#), "Numerous states are refusing to give information to the very distinguished VOTER FRAUD PANEL. What are they trying to hide?"

The [Washington Post](#) (7/1, Nakamura, Berman) reports Trump "lashed out" at the states in a tweet that "highlighted the political stakes over his effort to validate his widespread claims of rampant illegal voting through the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity, which is being led by Vice President Pence and Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach (R)." [Reuters](#) (7/1, Schectman, Kenning) similarly says he "lashed out" at the states that have refused to comply and the [Washington Times](#) (7/1, Boyer) reports he "slammed states that have refused to turn over voter registration data."

The [AP](#) (7/1, Causey, Ramer) says the President "is upset that all states aren't fully cooperating with his voting commission's request," while [Politico](#) (7/1, Morin) states that "Trump has in the past blamed, without evidence, an abundance of illegal voting for costing him the popular vote in last year's general election."

According to [The Hill](#) (7/1, Cohn), Trump's tweet "echoed" Kobach, who said in an interview with [NPR's](#) "All Things Considered" on Friday, "Frankly, if a state like Kentucky or California won't provide available information, one has to ask the question, 'Why not?' I mean, what are they trying to hide if they don't want a presidential advisory commission to study their state voter rolls?" However, in an interview with the [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (6/30, Lowry), Kobach acknowledged the challenges in getting states on board and said his state "would not be sharing the Social Security information at this time" because that "is not publicly available." He asserted, "If the commission decides that they would like to receive Social Security numbers to a secure site in order to remove false positives, then we would have to double check and make sure Kansas law permits." Kobach added, "I know for a fact that this information would be secured and

maintained confidentially.”

In the lead [CBS Weekend News](#) (7/1, lead story, 2:10, Ninan) segment, Reena Ninan reported the President’s “effort to expose alleged voting fraud in last year’s election is running into a brick wall,” which Paula Reid said was due to the commission’s request last week for “voter roll data including addresses, dates of birth, political party, and even voter history dating back to 2006.” Reid adds the “backlash” has been “swift,” as more than 20 states are refusing to comply, according to Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, who said the Administration’s demand “is an outrageous violation of citizens’ privacy rights.” [ABC World News Tonight](#)’s (7/1, story 4, 0:45, Llamas) Gloria Riviera said “at least 13 states have flat-out refused and over two dozens others are balking at the Administration’s request to turn over voter information.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/1, Radnofsky) reports Mississippi Secretary of State Delbert Hosemann (R) said Friday in a statement that if he receives the expansive request, the Commission “can go jump in the Gulf of Mexico and Mississippi is a great state to launch from. Mississippi residents should celebrate Independence Day and our State’s right to protect the privacy of our citizens by conducting our own electoral processes.” In addition, [USA Today](#) (7/1, Berry, Groppe) reports Indiana Secretary of State Connie Lawson, a member of the commission who represents Pence’s home state, “said Friday state law prevents her from turning over all of the requested information.” Similarly, Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted (R) “said Friday that his state will not provide the commission with the last four digits of Ohioans’ Social Security numbers or their state driver’s license IDs.” Meanwhile, Iowa Secretary of State Paul Pate (R) “said the state would require the commission to file a formal request and will not release personal information about voters” and a spokeswoman for Louisiana Secretary of State Tom Schedler (R) “said lawyers are reviewing the letter to determine how the state will respond.”

The [Arizona Republic](#) (7/1, Pitzl) reports Arizona Secretary of State Michele Reagan “will provide information that is available to anyone in the general public, as the law and a recent settlement in a registration-database lawsuit permit.” However, the Republic says “she will not release certain data Kobach is requesting because state law forbids it. That includes the last four digits of a voter’s Social Security number, his or her date of birth (only the year is permitted) and other identifying information such as the maiden name of the voter’s mother.”

In an analysis, the [Washington Post](#) (7/1, Bump, Ingraham) reports “overall, the states that have said they will not be complying at all with the Kobach commission’s request represent over 30 percent of the nation’s population.” The Post adds that their refusal to cooperate “could complicate any efforts to build a truly national voter file, although it remains unclear what the commission’s ultimate goal is in collecting the data.” The [Huffington Post](#) (7/1, Levine) contends the President’s tweets “cast doubt about the neutrality of a commission he created to investigate ‘election integrity’” because he asserted “it was a probe focused on voter fraud.” The HuffPost says Kristen Clarke, the president of the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, “immediately seized on Trump’s tweet to urge states not to comply with the commission’s work, which she called a ‘sham.’”

Meanwhile, the [Washington Post](#) (7/1, Nakamura) reports “the Tweeter in Chief” was also “busy...launching familiar attacks against the two networks over their coverage of him.” [The Hill](#) (7/1, Byrnes) states Trump “laid into CNN,” [tweeting](#), “I am extremely pleased to see that @CNN has finally been exposed as #FakeNews and garbage journalism. It’s about time!” In a separate article, [The Hill](#) (7/1, Carter) reports that in his [fourth tweet](#) of the day, the President “returned to attacking the hosts of MSNBC’s ‘Morning Joe’ in a tweet on Saturday, calling them ‘crazy’ and ‘dumb as a rock.’” Trump said, “Crazy Joe Scarborough and dumb as a rock Mika are not bad people, but their low rated show is dominated by their NBC bosses. Too bad!”

The [Huffington Post](#) (7/1, Levine) condemns the new tweet as the latest in Trump’s “long history of sexist comments” while [The Hill](#) (7/1, Carter) says the President’s “tweet harkened to attacks previously launched on the political morning show hosts before his crude tweets this week that were panned by members of both parties.” In a piece that provides some background on the feud, [USA Today](#) (7/1, Groppe) states that “Trump’s comments came the day after Scarborough and Brzezinski questioned Trump’s mental and emotional fitness after he [attacked them](#) on Twitter Thursday.” [Politico](#) (7/1, Morin) similarly reports “Trump and Scarborough publicly sparred this past week after the president lashed out at the MSNBC co-hosts by tweeting Thursday that Brzezinski had a ‘low I.Q.’ and had been ‘bleeding badly from a face-lift’ during a past visit to his Mar-a-Lago estate. The comments were widely criticized by lawmakers across aisle.”

The [Washington Times](#) (7/1, Harper) says Trump’s “trio of tweets directed at major broadcasters” on Saturday proved “very popular with the president’s fans, who...retweeted these messages up to 20,000 times, and liked them with the familiar Twitter heart symbol up to 33,000

times.”

Trump also [posted](#) his [weekly address](#) promoting Kate’s Law and the No Sanctuary for Criminals Act as well as an [announcement](#) that he was “Getting rdy to leave for tonight’s Celebrate Freedom Concert honoring our GREAT VETERANS w/ so many of my evangelical friends. See you soon!”

[The Hill](#) (7/1, Manchester) reports the President later returned “to rip the news media” that afternoon, “saying the ‘fake and fraudulent news media’ is trying to convince Republicans that he should not use social media.” In his [eighth tweet of the day](#), Trump asserted, “The FAKE & FRAUDULENT NEWS MEDIA is working hard to convince Republicans and others I should not use social media – but remember, I won...” He [continued](#), “...the 2016 election with interviews, speeches and social media. I had to beat #FakeNews, and did. We will continue to WIN!” Trump then [added](#), “My use of social media is not Presidential – it’s MODERN DAY PRESIDENTIAL. Make America Great Again!” [CNN](#) (7/1, Leblanc) reports the President [concluded](#), “I am thinking about changing the name #FakeNews CNN to #FraudNewsCNN!”

In an article titled “Trump Doesn’t Seem To Be Heeding Calls To Tone Down Tweets,” the [AP](#) (7/1, Lucey) says Trump’s “stream of insults has pained politicians from both parties who have appealed to him, without apparent success, to stop the 140-character bursts of character attacks and focus on running the country,” but he instead “escalated an intensely personal feud with two high-profile talk show hosts Saturday, suggesting without evidence that their network is biased against him.”

Trump Energizes Crowd At Kennedy Center Event With Media Attacks. The [New York Times](#) (7/1, Shear) reports the President on Saturday addressed “raucous supporters at a faith rally at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington [and] brought the crowd to its feet by condemning news organizations.” Trump said, “The fake media is trying to silence us. But we will not let them. Because the people know the truth. The fake media tried to stop us from going to the White House. But I’m president and they’re not.”

The [AP](#) (7/1, Lucey) reports Trump also “vowed to support and defend religious liberty, telling a gathering of evangelical Christians that the threat of terrorism is ‘one of the most grave and dire threats to religious freedom in the world today.’” Trump asserted, “We cannot allow this terrorism and extremism to spread in our country, or to find sanctuary on our shores or in our cities. We want to make sure that anyone who seeks to join our country shares our values and has the capacity to love our people.”

Trump Asked White House Staffers For Input On “Morning Joe” Tweets, Source Says. “A source close to the White House” told the [New York Post](#) (6/30, Morrongiello, Fredericks) that the President had been “asking staffers for feedback on his controversial ‘Morning Joe’ tweets Thursday.” The source claimed Trump “said to everyone, ‘I know it wasn’t presidential, but what did you think?’ ... He wanted to get people’s reactions and sense what the fallout might be.” The source added, “There’s definitely a feeling that they’re under siege, but this was also a week when they had the CNN vindication. ... So I think the White House has been in an aggressive mood as a result of that.”

Melania Trump Responds To Brzezinski, Ivanka Stays Silent On Tweets. [The Hill](#) (7/1, Bowden) reports First Lady Melania Trump on Friday “blasted” Brzezinski after she told [InStyle](#) (6/30, Cristobal) on Friday, “Melania’s got the worst job in the country and I don’t think she wants do it a lot longer. I think she will do it for as long as she has to for her son, and that’s it.” In response, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/1, story 2, 1:05, Llamas) reported the First Lady in a statement said, “It is sad when people try to further their own agenda by commenting on me and my family, especially when they don’t know me.”

However, the [AP](#) (7/1, Lucey) reports that while “Ivanka Trump has been vocal in using her White House role to advocate for women,” when her father “lobbed a demeaning attack on a female TV host on Twitter this week, his daughter and senior adviser kept quiet.” According to the AP, her “moment of silence...spoke to the challenges and calculations Ivanka Trump faces as she tries to promote family-friendly policies in an administration led by a man whose comments about women have made women cringe and drawn bipartisan rebuke.” The AP adds Ivanka so far has not “respond[ed] to questions about the president’s tweet or how it affects her policy efforts.”

Brzezinski Takes Credit For Introducing Powell To Trumps. In his [New York Times](#) (6/30, Rutenberg) “Mediator” column, Jim Rutenberg calls Trump’s feud with the “Morning Joe” co-hosts “a striking example of how a presidency born of television lives there still, no matter what else might be going on In Real Life (IRL, as the internet calls it).” In an interview, Scarborough and Brzezinski discussed their past relationship with the Trumps and Brzezinski “said she helped Mr. Trump find a key staff member, his foreign policy adviser, Dina Powell. Ms. Powell, a former Bush

administration official, has emerged as a power inside the administration, reassuring worried outsiders." According to Brzezinski, "Dina Powell was in there because I brought her to Trump Tower and introduced her to Ivanka and Donald. I will just say that, on camera and off, we hoped for the best."

Lewandowski: Trump is the "Hemingway of Twitter" [The Hill](#) (7/1, Manchester) "Briefing Room" blog reports Corey Lewandowski, President Trump's former campaign manager, in a Fox News appearance lauded Trump as "the Ernest Hemingway of Twitter." He added, "He's taken down his opponents on Twitter many times. You can ask 'Little Marco' or 'Lyin' Ted' or 'Crooked Hillary.' We all know the names or 'Low Energy Jeb.' When you oppose Donald Trump, beware of his hundred million social media followers."

Experts Warn Commission's Request For Data "A Gold Mine For Hackers." [Politico](#) (7/1, Geller, Bennett) reports "cybersecurity specialists" warn the Presidential Advisory Commission on Voter Integrity's request for data "would centralize and lay bare a valuable cache of information that cyber criminals could use for identity theft scams – or that foreign spies could leverage for disinformation schemes." They caution a comprehensive file on American voters would be "a gold mine for hackers" and comes as "the Trump administration is already under fire from Democrats who say it is doing little to protect the electoral process from hackers." The security specialists "were especially perturbed about Kobach's claim that the commission would publish all the voter data it receives." However, Marc Lotter, a spokesman for Vice President Pence, said, "Information being requested is already publicly available according to state law from which it would be released. ... The federal government takes cybersecurity very seriously. No publicly identifiable information will be released to the public and the information will be managed consistent with federal security guidelines."

CLC Sues Alabama For Insufficient Effort To Notify Convicted Felons Of Restored Voting Rights. The [Huffington Post](#) (7/1, Levine) reports the Campaign Legal Center (CLC) has filed a lawsuit against Alabama to require the state "to educate eligible voters about a pivotal change to a state law that could potentially restore the voting rights of thousands of convicted felons." The article says "Alabama earned praise when it passed a law in May clarifying which felonies constituted 'moral turpitude' and would therefore block people from voting, but Secretary of State John Merrill (R) told HuffPost in June that his office wouldn't take any action to make sure the thousands of people affected by the law actually know about it." In a statement, a CLC lawyer said, "The state is responsible for correcting the confusion that has wrongly disenfranchised voters for decades. In order for HB 282 to have any meaningful effect, Alabama must notify voters about their right and ensure they are able to successfully cast a ballot going forward."

Huckabee, Kasich, Dowd, Tapper Criticize Trump For "Morning Joe" Tweets. [The Hill](#) (7/1, Bowden) reports former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee said Saturday on "Fox & Friends Weekend" that Trump "should have resisted the urge to comment on Morning Joe's attacks, saying they weren't worth the trouble." Huckabee described the comments as "a mosquito bite. Swat it, leave it, go away." He added, "If I was advising Trump" he would say, "Don't let these guys even rise to the level of your attention, because they're not worth it." The Hill states that "Huckabee also said that Trump's tweets are 'distracting' from his agenda."

[The Hill](#) (7/1, Manchester) "Briefing Room" blog reports Ohio Gov. John Kasich, speaking with ABC's Martha Raddatz, "criticized President Trump's use of Twitter on Saturday, saying his tweets are 'unacceptable.'" Kasich said, "We've seen this for quite a while. You know, it's unfortunate and people are now begging the president not to do this, and you know you got to stop doing it."

[The Hill](#) (7/1, Greenwood) reports Jake Tapper, anchor of CNN's "The Lead with Jake Tapper," on Saturday "pushed back" against Trump's tweets, "arguing that the president uses the platform more for maintaining his personal feuds with the media than for advancing his policy goals." Tapper also "argued Saturday that by using Twitter to launch personal attacks, Trump is doing little to help the voters that sent him to the White House."

Meanwhile, in her [New York Times](#) (7/1, Dowd) column, Maureen Dowd says that "with this latest toad jumping from our president's mouth, is Donald Trump acting like a sexist pig or simply a pig? I proffer, a pig." Dowd contends, "I have no doubt that he would attack a man's appearance in the same breathtakingly below-the-belt way if he felt humiliated by that man and had the ammunition." She urges Trump's critics to "not narrow it to sexism" because "it's even more troubling than that. It's cruelty on a Grand Guignol scale, both in Trump's heartless tweets and in his mindless salesmanship of the Republicans' heartless budget." She adds "When Trump called the House health care bill mean, he knows whereof he speaks. He's the King of Mean. Pathetically, Trump mistakes cruelty for strength." She concludes "you can never be sure of anything that comes out of this White House. Except the cruelty."

Conway Defends Trump As His Feud With “Morning Joe” Hosts Escalates.

White House senior counselor Kellyanne Conway came to President Trump’s defense on Friday as his feud with MSNBC’s “Morning Joe” hosts Mika Brzezinski and Joe Scarborough escalated following their allegations that his son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner and other aides had threatened to blackmail them with the publication of a negative National Enquirer article. The almost uniformly negative reporting, which was extensive in print and online and also generated seven and a half minutes combined on the network newscasts, was focused on Brzezinski’s and Scarborough’s criticism of the President’s [tweet](#), though most pieces highlighted that the President and the White House denied attempting to blackmail the cable TV hosts.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/30, Blake) says that during an appearance on ABC’s “Good Morning America,” Conway “offered the White House’s most controversial and dangerous statement of the week” when she “went so far as to question the news media’s patriotism” over their coverage of the President. The Post reports that in a reference to Brzezinski, Conway asserted, “If you go back and you look at what is said about this president, a lack of policy coverage, there are personal attacks about his physicalities, about his fitness for office, he’s called a goon, a thug, mentally ill, talking about dementia, armchair psychologists all over television every single day.”

[Politico](#) (6/30, Nelson) reports Conway said, “It doesn’t help the American people to have a president covered in this light. I’m sorry, it’s neither productive nor patriotic. The toxicity is over the top.” According to Politico, while she “stopped short of saying she approved of the specific attacks” on Brzezinski, [The Hill](#) (6/30, Manchester) reports Conway “endorse[d] his ability to fight back when he’s attacked.” She added, “No good comes out of people attacking the president’s physical and mental states on national television everyday, to the exclusion of connecting Americans with information they need.”

In a separate article, [The Hill](#) (6/30, Manchester) reports Conway also told “Fox and Friends” that “as a woman who knows him and works for him, I’m very pleased at how he treats women in this workplace, the White House.” The [Washington Times](#) (6/30, Persons) similarly reports Conway said “that women care more about policy than Mr. Trump’s tweets.” Conway argued, “Roughly about 120 of the 160 tweets detail with policy, bilateral meetings, what president of the United States is doing right here at that White House, what the Cabinet is doing, news that he sees that he wants to convey to other people, foreign policy, ISIS – you name it – terrorist attacks. That gets very little coverage.” In contrast, Conway said, “The conversation we’re having right now is a one-way conversation of toxicity. A lot of these people on TV do not criticize him on his policies, they do not criticize his actions and his beliefs, they criticize him. The office of the president and it’s current occupant.”

Meanwhile, the [Washington Post](#) (6/30, A1, Rucker, Parker) says on its front page that “to many inside the White House, as well as outside allies, what looked like a public relations debacle [has] amounted to an abundance of ‘winning’ – a Trumpian catchphrase playfully repeated Friday by some West Wing officials, even as they were discomfited by the Brzezinski broadside.” Jason Miller, a former Trump campaign adviser, said the President’s tweets “energize the base” while Roger Stone, a former Trump adviser, “likened Trump’s attacks on the media to the strategy employed by former president Richard M. Nixon to discredit organizations such as The Post that were breaking stories on the Watergate investigation.”

However, the [New York Times](#) (6/30, A1, Mele) reports in a front-page article that Brzezinski and Scarborough “defended themselves on Friday against President Trump’s Twitter attack the day before, with Ms. Brzezinski saying that...Trump’s tweets targeting her betrayed ‘a fragile, childlike ego’ that was a profound concern.” While they were scheduled to go on vacation Friday, [Politico](#) (6/30, Nelson, Tamborrino) reports Brzezinski and Scarborough, her fiancée, “joined their morning show in its 7 a.m. hour to address the president’s attack on-air. Both insisted that they had not been rattled by Trump’s tweets and both said they had received a flood of calls and texts from concerned friends.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/30, story 3, 2:30, Llamas) reported Trump’s tweets generated “explosive fallout,” as the “Morning Joe” co-hosts argued his remarks “reveal a continued mistreatment of women.” [Reuters](#) (6/30, Chiacu) reports Brzezinski asserted the President “appears to have a fragile, impetuous, child-like ego that we’ve seen over and over again, especially with women,” while Scarborough added, “He attacks women because he fears women.” He additionally “said Trump packed ‘five or six lies into two tweets,’ including mischaracterizing their meetings at Mar-a-Lago. Brzezinski said she has never had a face-lift.”

The [New York Post](#) (6/30, Fredericks) reports Brzezinski said Friday that she had told Trump about having some cosmetic surgery done on her neck, “prompting him to gush about how ‘incredible’ she looked.” Scarborough told [Vanity Fair](#) (6/29, Fox), “The irony of it all is that

Donald kept saying, 'That's incredible. You can't even tell. Who did it? Who did it?' He kept asking for the name of the doctor. He literally asked 10 times. 'Is he down here? Who is he?'"

The [AP](#) (6/30, Bauder) reports the "Morning Joe" hosts also "said Friday that President Donald Trump lied about their December encounter in a tweet and that his 'unhealthy obsession' with their program doesn't serve his mental health or the country well." Brzezinski asserted, "It's been fascinating and frightening and really sad for our country." The [New York Post](#) (6/30, Steinbuch) reports Brzezinski responded to "Trump's deeply personal attack on Twitter by assailing his 'fragile' and 'easily played ego' – saying she was worried for the United States." The [Washington Post](#) (6/30, Lac, Johnson) reports Brzezinski said Trump's tweets did not upset her, but they do "worry me about the country."

In a [Washington Post](#) (6/30, Brzezinski) op-ed, Brzezinski, Scarborough contended that despite the "personal attacks," their "concerns about his unmoored behavior go far beyond the personal." They asserted "America's leaders and allies are asking themselves yet again whether this man is fit to be president. We have our doubts, but we are both certain that the man is not mentally equipped to continue watching our show, 'Morning Joe.'" They repeatedly highlighted Trump's "unhealthy obsession with our show" and revealed "this year, top White House staff members warned that the National Enquirer was planning to publish a negative article about us unless we begged the president to have the story spiked. We ignored their desperate pleas."

The [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (6/30, Sherman) reports that "according to three sources familiar with the private conversations, what happened was this: After the inauguration, Morning Joe's coverage of Trump turned sharply negative." The piece states that in March, "Scarborough and Brzezinski found out the Enquirer was preparing a story about their affair" and "in mid-April, Scarborough texted with Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner about the pending Enquirer story." The Daily Intelligencer adds "Kushner told Scarborough that he would need to personally apologize to Trump in exchange for getting Enquirer owner David Pecker to stop the story. (A spokesperson for Kushner declined to comment). Scarborough says he refused, and the Enquirer published the story in print on June 5, headlined 'Morning Joe Sleazy Cheating Scandal!'"

[Politico](#) (6/30, Gold) reports Trump and Scarborough "sparred on Twitter on Friday over [the] National Enquirer article" and the [AP](#) (6/30, Bauder) says that they "traded accusations that the other was lying as the bizarre feud between the leader of the free world and two cable television hosts persisted on Friday."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/30, Persons) reports "Trump was apparently watching the news program because he tweeted later in the morning on their coverage" and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/30, Trachtenberg, Rabil) reports the President denied the allegations from the MSNBC hosts. Trump [tweeted](#), "Watched low rated @Morning_Joe for first time in long time. FAKE NEWS. He called me to stop a National Enquirer article. I said no! Bad show." Scarborough subsequently [replied](#), "Yet another lie. I have texts from your top aides and phone records. Also, those records show I haven't spoken with you in many months." Scarborough [added](#), "Why do you keep lying about things that are so easily disproven? What is wrong with you?"

According to the [Huffington Post](#) (6/30, Date), the White House so far "has not directly addressed the claim that Trump's aides threatened Brzezinski and Scarborough," but [McClatchy](#) (6/30, Irby) reports the National Enquirer "put out a statement responding to Scarborough's remarks, saying the story they ran was true and they did not threaten them or their children. Brzezinski accused the Enquirer of calling her children, but not threatening them." [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/30, story 3, 2:35, Holt) White House correspondent Kristen Welker reported the Enquirer said, "At no time did we threaten either Joe or Mika or their children in connection with our reporting on the story. We have no knowledge of any discussions between the White House and Joe and Mika about our story, and absolutely no involvement in those discussions."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/30, story 4, 2:25, Mason), Major Garrett cautioned "there is evidence this Twitter spat has taken a toll...on Capitol Hill, where the President's healthcare agenda is in dangerous limbo and a distracted White House gropes for a new political strategy."

CNN Producer Calls Trump "Crazy," Denigrates "Stupid" Voters. The [Washington Times](#) (6/30, Richardson) reports Jimmy Carr, a producer for CNN's "New Day" with Chris Cuomo and Alisyn Camerota, "said that media insiders view President Trump as a 'clown' who's 'f--ing crazy' and voters as 'stupid as sh--' in an undercover video released Friday by Project Veritas." James O'Keefe, the group's president, said, "It now seems pretty clear that CNN's bias and dishonesty is a plague in the once-respected news organization."

[Breitbart](#) (6/30, Spiering) reports Conway additionally challenged CNN "New Day" host Chris Cuomo on Twitter after his producer was caught on camera saying "she looked like her face 'got hit with a shovel.'" Breitbart states that Conway retweeted Donald Trump Jr., who [asked](#): "I wonder what all the people 'outraged' (fauxoutraged) about a tweet feel about how this CNN

producer talks about Kellyanne Conway?"

Obama Photographer Trolls Trump Over "Respect For Women." The [Huffington Post](#) (6/30, Hatch) reports that following "Trump's sexist Twitter meltdown about...Brzezinski," Pete Souza, former President Obama's White House photographer, "took to Instagram to remind us how much Obama valued gender equality in a series of five photos called 'Respect for women.'" The HuffPost says "Souza has made wonderful use of his Instagram account during the Trump Administration, subtly uploading photos from his days with President Barack Obama in response to some of President Trump's most outlandish moments."

WPost Analysis: Despite White House Efforts, Trump Went Off Message This Week. In a brief analysis headlined "The White House Had A Coordinated Message This Month. Trump Didn't," [Washington Post](#) (6/30, Bump) correspondent Philip Bump states that while "his communications team put in so much work to identify themes for each week of the month," an analysis of Trump's tweets this month discovered "fully 12 were actually addressing the subject that the White House was 'focusing on' that week. That's about 7 percent of on-message tweets – including two Twitter ads about infrastructure that ran on his account."

NYPost, NYTimes, Parker Condemn Trump Tweets, Wisconsin Governor Suggests He Should Tweet More. In an editorial on the President's tweets, the [New York Post](#) (6/29) says simply: "Stop. Just stop."

The [New York Times](#) (6/30, Board) editorializes that based on how Trump reacted to Brzezinski "by tweeting a stream of coarse insults," the President demonstrates he "clearly lacks the toughness of George Washington" and "the confidence of Dwight Eisenhower," as well as "the grace Richard Nixon showed, at least in public." According to the Times, "Mr. Trump may be a more tender soul, or less resilient. In any case, he can't seem to take the heat."

In her [Washington Post](#) (6/30, Parker) column, Kathleen Parker speculates whether Trump's attacks on Brzezinski have "finally force[d] Republicans to face the fact, so obvious to so many, that President Trump isn't quite right? Not in the correct sense but in the head sense." She adds "more and more Americans embrace "This is not normal" as the bumper sticker du jour" and "many are wondering again: Will this be it?" However, Parker warns "don't count on it. ... Nothing will happen until GOP constituents start shouting and, remember, these are the same people Trump has taught to hate the media."

However, [The Hill](#) (6/30, Delk) "Briefing Room" blog reports Wisconsin's Republican Gov. Scott Walker "encouraged President Trump to 'tweet more' on Friday, in stark contrast to recent Republican backlash over some of Trump's more incendiary tweets." Speaking on Fox News, Walker said, "Unlike others, I'd tell him to tweet more, to be on Facebook more, to get the message out more, but to be focused." He added, "Tweet more, I'm fine with that, but don't get off in the weeds on other issues. ... Focus on the things that the people that elected you said you wanted to have done ... and the American people, I think, will come along with him."

Trump Hosts South Korean President, Urges Asian Allies To Coordinate On North Korea Efforts.

President Trump welcomed South Korean President Moon to the White House on Friday and the two leaders showed unity against North Korean aggression in the region. While media coverage was overshadowed by the President's Twitter feud with the hosts of MSNBC's "Morning Joe," reporting was heavy in print and online. Analyses highlighted that despite finding common ground on North Korea, Trump endangered relations with South Korea by criticizing the country on trade even as he strained US-Sino efforts to rein in North Korea on Thursday by sanctioning a Chinese bank and approving an arms sale to Taiwan.

In a segment about Trump's tweets, [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/30, story 3, 2:35, Holt) reported, "One of the agenda items overshadowed today – the President's meeting with his South Korean counterpart, coming a day after the White House announced new sanctions aimed at North Korea." In a similar segment on Trump's tweets, [ABC World News Tonight](#)'s (6/30, story 3, 2:30, Llamas) senior White House correspondent Cecilia Vega said the White House had "hoped a visit from South Korea's new leader might shift the focus away from the President's latest tweet controversy."

In a segment on Trump's tweets, [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/30, Cooper) reported "this was a very important day at the White House when the South Korean President was here, and all of the focus could have been on the global challenges that come out of the Korean Peninsula right now, including North Korea." [Politico](#) (6/30, Conway) reports the President "told reporters in the Oval Office on Friday that he and Moon 'accomplished a lot having to do with our thoughts on North Korea and our thoughts on trade' over a 'fantastic' dinner at the White House

on Thursday, according to a pool report."

[Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/30, Hemmer) broadcast the President asserting, "The era of strategic patience with the North Korean regime has failed. The United States calls on other regional powers and all responsible nations to join us in implementing sanctions and demanding that the North Korean regime choose a better path and do it quickly." [Reuters](#) (6/30, Ahmann, Chiacu, Lambert) reports Trump also pledged a "determined response" to stop North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missiles program while [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/30, Blitzer) said that in the joint press conference, Trump added, "We are working closely with South Korea, Japan as well as partners around the world on a range of diplomatic, security, and economic measures to protect our allies and our own citizens from this mess known as North Korea."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/30, Nakamura, Johnson) reports "the show of solidarity between the leaders of two allied nations comes after Moon swept to power in the wake of the resignation of his predecessor, Park Geun-hye, who was undone by a financial scandal." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/30, Lee, Mauldin, Stokols) mentions Moon said Trump has accepted an invitation to visit South Korea this year.

However, the [AP](#) (6/30, Pennington) reports that while Trump and Moon "showed joint resolve on North Korea," the President "opened up a new front of discord by demanding a renegotiation of a landmark 2012 trade pact between the two countries." The AP adds that "to rub it in, Trump called on his top economic officials to address their grievances to Moon in front of journalists."

[McClatchy](#) (6/30, Leavenworth, Kumar) says that "the exchange allowed Trump to present himself as again being tough on U.S. allies, particularly on trade deficits." Commerce Secretary Ross said, "there are a lot of non-tariff barriers to U.S. exports" in South Korea as well as the "problem with oil field tubular goods and steel products" caused by South Korean exports of "dumped Chinese steel" into the US. National Economic Council Director Cohn "then talked about China's 'predatory practices' and barriers to U.S. companies that want to export goods to China, or do business there."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/30, Swanson) reports the President "slammed" South Korea "for exporting more to the United States than it imports, restricting sales of U.S. autos, and enabling China in circumventing global trade rules." Trump said, "From when the U.S.-Korea trade deal was signed in 2011 to 2016 – and you know who signed it, you know who wanted it – our trade deficit with South Korea has increased by more than \$11 billion. Not exactly a great deal." [Bloomberg News](#) (6/30, Pettypiece, Sink) reports Trump added, "The U.S. has trade deficits with many many countries, and we cannot allow that to continue. And we'll start with South Korea right now."

In a brief segment, the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/30, story 6, 0:20, Mason) reported Trump "demanded a renegotiation" of the trade deal, which the [Washington Times](#) (6/30, Miller) says that he called "a rough deal for the U.S." The President added that the talks will "hopefully" result in "an equitable" and "fair deal for both parties." [Reuters](#) (6/30, Brunnstrom, Lambert) reports Trump vowed his Administration "will do more to remove barriers to reciprocal trade and market access." He also asserted that he is "encouraged by President Moon's assurances that he will work to create a level playing field so that American workers and businesses, and especially automakers, can have a fair shake at dealing with South Korea."

Nonetheless, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/30, Bierman) reports "it was unclear from his and administration aides' remarks how significant a break Trump was making with a free-trade agreement that had broad support when it was approved in Congress." The Times also cautions that the "announcement could be seen as a provocation of an ally during a delicate time, when the administration is looking to South Korea to help contain North Korea's nuclear program."

China Condemns US Sanctions Against Bank, Arms Sale To Taiwan. [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/30, Blitzer), reporting on diplomatic efforts on North Korea, said that on Thursday, the Administration "issued new sanctions against a Chinese bank for allegedly helping North Korea: Then hours later announced a massive US arms sale to Taiwan which China views as a renegade province. Beijing is furious."

The [New York Times](#) (6/30, Myers, Wee) reports Treasury Secretary Mnuchin announced the sanctions against two Chinese businessmen, the Bank of Dandong, and Dalian Global Unity Shipping, hours before Agriculture Secretary Perdue was due to arrive in Beijing with Ambassador Terry Branstad to promote "tasty, wholesome, healthy, safe U.S. beef" at a ceremony meant to "symboliz[e] the promise of a constructive era." While Perdue asserted, "We think there's an opportunity for agriculture to lead the way in the future relationship of commerce between our two wonderful countries," the event was overshadowed by the "furious response" from China.

The [AP](#) (6/30, Klapper, Pace) reports that while Mnuchin insisted “we are in no way targeting China,” the White House appears to be “engaged in a multipronged pressure campaign against Beijing, born of frustration with the limited results of their much-touted cooperation on ending North Korea’s nuclear threat.” The AP acknowledges “the shifts in Trump’s China policy in some way reflect the natural ebbs and flows that are to be expected in great power relations,” but “Trump’s rapid flip-flops on China are a departure from the practice of past U.S. presidents, who found persistent behind-the-scenes pressure and engagement of Beijing more likely than headline-grabbing confrontations to produce deals on everything from carbon emissions to currency exchange rates.”

While the [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/30, Jennings) reports the Chinese government “objected” to arms sale “and demanded that the deal be canceled,” [Reuters](#) (6/30, Blanchard, Shepherd) says Beijing “reacted relatively calmly on Friday after a series of diplomatic broadsides by the United States, expressing anger over new arms sales by Washington to Taiwan but hoping ties could soon be brought back on track.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/30, Page) reports Lu Kang, a spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, called for the Administration to reconsider, and the [Washington Post](#) (6/30, Rauhala) reports he “said Beijing has launched ‘solemn representations’ with the U.S. side over the arms sale” as well as the sanctions, which he said “go against the consensus achieved at Mar-a-Lago” when Trump met with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

However, [Reuters](#) (6/30, Shepherd, Blanchard) reports the Chinese embassy in Washington in a statement said the Chinese government and people are “outraged” and “urged the United States to revoke immediately its ‘wrong decision’ to sell Taiwan \$1.42 billion worth of arms, saying it contradicted” the “consensus” reached by Trump and Xi in April. Meanwhile, the Chinese Defense Ministry “said Taiwan was the ‘most important, most sensitive core issue in Sino-U.S. ties,’ warning the United States to end such sales to avoid further damaging peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.”

On [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (6/30, Blitzer) Rep. Gregory Meeks, a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, warned that the arms sale “tips the balance” toward Taiwan. He added, “That is, I think, out of bounds. And then it takes us away from what we want to do because others will also see that that’s out of bounds with reference to international law.”

Trump Scolds Korean Media For Knocking Over Table In Oval Office. The [New York Post](#) (6/30, Fredericks) reports “Trump doesn’t like the Korean media either after they piled into the Oval Office on Friday during his sitdown with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and crashed into a couch, damaged a table and nearly knocked over a lamp.” According to the Post, the Secret Service “had to ask the Koreans to stop running as they entered the room” and “there was a lot of jostling as the Korean journalists, unfamiliar with the Oval Office, worked their way around the two chairs where the presidents were seated to find a good spot to set up.”

The [Washington Times](#) (6/30, Chasmar) reports the President “scolded” the “aggressive reporters,” but a “video posted by C-SPAN showed Mr. Trump’s bodyguard Keith Schiller save [the] lamp from being knocked to the ground.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/30, Pappas) reports Trump said, “Easy fellas. Hey fellas. Fellas, easy. Fellas, easy.” He added: “You guys are getting worse.” The President continued, “They knocked the table down. It’s actually a very friendly press, don’t let that get you. Although we just lost the table.”

Pence, Moon Lay Wreath At Korean War Memorial. [Reuters](#) (6/30) reports Vice President Pence and South Korean President Moon Jae-in visited the Korean War Memorial on Friday.

Trump Suggests Lawmakers Should Just Repeal ACA, Replace Later.

President Trump tweeted Friday that if the Senate cannot pass the Better Care Reconciliation Act then Republican lawmakers should consider just repealing the Affordable Care Act and passing a replacement at a later date. While ABC World News Tonight was the sole network newscast to provide coverage, the predominantly negative reporting, which was heavy in print and online, focused on the implications of his statement and the White House’s insistence that the Administration is still committed to the BCRA.

[ABC World News Tonight](#)’s (6/30, story 4, 1:00, Llamas) Mary Bruce reported “the President did a 180 that could push [Senate Republicans] even further apart,” as does the [New York Times](#) (6/30, A1, Kaplan, Pear) in a front-page article, which says that Trump “tossed in a new complication with an old idea, suggesting the Senate could repeal President Barack Obama’s signature domestic achievement now, then replace it later.” He [tweeted](#), “If Republican Senators are unable to pass what they are working on now, they should immediately REPEAL, and then REPLACE at a later date!”

The [AP](#) (6/30, Werner, Fram) reports Trump “revive[d] an approach that GOP leaders and the president himself considered but dismissed months ago as impractical and politically unwise,” but according to [Politico](#) (6/30, Nelson), “Trump’s suggestion somewhat mirrors” Sen. Rand Paul, who suggested Thursday that lawmakers should “split the bill into a ‘clean repeal’ that the entire GOP caucus could support and a second health care spending bill that moderate Republicans could hash out with willing Democrats.” [Reuters](#) (6/30, Chiacu) says the President’s recommendation was “welcomed” by Sen. Ben Sasse, “a Republican who has often clashed with Trump.” Sasse [tweeted](#), “Sounds great, Pres. @realDonaldTrump. We are agreed. We need to break the logjam.”

However, [Washington Post](#) (6/30, Blake) senior reporter Aaron Blake in an analysis acknowledges “this approach may be more popular than the one [Republicans are] employing right now,” but “the bad news is it’s still hugely unpopular and would be a political gamble on a scale we have rarely seen.” Blake concludes the “gamble” would be “such a risk, in fact, that I’m doubtful Senate Republicans could even assemble 50 votes to repeal it in the first place – which would render the rest of this pretty moot.” [Politico](#) (6/30, Haberkorn) similarly contends Trump’s latest proposal is “a non-starter for many congressional Republicans who don’t want to scrap a plan that’s covering millions of Americans without something to take its place.” Politico states that “repealing the health law without a replacement would kick about 18 million Americans off of health coverage in the first year – and reach 26 million a few years later, according to a CBO analysis of a 2015 bill to repeal the health law without a replacement.”

Meanwhile, [Reuters](#) (6/30, Rampton) reports White House deputy press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders on Friday insisted the White House remains “fully committed to pushing through with the Senate at this point but we’re looking at every possible option of repealing and replacing Obamacare.” [Bloomberg News](#) (6/30, Titus) reports Huckabee Sanders added, “We are focused on the end product here and that is repealing and replacing Obamacare.”

In addition, the [Washington Times](#) (6/30, Persons) reports Health and Human Services Secretary Price said Friday in a Fox News appearance “he believes a health bill will pass this month because the current system is ‘unacceptable.’” Price added, “The Senate understands that. The president is adamant about making certain that we move forward in a positive way for patients and families and docs and not in Washington, D.C.” According to Price, the Senate is attempting to “make sure we have a health care system that actually responds to patients. The current system doesn’t provide for that, and that’s the challenge that we’ve got to fix, and that’s the challenge that the president has demanded gets done.” Price also said, “There are some concerns about individuals on the Medicaid system and whether, as they transition to something else, there’s something that they can go to, and that’s where the tax credits come into play.”

Conservative Lawmakers Urge McConnell, Ryan To Shorten Recess If Healthcare Bill Not Passed.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/30, Radnofsky) reports Sens. Ben Sasse and Rand Paul called on the White House to intervene if Senate Majority Leader McConnell is unable to secure the votes needed to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act by the end of their July 4 recess. The [Washington Post](#) (6/30, A1, Sullivan, Eilperin, Snell) states in a front-page article that their “fresh calls for repeal, which echoed an early-morning tweet from President Trump on Friday, underscored the extent to which Republicans remain divided on health care as they head into the Fourth of July recess.”

In addition, ten senators on Friday sent the Majority Leader a letter “asking for the GOP leader to shorten the August recess – or cancel it altogether – if the party does not make significant headway on its priorities in July, according to a copy obtained by” [Politico](#) (6/30, Everett), which reports that the lawmakers wrote they “respectfully request that [McConnell] consider truncating, if not completely foregoing, the scheduled August state work period, allowing us more time to complete our work.” [The Hill](#) (6/30, Carney) “Floor Action” blog says that the letter, which was “spearheaded by Sen. David Perdue,” came as Rep. Andy Biggs and 11 other members of the House Freedom Caucus sent a letter to House Speaker Ryan “urging him to cancel the August recess” so they can pass the healthcare legislation.

WPost A1: McConnell Attempts To Overcome Reputation As Obstructionist With Healthcare Bill.

In a nearly 2,200-word front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (6/30, Fisher, Sullivan) reports that while Senate Majority Leader McConnell, has been deemed by his opponents as “America’s No. 1 obstructionist, the Darth Vader of Capitol Hill,” whether he can successfully enact “big-ticket” legislation, including the healthcare bill, “will depend on his ability to pivot from blocking to building.” Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich said McConnell “has a really, really difficult challenge” as the GOP has “a very narrow majority and it’s divided within itself.” Nonetheless, Gingrich praised him as “like a really good engineer, trying to think through every day, ‘How do I get the machine operating?’ ... The tools that make Mitch effective are steely determination,

enormous will power and endless patience. He wants to be known as the guy who gets things done."

NYTimes A1: Trump Supporters Upset With Heller Over Opposition To Healthcare Bill. In a front-page article, the [New York Times](#) (6/30, A1, Martin, Vogel) reports Sen. Dean Heller last week "infuriated the White House and helped unravel his party's attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act days before a vote was expected in the Senate," and now he "is facing an intense backlash in Nevada, his home state, where there is talk of a primary race challenge against him next year and a pair of the state's wealthiest Republican donors are fuming." The Times states that although America First Policies "suspended its advertising campaign against Mr. Heller after he agreed to attend a West Wing meeting on the health bill and after a group of Republican senators in attendance complained about the commercials," the lawmaker "has by no means escaped the wrath of Mr. Trump and his vocal supporters, including two billionaire casino magnates, Sheldon G. Adelson and Steve Wynn."

Polls Show Opposition To GOP Healthcare Bills "Outpace Support." The [Washington Post](#) (6/30, Guskin) reports a series of new national polls released this week "show opposition" to the Republican healthcare bills "continues to outpace support by a wide margin, with tepid support among Republicans and overwhelming opposition among Democrats." The Post says the GOP proposal "fares best in a [Fox News](#) poll" of 1,017 "registered voters" (6/25-6/27) that "showed 27 percent of registered voters favored and 54 percent opposed" while a [Suffolk University-USA Today](#) poll of 1,000 "registered voters" (6/24-6/27) "found a nearly 4-to-1 margin of opposition (45 percent opposed while 12 percent supported)," a [Quinnipiac University](#) poll of 1,212 "voters" (6/22-6/27) found 58 percent "who disapproved and 16 percent who approved," and a [NPR-PBS NewsHour-Marist](#) poll of 1,205 "adults" (6/21-6/25) "found a 3-to-1 margin of opposition, with 55 percent who disapproved and 17 percent who approved."

FreedomWorks President, Columnists Criticize GOP Healthcare Bill. In a [Washington Post](#) (6/30) op-ed, FreedomWorks President Adam Brandon warns that "the 'swamp' is winning" as Republicans "are now breaking frequent promises to repeal Obamacare." He is critical of the Better Care Reconciliation Act, which "only modifies Obamacare subsidies, bails out insurance companies, likely keeps Medicaid expansion and does nothing to lower premiums." Brandon asserts "the opposition mounted by Heller and his moderate colleagues is a symptom of Republican hypocrisy that has reared its ugly head." He concludes by hoping McConnell and other lawmakers "drive this bill in a conservative direction" as grass-roots activists "want Republicans to defeat the swamp and repeal Obamacare."

In his [New York Times](#) (6/30, Stephens) column, Bret Stephens asserts that "if Republicans had been more modest and less inept in advancing a realistic health care agenda, they might have spent the past seven years understanding, explaining and changing" the "third-party-payer problem" rather than focusing on "repeal and replace." He contends "The only genuinely promising reform in the Republican health bills are proposals to nearly double contribution limits for health savings accounts and allow them to be used to pay for premiums." Stephens concludes, "H.S.A.s can restore sanity to a market in which prices are invisible and costs keep rising, and in which the concept of 'insurance' has lost its meaning. Republicans who want to salvage a conservative policy victory from their health care fracas would be wise to leave Obamacare alone, so that its authors can pay the price for its failure, just as the G.O.P. restores price to the rest of the health care system."

In his [Washington Post](#) (6/30, Davidson) column, Joe Davidson hails Sen. Jon Tester, the ranking member on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, for highlighting how the GOP's "heartless" legislation will hurt veterans. Davidson shares Tester's warnings and contends Chairman Johnny Isakson as well as the Department of Veterans Affairs "had the chance to refute the data presented by the Democrats, but they did not."

In his [New York Times](#) (6/30, Lieber) column, Ron Lieber asserts that if Americans plan to grow old, they need to pay attention to the Administration's plans to cut Medicaid funding by "hundreds of billions of dollars...if anything like the health care bills on the table in Washington come to pass." Lieber concludes that "big Medicaid cuts could lead all of us to miss out on the care that many of us like best – and costs the government the least – because it will be cut first."

In his [New York Times](#) (6/30, Egan) column, Timothy Egan asserts Senate Republicans' "toxic" ACA repeal bill "does nothing to fix a struggling system. But it is bold and quite daring: for this is the broadest attack on working Americans by a governing political party in our lifetime." He says the legislation illustrates "the bargain – your health care for my tax cut."

Moderate Republican Lawmakers Warn Tax Reform Initiative In Jeopardy.

[Reuters](#) (6/30, Morgan) reports Rep. Charlie Dent and 19 other Republican lawmakers from the

Tuesday Group sent a letter on Friday to House Speaker Ryan warning “that efforts to overhaul the federal tax code could be jeopardized by demands for including major spending cuts in a fiscal 2018 budget resolution.” In the letter, they express “fear that if the House persists” in pursuing the “extremely problematic” cuts to mandatory programs in the budget resolution, “it could imperil tax reform.” The [AP](#) (6/30, Taylor) reports the “20 GOP moderates signaled a revolt” over “an emerging plan to force cuts to government agencies and benefit programs such as food stamps.” The AP says the lawmakers “warned that without an agreement with Democrats on increasing agency spending, moderates will be ‘reticent to support any budget.’”

Bannon Pushing Tax Hike For Wealthy To Pay For Middle, Working Class Tax Cuts.

[Axios](#) (7/2, Swan) reports that President Trump’s chief strategist Steve Bannon is pushing to “rais[e] taxes on the wealthiest Americans to pay for steep middle and working-class tax cuts.” While some officials “think it’s crazy,” Bannon “believes it’s a potent populist idea.”

White House Projected To Save \$22 Million.

[Forbes](#) (7/2, Andrzejewski) reports that the Trump Administration on Friday “released their annual report to Congress on White House Office Personnel,” According to the report, which “includes the name, status, salary and position title of all 377 White House employees,” the “projected four-year savings on the White House payroll could top \$22 million.” Forbes says those savings are due to “Trump’s refusal to take a salary as well as big reductions in other areas including the absence of czars, expensive ‘fellowships,’ and spending on FLOTUS staff.” Forbes goes on to list “key findings” from the report.

Source: Trump Administration Considering Effort To Examine Climate Science.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/1, Dennis, Eilperin) reports the Trump administration is mulling “whether to launch a governmentwide effort to question the science of climate change,” a move opponents “say is an attempt to undermine the long-established consensus human activity is fueling the Earth’s rising temperatures.” The effort, “driven by Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt, has sparked a debate among top Trump administration officials over whether to pursue such a strategy.” A top White House official “said that while Pruitt has expressed interest in the idea, ‘there are no formal plans within the administration to do anything about it at this time.’” Energy Secretary Rick Perry “also is involved in the effort, two officials said.” [E&E Publishing](#) (6/30) reports climate scientists are concerned “that the ‘red team, blue team’ concept could politicize scientific research and disproportionately elevate the views of a relatively small number of experts who disagree with mainstream scientists.”

[The Hill](#) (6/30, Cama) reports Pruitt and Perry “have been talking up the ‘red team, blue team’ idea in recent weeks for climate science.” Last month, Pruitt told Breitbart “that the debate would be good.” He stated, “What the American people deserve, I think, is a true, legitimate, peer-reviewed, objective, transparent discussion about CO2.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/2, Shepherd) also provides coverage of this story.

White House Office Of Science And Technology Policy Unstaffed.

[The Hill](#) (7/1, Manchester) reported that “the last three employees of the White House’s Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) officially left the department last week, leaving the office completely unstaffed.” The article added that the final three employees “were holdovers from the Obama administration.” The Hill wrote that “the White House’s science division has largely focused in the past on issues such as biotechnology and STEM education,” and pointed out that “there were more than 100 employees in OSTP during the Obama administration.” Speculating on the significance of the moves, the Hill added that “the lack of employees in the science-focused office could reflect how much of a priority science is for the relatively new administration.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Bank Health, Imperiled.” The [New York Times](#) (7/3, Board) editorializes that even though for the first time since the 2008 financial crisis, the Federal Reserve has determined “that all of the nation’s big banks are healthy,” to the extent that that is true, “credit belongs in large part to banking reforms enacted after the crisis. And it is precisely those reforms that are now in the cross hairs” of the Trump Administration. The Times writes, “Deregulation led to the financial

crash in 2008. It's safe to assume that repeating the mistake will lead to the same result."

"Europe's Deadly Paralysis On Migration." The [New York Times](#) (7/3, Board) editorializes, "With summer's warmer weather and calmer seas, tens of thousands of desperate migrants are setting out for Europe from Libya, once again overwhelming the capacity of rescue efforts on the Mediterranean and straining the ability of Italy to cope." Since the start of the year, "some 72,000 migrants arrived in Italy from Libya," while more than 2,000 died on the way. Italy "has effectively been turned into a holding pen for migrants," and "people who try to push on from Italy into France face police officers wielding tear gas at the border." The Times says "Europe has no other option" than to open up.

Washington Post.

"What Trump Should Say When He Meets Putin For The First Time." The [Washington Post](#) (7/2) argues in an editorial that in his first meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, President Trump "should set aside his stated admiration for Mr. Putin's strongman tendencies and instead confront the Russian president with difficult questions." Trump "cannot fail to admonish Mr. Putin for Russia's attempts to meddle in the 2016 presidential election" and must "make clear the United States will not tolerate it, period." The Post says that on this and other issues Trump "must not hesitate to be blunt."

"Trump Launches His Opening Voter Suppression Salvo." The [Washington Post](#) (7/2) editorializes that the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity "is beginning its work under the guidance of its vice chair, Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, a Republican notorious for his efforts at vote suppression" who "has written to state election officials requesting that they hand over voter rolls, including not only names, addresses and dates of birth, but also party affiliation, voting history back to 2006 and the last four digits of Social Security numbers – all of which he says will be made public." According to the Post, "commonplace and often minor inaccuracies on the rolls, along with inconsistencies in data collection and formatting among the states, give rise to the high likelihood of false 'matches' from one roll to another, and also that many voters may be purged unfairly, without safeguards or recourse."

"Pope Francis' Toleration Of Sexually Abusive Clergy Leaves A Stain." A [Washington Post](#) (7/2) editorial says Pope Francis' tolerance of Cardinal George Pell's alleged incidents of sexual assault is the latest sign that Francis' "muscular, unequivocal and truly 'zero tolerance' stance against pedophile priests and their enablers is not a priority for him." The Post says through his tolerance, Pope Francis is ensuring "that the disgrace of clergy sex abuse will continue to be a stain on the Catholic Church."

Wall Street Journal.

"The Senate's Tax Panic." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/2) says in an editorial that support is growing among Senate Republicans for leaving the ACA's 3.8 percent surtax on capital gains, dividends, interest, and similar forms of income in place. The Journal says that the GOP vowed to repeal all of the ACA's tax increases, which it says impact the middle class as well as the rich, and that Republican should not alter that stance.

"Trump's Signals To China." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/2) says new US sanctions on Chinese entities assisting North Korea and the recently-approved \$1.4 billion arms sale to Taiwan evidence the Administration's growing frustration with Beijing's unwillingness to pressure Pyongyang over its nuclear program. The Journal expresses support for both measures, and says China's continued failure to address the growing North Korean threat may be a miscalculation of how far the Administration will go.

"Pruitt's Clean Water Break." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/2) briefly editorializes that despite President Trump's difficulty pushing legislation through Congress, he has been successful rolling back former President Obama's so-called pen-and-phone lawmaking, most recently in the EPA's rescindment of the Obama-era unilateral rewrite of the Clean Water Act last week. The Journal says the Obama-era EPA's redefinition of the "waters of the United States" under the Clean Water Act employed a number of arbitrary thresholds – in part empowered by Justice Anthony Kennedy in a 2006 case conceiving the new "significant nexus" standard. EPA Administrator's announcement that the agency will adopt a new rule "in accordance with Supreme Court decisions, agency guidance, and longstanding practice" that would "return power to the states and provide regulatory certainty" is a testament to the limitations of pen-and-phone rule-making, says the Journal.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Dollar Gets Squeezed From All Sides](#)
[With ISIS On The Run, An Unexpected Leader Emerges In Iraq](#)
[Senators Face Pushback From Governors On The Health Bill](#)
[US Navy Patrols Near Disputed Island In South China Sea](#)

New York Times:

[Program To Spur Low-Income Housing Is Keeping Cities Segregated](#)
[With Beaches Empty, Christie Wages One More Fight](#)
[Trump Foot Soldier Sidelined Under Glare Of Russia Inquiry](#)
[An Addict, A Confessed Killer And Now A Debut Author](#)
[Wealthy Qatar Weathers Siege, But Personal And Political Costs Grow](#)

Washington Post:

['They Are Not Treated Like Humans'](#)
[Trump Sets Off Furor By Beating Figure Depicting News Media](#)
[Ex-Slave's Progeny Lie In Digital Age's Path](#)
[Good Dog, Good Therapist?](#)
[Trump Quiet On Revamp Of ACA](#)

Financial Times:

[Trump's CNN Smackdown Opens New Front In Media War](#)
[City Team To Press Brussels For Free-Trade Deal](#)
[Iran To Sign \\$4.8bn Gas Deal With Total](#)
[EU Considers Tough New Competition Powers](#)

Washington Times:

[Supreme Court Blockbusters: Gorsuch Addition Will Bring On Bigger Cases](#)
[Republican Rebukes: Trump Using Twitter Dangerously To 'Weaponize Distrust' In Media](#)
[Trump's War Of Annihilation Strategy Against Islamic State Frees Military To Quickly Seize Territory](#)
[Trump's Sober View Of Iranian Theocracy Lends Energy To Dissident Rally In France](#)
[Boy Scout Troop 100 Celebrates Century Of Firefighting, Police Duties, Building Character In D.C.](#)
[Voter Integrity Panel's Vice Chairman Questions States' 'Idiotic' Withholding Of Information](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Trump-Media Feud; Denver-Plane Engine Fire; Pennsylvania-Home Explosion; Philadelphia-Road Rage Killing Trial; Mosul Assault; Syria-Car Bombs; Bronx-Hospital Shooting; Severe Weather; China-College Girl Kidnapping; Holiday Online Shopping; Washington State-Amtrak Derailing; Chicken Salad Recall; Drugged Racing Dogs; Wave-Wildfires; Police-Boy Help.

CBS: Trump-Media Feud; Trump Media, Healthcare-Expert Opinion; Holiday Travel; State Budgets Impasse; Philadelphia-Road Rage Killing Trial; Denver-Plane Engine Fire; Raqqa Assault; Climate Change-Coral Farming; Needless Flu Vaccine; Grizzly Bear Product Testing.

NBC: Trump-Media Feud; Philadelphia-Road Rage Killing Trial; Washington State-Amtrak Derailing; Denver-Plane Engine Fire; Syrian Refugee Camp Fire; Wimbledon-Security; Minimum Wage Increase; State Budgets Impasse; Cruise Ship Crime; American Wild Horses Protection; Canada-150 Anniversary; Sunscreen; California-Criminal Rehabilitation.

Network TV At A Glance:

Trump-Media Feud – 11 minutes, 35 seconds
Denver-Plane Engine Fire – 1 minute, 40 seconds
Washington State-Amtrak Derailing – 35 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Trump-Media Feud; Denver-Plane Engine Fire; State Budgets Impasse; Illinois-Income Tax Increase.

CBS: Trump-Media Feud; Qatar-Diplomacy Crisis; Trump-China, Japan Phone Calls; Trump-Putin

Meeting; Washington State-Amtrak Derailing; Small Airplane Crash; Wall Street News.

FOX: Trump-Media Feud; Healthcare Reform Plan; Wall Street News.

NPR: Trump-Media Feud; Mali-ISIS Abduction Video; Syrian Refugee Camp Fire.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — No scheduled public events announced.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No scheduled public events announced.

US Senate: 6:00 PM Senate meets in pro forma session Location: TBD <http://www.senate.gov/>
On recess until 10 July.

US House: 11:00 AM House of Representatives meets in pro forma session Location: TBD
<http://www.house.gov/>
On recess until 10 July.

Other: New White House chief usher assumes role – New White House Chief Usher Timothy Harleth begins role, moving from a position as Trump International Hotel Washington DC chief of rooms * Chief usher oversees over 90 White House Residence staff Location: TBD
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/> <https://twitter.com/whitehouse>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Law360: Zinke Appoints Deputy Assistant Secretary For Indian Affairs.
- Washington Post: The Energy 202: Can Zinke Boost More Oil And Gas Drilling On Public Lands?.
- Associated Press: West Virginia, Tennessee Given Battlefield Protection Funds.
- Associated Press: Congress Returns To Battles Over Healthcare, Budget.
- Idaho Statesman: Now Is Not The Time To Undermine West's Collaborative Conservation Work On

Sage Grouse.

- Salt Lake (UT) Tribune: Tribune Editorial: Happy Trails, Outdoor Retailers, Until We Meet Again.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Fake American Indian Art Threatens Livelihoods.
- Lawmakers Hopeful For Lumbee Recognition.
- Federal Agency Would Have Rejected Wampanoag Remand.

Bureau Of Land Management

- U.S. News & World Report: Early Plan Out For Huge Wyoming Gas Field.
- USA Today: New Species Of Toad Discovered In US For 1st Time In 50 Years.
- Riverside (CA) Press Enterprise: Will Thousands Of Wild Horses Die? That Depends On Ken Calvert, Advocates Say.
- Washington Times: Retrial Set For Defendants In Bundy Standoff Case In Nevada.
- The Hill: Congress Should Pass Resilient Federal Forests Act To Address Wildfire Threat.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- BOEM Lowers Shallow-water Royalty Rate For Lease Sale 249.
- Hogan Says He Opposes Offshore Drilling As State Raises Concerns About Seismic Testing.
- Plans For U.S. Wind Farms Run Into Headwinds.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- U.S. News & World Report: State Wildlife Officials Review Feds' Plan For Wolf Recovery.
- Denver Post: Rocky Flats Refuge Critics Dig In Over Fears That Relocated Prairie Dogs Could Unearth Radioactive Materials.
- Burlington (VT) Free Press: Fish Hatchery Re-opens In Bethel.
- U.S. News & World Report: Ohio Air National Guard Drops Plans For Large Wind Turbine.
- Rapid City (SD) Journal: Debate Rages Over Black Hills Bird.

National Park Service

- U.S. News & World Report: Chicago Museum Gets \$82K Grant To Preserve WWII Submarine.
- Washington Post: Where's The Water? In The Nation's Capital, Dry Fountains Mar The Landscape.
- Arkansas Democrat Gazette: War Memorial Plans Draw Scrutiny In D.C..
- U.S. News & World Report: Break-Prone Water Pipe Across Grand Canyon Needs Replacement.
- Portland (ME) Press Herald: Since 2006, Visitation At Acadia Has Gone Up A Whopping 55%.
- Arizona Republic: Page, NPS Consider Ways To Manage Hyper-popular Horseshoe Bend.
- Montgomery (WV) Herald: Turkey Spur Overlook Reopened.
- U.S. News & World Report: Bison Injures Hiker In ND's Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Saipan (MNP) Tribune: Beijing Air Launches Service To Saipan.
- Saipan (MNP) Tribune: Casino Opens.
- Samoa News: Canneries Nervous With Tuna Prices Rising Worldwide.
- St. Croix Source: The V.I. Budget Crisis: Part 13: Finding New Revenues.
- Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR): WAPA No Longer Accepting Applications For Net Metering In STT-STJ District.
- Marianas Variety: Governor Asks New DLNR Chief To Look Into Brown Tree Snake, Betel Nut Issues.
- Saipan (MNP) Tribune: 'We Must Prove Efforts To Hire US-eligible Workers'.
- Marianas Variety: Governor Says Extension Of CW Program Is The Priority Right Now.

Top National News

- New York Times: After Promise Of Damaging Information On Clinton, Trump's Son Met With Russian Lawyer.
- ABC: G-20 Communique Shows Division On Climate, Agreement On Trade.
- ABC: Trump, China's Xi Discuss North Korean Threat.
- NBC: Tillerson: Trump Pressed Putin On Election Meddling, Agreed On Syrian Ceasefire.
- The Hill: Media Analyses: Republicans Face Uphill Climb To Pass Healthcare Plan Before Recess.
- Associated Press: McConnell Plans Fresh Healthcare Bill In "About A Week."

- ABC: US Adds 222,000 Jobs In June, More Americans Looking For Work.
- Wall Street Journal: "Big Six" Working On Tax Reform Framework For September.
- ABC: Mnuchin: Administration Focused On Enacting Middle Class Tax Cuts This Year.
- Wall Street Journal: IRS Proposes Changes To Eight Regulations.
- Wall Street Journal: Administration May Alter Fiduciary Rule.
- Politico: Politico Analysis: Air Traffic Control Privatization Faces Hurdles Despite Trump's Support.

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DOI In The News

Interior Secretary Zinke Releases Boating Infrastructure Grant Funds.

[The Log \(CA\)](#) (7/9) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, "in a ceremony held at Yorktown, Virginia, shared a \$14.7 million check with Boat Owners Association of The United States (BoatUS) Vice President Heather Lougheed, who accepted on behalf of America's recreational boaters." The figure "represents 2017-18 funding for the federal Boating Infrastructure Grant (B.I.G.) program, which funnels user taxes paid by boaters to develop transient boating projects."

The [Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (7/7, Lucas) reports that "prior to the announcement, Zinke held a round table discussion that included Rep. Scott Taylor, R-Virginia Beach, York County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Sheila Noll and local boaters and fishers."

Coverage by the AP was picked up by the [Idaho Statesman](#) (7/9), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (7/9), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (7/9), the [Wichita \(KS\) Eagle](#) (7/9), the [Wichita \(KS\) Eagle](#) (7/9), the [Belleville \(IL\) News-Democrat](#) (7/9), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (7/9), [McClatchy](#) (7/9), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/9).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Idaho Press Tribune](#) (7/7), the [Danbury \(CT\) News Times](#) (7/7, Koerting), the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (7/7, Goad), the [Corpus Christi \(TX\) Caller-Times](#) (7/7, Sikes), the [New Hampshire Union Leader](#) (7/8), the [Sevierville \(TN\) Mountain Press](#) (7/9), [WAGM-TV Presque Isle \(ME\) Presque Isle, ME](#) (7/7, Ezzy), [WCAX-TV Burlington \(VT\) Burlington, VT](#) (7/7), and [KCRG-TV Cedar Rapids \(IA\) Cedar Rapids, IA](#) (7/7, Felton).

Interior Secretary Zinke Says He'll Tour Nevada National Monuments This Month.

The [Pahrump \(NV\) Valley Times](#) (7/7, Breaun) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "didn't stop at any national monuments during his first official visit to Nevada, but he promised to return for a tour of Gold Butte and Basin and Range before the end of July." According to the article, "during an event in Pahrump on June 26, Zinke said he wants to see the two Nevada monuments from the ground and talk to stakeholders before he decides whether the designations should be reduced, rescinded or left intact." Zinke "said he plans to consult with state and county officials, business groups, tribal representatives and others."

Campaign Against Trump's Threat To US National Monuments Gathers Pace. [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (7/7, Choat) reports that a total of national monuments are "at risk of being reduced in size or losing their designation altogether following an unprecedented presidential order issued in April." Commenters have "until Monday to voice their opinions before the Interior Department makes its recommendations."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Taos \(NM\) News](#) (7/9), the [Aspen \(CO\) Times](#) (7/7), the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (7/7, DeMille), [Courthouse News](#) (7/7, Klasfeld), and [KGO-TV San Francisco \(CA\) San Francisco](#) (7/9).

Three Arizona Congressmen Want Trump To Eliminate These State Monuments. The [Arizona Republic](#) (7/9, Frank) reports that "three Arizona congressmen are asking the Trump Administration to eliminate four of the state's national monuments, including the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument and the Sonoran Desert National Monument." Rep. Trent Franks, Rep. Andy Biggs and Rep. Paul Gosar were "among 14 members of Congress who signed onto a letter sent June 30 to Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke." The letter "asked Zinke to consider a

'total rescission' of the Grand Canyon-Parashant, Ironwood Forest, Sonoran Desert and Vermilion Cliffs national monuments."

Additional coverage was provided by [Arizona Public Media](#) (7/7, Conover).

99 Percent Of Comments Tell Trump To Keep Maine's Monument. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (7/8, Sambides) reports that "more than 99 percent of the responses that have mentioned Maine's Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument favor keeping it, according to one of the state's largest environmental organizations." Lisa Pohlmann, executive director of National Resources Council of Maine, said that "all but 67 of the 192,052 comments about Maine's monument that were submitted to Interior's website from May 11 to July 4 supported it."

Our National Monuments Could Disappear If We Don't Act Now. For the "Pundits" blog of [The Hill](#) (7/7, Peterman, Contributor), Audrey Peterman, a member of the Next 100 Coalition, writes that "the future and integrity of how our nation protects our public lands and waters is under unprecedented attack." Peterman argues that "the elimination or reduction" of Antiquities Act "would be a blow to the communities who spent decades advocating for special protections for these lands." Peterman warns that "without a public voice and a vigorous national conversation, our treasured national monuments could disappear forever."

National Monuments Are All-American. The [Huffington Post](#) (7/7, Clark, Contributor), Defenders of Wildlife President and CEO Jamie Clark writes that the Trump Administration's "brazen attempt to resize, reduce protections, or outright eliminate national monuments is a sellout of our public lands and waters to special interests." Clark asserts that "every one of the monuments under review is critical to conservation." Clark further argues that "not only is this review unprecedented, it is also contrary to overwhelming public support for conserving our wildlife and their habitat." She concludes that "the only acceptable outcome of President Trump's review is the continued preservation and stewardship of our national monuments—every single one of them."

Time Is Running Out To Stop Trump From Opening California Marine Sanctuaries To Oil Drilling. David Helvarg, executive director of the conservation and policy organization Blue Frontier, wrote in an opinion piece for the [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/7, Helvarg) that US citizens have until July 26 to register your support for America's marine monuments and sanctuaries with the Department of Commerce. In April, the President Trump "ordered a review of 27 monuments that had been declared or enlarged over the last 20 years" and then "doubled down with instructions to reconsider recently set aside marine sanctuaries." Helvarg says "particular consideration out to be paid to our marine sanctuaries," and that the "only activities that are prohibited throughout the sanctuaries are ocean dumping, seabed mining and oil drilling." Helvarg contends the Trump Administration "doesn't seem to get it, or to understand that lost 'opportunity costs' related to oil drilling, dumping and mining represent gained opportunity benefits for coastal economies."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the [Huffington Post](#) (7/8, Russ, Contributor), the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (7/9, Boster), and the [Daily Beast](#) (7/9, Mcnearney).

Additional Commentary. Additional commentary appeared in the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/9, Cornell), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/9, Pearce), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Sun](#) (7/8, Douglas), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (7/9, Simon, Martinez), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (7/7, Macker), the [San Luis Obispo \(CA\) Tribune](#) (7/7, Harmon), the [Providence \(RI\) Journal](#) (7/7, Anderson), the [Idaho Falls \(ID\) Post Register](#) (7/9), the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (7/8), the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (7/9, Jewel), the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (7/8, Olsen), and the [Honolulu Civil Beat \(HI\)](#) (7/7, Bartimus).

Zinke Appoints Deputy Assistant Secretary For Indian Affairs.

[Law360](#) (7/7, Powell) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "announced Thursday the appointment of a Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma citizen with an extensive background in tribal finance as deputy assistant secretary for policy and economic development at the Bureau of Indian Affairs." Gavin Clarkson assumed the role on June 11.

The Energy 202: Can Zinke Boost More Oil And Gas Drilling On Public Lands?.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/7, Grandoni) analyzes if Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's order to accelerate the permitting process will boost oil and gas drilling on federal lands. The Post notes that most sites lack data, and "have to be physically surveyed before the agency grants a permit." What's more, the "permit is only one step in the process," and "it's unclear how much interest there will be in developing the public lands given how low energy prices remain."

In an editorial, the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (7/9) welcomes Zinke's "order to

speed up approval of permits to drill for oil and natural gas on public land.” The paper notes that the Bureau of Land Management’s permit-approval process has long been “in need of an overhaul.” It argues that “Thursday’s order, which aims to reduce both the backlog of permit applications and the number of days to approve them, is a sensible response to a long-running problem.”

Additional coverage of the order was provided by [Fox News](#) (7/7, Corke), the [Daily Caller](#) (7/7, Pearce), [Utah Policy](#) (7/9), the [Mat-Su Valley \(AK\) Frontiersman](#) (7/9), the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (7/6, Mose), the [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (7/7, Gruver), [World Oil](#) (7/7), and [Public News Service](#) (7/7).

West Virginia, Tennessee Given Battlefield Protection Funds.

The [AP](#) (7/10) reports that West Virginia and Tennessee are “among the states receiving part of \$7.2 million in grants to help identify, preserve and protect historic battlefields.” The announcement was made by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke last Wednesday. The National Park Service “said in a news release the projects include 19 battlefields threatened by urban and suburban development in nine states.” The agency “said the projects cover nearly 1,200 acres of battlefield land as part of the American Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants program.”

Congress Returns To Battles Over Healthcare, Budget.

The [AP](#) (7/9, Fram) reports on Congress’ agenda as lawmakers return from their July 4 recess. Of note, Sen. Lisa Murkowski and Sen. Maria Cantwell “have a bill to speed federal approval of projects to export liquefied natural gas and boost other energy sources and efficiency measures.” The article notes that “the legislation also sets up a land and water conservation fund.”

Now Is Not The Time To Undermine West’s Collaborative Conservation Work On Sage Grouse.

In an op-ed for the [Idaho Statesman](#) (7/7, Brooks), Brian Brooks, the executive director of the Idaho Wildlife Federation, writes “that an unprecedented collaboration among local, state and federal officials, landowners, sportsmen, recreationists, energy industries and other stakeholders resulted in conservation plans across the West devoted to providing a sustainable future” for the greater sage-grouse and sagebrush country. But now, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has “ordered a ‘review’ of the conservation plans by his specially appointed federal team,” and “as part of that review, the secretary has suggested shifting the focus of these plans from restoring and conserving sage grouse habitat to setting population objectives that could be achieved by such ‘creative approaches’ as captive breeding.” Brooks points out that “even as Zinke complains of top-down schemes imposed on the West, he and his hand-picked team would be serving special interests in Washington, D.C., by gutting plans that were driven by local stakeholders and by science.”

Tribune Editorial: Happy Trails, Outdoor Retailers, Until We Meet Again.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (7/8) editorializes that Utah has lost the Outdoor Retailer show “over a fight they essentially have already lost.” The paper notes that “despite a massive push by Gov. Gary Herbert, the Utah Legislature and Utah’s congressional delegation, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke did not recommend that the Bears Ears monument be rescinded.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Fake American Indian Art Threatens Livelihoods.

The [AP](#) (7/8, Lee) reports that “the recent spread of fake Native American art and jewelry has shown the need to update how the federal government protects tribal artists from fraud that undercuts the value of their work, according to two U.S. senators who gathered suggestions for reforms on Friday.” Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich “convened a hearing in the American Indian arts hub of Santa Fe, where federal law enforcement officials and leading Native American artists described a disheartening influx of counterfeit jewelry, weavings and contemporary art knock-offs.” Udall “said he hopes to propel efforts to modernize the Indian Arts and Crafts Act to cope with sophisticated international jewelry rings that copy Native American designs and police online sales.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (7/8, Garcia) and [PBS NewsHour](#) (7/9, Etman).

Lawmakers Hopeful For Lumbee Recognition.

The [Winston-Salem \(NC\) Journal](#) (7/9) reports that "lawmakers and members of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina said they are hopeful the tribe will receive its long-fought federal recognition." Rep. Robert Pittenger "met with Harvey Godwin, chairman of the tribe, ahead of the Lumbee Homecoming State of the Tribe address Friday." Pittenger and Sen. Richard Burr "filed bills in May to grant the tribe federal recognition." Pittenger "said there is a meeting next week within leadership to discuss what can be done in the House of Representatives to move the bill."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Fayetteville \(NC\) Observer](#) (7/8, DeVane).

Federal Agency Would Have Rejected Wampanoag Remand.

The [Falmouth \(MA\) Enterprise](#) (7/7, Houghton) reports that "while much of Mashpee was waiting on a ruling on June 25 regarding the US Department of the Interior's ruling on the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's land status, an official with the department had already made his decision." James E. Cason, associate deputy secretary with the Interior Department, "drafted a ruling on the remand that was shared with the tribe on June 19." Cason found, "through a process known in the department as M-37029, that the tribe could not meet the Indian Reorganization Act's first definition of Indian, nor the second definition as interpreted by Judge William Young in the US District Court, Massachusetts." Therefore, "he could not grant the tribe's land-into-trust application under either definition."

Bureau Of Land Management

Early Plan Out For Huge Wyoming Gas Field.

The [AP](#) (7/7) reports that the Bureau of Land Management released a draft environmental impact study for the Normally Pressured Lance Field in western Wyoming. The project, which could be one of the largest natural gas fields in the nation, covers 220 square miles and could support up to 3,500 wells. Jonah Energy is planning to drill for 5.25 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. The BLM said the project would create 700 full time jobs and bring in \$2.2 billion in royalties.

New Species Of Toad Discovered In US For 1st Time In 50 Years.

[USA Today](#) (7/7, Rice) reports that "scientists this week announced the discovery of the Dixie Valley toad that lives only in a small, 2-square-mile area of Churchill County in northern Nevada." Scientists in the study "said the new species is already threatened by the proposed development of a nearby geothermal energy facility, the Dixie Meadows Geothermal Utilization Project." The Bureau of Land Management is "reviewing the proposed facility."

Will Thousands Of Wild Horses Die? That Depends On Ken Calvert, Advocates Say.

The [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (7/9, Horseman) reports that "wild horse advocates say proposed language in the fiscal 2018 budget would open the door for the mass killing of horses roaming millions of acres of federal land." They're calling on Rep. Ken Calvert "to strip the language out of the spending bill, which is being crafted this month." In an email July 5, "Calvert gave no indication of where he stood." He said, "The massive and growing number of wild horses and burros on our public lands throughout the West is a tremendous challenge. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) working together with Congress and other interested parties need to find long-term strategies to address this imbalance."

Retrial Set For Defendants In Bundy Standoff Case In Nevada.

The [AP](#) (7/9, Ritter) reports that "federal prosecutors in Nevada are about to try again to prove that four men should spend decades in prison for bringing assault-style weapons to a confrontation that stopped government agents from rounding up cattle near Cliven Bundy's ranch more than three years ago." Jury selection starts Monday in Las Vegas "for the conspiracy retrial of four defendants whose cases were left undecided when jurors weren't able to reach a verdict in April." The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (7/9, Wilson) reports that "the retrial follows a mistrial in April, when jurors deadlocked on 50 of the 60 counts against the first batch of defendants in the three-part case. Prosecutors eventually plan to try 17 men on charges resulting from the April 2014 armed standoff between individual rights activists and Bureau of Land Management agents, who came to Bunkerville to seize Bundy's cattle from public land."

Congress Should Pass Resilient Federal Forests Act To Address Wildfire Threat.

For the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (7/7, Smith, Contributor), Nick Smith, executive director of Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities, writes that "the 2017 wildfire season is reigniting a national discussion on the causes of catastrophic wildfires and the solutions that are needed to protect forests, property and human lives in the future." Smith argues that the bipartisan Resilient Federal Forests Act is "a balanced solution now moving through Congress that will help restore overgrown and fire-prone forests, while creating new jobs across the nation." The legislation gives the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management "the tools and resources they need to better manage our public lands." Smith encourages Congress "to pass this important legislation that will help our federal land agencies increase the pace and scale of forest management projects that mitigate the impacts of drought, climate change and other challenges to our public lands."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

BOEM Lowers Shallow-water Royalty Rate For Lease Sale 249.

[Offshore Magazine](#) (7/7) reports that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has "set the royalty rate at 12.5% for leases located in water depths less than 200 m (656 ft) in the proposed Gulf of Mexico Sale 249." BOEM "said the reduction reflects recent market conditions and the marginal nature of remaining GoM shelf resources." Lease Sale 249 is currently scheduled for Aug. 16.

Additional coverage was provided by [Maritime Executive](#) (7/9) and [World Oil](#) (7/7).

Hogan Says He Opposes Offshore Drilling As State Raises Concerns About Seismic Testing.

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (7/7, Dance) reports that Gov. Larry Hogan "said this week he's against gas drilling off of Maryland's coast, and as President Donald Trump's administration considers seismic testing to search for energy reserves, state officials are asking the federal government to more closely study its impact." Mark Belton, Hogan's secretary of Natural Resources, "sent a request to federal wildlife officials asking for a review of how seismic testing could harm whales, dolphins and turtles, commercial fisheries and recreational activity."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (7/9, Dance) and the [Annapolis \(MD\) Capital Gazette](#) (7/7, Dance).

Additional coverage of offshore drilling was provided by the [Gainesville \(FL\) Sun](#) (7/10), the [Northwest Florida Daily News](#) (7/9), the [Ocala \(FL\) Star-Banner](#) (7/8), the [Bradenton \(FL\) Herald](#) (7/7, Stauffer), and [NJ News](#) (7/7).

Plans For U.S. Wind Farms Run Into Headwinds.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/9, Ailworth) reports that as the offshore wind industry turns to America, red tape surrounding federal waters and the lack of US-based deep-water turbine producers pose challenges. Further, the Block Island wind farm – which sits off Rhode Island's coast – currently generates power for 24.4 cents per kilowatt-hour, compared to well under 10 cents per kilowatt-hour in Europe. Still, the Journal says developers are hopeful that supply chain, regulatory, and cost-related hurdles will wane as more projects establish themselves this side of the Atlantic. Indeed, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo has called for 2.4 gigawatts of offshore wind power to be developed by 2030, and Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker signed a law last year for the state to add 1.6 gigawatts by June 2027.

Fish And Wildlife Service

State Wildlife Officials Review Feds' Plan For Wolf Recovery.

The [AP](#) (7/8) reports that "state wildlife officials are reviewing the federal government's plan for recovering endangered wolves that once roamed parts of New Mexico, Arizona and northern Mexico." A draft was recently released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "as the agency works to meet a court-ordered deadline to have the plan completed by the end of November."

In an op-ed for the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/9, Robinson), Michael J. Robinson of the Center for Biological Diversity, criticizes the plan. According to Robinson, "the plan would strip wolves of federal protection well before their survival and recovery is secure, turning over management to state game departments that are hostile to their very existence."

In an op-ed for the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (7/7, Walcher), Greg Walcher, president of the Natural Resources Group, writes that “the saga of the Mexican wolf’s endangered listing, and subsequent federal management, perfectly illustrates why the federal approach to wildlife conservation doesn’t work.” The new plan “does include specific de-listing criteria, as Western States have advocated for 15 years,” and Walcher commends the FWS “for finally defining the light at the end of the tunnel.” However, “beyond wolf population numbers, predictably, the plan also proposes ongoing federal monitoring for the next 35 years, at a cost of \$58.275 million.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [El Defensor Chieftain \(NM\)](#) (7/7) and the [Eastern Arizona Courier](#) (7/8, Showers).

Rocky Flats Refuge Critics Dig In Over Fears That Relocated Prairie Dogs Could Unearth Radioactive Materials.

The [Denver Post](#) (7/7, Aguilar) reports that “a group fighting next year’s opening of Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge is lambasting a plan to relocate prairie dogs to the place where nuclear weapons components were assembled for nearly 40 years, claiming the burrowing animals could bring to the surface long-buried radioactive contaminants.” However, “officials in charge of the refuge say the warnings are without merit, given that the 200 or so prairie dogs that may be moved to Rocky Flats from Longmont wouldn’t be placed anywhere near the actual site where plutonium triggers were made for the nation’s nuclear weapons arsenal.” Dave Lucas, refuge manager for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, “said the arriving animals would be located next to an existing prairie dog colony along State Highway 128, on Superior’s southern boundary.”

Fish Hatchery Re-opens In Bethel.

The [Burlington \(VT\) Free Press](#) (7/7) reports that “devastated six years ago by flooding from Tropical Storm Irene, the White River National Fish Hatchery in Bethel on Friday resumed operations, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.” The hatchery is “poised to help restore populations of landlocked Atlantic salmon and lake trout throughout the region, a news release from the service states.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (7/9, Ring, Press).

Ohio Air National Guard Drops Plans For Large Wind Turbine.

The [AP](#) (7/8) reports that “bird advocates are hailing the National Guard Bureau’s decision not to build a commercial-scale wind turbine at Camp Perry near Ohio’s western Lake Erie shoreline.” The decision last month has prompted the American Bird Conservancy and the Black Swamp Bird Observatory “to drop a federal lawsuit over the proposed 198-foot-tall wind turbine.” According to the article, “advocates were upset that the turbine’s foundation was already installed before the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service produced an opinion about the turbine’s potential effects on birds and bats.”

Debate Rages Over Black Hills Bird.

The [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (7/9, Tupper) reports that “with a decision forthcoming on proposed protections for a rare species of woodpecker found in the Black Hills, a new population estimate for the bird has provoked warring reactions from opposing sides of the debate.” According to the article, “a master’s thesis presented in May by Elizabeth Matseur of the University of Columbia-Missouri estimated a population of 2,920 black-backed woodpeckers in the Black Hills in 2015, and 3,439 in 2016.” Those figures are “about three to four times higher than the estimate included in a still-pending 2012 petition to list the birds as a threatened or endangered species.”

National Park Service

Chicago Museum Gets \$82K Grant To Preserve WWII Submarine.

The [AP](#) (7/8) reports that the National Park Service has “awarded a grant to Chicago’s Museum of Science and Industry to help preserve and expand access to its U-505 submarine.” The NPS “announced the roughly \$82,000 Maritime Heritage Grant on Friday.” The award is “one of 13 grants totaling more than \$1.7 million the government is giving for projects that teach and preserve items related to U.S. maritime history.”

[WCBC-AM](#) Cumberland, MD (7/7) reports that Acting National Park Service Director Michael T. Reynolds said, “Protecting our nation’s maritime history is an important part of the National

Park Service's mission to share America's story. These grants will support efforts to conserve important parts of our maritime history and educate students of all ages."

Where's The Water? In The Nation's Capital, Dry Fountains Mar The Landscape.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/9, Hendrix) reports that the National Park Service is "attempting to bring back another dormant fountain: the Bolivar Memorial, which sits directly outside the front door of the Interior Department." In his confirmation hearing, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "cited the need to fix Washington fountains as part of addressing the \$12.5-billion maintenance list at parks throughout the country." NPS "staff members learned that their new boss had taken an interest in the Bolivar fountain, which is visible from his office."

War Memorial Plans Draw Scrutiny In D.C..

The [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (7/10, Lockwood) reports that "backers of a new World War I memorial are eager to break ground, but first they have to consult with a number of federal bodies and comply with a thick stack of government rules and regulations." On Thursday, "they're scheduled to appear before the National Capital Planning Commission, which must sign off on the project before it can advance." The article notes that "the proposal is drawing extra attention because it will be placed in Pershing Park, which is eligible, on its own, for listing on the National Register of Historic Places."

Break-Prone Water Pipe Across Grand Canyon Needs Replacement.

The [AP](#) (7/7, Davenport) reports that "Grand Canyon National Park officials plan to replace much of a decades-old, problem-plagued pipeline system that's forced officials to ask hotels and residents to wash dishes and laundry less frequently and backpackers to drink treated creek water." According to the article, "preliminary plans call for ferrying pipe pieces and equipment by helicopter into the canyon to replace miles of pipeline serving the South Rim." The National Park Service is "seeking public comment on several plans to replace the pipe before reviewing how the plans could impact the environment."

Since 2006, Visitation At Acadia Has Gone Up A Whopping 55%.

The [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (7/9, Schaufler) reports that Acadia National Park officials and "partners are working on a transportation plan that could alleviate congestion – potentially relying on approaches such as parking space reservations at peak times and increased bus service." According to the article, "growing challenges with vehicular congestion and trail compaction signal the need to address a broader concern – Acadia's long-term carrying capacity."

Page, NPS Consider Ways To Manage Hyper-popular Horseshoe Bend.

The [Arizona Republic](#) (7/7, Craven) reports that Horseshoe Bend has "received such a dramatic influx of visitors over the past year that the National Park Service is working with Page city officials to better manage the scenic overlook." According to the article, "options range from Page selling or swapping the land that contains the parking lot to charging a fee that could fund improvements." The article says that "a proposed \$10 admission fee to Horseshoe Bend in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area could go into effect as early as spring 2018."

Turkey Spur Overlook Reopened.

The [Montgomery \(WV\) Herald](#) (7/8) reports that the National Park Service, in partnership with Friends of New River Gorge National River announced "the reopening of the popular Turkey Spur overlook, located in the Grandview area of New River Gorge National River." On June 30, "an opening ceremony was held to thank donors and to officially reopen the overlook to the public." Park superintendent Lizzie Watts said, "We are so grateful for the significant contribution of both funds and labor from our Friends group, as well as from many community members and businesses."

Bison Injures Hiker In ND's Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

The [AP](#) (7/8) reports that "officials at Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota are reminding visitors to keep their distance from bison and other large animals." The National Park Service "says a visitor was injured by a bison in the park's North Unit on June 30."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Beijing Air Launches Service To Saipan.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (7/7, Cabrera) reports that “Beijing Capital Airlines landed for the first time in the CNMI yesterday when its Airbus A330 aircraft with 240 passengers and crew flew in from Hangzhou, China and touched down at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport at 2:45pm.” Marianas Visitors Authority marketing manager Bruce Bateman, who was “present at the arrival area to greet the arriving passengers,” said, “Tourism drives the CNMI economy. We need tourism as our lifeblood and so we are happy to welcome all these tourists that come in. Hopefully new developers came along with the passengers who arrive today and make new hotels for us.”

Casino Opens.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (7/7, Encinares) reports that “without much fanfare, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC officially moved its casino operation to the unfinished Imperial Pacific Resort across the street, while closing down its temporary training site inside the T Galleria.” The article says that “although there was no official opening ceremony, a large number of tourists showed up at the new casino site, resulting in increased foot traffic within the vicinity and creating more business for businesses in the area.”

Canneries Nervous With Tuna Prices Rising Worldwide.

[Samoa News](#) (7/6, Mereghetti) reports that “tuna prices are currently on the rise across all markets, with canneries worried this could be a long-term trend.” According to the article, “sustainability measures introduced in the Indian Ocean are expected to cause prices to increase in the second half of the year, as the EU fleet is closing in on the yellowfin quota introduced this year for the first time.”

The V.I. Budget Crisis: Part 13: Finding New Revenues.

[St. Croix Source](#) (7/4, Kossler) reports that “with a crippling budget crisis, credit downgrades and lenders balking at buying V.I. bonds, getting new revenue sources online has been a high priority.” Gov. Kenneth Mapp has “asked for and the Legislature gave him some new taxes to help reduce the structural deficit.” However, the article proposes that “there is one large untapped source of potential tax revenue: Cannabis.”

WAPA No Longer Accepting Applications For Net Metering In STT-STJ District.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (7/1) reports that “the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority advises the public that it will no longer accept new applications for net metering in the St. Thomas – St. John district since the allowable capacity has been reached.” With 961 homes contributing solar electricity to the STT/STJ grid, WAPA gave notification that the 10 megawatt limit (from 2009 law) has been reached, and no further contributors will be accepted.

Governor Asks New DLNR Chief To Look Into Brown Tree Snake, Betel Nut Issues.

[Marianas Variety](#) (7/4, Villahermosa) reports that Gov. Ralph D.L.G. Torres “swore in Anthony T. Benavente as the new secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources on Monday morning, and asked him to address the brown tree snake issue and the betel nut shortage.” Regarding brown tree snakes, Torres said: “It’s a critical issue, and our community needs to stick together. If you spot a snake please go after it and try to kill it or report it so our department can go out there. If we allow brown tree snakes to come onto our island they will devastate our bird population and cause all kinds of problems.” The governor added, “The second issue that I want him to look into is related to betel nut. I have spoken to some officials in Hawaii, and they will come in and see if we have problems with our betel nut trees. We will also ask our neighboring islands in Micronesia like Guam to be more careful when sending cargo here because of possible betel nut tree devastation, and that’s our livelihood, too, so we need to be vigilant.”

‘We Must Prove Efforts To Hire US-eligible Workers’.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (7/6, Cabrera) reports that “more than anything else, the burden of showing Congress that the CNMI is doing its part to recruit, hire, and retain U.S. eligible workers falls on Commonwealth employers themselves,” according to Marian Aldan Pierce, “the guest speaker in yesterday’s membership meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.” She said that “by showing Congress that the CNMI is doing its best to hire U.S. workers, only then will it listen to pleas of Commonwealth employers to

be allowed to continue hiring foreign workers.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Marianas Variety](#) (7/6, Villahermosa).

Governor Says Extension Of CW Program Is The Priority Right Now.

[Marianas Variety](#) (7/6, Villahermosa) reports that Gov. Ralph D.L.G. Torres “said their priority right now is to push for the extension of the CW program for another 10 years.” Currently, the program is set to expire in Dec. 2019. In an interview on Monday, the governor “said he met with a working group a couple of weeks ago, and they are now finalizing legislation that will be submitted to the office of U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan for review and introduction.”

Top National News

After Promise Of Damaging Information On Clinton, Trump’s Son Met With Russian Lawyer.

Media coverage of a report that President Trump’s son Donald Jr. met with a Russian lawyer after that lawyer promised damaging information on Hillary Clinton is overwhelmingly negative, citing the report as the first indication that Trump’s campaign was willing to accept Russian help.

The [New York Times](#) (7/9, Becker, Apuzzo, Goldman) cites “three advisers to the White House briefed on the meeting and two others with knowledge of it,” who said that Trump Jr. “was promised damaging information about Hillary Clinton before agreeing to meet with a Kremlin-connected Russian lawyer during the 2016 campaign.” Trump’s campaign chairman at the time, Paul Manafort, and Trump’s son-in-law Jared Kushner also attended the meeting at Trump Tower on June 9, 2016. The Times says the meeting “points to the central question in federal investigations of the Kremlin’s meddling in the presidential election: whether the Trump campaign colluded with the Russians,” adding that the accounts “represent the first public indication that at least some in the campaign were willing to accept Russian help.”

The [CBS Weekend News](#) (7/9, lead story, 2:10) reported Trump Jr. has released a statement confirming the June 9, 2016 meeting, but said he was not told the name of the lawyer beforehand. Still, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/9, lead story, 4:00) said that Trump Jr. in his own statement said “he was willing to meet with someone he said had helpful information for the campaign,” which “leads to the question: Were some in the campaign willing to accept Russian help?”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/9, Ballhaus) reports that in a statement Saturday, Trump Jr. did not mention that the person seeking the meeting said she could provide helpful information. Noting that Trump Jr.’s Sunday statement said the person “offered him information on Mrs. Clinton but that her statements ‘made no sense’ and the information was not ‘meaningful,’” the [New York Times](#) (7/9, Stack) reports that Trump Jr. “has given two different explanations” for the meeting in less than 24 hours.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/9, Borchers) says Trump Jr.’s statement “has made a potentially damaging New York Times report much, much worse.” The Post describes the statement as “stunningly incriminating,” noting that he “confirmed that he went into the meeting expecting to receive information from the Russian lawyer that could hurt Clinton. That is a breathtaking admission.” In what the [Washington Times](#) (7/9, Miller) says is a “startling switch,” Trump Jr. said Sunday that “the lawyer claimed Russia was working to help Hillary Clinton’s campaign.” According to Trump Jr., the lawyer, Natalia Veselnitskaya, “claimed to have information that ‘individuals connected to Russia were funding the Democratic National Committee’ and supporting Clinton.”

The [Washington Post](#) (7/9, Helderman, Hamburger) says that the meeting “seems likely to become a focus of investigations into whether the Trump campaign coordinated and encouraged Russian efforts to intervene in the election to hurt Clinton and elect Trump.” Responding to the report on [CNN’s State Of The Union](#) (7/9, Bash), Rep. Adam Schiff, ranking Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said, “It certainly raises questions for a variety of reasons, of course. The President’s son had denied having any kind of meetings like this. They claim that this meeting had nothing to do with the campaign and yet the Trump campaign manager is invited to come to the meeting. And there’s no reason for this Russian government advocate to be meeting with Paul Manafort or with Mr. Kushner or the President’s son if it wasn’t about the campaign and Russia policy. Obviously, they were trying to influence one of the candidates, the leading candidate at that time on the Republican ticket. ... Yes, we need to get to the bottom of it.”

White House: "It Was A Nothing Meeting." [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/9, lead story, 3:35, Snow) reported that the White House is "downplaying" reports of the meeting. In an appearance on "Fox News Sunday," White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus was dismissive of the meeting, describing it as a "nothing meeting," [Politico](#) (7/9, McCaskill) reports. Priebus told Fox "that it was a 'short' meeting about Russian adoption that lasted only 20 minutes." Said Priebus, "It was a nothing meeting. ... I don't know much about it other than it seems to be on the end of the Trump individuals a big nothing burger but may spin out of control for the [Democratic National Committee] and the Democrats."

[The Hill](#) (7/9, Shelbourne) reports that Export-Import Bank senior vice president Anthony Scaramucci, "defended" Trump Jr. on Sunday, writing in a [tweet](#), "@DonaldJTrumpJr is a virtuous and honorable man. Virtue means the courage to act with integrity. Don does that everyday. #stopwitchhunt."

The [AP](#) (7/9) quotes Mark Corallo, a spokesman for Trump's legal team, as saying, "The President was not aware of and did not attend the meeting."

Writing for the [National Review](#) (7/9), Rich Lowry also casts doubt on the report, asking, "if you are the Kremlin and you have cooked up this sensitive intelligence operation that need only involve your hackers and Wikileaks – both of whom are presumably completely reliable – are you really going to risk mucking it up by having some hack lawyer go and try to collude about it with whomever can be rounded up in the Trump campaign? (And at a time when everyone assumed the Trump campaign was a sure loser?)." Lowry adds that "at this point the collusion story has everything – intrigue, breaking news, 'smoke,' even a special counsel – except plausibility."

Similarly, in a piece for the [New York Post](#) (7/9) headlined, "The Times 'Exposé' On Donald Trump Jr. Is A Big Yawn," Michael Walsh downplays the importance of the story, writing that the Times delivered the news "in the breathless tones that might announce a cure for cancer or the discovery of life on Mars." Walsh writes that "in the end, the lawyer had nothing, gave nothing, got nothing in return, in a meeting that lasted 20 minutes. This is a scandal?"

Bush Ethics Lawyer: Meeting "Borders On Treason." Meanwhile, Richard Painter, who served as an ethics lawyer under President George W. Bush, took a much different view of the story, telling MSNBC on Sunday that the meeting "borders on treason," [The Hill](#) (7/9, Carter) reports. Painter said, "This was an effort to get opposition research on an opponent in an American political campaign from the Russians, who were known to be engaged in spying inside the United States. ... We do not get our opposition research from spies, we do not collaborate with Russian spies, unless we want to be accused of treason." Painter added that the Bush Administration "would not have allowed the meeting" to occur. Said Painter, "If this story is true, we'd have one of them if not both of them in custody by now, and we'd be asking them a lot of questions. ... This is unacceptable. This borders on treason, if it is not itself treason."

Flynn Has Not Been Seen Publicly In Nearly Six Months. The [Washington Times](#) (7/9, Boylan) reports that former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn "has not been seen publicly in nearly a half-year amid a swirl of investigations, media reports and speculation about his activities." The Times says Flynn's public absence "could reflect a behind-the-scenes battle between the White House and Mr. Flynn's attorney, Robert Kelner." Kelner, the Times adds, "declined to comment on whether Mr. Flynn is cooperating with special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into the Russia issue."

More Than Half Of Comey Memos On Trump Meetings Contained Classified Information. [The Hill](#) (7/9, Solomon) cites "interviews with officials familiar with" the memos that former FBI Director Comey "wrote as personal recollections of his conversations with President Trump about the Russia investigation," who said that more than half the documents "have been determined to contain classified information." The Hill says this "raises the possibility that Comey broke his own agency's rules and ignored the same security protocol that he publicly criticized Hillary Clinton for in the waning days of the 2016 presidential election."

G-20 Communique Shows Division On Climate, Agreement On Trade.

The conclusion of the G-20 summit meeting in Hamburg received coverage in all the major print and online sources with most of them focusing on the division between the US and the others on the Paris climate accord with headlines like the New York Times "World Leaders Move Forward On Climate Change, Without US," and Reuters "US Isolated On Climate At Summit Of World Leaders" being fairly typical, while a minority of sources gave equal weight to the agreement on trade with the Wall Street Journal "G-20 Leaders Find Trade Compromises But Split On Climate" and the AP "G-20 Shut Trump Out On Climate, Strike Deal On Trade" being the most prominent.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/8, story 5, 0:35, Harris) reported, "President Trump went to

the G20 expecting to get an earful from world leaders about climate change after he pulled out of the Paris accords, and today he did." ABC (Vega) added, "German Chancellor Angela Merkel singled out the US, saying that she deplors the United States' decision to pull out of this Paris deal." The [CBS Weekend News](#) (7/8, story 4, 0:30, Ninan) reported, "Historically, the US has led the drafting of the final summit statement. Not so under President Trump." [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/8, story 2, 0:30, Jackson) reported Trump "appeared more comfortable personally," but was "more isolated on policy points, like trade and especially climate." NBC adds that "the White House [was] downplaying the divisions" and shows Gary Cohn, White House chief economic adviser, saying: "You get 20 of your friends to agree to where to have dinner tonight. It's really hard."

The [Washington Post](#) (7/8, Birnbaum, Paletta) reports the G-20 was "unable to resolve key differences on core issues such as climate change and globalization" and "left other nations fearing for the future of global alliances in the Trump era." French President Emmanuel Macron exclaimed, "Our world has never been so divided. ... Our common goods have never been so threatened." The Post adds that "the divisions were most bitter on climate change," and calls the agreed statement on trade a "nominal compromise." German Chancellor Angela Merkel said, "Unfortunately, and I deplore this, the United States of America left the climate agreement." The Post also quotes an anonymous European official saying, "It seems clear that President Trump is committed to being less predictable."

The [New York Times](#) (7/8, Erlanger, Smale, Friedman, Davis) reports the G-20 "struck a compromise...to move forward collectively on climate change without the United States." They approved "a detailed policy blueprint" called the G20 Climate and Energy Action Plan for Growth. The climate language was seen as "a much-needed victory for Ms. Merkel," but otherwise, the Times says it was "a bitter disappointment" for her. In part because the Times says the news was "primarily about Mr. Trump and his first meeting with" Russian President Vladimir Putin, and in part because of the violent demonstrations by anarchists. The Times quotes Trump saying, "Nothing's easy," and praised Merkel for conducting the event "so professionally."

[USA Today](#) (7/8, Korte) reports there was "a near-unanimous agreement," with 19 countries signing on to a declaration that the Paris climate agreement is "irreversible." That was "all of them...the United States." The result was "widely expected" says USA Today, and depicts Trump's stance as meaning that the US "is free to renege on agreements made by the previous administration." USA says briefly that on the other issues of the meeting – trade and migration – "Merkel found a way to accommodate Trump's view of U.S. national interests."

[Reuters](#) (7/8, Carrel, Barkin) reports the other "leading economies broke with U.S. President Donald Trump on climate policy" in what it calls "a rare public admission of disagreement." While Chancellor Merkel "achieved her primary goal" in producing "a single communique with pledges on trade, finance, energy and Africa," yet "the divide between Trump...and the 19 other members...was stark." Reuters says Trump's policy, which it describes as "a more unilateral, transactional diplomacy" has led to "a void in global leadership."

[ABC News](#) (7/8, Dolak) reports at the meeting, "the United States is the lone outlier on climate change."

[CNN](#) (7/8, Dewan, Halasz) reports Chancellor Merkel ended the meeting "with a rebuke to President Donald Trump's stance on climate change," but made "a concession on his protectionist trade policies." Afterwards, Russian President Vladimir Putin praised Merkel, saying, "Although the US will withdraw, they are nevertheless still prepared to carry on now (with) discussions on this subject. It seems to me this is a very positive point and can be chalked up to the successes of Angela Merkel."

[CBS News](#) (7/8, Carissimo) reports Merkel "spoke out against the Trump administration's intentions to drop out of the Paris Agreement on climate change." The other leaders also "agreed that the decision to leave the accord would be permanent."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/8, Peker, Horobin) focused its coverage first of all on trade, saying that the G-20 agreed to oppose protectionism and to support fair trade and said it accepted measures take to defend a balanced trade. It quotes Chancellor Merkel saying that on climate, it was "everyone against the United States of America," and on trade, negotiations "were especially tough" because of "the United States taking certain positions." The G-20 also agreed to attempt to reduce a global overproduction of steel, and on that and other fair trade issues, the Journal says that Trump was not alone. The Journal also quotes a [tweet](#) from the President in which he said the meeting "was a wonderful success and carried out beautifully by Chancellor Angela Merkel. Thank you!"

The [AP](#) (7/8, McHugh, Moulson) offers a similar approach, pointing out that the others "lined up against U.S. President Donald Trump on climate change," but "also revealed tensions on

trade," while the leaders "forged a deal that endorsed open markets but acknowledged countries had a right to put up barriers to block unfair practices." Chief economic adviser Gary Cohn said the final communique "came together pretty reasonably," and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said there was "incredible consensus" on trade. Still, the AP says the meeting "was marked by clashing visions, especially" between the US and the European Union.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/8, Birnbaum, Paletta) reports Merkel said that on trade, "we have been able to get satisfactory results in place." Meanwhile, an unnamed White House official said, "It's been a really great success." One of the Administration's successes was an agreement to "share information about steel production by August and to publish a formal report with recommendations by November."

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/8) in its headline said the US "squeezes steel concessions from G-20" and reports that the group "agreed to address growing overcapacity" in steel, which Bloomberg described as "bowing to pressure from the Trump administration."

Trump Said To Enjoy G-20. The [Washington Post](#) (7/8, Birnbaum, Paletta) reports on "signs that Trump enjoyed the visit" mentioning that at a dinner for the leaders and their spouses, he "was among the last to leave." Also at a Saturday morning event for female entrepreneurship, Trump called Merkel "incredible," and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau "spectacular."

The [New York Times](#) (7/8, Thrush) says that at the meeting Trump was an "outlier" on climate, and "wildly unpopular" for his trade and immigration policies. Yet, aides to the President saw the meeting as "a surprising early high point in his presidency, providing a brief but welcome respite from the forever wars in Washington." And "the high point of the trip from the president's perspective" was his "powerful invocation of Western exceptionalism to a crowd of like-minded Polish nationalists on Thursday."

Media Analyses See Little Gained By Trump. [Bloomberg News](#) (7/8, Olorunnipa, Wadhams) in an analysis says that Trump had identified trade, North Korea, and steel as the focus of his efforts in Hamburg, and adds that he achieved "little concrete progress on those issues." In his meeting with Putin, says Bloomberg, "Trump's twin concerns, Iran and Ukraine, were barely touched upon as the two agreed on a Syrian cease-fire, details to come." His meetings with the heads of "South Korea, Japan and China ended without a clear consensus about how to curb North Korea's nuclear ambitions." Still, says Bloomberg, Trump was not "totally empty-handed...and his team seemed upbeat when briefing reporters on Air Force One on the return flight." Bloomberg also quotes national security adviser H.R. McMaster and chief economic adviser Gary Cohn with positive takes on the trip, and quotes Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin calling the Syrian ceasefire "a major, major success."

[ABC News](#) (7/8, Roberts) carries an analysis on its website in which Cokie Roberts identifies as "the bottom line" of the summit: "The United States is no longer the star on the world stage." She says that the Trump-Putin meeting was "a sideshow" and that it was "a victory for Putin."

[TIME](#) (7/8, Shuster) in its analysis says that the US under Trump is no longer interested in "human rights and the rule of law" given "Trump's recent attacks against journalists, migrants and religious minorities." Time adds "the only leader facing isolation at the summit" was Trump. Time concludes that the lesson of the meeting is that "No global approach is possible without agreement between the U.S. and its traditional allies."

Dan Balz in an analysis for the [Washington Post](#) (7/8, Balz) said the major events of the trip were the address in Warsaw and the meeting with Putin, and both, he said could be "foundational moments in the Trump presidency." About the Putin meeting, Balz says, "the lengthy meeting was a constructive sign." But Balz adds that with respect to allegations of Russian meddling in the US elections, "the president continues to look for diversions and digressions." In Warsaw, Balz says the address "drew more positive reviews," but cites critics calling it "too dark" and linked to "a philosophy that champions closed borders and that does not celebrate pluralistic values." Still he cites the Wall Street Journal's praise in which that paper said it hopes the speech was "defining" for the Administration. Balz concludes by asking whether Trump's Warsaw speech or his tweets are more defining.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (7/8, story 7, 2:40, Snow) shows Nicolle Wallace, NBC News political analyst, saying, "People who are used to looking at America as part of a community of nations, as a trusted member of NATO, as a responsible leader, as the largest and most powerful democracy the world over, are startled and increasingly alarmed by what they see from Donald Trump."

Trump, China's Xi Discuss North Korean Threat.

[ABC World News Tonight](#)'s (7/8, story 3, 0:35, Vega) Cecilia Vega reported on the "high-stakes meeting" between President Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Group

of 20 summit on Saturday. "In front of the camera," Trump made "no public push for China to take a harder line on North Korea in the wake of last week's successful ICBM test," but officials "say behind the scenes, the President had very direct discussions." Trump told Xi, "The success may take longer than I'd like. It may take longer than you'd like. But there will be success in the end, one way or another," broadcast the [CBS Weekend News](#) (7/8, story 2, 0:30, Garrett).

As Trump returns from Europe, however, "there were few visible signs of progress on North Korea," says [USA Today](#) (7/8, Korte), which notes Secretary Tillerson on Friday complained, "China has taken significant action, and then I think for a lot of different reasons, they paused and didn't take additional action."

Chinese, Japanese Leaders Seek Closer Ties Amid North Korean Threat. [Bloomberg News](#) (7/8, Reynolds, Zhai) reports Chinese President Xi Jinping and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe met on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit in Germany on Saturday "to overcome years of rocky ties to better handle the military threat from North Korea." Bloomberg says Abe has sought friendlier bilateral ties, but his efforts have "been interspersed with repeated spats over history and territory, and progress has been slow since he took office in 2012 amid the worst bilateral crisis since the 1970s." Improved ties could also have negative political consequences for China's Communist Party leaders. Nonetheless, the two leaders agreed to more closely collaborate in pressuring Pyongyang; however, as with the US, Russia, and South Korea, which also condemned North Korea's first intercontinental ballistic missile test, China and Japan favor different approaches "on how best to rein in" Kim Jong-un.

Error In Xi's Title Reported As Possible Cause Of Offense. The [Washington Post](#) (7/8, Lewis) reports the White House in a news release on the meeting labeled Xi as president of the Republic of China, and not the People's Republic of China. The Post explains that the Republic of China is the government of Taiwan. The Post says it may be "a minor oversight," but could also be seen "as an offense by Beijing." The Post recounts several other mislabelings and misspellings by the White House, but also notes that the Obama White House had misspelled President Ronald Reagan's name. [Bloomberg News](#) (7/8) reports the mislabeling of President Xi adds "an embarrassment to a record of fraught relations."

Alaskans Not Worried. The [Washington Post](#) (7/8, O'Malley) reports Alaskans asked about the threat from North Korea do not appear to be "all that worried." Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowitz said, "I'm worried about moose, not missiles ... Bears, not bombs."

Tillerson: Trump Pressed Putin On Election Meddling, Agreed On Syrian Ceasefire.

On Friday, President Trump met with Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit in Germany. The highly-anticipated meeting received heavy cable and network news coverage, especially related to seemingly conflicting accounts by Secretary Tillerson and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on the discussion over Russia's election meddling. President Trump's meeting with Russian President Putin was also widely covered in the major print media. The coverage focused on Secretary of State Tillerson's account of the meeting in which he said that Trump "pressed" Putin on the alleged Russian meddling in the 2016 election, but that both quickly moved on to Syria in which they agreed to a ceasefire in the southwest of that country. Tone of the coverage was generally positive with most outlets viewing the meeting as successful with respect to Syria and with respect to US-Russia relations given that a half-hour meeting lasted for over two hours. A substantial amount of coverage was devoted to the length of the meeting, with most adding that First Lady Melania Trump entered the meeting after an hour, apparently for the purpose of wrapping it up, but that the presidents continued to talk for another hour.

In the lead [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/7, lead story, 3:35, Guthrie) story, Hallie Jackson called the encounter "the most important diplomatic meeting yet for President Trump, formally face to face for first time with the leader of the country accused of meddling in our election – and that was topic number one for the US, with two different stories tonight on how that discussion went." She continued, "The marathon meeting, set to last roughly 30 minutes, instead stretched to two hours and 16 minutes. Not even an appearance by Melania Trump, who later sat next to Putin at dinner, could help wrap things up." Tillerson told reporters, "They sent in the First Lady at one point to see if she could get us out of there, and that didn't work either."

In [CNN's Situation Room's](#) (7/7, 5:00 p.m. EDT, lead story, 0:20, Sciotto) lead story, correspondent Jim Sciotto also said the "blockbuster" meeting "ran four times longer than planned," and that "Tillerson said President Trump opened by raising concerns about Russia's interference in the 2016 campaign. Tillerson says the two leaders had a robust and lengthy exchange on the subject, with Putin denying any involvement."

In the lead story for [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/7, 6:00 p.m. EDT, lead story, 0:, Baier), Bret Baier reported that "the leaders of the two largest nuclear powers in the world" met face-to-face for a "scheduled 30 minute meeting lasting almost two and a half hours." Baier said Trump and Putin discussed "Syria, North Korea, and Russia's aggressive moves in Eastern Europe," but the so-called "elephant in the room, we are told, got top billing. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said President Trump confronted Russian leader Vladimir Putin over alleged Russian interference in the 2016 election at the beginning of that meeting," which Putin denied. "According to Tillerson," Baier said, Putin "then asked to see the US proof."

In the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/7, lead story, 3:15, Muir), Tillerson told correspondent Cecilia Vega, "The President at this point, he pressed him and then, you know, felt like at this point let's talk about how do we go forward." He added, "There was not a lot of re-litigating of the past." Vega said Lavrov was also in the room, but "says President Trump heard Putin's denial and accepted it. The White House tonight says that is not the case."

The [Washington Post](#) (7/7, Filipov, Phillip) reports on what it calls "a lengthy face-to-face meeting" described by Secretary of State Tillerson who was at the "two-hour-and-fifteen-minute meeting" and said, "The president pressed President Putin on more than one occasion regarding Russian involvement." He added, "President Putin denied such involvement, as I think he has in the past."

The [New York Times](#) (7/7, Davis, Thrush) reports Trump "questioned" Putin "about Moscow's interference in the 2016 elections," but "Mr. Putin denied any meddling," then the two "quickly turned to how they could work together, including on combating cyber attacks and de-escalating the Syria war." The Times adds the meeting "was so all-consuming that even Mr. Trump's wife Melania failed to pry the two leaders apart halfway through." The meeting, says the Times "eclipsed the rest" of the Group of 20 meeting, and "turned into a bright spot for Mr. Trump."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/7, Nicholas, Grove) reports in a front-page story that Trump and Putin differed over charges of election interference and how to deal with North Korea, but agreed on a ceasefire in Syria.

The [AP](#) (7/7, Superville, Isachenkov) reports Trump "confronted" Putin "directly...over Moscow's meddling in the 2016 presidential campaign" and according to Tillerson they had a "robust and lengthy" discussion in which Putin denied Russia interfered in the election. Lavrov said that Trump "accepted Putin's assurances." Tillerson said that Trump is "rightly focused on how do we move forward." The AP adds that the meeting was "originally scheduled for 35 minutes," but "clocked in at 2 hours and 16 minutes." Tillerson said that Mrs. Trump had come in at one point, apparently "to try to wrap things up," but, said Tillerson, "clearly she failed."

The [Washington Times](#) (7/7, Persons, Miller) reports Tillerson said that Trump "brought up Russia's interference in the U.S. election at the start" of the meeting and they had "a very robust and lengthy exchange" on the matter.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/8, Bennett) reports Trump called it a "tremendous meeting," speaking to reporters before meeting with British Prime Minister Theresa May.

[USA Today](#) (7/7, Korte) alone reports that Trump and Putin came to a "stunning" agreement "not to meddle in each other's elections in the future." Now, both "are setting up lower-level talks to work out details."

Trump, Putin Agree To Establish Southern Syrian Ceasefire. [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/7, 6:03 p.m. EDT, 3:01, Baier) reported the US and Russia will, with Jordan's assistance, establish a ceasefire and attempt to de-escalate the conflict in southwest Syria. The accord will go into effect on Sunday and "is designed to cool off tensions while the battle against ISIS continues and the political solution to Syria is put in place."

In the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/7, lead story, 2:35, Pauley), Foreign Affairs Correspondent Margaret Brennan reported on President Trump's meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday and said during their discussion, Trump and Putin "agreed to cooperate in war-torn Syria. Tillerson announced a limited ceasefire in the southwest of that country, but admitted that key details were still being negotiated." Tillerson said the agreement "is our first indication of the US and Russia being able to work together in Syria." He added, "I will tell you that by and large, our objectives are exactly the same." Brennan reported "Tillerson later clarified that the US would still like Assad to leave power, and the hope is that Russia will agree to negotiate a peace deal."

[ABC World News Tonight](#)'s (7/7, story 2, 0:30, Muir) Cecilia Vega said Jordan also agreed to the US-Russian ceasefire deal, and added that "whether this one will stick" remains to be seen.

The [New York Times](#) (7/7, Harris) reports Tillerson said the US and Russia, along with

Jordan, agreed to support "a cease-fire in a limited area of southwestern Syria that will begin at noon on Sunday." The agreement followed "months of negotiations." Tillerson said in announcing the agreement, "I think this is our first indication of the U.S. and Russia being able to work together in Syria." And, the agreement "gave Mr. Trump a tangible achievement coming out of a risky and heavily scrutinized meeting."

Chief Washington Correspondent James Rosen of [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/7, 6:07 p.m. EDT, 7:39, Baier), "Of all that hangs on the handshake" between Trump and Putin, "nothing is more consequential than the Syrian civil war," now "in its seventh year with more than 400,000 lives lost." State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert commented, "We believe Russia has unique leverage over the Syrian regime. We are going to continue to put pressure on them and ask them to do more." Rosen added that Tillerson "hailed" the ceasefire agreement.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/7, Filipov, Phillip) reports Tillerson said that Trump and Putin made a "de-escalation agreement" with respect to part of southwestern Syria, about which Tillerson added, "We'll see what happens." Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov gave a positive take on the meeting, saying that the two presidents were "looking for mutually beneficial agreements and not trying to act out some confrontation scenarios."

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/7, Arkhipov, Talev, and Gordon) offered the most critical reports, saying that Trump got "a 140-character headline that Trump can use to show that his idea of working more closely with Putin's government is starting to bear fruit," but "nothing else." Bloomberg adds, "Trump did not extract any price from Putin for the invasion of Ukraine, his coziness with Syria's dictator Bashar al-Assad, his ineffectiveness at confronting Islamic State or his support for the Iranian regime." And afterwards, the "Russians, to put it mildly, were delighted."

More Commentary. In "The Fix," the [Washington Post](#) (7/7, Borchers) reports that Russia had made the first impression about the Trump-Putin meeting, but that the White House did not allow it "to hang in the air for long" with a news conference featuring Secretary of State Tillerson. That, said the Post, indicates "the White House came to play."

Aaron Blake writes in the [Washington Post](#) (7/7, Blake) "The Fix" that "the big question...was whether President Trump would confront" Putin regarding "Russian hacking in the 2016 election." Blake says the answer is "a resounding maybe." While Tillerson said, "The president pressed President Putin on more than one occasion," which, says Blake, "sounds pretty serious," but Tillerson also said, "There was not a lot of re-litigating things from the past." And that, writes Blake "doesn't sound like a ton of pressing." Blake adds, that "is pretty much how Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov described it."

David Ignatius writes in the [Washington Post](#) (7/7, Ignatius) "Post Partisan" blog that the meeting was important, not for any particular agreement but for "the restoration of dialogue between the U.S. and Russia." Ignatius says that Trump "may claim a 'win,' but the greater beneficiary is probably Putin." And, Ignatius says, the ceasefire in Syria has prepared the way "for other U.S.-Russia efforts to de-escalate the Syria conflict and begin to stabilize the country." There was also, "some useful dialogue about North Korea."

James Freeman, writing in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/7, Freeman) on the other hand says that Putin is losing, given the relative size of the Russian and American economies and its reliance on oil. Freeman argues that Trump's energy policy further weakens Russia by increasing world oil supplies and so lowering the price of oil.

Gail Collins writes in her column in the [New York Times](#) (7/7, Collins), about the Trump-Putin meeting, saying that the President was acting as "Diplomacy Don, who seemed to fall head over heels for Putin," and "Good At Meetings," in which he sits "there nodding a lot, leading the other side to think he's in agreement."

Nicholas Kristof writes in the [New York Times](#) (7/7, Kristof) about the meeting,, "If only Trump confronted Vladimir Putin with half the energy with which he denounces CNN and other news organizations!"

The [New York Times](#) (7/7) editorializes on the Trump-Putin meeting that "it is important that...Mr. Trump began by raising the interference issue and then reportedly pressed him more than once on Russian involvement during the course of their two-hour-and-15-minute conversation." Still, the Times questions "whether even now Mr. Trump understands the gravity of Russia's interference in America's democratic processes." The Times says that question "overshadowed" the Syrian ceasefire they agreed to.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/7) editorializes against President Trump telling President Putin, "It's an honor to be with you." The Post says, "It is not an honor to sit down with the leader of a regime that invades peaceable neighbors, covertly interferes in the elections of democratic nations, and orchestrates and tolerates the assassination of domestic political opponents and

journalists." Still, the Post adds, "it is crucial for the world's two major nuclear powers to engage with each other." The Post encourages discussions on "cyberwar rules" and "nuclear weapons, too," as well as "a peaceful future for... Syria."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/7) editorializes on the Trump-Putin meeting in Hamburg, saying that it is pleased by the ceasefire in Syria, but thinks it unlikely to be a precedent, given Putin's apparent plans for building Russian influence in the Middle East. The Journal says that Trump's raising of charges of Russian meddling in the 2016 election is a good sign that Trump intends to represent US interests.

Media Analyses: Republicans Face Uphill Climb To Pass Healthcare Plan Before Recess.

While President Trump urged Republicans Sunday to repeal and replace the ACA, in appearances on the Sunday talk shows Republicans appeared divided on how to do that, and several reports question whether any plan can pass before lawmakers leave town for their August recess. [The Hill](#) (7/9, Shelbourne) reports that in a [tweet](#) Sunday, Trump urged Republican lawmakers "to repeal and replace ObamaCare, saying now is the chance to dismantle the previous administration's signature healthcare legislation." Trump wrote, "For years, even as a 'civilian,' I listened as Republicans pushed the Repeal and Replace of ObamaCare. Now they finally have their chance!" The [AP](#) (7/9) says Trump's tweet "came as two moderate Republican senators," Sens. Bill Cassidy and John McCain, "indicated Sunday that the initial GOP bill to repeal and replace the nation's healthcare law was probably 'dead' and Trump's proposal to just repeal it appears to be a 'nonstarter.'"

[Politico](#) (7/9, Everett) says Republicans "appear miles away from their long-sought repeal of Obamacare," and [Bloomberg News](#) (7/9, Dennis) depicts disagreement among Senate Republicans appearing on the Sunday shows, saying they "clashed... about the path forward for their stalled health-care bill, with passage of any plan before the August congressional recess in doubt and rival factions trying to pull it in opposite directions." On "Fox News Sunday," Sen. Bill Cassidy "declared an earlier Republican leadership plan 'dead' and suggested turning to a different bill that he drafted with Republican Senator Susan Collins of Maine."

On [ABC's This Week](#) (7/9, Stephanopolous) meanwhile, Sen. Ted Cruz "pitched his proposal to allow insurers to offer insurance plans that are cheaper with less coverage, as long as they also offer a plans complying with the Affordable Care Act's mandates." Cruz told ABC, "You, the consumer, should be able to choose what health care you want to buy." The [Washington Times](#) (7/9, Howell) reports, that Cruz said that while Senate Republicans face a "rocky path," they "can navigate through it if they focus on regulating insurance and driving down premiums." Cruz said, "I think we're making real progress. In my view, failure is not an option." Cruz told [CBS](#) (7/9, Dickerson), "There's no doubt this has been a rocky path to getting there but I continue to believe we can get this done. I think there are a lot of senators who have been working in good faith, working collaboratively for a long time." A front-page story in the [Washington Post](#) (7/7, A1, Sullivan) reports that while Cruz's Senate colleagues "kept a low profile over the week-long July Fourth recess," he "seemed to relish debating health care with vocal liberal critics." Cruz, the Post adds, "sees his best path to a second term, which he will seek next year, in rallying his conservative base to turn out for him," and while "he alienates a growing number of voters concerned about the fate of the ACA, doing his part to push for a full or even partial repeal is one key way his allies believe he can make that happen."

The [Washington Post](#) (7/9, Weigel) says Republicans differed "not merely on how to amend the bill but also on whether a bill could pass at all." Cassidy told Fox that the chances that a bill will pass are "50/50," and Sen. John McCain said on CBS' "Face the Nation," "My view is it's probably going to be dead," while White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus said on "Fox News Sunday," "They will get a repeal and replace bill done."

[Reuters](#) (7/9) also highlights McCain's comment, while the [New York Post](#) (7/9, Schultz) says McCain "suggested starting all over and bringing Democrats to the table." Said McCain, "If you shut out the adversary or the opposite party, you're going to end up the same way Obamacare did when they rammed it through with 60 votes. Only guess what? We don't have 60 votes." McCain told [CBS](#), "I fear that it's going the fail, and then we should convene a Republican conference and say, 'What are we going to do?' Introduce a bill, say to the Democrats, 'Here's a bill.' It doesn't mean they control it, it means they can have consideration. Even when they lose, then they're part of the process. That's what democracy is supposed to be all about."

On [NBC's Meet the Press](#) (7/9, Todd), Sen. Lindsey Graham also argued for a bipartisan compromise saying, "I think this bill was better than Obamacare. ... Whether or not we can come

together, I don't know. Mitch is trying. I would support the proposal before us, but you got different camps in the Republican party. But Obamacare is going to fail. My advice is if it does fail, work together in a bipartisan fashion to replace it. I don't know what the outcome will be, but Mitch is trying really hard."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/9, A1, Armour) reports that during the recent recess, lawmakers heard from constituents who opposed the GOP plan and Sen. John Hoeven told a local newspaper that he does not support it, adding his name to the nine Republican senators who have come out against the measure.

Karoun Demirjian of the Washington Post said on [CNN Inside Politics](#) (7/9), "What we are in right now at this moment heading back to DC is exactly what the Republican leaders planned to avoid. They wanted to do this before the Fourth of July recess so they did not have everybody going home and clearly getting an earful from constituents, who do not want to lose their healthcare, seeing that 22 million number and being uncomfortable with it. Aside from that, how crazy though is it? I know this is a very trite point s at this point. But to say if you don't behave we're going to make you work with the Democrats is a vision of everything that is wrong."

Michael Shear of the New York Times said on [CNN Inside Politics](#) (7/9), "The irony here is that in some ways they put themselves in this mess because the way they decided to gin up the intensity for replacing and repealing and replace is by focusing on how much of a disaster Obamacare had become. How many times have we heard them all talk about it's collapsing, it's ending, it's blowing up? That, they thought, was going to provide the...intensity to get this done. Now what it has done is forced them into the place McConnell was suggesting, they have to do something right now, otherwise they look like they're not addressing it."

Mnuchin: Trump Will "Go To The Next Plan" If Current Healthcare Proposal Fails. Treasury Secretary Mnuchin said on [ABC's This Week](#) (7/9, Stephanopolous), "What I would say is the President's first priority is for the Senate, the House to pass the plan, and I know you have Senator Ted Cruz on right after me, and I'm very hopeful that his plan and his changes will get supported. And I think we'd like to get healthcare done. If we don't get this passed then the President as he said will go to the next plan."

GOP Governors Urge Senators To "Do No Harm" On Healthcare. The [AP](#) (7/9, Noon, Barrow) reports that Republican governors "who have experienced some of the upside of the law are warning their GOP senators to first, do no harm." The AP features comments from several Republican governors, noting that to them "the issue is less about delivering a triumph to President Donald Trump and more about not blowing a hole in state budgets and maintaining health care coverage for constituents." According to the AP, "some governors are uniquely positioned to press home-state Republican senators who could deny Majority Leader Mitch McConnell the votes he needs to pass a Republican health care bill."

McConnell Plans Fresh Healthcare Bill In "About A Week."

The [AP](#) (7/7, Schreiner, Fram) reports Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said on Thursday that he "plans to produce a fresh bill in about a week," but is open to the possibility of "a Plan B," saying, "If my side is unable to agree on an adequate replacement, then some kind of action with regard to the private health insurance market must occur."

The [Washington Post](#) (7/7, Snell, Sullivan, Costa) reports the White House and Republican leaders in the Senate "are planning a final, urgent blitz" on the healthcare act, to pass the measure "before their month-long August recess." The Post says "the next 14 days probably represent their last chance to salvage their flagging endeavor." The President, Vice President and Sen. McConnell "intend to single out individual senators and escalate a broad defense of the evolving proposal" according to the Post. In addition, the Post says McConnell will depend on Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) and "his controversial amendment that would allow insurers to offer plans that don't meet ACA requirements — provided they also offer some that do." The [Washington Post](#) (7/7, A1, Sullivan) reports on Sen. Cruz's series of town hall meetings in which he was "grappling with a state that, much like the rest of the country, has been deeply divided and firmly gripped by the months-long GOP effort to fulfill its signature campaign promise."

The [New York Times](#) (7/7, A1, Steinhauer, Pear) reports that during the July 4th recess, Republican senators "from red states blanched at its impact on rural communities," and Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND) "signaled this week that he would not vote for the bill as written." One concern in rural areas is "Medicaid parity" as Herb B. Kuhn, president of the Missouri Hospital Association, put it, "per capita federal spending on Medicaid would be much higher in states that have chosen to expand Medicaid" under the Senate bill.

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/7, Litvan) reports that Sen. McConnell "is taking a risk by calling for a

bipartisan health-care plan if the Republican-only bill fails." That's because, those who favor such a plan may drop the Republican bill. In response to McConnell's comment, Minority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) said, "Democrats are eager to work with Republicans to stabilize the markets and improve the law."

The [New York Times](#) (7/7, Hulse) reports McConnell is facing a difficult problem in attempting to build a majority for a healthcare bill. According to the Times, "his best chance to pass the bill was a quick strike before the Fourth of July recess." McConnell's abilities are praised and the Times says, "he has more often fashioned a way out that few others saw."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/7) identifies six senators as key to putting together that majority and describes some options available to McConnell including increasing Medicaid funding, easing regulations on insurance, boosting funding for opioid addiction treatments, restoring funding for Planned Parenthood, and keeping some taxes enacted under the ACA.

NYTimes Analysis: Tax Treatment Of Employer-provided Insurance Boosts Healthcare Costs.

The [New York Times](#) (7/8, A14, Zernike) reports on the "giant health insurance subsidy no one is talking about" saying that "economists on the left and the right argue that to really rein in health costs, Congress should scale back or eliminate the tax exclusion on what employers pay toward employees' health insurance premiums."

NYTimes Analysis: Repeal First Strategy Brings Large Risks. In an analysis, the [New York Times](#) (7/7, Sanger-Katz) takes up the question of what would happen if the Republicans decided to repeal the ACA first, and then develop a replacement. The Times says that it would bring "tremendous political risks for Republicans and practical risks for consumers." The Times, citing the CBO, says such a repeal would result in 18 million people losing insurance within a year. The reason is that it would repeal "only the funding" and not the "regulatory structure." The Times also says it is not clear that the imminent repeal of the ACA would cause Senators to work together to develop a replacement, as some Republicans may be content to get rid of it, while Democrats may prefer to wait and see what happens.

Republicans Urged To Think About Healthcare. Peter Suderman, features editor at Reason, writes in the [New York Times](#) (7/7, Suderman) that "Republicans don't know what they want, much less how to get it," while Democrats have "a distinct vision of robust universal coverage guaranteed by the government and paid for by a combination of delivery-system efficiencies and higher taxes." Suderman says that Republicans need to develop "a set of guiding principles." He offers: dropping the idea of universal coverage; unifying the healthcare system from its current division into Medicaid, Medicare, and employer-provided insurance; and distinguishing between insurance and healthcare. He argues that health insurance is "a financial product" intended to prevent "financial ruin" and should not be treated as a means to provide healthcare. He urges Republicans to start at the beginning, and while that might mean they will not have a bill this summer, it could mean improved healthcare in the long run.

More Commentary. Greg Sargent writes for the [Washington Post](#) (7/7, Sargent) "Plum Line" blog that Republicans are having a hard time putting together a majority for repeal because "the passage and implementation of the ACA has given rise to a latent majority in Congress — or at least one in the Senate — that has more or less made peace with the ACA's spending and regulatory architecture and its fundamental ideological goals."

Paul Krugman writes in his column in the [New York Times](#) (7/7, Krugman) that "everything [Republicans] say involves either demonstrably dishonest claims about Obamacare or wild misrepresentations of their proposed replacement, which would — surprise — cut taxes for the rich while inflicting harsh punishment on the poor and working class."

US Adds 222,000 Jobs In June, More Americans Looking For Work.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/7, story 10, 0:15, Muir) reported, "There is also news tonight about the American economy. The US adding 222,000 jobs last month. This marks 81 straight months of job growth in the US, about 15 million jobs added since 2010." The [CBS Evening News](#) (7/7, story 9, 0:15, Pauley) added, "the unemployment rate climbed to 4.4 percent as more Americans started looking for work." [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/7, story 10, 0:25, Guthrie) reported the news "is better than expected." NBC added, "job growth is on pace with 2016, although across the board salaries haven't risen much since the last recession."

The [New York Times](#) (7/7, Cohen) reports the US "labor market roared back in June, with a hefty monthly gain in jobs," and revised numbers mean April and May "added 47,000 more jobs" than originally reported. One analyst said, "The retail, manufacturing and construction sectors were weak," but added, the "economy looks strong enough to absorb these workers elsewhere." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/7, A1, Sparshott) reports in a front-page story the economic expansion

is entering its ninth year, but so far has failed to produce much wage growth.

Stock Market Gains. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/7, Driebusch, Kantchev) reports US stocks were up on the week, and the Journal credited financial companies' gains as the chief reason. The Journal adds that those firms have been gaining since the Federal Reserve announced they had passed the stress tests. The positive jobs report is also given some credit for the gains.

Analyses: First Half Of 2017 Looks Like First Half Of 2016. The [Washington Post](#) (7/7, Bump) in an analysis says that the Trump economy "looks an awful lot like that of his predecessor, Barack Obama" with the gains so far being "basically identical" to those in the first half of 2016.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/7, Morath) offers a similar analysis, saying that Friday's Labor Department report was almost the same as the first half of 2016. The Journal says that the Administration's reaction has been different from what then candidate Trump and his advisers said about the reports last year.

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/7, Miller) also says the job market "in the first six months of Donald Trump's tenure looks a lot like the one that prevailed toward the end of Barack Obama's."

"Big Six" Working On Tax Reform Framework For September.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/7, Rubin) reports plans for tax reform are in the hands of "The Big Six" – Reps. Paul Ryan and Kevin Brady, Sens. Mitch McConnell and Orrin Hatch, and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn. All six are reportedly meeting on a regular basis to discuss tax reform, with plans to develop a framework by September.

Mnuchin: Administration Focused On Enacting Middle Class Tax Cuts This Year.

Treasury Secretary Mnuchin said [ABC's This Week](#) (7/9, Stephanopolous) that the Administration still intends to pass tax reform this year and "its focus is on cutting taxes for middle-class Americans and businesses rather than the wealthy," [USA Today](#) (7/9, Davidson) reports. Mnuchin told ABC, "We're absolutely committed to getting tax reform done this year. ... It's critical for economic growth. We need to get back to 3% or better GDP." The [AP](#) (7/9) says Mnuchin "knock[ed] down a report that White House advisor Steve Bannon had floated the idea" of a tax increase on wealthier Americans, saying, "I have never heard Steve mention that." [Reuters](#) (7/9) also highlights Mnuchin's comments on reports that Bannon was advocating such a proposal.

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/9, Krasny) quotes Mnuchin as saying, "Our plan is to have a full-blown release of the plan in the beginning of September, with being able to vote and getting this passed before the end of the year." He added that the "'objective' of the proposal is still that no one in the middle class will have a tax increase." The [AP](#) (7/9) report that Mnuchin said the Administration plan "would pay for itself, but that's only if about \$2 trillion in increased revenue resulting from projected faster economic growth is included." The AP adds, however, that "congressional budget scorekeepers may not agree that tax cuts would produce such growth."

The [New York Post](#) (7/9, Schultz) reports that some Republican members of the New York delegation "have rejected the tax plan because it eliminates the popular deduction for state and local taxes they believe will hurt hard-working families." Mnuchin told ABC that "he's heard their concerns," saying, "I think we've heard a lot of feedback from New York, California, New Jersey, Connecticut, Illinois, and I think we want to be sensitive to those states and those economies as we shape the plan."

IRS Proposes Changes To Eight Regulations.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/7, Rubin) reports the Internal Revenue Service on Friday issued a list of eight tax regulations it proposes to change. The list was issued in response to an executive order signed by President Trump in April.

Administration May Alter Fiduciary Rule.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/8, Beilfuss) reports on the Administration's review of the fiduciary rule adopted under the Obama Administration, saying that it may survive in an altered form as the Labor Department in a filing with the US District Court for the Northern District of Texas said that it does not support a part of the rule that would allow for class-action suits against brokers for failing to act as fiduciaries. The Administration has been conducting a review of the rule with a focus on the costs of compliance.

Politico Analysis: Air Traffic Control Privatization Faces Hurdles Despite Trump's Support.

[Politico](#) (7/9, Gurciullo, Gardner) reports that a month after President Trump publicly announced his support, the GOP proposal to privatize the air traffic control system “still faces opposition from rural interests, small-plane owners and key Republicans in Congress.” Some members of Congress “have expressed confidence” that House Speaker Ryan will bring the bill to a vote this year. However, the September 30 deadline for reauthorizing the FAA is similar to the deadline for raising the debt ceiling to prevent a shutdown, and the House version would have to be reconciled with the Senate’s, which lacks a privatization provision. If the chambers can’t agree on a compromise before October, Politico says that “one likely scenario is that lawmakers will simply extend the FAA’s current authorization while they hash things out.”

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[New Hurdles For GOP Health Bill](#)
[Plan For New Trading Pit Triggers Feud In US Options Market](#)
[Tiffany Hunts For Path To ‘Cool’](#)
[Trump’s Son Met With Russian Claiming To Have Clinton Intel](#)

New York Times:

[Trump’s Son Met With Russian Lawyer After Being Promised Damaging Information On Clinton At Private Dinners. Pence Quietly Courts Big Donors And Corporate Executives](#)
[The Scholar Who Will Help Lead Trump’s Assault On Rules](#)
[Iraqi Prime Minister Arrives In Mosul To Declare Victory Over ISIS](#)
[Long After Protests, Students Shun The University Of Missouri](#)

Washington Post:

[Cruz Suddenly On Spot To Pass Healthcare Bill](#)
[Memorials Wait For Water To Gush Again](#)
[Trump Advocates Russia As Partner](#)
[‘No Harm, No Foul’: A Novel Defense In Shkreli Trial](#)
[As Mosul Falls, War Stretches On](#)
[Trump Jr. Says Russian He Met Promised Info On Clinton](#)

Financial Times:

[Trump Says ‘Time To Move Forward’ With Russia](#)
[Iraqi PM Hails Victory Over Isis In Mosul](#)
[China Trade Offers Clues To N Korea Economic Health](#)
[Volatility Flickers Back To Life In Markets](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Tweets Defend Confrontation With Putin Over Election Meddling](#)
[Higher Taxpayer Subsidies Keep Shaky Obamacare Markets Stable](#)
[Senate Democrats Hold Blue Slips, Delay Trump’s Federal Judicial Nominees](#)
[Where Is Michael Flynn? Ex-National Security Adviser Near Center Of Russian Meddling Scandal Missing](#)
[‘Hillary Clinton Defense’ Fails To Persuade Justice Department To Free Former Navy Sailor](#)
[Robot Challenge Promotes STEM Education Around The World, Even In Least-Developed Countries](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump; Heat Waves-Wildfires; Weather Forecast; Mosul Victory; North Korea Threat; Greece-Bar Fight American Death; London Child-US Treatment; Alligator Attack Survivor; Amazon Prime Day Shopping; Tennessee-Hit And Run; LA-Power Plant Fire; NYC-Penn Station Repairs; Veteran Recovery.

CBS: Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump; Russia Meddling Investigation-Expert Opinion; Mosul Victory; Heat Waves-Wildfires; NYC-Penn Station Repairs; USA Gymnastics Sex Abuse Trial; London Child-US Treatment; Climate Change-Virginia Land Sinking; Tesla-New Car Model; Google-Pollution Mapping; Accessible Water Park.

NBC: Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump; Heat Waves-Wildfires; Dentist-Sedation Danger;

London Child-US Treatment; Mosul Victory; Lacking Skilled Workers; Opioid Addiction Treatment; China-Energy Future; Tour De France Crash; Minor League Baseball News; Olympic Sprinter-New Record; Apartment-Good Dog Certification.

Network TV At A Glance:

Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump – 11 minutes, 35 seconds
Mosul Victory – 6 minutes, 10 seconds
Heat Waves-Wildfires – 6 minutes, 5 seconds
London Child-US Treatment – 5 minutes, 15 seconds
NYC-Penn Station Repairs – 2 minutes

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump; Congress Back In Session; Mosul Victory; Heat Waves-Wildfires.

CBS: Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump; Heat Waves-Wildfires; Florida-Shark Attacks; Florida-Road Rage; Wall Street News.

FOX: Healthcare Reform Bill; Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump; Heat Waves-Wildfires.

NPR: Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump; New Tax Plan; Mosul Victory; Congress Back In Session.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — No public events scheduled.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in an interview with Laura Ingraham of The Laura Ingraham Show; participates in a call with Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras of Greece; participates in a call with Prime Minister Zoran Zaev of Macedonia; participates in a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Youssef Chahed of Tunisia.

US Senate: 3:00 PM Senate votes on OIRA Administrator nominee – Senate convenes and resumes consideration of the nomination of Neomi Rao to be Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Administrator, followed by a vote on the nomination and a vote on a motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of David Nye to be a U.S. district judge * Cloture motion on Rao's nomination passed by 59 votes to 36 last month Location: Washington, DC
<http://www.senate.gov/>

US House: 12:00 PM Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee discussion on data warrants – Advisory Committee to the Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee 'Data Warrants From Across the Pond: Fighting Crime While Preserving Privacy' discussion, with a panel of Deputy Assistant Attorney General Richard Downing, American Civil Liberties Union Legislative Counsel Neema Singh Guliani, American University Associate Professor of Law Jennifer Daskal, and Reform Government Surveillance's Stephanie Martz exploring the pros and cons of the Department of Justice proposal to update the Electronic Communication Privacy Act and what it means for Congress, for U.S. citizens, and for U.S. internet companies Location: Rm 2237, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.netcaucus.org
<https://twitter.com/NetCaucusAC> #crossborderwarrants

Congress returns after Independence Day District Work Period (aka State Work Period) *
House of Representatives meets in a pro forma session (10:00 AM EDT)

Other: 10:00 AM Heritage Foundation hosts discussion on 'Silk Road and the Caspian' – 'Security and Economic Development: Silk Road and the Caspian' discussion co-hosted by the Caspian Policy Center and Institute for Analysis of Global Security. Speakers include Ambassador of Azerbaijan to the U.S. Elin Suleymanov, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to the United Nations Bakhtyor Ibragimov, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the U.S. Erzhan Kazykhanov, Caspian Policy Center Director Efgan Niftiyev, and The Paulson Institute Vice Chairman Evan Feigenbaum Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.heritage.org
<https://twitter.com/Heritage>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- The Hill: Zinke: Trump Is Great Boss Because He 'Doesn't Micromanage'.
- Las Vegas Review-Journal: Congressional Republicans Want Nevada Monuments Cut Back.
- Huffington Post: Hunting And Fishing Groups Are Starting To Turn On Trump's Interior Secretary.
- U.S. News & World Report: Fight Over Copper Mining In Northern Minnesota Heats Up.
- The Guardian (UK): 'More Valuable Than Gold': Yellowstone Businesses Prepare To Fight Mining.
- Watertown (NY) Daily Times: Additional Coverage| Sackets Harbor Battlefield Receives \$683k Toward Acquiring Horse Island.

- Huffington Post: The House Of Representatives Should Stand Up For Public Lands.
- Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel: Respect, Just A Little Bit.
- Beaumont (TX) Enterprise: Bouquets And Brickbat.
- Houston Chronicle: Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Halftown Faction Gets Nod To Lead Cayugas.
- A New Look At Mashpee Tribe's Status.
- Editorial: Give Lumbees What They Deserve.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Associated Press: Montana Delayed Oil And Gas Drill Applications Less Than 100.
- Associated Press: Federal Ranger's Testimony Sought In Steinle Murder Trial.
- U.S. News & World Report: BLM Plans To Relocate 1,500 Wyoming Wild Horses.
- Las Vegas Review-Journal: Rallies Support Defendants In Bunkerville Standoff Case.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- Don't Risk Fishing, Tourism Jobs On A Small Amount Of Oil.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Delegation Supports Intake.
- Effort To Bring Water To Eastern New Mexico Inches Along.
- Gila River Agreement Shows Arizona Is Ready To Deal On Water.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- U.S. News & World Report: Bald Eagle Threat: Lead Ammo Left Behind By Hunters.
- Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate: Plaintiff In St. Tammany Landowner Vs. Frog Dispute Seeks Leap To U.S. Supreme Court.
- Las Vegas Review-Journal: Newly Discovered Toad Species In Nevada Already Under Threat.
- U.S. News & World Report: Group Calls For Release Of Mexican Gray Wolves In New Mexico.
- Buffalo (NY) News: Fish & Wildlife Service Will Conduct Sea Lamprey Survey In WNY Waters.
- U.S. News & World Report: Snakes, Lizards To Be Feature Of Dickson Mounds Kids' Day.
- New York Times: The Government Is Now The Yellowstone Grizzly's Biggest Threat.

National Park Service

- Sonora (CA) Union Democrat: Park Service Names Associate Director For Workforce And Inclusion.
- Curbed Washington: D.C.'s LGBT Landmarks Will Be Identified, Highlighted In An Online Database.
- New York Times: Protected Wolves In Alaska Face Peril From Beyond Their Preserve.
- U.S. News & World Report: Training Ordnance Found On New North Carolina Island.
- The Guardian (UK): In The Grand Canyon, Uranium Mining Threatens A Tribe's Survival.
- U.S. News & World Report: Yellowstone Proposes Building New Youth Education Campus.
- Bangor (ME) Daily News: Physically Disabled Persons Praise, Question Access To Acadia.
- Frederick (MD) News-Post: C&O Canal Trust Helps Park Service With Budget Shortfalls.
- KULR-TV Billings (MT): Facebook Founder Mark Zuckerberg Talks 'Climate Change' In Glacier Park.
- Mount Desert (ME) Islander: MDI Couple Oversees NPS Digital Domain.
- Kansas City (MO) Star: K-State Researches Bear Cams In Alaska National Park.
- U.S. News & World Report: 'Jr. Rangers' Offered I & M Canal Activities In July, August.
- Porterville (CA) Recorder: Sequoia National Park Celebrates Latino Conservation Week.
- Marin (CA) Independent Journal: Point Reyes Legal Settlement A Victory For National Parks Everywhere.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- PBS: INSIGHTS ON PBS HAWAII Giving A Damn.
- Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists: Nuclear Weapons And Climate Change: A Double Whammy For The Marshall Islands.
- Japan Times: Palau Boasts Incredible Maritime Diversity.
- Marianas Variety: The Value Of Island Land Ownership.

US Geological Survey

- Santa Rosa (CA) Press Democrat: PD Editorial: Congress Should Save Earthquake Warning System.

Top National News

- Washington Post: Administration To Highlight US-Made Products During “Made In America Week.”
- ABC: Trump Officially Hires Lawyer Ty Cobb To Handle “Mounting Questions Over Russia.”
- CNN: Russian-American Lobbyist Confirms Attendance At Meeting With Trump Jr., Veselnitskaya.
- Fox News: France Recognizes Trump As Guest Of Honor At Bastille Day Parade.
- Associated Press: White House Warns Budget Deficit To Reach \$702 Billion This Year.
- Washington Post: WPost: Trump Budget Will Not Spur Economic Growth.
- New York Times: NYTimes: Trump Unlikely To Return To Climate Change Commitments.

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DOI In The News

Interior Secretary Tours Cascade-Siskiyou Monument.

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (7/15, Perkowski) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke visited the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument on Saturday. While Zinke is “prepared to accept the premise that the area’s flora and fauna justify a monument designation, Zinke said the Cascade-Siskiyou’s boundaries seem arbitrary in some areas.” He noted that “so far, nobody at the Interior Department has taken responsibility for drawing the boundaries or explaining their placement.” According to Zinke, “it’s become clear the boundaries weren’t established at the direction of local U.S. Bureau of Land Management officials.” He said, “They had nearly no input in drawing the boundaries and that concerns me.”

The [Ashland \(OR\) Daily Tidings](#) (7/16, Freeman) reports that Zinke said his tour of the monument “reveals that ‘a lot of the use is heavy recreation,’ but he stopped short of saying some of those lands should be downgraded from monument status.” Zinke added “that some lands now within national monument boundaries are ‘better suited’ under National Recreation Area status.”

The [AP](#) (7/14, Selsky) reports that Zinke was scheduled on Saturday to meet with Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, who is “trying to persuade him to leave it alone, and will also tour the monument, which former President Barack Obama expanded in the final days in office by 48,000 acres.” Brown said Friday in a statement, “The future of Oregon’s federal public lands and the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument gives me great concern, as I know it does for many Oregonians. Oregonians have a long tradition of environmental stewardship and deep appreciation for our public lands, and I will make sure the voices of Oregonians are heard by Secretary Zinke and the federal administration.”

The [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (7/16, Thomas) reports that “the one-hour meeting left

Brown with no indication of what Zinke's recommendation might be to President Trump in regard to the monument's designation and current boundaries." Brown said, "I urged [Zinke] and the federal administration to not backtrack on the monument and to not turn their backs on progress we have already made and look forward to working with the administration collaboratively as we seek to protect what we have created in Oregon." Brown "said Zinke expressed his desire to work collaboratively with the state of Oregon and 'take a holistic approach in terms of the expanded monument designation.'"

Additional coverage was provided by the [Oregonian](#) (7/14, Theen), the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (7/15, Selsky), the [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (7/14, Freeman), the [Ashland \(OR\) Daily Tidings](#) (7/14, Freeman), the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (7/15, Selsky), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (7/14), [KGW-TV Portland \(OR\)](#) Portland, OR (7/14, Selsky), [KDRV-TV Medford \(OR\)](#) Medford, OR (7/15, Barrett), [KTVZ-TV Bend \(OR\)](#) Bend, OR (7/17), [KOBI-TV Medford \(OR\)](#) Medford, OR (7/16, Elliott), and [KATU-TV Portland \(OR\)](#) Portland, OR (7/16).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/14, Selsky), the [Fort Bend \(TX\) Herald](#) (7/14), the [Idaho Statesman](#) (7/14, Selsky), the [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (7/15, Selsky), the [Provo \(UT\) Daily Herald](#) (7/14, Selsky), the [San Luis Obispo \(CA\) Tribune](#) (7/14, Selsky), and [KPTV-TV Portland \(OR\)](#) Portland, OR (7/14, Selsky).

Zinke: Trump Is Great Boss Because He 'Doesn't Micromanage'.

[The Hill](#) (7/16, Manchester) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "praised President Trump in a weekend interview, calling him 'the best boss' he's ever had." In an interview published on Saturday by Capital Press, Zinke said, "He's the best boss I've ever worked for. He doesn't micromanage."

Congressional Republicans Want Nevada Monuments Cut Back.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (7/14, Brean) reports that in a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, "members of the all-GOP Congressional Western Caucus urged the reduction or repeal of 19 of the 22 monuments currently under review by the Trump Administration." The 17 lawmakers "who signed the June 30 letter are also calling for nine monuments to be rescinded altogether, four of them in Arizona, two in Utah and one each in California, Maine and Oregon." They say that "eight other monuments — four in California, two in New Mexico, one in Idaho and one in Montana — should be chopped down in size 'in coordination with state and local stakeholders.'"

Nye Awaits Secretary Zinke's Tour Of Basin And Range. The [Pahrump \(NV\) Valley Times](#) (7/14, Sokolova) reports that Nye County is "awaiting the visit" of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "who could redraw the boundaries" of the Basin and Range National Monument. Zinke's visit is "expected to take place later in July, however the exact date is still unclear." Alex Hinson, deputy press secretary for the Department of Interior, "said the dates of Zinke's trip have not been finalized yet."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the review of national monuments was provided by the [St. George & Southern Utah Independent](#) (7/16, Croft), the [Ventura County \(CA\) Star](#) (7/14, Roth), the [Lodi \(CA\) News-Sentinel](#) (7/15, Cathey), the [Lake County \(CA\) Record-Bee](#) (7/15, Raskin-Zrihen), the [Deming \(NM\) Headlight](#) (7/13), [KOB-TV Albuquerque \(NM\)](#) Albuquerque, NM (7/13), and [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (7/14).

Commentary appeared in the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (7/16), the [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (7/14), the [New London \(CT\) Day](#) (7/16, Mathews, Alonso), the [Bonner County \(ID\) Daily Bee](#) (7/16), the [Santa Cruz \(CA\) Sentinel](#) (7/15, Wender, Keeley), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (7/14, Pearson), the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (7/15), and the [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (7/15).

Hunting And Fishing Groups Are Starting To Turn On Trump's Interior Secretary.

The [Huffington Post](#) (7/14, D'angelo) reports that when President Trump tapped Ryan Zinke "to lead the Interior Department, hunting and fishing groups around the country rejoiced." However, over the past four and a half months, "some of those same organizations have changed their tune as Zinke has cozied up to fossil fuel interests and come to support a budget proposal — one he initially vowed to fight — that would slash funding for land acquisition and conservation programs while promoting increased drilling and extraction on public lands." According to Whit Fosburgh, president of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, "the level of frustration is growing daily' among outdoor groups." Fosburgh said, "To date, it's been overwhelmingly development, development, development — without even lip service to conservation. That is troubling."

Fight Over Copper Mining In Northern Minnesota Heats Up.

The [UAP](#) (7/15, Karnowski) reports that “the fight over whether to allow copper-nickel mining near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area of northeastern Minnesota is shifting to the capital city as the U.S. Forest Service opens a new set of public meetings on its proposal to bar minerals exploration and development on more than 234,000 acres near the pristine wilderness for up to 20 years.” The meetings in St. Paul on July 18 and in the Iron Range city of Virginia on July 25 “follow one held in Duluth in March.” Mining advocates have “announced plans to boycott the St. Paul meeting” and “they plan a show of force at the Virginia event instead.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Greater New Milford \(CT\) Spectrum](#) (7/16, Karnowski), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (7/15, Karnowski), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (7/15, Karnowski), the [St. Paul \(MN\) Pioneer Press](#) (7/15, Karnowski), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/15, Karnowski), [Yahoo! News](#) (7/15, Karnowski, Karnowski, Press), and [KAAL-TV Austin \(MN\)](#) Austin, MN (7/15, Karnowski).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Hibbing \(MN\) Daily Tribune](#) (7/14, Lueck) and [WCCO-AM Minneapolis \(MN\)](#) Minneapolis (7/15).

‘More Valuable Than Gold’: Yellowstone Businesses Prepare To Fight Mining.

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (7/16, Woods, Montana) reports that around Yellowstone National Park, “mining companies anticipate the end of the Obama-era moratorium, but local businesses are fighting back.” In November 2016, former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell “announced a two-year moratorium on new mineral leases on 30,000 acres of federal public land in the Paradise Valley.” In April 2017, Sen. Jon Tester “introduced a bill that would make the moratorium permanent.” According to the article, “mine opponents are thrilled, but the bill faces a hard road forward in a Senate dominated by Republicans who share President Trump’s commitment to expanding the extractive industries’ footprint on public land.”

Additional Coverage| Sackets Harbor Battlefield Receives \$683k Toward Acquiring Horse Island.

Additional coverage of federal grants announced to protect battlefields was provided by the [Watertown \(NY\) Daily Times](#) (7/15, Block) and the [Fredericksburg \(VA\) Free Lance-Star](#) (7/15).

The House Of Representatives Should Stand Up For Public Lands.

In a piece for the [Huffington Post](#) (7/14, Rogers, Contributor), Will Rogers, President of The Trust for Public Land, writes that “the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior and the Environment released its draft bill for fiscal year 2018 yesterday and it ignores the Trump Administration’s harmful proposal to starve the Land and Water Conservation Fund.” Rogers warns that “the disproportionate cuts proposed to The Land and Water Conservation Fund could have disastrous impacts across the country.” He asserts that “the reckless proposal to wipe out the funding that protects our national parks and public lands is completely out of step with America’s values and ignores the broad bipartisan support in Congress for the Land and Water Conservation Fund.”

Respect, Just A Little Bit.

In an op-ed for the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (7/14, Walcher), Greg Walcher, president of the Natural Resources Group, writes that the Trump Administration has “reassigned several federal land managers to positions in other regions, or even in other agencies.” Walcher finds it “noteworthy” that “this time is that some of the transfers signal an important shift in the federal approach to private property rights.” According to Walcher, “that’s because some of the officials being transferred are people who have created very prickly relationships with local communities and landowners.” He concludes that “the new Administration’s policy reversal is welcome news to landowners, who might feel less like Rodney Dangerfield (‘no respect’) and more like Aretha Franklin (‘just a little bit’).”

Bouquets And Brickbat.

The [Beaumont \(TX\) Enterprise](#) (7/15) extends a “bouquet” Big Thicket National Preserve Ranger Michael Hughes “for being honored with a Department of Interior Valor Award for his outstanding performance while responding to the May 2016 flooding throughout Southeast Texas.”

Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (7/14) gives a “thumbs” to the nomination of Susan Combs for assistant secretary of policy management and budget at the Interior Department.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Halftown Faction Gets Nod To Lead Cayugas.

The [Finger Lakes \(NY\) Times](#) (7/16, SHAW) reports that "a faction led by Clint Halftown is the federally recognized governing body of the Cayuga Indian Nation." Assistant Bureau of Indian Affairs Secretary Michael Black issued the decision Friday. Black "said in addition to Halftown, the other members of the Cayuga Nation Council now recognized as the governing body are Timothy Twoguns, Gary Wheeler, Michael Barringer and Donald Jimerson." Halftown said in a written statement, "On behalf of the citizens of the Cayuga Nation, we are greatly pleased by this decision. It signifies an end to the bitter turmoil created by dissident members of our Nation. More important, it represents a new beginning where we can all work together to the betterment of our people."

A New Look At Mashpee Tribe's Status.

The [Cape Cod \(MA\) Times](#) (7/14, Lindahl) reports that "as the federal government considers a route for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe to retain its sovereign land while sidestepping a landmark 2009 U.S. Supreme Court case, Congress is studying whether the way the government creates reservations for tribes should be overhauled in the wake of that ruling." Legislation introduced in the House "earlier this year would create a 'fix' to the 2009 Carcieri decision, which made it difficult for tribes recognized after 1934, including the Mashpee tribe, to get land in trust, U.S. Rep. Norma Torres, ranking member of the Indian affairs subcommittee said at a hearing this week." James Cason, acting deputy Interior secretary, said at the Congressional hearing, The Interior Department "continues to search for a way to allow the Mashpee tribe's 171 acres on the Cape and 150 acres in Taunton, where it intends to build a casino, to remain in trust."

Editorial: Give Lumbees What They Deserve.

In an editorial, the [Fayetteville \(NC\) Observer](#) (7/12) supports extending full federal recognition to the Lumbee tribe. According to the paper, "all that's left to do is to resolve an issue of fairness, to ensure that the Lumbees get the same rights and assistance as every other recognized tribe in the United States."

Bureau Of Land Management

Montana Delayed Oil And Gas Drill Applications Less Than 100.

The [AP](#) (7/16) reports Montana has less than "100 delayed oil and gas drillings applications on federal land within the state, and the Bureau of Land Management is not the cause of delays in the state, a BLM official said." BLM field manager Scott Haight said, "In Montana, there were 84 pending applications and of those, 82 of them are in a pending status. There's no way of acting on them because they're in the Interior Board of Land Appeals."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (7/16, Lutey).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [U.S. News & World Report](#) (7/16), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/16), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (7/16), and the [Idaho Statesman](#) (7/16).

Federal Ranger's Testimony Sought In Steinle Murder Trial.

The [AP](#) (7/14, Elias) reports that "a federal agency is prohibiting a ranger from testifying about his stolen gun used to fatally shoot a California woman, whose 2015 death was referenced repeatedly by then-candidate Donald Trump to underscore his call to deport criminals living in the country illegally." Juan Francisco Lopez Sanchez, "who was deported five times, admits fatally shooting Kate Steinle while she walked with her father on a San Francisco pier crowded with tourists." Two years after the slaying, "the case is inching closer to trial." However, Lopez-Sanchez' attorneys are "now wrangling with the Department of Interior over whether Bureau of Land Management ranger John Woychowski can be called as a witness."

Additional coverage was provided by the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (7/14, Ho) and [KQED-FM San Francisco \(CA\)](#) San Francisco (7/14, Emslie).

BLM Plans To Relocate 1,500 Wyoming Wild Horses.

The [AP](#) (7/14) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has “released a draft environmental assessment for a proposed relocation of about 1,500 wild horses.” According to the article, “the assessment that was released on Wednesday calls for reducing populations in the Salt Wells Creek, Adobe Town and Great Divide Basin herd management areas to their low appropriate management levels.” The AP says that “the overall population of the areas, 2,836 wild horses, exceeds the required management level of 1,560 animals.”

Rallies Support Defendants In Bunkerville Standoff Case.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (7/15, Bekker, Michor) reports that “hundreds of supporters turned out at a Las Vegas event Saturday night supporting the defendants facing trial in the Bunkerville standoff case.” The crowd “gathered at Rainbow Gardens to hear speeches from Las Vegas City Councilwoman Michele Fiore, members of the Bundy family and even Roger Stone, an on-and-off adviser for President Donald Trump.” The article says that “the overarching theme at Saturday event” was that “the ‘mainstream media’ hasn’t given the Bundy family a voice.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Don't Risk Fishing, Tourism Jobs On A Small Amount Of Oil.

In an op-ed for the [Press of Atlantic City \(NJ\)](#) (7/16, Savitz), Jacqueline Savitz, a senior vice president at Oceana, writes that “late last month, the New England Fishery Management Council joined its Mid-Atlantic and South Atlantic council colleagues in officially documenting concern over Trump administration-backed plans to use seismic airgun blasting to search for oil off the Atlantic coast.” She argues that “offshore oil exploration threatens decades of progress toward making America’s fish stocks great again and thereby threatens economies and livelihoods along the East Coast.” According to Savitz, “it’s not worth taking these risks, especially considering the small amount of oil at stake.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

Delegation Supports Intake.

The [Sidney \(MT\) Herald](#) (7/15, Weele) reports that “the delegation for Montana and North Dakota have displayed its support this week for the Lower Yellowstone Irrigation Project.” On Tuesday, “senators and representatives from Montana and North Dakota sent a letter to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bureau of Reclamation to urge those agencies to continue to support the project and not reallocate funding currently provided for the LYIP.” The article says that “oral arguments that will determine the fate of the proposed project at the Intake Diversion Dam to make the project more fish friendly are scheduled to be heard during this month.”

Effort To Bring Water To Eastern New Mexico Inches Along.

The [AP](#) (7/14, Bryan) reports that “the U.S. government is funneling another \$5 million” to the Ute pipeline project. According to the article, “the pipeline would bring water from Ute Reservoir to Cannon Air Force Base, Clovis, Portales and other communities along the Texas-New Mexico border.” The article notes that “the price has ballooned to more than a half-billion dollars, and the Bureau of Reclamation has acknowledged it could end up costing \$750 million.”

Gila River Agreement Shows Arizona Is Ready To Deal On Water.

The [Arizona Republic](#) (7/14) editorializes that “if we are to continue to prosper as communities into the distant future, we will need to work together to solve the problem of water scarcity.” The paper says “that is why the ‘consummation’ July 14 of the five-party water-conservation agreement in Phoenix is so important.” According to the editorial, “it demonstrates in deed the kind of creative cooperation that is essential if the West is to meet the greatest threat on its horizon.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Bald Eagle Threat: Lead Ammo Left Behind By Hunters.

The [AP](#) (7/16, Esch) reports that “bald eagles have made a remarkable recovery across the

United States since the pesticide DDT was banned 45 years ago, but the majestic birds are still dying from another environmental poison: lead from bullets and shotgun pellets in wildlife carcasses left behind by hunters." The issue is "that eagles and other scavengers eat the guts of deer or the carcasses of coyotes, woodchucks and other game shot by hunters." The article notes that "on former President Barack Obama's last day in office, Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe signed an order calling for phase-out of lead ammunition on federal lands by 2022." However, "President Donald Trump's new Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke, reversed Ashe's order on his first day in office."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Olean \(NY\) Times Herald](#) (7/16, Esch), the [Niagara \(NY\) Gazette](#) (7/16, Esch), [ABC News](#) (7/16, Esch), the [Daily Mail](#) (7/16), and [WVEC-TV Hampton Roads \(VA\)](#) Hampton Roads, VA (7/16).

Plaintiff In St. Tammany Landowner Vs. Frog Dispute Seeks Leap To U.S. Supreme Court.

The [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (7/15, Pagonos) reports that the Pacific Legal Foundation "filed a petition last week asking the Supreme Court to review the decision to designate the 1,500 acres as critical habitat" for the dusky gopher frog. According to the article, "while the lower courts held that the Fish and Wildlife Service acted within its discretion in making its designation, the plaintiffs were encouraged by a strong dissent on the part of six judges on the 5th Circuit, who said the decision gives the government virtually limitless power to designate 'critical habitat.'" The issue for the Supreme Court, "according to the petition, is whether the Endangered Species Act gives the federal government the power to designate as critical habitat private land that has no actual connection with a protected species and, even if does, whether the U.S. Constitution allows that."

Additional coverage was provided by [Law360](#) (7/14, Rodriguez).

Newly Discovered Toad Species In Nevada Already Under Threat.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (7/17, Brean) reports that "Nevada researchers just identified the first new species of toad found anywhere in the U.S. in 50 years, and the race is already on to save it from extinction." Conservationists are "preparing an emergency petition to have the Dixie Valley toad listed as an endangered species to protect it from a proposed geothermal energy project at the edge of its isolated home in Churchill County." According to the article, "their only known habitat is a spring-fed marsh covering just more than 2 square miles of federal land in the remote Dixie Valley, about 400 miles northwest of Las Vegas."

Group Calls For Release Of Mexican Gray Wolves In New Mexico.

The [AP](#) (7/17) reports that "environmentalists are asking that federal wildlife managers release more captive Mexican gray wolves into the wild in New Mexico to help with recovery of the endangered species." The Center for Biological Diversity "outlined its request in a letter to regional officials with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." The center "pointed to two family packs that biologists earlier this year identified for release and an additional three packs to bolster genetic diversity among wolves currently in the wild in New Mexico and neighboring Arizona."

Fish & Wildlife Service Will Conduct Sea Lamprey Survey In WNY Waters.

The [Buffalo \(NY\) News](#) (7/14, Pignataro) reports that "U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey crews will take to the upper Niagara River, lower Buffalo River and Cattaraugus Creek later this month to estimate the numbers of invasive sea lamprey in those waters." The survey will be conducted "between July 25 and Aug. 3."

Snakes, Lizards To Be Feature Of Dickson Mounds Kids' Day.

The [AP](#) (7/14) reports that Dickson Mounds Museum will "feature 'Snakes, Lizards and More' for its Kids' Day presentation on Sunday." The event celebrating World Snake Day is co-sponsored by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service .

The Government Is Now The Yellowstone Grizzly's Biggest Threat.

In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (7/14, McNamee), Thomas McNamee argues that the Yellowstone grizzly bear population has not truly recovered. He notes that "nearly all conservation biologists outside government say that an absolute recovery will never be possible for the Yellowstone grizzly population." McNamee claims that "the only way Yellowstone's grizzly bears can be expected to thrive in the long run is for their ecosystem to be connected by a corridor of occupied habitat to other grizzly populations — the one centered in Glacier National

Park to the north and others up the Rocky Mountain chain to Alaska." He concludes that "taking away federal protection now — with the bears' food sources plunging and their ecosystem isolated — is an act of either deceit or folly."

Additional commentary appears in the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (7/16), the [Idaho State Journal](#) (7/14, Wuerthner), and the [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (7/15, McCoy).

National Park Service

Park Service Names Associate Director For Workforce And Inclusion.

The [Sonora \(CA\) Union Democrat](#) (7/14, McCarthy) reports that the National Park Service announced a new associate director for workforce and inclusion. According to NPS public affairs staff, Tony Nguyen is "in charge of all staffing and employee management programs for more than 22,000 employees in more than 400 national parks and offices." Michael T. Reynolds, acting director of the National Park Service, said, "We look forward to bringing in Tony's fresh perspective on how we can ensure that every NPS employee has a safe and respectful workplace."

D.C.'s LGBT Landmarks Will Be Identified, Highlighted In An Online Database.

The [Curbed Washington](#) (7/14, Goldchain) reports that "every single LGBT landmark in the nation's capital is going to be identified, studied, and later inserted into a publicly-accessible online database." The Interior Department "awarded a \$50,000 grant to the D.C. Historic Preservation Office within the D.C. Office of Planning (OP) in order to fund the project." It is "one of 13 projects in the nation funded by the U.S. Department of Interior that is aimed to benefit the National Register of Historic Places through increasing the number of listings associated with underrepresented communities."

Protected Wolves In Alaska Face Peril From Beyond Their Preserve.

The [New York Times](#) (7/14, Klein) reports that "a recent study suggests that efforts to limit populations of...predators outside" the borders of the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve is "having negative effects on wolves living within the preserve." The study, "published in June in *Wildlife Monographs*, suggests that when the Alaskan authorities were limiting wolf populations outside the Yukon-Charley preserve, survival rates of wolves within the preserve were lower than usual." The research "highlight the notion that managing wildlife within human-imposed boundaries requires communication and cooperation with the authorities beyond a preserve's boundaries, and could have implications for wildlife management programs elsewhere."

Training Ordnance Found On New North Carolina Island.

The [AP](#) (7/14) reports that "an ordnance disposal unit has removed a World War II-era training device from a new island off the North Carolina coast." According to the National Park Service, "the Hatteras Island Rescue Squad responded to a report of an old military device on the sand bar Friday." The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (7/14, Parker) reports that a Navy bomb disposal squad "removed the object from the beach of Shelly Island and said it was a World War II training ordnance." The unit "transported it to Virginia for safe disposal." National Park Service spokesman Boone Vandzura said, "The crew was very professional. We're happy that Cape Point and that area are reopened for the weekend."

Additional coverage was provided by [WITN-TV](#) Greenville, NC (7/14).

In The Grand Canyon, Uranium Mining Threatens A Tribe's Survival.

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (7/17, Walters) reports that the Havasupai tribe is raising concerns about a mining company's plans to drill to "extract high-grade uranium ore" within the Grand Canyon watershed. The company, Energy Fuels Inc, "pledges to operate safely, but the Havasupai and others say that's impossible to promise, especially as too little is known about subterranean water flow." They claim "that any contamination of the groundwater from the mining operations will end up in Havasu Creek, destroying an ancient way of life if they leave the canyon, sickening them if they stay."

Yellowstone Proposes Building New Youth Education Campus.

The [AP](#) (7/15) reports that Yellowstone National Park "wants to move and rebuild its youth education campus to expand dorm and classroom space." The park issued "an environmental

assessment last week that proposes building five dormitories." The park also "proposes new staff offices and a new dining area for youth educational programs."

Physically Disabled Persons Praise, Question Access To Acadia.

The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (7/16, Kong, Ring) reports that Acadia National Park's effort to improve access for physically disabled people is drawing both praise and criticism. Meanwhile, the National Park Service, "in a five-year plan on accessibility, acknowledges that it is under-serving people with varying abilities and lays out a strategy to build momentum and advance the effort."

C&O Canal Trust Helps Park Service With Budget Shortfalls.

The [Frederick \(MD\) News-Post](#) (7/15, Anderson) reports that "for the past 10 years, the C&O Canal Trust, the official nonprofit partner organization of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, has done for the park what it cannot do for itself." According to the article, "in order to fill in some of the staffing gap and prevent major lapses in canal maintenance, the Trust has raised about \$350,000 to directly fund repair projects, organized countless volunteer cleanup efforts, and has taken over many visitor service functions." The article notes that "recent repairs have included fixing a large section of the towpath that had been washed out by a river near the town of Potomac, and a major push to restore the historic homes that housed the families who operated the canal lock mechanisms in the 19th-century."

Facebook Founder Mark Zuckerberg Talks 'Climate Change' In Glacier Park.

[KULR-TV](#) Billings, MT (7/16, Lutz) reports that "Facebook founder, Mark Zukerberg took to his own Facebook account over the weekend to talk and share pictures of Glacier National Park." In his post, Zuckerberg said "I'm spending the afternoon at Glacier National Park in Montana with some National Park Service Rangers." According to the article, "it appeared the visit had something to do with Zuckerberg's interest in climate change." Zuckerberg said in his post, "The impact of climate change is very clear at Glacier."

MDI Couple Oversees NPS Digital Domain.

The [Mount Desert \(ME\) Islander](#) (7/14, Broom) reports that Ginny Reams, the web content manager, and Todd Edgar, the NPS.gov manager, is "responsible for building the systems that all of the parks use to maintain their websites." Edgar said, "We're constantly making changes and improvements. Over the last couple of years, we've made some pretty substantial ones." The article notes that "one of those improvements was making sure all of the park service websites were mobile friendly." Edgar said, "That was absolutely necessary because about half of NPS.gov's traffic is mobile now."

K-State Researches Bear Cams In Alaska National Park.

The [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (7/14, Gutierrez) reports that "thousands of people around the world are spending hours online this month watching a bear cam in Katmai National Park and Preserve in southern Alaska." Meanwhile, "two researchers from Kansas State University are studying this bear love-in." The researchers "want to know whether people have the same emotional response to experiencing animals virtually, online, as they do seeing them in person at the park."

'Jr. Rangers' Offered I & M Canal Activities In July, August.

The [AP](#) (7/16) reports that "the I & M Canal National Heritage Area will have 'Junior Ranger' days on July 27 and Aug. 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m." The National Park Service Junior Ranger program "offers young visitors a chance at a series of activities, questions and answers with the park ranger and a Junior Ranger patch."

Sequoia National Park Celebrates Latino Conservation Week.

The [Porterville \(CA\) Recorder](#) (7/15) reports that "in celebration of Latino Conservation Week, Sequoia National Park will play host beginning today to 20 young Latino adults from Los Angeles as they collect scientific data on sequoias, hike the Giant Forest, and learn about stewardship."

Point Reyes Legal Settlement A Victory For National Parks Everywhere.

In an op-ed for the [Marin \(CA\) Independent Journal](#) (7/15, Moskowitz), Deborah Moskowitz, president of the Resource Renewal Institute, writes that a federal court has "delivered a victory" to the Point Reyes National Seashore and, "by extension, to all of our nation's parks by approving a settlement agreement committing the park service to modernize its obsolete general

management plan based on an environmental impact study, and allow the public to comment to the plan.” According to Moskowitz, the settlement “reached with park service means that by 2021 the seashore and those portions of the GGNRA now open to cattle grazing will have a refreshed, scientifically based general management plan that addresses these and other 21st-century realities.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

INSIGHTS ON PBS HAWAI'I Giving A Damn.

[PBS](#) (7/13) provides a report on the migration of Micronesians to Hawaii with “a new environmental tragedy that threatens the Marshall Islands,”

Nuclear Weapons And Climate Change: A Double Whammy For The Marshall Islands.

The [Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists](#) (7/14, Bastian) reports that “although many areas of the Marshall Islands are threatened by radioactive contamination from US nuclear testing during the Cold War—and, more recently, by rising sea levels in a warming climate—the US military continues to use the Kwajalein Atoll for missile testing and other operations.” The United States is “modernizing facilities in the Marshalls, just as it did during the age of nuclear testing.” However, “these steps, seen largely as successes by the Pentagon and the American public, leave behind casualties.” The article says that “for the Marshallese, casualties came in the form of deadly radiation and displacement during the period when America was testing the most powerful weapons the world had ever seen.”

Palau Boasts Incredible Maritime Diversity.

The [Japan Times](#) (7/13, Kameda) reports that Palau has “boosted its efforts to preserve its rich maritime environment for generations to come, with some of the measures including the introduction of environmental protection taxes and education for children, an official from the Tokyo branch of the country’s tourism office said at a recent seminar in Tokyo.” Palau “boasts the Rock Islands Southern Lagoon, which was designated in 2012 as a mixed World Heritage site; one of only 35 such sites in the world that feature elements of both natural and cultural significance.” Tsuyoshi Shibamura, marketing and sales coordinator of the Palau Visitors Authority Japan Office, told an audience at the Minato City Eco-Plaza on June 22, “It’s like an aquarium in the sea, given the amazingly diverse species.”

The Value Of Island Land Ownership.

In a piece for the [Marianas Variety](#) (7/14, Sakaziro), Christy Sakaziro writes that “throughout Micronesia, the incorporation of island societies into the Western market economy and the rising tide of privatization are washing away the collective ownership of land.” As a result, “the decline in traditional kin-based lawn ownership is now notable in many islands.”

US Geological Survey

PD Editorial: Congress Should Save Earthquake Warning System.

The [Santa Rosa \(CA\) Press Democrat](#) (7/15) editorializes that “an early-warning system created by scientists at Caltech, UC Berkeley and the universities of Oregon and Washington has shown great promise, and earthquake scientists are ready to roll it out along the West Coast — if the Trump administration doesn’t kill federal funding for the program dubbed ShakeAlert.” It argues that “abandoning the early-warning system would be, at best, shortsighted — trimming \$10.2 million from a \$3.5 trillion budget while virtually assuring much larger outlays for disaster relief programs in the future.” It urges Congress to provide funding for the early warning system.

Top National News

Administration To Highlight US-Made Products During “Made In America Week.”

Largely overshadowed by reporting on the Russia investigation and the healthcare debate, the Administration’s “Made in America Week” generated largely negative coverage, which describes how many of the products made by Trump’s own company are manufactured overseas. Media

analyses also casting the theme week as an effort by the Administration to distract attention from both the Russia and healthcare narratives.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/16, Rucker) says the theme weeks are “orchestrated by aides to bring discipline to the White House and focus Trump’s schedule and message on a set of policies” and says that “highlighting US-made products is inconsistent with [Trump’s] practices as a businessman.” The Trump Organization has for years “outsourced much of its product manufacturing.” Likewise, “the clothing line of Ivanka Trump, the president’s older daughter and a senior White House adviser, relies exclusively on foreign factories employing low-wage workers in countries such as Bangladesh, Indonesia and China, according to a recent Washington Post investigation.” The [New York Post](#) (7/16, Schultz) says Trump was elected “with a strong ‘America First’ agenda, despite family products manufactured overseas where labor is cheaper.” White House director of media affairs Helen Aguirre Ferre was asked “whether any announcements of Trump family products being made in America will be forthcoming this week,” to which she replied, “We’ll get back to you on that.”

[Politico](#) (7/16, Restuccia) reports that over the next three weeks, “the White House will hold events pertaining to three vaguely defined themes.” In addition to “Made in America,” the other themes are “American Heroes” and “American Dreams.” [The Hill](#) (7/16, Delk) says the “Made in America” messaging campaign is “in preparation for the Senate’s push to rewrite the US tax code.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/16, Bender) reports that press secretary Sean Spicer said the themes are part of an effort to set the stage for Trump’s arguments for tax reform.

However, [Bloomberg News](#) (7/16, Sink) casts the theme weeks as “part of an effort to shift focus by a White House besieged by the investigations into Russian election meddling and struggling to pass a health-care bill.” The [AP](#) (7/16, Colvin) similarly describes the Administration as “plagued by daily revelations related to the escalating Russia investigations,” and says it is trying “to focus on issues that matter to the president’s base.” Ferre told reporters Sunday “that the White House will be hosting a ‘Made in America’ product showcase Monday featuring products from all 50 states.” In addition, Trump “is expected to issue a proclamation Wednesday on the importance of making goods in America, and will travel to Virginia on Saturday for the commissioning of the USS Gerald R. Ford, a new aircraft carrier.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/16, Quinn) says that when reporters asked “why the White House wasn’t launching a healthcare-themed week, particularly as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has struggled to gain support for the Senate’s plan to repeal and replace parts of Obamacare,” a “senior administration official” said, “It’s something that enormous White House and administration resources have been devoted to since day one.”

Detroit News Analysis: Steel Tariffs Could Hurt US Automakers. A [Detroit News](#) (7/16, Thibodeau, Lynch) analysis says that while US steel companies might benefit from the tariffs on steel imports being considered by the Trump Administration, the tariffs “could hurt US automakers and other industries – and raise prices for buyers of their goods.” According to economists, “a protective tax on imported steel would give makers of domestic steel the incentive to raise their prices – just because they could.” Such a move, they say, “would make US-made cars more expensive and push consumers to buy cheaper cars from foreign companies unaffected by the tariff.”

US Firms Say China Has Fallen Short On Keeping Promises Made In Trade Deal. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/16, Schlesinger, Bunge, Andriotis) reports that while Commerce Secretary Ross declared in May that winning promises from China to open markets in finance and agriculture was a “herculean accomplishment” and “more than has been done in the whole history of US-China relations on trade,” US companies say that although China has lived up to the letter of its promises, it has not lived up to the spirit. According to the companies, access to some areas has improved slowly and modestly, while obstacles in other areas will continue to be a hindrance for years.

WSJournal Analysis: Trump’s Trade Agenda Tempered By World Economy. A [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/16, Davis) analysis says President Trump’s protectionist promises during the campaign are being tempered by international economic changes and the institutions overseeing trade. The Journal says Trump has taken a different tack than his predecessors, who praised free trade but favored protectionist policies. Trump, the Journal says, threatened protectionism during the campaign, but his policies have been more modest.

Trump Officially Hires Lawyer Ty Cobb To Handle “Mounting Questions Over Russia.”

President Trump on Saturday announced he has hired veteran attorney Ty Cobb as the White House special counsel to oversee the Administration’s response to the various investigations into Russian collusion. While coverage in print and online of Donald Trump Jr.’s meeting with Russian

attorney Natalia Veselnitskaya subsided heavily from Friday, the network newscasts devoted nearly six minutes combined to the story. Reporting remained overwhelmingly negative toward the President's son and the Administration's defense of his actions.

[ABC World News Tonight](#)'s (7/15, story 3, 3:05, Llamas) David Wright reported that on Saturday, "as some of the best golfers in the world played at his club here in New Jersey, the President naturally had a prime seat. But Trump won't get much of a break from mounting questions over Russia. The main focus now: that meeting Don Jr. had at Trump Tower last June with Russian sources he was told were peddling 'official documents and information that would incriminate Hillary, part of Russia and its government support for Mr. Trump.'"

Errol Barnett of the [CBS Weekend News](#) (7/15, story 2, 1:40, Ninan) similarly reported "President Trump appeared in good spirits greeting guests at the Women's US Open Golf Tournament at his Bedminster golf course. But privately, investors are concerned about revelations of Kremlin-linked attendees at a meeting in Trump Tower last year." Barnett added "Rinat Akhmetshin, a Russian-American with suspected links to Russian intelligence," claimed Friday that he had also attended the June 2016 meeting reportedly "between Donald Trump Jr., campaign manager Paul Manafort, son-in-law Jared Kushner, intermediary Rob Goldstone, and Russian lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya." This revelation, said Barnett, "contradicts public statements from Donald Trump Jr., who based on emails he released, accepted the meeting hoping to receive damaging info about Hillary Clinton."

An [AP](#) (7/15, Lemire) analysis says "the day-after-day drip-drip-drip of revelations over the past week about Donald Trump Jr.'s contact with the Russian lawyer in 2016 underscores the White House's inability to shake off the Russia story and close the book on a narrative that casts a shadow over Trump's presidency." The AP adds that "no matter how presidential Trump may have looked on his back-to-back trips to Europe in recent days, the persistent questions about connections between Trump's team and Russia prevent him from savoring a public relations victory and building momentum for his stalled legislative agenda." According to the AP, "the investigations have thrown the White House off balance, leaving some officials on edge about whether there are more disclosures to come."

"However relaxed the President may appear," reported [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/15, story 6, 1:05, Diaz-Balart) Kelly O'Donnell, Trump is "trying to change course," first by "playing down one crisis with his dismissive label referring to the 'Russia hoax story' in a tweet about the stock market rally, while making official his hiring of a new lawyer inside the White House, naming Washington veteran Ty Cobb as the President's special counsel." [Reuters](#) (7/15, Ainsley) says that "sources familiar with the hiring said Cobb would handle the White House's response to Russia-related investigations."

The [Washington Times](#) (7/15, Miller) reports Cobb, "a partner at the Washington law firm Hogan Lovells who specializes in white-collar crime," will also "coordinate with Mr. Trump's outside counsel, Marc Kasowitz," who had previously handled all White House press inquiries on the matter and "provided limited response to the news media." [The Hill](#) (7/15, Bowden) reports Cobb also has "experience as a federal prosecutor and defense attorney."

Meanwhile, [USA Today](#) (7/15, Schouten, Schnaars) reports that although Trump has "stockpiled nearly \$12 million for his 2020 re-election campaign," the President's legal expenses have been "soaring as his administration deals with a rapidly expanding investigation into possible collusion between his campaign and the Russian government, documents released Saturday afternoon show." According to USA Today, Federal Election Commission filings reveal "Trump's campaign racked up more than \$677,000 in 'legal consulting' fees between April and June, more than twice the \$249,000 he spent on legal bills during the first three months of his presidency." USA Today adds that "most of the legal expenses were tied to his longtime election law firm, Jones Day," but also "a nearly \$90,000 payment for legal expenses to his company, the Trump Organization, and \$50,000 payment on June 27 to the law firm of Alan Futerfas, the New York-based criminal attorney now representing Donald Trump Jr." [Politico](#) (7/15, Severns) states that "the campaign spent significantly more in this area during the late spring and summer than during the first three months of the year, when it reported paying \$249,344 on legal expenses. Trump has spent more than \$4.5 million of campaign funds on legal costs since the beginning of his campaign."

Sekulow: Administration's Struggles To Make "A Fascinating Movie One Day." [The Hill](#) (7/15, Cohn) reports the President's attorney Jay Sekulow in a CNN's "Anderson Cooper 360" interview on Friday "dismissed allegations of lawbreaking by members of the administration as the plot of 'a fascinating movie one day. ... But none of it violates the law.'" Sekulow added, "The president has stated very clearly that he was not aware of the meeting and did not attend the meeting. And

that has been undisputed. No one has disputed that. So he was not aware of it, did not attend it."

NYTimes A1 Deems "Soviet Veteran" Akhmetshin A "Master Of The Dark Arts." In a front-page profile headlined "Soviet Veteran Who Met With Trump Jr. Is A Master Of The Dark Arts," the [New York Times](#) (7/15, Higgins, Kramer) reports Russian-American lobbyist Rinat Akhmetshin has had "one consistent message for the journalists who met him over the years at the luxury hotels where he stayed in Moscow, London and Paris, or at his home on a leafy street in Washington: Never use email to convey information that needed to be kept secret." The Times adds that while "he insisted" he was not "an expert in the technical aspects of hacking nor, a spy, Mr. Akhmetshin talked openly about how he had worked with a counterintelligence unit while serving with the Red Army after its 1979 invasion of Afghanistan and how easy it was to find tech-savvy professionals ready and able to plunder just about any email account."

WPost Profiles Publicist Goldstone Behind Trump Jr. Meeting. The [Washington Post](#) (7/15, Boburg, Gillum) profiles the "colorful" publicist Rob Goldstone, 57, who sent "the email to Donald Trump Jr. [that] described an intricate back channel between the Kremlin and the Trump campaign that could provide incriminating information about Hillary Clinton" and organized the meeting between the President's son and the attorney Natalia Veselnitskaya. The Post says that according to "friends and former associates," Goldstone is "a bon vivant who posts self-deprecating videos on social media, hobnobs with New York socialites and sometimes uses bluster and hyperbole to open doors." The Post adds "the boutique PR firm he has run for 20 years with a partner has relied on a small roster of clients and piecemeal work, setting up shop for several years in rent-free office space and neglecting to pay taxes some years in the 2000s, according to interviews and records."

NYTimes Analysis: Ukrainian Payments To Manafort Illustrate Country's Corruption. The [New York Times](#) (7/15, Kramer) reports Trump's former campaign chairman Paul Manafort "recently filed financial reports with the Justice Department showing that his lobbying firm earned nearly \$17 million for two years of work for a Ukrainian political party with links to the Kremlin," but "curiously, that was more than the party itself reported spending in the same period for its entire operation — the national political organization's expenses, salaries, printing outlays and other incidentals." According to the Times, "the discrepancies show a lot about how Mr. Manafort's clients — former President Viktor F. Yanukovich of Ukraine and his Party of Regions — operated" and also "in a broader sense...underscore the dangers that lurk for foreigners who, tempted by potentially rich payoffs, cast their lot with politicians in countries that at best have different laws about money in politics, and at worst are, like Ukraine in those years, irredeemably corrupt."

DeSantis Wants Rhodes To Testify On Leaks. [The Hill](#) (7/15, Bowden) reports Rep. Ron DeSantis, a member of the House Oversight Committee, on Saturday told conservative radio host Hugh Hewitt on MSNBC "that he wants former senior Obama administration official Ben Rhodes to testify on Capitol Hill." DeSantis, the chair of the national security subcommittee, said, "If you look at some of the leaks that have come out, for example, when the president's having a conversation with a foreign leader, there may be a memo that's created, distributed to the National Security Council. The next thing you know, it's on the front page of the paper." DeSantis added, "There's only so many places that would come from. And the Obama holdover working with Rhodes, that's a place we've been encouraged to look."

Democrats Call For More Scrutiny Of Kushner. [Breitbart](#) (7/15, Baker) reports Rep. Al Green on MSNBC's "AM Joy" on Saturday "said...that 'probable cause clearly exists' to have a grand jury investigate President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner for his meeting a Russian lawyer along with Donald Trump Jr. and Paul Manafort." Green added, "With reference to Mr. Kushner and this meeting that took place, there is one significant fact that we have to address, and that is, there is enough probable cause here for a grand jury to investigate. If the special counsel is doing his job, either he will have agents talking to Mr. Kushner or he will have a grand jury looking into this. There is probable cause for a grand jury to look into it and any prosecutor who says there is not probable cause is an outlier or outright liar because the probable cause clearly exists."

In a [Politico Magazine](#) (7/14, Price) op-ed, Ned Price, a special assistant to former President Obama for National Security affairs as well as a former spokesperson and senior director on the National Security Council, questions why Kushner continues to maintain a Top Secret security clearance in light of the latest revelations and argues his status "is an affront to America's national security and a slap in the face to the career professionals subject to a different set of rules." According to Price, if the Administration and Congress refuse to revoke Kushner's security clearance, then "there's an unmistakable double standard at play. Career officials, many of whom spend decades in service of their country, are subject to a different set of rules than those under the protection of the powerful. That's never how the system has worked, nor is it how it should

work.”

Meanwhile, [The Hill](#) (7/15, Bowden) reports Rep. Maxine Waters on Friday “called on her colleagues across the aisle in the House and Senate to step up their criticism of President Trump as the investigation into possible collusion with Russia evolves.” Waters said, “It’s amazing that we have members of Congress who are defending and protecting this president. I am surprised.” She added, “Here they are in the face of growing evidence that there have been contacts with, perhaps collusion with, and obstruction of justice by this president – they’re willing to defend him. And I don’t know if they’re just scared of him, if they’re frightened, if they don’t have the guts to stand up. What is wrong with them, I just don’t quite understand.”

Publishers Compete For Rights To Comey Memoir. The [New York Times](#) (7/15, Alter) reports former FBI Director James Comey “is writing a book about his experience in public service, including his tumultuous and brief tenure in the Trump administration.” The Times states that Comey “has been meeting with editors and publishers in New York in recent days, and is being represented by Keith Urbahn and Matt Latimer, partners at the literary agency Javelin. The book is expected to go to auction this coming week, and all the major publishing houses have expressed keen interest, Mr. Latimer said.”

NYTimes, Columnists Criticize Trump Over Latest Russia Meeting Revelations. The [New York Times](#) (7/15) editorializes that “even without the widening scandal over election interference, President Trump would have had a hard time managing America’s relations with Russia, which are as tense as at any time since the end of the Cold War.” The Times contends that “the complex differences between the two countries will not be easily resolved” and warns Russian President Vladimir Putin “has shown a ruthless commitment to self-preservation that relies heavily on returning Russia to a mythical place of power and glory, not in helping the West build a more stable world.” The Times adds the President “is making sound policy making even harder, though, with his admiration of Mr. Putin and his willingness to surrender the country’s international leadership, which was on display during the Group of 20 meeting in Germany.”

Meanwhile, [USA Today](#) (7/15, Rossman) reports Fox News anchor Shepard Smith on his “Shepard Smith Reporting” on Friday “slammed what he called ‘lies’ and ‘deception’ pushed by Donald Trump Jr. in a fiery Friday rant over emerging details of Trump Jr.’s meeting with a Russian lawyer last summer.” USA Today says that Smith “launched into a tirade over Trump Jr.’s stance the meeting equated to nothing even as new details showed it included eight people.” He asserted, “We’re still not clean on this. ... Why all these lies? Why is it lie after lie after lie? If you clean, come on clean.” Smith added “the deception...is mind-boggling. ... And there are still people out there who believe we’re making it up and one day they’re going to realize we’re not.”

In a [New York Times](#) (7/15, Green) op-ed, Bloomberg Businessweek senior national correspondent Joshua Green states that “as recently as five or 10 years ago, every major news outlet would have treated” Donald Trump Jr.’s meeting with a Russian lawyer in a bid to help his father in the election “as front-page news and a dire threat to Mr. Trump’s presidency,” but due to what had formerly been the “political fringe of right-wing talk radio, the Drudge Report and dissident publications like Breitbart News” as well as on Fox News “you’re apt to find an alternative reality in which the same set of facts is rearranged to compose an entirely different narrative.” According to Green, “The Breitbart mind-set – pugnacious, besieged, paranoid and determined to impose its own framework on current events regardless of facts – has moved from the right-wing fringe to the center of Republican politics.” Green concludes “Don Jr.’s travails will be a good test of the resiliency of the new Republican worldview.”

In his [New York Times](#) (7/15, Bruni) column, Frank Bruni contends that in regards to the President, “what we saw before Nov. 8 was what we got from Jan. 20 onward: a child in a man’s suit, a knave in a knight’s armor, a dangerous experiment with unforeseeable consequences.” In reflecting back on Trump’s first six months in office, Bruni says “we have to stop rolling our eyes when he brags about how much he has done, because he’s right. He has done plenty.” Bruni adds that “With his stances on climate change, trade and refugees and with all the air kisses blown at Vladimir Putin, he has altered our place in the world and splintered its postwar framework.”

In her [New York Times](#) (7/15, Dowd) column, Maureen Dowd asserts “the night in Washington is dark and full of terrors. The Game of Trump has brought a pagan lawlessness never before seen in the capital.” Dowd compares the President and his Administration to characters from “Game of Thrones,” citing how “Don Jr. was not ashamed that he had gleefully met with Russians to collect dirt on Hillary Clinton. He was only annoyed, as he told Sean Hannity in the womb of Fox News, that the meeting turned out to be “a nothing” and “just a wasted 20 minutes.” The thought that it was improper has not entered his mind.”

In her [Washington Post](#) (7/14, Marcus) column, Ruth Marcus stated that while “every week – nearly every day – brings fresh, stomach-churning evidence of President Trump’s unfitness for

office," his reaction to learning of his son's meeting with the Russian lawyer "may be the most revolting." Marcus acknowledged "Donald Trump Jr. at least had the decency to admit" that he should have "done things a little differently," but she condemned the President for his "staggering refusal to recognize the reality of Russian attempts to interfere in the election."

In a [Politico Magazine](#) (7/15, D'Amico) op-ed, Steven D'Amico, principal at the "Democratic opposition research" firm D'Amico Strategy and Communications who formerly served as "the research director at American Bridge 21st Century, where I led the investigative efforts targeting Trump," argued that despite the President's defense of his son's meeting "with a Kremlin-linked lawyer and a former Soviet spy promising dirt on Hillary Clinton" and suggestion other candidates would have done the same, "I know nothing is farther from the truth." According to D'Amico, "given the inexperience of Trump's team, you might get why they don't understand what 'opposition research' actually is," but "a good opposition researcher assembles the case against their opponent by lawfully compiling the best portfolio of evidence." He concluded "when digging for 'dirt,' you should not pursue information obtained illicitly, whether by Russian hackers or Nixonian Plumbers. And if by chance you stumble across it, you do what anyone running for office should do – report it to the authorities."

Russian-American Lobbyist Confirms Attendance At Meeting With Trump Jr., Veselnitskaya.

Russian-American lobbyist Rinat Akhmetshin, labeled by some articles as a former Soviet counterintelligence officer, confirmed to the AP on Friday that he had joined Donald Trump, Jr. and Russian attorney Natalia Veselnitskaya at a controversial meeting last year. All three network newscasts and most of the cable broadcasts led with coverage, while reporting was also extensive in print and online, and it greatly overshadowed President Trump's visit to Paris to celebrate Bastille Day and meet with French President Emmanuel Macron.

In the lead story for [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/14, 5:01 p.m. EDT, lead story, 1:24, Acosta), National Correspondent Jason Carroll said that as President Trump "return[ed] to the United States after a morning Bastille Day parade in Paris, he lands amid a firestorm swirling around his son and top aides over a meeting with" Veselnitskaya, "held during his presidential campaign." Carroll reported "in addition to Donald Trump Jr., Jared Kushner, Paul Manafort, Russian lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya, and publicist Rob Goldstone, the Trump Tower meeting included additional people, despite the President's statement Thursday." In a lead story for [CNN's Situation Room](#)'s (7/14, 6:00 p.m. EDT, lead story, Acosta) second segment, Jim Acosta said the meeting was allegedly "arranged with a promise that the Trump camp would get dirt on Hillary Clinton from Moscow, information Trump Jr. says he never got." This "new disclosure," said correspondent Diane Gallagher, "represents yet another version of who was in the room and adds to a growing list of questions about why the story keeps changing."

According to [NBC News](#) (7/14, Dilanian, Lebedeva, Jackson), which broke the story, Akhmetshin was "a former Soviet counterintelligence officer who is suspected by some U.S. officials of having ongoing ties to Russian intelligence," though he "denies any current ties to Russian spy agencies." In an interview, he told the [AP](#) (7/14, Butler, Day) that Veselnitskaya had asked him to attend the meeting that day. He also "said Veselnitskaya brought with her a plastic folder with printed-out documents that detailed what she believed was the flow of illicit funds to the Democratic National Committee," and Akhmetshin recalled she said that they "could be a good issue to expose how the DNC is accepting bad money." However, Akhmetshin added, "Trump Jr. asked the attorney if she had all the evidence to back up her claims, including whether she could demonstrate the flow of the money. But Veselnitskaya said the Trump campaign would need to research it more. After that, Trump Jr. lost interest."

In a subsequent interview with the [Washington Post](#) (7/14, A1, Helderman, Hamburger) that was printed on its front page Akhmetshin "emphatically denied...that he ever worked as an intelligence agent though he did confirm that he served as an 18-year-old draftee for two years in a unit of the Soviet military that had responsibility for law enforcement issues as well as some counterintelligence matters." He asserted, "I never worked for the Russian government. I served as a soldier, for two years, like tens of millions of Russian young men who were drafted. I am proud of my military service. At no time have I ever worked for Russian government or any of its agencies. I was not an intelligence officer. Never."

In an interview with the [New York Times](#) (7/14, A1, Sullivan, Vogel, Goldman) that was also published on its front page, Akhmetshin said he attended the meeting in his capacity as a lobbyist at Veselnitskaya's request and insisted "I am a target of well-coordinated and financed smear campaign." Meanwhile, Donald Trump Jr.'s attorney Alan Futerfas "suggested in an interview on Friday that his client has not disclosed all the details of the meeting because it was hard to

remember." Futerfas asserted, "The frustrating part of this exercise is that it concerns events that occurred 13 months ago that were considered insignificant at the time and essentially forgotten."

Nonetheless, [Bloomberg News](#) (7/14, Voreacos, Pettypiece) reports "the revelation adds to the questions surrounding the now infamous meeting at Trump Tower and the extent of the contacts between Trump associates and Russians seeking to help the 2016 Trump presidential campaign." Rep. Denny Heck told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/14, 6:08 p.m. EDT, 8:12, Acosta), "We can turn the page on whether or not there was collusion," because there was "prima facie" collusion, but whether crimes were committed depends on "whether or not there was a quid pro quo, and that is not yet readily apparent."

In addition, Rep. Ruben Gallego told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/14, 5:10 p.m. EDT, 10:01, Acosta) he is concerned whether senior adviser Jared Kushner "purposely left" Akhmetshin "off the disclosure form. If this person is not someone we should feel threatened by, why leave him off the disclosure form? Two, we know in the room there was some element of a Russian spy there. Former KGB-ers, agents, and the word 'former' – is it a very loose word when it comes to the Russian spy agency," because "once a Russian spy, you're always going to be a Russian spy." Gallego continued, "Lastly, who are the other two people? We now know we have Paul Manafort, Donald Trump Jr., and Jared Kushner in a room with people that have ties to foreign intelligence, particularly Russians."

Meanwhile, "two sources familiar with the handling of the matter told" [Yahoo! News](#) (7/14, Isikoff) "that Marc Kasowitz, the president's chief lawyer in the Russia investigation, and Alan Garten, executive vice president and chief legal officer of the Trump Organization, were both informed about the emails in the third week of June, after they were discovered by lawyers for Kushner." According to Yahoo! News, the revelation "that Trump's lawyers were told about the emails in June raises questions about why they would not have immediately informed the president."

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/14, 6:25 p.m. EDT, 25:04, Acosta), Senior Political Correspondent David Axelrod, "a former White House insider," said the multiple explanations and changing accounts are "terribly, terribly demoralizing." He also [said](#) that he has not seen a story snowball like this in "decades," and it "is consuming" the White House now that it has "reached this watershed." Axelrod called it "a public relations disaster that is cascading, and they've got a legal problem that is also cascading." Former State Department spokesman John Kirby said Russia is "not beneath using people who have loose or no relationship with the government" – so-called "cut-outs" – "in trying to co-opt them and find stuff out for them, prospectively innocently, but then they get sucked into a larger vortex, potentially espionage." Kirby added, "I don't know what the case is here with this meeting, but it certainly wouldn't surprise me if they used some of this meeting, and used the approach to it, to feel out the Trump campaign to see how much the Trump campaign really wanted to work with them."

Despite the President's praise of his own transparency, [Politico](#) (7/14, Nussbaum) reports that "as new details about the meeting emerged in media reports" on Friday, "critics saw again what they described as a pattern of half-truths, dodges and outright falsehoods from the White House." In an analysis, [Washington Post](#) (7/14, Bump) correspondent Philip Bump examines "how Donald Trump Jr.'s depiction of what happened at that meeting has evolved" while in his [Washington Post](#) (7/14, Sargent) column, Greg Sargent contends the revelations will make the President's claims of being transparent "a lot harder to sustain" because it "underscores that we are seeing a pattern of what we might call obfuscation by omission."

In his [New York Times](#) (7/14, Brooks) column, David Brooks contends the version of Trump Jr. "we see through the Russia scandal story is not malevolent: He seems to be simply oblivious to the idea that ethical concerns could possibly play a role in everyday life." Brooks adds that "when the Russian government offer came across his email, there doesn't seem to have been a flicker of concern. Instead, he replied with that tone of simple bro glee that we remember from other scandals." He contends "the Trumps have an ethic of loyalty to one another" but "the House of Trump has sprayed an insecticide on any possible complementary code, and so they are continually trampling basic decency. Their scandals may not build to anything impeachable, but the scandals will never end."

In a [Washington Post](#) (7/14, Mowatt-Larssen) op-ed, Rolf Mowatt-Larssen, the Director of the Intelligence and Defense Project at the Belfer Center who formerly served as the Director of Intelligence and Counterintelligence at the Department of Energy and worked for 23 years as a CIA intelligence officer, warns the meeting "is in line with what intelligence analysts would expect an overture in a Russian influence operation to look like. It bears all the hallmarks of a professionally planned, carefully orchestrated intelligence soft pitch designed to gauge

receptivity, while leaving room for plausible deniability in case the approach is rejected." Mowatt-Larssen adds "the Trump campaign's willingness to take the meeting – and, more important, its failure to report the episode to U.S. authorities – may have been exactly the green light Russia was looking for to launch a more aggressive phase of intervention in the U.S. election campaign." While Mowatt-Larssen concludes "the suggestion that this was a nothing meeting without consequence is, in all likelihood, badly mistaken," [Breitbart](#) (7/14, Pollak) senior-editor-at-large Joel Pollak contends "there was no collusion, based on what is known thus far." Pollak adds "in the absence of any evidence of collusion, the media and the Democrats are talking about an 'attempt to collude,' which is a meaningless term, legally and literally."

Media Outlets Profile Russian-American Lobbyist. In the lead [CBS Evening News](#) (7/14, lead story, 3:15, Mason) segment, Major Garrett said Rinat Akhmetshin "was born in the former Soviet Union and served in its military. He has suspected ties to Russian intelligence. Akhmetshin, now a US citizen, lobbies to lift anti-Russian sanctions." The [AP](#) (7/14, Tucker, Braun) reports Akhmetshin previously "attracted congressional scrutiny over his political activities" and the Human Rights Accountability Global Initiative, a non-profit foundation he helped establish. The AP cites Congressional documents as showing the foundation "spent \$290,000 last year on lobbying" and paid him at least \$10,000 for his work. The AP adds Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley in March "pressed the Justice Department about why Akhmetshin has not registered as a foreign agent," stating in a letter that he "reportedly admitted to being a 'Soviet counterintelligence officer' and has a long history of lobbying the U.S. government for pro-Russia matters."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/14, Wire) reports Akhmetshin "lobbied Rep. Dana Rohrabacher...at least twice about U.S. relations with Russia." The Times adds that Rohrabacher, the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia and Emerging Threats, "has long been known for encouraging improved relations with Russia, something that's made him an outlier in the Republican Party." [The Hill](#) (7/14, Easley, Solomon) reports this "lobbying effort," which was led by Akhmetshin, "his lobbying partner Robert Arakelian," former Rep. Ron Dellums, and former Export-Import Bank General Counsel Howard Schweitzer, "was directly connected to" Russian businessmen Denis Katzyv, Mikhail Ponomarev, and Albert Nasibulin who lobbying records said "support policies that would reinstate the ability for U.S. citizens to adopt Russian children." However, the three Russians "did not contribute money to the lobbying effort or own a piece of" Human Rights Accountability Global Initiative.

Meanwhile, [CNN's Situation Room](#)'s (7/14, 6:05 p.m. EDT, 5:11, Acosta) Jim Sciutto described Akhmetshin as "the second Russian figure we've had to sort of familiarize ourselves with this week," with the first being Veselnitskaya, "who was the impetus really for this meeting." Sciutto [said](#) Akhmetshin was specifically lobbying on Russia's behalf against the Magnitsky Act. One "crucial" issue, said Sciutto, is whether Akhmetshin will be subpoenaed as a witness. Since "he's a dual national and has national citizenship, he can be subpoenaed to come before that committee," and when he does so, "he will be under oath." Sciutto [continued](#) (7/14, 5:29 p.m. EDT, 29:00, Acosta), "Early on, this red herring was just about" the Magnitsky law's "adoption tied to a major US sanctions program," but it now "raises the question of was there a quid pro quo premise to this."

The [AP](#) (7/14, Vasilyeva) says that central to concerns over the meeting are a group of "unlikely figures" that consist of "a billionaire real estate mogul, his pop singer son and a music promoter" as well as "a property lawyer, Russia's prosecutor general and a Russian-American lobbyist." The AP profiles the individuals who participated in the meeting. "A source familiar with the circumstances told" [CNN](#) (7/14, Staff) that in addition to Akhmetshin, Veselnitskaya, Trump Jr., Kushner, Manafort, and publicist Rob Goldstone, "there were at least two other people in the room as well, a translator and a representative of the Russian family who had asked Goldstone to set up the meeting. The source did not provide the names."

Veselnitskaya Admits To Contact With Russian Prosecutor General Over US Sanctions Law. In an interview with the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/14, Forrest, Sonne), Veselnitskaya insisted she was not working for the Russian government, but she admits she was in contact with Russian Prosecutor General Yuri Chaika and other officials on a regular basis to discuss the Magnitsky Act.

DHS Confirms Veselnitskaya Was Granted Special Entry Into US On Request Of DOJ. The Homeland Security Department confirmed to [The Hill](#) (7/14, Solomon, Easley) on Friday that Veselnitskaya had been "granted special entry to the United States on multiple occasions in 2015 and 2016 at the request of the Justice Department." DHS also told The Hill that Veselnitskaya "eventually won a nonimmigrant work visa around the time she met President Trump's eldest son in New York last summer." According to DHS, Veselnitskaya repeatedly entered the US "between

September 2015 and February 2016 under a 'Significant Public Benefit Parole' document requested by the Justice Department so she could participate in a court case for a client." The Hill adds "the request was done 'in concurrence' with the U.S. attorney's office in New York City, which was enforcing a civil asset forfeiture case against Prevezon Holdings, a company owned by Russian businessman Denis Katsyv, whom Veselnitskaya represented as a private attorney in their home country."

However, a [New York Times](#) (7/14, Qiu) Fact Check piece states that the President this week "wrongly blamed former Attorney General Loretta Lynch for admitting the lawyer to the United States in the first place." The Times reports "the use of parole for entry is not particularly unusual, and approval authority lies with the Department of Homeland Security," even though the DOJ had made the request. The Times adds "there is no indication that Ms. Lynch was personally responsible for the decision."

Conway: Goalposts Of Russia Investigation Continue To Move. [The Hill](#) (7/14, Delk) reports senior counselor Kellyanne Conway in an interview with "Fox & Friends" on Friday "accused opponents of the White House of moving the goalposts on allegations of collusion between President Trump's campaign team and Moscow." According to The Hill, Conway "describ[ed] the controversy as nothing more than a conspiracy theory in remarks first noted by" [Politico](#) (7/14, Nelson), which states that she said "the goal posts have been moved" because Hillary Clinton and others had "promised systemic, hard evidence of systemic, sustained, furtive collusion that not only interfered with our election process but indeed dictated the electoral outcome."

Caputo Defends Himself Against Accusations Of Involvement In Alleged Russian Collusion. [Reuters](#) (7/14, Cowan) reports Michael Caputo, an adviser to Trump's presidential campaign, testified before the House Intelligence Committee on Friday and insisted "he never heard of anyone in the campaign talking with Russians." Caputo and his attorney, Dennis Vacco, subsequently conducted a three hour press conference broadcast by [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/14, 5:32 p.m. EDT, 32:01, Acosta). Caputo asserted, "I intentionally stayed out of the hair of the White House and the Administration, especially since my name was brought up in the context of the Russia investigation. Nobody in the administration or the White House needs my telephone number on their call list, needs me on their visitor logs, or needs e-mails from me. As soon as this is over, I would like to get back in touch with the Administration and the White House, but for God's sake, you guys got to end this stuff." Vacco said, "The takeaway here is that he had no Russian contacts during the course of his involvement in the campaign." Vacco [added](#) the Senate Intelligence Committee has asked his client for information – "principally emails" – and "we're in communication with them right now." He called the committee's request "rather broad and expansive in terms of time and subject matter, so that's what we're negotiating right now, some limitation at lead in terms of the breadth of the request." He again stressed "subpoenas were not involved, and we've provided information to this committee voluntarily," and "anticipate to do the same with the Senate Committee."

[CNN's Situation Room](#)'s (7/14, 5:42 p.m. EDT, 42:42, Acosta) Jim Acosta said during the press conference, Caputo "was very passionate" and "said he had no contact with the Russians, that he didn't even use Russian dressing." [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/14, 6:48 p.m. EDT, 48:08, Acosta) Special Investigative Correspondent Drew Griffen, who spoke with Caputo prior to his testimony, said Caputo told him "he's been unfairly dragged into this, almost in tears after his testimony. ... And he says it's just because of his former work in Russia – nothing else – because, he says, while he worked at the Trump campaign," he did not "hear any discussions about Russia." In video footage from the interview, Caputo explained that "in fact, we were so busy just trying to keep up with the sun rising and setting on that campaign, that I can't imagine anyone had the time, nor the wherewithal, to go out there, even do something like this." Caputo added, "The idea that somebody at that campaign would have had the forethought and the treachery or the resources to go out and do this is laughable."

In an appearance on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (7/14, 8:07 p.m. EDT, 7:04, Carlson), Caputo called his hearing before the Committee "a fishing expedition" in part because the members of the committee asked him about matters as far back as 1994, and questioned him about his wife, who was born in Ukraine. Caputo pointed out that "there is difficulty going on between" Russia and Ukraine, and therefore "if you are from Ukraine, that doesn't make you a fan of Russia." Caputo also demanded an apology from Rep. Jackie Speier for accusing him of involvement.

Parscale To Testify Before House Intelligence Committee. The [AP](#) (7/14, Bykowicz) reports Brad Parscale, the data and digital director for Trump's presidential campaign, "said Friday he will speak with the House Intelligence Committee later this month as part of its Russia probe." In a

statement, he “said...that he is ‘unaware of any Russian involvement’ in the data and digital operations of Trump’s campaign. He said he is voluntarily appearing before the panel and looks forward to ‘sharing with them everything I know.’”

House Intelligence Committee Postpones Testimony Of Stone. [Bloomberg News](#) (7/14, House) reports the House Intelligence Committee on Thursday “postponed the scheduled July 24 closed-door testimony of former Donald Trump campaign adviser Roger Stone in its probe of Russian meddling in the presidential election, Stone’s lawyer said Friday.” Stone’s attorney, Robert Buschel, told [Politico](#) (7/14, Samuelsohn), “For now, it’s canceled with an advisement it will be rescheduled at an unspecified time.” Politico adds Rep. Adam Schiff, the top ranking member on the House Intelligence Committee, “appeared to confirm the delay during an interview with CNN on Friday, even while adding that Stone can still expect to be get a request to appear before the panel.” Schiff said, “Mr. Stone will certainly be coming. He’s very much a person of interest.” However, Schiff added, “The reality is we have a certain order in terms of receiving documents. Our decisions on schedules are made on what’s best for the basis of the investigation.”

Meanwhile, Julianna Goldman of the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/14, story 2, 2:15, Mason) called Caputo “a protégé” of Stone and she reported Stone’s “appearance before the House committee later this month was postponed so members have more time to prepare. For his part, Stone says he’s had no contact with Russian officials, but he told our Jeff Pegues he was in touch with Russian hacker Guccifer 2.0 and with WikiLeaks during the campaign.” Goldman added that “Trump’s long-time attorney Michael Cohen is also scheduled to appear before the committee in September. Both the House and the Senate are still in the early stages of their investigations, which will eventually move up the ladder to the President’s inner circle.”

Trump Plans To Hire Cobb To Lead Legal Team On Russia Probes. [Bloomberg News](#) (7/14, Jacobs) reports the President “plans to put a veteran Washington lawyer, Ty Cobb, in charge of overseeing the White House’s legal and media response to investigations into Russian meddling in the 2016 campaign, a White House official said,” and Cobb is “expected to join the White House at the end of the month.” Bloomberg adds that “according to the people familiar with the move, Cobb is intended to be traffic cop, enforcer of discipline, and public spokesman – the point person for queries from congressional panels and the Justice Department special counsel Robert Mueller.”

Romney McDaniel Skeptical GOP Can Pay Administration’s Legal Bills. [The Hill](#) (7/14, Greenwood) reports Republican National Committee Chairwoman Ronna Romney McDaniel said Friday on WMAL’s “Mornings on the Mall” radio show “that she doesn’t know if it is legal for the party to pay the Trump administration’s legal bills related to investigations of possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia.” Romney McDaniel said, “I don’t even know if that’s legal, if we would even be allowed to do that. ... That would have to go through the lawyers first before it would come to us.” She added, “I’m always going to look to support the President. But we’ve gotta just make sure that anything we do is legal and then we’d have to talk to people who donated to us and make sure they’d want to do it that way. There’s other ways to support the President. There’s a legal defense fund that you could start. There’s lots of other ways. But we, of course, support the President.”

Kushner To Replace Gorelick On Russia Case With Lowell. Senior adviser Jared Kushner’s “high-powered lawyer” Jamie Gorelick will no longer represent him over the Russia probe, but “will continue to work on the matters for which we were originally retained, with regard to ethics compliance, the SF-86 process, and related issues,” she told [Politico](#) (7/14, Conway) on Friday. Gorelick added Abbe Lowell will replace her on Russia-related investigations, as “Bob Mueller and three of our partners left the firm to form the Special Counsel’s Office.”

[Breitbart](#) (7/14, Shaw) cites [Yahoo! News](#) in reporting that “Lowell has represented clients including disgraced Democratic Sen. John Edwards and American lobbyist Jack Abramoff and will exclusively represent Kushner in inquiries from congressional committees and...Mueller.” However, Breitbart says that “sources told Yahoo News that Gorelick’s days were numbered as Kushner’s top lawyer once Lowell was hired over a month ago, as it would be rare for two prominent lawyers to share responsibility in such a probe.”

GOP Lawmakers, Voters Largely Defend Administration. The [CBS Evening News](#) (7/14, story 3, 2:20, Mason) reported “the President’s supporters are standing by him.” Dean Reynolds added that “six months into his presidency, they have four words of advice for Mr. Trump – steady as you go.”

The [New York Times](#) (7/14, Peters) says that the “veneration” of Russian President Vladimir Putin by “some prominent Republicans” in recent years “helps explain why revelations about Russia’s involvement in the election – including recent reports that members of Mr. Trump’s inner

circle set up a meeting at which they expected a representative of the Russian government to give them incriminating information about Hillary Clinton – and Mr. Trump’s reluctance to acknowledge it, have barely penetrated the consciousness of the president’s conservative base.” According to the Times, “Putin is no archvillain in this understanding of America-Russian relations. Rather, he personifies many of the qualities and attitudes that conservatives have desired in a president of their own: a respect for traditional Christian values, a swelling nationalist pride and an aggressive posture toward foreign adversaries.”

[The Hill](#) (7/14, Delk) reports Rep. Dave Brat, a member of the House Freedom Caucus, in a MSNBC interview “defended...Trump against allegations that his campaign colluded with Russia, saying ‘everybody colludes’ in Washington.” While Brat acknowledged “the Russians were obviously involved in our election process,” he added, former President Obama “knew that for several months, didn’t do anything about it.”

Rep. Ron DeSantis told [Breitbart](#) (7/14, Hayward) that he wants “an investigation into possible leaks of classified information by former FBI Director James Comey” and he criticized special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation because of “all the prosecutors he’s brought in, and it’s almost as if he just hired the legal department at the Democratic National Committee.” According to Breitbart, DeSantis “complained” that “I mean, you have all these maxed-out donors to Hillary Clinton. Could he not find one Republican?” DeSantis added, “I’m not saying you can’t be a good prosecutor if you donate to a Democrat or a Republican or whatever. But it’s just odd that the people he’s bringing in are all on one side of the fence. The law firm he pulled all these from, they have some very strong Republicans who are very accomplished that he could have asked, but he didn’t do that.”

However, [The Hill](#) (7/14, Bowden) reports Rep. Adam Kinzinger in an interview with CNN’s “New Day” on Friday “pushed back...on President Trump’s claim that ‘many people’ would have taken the meeting with a Russian lawyer that ensnared his eldest son.” Kinzinger said he would “absolutely not” have taken such a meeting and said, “Frankly, if it happened to me, would call the FBI and say, ‘Hey, this government or that government is offering information – do you want me to take this meeting as counterespionage or something?’” Nonetheless, he asserted, “There are some on the other side of the aisle who are really hysteric about this. I’ve heard the word treason. This isn’t treason.”

In her [Washington Post](#) (7/14, Rubin) column, Jennifer Rubin blames Trump Jr.’s ethical lapses involving his meeting with Russian lawyer on the Republican Party and contends “it’s a party as unfit to govern as Trump is unfit to occupy the White House. It’s not by accident that Trump chose to inhabit the party that has defined itself in opposition to reality and to any ‘external moral truth or ethical code.’”

Pelosi, Democrats Push To Expand Russia Probe. The [Washington Post](#) (7/14, Demirjian) reports House Minority Leader Pelosi “said Friday that she thinks President Trump and his family members may have violated campaign finance law, and potentially laws prohibiting cybercrime and espionage as well, through their meetings with Russian operatives during the 2016 presidential campaign.” Pelosi outlined the laws she believes Trump Jr., Kushner, and campaign manager Paul Manafort broke and “called on the president to revoke Kushner’s security clearance.” However, the Post says Pelosi “was careful not to call for impeaching Trump, saying that ‘the laws are certainly clear – when the facts are clear, then this Congress will make a decision in that regard.’” The [Washington Times](#) (7/14, Persons) reports Pelosi also “announced plans Friday to force House Republicans to take on-the-record positions on President Trump’s possible Russian ties.” She asserted that “Republicans in Congress should stop hiding, and stop hiding the truth from the American people.”

[The Hill](#) (7/14, Delk) reports Reps. Ruben Gallego and Ted Lieu “read Donald Trump Jr.’s emails regarding a 2016 meeting with a Russian lawyer on the House floor Friday, calling them a ‘smoking gun’ in the probe into Russia’s meddling in the 2016 presidential election.” The Hill adds that they “brought with them a large poster board to the House floor featuring a Time magazine cover from this week, which has the words ‘Red Handed’ printed underneath Trump Jr.’s face.” Rep. Dana Rohrabacher “took to the floor afterwards, saying that the Democratic lawmakers were using “sinister sounding descriptions” of Trump Jr.’s contacts with Russia.”

Meanwhile, [Reuters](#) (7/14, Sims) reports Rep. Maxine Waters, the ranking member of the House Financial Services Committee, and other Democrats in Congress “have renewed efforts to find possible links between” Trump and Russia by focusing upon Germany’s Deutsche Bank as well as Russian lenders Sberbank and Gazprombank. Waters said she has “filed a resolution of inquiry demanding the U.S. Treasury Secretary hand over documents in his possession, ‘relating to President Trump’s financial connections to Russia, certain illegal financial schemes, and related information.’” Reuters adds the resolution “specifically...is seeking documents that may have

been unearthed by the Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network that could show any ties between Trump's finances and Russia." According to Reuters, the request applies to "Trump, and 22 of his closest associates, including family members and top White House and campaign advisers."

[Politico](#) (7/14, Cheney) reports Rep. Don Beyer, Rep. Mike Quigley, and other Congressional Democrats that have been "raising questions about Jared Kushner's campaign contacts with Russia are beginning to ask: What did Ivanka Trump know, and when?" Beyer told Politico, "We learned this week that Ivanka Trump's husband, Jared Kushner, updated his filing of that form three times, most recently to include the June 2016 meeting ... Did Ivanka Trump disclose that meeting on her initial SF-86 filing? Has she updated her security clearance paperwork to reflect this and other meetings which Jared Kushner failed to disclose subsequently?" He added, "The high standard to which we hold Advisors to the President requires that we get answers to these questions, and I intend to raise them with the Trump Administration."

However, [Breitbart](#) (7/14, Madine) reports that in a setback for Democrats, the Federal Election Commission declined Commissioner Ellen Weintraub's proposal for "new rulemaking regarding alleged foreign influence in the 2016 election to target conservative media including the Drudge Report and Breitbart News." In a statement, Vice Chair Caroline Hunter and Commissioners Lee Goodman and Matthew Petersen asserted they "cannot support proposals that would burden the free speech rights of American citizens based on incomplete information about foreign activities in the 2016 election."

Russia Threatens To Expel Americans Over Seized Diplomatic Compounds. The [New York Times](#) (7/14, Nechepurenko) reports a spokeswoman for the Russian Foreign Ministry warned Friday that the government "is losing patience and is prepared to expel American diplomats if the United States does not reverse its decision to expel 35 Russian diplomats and block access to Russian diplomatic estates." [Reuters](#) (7/14, Osborn, Tsvetkova) reports Maria Zakharova "said...too many American spies operated in Moscow under diplomatic cover and said [Russia] might expel some of them to retaliate against the United States." According to Reuters, the threat "reflects rising frustration in Moscow over the Trump administration's refusal to hand back two Russian diplomatic compounds which were seized at the same time as some of Russia's diplomats were sent home last year." Reuters adds that she also "complained...that U.S. officials were not issuing visas to Russian diplomats to allow Moscow to replace the expelled employees and get its embassy back up to full strength."

Bossert Says US-Russia Cyber "Dialogue" Remains Possible, But No Intel Sharing. The [Washington Times](#) (7/14, Blake) reports White House homeland security adviser Tom Bossert on Friday "defended [the President's] decision to discuss forging an 'impenetrable' cybersecurity unit with his Russian counterpart last week, but said Washington and Moscow must come to an understanding before pursuing any sort of partnership." Bossert said, "President Trump, I believe, is right in his continued assertion that even with countries with whom we have friction or disagreements, we have a responsibility on behalf of the American people to continue to have conversations to the extent that they can yield a positive result."

However, [Politico](#) (7/14, Bennett, Geller) reports "Bossert stressed that while any sort of 'partnership' with Russia is off the table, the door is still open for a 'dialogue.'" Bossert insisted, "We are not discussing a partnership here. We wouldn't have the conversation about partnership. But we had to have a dialogue, and that's where we'll start." Politico adds that "such conversations are mostly in line with Obama-era digital diplomacy between Washington and Moscow, and would be typical for any new administration, cyber policy experts said."

Meanwhile, under the headline "White House Says US-Russia Cyber Unit Would Not Share Intel," [The Hill](#) (7/14, Uchill) reports Bossert asserted the focus of such a unit would be on developing the norms of "what is acceptable behavior in cyberspace and what norms and expectations that we'll have moving forward." GSA Removes Kaspersky From List Of Approved Vendors. [Reuters](#) (7/14, Finkle, Menn, Volz) reports Russian cybersecurity software firm CEO Eugene Kaspersky "had a big American dream" to be a "major vendor to the U.S. government," but he was "never able to overcome lingering suspicions among U.S. intelligence officials that he and his company were, or could become, pawns of Russia's spy agencies." The General Services Administration on Tuesday "removed Kaspersky from a list of approved vendors, saying GSA's mission was to ensure the security of U.S. government systems." In addition, FBI agents "last month interviewed Kaspersky employees, asking whether they reported to Russia-based executives and how much data from American customers could be seen by Russian employees, according to three current and former employees."

Hacker Says State Department Official's Email Has Been Breached. [The Hill](#) (7/14, Chalfant) cites [Foreign Policy](#) in reporting "a hacker calling himself 'Johnnie Walker' sent an email Tuesday

morning alleging to have hacked emails from the unnamed official's account." The email claims the account belongs to an official "said to specialize in matters related to Russia at the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research, a member of the intelligence community that aims to use intelligence to serve U.S. diplomatic efforts," The Hill adds.

WSJournal Questions Timing Of Republican Operative's Alleged Suicide. [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/14, 5:50 p.m. EDT, 50:48, Acosta) correspondent Brian Todd reported on "serious new questions" surrounding the timing of Republican activist Peter Smith's alleged suicide, in which he left a "strange suicide note" that detailed "his reported attempt" to acquire "those Clinton emails hacked by the Russians during last year's campaign." Smith "was found dead in his room in this hotel near the Mayo Clinic in Rochester" in mid-May. Police ruled Smith's death a suicide, and the medical examiner's report, quoted Todd, said he had "placed bag over head and attached helium source." The 81-year-old allegedly "left a road-map" that, according to police, explicitly said "there was no foul play" leading to his death. However, Todd said Smith told the [Wall Street Journal](#) that he had "been contacted by someone from the 'Dark Web' claiming to have Clinton's personal emails," and claimed he reached out to former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn to help authenticate them. Rep. Eric Swalwell, in video footage, asserted Smith's efforts "should be probed further, and I hope it now gets folded into what we're doing" in the Russia investigation.

France Recognizes Trump As Guest Of Honor At Bastille Day Parade.

French President Emmanuel Macron named President Trump on Friday as the guest of honor at the country's annual Bastille Day parade. However, the limited media reporting highlighted that Trump's recognition on his final day in Paris was overshadowed by domestic controversy.

In the lead story for [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/14, 6:01 p.m. EDT, lead story, 1:13, Baier), Chief White House Correspondent John Roberts said Trump, in "a rare and very prestigious moment," was "the guest of honor at France's Bastille Day parade." He was the first President to receive the honor "since President Bush in 1989." However, Roberts added Trump's day "was tempered by yet another twist in his son Don Jr.'s meeting with Russian attorney Natalia Veselnitskaya." In the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/14, lead story, 4:00, Muir), Chief Investigative Correspondent Brian Ross similarly said that upon Trump's return, "he was met by an afternoon rainstorm and new questions about whether his son, Don Jr., has told the full story of his meeting with the Russian lawyer." In another lead story, [NBC Nightly News](#)'s (7/14, lead story, 2:50, Holt) Peter Alexander said after "taking part in French Bastille Day celebrations," Trump returned to the US and "to a parade of problems."

Nonetheless, [USA Today](#) (7/14, Bhatti, Onyanga-Omara) reports "France put on a dazzling Bastille Day display for President Trump on Friday, an occasion that marked both the founding of French democracy and the centennial of the United States' entry into World War I." USA Today adds that "the colorful parade along the French capital's famous Champs-Élysées included U.S. soldiers marching with their French counterparts." According to the [Washington Post](#) (7/14, McAuley, Johnson), the President "could be seen eagerly leaning forward in his seat of honor and gesturing to his wife or Macron as each new spectacle came forth. During short lulls, Trump would pull Macron in for a conversation."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/14, Ballhaus, Horobin) similarly reports the President appeared to enjoy the ceremony while the [New York Times](#) (7/14, Haberman) states that "the American president, who has a fascination with displays of military strength, had hoped to have tanks and jets at his own inaugural parade, but he was told he could not. So the Bastille Day parade seemed like a natural fit for Mr. Trump, who sometimes appears bored at public events but who seemed transfixed at the performance in Paris."

[The Hill](#) (7/14, Bowden) reports the President on Friday also "proclaimed that the United States' relationship with France is 'stronger than ever' in a captioned photograph with...Macron." Trump [tweeted](#), "Great evening with President @EmmanuelMacron & Mrs. Macron. Went to Eiffel Tower for dinner. Relationship with France stronger than ever."

[CNN](#) (7/14, Collinson) reports the President later "showed how much he appreciated the hospitality, tweeting a picture of he and Macron, heads close together, deep in conversation as they watched the parade with the Arc de Triomphe in the background." The President [tweeted](#), "It was a great honor to represent the United States at the magnificent #BastilleDay parade. Congratulations President @EmmanuelMacron!"

[Breitbart](#) (7/14, Moons) reports the President then [tweeted](#), "The United States mourns for the victims of Nice, France. We pledge our solidarity with France against terror." [NBC News](#) (7/14, Smith) reports Trump additionally [tweeted](#), "Great conversations with President

[@EmmanuelMacron](#) and his representatives on trade, military and security."

While the [AP](#) (7/14, Hinnant, Salama) says "the unexpected bromance between the leaders of America and France was on full display for the world Friday at the annual Bastille Day military parade and celebration in Paris," [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/14, story 2, 0:25, Holt) stated that in "a moment that has a lot of people talking," Trump had a "long goodbye with French President Emmanuel Macron as he concluded his trip to Paris. Their farewell handshake today went on and on and on, lasting nearly 30 seconds. At one point, Mr. Trump even pulled in France's first lady without ever letting go of her husband's hand until finally it was time to leave for the flight back home."

In an analysis, the [Washington Post](#) (7/14, Stevenson) acknowledges Trump's relationship with Macron has been "dissected ad nauseam," but says their handshake serves as "a window into the relationship between Trump and one of his most powerful and popular European counterparts – a man who, at first, appeared to be a political adversary. The two still don't see eye-to-eye on every issue, but if this endless handshake is any indication, they've come a long way since May 25." When [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/14, 6:39 p.m. EDT, 39:20, Acosta) asked about the "power handshake," former State Department spokesman John Kirby said Trump "prides himself on relationships and leading through relationships," and the handshake thus constituted "a way to demonstrably show" his relationship with Macron, and that the two leaders are "going to move forward." He added, "I think there is also a little bit of masculinity there, a little bit of trying to be the alpha male."

Macron Vows France Will Conduct "Fight Without Mercy" Against Terror. The [AP](#) (7/14, Ganley, Krivokapic) reports Macron on Friday "vowed to 'fight without mercy' inside and outside France to end extremist attacks like the one that killed 86 revelers on Bastille Day in the Riviera city of Nice one year ago." In addition, according to the AP, "in a deeply moving sequence of the day-long commemoration, the names of the victims, from toddlers to a 92-year-old, were read aloud and posted on a board to form the shape of a heart. The sequence, accompanied by a choir, with at least one member holding back tears, ended with a minute of silence."

Melania Trump Helps Advance French-American Relations. "Let no one say that Melania Trump, first lady of the United States, has not done her part to further French-American relations," the [New York Times](#) (7/14, Friedman) reports, as "on her Bastille Day visit to Paris with her husband, Mrs. Trump fully committed." The Times adds that "it was almost as if she had packed according to theme. Which was? The flags, French and American. In all three of her public appearances in Paris, Mrs. Trump wore a variation on red, white, and blue."

Collins Laments That Macron Is Not American President. In her [New York Times](#) (7/14, Collins) column, Gail Collins asks, "Why can't Emmanuel Macron be our president?" According to Collins, American observers of Trump's visit to Paris "must have wondered how we got the wrong guy. Macron seemed so smart, so charming. The fact that he didn't father any children would not normally be a big selling point, but right now we are yearning for a president with no offspring." However, Collins acknowledges "that Melania Trump did fine. The Parisian press praised her wardrobe. Unlike her husband, she didn't say anything weird. Nobody accused her of having sinister meetings with Russians. Give the woman some credit."

White House Warns Budget Deficit To Reach \$702 Billion This Year.

The [AP](#) (7/14, Taylor) reports the Office of Management and Budget "said Friday that worsening tax revenues will cause the budget deficit to jump to \$702 billion this year. That's a \$99 billion spike from what was predicted less than two months ago." The AP adds the OMB "also says the deficit for the 2018 budget year that starts on Oct. 1 will increase by \$149 billion to \$589 billion. But lawmakers are already working on spending bills that promise to boost that number even higher by adding to Trump's Pentagon proposal and ignoring many of Trump's cuts to domestic programs." OMB Director Mulvaney said, "The rising near-term deficits underscore the critical need to restore fiscal discipline to the nation's finances. Our nation must make substantial changes to the policies and spending priorities of the previous administration if our citizens are to be safe and prosperous in the future."

WPost: Trump Budget Will Not Spur Economic Growth.

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/16) calls President Trump's budget "monumentally unwise." Citing an analysis from the CBO, the Post says that despite the Administration's "grandiose assurances," the CBO said "there is no proposal in President Trump's budget that would supercharge economic growth — the president promised 3 percent per year — and balance the budget within a decade. Instead, they found a lot of question marks and missing details."

NYTimes: Trump Unlikely To Return To Climate Change Commitments.

In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (7/14) argues that there is “zero chance” that President Trump will return the US to previous climate change commitments, but goes on to speculate “what could conceivably change Mr. Trump’s mind.” While concrete effects of climate change may be effective, “A more promising scenario is that someday Mr. Trump will awaken to the fact that the leaders of the world...regard him with astonishment and dismay.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Save The Census.” A [New York Times](#) (7/17, Board) editorial notes the Government Accountability Office placed “the 2020 census on its list of high-risk projects early this year, due to uncertainty about its budget and technology, and Americans’ increasing distrust of government data collection.” Meanwhile, President Trump has not yet named permanent replacements for John Thompson, who resigned as Census Bureau director in June, or Nancy Potok, who resigned as deputy director in January. The bureau also faces a budgetary raise of only about one-tenth of what it needs. Nonetheless, the Times argues, local governments’ ability to plan depends on census results, which must be completed by summer 2020 for “congressional reapportionment and redistricting to take place.” The Times concludes, “Any failure would be immediately apparent – and it would tar Republicans at the height of the 2020 primary campaign season.”

“Smoking Marijuana While Black.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (7/17, Board) says New York City “has reduced the number of arrests for low-level marijuana possession,” but “black and Latino New Yorkers are far more likely to be arrested for smoking in public than whites, who are just as likely to use marijuana.” The Times argues that these arrests result in “virtually no public safety benefit and can cause lasting damage to people who often have had no other contact with the criminal justice system.” Since the state of New York “missed an opportunity to fix this problem five years ago when a bill that would have made public display of marijuana an offense similar to a traffic violation – rather than a crime – died in the Legislature,” the Times says it may be “up to the city’s criminal justice system, particularly the district attorneys, to bring fairness and sanity to these cases.”

“India’s Turn Toward Intolerance.” The [New York Times](#) (7/17, Board) editorializes that since Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s “landslide victory” in 2014, “there has been an alarming rise in mob attacks against people accused of eating beef or abusing cows, an animal held sacred to Hindus,” even though he pledged “to unleash his country’s economic potential and build a bright future while he played down the Hindu nationalist roots of his Bharatiya Janata Party.” The Times notes India’s film censor board, in a move seemingly intended to protect both Modi and the BJP party from criticism, decided “that a documentary film about one of India’s most famous sons, the Nobel Prize-winning economist Amartya Sen, cannot be screened unless the director cuts” specific words, such as “cow.” The Times says the ruling “might seem like merely a farcical move by Hindu fanatics, if it were not so in line with much else that is happening in Mr. Modi’s India, and if the implications for India’s democracy weren’t so chilling.”

Washington Post.

“A Partisan Brawl In Maryland.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/16) argues that Maryland state Democratic lawmakers’ blocking of salaries for two of Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan’s recess appointments to fill Cabinet vacancies “may seem underhanded” but “also appears to be legal.” The Post asserts that the salary obstruction of Department of Planning Secretary appointee Wendi Peters and Department of Health Secretary appointee Dennis R. Schrader “is partly Mr. Hogan’s own fault” because of the nominees’ “unimpressively qualified” backgrounds. Gov. Hogan “insists he is standing by his appointments,” but Maryland State Treasurer Nancy Kopp has stopped disbursing the two appointees salary payments on advice of Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh. The Post concludes, “Both sides may have a principle to stand on, but in this case Democrats may have the last word.”

“A Promising Decline In Teen Smoking.” The [Washington Post](#) (7/16) says in an editorial that a new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report showed that “the estimated number of middle and high school students who are tobacco users dropped from 4.7 million in 2015 to 3.9 million in 2016” and argues that this finding is an “encouraging signal” that interventions stopping teenage use of cigarettes and e-cigarettes “may be working.” The Post says that “experts have attributed the drop to a range of federal, state and local policies designed to

dissuade young adults from using tobacco, such as increasing tobacco taxes and expanding antismoking ordinances to include e-cigarettes and other new products.” The Post adds, however, that the report indicates several challenges that remain, such the disparate use of tobacco in low-income, rural, and LGBT communities, and the Post concludes that the FDA must adopt stricter standards on e-cigarettes and cigars.

“The CBO Finds Mr. Trump’s Budget Lacking.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/16) calls President Trump’s budget “monumentally unwise.” Citing an analysis from the CBO, the Post says that despite the Administration’s “grandiose assurances,” the CBO said “there is no proposal in President Trump’s budget that would supercharge economic growth — the president promised 3 percent per year — and balance the budget within a decade. Instead, they found a lot of question marks and missing details.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Prosecutors And Political Corruption.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/16) argues that the decision last week by the Second Circuit Court of Appeals to vacate the conviction of former New York Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver in the wake of the Supreme Court’s landmark 2016 *McDonnell v. United States* case does not mean that the Supreme Court condones corrupts politicians. The Journal asserts that, though the Second Circuit tossed Silver’s conviction despite concluding that the government had presented sufficient evidence to prove the corruption counts against Silver, it overturned the conviction not because it ignored evidence but because the jury instructions did not conform with *McDonnell v. United States* and were therefore in error. The Journal argues that former US attorney Preet Bharara, the prosecutor in the Silver case, overlooked a faulty jury instruction for the purpose of getting a high-profile conviction, and concludes that the lesson of this case is that prosecutors need to follow the law even when prosecuting corrupt politicians.

“The UN Bans Nuclear Weapons.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/16) argues that the United Nations’ Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons signed this month by 122 non-nuclear UN member states disregards the realities of international security. In addition to the fact that the world’s nine nuclear countries boycotted the vote, the Journal says that the treaty does nothing to halt nuclear proliferation in Iran and North Korea. The Journal argues that, although Iran signed the agreement, the treaty does not define peaceful purposes and thus presents opportunities for abuse, and that North Korea, who did not sign the agreement, will completely disregard the treaty’s prohibition.

“The DC Circuit Vs. Deregulation.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/16) argues that the United Nations’ Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons signed this month by 122 non-nuclear UN member states disregards the realities of international security. In addition to the fact that the world’s nine nuclear countries boycotted the vote, the Journal says that the treaty does nothing to halt nuclear proliferation in Iran and North Korea. The Journal argues that, although Iran signed the agreement, the treaty does not define peaceful purposes and thus presents opportunities for abuse, and that North Korea, who did not sign the agreement, will completely disregard the treaty’s prohibition.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[GOP Push To Pass Healthcare Law Faces New Setback](#)
[From \\$2 Billion To Zero: A Fund Goes Bust In The Oil Patch](#)
[Two VIP Billionaires Teamed Up To Run Luxury Hotels. It’s Been A Slog](#)

New York Times:

[A Top Republican Vows A Vote On Healthcare, But Uncertainty Reigns](#)
[After NFL Concussion Settlement, Feeding Frenzy Of Lawyers And Lenders](#)
[She’s His Rock. His Parole Officer Won’t Let Him See Her.](#)
[Qatar Opens Its Doors To All, To The Dismay Of Some](#)
[A Russian Developer Helps Out The Kremlin On Occasion. Was He A Conduit To Trump?](#)
[Roger Federer Wins Record-breaking Eighth Wimbledon Title](#)

Washington Post:

[Suburbia Is Left Scrambling As Firms Relocate To Big Cities](#)
[Nevada's Rocky Healthcare Future](#)
[UAE Tied To Hack Targeting Qatar](#)
[US Flood Insurance Program Struggling](#)
[Build A Chapel, And Perhaps They Won't Come](#)

Financial Times:

[Winnie The Pooh Barred By China's Online Censors](#)
[Chinese Purchases Of Ports Top \\$20bn In Past Year](#)
[Cuba Courted In Diplomatic Push On Venezuela Crisis](#)
[Hammond Seeks Brexit Transition As Cushion For Economy](#)

Washington Times:

[With John McCain Sidelined By Surgery, Senate Has No Timetable For Obamacare Repeal Vote](#)
[Russia Suspected Of Using Bermuda Shell Company To Exploit American Anti-Fracking Activists](#)
[If 'Dodgy Dossier' Accusation True, Trump Jr. Would Have No Reason To Meet With Russian Lawyer](#)
[Maduro Divides Venezuela's Neighbors In Effort To Save Regime, Socialist Movement](#)
[Efforts To Estimate Scope Of FISA Intrusion On Americans Halts Under Trump Administration](#)
[Republican Campaign Operatives Aim To Make Elizabeth Warren As Toxic As Nancy Pelosi](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Severe Weather-Flood; Weather Forecast; Trump-Lowest Approval Rating; Healthcare Reform Bill; Chicago Gun Violence; Honolulu-High Rise Fire; London Child-US Treatment; Wimbledon Tournament News; Side Jobs; Plane-Emergency Evacuation; Kayaking Accident; Gas Station-Price Cut; Garth Brooks Concert; Funeral Salute.

CBS: Trump-Lowest Approval Rating; Russia Meddling Investigation-Expert Opinion; Healthcare Reform Bill-Expert Opinion; Iran-US Captive; Severe Weather-Flood; Heat Wave-Wildfires; Car Accident Survivor; OJ Simpson Parole.

NBC: Severe Weather-Flood; Healthcare Reform Bill; Trump-Lowest Approval Rating; Boat Accident; UK-Tougher Acid Attack Punishment; Jimmy Carter-Health Condition; Oldest Track Athlete; Fields Medal Awardee Dies; Silicon Valley-Sexual Harassment; Child-Vocabulary Learning; Afghan Teens-International Robot Competition; Children's Hospital.

Network TV At A Glance:

Trump-Lowest Approval Rating – 7 minutes, 30 seconds
Weather – 5 minutes, 45 seconds
Healthcare Reform Bill – 4 minutes, 20 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Severe Weather-Flood; WH-Made In America Week; Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump; Healthcare Reform Bill.

CBS: Severe Weather-Flood; Martin Landau Dies; Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump; Healthcare Reform Bill; Wall Street News.

FOX: Healthcare Reform Bill; Russia Meddling Investigation; Martin Landau Dies.

NPR: Philadelphia-Murdered Missing Men; Venezuela-Political Turmoil; Brexit Negotiation; Heat Wave-Wildfires.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.**White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in a Made in America product showcase.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President to participate in a Made in America product showcase; participates in a bilateral meeting with President Aleksandar Vucic of Serbia; delivers the keynote address at the Christians United for Israel Washington Summit.

US Senate: 3:00 PM Senate aims to end debate on deputy defense secretary nominee – Senate convenes and proceeds to executive session to resume consideration of the nomination of Patrick Shanahan to be Deputy Secretary of Defense, including a motion to invoke cloture on the nomination Location: Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

5:00 PM Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on State Department reauthorization – Hearing on 'A Review of the State Department Reauthorization Bill for FY 2018 and the State Department Reorganization Plans', with testimony from Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

US House: 7:00 PM Markup hearing on 'FY2018 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Bill' Location: Rm 2359, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

7:30 PM House Committee on Veterans' Affairs legislative hearing – House Committee on Veterans' Affairs legislative hearing on 'H.R. 3218 – the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017' Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

Other: 9:00 AM Israeli PM Netanyahu speaks at Christians United for Israel Annual Washington Summit via satellite – Christians United for Israel Annual Washington Summit, with speakers including Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (via satellite), President's Deputy Assistant Sebastian Gorka, Israeli Knesset Member Avi Dichter, National Center for Policy Analysis Chairman of the Board and Executive Director Col. (Ret.) Allen West, John Bolton, Daughters for Zion National Director Lynne Hammond, and Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations Executive Vice Chairman Malcolm Hoenlein Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place NW, Washington, DC www.cufi.org/site/PageServer?pagename=2017Summit_Register <https://twitter.com/CUFI>

10:00 AM 'The Russia Challenge in Europe' CSIS discussion and report roll out – 'The Russia Challenge in Europe: The INF Treaty and Implications for Army Modernization' Center for Strategic and International Studies Missile Defense Project and CSIS Defense-Industrial Initiatives Group discussion and report roll out of DIIG's new report, 'The Army Modernization Imperative: A New Big Five for the Twenty First Century'. Speakers include Republican Sen. Tom Cotton, former Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology Heidi Shyu, AUSA National Security Studies Director Col. (Ret.) Dan Roper, and House Armed Services Committee Professional Staff Member Douglas Bush Location: CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Ave, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

10:00 AM Dem Rep. Frank Pallone speaks at CAP Action Fund on 'Ensuring Access to Prescription Drugs' – Democratic Rep. Frank Pallone speaks at Center for American Progress Action Fund on 'The Health Care Fight: Ensuring Access to Prescription Drugs', on the challenges of addressing the American public's concerns about rising drug costs and pharmaceutical policy reform, as well as the latest developments in Congress' efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act Location: Center for American Progress Action Fund, 1333 H St. NW, Washington, DC www.americanprogressaction.org <https://twitter.com/CAPaction>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- CBS News: Interior Department Prevents Glacier Expert From Accompanying Mark Zuckerberg On Tour.
- Associated Press: Climate Scientist Files Complaint On Trump Administration.

- Ketchikan (AK) Daily News: Two Good Picks.
- Steamboat (CO) Pilot & Today: Friends Of The Yampa, Conservation Colorado, Rig To Flip: Leave National Monuments Alone.
- Walla Walla (WA) Union-Bulletin: Decision To Keep Hanford Reach Monument Status Is Sound.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Interior Approves Gaming Contract Between Arizona And Tohono O'odham Nation.
- State, Federal Reps Support Beloit Casino Plan.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Amarillo (TX) Globe News: Amarillo-area Helium Auction Brings In \$60M.
- Minneapolis Star Tribune: Newly Discovered Nevada Toad Species Already Under Threat.
- New York Times: They'll Shoot Horses, Won't They?

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- BOEM Prepares For Latest Gulf Lease Sale.
- Dominion Energy And Dong Energy To Build Small-scale Project Offshore Virginia.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Washington Post: Trump Administration Orders Review Of Prohibitions On Killing Bear Cubs And Wolf Pups With Their Mothers.
- San Francisco Chronicle: No-wake Zones Proposed For Havasu National Wildlife Refuge.
- Santa Fe New Mexican: Mexican Wolf Advocates Make Final Push Against Recovery Plan.
- Charleston (SC) Post and Courier: Federal, State Officials Seek Clues In Destruction Of Goose Creek Bald Eagle Nest.

National Park Service

- Chicago Tribune: Utah's Crowded Zion National Park May Soon Require Reservations.
- KUTV-TV Salt Lake City: Zion National Park To Get \$694K For Park Maintenance Work.
- Washington Times: Saguaro National Park To Get \$215K For Infrastructure Work.
- WGCL-TV Atlanta: Enota Park To Receive Facelift Thanks To Federal Government.
- VTDigger (VT): Burlington Receives \$500,000 For Waterfront Park.
- Portland (ME) Press Herald: Acadia National Park Gets Funding For Trail Maintenance.
- Houston Chronicle: Crews Stop Spread Of Huge California Wildfire Near Yosemite.
- Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: National Park Service Love Story: Couple Works To Save Energy, Restore Landscape At Five Western Pa. Parks.
- Tri-City Herald (WA): Visitor Center Provides Point Of Contact For Manhattan Project National Park.
- Charleston (SC) Post and Courier: National Park Service Beginning To Lay Plans For Reconstruction Park In And Around Beaufort.
- Houston Chronicle: Carver's Caribou Relief Finds Home On National Park Sign.
- Minneapolis Star Tribune: Mississippi River Recreation Area Named One Of Top 10 Parks.
- Minneapolis Star Tribune: Rush On \$10 Senior Lifetime Pass To National Parks Causes Shortage In Twin Cities.
- Salt Lake (UT) Tribune: National Parks Should Be Considered Before Oil And Gas Leasing.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Talane (ASM): Dengue Fever On The Rise, More Confirmed Cases.

Top National News

- CBS: Media Analyses: White House Sends Conflicting Messages On Russia Sanctions.
- Washington Times: Senate Republicans To Hold Healthcare Vote This Week.
- ABC: Nine Immigrants Dead In Human Smuggling Tragedy.

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- Washington Post.
 - "Jim Vance. On And Off Camera He Will be Missed."
 - "Texas, Stop Trying To Pass This Bathroom Bill."

- "Mr. Trump's Election Commission Is Fully Transparent About Its Purpose: Voter Obstruction."
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DOI In The News

U.S. National Monument in Colorado to Remain Intact.

[Reuters](#) (7/21, Coffman) reports Secretary Zinke on Friday said that Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients National Monument "is no longer on a list of more than two dozen national monuments under review by the Trump administration for possible reduction or elimination." He has recommended that it be kept "intact, with no modifications." The story also appears at the [New York Times](#) (7/21, Reuters), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (7/21, Coffman),

The [AP](#) (7/21, Daly) reports Zinke cited the importance of the monument's "Native American archaeological sites." The AP story also appears at [ABC News](#) (7/21), [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (7/21, Daly), [Traverse City \(MI\) Record-Eagle](#) (7/21, Daly), [Texarkana \(TX\) Gazette](#) (7/21, Daly), [Maryville \(TN\) Daily Times](#) (7/21, Daly), [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/21, Daly), [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (7/21, Daly), [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (7/21, Daly, Press), [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/21, Matthew Daly |, Ap), [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (7/23, Daly), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (7/21, Daly), [New York Daily News](#) (7/21), [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/21, Daly), [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (7/21), [KCNC-TV](#) Denver (7/21)

The [Denver Post](#) (7/21, Douglas) reports in a story, also published in the [Loveland \(CO\) Reporter-Herald](#) (7/21, Douglas), that Zinke, in making the announcement, was "following through on his promise to U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner in June." Additional and similar coverage appears in the [North Denver News](#) (7/21), [The Hill](#) (7/21, Henry), [Washington Times](#) (7/21, Wolfgang), and [KCNC-TV](#) Denver (7/21, Bush).

Udall Supports Preserving Monuments.

The [Taos \(NM\) News](#) (7/23, Hooks) reports Sen. Tom Udall is attempting to "rally public opposition against President Trump's threat to rescind or shrink Rio Grande del Norte and other national monuments."

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/22, Bennett) also reports on Udall's efforts, while [KLAS-TV](#) Las Vegas (7/22, Marin) reports in Nevada, "nearly a million acres" are being reviewed for their status as part of the Gold Butte and Basin 'N' Range monuments. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/23, Coleman) reports Zinke is scheduled to make a recommendation in "just one month."

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (7/21, Brea) reports Secretary Zinke "is expected in Nevada soon to review two national monuments here," Rep. Ruben Kihuen (D-NV) "said he feels left out of the process." [KSNV-TV](#) Las Vegas (7/21, Nunley, Fiegenger) reports on a "six-state RV road trip" by the Center for Western Priorities to promote the monuments.

\$53M To Go To US National Park Maintenance, Infrastructure.

The [AP](#) (7/22) reports on Saturday, Secretary Zinke "announced more than \$50 million for maintenance and infrastructure work at national parks." He spoke at Rocky Mountain National Park, accompanied by US Senator Cory Gardner (R-CO). According to the department \$20 million will come from Congress and \$33 million from "outside organizations."

The AP story also appeared at: [KTVA-TV Anchorage \(AK\)](#) Anchorage, AK (7/23), [News 13 \(FL\)](#) (7/22), [WDEF-TV Chattanooga \(TN\)](#) Chattanooga, TN (7/22), [CBS News](#) (7/22), [ABC News](#) (7/22), [KAAL-TV Austin \(MN\)](#) Austin, MN (7/22), the [Greeley \(CO\) Tribune](#) (7/22), [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (7/22), [Charlottesville \(VA\) Daily Progress](#) (7/22), [Olean \(NY\) Times Herald](#)

(7/22), [KEYE-TV Austin \(TX\)](#) Austin, TX (7/22), [WBRZ-TV Baton Rouge \(LA\)](#) Baton Rouge, LA (7/24, Press), [WTTG-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (7/22), [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/22), [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (7/23), [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/22, Press), [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (7/22), [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (7/22), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (7/22), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (7/22), [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/22), [KCNC-TV](#) Denver (7/23), and [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (7/22, Douglas).

The [Fort Collins \(CO\) Coloradoan](#) (7/22, Pohl) and [KMGH-TV](#) Denver (7/22) also report on the news.

Zinke In Denver Makes A Case For Energy Production On Public Lands.

The [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (7/22, Bunch) reports Secretary Zinke, speaking to the Western Conservative Summit on Friday in Denver, said that the US “should open up its public lands and shores for more energy production.” He said, “I can tell ya, the war on American energy is over.” One reason he gave is that US “national parks are about \$11.5 billion behind in maintenance and repairs, and public lands and wildlife refuges are about \$15 billion in need.”

Interior Dept. Nominee, Set For Confirmation Vote Monday, Is Accused Of Conflict Of Interest.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/21, Fears) reports President Trump’s nominee for deputy secretary of the Interiors, David Bernhardt, is called “‘an excellent choice’ by supporters and ‘a walking conflict of interest’ by opponents.” Secretary Zinke called him “an excellent choice.”

The [Washington Times](#) (7/23, Wolfgang) reports that “green groups and other critics” say President Trump’s nominee for deputy Interior secretary, David Bernhardt, “failed to disclose lobbying work he did on behalf of California’s Westlands Water District while spearheading the Trump administration’s transition team at the Interior Department.” Last week, the nonprofit watchdog the Campaign for Accountability “filed a formal complaint asking US attorneys to investigate Mr. Bernhardt’s lobbying work last year,” alleging that he “continued lobbying efforts even after formally terminating his lobbyist registration in mid-November to head transition efforts at Interior.”

The [Bradenton \(FL\) Herald](#) (7/21, Daugherty) reports he was “criticized” by Sen. Bill Nelson (D-FL) Thursday, for “his noncommittal position on an oil drilling moratorium in the Eastern Gulf of Mexico.”

The [AP](#) (7/24, Daly) reports he is being opposed by “Democrats and environmental groups,” who accuse him of having worked on behalf of “corporations at the expense of the environment.” The story also appears at the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (7/23, Daly), [Washington Post](#) (7/24, Daly), [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (7/24, Daly), [WRAL-TV](#) Raleigh, NC (7/24, Daly), [Yahoo! News](#) (7/24, Daly), [WTOP-FM](#) Washington (7/24), [ABC News](#) (7/24), [Washington Times](#) (7/24, Daly), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (7/24, Daly), and [U.S. News & World Report](#) (7/24, Daly)

Interior Department Prevents Glacier Expert From Accompanying Mark Zuckerberg On Tour.

[CBS News](#) (7/21) carries an AP story reporting that the “Interior Department prevented Glacier National Park’s superintendent from accompanying Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg on a recent park tour to save money, not to mute criticism over climate change,” according to departmental spokeswoman Heather Swift. The AP adds that Park superintendent Jeff Mow and US Geological Survey ecologist Daniel Fagre “had planned to accompany Zuckerberg,” but the department assigned “park rangers to the tour instead.” It also appears at the [Fort Wayne \(IN\) Journal-Gazette](#) (7/21, Volz).

Climate Scientist Files Complaint On Trump Administration.

The [AP](#) (7/21) reported that Joel Clement, who until recently was director of the Department of Interior’s Office of Policy Analysis, “says he was mistreated by officials in the administration of President Donald Trump for speaking about climate change.” Clement was reassigned to a position in which he had no background, which he claims is a violation of his federal whistleblower protections. The story also appears at [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (7/21), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (7/21), [Greenville \(TN\) Sun](#) (7/21, Fitzgerald), [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/21), and [KTOO-FM Juneau \(AK\)](#) Juneau, AK (7/23, Rott).

Two Good Picks.

The [Ketchikan \(AK\) Daily News](#) (7/21, Picks) in an editorial praises the selection of Chris Oliver to

be assistant administrator of the National Marine Fisheries Service, and “Joe Balash as the U.S. Department of Interior’s assistant secretary for land and mineral management.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in announcing the nomination said, “It’s been a long time” since an assistant secretary in the Interior Department was from Alaska. The paper concludes, “it will be good to have people who already know Alaska in these positions.”

Friends Of The Yampa, Conservation Colorado, Rig To Flip: Leave National Monuments Alone.

Friends of the Yampa, Conservation Colorado, and Rig To Flip write in the [Steamboat \(CO\) Pilot & Today](#) (7/22) saying that President Trump’s request that Interior Secretary Zinke “conduct a review of existing national monuments since 1996” is “unprecedented.” The groups also say any change to the national monuments would “compromise America’s public lands legacy and our native and cultural heritage,” and would “also hurt surrounding communities and small businesses.”

Decision To Keep Hanford Reach Monument Status Is Sound.

The [Walla Walla \(WA\) Union-Bulletin](#) (7/23) in an editorial questions the decision to review monument status, but says, Secretary “Zinke is embracing his work” given the beauty of the monuments. It quotes him saying about the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Oregon, “Beautiful country, no doubt.” He added, “There’s areas that are being harvested (for timber), and harvested well. On the trail I saw horseback, and the resident artisan and the people (who) are incredibly passionate about this monument.” He “recommended no changes be made” which the paper says is “great news.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Interior Approves Gaming Contract Between Arizona And Tohono O’odham Nation.

The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (7/23, Fischer) reports the US Department of Interior has “approved the changes in the gaming compact between the Tohono O’odham Nation and the state.” As a result, “the state will no longer oppose expanded gaming on the site.”

State, Federal Reps Support Beloit Casino Plan.

The [Beloit \(WI\) Daily News](#) (7/21, Montgomery) reports that following “a promising meeting” regarding “the Ho-Chunk Nation casino plan for Beloit at the federal level in Washington, D.C. ...Wisconsin state and federal legislators from both parties are coming together to support the project.” Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) said, “I have requested that the Bureau of Indian Affairs give this project timely consideration and I continue to support seeing it move forward.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Amarillo-area Helium Auction Brings In \$60M.

The [Amarillo \(TX\) Globe News](#) (7/23) reports, “The Bureau of Land Management sold nearly \$60 million in helium,” in its “fourth annual Amarillo-area auction.”

Newly Discovered Nevada Toad Species Already Under Threat.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (7/23) carries an AP story about “Nevada’s new toad species” which “is already on the brink of extinction.” The Dixie Valley toad “recently identified” as “the first new species of toad found anywhere in the U.S. in 50 years.” Meanwhile, “the Bureau of Land Management is currently reviewing a plan by Reno-based Ormat Technologies to build up to two 30-megawatt geothermal power plants directly adjacent to the toad’s habitat.” The AP story also appears at the [Washington Post](#) (7/22, Press), [Houston Chronicle](#) (7/22), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (7/22), and [U.S. News & World Report](#) (7/22).

They’ll Shoot Horses, Won’t They?

Ellie Phipps Price writes in an op-ed in the [New York Times](#) (7/21, Price) against changing “longstanding restrictions on killing wild horses and burros” and against Secretary Zinke’s plan “to end the ban on selling these animals for slaughter for food in Mexico and Canada” while also reducing “funding for fertility control — the only scientifically recommended, humane tool

available to manage wild horse herds." Still, Price acknowledges "A new approach to protecting America's 73,000 wild horses and burros is in fact needed."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

BOEM Prepares For Latest Gulf Lease Sale.

[Your Oil and Gas News](#) (7/21) reports the US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) will "offer blocks totalling 75.9 million acres" in the Gulf of Mexico to be auctioned in Lease Sale 249, on August 16.

Dominion Energy And Dong Energy To Build Small-scale Project Offshore Virginia.

[Offshore Wind Journal](#) (7/20) reports Dominion Energy Virginia announced it will be "moving forward on the mid-Atlantic's first offshore wind project in a federal lease area" after signing a contract with Dong Energy for it "to build two 6 megawatt turbines."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Trump Administration Orders Review Of Prohibitions On Killing Bear Cubs And Wolf Pups With Their Mothers.

The [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/21, Fears) reports the department's acting assistant secretary Aurelia Skipwith has requested that the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reconsider rules on "various prohibitions that directly contradict State of Alaska authorizations and wildlife management decisions." The rules in question "forbid killing bear cubs with their mothers and wolf pups and mothers in the season when they den. They also prohibit using dogs to hunt big game and killing predators for the sole purpose of increasing the number of animals for hunting."

The [Denver Post](#) (7/21, Fears) also carries the story.

No-wake Zones Proposed For Havasu National Wildlife Refuge.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (7/23) carries an AP story reporting the US Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing "a series of no-wake and restricted zones throughout the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge's backwaters." Refuge Manager Richard Meyers said it will have little effect on recreational boating. He said, "There was a lot of confusion in the public ... people believed we wanted to make the entire refuge a 'no-wake' zone. That isn't the case." The AP story also appears at the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (7/23), [Houston Chronicle](#) (7/23), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (7/23), and [Washington Times](#) (7/23).

Mexican Wolf Advocates Make Final Push Against Recovery Plan.

The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (7/23, Moss) reports on protesters "advocating for endangered Mexican gray wolves" assembling "ahead of a public meeting about a new federal management plan for the animals, developed by the U.S Fish and Wildlife Service."

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/22, Hayden) reports "environmental groups are relieved," but "dissatisfied," and a "cattle ranchers' group doesn't think much of the plan, either."

Federal, State Officials Seek Clues In Destruction Of Goose Creek Bald Eagle Nest.

The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (7/21, Knapp) reports, "Federal and state wildlife officers are trying to figure out who destroyed an active bald eagle nest" in the Goose Creek area. They are "offering a \$1,000 reward for information." The AP story appears at the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (7/23), [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/21, Press), [Fox News](#) (7/21), [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (7/21), [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (7/21), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (7/21), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (7/21), and [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/21).

National Park Service

Utah's Crowded Zion National Park May Soon Require Reservations.

The [Chicago Tribune](#) (7/21, Whitehurst) carries an AP report that Zion National Park is considering "requiring reservations to get in" as a way "to manage an overwhelming surge of

visitors." The park had 4.3 million visitors last year. The AP story also appears at the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (7/21, Whitehurst), [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (7/21, Whitehurst), [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/21, Whitehurst), [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (7/21, Whitehurst), and [ABC News](#) (7/21).

Zion National Park To Get \$694K For Park Maintenance Work.

[KUTV-TV](#) Salt Lake City (7/22) carries an AP report that Zion National Park will receive "over \$694,000, nearly evenly split as coming from the federal government and from Zion Park Foundation and Zion National Park Foundation."

The AP story also appears at the [Cache Valley \(UT\) Daily](#) (7/23), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (7/22),

Saguaro National Park To Get \$215K For Infrastructure Work.

The [Washington Times](#) (7/22) carries an AP story on Saguaro National Park, saying it will "receive over \$215,000." It also appears at [KGUN-TV Tucson \(AZ\)](#) Tucson, AZ (7/23) and [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/23).

Enota Park To Receive Facelift Thanks To Federal Government.

[WGCL-TV](#) Atlanta (7/23) reports Enota Park will receive \$600,000 "through their Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program."

Burlington Receives \$500,000 For Waterfront Park.

[VTDigger \(VT\)](#) (7/21) reports Burlington, Vermont will receive a \$500,000 grant to help the city "establish a new waterfront park." Funding is from "the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership, a competitive program run by the National Park Service."

Acadia National Park Gets Funding For Trail Maintenance.

The [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (7/22, Quimby) reports the National Park Service on Saturday announced that Acadia National Park "has been awarded \$192,286 for trail maintenance." It will receive from Friends of Acadia, "another \$259,112 for trail maintenance through the park service's Centennial Challenge program."

Crews Stop Spread Of Huge California Wildfire Near Yosemite.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (7/23) carries an AP report that fire crews "slowed the spread" of a wildfire "in a rural area of California near Yosemite National Park." It was reported "45 percent contained" on Sunday.

National Park Service Love Story: Couple Works To Save Energy, Restore Landscape At Five Western Pa. Parks.

The [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) (7/23, Murray) reports on MaryEllen Snyder, management assistant for Western Pennsylvania National Parks, and her husband and parks project manager, Leroy Renninger and their work "together since 1979, when Mr. Renninger proposed in Yellowstone National Park."

Visitor Center Provides Point Of Contact For Manhattan Project National Park.

The [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (7/22) reports the US Department of Energy and National Park Service will co-host the dedication of the "Manhattan Project National Park Interim Visitor Center at the Tri-Cities Enterprise Center in north Richland this week."

National Park Service Beginning To Lay Plans For Reconstruction Park In And Around Beaufort.

The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (7/22, Behre) reports on the coming Reconstruction Era National Monument to be opened in South Carolina "about two years away." Right now, "the National Park Service is getting down to the nitty-gritty of refining its vision, properties, exhibits and more."

Carver's Caribou Relief Finds Home On National Park Sign.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (7/22, Woods) carries an AP story about Marianne Stolz who, along with her family was "on a three-week vacation in April when the National Park Service called and asked whether she would do a commission for the new entrance sign at Denali National Park and

Preserve." She "jumped at the offer, and now the new sign features a 3-by-3 foot relief carving of a caribou." The AP story also appears at the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (7/22, Woods), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (7/22, Woods), and [Washington Times](#) (7/22, Woods).

Mississippi River Recreation Area Named One Of Top 10 Parks.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (7/23, Svitak) reports, "The National Park Service has named the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area one of '10 National Parks That Reflect the American Spirit.'" The others are listed.

Rush On \$10 Senior Lifetime Pass To National Parks Causes Shortage In Twin Cities.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (7/22, Svitak) reports on people trying to find "a senior pass for the national park system" as the price will rise at the end of August. As a result of demand there was only one "Twin Cities location that still had them available — the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge — which ran out Tuesday."

National Parks Should Be Considered Before Oil And Gas Leasing.

Fred J. Fagergren, former superintendent in the National Park Service, writes in The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (7/22), in opposition to oil and gas leasing "adjacent to Dinosaur National Monument, in direct view of the park entrance road, Dinosaur Quarry Visitor Center and Carnegie Fossil Quarry" arguing in support of the position of NPS staff that "their development would hurt both the environmental quality and visitor experience at the park." In general, Fagergren argues against development near national parks because of the resulting "oil derricks, hazy skies and loud equipment."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Dengue Fever On The Rise, More Confirmed Cases.

The [Talane \(ASM\)](#) (7/20) reports dengue fever cases have increased with 15 confirmed cases from July 6 to the 17, up from "one or two confirmed dengue cases per month."

Top National News

Media Analyses: White House Sends Conflicting Messages On Russia Sanctions.

Media reports cast statements Sunday by White House officials on whether the President would sign a bill imposing new sanctions on Russia as conflicting. Both networks that aired Sunday night, reported the story. In its lead story, the [CBS Weekend News](#) (7/23, lead story, 2:30, Quijano) briefly stated Congress has agreed to pass a "sweeping" sanctions bill against Russia for its election interference and the annexation of Crimea, but the White House "sent conflicting messages on whether the President intends to sign that bill."

The [AP](#) (7/23, Lardner) reports new White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the Administration is supportive of being tough on Russia and "particularly putting these sanctions in place." Appearing on [ABC's This Week](#), Sanders said, "We support where the legislation is now, and will continue to work with the House and Senate to put those tough sanctions in place on Russia until the situation in Ukraine is fully resolved." [Reuters](#) (7/23, Ali) likewise says Sanders indicated President Trump is "open to signing" the legislation. However, Anthony Scaramucci, the new White House communications director, "said Trump had not yet decided whether he would sign the bill." Scaramucci told CNN's "State of the Union," "My guess is...that he's going to make that decision shortly." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/23, Andrews) says Scaramucci was more cautious about the president's direction.

Scaramucci also indicated that Trump remains unconvinced that Russia interfered in the election, "even though the intelligence community insists otherwise," [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/23, story 2, 3:00) reported. Scaramucci said Trump "basically said to me, 'hey, maybe they did it, maybe they didn't do it.'"

On [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (7/23, Tapper), Scaramucci said the President will "make the decision when the time is right." He added, "If he makes a decision that it's 100 percent true, he'll be super tough on Russia. But let him do it at his own time and pace."

Noting the apparent contradiction in their remarks in a front-page story, the [Washington Post](#) (7/23, A1, Nakamura, Parker) says "either Sanders got out ahead of President Trump

or...Scaramucci...didn't have the most up-to-date information." Later Sunday, the White House "argued that the seemingly dueling statements were not, in fact, contradictory, and noting that newest bill includes some changes the administration supports, like adding sanctions on North Korea." A "senior White House official" said in a statement, "The administration supports sanctions on Russia and Iran and supports the direction the bill is headed, but won't weigh in conclusively until there is a final piece of legislation and no more changes are being made."

Likewise, when asked about "the different messages coming out of the President's communications team," a White House spokesperson told the [Washington Times](#) (7/23, Swoyer) that "both Mrs. Sanders and Mr. Scaramucci were accurate, saying although Congress made changes to the legislation...the White House won't yet confirm whether or not the president will back it until the bill is finalized."

The [New York Times](#) (7/23, A1, Baker) calls Sanders' comments "a striking turnaround." The new White House press secretary said adjustments made to the bill were enough to satisfy the President's concerns, but the Times says, "in reality...the changes...mainly provided a face-saving way to back down from a confrontation it was sure to lose if the sanctions bill reached the floor of the House." [The Hill](#) (7/23, Shelbourne) also reports Sanders' comments.

Cardin, Thune: In Trump's Best Interest To Sign Sanctions Bill. On [Fox News Sunday](#) (7/23, Wallace), Sen. John Thune said the bill is one that the President "should sign" into law. Sen. Ben Cardin added, "This is a very strong bill and it imposes mandatory sanctions on Russia, provides for congressional review if the President wants to wait or eliminate sanctions, it's very bipartisan. ... If he vetoes the bill, we will override his veto."

NYTimes Analysis: Sanctions "Setback" For Both Trump And Putin. The [New York Times](#) (7/23, Sanger) reports that "throughout 2016, both Donald J. Trump and President Vladimir V. Putin complained that American-led sanctions against Russia were the biggest irritant in the plummeting relations between the two superpowers." Now, however, it is "clear that those sanctions not only are staying in place, but are about to be modestly expanded – exactly the outcome the two presidents sought to avoid." The Times says that by "constantly casting doubt on intelligence that the Kremlin was behind an effort to manipulate last year's presidential election," Trump has "so unnerved members of his own party that even they saw a need to curb his ability to lift those sanctions unilaterally." Scaramucci, the Times notes, repeated those doubts on Sunday.

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/23, Krasny) reports Scaramucci said that "somebody" told him recently that "if the Russians actually hacked this situation and spilled out those emails, you would never have seen it." When "pressed about who his informant had been," Scaramucci said, "how 'bout, it was the president."

Volker: Russia To Blame For "Hot War" In Ukraine. [Reuters](#) (7/23, Zinets, Williams) reports US special envoy Kurt Volker said Sunday that Russian aggression is to blame for violence in eastern Ukraine, which he called a "hot war" rather than a "frozen conflict." During a visit to Ukraine, Volker "said he would prepare a set of recommendations on how Washington can better engage with the peace process," which he said, "we all need to address as quickly as possible."

Russian Ambassador To US Ends Tenure. The [AP](#) (7/23, Lucey) reports Russian Ambassador to the US Sergei Kislyak – "a high-profile figure in the controversy over Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election" – has concluded his assignment in Washington. The Russian Embassy in Washington announced on Twitter that Kislyak's tenure ended Saturday. His successor "has not been announced, although it is widely expected to be Anatoly Antonov, a deputy foreign minister and former deputy defense minister seen as a hardliner regarding the United States."

WPost A1: Local Governments Still Using Russian Software Despite Warnings. The [Washington Post](#) (7/23, A1, Gillum, Davis) reports that "local and state government agencies from Oregon to Connecticut say they are using a Russian brand of security software despite the federal government's instructions to its own agencies not to buy the software over concerns about cyberespionage." The General Services Administration (GSA) this month "removed Moscow-based Kaspersky Lab from its list of approved vendors," suggesting "a vulnerability exists in Kaspersky that could give the Russian government backdoor access to the systems it protects, though they offered no explanation or evidence of it."

Senate Republicans To Hold Healthcare Vote This Week.

The [Washington Times](#) (7/23, Swoyer) reports that the Senate will vote this week "on whether or not to open debate on the House's health care bill," but "several senators on Sunday appeared unclear on exactly which direction the Senate will go this week after they've been debating whether or not to repeal Obamacare and replace it later, or to repeal and replace in one push."

[Reuters](#) (7/23, Becker) also says "it remained unclear which version of the bill senators would vote on." Sen. Susan Collins said on CBS' "Face the Nation," "It appears we'll have a vote on Tuesday but we don't know whether we'll be voting on the House bill, the first version of the Senate bill, the second version of the Senate bill."

The [AP](#) (7/23, Yen) reports that Senate Republican Conference Chairman John Thune told [Fox News Sunday](#) that it is "not yet known whether the legislation will seek to replace the Affordable Care Act or simply repeal it." According to Thune, Majority Leader McConnell "will make a decision soon on which bill to bring up for a vote, depending on ongoing discussions with GOP senators." Thune said, "That's a judgment that Senator McConnell will make at some point this week before the vote." While he "express[ed] his own hope it will be a repeal-and-replace measure," he added, "But no matter which camp you're in, you can't have a debate about either unless we get on the bill. So we need a 'yes' vote." Thune also told Fox that if the repeal effort falls short this week, Republicans will try again, [Politico](#) (7/23, Ehley) reports. Thune said, "What will happen is, if and when that were to occur, we'll go back to the drawing board and get a bill up. ... We are going to vote to repeal and replace Obamacare. It's not a question of 'if,' it's a question of 'when.'"

The [Washington Post](#) (7/23, Goldstein) reports that Sen. John Barrasso "indicated" Sunday that Republicans "may not have enough support to prevail on even a first step — a routine vote to begin the floor debate." Barrasso told CBS' "Face the Nation," "We're continuing to work with all of the members. We're getting much closer to that." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/23, Andrews, Armour, Peterson) says a failure on the motion to proceed would be a defeat for Trump and Republicans, and could mean the end of their efforts to overhaul the ACA. The Journal adds that there is little indication that senators who opposed the Senate bill earlier this month have changed their minds.

Sen. Rand Paul told [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (7/23, Tapper) that he would back a repeal of Obamacare, but continues to withhold support for the Senate Republican bill. Paul added that he favors "legalizing inexpensive insurance" which "means the federal government doesn't regulate it and allow the sale of inexpensive insurance again, legalizing the ability to join an association across state lines."

On [ABC's This Week](#) (7/23, Stephanopoulos), White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said the President's preference is repeal and replace, saying that he is "committed to repealing and replacing Obamacare," and [The Hill](#) (7/23, Bolton) cites two senators who attended last week's meeting with Trump at the White House who said that "McConnell revived the Senate's version of the repeal-and-replace legislation after Trump pressed him directly on it."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/23, Wigglesworth) reports that in a [tweet](#) Sunday night, Trump "sought to turn up the pressure on Republican lawmakers," writing that "if they fail to pass legislation to roll back his predecessor's healthcare law, 'the repercussions will be far greater than any of them understand!'" It was unclear "whether Trump was referring to political repercussions for lawmakers or those that would be felt by Americans seeking health coverage absent the passage of legislation to overhaul the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare."

Trump To Speak To Press About Healthcare Monday. [USA Today](#) (7/24, Toppo) reports that President Trump will speak to the press at the White House about healthcare on Monday following a meeting "with what he calls 'victims of Obamacare.'"

Nine Immigrants Dead In Human Smuggling Tragedy.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/23, lead story, 2:40, Llamas) reported that a tractor-trailer with 38 immigrants "packed inside" was found early Sunday by police in San Antonio, Texas, who discovered that eight immigrants had already died from the heat inside the truck. Thirty people were rushed to the hospital, with "20 in critical condition, suffering from traumatic brain injuries from heat stroke and dehydration." One in critical condition died at the hospital. Acting ICE Director Thomas Homan said that "there may have been as many as 100 people in the truck," and San Antonio Fire Chief Charles Hood described the incident as "a mass casualty situation." The [CBS Weekend News](#) (7/23, story 3, 2:15, Quijano) reported that temperatures in the vehicle "had climbed well above 100 degrees," with no air conditioning or water. US Attorney Richard Durbin "called it an alien smuggling situation gone horribly wrong." Police Chief William McManus "says cars picked up some people inside the trailer before authorities arrived. Others escaped into a forested area nearby."

The [New York Times](#) (7/23, Montgomery, Fernandez, Joseph) reports that McManus said at an early morning news conference that a Walmart employee "making the rounds late Saturday

night was approached by someone from the truck 'asking for water'" and that the employee "returned with the water and called the police, who found the bodies at the back of the truck." McManus also said DHS and ICE officials "were helping in the investigation." San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg in a statement described the incident as "tragic" and that it "shines a bright light on the plight of immigrants looking for a better life and victims of human trafficking."

The [AP](#) (7/23, Gay, Weissert) reports that the driver of the tractor-trailer, James Matthew Bradley Jr., "was taken into custody and would be charged on Monday." Homan said, "Even though they have the driver in custody, I can guarantee you there's going to be many more people we're looking for to prosecute," saying it was unlikely that the immigrants crossed the border in the truck.

[WOAI-TV](#) San Antonio (7/23, Santos) reports that police have taken into custody 15 people who "are believed to be human trafficking victims who escaped the scene" where 38 immigrants were discovered early Sunday.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"California Shows How States Can Lead On Climate Change." A [New York Times](#) (7/24, Board) editorial says California's "cap-and-trade program, which effectively puts a price on emissions," is "a bold, bipartisan commitment that invites similarly ambitious policies from other states, and it sends a strong signal to the world that millions of Americans regard with utmost seriousness a threat the Trump administration refuses to acknowledge, let alone reckon with." The Times notes nine states in the Northeast have joined "what is known as the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, which, like California's effort, is a market-based cap-and-trade program that goes beyond state boundaries," and suggests New Jersey and Virginia may soon join the group. These state efforts, the Times concludes, indicate that "Trump may be going one way, but America is going the other."

Washington Post.

"Jim Vance. On And Off Camera He Will be Missed." A [Washington Post](#) (7/23) editorial.

"Texas, Stop Trying To Pass This Bathroom Bill." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/23) writes that the Texas Legislature should stop pushing for the passage of a bill that would regulate transgender use of bathrooms in government buildings and schools, arguing that, under the measure, "not only will transgender people who live in Texas be hurt but so will the state's standing and economy." The Post adds that some, such as Texas Republican Speaker of the House Joe Strauss, have opposed the legislation, and concludes by asking whether Texas lawmakers wish to create a "backlash" like that following North Carolina's passage of a similar law.

"Mr. Trump's Election Commission Is Fully Transparent About Its Purpose: Voter Obstruction."

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/23) says that during a recent appearance on MSNBC, the commission's co-chair, Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach – "a Republican titan of voter suppression who has been repeatedly sued for his relentless efforts to cull voters from the rolls" in Kansas – "was asked if he believed that Hillary Clinton won the popular vote by nearly 3 million votes, as the official tally indicates." Kobach replied that "we may never know the answer to that question." The Post adds that "the offhand remark was in keeping with Mr. Kobach's years-long effort, along with that of other Republicans, to erode public confidence in American elections to provide a pretext for tough state laws whose real goal is to obstruct voting by minorities and young people, who tend to support Democrats."

Wall Street Journal.

"Trump's Syria Muddle." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/23) editorial is critical of the Trump Administration's apparent willingness to allow Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to remain in power, saying Syria is unlikely to be stable if he does.

"Randi Weingarten's 'Racism' Rant." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/23) argues that American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten's speech last week attacking Education Secretary DeVos and linking school choice to racism shows that Secretary DeVos is appropriately addressing what it calls the public-school monopoly. The Journal argues that concludes that Secretary DeVos should interpret Weingarten's speech to mean that teachers unions are so entrenched in their monopoly that they will attack any school choice initiative.

“West Chester Beats Obama.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/23) writes that the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s acceptance of Westchester County, New York’s recent report showing that county zoning laws were race-neutral vindicates Westchester County Chief Executive Rob Astorino, who for seven years fought the Obama Administration’s HUD over the issue. The Journal concludes that Astorino’s fight was a key battle against what it calls the worst excess of the Obama Administration in its misuse of federal regulations to impose liberal policy items.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[White House Signals Support For Bill On Russia Sanctions](#)
[Wall Street Outlasts Congress On Banker Pay, But Still Loses](#)
[Lawyers Hope To Do To Opioid Makers What They Did To Big Tobacco](#)
[President’s Sign-Off Deals Blow To China Inc.’s Global Spending Spree](#)

New York Times:

[White House Signals Acceptance Of Russia Sanctions Bill](#)
[Companies Rush To Develop “Utterly Transformative” Gene Therapies In China, Herd Of “Gray Rhinos” Threatens Economy](#)
[With More Ships In The Arctic, Fears Of Disaster Rise](#)
[When Health Law Isn’t Enough, The Desperate Line Up At Tents](#)

Washington Post:

[Local Governments Still Use Russian Brand Of Software](#)
[Afghan Fight Grinds On](#)
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Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: Texas-Immigrant Deaths; WH-Russia Meddling Investigation; Raqqa Assault; London Baby-US Treatment; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Princess Diana-20th Anniversary; Mexico-Bootleg Liquor Warning; Boston-Building Fires; North Carolina-Manhunt; Poker Tournament Winner; Miami-Alligator Rescue; Disabled Olympian.

CBS: WH-Russia Meddling Investigation; Russia Meddling Investigation-Analysis; Texas-Immigrant Deaths; Kentucky-Anti-abortion Protest; Severe Weather; Boston-Building Fires; West Coast-Wildfires; Venezuela-Political Turmoil; Afghanistan-Accidental Airstrike; Italia-Prison Restaurant; NYC Whale Watching.

NBC: Preempted by NASCAR.

Network TV At A Glance:

Russia Meddling Investigation – 7 minutes, 20 seconds

Texas-Immigrant Deaths – 4 minutes, 55 seconds

Weather – 2 minutes, 35 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Russian Meddling Investigation-Kushner; WH-Russia Meddling Investigation; Texas-Immigrant Deaths; British Baby-Legal Battle; Afghanistan-Suicide Bombing; Syria-ISIS Battle.

CBS: Texas-Immigrant Deaths; Trump-Republicans Comment; WH-New Communications Director; WH-Russia Meddling Investigation; Russia Sanctions Bill; British Open News; USS Constitution Reopening.

FOX: Texas-Immigrant Deaths; WH-New Communications Director; China-US Detainee Released.

NPR: Healthcare Reform Plan; Texas-Immigrant Deaths; Cincinnati-Police Violence Protest; West Coast-Wildfires.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in a greeting with victims of Obamacare; gives a statement on healthcare; gives remarks at the 2017 National Scout Jamboree.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President to participate in a greeting with victims of Obamacare; introduces the President as he delivers a statement on healthcare.

US Senate: 4:00 PM Senate votes on deputy interior secretary nominee – Senate convenes and proceeds to executive session to resume consideration of the nomination of David Bernhardt to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior, including a vote on the nomination * Cloture motion passed by 56 votes to 39 last week, with six Democrats joining Republicans in voting in support Location: Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

6:00 PM SALDEF hosts Langar on Capitol Hill – SALDEF 4th Annual 'Langar on the Hill', hosted by 10 students from SALDEF's SikhLEAD internship class with the support of Democratic Sen. Kamala Harris, to 'celebrate Sikh values of unity and selfless service'. Speakers – including Members of Congress, federal agencies, and SALDEF officials – explain 'the importance of Langar and unity in the context of the American experience' * Langar is 'a Sikh tradition that serves as a 500-year-old anti-segregation movement' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC <http://saldef.org/> <https://twitter.com/SALDEF>

President Trump's son-in-law testifies to closed Senate Judiciary Committee hearing after meeting with Russian lawyer – Senate Committee on the Judiciary closed hearing with testimony from White House Senior Advisor (and President Donald Trump's son-in-law) Jared Kushner * Follows a meeting involving Kushner, President Trump's son Donald Trump, Jr., former Donald J. Trump for President campaign manager Paul Manafort, and Russian attorney Natalia Veselnitskaya in June 2016 which emails released by Trump, Jr. have shown was supposedly for Russia to pass on information to 'incriminate' Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton * Trump, Jr. and Manafort will be among witnesses at a Committee hearing on 'Oversight of the Foreign Agents Registration Act and Attempts to Influence U.S. Elections: Lessons Learned from Current and Prior Administrations' Wednesday Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

US House: 2:00 PM House of Representatives meets for legislative business Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

3:00 PM Bipartisan House forum on press freedom – Bipartisan Reps. John Conyers, Steve Cohen, Mark Sanford, and other Members of Congress host forum on 'The State of Press Freedom in 21st Century America', on topics including 'President Donald Trump's repeated attempts to seemingly de-legitimize mainstream news outlets by calling them 'fake news' and 'the enemy of the American people', 'Threats by President Trump to change libel laws to make it easier to pursue lawsuits against the press', 'The potential epidemic of misinformation being presented to the public as 'news' that may threaten to undermine the credibility of legitimate journalism', 'Restrictions on access to press briefings', and 'Physical threats to journalists'. Panel features Jeff Ballou (National Press Club), Jennifer Rubin (Washington Post), Kyle Pope (Columbia Journalism Review), Alicia Shepard (USA Today), Floyd Abrams (Gordon & Reindel), Rick Blum (Open Government), and Marvin Kalb (Brookings Institution) Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2167, Washington, DC www.house.gov/conyers <https://twitter.com/repjohnconyers>

4:00 PM Bipartisan Heroin Task Force hosts roundtable on addiction treatment for children and

adolescents – Bipartisan Heroin Task Force hosts roundtable on addiction treatment for children and adolescents, led by co-chairs Reps. Annie Kuster and Tom MacArthur, focusing on the challenges associated with treating children and adolescents for substance abuse. Panel of experts include Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation Division of Science Policy Director Dr Christopher Jones and Foster Children Evaluation Services Assistant Director Heather Forkey Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 340, Washington, DC kuster.house.gov <https://twitter.com/RepAnnieKuster>

5:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on ‘H.J. Res. 111, Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to ‘Arbitration Agreements’, and ‘H.R. 3219, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2018’ (aka ‘Make America Secure Appropriations Act, 2018’) Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

Other: 7:00 AM NAACP Annual Convention continues with Dem lawmakers at Federal Policy and Legislative Workshop – National Association for the Advancement of Colored People 108th Annual Convention continues, with agenda today including Federal Policy and Legislative Workshop (2:30 PM EDT) with members of Congress discussing legislation and public policy issues facing the African-American community, including voting rights, policing issues, gun control, healthcare, labor issue and criminal justice reform. Participants include Democratic Sens. Ben Cardin, Cory Booker, Tammy Duckworth, Kamala Harris and Reps. Bobby Scott, Sheila Jackson Lee, Henry Johnson, Robin Kelly, Cedric Richmond, Nanette Barragan and Scott Taylor Location: The Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD Baltimore <http://www.naacp.org> <https://twitter.com/NAACP>

8:30 AM UK international trade secretary speaks at AEI on ‘The Future of UK Trade Policy’ – UK International Trade Secretary Liam Fox speaks on ‘The Future of UK Trade Policy’ at the American Enterprise Institute, discussing the future of the UK’s sovereign trade policy and trade relationship with the U.S. * Secretary Fox is in the U.S. for talks with U.S. Trade Representative Amb. Robert Lighthizer on a post-Brexit U.S. free trade deal Location: American Enterprise Institute, 1789 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.aei.org/> [#Brexit](https://twitter.com/AEI)

12:00 PM House Freedom Caucus Chairman GOP Rep. Mark Meadows speaks at NPC – National Press Club Luncheon Series event with House Freedom Caucus Chairman Republican Rep. Mark Meadows, who discusses the inner-working of the caucus, its deliberations, philosophical approach to issues, and some other aspects that ‘never made headlines’ Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St, NW, Washington DC <http://press.org/> [#NPCLive](https://twitter.com/PressClubDC)

2:00 PM Bipartisan Task Force on Reforming and Reorganizing U.S. Foreign Assistance report launch at CSIS – Bipartisan Task Force on Reforming and Reorganizing U.S. Foreign Assistance report launch at Project on U.S. Leadership in Development Chevron Forum. The Task Force – consisting of former officials from the administrations of Presidents George W. Bush and Barack Obama – has identified ‘actionable recommendations that the Trump Administration and the U.S. Congress can take to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and accountability of U.S. foreign assistance programs’. Speakers include Task Force Co-Chairs Republican Sen. Todd Young and Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, along with members former Counselor to USAID Hilda Arellano, former USAID Assistant to the Administrator for the Bureau of Policy, Planning and Learning Susan Reichle, former House Committee on Foreign Affairs Senior Adviser Nilmini Rubin, former U.S. Ambassador to the African Union John Simon, and former USAID Chief of Staff Michele Sumalis Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Avenue Northwest, Washington, DC www.csis.org <https://twitter.com/csis>

3:00 PM Brookings forum on broadband with GOP Rep. Marsha Blackburn – ‘Including broadband in Trump’s infrastructure plan: Opportunities and challenges’ Brookings’ Center for Technology Innovation forum on the inclusion of broadband in President Donald Trump’s infrastructure plan, with a congressional perspective of the pending White House plan. Includes keynote from Republican Rep. Marsha Blackburn, with panelists includes Wireless Infrastructure Association President and CEO Jonathan Adelstein, CTIA – The Wireless Association Executive Vice President Brad Gillen, and Office of Rep. Frank Pallone Chief Telecom Counsel David Goldman Location: Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> [#USBroadband](https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst)

UK Parliament members arrive in Washington, DC, for annual exchange program – 40th annual British American Parliamentary Group exchange program begins in Washington, DC. UK Members of Parliament Suella Fernandes, Rehman Chishti, David Morris, Kerry McCarthy, Michelle

Donelan, Gerald Jones, Holly Lynch, and Tommy Sheppard meet Republican and Democratic Members of Congress before traveling to their counterparts' home districts in Nebraska, Arkansas, California, Alabama, New York, and Arizona, where they network with leaders and staffers and discuss 'significant domestic and foreign policy issues at the federal, state, and local levels', before the program concludes with a final meeting in Boston * BAPG exchange has been exchanging ideas since 1977 under the auspices of the U.S. State Department International Visitor Leadership Program Location: TBD www.state.gov <https://twitter.com/StateDept>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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- Roseburg (OR) News-Review: Senior Pass Price Hike Not As Unreasonable As It Seems.

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DOI In The News

Interior Chief Ends Nevada Trip For Monday Cabinet Meeting.

The [AP](#) (7/30, RITTER, SONNER) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke toured two national monuments in Nevada on Sunday and canceled plans for meetings Monday in the Las Vegas area in order to head back to Washington, D.C., for what he said will be a Cabinet meeting involving President Donald Trump's top appointees." Zinke toured the Gold Butte and Basin and Range national monuments, "but he didn't say he's made any decisions about whether to downsize the two monuments created last year by President Barack Obama before he left office." Zinke said, "Monuments have been adjusted ...18 times before, Zinke said. "So I don't think there's too much question that a monument can be adjusted. Whether a monument can be rescinded or not, that is a question for the courts."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Traverse City \(MI\) Record-Eagle](#) (7/30, RITTER, SONNER), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (7/30, RITTER, SONNER), [Business Insider](#) (7/30, Ritter, Sonner), the [Dayton \(OH\) Daily News](#) (7/30, Ritter, Sonner), and the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (7/30, RITTER, SONNER).

Additional coverage was provided by [KSNV-TV Las Vegas \(NV\)](#) Las Vegas (7/30, Clemons).

Zinke: Feds Must Ensure Monument Designation Is 'Smallest Area Compatible With Protection'. [USA Today](#) (7/31, Thomas) reports "in speaking with reporters, Zinke addressed concerns that the monument review might entail downsizing, which could leave formerly protected areas vulnerable to commercial development or mining." Zinke "stressed what he said is the importance of public access and ensuring any monument designation is 'the smallest area compatible with

protection of the object' — a phrase Zinke repeated several times throughout a 25-minute conversation with reporters." He said, "What I've learned in the monument review is that every monument is unique. In a lot of cases, people are afraid that public land is going to be sold so they feel like a monument is a tool to make sure that public land stays in public hands. Up front, I am an advocate to never sell or transfer public land, and so is the president."

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Caps Review Of Monuments With Bunkerville Visit. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (7/30, Rogers) reports that "the Riverside Road location where Zinke made his remarks is within 3 miles of the April 2014 armed standoff on the Virgin River between federal agents from his department and militia supporters of defiant rancher Cliven Bundy — the subject of a high-visibility trial in federal court in Las Vegas." According to the article, "Bundy's wife, Carol, said she was disappointed he didn't meet with her on his way to Gold Butte even though she has reached out to him through emails, certified letters and phone calls to his staff."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [U.S. News & World Report](#) (7/30, RITTER, SONNER), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/30, Ritter, Sonner), the [Hilton Head Island \(SC\) Packet](#) (7/30, RITTER, SONNER), [ABC News](#) (7/30, RITTER, SONNER), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (7/30, RITTER, SONNER), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (7/29, RITTER, SONNER), the [Greeneville \(TN\) Sun](#) (7/30, RITTER, SONNER), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/30, Ritter Scott Sonner |, Ap), the [St. Joseph \(MO\) News-Press](#) (7/30, RITTER, SONNER), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (7/30, RITTER, SONNER), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (7/30, RITTER, SONNER), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (7/30, RITTER, SONNER), and the [Daily Mail](#) (7/30).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (7/30, Rogers), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (7/30, Brean) and [KSNV-TV Las Vegas \(NV\)](#) Las Vegas (7/30).

Decisions Made With Enormous Support Should Stand. In an op-ed for the [Las Vegas Sun](#) (7/30, Torres), Jocelyn Torres, the Nevada program director for the Conservation Lands Foundation, writes that "more than 90,000 people spoke up in support of Nevada's national monuments — Basin and Range and Gold Butte — during the public comment period opened as part of President Donald Trump's executive order reviewing certain national monument designated under the Antiquities Act." However, "the monuments' fate remains unknown despite tens of thousands speaking up in support along with Native American tribes; federal, state and local elected officials; businesses and tourism groups like the Latin Chamber of Commerce and Nevada Resort Association; scientists; the arts community and archaeological, conservation and recreation groups." She concludes that "as we face many unknowns, and await Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's final recommendation to President Trump on national monuments, one thing is certain: Our time would be better spent moving forward restoring and enjoying our national monument than rehashing decisions made with input from community members, elected officials, businesses, archaeologists, recreationists and conservationists."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the [Pahrump \(NV\) Valley Times](#) (7/28, Brean, Martin), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Sun](#) (7/28, Gonzalez), and [KVVU-TV Las Vegas \(NV\)](#) Las Vegas (7/31, Jacob).

By Helicopter And On Horseback, Zinke Reviews Monuments.

The [AP](#) (7/28, Lee) reports that "ranchers who want to scale back two national monuments in New Mexico competed for attention with the outdoor recreation industry as U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke conducted a series of private stakeholder meetings linked to a nationwide review of 27 monuments approved by past presidents." Zinke "skipped a heavily attended public forum about the future of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in southern New Mexico organized largely by monument supporters, amid a series of private meetings with ranchers, electric utility executives, irrigation district officials and some defenders of the monuments." The article says that Zinke's "tightly controlled visit, mostly away from the public's eye, is stirring concern among business owners — from fishing guides to local homebuilders — who say they increasingly depend on the flow of tourists and outdoor enthusiasts to the monuments."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (7/29, Soular), the [Santa Fe \(NM\) Reporter](#) (7/30, Grubs), and [KOB-TV Albuquerque \(NM\)](#) Albuquerque, NM (7/29).

Interior Secretary Zinke Surveys Sabinoso Wilderness. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/29, Oswald) reports that "at a June U.S. Senate committee hearing, Department of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich engaged in a testy exchange over a stalled deal that would provide public access to the federally designated Sabinoso Wilderness, 16,000 acres of spectacular canyon country in northeastern New Mexico 'landlocked' by surrounding private property." At the time, "Zinke wouldn't commit to accepting the particulars of a plan, first

announced last year, for the non-profit Wilderness Land Trust to donate an adjacent former ranch to the federal government as an access point for hikers, horseback riders and hunters to enter the wilderness." But "after a horseback ride with Heinrich and Sen. Tom Udall, an elk-and-chicken fajita lunch overlooking the Sabinoso's Canyon Largo and conversations with a couple dozen hunting and wilderness advocates, Zinke said he has 'very favorable impressions' of the access plan, with 'fine points' and 'final details' to be worked out."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (7/30, Oxford) and the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (7/29, Oxford).

Montana Refuge Opened To Ranchers Who Lost Grass To Fires.

The [AP](#) (7/29) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is "opening the Charles M. Russell Wildlife Refuge to grazing for ranchers who lost rangeland in a large wildfire in eastern Montana." Refuge manager Paul Santavy "says the fire left some ranchers with no rangeland for cattle to graze." According to the article, "individual agreements will need to be negotiated, but refuge managers plan to allow ranchers to move cows onto the refuge and complete the paperwork later."

[KECI-TV](#) Missoula, MT (7/30, McDermott) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "We have a saying that Montana is one small town with really long roads, and as a neighbor in that small town, the Department is dedicated to providing disaster relief and resources where possible. When I talk about restoring trust between local communities and the federal government, and being a good neighbor, this is exactly what I mean. My staff and I heard from ranchers, equipment dealers, and other concerned citizens, and we all got to work. I applaud the quick work and flexibility of the team at the CMR for getting this done for the community."

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (7/29, Lutey) reports that Zinke said, "At the end of the day, the government belongs to the people. We're happy to do it."

Zinke Denies Threats In Calls.

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/29, Oswald) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "said Saturday that there was no threat in his calls to Alaska's two Republican U.S. senators last week after one of them broke ranks with the GOP on a health care vote." Zinke dismissed speculation in the media that the calls were "threatening." He said, "That's ridiculous. ... Quite frankly, it's laughable."

[The Hill](#) (7/30, Henry) reports that the President has "unleashed a new group of advocates in his failed push to convince the Senate to repeal ObamaCare: his Cabinet." Both Interior Secretary Zinke and Energy Secretary Perry were "used by Trump in the battle, highlighting the president's willingness to exert pressure in new ways on lawmakers opposing his agenda." According to the article, "Zinke's threats in a phone call to Alaska Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, in particular, led to rancor."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (7/28, Henry, Cama), the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (7/28, Mortimer), and the [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (7/30, Goldberg).

Why Americans Are Fighting Over A Gorgeous Monument Called Bears Ears.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/30, Fears) reports on the fight over the Bears Ears National Monument. Opponents of the designation "regard it as a federal intrusion in a state where the U.S. government owns more than 60 percent of the land." However, supporters point to the "valuable sites in Bears Ears, containing pottery, drawings, dwellings and spiritual gathering places."

Interior Dept. Publishes Its 12 American Made Accomplishments Since Agency Was Founded In 1849.

[Breitbart](#) (7/30, Starr) reports that the Interior Department "recently published a list of accomplishments by the federal agency since it was founded in March of 1849, titled 'Made In America: 12 things brought to you by the Interior Department.'"

Editorial: National Parks Need More Help Than This.

The [Loveland \(CO\) Reporter-Herald](#) (7/29) editorializes that "and all 417 National Park Service units have maintenance needs," but national parks "would lose \$400 million in funding in fiscal year 2018, under President Trump's proposed budget." The paper says that "if private groups are going to be relied on to provide 62.3 percent of the maintenance funding, as they are in this initial push," Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "will need to find donors to give \$7 billion toward the \$11.3 billion in needs and \$4.26 billion from the government." It concludes that "if Zinke wants to

be seen as an advocate for the parks, he's got a lot more work to do."

Antiquities Act Of 1906: No Presidential License To Revoke National Monuments.

In a piece for the [Huffington Post](#) (7/30, Fein, Contributor), attorney Bruce Fein argues that "the text, spirit, and 111 year history of the Antiquities Act of 1906 militate against presidential power to revoke a national monument proclamation made by a predecessor president." He adds that "nothing in the text hints at presidential authority to revoke a national monument designation." Fein says that "if President Donald Trump or any successor desires the authority to revoke national monument designations, they should urge Congress to amend the Antiquities Act accordingly."

Additional coverage of the review of national monuments was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (7/28, Gabriel), the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (7/29), the [Boston Globe](#) (7/30, Abel), the [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (7/30, Boddie), the [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (7/30, Hunter), and the [New Bedford \(MA\) Standard-Times](#) (7/30, Chase).

Coal Rule Rollback Shortchanges Treasury, Lands And Economy.

In an op-ed for the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (7/29, Brown), Todd Brown, a member of the Telluride Town Council, criticizes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for halting a rule that would have "closed a loophole that would stop the exploitation of taxpayer-owned national public lands." According to Brown, "over the past 30 years, the government's undervaluation of coal mined on national public lands may have cost taxpayers upward of \$30 billion in lost revenue." He argues that "the staying of this rule, along with the department's interest in development of public lands for extractive industries, puts our communities at risk." In conclusion Brown urges the Trump Administration "to heed local calls to examine our federal coal program and fix it once and for all."

Montana's Wildfires Are Part Of Growing National Emergency, Should Be Treated Like Other Natural Disasters.

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (7/30) editorializes that "wildfires are a growing national emergency," but "the United States government continues to manage them, and fund them, as though they were an unforeseen, temporary inconvenience." The paper argues that "just as hurricanes and floods are considered disaster emergencies in some parts of the country, so too should wildfires that threaten neighborhoods and livelihoods be met with swift action from the nation's emergency response agencies."

Washington Is Dysfunctional. This Senate Rule Change Could Help Fix It..

Sen. Ron Johnson writes in a [Washington Post](#) (7/28, Johnson) op-ed that the Senate confirmed 50 of President Trump's 229 executive nominations as of July 22, which represents only 22 percent of those nominated. By comparison, at the same point in President Obama's first term, the Senate confirmed 53 percent of nominees. Johnson says, "This situation is clearly the result of a breakdown in the Senate." Rules allowing senators to use hours or days to debate nominations are being abused, Johnson argues. A "simple proposal" he offers is to "Change the rules of the Senate to limit debate on sub-Cabinet and lower-court nominees to two hours on the Senate floor." He suggests that Senate committees can vet nominees and provide a report to the full Senate, after which they can then vote.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Wyoming Reservation Readies For Solar Eclipse Tourists.

The [AP](#) (7/30) reports that "tribal officials on Wyoming's Wind River Reservation are preparing for thousands of visitors looking for a prime spot to view next month's solar eclipse." According to the article, "more than 10,000 people are expected to come to Fremont County and the reservation, whose Crowheart community is on the center line of the Aug. 21 eclipse." Shoshone and Arapahoe Fish and Game director Art Lawson "says he will have three game wardens on patrol, plus officers brought in from Montana by the Bureau of Indian Affairs."

Bureau Of Land Management

Federal Ranger To Testify In San Francisco Murder Trial.

The [AP](#) (7/28, Thanawala) reports that “a federal agency has agreed to allow a ranger to testify at a trial over a fatal San Francisco shooting with the ranger’s gun that became a flashpoint in the national immigration debate, a judge in San Francisco said Friday.” According to the article, “the scope of the ranger’s testimony will be determined by the judge who presides over Juan Francisco Lopez Sanchez’s trial in the 2015 shooting of Kate Steinle, Judge Richard Loftus said.” Federal officials “had previously resisted efforts” to have Bureau of Land Management ranger John Woychowski “testify about his stolen gun, but Loftus said the parties reached an agreement to produce the ranger as a witness.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (7/30, Thanawala), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (7/28, Thanawala), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/28, Sudhin Thanawala |, Ap), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/28, Thanawala), and the [Daily Mail](#) (7/28).

Additional coverage was provided by the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (7/28, Ho) and [KQED-FM San Francisco \(CA\)](#) San Francisco (7/28, Emslie).

Court To Decide Fate Of Federal Fracking Authority.

[E&E Publishing](#) (7/28) reported the 10th US Circuit Court of Appeals heard oral arguments in the case determining if the federal government has the authority to regulate hydraulic fracturing, but the court may never issue an opinion on the matter. The Trump Administration is rolling back the rule and wants to freeze the case during the process. All three judges on the panel were skeptical about freezing the case indefinitely while the BLM conducts a new rule-making process to repeal the regulation. The BLM maintains that the lower court’s ruling that the federal government lacks authority to regulate fracking is incorrect, but any decision would not be efficient and would interfere with the new rule-making process.

Utah Governor: Rethink Lease Sites.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (7/29, Webb) reports that Utah Gov. Gary Herbert is asking the Bureau of Land Management “to rethink its plans to offer oil and gas leases near Dinosaur National Monument due to potential disturbances that would result for visitors there.” In a letter submitted to the BLM this week, said the state “wishes to ensure leasing of these parcels does not impact visual resources or cause light or sound disturbances” within the monument. The letter “doesn’t outright call for the agency not to offer the leases in December, but appears to suggest that as a possibility.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (7/28, Maffly).

Energy Company Applies To Mine 4.1M Tons Of Coal In Colorado.

The [AP](#) (7/28) reports that the Bureau of Land Management “has to decide if it will allow an energy company to mine up to 4.1 million more tons of coal in northwest Colorado.” Peabody Energy has “applied to lease 1 more square mile (2.6 square kilometers) of federal coal west of Steamboat Springs as part of an ongoing mining operation.” The BLM “says it will make the decision under the President Donald Trump administration’s energy policies.”

Big Federal Wild Horse Roundup Planned In Northeast Nevada.

The [AP](#) (7/28) reports that “federal officials are planning the biggest roundup in years of horses roaming public rangeland in northeast Nevada.” The Bureau of Land Management is “seeking public comments for an environmental assessment of the removal of more than 6,700 horses from area between Wells and Ely.” The BLM “estimates the current wild horse population in the Antelope and Triple B wild horse complexes at about 7,700, not including foals born this year.”

Las Vegas Water Pipeline Fight To Go Before Federal Judge.

The [AP](#) (7/29, Ritter) reports that “a decades-long fight over a plan to pump water from arid and sparsely populated valleys along Nevada’s eastern edge and pipe it to thirsty Las Vegas is about to get its first hearing before a federal judge.” According to the article, “environmental groups and American Indian tribes are expected to tell U.S. District Judge Andrew Gordon in Las Vegas on Monday that a proposed 263-mile (423-kilometer) north-to-south water pipeline just west of the Nevada-Utah state line amounts to a city water grab supported by incomplete and inadequate federal environmental studies.” Southern Nevada Water Authority attorneys are “expected to argue that the state’s largest metropolitan area and economic hub has to have water, and that the U.S. Bureau of Land Management properly granted rights of way for the pipeline to cross federal lands in 2012.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (7/30, Brean).

U.S. Rep. Tom Emmer Pushes To Restore Mineral Rights.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (7/29, Rao) reports that Rep. Tom Emmer is “pushing legislation that would ban the U.S. Forest Service from withdrawing mining rights in Minnesota without congressional approval.” According to the article, “the move comes in response to the Obama administration’s 11th-hour decision not to renew mining leases for Twin Metals in northeastern Minnesota.” Before the House Natural Resources Committee on Thursday, Emmer testified “that the legislation simply allows people to exercise their mineral rights, and that all projects are still subject to stringent state and federal reviews and requirements.”

The [Virginia \(MN\) Mesabi Daily Tribune](#) (7/29) editorializes that the White House, “with an actual direction given to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, could end this all where it stands.” It says that “if that doesn’t happen, Congress can simply pass Emmer’s bill along through the House and Senate and straight to President Donald Trump’s desk.” But “if neither of those happen, the Range has only the comment period and Secretary Zinke left to lobby against moving forward on the study period and 20-year withdrawal.”

Saving Wild Horses Requires Culling The Herd.

In an op-ed for the [Denver Post](#) (7/28, Kafer), Krista Kafer, “a professor, public policy analyst and writer,” supports “congressional efforts to allow the slaughter of horses,” but Kafer argues that current legislation does not to go “far enough.” Kafer asserts that “the only humane solution to this unsustainable situation is to cull the herd.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Push For Arctic Energy Development Met With Criticism.

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (7/28, Huang) reports that “Alaskan lawmakers continue to push for energy development in the Arctic region, citing economic and national security incentives and highlighting regulatory safeguards for the environment.” However, “critics say drilling can be done in less environmentally perilous areas while still boosting the local and national economies.” Walter Cruickshank, deputy director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, told an audience at the Center for Strategic and International Studies “that in the near future, any oil and gas developments are going to take place in relatively shallow waters and closer to existing infrastructure.” He said, “Longer term, it’s hard to say what the investment will be, but there won’t be any if there aren’t leases made available for folks.”

Oil Group Fights Enviros’ Challenge To Offshore Drilling Order.

[Law360](#) (7/28, Phillis) reported that the API asked an Alaska federal court to dismiss a complaint filed by environmental organizations challenging President Trump’s executive order looking to review drilling in the Arctic and Atlantic, arguing it was brought in the wrong court.

Our Views: Assess Oil Potential Of East Coast Waters.

The [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (7/30) urges President Trump “to push for exploration of oil and gas deposits off the East Coast of the United States.” The paper emphasizes that “as the U.S. Interior Department said, assessments of whether there is an offshore mineral bonanza are out of date.” It adds that “dramatic improvements in technology make it vital that a more comprehensive assessment of energy potential be made off the Atlantic coast.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

Bill Would End Trinity River Fish Disease Preventive Flows, County Water Right.

The [Eureka \(CA\) Times Standard](#) (7/28, Houston) reports that “local tribal and government officials say a bill currently under U.S. Senate review would virtually end Trinity River dam water releases used to prevent fish kills and do away with Humboldt County’s 60-year right to river water in favor of providing more water to Central Valley irrigators.” Rep. Jared Huffman said the bill is “but one of several attempts over the years by Central Valley water contractors and suppliers, namely the Fresno-based Westlands Water District, to redirect more Trinity River water for their own interests.”

Drag Boat Competitions Approved At East Park Reservoir.

The [Red Bluff \(CA\) Daily News](#) (7/29) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation “approved drag boat exhibitions and competitions at East Park Reservoir in Colusa County, California for up to five years.” The article says that “the inaugural event, hosted by the California Hot Boat Association, is scheduled for Sept. 9-10 at Serenity Cove on the reservoir’s east side.”

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

12 Years After Gulf Oil Platform Destroyed, Feds Start Investigating Environmental Damage.

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (7/28) reports that “twelve years after Hurricane Ivan destroyed a Taylor Energy Co. platform in the Gulf of Mexico, the federal government has finally started investigating how oil and gas that is still leaking from its wells damages natural resources.” The flow of oil, “if left unchecked, could continue for 100 years or more,” says the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. Last Thursday July 27, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration “confirmed the investigation.” Keeley Belva, a spokeswoman for the oceanic agency, said, “NOAA is a trustee for the Taylor Energy Incident in Louisiana, and we are in the early stages of a Natural Resource Damage Assessment process.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

GOP Pushes Bill About Gray Wolf.

The [Daily Caller](#) (7/28, Pearce) reports that the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works “passed a bill Wednesday that would remove federal protections for gray wolf populations in Wyoming and the Great Lakes states.” The “HELP for Wildlife Act” reinstates 2011 and 2012 Fish and Wildlife Service “final rules that remove federal protections for the wolf in Wyoming and delist the Great Lakes states gray wolves from the Endangered Species List.” The bill also “bars judicial review of the final rules, leaving the FWS in control of any future federal protections.”

Wildfire Won't Ruin Hunting Seasons At Okefenokee Refuge.

The [AP](#) (7/29) reports that “a recent wildfire that burned vast acreage near the Georgia-Florida state line hasn't stopped plans for hunting seasons to open in the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “said in a news release that small game hunting for quail, rabbits and squirrels will open Aug. 15.” Also, “seasons for deer, feral hogs and turkeys will open between September and March.”

States Taking Over Grizzly Management Monday.

The [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (7/30, Wright) reports that “state officials are excited about taking more responsibility for the Yellowstone ecosystem grizzly bears, but they say management will largely stay the same after delisting takes effect Monday.” The animals will “no longer be listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act and state wildlife agencies in Montana, Wyoming and Idaho will assume more authority over the bears, with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service taking a backseat.” Officials from Montana and Wyoming “said that while the change will erase a level of bureaucracy in their decision making, their focus will still be on keeping the population in good shape.”

Delisting Would Put Panthers In Peril.

In an op-ed for the [Bradenton \(FL\) Times](#) (7/30, Compton), Glenn Compton, the Chairman of Manasota 88, writes that delisting the Florida panther “would be disastrous for the panther.” Compton argues that “the Florida panther has not recovered in numbers to ensure its long-term viability as a species.”

Connelly: Sage-grouse Aren't Pheasants, And Captive Rearing Is Doomed To Fail.

In an op-ed for the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (7/28, Connelly), Dr. Jack Connelly, a retired state wildlife agency research biologist, questions Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's support of “Wyoming's recent decision to raise sage-grouse in captivity as a ‘conservation’ measure.” He notes that scientific research has “shared at least two things in common: All focused on the importance of habitat conservation and restoration, and none suggested captive rearing of sage grouse as a viable management tool for restoring or maintaining populations.” Connelly urges the

state "to reconsider it at the next legislative session" and hopes "that the idea does not catch on in other states."

National Park Service

Yellowstone National Park To Discipline Workers For Sexual Misconduct.

The [AP](#) (7/28, Brown) reports Yellowstone National Park will discipline as many as 10 of its maintenance workers "after an investigation found female employees were subjected to sexual harassment and other problems." The park and the Department of Interior's Office of Inspector General "launched its investigation last year, after a park employee complained to a local magazine and members of Congress that a pervasive 'men's club' environment had encouraged the exploitation and abuse of female workers." Additional steps to be taken at the park will include "instituting a new policy intended to curb the misuse of alcohol by employees after hours at remote work locations."

Acadia Receives \$192K For Trail Maintenance.

The [AP](#) (7/30) reports that Acadia National Park "says it will use a \$192K competitive federal grant to fix up its trails." Rep. Chellie Pingree "said the grant was matched by more than \$259,000 raised by the group Friends of Acadia." The money will "go toward deferred trail maintenance."

National Park In Ohio To Get Nearly \$1.5M In Federal Funds.

The [AP](#) (7/30) reports that "officials say Cuyahoga Valley National Park in northeast Ohio is receiving nearly \$1.5 million in federal funding for its new visitor center." The federal grant, which was announced last week, is "part of \$50 million being given to 42 parks in 29 states for improvements."

Grand Teton Park To Receive \$2M For Jenny Lake Renovations.

The [AP](#) (7/30) reports that Grand Teton National Park will "receive \$2 million to complete renovations around its feature attraction, Jenny Lake." According to the article, "about \$757,000 of that money is coming from the National Park Service's Centennial Challenge Program," and "the rest, \$1.26 million, will come from the Grand Teton National Park Foundation."

Officials At Mammoth Cave To Make Trail More Accessible.

The [AP](#) (7/29) reports that "officials at Mammoth Cave National Park are working to make a trail more accessible to people with disabilities." The park is "building half-mile, 8-foot wide concrete walkway along the park's Echo River Springs Trail." The upgrades will "include four exhibits with tactile features for people who are visually impaired along with an improved parking lot and bathroom."

Grand Teton Park Plans For Eclipse Crowd.

The [AP](#) (7/29) reports that Grand Teton National Park will "alter some road traffic and parking in order to accommodate an expected influx of people looking to view the total solar eclipse on Aug. 21." According to the article, "fees will be waved at the Granite Canyon, Moose and Moran entrance gates to ease the flow of traffic." The park has "designated five viewing areas — along the road to Kelly, the Gros Ventre Campground, the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center in Moose, Colter Bay and Jackson Lake Lodge."

Dark Sky Designation Puts Joshua Tree National Park In A New Light.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/29, Sahagun) reports that Joshua Tree National Park has "been certified as the 10th International Dark Sky Park in the U.S. National Park system." The announcement was celebrated last Wednesday.

After Wildfire, Gatlinburg Is Getting Back On Its Feet.

The [AP](#) (7/29, Ahillen) reports the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is bouncing back after a Nov. 28 blaze. According to the article, "new growth is well underway through most of the burn areas." Also, "all but four of the 17 trails closed within the park in the fire's aftermath have been reopened."

National Park Service Releases Reconstruction Era Theme Study.

The [Kingstree \(SC\) News](#) (7/28) reports that the National Park Service has “published a theme study looking at nationally significant historic properties of the post-Civil War Reconstruction Era.” The National Historic Landmarks theme study “identifies noteworthy resources related to the Era of Reconstruction that help tell the American story.” Dr. Joy Beasley, National Park Service Acting Associate Director for Cultural Resources, Partnerships and Science, said, “Discovering the lesser known stories of the Reconstruction Era and identifying places and people who impacted our collective American story is the result of two years of dedicated work by historians, field practitioners, and subject matter experts. This theme study continues to build upon our shared narrative as Americans; knowing who we are, where we came from, and understanding the events, activities, and places that shape us citizens today is at the heart of the National Park Service mission.”

Savannah Native Appointed National Park Service Chief Historian.

The [Savannah \(GA\) Morning News](#) (7/28) reports that Turkiya L. Lowe has been appointed the chief historian of the National Park Service. She most “recently served as Southeast Region chief historian and chief for the Southeast Region’s Cultural Resource Research and Science Branch where she oversaw the region-wide History and Cultural Anthropology Programs for 67 (now 70) National Parks within nine states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.”

Eradicating All Mountain Goats At Olympic National Park Isn’t Wise.

In his column for the [Victorville \(CA\) Daily Press](#) (7/29, Matthews), Jim Matthews criticizes the document released by the National Park Service “to control the growing, introduced population on mountain goats in Olympic National Park in Washington.” He argues against the preferred NPS solution “to eradicate the goats from the park, using live capture initially and then lethal methods until they are gone.” Instead, Matthews proposes that “a hunting program on Olympic National Park would solve both the overpopulation problem and make the goats wary of humans, but it will still allow visitors to see a majestic Northwest native in the park.”

Senior Pass Price Hike Not As Unreasonable As It Seems.

In an editorial, the [Roseburg \(OR\) News-Review](#) (7/30) observes that people are rushing to lifetime senior passes for national parks and federal recreational areas before prices go up on Aug. 28. But it argues that “\$80 isn’t really an unreasonable price for a lifetime pass to more than 2,000 sites — all of those run by the National Park Service, plus hundreds run by other federal agencies.” It says that “eighty dollars just feels like a lot the first time you hear about the increase, because the price jump for the lifetime pass is so dramatic.” The paper concludes: “In fact, it’s an increase that’s long past due. Those extra 70 bucks will go to a good cause. Those national parks and other recreation areas we’re all so eager to visit will reap the benefits.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

Amata Introduces Assistant Secretary Of Insular Affairs Nominee.

[Samoa News](#) (7/21) reports that Congresswoman Aumua Amata, “introduced President Trump’s nominee for the position of Assistant Secretary of Insular Areas, Doug Domenech this morning in the Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee hearing room.” Amata told Senate panel, “My home district of American Samoa is an insular area, and I can think of no one I would like to see in the position more than Doug Domenech. His knowledge and experience of the region and the mission of the office is unparalleled, and I know that his leadership will be welcomed as we seek to craft real solutions for the constituents we serve. In fact, I have had the pleasure to see him in action, and know that he will hit the ground running.”

American Samoa Gets \$94,906 From Feds.

[Marianas Variety](#) (7/25) reports that Interior Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula “made available \$94,906 for natural and cultural resource protection in American Samoa.” Pula said, “We are pleased to support Gov. Lolo Moliga and the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources team in their efforts to preserve natural ecosystems vital to American Samoa’s environment and the people’s livelihood. American Samoa’s natural resources are highly vulnerable to the impacts of land-based pollution, illegal near-shore fishing and changes in climate for which this funding is greatly needed.”

Trump Administration Allegedly Threatens Alaskan Senators With Retribution After Health Care Vote.

[Snopes](#) (7/27, Garcia) reports the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee “announced on 27 July 2017 that it would postpone a vote on nominees” to both the Department of the Interior and the Department of Energy “until a date and time to be determined.” The article notes that “three nominees to the Department of the Interior — Brenda Burman for commissioner of reclamation; Susan Combs for assistant secretary for policy, management and budget; and Doug Domenech for assistant secretary for insular affairs — were reportedly slated for consideration at that meeting.”

Top National News

As He Mulls Next Steps, Trump Urges Senate To Tackle ACA Repeal Again.

HHS Secretary Price and other Administration representatives appeared on the Sunday morning political talk shows to discuss their next steps on repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act, but a main focus of the limited coverage of the topic was on President Trump’s continued Twitter cajoling of Republicans on Capitol Hill to act. Also getting attention is the President’s threat to end payments to insurers under the ACA as part of his effort to “let Obamacare implode.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/30, story 4, 2:05, Wright) reported, “The President is making it clear [that] he’s not ready to accept defeat on healthcare reform. ... But the Republicans who voted against the bill have no regrets. Maine’s Susan Collins says she got a round of applause at the airport when she landed in Bangor.” Collins: “It was just amazing. I’ve never had that happen in the 20 years that I’ve been privileged to serve in the Senate.” Wright: “President Trump has repeatedly said the only alternative to a repeal is to let Obamacare fail. ... He repeated that Friday, after the Senate’s vote.” Trump: “You know, I said from the beginning, let Obamacare implode. And then do it. I turned out to be right. Let Obamacare implode.” On the [CBS Weekend News](#) (7/30, story 3, 1:25, Quijano), Errol Barnett reported, “With the implosion of Republican efforts to repeal Obamacare last week, President Trump’s health secretary emphasized some things still need to be done. ... But Democrats want Republicans to come to the negotiating table and find ways to stabilize the existing framework.”

[Reuters](#) (7/30, Cornwell) reports in a brief item that “for the second day running,” the President “tweeted his impatience with Congress’ inability to accomplish its seven-year goal of replacing the Affordable Care Act.” Trump [tweeted](#), “Don’t give up Republican Senators, the World is watching: Repeal & Replace...and go to 51 votes (nuke option), get Cross State Lines & more.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/30, King) reports that Trump “urged GOP senators to try again,” even though Senate Majority Leader McConnell “said last week it was time to move on to other matters.” The [New York Post](#) (7/30, Li) also briefly reports on Trump’s tweet.

[Axios](#) (7/30, Swan, Nather) writes that Trump “is spoiling for war against the health insurance industry. ... [On Twitter](#), the President threatened to end so-called ‘bailouts’ for health insurance companies – referring to payments the government makes to insurers so they can make insurance less costly for low-income people (as they’re required to do).” While “it may sound like good politics for a populist Republican president” to do so, “the potential consequences are alarming. If Trump follows through on his Twitter-threat, insurers would dramatically raise prices – shredding the final layers of duct tape holding together the ACA insurance markets.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/30, Lim) writes that Trump’s “repeated calls for Senate Republicans to ram through healthcare reform using the nuclear option conflict with his earlier aversion to the controversial parliamentary procedure.” In November 2013, Trump [tweeted](#), “Thomas Jefferson wrote the Senate filibuster rule. Harry Reid & Obama killed it yesterday. Rule was in effect for over 200 years.”

John Dickerson said on the [CBS Weekend News](#) (7/30, story 6, 0:45, Quijano), “If the President keeps attacking Republicans, that didn’t work in getting healthcare passed, and so it’s difficult to see how more abuse from the President will help with the Republicans, in part because of his approval ratings, which are quite low.”

The [AP](#) (7/30, Yen) reports, “The White House stepped up demands Sunday for revived congressional efforts on health care and suggested senators cancel their entire summer break, if needed, to pass legislation after failed votes last week.” Aides said the President “is prepared in the coming days to end required payments to insurers under the Affordable Care Act as part of a bid to let ‘Obamacare implode’ and force the Senate to act.” The [Washington Times](#) (7/30, Howell) says that “the Trump administration is on the warpath.”

[USA Today](#) (7/30, Jackson) reports that Price “said during Sunday show interviews that the administration would look at current regulations they believe drive up health care costs, including the mandate that requires people to buy health insurance.” [Bloomberg News](#) (7/29, Mohsin) reports that Price said that “‘no decision’s been made’ on whether to continue key Affordable Care Act subsidies to health-insurance companies, but that the administration’s job is ‘to follow the law of the land.’” The [Washington Times](#) (7/30, Sherfinski) reports that on ABC’s This Week, Price said, “All things are on the table to try to help patients. What we’re trying to do is to make it so we have a healthcare system that responds to the needs of the American people.”

Price said on [NBC’s Meet The Press](#) (7/30, Todd), “I think what the President has explained and punctuates is his seriousness about this issue and his passion for turning the healthcare system in a direction that puts patients first, not government and not insurance companies.” On [ABC’s This Week](#) (7/30, Raddatz), Price said he believed the President’s sentiment of letting Obamacare implode and then attempting to negotiate underlies “the seriousness that he understands the American people dealing with the current situation.”

The [Washington Times](#) (7/30, Sherfinski) reports that Kellyanne Conway said Sunday that the President “will decide this week whether to cut off cost-sharing payments that go to insurance companies” under the ACA. [Politico](#) (7/30, Klimas) reports that Conway said on Fox News Sunday, “He’s going to make that decision this week, and that’s a decision that only he can make.” Conway also said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (7/30, Wallace), “The President will not accept those who said it’s ‘time to move on.’ He wants to help the millions of Americans who have suffered with no coverage.”

[Politico](#) (7/30, Klimas) reports that OMB Director Mulvaney said on CNN’s State Of The Union that “the Senate should not vote on anything else until it’s voted again on repealing Obamacare.” Mulvaney said, “In the White House’s view, they can’t move on in the Senate. You can’t promise folks you’re going to do something for seven years, and then not do it.”

[The Hill](#) (7/30, Henry) reports that the President has “unleashed a new group of advocates in his failed push to convince the Senate to repeal ObamaCare: his Cabinet.” Both Energy Secretary Perry and Interior Secretary Zinke were “used by Trump in the battle, highlighting the president’s willingness to exert pressure in new ways on lawmakers opposing his agenda.” Perry wrote an op-ed in the Cleveland Plain Dealer that did not mention his agency, which “raised eyebrows among good government groups and Democrats.” And “Zinke’s threats in a phone call to Alaska Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, in particular, led to rancor.”

Collins Criticizes Proposed Cuts In Payments To Insurers. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/30, Burton) reports that Collins said Sunday that President Trump’s threatened cuts in payments to insurers would be “detrimental” to the poor. She said on CNN’s State Of The Union, “They’re paid to the insurance companies, but the people that they benefit are people who make between 100% and 250% of the poverty rate. So we’re talking about low-income Americans who would be devastated if those payments were cut off.” [Politico](#) (7/30, Klimas) reports that Collins said that she is “‘troubled’ by the uncertainty those statements are creating, including destabilization of insurance markets.”

Collins said on [NBC’s Meet The Press](#) (7/30, Todd), “I don’t accept the premise that we should not proceed to reform the law.” She added that what needs to be done is “to go through the normal process, identify the problems, have hearings, hear from experts, hear from all the stakeholders, and produce a series of bills to fix the real flaws in the Affordable Care Act.”

Ducey Gave McCain Okay To Vote For Senate Bill. The [Arizona Republic](#) (7/30, Nowicki, Sanchez) reports that during the debate over Senate repeal measures, Sen. John McCain “repeatedly invoked the name of Gov. Doug Ducey, saying he wanted to ensure any new law didn’t punish their home state of Arizona. ... But despite eventually getting the go-ahead from Ducey,” McCain voted against the final measure. A Republican aide “familiar with conversations between the governor and the senators told The Arizona Republic the governor ‘was OK with this moving forward if it meant it was going to be a vehicle for a better bill.’”

[Politico Magazine](#) (7/30, Shenon) looks back at McCain’s near-defection from the GOP in 2001 under encouragement from then-Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, writing that Daschle and other Democrats are now “questioning whether the party should mount a new campaign to lure McCain and other wavering Republican senators away from the GOP.”

Centrist “Problem Solvers Caucus” Working On ACA Reform In House. [Politico](#) (7/30, Caygle, Demko) reports, “A coalition of roughly 40 House Republicans and Democrats plan to unveil a slate of Obamacare fixes Monday they hope will gain traction after the Senate’s effort to repeal the law imploded.” The “Problem Solvers caucus,” headed by Reps. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ) and Tom Reed (R-NY), “is fronting the effort to stabilize the ACA markets ... Their plan focuses on

immediately stabilizing the insurance market and then pushing for Obamacare changes that have received bipartisan backing in the past."

Progressives See Lessons For Future Single-Payer Push In GOP Defeat. The [Washington Post](#) (7/30, Weigel) reports that "progressive Democrats who watched Republicans fail to unwind the Affordable Care Act are thinking harder about passing major expansions" of healthcare coverage. For many "younger activists and legislators, the push to undo the ACA with just 51 Senate votes is less a cautionary tale than a model of how to bring about universal coverage." While Democratic leaders have "not embraced" the effort, for many of them, the GOP's "near miss on repeal demonstrated boldness from which a future left-wing majority could learn." Referring to a single-payer plan, freshman Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA) said, "When we do have a Democratic president, and when we do have a Democratic majority, I'd support getting this through with 51 votes in the Senate."

Reuters Poll: Most Want ACA Kept Or Modified; Majority Says Congress Should Move On. [Reuters](#) (7/29, Kahn, Erman) reports that a new Reuters/Ipsos poll finds that 64 percent of Americans want "to either keep or modify the Affordable Care Act," up from 54 percent in January, "and a majority of Americans want Congress to turn its attention to other priorities."

Dionne: Nuns Spoke Out Against Senate Measures. In his [Washington Post](#) (7/30) column, E.J. Dionne spotlights Roman Catholic nuns who organized in opposition to the GOP legislation, calling "the Senate GOP's core proposal 'the most harmful legislation for American families in our lifetimes.' ... In speaking out as they did, the socially minded nuns – who do the work of justice and mercy every day in hospitals, clinics, homeless shelters and schools – made clear that depriving millions of Americans of health coverage truly is a moral outrage."

Trump Replaces Priebus With Kelly As Chief Of Staff.

President Trump announced Friday that he has replaced White House Chief of Staff Priebus with Homeland Security Secretary Kelly. Media coverage, which included 12 minutes on the network newscasts, was also extensive in print and online. The tone of the reporting on the staffing shakeup was mixed, with most analyses suggesting the change shows the strength of new White House communications Anthony Scaramucci in an Administration marred by turmoil, though conservative news outlets praised Trump for firing Priebus for his connections to the Republican Party establishment.

In the lead [CBS Evening News](#) (7/28, lead story, 2:55, Mason) segment, Major Garrett reported that the President "characteristically...broke the news on Twitter." In a front-page article, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/28, A1, Ballhaus, Nicholas) reports Trump in [two tweets](#) announced, "I am pleased to inform you that I have just named General/Secretary John F Kelly as White House Chief of Staff. He is a Great American...and a Great Leader. John has also done a spectacular job at Homeland Security. He has been a true star of my Administration." The President later [added](#), "I would like to thank Reince Priebus for his service and dedication to his country. We accomplished a lot together and I am proud of him!" The [AP](#) (7/28, Lemire, Colvin) reports Trump also told reporters, "Reince is a good man. John Kelly will do a fantastic job."

The [New York Times](#) (7/28, A1, Baker, Haberman) in a front-page article reports "Priebus, the White House chief of staff who failed to impose order on a chaos-wracked West Wing, was pushed out on Friday after a stormy six-month tenure." The Times describes "Priebus's ouster [as] the latest convulsion in a White House that has been whipsawed by feuds and political setbacks in recent days" and says the President "became convinced that Mr. Priebus was not strong enough to run the White House operation and that he needed a general to take charge." In contrast, according to the Times, "Mr. Kelly, who has demonstrated strong leadership at the Department of Homeland Security, had become a favorite of Mr. Trump's." The Times adds that while "always seeming to be on the edge of ouster, Mr. Priebus saw his fate finally sealed a week ago when Mr. Trump hired Mr. Scaramucci, an edgy Wall Street financier, over the chief of staff's objections."

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/28, Olorunnipa, Talev) reports "the ouster of Reince Priebus, who said he delivered his resignation on Thursday, caps a week of intensified infighting at the White House in which he was embroiled in a public feud with...Scaramucci. It also comes as the administration suffered two stinging defeats in Congress."

According to [Reuters](#) (7/28, Holland, Rampton), "Priebus' 189-day tenure was the shortest in modern history for a White House chief of staff." Reuters reports that Priebus "had hoped to stay on at least a year but struggled to manage his unpredictable boss and was unable to get a handle on conflicting factions in the White House who have frequently squabbled." In the lead [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/28, lead story, 2:30, Holt) segment, Kristen Welker reported "a source

close to Priebus says he privately offered his resignation" on Thursday after Scaramucci "launched a profanity-laced tirade against him in the New Yorker," but "sources inside the White House say the President has been frustrated with Priebus' perceived lack of leadership for months and having put him in charge of healthcare, last night's defeat was the final straw."

[The Hill](#) (7/28, Manchester) says that Priebus' dismissal has also "drawn new attention to a past tweet criticizing former President Barack Obama for going through a number of chiefs of staff." The Hill reports that in 2012, Trump [said](#), "3 Chief of Staffs in less than 3 years of being President: Part of the reason why @BarackObama can't manage to pass his agenda." The [CBS Evening News](#) (7/28, story 2, 1:35, Mason) stated that "if you're keeping score, turmoil in the Trump Administration over the past six months has seen the ouster of national security adviser Michael Flynn, FBI Director James Comey, communications director Mike Dubke, press secretary Sean Spicer, and now...Priebus."

Nonetheless, the [Washington Post](#) (7/28, Rucker, Phillip, Costa, Parker) suggests the "major shake-up [is] designed to bring order and military precision to a West Wing beset for six straight months by chaos, infighting and few tangible accomplishments." The Post says "Kelly's hiring is expected to usher in potentially sweeping structural changes to the turbulent operation and perhaps the departures of some remaining Priebus allies. Kelly intends to bring some semblance of traditional discipline to the West Wing, where warring advisers have been able to circumvent the chief of staff and report directly to the president and sidestep the policy process, according to people with knowledge of his plans." An informal White House adviser said, "I think any observer...could...realize the White House is failing. ... And when the White House is failing, you can't replace the president."

In the lead [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/28, lead story, 3:40, Muir) segment, chief White House correspondent Jonathan Karl also predicted "a purge of RNC veterans, Republican National Committee veterans, in the White House. The people that Priebus had brought in will be leaving, leaving very soon. Many of them today." [The Hill](#) (7/28, Fabian, Kamisar) says "speculation is [also] swirling about the future of [White House Chief Strategist] Bannon and other top aides as Trump shakes up his team."

In an analysis, the [Washington Post](#) (7/28, Phillips) contends that the President "with every staff move...seems to be moving ever further away from the Republican establishment and building a much more insular team that fits his narrow worldview. Nowhere is this more evident than in the Priebus-Kelly switch." The Post adds "it's not much of an overstatement to say that Priebus, along with Vice President Pence, was Trump's connection to Capitol Hill insiders" and suggests Trump's dismissal of Priebus and Spicer indicates he is done offering "olive branches" to the GOP establishment.

Meanwhile, [Politico](#) (7/28, Palmeri, Dawsey, Isenstadt) reports White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders "declined to directly answer whether Priebus or Trump made the decision for Priebus to go." She told reporters, "We all serve at the pleasure of the president. The conversations about this started with the president and Reince about two weeks ago." The [Washington Times](#) (7/28, Boyer) reports Sanders also praised Kelly, saying, "He has helped seal the border and reduced illegal immigration by 70 percent." She added, "He is respected by everyone, especially the people at the Department of Homeland Security. The entire administration loves him and no one is comparable."

[Politico](#) (7/28, Lima) reports Kelly in a statement said he was "honored to be asked to serve as the Chief of Staff." Kelly said, "I have been fortunate to have served my country for more than 45 years – first as a Marine and then as the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security." He added, "To the tremendous men and women of DHS, I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Secretary. When I left the Marines, I never thought I would find as committed, as professional, as patriotic a group of individuals. I was wrong. You accomplish great things everyday defending our nation and I know your exceptional work will continue."

[The Hill](#) (7/28, Byrnes) reports Priebus issued a statement Friday saying that his tenure as chief of staff "has been one of the greatest honors of my life to serve this President and our country. I want to thank the President for giving me this very special opportunity." He added, "I will continue to serve as a strong supporter of the President's agenda and policies. I can't think of a better person than General John Kelly to succeed me and I wish him God's blessings and great success."

In an interview with Wolf Blitzer of [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/28, 7:05 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), Priebus said he would not comment on what Blitzer described as Trump's "bitter accusations against you, specifically the leaking." Priebus called the allegation "ridiculous," but confirmed that he believes "there is leaking inside the White House." He said, "I think that Gen. Kelly should see

if he could get to the bottom of it and figure it out. But obviously unnamed sources are something that's been problematic and I wish him well, and I'm going to try to help him out. But obviously that's going to be on his plate and I hope he can get to the bottom of it." Priebus declined to say whether he believes the FBI should get involved in the investigation. In the [CNN](#) (7/28, Diaz) interview, Priebus also asserted, "Look, the President wanted to go a different direction. I support him in that." He continued, "General Kelly is a brilliant pick. ... We'll be working on a transition. It's not like it's a situation where there's a lot of ill feelings. I think this is good for the President."

[Breitbart](#) (7/28, Spiering) lauds the decision. Breitbart reports "Kelly earned the respect of the president as the head of his Department of Homeland Security (DHS), as the pair shared a deep respect for the rule of law and order" and says "Trump's decision signals that he wants more gravitas and discipline in his chaotic White House, relying on a retired Marine General to take the place of Priebus – who sometimes struggled to earn the respect of the president's staff." [Politico](#) (7/28, Bender, Hesson, Beasley) reports "Kelly's aides say" that he and the President have become "exceptionally close during the months he has served as the public face and chief defender of Trump's immigration policies."

The [New York Times](#) (7/28, Nixon, Shear) profiles "the square-jawed Mr. Kelly, the first general to hold the chief of staff position since Alexander M. Haig during the Nixon administration," and says he "will be an imposing and strait-laced figure in a West Wing filled with constantly warring aides and advisers, most of whom came to Washington with virtually no experience in federal government before Mr. Trump's victory last year." According to the Times, "The selection of Mr. Kelly was quickly praised by both Republicans and Democrats, who expressed hope that he would bring a swift end to the distracting feuds among the president's staff."

However, in a [Daily Caller](#) (7/28, Pfeiffer) article titled on the homepage "Trump Rinses Hands Of Priebus," the piece acknowledges that "Kelly, who has little political experience, will be taking on a job historically suited for Washington insiders." In the second [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/28, story 2, 1:20, Holt) segment, political director and moderator of "Meet the Press" Chuck Todd asserted that "of everybody in the President's orbit... Kelly was probably the best candidate he could have picked to be chief of staff, but he can only be successful if, number one, the President gives him some authority, at least on staffing, and number two, if there is an acknowledgment of where things get started and where they end." Todd said, "I imagine that somebody who has worn the uniform is going to be harder to end-run than" Priebus, but "ultimately it's about – what authority does this President give his new chief of staff?"

Pence Congratulates Kelly On Appointment, Thanks Priebus For Service. [The Hill](#) (7/28, Eberhardt) reports Vice President Pence on Friday "congratulated incoming White House Chief of Staff John Kelly on his appointment, moments after President Trump announced via Twitter that he would replace Reince Priebus with Kelly." Pence [tweeted](#), "Congratulations to my friend General/Secretary John Kelly for being named @WhiteHouse Chief of Staff. I know you will do a great job! #MAGA." Pence [added](#), "Well said, Mr. President. Grateful to Reince for his friendship and service to America. He's been a huge part of our success!"

Conway: For White House Staff To Succeed, Recognize That Trump Is "Your Superior." [The Hill](#) (7/28, Manchester) reports senior counselor Kellyanne Conway in Fox News interview on Friday "offered advice to her colleagues on Friday following a major staff shakeup: Don't treat President Trump like a peer." Conway "recalled a meeting with Trump in August when she was tapped as his campaign manager and told him she'd 'never' address him by his first name and said 'I don't consider myself your peer.'" According to Conway, "The reason I said that is because I do think that it is important to set up that level of deference and humility when you've got someone who's your boss, now the president of the United States, now the chief of staff, a general, a secretary, who is clearly your senior, your superior."

Duke To Become Acting DHS Secretary After Kelly Sworn In As Chief Of Staff On Monday. [Fox News](#) (7/28) reports Elaine Duke, "sworn in as the deputy secretary of Homeland Security on April 10 after she was confirmed by the Senate," will take over as acting Homeland Security Secretary on Monday after Kelly is sworn in as chief of staff. Fox News states that "in her position as deputy secretary, Duke led 'all efforts related to the strategic execution of DHS's vital missions,' according to her DHS biography."

Mulvaney Denies Reports Of White House "Chaos." [The Hill](#) (7/28, Concha) reports White House Budget Director Mulvaney in a Fox Business interview on Friday "accused the media of selling 'palace intrigue' stories on the administration while ignoring good news for the economy that President Trump is achieving." Mulvaney said, "I will push back a little bit on that whole chaos thing." He added the Administration on Thursday shared "a unified position on basic

principles on taxes. That is not chaotic. We just rolled out of the Office of Management and Budget late last week over 860 regulatory actions that we have delayed or stopped in the first six months of this administration. That is not chaos." Mulvaney concluded, "The chaos will play out in the media, it always does. Palace intrigue sells better than raw numbers, but the raw numbers are looking better and better, and that is because the administration is doing its work."

GOP Lawmakers Complain About Infighting In White House. [Politico](#) (7/28, Bade, Bresnahan) reports that "as House Republicans vented about the Senate's failure to repeal Obamacare at a private meeting Friday morning," Rep. Dave Trott "shocked the room when he said the president had been unhelpful on health care, according to sources at the meeting." Politico adds that Trott "worried aloud that constant White House infighting was distracting from the Republican agenda – and he said he felt the president could have done more to get the bill across the finish line." Politico states that Trott had been "simply vocalizing what's on many members' minds already, even if few say so publicly for fear of retribution. Hill Republicans are increasingly worried that Trump's penchant for drama – and the constant bickering in the West Wing – is going to crush their agenda."

US Lawmakers, Former Officials Discuss Foreign Policy Impact Of Cabinet Reshuffling. Lucas Tomlinson of [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/28, 6:23 p.m. EDT, Baier) reported, "With the White House weighing a decision to deploy nearly 4,000 American troops to Afghanistan very soon, expect newly-installed White House Chief of Staff John Kelly to fall back on his more than four decades in uniform leading the Marines." Tomlinson continued, "Before becoming President Trump's Director of Homeland Security, Gen. Kelly served three tours in Iraq. In 2008, he led the entire Marine force in volatile western Anbar Province. ... In 2010, he became the highest military ranking officer to lose a son or daughter in combat."

In a telephone interview with former Defense Secretary Panetta, Bret Baier of [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/28, 6:47 p.m. EDT, Baier), asked whether "it is comforting in some sense to have someone with Gen. Kelly's experience at the President's right side" in light of the North Korean threat and situations in Syria and Venezuela. Panetta responded, "I don't think there's any question that I feel a hell of a lot better about having John Kelly in the room and in the Oval Office when it comes to dealing with the crises the President has to confront abroad." Panetta added that Kelly "was my military aid, the person in touch with the military establishment at DOD, but he also dealt with the congressional inquiries that came in from both Republicans and Democrats, so he's got great experience not only in Washington but also in understanding what our military needs to do in order to remain the strongest on the face of the earth."

On [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/28, 6:12 p.m. EDT, Baier), former White House Deputy Chief of Staff Karl Rove said Trump's decision to replace Priebus with Kelly "was a deliberate decision" that "will be reflected in the policymaking process of government. Clearly Gen. Kelly, from a military background and his service at the Department of Homeland Security, is focused on methodical process." Rove added, "The very first week that President Trump was in office, he issued the executive order on immigration and on visas for people from terrorist states," and that "there is pretty good evidence that Gen. Kelly raised concerns about this, on a Wednesday or Thursday, saying basically back to his people at the White House, 'I've got concerns, this looks like it applies to current green card holders, I am worried about the lack of clarity on how it affects Iraqi civilians who helped American military.'" Rove said every one of Kelly's "objections turned out to be a major problem with the first iteration of the President's executive order on these visas from terror states." [Fox News' Special Report](#)'s (7/28, 6:09 p.m. EDT, Baier) Catherine Herridge reported Kelly nonetheless "backed the President's controversial executive order to block entry from six predominately-Muslim countries and suspend the refugee program. While courts will have the final say, the policy is being enforced for the time being."

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/28, 6:32 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), Sen. Richard Blumenthal said Kelly "has certainly been loyal to the President, but unfortunately, there has been not only the travel ban, the Muslim travel ban that has been struck down by some of the courts, upheld in part by the United States Supreme Court, that created a great deal of chaos and confusion. But also even just as alarmingly, the in effect draconian, sweeping changes in policy that have meant arrests and deportations of people who have been here, working hard for decades, heads of families, many of them with children who are US citizens, spouses who are US citizens." Blumenthal said these immigrants are "often given day's notice before they were going to be deported" to "places that are extraordinarily dangerous, even deadly for them if they are returned to Central America. And I would hope that maybe as Chief of Staff, Gen. Kelly would persuade the President that these immigration policies are deeply flawed and, in fact, betray American values."

When asked on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/28, 6:21 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) whether he agreed with Kelly's support of Trump's proposed border wall and hard-line stance on immigration, Rep. Mark Sanford responded, "For the most part, yes. Again, I think we have to secure our southern border. I've been clear about that for a long time."

Rebecca Berg of Real Clear Politics told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/28, 6:25 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) that President Trump appears to have staffed his Administration with generals like Defense Secretary Mattis or "very, very wealthy people" from the business community, like "Wilbur Ross at Commerce, Rex Tillerson, former CEO of Exxon/Mobil, his Secretary of State." Trump's selection of Kelly as Chief of Staff is, Berg said, "another example of Trump needing someone" who "he views as a peer" – an advantage that "Priebus didn't have in his pocket."

WSJournal, Columnists Weigh In On Staffing Shakeup. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/28) editorializes that Priebus is not responsible for the turmoil in the White House, the President is. The Journal adds Kelly will likely face the same obstacles as Priebus does if Trump refuses to become more disciplined in his decision-making process and his public statements.

The [New York Times](#) (7/28) editorializes that Trump "presumably" wants Kelly "to bring order to an increasingly dysfunctional White House," but "Kelly's first and biggest challenge is to bring discipline to the president, since the chaos starts with him." The Times concludes "It may be that nobody is equal to the task of persuading Mr. Trump to stop blindsiding his staff and Americans with tweeted attacks and impromptu announcements; nobody can stop him from dragging the needle across his own daily agenda; nobody can get him to stop fooling around and govern. It is now Mr. Kelly's job to give it a try."

In her [Washington Post](#) (7/28, Marcus) column, Ruth Marcus contends "the Trump White House is imploding" and acknowledges "the temptation, of course, is to begin with" Scaramucci's recent "profane rant against soon-to-be-former White House chief of staff Reince Priebus and chief strategist Stephen K. Bannon. But the more powerful, more ominous evidence of implosion and its consequences is found in the collapse of congressional efforts to repeal/replace/do something, anything, with the Republican Party's chief nemesis over the past seven years: the Affordable Care Act." She also predicts Kelly is unlikely to "fare much better" than Priebus because "daily, the president's boundless anger seems to find a new target: He is variously unhappy with his lawyer/his strategist/his press secretary. There is always someone else for Trump to blame, never himself."

In her [Washington Post](#) (7/28, Parker) column, Kathleen Parker asserts "Trump had his worst day since he was elected president – we'll just call it Friday – and his worst week since the last one. Things can only get worse and worse, as the Bard would permit me to say." According to Parker, "A few Trump loyalists may wait for the last lifeboat, but it's only a matter of time before this administration capsizes, titanically." She adds the President's "chaotic White House operation is a constant reminder that no one's in charge. The cumulative effect of all of these affronts to normalcy, decorum and democracy is to reveal the profile of a deadly iceberg off the ship of state's bow."

Meanwhile, in her [Washington Post](#) (7/28, Sullivan) column, Margaret Sullivan says that "in every job, there are firing offenses," and for Scaramucci, "here's one that ought to qualify: not having a clue about how 'off the record' works." She cites his language attacking Priebus as "way beyond colorful, way behind 'inappropriate' and all the way into territory that – even in this bizarre moment in history – had the power to shock" and argues that "in any other world, his gig should be over, right now, before it's begun. But in Trump World, [his defense] makes perfect sense: Blame the media and move on."

However, in a [Fox News](#) (7/28, Gingrich) op-ed, former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich praises Kelly and contends that if Trump and Kelly, "two powerful, experienced leaders [can] forge a unique working relationship," then "I predict the White House will become more orderly and disciplined – with clear lines of authority, serious planning and strong teamwork." He concludes that "If these two powerful leaders truly become a team, the Trump presidency will become one of the most effective in our history."

Trump Calls On Congress To Give More Leeway To Police In Speech Condemning MS-13 Gang Violence.

President Trump on Friday spoke to law enforcement officers at Suffolk County Community College in Long Island to promote his Administration's efforts to eradicate the MS-13 gang and to call upon Congress to give police additional leeway to use force when arresting suspects. While media coverage was focused on the President's replacement of White House Chief of Staff Priebus with Homeland Security Secretary Kelly and the CBS Evening News was the sole network

newscast to broadcast, reporting in print and online outlined some of the Trump's most controversial remarks at the event and examined his strained relationship with Attorney General Sessions.

[Reuters](#) (7/28, Rampton, Rosenberg) reports the President "painted a dark and brutal portrait of American communities he said had been ravaged by gang violence as he pressed Congress to help him stop illegal immigration and boost deportations." The [New York Times](#) (7/28, Haberman, Robbins) reports Trump "wound up delivering a de facto campaign rally with a spray of Long Island police officers applauding behind him." He also "as expected...called on Congress to fund hiring 10,000 more Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to crack down on undocumented immigrants in the United States, including those he said pose a criminal threat, and added that the initial spending for his proposed wall on the Mexico border was just approved by the House."

The [Washington Post](#) (7/28, Nakamura) reports Trump "warned of an uptick in violence from the transnational gang MS-13 that he said exploited weak political leadership and immigration enforcement to terrorize communities as the White House launched a renewed push to Congress to beef up funding for border security measures." Thomas Homan, acting director of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, "said his agency has arrested 3,311 gang members this year, including 100 in New York, a majority of whom were affiliated with MS-13." According to Homan, "Targeting, arresting, and removing members of violent street gangs, such as MS-13, sends a clear message to criminal enterprises around the world: You are not welcome in the United States, and you'll find no harbor here." Tucker Carlson of [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (7/28, 8:26 p.m. EDT, Carlson) reported that "the Department of Justice estimates there are more than 10,000 members [of MS-13] in the United States."

In an article headlined "Donald Trump Declares War On Gangs, Defends Law Enforcement," [Breitbart](#) (7/28, Spiering) reports he "also vowed to defend law enforcement and stop criminal illegal aliens from crossing the border." The President vowed, "From now on, we're going to enforce our laws, protect our borders, and support our police like our police have never been supported before." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/28, Ballhaus, Reinhard) reports he said, "You know when you see these thugs being thrown into the back of a paddy wagon, you just see them thrown in rough. ... I said, please don't be too nice." To applause of the audience, the President added, "When you guys put somebody into the car and you're protecting their head – you know... like don't hit their head, and they've just killed somebody – I said, you can take the hand away, OK?"

Meanwhile, the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/28, story 6, 1:50, Mason) broadcast Trump stating that his Administration's policy is "to dismantle, decimate, and eradicate MS-13. We will find you. We will arrest you. We will jail you. And we will deport you." Correspondent Don Dahler said that Trump chose the venue "because near the Suffolk County community college where he spoke, 17 gang-related murders happened over the past 18 months."

Police Cheer Trump For Critique Of "Pathetic Mayor," Prompting De Blasio To Push Back. [The Hill](#) (7/28, Greenwood) reports President Trump on Friday "drew a round of applause from law enforcement officials...after he took a swipe at mayors who don't let police 'do their job.'" He said, "I've met police that are great police that aren't allowed to do their job because they have a pathetic mayor or a mayor that doesn't know what's going on." The President added, "Were you applauding for someone in particular?"

The [New York Times](#) (7/28, Goodman) says Trump's remarks "appeared to take a swipe at the elected leader of his hometown, Mayor Bill de Blasio," when he "spoke of 'a pathetic mayor' who had not let the police 'do their job.'" According to The Times, "The White House did not respond to a request for clarification – and Mr. Trump mentioned other cities, including Chicago, in the speech – but he has criticized Mr. de Blasio and his policing policies in the past." The Times says de Blasio's mayoral campaign issued "a response soon after the speech that doubled as a fund-raising pitch for donations of as little as \$3."

Chicago Marks 400 Homicides This Year As Trump Promotes Biker Cop. According to a [Chicago Tribune](#) (7/28) tally, Chicago has exceeded 400 homicides this year and the city "is on pace to have a deadlier year than 2016, when gun violence reached levels not seen in 20 years. ... While fewer people have been shot this year, more of them are dying from their wounds." The Tribune adds "the percentage of fatal shootings is running about 1.3 percent higher than last year."

The [Chicago Tribune](#) (7/28, Janssen) reports Trump on Friday "repeated his claim that he last year identified a mystery Chicago cop" to Mayor Rahm Emanuel who had been "part of a volunteer brigade of motorcyclists who escorted his campaign in Chicago last year" and had

insisted he "could solve the city's crime problem in 'a couple of days,'" but the President asserted that "he never heard back from Emanuel – a claim disputed by the mayor's spokesman Adam Collins, who said Emanuel never received the name." Chicago Police spokesman Frank Giancamilli said CPD has also been "unable to identify any Department member who had a conversation with then-candidate Trump."

New York Police Departments, Immigration Advocates Criticize Trump Speech. [The Hill](#) (7/28, Manchester) "Briefing Room" blog reports the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) on Friday issued a response to Trump's address, "saying officers are trained to treat all people with 'dignity and respect.'" In a statement, the IACP said, "Managing use of force is one of the most difficult challenges faced by law enforcement agencies. The ability of law enforcement officers to enforce the law, protect the public, and guard their own safety, the safety of innocent bystanders, and even those suspected or apprehended for criminal activity is very challenging." The IACP added, "For these reasons, law enforcement agencies develop policies and procedures, as well as conduct extensive training, to ensure that any use of force is carefully applied and objectively reasonable considering the situation confronted by the officers."

[The Hill](#) (7/28, Manchester) "Briefing Room" blog reports the Suffolk County Police Department responded Friday to Trump's comments advocating for tougher treatment of suspects, [tweeting](#), "The SCPD has strict rules & procedures relating to the handling of prisoners. Violations of those rules are treated extremely seriously." The SCPD [added](#), "As a department, we do not and will not tolerate roughing up of prisoners.."

[The Hill](#) (7/28, Delk) reports New York Police Commissioner James O'Neill earlier Friday said the department would not be represented at Trump's speech because "We have a lot to do, a lot of work to do in New York City." However, The Hill acknowledges "The commissioner's jurisdiction of New York does not extend to all of Long Island, where the meeting on gang violence is taking place. It is not clear if the NYPD would have been expected to attend the event."

Daniel Altschuler of Make The Road New York told [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (7/28, 8:32 p.m. EDT, Carlson) that while Trump calls MS-13 the biggest problem for immigrant families, Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the real "threat to immigrant communities," because ICE "is a rogue and out-of-control agency. Ten immigrants have died in detention because of actions by Immigration Enforcement." He added, "This is a rogue agency that the President is seeking to empower. What we are saying is that we refuse and refute the criminalization of immigrant communities."

Sessions Hails Law Enforcement For Often "Thankless" Work, Hopes For Improved Relationship With Trump. Attorney General Sessions, speaking in El Salvador to address a graduation ceremony for the International Law Enforcement Academy, told the [AP](#) (7/28, Gurman) that he is "eager to use his aggressive work against the MS-13 street gang to help mend his tattered relationship with" the President following "a week of sour performance reviews from his boss." Sessions said MS-13 is "one of many issues that we share deep commitments about." Sessions added that the gang "is in a very expansive mode and we need to slam the door on that. We need to stop them in their tracks and focus on this dangerous group."

[Politico](#) (7/28, Nelson) reports the "embattled" Sessions also "said Friday that law enforcement work is 'often thankless,' a remark that comes as he has been under withering criticism from his onetime ally, President Donald Trump." Sessions told graduates, "While there are good days and bad days in any job, one thing has been clear to me, it is a privilege to serve one's country in law enforcement, to wake up each morning and fight the fight for the rule of law. ... It is hard work and often thankless, but the right to be safe in your community is the right on which all the others are based."

Meanwhile, [CNN's Situation Room](#)'s (7/28, 6:55 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Wolf Blitzer said that under Trump's presidency, "there have been some positive developments clearly" on MS-13. White House reporter Kaitlan Collins acknowledged, "There's been a few," such as declining border crossings. Yet, Trump has "time and time again" distracted "from those things that are working for him." Collins added that in Long Island, Trump "was talking about the election," rather than "focusing on what...Sessions is doing in El Salvador right now," talking "with law enforcement officials about combating the MS-13 gang."

Asked if he believes Attorney General Sessions will retain his post, Trump's former campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, told Bret Baier of [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/28, 6:21 p.m. EDT, Baier), "That's a difficult question," in part because "it was a mistake for Jeff to recuse himself" from the Russia investigation. Lewandowski added that as long as Trump is "happy with the work that he's doing, particularly on the MS-13 crisis," Sessions will likely remain.

Police Veterans Warn Phoenix Immigration Policies Could Embolden Cartels. Writing in [Breitbart](#) (7/28, Arce), retired Phoenix police detective Robert Arce says that as the city's officials and police department prepare "to implement a soft approach to dealing with illegal immigrants during traffic stops and investigations, veteran law enforcement officials worry that the measure could provide a safe haven for Mexican drug cartels and lead to yet another explosion in gory crime scenes." According to Arce, "the concern among veteran detectives is that this policy could have the same effect that a previous policy did that led to Phoenix seeing a record setting number of murder[s] linked primarily to illegal immigrants and Mexican drug cartels."

Border Patrol Agents Seize Almost \$8 Million In Drugs Over Two Days Along Texas Border. [Breitbart](#) (7/28, Price) reports Customs and Border Protection officers and Border Patrol agents this week "teamed up to seize almost \$8 million in drugs at and near the Texas-Mexico Border in Laredo." Breitbart states that "CBP officers discovered a large amount of cocaine, crystal methamphetamine and heroin in two separate busts on July 22," which were estimated to have more than \$1,183,000 in street value.

Address Of Suffolk County Community College Is 1001 Crooked Hill Road. [The Hill](#) (7/28, Smilowitz) reports Trump's speech to law enforcement officers was held at Suffolk County Community College, which is located at 1001 Crooked Hill Rd. and "is just blocks away from a major highway called the Long Island Expressway – often referred to by locals as the L.I.E." The Hill highlights that "Trump labeled Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton 'Crooked Hillary' during last year's campaign, sometimes shortening it on Twitter to 'Crooked Hill' or just 'Crooked H.'"

Mnuchin Pressures Congress To Raise Debt Ceiling Before Deadline.

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/28, Woods) reports Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin in a letter Friday "stepped up pressure on lawmakers to raise the government's borrowing limit, even as House members left town for their five-week recess." Mnuchin said "it is critical that Congress act" to raise the debt ceiling before Sept. 29, though "the Congressional Budget Office estimates the Treasury can fund the government through early- to mid-October under the current borrowing limit." According to Bloomberg, "Treasury has been relying on special accounting maneuvers since March to stay under the nearly \$20 trillion debt cap."

Meadows Forecasts Clean Debt Ceiling Hike In October. [The Hill](#) (7/28, Elis) reports House Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows said Friday that he "believes Congress will adopt a continuing resolution (CR) instead of passing spending bills for 2018 by October and that a clean debt ceiling hike will pass with Democratic support, contrary to the wishes of conservative Republicans." Meadows said, "September is going to be a very difficult month. I mean, obviously all of this is coming into play right away, all the fiscal issues and deadlines are going to make it extremely difficult to get everything done in a piece-by-piece basis." He added, "We're almost anticipating a bigger bill with a whole bunch of things put together that would maybe bring a whole lot of Democrats on board and pass with less than a majority of the majority."

White House Kicks Off Tax Reform Push, Mulvaney Says That Goal Is To Cut As Much As Possible.

"The White House and congressional Republicans – backed by business and conservative groups – are mustering forces to muscle through a large tax cut package later this year," the [Washington Post](#) (7/28, Paletta) reports, which began with their release Thursday of "a broad statement that set out principles for the tax overhaul plan they hope to pull together" but lacked details. The Post adds Republicans "face many hurdles and have yet to gel behind a strategy" and "no member of the White House's senior economic team has been a part of a major tax overhaul bill." However, White House Budget Director Mulvaney said Friday on CNBC "that the goal was to cut taxes as much as politically possible." Mulvaney asserted "the central debate" remains "how big is tax reform going to be? How big are the tax reductions going to be?"

Ryan Pledges To "Do Tax Reform Better" Than Healthcare. [Politico](#) (7/28, Nelson) reports House Speaker Ryan in an interview with Fox Business that aired Friday said, "We looked at healthcare and said let's make sure that do tax reform better and differently, so we have had exhausting meetings – not exhausting, we've exhausted these points between all three branches, all three decision makers: Senate, House, White House." Ryan added, "We've had meeting after meeting after meeting to make sure we see it the same way and on common ground."

However, a [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/28, Rubin) analysis warns the Republican Party's failure to pass a healthcare bill to replace the Affordable Care Act will have repercussions on the GOP's tax reform push and could show the difficulties in building consensus on the legislation.

Tax Policy Center Analysis: Americans Earning Between \$150,000-\$300,000 To See Tax Hike.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/28, Saunders) reports a new study from the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center of President Trump's tax reform proposals and past statements suggests that Americans who earn between \$149,400 and \$307,900 will have their taxes increase if the Administration successfully reforms the tax code.

US Economy Continued To See "Slow And Steady" Growth In Second Quarter.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (7/28, story 9, 0:15, Mason) reported that the economy grew at a rate of 2.6 percent in the second quarter of this year, which is "more than double the first quarter rate." For eight consecutive years the economy has continued to grow, "the third-longest expansion in US history."

However, the [New York Times](#) (7/28, Schwartz) says this growth rate is "well short of the pace President Trump has promised and lower than what many experts had been anticipating until recently." The Times says the Commerce Department's report Friday "is a sign that the economy remains on track, with underlying growth in line with where it has been since the current recovery began eight years ago this summer."

GDP growth since the US emerged from recession in 2009 has averaged 2.1 percent, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/28, Sparshott) reports. In comparison, the Journal says growth over a 10-year period in the 1990s averaged 3.6 percent and growth over a 9-year period in the 1960s averaged 4.9 percent. This slow, steady growth, it says, has helped generate a long period of job growth and created stability in the economy.

Growth rates were the fastest in Texas at 3.9 percent, West Virginia at 3 percent, and New Mexico at 2.8 percent, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/28, Chaney) reports. The growth in these states is attributed to a revitalized mining sector, which has benefited from the recovery in commodity prices.

Meanwhile, in an analysis titled "White House Tailors Jobs Message To Its Base In Rust Belt," the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/28, Stokols, Morath) suggests Trump has been focused on promoting manufacturing because he is already looking ahead to his reelection campaign.

Sasse: Adolescents Should Get Jobs, "Learn How To Become An Adult." Sen. Ben Sasse writes in the [New York Times](#) (7/28, Sasse) that while "Adolescence is a great thing," we have "made it too long." Sasse recalls his own childhood, waking up at five am to work in the fields to detassel corn. He says most agricultural work today is done by machine and there are fewer household chores needing to be done. Students entering college having done very little "hard physical work." Sasse argues that if "done right," adolescence "should not be an escape from adulthood; it should be when we learn how to become adults." He offers suggestions of things parents can do to help "create experiences for our kids that build character."

Republicans To Push Tax Reform Over August Recess.

[The Hill](#) (7/30, Jagoda) reports that in the wake of an announcement from Republican leaders and the White House of "a consensus on goals for tax reform," Republicans "will be vigorously selling tax reform over the August recess," and "they'll have business groups and conservative advocacy organizations helping them in the efforts." The [Washington Times](#) (7/30, Sherfinski) reports that while GOP leaders "insist they won't make the same mistakes with tax reform," that they did with healthcare, "there are enough similarities between the two issues that lawmakers are worried." The Times points out that Republicans enter the debate "with only vague principles, have struggled to pique Democrats' interest and have received conflicting signals from the White House about priorities."

House Speaker Ryan said on [Fox News Sunday Morning Futures](#) (7/30, Bartiromo), "It is more important for us than anything that we get tax reform done because we think it's absolutely critical for strong economic growth." Ryan added, "I feel much more confident that we are going stick the landing on tax reform because we have now said we have consensus, here is the framework, let's go get it done."

American Action Network Will Spend Up To \$20 Million To Promote Tax Reform. The [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (7/30, Glueck) reports American Action Network will be giving a "multi-million dollar boost" to Republicans in their effort to pass tax reform legislation, as the group "expects to spend as much as \$20 million" in support of what it calls the "Middle Class Growth Initiative." The initiative is to "promote tax cuts for 'working families and small businesses,'" and "simpler, fairer and pro-growth" tax reform. It plans to "offer a comprehensive message on tax reform through radio, television, mail and digital ad buys."

Mnuchin: Debt Limit Must Be Raised By Sept. 29.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/30, Davidson) reports that Treasury Secretary Mnuchin said in a letter to lawmakers on Friday that the debt ceiling must be raised by Sept. 29 or the government could run out of money to pay the bills, which means that when lawmakers return from August recess, they will have 12 working days to address the issue.

EPA Museum Being Changed To Reflect Trump Administration Priorities.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/30, Eilperin, Dennis) reported that a miniature museum at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Building depicting the EPA's history and mission is facing scrutiny. The museum, "which opened just days before President Barack Obama left office, is being reworked to reflect the priorities of the Trump administration, an effort that probably will mean erasing part of the agency's history."

Researchers: If It Is Real, Policy Response To Climate Change Is Open To Debate.

In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/30), David Henderson, a research fellow with the Hoover Institution and an economics professor at the Naval Postgraduate School, and John Cochrane, a senior fellow of the Hoover Institution and an adjunct scholar of the Cato Institute, argue that even if climate change is real, the correct policy prescription remains open to debate.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Britain Joins The Shift To Electric Cars." The [New York Times](#) (7/31, Board) editorializes that Britain's pledge to end new gas and diesel car sales by 2040 "is good news for the planet and for human health, even if caveats and challenges abound." The success of the effort, says the Times, will depend not only on "an upgrade in generating capacity, improved batteries and new sources of government income to replace lucrative fuel taxes," but also "on where the electricity comes from." Nonetheless, the Times concludes, "Bringing people around is a big challenge in the fight against climate change," so "the announcements by Britain, France, India and Norway are important, and the more governments that follow suit, the better."

"Pakistan's Prime Minister Falls, Again." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (7/31, Board) laments that "the decision of the Pakistani Supreme Court to disqualify" Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is not "a triumph for the rule of law," but rather "a sad commentary on the state of affairs in Pakistan that the best hope on all these fronts after Mr. Sharif's fall from power – remarkably, his third ouster – is that things don't get worse." The Times says Sharif's ouster also threatens "the future of Pakistan's troubled relations with the United States and India," as well as hopes for "any improvement in relations with the Trump administration." Despite its "unpromising" prognosis, the Times acknowledges the leadership reshuffling "does create opportunities for some change of course," so the Administration "should make every effort to persuade Mr. Sharif's successor that eradicating terrorists in Afghanistan is in the interests of both countries."

Washington Post.

"The Public Is Still Waiting For Answers On A District Police-Involved Shooting." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/30) criticizes the US Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia for delays in the investigation of the Sept. 11, 2016, fatal shooting of motorcyclist Terrence Sterling, arguing the slow pace is "typical of the office's lack of urgency in handling these critical matters." The Post says the delay "leaves the public wondering how much official interest there is in getting to the bottom of police-involved shootings."

"The Ouster In Pakistan Is Actually A Glimmer Of Hope." A [Washington Post](#) (7/30) editorial writes that "once again, Pakistanis are being reminded" that "in the nation's 70-year history, not one prime minister has served out a full five-year term." The latest example came Friday, when Pakistan's Supreme Court "disqualified — essentially dismissed — Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on grounds that he had lied to the nation about his family's wealth and financial dealings." The Post says the court's ruling offers "a glimmer of hope for accountability and rule of law in a nation that could use much more of it."

"The Man Who May Disenfranchise Millions." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/30) says that in an email to a Trump transition official, Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, who now chairs President Trump's election integrity commission, "said he was preparing an amendment to the National Voter Registration Act to allow states to demand documentary proof

of citizenship for new registrants.” The Post says the commission is “stacked with Kobach clones who have made voter suppression into a political cottage industry,” and if it “endorses the Kansas model, or even recommends requiring documentary proof of citizenship as a condition of voter registration, millions of Americans will face disenfranchisement, and democracy itself will be at risk.”

Wall Street Journal.

“The Regime Change Solution In Korea.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/30) editorial argues that the North Korean crisis is accelerating and that a new US strategy is needed. According to the Journal, CIA Director Pompeo recently suggested that the Administration may be contemplating a goal of regime change in Pyongyang, and offers its support for the idea, saying Friday’s ICBM test shows there’s is no time to waste.

“A Fiduciary Rule Reckoning.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/30) says in an editorial that the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals on Monday will hear arguments from business groups trying to overturn a lower court decision upholding the Obama-era Labor Department’s new fiduciary rule on retirement accounts. The Journal is very critical of the rule, arguing that it hurts the people it is intended to help, and express hope that the Fifth Circuit will roll it back.

“Putin’s Advances In Syria.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/30) writes in an editorial that Russia last week moved to consolidate its strategic gains in Syria by ratifying a 49-year lease on Hmeymim air base. The Journal says the long-term lease solidifies Russia’s position as the defender of the Assad regime and sends a message that it plans to remain even after the defeat of ISIS.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[US Companies Post Profit Growth Not Seen In Six Years](#)

[Trump Deepens GOP Divide](#)

[OPEC Has A Crippling Problem: Its Members Can’t Stop Pumping](#)

[Four Activists Challenge Plans To Carve Up DowDuPont](#)

New York Times:

[Putin, Responding To Sanctions, Orders US To Cut Diplomatic Staff By 755](#)

[Republicans Worry That White House Disarray Is Undermining Trump](#)

[Big Rigs, A Human Smuggling Mainstay, Often Become Rolling Traps](#)

[Hot Spot For Tech Outsourcing: The United States](#)

[More New Yorkers Opting For Life In The Bike Lane](#)

[China Shows Off Military Might As Xi Jinping Tries To Cement Power](#)

Washington Post:

[Venezuelan Vote Escalates Crisis](#)

[For Sessions, A Swift And Steadfast Souring](#)

[US Flies Bombers Close To N. Korea](#)

[Putin Tells US To Cut Diplomatic Staff By 755](#)

[Asylum Seekers’ Cases Failing](#)

Financial Times:

[Flanders Battle Centenary Stirs Memory Of Hell](#)

[Pimco Pulls In \\$50bn Active Cash As Investors Drawn To New Star](#)

[Seven Dead As Venezuelans Protest Over New Assembly](#)

[Trump’s Rift Widens With Republicans](#)

Washington Times:

[Republicans Move To Tax Reform, But Fight Feared Similar To Obamacare Repeal](#)

[Trump Administration Suggests Ending Enforcement Of Obamacare’s Individual Mandate](#)

[Special-Ops Troops’ Drug, Alcohol Abuse Prompts Call For Congressional Review Of ‘Culture’](#)

[‘No Drama’ Kelly Joins White House In Effort To Control Chaos, Infighting, Leaks](#)

[Man ‘Marries’ His Laptop, Sues For State Recognition And A Wedding Cake](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Australia-Terrorism Plot Foiled; North Korea-Missile Test; Russia-US Sanctions Retaliation; WH-Healthcare Reform; Venezuela-Political Turmoil; Caribbean-American Attacked; Minneapolis-Manhunt; North Carolina-Islands Power Outages; Colorado-Treasure Hunt Deaths; Smartphone App-Bullying; New Jersey Gov-Temper; Germany-River Crossing Scare; Honolulu-Pedestrian Smartphone Ban; Ferrari Clashing; Elderly Sky Diver.

CBS: North Korea-Missile Test; Russia-US Sanctions Retaliation; WH-Healthcare Reform; WH-Staff Shakeup; Australia-Terrorism Plot Foiled; Venezuela-Political Turmoil; North Carolina-Islands Power Outages; Hot Car-Child Death; Ohio State Fair-Ride Accident; ISIS-Child Fighters; Gulf Of Mexico-Red Snapper Season; Long Island Beach-Sand Art.

NBC: Russia-US Sanctions Retaliation; North Korea-Missile Test; Australia-Terrorism Plot Foiled; Venezuela-Political Turmoil; North Carolina-Islands Power Outages; Airline-Seat Sizes; Sunday Night Program Note; Russian Antivirus-Cyber Security; Baseball-Hall Of Fame; UK-2040 Gasoline Car Ban; Bird Lover.

Network TV At A Glance:

North Korea-Missile Test – 4 minutes, 20 seconds

WH-Healthcare Reform – 4 minutes, 15 seconds

Venezuela-Political Turmoil – 4 minutes, 15 seconds

Russia-US Sanctions Retaliation – 4 minutes, 10 seconds

Australia-Terrorism Plot Foiled – 3 minutes, 50 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: North Korea-Missile Test; WH-Healthcare Reform; Russia-US Sanctions Retaliation; LA-Restaurant Car Crash; Alabama-Jail Escape.

CBS: Russia-US Sanctions Retaliation; Venezuela-Political Turmoil; WH-Healthcare Reform; NBA News; Baseball-Hall Of Fame; Wall Street News.

FOX: New WH Chief Of Staff; North Korea-Missile Test; Russia-US Sanctions Retaliation; LA-Restaurant Car Crash.

NPR: Venezuela-Political Turmoil; Russia-US Sanctions Retaliation; WH-Healthcare Reform; Taiwan-Typhoon Landing.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.**White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in the swearing-in of White House Chief of Staff John Kelly; leads a Cabinet meeting; meets with US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman; meets with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson; presents the Medal of Honor.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Meets President Giorgi Margvelashvili and PM Giorgi Kvirikashvili of Georgia and visits US and Georgian troops participating in the Noble Partner exercise.

US Senate: 4:00 PM Senate aims to end debate on Eleventh Circuit judicial nominee – Senate convenes and proceeds to executive session to resume consideration of the nomination of Kevin Newsom to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, including a vote on a motion to invoke cloture on the nomination Location: Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

US House: On recess until 5 September.

Other: Young America's Foundation Annual National Conservative Student Conference – Young America's Foundation Annual National Conservative Student Conference. Speakers include former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, Republican Sen. Mike Lee, and former U.S. Treasurer Angela Buchanan Location: George Washington University, 2121 I St NW, Washington, DC www.yaf.org <https://twitter.com/yaf>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's [terms of use](#). Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to [Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Denver Post: Ryan Zinke Mulls Protections For Greater Sage Grouse.
- Las Vegas Review-Journal: Battle Brewing Over National Monuments In Nevada, Elsewhere.
- CNN: Where Trump's Border Rhetoric Meets Reality.
- Nation Sun News: Secretary Zinke Slated For Hearing On Interior Department Budget.
- Mohave Valley (AZ) Daily News: County To Back Mining On Federal Lands.
- Wall Street Journal: Democrats Denied Power To Seek Records From Executive Branch.

- Los Angeles Times: Trump Administration Posts 'Help Wanted' Signs For Government Service.
- Alaska Dispatch News: It's Time For Alaska To Reckon With The End Of Fossil-Fuel Era.
- New York Times: Written Proof That The President's Lobbyist Ban Is Worthless.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Despite \$1.2 Billion In Purchases, Tribal Land Buy-back 'Treading Water.'
- BIA Gets Quick Win In Challenge To Tribal Leadership Ruling.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Las Vegas Review-Journal: BLM Pulls Plan To Auction Oil And Gas Leases Near Zion National Park.
- U.S. News & World Report: Oregon Hiking Trail Marred By Swastikas, Other Graffiti.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- Can Oil Rigs And Lionfish Bring Us Together?

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

- There's A New Sheriff On The Gulf.
- Florida Gov. Scott Approves Plan To Hand Out Oil Spill Money.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Washington Times: Congressman Fights With Officials Over Boating-wake Rules.
- Miami Herald: Removal Of Dry Tortugas Croc Troubles Experts.
- Billings (MT) Gazette: Expansion Of Prairie Dog Vaccine Proposed.
- Law360: Judge Casts Out Enviros' Bull Trout Suit Against FWS.
- Charleston (WV) Gazette-Mail: Federal Fish Hatchery Recovers From The Ravages Of The June 2016 Floods.
- U.S. News & World Report: Wildlife Officials Investigating Grizzly Bear Shooting Death.
- Eastern Arizona Courier: Fish And Wildlife Names 2016 Recovery Champion.

National Park Service

- Sacramento (CA) Bee: Free Admission To National Parks For Fourth-graders, Families.
- Montgomery (WV) Herald: County Joins Push For Parks Repairs.
- Minneapolis Star Tribune: Yellowstone Park Says Its Winning Against Non-native Fish.
- Pocono (PA) Record: DWG Park Ranger Retiring After 25 Years.
- U.S. News & World Report: Solo Climber Is 1st Up Mighty California Rock Without Ropes.
- U.S. News & World Report: Army Helicopter Rescues Canadian Cop From Mount Rainier.
- U.S. News & World Report: Body Found In Utah's Zion National Park.
- Houston Chronicle: Climber Killed In Fall On Devils Tower; 1st Death Since 2003.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Firstpost (IND): Pacific Islands Accuse US Of 'Abandoning' Them To Climate Change.
- SatPRNews (POL): Remote Pacific Regions Set For Broadband Internet Under New World Bank Projects.

US Geological Survey

- Los Angeles Times: From Elevators To Trains, Earthquake Early Warning System Grows As Trump Threatens To Kill It.

Top National News

- ABC: Trump Reiterates Need For "Travel Ban" In Wake Of London Attack.
- Los Angeles Times: White House Unable To Answer Whether Trump Believes In Climate Change.
- ABC: Haley: "Trump Believes The Climate Is Changing."
- Associated Press: Trump To Kick Off Infrastructure Week With Focus On ATC Privatization.
- ABC: Labor Department: Jobless Rate Falls To Lowest Level In 16 Years.
- Wall Street Journal: Commerce Department: Trade Deficit Increases In April.
- The Hill: AFP, Freedom Partners Urge Price To Loosen ObamaCare Regulations.
- New York Times: Justice Department Files Appeal To Supreme Court Over Trump Travel Order.
- Bloomberg Politics: Democrats Considering Strategy Of Using Debt Ceiling Debate As Leverage.
- Washington Post: AFGE Union Chief Rallying Opposition To Trump's Proposed Budget Cuts.
- Wall Street Journal: Mulvaney: US Will Not Default On Debt Payments.

- Politico: Cohn: White House Give Congress A Detailed Tax Reform Plan In September.
- Washington Post: WPost A1: Trump Rolling Back Obama Policies, But Making “Little Progress” On Own Agenda.
- New York Times: Current Value Of Costs Of Climate Change Difficult To Calculate.
- Associated Press: Trump’s Claim US Is Cleanest And Most Environmentally-Friendly Country On Earth Questioned.
- Associated Press: States Form Climate Alliance To Meet Goals Of Paris Accord.

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DOI In The News

US Agencies Emphasize Cooperation Entering Wildfire Season.

The [AP](#) (6/2, Ridler) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue “signed a memorandum Friday emphasizing cooperation among federal, state, tribal and local agencies in battling wildfires as the main part of the wildfire season arrives.” Zinke and Perdue signed the document following a briefing at the National Interagency Fire Center in Boise. the article notes that “the agreement doesn’t announce any major changes in firefighting strategy for this year’s wildfire season that both secretaries say will be challenging.” It says that “the objectives of firefighter safety and public safety remain top priorities, and there’s a continued emphasis on a need for efficiency and communication.”

The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (6/2, Russell) reports that the document is “actually something the two departments sign each year, but it’s the first time the two secretaries came out in person and signed it together at NIFC, where wildland firefighting efforts are coordinated for the nation.” Zinke said, “It really is about a shared stewardship. All of us care deeply to make sure that we have public access, to make sure that we keep our public lands in perpetuity.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [ABC News](#) (6/2, Ridler), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (6/2, Ridler), the [Business Insider](#) (6/2, Ridler), the [Daily Mail](#) (6/2), [Fox News](#) (6/2, Ridler), the [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (6/4, Ridler), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/3, Ridler), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/2, Ridler), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (6/2, Ridler), the [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (6/2, Ridler), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/2, Ridler), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/2, Ridler).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (6/2, Ellis), [Boise State University \(ID\)](#) (6/2, Madrid), the [Sierra \(CA\) Sun Times](#) (6/4), [KBSC-FM Boise \(ID\)](#) Boise, ID (6/2, Michael), [KIFI-TV Idaho Falls \(ID\)](#) Idaho Falls, ID (6/2), [KWYB-TV Butte \(MT\)](#) Butte, MT (6/2, Crossley), and [KTVB-TV Boise \(ID\)](#) Boise, ID (6/2, Parsons).

New Ag, Interior Secretaries Call For Retaining Public Lands, Upping Resource Extraction. The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (6/2, Russell) reports that Zinke and Perdue “brought a message to Boise on Friday: Public lands must be retained, but they also must produce more through resource extraction.” Before “a crowd of more than 300 at Boise State University,” Zinke

said, "Up front, I'm not an advocate for sale or transfer of public lands." Both Zinke and Perdue "also stressed collaboration and interagency cooperation, saying they want everyone working together on public lands issues, from federal, state and local governments to citizens, businesses and conservationists."

Zinke On Why He Suspended All Resource Advisory Councils. The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (6/2, Russell) reports that Zinke and Perdue visited Boise with "a strong message of support for collaboration in efforts to solve the nation's public lands issues – even as the Trump Administration has suspended all meetings of local Resource Advisory Councils through September." Asked at the National Interagency Fire Center, "why the RACs have been suspended, Zinke said, 'I have 225 different councils and boards, so I suspended them all, so I could ask: What do you do? Who's on your board? What have you done in the last year? What have you done in the last two years?'" Zinke "said the Department of Interior is spending \$15 million a year on the various boards and councils, and he didn't want to 'pick and choose' which to keep or cut." He said, "So I did it blanket across. And alls I asked was two pages. ... I just want to know what you do, who's on the board, what you've done the last year, what you've done the last five years, so I have a degree, and then as they deliver it, we'll look at it, and then I give 'em the thumbs up to continue mission. But that's why. Rather than me going through a list of 220, I just said ... look, if you guys can't deliver a two-page document and tell me who you are, what you do, how much it costs, and give me your milestones, then maybe we should look at redoing the boards. Most people complied."

Ryan Zinke: Paris Climate Agreement Was Bad For US.

[Newsmax](#) (6/2, Fitzgerald) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "has said he does not believe climate change is a hoax, but on Friday he defended President Donald Trump's decision to pull out of the Paris climate agreement, saying the 'deal is bad' for the United States." Zinke said, "It's only 20 pages, but as you read through it, we pay for it. We pay billions of dollars up front, more than anyone else." Moreover, the deal itself "doesn't do anything," Zinke said. "It doesn't move the needle if everyone complies, and we lose jobs. It was a bad deal. If we're going to sit down and have a climate change deal, then let's make it fair."

What Does Trump Believe About Climate Change? His Aides Won't Say, And You Can't Ask Him. In an interview with [CNN](#) (6/2, Merica) "New Day," Interior Secretary Zinke said "that while he doesn't 'believe [climate change] is a hoax,' he was unable to answer whether Trump agrees." Zinke added, "I do not speak for the President," though he acknowledged he had not asked Trump.

Additional coverage was provided by [CNBC](#) (6/4, DiChristopher).

Coal Jobs Are Gone And Both The Right And Left Are Answerable. In a blog on [Forbes](#) (6/4), contributor Erik Sherman writes, "The problems of coal are macroeconomic in nature," and "the Paris accord would likely do nothing that would eliminate those mine-related jobs faster than advances in other technologies, market economics, and financial realities would." Sherman questions "how much genuine and significant interest either party has in the travails of the working class," noting that "no matter who is in office, median incomes stay virtually fixed, which technically means that half of the working population faces an unchanging income ceiling, even as increased wealth continues to settle at the top."

Trump's Paris Decision Won't Benefit U.S. Coal Miners. Institute for Policy Studies Climate Policy Program Director Basav Sen writes for [Newsweek](#) (6/2, Sen) that the Trump Administration's decision to withdraw from the Paris climate accord "sends a very ugly message to the world," and also said the decision was a "colossal foreign policy mistake." However, many other countries "have made substantially more progress in rolling back fossil fuels and expanding clean energy. And they're planning to forge ahead while the U.S. goes backward," Sen said.

Ryan Zinke Mulls Protections For Greater Sage Grouse.

The [Denver Post](#) (6/4, Finley) reports that Western leaders are "opposing a possible Trump administration push to overhaul federal plans for protecting greater sage grouse across a Texas-sized area in 10 states." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "last week stayed mum on whether he'll move ahead on a review of the plans." Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift said in a prepared statement, "Secretary Zinke has made clear his commitment to working with, rather than against, local communities and being a good neighbor to private landowners. The Interior Department is looking forward to working with state and local partners to ensure we are striking a true balance between both conservation and responsible multiple use of our public lands."

Mead Advises Zinke Sage Grouse Plans Don't Need Big Changes. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-](#)

[Tribune](#) (6/2, Richards) reports that in a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead and Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper “reiterated their belief that a population-based conservation strategy would ‘not be the right decision’” to protect the greater sage-grouse. They also “said large changes to the plans are not likely necessary.” Mead and Hickenlooper wrote, “Wholesale changes to the land use plans are likely not necessary at this time. We hope that you will engage the Task Force before committing to making any changes.”

Battle Brewing Over National Monuments In Nevada, Elsewhere.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (6/2, Martin) reports that “a battle is brewing among activists across the political spectrum over a Trump administration review of recently established national monuments” and the Antiquities Act. According to the article, “in the most recent salvo, 71 environmental and natural resource lawyers sent a letter to the administration saying a White House executive order that authorized the review incorrectly implied that President Donald Trump has the authority to rescind or modify national monuments created by previous presidents.” However, “conservative groups like the Heritage Foundation and The Sutherland Institute argue Trump has the authority to manage public lands and reduce the size of national monuments, a practice that has occurred several times.”

Additional coverage of the review was provided by the [Pasadena \(CA\) Star-News](#) (6/1, Scauzillo).

Op-ed: Antiquities Act Review A Chance To Scale Back Executive Overreach. In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (6/3, Simmons, Lofthouse), Randy T. Simmons, a professor of political economy at the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business at Utah State University and president of Strata, and Jordan K. Lofthouse, a Strata Ph.D. fellow, writes that the review of national monuments, “especially the 1.3 million-acre Bears Ears National Monument, is a unique opportunity to reflect on the uses and abuses of the Antiquities Act.” They argue that “the Bears Ears designation is a cautionary tale of the nearly unlimited power of the president and how that power affects real Americans.” They conclude that “the current review of national monuments is a good chance to scale back past overreach and reflect on the indiscriminate power given to the president.”

Op-ed: State Politicians May Not Support Our Newest Monument But Real Utahns Do. In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (6/2, Baca), Angelo Baca, cultural resources coordinator for Utah Diné Bikéyah, writes that “64 percent of Utah’s likely voters support keeping Bears Ears as a national monument, at its current size” and “only 30 percent oppose the monument,” according to the latest poll commissioned by Utah Diné Bikéyah and conducted by Public Opinion Strategies. He notes that “the public comment period recently closed (with 96 percent of the 685,000 comments submitted in favor of monument protection), and now Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke faces a choice: Will he try to force us to go back, or will he join us in moving forward?”

No Need To Review Hanford, Other Monuments. The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (6/4) editorializes that if the review of national monuments “leads to anything but maintaining the status of these monuments, it will be because the administration ignored the public.” The paper asserts that “there is little opposition to the monuments under review.” It concludes that “if this review really is about process and public input,” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “can wrap it up early.”

Judith K. Wellington: Our Battle To Protect Sacred Spaces From Trump. In an op-ed for the [Arizona Daily Star](#) (6/3, Wellington), Judith K. Wellington, who works for the Synod of the Southwest in Tucson as a part-time consultant for Native American Ministries, calls on “decision-makers to uphold the Bears Ears National Monument.” Wellington emphasizes that “the Bears Ears region contains more than 100,000 sites with archaeological, cultural and spiritual significance, and is a biologically sensitive part of God’s creation.” Wellington says that during the public comment period, she “joined with a group of indigenous peoples who also practice Christianity to send Zinke, who is also a Christian, a letter explaining the gravity of what this administration is doing, and warning of the spiritual danger of desecrating sacred places.”

Where Trump’s Border Rhetoric Meets Reality.

[CNN](#) (6/3, Kopan) reports that Rep. Will Hurd’s Texas district “includes more than 800 miles of border with Mexico, which is more than one-third of the entire US-Mexico border.” Standing opposed President Trump’s border wall, he asked Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly where a wall should be build during a congressional hearing, showing “pictures of parts of his district” in the process. CNN lauds his credibility on the subject, saying he “spent nearly a decade in the CIA overseas and went on to advise a cybersecurity firm, giving him a deep understanding of best

practices in approaching security." Residents of Hurd's district also stand in opposition to a wall, though the piece says they want "a secure border and to combat any cartels and violence in Mexico." However, "a closed border could be devastating to their way of life."

Oculus Founder Plots A Comeback With A Virtual Border Wall. The [New York Times](#) (6/4, Wingfield) reports that Oculus VR founder Palmer Freeman Luckey, who sold his company to Facebook for \$2 billion in 2014 but was forced to leave the company "after news spread that he had secretly donated to an organization dedicated to spreading anti-Hillary Clinton internet memes," has "a new start-up in the works, a company that is developing surveillance technology that could be deployed on borders between countries and around military bases, according to three people familiar with the plan who asked for anonymity because it's still confidential." The Times cites people familiar with the plan who say Luckey "believes his system, which can be mounted on telephone poles, can be built far more cost effectively than Mr. Trump's proposed wall on the Mexican border – and with fewer obstacles from landowners."

Secretary Zinke Slated For Hearing On Interior Department Budget.

The [Nation Sun News](#) (6/5) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will "testify about his department's budget" on Thursday before the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies.

County To Back Mining On Federal Lands.

The [Mohave Valley \(AZ\) Daily News](#) (6/4, Seckler) reports that Mohave County supervisors "will look to approve Monday two letters supporting the opening of public lands to mining," and the board "will look to ask the U.S. Department of Interior to review the 2012 withdrawal of land in the Arizona Strip from uranium mining." The board's letter "to current U.S. Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke states that uranium mining does not affect ground water or destroy the natural resources of the land. Once completed, the land is returned to its native state, it says." The board "will also look to send a letter to Zinke to remove monument designations."

Democrats Denied Power To Seek Records From Executive Branch.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/2, Palazzolo, Viswanatha) reports that the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel has determined that only committees and subcommittees, rather than individual members of Congress, have the authority to request information from the executive branch. The office's acting official in charge, Curtis Gannon, wrote on May 1, "the executive branch's longstanding policy has been to engage in the established process for accommodating congressional requests for information only when those requests come from a committee, subcommittee, or chairman authorized to conduct oversight." The Journal says that Democratic lawmakers have been sending letters daily to the White House on a wide range of issues, including the Russia investigation, ethics, healthcare, and the environment.

A [Washington Post](#) (6/2, Bump) analysis says Trump attempted to issue a "blanket ban on oversight requests sent by Democratic lawmakers," which was first reported by [Politico](#). However, according to an Administration spokesperson, departments were told only "to accommodate the requests of chairmen, regardless of their political party," which the Post says is "a neat trick since the chairmen of committees of a Republican-controlled Congress are all Republicans." The piece maintains that such requests are "one of the more nuanced aspects of the checks-and-balances system" and that it is just "one example of Trump's bristling at the formal and informal checks that exist on his power."

Trump Administration Posts 'Help Wanted' Signs For Government Service.

"More than four months after taking office, the president who built his brand telling people 'You're fired!' is having a hard time staffing up," the [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/3, Bierman) reports, as "Trump has found it harder to fill out his administration than his recent predecessors." According to the nonpartisan nonprofit Partnership for Public Service, so far the Senate has confirmed just "40 of the 1,242 positions in the federal government that require a vote" as opposed "to 94 confirmed for President George H.W. Bush at this stage in his presidency, 161 for Bill Clinton, 127 for George W. Bush and 150 for Barack Obama." The Times says the Administration "complains that Senate Democrats have used arcane rules to stall the process," but Trump is "far behind his predecessors in submitting nominations." The Times adds "Obama, George W. Bush and Clinton each had nominated more than 200 people requiring a Senate vote at this stage. Trump has put 110 names forward."

It's Time For Alaska To Reckon With The End Of Fossil-Fuel Era.

In an op-ed for the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (6/2, Smith), Ceal Smith, research director for the Alaska Climate and Energy Action Network and chair of the Alaska Climate Caucus, warns that "our Earth's climate is rapidly warming – and in Alaska twice as fast as the global average." But "even if climate change weren't biting us, Alaska would do well to acknowledge the abrupt shift in global energy markets that is signaling the end of the fossil-fuel era based solely on economics." Smith argues that "the best move Alaska could make would be to market its remaining low-carbon conventional gas reserves from Point Thomson at a premium to emerging low-carbon energy markets that pay carbon credits, like those in California and the European Union, and leave the rest in the ground."

'War' On Energy Is Over; How Fares The Planet? In an op-ed for the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (6/2, Moore), Shannyn Moore, a radio broadcaster, questions why Alaska would want to pursue more energy development in the face of climate change. She notes that "Obama opened up the Beaufort and Chukchi seas, but the oil companies couldn't figure out how to do the job right and pulled out." To Moore, it doesn't make sense "to put short-term financial gains ahead of the future of our planet."

Written Proof That The President's Lobbyist Ban Is Worthless.

The [New York Times](#) (6/3) editorializes "we wanted to believe that President Trump was doing the right thing when the White House announced in January that executive branch officials would be banned for two years from working on policy or regulations they once were paid to influence as lobbyists and lawyers," but his promise "seems worthless" as his Administration granted waivers to at least 16 staff members "to let them violate the rule." The Times contends the waivers "are further evidence of the White House's disregard, even contempt, for good government." The Times concludes, "Leave it to Mr. Trump to take an exception to a rule and make it the rule. 'Ethics waivers' are now presidential permission to ignore ethical standards."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Despite \$1.2 Billion In Purchases, Tribal Land Buy-back 'Treading Water.'

[Cronkite News](#) (6/2, Gilmore) reports that the Interior Department "has 'not accomplished much' in its program to buy up marginal Indian lands and return them to tribes, despite spending two-thirds of a \$1.9 billion fund for the program, a department official said recently." Acting Deputy Interior Secretary James Cason "told a House Natural Resources subcommittee that at its current pace, the government will run through the rest of the money from the so-called Cobell settlement before its scheduled 2022 expiration date with little to show for its efforts." Cason told the committee last week, "After expending a total of \$1.3 billion to date, it is my view that Interior has not been successful in materially reducing fractional interests. In my mind we are almost back where we started eight years ago, just merely treading water."

BIA Gets Quick Win In Challenge To Tribal Leadership Ruling.

[Law360](#) (6/2, Lidgett) reports that "a federal judge on Thursday said that the Bureau of Indian Affairs did not err in finding that a general council established to serve as the governing body of the California Valley Miwok tribe in 1998 isn't the tribe's valid representative, saying that claims from a faction challenging the decision must fail." U.S. District Judge William B. Shubb gave "a summary judgment win to the federal government in a suit from a faction of the California Valley Miwok tribe led by Silvia Burley."

Bureau Of Land Management

BLM Pulls Plan To Auction Oil And Gas Leases Near Zion National Park.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (6/2, Brean) reports that "citing 'substantial feedback from the public,' federal officials in Utah have decided not to open up land just outside Zion National Park for possible oil and gas development, at least not yet." The Bureau of Land Management "announced Friday that it is deferring plans to offer 'fluid mineral leases' on three parcels totaling just over 4,700 acres near the iconic park 160 miles northeast of Las Vegas." The bureau "received tens of thousands of mostly negative public comments about the proposed auction, which was originally set to take place in September."

Additional coverage was provided by the [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (6/2, Applegate).

Oregon Hiking Trail Marred By Swastikas, Other Graffiti.

The [AP](#) (6/2) reports that "a horseback rider discovered swastikas and other offensive graffiti along a popular trail at Crooked River Ranch in Central Oregon." The group Friends and Neighbors of the Deschutes Canyon Area "plans to help the U.S. Bureau of Land Management remove the spray-painted graffiti."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Can Oil Rigs And Lionfish Bring Us Together?

In an op-ed for the [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (6/3, Gaetz), former state Sen. Don Gaetz opposes lifting the ban on offshore drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico. He argues that "America's energy independence doesn't require rigs sprouting from the waves in the eastern Gulf." Furthermore, he notes that the Pentagon has told the Interior Department that "offshore drilling in the Eglin Range interferes with those missions and imperils Northwest Florida's bases."

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

There's A New Sheriff On The Gulf.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (6/2, Osborne) reported that the new director of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Scott Angelle laid out his vision for the agency while meeting with reporters on Thursday. Angelle said, "The policy of the country is to develop these resources. ... I don't have the luxury of having an agency that's an 'either/or' agency. This agency, it's about safety, it's about environmental sustainability, and it's about energy production. The equation we have is an 'and' equation."

Florida Gov. Scott Approves Plan To Hand Out Oil Spill Money.

The [AP](#) (6/2) reported Florida Gov. Rick Scott signed a bill on Friday that guarantees the distribution of \$300 million in damages related to the BP oil spill to eight counties hit hardest by the accident. The state is slated to receive \$2 billion for economic losses, and received the first payment almost a year ago, but money remained tied up in the legislature.

Fish And Wildlife Service

Congressman Fights With Officials Over Boating-wake Rules.

The [AP](#) (6/4) reports that "a wildly unpopular effort to impose wake restrictions on Lake Havasu boaters" has Rep. Paul Gosar "ready to do battle with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, including getting the agency's regional director taken off his job." Gosar "wants to see Benjamin Tuggle removed or relocated." Gosar claimed "Tuggle did not follow proper protocol during the boating restriction proposal and failed to collect public opinion on the action." Gosar said, "(Tuggle) did not follow the law, and there need to be consequences. I'm not done with Fish and Wildlife. I probably can't get Tuggle fired, but I can get him relocated. I'm looking for a deserted island that he can have jurisdiction over. maybe [sic] someplace out near the Bahamas."

Removal Of Dry Tortugas Croc Troubles Experts.

The [Miami Herald](#) (6/2, Staletovich) reports that experts are questioning the decision to remove "a rare crocodile from the remote islands in the Dry Tortugas it had peacefully inhabited for 14 years." According to the article, "the request from Everglades National Park Superintendent Pedro Ramos to move the croc came at 5:39 p.m. on a Friday afternoon, when U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service croc experts were unavailable to weigh in on the plan." Ramos "included emails from the park's chief biologist and Dry Tortugas manager relaying increased concerns about visitors feeding the croc, but gave only one example of a specific threat: the croc swimming toward a chum bag dangled off a boat by an angler in early May." The article says that "faced with the dire warnings, FWS state supervisor Larry Williams was left with little choice but to agree two hours later." South Florida wildlife biologist Joe Wasilewski said, "It wasn't good science. It wasn't good management. It was hasty. There should have been some consultation with a croc biologist, and

if they did, they should have consulted with more because every croc biologist I know would be opposed to just grabbing him and putting him in the Everglades.”

Expansion Of Prairie Dog Vaccine Proposed.

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (6/2) reports that “use of an oral vaccine that protects prairie dogs from the plague will be expanded on the Charles M. Russell and UL Bend National Wildlife Refuges in Montana under a plan proposed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.” The new plan would “allow for vaccine distribution on wilderness areas within the refuges and on nearby private lands when requested by landowners.” The FWS has “completed an environmental assessment for the action and is seeking public comment on the proposal.”

Judge Casts Out Enviros’ Bull Trout Suit Against FWS.

[Law360](#) (6/2, Lidgett) reports that U.S. District Judge Michael W. Mosman on Friday “agreed with a magistrate judge’s recommendation to grant the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s bid to dismiss a complaint alleging that it hasn’t done enough to protect the bull trout’s cold-water habitat from global warming, rejecting objections from the environmental groups that filed the suit.” Mosman “dismissed eight Endangered Species Act claims with leave to renew and one Administrative Procedures Act with prejudice.”

Federal Fish Hatchery Recovers From The Ravages Of The June 2016 Floods.

The [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (6/3, McCoy) reports that “eleven months after flooding knocked the White Sulphur Springs National Fish Hatchery out of business, it’s almost open for business again.” Tyler Hern, the hatchery’s lead fish biologist, said, “By 2018, we’ll be able to meet our [trout-egg] obligations again. We won’t be completely back to normal until 2019, but we’re getting there.”

Wildlife Officials Investigating Grizzly Bear Shooting Death.

The [AP](#) (6/2) reports that “state and federal wildlife officials are investigating after a male grizzly bear that had been shot to death was found in the Stillwater River in northwestern Montana.” According to the article, “investigators believe the bear may have been dumped off a bridge west of Whitefish between May 25 and May 28, when boaters found the carcass in the water.”

Fish And Wildlife Names 2016 Recovery Champion.

The [Eastern Arizona Courier](#) (6/3, Sowders) reports that Scott Richardson, “a senior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist, was recently named a 2016 Recovery Champion for his work with an endangered species.” Richardson earned the honor “for his work with the lesser long-nosed bat.” In a May 22 press release announcing the award, FWS cited Richardson for “years of dedication to science” and “motivating and coalescing conservation efforts resulting in the bat’s recovery.” FWS Arizona Field Supervisor Steve Spangle said, “Scott engages everyone equally and takes to heart that people can’t support science they don’t understand.”

National Park Service

Free Admission To National Parks For Fourth-graders, Families.

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (6/3, Oide) reports that fourth-graders and their families are “eligible for free admission to national parks and other federal lands.” [WAVY-TV](#) Norfolk, VA (6/2) reports that the National Park Service is “again offering a fourth grade pass with its ‘Every Kid in a Park’ program.”

County Joins Push For Parks Repairs.

The [Montgomery \(WV\) Herald](#) (6/4, Plummer) reports that the Fayette County Commission “became one of more than 1,600 local and county governments nationwide – including several other local governments – to formally support legislation to repair deteriorating National Park Service assets.” The Fayette County Commission “agreed to pass a resolution supporting” the National Park Service Legacy Act. The commission also “voted to write letters to West Virginia’s congressional representatives urging them to support and consider sponsoring The National Park Service Legacy Act.”

Yellowstone Park Says Its Winning Against Non-native Fish.

The [AP](#) (6/4) reports that “researchers trying to preserve native cutthroat trout in Yellowstone National Park say they are on track to eliminate non-native fish from Yellowstone Lake in about a decade.” The National Park Service is “trying to get rid of lake trout, which were discovered in Yellowstone Lake in 1994.” Researchers, who “use nets to remove lake trout,” have “removed 2.6 million pounds (1.2 million kilograms) since 1996, including more than 366,000 pounds (166,000 kilograms) last year.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (6/4), the [Daily Mail](#) (6/4), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/4), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/4, Press), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/4).

DWG Park Ranger Retiring After 25 Years.

The [Pocono \(PA\) Record](#) (6/4, Scott) reports that supervisory park ranger Christopher Kross “retired recently after 25 years with the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.” Kross has “been a key member of the search-and-rescue and high-angle rescue teams, taking part in more than 100 search-and-rescue missions in the park and on surrounding public lands.” The article notes that “for his outstanding work over the years, Kross has been twice nominated for the National Park Service’s Harry Yount Award.”

Solo Climber Is 1st Up Mighty California Rock Without Ropes.

The [AP](#) (6/4, RODRIGUEZ) reports that “elite rock climber” Alex Honnold this weekend became the first to climb El Capitan in Yosemite National Park “without any safety gear for eight years.” It took him “about four hours using only his hands and feet.”

Army Helicopter Rescues Canadian Cop From Mount Rainier.

The [AP](#) (6/2) reports that the National Park Service “says a member of Canada’s national police force was rescued by an Army helicopter near the summit of Mount Rainier.” Dennis Endong Cui, 27, was “hoisted from the top of Gibraltar’s Rock on the south side of Mount Rainier Thursday afternoon.” The NPS “says Cui and two other climbers went up Fuhrer Finger Wednesday when Cui became ill and said he couldn’t go on.”

Body Found In Utah’s Zion National Park.

The [AP](#) (6/2) reports that “authorities found a body in Zion National Park while they were investigating calls about an abandoned vehicle.” According to the article, “the body was recovered on Thursday by park staff.” The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (6/3, Lacanlale) reports that the death has been “ruled a suicide, the National Park Service said.”

Climber Killed In Fall On Devils Tower; 1st Death Since 2003.

The [AP](#) (6/4) reports that “a climber has died in a fall from Devils Tower,” according to authorities. The National Park Service “says it was the first climbing death there since 2003.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

Pacific Islands Accuse US Of ‘Abandoning’ Them To Climate Change.

[Firstpost \(IND\)](#) (6/2) reports that “Pacific Islands, at risk of being swallowed by the rising seas, accused Washington of ‘abandoning’ vulnerable nations and expressed dismay on Friday after Donald Trump pulled the United States out of the Paris climate deal.” According to the article, “leaders of a cluster of small remote island states in the Pacific, which are at the forefront of the battle against climate change and already suffering the effects of unpredictable weather, expressed deep disappointment at the controversial move.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Special Broadcasting Service \(AUS\)](#) (6/2, Pearl), [Radio New Zealand](#) (6/1), and [UpRoxx](#) (6/1, Shrayber).

Remote Pacific Regions Set For Broadband Internet Under New World Bank Projects.

[SatPRNews \(POL\)](#) (6/1, Rutkowski) reports that the World Bank’s Board of Executive Directors has approved \$36 million in grants “to help provide reliable fiber optic broadband internet to approximately 80,000 people in Kiribati and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).” The grants, including \$20 million for Kiribati and \$16.26 million for FSM, “will finance the installation of a submarine cable system connecting Tarawa (Kiribati) to Nauru, and Kosrae state (FSM) to Pohnpei state (FSM), which is connected to global networks.” The projects are “part of the Pacific

Regional Connectivity Program, which aims to bring more reliable and affordable internet to the majority of countries in the Pacific Islands."

US Geological Survey

From Elevators To Trains, Earthquake Early Warning System Grows As Trump Threatens To Kill It.

"While the future of the West Coast's earthquake early warning system is in peril from President Trump's proposed budget cuts, the network is on the verge of a breakthrough in California," the [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/2, Lin) reports, as "businesses and government agencies have begun working with the U.S. Geological Survey to test the system." The Times highlights these advances and warns that "the rapid progress could all unravel if President Trump's budget is approved." The Times adds that the Interior Department "is proposing no funding for the system this year, and 'would end USGS efforts to implement the ShakeAlert earthquake early warning system, suspending internal efforts and eliminating external funding to partners' such as Caltech, UC Berkeley, the University of Oregon and the University of Washington." Rep. Adam Schiff, the ranking member on the House Intelligence Committee, said Thursday that the Administration's proposal is "incredibly misguided and dangerous, and undercuts the \$23 million already invested in the program."

Congress Should Fund Earthquake Warning System. In an editorial, the [Seattle Times](#) (6/4) urges Congress to continue funding for "an earthquake warning system for the West Coast." The paper says "one inexpensive way to protect millions of citizens is to warn them of major earthquakes, which are a real and persistent threat."

Top National News

Trump Reiterates Need For "Travel Ban" In Wake Of London Attack.

President Trump's response to the London terrorist attack sparked unfavorable media reviews and derision from London Mayor Sadiq Khan and former Obama officials. While media coverage split along ideological lines on the issue of Trump's immigration order, there was near unanimity in the assessment that Trump had taken Khan's comments in the aftermath of the attack out of context. Typical of much of the coverage of Trump's reaction was [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/4, story 4, 2:00, Wright), which reported that for Trump, the "panicked scenes in London were an opportunity to settle old scores." A scathing, front-page piece by Philip Rucker in the [Washington Post](#) (6/4, A1) charges that Trump "reacted impulsively...by stoking panic and fear...and capitalizing on it to advocate for one of his more polarizing policies and to advance a personal feud." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/4, King), meanwhile, refers to a "discordant note" by Trump after the attack, and to [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/4, Campbell), his "eagerness to turn the London attack to domestic political advantage...will put further pressure on US-UK relations."

Others in the media were even more vocal in their angry dismissal of Trump. [The Hill](#) (6/4, Concha) noted that "MSNBC anchor Thomas Roberts twice asked if...Trump 'is trying to provoke a domestic terrorist attack' during a Sunday afternoon segment." Roberts asked "Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed (D), 'Is the president trying to provoke a domestic terrorist attack with this Twitter rant because – only to prove himself right?'" The [Gateway Pundit](#) (6/3, Taylor) noted that on Saturday evening, "religious scholar Reza Aslan, host of CNN's Believer, went on a profane Twitter rant against...Trump," calling him a "piece of s---", a "stain on the presidency" and an "embarrassment to America and humanity" over his "calling for reinstatement of his travel ban." Aslan, notes today's [Boston Globe](#) (6/5, Reiss), "apologized" last night, writing on Twitter, "I should not have used a profanity to describe the President when responding to his shocking reaction to the #LondonAttacks."

To the [New York Times](#) (6/4, Grynbaum), it was a case of "the cycle of partisan broadsides and ideological combat that seems to dominate the media universe these days" kicking "into high gear," with Aslan's original message prompting "expressions of outrage from right-wing news outlets like Breitbart News and the hosts of 'Fox & Friends.'" However, adds the Times, "The backlash against Mr. Trump's tweets...went beyond Mr. Aslan," as "critics pointed to the president's criticism of London's mayor."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/4, Selk) reports that in the hours after the attacks, "those world leaders who did speak out early were largely circumspect. Restrained. Sympathetic. ... And then

there was...Trump," who even before London police "or anyone else had announced that the attack was linked to terrorism," [retweeted](#) "an unsourced blurb" from the Drudge Report: "Fears of new terror attack after van 'mows down 20 people' on London Bridge." On Sunday morning, notes [Reuters](#) (6/4, Morgan), Trump urged the world to stop being "politically correct" in order to ensure security, [tweeting](#), "We must stop being politically correct and get down to the business of security for our people. If we don't get smart it will only get worse." Trump also [tweeted](#), "We need to be smart, vigilant and tough. We need the courts to give us back our rights. We need the Travel Ban as an extra level of safety!"

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/4, Campbell) notes that "Trump's travel-ban comment was his first reaction on Twitter to the London attack," and that he "followed it about eight minutes later with a more conventional expression of concern: 'Whatever the United States can do to help out in London and the UK, we will be there – WE ARE WITH YOU. GOD BLESS!'"

In a later [tweet](#), says [USA Today](#) (6/4, Przybyla), Trump "seemed to blast the gun control debate in the United States," writing, "Do you notice we are not having a gun debate right now? That's because they used knives and a truck!" To the [Washington Examiner](#) (6/4, Feldscher), Trump was poking "at Democrats and other gun control activists...noting their silence in the wake of the attacks."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/4, Nicholas) reports Trump also appeared to suggest Khan was downplaying the threat posed by terrorism, [tweeting](#), "At least 7 dead and 48 wounded in terror attack and Mayor of London says there is 'no reason to be alarmed!'" The [New York Times](#) (6/4, Baker) says the President was reacting to a BBC interview in which the mayor had said that residents had "no reason to be alarmed" as they encounter more police patrolling the streets. However, the Times says the President's post "mischaracterized what Mr. Khan said about the attack." During the interview, Khan also said he was "appalled and furious that these cowardly terrorists would target" innocent civilians and vowed that "we will never let them win, nor will we allow them to cover our city."

The [AP](#) (6/4) likewise indicates that Khan "did use those words in a television interview, but it was to reassure Londoners about a stepped up police presence," the [Washington Times](#) (6/4, Miller) said "the president appeared to take Mr. Khan's quote out of context," and the [New York Post](#) (6/4, Brown) that "Khan's comment was in relation to the increased police presence following the attack." The [Washington Post](#) (6/4, Selk) reports that a spokesman for Khan responded that the mayor "has more important things to do than respond to...Trump's ill-informed tweet that deliberately takes out of context his remarks."

[The Hill](#) (6/4, Savransky) noted that "Khan, the son of Pakistani immigrants, became the first Muslim mayor of a major Western capital when he was elected last year." As [Politico](#) (6/3, McCaskill, Morin) recounts, "Khan criticized Trump during the US presidential campaign, tweeting in May 2016 that his 'ignorant view of Islam could make both our countries less safe' and 'risks alienating mainstream Muslims.'" At any rate, the [New York Times](#) (6/4, Baker) reports, "it was not the first time a member of the Trump family criticized Mr. Khan." Back "in March, after a terrorist attack in London, Donald Trump Jr., the president's son, posted a link to an article in Britain's Independent newspaper from the previous September quoting Mr. Khan about terrorism. 'You have to be kidding me?! Terror attacks are part of living in big city, says London Mayor Sadiq Khan,' the younger Mr. Trump wrote at the time." The Times adds that "Trump's post left the impression that Mr. Khan was minimizing the importance of terrorist attacks."

In fact, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/4, story 4, 2:00, Wright) reported, "Trump and Khan have clashed before over the travel ban." The mayor was shown saying, "I think the ban is cruel and shameful, and our prime minister should not be condoning it." ABC added that "Khan called for Trump's state visit to be canceled. Soon after the controversy, the White House agreed to postpone the trip."

[Politico Europe](#) (6/4, Paun) reported that "Trump's jibe at Khan drew criticism from Conservative British politicians, including Penny Mordaunt, the minister of state for the Department for Work and Pensions, and Britain's EU Commissioner for the Security Union Julian King." Tory MP Daniel Hannan [tweeted](#) that "this was 'not a great moment to insult the mayor of the capital city of your chief ally, Mr President. Alarm is the last thing we need right now.'"

On [CNN's State of the Union](#) (6/4, Tapper), Al Gore said in reaction to Trump's tweet attacking Khan, "I actually happened to see the statement from the mayor of London, and that's not what I heard him say, and I don't think that a major terrorist attack like this is the time to be divisive and criticize a mayor who is trying to organize his city's response to this attack. The terrorists want us to live in a state of constant fear and having an effective response is the main thing, and it looks to me like the London police were there in six minutes and the scourge of terrorism has to be defeated. We have to defeat it not only with force of arms but force of our

values.”

Trump Golfs Two Days In A Row After London Terror Attacks. The [New York Post](#) (6/4, Schultz) reports that after “firing off some tweets about the London terrorist attacks,” Trump spent a second day in a row at his Trump National Golf Club in Sterling, Virginia yesterday, according to pool reports. The Post says Trump “often blasted his predecessor” for golf outings, “especially following terror attacks.” For instance, on October 13, 2014 Trump [tweeted](#), “Can you believe that, with all of the problems and difficulties facing the US, President Obama spent the day playing golf. Worse than Carter.”

The [Indianapolis \(IN\) Star](#) (6/4, Horner) reports former Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning and Sen. Bob Corker joined the President yesterday for golf, “according to several reports.” The Star says that while Manning “has denied interest in running for office,” that “doesn’t mean he can’t rub elbows with politicians.”

Lewandowski Defends Travel Order. Former Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski said on [Fox News MediaBuzz](#) (6/4), “Our thoughts and prayers with the victims and the families in London and the President said that he will stand firm with anything he can do to help the people there. ... But you have to remember, we have seen courts legislating from the bench prohibiting the President from implementing a program which will call for extreme vetting coming into the United States. These are the same courts which have decided to legislate from the bench as opposed to interpret the rules that the President clearly has a constitutional authority to implement on behalf of the people of our country. And what he said is that our system is not designed right now to make sure that we know who’s coming into our country, so we have to stop being politically correct so that we’re saving American lives and hopefully we don’t have terrorist attacks on our own soil.”

NYTimes’ Martin: Trump Hurting His Own Legal Case. Asked about Trump’s tweets, Jonathan Martin of the New York Times said on [CNN Inside Politics](#) (6/4), “Politically and legally he is endangering his own so-called ban. First, by calling it a ban, and secondly, this was supposed to be a temporary 90-day deal until you figured out a more permanent policy on these migrants, and now he’s basically casting it as an indefinite ban on people from all of these countries.”

US Cities “On Alert”; FBI Says 2,000 “Potential Terrorists” In US. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/4, story 6, 1:20, Llamas) reported major US cities are “on alert after the attacks in London. The fear, a copycat. ... The concern, homegrown terror. Investigations in all 50 states. The FBI [is] saying 2,000 potential terrorists in the US, half of those may have had contact with terror groups like ISIS.”

American Among Those Injured In Attack. The [CBS Weekend News](#) (6/4, story 2, 1:55, Morgan) reported the victims of Saturday’s attack “hail from around the globe,” with a Canadian and a Frenchman among the dead while “American, British, German and Spanish are among the wounded.”

Warner Says No Specific Terrorist Threats Against US. On [CNN’s State of the Union](#) (6/4, Tapper), Sen. Warner said about the possibility of terrorism in the United States in the wake of the London attack, “I received a brief this morning from our national center of counter terrorism center,” and “there’s no specific threat against the United States. ... What you’re seeing in Britain is a resoluteness and recognition that as the British went through three decades of terrorism, they’ll carry-on. I think in many ways that’s what we need to do here.” On [CBS’ Face the Nation](#) (6/4, Dickerson), Warner said about the possibility of regulating cyberspace to better defend against terrorism threats: “I think we do need to reexamine the roles of all of these platform companies, the Facebook, the Twitters, the Googles, and recognize there may need to be some responsibility to curate information.”

Blunt Says Muslim Communities Must Confront Extremism; Collins Calls For “Better” Vetting. The [Washington Times](#) (6/4, Miller) reports that appearing on Fox News Sunday, Sen. Roy Blunt “said Sunday that the Muslim communities must take responsibility for the fight against homegrown terrorism.” Said Blunt, “We need to talk about it, our friends who are Muslim need to admit that this extreme sense of Islam that results in these attacks has to be called for what it is and we have to try to do what we can to intervene.”

Blunt also told [Fox News Sunday](#) (6/4, Wallace), “ISIS tends to take credit for the things that you can steal a truck, get your van drive in the car, terrorized people with very little planning or backup. Other groups believe are looking at other things we believe and we are constantly have to be vigilant, I think Secretary Kelly is right when he says that only because we have been fortunate and worked hard to prevent this have we not had these kinds of attacks here.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (6/4, story 3, 2:20, O’Donnell), meanwhile, reported that “some Republicans, concerned about the specific” travel ban sought by the President, say he “has a

point." Sen. Susan Collins was shown saying, "We need to do a better job of vetting individuals who are coming from war-torn countries into our nation." On [CBS' Face the Nation](#) (6/4, Dickerson), Collins had prefaced her statement indicating, "I think that the travel ban is too broad and that is why it has been rejected by the courts."

The [CBS Weekend News](#) (6/4, story 5, 1:45, Morgan) showed Sen. Mark Warner saying on CNN's "State of the Union," "Don't continue to call for this travel ban, which is, frankly, all of the leaders of the intelligence community have said would be, in effect, would be a slap in the face to Muslim Americans and others, and in many ways, might actually incite more incidents."

Kerry, Susan Rice: Travel Ban Will Help Terrorists. On [NBC's Meet the Press](#) (6/4, Todd), former Secretary of State John Kerry said in response to the London attack: "The fact is if people want to kill themselves, this is really hard for law enforcement. ... And what we really need to do is focus more...not on a travel ban. ... A travel ban will be cannon fodder to the recruiters. It's the worst thing we can do. But a great deal more effort has to go into the building of community, the reaching out and working with these entities, these sectors of society."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/4, Niquette, Brody) reports former National Security Adviser Susan Rice similarly told [ABC's This Week](#) that there is no evidence that a travel ban would make the US safer. In fact, she said, "there's a very real risk that by stigmatizing and isolating Muslims from particular countries, and Muslims in general, that we alienate the very communities here in the United States whose cooperation we most need to detect and prevent these home-grown extremists from being able to carry out attacks." The [Washington Times](#) (6/4, Miller) notes that Rice argued that "to protect Americans from such attacks, which appeared to be carried out by radical Islamic terrorists, the US must 'strengthen our intelligence, our law enforcement, and work together with critical partners like the United Kingdom.'"

Gore: We Need To Defeat "Scourge Of Terrorism" With "Force Of Our Values." Al Gore said about the London attack on [Fox News Sunday](#) (6/4, Wallace), "Most of the attacks, both in England and here in the United States have been by homegrown terrorists, and of course the courts will deal with the travel ban. They've already been struck down, we will see what the Supreme Court does. This scourge of terrorism, we have to defeat it, but we have to defeat it not only with the force of arms but with the force of our values. I truly believe that giving people around the world a sense that the world has our act together and we will move forward to a bright future, is one of the important tasks at hand."

WSJournal: Debate Needed On Surveillance, Terrorism. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/4) casts the President's tweet calling for his travel ban as too harsh, but warns his opponents that opposition to surveillance and to an honest debate on the nature of the terror threat will make Trump-style politics ever more popular across the country – and even within the political class.

White House Unable To Answer Whether Trump Believes In Climate Change.

President Trump, Vice President Pence, and a half dozen top officials spoke out Friday in defense of the President's decision to pull the US out of the Paris climate accord, but the extensive coverage was almost uniformly negative in the cable and network newscasts as well as in print and online. Reporting highlighted that no White House official was able to state whether Trump still believes climate change is a hoax and showcased the many municipal, state, and international promises to strengthen the climate agreement regardless of the US withdrawal.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/2) reports the President "[shared](#) a Twitter moment consisting of statements praising his decision to withdraw from the Paris climate change accord" and "[retweeted](#) a message from radio host and conservative commentator Tammy Bruce in which she promoted an upcoming appearance on Fox News' 'Fox & Friends'" where she "slammed the Paris accord as 'climate reparations' and called it 'a reinforcement of a globalist dynamic that had nothing to do with the issue' of climate change." Trump additionally "[retweeted](#) a message from his son Eric that linked to a [Reuters](#) report on the three major U.S. stock indices closing at record highs on Thursday." The [Huffington Post](#) (6/2, Moran) says that the President "turned to his favorite social media platform in an apparent effort to find support and justify a decision that analysts say has brought America's era of global leadership to an end." According to the Post, within "minutes, Trump retweeted seven flattering posts" and "managed to squeeze in an extra plug for his upcoming appearance on the Fox network."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/2, Wagner) reports the President's announcement and White House have "cast the decision as being in the best interests of coal miners and other working-class Americans whose support helped sweep him into office." According to the Post, "Trump's withdrawal from the Paris accord plays particularly well with rural backers who embraced his

'America First' mantra and are wary of the impact of Obama-era deals cut with allies overseas." In a [Washington Post](#) (6/2, Balz) analysis, Dan Balz describes Trump's decision as "the clearest statement yet of convictions and principles that make up his worldview. 'America First' is more than a mere slogan. ... It is the sum of long-standing beliefs – and grievances – about the way things are and ought to be." Balz adds that "implicit" in the President's arguments is "the assertion that his approach will produce more jobs, more economic wealth and a better life for the working men and women who have been harmed by past global agreements" or at least "prevent the further loss of jobs for those forgotten Americans, as he has described them."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/2, Decker) similarly says that Trump's "lengthy – and disputed – economic and foreign policy explanations...for ceding U.S. leadership on the issue were cast in terms that aimed to please his 2016 voters, those who were older, whiter and more rural than the nation as a whole." The Times adds the "decision was greeted with applause in his strongholds in places such as western Pennsylvania and West Virginia, whose economies have long been dependent on fossil fuels, primarily coal, that would be restricted by the Paris agreement's terms for reducing emissions."

However, Kristen Welker of [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/2, story 3, 2:30, Diaz-Balart) reported that at the center of the "mounting fallout" is a White House "unable to answer a key question: 'Does the President believe today that climate change is a hoax?'" On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/2, 5:07 p.m. EDT, 7:02, Blitzer), White House correspondent Jim Acosta reported, "the White House cannot answer [that] critical question" and he said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/2, 6:07 p.m. EDT, 7:03, Blitzer) that when reporters "asked once again whether he believes climate change is a hoax" and "whether he believes it is real," the President "did not answer the question." Acosta added, "Once again, he left it to his top aides and administration officials," including Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt, who struggled on Friday "to provide some climate cover."

"The White House refused to say on Friday whether...Trump still believed that climate change was a hoax, as he said for years before taking office," the [New York Times](#) (6/2, A1, Baker) reports on its front-page, and "under questioning, each of the president's advisers said they could not answer what he actually believed about the science of the issue." Pruitt told reporters, "What's interesting about all the discussions that we had through the last several weeks have been focused on one singular issue: Is Paris good or not for this country? That's the discussions I've had with the president."

The [Huffington Post](#) (6/2, Kaufman) reports Pruitt added "he doesn't 'know what it means to deny the climate' in a defiant rebuke of his critics." Pruitt asserted, "People have called me a climate skeptic or climate denier. I would say that they were climate exaggerators." [Reuters](#) (6/2, Gardner, Heavey) reports Pruitt also "said he had indicated that global warming is occurring, and that 'human activity contributes to it in some manner. Measuring with precision, from my perspective, the degree of human contribution is very challenging.'"

In addition, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/2, Ballhaus, Stokols) reports White House press secretary Sean Spicer said, "I have not had an opportunity to have that discussion" with Trump but promised "if I can, I will" get clarification from the President. The [Washington Post](#) (6/2, Johnson) reports White House senior counselor Kellyanne Conway said on ABC News's "Good Morning America," "The president believes in a clean environment, clean air, clean water. He has received awards as a businessman, in that regard." The Post adds that its fact-checkers "have yet to find any evidence of those awards." When asked to follow up, Conway added, "You need to ask him that, and I hope that you have your chance."

David Axelrod, a senior adviser to former President Obama, told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/2, 5:41 p.m. EDT, 41:24, Blitzer), "Plainly, the White House doesn't want to answer that question because either way they go, they buy themselves some trouble. If the President walks away from his past statements – calling climate change a hoax and, you know, general skepticism about the issue – he antagonizes his base. If he reiterates that position, then he brings another firestorm down on himself. So they have chosen this very awkward netherworld, and they send the human pincushion Sean Spicer out there to say, after getting two days of questions about this, that, 'Gee, I hadn't gotten a chance to ask the President that question on the day that he absents the United States from the most significant climate change agreement in global history.'" The Daily Caller's White House correspondent, Kaitlan Collins, similarly told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/2, 6:44 p.m. EDT, 44:36, Blitzer), "I don't think the President's opinion on climate change has changed that much since when he tweeted a few years ago it was a hoax and BS. And the White House knows that, so they don't want to answer."

Meanwhile, the [Washington Times](#) (6/2, Persons) reports the Vice President in an interview

with “Fox & Friends” said the President “made it very clear that we’re withdrawing from the Paris accord and we’re putting the American worker, the American economy first, but you also heard him leave the door open to negotiating a better arrangement, [and] maybe re-entering the Paris accord under new terms and new conditions.” [The Hill](#) (6/2, Greenwood) reports Pence “questioned why climate change is such a ‘paramount issue for the left’” while the [Huffington Post](#) (6/2, Miller) says that he “dismissed any ‘apocalyptic predictions’ surrounding Trump’s decision, noting that the U.S. has already ‘demonstrated real progress’ in reducing carbon emissions.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/2, Schwartz) reports Secretary of State Tillerson told reporters, “I think it’s important that everyone recognize the United States has a terrific record on reducing our own greenhouse gas emissions; it’s something I think we can be proud of and that was done in the absence of the Paris agreement.” Tillerson said, “I don’t think we’re going to change our ongoing efforts to reduce those emissions in the future, either.” [Reuters](#) (6/2, Torbati) says that he indicated the Administration “will continue its efforts to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions despite...Trump’s decision to leave the Paris climate accord” and [Politico](#) (6/2, Restuccia) reports Tillerson “declined to specifically endorse the move.”

[The Hill](#) (6/2, Hensch) reports Education Secretary DeVos also “defended President Trump’s decision to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement, but told reporters that she ‘certainly’ believes in climate change,” but when “asked how humans could help slow climate change...said, ‘I don’t have an answer.’” The [Huffington Post](#) (6/2, Miller) reports that despite her “glowing praise” for the President, DeVos “was noticeably tight-lipped regarding her own beliefs on climate change.” Speaking at a student science fair at Eagle Academy Public Charter School in Washington, DeVos said, “I’m here to talk about students and schools today, and I would hope that we could focus on the opportunity that these kids have in this unique environment and this unique school with amazing teachers and administrators.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/2, Landers) reports Energy Secretary Perry said in an interview Friday that he doesn’t “have a problem with” China taking “the mantle of leadership on the climate.” Perry added that “huge emitter[s]” of pollution like China “need to clean their air up,” and dismissed claims that the US is stepping back from leading the world in environmental protection as “political blather.”

Under the headline “Trump’s Paris Rejection A Defeat For Deal’s White House Backers,” [The Hill](#) (6/2, Easley, Parnes) describes the President’s decision as “a stinging defeat to advisers and close family members who had advocated for Trump to keep the United States in the pact” – daughter Ivanka Trump, her husband Jared Kushner, Tillerson, and Cohn – as well as a victory for “the advisers who are seen as closest to the base: Chief strategist Stephen Bannon,” Pence, Pruitt, and Conway. The [AP](#) (6/2, Lederman, Lee) calls the withdrawal from the Paris accord “the latest challenge he has presented to Tillerson, a newcomer himself to the world of diplomacy who is still working to establish his credibility as an advocate of American foreign policy.”

In an article titled “Steve Bannon Is Great Again (In Trump’s Eyes),” the [Boston Globe](#) (6/2, Pindell) says the ruling shows “Bannon is back in power, and his influence appears to be growing.” [Breitbart](#) (6/2, Pollak) reports MSNBC’s Morning Joe host Joe Scarborough similarly “fumed at...Trump’s decision to withdraw from the Paris Climate Accords by blaming Bannon” and he “kept returning to the ‘President Bannon’ theme.”

In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (6/2, A1, Eilperin, Dennis) reports Pruitt has also “emerged as one of the most influential policy architects in the president’s Cabinet, a skilled and sometimes brash lawyer who is methodically taking apart a slew of regulations and agreements affecting everything from manufacturing operations to landfills.” The Post highlight that Pruitt “played a decisive role in convincing the president that it made sense to abandon the U.S. commitment to cut its greenhouse gas emissions under the 2015 international agreement.” However, EPA spokeswoman Liz Bowman “emphasized that Pruitt is focused on executing the strategy that Trump laid out for his Cabinet,” saying, “Administrator Pruitt is implementing President Trump’s executive orders to protect the environment, save manufacturing jobs and promote American energy independence.”

Nonetheless, Pentagon Correspondent Barbara Starr reported that [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (6/2, 6:56 p.m. EDT, 56:36, Blitzer) is “learning how concerned some are inside the Administration” about Trump’s decision to withdraw from the Paris climate accord. Starr said “the US intelligence community and the Pentagon have warned for months climate change could lead to war” because “weather disasters forced 21 million people out of their homes last year,” and in Somalia, “hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced not by war, but by drought and famine.” Starr added, “During his confirmation process, Defense Secretary James Mattis wrote, ‘Climate change can be a driver of instability,’” and “a Director of National Intelligence report warned just nine months ago, ‘When climate-related effects overwhelm a state’s capacity to

respond or recover, its authority can be so undermined” that “in the most dramatic cases, state authority may collapse.” [Reuters](#) (6/2, Torbati) similarly reports the decision to pull out of the climate agreement and the President’s “apparent disregard for climate science is at odds with the U.S. military’s consensus on the risks of climate change to security.”

Mayors, Governors Vow To Support Paris Accord. [ABC World News Tonight](#)’s (6/2, story 2, 2:55, Muir) Mary Bruce reported the White House gave “a staunch defense of the President’s controversial decision,” but “from Mexico City, to New York, to Paris itself, buildings [were] bathed in green in support of the agreement.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/2, story 2, 2:00, Mason) reported that across the nation, “governors and mayors are saying that if the President won’t lead the way on protecting the environment, they will.” Correspondent Carter Evans interviewed California Gov. Jerry Brown as he “was boarding a flight to Beijing to attend a clean energy summit. He’s going as the leader of the sixth richest economy in the world – the state of California.” Brown said the President “is wrong on the facts, wrong on the science, wrong on the economy.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/2, Lazo) similarly highlights California’s status as a national leader in combating climate change.

The [Boston Globe](#) (6/2, Abel) reports Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker on Friday “joined the governors of New York, California, and Washington state to form the ‘United States Climate Alliance,’ which they said would strive to stick to the nation’s commitments in the Paris accord.” In a statement, Baker said, “As the commonwealth reiterates its commitment to exceed the emission reduction targets of the Paris Climate Agreement, today we join the US Climate Alliance to expand on our efforts while partnering with other states to combat climate change.”

[Reuters](#) (6/2, Gaffen) reports New York Governor Andrew Cuomo also said Friday his state will invest in renewable energy “in an effort to create as many as 40,000 jobs by 2020.” [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (6/2, Harrington) reports the state will seek bids for \$1.5 billion in projects in the wake of President Trump’s decision to exit the Paris climate accord.

[USA Today](#) (6/2, Groppe) says mayors from both parties representing a number of cities nationwide also “pledged Friday to take the lead in reducing the nation’s carbon footprint.” [The Hill](#) (6/2, Bowden) reports their efforts will be assisted by former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who on Friday “pledged \$15 million from his philanthropy efforts to the United Nations to pay the United States’ contribution under the Paris climate accord.” During a press conference, Bloomberg asserted, “The United States, through strong action from local leaders, businesses and investors, remains committed to fulfilling the Paris agreement.”

Meanwhile, Bryan Llenas of [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (6/2, 6:11 p.m. EDT, 11:33, Rosen) reported Pittsburgh Mayor Bill Peduto “says he’s offended the President evoked an image of a dirty city” by crediting his decision to withdraw from the Paris climate accord in part to protect cities like Pittsburgh. Peduto said in video footage, “During the 1980s and 1990s, when we said our future economy may not be based upon big manufacturing, we were able to turn the corner in building a new economy. Pittsburgh is the poster child of showing why the Paris agreement is a good economics for the United States.” Peduto on Friday also “signed an executive order promising Pittsburgh will be one of at least 92 cities nationwide that will continue to honor the Paris climate accords in defiance of the President.”

While Trump justified his decision by saying he was “elected to represent the citizens of Pittsburgh, not Paris,” the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/2, Hanrahan, Maher) reports Peduto asserted on [CNN](#) (6/2, Watkins), “We didn’t invest in our past, we invested in our future. We are the example of what the Paris agreement could mean to jobs and the economy in the United States.” The [New York Times](#) (6/2, Lyons, Badger, Blinder) “The Upshot” blog in an analysis argues the President “picked the wrong city” as “the former steel hub has spent the last 30 years trying to remake its economy in precisely the mold that climate advocates envision.” According to the Times, Trump “seemed to be reaching for a stereotype of a coarse industry town where workers would cheer the return of coal (and where they might also scoff at the comparison to Paris),” but “many are no longer waiting for old industry to return.” The Times adds that “if anything, the city today stands to be affected more by Mr. Trump’s threats to repeal the Affordable Care Act than by his promises to revive the steel and coal industries.”

[USA Today](#) (6/2, Hughes) reports on the effects of climate change on Sarichef Island, Alaska, which “loses somewhere between nine and 22 feet of shoreline every year” according to federal officials. Residents “worry that President Trump’s decision to pull out of the Paris climate agreement will” accelerate the erosion. Though they saw little help in the eight years the lobbied the Obama Administration, they worry that Trump will be worse. “He doesn’t believe climate change is real,” one resident warned, calling it “scary.”

However, [Breitbart](#) (6/2, Riehl) reports “several Breitbart News Daily SiriusXM listeners from

Pennsylvania called in...to express their support for President Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris climate accords" while in a segment on the future of coal, [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/2, story 4, 2:00, Diaz-Balart) Anne Thompson noted coal miners in West Virginia are "more optimistic" and in a front page article, the [Washington Post](#) (6/2, Samuels) details increasing optimism in Gillette, Wyoming as residents are "beginning to feel the comeback they voted for." The Post highlights the coal industry's struggles in Wyoming under the previous Administration, which locals believe was driven by politics, not facts. Nonetheless, the Post concedes "Trump's decision on Paris wasn't what many here wanted," as several of the coal companies in the state wanted the US to stay in the agreement.

[Politico](#) (6/2, Juliano) reports Trump's campaign "announced a 'Pittsburgh, not Paris' rally across from the White House on Saturday to celebrate the United States' withdrawal from a global climate agreement." According to Politico, the Fairfax County Republican Committee and the Republican Party of Virginia are sponsoring the event to "demonstrate our support for President Trump and his fearless leadership."

World Leaders Recommit To Paris Accords. The [AP](#) (6/2, Cook, Charlton) reports that as "millions" worldwide denounced Trump, "many nations pledged to ramp up their efforts to curb global warming instead." [Reuters](#) (6/2, Escrib, Blenkinsop) reports China and Europe "pledged on Friday to unite to save 'Mother Earth' in the face of...Trump's decision to take the world's second largest carbon polluter out of the Paris climate change pact" while Russia, India, and Mexico "quickly signaled their commitment to the accord, although a Kremlin aide said it would not be viable without U.S. participation."

The [New York Times](#) (6/2, Smale) reports German Chancellor Angela Merkel "add[ed] her voice to a global chorus of defiance and criticism" against Trump and "expressed profound regret at the decision, declaring on Friday, 'This decision cannot and will not deter all of us who feel obliged to protect this earth.'" According to the Times, Merkel adopted "tones similar to that of President Emmanuel Macron of France, who on Thursday invited American scientists to continue their environmental work in his country," as Merkel asserted, "We will gather all our strength – in Germany, in Europe and in the world – to meet the great challenges of humanity, like climate change, and to successfully master these challenges."

In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (6/2, A1, Birnbaum) says "an international realignment [is] already taking shape...as European and Chinese officials signed a raft of agreements to bind themselves tightly together." According to the Post, Trump's "pullout left the United States as a global outlier, and, many European leaders and experts said, a severely diminished force in the world" while giving "China fresh weight in a newly unbalanced landscape where longtime U.S. allies are searching for stability."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/2, Wilkinson) similarly suggests the President's decision "is the most concrete sign yet that his 'America First' approach to foreign policy has begun to disrupt the global order and ultimately could cede Washington's dominant role on the world stage to China" while the [AP](#) (6/2, Pace) says it "sends an unmistakable message to the world: America First can mean America Alone."

China "may find it hard to fill the vacuum," the [New York Times](#) (6/2, Wong) acknowledges, but "for now, public affirmations of the Paris agreement by Chinese leaders send a strong signal to other nations that might be wavering in the wake of the withdrawal by the United States." The Times reports Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang on Friday failed to reach agreement with European diplomats "to endorse a joint statement on climate change" due to a trade dispute, though they "made public affirmations in Berlin on Thursday and in Brussels on Friday to work with each other," as does the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/2, Norman, Peker, Dalton). In a separate article, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/2, Taplin) also says that while Chinese leaders may want to chart the green energy course, their domestic energy markets are distorted and as such its promises to fight climate change lacked the credibility of the US and EU.

However, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/2, Grove, Marson) reports Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday dismissed concerns over Trump's decision, saying, "Don't worry, be happy." Putin added, "He said he wants to review the agreement or sign a new one. He doesn't refuse to work on the problem. You shouldn't make noise about it, but create conditions for cooperation." [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/2, Arkhipov, Biryukov) reports Putin for "the second time in two days...used the spotlight of Russia's premier business event of the year to express support for Trump, who had just stunned political and business leaders worldwide by announcing that the U.S. would withdraw from the Paris climate accord, the most ambitious effort to combat global warming."

Meanwhile, [AFP](#) (6/2) reports the leaders of several Pacific Island countries on Friday "accused Washington of 'abandoning' vulnerable nations and expressed dismay Friday after Donald Trump pulled the US out of the Paris climate deal."

[Reuters](#) (6/2, Thomas) reports Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development Secretary General Angel Gurría “held out hope on Friday the United States might row back on...Trump’s decision to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement, saying the pact was good for growth.” In a statement, Gurría said, “The OECD urges countries, companies, cities, states, and citizens to step up their efforts in combating climate change, in defending the future generations that it threatens, through ambitious outcomes under the Paris Agreement. We also hope that the U.S. government might find it possible to reconsider its decision at a future moment.”

NYTimes A1: Former Coal Giant India On Track To Green Future. In a front-page article, the [New York Times](#) (6/2, A1, Anand) details India’s “astonishing turnaround” to green energy. The country, which “went on a building spree of coal-fired power plants” a few years ago, is now “canceling many in the early planning stages,” and committed to “achieving 40 percent of its electricity capacity from nonfossil-fuel sources by 2030” in the Paris climate accord. What’s more, the country’s power minister Piyush Goyal said “in late April that the country would take steps to assure that by 2030 only electric cars would be sold.”

UN Warns Withdrawal From Paris Accord Could Prompt Trade Lawsuits, Hurt FDI. [Reuters](#) (6/2, Miles) reports “Trump’s decision to pull out of the Paris climate accord will affect foreign direct investment (FDI) and may lead to investor-state disputes, the head of investment at the U.N. trade and development agency UNCTAD said on Friday.” James Zhan, senior director of investment and enterprise at UNCTAD, said, “We cannot quantify it but we see there will be an important impact on global FDI and on FDI into the U.S. as well.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/2, Mauldin) suggests the President risks prompting trade disputes, as [Reuters](#) (6/2, Chestney) says the withdraw “might give U.S exports a competitive advantage” over other countries, which “will struggle to respond with any carbon tariffs due to the complexity of keeping them within international trade rules.” However, Reuters acknowledges “European and other nations have shown no appetite for responding with a regime of carbon tariffs.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/2, Turner) similarly highlights these concerns.

Trump “Snubbed” US Business Leaders, But Withdrawal From Paris Accords Unlikely To Have Much Impact. In a [Washington Post](#) (6/2, McGregor) analysis, Jena McGregor says Trump also “snubbed America’s CEOs” by refusing to listen to the US “business leaders [who] came together to write letters, make personal appeals and run full-page ads imploring Trump to stay in the climate pact.” McGregor highlights that Disney CEO Robert Iger and Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk withdrew from the President’s advisory council on Thursday in protest, and [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/2, Dlouhy) reports “on Wall Street, corporate executives pilloried the businessman president. Goldman Sachs’ CEO tweeted for the first time, calling the move a setback for the world.” Bloomberg adds Trump’s decision “leaves him more alienated than ever, isolated on the world stage and increasingly embattled at home.”

However, the [AP](#) (6/2, Koenig) reports “Trump’s decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris climate accord may have only limited immediate impact on many U.S. companies, according to analysts,” who added “the Paris agreement only went into effect last year, it’s voluntary, and doesn’t carry penalties for countries that fall short of emissions-cutting targets.” The AP says “many big companies in industries such as autos and aviation have already committed to reducing emissions and are spending billions to do it. They aren’t likely to change course.”

In a front-page article, the [New York Times](#) (6/2, A1, Thomas) reports that “while multinational corporations such as Disney, Goldman Sachs and IBM have opposed the president’s decision to walk away from the international climate agreement, many small companies around the country were cheering him on, embracing the choice as a tough-minded business move that made good on Mr. Trump’s commitment to put America’s commercial interests first.” According to the Times, “This full-throated support from the small-business community comes even as the Trump administration struggles to advance health care legislation and tax reform plans through Congress — and despite the swelling controversy over Mr. Trump’s ties to Russia.”

Meanwhile, [New York Times](#) (6/2, Thompson, Bajaj) Opinion section graphics director Stuart Thompson and editorial board member Vikas Bajaj identify the “corporate honchos...on the president’s advisory panels: the Strategic and Policy Forum and the Manufacturing Jobs Initiative.” They call on these leaders to “stand up for what they believe” and withdraw from the councils or risk “lending their own credibility and implicit support, and that of their companies, to his environmentally, diplomatically, and economically self-defeating position.”

MIT Officials, Kerry, Markey: Trump Misunderstood Climate Research. [Reuters](#) (6/2, Flitter) reports Massachusetts Institute of Technology officials on Friday “said...Trump badly misunderstood their research when he cited it on Thursday to justify withdrawing the United

States from the Paris Climate Agreement." Erwan Monier, a lead researcher at the MIT Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change and one of the study's authors, said, "We certainly do not support the withdrawal of the U.S. from the Paris agreement." John Reilly, the co-director of the program, added, "If we don't do anything, we might shoot over 5 degrees or more and that would be catastrophic." Reilly also told Reuters "MIT's scientists had had no contact with the White House and were not offered a chance to explain their work."

In its lead story, the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/2, lead story, 3:00, Mason) broadcast Former Secretary John Kerry, who "negotiated the Paris accord," rejecting Trump's position on grounds that he based it on flawed research. Kerry asserted, "That's not a real study. That's an industry-based study by people who oppose climate change, action, and who have been among the leaders in the whole theory of a climate hoax – which, by the way, there is not one scientific fact that supports the notion in a peer-reviewed study that it's a hoax." In an interview with the [Boston Globe](#) (6/2, Viser), Kerry called Trump's decision an act "of craven ignorance and cynicism that moved the presidency of the United States away from global leadership into a narrow little niche of ideological, political self preservation." He added, "It's tragic for the consequences. It's also built on an enormous lie that the economy is somehow hurt by the steps that were being taken." However, the Globe mentions White House deputy press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders "rebutted Kerry, saying he was failing to grasp the concerns that the electorate made clear in November." Huckabee Sanders added, "With all due respect Secretary Kerry sounds unhinged and his comments here reflect just how out of touch he and his party are with everyday, hard-working Americans."

Sen. Ed Markey told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/2, 6:23 p.m. EDT, 23:12, Blitzer), "Donald Trump's climate science is as bogus as a degree from Trump University." Trump "basically has decided he would honor his pledge to 70,000 coal miners in our country, and break the pledge the United States made to the world and break the pledge which this generation of Americans should keep to every subsequent generation of Americans to avoid the most catastrophic consequences of climate change." Markey accused Trump of "just listening to Steve Bannon, to the climate deniers, and trying to make his base be happy even if the National Academy of Sciences of every single country in the world has concluded that science of climate change is absolutely and totally non-debatable with regard to accelerating and it being caused by human activity." He said the decision to withdraw from the accord "undermines our credibility as a global leader" and is "an abdication of American economic opportunity, national security interests, of the public health implications," and "a moral failure."

New York AG Claims Exxon Mobil May Have Misled Investors On Carbon Costs. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/2, Olson) reports the New York attorney general's office on Friday filed documents alleging that Exxon Mobil misled investors over carbon costs and the [New York Times](#) (6/2, Cardwell, Schwartz) reports the office asserted Exxon Mobil's "public statements about its risk management practices were false and misleading," and that the company "may still be in the midst of perpetrating an ongoing fraudulent scheme on investors and the public." The filings allege that "Exxon told its investors that it used one set of estimates known as proxy costs while a set of lower costs was used internally in business planning." The company rejected the accusations in a statement, saying, "Exxon Mobil's external statements have accurately described its use of a proxy cost of carbon, and the documents produced to the attorney general make this fact unmistakably clear."

Refiners Fight Over Pennsylvania's Laurel Pipeline. [Reuters](#) (6/2, Renshaw, Resnick-Ault) reports a regulatory dispute over Buckeye Partners' 350-mile Laurel Pipeline in Pennsylvania could "redraw the map for international flows of crude and fuel into coveted coastal markets." A request to reverse the flow of a section of the line "would effectively block five East Coast refineries from serving Pittsburgh," and would hand their market share to Midwest refiners.

Meteorologists, US Evangelical Environmentalist Groups, Columnists Criticize Trump. "On the basis of science, not politics, meteorologists and leaders from the weather community largely united in denouncing the Trump administration's withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement," the [Washington Post](#) (6/2, Samenow) reports, and the American Meteorological Society's executive director Keith Seitter in a statement "called the decision 'deeply troubling,' and said it ignored 'so many...components of the risk calculus that went into the treaty.'" Seitter added, "From a scientific viewpoint, it is particularly troubling that the President's claims cast aside the extensively studied domestic and global economic, health, and ecological risks of inaction on climate change." The president of The Weather Channel, David Clark, also described the decision as "a blow for all of us, whether you 'believe' in climate change or not, whether you work in coal or not, whether you voted for Trump or not, whether you're American or not."

[Reuters](#) (6/2, McLaughlin) reports Evangelical Christian environmental groups on Friday also “panned...Trump’s decision to withdraw the United States from a global climate change pact, with leaders saying the political left does not have a monopoly on this issue.” Kyle Meyaard-Schaap, the national organizer and spokesman for Young Evangelicals for Climate Action, said the decision “was an affront to our faith in Christ, who calls us to love and be concerned for our neighbors around the world who are impacted by climate change.”

Dana Milbank writes in his [Washington Post](#) (6/2, Milbank) column that President Trump’s withdrawal from the Paris climate accord “wasn’t terribly surprising,” but criticizes him for using “jingoistic rhetoric” and mocking world leaders. Milbank warns that “Trump is projecting retreat, which isolates America,” and that his decision has caused the US to lose “its seat at the table” on climate change action.

David Brooks argues in his [New York Times](#) (6/2, Brooks) column that Trump’s decision is explained by “his core worldview that life is nakedly a selfish struggle for money and dominance.” By following this philosophy, Brooks adds, Trump and his advisers “sever relationships, destroy reciprocity, erode trust and eviscerate the sense of sympathy, friendship and loyalty that all nations need when times get tough.”

In her [Washington Post](#) (6/2, Parker) column, Kathleen Parker highlights the “100 businesses, 80 university presidents, three governors and 30 mayors” that have announced intentions to follow the Paris climate accord in the wake of Trump’s decision to pull out of it. She adds that according to Bloomberg, the group “could still reduce America’s contributions to greenhouse-gas emissions by 26 percent from 2005 levels by 2025.”

David Leonhardt suggests in his [New York Times](#) (6/2, Leonhardt) column that a “more politically persuasive message about climate change” may be needed to “punish” Republicans for opposing climate change regulation. To that end, he calls on readers to send articles “about how to develop a more effective political message on climate change.”

Holman W. Jenkins, Jr. argues in his [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/2, Jenkins) column that the Paris climate accord’s emissions targets were unenforceable and have little relation to temperature reduction. The costs associated with meaningful reduction of carbon emissions, he adds, are not supported by voters. Despite Trump’s decision to leave the accord, Jenkins says, the US has and will continue to lead the world in reducing emissions.

Haley: “Trump Believes The Climate Is Changing.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#)’s (6/3, story 4, 2:00, Llamas) Gloria Riviera reported the Administration has made “a stunning reversal” on President Trump’s position on climate change. Ambassador Haley, in an interview with [CNN](#), said, “President Trump believes the climate is changing and he believes pollutants are part of that equation, so that is the fact.” Haley added, “Just because we got out of a club doesn’t mean that we don’t care about the environment.” Riviera said the revelation came one day after Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Pruitt “couldn’t respond to a direct question” on the matter.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/3, Jordan) reports Trump “famously called climate change a ‘hoax’” during the campaign and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/3, Bendavid) says he claimed it had been invented by the Chinese. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/2, Dlouhy, Flavelle) reported that on Friday, Pruitt and White House press secretary Sean Spicer were unable to answer, but his position on climate change “isn’t merely about semantics.” According to Bloomberg, “The mystery over Trump’s climate views could complicate U.S. efforts to negotiate greenhouse gas reduction agreements with other countries – the kind of new deal Trump said he would be willing to pursue as he announced his Paris decision. If climate change is a hoax, after all, why would it make sense to force China or India to further curb their use of fossil fuels?”

In a nearly 4,600-word front-page analysis, the [New York Times](#) (6/3, A1, Davenport, Lipton) examines the Republican Party’s “journey from debating how to combat human-caused climate change to arguing that it does not exist.” The Times attributes blame to “big political money, Democratic hubris in the Obama years and a partisan chasm that grew over nine years like a crack in the Antarctic shelf, favoring extreme positions and uncompromising rhetoric over cooperation and conciliation.”

According to the [AP](#) (6/3, Borenstein), “facts muddy [Trump’s] claim” that the US “will continue to be the cleanest and most environmentally friendly country on Earth” despite his withdrawal from the Paris climate accords because “data show that the U.S. is among the dirtiest countries when it comes to heat-trapping carbon pollution. One nation that has cleaner air in nearly every way is Sweden.” The AP adds that according the Department of Energy’s Oak Ridge National Laboratory, “in 2014, the U.S. spewed 237 times more carbon dioxide into the air than Sweden.”

Hundreds Rally Outside White House In Support Of Trump. While Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris climate accord had "angered many world leaders," and in Europe, his "decision was met with shock and dismay," Paula Reid of the [CBS Weekend News](#) (6/3, story 2, 1:30, Ninan) reported his supporters "rallied outside the White House to express thanks for making good on a campaign promise." [The Hill](#) (6/3, Cohn) reports "the 'Pittsburgh Not Paris' rally, organized at the last minute by the Fairfax County Republican Committee and the Republican Party of Virginia, brought in an estimated few hundred supporters to a park near the White House."

Brown, De Blasio Join World Leaders In Committing To Paris Accords. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/3, Meyers) reports California Gov. Jerry Brown on Saturday "landed in China...to seek a broader role in shaping the world's climate change policies as America retrenches." The Times says the focus of Brown's "five-night mission is...to reaffirm a global obligation to green growth as America's de facto envoy on climate change."

[The Hill](#) (6/3, Carter) "Briefing Room" blog reports New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio on Friday "signed an executive order...that reaffirmed the city's commitment to upholding the goals of the Paris climate change agreement despite President Trump withdrawing the U.S. from the agreement." De Blasio said, "We here in New York City are shocked at the development this week in Washington, D.C., to see the president of the United States pull out of the Paris accord and literally set this nation, and the whole globe, on the path of denial." According to The Hill, the order "instructs New York City to adopt the principles of the Paris climate agreement, supporting its key principles of reducing greenhouse gas emissions 80 percent by 2050 and keeping a global temperature increase below 1.5 degrees Celsius."

Meanwhile, [Bloomberg News](#) (6/3, Viscusi) reports French President Emmanuel Macron and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday "pledged to work together to cut carbon emissions, re-affirming their commitments to the Paris accord." Bloomberg adds that while neither Macron nor Modi "mentioned Trump by name, both stressed their commitment to the Paris accord which the U.S. president vilified Thursday as being harmful to the American economy."

In addition, [AFP](#) (6/3) reports the African Union on Saturday "joined the chorus of disapproval" with Trump and "express[ed] its full support for the initiative." Guinean President Alpha Conde, the current chair of the AU, in a statement "called for the matter to be discussed at the G20 summit in Germany next month 'to raise US President Donald Trump's awareness of the issues of global warming.'" Conde added, "The African continent, though less guilty than others for anthropogenic (man-made) factors which cause climate change, is the one that suffers most directly."

WPost, Dowd, Douthat Criticize Trump For Withdrawing US From Paris Accord. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/3) details what states can do to combat climate change in the wake of President Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris agreement. The Post points to California's cap-and-trade law as an effective way to limit emissions, and argues that "the most valuable thing state leaders can do is expand on this model." The Post goes on to list other steps states can take, including encouraging denser urban development, investing in public transit, updating building codes and appliance standards, and raising gas taxes.

In a [New York Times](#) (6/3, Dowd) op-ed, contributor Maureen Dowd criticizes President Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement, calling it an "existential threat to the planet." She suggests that "Trump was goaded in the direction of dropping out of the Paris accord by a couple things that irritated him," including suggestions that his view on climate change was "evolving" and a rude reception from French president Emmanuel Macron.

Ross Douthat details in his [New York Times](#) (6/3, Douthat) column the "lukewarm" approach to climate change, which recognizes that humans are primarily responsible but doubts "that climate change represents a crisis unique among the varied challenges we face, or that the global regulatory schemes advanced to deal with it will work as advertised." Lukewarmers, he adds, reject the "apocalyptic, absolutist rhetoric" used by that push for climate regulation. He goes on to criticize republicans for letting "lukewarmers poke holes in liberal proposals for climate insurance policies" while doing nothing themselves, and concludes that a "very different" GOP will be needed "to offer a fully-credible policy alternative to climate alarmism."

Trump To Kick Off Infrastructure Week With Focus On ATC Privatization.

The White House said Saturday that President Trump will kick off "infrastructure week" on Monday with events focused on fulfilling his campaign promise related to aviation and transportation. Although the network newscasts were dominated by the latest developments from

the terrorist attacks in London, the print dailies, wires, and online publications provided coverage. Reporting was mostly straightforward about the upcoming events, which analyses suggest could help the White House reclaim control of the media narrative after a week of negative articles.

For example, the [AP](#) (6/3, Thomas, Boak) reports Trump's week of events will "highlight his effort to modernize American infrastructure – the highway, waterway, electrical and airway systems on which the nation operates." National Economic Council Director Cohn said Friday, "It doesn't matter who you are, whether you are farmer in the Midwest, or a mother driving your kids to and from school, or a worker or a college kid flying back and forth to school, you're affected by infrastructure." Cohn added the US is "falling behind and the falling behind is affecting economic growth in the United States. The president wants to fix the problems and he doesn't want to push these liabilities into the future."

Trump plans to "put a spotlight on his vows to privatize the nation's air traffic control system and spur \$1 trillion in new investment in roads, waterways and other infrastructure," the [Washington Post](#) (6/3, A1, Wagner) says in a front page article, as part of "a stepped-up effort...to show that the White House remains focused on its agenda, despite cascading headlines about his administration's ties to Russia." In addition, he will travel to the Ohio River to tout "the importance of waterways and to lay out his vision of infrastructure investments more broadly, aides say," and will host "a bipartisan group of mayors and governors to Washington to discuss the topic and venture to the Transportation Department to talk about roads and railways." The [Cincinnati Enquirer](#) (6/3, Shesgreen) reports the President will speak in the Cincinnati area on Wednesday, "according to a White House spokeswoman," who called the week "a critical pillar of the president's agenda to promote job creation and grow the U.S. economy."

The [New York Times](#) (6/3, Davis, Kelly) says Trump will "lay out a vision this coming week for sharply curtailing the federal government's funding of the nation's infrastructure and calling upon states, cities and corporations to shoulder most of the cost of rebuilding roads, bridges, railways and waterways." According to the Times, the President's Monday speech on privatizing air traffic control is his "first concrete explanation of how he intends to fulfill a campaign promise to lead \$1 trillion in United States infrastructure projects." In an interview Friday, Cohn said, "We like the template of not using taxpayer dollars to give taxpayers wins," adding, "We want to be in the partnership business. We want to be in the facilitation business, and we're willing to provide capital wherever necessary to help certain infrastructure along."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/3, Niquette, Levin) says "Trump's actions come after an initial outline of his infrastructure plan and his proposed budget sparked criticism from state and city leaders of both parties, who said they'd be left with too much of the financial burden." Bloomberg reports the plan to privatize the US air traffic control system, which is currently run by the Federal Aviation Administration, "will be based largely on legislation introduced in 2016 by" House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster, "according to a White House official." While Cohn "provid[ed] few specifics, [he] said Trump's proposal would create a new user fee to replace current taxes on aviation fuel and airline tickets." He also promised the plan will include "unspecified protections for rural airports; critics of the air-traffic plan have said it would jeopardize small airports by giving too much power to airlines and large hubs."

[The Hill](#) (6/3, Zanona) reports Transportation Secretary Chao "will testify next week in front of two congressional panels on the issue, as lawmakers begin work on reauthorizing the" FAA. According to the [Washington Times](#) (6/3, Miller), "the bold move to dislodge air traffic control (ATC) from the Federal Aviation Administration and create a quasi-independent, non-profit corporation to do the job is a fitting kickoff for Mr. Trump's weeklong focus on his infrastructure agenda."

However, [The Hill](#) (6/3, Zanona) reports Trump "may let Congress answer one of the key questions hanging over his \$1 trillion infrastructure package: how to pay for it." White House officials said Friday they are still "debating whether to identify funding offsets when it releases a proposal or let lawmakers hash it out at the committee-level." The Hill contends that "coming up with a palatable offset is likely to be the biggest hurdle facing Trump's ambitious plan to upgrade U.S. roads, bridges, airports and other public works."

Meanwhile, [Reuters](#) (6/3, Rampton) suggests the President's infrastructure push "could energize his supporters and distract from political intrigue in Washington" as well as "the political furor over Russia's alleged meddling in the 2016 U.S. election," which "will come to a head on Thursday when former Federal Bureau of Investigation Director James Comey, who was leading the Russia probe until Trump fired him, testifies before a U.S. Senate panel." [Politico](#) (6/3, Gardner) in an article headlined "Trump Pivots To Infrastructure As He Enters Bruising Week" says that beside the "full-throated infrastructure push," the week is "otherwise expected to be full of loud and potentially damaging news about the FBI and Russia."

Labor Department: Jobless Rate Falls To Lowest Level In 16 Years.

The Labor Department announced Friday that US employers added 138,000 jobs in May, as the unemployment rate declined to 4.3 percent, the lowest level since 2001. While media coverage was overshadowed by President Trump's decision to pull the US out of the Paris climate accords, all three network newscasts ran short broadcasts while the New York Times and Wall Street Journal published several articles discussing the implications. Reporting examined the mixed state of the economy, although most analyses suggested labor shortages could be to blame for the slowdown in hiring.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/2, story 7, 0:20, Muir) said the jobs data "shows the unemployment rate coming down in this country, but the pace of job creation is now slowing." The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/2, story 3, 0:15, Mason) similarly said the Labor Department reported "job creation slowed in May," as "employers added 138,000 jobs, 66,000 fewer than the month before." [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/2, story 5, 0:20, Diaz-Balart) called the report "some mixed news on the economy." The [Washington Post](#) (6/2, Swanson) reports Labor Secretary Acosta called the hiring figures "a positive sign that our economy is moving in the right direction." Acosta added, "More than 600,000 private-sector jobs have been created since Inauguration Day. These continued improvements have real impact on the lives of American families, as more people take home a paycheck."

In a front-page article, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/2, A1, Morath) touts the performance of the economy, but acknowledged labor shortages may be responsible for the decline in hiring. The [New York Times](#) (6/2, Cohen) similarly says the "milestone on the jobless rate "was offset by "halfhearted wage growth and a shrinking labor force [that] revealed the economy's stubborn weak spots." However, the Times argues "the report is unlikely to deter the Federal Reserve from raising interest rates when its policy makers meet in Washington this month," as does a second [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/2, Timiraos) article, which notes that Fed officials are more concerned with unemployment and hiring than inflation.

However, in the [New York Times](#) (6/2, Irwin) "The Upshot" blog, Neil Irwin expresses concern that "the May job numbers raise a depressing possibility: that this is as good as it will get for the United States labor market." While he acknowledges the trends are "what you would expect...if the job market were close to full employment, a state where nearly everyone who wants a job can get one," Irwin admits "that's the goal. ... But one of the great hopes for the United States economy over the last few years has been that an improving labor market would pull back in many of the millions of people who left the labor force in the aftermath of the 2008 recession." He concludes "there is still hope for America's armies of nonemployed. But if we keep getting monthly reports like the one for May, we will have to grapple with the possibility that a low unemployment rate and plentiful jobs aren't going to be enough to pull them into the labor market."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/2, Levitz) says the Baca, Summit, and Yuma counties in Colorado, which have the lowest unemployment rate in the country, are emblematic of the problems with full employment, as businesses in the community are having trouble keeping their employees. In a separate article, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/2, Lahart) questions why wages remain weak even as the economy has improved.

Commerce Department: Trade Deficit Increases In April.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/2, Mitchell, Leubsdorf) reports the Commerce Department said Friday that America's goods and services trade deficit increased to \$47.62 billion in April – a 5.2 percent increase over in March, and a 13.4 percent increase compared to a year ago. Economists credited foreign trade as the most likely factor inhibiting overall second quarter growth, as well as a strong dollar; meanwhile, imports grew by 7.5 percent in the first quarter, suggesting US consumers and firms have increased spending.

AFP, Freedom Partners Urge Price To Loosen ObamaCare Regulations.

[The Hill](#) (6/2, Hellmann) reports Americans for Prosperity and Freedom Partners sent a letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Price "urging the Trump administration to move forward with regulatory action loosening ObamaCare regulations as Congress continues to drag its feet on passing repeal legislation." In particular, the conservative groups "ask Price to loosen ObamaCare's essential health benefits, which are 10 services insurers are required to cover in their health insurance plans."

Justice Department Files Appeal To Supreme Court Over Trump Travel Order.

The [New York Times](#) (6/2, Liptak) reports the Justice Department on Thursday sent three urgent requests to the Supreme Court over President Trump's travel order. The DOJ filed a petition to request a review of the Fourth Circuit's recent decision to uphold a block on the travel ban and they have asked "the justices to act a little faster than usual, urging them to decide whether to hear the case before they leave for their summer break." The government has additionally requested the court "stay two rulings blocking parts of the travel ban," which if granted "would revive the ban while the justices decide how to respond to the petition." The Times says the court will likely hear the appeal.

James Rosen reported in the lead story for [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/2, 6:00 p.m. EDT, lead story, 0:21, Rosen) that the Supreme Court may decide whether "Trump's so-called travel ban will be the law of the land. The President's executive order, placing a temporary ban on refugees from six predominately-Muslim countries designated as hotbeds of terrorism, has lost at the district and appellate court levels." Correspondent Kevin Corke explained the Supreme Court will consider whether Trump's "fiery campaign rhetoric" evidences "that the real intention for the travel ban was to discriminate against Muslims."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/2, story 5, 0:20, Muir) reported, "The Administration has argued the ban is about national security. The high court could decide by the end of the month whether they'll take the case." [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/2, story 6, 0:20, Diaz-Balart) reported the Justice Department wants "the court to decide by the end of June whether it will take up the case in the fall."

US Demands Social Media Account Information From Visa Applicants. [AFP](#) (6/2) reports visa applicants to the US are now being asked by US consular officials "to provide their identities on social media, among other more vigorous screening methods." According to a State Department official who spoke on condition of anonymity, officials now have the ability to request extra information from those applicants they believe need "more rigorous national security vetting." The official said that these new security procedures went into effect as of May 25.

Democrats Considering Strategy Of Using Debt Ceiling Debate As Leverage.

"Congressional Democrats might abandon their calls for raising the nation's debt limit without any conditions," [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/3, Litvan) reports, as House Minority Leader Pelosi "signaled" the party could change its position in order "to use [the] leverage to try to prevent Republicans from enacting tax cuts for wealthy Americans." Bloomberg says this strategy "would be a significant change for Democrats, who have spent the past eight years arguing that debt ceiling increases should be free from conditions, and could further complicate efforts to raise the government's borrowing authority when the current limit is reached later this year." Bloomberg adds Senate Democrats intend "to discuss the possibility of tying support for an increase to concessions on the tax cuts when lawmakers return from a week-long Memorial Day recess next week, said a Democratic aide in the chamber."

AFGE Union Chief Rallying Opposition To Trump's Proposed Budget Cuts.

Under the headline "Drain The Swamp? Not If This Guy Can Help It," the [Washington Post](#) (6/4, Hesse) profiles J. David Cox, president of the American Federation of Government Employees (AFGE), "the largest federal workers union in America," saying that President Trump has vowed to "'Drain that swamp.' The swamp was the federal government of Washington. The epicenter of the swamp was metaphorically at 80 F St. NW, in the office of...Cox," whose union represents thousands of federal workers in agencies targeted by Trump budget cuts. The Post details Cox's efforts to rally opposition to Trump's planned budget cuts at agencies such as the EPA, and Departments of Energy, Labor, and Transportation, among many others.

Mulvaney: US Will Not Default On Debt Payments.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/2, Davidson) reports White House Budget Director Mulvaney said in a Facebook Live video chat with the [New York Times](#) (6/2, Rappeport) that if Congress does not raise the debt ceiling, the US will be unable to "meet all of [its] obligations as a nation; that's not a desirable outcome," but he insisted there is "absolutely no way" the Administration will default on its debt payments. Mulvaney added, "We are not going to do that. You can take that off the table."

Cohn: Congress Has "No Other Choice" But To Raise Debt Ceiling. In a Friday interview with [CNBC](#) (6/2, Belvedere), National Economic Council Director Cohn said Congress has "no other choice" but to raise the debt limit and said, "I'm confident that Congress will get the ceiling raised." Cohn added, "At the end of the day, the deficit ceiling has to be raised. This is money

that the Congress appropriated. They chose to spend the money." According to Cohn, "In a perfect world you would love to have a clean debt ceiling. But if we need to get things attached to get it through, we'll attach things."

Pelosi: Democrats Will Not Give Unconditional Support To Raising Debt Ceiling. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/2, Hughes) reports House Minority Leader Pelosi on Friday told reporters that while she would not necessarily oppose raising the debt ceiling, she asserted, "I don't have any intention of supporting a lifting of the debt ceiling to enable the Republicans to give another tax break to the wealthy in our country."

Cohn: White House Give Congress A Detailed Tax Reform Plan In September.

[Politico](#) (6/2, Lorenzo) reports National Economic Council Director Cohn said Friday in a Fox Business News interview that the Administration "will have a very detailed, drafted tax plan to be delivered to Congress by when they get back from the August recess." According to Politico, "Asked about the possibility of a slimmed-down plan made up of only tax cuts, Cohn said everything is being considered but the administration prefers an overhaul." Cohn said, "We are really driven to do the big reform and cut. Reform is still part of our agenda. The president ran on a reform agenda." He added, "We are into the nitty-gritty details of working on tax reform right now."

White House Officials: Infrastructure Funding To Be Excluded From Tax Reform Bill. [The Hill](#) (6/2, Zanona) reports White House officials on Thursday "assured conservative groups...that Trump will leave his infrastructure plan out of any tax reform efforts, according to a source who was at the meeting." According to The Hill, "While the comments appear consistent with a one-page tax plan summary released by the administration in April, there had still been hope on Capitol Hill that tax reform would be used to help pay for Trump's rebuilding effort. And Trump himself has repeatedly floated the idea of linking the two issues...in an effort to get more Democrats on board." The Hill adds the officials "told conservatives that Trump would not couple his tax plan with infrastructure or use tax reform to help pay for the rebuilding program, though they emphasized the infrastructure proposal is still being developed, a source said."

GOP Lawmakers "Frustrated" With Trump Over Lack Of Details On Tax Reform. House Republicans are increasingly "frustrated with the lack of any details about the Trump administration's tax plan, as the slow pace leaves lawmakers in limbo in their negotiations over how to deliver on long promised tax cuts," [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/2, House, Kapur) reports, and their "pessimism...stands in sharp contrast to...Trump's public promises." A member of the House Ways and Means Committee "said the prospect of a detailed White House plan emerging soon was akin to the chances of spotting a unicorn" and said that despite the many meetings of White House officials and lawmakers, the Administration's effort "so far feels like amateur hour."

AFP Kicks Off Ad Campaign To Promote Tax Reform. [The Hill](#) (6/2, Jagoda) reports Americans for Prosperity on Thursday kicked off "a six-figure advertising effort urging lawmakers to pass tax reform," in particular "reform that lowers rates, reduces the number of tax brackets and eliminates preferences for special interests." The Hill says "the ads are part of a broad multi-million dollar effort on tax reform running across a network of advocacy groups backed by billionaire GOP donors Charles and David Koch." AFP will focus on 18 House Republicans in "the first wave of ads," including Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady and Reps. Peter Roskam, Erik Paulsen, and Carlos Curbelo. In an interview with The Hill, AFP President Tim Phillips said, "We're hoping to see faster progress."

NYTimes Analysis: Lawmakers Should Consider Deficit In Writing Tax Cuts. Writing in the [New York Times](#) (6/2, Mankiw) "The Upshot" blog, N. Gregory Mankiw compares "the economic circumstances" confronting President Trump to those of other "tax-cutting Republican president[s], along the lines of Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush." Mankiw contends "Trump faces a vastly different set of circumstances" that are "not in the position of Ronald Reagan in 1981 or George W. Bush in 2001 but rather of Ronald Reagan in 1986." According to Mankiw, Trump "should follow the Reagan of the later period and aim for revenue neutrality. He should broaden the tax base, lower rates and reform the tax code to promote saving, investment and growth." Mankiw concludes "When judging revenue neutrality, policy makers will need to rely on a credible, impartial arbiter, like the Congressional Budget Office. In this era of alternative facts, it would be far too easy to pass irresponsible tax cuts and hand the bill to future generations."

WSJournal: Trump Has Tax Reform Leverage Over Senate Democrats. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/2) editorializes that while Senate Minority Leader Schumer has condemned the White House tax reform outline for proposing to eliminate the state and local tax deduction, the loophole provides an opportunity to force him and other Democrats to the negotiating table if they want to

save the tax break. The Journal concludes that the outcome is a win for conservatives either way, as Schumer either participates in the tax reform discussions or the deduction is removed and the tax code both becomes more equitable and has lower rates.

Collins Skeptical Of Administration's Tax Proposal Progress. In her [New York Times](#) (6/2, Collins) column, Gail Collins contends that while President Trump on Thursday "blurted out that his 'tax bill is moving along in Congress,'" his comments come as "something of a surprise since, A) there is no tax bill and, B) nothing is moving along in Congress." Collins argues "nobody seems to have any idea what's going on" with tax reform as Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, Budget Director Mulvaney, and National Economic Council Director Cohn are on different pages. She concludes "The bad news is that Trump, in a desperate lunge to accomplish something, will try to ram through a quick-and-dirty tax cut that will aid the rich and increase the deficit. ... The good news is that this crowd is so inept it might not work."

WPost A1: Trump Rolling Back Obama Policies, But Making "Little Progress" On Own Agenda.

On its front page, the [Washington Post](#) (6/4, A1, Johnson, Eilperin, O'Keefe) reports that President Trump "has in many ways made good on his promise to be a political wrecking ball," withdrawing the US "from the Paris climate accord," working "to roll back dozens of health, environment, labor and financial rules put in place by former president Barack Obama, and" scrapping "a far-reaching trade deal." However, the President and Hill Republicans "have made little progress in building an affirmative agenda of their own," such as repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act, "the \$1 trillion package of infrastructure projects Trump promised, the wall along the Southern border he insisted could be quickly constructed and the massive tax cuts he touted during the campaign. Even debate over health-care reform is largely focused on eliminating key parts of the Affordable Care Act and allowing states to craft policies in their place."

Current Value Of Costs Of Climate Change Difficult To Calculate.

The [New York Times](#) (6/2, Irwin) reports that the US leaving the Paris climate accord and President Trump's "broader unwillingness to fight climate change...will have broad economic consequences," but their form "depends on many things," including "the pace of scientific advances around renewable energy, the vicissitudes of commodity markets, and the investment decisions of businesses, governments and individuals worldwide." Part of the issue is "not whether some jobs involving fossil fuels will go away if greenhouse gases are regulated more stringently; what matters is whether the jobs that emerge to replace them will pay better or worse," which depend on a number of factors. Additionally, many of the expected costs due to climate change – "potentially including vast expenditures to try to protect cities from rising seas, adjusting agriculture to new climate patterns, and countless other changes" – will occur in an uncertain time in the future, meaning how much the costs should be discounted to the present is uncertain.

Trump's Claim US Is Cleanest And Most Environmentally-Friendly Country On Earth Questioned.

The [AP](#) (6/3, Borenstein) reports that while President Trump said that the US "will continue to be the cleanest and most environmentally friendly country on Earth", the AP says that "facts muddy that claim." Citing data from the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the AP says that Sweden "has cleaner air in nearly every way is Sweden" and indicates the US ranking based on total carbon dioxide output, as well as on a per capita basis and a per dollar of gross domestic product basis. On all three measures, the US produces more carbon dioxide than nearly all other countries. On other measures of clean air the US ranks better, such as in the amount of "dangerous soot or fine particles" on which measure it ranks sixth cleanest.

Rubin: Republican Leaders Losing Touch With Reality. Jennifer Rubin writes in her "Right Turn" blog for the [Washington Post](#) (6/4, Rubin), that President Trump in rejecting the Paris climate accord said he represented "Pittsburgh, not Paris" and that by doing so seemed to have a "conception of Pittsburgh as a heavy-industry steel town" an idea that is "badly out of date" according to Rubin. She argues that Trump and other Republican leaders have an out-of-date view of the country, and accuses them of "hiding from" the contemporary economy and science, and being "less and less grounded in reality."

States Form Climate Alliance To Meet Goals Of Paris Accord.

The [AP](#) (6/2, LeBlanc) reports Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker (R), Vermont Gov. Phil Scott (R), New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D), Connecticut Gov. Dannel Malloy (D), and Rhode Island Gov. Gina Raimondo (D) all proclaimed their intention to continue to “combat climate change” by reducing carbon emissions despite the President’s decision to withdraw from the Paris climate accord. Several also announced they would join the US Climate Alliance, begun by the governors of California, Washington, and New York. The [Financial Times](#) (6/3, Crooks) reports the alliance has pledged to meet the commitments developed by President Obama in the Paris accord and that its members include states that produce over 30 percent of US GDP.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Another Terrorist Attack, And More Agony, In Britain.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/4) argues that statements by British Prime Minister Theresa May and Labour leader Corbyn about Saturday’s terror attack in London, “though different in tone...were grown-up responses” and “contrasted sharply with President Trump’s bizarre Twitter barrage in which he variously scorned the mayor of London for seeking to reassure his people, blamed political correctness for what he said was the world’s weak response to terrorism, claimed that the attacks bolstered his case for a travel ban on Muslims and argued that gun control was pointless, because terrorists in this case had used knives and a truck.” The Times adds that “that both Mrs. May and Mr. Corbyn have not similarly politicized these horrible events is reassuring.”

“Undoing All The Good Work On Cuba.” The [New York Times](#) (6/5, Board) in an editorial says that if President Trump reverses President Obama’s Cuba policy, “he will further isolate America, hurt American business interests and, quite possibly, impede the push for greater democracy on the Caribbean island.” The Times says Trump would return to an approach tried “for more than 50 years” without leading to improvements in Cuba. The Times says that while the “engagement” policy “cannot guarantee Cuban reforms, but it is the best bet.”

Washington Post.

“A Baltimore Case Shows How Trump’s Deportation Crackdown Can Lead To Lawlessness.” A [Washington Post](#) (6/4) editorial cites a case in which Baltimore lawyer, Christos Vasiliades, who represented a man accused of rape, was arrested “for trying to get his client’s accuser to back off by warning her that she risked arrest as an undocumented immigrant if she showed up in court to testify” as “a microcosmic illustration of the damage President Trump’s intensifying deportation crackdown may inflict.” While Federal officials say arrests at courthouses are “a last resort,” the Post says the US Commission on Civil Rights and the chief justice of the California Supreme Court both argue that “arresting undocumented immigrants at courthouses imperils entire communities, making victims less likely to report crimes and witnesses less likely to testify.”

“Goldman Sachs Makes An Irresponsible Deal With The Corrupt Venezuela Regime.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/4, Board) says Goldman Sachs fund managers’ \$2.8 million secondary-market discount purchase of “bonds issued by the state-owned oil company of Venezuela” was undoubtedly “a really sweet deal for Goldman and its clients,” but it constituted a “terrible deal” for Venezuelans. The Post says Goldman Sachs chief executive Lloyd Blankfein’s repudiation of President Trump for his decision to withdraw from the Paris accord and proposed restrictions on travel “from certain Muslim-majority nations” evidences that the company’s leadership is “not indifferent to important ethical and public policy concerns.” If both “Goldman Sachs and the rest of Wall Street really want a reputation for social responsibility,” however, “they will eagerly seek alternatives to business as usual with Caracas.”

“The Best Solution To Metro’s Financial Problems Is Crystal Clear.” The [Washington Post](#) (6/4) writes in an editorial that “the chief solution” to the DC Metro’s financial problems is “crystal clear”: a “steady source of earmarked funding” in the form of a one percent sales tax in the District, Northern Virginia, and Maryland. Based on recent polls the Post has done with George Mason and the University of Maryland, a sales tax option has a majority of support, whereas as respondents disliked raising general taxes, property taxes, or taxes on buildings near Metro stations. They also disliked more service cuts and fare hikes. The Post says, however, that enacting a regional sales tax would be “a very heavy lift,” as Virginia GOP lawmakers and Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan would have to give their assent.

Wall Street Journal.

“Jihad Returns To Britain.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/4) casts the President's tweet calling for his travel ban as too harsh, but warns his opponents that opposition to surveillance and to an honest debate on the nature of the terror threat will make Trump-style politics ever more popular across the country – and even within the political class.

“How To Make Medicine More Expensive.” In an editorial that focuses primarily on Nevada and Maryland, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/4) criticizes states for considering bills the Journal says are attacks on the generic drug industry. The Journal also says FDA Commissioner Gottlieb is preparing a plan to foster more innovation and competition among generics, which the Journal argues, unlike the state bills under consideration, would make medicine more available and affordable.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Islamic State Claims London Attack](#)
[Low-Tech Terror Attacks Prove Harder To Thwart](#)
[Democrat Questions Russia Link As Comey Heads To Hill](#)
[More Chinese Companies Turn To Shadow Banking](#)

New York Times:

[After London Attack, Prime Minister Says, 'Enough Is Enough'](#)
[Trump's Off-The-Cuff Tweets Strain Foreign Ties](#)
[Bank At Center of US Inquiry Projects Russian 'Soft Power'](#)
[Climate Science Meets A Stubborn Obstacle: Students](#)
[GM Wants To Drive The Future Of Cars That Drive Themselves](#)
[On Mosul's Front Line: A Grueling Battle On Civilian Streets](#)

Washington Post:

[Attack Becomes Political Issue](#)
[Rules Put In Reverse: Legislation Still In Park](#)
[Presidential Response? Stoking Fear And A Feud.](#)
[In Va. Primaries, Progressive Democrats Try To Shake Up Party](#)
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Financial Times:

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[Homeland Security Has No Archive For Pence Panel On Illegal Immigrants Who Vote](#)
[Lawmakers Demand More Information And Privacy Protections Before Reauthorizing FISA Snooping Powers](#)
[Afghanistan Terror Threatens To Nip Pakistan's Budding Economy: Ambassador Waits For Trump Strategy](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: London Attack; London Attack-Suspects; London Attack-Local Responses; London Attack-Trump Response; Russia Meddling Investigation-Comey; London Attack-US Security; Ariana Grande-Manchester Concert; Italy-Soccer Fans Stampede; NYC Police Dragging; Box Office News; Ariana Grande-Manchester Concert Closing.

CBS: London Attack; London Attack-Victims; London Attack-Suspects; Ariana Grande-Manchester Concert; London Attack-Trump Response; Italy-Soccer Fans Stampede; California-Muslims; Georgia-Muslim Refugee; Teaching Manner.

NBC: London Attack; London Attack-Counterterrorism; London Attack-Trump Response; Oregon

Train Stabbing-Protests; Bill Cosby Trial; Ariana Grande-Manchester Concert; Cancer-Electronic Lifeline; NBC-Putin Interview; Dr. Seuss Museum.

Network TV At A Glance:

London Attack – 21 minutes, 55 seconds
Ariana Grande-Manchester Concert – 7 minutes, 15 seconds
London Attack-Trump Response – 6 minutes, 5 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: London Attack; Oregon Train Stabbing-Protests.
CBS: London Attack; London Attack-Trump Response; Russia Meddling Investigation-Comey; Oregon Train Stabbing-Protests; NBA Finals; Wall Street Market.
FOX: London Attack-Trump Response; London Attack; Ariana Grande-Manchester Concert; Middle East-Terrorism Connections.
NPR: London Attack; Ariana Grande-Manchester Concert; Oregon Train Stabbing-Protests; NBA Finals.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Announces the Air Traffic Control Reform Initiative; announces the Air Traffic Control Reform Initiative; host a reception for Gold Star Families.
VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President as he announces the Air Traffic Control Reform Initiative; participates in a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Duško Markovic of Montenegro; joins the President for a reception for Gold Star Families; delivers remarks at the Atlantic Council's Distinguished Leadership Awards.

US Senate: 3:00 PM Senate debates resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem – Senate convenes for legislative business, with agenda including beginning consideration of 'S. Res 176, A resolution commemorating the 50th anniversary of the reunification of Jerusalem' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

5:00 PM Senate Foreign Relations Committee top secret briefing on the Islamic State group outside the Middle East – Closed / Top Secret / Sensitive Compartmented Information briefing on 'Beyond Iraq and Syria: ISIS' Global Reach', given by State Department Bureau of Counterterrorism and Countering Violent Extremism Acting Coordinator for Counterterrorism Justin Siberell; and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Conrad Tribble Location: SVC-217, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

US House: Returns after Memorial Day District Work Period (aka State Work Period)

*No votes in the House of Representatives today.

Other: 7:30 AM American Jewish Committee Global Forum continues – American Jewish Committee Global Forum continues, with day two speakers Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, Austrian Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz, Cypriot Foreign Minister Nicos Anastasiades, Romanian President Klaus Iohannis, Singaporean Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishan, Japanese State Minister for Foreign Affairs Kentaro Sonoura, Israeli Public Security and Strategic Affairs Minister Gilad Erdan, Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, Hudson Institute's Michael Doran, Amb. Wendy Sherman, The Atlantic's McKay Coppins, Tablet's Yair Roseneberg, and The Washington Post's Jennifer Rubin Location: Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave, Washington, DC <http://www.ajc.org/> <https://twitter.com/AJCGlobal>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- St. George & Southern Utah Independent: Department Of The Interior Introduces "Current Wildland Fires" Program.
- Santa Fe New Mexican: Idea To Turn Campsites Over To Private Entities Has Opponents Worried Prices Could Skyrocket.
- Wyoming Business Report: Additional Coverage: Secretary Zinke Signs New Order On Sage Grouse.

- Arctic (AK) Sounder: Additional Coverage: AFN Leaders Meet With Secretary Of The Interior.
- Idaho Statesman: Trump's Ag And Interior Secretaries, And Idaho, Off To A Good Start.
- Portland (ME) Press Herald: Our View: Interior Secretary Should Do More Than Visit Maine's New National Monument.

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- Once Appearing Near Settlement, Wind River Legal Dispute Drags On.
- Tasks Lie Ahead For Tribal Casino After Legislation Passes.

Bureau Of Land Management

- U.S. News & World Report: Guidelines Developed For Drilling Near Chaco Canyon.
- Associated Press: Federal Agency Deciding Whether Oil Industry Owes Royalties.
- Alaska Dispatch News: Conservation Groups Girding For Battle Over National Petroleum Reserve In Alaska.
- Glenwood Springs (CO) Post Independent: BLM Seeks Comment On Gas Development West Of Rifle.
- Roseburg (OR) News-Review: Fishing In The Healing Waters Of The Umpqua.
- U.S. News & World Report: Wild Horses Available For Adoption In Wyoming.
- KXTV-TV Sacramento (CA): Inmate-trained Wild Mustangs Up For Adoption.
- Sacramento (CA) Bee: Cadiz Inc. Would Damage Mohave Desert.
- KRWG-FM Las Cruces (NM): All Public Lands Matter: We Need BLM To Protect Otero Mesa.

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- Mark Sanford, Environmental Groups In Race Against Clock To Stop Offshore Drilling.
- Cape Wind Opposition Continues.

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- New BSEE Director Urges Change Of Focus.
- Wildlife & Fisheries Proposes More Artificial-reef Sites For Defunct Oil Platforms.

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- Helena (MT) Independent Record: Endangered Species Cuts Could Hit Jobs In Montana.
- Washington Examiner: Senate's Midnight Measure Would Protect Gorillas.
- Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review: Wolves May Be Exploring New Territory In Western Washington.
- Washington Times: Additional Coverage: DNA From Zoo's Polar Bears Used In Fight Against Poaching.

National Park Service

- Washington Post: Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool To Be Drained, Cleaned After Parasite Kills 80 Ducklings.
- NPR: A Birmingham Motel Is Part Of A Civil Rights National Monument.
- Washington Times: Glacier National Park Maintenance Backlog Drops.
- Denver Post: Federal Hiring Freeze Causing Headaches At Rocky Mountain National Park.
- Las Vegas Review-Journal: Local Students Experience Milestone Moment At Zion National Park.
- WRTV-TV Indianapolis: Great Sand Dunes About To Experience 'Globally Rare Natural Phenomenon'.
- U.S. News & World Report: Crews Almost Done Clearing Mountain Highway In Montana.
- San Francisco Chronicle: Zip Trip: C&O Canal Restoration Project.
- Alaska Dispatch News: Anchorage Mayor's Chief Of Staff Leaves For Job With National Park Service.
- WLOS-TV Asheville (NC): Woods To Retire As Blue Ridge Parkway Superintendent.
- Chicago Tribune: Route 66, A Celebration Of Kitsch That's Worth Saving.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Marianas Variety: Interior Funding Powers Utilities In Pacific Territories And Freely Associated States.
- St. Thomas Source: Mapp Meets With Interior Officials As Territory Receives Grants.

Office Of Surface Mining

- Funding To Reclaim Abandoned Mines Falls Short.
- Concern Raised About Peabody Mine Cleanup On Navajo, Hopi Land.
- Coal Sector Reignites Under Trump But Is Projected To Burn Out In The Long Run.

US Geological Survey

- Quad-City (IA) Times: U.S. Geological Survey To Conduct Dye Study At Lock And Dam 14.

Top National News

- Associated Press: Trump Speech At DOT Decries Project Approval Process As Overly Burdensome.
- Associated Press: Trump To Focus On Job Training This Week.
- ABC: Sessions Will Testify Before Senate Intelligence Committee On Tuesday.
- ABC: Trump Goes "On The Offensive" Against "Cowardly" Comey.
- NBC: Trump Expresses Willingness To Testify Under Oath Over Comey's Allegations.
- Los Angeles Times: Trump: "America Is Going To Build Again."
- Associated Press: Trump Is Fighting Against Regulations, Not Climate Change.
- Associated Press: Perry Says US Will Focus On "Early Stage" Research Of Climate Technology In Beijing.
- The Hill: OMB Considers Trump's Clean Power Plan Review, Nears Public Release.
- Wall Street Journal: China Aims To Work With US States On Climate Issue.
- Reuters: US, G7 Remain At Odds On Climate Change.
- The Hill: The Hill Analysis: Economic Growth A "Bright Spot" For Trump.
- Wall Street Journal: Lawmakers Unclear On When To Raise Debt Limit.
- Politico: Treasury To Propose "Modest" Bank Reforms.
- Wall Street Journal: Labor Department Partially Implements Obama-Era Fiduciary Rule.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "Mr. Trump Goes After The Inspectors."
 - "Shunning Gun Control, Helping Terrorists."
- Washington Post.
 - "Good News: The US And Mexico Agreed On A Sugar Deal But That's Bad News, Too."
 - "Virginia's Breakthrough On Rectifying An Enormous Injustice."
 - "When Mentally Ill Parents Murder Their Children."
- Wall Street Journal.
 - "Trump's Steel-Trapped Minds."
 - "A Single-Payer Test Drive."
 - "Hezbollah In The Bronx."

Big Picture

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Washington Schedule

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Last Laughs

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DOI In The News

Interior Secretary To Make Proposal On Bears Ears Monument In Test For Protected Land.

[Reuters](#) (6/10, Volcovici) reports Interior Secretary Zinke on Saturday was expected "to make a recommendation to the White House...on whether to rescind or resize Utah's Bears Ears monument, setting the tone for the administration's broader study of which lands protected by past presidents should be reopened to development," but "an Interior Department official did not say when the recommendation would be made public." According to Reuters, "The 1.35 million-acre monument, created by former president Barack Obama at the end of his term and named after its iconic twin buttes, is the first of 27 national monuments that will be evaluated by the

Department of the Interior after President Donald Trump ordered the review in April.”

Additional coverage was provided by [NPR](#) (6/9, Siegler), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (6/10, O'Donoghue), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (6/10), the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (6/9), [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (6/10, O'Donoghue), and [KTVX-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (6/10, Comeau).

Utah Claims Bears Ears Monument Will Kill Uranium Industry. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (6/9, Maffly) reports that the Obama Administration “pointedly excluded the White Canyon uranium district from the Bears Ears National Monument, disappointing the tribes that proposed the monument and paleontologists who hoped to see the canyons’ Triassic fossils protected.” However, President Obama’s “nod to mining interests isn’t stopping Utah officials from claiming that the 1.3-million-acre monument he designated last year will destroy the state’s uranium industry.” In comments submitted to the Interior Department for the review of national monuments, the Legislature’s Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands “argued the Bears Ears designation not only abused the Antiquities Act, but also undermines national security by disrupting access to fissionable materials needed for electrical generation and military readiness — a claim dismissed as nonsense by many observers.”

Factbox: Review Of U.S. National Monuments Could Unlock New Energy Reserves. [Reuters](#) (6/10, Bolton) reported that while Bears Ears is not believed to carry energy reserves, the recommendation will set the tone for the review of other monuments that may possess natural resources.

Op-ed: Mormons Have A Responsibility To Protect Public Lands. In an op-ed for the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (6/11, Simonsen), Soren Simonsen, a community and regional planner, writes that “the Bears Ears region has special history and meaning and great ancestral and spiritual significance to our native sisters and brothers.” However, “it is equally important to all Americans as we preserve, visit and learn from its abundant sacred and historic places.” He urges “local, state and federal political leaders to keep the designation of the Bears Ears National Monument intact.”

What Utah’s Canyon Country Can Tell Us About Donald Trump’s National Monuments Review.

[NPR](#) (6/10, Dwyer, Siegler) reports that although “a looming decision on whether to abolish or shrink the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah should provide an early signal of how the Trump administration will deal with a long list of public lands issues,” the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument “offers a more comprehensive glimpse into the controversy that eddies around many of the monuments — and a revealing peek into what Zinke may ultimately recommend to the president.” The article provides “a tour of the national monument’s economic impact, the political cloud surrounding it — and what we can expect next, once that final call comes down.”

Monumental Legal Dispute Surrounds Antiquities Act. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (6/11, Hill) reports that the review is “triggering considerable debate over whether it’s legal for presidents to reduce the size of monuments created by their predecessors, or rescind monument creations altogether.” Legal experts expect that the question will be resolved in court.

Fishermen Lawsuit Against Marine Monument To Progress Slowly. The [AP](#) (6/9) reports that “a fishermen group’s lawsuit against the creation” of the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument is “likely to progress slowly while the federal government reviews national monuments around the country.” Lawyers for the fishermen “who sued say their case is likely to proceed slowly since it could be made irrelevant by Trump’s review of the monuments.”

City Council May Support Shrinking Sequoia Monument. The [Porterville \(CA\) Recorder](#) (6/10) reports that the Porterville City Council will “consider sending a letter to the United States Department of Interior asking the Giant Sequoia National Monument be reduced in size from 328,000 acres to 90,000 acres.”

Trump’s Attack On National Monuments Reflects Disregard For America’s Diversity. For the “Pundits” blog of [The Hill](#) (6/9, Arce, Patton, Contributors), Maite Arce, president and CEO of Hispanic Access Foundation, and Hillerie Patton, president of the Dignitas Agency and former employee of Nevada’s Bureau of Land Management, write that national monuments “engage and pay homage to the cultures and communities that contribute to our country’s great history.” They claim that the review of national monument shows “dishonor for U.S. public lands and extreme contempt for one of the nation’s most important conservation tools.” They argue that “this misguided mandate threatens to marginalize, erase, and censor the stories, histories and experiences embodied by our nation’s public lands.” They add that “it will take us a giant step

backward, and reopen wounds that, for many, have only begun to heal.”

Trump, Pearce Abuse Power On Monument. In an op-ed for the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (6/11, Fischmann), former state senator Steve Fischmann writes that “the suggestion that the feds imposed” the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument on Dona Ana County “in an act of oppression turns history on its head.” He asserts, “in fact, the feds created the monument at the community’s request.” Fischmann argues: “This was not an abuse of authority. It was government at its best – effectively responding to the people’s wishes.”

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the [Arizona Daily Independent](#) (6/12, Briggs) and the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (6/11).

Sununu To Meet With Trump Administration Officials In DC, NH.

[WMUR-TV](#) Manchester, NH (6/9, DiStaso) reports that Interior Ryan Zinke will visit New Hampshire Tuesday to meet with Gov. Chris Sununu “and other Granite Staters during a roundtable discussion at Bass Pro Shops in Hooksett.” According to the article, “the meeting will be closed to the media, but the Sununu and Zinke will hold a news conference afterward.”

The [Bedford \(NH\) Bulletin](#) (6/12, Landrigan) reports that Zinke will “formally announce the release of \$1 billion from two federal trust funds that support fish and wildlife preservation across the country.” The Pittman-Robertson Fund, “which goes through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, delivers about \$7.5 million in grants to New Hampshire Fish and Game — a quarter of the state agency’s total budget.”

Department Of The Interior Introduces “Current Wildland Fires” Program.

The [St. George & Southern Utah Independent](#) (6/11) reports that the Interior Department “announced recently that it is expanding and enhancing its wildfire location data-sharing program for 2017.” The new service is called “Current Wildland Fires” and is accessible through the Geoplatform ArcGIS Online Organization. Mark Bathrick, director of Interior’s Office of Aviation Services, said, “By providing greater public access to a wider array of wildland fire location data, drone operators will Know Where Not To Go in near real-time. As the 2017 wildland fire season gets underway, this improved service should greatly reduce the incidents of drone incursions on wildfires and enhance the safety of our firefighters and the communities they work so hard to protect.”

Idea To Turn Campsites Over To Private Entities Has Opponents Worried Prices Could Skyrocket.

The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (6/11, Moss) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “says government shouldn’t be in the business of running campgrounds, so he wants to turn national park campsites over to private businesses.” Last week, Zinke told members of the National Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds, “I don’t want to be in the business of running campgrounds. My folks will never be as good as you are on it.” According to the article, “a handful of companies already run campsites, lodging and concessions throughout the U.S. park system, but some fear widespread privatization could make recreation and camping prohibitively expensive in Western states.”

Additional Coverage: Secretary Zinke Signs New Order On Sage Grouse.

Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s Secretarial Order 3353, “which aims to improve sage grouse conservation and strengthen communication and collaboration between state and federal governments,” was provided by the [Wyoming Business Report](#) (6/8), the [Wyoming Tribune Eagle](#) (6/9), the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (6/12, Harmon), the [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (6/9, Blair), the [Baker City \(OR\) Herald](#) (6/9, Jacoby), and the [Baker City \(OR\) Herald](#) (6/9).

Additional Coverage: AFN Leaders Meet With Secretary Of The Interior.

Additional coverage that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “was in Alaska last week meeting with organizations and individuals throughout the state” was provided by the [Arctic \(AK\) Sounder](#) (6/9, Restino), the [Bristol Bay \(AK\) Times](#) (6/9, Restino), and the [Mat-Su Valley \(AK\) Frontiersman](#) (6/9, Adams).

Trump’s Ag And Interior Secretaries, And Idaho, Off To A Good Start.

In an editorial, the [Idaho Statesman](#) (6/9) says that President Trump’s “heads of the departments of Agriculture and Interior were ambassadors of cooperation when they were here June 2 during

their whirlwind trip to Boise. We hope that is their model for the future." Their visit was "a success for Idaho, the federal government and the joint management interests of the vast and revered public lands within our borders and throughout the West." The paper says that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, "in particular, scored points by reaffirming that he has no time for the 'transfer of public lands' drama that has distracted the West in recent years."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (6/12, Dentzer).

Our View: Interior Secretary Should Do More Than Visit Maine's New National Monument.

In an editorial, the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (6/12) says Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "coming to Maine this week to visit the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, where he plans to paddle a canoe and talk with locals about whether they feel that they were sufficiently consulted about the new monument's designation last year." Katahdin Woods and Waters is "on a list of national monuments being reviewed by the Trump administration for what would be a historic first: elimination of their permanent status as national treasures created under the 111-year-old Antiquities Act." The paper trusts that "while Zinke is in Maine, he will hear from longtime fans of the idea of a monument, as well as former critics who have been won over and some who still oppose it." According to the paper, "a monument that attracts visitors is a way to generate economic activity for the people of the region, helping the nearby towns grow again and prosper."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Once Appearing Near Settlement, Wind River Legal Dispute Drags On.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (6/11, Rosenfeld) reports that "recent developments in the legal dispute between the Northern Arapaho Tribe and federal government on the Wind River Reservation in central Wyoming suggest a resolution may not be near after all." The tribe and the Bureau of Indian Affairs "moved to settle in March, after a federal judge ruled in favor of the Arapaho in several key aspects of the case last fall that deals with how federal money is distributed to the tribes." The Eastern Shoshone Tribe, "which shares the reservation with the Arapaho, sought to enter the lawsuit shortly before the settlement conference, a move that had the potential to upend the mediation." U.S. District Judge Brian Morris has "yet to rule on whether the Shoshone will be allowed to enter the case, which began in 2015, but it appears that regardless, the settlement efforts have not yielded a consensus between the Arapaho and the federal government."

Tasks Lie Ahead For Tribal Casino After Legislation Passes.

The [AP](#) (6/11, Haigh) reports that "the tribes that run Connecticut's two casinos have won the long-sought approval of the General Assembly to run a third one, but there are still major tasks ahead as they seek to fend off competition from Springfield, Massachusetts." Federal and local authorizations are required before the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes can "begin transforming a former movie theater complex in East Windsor into a \$300 million satellite casino, which will be 25 minutes away from the \$950 million MGM Resorts casino, opening in late 2018." MMCT Venture, "the company created by the tribes, also needs to finish designing its new gambling and entertainment center and obtain financing while dealing with the legal challenges expected from MGM and others."

Additional coverage was provided by the [New London \(CT\) Day](#) (6/10, Collins).

Bureau Of Land Management

Guidelines Developed For Drilling Near Chaco Canyon.

The [AP](#) (6/9, Bryan) reports that "federal land managers have laid out their plans for weighing the effects of oil and gas development in northwestern New Mexico on everything from archaeological resources to light pollution." The Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Indian Affairs "released a final scoping report this week as work continues to revamp the management plan that guides development in one of the nation's largest basins." According to the article, "federal officials have acknowledged that the management plan is in need of an update due to changing technologies that are expected to result in more wells and surface disturbances than was planned for more than a decade ago."

Federal Agency Deciding Whether Oil Industry Owes Royalties.

The [AP](#) (6/9) reported the Bureau of Land Management is reviewing 2,500 requests to flare from wells the agency manages in North Dakota to see if the oil industry owes royalties for flaring that was avoidable on federal and tribal oil wells. If the agency determines flaring could have been avoided, companies may be forced to pay royalties to the US government.

Conservation Groups Girding For Battle Over National Petroleum Reserve In Alaska.

[Alaska Dispatch News](#) (6/10) reported that the Trump Administration is pushing for more development in Alaska's North Slope, despite objections from environmental groups. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke signed an order to revisit a management plan to allow for geological exploration in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, along with the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Environmentalists say that when the reserve was created in 1976, the Interior Secretary was directed to uphold environmental and subsistence values. Nicole Whittington-Evans, Alaska's director for the Wilderness Society, said, "People hear the name and immediately associate the entire area as a place where oil and gas development is its purpose. ... But that is not what the originating statute actually dictates. It has extraordinary wetlands and wildlife resources that need to be protected."

BLM Seeks Comment On Gas Development West Of Rifle.

The [Glenwood Springs \(CO\) Post Independent](#) (6/10) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is "moving forward with oil and gas development on land 9 miles west of Rifle and is seeking public comment on the project." Under the Balzac Gulch Master Development Plan, Terra Rocky Mountain LLC will "drill up to 66 oil and gas wells from three existing pads over the next two years." Acting Colorado River Valley Field Manager Gloria Tibbetts said, "The BLM takes a broad, multiyear look at potential oil and gas development through Master Development Plans to better understand and mitigate potential impacts as well as streamline drilling permit approval. Oil and gas development on public lands and minerals in the Colorado River Valley Field Office supports a working landscape that creates jobs and helps Western Slope communities grow."

Fishing In The Healing Waters Of The Umpqua.

The [Roseburg \(OR\) News-Review](#) (6/11, Hoard) reports that "about 20 veterans and volunteers...came out to a fly fishing event this weekend thanks to the Roseburg District Bureau of Land Management and Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, a national nonprofit meant to support those who have served in the military." According to the article, "the veterans stayed at the Eagleview Group Campground Thursday through Saturday, sharing barbecue dinners and telling fishing stories by the campfire." Cheyne Rossbach of the Roseburg BLM said, "The BLM is proud to partner with Project Healing Waters to help put on these events and help the veterans." Rossbach "added that many BLM retirees are involved with the program, including Jay Carlson, former district manager and an avid fly fisherman."

Wild Horses Available For Adoption In Wyoming.

The [AP](#) (6/9) reports that "wild horses are available for adoption this summer at the Rock Springs Wild Horse Holding Facility." The Bureau of Land Management "estimates 42 wild horses are available for adoption."

Inmate-trained Wild Mustangs Up For Adoption.

[KXTV-TV](#) Sacramento, CA (6/9, Moore) reports that "five inmate trained horses are up for adoption in the Wild Horse Program, a collaboration between the Bureau of Land Management and the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department." According to the article, "inmates gain skills, confidence and leadership qualities in learning to train them, and adoption programs like this one provide a safety valve to ease pressure on the overgrazed public lands."

Cadiz Inc. Would Damage Mohave Desert.

In separate letters to the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (6/9), Sen. Dianne Feinstein and Mojave National Preserve superintendent Mary G. Martin rebut Winston Hickox's recent op-ed in support of the Cadiz water project. Feinstein claims that the op-ed shows "Cadiz will continue to prioritize its investor's financial interests over California's irreplaceable public lands" instead of providing "the public an open and honest discussion about their water extraction project." Also, Martin claims "Hickox's op-ed contains misrepresentations and untrue statements about the Cadiz project." Martin thanks Feinstein "for her leadership in opposing President Donald Trump's administration's

effort to drain groundwater from our desert, parks and wildlife.”

All Public Lands Matter: We Need BLM To Protect Otero Mesa.

In commentary for [KRWG-FM](#) Las Cruces, NM (6/11, Soules), New Mexico state Sen. William Soules urges the public to comment on a Bureau of Land Management Resource Management Plan for Otero Mesa. According to Soules, “a draft RMP is expected this year, and by using our voices we can call on the BLM to use all of the tools at their disposal to create a balanced plan that adequately protects the Otero Mesa landscape.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Mark Sanford, Environmental Groups In Race Against Clock To Stop Offshore Drilling.

The [Beaufort \(SC\) Gazette](#) (6/9, Angst) reported that 60 organizations from South Carolina and along the Atlantic coast expressed support for Rep. Mark Sanford’s bill that would prevent offshore drilling and all related activities for 10 years in the Atlantic, Straits of Florida and Eastern Gulf of Mexico. The coalition of groups wrote, “If passed, this legislation would give our businesses, communities and organizations the assurance needed to ensure the longevity of our livelihoods without the fear of impacts from offshore drilling and seismic airgun blasting.” Sanford said in a statement, “The administration’s latest action in opening the waters of the Atlantic to seismic testing is another in a string of decisions that is fundamentally at odds with the notion that the government closest to the people governs best.”

[Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (6/9, Henderson) provided continuing coverage that a federal notice seeks public comment for five exploration companies which are looking to use seismic testing in the Atlantic.

Cape Wind Opposition Continues.

The [Cape Cod \(MA\) Times](#) (6/11, Bragg) reports that “opponents of the stalled Cape Wind offshore wind farm continued efforts in April and May to end the company’s federal lease.” The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, “though, has no plans to rescind the lease for 30 acres in Nantucket Sound, agency spokesman Stephen Boutwell said.” Boutwell said, “Cape Wind Associates LLC is currently in good standing.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

C.A.S.T. For Kids Helps Expand Options For Disabled Youths.

The [Loveland \(CO\) Reporter-Herald](#) (6/10, Wyatt) reports that the 21st annual C.A.S.T. for Kids event was held on Saturday at Horsetooth Reservoir. The C.A.S.T. foundation along with the Bureau of Reclamation and the Centennial Bass Club of Northern Colorado “assembled nearly 50 boats...for disabled and disadvantaged children to climb aboard and catch some fish.”

Kids With Special Needs Went Fishing, Reeling In Excitement.

[KRCR-TV](#) Redding, CA (6/10, Wong) reports that “kids with disabilities, or who are disadvantaged, got the chance to cast their own fishing lines Saturday morning at Shasta Lake for the ‘Catch a Special Thrill’ event.” The Bureau of Reclamation “helped organize a day for kids with special needs throughout Shasta County to get outdoors and out on the lake.” Sheri Harral with the Bureau of Reclamation said, “It’s in the hopes that they will grow to love the outdoors and the love of fishing.”

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Feds Give Gulf Drillers A Break.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (6/9, Osborne) reports that “federal regulators are extending the amount of time offshore oil and gas drillers in the Gulf of Mexico have to resume work on a lease once activity has ceased.” The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement “announced Friday it would now allow 12 months of inactivity, up from six months, before suspending leases in federal waters.” BSEE Director Scott Angelle said, “These additional months mean companies doing business on the Outer Continental Shelf will have more planning flexibility, which will help them

be more cost efficient, create more jobs and maximize the economic benefit for the entire nation.”

Additional coverage was provided by [E&P Magazine](#) (6/9) and [World Oil](#) (6/9).

BSEE Director Angelle’s Tour Ends With ‘Fact Finding’ Efforts In Lafayette.

The [Lafayette \(LA\) Daily Advertiser](#) (6/9, Stickney) reports that Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Director Scott Angelle completed a “five-day trek across the Gulf Coast” on Friday. Angelle “met with industry representatives in New Orleans, Houston and Lafayette.” Angelle said Wednesday at the Offshore Operators Committee general meeting in Houston, “BSEE maintains a high focus on safety and the environment, and also a focus on responsible energy production. My mission under Secretary (Ryan) Zinke’s leadership is not how do we promote either/or, it’s how do we do it all?” He continued, “How do we promote more responsible energy development while being safe and environmentally conscious? I don’t think that’s too much to ask.”

New BSEE Director Urges Change Of Focus.

The [Anchorage \(AK\) Petroleum News](#) (6/11) reports that Scott Angelle, “the new director of the federal Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, urged more focus on economic opportunities in a May 31 town hall meeting with employees in Sterling, Virginia.”

Wildlife & Fisheries Proposes More Artificial-reef Sites For Defunct Oil Platforms.

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (6/9, Masson) reports that “Louisiana anglers have seen the numbers of oil and gas platforms decline over the last few years after a 2010 directive from the U.S. Department of Interior ordered all non-producing oil rigs in the Gulf of Mexico be plugged and any remaining structures be removed within five years.” The Idle Iron policy “meant anglers had to watch as many of their favorite fishing platforms were deconstructed and carted on barges back to dry land.” The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is “hoping to keep more of that structure in the Gulf, and has selected several additional special artificial reef sites (SARS) in the near- and offshore waters along the state’s coast.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Endangered Species Cuts Could Hit Jobs In Montana.

The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (6/11, Chaney) reports that “many state groups and agencies that handle Endangered Species Act functions for the federal government have been casting worried looks at the endangered status of their funding.” President Trump’s proposed 2018 budget “hits corners of several agencies that protect threatened animals like bull trout and grizzly bears.” According to the article, “should those cuts come to pass, that could also endanger lots of jobs in Montana.”

Senate’s Midnight Measure Would Protect Gorillas.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/9, Siciliano) reports that the Senate “passed a bill late Thursday night that seeks to restore funding for endangered species programs to protect gorillas and elephants in Africa and India, while guarding the U.S. against invasive pests from other countries.” The bipartisan Wildlife Innovation and Longevity Driver (WILD) Act was “passed by unanimous consent, with lawmakers on both sides of the aisle praising the bill’s emphasis on reauthorizing the programs.” The WILD Act “reauthorizes programs to protect gorillas, tigers, Asian and African elephant species, and rhinos, while nearly doubling the amount of money for the Department of Interior to run the sea turtle program.”

Wolves May Be Exploring New Territory In Western Washington.

The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (6/11) reports that “gray wolves appear to be checking out territory west of the Cascades in eastern Skagit County, according to photos, tracks and other signs, federal officials say.” According to the article, “if observations prove to be true, a pack in Western Washington would be a leap toward delisting wolves from state and federal endangered species protections.” U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Carnivore Lead Gregg Kurz said, “It’s too early to confirm whether a pack is present there, but we have confirmed what we believe to be wolf activity in the area.”

Additional Coverage: DNA From Zoo's Polar Bears Used In Fight Against Poaching.

Additional coverage that the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium's polar bear cubs are "helping the federal government fight crimes against their wild relatives in the Arctic, thanks to advancements in forensic science and DNA testing" was provided by the [AP](#) (6/11, Neese).

National Park Service

Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool To Be Drained, Cleaned After Parasite Kills 80 Ducklings.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/9, Moyer) reports that "the Lincoln Memorial's Reflecting Pool will be drained and cleaned next week after a waterborne parasite killed several ducklings, officials said." According to a statement by the National Park Service, "since May 20, about 80 ducklings have been found dead in the Reflecting Pool, and necropsies showed the likely cause of death to be parasites that grow in snails that live in the water." The NPS said that "chemical treatments cannot kill the parasites and snails, so the water must be drained and cleaned."

The [AP](#) (6/9) reports that the statement says "humans who come in contact with the parasite can develop a skin rash, though it rarely requires medical treatment."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (6/9), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (6/9), the [Daily Mail](#) (6/9), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/10), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/9), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (6/9), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/9), and [WUSA-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (6/9).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/9, Weil, Moyer), [CNN](#) (6/9, LeBlanc), [CNN International](#) (6/9, LeBlanc), [NPR](#) (6/9, Wamsley), [USA Today](#) (6/10, Rossman), [TIME](#) (6/9, Gajanan), the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (6/11, Erdman), the [Daily Mail](#) (6/9, Duncan), the [Huffington Post](#) (6/10, Papenfuss), the [Tech Times](#) (6/11, Norman), [Breitbart](#) (6/11, Starr), the [Morning Ticker](#) (6/10, Taylor), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (6/10, Rempfer), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (6/10, Rempfer), and [WTTG-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (6/9).

A Birmingham Motel Is Part Of A Civil Rights National Monument.

[NPR](#) (6/10) reports that "the A.G. Gaston Motel was where Martin Luther King stayed when he visited Birmingham" is now part of the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument. Bishop Calvin Woods discussed its history.

Glacier National Park Maintenance Backlog Drops.

The [AP](#) (6/10) reports that "Glacier National Park's maintenance backlog has dropped by \$31 million over the last year, according to a report by the National Park Service." The park's deferred maintenance "dropped to \$148.2 million in 2016, down from \$179.8 million in 2015." The article notes that "the ongoing rehabilitation of the 50-mile Going-to-the-Sun Road, expected to wrap up early next year, helped knock out a substantial chunk of the existing backlog last year."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Idaho Statesman](#) (6/10), the [Ravalli \(MT\) Republic](#) (6/10), the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (6/10), and the [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (6/10).

Federal Hiring Freeze Causing Headaches At Rocky Mountain National Park.

The [Denver Post](#) (6/9) reports that many visitors to Rocky Mountain National Park will "experience delays and long lines for much of the busy season due to a slow hiring process and budgetary challenges." According to the article, "the amount of permanent staff at RMNP is around 200, and that doubles during the busy season." This year however, "there are significant hiring delays for both seasonal and permanent employees."

Local Students Experience Milestone Moment At Zion National Park.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (6/11, Benavidez) reports that "fourth-graders from Rainbow Dreams Academy, Victory Mission Baptist Church, 100 Academy of Excellence and Booker, Kelly and Wendell Williams elementary schools" were invited to Zion National Park "along with a small group of children from Child Protective Services." According to the article, "in partnership with the National Park Service, the National Park Foundation and the Every Kid In A Park program, Las Vegas City Councilman Ricki Barlow worked for a year to bring the students to Zion." Barlow was "supporting 1 Million African-American Youth In A Park, an extension of Every Kid in a Park led by National Park Foundation board member Stephen Hightower."

Great Sand Dunes About To Experience ‘Globally Rare Natural Phenomenon’.

[WRTV-TV](#) Indianapolis (6/9, Contreras) reports that “this is the best time of the year to experience a globally rare natural phenomenon at the sand dunes in the San Luis Valley, according to a Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve spokesperson.” Medano Creek is “now approaching what’s called ‘surge flow,’ a phenomenon where creek water flows in waves across the sand.”

Additional coverage was provided by [WXYZ-TV](#) Detroit (6/9, Contreras).

Crews Almost Done Clearing Mountain Highway In Montana.

The [AP](#) (6/10) reports that “after weeks of moving snow along Glacier National Park’s Going-to-the-Sun Road, crews are almost ready to declare the Big Drift open for travel.”

Zip Trip: C&O Canal Restoration Project.

In a video posted by the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (6/11), Alison Greenberg, Executive Director with Georgetown Heritage, and Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles, spokesperson for the National Park Service, talked “about the restoration effort at the C&O Canal in Georgetown.”

Anchorage Mayor’s Chief Of Staff Leaves For Job With National Park Service.

The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (6/10, Kelly) reports that Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowitz’s chief of staff Susanne Fleek-Green, is leaving the city to become the superintendent of Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. Fleek-Green’s starts her new position on Monday.

Woods To Retire As Blue Ridge Parkway Superintendent.

[WLOS-TV](#) Asheville, NC (6/9) reports that Mark Woods, superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway, “said he will retire July 3, 2017, after a 37-year career with the National Park Service.” Woods said, “It has been such a privilege to have a career in the National Park Service. The National Park Service serves to protect and tell the stories of some of our country’s most amazing places from presidential homes and sacred battlefields, to natural resource treasures like we have along the parkway. National Park Service sites truly represent the best America has to offer.”

Route 66, A Celebration Of Kitsch That’s Worth Saving.

In an editorial, the [Chicago Tribune](#) (6/9, Board) praises the successes of the National Park Service’s Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program. It notes that “a bipartisan bill now in Congress would designate Route 66 as a National Historic Trail,” which “would ensure preservation funds are allocated for roadway projects every year.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

Interior Funding Powers Utilities In Pacific Territories And Freely Associated States.

[Marianas Variety](#) (6/12) reports that Interior Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula has “made available \$380,447 in maintenance assistance funding from the Office of Insular Affairs to support two regional initiatives and one local initiative that support and bolster capacity for the power utilities in all main islands of the Pacific U.S. insular areas.” Pula said, “Electrical power is costly for residents in the territories and freely associated states. We do all we can to help them keep costs down through building local capacity and facilitating collaboration of ideas and expertise.”

Mapp Meets With Interior Officials As Territory Receives Grants.

The [St. Thomas Source](#) (6/8) reports that Gov. Kenneth Mapp met with Interior Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula and “other officials Tuesday to discuss issues facing the territory.” According to the Interior Department, “the discussions covered infrastructure challenges related to the hospitals and Mapp’s efforts to bring greater fiscal stability to the territory.” The article notes that “Mapp’s trip coincided with the release of \$704,000 in federal technical and maintenance assistance funding through the Office of Insular Affairs.”

Office Of Surface Mining

Funding To Reclaim Abandoned Mines Falls Short.

The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (6/11, Peterson) reports that "U.S. House members gathered last week to discuss the allocation of funds in the federal program to reclaim abandoned mines." Rep. Steve Pearce "scolded the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement for the lack of oversight of the funds." Jeff Graves, the Colorado director of the Inactive Mines Reclamation Program, "said once the federal program ends in 2021, the allocated money left won't be enough."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (6/10, Ward).

Concern Raised About Peabody Mine Cleanup On Navajo, Hopi Land.

[Bloomberg BNA](#) (6/9, Lee) reports that "Arizona residents and environmentalists are growing increasingly worried about the cleanup of a large coal mine that's moving swiftly toward closure." Peabody Energy Corp., "the mine's operator, promises that the reclamation will be done right." If it's not, local residents "fear the Navajo and Hopi tribes in the northern part of the state will be left with a parched, ravaged homeland that might never be fully restored."

Coal Sector Reignites Under Trump But Is Projected To Burn Out In The Long Run.

The [Washington Times](#) (6/11, Wolfgang) reports that despite signs of a US coal industry rebound, "even the most ardent coal proponents say the revival will be short-lived," as "many coal-fired power plants and utilities" are "moving toward cheaper natural gas." Energy Information Administration (EIA) data show that "coal production during the final week of May was 22 percent higher than during the same week last year, with nearly 15 million short tons." However, the Times calls statistics presented by EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt on ABC's "This Week" on June 4 "misleading"; Pruitt said 50,000 coal-related jobs were created in the US last quarter, but that count includes "a host of positions not directly related to coal mining," according to the article.

US Geological Survey

U.S. Geological Survey To Conduct Dye Study At Lock And Dam 14.

The [Quad-City \(IA\) Times](#) (6/9, Geyer) reports that U.S. Geological Survey scientists will "conduct a hydraulic study on Tuesday using a harmless, florescent red dye at the Mississippi River's Lock and Dam 14 at LeClaire." According to the article, "researchers will measure the distribution of the dye in the auxiliary lock and map the dyed water downstream after the dyed water is released from the lock." The goal is "to understand how well water mixes within the lock chamber, to quantify the amount of leakage into and out of the lock through the gates, and to determine how quickly the dye becomes diluted downstream once it is released from the lock."

Additional coverage was provided by [KWQC-TV](#) Davenport, IA (6/11).

Top National News

Trump Speech At DOT Decries Project Approval Process As Overly Burdensome.

President Trump on Friday concluded Infrastructure Week with a speech at the Department of Transportation focused on the Administration's commitment to reducing regulatory burden for new projects with the creation of two new councils to help projects work through the approval process. The major print dailies and wire reports covered the address, although reactions to the speech were not exactly optimistic about the success of Trump's proposals. Reporting also highlighted that Trump dropped binders of environmental impact statements on the floor next to him to demonstrate the extent of the current review process.

The [AP](#) (6/9, Superville) reports Transportation Secretary Chao and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke were among the officials in attendance, during which Trump said "my administration is committed to ending these terrible delays" on groundbreaking "once and for all." Driving home the point about the current environmental review and permitting process, Trump, "with the dramatic flair of the reality TV star he used to be," picked up "a pair of thick binders that held the environmental impact statement for a Maryland highway" before letting each fall on "the floor with a loud thud after he thumbed through them." Before giving the speech, Trump participated in a transportation roundtable discussion with state officials, where Trump said his Administration intends to make US infrastructure "once again...the envy of the world."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/9, Laris) reports, coming just one day after James Comey's

testimony before Congress, "Trump on Friday appeared before a friendly audience at the U.S. Department of Transportation to try to build some momentum for a signature campaign promise," his plan to unleash \$1 trillion in public and private spending power for infrastructure projects. In his DOT speech, Trump said, "These binders on the stage could be replaced by just a few simple pages" that would remove "unnecessary things that cost millions and millions of dollars and they actually make it worse." The Post says the Administration's infrastructure plan, which relies heavily on private spending spurred by tax breaks, is no longer looking like the "opportunity for bipartisanship" that seemed possible after the election. The story concludes by mentioning that "Chao said the Department of Transportation issued a public call in the Federal Register Friday 'soliciting solutions and suggestions on ways to improve government permitting. So, if you have ideas, we want to hear from you.'"

[Reuters](#) (6/9, Shepardson) reports Trump stated the project permitting process is "one of the biggest obstacles to creating this new and desperately-needed infrastructure," being "painfully slow, costly and time-consuming." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/9, Bender) reports Trump proposed two new offices to help with project planning, one that would help project managers work with the proper bureaucratic channels and make information about projects more publicly available, and another under the White House Council of Environmental Quality that would focus on streamlining the project approval process.

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (6/9, Soergel) reports the new council focused on helping project managers work through the approval process "will also improve transparency by creating a new online dashboard allowing everyone to easily track major projects through every stage of the approval process," Trump said, adding that "We will hold the bureaucracy accountable" by possibly fining agencies with consistent project delays. The story says Trump, Chao, and Zinke were all in attendance at the transportation roundtable discussion with state leaders about "how best to move forward on infrastructure revitalization."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/9, Niquette) reports Barack Obama "had created a similar dashboard" to the one Trump proposed. [USA Today](#) (6/9, Korte) reports "the White House did not immediately explain how Trump's new federal permitting council would differ from the one that already exists": the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council, which was created in 2015 by Congress and the Obama Administration. [Bloomberg News](#) (6/9, Niquette) reports in another story, however, that "after Trump's speech at the Department of Transportation, the White House confirmed that he was referring to the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council, which was authorized by Congress in 2015 and implemented by President Barack Obama."

In a story titled, "Trump's 'infrastructure week' goes off the rails," [The Hill](#) (6/9, Zanona) reported "the White House's self-proclaimed 'infrastructure week' has generated a flurry of headlines on nearly everything else," with Comey's testimony having "commanded the attention of Washington and major cable news networks all week long."

[NBC News](#) (6/9, Popken) reports Trump "didn't unveil a formal plan for achieving any of these goals" laid out in his speech, adding to his "week of non-starters."

[MarketWatch](#) (6/9, Schroeder) reports the Democratic opposition is also "giving Trump's infrastructure plans the cold shoulder," with Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer having said the plan would benefit investors, not the general public.

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (6/9, Fritze) reports on Trump's use of Maryland's Intercountry Connector toll road as an example of the "painfully slow" environmental review process.

[CNN](#) (6/9, Merica) summarizes Trump's cross-nation trips this week to promote his infrastructure plan as "ill-timed."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/9), [CNBC](#) (6/9), and [Mediaite](#) (6/9, Meyer) posted video of Trump's speech.

Chao Calls For Public Input On Infrastructure Regulations. [Truckinginfo](#) (6/9, Cullen) reports on Secretary Chao's [blog post](#) Friday to mark the end of Infrastructure Week "by asking the public to comment 'on ways to identify and reduce unnecessary regulatory obstacles that too often stand in the way of completing important infrastructure projects across the nation.'" Chao said, "we know you can help us identify more" ways to reduce regulatory burden for infrastructure projects, noting that Deputy Transportation Secretary Jeff Rosen "has already acted on what we've been hearing and identified dozens of ways to streamline the process."

[JD Supra](#) (6/9) reports on the Transportation Department's request Friday for stakeholders to "help identify non-statutory requirements that should be removed or revised by submitting comments by July 24, 2017." According to the report, DOT's call for input "presents an opportunity for interested stakeholders to identify specific administrative and regulatory requirements that impede project development and approvals and to present ideas on how these impediments can be eliminated."

Transit Projects Around The Country Could Be In Jeopardy. The [Washington Post](#) (6/9, Paletta, Debonis) reports that “dozens of public transit projects around the country are in danger of stalling as the White House’s plan to boost U.S. infrastructure fails to gain momentum – with thousands of jobs at risk.” According to the story, “local officials who had long anticipated federal support for their projects” are now “worrying whether they will get it” amidst uncertainty over the Administration’s infrastructure plan and how much direct Federal spending it will include in the bid to unleash \$1 trillion in public and private spending power. While “Trump had originally held out hope that infrastructure spending could be a rare source of bipartisan action this year,” his “hopes have dissipated in recent months as controversies enveloped the White House and Democrats grew skeptical of Trump’s plans to provide large tax credits to private companies to finance much of the construction.”

NYTimes: Trump’s Infrastructure Plan Should Focus On Promoting Investment, Not Scrapping Permitting Rules. In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/9) contends that “lacking a real plan to fix the country’s roads, bridges and water systems, President Trump on Friday” in a speech at the Department of Transportation to cap off Infrastructure Week “trained his guns on the phantom menace of cumbersome regulations that he said were delaying much-needed public works projects.” While the Times acknowledges that “most people can agree that the government should work faster and more efficiently,” the outlet argues “lack of serious investment” is the real problem, not “a half-century of bipartisan environmental law.”

Trump To Focus On Job Training This Week.

President Trump this week plans to focus on expanding apprenticeship programs as part of his job creation initiative. While media coverage was limited to the wires and a handful of print and online outlets, reporting is mostly positive and suggests that the President’s business skills and television experience as the host of “The Apprentice” could help Trump’s jobs program succeed.

The [AP](#) (6/10, Boak, Kellman) reports the President “is trying to change the subject back to his promise to make American job creation a top priority” by focusing next week on “bringing more Americans into the economy by having them start working as apprentices.” The AP says that while “there are few specifics as to how Trump would encourage more Americans to simultaneously work and learn as apprentices,” Trump will be “visiting a technical college in Waukesha, Wisconsin, on Tuesday, delivering a policy speech at the Labor Department on Wednesday and meeting with eight governors at the White House on Thursday.” Reed Cordish, a presidential aide on intragovernmental and technology issues, told reporters that when the government partners with businesses and schools, “the country has seen the best results.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/10, Morath) reports Ivanka Trump said the Administration is focused on “supporting working families and creating a pathway for them to have robust and successful careers. There has been great focus on four-year higher education, and in reality, that is not the right path for everyone.” Labor Secretary Acosta added, “Closing the skills gap is critical for increasing labor-force participation.” [USA Today](#) (6/10, Sullivan) reports Ivanka also said that in addition to Acosta, Commerce Secretary Ross and Education Secretary DeVos “have been looking at existing federal job-training programs to determine which work and which are redundant.”

[The Hill](#) (6/10, Easley) reports Ivanka added the President’s visit to the Waukesha County Technical College, will “raise awareness about the fact that there are important and very viable and respectable career paths outside of a traditional four-year college experience that should be considered and should be invested in.” Ivanka “credited German chancellor Angela Merkel – who has a frosty relationship with her father – for planting the seeds for the new initiatives by taking her on a tour of an apprenticeship facility in Berlin earlier this year.” Ivanka said, “We looked around the globe and sought to find examples of where apprenticeships and workforce development and training programs were very successful and really thriving. Germany is a great example of that.” The Hill notes Vice President Pence is currently in Wisconsin “to discuss the administration’s economic agenda with Gov. Scott Walker (R) and small business owners from across the state.”

The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (6/10, Gilbert) describes Wisconsin as “an example of a blue-collar state with a relatively strong tradition, by U.S. standards, of apprenticeships,” but also a state “where business and political leaders have complained that a skills gap is a big factor holding back job growth. While statewide unemployment has declined to a 17-year-low of 3.2%, job growth has been chronically sluggish.” The Journal Sentinel states that the White House will use the President’s visit to WCTC “to publicize its goal to vastly ‘scale up’ the use of apprenticeship programs to close a skills gap that is making it hard to fill many jobs in manufacturing and other sectors.” Cordish said, “The students [at WCTC] are learning skills and

trades that will lead to their employment right in that area, jobs that are available – good, high-wage jobs that are available in that locality.”

Meanwhile, [Politico](#) (6/10, Kullgren) says the “centerpiece” of the “three-day blitz” will be the President’s speech at the Labor Department “to announce yet-undisclosed executive actions to promote job training.” Politico adds “in touting apprenticeships, a rare policy tool that enjoys bipartisan support, Trump will have to maneuver around the awkward fact that his proposed budget would cut Labor Department funding for training and employment services by 36 percent, including deep reductions in training for adults and dislocated workers.” However, a senior Administration official insisted, “The problem is not money. The problem is [training programs] haven’t been set up in an effective and accountable way, and that’s what we’ll be addressing through this initiative. The president put forth a very fiscally responsible and prudent budget.”

[Reuters](#) (6/10, Rampton) reports Trump, the “reality television star with a show called ‘The Apprentice,’ will spend a lot of time next week promoting a plan to expand apprenticeships to help companies find more skilled workers to fill jobs, the White House said.” Reuters adds that the President is in his element for “workforce development week,” as “a real estate developer who is familiar with the use of apprenticeship programs in the building trades.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/10, Puzanghera) similarly states that “Trump will focus...on something he knows well – apprentices.” The Times adds the Administration “is reviewing and could shift the \$16.7 billion spent on 43 job training programs spread across 13 agencies,” although the President’s proposed budget for 2018 “would cut funding for adult, youth and dislocated worker training grants to states by 40%, to \$1.6 billion, according to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, a liberal think tank.”

However, the [Washington Examiner](#) (6/10, Lawler) highlights that the “workforce development week” comes after a “botched ‘infrastructure week’” that was “overshadowed by former FBI Director James Comey and President Trump’s tweets.” [Vanity Fair](#) (6/10, Fox) runs a similar report headlined “As Comeygate Deepens, Ivanka Offers a Bipartisan Distraction.”

Sessions Will Testify Before Senate Intelligence Committee On Tuesday.

Attorney General Sessions on Saturday said he will testify before the Senate Intelligence Committee on Tuesday to address allegations about his meetings with Russian officials that former FBI Director James Comey made during his hearing on Thursday. Media coverage, which included more than four minutes combined on the two network newscasts to broadcast, was also heavy in print and online. Reporting was generally negative and suggests Sessions testimony will likely be dominated by question of his meetings with Russian officials when he was a surrogate for President Trump’s campaign.

[ABC World News Tonight](#)’s (6/10, story 2, 2:30, Llamas) Mary Bruce said “the spotlight of the Russia investigation is bringing new scrutiny to” Sessions, who had been “the first senator to endorse candidate Trump. In March, citing those campaign ties, Sessions recused himself from overseeing the Russia investigation.” Bruce also reported investigators have been reviewing “Trump’s first major foreign policy address at a DC hotel last year” that was attended by Sessions and Russian ambassador Sergey Kislyak. Bruce added the Attorney General was invited to testify “specifically because there are so many Russia-related questions for Sessions.” Sen. Chris Murphy said Comey suggested “that there are some untold stories about why Jeff Sessions decided to recuse himself,” and Sen. Richard Blumenthal remarked, “What we have is a pattern of contacts with the Russians by [former National Security Adviser Michael] Flynn, by Sessions, by [senior adviser Jared] Kushner, secret and then concealed.”

The [New York Times](#) (6/10, Savage) reports Sessions “had been scheduled to testify before other committees about the Justice Department’s budget that day, but he will instead appear before the intelligence panel” to discuss “issues related to Russia’s interference in the 2016 election.” According to the Times, Sessions “may face sharper questioning from the intelligence committee, which has had access to intelligence materials in its inquiry into the Russian meddling.” The Times highlights that Comey “invoked” Sessions “several times” during his testimony and “said, cryptically, on Thursday that even before Mr. Sessions recused himself, there had been classified facts ‘that would make his continued engagement in a Russia-related investigation problematic.’ That led officials to believe that ‘he was not going to be in contact with Russia-related matters much longer.’” The [CBS Weekend News](#) (6/10, story 2, 1:40, Barnett) Correspondent Errol Barnett reported the former FBI Director additionally “explained why he didn’t report his concerns to...Sessions.” Comey: “Our judgment, as I recall, is that he was very close to and inevitably going to recuse himself for a variety of reasons. We also were aware of facts that I can’t discuss in an open setting, that would make his continued engagement in a

Russia-related investigation problematic.”

The [Washington Post](#) (6/10, Horwitz) reports Sessions told Sen. Richard Shelby, chairman of the Appropriations subcommittee on commerce, justice, science and related agencies, and Rep. John Abney Culberson, chairman of the House Appropriations subcommittee on commerce, justice, science and related agencies, that despite previously accepting their invitation, “In light of reports regarding Mr. Comey’s recent testimony before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, it is important that I have an opportunity to address these matters in the appropriate forum.” Sessions added, “The Senate Intelligence Committee is the most appropriate forum for such matters, as it has been conducting an investigation and has access to relevant, classified information.” However, the Post states that “a Justice Department official said that committee hearing probably will be closed to the public.”

Meanwhile, [Reuters](#) (6/10, Ali) and [USA Today](#) (6/10, Mallenbaum) report Sessions will designate Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein to testify before the Senate and House Appropriations subcommittees in his stead. “Briefing congressional appropriators on the Justice Department’s budget is a critical part of the attorney general’s job,” the [AP](#) (6/10) says, and “the fact that Sessions would delegate that task to his deputy showed the Russia investigation was distracting him from his core duties.”

In addition, [Politico](#) (6/10, Cheney, Bresnahan) mentions the President “has privately expressed frustration about Sessions’ decision to recuse himself, and the two have had a tense relationship in recent weeks. Sessions even offered to resign before Trump left on his first foreign trip, but the president ultimately declined the offer, according to a person who regularly speaks with Sessions.” In an analysis, [CNN](#) (6/10, Cillizza) Editor-At-Large Chris Cillizza says that for Sessions, it “not been a good seven days.” According to Cillizza, “Sessions’ week went from really bad to holy-cow-what-else-can-happen-to-me” after Comey “testified about his interactions with Trump over the Russia investigation. While Sessions wasn’t the focus of the questions (or the answers), he came under some heavy criticism from his former underling.” Cillizza concludes Sessions “had the Worst Week in Washington.”

Trump’s Base Supports President, Poll Finds Americans Trust Comey More. The [Washington Post](#) (6/10, A1, Phillip, O’Keefe) reports on its front-page that Democrats and “many legal experts in both parties” view Comey’s testimony as “dire legal peril” for the President, but “to Trump, many Republicans and a broad constellation of surrogates and conservative media outlets, the takeaway is much different: exoneration.” The Post contends “the starkly different interpretation of Comey’s testimony on the right provides another illustration of the deepening national divide over Trump, whose approval ratings are mired in the mid- to high-30s amid the Russia probe and other controversies and whose agenda has bogged down in Congress with relatively few major accomplishments so far.” The [AP](#) (6/10, Lemire, Thomas) similarly reports the President is “banking on his loyal base of supporters to help him through the tangle of the Russia turmoil.” According to the AP, Trump’s response to Comey on Friday was made with “his core backers in mind” and “his strategy is consistent with the way Trump has governed in his first four months in office.”

However, the [Huffington Post](#) (6/10, Edwards-Levy) reports a new [HuffPost/YouGov poll](#) of 1,000 “adults” (6/8-6/9) released Saturday found “by a 20-point margin, 46 percent to 26 percent, Americans say Comey is more honest and trustworthy than Trump, with the remainder unsure.” According to the poll, “Similar shares of the public hold favorable views of both men: 38 percent for Trump, and 35 percent for Comey. But Trump’s unfavorables, at 53 percent, are significantly higher than Comey’s, at just 33 percent.” The poll shows half of respondents “believe that Trump asked Comey to pledge loyalty to him...with just 15 percent believing Trump’s disavowal of having done so.” In addition, 42 percent “believes...Trump attempted to order [Comey] to drop the FBI investigation” of Flynn, while 28 percent “don’t believe that Trump did so.” However, the poll suggests Comey’s testimony has “failed to move the needle much on broader views about the Russia story, which remain unfavorable – but not yet overwhelmingly so – toward the White House.”

Comey Associate In Contact With Senate Judiciary Committee Over Memos. “A source familiar with the discussions” told [Politico](#) (6/9, Cheney) that “Dan Richman, a longtime friend and adviser to...Comey, has been in contact with the Senate Judiciary Committee regarding a series of memos that Comey authored about his private conversations with President Donald Trump from January through April.” The source “says Richman connected with the Senate panel via the office of special counsel Robert Mueller, who is leading a high-profile investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. ... The source says the matter will be addressed on Monday.”

NYTimes A1: Trump’s Feud With Comey “Overshadowed” Big Warning Of Russian Threat. In a

front-page analysis, the [New York Times](#) (6/10, A1, Baker, Sanger) cautions that “lost in the showdown” between Trump and Comey “was a chilling threat to the United States” when Comey “testified that the Russians had not only intervened in last year’s election, but would try to do it again.” Comey warned, “It’s not a Republican thing or Democratic thing – it really is an American thing. They’re going to come for whatever party they choose to try and work on behalf of. And they’re not devoted to either, in my experience. They’re just about their own advantage. And they will be back.” The Times adds that Comey’s “warning about the Russian threat was overshadowed by his confrontation with Mr. Trump, who fired him last month.”

WPost Analysis: McCain’s Travel Schedule Likely Behind “Groggy” Comey Questioning.

[Washington Post](#) (6/10, Kane) columnist Paul Kane highlights that Sen. John McCain “seemed a bit groggy during Thursday’s high-profile congressional hearing” and suggests his strange performance could be because “he had spent the previous week on the other side of the world, hop-scotching his way around the Pacific trying to reassure allies that the U.S. government remains in their corner.” According to Kane, McCain has “long played” this role, “but it’s taken on a more serious tenor in the era of President Trump. Already this year, the senator has logged more than 75,000 miles to more than 15 nations across three continents, according to his staff.” Kane adds that during the Congressional Memorial Day recess, McCain had traveled “from Australia to Vietnam to Singapore...to shore up frayed alliances.”

NYTimes Analysis: By Tapping Wray For FBI Director, Trump Revives Christie’s “Bridgegate.”

When the President nominated Christopher Wray as FBI Director this week, “it appeared that Gov. Chris Christie of New Jersey had finally made an imprint on an administration he was supposed to have helped shape all along,” the [New York Times](#) (6/10, Katz, Bernstein) reports, as Wray had served as Christie’s counsel “during Bridgegate and helped him avoid legal consequences, including testifying in court.” The Times notes “several Bridgegate figures are now in the Trump inner circle – no surprise, considering that Mr. Trump and Mr. Christie have been friends since they first dined together in the early 2000s.” According to the Times, Trump and Christie also “share a New York-New Jersey style of transactional what-have-you-done-for-me-lately politics, where policy seems secondary, ethics rules are meant to be bent, apologies are rare, secrecy is sacrosanct and lawyers are plentiful.”

NYTimes Chronicles How Pro-Trump Conspiracy Theorist Spread False Comey Story. The [New York Times](#) (6/10, Peters) recounts how Jack Posobiec, “a pro-Trump activist notorious for his amateur sleuthing into red herrings like the “Pizzagate” hoax and a conspiracy theory involving the murder of a Democratic aide,” last month “had his Twitter sights set on James B. Comey” and “as the journey of...one tweet shows, misinformed, distorted and false stories are gaining traction far beyond the fringes of the internet.” According to the Times, “just 14 words from Mr. Posobiec’s Twitter account would spread far enough to provide grist for a prime-time Fox News commentary and a Rush Limbaugh monologue that reached millions of listeners, forging an alternative first draft of history in corners of the conservative media where President Trump’s troubles are often explained away as fabrications by his journalist enemies.”

NYTimes, Columnists Praise Comey, Criticize Trump. The [New York Times](#) (6/10) editorializes that House Speaker Ryan’s defense of President Trump for firing former FBI Director James Comey has made Ryan “the unofficial leader of the Trump Excuses Caucus,” which consists “exclusively of Republicans. Some of its members remain staunch supporters of Mr. Trump, while others are doubtless panicked about their political futures with Mr. Trump strutting about at the head of the party, insulting everyone and everything in sight: staff members, allies, laws, diplomatic decorum and common sense.” According to the Times, “Thin-skinned as he is, Mr. Trump ought to be offended by Mr. Ryan’s condescension. The president obviously knows that it’s wrong to interfere in an investigation.” The Times concludes “Republican officeholders are in a quandary, ashamed of Mr. Trump but terrified that if they speak out his voters will send them packing in 2018. If they can fake respect for him long enough, they might manage to enact their agenda.”

In her [New York Times](#) (6/10, Dowd) column, Maureen Dowd acknowledges Trump “is not in immediate jeopardy of being indicted or impeached” after Comey’s testimony and so “the master of low expectations headed off to his New Jersey golf club to celebrate...he still has plenty of time for further self-incrimination.” Nonetheless, Dowd contends “Thursday’s hearing underscored how adept Trump is at creating the kind of havoc that could bring down his presidency.” She adds “the main takeaway...is that with the absurdist Trump administration, we have sunk very low. There’s no way that the Republicans would not be calling for the head of a Democratic president who had done this stuff. They would be going nuts trying to impeach him.”

In her [Washington Post](#) (6/9, Marcus) column, Ruth Marcus said Comey’s account “was devastating, both legally and politically. And as congressional investigators and, more ominously,

special counsel Robert S. Mueller III proceed, the facts may become far worse for the president." She contended that while Comey testimony brings Trump "significantly closer" to meriting charges of obstruction of justice, "considering whether a prosecutor would be able to prove obstruction beyond a reasonable doubt is a question that is both premature and slightly off-point." She adds Mueller and Congress should be left alone to "continue their essential work. In the meantime, don't be fooled or diverted by the attacks on Comey and others." Marcus concluded, "Trump is president. It's his conduct that is at issue. And vindication, if it is to come, feels awfully far off."

In her [Washington Post](#) (6/9, Parker) column, Kathleen Parker suggested Comey's testimony showed he was "no match" for Trump and argued the former FBI Director's "concentration on the president's hope may have doomed him." Parker added, "not only did he lose his job, but also his testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee seemed weak tea in the broader context of the president's potential criminality." Parker concluded Comey had attempted "to convey his humility juxtaposed with the steamrolling Trump," but instead revealed that he "may be constitutionally unable to fully grasp...that integrity is no weapon in a knife fight."

In his [New York Times](#) (6/9, Egan) column, Timothy Egan contrasted Comey the "G-Man" to Trump the "Con Man" and "a crackpot." However, although he conceded "it's riveting stuff that the former top cop in the country called out Trump for 'lies, plain and simple'" while "the credibility-free Trump spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders was compelled to state, 'I can definitely say that the president is not a liar,'" Egan asserted "we need to step away from the quick hits of the news cycle and dwell on the big picture. Trump took an oath to defend the United States. The nation is under assault by Russian hackers, growing more sophisticated by the day. And the president won't even acknowledge the threat." He dismisses the chances of "an obstruction-of-justice indictment" or impeachment, but concludes "We're lucky to have a robust and dogged former G-man as a special counsel, posing real peril for the Russian stooges who helped put this president in office."

Trump Goes "On The Offensive" Against "Cowardly" Comey.

Media reports describe President Trump as going "on the offensive" against former FBI Director Comey with a [tweet](#) describing him as "cowardly" and questioning whether the leak of his memo about their private conversation was legal. Trump's Sunday tweet began a day when Comey's testimony dominated the conversation on the Sunday talk shows. The discussions were somewhat negative for Trump, as no Republicans backed his description of Comey as a liar or sought to refute Comey's account of his private meetings with Trump, but in a positive sign for the President, GOP lawmakers also said they saw no evidence that Trump committed obstruction of justice.

In the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/11, lead story, 3:25, Llamas), Mary Bruce described Trump as "back on the offensive against James Comey," while [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/10, Krasny, Niquette) says Trump "slammed" Comey with the tweet, and the [New York Times](#) (6/11, Thrush) calls the tweet Trump's "harshes shot yet against his former F.B.I. director." The [Washington Post](#) (6/11, Johnson) reports that Trump "took aim" at Comey Sunday morning, writing, "I believe the James Comey leaks will be far more prevalent than anyone ever thought possible. Totally illegal? Very 'cowardly!'" [USA Today](#) (6/11, Page) says the President's son, Donald Jr., offered "a more extensive defense," on Saturday, telling Fox News that Comey had "proven himself to be a liar in all this." However, in giving "his version of his father's one-on-one conversation with Comey," he "also seemed to confirm Comey's claim that the president told him he hoped the FBI director would 'let go'" of the Michael Flynn investigation. Trump Jr. said, "'Hey, hope this happens but you got to do your job.' That's what he told Comey," which is "at odds with the president's comments at a Rose Garden news conference Friday, when he said 'I didn't say that.'" In the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/11, lead story, 3:25, Llamas), Bruce also said Trump Jr. seemed "to contradict" the President.

[Politico](#) (6/11, Morin) says it is unclear whether Comey "did anything illegal by disclosing details about his behind-closed-door meetings with Trump." Politico adds that before his tweet about Comey, Trump "accused media outlets of not reporting on 'great economic news' that has happened since he was elected (including the months before he was sworn in)," writing in a [pair of tweets](#), "The #FakeNews MSM doesn't report the great economic news since Election Day. #DOW up 16%. #NASDAQ up 19.5%. Drilling & energy sector...way up. Regulations way down. 600,000+ new jobs added. Unemployment down to 4.3%. Business and economic enthusiasm way up — record levels!" Trump "also went after Democrats," [tweeting](#), "The Democrats have no message, not on economics, not on taxes, not on jobs, not on failing #Obamacare. They are only

OBSTRUCTIONISTS." The [New York Post](#) (6/11, Brown) also reports on what it describes as Trump's "Sunday tweetstorm."

[Politico](#) (6/11, Cheney) says no Republicans "embraced Trump's depiction of Comey as a liar or attempted to dispute Comey's account of private meetings with the president" during appearances on the Sunday talk shows. Sen. Mike Lee said on [ABC's This Week](#) (6/11, Stephanopoulos) that Comey "doesn't strike me as someone who would lie under oath." Even Trump's "staunchest Republican defenders declined to directly back up" his claim that Comey's leak was illegal. Rep. Peter King said on [Fox News Sunday Morning Futures](#) (6/11, Bartiromo) that "even if the law were not broken, Comey shouldn't have leaked to the press." Politico adds that some lawmakers were "more troubl[ed]" by "the fact that Trump continues to weigh in on the investigation – in public and on Twitter – and has launched a campaign to attack Comey's credibility." Sen. Lindsey Graham said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (6/11, Dickerson), "You may be the first president to go down because you can't stop inappropriately talking about an investigation that if you just were quiet would clear you."

Sen. Susan Collins said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (6/11, Keilar), "I found Director Comey, former Director Comey's testimony to be candid, to be thorough, and he testified under oath, so I believe that the information that he gave our committee is what he believed happened."

Sen. Dianne Feinstein said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (6/11, Keilar), "I believe the FBI Director. I know him the best. I've observed him the longest. I know he has his own band of integrity. ... In this kind of thing, he's not going to lie. It's just not in him to do this." Sen. Joe Manchin said on [ABC's This Week](#) (6/11, Stephanopoulos) that Comey "did a good job and I think everyone there, Democrats and Republicans alike thought he did a good job and he was forthcoming."

Although the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/11, Meckler) cites legal experts who say Comey's actions were not illegal since the material in question was not classified and he was no longer government employee, there was disagreement Sunday among lawmakers about Comey's decision to leak his memos about his meetings with Trump. Sen. Joe Manchin said on [ABC's This Week](#) (6/11, Stephanopoulos), "That was concerning when we heard that, you know, but I looked at it as self-preservation. We're in an unprecedented era, if you will, kind of unorthodox approaches to governing and with that it looks like that he took whatever action he thought for self-preservation and we'll see if that rises to a level of greater concern or of any type of action that needs to be taken and I think Bob Mueller will do an open, fair and honest job on that also."

Sen. Mike Lee said on [ABC's This Week](#) (6/11, Stephanopoulos) that "I'm not wild about the fact that he had these memos leaked. Leaked specifically with the intent of prompting the appointment of a special counsel. That doesn't seem to me to be the kind of thing we want out of an FBI director." The [Washington Times](#) (6/11, Swoyer) reports that Sen. James Lankford said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) that Comey's leak was "inappropriate," but "releasing his memos [is] not damaging to national security."

Collins, Schumer Urge Trump To Turn Over Tapes – If They Exist. According to the [Washington Post](#) (6/11, Grandoni), Sen. Susan Collins also "said President Trump should turn over tapes of conversations he had with...Comey – if they exist." Collins told [CNN's State Of The Union](#), "He should voluntarily turn them over not only to the Senate Intelligence Committee, but to the special counsel. ... I don't understand why the president just doesn't clear this matter up once and for all." The [AP](#) (6/11, Yen) reports that on CBS' "Face the Nation," Senate Intelligence Committee member Sen. James Lankford "agreed the panel needed to hear any tapes that exist. 'We've obviously pressed the White House,' he said."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/11, Swoyer) reports that Senate Minority Leader Schumer also "said Mr. Trump should clear up any cloud over his presidency by releasing tapes of his private conversation with Mr. Comey if they exist, as the president has suggested." If the tapes do not exist, Schumer added, Trump "should make that known so there is 'no more game playing.'"

GOP Senators See No Obstruction Of Justice By Trump. Sen. Mike Lee also said on [ABC's This Week](#) (6/11, Stephanopoulos) that if anyone has "evidence of collusion bring it forward. If he's got evidence of corruption, of obstruction, bring it forward. I have yet to see anything even a scintilla and so it's time to wrap this up and time to move on. I don't see any evidence of anything happening here and it is a result I think it's time to move forward." Lankford said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (6/11, Bartiromo) that "this looks more like an inappropriate conversation than obstruction." [Politico](#) (6/11, Guida) reports that on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (6/11, Dickerson), Sen. Lindsey Graham "said revelations about Trump's conversations with

former FBI Director James Comey about the Russia probe don't amount to 'obstruction of justice.'"

Daniel Henninger of the Wall Street Journal said on [Fox News The Journal Editorial Report](#) (6/10), "There something about the Comey narrative that just didn't quite add up. ... Virtually everybody listening to his description of what went on in the Oval Office, certainly anybody who has been around Washington would have said something improper happened there. You're the director of the FBI and he could have walked out of that office and gone to White House counsel Don McGahn and said, 'The President has just done something improper. You have to explain that this sort of thing can't happen,' or even go to Attorney General and to say 'I don't know, I was so startled,' strange."

Joseph Rago of the Wall Street Journal said on [Fox News The Journal Editorial Report](#) (6/10), "The narrative is 'I was so stunned, I just couldn't – I didn't have the composure to do anything' but he goes back and writes a memo to himself, he discusses it with a half dozen of his senior deputies and then reserves all of this information for himself, doesn't inform the public, doesn't tell any of his superiors, it just doesn't add up."

Former NSC aide Gillian Turner said on [Fox News MediaBuzz](#) (6/11), "What I took away from this hearing is he's a very skilled political operative. He's clearly somebody who knows how to achieve objectives and goals he wants in the Washington universe of things. But he's still not a partisan. He's showing you can do that without being a partisan. He's angered and alienated people on both sides of the aisle."

Lawmakers Split Along Party Lines On Whether Trump Should Testify Publicly. In appearances on the Sunday talk shows, lawmakers were divided over whether President Trump should testify publicly. [Politico](#) (6/11, Guida) reports that Senate Minority Leader Schumer invited Trump to testify before the Senate, telling CBS, "I think we could work out a way that it could be dignified, public, with questions, with Leader McConnell."

Sen. Jack Reed said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (6/11, Wallace), "By the time the special prosecutor is ready to depose or ask the President to speak under oath, there will be a myriad of questions. What I don't want to see is simply 'I just said I would talk about Comey, I'm not talking about anything else.' To resolve the situation he has to be prepared to speak on all these matters." [Politico](#) (6/11, Guida) reports that Reed "urged" that Trump "be deposed as part of the special counsel's investigation into any ties Trump's campaign had with Russia." Reed said that at some point Mueller "has to come to the president with a list of questions that only the president can answer. ... The president should answer truthfully, under oath, those questions."

Rep. Luis Gutierrez said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (6/11, Keilar) that Trump "said 100 percent he's ready to testify under oath," adding, "we should call his bluff. This is the same President of the United States that said to us 100 percent I'm going to give you my income taxes." Rep. Ted Lieu said on [MSNBC AM Joy](#) (6/11), "[Sunday] morning President Trump tweeted that James Comey was cowardly. I thought James Comey showed a lot of courage in testifying under oath before Congress in an open hearing. I urge the President to show that same courage and testify under oath before Congress in an open hearing."

Graham said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (6/11, Dickerson), "I think it is inappropriate for the President to testify publicly, but if you are so obsessed, and I know you are frustrated, he doesn't believe he did anything wrong with the Russians and I tend to believe him. He can't collude with his own government, why do you think he is colluding with the Russians, so there is a part of this that genuinely frustrates the President but, Mr. President, let's not make a circus out of your presidency."

Collins said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (6/11, Keilar), "The President should fully cooperate with a special counsel and he's indicated that he will do so." When asked whether Trump's testimony should be made public, she responded, "It would be unusual if in the midst of the investigation he were to release a video or a transcript, of the investigation, before the investigation is concluded. That is frustrating," but Mueller "wants to make sure that he has all the evidence put together, rather than releasing it in a piecemeal basis."

Bharara: There Is Enough Evidence For Obstruction Case Against Trump. [The Hill](#) (6/11, Savransky) reports former US Attorney Preet Bharara said Sunday that he believes there evidence to start an obstruction of justice case against President Trump. Bharara told [ABC's This Week](#) (6/11) "that there is sworn testimony that 'on at least one occasion, the president of the United States cleared the room of his vice president and his attorney general and told his director of the FBI that he should essentially drop the case against his former national security adviser.'" He added, "Whether or not that is impeachable or that's indictable, that's a very serious thing, and I'm not sure that people fully get that the standard is not just whether something is a crime

or not. ... Whether or not it can be charged as a crime or Congress will impeach, it is a very serious thing. ... That's an incredibly serious thing if people think that the president of the United States can tell heads of law enforcement agencies, based on his own whim or his own personal preferences or friendships, that they should or should not pursue particular criminal cases against individuals. That's not how America works."

Comey Could Get \$10 Million For Memoir. The [New York Post](#) (6/11, Moore) cites a [report](#) from The Daily Mail which said that Comey's memoir could fetch as much as \$10 million and the former FBI director "already has Hollywood movie execs lining up to film the White House blockbuster." The Daily Mail quoted an acquisition editor for a New York publishing house who said, "Jim Comey's story has everything, from White House intrigue to possible corruption and law breaking. His explosive story makes 'West Wing' and 'House of Cards' on a par with Mister Rogers. ... When his proposal hits my desk, I've already been authorized to offer \$10 million."

Trump Expresses Willingness To Testify Under Oath Over Comey's Allegations.

President Trump on Friday said that former FBI Director James Comey's testimony before the Senate on Thursday made him feel "total and complete vindication" and asserted he is "100 percent" willing to testify before Special Counsel Robert Mueller under oath if asked. His remarks in response to Comey's testimony generated saturation coverage in print and online, while the network newscasts devoted more than 16 minutes combined to discussing the President's comments. Reporting characterized Trump as defiant and the mainstream media was generally skeptical of his pledge, though it was well received by conservative outlets.

In the lead [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/9, lead story, 2:55, Holt) segment, Chief White House Correspondent Hallie Jackson said that the President is "punching back, pitting his word against James Comey's, saying he lied and willing to swear to it under oath." In a front-page article, the [New York Times](#) (6/9, A1, Davis, Thrush) reports that in a joint press conference with Romanian President Klaus Iohannis at the White House on Friday, a "defiant" Trump accused Comey "of lying under oath to Congress in testimony that the president dismissed as a politically motivated proceeding" and "asserted that Mr. Comey's comments on Thursday, in which the former F.B.I. director implied that the president fired him for pressing forward with the Russia investigation, had failed to prove any collusion between the Trump campaign and Moscow nor any obstruction of justice."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/9, A1, Ballhaus, Lee) reports on its front-page that the President said he was "100%" willing to testify under oath to Mueller that he had never asked Comey to end the FBI's investigation into former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn and never asked him to "pledge allegiance." [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/9, 6:30 p.m. EDT, 30:45, Blitzer) broadcast Trump asserting, "I didn't say that. I mean, I will tell you, I didn't say that. And there would be nothing wrong if I did say it, according to everybody I read today, but I did not say that." [Reuters](#) (6/9, Holland) reports he added, "I would be glad to tell [Mueller] exactly what I just told you."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/9, 5:30 p.m. EDT, 30:49, Blitzer) broadcast Trump stating, "I hardly know [Comey]. I'm not going to say, I want you to pledge allegiance. Who would do that? Who would ask a man to pledge allegiance under oath? I mean, think of it. I hardly know the man. It doesn't make sense." [Reuters](#) (6/9, Holland) reports the President also denounced Comey as "a leaker" before insisting, "we want to get back to running our great country." In the lead story of its second hour, [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/9, 6:02 p.m. EDT, lead story, 2:56, Blitzer) broadcast Trump highlighting "jobs, trade deficits. We want them to disappear fast. North Korea, big problem. Middle East, a big problem. So that's what I am focused on. That's what I have been focused on." He added Comey's testimony "showed no collusion, no obstruction. We are doing really well." He called the controversy "an excuse by the Democrats, who lost an election that some people think they shouldn't have lost. Because it's almost impossible for the Democrats to lose the electoral college, as you know."

According to the [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/9, Bierman), "No president has been compelled to testify in public – former President Clinton testified privately in a civil suit, though his testimony later became public – and Congress most likely could not require Trump's testimony."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/9, Sink) suggests that "Trump's offer to testify heightens the drama of his standoff with Comey" while the [Washington Post](#) (6/9, A1, Nakamura) says on in a front page article that the President's remarks "represented a dramatic new development" even as he "said...Comey's testimony proved he had not colluded with the Russians or sought to obstruct the investigation." According to Trump, "Frankly, James Comey confirmed a lot of what I said and some of the stuff he said just wasn't true."

Meanwhile, [USA Today](#) (6/9, Jackson, Johnson) says the President also “tweeted an attack on Comey” and the [AP](#) (6/9, Tucker, Werner) reports he “struck back” at Comey “with an early morning tweet.” The [Washington Times](#) (6/9, Persons) reports Trump [said](#), “Despite so many false statements and lies, total and complete vindication...and WOW, Comey is a leaker!”

Nonetheless, in a fact check, the [AP](#) (6/9, Woodward) says “Trump’s claim of vindication from Comey’s testimony is groundless.” The AP adds “Comey merely testified that the FBI investigation into possible collusion between Russia and the Trump campaign did not extend to Trump himself. That’s not vindication.”

[Politico](#) (6/9, Nelson, Nussbaum) states that “the accusation – essentially alleging that Comey committed perjury in his congressional testimony – is just the latest broadside Trump has launched against his former FBI director, but it is not expected to be the last.” Politico adds the President’s tweet “raised eyebrows in the West Wing, with at least two senior White House aides expressing surprise Friday morning at the president’s missive slamming Comey,” but [Politico](#) (6/9, Palmeri, McCaskill, Cheney) in a separate article reports a White House official later said, “What you saw during the press conference with the Romanian president is a perfect reflection of how he’s feeling – vindicated, defiant.”

However, the [AP](#) (6/9, Colvin, Woodward) reports Trump “cryptically refused to say whether” his meetings with the former FBI Director “were taped – a matter at the heart of the conflicting accounts of what passed between them at a time when Comey was leading an FBI investigation into Russia’s interference in the presidential election and its ties to the Trump campaign.” Trump said, “Well, I’ll tell you about that maybe sometime in the very near future,” but he insisted he wasn’t “hinting anything,” before adding: “Oh you’re going to be very disappointed when you hear the answer, don’t worry.” In the lead [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (6/9, 6:00 p.m. EDT, lead story, 0:07, Baier) segment, correspondent Bret Baier similarly said the President gave “another cryptic answer to the question about whether his talks with Comey were recorded.”

A [Washington Post](#) (6/9, Phillips) analysis cautions that the President also “perhaps tweet[ed] himself into more trouble” about Comey because “in his second tweet before lunchtime Friday...Trump potentially undermined his private lawyer’s statements denying key parts of Comey’s testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee the day before.” The Post says Trump [retweeted](#) a Fox News article in which “Harvard Law professor emeritus Alan Dershowitz argued that the president didn’t obstruct justice in speaking with Comey about ‘letting go’ of the FBI investigation into fired national security adviser Michael Flynn.” According to the Post, “Trump appears to be using two parallel arguments: I didn’t tell Comey to back off Flynn. Or maybe I did – and that would be okay, too.” Nonetheless, the Post concludes “both cannot be true.”

Trump’s Legal Team Expected To File Complaint With DOJ IG Over Comey’s Leaked Information.

In [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/9, lead story, 4:00, Llamas) lead segment, Chief White House Correspondent Jonathan Karl said a “source close to the President’s legal team tells me they plan to file a complaint with the Justice Department’s internal watchdog asking that they investigate whether or not Comey acted inappropriately when he leaked his information about his conversations with the President.”

Margaret Brennan of the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/9, lead story, 3:10, Pelley) reported “Comey testified yesterday that shortly after he was fired, he gave memos documenting his conversations with the President to a friend, who in turn gave them to a reporter,” and that “the President’s lawyer, Marc Kasowitz, plans to file a complaint with the Justice Department inspector general and Senate Judiciary Committee. He argues Comey released sensitive information.” The [Washington Times](#) (6/9, Boyer) reports Kasowitz will file the complaint next week, “a source close to the president’s legal team said Friday.”

[Politico](#) (6/9, Nelson) reports Trump’s former campaign manager Corey Lewandowski said on ABC’s “Good Morning America” that Comey “admitted” to being “the leaker. He is the deep state in Washington that is everything is wrong. He admitted under oath that he gave his contemporaneous notes to a law professor.” He added, “If that’s what he has done, he continues to do this, if this is his pattern, as the FBI director he absolutely should have been fired, and if he is the chronic leaker he should be potentially prosecuted for leaking information.” According to Politico, Lewandowski’s suggestion “that Comey should be prosecuted went one step further than...Kasowitz, did a day earlier in a statement to reporters that followed the former director’s testimony.”

Chief Washington Correspondent and ‘Face the Nation’ host John Dickerson commented on the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/9, story 4, 1:50, Pelley) that “in Washington the word ‘leak’ can cover everything from passing on highly classified information, which is illegal, to passing on

politically inconvenient information, which isn't. What the President and his lawyer are trying to do is undermine Comey's stature by hoping that when they say the word 'leaker,' people think of that distasteful class of people like Edward Snowden or Chelsea Manning. But Comey doesn't seem to have done anything illegal. Still, in Washington, you're not supposed to talk about conversations that you had privately with the President, but Director Comey said the downside of not talking about those conversations would have been worse than breaking that rule."

[CNN's Situation Room](#)'s (6/9, 5:42 p.m. EDT, 42:57, Blitzer) Wolf Blitzer said former FBI Director James Comey testified on Thursday "that he shared that memo of that conversation he had with the President with a friend of his, professor at Columbia University Law School, he said, because, quote, 'I thought that might prompt the appointment of a special counsel.' That friend was told, share the information with a journalist which, of course, the friend did." Justice Correspondent Evan Perez said that request "is strange," and "would be probably a fireable offense, but" the situation "is something beyond strange now." Perez added that because Comey is now a private citizen "and he's sharing notes that he took – a lot of people are saying, well, these are still official government records and you needed to leave them there and not give them to someone else. I think he felt like these were extraordinary circumstances and he needed to take these measures."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/9, Zapotosky) similarly reports that while Trump "lambasted...Comey on Friday as a 'leaker' for engineering the release of details of their conversations to a news reporter" and although "the unflattering moniker might fit" Comey, "that does not make Comey a criminal, legal analysts said." In a separate analysis, [Washington Post](#) (6/9, Bump) correspondent Philip Bump stated that Stephen Kohn, a partner at a law firm focused on whistleblower protection, described the White House's threats as "frivolous grandstanding." Kohn added, "First of all, I don't believe the inspector general would have jurisdiction over Comey any more, because he's no longer a federal employee. ... But, second,' he continued, 'initiating an investigation because you don't like somebody's testimony could be considered obstruction. And in the whistleblower context, it's both evidence of retaliation and, under some laws, could be an adverse retaliatory act itself." However, in an update, Bump acknowledges Tom Devine, legal director for the Government Accountability Project "pointed out...that Comey himself isn't covered by the Whistleblower Protection Act since he was both a presidential appointee and a representative of the FBI, a position which doesn't fall under the act's purview."

WPost A1: Kasowitz's Clients Include Russians With Ties To Kremlin. The [Washington Post](#) (6/9, A1, Boburg) reports in a front-page article that Marc Kasowitz, "the hard-charging New York lawyer President Trump chose to represent him in the Russia investigation," has a number of "prominent clients with ties to the Kremlin, a striking pick for a president trying to escape the persistent cloud that has trailed his administration." The Post identifies his clients as "Oleg Deripaska, a Russian oligarch who is close to President Vladimir Putin and has done business with Trump's former campaign manager" Paul Manafort as well as "Sberbank, Russia's largest state-owned bank, U.S. court records show."

Sessions Disputes Comey's Testimony Over Recusal From Russia Probe. [Fox News](#) (6/9, Singman) reports Attorney General Sessions "is firing back at...Comey, after he suggested in Thursday's hearing that there might be more than meets the eye to the AG's recusal from the Russia probe." In a statement, Justice Department spokesman Ian Prior rejected Comey's assertion and said Sessions "began consulting with career Department of Justice ethics officials to determine whether he should recuse himself" shortly after taking office." Prior "said Sessions' discussions with ethics officials were focused on a regulation that prohibits DOJ attorneys from participating in investigations that involve 'entities or individuals' with whom the person has a 'political or personal relationship.'" Prior added, "Given Attorney General Sessions' participation in President Trump's campaign, it was for that reason, and that reason alone" Sessions decided in March to recuse himself from the investigation.

Jeff Pegues of the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/9, story 3, 2:15, Pelley) reported Comey "left no doubt that he didn't trust...Sessions. He told senators that he didn't feel comfortable telling Sessions the President had pressured him to stop the FBI's investigation of fired National Security Adviser Michael Flynn." Pegues added, "Those reasons are unclear, but Sessions had failed to disclose at least two meetings with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak. They were reported in the media in early March, and one day later, Sessions did recuse himself." On Thursday night, "the Justice Department said Sessions' decision was based on his 'participation in President Trump's campaign and it was for that reason alone.'"

Michelle Kosinski reported, "Also emerging from Comey's closed door meeting with

senators, the possibility that...Sessions might have had a third undisclosed meeting with Russian ambassador Sergey Kislyak in 2016," and that sources told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/9, 5:06 p.m. EDT, 6:45, Blitzer) that "intercepted communications revealed a discussion of such a meeting among Russians." On Friday, the Justice Department "says Attorney General Sessions has no plans to resign and denies the meeting with Kislyak. Sessions will publicly face questions from senators on Tuesday."

However, [The Hill](#) (6/9, Greenwood) "Briefing Room" blog reports House Minority Leader Pelosi on Friday "renewed her call" for Sessions "to step down from his role at the Justice Department amid reports that he may have held a third undisclosed meeting with Russia's ambassador." On MSNBC's "Morning Joe," Pelosi asserted, "When you talk about all of these things, just remember there's something strange that isn't connecting." She added, "I can't...confirm or deny the issue of the third meeting. But I did say on March 2 that he should resign. Sessions should resign as attorney general."

[The Hill](#) (6/9, Hensch) reports former Attorney General Alberto Gonzales asserted on WABC Radio on Friday that Sessions and Comey "fail[ed] to do their job." Gonzales said, "The inspector general at the Department of Justice is going to look at this, and they're going to write a report, and I think it's going to be a scathing report, condemning both the attorney general and the former FBI director for failing to do their job protecting the FBI." Gonzales added that both men "put at risk the independence of the FBI."

House Intelligence Committee Asks White House For Comey Tapes. [Reuters](#) (6/9, Zengerle) reports Rep. Mike Conaway and Rep. Adam Schiff, the lawmakers leading the House Intelligence Committee's investigation, "said on Friday they had written to former FBI director James Comey to request any notes or memoranda related to discussions with...Trump" and "written to Don McGahn, the White House counsel, and asked him whether White House recordings or memos of Comey's conversations with Trump exist. If they do, they asked that copies of the materials be provided to the panel by June 23." According to [Politico](#) (6/9, Cheney), "Their request comes less than two hours after...Trump, in a Rose Garden news conference, refused to answer questions about whether such tapes exist."

Sen. Richard Blumenthal told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/9), "I have urged that had committee that I sit on, the Judiciary Committee, subpoena those tapes, and I believe that it is necessary to subpoena the tapes and subpoena documents that may be in the possession of the White House, just as Jim Comey has offered to make those documents available that he did. I tend to doubt it, because one would think he would voluntarily." Blumenthal continued, "The President is dealing with this very profoundly issue of obstruction of justice and potential collusion with the Russians in interfering with our campaign as kind of a reality show. He is playing to an audience, but we're dealing here with issues that affect potentially untruths under oath and he's calling someone else a liar. If he's willing to come forward and give his own testimony under oath, that is to be welcomed with, but he ought to do it and submit to questions."

Rep. Ruben Gallego told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/9, 6:13 p.m. EDT, 13:32, Blitzer), "I would hope" Trump will in fact make a statement under oath, "But this President seems to have a problem with the truth. He doesn't seem to follow up with anything he said he will do. The first thing we should go to is whether there are tapes. If there are tapes it is his duty to turn them over since he basically brought them into the conversation and called out the former FBI director, who under oath said that he felt pressured by the President to drop the Flynn investigation."

Former CIA counterterrorism analyst Phillip Mudd, asked on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/9, 5:32 p.m. EDT, 32:36, Blitzer) whether he believed such tapes existed, asserted, "Heck no, and I think it's pretty straightforward. We have the President who has portrayed himself from the tough guy, everything from reality TV that we talked about to the presidency. I suspect there are no tapes and now he has to come out and say the tough guy was bluffing. I think this story will end up being simpler in retrospect and the reason he's not that you canning about is because there's nothing there." A [Washington Post](#) (6/9, Phillips) analysis similarly suggests that based on the President's comments Friday "it doesn't sound like...Trump has tapes of his conversations with...Comey." According to the Post, "A little common sense suggests that if the president has proof to clear his name, he would share it ASAP. ... Or maybe, once again, the president tweeted something that there is no evidence to back up."

Meanwhile, the [Washington Times](#) (6/9, Persons) reports Trump's former campaign manager Corey Lewandowski "said Friday he doesn't know if tapes were made of President Trump's conversations with...Comey." On NBC News, Lewandowski said, "I don't work for the White House, I don't work in the White House, I don't know if tapes were made, are made. If they are, I think James Comey's credibility is at a zero right now." Lewandowski added, "That's

from Democrats who questioned him not that long ago during the Hillary Clinton investigation. It's from the Republicans who questioned him yesterday."

Senate Judiciary Committee Not Ruling Out Comey Subpoena. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, told [The Hill](#) (6/9, Carney) on Thursday that she and Chairman Chuck Grassley "have discussed potentially forcing Comey to meet with their committee." However, when "pressed if they had discussed a timeline, Feinstein deferred to Grassley, noting, 'He's the chairman; he'll make that decision.'" A spokesman for Grassley said after Comey's testimony that "no specific decisions on issuing subpoenas have been made at this time."

[The Hill](#) (6/9, Carney) "Floor Action" blog reports Grassley is also "threatening to subpoena a firm tied to the controversial opposition research dossier on President Trump." According to The Hill, Grassley has "sent a letter to Glenn Simpson, a former Wall Street Journal reporter who now heads Fusion GPS, warning that if he refused to 'comply voluntarily' with the committee's request, senators 'will begin consideration of compulsory process under its rules.'" In the letter, which was released Friday, Grassley gave Simpson until Wednesday to respond to his letter and said, "Your attorney has failed to sufficiently explain your claims that responding to the Committee's requests would infringe upon or violate your and/or Fusion's First Amendment rights, attorney-client and attorney work product privileges, and confidentiality agreements." The Hill adds "the back-and-forth comes as Grassley digs deeper into former British spy Christopher Steele's controversial dossier, which alleges that the Russians have compromising information on Trump."

Kushner To Meet With Senate Intelligence Committee Staff. The [AP](#) (6/9) reports "President Trump's son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner is expected to meet with staff from the Senate Intelligence committee in coming days, according to" Sen. Angus King, who "says Kushner will have a face-to-face meeting with panel staff as early as next week. A spokeswoman for King on Friday confirmed the senator's comments in an earlier interview on CNN." The AP adds "Kushner will likely be asked about his meetings with the Russian ambassador to the United States." However, an Administration official "says no meeting had been formally scheduled and discussions about possible dates were ongoing."

[Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/9, 6:03 p.m. EDT, 3:58, Baier) Chief Intelligence Correspondent Catherine Herridge similarly reported Kushner, "could meet with [Senate] investigators...this month, according to congressional sources. Though Kushner's team suggested a meeting is not imminent."

Mueller Adding Dreeben To Special Investigation Team. [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/9, 6:09 p.m. EDT, 9:26, Blitzer) Senior Washington Correspondent Brianna Keilar reported that according to the [National Law Journal](#), Mueller is "adding to his team a top criminal law expert, Michael Dreeben, someone who tried obstruction of justice cases in the past. Perhaps a sign that this is something that Mueller's investigation could look at." The [Washington Post](#) (6/9, Horwitz) calls Deputy Solicitor General Dreeben "one of the federal government's top criminal law specialists." The Post highlights that at the Justice Department, he has "argued more than 100 cases before the Supreme Court [and] is the department's go-to lawyer on criminal justice cases and is highly respected by Democrats and Republicans because of his encyclopedic knowledge of criminal law." The Post adds DOJ officials say "Dreeben will work part time for Mueller...while he continues to oversee the department's criminal appellate cases."

White House Shortlist For FBI Director Had Included Mueller. "The Trump White House had been considering Robert Mueller as a top candidate to lead the FBI before the deputy U.S. attorney general changed course and tapped Mueller to serve as special counsel investigating Russian interference in last year's election, two sources familiar with the process told" [NPR](#) (6/9, Johnson), which adds that "Mueller had gone so far as to meet with Justice Department leaders and White House officials about the FBI job, which opened after President Trump fired Director James Comey on May 9." According to NPR, "that idea went by the wayside after Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein instead reached out to Mueller to run the politically sensitive Russia probe, which is examining ties between Russians and Trump campaign aides, the sources said."

White House Press Office Punishes NYTimes Over Debunked Russia Article. The [New York Post](#) (6/9, Morrongiello) reports Peter Baker, the chief White House Correspondent for the New York Times "was relegated to the back row of a White House press conference on Friday, one day after fired FBI Director James Comey said a bombshell report about Russia by the major newspaper was 'not true.'" According to the Post, "Despite Trump's frequent criticism of the outlet, the Times has been in the first few rows of every press conference the president has held since taking office." The Post adds that "the snub came just 24 hours after Comey told a Senate

panel that an anonymously-sourced Times report from mid-February was false.”

Nielsen: About 19.5 Million US Viewers Watched Comey’s Testimony. [Reuters](#) (6/9, Richwine) reports according to Nielsen, “former FBI Director James Comey’s dramatic testimony before Congress on Thursday brought big audiences to U.S. broadcast and cable networks, drawing about 19.5 million viewers.” Reuters adds “that is a large audience for a daytime event, though it is short of the 30.6 million who tuned in to President Donald Trump’s inauguration in January.”

Donald Trump Jr. Contends Dow “Exonerated” President. The [AP](#) (6/9, Lemire) reports Donald Trump Jr.’s tweets on Thursday “defending his father and attacking Comey” drew attention to the Twitter feed of President Trump’s eldest son, which “can at times be as inflammatory as his father’s.” According to the AP, “Trump Jr. declined to comment Friday about his tweets, leaving unanswered questions as to whether they were urged by the White House, which outsourced its Comey response to the Republican National Committee and the president’s personal lawyer.” The [Huffington Post](#) (6/9, Dicker) reports Donald Trump Jr. on Thursday also “told Fox News’ Sean Hannity that the stock market’s rise amid the proceedings cleared the president’s name.” Trump Jr. asserted, “When the Dow hits another all-time record right during the testimony, you know that he’s been exonerated. The markets basically said this has been nonsense.”

Lawmakers, Journalists Divided Over Comey’s Testimony Along Partisan Lines. According to a [New York Times](#) (6/9, Hulse) analysis, “the ultimate outcome” of Mueller’s special investigation “may boil down to a simple judgment: Was Mr. Trump criminal or clueless?” The Times adds that “in assessing the remarkable and detailed testimony by Mr. Comey, most lawmakers seemed to come down by party affiliation. Democrats said they believed that Mr. Trump had clearly breached the wall of allowable contact between the White House and law enforcement, while Republicans said Mr. Trump had acted inappropriately but not illegally.”

[USA Today](#) (6/9, Cummings) describes Comey’s testimony as evidence of “the widening media divide in America.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/9, Andrews) reports Republican lawmakers continue to support the President, including Senate Majority Whip Cornyn and Sen. Lindsey Graham, as does the [AP](#) (6/9, Werner) in an article headlined “GOP Shrugs Off Comey Revelations, Sticks With Trump.” According to the AP, the reaction “underscored what’s become a hardening dynamic of the Trump presidency: Republicans on Capitol Hill and off are mostly sticking with the president despite the mounting scandals and seemingly endless crises that surround him.”

[Breitbart](#) (6/9, Starr) reports Rep. Louie Gohmert during an appearance that Fox and Friends on Friday condemned Congress for leaving Trump to “dangle” by concluding business after Comey’s testimony. Gohmert added, “I’m very concerned we are not being supportive enough to get the message out and here President Trump is...as [Sen.] Marco Rubio was pointing out...the only thing that didn’t leak was the truth – that [Trump] was not under investigation.”

The [Washington Times](#) (6/9, Persons) reports Sen. Rand Paul said Friday on Fox News “that the Russia and Flynn investigation also needs to look into reining in leaks at the National Security Agency.” Paul asserted, “We need to get to the bottom of who was listening to General Flynn’s conversations because leaking that is a felony and very dangerous to the republic.” He added, “I hope the special counsel will also be looking at this because I don’t think Americans want to live in a society where the government becomes so powerful that it’s listening to all of our phone calls or reading all of our emails.” According to Paul, “I’m guessing the special counsel’s ability to bring people in can be better than a committee. And sometimes you can find the truth a little better because a grand jury or a special counsel works behind closed doors.”

Meanwhile, [McClatchy](#) (6/9, Glueck) reports “social conservatives and evangelical activists were unequivocally in...Trump’s corner Friday” at a Faith and Freedom Coalition summit, “offering a vibrant snapshot of the strong support the president still enjoys from the conservative grassroots a day after...Comey’s explosive testimony.”

In an exclusive, [Breitbart](#) (6/9, Klein) reports former UN Ambassador John Bolton argued Comey’s testimony shows the investigation is “just a travesty that...is being dragged out.” Bolton added, “We’ve seen Washington in the past year awash about leaks about Trump, his campaign, his presidency. I would think if there was any real evidence that would have leaked out. That would have been too good for somebody to withhold. It hasn’t happened yet.” However, Bolton acknowledged, “I don’t have any doubt that Russia tried to interfere in the election because I think it wants to reduce American faith in their institutions. But as for the specific picture that the president’s opponents are trying to paint, they are painting without colors at this point.”

However, Nancy Cordes of the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/9, story 2, 2:05, Pelley) reported, “Not one senator on the intelligence committee has questioned Comey’s memory or veracity.” Sen. Marco Rubio commented, “I was, quite frankly, impressed by his honesty. That’s the first

time I've ever seen a witness come before Congress and admit they leaked something to an intermediary to get it to the press." Like most lawmakers, Cordes said, Rubio "does not doubt that Comey felt pressured by the President," but some Republican senators, "like Idaho's Jim Risch, did challenge Comey's interpretation of the President's words." Sen. James Risch stated, "You may have taken it as a direction, but that's not what he said."

In addition, the [Washington Times](#) (6/9, Persons) reports Sen. Susan Collins said on MSNBC Friday that "Trump made a 'truly outrageous' request in asking...Comey to drop the investigation into former...Flynn." Collins added, "I think Mr. Comey has made some mistakes. I think he's made some mistakes in the handling of the Hillary Clinton case. And I think he should've told the president when the president made the truly outrageous and unacceptable request that he drop or let go [of] the Michael Flynn investigation."

In contrast, [McClatchy](#) (6/9, Roarty) reports Democrats "were eager to spread a succinct, biting message Thursday as Comey testified before the Senate Intelligence Committee, and party stalwarts thought possible obstruction could have far-reaching political consequences for the president and Republican Party." DNC Chair Tom Perez said Comey's testimony "just gave us the clearest and most damning evidence yet that President Trump lied to the American people and is likely under investigation for obstruction of justice – a serious and disturbing charge."

[Reuters](#) (6/9, Cornwell) reports House Minority Leader Pelosi "said on Friday there was no question...Trump abused his power in interactions with...Comey but she said it remained to be seen if he had obstructed justice." Pelosi asserted Trump's actions were "beyond the pale" and said, "There's no question he abused power. Whether he obstructed justice, remains for the facts to come forward, and that's what we want are the facts." [The Hill](#) (6/9, Delk) "Briefing Room" blog reports Pelosi also "said she didn't think it was "such a big deal" that former Attorney General Loretta Lynch specified to...Comey that an investigation into Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server while secretary of State should be called a 'matter.'" Pelosi told reporters that she believed Lynch's comments were "misinterpreted," adding, "Matter, investigation – I don't know that that's such a big deal."

[The Hill](#) (6/9, Carney) "Floor Action" blog reports Sen. Dianne Feinstein on Friday sent a letter to Grassley asserting, "It is my strong recommendation that the Judiciary Committee investigate all issues that raise a question of obstruction of justice. These issues should be...subject to full committee hearings." According to The Hill, "Feinstein's request was quickly backed by Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.), who is also a member of the Judiciary Committee."

Sen. Richard Blumenthal told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/9, 5:21 p.m. EDT, 21:34, Blitzer) that Comey, "in one of the most powerful moments yesterday said he was fired, and he was asked to drop that investigation of...Flynn so that the President could change the course of the Russia investigation. If that's not an exact quote, that's pretty close. Changing the course of the Russia investigation goes to the national security of this country because, as Jim Comey said, the Russians are coming back against America, and the only way to help protect this country is to deter them by getting to the bottom of how they meddled in this election, and whoever colluded with them, and holding them accountable and making them pay a price."

Blumenthal [added](#) (6/9, 5:15 p.m. EDT, 15:18, Blitzer) that "Comey certainly indicated that he would be cooperative" and has "urged that the tapes be made available if they exist. That's very, very important because that cooperation stands in very distinct contrast to the White House and the President, who has called this investigation a witch-hunt and apparently has refused cooperation." Blumenthal said he also believes it "is very, very important" that Sessions "and his deputy, Rod Rosenstein, should come before the Judiciary Committee as well and answer questions specifically on the reasons why they failed to come to their defense and safeguard the FBI from this intimidation when it occurred."

In a piece on Trump's tweets Friday, [USA Today](#) (6/9, Jackson) reports Sen. Chris Coons said, "What struck me is that it is completely unacceptable for the president to ask the FBI director to be personally loyal to him and to ask the FBI director to drop it with regards to an ongoing investigation into his former national security adviser." Sen. Brian Schatz also "fired back at Trump...saying the president appeared to be accusing Comey of a serious crime: lying to Congress."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/9, Persons) reports Sen. Joe Manchin said Friday on MSNBC "that those on both sides of the political aisle are concerned about the perceivably close relationship between the Trump administration and the Russian government." Manchin asserted, "I think there's an awful lot of us on both sides of the aisle that are very uncomfortable with this relationship that they seem to have. I think it goes all the way to the day Comey was fired to the day the Russians were there – not allowing the press of the United States of America's in, the

free press of America, but letting the controlled press of Russia in. Those are a lot of concerning things.”

[The Hill](#) (6/9, Hensch) reports Nick Akerman, “a former prosecutor who worked on the Watergate investigation,” said Thursday on CNBC’s “Closing Bell” that there is “no question that Trump was involved in obstruction of justice.” Akerman asserted Comey’s testimony “makes that crystal clear.” In addition, The Hill says Akerman also “compared former national security adviser Michael Flynn to James McCord, one of the first people arrested in the Watergate investigation. Trump asked Comey to drop an FBI investigation into Flynn, according to Comey.”

Media commentary was similarly divided along partisan lines, with [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/9, Jenkins, Jr.) columnist Holman W. Jenkins, Jr. concluding in a piece titled “Why Trump Wins” that Comey’s testimony failed to resonate among the President’s supporters. Writing in [The Hill](#) (6/9, O’Reilly) “Pundits” blog, Bill O’Reilly contends Comey’s admission of leaking “was almost beyond belief” and “bizarre.” According to O’Reilly, Comey’s revelation “says he’s kind of devious although I have to give him credit for owning up to the incredible situation.”

[Fox News Insider](#) (6/9) reports Judge Jeanine Pirro on “Fox & Friends” on Friday called Comey a “predator” who sought “revenge” with the leaks of his memos, adding, “He is an operator. He is part of the Washington elite.” Pirro added, “It’s clearly about revenge. This is a setup.” [Breitbart](#) (6/9, Pollak) Senior Editor-at-Large Joel Pollak contends Comey’s testimony “undermined Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation by revealing it to be a deliberate political setup.” He concludes, “Nothing Mueller does can be taken at face value any longer, and every action he takes will be clouded by political suspicion. He should be dismissed and replaced by an independent, bipartisan commission. Otherwise the truth will never be known, or trusted.”

[The Hill](#) (6/9, Greenwood) “Briefing Room” blog reports former Attorney General Michael Mukasey said on Newsmax TV on Friday that Comey has revealed former Attorney General Loretta Lynch turned the Justice Department into “an arm of the [Hillary] Clinton campaign.” Mukasey added, “What makes it egregious is the fact — and I think it’s obvious that it is a fact — that the attorney general of the United States was adjusting the way the department talked about its business so as to coincide with the way the Clinton campaign talked about that business.”

Nonetheless, [The Hill](#) (6/9, Kamisar) reports “conservative commentator Charles Krauthammer believes...Trump is now under investigation by the Justice Department amid probes into ties between the Trump campaign and Russia.” Krauthammer said Friday at the Faith and Freedom Coalition’s Road to Majority conference in Washington, “Comey handing over his notes to former Director Mueller, who is running the [special] investigation, means that Trump is now under investigation.” He added, “That’s the irony — all he was trying to do was to get the story out that he wasn’t, but in pursuit of that, he created a string of events where it’s likely, we don’t know, he is under investigation.”

In his [New York Times](#) (6/9, Brooks) column, David Brooks says Comey’s testimony had some “important” implications: first “that he cast some doubt on reports that there was widespread communication between the Russians and the Trump campaign,” second “that as far as we know, Donald Trump has not performed any criminal act that would merit removing him from office,” and third that “Trump is characterologically at war with the norms and practices of good government.” Brooks concludes “the good news is the civic institutions are weathering the storm. The Senate Intelligence Committee put on a very good hearing. The F.B.I. is maintaining its integrity. This has, by and large, been a golden age for the American press corps. The bad news is that these institutions had better be. The Trump death march will be slow, grinding and ugly.”

Julie Pace of the Associated Press told [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (6/9, 6:39 p.m. EDT, 39:01, Baier) that Comey’s decision not to stand up to Trump over the alleged inappropriate behavior is “where Comey was weakest in the testimony. It was a huge question going in given that everything reported given his interaction. We didn’t come out of it with any clear answer. He essentially said I wish I could’ve been stronger, I wish I could’ve been more courageous.”

Ron Brownstein, the senior editor at The Atlantic, told [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (6/9, 6:45 p.m. EDT, 45:50, Blitzer) that one of the Administration’s problems “is this consistent pattern of undisclosed meetings.” He added that further disclosures of such meetings may prompt Democratic senators to push harder for Sessions’ resignation.

In the lead segment for [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (6/9, 5:01 p.m. EDT, lead story, 1:24, Blitzer), Senior White House Correspondent Jim Acosta said Trump appears to be trying “to have it both ways, clinging to the testimony of former FBI director James Comey as his salvation while also slamming the man he fired in the same breath.” [Politico Magazine](#) (6/9, Shafer) senior media writer Jack Shafer similarly contends “that the White House has turned to the ‘disloyal’ Comey for

a lifeline says volumes about Trump's desperate quest for self-preservation, to finally free himself from the oppressive 'cloud' of personal suspicion that has ground him down. "

Julie Pace of the Associated Press told [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/9, 6:33 p.m. EDT, 33:11, Baier), "I think the President does feel vindicated on one front, and that's the fact that James Comey did tell him three times that he personally was not under investigation as it relates to the Russian collusion during the election. But obviously there is a lot that is left on the table here, and we are in a situation right now because so many of these conversations were just the President and Comey, it's Comey's word against Trump's."

[Washington Post](#) (6/9, Bump) correspondent Philip Bump says Trump is attempting to both "make the question a he-said, he-said contest between the two men" while also making "himself seem more believable" and "if that seems familiar, it should. It was precisely the strategy Trump and his team used during the 2016 campaign, fighting hard against Hillary Clinton until she was viewed as unfavorably as him and then squeaking past her in just enough places to win the presidency." According to Bump, "Trump can lie with literal impunity at this point and has a motive to do so. Comey faces legal repercussions for lying – and it's not really clear why he would."

In his [Washington Post](#) (6/9, Milbank) column, Dana Milbank states that "the line that chilled me more than any other was Comey's account of why he wrote extensive, real-time notes of his conversations with Trump. 'The nature of the person,' Comey explained in part. 'I was honestly concerned that he might lie about the nature of our meeting, and so I thought it really important to document.'" According to Milbank, "the essence of Comey's testimony: that the president of the United States is at his core a dishonest and untrustworthy man. It was judgment on character, not a legal opinion, and even Republicans on the Senate Intelligence Committee made no real attempt to dispel it."

Similarly, in his [New York Times](#) (6/9, Cohen) column, Roger Cohen asserts "somebody's lying. I think we know who it is. People have habits; to lie is one of Donald Trump's." Cohen adds "You don't need to be Sherlock Holmes to smell a rat. Russia is big; so is Trump's problem with it. He never – never! – asked Comey what should be done to stop Russian interference in American democracy." Cohen concludes "Comey has moved the pendulum. Trump is vulnerable."

Meanwhile, on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/9, 6:36 p.m. EDT, 36:02, Blitzer), Abby Phillip of the Washington Post suggested, "There are two options. He either has tapes or he doesn't, and if he doesn't have tapes, and he is going to reveal that at some future date, that fits into a pattern with this President, where he's trying to create a sense of suspense about something that simply doesn't exist." She stated, "The longer the prospect of tapes is out there, even if they don't exist, the more it calls into question whether there is something out there that could refute what James Comey is saying. So that's part of Trump's MO – but if there are tapes, that's a legal problem."

In his [New York Times](#) (6/9, Bruni) column, Frank Bruni calls the President "utterly confusing at his news conference on Friday afternoon. But I don't think he was confused." According to Bruni, Trump "decided – perhaps for his own amusement, perhaps to pull our attention away from the legalities of his interactions with James Comey – to keep people guessing about whether he'd recorded any of those conversations, as he vaguely suggested he had last month. He wore an expression of mischief on his face. He looked pleased. He clarified nothing."

In her [New York Times](#) (6/9, Collins) column, Gail Collins contends that while the President "probably meant nothing indictable" during his remarks on Friday, "we have a chief executive who says there'd be 'nothing wrong' if he asked the F.B.I. director not to investigate a former member of his administration suspected of having improper relations with a country that tried to interfere with our election." According to Collins, "The bottom line here is that our president appears to be unnervingly loony. Not just in the normal political way, with bad judgment or an overblown sense of importance. Loony like your cousin Fred who lives with his mother and isn't allowed out of the house with more than \$2 in pocket money."

In her [Washington Post](#) (6/9, Emba) column, Christine Emba says "the uncomfortable parallels were hard to ignore" between the Comey hearing and "the patronizing, painful back-and-forth that victims have been conditioned to expect should they dare lodge a complaint about harassment or assault. ... The only thing missing was a question about what the FBI director had been wearing at the time." Emba concludes "Comey humbly admitted that he wasn't 'Captain Courageous' in his dealings with President Trump, yet he still got the benefit of the doubt. Shouldn't others who tell their stories in even more difficult circumstances be given the same?"

Trump: "America Is Going To Build Again."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/10) reports President Trump on Saturday “[tweeted](#) (6/10) a video of his weekly address, which recapped the broad blueprint for infrastructure overhaul that he laid out earlier in the week.” In the address, the President promised, “America is going to build again.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/10, Giaritelli) says the “weekly address served to remind the public what this past week was supposed to be about after the White House’s infrastructure theme was drowned out by fallout from fired FBI Director James Comey’s Senate hearing.”

Will: To Modernize US Infrastructure, Reform Permit Process. In his [Washington Post](#) (6/9, Will) column, George Will contends that “the inaccurately named Center for American Progress” released a report defending government bureaucracy and regulation, which refocuses attention on Philip Howard, founder and chair of the reform advocacy group Common Good. Will says Howard two years ago released an analysis “argu[ing] that time is money, and that the United States is wasting enormous amounts of both with an infrastructure approval system that is an ‘accident of legal accretion over the past 50 years.’” Will adds Howard found, “America could modernize its infrastructure, at half the cost, while dramatically enhancing environmental benefits, with a two-year approval process.” Will concludes “Intelligent people of goodwill can dispute, as the CAP rejoinder does, Howard’s cost-benefit calculations,” but CAP “partakes of the hyperbole normal in today’s environmental policy debates,” titling its response to Howard the “meretricious: ‘Debunking the False Claims of Environmental Review Opponents.’”

Trump Is Fighting Against Regulations, Not Climate Change.

The [AP](#) (6/10, Flesher, Biesecker) reports President Trump’s “beliefs about global warming remain something of a mystery,” but “his actions make one thing clear: He doesn’t consider it a problem for the federal government to solve.” The AP says the President’s decision to withdraw the US from the Paris climate accords reflects his “belief in easing the regulatory burden,” a position that “is firmly in the Republican mainstream.” However, the AP adds “what sets him apart is his zealotry and public dismissiveness of the scientific evidence showing the Earth is warming and man-made carbon emissions are largely to blame.”

California Partners With Germany To Fight Climate Change. [Reuters](#) (6/10, Shalal) reports California, the largest US state “in economic terms,” and Germany, the largest economy in Europe, are “teaming up” with the “‘Under 2 Coalition,’ which includes cities, regional governments and states,” to “cooperate on tackling climate change following the U.S. government’s decision to withdraw from the 2015 Paris agreement.” In a statement, California Gov. Jerry Brown said, “California and Germany unite the world leaders in the fight against climate change, the existential threat of our time.”

New Coal Mine Opening In Pittsburgh. Don Dahler reported on the [CBS Weekend News](#) (6/10, story 9, 2: 35, Dahler) that a new coal mine has opened “60 miles outside Pittsburgh,” shortly after President Trump announced he would pull out of the Paris climate agreement. Though the mine “was in the works before the election,” Dahler noted, “the President highlighted it as a rare bright spot” last week. The mine is “only hiring 70 to 100 workers,” but locals hope the news will mean more income for everybody.

Perry Says US Will Focus On “Early Stage” Research Of Climate Technology In Beijing.

The [AP](#) (6/9, Brown) reports that while energy ministers from several countries reported “increased spending to help counter climate change” during the clean energy conference in Beijing this week, Energy Secretary Perry “said deep cuts to research in Trump’s proposed budget reflected an increased understanding that developing new technologies into commercial projects should be left to private companies.” Perry explained the US government would spend money on “early stage” research, adding that “once (a new technology) has been proven up, we need to get out of the business.”

Perry Discusses Paris Accord, Energy Policy After Trip To Asia. In a [Bloomberg News](#) (6/9) interview, Energy Secretary Perry discusses his trip to China and US energy policy. Perry praises the shale gas revolution, and encourages natural gas development. Perry went on to call arguments against withdrawing from the Paris agreement “political rhetoric,” suggesting that the money would be “better spent in national labs on technology that we know are going to have an effect on the environment.”

China Signals Willingness To Work With Individual States At Clean Energy Meeting. [AFP](#) (6/9, Jackson) reports China gave California Gov. Jerry Brown “a red carpet reception this week” while possibly snubbing Energy Secretary Perry at the ministerial-level clean energy meeting last week. AFP says that while Xie Zhenhua, China’s top climate negotiator, praised California’s climate policies and experience, Perry “was granted a reception with China’s number seven, Zhang

Gaoli." Some analysts argue that the meeting may mean "that China has not given up on Washington," but Willy Lam, an expert on politics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, believes that "the message is that irrespective of the decision of Donald Trump, China is willing to work with individual states and cities in the United States."

Campaign Urges Chamber Of Commerce Members To Leave Over Its Support Of Paris Accord Pullout. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/9, Natter) reports President Trump's decision to exit the Paris climate accord has led to a campaign by "Public Citizen and other groups" to encourage companies including to withdraw from the US Chamber of Commerce, which supported the decision. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, author of a report on the "corporate disconnect over climate change", said in a statement, "It's time for member companies to ask themselves whether they want to side with a relentless climate foe, or protect the health and safety of the American people and the reputation of our country." When asked about the situation by Bloomberg, some "companies said they agree with the Chamber on some issues, but not all. Others say they are putting pressure on it to change course."

Washington Post Fact Checks Trump's Coal Claims In Paris Accord Speech. In an analysis of President Trump's speech on the Paris accord, the [Washington Post](#) (6/9, Lee) determines that it "was filled with misstatements." In a fact-check, the Post explains that Trump's claims that new coal mines are opening have little to do with the accord, and are instead driven by increasing global demand for metallurgical coal. What's more, it "doesn't signal a long-term coal renaissance," analysts say. The piece also disputes Trump's claim that the Paris accord "effectively blocks the development of clean coal in America." According to the Post, "clean coal" technology has developed since the US entered the agreement in 2015, but "remains expensive and not viable economically without being linked to an enhanced oil recovery project."

Rep. McClintock: Trump Was Right To Leave Paris Accord. In an op-ed in [The Hill](#) (6/9, McClintock), Rep. Tom McClintock praises President Trump's decision to leave the Paris climate accord, arguing that it would be "debilitating" to average families. He goes on to criticize climate change alarmists, and adds that "historical fluctuations in both CO2 atmospheric concentrations and global temperatures suggest that natural influences vastly outweigh the human causes of global warming." He concludes that President Trump chose "a future in which families can enjoy the prosperity that abundant energy provides and the quality of life that comes from that prosperity."

OMB Considers Trump's Clean Power Plan Review, Nears Public Release.

[The Hill](#) (6/9, Cama) reports the White House's Office of Management and Budget is reviewing the Environmental Protection Agency's proposed review of the Clean Power Plan, the final step before it is publicly released for comments. According to The Hill, the Administration "is expected to seek a full repeal of the rule."

China Aims To Work With US States On Climate Issue.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/11, Spegele) reports that even though President Trump has pulled the US out of the Paris climate agreement, China is engaging with US states to work to address the issue of climate change. The article highlights the lavish welcome that California Gov. Jerry Brown received last week at a clean-energy forum in China. Energy Secretary was also in the country attending the event, but he wasn't given a similar welcome. Perry expressed support for Brown trying to address the issue. Perry stated, "My hat's off to Gov. Brown for the work that he does to promote California."

US, G7 Remain At Odds On Climate Change.

[Reuters](#) (6/11, Jewkes) reports that differences between the US and other G7 nations over climate change "remain wide and are not likely to narrow," environment ministers said Sunday after talks in Bologna. "Positions over the Paris accord are far apart...and will remain that way," Italian Environment Minister Gian Luca Galletti said on the sidelines of the meeting. German Environment Minister Barbara Hendricks said, "There will be a final communique tomorrow that will differentiate opinions," without providing details.

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/11, Albanese, Parkin) likewise says the US will join other G7 nations in a communique "that will acknowledge points of disagreement." Hendricks told reporters that talks with EPA Administrator Pruitt "underlined agreement on such issues as pollution of the oceans," but that Pruitt "made clear" the nations are at odds on climate protection. The [AP](#) (6/11, Santalucia, Jordans) reports Pruitt "attended the first few hours of the two-day summit before returning to Washington for a Cabinet meeting, US officials said."

The Hill Analysis: Economic Growth A “Bright Spot” For Trump.

[The Hill](#) (6/11, Elis) says, “The economy is emerging as a bright spot for President Trump,” as “The S&P 500 is up more than 12 percent since Election Day, unemployment has reached a 16-year low and economic growth in the coming year is expected to reach 2.3 percent, more robust growth than the 1.6 percent it grew in 2016.” On Friday, closing out the Administration’s “infrastructure week,” “Trump sought to play up his handling of the economy again.” The analysis highlights how “controversy” surrounding former FBI director James “Comey’s firing has led to a new drop in the polls for Trump, whose approval rating in the Real Clear Politics average is just 39 percent, with 55 percent expressing disapproval.”

WSJournal A1 Analysis: Fed’s Monetary Tightening Failing To Produce Intended Effects On Markets. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/11, A1, Harrison) reports that as the Federal Reserve likely will decide to raise short-term interest rates for the fourth time since December 2015 at a meeting this week, recent tightening policy efforts have yet to impact financial markets, where stocks have hit records this year and bond yields have fallen. Accommodative financial conditions – currently on par with those at the peak of Fed stimulus in early 2015 – put the market at risk for overheating and then snapping back. The Journal explains that such a situation suggests that there are limits to the Fed’s influence over the economy, and lead the central bank to shift its strategy. Harvard economist Jeremy Stein said the Fed is less likely to back away from its plan to continue raising rates, and the Journal says it’s too early to know whether officials will raise rates more quickly than planned.

Lawmakers Unclear On When To Raise Debt Limit.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/11, Davidson) reports that amid a lack of information and mixed messages from the Trump Administration lawmakers could leave town for summer recess in six weeks not knowing when it needs to lift the debt ceiling. That confusion, the Journal adds, makes it more difficult for the Administration to convince Congress to raise the debt limit sooner rather than later.

Treasury To Propose “Modest” Bank Reforms.

“The Treasury Department on Monday is set to propose modest revisions to banking regulations put in place after the financial crisis, a sharp contrast to the slash-and-burn approach to those rules that was approved by House Republicans just this week,” [Politico](#) (6/9, Guida) reports, although the “long-awaited report ordered by President Donald Trump...will call for a streamlining of regulators’ authority and for shrinking the power of the popular consumer watchdog agency created by the 2010 Dodd-Frank Act, according to people familiar with the document.” Politico states that “the report is one of a series that the department is drafting in response to a February executive order by Trump for a comprehensive review of financial regulations, which he says are hindering U.S. economic growth.” Politico adds the Treasury Department proposal “is probably closer to what is achievable, given that Senate Republicans will need Democratic votes to pass most major legislation.”

WPost Analysis: House Bill Would Limit Shareholders’ Ability To File Resolutions. In an analysis of the potential impact of a Dodd-Frank rollback on energy companies, the [Washington Post](#) (6/9, Grandoni) explains that the Financial Choice Act, the bill designed to dismantle Dodd-Frank, would set a “prohibitively high bar for most investors” to file a shareholder resolution. According to Eastman Chemical Company CEO Mark Costa, the change is meant to combat “activist investors with insignificant stakes in public companies” that “make shareholder proposals that pursue social or political agendas unrelated to the interests of the shareholders as a whole.” However, the Post notes that the bill is “expected to die a quick death” in the Senate.

Labor Department Partially Implements Obama-Era Fiduciary Rule.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/9, Hayashi) reports a core principle of the fiduciary rule went into effect on Friday, to the dismay of many companies in the financial industry who had expected it to be pulled back under President Trump. The Labor Department is implementing the rule in two stages, first with the core principle, which requires brokers and advisers working with tax-advantaged retirement savings to act in the best interest of their clients, as “fiduciaries.” The second includes operational requirements, which will become effective in January and requires conflict of interest disclosures to investors. The Journal says Labor Secretary Acosta chose to more strictly follow rule-making procedures rather than to risk delaying the rule.

Labor Department Reverses Obama-Era “Persuader Rule.” The [Washington Post](#) (6/9, Eilperin) reports the Labor Department on Tuesday announced that it would reverse the

"persuader rule," which was approved during the Obama Administration but had yet to go into effect due to ongoing litigation. The rule would have required companies to "disclose their initial contacts with outside consultants on how to respond to unionizing efforts." The Post says the reversal "marks a victory for business groups and a setback for organized labor and underscores the extent to which the department is starting to shift course under its new secretary, Alexander Acosta."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Mr. Trump Goes After The Inspectors." A [New York Times](#) (6/12, Board) editorial charges that the Trump Administration is "undermin[ing] the inspectors' role by failing to hire for open positions and planning to slash the offices' budgets, one of the many ways the White House has found to diminish the oversight functions of the federal government." The Times says Congress "has demonstrated bipartisan willingness to step up for inspectors general in the past, and last year it expanded the types and scope of protection offered to government whistle-blowers. Now it needs to protect the watchdogs from an administration that wants to starve them."

"Shunning Gun Control, Helping Terrorists." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/12, Board) writes that "in his obligation to protect the public, President Trump would do well to note that the nation's loophole-ridden gun laws are hailed by the Islamic State as a pro-mayhem advantage." Having "clumsily raised the issue" in wake of the latest attacks in London, Trump "needs to know that in the years since Britain held a national gun debate and enacted laws for public safety, it has suffered only one mass shooting involving four or more victims. In this country, the F.B.I. has found the rate of such deadly sprees has more than doubled since 2000, to more than 16 a year."

Washington Post.

"Good News: The US And Mexico Agreed On A Sugar Deal But That's Bad News, Too." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/11) writes that negotiations between the Administration and the Mexican government on access to the US for Mexican sugar producers is both "good news and bad news." On one hand, it "avoids an impending trade war over the commodity, thus preserving a modicum of good relations leading into negotiations over updating" NAFTA. On the other hand, it "perpetuates a system of market manipulations that hurts American consumers of the commodity while benefiting no one but a well-connected few who produce it in the United States." The Post says the deal further increases minimum prices for consumers by tightening supply limitations, leaving American producers still unsatisfied and constituting "a major concession by Mexico for the sake of good bilateral relations."

"Virginia's Breakthrough On Rectifying An Enormous Injustice." The [Washington Post](#) (6/11) editorializes that Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, "overcoming bitter opposition from Republican lawmakers," has "largely rectified an enormous, archaic injustice: the disenfranchisement of tens of thousands of former felons – about half of them African Americans – whose debt to society has been paid, in many cases decades ago." The Post adds that "after prevailing in state courts," McAuliffe (D) "was able to assert his power under the state constitution and has so far restored the vote to more than 156,000 ex-convicts," and "by the time his four-year term in office ends in January, he is on pace to have restored rights (including the right to serve on juries) to at least another 5,000 former felons." The Post notes that "a future governor might slow the pace of ongoing restorations or even shift criteria," but "those already re-enfranchised are secure in their restored rights, and" McAuliffe's "legacy is assured."

"When Mentally Ill Parents Murder Their Children." The [Washington Post](#) (6/11) editorializes about "the grim appraisal of Prince George's County State's Attorney Angela Alsobrooks as she catalogued the failures that led to the murders of two young children by their mentally ill mother." According to the Post, "there were clear warnings that a troubled young mother needed help and that her children were in danger," and "the tragic case exposes fault lines in systems set up to treat mental illness and protect children, underscoring the need for improvements." The Post adds that under current law, "teachers, health-care workers and certain other workers must report to authorities when they suspect a child has been abused but not when they believe a child is in danger of being abused." Alsobrooks "has spent the past three years unsuccessfully trying to persuade state lawmakers to strengthen the reporting requirement to cover threats and to provide training in assessing danger."

Wall Street Journal.

“Trump’s Steel-Trapped Minds.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/11) editorializes that an honest review of US steel imports as ordered by President Trump’s executive order wouldn’t produce findings to justify a broad-based tariff that would kill jobs in industries that use steel, including construction, automotive, and machinery. The Journal says the Commerce Department already has imposed 152 so-called antidumping and countervailing-duty orders on steel imports from 32 countries. These protectionist measures have allowed domestic producers to raise prices and increase their profit margins. However, the Journal says before the imposition of such duties, US manufacturers were forced by foreign competition to become more efficient by improving technology and workflow. Moreover, some steel imports are necessary as many downstream consumers say domestic steel doesn’t adhere to industry quality or safety standards.

“A Single-Payer Test Drive.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/11) cites a single-payer healthcare bill passed in the California state Senate and argues that if Democrats believe government should have greater control over healthcare, then Gov. Jerry Brown should sign the measure into law and force progressives to live with the consequences before such a system is imposed on the entire nation.

“Hezbollah In The Bronx.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/11) editorializes that Federal prosecutors in the Southern District of New York announced on Tuesday that charges were filed against naturalized citizens Ali Kourani and Samer el Debek, two alleged Hezbollah operatives who helped organize potential attacks in the US and Panama, and against US and Israeli embassies. The Journal accuses Iran of extending Hezbollah a \$200 million annual budget and of providing most of the roughly 80,000 missiles that Hezbollah uses against Israel, and says the charges against Kourani and Debek reinforces that Iran rightfully deserves its reputation as the world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Uber Faces Deeper Turmoil At Top](#)
[Fed Finds Foe In Financial Markets](#)
[When Currencies Fall, Export Growth Is Supposed To Follow—Until Now](#)
[Sessions Testimony To Keep Russia Probe In Focus](#)

New York Times:

[Democrats In Split-Screen: The Base Wants It All. The Party Wants To Win.](#)
[Role Of Trump’s Personal Lawyer Blurs Public And Private Lines](#)
[Seizing On Opioid Crisis, A Drug Maker Lobbies Hard For Its Product](#)
[Reviving A Lost Language Of Canada Through Film](#)
[Uber Weighs Leave Of Absence For Chief Executive](#)
[For Britain, Political Stability Is A Quaint Relic](#)
[Duterte, Focused On Drug Users In Philippines, Ignored Rise Of ISIS](#)
[Tony Awards 2017: ‘Dear Evan Hansen’ Wins Best Musical, ‘Oslo’ Wins Best Play](#)

Washington Post:

[Turning Pain Into Hope](#)
[Partisan Districts’ Future Is At Stake](#)
[President Looms Over Costly Race In Georgia](#)
[I Covered Terrorism On 3 Continents. Then My Family Was Victimized. True To The Law’s Principles Or Betraying Her Own?](#)

Financial Times:

[May Faces Party Showdown After Disastrous Election](#)
[State Investors Stock Up On Record Gold Reserves](#)
[Uber Board Discuss Change In Role For Kalanick](#)

Washington Times:

[Homeland Security Secretary Suggests Amnesty For Dreamers, Implores Congress To Solve Problem](#)

[Attorney General Jeff Sessions To Testify: Senate Democrats Demand Public Hearing](#)
[Big Names, Long Days: Virginia Democrats In Tight Race For Governor Make Final Campaign Push](#)

[Federal Government Owns Little Infrastructure For Trump To Privatize](#)
[Pentagon Continues LGBT Pride Celebration: Conservatives Say It's A Shame In Trump Administration](#)
[Coal Sector Reignites Under Trump But Is Projected To Burn Out In The Long Run](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Comey Testimony-WH; Somalia-US Drone Strike, Afghanistan-US Soldiers Murdered; Home Explosions; Jennifer Lawrence-Emergency Landing; Florida-Airplane Crash; Look-A-Like Prisoner; Penn State Frat Death-Trial; Bill Cosby Trial; Weather; Swim-Carbon Monoxide Danger; Uber-Shake Up; Japan-Car Crash; Kickboxing Fight; Lottery Winner; Heart Transplant Teen.

CBS: Afghanistan-US Soldiers Murdered; Philippines-US Anti-ISIS Support; Somalia-US Drone Strike; Syria-Raqqa, Mosul Assaults; Comey Testimony-WH; LA-Anti-Trump Rally; Puerto Rico-US State Poll; Jimmy Carter-Public Appearance; Orlando Nightclub Shooting-Anniversary; US Mall Redevelopment; US Flag Day.

NBC: Comey Testimony-WH; Afghanistan-US Soldiers Murdered; Kidnapped Woman Rescue-Video; Uber-Shake Up; Weather; Russia-Ghost Towns; Orlando Nightclub Shooting-Anniversary; US Rising Drug Cost; French Open Winner; Big Sur-Landslides; Retirement-Farming.

Network TV At A Glance:

Comey Testimony-WH – 8 minutes, 5 seconds

Afghanistan-US Soldiers Murdered – 4 minutes, 25 seconds

Weather – 2 minutes, 15 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Trump Anti-Corruption Lawsuit; Russia Meddling Investigation-Sessions; Orlando Nightclub Shooting-Anniversary; Stanley Cup Winner; Jennifer Lawrence-Emergency Landing.

CBS: Comey Testimony-WH; Stanley Cup Winner; French Open Winner; US World Cup Qualifying; Broadway News; Orlando Nightclub Shooting-Anniversary; US Gasoline Price; Wall Street News.

FOX: Comey Testimony-WH; London Terror Attack.

NPR: French Parliament Election; Pro-LGBT Rallies; Qatar Diplomatic Crisis; Stanley Cup Winner.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Leads a Cabinet Meeting; Welcomes the 2016 NCAA Football National Champions: The Clemson Tigers.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President for a Cabinet meeting.

US Senate: 4:00 PM Senate votes on beginning debate on Countering Iran's Destabilizing Activities Act and on DoD nominee – Senate convenes and resumes consideration of the motion to proceed to 'S.722, Countering Iran's Destabilizing Activities Act of 2017', then the nomination of Kenneth Rapuano to be Assistant Secretary of Defense, followed by votes on the nomination and the motion Location: Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

US House: 2:00 PM House of Representatives meets for legislative business Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

4:00 PM Treasury Secretary Mnuchin testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee on budget – Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee 'Department of the Treasury – Budget Hearing', with testimony from Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin Location: Rm 2359, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

5:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'S. 1094 – Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2372 – VETERAN Act', 'H.R. 2579 – Broader Options for Americans Act', and 'H.R. 2581 – Verify First Act' Location: H-313, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

7:00 PM House Appropriations subcommittee markup hearing – Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Subcommittee markup hearing on FY 2018 Appropriations

Bill Location: Rm 2362-A, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

7:00 PM Defense Secretary Mattis testifies to House Armed Services Committee on FY'18 budget – Hearing on 'The Fiscal Year 2018 National Defense Authorization Budget Request from the Department of Defense', with testimony from Secretary of Defense James Mattis; and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford, Jr. Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

Clemson Tigers visit Capitol Hill – 2016-2017 College Football Playoff National Championship winners Clemson Tigers visit the U.S. Capitol, immediately following a ceremony at the White House, visiting Statuary Hall and the Rotunda, where Republican Rep. Jeff Duncan and other members of the South Carolina Congressional delegation deliver brief remarks Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.clemson.edu/> <https://twitter.com/ClemsonUniv>

Other: 4:00 PM 'Smart Cities and Intelligent Transportation Systems' 1776 / Israel Embassy discussion – 'Smart Cities and Intelligent Transportation Systems – The Case of Mobileye' event, co-organized by 1776 and the Embassy of Israel as part of the Embassy's 'Jerusalem Events' series, with Mobileye Director of Strategic Initiatives Uri Tami sharing his company's vision on opportunities for smart cities and intelligent transportation systems, from driver assistance systems to big data. Other speakers include Israel Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Ron Dermer and 1776 CFO Steve Graubart Location: 1776, 1133 15th St NW, Washington, DC 1776dc.com <https://twitter.com/1776dc>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- E&E Publishing: Trump Homes In On 4 Conservation Picks.
- U.S. News & World Report: Acadia Advisory Panel To Resume Meetings In September.
- West Central Tribune (MN): Adviser To Trump Interior Official Speaks Of 'Balance And Trust' While In Duluth.
- Government Executive: Can Volunteers Save Federal Lands And Create A Hiring Pipeline For Agencies?

- Centralia (WA) Chronicle: Congress Members Ask For Government Help Combating Columbia River Mussels.
- Washington Examiner: Military Service Dogs, Vets Get Hero's Welcome On Capitol Hill.
- The Blaze: Left-wing Environmentalists Working To Undermine Trump's 'Swamp' Clean Up.
- The Hill: Channeling Teddy Roosevelt: How Trump And Interior Sec. Zinke Can Protect Public Lands.
- Daily Signal: Obama's Last-Minute Land Grab Was Bad For Utah.
- KRWG-FM Las Cruces (NM): Lang: Las Cruces-Area Monument Providing Economic Benefits To Southern New Mexico.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Massachusetts Tribe Awaits Federal Decision On Casino Land.
- Air Force Says Proposed Spokane Tribe Casino Poses No Insurmountable Obstacles.
- Dakota Access Review To Re-Examine Impact On Tribe.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Taos (NM) News: Despite Modern Look, Redesigned BLM Websites Lack Details, Documents.
- McClatchy: Coal, Climate Change At Center Of Court Case Than Could Affect Mining Across The West.
- Casper (WY) Star-Tribune: Citing Trump's Executive Order, BLM Considers Leasing Sage Grouse Habitat For Oil And Gas.
- Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel: Dinosaur Drilling Proposal In Dispute.
- Medford (OR) Mail Tribune: Three Artists Will Portray National Monument In Their Own Way.
- Natural Gas Intelligence: Brief – Bureau Of Land Management.
- Albuquerque (NM) Journal: Venting Of Methane Hurts State.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- Seismic Tests As A Steppingstone To Virginia Offshore Drilling Raises Excitement And Concern.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Hoeven Announces \$24.4 Million In Bureau Of Reclamation Funding For Rural Water Projects.
- Arizona Coal Train Serving Navajo Generating Station Derails Near Page.
- Montana Hemp Farmer Can't Irrigate Her Crops Under Fed Rules.
- California Reservoir On Shaky Ground Highlights Aging U.S. Dams' Risks.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- TIME: Yellowstone Grizzly Bears Could Be Vulnerable To Hunters.
- U.S. News & World Report: Feds To Give Update On California's Big Water Tunnels.
- The Hill: Invasive Carp Found Near Lake Michigan.
- Kingman (AZ) Daily Miner: Feds Remove Hualapai Mexican Vole From Endangered Species List.
- Denver Post: How Biologists Are Working To Keep The Great Sand Dunes Tiger Beetle Off The Endangered Species List.
- South Florida Sun Sentinel: High Water Levels Threaten Survival Of Everglades, Expert Warns.
- Boston Globe: 2 Humpback Whales Die After Stranding On Cape Cod.
- U.S. News & World Report: Wisconsin Works To Improve Mississippi River Beaches.
- Citrus County (FL) Chronicle: USFWS Seeking Comment On Three Sisters Proposal.
- Seattle Times: We Must Reject Trump's Plan For Oil And Gas Drilling In ANWR.
- Bozeman (MT) Daily Chronicle: We Can Find A Balance Between People, Carnivores.

National Park Service

- The Guardian (UK): As Trump Moves To Privatize America's National Parks, Visitor Costs May Rise.
- Washington Post: Six Nazi Spies Were Executed in D.C. White Supremacists Gave Them A Memorial – On Federal Land.
- Reuters: Conservative Activists Hold Muted Rallies In Washington.
- U.S. News & World Report: Officials Draining Pool At World War II Memorial.
- Inside NoVa (VA): Park Service Closes Access To Roosevelt Island For Tree Removal.
- U.S. News & World Report: Yellowstone Wants Brucellosis Quarantine Facility In Park.
- WSBT-TV South Bend (IN): EPA Says Indiana Dunes Beaches Safe After Toxic Spill.
- U.S. News & World Report: HOPE Crew Begins Restoration Work On Fort Monroe Building.
- U.S. News & World Report: Somerset County Coroner Recalls 9/11, Aftermath.

- U.S. News & World Report: Teens Handcuffed For Selling Water On National Mall.
- USA Today: Acadia National Park: From Sunrise To Sunset.
- Omaha (NE) World-Herald: Editorial: Homestead National Monument Gets An Appropriate Addition.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Pacific (GUM) Daily News: GovGuam Agencies Receive \$500K To Fund Priority Programs.
- Marianas Variety: Additional Coverage: Bordallo Addresses OIA Budget Cuts During Natural Resources Hearing.
- New York Times: After Puerto Rico's Debt Crisis, Worries Shift To Virgin Islands.

US Geological Survey

- Los Angeles Times: Earthquakes May Be The Rare Issue Uniting Democrats And Republicans In California.

Top National News

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- CNN: Trump Questions Mueller's Impartiality, But White House Denies Dismissal Rumors.
- Washington Post: "Bombshell" WPost Report Suggests Obama Knew Of Russian Election Meddling.
- Fox News: Trump, Aides Accuse Obama Of Failing To Respond To Russian Meddling.
- Reuters: House Leaders Pushing For Bipartisan Deal To Raise Debt Ceiling.
- Politico: Administration, Congress Consider Writing Tax Reform Measure In Secrecy.
- McClatchy: McClatchy Analysis: Trump's Infrastructure Legacy Is Mostly Pipeline Approvals.
- Washington Post: WPost: GOP Not Planning "Real Tax Reform."

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 - "School Districts Fight Segregation On Their Own."
 - "Progress On Gay Rights In Serbia, With A Catch."
- Washington Post.
 - "We're Close Than Ever To Eradicating Polio – And Yet There's Syria."
 - "There's Reason To Doubt Saudi Arabia's Charming New Crown Prince."
- Wall Street Journal.
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 - "Trump' Tapes' Trick."
 - "Nevada Solar Subsidy Resurrection."

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DOI In The News

Whitefish Hosts Western Governor's Meeting.

The [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (6/24, Wilson) reports that "for the second time this decade, Whitefish will play host to the annual summer meeting of the Western Governor's Association next week as the top elected officials from 10 states join other dignitaries to discuss issues facing the American West." Among the headliners for event, which begins Monday afternoon, is Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

Eco-group Billboard Blitz To Greet Interior Chief In Montana. The [AP](#) (6/23, Volz) reports environmentalist groups intend to give Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "an unexpected homecoming when he returns to his Montana hometown next week" to address the Western Governors Association's annual conference in Whitefish on Tuesday, as they erected a "billboards blitz" to "urge him not to touch the Upper Missouri River Breaks, one of two dozen national

monuments he's reviewing to eliminate or scale back protections." The AP adds that they also are airing "television ads [that] will tell him to leave alone a conservation plan by the Obama administration and 11 Western states to protect the sage grouse, an imperiled bird."

Coverage by the AP was picked up by [ABC News](#) (6/23, Volz), the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (6/23, Volz), the [Daily Mail](#) (6/23), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/24, Volz), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/23, Volz), the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (6/23), the [Gillette \(WY\) News Record](#) (6/25, Volz), the [Provo \(UT\) Daily Herald](#) (6/23, Volz), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (6/23, Volz), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/23, Matt Volz |, Ap), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/23, Volz).

Also providing coverage of the national monument review is the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (6/24, Puckett).

Guest Opinion: Public Losing Ground In Zinke's First Months At Interior. In an op-ed for the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (6/24, Saeger), Chris Saeger, Executive Director of the Western Values Project, writes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "coming home to Montana with a lot of baggage." Saeger claims that "altogether, Zinke's time at the Department of Interior has been characterized by decisions that benefit the special interests that brought him to power, and harm public lands users." Saeger concludes, "That's a record he's not likely to mention at the Western Governors' Association meeting in Whitefish, but it will be widely felt by Westerners who need him to take a more responsible approach to the management of our public lands."

Interior Secretary To Address Group In Northern Nevada.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (6/25, Brean) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will "visit Northern Nevada on Sunday to address a group that stirred controversy last year during the confirmation process for another member of President Donald Trump's Cabinet." Zinke is "scheduled to deliver the keynote speech at a private meeting of the Rule of Law Defense Fund, a right-leaning policy group once led by former Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt before he became administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency."

[KTVN-TV](#) Reno, NV (6/25, Jay) reports that "on Monday, Zinke is expected to meet with local, state, and federal officials to make an announcement 'regarding the Trump Administration's commitment to rural communities.'"

Trump To Call For U.S. 'Dominance' In Global Energy Production.

[Bloomberg News](#) (6/25, Dlouhy) reports that during what is being called "Energy Week," President Trump "will tout surging U.S. exports of oil and natural gas during a week of events aimed at highlighting the country's growing energy dominance." In addition, Trump "plans to emphasize that after decades of relying on foreign energy supplies, the U.S. is on the brink of becoming a net exporter of oil, gas, coal and other energy resources." The aim of the week "to draw attention to Trump's domestic priorities and away from more politically treacherous matters such as multiple investigations into Russian interference in the 2016 election."

Trump Homes In On 4 Conservation Picks.

[E&E Publishing](#) (6/23, Hiar) reports that the Trump Administration "may be close to naming four key public land management positions, according to sources in the recreation and ranching communities." Larry Voyles, "who has led Arizona's Game and Fish Department since 2008, is believed to be in the running for Interior's assistant secretary for fish, wildlife and parks." A contender to lead the US Fish and Wildlife Service is Scott Talbott, the director of Wyoming's Game and Fish Department.

Acadia Advisory Panel To Resume Meetings In September.

The [AP](#) (6/25) reports that the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission will "resume meetings in September following a hiatus ordered by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke." The article notes that "the reinstatement comes days after Maine Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King urged Zinke to reconsider his decision to suspend the Acadia Advisory Commission."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (6/23, Kong, Ring).

Adviser To Trump Interior Official Speaks Of 'Balance And Trust' While In Duluth.

The [West Central Tribune \(MN\)](#) (6/24, Myers) reports that the senior adviser to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was in Duluth on Saturday "to speak to the annual conference of the Outdoor Writers Association of America." Dave Mihalic, "a longtime National Park Service official who retired in 2003 as superintendent of Yosemite National Park, spoke to a packed room of outdoor writers, media producers and editors and outdoor recreation industry reps at the Duluth Entertainment

Convention Center." According to the article, "while Mihalic said he couldn't speak on specific policy issues, or speak for his longtime friend Zinke, he said the nation's newly installed top park ranger will be a good steward of federal lands even as the Trump administration moves to slash the budgets of federal land management agencies."

Can Volunteers Save Federal Lands And Create A Hiring Pipeline For Agencies?

[Government Executive](#) (6/22, Katz) reports that "lawmakers in both chambers of Congress and political parties want to create a corps of volunteers to help maintain and preserve federal lands and parks, who would then receive a leg up when applying for federal jobs." The 2017 21st Century Conservation Service Corps Act would "codify and expand the use of existing programs allowing federal land management agencies to use volunteers to fill vacancies on restoration projects." The measure would "target veterans, underprivileged youth, inner-city kids and others."

Congress Members Ask For Government Help Combating Columbia River Mussels.

The [Centralia \(WA\) Chronicle](#) (6/23) reports that "on Wednesday, a bipartisan group of congressional representatives from around the Pacific Northwest sent a letter to the secretary of the interior asking for assistance in preventing the spread of the invasive zebra mussel into the Columbia River system." The letter "notes that the zebra mussel could cost the region around \$500 million per year while compromising the river's ecosystem, fisheries and hydropower infrastructure." The letter calls on Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "to make a generous sum of federal funds available in order to contain the spread of the mussels."

Military Service Dogs, Vets Get Hero's Welcome On Capitol Hill.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/23, Bedard) reports that "an unusual gathering of lawmakers, administration officials and veterans are joining next week to celebrate the most unique of military tag teams – servicemembers and their service dogs." At Tuesday's "Sixth Annual Toast to Veterans and Those Who Serve in Congress," the American Humane Association is "to be singled out for helping reunite service dogs and their handlers in its bid to help both shift to civilian life." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, "who headlined the event in the last two years, has been invited."

Left-wing Environmentalists Working To Undermine Trump's 'Swamp' Clean Up.

[The Blaze](#) (6/25, Haskins) reports that "as part of his efforts to clean up corruption and improve government services," Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "informed in June several key senior staff members in Department of the Interior agencies that they would be reassigned." Now, "left-wing environmentalists" are "actively fighting the moves, which they say 'are sowing chaos in the ranks of the agency's leadership.'" The Center for Biological Diversity has "filed a Freedom of Information Act request to determine the motives behind the staff reassignments."

Channeling Teddy Roosevelt: How Trump And Interior Sec. Zinke Can Protect Public Lands.

For the "Pundits" blog of [The Hill](#) (6/24, Barron, Contributor), Christopher Barron, a conservative strategist and the President of Right Turn Strategies, writes that "as an outspoken supporter of Trump," he was "disappointed in his decision to issue the unnecessary executive order mandating" the review of national monuments. Barron was "even more disappointed" by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "initial recommendation that the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah be reduced in size." Barron argues that the executive order was "entirely unnecessary because the Antiquities Act, the legislation by which this and other National Monument designations were made, already provides a remedy if someone is unhappy with a designation – Congress can act." He notes that "Trump ran for president promising to 'Make America Great Again.'" Barron asserts that "nothing is more fundamental to American greatness than our lands."

In an op-ed for the [Greeley \(CO\) Tribune](#) (6/22, Lien), David Lien, a former Air Force officer and chairman of the Colorado Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, questions if President Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke are honoring President Theodore Roosevelt's conservationist legacy. Lien hopes Trump will "become the next Theodore Roosevelt — a strong voice for our wild public lands, waters and wildlife — but his recent actions suggest the opposite, a Roosevelt Republican in name only."

In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (6/24, Pok), Benjamin Pok, student body president of the Associated Students of Westminster College, Salt Lake City, writes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recommendation for boundary revisions for Utah's Bears Ears National

Monument “sets the stage for additional attacks on America’s national parks and public lands — a wrong-headed effort to reduce protections that would lead to a loss in economic prosperity for future generations and the degradation of vital cultural resources.” He notes that “on June 8, the 111th anniversary” of President Theodore Roosevelt’s “signing of the Antiquities Act, 100 student leaders representing 850,000 college students in 24 states sent a letter to Secretary Zinke urging him to protect Bears Ears and other monuments.” Pok says that he and “the other 99 student leaders who signed our letter and thousands of students in my state, want to send a strong message: we must provide economic opportunities for young workers while preserving America’s rich legacy and natural environment for generations to come.” They urge Zinke “to carry forward President Roosevelt’s remarkable leadership by reversing his current course” because as “Roosevelt demonstrated, protecting our environment and boosting our economic potential are not mutually exclusive endeavors.”

Obama’s Last-Minute Land Grab Was Bad For Utah.

Trump Is Showing He Hears The People. In a piece for the [Daily Signal](#) (6/23, Lee), Sen. Mike Lee supports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s recommendation that the borders of the Bears Ears National Monument should be redrawn. He notes that the Antiquities Act is “very clear that monument designations should be limited to ‘the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.’” Lee supports a legislation approach, instead of “unilateral decisions” by the executive branch, which would invite “future abuses.”

Lang: Las Cruces-Area Monument Providing Economic Benefits To Southern New Mexico.

In an op-ed for [KRWG-FM](#) Las Cruces, NM (6/25, Lang), Chris Lang, the Founder of Organ Mountain Outfitters, argues against resizing of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. He notes that Bureau of Land Management data “show the new monument has had a 102 percent increase in visitation from 2015 to 2016, equaling more than 85,000 additional visitors.” Furthermore, “thanks to the OMDP designation, Las Cruces and Mesilla have happily been graced with increased economic opportunities driven by the rise in visitation and attention of the national press.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Massachusetts Tribe Awaits Federal Decision On Casino Land.

The [AP](#) (6/24) reports that Mashpee Wampanoag tribe is “anticipating a decision from the federal government on 321 acres it wants designated as sovereign tribal land.” The Interior Department has notified the tribe “that it will announce whether it will grant land in trust status to 170 acres in Mashpee and 151 acres in Taunton by Tuesday.”

Air Force Says Proposed Spokane Tribe Casino Poses No Insurmountable Obstacles.

The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (6/24, Massey) reports that Spokane County is “moving forward with its lawsuit against a long-planned gaming and retail development on the West Plains, pointing to concerns that the Spokane tribe’s \$400 million casino would hurt other businesses in the area.” However, “encroachment of Spokane Tribe Economic Project (STEP) on the neighboring Fairchild Air Force Base, cited early as a down side to the project, is not likely to be a barrier – at least not an insurmountable one – according to the Air Force.” Col. Christopher Karns, director of Air Mobility Command Public Affairs, “said that the base is ‘basically neutral’ on the issue of the planned casino, though he said projects of such a scope necessarily raise some concerns.”

Dakota Access Review To Re-Examine Impact On Tribe.

The [AP](#) (6/25, Nicholson) provides a question and answer look at some of the pressing issues still surrounding the continuing fight over the Dakota Access pipeline. The primary uncertainty facing the pipeline as a result of Judge James Boasberg’s decision to require the US Army Corps of Engineers to carry out additional environmental studies is that the line may be shut down. While the tribes and Energy Transfer Partners have disagreed over the importance of the ruling, Boasberg could invalidate the Corps’ permission for the project while the agency completes its review. The tribes have pushed for a full environmental study including public and tribal input, but ETP expects a more limited process, with the Corps upholding its conclusions.

Bureau Of Land Management

Despite Modern Look, Redesigned BLM Websites Lack Details, Documents.

The [Taos \(NM\) News](#) (6/23, Hooks) reports that the Bureau of Land Management “recently updated its websites.” While it is a “more modern-looking design,” some are complaining about the lack of “access to basic information necessary for government transparency.” The BLM said that “the changes are mobile friendly and followed the redesigns of the websites for the Department of the Interior and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement.”

Coal, Climate Change At Center Of Court Case That Could Affect Mining Across The West.

[McClatchy](#) (6/23, Leavensworth) reports that the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver will rule any day now on a case with “major repercussions for coal mining on western public lands.” The decision “could force the U.S. Interior Department to more extensively analyze how expansion of coal mining on federal land affects carbon emissions.” The case centers on whether the U.S. Bureau of Land Management accurately considered the impact of an expansion of “the nation’s two most productive coal mines, the North Antelope Rochelle mine and the Black Thunder mine, both of which sit on federal land in the Powder River Basin of northeast Wyoming.”

Citing Trump’s Executive Order, BLM Considers Leasing Sage Grouse Habitat For Oil And Gas.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (6/24, Richards) reports that with the Interior Department “reviewing sage grouse conservation plans and President Donald Trump’s directive to make energy development a priority on public lands, a renewed sage grouse debate in Wyoming is flaring up — and an upcoming lease sale in the southwestern part of the state may be the first battlefield.” The Bureau of Land Management is “offering up a number of leases for oil and gas development in the state’s high desert district in December.” Some environmental groups say that “some of those land parcels are in either general sage grouse habitat or areas designated as crucial for the bird’s range.” But “it’s the agency’s justification for leasing in sage grouse areas that has sparked the greatest concern, the groups say.” According to the article, “in the environmental assessment for the lease sale, BLM cites Trump’s executive order from March, which calls for promoting ‘clean and safe development of our nation’s vast energy production, while at the same time avoiding regulatory burdens that unnecessarily encumber energy production.’”

Dinosaur Drilling Proposal In Dispute.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (6/25, Webb) reports that “environmentalists are questioning a proposal by the Bureau of Land Management to offer oil and gas leases near Dinosaur National Monument in Utah, where a recently adopted master leasing plan designed to better protect the monument doesn’t apply.” Conservation groups are also “waiting to see whether such plans, an approach introduced by the Obama administration, will continue to be available to the agency under the Trump administration and new Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.” The adoption of such a plan by the BLM’s White River Field Office “helped to address concerns about visual, noise and other impacts of possible leasing near Dinosaur in the case of BLM lands in Colorado.” However, “the monument extends into northeastern Utah, where no such plan is in place, and the BLM is considering leasing acreage near the monument in December.”

Three Artists Will Portray National Monument In Their Own Way.

The [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (6/25, Freeman) reports that three artists have been “selected this summer to interpret” the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument’s “raw essence in their own media.” According to the article, “artists stay at a trailer parked at the Bureau of Land Management’s Hyatt Lake Recreation Area campground for easy access to the monument,” and “when completed, they each will hold at least one public exhibit of the art they produced during their unpaid term.”

Brief – Bureau Of Land Management.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (6/23) reports that “two U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) field offices in Utah are seeking public comments through July 24 on environmental assessments (EA) for proposed oil and natural gas lease sales in the northeast area of the state.” One EA “assessed 64 potential parcels, comprising 66,626 acres, in Duchesne and Uintah counties, including 2,080

acres of split-estate land." The second EA "looked at 15 potential parcels comprising 32,013 acres in Emery County, mostly southeast of Ferron."

Venting Of Methane Hurts State.

In an op-ed for the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (6/25, Foster), Demis Foster, Executive Director of Conservation Voters New Mexico, writes that the oil and gas industry's "outsized role" in New Mexico is "exactly why we need state and federal efforts to limit methane waste." According to Foster, "oil and gas companies routinely and deliberately vent methane into the atmosphere, burn it as a waste product from oil drilling, and allow it to leak unchecked from poorly maintained equipment, robbing taxpayers of needed funding to the tune of \$330 million every year from federal and tribal lands alone." He also notes that "methane is also a powerful climate pollutant that is contributing to our warming world, impacting our water supply, food supplies and worsening wildfires here in New Mexico, where low-income, rural, Latino and indigenous communities are already feeling these impacts."

Additional coverage of the rule was provided by the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (6/25, Moses).

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Seismic Tests As A Steppingstone To Virginia Offshore Drilling Raises Excitement And Concern.

The [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (6/25, Mayfield) reports that "there's excitement in the oil industry and worry among environmentalists and many coastal tourism leaders about the Trump administration restarting a process this month that could lead to seismic tests off Virginia and other Atlantic states." President Trump "made clear in an executive order in April...that he wants to put the coast back in play for potential drilling, and that starting seismic surveys is key." Meanwhile, "more than 125 local governments along the Atlantic – including the Virginia Beach City Council last week – have adopted resolutions opposing offshore oil and gas activity."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Hoeven Announces \$24.4 Million In Bureau Of Reclamation Funding For Rural Water Projects.

The [Dunn County \(ND\) Herald](#) (6/23) reports that Sen. John Hoeven "announced that the Bureau of Reclamation has awarded \$24.4 million in federal funding to build and improve water supply systems in a number of North Dakota and tribal communities." Hoeven said, "North Dakota communities, regardless of zip code or population, should have access to good, quality water. These grants will help to improve and expand our water supply systems to ensure that North Dakota communities have the infrastructure they need."

Arizona Coal Train Serving Navajo Generating Station Derails Near Page.

The [Arizona Republic](#) (6/24, Randazzo) reports the electric train that serves the Kayenta Mine in Arizona "derailed June 15 about 24 miles south of Page, damaging the tracks and cutting off the fuel supply to the Navajo Generating Station." The plant operator, Salt River Project, "has enough coal on site to keep the station running, plant manager Joe Frazier said Friday" and "he expects the track to be repaired by the first week of July." The Republic adds that "the train was making the 78-mile journey north" from the mine to the power plant "when 18 carloads of coal as well as the engine with two operators aboard derailed, he said." No one was injured as a result of the derailment.

Montana Hemp Farmer Can't Irrigate Her Crops Under Fed Rules.

The [AP](#) (6/24, Neuman) reports that Montana's Industrial Hemp Pilot Program is "underway for the first time this year, allowing approved farmers to grow the fibrous plant under oversight from the state Department of Agriculture." However, the plants "in the Helena Valley field are going without water due to conflicting regulations coming from federal and state authorities." The Bureau of Reclamation "holds a statute banning the use of its water on federally controlled substances, which includes marijuana and its close relative, hemp, even if a state has legalized either of the substances."

California Reservoir On Shaky Ground Highlights Aging U.S. Dams' Risks.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/23, Carlton) reports that experts say the Calaveras Reservoir, which sits on an active earthquake fault just 10 miles outside of San Francisco Bay Harbor, is a severe potential threat and that if it breaks, thousands of homes would be caught in flood waters. The owner of the dam sought to build a replacement seven years ago, but this work is not projected to be complete until 2019, four years behind schedule. In 2001, the California Division of Safety of Dams ordered the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission to ensure the reservoir remains no more than 40 percent full. The new dam is being constructed out of rock, dirt and natural materials. Such earthen dams, according to engineering experts, have a better chance of withstanding an earthquake.

Fish And Wildlife Service

Yellowstone Grizzly Bears Could Be Vulnerable To Hunters.

[TIME](#) (6/23, Chan) reports that "a decision by federal officials to revoke special protections for grizzly bears near Yellowstone National Park will put the animals back in the crosshairs of trophy hunters and may reverse decades of conservation efforts, animal activists said." Wildlife conservationists claim "that lifting protections that have been in place for more than 40 years will leave the bears vulnerable to mass slaughter." Wayne Pacelle, president of The Humane Society of the United States, said, "This is the greatest gift to trophy hunters. This is the greatest wish that the trophy hunting and ranching lobbies could have received from the Trump Administration."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (6/23, Montero), the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (6/24, Chaney), the [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (6/23, Koshmrl), [Slate](#) (6/23, Matthews), and the [National Memo](#) (6/25, Pacelle).

Feds To Give Update On California's Big Water Tunnels.

The [AP](#) (6/26, Knickmeyer, Smith) reports that the federal regulators evaluating Gov. Jerry Brown's twin tunnel project are "promising a status update Monday." According to the article, "rulings had been expected this month from the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the environmental impacts of the proposed tunnels, which would be California's biggest water project in decades." The environmental decisions, "when they come, would be the first in a series of federal and state rulings expected in coming weeks and month that will determine the fate of the proposed twin 35-mile (55-kilometer) tunnels."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/25, Knickmeyer, Smith), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/26, Knickmeyer Scott Smith |, Ap), the [Business Insider](#) (6/26, Knickmeyer, Smith), the [Daily Mail](#) (6/26), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/25, Knickmeyer, Smith), and [ABC News](#) (6/26, Knickmeyer, Smith).

Invasive Carp Found Near Lake Michigan.

[The Hill](#) (6/23, Cama) reports that "a fisherman has found a live Asian carp in a Chicago waterway about 9 miles from Lake Michigan, officials said." The [AP](#) (6/23, Flesher) reports that it was found "well beyond an electric barrier network designed to prevent the invasive fish that have infested the Mississippi River system from reaching the Great Lakes, officials said Friday." However, "officials cautioned that the discovery doesn't mean Asian carp populations have become established in the network of rivers and canals between the barriers and the Great Lakes, or in the lakes themselves."

Additional coverage was provided by [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (6/25, Hawthorne).

Feds Remove Hualapai Mexican Vole From Endangered Species List.

The [Kingman \(AZ\) Daily Miner](#) (6/25, Moffat) reports that "federal officials said Friday they will remove the Hualapai Mexican vole from the endangered species list after 30 years, a move that one environmental group criticized as 'premature' for an animal it says could still be at risk." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced "that the original 1987 decision to protect the Hualapai Mexican vole in Arizona as an endangered subspecies of other Mexican voles was made in error. Subsequent studies have indicated that it is not sufficiently different from other Mexican voles – of which there are many – to be considered a subspecies."

How Biologists Are Working To Keep The Great Sand Dunes Tiger Beetle Off The

Endangered Species List.

The [Denver Post](#) (6/25, Finley) reports that “depending on results of an upcoming U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey,” the Great Sand Dunes tiger beetle “could be placed on the list of endangered species.” According to the article, “beetles and other bugs face an onslaught — motorized off-road recreational vehicles, urban development, pesticides.” Federal land managers “say the beetles have survived because their habitat has been spared damage.” The article notes that “no motorized dune buggies or ATVs are allowed in the 146,000-acre Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve and adjacent Nature Conservancy-owned Medano-Zapata Ranch.”

High Water Levels Threaten Survival Of Everglades, Expert Warns.

The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (6/24, Waters) reports that “heavy rains earlier this month caused water to rise so high that the Everglades could be irreparably damaged, says a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission official.” Ron Bergeron, who is the FWC commissioner “point man on Everglades issues, said he has been on the phone repeatedly with Gov. Rick Scott over the past 10 days and the governor is ‘totally involved’ in the matter.” In addition, Bergeron has “had emergency meetings with state and federal agencies, including the FWC, the U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.”

2 Humpback Whales Die After Stranding On Cape Cod.

The [Boston Globe](#) (6/23, Grant) reports that “researchers are investigating what caused two humpback whales to beach and die on Cape Cod Wednesday.” According to Brian Sharp, rescue manager for the International Fund for Animal Welfare, “the first of the whales was reported stranded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service on Monomoy Island about 2 p.m. Monday.”

Wisconsin Works To Improve Mississippi River Beaches.

The [AP](#) (6/25) reports that “a work crew is spending a week on a Mississippi River island to eradicate invasive plants and poison ivy as part of a state and federal effort to clean up beaches along the waterway.” The WisCorps conservation team is “working with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to clear up nearly 20 beaches between La Crosse and Brownsville.” The effort is “a joint venture of the department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in response to public complaints about brush and weeds at campsites.”

USFWS Seeking Comment On Three Sisters Proposal.

The [Citrus County \(FL\) Chronicle](#) (6/25) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is “seeking comments on the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the development of visitor services facilities, infrastructure and habitat improvements at Three Sisters Springs, the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge and on the findings of appropriateness and compatibility determinations for proposed public-use activities.”

We Must Reject Trump’s Plan For Oil And Gas Drilling In ANWR.

In an op-ed for the [Seattle Times](#) (6/23, Williams), David B. Williams argues that the Artic National Wildlife Refuge is “the quintessential example of a wild, untrammled landscape,” and “not oil drilling.” He claims that “in the United States, there is no other place like the refuge, no other landscape so vast, so undisturbed, so sacred, so wild.” Williams concludes that “it is our privilege and our patriotic duty to reject the president’s plans and call for its full protection.”

We Can Find A Balance Between People, Carnivores.

In an op-ed for the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (6/24, Sellers), Martha Sellers, the director of development and communication for People and Carnivores, writes that “addressing coexistence challenges in rural communities, on the ground, in partnership with ranchers, hunters and outfitters, rural residents, land managers, and scientists is essential for large carnivore conservation.” Sellers proposes that “by partnering with additional neighbors in one community and then carrying lessons learned to other locales, we can scale up coexistence strategies to match the size and needs of whole communities as well as the size of bear and wolf home ranges.”

National Park Service

As Trump Moves To Privatize America's National Parks, Visitor Costs May Rise.

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (6/25, O'Connor) reports that "with the proposed National Park Service budget slashed by almost \$400m," the Trump Administration "says it will turn to privatizing public park services to address...deferred maintenance costs." However, "some public lands advocates are concerned that privatization would drive up costs for visitors and put the egalitarian nature of visiting a park out of reach for some."

Six Nazi Spies Were Executed in D.C. White Supremacists Gave Them A Memorial – On Federal Land.

In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (6/23, A1, Cox) reports on the discovery of a memorial to six Nazi spies on Federal land in Southwest Washington DC's Blue Plains. National Park Service employee Jim Rosenstock investigated and found that Adolf Hitler, at the start of WWII, recruited eight Germans to show US vulnerability to a Nazi attack. Rosenstock believes the American Nazi Party erected the memorial to the executed spies in the 1970s.

Conservative Activists Hold Muted Rallies In Washington.

[Reuters](#) (6/25, Harte, Whitesides) reports, "Conservative activists held a pair of rallies in Washington on Sunday to decry the handful of celebrities who have joked about violence against President Donald Trump and to protest efforts to stop contentious speakers at colleges." The events drew "only a few dozen supporters, with nearly as many counterprotesters at one of the" rallies. Richard Spencer, "an avowed white nationalist and founder of the so-called "alt-right" movement, drew about 100 supporters to [a] rally at the Lincoln Memorial." Spencer told reporters "he was disappointed with Trump's presidency so far, and was waiting for the president to enact the policies he promised during his campaign." Meanwhile, "in front of the White House, Trump supporters gathered to denounce celebrities such as the comedian Kathy Griffin and the actor Johnny Depp, who have both made joking allusions to Trump being assassinated."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/25, Moyer, Laris).

Officials Draining Pool At World War II Memorial.

The [U.S. News & World Report](#) (6/23) reports that "officials are draining a pool and other water features at the World War II Memorial in Washington." The National Park Service "said in a statement Friday that the draining will happen Sunday and will allow for the replacement of current incandescent light fixtures with high efficiency lighting." According to officials, "the pools will be refilled and operational again on June 30."

Additional coverage was provided by [WTTG-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (6/25) and [WTOP-FM Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (6/23, Hensley).

Park Service Closes Access To Roosevelt Island For Tree Removal.

[Inside NoVa \(VA\)](#) (6/25) reports that "public access to Theodore Roosevelt Island will be prohibited through mid-July as the National Park Service works to remove diseased trees from along trail areas." [WTOP-FM Washington](#) (6/23, Moore) reports that "the work is expected to last as long as three weeks, but crews will work in sections, so parts of the 88-acre park will reopen sooner, the park service said."

Yellowstone Wants Brucellosis Quarantine Facility In Park.

The [AP](#) (6/25) reports that Yellowstone National Park is "taking steps toward turning part of its bison trap at the northern edge of the park into a certified brucellosis quarantine facility." Park officials have "been talking since at least April with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and state livestock officials about upgrades they could make to the Stephens Creek Facility, as well as testing requirements needed to certify bison as brucellosis-free there." The article says that "the move is meant to eventually get the 24 male bison at the trap to the Fort Peck Indian Reservation without first transferring them to quarantine corrals at Corwin Springs."

EPA Says Indiana Dunes Beaches Safe After Toxic Spill.

[WSBT-TV South Bend, IN](#) (6/25, Torie) reports that "after a company admitted they leaked a toxic chemical into a Lake Michigan tributary this spring," the EPA "says the lake water is safe." The EPA and the National Park Service will "continue to test the area through the summer."

HOPE Crew Begins Restoration Work On Fort Monroe Building.

The [AP](#) (6/24, Black) reports on the work of HOPE (Hands-On Preservation Experience), "a

national program that connects young people from across the country by having them preserve and restore structures on public land." At Fort Monroe, the HOPE crew will be "working on the first and second floor porches of Building 50, which is managed by the National Park Service." The NPS "estimates the project will cost \$180,000."

Somerset County Coroner Recalls 9/11, Aftermath.

The [AP](#) (6/24, Hurst) reports that Somerset County Coroner Wallace Miller recently "spoke to a crowd of approximately 130 people as part of an ongoing Friends of Flight 93 Series at the national memorial's Learning Center." National Park Service officials "who introduced him at the event described the event as a unique one, noting that Miller served as the lone liaison to family members who lost loved ones that day – and that the coroner hasn't spoken about it at the site very often."

Teens Handcuffed For Selling Water On National Mall.

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (6/23, Nelson) reports that "police handcuffed three teenagers Thursday evening for attempting to selling water without a permit on the National Mall." The [McClatchy](#) (6/23, Harrell) reports that Tim Krepp, "a tour guide, took photos of the incident, which happened near the Washington Monument and posted them on Twitter." According to the article, "Krepp got in heated debates on Twitter with various users throughout the day arguing the arrest was racist since the teens were African-American."

Acadia National Park: From Sunrise To Sunset.

[USA Today](#) (6/23, Cerbin) reports that in September, Acadia National Park will host its ninth annual Night Sky Festival. John Kelly, management assistant at the park, "says the Sept. 21-24 event will offer activities inside and outside the park ranging from the 'fun and silly' to the 'highly scientific.'"

Editorial: Homestead National Monument Gets An Appropriate Addition.

The [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (6/25) editorializes that a 1945 Allis-Chalmers Model C is "making its way from Alaska to Homestead National Monument near Beatrice, Nebraska." According the article, "the last resident to receive free land under the federal Homestead Act of 1862, in Alaska," used it. The paper says that "the tractor will help Homestead National Monument tie the nation's first homestead, near Beatrice, to its last."

Office Of Insular Affairs

GovGuam Agencies Receive \$500K To Fund Priority Programs.

The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (6/24, Mora) reports that "more than half a million dollars has been made available this week from Technical Assistance grant funding to benefit programs identified as priority needs for Guam." According to a news release from the Office of Insular Affairs, "\$516,031 has been set aside for fiscal 2017 by Interior Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula." Pula said, "Guam is the biggest island of the U.S. Insular Areas in the Pacific and an important regional hub for cultural and business travel and exchange. We are pleased to provide this funding that assists the Government of Guam to keep the public safe and ensure overall efficiencies in public services."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (6/26).

GovGuam Needs To Automate, Put More Services Online. The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (6/25) editorializes that "the government of Guam needs to make a stronger effort to upgrade technology to help save money and better serve the public." A technical assistance grant from the Office of Insular Affairs will "help the Department of Public Health and Social Services improve automation in processing applications for health certificates, sanitary permits, and controlled substances registration certificates." According to the paper, "this upgrade is long overdue and will make it more convenient for people who need to apply for these certificates and permits."

Additional Coverage: Bordallo Addresses OIA Budget Cuts During Natural Resources Hearing.

Additional coverage that Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo of Guam "questioned proposed cuts to the Office of Insular Affairs contained in the president's budget request during a hearing of the House Committee on Natural Resources" was provided by the [Marianas Variety](#) (6/26) and

the [Guam Daily Post](#) (6/24).

After Puerto Rico's Debt Crisis, Worries Shift To Virgin Islands.

The [New York Times](#) (6/25, Walsh) reports that while all US territories are facing financial challenges that could presage the same kind of collapse that has "engulfed" Puerto Rico, "the debt dilemma is now most acute in the Virgin Islands." The territory's small population owes \$6.5 billion to pensioners and creditors, and factors such as insufficient tax revenue, a weak pension system, the loss of a major employer, and a new reluctance from investors after it received a junk bond rating have made it impossible for the government to meet its obligations. Although the Virgin Islands insists it doesn't intend to default on its debts like Puerto Rico, just the prospect of bankruptcy through Congress' passage of the Promesa law last year has scared off investors, in what the Times calls "something of a self-fulfilling prophecy." Gov. Kenneth has "scrambled": hiring collection agents to go after delinquent property and income taxes, raising sales taxes, and restructuring the pension system.

US Geological Survey

Earthquakes May Be The Rare Issue Uniting Democrats And Republicans In California.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/23, Lin, Krishnakumar) reports that elected officials from Democrat and Republican parties have "supported an earthquake early warning system for the West Coast that, after years of work, was scheduled to begin its first limited public operation next year." However, President Trump's budget proposal "calls for cuts that experts say would kill the warning network." The article says that "the next few months will determine whether officials on both sides of the aisle can come together to save it."

Top National News

Trump: "I Cannot Imagine" Republican Senators Will Not Vote For Healthcare Bill.

President Trump on Saturday posted two tweets promoting the Senate's healthcare bill and expressing confidence that Republican lawmakers will eventually support the legislation. ABC World News Tonight and the CBS Weekend News led with the coverage, which received more than five minutes combined on the network newscasts, and reporting highlighted the heightened role the President is likely to play in lobbying GOP holdouts to vote for the Better Care Reconciliation Act.

In the lead [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/24, lead story, 1:35, Llamas) segment, David Wright reported "the White House is gearing up for another round in the fight to repeal Obamacare." Trump "is not letting up on his push to pass healthcare legislation replacing ObamaCare," [The Hill](#) (6/24, Cohn) says, and he has been "reportedly calling senators to urge them to vote for the legislation." Trump [tweeted](#), "Democrats slam GOP healthcare proposal as Obamacare premiums & deductibles increase by over 100%. Remember keep your doctor, keep your plan?" [The Hill](#) (6/24, Greenwood) reports he [added](#), "I cannot imagine that these very fine Republican Senators would allow the American people to suffer a broken ObamaCare any longer!"

In a third article, [The Hill](#) (6/24, Bowden) reports the President has spent the past two days "calling senators to mobilize support for GOP healthcare legislation." [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/24, story 3, 2:10, Snow) Kelly O'Donnell reported Vice President Pence also took to Twitter on Saturday, posting [video](#) of his speech "promising a repeal before summer's out."

In an analysis, the [Washington Post](#) (6/24, Kane) suggests Senate Majority Leader McConnell can use all the help he can get "to navigate the perilous path in trying to appease one bloc of holdouts without losing votes from another bloc." The Post emphasizes "McConnell can only afford to lose two of the 52 Republicans in the Senate, but as the week went on, he had many more holdouts than that." The Post adds "the highest profile defection, for now, came from" Sen. Dean Heller, "usually a go-along-get-along acolyte to party leadership."

According to a front-page [New York Times](#) (6/24, A1, Steinhauer) article, Heller "is the man everyone wants," but "this has not been a good thing for him." The Times reports Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval "is counting on Mr. Heller to provide what could be a crucial vote to maintain President Barack Obama's health care law, which has been a boon for small businesses in Nevada," while McConnell "is trying to prevent Mr. Heller from undermining that goal," Democrats are attempting to oust him, and "far-right Republicans in his state – who strongly support

President Trump – also have their eyes on Mr. Heller to see if he will abandon the president.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/24, Hackman) examines the challenges facing Heller’s re-election bid, while the [Washington Post](#) (6/24, Weigel) reports “progressive groups, pro-Trump PACs and interest groups dead set against the Republicans’ health-care bill have scrambled onto Nevada’s TV stations and news sites to lobby” Heller on the bill. The Post adds that while America First Policies on Friday announced plans to air digital and TV ads calling on Heller to support the bill, the pro-Trump nonprofit “was late to the game. One month ago, AARP began running ads asking Heller to vote no if the Republicans’ health-care bill got to the Senate. An ad portrays an irate couple learning that ‘if you’re over 50, health-care companies can charge you five times more,’ a dramatization of what AARP calls ‘the age tax.’”

In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (6/24, A1, Eilperin, Goldstein) reports “a small group of moderate Republican senators, worried that their leaders’ health-care bill could damage the” US’ “social safety net, may pose at least as significant an obstacle to the measure’s passage as their colleagues on the right.” According to the Post, the “dramatic shift” represented by the bill’s Medicaid cuts, which are a “bold redistribution of wealth,” is “creating substantial anxiety for several Republican moderates whose states have especially benefited from the expansion of Medicaid that the Affordable Care Act has allowed.”

Meanwhile, the [CBS Weekend News](#) (6/24, lead story, 1:30, Ninan) stated that “the bill, some are calling Trumpcare, is losing traction two days after it was released.” Errol Barnett reported Heller “joined Senators Rand Paul, Ted Cruz, Mike Lee, and Ron Johnson in opposing the Bill unless changes are made. The 142-page legislation cuts Obamacare’s insurance mandates, slashes new taxes on the wealthy, and rolls back the expansion of Medicaid. But it keeps tax credits to help lower income Americans buy insurance.”

NYTimes, The Hill Analyses: Medicaid Cuts Could Limit Nursing Home Access, Exacerbate Opioid Crisis. The [New York Times](#) (6/24, Rau) reports “Medicaid pays for most of the 1.4 million elderly people in nursing homes,” but Senate Republicans have said “little...about what would happen to older Americans in nursing homes if” the “steep cuts” they are proposing take effect. The Times acknowledges “most Medicaid enrollees are children, pregnant women and nonelderly adults,” but states that “long-term services such as nursing homes account for 42 percent of all Medicaid spending – even though only 6 percent of Medicaid enrollees use them.” Toby Edelman, a senior policy attorney at the Center for Medicare Advocacy, warned that if the Senate’s bill passes, “The states are going to make it harder to qualify medically for needing nursing home care. They’d have to be more disabled before they qualify for Medicaid assistance.”

Meanwhile, [The Hill](#) (6/24, Roubein) reports “fears that cuts to Medicaid could exacerbate a national opioid epidemic that took more lives last year than the Vietnam War have emerged as a huge threat to the Senate GOP’s ObamaCare repeal-and-replace bill.” Michael Botticelli, the former director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), told The Hill, “It’s just unconscionable to me that anybody who is serious about dealing with this opioid addiction could be satisfied with the bill – even supporting \$45 billion, let alone \$2 billion.” He added that the legislation would “really have disastrous consequences for people who are struggling with opioid addiction.” The Hill mentions that while Sens. Shelley Moore Capito and Rob Portman have not come out against the bill, they “want substantial more dollars to go toward the opioid epidemic, and \$2 billion in funding for the next fiscal year is a far cry from the pair’s proposal for \$45 billion over a decade.”

FREOPP President Praises Healthcare Bill, Douthat Condemns Legislation. In a [Washington Post](#) (6/24, Roy) op-ed, Avik Roy, president of the Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity (FREOPP), contends the Better Care Reconciliation Act “will, if passed, represent the greatest policy achievement by a Republican Congress in generations.” Roy adds that “for decades, free-market health-reform advocates have argued that the single best idea for improving U.S. health care is to maximize the number of Americans who can afford to buy health insurance for themselves, instead of having to depend on the government or their employer. The Senate bill transforms the American health insurance landscape in this direction.” Roy concludes “Senate Republicans should stand strong,” as if the legislation becomes law, “it’s likely that more people will have health insurance in five years than do today but in a market with lower premiums, lower taxes and a more fiscally sustainable future. History will remember these Republicans for that.”

Meanwhile, in his [New York Times](#) (6/24) column, Ross Douthat acknowledges the Senate’s healthcare legislation “does indeed improve upon the House’s bill in several important ways,” but is still “a political suicide attempt” rather than “sound public policy.” He concedes, “There are good ideas worked in, but still too much needless callousness” and says “stinginess is still the essential problem for the Senate’s alternative.” However, Douthat concludes that if the GOP focuses the projected savings from the bill on tax reform “organized around payroll tax cuts,

refundable child tax credits, a larger earned-income tax credit, and other measures that would make up for the thinning of working-class insurance coverage with more cash in paychecks and bank accounts," then "I will recant my opposition to this bill. But I don't expect any such recantation to be required, because the Republican Party remains what it is, not what the country needs it to become."

In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/24) presents how readers would be affected by the GOP's healthcare proposals to illustrate to lawmakers "that there are many more Americans like them who are worrying about a future without affordable health care."

Trump Questions Mueller's Impartiality, But White House Denies Dismissal Rumors.

President Trump, in a previously recorded interview with Fox News' "Fox and Friends" that aired on Friday, denied the existence of any recordings of his conversations with ousted former FBI Director James Comey, and insisted that he claimed to have taped those discussions to compel Comey to tell the truth on the Russian investigation. Trump additionally expressed concern over Special Counsel Robert Mueller's impartiality given his past relationship with Comey. Coverage, which included more than three minutes combined on the network newscasts, was also heavy in cable TV as well as in print and online. The predominately negative reporting focused on speculation over whether the President would dismiss Mueller despite White House denials and also highlighted that Trump's threat to release "tapes" of his conversations of Comey raises questions about President's trustworthiness.

In the lead story for [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/23, 5:03 p.m. EDT, lead story, 3:28, Blitzer), White House Correspondent Sarah Murray reported, "President Trump may have come clean about the existence of tapes from his conversations with former FBI Director James Comey," but he has also showed "no sign of regret" about suggesting the conversations were recorded. In video footage from an interview with Fox News' "Fox and Friends," Trump said his decision "wasn't very stupid, I can tell you that." The [New York Times](#) (6/23, Haberman) reports the President "appeared to acknowledge...that his tweet hinting of taped conversations with...Comey was intended to influence the fired F.B.I. director's testimony before Congress, and he emphasized that he committed 'no obstruction' of the inquiries into whether his campaign colluded with Russia."

[Bloomberg News](#) (6/23, John) reports Trump "said his threat of possible tapes of his meetings with James Comey – which he now says was a ruse – may have caused the former FBI director to alter his recounting of what happened." The President asserted, "When he found out that I – you know, that there may be tapes out there, whether it's governmental tapes or anything else and who knows, I think his story may have changed. Then he has to tell what actually took place at the events." He added Comey "did admit that what I said was right and if you look further back before he heard about that, I think maybe he wasn't admitting that, so you'll have to do a little investigative reporting to determine that, but I don't think it'll be that hard."

In the lead story for [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/23, 6:00 p.m. EDT, lead story, 0:31, Rosen), James Rosen reported that in the "exclusive interview," Trump also "expressed doubt about whether Special Counsel Robert Mueller, responsible for investigating Mr. Trump's alleged ties to Russia and related matters, can possibly be impartial." Rosen explained Trump said "he is worried about the relationship between Mueller and...Comey." In the interview, which was broadcast by the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/23, story 5, 1:05, Mason), Trump was asked whether Mueller should recuse himself and he responded, "Well, he's very, very good friends with Comey, which is very bothersome, but he's also – we're going to have to see. I mean, we're going to have to see in terms – look, there has been no obstruction, there has been no collusion. There has been leaking by Comey. But there's been no collusion, no obstruction, and virtually everybody agrees to that. So we'll have to see. I can say that the people that have been hired are all Hillary Clinton supporters."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/23, Rucker) reports the President "said three times 'we'll have to see,' and argued that Mueller's long friendship with...Comey and hiring of investigators with Democratic ties are 'very bothersome' and 'ridiculous.'" While the Post adds Trump conceded Mueller "is an honorable man" and said "hopefully he'll come up with an honorable solution," [USA Today](#) (6/23, Jackson) contends Trump's remarks were "not exactly a vote of confidence."

Chief White House Correspondent Jonathan Karl of [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/23, story 5, 2:05, Muir) said that Trump essentially "suggested Special Counsel Robert Mueller is tainted and politically biased against him." White House press secretary Sean Spicer clarified Friday that the "President has no plans to fire Mueller, but insisted he does have the power to do so."

[Reuters](#) (6/23, Holland) reports Spicer “told reporters that while Trump ‘retains the authority’ to dismiss special counsel Robert Mueller, ‘he has no intention of doing that.’” To [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (6/23, 5:41 p.m. EDT, 41:45, Blitzer) Chief Political Analyst Gloria Borger, Spicer effectively “said look, the President has no intention of firing Mr. Mueller, but I wouldn’t be surprised if it’s still going through the President’s head.”

Meanwhile, the [AP](#) (6/23, Tucker, Pearson) highlights that “Robert Mueller, the somber-faced and demanding FBI director who led the bureau through the Sept. 11 attacks, and James Comey, his more approachable and outwardly affable successor, may be poles apart stylistically but both command a wealth of respect in the law enforcement and legal community.” Nonetheless, the AP adds “that hasn’t stopped...Trump and his associates from repeatedly trying to draw unflattering attention to their relationship, insinuating a personal bond they suggest could disqualify Mueller from credibly serving as special counsel in charge of the Russia investigation.” According to the AP, Trump’s “emphasis on their ties, besides being aimed at undermining Mueller’s credibility and the legitimacy of his investigation, could also be an attempt by Trump to make the case for an eventual Mueller dismissal on conflict of interest grounds. But the truth is more complicated and not squarely on the president’s side.”

Senior Legal Analyst Jeffrey Toobin of [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (6/23, 6:37 p.m. EDT, 37:18, Blitzer) said Trump’s interview was “amazing” on “many different levels. First of all, you have the President of the United States saying he put out essentially this false tweet, this bluff which implied that there were tapes, even though he knew that there weren’t. Presidents don’t bluff generally.” Toobin said it constituted “a disastrous miscalculation on the President’s part because it led Director Comey to start the process that led to the special counsel being appointed.” Toobin also [said](#) (6/23, 6:40 p.m. EDT, 40:25, Blitzer) he does not “think there would be all that great big a reaction among the Republicans in the Congress if Donald Trump were to fire – were to fire Mueller. You know, John McCain would say he’s troubled and several other people would say they were troubled. But, you know, it would continue to be business as usual.” Bash, however, countered that “support goes a bridge too far,” and they are instead just “dealing with it.”

Sen. Richard Blumenthal told [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (6/23, 6:09 p.m. EDT, 9:05, Blitzer) he thinks Mueller “is safe for right now in this job because the firestorm that would result from the President firing him would be intolerable. But the President is obviously – he’s trying to shoot across his bow, possibly to intimidate him. and the entire episode with the tapes, which turned out apparently to not exist, was an effort, in my view, to intimidate Jim Comey. And the President has left that issue ambiguous.” Rep. Andre Carson told [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (6/23, 5:23 p.m. EDT, 23:08, Blitzer) he did not believe Mueller’s future is in jeopardy, because “Mueller is a pro. He’s respected in the Justice Department” and is “very objective when it comes to investigations. I think he’s the right man for the job, and I think to get to the bottom of what we need to get to the bottom of, I think he’s the man to do it.”

However, Charles Krauthammer told [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (6/23, 6:39 p.m. EDT, 39:36, Rosen) that “the idea that this is intimidation of a witness is pure rubbish,” and “we are now at the tertiary level of accusation.” After a year of investigation, Krauthammer stated, no evidence of collusion has been uncovered “so there is no obstruction,” which “is shaky” to prove anyway.

Polls Show More Americans Disapprove Of Trump’s Firing Of Comey. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/23, Hook) reports a Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll of 900 “adults” (6/17-6/20) found 46 percent disapproved of the President’s decision to dismiss Comey, up from 38 percent in May. However, the Journal adds Trump’s approval rating remained unchanged at 40 percent while 50 percent expressed mistrust of the media.

[The Hill](#) (6/23, Delk) reports 45 percent “said they are more likely to believe Comey’s testimony before senators on June 8, while 22 percent said they would believe Trump’s side of the story. Another 21 percent said they don’t believe either Trump or Comey’s account of the events, while 8 percent said they believe both.”

Trump Losing Patience With McGahn, Strives To Keep Calm Over Russia Probes. “White House counsel Don McGahn has largely stepped back from managing Donald Trump’s response to the expanding Russia investigation, but that hasn’t stopped the president from lashing out at him about it anyway,” [Politico](#) (6/23, Cook, Dawsey) reports, adding Trump on Monday gave McGahn “a dressing down in the Oval Office for not doing more to squash the Russia probe early on.” Politico says that “the episode – recounted by four people familiar with the conversation – came as part of a broader discussion on Monday about the president’s frustrations with special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election” and Trump’s firing of

Comey. Politico contends “Trump’s willingness to lay into him for the escalation of the probe – largely the result of Trump’s own decision to dismiss Comey – illustrates McGahn’s falling stock in the West Wing, as well as Trump’s desire to find someone to blame for his legal predicament.”

Meanwhile, in a nearly 2,200-word front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (6/23, A1, Parker, Rucker) reports the President “has a new morning ritual. Around 6:30 a.m. on many days – before all the network news shows have come on the air – he gets on the phone with a member of his outside legal team to chew over all things Russia.” The Post says that “the calls – detailed by three senior White House officials – are part strategy consultation and part presidential venting session, during which Trump’s lawyers and public-relations gurus take turns reviewing the latest headlines with him. They also devise their plan for battling his avowed enemies: the special counsel leading the Russia investigation; the “fake news” media chronicling it; and, in some instances, the president’s own Justice Department overseeing the probe.” The Post adds Trump’s advisers hope the calls will help “compartmentalize the widening Russia investigation,” but “it rarely works. ... Asked whether the tactic was effective, one top White House adviser paused for several seconds and then just laughed.”

Glowing LATimes Profile Highlights Careers Of Mueller’s Team. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/23, Tanfani) profiles Andrew Weissmann and deputy solicitor general Michael Dreeben and contends they will bring their “searing experience to their new jobs working for Robert S. Mueller III, the special counsel investigating any links or coordination between President Trump’s associates and the Russian government – a probe that has expanded to include whether the president sought to obstruct an FBI investigation.” The Times asserts Mueller’s “first 13 hires speak volumes: They include veteran prosecutors who spent years unraveling complicated conspiracies in high-pressure cases. Some legal experts say that may be bad news for the president.” The Times also chronicles the careers of James Quarles III, Aaron Zebley, Jeannie Rhee, Lisa Page, and Elizabeth Prelogar.

Bharara Shared Concerns With DOJ Over Phone Call From Trump. [The Hill](#) (6/23, Manchester) “Briefing Room” blog cites [BuzzFeed](#) in reporting former US Attorney Preet Bharara had “emailed officials from the Justice Department to notify them about a phone call he received from President Trump’s secretary one day before he was asked to resign in March.” In the memo, Bharara related, “At approximately 4:41 pm, on 3/9/17, I received the following voicemail at work: ‘Hi, Mr. Bharara. This is Madeline Westerhout calling from President Donald Trump’s office. If you could please give me a call back at that would be great. Thanks.’” He added, “After receiving that message, I immediately consulted with the Deputy U.S. Attorney, Joon Kim, about the propriety of returning the call. We printed out and reviewed a copy of the May 11, 2009 (as well as he December 19, 2007) Memos relating to Communications with the White House.” Bharara continued, “I advised him of the phone call from the President, and we discussed the propriety of speaking with the President in light of all the circumstances, including appearances issues.”

FBI Investigating Manafort’s Financial Deals. The [New York Times](#) (6/23, McIntire) reports the FBI is “examining financial transactions involving Paul Manafort and his son-in-law, who embarked on a series of real estate deals in recent years fueled by millions of dollars from Mr. Manafort, according to two people familiar with the matter.” The Times states that these “transactions involve the financing of apartments and luxury homes in New York and California using money from Mr. Manafort, as well as from other investors solicited by the son-in-law, Jeffrey Yohai, including the actor Dustin Hoffman and his son. F.B.I. agents have reviewed financial records related to Mr. Yohai, who has been accused in a lawsuit of defrauding investors, the sources said.”

Key Lawmaker Asks For Formal Response On Comey Tapes. [Reuters](#) (6/23, Zengerle) reports Rep. Mike Conaway, the head of the House Intelligence Committee’s Russia investigation, “said on Friday he wanted a formal response from President Donald Trump to a request for records about conversations with fired FBI Director James Comey.” [Politico](#) (6/23, Cheney) reports Conaway said, “I don’t think tweets are ever official. We’d like something on letterhead.”

[CNN’s Situation Room’s](#) (6/23, 6:07 p.m. EDT, 7:18, Blitzer) White House Correspondent Sarah Murray said White House press secretary Sean Spicer on Friday suggested the White House “may have something to provide to congressional investigators,” and [The Hill](#) (6/23, Manchester) reports White House legislative affairs assistant Marc Short later sent Conaway and ranking member Rep. Adam Schiff, “In response to the Committee’s inquiry, we refer you to President Trump’s June 22, 2017, statement regarding this matter.”

Poll: Voters Want Congress, Media To Move On From Russia Probes. A new Harvard-Harris Poll survey of 2,237 “registered voters” (6/19-6/21), which was “provided exclusively to” [The Hill](#)

(6/23, Easley), reveals “a majority of voters believe the Russia investigations are damaging to the country and are eager to see Congress shift its focus to healthcare, terrorism, national security, the economy and jobs.” In particular, 64 percent “said the investigations into President Trump and Russia are hurting the country” and 56 percent “said it’s time for Congress and the media to move on to other issues, compared to 44 percent who said the focus should stay on Russia.” However, The Hill adds “voters are taking the investigations seriously: Fifty-eight percent say they’re concerned by allegations of obstruction of justice against Trump, with the same number worried about possible dealings between Trump and the Russian government.”

“Bombshell” WPost Report Suggests Obama Knew Of Russian Election Meddling.

The [Washington Post](#), citing advisers to former President Obama, reports in a more than 8,200-word article that his Administration had been aware of Russian President Vladimir Putin’s attempt to disrupt the 2016 presidential election in favor of then-candidate President Trump. “Putin has repeatedly – and often tauntingly – denied that his government interfered in the 2016 U.S. presidential race,” the [Washington Post](#) (6/23, Miller) reports, but the “new details” outlined in the other article “reveal the extent to which the Russian meddling bore Putin’s own signature and brushstrokes.” The Post says “the CIA had obtained intelligence from sources inside the Russian government by early August that captured the Russian leader’s specific instructions to subordinates on the operation’s objectives: disparage and seek to defeat the Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton while helping to deliver the White House to Trump.” A former CIA official “likened the intelligence to the ‘holy grail,’ a rare window directly into the plans and intentions of Putin, a former KGB operative who takes extraordinary precautions to protect himself from foreign surveillance.” The Post adds that the “intelligence was as raw as it was compelling, and it took other U.S. spy agencies months to reach consensus that Putin not only directed the interference but worked to defeat Clinton.”

[CNN’s Situation Room](#) (6/23, 5:03 p.m. EDT, lead story, 3:28, Blitzer) Justice Correspondent Jessica Schneider reported that according to the Post’s “bombshell report...the Obama Administration knew Putin was directing cyberattacks during the 2016 campaign – three months before the election.” [ABC World News Tonight](#)’s (6/23, story 6, 0:45, Muir) Jonathan Karl said the Post revealed “the CIA in early August delivered an envelope marked eyes only, directly to President Obama and three of his top aides,” which asserted “Putin himself directed the attack. ... Obama, did confront Putin about that, but did little else.”

In the lead story for [CNN’s Situation Room](#)’s (6/23, 6:01 p.m. EDT, lead story, 1:14, Blitzer) second hour, Michelle Kozinski said the “extensive” Post reporting “shows that the CIA had information it had captured Vladimir Putin’s specific orders on interfering in the US election. You see the Obama Administration struggling with this, how to handle it, how to make sure it didn’t look like they were trying to interfere in the election. Now, some on the inside regret that they didn’t do more to expose it and to punish it.” The Post’s “bombshell report,” said Kozinski, outlined “the US intelligence community’s case for Russia’s meddling in the 2016 election, and revealing it was directly ordered by Vladimir Putin.” It also detailed that “intelligence sources had captured Putin’s own instructions to disrupt and discredit the presidential race, with the goal of defeating or hurting Hillary Clinton and helping Donald Trump.” She added that the Post report “revealed the frustrations now among some them that more was not done to punish Russia.”

[CNN’s Situation Room](#)’s (6/23, 5:23 p.m. EDT, 32:01, Blitzer) Blitzer explained Obama is now “facing some tough questioning, even from members of his own Administration.” Chief Political Correspondent Dana Bash of [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (6/23, 6:33 p.m. EDT, 33:38, Blitzer) said that “there is a lot of frustration that the President won’t, from within the Administration, from Capitol Hill, from people who are trying to get him to understand that this Russia issue is a big deal in terms of policy making going forward. And, you know, there’s even some attempt to work around that on Capitol Hill. There’s a bipartisan congressional move to make sort of a 9/11 kind of commission on cyber terrorism, to try to avoid this in the future. But, you know, that is certainly an important part of the story, the part of the story when it comes to preventing in the future.”

[CNN’s Situation Room](#)’s (6/23, 5:14 p.m. EDT, 14:51, Blitzer) Blitzer said a former senior Administration official under Obama told the Post, “It is the hardest thing about my entire time in government to defend. I feel like we sort of choked.” Blitzer explained the former official referred “to the lack of reaction from President Obama and his advisers immediately to take action against the Russians once they confirmed that Putin personally authorized the hacking and the intervention in the election.” Rep. Andre Carson said he was “not surprised” about Russia’s attempted interference, and “the intelligence committee has to be given the resources and the

support it needs" to investigate that allegation. On the issue of whether Obama's advisors should have reacted, Carson conceded "mistakes were made," but that "hindsight is 20-20."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/23, story 4, 2:10, Mason) Jeff Pegues reported, "A former US official tells CBS News there was a debate about 'how can we punish the Russians and not have it appear like we're trying to help Hillary.' Ultimately, the Administration decided to focus on shoring up state election systems against further attacks, rather than having the President publicly speak out." However, Pegues added, the White House in December announced new sanctions against Russia, expelled 35 of its operatives from the US, and seized Russia's "compounds in Maryland and New York." Correspondent Julianna Goldman said US officials who raided the compounds found "a trove of missing and damaged material materials [that] have been useful in the ongoing investigation," and added some of the Russian "diplomats were kicked out because they were suspected of election interference operations." Former CIA Deputy Director Michael Morell, however, said those actions were likely "seen by Vladimir Putin as only a slap on the wrist" that did not "hurt him politically in any way."

[The Hill](#) (6/23, Williams) reports "the Obama administration is under fresh scrutiny for its response to Russian meddling in the election" from "frustrated Democratic lawmakers and strategists." Rep. Eric Swalwell, a member of the House Intelligence Committee who co-chairs the Democratic Steering and Policy Committee, criticized Obama's response as "inadequate. I think they could have done a better job informing the American people of the extent of the attack." Rep. Jim Himes, another member of the House Intelligence Committee, "called the penalties 'barely a slap on the wrist.'" Meanwhile, Sen. John McCain "said in a statement Friday that the administration 'abjectly failed to deter Russian aggression' and 'failed to impose any meaningful costs on Russia.'"

Sen. Richard Blumenthal told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/23, 6:19 p.m. EDT, 19:30, Blitzer), "What this report shows is that the United States must act decisively and aggressively and make Russia pay a price, and that's a matter of bipartisan agreement. I think I'm virtually quoting Sen. Lindsey Graham, a Republican of South Carolina, and we are strongly of a mind in a bipartisan way that the sanctions bill ought to be passed immediately. It was passed overwhelmingly with a bipartisan majority in the United States Senate, and is now unfortunately caught up in a procedural issue in the House." Blumenthal added that that Administration has granted "virtually no support" for the proposed new sanctions, but "whether you think that the Administration acted appropriately or not – and remember, the audacity of this hack was unprecedented – the involvement of the top levels of the Russian government in this kind of intrusion into our democracy was unknown previously, at least."

However, the [Washington Times](#) (6/23, Persons) reports former Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said Friday on MSNBC, "The current administration and current president is kinda sending the signals that this will be tolerated." He added, "I have not heard from President Trump a strong statement of condemnation about the Russia behavior, and about what all of his intelligence community is telling him happened last year, and what we said publicly last year happened." Johnson asserted, "From my point of view, we took steps that were cybersecurity-related that would have the affect of undermining this kind of effort in the future."

[The Hill](#) (6/23, Manchester) "Briefing Room" blog reports Ned Price, a former spokesman for the National Security Council and a Special Assistant to President Obama, told MSNBC's Greta van Susteren on Friday, "Our critics are judging our actions in mid-2016 based on what we know by mid-2017. It's an unfair standard." Price said, "Knowing what we now know, we went on an aggressive push to make it clear both privately to the Russians that we knew what they were up to through multiple warnings, through multiple channels, over the course of many weeks, and to the American people." He added, "No one should be surprised. The voices we're hearing from the Hill now, that are saying we should have done more, we could have done more, many of those Republican voices on the Hill, within the House are now stalling a very strong Russia sanctions bill that sailed through the Senate 97-2. So it's just chock-full of hypocrisy here."

[Politico](#) (6/23, Lahut) reports Jennifer Palmieri, Hillary Clinton's former communications director, on Friday also "said...the Obama administration 'made the best decisions they could' when deciding when to publicly disclose evidence that Russian officials tried to interfere with the 2016 election." In an interview with MSNBC, Palmieri said, "I know that the Obama White House [was] in a very difficult situation, and they made the best decisions they could." She added, "I think they did it in the best interest of the country," but suggested "Democrats should have sounded a greater alarm at the hacks and that the news media should have covered the interference more thoroughly."

Trump Criticizes Obama For Doing "Nothing" About Russia Before The Election. [The Hill](#) (6/23, Manchester) reports President Trump, in an interview with Fox News' "Fox and Friends" that aired

on Friday, "criticize[d] former President Barack Obama over Russia's interference in the 2016 presidential election, accusing Obama of doing 'nothing' before the election." Trump said, "Well I just heard today for the first time that Obama knew about Russia a long time before the election, and he did nothing about it. But nobody wants to talk about that." He continued, "The CIA gave him information on Russia a long time before they even – before the election. And I hardly see it. It's an amazing thing." The President added, "In other words, the question is, if he had the information, why didn't he do something about it? He should have done something about it. But you don't read that. It's quite sad."

Conway Insists Trump Has Used The "Bully Pulpit" Against Foreign Interference In US Elections.

The [Washington Times](#) (6/23, Persons) reports senior counselor Kellyanne Conway on CNN asserted, "The president has met with his national security team many times, he has a commission on voter integrity, and he himself has used the power of the bully pulpit to express his resistance towards any type of outside interference. I think the president has been very clear about how he feels about this issue and many others." The Times adds "the interview took a heated turn when Ms. Conway accused CNN of 'abetting' the idea that the Trump team colluded with Russian leaders." Conway said, "I realize that we just like to say the word Russia, Russia to mislead the voters, and I know CNN is aiding and abetting this nonsense as well, but you've asked me the same question three times now and I'm answering it."

Meanwhile, "a source close to Senate GOP leadership told" [Breitbart](#) (6/23, Boyle) that a [CNN](#) (6/22, Frank) report alleging "the Treasury Department and Senate Intelligence Committee are probing a Russian investment fund with ties to several senior finance world leaders close to President Trump" is "entirely untrue and there is no such probe in the committee." The source said, "This is nothing besides Democrats trying to frustrate the efforts of President Trump's administration."

Current, Former Officials Warn US Unprepared For Future Russian Meddling. [NBC Nightly News](#)

□ (6/23, story 2, 2:45, Holt) Chief White House Correspondent Hallie Jackson reported "the US may not be ready to stop Russia or others from interfering in our next election." She said current and former US intelligence officials told NBC News that Russia interfered "in three key ways: by spreading fake news online, by hacking and leaking embarrassing material, and by cyberattacking election databases that never changed any votes. To stop it from happening again, experts say the government would need to coordinate with tech companies to top the flow of fake news, show Vladimir Putin there's a cost to interfering, and give states more tools to prevent and recover from cyberattacks." Jackson said "multiple government officials and outside experts" issued "an urgent warning," but a White House official said, "when it comes to protecting our elections, there are some moves the public will see and some they won't, since the Administration doesn't want to publicly telegraph everything it's doing."

Russian Officials Push Back, Accuse US Of Meddling. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/23, Ayres) reports "some Russian officials" are now "pointing the finger at Washington, saying it's America that is meddling in Moscow's domestic affairs. In fact, Kremlin officials say, the U.S. has been doing it for years." According to the Times, "Russian officials say what is at stake now are Russia's 2018 presidential and national elections. They said the government must act swiftly to counter any attempts by the United States and its allies to interfere."

Senate Intelligence Committee To Hold Hearing On Russian Meddling In European Elections.

[The Hill](#) (6/23, Greenwood) reports the Senate Intelligence Committee in a hearing Wednesday "will turn its attention to Russia's efforts to meddle in European elections." The Hill says their focus will be on French and Montenegrin elections.

Meanwhile, the [Washington Times](#) (6/23, Boylan) reports the House Intelligence Committee will interview John Podesta, Hillary Clinton's former presidential campaign chairman, in a closed session "next week – in addition to experts on Kremlin interference in recent and future European elections."

Senate Committee Investigates Whether Lynch Interfered With Probe Into Clinton's Emails. [ABC World News Tonight](#) □ (6/23, story 7, 0:20, Muir) reported the Senate Judiciary Committee launched a new investigation on Friday, "this time focusing on former Attorney General Loretta Lynch" and "whether Lynch interfered in the Hillary Clinton email case. The panel wants information about her communication with a Clinton campaign aide. Earlier this month, James Comey testified Lynch told him to downplay the FBI investigation."

[Bloomberg News](#) (6/23, Dennis) reports the Committee has sent letters to Lynch "and three others asking for information about their communications related to the email investigation," which [Politico](#) (6/23, Wright) reports were signed by Chairman Chuck Grassley and ranking member Sen. Dianne Feinstein as well as Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Terrorism

Chairman Lindsey Graham and ranking member Sheldon Whitehouse. Politico says they “are seeking answers about a Russian intelligence memo – which was obtained by the FBI – that suggested Lynch had assured a member of the Clinton campaign, Amanda Renteria, that the investigation into Clinton’s emails would not go too far.”

However, Sen. Richard Blumenthal told [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (6/23, 6:24 p.m. EDT, 24:53, Blitzer) that he is “certainly less concerned” about whether Lynch attempted to influence the FBI’s investigation than he is about “the firing of Jim Comey,” which “ought to be the focus of” the Senate Judiciary Committee’s investigation. He added that “the Judiciary Committee has a responsibility for overseeing the Department of Justice for making sure that the FBI’s protected against political interference. That’s the reason why Comey’s firing is squarely within our jurisdiction, and why we need to take this oversight responsibility very, very carefully, and investigate whether it was part of an obstruction of justice.”

Poll: Majority Of Voters Support Investigation Of Lynch. A new Harvard-Harris Poll survey of 2,237 “registered voters” (6/19-6/21), “provided exclusively to” [The Hill](#) (6/23, Easley), reveals “a majority of voters say former Attorney General Loretta Lynch should be investigated for an election-year meeting with former President Bill Clinton that took place while the FBI was investigating Hillary Clinton’s use of a private email server from her time as Secretary of State.” The poll found “58 percent say Lynch should be investigated, against 42 percent who say she should not.”

Gowdy: House Oversight Committee Will Not Investigate Russia Matters. The [Washington Post](#) (6/23, Debonis) reports House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Chairman Trey Gowdy “said Friday that, with limited exceptions, his panel will not probe matters related to the alleged Russian interference in the presidential campaign – including President Trump’s possible obstruction of the federal investigation into it.” The Post adds that Gowdy “told reporters that the investigation is more squarely under the purview of special counsel Robert S. Mueller III and other congressional committees.” [Politico](#) (6/23, Bade) reports that “while Oversight will likely pursue some investigations eventually, Gowdy was adamant that he does not want to infringe on” Mueller’s probe and he “argued that the Russia scandal and questions of obstruction fall more in the jurisdiction of other committees – including the House Judiciary Committee and the House Intelligence Committee, where he helps lead the investigation of Moscow’s interference in the 2016 election.”

Trump, Aides Accuse Obama Of Failing To Respond To Russian Meddling.

Both the President and his top aides on Sunday criticized former President Obama for failing to prevent Russian meddling in the 2016 election. There was, however, very little media coverage of the remarks. In fact, none of the networks last night reported any aspect of the Russia controversy.

President Trump said in an interview broadcast on [Fox News’ Fox & Friends Sunday](#) (6/25), “I heard today for the first time Obama knew about Russia a long time before the election and he did nothing about it, but nobody wants to talk about that. The CIA gave him information on Russia a long time before...the election. And I hardly see it. It is an amazing thing. If he had the information, why did they do something about it? He should’ve done something about it. But you don’t read that. It is quite sad.”

Likewise, senior White House counsel Kellyanne Conway, the [Washington Post](#) (6/25, Parker) reports, appeared on ABC’s “The Week” where she “struck a combative tone,” saying: “It’s the Obama administration that was responsible for doing absolutely nothing from August to January with the knowledge that Russia was hacking into our election. They did absolutely nothing. They’re responsible for this.” The Post says the White House is “sticking with a new strategy to fault” the former President “for an issue currently facing the president himself as part of a widening FBI probe.” Conway also said on [ABC’s This Week](#) (6/25, Stephanopolous) that Trump has said he “thinks Russia was involved, but that others are hacking, too.” The [Washington Post](#) (6/25, Parker) notes that during the first presidential debate, Trump “acknowledged that Russia could be behind the hacking,” but added, “But it could also be China, but it could also be lots of other people, it could also be someone sitting on their bed that weighs 400 pounds, OK?”

The [New York Times](#) (6/25, Haberman) reports that “in the span of 72 hours,” Trump has “described the email hacking that roiled the 2016 campaign as a Democratic ‘hoax’ and as clear aggression by Russia that...Obama failed to address.” At “other times,” Trump has said the hacking “might have been done by China” or even “some guy in his home in New Jersey.” The Times calls the comments “proof to dismayed members of Mr. Trump’s party that he still refuses

to acknowledge a basic fact agreed upon by 17 American intelligence agencies that he now oversees: Russia orchestrated the attacks, and did it to help get him elected."

However, the President and his aides weren't the only ones to blame Obama for failing to act on the alleged Russian interference. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/25, King) reports Rep. Adam Schiff, the ranking Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said Sunday that the former President "should have reacted more forcefully upon learning of Russian election-meddling." However, Schiff also "asserted that it was illogical for President Trump to levy such criticism against his predecessor." On CNN's "State of the Union," Schiff said, "I think the [Obama] administration needed to call out Russia earlier, needed to act to deter and punish Russia earlier." Failure to do so, he said, had been "a very serious mistake." Schiff told [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (6/25, Bash), "What he should have done, and what I urged at the time, I urged him to speak out to the American people saying, 'This is what Russia is doing. Russia had better stop it and we're going to enter into conversations with our European allies, who have similarly been the victim of Russian hacking in their elections, to embark on a new round of sanctions,' and I think those sanctions should have been not only imposed earlier, but far stronger than the sanctions the Obama Administration ultimately would impose after the election."

[Politico](#) (6/25, Temple-West) reports Schiff suggested that "fear of being perceived as interfering with the US election likely weighed on Obama," and the [Washington Times](#) (6/25, Richardson) quotes him as saying the Obama Administration was concerned about "being perceived as interfering in the election, trying to tip the scales for Hillary Clinton." He added, "I also think they were concerned about not want to play into the narrative that Donald Trump was telling, that the election was going to be rigged, even though Donald Trump was talking about a completely different kind of rigging than foreign intervention." [Reuters](#) (6/25, Harte) also briefly reports Schiff's comments.

Spicer: Comey's Testimony Proves Trump "Was Right." White House press secretary Sean Spicer said on [Fox News MediaBuzz](#) (6/25) that President Trump said he hoped there were no tapes of his conversations with former FBI Director Comey "because he knew that the truth would come out and I think he is glad that the truth is coming out that he had said very clearly that on three occasions he was told that he wasn't under investigation. There was no obstruction and he was right. I think that having Director Comey admit it under oath in testimony proves the President was right."

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/25) editorial says the President took his time, but ultimately admitted last week that he doesn't have tapes of his conversations with Comey. The Journal says is an illustration of how Trump undermines his own credibility with his use of social media.

Mukasey: Obstruction Charge Against Trump Would Face Legal Hurdles. Former Attorney General Michael Mukasey writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/25, Mukasey) that an obstruction charge against the President would face two hurdles. One is that the decision whether to charge former National Security Adviser Flynn was not Comey's to make. The other obstacle, Mukasey argues, is the statutory requirement that a president had acted "corruptly."

Manu Raju said on [CNN Inside Politics](#) (6/25), "The thing that Mueller is looking at, too, is the pattern of activity by the President, not just his firing of James Comey, which they say is perfectly within his legal rights to do that, but also his conversations with...Comey...and his apparent ask, according to Comey's own testimony, that he drop the Michael Flynn investigation and the loyalty pledge, of course the White House denies that. We'll see if the President goes under oath and says that as well. What we learned as well that the intelligence chiefs, both Mike Rogers and Dan Coats, told Senate investigators and Bob Mueller that the President asked them to publicly say that there was no conclusion, that he's not under investigation. They did not feel that he ordered them to squash the investigation in any way. But it doesn't really matter what they felt. It matters what the President's intent was."

Karoun Demirjian of the Washington Post said on [CNN Inside Politics](#) (6/25), "You can see the push and pull between instinctual Trump and lawyered-up Trump. Trump wants to cast a shadow over Mueller. That is why he is saying, 'They're very, very good friends,' even though we know that they're not. They're just colleagues that worked together in the past and then remembering that he has got to stay on message and saying, 'There's no obstruction, no collusion and Bob Mueller is an honorable man,' which is the line that most people in the GOP are taking. You would be very, very hard-pressed to find more than a handful of Trump devotees on the Hill that would say anything bad about Mueller."

Leaked Memo: CNN Execs To Review All Russia Stories After Retraction. [Breitbart](#) (6/25, Nolan) reports that [BuzzFeed](#)'s Deputy News Director Jon Passantino "tweeted a screenshot of a leaked internal memo from Barbieri to CNN staff instructing them that all future Russia-related

stories must be cleared by him or the VP of Premium Content Video, Jason Farkas." The email, which was sent on Saturday morning, reads, "No one should publish any content involving Russia without coming to me and Jason [Farkas]." CNN issued a retraction for their "now-deleted story this week following an investigation by Breitbart News," saying in a statement released Friday night, "On June 22, 2017, CNN.com published a story connecting Anthony Scaramucci with investigations into the Russian Direct Investment Fund. That story did not meet CNN's editorial standards and has been retracted."

Clinton-Linked Firm Reportedly Behind Salacious Trump Dossier. In the top story on the Drudge Report Sunday night, the [New York Post](#) (6/24, Sperry) explored the "secretive Washington firm that commissioned the dubious intelligence dossier" on Donald Trump, which it says is now "stonewalling congressional investigators trying to learn more about its connections to the Democratic Party." The Senate Judiciary Committee earlier this month threatened to subpoena the firm, Fusion GPS, "after it refused to answer questions and provide records to the panel identifying who financed the error-ridden dossier." According to the Post, the firm was "on the payroll of an unidentified Democratic ally of Clinton when it hired a long-retired British spy to dig up dirt on Trump."

Kushner's Dealings With Deutsche Bank May Draw Scrutiny From Mueller. The [Washington Post](#) (6/25, Kranish) reports that in October, 2016, Jared Kushner's real estate company "finalized a \$285 million loan as part of a refinancing package for its property near Times Square in Manhattan." According to the Post, the loan came "at a critical moment" when Kushner was "playing a key role" in the Trump campaign, and Deutsche Bank was "negotiating to settle a federal mortgage fraud case and charges from New York state regulators that it aided a possible Russian money-laundering scheme." Those cases were settled in December and January. The Post says the October deal "illustrates the extent to which Kushner was balancing roles as a top adviser to Trump and a real estate company executive." Both Kushner and Deutsche Bank "declined to comment."

Analysts: Mueller's Team At Risk Of Cyber Attacks. The [Washington Times](#) (6/25, Noble) reports as members of Mueller's team are "publicly identified, security analysts say their emails, online data and past law firm communications could become targets" for cyber attacks – "a fear that could explain why officials have been reluctant to release their names." The Times says that "after an election season in which hackers – presumably Russian operatives – broke into systems of the Democratic National Committee and the chairman of Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign and attempted to break into state election systems, it's no leap to assume they will try to penetrate the systems of the investigators who are targeting them, analysts said."

Gowdy Says He Will Not Focus On Russia Investigation As House Oversight Chair. [USA Today](#) (6/25, Collins) reports Trey Gowdy, the new chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, "says he plans to turn the committee away from its investigation of Russian meddling in the 2016 election, a departure" from Rep. Jason Chaffetz's "aggressive approach." Gowdy "believes much of the Russia investigation belongs under the special counsel or other congressional committees," and says he would prefer to have the Oversight Committee "focus on some of the less headline grabbing, but still important issues."

On [Fox News Sunday Morning Futures](#) (6/25, Bartiromo), Chaffetz said, "I do think it is appropriate that Congress overlooks the shoulder" of special counsel Robert "Mueller. He's got great credentials and a great background. I don't know why he was put in place, there should have never been a special counsel, but now that there is, somebody needs to be a watchdog on that."

Schiff: Possible Lynch Meddling In Clinton Email Probe Makes Me "Queasy." The [New York Post](#) (6/25, Schultz) reports Rep. Adam Schiff on Sunday borrowed a line from former FBI Director Comey, saying he's "queasy" about the possibility of former Attorney General Loretta Lynch meddling in the FBI's investigation of Hillary Clinton's emails. "It does give me a queasy feeling as well," Schiff said on CNN's "State of the Union." Schiff was "siding with" Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who also said she felt "queasy" over the thought Clinton's email investigation may have become politicized by Lynch.

Lawmakers Pressing DHS To Prevent Election Hacking. [The Hill](#) (6/25, Chalfant) reports that "growing concerns about threats to US election systems have put the heat on the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and its efforts to boost national cybersecurity." After DHS officials testified last week that they have evidence that Russia targeted election-related systems in 21 states, lawmakers are "pressuring the department to offer more help to states and provide more details about what happened in 2016." According to The Hill, lawmakers have "zeroed in on Homeland Security's decision to designate election infrastructure as critical."

Report: Moscow Recalls Kislyak. “Three sources familiar with the decision” tell [BuzzFeed](#) (6/25, Hudson) reports that the Kremlin has decided to recall its ambassador to the United States, Sergey Kislyak. The decision to bring Kislyak back to Russia “rather than appoint him to a senior position at the United Nations in New York, as several outlets previously reported, comes amid investigations by the FBI and Congress” into the ambassador’s contacts with President Trump’s top aides during the 2016 presidential campaign. Though Kislyak’s departure “has long been expected, Moscow would not confirm his departure date.” The US-Russia Business Council, however, is hosting a going away party for Kislyak on July 11.

Europeans Confident About Their “Counterassault” Against Russian Digital Meddling. “Four dozen officials and researchers interviewed recently” by the [Washington Post](#) (6/25, Priest, Birnbaum) “sounded uniformly more confident” than their American counterparts “about the results of their efforts” to thwart Russia’s disinformation, hacking, and influence campaigns. Russia has “decades of experience wielding propaganda, going back to the Soviet era,” and its influence campaign has recently benefited from “the digital sophistication that Moscow can now employ.” Nonetheless, “researchers in Britain, France, Germany, the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Finland, Sweden, Ukraine and Latvia” have launched a “counterassault,” and political leaders have appealed to both mainstream and public media outlets “to ignore predictable releases of embarrassing documents stolen by Russian hackers in an effort to tip elections in favor of pro-Russian candidates.” The European experts argued the best way to counter Russian influence “is to make it visible” and then move to suppress it.

House Leaders Pushing For Bipartisan Deal To Raise Debt Ceiling.

Rep. John Yarmuth, the ranking member of the House Budget Committee, told [Reuters](#) (6/23, Gibson, Becker) “Congressional leaders are quietly working on a bipartisan deal to raise the U.S. debt ceiling within weeks, hoping to prevent the difficult debt issue from snarling a budget fight to come in September.” Yarmuth said, “There is talk going on, there is leadership conversation about this,” and he “added that House Democrats do not plan to demand concessions from Republicans in exchange for supporting a debt limit increase.”

Poll: 57 Percent Oppose Raising Debt Ceiling. [The Hill](#) (6/23, Elis) reports a [Morning Consult-Politico](#) poll of 2,051 “registered voters” (6/15-6/19) released Thursday found 57 percent “oppose a debt ceiling increase, while just 20 percent support it. Another 22 percent said they don’t know or have no opinion.” The Hill adds that “the feelings were stronger among Republicans, 64 percent of whom do not Congress to raise the limit, as opposed to 59 percent of independents and 49 percent of Democrats.” According to The Hill, this “may complicate efforts for lawmakers to pass the measure, which economists say is essential to prevent a financial or economic crisis.”

Administration, Congress Consider Writing Tax Reform Measure In Secrecy.

“While many griped about the secrecy surrounding the health legislation, few rank-and-file Republicans seem to be objecting to that approach on tax reform,” [Politico](#) (6/23, Becker, Lorenzo) reports, and “both senior administration officials and congressional leaders are already telegraphing that the tax reform measure they hope to move this fall will largely be shaped among themselves in private meetings.” Politico states that while House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady “has been saying for weeks that a more closely held approach is basically the only way Republicans can squeeze a tax overhaul into an agenda that also includes health care, the debt limit and government funding,” National Economic Council Director Cohn “put it more bluntly, telling technology executives on Tuesday that the administration isn’t interested in negotiating a tax reform measure on the House or Senate floor.”

Meanwhile, [Politico](#) (6/23, White, Wilhelm) reports in a separate article that “Congressional Republicans and the Trump administration, under pressure to deliver on what they hope will be the crown jewel of their economic agenda, appear close to formally jettisoning the controversial border tax proposed by House Republicans while still presenting a plan in two months that would include permanent changes to the tax code.” However, Politico warns that “whether they can dump the border tax – which would hit imports but not exports – and still meet the ambitious goals set out by President Donald Trump and House Speaker Paul Ryan remains a daunting challenge” Politico adds that “if the White House gets its way and kills the 20 percent tax on corporate imports proposed by Ryan and Brady, analysts say they’ll almost certainly have to aim higher on corporate rates – more in the 25 to 28 percent range, which means companies could still be enticed by lower tax rates in other countries.”

McClatchy Analysis: Trump’s Infrastructure Legacy Is Mostly Pipeline Approvals.

[McClatchy](#) (6/23, Leavenworth) reports President Trump “has tapped various friends and supporters to help shape his infrastructure agenda, including CEOs, who have a financial interest in the regulatory relief Trump is promising and implementing.” McClatchy says Trump’s infrastructure statements and appointments in the Energy and Interior Departments “have emboldened energy company CEOs, some of whom have publicly urged the president to intervene on their behalf.” For example, even though the FERC under Barack Obama “approved numerous energy pipelines, including several opposed by environmental groups and rural landowners,” the agency also “occasionally” rejected permits, as in 2016 when it rejected a permit for the Jordan Cove LNG export facility in Oregon. Then, this past April National Economic Council Director Cohn hinted the Administration is working to approve Jordan Cove. McClatchy also says that “Trump has not revealed plans for new legislation or administrative changes to expedite infrastructure,” so the Administration is working within current legal boundaries “to reverse decisions of a prior administration.”

FERC Releases Favorable Environmental Review For Mountain Valley Pipeline. The [AP](#) (6/23, Rankin) reports a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission environmental review of the \$3.5 billion Mountain Valley Pipeline released Friday found that it would significantly impact forest, but that “other adverse effects would be limited.” Environmental groups are already criticizing the review, claiming that it “does not look closely enough at the cumulative impacts of the Mountain Valley Pipeline and Atlantic Coast Pipeline.”

WPost: GOP Not Planning “Real Tax Reform.”

The [Washington Post](#) (6/24, Board) editorializes that while Republicans have promised to “pass a bill with lower rates for both individuals and businesses, applied to an income ‘base’ broadened by the elimination of deductions and credits,” but House Speaker Ryan and Vice President Pence revealed last week that they are “planning something that’s not real tax reform at all.” The Post castigates Ryan and Pence for their recent remarks on tax reform and concludes “the week’s GOP messaging [was] unanimous and reinforced suspicions that, for all their talk of reform, slashing taxes, mainly for the wealthy and corporations, is the one policy that Republicans agree on and therefore the only policy they are actually going to enact.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“The Iran Puzzle.” The [New York Times](#) (6/26, Board) reports former President Obama’s desire “to establish better relations with Iran” is at risk, in part because of “Iran’s barely-concealed territorial and political ambitions, which are rightly of concern in Washington.” The Times argues the “momentary thaw” is also threatened by “President Trump’s fondness for Saudi Arabia, a Sunni Muslim nation, which has led him to demonize Iran, a Shiite nation and the Saudis’ chief rival for regional influence.” The Syrian crisis may serve as the “flashpoint” in US-Iranian relations, the Times suggests, because the situation in Syria is “where the interests of Iran and the United States are most sharply at odds, and in Iraq where they most nearly converge.” The Times warns “Trump’s demonizing of Iran, and his unwillingness to engage its government, could result in a broadening of the American military mission from defeating ISIS to preventing Iranian influence from expanding.”

“School Districts Fight Segregation On Their Own.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/26, Board) says a growing number of school districts are “refusing to accept segregation” and “promoting integration by taking socioeconomic status into account as they assign children to schools.” Some districts, “including Dallas, a segregated city with a lurid history of fighting desegregation – have recognized the dangers of racial and socioeconomic isolation and are taking steps to bring together children of different backgrounds.” Meanwhile, “That has yet to happen in the hypersegregated city of New York, where Mayor Bill de Blasio put forward a ‘diversity’ plan in which the word ‘segregated’ fails to appear at all.” The Times asserts that to address the problem, the first step “is summoning the courage to call it by its rightful name.”

“Progress On Gay Rights In Serbia, With A Catch.” A [New York Times](#) (6/26, Board) editorial says Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic’s nomination of “Ana Brnabic, a 41-year-old, openly lesbian, woman as prime minister,” shocked “Serbians and outside observers alike.” If Serbia’s Parliament approves Brnabic’s nomination, the Times says, it “would send a powerful signal that it is time for Serbia – and the rest of the world – to move beyond old prejudices.” However, the Times cautions, the move “also plays to the canny Mr. Vucic’s political ambitions.” The Times

explains “there is every reason to suspect that the choice of Ms. Brnabic is a decoy move,” and any progress inherent in Vucic’s choice “will be sadly compromised” if “Brnabic is approved only to become the tool of an autocrat, or discarded to further Mr. Vucic’s sweeping political ambitions.”

Washington Post.

“We’re Close Than Ever To Eradicating Polio – And Yet There’s Syria.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/25) writes that with a new outbreak of the poliovirus in Syria that has paralyzed 17 children, a “mixture of optimism and worry is warranted.” On one hand, with just six reported cases of wild poliovirus reported this year in the last three endemic countries – Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Nigeria – which is “fewer than at any moment ever.” With such low numbers, the Post says “eradication may indeed be within reach,” if immunization and surveillance are sustained. On the other hand, Syria’s outbreak is the second occurrence during its civil war – which is “the real culprit.” The Post concludes, “fortunately, there is an effective vaccine and a fair amount of experience in extinguishing such an outbreak, and with enough effort and immunization, it can be contained.”

“There’s Reason To Doubt Saudi Arabia’s Charming New Crown Prince.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/25) cautions “there is growing reason for doubt about” Saudi Arabia’s recently-named Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman’s capabilities. The Post explains Prince Salman’s “market-oriented economic reforms look stalled,” and “his aggressive initiatives in foreign affairs are proving self-defeating – and damaging to the interests of the United States.” The Post points to the “unwinnable” Saudi-led military intervention in Yemen and the blockade of Qatar as two specific initiatives that risk “serious harm to U.S. interests.” Though Prince Salman “may be charming,” the Post cautions that “his adventurism makes him a questionable ally.”

Wall Street Journal.

“The Missile Defense Imperative.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/25) editorializes Sen. Dan Sullivan has proposed an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act that would increase funding for a more integrated Ground-based Midcourse Defense System that includes additional missile interceptors and sensors, and more research. The Journal acknowledges that the proposal is expensive, but argues in light of an ever-more-dangerous world, such an investment is wise and necessary to protect America.

“Trump’ Tapes’ Trick.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/25) editorial says the President took his time, but ultimately admitted last week that he doesn’t have tapes of his conversations with Comey. The Journal says is an illustration of how Trump undermines his own credibility with his use of social media.

“Nevada Solar Subsidy Resurrection.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/25) editorializes that Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval’s restoration of net metering – which compensates electricity customers at near the retail rate for excess solar power they remit to the grid – is a mistake. Not only does it unfairly shift costs to lower-income customers without rooftop solar panels, but the Journal says the excess generation frequently isn’t needed and can make it more difficult to manage the grid. In fact, net metering tends to benefit the solar rooftop-leasing companies much more than consumers, because the companies install the equipment for free and take all the subsidies. Further, ceasing the subsidy in 2015 didn’t hurt solar growth, as Nevada saw a 71 percent increase in solar energy generation in the past year.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Senators Lay Out Demands On Health Bill](#)

[Dan Loeb’s Third Point Makes Its Largest-Ever Bet With Nestlé Stake](#)

[The Shale Revolution’s Staggering Impact In Just One Word: Plastics](#)

[Bungled Attacks, Small Operations Signal New Phase In Terror](#)

New York Times:

[In Towns Already Hit By Steel Mill Closings, A New Casualty: Retail Jobs](#)

[Where Trump Zigs, Tillerson Zags, Putting Him At Odds With White House](#)

[Senate Leaders Try To Appease Members As Support For Health Bill Slips After Puerto Rico's Debt Crisis, Worries Shift To Virgin Islands For Grieving Parents, Trump Is 'Speaking For The Dead' On Immigration](#)

Washington Post:

[As Coral Withers, So Will Florida Keys Economy In Europe, Fake News From Russia Is Old News Caught And Released](#)
[Doubts Over Health Bill Rise](#)
[Kushner's Firm Given Loan Amid Campaign](#)

Financial Times:

[More Than 150 Die In Pakistan Tanker Blaze](#)
[Rome Sets Aside €17bn To Wind Down Failing Lenders](#)
[Kushner Meeting Shines Spotlight On Russian Bank](#)
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Washington Times:

[Pentagon Welcomes Greater Freedom Under Trump But Is Wary Of Blame](#)
[Republican Leaders Need Delicate Balance Of Various Factions To Gain Support For Health Care Bill](#)
[After Obama's Bad Deal, American Black Hawks Will Replace Russian Helicopters For Afghan Air Force](#)
[Mueller Mum On Much Of Team: Members At Risk Of Cyberintrusions From Hackers They're Investigating](#)
[Islamic State Flag On New Hampshire Dam Raises First Amendment Questions In Times Of Terrorism](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Trump-Healthcare Reform Bill; Supreme Court-Immigration Order; Heat Wave-Wildfires; Malaysia-Flight Malfunction; Pakistan-Oil Tanker Fire; Nanny Cam-Nurse Violence; Amusement Park-Ride Malfunction; Ticks Warning; Columbia-Tourist Ship Sunk; California-Road Rage; Prince Harry-Royal Life; Veteran Boxer.

CBS: Healthcare Reform Bill; Supreme Court-Immigration Order; Supreme Court-Justice Retiring; Gay Pride Rally; Heat Wave-Wildfires; Pakistan-Oil Tanker Fire; China-Sichuan Landslide; Ramadan Ends; Sacramento-Hate Crime; Mosul Assault; Earthquake Warning System; Teen Criminal Rehabilitation.

NBC: Healthcare Reform Bill; Supreme Court-Immigration Order; Airplane Incidents; Teen Climber Rescue; Pakistan-Oil Tanker Fire; Alt-Right Groups Growing; US Workers-Job Skills; Gay Pride Rally; Smartphone Emojis; Olympian Sisters.

Network TV At A Glance:

Healthcare Reform Bill – 8 minutes, 30 seconds
Pakistan-Oil Tanker Fire – 3 minutes, 40 seconds
Supreme Court-Immigration Order – 3 minutes, 30 seconds
Heat Wave-Wildfires – 2 minutes, 50 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Takata Airbag-Bankruptcy; Healthcare Reform Bill; Gay Pride Rally; Pakistan-Oil Tanker Fire.

CBS: Takata Airbag-Bankruptcy; Healthcare Reform Bill; Heat Wave-Wildfires; Columbia-Tourist Ship Sunk; Gay Pride Rally; Wall Street News.

FOX: Healthcare Reform Bill; Supreme Court-Immigration Order; Heat Wave-Wildfires; Pakistan-Oil Tanker Fire.

NPR: ISIS-Ohio Gov Web Hacking; US-India Summit; Healthcare Reform Bill; Takata Airbag-Bankruptcy.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Has lunch with Vice President Mike Pence and US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley; meets with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President for lunch with US.Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley; joins Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Seema Verma for a listening session with victims of Obamacare; joins the President for an expanded bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India.

US Senate: 4:00 PM East West Center in Washington launches 'India Matters for America/America Matters for India' – East West Center in Washington and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), in partnership with Senate India Caucus and House India Caucus, launch 'India Matters for America/America Matters for India' – a publication and web resource for 'credible and nonpartisan information, graphics, analysis, and news at the national, state, and local level on U.S.-India interactions' – via briefing bringing together experts from the U.S. Govt, business, and academia to assess 'how the partnership between the U.S. and India has moved towards greater cooperation in matters of regional security, trade, and cultural exchange' Location: Rm 902, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://www.eastwestcenter.org/ewc-in-washington> <https://twitter.com/EastWestCenter>

4:00 PM Senate Armed Services subcommittee marks up National Defense Authorization Act – Airland Subcommittee closed markup hearing on 'National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018' * Conducted at the secret level Location: Rm 232A, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

4:00 PM Senate votes on NRC nominee – Senate convenes and proceeds to executive session to resume consideration of the nomination of Kristine Svinicki to be a Nuclear Regulatory Commission member, including a vote on the nomination * Cloture motion on the nomination passed by 89 votes to 10 last week Location: Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

US House: 3:00 PM Dem Reps. Don Beyer, Ro Khanna, and Jaimie Raskin mark Fair Representation Act introduction – Democratic Rep. Don Beyer discusses the introduction of the Fair Representation Act – legislation that would 'reform Congressional elections, defeat gerrymandering, combat political polarization, and give voters real voice and choice when electing their representatives' – via press conference with supporters of the proposal, including Democratic Reps. Ro Khanna and Jaimie Raskin Location: House Triangle, Washington, DC beyer.house.gov/ <https://twitter.com/RepDonBeyer>

4:00 PM East West Center in Washington launches 'India Matters for America/America Matters for India' – East West Center in Washington and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), in partnership with Senate India Caucus and House India Caucus, launch 'India Matters for America/America Matters for India' – a publication and web resource for 'credible and nonpartisan information, graphics, analysis, and news at the national, state, and local level on U.S.-India interactions' – via briefing bringing together experts from the U.S. Govt, business, and academia to assess 'how the partnership between the U.S. and India has moved towards greater cooperation in matters of regional security, trade, and cultural exchange' Location: Rm 902, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://www.eastwestcenter.org/ewc-in-washington> <https://twitter.com/EastWestCenter>

7:00 PM Defense Subcommittee closed markup hearing on FY 2018 Appropriations Bill Location: H-140, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

House Armed Services Committee Majority Staff background press briefing on topics in the Chairman's Mark Location: Rm 2212, Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

Other: 7:30 AM EIA Energy Conference – 2017 EIA Energy Conference, bringing together thought leaders from industry, govt, and academia to discuss current and future challenges facing domestic and international energy markets and policymakers. Day one speakers include Republican Rep. Greg Walden, EIA Acting Administrator and Deputy Administrator Howard Gruenspecht, Pioneer Natural Resources Executive Chairman of the Board Scott Sheffield, and Opower President and Founder Alex Laskey. Topics include U.S. exports of crude oil and petroleum products, renewable finance and project costs, the energy-water nexus and induced seismicity, the future of nuclear power, gasoline fuel quality and octane supply, big data and energy information, natural gas infrastructure to serve growing markets, electrification in developing countries, coal and natural gas competition, human behavior and energy use in buildings, JODI and energy data transparency, and international transportation and electric vehicles Location: Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC
<http://www.eia.doe.gov> [#EIAGov](https://twitter.com/EIAGov)

3:45 PM GOP Sen. Marco Rubio keynotes AEI event on transnational organized crime in the

Americas – Republican Sen. Marco Rubio keynotes American Enterprise Institute discussion on 'Kingpins and corruption: Targeting transnational organized crime in the Americas', followed by panel discussion on the findings of a new AEI report on the subject Location: AEI, 1789 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC www.aei.org <https://twitter.com/AEI>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Paris (TN) Post-Intelligencer: Input Sought For Sport Hunting At Cross Creeks.

National Park Service

- Associated Press: On Eve Of Asia Trip, Trump Pays Visit To Pearl Harbor.
- Denver Post: Proposed Entrance Fee Hikes At National Parks Could Backfire And Push Visitors To Annual Passes.
- Washington Post: Activists Behind A Rejected 45-foot Statue Of A Naked Woman In D.C.
- U.S. News & World Report: Albert Pike's Complicated Legacy Leaves DC Statue In Limbo.
- Arizona Daily Sun: Women Take The Lead For Northern Arizona's Public Lands.
- U.S. News & World Report: Proposed Plan Would Make Visitors Reserve Trip To Arches.
- Aurora (IL) Beacon-News: National Park Service Approves Campana Building Plan.

US Geological Survey

- KTOO-FM Juneau (AK): Geology Gets Political As Federal Scientists Pursue New ANWR Oil Assessment.

Opinion Pieces

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- Associated Press: House Republicans Revise Tax Bill Into "Less Generous" Version.
- Associated Press: Ryan: GOP Weighing Repeal Of ACA Mandate As Part Of Tax Reform.
- New York Times: Labor Department: US Added 261,000 Jobs In October.
- Washington Post: White House Approves The Release Of Report Blaming Humans For Climate Change.
- Washington Post: US Delegates Not Expected To Play Key Role In Global Climate Talks.
- San Antonio Express-News: At Least 25 Killed In Texas Church Mass Shooting.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "In Asia, Mr. Trump Is Met By Doubt."

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Trump Move Stirs Debate Over Utah Monuments.

[Reuters](#) (11/3, Cullen) reports that President Trump's announcement last week that he intends to reduce the size of two national monuments in Utah has "stoked local divisions over land use, with all sides anticipating a protracted battle over the move." According to the article, "on one side, Native American groups and environmentalists expressed anger and are ready to sue the U.S. government." Meanwhile, "on the other, conservative-leaning residents welcomed the decision, seeing it as a reversal of government overreach and a boost for traditional industries like drilling, mining and grazing."

Additional coverage was provided by [Wyoming Public Radio](#) (11/3, Huntington).

Greens Sue Trump For National Monument Documents. [The Hill](#) (11/3, Cama) reports that "a coalition of environmental groups is suing the Trump administration to try to obtain Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recommendations for which national monuments to shrink." The groups, "led by Earthjustice, accuse the Interior Department, its Bureau of Land Management and the White House Council on Environmental Quality of breaking the law by missing a key deadline to respond to their Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests for the recommendations."

Also reporting are [Reuters](#) (11/3, Flitter) and [Law360](#) (11/3, Phillis).

Democrats Oppose Effort To Delay Or Repeal Interior Methane Rule.

[The Hill](#) (11/3, Henry) reports 81 House and Senate Democrats sent a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke asking him "not to delay or repeal a rule updating limits on methane leaks from oil and natural drilling sites on federal land." The lawmakers said that they support the Bureau of Land Management's rule, as it "prevents the unnecessary waste of a public resource, and makes sure that American taxpayers get fair value in return for commercial use of that public resource."

The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (11/4, Romeo) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke recently "said the BLM will seek a one-year delay for the rule that was supposed to take effect January 2018, though its unclear if he intends to rewrite the rule or completely dismantle it." The article notes that "a public comment on the decision can be made online until Monday."

New Mexico Regulators Report Drop In Methane Emissions. The [AP](#) (10/19, Bryan) reports that "methane emissions from oil and natural gas production in New Mexico have dropped by more than 50 percent over the past year thanks to advances in technology and changes in the way wells are drilled, state regulators said Friday." Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Secretary Ken McQueen "told a panel of state lawmakers that most companies actively drilling in New Mexico are abiding by reporting requirements and are tracking the volumes of methane intentionally released through venting and flaring as part of their operations." Also, "with 60,000 active wells being documented each month, McQueen said his agency found 56 instances in which operators failed to report the required data." He testified, "That leads us to believe we have a very high compliance level."

Western Governors Want Federal Help In Invasive Mussel Fight.

The [AP](#) (11/3, Ridler) reports that the Western Governors' Association, which represents the governors of 19 Western states, on Thursday "sent a letter urging Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to put in place by spring 2018 controls to prevent the spread of zebra and quagga mussels." The AP states that the letter "is the second they've sent this year about invasive mussels to Zinke." The AP adds the governors are "particularly concerned about the mussels reaching the Columbia River Basin, Lake Tahoe, and the Colorado River Basin above Lake Powell."

Interior Review Omits Oil And Gas Rule.

[E&E Publishing](#) (11/3, King) reports that last week, the Interior Department "unveiled its review of all department actions with the potential to burden domestic energy activity." The report "touched on the department's ongoing examination of rules introduced by the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Park Service under the previous administration to guide oversight of oil and gas operations on sites the agencies manage." However, "beyond a mention of Secretary Ryan Zinke's secretarial order listing four Interior rules pinpointed in President Trump's March 28 'energy independence' directive, the NPS rule doesn't even appear in the document." Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift explained, "The NPS rule was under review. No action has been taken or identified for it, which is why it is not in the report."

Trump Urged Native American Leaders To Extract Resources From Their Land: Report.

[The Hill](#) (11/5, Thomsen) reports that President Trump "reportedly encouraged Native American leaders to 'just do it' and extract resources from their own land, despite federal regulations blocking them from doing so, Axios reported on Sunday." According to the article, "after the leaders told Trump they couldn't drill for the resources because of regulations, Trump reportedly said: 'But now it's me. The government's different now. Obama's gone; and we're doing things differently here.'" However, "a person in the meeting disputed that Trump was telling the leaders to break federal law and start drilling on the land, telling Axios that the remarks were just 'Trump speak.'"

Trump's Exit From Anti-Corruption Pact Helps Big Oil Hide How Much It Pays In US Taxes.

The [Huffington Post](#) (11/4, Kaufman) reported that the Interior Department announced Thursday the United States would withdraw immediately from the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), "a move critics said could help oil companies keep hidden how much they pay in U.S. taxes." [NPR](#) (11/3, Chappell) reported that the EITI is designed to collect and share government and corporation data showing "how much money is being paid and received for oil, gas, mining and renewable energy operations on public lands." Since the summer, the US has cited multiple factors as obstacles to remaining in the group, including the Trade Secrets Act and tax reporting laws. However, "a State Department spokesperson says the U.S. will remain as one of 17 'supporting countries' of the initiative."

[CNBC](#) (11/3, DiChristopher) reports that the Trump administration is being criticized for its decision to withdraw from its role as an implementing country in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative on Thursday. Corinna Gilfillan, head of the U.S. office of Global Witness, said, "We strongly dispute the U.S. government's claim that U.S. laws prevent compliance with the EITI standard when it is Exxon and Chevron's preference for secrecy that made it impossible for the U.S. to comply." Gilfillan added, "When major Russian and Chinese oil companies are disclosing more information about their deals around the world than their U.S. counterparts, you have got to ask: What are Exxon and Chevron so desperate to hide?"

Former Puerto Rico Official Denies Any Role In Whitefish Deal.

[Reuters](#) (11/3, Brown) reports Elias Sanchez, a friend and one-time adviser to Puerto Rico Governor Ricardo Rossello, in papers filed on Friday in federal court in San Juan "said under penalty of perjury that he 'never had any kind of relationship' with contractor Whitefish Energy or its principals." Reuters says that although Rossello eventually "canceled the contract after an uproar over its provisions," some creditors and lawmakers suggested that the deal had been "facilitated by lobbyists, namely Sanchez, a lawyer who ran Rossello's 2016 gubernatorial campaign." According to Reuters, "Sanchez asked the court to strike references to his name in that filing, saying he had no contact with PREPA about Whitefish" while a company spokesman "said on Friday that its chief executive officer, Andy Techmanski, never met Sanchez."

California Asks US For \$7.4 Billion For Wildfire Rebuilding.

The [AP](#) (11/3, Rodriguez) reports California Gov. Jerry Brown on Friday asked the federal government for \$7.4 billion to rebuild after last month's wildfires that "killed at least 43 people and destroyed about 8,900 homes and other buildings." In a letter, Brown said that while "the full economic impact to the agricultural, tourism, hospitality, and wine industries is still not known," the funding would help with cleanup and housing, transportation, agriculture, environmental protection and other programs in affected areas.

Wyoming's Quiet Governor Faces A Brash Interior Secretary, With A Bird In The Balance.

In an analysis, the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (11/4, Richards, Rosenfeld) compares and contrasts Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke with Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead and their approach to sage grouse conservation. The story is "about a federal administrator who seems close to unraveling one of the governor's signature achievements – preserving sage grouse protections – and attacking one of Mead's core beliefs about how politics should be conducted."

Additional Coverage: Trump Administration Threatens National Parks And Monuments.

Additional coverage that the Trump Administration is "trying to scrap a ban against uranium mining in the watershed near the country's most renowned natural wonder: the Grand Canyon" was provided by [Newsweek](#) (11/5, Pereira).

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Native Hawaiians Again Seek Political Sovereignty With A New Constitution.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/5, Lyte) reports that "decimated in number after the Western world first occupied the archipelago and later feeling marginalized within the federal bureaucracy, Native Hawaiians are now pushing hard to create their own nation, seeking the type of self-governance Native American tribes across the country established long ago." A group that "includes politicians, police officers, fast-food workers and farmers has drafted a new constitution and plans for a ratification vote." The article says that "leaders are working to raise \$2.5 million and have joined with a consortium of advocacy groups to spur the nation-building effort."

White Mountain Apache Ask For Tweak To Allow Water Project.

The [AP](#) (11/4, Windes) reports that "a White Mountain Apache leader told House members Thursday that the tribe desperately needs to 'replace the failing and terminal groundwater well system,' but that current Interior Department regulations are preventing the tribe from moving forward on the project." Tribe Vice Chairman Kasey Velasquez "told a House Natural Resources subcommittee that Interior officials do not oppose the project, but that they are not sure current regulations allow money from a settlement fund to be 'used for the system's cost overruns.'" The solution, the Apache claim, "is a one-page bill that would add 17 words to the law to clarify the situation." However, "Velasquez said it is needed urgently so there is no delay in work to improve the dire condition of the tribe's critical water infrastructure."

Bureau Of Land Management

Days Before Trial, Defense Confirms FBI Had Surveillance Camera Outside Bundy Ranch.

The [Oregonian](#) (11/3, Bernstein) reported from Las Vegas that "more than three years after the 2014 Bundy standoff with federal officers near Bunkerville and after two trials in the case, testimony elicited in court Friday revealed for the first time that the FBI had one surveillance camera perched on a hill overlooking the Bundy Ranch." National Park Service ranger Mary Hinson testified that she "did not know if the footage, which captured images from outside the Bundy home and a stage set up miles down the road, was recorded. She said the FBI operated the camera." According to the Oregonian, Hinson's testimony "came during questioning by defendant Ryan Bundy in a pretrial hearing held in federal court in Nevada."

The [AP](#) (11/5, Ritter) reports that "in opening statements Tuesday prosecutors will accuse the 71-year-old Bundy, sons Ryan and Ammon Bundy, and co-defendant Ryan Payne of enlisting a self-styled militia to defy government authority." The AP adds, "Defense attorneys say the four men didn't conspire with anyone, didn't wield weapons and didn't threaten anybody. They cast the standoff as a peaceful protest, with no shots fired and no one injured before overreaching government officials abandoned the cattle round-up and went home."

The [Oregonian](#) (11/5, Bernstein) notes that last year, “federal prosecutors in Portland suffered a stunning blow when a jury acquitted Ammon Bundy, older brother Ryan Bundy and five others in refuge takeover. Prosecutors in Nevada also were largely unsuccessful earlier this year in two trials of more minor figures in the Bunkerville standoff. Except for guilty verdicts against two of six lesser players, the trials ended with acquittals or hung juries.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (11/3, Ferrara) and the [Oregonian](#) (11/5, Bernstein).

Stretch Of Nevada Highway Honors Fallen BLM Firefighters.

The [AP](#) (11/3) reports that “a stretch of state highway in northern Nevada is being named after two former firefighters for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management who died in the line of duty.” Gov. Brian Sandoval “joined state transportation officials and others Thursday at the dedication honoring Will Hawkins and Jacob O’Malley along State Route 140 north of Winnemucca near the Oregon line.” According to the article, “the two men died in a single-vehicle rollover crash on the highway when a tire blew out in July 2016 while on a routine patrol searching for lightning-sparked fires.”

BLM Announces Hearings On Ambler Road.

The [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (11/5, Granger) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has “scheduled several public meetings to continue gathering comments about the Ambler Road Project, the proposed 200-mile road that would connect Northwest Alaska with the Dalton Highway and Fairbanks.” The BLM is “working on an environmental impact statement for the project, identifying and analyzing concerns and issues associated with the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority’s proposal.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Sen. Broxson Aims To Keep Drilling Moratorium In Gulf Of Mexico.

The [Gulf Breeze \(FL\) News](#) (11/2) reported in a subscription-only article, that two Florida lawmakers filed resolutions to extend the current moratorium on drilling in the Gulf of Mexico east of the Military Mission Line. Noting that testing and training activists conducted from Florida’s air and sea bases require “unconstrained access to the east Gulf of Mexico airspace and seaspace.” Sen. Doug Broxson said “We all want to see a broadened economic base, but never at the expense of this commitment of our military.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

ND Officials: Optimism Builds Over \$1 Billion Water Pipeline To Serve Red River Valley, Central ND.

The [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (11/5, Springer) reports that “the push to deliver water from the Missouri River to the Red River Valley is gaining momentum and officials are optimistic that construction on the \$1 billion project will start in 2019.” Currently, “35 community and rural water systems in central and eastern North Dakota have committed to the project, which aims to pipe water from the Missouri to the Sheyenne River, a tributary of the Red River.” Officials are negotiating with the Bureau of Reclamation “for agreements that would enable the pipeline project to use water pumped from Lake Audubon on the Missouri and to use a portion of the McClusky Canal.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Will The Energy Industry Even Want To Drill In ANWR?

The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/6, Siegel) reported that despite a Republican push to allow oil and natural gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, energy companies “might not be interested in taking up the opportunity.” Tom Walsh, public affairs chairman and an oil and gas consultant, explained, “There is a lot of pressure from the shale play and Lower 48, and the price structure currently is not terribly supportive of activities in Alaska because we are a high-cost environment to produce oil.” Meanwhile, Erik Milito, upstream director at the American Petroleum

Institute, said, "Opening it would be an important step towards increasing American competitiveness and securing our nation's energy future."

Powerful Lawmaker Wants To 'Invalidate' The Endangered Species Act. He's Getting Close.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/5, Fears) reports that Rep. Rob Bishop, "who said he 'would love to invalidate' the Endangered Species Act is closing in on his goal." Bishop "recently shepherded five bills out of the Natural Resources Committee he chairs that would dismantle the law piece by piece." The article notes that "unlike earlier GOP attempts to weaken the act, Bishop is poised to realize his ambition because of Republicans' control of both chambers of Congress and the White House."

Walleye Delay Action On Endangered Colorado Pikeminnow.

The [AP](#) (11/5, Harmon) reports that "just as it approaches recovery, the endangered Colorado pikeminnow faces a new threat, a predator that eagerly scarfs down young pikeminnow, taking a jagged bite out of the species' overall numbers." According to the article, "walleye is a prized food fish, but its voracious appetite for pikeminnow is proving to be a setback to expectations that the pikeminnow could be removed from the endangered species list." Tom Chart, a fisheries biologist who heads the Upper Colorado River Endangered Species Recovery Program for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said, "Walleye have gone gangbusters in Lake Powell."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (11/5, Harmon).

Input Sought For Sport Hunting At Cross Creeks.

The [Paris \(TN\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (11/3) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is "seeking public comment through Nov. 27 on a draft sport hunting plan, environmental assessment and compatibility determination for Cross Creeks National Wildlife Refuge." The objective of the draft sport hunting plan is to update the 1984 Cross Creeks Sport Hunting Plan.

National Park Service

On Eve Of Asia Trip, Trump Pays Visit To Pearl Harbor.

The [AP](#) (11/4, Lemire) reports President Trump "paid a solemn visit to the memorial at Pearl Harbor," in what the AP called "a sacred journey" in preparation for his trip to Asia, "shadowed by fears of another international conflict." Before going, the President said, "We are going to visit very shortly, Pearl Harbor, which I've read about, spoken about, heard about, studied, but I haven't seen. And that is going to be very exciting for me." At the memorial, the President and Mrs. Trump gave a wreath which was placed "near a wall of names of the fallen." Afterwards, they "tossed white flower petals into the waters above the battleship's sunken hull." The President, added the AP, "appeared moved by the visit." Meanwhile, he "said not a word about North Korea or its nuclear ambitions on Friday."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/4, Parker, Teague) reports the President was an "eager tourist" in Hawaii, and "appeared energetic and enthusiastic." After the flight, he "emerged from his plane buoyed, shaking heads with well-wishers on the tarmac for roughly 15 minutes," and said, "I tell you: This is very special being in Hawaii." The Post added, he "seemed genuinely excited about his planned evening visit to Pearl Harbor." The Post describes his visit to the memorial and concludes, "he was restrained and respectful, largely listening and taking in the memorial."

Proposed Entrance Fee Hikes At National Parks Could Backfire And Push Visitors To Annual Passes.

The [Denver Post](#) (11/3, Blevins) reports that "a plan to bump entrance fees at the 17 busiest national parks to \$70 from \$30 during the peak summer months will help parks struggling to cover the tab for long-delayed upkeep as crowds continue to surge." However, "if that peak-season pricing plan is deployed next summer, the anticipated spike in demand for \$80 America the Beautiful annual passes – a mere \$10 extra for a year's access to about 2,000 federal recreation sites – could hinder the National Park Service's quest to balance cost-sharing between visitors and the federal government." Emily Douce, the director of budget and appropriations for the National Parks Conservation Association, said, "It is unknown how these proposed increases will impact the parks and the people who visit them, but it does seem reasonable that people will

see the bargain in buying the America the Beautiful annual pass for entry into all our national parks and other federal lands. Our concern is how much analysis did the administration undergo to understand the implications of these fee increases."

Additional coverage of the proposal was provided by the [Hi-Desert \(CA\) Star](#) (11/3, Hunt) and the [Village Voice \(NY\)](#) (11/3, Gross).

Activists Behind A Rejected 45-foot Statue Of A Naked Woman In D.C.

Have A New Plan: A 26-foot Digital Artwork Of A Naked Woman. The [Washington Post](#) (11/3, Stein) reports that the activists who "wanted to place a 45-foot-tall statue of a nude woman on prime land on the Mall" now "want to erect a 26-foot-tall scaffold covered on two sides by 26-foot-tall digitized portraits of a nude woman." The National Park Service "hasn't finalized the permit for the structure, but Mike Litterst, a spokesman for the agency, said it is in the final stages of issuing it." Natalie White, a spokeswoman for the "Catharsis on the Mall" festival, "said that after the Park Service rejected the group's initial permit application, women behind Catharsis decided they still wanted to promote a message of female empowerment." She "said activists are making the best of the situation while still fighting to bring the original 45-foot statue to the Mall."

Additional coverage was provided by [WTOP-FM](#) Washington (11/5, Amouzadeh).

Albert Pike's Complicated Legacy Leaves DC Statue In Limbo.

The [AP](#) (11/4, Portnoy) reports that nearly everyone agrees that a statue of Confederate general Albert Pike should be removed from Judiciary Square in Washington DC. However, "the problem is that if Congress votes to remove it, no one wants custody." Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton "filed legislation this month to seek congressional approval for the statue's removal." But "her two-page bill is silent on where the statue should go."

Women Take The Lead For Northern Arizona's Public Lands.

The [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (11/5, Cowan) reports that "while it's no longer a rarity for women to hold top public lands jobs, the fact remains that the balance" in the National Park Service and Forest Service "remains lopsided, with women making up 35 percent of employees at the Forest Service and 38 percent at the National Park Service." The article notes that "at the same time, the agencies are confronting longstanding patterns of harassment, including sexual harassment, that have been forced into the spotlight through news reports, federal testimony, surveys and agency investigations." Grand Canyon National Park superintendent Chris Lehnertz believes "the two are connected." She said, "I do believe there is a certain amount of culture change that comes from having more women in the workforce. It doesn't just take women to change our hostile work environment and sexual harassment, but it does take fair representation to change the overall culture of the Park Service."

Proposed Plan Would Make Visitors Reserve Trip To Arches.

The [AP](#) (11/3) reports that the National Park Service "proposed a new plan that would put in place a reservation system for visitors traveling to Arches National Park during its high-visitation season." Park officials last Wednesday "emphasized the point of the plan is not to limit the number of visitors, but to spread visitation out during the course of the day and throughout the year." The plan would "limit park entries during certain three-hour windows between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. over the March-through-October high season."

National Park Service Approves Campana Building Plan.

The [Aurora \(IL\) Beacon-News](#) (11/5, Girardi) reports that the National Park Service has "approved the plan for apartments at the historic Campana Building on the border of Batavia and Geneva." Evergreen Real Estate Group has "submitted a zoning application with Batavia to renovate the former Campana factory for a mixed use, mixed-income development with 80 market-rate and income-restricted apartments."

US Geological Survey

Geology Gets Political As Federal Scientists Pursue New ANWR Oil Assessment.

[KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (11/3, Harball) reports that as Democrats and Republicans spar over drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, David Houseknecht, who works for the U.S.

Geological Survey, is “trying to figure out two key questions: How much oil is in the Arctic Refuge, and where is it?” According to the article, “the answers could decide ANWR’s fate, no matter how the politics play out.” In Alaska giving a talk to an industry group, “Houseknecht wanted to make one thing clear right off the bat: he’s doesn’t like taking sides.” Houseknecht “explained coming up with a new estimate is a challenge — mainly because he doesn’t have much to work with.” He said, “In essence there’s nothing new there. We have not assessed or reassessed the ANWR area for 20 years because there’s no new data. We have no reason to think differently today than we did 20 years ago.” The Trump Administration is “making a controversial push to allow what’s called 3-D seismic testing in the Arctic Refuge’s coastal plain,” and “that could give geologists a clearer picture of how much oil might be there.” But “Houseknecht warned his audience that the results of that testing might not be what they’re hoping for.”

Opinion Pieces

Trump Is Leading The Most Corrupt Administration In U.S. History, One Of First-Class Kleptocrats.

A more than 4,400-word [Newsweek](#) (11/3, Nazaryan) analysis stated that while President Trump promised to “drain the swamp” during the campaign, “many observers believe the swamp has grown into a sinkhole that threatens to swallow the entire Trump administration.” According to Newsweek, “The number of White House officials currently facing questions, lawsuits or investigation is astonishing.” Zephyr Teachout, a Fordham University law professor who authored a book on corruption in the US, declared Trump’s “the most corrupt presidency and administration we’ve ever had” while presidential historian Robert Dallek argued “no American leader has acted with more unadulterated self-interest as Trump.” However, Newsweek acknowledged that “to supporters of the president, charges of corruption are being leveled with undue zeal by anti-Trump forces that will say or do anything to thwart the president’s agenda and lead to his removal from office.” Newsweek also outlined specific complaints against several cabinet members.

Our View: Cheers And Jeers.

The [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (11/4) gave a “jeer” to the Interior Department for failing to give enough assistance to stop the “spread of invasive mussels.” According to the paper, “despite their urgent requests,” governors in Western states are “being met by mostly platitudes from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s agency.” The paper says that “Zinke should recognize that most Western governors belong to the Republican Party of which he is also a member and could make significant trouble for the secretary should he continue to ignore their concerns.”

Don’t Delay The Methane Waste Rule.

In an op-ed for the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (11/4, Ulibarri), Rock Ulibarri, board chairman of Hispanics Enjoying Camping, Hunting and the Outdoors urges the Trump Administration to not “delay of the Bureau of Land Management methane waste rule, which protects public health, the environment and saves taxpayers millions.” Ulibarri writes that “this rule — which took six years to develop with a variety of stakeholder input — prevents more than \$330 million worth of natural gas from being wasted on public and tribal lands from venting, flaring and leaking.”

Additional Reading.

- *The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Should Not Be Open To Further Oil Exploration.* [The Hill](#) (11/3, Lewis).
- *As Wildfires Expand, Fire Science Needs To Keep Up.* [Conversation \(UK\)](#). (11/5, Simeoni)
- *PD Editorial: Fight Wildfires Without Gutting Conservation Rules.* [Santa Rosa \(CA\) Press Democrat](#) (11/5).
- *Trump’s Carbon Cowboy.* [Huffington Post](#) (11/3, Brune).
- *Pricing The Public Out Of The Parks.* [Huffington Post](#) (11/3, Piraino).
- *In Our View: Parks Should Be For All.* [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (11/3).
- *OUR VIEW: Speak Out On Massive Park Fee Hike.* [Peninsula \(WA\) Daily News](#) (11/5).
- *Rant & Rave: National Park Fee Hike, Bike-share Vandalism And Free Auto Repairs.* [Seattle Times](#) (11/5).
- *National Park Fee Increase Will Hurt Veterans.* [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (11/4, Brickner).

- **National Park Fee Hikes Will Hurt Users, Facilities.** [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (11/5, Peck).
- **Fee Hike Won't To Fix Parks Maintenance Backlog.** [Kitsap \(WA\) Sun](#) (11/5, Blair).
- **Trail Gazette Editorial – Fee Hike At Rocky A Bad Idea.** [Estes Park \(CO\) Trail-Gazette](#) (11/3).
- **'This Land Is Your Land': If You Can Pay And Are White.** [Fergus Falls \(MN\) Journal](#) (11/5, Kagan).
- **Leveraging Taxpayer Funds To Improve Regional Parks.** [East Bay \(CA\) Times](#) (11/5, Doyle).
- **Protecting Sage-grouse Has Tidal Wave Of Benefits.** [Idaho State Journal](#) (11/5, Brooks).
- **Mille Lacs County Sues Feds To Get FOIA Response.** [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (11/3, Shiffer).
- **Consider Ratepayer As California WaterFix Costs Mount.** [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (11/3).

Top National News

Trump Calls For Bilateral Trade Deal With Japan.

Coverage of President Trump's trip to Asia focuses mostly uncritically on his remarks on trade in Tokyo and on his earlier comments on North Korea. The [AP](#) (11/5, Lemire, Colvin) reports that Trump "opened his second day in Japan by pushing for stronger, more equitable economic ties." The AP says that Trump's "message to a group of American and Japanese business leaders" was that the US "was open for business, but he wanted to reshape the nations' trade relationship." Trump "rebuked the current relationship, saying the trade deals were 'not fair and not open,'" but "downplayed the potentially contentious nature of the negotiations, though the Japanese government has not shown much appetite for striking a new bilateral trade agreement."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/5, Bennett) report that Trump "began day two Monday by telling Japanese business leaders" that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe "is 'a terrific person,' then assailed them for years of unfair trade." [USA Today](#) (11/5, Jackson) reports that Trump told the group, "I have to say, for the last many decades Japan has been winning – you know that." Trump "has threatened to seek changes in various US free trade deals," and Japan "in particular criticized Trump for pulling the United States from the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/5, Bender) reports that in pressing for a bilateral trade deal, Trump offered few specifics on how to narrow the trade deficit with Japan, which totaled nearly \$70 billion in 2016. Trump [tweeted](#) (11/5), "Heading into the 12 days with great negotiating strength because of our tremendous economy." [Politico](#) (11/5, Restuccia) reports that Trump also called on Japan to manufacture more cars in the US, saying, "Try building your cars in the United States instead of shipping them over."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/5, Bennett) reports that on Sunday, Trump golfed with Abe, and "the Japanese leader surprised Trump with the sort of trucker hats Trump favors, embroidered in his preferred color – gold – and borrowing from Trump's signature slogan: 'Donald & Shinzo, Make Alliance Even Greater.'" The [Japan Times](#) (11/5, Osaki, Kikuchi) reports, "After nine holes, the two leaders were scheduled to enjoy a teppanyaki (iron-plate grill) steak dinner in Tokyo's glitzy Ginza district." Trump [tweeted](#), "Playing golf with Prime Minister Abe and Hideki Matsuyama, two wonderful people!" David Nakamura of the Washington Post [tweeted](#), "WH official said Trump and Abe talked a bit about trade and North Korea during their round but did not keep score."

Trump Does Not Bow In Greeting Emperor And Empress. The [Daily Caller](#) (11/5, Pickrell) reports that when Trump met Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko on Monday morning, he "opted for a strong handshake over a bow. ... Although the president's actions differed from those of his predecessor, the greeting passed without incident."

Trump Warns North Korea Not To "Underestimate" US Resolve. Earlier coverage focused on the President's remarks about North Korea. On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/5, story 5, 3:15, Llamas), Jonathan Karl reported, "In a speech to US troops at the American air base near Tokyo, [Trump] set the tone for a trip where the North Korea threat will be issue number one." Trump: "No one, no dictator, no regime, and no nation should underestimate, ever, American resolve. We dominate the sky. We dominate the sea. We dominate the land and space."

On the [CBS Weekend News](#) (11/5, story 2, 2:10, Quijano), Margaret Brennan reported, "The warning to North Korea was unmistakable. ... In recent months, North Korea has launched two ballistic missiles over its territory. Unity was the message" as Abe "warmly embraced Mr. Trump, presenting him with campaign-style baseball caps that said 'Donald and Shinzo Make Alliance Even Greater.'" The two leaders then played nine holes of golf, while their wives had tea



and went shopping for pearls at a high end boutique." On [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/5, story 3, 1:35, Snow), Kelly O'Donnell said, "Of course, North Korea is on the agenda, along with meetings with Asian leaders" and Putin.

The [AP](#) (11/5, Lemire, Colvin) reports, "Trump has delivered harsh denunciations of the renegade North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, belittling him as 'Little Rocket Man' and threatening to rain 'fire and fury' on his country if the belligerence continues. But Trump also has begun highlighting the plight of the North Koreans." He told reporters on Air Force One, "I think they're great people. They're industrious. They're warm, much warmer than the world really knows or understands." [USA Today](#) (11/5, Jackson) reports that Trump intends to "try to persuade China and other nations to cut economic ties to North Korea, thereby pressuring" Kim "to give up nuclear weapons."

Chris Wallace said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (11/5) that Trump "is two days into the longest and most crucial diplomatic trip of his presidency." He is meeting allies in Asia with the hope to "rally support against a nuclear armed North Korea." The main agenda items involve "how to put more pressure on North Korea to drop its nuclear weapons program." Major Garrett, who is traveling with the President, said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (11/5, Dickerson) that "North Korea will assuredly dominate all the President's conversations here in Asia."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/5, Nakamura, Parker) reports, "Trump told reporters that he plans to decide 'very soon' whether to relabel North Korea a state sponsor of terrorism." But he "also offered encouragement for North Korean citizens, calling them 'great people.'" The [Washington Times](#) (11/5, Boyer) reports that Trump "told US service members in Japan on Sunday that 'no dictator' should underestimate America's military power and determination." David Andelman writes in his [USA Today](#) (11/5) column, "For a nation like Japan, which has feared Trump's expectation that he wants every ally to do more for its own defense, those words about US strength could be read as reassuring. But they could be frightening for South Korea."

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (11/5, McCurry) reports that Trump "has indicated that he would be prepared to meet" Kim "at some point, though he said it was still 'far too early' for a one-to-one conversation with his adversary." He said in an interview, "I don't think it's strength or weakness, I think sitting down with people is not a bad thing."

Michael Shear of the New York Times said on [CNN's Inside Politics](#) (11/5) that North Korea is a problem that is "immune to some of the personal relationship-building that the President has done. So while he gets high marks for some of these relationships with the Japanese prime minister, with the president of China, the North Korean problem is not going to be solved by a couple of rounds of golf." But Kenneth Weinstein of the Hudson Institute writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/5) that Trump is rightly looking to China to aid in dealing with Kim.

Trump Reportedly Said "Samurai" Japan Should Have Shot Down North Korean Missiles. The [Japan Times](#) (11/5) reports that Trump "has said Japan should have shot down the North Korean missiles that flew over the country" earlier this year, according to "diplomatic sources." Trump "questioned Japan's decision not to shoot down the missiles when he met or spoke by phone with leaders from Southeast Asian countries over recent months," and "said he could not understand why a country of samurai warriors did not shoot down the missiles."

Trump Expects To Meet With Putin. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/5, Bender) reports that Trump said he expects to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin during the trip. Trump said, "It's expected we'll meet with Putin, yeah. We want Putin's help on North Korea, and we'll be meeting with a lot of different leaders." The [New York Times](#) (11/5, Davis) reports that the meeting would happen on the sideline of the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Da Nang, Vietnam.

Russian activist Garry Kasparov [tweeted](#), "'Putin's help on North Korea?! How, by asking Kim Jong-un to return all of the Russian nuke and missile technology he's been giving him?'"

Corker Declines To Comment On Trip. The [Washington Post](#) (11/5, Sullivan) reports that Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Bob Corker, who has been at odds with Trump, was "resolutely mum when asked about President Trump's upcoming trip to Asia" and other issues. Corker said, "I have no desire to enter into, you know, 24/7, you know, disagreement. When I have strong disagreements, I'm going to express them strongly."

Significance Of "Indo-Pacific" Terminology Examined. Jonathan Swan of [Axios](#) (11/5) writes about "the Trump administration's revealing decision to rename the 'Asia-Pacific' as the 'Indo-Pacific.'" Veteran Asia correspondent Richard McGregor said, "The US is now entrenching new language for America's role in the Asia. ... That attempts to bring India permanently into the US web of alliances and partnerships in the region. And it is the precursor to the new partnership – 'the quad' – which will bring together the US, Japan, India and Australia."

Josh Rogin writes in the [Washington Post](#) (11/5), "After months of what officials and Asia experts saw as a somewhat disjointed and contradictory approach to Asia's rising power, officials say the administration is coalescing around a strategy that will attempt to define the Indo-Pacific chessboard on America's terms."

NYTimes: Trump "Arrives In Asia As A Wounded Leader." The [New York Times](#) (11/5) editorializes, "As President Trump undertakes his first official trip to Asia, American leadership and credibility are in doubt. Leaders in the region worry that his inflammatory statements and impulsiveness could lead to war with North Korea. And there is a serious debate in many Asian countries about whether the future lies in closer partnerships with China, the ascendant power," or with the US. Trump "arrives in Asia as a wounded leader, with low ratings at home and a stalled legislative agenda, and dogged by revelations of Russian interference" in the 2016 election. Asian nations "want and need America to serve as a democratic counterweight to China." Trump's trip "will reveal whether he can rise to this challenge."

Trump Praises Japan As "Treasured Partner And Crucial Ally" At Yokota Air Base.

The [AP](#) (11/5, Lemire, Colvin) reports as President Trump landed at Yokota Air Base near Tokyo, he "was greeted by cheering service members," and in a speech "touted American firepower and the U.S. alliance with Japan." Trump said, "Japan is a treasured partner and crucial ally of the United States and today we thank them for welcoming us and for decades of wonderful friendship between our two nations." He is "expected to spend much of his 12-day, five-country Asian tour exhorting allies and rivals to step up efforts to counter the dangers posed by North Korea." Following his remarks, Trump went to the Kasumigaseki Country Club "for lunch and a round of golf with Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Japanese golfer Hideki Matsuyama."

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/4, Sink) reports the President "warned nations against challenging the U.S. as he rallied American troops in Japan" at Yokota Air Base. Trump said, "We dominate the sky, we dominate the sea, we dominate the land and space." He added, "No one – no dictator, no regime and no nation – should underestimate ever American resolve." He also "called Japan a 'treasured partner and crucial ally.'" The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/4, Bennett) reports Trump "described the troops as the 'last bulwarks' against threats from 'tyrants and dictators who prey on the innocent.'"

The [AP](#) (11/5, Lemire, Colvin) reports the visit with Abe began, "with a round of golf, a custom cap and a hamburger of American beef." The AP called it "an effusive display of friendship that...will give way to high-stakes diplomacy." Trump said before dinner, "The relationship is really extraordinary. We like each other and our countries like each other."

AP Analysis: Japanese Trip To Focus On North Korea, Trade, Abductions, And Golf. The [AP](#) (11/4) reports on President Trump's visit to Japan, saying that he and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe "will meet on the golf course Sunday before holding formal talks on Monday." The visit is expected to focus on North Korea, trade, abductions of Japanese by North Korea, and golf.

AP Analysis: Asian Trip "A Crucial International Test" For Trump. The [AP](#) (11/4, Lemire) reports President Trump is "ready to exhort Asian allies and rivals on the need to counter the dangers posed by North Korea's nuclear threat." The AP adds that the trip is "the longest Far East itinerary for a president in a generation." The AP calls it "a crucial international test" given the difficulties facing Asia, and says the President's "spontaneous, and at times reckless, style flies in the face of the generations-old traditions and protocol that govern diplomatic exchanges in Asia."

McMaster To Accompany Trump At Every Stop On Asia Trip. In a look at who is traveling to Asia with President Trump, and who is not, the [AP](#) (11/4, Lemire) writes that National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster, "the target of a far-right attack campaign over the summer, has been instrumental in organizing the trip. A three-star general, McMaster has declared that 'there is a military option' that could be used against the nuclear threat posed by North Korea."

The [New York Times](#) (11/4, Landler) writes, "The staffing of any major presidential trip is an exercise in internal politics – sometimes byzantine – as the White House parcels out coveted seats on Air Force One. But the Trump administration's staffing of this trip is drawing particular scrutiny from those seeking clues about who's up or down, and what message the president is trying to send to allies and adversaries." The President will "be backed by a full complement of national security advisers." McMaster "will accompany the president on every stop," as will Secretary of State Tillerson.

[CNN](#) (11/4, Diamond, Collinson) reports on its website that North Korea will be a key issue on the trip, and as McMaster "warned [this week], the clock is ticking. CNN learned earlier this week that North Korea is working on an advanced version of its existing KN-20 intercontinental ballistic missiles that could potentially reach the United States, and it is entirely possible that next

year, Pyongyang could master the technology to tip such a missile with a miniaturized warhead."

In his [New York Times](#) (11/4) column, Nicholas Kristof writes that ex-CIA Director John Brennan "estimates the chance of a war with North Korea at 20 to 25 percent," while Joel Wit of Johns Hopkins University "puts it at 40 percent" and Richard Haass of the Council on Foreign Relations "says the odds may be somewhere around 50/50." Kristof quotes McMaster's recent remarks: "Our president has been really clear about this. He is not going to permit this rogue regime, Kim Jong-un, to threaten the United States with a nuclear weapon. And so he is willing to do anything necessary to prevent that from happening."

Media Analyses: North Korea To Dominate Focus Of Trump's Asia Trip.

President Trump left the US on Friday to begin a 12-day trip that will include stops in five Asian countries. While the CBS Evening News was the sole network newscast to mention the trip, the cable newscasts and many print analyses highlighted that the visit is expected to focus on stopping North Korea's nuclear program and discussions about putting country-to-country trade agreements in place of regional ones. However, coverage of the trip was overshadowed by the developments in the investigation into alleged Russian collusion, with most outlets portraying Trump's departing remarks as an attempt to detract attention away from the probe.

The [CBS Evening News](#)' (11/3, story 5, 0:45, Mason) Chip Reid briefly reported, "The President will be in Hawaii this evening, the first stop on that trip to Asia," which will focus on "North Korea and its nuclear weapons." [Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/3, 6:09 p.m. EDT, Baier) correspondent Kristin Fisher similarly reported North Korea will be Trump's top priority, "and he will be leaning on the leaders of Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, the Philippines, and most importantly, China, to put more pressure on Pyongyang." [Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/3, 6:51 p.m. EDT, Baier) broadcast Trump, who said before boarding Air Force One, "We will be talking about trade. We will be talking obviously about North Korea. We will be enlisting the help of a lot of people and countries. We will see what happens. But I think we are going to have a very successful trip. There's a lot of goodwill."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/3, Nakamura, Taylor) reports the President's visit to Asia, "the longest overseas trip of any president since George H.W. Bush in 1991," comes "as the once unthinkable has become a palpable concern from Tokyo to Seoul to Beijing – a war with a nuclear-armed North Korea." According to the Post, "Trump's trip – with bilateral visits to Japan, South Korea and China and stops at regional summits in Vietnam and the Philippines – could go a long way toward determining the success of his administration's policy." However, the Post concedes "Trump's escalating rhetoric and Pyongyang's accelerating weapons programs have set the region on edge and prompted national security adviser H.R. McMaster to declare this week that the world is 'running out of time' to stop the North."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/3, Bender) reports McMaster added that "the president's trip will focus on three goals: First, strengthening international resolve to denuclearize North Korea," followed by promoting a "free and open Indo-Pacific Region" and seeking "fair and reciprocal trade." In an interview with [NHK \(JPN\)](#) (11/3), McMaster "said Trump will help pull the curtain back on what kind of regime North Korea is." McMaster also said the US may increase military pressure on the North. Mentioning "that the US is currently deploying 3 aircraft carriers in the Western Pacific region," McMaster said the carriers symbolize America's aim of ensuring "the North Korean regime knows that any aggression on its part will be met with an overwhelming response." McMaster also stressed that the US will continue to share information with Japan in case of an emergency, and "said the 2 countries completely agree on how to assess security threats by the North and others, and how to respond to the threats to protect people."

[International Business Times](#) (11/3, Pignataro) reports that according to McMaster, the President is not expected "to tamp down on his explosive rhetoric against North Korea during the trip." [Breitbart](#) (11/3, Spiering) similarly reports that "White House aides cautioned that Trump would be frank with leaders during his visit on the threat posed by North Korea." McMaster said Thursday: "The president will use whatever language he wants to use, obviously." McMaster added, "I don't think the president really modulates his language. Have you noticed him do that?"

Meanwhile, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/3, Bierman) describes Trump's fourth foreign trip as president as "perhaps the toughest test yet of his acumen on a world stage before foreign leaders skeptical of his leadership, confused by his mixed messages and worried about his impulsive behavior." The Times adds "Asia trips are famously grueling, given the long flights and time difference," and warns "missteps could set off unintended consequences, especially considering Trump's past war of words with North Korea's Kim and that regime's propensity to rattle its neighbors with nuclear and missile tests."

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/3, Scott, Hunter) says the trip “provides Trump an opportunity to look presidential and talk tough about North Korea’s Kim Jong Un,” but it “isn’t without peril for a commander-in-chief known for off-the-cuff pronouncements and awkward encounters with world leaders.” In addition, [AFP](#) (11/3, Beatty) reports that Trump’s trip comes loaded with “heavy domestic baggage,” including “a trail of invective and scandal that risks overshadowing efforts at top-level diplomacy.”

The [AP](#) (11/3, Colvin) reports the President is also “being pulled in different directions as he heads to Asia on a grueling 12-day trip.” The AP says Trump’s “loyal supporters are eager to hear him take a hard line on the Chinese trade and economic practices he railed against as a candidate,” but “many” Administration officials “are pushing Trump to sweep those concerns aside as he works to pressure China’s Xi Jinping to tighten the screws on North Korea.” In a second article, the [AP](#) (11/3, Talmadge, Kurtenbach, Gomez) reports “security and trade will loom large during” the trip while the South China Sea is another “trouble spot where Trump can showcase American leadership and commitment to the region in a high-profile way. Or display a lack of both.”

Leading the second hour of [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (11/3, 6:00 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), host Wolf Blitzer said Trump was “on the attack as he heads towards Asia with lots of baggage from the Russia investigation.” Kristin Fisher of [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (11/3, 6:10 p.m. EDT, Baier) likewise said that President Trump departed Friday for his tour of Asia, “leaving behind the growing cloud of the special counsel’s investigation, which continued to seep its way into the West Wing this week.” Adding to “his frustrations with the Justice Department, President Trump has also been very critical of the State Department. He slashed its budget, refused to fill vacancies, and undercut its Secretary for trying to working with North Korea.”

According to [McClatchy](#) (11/3, Kumar), Trump’s trip “may offer him some much-desired respite from the turmoil engulfing his White House. And for a president who has always gotten along better with autocratic leaders than democratically elected ones, he’s headed to the right place.” McClatchy adds that unlike his predecessors who would criticize foreign leaders over their human rights record, the President “shares some of the ideals of autocratic leaders and has voiced admiration for their strength.” [Politico](#) (11/3, Schwartz) says that ahead of Trump’s first visit to China, “reporters are wondering whether he will set aside his war on the media and stick up for First Amendment principles – or let a country notoriously hostile to free speech run roughshod over the American press.”

However, the [New York Times](#) (11/3, A1, Sang-Hun, Rich) reports on its front-page that as South Korean President Moon Jae-in “prepares to host Mr. Trump’s first visit to South Korea, he finds himself caught in a bind, compelled by the White House and conservatives at home to support hard-line policies that he once criticized – and that many of his supporters worry are dragging their nation to the brink of war.” The Times adds “South Korea is more accustomed to belligerence from Pyongyang than Washington, and there is widespread concern that Mr. Trump may make matters worse when he arrives next week.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/3, Fifield, Taylor) similarly contrasts Trump’s warm relationship with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe with his more tense relationship with Moon in an article titled “As Japan Buddies Up To Trump, South Korea Frets It’s Being Disrespected.”

Trump To Attend East Asia Summit. [Reuters](#) (11/3, Mason, Brice) reports Trump on Friday told reporters “he would spend an extra day in the Philippines during his trip to Asia, which the White House confirmed would be to attend the East Asia Summit.” He said, “We’re actually staying an extra day in the Philippines. We have a big conference, the second conference, and I think we’re going to have great success.” The [New York Times](#) (11/3, Landler) reports White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders confirmed the President’s attendance at the “meeting of leaders from Australia, Japan, China, Russia and other countries that his predecessor, President Barack Obama, had made a priority.” The Times says “Trump’s earlier decision to skip the meeting had rattled officials in the region, who warned that it would raise questions about the United States’ commitment to Southeast Asia.”

Trump Receives Briefing In Hawaii En Route To Asia. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/3, Kaleem) reports Hawaii Gov. David Ige welcomed the President at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, where “about 100 supporters – a mix of military service members and civilians – cheered the president and First Lady, who were given traditional Hawaiian leis upon arrival.” According to the Times, “large crowds of anti-Trump protesters were expected to demonstrate on the streets as the president makes his way to sites around the city before sleeping at the Ritz-Carlton hotel in tourist-heavy Waikiki.”

Martha MacCallum of [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (11/3, 6:12 p.m. EDT, Baier), reporting

from Pearl Harbor, said "the first and very important briefing of the trip will be when he sits down at PACCOM, the Pacific Command, which oversees essentially 50 percent of the globe and 36 countries under its naval and military jurisdiction." MacCallum said it is unclear whether Trump will discuss the "several military incidents that have been problematic" this year. She stressed "this is an area of the world that is very much at the read., and it's the sphere of our military defense, protecting the whole west coast of the United States and our capabilities beyond." MacCallum added that Trump will then "take in the enormity of that moving experience" at the USS Arizona in Pearl Harbor. She said the experience "will be very much on the President's mind as he begins this trip."

US-Russia Discuss Possible Trump-Putin Meeting. The [New York Times](#) (11/3, Macfarquhar) reports "talks are underway to arrange a second meeting between President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia and President Trump on the sidelines of an Asian economic summit meeting next week in Vietnam, the Kremlin said on Friday." Dmitri Peskov, the spokesman for Putin, told reporters on Friday that a meeting at the Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation summit meeting in Danang, Vietnam "is indeed being discussed." He added, "It is hard to overestimate the importance and significance of any contact between the president of Russia and the United States for all international matters."

However, the [Washington Post](#) (11/3, Filipov) reports "there is scant optimism in Russia that face-to-face talks will yield any breakthroughs on the long list of issues that divide Washington and Moscow." According to the Post, "sanctions against Russia, tensions in Syria, the threat of military conflict in North Korea and the stalemate over Ukraine top the litany of seemingly intractable differences in the U.S.-Russia relationship. Looming above it all is the sense in Moscow that the closer special counsel Robert S. Mueller III comes to Trump's inner circle in his investigation into alleged Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election, the less likely the U.S. president will be to try to reverse the downward spiral with Russia."

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/3, 6:13 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), Rep. Ted Lieu said in light of the Russia investigation, "it would be a horrible idea" for Trump to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin during his tour of Asia. He reiterated, "Putin is not our ally, our friend," and Trump "should not take these actions by meeting with Putin. He should be imposing sanctions on Russia, which he's already weeks behind the deadline." On whether Secretary Tillerson will remain in the Administration, Lieu speculated, "We'll see." He added, "The President is making Rex Tillerson's job very difficult. When Rex Tillerson was trying to engage in diplomacy with North Korea," Trump tweeted "that was a waste of time. The problem is when the President does that publicly, he undercut it is credibility of Rex Tillerson. So now when he talks to leaders and members of Congress, we don't know who he's speaking with."

North Korea Condemns "Surprise" US Air Force Exercise Over Korean Peninsula. The [AP](#) (11/3, Tong-Hyung) reports an official with the South Korean military said Friday that two US B-1B bombers escorted by two South Korean F-16 fighter jets on Thursday "flew over the Korean Peninsula for bombing exercises that are also a show of force against North Korea ahead of President Donald Trump's first official visit to Asia." [USA Today](#) (11/3, Onyanga-Omara) reports North Korea in response "accused the 'gangster-like' United States of staging a 'surprise nuclear strike drill.'"

Brian Todd of [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/3, 5:51 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) reported "military and intelligence officials are bracing for a possible provocation from" North Korean leader Kim Jong-un during the President's tour of Asia. He explained the American B-1 bombers, joined by Japanese and South Korean fighter jets, flew near the Korean Peninsula. Todd said these "are the weapons that experts say would play key roles in any strikes on North Korea. These maneuvers bring a swift brush back from Kim Jong-un's regime," which believes the US may be staging a surprise nuclear strike drill targeting the nation. As such, "commanders and intelligence agencies from Washington to Pyongyang are jittery because of so many potential provocations coming so close to the President's trip." South Korean lawmakers have also warned "another North Korean missile test could be imminent because they sighted movement of vehicles around a missile research facility in Pyongyang."

US Officials "Deeply Skeptical" About Yun's Chances For Diplomacy. [Reuters](#) (11/3, Spetalnick, Mohammed, Shin) reports "interviews with more than a dozen current and former U.S. officials and South Korean diplomats" found "most were deeply skeptical" of US Special Representative for North Korea Policy Joseph Yun, who "might be Washington's best diplomatic hope for reducing the risk of a devastating war on the Korean peninsula, he serves an administration riven by divisions over how to handle Pyongyang." Reuters says one White House dismissed Yun "with a note of sarcasm," calling him "such a dreamer," while another US official

said, "We don't think this is going anywhere."

Former North Korean Diplomat Does Not View Trump's North Korea Rhetoric As Reckless. [The Atlantic](#) (11/2, Friedman) reports "Thae Yong Ho, one of the highest-ranking officials ever to defect from North Korea, doesn't agree with those who argue that Donald Trump is recklessly tempting war by threatening and taunting Kim Jong Un." While Thae stands by "one of the arguments he often made as a diplomat: that North Korean leaders think of nuclear weapons in defensive terms – as a means of deterring foreign, and particularly American, military intervention --" he also "stressed" that Kim "knows well that once he uses his nuclear weapons against America or South Korea, then that could end up with the total destruction of the North Korean [political] system." Still, North Korea can still leverage its weapons advancements "to go on the offensive militarily and pursue its dream of reunifying the Korean peninsula under the North's control," Thae argued, "echoing a point that Trump administration officials like National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster have made."

Royce Urges Trump To Add North Korea As State Sponsor Of Terrorism. The [Washington Times](#) (11/3, Taylor) reports House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce late Thursday called on "the White House to add North Korea to Washington's official state sponsors of terrorism list before President Trump arrives in East Asia over the weekend on an 11-day tour of the region." Royce said, "There is simply no reason for further delay of this decision. ... I urge the administration to take quick action."

Analysts Examine Role Of Kim Jong-Un's Wife On Regime. Brian Todd of [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/3, 6:56 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) said according to some analysts, recent images of Kim Jong-un's wife, Ri Sol-ju, signal that "there's some stability inside the regime now," and that the North Korean leader may be trying to portray a softer image. Todd outlined some new information about Ri's "powerful connections" and "mysteries surrounding the couple's children."

Poll Finds Large Majority Of Americans Believe Trump "Really Willing" To Use Military Force Against North Korea. [The Hill](#) (11/3, Anapol) reports a new survey from the [Pew Research Center](#) of 1,504 "adults" (10/25-10/30) found 88 percent of Republicans and 83 percent of Democrats "think the president is 'really willing' to use military force against" North Korea. The Hill states that the survey "also showed an increased concern about North Korea's willingness to use military force against the U.S., with 71 percent saying the U.S. should take North Korea's nuclear threats 'very seriously,' a 15-point increase from 2013." However, The Hill adds "only 9 percent of Democratic and Democratic-leaning respondents said they are at least somewhat confident in Trump's ability to handle North Korea, while 80 percent of Republicans and Republican leaners said they were confident in the president."

USA Today Profiles Camp Humphreys Ahead Of Trump Visit. [USA Today](#) (11/3, Maresca, Today) reports Camp Humphreys, "the U.S. military's newest and largest overseas base for 26,000 soldiers, family members and civilians is finally humming with activity – and buzzing about the growing threat from nearby North Korea." According to USA Today, the new headquarters of the Eighth Army is 40 miles south of Camp Yongsan in Seoul "and about 60 miles from the Demilitarized Zone that divides North and South Korea," which puts Camp Humphreys "about twice as far from North Korea as its predecessor, one of the main reasons for the move." USA Today notes "President Trump is scheduled to visit this \$10.7 billion, 3,500-acre base in the city of Pyeongtaek during his stop in South Korea on Nov. 5-8."

Ivanka Trump Promotes Value Of Women In Economy In Tokyo Address. [Bloomberg News](#) (11/2, Buckland) reports Ivanka Trump "lauded the Japanese government's efforts to increase female workforce participation during a speech in Tokyo on Friday, giving a high-profile boost to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's 'Womenomics' initiative." She asserted, "Womenomics recognizes the centrality of women, who represent roughly half of our global population, in achieving true economic growth." She added, "When women work, it creates a unique multiplier effect: women are more likely than men to hire other women, to give them access to capital, mentorship and networks." [Reuters](#) (11/3, Wilson) reports Ivanka Trump also argued "the world must boost women and minority participation in the fields of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM)." She said, "Female and minority participation in STEM fields is moving in the wrong direction."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/2, Fifield) reports the Japanese government hopes her "much-anticipated speech...will make waves." The Post describes her address as a "double-whammy win for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe" because "he gets a high-profile speaker for one of his key initiatives – and one that has failed to bear any other fruit" while also allowing him to "curry more favor with Donald Trump just two days before he arrives in Tokyo on his first trip to Japan as president." However, the Post acknowledges that "despite all the hype, the hall where Trump

spoke was barely half full," and the [New York Times](#) (11/3, Rich) says "the lukewarm turnout on Friday morning contrasted with the breathless coverage of her visit by the Japanese news media, which followed Ms. Trump's every move around Tokyo and treated her landing at Narita International Airport and dinner at a luxurious restaurant on Thursday night as major news." According to Josh Raffel, a White House spokesman, Ivanka Trump's speech "was the most registered event" at the conference, "but security delayed everyone from being able to get into the room on time."

Families Of Japanese Abducted By North Korea Looking Forward To Trump Putting Spotlight On Plight. "Four decades ago, according to the Japanese government, at least 17 Japanese citizens vanished at the hands of North Korea, leaving their families with precious little information," the [New York Times](#) (11/3, Rich) reports, and now President Trump "plans to press the cause, meeting during a visit to Japan starting Sunday with several of the affected families, including the parents of Megumi Yokota, abducted by North Korea in 1977 when she was just 13 years old." The Times says that in Japan, "the tragic disappearances strike a deeper emotional chord than the fear of ballistic missile attacks, and have resonance akin to that of the fate of American P.O.W.'s during the Vietnam War."

Chinese Official Rejects Blame For US Opioid Crisis. The [New York Times](#) (11/3, Wee) reports Wei Xiaojun, deputy director of the narcotics control bureau at the Chinese Ministry of Public Security, "disputed the assertion that China was largely to blame" for the opioid crisis in the US. While Trump last week "said that he would raise the issue of 'the flood of cheap and deadly fentanyl' made in China as a top priority in his meeting with President Xi Jinping on Wednesday," the Times states that Wei asserted, "'based on the intelligence and evidence shared' between the countries, there is no reason to conclude that 'a large portion' of the fentanyl and similar substances in America comes from China." However, the Times adds Wei "acknowledged at a news conference that 'China does not reject, nor does it deny, that there's truth' that some drugs abused by Americans – especially fentanyl, a very powerful synthetic opioid – come from China." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/3, Areddy, Dou) reports Wei also criticized the US for rushing to judgment against Chinese nationals recently indicted for distributing fentanyl, especially since the country is cooperating with US efforts to stop the drug trade.

Chinese Media Praises Kelly For Remarks On Communism. [Breitbart](#) (11/3, Martel) reports the [Global Times \(CHN\)](#) is praising White House Chief of Staff Kelly "for stating in an interview that the repressive communist system 'has apparently worked for the Chinese people.'" Breitbart adds that "the article urges those who decry China for its rampant human rights abuses, violations of international law, and consistent belligerence against its neighbors to abandon a 'Cold War mentality' against Beijing."

Taiwan President Visits Guam During Pacific Tour. [Reuters](#) (11/3, Maratita) reports Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen on Friday arrived in Guam at the conclusion of a trip "visiting diplomatic allies in the Pacific – a trip that caused strong objections from China, which claims Taiwan as its own." Reuters notes that China "had urged the United States not to allow Tsai to transit its territory on her trip, which included two days in Hawaii before she headed on to Tuvalu, the Solomon Islands and the Marshall Islands." Reuters adds that "the timing is particularly touchy" given Trump's visit to Beijing next week. However, while Reuters says Guam Governor Edward Calvo's office "described Tsai's visit as 'private and unofficial,' she was provided with a police escort upon her arrival."

WSJournal: Trump Must Demonstrate US Commitment To Asia. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/3) editorializes that for President Trump's trip to Asia to be considered a success, he must reassure American allies that the US stands with them against common threats, including North Korea's nuclear program and China's aggressive behavior in the region.

Paulson: Trump Needs To Challenge Xi On America's Interests During Visit. In a [Washington Post](#) (11/3, Paulson) op-ed, former Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson Jr. asserts President Trump "should be strategic and forceful in defense of America's industries of the future" when he meets with Chinese President Xi Jinping, who "drags his feet at his own peril because the United States and others are reexamining their open-door policies and demanding greater reciprocity in China." According to Paulson, "Xi's new consolidation of power – and ability to use it now to get difficult things done – means Trump may have a greater opportunity on his trip to achieve breakthroughs in the security and economic arenas."

CFR President Concerned By Trump's Comments On Tillerson, US Approach To North Korea. [Reuters](#) (11/3) reports that in an interview with Fox News' Laura Ingraham on Thursday, President Trump "said he was unsure whether his top diplomat, Rex Tillerson, would remain in his post for the rest of Trump's term in the White House and was 'not happy' that some State

Department staff were not supporting his agenda." Trump "said he alone determines U.S. foreign policy. 'The one that matters is me,' Trump said. 'I'm the only one that matters because, when it comes to it, that's what the policy is going to be.'" Council of Foreign Relations President Richard Haass believes Trump's comments indicate trouble not just for Tillerson but for overall foreign policy.

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/3, 6:44 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) also broadcast segments of Trump's interview.

House Republicans Revise Tax Bill Into "Less Generous" Version.

The [AP](#) (11/3, Gordon, Taylor) reports House Republicans on Friday "quietly made changes to their far-reaching tax overhaul: Now its tax cuts would be less generous for many Americans." In particular, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady "released a revised version of the bill that would impose a new, lower-inflation 'chained CPI' adjustment for tax brackets immediately instead of in 2023," which "means more income would be taxed at higher rates over time – and less generous tax cuts for individuals and families." In a statement, Brady said the updated bill represents "pro-growth tax reform that will deliver more jobs, fairer taxes, and bigger paychecks for people across our country."

A front-page [Washington Post](#) (11/3, A1, Debonis) article reports Brady said Friday that President Trump has been "pushing Republican leaders in Congress to make a major and potentially explosive change to their tax bill, directing them to use the legislation to begin dismantling the Affordable Care Act." Brady "said Trump has personally requested he include repeal of the mandate – the health law's chief mechanism to compel Americans to become insured and to keep the insurance market stable." Speaking at an event hosted by Politico, Brady said Trump "feels very strongly about including this at some step before the final process. ... He's told me that twice by phone and once in person. ... And members have as well." However, the Post adds "Brady hinted Friday he was not inclined to introduce a new complication into the 400-plus-page bill, which was introduced Thursday after months of negotiations."

Meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/3, Rubin) reports that although the bill's family tax credit expires at the end of 2022, Brady asserted it "will never go away" as future lawmakers would act to extend the tax break.

House Republicans "Bullish" On Passage Of Tax Reform Bill. According to [The Hill](#) (11/3, Jagoda, Wong), House Republicans on Friday also "appeared bullish they would soon pass the first overhaul of the U.S. tax system in more than three decades." Rep. Kevin Cramer told The Hill that passage is "a layup," Rep. Tom Cole said, "I think at the end of the day, we're not going to lose very many members," and Rep. Dave Brat, a member of the House Freedom Caucus, asserted, "Leadership did a great job on this thing. ... It's pro-growth, there's middle-class tax cuts for real."

Cohn: Tax Cuts Will Not Be Retroactive, Will Benefit Economy. [Reuters](#) (11/3, Brice) reports National Economic Council Director Cohn in an interview with Fox Business Network on Friday said the tax reform plan "would not make adjustments retroactive...despite calls from U.S. lawmakers who want cuts to apply to 2017 as the party aims to pass the bill by year's end." Cohn asserted, "We're trying to deliver great tax reform to the American public. We can't get it retroactive to this year. We're trying to do a tax plan that starts on Jan. 1 of next year."

Meanwhile, [Bloomberg News](#) (11/3, Smialek) reports Cohn, speaking on Bloomberg Television, "said the time is ripe for a fiscal boost to the U.S. economy, disagreeing with" Goldman Sachs CEO Lloyd Blankfein, "the man who was his boss for more than a decade at Goldman Sachs Group Inc." Cohn said, "If you looked at today's employment data report, you've had no wage growth. ... Our tax plan is designed to create wage growth."

Schumer: GOP Tax Bill Resembles A "Dead Fish." The [Washington Times](#) (11/3, Sherfinski) reports Senate Minority Leader Schumer on Friday "likened the House GOP's newly unveiled tax legislation to a 'dead fish' and said it represents a 'betrayal' to middle class families throughout the country." Schumer added, "The more people learn about this bill, the less they're going to like it."

Lewandowski To Promote Tax Plan For Ad Campaign. [Bloomberg News](#) (11/3, McCormick) reports "the White House-sanctioned America First Policies" has announced "plans to spend about \$1 million on ads promoting the Republican tax proposal and will feature the president's first campaign manager, Corey Lewandowski, as its pitchman." According to Bloomberg, the television and online campaign "is an initial down payment on what the group says will be a multimillion-dollar effort it hopes will help the president and Republicans score their first major legislative win." Bloomberg adds "the new ads, scheduled to start Friday and run for about a week, are set

to appear on Fox News Channel and on local cable in five congressional districts represented by lawmakers who opposed a budget resolution that was a precursor to the tax legislation."

Tax Reform Bill Prompts Lobbying Frenzy. The [New York Times](#) (11/3, Tankersley, Kaplan, Vogel) reports the release of the tax reform bill on Thursday has "set off a scramble among lobbyists and interest groups desperate to preserve prized tax breaks that are suddenly at risk in the sweeping bill moving through the House." However, the Times says that "the ability of K Street to prevent longstanding tax provisions from getting the ax is running headfirst into Republicans' own mad dash as they attempt to quickly pass the tax rewrite and get it to President Trump's desk by Christmas."

Although the legislation is opposed by private-equity firms, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/3, Gottfried) says the bill could have been harsher toward the industry. The [New York Times](#) (11/3, Hsu) also reports the measure would preserve "the so-called carried-interest provision," which is "a loophole that benefits hedge funds, private-equity funds and other investment managers, despite President Trump's campaign promises to eliminate it." According to the Times, the provision "is beloved by, and hugely valuable to, private-equity and other Wall Street investors."

Meanwhile, the [New York Times](#) (11/3, Rappeport) reports the commercial real estate industry "appears to have emerged from the Republican tax rewrite relatively unscathed." The Times says that if passed, "developers like Mr. Trump, who made much of his fortune building skyscrapers, hotels and resorts, will have little to worry about."

Tax Foundation Analysis Finds New Tax Cuts Do Not Fully Pay For Themselves. [Bloomberg News](#) (11/3, Wasson) reports that according to the Tax Foundation, "the House tax plan does not pay for itself through growth, and more income benefits flow to the top 1 percent than to other groups in its first year." The study found "the bill would lower federal revenue by \$1.98 trillion over 10 years – before accounting for any economic growth it would produce. ... But accounting for growth would trim that 10-year revenue loss to \$989 billion." The Tax Foundation also determined "over the long run, the bill's changes would lead to a 3.9 percent higher gross domestic product, would create 975,000 full-time equivalent jobs and would lead to wages that are 3.1 percent higher."

WSJournal A1: GOP Tax Bill Places Importance On Path To Wealth, Not Sum Of Riches. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/3, A1, Rubin) in a front-page article outlines how the House Republican tax bill will benefit employers rather than individuals. Rep. Chris Collins acknowledged this disparity, saying, "If you earn your income as a doctor, a lawyer, an architect, you're not getting anything. ... But you're not supposed to get anything – that's how you earn your income. It wasn't intended to lower the tax rate for a doctor, a lawyer or an architect. It was intended to lower the rate for manufacturing companies making widgets and employing other people."

Poll: Majority Of Americans Opposing New Tax Reform Bill. [ABC News](#) (11/3, De Jong) reports a new ABC News/Washington Post poll of 1,005 "adults" (10/29-11/1) found "Americans oppose Donald Trump's emerging tax plan by broad a 17-point margin, with 60 percent saying it favors the wealthy – including six in 10 of the wealthy themselves." In addition, 50 percent "oppose the plan, up 6 percentage points from September; 33 percent support it, up 5 points. The rest, 17 percent, are undecided." According to ABC News, "criticism of the plan goes hand-in-hand with negative views of Trump's efforts to improve the federal tax system overall: 56 percent rate him negatively on this issue, versus 34 percent positively."

WPost: GOP Tax Plan Should Phase Out If Government Doesn't Meet Revenue Targets. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/3) calls on Republicans to prove that their tax plan will pay for itself by modifying their legislation to phase in cuts "only so long as the federal government meets revenue targets." The piece details how this can be accomplished, concluding that "if Republicans refuse to add this essential safeguard to their tax plan, it would be strong evidence they do not believe the story they are telling Americans about self-financing tax cuts."

WSJournal: Trump Tax Plan Hides Additional Taxes On High Earners. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/3) criticizes the GOP tax plan for having a hidden 45.6 percent marginal tax rate for some high earners. The Journal explains that the plan's 12 percent rate phases out for people making over \$1 million, and warns that it will hurt job creation by levying additional taxes on the most powerful engine for economic growth.

Milbank: GOP Tax Cuts Only Benefit The Wealthy. Dana Milbank writes in his [Washington Post](#) (11/3, Milbank) column that the GOP tax plan "makes the rich richer and shifts the burden onto the working class." Milbank goes on to criticize ads promoting the plan, adding that the wealthiest taxpayers would get "about \$1,100 for every dollar" the average American gets in cuts.

Ryan: GOP Weighing Repeal Of ACA Mandate As Part Of Tax Reform.

The [AP](#) (11/5, Freking) reports Speaker Ryan said yesterday “Republicans are discussing whether their tax plan should include a repeal of the Obama health law’s requirement that people have insurance coverage or face a penalty, a step pushed by President Donald Trump but seen by some GOP lawmakers as possibly imperiling a much-needed legislative victory.” The AP adds that such a move “would be another shot at further undermining the Affordable Care Act after repeated failures by the GOP-led Congress to repeal and replace the law.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/5, O’Keefe) notes that appearing on “Fox News Sunday,” Ryan “said that repealing the individual mandate is ‘one of the things that’s being discussed,’” and added, “We’re listening to our members about what we can do to add to this bill to make it even better.”

Ryan also told [Fox News Sunday](#) (11/5, Wallace) that tax reform “will help get our economy growing and reach its potential,” and pledged to “clean out the special interest loopholes in the tax bill and let people keep their money in the first place.”

WSJournal Endorses Idea. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/5) endorses including a repeal of ACA mandates in the GOP’s tax reform bill, noting a CBO study that found doing so would lead to \$275 billion in savings for the government. To the Journal, eliminating the mandates is not just a fiscally wise approach to funding tax reform, but also a good political move.

Labor Department: US Added 261,000 Jobs In October.

The [New York Times](#) (11/3, Casselman) reports the Labor Department on Friday revealed “the hurricane-battered job market surged back to life in October” with the addition of 261,000 jobs, “the most in more than a year.” According to the Times, the effect of hurricanes in Florida and Texas was most visible “in the weather-dependent leisure and hospitality sector, which lost 102,000 jobs in September, then gained them all back and more – 106,000 jobs – in October.” The Times adds that “the hurricanes’ damage to the labor market also was not quite as bad as initially believed,” as the Labor Department “revised its estimate of September payrolls from a decline of 33,000 – the first net loss in jobs in seven years – to an 18,000-job gain. With the revision, the economy has now added jobs for 85 straight months, a record.”

However, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/3, A1, Torry) in a front-page article warns the good economic news could challenge the Federal Reserve’s plans to raise short-term interest rates in December. In another article, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/3, Harrison) examines how the economy’s continued strong performance may challenge the upcoming tenure of President Trump’s nominee for Fed chairman, Jerome Powell.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/3, story 8, 0:15, Mason) and [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/3, story 9, 0:25, Holt) provided similar coverage.

WSJournal A1: Companies Selling More, Increase Spending As Economy Improving. In a front-page article, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/3, A1, Francis) reports that as the economy improves, large US companies are recording strong sales and healthy profits, which are allowing them to spend more on investments.

NYTimes: Trump Should Have Kept Yellen At The Fed. In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (11/3) praises President Trump’s choice of Jerome Powell to lead the Federal Reserve, calling him a “levelheaded and competent person” and a “far better choice than other candidates Mr. Trump was said to be considering.” However, the Times argues that Trump “would have made a much better decision had he offered Ms. Yellen a second term,” noting that she “has done a terrific job” at the Fed.

White House Approves The Release Of Report Blaming Humans For Climate Change.

In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (11/3, A1, Mooney, Eilperin, Dennis) reports the Administration “released a dire scientific report Friday calling human activity the dominant driver of global warming, a conclusion at odds with White House decisions to withdraw from a key international climate accord, champion fossil fuels and reverse Obama-era climate policies.” The Post adds that “to the surprise of some scientists, the White House did not seek to prevent the release of the government’s National Climate Assessment, which is mandated by law.” According to the Post, “the report affirms that climate change is driven almost entirely by human action, warns of a worst-case scenario where seas could rise as high as eight feet by the year 2100, and details climate-related damage across the United States that is already unfolding as a result of an average global temperature increase of 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit since 1900.”

A [New York Times](#) (11/3, A1, Friedman, Thrush) front-page article says that “while there were pockets of resistance to the report in the Trump administration, according to climate scientists involved in drafting the report, there was little appetite for a knockdown fight over

climate change among Mr. Trump's top advisers, who are intensely focused on passing a tax reform bill – an effort they think could determine the fate of his presidency." However, the Times concedes "the White House put out a statement Friday that seemed to undercut the high level of confidence of the report's findings." The Times adds that while Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Pruitt and Energy Secretary Perry are skeptics, National Economic Council Director Cohn was responsible for approving the report and he "generally believes in the validity of climate science and thought the issue would have been a distraction from the tax push, according to an administration official with knowledge of the situation." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/3, Hernandez) says 13 federal agencies were responsible for producing the report.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/3, story 9, 0:15, Muir) and [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/3, story 7, 0:20, Holt) provided similar coverage in brief reports.

New Climate Change Report Unlikely To Impact Policy. The [New York Times](#) (11/4, Plumer) reports the Trump Administration "on Friday published a report on climate change from its own scientists that left no doubt about its grim reality and its causes." However, there is "little reason to think that yet another scientific report will fundamentally shift attitudes on global warming — either among policymakers or the public at large." White House aides "said that President Trump, who spent much of Friday in the air on his way to meetings in Asia, was barely aware of the report's existence."

US Delegates Not Expected To Play Key Role In Global Climate Talks.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/3, Dennis, Mooney) reports delegates from more than 190 countries will convene in Bonn, Germany on Monday for the annual international climate talks. The US delegation "finds itself largely on the sidelines," and other nations have, according to the Post, seemingly reacted to President Trump's decision to withdraw the US from the Paris climate accord "with a collective shrug." Former State Department Deputy Legal Adviser Sue Biniaz confirmed the US will send "a State Department-led delegation with a career diplomat in charge, and that seems to send a signal that they're not going to Bonn to throw bombs or anything." Still, former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee, Oregon Gov. Kate Brown, and California Gov. Jerry Brown will join a collection of other elected officials, philanthropists, and business leaders in an attempt "to step into the gap."

At Least 25 Killed In Texas Church Mass Shooting.

The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (11/5, Bradshaw, Downs) reports "at least 25 people were killed at the First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs Sunday morning" after "a man walked into the church...and opened fire." Moreover, "between 15-20 people were wounded." The [AP](#) (11/5, Vertuno) says "federal law enforcement swarmed the small community 30 miles southeast of San Antonio after the attack to offer assistance, including ATF investigators and members of the FBI's evidence collection team." All three network newscasts led with the story. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/5, lead story, 3:00, Llamas) remarked on "an entire town in shock as they learn the devastating news" of "this massacre, now the deadliest church shooting in America, and the fourth deadliest in modern history, behind Las Vegas, Orlando, and Virginia Tech." [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/5, lead story, 2:15, Snow) also referred to "the nation's worst mass shooting at a house of worship."

"Two law enforcement officials" tell the [Washington Post](#) (11/5, Holley, Phillips, Lowery) that "the suspect has been identified as Devin Kelley, 26, a Texas man who lived in a nearby county. Those officials did not see any immediate sign that he was motivated by international terror groups, but they cautioned the investigation is still in its early stages." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/5, story 2, 1:15, Thomas) said Kelley is "a military veteran," and the [CBS Weekend News](#) (11/5, lead story, 2:30, Quijano) that he "served four years in the Air Force before receiving a dishonorable discharge in 2014." He "fled in a vehicle after the attack," and "later died after his vehicle was run off the road."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/5) says "Kelley, who served in logistics readiness at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico starting in 2010, was court-martialed in 2012 for two counts alleging assault on his spouse and assault on their child, Ann Stefanek." Kelley "was convicted and sentenced to 12 months in custody" in addition to his "bad conduct discharge." [USA Today](#) (11/5, Toppo) runs a similar story.

[Reuters](#) (11/5, Garza) refers to "the latest in a rash of mass shootings that have plagued the United States in recent years, stirring a national debate over whether easy access to firearms was contributing to the trend." President Trump "said he was monitoring the situation while in Japan on a 12-day Asian trip," [tweeting](#), "May God be w/ the people of Sutherland Springs,

Texas. The FBI & law enforcement are on the scene.” [CNN](#) (11/5, Diamond) reports that in his first public comments about the shooting, Trump called it “an ‘act of evil’” and “horrific,” adding, “We cannot put into words the pain and grief we all feel and we cannot begin to imagine the suffering of those who lost the ones they love.”

[USA Today](#) (11/5, Bacon) reports Sen. Ted Cruz also took to [Twitter](#), where he wrote, “Keeping all harmed in Sutherland Springs in our prayers and grateful for our brave first responders on the scene.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/5, Holley, Phillips, Lowery) notes Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said in a statement, “The thoughts and prayers of all Texans are with the people of Sutherland Springs as tragic reports come out of First Baptist Church. My office stands ready to assist local law enforcement as needed.”

[Politico](#) (11/5, Griffiths), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/5, Pearce), [Washington Times](#) (11/5, Richardson), [New York Times](#) (11/5, Mele) and [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/5, Korn), among other news outlets, run similar stories on the shooting. [The Hill](#) (11/5, Beavers), meanwhile, reports “Democrats are renewing their calls for gun reform.” Sens. Bob Casey, Dick Durbin and Kamala Harris “were among the Democrats who urged Congress to act in response to the latest deadly shooting.”

Under the headline “Obama Uses Texas Church Massacre To Call For Fewer Guns,” meanwhile, the [Daily Caller](#) (11/5, Hasson) reports the former president said on [Twitter](#) “that Americans should ask God for ‘the wisdom to ask what concrete steps we can take to reduce the violence and weaponry in our midst.’”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“In Asia, Mr. Trump Is Met By Doubt.” The [New York Times](#) (11/5) editorializes, “As President Trump undertakes his first official trip to Asia, American leadership and credibility are in doubt. Leaders in the region worry that his inflammatory statements and impulsiveness could lead to war with North Korea. And there is a serious debate in many Asian countries about whether the future lies in closer partnerships with China, the ascendant power,” or with the US. Trump “arrives in Asia as a wounded leader, with low ratings at home and a stalled legislative agenda, and dogged by revelations of Russian interference” in the 2016 election. Asian nations “want and need America to serve as a democratic counterweight to China.” Trump’s trip “will reveal whether he can rise to this challenge.”

“Willie Horton, Updated For The Trump Era.” The [New York Times](#) (11/5) editorializes that a recent mailer sent out by the campaign of Jack Martins, “the Republican candidate for Nassau County executive,” is “an amalgam of McCarthyism and the notorious Willie Horton ad” because of its attempt to appeal to fear through a race-based message and its misleading ploy to link Laura Curran, the Democratic candidate, to illegal immigration and MS-13. The mailer in question features images of Latino men with tattoos, the headline “Meet Your New Neighbors!,” and the accusation that Curran is supported by groups who “want to make Nassau County a sanctuary county for illegal immigrants.” The Times declines to specifically endorse Curran, but it concludes that Long Island residents might “ask themselves if they want to be represented by someone who stands proudly, as Mr. Martins does, behind so scurrilous a campaign tactic.”

“New Yorkers Can Make Crooked Politicians Pay.” The [New York Times](#) (11/5) editorializes that New Yorkers voting on Tuesday “should approve Proposals 2 and 3.” Proposal 2 proposes to “direct Albany to give judges authority to reduce or revoke the pension of a politician who commits a crime in office,” while Proposal 3 proposes to “give communities in the Adirondacks and Catskills more flexibility to make vital repairs to roads or bridges and to add services like bike lanes or utility lines.”

Washington Post.

“Should DC Build A New Hospital? Officials Should Be Cautious.” A [Washington Post](#) (11/5) editorial.

“A Case On Imported Solar Cells Will Put Trump’s Promise On ‘America First’ To The Test.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/5) says in an editorial that if President Trump supports the request for solar panel tariffs sought by US manufacturers SolarWorld Americas and Suniva and SolarWorld Americas, that would “contradict his avowed motive – to support middle-class US jobs,” since according to the Solar Energy Industries Association, the resulting cost increase “would threaten thousands of jobs, as well as raise prices for the increasing number of consumers who rely on

solar energy, in order to protect a fraction of the jobs such a move would risk." The Post asks, "Will Mr. Trump's effort to put 'America first' be moderated by reality – or will the president plow ahead regardless of the country's real interests?"

"Satellite Photographs Reveal North Korea's Crimes Against Humanity." The [Washington Post](#) (11/5) editorializes that "satellite photography has become an invaluable tool in the cause of human rights," as "David Hawk and Amanda Mortwedt Oh of the Committee for Human Rights in North Korea used it to prepare a report providing unsettling details about a parallel set of prison camps in North Korea that exist along with the political camps exposed earlier." Adds the Post, "The Nazi concentration camps shocked the world. If such a horror is discovered today, shouldn't it prompt a response? Mr. Hawk has laid out the evidence of atrocity."

Wall Street Journal.

"Tax Rate Cleanup In Aisle Two." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/5) says in an editorial that Republicans are defending a proposed tax rate of 45.6% that would apply to tax-filing couples earning between \$1.2 million and \$1.6 million. The Journal says this rate, which should be eliminated, is basically hidden in the House tax plan, and is reached by adding a surcharge to the 39.6% rate.

"Tax Reform And ObamaCare." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/5) endorses including a repeal of ACA mandates in the GOP's tax reform bill, noting a CBO study that found doing so would lead to \$275 billion in savings for the government. To the Journal, eliminating the mandates is not just fiscally wise approach to funding tax reform, but also a good political move.

"The Stealth-Tax Republicans." According to a [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/5, Board) editorial, the arrests in Saudi Arabia reflect the competition for regional influence between the Saudis and Iran, who are said to be looking to generate instability throughout the Middle East in the aftermath's of the ISIS defeat in Iraq and Syria.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[At Least 26 Dead In South Texas Church Shooting](#)
[Broad Crackdown Reins In Saudi Elite](#)
[New York Fed President Dudley To Announce Early Retirement](#)
[Amazon Snips Prices On Other Sellers' Items Ahead Of Holiday Onslaught](#)

New York Times:

[Texas Church Shooting Leaves At Least 26 Dead, Officials Say](#)
[Commerce Secretary's Offshore Ties To Putin 'Cronies'](#)
[Kremlin Cash Behind Billionaire's Twitter And Facebook Investments](#)
[Saudi Crown Prince's Mass Purge Upends A Longstanding System](#)
[De Blasio Kept Crime Down In First Term. His Next Goal: Nicer Police.](#)
[Tax Plan Burdens Blue-state Republicans And Their Districts](#)
[Shalane Flanagan Solves NYC Marathon For American Women](#)

Washington Post:

[Sweeping Saudi Purge Hits Rivals Of Prince](#)
[At Least 26 Dead In South Texas Church Shooting, Officials Say](#)
[9 In Trump's Orbit Had Contacts With Russians](#)
[In Search Of Trump Country](#)
['Fat Leonard' Probe Expands To Ensnare More Than 60 Admirals](#)
[Nigerien Soldier's Assertion About Tracking Militants Shifts Narrative](#)

Financial Times:

[Saudi Arabia's Young Prince Tightens Grip With Lightning Crackdown](#)
[China Launches 'Magical' Island-Building Ship On Eve Of Trump Visit](#)
[Pierre Gramegna Emerges As Early Eurogroup Frontrunner](#)

Washington Times:

[26 Dead After Gunman Opens Fire In Texas Church: State's Largest Mass Shooting](#)

[Virginia Governor Candidates Reach Out From Center In Politically Polarized State](#)
[Brazile's Revelations Further Fracture, Distract Democratic Party](#)
[Russia Dossier Investigators Suspect Reporters Were Paid To Spread Collusion Claims](#)
[House Republicans Sneak In 'Hidden Tax Increase' Each Year By Changing Cost-Of-Living Calculation](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Texas Church Shooting; Texas Church Shooting-Suspect; Texas Church Shooting-Victims; Severe Weather; Trump-Asia Tour; DNC-Hillary Rigging Accusation; Hollywood Sexual Misconduct Accusations; Mississippi-Escapee Manhunt; Sen. Rand Paul Assaulted; College Football-Officer Attacked; New York Marathon Winner; Texas Church Shooting-Recap.

CBS: Texas Church Shooting; Trump-Asia Tour; DNC-Hillary Rigging Accusation; New York City Marathon; Saudi Arabia-Princes Arrested; Hollywood Sexual Misconduct Accusations; Amazon-Pharmacy Entry; Anti-Crime Coalition; Hollywood-Mountain Lions.

NBC: Texas Church Shooting; Texas Church Shooting-Details; Trump-Asia Tour; Russia Meddling Investigation-Wilburn Ross; Russia Meddling Investigation-Flynn; Sen. Rand Paul Assaulted; Saudi Arabia-Princes Arrested; State Elections-Female Candidates; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery; Baseball World Series; New York Marathon Winner; House Buying Trend.

Network TV At A Glance:

Texas Church Shooting – 12 minutes, 35 seconds
Trump-Asia Tour – 7 minutes

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Texas Church Shooting; Trump-Asia Tour.

CBS: Texas Church Shooting; Trump-Asia Tour; Russia Meddling Investigation; Severe Weather; Wall Street News.

FOX: Texas Church Shooting; Trump-Asia Tour.

NPR: Texas Church Shooting; DNC-Hillary Rigging Accusation; Saudi Arabia-Princes Arrested.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Delivers remarks to U.S. and Japanese Business Leaders; participates in an Embassy meet and greet; participates in a welcoming ceremony and state call with Their Majesties Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko of Japan; participates in the honor guard ceremony; participates in a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Abe; participates in a meeting with families of North Korean abductees; attends a state banquet.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a series of briefings at the Defense Intelligence Agency.

US Senate: 3:00 PM Senate aims to end debate on assistant AG nominee – Senate convenes and proceeds to executive session to resume consideration of the nomination of Steven Andrew Engel to be an Assistant Attorney General, including a vote to invoke cloture on the nomination
Location: Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

US House: 12:00 PM House Ways and Means Committee marks up Tax Cuts and Jobs Act – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 1, The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act' * Released last week, the bill would reduce the number of different tax bands, increase the standard deduction, eliminate the Alternative Minimum Tax, largely eliminate the State and Local Tax Deduction, convert corporate tax into a flat rate, and increase the estate tax exemption
Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1100, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 3043 – Hydropower Policy Modernization Act of 2017' and 'H.R. 3441 – Save Local Business Act' Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

Other: 9:00 AM 'How Do You Solve a Problem Like North Korea?' Cato Institute conference – 'How Do You Solve a Problem Like North Korea?' Cato Institute conference, with panels on 'Pyongyang's Capabilities and U.S. Policy' and 'New Approaches to Solving the North Korea Problem'. Includes keynote from former New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson, with other speakers including The Nonproliferation Review Editor Joshua Pollack, New America Senior Fellow

Suzanne DiMaggio, Ploughshares Fund President Joe Cirincione, Hoover Institution Fellow in Contemporary Asia Michael Auslin, City College of New York Chair in Political Science Rajan Menon, and Cato Institute Senior Fellow Doug Bandow Location: Cato Institute, 1000 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.cato.org/> <https://twitter.com/CatoInstitute>

9:45 AM Bill Clinton among speakers at Georgetown symposium on his campaign and presidency – Georgetown Institute of Politics and Public Service 'Clinton 25: Georgetown Reflects On The Vision Of Bill Clinton' symposium continues, examining the vision that drove the campaign and presidency of President Bill Clinton, 25 years after his election. Day two agenda includes keynote from Clinton, with other speakers including former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, former Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo, former White House Chiefs of Staff Thomas McLarty, Erskine Bowles and John Podesta, former White House Deputy Chief of Staff Maria Echaveste, former Senior Advisor for Policy and Strategy Rahm Emanuel, former White House Political Director Minyon Moore, former Domestic Policy Council Director Bruce Reed, and former Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott Location: Georgetown University, 37th and O Sts NW, Washington, DC www.georgetown.edu <https://twitter.com/GUPolitics> #Clinton25

3:30 PM NASA astronaut Jack Fisher speaks at GW on live aboard the ISS – NASA astronaut Col. Jack Fisher speaks at the George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs Space Policy Institute on 'Living and Working Aboard the International Space Station', including discussing the research investigations he conducted in microgravity, 'the importance of international collaboration in space', and how space policy has evolved in his tenure as a NASA astronaut Location: George Washington University Elliott School, 1957 E St NW, Washington, DC elliott.gwu.edu <https://twitter.com/elliottschoolgw>

4:00 PM She Should Run National Conversation – She Should Run National Conversation on the evolution of elected leadership, with speakers including Democrats Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand and Reps. Brenda Lawrence, Bonnie Watson Coleman, Stephanie Murphy and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, and Washington, DC, Mayor Muriel Bowser, and State's Attorney for Baltimore Marilyn Mosby * She Should Run provides an approachable starting place and network for women leaders considering a future run for office and for those who support them Location: Studio Theatre, 1501 14th St NW, Washington, DC www.sheshouldrun.org <https://twitter.com/SheShouldRun>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Associated Press: County In Oregon Asserts Greater Role In Use of Federal Land.
- Associated Press: Environmentalists Target Methane Emissions In New Mexico.
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- New York Times: America’s Wildest Place Is Open for Business.
- Associated Press: Land Managers Drafting Plan For New Mexico’s Otero Mesa.

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- Associated Press: Florida Manatees Starting Annual Migration Earlier This Year.
- Associated Press: NY Man Pleads Guilty To Trafficking In Lion, Tiger Skulls.

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- Associated Press: Catharsis Brings Burning Man Spirit To Nation’s Capital.
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- Washington Post: Park Service Wants To Ban Sports From Washington Monument Grounds.
- Associated Press: Grand Canyon Overwhelmed With Interest in Bison Program.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- New York Times: After Irma and Maria: How 3 Spots on the U.S. Virgin Islands Are Faring.
- South Florida Sun Sentinel: After Hurricanes Strike, U.S. Virgin Islands Pitches Florida Investors To Help Rebuild.

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- Company Wants To Restart Black Diamond Coal Mine.

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- Politico: JCT: Middle Class Will See Biggest Tax Cuts Under Senate Bill.
- New York Times: Republicans Search For Analyses Showing Tax Cuts Won’t Add To Deficit.
- Bloomberg News: McConnell Concedes He Exaggerated Claims On Tax Bill.
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DOI In The News

Vice President Pence Honors Veterans By Cleaning Vietnam Memorial.

[USA Today](#) (11/11, Groppe) reported Vice President Mike Pence and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke helped clean names etched onto the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Saturday. After arriving at the memorial with his wife, Pence, wearing blue jeans and yellow gloves, "carried an orange cleaning bucket with the message "Let's Do This" to an area close to the center of the wall." USA Today quotes Zinke saying to the vice president, "You scrub and I'll dry."

[ABC News](#) (11/11) reported Pence "shook hands and posed for photos with the volunteers in subfreezing temperatures just after dawn." Pence and Zinke were also joined by James Pierce, "a National Park Service ranger who lost a leg while serving with the North Carolina Army National Guard in Afghanistan." The event was sponsored by the New Day USA, a mortgage company specializing in loans to veterans.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/11, Burr) reports Zinke said as he cleaned the monument, "Every name is a story, and there are so many names." The Tribune notes Zinke, a former Navy SEAL, is "the first Interior secretary in nearly half a century with military experience, a distinction he says he takes seriously." Zinke told an audience of Vietnam veterans at the monument Saturday afternoon, "A lot of the reason I received what I did and my generation [did] is because you did not. I think as a nation we should be ashamed at how we viewed your service, your dedication. The monument behind me, I think, is not a tribute to victory or defeat, it's a tribute to remembrance. We should never run away from our history as a country, we should learn."

The [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (11/11) reports Zinke [tweeted](#) a picture of himself and the Pences that read, "Up early with @VP Pence to wash the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall this chilly #VeteransDay." Later, Pence [tweeted](#) a picture with the caption, "Moving start to Veterans Day. Thanks to @NewDayUSA volunteers who joined @NatIParkService, @SecretaryZinke, Karen & me to clean the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Also inspiring to meet NPS ranger & veteran James Pierce. To all Veterans, we are grateful for your service & sacrifice." The Examiner notes Zinke, "a retired Navy SEAL commander and former congressman from Montana, will also have Veterans Day-related events throughout the day."

Also covering this story are [NPR](#) (11/11, Benderev) and [The Hill](#) (11/11, Bowden).

They Served Together in 2004, And Int. Sec. Zinke Used Veterans Day To Recognize Gen. Mattis. [Independent Journal Review](#) (11/11, Fink) reported Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has known Defense Secretary Gen. James Mattis "for over a decade, and his experience with the general in Fallujah, Iraq, left a lasting impression." On Saturday, Zinke [tweeted](#) a photo of himself and Mattis with the caption, "Happy #VeteransDay to General Mattis. Served in Fallujah together in 2004 and now #SecondService under @POTUS Trump."

Here's What Former SEAL Ryan Zinke Is Drinking On Veterans Day. The [Daily Caller](#) (11/9,

Pearce) reports Interior Department spokeswoman Heather Swift “confirmed” to The Daily Caller News Foundation that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke enjoyed a “Legacy Lager” from Dog Tag Brewing Foundation on Veterans Day on Friday “to honor those who have served and are still serving in the United States military.” The Dog Tag Brewing Foundation was founded in late 2015 by former marine Seth Jordan to raise money for charities selected by Gold Star families. According to the Caller, “Dog Tag donates 100 percent of its profits in the form of grants to charities picked by Gold Star families.”

Chuck Hagel Honors Vietnam Vets at D.C. Memorial: ‘You Are The Quiet Heroes Of Your Generation’.

The [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (11/11, Morton) reports former Nebraska senator and Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel gave the keynote speak to thousands of people gathered Saturday at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Hagel said, “This memorial was built for future generations, so they would learn from this war and would always remember that wars have serious and lasting consequences.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Maya Lin, the memorial’s architect, also spoke at Saturday’s event. Following the ceremony, Hagel “joined Zinke and others in presenting wreaths at the center of the memorial, while a bagpiper played ‘Amazing Grace’ on the knoll above.”

Recognizing The Pa. Veterans Who Just Donated \$40K to Vietnam War Memorial | Secretary Ryan Zinke. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke wrote in the [Philadelphia Inquirer](#) (11/9, Zinke) that “few memorials evoke as strong an emotional response as the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington.” Zinke wrote, “As the secretary of the interior, I am the steward of our lands, memorials, and monuments. It’s my job to oversee our nation’s war memorials on the National Mall, which are part of the National Park System. Caring for our Vietnam War Memorial would not be possible without the support of thousands of veterans and their families across the country.” He also recognized the Butler County (Pa.) American Legion Riders, who “drove down in buses to meet” him in Washington, where they “group hand-delivered a \$40,778.28 check for the upkeep of the Vietnam War Memorial as well as building of the future museum.” Zinke concludes, “Our nation must never forget the names on the Vietnam Wall. That is why the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, the nonprofit that built the memorial, organized the reading of every single name on the Wall from Tuesday through Friday by veterans and the families and friends of loved ones who gave their lives in Vietnam. I’m proud to have participated in the reading this year.”

‘We’re Searching To Reclaim What Was Lost’: In Museum Archives, A Tribe Urgently Seeks Proof Of Its Past.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/11, Kaplan) reported that at “Smithsonian Institution facility in Suitland, Md., three generations of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaws just spent a week painstakingly sifting through materials from their tribe’s past.” They were seeking evidence to “supplement their petition for official ‘acknowledgment’ from” the Bureau of Indian Affairs, “a decades-old effort that has gained new urgency as the state of Louisiana moves to resettle the last island residents.” Their ancestors escaped the Trail of Tears and “found refuge nearly 200 years ago on an island on Louisiana’s Gulf Coast.” However, Isle de Jean Charles is “slipping into the sea, a consequence of coastal erosion, subsidence and climate change.” Following two failed attempts, the tribe last year was “awarded a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development: \$48 million to relocate the 25 remaining families.” Tribal leaders in their HUD application “laid out an idyllic vision” consisting of “hurricane-proof houses arranged in the same pattern as the buildings on the island.” However, it is unclear “how much of that vision will become reality” because the grant is “being administered by Louisiana’s Office of Community Development, and not always according to the tribe’s preferences.”

Zinke Says Democrats Holding Interior Nominees ‘Hostage.’

The [AP](#) (11/11, Daly) reports Interior Secretary Zinke on Thursday sent a “sharply worded letter” to Senate Minority Whip Dick Durbin accusing Senate Democrats of “holding the department’s nominees ‘hostage’ to a political agenda that includes opposition to his review of presidentially designated monuments.” Zinke asserted the nominees “have nothing to do with this monument review, yet they have been forced to sit on the sidelines [for months]. As a former Navy SEAL, this is not the type of hostage situation I am accustomed to.” According to the AP, “Durbin has placed holds on four Interior nominees: Susan Combs, nominated as assistant secretary for policy, management and budget; Joseph Balash, assistant secretary for land and minerals management; Ryan Nelson, solicitor; and Brenda Burman, commissioner of the Bureau of

Reclamation, which oversees dams and water projects in 17 Western states.”

Fox News Interviews Zinke About Energy Production On Federal Lands, National Park Fee Hikes.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was interviewed Thursday evening on [Fox News @ Night](#) (11/9) about criticism he has received from environmentalists. In response to concerns about increasing energy production on Federal lands, Zinke said, “If you want to make our country not dependent on foreign oil. I am a former seal. I don’t want to see your kids, my kids go to foreign shores and fight for a commodity we have here. We are going to do it right. We are not going to sell or transfer public land, but if you believe in the concept that the best science, best practices, greater good in the longest term, then you’re with the secretary of the interior. But if you believe public land is exclusive, only for the elite few that want to look at it but i’m a public access person. I think the public land should be available to america and the public.” Zinke also called criticism of National Park fee increases “baloney,” adding, “The greatest bargain in America is \$80 for a year-long pass of our public lands. I face an \$11.5 billion backlog of our public lands and parks. Our parks are being loved to death. everyone loves our parks. As a former military, there’s two things we need fun absolutely: the military and our parks. Come on, America. if you think \$80, all year, every park, all the time, by a car load, is too much to ask, I mean, come on. It’s our parks. Those that don’t believe that we should invest in our parks. Our parks aren’t Republican or Democrat or Independent issue. It’s an American issue. America, step up. Go to our parks and enjoy them. They are treasures we need to invest in.” Later in the segment, Zinke discussed his involvement with Whitefish and said he will spend time over the weekend visiting national monuments in honor of Veterans Day.

[The Hill](#) (11/10, Cama) also reported on Zinke’s comments from the Fox News interview.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Mohegan Sun And Foxwoods Enlist Senators In Casino Fight With MGM.

The [Connecticut Post](#) (11/11, Vigdor) reported Connecticut’s US senators sent a letter to the Department of Interior urging clarification on a “a joint casino venture between the Mohegans and Mashantucket Pequot tribes planned north of Hartford complies with a gambling compact with the state.” The agency has not ruled either way on the legality of the project, “creating a degree of uncertainty for the tribal owners of Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods.” Democrats Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy, along with US Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT) wrote to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Nov. 2 “asking the agency to review and sign off on changes to the tribes’ existing compact with the state.” MGM officials, which oppose the tribal casino because it would challenge an MGM resort set to open next year in Springfield, Mass., “say that the absence of a formal approval by the Interior Department, the parent agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, constitutes a denial.”

The [Connecticut Mirror](#) (11/9, Radelat) reported that Connecticut sought Interior Department “approval of amendments that said the new casino would not violate an exclusivity clause in the years-old compact the tribes have with Connecticut that allowed them to open the Foxwoods Resort Casino and Mohegan Sun.” The compact states the tribes “agreed to share 25 percent of their slot revenue with the state, but that arrangement would only hold if no new casinos were opened in Connecticut.” During an Oct. 26 meeting with tribal representatives, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “asked the Connecticut tribes to submit information on why his agency would have to weigh in on a commercial casino – that is one that is not built on tribal land nor on land taken by the federal government in trust and therefore subject to the Indian Gaming Regulation Act.” Attorneys for the Mashantucket Pequot and the Mohegan tribes have responded to Zinke’s request for additional information, “insisting the secretary weigh in on the amendment, even though Zinke told them he is concerned doing so would ‘indirectly facilitate the operation of a commercial casino gaming facility.’”

How The Opioid Crisis Is Affecting Native Americans.

[NPR](#) (11/11) interviewed Dr. Ron Shaw, president of the Association of American Indian Physicians, about how the opioid crisis is affecting Native Americans. According to a report from the Centers for Disease Control, “the death rate of Native Americans from opioid overdoses was the highest of any racial demographic. Some 8.4 per 100,000 Native Americans died of opioid overdoses in 2014.” Shaw explained that “many Native American populations suffer from what is

known as historical and intergenerational trauma," which has "been shown to be associated with increased rates of depression, drug use and drug addiction." Shaw advocates for getting native leaders to "testify before Congress, including the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, and try to put the native-specific issues before our legislators."

'Poor' Communication Between Blackfeet, BIA Puts Range Rider Program On Edge.

The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (11/11, Franz) reported the Blackfeet Tribe has received "mixed signals" from the Bureau of Indian Affairs regarding the future of a conservation program on the reservation east of the mountains. BIA notified the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council in early October "that the range rider program would be terminated." The program, which costs about \$140,000 annually, is managed by the BIA "and funded by a fee paid by local cattle producers." In response, Blackfeet Tribal Chairman Harry Barnes sent a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke noting that "under federal law, the BIA has to consult with the tribe before making any decision that directly impacts jobs on the reservation." The BIA has since "changed course and decided to make 'tweaks' to the program instead of terminating it." Interior spokesperson Heather Swift said the mix-up was due to "poor" communication between the BIA and the tribe.

Bureau Of Land Management

US Sage Grouse Policy Heading Back To Square One.

The [AP](#) (11/11, Sonner) reports federal scientists and land managers who have been working on strategies to protect the greater sage grouse's habitat in the American West "for nearly two decades are going back to the drawing board under a new Trump administration edict to reassess existing plans condemned by ranchers, miners and energy developers." The AP adds that federal officials are finishing a "series of public meetings with three sessions starting Tuesday in Utah ahead of a Nov. 27 cutoff for comment on Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's order last month to consider revisions to land management amendments for the greater sage grouse that were adopted under the Obama administration." Zinke has said "he wants to make sure the amendments don't harm local economies in 11 western states and allow the states to have maximum control over the efforts within their borders." However, conservationists claim the move is "a thinly veiled attempt to allow more livestock grazing and drilling, similar to Trump's efforts to roll back national monument designations, but on a much larger scale."

County In Oregon Asserts Greater Role In Use of Federal Land.

The [AP](#) (11/9, Selsky) reported the three-member Crook County Court governing body approved a provision after a public meeting Wednesday to "take some control over federal lands that cover half of the high desert, mountains and forests within its borders." Crook County Court previously "considered the policy more than a year ago — before elections shifted the political landscape." However, Federal Bureau of Land Management district head Carol Benkosky had warned passing the measure "would create an adversarial relationship with federal agencies." The policy states that "timber harvest, ranching, farming, and mining are the lifeblood of Crook County's economy" and that "humans are entitled to an equal opportunity to use federal and private lands for both recreation and economic growth." County Commissioner Jerry Brummer "said after the meeting that he believes the Trump administration will be receptive to the county's attempt to assert its authority in helping manage federal lands."

Environmentalists Target Methane Emissions In New Mexico.

The [AP](#) (11/9, Bryan) reported representatives with the nonprofit Environmental Defense Fund released a report Thursday that shows "methane emissions from oil and natural gas production in New Mexico are higher than what state and federal regulators have measured and the failure to capture the pollution is costing the state revenues and royalties." The state's producers are "emitting 570,000 tons of methane annually, amounting to more than \$27 million in lost tax revenues and royalties that could otherwise be used for government programs and services, according to the report." Jon Goldstein, director of regulatory and legislative affairs for the Environmental Defense Fund, said the report emphasizes "that methane is a big problem for the state but it's an even larger opportunity. I like to think of it as a multi-hundred-million-dollar piece of low-hanging fruit in a time of tight state budgets."

Settlement Reached In Lawsuit Against Bureau of Land Management.

The [AP](#) (11/9, Warren) reported a federal judge on Wednesday “approved the terms that settle a long-running dispute involving the Bureau of Land Management and property owners along the Red River.” The BLM argued the river “has shifted as much as 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) in some areas over the past century, and some of the dry land where the river once flowed belonged to the government, not residents who claimed ownership.” The landowners’ lawyer, Robert Henneke, said BLM’s claims “amounted to an unlawful federal land grab.” Henneke explained the settlement “contains three provisions, including the one dictating that the river, wherever it may flow now and in decades to come, constitutes the boundary. Federal officials will dismiss the land surveys that were previously done, Henneke said, and the BLM will issue a disclaimer on maps the agency previously released showing federal boundaries that extended into Texas.”

America’s Wildest Place Is Open for Business.

The [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (11/10, Solomon) carried an interactive piece Sunday highlighting the geography and wildlife found in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, “the single largest parcel of public land in the United States”. The article says the push by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to open up more of the area to drilling “seems all the more hawkish given that drilling has scarcely begun on existing leases in the reserve.”

Land Managers Drafting Plan For New Mexico’s Otero Mesa.

The [AP](#) (11/10) reported the Bureau of Land Management is drafting a resource management plan for southern New Mexico’s Otero Mesa, with a goal of having it ready for public comment next spring. BLM officials said oil and gas development on the mesa could lead to the construction of 350 new miles of road over the next two years. BLM “believes development will also bring jobs and income within those industries to Otero County.” Southwest Environmental Center director Kevin Bixby “said he worries the mesa would be irrevocably spoiled if industrial uses such as oil and gas drilling or mining were allowed.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Carolinas Prepping For Offshore Wind With Hi-Res Wildlife Surveys.

[North American Windpower](#) (11/9, Lillian) reported UK-based APEM said it is “carrying out high-resolution aerial surveys of wildlife off the coasts of North and South Carolina” on behalf of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. Surveys of the Carolinas “will gather data on birds, marine mammals, sharks, fish, turtles and other marine species in an area of almost 10,000 square nautical miles, says APEM.” According to APEM, the “surveys will provide baseline data to help with the process of siting and permitting future offshore wind developments.”

[Windpower Engineering & Development](#) (11/9, Froese) reported that BOEM has, to date, “held one lease sale off the coast of North Carolina, awarding a 122,405 acre lease off Kitty Hawk, NC to Avangrid. BOEM is continuing to evaluate other potential lease areas off the Carolinas and data from this study will assist with that process.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

Federal Vacancies Would Impede Recovery From Next Drought, Natural Resources Secretary Says.

The [Santa Cruz \(CA\) Sentinel](#) (11/11, Todd) reported California Secretary for Natural Resources John Laird said after the Democratic Women’s Club of Santa Cruz County meeting Saturday that the state would be in danger if another drought occurs because federal support remains uncertain. The Trump Administration has yet to fill “high-level vacancies for a slate of federal departments,” including the Bureau of Reclamation, which still lacks a commissioner. During the previous drought, “five agencies — two state departments and three federal departments — were in control of California’s water supply, Laird said.” Negotiations between state and federal agencies were vital “in providing timely relief, Laird said. Under the Obama administration, federal support was outlined within 24 hours.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Alaska Lawmaker Sees Financial Boon in Refuge Drilling.

The [AP](#) (11/10, Daly) reported Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R) has proposed legislation opening Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling, which "would generate \$2 billion in royalties over the next decade — with half the money going to her home state." Murkowski, chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, will hold a hearing on the bill next week. In particular, the bill "calls for at least two major lease sales over the next decade in areas encompassing at least 400,000 acres each in the refuge's coastal plain," with surface development limited to 2,000 acres." Murkowski said the bill "represents "a tremendous opportunity for both Alaska and our country." However, environmental groups and other critics have called Murkowski's "projections wildly optimistic, noting that recent sales on Alaska's North Slope have fallen short of projected revenue."

[Newsweek](#) (11/10, Pereira) reports ANWR, "has long been on the radar for energy. It was established in 1960, and by 1980, per the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, the 1002 area, the coastal plain where Murkowski wants to drill, was designated as 'non-wilderness' because of its oil and gas potential." Murkowski's bill "requires Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to approve two lease sales of at least 400,000 acres and allows for 2,000 acres to be developed specifically for wells and support facilities."

Florida Manatees Starting Annual Migration Earlier This Year.

The [AP](#) (11/11, Gillis) reported manatees this month "seem to be starting their annual migration a little early." A cold front last week caused coastal water temperatures to decrease to 70 degrees, about the "point at which these tropical marine mammals move inland in search of warmer confines." Carol Knox, with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, explained, "Manatees this time of year are searching for warmer waters to help them survive winter's cold, which they generally find in freshwater springs and the outflow of power plants." Manatees are expected to "trickle into the Orange River and FPL canal between now and January, typically the coldest month of the year." According to the AP, manatees "were reclassified from endangered to threatened by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service earlier this year, but the animals are still protected by state and federal laws."

NY Man Pleads Guilty To Trafficking In Lion, Tiger Skulls.

The [AP](#) (11/10) reported a New York City Man pleaded guilty in Federal court "to illegally trafficking in parts from endangered African lions and tigers worth more than \$150,000." Federal prosecutors claim the 41-year-old Queens man "admitted to purchasing a tiger skull from undercover agents working for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He also admitted to purchasing lion skulls from an auction house in Texas." Prosecutors said he shipped the skulls to his New York City home, where he sent endangered animal parts to a wholesale buyer in Thailand.

National Park Service

Catharsis Brings Burning Man Spirit To Nation's Capital.

The [AP](#) (11/10, Khalil) reported on Catharsis on the Mall, a three-day event "that seeks to bring a small slice of the famed Burning Man festival to the foot of the Washington Monument." The event began Friday afternoon and continued "the-clock through Sunday with seminars, events and performances in tents, stages and camps." A "massive" metal dragon "will roll through the streets around the Capitol during a protest march at dawn Sunday. On Saturday night, a small wooden temple will be set ablaze under the close eye of fire marshals." The AP said "R-Evolution, a 47-foot-high sculpture of a nude woman in a yoga pose that was featured at this year's Burning Man," would not be at the festival after the Interior Department reversed course on permission that was initially given by the National Park Service.

You Can Go To Any National Park For Free This Weekend.

[Money](#) (11/9, Calfas) reported all parks in the National Park system were free to visitors over the "weekend in honor of Veterans Day — the last time the National Park Service will offer this kind of deal this year." This means all "parks with an entrance fee will not charge visitors on Nov. 11 and Nov. 12. While not all national parks incur a cost, many of the most popular sites, including Yellowstone, the Grand Canyon and Yosemite, among others, do." Money added that the free weekend "comes just two weeks before the deadline for National Park goers to submit their thoughts on a proposed price increase for 17 parks during their most popular season of the year."

Ecological Research Tower to Be Built at Yellowstone Park.

The [AP](#) (11/9) reported a 59-foot tower is being built on the Blacktail Deer Plateau in Yellowstone National Park “as part of a new ecological research and monitoring site.” The tower “will be built and funded by a National Science Foundation project aimed at studying the causes and effects of environmental change.” Construction is projected to begin later this year, and “park officials have decided the tower won’t significantly harm the environment.”

Memphis Grad Traveling To All National Park Service Sites.

The [AP](#) (11/11) reports on University of Memphis graduate Mikah Meyer’s plan to travel 100,000 miles “in a converted cargo van over a three-year period, taking in all 417 sites in the National Park Service system.” Meyer’s journey across the US “began during his freshman year when his 58-year-old father died from cancer” and he took a road trip to “kind of heal.” His adventure began April 29, 2016, and 18 months later, “he’d traveled to nearly 250 sites.” When Meyer completes his journey in April 2019, “he’ll be the youngest person to experience every park, and the only one to complete the tour in one continuous trip.”

Pa. Woman Wants To See All 59 National Parks Before Going Blind.

The [AP](#) (11/11, Negley) reports on Laura Griffith’s goal to see each of the national parks before she goes blind due to retinitis pigmentosa, a degeneration of the eye’s rods and cones. In the past two years, Griffith and her husband “have explored nearly 40 national parks. They have about 20 parks left in their quest to see nature’s majesty from coast to coast.” “I think my favorite visual sight was Crater Lake,” Laura Griffith said. “Which was an immense, spectacular blue lake, big enough even for me to see enough pieces of it to get a vision of this giant lake.”

Park Service Wants To Ban Sports From Washington Monument Grounds.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/9, Ruane) reported the National Park Service said Thursday “that it wants to permanently close the grounds of the Washington Monument to recreational activities and increase reservation fees for use of its 28 athletic fields on the Mall and in Rock Creek Park.” NPS spokesman Mike Litterst said in an email that the Washington Monument ground “were closed earlier this year for turf restoration, and the Park Service wants that closure to continue after the project is finished this year.” The proposal would also increase reservation rate fees to “\$70 per two-hour block — \$30 an hour plus a \$10 administrative fee,” and “permitting will shift from the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation to the National Park Service, the owner of the fields, Litterst said.”

Also reporting on this story are the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (11/11, Blake), [WJLA-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (11/10, Tschida), [WTTG-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (11/10, Logan) and [WTOP-FM Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (11/10, Augenstein).

Grand Canyon Overwhelmed With Interest in Bison Program.

The [AP](#) (11/10) reported Grand Canyon National Park said it has been “overwhelmed by the amount of interest in a program to thin a herd of bison using volunteer shooters.” Last month, the National Park Service approved a plan “to decrease the herd through roundups and by seeking volunteers who are physically fit and proficient with a gun to kill the animals.” Grand Canyon spokeswoman Kirby-Lynn Shedlowski said “she initially received dozens of calls a day from people across the country wanting to volunteer.” Callers are now “directed to a recorded line and asked to check back periodically.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

After Irma and Maria: How 3 Spots on the U.S. Virgin Islands Are Faring.

“Hurricanes Irma and Maria both hit the United States Virgin Islands in September as rare Category 5 storms, but the devastation there has been largely overshadowed by the damage and death this year’s hurricane season left behind in Florida, Texas, Puerto Rico and the Caribbean nations,” the [New York Times](#) (11/10, Pérez-Peña) reports, and Virgin Islands Gov. Kenneth Mapp on Thursday announced “he would go to Washington next week to request \$7 billion in aid.” According to the Times, “in a territory with just 103,000 residents, more than 33,000 individuals and families have applied for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and government agencies reported on Thursday that 73 percent of customers still had no power.” The Times returns to three different locations in the US Virgin Islands “photographed not long after

the storms" to see how the recovery effort is progressing.

After Hurricanes Strike, U.S. Virgin Islands Pitches Florida Investors To Help Rebuild.

The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (11/12, Lyons) reported economic development specialists from the U.S. Virgin Islands "used the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show as a platform to pitch professional service firms and light manufacturers that might want to locate in St. Thomas, St. Croix or St. John." Gov. Kenneth Mapp is expected to ask Congress for \$7 billion in aid, and the Interior Department recently "advanced the islands nearly \$225 million in federal excise tax revenue from rum shipments to the U.S. mainland." However, the Virgin Islands Economic Development Authority "knows it must think for the long term." Wayne Biggs Jr., the authority's acting chief executive officer and Andrew Clutz, a marketing consultant, said in an interview with the Sun Sentinel that "the USVI offers generous job-related tax incentives such as 90 percent reductions in corporate and personal income tax, 100 percent exemptions on excise, property and gross receipts taxes and property taxes of nearly 75 cents per \$1,000 or assessed value."

Office Of Surface Mining

Frustration Sets In After Coal Mine Health Study Suspended.

The [AP](#) (11/12, Virtanen) reports some Appalachia residents expressed frustration that a new federal study that was supposed to provide the most comprehensive review of surface mining's impact on health was suspended by the Trump Administration three months ago, citing budget reasons. The goal of the canceled "study — by National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine — was a consensus from experts in various fields on potential short- and long-term health effects, focused on West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee." Even though the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement said the cancellation was due to budget reasons, an academies spokesman "said the mining study was the only project stopped, with the group having five others underway." The AP says the suspension "feeds the mistrust they've long harbored for politicians who routinely side with businesses." Former coal miner resident Chuck Nelson said if the study "comes out negative against the coal industry, it's swept under the rug, and the funding's stopped by these politicians who cater to the coal industry."

Company Wants To Restart Black Diamond Coal Mine.

The [Tacoma \(WA\) News Tribune](#) (11/11, Mapes) reported Pacific Coast Coal Co. wants to start mining an old King County coal mine, the John Henry mine, once again. Washington, along with Tennessee, are one of two states that delegates regulation of mining to the federal government, but the "project nonetheless has raised local ire about the greenhouse-gas emissions created by burning the coal, as well as water pollution and noise." King County Executive Dow Constantine "has vowed to work with state agencies and Washington's congressional delegation, as well as the courts if need be, to stop the project." David Morris, general manager of Pacific Coast Coal, said because "there still are rich seams of coal underground" there, it "makes sense to mine them as the company proceeds with its reclamation work at the site." The county and state "have demanded more comprehensive analysis of the projects and its impacts." Chris Holmes, public-affairs officer with the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement in Washington, DC, "said those and other comments are presently under review."

Opinion Pieces

The GOP Tries To Trade Polar Bears For Tax Cuts.

[Washington Post](#) (11/10, Parker) columnist Kathleen Parker wrote that as "momentum builds" for former Alabama Supreme Court chief justice Roy Moore's departure from the Alabama Senate race, "Republicans desperate to pass something before year's end have been trying to pull elephants out of hats." As such, they have "turned from draining the swamp to thawing the Arctic to scrounge up more money. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska) has introduced a bill that would open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling." Parker lamented that Murkowski, "usually the more rational member of Alaska's Senate duo, seems to have fallen under the spell of the greedy brotherhood." Indeed, Parker is saddened that a "few Republicans would sacrifice even a square inch of the Arctic unnecessarily for the profit of a political victory."

COMMENTARY: Trump Administration Shouldn't Undermine Sage-Grouse Compromise.

Robert Gaudet, president of the Nevada Wildlife Federation, writes in a piece for the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (11/11, Gaudet) that the sagebrush lands “that are essential to sage-grouse are also essential to mule deer, elk, pronghorn and a lot of other wildlife that Nevadans care about.” Despite years of progress by the Bureau of Land Management and the US Forest Service to develop plans aimed at saving sage-grouse, the Interior Department is now “looking at weakening or eliminating safeguards in important sage-grouse habitats, areas considered key to maintaining the bird’s population.” Gaudet says Secretary Ryan Zinke “sent a defining message in June” when ordering the review “in light of his order targeting perceived burdens on energy development.” However, Gaudet asserts “the sage-grouse plans don’t shut down energy development,” citing a recent report by Backcountry Hunters & Anglers that says “79 percent of the areas with medium or high potential for energy development fall outside grouse habitat.”

Rapid Increase In Park Fees Will Keep Visitors Out.

Stephanie Adams, Yellowstone program manager for National Parks Conservation Association, wrote in a piece for the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (11/11, Adams) that a proposal by Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and the Trump Administration “to more than double entrance fees at” 17 national parks during their peak visitation seasons “has been largely – and justifiably – met with outrage by park communities and Americans from across the country.” Even though the “reasoning provided is the fee increase is needed to tackle the Park Service’s \$11.3 billion in repair backlog,” Adams said the Interior Department “estimates these increased fees would raise about \$70 million — an amount that would cover a mere 2 percent of the maintenance backlog at the 17 parks proposed for entrance fee increases.” Adams concluded, “Instead of putting the backlog on the shoulders of parks visitors, the administration and Congress should support the National Park Service Legacy Act.”

Additional Reading.

- *An Ounce Of Prevention Worth A Pound Of Cure.* [Mesquite \(NV\) Local News](#) (11/9)
- *Drilling, Drilling, Everywhere.* The [Huffington Post](#) (11/9, Banerjee)
- *Dirty Deeds.* [Durango \(CO\) Telegraph](#) (11/9, Chamberlin)
- *Zinke’s decision on NM monuments disrespectful.* [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (11/10, Arnold)

Top National News

On Russian Meddling, Trump Sides “With Our Agencies, Especially As Currently Constituted.”

Media reports cast President on Trump Sunday as walking back his comments earlier this about whether he accepts Russian President Vladimir Putin’s denials of meddling in the US election last year. All three of the networks led last night with reports on the President’s trip. Tom Llamas opened the [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/12, lead story, 3:40) broadcast saying the President is “on the last leg of his tour in Asia, facing backlash from 8,000 miles away” for his comments about Russia’s meddling in the US election.

[Reuters](#) (11/12, Holland), for example, says Trump “distanced himself” from remarks he made Saturday in which he suggested he believed Putin when he said there had been no Russian meddling in the election. Reuters says those comments drew “criticism at home because US intelligence agencies have long since concluded there was Russian meddling.”

[USA Today](#) (11/12, Jackson) reports that “after spending a week sticking to the script...Trump’s Asia trip veered off course this weekend into another kerfuffle over Vladimir Putin and Russian election meddling.” Seeking to “clarify comments he had made hours before,” Trump said Sunday, “I’m with our agencies, especially as currently constituted with their leadership.” Trump’s “revised” comments came after he “caused a stir by suggesting to reporters that he believed Putin’s denials more than the conclusions of US intelligence officials.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/12, Bender) reports that a day after he called former US intelligence officials “political hacks,” Trump shifted his tone, saying, “I believe very much in our intelligence agencies.”

The [AP](#) (11/12, Lemire, Colvin) reports Trump said Sunday “he believes US intelligence agencies...but Trump also said he believes Russian President Vladimir Putin is sincere when he says Russia didn’t interfere.” The [Washington Times](#) (11/12, Boyer) similarly says Trump “clarified Sunday that he believes the assessment of US intelligence agencies...but also said he believes...Putin is ‘sincere’ in his denials of interference.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/12, Arkhipov, Jacobs) says the President “once again waded into the controversy of whether he thinks Russia meddled in last year’s election,” saying on Sunday that he believes “very much in our intelligence agencies.” Trump, “who often sidesteps direct questions on Russia’s culpability,” said “that all he meant was that Putin himself clearly believed” Russia was not involved.

Asked on [NBC’s Meet the Press](#) (11/12, Todd) whether the President believes the US intelligence reports that Russia meddled in the election, White House Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Short said, “The President believes that after years of investigations, tens of millions of taxpayer dollars, there is zero evidence of any ballot being impacted by Russian interference.” He added that what Trump “is trying to do right now is recognize that the gravest threat America faces is North Korea developing nuclear weapons,” which “is a greater threat than Russia buying Facebook ads in America.”

Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, appearing on [CBS’ Face The Nation](#) (11/12, Dickerson), said, “Let me be clear, nobody thinks [Russian meddling] has had any impact on the elections so whatever occurred, there was no impact.” [Politico](#) (11/12, Warmbrodt) reports Mnuchin’s remarks.

The President’s comments drew criticism from lawmakers on the Sunday morning shows. Asked on [CNN’s State Of The Union](#) (11/12, Tapper) about Trump’s comments, Sen. Dick Durbin said they are “incredible to me” because “we had a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee” where “we produced a Facebook ad that had a phony committee...and it was paid for with rubles from Russia.” He asked what else the President was “waiting to see before he acknowledges what our intelligence agencies and most people in both political parties acknowledge?”

Sen. Bernie Sanders said on [CBS’ Face The Nation](#) (11/12, Dickerson) that the idea that Trump says he believes Putin while “he does not believe the intelligence agencies of the United States...is beyond absurd.”

Republican Sen. Pat Toomey said on [NBC’s Meet the Press](#) (11/12, Todd), “It’s clear that President Putin orchestrated an effort to meddle and disrupt our elections” and that he doesn’t “think there’s anything we can trust that comes out of Putin’s mouth.”

An [AP](#) (11/12, Lemire, Colvin) analysis says Trump’s Asia trip “wound down as it began, with a visit meant to be centered on trade and North Korea shadowed by questions about Russia.” Mark Landler writes in a [New York Times](#) (11/12) analysis that “for nine days on the road, President Trump had been measured, disciplined and studiously scripted as he picked his way through the geopolitical minefields of Asia. Then came the 10th day,” when he unleashed a “stream of tweets,” saying those who want to probe his ties to Russia were “haters and fools,” ridiculed “crooked” Hillary Clinton, and said he could call Kim Jong-un “short and fat.”

[Politico](#) (11/11, Restuccia, Cook) similarly says Trump “stayed on script for more than a week as he crisscrossed through Asia – and then Russian President Vladimir Putin showed up.” After meeting briefly with Putin, Trump “abandoned the diplomatic tone the White House had carefully scripted for his five-country tour, once again contradicting the overwhelming consensus” the US intelligence community that Russia manipulated the 2016 election.

Molly Ball of TIME said on [CNN Inside Politics](#) (11/12), “Ironically, his insistence on taking everything personally makes everything a story about him. It would have been conceivable or you could imagine a different president, perhaps, who could say that they accept these conclusions and it’s not about them. This is a story about Russia. This is a story about our institutions. But the fact that Trump believes this is about him.”

Brennan And Clapper Say Trump Being “Played.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/12, Wagner) reports former CIA Director Brennan and former DNI Clapper said Sunday that President Trump is being “played” by President Vladimir Putin and “accused him of being susceptible to foreign leaders who stroke his ego.” Appearing on [CNN’s State Of The Union](#), Brennan said, “By not confronting the issue directly and not acknowledging to Putin that we know you’re responsible for this, I think he’s giving Putin a pass. I think it demonstrates to Mr. Putin that Donald Trump can be played by foreign leaders who are going to appeal to his ego and try to play upon his insecurities, which is very, very worrisome from a national security standpoint.” Also on [CNN’s State Of The Union](#), Clapper “said he agrees with that assessment.” Said Clapper, “He seems very susceptible to rolling out the red carpet and honor guards and all the trappings and pomp and circumstance that come with the office, and I think that appeals to him, and I think it plays to his insecurities.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/12, Youssef) reports Clapper said Russia poses an ongoing threat and yet Trump insists on “rolling out the red carpet” for the Russian leader. “The Russians

do not harbor good intentions toward the United States, and there shouldn't be any illusions or any ambiguity about that. And our President fosters that ambiguity," Clapper said. Brennan added, "It's very clear that the Russians interfered in the election, and it's still puzzling as to why Mr. Trump does not acknowledge that, embrace it and also push back hard against Mr. Putin."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/12, King) calls their remarks "an extraordinary critique of President Trump's mode of dealing with foreign leaders," while [Bloomberg News](#) (11/12, Niquette) and the [AP](#) (11/12, Lemire, Colvin) also reports their remarks. [Reuters](#) (11/12, Lynch) reports Brennan "declined to say whether he knows of any intelligence to suggest that the Russians have compromising or damaging information on Trump."

[USA Today](#) (11/12, Shesgreen) reports the two former officials were responding to Trump's statement that Putin "means it" when he denies the Kremlin meddled in the 2016 presidential election, which he "since tried to clarify."

Treasury Secretary Mnuchin responded to their remarks on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (11/12, Tapper) saying, "In all due respect to your previous guests, I think those were the most ridiculous statements." He added that Trump "is not getting played by anybody," but that he was "focused on some very important issues, which are North Korea and Syria."

Abby Phillip of the Washington Post said on [CNN Inside Politics](#) (11/12), "It's worth noting here that...current officials believe what the former officials believe, that Russia meddled in the election. The only person that doesn't seem to believe that is President Trump." Michael Warren of the Weekly Standard similarly said on [CNN Inside Politics](#) (11/12), "The problem is that it's everybody in the Administration, everybody in the intelligence community. There is nobody in the White House even, who disagrees with the view that Russia did something, except for the President. And that's a problem."

Clinton Aide Calls Trump A "Russian Agent," Yates Calls President "Shamelessly Unpatriotic."

The [Daily Caller](#) (11/12, Donachie) reports that a former adviser to Hillary Clinton called Trump a Russian "agent" and urged "those who are in a position to put forth articles of impeachment should do so." Adam Parkhomenko tweeted, "Russia has an agent in the White House. His name is Donald Trump. This is the United States of America and those in a position to utilize safeguards in place such as the 25th or Impeachment are not defending the constitution and it's absolutely disgusting."

The [Daily Caller](#) (11/12, Daley) reports former acting attorney general Sally Yates called the President "shamelessly unpatriotic" in response to his comments about Putin over the weekend. Yates said in a Saturday tweet that Trump's statements about Putin are "disturbing and shamelessly unpatriotic."

[New York Times](#) (11/12, Blow) columnist Charles Blow, along similar lines, calls Trump's remarks "a striking declaration, a betrayal of American trust and interests that is almost treasonous in its own right."

McAuliffe, Perez Dismiss Impeachment Talk. [Politico](#) (11/12, Siders) reports Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe said Sunday he does not support impeaching President Trump. "Let [Special Counsel Robert] Mueller, and let the people who are doing the process, go through and do what they're doing," McAuliffe said. "You don't prejudge investigations." A second [Politico](#) (11/12, Warmbrodt) report says DNC Chairman Tom Perez told ABC's "This Week" that he is "not talking about impeachment," but "declined to rebuke" Tom Steyer's multimillion-dollar television campaign calling for Trump's impeachment. "Tom Steyer has a right to do whatever he feels he needs to do," Perez said.

WTimes Analysis: Schiff "Unrelenting" In Quest To Validate Fusion GPS Dossier. The [Washington Times](#) (11/12, Scarborough) reports Rep. Adam Schiff "has not given up on proving that his party's financed, Kremlin-sourced dossier is true." The California Democrat "pressed his case again this month during a long closed hearing with former Trump campaign volunteer Carter Page to try to revive what had become dormant charges of criminal conduct." Schiff, it notes, "previously said that one of his main objectives for the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence investigation is to find which dossier parts are true."

Comey Increasingly Active On Twitter Amid Trump Attacks. The [Washington Post](#) (11/12, Phillips) reports former FBI director James Comey "has been somewhat active on Twitter over the past month, mostly tweeting nature photos and avoiding anything blatantly political." The tweets "may seem innocuous to someone who had not been following the news of the past couple days," but the Post says they came after President Trump resurrected his attacks against Comey.

Media Analyses: Trump Unlikely To Rebuke Duterte For Drug War Killings.

The [AP](#) (11/12, Lemire) reports Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has "sanctioned a bloody

drug war that features extrajudicial killing,” and boasted this week “that he murdered a man with his own hands. All that may well go unmentioned in public” by President Trump when the leaders hold talks Monday. In what the AP calls a break with his presidential predecessors, Trump has “largely abandoned publicly pressing foreign leaders on human rights, instead showing a willingness to embrace international strongmen for strategic gain.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/12, Rauhala) likewise says that while former President Obama “called out Duterte’s rights record, Trump has steered clear of public comment.” US lawmakers are “calling on Trump to express concern, and the White House hinted that he just might.”

Jonathan Karl said on the [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/12, lead story, 3:40), “White House officials say it will come up,” but “I, frankly, can’t see this being a major topic of discussion with President Trump.” Major Garrett reported on the [CBS Weekend News](#) (11/12, lead story, 2:35, Quijano) that White House Chief of Staff Kelly “told us human rights has been ‘a hot topic here,’ but the United States still needed proof of abuses. Duterte said this won’t even come up.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/12, lead story, 2:35, Diaz-Balart), meanwhile, reported that in planning for the Asia tour, “the White House considered not coming to Manila to avoid the bad political optics of the President being seen with a violent authoritarian like Duterte.” However, other Asian leaders “urged” Trump to reconsider, and now “he’s actually adding an extra day here in Manila. It is a show of support for those leaders and allies he needs to trade and North Korea.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/12, Watts) reports that a Duterte spokesman said he and Trump “were genuinely pleased to have finally met” very briefly at the APEC summit in Vietnam over the weekend. Duterte said he and Trump would have “an interesting time” in the Philippines and that they “share so many ideas.”

Duterte, the [New York Times](#) (11/12, Paddock, Villamor) reports, “unleashes profane diatribes about countries and world figures he dislikes, with the United States often on the receiving end. But more quietly, he seems to have warmed to the United States and President Trump, who also has a notably provocative style.” The Times says “one big reason for his shift in rhetoric when it comes to the United States is clear: President Trump is a marked improvement in Mr. Duterte’s eyes over Barack Obama, who urged the Philippines leader to follow the rule of law in tackling the illegal drug trade.”

[Reuters](#) (11/12, Holland, Lema) reports Trump joined ASEAN leaders at “an extravagant gala dinner” in Manila Sunday, “a show of amity in a region fraught with tensions that have lurked behind his marathon tour of the continent.” Trump is “expected to try during the summit to shore up relations, which have been strained by the mercurial Duterte’s notorious anti-US sentiment and his enthusiasm for better ties with Russia and China.”

Trump, Duterte “United” On Fight Against ISIS. [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/12, story 2, 2:10, Diaz-Balart) reported Trump’s visit to Manila comes “just weeks after government forces, backed by the United States, drove ISIS out of” Marawi. More than half a million people fled the city during the five month battle, and the army retook the city “only by destroying it.” While ISIS lost more than 900 fighters in the battle, “it’s claiming victory because it held this city for so long.” Describing the Philippines as the “new front line for ISIS in Asia,” NBC (Neely) said Trump and Duterte appear “united in fighting a common enemy.”

CBS News: Hitman Claims Duterte Pays For Murders In Drug War. The [CBS Weekend News](#) (11/12, story 2, 3:30, Quijano) reported on Duterte’s war on drugs, traveling with Philippine police as they conducted raids on alleged drug users and dealers. CBS’ Kylie Atwood spoke to one “hit man” who claimed that “every murder” as part of the war on drugs, the police pay him and his partner \$400. When asked if the money comes from Duterte, the man responded, “This is from the President.” However, “despite Duterte’s public comments endorsing the killing drug users,” a spokesperson for the Philippines National Police “said they follow the rule of law and are not hiring hitmen.” When Atwood asked one police official when the war on drugs will end for the country, the official said, “We want to end it by having no demand and no supply in the country.”

Duterte Turns Down Trump Offers To Mediate South China Sea Dispute. The [New York Post](#) (11/12, Moore) reports President Trump “touted his negotiating skills as he inserted himself” Sunday in a dispute among Asian nations over control of the South China Sea, saying “if I can help you, let me know.” Speaking in Vietnam, the President told reporters, “South China Sea – as you know, we’re looking at – we’re looking at it together. If I could help mediate or arbitrate, please let me know. I know we’ve had a dispute for quite a while with China. If I can help in any way, I’m a very good mediator and a very good arbitrator. I have done plenty of it from both sides. So if I can help you, let me know.” Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, however, “quickly shot down Trump’s offer.”

Conway Downplays Trump’s “Short And Fat” Tweet About Kim Jong-Un. All three networks

reported briefly on Trump's tweets over the weekend directed at North Korea leader Kim Jong-Un. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/12, lead story, 3:40) said the President "took on Kim Jong-Un, [tweeting](#), 'Why would Kim Jong-Un insult me by calling me 'old,' when I would NEVER call him 'short and fat?' Oh well, I try so hard to be his friend, and maybe someday, that will happen!'" The [CBS Weekend News](#) (11/12, lead story, 2:35, Quijano) said Trump "did some provoking of his own on Twitter after the North Korean dictator called him a quote 'old lunatic,'" and [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/12, lead story, 2:35, Diaz-Balart) reported Trump, asked about the possibility of becoming friends with Kim, said, "Strange things happen in life. That might be a strange thing to happen. But it's certainly a possibility."

The [Washington Times](#) (11/12, Howell) reports White House counselor Kellyanne Conway Sunday defended the President's tweet, saying Trump was "responding the way he does to somebody who insulted him first" when he criticized North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's appearance on Twitter. Asked by Martha Raddatz on [ABC's This Week](#) if the President's comments were "helpful," Conway responded, "What's helpful, in full context, is a 13-day trip where the President is very focused on global security and combating terrorism, and most importantly containing a nuclearized North Korea."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/12, Bierman) reports that hours after President Trump "taunted" Kim on Twitter, suggesting he is "short and fat," the White House Chief of Staff Kelly "insisted he doesn't carefully follow Trump's comments on social media and tells other aides not to react to them." Speaking to reporters in Vietnam, Kelly said, "Someone, I read the other day, said we all just react to the tweets. We don't. I don't. I don't allow the staff to. We know what we're doing. Believe it or not, I do not follow the tweets." He added, "I find out about them. But for our purposes, my purpose, is we make sure the president is briefed up on what he's about to do."

Photographer Who Protested White House Restrictions Gets "His Revenge." The [Washington Post](#) (11/12, Nakamura) reports New York Times photographer Doug Mills on Friday was part of the traveling "press pool" shadowing President Trump in Danang, Vietnam, when he tweeted a "photo" of "a black box to protest the White House's decision to shut out the pool from any coverage" of the APEC forum. On Monday, Mills "got his revenge" at the ASEAN summit, snapping a [shot](#) of the ASEAN leaders' "family photo" that "spread quickly through social media after he posted it online." Political pundits "quickly made hay of the photo and poked fun at Trump."

Trump To Make "Major" Trade Announcement Wednesday.

[Politico](#) (11/12, Restuccia) reports President Trump said Sunday he'll make a "major" announcement on trade Wednesday at the White House upon returning from his trip to Asia. The statement will "detail Trump's discussions with world leaders during his 12-day, five-country tour of Asia." During a meeting with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Manila, Trump said, "A lot of things are happening on trade and I'll be announcing pretty much what happened here and also with other meetings, including with China, South Korea and lots of other places." He later added, "We've made some very big steps with respect to trade, far bigger than anything you know." Politico says he "did not offer any specifics about the pending announcement."

Meanwhile, a [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/12, Browne) analysis of the President's trip to China said Trump appeared to absolve President Xi Jinping of all responsibility for China's trade abuses, but a closer examination reveals that the lack of announcements may have been part of the White House strategy.

US States, Cities Pledge Commitment To Paris Accord.

The [AP](#) (11/11, Jordans, Thiesing) reported that at a global climate conference in Bonn, Germany on Saturday, California Gov. Jerry Brown, former New York City mayor Michael Bloomberg, and representatives from other US states, cities, companies, and universities "said they are still committed to curbing global warming even as U.S. President Donald Trump's administration is walking away from the Paris climate accord." While the alliance, dubbed "America's Pledge," has a collective economy exceeding that of Japan and Germany combined, it cautioned in a report that "we cannot underscore strongly enough the critical nature of federal engagement to achieve the deep decarbonization goals the U.S. must undertake after 2025."

In an interview with the [New York Times](#) (11/11, Friedman), Bloomberg said, "Just because the federal government has chosen not to participate [in the Paris climate accord], the American public represented by its elected officials at other levels, by corporations, by universities, we understand that there's a problem and we have to help solve that problem if we're going to have a future in this world." The Times said that the "dueling American delegations...mirror a larger

division within the United States over climate change" following Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris agreement.

Meanwhile, [Reuters](#) (11/12, Rowling) reports that the "mayors from 25 cities around the world, representing 150 million citizens, pledged on Sunday to cut their carbon emissions to net zero by 2050, while boosting efforts to become more resilient to extreme weather and other pressures linked to climate change." Reuters adds that "they pledged to put in place by 2020 their new, ambitious climate action plans, to be developed with help from the C40 Cities network."

Democrats Field Alternate US Delegation To Global Warming Conference.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (11/12, story 8, 2:35, Diaz-Balart) reported "there are competing US interests at work" at the climate talks in Bonn. On the one hand, "the Trump Administration plans to make the case for cleaner fossil fuels and nuclear energy as an answer to climate change. But another American delegation, critical of President Trump's decision to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement, is also at the conference." It is led by California Gov. Jerry Brown and former Vice President Al Gore, who "will emphasize that much of this country remains committed to reducing carbon emissions that warm the planet."

Also among the Americans in Bonn, [Politico](#) (11/12, Siders, Holden) reports, are "several Democratic US senators" who "began meeting last week with officials from other countries, seeking to minimize Trump's withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement."

JCT: Middle Class Will See Biggest Tax Cuts Under Senate Bill.

A new report from the Joint Committee on Taxation shows that the Senate tax reform plan "would go much further than a competing House proposal toward making good on Republican promises to focus on the middle class," [Politico](#) (11/12, Faler) reports. According to the JCT analysis, "moderate-income people would consistently see the largest percentage declines in their tax bills." In 2019, people earning between \$50,000 and \$70,000, "would see their taxes fall by 7.1 percent," while "those earning between \$20,000 and \$30,000 would see a 10.4 percent decline," and "millionaires would get a 5.3 percent tax cut." Moreover, "unlike with the House plan, that trend holds up throughout the period over which JCT analyzed the Senate proposal." In 2027, "millionaires would get a 2.8 percent tax cut from the Senate plan, compared with a 6.1 percent decline for people in the middle and a 10.3 percent reduction for those earning between \$20,000 and \$30,000." [The Hill](#) (11/12, Jagoda) says the JCT analysis "contrasts with its score of the House bill" which it estimated "would cut taxes on average for all income groups in 2019 but would increase taxes on average for those making \$20,000 to \$40,000 in some later years."

WSJournal Analysis: GOP Plans Will Make System Simpler, But Many Households Will Fare Worse. A [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/12, Rubin) analysis says that while the House and Senate tax plans will not make enable most Americans to file a return the size of a post card, they do move toward making the system simpler. However, simpler may not mean better for many households as some will fare worse under the House plan, according to the Journal.

Millionaires, Billionaires Urge Congress Not To Cut Their Taxes. The [Washington Post](#) (11/12, Long) reports that more than 400 millionaires and billionaires are writing to Congress this week to urge Republicans not to cut their taxes. They argue that "the GOP is making a mistake by reducing taxes on the richest families at a time when the nation's debt is high and inequality is back at the worst level since the 1920s," and their letter "calls on Congress not to pass any tax bill that 'further exacerbates inequality' and adds to the debt." The letter urges lawmakers "to raises taxes on rich people like them." Signatories include "Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream founders Ben Cohen and Jerry Greenfield, fashion designer Eileen Fisher, billionaire hedge fund manager George Soros, and philanthropist Steven Rockefeller, as well as many individuals and couples who aren't household names but are part of the top 5 percent (\$1.5 million in assets or earning \$250,000 or more a year)."

WPost: GOP Bill's Elimination Of AMT Would Benefit The Wealthy. In an editorial the [Washington Post](#) (11/12) that a provision of the tax bill that would "repeal of the alternative minimum tax," would "serve the interests of wealthy taxpayers — and tax avoiders."

Dionne: Republican Tax Plans Favor "Extremely Rich" Over Everyone Else. E.J. Dionne Jr. writes in his column in the [Washington Post](#) (11/12) that Republican Members of Congress do not "denounce" President Trump, because what "they care about most" is not his tendency toward "autocracy" or "bigotry", but that he "is tilting our economy toward people just like him." He urges Democrats to ensure that Trump is "exposed as a fraud whenever he says he has the backs of the 'forgotten men and women.'" Dionne argues that Trump and the Republican leaders in

Congress, as exhibited in the tax reform plans, are focused on “pay[ing] off their largest contributors.” The plans, says Dionne “don’t simply favor the well-off”, but “advantage certain kinds of extremely rich people” specifically those he calls “the biggest stockholders” and “struggling millionaire and billionaire heirs and heiresses.” Dionne also says that the tax plans do not simplify the tax code, but make it “even more complex,” in the interest of the rich.

Republicans Search For Analyses Showing Tax Cuts Won’t Add To Deficit.

The [New York Times](#) (11/12, Tankersley) reports that although GOP leaders “keep insisting that their plans to cut taxes by \$1.5 trillion over the next decade will not add to the national debt,” economic analyses “keep predicting that the plans will do just that.” As a result, House and Senate GOP leaders and the Administration are seeking to “hunt down – and promote – more optimistic forecasts, even if they exclude large parts of the tax bills from their analyses or assume growth-boosting features that are not, in fact, in the bills.”

McConnell Concedes He Exaggerated Claims On Tax Bill.

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/10, Dennis) reports Senate Majority Leader McConnell “acknowledged to The [New York Times](#) Friday he erred when he said in an MSNBC appearance last week that ‘nobody in the middle class is going to get a tax increase.’” McConnell said, “You can’t guarantee that absolutely no one sees a tax increase.” Bloomberg adds that he joins House Speaker Ryan “in walking back their statements on taxes. Ryan had said in a radio interview Wednesday, ‘So actually, even though there’s a lot of false information out there, everybody gets a tax cut.’” According to Bloomberg, “that statement was false, as there are millions of people who would face higher tax bills from the loss of deductions,” and a spokesman for Ryan on Thursday “told The [Washington Post](#) that he misspoke.”

Will: GOP Tax Plan “An Implausible Instrument Of Simplification.” In his [Washington Post](#) (11/10, Will) column, George Will states that while “the Republicans’ tax bill would somewhat improve” the country’s current tax system, the latest “bill, which is 429 pages and is apt to grow, is an implausible instrument of simplification. And it would worsen the tax code’s already substantial contribution to ‘moral hazard.’”

Lahart: Tax Reform Delays Should Make Wall Street Investors Nervous. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/10, Lahart) “Heard on the Street” columnist Justin Lahart argues that the longer it takes for lawmakers to vote on a complete tax reform bill, the more anxious investors should get. He suggests delays will likely result in less friendly legislation for Wall Street, particularly if Republicans are unable to get the votes.

Wind Energy Industry Lauds Senate For Preserving Tax Credit.

[Reuters](#) (11/10, Groom) reports the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) trade group on Friday “cheered a Senate tax proposal that, unlike the House version unveiled last week, preserves the tax credit that helps wind farms compete with plants fired by fossil fuels.” AWEA CEO Tom Kiernan asserted the legislation “keeps a promise to America’s more than 100,000 wind energy workers and restores the confidence of businesses pouring billions of dollars into rural America.”

However, a [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/10) editorial calls for Republicans to stop protecting the wind lobby and end the industry’s tax credit.

WPost A1: Pruitt Uses Industry Data To Challenge Findings By EPA Scientists.

In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (11/10, A1, Eilperin, Dennis) reports Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Pruitt is spearheading “a profound shift...in which the agency has reassessed its own data and analyses at the prompting of corporations.” According to the Post, “on pesticides, chemical solvents and air pollutants, Pruitt and his deputies are using industry figures to challenge past findings and recommendations of the agency’s own scientists.” While the “change has drawn praise from longtime EPA critics, such as House Science Committee Chairman Lamar Smith,” the Post says that “environmentalists contend Pruitt is sidelining agency scientists on key decisions.”

EPA Advisor Challenges Pruitt To “Officially Fire” Her. The [Washington Post](#) (11/10, Dennis, Eilperin) reports that although Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Pruitt recently announced plans “to forbid scientists who receive grants from the agency from serving as outside advisers” on the EPA’s Scientific Advisory Board, Clean Air Science Advisory Committee, and Board of Scientific Counselors, Robyn Wilson, “an Ohio State University professor and specialist in risk analysis” who was recently informed that her services on the Scientific Advisory Board were

no longer needed, responded, "Mr. Pruitt is welcome to officially fire me from the Board, as I am clearly not on the new list of SAB members." However, Wilson continued, "given I had one year left in my term, and I was hired by the previous Administrator, it seems as if the appropriate way for him to enact this policy is to provide an official letter informing me that I am being let go before my term ends."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"The Right Way To Cut Corporate Taxes." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (11/12) says while Republicans "are right about the corporate tax system being broken," they are "wrong about why it's failing and how to fix it." the Times argues that "true reform" would "not blow a \$1.7 trillion hole in the budget over the next decade, which is what the House plan would do, according to the Congressional Budget Office," and it would "make the system fairer and more efficient. If Republicans worked with Democrats, they could reach a compromise to lower the top corporate tax rate to between 25 percent and 28 percent, eliminated loopholes and reduced the incentive businesses have to take on debt, rather than to use equity to expand." In addition it would "include a minimum tax on profits earned abroad by American corporations in the year those profits are earned, minus a credit for taxes paid to other countries."

"Gun Carnage In The Nation. Groundhog Day In The Capitol." A [New York Times](#) (11/12, Board) editorial says "no one more clearly epitomizes the Groundhog Day image of dogged persistence in the face of repeated rejection than Senator Dianne Feinstein," who "responded to the Texas massacre last week (26 dead) by once more introducing her signature proposal to revive the federal ban on rapid-fire assault weapons adapted from the military battlefield." the Times adds that while the elections last week "produced victories for some Democratic candidates who dared call for tougher gun safety," President Trump offered "yet another genuflection before the N.R.A. There is no gun problem in the nation that cannot be dealt with, he said, if enough citizens have guns. Happy Groundhog Day."

Washington Post.

"Metro Need \$500 Million A Year, And It Needs It Now." The [Washington Post](#) (11/12) editorializes that the primary cause of the problems plaguing Washington's Metro system are caused by "funding, according to a comprehensive study of the network by Ray LaHood, a former Republican congressman who served as transportation secretary in the Obama administration." The Post opines that "what distinguishes Metro from its peers elsewhere is not how much it spends but how much it receives, both from local stakeholders in Virginia, Maryland and the District and from the federal government, whose employees make up 40 percent of rush-hour passengers." It concludes by asserting that "their failure to commit to ongoing, assured and adequate funding led Metro to its current woes," and that "it's on them to ante up to set the system up for a brighter future."

"The Little-Discussed Part Of The GOP Tax Bill Proves What Its Really About." In an editorial the [Washington Post](#) (11/12) that a provision of the tax bill that would "repeal of the alternative minimum tax," would "serve the interests of wealthy taxpayers — and tax avoiders."

"Tillerson's Redesign For State Looks A Lot Like A Retreat." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/12) says "there is not an agency in government that could not benefit from a fresh look," but raises questions about Secretary of State Tillerson's "redesign" of the State Department. The Post notes that the president of the American Foreign Service Association, former ambassador Barbara Stephenson, has raised an "alarm about the future of the US diplomatic corps," saying the department has decided "to slash promotion numbers by more than half." In response, "a State Department spokeswoman" said that "suggestions that drastic cuts to our Foreign Service ranks are taking place are simply not accurate," and that freezes on personnel movement, including hiring, will be lifted "at the appropriate time." The Post argues that the US "has sprawling interests around the globe," and the "redesign" must "not be a recipe for retreat."

Wall Street Journal.

"ObamaCare Tax Relief." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/12) makes a case for repealing the ACA's individual mandate as part of the tax reform legislation being crafted by Congress.

“A Nafta Recession?” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/12) editorializes that many economists agree that President Trump’s threat to withdraw from the North American Free Trade Agreement would not help the economy if it came to fruition. Several economists that the Journal surveyed predicted that such a move would cause a recession. The Journal concludes that Trump’s focus on a protectionist trade agenda is his Achilles’ heel, although he is generally doing well with regard to economic policy.

“Putin’s Syria Play.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/12) editorializes that a joint statement made on Saturday by Russia and the US announcing plans aimed at the deconfliction of parts of Syria amounts to giving Iran and Russia an advantage in the region, while leaving America’s Syrian and Kurdish allies, who were largely responsible for the near-complete ouster of ISIS from its territory, with an uncertain future. The Journal asserts that military conditions on the ground will dictate the terms of lasting peace in the area, not the deconfliction strategy favored by Russia and Iran.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[GOP Bills Remove Some Of The Tax Code’s Complexities](#)
[Surveillance Cameras Made By China Are Hanging All Over The US](#)
[Uber Board Settles Feud, Clearing Way For SoftBank Deal](#)

New York Times:

[Security Breach And Spilled Secrets Have Shaken The NSA To Its Core](#)
[Despite Recent Wins For Democrats, Gerrymanders Dim Hopes For 2018](#)
[Trump Health Agency Challenges Consensus On Reducing Costs](#)
[Appeal Offers Hope For Newtown Families In Suit Against Gun Companies](#)
[Liz Smith, Longtime Queen Of Tabloid Gossip Columns, Dies At 94](#)
[One Week After Texas Church Shooting, A Sunday Service Offers Hope](#)

Washington Post:

[Sheriffs Raise Their Voices For Trump](#)
[The Love Of His Life Was Killed — Then So Was He](#)
[Tragedy And Testimony](#)
[The Children’s War](#)
[Difficult Decisions Loom On Tax Cuts](#)

Financial Times:

[Trump Under Scrutiny Over Rapport With Philippines’ Duterte](#)
[UK Spymasters Raise Suspicions Over Kaspersky Software’s Russia Links](#)
[Somaliland Hopes Election Will Bolster Case For Independence](#)
[US Banks’ ‘Stop Gap’ Brexit Plans Set To Retain London Jobs](#)

Washington Times:

[Russia Today Registration Part Of Justice Department Crackdown On Foreign Agents Law](#)
[Goose Chase? Schiff Unrelenting In Quest To Hunt Down Proof From Russia Dossier](#)
[Iran Vs. Saudi Arabia: Dangerous War Looms Between Middle East Powerhouses](#)
[Biden’s Moment: Book Tour Can Pave Way To Presidential Campaign Trail](#)
[Health Care Voters Turn Republican Election Strength Into Liability](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: Trump-Asia Visit; Roy Moore-Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Middle East Earthquake; Florida-Airport Bomb Scare; Kevin Spacey Sexual Assault Scandal; Texas Church Shooting-Aftermath; San Diego Gym Accident; Google-Business Listing Scam; Speed Boat Crash; Texas Party Floor Collapse; Texas-Apartment Fire; Veteran Marathon Runner.

CBS: Trump-Asia Visit; Philippines-War On Drugs; Roy Moore-Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Sexual Misconduct Awareness Movement; Texas Church Shooting-Aftermath; Face Transplant Receiver; Obama Presidency Photographer; Vietnam War Veteran Photographs.

NBC: Trump-Asia Visit; Philippines-ISIS; Texas Church Shooting-Aftermath; Texas Church Shooting-Gunman; San Diego Gym Accident; Middle East Earthquake; Poland-Independence Day;

Climate Change-Glaciers; Liz Smith Dies; Holiday Travel Deals; Commercial Rocket Blastoff; Breakfast At Tiffany's; Hurricane Recovery-Caribbean.

Network TV At A Glance:

Trump-Asia Visit – 8 minutes, 50 seconds

Texas Church Shooting – 8 minutes, 15 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Trump-Asia Visit; Minnesota-Mall Robbery Attempt; Middle East Earthquake.

CBS: Trump-Asia Visit; Philippines-War On Drugs; Trump-Putin Comment; Tax Reform Plan; Sexual Misconduct Awareness Movement; Roy Moore-Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Middle East Earthquake; Wall Street News.

FOX: Trump-Asia Visit; Central America, Middle East Earthquakes; Minnesota-Mall Robbery Attempt; Liz Smith Dies.

NPR: Texas Church Shooting; Roy Moore-Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Trump-Asia Visit; Middle East Earthquake; Central America Earthquake.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in a photo opportunity with President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines; participates in the opening ceremony of the 31st ASEAN Summit; participates in a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull of Australia; participates in a bilateral meeting with President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines; attends the 5th U.S.-ASEAN Summit; participates in a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India; participates in an embassy meet and greet; has dinner with Prime Minister Turnbull.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a meeting with Vatican Secretary of State Pietro Parolin; participates in a swearing-in ceremony for Kenneth Juster as U.S. Ambassador to India; participates in a campaign event for Governor Greg Abbott of Texas.

US Senate: 9:00 AM Opioid users call on Congress to fund addiction treatment and overdose prevention – Dozens of opioid users and their allies visit Capitol Hill to pressure Congress to invest \$45 billion in addiction treatment and overdose prevention efforts to help address the opioid epidemic, with actions at the office of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Rm 317, Russell Senate Office Bldg, and the office of House Speaker Paul Ryan, Rm 1233, Longworth House Office Bldg (9:00 AM EST) * Followed by Capitol Hill press conference to announce the launch of the Opioid Network, a new direct action group that includes activists involved in recent efforts to save Obamacare (3:00 PM EST) Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC populardemocracy.org <https://twitter.com/popdemoc>

3:00 PM Senate Finance Committee considers Tax Cuts and Jobs Act – Executive Session, to consider 'an original bill entitled the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act' * Unveiled last week, the bill is similar to that which was recently passed by the House Committee on Ways and Means, although features some key differences, including retaining the seven income tax rates, eliminating the state and local tax deduction, and cutting corporation tax at a later date Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://finance.senate.gov>

4:00 PM Senate votes on transportation under secretary nominee – Senate convenes and proceeds to executive session to resume consideration of the nomination of Derek Kan to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy, with agenda including a vote on the nomination followed by a vote on a motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Steven Bradbury to be Department of Transportation General Counsel * Cloture motion on the Kan nomination passed by 87 votes to nine last week Location: Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

US House: 9:00 AM Opioid users call on Congress to fund addiction treatment and overdose prevention – Dozens of opioid users and their allies visit Capitol Hill to pressure Congress to invest \$45 billion in addiction treatment and overdose prevention efforts to help address the opioid epidemic, with actions at the office of Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Rm 317, Russell Senate Office Bldg, and the office of House Speaker Paul Ryan, Rm 1233, Longworth House Office Bldg (9:00 AM EST) * Followed by Capitol Hill press conference to announce the launch of the Opioid Network, a new direct action group that includes activists involved in recent efforts to save Obamacare (3:00 PM EST) Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC populardemocracy.org <https://twitter.com/popdemoc>

11:00 AM Tax reform press conference with Washington, DC, mayor and Dem Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton – Washington, DC, Mayor Muriel Bowser and Democratic Rep. Eleanor Holmes North discuss their concerns with the House Republican tax reform bill – the ‘Tax Cuts and Jobs Act’ – via press conference with other speakers including Alexandria, VA, Mayor Allison Silberberg, National League of Cities Senior Executive and Federal Advocacy Director Irma Esparza Diggs, National Association of Counties Executive Director Matthew Chase, and Americans Against Double Taxation’s Andrew Koneschusky Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.dc.gov <https://twitter.com/MayorBowser>

1:00 PM Antimicrobial Resistance Aware Fair on Capitol Hill – Antimicrobial Resistance Aware Fair – presented by AdvaMed, BD (Becton, Dickinson and Company), and Infectious Diseases Society of America in cooperation with bipartisan Reps. Mike Thompson, Erik Paulsen, John Shimkus, and Gene Green – featuring interactive displays on patient resources, the public health response and research on antimicrobial resistance (AMR), diagnostics, and treatment Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Gold Rm, Washington, DC <http://www.advamed.org> <https://twitter.com/AdvaMedUpdate>

2:00 PM House meets for legislative business, with Tax Cuts and Jobs Act expected to be on week’s agenda – House of Representatives meets for legislative business * Chamber is this week expected to debate ‘H.R. 1, The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act’, which would reduce the number of different tax bands, increase the standard deduction, eliminate the Alternative Minimum Tax, largely eliminate the State and Local Tax Deduction, convert corporate tax into a flat rate, and increase the estate tax exemption Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

5:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on Conference Report to Accompany ‘H.R. 2810 – National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018’ Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

Other: 9:30 AM U.S.-Japan Council Annual Conference – 2017 U.S.-Japan Council (USJC) Annual Conference, ‘Unity in Diversity: Shaping the Future Together’, bringing together regional, national, and international leaders from govt, business, academia, and the nonprofit sector to discuss strengthening the bilateral relationship. Keynotes include Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, Japan Financial Services Agency Commissioner Nobuchika Mori, Northrop Grumman Corporation Chairman, CEO, and President Wes Bush, Industrial Growth Platform Managing Partner Kazuhiko Toyama, and Goldman Sachs Japan Company Vice Chair Kathy Matsui, with other speakers including Massachusetts State Rep. Keiko Orrall and former U.S. Ambassador to Japan Tom Schieffer Location: JW Marriott Washington, DC, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.usjapanCouncil.org/> <https://twitter.com/USJC>

2:00 PM Secretary of Defense James Mattis hosts honor cordon to welcome Georgian Defense Minister Levan Izoria to the Pentagon Location: The Pentagon, Arlington, VA <http://www.defense.gov/> <https://twitter.com/DeptofDefense>

2:00 PM Czech Republic Ambassador to the U.S. speaks at Potomac Institute – Potomac Institute Inter-University Center for Terrorism Studies discussion on ‘Czech Republic-U.S. Strategic Partnership’, with Czech Republic Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Hynek Kmonicek Location: Potomac Institute for Policy Studies, 901 N Stuart St, Arlington, VA www.potomacInstitute.org <https://twitter.com/PotomacInst>

4:00 PM GOP Rep. Jim Banks speaks on education at Heritage Foundation – ‘Educational Freedom for Those Who Secure Our Freedoms’ Heritage Foundation and EdChoice panel discussion, with panelists including Republican Rep. Jim Banks, EdChoice Research and Innovation Vice President Paul DePerna, Civitas Institute Communications Fellow Brooke Medina, and Heritage Foundation Center for Education Policy Will Skillman Fellow in Education and Director Lindsey Burke Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

5:00 PM Wall Street Journal CEO Council Annual Meeting opens – Wall Street Journal CEO Council Annual Meeting commences with a welcome reception and opening dinner. The event brings together 100 of the world’s leading CEOs to debate and decide on action plans for addressing key economic issues. Day one speakers include Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin and News Corporation CEO Robert Thomson Location: Four Seasons Hotel Washington, DC, 2800 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://ceocouncil.wsj.com/> [#WSJCEOCouncil](https://twitter.com/WSJ)

6:00 PM The Dialogue Leadership for the Americas Annual Awards Gala – The Dialogue Leadership for the Americas Annual Awards Gala, celebrating individuals and organizations committed to advancing democratic governance, social equity, and prosperity in the Western Hemisphere. Honorees include Inter-American Development Bank President H.E. Luis Alberto

Moreno (Distinguished Leadership Award for Social Equity) and FUNDEMAS Founding President and Grupo AGRISAL Chairman Roberto Murray Meza (Distinguished Leadership Award for Civic Engagement). Presenters include Democratic Sen. Mark Warner and Republican Rep. Francis Rooney Location: Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group, 1330 Maryland Ave SW, Washington, DC
www.thedialogue.org https://twitter.com/The_Dialogue #DialogueLeaders

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Associated Press: Officials Say Keystone Leak Will Not Factor Into Monday's Expansion Vote.
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DOI In The News

Trump Says Decision On Elephant Hunting Trophies To Come This Week.

[Politico](#) (11/19, Griffiths) reports President Trump [tweeted](#) Sunday a final decision would come this week on whether to maintain a ban on importing elephant hunting trophies from Zimbabwe and Zambia, "indicating he was leaning toward keeping the Obama-era rules in place." Trump wrote, "Big-game trophy decision will be announced next week but will be very hard pressed to change my mind that this horror show in any way helps conservation of Elephants or any other animal." The [Washington Post](#) (11/19, Gearan) says it was "not immediately clear whether the reference to 'any other animal' might mean he is also reconsidering his administration's separate lifting of import bans on lion trophies last month."

Also reporting are [The Hill](#) (11/19, Beavers), the [Washington Examiner](#) (11/19, Feldscher), [CNN](#) (11/19, Graef, Green), and the [AP](#) (11/19).

Trump Decision To Delay Repeal Of Elephant Trophy Import Ban Prompts Praise. Roxana Saberi of the [CBS Weekend News](#) (11/18, story 4, 2:00, Ninan) reported, "Faced with growing outrage over a move that would have lifted a ban on imports of elephant trophies from two African countries," President Trump on Friday [tweeted](#) he is putting the decision "on hold until such time as I review all conservation facts." The decision initially "sparked backlash from celebrities, including Ellen DeGeneres," and the "anger spread online through the #bekindtoelephants. Animal rights groups argue the ban has helped protect Africa's endangered elephants. And The Humane Society of the United States found that after the ban was put in place in 2014, imports of elephant trophies from Zimbabwe fell dramatically." HSUS President Wayne Pacelle "is welcoming President Trump's announcement to delay a decision on lifting the

ban, but says the ban should be permanent." Pacelle argued that a live elephant can generate more than \$1 million in tourist revenues, compared to only \$20,000 for its tusks.

The [New York Times](#) (11/17, Cochrane) reports Trump's "evening Twitter message reversed a decision by his own administration that was announced this week and promoted as recently as Friday afternoon by the White House press secretary, Sarah Huckabee Sanders."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/18, Eilperin, Gearan) says the "public and private pressure prompted President Trump to overturn his administration's...move to allow elephants shot for sport in Zimbabwe and Zambia to be imported back to the United States as trophies, according to interviews with several individuals briefed on the decision." The Post adds that the announcement "marked animal welfare activists' first federal victory since the president took office in January, and came just hours after" White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders "defended the trophy import authorization, saying it resulted from a review by 'career officials' that began in 2014 under former president Barack Obama." While the Post acknowledges Career Fish and Wildlife Service officials did make the decision, "political appointees at Interior did press for resolution of the issue, which is a top priority for hunting industry allies of" Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who said following Trump's announcement that "the issuing of permits is put on hold as the decision is being reviewed."

Prior to the President's announcement, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/17, story 7, 1:30, Muir) reported on the growing "outrage" over "a decision by the Trump Administration lifting a ban on importing trophies of elephants hunted in Africa." Correspondent David Wright said the African elephant is still "a 'threatened' species, but as of today, big game hunters who kill these creatures in Zambia or Zimbabwe will be allowed to get their trophies through US Customs." President Trump himself "is not a big game hunter, but his sons are." Wright said the Administration's "announcement is sparking outrage across the political spectrum, from Fox News commentator Laura Ingram to, just today, Ellen DeGeneres." The White House has pushed back against the criticism, "saying this action comes after a study by professionals of the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Still, conservationists are not convinced."

Meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/18, Stokols) reports the President on Saturday morning retweeted comments by cable television hosts [Greta Van Susteren](#) and [Piers Morgan](#) expressing their thanks for his decision.

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (11/17, Cassata), the [Washington Post](#) (11/17, Parker, Eilperin), the [Washington Post](#) (11/17, Parker, Eilperin), the [Washington Post](#) (11/18, Wootson), the [Washington Post](#) (11/17, Ingraham), the [Washington Examiner](#) (11/17, Siciliano), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/17, Pearce), [Bloomberg News](#) (11/17, Marois), [Reuters](#) (11/17, Shepardson, Beech), [Reuters](#) (11/17, Herskovitz), [Reuters](#) (11/17, Shepardson, Beech), [Politico](#) (11/17, Lacy), [The Hill](#) (11/17, Cohn), [USA Today](#) (11/17, Cummings), [USA Today](#) (11/18, Walker, Welle), [Newsweek](#) (11/17, Valencia), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (11/17, Biesecker), the [Huffington Post](#) (11/17, D'Angelo), [Fox News](#) (11/17), [CNN](#) (11/17, Diaz), [CNN](#) (11/18, Green), [CBS News](#) (11/17), [NBC News](#) (11/17, Silva), [NBC News](#) (11/18, Helsel), [ABC News](#) (11/17, Keneally), [ABC News](#) (11/17, Ebbs), [CNBC](#) (11/18), [CNBC](#) (11/17, Wilkie), the [Washington Times](#) (11/17, Miller), [MarketWatch](#) (11/18, Coffey), [MarketWatch](#) (11/17, Linnane), the [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (11/18, Danner), the [New York Post](#) (11/17, Tacopino), the [Boston Herald](#) (11/18), the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (11/17, Boucher), the [New York Daily News](#) (11/17, Scott-Reid), the [Arizona Republic](#) (11/17, Cummings), the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (11/18, Francisco), [BBC News \(UK\)](#) (11/18), [BBC News \(UK\)](#) (11/18), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (11/17, Wong, Helmore), the [Telegraph \(UK\)](#) (11/18, Riley-Smith), [UPI](#) (11/17, Haynes), and [Townhall](#) (11/18, Meads).

Also reporting are [The Hill](#) (11/17, Byrnes), the [AP](#) (11/17, Cassata), and the [New York Daily News](#) (11/17).

Zinke Rocked Moccasins To Celebrate Native Cultures. But Tribes Are Focused On His Plans To Rock Bears Ears.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/17, Fears, Eilperin) reports that while Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke this week "proudly showed his support for the worldwide Native American and indigenous peoples cultural celebration, sporting a pair of beaded moccasins over star-spangled socks," Western tribes "remain upset over a larger Indian symbol that the secretary plans to rock to its foundation: the 1.35 million-acre Bears Ears National Monument in southern Utah." According to the Post, "outraged representatives of the tribes involved with Bears Ears said Friday that they will lose a key part of their cultural heritage if the monument, designated last December by President Barack Obama, is reduced to a small fraction of its current size."

Interior Secretary Visits Mille Lacs, Discusses Law Enforcement Crisis.

The [Brainerd \(MN\) Daily Dispatch](#) (11/18) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke arrived on the Mille Lacs Reservation “for an impromptu visit” Thursday and Friday “to discuss the current law enforcement crisis.” Chief Executive Melanie Benjamin “described the meeting as very positive,” saying, “Secretary Zinke wanted to hear from us about this issue and listened intently, and promised to do what he can to help.” Following the meeting, Zinke and his staff “joined about 800 Mille Lacs Band members for the annual Community Feast.”

Mapp Meets Interior Secretary Zinke In D.C.

The [St. Thomas Source](#) (11/18) reports that Gov. Kenneth Mapp met with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Thursday “to discuss hurricane response and recovery in the U.S. Virgin Islands.” Zinke said, “Recovering from natural disasters requires a team effort, and the Department of the Interior is absolutely committed to helping the Virgin Islands return to normal. Our Insular Affairs team has been working around the clock to provide relief to those ravaged by hurricane, and we will continue these efforts in the weeks and months to come.”

Transmission Line From Oregon-To-Idaho Gets Approval.

The [AP](#) (11/17) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has “signed off on a right-of-way that will allow Idaho Power to build a 293-mile transmission line from Oregon to Idaho.” The Interior Department announced the approval the Boardman-to-Hemingway project on Friday, “saying it will create nearly 500 jobs.”

The [Ontario \(OR\) Argus Observer](#) (11/19, Meyer) reports that Katherine MacGregor, acting assistant secretary of land and mineral management, said in a statement, “This project will help stabilize the power grid in the Northwest, while creating jobs and carrying low-cost energy to the families and businesses who need it.”

Also reporting are [The East Oregonian](#) (11/17, Plaven), [KNDU-TV Yakima \(WA\)](#) Yakima, WA (11/17), and [KTVZ-TV Bend \(OR\)](#) Bend, OR (11/17).

Congress Pushes Back On Interior Plan That Would More Than Double National Park Fees.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/17, Burr) reports that Congress is “pushing back on an Interior Department proposal to more than double entrance fees at some national parks during peak times and could look at legislation to halt any increases.” Rep. Rob Bishop, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, “says he will hold hearings on the park-fee proposal and look at legislation to prohibit an agency from raising fees without consulting Congress.” Bishop said, “It is very difficult to allow an agency to raise money by itself. That’s troublesome to me. Raising fees should have congressional input.” Rep. Mia Love is “also pushing back, arguing that the fee increases would hurt Utah families and the Interior Department should be looking to charge international tourists more money than Americans who own the system.” Love “noted the opposition isn’t partisan...and although Love supports most of Zinke’s efforts at the Interior Department, she said, ‘I’ve got to fight him on this.’”

Additional coverage of the proposal was provided by the [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (11/17, Bear), the [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (11/17, Wadsworth) and the [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (11/17, Wadsworth).

Susan Combs Hits A New Hurdle In Her Path To Washington Post.

The [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (11/17, Recio) reports that “former Texas Comptroller Susan Combs has hit yet another roadblock on the way to a U.S. Senate vote for a top position at the Interior Department.” Sen. Dick Durbin has “put a ‘hold’ on Combs and another Interior Department nominee – blocking them from getting a Senate vote – until he gets ‘clarification’ of the agency’s plans to re-designate environmentally sensitive public lands known as national monuments.”

House Committee Backs Westward Move For Interior Employees.

[Federal News Radio \(DC\)](#) (11/17, Wing) reports that Republican leaders on the House Natural Resources Committee have written to President Trump “in support of an Interior Department re-organization.” Committee Chairman Rob Bishop and “six of his colleagues from Western states urged the White House to strongly consider moving some Interior offices out of Washington and closer to the people they serve.”

BLM Advisory Councils Are Free To Meet Again After Initial Review.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (11/19, Webb) reports that “after a suspension for an

Interior Department review, Resource Advisory Councils (RACs) to the Bureau of Land Management and other similar advisory groups 'are free to meet according to normal procedures.'" That's following "completion of the initial phase of the review process, Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift said in an email Friday."

Additional Coverage: Poor Record-Keeping Hindering Zinke Travel Investigation, IG Says.

Additional coverage of Inspector General Mary Kendall's Wednesday memorandum on the "poor" record-keeping hindering the watchdog's investigation of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's travel expenses was provided by [CNN](#) (11/17, Wallace) and [Vanity Fair](#) (11/17, Levin).

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Program Helps Tribal Court Employees Increase Navajo Language Skills.

The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (11/19, Smith) reports on a program that helps tribal court employees increase Navajo language skills. The program, a collaboration between the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch and Navajo Technical University, "funded by a \$150,000 grant from Tribal Justice Support under the U.S. Department of the Interior."

Bureau Of Land Management

The Powder River Basin Is Poised For Another Boom, But Some Say The Feds Are In The Way.

A 1,600-word [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (11/18, Richards) analysis highlighted opinion that the Powder River Basin (PRB) "is poised for a boom Wyoming desperately needs," but industry observers say the Bureau of Land Management is "slowing down opportunities and hampering development, while environmentalists say Wyoming needs federal regulations to avoid disaster when a bust inevitably strikes." US Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY) "has floated a number of bills that establish the right for states to take over more of the oil and gas permitting process on federal land, or with federal minerals," but these proposals have been stalled by divided opinion.

BLM Picks Up Tab For Plugging Old Wells Near Douglas Pass.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (11/18, Webb) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is "busy plugging six oil and gas wells that a company left unplugged in the Douglas Pass area, a project that apparently will cost the agency far more money than it recovered in bond funds from the operator." BLM spokesman David Boyd said "the wells were on five leases operated by Diamond Oil and Gas or Diamond Operations Group LTD." He explained that "the BLM's Northwest District in Colorado asked for funding from the agency's national office to plug the wells and received \$550,000 to complete the work, although the actual cost likely will end up being lower."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Mark Sanford Opposes Energy Bill Championed By GOP Leaders.

The [Miami Herald](#) (11/17, Dumain) reports that Rep. Mark Sanford (R-S.C.) said he opposes aspects of a proposed House bill aimed at expanding domestic energy production because it would promote offshore drilling. Rep. Sanford "plans to form a coalition of Republicans and Democrats to formally ask for changes to the bill." The bill includes a controversial provision to partially rollback the 1972 Marine Mammal Protection Act, which has been "endorsed by powerful industry lobbyists such as the American Petroleum Institute." Opponents to the rollback say the Marine Mammal Protection Act "is effectively the last remaining law in place preventing indiscriminate drilling and testing for oil and natural gas in the Atlantic Ocean."

BOEM Looks For Comments On Hilcorp's Liberty Development.

[UPI](#) (11/17, Graeber) reported the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is looking for comments about a draft environmental impact statement on Hilcorp Alaska's plan to build artificial islands to drill in the Beaufort Sea. Lois Epstein, the Arctic program director for the Wilderness Society, expressed several concerns about the development. She said Hilcorp has a record of pipeline

releases in the state, the last of which needed intervention from Gov. Bill Walker.

Louisiana May See More Offshore Oil Money Under Cassidy Budget Amendment.

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (11/17, Schleifstein) reported Sen. Bill Cassidy said Louisiana's share of Gulf of Mexico offshore revenue may increase by \$100 million during 2020 and 2021. The senator attached an amendment to the legislation opening the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge for drilling to offset an expected shortfall in revenue from the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act. Cassidy's amendment would alter the way money from the GOMESA is shared between the federal government, Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi and Alabama.

Bureau Of Reclamation

Wash. Reps Float Bill To Speed Up DOI Water Project Reviews.

[Law360](#) (11/17, Westney) reports that "two Republican lawmakers introduced a bill Thursday meant to speed up the environmental planning and review of water projects by two U.S. Department of the Interior agencies and to advance a specific water management project for the Yakima River in Washington state." Reps. Dan Newhouse and Dave Reichert "put forward H.R. 4419, the Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Indian Affairs Water Project Streamlining Act of 2017."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Congress Moves To 'Drill, Baby, Drill' In Alaska's ANWR Refuge. Here's What You Should Know.

[USA Today](#) (11/19, Collins) reports that "Congress may be on the verge of finally handing" backers of oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge permission to do so. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee voted last week "to approve a bill that would allow oil and gas exploration in the refuge's 1.5-million-acre coastal plain. The measure will be added to the Senate's tax-reform package."

[NPR](#) (11/18, Detrow) reported that Sen. Maria Cantwell opposes the drilling and said, "The fact our committee's contribution to that deal is about 7/100th of one percent of the Republicans' increased deficit spending shows that this is not a serious budget proposal. It's a cynical effort to open up the heart of the Arctic Wildlife Refuge for oil." Sen. Lisa Murkowski defended the proposal saying, "Alaskans will do this the right way. ... We will protect the environment while providing substantial economic benefits all across America."

Fish And Wildlife Retracts Opposition To Arizona Project.

The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (11/17, Shogren) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "last month lifted its longstanding objections to the construction of a city-sized development that threatens the last free-flowing major river in the arid Southwest." The FWS "had twice in recent years warned that a key federal permit to build 28,000 homes, golf courses and other amenities near the San Pedro River in southern Arizona would have 'appreciable' effects on wildlife." However, "last month, the Fish and Wildlife Service reversed itself, according to an Oct. 26 letter obtained by High Country News through a Freedom of Information Act request."

How A Neon Green Fern Sparked An Environmental Showdown.

The [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (11/17) reports on the dispute "between the South Florida Water Management District and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concerning a 65-year relationship that required the federal government to control invasive species in the popular Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge." This month, the water management district's governing board gave the approval "to finalize a new 20-year lease on the land with Fish and Wildlife." The agreement "puts the onus for invasive cleanup on the district, but the wildlife service agreed to pay at least \$1.25 million annually to the district for the effort."

With Dam Cleared From Creek, Endangered Fish Expand Range.

The [AP](#) (11/19) reports that "populations of an endangered fish have been found in new areas of an Alabama creek, upstream of where a dam was removed four years ago in an effort to expand the fish's range." The vermilion darter "needs clear, free-flowing streams to survive and had been

blocked from moving upstream by the old dam." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "partnered with the Freshwater Land Trust to remove the nearly 100-year-old Shadow Lake dam in 2013, and this month confirmed the darters have expanded their range upstream of the old dam site."

National Park Service

Proposal Restricting National Mall Access A 'Game Changer' For Hill Athletes.

[Roll Call](#) (11/17, Connolly) reports the National Park Service "held meetings last week with leagues from across the city — including the House softball league — informing them that it planned to permanently close access" on the National Mall, "from Third Street to 17th Street, to 'organized sports.'" Also, "the park service plans to raise permit fees from as little as \$7 for an entire season to \$70 per two-hour period on the Mall fields west of the Washington Monument." Those meetings were "preliminary, informal efforts to give those stakeholders background information about the possible changes, including modifications to the reservation system/process and fees, as well as locations available for use by organized sports," park service spokesman Mike Litterst said in a statement Wednesday.

Additional coverage was provided by [Fox News](#) (11/17, Weber).

Beach Boys, Wynonna To Play National Christmas Tree Lighting.

[WRC-TV](#) Washington (11/17, Vesoulis) reports that "the Beach Boys, Wynonna and The Texas Tenors will play the White House's National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, National Park Service officials said." The tree will "arrive in Washington Monday, and it will be illuminated Nov. 30 on the Ellipse at President's Park, also known as the White House."

Fort Sumter Seeks Comment On New Plan For Disabled Access.

The [AP](#) (11/19) reports that the Fort Sumter National Monument is seeking public input "on a proposal to add ramps and an enclosed elevator for the disabled." The monument currently has "inoperable accessibility chairlifts." According to the article, "the proposed design includes a ramp leading from the parade ground of Fort Sumter to the lower level of Battery Huger which will provide access to restrooms and water."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (11/19, Petersen).

Grand Teton Park Increases Fees To Camp, Boat, Get Married.

The [AP](#) (11/19) reports that Grand Teton National Park will "increase fees for various permits, including backcountry camping, weddings and motor boats." According to park spokesman Andrew White, "the fee adjustment is part of the park's annual review of programs." White said, "It's not a response to any sort of budget issue. We're just making sure we're recovering the cost associated with these programs."

Last Homesteader's Tractor Goes On Display At Homestead National Monument.

The [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (11/19, Hendee) reports that "the tractor used on the nation's last homestead will be unveiled Monday at Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice, Nebraska." According to Superintendent Mark Engler, "the tractor represents the end of America's epic homestead movement," He said, "When most people think of homesteading, they have an image in their minds of a single-bottom plow being pulled by a team of horses. This tractor will show the size and scope of homesteading ... (and) the relevancy of this law that transformed our nation."

Saguaro National Park, Open Space Highlight Debate Over New Fry's.

The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (11/18, Davis) reports that "for the second time in six months, Saguaro National Park is in the middle of a development dispute, with the National Park Service fighting a proposed project near its boundaries." The first project was "the 178-home, gated Lazy K Bar housing on 138 acres near Saguaro Park-West in Marana that was approved this spring after a nearly three-year dispute." Now, "it's a much smaller project — a Fry's supermarket, two smaller stores and a nine-pump gas station — on 16.3 acres, lying across town, near Saguaro National Park-East."

\$5K Grant For Compton VFD.

The [Harrison \(AR\) Daily Times](#) (11/17) reports that “the Compton Volunteer Fire Department received a \$5,000 National Park Service Rural Fire Assistance Program grant from Buffalo National River at a ceremony at Compton on Monday, Nov. 13.” While presenting the grant to members of the department, Buffalo National River deputy superintendent Laura Miller said, “This grant will be used to purchase much needed firefighting equipment and personal protective gear.”

Point Reyes Ranch Plan Comment Period Extended.

The [Marin \(CA\) Independent Journal](#) (11/18, Prado) reports that “the comment period dealing with the roiling issue of the future of ranching in the Point Reyes National Seashore has been extended by the National Park Service.” According to the article, “a 30-day comment period on the alternatives was to run through Nov. 15, but because of the interest, it has been extended through Wednesday.” Melanie Gunn, Point Reyes National Seashore spokeswoman, said, “We had multiple requests for an extension to this first comment period. Although we are working under a tight timeline for the General Management Plan Amendment, we are able to extend this comment period for an additional week with an interest in robust public engagement.”

Man Gets Prison Time For 2001 Sex Assault Of Child In Olympic National Park.

[KOMO-TV](#) Seattle (11/17) reports that “a Port Angeles man was sentenced to eight years in federal prison this week after he was convicted of sexually assaulting a child back in 2001 in Olympic National Park.” Charles Jason Butcher “admitted the assault in a recorded phone call with his victim in 2016.” The [Peninsula \(WA\) Daily News](#) (11/19, Gottlieb) reports that Butcher “pleaded guilty to the charge in May, denying that he sexually assaulted a second minor in 2001.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

Snake Program Obtains Two New ‘Sniffer’ Dogs.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (11/20) reports that “the Division of Fish and Wildlife and the CNMI Brown Tree Snake program recently welcomed two new detector canines from Oklahoma.” The dogs, named Greta and Zing’r, “took 60 hours to travel from Aachen Dutch Shepherds in Oklahoma to Saipan via Micronesia Air Cargo Services, with an overnight stop in both Hawaii and Guam.” Acting Lands and Natural Resources secretary Augustin Kaipat said, “I extend a well-deserved thank you to everyone who assisted in the procurement of our two new canines here at the BTS program as well as funding provided by the Office of Insular Affairs.”

Office Of Surface Mining

West Virginia Retraining Program Provides Unemployed Coal Miners With Computer Skills.

The [CBS Weekend News](#) (11/18, story 9, 2:05, Ninan) reported on a West Virginia retraining program for unemployed coal miners, an industry that has seen its workforce shrink by over 40 percent in recent years. Correspondent Weijia Jiang says the “free training program called ‘Mined Minds’ that teaches former coal miners to become computer coders, creating apps, websites, and games. Founder Amanda Laucher started the nonprofit in Pennsylvania in 2015 because her younger brother was worried about losing his coal mining job.” West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin (D) “helped Mined Minds establish headquarters near West Virginia’s capital with federal grants.” Manchin said the program “gives us a chance to diversify ourselves and be something that people think we’re not.”

Powder River Basin Mines Earn Awards For Land Management Efforts.

The [Gillette \(WY\) News Record](#) (11/19) reports that “four of the Powder River Basin’s largest coal producers have been named winners of the Good Neighbor Award by the federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE).” Arch Coal, Cloud Peak Energy, Kiewit Mining Group and Peabody Energy were “recognized for working with the local community while completing their mining and reclamation operations, according to a press release announcing the awards.” According to Travis Deti, executive director of the Wyoming Mining Association, “by singling out more than half of the mines in the Powder River Basin, which produces more than 30 percent of the coal burned in U.S. coal-fired power plants, OSMRE sends a message that mining coal can be done in a way that respects the environment.”

US Geological Survey

Danger Endures In Wine Country As Fight Shifts From Fires To Mudslides.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (11/19, Alexander) reports that “with hundreds of square miles littered with trees and stripped of vegetation in the wake of the Northern California fires, mudslides are a near certainty as winter rains arrive.” The article notes that “a huge effort among federal, state and local agencies is working to tame the threat.” Notably, the U.S. Geological Survey has “mapped areas where damaging flows are most likely to strike.”

Additional Reading.

- *Alaskan Town's Polar Bear Problem Leads To Tourism Boom.* [ABC News](#) (11/18, Robach, Crawford, Dawson, Vollmayer, Efron).
- *Strong Earthquake Rattles Tibet But Only Minor Damage Reported.* [Reuters](#) (11/17, Blanchard).
- *Strong Earthquake Strikes East-northeast Of Tadine, New Caledonia: USGS.* [Reuters](#) (11/19, Von Ahn).

Opinion Pieces

Trump Does The Right Thing For Elephants. He Shouldn't Back Down Now.

[Washington Post](#) (11/19) editorial says African elephants are “a species in crisis, and the US government should not do anything that could endanger them further.” The Post welcomes Trump’s intervention Friday to put hold a decision by the Interior Department. It argues that the “threat of an import ban creates a large incentive for African countries seeking tourist dollars from American safari hunters to ensure their hunts are sustainable.”

Trump Bags Another Anti-Obama Trophy: Dead Elephants.

In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (11/17) says the Trump Administration’s decision this week to lift a ban on importing elephant trophies from Zimbabwe “is a gift to the big game trade from Ryan Zinke, the interior secretary, who’s apparently not satisfied with scrapping environmental and species protections on just one continent.” The Times argues the move will not only “endanger gains made by governments and environmental groups to protect elephants from illegal trade in ivory and other body parts,” but also send “yet another message that this is an administration in service of itself and its cronies.”

Commentary: Assault On ESA Endangers Utah Coffers.

In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/18, Feral, Harris), Priscilla Feral, the President of Friends of Animals, and Michael Harris, the director of Friends of Animals’ Wildlife Law Program, criticize five bills making their way “through Congress aimed squarely at dismantling the Endangered Species Act piece by piece.” The authors warn that the bills “should matter to Utah residents, as the state is ground zero for legal assaults against the act.” They warn that Rep. Rob Bishop’s “attempt to disembowel the ESA not only imperils Utah’s unique wildlife but more than one thousand species across the U.S. as well as state coffers.”

Additional Reading.

- *Elephant Trophies? Seriously? This Is What Washington Is Spending Its Time On?* [Fox News](#) (11/20, Velicovich).
- *Why Can't We Protect Elephants?* [New York Times](#) (11/18, Shipstead).
- *The Beauty Of Bears Ears And Of Protecting It.* [Boston Globe](#) (11/16, Nash).
- *Stop The Assault On U.S. National Monuments.* [Baltimore Sun](#) (11/17).
- *Trump Threatening National Marine Monuments.* [Marin \(CA\) Independent Journal](#) (11/17, Martin).
- *Push Back Against Joshua Tree National Park Fee Increase.* [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (11/18, Schneider).
- *Editorial Board: Respect Local Compromise On Sage Grouse.* [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (11/19).
- *Opening Sabinoso A Major Gain For New Mexico.* [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (11/18, Heinrich).

- *We Must Strive To Be Responsible Stewards Toward Our Wild Places.* [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#).
- *Development And Conservation Go Hand In Hand In New Mexico.* [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (11/19).
- *Another Look At BLM Gas Flaring Rules.* [Montana Standard](#) (11/19, Freeman).
- *The Forefront Of Renewable Power.* [Kokomo \(IN\) Perspective](#) (11/18, Floyd).
- *EDITORIAL: Bid To Ban Offshore Leases Shortsighted.* [Waynesboro \(VA\) News Virginian](#) (11/19).
- *Editorial: Military Can Learn To Live With Energy Exploration In The Atlantic.* [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (11/18).
- *Study Needed: Mountaintop Removal Mining Deserves Scrutiny.* [Parkersburg \(WV\) News and Sentinel](#) (11/20).
- *Editorial: If The Blues And The County Want The Public's Help, They Should Play It Straight.* [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (11/19).
- *My Freedom Is On The Line To Fight Climate Change, More Will Follow.* [The Hill](#) (11/17, Ward).

Top National News

Media Analyses: Officials Send Mixed Signals On Keeping ACA Mandate Repeal In Tax Bill.

OMB Director Mulvaney told [CNN's State Of The Union](#) Sunday that if repealing the ACA's individual mandate becomes an "impediment" to passing tax reform legislation, the White House is open to removing that provision from the legislation, the [Washington Post](#) (11/19, Sullivan) reports. Mulvaney said, "If we can repeal part of Obamacare as part of a tax bill and have a tax bill that is still a good tax bill, that can pass, that's great. ... If it becomes an impediment to getting the best tax bill we can, then we are okay with taking it out." However, he added that "he does not think it is currently an impediment," and House and Senate negotiators would have to determine whether to include the provision in the final bill. Similarly, Mulvaney told [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (11/19, Dickerson) that the Administration is looking for the "best tax bill that can pass," even if that means removing the mandate repeal.

[Politico](#) (11/19, McCaskill) quotes Mulvaney as telling CNN, "If they do get rid of this penalty, the folks who benefit from that are predominantly folks who make less than \$50,000 or \$100,000 a year. ... There's actually a benefit if the repeal goes away, but it's up to the House and Senate to hammer through those details." The [Washington Times](#) (11/19, Wolfgang) also reports on Mulvaney's comments, as does [Reuters](#) (11/19, Mutikani, Volcovici).

In a separate story, [Reuters](#) (11/19) reports that Treasury Secretary Mnuchin told [Fox News Sunday](#) that repealing the mandate was not a "bargaining chip" in negotiations. Mnuchin said, "This is all about getting this passed in the Senate. This isn't a bargaining chip, the President thinks we should get rid of it and I think we should get rid of it. ... It's an unfair tax on poor people."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/19, Sullivan, Paletta) reports on Mulvaney's comments under the headline, "As Clock Ticks On Tax Bill, White House Signals A Compromise." However, the [AP](#) (11/19, Superville) says Administration officials "sent mixed signals Sunday," citing Mulvaney's comments and comments from White Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Short, who told [ABC's This Week](#) (11/19) that the White House "is very comfortable with the House bill," which does not include the repeal, but sees the mandate as a tax and "we like the fact that the Senate has included it in its bill." The [New York Post](#) (11/19, Moore) also says Administration officials "gave conflicting signals" about the mandate.

Sen. Susan Collins said [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (11/19, Tapper), "I hope the Senate will follow the lead of the House and strike it. If not, I think we need to fix it, by passing two bills: the Alexander-Murray bill, which will help to stabilize markets and reduce premiums; and the bill I have introduced with Bill Nelson of Florida that would create high-risk pools that would protect people with preexisting conditions and also help to reduce premiums by 20 percent." [USA Today](#) (11/19, Slack) reports that Collins said removing the mandate could cause premium increases and "cancel out the tax cut that they would get." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/19, Torry, Rubin) reports that Collins also said that the Senate bill should lower the corporate rate to 22 percent instead of 20 percent and use the additional revenue to keep the so-called SALT deduction, which the Senate bill currently eliminates.

NYTimes Analysis: Savings From Mandate Repeal Could Be Less Than Republicans Anticipate.

A [New York Times](#) (11/19, A1, Zernike, Goodnough) analysis says Republicans, who are relying on the mandate repeal “to free up hundreds of billions of dollars to pay for an array of tax cuts to corporations and individuals,” are “assuming that without a mandate, many people would no longer buy insurance, so the government would spend billions of dollars less on” subsidies to help people pay for premiums. However, “polling data, analysis from a private forecasting agency and interviews with people who buy coverage through the Affordable Care Act marketplaces suggest the savings could be far less, largely because many people who qualify for the subsidies will still want to take advantage of them.” A Kaiser Family Foundation survey “found that just 7 percent of people who buy insurance on the individual market said they would go without coverage if the mandate were no longer enforced,” and “a majority said the mandate was not a reason they bought insurance.”

Trump Says He Should Have Left UCLA Players “In Jail.”

Media reports describe President Trump as lashing out via Twitter Sunday at LaVar Ball, the father of LiAngelo Ball, one of the UCLA basketball players caught shoplifting in China, after the elder Ball downplayed both Trump’s role in his son’s release and the seriousness of the accusations his son was facing.

Sunday afternoon, Trump [tweeted](#), “Now that the three basketball players are out of China and saved from years in jail, LaVar Ball, the father of LiAngelo, is unaccepting of what I did for his son and that shoplifting is no big deal. I should have left them in jail!” The [New York Post](#) (11/19, Moore) reports that “shortly before 7 p.m.,” Trump [tweeted](#), “Shoplifting is a very big deal in China, as it should be (5-10 years in jail), but not to father LaVar. ... Should have gotten his son out during my next trip to China instead. China told them why they were released. Very ungrateful!”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/19, Cohen) reports that Trump “fired back at LaVar Ball,” while [The Hill](#) (11/19, Samuels) says Trump “lashed out” at Ball, and [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/19, story 10, 0:30, Llamas) described a “brewing battle” between Trump and Ball. The [Daily Caller](#) (11/19, Caruso) also reports on Trump’s tweet as does the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/19, Rubin).

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/19, King) says Trump’s Sunday morning tweet “drew a quick backlash on social media,” with “many” expressing “incredulity that a sitting US president would publicly regret having come to the aid of American citizens being held by an authoritarian government.” Rep. Adam Schiff was “among Trump’s sharper critics,” [tweeting](#), “How can someone in such a big office be so small?” A [report](#) (11/19, Thompson) on Trump’s tweet on the sports website Deadspin was headlined, “Donald Trump Wishes He’d Left UCLA Teens in Chinese Prison Because His Feelings Are Hurt.”

The [New York Times](#) (11/19, Hoffman) says Trump “made it clear on Twitter that he expected the players to thank him for his involvement, claiming they faced 10 years in jail, though many legal experts weighed in to say it was unlikely the charges would have been that serious.” All three did thank the President once they returned to the US, and “apparently satisfied with their level of thanks,” Trump “took to Twitter to acknowledge their gratitude.”

[Townhall](#) (11/19, Meads) reports that after the player “promptly said thank you,” it “seemed as if the saga was over.” But, [Politico](#) (11/19, Griffiths) says LaVar Ball’s comments in an interview with ESPN, “seemed to catch his attention again.” [Bloomberg News](#) (11/19) reports that in the interview, Ball “minimized Trump’s involvement in winning the players’ release.” [USA Today](#) (11/19, Schad) says Ball was asked about Trump’s involvement in his son’s release and replied, “Who? ... What was he over there for? Don’t tell me nothing. Everybody wants to make it seem like he helped me out.” He added, “Like I told him, ‘They try to make a big deal out of nothing sometimes.’ ... I’m from L.A. I’ve seen a lot worse things happen than a guy taking some glasses.”

Trump Touts Economy, Promotes Tax Reform.

[Washington Post](#) (11/17, Bump) correspondent Philip Bump says “it’s rare when President Trump lays bare the contradiction at the heart of his push for tax reform so specifically,” but on Friday he did so in a pair of tweets. The President [tweeted](#), “Great numbers on Stocks and the Economy. If we get Tax Cuts and Reform, we’ll really see some great results!” Trump [added](#), “If Democrats were not such obstructionists and understood the power of lower taxes, we would be able to get many of their ideas into Bill!”

Meanwhile, [Politico](#) (11/17, Haberkorn, Bresnahan) reports Sens. Lindsey Graham, Lamar Alexander, Susan Collins, and Bill Cassidy on Thursday had “personally lobbied...Trump to

support a bill to shore up Obamacare markets while repealing the law's individual mandate as part of tax reform, according to GOP sources." A White House spokesman said Trump and the lawmakers "discussed the ongoing efforts to pass historic tax reform and other legislative objectives."

Mnuchin Touts Benefits Of Tax Reform. [Bloomberg News](#) (11/17, McGregor) reports Treasury Secretary Mnuchin in an interview on Fox News said Friday that the Republican tax reform plan will "benefit" New York's economy "by lowering the corporate tax to 20 percent." Mnuchin added, "That's a huge boom for the financial services industry – they can hire more people, they can pay more people, they can create more jobs, they can be competitive." Meanwhile, the [Washington Times](#) (11/17, Persons) reports Mnuchin conceded, "There will be people who make more than \$1 million, in high-tax states, who will be paying more." Mnuchin added, "As the president has said, this is not a tax plan to cut taxes for rich people. This is a plan to make businesses competitive."

[Reuters](#) (11/17, Johnson) reports that in an interview with CNBC, he also insisted "the majority of small businesses and non-corporate enterprises known as 'pass-throughs' would see a significant tax cut under the Republican tax plan." Mnuchin said 98 percent "of the number of pass-throughs have \$500,000 or less of income. ... Those people will get substantial reductions."

Hassett: "Not Economically Rational" To Argue Tax Cuts Will Increase Deficit. [Bloomberg News](#) (11/17, Voskuhl) reports Kevin Hassett, Chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, during a White House briefing on Friday argued "it's just not economically rational" to assume Republican tax reform proposals will increase the deficit in the long term. However, Bloomberg asserts "independent studies have reached differing conclusions." Bloomberg says "the conservative-leaning Tax Foundation, a Washington policy group, said earlier this month that the House's tax bill would cost \$1.98 trillion over a decade – compared with current law" while the Penn Wharton Budget Model at the University of Pennsylvania "found that, after accounting for larger economic effects, the House bill would 'reduce revenues between \$1.5 trillion and \$1.7 trillion' over 10 years. The Senate plan would reduce revenue by \$1.4 trillion to \$1.7 trillion, the model found."

Bureau of Labor Statistics: Unemployment Rate Has Fallen To Record Low In 13 States This Year. [The Hill](#) (11/17, Wilson) reports that according to the monthly Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) report released Friday, "the unemployment rates in Alabama, Hawaii, Maine, Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas and Washington all met or beat their lowest rates ever" while "California, Colorado, Idaho, North Dakota and Oregon also hit new lows earlier this year." The Hill adds that "nationally, the unemployment rate sits at 4.1 percent, the lowest level since December 2000, when it hit 3.9 percent."

Washington Examiner: Cutting Corporate Tax Rates Benefits Everyone. In an editorial, the [Washington Examiner](#) (11/17) criticizes Democratic opposition to cutting the corporate tax rate, adding that doing so "is neither corporate welfare nor a massive giveaway to the wealthy." According to the Examiner, the cut "is a fair and even-handed way of reducing economic distortions, making American businesses more competitive worldwide, and encouraging them to reinvest overseas profits in jobs and growth back home." What's more, corporations will have less incentive to pass costs on to taxpayers by raising prices, paying lower wages, and issuing smaller dividends.

STRATCOM Commander Says Would Refuse Nuclear Strike Order If Illegal.

The [AP](#) (11/18, Gillies) reports that at the Halifax International Security Forum on Saturday, Air Force Gen. John Hyten, the commander of US Strategic Command, said that if he received orders from President Trump to launch nuclear weapons, and if such a strike would be illegal, then he would refuse the order. Hyten said he has discussed such a scenario with the President, adding, "If it's illegal, guess what's going to happen. I'm going to say, 'Mr President, that's illegal.' And guess what he's going to do? He's going to say, 'What would be legal?'" Hyten said he would then provide Trump "with options with a mix of capabilities to respond to whatever the situation is, and that's the way it works." [Reuters](#) (11/18, Brunstrom, Stone) reports Hyten also "said running through scenarios of how to react in the event of an illegal order was standard practice, and added: 'If you execute an unlawful order, you will go to jail. You could go to jail for the rest of your life.'" Reuters says some lawmakers are pursuing legislation aimed at restricting the president's nuclear authority, and on Tuesday, a Senate committee "held the first congressional hearing in more than four decades on the president's authority to launch a nuclear strike."

LA Times: Bill To Restrict President's Nuclear Authority Jeopardizes Means To Deter Aggression. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/18) editorializes that while it is "dismayed" by "President Trump's bellicose statements and impulsive governing style," it cannot "support the Restricting First Use

of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2017 proposed by Sen. Ed Markey of Massachusetts and Rep. Ted Lieu of Torrance." The Times says its "principal concern about this bill is that it would make it harder for a president not just to use nuclear weapons, but also to deter aggression by leaving adversaries in doubt about whether and when such weapons might be used." The Times reiterates that it shares concerns over Trump's rhetoric, but notes "the president has deferred to the advice of his national security team, including on nuclear strategy." As such, the Times concludes, "Congress shouldn't attempt to legislate a drastic change in the president's authority to defend the nation."

White House Requests \$44 Billion In Additional Disaster Relief.

The [New York Times](#) (11/17, A1, Kaplan) reports on its front page that the White House on Friday asked Congress "for \$44 billion in additional relief in response to this year's devastating hurricanes, but facing rising budget deficits and pushing a tax cut that could cost \$1.5 trillion, the administration also suggested that lawmakers make spending cuts to offset disaster costs." According to the Times, "Administration officials laid out a menu of options for budget cutting, totaling \$59 billion, from small nicks like \$8 million from a rural energy program to far larger options, such as \$3.9 billion from student financial aid and \$1 billion from transportation infrastructure funds." Budget Director Mulvaney asserted "the administration believes it is prudent to offset new spending." However, the Times acknowledges "some of those proposals were sure to raise eyebrows" and lawmakers "swiftly dismissed [the request] as inadequate."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/17, Peterson, Andrews) highlights the bipartisan criticism to the aid proposal. Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn in a hearing Thursday condemned the proposal as "wholly inadequate" while Rep. Nita Lowey, the ranking member on the House Appropriations Committee, in a statement said Friday that the request "does not come close to what local officials [in Puerto Rico] say is needed."

Puerto Rico Power Authority CEO Resigns Amid Prolonged Post-Hurricane Blackout.

The [New York Times](#) (11/17, Robles) reports Ricardo L. Ramos, CEO of the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, resigned yesterday "amid a two-month island-wide blackout and weeks of bruising public outcry over a costly contract to restore service." According to the article, "The governor, Ricardo A. Rosselló, told reporters that he accepted the resignation because Mr. Ramos had become a distraction," and "a spokeswoman for Mr. Rosselló said the governor had not asked for Mr. Ramos to step down."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/17, Mufson, Hernández) reports Rosselló said, "The executive director is a professional. He has worked hard to restore the system in Puerto Rico but understands that this is a context that has greatly distracted from what could be recovery."

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/17, Levin, Spalding) reports Ramos's resignation "made clear" that Rosselló "wants to remain in charge of the battered island's recovery."

[USA Today](#) (11/17, Stanglin) reports San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz called the resignation the "right thing." She added, "That he helped destroy the credibility of the PR government is a disgrace."

[The Hill](#) (11/17, Henry) reports "less than 45 percent of power has been restored to Puerto Rico since Hurricane Maria swept across" the island. The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/17, Siegel) reports PREPA and Ramos "have been especially criticized for signing a \$300 million contract with small Montana firm Whitefish Energy to restore the island's power."

The [Daily Caller](#) (11/17, White) and the [AP](#) (11/18, Coto) also provide coverage of Ramos' resignation.

WPost: Puerto Rico Still Faces Enormous Problems. The [Washington Post](#) (11/17) writes in an editorial that despite depictions the departure from Puerto Rico of the Army general tasked with leading the military's response to Hurricane Maria is "a sign the island is no longer in crisis mode but instead is transitioning to long-term recovery," there are clearly enormous problems on the island still. Considering this, the Post argues that "more than ever, the people of Puerto Rico must not be forgotten," and that "those charged with rebuilding the island need to show they are up to the task and not repeat the mistakes that marked the initial response to the catastrophic storm."

Officials Say Keystone Leak Will Not Factor Into Monday's Expansion Vote.

The [AP](#) (11/17, Schulte, Nord) reports that despite the seemingly poor timing of the Keystone pipeline leak, officials "say state law does not allow pipeline safety to be a factor" in their decision on whether to expand the system. The Nebraska Public Service Commission is scheduled to vote

Monday on whether to allow the Keystone XL expansion proposed by TransCanada. The decision “will hinge on testimony and documents generated from public hearings over the summer and from more than 500,000 public comments, Nebraska Public Service Commission spokeswoman Deb Collins said.” A state law passed in 2011 “prevents the commission from factoring pipeline safety or the possibility of leaks into its decisions.” Opponents of Keystone XL “are incensed that the leak won’t be considered.”

Meanwhile, the [New York Times](#) (11/17, Smith) reports the images of “South Dakota grassland blemished by 210,000 gallons of leaked Canadian crude oil could not have come at a worse time for the Keystone Pipeline’s operator, TransCanada.” The Times adds that a preliminary report filed with the state “listed ‘equipment failure’ as the cause.” The company had about 75 TransCanada workers and contractors at the site on Friday, “along with federal and state regulators, to begin a lengthy cleanup that will include the excavation of part of the pipeline.”

LATimes Analysis: Strong Economy A “Lifeline” For Trump’s “Embattled Presidency.”

A [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/19, Lauter) analysis reports that the economy “has become a lifeline” for President Trump’s “otherwise embattled presidency.” Increasingly, the President has “tout[ed] low unemployment, record high stock market values and healthy economic growth rates in speeches and his ubiquitous tweets,” and the reaction from voters, “even some who are otherwise skeptical of the president, show how the economy’s strong performance has bolstered Trump’s standing.” The Times cites a focus group conducted by Democratic pollster Peter Hart which found that “even participants who voted for Trump last year sharply criticized his administration,” but “when the subject turned to the economy, opinions of Trump noticeably warmed.”

NYTimes Analysis: Trump Still Facing Challenges In Push For Faster Infrastructure Projects.

The [New York Times](#) (11/18, Meier) examines President Trump’s pledge to accelerate the review process for completing major construction projects, including his goal for agencies to complete environmental reviews in two years. The centerpiece of President Trump’s plan gives an office within the White House called the Council on Environmental Quality “the authority to coordinate actions and direct how environmental reviews are performed. Much of the plan’s inspiration lies in a report, ‘Two Years Not Ten Years,’ issued in 2015 by Common Good, a nonpartisan research and advocacy group.” The Trump Administration’s recent budget proposal included “a six-page fact sheet about infrastructure funding, including private investment,” but “several recent projects illustrate the pitfalls new proposals confront and the challenge Mr. Trump faces in breaking the logjams,” including maintenance at Penn Station in Manhattan and construction to build the proposed Northern Corridor.

Administration Officials Say “Administrative State” Is Being Rolled Back.

The [Washington Times](#) (11/19, Richardson) reports that at the Federalist Society’s national convention this weekend, “top-ranking members of the Trump administration...share[d] their progress rolling back the administrative state.” White House Counsel Donald McGahn said, “The President is making fundamental changes to how the regulatory state interacts with the people, and he is selecting judges who will enforce the law as written and respect the separation of powers.” HHS Office for Civil Rights Director Roger Severino similarly said, “The project of regulatory roll-back is well underway under this Administration.” He cited several of what he called “great developments for shutting down the regulatory state.”

Paris Climate Signatories Agree On Path Forward To Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

The [AP](#) (11/18, Jordans) reported that the Bonn climate talks ended Saturday after an “all-night negotiating session” and progress toward “creating a comprehensive rule book for fighting global warming.” Fiji’s Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama, who presided over the meeting, said “notable achievements” were made regarding agriculture, ocean protection, indigenous people’s rights and the launch of a new system to help people in poor countries get insurance against the effects of climate change. [Reuters](#) (11/18, Chestney, Doyle) reported that despite the Trump administration’s decision to withdraw from the Paris climate accord, nearly 200 nations remain committed to keeping the global agreement on track. Delegates “agreed to launch a process in 2018 to start reviewing existing plans to limit greenhouse gas emissions as part of a long-term effort to ratchet up ambition,” which will be known to as the “Talanoa Dialogue.”

[Politico](#) (11/18, Holden) reported that the White House “goaded activists at the international climate talks by pushing coal and other fossil fuels,” although behind closed doors, “U.S. negotiators stuck to their Obama-era principles on the 2015 Paris deal.” Observers at the conference “said the U.S. made no effort to disrupt the talks,” but that “Washington was ‘not in the negotiations with the same credibility as before.’” [Bloomberg News](#) (11/17, Shankleman) reported that Trump has “weakened” the Paris deal, according to Christian Ehler, a German member of the European Parliament, who said, “the U.S. was creating a huge vacuum, so now you see people trying to fill it up. There’s a leadership gap, and I think now the interests are falling apart in a way.”

Future Success Of Paris Accord Unclear After UN Climate Talks. The [New York Times](#) (11/18, Plumer) reported that on Wednesday at the United Nations climate talks in Bonn, German Chancellor Angela Merkel declared that “climate change is an issue determining our destiny as mankind.” She then conceded that because of Germany’s continued reliance on coal energy, her own nation will likely miss its own greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals, delivering “a stark reminder that the real action on global warming does not unfold in international venues.” Ultimately, the Times says, the Paris climate accord is “a giant bet on the power of peer pressure – with the future of the planet at stake.” The biggest unknown centers on “whether this whole process will translate into meaningful further action to cut emissions,” says the Times. In Bonn, however, “there were a few signs peer pressure is working and that some countries are indeed feeling compelled to take stronger action.”

Small Island Nations Losing Faith In Global Efforts Against Climate Change. The [New York Times](#) (11/17, Plumer, Friedman) reported that small island nations “are among the smallest contributors to climate change, producing less than 1 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions,” but they “are among the most vulnerable nations to global warming.” Leaders of small islands say the industrialized world “owes some recompense for the disasters these vulnerable nations will suffer in the years ahead,” but as the United Nations climate talks “on bolstering the Paris agreement draw to a close, island leaders say the décor seems a cruel taunt.” Hopes among island nation leaders that they “will see a major increase in financial support to help address the consequences of climate change” are also waning, as are efforts “to expand ways for nations to adapt to future disasters.” As a result, some island officials, like those in Seychelles, “frustrated by the slowness of the United Nations process, have decided to take matters into their own hands.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“The Trump Administration Is Making War On Diplomacy.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (11/18) says Secretary of State Tillerson “has shown that business experience isn’t easily transferable to government,” as he is “widely seen as ill suited to diplomatic leadership and determined to dismantle his own department.” The Times explains the State Department “is being undermined by budget cuts, a failure to fill top jobs, an erratic president and a secretary who has called reorganization, rather than policy, his most important priority.” The timing of the State Department’s redesign “could hardly be worse,” the Times says, in light of “the aggressive behavior of North Korea, Russia and China.” Ultimately, the Times concludes, Tillerson’s tenure will be based on his efforts to “forestall war with North Korea, manage the rise of China, check Russia’s efforts to undermine democracy, lay the groundwork for postwar stability in Syria and Iraq, and protect America’s international standing.”

Washington Post.

“The House Tax Bill Unleashes A Dangerous Avalanche Of Campaign Cash.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/18) argues against a provision in the Republican tax bill that would roll back the Johnson Amendment, which would permit “churches, charities and foundations to engage in candidate-specific politicking and enable donors to reap tax breaks for political contributions.” The Post warns that churches and church-affiliated groups have lax filing requirements and could be used to completely mask donors, making them the “latest vessels for dark-money politics.” The Post concludes that this change is unwanted, and would only serve to make churches “servants of special interests seeking to further warp the nation’s electoral politics.”

“The White House’s Much-Needed Rebuke To A Country Smothering Democracy.” A

[Washington Post](#) (11/18) editorial says that at the ASEAN summit last week, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, “who has been slowly squeezing the life out of democracy in Cambodia, delivered a fawning tribute to President Trump” and even “expressed delight” about Trump’s pledge to abstain from other nations’ internal affairs. The Post argues that the President’s “declaration in his inaugural address that ‘we do not seek to impose our way of life on anyone’ was an invitation to potentates such as Hun Sen to smother liberty.” On Thursday, however, the White House delivered “a much-needed rebuke to Hun Sen,” potentially signaling that “the Trump administration is waking up, belatedly, to the reality that the United States can’t ignore the internal affairs of other nations when democracy is under siege.”

“**A School Volunteer Abused At Least 23 Children. Officials Ignored It.**” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/18) blasts Prince George’s County school officials for ignoring red flags that school volunteer Deonte Carraway sexually abused at least 23 minors “during school hours and on school property.” The Post says, “School officials have not been forthcoming, but information revealed in a lawsuit against the system provides troubling answers. Not only were there warning signs – lots of them – but they were ignored.” The Post calls for “a complete, public accounting of exactly what went wrong at this school and who was responsible.”

Wall Street Journal.

“**Germany’s Green Energy Meltdown.**” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/17) editorializes that Germany has admitted it will fall short of its 2020 carbon emissions-reduction goal, and its 2030 goal is almost certainly out of reach as well. The Journal says the failure of Chancellor Angela Merkel, who herself championed the now-failing energy revolution, to form a coalition government will come at significant price, and if she again recommits to dirty-coal and high-cost energies at the expense of clean energy, she should expect voters to once again rebel in 2021.

“**A Blue Slip – Not A Franken Veto.**” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/17) discusses in an editorial the news that as Sen. Al Franken faces calls for him to resign, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley said earlier this week he will move ahead with a confirmation hearing for Minnesota Supreme Court Justice David Stras, ending a veto by Franken on the issue. The piece concludes by lauding Grassley for restoring Senate courtesy to its rightful purpose.

“**The Menendez Mistrial.**” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/17) writes in an editorial that the corruption charges against Sen. Robert Menendez were thin, in light of the news that a jury failed to convict the senator, resulting in a mistrial. The Journal argues that while Menendez is not a model public servant, it is not clear that his actions amounted to criminal activity. The editorial concludes that although prosecutors will likely move to retry the senator to vindicate their initial charges, it would be more prudent to simply drop the case.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[GE Housecleaning Will Alter Board’s Makeup](#)

[German Coalition Talks Collapse](#)

[Trump Administration Tightens Scrutiny Of Skilled Worker Visa Applicants](#)

[How China’s Acquisitive HNA Group Fell From Favor](#)

New York Times:

[Behind Mugabe’s Rapid Fall: A Firing, A Feud And A First Lady](#)

[Will Cutting The Health Mandate Pay For Tax Cuts? Not Necessarily](#)

[He Took On The Voting Rights Act And Won. Now He’s Taking On Harvard.](#)

[In Race Against Roy Moore, Democratic Candidate Is Mostly On His Own](#)

[Mel Tillis, Country Star Known For His Songs And His Stutter, Dies At 85](#)

Washington Post:

[Kitchen Nightmares](#)

[Mugabe Declines To Step Down](#)

[West Wing Aides Split On Russia Inquiry](#)

[As Business Booms, A Tax Cut Is Seen As ‘Overdue’](#)

[Fake Opioid Pills Are Flooding Into The US — With Lethal Results](#)

Financial Times:

[Mugabe Defies Calls To Step Down As Zimbabwe President](#)
[Banks Prepare To Settle With Brussels Over Forex Cartel Probe](#)
[Companies Face High Cost To Meet New EU Data Protection Rules](#)
[Beijing Vies For Greater Control Of Foreign Universities In China](#)

Washington Times:

[Doug Jones, Roy Moore's Opponent In Alabama, Campaigns As A Political Bridge-Builder](#)
[Roy Moore Focuses Battle On Establishment Republicans](#)
[Lerner, Paz Say They Fear Physical Harm From Enraged Public, Want IRS Testimony Sealed Permanently](#)
['Year Of The Woman' Senators Condemn Sexual Harassment, Campaigned For Ted Kennedy](#)
[Democrats Give Dubious Credit To Trump-Russia Dossier Despite Public Information Debunking Claims](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Argentina-Missing Submarine; Police Shooters-Manhunt; Roy Moore Campaign; Russia Meddling Investigation; Nursing Home Mismanagement; Black Friday Shopping; Jeffrey Tambor Sexual Misconduct Allegation; Trump-Lavar Ball Twitter War; NASCAR News; Challenger Incident Memorial.

CBS: Roy Moore Campaign; Roy Moore Campaign, Tax Reform Bill-Expert Comment; Hollywood Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Keystone Pipeline Spill; Zimbabwe-Military Coup; Argentina-Missing Submarine; NASCAR News; Britain-New Royal Portrait; Puerto Rico Recovery; Teens-International Charity.

Network TV At A Glance:

Roy Moore Campaign – 4 minutes, 50 seconds
Hollywood Sexual Misconduct Allegations – 2 minutes, 40 seconds
Argentina-Missing Submarine – 2 minutes, 20 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Russia Meddling Investigation; Argentina-Missing Submarine; Country Music Star Dies.

CBS: Tax Reform Plan; Roy Moore Campaign; Country Music Star Dies; Wall Street News.

FOX: Roy Moore Campaign; Trump-Lavar Ball Twitter War.

NPR: Zimbabwe-Military Coup; Puerto Rico Recovery; Argentina-Missing Submarine; Kenya-Political Instability; Morocco-Stampede.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Holds a Cabinet Meeting; has lunch with Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson; meets with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President to participate in a Cabinet Meeting; joins the President for lunch with Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Finance subcommittee field hearing on NAFTA – International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness Subcommittee field hearing on 'Modernization of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA)', with testimony from Office of the U.S. Trade Representative General Counsel Stephen Vaughn; Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers CEO and President Mitch Bainwol; Border Trade Alliance Chair Paola Avila; San Antonio Chamber of Commerce CEO and President Richard Perez; Texas Association of Business CEO Jeff Moseley; Texas Farm Bureau President Russell Boening; and Texas Oil and Gas Association President Todd Staples Location: San Antonio Marriott Plaza Hotel, 555 S Alamo St, San Antonio, TX San Antonio <http://finance.senate.gov>

Senate on recess until 27 November.

US House: House of Representatives on recess until 27 November.

Other: 2:00 PM Spain Ambassador to the U.S. speaks at Potomac Institute – Potomac Institute Inter-University Center for Terrorism Studies Ambassador's Forum on 'Spanish-U.S. Strategic Partnership', with Spain Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Pedro Morenes and former U.S. Marine Corps Commandant Gen. (Ret.) Alfred Gray Location: Potomac Institute for Policy Studies, 901 N

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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Bureau Of Indian Affairs

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- Desecrated In Macabre Ways, The Ancestral Remains Of Catalina's Native Americans Finally Come Home.
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- Five Myths About American Indians.

Bureau Of Indian Education

- Putting The 'Education' Back In Bureau Of Indian Education.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Associated Press: Forest Service Weighs Changes To Protections For Sage Grouse.
- Salem (OR) Capital Press: BLM Focuses On Productive Partnerships.
- Riverside (CA) Press Enterprise: Will A Senate Bill Save Thousands Of Wild Horses, Burros From Being Euthanized?
- Associated Press: Public Meetings Scheduled For Burning Man Permit Renewal.
- E&E Publishing: New BLM Regime Shifts Energy Landscape In Colo.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- Jerry Brown Has Meeting In Norway About California's Offshore Wind Potential.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Associated Press: NRA, Hunting Group Say Grizzly Bear Hunts Needed For Safety.
- E&E Publishing: Right And Left Wings Battle Over Migratory Bird Treaty.
- Associated Press: EPA Still Weighing Fine For Geese Deaths At Former Mine.
- Associated Press: Trappers Ask Court To Throw Out Lawsuit Over US Fur Exports.
- Payson (AZ) Roundup: Fish And Wildlife Retracts Opposition To Arizona Project.
- San Francisco Chronicle: A World Apart On The Butte Sink Marsh.

National Park Service

- Associated Press: State Attorneys General Bash Plan To Hike National Park Fees.
- Associated Press: Utah's Grand Staircase Monument May Face Sharp Reduction In Size.
- Associated Press: Carlsbad Caverns National Park Keeps Concessions Contractor.
- Associated Press: Johnny Cash Boyhood Home Considered For Historic Nomination.
- Associated Press: Smokies Look For Private Money To Replace Emergency Radios.
- Associated Press: Renovations Set To Begin At Boulder Beach Campground.
- Associated Press: 8 Tennessee Sites Added To Historic Places Register.
- CNN: National Park Service Doesn't Object To Sale Of Trump Wine At Park.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR): National Parks Reopen In U.S. Virgin Islands Following Hurricanes.

US Geological Survey

- Washington Post: Oil And Gas Industry Is Causing Texas Earthquakes, A 'Landmark' Study Suggests.
- Associated Press: Earthquake Recorded Off Oregon Coast.

Opinion Pieces

- Ryan Zinke's Missteps On Ivory.
- Editorial: Fee Hikes At National Parks Would Limit Access To Wealthy Americans.
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Top National News

- CBS: Media Analyses: Trump Blasts Jones Again In Implicit Moore Endorsement.
- Washington Examiner: Trump To Push Tax Reform On Hill, In Purple State This Week.
- Washington Times: As English Files Suit, DOJ Backs Trump's Appointment Of Acting CFPB Director.
- USA Today: Politico Analysis: Pruitt Seeking To Re-Engineer EPA's Culture.

- New York Times: Puerto Ricans Flee Island For US Mainland.
- Washington Post: Balz Discusses Study On “Glaring Alarm” Over Trump’s Reliance On Executive Action.

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 - “Cops, Cellphones And Privacy At The Supreme Court.”
 - “New York City Has Been A Problem Landlord.”
- Washington Post.
 - “Colleges Need To Take On Greek Life Before More People Die.”
 - “Two Of Trump’s Judicial Nominees Deserve A Much Closer Look.”
 - “The Fates Of 700,000 ‘Dreamers’ Hang In The Balance. This One Should Not Be Hard For Congress.”
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DOI In The News

Candidate To Lead US Land Agency: No Advocate Of Transfers.

The [AP](#) (11/26, Gruver) reported Karen Budd-Falen, a candidate to lead the Bureau of Land Management, “says environmentalists mischaracterize her as an advocate of” signing over public lands “to state and local governments and private interests when in fact she’s got no opinion on the issue.” Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift “declined to say whether Budd-Falen was still a candidate or when somebody might be nominated for the director job, which has been vacant since January.” The AP noted Budd-Falen “and her husband, Frank Falen, have a practice with four other attorneys” that focuses “largely on ranchers and property rights – anything from easements to oil and gas leases and how to comply with government regulations.” According to the AP, her past clients included Cliven Bundy.

Montana Monument May Expand Under Trump Administration.

[NPR](#) (11/26, Hegyi) reported that this past summer, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke recommended Montana’s Badger Two-Medicine “become a new national monument, and President Donald Trump is expected to announce decisions about monuments in December.” The designation “would protect more than 200 square miles of federal land from any future oil and gas development.” NPR discusses Zinke’s ties to Montana, saying that while he has “encouraged mining, drilling and reducing the size of national monuments elsewhere in the country, he’s left existing national monuments in Montana alone and he’s urged mining bans near Yellowstone National Park.”

The [Huffington Post](#) (11/27, Papenfuss) also reports on this story.

Secretary Of The Interior Ryan Zinke Visits Mille Lacs County.

The [Mille Lacs \(MN\) Messenger](#) (11/22, LaMoore) reported Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke “made an impromptu visit to the Mille Lacs County area on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 16 and 17, to discuss the current law enforcement crisis.” Zinke told the Messenger that he had never visited northern Minnesota and he wanted to start visiting tribal reservations in this part of the country. Zinke’s visit “comes on the heels of a Nov. 8 letter from the Department of the Interior to Mille Lacs County Attorney Joe Walsh” that “reaffirms the federal government’s position that the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe reservation exists.” Zinke said, “Tribal law enforcement within those boundaries needs to be honored. This is a capable law enforcement agency and should be treated as such.”

Trump Has Raised The Stakes Of The Public-Land Debate.

[The Atlantic](#) (11/20, Felton) reported on steps the Trump Administration has taken to roll back federal protection of US land. The Atlantic said that this summer, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “reviewed and suggested modifying 10 national monuments; Trump reportedly said that he planned to shrink at least two, Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante; a House bill was introduced that would limit the president’s power to protect land; and a Senate budget resolution could open a wildlife refuge to drilling.” The article details the federal government’s expanding role in land protection in the past 120 years, including President Theodore Roosevelt’s signing of the Antiquities Act in 1906. The Atlantic said that Democratic presidents starting with Jimmy Carter “exercised their land-protection power extensively,” despite Republican claims of federal overreach.

Documents Show Involvement Of Zinke’s Wife On Official Trip.

[CNN](#) (11/21, Killough, Wallace) reported the advocacy group Western Values Project, through a Freedom of Information Act request, obtained a batch of government documents and emails that show Department of Interior staffers accommodating a “a last-minute change in Lolita Zinke’s travel itinerary during a May trip to Alaska, Norway and Greenland.” According to the documents, when a staffer learned that Lolita Zinke would be leaving Alaska to return to Washington, DC on a different date from that previously scheduled, the staffer emailed another staffer: “UGH! We have all kinds of planes, trains and automobiles manifests to now scramble with.” In an exchange of emails, aides “also discussed...that Lolita Zinke would need to pay her own way to attend an event hosted by the governor of Alaska, which included a meal.” Multiple emails indicate that Secretary Zinke “acknowledged that he would personally pay for his wife’s meal.”

The Energy 202: Internal Watchdog Says Interior Should Focus On Climate Change. It Isn’t.

An analysis by the [Washington Post](#) (11/22, Grandoni) “PowerPost” blog reported the Interior’s Office of the Inspector General listed climate change among the “most significant management and performance challenges” facing the department in a report released last week. The Trump Administration, however, “has taken few – if any – steps to address the emerging threat.” Rather, under the leadership of Secretary Ryan Zinke, the department “has reoriented its mission around boosting the extraction of fossil fuels and other resources on the more than 500 million acres under its management as part of the Trump administration’s sweeping ‘energy dominance’ agenda.” The Post analysis also said the Bureau of Indian Affairs “has scrubbed mentions of climate change from the website of its Tribal Climate Resilience Program (now just ‘Tribal Resilience Programs’), which helped tribes study climate change impacts.”

Group Lobbying To End Trophy Hunting Ban Is Alarmingly Close With Ryan Zinke.

The [Huffington Post](#) (11/23, D’Angelo) reported on the relationship between Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Safari Club International (SCI), which donated thousands of dollars to Zinke’s congressional campaigns. The Huffington Post said the “appropriateness of the relationship has come into question after the Interior Department lifted Obama-era bans on importing elephant and lion trophies from Zimbabwe and Zambia.” Additionally, SCI said on its website that its Director of Litigation, Anna Seidman, “had a prime spot” at a recent signing ceremony for a pair of secretarial orders to overturn a pair of hunter-focused secretarial orders.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Program Enhances Navajo Language In Tribal Courts.

The [AP](#) (11/23, Smith) reported on steps taken by the Navajo National Judicial Branch to “enhance the Navajo language in tribal courts.” The program, a collaboration between the branch and Navajo Technical University, “has students learning court transcription and interpretation in Navajo and English.” According to the AP, the “program was funded by a \$150,000 grant from Tribal Justice Support under the U.S. Department of the Interior.”

Native Americans Rewrote The Playbook For Preserving Public Land.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/26, Schneider) reports that former President Obama’s Proclamation 9558, which conserves “over 100,000 Native American archaeological and cultural sites within the newly established 1.35-million-acre Bears Ears National Monument,” is now under attack by the Trump Administration. Utah’s Republican congressional delegation “immediately vowed to amend

the Antiquities Act to strip its authority for presidents to act on their own to protect large expanses of federal land." The passage of a bill sponsored by Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT) "would mark a decided tilt in favor of industrial and political forces that have worked for decades in the West to dismantle safeguards for federal land and the environment." However, President Trump's "antipathy to the antiquities law and the new monument has galvanized Native American groups, who see the standoff as another test of their strength a year after the confrontation over the Dakota Access pipeline in North Dakota."

Desecrated In Macabre Ways, The Ancestral Remains Of Catalina's Native Americans Finally Come Home.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/22, Sahagun) reported on steps taken by the Gabrielino-Tongva Tribe to retrieve Native American remains that "sat in storage for decades" following the closure of a museum in 1950 and give them "a proper burial." The Times said that a "in a private ceremony in July 2016, the remains of 200 ancestors...were reburied on a bluff in the heart of Catalina, surrounded by green hills essentially unchanged from when the Gabrielino-Tongva roamed the 76-square-mile island." According to the Times, the reclaimed remains "tell a story that mirrors a broader trend as local tribes use their growing political influence and the legal authority of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act to take back remains and artifacts held by museums and universities for proper care and burial."

American Indians Strive To Restore Nearly Lost Tribal Food Traditions.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (11/22, Duggan) reported that Thanksgiving is the annual time of the year when "American Indians are recognized by the wider American society, albeit usually in caricature. To present modern ideas of indigenous food that also recognize precolonial traditions, native chefs from across the continent are flying to New York City over Thanksgiving weekend to participate in a series of pop-up dinners." Additionally, a young generation of American Indians "are working to reintroduce native food ways to their tribes" by organizing "intertribal events to share ideas and reconnect with their culture." However, Northern California tribes continue to "struggle for the right to gather foods like acorns, mussels and surf fish that have sustained their tribes for thousands of years" as newer generations "have been cut off from ancestral hunting and gathering grounds, and those grounds have compacted as wild salmon and other vital foods dwindle."

In Indian Country, Honoring Flag Might Mean Different Anthem.

The [AP](#) (11/25, Fonseca) reported that Native Americans have a "unique take" on the debate on "taking a knee" during the national anthem "as the ethnic group with the highest military-service rate, and an enduring regard for warriors." Many tribes "have their own national anthems known as flag songs that focus on veterans." Reverence that some tribes display toward veterans "is almost sacred," as warriors are "blessed through ceremonies before they encounter enemies, and welcomed back with parades, giveaways, eagle feathers, cleansing ceremonies and songs."

Five Myths About American Indians.

Kevin Gover, director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, debunked five myths about American Indians in the [Washington Post](#) (11/21, Gover), which he attributes to centuries of "narratives, novels, short stories, textbooks, newspapers, art, photography, movies and television" perpetuating old stereotypes or creating new ones. He says that a singular Native American culture does not exist, explaining that "lumping all Native Americans into an indiscriminate, and threatening, mass continued during the era of western expansion, as settlers pushed into tribal territories in pursuit of new lands on the frontier." Gover wrote that "vast differences – in culture, ethnicity and language – exist among the 567 federally recognized Indian nations across the United States."

Bureau Of Indian Education

Putting The 'Education' Back In Bureau Of Indian Education.

Sue Parton, president of the Federation of Indian Service Employees, writes in the [Oklahoman](#) (11/26, Parton) that for too long, the Bureau of Indian Education, the Department of the Interior, Congress, "and other agencies have neglected the very real problems that have done a disservice to Native students in their schools, including off-reservation Indian boarding schools." Parton says

that BIE schools “continue to wrestle with low student achievement; punitive, ineffective ways to address discipline and safety issues; a lack of social, emotional and health care services; staff turnover and poor morale; retaliation against whistleblowers; opaque rather than transparent decision making; and a lack of true accountability.” To overcome these obstacles, Parton proposes community schools, which “educate the whole child, working with community partners that provide programs and services to take on not just educational improvements but the complex problems that hinder good outcomes.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Forest Service Weighs Changes To Protections For Sage Grouse.

The [AP](#) (11/22, Ridler) reported the US Forest Service said Tuesday that it is working with the US Bureau of Land Management regarding “protection plans for sage grouse in six Western states after a U.S. court agreed with mining companies and others that the agency illegally created some safeguards in Nevada.” Forest Service spokesman John Shivik “said the coordinated review makes sense two years after federal officials decided the chicken-sized bird shouldn’t receive endangered-species protections.” The agency is accepting public comments in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, and Wyoming through Jan. 5.

BLM Focuses On Productive Partnerships.

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (11/22, Dumas) reported that Kathy Benedetto, senior adviser to BLM, “told ranchers at the Idaho Cattle Association annual convention” last week that Interior Secretary has developed a plan for the department to be more a more productive partner with public-lands users. She said Zinke has been defining his priorities over the past nine months, “including restoring a regulatory balance, expanding access to public lands, restoring trust and being a good neighbor.” There is also a renewed focus at BLM “on shared conservation stewardship, including efforts to try outcome-based grazing, revisit sage grouse conservation plans and reconsider the land-use planning process.”

Will A Senate Bill Save Thousands Of Wild Horses, Burros From Being Euthanized?

The [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (11/24, Horseman) reported that advocates for wild horses applauded an “explanatory statement on the Senate Appropriations Committee’s \$32.6 billion Interior spending bill for fiscal 2018” that calls for “humane and politically viable options” to deal with wild horse overpopulation on federal land. This contrasts with a “similar bill passed by the House Appropriations Committee in July” that “allows horses to be euthanized as a means of population control.” Bureau of Land Management officials have “said that the current wild horse population, estimated at 73,000, is more than the land can sustain and the population doubles every four years and that not enough horses are being adopted to keep pace with population growth.” Nevertheless, Suzanne Roy, executive director of the American Wild Horse Campaign, said in a news release, “The Senate has heard the voice of the Americans loud and clear and rejected the killing of our nation’s iconic wild horses and burros.”

Public Meetings Scheduled For Burning Man Permit Renewal.

The [AP](#) (11/23) reported the Bureau of Land Management and the organizers of the annual Burning Man counterculture festival will host “a series of meetings next month to get the public’s input regarding the proposed renewal of the event’s permit.” The meetings are scheduled for Dec. 4 to 6 in Gerlach, Reno, and Lovelock. The formal permit renewal process is expected to starting March.

New BLM Regime Shifts Energy Landscape In Colo.

[E&E Publishing](#) (11/22, King) reported that environmental advocates support the North Fork Alternative Plan, a proposal to close off 75 percent of the North Fork Valley’s federal lands to energy leasing. However, the North Fork Valley plan, “which BLM’s Uncompahgre Field Office in western Colorado is considering as part of its latest resource management plan (RMP), is hotly contested by fossil fuel developers.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Jerry Brown Has Meeting In Norway About California's Offshore Wind Potential.

The [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (11/24, Nikolewski) reported Gov. Jerry Brown, during his trip to Europe earlier this month, met "with executives from one of the world's biggest energy companies to discuss the possibilities of developing the first offshore wind project in California." He met "with Bjørn Otto Sverdrup, senior vice president for corporate sustainability for Statoil in Norway, according to the news website Axios." There are no offshore wind farms on the West Coast and there is just one that "has been completed in the U.S. – off the shores of Block Island in Rhode Island." The Union-Tribune mentioned that in May 2016, Brown called on the US Department of the Interior "to establish a state task force in coordination with Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to identify promising areas for wind energy off California's coastline." Brown said to Axios, "It's great, all that wind blowing, if we can get it, if the price is right, if the technology is there, if we can get through appropriate analysis. ... I think it may have real potential, but there's lots of issues there."

Fish And Wildlife Service

NRA, Hunting Group Say Grizzly Bear Hunts Needed For Safety.

The [AP](#) (11/25, Brown) reported the National Rifle Association and Safari Club International have "want to ensure their members can hunt grizzly bears in the three-state region around Yellowstone National Park after the animals lost U.S. protections." In response to conservation groups suing the US Fish and Wildlife Service for revoking the species' threatened status in July, the NRA and SCI "asked U.S. District Judge Dana Christensen to let them intervene in the case." The hunting groups argued in "affidavits submitted by their attorneys that hunting would help the region's economy, allow states to better manage the animals and improve public safety."

Right And Left Wings Battle Over Migratory Bird Treaty.

[E&E Publishing](#) (11/22, Doyle) reported that federal officials may be banned from "pursuing companies whose operations incidentally kill migratory birds, under a two-pronged maneuver now advancing publicly on Capitol Hill and quietly inside the Interior Department." The Migratory Bird Treaty Act "prohibits the unauthorized taking of more than 800 species of migratory birds." The US Fish and Wildlife Service "currently contends this includes killing that is 'incidental' to industrial or commercial activities, regardless of the corporate actors' intentions." Rep. Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.) is "leading one effort to steer the law in industry's direction" by adding an amendment into the "SECURE America Energy Act" that specifies accidental or incidental take was not covered by the MBTA. A "related effort" could also "be afoot in the office of Interior's solicitor. There, attorneys appointed in the Trump administration are second-guessing a key legal opinion issued by their predecessors" regarding the MBTA.

EPA Still Weighing Fine For Geese Deaths At Former Mine.

The [AP](#) (11/24) reported the Environmental Protection Agency said it has not yet decided whether to fine the companies responsible for polluting the waters of a former open pit copper mine, killing at least 3,000 snow geese last year. However, EPA project manager Nikia Greene "told the Montana Standard that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which has jurisdiction over migratory birds, won't fine Montana Resources and BP-owned Atlantic Richfield Company over the bird deaths at the Berkeley Pit in Butte." A FWS spokeswoman declined to comment.

Trappers Ask Court To Throw Out Lawsuit Over US Fur Exports.

The [AP](#) (11/23, Brown) reported that attorneys for fur trappers are asking a federal judge to throw out a lawsuit against the US Fish and Wildlife Service to block the export of bobcat pelts from the United States. The AP said FWS "regulates trade in animal and plant parts according to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, or CITES, which the U.S. ratified in 1975." The plaintiffs "allege the government's export program doesn't protect against the accidental trapping of imperiled species such as Canada lynx." However, the fur trappers' attorneys argued that the lawsuit would "do away with the CITES export program."

Fish And Wildlife Retracts Opposition To Arizona Project.

The [Payson \(AZ\) Roundup](#) (11/25, Shogren) reported the US Fish and Wildlife Service "last month lifted its longstanding objections to the construction of a city-sized development that threatens the last free-flowing major river in the arid Southwest." The agency had twice in recent years

“warned that a key federal permit to build 28,000 homes, golf courses and other amenities near the San Pedro River in southern Arizona would have ‘appreciable’ effects on” some 400 species of migratory birds that are sustained by the river. Yet last month, FWS, “under pressure from the developer and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,” reversed itself and “agreed that the federal permit to allow a developer to fill in 51 acres of desert washes for roads and building pads would not adversely impact endangered or threatened species.” The Roundup said the “reversal comes as President Donald Trump has repeatedly ordered agencies to roll back environmental protections to facilitate business interests.”

A World Apart On The Butte Sink Marsh.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (11/26, Stienstra) reports on duck hunting “in the Butte Sink marsh, nestled at the foot of the Sutter Buttes about 60 miles north of Sacramento.” About a million ducks are located in the area, as just two weeks ago, 700,000 were counted at adjacent Gray Lodge Wildlife Area. The article mentions that “if 10 percent of bird watchers would buy the \$25 Federal Duck Stamp, according to one report from the Department of the Interior, it would raise \$125 million per year for wetlands purchases and protection.”

National Park Service

State Attorneys General Bash Plan To Hike National Park Fees.

The [AP](#) (11/22, Mulvihill) reported a group of attorneys general from 10 states and the District of Columbia sent a letter on Wednesday urging “the National Park Service to scrap its proposal to more than double the entrance fee at 17 popular national parks.” They said in a letter to NPS’ acting director, “We cannot let the most popular and awe-inspiring national parks become places for the wealthy.” According to the AP, the signers are all Democrats except for Arizona’s Mark Brnovich, a Republican. The NPS “estimates that higher fees will generate an additional \$70 million a year,” but the AGs “say the increase actually could reduce the number of visitors and revenue.”

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (11/22, Hart) reported that in the letter, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra “offered a glimpse at his legal theory, saying the National Park Service proposal does not adequately take into account the impact of the fee increase on park visitors. He argued the agency has not done the necessary outreach to those who could be affected, and slammed it for not undertaking an economic analysis, saying the fee increases are ‘unlikely’ to achieve the stated purpose of addressing deferred maintenance backlog.”

[San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (11/23, Alexander) reported that since NPS introduced the rate plan last month, over “65,000 people have logged comments about the hikes, most with concerns about people being priced out of such iconic spots as the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone.” According to the Chronicle, “If the concerns laid out in the letter are not addressed, Becerra’s office said litigation would follow.”

Also reporting on this story are the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (11/22, Ulloa), [Porterville \(CA\) Recorder](#) (11/24), [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (11/22, Fisher), and [KTAR-FM Glendale \(AZ\) Glendale, AZ](#) (11/22).

Utah’s Grand Staircase Monument May Face Sharp Reduction In Size.

The [AP](#) (11/25) reported that Kane County officials “suggested to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke that the 1.9 million acre Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in southern Utah could be shrunk to about one-tenth the size, according to maps obtained by a Salt Lake City newspaper.” The maps suggest the monument could be reduced to about 200,000 acres covering two separate areas. The Salt Lake Tribune “obtained a version from state public lands officials through a second request for public records.” According to the AP, the “announcement of reductions to Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and the new Bears Ears National Monument is expected to be made by President Donald Trump when he visits the state early next month.”

Carlsbad Caverns National Park Keeps Concessions Contractor.

The [AP](#) (11/25) reported Carlsbad Caverns National Park has signed a new 10-year contract with Carlsbad Caverns Trading Co., LLC, “the company that has provided concessions at the southern New Mexico tourist destination for the last decade.” The National Park Service’s “commercial services program administers more than 500 concession contracts across the country with gross receipts totaling about \$1 billion annually.”

Johnny Cash Boyhood Home Considered For Historic Nomination.

The [AP](#) (11/23) reported the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program's review board is considering the boyhood home of country music icon Johnny Cash and 13 other state properties for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. The Cash home "was built in 1934 in Dyess in northeastern Arkansas, about 30 miles (48 kilometers) northwest of Memphis, Tennessee."

Smokies Look For Private Money To Replace Emergency Radios.

The [AP](#) (11/26) reports Great Smoky Mountains National Park law enforcement officials are "turning to private fundraisers to try to find enough money to replace their outdated hand-held radios." Officials said the park "needs \$1.3 million to replace the radios and \$1.2 million to fix repeaters and transmitters to make sure signals reach throughout the rugged national park and surrounding jurisdictions." According to the AP, a nonprofit group "is trying to raise \$1.5 million for the radios with the federal government paying the rest."

Renovations Set To Begin At Boulder Beach Campground.

The [AP](#) (11/24) reported the National Park Service said a five-month, \$3.4 million renovation project at Boulder Beach Campground will begin Monday. Lake Mead National Recreation Area superintendent Lizette Richardson "says the campground has been recognized as one of the top 50 in the West."

8 Tennessee Sites Added To Historic Places Register.

The [AP](#) (11/22) reported the Tennessee Historical Commission announced Tuesday the additions of eight state properties to the National Register of Historic Places. The AP said the "newly listed sites are the Leach Fire Lookout Tower in Cedar Grove; the Tennessee War Memorial in Nashville; Mt. Zion Negro School near Bradford; Blue Springs Lutheran Church and Cemetery in Mosheim; Farmers and Merchants Bank in Ethridge; Hardison Mill Farm and the Pottsville General Store, near Columbia; and the Black Creek Fire Lookout Tower in Robbins."

National Park Service Doesn't Object To Sale Of Trump Wine At Park.

[CNN](#) (11/22, Wallace) reported the National Park Service does not object to selling bottles from Trump Winery at a gift shop in Shenandoah National Park. National Park Service spokesman Jeremy Barnum explained the gift store is managed by a private company. Barnum said, "The concessioner has been selling wine from the distributor of this particular winery in Virginia for years." While NPS decides what types of products the shops may sell, the agency "does not specify what brands of these products should be sold."

Office Of Insular Affairs

National Parks Reopen In U.S. Virgin Islands Following Hurricanes.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (11/22) reported the Department of the Interior announced Tuesday that the "Christiansted National Historic Site and Buck Island Reef National Monument on the island of St. Croix, and Trunk Bay Beach at Virgin Islands National Park on the island of St. John have reopened following lengthy closures because of damage wrought on the parks by Hurricanes Irma and Maria." Interior Secretary Zinke said, "I couldn't be more proud of the hard work of National Park Service staff, volunteers, and their partners in the Virgin Islands. Their commitment to the park and to the community is inspiring. I've heard many stories of staff tending to the needs of the park and their neighbors before even taking care of themselves." Governor Kenneth Mapp said, "The reopening of Buck Island Reef National Monument, Trunk Bay Beach, and Christiansted National Historic Site represents another significant milestone in the recovery of the U.S. Virgin Islands."

US Geological Survey

Oil And Gas Industry Is Causing Texas Earthquakes, A 'Landmark' Study Suggests.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/24, Guarino) reported that a new study was published Friday in the Science Advances journal over the increased rate of earthquakes occurring in Texas and whether humans are in any way responsible. The study was performed by a team from the US Geological Survey and the study's author, Southern Methodist University Associate Professor of Geophysics

Maria Beatrice Magnani. Magnani commented on the pattern of earthquakes that led to the study and said “it’s been a head-scratching period for scientists.” The researchers were attempting to understand “what has been causing the rash of Texas quakes.” USGS geophysicist and the study’s co-author Michael Blanpied said, “the main approach has been to correlate the location to where there has been human activity.”

Earthquake Recorded Off Oregon Coast.

The [AP](#) (11/24) reported the US Geological Survey recorded a “a 4.7-magnitude earthquake in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Oregon” Friday morning. The earthquake “occurred at a depth of 6.2 miles (10 kilometers).”

Opinion Pieces

Ryan Zinke’s Missteps On Ivory.

In an editorial, the [Boston Globe](#) (11/24) wrote that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has, in a span of just eight months, “made so many missteps that Donald Trump himself tweeted out a policy reversal late last week.” The Globe criticized several aspects of Zinke’s leadership, including his “part of an embarrassing travel scandal” and his links to the now-scuttled Whitefish Energy Holdings deal to rebuild Puerto Rico’s power grid after Hurricane Maria. However, even President Trump “distanced himself from Zinke, last week, after the US Fish and Wildlife Service moved to overturn an Obama administration ban on importing elephant trophies.”

Editorial: Fee Hikes At National Parks Would Limit Access To Wealthy Americans.

In an editorial, the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (11/24) criticized the plan to “charge a whopping \$70 to enter some of America’s most beloved national parks.” The proposed fee increases “have come under fire by nature enthusiasts, outdoors groups and, now, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra and 10 of his counterparts from other states.” The attorneys general challenged the “backdoor math” of how the “punitive math” will help the parks’ financial situation. According to the Chronicle, “the crux of their argument is a simple one. The national parks belong to all Americans, not only the wealthy ones.” Instead of raising fees, the Chronicle calls on Congress to appropriate much-needed funds to the park service.

Op-ed: The Facts About Multiple Land Use In Utah.

Don Peay, founder of Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife, wrote in the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (11/26, Peay) that “we are grateful that President Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke are coming to Utah, to hopefully restore multiple use status to our great public lands — lands and herds we want to pass on in abundance for future generations.” Peay claims hunting and fishing a \$2.3 billion Utah industry, and with “careful management and hundreds of millions of investment, we have proven we can have it all, energy, mining, ranching, camping, hiking, hunting, fishing and tourism.” According to Peay, the “Grand Staircase and Bears Ears monuments have been damaging to habitat restoration projects, and fortunately these herds were established before monument status.” He also criticizes out-of-state “environmental groups” for not contributing “one dime to restore Utah’s herds or improve our great state and federal lands.”

Additional Reading.

- *Bears Ears Perfects America’s Best Idea By Including Tribes.* [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (11/22, Jarvis)
- *There Is No Good Time To Lift The Ban On Elephant Trophy Hunting In Zimbabwe.* [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (11/24, Liss)
- *Hiking National Parks Good; Hiking Entry Fees Bad.* [Tacoma \(WA\) News Tribune](#) (11/25)
- *A Curious Decision By The Interior Department.* [Greene County \(PA\) Observer-Reporter](#) (11/23)

Top National News

Media Analyses: Trump Blasts Jones Again In Implicit Moore Endorsement.

In [two tweets](#) on Sunday, President Trump again weighed in on the Alabama Senate race, blasting ex-US Attorney Doug Jones ahead of the Dec. 12 special election. Trump said across the

two tweets, "The last thing we need in Alabama and the U.S. Senate is a Schumer/Pelosi puppet who is WEAK on Crime, WEAK on the Border, Bad for our Military and our great Vets, Bad for our 2nd Amendment, AND WANTS TO RAISES TAXES TO THE SKY. Jones would be a disaster! I endorsed Luther Strange in the Alabama Primary. He shot way up in the polls but it wasn't enough. Can't let Schumer/Pelosi win this race. Liberal Jones would be BAD!" While Trump did not mention scandal-plagued ex-state Supreme Court Justice Roy Moore in either tweet, coverage casts the President's comments – much as it did his remarks last week – as an implicit endorsement of the GOP candidate.

On the [CBS Weekend News](#) (11/26, story 3, 1:50, Quijano), Errol Barnett reported that "Trump, who last week defended Roy Moore, repeated that stance on Twitter today. 'Moore's opponent Doug Jones would be disaster,' he said, reminding that he initially backed Moore's opponent." On [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/26, story 3, 0:55, Snow), Kelly O'Donnell reported that "Trump pushed for Roy Moore's victory without naming Moore. 'Can't let Schumer/Pelosi win this race. Liberal Jones would be bad.' Some Republicans have urged President Trump to persuade Roy Moore to leave the race. But he has ignored that pressure. He cites Roy Moore's denial of any wrongdoing. So President Trump is indirectly endorsing Roy Moore."

[Alabama Live](#) (11/26, Gore) reported that with the tweets, Trump "is doubling down on his criticism of" Jones, pressing "for Republican support while" not mentioning Moore. [USA Today](#) (11/26, Estepa) reports that Trump "doubled down on his insistence that a Democrat shouldn't win Alabama's Senate seat, once again appearing to back" Moore. The [New York Times](#) (11/26, Caron) also says that Trump "doubled down on his criticism of...Jones, and reiterated his support for...Moore."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/26, Kane, Nakamura) says that Trump "continued his lonely campaign to boost" Moore, criticizing Jones "as other GOP lawmakers continued to oppose their party's nominee over sexual misconduct allegations." The Post says that while Trump didn't mention Moore in his tweets, the President criticized Jones "in a way that made clear that Trump supported the controversial Republican nominee."

[Politico](#) (11/26, Nussbaum) reported, "The tweets come as Trump has become increasingly vocal about the charged Alabama Senate race, which just weeks ago was seen as a lock for Republicans. But in the wake of a slew of accusations against Moore – including that he molested a 14-year-old girl when he was in his 30s – many Republican leaders called on Moore to drop out of the race, though Moore vehemently denied the accusations." Under the headline "Trump Chooses Legislative Agenda Over GOP Repulsion Of Moore," the [AP](#) (11/26, Colvin) reports that with his tweets, Trump made "clear the success of his legislative agenda outweighs widespread GOP repulsion at the prospect of seating...Moore, who is dogged by allegations of sexual misconduct."

[The Hill](#) (11/26, Savransky) reported that Trump "last week appeared to throw his support behind...Moore," telling reporters, "We don't need a liberal person in [the Senate seat], a Democrat." [Newsweek](#) (11/26, Silverstein) reported on its website that Trump "has still not said if he believes Moore's accusers are lying and he has not formally endorsed the former judge's campaign. He said he would decide this week whether he's going to campaign for Moore ahead of the Dec. 12 vote." The [Daily Caller](#) (11/26, Crowe) headlined its report "'Jones Would Be A Disaster' – Trump Issues Backhanded Endorsement Of Moore."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/26, story 4, 1:30, Snow), political analyst Mark Murray said of the Alabama Senate race, "This is really turning into a no-win situation for Republicans. If Roy Moore does end up winning, you will see Democrats trying to label the Republican Party as the party of Donald Trump and Roy Moore, as we head into the 2018 mid-term elections. If Roy Moore ends up losing, then Republicans will find a situation where Democrats are one seat closer to a potential Senate majority in 2018, if there is a wave."

Michael Bender of the Wall Street Journal said on [CNN Inside Politics](#) (11/26), "I think what we've seen from President Trump and his political calculations, it's very short-term. He's not worried about the long-term brand of the Republican Party, like Mitch McConnell would be, or the long-term implications for the legislative agenda over the next 18 months. He's focused on the near term. He wants immediate wins. We've seen that repeatedly. He talked about these major legislative issues that can take years of singular focus. He expects them to be done right away. He wants Roy Moore in the Senate for a vote on a tax reform plan. It's almost as simple as that."

Correspondent Ellison Barber said on [Fox News MediaBuzz](#) (11/26) that Trump gave Moore "a non-endorsement endorsement. Initially, you had the White House saying...that if these allegations are true, he should step down. And then they repeatedly said that President Trump wants the voters of Alabama to decide. He had noticeably not said anything about it until those

comments [last week] on the South Lawn. ... Then you had him tweet again today that it is better than a Pelosi or a Schumer puppet. There is only so much they can push back at some point. The White House can say as much as they want that he wants the voters of Alabama to decide. ... It doesn't really matter when President Trump comes out and then says what he has said, I think you have to take his words more than anything from the press secretary."

Fox News' "The Five" co-host Juan Williams said on [Fox News MediaBuzz](#) (11/26), "I think you have to put this in political context and the political context is this. Remember, President Trump did not back Judge Moore in the Republican primary in the state of Alabama. He picked the incumbent, the appointee Luther Strange. So what you get is a situation where then once Roy Moore won the seat, there was pressure on him. I think he felt somewhat, 'Maybe I made the wrong call earlier. My base is with Judge Moore.'"

Report Examines Jones' Positions On Issues Highlighted By Trump. Meanwhile, [Alabama Live](#) (11/26, Gore) offers "a look at Jones' stances on the issues highlighted by" Trump, such as the President's claims that "the former federal prosecutor is 'weak on crime, weak on the border and bad for the military.'" For example, of Trump's claim that Jones "is 'weak on crime,'" Alabama Live says that the Democrat, "a former US Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama and assistant U.S. attorney in Birmingham, has touted his law enforcement background, including the prosecution of two Ku Klux Klan members for the decades old bombing at the 16th Street Baptist Church."

ABC News: President Was Unhappy With Ivanka Trump's Criticism Of Moore. On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/26, story 3, 2:50, Llamas), Lana Zak reported on Trump's Sunday tweets criticizing Jones, and highlighted the President saying last week of the allegations about Moore, "Well, he denies it. Look, he denies it. You're talking about, he said 40 years ago this did not happen." Zak added that Trump's "comments [stand] in sharp contrast to those of his daughter and adviser, Ivanka Trump, who earlier told the AP, 'There's a special place in hell for people who prey on children. I've yet to see a valid explanation, and I have no reason to doubt the victims' account.' Now, ABC News has learned the President was not happy by Ivanka's quick reaction."

On Sunday Shows, GOP Senators Press For Moore's Exit From Race. [Bloomberg News](#) (11/26, Talev, Niquette) reports that Trump "didn't join fresh suggestions to abandon Moore, made by" GOP Sens. Rob Portman (OH), Tim Scott (SC), and John Thune (SD) during "separate Sunday talk show appearances." Portman, appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press," said "it would be 'best' if Moore stepped aside." And Thune, appearing on "Fox News Sunday," said, "If Roy Moore wins and he comes into the Senate in January, there's going to immediately be an ethics investigation, which is going to be a cloud that he'll be operating in. It's going to be a distraction for us and for our agenda."

Scott, appearing on [ABC's This Week](#) (11/26, Raddatz), said, "It is pretty clear to me that the best thing that Roy Moore can do for the country is to move on," and added that "the reality of it is, the allegations are strong and credible." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/26, Nunn) quotes Scott as saying, "In my opinion, and in the opinion of many Republicans and conservatives in the Senate, it is time for us to turn the page, because it is not about partisan politics." The [Huffington Post](#) (11/26, Fang) reported that Scott, "as he repeated his call for Moore" to step aside, said, "I want to be on the side of right when history writes this story."

However, under the headline "Trump Continues To Implicitly Endorse Roy Moore," the [New York Post](#) (11/26, Moore, Schultz) reports that Scott "declined to criticize Trump's defense of Moore. Asked if the president had compromised his moral authority by defending Moore, Scott replied 'I don't think so.'" [The Hill](#) (11/26, Beavers) quoted Thune as saying, "I would like to see the president come out and do what we've done, saying Moore should step aside."

The [Washington Times](#) (11/26, Swoyer) reports that GOP Sen. Lindsey Graham (SC), appearing on CNN's "State of the Union," "said Sunday that...Trump is throwing a lifeline to...Moore and warned that a victory by Mr. Moore would be baggage for the" GOP. Said Graham, "The moral of the story is don't nominate somebody like Roy Moore. From a party perspective, we got to look long term not short term." [The Hill](#) (11/26, Shelbourne) quoted Graham as saying of Trump's tweets, "Well, that's a political decision by the president and he's definitely trying to throw a lifeline to Roy Moore."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/26, Siegel) reported that GOP Sen. Jeff Flake (AZ), in a Sunday tweet, "warned fellow Republicans not to 'succumb' to 'political tribalism' by supporting...Moore." Said Flake, "After what we know, for Republicans to support Roy Moore over Doug Jones is political tribalism at its worst. We shouldn't succumb to it." [The Hill](#) (11/26, Samuels) reported that Flake, "who has announced he will not seek reelection in 2018, has been an outspoken critic of Trump and of Moore." In another report, [The Hill](#) (11/26, Shelbourne) said,

"The remarks from the Republican senators contrast with Trump's attitude toward Moore," as the President argues that "the GOP cannot afford to lose the Alabama seat vacated by Attorney General Jeff Sessions."

RNC Chair Says Voters To Serve As Moore's "Judge And Jury." [The Hill](#) (11/26, Bowden) reported that RNC chief Ronna Romney McDaniel, in an interview over the weekend with John Catsimatidis on AM 970 in New York, said "that Alabama voters will have to be the 'judge and jury' on whether" Moore wins. Said McDaniel, "The allegations were obviously very concerning, concerning to the degree that we [the RNC] pulled our resources. [But] Roy Moore cannot be replaced on the ballot. He is the candidate. The Alabama [Republican] Party has stood by that. Now the Alabama voters are going to have to be the judge and jury on this."

WPost Analysis: Moore Allegations Present Suburban Women With "Awkward Choice." [The Washington Post](#) (11/26, Weigel) reports that with the special election rapidly approaching, "a battle is emerging for...white suburban women who typically support GOP candidates but, unlike many of their male counterparts, have become uneasy about Moore. Each side, relying at times on the candidates' wives to make their case, is presenting female voters with an awkward choice regarding their vote Dec. 12: stand by a man accused of making unwanted sexual advances toward teenage girls when he was in his 30s, or vote for a Democrat with liberal views on abortion and other issues and whose victory could imperil the Senate's Republican majority."

Trump To Push Tax Reform On Hill, In Purple State This Week.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/26, Feldscher) reports President Trump "announced his arrival back in the nation's capital" with a tweet "urging the Senate to pass tax reform, which he promised would benefit all Americans." Trump [tweeted](#), "Back in D.C., big week for Tax Cuts and many other things of great importance to our Country. Senate Republicans will hopefully come through for all of us. The Tax Cut Bill is getting better and better. The end result will be great for ALL!"

[CNN](#) (11/26, Schatz) reported on its website that Trump will travel to Capitol Hill on Tuesday "to meet with Senate Republicans at their luncheon" in a bid to help the Republican tax bill across the finish line. Trump will also "speak with the so-called 'Big Four': House Speaker Paul Ryan, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer." In addition, Michael Bender of the Wall Street Journal told [CNN Inside Politics](#) that Trump is "using a familiar page from his playbook: persuasion in his own words." Said Bender, "His team now is drafting a speech to be delivered this week in a purple state where, unsurprisingly, a Democratic senator is seeking re-election in 2018. ... But to find success with this, watch for two things: Can Trump avoid the kind of unforced errors that normally cause him needless distractions? And can he show the kind of discipline and follow through in the days and weeks to come that are necessary? The fate of this party's last best chance to pass major legislation this year hangs in the balance. "

As English Files Suit, DOJ Backs Trump's Appointment Of Acting CFPB Director.

The [Washington Times](#) (11/26, Dinan) reports that the Justice Department said in a ruling Saturday that President Trump "acted quickly enough to install his own acting director" of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which "appears to give the White House the upper hand in a developing battle with anti-Trump forces." However, it is not clear "whether the ruling will be enough to head off a brewing constitutional crisis, with two different people now claiming to be the rightful acting director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau." In a move the Times says was "tinted with anti-Trump politics," former director Richard Cordray "announced a new deputy director Friday then sped up his own resignation, which would normally make the deputy director, Leandra English, the acting director." However, Trump "countered...by quickly naming his own chief manager, Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney, as acting head of the CFPB." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/25, Hayashi) quotes an unnamed senior White House official who accused Cordray of "provoking" a fight with the appointment.

Meanwhile, a front-page story in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/26, A1, Hayashi) reports that the night before CFPB was to reopen with two temporary leaders, English has sued the Administration to block Mulvaney from taking control. The [Washington Post](#) (11/26, Merle) says English filed suit in the US District Court of DC, calling "herself the 'rightful acting director' of the CFPB and asked for a temporary restraining order to prevent Trump from appointing" Mulvaney. The suit says, "The President's purported or intended appointment of defendant Mulvaney as Acting Director of the CFPB is unlawful."

The [Washington Times](#) (11/26, Boyer, Dinan) says English's suit argues that "the federal

vacancy law doesn't apply if another later statute sets out a different process for a board's succession." The [New York Times](#) (11/26, Cowley) quotes English as saying in her suit, "The President's attempt to appoint a still-serving White House staffer to displace the acting head of an independent agency is contrary to the overall statutory design and independence of the bureau."

[Reuters](#) (11/26) reports that Senate Minority Whip Durbin told CNN's "State of the Union" that Trump's move would violate the Dodd-Frank law. Durbin told CNN "that he did not believe the Trump administration had the authority to appoint Mulvaney under the 2010 Dodd-Frank law, which created the agency." Durbin said, "I read the provision. ... It says that when the director steps aside, the deputy director shall be in charge of the agency – not may – shall be in charge, and so now there's an effort by Mick Mulvaney and the attorney general to really push him into this position so he can take away their power." However, on the same program, Sen. Lindsey Graham "disputed the notion that the White House lacked authority," saying, "I think the president's on good ground here to appoint somebody under the vacancy statute."

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/26) editorial raises the possibility that Cordray sought to create chaos on Monday when CFPB opens. The Journal says that while the Administration will ultimately prevail under the law, if English refuses to vacate what she argues is her office, she will have to be escorted out which Cordray and Democrats will exploit for political gain.

The [AP](#) (11/26, Condon) says the dispute may end in a court fight. Senate Republican Conference Chairman John Thune told [Fox News Sunday](#) that he expects that Mulvaney "will be on the job and he'll be calling the shots over there" on Monday. But, he added that "ultimately, this may end up in court." Thune also said that with Mulvaney running the agency, he hopes to see "reforms to that agency, which has essentially very little accountability to the Congress or anybody else." The [CBS Weekend News](#) (11/26, story 4, 0:30, Quijano) reported Sen. Elizabeth Warren said Trump "is creating chaos and supports this dispute being settled in the courts."

CFPB Lawyer Backs DOJ's Ruling. [Politico](#) (11/26, Woellert) reports that CFPB general counsel Mary McLeod has "sided with the Justice Department" over the appointment, "adding further confusion to the leadership battle over the controversial watchdog agency." In a Nov. 25 memo obtained by Politico, "McLeod said Trump had the legal authority to name an acting director to the bureau under the Federal Vacancies Reform Act." McLeod wrote, "As General Counsel for the Bureau, it is my legal opinion that the President possesses the authority to designate an Acting Director for the Bureau. ... I advise all Bureau personnel to act consistently with the understanding that Director Mulvaney is the Acting Director of the CFPB."

Politico Analysis: Pruitt Seeking To Re-Engineer EPA's Culture.

[USA Today](#) (11/26, King) reports that EPA Administrator Pruitt is "on a mission to re-engineer the agency's culture by returning power to states and away from the Washington bureaucrats and coastal elites he said have led it astray." Pruitt has "adopted a 'red team/blue team' model designed to challenge climate change assumptions that global warming is occurring and humans are the primary cause." This "has raised some of the loudest alarm bells among his many critics who consider it an attack on settled science." USA Today adds that Pruitt arrived at EPA "under a mutual cloud of hostility," having sued it "14 times on behalf of Oklahoma challenging a variety of regulations and billing himself as 'a leading activist against EPA's activist agenda.'" After nearly a year at the agency, "Pruitt still feels the resistance from employees."

Puerto Ricans Flee Island For US Mainland.

The [New York Times](#) (11/26, Rojas) reports that in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria's devastation, and in the midst of a sluggish recovery on the island, tens of thousands of Puerto Ricans have left the island to settle on the US mainland, with some planning to stay only for a while but many making plans to stay permanently. Many University of Puerto Rico law students have accepted an offer from Touro Law Center to complete their semester at the school's campus in New York. The decisions of these individuals to leave have been received with mixed reactions from the remaining residents in Puerto Rico, from support to envy or even feelings of betrayal.

Chef Jose Andres Has Served More Than Three Million Meals To Hurricane Victims In Puerto Rico.

On [CBS' 60 Minutes](#) (11/26), Anderson Cooper reported on the efforts of chef Jose Andres, who, along with "an army of chefs and volunteers," has "served more than three million meals to the hungry people of Puerto Rico" since Hurricane Maria.

Balz Discusses Study On "Glaring Alarm" Over Trump's Reliance On Executive Action.

In an analysis for the [Washington Post](#) (11/25, Balz), Dan Balz writes that in the "most recent issue of the Forum, a nonpartisan journal of ideas and political analysis," Sidney M. Milkis and

Nicholas Jacobs of the University of Virginia argue that President Trump's "deployment of what they call 'executive-centered partisanship' is both in keeping with the modern presidency and a potentially damaging shift in our politics." Balz says that "on the arena of executive action, he is pursuing a model established by his recent past predecessors, with worrisome consequences to constitutional governance." To Milkis and Jacobs, "what began in other presidencies has become 'a glaring alarm during Trump's presidency,'" and refer to "the 'false illusion' that the executive 'can truly function as a representative democratic institution.'"

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Cops, Cellphones And Privacy At The Supreme Court." The [New York Times](#) (11/26) editorializes that the Supreme Court should revise its so-called third-party doctrine, which "was developed in the 1970s and holds that people have no expectation of privacy when information has been voluntarily shared with a third party, like a cellphone service provider," when it considers a case involving the issue this week. The Times opines that the doctrine is no longer compatible with the realities of the digital age, when people frequently share data automatically generated by third parties in the course of everyday activities

"New York City Has Been A Problem Landlord." The [New York Times](#) (11/26) editorializes that "the news that the New York City Housing Authority falsely certified for years that it had inspected apartments for lead paint is a stark sign of how powerless public housing tenants can be and how much the system has eroded." The Times asserts that "the city needs to do more to show 400,000 residents of public housing that their conditions matter." One public housing resident quoted in the editorial believes that the city only cares about whether money is paid on time, while mold has been in her apartment for years with no response.

Washington Post.

"Colleges Need To Take On Greek Life Before More People Die." The [Washington Post](#) (11/26) editorializes that, while banning Greek life at many US universities may not be realistic, universities must establish a "new normal" involving "students committing to changes in behavior and university officials not looking away until someone dies." The Post cites the recent deaths of four young men because of initiation events or parties at fraternities, along with reports of other troubling behavior at both sororities and fraternities nationwide. The Post opines that the heavy promotion of partying and "the ability of these groups to discriminate and reward privilege is — or should be — antithetical to the mission of universities."

"Two Of Trump's Judicial Nominees Deserve A Much Closer Look." The [Washington Post](#) (11/26) editorializes that the Senate must reassert its duty "to 'advise and consent' on judicial nominees, rather than ramming through whomever the president selects." The Post specifically criticizes the nominations of Brett Joseph Talley, who the American Bar Association unanimously found to be unqualified, and Thomas Farr, who was involved in a racially-based voter suppression campaign while working for a senator's reelection campaign. The Post criticizes Judiciary Committee Chairman Charles Grassley's decision to "no longer honor all requests by senators to block unpalatable nominees from their home state."

"The Fates Of 700,000 'Dreamers' Hang In The Balance. This One Should Not Be Hard For Congress." The [Washington Post](#) (11/26) editorializes that as about 700,000 young, undocumented immigrants in the US face the termination of legal protections that they have relied on since 2012, lawmakers in Washington have turned the problem into a partisan bargaining chip. Democrats threaten to shut down the government unless a spending bill is amended to fix the problem, while Republicans demand concessions on border enforcement in exchange for crafting a solution. The Post opines that "the haggling over dreamers is Washington at its dysfunctional worst."

Wall Street Journal.

"Tax Reform, Growth, And The Deficit." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/26) editorial says Senators have to decide whether the tax reform bill will be an overall benefit to the nation. The Journal argues it will because it is a sign of confidence that better policies can rebuild the country's economic strength.

"Patents And Property At The Supremes." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/26) editorializes that the policy of inter partes review that was established by Congress via the 2011 America Invents

Act had good intentions, but is damaging to constitutional principles and should be changed. The Supreme Court will review the policy on Monday in *Oil States Energy v. Greene's Energy*; Oil States claims that inter partes review violates Article III and the Seventh Amendment of the Constitution.

"Richard Cordray's Political Stunt." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/26) editorial raises the possibility that by resigning unexpectedly and appointing his chief of staff Leandra English as deputy director, former CFPB Director Richard Cordray sought to create chaos on Monday when CFPB opens. The Journal says that while the Administration will ultimately prevail under the law, if English refuses to vacate what she argues is her office, she will have to be escorted out which Cordray and Democrats will exploit for political gain.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[CFPB Deputy Chief Sues Trump Over Agency Leadership](#)
[Inside The Wal-Mart Vs. Amazon Battle Over Black Friday](#)
[The Economy Is Humming, But Businesses Aren't Borrowing](#)
[A Self-Made Star Shows One Way To Crack The Gen Z Code](#)

New York Times:

[Congress Returns To Intense Pressure To End Secrecy Over Sex Harassment](#)
[In Tax Debate, Gift To Religious Right Could Be Bargaining Chip](#)
[Long Divided, Iran Unites Against Trump And Saudis In A Nationalist Fervor](#)
[Myanmar General's Purge Of Rohingya Lifts His Popular Support](#)
[Added To The Storm's Toll, Guilt And Heartache For Puerto Ricans Who Fleed](#)
[Battle For Control Of Consumer Agency Heads To Court](#)

Washington Post:

[Urgent Agenda Awaits On Hill](#)
[An Apex Predator Returns](#)
[Some Women Leave Caliphate But Vow To Fight On For ISIS](#)
[High Court Case Could Burst Dam On Sports Betting](#)
[Pressure On Congress To Move On Harassment](#)

Financial Times:

[Dark Sky Over Bali Volcano Cancels Flights](#)
[Saudi Crown Prince Pledges To Rid World Of Islamist Terror](#)
[Agustin Carstens Urges US To Maintain Leadership In World Economy](#)
[Corporate Japan Hit By Severe Labour Shortages](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Vs. Cordray Fight Over CFPB Chief Goes To Court](#)
[In Hiroshima, Japan's Military Debate Over Pacifist Constitution Hits Home](#)
[Democrats Use Testimony Of Former Bodyguard In Quest To Prove Trump Activities With Prostitutes](#)
[Pope Francis To Visit Myanmar, Carefully Confront Rohingya Muslim Crisis](#)
[Energy Advocates, Environmentalists Look For Murkowski's Vote On ANWR Oil Drilling](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Al Franken-Sexual Misconduct; John Conyers-Sexual Misconduct; Trump-Roy Moore Campaign; FBI-Russian Hacking Notification; High school Car Murder; Florida-Road Rage; Egypt-Mosque Attack; US Navy-Plane Crash; Holiday Travel; Weather Forecast; Indonesia-Volcano Eruption; Holiday Shopping; Newark Airport-Scary Landing; Nightclub Floor Collapse; Prince Harry Engagement; Homeless Veteran; Cancer Survivor Pianist.

CBS: Al Franken-Sexual Misconduct; Massage Company-Sexual Allegations; Trump-Roy Moore Campaign; Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Appointment; Egypt-Mosque Attack; Holiday Travel; Holiday Shopping; CBS Evening News New Anchor; Black Friday Gun Sales; Longest Living US President; Indonesia-Volcano Eruption; Syria Civil War-Volunteer Doctor; NYC-Self Driving Cars; School Lunch Charity.

NBC: Al Franken-Sexual Misconduct; John Conyers-Sexual Misconduct; Roy Moore Campaign; Roy Moore Campaign-Expert Comment; Holiday Shopping; Florida-Road Rage; Saudi Arabia-Crown Prince; Tobacco New Advertisements; Time Magazine Deal; Recycling Ideas; Indonesia-Volcano Eruption; Meteor Sighting; WW2 Veteran Marathon; Bike Business Charity.

Network TV At A Glance:

Trump-Roy Moore Campaign – 7 minutes, 5 seconds
Al Franken-Sexual Misconduct – 5 minutes, 55 seconds
Indonesia-Volcano Eruption – 1 minute

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Appointment; Congress Sexual Allegations; Holiday Travel; Tobacco New Advertisements;

CBS: Congress Sexual Allegations; Trump-Roy Moore Campaign; Holiday Shopping; Indonesia-Volcano Eruption; Miss Universe Pageant.

FOX: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Appointment; Congress Sexual Allegations; Indonesia-Volcano Eruption.

NPR: Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Appointment; Congress Sexual Allegations; Russian Meddling Investigation-Kushner; Trump-Roy Moore Campaign.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Has lunch with Vice President Mike Pence and Members of the Senate Finance Committee; hosts an event honoring the Native American code talkers; meets with Secretary of Defense James Mattis.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 11:00 AM GOP Sen. James Lankford release federal govt waste report – Republican Sen. James Lankford releases his annual report on federal govt waste and solutions, this year entitled 'Federal Fumbles: 100 ways the government dropped the ball', identifying new examples of waste, inefficiency, and duplication in govt, along with solutions to resolve each fumble
Location: U.S. Capitol, S-325, Washington, DC <http://www.lankford.senate.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/SenatorLankford>

4:00 PM Senate resumes consideration of U.S. district judge nominee – Senate convenes and resumes consideration of the nomination of Dabney Lanhorne Freidrich to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia Location: Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

US House: No votes in the House of Representatives today

Other: No relevant event scheduled.

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

- Offshore Safety Chief Urges Shift From "Little Bitty Things."

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Associated Press: DNA Tests Confirm Gray Wolf Is Roaming NW Washington State.
- Omaha (NE) World-Herald: Omaha Zoo Helps Breed, Release Critically Endangered Frogs.

National Park Service

- Associated Press: No Increased Danger After Yosemite Rocks Fall.
- Associated Press: Missing Hiker Found In Sequoia National Park.
- Washington Times: Successful Border Enforcement Saves Habitat, Visitor Security On National Park Service Land.
- Associated Press: Park Officials Prepare To Phase Down Services On North Rim.
- Associated Press: Permission Sought For Observatory Atop Colorado's Pikes Peak.

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DOI In The News

After Price Resignation, Democrats Keep Focus On Travel By Other Trump.

Throughout the weekend, there was ongoing coverage of the travel expenses of members of President Trump's Cabinet. The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (10/1, Dupree) reports that as HHS Secretary Price "departed, Democrats were already asking the feds for more details on the travel habits of others in the Trump Cabinet, especially zeroing in on Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, EPA chief Scott Pruitt and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin." Zinke "has already said he thinks questions about his travel are 'BS,' amid reports that he had the Interior Department spend over \$12,000 on a private jet to fly home to Montana." [The Hill](#) (9/29, Delk) reported that Rep. Betty McCollum (D-N) sent a letter to Zinke on Friday, "asking for more information on the privately chartered flights he took at taxpayer expense while in office, saying that the flights have created 'the appearance of a serious conflict of interest.'"

[Bloomberg News](#) (9/29, Olorunnipa, John) reported that Zinke flew from Las Vegas to Montana "in June aboard a plane owned by the executives of a Wyoming company. ... A department official said Zinke has never met the energy executive who owned the plane, and that the charter plane company he used has been a vendor of the federal government for years." The [Washington Times](#) (9/29, Wolfgang) reported that on Friday, Zinke "said all of his private flights...had been cleared by the department's ethics office."

Among the other sources mentioning Zinke in coverage of the issue were [BBC News \(UK\)](#) (9/29), the [Daily Beast](#) (9/29, Ryan), [CBS News](#) (9/29, Watson), [CNN](#) (9/29, Green), [Esquire Magazine](#) (9/29, Pierce), the [Huffington Post](#) (9/29), [NBC News](#) (9/29), [Politico](#) (9/29, Lefebvre), [Quartz](#) (9/30, Timmons), and [TIME](#) (10/1, Miller).

A Return To The Conservation Ethic.

In her [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/29) column, Kimberley Strassel praises Interior Secretary Zinke's plans to restore the conservation vision of Gifford Pinchot. Zinke told Strassel, "My first goal is to restore trust with America that we are in fact using our public lands 'for the benefit and the enjoyment of the people' – not for the very few and the elite. ... We are going to be great stewards of these treasures, but we are also going to restore access to the people and to industry – and be a partner." Zinke also told Strassel that he may move the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Reclamation, and the Fish and Wildlife Service out of Washington to the West, possibly Colorado.

Zinke Set To Change Obama's Sage Grouse Plan For Idaho And 9 Other States.

In continuing coverage, [KBSC-FM](#) Boise, ID (9/29, Barnhill) reported on its website that though the Interior Department under President Obama did not put the greater sage grouse on the endangered species list, "officials created a plan which restricted ranching, mining and other resource extraction – but not as drastically as a listing decision would have." Interior Secretary Zinke is now "set to reverse much of this plan."

US Interior Secretary Hints At Economic War On Iran.

Iranian state outlet [Press TV \(IRN\)](#) (9/30) reported that Interior Secretary Zinke "says Washington is now better placed to use its 'economic dominance' to cut Iran's oil revenues." Press TV writes, "American companies have been jacking up shale oil production" since President Trump "walked away from the Paris climate treaty. US ability to extract energy from vast shale formations has put the country on the brink of being a global energy powerhouse." In his Friday speech at the Heritage Foundation, Zinke said US "economic leverage would work to supplant every drop of crude that Iran produces and energy dominance is part of that."

Springfield Mayor: Wonders Of Wildlife A "Game-Changer."

The [AP](#) (9/30) reported on the opening of the Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium in Springfield, Missouri last week. Interior Secretary Zinke "scuba-dived into the aquarium" along with actor Mark Wahlberg. [Forbes](#) (10/1, Shiels) also has a report.

What The Trump Administration Doesn't Understand About Wildfires.

Char Miller, a professor of environmental analysis at Pomona College, writes in the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/1) that the Trump Administration's "key wildfire officials – Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt – have refused to acknowledge the primary role that dangerous climatological factors, such as drought, heat and wind, play in energizing and propelling wildland fire. Instead, they're fingering 'radical

environmentalists' who allegedly have scuttled timber sales that would have removed trees and reduced ignition sources."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Lake Superior Island Returned To Chippewa.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (9/30, Louwagie) reported that the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and the Nature Conservancy have "announced that, with approval from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs," Susie Island, the largest of "the 13 small Lake Superior islands off the northeast tip of Minnesota...has been returned to the tribe." The Susie Islands Archipelago "is located entirely within the boundaries of the Grand Portage Indian Reservation," though initially left out. The band "made a long-term goal to reacquire the islands where ancestors had gathered blueberries and fished. It succeeded in getting most of them, but the large island was among the last to be returned."

Bureau Of Land Management

Environmental Groups Name Toilet After Interior Secretary In Public Lands Protest.

The [Eureka \(CA\) Times Standard](#) (9/30, Houston) reported that two Humboldt County, California environmental organizations, "protesting Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's proposal to downsize a southern Oregon and northern California national monument...chose to give...Zinke a monument of his own: a toilet." Representatives of the Environmental Protection Information Center and the Northcoast Environmental Center held a ribbon cutting at "the vault toilet at the Ma-le'l Dunes' south entrance in Manila on Saturday morning. ... As the bathroom is Bureau of Land Management property, the wood plaque bearing Zinke's name was removed after the ceremony." [Breitbart](#) (10/1) picked up the report.

DC Monuments "Report" Takes Hike To Nowhere.

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/1) editorializes, "The leaked draft of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recommendations to President Trump on 27 national monuments...is so vague it's useless to the communities that would be affected by any changes." Since the White House "is not answering questions about it...everyone, especially those who live, work and play in or near the monuments, is left to speculate on the few semi-solid recommendations in the draft."

Ryan Zinke's Monumental Disappointment In Montana.

William Perry Pendley writes in his [Washington Examiner](#) (10/2, Pendley) column that Interior Secretary Zinke's "leaked report on President Trump's ordered review of 27 national monument designations or expansions of the last 21 years was trebly disappointing." Zinke "failed to recommend revocation of any Clinton and Obama decrees, despite finding that many failed to satisfy the requirements of the Antiquities Act of 1906. He offered boundary adjustments for only four monuments...but suggested, with unwarranted optimism, the worst of the others could be eased by expanding the lawful activities there." And he "urged using the widely-discredited act to set more land off-limits, including in his backyard in Montana."

Zinke Is Far From Teddy Roosevelt.

Brian Sybert of the Conservation Lands Foundation and David Petersen of Colorado Backcountry Hunters and Anglers wrote in the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (9/30), "In his so-called review of national monuments, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke – who likes to declare himself a Teddy Roosevelt fan – claims that his recommended changes to our national monuments will help sportsmen by 'restoring' fishing and hunting rights taken away by previous administrations. That's an outright lie. Hunting and fishing are currently allowed in every single one of the 23 land-based national monuments included in Secretary Zinke's review." Sybert and Petersen argue that the recommendations "aim to shrink our national monuments and weaken protections to make it easier for private industry to exploit these treasured public places."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Public Meeting Set For Tuesday On Hilcorp's Beaufort Sea Project.

The [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (10/1) reports, "A public hearing will be held Tuesday in Fairbanks about a proposed oil and gas development project north of Alaska in the Beaufort Sea." Hilcorp "has filed a plan with the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to build a small artificial gravel island in the sea. The island would be similar to four existing oil and gas producing islands in the area."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Feds Won't Oppose Klamath River Dam Removal, Official Says.

The [Eureka \(CA\) Times Standard](#) (9/29, Houston) reported that Bureau of Reclamation Deputy Commissioner Alan Mikkelsen "said in a recent interview with an Oregon newspaper that the department will not interfere with a plan to remove four dams from the 236-mile Klamath River." Mikkelsen said, "Interior is not going to do anything to slow or stop the dam removal process." The Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement "proposes to remove four hydroelectric dams from the Klamath River starting in 2020 in order to improve water quality for wildlife and downstream users."

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Offshore Safety Chief Urges Shift From "Little Bitty Things."

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (9/29, Osborne) reported that Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Director Scott Angelle "said in a recent interview that he was concerned that over-policing was creating a contentious environment in which the bureau and the oil companies it oversees were spending too much time sending paperwork back and forth and not enough time focused on preventing oil spills and blowouts." Angelle said, "If you're inspecting around some things, but they're for little bitty things and we're not focused on the big things, or we're not even inspecting for those big things, isn't that a misalignment?" At BSEE, Angelle "has instigated an agency overhaul designed to reduce lag times in permitting and focus inspections on those violations and operations determined to pose the greatest risk."

Fish And Wildlife Service

DNA Tests Confirm Gray Wolf Is Roaming NW Washington State.

The [AP](#) (9/30) reported that Fish and Wildlife Service officials "say DNA testing has confirmed that a wolf is roaming on the west side of the Cascade mountains in northwestern Washington state. ... Fish and Wildlife spokeswoman Ann Froschauer says it's not clear where the gray wolf came from because DNA samples don't find a connection with known wolf packs in eastern Washington, Idaho or British Columbia."

Omaha Zoo Helps Breed, Release Critically Endangered Frogs.

The [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (9/29, Peters) reported, "This summer, Omaha's zoo introduced 82 critically-endangered Mississippi gopher frogs into the wild." The Henry Doorly Zoo & Aquarium "partnered with the Memphis Zoo and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to breed the frogs using in vitro fertilization."

National Park Service

No Increased Danger After Yosemite Rocks Fall.

The [AP](#) (9/29) reported that "geological analysis Friday found there was no more danger than usual of another giant rock fall after two huge slides, including one involving a slab of granite the size of a 36-story building, occurred this week on the famed El Capitan rock formation in Yosemite National Park." One person was killed and two injured "in the successive rock falls on Wednesday and Thursday at the climbing mecca." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/29, Serna, Tchekmedyan) reported that "park officials said Friday that despite the rockfalls, El Capitan remains safe, and climbers continued their treks."

[The Independent \(UK\)](#) (9/30, Baynes) reported that British climber Andrew Foster “was trapped when more than 1,000 tonnes of rock fell from the face of the El Capitan monolith on Wednesday.” [Fox News](#) (9/29) reported on its website that “a rock climber fell Friday in Yosemite National Park and had to be airlifted out of the area” in “the third incident in Yosemite this week.”

Missing Hiker Found In Sequoia National Park.

The [AP](#) (9/30) reported, “A hiker who went missing days ago in Sequoia National Park has been found safe.” The National Park Service “says a helicopter on Saturday found 49-year-old Edward Newbegin hiking on a trail. He was uninjured and was escorted out of the area to reunite with his family.”

Successful Border Enforcement Saves Habitat, Visitor Security On National Park Service Land.

The [Washington Times](#) (10/1, Dinan) cites Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in southern Arizona as “one of the success stories of the border, where a combination of stiffer enforcement, changing migration patterns and a new spirit of cooperation between federal agencies has produced gains unimaginable just a few years ago.” For more than a decade, the area “was considered prime crossing territory for illegal immigrants and smugglers.” At its worst, “tens of thousands of illegal immigrants and smugglers crossed the southern Arizona borders each month, cutting trails on foot or barreling through in vehicles,” leaving “mountains of trash in their wake.” Now, “visitors are coming back to the parks in Arizona.”

Park Officials Prepare To Phase Down Services On North Rim.

The [AP](#) (9/30) reported, “Grand Canyon National Park is preparing to begin the annual phasedown of services on the North Rim before its Dec. 1 winter closure. Seasonal shutdown of most visitor services begins with Grand Canyon Lodge serving its last meal the morning of Oct. 16,” with the last North Rim trail rides the day before. The North Rim “will remain open from Nov. 1 to Nov. 30 only for day use. All North Rim operations close Dec. 1 or earlier if snow closes State Route 67.”

Permission Sought For Observatory Atop Colorado’s Pikes Peak.

The [AP](#) (9/29) reported that the National Space Science and Technology Institute recently submitted an application to the US Forest Service “seeking permission to build an observatory atop Colorado’s Pikes Peak. ... The Forest Service as well as Colorado Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service will take part in analyzing the proposal.”

Top National News

Trump Blasts Critics Of Administration’s Response To Hurricane Maria.

Media coverage of the Administration response to Hurricane Maria focuses heavily on the President’s tweets yesterday (particularly his comments concerning San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz) and is decidedly negative, casting Trump as lashing out and questioning the accuracy of his claims.

Trump on Sunday morning “defended his administration’s response to the humanitarian disaster in Puerto Rico, dismissing any critics of his relief efforts as ‘fake news’ and ‘politically motivated ingrates,” [USA Today](#) (10/1, Jackson, Slack) reports. In a [pair of tweets](#), Trump wrote, “We have done a great job with the almost impossible situation in Puerto Rico. ... Outside of the Fake News or politically motivated ingrates...people are now starting to recognize the amazing work that has been done by FEMA and our great Military.” In a third [tweet](#), “Trump had kind words for Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rossello, thanking him and ‘all of those who are working so closely with our First Responders. Fantastic job!’” The [New York Post](#) (10/1, Moore) describes Trump as “lash[ing] out” and “ramping up his feud with the mayor of San Juan and the ‘Fake News’ media for their criticism of his response to Puerto Rico in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria.”

[Politico](#) (10/1, Cohen) says Trump’s Sunday tweets “were in contrast to some he wrote Saturday in which he assailed” Cruz “and the news media – and seemingly mocked the population of Puerto Rico as lazy.” Politico adds that it also “wasn’t clear whether Trump’s claims Sunday were true. CNN, for instance, quoted the governor of Puerto Rico as saying that some areas of the island remain basically isolated, casting doubt on Trump’s claim that ‘all buildings now

inspected.”

The [AP](#) (10/1, Colvin) says Trump “spent Saturday ensconced in his New Jersey golf club and on Sunday attended an international golf competition near New York City,” and “appeared unconcerned with the optics of spending his Sunday afternoon watching The Presidents Cup at the Liberty National Golf Club as the crisis continued.” [NJ News](#) (10/1) reports that as Trump awarded the Presidents Cup trophy to the US team on Sunday, he discussed “golf and hurricane relief.” Trump said, “On behalf of all of the people of Texas and all of the people of – if you look today and see what’s happening, how horrible it is, though we have it under really great control in Puerto Rico. ... And the people of Florida, who have really suffered over this last short period of time with the hurricanes, I want to just remember them and we’re going to dedicate this trophy to all of those people that went through so much.”

Julie Pace of the AP said on [CNN Inside Politics](#) (10/1), “For the President, everything comes down to winning and losing. And he watches the coverage right now, he is seeing people, either officials or Puerto Ricans who are being critical of the federal response and he believes that that reflects poorly on him. So he wants to push back and make it sound like he is actually winning this. But in doing that, in framing it in that context, he’s really losing sight of what we’re actually talking about.”

Administration officials also spoke out in defense of the Administration response on Sunday. [The Hill](#) (10/1, Savransky) reports, “White House officials on Sunday were united in blaming factors beyond their control for Puerto Rico’s struggle to recover from hurricane damage.” [Business Insider](#) (10/1) says, “The White House has increasingly attempted to spin its response to Maria – which many have criticized as slow to recognize the extent of devastation – as a success.”

OMB Director Mulvaney also took aim at Cruz, [Politico](#) (10/1, Temple-West) reports. Mulvaney told [CNN’s State Of The Union](#) (10/1, Tapper), “My understanding is that as of yesterday, she had not even been to the FEMA operation center in her own city. ... It is unfortunate that the San Juan mayor wants to sort of go against the grain. We’d love to have her on the team as we all pull in the same direction.” [The Hill](#) (10/1, Beavers) reports that Treasury Secretary Mnuchin also “defended” the President for his “series of attacks” against Cruz. Appearing on [NBC’s Meet the Press](#) (10/1, Todd), Mnuchin said, “When the President gets attacked, he attacks back, and I think the mayor’s comments were unfair, given what the federal government has done.”

National Economic Council Director Cohn told [Fox News Sunday Morning Futures](#) (10/1, Bartiromo) that he wanted to “reiterate how involved the Administration continues to be.” He noted that “the United States has gone through extraordinary efforts to deliver goods to the island” and that currently, “our big challenge to get those goods delivered to the citizens of the island that need those goods.”

FEMA Administrator Long also defended Administration efforts on [ABC’s This Week](#) (10/1), saying, “We have been working with mayors all around Puerto Rico to make sure we have a strategy” and “that we execute the strategy going forward.” He said that the mayor of San Juan does “have access to commodities” as “we have established 11 regional distribution hubs.” Long told [Fox News Sunday](#) (10/1, Wallace) that “the bottom line is this is the most logistically challenging event the United States has ever seen and we have been moving and pushing as fast as the situation allows.” [USA Today](#) (10/1, Slack) that in response to Long’s claim on Fox, “social media users quickly shot back, outlining other significant logistical challenges the US has tackled in its history.”

[Axios](#) (10/1, Allen) reports that it obtained a leaked update, sent by Homeland Security Adviser Bossert to West Wing colleagues, “that points to a rapid recovery no one on the ground is witnessing” in Puerto Rico. In the memo, Bossert says, “The storm caused these problems, not our response to it. We have pushed about as much stuff and people through a tiny hole in as short a timeframe as possible.” In a separate story, [The Hill](#) (10/1, Manchester) reports Bossert “said the federal government has ‘a strong ground game’ in Puerto Rico...despite dire reports from residents and journalists on the island.” He stated in the memo obtained by Axios: “We have a strong ground game in place on the island with military leadership. [Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo] Rossello should continue to get more public messaging support from us.” [Newsmax](#) (10/1, Burke) says Bossert “outlin[ed] a public relations campaign to promote rapid stabilization and a ‘bright future,’ Axios reported.” Bossert added in his message that President Trump’s visit to the island on Tuesday “will inspire the people and let them know we all care.”

The [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (10/1, Danner) says that despite Bossert’s suggestions, the “reality of the humanitarian crisis in Puerto Rico...has rarely lined up with the Trump

administration's optimistic takes on the situation. Criticism of federal relief efforts continues to intensify as many of the supplies that have been delivered to the island remain out of the hands of the communities that need them." Citing Trump's tweets Sunday morning, [Mother Jones](#) (10/1, West) says the President "appears to be ignoring whatever positive PR strategy his adviser Bossert is going with."

[Reuters](#) (10/1, Respaut, Stargardter) reports that lawmakers on Sunday urged Trump to "stop sniping" at Cruz and "get to work helping them recover." Senate Minority Leader Schumer told CBS' "Face the Nation" that the relief effort has been "slow footed, disorganized and not adequate. ... The president, instead of tweeting against the mayor of San Juan who's watching her people die and just made a plea for help, ought to roll up his sleeves and get to work here."

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/1, Levin) reports that Sen. Bernie Sanders "bridled at the administration's continued attacks on Cruz," telling [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (10/1, Tapper), "Speaking from his fancy golf club, playing golf with his billionaire friends, attacking the mayor of San Juan, who is struggling to bring electricity to the island, food to the island, water to the island, gas to the island, that is just – it is unspeakable." Rep. Shelia Jackson Lee said on [MSNBC's Politics Nation](#) (10/1), "I applaud Mayor Cruz for taking him on because, unfortunately, he does not know the topography or he does not know Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico happens to have many cities. Mayor Cruz made it very clear that what she is speaking of is those individuals, those mayors, those small governments beyond San Juan who cannot speak for themselves who are facing the devastation of bodies, the devastation of dead animals, the lack of water, having to travel an hour and a half for a bag of groceries, roads that are impassable. And the President failed on this, absolutely failed."

Criticism also came from inside Trump's party on Sunday. Ohio Gov. John Kasich said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (10/1, Tapper), "When people are in the middle of a disaster, you don't start trying to criticize them." He added, "What's happening down there is just terrible. And maybe part of it is storm fatigue." He concluded that "when you get behind the curve on a natural disaster, you get behind the curve, you just play catch-up all the way and it never works out the way you want it to."

Sen. Marco Rubio said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (10/1, Dickerson), "Every minute we spend in the political realm bickering with one another over who's doing what, or who's wrong, or who didn't do right is a minute of energy and time that we're not spending trying to get the response right."

Susan Ferrechio of the Washington Examiner said on [Fox News MediaBuzz](#) (10/1), "Let's try to imagine an alternative universe where Hillary Clinton were President right now. What do you think the narrative would look like? Do you really think it would be the San Juan mayor proclaiming people are dying and we are not getting any help? I think that he did well with Texas and Florida and Democrats were really looking for a way to turn Puerto Rico into a Katrina-like disaster for Trump."

Katie Pavlich of Townhall.com said on [Fox News MediaBuzz](#) (10/1), "I think they are not pointing out in fairness of yes, the San Juan mayor is saying these things, but the governor is out praising the President's response and saying, 'Yes this is a difficult situation. We need more help, obviously. This is not going to be over in the week coming. It's going to be a long-term process.' But they tried to pin all this on the President and ignore the timeline of what the Department of Homeland Security has done and try to get those people on the ground to distribute those supplies."

San Juan Mayor Says She Is Willing To Meet With Trump. Meanwhile, the [Washington Post](#) (10/1, Snell) reports that as Trump "continued to praise the relief effort and the US government response," Cruz on Sunday "called for more, better coordinated federal aid...to deal with the widespread storm damage in Puerto Rico." In an appearance on [ABC's This Week](#) (10/1), Cruz "avoided directly criticizing Trump...and attempted to refocus the discussion on speeding aid and supplies to people on the island territory." Cruz said, "All I did last week, or even this week, was ask for help. ... It has to happen in a sustained manner. It has to happen quickly." Cruz also "said she would be willing to meet with Trump during his planned visit to Puerto Rico this week." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/1, Mauldin, Bender) says Cruz took a different tone on NBC's "Meet the Press," saying of Trump's comments, "Bring it on. I'm here," and he can "attack me all he wants." David Wright said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/1, story 2, 2:45, Llamas) that while Cruz has said she is willing to meet with Trump, "it's not clear the invitation has been given."

A [Politico](#) (10/1, Karni) analysis says "Cruz's frustration with the layers of bureaucracy standing between her wiped-out city and food and water delivery might have been in line with Trump's own interest in cutting regulations and red tape," but her "plea was interpreted by

Trump as a personal insult." Politico adds that "longtime Trump watchers" saw his "personal reaction to Cruz [as] par for the course," for Trump, who "has gone after morning show hosts like Mika Brzezinski, lawmakers from his own party, like Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain, members of his own Cabinet...and even taken on the NFL. And it was in line with how he has reacted to individuals who criticize him personally for years." In a profile of Cruz, the [AP](#) (10/1, Coto) says she has risen "to international prominence as a target of Twitter attacks." The AP adds that Cruz's critics "have questioned her management style, noting that some early supporters – including people who occupied key positions – have resigned or been dismissed."

Rosselló Says A Surge Of Fuel And Supplies Has Begun Reaching Puerto Rico. The [New York Times](#) (10/1, Fausset) reports that Rosselló said Sunday that "a surge of fuel and food supplies and federal government personnel has begun to arrive" on the island. According to Rosselló, "over the next two days, more than half a million barrels of diesel fuel and nearly a million barrels of gasoline would reach Puerto Rico." In addition, Rosselló "said that the Defense Department had increased its footprint on Puerto Rico to 6,400 people, from roughly 4,600 two days earlier, with more coming, and that other federal agencies were also sending more staff to aid in the island's recovery." On the [CBS Weekend News](#) (10/1, story 2, 2:20, Quijano), correspondent David Begnaud reported that Rosselló "warned" Sunday "that he believes there could be a mass exodus of Puerto Ricans to the US mainland unless Congress passes a financial aid package soon."

Tom Llamas reported in the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/1, lead story, 2:35) that FEMA has approved "63,000 applications for \$7 million worth of assistance," and "delivered 2 million liters of water and 1 million meals." Alex Perez added that Navy hospital ship Comfort is "arriving this week. 6,400 troops already on the ground. With communications crippled, the general now in charge of military operations here, says the challenge is finding where the needs are so they can be met." Ron Mott presented a more negative picture on [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/1, story 2, 1:50, Snow), saying, "We spent the day looking for people getting emergency aid that's supposed to be flowing out of 11 FEMA distribution centers to local authorities around the island. What we found was confusion. Local officials couldn't point us to the centers where people could get relief supplies."

Guaynabo Mayor Casts Doubt On Cruz's Claims. The [Daily Caller](#) (9/30) reports that Guaynabo Mayor Angel Perez on Saturday "cast serious doubt" on Cruz's claims. Perez said "that his experience with the federal government has been different from Cruz's, in part because – unlike Cruz – he has been participating in meetings with officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal agencies." Perez said, "My experience is different. I have been participating in different meetings at the headquarters of FEMA and our government and the help is coming in and right now my experience is different from hers. I'm receiving help from the government, we are receiving assistance from FEMA, I got people over here helping us with applications for the people that have damage in their houses. And we have here in Guaynabo, we have thousands of people that lost partially or totally their houses."

Residents Scramble For Food, Water, Fuel As Shortages Grip Puerto Rico. [Reuters](#) (10/1, Respaut, Brown) highlights shortages on the island, reporting that residents are "scrambl[ing] for all the staples of modern society – food, water, fuel, medicine, currency – in a grinding survival struggle that has gripped Puerto Ricans across social classes." Reuters adds that "severe shortages have thrown even relatively affluent Puerto Ricans into the same plight as the hundreds of thousands of poor residents here." On The [CBS Weekend News](#) (10/1, story 12, 1:55, Quijano), Dr. John LaPook reported from an elementary school that is serving as a shelter for people who "have been displaced, really no place to go because of the hurricane."

The [New York Times](#) (10/1, Healy) reports that on the island of Vieques, eight miles east of Puerto Rico, "solitude used to be an allure of life," but in Maria's wake, "that solitude is a big problem." Vieques' 9,000 residents "have been largely cut off from the world for 11 days since Hurricane Maria hit, with no power or communications and, for many, no running water." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/1, Hernandez) highlights the impact Maria has on the beachside town of Humacao, about an hour southeast of San Juan.

A front-page story in the [Washington Post](#) (10/1, A1, Schmidt, Hernández) reports that "an unknown number of families are still trapped in this part of Utuado, much of which is inaccessible nearly two weeks after the storm." The Post says that if aid has been "slow to reach Puerto Rico as a whole, getting help to isolated communities such as Utuado has been taking even longer" to reach "these rural neighborhoods, tucked between mountain ranges and nestled along murky river beds." Hector Ruiz, a utility worker hired by the Utuado municipality to clear its roads, "estimated that it will take at least one more month to make the entire highway in Utuado accessible."

After Trump Again Calls To End Protests, Fewer NFL Players Kneel During Anthem.

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/1, story 7, 1:35, Llamas), Ron Claiborne reported, "Across the NFL, players once again taking a knee during the national anthem" on Sunday. "The new protests following the President's tweet on Saturday, 'Very important that NFL player stand tomorrow and always for the playing of our national anthem. Respect our flag and our country!' Oakland's Marshawn Lynch getting ready for his game with a shirt reading, 'Everybody versus Trump.' In San Francisco, 30 49ers players once again protesting and taking a knee, like their former Quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who initially sparked the uproar with his protests against alleged police mistreatment of minorities. ... But today, far fewer players knelt during 'the Star-Spangled Banner.' No owners joined them. Where there were protests, the reaction in the stands was far more muted than a week ago."

On the [CBS Weekend News](#) (10/1, story 6, 1:50, Quijano), Tony Dokoupil reported that Trump "first raised the issue last month, re-upped it in tweets all week, and drew a new line in the sand late Saturday. 'Very important that NFL players stand tomorrow and always,' he wrote. 'Respect our flag.'" Dokoupil added, "Last week, more than a hundred NFL players sat, knelt or raised their fist during the anthem. Some followed this afternoon, though more opted to stand linking arms, praying, even singing. The controversy has also spread to high schools. On Friday, two players in Texas were kicked off their team for protests during the anthem. Their coach is a veteran."

Under the headline "Fewer NFL Players Kneel During Anthem As Trump Repeats Call For Protest To End," [Reuters](#) (10/1, Radnage, Woodall) reports, "Several dozen NFL players, fewer than last week, chose to kneel during the US national anthem before league games on Sunday, a day after... Trump again demanded an end to a protest he sees as a sign of disrespect for the flag. At least 40 players, most of them on the San Francisco 49ers, bent a knee during pre-game renditions of the" anthem "in the 14 [NFL] games played so far on Sunday, compared with 180 players in all 16 games a week earlier." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/1, Beaton) headlines its report "NFL Protests Are More Muted."

The [Washington Times](#) (10/1, Richardson) reports that during a game played Sunday in London, England, "three Miami Dolphins knelt during the anthem, then stood for 'God Save the Queen.'" [Breitbart](#) (10/1, Gwinn) reports that the Baltimore Ravens took "a knee before the playing of the anthem, and then [stood] during it. In response, a stream of boos...descended on the players from the assembled crowd at M&T Bank Stadium." The [Washington Post](#) (10/1, Boren, Kilgore) reports that on Sunday, "NFL teams and players demonstrated again in a variety of ways, from players making individual statements along sidelines to pregame attire aimed at Trump to entire teams kneeling before the anthem or locking arms during the song."

Ryan: On Racial Issues, Trump's "Heart's In The Right Place." House Speaker Paul Ryan on Sunday was asked on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (10/1, Dickerson) about race in America, in the context of the recent violence in Charlottesville, Virginia; the NFL protests; and other events. Ryan said of Trump, "I know his heart's in the right place." Ryan said he knew this after "some candid conversations about this, especially during that time" around the Charlottesville unrest, and that "what matters is that we have to show people that we are inclusive society, that we want everyone to succeed." Ryan also said he thinks NFL players had a right to express themselves under the First Amendment. He added that people who think the kneeling of NFL players was disrespectful to the flag don't "see the point" the players are trying to make.

Sanders: NFL Protests Are About Criminal Justice Reform. Sen. Bernie Sanders on Sunday was asked on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (10/1, Tapper) about the ongoing feud between Trump and NFL players. Sanders said, "Let's not worry about the politics of what's going on," but instead discuss "why players are doing what they're doing." He added that there is a criminal justice crisis in the US, saying the nation has more people "in jail than any other major country on earth." Sanders said he thinks the players are "talking about...the need for criminal justice reform."

Vincent: NFL Leadership Has Been Slow To Detail League Policy On Protests. In a [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/1, Vincent) op-ed, former Major League Baseball commissioner Fay Vincent discusses the NFL anthem protests, saying that in sports, it's up to commissioners to offer a response to the pressure from the public and to specify what is acceptable behavior on the part of a league's players. Commissioners, says Vincent, must rapidly explain that the disruption of games or the offending of paying customers crosses a line. Vincent says that the NFL has yet to address these issues, and he suggests that ex-Secretaries of State James Baker or Condoleezza Rice would perhaps be a good choice to, on the NFL's behalf, offer a statement of league governance regarding the protests.

Citing Anthem Protests, Renacci Canceled Ad Buy Slated For Sunday NFL Game. The [Cleveland](#)

[Plain Dealer](#) (9/29, Richardson) reported that Rep. Jim Renacci (R-OH), who is mounting a 2018 bid to succeed term-limited Gov. John Kasich (R-OH), on Friday said “he would pull a \$20,000 ad buy scheduled to air during National Football League games this weekend in response to player protests.” Renacci “said he was pulling the ads from Sunday’s Cincinnati Bengals-Cleveland Browns matchup after players last week knelt during the national anthem in response to President Donald Trump’s attacks on their earlier protests.”

In a news article, the [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (9/29, Ludlow) flatly asserted that Renacci “is wrapping himself in red, white and blue in quickly canceling a TV spot his campaign had purchased during the [Bengals-Browns] game on Sunday.” In a statement, Renacci – running in a crowded GOP primary – said, “While the First Amendment clearly affords NFL players and officials the freedom to engage in this appalling behavior, having the right to do something does not mean it’s the right thing to do. ... And while the right to speak and protest peacefully is a fundamental freedom that we as Americans enjoy, protesting the most sacred symbols of those freedoms is both sadly ironic and an inexcusable, offensive display of contempt for what our nation stands for.”

Trump: Tillerson “Wasting His Time” Talking To North Korea.

Media coverage of President Trump’s tweets Sunday about North Korea is critical with reports casting the President as undercutting Secretary of State Tillerson. [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/1, story 3, 1:15, Snow), for example, reported President Trump “appeared to undermine the diplomatic channel announced just yesterday by the Secretary of State,” [tweeting](#) (10/1), “I told Rex Tillerson he’s wasting his time trying to negotiate with Little Rocket Man.” He [added](#), “Save your energy, Rex, we’ll do what has to be done.” While NBC said the White House “won’t say” if Trump is “suggesting military action or taunting Kim Jong-Un,” [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/1, story 2, 2:45, Llamas) said Trump “not only taunted Kim Jong-un, he publicly undercut” Tillerson after he visited China, “trying to broker an end to North Korea’s nuclear program.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/1, Wilkinson, King) too says Trump “undercut his top diplomat” in a “stunning rebuke” that marked “the latest incident in which Trump has publicly contradicted Tillerson and quickly dashed any hope for progress in easing perilously volatile tensions” with North Korea. [USA Today](#) (10/1, Slack) similarly says Trump “appeared to undercut his own secretary of State’s diplomatic efforts to resolve the nuclear standoff,” and the [New York Times](#) (10/1, Baker) says he “seemed to undercut his own secretary of state on Sunday as he belittled the prospect of a diplomatic resolution.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/1, Niquette, Wadhams) says Trump’s “admonishment” of Tillerson for “wasting his time” in seeking negotiations with North Korea “further highlighted differences within the administration on how best to get Kim Jong Un to halt his nuclear weapons program.” State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert, however, [tweeted](#) after Trump’s comment that while diplomatic channels are open “for now” to Kim, “they won’t be open forever.”

According to the [AP](#) (10/1, Lee), the tweets are “raising speculation about whether Trump could be undermining efforts to maintain channels of communication or somehow bolstering the diplomat’s hand in possible future talks.” [The Hill](#) (10/1, Manchester) reports the President’s tweets came “amid the escalating crisis on the Korean Peninsula.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/1, Nakamura) reports the President “has taken an increasingly hard-line stance toward Pyongyang over its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile tests,” while the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/1, Schwartz) notes it was not the first time Trump and Tillerson have sent differing signals about North Korea, as well as other topics.

[Reuters](#) (10/1, Chiacu, Holland) reports Trump [tweeted](#) that his predecessors had all “failed” on North Korea by “Being nice to Rocket Man,” so “why would it work now?” The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/1, Feldscher) reports Trump “alluded to attempts to make peace with Kim not working over the last several administrations,” but noted that Kim “has only been in power since his father died in 2011.” The [New York Post](#) (10/1, Moore), however, says it is “unclear whether Trump was referring to the Kim family, which has ruled North Korea since 1948, or just Kim Jong Un, who is just 33-years-old and took over from his father Kim Jong II in 2010.”

[Breitbart](#) (10/1, Wong) reports Trump’s tweets “suggest he is opposed to trying to negotiate with Kim Jong-Un,” but cautioned that he “could also be acting as if he is opposed to Tillerson’s efforts, in a good cop, bad cop routine.” Former State Department officials Aaron David Miller and Richard Sokolsky write for [Politico Magazine](#) (10/1) that “even if they’re playing good cop/bad cop, this is a shocker: Donald Trump is basically announcing that any negotiations with North Korea are worthless. This not only undercut Tillerson personally, but also undermines US interests and the secretary of state’s sensible decision to talk to the North Korean regime.” They argue what while many have called for Tillerson to resign, “it’s magical thinking to believe that

Tillerson's successor could fundamentally alter the downward trajectory of the State Department or do much more to fix the world's problems. As long as Donald Trump is president, more likely than not, the Department of State is going to remain closed for the season."

Politico (10/1, Toosi, Cohen) reports Trump's tweet "drew some startled reactions in the diplomatic field." Richard N. Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations, tweeted, "Diplomacy not a favor we dispense but a critical national security tool for ourselves. Potus truly misguided here-& SecState should resign." Carl Bildt, co-chair of the European Council on Foreign Relations, tweeted: "President Trump spectacularly shot down SecState Tillerson after important Beijing talks. How long can this last?"

NYTimes Analysis: Trump "Relishes" Public Fights. Peter Baker writes in a [New York Times](#) (10/1) analysis that while "opponents, independent analysts and even some of his own advisers winced at his latest outbursts," President Trump has recently criticized the mayor of San Juan, Puerto Rico, "excoriating kneeling football players," and undercut "his own secretary of state." Trump, however, "was convinced that he was putting points on the board, according to those close to him." Baker writes that Trump's "view of politics is unlike that of any president in modern times. Where other occupants of the Oval Office might go out of their way to avoid public fights with hurricane victims, popular athletes or members of their own team, Mr. Trump relishes them. He thinks they make him look strong."

Poll: Trump Foreign Policy Splits Republican Party. The [Washington Post](#) (10/1, Balz, Guskin) reports President Trump's "often-controversial foreign policy pronouncements, which have generated criticism abroad, have produced sharp divisions within the Republican coalition, with the party badly split on the issues of trade, immigration, climate change and the value of US alliances, according to a new poll by the Chicago Council on Global Affairs." The poll's survey found that Trump's "most fervent supporters solidly support his views on these issues, but Republicans with less favorable impressions of the president are far less enthusiastic and are more closely aligned in their attitudes with the overall population."

Report: Trump Ordered "Pressure" Campaign Early In Administration. The [Daily Caller](#) (10/1, Pickrell) reports President Trump "quietly signed a government directive ordering a sweeping pressure campaign on North Korea early on in his administration to derail the rogue regime's nuclear plans," according to a report Saturday by the [Washington Post](#). The Caller writes, "It turns out the Trump administration has a very clear strategy for dealing with the rogue regime. The Department of Defense has been targeting North Korean spies and hackers, the Department of State has been encouraging foreign governments to cut ties with Pyongyang at every opportunity, and the Department of the Treasury has been tightening the noose on North Korea's economy through escalating sanctions on the regime and its supporters." At the same time, the US has been "keeping the door open for negotiation."

Italy Becomes Fifth Country To Expel North Korean Ambassador. The [Washington Post](#) (10/1, Fifield) reports Italy "has become the latest country to expel a North Korean ambassador," saying that isolation was "inevitable" if Pyongyang continued to push ahead with its nuclear weapons program. Italian Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano said the North Korean ambassador in Rome, Mun Jong Nam, had been ordered to leave. "We want to make Pyongyang realize that their isolation is inevitable if they don't change tack," Alfano told Italian newspaper *la Repubblica* in an interview published Sunday.

North Korean Ship Carrying Weapons For Egypt Seized. The [Washington Post](#) (10/1, Warrick) reports that last August, "a secret message was passed from Washington to Cairo warning about a mysterious vessel steaming toward the Suez Canal." The freighter named *Jie Shun* "was flying Cambodian colors but had sailed from North Korea, the warning said, with a North Korean crew and an unknown cargo shrouded by heavy tarps." Egyptian officials seized a cache of "more than 30,000 rocket-propelled grenades," the "largest seizure of ammunition in the history of sanctions" against North Korea. A UN investigation ultimately "uncovered a complex arrangement in which Egyptian business executives ordered millions of dollars worth of North Korean rockets for the country's military while also taking pains to keep the transaction hidden, according to US officials and Western diplomats familiar with the findings." The incident "prompted the latest in a series of intense, if private, US complaints over Egyptian efforts to obtain banned military hardware from Pyongyang, the officials said."

Group: Kim Jong Un's Nephew Was In Danger After Father's Assassination. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/1, Gale) reports that when Kim Jong Nam, the exiled half brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, was assassinated in a Malaysian airport on Feb. 13, his 21-year-old son, Kim Han Sol, was believed to be the next target. A group of North Korean dissidents known as the Cheollima Civil Defense moved quickly to get Kim Han Sol, his mother, and sister out of their

Macau home and fly them to a secure location.

Former WPost Reporter: China Losing Leverage Over Kim. Blaine Harden, former Post reporter and consultant to the Frontline documentary “North Korea’s Deadly Dictator” airing on PBS on Oct. 4, writes in the [Washington Post](#) (10/1) that “to the frustration of President Trump, China seems to be losing leverage over the young dictator next door.” While the Kim regime “has become more dependent than ever on Chinese trade,” that dependence is “clearly not swaying the behavior of Kim Jong Un.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Actually, A Health Care Deal Is Possible.” A [New York Times](#) (10/2, Board) editorial says Sen. Lamar Alexander, a Republican, and Sen. Patty Murray, a Democrat, “have resumed negotiations that offer a more productive path, one that could preserve the best of Obamacare while offering adjustments that both parties can accept.” If successful, the Times says, Alexander and Murray could “offer Congress a way out of the morass with a modest bill that could help strengthen the A.C.A.’s individual insurance markets, which are used by about 10 million people, without overhauling the whole system in ways that could deprive millions of people of subsidized care.” The Times stresses that any healthcare “deal will involve compromise,” and that Republican lawmakers “might benefit even more than they realize.”

“Discrimination Inside The N.Y.P.D.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/2, Board) points to a lawsuit filed last week accusing the New York Police Department’s intelligence division of discrimination as a sign “that the system needs some revision.” Notably, the Times says, the NYPD labor relations department reportedly has “‘no set policy’ on promotions for detectives,” and frustration over that lack of a policy “runs especially deep among black officers in the intelligence division, which covers terrorism and other major crimes.” Regardless of the outcome of the lawsuit, the Times concludes, it has at least put the department “on notice that it needs to develop a transparent and objective system.”

“Goodbye Seal, Goodbye Flag.” The [New York Times](#) (10/2, Board) editorializes on Staten Island’s efforts to change the borough flag, noting that borough president James Oddo and Emil Micha, a senior adviser, reportedly designed a new flag that “had finally found favor at City Hall” last week. The Times wonders whether a new flag will “make Staten Islanders feel better about their place in the sun, or at least in the big city,” and says while it may be “too early to tell,” the move is “a tonic for the borough president.”

Washington Post.

“Will Trump’s Tax Cuts Profit Trump?” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/1) writes that President Trump may benefit financially from Republicans’ tax proposal, as evidenced by the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center report released Friday “showing that, by 2027, the GOP tax plan would provide massive benefits to upper-income taxpayers even as it smacked large sections of the middle class with a net tax hike.” The Post argues that because Trump has refused to release his tax returns, “it is impossible to know for sure” whether he will benefit from the plan. The Post concludes that Congress should consider a tax plan “only after” Trump publishes his returns.

“The Republican Rot Runs Deeper Than Roy Moore.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/1) says, “It was dispiriting that Roy Moore won the” GOP primary runoff “the same week that Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) announced he would be leaving it. But the rot runs deeper than either event would suggest. When Senate leadership is content with the kind of process and dishonesty we witnessed with health-care and now tax ‘reform,’ neither event should come as a big surprise.” The Post says “Moore is unfit to be a senator” and there are “similarities between Mr. Trump and the insurgent judge. Both have questioned Barack Obama’s citizenship and displayed disdain for the rule of law,” for example. The Post adds that “if the Republican leadership is afraid of what Mr. Moore could bring to Washington, it may want to reconsider the wisdom of opening the door to his hate-filled appeals and disruptive behavior by backing Mr. Trump in the first place.”

“The Guggenheim Caves To Threats – And Squashes Free Expression.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/1) writes that the recent decision of the Guggenheim Museum to remove three pieces from an upcoming art exhibition that had sparked protests from animal rights activists signified a surrender to threats and a disregard for free expression. The Post concludes

that the Guggenheim's decision "sends a chilling message about artistic freedom, which could set a troubling precedent the next time some other institution plans to display something someone else doesn't like or approve of."

Wall Street Journal.

"Tax Policy Center Propaganda." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/1) writes that a Tax Policy Center report released Friday assessing Republicans' tax plan offered an impossibly specific analysis that criticized the proposal – particularly, the plan's effect on reducing government revenues and benefiting the top 1 percent of taxpayers – without sufficient evidence. The Journal contends that the Tax Policy Center has a progressive bias and creates anti-tax reform propaganda.

"Trump's Excellent Judges." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/1) applauds President Trump for his four latest judicial nominations for the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals – Don Willett, James Ho, Stuart Duncan, and Kurt Engelhardt. The Journal praises each judge's legal achievements and argues that their nominations highlight Trump's greatest political success as he rapidly remakes the federal appellate and district courts with qualified, conservative picks.

"Arbitration Is Back At The Supreme Court." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/1) urges the Supreme Court to hear challenges to an Obama-era National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) opinion that prohibits arbitration class-action waivers in employment contracts. According to the Journal, the court has repeatedly ruled that the Federal Arbitration Act preempts state laws and court rulings against forced arbitration, and urges the court to reinforce previous rulings on the issue.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Trump Tells Tillerson Talking To North Korea Is Waste Of Time](#)
[At The Center Of The Equifax Mess: Its Top Lawyer](#)
[The Man Who Exposed College Basketball](#)
[Hedge Funds: Not Dead Yet](#)

New York Times:

[Catalonia's Independence Vote Descends Into Chaos And Clashes](#)
[As Catalans Voted, 'Dying With Fear' At High School Turned Polling Place](#)
[Trump Says Tillerson Is 'Wasting His Time' On North Korea](#)
[Back At Full Strength, Supreme Court Faces A Momentous Term](#)
[SI Newhouse Jr., Who Turned Condé Nast Into A Magazine Powerhouse, Dies At 89](#)

Washington Post:

[Assailed Over Maria Relief, Trump Stays His Course](#)
[Crucial Term For Top Court Kicks Off](#)
[President Contradicts Tillerson On N. Korea](#)
[Illicit Cargo Exposes N. Korea's Arms Trade](#)
[In Catalonia, A Chaotic Yes](#)
[A Mountain Of Worry In Puerto Rico](#)

Financial Times:

[Catalans Defy Madrid To Register Clear Vote For Independence](#)
[Puerto Ricans Wrestle With Question Of Whether To Leave](#)
[WTO Chief Warns Of Risks To Trade Peace](#)

Washington Times:

[Benghazi Suspect's Criminal Trial To Test Speed Of U.S. Courts Vs. Military Tribunals](#)
[Tormenting Manafort Is Seen As Weissmann's Way To Snare Big Prosecution Targets For Mueller](#)
[Successful Border Enforcement Saves Habitat, Visitor Security On National Park Service Land](#)
[With Gorsuch filling out bench, Supreme Court ready to Break Ground On High-Profile Cases](#)
[Trump, Aides Accuse Media Of Misrepresenting Federal Response To Puerto Rico Disaster](#)
[Struggling Venezuelans Stop Putting Faith In Maduro's Heated Anti-American Rhetoric](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Hurricane Recovery-Puerto Rico; White House-Trump Tweets; OJ Simpson Parole; Terror Attacks Abroad; Spain-Catalonia Protest; Ship Sinking Report; NFL Kneeling Protest; Air France-Emergency Landing; Florida-Murder Manhunt; Netflix Phishing; Pro Rugby Player Prank; Veteran Returns Home.

CBS: OJ Simpson Parole; Hurricane Recovery-Puerto Rico; Hurricane Recovery-Florida Keys; Ship Sinking Report; White House-Tax Reform; NFL Kneeling Protest; France Terror Attack; Canada Terror Attack; Spain-Catalonia Protest; Rep. Scalise Recovered; Hurricane Irma-Lawsuits On Chemical Companies; Hurricane Recovery-Puerto Rico Shelters.

NBC: OJ Simpson Parole; Hurricane Recovery-Puerto Rico; White House-Trump Tweets; Canada Terror Attack; France Terror Attack; Spain-Catalonia Protest; Opioid Epidemic; Air France-Emergency Landing; Supreme Court Back In Session; Pinball Machine.

Network TV At A Glance:

Hurricane Recovery – 9 minutes, 5 seconds

OJ Simpson Parole – 8 minutes

Spain-Catalonia Protest – 5 minutes

Terror Attacks Abroad – 4 minutes, 15 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: OJ Simpson Parole; Hurricane Recovery-Puerto Rico; Spain-Catalonia Protest.

CBS: Hurricane Recovery-Puerto Rico; OJ Simpson Parole; Terror Attacks Abroad; Spain-Catalonia Protest; Trump-North Korea Tweet; NFL Kneeling Protest; Wall Street News.

FOX: Hurricane Recovery-Puerto Rico; GOP Congress-Tax Reform;

NPR: Hurricane Recovery-Puerto Rico; Trump-North Korea Tweet; Supreme Court-Gerrymandering; Terror Attacks Abroad.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Leads a deregulation summit; meets with the governors of Kentucky, Mississippi, Maine, and New Hampshire; welcome Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha and Madam Chan-o-Cha of Thailand; has dinner with Republican Members of Congress.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 3:00 PM Senate votes on FCC nominee – Senate convenes and proceeds to executive session to resume consideration of the nomination of Ajit Varadaraj Pai to be a Federal Communications Commission member, followed by a vote on the nomination * Cloture motion on the nomination passed by 55 votes to 41 last week Location: Washington, DC

<http://www.senate.gov/>

US House: 12:00 PM House of Representatives meets for legislative business Location:

Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

5:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 36 – Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act' Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/>

<https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

Other: 1:30 PM Dem Rep. David Cicilline speaks on President Trump's 'deregulation agenda' in Public Citizen call – Democratic Rep. David Cicilline speaks on Public Citizen press call, making the case for 'robust regulation and enforcement', and highlighting what they describe as 'conflicts of interest at the heart of President Donald Trump's deregulatory agenda'. Other speakers include Consumer Federation of America Legislative Director and General Counsel Rachel Weintraub, KidsAndCars.org President and founder Janette Fennell, Coalition for Sensible Safeguards Coalition Manager Michell McIntyre, and Public Citizen President Robert Weissman * During the call, Rep. Cicilline unveils new legislation requiring disclosure of conflicts Location: TBD www.citizen.org https://twitter.com/public_citizen

6:00 PM IFES 2017 Democracy Awards Dinner – International Foundation for Electoral Systems 8th Annual Charles T. Manatt Democracy Awards presentation, awarded each year to one Democrat, one Republican, and a member of the international community who 'demonstrate the dedication to democracy and human rights embodied by Charles Manatt' Location: Four Seasons Hotel, 2800 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.ifes.org <https://twitter.com/IFES1987>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Washington Times: US, States Struggle To Pay Spiraling Cost Of Fighting Fires.
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- New York Times: Drilling In The Arctic Wildlife Refuge: How The G.O.P. Could Finally Break The Impasse.
- Washington Post: Interior Looks At Behind-The-Scenes Land Swap To Allow Road Through Wilderness Refuge.
- Havasu (AZ) News-Herald: Interior Department May Expand Recreational Shooting On Federal Lands.

- The Hill: Fight Over National Monuments Intensifies.
- U.S. News & World Report: Colorado County Hopeful Changes On Grouse Will Help Industry.
- Politico: Kelly Tries To Get Empty Administration Jobs Filled Fast.
- Washington Times: Additional Coverage: Ryan Zinke Has Flag Lowered Above Interior Dept. When He Leaves The Building: Report.
- CNN: What's Up With Ryan Zinke?
- The Hill: Ryan Zinke Wants To Break Many Conservation Efforts.
- Deseret (UT) News: In Our Opinion: We Support Coalition Efforts In Western Lands Debate.
- Arizona Daily Sun: Our View: Be Better Prepared For New Era Of Uranium Mining.
- Yakima (WA) Herald-Republic: Land-water Fund Supports Our Way Of Life And Economy.
- Moffat County Commissioner Don Cook told the Craig Press that the issue impacts about 40 percent of the county's land area.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Tribe Demands Nix Of Slawson Drilling Go-Ahead.
- Flandreau Tribal Police Officer Fired After Reporting High-speed Chase To Feds.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Fence Post: Wyoming Attorney Karen Budd-Falen May Be Next BLM Leader.
- Kingman (AZ) Daily Miner: Gosar Helping La Paz County With 8,000 Acre Solar Farm.
- Alaska Public Radio Network: State Recoups Almost \$600,000 From Suit Involving Interior River.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Bella Vista Water District To Reduce Energy Costs With Solar Energy Project.

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

- Cleanup Under Way After Large Oil Spill Off Louisiana Coast.
- Gulf Oilfield Returns To Normal After Hurricane Nate.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Wall Street Journal: It's Lizard Vs. Oil Magnate In The Latest Fight Over Fracking In Texas.
- USA Today: When Nature Calls: Florida Wildlife Refuge Makes Restrooms Artsy, Educational.
- U.S. News & World Report: US Agency's Bid To Allow Trumpeter Swan Hunting Draws Fire.
- U.S. News & World Report: Colorful North Georgia Fish Could Get Federal Protection.
- U.S. News & World Report: Century Old Buildings In Northeast Wisconsin To Be Restored.
- Law360: Elephant Trophy Ban Faces Tough DC Circuit Bench.
- Salem (OR) Capital Press: Federal Wildlife Agency Says Wolf Was Shot, Offers Reward.
- Medford (OR) Mail Tribune: OR-7's Daughter Got Some New Bling.

National Park Service

- Kearney (NE) Hub: Nation's Last Homesteader's 1945 Allis Chalmers To Be Restored.
- WUSA-TV Washington: New Mural Comes To Tenleytown, Honoring The Neighborhood's History.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Washington Post: Trump Botches Reference To 'President' Of Virgin Islands A Day After Rick Perry Called Puerto Rico A 'Country'.
- Reuters: U.S. Diplomacy With North Korea To Continue Until 'First Bomb Drops': Tillerson.

US Geological Survey

- U.S. News & World Report: Group Launches Campaign To Rename Colorado's Gore Range.
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- NBC: Trump Faces Bipartisan Criticism Over ACA Subsidy Move.
- Bloomberg News: Trump Takes Victory Lap On Healthcare Executive Order As Criticism Continues.
- NBC: Trump Refuses To Certify Iran Nuclear Deal, Approves Sanctions On IRCG.
- New York Times: North Korea Hints At Possible Retaliation Over Joint US-South Korea Exercises.

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- "Too Many In Prison."
- "Parochialism Continues To Cripple Metro."
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 - "The Rest Of The Russia Story."

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DOI In The News

Zinke Vows To End "Virus" Of Harassment In Park Service.

The [New York Times](#) (10/13, Cochrane) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "vowed Friday that there would be 'no quarter' for employees who sexually harass or discriminate against colleagues," and "said he would dismiss anyone found guilty of harassment and supervisors who sweep such charges under the rug." In an address to employees at Grand Canyon National Park, Zinke said, "I have no problem removing manager after manager until there are none left. ... Intimidation, harassment and discrimination are viruses within an operation, and we're going to eradicate them."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/13, Sahagun) reports that Zinke said, "Under my leadership we're going to hold people accountable. We're also fixing the problem of victims being afraid of retaliation or inaction by codifying the right of victims to report abuse to any manager at any location across the service, and by bringing on an independent investigative partner."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/13, Rein) reports that "Zinke said he fired four 'senior leaders' in recent weeks, adding, 'The consequence of [these] actions has to be clear.'" According to an Interior Department official, "the terminations were of senior executives and other senior officials and that the offenders were guilty of sexual harassment, intimidation and abuses of authority."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/13, Siciliano) reports that "the department announced that it would be increasing its ability to investigate and address harassment complaints by increasing Employee Relations and Labor Relations staff with ten additional employees." Also, "ethics staff will be beefed up with four additional employees to improve the park service's 'capacity to investigate and resolve allegations and incidents of harassment efficiently,' the agency said."

Meanwhile, the [AP](#) (10/14, Fonseca) reports that "a survey of National Park Service employees found widespread complaints of harassment and discrimination in the workplace, and top officials vowed to address the problems that have tarnished the agency's image." According to department, "nearly two of five Park Service employees surveyed this year had experienced some sort of harassment or discrimination over a 12-month period." Also, "more than 10 percent of employees were sexually harassed." The article adds that "about 19 percent of employees reported gender harassment," but "less than 1 percent reported sexual assault."

Also reporting are [Government Executive](#) (10/13, Corrigan), [Cronkite News](#) (10/13, Clair), [Outside](#) (10/13, Ogles), [Law360](#) (10/13, Gurrieri), and [KGTU-TV San Diego](#) San Diego (10/14, Mendoza, Packard).

Local TV coverage was provided by [KNXV-TV](#) Phoenix (10/15), [KTVK-TV](#) Phoenix (10/13), and [KSTU-TV](#) Salt Lake City (10/14).

US, States Struggle To Pay Spiraling Cost Of Fighting Fires.

The [AP](#) (10/15, Thompson, Elliott) reports that "the long and brutal 2017 wildfire season is stressing the state and federal agencies that have to pay for the army of ground crews and machinery required to fight them." The federal government "spent more than \$2.7 billion on firefighting in its most recently finished budget year, a record that far surpassed the previous high point of \$2.1 billion set just two years ago." The U.S. is "seeing more and bigger wildfires,

and the wildfire season is getting longer." According to Jennifer Jones, a spokeswoman for the National Interagency Fire Center, "the reasons are hotter, drier weather and a buildup of dead and dying trees because of past fire-suppression practices."

Additional coverage was provided by [NPR](#) (10/13, Brumfiel) and the [Grass Valley \(CA\) Union](#) (10/15, Boardman).

Strong Winds Prompt More California Wildfires Evacuations. The [CBS Weekend News](#) (10/14, lead story, 2:30, Morgan) reported that strong winds "prompted more wildfire evacuations today in northern California." Ten thousand firefighters "are battling 16 large fires that have forced 100,000 people from their homes." Sonoma County Sheriff Rob Giordano said, "It is not over. Stay away from the houses." In addition, California Gov. Jerry Brown visited the area and is quoted saying, "This is truly one of the greatest, if not the greatest, tragedy that California has ever faced. The devastation is just unbelievable. It's a horror that no one could have imagined." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/14, Serna, Nelson, Megerian, Kohli) reports the death toll has risen to 40.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/14, Bonos, Wang, Wootson) says Northern California officials "ordered a new round of mandatory evacuations overnight Saturday for parts of the Sonoma Valley and eastern Santa Rosa as gusting winds returned." The National Weather Service "warned Friday night that strong winds were expected throughout Northern California, with gusts of 35 to 45 mph, putting much of the region under a red flag warning."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/14, lead story, 2:30, Diaz-Balart) reported that "a red flag warning stretches up and down the state, warning that fires burning since last Sunday are likely to continue spreading." And the weather forecast "suggests Mother Nature will not help damp down the 16 fires burning from the north in Mendocino to the south of Los Angeles and Anaheim. No rain expected there until next Thursday or Friday at the earliest."

Death Toll Rises In California Wildfires As Forecasts Call For High Winds This Weekend. [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/13, story 3, 2:00, Holt) reported on the rising death toll in California's wildfires, calling this "the deadliest week for wildfires in that state's history, and there's no sign of a let-up coming." NBC noted that "many of those who died in the fires were in their 70s and 80s." NBC also reports that "more than 2,800 homes were destroyed" in Santa Rosa. Meanwhile, there's a new red flag warning taking effect as "wind gusts could top 50 miles an hour at higher elevations over the weekend, which has everyone here on high alert."

In a front-page story, the [Washington Post](#) (10/13, A1, Lowery) reports there were "at least 17 blazes still burning as of Friday." Santa Rosa Mayor Chris Coursey said Friday, "We all have suffered a trauma here. And we're going to be a long time in recovering from this incident."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/13, Nelson) reports, "Some Santa Rosa residents may be allowed to return home Saturday or Sunday," and officials said they are working to reopen the Kaiser hospital as well as get power restored. Mayor Coursey said the city has suffered "\$1.2 billion in damage, and 5% of its residences were lost to flames."

The [New York Times](#) (10/13, A1, Fuller, Pérez-Peña) in a front-page story reports that for those victims of the fire, "advance warning was measured in minutes or seconds, or never came at all," and "hesitation was lethal." The Times reports the confirmed death toll at 35 as of "Friday night, making this the deadliest wildfire outbreak in California history, and the figure is likely to climb."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/13, story 4, 2:30, Muir) reported that officials "fear possible worsening winds" with "dangerous conditions expected through Sunday." Smoke has reached San Francisco, "75 miles away." The fires have spread over an area "larger than New York City," and at least 3,500 structures have been destroyed. The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/13, story 4, 2:35, Mason) reported that "more than 200" people "are unaccounted for," with local authorities attempting to check their homes. So far "the fires in six counties have burned more than 220,000 acres."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/13, story 5, 0:35, Muir) said the fires are "shaping up to be a statewide event," and that by Saturday morning "we're talking about Los Angeles and Ventura counties – winds'll be ripping there." These "dry Santa Ana winds" have dropped humidity levels to under 10%, "dangerous levels."

The [AP](#) (10/13, Elias, Gecker) reports that firefighting crews have arrived in the past day from as far away as Australia and Canada. Firefighters were able to gain "some ground on a blaze burning in the heart of California's wine country." California emergency operations director Mark Ghilarducci said, "The emergency is not over, and we continue to work at it, but we are seeing some great progress."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/13, Nelson, Kohli, John, Smith, Agarwal) reports, "The Redwood

fire in Mendocino County has burned 34,000 acres and was 10% contained as of Friday.” That fire along with the 2,500-acre Sulphur fire have prompted the evacuation of 8,000 people. Meanwhile, the Tubbs fire has burned 34,770 acres and as of Friday “was 25% contained, a jump from the 10% containment gained Thursday night.”

Northern California Fires Have Destroyed At Least 5,700 Buildings. The [New York Times](#) (10/14, Watkins) reports state officials “announced Friday that the wildfires across Northern California have destroyed at least 5,700 buildings.” An analysis by The New York Times “using satellite images in combination with its own ground surveys found that one fire in particular incinerated at least 5,100 structures, which would make it the most destructive wildfire in the state’s history.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/14, Ailworth, Lazo, Lovett, Elinson) reports that families and friends are searching frantically to find loved ones amid the devastation in California. Families are showing up at evacuation centers and posting desperate notes on Facebook. The Journal adds that more than 1,300 missing persons reports have been filed already in Sonoma County alone.

See It, Say It: Climate Change. The [Washington Post](#) (10/14) editorializes the natural disaster that started in California last Sunday has been “unprecedented, and so the question that must be confronted is what caused the deadliest week of wildfires in the state’s history.” Gov. Jerry Brown (D) “pointed the finger at climate change. ‘With a warming climate, dry weather and reducing moisture, these kinds of catastrophes have happened and will continue to happen and we have to be ready to mitigate, and it’s going to cost a lot of money,’ he said last week.” The Post concedes no single fire can be specifically linked to climate change, “but scientists say there is a clear connection between global warming and the increase in recent years in the severity and frequency of wildfires in the West.”

Trump’s Love Affair With Coal.

In a piece titled “Trump’s Love Affair With Coal,” [Politico Magazine](#) (10/15, Grunwald) reports that “as the Trump administration has battled internally and seesawed publicly over issues like trade, health care, infrastructure and even immigration, there’s no issue where it’s been more consistent and emphatic than its support for coal.” Coal miners showed up “at his raucous campaign rallies, and sure enough, he’s been a relentless advocate for this small and beleaguered industry.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/15, Halper) reports that despite the attempts of the Trump Administration to end what it calls the “war on coal,” coal communities have yet to see significant benefit.

Trump Says He Ended The ‘War’ On Coal Companies. But It’s Too Late To Save Them. In a piece for the [Washington Post](#) (10/13, Federman), Adam Federman, reporting fellow with the Investigative Fund at the Nation Institute, wrote that while opponents and energy executives depicted the Obama administration’s “three-year moratorium on federal coal leasing” as a “witch hunt” and “a politically motivated sham,” President Trump “promised to save the coal industry from oppressive regulations and slumping sales.” In a March speech at EPA headquarters, Trump announced that he was lifting the moratorium along with other measures. But, Federman says, the move actually exposed coal’s “weaknesses – and revealed a trend that coal companies and the Trump administration have not acknowledged publicly: The companies are scaling back, in some cases shedding workers and passing on the opportunities the federal government now wants to give them.” While coal companies have outwardly “embraced Trump’s aggressive rollbacks,” in private, coal executives are “deeply skeptical about the administration’s ability to alter market conditions.”

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by [Bloomberg News](#) (10/13, Frisch) and the [Huffington Post](#) (10/13, Marshall).

Drilling In The Arctic Wildlife Refuge: How The G.O.P. Could Finally Break The Impasse.

The [New York Times](#) (10/13, Fountain) reports that the Trump Administration and congressional Republicans “in recent weeks have renewed the fight over opening part” of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration. The battle over the refuge, “which pits Republicans in Washington and much of the political and business establishment in Alaska against congressional Democrats and environmental and conservation groups, has been going on for decades.” Now, “with Republicans holding both houses of Congress and the presidency, the prospects for opening the refuge, at least to studies of its oil and gas potential, are better than they have been in years.” The article adds that “a budget resolution introduced late last month, and supported by Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, may help pave the way.”

Interior Looks At Behind-The-Scenes Land Swap To Allow Road Through Wilderness

Refuge.

In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (10/15, Eilperin) reports, "The Interior Department is preparing to set aside a decades-old ban on development in federally protected wilderness areas by pursuing a controversial proposal to build a nearly 12-mile road through" Alaska's Izembek National Wildlife Refuge by turning federal land over to a tribal corporation. Opponents say that "allowing the project would violate the founding principle of federal wilderness...and set a precedent that could endanger other refuges." The Post says that "multiple federal analyses have suggested alternatives to a new road...as the preferred policy option." Meanwhile, an Interior study "concluded that the project should not be pursued because many species would be harmed." However, documents obtained by the Defenders of Wildlife under the Freedom of Information Act "make clear that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has elevated the issue to one of the agency's top priorities, and his appointees have taken deliberate steps to conceal the plan from the public."

Interior Department May Expand Recreational Shooting On Federal Lands.

The [Havasupai \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (10/14, Hyde) reports that "target shooting, hunting and fishing could be expanded on public lands under a federal proposal drawing attention in Arizona." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "directed land managers to come up with a plan to expand recreational shooting in areas like Ironwood Forest National Monument in Tucson." Proponents "say it could mean more hunting and fishing opportunities on federal land." However, critics "think it risks people's safety and could trash some of nature's most pristine areas." Additional coverage was provided by [KTAR-FM](#) Glendale, AZ (10/14, Hyde).

Fight Over National Monuments Intensifies.

[The Hill](#) (10/15, Henry) reports that House Republicans are moving forward with a bill to reform the Antiquities Act, "raising the stakes in their ongoing effort to curtail the president's ability to set aside wide swaths of federal land as national monuments and protect them from future development." Rep. Rob Bishop's bill "would give presidents the power to declare monuments of up to 640 acres without restriction." However, "as potential designations get bigger, they would have to meet other conditions, including environmental reviews and approval by state and local officials who are currently not involved in the monument designation process." According to the article, "changing the Antiquities Act, rather than rescinding previously monuments, is a higher priority for the interest groups who oppose monument-making power."

Colorado County Hopeful Changes On Grouse Will Help Industry.

The [AP](#) (10/15) reports that "officials in northwest Colorado say they hope changes to federal plans for dealing with an imperiled bird species will allow more energy development in their part of the state." The Interior Department is "reconsidering restrictions on mining, oil and gas drilling, grazing and other activities imposed by the Obama administration to protect greater sage grouse."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (10/13, Blair) and the [Aspen \(CO\) Times](#) (10/15, Blair).

Kelly Tries To Get Empty Administration Jobs Filled Fast.

[Politico](#) (10/15, Cook) reports White House Chief of Staff Kelly is "reversing efforts under his predecessor Reince Priebus to run most" political appointments through the West Wing, giving Cabinet secretaries more autonomy in their selections. According to 10 interviews with White House officials and advisers close to the Administration, Kelly is seeking "to do a better job of finding candidates for the hundreds of jobs" still vacant. Part of the issue with the vacancies is the Administration requirement that candidates be "loyal to the administration and not have spoken harshly about the president during the campaign," criteria that "created a particular problem" on national security, as scores of Republican experts signed a letter criticizing Trump prior to the election. The issue was exacerbated by "many experienced Republicans" who would ordinarily seek middle- and top-level posts choosing "to sit out the Trump administration in January."

Additional Coverage: Ryan Zinke Has Flag Lowered Above Interior Dept. When He Leaves The Building: Report.

Additional coverage that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "has a flag hoisted above his agency whenever he's in the building for work" was provided by the [Washington Times](#) (10/13, Persons),

[USA Today](#) (10/13), [TIME](#) (10/13, Waxman), [Newsweek](#) (10/13, Lanktree), [CNN International](#) (10/13), the [National Review](#) (10/16, Nordlinger), [MSNBC](#) (10/13, Benen), the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (10/13), the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (10/13), the [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (10/13, Devlin), the [Boston Globe](#) (10/13, Finucane, Meyers), the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (10/13), the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (10/15, Rubel), the [Daily Mail](#) (10/13, Earle), [KGW-TV Portland \(OR\)](#) Portland, OR (10/13), and [WUSA-TV Washington](#) Washington (10/13).

What's Up With Ryan Zinke?

In an analysis for [CNN](#) (10/13, Krieg), Gregory Krieg points out that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has been appearing in the headlines since arriving to work for his first day on horseback. Zinke has also grabbed attention for his review of recently designated national monuments and the move "to expand hunting and fishing access on public lands."

Ryan Zinke Wants To Break Many Conservation Efforts.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (10/14, Rodewald, Fitzpatrick), Amanda Rodewald and John Fitzpatrick, both faculty fellows at Cornell University's Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future, write that "despite praising and promoting public-private partnerships as cost-effective approaches to managing federal lands," Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is proposing "to overhaul agreements built upon decades of negotiations among ranchers, conservationists, sportsmen, industries, and agencies" with its plan "to revise 98 land-use management plans developed to conserve the Greater Sage-Grouse across 10 Western States." They write that "an unprecedented and bipartisan conservation partnership crafted a package of plans to save the Greater Sage-Grouse," the "package of plans, finalized in 2015, was the crux of the Interior Department's decision not to list Greater Sage-Grouse." They warn that "if the conservation plans are revoked and aggressive development resumed, Greater Sage-Grouse populations are forecast to plummet by up to one-third by 2050, again raising the probability of Endangered Species listing."

In Our Opinion: We Support Coalition Efforts In Western Lands Debate.

In an editorial, the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/13) supports the a new coalition that are seeking to promote a "shared vision" for Western lands. Among the signatories to a recent letter sent to members of Congress, are "Utah, Montana and Nevada ranchers, as well as Californian conservationists." The paper is hopeful "that an effort that has so many groups agreeing on principles will translate to agreement on balanced policies that can lead to conservation and the wise use and development of lands in the West."

Our View: Be Better Prepared For New Era Of Uranium Mining.

Expecting that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will "turn his attention to reopening parts of the Grand Canyon watershed to uranium mining," the [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (10/15) advises opponents "to pick their spots and negotiate for highly restricted and monitored mine sites in exchange for areas of permanent withdrawal." It urges Grand Canyon advocates "to get up to speed on modern breccia pipe mining and come up with counter-proposals that contain the risks in exchange for protecting the most vulnerable seeps and springs."

Land-water Fund Supports Our Way Of Life And Economy.

In an op-ed for the [Yakima \(WA\) Herald-Republic](#) (10/15, Joyce), Steve Joyce, managing partner of Red's Fly Shop in the Yakima River Canyon, urges support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is "at risk once again and will expire in one year unless Congress reauthorizes it." Joyce hopes Congress will "agree that LWCF is a great deal for all of us and permanently reauthorize this program to the benefit of all Americans."

Moffat County Commissioner Don Cook told the Craig Press that the issue impacts about 40 percent of the county's land area.

He says there was little local input when the restrictions were adopted under Obama.knnjmbghbn

Sage grouse once ranged widely across the West but have seen their habitat shrink dramatically as the region develops.

Luke Schafer with Conservation Colorado says the changes announced by Interior could throw out years of work on sage grouse.

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Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Tribe Demands Nix Of Slawson Drilling Go-Ahead.

[Law360](#) (10/13, Phillis) reports that “the Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation on Thursday told a North Dakota federal court that drilling company Slawson Exploration Co. Inc. appealed an administrative order prematurely, arguing that the court should throw the case out so that the U.S. Department of the Interior’s process can continue unimpeded.” The MHA Nation argued “that because the administrative process had not fully played out and no final agency action had occurred, the federal courts did not have jurisdiction when it issued a temporary restraining order.”

Flandreau Tribal Police Officer Fired After Reporting High-speed Chase To Feds.

The [Sioux Falls \(SD\) Argus Leader](#) (10/13, Ellis) reports that “a former police officer for the Flandreau Tribal Police Department says he was fired after filing a complaint with the Bureau of Indian Affairs over the department’s role in a high-speed chase last summer.” According to the article, “Nick Cottier, a BIA certified tribal police officer, says he was removed after he notified BIA’s district office in Aberdeen about the chase, which left three young adults with life threatening injuries and questions about why the chase took place.” The article notes that “the pursuit violated BIA and department pursuit policies on several levels, according to a copy obtained by Argus Leader Media.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Wyoming Attorney Karen Budd-Falen May Be Next BLM Leader.

The [Fence Post](#) (10/13, Spencer) reports that Wyoming attorney Karen Budd-Falen could be the next leader of the Bureau of Land Management. Budd-Falen has “worked extensively for private property owners, agricultural operations and local governments.” The article notes that “among her most well-known clients is the Bundy family who made headlines after a 2014 standoff between federal agents and supporters of rancher Cliven Bundy.”

Gosar Helping La Paz County With 8,000 Acre Solar Farm.

The [Kingman \(AZ\) Daily Miner](#) (10/15) reports that “a bipartisan bill to foster economic development and job creation in rural Arizona has moved forward to a committee hearing, Rep. Paul Gosar said in a statement Wednesday.” The bill, H.R. 2620, “will allow La Paz County to buy 8,000 acres from the Bureau of Land Management at fair market value to use for solar energy development.” Gosar said, “Solar energy generation in La Paz County will provide clean renewable power for the southwestern United States as well as create high-paying jobs and economic development for this rural corner of Arizona.”

State Recoups Almost \$600,000 From Suit Involving Interior River.

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (10/13, Bross) reports that the state of Alaska has “re-couped nearly \$600,000 in legal fees from a 2012 lawsuit with the Bureau of Land Management over an Eastern Interior river.” According to U.S. District Court documents, Alaska “sought a million dollars in fees after prevailing in a suit to gain title to the Mosquito Fork of the Forty Mile River.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

Bella Vista Water District To Reduce Energy Costs With Solar Energy Project.

[WaterWorld](#) (10/13) reports that “the Bureau of Reclamation awarded Bella Vista Water District a WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant to install two solar photovoltaic power generation facilities near the cities of Bella Vista and Redding.” The BOR “provided BVWD a grant for \$999,938 out of a total project cost of \$2,571,782.”

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Cleanup Under Way After Large Oil Spill Off Louisiana Coast.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/15, Molinski, Sider) reports LLOG Exploration Co said 9,350 barrels of oil that spilled into the Gulf of Mexico near Louisiana appeared to be contained. The BSEE said the spill, which stemmed from a fractured offshore pipeline, is not expected to impact the shoreline, and there are no reports of injuries. The agency is still investigating the cause of the fracture. The Coast Guard discovered three sheens of oil on the surface Saturday morning during an observation flight. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/14, Molinski, Sider) reported LLOG shut in all wells that could have been contributing to the spill on Thursday, after workers noticed discrepancies between well and platform data. The company does not think the hurricane caused the fracture in the pipeline, because tests conducted after the storm showed it was in good condition. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/14, Schleifstein) reported the BSEE said, "LLOG reported that through the use of a remotely-operated vehicle, a fracture was observed in a jumper pipe leading from Mississippi Canyon Block 209, Well No. 1 to a manifold located on the seafloor. ... As a result of shutting in the well, the flow through the fracture in the pipe has ceased." The agency went on to say, "A sheen was observed and reported through the National Response Center. ... Monitoring of the residual sheen continues. No shoreline impacts have been reported. There are no reports of personnel injuries." LLOG also "reported that two skimming vessels sourced from Clean Gulf Associates and Marine Spill Response Corporation are on location and are prepared to respond." The [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (10/14) reported the Coast Guard said, "Initial trajectory models calculated by the responsible party and NOAA indicate that any surface oil is expected to move in a southwesterly direction and is not expected to impact the shoreline."

The [AP](#) (10/14) and [The Hill](#) (10/14, Manchester) also provided coverage.

Gulf Oilfield Returns To Normal After Hurricane Nate.

The [Houma \(LA\) Courier](#) (10/14) reported that as of Saturday, the BSEE said that all but 1.4 percent of the Gulf of Mexico's 737 platforms had returned to normal operations. Workers returned to all of the 20 rigs working in the Gulf. Around 1 percent of production remained shut in

Fish And Wildlife Service

It's Lizard Vs. Oil Magnate In The Latest Fight Over Fracking In Texas.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/13, Matthews) reports on the looming battle between frackers in the Permian Basin of Texas and the rare dunes sagebrush lizard, which environmentalists are seeking to classify as an endangered species.

When Nature Calls: Florida Wildlife Refuge Makes Restrooms Artsy, Educational.

[USA Today](#) (10/13, Ruane) reports that the J.N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge has "rolled out its newest exhibit: learning lavatories." Refuge Manager Paul Tritaik joked, "We wanted to transform a necessary nature call into an innovative nature enthrall." The article notes that "a \$125,000 grant from the West Coast Inland Navigation District and contributions from private donors paid for the restroom renovations."

US Agency's Bid To Allow Trumpeter Swan Hunting Draws Fire.

The [AP](#) (10/14, Karnowski) reports that "a federal plan to let hunters shoot trumpeter swans has drawn fire from some of the people who toiled to bring the majestic white birds back from the brink of extinction." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is "working on a plan that would let hunters shoot them in several states that allow the hunting of tundra swans, a more numerous species." According to the article, "tundra swans look almost identical to trumpeter swans, especially at a distance, and a tundra swan hunter who mistakenly shoots a trumpeter is subject to a fine." The article says that "the risk is expected to grow as trumpeter swans spread from states that have invested heavily in restoration efforts, such as Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin and Michigan in the Mississippi Flyway."

Colorful North Georgia Fish Could Get Federal Protection.

The [AP](#) (10/15) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering protecting the trispot darter as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Jeff Powell, an assistant field supervisor at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said, "It is a beautiful little fish, and it has a unique life history and it's really interesting. If we can keep this species alive in the Conasauga River, the way we're going to do that is protecting water quality, and that benefits everybody."

Century Old Buildings In Northeast Wisconsin To Be Restored.

The [AP](#) (10/15) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is “working to restore buildings on some islands in northeast Wisconsin that date back more than a century.” According to the article, “renovations to the 325-acre Plum Island and the 4-acre Pilot Island could total almost \$7 million.” The FWS and the Friends of Plum and Pilot Island nonprofit are “covering the costs of the renovations.”

Elephant Trophy Ban Faces Tough DC Circuit Bench.

[Law360](#) (10/13, Hoover) reports that “a skeptical D.C. Circuit panel on Friday suggested that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service bypassed its required rule-making process when it banned imports of sport-hunted African elephant trophies from Zimbabwe.” The FWS “faced pushback from the three-judge panel while fending off a challenge from the Safari Club and the National Rifle Association to its decision to ban the imports under the Endangered Species Act.”

Federal Wildlife Agency Says Wolf Was Shot, Offers Reward.

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (10/13, Mortenson) reports that “state and federal wildlife officials are investigating the death of a second wolf discovered in the Fremont-Wenema National Forest of Southern Oregon in the past year.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “offered a \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the person responsible for shooting a gray wolf designated OR-33 by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.”

OR-7's Daughter Got Some New Bling.

The [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (10/13, Freeman) reports that “state and federal wildlife managers will again be able to track gray wolf OR-7's Rogue Pack now that one of his presumed offspring is sporting a new GPS collar.” In a “textbook” capture, “biologists on the morning of Oct. 3 were able to trap, tranquilize and collar the newly named OR-54 in Klamath County's Wood River Valley, the eastern portion of the pack's normal range, according to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.” According to John Stephenson, a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Bend, “the roughly 80-pound female is about 1½ years old and is likely from OR-7's 2016 litter.”

National Park Service

Nation's Last Homesteader's 1945 Allis Chalmers To Be Restored.

The [Kearney \(NE\) Hub](#) (10/14, Hendee) reports that a 1945 Allis Chalmers Model C tractor will join “the collections of Americana preserved by the National Park Service across the nation when it goes on permanent display at Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice next month.” Currently, “the machine – used in Alaska by the last person to receive free land under the federal Homestead Act of 1862 – is undergoing preservation treatment by members of the Tractor Restoration Club at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.” According to the article, “the public unveiling of the 1945 Allis Chalmers tractor used by America's last homesteader is scheduled for 2 p.m., Nov. 20, at Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (10/14, Hendee).

New Mural Comes To Tenleytown, Honoring The Neighborhood's History.

[WUSA-TV](#) Washington (10/14, Thande) reports that “a new mural has popped-up in Tenleytown, celebrating the neighborhood's history.” The mural was “unveiled with a ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony Saturday morning.” The article notes that “Mayor Muriel Bowser attended alongside Councilmember Mary Cheh and National Park Service Superintendent Julia Washburn.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

Trump Botches Reference To 'President' Of Virgin Islands A Day After Rick Perry Called Puerto Rico A 'Country'.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/13, Blake) reports President Trump, at the Values Voters Summit on Friday, mistakenly said he met with the “president” of the US Virgin Islands. The Post explains that “the Virgin Islands don't have a president; they have a governor, Kenneth Mapp, with whom Trump met 10 days ago. In fact, their president is none other than Trump himself, since they are

Americans." According to the Post, "Trump's flub comes a day after [Energy Secretary] Rick Perry made a similar error on Puerto Rico."

Black Lawmakers Pushing For More Aid, Attention To Virgin Islands. [USA Today](#) (10/13, Berry) reports the Congressional Black Caucus has asked House Speaker Ryan to approve an official congressional trip to the US Virgin Islands "to assess the damage there and draw attention to the plight of residents still struggling in the wake of two major hurricanes." Caucus Chairman Rep. Cedric Richmond said Thursday, "We think it's important for people not only who are on the ground to see the cavalry coming, but it's important for us to go down and independently assess the needs of the people." Del. Stacey Plaskett, the representative from the US Virgin Islands, "said the region will need much more than the \$5 billion" requested by the territory's governor.

U.S. Diplomacy With North Korea To Continue Until 'First Bomb Drops': Tillerson.

[Reuters](#) (10/15, Lynch) reports Secretary of State Tillerson told CNN on Sunday that President Trump had instructed him to continue diplomatic efforts with North Korea, saying "those diplomatic efforts will continue until the first bomb drops." Speaking on [CNN's State Of The Union](#), Tillerson "downplayed" Trump's tweets suggesting the Secretary of State was wasting his time trying to negotiate with Pyongyang. Trump "has made it clear to me to continue my diplomatic efforts," Tillerson said. The [AP](#) (10/15) reports Tillerson added, "He is not seeking to go to war."

McMaster Defends Trump's North Korea Tweet. Asked on [Fox News Sunday](#) (10/15, Rosen) if the President's tweets regarding North Korea were having a positive impact, National Security Advisor McMaster said, "I think with a real danger is in terms of communicating with Kim Jong-un is that he doesn't understand how serious we are about his behavior and behavior of the regime." He added, "The President has been very clear on that and i think that's beneficial to the safety and security of not only the United States, but our great allies in South Korea and Japan."

US Geological Survey

Group Launches Campaign To Rename Colorado's Gore Range.

The [AP](#) (10/14, Fixler) reports that "the rugged mountain underbite in Summit and Eagle counties known as the Gore Range," could be renamed. The range is "named for a 19th century Irish aristocrat named Lord St. George Gore," but "for roughly 10,000 years and before formal government removal to a Utah reservation in 1879, the Ute tribe, who called themselves the Nuntzi, resided in the valley they referred to as Naa Ohn Kara." According to the article, "the native Ute spoke of the Rockies as the Shining Mountains, and if a local group gets its way that's what they intend to re-label the local range." Summit's Board of County Commissioners "formally supported the change through a recent resolution, and the campaign is gaining steam." The article says that "the goal is to gain further momentum, hear other pitches for an alternative name — though preference remains giving the Utes a chance to heavily weigh in — and then take it to the USGS's Board of Geographic Names to decide."

Additional Reading.

- **Public Explores Turners Falls 'Fish Lab' During Open House.** [Greenfield \(MA\) Recorder](#) (10/14, Ashline).
- **Groundbreaking Report Documents Hundreds Of Human-triggered Earthquakes.** [Fox News](#) (10/13).
- **Yellowstone Supervolcano Isn't About To Erupt: But Here's What Happens When It Does.** [Newsweek](#) (10/13, Frankel).
- **Supervolcano Eruption At Yellowstone: No, You Shouldn't Worry.** [TIME](#) (10/13, Chan).
- **Minnesota To Collar More Than 100 Wild Deer With Tracking Devices To Fine-tune Its Fight Against CWD.** [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (10/14, Kennedy).
- **Ruffed Grouse Numbers Lagging For Hunters So Far This Fall In Wisconsin, Minnesota.** [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (10/14, Smith).
- **U.S. Drillers Idle Rigs In Eagle Ford, Barnett.** [San Antonio Express-News](#) (10/13, Eaton).

Top National News

Trump Faces Bipartisan Criticism Over ACA Subsidy Move.

Coverage of the Sunday morning talk show discussion of President Trump's decision to halt payments of Affordable Care Act subsidies is mostly negative, with critics from both parties getting more attention than defenders. Analyses also say that the chances for a deal on restoring the payments is slim, which could lead to a government shutdown in December.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/15, story 4, 2:30, Snow) reported, "The President is under fire from an influential group of doctors, insurance companies, and many in the business community after announcing he would end subsidies to offset the cost for Obamacare for low income Americans. Today, even some leading Republicans said the President's decision will hurt families, including many in the middle class who voted for him."

[Reuters](#) (10/15, Morgan) writes that the decision will make it harder for the President "to engage in bipartisan talks with Democrats as Congress edges toward a possible government shutdown." The [Washington Post](#) (10/15, Kane) reports that Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Chairman Lamar Alexander and ranking member Sen. Patty Murray "have been in negotiations over ways to stabilize the ACA markets ever since Republicans failed in their bid to repeal" the law, but that Trump's move could complicate matters. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/15, A1, Armour, Peterson) reports that their plan is expected this week, as is a more conservative version by Sen. Ron Johnson.

Sen. Lindsey Graham said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (10/15, Dickerson), "I hope that we can get a deal between Sen. Alexander and Patty Murray that will allow us to continue the payments but get reform ... The President is not going to continue to throw good money after bad give \$7 billion to insurance companies unless something changes about Obamacare that would justify it."

Sen. Susan Collins said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (10/15, Tapper) that "what the President is doing is affecting the ability of vulnerable people to receive healthcare right now." On [ABC's This Week](#) (10/15), Collins – who cited healthcare as one reason why she decided to stay in the Senate rather than run for Maine governor in 2018 – said that she is "very disappointed in the President's actions of this past week."

The [New York Times](#) (10/15, Hulse) reports that while the Trump Administration "found a legal justification for its decision to stop paying as much as \$7 billion this year to insurers in exchange for holding down out-of-pocket expenses for millions of Americans," Democrats are calling the move "a blatant attempt to undermine the health care law by roiling the insurance markets and driving up costs for consumers." Sen. Chris Murphy said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (10/15, Rosen) that the President is trying to "sabotage" the Affordable Care Act, calling Trump's action "the equivalent of healthcare arson." [The Hill](#) (10/15, Hellmann, Rouben) reports that Democrat "say Trump now owns ObamaCare, bearing responsibility for any problems that arise in the system, including higher premiums and insurer exits."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/15, Leonard) reports that there is "great uncertainty over whether they will be able to strike a deal to keep Obamacare's insurer subsidies flowing now that President Trump will not be funding them" – which could lead to a government shutdown. The [Washington Times](#) (10/15, Howell) reports that Democrats "downplayed talk of forcing" a shutdown, but Trump "has shown little interest in a deal that temporarily shores up the 2010 health care law without paving the way for repeal or bolstering other parts of his agenda, leaving little room for a deal." House Minority Leader Pelosi said on [ABC's This Week](#) (10/15) that it is up to the Republicans to keep the government open in December. She said, "What he's doing is hurting the American people. This isn't about policy or politics; it's about the American people." The [Washington Post](#) (10/15, Kane) reports that Pelosi also cited the ongoing healthcare fight as her reason for remaining her party's leader in the House, despite some caucus dissension.

[USA Today](#) (10/15, O'Donnell) reports that Ohio Gov. John Kasich "added to the chorus of critics who are questioning President Trump's decision to stop paying the subsidies that help cover the out of pocket health care costs of millions of Americans." Kasich said on [NBC's Meet The Press](#) (10/15, Todd), "What are they doing? Are they just passing these things and people are praising what the President did because of politics? I mean, do they understand the impact that this has on families, on people?"

[USA Today](#) (10/15) says in an editorial, "Trump and fellow Republicans spent much of the Obama administration complaining about how the president was legislating by the fiat of executive order, bypassing Congress and undermining existing law. So what has President Trump done with his latest actions on the Affordable Care Act? Legislate by fiat, bypass Congress and undermine existing law." USA Today calls the President's move "a blatant effort to do himself what Congress refused to do this summer: sabotage the health insurance markets that millions of

individual Americans have come to rely on to cover themselves and their families.”

But Michael Tanner of the Cato Institute writes in a responding [USA Today](#) (10/15) op-ed, “For all the headlines about ‘dismantling Obamacare,’ President Trump’s executive order will likely have less of an impact than its supporters hope or critics fear.” But it “represents a modest step toward giving consumers more choices and expanding millions of Americans’ access to lower cost insurance that better fits their individual needs.”

Trump Takes Victory Lap On Healthcare Executive Order As Criticism Continues.

President Trump took to Twitter on Saturday morning to reiterate his support for the executive orders he signed late this week rolling back provisions of the Affordable Care Act and ceasing the cost-sharing reduction (CSR) payments to health insurers. While media coverage fell heavily from a day earlier, reporting highlighted his new remarks in addition to the growing industry pushback against his recent actions on healthcare.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/13, Sobczyk, Litvan, Tracer) reports that the President “boasted about triggering a decline in health insurance stocks with his decision to end federal subsidies to those companies that help low-income Americans afford their medical coverage.” According to the [New York Times](#) (10/14, Fortin), “It is unlike...Trump to cheer when stocks fall, but early on Saturday he did just that.” The Times reports that “on Friday, stocks for Centene, Molina and Anthem, insurers that have participated in state marketplaces under the Affordable Care Act, slumped by more than 3 percent” while “shares in Acadia Healthcare declined by more than 3 percent and in Tenet Healthcare dropped by just over 5 percent.”

[The Hill](#) (10/14, Carter) reports Trump [tweeted](#), “Health Insurance stocks, which have gone through the roof during the ObamaCare years, plunged yesterday after I ended their Dems windfall!” He [added](#), “Very proud of my Executive Order which will allow greatly expanded access and far lower costs for HealthCare. Millions of people benefit!”

[USA Today](#) (10/14, Schouten) reports the President’s decision “to abruptly cut off federal payments to insurers reverberated through the political world Saturday, putting pressure on Congress to take action to address the high premiums that American consumers could face and jolting the insurance industry.”

[The Hill](#) (10/14, Sullivan, Bolton) says “key Republican members of Congress want to restore the ObamaCare payments” and Senate Republicans, including Majority Whip John Cornyn, “made clear before leaving Washington for a weeklong Columbus Day recess that they were not fans of simply letting ObamaCare fall apart.” However, The Hill acknowledges “a spokesman for Cornyn said Friday that his boss had not yet weighed in on Trump’s decision to end the ObamaCare payments, adding that his previous statement did not necessarily reflect his views of this week’s action.” On the [CBS Weekend News](#) (10/14, story 2, 2:05, Morgan), Errol Barnett reported that although the President “beamed over cutting Obamacare subsidies,” Sen. Susan Collins “feels differently.” Collins said, “I will say that I’m very concerned about the President’s executive order.”

Meanwhile, the [Washington Post](#) (10/14, A1, Goldstein) in a front-page article warns the timing of the President’s decision “could inflict maximal disruption on the Affordable Care Act enrollment season scheduled to begin in two weeks.” The Post reports “the most immediate upheaval is playing out in a set of states where regulators had ignored the risk that the president might carry out his threat and told insurers not to include any cushion in their 2018 rates for ACA health plans,” but even in “states that prepared for a possible cutoff of the ‘cost-sharing reduction’ payments, Trump’s action so close to the fifth sign-up period is sowing widespread confusion among consumers, according to leaders of insurance exchanges and enrollment-assistance organizations around the country.” MNSure CEO Allison O’Toole said, “The timing couldn’t be worse.”

“Nearly 70 percent of those benefiting from the so-called cost-sharing subsidies live in states Trump won last November, according to an analysis by” the [AP](#) (10/14, Cassidy, Hoyer), which reports that “the number underscores the political risk for Trump and his party, which could end up owning the blame for increased costs and chaos in the insurance marketplace.”

In a separate article, the [AP](#) (10/14, Fram, Alonso-Zaldivar) reports America’s Health Insurance Plans, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the US Chamber of Commerce and other “leading” healthcare groups “joined Saturday in a letter to House and Senate leaders imploring Congress to restore the payments.” [The Hill](#) (10/14, Manchester) reports that in the letter, the organizations warned, “There will be serious consequences without Congressional action: millions will face higher premiums, fewer choices, and less access to the medical care they need. Let’s work together on solutions that deliver the access, care, and coverage that the American people

deserve.”

According to [The Hill](#) (10/14, Delk) “Briefing Room” blog, former Vice President Joe Biden on Saturday “defended the Affordable Care Act as something that brought people ‘peace of mind,’ following President Trump’s executive order aimed at taking action on the law after Congress failed to repeal it.” In addition, [The Hill](#) (10/14, Delk) “Briefing Room” blog reports NAACP interim president and CEO Derrick Johnson in a statement “accused President Trump of trying to ‘kill’ the Affordable Care Act on Saturday, saying that his executive order to open up ObamaCare markets to new plans was a ‘new low.’” Johnson said, “President Trump’s executive orders to kill the Affordable Care Act – and make no mistake, this action is intended to do exactly that – are a new low.”

Media Analyses Consider How Trump Working To Undo Obama’s Legacy. In a front-page analysis, the [New York Times](#) (10/14, A1, Baker) says that Trump “leaves little doubt about what he thinks of his predecessor’s top domestic and international legacies,” but “as much as he has set his sights on them, Mr. Trump after nearly nine months in office has not actually gotten rid of” the Affordable Care Act or Iran nuclear deal, though “in the past few days, he took partial steps to undercut both initiatives and then left it to Congress to figure out what to do next. Whether either will ultimately survive in some form has become a central suspense of Mr. Trump’s first year in office.” According to the Times, “In the case of health care, Mr. Trump is making a virtue of necessity.” However, the Times acknowledges “a question for the president is whether partial actions will satisfy supporters demanding a full repudiation of the Obama era.”

In an analysis, the [Washington Post](#) (10/14, Wagner, Nakamura) states that with Trump “frustrated with his inability to spur Congress to act on much of his agenda,” he “is increasingly using his executive powers in a risky bid to gain leverage with lawmakers on an array of unfulfilled campaign promises.” The Post adds “the strategy has been cheered by many of the president’s core supporters, who view it as Trump making good on his pledge to be a disruptive force in Washington while dismantling the legacy of” former President Obama, “but such political hostage-taking carries considerable risk, particularly given the paralysis that has gripped Congress in the first nine months of the Trump presidency and the real possibility that the ‘deals’ Trump is seeking won’t materialize.” The Post warns “hanging in the balance now are the ability of millions of Americans – including many of Trump’s working-class supporters – to afford health insurance, the fate of hundreds of thousands of “dreamers” who could face deportation, and the international standing of the United States.”

In another analysis, the [Washington Post](#) (10/14, Balz) contends the President seems to be “perfecting a style of leadership commensurate with his campaign promise to disrupt business as usual in Washington,” which it labels “governing by cattle prod.” The Post describes the tactic as “born of frustration and dissatisfaction” and concedes it has “overload[ed] the circuits of government – from Capitol Hill to the White House to the Pentagon to the State Department and beyond.” The Post adds that “in the face of his own unhappiness, the president is trying to raise the pain level wherever he can.”

The [New York Times](#) (10/14, Bouchard, Boardman) also takes “a look at four of the most significant areas where Mr. Trump has acted to undo his predecessors’ accomplishments, and where those actions now stand.” The Times says that regarding the ACA, the Administration “has made a variety of moves, including two major actions on Thursday, that could fundamentally undermine the viability of the federal health care marketplaces, a central part of the law.” The Times contends that “for now, the law’s provisions remain in effect, but many people will be closely watching whether the Trump administration’s executive actions drive insurance companies to withdraw from the federal health care exchanges, or, if they stay, whether premiums will rise uncontrollably.”

Trump Refuses To Certify Iran Nuclear Deal, Approves Sanctions On IRCG.

President Trump on Friday announced his Administration would not certify Iran is in compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal, but he stopped short of withdrawing the US from the accord. Trump made clear that if Congress and US allies did not impose tougher conditions on Iran, which he accused of violating the spirit of the accord, then he will terminate the US’ participation. While coverage says Trump’s move stopped short of his campaign promise to completely abandon the accord, cable and network outlets made clear that Trump’s move defied recommendations from Cabinet officials as well as the international community.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/13, story 2, 2:00, Holt) said Trump, in his “fiery speech” threatening to withdraw from the accord, issued “a blistering indictment of Iran’s terrorism, starting with the hostage taking at the US embassy in Tehran in 1979.” Correspondent Andrea Mitchell reported he also ordered “new sanctions against Iran’s hard-line revolutionary guard,

instruct[ed] the intelligence agencies to reinvestigate reports Iran is dealing with North Korea, [and] demand[ed] Congress restrict Iran's missile program and make all restrictions on the nuclear program permanent under US law." [Reuters](#) (10/13, Holland, Bayoumy) reports the President also "gave the U.S. Congress 60 days to decide whether to reimpose economic sanctions on Tehran that were lifted under the pact."

According to a front-page [New York Times](#) (10/13, A1, Landler, Sanger) article, Trump "listed three...triggers – the deployment of an intercontinental ballistic missile by Iran, Iran's refusal to negotiate an extension of the deal's existing constraint on its nuclear activities and evidence that Iran could manufacture a bomb in less than 12 months" that "could prompt the United States to walk away from the deal." The Times says that with his "fire-breathing indictment of the Iranian government's activities around the Middle East," the President "seemed determined to erase any residual hope that the nuclear deal might form the basis of a new relationship between the United States and Iran."

While the [Washington Post](#) (10/13, A1, Gearan, Phillip) in a front-page article acknowledges his decision "throws [the deal's] future into doubt," the Post says that his approach "falls well short of Trump's repeated campaign vow to scrap the deal altogether, marking the latest collision between his 'America first' worldview and the realities of global diplomacy and dealmaking" while [AFP](#) (10/13, Beatty) similarly says that "behind Trump's hardline rhetoric was a subtle but significant presidential climbdown."

However, when asked Friday whether he may scrap the entire deal, Trump responded, "Well, I may do that. I may do that. The deal is terrible. So what we've done is, through the certification process, we'll have Congress take a look at it and I may very well do that," broadcast [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/13, 6:01 p.m. EDT, Blitzer). The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/13, A1, Schwartz) reports in a front-page article that during his speech at the White House, Trump asserted, "It is under continuous review, and our participation can be canceled by me, as president, at any time."

[Reuters](#) (10/13, Oliphant) reports Trump continued, "We'll see what happens over the next short period of time and I can do that instantaneously." He added, "I like a two-step process much better" than withdrawing from the accord immediately. The [AP](#) (10/13, Lee) reports the President said Congress "may come back with something that's very satisfactory to me, and if they don't, within a very short period of time, I'll terminate the deal." While Trump cannot unilaterally "terminate the accord, which lifted sanctions on Iran in exchange for concessions regarding its nuclear program," the AP concedes that "withdrawing the U.S. would render the deal virtually meaningless."

The [Washington Times](#) (10/13, Boyer) reports that in his address, the President "also said he's directing the Treasury Department to sanction Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps over its support of terrorism in the Middle East, calling it a 'long overdue step.'" Trump stated, "We will not continue down a path whose predictable conclusion is more violence, more terror and the very real threat of Iran's nuclear breakout." He continued, "Iran is not living up to the spirit of the deal."

[Breitbart](#) (10/13, Nazarian) reports the President also referred to the ICRG as "the Iranian Supreme Leader's corrupt personal terror force and militia." He called on American allies to join the US "in taking strong actions to curb Iran's continued dangers and destabilizing behavior, including thorough sanctions outside the Iran deal that target the regime's ballistic missile program and support for terrorism, and all of its destructive activities; of which there are many." In a release, Treasury Secretary Mnuchin said the Administration made the designation against the ICRG "for providing support to the IRGC-QF, the key Iranian entity enabling Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's relentless campaign of brutal violence against his own people, as well as the lethal activities of Hizballah, Hamas, and other terrorist groups"

Nonetheless, [Bloomberg News](#) (10/12, Wadhams) states that the Administration "stopped short of declaring the Revolutionary Guard, which plays a key military and economic role within Iran, a foreign terrorist organization." [Politico](#) (10/13, Toosi) similarly says that "in what amounted to a pulled punch, he stopped short of formally branding the notorious military unit a terrorist group." Politico describes the action as an apparent "compromise between Trump's desire to crack down on perceived Islamist threats and the tricky nature of singling out an arm of a foreign government, even a hostile one, for punishment."

Leading [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/13, 5:01 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), correspondent Jim Acosta reported Trump "turned his campaign rhetoric into action" by granting Congress "a chance to toughen the agreement. If Congress fails to act, he warns, he may scrap the deal." Trump "arrived at his policy after senior leaders in his own Cabinet pleaded with him to stay in the agreement now. The President was still in a defiant mood, insisting Iran had violated the

agreement." Trump's decision came a day after Secretary of State Tillerson told reporters, "We don't disagree, we don't dispute that [Iran] is under technical compliance." Acosta [added](#) (10/13, 5:06 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) that "there are mixed messages coming from the Administration." Acosta continued that while Trump "said today that he may end up canceling the agreement altogether," Tillerson "told reporters that the US would remain in the deal if Congress does nothing, and it's unclear if Republican lawmakers will be able to find the votes on Iran when they have failed to act on so many other fronts."

Margaret Brennan, in the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/13, lead story, 2:25, Mason), also called Trump's decision "at odds with his own national security team." She added Tillerson, Defense Secretary Mattis, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Joseph Dunford "designed the new strategy as a compromise to keep Mr. Trump from scraping the agreement completely." [Reuters](#) (10/13, Ali) reports Mattis "said on Friday he had not yet seen any provocative actions from Iran following...Trump's speech...and added there had been no change in U.S. military posture so far." Mattis told reporters, "Right now, we keep an eye on the potential for more provocations from the Iranians but right now we have not seen that." Mattis added, "With the Iranians destabilizing record from Lebanon to Syria, from Yemen to Afghanistan, of course we watch for this. ... Right now we are not changing our posture."

[The Hill](#) (10/13, Mitchell) reports Mattis said, "I give advice to the president. He was elected by the American people and I stand by this Iran strategy as it came out today." A Defense Department spokesman told [Reuters](#) (10/13, Stewart) the Pentagon is "assessing the positioning of its forces as well as planning but offered few details." The spokesman explained, "We are identifying new areas where we will work with allies to put pressure on the Iranian regime, neutralize its destabilizing influences, and constrain its aggressive power projection, particularly its support for terrorist groups and militants."

Meanwhile, [The Hill](#) (10/13, Bowden) reports Tillerson "said that Trump's decision to declare Iran noncompliant presented a 'real opportunity' for the U.S. and its allies to address more of Iran's actions in the region." Tillerson continued, "I think we have a real opportunity to address all the threats that are posed by Iran." Tillerson added, "I think the plan the president's laid out has been quite clear in terms of articulating those threats; that really, it's in all of our interests to work together."

[Breitbart](#) (10/13, Mason) reports Tillerson and National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster in a conference call on Thursday "laid out the broad strokes of what a White House fact sheet referred to as 'President Donald J. Trump's New Strategy on Iran.'" According to Breitbart, McMaster described the policy change as the result of "months of an inter-agency process." Former White House advisor Dr. Sebastian Gorka last week told Breitbart News, "I can tell you one thing: I was in the Oval the day it was recertified last. It was the president behind the Resolute Desk. It was Steve [Bannon] and myself on the side of the president. It was H.R. McMaster, Rex Tillerson, [Steven] Mnuchin who were saying we have to recertify."

[Politico](#) (10/13, Johnson) credits Ambassador Haley with becoming the Administration's "most vocal public proponent of decertification – and Trump's favorite internal voice on Iran – further boosting her standing with the president at a time when she is seen as a potential successor to Tillerson, whose tense relationship with Trump has burst into the open in recent days." Politico states that "in internal debates, where most members of the...cabinet initially opposed decertification, Haley played a similar role: She was 'the most engaged and most vocal' cabinet member who favored decertification, according to a senior White House aide." However, Politico adds "the fingerprints of former U.N. ambassador John Bolton, whose access to Trump was recently limited by chief of staff John Kelly, were also on Trump's Friday address in the form of a warning that Trump, who opted not to push for steps that could undo the nuclear agreement, could still cancel the deal 'at any time.'"

GOP Lawmakers Praise Trump's Stance, Begin Drafting Reforms To Nuclear Deal. Leading [Fox News' Special Report](#) (10/13, 6:01 p.m. EDT, Baier), correspondent John Roberts reported lawmakers are already "working on a fix." Roberts said Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker along with Sens. Tom Cotton, and Marco Rubio "are proposing the re-imposition of US sanctions if Iran approaches the threshold of developing a nuclear weapon; making those restrictions permanent by removing the sunset provisions; bolstering International Atomic Energy Agency verification powers; and limit Iran's advanced centrifuge program."

However, [Reuters](#) (10/13, Zengerle) reports that while Corker and Cotton "offered an outline of legislation they said would 'address flaws' in the accord," Rubio "said he had 'serious doubts' about the Corker-Cotton plan," although he agreed to "reserve judgment until the final measure, but preferred that Trump abandon the deal." [The Hill](#) (10/13, Kheel) reports Rubio said,

"President Trump made the right decision to decertify the Obama administration's Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action on Iran (JCPOA). ... He is correct in finding that this deal is not in our national interest."

[The Hill](#) (10/13, Oliveira) reports GOP lawmakers "said Trump's move to decertify the deal, known formally as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) – while stopping short of withdrawing from the accord – signaled the United States's deep issues with the deal." Rep. Tom Garrett, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, told [The Hill](#), "I think the statement that it would send is we're not happy with terms of JCPOA." Rep. Francis Rooney, another member of the committee, added, "Declining to certify might present an opportunity to see if we can get Iran back to table to fix some of the blatant problems and deficiencies that exist in the joint plan of action now." The [Daily Caller](#) (10/13, Picket) reports House Speaker Ryan also "praised...Trump Friday for decertifying the nuclear agreement." Ryan said, "I support President Trump's decision to reevaluate this dangerous deal, and the House will work with his administration to counter Iran's range of destabilizing activities."

Meanwhile, [The Hill](#) (10/13, Kheel) reports that "top House Republicans said Friday that the chamber would take up bipartisan Iran sanctions legislation unrelated to an Obama-era nuclear deal after President Trump decertified the deal and called on Congress to amend a law providing oversight of the accord." In a statement, House Majority Leader McCarthy, Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce, Armed Services Chairman Mac Thornberry, and Rep. Liz Cheney said, "We cannot allow such a regime to become a nuclear power. The nuclear deal has significant flaws that must be addressed if that objective is going to be accomplished." They continued, "We are committed to work with the president to address these flaws, hold Iran strictly accountable to its commitments and support efforts to counter all the Iranian threats." However, [Reuters](#) (10/13, Zengerle) reports that McCarthy "did not advocate ending the deal."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/13, Ferrechio) says Senate Majority Leader McConnell "joined other Republicans in praising Trump's announcement," which he touted as "an appropriate response to the consequences of the Obama administration's failed policies." McConnell added, "I am committed to working with the Trump administration to constrain Iran's support for terrorism and proxy militias, impede the threat of ballistic missiles and deny Iran the path to a nuclear weapon." McConnell continued, "Strengthening the criteria attached to a presidential certification is solely within the powers of the American government and based on making the verification of the JCPOA more in keeping with our national interests."

[The Hill](#) (10/13, Delk) "Briefing Room" blog reports Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain also "praised President Trump's decision to decertify Iran's compliance with the Obama-era international nuclear accord, saying Tehran has 'literally been getting away with murder.'" McCain asserted, "The goals President Trump presented in his speech today are a welcomed long overdue change."

[AFP](#) (10/14, Smialowski) reports that while Corker and Cotton proposed an amendment to the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act (INARA) "that would toughen Iran's compliance requirements and address 'deficiencies' in the deal," diplomats "expressed worry that tweaking INARA could jeopardize the agreement, and warned that the US unilaterally abolishing the "sunset" would make it harder to negotiate with allies that back the existing agreement." The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/13, Weaver) reports House Minority Leader Pelosi "called President Trump's Friday threat to withdraw from the Iran nuclear agreement a 'grave mistake' that threatens American security, and argued that the Iranians are in compliance with the 2015 agreement." She added, "The president, I think, is being frivolous with this."

Sen. Ben Cardin, the ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/13, 6:11 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) that while he "opposed the agreement when it was presented, because I thought we could have done a lot better dealing with Iran's non-nuclear issues and dealing with what happens after the time period to make sure Iran does not become a nuclear weapons state, but it's clearly in our national security interest for the United States to comply with the nuclear agreement as long as Iran's complying with it." On those non-nuclear issues, like Iran's human rights violations and support of terrorism, Cardin said the US needs "the international community working with us so that we can get unified sanctions to get Iran to change its behavior." Cardin added that withdrawing from the agreement gives the US "less leverage" on those issues, as it isolates the US internationally. In an interview with [USA Today](#) (10/13, Shesgreen), Cardin denounced Trump's decision as "reckless and dangerous." In a statement, Cardin also accused Trump of making a "'political decision' that will make it harder for the U.S. to address other threats posed by Iran by imposing 'self-inflicted international isolation on the United States.'"

[CNN](#) (10/13, Barrett, Killough, Walsh) reports online that while he had "opposed the original

deal," Senate Minority Leader Schumer in a statement "predicted Congress would not scrap" the deal. He said Mattis and Dunford "both said that it's in our national security interest to keep the JCPOA in place and I agree. ... I believe Congress, both Democrats and Republicans, will heed their recommendation." Rep. Eliot Engel, the ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, "said Iran must never be able to obtain a nuclear weapon but that Trump's approach is wrong."

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/13, 5:30 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), Rep. Ruben Gallego called Trump's decision "deeply irresponsible." He explained, "While I was sitting on the Armed Services Committee, I actually asked the Secretary of Defense whether or not Iran was in compliance, if he recommended that we stayed within the JCPOA. And the Secretary of Defense, Mattis, said, yes, yes, we should." Gallego posited Trump made the decision not "for any type of foreign security, but really to fulfill the President's ego" by acting on a campaign promise. Second, Gallego said, "the problem is, what does this mean for the rest of our partners around the world?" Lastly, he said, "doing these types of actions does not encourage peaceful end to" the North Korean nuclear threat.

AB Stoddard of Real Clear Politics told [Fox News' Special Report](#) (10/13, 6:43 p.m. EDT, Baier) that with Trump's decision, "the onus is completely on Congress. As I said before, I don't have a lot of faith in Congress doing anything in 60 days. There are members, like Sen. Corker and Sen. Cotton, they want to make – they want to place greater restrictions. They are watching the ICBM testing, the things that the Iranian regime is doing that violates the spirit but not per se the letter of the law. That is going to be a really hard sell."

Gulf States, Israel Embrace Trump's Approach, As Iran, EU, Russia, And UN Condemn Efforts To Weaken Nuclear Deal. Chief White House correspondent Jonathan Karl of [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/13, story 3, 2:15, Muir) reported that the President defied "some of America's closest allies, and even some of his own advisers," in declaring "that Iran is not keeping its side of the nuclear agreement negotiated under President Obama." Karl added Tillerson "had been working the phones to reassure European allies who are firmly committed to the Iran deal," and "they're not particularly happy with the President's actions," although "after those conversations, what's notable is that France, Germany, and the UK did not directly criticize the President and said they would work with the United States on curbing Iran's support for terrorism and its missile program." [Fox News' Special Report](#) (10/13, 6:05 p.m. EDT, Baier) broadcast Tillerson as stating, "I fully expect that our allies and friends in Europe and in the region are going to be very supportive in efforts undertaken to deal with Iran's threats."

[Reuters](#) (10/13, Yaakoubi) reports Saudi Arabia "welcomed the new U.S. policy toward Iran and said lifting sanctions had allowed Iran to develop its ballistic missile program and step up its support for militant groups, state news agency SPA reported on Friday." [Reuters](#) (10/13, Hashem) reports the United Arab Emirates also "said on Friday it fully supported the new U.S. policy toward Iran and it renewed its commitment to work with Washington to counter Iran's support of extremism, the state news agency WAM reported."

The [AP](#) (10/13) reports Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in a statement "congratulated" Trump and "praised what he called a 'courageous decision.'" [Reuters](#) (10/13, Williams) reports Netanyahu in a Facebook video said Trump "boldly confronted Iran's terrorist regime [and] created an opportunity to fix this bad deal, to roll back Iran's aggression and to confront its criminal support of terrorism." [Reuters](#) (10/13, Williams) reports Israeli Intelligence Minister Israel Katz "said...Trump's speech...was 'very significant' and could lead to war given threats that preceded it from Tehran."

Meanwhile, senior international correspondent Frederik Pleitgen of [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/13, 6:05 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), reporting from Tehran, said Iran's reaction "has been extremely forceful" and "extremely fast." Pleitgen reported Iranian President Hassan Rouhani responded "with a speech of his own, and absolutely blasted the US President, saying that the US can't unilaterally pull out of that deal, accusing him of lies and deceit." Rouhani cautioned "at some point that President Trump's remarks show that the US was, quote, 'against the Iranian people.'" Pleitgen said "two things that really stood out" about Rouhani's comments. "On the one hand, he said the Iranians would not pull out of the deal unless the US was not in compliance," meaning "if the US does levy new sanctions against Iran." More importantly, Pleitgen said, Rouhani "defended the Revolutionary Guard," meaning "sides that have been at odds with one another really seem to be pulling together in the face of what...Trump said."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/13, Cunningham) reports that while Rouhani had recently "sought to curb the Revolutionary Guard's role in a stagnant economy as part of a bid to woo further foreign investment," he now "said...Iran is united in the face of foreign aggression." Rouhani

asserted the Administration has “made us more united than ever. ... You can try to separate the government and the people, but you cannot sow discord.”

The [AP](#) (10/13, Karimi) reports Rouhani in his televised address also “said Friday his country ‘will continue to stick to’ the nuclear deal, calling it ‘much stronger’ than U.S. President Donald Trump thinks.” He added, “The U.S. is more lonely than ever about the deal.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/13, Fitch, Eqbali, Iran) reports Rouhani said, “The Iranian people will not bend down before a dictator. It has never surrendered and will never.” He continued that “no paragraph or article or note will be added” to the deal to placate Trump. [USA Today](#) (10/13, Stanglin) reports he asserted, “No president can revoke an international document backed by the U.N. on his own.”

However, [Reuters](#) (10/13, Hafezi) reports that “Rouhani said Tehran might walk away if the continuing agreement does not serve the country’s national interests” and “said Tehran will double its efforts to expand the country’s defense capabilities, including the country’s ballistic missile program despite the U.S. pressure to suspend it.” Elizabeth Palmer of the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/13, story 2, 1:50, Mason) reported Rouhani “hinted that Iran may escalate its conventional weapons program, possibly its ballistic missile development. For millions of Iranians, especially the young who counted on improved relations with the US and the rest of the world to bring investment, jobs, and reform, this is a black day. They fear hard liners will now gain ground, arguing the US can’t be trusted.”

The [Washington Times](#) (10/13, Muñoz) reports Iranian cleric Ayatollah Mohammad Ali Movahedi Kermani also “lashed out at...Trump’s decision to decertify the nuclear deal with the country Friday, saying Washington’s actions ‘revealed the true image of America across the world.’” In a speech, Kermani described Trump’s action as “ridiculous” and “said the move was just another example of U.S.-led efforts to bring Tehran under the heel of the West.” [Reuters](#) (10/13, Hafezi) cites the Tasnim news agency in reporting Esmail Ghaani, the deputy commander of the IRGC Quds force, said, “We are not a war-mongering country. But any military action against Iran will be regretted.” Ghaani continued, “Trump’s threats against Iran will damage America. ... We have buried many...like Trump and know how to fight against America.” [Reuters](#) (10/13, Solovyov) additionally cites the TASS news agency in reporting Iranian parliament speaker Ali Larijani warned that if the US withdraws from the deal, the agreement would collapse and “said that Washington’s withdrawal from the nuclear deal could lead to global chaos.”

In another article, [Reuters](#) (10/13, Mohammed, Strobel) reports “key U.S. allies, including Britain, France and Germany who, along with Russia and China, negotiated the deal with Iran alongside the European Union,” also “defended the 2015 nuclear agreement with Tehran and said they would stick by it, after...Trump threatened to terminate the agreement.” The [New York Times](#) (10/13, Castle, Erdbrink) says “the reaction was far from panicked” and while “they avoided direct criticism of Mr. Trump, Prime Minister Theresa May of Britain, Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany and President Emmanuel Macron of France said in a rare joint statement that they ‘stand committed’ to the 2015 nuclear deal and that preserving it was ‘in our shared national security interest.’” [Reuters](#) (10/13, Melander, Irish) reports Macron also “assured...Rouhani on Friday of France’s commitment to the 2015 Iranian nuclear deal, Macron’s office said.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/13, Norman) reports EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini additionally told reporters, “The president of the United States has many powers, not this one.” She added, “The agreement is working, has been implemented, continues to be implemented. I would expect all sides to stick to it.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/13, Birnbaum, Witte) reports also Mogherini ‘described the deal as “robust’ and said Iran is upholding its end of the bargain, with no recorded violations.” She continued, “The deal has prevented and continues to prevent and will continue to prevent Iran from developing a nuclear weapon.”

In addition, [Reuters](#) (10/13, Teterevleva) reports the Russian Foreign Ministry issued a statement Friday that said Trump’s announcement “once again underlines the inadmissibility of using aggressive and threatening rhetoric in international relations.” [Reuters](#) (10/13, Lowe) cites the RIA news agency in reporting that Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov “said...it was ‘extremely troubling’ that...Trump was raising questions that had been settled when an international deal on Iran’s nuclear program was signed.” [Reuters](#) (10/13, Kolodyazhny) reports Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov also “told his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif that Russia remains fully committed to the Iran nuclear deal, Russia’s foreign ministry said in a statement.”

Meanwhile, the [AP](#) (10/13) reports a spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Guterres “‘strongly hopes’ the Iran nuclear deal will remain in place.” [Reuters](#) (10/13, Nasralla) reports Yukiya Amano, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, “reiterated on Friday that Iran was under the world’s ‘most robust nuclear verification regime’” and asserted, “The nuclear-related commitments undertaken by Iran under the JCPOA are being

implemented.”

Former US Officials Criticize Trump’s Position On Iran Deal. [The Hill](#) (10/13, Delk) “Briefing Room” blog reports former Vice President Joe Biden in a Facebook post on Friday “said President Trump’s decision to decertify Iran’s compliance with an international nuclear deal would ‘isolate’ the U.S.” He warned, “This decision will cost us leverage. It will weaken our unity with our allies. It will damage our credibility.”

Former CIA Director and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (10/13, 6:25 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), similarly said he worries Trump’s action is “going to damage the United States’ position in the world. It’s going to weaken our world leadership at a very dangerous time.” Panetta continued, “It raises questions about whether we will stick to our word, whether we’re credible, and it really raises questions about our going it alone in the world and not working with our allies and working with others to try to make sure that we try to get Iran to address these other concerns.” He said the move also “creates a very dangerous example of a President who is anxious to blow up agreements but doesn’t quite have a strategy as to where we’re going once he does that.”

[The Hill](#) (10/13, Manchester) “Briefing Room” blog reports former Secretary of State John Kerry in a statement also “slammed” Trump. Kerry said, “I strongly hope that the other six signatories will prove to the world what responsible behavior is, and adhere to this agreement – no matter what false accusations and contrived provocations are put forward by President Trump.” He continued, “Our allies and our Congress must not act as the only adults left in the room with the power to protect our national interests. I served in the Senate for nearly 28-plus years. I can’t imagine a more important moment than this one where cooler, wiser voices have had a bigger responsibility to put a policy back on track.”

In a [New York Times](#) (10/13, Blinken) op-ed, Antony Blinken, the former United States Deputy Secretary of State and Deputy National Security Advisor to former President Obama, asserts “Trump waxed disingenuous about the deal – weaving together misstatements, exaggerations and distortions – to trigger the one totally subjective standard for decertification in the 90-day review law: an assertion that the nuclear steps Iran is actually taking to implement the J.C.P.O.A. are insufficient to warrant the suspension of sanctions.” He calls on Congress to “resist the temptation – and the political pressure – to unilaterally renegotiate the Iran deal and therefore kill it.” Blinken concludes lawmakers should instead “usefully lay out what Mr. Trump’s speech did not: an actual comprehensive strategy to contend with Iran’s non-nuclear behavior, including diplomatic efforts to end the conflicts in Yemen, Syria and Iraq that Iran exploits; stronger security cooperation with the Gulf States and Israel; better coordination with America’s allies; and targeted sanctions on Iran that do not violate the nuclear accord.”

[CNN’s Situation Room](#)’s (10/13, 5:38 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Jim Sciutto reported David Axelrod, adviser to former President Obama, suggested that “changing the terms would be viewed by the Iranians as bad faith,” and “essentially breaking the contract.” According to Axelrod, Trump “doesn’t seem to feel there are consequences to this, but there are, not just in terms of the Iranians, but our international partners.”

Writing in [Politico Magazine](#) (10/13, Shapiro), Daniel Shapiro, a distinguished visiting fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv who previously served as US ambassador to Israel and was a senior director for the Middle East and North Africa at the National Security Council during the Obama Administration, reflects on the drafting of the deal and outlines what he believes is “that’s the least risky, best managed potential outcome of Trump’s reckless decertification decision.” [McClatchy](#) (10/13, Ordoñez, Goldstein) reports other former US diplomats and their counterparts abroad are also “shaking its head at Trump’s actions and wondering how long allies and adversaries will continue to trust the United States.”

International Companies Concerned By Trump’s Iran Stance. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/13, Faucon, Kent) reports that Tillerson on Friday said American companies approved to do business with Iran are not affected by Trump’s demands on the nuclear deal, but the executives of major companies now have to decide whether they can tolerate the uncertainty of possible future sanctions and so will likely soon have to make a choice whether to remain in the country.

WSJournal Lauds Trump As WPost, Columnists Criticize Action On Iran Deal. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/13) editorializes that President Trump’s decision not to certify the Iran nuclear deal is a positive strategic move away from his predecessor’s failure to stand up to Iran’s aggression in the Middle East, even if his policy shift does not take tangible action on the accord.

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/13) condemns the President for his “act of political vanity and geopolitical folly” that makes “one of the most serious national security challenges facing the United States, that of Iran, considerably worse.” While the Post acknowledges “the

nuclear accord is flawed" and says the Administration "is justified in imposing sanctions on Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps," Trump "appears to have no clear plan to address Iran's military entrenchment in Syria, which is threatening to touch off a new conflict with Israel." The Post concludes "Rather than tackling those urgent challenges, Mr. Trump prefers to renounce the legacy of his political nemesis Barack Obama and thereby reopen the one front where Tehran is currently contained. North Korea will take note: The United States cannot be trusted to stick to any nuclear accord."

In his [New York Times](#) (10/13, Stephens) column, Bret Stephens asserts "Donald Trump has taken a hostage" in the form of the deal because his decision not to certify the deal is "a psychological step, a brash signal that Trump is prepared to see the deal fail and accept the consequences, including war, if he can't negotiate a better one."

In her [Washington Post](#) (10/13, Rubin) column, Jennifer Rubin says the President's announcement "set off a series of predictable and negative consequences." She adds, "I strongly disagree with the President's reckless, political decision and his subsequent threat to Congress. At a moment when the United States and its allies face a nuclear crisis with North Korea, the President has manufactured a new crisis that will isolate us from our allies and partners, compromising our ability to employ a diplomatic surge on the Korean Peninsula."

In his [Washington Post](#) (10/13, Waldman) column, Paul Waldman contends "it would be edifying to hear Trump or some of his aides and allies explain exactly how this scenario is supposed to play out and where it's supposed to end up. But if they tried to do that, it would become obvious how little they've thought it through." He asserts "Presidents don't need to be policy geniuses, but at the very least they need a sense of how cause leads to effect and a vision of what they're trying to accomplish." However, Waldman concludes "Trump has neither, which means he's either being pushed around by people who have figured out how to manipulate him for their own ideological ends, or he's flopping about aimlessly with no principles to guide him except if Obama did it, I should do the opposite. Either way, it's not very encouraging."

In his [Washington Post](#) (10/13, Ignatius) column, David Ignatius warns "Trump's speech tossed a verbal grenade into a turbulent Middle East," which while it "may have been the goal of a president who styles himself as 'the great disrupter'" also "fuels regional feuds that Trump can't control and provokes disputes with both allies and adversaries that may frustrate America's interest in curbing Iran's bad behavior." According to Ignatius, "facing so many flash points in trying to contain Iran, Trump has chosen to put the nuclear issue center stage, once again." He adds that "rather than focusing on Iranian behavior, Congress and foreign allies will instead be preoccupied anew with Trump's threatening statements about the future of the nuclear agreement. It will be about Trump, more than Iran. But maybe that's the way he wants it."

North Korea Hints At Possible Retaliation Over Joint US-South Korea Exercises.

The [New York Times](#) (10/13, Sang-Hun) reports that "amid heightened tensions over North Korea's advancing nuclear missile program," a 10-day joint US-South Korea naval exercise will begin Monday "in waters east and west of South Korea." Both the US and South Korea maintain the drills are defensive in nature, but it is "unclear whether North Korea will lash out with a weapons test during the exercise, as it often has in the past." The official Korean Central News Agency on Friday quoted North Korean researcher Kim Kwang-hak as stating, "We have already warned several times that we will take counteractions for self-defense, including a salvo of missiles into waters near the U.S. territory of Guam." He continued, "The U.S. military action hardens our determination that the U.S. should be tamed with fire and lets us take our hand closer to the 'trigger' for taking the toughest countermeasure."

China Reports Significant Drop In Imports From North Korea. The [Washington Post](#) (10/13, Denyer) reports Huang Songping, a spokesman for China's General Administration of Customs, announced Friday "that China's imports from North Korea fell 37.9 percent in September, the seventh successive monthly decline," and that its "exports North Korea dropped a more modest 6.7 percent in September." Noting "China is North Korea's economic lifeline, and Beijing's role in the sanctions effort is critical," the Post says that "there is reason to believe that there has been a recent slowdown in trade, experts say." Still, "fishermen and seafood traders said smuggled seafood was still moving across the border."

EU To Ratchet Up Pressure On North Korea, Venezuela. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/13, Norman) reports that on Monday, European Union foreign ministers are expected to approve a new series of measures aimed at further pressuring North Korea over its nuclear threat. Diplomats also said bloc officials are also expected to further efforts to impose new sanctions against officials in Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro's government.

NATO Head Reiterates Call For Political Solution To North Korean Crisis. NATO Secretary-

General Jens Stoltenberg urged all nations in the alliance “to find a political solution to the crisis in North Korea,” as military action would “have devastating effects for many, many people and therefore we have to try to avoid that,” reports [Bloomberg News](#) (10/13, Bravo, Cehic) . Stoltenberg, who is slated to visit South Korea and Japan to reiterate NATO’s cooperation with the two countries, stressed, “We need to understand that we can’t do nothing, we can’t just sit there and just watch North Korea develop these weapons.”

Analysts Suggest Administration Not Ready For Military Action In North Korea. The [AP](#) (10/13, Pennington) examines whether President Trump’s “ominous rhetoric” and repeated military exercises over the Korean Peninsula suggest that US officials are “readying for what many feel is unthinkable – a military conflict with a nuclear-armed North Korea that would put millions of civilians at risk?” Former senior Pentagon adviser Jim Schoff said he does not believe American “policymakers think we’re on the brink of an all-out war,” although “he added that doesn’t mean the administration is bluffing or has ruled out some kind of limited strike in response to a North Korean provocation.” Former Air Force Brig. Gen. Rob Givens posited any “decision to strike a few strategic targets” could “happen very quickly,” and the public would not likely see it coming. Givens “cautioned that North Korea was likely to fight back against even a limited strike, meaning the U.S. would have to prepare for a major conflict if it took that step.”

Diehl: Corker May Have Had Broader Goal In Suggesting Trump Facilitating A World War III. Jackson Diehl, in his column for the [Washington Post](#) (10/13, Diehl), argues Secretary of State “Tillerson gets low marks from many in Washington, both inside and outside the State Department,” but Sen. Bob Corker seemingly considers Tillerson to be “instrumental in opening a path away from confrontation with North Korea through quiet diplomacy with China.” Diehl says “Corker’s assertion that ‘we could be heading towards World War III’ was a more pungent way of conveying Trump’s undermining of diplomacy,” with his point being “that the combination of exaggerated statements and the undercutting of Tillerson could corner the White House.” Perhaps, Diehl adds, “Corker may also have had a more sly purpose,” because by suggesting the possibility of a World War III, Trump will undoubtedly do all he can to prove the senator wrong, and Corker “will have achieved his purpose.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

Washington Post.

“Avoiding Fiscal Disaster.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/15) calls for Senate to reject the budget outline as doing “tax reform the wrong way”: inflating “the debt to pay for tax cuts, nullifying the benefits of the rewrite by plunging the country into dangerous fiscal territory.” The Post condemns the plans supporters who argue otherwise as relying on “a combination of budget gimmickry and magical thinking.” The Post argues that the right way to tax reform is by “taking care to simplify the code without harming the country’s already stretched finances,” and calls on senators to make good “on years of rhetoric promising budgetary responsibility.”

“Too Many In Prison.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/15) writes that the Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act – a bill by Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Charles Grassley (R-IA) and Sen. Richard Durbin that aims to reduce the federal prison population by lowering mandatory-minimum sentences for nonviolent drug offenses – “would be a significant step forward” but “would also be far from sufficient as a solution to overincarceration.” The Post argues that in order to address overincarceration, criminal justice reform also needs to occur at a state and local level and go beyond addressing nonviolent drug offenders.

“Parochialism Continues To Cripple Metro.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/15) writes that the DC Metro system continues to face problems that are worsened by the fact that top officials from Virginia, Maryland, and the District have little contact with each other. This communication problem is heightened by “the fact that any jurisdiction on the Metro board can veto decisions favored by the other two” – a situation the Post describes as a “recipe for gridlock,” as highlighted by recent disagreement over the construction of Maryland’s Purple Line. The Post concludes that the core problem “is that Metro board members are so parochial and tunnel-visioned that they cannot discern the Purple Line’s clear benefit to the region amid the clutter of their separate agendas.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Trump’s NAFTA Threat.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/15) editorial says if the President’s threats to back out of the trade pact are a negotiating tactic designed to get concessions from Mexico

and Canada, it may work. However, the Journal warns that if Trump is playing a game of chicken, he will lose.

"The Antidote To Steve Bannon." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/15) says in an editorial that the best way for the GOP to protect itself from Bannon is for senators like Collins, John McCain, Lisa Murkowski, and Rand Paul to back the President's tax reform plan so the establishment GOP can show some victories heading into 2018.

"The Rest Of The Russia Story." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/15) in an editorial questions why Democrats and Fusion GPS do not appear to want to publicly disclose who requested the dossier on Trump put together by Christopher Steele prior to the 2016 election. The Journal says the public should know whether then-FBI Director James Comey was relying on the dossier when he obtained warrants monitoring the Trump campaign.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Healthcare Back On Congress's Front Burner](#)

[Central Bankers Cling To Stimulus Amid Weak Inflation](#)

[Wildfire Victims Had Only Seconds To Make Fateful Choices](#)

[Barbarians Open Their Gates As Blackstone, Others Seek Retail Cash](#)

New York Times:

[The World Once Laughed At North Korean Cyberpower. No More.](#)

[Mogadishu Truck Bombings Are Deadliest Attack In Decades](#)

[For Weinstein, A Brush With The Police, Then No Charges](#)

[Jeff Flake's Lesson For Republicans: Cross Trump At Your Own Risk](#)

[After The Las Vegas Shooting, Concertgoers Became Medics](#)

[Aiding Transgender Case, Sessions Defies His Image On Civil Rights](#)

Washington Post:

[Trump May Have Bolstered Kneelers' Legal Position](#)

[Terrorist Blasts In Somalia Kill 276](#)

[Interior's Alaska Land Swap Plan Stirs Worry](#)

[A Case Of Politics Fatigue Has Fewer Focusing On Va. Governor's Race](#)

[Miles Of Lovely Countryside, Obliterated By Fire](#)

[Iraqi Forces Clash With Kurds In Move To Retake Base, Oil Fields](#)

Financial Times:

[Death Toll In Somalia Bombing Rises To 276](#)

[Austrian Far-Right Posts Strongest Result Since 1999](#)

[Alleged Murder Plot Exposes Battle To Succeed Robert Mugabe](#)

[UberEats A Bright Spot On Menu With \\$3bn Potential Sales](#)

Washington Times:

[Democrats Downplay Shutdown Over Obamacare, But Deal With Trump Looks Unlikely](#)

[Trump's Decertification Plan For Nuclear Deal Gives Congress 60 Days To Get Tough On Iran](#)

[Commission For Modern Military To Consider Skills-Based Draft, Women's Roles, Millennial Recruitment](#)

[Confederate Heritage Stands Strong In Parts Of Rural Virginia](#)

[Medical Rights, Religious Freedom Clash When Illegal Immigrant Youths Seek Abortions](#)

[Feds Granting Nearly 2 Million Work Permits To Illegal Immigrants In 2017](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Kaepernick NFL; California Wildfires; California Wildfires-Tracking; Missouri Jailbreak; White House-Bannon, Tillerson; Somalia-Bombing; Weinstein-Sexual Harassment Scandal; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery; Dating App Danger; Old Murder Case-New Witness; Highway Shootout; Restaurant Thief; Baltimore School Choir.

CBS: California Wildfires; Trump-Legislative Agendas; Iran Nuclear Deal-Iranian Response; Syria-Raqqa Assault; Somalia-Bombing; Weinstein-Sexual Harassment Scandal; Hurricane Ophelia; Las Vegas Shooting Survivors; Opioid Epidemic-DEA Whistle Blower; Gene Therapy-Blindness;

Voyager-Time Capsule.

NBC: California Wildfires; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery; Trump-Tillerson Relations; Healthcare Executive Order; Hurricane Ophelia Tracking; Sir Roger Moore Tribute; NFL News.

Network TV At A Glance:

California Wildfires – 8 minutes, 10 seconds

Weinstein-Sexual Harassment Scandal – 4 minutes, 15 seconds

Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery – 3 minutes, 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Kaepernick NFL; Healthcare Executive Order-Reponses; Iran Nuclear Deal; Trump-Tillerson Relations.

CBS: California Wildfires; Somalia-Bombing; Iran Nuclear Deal-Iranian Response; Trump-Legislative Agendas; Kaepernick NFL; Baseball News.

FOX: Louisiana Oil Rig Explosion; California Wildfires; Hurricane Ophelia; Sen. Feinstein Reelection.

NPR: California Wildfires; Austria-Parliamentary Election; Somalia-Bombing; Louisiana Oil Rig Explosion.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Holds a Cabinet Meeting; has lunch with Vice President Mike Pence and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell; gives remarks at a McMaster for Governor Reception.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President for a Cabinet meeting; joins the President for lunch with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell; participates in the second round of the US-Japan Economic Dialogue with Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso.

US Senate: 4:00 PM Senate returns from Columbus Day recess, and votes on nominated U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican – Senate returns after Columbus Day State Work Period * Chamber convenes and resumes consideration of the nomination of Callista Gingrich to be U.S.

Ambassador to the Holy See, with agenda including a vote on the nomination Location: Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

Sen. Thad Cochran returns to the Senate – Republican Sen. Thad Cochran returns to work in the Senate, following treatment for urological issues and a number of weeks recovering at home in Mississippi * Sen. Cochran's absence from the chamber caused confusion last month when President Donald Trump repeatedly claimed that the Graham-Cassidy healthcare reform bill would have had the votes to pass in time to take advantage of budget reconciliation rules was it not for the fact that one senator – who he did not name – was in hospital, only for Sen. Cochran to subsequently explain that he was not hospitalized and for analysts to point out that three Republican senators and all 49 Democrats had already expressed their opposition to the bill Location: TBD <http://www.cochran.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenThadCochran>

US House: 10:00 AM House of Representatives meets in pro forma session

On recess until 23 October.

Other: 8:00 AM Labor Secretary Acosta attends U.S. Chamber Foundation 'America Working Forward' event – U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation hosts 'America Working Forward' – a national workforce conference bringing together employers, education and training providers, and policymakers from across the country for panel discussions on new approaches to improve recruiting, training, and worker retention. Attendees include Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta, Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo, Strada Education Network Senior Vice President for Philanthropy Daryl Graham, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Senior Executive Vice President Suzanne Clark, and U.S. Chamber Foundation Center for Education and Workforce Senior Vice President Cheryl Oldham

Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H St NW, Washington, DC
www.uschamber.com <https://twitter.com/USChamber>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- New Orleans Times-Picayune: Louisiana To Congress: How Much Gulf Oil Money Will We Get?.
- Arizona Daily Star: Hunters, Others React To Proposed Recreational-Shooting Expansion At Ironwood.
- New York Times: Where Did The Napa Fire Begin? Investigators Scour The Ashes.
- Government Executive: Federal Agencies Deal With Sexual Misconduct Inconsistently.

- E&E Publishing: Lolita Zinke Makes Her Mark Outside The Cabinet.
- Washington Post: Hogan's Idea To Widen Washington-Area Highways To Add Toll Lanes Has Hit Barriers Before.
- Reuters: White And Male: Broader Bureaucracy Mirrors Trump Cabinet's Profile.
- Los Angeles Times: Land-Grabbing Republican Lawmakers Are Trying To Gut The Antiquities Act.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Cronkite News: Plan Keeps Most Of Sonoran Desert National Monument Open To Shooters.
- Associated Press: National Tribal Group Calls For Drilling Moratorium Around Chaco.
- KQED-FM San Francisco: Federal Agency Promoted Ranger Five Months After His Gun Was Stolen And Used In Steinle Killing.
- U.S. News & World Report: Nevada Prison-Raised Sagebrush Seedling Ready To Be Planted.
- Havasu (AZ) News-Herald: Our View: La Paz Federal Land Purchase Should Be Model For Country.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- Resort Town Gets High-Priced Help To Take Aim At Turbines.
- Don't Open Eastern Gulf Of Mexico To Offshore Drilling: Guestview.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- U.S. News & World Report: 16 Charged In Southern California Animal Trafficking Sweep.
- Boston Globe: New York Shipping Firm Would Pay At Least \$13.3 Million In Buzzards Bay Oil Spill Settlement.
- Madison (IN) Courier: Big Oaks Military Activities Under Review.
- Monroe (MI) Evening News: Wildlife Refuge Dock, Pier Finished, To Open In Spring.
- Albuquerque (NM) Journal: Doing Science At The Wildlife Refuge.
- Louisville (KY) Courier-Journal: 2,000 Acres On Pine Mountain Protected In Three New Kentucky Preserves.
- U.S. News & World Report: More Bison To Join American Indian Herd In Wyoming.
- U.S. News & World Report: Survey: 949 Key Deer Survived Irma Landfall In Florida Keys.
- Houston Chronicle: Estimated Population Of Squirrel Plummet After Wildfire.
- Washington Times: Home On The Range: Annual Bison Roundup Is A Quiet Affair.
- Washington Post: A Huge Salmon Die-Off Is Happening – And Our Cars Might Be Responsible.
- Rutland (VT) Herald: Vermont's Rare Songbird Threatened.

National Park Service

- Los Angeles Times: Rep. Adam Schiff Reintroduces Legislation Aimed At Protecting Open Space.
- St. Louis Post-Dispatch: Ice Rink Boosters 'Disappointed' By Federal Response To Latest Push For Project.
- Washington Post: Testing Of Levee Closes Part Of 17th Street In Downtown Washington.
- WKRN-TV Nashville (TN): New Documents Detail How Firefighters Discovered Chimney Tops II Wildfire In Smokies.
- U.S. News & World Report: New Quarter Honoring Indiana Revolutionary War Figure.
- WBUP-TV Marquette (MI): Design Isle Royale National Park's Next Passenger Vessel.
- Willoughby (OH) News-Herald: James A. Garfield National Historic Site Among Field Trip Grant Winners.
- U.S. News & World Report: Federal Government To Keep \$20K After Yellowstone Drug Bust.
- Yellowstone Insider: Yellowstone To Replace Arsenic Leaching Pipes Near Mammoth Hot Springs.
- U.S. News & World Report: Park Hikers May Have Died In 'Sympathetic Murder-Suicide'.
- U.S. News & World Report: Rangers Investigating Death At Harpers Ferry National Park.
- Huffington Post: Additional Coverage: Feds Surrender In Tooth-And-Nail Fight To Leash Dogs In Bay Area's Open Space.
- Bozeman (MT) Daily Chronicle: Additional Coverage: Yellowstone Plans To Build New Youth Campus.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- St. Thomas Source: December Congressional Appropriation 'Our Biggest Opportunity,' Plaskett Says.
- Pacific (GUM) Daily News: NKorea Months From Perfecting Nuclear Capabilities.
- Pacific (GUM) Daily News: Solar Panels To Be Installed At GMH.

Office Of Surface Mining

- No Word From Interior On Review Of Halted Mountaintop Removal Study.
- Advocates, Lawmakers Prepare For Battle Over Reclamation Fee.

US Geological Survey

- Odessa (TX) American: GOOD NEWS: Sul Ross Student Studies Pallid Sturgeon Via USGS Internship.
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- CBS: Trump Makes Case For Budget And Tax Reform, Urges House To Move Quickly.
- CNN: White House Reiterates Support For Kelly's Defense Of Trump As Video Released.
- Reuters: Trump Promises Tax Cut After Senate GOP Passes Budget.
- Bloomberg News: US Posts Largest Budget Deficit Since 2013.
- Reuters: Judge Extends Halt To Trump's Travel Ban.
- Wall Street Journal: Mattis To Discuss North Korean Threat With Asian Defense Ministers.
- Wall Street Journal: Administration Plan For Coal, Nuclear Power Draws Criticism From Environmental, Oil Groups.
- New York Times: EPA Cancels Climate Change Speeches By Agency Scientists.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "America's Forever Wars."
- Washington Post.
 - "Sessions's Plan For Immigration Courts Would Undermine Their Integrity."
 - "Watch What Duterte Does, Not What He Says."
 - "Why is Va. Treating Its Students – Especially Its Black Students – Like Criminals?"
- Wall Street Journal.
 - "Trump Caves On Ethanol."
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Big Picture

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- Today's Events In Washington.

Last Laughs

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DOI In The News

Arctic Refuge Drilling Closer As Senate Moves To Open Site.

The [AP](#) (10/20, Daly) reported in continuing coverage that the Republican-controlled Senate is one step closer to drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Reserve after passing a budget measure authorizing Congress to pursue legislation allowing exploration by a majority vote. Sen. Dan Sullivan said, "More energy production means more American jobs, more American economic growth, more American national security...and a more sustainable global environment, because no one in the world produces energy more responsibly than Americans, especially Alaskans." Sen. Maria Cantwell said, "The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of the most pristine areas of the United States, and we have been protecting it for decades for a reason." [NBC News](#) (10/20, Seitz-Wald) reported Senate Republicans blocked a Democratic measure that would have blocked ANWR drilling from being included in the GOP budget. Environmental activists are now looking to block drilling later in the process, which could take some time because it is tied with the GOP tax reform effort. [The Hill](#) (10/22, Henry) reports more than 300 businesses and groups have already signed a letter delivered to senators opposing drilling ANWR.

[PJ Media](#) (10/22, Ballasy) reported that Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) is led the opposition in Congress to any attempts to allow oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Also opposed, Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) said the U.S. should not permit drilling because oil prices are low. "We are importing much less oil and natural gas than we did when there was a consensus that we

needed to protect the refuge," noted Sen. Bennet.

Could Congress' Budget Put Refuge, Animals In Harm's Way? The [Arizona Republic](#) (10/20, Bowling) reports that the congressional debate over whether or not to open Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil exploration and drilling has drawn the attention of state lawmakers and conservation groups nationwide. In Arizona, critics of the plan have focused on the impact Arctic drilling can affect migration patterns for an array of birds that travel south every year. An American Petroleum Institute spokeswoman did not comment on the issue, but provided a link to a column by Upstream Director Erik Milito saying Arctic energy exploration would occur "under parameters that ensure minimal effect to the surrounding environment and wildlife" and would bring "jobs and badly needed revenue for the state."

Cash-Poor Alaska Eyes Foreign Capital To Jump-Start Energy Projects. [Reuters](#) (10/20, Nickel) reports that the state of Alaska is attempting to attract foreign investors for its oil and gas industry. Last month, China Investment Corp. and Sinopec met with state officials. Reuters adds that "this year, a state budget shortfall led the state to withhold hundreds of millions of dollars owed to small oil explorers." Alaska Governor Bill Walker's Chief Energy Advisor John Hendrix said "it's a challenging sell." Hendrix also said, "when you talk about (exporting) to the Far East, we're closer than California."

Trump Administration Scrambles To Save Largest Coal Plant In The West.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/23, Siciliano) reports that "resuscitating" the Navajo Generating Station "could be the first test of President Trump's resolve to restore demand for coal in the electricity sector, especially since the government is a majority stakeholder in the plant it is seeking to save." The Trump Administration has "until December to save the largest coal-fired power plant in the West, but the prospects for the plant burning coal after 2019 are questionable." The deliberations to secure new owners for the plant will "continue into next year even after Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke signs off on a key environmental determination for the plant and approves a lease extension by Dec. 1."

Izembek Road Opponents Struggle To Shine Light On Interior Department Plans.

The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/22, Martinson) reports that "opponents of a longtime effort to build a road from King Cove to Cold Bay – through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge – say they are struggling to illuminate the Interior Department's current legal path toward allowing the road." Opponents of the road claim "that documents recently obtained through a Freedom of Information Act Request show that the agency is not looking to make the specifics of its plans public any time soon." The Interior Department "declined to answer specific questions about the legal steps required to approve the road, or a timeline for doing so." Alex Hinson, deputy press secretary for the Interior Department, said, "The Alaska Congressional Delegation, Governor, Mayor of King Cove, King Cove Native Corporation, and affiliated Alaska native tribal entities have asked us to consider a small land exchange to build a life saving road for aeromedical evacuations from King Cove to the all weather airport at Cold Bay. We do not comment on pre-decisional negotiations."

Louisiana To Congress: How Much Gulf Oil Money Will We Get?.

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/20, Schleifstein) reported Gov. John Bel Edwards' coastal adviser Johnny Bradberry sent a letter to Louisiana's congressional delegation to help find out how much money the state will receive in offshore drilling royalties under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act. Initial estimates from the Interior Department found the state would receive between \$62-75 million, about half the estimated annual maximum for Louisiana. Bradberry wrote Rep. Steve Scalise saying if the funding will be less than \$100 million in the future, "we would respectfully ask for your help to revisit and pursue other federal opportunities that could also provide assistance for coastal protection and restoration going forward." Scalise said, "The money Louisiana gets from offshore revenue sharing is critical to restoring our coast and protecting our communities from future storms in the Gulf, and I've worked successfully for years to fight back efforts by people in Washington who tried to take that revenue sharing away from us."

Hunters, Others React To Proposed Recreational-Shooting Expansion At Ironwood.

The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (10/22, Hyde) reports that "the federal proposal to expand target shooting, hunting and fishing on public lands is drawing attention in Arizona." In September, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "directed land managers to come up with a plan to expand

recreational shooting in areas like Ironwood Forest National Monument near Tucson." Supporters argue "it could mean more hunting and fishing opportunities on federal land." Opponents believe "it risks people's safety and could trash some of nature's most pristine areas." The article shares the perspectives of "five Arizona residents who hunt or target shoot."

Where Did The Napa Fire Begin? Investigators Scour The Ashes.

The [New York Times](#) (10/20, Fuller, Johnson) reported California's 160 full-time fire investigators are examining the origins of the "most destructive fire in California history." Determining the cause of the fires "could have huge financial implications in deciding who ultimately pays for the extensive damage, including almost 8,000 structures destroyed." Wildfire experts believe it is too early to come to a conclusion, "but that the circumstances – nighttime ignition coupled with fierce winds – raise the possibility of power lines being involved." Pacific Gas and Electric runs power lines in the affected areas, and "said it was complying with a request from regulators to preserve all potential evidence." The Times reports that in Calistoga, "where the deadliest of the first is believed to have started, wires littered the roads even a week after the fires began. But whether the power lines provided the spark that began the fire remains an open question."

Federal Agencies Deal With Sexual Misconduct Inconsistently.

[Government Executive](#) (10/20, Katz) reports that "federal agencies are operating with no clear definition of sexual misconduct and have doled out inconsistent punishments for those found to have engaged in the behavior, according to a new report from House Republicans." However, "some members of the Trump administration have already taken steps to crack down on sexual harassment in government." The article notes that "at the Interior Department, which has perhaps seen the most high-profile cases of sexual harassment in government in recent years, Secretary Ryan Zinke announced last week new policies to better protect employees after an internal survey found 39 percent of National Park Service employees said they were victims of some sort of harassment in the previous year."

Lolita Zinke Makes Her Mark Outside The Cabinet.

[E&E Publishing](#) (10/20, Doyle) reports on the "diverse activities" of Lolita Zinke, the wife of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, which "spotlight the sometimes blurry boundaries between public and private spheres that confront family members in every administration." The article notes that "at times, she's right by the Interior secretary's side, although officials characterize this support as familial and nothing out of the ordinary." Interior Department spokeswoman Heather Swift said, "Mrs. Zinke has zero role at the department." An Interior official added that "much like previous secretaries and spouses, she occasionally meets her husband while he is traveling at her own personal expense" and that "she and all Cabinet spouses received a federal ethics briefing."

Hogan's Idea To Widen Washington-Area Highways To Add Toll Lanes Has Hit Barriers Before.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/21, Shaver) reports that the proposal by Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan to build toll lanes on three of the state's highways – its portion of the I-495 Capital Beltway, along I-295 between Baltimore and DC, and on I-270 between DC and Frederick – is even more ambitious than "similar proposals that stalled over the years after being deemed too expensive or disruptive to adjacent communities." Even in spite of the fact that Hogan's proposal would rely in part on funding from private partners with a vested stake in the new toll lanes, "the largest such deal for highways in North America," those private builders would have to "figure out what state planners haven't been able to: how to add four cost-effective toll lanes without having to demolish dozens, and potentially hundreds, of homes and businesses."

White And Male: Broader Bureaucracy Mirrors Trump Cabinet's Profile.

[Reuters](#) (10/20, Lange) reports that while President Trump has "faced criticism from advocacy groups for not including more women and minorities in his cabinet last January," an analysis of Office of Personnel Management data found 88 percent of the more than 1,000 mid-level political appointments filled by the middle of the year "were non-Hispanic white and 62 percent were men." Reuters says in former President Obama's Administration, "non-Hispanic whites made up 67 percent of that group and men accounted for 47 percent – closer to what the U.S. population looks like." Max Stier, the president of the Partnership for Public Service, said the data shows that "this administration so far has not in any direct sense prioritized diversity." However, Reuters adds that when "asked to comment on the mid-level personnel data, White House spokeswoman

Lindsay Walters said Trump had a long history of promoting women and pointed to last week's nomination of Kirstjen Nielsen to lead the Department of Homeland Security."

Land-Grabbing Republican Lawmakers Are Trying To Gut The Antiquities Act.

Don't Let Them. In an editorial, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/21, Board) opposes a new "movement in Congress to severely reduce a president's authority to protect federal lands from development and other uses that would mar their beauty and damage our national heritage." The paper urges House Speaker Paul D. Ryan to "mothball" the "disingenuously named" National Monument Creation and Protection Act. The Times concludes that "the Antiquities Act should not be undone to feed the appetites of land-hungry politicians."

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (10/21, Coppola), Tracy Coppola, senior legislative counsel for public lands at the nonprofit environmental law organization Earthjustice, also opposes the National Monument Creation and Protection Act. Coppola characterizes the legislation a "bill that misses the mark on the role protected national monuments and national parks play in the lives of everyday Americans."

In an op-ed for the [Ravalli \(MT\) Republic](#) (10/22, Fugere, Hutcheson, Doyle, Epstein), Nicolle Fugere,, Hilary Hutcheson, Shane Doyle, and Larry Epstein, representatives of Hold Our Ground, criticize Rep Greg Gianforte and Sen. Steve Daines for supporting measures targeting the Antiquities Act. They warn that "H.R. 2900 and S. 33 would make it difficult, if not impossible, for any future president to act" for public lands on a "groundswell of public support."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (10/21, McLaughlin) and [Vice](#) (10/20).

Bureau Of Land Management

Plan Keeps Most Of Sonoran Desert National Monument Open To Shooters.

[Cronkite News](#) (10/20, Vernile) reports that the Bureau of Land Management last Friday "recommended closing 53,300 acres of the Sonoran Desert National Monument to recreational shooting, but keeping the remaining 443,000 open to shooters." The plan, posted in the Federal Register, "calls for making 11 percent of the monument's land off-limits to shooting." The article notes that "hunting is not affected by any of the proposals considered by the bureau, and would be allowed anywhere in the monument with the proper permits."

National Tribal Group Calls For Drilling Moratorium Around Chaco.

The [AP](#) (10/20) reported that the National Congress of American Indians are calling for a drilling moratorium near Chaco Culture National Historic Park in New Mexico. A resolution to cease drilling in portions of the San Juan Basin was approved Friday by the group. The AP adds that "the critics say increased development has the potential to destroy parts of the landscape that could provide a better understanding of the ancient civilization that once inhabited the area."

Federal Agency Promoted Ranger Five Months After His Gun Was Stolen And Used In Steinle Killing.

[KQED-FM](#) San Francisco (10/20, Emslie) reports that "five months after Kathryn Steinle was slain on San Francisco's waterfront, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management promoted the law enforcement ranger whose unsecured stolen gun was used to kill her, according to an internal BLM email obtained by KQED." BLM ranger John Woychowski "faced neither discipline nor criminal charges for failing to secure his weapon – a misdemeanor under California law." The [AP](#) (10/20) reports that Woychowski was "promoted to a supervisory position five months after Kate Steinle's July 2015 death."

Nevada Prison-Raised Sagebrush Seedling Ready To Be Planted.

The [AP](#) (10/20, Dornan) reports that "inmates at Warm Springs Prison in Carson City are spending the week loading up 70,000 sagebrush plants they spent the last six months sprouting and tending." According to Scott Miller, part of the crew that worked on the project this year, "the sagebrush will be planted in burned out areas near Susanville and Winnemucca." Miller "said the Bureau of Land Management already has spots picked out to put the plants after they clear out the cheat grass."

Our View: La Paz Federal Land Purchase Should Be Model For Country.

The [Havasu \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (10/22) editorializes that an effort to allow the La Paz County “to buy 8,000 acres from the Bureau of Land Management is now working its way through Congress.” The paper says that it’s important that “it’s getting a full hearing in Congress” because that “means interested parties and chime in and the special interests get to plead their cases.” The paper hopes that the process will produce “a result that is in the public’s best interest.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Resort Town Gets High-Priced Help To Take Aim At Turbines.

[E&E Publishing](#) (10/20, Kurtz) reports that “already targeted by an appropriations bill in Congress, two proposed wind energy projects off the coast of Maryland could face a sneak attack in the Free State’s upcoming legislative session.” According to the article, “officials in the resort town of Ocean City, Md., fearful that wind turbines will damage their lucrative tourist economy, have hired a plugged-in Annapolis lobbyist to help them push the two projects farther offshore.” However, “some stakeholders in the long battle to bring offshore wind energy to Maryland are skeptical.”

Don’t Open Eastern Gulf Of Mexico To Offshore Drilling: Guestview.

In an op-ed in the [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#), (10/19, Beaven) Heather Beaven, a member of the Truman Project and Oceana think-tanks, says she opposes offshore drilling along Florida’s Gulf Coast. She says that opening the area to offshore oil and gas drilling would be a “direct threat to our national security operations and our coastal economies,” and cites concerns that such activities “could interfere with critical opportunities for advanced weapons testing and joint training exercises” by the U.S. military.

Fish And Wildlife Service

16 Charged In Southern California Animal Trafficking Sweep.

The [AP](#) (10/20) reports that “authorities have seized dozens of animals and filed charges against 16 people as part of what they say is the largest wildlife trafficking sweep in Southern California.” Federal authorities “call the sweep ‘Operation Jungle Book’ and say it’s an effort to combat a growing illegal market for exotic animals that threatens the survival of species.” Ed Grace, acting chief of law enforcement for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said, “Wildlife trafficking does not stop at international borders, and it is our duty to protect imperiled species both at home and abroad.”

Also reporting are the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/20, Easter), the [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (10/20, Dixon), [NBC News](#) (10/21, Dzhanova), and [KTLA-TV Los Angeles](#) Los Angeles (10/20, Turner, Abovian).

New York Shipping Firm Would Pay At Least \$13.3 Million In Buzzards Bay Oil Spill Settlement.

The [Boston Globe](#) (10/20, Andersen) reports that “a New York shipping company and its affiliates will shell out \$13.3 million plus interest to pay for devastating wildlife damages incurred when one of its barges dumped 98,000 gallons of oil into Buzzards Bay during a massive spill in 2003, under terms of a proposed settlement filed Thursday in federal court in Boston.” The agreement, “if approved by a judge, will require Bouchard Transportation Company, Inc. and related entities to make payments to settle outstanding federal and state natural resource damage claims, according to a statement released Thursday by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and state officials in Rhode Island and Massachusetts.” According to a release by the government, “the proposal ‘compensates for injury to migratory birds’ and follows prior payments the company made totaling \$6 million to compensate for injuries to shoreline and aquatic resources, coastal recreational uses, and piping plovers.”

Big Oaks Military Activities Under Review.

The [Madison \(IN\) Courier](#) (10/21) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is “examining military activities at Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge under its mandatory 10-year re-evaluation.” The agency is “evaluating recently expired and newly requested military activities under the Compatibility Determination process that includes ground personnel doing

reconnaissance and survival training, temporary storage of scrap metal, establishing temporary located military equipment such as radar offset reflector sites, and any other use that could be beneficial to the refuge operations and maintenance.”

Wildlife Refuge Dock, Pier Finished, To Open In Spring.

The [Monroe \(MI\) Evening News](#) (10/21, Cousino) reports that “construction has been completed for a school ship dock and fishing pier at the gateway in Trenton to the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, part of a \$25 million total investment in the refuge.” According to refuge manager Hartig, “the dock that extends 740 feet into the river and connects to a 200-foot-long fishing dike won’t open until spring.” Hartig said Wednesday, “It’s not open right now. There are people still working on roads and heavy equipment moving around. It’s not safe for people to come.”

Doing Science At The Wildlife Refuge.

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/23) reports that “dozens of New Mexico high school students from five towns and cities experienced science disciplines firsthand at a national wildlife refuge, thanks to a partnership between Highlands University and the Denver Zoo.” The STEM Showdown event was held at the Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge last month. According to the article, “the students learned about science firsthand in 30-minute field sessions on a variety of topics like hydrology and wetlands, veterinary medicine, beaver ecology, geospatial science, and ‘amazing rare’ species.”

2,000 Acres On Pine Mountain Protected In Three New Kentucky Preserves.

The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (10/20, Bruggers) reports that “conservation efforts are on the move again in Eastern Kentucky with the creation of three new preserves on 2,000 acres of Pine Mountain.” The Kentucky Natural Lands Trust “bought the property and announced its acquisition on Friday.” According to the trust, “funding came from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Imperiled Bat Conservation Fund, along with ongoing support from the Forecastle Foundation, the Snowy Owl Foundation, Beckham Bird Club, Louisville Audubon Society, KNLT’s board and a broad base of other donors.”

More Bison To Join American Indian Herd In Wyoming.

The [AP](#) (10/20, Gruver) reports that “ten more buffalo are set to join a nascent herd on the starkly beautiful landscape of a Wyoming American Indian reservation, a project significant to tribal members who went over a century without living with the animals dear to their culture.” The buffalo set “to be released Saturday by the Eastern Shoshone Tribe and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will join 10 released last fall on the Wind River Indian Reservation.”

Survey: 949 Key Deer Survived Irma Landfall In Florida Keys.

The [AP](#) (10/22) reports that “federal wildlife officials say Hurricane Irma didn’t wipe out a herd of tiny, endangered deer found only in the Florida Keys.” According to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service survey released last week, “949 Key deer survived the hurricane’s 130-mph (209-kph) winds and 10 feet (3 meters) of storm surge.”

Estimated Population Of Squirrel Plummeted After Wildfire.

The [AP](#) (10/21, Davenport, Press) reports that “an endangered squirrel species’ estimated population has plummeted since a major wildfire burned much of its habitat atop a southeastern Arizona mountain last summer.” According to the Arizona Game and Fish Department, “an annual multi-agency survey of the Mount Graham red squirrel produced an estimate of only 35 squirrels, which is only 14 percent of the 252 squirrels estimated in 2016.” Steve Spangle, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service supervisor, said damage from the Frye fire to the squirrel habitat was “a textbook example of how species with low population sizes, especially those confined to a small geographic area, are vulnerable to natural events such as fires, floods, and severe drought.”

Home On The Range: Annual Bison Roundup Is A Quiet Affair.

The [AP](#) (10/21, Backus) reports close to 350 bison were rounded up this year “as a crew of biologists, wardens, veterinarians and others with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service took note of their general condition and took some blood samples from a smattering of the adults.” The objective is “on preserving the genetics of the National Bison Range herd, which is considered among the best in the nation.” Lee Jones, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wildlife health

specialist, said, "Our goal is to keep inbreeding down as much as possible. The animals that are most highly related to the rest are removed from the herd."

A Huge Salmon Die-Off Is Happening – And Our Cars Might Be Responsible.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/20, Fears) reports that "a recent study traced a major coho salmon die-off to contaminants from roads and automobiles – brake dust, oil, fuel, chemical fluids – that hitch a ride on storm water and flow into watersheds." The study, published Wednesday in the journal *Ecological Applications*, said, "Our findings are . . . that contaminants in stormwater runoff from the regional transportation grid likely caused these mortality events. Further, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to reverse historical coho declines without addressing the toxic pollution dimension of freshwater habitats."

Vermont's Rare Songbird Threatened.

In an op-ed for the [Rutland \(VT\) Herald](#) (10/20, Matteson), Mollie Matteson, a senior scientist with the Center for Biological Diversity, claims that "national politics are putting American wildlife at risk of extinction." Matteson argues that "decisions that should be founded on science and environmental health are instead based on money, power and influence." According to Matteson, "the biggest long-term threat to the Bicknell's thrush is climate change" so "it's frustrating and discouraging to watch our federal government continue to deny the reality of climate change and refuse to take action to stop it."

National Park Service

Rep. Adam Schiff Reintroduces Legislation Aimed At Protecting Open Space.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/20, Carpio) reports that Rep. Adam Schiff and Sen. Dianne Feinstein "announced on Wednesday they have introduced legislation that would protect more than 191,000 acres of open space in their districts." Schiff "met with about 40 of his constituents at Brand Park in Glendale on Wednesday to talk about the second iteration of the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act, which, if approved, would allow local agencies to use federal resources to maintain, improve and preserve many parks, hiking trails and mountain ranges used by the public." Schiff said, "The goal with the legislation is to enable local landowners, local governments and interested stakeholders to better utilize federal resources to preserve this beautiful ecosystem for generations to come, as well as improving access to recreational and educational opportunities. This is a truly once-in-a-lifetime chance to protect this beautiful open space. By expanding the national recreation area, the National Park Service will have the authority to implement capital improvements."

Ice Rink Boosters 'Disappointed' By Federal Response To Latest Push For Project.

The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (10/21, Kohler) reports that "representatives from a nonprofit group seeking to develop an ice rink complex at Creve Coeur Lake Memorial Park, members of county government and area economic development officials tried to convince the federal government on Friday that the regional National Park Service office blocking construction was unfairly biased against the plan." However, "an attorney for the nonprofit Legacy Ice Foundation, which would lease the county-owned facility, said the argument didn't get any traction with officials visiting from the U.S. Department of Interior to meet several state and local officials." Gregory R. Smith, of the St. Louis law firm Husch Blackwell, said, "We were disappointed in the response. We were disappointed with what we saw as a failure to recognize the clearly prejudicial position expressed by the (regional) office."

Testing Of Levee Closes Part Of 17th Street In Downtown Washington.

In its "Dr. Gridblock" blog, the [Washington Post](#) (10/20, Hedgpeth) reports "part of 17th Street in Northwest Washington between Constitution and Independence avenues is closed Friday." because of "a test installation of the 17th Street levee, according to officials with the National Park Service." Officials said "the annual test is need to make sure the levee closure can be put up properly in case of high water."

New Documents Detail How Firefighters Discovered Chimney Tops II Wildfire In Smokies.

[WKRN-TV](#) Nashville, TN (10/20) reports that "newly released documents from the National Park Service reveal new details about the initial discovery of the Chimney Tops II wildfire and matches

that were believed to have been involved in starting it." The documents "also estimate the costs for fighting the fire by the National Park Service were upward of \$15 million."

New Quarter Honoring Indiana Revolutionary War Figure.

The [AP](#) (10/20) reports that "a new quarter featuring Revolutionary War figure George Rogers Clark is set for release next month in the southwestern Indiana city where his American soldiers captured a British-held fort." The National Park Service "says the new quarter will be released during a Nov. 14 ceremony at the Vincennes Riverfront Pavilion near the Clark Memorial grounds." According to Clark Memorial superintendent Frank Doughman, "it took more than two years for selection of the design from among 20 proposals submitted."

Design Isle Royale National Park's Next Passenger Vessel.

[WBUP-TV](#) Marquette, MI (10/20, Snitz) reports that Isle Royale National Park is "planning to replace its passenger vessel, the Ranger III, and has partnered with The Grand Portage Band of Chippewa for a design contest." Environmental Protection Specialist Jeff Henquinet said, "The Ranger III currently holds up to 149 passengers. We've put a lot of miles on it. It's still in good shape. Our crew has kept it together very well, but at some point in time we will need to think about replacing it."

James A. Garfield National Historic Site Among Field Trip Grant Winners.

The [Willoughby \(OH\) News-Herald](#) (10/20) reports that James A. Garfield National Historic Site and Cuyahoga Valley National Park were "selected to receive a 2017 field trip grant from the National Park Foundation, the official charity of America's national parks." The grant, "part of the Foundation's Open Outdoors for Kids program, supports Every Kid in a Park. Beyond making field trips possible, the Every Kid in a Park Focus City program raises local community awareness about the importance of connecting kids to the outdoors."

Federal Government To Keep \$20K After Yellowstone Drug Bust.

The [AP](#) (10/20) reports that "two Illinois men have forfeited more than \$20,000 that was seized during a drug bust in Yellowstone National Park to the federal government." The Wyoming U.S. Attorney's Office "argued that the federal government should keep the money since the men had planned to use it to buy marijuana in Oregon to sell in Illinois." According to the article, "the men failed to file a claim to recover the money before the deadline this week and were informed that the government would be keeping the cash on Wednesday."

Yellowstone To Replace Arsenic Leaching Pipes Near Mammoth Hot Springs.

[Yellowstone Insider](#) (10/21, Reichard) reports that Yellowstone National Park will "replace a sewer line that reportedly led to the Gardiner Sewer District filing a lawsuit over arsenic leaching." According to the article, "the replacement will come sometime in the next two years."

Park Hikers May Have Died In 'Sympathetic Murder-Suicide'.

The [AP](#) (10/22, Nguyen) reports that "friends and relatives of a couple whose bodies were found in Joshua Tree National Park say they believe the two got lost while hiking in the sprawling desert park and struggled in the searing heat with little food or water before they died in a 'sympathetic murder-suicide.'" According to the article, "Rachel Nguyen, 20, and Joseph Orbeso, 22, had been missing for nearly three months after going for a hike in late July and failing to return to their bed-and-breakfast." The article says that "autopsies found both had gunshot wounds and evidence at the scene led detectives to believe Orbeso shot Nguyen and then himself, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department said in a statement Friday."

Rangers Investigating Death At Harpers Ferry National Park.

The [AP](#) (10/21) reports that "authorities are investigating an accidental death inside Harpers Ferry National Historical Park."

Additional Coverage: Feds Surrender In Tooth-And-Nail Fight To Leash Dogs In Bay Area's Open Space.

Additional coverage that the National Park Service has "announced that it's 'permanently' backing off its plan to impose tough new leash restrictions on dogs on federally managed open space in the San Francisco Bay Area" was provided by the [Huffington Post](#) (10/21, Papenfuss), the [San Francisco Examiner](#) (10/22, Stephens), and [KOED-FM San Francisco](#) San Francisco (10/20,

Hernandez).

Additional Coverage: Yellowstone Plans To Build New Youth Campus.

Additional coverage that Yellowstone National Park will “build a new youth campus at Mammoth Hot Springs that will house up to 140 students at a time for educational programs within the park” was provided by the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (10/20, Wright).

Office Of Insular Affairs

December Congressional Appropriation ‘Our Biggest Opportunity,’ Plaskett Says.

The [St. Thomas Source](#) (10/19, Kossler) reports that “this year’s emergency congressional appropriations for hurricane recovery are the territory’s best opportunity for substantial federal help,” according to Delegate Stacey Plaskett. She said Thursday that “after the year ends, new funding will be harder to come by.” Earlier this week, Plaskett “said she wanted the legislation to ‘encompass the totality of the needs of the Virgin Islands for rebuilding.’”

NKorea Months From Perfecting Nuclear Capabilities.

The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (10/19, Riechmann) reports that CIA Director Mike Pompeo “said Thursday that North Korea is months away from perfecting its nuclear weapons capabilities.” At a national security forum in Washington, Pompeo said that “‘they are close enough now in their capabilities that from a U.S. policy perspective we ought to behave as if we are on the cusp of them achieving’ their objective of being able to strike the United States.” Speaking later at the same event, National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster said, “We are in a race to resolve this short of military action.”

Solar Panels To Be Installed At GMH.

The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (10/20, Sablan) reports that Guam Memorial Hospital will “soon install solar panels, which will help save money in energy costs that can be spent on other needs at the hospital.” Hospital officials “announced the solar panel project during a press conference Friday, and said they hope it will be completed by the end of the year.” According to officials, “the project is being funded by an Empowering Insular Communities grant from the U.S. Department of Interior.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Guam Daily Post](#) (10/20, Chargualaf).

Office Of Surface Mining

No Word From Interior On Review Of Halted Mountaintop Removal Study.

The [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (10/21, Ward) reports that officials at the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine have not heard from the Trump Administration “about a financial review that halted a major study of the potential public health effects of mountaintop removal coal mining.” According to academies spokesman William Kearney, “no update on the financial review has been provided to the academies by the Interior Department.” Last week, Rep. Raúl Grijalva wrote to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “to ask for an explanation of the fate of about \$400,000 in unspent money that was set aside for the mountaintop removal study, which Grijalva referred to as ‘canceled.’” But the agency hasn’t responded.

Advocates, Lawmakers Prepare For Battle Over Reclamation Fee.

[E&E Publishing](#) (10/20, Brown) reports that “the confusing fight over renewing the nation’s convoluted system for cleaning up abandoned coal mines has ensnared legislation bent on turning reclamation into economic growth.” The Abandoned Mine Land (AML) fee “doesn’t expire until 2021,” but “coal state lawmakers are already debating the issue, remembering the last reauthorization took at least a decade.” The article says that “as expected, old tensions over how to spend the money have re-emerged between historical coal states like Pennsylvania and West Virginia — those with the most cleanup needs — and the current top coal state, Wyoming — which pays more than half of all fees but is certified as having finished cleaning up priority abandoned sites (Greenwire, Sept. 29, 2016).” However, “the real wrench came when the coal industry came out earlier this year in outright opposition to reauthorizing the coal fee for the first time since Congress imposed it in 1977 (E&E Daily, June 8).”

US Geological Survey

GOOD NEWS: Sul Ross Student Studies Pallid Sturgeon Via USGS Internship.

The [Odessa \(TX\) American](#) (10/21, Lang) reports that Sam Burch, “a Sul Ross State University graduate student in geology and a research technician at the Rio Grande Research Center (RGRC), was selected for a prestigious U.S. Geological Survey hydrology-based internship this past summer.” Burch “worked with the Columbia Environmental Research Center (CERC), based in Columbia, Mo., and traveled the Missouri River Basin and its tributaries studying and mapping river modifications (including man-made channels and dams) and their effect on the pallid sturgeon.”

Additional Reading.

- *New Kilauea Volcano Summit Eruption Video Hits Web.* [West Hawaii Today](#) (10/20).
- *2 Million Americans Are Drinking High Levels Of Arsenic In Their Well Water.* [Huffington Post](#) (10/22, Hsiao)/
- *‘Tired Mountain Syndrome’? North Korea’s Nuclear Test Site May Have It.* [Chicago Tribune](#) (10/22, Fifield).
- *What’s Shaking? New Online Map Shows Texans Where Earthquakes Strike.* [Dallas Morning News](#) (10/20, Kuchment, Writer).

Top National News

Trump Makes Case For Budget And Tax Reform, Urges House To Move Quickly.

Coverage of President Trump’s budget and tax reform plan portrays the measure as having momentum after initial passage in the Senate last week, but possibly in peril in the House because the plan is projected to increase the federal deficit. Reports say that the White House is campaigning hard for the measure, trying to avoid the missteps of the healthcare effort.

Errol Barnett reported on the [CBS Weekend News](#) (10/22, story 2, 1:25, Ninan) that the President “is now optimistic his tax plan will pass soon. ... The Republican-controlled Senate passed the budget this week, which the House is expected to take up in coming days.” Tom Llamas said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/22, story 2, 0:40) that it would be “the biggest tax cut ever.” Trump said during an interview on [Fox News’ Sunday Morning Futures](#) (10/22, Bartiromo), “We have so many things in this plan that are going to be for growth.” He said that if GDP growth hits 2.5%, “it more than pays for everything.” [USA Today](#) (10/22, Jackson) reports that the President said in the interview that “legislative setbacks suffered” by the GOP on healthcare “won’t affect the prospects of a tax cut.”

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/22, story 3, 1:45), Kate Snow reported that the President “turned up the pressure on Republicans to come up with a tax reform package today, saying he wants an overhaul plan on his desk by Thanksgiving.” The [AP](#) (10/22, Colvin) reports that during a conference call with House Republicans, the President urged legislators to move quickly. According to one GOP official, Trump “told the members they were on the verge of doing something historic.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/22, Wagner, Newmyer) reports that during the call, the President and House Speaker Ryan “argued that passing the revised Senate budget this week provides the best shot to get a tax bill enacted by the end of the year, according to participants.” [The Hill](#) (10/22, Marcos) reports that Vice President Pence also took part in the call.

[Politico](#) (10/22, Bade) writes, “Trump’s presence on the call highlights the sensitivity of this week’s budget vote for House Republicans. Backing the Senate bill would require House Republicans to endorse a budget that is not balanced over 10 years, adds \$1.5 trillion to the federal deficit through tax cuts, and does not include spending reductions the House had incorporated in its own earlier draft of the budget.” [Axios](#) (10/22, Swan) reports that House Ways and Means Committee Republicans “are currently exploring not cutting the income tax rate for people who earn \$1 million or more per year,” which “will help stem the deficit increase from tax cuts for corporations and the middle class.”

The President also makes his case in a [USA Today](#) (10/22) op-ed, writing, “We are now among the highest taxed nations in the developed world. ... Revising our tax code is not just a policy discussion – it is a moral one, because we are not talking about the government’s money – we are talking about your money, your hard work.” He writes, “The tax cuts and reforms of the

1980s show that when we empower the American people to pursue their dreams, they will not only achieve greatness and create prosperity beyond imagination, they will build an entirely new world."

WTimes Analysis: President's "Game Plan" Includes Ivanka Trump/Kushner "Charm Offensive."

The [Washington Times](#) (10/22, Miller) reports that the President "has an aggressive game plan to corral Senate support for tax reform, including repeated phone calls, golf outings, formal meetings and deploying Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner in a charm offensive." The Times says that the President "is determined to avoid a repeat of the fiasco of the Obamacare repeal when the bill fell short by a single Republican vote." [Axios](#) (10/22, Swan) reports that Ivanka Trump will appear at a White House tax reform town hall in Bucks County, Pennsylvania on Monday.

Mulvaney, McConnell Hopeful For Tax Measure By End Of Year. [Reuters](#) (10/22, Chiacu, Schroeder) reports that OMB Director Mulvaney and Senate Majority Leader McConnell both "said on Sunday they hoped for action on a Republican tax reform package by the end of the year, while keeping their options open on how to pay for sweeping tax cuts." The [Washington Times](#) (10/22, Richardson) reports that Mulvaney told Fox News that "he 'absolutely' believes that President Trump will have a tax reform bill on his desk by December." Mulvaney said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (10/22, Perino), "We are hearing [that] the House may go ahead and either take the Senate amendments or move very quickly to accept them, and we may save as many as ten or 12 legislative days."

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/22, Niquette, Varley, Brody) reports that McConnell said the measure could advance and be made revenue-neutral, echoing the President's growth argument. McConnell said on [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (10/22, Bash) that there will be significant "growth [that] you'll get out of this pro-growth tax reform, which reduces rates for the middle class, which makes it considerably less likely that jobs go overseas, by correcting business taxes in such a way that produces more jobs and opportunity." McConnell said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (10/22, Perino) that the "overall goal is the middle tax relief."

Lankford, Commentators Say Budget Would Drive Up Deficit. Sen. James Lankford, appearing on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (10/22, Dickerson), said that there is "tremendous frustration" among some senators "as we walk through this process. There are several votes to bring back the budget not necessarily on the tax side but some of the spending side."

Jason Furman, who chaired the White House Council of Economic Advisers during President Obama's second term, writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/22) that the reduction in the corporate rate to 20% would reduce federal annual revenue by about \$200 billion, but is not likely to lead to the growth in average income suggested by the White House. Robert Samuelson writes in his [Washington Post](#) (10/22) column, "We cannot afford the Trump tax cut if it loses any revenue; the idea that it will 'pay for itself' looks like wishful thinking – nice if it happens, but the odds are against it."

White House Reiterates Support For Kelly's Defense Of Trump As Video Released.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders rallied behind White House Chief of Staff Kelly over his defense of President Trump's phone call expressing his condolences to the widow of Sgt. La David Johnson after Rep. Frederica Wilson exacerbated the tension on Friday by rejecting his criticism of her while asserting in an interview with the New York Times that the Administration is "full of white supremacists." The tone of the coverage was dramatically different from the positive reception on Thursday, as reporting highlighted that video footage of a 2005 speech showed Kelly mischaracterized her remarks. Many articles also took issue with Sanders' assertion that Kelly, a four-star general, was above reproach by virtue of his long career serving his country.

Leading [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/20, 5:04 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), White House correspondent Sarah Murray said Trump's "response to a US soldier killed in Niger" is "devolving into a political brawl," with "Trump taking to Twitter again overnight to blast" Rep. Wilson, "who accused him of being insensitive in a condolence call when he told Myeshia Johnson...that her husband knew what he got into when he signed up to serve." Trump's [tweeted](#), "The Fake News is going crazy with wacky Congresswoman Wilson (D), who was SECRETLY on a very personal call, and gave a total lie on content!" Murray added that White House press secretary Sarah Sanders on Friday "refused to entertain really any questions about that mission in Niger, instead insisting the Administration would wait until an investigation into the events is completed."

Leading the second hour of [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/20, 6:01 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), host Wolf Blitzer similarly said the White House is attempting "to quash the controversy," but [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/20, story 2, 2:15, Holt) reported the "fierce political battle" instead "intensified" on Friday. In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (10/20, A1, Nakamura) says

Kelly's "false claims" and "escalating political mud fight [have] overshadowed the grief of Myeshia Johnson and the heroism of her dead husband, Sgt. La David Johnson, who gave his life for his country." The Post adds that the President, in an interview with [Fox Business](#) that was recorded on Friday, "accused Wilson of debasing Kelly by suggesting that the chief of staff had defended the president at Trump's insistence, in order to keep his job." Trump asserted, "When she made that statement, I thought it was sickening, actually." He continued by praising Kelly's "incredible job" and "said the general, who had listened in on his call with Johnson, was 'offended' that Wilson would make it public."

Leading the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/20, lead story, 2:45, Mason), Anthony Mason said Kelly's "emotional defense of the President...came back to bite him...when his facts were called into question by video and by a check of the record." While Sanders "told a reporter Friday that it would be 'highly inappropriate' to get into a debate with 'a four-star Marine general' over whether he misstated facts," the [Washington Post](#) (10/20, Wagner) reports that although Kelly on Thursday "said he had been 'stunned' to hear Wilson claim credit at the ceremony for securing the funding for" a federal building named after two slain FBI agents, "a video of her speech at the ceremony showed Wilson did not take credit for securing the money. She instead spent about two minutes of a nine-minute speech recalling the effort that she led in Congress to name the building for the agents, whom she praised effusively in her remarks."

According to [Bloomberg News](#) (10/20, Sink, Olorunnipa), the [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) released the video of the event, which "showed that Kelly mischaracterized Wilson's remarks." Bloomberg acknowledges "she did at one point in her speech discuss her work to name the building after the slain FBI agents, though the congresswoman says the speed with which the legislation passed through Congress was a testament to the respect among lawmakers for law enforcement."

Nonetheless, [The Hill](#) (10/20, Fabian) says Sanders "vociferously defended" Kelly and suggested his "four-decade career in the Marine Corps makes him beyond reproach." [Politico](#) (10/20, Nelson, Caputo) reports Sanders "aggressively defended" Kelly and the [Washington Times](#) (10/20, Boyer) reports Sanders "insisted...Kelly was accurate when he described...Wilson talking mostly about herself at the dedication of an FBI building in Florida in 2015." Sanders asserted, "There was a lot of grandstanding. ... He was stunned that she took that opportunity to make it about herself."

[The Hill](#) (10/20, Fabian) reports Sanders also said, "As Gen. Kelly pointed out, if you are able to make a sacred act like honoring American heroes all about yourself, you are an empty barrel." She continued, "If you don't understand that reference, I'll put it a little more simply – as we say in the South, all hat no cattle." According to [The Hill](#), "Wilson is known in Congress for her ornate hats."

In addition, [The Hill](#) (10/20, Fabian) reports Sanders said, "If the spirit of which [the President's] comments were intended were misunderstood, that's very unfortunate." Sanders added, "His comments were very sympathetic, very respectful, and that was the spirit in which the president intended them. If they were taken any other way, that's certainly an unfortunate thing."

However, [The Hill](#) (10/20, Manchester) reports that in a follow up statement to media outlets, Sanders "conceded on Friday evening that 'everyone can be questioned' while defending her earlier remarks in which she said debating...Kelly would be 'highly inappropriate.'" Sanders acknowledged, "Of course everyone can be questioned but after witnessing General Kelly's heartfelt and somber account, we should all be able to agree that impugning his credibility on how best to honor fallen heroes is not appropriate."

Meanwhile, the [AP](#) (10/20, Lemire) reports Wilson on Friday "kept the barbed exchanges going, adding a new element by suggesting a racial context." In an interview that ran on the front page of the [New York Times](#) (10/20, A1, Alcindor, Shear), Wilson "called Mr. Kelly a liar and hinted strongly that the altercation, prompted by a call from President Trump to the widow of a fallen black soldier, was racially charged." The Times says that although "she stopped short of accusing Mr. Kelly, a retired Marine general, of racial animus, she did say that others in the White House are racially biased." She asserted, "The White House itself is full of white supremacists." Wilson continued, "I feel very sorry for [Kelly] because he feels such a need to lie on me and I'm not even his enemy. I just can't even imagine why he would fabricate something like that. That is absolutely insane. I'm just flabbergasted because it's very easy to trace." She added, "They are making themselves look like fools. They have no credibility. They are trying to assassinate my character, and they are assassinating their own because everything they say is coming out and shown to be a lie."

The [Washington Times](#) (10/20, Miller) reports Wilson in an appearance on CNN separately

"accused...Kelly of lying about her and using a 'racist term' when he publicly admonished her for politicizing the president's condolence call to a Special Forces' widow." Wilson said, "He has my sympathy for the loss of his son, but he can't just go on TV and lie on me." However, the Times says Wilson "took offense at the phrase 'empty barrel.'" She explained, "That's a racist term, too. I'm thinking about that. We looked it up in the dictionary because I had never heard of an empty barrel, and I don't like to be dragged into something like that."

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/20, 5:42 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), White House reporter Kaitlan Collins said while Wilson contributed "to this ongoing feud," Trump "is certainly the one who started it. But overall, the more important thing here is that the focus is shifting away from these four dead soldiers and on to a war of words between the White House and a Congresswoman." On Sanders' suggestion that four-star generals should not be questioned, former CIA counterterrorism official Philipp Mudd questioned, "why are we talking about this? what was she talking about? what a hot mess this is," because it would mean "we can't ask questions" from former officials. On Afghanistan, for example, "We're 16 years into a war and the United States military under the direction of the President is expanding the troop presence in Afghanistan when we've failed to subdue the Taliban and they're on the rise. Why do we think another troop surge is going to win? That's not a fair question to ask?"

Rep. Eric Swalwell likewise told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/20, 6:12 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), "Of course [Kelly] should be questioned," because all American "leaders are supposed to be questioned. That's what the soldiers who, you know, fight and sacrifice for our country – that's what they're fighting for is the ability of the press and our constituents to question us." On the issue of the ambush in Niger, Swalwell lamented, "There is a blunder somewhere," and the victims' "families are owed an accurate explanation as to what happened to their loved ones."

Jake Sullivan, a former director of the State Department Policy Planning Office, told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/20, 5:13 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) said attention should be focused on how the US can prevent similar attacks from happening again. "I have to say," he continued, "it was President Trump who kicked off the politics by falsely claiming that his predecessors didn't get involved in talking to the families of the fallen."

Former President Obama's senior adviser, David Axelrod, told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/20, 6:34 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) that he believes "it's tragic that all of this has eclipsed what should be a reflection on these four service people who gave their lives, these four Green Berets, for the country and the investigation of exactly what happened here." Former State Department spokesman John Kirby described Sanders' remarks on questioning Kelly "absolutely an ignorant thing to say."

On [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (10/20, 8:05 p.m. EDT, Carlson), Mark Green, a former First Public Advocate of New York City, argued that the issue is why Trump said what he said, and why he "was silent for 12 days" on the four US soldiers' deaths. Green also dismissed the host's criticism of Wilson for allegedly transforming Kelly's comments into a race issue.

[Washington Post](#) (10/20, Bump) correspondent Philip Bump contends "Kelly is not first-and-foremost a Marine general. He is the White House chief of staff who was brought out to the daily news briefing to provide cover for how Trump handled a phone call to the family of a dead soldier and who then proceeded to disparage a member of Congress while telling an untrue story about her." He adds in no way is it "inappropriate to ask Kelly questions about his comments simply because he used to serve in the military, any more than it would be inappropriate to ask those same questions of his predecessor in the chief of staff role, Reince Priebus." Bump continues "even if Kelly were still a general, it's the media's job to ask questions." He concludes "Sanders's move is disrespectful, dishonest and dangerous. It suggests that some people who serve the country are above fair criticism and the need to be held accountable and, more egregiously, that those they serve should enjoy that same privilege."

Trump Thanks Fox News For Defending His Call To Widow. [The Hill](#) (10/20, Delk) "Briefing Room" blog reports President Trump on Friday "[thanked](#) Geraldo Rivera...for defending him against accusations that he was inconsiderate to the family of a slain U.S. soldier." In reposting a video featuring Rivera saying that the President "gets no slack at all, and it's part of the reason we are so utterly divided now, that even this, even the most sacred event – honoring a hero – becomes politicized," Trump tweeted, "Thank you @GeraldoRivera @FoxandFriends. Agree!"

Meanwhile, in the lead [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (10/20, 8:00 p.m. EDT, Carlson) story, host Tucker Carlson recalled Kelly's "18 minutes of mesmerizing remarks from the briefing room and begged politicians and the press not to politicize the mourning of Gold Star families," and "singled out" Wilson. According to Carlson, Wilson appeared "delighted on the attack because it made her more famous, which goes to prove Gen. Kelly was right in the first place."

Eric, Lara Trump: Kelly Thought Gold Star Controversy Was “Disgusting.” The [Washington Times](#) (10/20, Persons) reports Eric Trump in an appearance on Fox News said Friday that Kelly “was upset when my father was criticized. I think he came to my father’s defense in a very big way because I think he thought it was disgusting.” Lara Trump added, “My father-in-law is the biggest champion of the military there is, and we all in this country love and respect our military and no one more so than the president.”

[The Hill](#) (10/20, Manchester) reports Lara Trump also indicated that she had read the transcript of the President’s call with Myeshia Johnson, but Sanders “said Friday that there was no transcript.” Sanders stated, “I believe she was responding to reports and things she read. I haven’t spoken directly to her. I refer you to the campaign that handles her press inquiries.”

Under Threat Of Subpoena, Mattis Meets With McCain, Graham To Discuss Niger Operations.

Leading [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (10/20, 6:00 p.m. EDT, Baier), chief White House correspondent John Roberts reported Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain “complained loudly last week that the Senate is not getting the information it deserves about military operations in Niger, and he’s prepared to do whatever it takes to get it,” so “under the threat of a subpoena for information on the Niger attacks,” Defense Secretary Mattis “marched over to Sen. John McCain’s office” for a meeting with him and Sen. Lindsey Graham.

[CNN’s Situation Room](#)’s (10/20, 5:09 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Pentagon correspondent, Barbara Starr, similarly reported Mattis briefed McCain a day after the lawmaker had “threatened subpoenas if the Pentagon doesn’t start telling Congress what it knows” about the incident.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/20, Demirjian) reports Mattis told McCain and Graham that “the military is shifting its counterterrorism strategy to focus more on Africa, put decision-making authority in the hands of commanders in the field, and expand the ability to use lethal force against suspected terrorists,” the lawmakers said. [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (10/20, 6:08 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) global affairs correspondent Elise Labott reported Mattis also defended “his troops in the face of criticism.” Said Mattis, “We can do better at communication. We can always improve on communication, and that’s exactly what we’re going to do.” Mattis continued, “Having seen some of the news reports, the US military does not leave its troops behind, and I – we’d just ask that you not question the actions of the troops who were caught in the firefight and question whether or not they did everything they could in order to bring everyone out at once.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/20, Dennis) reports that following the meeting, Graham warned “the war on terrorism will expand with more aggressive rules of engagement.” [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (10/20, 6:38 p.m. EDT, Baier) broadcast Graham, who predicted that “the next 9/11 will come from Niger.” He added, “the war is heading to Africa. It is beginning to morph as we suppress the enemy in the mid-east, they are going to move. They are not going to quit.”

On [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (10/20, 6:43 p.m. EDT, Baier), Erin McPike of the Independent Journal Review commented, “I’ve heard a number of congressman say we are not talking about how ISIS is on the run because of the liberation of Raqqa. But this entire story shows they might be on the run, that they are running to other areas,” namely, Africa, and therefore “all of these missions are really important. and they continue to be.”

Pentagon Attempts To Answer Questions About Failed Niger Operation. In the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/20, lead story, 4:15, Muir), David Muir reported, “It’s been 16 days since those lives were lost, and today President Trump was asked again to address the mission in public,” and whether the fallen soldiers had “adequate intelligence” and “adequate backup.” Correspondent Mary Bruce reiterated, “The week ended the same way it began: with questions about why President Trump still hasn’t addressed the ambush in Niger that killed four Special Ops soldiers.” As of Friday night, “key questions remain: Did the unit get the proper advance intelligence and backup support? Officials say they didn’t expect to be in combat. Also, was Sgt. La David Johnson left behind? The rest of the unit pulled out, but his body was not recovered for at least 20 hours. The President silent on the details even as he takes credit for US victories against ISIS.”

In a front-page article, the [New York Times](#) (10/20, A1, Searcey, Cooper, Schmitt) reports “the Pentagon is trying to determine whether American forces involved in a deadly ambush in Niger this month diverted from their routine patrol to embark on an unapproved mission, military officials said on Friday.” The Times says these questions have arisen “because the American and Nigerian soldiers on the patrol have given conflicting accounts about whether they were simply ambushed or were attacked after trying to chase Islamic insurgents, according to military officials from both countries.”

David Martin of the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/20, story 2, 2:20, Mason) explained, “The body of Sgt. La David Johnson was found nearly a mile away from the ambush site. Why he got

separated from the other Americans, and how long he survived, remain unclear. Pentagon officials say a locator beacon was tracked for several hours, fueling hopes he was alive and raising the agonizing question of whether he could have been saved if the US military had been able to react faster. The biggest mystery is why the patrol had not expected enemy contact in a part of Niger where this UN map shows 46 attacks took place over the last 20 months." Martin added that the Pentagon's "investigation has to determine not only what happened on the ground in Niger but why Washington failed to meet its obligation to the troops."

In the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/20, lead story, 2:15, Holt), Pentagon correspondent Hans Nichols revealed that "a senior congressional aide who has been extensively briefed tells NBC News the ambush that killed him and three other soldiers stemmed in part from a massive intelligence failure." The Pentagon has cautioned "that such conclusions are premature." The FBI has joined "the investigation with forensic support, looking into how a team of well-trained Special Forces was ambushed, the Pentagon says, by a group of roughly 50 ISIS-linked fighters."

Senate To Conduct AUMF Debate Following Niger Deaths. The [Washington Post](#) (10/20, Demirjian) reports the Senate Foreign Relations Committee "is taking up a long-awaited debate about authorizing military force against the Islamic State as President Trump comes under unprecedented public scrutiny for his treatment of dead soldiers' families, following an ambush on troops helping to fight Islamic terrorists there." The Post reports the committee "will grill Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Defense Secretary Jim Mattis in an open hearing on Oct. 30 about whether the administration thinks it is necessary for Congress to pass a new authorization for use of military force, or AUMF, to replace existing AUMFs that date back to the early years of the George W. Bush administration." The Post describes the hearing as a possible "precursor to a more congressionally-driven legislative effort to write an AUMF that can draw enough Republican and Democratic support to pass."

However, in an analysis, [McClatchy](#) (10/20, Clark, Goldstein) questions if Democrats will try to "use the incident as Trump's Benghazi." McClatchy highlights that "Democratic calls for hearings and probes are mounting." Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a member of the Armed Services Committee, calling for "a full and prompt investigation" in addition to hearings, as has Sen. Bill Nelson, while Rep. Ted Lieu wants the House Foreign Affairs Committee to hold hearings. Nonetheless, McClatchy acknowledges "many key Democrats," including Sen. Tim Kaine, "have urged resisting the temptation to use Niger for political gain."

State Department: Ambassador Did Not Deny Request For Support To Niger Attack Victims. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/20, Bennett) reports a State Department spokesman on Friday said the US ambassador to Niger "did not deny support for a U.S. Special Forces unit that lost four soldiers in a deadly ambush on the border between Mali and Niger on Oct. 4." The spokesman said, "As required by the president, the embassy and U.S. AFRICOM continuously engage to address security threats to all U.S. government personnel and operations." The spokesman added, "This close cooperation ensures activities are coordinated, effective and sustainable. The president directs that disagreements, which are rare, are quickly referred to the secretary of Defense and secretary of State for immediate resolution."

France Calls On US To Increase Support For Efforts Against West Africa Militants. [Reuters](#) (10/20, Irish, Stewart) reports French Defense Minister Florence Parly in a visit to Washington, DC for meetings with Defense Secretary Mattis and National Security Adviser McMaster on Friday called on the US to "step up its support for a planned African force to fight Islamist militants in West Africa or it could fail, leaving French troops to carry the burden alone." Parly said, "In the Sahel, France is deploying in a high-intensity environment, with tremendous support from the United States. We are immensely grateful for that support." However, Parly added, "Much more needs to be done. We can't be, and don't want to be, the praetorian [guards] of sovereign African countries. They must be made able to defeat terror on their own."

UN: Militants Have Perpetrated At Least 46 Attacks In Area Of Niger Where US Troops Killed. [Reuters](#) (10/20, Balima) reports a UN agency on Friday announced that in the Tahoua and Tillabery regions of Niger, which was "where four U.S. Green Berets were killed during a mission the U.S. military had considered low-risk," armed groups have conducted at least 46 recorded attacks since early last year.

LATimes Analysis: Kelly Resembles Trump Voters, Not President. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/20, Bierman) says that in "Kelly's extraordinary remarks on Thursday from the White House briefing room, in which he segued from defending Trump to speak of loss – both his own, of a son, and the country's, of old civilities, all while attacking a Florida congresswoman – offered a glimpse of what" he and the President "seem to share. Both hearken to an undefined time in

America when some things were 'sacred,' as Kelly put it, to a better moment that's been lost." The Times adds that "in sharing his nostalgia, Kelly did not sound like the more rough-spoken Trump. But he sounded an awful lot like many of the voters who put Trump into office."

Fox News Apologizes For Featuring Pro-Trump Veteran Who Lied About Being A Navy SEAL.

The [New York Times](#) (10/20, Bromwich) reports Fox News on Thursday issued a correction after airing a story earlier this month about John Garofalo, "a highly decorated veteran: a Navy SEAL who had served in Vietnam, had earned two Purple Hearts and had hand-carved a presidential seal that he hoped to give to President Trump." The Times adds that in addition to retracting the story, the network "said that 'all' of his claims 'turned out to be untrue.'" In a statement, Fox said Garofalo "did not serve in Vietnam," was "never a U.S. Navy SEAL," and while "he showed us medals, Garofalo was not awarded two Purple Hearts or any of the other nearly two dozen commendations he claimed to have received, except for the National Defense Service Medal." Fox concluded, "We apologize to our viewers, especially veterans and servicemen and women."

WPost: Kelly Owes Wilson An Apology. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/20) demands White House Chief of Staff Kelly apologize to Rep. Frederica S. Wilson for mischaracterizing "the representative's remarks at the dedication of an FBI building in Miramar, Fla., in 2015." The Post adds that "as a video by the Florida Sun Sentinel of Ms. Wilson's remarks that day shows, Mr. Kelly got it all wrong." The Post concludes "it is unfortunate that the sacrifice of brave people...can get overwhelmed by the petty name-calling of politics. That is a point Mr. Kelly was trying to make Thursday, and that he undercut with his misrepresentation of Ms. Wilson. He needs to set the record straight."

Marcus Criticizes Kelly For Declaring Women "Sacred." In her [Washington Post](#) (10/20, Marcus) column, Ruth Marcus says that while Kelly on Thursday had her "mesmerized and, to be honest, a bit teary-eyed as the retired four-star general spoke of what it is like to be on the early-morning receiving end of the news that would break any parent's heart," his "disquisition" reminiscing on how women had been "sacred" during his youth left her "taken aback." According to Marcus, assuming Kelly was "referring to the report on Harvey Weinstein – where were you, exactly, during the presidential campaign?" She concludes that "if the upside of chivalry is the opened door, the cape spread upon the muddy ground, the downside is the presumption, perhaps subconscious, that feminine is the equivalent of weak; the impulse to treat women in the workplace differently from their male counterparts; and the consequent distortion – sometimes overt, more often subtle – of career choices and opportunities."

Trump Promises Tax Cut After Senate GOP Passes Budget.

[Reuters](#) (10/20, Ahmann) reports President Trump in an interview on Friday with [Fox Business](#) scheduled to air on Sunday "said...he thinks Republicans have the votes needed to pass a big tax cut package" and "said he had been thinking about tying tax legislation to an infrastructure spending bill but that it was not clear a combined package would gain more votes." Trump asserted, "I don't want to take any chances cause I feel we have the votes right now the way it is," according to the transcript of the interview. [The Hill](#) (10/20, Manchester) reports the President also argued "lawmakers should forego Christmas break if they do not pass tax reform before then."

Meanwhile, the [AP](#) (10/20, Gordon, Taylor) reports the President in a pair of early morning tweets [also said](#), "The Budget passed late last night, 51 to 49. We got ZERO Democrat votes with only Rand Paul (he will vote for Tax Cuts) voting against. This now allows for the passage of large scale Tax Cuts (and Reform), which will be the biggest in the history of our country!"

Ryan: GOP Tax Plan To Introduce New Tax Bracket For Highest Earners. The [Washington Times](#) (10/20, Persons) reports House Speaker Ryan in an appearance on CBS News "said Friday that the House plans to introduce a fourth tax bracket for high-income earners." Ryan asserted, "This is about the people, about half of which in this country are living paycheck to paycheck, and giving them a break on their taxes, giving them some tax relief, and closing loopholes and carve-outs, which disproportionately benefit the very high income people — the very well-connected businesses." [The Hill](#) (10/20, Jagoda) reports Ryan continued, "We're introducing the fourth bracket...so that high-income earners do not see a big rate cut, and so that those resources go to the middle class."

[Politico](#) (10/20, Faler) reports Ryan "declined Friday to get into the specifics of how it would work, saying lawmakers are still hashing that out, but said Republicans don't want their plan to be a windfall for the rich." According to Politico, "Ryan's comments came on the heels of Senate approval of a budget plan that will grease the legislative skids for Republicans' tax rewrite plans."

Conservative Lawmakers Signal Support For Tax Cuts. [Reuters](#) (10/20, Becker) reports the

President's tax reform proposals "won partial support on Friday" after Sen. Rand Paul "said he was 'all in' for massive tax cuts, but the party was still far from united over how to achieve the main item on its domestic agenda." The [Washington Times](#) (10/20, Persons) reports Paul tweeted, "I'm all in for tax cuts @realDonaldTrump. The biggest, boldest cuts possible – and soon!" The Times highlights that Paul had been the sole Republican to vote against the Senate GOP's budget bill "due to changes in the federal spending caps."

Meanwhile, in an interview with [Bloomberg News](#) (10/20, House), House Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows revealed he has told "Republican leaders most of his group will support the GOP's budget – as long as the Ways and Means Committee marks up and passes a tax bill by the week of Oct. 30," as the lawmakers within the group "want a House-wide floor vote on a tax bill by Thanksgiving." Meadows said, "We are willing to take a look at supporting the Senate budget next week without going to conference, as long as it speeds up the work on the tax bill." [Politico](#) (10/20, Ferris, Bade) reports the House Freedom Caucus "decided on the stance on a conference call Friday, according to GOP sources."

In addition, [The Hill](#) (10/20, Elis) reports Rep. Dave Brat, a member of the conservative House Freedom Caucus, and other conservatives "are dropping their demands for billions in mandatory spending cuts as GOP House leaders ready to take up the Senate-passed budget next week, a key step for tax reform." According to The Hill, House Budget Committee Chairwoman Diane Black issued a statement on Friday announcing her support for the Senate budget bill.

The [Washington Times](#) (10/20, Persons) reports Sen. Tim Scott in an appearance on Fox News "said Friday that he's 'encouraged' by talks with the House Freedom Caucus about the Republican budget deal." Scott said, "The word coming out of the House as late last night when we were still on the floor was that the budget as we constructed it probably is acceptable for the Freedom Caucus. ... If that's the case, that saves us about two weeks of negotiations with the House."

A front-page [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/20, A1, Rubin) analysis lays out the challenges that remain to passing a tax reform bill, as does the [New York Times](#) (10/20, Tankersley), which reports the passage of the Senate's budget resolution "sets the stage for what could be a wild ride of tax debate over the next few months, which Republican leaders hope will end with...Trump signing a bill into law by Christmas." The Times emphasizes that "it will be a difficult task, particularly in the Senate, where Republicans can afford to lose only two votes from their ranks to pass a bill along party lines." [Bloomberg News](#) (10/20, Kapur) similarly acknowledges the "sharp divides over an array of non-binding amendments revealed the towering challenge [the President] faces from here."

WSJournal: House Should Pass The Senate Budget. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/20) writes that instead of forming a combined budget in a conference committee, the House of Representatives should pass the Senate budget, which – unlike the deficit-neutral House budget – leaves room for \$1.5 trillion in tax cuts over 10 years.

WPost: Despite Senate's Vote For "Fiscal Irresponsibility," Congress Still Has Time To Form Better Budget. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/20) writes that although Senate Republicans on Thursday passed a budget plan allowing a "massive tax cut with uncertain benefits for most Americans," there is still an opportunity for congressional committees to halt the Senate's "fiscal irresponsibility" and form a plan that at least calls for revenue-neutral tax reform, such as that passed before by the House.

US Posts Largest Budget Deficit Since 2013.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/20, Wasson, Mohsin) reports the US on Friday "posted its largest budget deficit since 2013 in the fiscal year that just ended, as a pickup in spending exceeded revenue gains." According to Bloomberg, the Treasury Department revealed that the deficit "grew to \$665.7 billion in the 12 months through Sept. 30, compared with a \$585.6 billion shortfall in fiscal 2016," which "was in line with the Congressional Budget Office's estimate of \$668 billion." Treasury Secretary Mnuchin and OMB Director Mick Mulvaney in a joint statement "blamed weaker-than-expected tax receipts on historically 'sub-par' economic growth." Mulvaney said, "These numbers should serve as a smoke alarm for Washington, a reminder that we need to grow our economy again and get our fiscal house in order. We can do that through smart spending restraint, tax reform, and cutting red tape." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/20, Davidson) reports that Mnuchin said that the deficit "underscore the importance of achieving robust and sustained economic growth." Mnuchin added, "Through a combination of tax reform and regulatory relief, this country can return to higher levels of GDP growth, helping to erase our fiscal deficit."

According to the [New York Times](#) (10/20, Rappeport), the budget deficit "highlight[s] the nation's worsening fiscal trajectory as lawmakers consider a \$1.5 trillion tax cut." The [AP](#) (10/20,

Taylor) reports House Speaker Ryan in a Friday appearance on "CBS This Morning" said, "We're Republicans. We're sensitive to the deficit." However, Senate Minority Leader Schumer asserted, "With the deficit as large and growing as quickly as it is, Republicans pursuing a reckless plan that would blow a huge hole in the deficit and put Medicare and Medicaid at risk is the height of irresponsibility."

Judge Extends Halt To Trump's Travel Ban.

[Reuters](#) (10/21, Goldberg) reports that US District Judge Derrick Watson on Friday extended his block on President Trump's travel ban. Watson's ruling, issued in the US District Court for the District of Hawaii, "converted his temporary restraining order to a preliminary injunction."

Mattis To Discuss North Korean Threat With Asian Defense Ministers.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/22, Lubold) reports Defense Secretary Mattis arrived in the Philippines on Sunday, and will meet with Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera, Philippine Defense Minister Delfin Lorenzana, and South Korean Defense Minister Song Young-moo during a Monday gathering of Association of Southeast Asian Nations defense ministers. The Journal says Mattis is also slated to meet with Indian, Indonesian, and Malaysian officials for discussions on "the regional security crisis caused by the reckless DPRK, North Korea provocations" and other issues, according to Mattis in remarks to reporters.

NBC Analysis: North Koreans Appear Unafraid Of Potential War With US. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/22, story 7, 1:50, Snow), Keir Simmons reported from a 1,000-year-old Buddhist temple 100 miles north of Pyongyang, North Korea. Noting the temple's beauty, Simmons said, "Standing here, it's hard to take in that the leadership of North Korea has said a nuclear war could break out at any moment." Simmons mentioned that the temple was bombed by the US during the Korean War, and he asked a woman there if she fears the temple will see another war. The woman reportedly replied, "Another war won't happen because we are a nuclear superpower. ... The US should wake up from its war dream." A monk at the temple said, "Kim Jong-un will protect us," and reportedly added that "sometimes it's okay to kill if it saves more lives."

Petraeus Comments On North Korea Rhetoric. Former CIA Director Petraeus, in an appearance on [ABC's This Week](#) (10/22, Raddatz), commented on the rhetoric on North Korea and the possibility for a diplomatic resolution. Petraeus said, "Really, all of this rhetoric, frankly, is aimed, not at North Korea, but at China." He added, "Secretary [of State] Tillerson is undertaking the kind of strategic engagement that is necessary here, to build a relationship with China." Petraeus downplayed the likelihood a US-North Korea military conflict, and noted that the communication strategy was to encourage China to act on this issue.

Cruz Urges State Dept. To Relist North Korea As State Sponsor Of Terrorism. Sen. Ted Cruz, in an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (10/22, Cruz), outlines the long list of "accusations against Pyongyang." He stresses, "It is time to acknowledge that North Korea may never be interested in negotiating away its nuclear deterrent," and thus "the United States must approach North Korea with sobriety and urgency." Cruz "strongly urge[s] the State Department to relist North Korea" as a state sponsor of terrorism, which will strengthen the US' "hand and weaken that of Kim Jong-un," and ultimately "meet this challenge with the resolve it has long demanded."

Administration Plan For Coal, Nuclear Power Draws Criticism From Environmental, Oil Groups.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/22, Puko) reports that an Energy Department proposal asking the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to implement market reforms designed to shore up nuclear and coal-fired power plants is drawing opposition from an array of environmental and oil groups, including oil and gas companies, some public utilities, wind and solar power producers, electricity consumers, and environmentalists. The plan submitted last month, which in effect would ensure profits for certain nuclear and coal-fired power plants, has placed coal miners and a small group of power companies against nearly the entire rest of the energy industry, much of which views the proposal as a bailout for struggling power plants.

EPA Cancels Climate Change Speeches By Agency Scientists.

The [New York Times](#) (10/22, Friedman) reports the EPA has canceled speeches by three agency scientists who were slated to discuss climate change at the State of the Narragansett Bay and Watershed conference on Monday in Rhode Island. EPA spokesman John Konkus confirmed the speaking appearances had been canceled. The Times adds that the move "highlights widespread concern that the E.P.A. will silence government scientists from speaking publicly or conducting

work on climate change.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“America’s Forever Wars.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/22) writes that in light of the fact that the US military is widely deployed and engaged in a large number of conflicts – with just over 240,000 troops in at least 172 countries and territories, many engaged in counterterrorism operations – it is “time to take stock of how broadly American forces are already committed to far-flung regions and to begin thinking hard about how much of that investment is necessary, how long it should continue and whether there is a strategy beyond just killing terrorists.” The Times concludes that while the military is “essential” for national security, the US should incorporate more diplomacy and engagement in multilateral institutions and should examine how to address its military “largess.”

Washington Post.

“Sessions’s Plan For Immigration Courts Would Undermine Their Integrity.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/22) editorializes that Attorney General Sessions “decided the state of the immigration courts in remarks Oct. 12 before the Justice Department’s Executive Office for Immigration Review, lamenting ‘rampant abuse and fraud’ in asylum applications.” The Post notes that as part of Sessions “push for an overhaul of the immigration system, the department also plans to begin evaluating immigration judges on the basis of how many cases they resolve.” The Post argues that “this proposal would do little to fix the United States’ backlogged immigration courts and much to undermine their integrity.” According to the Post, “implementing quotas could actually have the effect of jamming up the court system further,” as “immigrants ill-served by judges struggling to meet quotas would be more likely to battle the judges’ rulings, glutting federal appeals courts.” The Post contends that “providing more resources to immigration courts would be a much more effective means of tackling the backlog.”

“Watch What Duterte Does, Not What He Says.” A [Washington Post](#) (10/22) editorial describes Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte as “erratic, profane and crude,” and says he is “a person to whom the old adage applies: Watch what he does, not what he says.” Duterte, who launched “a nationwide extrajudicial campaign against suspected drug dealers and users in which thousands of people were killed,” has said “he may end the awful campaign. Let’s hope he means it.” The Post adds that Trump, who is scheduled to visit the Philippines in November “should do what he can to bring Mr. Duterte back toward the United States and discourage him from resuming the extrajudicial drug war.”

“Why is Va. Treating Its Students – Especially Its Black Students – Like Criminals?” The [Washington Post](#) (10/22) editorializes that “in a staggering number” of school discipline cases, “the students, who are often preteens in elementary and middle schools, are referred to police and the courts — a wildly disproportionate response that can stigmatize children at school and, in some cases, be a stain on their records for years.” According to the Post, “in the most comprehensive study on the so-called school-to-prison pipeline, published by the Center for Public Integrity in 2015, Virginia schools were the worst offenders, shunting disobedient kids to law enforcement at nearly three times the national rate.” The Post adds that “a new state law is in place to encourage local school boards to develop alternatives to suspending students, including counseling, community service and mediation,” but “lawmakers will have to keep the pressure on to tamp down what amounts to massive overreaction on the part of school authorities.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Trump Caves On Ethanol.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/22) writes that President Trump and EPA Administrator Pruitt caved under pressure from the ethanol lobby and Midwestern Republican senators when Pruitt announced Thursday that the EPA won’t reduce its proposed biofuels quota for 2018 and in fact may even increase it. The Journal argues that the decision represents a capitulation to one of Washington’s worst examples of corporate welfare and a violation of one of Trump’s key campaign promises.

“Shinzo Abe’s Big Win.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/22) says Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s victory in Sunday’s snap election does not reflect a resounding support for his policies, but instead voters’ belief that there were no other viable candidates. The

Journal says Abe's failure to deliver on his promise to boost economic growth potential is particularly damaging, and unless he revisits that promise, he will neither thwart a leadership challenge from his own party nor succeed in his call to reform the constitution.

"Richard Cordray's Bad Numbers." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/22, Journal) writes that a new Treasury Department report found that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's 2015 study – upon which it based its rule prohibiting mandatory arbitration agreements forbidding customers from filing class-action lawsuits – carried faulty analysis and that the arbitration rule in fact would hurt consumers and the economy. The Journal concludes that Senate Republicans should consider the report's findings as it potentially heads to vote this week on a Congressional Review Act resolution to overturn the CFPB rule.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[At Fidelity, New Fallout From Claims Of Sexual Harassment, Bullying](#)

[China's Pursuit Of Fugitive Businessman Guo Wengui Kicks Off Manhattan Caper Worthy Of Spy Thriller](#)

[Trump Backs Some GOP Senators As Bannon Escalates 'War' On Incumbents](#)

[Hunt For Yield Fuels Boom In Another Complex, Risky Security](#)

New York Times:

[A Newly Assertive CIA Expands Its Taliban Hunt In Afghanistan](#)

[Still Waiting For FEMA In Texas And Florida After Hurricanes](#)

[Hopes Dim For Congressional Russia Inquiries As Parties Clash](#)

[Where Internet Orders Mean Real Jobs, And New Life For Communities](#)

[Xi Jinping Pushes China's Global Rise Despite Friction And Fear](#)

[A Long-Delayed Reckoning Of The Cost Of Silence On Abuse](#)

Washington Post:

[Learning To Love The Coffee They Grow](#)

[Trump's Sons See Green In The Blues](#)

[Decisive Win For Japan's Abe](#)

[Virginia Is On Mind Of Democrats Nationwide](#)

[Retirement And College Costs Create Double Bind](#)

Financial Times:

[Shinzo Abe Gains Big Victory In Japan Election](#)

[Babis Victory In Czech Election Raises Populism Fears](#)

['Wolf Of Wall Street' Warns ICOs Are 'Biggest Scam Ever'](#)

Washington Times:

[Mueller's Top Gun In Russia Probe Known For Hardball Tactics, Overturned Rulings](#)

[Shinzo Abe, 'Trusted Trump Ally' In Japan, Wins Mandate Before Summit On North Korea, Trade](#)

[Federal Tax Loophole Let Planned Parenthood Build Clinics Financed With 'Abortion Bonds'](#)

[Abortion, Immigration Dilemmas: Feds Under Short Deadline To Resolve Case For Mexican Girl](#)

[Sessions' 'Sanctuary' Penalties Also Hurt Jurisdictions Cooperating With Immigration Agents](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Niger-US Casualty Investigation; White House-Tax Reform; Tampa-Serial Killer Manhunt; Hollywood Sexual Harassment Scandals; Oklahoma-Tornadoes; Miami Terror Plot Investigation; Ohio-Police Shooting; JFK Files Revealed; Furniture Recalls; West Virginia-Storage Fire; Bill O'Reilly-Sexual Harassment Settlement; Vegetable Recall; Long Island Robbery; Marine Air Show Family.

CBS: White House-Fallen Soldiers Call; White House-Tax Reform; Former Presidents Public Appearance; JFK Files Revealed; Severe Weather; Catalonia Independence Movement; Health-Gene Cancer Therapy; Air Pollution Health Risk; Walking-Healthy Habit.

NBC: Tampa-Serial Killer Manhunt; Hollywood Sexual Harassment Scandal; White House-Tax Reform; Oklahoma-Tornadoes; Puerto Rico-Hurricane Recovery; Japan-Election Result; North Korea Threats; China-People's Congress; Police Bodycam Effectiveness; Atlanta-New Football

Stadium; Creative Pediatrician.

Network TV At A Glance:

JFK Files Revealed – 4 minutes, 35 seconds

Hollywood Sexual Harassment Scandals – 4 minutes, 25 seconds

Tampa-Serial Killer Manhunt – 4 minutes, 15 seconds

White House-Tax Reform – 3 minutes, 50 seconds

Severe Weather – 2 minutes, 30 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Miami Terror Plot Investigation; Congress-Healthcare Bill; Fidelity-Sexual Harassment.

CBS: Kidnapped US Soldier Trial; Afghanistan-US Policy; Congress-Tax Reform; Severe Weather.

FOX: Congress-Healthcare Bill; White House-Tax Reform; US Gasoline Price.

NPR: Trump-Asia Tour; Japan-Election Result; Niger-US Casualty Investigation; Kidnapped US Soldier Trial.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with Prime Minister Loong of Singapore; presents the Medal of Honor.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Delivers remarks at an event to commemorate the anniversary of the 1983 bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon; attends the President's joint press conference with Prime Minister Loong; attends the President's presentation of the Medal of Honor.

US Senate: 3:00 PM Senate debates disaster relief supplemental – Senate convenes and resumes consideration of the House Message to Accompany 'H.R.2266, the Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act', including a vote on a motion to invoke cloture Location: Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

US House: 2:00 PM House of Representatives returns after District Work Period

5:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 469, the Sunshin for Regulations and Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2017' and 'H.R. 732, the Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act of 2017' Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

Other: 8:15 AM Singaporean PM Lee speaks at Economic Club of Washington, DC – Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong speaks at the Economic Club of Washington, DC, discussing U.S.-Singapore bilateral relations, economic developments in Singapore and the Asia-Pacific, and other global developments Location: The Mayflower Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Ave, NW, Washington, DC www.economicclub.org <https://twitter.com/TheEconomicClub>

6:00 PM Future of Health Summit – Milken Institute Future of Health Summit, bringing together over 500 thought leaders from business, govt, philanthropy, technology, life sciences, food, and health to explore solutions to improve health and wellness. Speakers include U.S. Surgeon General Vice Adm. Jerome Adams, National Institutes of Health Director Francis Collins, Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, NIH National Institute on Drug Abuse Director Nora Volkow, Democratic Sen. Cory Booker, Republican Sen. Ben Sasse, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim, PepsiCo Chairperson and CEO Indra Nooyi, SoulCycle CEO Melanie Whelan, Major League Soccer President Mark Abbott, Susan G. Komen Foundation founder Nancy Brinker, former U.S. CTO Aneesh Chopra, IBM Watson Health General Manager Deborah DiSanzo, sweetgreen co-founder Jonathan Neman, and former Acting Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services Karen DeSalvo Location: The Ritz-Carlton, Washington DC, 1150 22nd St NW, Washington, DC www.milkeninstitute.org <https://twitter.com/MilkenInstitute>

7:00 PM White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders speaks at GW on President Trump's first year – 'Trump's First Year: Will Politics, Policy and the Presidency Ever be the Same' forum, hosted by George Washington University School of Media and Public Affairs and the White House Correspondents' Association to explore the Trump presidency, deals made and lost, whether he has kept his campaign policies, and how policy can be covered during the 'Twitter presidency'. Speakers include White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, Yahoo! News Chief Washington Correspondent Olivier Knox, Fox News Chief White House Correspondent

John Roberts, American Urban Radio Networks White House correspondent and Washington Bureau Chief April Ryan, The New York Times White House Correspondent Glenn Thrush, GW Professor of Political Science Sarah Binder, Bloomberg News White House Correspondent Margaret Talev and GW School of Media and Public Affairs Director Frank Sesno Location: George Washington University School of Media and Public Affairs, 805 21st St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.gwu.edu/index.cfm> <https://twitter.com/GWTweets>

Military Officers Association of America Annual Meeting – Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) Annual Meeting, including Career Fair, MOAA Partners and Exhibitors Expo, Community Heroes Awards Night, Congressional Breakfast, and Chapter Levels of Excellence Award Ceremony Location: Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites Alexandria-Historic District, 625 First St, Alexandria, VA <http://www.moaa.org/> <https://twitter.com/MilitaryOfficer>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- New York Times: Trump Plans To Shrink Two National Monuments In Utah.
- Los Angeles Times: Under Trump, The Lines Are Drawn For A Battle Over Resources In The West.
- Breitbart: Interior Department Kickstarts Initiative To Get Veterans Back Into America's Wild.
- E&E Publishing: Key Obama-Era Leasing Reform To Get The Ax.
- Politico Morning Energy: Energy Dominance Meets Market Realities.
- The Guardian (UK): Ryan Zinke: Cowboy In Trump's Cabinet Taking Aim At America's Public Lands.
- Daily Sabah (TUR): Turkish Touch On Los Angeles.

- KTVZ-TV Bend (OR): Western Senators Urge Longer Sage Grouse Comment Period.
- The Hill: Trump Administration's Costly One-Two Punch For Taxpayers.
- Billings (MT) Gazette: Guest Opinion: Don't Drill Beside TR's National Park.
- The Hill: It's Congress' Turn To Fight Wildfires.
- Seattle Times: Don't Let Congress Hand Arctic Refuge To Big Oil And Gas.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Deadline Near For Tribal Members To Claim Settlement Money.
- Tribal Leaders Call Land-Use Bill Step In Right Direction.
- Tribal Leaders Received Payments In Failed Brokerage Deal.

Bureau Of Land Management

- CBS: CBS: Wild Horse Protection.
- Taos (NM) News: State, BLM Work Together On Land Exchange.
- U.S. News & World Report: Plan Keeps Most Of Sonoran Desert Monument Open To Shooters.
- KSNV-TV Las Vegas: Bunday, Sons Finally Get Their Day (more Likely Months) In Court For Armed 2014 Standoff.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- Air Gun Oil Exploration Might Blast Rare Whale Out Of The Gulf.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Idaho Approves \$3 Million To Study Raising Boise River Dams.

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

- How A 672,000-Gallon Oil Spill Was Nearly Invisible.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- CNN: Forensics Lab Solves Crimes Against Animals.
- U.S. News & World Report: Wildlife Refuge In New England Set For Major Expansion.
- Victoria (TX) Advocate: First Whooping Cranes Sighted At Wildlife Refuge.

National Park Service

- U.S. News & World Report: Lawmakers: High User Fees Could Hurt Acadia, National Parks.
- New York Times: Trump Celebrates Halloween Early With Journalists' Children.
- Los Angeles Times: Too Many Tourists: Crowding Is A Big Headache At National Parks And Theme Parks.
- CNN: Parks Service Denies Permit For Giant Statue Of Naked Woman On National Mall.
- Washington Examiner: Feds Pull Funding For Black Panther Legacy Project In Berkeley After Backlash.
- Denver Post: Light Pollution Is Stealing Your View Of The Stars.
- Rafu Shimpo (CA): Culture Of Harassment At NPS 'Completely Unacceptable'.
- Marin (CA) Independent Journal: Marin Resident To Head Golden Gate National Recreation Area.
- USA Today: Once-thriving Thurmond, W.Va., Is Now A Coal-country Ghost Town.

Office Of Surface Mining

- Fourpole Creek Watershed Association Honored For Work Protecting Local Waterway.

US Geological Survey

- San Jose (CA) Mercury News: Proposed Name Change For Confederate Corners Subject Of Monterey County Online Survey.
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- Associated Press: Trump Blasts Mueller Probe Amid Reports That Charges Could Be Announced Today.
- New York Times: Mattis Threatens "Massive" Military Response From US Should North Korea Use Nuclear Weapons.
- NBC: Mattis, Pence Deliver New Warning To North Korea Over Nuclear Weapons.
- CBS: Federal Grand Jury Approves First Criminal Charges In Russia Investigation.
- Washington Post: WPost A1: While Trump Is Eager Salesman On Tax Reform, Congress Crafting Policy.
- Bloomberg News: Brady Announces Republican Tax Plan Will Preserve Itemized Property Tax

Deduction.

- Wall Street Journal: National Association of Home Builders To Oppose GOP Tax Bill.
- Reuters: Despite Paris Accord Withdrawal, US To Attend Global Climate Change Talks.
- Chicago Sun-Times: Gore: "Zero Chance" Trump And Pruitt Will Change Their Minds On Climate Change.
- USA Today: USA Today Weighs Administration's Approach To Clean Power Plan.

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 - "Insect Armageddon."
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 - "Abandoned In Calais."
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DOI In The News

Puerto Rick Gov. Rosselló Announces Cancellation Of Whitefish Energy Contract.

On Sunday, Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló announced the cancellation of energy firm Whitefish Energy's contract with the Puerto Rico Electrical Power Authority. On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/29, story 5, 2:00, Llamas), Victor Oquendo reported on the "shock announcement from the governor." Rosselló: "I have asked the board of the power authority to invoke the cancellation clause in the contract immediately." Oquendo: "That contract with Whitefish Energy could soon be scrapped after the revelations the Montana power company had just two employees when it was awarded a massive \$300 million contract to restore power across the island," and that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "hails from the same town the company is based in." [Politico](#) (10/29, Wilhelm) reports that Zinke said on Friday that he had "'absolutely nothing to do' with the awarding of the contract to Whitefish."

On the [CBS Weekend News](#) (10/29, story 4, 2:00, Quijano), David Begnaud reported, "Three hours after the governor's surprise announcement, Ricardo Ramos, head of the Puerto Rico Electrical Power Authority, announced that the contract will be canceled, but only after Whitefish completes its current work." Ramos: "It becomes effective in 30 days." Begnaud: "So far, Ramos says Whitefish has been paid nearly \$11 million, and there is another \$9.8 million payment that is pending." The [AP](#) (10/29, Coffey, Levin, Fieser) reports that Rosselló also "said that Whitefish will continue with current work, but the contract would then be scrapped – leading to delay of 10 to 12 weeks in completing the work."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/29, story 2, 2:35, Snow), Gabe Gutierrez reported that Whitefish Energy CEO Andy Techmanski said that he "had nothing to hide. ... You used LinkedIn to get a \$300 million contract?" Techmanski: "LinkedIn's going love this, but yeah." Gutierrez: "He strongly denies that [Zinke] or anyone else in the Trump Administration had anything to do with the contract. Still, FEMA said it had significant concerns and never reviewed the document, despite wording that suggested otherwise. ... Techmanski says that language wasn't supposed to be there and had been deleted from an amended version of the contract."

[USA Today](#) (10/29, Gomez) reports, "Democrats and Republicans in Congress have called for investigations, and last week...Rosselló requested that the inspector general of the Department of Homeland Security look into the contract." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/29, Scurria) reports that Sens. Maria Cantwell and Ron Wyden have also asked the US Comptroller General to investigate the use of public money under the Whitefish contract. The [New York Times](#) (10/29, Robles, Caron) reports, "Critics have raised questions about why the power authority opted not to request aid from mainland utilities after Hurricane Maria struck the territory."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/29, Mufson) reports that Rosselló's statements have "added to the confusion about the oversight of the utility and the commonwealth, both of which are bankrupt. A financial oversight board Congress created for Puerto Rico is planning to ask a federal court this week for clear authority to examine contracts as small as \$10 million," and a federal judge "is overseeing the restructuring of Puerto Rico's more than \$70 billion in debts."

Before the announcement, San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz was asked on [MSNBC's AM Joy](#) (10/29) if she supported a cancellation. Cruz said, "Yes, I called for that last week. There were too many questions. It was evident that this company did not have everything that was required to complete the mission that it has to do in Puerto Rico."

Also reporting are [NPR](#) (10/27, Wamsley), [The Hill](#) (10/27, Bowden), [The Hill](#) (10/28, Cama, Henry), and the [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (10/27, Gomez).

Trump Administration Disavows Puerto Rico Power Contract. The [AP](#) (10/27, Biesecker, Daly) reports the Trump Administration "scrambled Friday to distance itself from the decision to award a \$300 million contract to help restore Puerto Rico's power grid to a tiny Montana company from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's hometown," as White House press secretary Sarah Sanders "said federal officials played no role in the selection of Whitefish Energy Holdings by the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority." Sanders "said Zinke had given the president his personal assurance that he had nothing to do with what she described as 'a state and local decision made by the Puerto Rican authorities and not the federal government.'" The AP reports Zinke "also issued a fiery denial on Twitter, saying 'Only in elitist Washington, D.C., would being from a small town be considered a crime.'" In addition, [Reuters](#) (10/27, Heavey, Cowan, DiSavino) reports White House spokesman Raj Shah "said that the administration's 'understanding' was that the contract was awarded solely by PREPA, and they are 'not aware of any federal involvement' in the deal."

In the lead [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/27, lead story, 3:05, Muir) story, chief White House correspondent Jonathan Karl reported that the two-year-old company has "just two employees, but clear political ties to the Trump Administration." Karl added that "before this, it's largest previous federal contract just over \$1 million, about 1/300th the size of the Puerto Rico deal." According to Karl, Whitefish Energy's "main financial backer, Dallas based HBC Investments, was founded by Joe Colonna, who donated more than \$75,000 to Energy Secretary Perry's 2008 and 2012 campaigns as well as "nearly \$90,000 to support the Trump campaign and the RNC in 2016." However, an Energy Department spokesperson said the department "was not involved in the selection of Whitefish for this contract."

Meanwhile, the [New York Times](#) (10/27, Pérez-Peña) reports the Federal Emergency Management Agency "said on Friday that it had 'significant concerns'" about the Whitefish Energy contract and "warned that it might refuse to cover any costs if the contract between Whitefish Energy and the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, known as Prepa, was found to be improper." The [Washington Post](#) (10/27, Davis) reports FEMA also "said in a statement that it is looking into whether the contract between Whitefish Energy and the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, or PREPA, 'followed applicable regulations to ensure that federal money is properly spent.'" Ricardo Ramos, the Executive Director of Prepa, in an interview on Friday told the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/27, Scurria) that provisions in the agreement claiming FEMA had approved the deal were a mistake caused by his rush to sign the deal. Ramos also expressed hope that the controversy would not drive the company to back out of the contract.

[Reuters](#) (10/27, Heavey) reports a spokesman for Whitefish Energy in an interview with MSNBC defended the company's contract as having been reached "in good faith with PREPA." He asserted the deal "speaks for itself" and added, "There's nothing there."

However, on the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/27, lead story, 2:25, Mason), correspondent David Begnaud reported San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz "believes the deal with Whitefish Energy should be voided. She described the company as 'inadequate' and asked for transparency." Julianna Goldman reported in the second [CBS Evening News](#) (10/27, story 2, 1:55, Mason) segment that several lawmakers are demanding further investigations, and House Minority Leader Pelosi late Friday called for the contract "to be terminated immediately." Goldman added that the Department of Homeland Security's inspector general has agreed to conduct an

audit of the company's ties to lawmakers and government officials, "but there's one aspect of the deal that appears to be off limits. The contract says federal and state officials 'don't have the right to review the cost and profit elements of the labor rates.' Like \$462 per hour for a subcontractor site supervisor, and time and a half for anyone working over 40 hours."

Also reporting are the [Washington Times](#) (10/27, Boyer), [The Hill](#) (10/27, Fabian), [The Hill](#) (10/27, Cama), [Politico](#) (10/27, Lima, Lefebvre), the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/27, Siciliano), the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/27, Siegel), [Fox News](#) (10/27), and [Montana Public Radio](#) (10/27, Ouellet, Hegyi).

Whitefish Energy HQ Based Out Of Home Owned By CEO In Zinke's Hometown. On the [CBS Weekend News](#) (10/28, story 3, 2:00, Ninan), David Begnaud recounted visiting the headquarters of Whitefish Energy Holdings "in a remote, affluent area nestled in the mountains of northwestern Montana" that is also the hometown of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. Begnaud reported "the headquarters turns out to be a two-bedroom, two-bath house that's owned by" CEO Andy Techmanski, and "according to real estate record online, the house was up for sale, but it was taken off the market two days after Hurricane Maria made landfall in Puerto Rico." Begnaud said that since winning a \$300 million contract with Puerto Rico's power authority PREPA, Whitefish has grown from two employees to more than 300. He added that the [AP](#) has revealed "the Secretary's son at one time had a job with Whitefish Energy," although Zinke "is insisting he had absolutely nothing to do with" the contract.

Trump Plans To Shrink Two National Monuments In Utah.

The [New York Times](#) (10/27, Friedman) reports Sen. Orrin Hatch on Friday "said...that President Trump had told him the administration would shrink" Bears Ears National Monument, created by former President Obama, and the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, established by former President Clinton, based on the recommendation of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. White House press secretary Sarah Sanders "said a final report would be released 'shortly,'" but she "did not confirm whether the president has signed off on it in part or in whole." Sanders said, "I'm not going to get ahead of the president's announcement on the specifics of that, but I can tell you he will be going to Utah in the first part of early December and we will release more details at that point, if not before."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/27, Eilperin, Fears) reports "Trump did not specify exactly how he would change the boundaries, according to Hatch spokesman Matt Whitlock, though Interior Department officials have privately indicated that the administration plans to shrink it by hundreds of thousands of acres." Hatch said, "I was incredibly grateful the President called this morning to let us know that he is approving Secretary Zinke's recommendation on Bears Ears." Hatch added, "We believe in the importance of protecting these sacred antiquities, but Secretary Zinke and the Trump administration rolled up their sleeves to dig in, talk to locals, talk to local tribes, and find a better way to do it. We'll continue to work closely with them moving forward to ensure Utahns have a voice."

The [AP](#) (10/27, Daly) reports that "the Republican-led San Juan County, Utah commission welcomed Trump's action on Bears Ears." According to the article, "the three-member panel objected to the monument designation, saying it was too large and could hurt residents' ability to earn a living from livestock grazing."

The [AP](#) (10/28, Daly) adds that "environmental groups have promised to take the Trump administration to court to block any attempts to rescind or reduce the monument designations." [Reuters](#) (10/27, Flitter) reports that "the Navajo, who consider Bears Ears sacred ground, on Friday followed up their comment in September that they would sue the Trump administration for violating the Antiquities Act if it tried to reduce the monument's size." Ethel Branch, the Navajo Nation's attorney general, said, "The Navajo Nation stands ready to defend the Bears Ears National Monument. We have a complaint ready to file upon official action by the President."

Also reporting are [The Hill](#) (10/27, Henry), the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/27, Carlton), the [Washington Post](#) (10/27, Eilperin, Fears), the [Washington Times](#) (10/27, Persons), the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/27, Siegel), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/27, Schneider), [Reuters](#) (10/27, Flitter), [CNN](#) (10/27, Merica), [Newsweek](#) (10/28, Kwong), the [Huffington Post](#) (10/28, Papenfuss), the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (10/27, York), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (10/27, Milman, Agencies), the [Salt Lake City Weekly](#) (10/27, Harris), [WEAR-TV Mobile \(AL\)](#) Mobile, AL (10/27, Mullahy), [KSTU-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (10/27, Edwards, Wells), and [KTVX-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (10/27, Mills).

Trump To Visit Utah Ahead Of Decision On Bears Ears Monument. The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/27, Morrongiello) reports that President Trump will "visit Utah in early December where he is

expected to shrink the size of two national monuments – Bears Ears and Grand Staircase – that were designated under previous administrations.” White House press secretary Sarah Sanders “announced the upcoming visit at a briefing on Friday, hours after Trump met with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to discuss his review of various monument designations.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (10/27, Burr, Maffly) and the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/27, O'Donoghue).

Under Trump, The Lines Are Drawn For A Battle Over Resources In The West.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/27, Schneider) reports that “nearly a year after the 2016 election, a momentous 21st century confrontation is building over coal mining that is serving as a proxy for upcoming skirmishes over the West’s rural extractive economies.” According to the article, “the issue for both sides, as it was in the 1980s under the Reagan administration, is whether hard-rock mining, oil and gas, timber harvesting and irrigated agriculture will thrive or fade away.” Currently, “fossil fuel development commands the playing field.” The article notes that “in his first major policy speech, delivered in late September, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke laid out the contours of the administration’s perspective for an audience at the Heritage Foundation.” Zinke said, “This administration, the president, believes in American energy dominance. Our goal is an America that is the strongest energy superpower this world has ever known. I can assure you today that the war on American energy is over.”

Interior Department Kickstarts Initiative To Get Veterans Back Into America’s Wild.

[Breitbart](#) (10/27, Wong) reports that the Interior Department on Thursday welcomed “a gathering of veterans, hunting, and wildlife groups” for a “meeting to discuss how to improve access for hunting and fishing for veterans, particularly wounded warriors and those with PTSD.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “hosted the gathering to kickstart the initiative, one of his big priorities at the department.” Addressing the group, Zinke said, “Our veterans are spending more time overseas than they are at home. And it has an effect on the VA. It has an effect on communities because normal has become over there, rather than over here, so I’m concerned about the experience when they come home that our public lands are once again returned to the people.” Zinke continued, “Hunting and fishing is part of our legacy. And a lot of veterans are part of our hunting and fishing experience, and I am concerned that we’ve seen a lack of access, roads being closed, the wilderness, even.”

Key Obama-Era Leasing Reform To Get The Ax.

[E&E Publishing](#) (10/27, Streater) reported the Interior Department is working to eliminate master leasing plans, “a key Obama-era leasing reform strategy designed to guide oil and natural gas development away from areas with high natural and cultural resource values.” MLPs allowed the Bureau of Land Management to prevent energy development around national parks and other environmentally sensitive areas. Interior argues that removing MLPs will streamline the regulatory process for energy development on public lands, which instead will be guided by individual resource management plans. While MLP proponents say they offer certainty for the energy industry on where new oil and gas and mining activity is suitable, “reducing challenges to leases,” the industry complained that MLPs “restrict access to valuable domestic energy resources.”

Energy Dominance Meets Market Realities.

[Politico Morning Energy](#) (10/27, Adragna) reports that the Interior Department “plans to offer 10 million onshore acres in the National Petroleum Reserve in northern Alaska in December and 77 million offshore acres across the entire Gulf of Mexico in March, but the combination of low oil prices and ample private land available for fracking may keep some away.” Ken Medlock, director of the Baker Institute’s Center for Energy Studies at Rice University in Houston, said, “It’s almost like having a fire sale of all the acreage. Wouldn’t surprise me at all if there’s a lot of acreage that doesn’t sell.”

Ryan Zinke: Cowboy In Trump’s Cabinet Taking Aim At America’s Public Lands.

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (10/27, McLaughlin, Montana) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “meticulously crafts his image as wilderness-loving western cowboy and sportsman.” However, “nine months into his job at the Department of the Interior, the federal agency that oversees most public lands and natural resources, the act is wearing thin with environmentalists and outdoors enthusiasts who say his early moves demonstrate strong allegiance to the oil, gas and

other extractive industries seeking access to some of America's most spectacular protected landscapes." Land Tawney, president of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, said, "He sold himself as a Theodore Roosevelt Republican. That means wise use. More and more sportsmen are waking up to what's going on."

Additional commentary appeared in the [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (10/28, McCoy).

Turkish Touch On Los Angeles.

The [Daily Sabah \(TUR\)](#) (10/28, Sayiner) reports that "the first Hollywood Turkish Film Festival was held on Oct. 20-22." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "participated in the festival where famous Turkish actors and actresses, including Demet Akbag, Selçuk Yöntem and Meryem Üzerli, were also in attendance."

Western Senators Urge Longer Sage Grouse Comment Period.

[KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (10/27) reports that "Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley, along with their Western Democratic colleagues, on Friday urged Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke to extend the comment period by 45 days for changes to the Greater Sage-grouse conservation plans." The letter from seven Western senators "responds to the Trump administration publishing a Notice of Intent earlier this month to amend Greater Sage-grouse conservation plans with only a 45-day comment period, closing on November 27." They wrote, "Given the importance and complexity of the proposed rule, and the intersection with BLM's resource management plans, it is essential that all stakeholders have sufficient opportunity to prepare and provide feedback."

Trump Administration's Costly One-Two Punch For Taxpayers.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (10/29, Jenkins), David Jenkins, the president of Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship, criticizes the "policy rollbacks" Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt are "pursuing at the behest of special interests." Jenkins points to the rules "designed to limit the waste of taxpayer-owned natural gas, increase royalty revenue and reduce air pollution." He argues "these common-sense standards were designed to help cut the approximately \$2 billion worth of natural gas (primarily made up of methane) currently wasted by the oil and gas industry every year." Jenkins urges the Trump Administration to "halt efforts to roll back methane waste rules designed to protect taxpayers and their resources."

Guest Opinion: Don't Drill Beside TR's National Park.

In an op-ed for the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (10/27, O'Neill), Jayson O'Neill, deputy director of the Western Values Project, claims that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "set on opening up any and all of our public lands to special interests, including a pending oil and gas lease proposal that borders Theodore Roosevelt National Park, which was created to honor and protect Roosevelt's former ranch and conservation legacy." O'Neill argues that "through this effort they are getting rid of common-sense rules that protect our national parks, wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreation opportunities from the very industrial exploitation that Roosevelt warned us of." He writes that "if Zinke wants to honor Roosevelt's legacy, he should not continue to give our national park and monument landscapes away to special interests."

It's Congress' Turn To Fight Wildfires.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (10/28, HumphriesOpinion Contributor —), Rebecca Humphries, CEO of the National Wild Turkey Federation, urges Congress "to implement long-needed changes to laws regulating national forest management and end the erosion of the Forest Service's budget for proactive forest work." She argues that "active forest management and forest restoration can significantly diminish the severity of damage caused by fire." But to do so, agencies "need adequate funding to effectively manage these lands."

Don't Let Congress Hand Arctic Refuge To Big Oil And Gas.

Natural Resources Defense Council President Rhea Suh, in an op-ed in the [Seattle Times](#) (10/27, Suh), criticized GOP leaders in Congress as having "stooped to backdoor budget chicanery to try and raid the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge" in "a shameful betrayal of the public interest" that must be defeated. Other provisions would open to drilling "federal waters in the Arctic Ocean, the eastern Gulf of Mexico and up and down the Atlantic seaboard, irreplaceable marine and coastal habitat that have been protected from the oil and gas industry." Suh calls for the public "to stand up and demand that Congress strip these pernicious provisions out of the final budget language

that both houses agree to and make sure they do no more damage.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Deadline Near For Tribal Members To Claim Settlement Money.

The [AP](#) (10/27) reports that “American Indian tribal members and their descendants have until Nov. 27 to ask for their share of the remainder of \$3.4 billion in settlement money awarded to Native Americans after a major class-action lawsuit against the federal government.” U.S. District of Columbia District Court Judge Thomas Hogan set the deadline in a January order, “after it was apparent that efforts to find tribe members to entitled to the award money listed as ‘whereabouts unknown’ were no longer as successful.” According to the article, “unclaimed funds that remain after the deadline passes will be added to the Cobell Educational Scholarship Fund.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (10/27, Wilson).

Tribal Leaders Call Land-Use Bill Step In Right Direction.

The [AP](#) (10/29, Windes) reports that “tribal leaders backed a House bill Wednesday that would give tribes the ability to control more of their land, instead of having to get federal approval for virtually any use.” The American Indian Empowerment Act would “let tribes shift federally controlled trust land to ‘restricted fee land,’ a move that could save millions of dollars that tribes now spend on ‘burdensome regulation,’ while restoring a level of tribal sovereignty.” The article adds that “while they called the bill a step in the right direction, however, witnesses said they are concerned about ambiguities in the thin, three-page bill that ‘could allow state or local governments to implement property taxes on tribal land,’ among other issues.”

Tribal Leaders Received Payments In Failed Brokerage Deal.

The [Sioux Falls \(SD\) Argus Leader](#) (10/27, Ellis) reports that Lower Brule Tribal Council members were “among those who received payments from a taxpayer guaranteed loan that was used to buy a failing Wall Street brokerage firm.” However, “the payments to tribal members were not illegal and simply part of doing business in Indian Country.” Those are among the conclusions of an investigation by the Interior Department “into the tribe’s purchase of Westrock Group, a brokerage that went bankrupt shortly after the Lower Brule tribe bought it.”

Bureau Of Land Management

CBS: Wild Horse Protection.

The [CBS Weekend News](#) (10/29, story 8, 2:25, Quijano) reported, “President Trump’s proposed budget has ignited a battle in the wild west between the livestock industry and animal rights activists. It’s a dispute over grazing territory. Tens of thousands of wild horses could end up being slaughtered.”

State, BLM Work Together On Land Exchange.

The [Taos \(NM\) News](#) (10/28) reports that New Mexico State Land Commissioner Aubrey Dunn and Acting Bureau of Land Management New Mexico State Director Aden Seidlitz s”igned a proclamation Friday (Oct. 27), agreeing to work together on a land exchange that will consolidate state and federal holdings within the Río Grande del Norte National Monument and the Sabinoso Wilderness Area.” The Interior Department is “expected to transfer 43,000 acres of state-owned surface and mineral estate within the monument and the wilderness area to the BLM in exchange for giving the state 78,000 federal acres in several counties including Chaves, Colfax, Guadalupe, Lincoln, McKinley, Mora, Otero, Rio Arriba, San Juan, Sandoval, Santa Fe, Socorro and Torrance Counties.”

Plan Keeps Most Of Sonoran Desert Monument Open To Shooters.

The [AP](#) (10/28, VERNILE) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has “recommended closing 53,300 acres of the Sonoran Desert National Monument to recreational shooting, but keeping the remaining 443,000 open to shooters.” The plan, “posted Oct. 20 in the Federal Register, calls for making 11 percent of the monument’s land off-limits to shooting.” The article notes that “hunting is not affected by any of the proposals considered by the bureau, and would be allowed anywhere in the monument with the proper permits.”

Bundey, Sons Finally Get Their Day (more Likely Months) In Court For Armed 2014 Standoff.

[KSNV-TV](#) Las Vegas (10/29, Clemons) reports from Las Vegas that “Bunkerville rancher Cliven Bundy and two of his sons – Ryan and Ammon along with independent militia leader Ryan Payne – will appear in federal court at 8:30 a.m.” this morning “as jury selection begins in a long-awaited trial.” The four “have been in a federal detention for nearly two years, awaiting earlier trials of others connected to the confrontation,” and “they face potential decades in prison if convicted of conspiracy and other charges related to the 2014 incident.” KSNV-TV adds that in April 2014, “Bundy and his supporters had a week of confrontations with Bureau of Land Management Rangers and contractors hired by the government to confiscate nearly 1,000 head of his cattle grazing in the Gold Butte area.” Two previous trials of other defendants “ended with several acquittals and just a pair of convictions, leading three defendants to cut plea deals with prosecutors on much lesser charges.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (10/28, Ferrara, Lochhead).

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Air Gun Oil Exploration Might Blast Rare Whale Out Of The Gulf.

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/27, Baurick) reported the Center for Biological Diversity is petitioning to have the Gulf of Mexico’s population of Cuvier’s beaked whales listed under the Endangered Species Act, warning that seismic air gun testing could deafen or kill the remaining numbers. The whale is the deepest diving mammal, and has already struggled because of the Gulf’s oil industry, according to Abel Caldiva, a biologist with the center. Endangered status could lead to the northern Gulf being designated a critical habitat, and lead to the development of a federal recovery plan for the whale.

Bureau Of Reclamation

Idaho Approves \$3 Million To Study Raising Boise River Dams.

The [AP](#) (10/28) reports that “Idaho officials have approved spending \$3 million to help pay for a federal study to increase the height of three dams on the Boise River.” The Idaho Water Resources Board on Tuesday “approved paying for half of the \$6 million study that requires a 50 percent non-federal match.” The Bureau of Reclamation study will “look at raising Anderson Ranch Dam by 6 feet, Arrowrock Dam by 10 feet and Lucky Peak Dam by 4 feet.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (10/27, Ellis).

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

How A 672,000-Gallon Oil Spill Was Nearly Invisible.

The [New York Times](#) (10/29, Caron) reports that when an oil pipeline owned by LLOG Exploration, lying about a mile below the surface of the Gulf of Mexico, fractured in early October, about 672,000 gallons of oil escaped, in what appears “to be the largest since the Deepwater Horizon explosion in 2010.” However, “hardly any of it was visible” on the surface, as “the oil seemed to have completely disappeared.” The oil, under high pressure and seeping through a small fracture, escaped in droplets measured in microns, according to Lt. Cmdr. Steven Youde of the Coast Guard. Much of the oil was eaten by oil-degrading bacteria, with larger droplets that rose to the surface broken down by “sunlight, wind and wave action.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Forensics Lab Solves Crimes Against Animals.

[CNN](#) (10/29) provided a look at the United States Fish and Wildlife Service Forensics Laboratory, “the only lab in the world devoted entirely to investigating crimes against animals.” According to the article, “located in Ashland, Oregon, this state-of-the-art facility boasts a pathology department, an on-site forensic ornithologist and a genetics team to investigate illegal animal

killings, smuggling and other crimes.”

Wildlife Refuge In New England Set For Major Expansion.

The [AP](#) (10/29, Casey) reports that “a plan to significantly expand a wildlife refuge that covers parts of the Connecticut River watershed in New England is running into opposition from the timber industry and governors in several states.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “earlier this year released a 15-year conservation plan for the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, which covers more than 37,000 acres in Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Connecticut.” The agency “identified 197,000 acres that could be added to the refuge either through purchases or other agreements with land owners or nonprofits.”

First Whooping Cranes Sighted At Wildlife Refuge.

The [Victoria \(TX\) Advocate](#) (10/27, Priest) reports that “whooping cranes are back on the Texas Coast, about two months after Hurricane Harvey changed their wintering grounds.” Wade Harrell, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services’ whooping crane recovery coordinator, said Friday, “Two groups of two were spotted at different times and at different locations. I think the first group was on Wednesday and the second group was on Thursday. They were adults, and that’s pretty typical. The family groups or the pairs with juveniles are usually the last to arrive.” Harrell said the whooping cranes were seen on Blackjack Peninsula at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge.

National Park Service

Lawmakers: High User Fees Could Hurt Acadia, National Parks.

The [AP](#) (10/27) reports that “Maine’s congressional delegation is turning a critical eye on a U.S. Department of the Interior proposal to raise fees at national parks, including Acadia National Park.” Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King “sent a letter to the department after an announcement that it’s proposing increasing fees at 17 national parks. The peak season increases would help offset overdue maintenance costs.” They “say the department should consider creating a National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund or Conservation Service Corp to help address the backlog.”

The [AP](#) (10/27) reports that Washington Gov. Jay Inslee “says that a National Park Service plan to impose steep increases in entrance fees at 17 of its most popular parks would hurt rural counties in Washington state.” In a letter sent to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Thursday, Inslee “says the increase would likely decrease the number of visitors to the parks, and that the cost would put the parks out of reach to lower and middle income families.”

Also reporting are the [Daily World \(WA\)](#) (10/28), the [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (10/28, Frissell, Reilly), the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (10/27, Sambides), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/27, Kasler), and [KCNC-TV Denver](#) Denver (10/27, Boyd).

Commentary in the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/27, Board), the [Denver Post](#) (10/27), the [New Republic](#) (10/27, Atkin), and the [Canandaigua \(NY\) Daily Messenger](#) (10/29, Lisenbee) criticized the proposal, while the [Chicago Tribune](#) (10/27, Board) supported it in an editorial.

Trump Celebrates Halloween Early With Journalists’ Children.

The [New York Times](#) (10/27, Flegenheimer) reports that “for some 180 seconds on Friday,” the “Halloween-costumed” children of White House reporters “inspired a quintessential Trump performance – part executive gripe session, part grandfatherly charm, part open-mic night for the under-12 set.”

Although the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/27, story 12, 0:25, Mason) in a brief report acknowledged “Trump observed a truce with reporters...long enough to invite their kids into the Oval Office for an early Halloween celebration,” [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/27, story 10, 0:40, Muir) broadcast the President asking, “So how does the press treat you?” He continued, “I’ll bet you get treated better by the press than anybody in the world, right? Huh? I think so. Hi, sweetie. Well, congratulations, folks. You did a good job.” Trump added, “You did a good job. Here you did a good job. I wouldn’t say you did very well here. But really beautiful children.”

The [AP](#) (10/27) reports that “the president will also be welcoming ghost[s] and goblins to the South Lawn for trick-or-treating on the eve of Halloween on Monday.” The AP adds that “federal agencies including NASA, the Secret Service and the National Park Service also will be handing out giveaways.”

Additional coverage was provided by [ABC News](#) (10/29, Caplan).

Too Many Tourists: Crowding Is A Big Headache At National Parks And Theme Parks.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/28, Martin) reports that “across the country, people have been trekking to national parks, theme parks and other tourist attractions in record numbers during the past few years, creating an unexpected problem for the tourism industry: too many customers.” Without a solution, managers “fear that long lines and unruly crowds ultimately will turn off future visitors.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/27, Reese).

Parks Service Denies Permit For Giant Statue Of Naked Woman On National Mall.

[CNN](#) (10/27, Tatum) reports that “the group behind an effort to bring a 45-foot-tall sculpture of a naked woman to the National Mall says it is ‘looking to formalize litigation’ after the National Park Service denied approval of the statue.” Natalie White, spokeswoman for Catharsis on the Mall, said in a statement, “We need a law firm willing to take on overly restrictive NPS rules that inappropriately seem to value the preservation of the perceived aesthetic of the National Mall over First Amendment activities. Historical use of this public space includes free-speech demonstrations that continue to shape the character of our country.”

Also reporting are [Newsweek](#) (10/27, Solis).

Feds Pull Funding For Black Panther Legacy Project In Berkeley After Backlash.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/29, Lim) reports that “a Black Panther Party legacy project at the University of California Berkeley will no longer proceed after the National Park Service bowed to pressure applied by conservative organizations and pulled federal funding, according to a report.” The National Park Service “announced in September it would award \$98,000 to Ula Taylor, UC Berkeley’s incoming African-American studies chairwoman,” for the Black Panther Party Research, Interpretation & Memory Project. Spokesman Craig Dalby said, “After an additional review of the project, the [National Park Service] decided not to move forward with funding the project.”

Also reporting are the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (10/27, Robertson) and the [East Bay \(CA\) Times](#) (10/27, Drummond).

Light Pollution Is Stealing Your View Of The Stars.

National Parks Want To Give It Back. The [Denver Post](#) (10/29, Finley) reports that managers at national parks are “trying to set themselves up as preserves by obtaining official ‘dark sky’ designations.” Karen Treviño, chief of National Park Service’s Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division, said, “On one hand, it would be an honor to be able to provide the American public with an experience they are seeking, particularly if they cannot get that anyplace else. That’s partly why national parks were established. On the other, it’s kind of sad to think we might get to a point one day where national parks are the only places where Americans could have that type of experience.”

Culture Of Harassment At NPS ‘Completely Unacceptable’.

The [Rafu Shimpo \(CA\)](#) (10/26) reports that Sen. Mazie Hirono, ranking member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks, “on Oct. 13 called for action to be taken following the release of a National Park Service (NPS) survey that found that 38 percent of NPS employees have been harassed or discriminated against in the past year.” The Interior Department “announced that NPS will receive additional resources to address complaints and expand training.” Hirono said, “Today’s announcement confirms what we’ve known for some time – there is a pervasive culture of workplace harassment in the National Park Service. Continued silence and inaction are completely unacceptable. Working together, we can provide the necessary oversight and resources to ensure that all NPS employees – regardless of age, race, gender, and sexual orientation – have a safe working environment.”

Additional coverage of the issue was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (10/27, Davidson).

Marin Resident To Head Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

The [Marin \(CA\) Independent Journal](#) (10/27, Prado) reports that Laura Joss, regional director for the National Park Service’s Pacific West Region, will become the next superintendent of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in November. Joss said, “It’s been a dream job for years. I’m so happy and amazed that this opportunity came about.”

Once-thriving Thurmond, W.Va., Is Now A Coal-country Ghost Town.

[USA Today](#) (10/27) reports on Thurmond, “a ghost town whose fortunes rose and fell with the

coal industry." According to the article, "much of the once-bustling town of 500 is now owned by the National Park Service's New River Gorge National River."

Additional coverage was provided by [USA Today](#) (10/27, Bordsen).

Office Of Surface Mining

Fourpole Creek Watershed Association Honored For Work Protecting Local Waterway.

The [Huntington \(WV\) Herald-Dispatch](#) (10/28) reports that "watershed volunteers were recognized for their tireless efforts of working for clean water in WV for the 19th year at Watershed Celebration Day an event hosted by Friends of the Cheat and the WV Watershed Network earlier this year." According to the article, "volunteers took part in tours of the Cheat River watershed as they floated down the river to learn the positive impact of tourism or hiked into the mountains to see how volunteers can plan, fund, and implement remedial projects that treat acid mine drainage." Rick Buckley, with the Office of Surface Mining, "an original partner helping FOC clean up pollution from old coal mine drainage in the Cheat Watershed," said, "The Friends of the Cheat (FOC) has been in existence for 23 years and are both locally and nationally recognized for their leadership role and determination to restore, preserve, and promote the outstanding natural qualities of the Cheat Watershed. It is exciting for us to have them host other volunteers and demonstrate the keys to their many successes."

US Geological Survey

Proposed Name Change For Confederate Corners Subject Of Monterey County Online Survey.

The [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (10/27, Johnson) reports that "seeking community input on possible renaming of the little known "Confederate Corners" intersection, Supervisor Jane Parker and Monterey County staff have released an online survey allowing the public to weigh in." The survey says "that the Board of Supervisors has been asked by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names to make a recommendation about how to handle the Confederate Corners name, which the U.S. Geological Survey uses to designate the intersection of Monterey-Salinas Highway and Hitchcock Road where former Confederate soldiers settled after the Civil War." The survey, "which will accept responses until Nov. 8, asks respondents to decide between four main options: Take no action and allow the USGS to make a decision about the name; ask the USGS to remove the name 'Confederate Corners' and leave this as an unnamed location; ask the USGS to change the name; and 'Other.'"

Additional Reading.

- *Armageddon Via Imaginary Planet Has Been Pushed Back — Yet Again — To November.* [Washington Post](#) (10/28, Selk).
- *New USGS Map Shows Where Hurricane Maria Triggered Landslides On Puerto Rico.* [Weather Channel](#) (10/27, Breslin).
- *After The Napa Fires, A Disaster-in-Waiting: Toxic Ash.* [Wired](#) (10/29, Rogers).
- *100-year Floods Prompt Drone Visit At Historic Site.* [Gillette \(WY\) News Record](#) (10/28, Albers).
- *Alaska's Glaciers Are Shrinking Fast.* [KPAX-TV](#) Missoula, MT (10/27, Gillette).
- *Pacific Sees Preview Of Flood Inundation Map.* [Missourian](#) (10/27, Masson).
- *Thousands Of Monarch Butterflies Could Be Stranded.* [New York Post](#) (10/27).
- *Toxic Ash, Debris From California Wildfires Pose Risks During Cleanup.* [CNN](#) (10/28, Wotus, Gray).
- *Volcano Watch: USGS Maps Identify Lava Inundation Zones For Mauna Loa.* [Hawaii Tribune-Herald](#) (10/29).
- *When Will The Yellowstone Supervolcano Erupt?.* [Forbes](#) (10/27) .

Top National News

Trump Blasts Mueller Probe Amid Reports That Charges Could Be Announced Today.

In the wake of reports that a grand jury has approved the first charges in special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election, the President took to Twitter Sunday to criticize the investigation, Hillary Clinton and congressional Democrats. Trump's tweets and speculation about who is targeted by the indictment garner heavy media coverage – leading two of the three network news broadcasts – and were the subject of a great deal of discussion on the Sunday talk shows. Trump is generally cast as lashing out at the investigation and seeking to shift attention to possible connections between members of the Clinton campaign and Russia.

Trump [tweeted](#), "All of this 'Russia' talk right when the Republicans are making their big push for historic Tax Cuts & Reform. Is this coincidental? NOT!" In a series of earlier tweets ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#)) Trump wrote, "Never seen such Republican ANGER & UNITY as I have concerning the lack of investigation on Clinton made Fake Dossier (now \$12,000,000?),....the Uranium to Russia deal, the 33,000 plus deleted Emails, the Comey fix and so much more. Instead they look at phony Trump/Russia,.....'collusion,' which doesn't exist. The Dems are using this terrible (and bad for our country) Witch Hunt for evil politics, but the R's...are now fighting back like never before. There is so much GUILT by Democrats/Clinton, and now the facts are pouring out. DO SOMETHING!"

The [AP](#) (10/29) says Trump "is unleashing new criticism of the investigations into possible ties between his campaign associates and Russia." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/29, Willman) says that in "an angry series of tweets," Trump "sought to blame partisan politics for the widening scandal," and the [Washington Post](#) (10/29, Johnson) reports that in the "four tweets sent over 24 minutes," Trump "expressed frustration that his campaign is under investigation over possible ties to Russia's plot to influence the 2016 election but that his former opponent Hillary Clinton is not facing the same level of scrutiny." In the lead story for The [CBS Weekend News](#) (10/29, lead story, 2:15), Eliane Quijano said Trump in "a hail of tweets...shrugged off the looming charges, suggesting in capital letters that the spotlight be turned instead towards Hillary Clinton." [USA Today](#) (10/29, Wolf) reports that Trump "appeared ready for the other shoe to drop, taking to Twitter on Sunday to denounce the investigation, Democrats and his election opponent, Hillary Clinton." To the [New York Times](#) (10/29, Davis), Trump was seeking "to shift the focus to a litany of accusations against" Clinton "a day before the special counsel inquiry will reportedly produce its first indictment in the case." Similarly, the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/29, Feldscher) says Trump responded to reports that indictments are about to be announced "by pointing the finger at Democrats."

Kate Snow reported in the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/29, lead story, 2:30) that Trump "bemoaned all the Russia talk," and Kelly O'Donnell said he "vent[ed] broadly about the Russia investigation." [Politico](#) (10/29, Griffiths) says Trump "expanded on his long-simmering disdain for the investigation," while [The Hill](#) (10/29, Samuels) describes Trump as lashing out and says his "outrage" was "apparently prompted by a Washington Post report earlier this week that a lawyer working for Clinton's campaign and the Democratic National Committee (DNC) helped fund" the so-called Trump Dossier.

A [New York Post](#) (10/29, Moore) headline, meanwhile, describes a "Twitter meltdown" by Trump. The Post reports that Trump's "twitter explosion comes as CNN reported" that Mueller "is expected to announce his first indictments in the case as soon as Monday." However, [Bloomberg News](#) (10/29, Levin) reports that special White House counsel Ty Cobb said news of the pending charges did not trigger Trump's tweets. Cobb said in an emailed statement, "Contrary to what many have suggested, the president's comments today are unrelated to the activities of the special counsel, with whom he continues to cooperate." The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/29, Lim) reports that Cobb told the New York Times on Saturday that Trump "has no concerns" about "any impact" of conversations between Mueller, Manafort or Flynn. Cobb said, "I think he would be sad for them, as a friend and a former colleague, if the process results in punishment or indictments. ... But to the extent that that happens, that's beyond [Trump's] control." The [Washington Times](#) (10/29, Sherfinski) and the [Daily Caller](#) (10/29, Donachie) also report on Trump's tweets.

[Politico](#) (10/29, Nussbaum) says the expected indictment leaves Trump "facing a politically perilous week as his White House juggles unveiling significant tax legislation, announcing its pick for Federal Reserve chair and launching a 12-day-long foreign trip." According to Politico, "the expected indictment...could make Monday one of the most politically consequential days of this presidency." Politico cites "a senior White House official and a top GOP Capitol Hill aide" who said that House Republicans "still plan to release a draft of their tax bill this week." Presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway "said the White House could keep its policy aims front and center this week," telling Politico, "We know there is a complete disconnect between what Americans are told matters to them and what they tell us matters to them."

Indictment Could Be Unsealed Today; Schiff Says Manafort Or Flynn Could Be The Targets.

[Reuters](#) (10/29, Hosenball) cites "a source briefed on the matter" who said a Federal grand jury approved charges on Friday. While the indictment "was sealed under orders from a federal judge so it was not clear what the charges were or who the target was," the source said it could be unsealed as early as Monday. David Wright reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/29, story 2, 3:10, Llamas) that "sources tell ABC News the grand jury has approved charges." Wright added that there is "no shortage of possible members of Trump's inner circle who have faced questions about their dealings with Russians. Or there could be others we haven't heard of before." Wright said that while the "two key targets so far" are former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort and former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn, "Manafort's team says they don't think an indictment is coming their way. Flynn's team hasn't responded." Also in the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/29, lead story, 2:30), O'Donnell said that "Manafort and Flynn deny any wrong doing and others who've received less public attention could be in jeopardy."

Paula Reid reported in the lead story for [The CBS Weekend News](#) (10/29, lead story, 2:15) that because "the threat of an indictment can certainly provide an incentive to cooperate with investigators," if the person "who is expected to be charged suddenly decides to work with the special counsel, it is possible that the charges could remain under seal, and we won't see any arrests this week."

Rep. Adam Schiff, ranking Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said on [MSNBC AM Joy](#) (10/29), "I don't know who was indicted. We certainly do know Manafort has at least told people that he believed that he would be indicted. It could be Manafort. It could be Flynn. Many people have been pointing out that you generally go after the small fish first. Those are not small fish. We are talking about the National Security Adviser for the President and we are talking about the President's campaign manager. If those are the small fish then the big fish has got to be pretty big." Schiff said on [ABC's This Week with George Stephanopoulos](#) (10/29), that if it is Manafort, "it may help us answer one very central question in the investigation. That is, we know that the Russian government, through intermediaries, was reaching out to the Trump campaign, reaching out to Paul Manafort and others. ... We also know from the Washington Post reporting that contemporaneously to that, Paul Manafort is reaching out in the other direction...offering information in exchange for money. ... The question is, who gave what to whom, as a result of these overtures?"

Francesca Chambers of DailyMail.com said on [Fox News MediaBuzz](#) (10/29), "One thing I can tell you is the White House received no indication that it is someone who works at the White House currently, Jared Kushner or someone who would be close to the President like Don, Jr." Julie Pace of the Associated Press said on [CNN Inside Politics](#) (10/29), "One thing that is certain no matter what happens tomorrow, this undermines the message that the White House has been trying to push, which is essentially that the Mueller investigation is turning up nothing and is close to ending. That is simply factually inaccurate." Similarly, Perry Bacon of FiveThirtyEight said on [CNN Inside Politics](#) (10/29), "Sarah Sanders, I assume, cannot say the investigation is ending tomorrow after an indictment comes out. So I'll be curious to see what the tweets are like, if they back off." Bacon added, "What do the members say? There's always this idea out there that maybe Trump will fire Mueller. I'll be curious if the members sort of at this point say, you cannot, cannot do that or we will do something else."

"Face the Nation" host John Dickerson was asked on [The CBS Weekend News](#) (10/29, story 2, 1:50, Quijano) about the political significance of an indictment. Dickerson said, "It depends who the indictment is aimed at and if it is a minor character on the fringe of this story, it won't mean very much. In fact, you can imagine, and now we're really getting into the ether, here, of speculation. But if it's a sideline figure that is not related to the President, it is possible to imagine that the President would take some heart from that and say it approves this is a witch hunt. On the other hand, if it is somebody very close to the Trump campaign, then it would require all kinds of responses both from the President and his team, that would create more volatility."

BuzzFeed: FBI Probe Focusing On 13 Wire Transfers By Companies Linked To Manafort.

[BuzzFeed](#) (10/29, Leopold, Cormier) reports that the FBI's investigation of Manafort "includes a keen focus on a series of suspicious wire transfers in which offshore companies linked to Manafort moved more than \$3 million all over the globe between 2012 and 2013. Much of the money came into the United States." BuzzFeed News "has learned that investigators have been scrutinizing at least 13 wire transfers between 2012 and 2013." Citing the BuzzFeed report, the [Daily Caller](#) (10/29, White) says the wire transfers "drew the attention of federal law enforcement officials who were examining if he was helping the Ukrainian regime launder millions it plundered through

corrupt dealings.”

Gowdy: Mueller Should Put A Stop To Leaks. In appearance on [Fox News Sunday](#) (10/29, Wallace), House Oversight Committee Chairman Trey Gowdy called on Mueller to crack down on leaks, [Politico](#) (10/29, Guida) reports. Gowdy said, “The only conversation I’ve had with Robert Mueller, it was stressing to him the importance of cutting out the leaks with respect to serious investigations.” He added, “It is kind of ironic that the people in charge of investigating the law and executing the law would violate the law. ... Make no mistake, disclosing grand jury material is a violation of the law. So, as a former prosecutor, I’m disappointed that you and I are having the conversation because somebody violated their oath of secrecy.” Gowdy also “said he’s not pushing for Mueller’s investigation to be curtailed or shut down.” [Townhall](#) (10/29, Meads) says Gowdy “lambasted Democrats, leaks stemming from special counsel Robert Mueller’s Investigation, and President Trump’s Department of Justice” during the Fox interview.

Christie: Disclosure Of Grand Jury Indictments Could Be A Criminal Violation. The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/29, Giaritelli) reports that New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie told [ABC’s This Week with George Stephanopoulos](#) the person who told CNN that the grand jury will issue indictments this week may have committed a crime. Christie said, “We don’t know who leaked it to CNN. It would be a crime if prosecutors or agents leaked it. If defense lawyers leaked it, it might be less. ... It’s supposed to be kept secret.” Christie said on [CNN’s State Of The Union](#) (10/29, Tapper) that “there are very, very strict laws on grand jury secrecy. So depending upon who leaked this to CNN, that’s a criminal violation, potentially.” Similarly, Christie told [CBS’ Face The Nation](#) (10/29, Dickerson) that “there are strict laws against any of this type of leaking of grand jury activity and so the idea that we may know, in fact that there is been some activity done already depending upon who leaked that information, that could be criminal violation as well.”

Waters Sees Sufficient Grounds To Discuss Impeachment. Rep. Maxine Waters said on [MSNBC AM Joy](#) (10/29), “I have faith in our special counsel. Mueller is doing a good job. As a matter of fact, he’s going to be bringing some indictments next week. We don’t know who they are. It could be Manafort, it could be Flynn, it could be Carter page, I don’t know, but I think that if a reasonable person takes a look at all of the connections with Russia, the fact that this President has said that he wanted to lift sanctions, the fact that we pass law that said – strengthened those sanctions against Russia and he has not implemented the law that we passed, he won’t say a negative word about Putin, there’s enough there for responsible, reasonable members of Congress to talk about impeachment.”

Portman: Americans Should Be Focused On Russian Meddling. Sen. Rob Portman was asked on [NBC’s Meet the Press](#) (10/29, Todd) if he is concerned the President may issue pardons or fire Mueller. Portman said, “I hope Congress will encourage that the Senate Intelligence Committee, which I think is doing a great job, bipartisan with Senator Warner, Senator Burr, complete their work and that we support this investigation that the Department of Justice has now appointed this special prosecutor. Let’s let him get to the bottom of it. As you know, I’ve been involved in this issue quite a while in terms of the disinformation the Russians are doing, in terms of their meddling and every American, Republican and Democrat alike, should be focused on that.”

Gowdy, King Question Uranium One Deal. Gowdy was also asked on [Fox News Sunday](#) (10/29, Wallace), about the Uranium One investigation. Gowdy said that “we’ve spent most of 2017 trying to better understand what Russia did to this country in 2016. Not to the Democrats, not to the Republicans but to the country. So, what we know is that Russia was not our friend in 2016. It is not that big of a leap to ask if they were our friends in 2010. That is not that big of a leap. It was not Republicans who gave the reset button to Russia. It was not Republicans who said we will have more flexibility in a second term. It was a Republican named Mitt Romney that said Russia was our greatest threat and the Democrats laughed at him. So yes, I do want to know if the same group that tried to sabotage our democracy in 2016 is buying uranium in 2010. I want to know that.”

Sen. Angus King appeared on [CNN’s State Of The Union](#) (10/29, Tapper), “I think one of the House committees has already begun an oversight committee hearing. I always think oversight hearings are appropriate. I’ve been trying to understand this deal, I think the important thing that I learned in reading the background is the company changed hands, but the uranium that’s mined in the United States cannot leave the United States. So it wasn’t really the sale of uranium. It was the sale of a mining and manufacturing company. But there are questions about it. And I think, you know, we need to get to the bottom of them.”

Collins: Podesta, Wasserman Schultz Should Be Called To Testify About Trump Dossier.



[Reuters](#) (10/29, Gibson) reports that Sen. Susan Collins told [CBS' Face The Nation](#) Sunday that Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta and former DNC Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz should be called to testify concerning reports that the DNC and the Clinton campaign paid for parts of the Trump dossier. Collins said, "It's difficult to imagine that a campaign chairman, that the head of the DNC would not know of an expenditure of this magnitude and significance. ... But perhaps there's something more going on here. But certainly, it's worth additional questioning of those two witnesses. And the lawyer; absolutely, he more than anyone." [Politico](#) (10/29, Guida) reports that Collins said, "Certainly, it's worth more questioning of those two witnesses," and the [Washington Times](#) (10/29, Sherfinski) quotes Collins as saying, "They absolutely need to be recalled." Collins "also said she has not yet seen any 'definitive' evidence of collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia." The [AP](#) (10/29) also reports on Collins' comments.

Dickerson said on the [CBS Weekend News](#) (10/29, story 2, 1:50, Quijano) that news of the dossier "certainly helps the President make his case. or at least before this indictment news came forward, about what the Clinton team was up to. But really, there are two separate things. And so particularly with respect to the Senate Intelligence Committee, Sen. Collins was saying that the lawyer, who we know was involved with this creation of the dossier or at least spending money on it, was at the table with John Podesta, the chairman of the Clinton campaign when he said he knew nothing about how it was funded. So that lawyer will now, according to Senator Collins, should come back and testify himself as opposed to sitting there just as somebody there going along with John Podesta."

WTimes: Nunes Has Shifted Russia Debate Closer To Democrats. The [Washington Times](#) (10/29, Scarborough) reports that House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes "has shifted the Russia debate in Washington further away from President Trump and closer to Democrats" by "expos[ing] the practice of 'unmasking' by Obama aides and flush[ing] out the source of payments for the scandalous anti-Trump dossier that drove the Russia collusion narrative." While Nunes "talked publicly about his discovery to much derision from Democrats and Washington's press corps," his "legacy lives on" as "both the Senate and House intelligence committees have summoned former Obama aides as witnesses."

Schiff said on [MSNBC AM Joy](#) (10/29), "I used to be part of a commission, the Democracy Assistance Commission, that would meet with emerging democracies, and one of the points we would always make is, if you win an election, when you win an election, you don't try to use the justice system, pervert the justice system to punish your vanquished opponent, and that's what is happening here. The White House in violation of Justice Department policy has intervened with the Justice Department to say we want you to take certain steps, and lift the gag rule to advance an investigation of my vanquished opponent. I have to say for the Republicans in Congress to go along with that, to open up an investigation to become complicit in that makes them part of the dismantling of the checks and balances, one brick at a time."

Book Claims Obama Plotted To "Destroy" Trump. The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/29, Bedard) reports in its "Washington Secrets" column that new book titled, "All Out War: The Plot To Destroy Trump," alleges that former President Obama was "dumbfounded" that Trump beat Clinton in the election and, along with "a top aide began plotting to 'destroy' the president-elect around Christmas" with a goal of setting him up for impeachment. Author Ed Klein describes "a 'Christmastime' dinner during which national security adviser Susan Rice pushed plans to 'unmask, or disclose, the names of several Trump campaign associates who were mentioned or whose conversations were captured in intelligence intercepts of Russian officials.'"

[The Federalist](#) (10/29, Davis) reports that since April of last year, Obama's campaign organization, Obama for America, "has paid over \$972,000 to Perkins Cole," the "law firm that funneled money to Fusion GPS, the firm behind the infamous" Trump dossier. The Federalist adds that the "timing and nature of the payments...raise significant questions about whether OFA was funding Fusion GPS, how much Obama and his team knew about the contents and provenance of the dossier long before its contents were made public, and whether the president or his government lieutenants knowingly used a partisan political document to justify official government actions targeting the president's political opponents named in the dossier."

Rivkin, Casey: Trump Can Shut Down Mueller Probe With Blanket Pardon. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/29), David Rivkin and Lee Casey, who served in the White House Counsel's office and Justice Department in the Reagan and George H.W. Bush Administrations, argue that Mueller's investigation, which has been widely seen as partisan from its start, has become open-ended and Trump can bring it to an end by issuing a blanket pardon to anyone involved in alleged collusion with Russia during the campaign. If Congress was to find evidence of

collusion, they add, the House can decide whether to begin impeachment proceedings.

Twitter Suspends Stone. [USA Today](#) (10/28, Miller) reported Saturday that Twitter has suspended former Trump campaign adviser Roger Stone "after an expletive-filled tweetstorm late Friday attacking CNN and some of the network's on-air personalities." Stone "lashed out with vulgarities at anchors Don Lemon and Jake Tapper, among others." The [New York Times](#) (10/29, Fortin) says Stone's tweets, which were "littered with expletives," appeared to be "in response to reports that a federal grand jury had approved charges in the continuing investigation into the Trump campaign's possible connections to Russia."

NYTimes Analysis: Warner Leading Critic Of Tech Firms In Russia Investigation. The [New York Times](#) (10/29, Kang) reports on ranking member of the Senate Intelligence Committee Sen. Mark Warner's (D-VA) role in the Senate investigation into Russian involvement in the 2016 elections, and particularly "how some of the biggest American technology companies, like Facebook, Google and Twitter, were used to spread foreign propaganda." Executives from those companies will testify before the committee this week. Warner is described as "among the harshest" critics of the companies, after having "built a fortune...as a technology and telecommunications investor and executive." The companies are arguing against regulation or legislation to compel them to disclose information about political ads, particularly a bill by Sens. Warner, Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), and John McCain (R-AZ). The Times says that the committee chairman, Sen. Richard Burr "has been more reserved than Mr. Warner" and Republicans "have been reluctant to regulate the rapidly evolving industry."

Mattis Threatens "Massive" Military Response From US Should North Korea Use Nuclear Weapons.

Defense Secretary Mattis during a visit to Seoul on Saturday denounced North Korea's "outlaw behavior" and vowed the US would have a "massive military response" to any nuclear attack. While the network newscasts did not provide coverage, the major print dailies and wires highlighted that the Defense Secretary's remarks came a day after he visited the demilitarized zone and ahead of President Trump's visit to the region.

The [New York Times](#) (10/28, Cooper) reports Mattis, speaking at the South Korean Ministry of National Defense, "accused North Korea of accelerating the threat of nuclear war through its series of nuclear and ballistic missile tests." He also "characterized Pyongyang's behavior as threatening and said that the United States would do everything in its power to protect its allies in the region." According to the [Washington Post](#) (10/28, Taylor), he "offered unequivocal support for American allies in the face of threats from North Korea." Mattis told reporters, "any attack on the United States or our allies will be defeated, and any use of nuclear weapons by the North will be met with a massive military response that is effective and overwhelming." In addition, the Defense Secretary "reiterated that the military options being considered were 'designed to buttress diplomats' efforts to maintain a deterrent stance and denuclearize the peninsula.'" The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/28, Cheng, Lubold) reports Mattis acknowledged that although "diplomacy remains our preferred course of action in dealing with North Korea," he asserted, "I cannot imagine a condition under which the U.S. would accept North Korea as a nuclear power."

However, the [AP](#) (10/28, Burns) says Mattis "did not mention that...Trump has ratcheted up his own rhetoric." The AP notes the President in August "warned the North not to make any more threats against the United States, and said that if it did, it would be met with 'fire and fury like the world has never seen.'" [Reuters](#) (10/28, Stewart) reports "tension between North Korea and the United States has been building after a series of nuclear and missile tests by Pyongyang and bellicose verbal exchanges between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and...Trump."

[AFP](#) (10/28) highlights that "Mattis' trip comes ahead of Trump's first presidential visit to South Korea next month as part of his Asia tour which also includes Japan, China, Vietnam and the Philippines." AFP adds that "all eyes will be on Trump's message to the North and Kim," as the President "is expected to deliver a speech at the South's parliament and to visit an US military base during a November 7-8 trip to Seoul."

NYTimes A1: Asian States Reconsidering Nuclear Weapons Amid Threat From North Korea. The [New York Times](#) (10/28, A1, Sanger, Sang-Hun, Rich) reports on its front-page that "as North Korea races to build a weapon that for the first time could threaten American cities, its neighbors are debating whether they need their own nuclear arsenals." The Times says that "for the first time in recent memory, there is a daily argument raging in both South Korea and Japan – sometimes in public, more often in private – about the nuclear option, driven by worry that the United States might hesitate to defend the countries if doing so might provoke a missile launched from the North at Los Angeles or Washington."

UN Special Rapporteur Warns Sanctions Could Punish North Korean Populace. The [Wall Street](#)

[Journal](#) (10/27, Fassihi) reported Tomas Ojea Quintana, the UN special rapporteur for human rights in North Korea, in his annual report to the UN General Assembly on the state of human rights in the country on Thursday warned tough new economic sanctions against North Korean government could backfire on the population. At a press conference on Friday, Quintana said, "I don't want to see the U.N. putting the government of North Korea [in a position] to choose between nuclearization and the economy."

Masterminds Behind Kim Jong Nam Murder Remain At Large. The [AP](#) (10/28, Talmadge) reports that during the ongoing "trial that could send two Southeast Asian women to the gallows, Malaysian prosecutors are shining a light on several men at large they say masterminded and played crucial roles in carrying out the assassination of North Korean leader Kim Jong's Un's estranged half brother," Kim Jong Nam. The AP says that since the trial of Siti Aisyah, 25, of Indonesia and Doan Thi Huong, 29, of Vietnam began on Oct. 2, "the alleged role of the four missing suspects has come to dominate the proceedings." The AP recaps "what's come out so far about the missing men, who are referred to officially in court only by their aliases, and what's known about their actions."

Mattis, Pence Deliver New Warning To North Korea Over Nuclear Weapons.

Defense Secretary Mattis arrived in the demilitarized zone on Friday to demand North Korea abandon its nuclear weapons ambitions while Vice President Pence told airmen at Minot Air Force Base that they should "be ready" to act in the event of an emergency. Although just one of the network newscasts provided coverage, reporting considered how their warnings could escalate tensions ahead of President Trump's visit to the region next week.

Richard Engel of [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/27, story 4, 2:10, Holt) reported that Mattis "flew right to North Korea's doorstep...and looked out on to the very hills where North Korea has hundreds of rockets and artillery pieces ready to fire in the event of a war." Along the demilitarized zone, "Mattis came within yards of North Korean soldiers as, in a bizarre scene in this tense place, tourists in the North looked on." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/27, Lubold, Cheng) reports Mattis said, "North Korean provocations continue to threaten regional and global security despite unanimous condemnation by the United Nations Security Council." [USA Today](#) (10/27, Onyanga-Omara) reports Mattis also denounced North Korea as "an oppressive regime that shackles its people, denying their freedom, their welfare and their human dignity in pursuit of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery in order to threaten others with catastrophe."

However, [AFP](#) (10/27) reports Mattis said, "As the US Secretary of State Tillerson made clear, our goal is not war but rather the complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula." AFP adds Mattis asserted he and South Korean Defense Minister Song Young-Moo "made clear our mutual commitment to a diplomatic solution to address North Korea's reckless, outlaw behavior." [The Hill](#) (10/27, Manchester) reports Mattis continued, "We're doing everything we can to solve this diplomatically, everything we can. But ultimately our diplomats have to be backed up by strong soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines."

The [AP](#) (10/27, Macpherson) reports Vice President Pence during a Friday "visit to one of America's most potent nuclear bases," also "vowed...the U.S. will keep up economic and diplomatic pressure on North Korea to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programs." Speaking at Minot Air Force Base, Pence told about 250 airmen "there is no greater force for peace in this world" than the US nuclear arsenal. Pence asserted, "Under President Trump's leadership, we will make sure that our nuclear deterrent is stronger than ever before – modern, robust, flexible, resilient, and ready to confront any and all enemies of peace with a rapid, effective and overwhelming response." [Politico](#) (10/27, Nussbaum) reports Pence said, "Our enemies should never doubt the capabilities of the Armed Forces of the United States of America." He continued, "Anyone who would threaten our nation should know that America always seeks peace, but if we are forced to defend ourselves or our allies, we will do so with military power that is effective and overwhelming." Pence added, "Now, more than ever, your commander in chief is depending on you to be ready."

[Reuters](#) (10/27, Stewart) reports Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on Friday also "met with his South Korean counterpart, General Kyeong Doo Jeong, a U.S. military statement said," and he "renewed U.S. warnings of retaliation to further provocations." The statement said Dunford "reaffirmed that any attack by North Korea would be met with a response that will be overwhelming and effective, using the full range of U.S. military capabilities."

In an interview with the [AP](#) (10/27, Pennington), Joseph Yun, the US envoy to North Korea, suggested that with China proving unhelpful in reining in North Korea, "Russia could play a useful

diplomatic role.” Yun added, “If Russia delivers a unified message with the U.S., China, South Korea and Japan that the U.S. is not interested in regime change but rather we want to resolve the WMD issue, they can help better than anyone else to convince them of that.” According to the AP, “Yun said he and...Tillerson want Moscow to support the international pressure campaign against North Korea by implementing U.N sanctions, and to urge the isolated, often inscrutable government to engage in diplomatic efforts.” The AP notes National Security Adviser McMaster last week “addressed Russia’s importance with North Korea, saying it maintained ‘considerable influence’” and “urged Moscow to help ‘convince Kim Jong Un and his regime to move toward denuclearization of the peninsula as really a last chance to avoid severe consequences.’”

According to the [New York Times](#) (10/27, Cooper), Mattis’ visit to the DMZ “highlighted the central contradiction in the Trump administration’s rhetoric on North Korea: that for all the talk of military options, there really aren’t any – at least, none that wouldn’t put the sprawling city of Seoul, with its population of 10 million, in the cross hairs of thousands of Pyongyang’s artillery installations.” While Song “seemed at times to be giving his American counterpart a guided tour of how a strike against North Korea’s nuclear facilities would quickly trigger retaliation,” American defense officials acknowledge that North Korea has “a significant retaliatory capability, including chemical, biological and nuclear weapons as well as conventional forces. It would be virtually impossible, the officials said, to destroy all of North Korea’s offensive capabilities before it could strike Seoul.”

Meanwhile, [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (10/27, 5:52 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) correspondent Will Ripley reported “North Korea has been uncharacteristically quiet. No missile launches in a month and a half. No nuclear tests, at least not yet.” However, Ripley added that throughout North Korea, propaganda posters depict anti-Trump messages, “and the rhetoric has revved up.” He said a senior North Korean diplomat told him that the world must take literally Pyongyang’s “threat to conduct an above-ground nuclear test,” and so “the big question on everybody’s mind” is whether “it will happen when President Trump is in the region, and what would be the result – and the response – from the US.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/27, Kong, Cho) says that “while a Trump visit to the DMZ hasn’t been ruled out by the White House, it could be seen as provocative – North and South Korean soldiers stand feet part on either side of a line that marks the heavily fortified border.” Nonetheless, [CNBC](#) (10/27, Daniels) reports on its website that “North Korea stepped up its defiant rhetoric against the U.S. on Friday and said the U.S. is making ‘criminal moves for igniting a war of aggression,’ according to a state-run outlet.”

[UK Blames The “WannaCry” Cyberattack On North Korea.](#) The [New York Times](#) (10/27, Bilefsky) reports UK Minister of Security Ben Wallace told the BBC on Friday that the British government “believes ‘quite strongly’ that North Korea was behind the ‘WannaCry’ cyberattack in May that wreaked havoc on the National Health Service’s computer systems and spread to more than 150 countries.” He asserted, “This attack, we believe quite strongly, came from a foreign state. North Korea was the state that we believe was involved this worldwide attack.” However, Wallace “declined to elaborate on the evidence that had led to the conclusion. ‘I can’t obviously go into the detailed intelligence, but it is widely believed in the community and across a number of countries that North Korea had taken this role,’ he said.”

Federal Grand Jury Approves First Criminal Charges In Russia Investigation.

In the lead story for the [CBS Weekend News](#) (10/28, lead story, 2:05, Ninan), correspondent Reena Ninan reported, “Sources tell CBS News a federal grand jury has approved Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s first charges” in the investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. Justice reporter Paula Reid said the “charges have been filed under seal, but they could become public as early as Monday, marking the most significant development of the special counsel investigation so far.” Reid added that the target of the indictment is unclear, but “the grand jury has heard testimony from several business associates of former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort. Investigators also serve a warrant on Manafort’s home over the summer where they obtained documents and other physical evidence. So most of what has been publicly presented to the grand jury has been connected to Manafort. But we also know that Mueller is also looking into former national security adviser Mike Flynn’s lobbying payments to Turkey.”

Meanwhile, Errol Barnett of the [CBS Weekend News](#) (10/28, story 2, 1:35, Ninan) said Trump on Saturday “refrain[ed] from directly responding to news...Mueller has obtained his first indictment, choosing instead to tweet about the GDP and compliments from President Carter.” He added that “despite repeated efforts, the White House is not commenting on the record about what these pending charges from the special counsel could mean,” focusing instead on Trump’s

upcoming visit to Asia. Barnett noted Trump “has long maintained his innocence and that of his campaign team during and after the election, claiming the Department of Justice probe is really motivated by political opponents,” and he and White House press secretary Sarah Sanders “have claimed Hillary Clinton colluded with Russia.”

However, [Politico](#) (10/28, Samuelsohn) reports the White House and personal lawyers “scrambled” on Saturday in anticipation of where Mueller’s Russia investigation could lead. Attorneys close to the case “said their cellphones have been ringing nonstop as they connected with each other, and with reporters,” and “said they wouldn’t be surprised if the charges were targeting Flynn or Manafort family members, or a longtime accountant or lawyer.”

Cobb: Trump Not Concerned About What Former Aides Will Tell Mueller. White House lawyer Ty Cobb told the [New York Times](#) (10/28, Apuzzo) that President Trump is confident that neither Flynn nor Manafort has damaging information about him to give prosecutors. In an interview on Thursday for The Times’ podcast “The New Washington,” Cobb also “said none of the White House documents turned over to Mr. Mueller showed evidence that that anyone colluded with Russia, or that Mr. Trump tried to obstruct justice.”

Trump Team Trains Rage On Clinton, Leaks Following Report Of First Charges In Russia Probe. In an analysis, [Politico](#) (10/28, Karni) reports that despite anticipating for months that Mueller would file criminal charges in his Russia probe, Trump, his lawyers, and senior officials “were all caught off guard” by reports a federal grand jury had approved the first indictment in the investigation. Politico says the resulting lack of information on the case that could have major consequences on the Administration “left many current and former Trump advisers livid, focusing their rage on how the information leaked and on a forever target: Hillary Clinton.”

[The Hill](#) (10/28, Manchester) reports White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said Saturday the evidence of Clinton campaign’s collusion with Russian during the 2016 president election is “indisputable.” Sanders [tweeted](#): “Clinton spokesman just said he’s ‘damn glad’ Clinton campaign colluded w/ Russia to spread disinformation about @POTUS & influence election.” The Hill observes that Sanders’ tweet “appeared to reference comments [former Clinton spokesman Brian] Fallon made to The Washington Post on Friday.” In another [tweet](#) that linked to an article from The Federalist, Sanders wrote, “The evidence Clinton campaign, DNC & Russia colluded to influence the election is indisputable.”

[The Hill](#) (10/28, Carter) “Briefing Room” blog reports former Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski said Saturday that focus should be kept on the “continued lies of the Clinton administration.” During an interview on Fox News’ Fox & Friends, Lewandowski argued that the “speculation is so insane right now” and that focus must center on the “Clinton administration” and “the continued fallacies that they perpetuate.”

House Intelligence Committee Reaches Agreement Over Fusion GPS Bank Records. [Reuters](#) (10/28, Volz, Hosenball) reports the House Intelligence Committee announced Saturday it had reached an agreement over its subpoena of Fusion GPS’ bank records as part of the panel’s investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election. The announcement “came a day after a federal judge had given an unnamed bank more time to respond to the congressional panel’s subpoena to Fusion GPS.”

CNN Failed To Disclose Ties To Fusion GPS Operatives. The [Daily Caller](#) (10/28, Ross, Hasson) says CNN’s reporting on the so-called Russia dossier compiled by Fusion GPS “has left out at least one crucial fact: the close ties between the network and the opposition research firm at the center of the dossier controversy.” The Daily Caller states that CNN’s justice correspondent Evan Perez, who led the reporting, has a “personal closeness” with Fusion GPS operatives, as evidenced by Facebook photos of Perez and Fusion GPS partners Neil King and Peter Fritsch appearing together at different public and private events. The Daily Caller adds that “at no point in Perez’s reporting did he disclose his close ties to the Fusion GPS operatives.”

Ex-Trump Aides Say Comey’s “Coordination” Testimony Offers New Context On Clinton Campaign’s Dossier Funding. The [Washington Times](#) (10/28, Scarborough) reports that former FBI Director James Comey’s statement during congressional testimony last March that his agents were investigating “whether there was any coordination between the [Trump] campaign and Russia’s efforts” would fit the Hillary Clinton campaign and Democrats today, according to ex-Trump aides. Former Trump campaign communications adviser Michael Caputo said, “If there was enough Russia collusion evidence to warrant a special counsel for the president, there’s far more now on the Clinton campaign’s connection to a foreign spy ring that included Russians. ... That, coupled with the stymied investigation into the Russian bribery plot and donations directed to the Clinton Foundation, are grounds for a special counsel.”

WPost A1: While Trump Is Eager Salesman On Tax Reform, Congress Crafting Policy.

In a front-page analysis, the [Washington Post](#) (10/27, A1, Paletta, Costa, Rucker) reports that amid the ongoing debates over tax policy, President Trump “has emerged as a relentless salesman, proclaiming one promise after another. ... But for all the bustle emanating from the White House, most of the policy action is at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, in the Capitol, as Republicans try to rush through a sweeping tax cut package by the end of the year.” The Post highlights Republicans after to craft tax legislation, some of the policy items under debate, and Trump’s support for the package, as long as it benefits the middle class and cuts the corporate tax rate.

White House Report Predicts Faster Economic Growth From Corporate Tax Cuts. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/27, Sparshott) reports that a new report released Friday by the White House Council of Economic of Economic Advisers says that reducing the corporate tax rate to 20 percent and permitting companies to write-off the cost of their capital spending would increase business investment, spur faster economic expansion, and raise household income. The Journal adds that the study is meant to bolster the case for cutting corporate taxes and highlights several specific policies.

McConnell Criticized For Locking Democrats Out Of Tax Reform. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/27, Andrews) reports some Republicans are criticizing Senate Majority Leader McConnell for keeping Democrats out of the tax reform process, despite their interest in engaging with the GOP. Among them, Rep. Mark Walker warns that the “secrecy and trying to force feed it and all of the sudden” will cause the legislation to fail. Similarly, Rep. Richard Neal says that “for this to succeed, you’re going to need Democratic input.” Despite calls for bipartisanship and President Trump’s push for bipartisanship, the Journal notes that no Democrats have seen the bill ahead of its public release.

Brady: Republicans Want To Increase Retirement Contributions. The [Washington Times](#) (10/27, Persons) reports House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady in an appearance on [Fox News](#) said on Friday that contrary to prior reporting, Republicans “want to increase the amount that you can give to your 401(k) or IRA.” Brady added that he has spoken to President Trump about incentivizing people to “save more and save sooner.”

Governors Criticize Tax Plan’s Proposed Removal Of SALT Deduction. [Reuters](#) (10/27, Kearney) reports the governors of New York and California said on Friday that the tax plan’s proposed elimination of the state and local tax deductions on federal income tax is “an attack” on high-tax states and a “gross manipulation of our tax code.” They went on to argue that the plan would actually make their residents pay more, with New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s office claiming that his state’s taxpayers would pay an additional \$5,300 in federal income taxes on average. The [AP](#) (10/27, Ronayne) reports California Gov. Jerry Brown also warned that some California Republicans would lose their seats if they voted for the provision.

WSJournal: Republicans Should Not Flirt With “Millionaire Tax.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/27) writes that Republican considerations of raising the top income tax rate to potentially 42 to 44 percent would signify a capitulation to pressure from redistributionists and would cut back on potential economic gains. The Journal concludes that the point of tax reform is to eliminate subsidies and loopholes that distort economic decisions in favor of lower rates, and that maintaining high rates for millionaires will encourage tax lobbyists and Congress to create more loopholes.

Schumer: Trump Tax Plan Is “Absolute Catastrophe.” In a [USA Today](#) (10/27) op-ed, Senate Minority Leader Schumer criticizes President Trump’s tax plan, arguing that it differs from former president Reagan’s plan in “three major ways:” it hurts the middle class, it would “explode the deficit,” and it hasn’t had any Democrat input. Schumer goes on to detail the plan’s benefits for wealthy taxpayers, and argues that it “will add between \$3 trillion and \$5 trillion to the deficit.” He concludes that the plan is an “absolute catastrophe.”

Marcus: Trump Tax Cuts Are “Dangerous,” Will Explode National Debt. Ruth Marcus writes in her [Washington Post](#) (10/27, Marcus) column that the US “doesn’t need a tax cut,” and that President Trump’s tax reform is “dangerous” because it will “add trillions to the national debt at a point when it is already dangerously large as a share of the economy” at 77 percent. Marcus goes on the argue that Republicans are “desperate for a legislative win,” and are willing to pass a “reckless” bill in order to appeal to voters next year.

Brady Announces Republican Tax Plan Will Preserve Itemized Property Tax Deduction.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/28, Brody) reports House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady said in a statement Saturday that the Republican tax plan will preserve the “itemized property tax deduction to help taxpayers with local tax burdens,” after pressure from lawmakers. The move

was aimed at resolving an impasse between leadership and Republicans from high-tax states over state and local income tax deductions that “threatened the bill’s prospects in the House.”

House Republicans Concerned About Tax Bill “Secrecy.” [Politico](#) (10/28, Lorenzo, Kim) reports “House Republicans are increasingly alarmed by the secrecy” around the party’s tax bill, and the feeling “extends to their tax aides, who’ve been excluded from a recent series of hours-long member meetings.” According to Politico, the House approach “stands in stark contrast to the other end of the Capitol, where top Senate Republicans want to ensure all GOP senators feel they have buy-in from the start” in order to avoid problems the party experienced with attempting to pass Obamacare repeal earlier this year.

WPost Analysis: Failure To Pass Tax Reform Could Be Paul Ryan’s Downfall. In an analysis, the [Washington Post](#) (10/28, Kane) suggests the upcoming tax reform bill is House Speaker Ryan’s “last, best chance” for a “signature achievement.” According to the Post, failure to pass the bill “would be crippling,” and could result in a “political bloodbath” during the 2018 midterms “that drops the GOP into the minority and boots Ryan off the dais.” The piece goes on to detail obstacles Ryan faces, noting that the party’s “moderate wing is a big part of Ryan’s challenge.”

NYTimes Profiles Mnuchin Aide Justin Muzinich, “Central Player” In Tax Reform. The [New York Times](#) (10/28, Rappeport) profiles Justin Muzinich, a top aide to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin that “has emerged as a central player in the Trump administration’s tax overhaul effort.” According to congressional aides, Muzinich “has the authority to speak on behalf of the secretary.” The piece goes on to detail his past work, which focused heavily on tax policy, and his “reputation for pragmatism over ideology.”

NYTimes A1: Experts Divided On Impact Of Proposed 401(k) Contribution Cap. In a front-page article, the [New York Times](#) (10/28, A1, Cohen) examines the controversy around a Republican proposal to cap 401(k) contributions. Despite concerns, both President Trump and Rep. Kevin Brady have said they do not want to undermine retirement savings. The Times explains the change may be critical in paying for the Republican tax plan, which must “have no impact on the budget at the end of 10 years” if passed via the reconciliation process. The move has drawn criticism from many, including former economic adviser to President George H.W. Bush William Gale, who calls it “an enormous budget gimmick” that uses “future revenues to pay for current tax cuts.” However, others say it “makes little difference whether they pay taxes on retirement savings now or in the future.” Similarly, James Choi, a finance professor at the Yale School of Management, found in a study that the “tax deduction was a pretty minor force” in impacting retirement savings.

National Association of Home Builders To Oppose GOP Tax Bill.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/28, Rubin) reports the National Association of Home Builders has announced it will oppose the House Republicans’ soon-to-be-released tax reform bill after GOP leadership decided not to replace mortgage interest and property tax deductions with a new tax credit and instead said they would include an itemized deduction for property taxes. However, the Journal acknowledges details of the legislation remain elusive.

Despite Paris Accord Withdrawal, US To Attend Global Climate Change Talks.

[Reuters](#) (10/28, Doyle, Chestney) reports a US delegation led by Under Secretary for Political Affairs Thomas Shannon will attend next month’s climate talks in Germany centered on drafting a “rule book” for implementing the 2015 Paris climate accord. In June, President Trump withdrew the US from the agreement; however, the US “retains its place in the talks because the Paris pact stipulates” it cannot formally withdraw until 2020. The US presence comes “to the dismay of some nations that want Washington sidelined.” Many American allies, “including France, Canada and Britain, hope to coax Trump to end up staying in the pact,” although other delegates expect some US officials to “contribute to clear, enforceable rules that will be in U.S. interests whether it is in or out of the deal.” Reuters predicts the treatment if the US delegation “is likely to hinge on whether Washington limits itself to technical details of the rule book or promotes Trump’s pro-coal political agenda.”

Gore: “Zero Chance” Trump And Pruitt Will Change Their Minds On Climate Change.

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (10/29, Dudek) reports that during a Friday appearance at the Chicago Humanities Festival, former Vice President Al Gore said that he does not expect President Trump and EPA Administration Pruitt to change their positions on climate change. Gore said, “I tried to convince Donald Trump. I’ve had many conversations with him after the election, after he went into the White House, and I thought he would come to his senses, but I was wrong.” Regarding

Trump and Pruitt, Gore said, "There's zero chance, in my opinion, of changing their minds."

USA Today Weighs Administration's Approach To Clean Power Plan.

[USA Today](#) (10/29) editorializes that the Trump Administration's recent focus on "gutting the Clean Power Plan...demonstrates sheer contempt for laws governing clean air and the benefits of environmental regulation." The editorial board describes the advances that the renewable energy industry has made recently, even in the wake of President Trump's decision to remove the US from the Paris climate agreement. USA Today asserts that, while the Clean Power Plan or something similar could still survive the attempted dismantling, it "might take years or bureaucratic and legal wrangling" while our planet continues to grow warmer.

Karen Harbert, CEO of the US Chamber of Commerce's Global Energy Institute, asserts in [USA Today](#) (10/29) that the "fundamental flaw" of the Clean Power Plan "was that it would have intentionally raised the cost of energy without regard to the impact on families and businesses." Harbert opines that we should be seeking to make every form of energy more affordable and cleaner, rather than relying on mandates from Washington. Harbert does concede that "the US Chamber of Commerce believes that the climate is changing, and that man is contributing to these changes."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Insect Armageddon." The [New York Times](#) (10/29) editorializes that "the fate of the world's insects is inseparable from our own," and that "there is alarming new evidence that insect populations are in rapid decline." The Times describes a new study co-authored by the University of Sussex's Prof. Dave Goulson, which found that the biomass of insects collected in German nature preserves declined by 76 percent in 25 years. The Times opines that insects are necessary "for pollinating our food" and providing a source of food to other animals. Therefore, humanity must take steps immediately to stop their decline, including reducing pesticide and herbicide use and creating buffer zones surrounding single-crop fields.

"Phil Murphy For Governor Of New Jersey." The [New York Times](#) (10/29) editorializes that voters should choose Phil Murphy for governor of New Jersey because he "guarantees voters an end to the Chris Christie era." The Times asserts that "New Jersey can't afford another four years of Christie-inspired chaos," and that the Republican candidate in the election, Kim Guadagno, would offer an agenda that is too similar to that of the incumbent governor's. The Times opines that Murphy's experience at Goldman Sachs and within the Democratic Party makes up for concerns about his lack of "political experience in the state," and agrees with his campaign trail assertion that "he sees New Jersey as America's best opportunity for a turnaround."

"Abandoned In Calais." A [New York Times](#) (10/27) editorial recalls a now-shuttered refugee camp near Calais, dubbed the "Jungle," that became "a symbol of Europe's failure on migrants." The Times says French President Emmanuel Macron's government and local authorities "are making life as miserable as possible for migrants" to prevent another camp like the "Jungle" from erecting. "The result is inhumane conditions for the some 700 migrants" that are so bad even the United Nations condemned them last week. The Times argues while "French authorities need to provide them with proper shelter now, along with better sanitation, food and medical care," Britain, which "has resettled less than half of the 480 unaccompanied child migrants it promised," can also greatly assist in the crisis.

Washington Post.

"Trump Needs To Say Something – And Do Something – About The Assault On The Rohingya." The [Washington Post](#) (10/29) editorializes that the Burmese Rohingya community is being subjected to "the biggest and most ruthless campaign of ethnic cleansing the world has seen in years." The Post asserts that the Muslim Rohingya are a hated minority in majority-Buddhist Burma, and that individuals both in Burma and in the United States have offered insufficient support for members of the community in their time of crisis. The Post opines that the Trump Administration should use President Trump's upcoming trip to Asia to speak out against the crisis, and that the State Department should formally use the term "ethnic cleansing" to refer to the forced movement of the Rohingya from Burma to Bangladesh.

"A Trump Tax Idea That Might Actually Do Some Good." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/29) expresses hope that National Economic Council Director Cohn's reported floating of a gas

tax increase in a recent meeting with members of Congress could lead to this smart policy being enacted. The Post writes, "The tax has idled at 18.4 cents per gallon for a quarter-century. Faced with infrastructure spending needs, many states...have recently upped their state-level gas taxes. A reasonable Congress would share their rationality."

"Chevy Chase Populism In Maryland." The [Washington Post](#) (10/29) editorializes that Maryland gubernatorial candidate Ben Jealous' stated goal to provide "free tuition for Marylanders who attend public universities, colleges and community colleges" is a craven political strategy and will be a potentially reckless piece of legislation if it ever advances to that stage. The Post calls Jealous "irresponsible" for floating the idea when a similar bill to provide free community college for 40,000 Maryland students failed this year because it was considered to be unaffordable, even though Jealous' proposal would likely cost hundreds of millions of dollars more annually if it came to fruition. The Post goes on to assert that Jealous' proposal could "amount to a gigantic giveaway for thousands of well-off families" with children who attend one of the state's expensive four-year universities. The Post argues that the money that would be earmarked for this "giveaway" could be better spent on "K-12 schools, parks or mental-health care."

Wall Street Journal.

"Game Of Healthcare Thrones." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/29) says in an editorial that with the Affordable Care Act appearing to be here to stay, health sector firms are looking for new ways to be profitable in the face of stricter federal regulation. The Journal considers the possible CVS-Aetna deal as an example.

"Toomey's 'Guidance' Repeal Guide." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/29) editorializes that congressional Republicans should utilize the Congressional Review Act to reverse a lending guidance that the Obama Administration issued in 2013 that focused on leveraged lending. The Journal opines that policy grounds justify the overriding of the guidance because it has increased costs and cut off lending since it was issued.

"How To Kill American Solar." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/29) says that it opposes tariffs on foreign solar panels that could hurt the US solar sector. The tariffs are being sought by US solar-panel makers Suniva and Solar World, which argue that importation of panel parts are undercutting US business. But the Journal argues that the future of the US solar sector is in innovation, not in component manufacture, and that the tariffs would impede advances.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[GOP Plan For A Speedy Tax Overhaul Faces Uncertain Road](#)

[Mueller Set To Act On Charges](#)

[Why Are Markets Rising Everywhere? Investors Can't Stop Buying Every Dip](#)

[Foreign Companies In China Get A New Partner: The Communist Party](#)

New York Times:

[Russia Uses Its Oil Giant, Rosneft, As A Foreign Policy Tool](#)

[Sexual Misconduct In California's Capitol Is Difficult To Escape](#)

[Five Years After Sandy, Are We Better Prepared?](#)

[2 Navy SEALs Under Suspicion In Strangling Of Green Beret In Mali](#)

['Bedlam Out Here In Arizona' After Jeff Flake Departs Senate Race](#)

[Trump Tries To Shift Focus As First Charges Reportedly Loom In Russia Case](#)

['I Don't Want An Independent Catalonia': Rally Backs Unified Spain](#)

Washington Post:

[Puerto Rico Canceling Controversial Contract](#)

[Setback Clouds Tax Bill's Release](#)

[Facing Heat On Russia, Trump Hits At Clinton](#)

[Pelosi Stakes Hopeful Place At Center Of 2018 Fight](#)

[Nursing Home Death Prompts New Questions For UMC For Troubled United Medical Center](#)

Financial Times:

[Spain Faces Test Of Authority In Catalonia Under Direct Rule](#)
[Powell Leading In Trump's Fed Chair Reality-TV Spectacle](#)
[Customs Teams In EU27 Unprepared For Hard Brexit](#)

Washington Times:

[CBO Defends Powers Amid Republican Criticism Over Bad Budget Forecasts](#)
[Corker To Use Power, Alliance With Flake To Question Trump On Foreign Policy](#)
[Mueller Investigation Enters New Phase: Criminal Charges](#)
[Nunes' Investigating Digs Up Trove Of Democrat Connections To Russia Dossier](#)
[George Washington's Church To Tear Down Memorial Honoring First President](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Severe Weather; Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; Navy SEAL-Training Death Investigation; Afghanistan US Casualty; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery-Controversy; Spain-Catalonia Independence; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal; Halloween Costume Warning; Airline-Windshield Crack; Airline-Bird Strike; UK Royal Family-Possible Security Breach; Baseball World Series; Veteran Uncle.

CBS: Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; Russia Meddling Investigation-Expert Comment; Severe Weather; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery-Controversy; Hurricane Sandy Recovery; NFL-Kneeling Protests; Persian Gulf Diplomatic Crisis; Wild Horse Protection; James Madison Plantation.

NBC: Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery-Controversy; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Obamacare Impacts; Spain-Catalonia Independence; NFL News; Sexual Harassment Prevention; Virginia State Election Candidate; Airline-Bird Strike; Space Rock Flyby; High School Marching Band.

Network TV At A Glance:

Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel – 9 minutes, 45 seconds
Severe Weather – 8 minutes, 5 seconds
Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery-Controversy – 6 minutes, 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Navy SEAL-Training Death Investigation; Student Loan Debt Policy; Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery-Controversy.

CBS: Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery-Controversy; Severe Weather; Baseball World Series; NFL-Kneeling Protests; Spain-Catalonia Independence.

FOX: Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; White House-Coming Agendas; Baseball World Series.

NPR: Tax Reform Plan; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery-Controversy; UK Royal Family-Possible Security Breach; Baseball World Series.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson; has lunch with Vice President Mike Pence and Attorney General Jeff Sessions; meets with Secretary of Defense James Mattis; will participate in Halloween at the White House.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President for lunch with Attorney General Jeff Sessions; participates in a swearing-in ceremony for Steve King as U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic.

US Senate: 3:00 PM Senate votes on district judge nominee – Senate convenes and proceeds to executive session to resume consideration of the nomination of Trevor McFadden to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia, with agenda including confirmation vote * Motion to invoke cloture on the nomination passed by 85 votes to 12 last week

Location: Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

4:15 PM Sen. Coons 'Pen and Pad' session on AUMF, U.S. operations in Africa – U.S. Senator Chris Coons (D-Del.), a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, will hold an on-the-record "Pen and Pad" session in the Senate Press Gallery to discuss both the Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) hearing with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Secretary of Defense James Mattis and U.S. military operations in Africa.

Location: Senate Press Gallery (S-316) coons.senate.gov
<https://twitter.com/SenCoonsOffice>

5:00 PM Secretaries Tillerson and Mattis testify to Senate Foreign Relations Committee on AUMFs – Hearing on 'The Authorizations for the Use of Military Force: Administration Perspective', with testimony from Secretary of State Rex Tillerson; and Secretary of Defense James Mattis

Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 419, Washington, DC
<http://foreign.senate.gov/>

5:30 PM Senate Governmental Affairs Committee votes on nominee for GSA head – Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of nomination of Emily Murphy to be General Services Administration Administrator

Location: U.S. Capitol, S-216, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

US House: 1:30 PM Field hearing on 'Examining Physical Security and Cybersecurity at Our Nation's Ports'

Location: Port of Los Angeles, 425 S Palos Verdes St, San Pedro, CA homeland.house.gov
<https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

Other: No relevant event scheduled.

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Washington Times: Invasive Species At Wildlife Refuge Being Removed.
- Associated Press: Dominion And Partners Push For Quick Federal Action On Proposed Pipeline.
- ABC News: Nesting Sea Turtles Are On Florida's Frontlines As Irma Nears.
- U.S. News & World Report: Youth Crew Work At Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge.
- Tuscaloosa (AL) News: The Least Understood Program Of The USFWS.
- Charleston (WV) Gazette-Mail: John McCoy: Wolf Ruling Might Be A Blessing In Disguise.

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- U.S. News & World Report: Oral Histories: New Orleans Civil Rights Leaders, Activists.
- Las Vegas Review-Journal: Plan To Grow Las Vegas Includes Monument Protection.
- U.S. News & World Report: Officials: Man Pointed BB Gun At Rangers Before He Was Shot.
- Flathead (MT) Beacon: Glacier Park Temporarily Suspends Issuing New Backcountry Permits.
- Albany (NY) Times Union: Commentary: Repair National Parks, Preserve Their History.
- Fresno (CA) Bee: Identity Theft By Trademark Tramples Yosemite's History.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- NBC: Caribbean Islands Face Hard Road To Recovery In Wake Of Irma.
- NBC: Caribbean Islands "Ripped To Shreds" By Hurricane Irma.
- Reuters: Irma Hammers Cuba, Bahamas, Other Caribbean Nations En Route For Florida.
- Washington Post: Hurricane Katia Strikes Mexico As Jose Largely Misses Caribbean Islands Hit By Irma.
- Politico Europe: NATO Chief: North Korea's "Reckless Behavior" Demands "Global Response."
- Fox News: North Korea Denounces Haley's Remarks Ahead Of UN Security Council Vote On Sanctions.
- Associated Press: Diplomats: US Seeks Quick Security Council Action On Proposed North Korea

Sanctions.

- Marianas Variety: US, FSM Hold Annual Joint Economic Management Committee Meeting.

Office Of Surface Mining

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- The Hill: The Hill Analysis: Trump Appoints Climate Skeptics To EPA, DOE.

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Last Laughs

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DOI In The News

Republicans Reject 1 Percent Cut To Interior Department.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/8, Kasperowicz) reports that "dozens of House Republicans on Friday voted down language that would have imposed a 1 percent cut on funding for the Department of the Interior, forcing the proposal to fail." According to the article, "68 Republicans opposed it, prompting it to fail 156-248."

House Muddles Through EPA-Interior Amendments. [Politico Morning Energy](#) (9/8, Adragna) reports that "House lawmakers churned through about 70 of the 80 amendments related to EPA and Interior during a debate on a spending package H.R. 3354 (115) Thursday evening." The article provides highlights, including an "amendment adding \$9.7 million to address" the

maintenance backlog at national parks, which was supported by lawmakers in a voice vote. Also, a "bipartisan push to block offshore drilling in a host of Atlantic sites came up short on a voice vote."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Houston Chronicle](#) (9/8, Osborne).

Trump To Visit The Pentagon, Pence Shanksville On Sept. 11 Anniversary.

The [Allentown \(PA\) Morning Call](#) (9/10, Pleffer) reports that Vice President Pence will visit Shanksville, Pennsylvania on Monday to "give keynote remarks at the September 11 Observance Ceremony held at the Flight 93 National Memorial." After the ceremony, Pence "will tour the Flight 93 National Memorial Visitors Center and participate in a wreath laying ceremony with the friends and family of the fallen."

The [AP](#) (9/10) reports the event will begin at 9:45 a.m. with a "somber ritual that includes the tolling of bells and a reading of the victims' names." [WFXP-TV](#) Erie (PA)'s WJET-TV Erie, PA (9/10) reported that Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke also will attend, and the [AP](#) (9/10) reports "thousands" are expected.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Harrisburg \(PA\) Patriot-News](#) (9/10, Wardle), the [Johnstown \(PA\) Tribune-Democrat](#) (9/10, Hurst), [Westmoreland \(PA\)](#) (9/10, Signorini), the [Somerset County \(PA\) Daily American](#) (9/10, Toth), and the [Somerset County \(PA\) Daily American](#) (9/10, Ganassi).

Trump Administration Mulls Oil And Gas Exploration On Eastern Seaboard.

[McClatchy](#) (9/8, Pugh) reports the Trump Administration is considering approval of testing for fossil fuel deposits "along the Eastern seaboard that would mark a significant step toward offshore drilling." Environmentalists warn that "long-term exposure to the noise" caused by testing "could cause hearing loss and impair breeding, feeding, foraging and communication activity among dolphins, endangered whales, other marine mammals and sea turtles," while others warn of possible economic impacts on local fishing activity. However, a bill being voted on next week would all but eliminate protections for marine mammals.

SC Develop Offshore Energy Resources. In a letter to the [Greenville \(SC\) News](#) (9/8, Loomis), South Carolina Petroleum Council Executive Director Bonnie Loomis wrote that "South Carolina should not miss out on our opportunity to expand our economy through safe development of our offshore resources." Loomis adds that the US is leading the world in reducing "carbon emissions, which have reached 30-year lows in the power sector." The EPA found that although energy consumption increased from 1970 through 2016, "combined emissions of six key air pollutants dropped 73 percent" over that time.

President Trump, Offshore Drilling Is Not Welcome Here. [Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (9/9, Martin) editorializes that offshore exploration and drilling is opposed, with much bipartisan support, throughout the US Atlantic Coast, which includes South Carolina. South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster, along with, "Republican governors of Maryland and New Jersey and Democratic governors of North Carolina and Delaware" oppose the Trump Administration's effort "to expand drilling and testing." According to the American Petroleum Institute (API), more production throughout the Atlantic, Eastern Gulf of Mexico and the Arctic Ocean will aid national security, create more employment and boost governmental revenue. The editorial states that, "The fact is, the nation has more oil and natural gas than was imagined only a few years ago. Across the nation, including areas of South Carolina, more electricity is being produced from the sun and the wind."

101.6 Million Americans Participated In Hunting, Fishing And Wildlife Activities In 2016, Report Says.

The [Brainerd \(MN\) Daily Dispatch](#) (9/10) reports that the Interior Department announced a new report by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which shows that "101.6 million Americans—40 percent of the U.S. population 16 years old and older—participated in wildlife-related activities in 2016, such as hunting, fishing and wildlife-watching." The report "illustrates gains in wildlife watching—particularly around the home—and fishing, with moderate declines in the number of hunters nationally." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said in a news release, "This report absolutely underscores the need to increase public access to public lands across the United States. Hunting and fishing are a part of the American heritage. As a kid who grew up hunting and fishing on public lands who later took my own kids out on the same land, I know how important it is to expand access for future generations. Many folks east of the Mississippi River rely on friends with large acreages or pay high rates for hunting and fishing clubs. This makes access to wildlife

refuges and other public lands more important.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#) (9/9, Frye) and [Guns](#) (9/8, Eger).

GAO To Investigate Ryan Zinke’s Alleged Threats Against Lisa Murkowski For Obamacare Vote.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/8, Leonard) reported that the Government Accountability Office has decided to investigate “whether Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke violated anti-lobbying laws for allegedly threatening repercussions against Alaska after GOP Sen. Lisa Murkowski voted against a Republican plan to partially repeal Obamacare.” The article said Reps. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) and Frank Pallone (D-NJ) asked the GAO to look into the matter.

Also reporting are the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/8, Martinson) and [Newsmax](#) (9/8, Burke).

Trump Wants More Infrastructure. So Interior Aims To Speed Up Environmental Reviews.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/8, Grandon) reports that the Trump Administration, “aiming to rebuild ailing U.S. infrastructure as quickly as possible, wants to cap how long such environmental impact statements (EIS) run.” In a recently issued memo, the Interior Department “directed its agencies to limit environmental impact statements to 150 pages ‘or 300 pages for unusually complex projects, with exceptions being granted only by higher-ups within the department.” However, “environmental groups criticized the decision, signed by Interior Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt, arguing that arbitrary time and length limits undercut the public’s ability to weigh in on how major projects like oil pipelines and drilling rigs are built on federal lands.”

The [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (9/10) editorializes that “federally mandated environmental impact statements have become so inefficient they compromise public safety and render everyone to make due with crumbling roads, bridges and pipelines.” The paper finds hope in Bernhardt’s recent order. According to the article, “a year should be adequate to ensure projects don’t cause preventable harm to air, water, wildlife, flora and fauna.”

Interior Faulted For Subsidy To Firm Once Tied To David Bernhardt, Now Deputy Secretary.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/8, Eilperin, Gillum) reports the Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) “improperly provided millions of dollars in subsidies to contractors in California, according to an inspector general’s report, including to” the “major” Westlands Water District that David Bernhardt, a lobbyist who is now the Interior Department’s deputy secretary, once represented. According to the IG, the USBR “didn’t fully disclose to Congress and others the \$84 million cost of its Bay Delta Conservation Plan in California. It also said the bureau couldn’t provide paperwork for why the water contractors didn’t have to pay back \$50 million in federal funding.” However, an Interior Department spokeswoman “said in an email that Bernhardt played no role in the matter either in forging the initial agreement, which was signed about three months after he left his post in January 2009 as Interior’s solicitor, or while working in the private sector.”

Sonny Perdue Vows To Solve ‘Fire Borrowing’ To Fight Wildfires.

[USA Today](#) (9/8, Sullivan) reports Agriculture Secretary Perdue said Friday at the swearing in of Tony Tooke as the new Chief of the US Forest Service that “he is making the case to Congress and the White House ‘to fix the fire-borrowing problem once and for all.’” With 82 large wildfires now underway in 10 states, Perdue highlighted that “fire suppression spending now exceeds 55% of the U.S. Forest Service budget and may reach \$2 billion this year,” which has forced the USDA “to borrow funds to fight fires from accounts that are supposed to be used to manage the fuel load on forest floors. That ends up increasing the number and intensity of fires and the cost of fighting them.” Perdue stated that while the media attention is limited, “if you’re out there in those rural areas of the Northwest and the Northern Rockies, you see the devastation and damage there first hand.”

Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (9/8, Guarino, Craig), the [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (9/10, Darling), the [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (9/10), the [Albany \(OR\) Democrat-Herald](#) (9/10, McNally), and the [Idaho State Journal](#) (9/10, Wuerthner).

Cheney Bill Seeks To Put Oil And Gas Development In State Hands.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (9/10, Richards) reports that Rep. Liz Cheney is “co-sponsoring a bill that would hand more control of oil and gas development on federal lands to the states, stoking fears from environmental groups that the range of access and protections from federal

agencies is narrowing." The Federal Land Freedom Act "allows states to prove they have the enforcement muscle and regulatory infrastructure to oversee oil and gas permitting, leasing and production on available federal land." The bill would "still prohibit oil and gas development in national parks or wilderness areas and would allow development on land determined by federal agencies' land management plans as open to drilling."

Trump To Welcome Cabinet At Camp David.

The [AP](#) (9/8) reported President Trump and First Lady Melania Trump traveled to Camp David on Friday for a Cabinet meeting focused on Hurricane Irma, according to White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

2 Tribes Add To Applications To Put Land Into Trust.

The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/8, DeMarban) reports that "two more tribes are asking the federal government to put land into trust, including one that seeks to remove a 2.5-acre parcel from the Kenai Peninsula Borough's property tax rolls as the tribe prepares to launch commercial transit service." According to the state of Alaska "tribal organizations in Ninilchik and Fort Yukon made separate requests to put land into trust with the Bureau of Indian Affairs."

DOI, Nooksack Reach Deal On Tribal Election, Disenrollment.

[Law360](#) (9/8, Westney) reports that the Interior Department has "reached a deal with Washington state's Nooksack Indian Tribe to hold a council election that could resolve a long-running dispute over tribal government and membership, despite some members' worries that they won't get a fair shake in the balloting."

Red Lake Courts Awarded Grants.

The [Bemidji \(MN\) Pioneer](#) (9/8) reports that "Red Lake Nation Tribal Courts received \$360,000 in grant money Thursday from the Bureau of Indian Affairs." The BIA "awarded the court system \$60,000, which will be used to fund a clerk position." According to a news release, "the new clerk will work on domestic violence cases."

Surveillance Photo Of Fire Fuels Tensions Between Ranchers, Yakama Nation.

The [Seattle Times](#) (9/10) reports from Glenwood, Klickitat County, Washington, on a photograph of "what appears to be a Yakama Nation official setting fire to [a] wooden irrigation gate." The photo was posted by "a small irrigation company that sends water from tribal lands to ranches outside the reservation. Company leaders had been concerned that someone this summer had been trying to sabotage the structure that funnels water from Cougar Creek, where they hold water rights, into a canal. So they set up the camera." According to the Times, "Other photos include images of the man stacking wood by the water-diversion gate and the blaze starting as he walks away, according to ranchers and the Yakima County Sheriff's Office, which plans to forward the case to the FBI."

Bureau Of Land Management

BLM Move Still In Play.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (9/9, Harmon) reports that "the proposed move of the Bureau of Land Management headquarters to Grand Junction is still possible, despite reports that the agency might settle in Denver, U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner, R-Colo., said." Gardner discussed the BLM's possible move "during an interview with The Daily Sentinel before his town hall on Friday at Colorado Mesa University." According to Gardner, "Denver's Federal Center could maintain the agency temporarily while suitable quarters can be arranged in Grand Junction."

BLM, Forest Service In Talks About Speeding Mining Ban Analysis.

The [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (9/9, Wright) reports that "federal officials are working out how exactly they can speed up the review of a potential ban on new mining claims in an area north of Yellowstone National Park after Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke urged that it move faster in a letter late last month." Zinke spokeswoman Heather Swift "said in an email that she didn't

know when the BLM employees would start work on the project or where they would be coming from or whether they would be full or part-time." But she added, "Protecting the Paradise Valley and Yellowstone was a project the secretary brought to the office on day one."

Additional coverage was provided by [Yellowstone Insider](#) (9/9, Reichard).

US Agency To Proceed With Sale Of GarCo, Mesa Leases.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (9/9, Webb) reports that the Bureau of Land Management "on Friday said it will proceed with a Dec. 7 oil and gas lease sale involving nearly 27,300 acres in Mesa and Garfield counties." It all, "28 parcels will be offered." The article notes that "all but one parcel are within the 700,000 acres of the Shale Ridges and Canyons master leasing plan, created in the resource management plan adopted by the BLM's Grand Junction Field Office in 2015."

Emmer-Nolan Amendment Passes U.S. House.

The [Virginia \(MN\) Mesabi Daily Tribune](#) (9/8, Burnes) reports that "an amendment to halt a 234,000 acre mining ban in Superior National Forest was passed by the U.S. House late Thursday night, moving the effort to effectively reversing the Obama administration decision a step closer." Reps. Rick Nolan and Tom Emmer "introduced the amendment to the omnibus 2018 federal spending package, which would strike down funding to be used on the land withdrawal action put in place in the final weeks of President Barack Obama's term."

Also reporting are the [Hibbing \(MN\) Daily Tribune](#) (9/9, Burnes), and the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (9/9, Rao).

Recreation Generates Millions On BLM Land In Southwest Wyoming, New Study Shows.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (9/9, Peterson) reports that a new ECONNorthwest report, which was commissioned by the Pew Charitable Trusts, found that "Outdoor enthusiasts generated more than \$27 million in spending on 'quiet recreation' on Bureau of Land Management land in 2015 in southwest Wyoming." The survey covered activities that did not include "significant motorized activity" accounting for roughly 57 percent of all area recreation visits. The reported \$27 million in spending resulted "in \$12.4 million in employees' salaries, wages and benefits."

Sia Tweets Support For CA Bill Targeting Mojave Desert Water Project.

The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (9/10, Roth) reports that pop star Sia Furler, "who owns a home in Palm Springs and got married here a few years ago, tweeted Friday night at California Senate leader Kevin de León and another senator, urging them to 'Please #preserveCA and let the CAleg vote on #AB1000.'" The bill would "require a state environmental review of Cadiz Inc.'s plan to pump as much as 16.3 million acres of groundwater per year in the middle of the desert, just outside Mojave Trails National Monument, and sell it to Southern California cities.

Cadiz Water Project Should Be Nixed. In an op-ed for the [Barstow \(CA\) Desert Dispatch](#) (9/11, Hansen), Davis Hansen calls for the rejection of the Cadiz water project. He warns that "if this water extraction project proceeds, it could contribute to an environmental disaster for our Mojave Desert which depends on the underground aquifers and springs."

Additional Coverage: N.M. Leaders Urge Feds To Protect Chaco From Oil And Gas Encroachment.

Additional coverage that "New Mexico's Democratic congressional delegates are urging Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to refrain from allowing oil and gas extraction on culturally sensitive lands in the Chaco Canyon area" was provided by the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (9/8, Moss).

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Regulation Streamlining Debated.

The [Houma \(LA\) Courier](#) (9/10, Boudreaux) reports that legislation co-sponsored by Rep. Garret Graves "would make it easier for oil companies and coastal restoration projects to get environmental approval, but critics say it could harm to sea life." Supporters of the bill say the Streamlining Environmental Approvals Act "will cut away red tape and allow for much needed oil exploration and major projects to get off the ground despite concerns about seismic airgun technology." The bill has been referred to the House Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans.

Bureau Of Reclamation

US Misuses Taxpayer Cash For California Water Project.

The [AP](#) (9/8, Knickmeyer) reports that the Interior Department “improperly contributed \$85 million in taxpayer funds to help pay for a giant California water project backed Gov. Jerry Brown, despite pledges from Brown and other state and federal authorities that local water districts would bear all the costs, a federal audit said Friday.” The audit said that “federal authorities did not fully disclose to Congress or the public that it was supplying \$84.8 million for the project planning, and waived reimbursement for \$50 million of it.” The Bureau of Reclamation “also did not disclose the arrangement in its certified financial reports, the audit said.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/8, Boxall) reports that “in a response attached to the report, the reclamation bureau disagreed with the inspector general’s findings, saying the decision to assign the planning expenditures to non-reimbursable accounts was ‘suitable and appropriate’ and made ‘in good faith.’”

The [AP](#) (9/8) reports that Westlands Water District, an “influential California water district,” is “defending” the funding. Westlands Water District general manager Thomas Birmingham “said Friday that he knew of nothing about the arrangement that was inconsistent with state or federal law.”

Also reporting are the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (9/8, Sabalow, Kasler), the [Elk Grove News \(CA\)](#) (9/10, Bacher), and the [Central Valley \(CA\) Business Times](#) (9/8).

Delta Tunnel WaterFix Vote Pushed With No Details. In an editorial, the [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (9/10) says that “Gov. Jerry Brown is trying to force California water agencies, including the Santa Clara Valley Water District, to vote in the next month on whether they will pay for building his \$17 billion ‘WaterFix’ Delta tunnels project.” The paper criticizes it as “an arbitrary, outrageous and irresponsible deadline.” It notes that “there is no formal agreement on how the project will be financed, how it will be governed or how the water will be allocated: none of the information a responsible water board needs to know for an informed decision.”

40-year Water Conflict Nears Its Conclusion.

The [Ellensburg \(WA\) Daily Record](#) (9/9, Lester) reports that “the biggest, longest, most expensive legal battle in Washington state history is finally drawing toward a conclusion.” According to the article, “dating to 1977, the case grew out of a potentially catastrophic drought that threatened thousands of Yakima Valley farm families and further endangered the region’s iconic, but ailing, salmon runs.” Yakima County Judge James Gavin “recently signed a proposed final order that will conclude the case next year after the thousands of parties involved have a chance to file challenges to the final report.” The article says that “when complete, as early as April, every water user will know the amount of their right to water and where that right stands in relation to all others.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Biologists, Wildlife Managers Divided On Basics Of Wolf Recovery.

The [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (9/10, Cowan) reports that “a recently released federal recovery plan for the endangered Mexican gray wolf has received harsh criticism from three of the biologists the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pulled together six years ago in an unsuccessful attempt to draft the same type of recovery document.” According to the article, “overoptimistic assumptions,’ ‘flawed’ and ‘impractical’ were among the words used in the biologists’ comments on the federal plan.” The scientists were “part of a nine-member science advisory group that in 2012 concluded more than double that number of wolves spread out over a much larger range would be needed to establish a self-sustaining population in the Southwest.” The article notes that “their feedback stands in stark contrast to comments submitted by the Arizona Game and Fish Department, which complimented the federal recovery plan, saying it includes the ‘most current and best available data’ and establishes ‘practical and achievable recovery criteria.’”

Frog Habitat Case Pending At U.S.

Supreme Court Draws Interest From St. Tammany To Utah. The [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (9/10, ROBERTS, PAGONES) reports that the battle over dusky gopher frogs is “now before the U.S. Supreme Court, and it has drawn a host of ‘amicus curiae,’ or ‘friend of the court,’ briefs from outside parties, including St. Tammany Parish, 18 states, private property rights groups and San Juan County.” The high court “hasn’t agreed to hear the case, but many of those intervenors

hope the broad interest from outside groups will spur the nine justices to accept the case and then sharply curtail the federal government's ability to designate private land as critical habitat."

Regional Bunchgrass Designated Endangered Species.

The [Del Rio \(TX\) News Herald](#) (9/10, Cantú) reports that "the Guadalupe fescue, a type of bunchgrass, was added to the federal list of endangered species last week." The decision "protected 7,815 acres of the fescue's last U.S. location, in the Big Bend National Park, Texas, as 'critical habitat.'"

Invasive Species At Wildlife Refuge Being Removed.

The [AP](#) (9/8, Winkler) reports that "substantial tracts of autumn olive, an exotic invasive species, are being removed" at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge. Meanwhile, "other areas of the refuge are being transformed by the planting of native grasses." Crab Orchard manager Rick Speer said, "We're trying to move forward in enhancing our habitats and doing it where people can enjoy viewing wildlife a little more."

Dominion And Partners Push For Quick Federal Action On Proposed Pipeline.

The [AP](#) (9/8, Press) reports Dominion Energy, Duke Energy, and Southern Company sent a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on Thursday asking the agency to approve the proposed Atlantic Coast Pipeline this month so that construction can begin in November. The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (9/8, Martz) reports Dominion requested action "at the earliest possible time." The Times-Dispatch adds, "The commission's timely issuance of the order...is essential to meeting our contract obligations, ensuring customers realize the energy savings, providing manufacturing access to needed supplies of natural gas, and offering enhanced energy security and reliability to the region."

[WHSV-TV](#) Harrisonburg, VA (9/8, Kline) also reports.

Nesting Sea Turtles Are On Florida's Frontlines As Irma Nears.

[ABC News](#) (9/8, NESTEL) reports that Hurricane Irma has "displaced and devastated habitats and various species including turtles, parrots and iguanas, multiple experts and a federal government official told ABC News." According to the article, "a record high 19,000 turtle nests laid this year along an almost 10-mile stretch of beach may not survive Irma's powerful winds and surging tides."

Youth Crew Work At Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

The [AP](#) (9/9) reports that "each year as funding is available," Canaan Valley National Wildlife Refuge "reaches out to local schools to recruit four to five members, between ages 15 and 18, to participate during the summer months." This year, each crew members participated in "biological surveys, invasive plant removal, trail work, building five bridges on a trail, boardwalk rehab, servicing vehicles, removing fence posts and creating plant signs for the native garden." According to the article, "their signature project was completion of 300 feet of new trail, 10 foot by 12 foot overlook, and installation of split-rail fence, that they stamped they name on, YCC 2017."

The Least Understood Program Of The USFWS.

In an op-ed for the [Tuscaloosa \(AL\) News](#) (9/10, Gibbons), Whit Gibbons, professor emeritus of ecology, University of Georgia, writes that "efforts to control injurious wildlife may be one of the least understood programs of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." As a result, "the public is unaware of how critical the program is for protecting against potential invasive species that are known to be detrimental to human interests and healthy environments." Gibbons suggests that "being a poorly understood program may also explain why lawmakers have not strengthened or even effectively supported the injurious wildlife program."

John McCoy: Wolf Ruling Might Be A Blessing In Disguise.

In his column for the [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (9/9, McCoy), John McCoy writes that "the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals' recent ruling that wolves in the western Great Lakes states should not be taken off the federal Endangered Species List" is not really a victory for animal-rights groups. He notes that "provisions within the court's ruling...appear to give the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service a clear future blueprint for de-listing endangered populations." McCoy says that "the message to the USFWS seems clear: It's OK to de-list distinct regional populations of a

species as long as biologists can prove that population has sufficiently recovered, and recovery across the species' entire historic range is not required."

National Park Service

Oral Histories: New Orleans Civil Rights Leaders, Activists.

The [AP](#) (9/9, McCONNAUGHEY) reports that "a new oral history project is looking at the civil rights era in New Orleans, including boycotted shopping districts and a restaurant that provided a meeting place for black and white activists." The Historic New Orleans Collection has "begun interviewing leaders and activists who participated in the civil rights movement from 1950 through 1976, and will create a set of lesson plans using the oral histories it gathers." The National Park Service "provided \$23,000 to gather 30 to 50 hours of oral histories about 11 locations, organizations and events including the city's first major civil rights campaign — a boycott of white-owned stores that sold to African-Americans but wouldn't hire them as clerks or cashiers."

Plan To Grow Las Vegas Includes Monument Protection.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (9/8, Munks) reports that "Las Vegas officials have a new vision for developing a unique piece of land surrounded by sensitive land packed with environmental and cultural resources." The plan lays out "out expectations for future development of 1,000 acres situated between the Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument, Paiute tribal lands and the Las Vegas Wash, a channel that drains water from the valley into Lake Mead." The article notes that "the city's team engaged representatives from the BLM, the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe, the National Park Service and Protectors of Tule Springs in creating the new vision plan."

Officials: Man Pointed BB Gun At Rangers Before He Was Shot.

The [AP](#) (9/8) reports that "officials say a man who was fatally shot by park rangers in northern Arkansas had pointed a BB gun that resembled a handgun at the officers while 'verbally challenging' them." Buffalo National River officials "say 34-year-old Jonathan Bolger of Branson, Missouri, had an air pistol that did not have an orange tip on the barrel to indicate that it wasn't a real weapon." According to a press release issued last week, "National Park Service rangers fatally shot Bolger on Aug. 20 after Bolger pointed the BB gun directly at them."

Glacier Park Temporarily Suspends Issuing New Backcountry Permits.

The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (9/8) reports that the National Park Service has "temporarily stopped issuing new overnight backcountry permits in Glacier National Park due to fire weather conditions." The NPS "wants to reduce the number of people overnighting in the backcountry, according to Glacier Park spokesperson Lauren Alley."

Commentary: Repair National Parks, Preserve Their History.

In an op-ed for the [Albany \(NY\) Times Union](#) (9/9, Bystryn), Marcia Bystryn, president of the New York League of Conservation Voters, draws attention to the \$11.3 billion maintenance backlog at national parks. Bystryn raises concerns that "without repairing the infrastructure that keeps our national parks running, we risk losing the vital benefits they bring to our state." Bystryn urges support for the National Park Service Legacy Act, which "dedicates an annual stream of federal funding to address deferred maintenance."

Identity Theft By Trademark Tramples Yosemite's History.

In an op-ed for the [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (9/10, Rose), Gene Rose writes that "the current controversy over the Yosemite place names is a disgrace to many of our national institutions, especially to the National Park Service, the Patent and Trademark office and the courts." Rose decries that "the current dispute is all about money." He asserts that "our national parks were never intended to serve as cash cows for the commercial world."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Caribbean Islands Face Hard Road To Recovery In Wake Of Irma.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/10, story 11, 2:00, Holt) said Hurricane Irma "left a lot of damage and

death in the Caribbean in its wake," particularly in Barbuda, where "at least" 95 percent of the property is "damaged or destroyed." In Cuba, Irma "turned roads into obstacle courses with hurdles made of toppled power poles," while the storm in Haiti "reduced possessions to what could be carried in plastic bags through riding floodwater."

[Reuters](#) (9/10, Acosta) reports that "from Cuba to Antigua, Caribbean islanders began counting the cost of Hurricane Irma on Sunday after the brutal storm left a trail of death, destruction and chaos that could take the tourist-dependent region years to recover from." The Category 5 storm, which killed "at least 28 people across the region, devastated housing, power supplies and communications, leaving some small islands almost cut off from the world." European nations sent military reinforcements "to keep order amid looting while the damage was expected to total billions of dollars." President Trump on Sunday issued a disaster declaration for Puerto Rico and "expanded federal funds available to the US Virgin Islands."

The [New York Times](#) (9/10, Ferré-sadurní) reports that while Puerto Rico "had largely been spared the 185-mile-an-hour gusts that had flattened its smaller island neighbors, hundreds of residents still lost their homes, at least three people died and almost 70 percent of households were plunged into darkness." Still, another [New York Times](#) (9/10, Ferré-sadurní) report says the island has become "an impromptu emergency hub for its Caribbean neighbors that were left devastated by the storm's wrath." Government-led missions have also been evacuating people from the islands to Puerto Rico, including "some 1,200 mostly American citizens" from Saint Martin and Saint Thomas in six C130 aircraft, officials said.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/10, Faiola) reports European governments "came under fire as critics accused them of being slow to respond to crises on their overseas Caribbean territories, where massive damage left thousands homeless as looting broke out on the streets." On Sunday, the French government announced that President Emmanuel Macron would travel to the Saint Martin on Tuesday, where the evacuation of US citizens resumed on Sunday, according to State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert, after being suspended in anticipation of Hurricane Jose.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/10, Althaus) reports the storm's damage comes just a few months before the beginning of the busy winter tourism season. "For the countries that are badly affected, it will take some time to get back on their feet," said Hugh Riley, an official with Caribbean Tourism Organization.

Storm Surge Floods Havana, Damages US Embassy Even As Irma Moves North. The [AP](#) (9/10, Rodriguez, Boylan) reports that "powerful waves and storm surge from Hurricane Irma topped Havana's iconic Malecon seawall and left thousands of homes, businesses and hotels swamped Sunday, even as the storm moved away from the island." The high waters and winds "also damaged the seaside US Embassy, tossing around shipping containers that sit on the compound, smashing parts of its black perimeter fence, ripping exterior panels from the building and breaking windows and doors." [USA Today](#) (9/10, Jervis) reports the Cuban provinces of Matanzas, Villa Clara, Camaguey and Sancti Spiritus "took the brunt of the storm, with collapsed homes and streets clogged with debris."

Caribbean Islands "Ripped To Shreds" By Hurricane Irma.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/9, 2:29, Holt) reported islands from Cuba to St. Thomas "took punishing blows" from Hurricane Irma, and the Florida Keys are now "being hammered" by the storm. Correspondent Miguel Almaguer said Irma has "carved up the Caribbean," with "the US Virgin Islands, French West Indies and the Bahamas ripped to shreds" while American tourists caught by the storm remain stranded. According to the [AP](#) (9/9, Boylan), Irma "collapsed buildings and battered Cuba with deafening winds and relentless rain Saturday, while a second hurricane, Jose, threatened to lash already-reeling islands elsewhere in the Caribbean."

[CNN International](#) (9/9, Smith-Spark, Oppmann) reports, "Cuba's meteorological agency reported that Irma struck the archipelago north of Cuba's Camaguey and Ciego de Avila provinces with gusts so strong they destroyed the instrument used to measure wind." The [Washington Post](#) (9/9, Miroff) reports Cuba "appears to have been spared the devastation that Irma unleashed on the Leeward Islands to its east, where mass destruction has been reported, especially on the island of Barbuda, which was essentially obliterated."

Meanwhile, the [Miami Herald](#) (9/9, Rosenberg) reports Irma left Guantánamo Bay Navy base "relatively unscathed," according to Navy Capt. Dave Culpepper, "but for a few downed trees and power lines."

Although the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/9, Whelan) reported no deaths caused by the storm were recorded in Cuba, the [New York Times](#) (9/9, Ahmed) said "five deaths were reported from the British Virgin Islands, raising the toll across the Caribbean to 25 people as the islands braced

for yet another storm set to strike as early as Saturday afternoon."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (9/7), the [AP](#) (9/6, Coto Anika Kentish |, Ap), and the [New York Daily News](#) (9/7, Cullen).

FEMA Aids US Virgin Islands As Residents Worry They Will Be Forgotten Once Irma Strikes Florida. In a piece highlighting preparations in the Caribbean for Hurricane Jose, [USA Today](#) (9/9, Hjelmggaard) reports that "in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where four people died, U.S. military and the Federal Emergency Management Agency were providing relief on the ground but utilities remain badly affected and the roof of the only hospital in St. Thomas was blown away."

However, in a separate article, [USA Today](#) (9/9, Schouten) reports that "as Hurricane Irma bore down on Florida, current and former residents of the Caribbean islands already battered by the powerful storm had a message for the rest of the world Saturday: Remember us." In a Players' Tribune essay, former San Antonio Spurs player Tim Duncan, who was raised on St. Croix, said, "Islands like ours tend to get forgotten after storms. ... We're remote, which makes it hard to deliver supplies quickly, cheaply and adequately." Duncan also announced "a personal \$250,000 donation to hurricane relief effort and a crowdfunding page to raise more money. He promised to match up to \$1 million in donations." Meanwhile, country music star Kenny Chesney announced he has "established the Love for Love City Foundation to benefit St. John and the neighboring British Virgin Islands. Chesney has a home on St. John, which is nicknamed Love City."

President Trump spoke with Gov. Kenneth Mapp of the U.S. Virgin Islands "to express his support for the Governor and the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands as the territory prepares for Hurricane Irma and to acknowledge the territory's experience in responding to hurricanes." Trump "confirmed that the Federal Government has been actively readying for the Hurricane Irma response even as the Government continues to support the States of Texas and Louisiana following Hurricane Harvey." FEMA will "continue to coordinate with the emergency management staff of the U.S. Virgin Islands and will work with other Federal partners to help support the territory's efforts."

The [St. Thomas Source](#) (9/8, Kossler) reports that "the number of confirmed fatalities on St. Thomas and St. John in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma has risen to four and 'it should not be unexpected that we will find more,' Gov. Kenneth Mapp said at a press conference shortly before 6 p.m. Thursday evening." According to the article, "a later report from Government House indicated all four were on St. Thomas." Mapp "said that while the toll will probably rise, it does not look like it will be a much larger number."

US Evacuates American Citizens From St. Maarten. [ABC News](#) (9/9, Martinez) reports "American citizens evacuated from St. Maarten by U.S. military aircraft are telling desperate stories of survival as Hurricane Irma ravaged the island and left a precarious security situation in its wake." State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert said, "Over the last 24 hours, Department of State has worked in close coordination with the Department of Defense to assist over 1,200 American citizens with air evacuations from St. Maarten, beginning with those needing urgent medical care." However, Nauert stated, "Evacuation flights for Saturday are suspended due to weather. ... We intend to resume efforts to get U.S. Citizens out of Saint Maarten as soon as it safe to do so."

Cruise Lines Send Ships To Help Evacuate St. Thomas. [Bloomberg News](#) (9/9, Palmeri) reports Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. and Norwegian Cruise Line Holdings Ltd. "are sending some of their empty ships to the Caribbean to help evacuate stranded tourists and bring much-needed supplies to islands severely damaged by Hurricane Irma." [USA Today](#) (9/9, Sloan) reports Norwegian Cruise Line said it is sending its 2,004-passenger Norwegian Sky to St. Thomas "with the goal of retrieving as many as 2,000 vacationers who were unable to leave before Hurricane Irma hit on Wednesday" while Royal Caribbean "said it was redirecting its 2,350-passenger Majesty of the Seas to the island to similarly evacuate several thousand travelers and also to drop water, food, ice and other provisions that are needed." In addition, USA Today says Royal Caribbean "plans to redirect its 3,114-passenger Adventure of the Seas to the hard-hit island of St. Martin on Sunday for an unscheduled stop to drop relief supplies."

Communication With Some Caribbean Islands Remains Down After Irma. In the days since Irma "roared through the Caribbean, leveling entire islands and claiming at least 20 lives, officials still haven't heard from some areas hit by the storm or fully assessed the damage," the [Miami Herald](#) (9/9, Charles, Harris) reports, and "U.S. officials haven't been able to reach St. Martin, where a reported 70 percent of homes were destroyed, and instead are relying on the Dutch and French government to aid the U.S. citizens trapped there." According to the Herald, "British troops landed in Barbados Friday evening for relief efforts in the islands torn up by Hurricane

Irma." Meanwhile, 1,000 Marines and 11 US Marine Corps aircraft were deployed to "the Caribbean, and U.S. Northern Command is providing urban search-and-rescue capabilities in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico." In addition, US officials "stationed the USS Wasp near the Virgin Islands to medically evaluate patients and do damage assessments."

French Reinsurance Firm Predicts Irma To Cost \$1.44 Billion For Saint Martin, Saint Barth

Recovery. [Reuters](#) (9/9, Blamont) reports French state-owned reinsurance group Caisse Centrale de Reassurance projected Saturday that Hurricane Irma will cost "at least 1.2 billion euros (\$1.44 billion) in Saint Martin and Saint Barthelemy" and "said Irma would go down as one of the most damaging disasters in decades on French territory."

Irma Hammers Cuba, Bahamas, Other Caribbean Nations En Route For Florida.

[Reuters](#) (9/8, Frank) reports Hurricane Irma on Friday "lashed Cuba and the Bahamas as it drove toward Florida...after hitting the eastern Caribbean with its devastatingly high winds, killing 21 people and leaving catastrophic destruction in its wake." [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/8, 5:40 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) reported Hurricane Irma is approaching the Bahamas and Cuba as an "extremely dangerous Category Four" storm, and is expected to become a Category Five storm when it hits the Florida Keys. National Weather Service Director Dr. Louis Uccellini told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/8, 5:46 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), "This is a historic storm in terms of its intensity and its size."

In the lead story for [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/8, 5:01 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), Wolf Blitzer reported Hurricane Irma, "the monster storm which has already killed at least two dozen people and devastated entire islands, is not finished with the Caribbean. Cuba and the Bahamas are being battered right now. Florida is bracing for a catastrophic direct hit." On [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (9/8, 8:29 p.m. EDT, Carlson), Steve Harrigan reported that in the state, Irma "has people's attention," and "there is not the usual tough, tough mentality about it. There is instead a real sense of fear about this one." In the lead story for [CNN's Situation Room](#)'s (9/8, 6:01 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) second hour, Blitzer said Irma is "leaving a trail of death and widespread devastation across the Caribbean." Blitzer added that over the evening, CNN is "getting a grim new sense of Irma's destruction in the Caribbean, where the storm is blamed for at least two dozen deaths. The islands of Antigua, Barbuda, and St. Maarten are among the hardest hit, and now they're under a new hurricane watch for Jose, another Category Four storm."

Reporting from Cuba, correspondent Patrick Oppman of [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/8, 5:32 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) reported, "We're starting to see the first bands from Hurricane Irma come into the area where I am. Gusts of rain, increased wind, some pretty big waves off the coast. Further east of us, they've been getting battered all day long. Thousands are without power. The government of Cuba are monitoring people all throughout the storm. We had officials coming by with loudspeakers saying if you want to get out, now is the time. Many have done that, putting their belongings sometimes on horse and carts and going to government shelters, caves or bunkers from the cold war just to get out of this area, which is expected to flood. Others are hunkering down," and have said "they don't want to leave their homes and they're going to ride it out. But as weather conditions get worse here, it's going to be a long night."

Oppman said on [CNN's Situation Room](#)'s (9/8, 6:16 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) second hour that since he last reported, "the first major squall has come in," but that "the worst of it will be early tomorrow morning." The Cuban government said "hundreds of thousands of people" already evacuated, including "tens of thousands of tourists" who were relocated "to other parts of the island or to airports where they can fly home early." Some Cuban residents "have gone to stay with relatives," but others stayed behind to "try to protect their belongings." Cuba "is a very poor country. So, when a storm comes to Cuba the way this storm is coming, it can have a devastating impact." Meanwhile, troops and prisoners at the US Naval base in Guantanamo Bay "are hunkering down. The storm is going to miss them." US diplomats have also voluntarily evacuated. "They didn't have to evacuate, but the State Department said if diplomats wanted to leave from the embassy in Havana, they could do so. Many people took them up on that offer."

Twenty minutes later, Oppman of [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/8, 6:40 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) said that the wind is "not blowing hard, there's no rain," evidencing "how quickly these things can come out of nowhere." He stressed Irma "is passing off the coast" of Cuba, which is "on the weak side of the storm. The storm is not expected to make direct land fall here." While "Cuba is actually missing a bullet here," Altman said, for a "brief moment there, it felt like a jet engine. I could not get the jacket on. I was having trouble standing. Just goes to show how quickly conditions change, how dangerous a hurricane can be."

The [AP](#) (9/8, Boylan, Fox) reports Irma also "battered the Turks and Caicos Islands early Friday" and the British territory's communications "went down as the storm slammed into the

islands, and the extent of the devastation was unclear." Rehema Ellis of [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/8, 1:38, Holt) reported, "Early this morning hurricane Irma slammed into the southern Bahamas. Authorities say those evacuated may have nothing to do back to. In the Turks and Caicos powerful winds snapped utility poles and crushed cars. The storm has already been deadly in the US Virgin Islands. Today catastrophic images are coming out of St. John. Heartbreak also on the island of Barbuda." Ellis continued, "Authorities now warning people to get out because another category 4 storm, Jose, is on its way."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/8, 6:06 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) national correspondent Miguel Marques reported the British Virgin Islands was "also hit hard. What used to be homes, now just frames and debris. Trees snapped in half and an airport in rubble." The [Washington Post](#) (9/9, Bever, Wootson) reports "Irma cut electricity throughout the islands and knocked out other vital communications infrastructure, essentially leaving the British Virgin Islands' 35,000 residents largely isolated not only from each other but also from the rest of the world." British Virgin Islands Gov. Gus Jaspert "acknowledged in a message on Facebook there was a frustrating vacuum of information because communications infrastructure was down across the islands."

[CNN's Situation Room](#)'s (9/8, 5:07 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Brian Todd reported Florida authorities are now "trying to avoid the devastation, the loss of life, that just occurred in the Caribbean. Entire hillsides wiped out," including one in the British Virgin Islands. "Roofs blown off, coastal building shredded – this devastation in the Caribbean is what Florida could be facing as soon as Saturday. In the Dominican Republic, residents looked shell shocked with the destruction. In Barbuda, one hid her family of seven." Additionally, coastal flooding has posed "a problem on islands like St. Barts," and in St. Maartin, "cars are overturned and streets are blocked with debris."

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/8, 2:05, Muir), James Longman reported, "French and Dutch military part of an international aid operation. Turks and Caicos, St. John's, the pictures are apocalyptic." Meanwhile, the Prime Minister of Barbuda has expressed concerns about Jose, which "is nearly a category four" and may strike "after the island was nearly completely destroyed." On the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/8, 1:46, Glor, Mason), the BBC News' Laura Bicker reported "Irma has reduced [Barbuda] to rubble. The ruins lie scattered, torn, and ripped apart." Bicker added that "the sheer horrifying scale of the devastation here means that barely a building is salvageable."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/8, 6:12 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) broadcast video footage from Barbuda, which "was basically devastated" while Leyla Santiago of [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/8, 6:48 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) said that in Barbuda, "we certainly saw devastation." On the ground, "you not only see the devastation, you feel the desperation of the people there, people who are trying to still get out at this hour, actually, many of them evacuating to where we are right now in Antigua." Now, she added, "the next question is, what will Jose do?" She continued, "Most people left Barbuda with just one bag because their things were destroyed. Their homes were, were on the ground. Their lives just kind of scattered out onto the roads. If you could tell that some of them were road – some of them were flooded. when you see it, it is pure devastation. And this is among people who will tell you, we are used to hurricanes, but we have never seen anything like this."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/8, Faiola, Bever, Degrandpre) reports "about 95 percent of the islands of Barbuda and St. Martin sustained some damage or were outright destroyed, officials and local residents said." The Post adds "Irma's death toll has reached at least 22, according to the [Associated Press](#), a figure expected to rise as its punishing winds moved over Cuba and begin a potentially disastrous assault on the Bahamas and Florida." While the US has deployed ships to Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, "as of Thursday night, no other countries had asked for the U.S. military's help, one official said, but Defense Department planners were preparing as though such requests may come." John Cornelio, a spokesman for Northern Command, told the Post, "It's safe to say things may progress. I don't want to get ahead of ourselves, but one of the things DOD can provide is capacity."

In addition, the [Miami Herald](#) (9/8, Gurney) reports US authorities "were unable to reach St. Martin on Friday as Hurricane Jose approached and instead are relying on the Netherlands and France to assist U.S. citizens, the State Department said." However, the US Navy has "sent ships to the Virgin Islands, and French, British and Dutch rescuers also sent rescuers to their territories." US Transportation Command is also "providing a C-17 Globemaster aircraft and the USS WASP is providing two MH-60 helicopters to assist with the relocation of hospital patients from the U.S. Virgin Islands." Homeland Security Adviser Bossert told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/8, 6:07 p.m. EDT, Baier) that "life-saving and life-sustaining operations" are ongoing in the US

Virgin Islands, and “we have US military men and women down there removing and moving patients” to hospitals elsewhere. He added, “we are also moving US citizens from other islands, like St. Maartin and St. Martin, into safe spaces, upwards of thousands of US citizens there.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (9/8, Fieser) reports Irma “is already the most expensive storm in the Caribbean’s history, according to” Germany-based “disaster risk assessor” Center for Disaster Management and Risk Reduction Technology at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, which said the storm so far has “caused around \$10 billion in damages as it leveled homes and destroyed infrastructure in places like Saint Martin, the US Virgin Islands and Antigua and Barbuda.” In an interview, James Daniell, a senior risk analyst at the center, said, “This is the worst ever in terms of damages. ... We’re at \$10.4 billion now and we’re probably going to be at \$13 billion by the time it’s finished with the Caribbean.”

However, the [New York Times](#) (9/7, Robles, Semple, Yee) reports “not all the news was awful.” The Times states that “despite the loss of power to most of the island, damage and loss of life on Puerto Rico was far less than feared.” The Times adds that “Haiti and the Dominican Republic, which share the island of Hispaniola, were also spared direct hits.”

In addition, reporting from Nassau in the Bahamas, correspondent Cyril Vanier of [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (9/8, 5:21 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) said he likely has “one of the rare encouraging reports, or at least the most encouraging that you’re probably going to hear all night long.” First, the islands “on the southernmost tip of the Bahamas, which are on the front line of this storm, have now weathered the hurricane, and as far as the authorities have told us, there are no known fatalities.” Weaker structures suffered some damage, but “by and large, the houses and structure buildings made of concrete and cement have withstood the storm.” Second, since the storm moved westward, so the capital city of Nassau is “not going to get the hurricane force winds we thought we would less than 24 hours ago.”

Trump Expresses Condolences, Offers US Support To Macron For St. Barthelemy, St. Martin.

[Reuters](#) (9/8, Beech) reports President Trump “spoke on Friday with French President Emmanuel Macron to extend his condolences on the devastation to the French territories of St. Barthelemy and St. Martin due to Hurricane Irma, and to offer U.S. support to the French government, the White House said in a statement.”

French Minister Implies Trump Is Erroneously Ignoring Man-Made Climate Change. [Reuters](#) (9/8) reports French Environment Minister Nicolas Hulot, during a Friday interview with France 2 TV centered on Hurricane Irma, implied that Trump is ignoring the reality of man-made climate change responsible for extreme weather conditions. When asked if the series of hurricanes this summer may compel Trump to reconsider his policy on climate change, Hulon responded, “What will change in the United States are the federal states, the cities, a whole section of society. I think that is what will make up for the reservations of the American president on the links between cause and effect.”

Hurricanes Jose And Katia Could Make Landfall This Weekend. The [Washington Post](#) (9/9, Samenow, McNoldy) reports that Hurricanes Jose and Katia are forecast to strengthen and could impact land areas this weekend. While Hurricane Jose is expected to turn to the north out to sea “well before reaching the United States,” it could pass “very close to the northern Leeward Islands as a major hurricane Saturday.” Hurricane Katia “is forecast to track westward toward Mexico and make landfall as a hurricane on Friday night in the state of Veracruz.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/8, Althaus, Whelan) reports that Jose was upgraded early Friday to a Category 4 hurricane with winds of 150 miles per hour. Irma was downgraded to Category 4, with similar wind speeds to Jose, according to the National Hurricane Center. Katia is a Category 2 with sustained winds of 100 miles an hour.

Only Hospital On St. Thomas Crippled By Hurricane Irma. As Hurricane Irma continues to roar through the Atlantic, [USA Today](#) (9/7, Schouten) reports on the impact to the US Virgin Islands. Roofs have been torn off, and according to the report, the hurricane has crippled the only hospital on St. Thomas, the Roy Schneider Medical Center. Virgin Islands’ delegate to Congress Rep. Stacey Paskett told USA Today, “St. Thomas and St. John are pretty devastated. ... We’ve had houses slamming into other houses.” The article notes that authorities were working yesterday to evacuate patients from Roy Schneider. No fatalities were reported. Paskett also discussed the economic impact Irma will have on St. Thomas, noting it would likely take years to rebuild.

Hurricane Katia Strikes Mexico As Jose Largely Misses Caribbean Islands Hit By Irma.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/9, Samenow, McNoldy) reports Hurricane Katia made landfall north of Tecolutla, Mexico late Friday night, though the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/9, Linthicum) reports “the hurricane quickly lost strength after hitting land and was downgraded to a tropical storm.”

[Reuters](#) (9/9) reports local officials are concerned heavy rains may produce landslides and flooding.

Meanwhile, [Reuters](#) (9/9, Graham) reports “the powerful Hurricane Jose was moving away from the northern Leeward Islands on Saturday, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) said, giving some relief to the Caribbean archipelago battered by the massive storm Irma earlier this week.” After Barbuda’s “near-annihilation...by Hurricane Irma, its 1,700 evacuated residents took shelter on its sister island of Antigua, hunkering down in government buildings and residential homes as Hurricane Jose approached,” the [Washington Post](#) (9/9, Faiola, Bever, Degrandpre, Phillips) reports, “but the island nation caught a lucky break as Jose turned and missed both islands, Sir Ronald Sanders, ambassador to the United States from Antigua and Barbuda, said Saturday.” According to Sanders, a strike by Jose “would have only added to the debris. ... There’s no one there now. It’s like a scene from winter without snow. No grass. No trees. It is just rubble. We now have refugees from Barbuda in Antigua, and will have to sustain their lives for months, probably years, as we rebuild.”

In addition, the [Miami Herald](#) (9/9, Charles) reports Haiti was spared by Jose, but Irma managed to destroy “what little produce...farmers in the region had managed to grow.”

NATO Chief: North Korea’s “Reckless Behavior” Demands “Global Response.”

[Politico Europe](#) (9/10, Collis) reports NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg, in an interview with BBC’s Andrew Marr show on Sunday, called North Korea’s provocative actions a “global threat” mandating a “global response,” which he said “of course also includes NATO.” Describing Pyongyang’s activities as “reckless behavior,” Stoltenberg added, “We are now totally focused on how can we contribute to a peaceful solution of the conflict.” Earlier this week, President Trump, French President Emmanuel Macron, and other global leaders spoke with Chinese President Xi Jinping about “the growing nuclear threat from Pyongyang.”

McCain Discusses North Korean Nuclear Threat. The [Washington Times](#) (9/10, Richardson) reports that on Sunday, Sen. John McCain told [CNN’s State Of The Union](#) that the South Korean defense minister recently “called for nuclear weapons to be redeployed,” and that the US “had them once in South Korea.” When asked whether the US should pursue that option, McCain responded, “I think it ought to be seriously considered,” as should an overall expansion of US missile defense capabilities in both South Korea and Japan. McCain continued, “Obviously China can put the brakes on Kim Jong-un,” but thus far, “they have not. In fact, in some ways, they have increased their assistance.” While North Korean leader Kim Jong-un “is not rational,” McCain warned, “he’s rational to the degree that he wants to confront the United States of America. But I think, more importantly, if you allow him to have nuclear weapons and South Korea and Japan and others, who are under our ‘nuclear umbrella,’ don’t, I think that’s not balanced.”

Rogin: With Or Without China, US Must Address North Korean Threat. [Washington Post](#) (9/10) columnist Josh Rogin argues the US must “acknowledge that its policy of trying to induce North Korea’s friends” – namely, China – “to rein in Pyongyang has failed.” He adds that if the United Nations Security Council rejects the Administration’s call for tougher sanctions, as expected because of “Russian and Chinese resistance,” then “there will be no more excuse for the United States not to move forward with allies Japan and South Korea with crippling sanctions aimed at the regime, its institutions and its elite supporters.” He concludes in saying that “moving forward without China and Russia on maximum pressure is the right move,” in part because doing so “may also be the last chance to avoid a binary choice between a nuclear North Korea that can blackmail the world or war.”

North Korea Denounces Haley’s Remarks Ahead Of UN Security Council Vote On Sanctions.

[Fox News’ Special Report](#) (9/8, 6:25 p.m. EDT, Baier) senior foreign affairs correspondent Greg Palkot reported that Ambassador Haley’s “strong appeal” this week is “apparently getting under the skin of the regime of Kim Jong-un,” with official media describing Haley’s comment as “a hysterical fit from a political prostitute.” Noting Haley accused North Korean leader Kim Jong-un this week of “begging for war,” [Reuters](#) (9/8, Kim) reports North Korea’s state-run KNCA news agency wrote, “Even if Nikki Haley is blind, she must use her mouth correctly. The United States administration will pay for not being able to control the mouth of their U.N. representative.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (9/8, Talev, Epstein, Tweed) says Pyongyang’s response to Haley’s comments reflects how tensions are “again ratcheting up” ahead of world leaders’ consideration of “a fresh round of sanctions” against the nation over its nuclear program. A draft resolution that the US is circulating at the UN “would bar crude oil shipments to North Korea, ban the nation’s

exports of textiles and prohibit employment of its guest workers by other countries, according to a diplomat at the world body." It "also calls for freezing the assets of the North Korean leader." According to a Security Council diplomat, the US is seemingly "willing to risk a veto of its proposal rather than see it watered down."

[Reuters](#) (9/8) reports Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said at a news conference on Friday that it is too early to decide on the final form of such a resolution. In a second article, [Reuters](#) (9/8) reports a senior US official "expressed skepticism" that either China or Russia "would accept anything more stringent than a ban on imports of North Korean textiles." According to a statement from the US Mission to the United Nations, the US notified the Security Council that it will call for a vote on the measure in a meeting on Monday.

Mexico Recalls Ambassador Ahead Of North Korean Holiday. The [AP](#) (9/8, Tong-Hyung) reports South Korean Unification Ministry spokeswoman Eugene Lee warned Friday that North Korea may conduct its next intercontinental ballistic missile test as soon as Saturday, when the nation celebrates its founding anniversary, or around Oct. 10, which marks another North Korean holiday commemorating the founding of the ruling party. "North Korea has previously marked key dates with displays of military power," the AP says, "but now its tests appear to be driven by the need to improve missile capabilities." Also on Friday, the Swedish Foreign urged citizens "to refrain from unnecessary trips to North Korea." Just hours earlier, "Mexico's government said it declared North Korean Ambassador Kim Hyong Gil as persona non grata and ordered him to leave the country within 72 hours in response to Sunday's nuke test."

Mexico's Foreign Ministry said in a statement, "With this diplomatic step, Mexico expresses to the North Korean government its categorical repudiation of its recent nuclear activity, which is an increasingly brazen violation of international law," reports the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/8, Cheng), which says the latest diplomatic setback for North Korea comes amid Secretary of State Tillerson's call to other nations to terminate or greatly reduce their relations with Pyongyang. The Journal calls Mexico's move unusual because the nation has historically engaged in a policy of noninterference, although in recent years it has grown more assertive on the international stage.

Trade Data Suggests North Korea Facing Cash Shortage. "Even as China sells more goods to North Korea, it is buying less from there, according to trade data and experts on the relationship between the two," reports the [New York Times](#) (9/8, Bradsher), which says this worsening trade imbalance "appears to be deepening North Korea's need for credit from China or for cold, hard cash from somewhere else." Furthermore, it potentially signals "why economic sanctions have had little effect on North Korea," because while the sanctions may slash "North Korea's export income, it can still procure goods to keep its urban elites happy with a little help from Beijing" with trade credits. If true, the Times says, North Korea's increasing dependence on Chinese trade credits "could present a potential weak point that the Trump administration and others could exploit, if China is willing to go along, as they look for ways to persuade North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles."

Von Drehle: China Is Key To De-Escalating North Korean Crisis. [Washington Post](#) (9/8, Von Drehle) columnist David Von Drehle argues President Trump's "gut-based leadership style" may have drawbacks, but his instincts on several goings-on this week – most notably, the North Korean threat – proved correct. "Unfortunately," Von Drehle says, "Trump has clouded that message and alarmed the world with blustery talk about unleashing 'fire and fury' that is 'locked and loaded.'" He explains Trump's tone "could not be more wrong" because his comments "steer attention away from China while lowering the president to the level of Kim Jong Un." Meanwhile, "Secretary of State Rex Tillerson is hard at work below the radar prodding and encouraging China's leaders to shoulder the responsibility they claim to seek." Von Drehle urges Trump to continue focusing on China as the solution to the crisis, because "a stronger China is inevitable" regardless of its involvement in de-escalating the crisis.

Diplomats: US Seeks Quick Security Council Action On Proposed North Korea Sanctions.

On condition of anonymity, several diplomats told the [AP](#) (9/9, Lederer) that on Friday, all 15 United Nations Security Council members discussed a draft resolution proposed by the US "that would impose the toughest-ever sanctions on North Korea, a move that could lead to a showdown with the country's biggest trading partner China and its neighbor Russia." The Administration circulated the draft on Tuesday and called for a vote on Monday, a strategy that the diplomats said "was aimed at putting maximum pressure on China and reflected Washington's escalating concern over North Korea's latest nuclear test, which its leaders touted as a hydrogen bomb, and its recent ballistic missile launch over Japan." Pennsylvania State University professor Joseph DeThomas, who previously served as a US ambassador and State Department official, similarly said the US demand for such quick council action on the draft signals "how the administration

thinks time has run out.”

Trump Discusses North Korean Threat With France’s Macron, Japan’s Abe. [Reuters](#) (9/9, Rose) reports President Trump, French President Emmanuel Macron, and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe “discussed increased pressure and sanctions on North Korea on the telephone” Saturday, according to France’s presidential office. The leaders emphasized the need for a “united and firm” international response to Pyongyang’s provocations, which the French presidential office described as “repeated” and threatening “to peace and international security.”

US, Japan Conduct Joint Military Air Exercise Above East China Sea. [Reuters](#) (9/9, Funakoshi) reports Japan’s Air Self Defense Force said Japan and the US conducted joint air exercises above the East China Sea on Saturday. The joint military exercise “comes as South Korea braces for a possible further missile test by North Korea as it marked its founding anniversary, just days after its sixth and largest nuclear test rattled global financial markets and further escalated tensions in the region.”

North Korea’s Kim Jong Un Celebrates Nation’s Founding Without “Fresh Provocations.” [Reuters](#) (9/9) reports North Korean leader Kim Jong Un celebrated the 69th anniversary of the country’s founding on Saturday by congratulating “his nuclear scientists and technicians who steered the country’s sixth and largest nuclear test a week ago, its official news agency said on Sunday.” The US and its allies, including South Korea, “had been bracing for another long-range missile launch in time for the” celebration, “but no fresh provocations were spotted while the North held numerous events to mark the holiday.”

WPost A1: North Korean Defectors Recall Escape To Seoul. On its front page, the [Washington Post](#) (9/9, Fifield) provides the accounts of 11 North Korean defectors in Seoul who escaped from Kim Jong Un’s regime. The defectors said they first passed “through China, Vietnam and Laos, where they must be on the alert for police who might arrest them and send them back the way they came – to certain and brutal punishment in North Korea,” after which they crossed “a fourth frontier from Laos into Thailand,” where “they are finally safe.” Once in Thailand, North Korean defectors face only “a minor immigration violation.” Meanwhile, the South Korean Embassy in Bangkok begins “the process of transferring them to Seoul – not far from where many started their journey,” but a place where they can “start a new life, one of constant Internet connectivity and white rice every day.”

NATO’s Stoltenberg: North Korea’s “Reckless Behavior” Demands Global Response. [Reuters](#) (9/10) reports NATO head Jens Stoltenberg, in a Sunday interview with BBC television, warned, “The reckless behavior of North Korea is a global threat and requires a global response and that of course also includes NATO.” On whether an attack on Guam would trigger NATO’s Article 5 and require member-states to respond, Stoltenberg commented, “I will not speculate about whether Article 5 will be applied in such a situation.” He also stressed the importance of working towards a “political solution, continue to press also the economic sanctions.” British defense minister Michael Fallon similarly stressed the need to strive for “a diplomatic solution,” but he added that the US “is fully entitled to defend its own territory, to defend its bases and to look after its people but this involves us, London is closer to North Korea and its missiles than Los Angeles.”

US, FSM Hold Annual Joint Economic Management Committee Meeting.

[Marianas Variety](#) (9/10) reports that “the Federated States of Micronesia and the United States bilateral Joint Economic Management Committee annual meeting took place Wednesday, Aug. 30, 2017, in Honolulu, Hawaii.” The committee members “jointly allocated \$61 million for the sectors of health, education, public sector capacity building, private sector development, environment and public sector infrastructure as identified under the Compact of Free Association, as amended, for the benefit of the people of the FSM.” JEMCO Chairman and acting Assistant Interior Secretary for Insular Areas Nik Pula said, “The JEMCO meetings this year were productive. I am especially pleased to see the FSM and the Army Corps of Engineers collaborating to strengthen the infrastructure program and project management practices.”

Office Of Surface Mining

DMME Receives Award For Environmental Excellence.

The [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (9/8) reported the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy’s Hurricane Fork Gob Pile Project has received an award for environmental excellence from the Office of Surface Mining and Enforcement. Gobco was contracted to remove the gob pile, which was transferred to Dominion Energy Virginia’s City Hybrid Energy Center and burned for

electricity production. Gobco co-owner and manager Walk Crickmer said, "Hurricane Fork was one of the projects where there was a lot of positive environmental results. ... Working with DMME and Dominion Power to remove the one million tons of waste coal that was polluting the Clinch River makes this project one of the most memorable we have completed."

"Trump Says He Cares About People In Coal Country. So Why Halt A Study On Their Health?"

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/10) writes that the Interior Department's recent decision to halt a study on the side effects of mountaintop-removal coal mining on people living in surrounding areas raises questions about the Administration's supposed support for people in "coal country." The Post highlights research about negative health and environmental side effects of such mountaintop landscape stripping and argues that the study should be restarted.

Bil Lepp: On Unnecessary Hillbillies And Mountaintop Removal.

In an op-ed for the [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (9/9, Lepp), Bil Lepp criticizes the order "to cease research on the possible health effects of mountaintop removal." According to Lepp, "stopping this study and ignoring the ill effects of mountaintop removal may well increase coal production, but it doesn't, ultimately, help the people the president has championed." Lepp claims that "halting this study might help the coal bosses at the top of the chain while hurting the miners and their families."

The War On Coal Communities: Strip Mining.

In an op-ed for the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) (9/10, Doyle), Jack Doyle writes that President Trump is "now aiding and abetting the continuing assault on coal communities, proposing, for example: to cut \$111 million from the Office of Surface Mining budget; open up public lands to coal leasing and strip mining; eliminate the \$89 million Abandoned Mine Land Economic Development Pilot program; eliminate the Appalachian Regional Commission (95 percent of its 420 counties voted for Trump); shut down a National Academy of Sciences study investigating cancer rates near mountain-top removal sites; severely cut the economic revitalization POWER grants for coal communities; and give government subsidies to failing coal companies." Doyle urges Trump to "end the 'war on coal' rhetoric, reverse his evisceration of environmental laws and community assistance programs, and empower his agencies to uphold the promises repeatedly made to coalfield citizens over the last 40 years."

US Geological Survey

At Least 60 Dead From Magnitude 8.1 Earthquake In Mexico As Country Braces For Hurricane Katia.

[CBS Evening News](#) (9/8, 0:35, Glor, Mason) reported Mexico experienced its "most powerful earthquake in decades" overnight. The 8.1-magnitude quake struck the southwest coast, but "shook buildings and knocked out power in Mexico City more than 600 miles away." The quake came as "Mexico is also bracing for Hurricane Katia, a category two storm. It's expected to bring floods, landslides and devastating winds to Mexico's Gulf Coast Saturday morning."

According to the US Geological Survey, "Five aftershocks with a preliminary magnitude 4.9 or stronger hit in the hour following the initial quake," the [New York Times](#) (9/8, Malkin, Ramzy) reports. The [AP](#) (9/8) reports the US Tsunami Warning System cautioned that hazardous tsunami waves reaching heights 9.8 feet above the tide level "were possible on the Pacific coasts of several Central American countries, including Guatemala, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Panama and Honduras, within three hours."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/8, 0:26, Holt) and [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/8, 0:21, Muir) described it as the most powerful earthquake to strike Mexico in a century. ABC News added that at least 60 people were killed, with the death toll expected to rise. The [Washington Post](#) (9/8, Partlow) reports the town of Juchitan appeared to be one of the worst hit "with 31 people reported dead, according to the Mexican daily El Universal." Three deaths were reported "in Tabasco state, including an infant who perished when hospital electricity failed and a ventilator shut off, authorities said." The Post notes that in 1985, only one earthquake sensor in Mexico was in operation when "the calamitous 1985 earthquake that killed at least 5,000 people here and left a quarter-million homeless" struck; currently, there are now "about 100 solar-powered sensors throughout the country" that "send automatic alerts to a network of 8,000 alarms, intended to

provide about a minute of warning before the shock waves reach Mexico City.”

Nevada Panel Reviewing Name Change For Jeff Davis Peak.

The [AP](#) (9/8, Sonner) reports that “a far-off mountain peak in Nevada’s Great Basin National Park is getting more attention since deadly race-based violence in Virginia last month sparked new calls for the removal of Confederate monuments.” Nevada’s state Board of Geographic Names is “reviewing a pair of proposals to change the name of the remote peak near the Utah line named after Confederate leader Jefferson Davis, and a federal panel that would have the final say about re-designating Jeff Davis Peak already is researching one of the ideas.” That proposal would designate the mountain as Smalls Peak, “in honor of U.S. Rep. Robert Smalls – a South Carolina slave who escaped in 1862 and fought for the Union army before he was elected to Congress from South Carolina during Reconstruction.” The U.S. Geological Survey’s Board on Geographic Names “intends to prepare a case brief on the Smalls proposal it received Aug. 28 and add it to the panel’s next quarterly review list expected to be released at the end of this month, board research staffer Jennifer Runyon said Friday.”

4 Small Earthquakes Recorded Across Northern Oklahoma.

The [AP](#) (9/9) reported the USGS recorded four small earthquakes across northern Oklahoma. Covington reported a 3.1 and 3.0 quake Friday evening, while Hunter had a 2.7 quake and Aline reported a 2.5 magnitude quake.

Top National News

Trump Approves Irma Disaster Declaration As Florida Officials Laud Federal Response.

President Trump spoke briefly to reporters Sunday afternoon as he returned to the White House from Camp David, where he received an update on Hurricane Irma. The [CBS Weekend News](#) (9/10, story 11, 0:50, Glor) noted that the President on Sunday also “declared a major disaster in Florida that will open up federal aid to assist in the cleanup from Hurricane Irma.” The [Miami Herald](#) (9/10, Bousquet) likewise says Trump approved a major disaster declaration for Hurricane Irma “hours after Gov. Rick Scott requested it.” The governor’s office said the declaration will authorize federal funding “to flow to areas affected by the storm and will reimburse cities and counties and the state for costs of response and recovery.”

[The Hill](#) (9/10, Manchester) reports Florida Sens. Marco Rubio and Bill Nelson wrote a letter to Trump, “supporting Scott’s request,” and the [Washington Post](#) (9/10, Costa, Parker) reports Florida officials said Sunday that they “are so far pleased with the federal response to Hurricane Irma and expect Congress to consider an emergency relief package in the coming weeks with the full support of President Trump.” Scott told [Fox News Sunday](#) that he has spoken several times with Trump. “The president said, ‘Look, I will provide whatever resources you need’ when I talked to him. I pretty much talk to him every day,” Scott said.

Scott told [CBS’ Face The Nation](#) (9/10, Dickerson) that he’s spoken to the President, FEMA Administrator Long and acting DHS Secretary Duke. Scott added that all three had committed federal resources. Asked about his conversations with the President, Scott said, “I’ve talked to him almost every day, almost every cabinet member called me once a day from the Administration just making sure we have all the resources.”

Nelson, the [Washington Examiner](#) (9/10, Lim) reports, “praised the Trump administration and the rest of the federal government Sunday for ‘seamless’ preparations for Hurricane Irma.” Nelson told [CBS’ “Face the Nation.”](#) “It’s been very good. And there is the cooperation between the federal level, the state, and the locals. That has been seamless cooperation, unlike 25 years ago in Hurricane Andrew, when you did not have that cooperation.”

Kristen Welker said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/10, story 10, 1:10, Holt) that the “Administration is throwing the full weight of its resources behind Irma: some 13,000 federal workers already committed, nearly 2,000 pre-positioned throughout the affected area, and supplies – more than seven million meals, 10 million liters of water, generators, tents and medical equipment.”

Speaking to reporters at the White House on Sunday, [Reuters](#) (9/10, Lynch) reports Trump called Hurricane Irma “some big monster” as it battered the Florida coast, “saying he wants to go to the state very soon and praising emergency officials for their efforts to protect people.” Said the President, “The bad news is that this is some big monster. ... I hope there aren’t too many people in the path. You don’t want to be in that path.”

The [AP](#) (9/10, Superville) reports Trump said that “we may have been a little bit lucky” after Hurricane Irma veered from its original course and headed along Florida’s west coast, instead of east. Speaking to reporters at the White House after returning from Camp David, the President said, “We may have been a little bit lucky in that it went on the west and it may not have been quite as destructive, but we’re going to see. It’s going to play out over the next five or six hours.” According to the AP, Trump “deflected questions” federal aid, saying “right now we’re worried about lives, not cost.”

[USA Today](#) (9/10, Jackson, King) reports Trump also “praised the cooperation of state and federal officials and urged residents to stay out of the way of the deadly storm.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/10, Lim) quotes the President as saying, “The Coast Guard has been amazing already. You’ve been hearing what they’re doing right in the middle of the storm. FEMA has been incredible. We’re working very well with the governor and the other governors in the surrounding states.” [The Hill](#) (9/10, Manchester) reports Trump also told reporters that he would make a trip to south Florida “very soon.”

Earlier on Sunday, the [AP](#) (9/11) reports the White House said the President received a “comprehensive update” on Hurricane Irma. Trump, Vice President Pence and “several Cabinet members” participated in the briefing from Camp David, where Trump “spent the weekend monitoring the storm.” The White House also said Trump has spoken with the governors of Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina and Tennessee.

[Breitbart](#) (9/10, Spiering) reports Trump said after meeting with his Cabinet, “We’re not playing politics, we’re just doing what’s right. I tell that to everybody at this table, do what’s right, don’t play politics.” The President also “thanked government officials working ‘around the clock’ to respond to the storm and urged all Americans to listen to local officials.”

After returning to Washington on Sunday afternoon, [USA Today](#) (9/10, Jackson, King) reports Vice President Pence and “other administration officials” visited FEMA headquarters. Acting FEMA Deputy Administrator Kathleen Fox “said that as of Sunday more than 13,000 people from a variety of federal agencies are positioned in and around Florida.”

The [Fox News](#) (9/10, Weber) website reports Pence said the President has “great concern” and that wherever the storm goes, “we’ll be there first.” Speaking to reporters, Pence said, “Wherever Hurricane Irma goes, we’ll be there first [with] the resources and support to save lives and to help and recover. This is a very dangerous storm, life-threatening. ... The people of Florida need to know that our hearts and prayers and all of our efforts will be with them until this storm passes.” According to Fox, the Cabinet members joining Pence were acting DHS Secretary Duke, HHS Secretary Price, Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, Energy Secretary Perry and EPA Administrator Pruitt.

[The Hill](#) (9/10, Shelbourne) reports Pence on Sunday “urged Floridians to listen to local officials” as Irma impacts the state. “It’s important to remember that this is and continues to be a very dangerous storm,” Pence said during the visit to FEMA. “And we urge everyone...to heed the warnings of local officials, whether that be to shelter in place or if in the farthest northern parts of the state, there’s still an opportunity, according to local officials, to move out of the way and to evacuate to a safe shelter.”

The [New York Times](#) (9/10), meanwhile, reports Irma is expected to “rake the state’s west coast – a change from earlier predictions that left some residents and officials scrambling to find shelter. The new track could expose St. Petersburg – rather than Miami or Tampa – to a direct hit.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/10, story 5, 2:20, Holt) reported that the Tampa Bay area is “bracing for what could be the first direct hit by a major hurricane in nearly a century,” and the [CBS Weekend News](#) (9/10, story 7, 1:50, Glor) reported the area is “very vulnerable” to storm surge. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/10, story 6, 1:35, Muir) likewise said the Tampa-St. Petersburg area “has been called the most vulnerable in the country to flooding damage. ... The city will flood at just three feet of storm surge. The storm surge from Irma could more than double” that. On its front page, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/10, A1, Kusisto, Friedman) also reports on Tampa’s vulnerability to storm-surge flooding.

[Reuters](#) (9/10, Chiacu) reports FEMA Administrator Long told “Fox News Sunday” that Irma’s track “posed a severe threat to Florida’s west coast and the Florida Keys.” Said Long, “This is a worst case scenario for Monroe County, the Florida Keys and the west coast of Florida. Any time you’re in that northeast quadrant as the storm is moving forward, that’s where the maximum radius winds are that define the intensity of the storm.”

Asked on [Fox News Sunday](#) (9/10, Wallace) whether the more “proactive” stance of FEMA might have created a problem as the original path of the storm was more to the east, Long said, “Not at all.” Asked if his agency had the money needed to address the damage anticipated from

this hurricane, Long said, "Congress did its due diligence and passed the supplemental to allow us to keep moving and as I've been saying, paperwork and money should not get in the way of saving lives and I believe the Congress recognizes that." He said that he currently had the "authority from the President that I need to be able to move forward as well."

Acting Homeland Security Secretary Duke said on [Fox News](#) (9/10), "Gov. Scott is leading the response for Florida and FEMA is positioned to provide all the necessary response the Florida requests. We have people, we have equipment, and we have supplies." Duke added that people who did not evacuate must "follow the directions of the local officials. In certain counties there is the ability to evacuate still. If it's too late, listen to your local officials and shelter in place. Response will not be immediate. A person should not expect an immediate response if they have chosen to stay back contrary to evacuation orders."

Duke said on [MSNBC](#) (9/10) that resources are positioned "in various locations in Florida and around Florida. A lot of it is at military bases but it is important to note that until it is safe and until the Governor requests it, we will not be moving in supplies. So, those that shelter in place should be ready to sustain themselves for a period of time." Duke added, "The shelters are well stocked at this point. The American Red Cross and other shelter providers are used to this level of storm. Our biggest concern is search and rescue, especially in the Keys. There's no place to land. The winds are still high. We cannot go in with search and rescue at this time, it is not safe."

The [Sarasota \(FL\) Herald-Tribune](#) (9/10, Brooks), meanwhile, reports that the 82nd Airborne Division will deploy "nearly 300 paratroopers and more than 80 military vehicles" to Florida to help in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. Lt. Col. Joe Buccino, a spokesman with the 82nd Airborne Division, said soldiers were notified Saturday and put on "prepare to deploy" orders early Sunday morning.

First Lady Thanks Irma First Responders. [The Hill](#) (9/10, Manchester) reports First Lady Melania Trump on Sunday thanked first responders in the areas affected by Hurricane Irma. The First Lady [tweeted](#), "Today's video conference #HurricaneIrma briefing by @Fema at Camp David. Thank you to 1st responders! Stay safe!"

Scavino Tweets, Deletes Inaccurate Hurricane Irma Video. [The Hill](#) (9/10, Beavers) reports White House social media director Dan Scavino Jr. "shared and then deleted an inaccurate video he claimed was of Hurricane Irma on Sunday." Scavino tweeted, "Sharing [Hurricane Irma] on social media with [President Trump] and [Vice President Pence] hourly. Here is Miami International Airport. STAY SAFE!!" However, he "later deleted the tweet from his account after Miami International Airport commented that the video was not of Hurricane Irma hitting Miami International Airport." The White House "did not immediately respond to a request for comment about the deleted video."

WSJournal: Congress Should Approve More Visas For Construction Workers To Aid In Recovery. On its editorial page, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/10) says that in the wake of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, the urgent need for more construction workers ought to get the President's attention. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported 225,000 construction job openings in June, up 30% in the last year and 125% since 2012, and the National Association of Home Builders estimates that up to 20,000 workers will be needed to rebuild homes after Harvey. The Journal calls on Congress to authorize more guest-worker visas for construction as part of the Irma relief bill, and any undocumented worker who assists with rebuilding should receive one.

Arizona Republic Columnist: Storms Won't Help US Economy. [Arizona Republic](#) (9/10) columnist Jon Gabriel writes that the economic impact of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma "could be felt for years, but many economists and financial experts think there's a silver lining." Gabriel, however, argues that the "only economic good" to come from the storms "would be a remedial course in basic common sense. Instead of looking for disasters to fix our economy, economists and politicians should stop the unnatural disasters they inflict on American consumers and job creators every single day. By eliminating red tape, silly regulations and unnecessary taxes, each of us will be free to actually grow our economy instead of passing around the dwindling dollars we already have."

Politico Analysis: Back-To-Back Natural Disasters Pose Federal Aid Challenge. [Politico](#) (9/10, Woellert) reports that "more than a decade of budget cutting and a rash of government job vacancies are taxing Washington's ability to cope with a one-two punch of epic storms." Over the weekend, "federal first responders were decamping from the Hurricane Harvey havoc in Texas to head for Florida." The two storms "could be a breaking point" for the federal government, but White House Homeland Security Adviser Bossert told reporters Friday, "The federal government should be able to walk and chew gum at the same time. I'm pretty comfortable in our ability and

capacity as leaders and also as institutions.”

Administration Monitoring Irma As Hurricane Approaches Florida.

President Trump on Saturday held a cabinet meeting at Camp David focused on Hurricane Irma as the Category 4 storm advanced on Florida. While only a handful of media outlets highlighted the meeting, media coverage emphasized other aspects of the Administration's preparations as well as warnings from Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Long, Florida Gov. Rick Scott, and other lawmakers. Reporting additionally focused on the latest developments in advance of the storm's arrival.

The [New York Times](#) (9/9, Shear) reports Trump “monitored the impact of Hurricane Irma from the presidential retreat at Camp David on Saturday as he held the fourth full cabinet meeting of his presidency to discuss how to advance his administration's priorities during the balance of his first year in office.” The Times adds that “aides said Mr. Trump would receive hurricane briefings throughout the day” and “after remaining largely silent on Twitter through much of the day, [he] issued a warning about the hurricane in the evening.” The President [asserted](#), “This is a storm of enormous destructive power, and I ask everyone in the storm's path to heed ALL instructions from government officials.” The [AP](#) (9/9, Superville) reports that in a video of his remarks from Camp David that accompanied the tweet, Trump also “caution[ed] people in Irma's path to ‘get out of its way’ and not worry about their possessions.”

[The Hill](#) (9/9, Bowden) reports Trump in his opening remarks “expressed condolences for the victims of Irma and Harvey, which struck Texas and Louisiana earlier this month.” The President said, “All of America continues, I must say, to pray for the families affected by Hurricane Harvey, Hurricane Irma, which looks like it's going to be a really bad one, but we're prepared. ... We're as prepared as you can be for such an event, that I can say.” He added, “All of America grieves for those who have already lost their lives.” [Fox News](#) (9/10) reports Trump on Saturday night later [tweeted](#), “The U.S. Coast Guard, FEMA and all Federal and State brave people are ready. Here comes Irma. God bless everyone!”

Meanwhile, according to [The Hill](#) (9/9, Manchester) “Briefing Room” blog, FEMA Administrator Long “issued a dire warning on Saturday for people choosing to stay in the Florida Keys as Hurricane Irma makes landfall.” In an interview with CNN, Long warned residents are “on your own until we can actually get in there, and it's safe for our teams to support local and state efforts.” Long added, “The message has been clear – the Keys are going to be impacted, there is no safe area within the Keys, and you put your life in your own hands by not evacuating.”

The [New York Times](#) (9/9, Times) reports that as the storm “churned toward Florida on Saturday,” Scott similarly warned residents of the Keys, “once the storm starts, law enforcement cannot save you.” He noted, “If we lose one bridge, everything south of the bridge, everybody's going to be stranded. It's going to take us a while to get back in there to try to provide services.” The [Washington Post](#) (9/9, A1, Achenbach, Zezima, Stein) in a front-page article also reports Scott “sounded dire warnings” about Irma, which he said “is a deadly storm and our state has never seen anything like it,” while the [AP](#) (9/9, Kay) says that he advised Florida residents that the storm surge “will cover your house. ... It flows in fast, very fast. You will not survive all this storm surge.”

In a more than 2,500-word article, the [Washington Post](#) (9/9, Shapiro, Berman, Zezima) reports Scott therefore “implored people living in evacuation zones to leave their homes, telling people on in the southwest part of the state to leave their homes by noon for a shelter or elsewhere.” He issued a plea for nurses to volunteer at the state's special needs shelters and said Trump and Long “have guaranteed all necessary federal resources.”

[The Hill](#) (9/9, Manchester) reports Sen. Marco Rubio on Saturday similarly “stressed the seriousness of Hurricane Irma, urging people in Florida to listen to officials as the storm barrels toward the state.” Rubio emphasized the storm will be accompanied by “serious winds” as he “urged residents to not play amateur meteorologist and warned against people leaving their homes during the storm.”

In addition, [USA Today](#) (9/9, Hughes) reports local officials are also “begging residents of the Florida Keys to evacuate” as they “worry there won't be enough time for residents to make what can be a three-hour-plus drive from Key West to the mainland.” The [Miami Herald](#) (9/9, Koh) reports several cities in southern Florida have imposed curfews, though Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez told reporters Saturday morning he has “declined to order residents off of the roads” even as he “warned against taking the storm lightly.”

As Irma “shifted track Saturday, elevating the risk of severe damage in Tampa, a city that's grown rapidly as high-paying jobs moved to the region,” [Bloomberg News](#) (9/9, Levin, Fieser, Schatzker) reports the city's residents “woke up to the new forecast.” However, in an interview

with Bloomberg Television, Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn said, “structurally, I think [the major corporations that call the city home are] going to be fine,” though they could struggle with “getting their employees back in here to do what they need to do.”

FEMA Launches Irma Rumor-Debunking Website. The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (9/9, Sweeney) reports that FEMA has started a website to “debunk rumors regarding Hurricane Irma,” offering such information as hotels’ obligations under federal law and fuel shortage issues. The website, which went live September 5, “has already been a big hit,” according to FEMA. The agency said in an email, “FEMA’s latest tweets promoting the page have been re-tweeted more than 9,000 times and the Hurricane Irma Rumor Control page has received [more than] 45,000 page views since we created the page.”

About 7,000 National Guard Troops To Deploy To Florida. Maj. General Mark Bartman, the Ohio National Guard’s adjutant general, told the [AP](#) (9/9, Gillispie) on Saturday that “a contingent totaling around 7,000 soldiers from National Guard units in” Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin “will be sent to Florida to help the state with the aftermath of Hurricane Irma.”

“Hurricane Hunters” Provide Data On Irma. In an exclusive, [Reuters](#) (9/9, Stewart) on Friday and Saturday “accompanied the Air Force Reserves’ ‘Hurricane Hunters,’ whose hard-won data taken directly from the center of storms like Hurricane Irma are critical to U.S. forecasts that save lives.” Rick Knabb, a hurricane expert at the Weather Channel and a former director the National Hurricane Center, said, “We can estimate by satellite what the strength and size of a hurricane is. But only if you go into the hurricane can you really get an accurate measure of its exact center location, the structure, the maximum winds.”

Meanwhile, [The Hill](#) (9/9, Delk) reports in its “Briefing Room” blog that Rep. Dennis Ross announced Friday that he “flew on the NOAA’s Hurricane Hunter WP-3D Orion aircraft across the storm four times on Friday as part of the crew’s mission to fly through the storm at least twice a day until it arrives in Florida to gather data, local newspaper [The Ledger](#) reported.” In a statement, Ross said, “On this flight, I witnessed first-hand the selflessness and dedication of the NOAA employees who risk their lives to gather this life-saving information.” He also “said on the flight that Irma is ‘unlike anything you’ve ever seen. People need to evacuate if they’re going to be in the eye of this thing.’”

First Responders Face Back-To-Back Major Storms. [CNN](#) (9/9, Marsh, Graef, Wallace) “made a rare visit” to FEMA’s National Response Coordination Center, which is currently “fully staffed with employees who will work 12 hour shifts for seven days straight before getting seven days off.” CNN says “FEMA leadership described it as a ‘historic time’ because never before had this central command worked two massive back to back storms at the same time like Harvey and Irma, with Hurricane Jose also brewing.” FEMA Administrator Long stated, “Not only are we moving commodities, but we’ve moved search and rescue teams, emergency power crews.” Long added, “We’re going to have to have a ton of inspectors to come in to back-fill state and locals’ ability to make sure how do the roadway systems hold up.”

[NPR](#) (9/9, Rott) reports on the “many storm-weary emergency response units that are bracing for the one-two punch of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.” Officials aid the storms, as well as wildfires in the western US, “are straining the nation’s first responders.” The Coast Guard “has redeployed resources” from Texas to Florida, and one officer said, “It’s just unfortunate that it’s happening so quick – you know, one after the other – but our guys are ready to go.” Former FEMA chief of staff Jason McNamara said, “There is no doubt in my mind that they are extremely stretched...and that folks are starting to get tired,” still he said that those who need help will receive it.

Meanwhile, [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/9, 1:39, Holt) Lester Holt highlighted how first responders are responding to the shift in Irma’s trajectory toward western Florida.

US Southern Command Transfers Operations From Miami To Tucson. The [Miami Herald](#) (9/9, Rosenberg) reports US Southern Command “shifted operations to a subsidiary in Arizona on Saturday, shutting down the Pentagon’s suburban Miami outpost overseeing military operations in Latin America and the Caribbean more than 12 hours before Hurricane Irma’s anticipated landfall in the southernmost tip of Florida.” Army Col. Lisa Garcia “said Southcom’s Doral, Florida, headquarters closed at 3 p.m. on Saturday and that a small team was ‘assuming the Southcom watch responsibilities’ at the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson – more than 2,200 miles away from South Florida.”

Thousands Already Without Power As Irma Rolls Toward Florida. “Large and extremely powerful, Hurricane Irma is sweeping toward Florida, its outer rainbands and strong winds already lashing the Keys and southern peninsula with gusts up to 70 mph,” the [Washington Post](#) (9/10, Samenow, Porter) reports, and “at 7 p.m. Saturday, Irma was positioned about 105 miles

southeast of Key West, chugging along to the west-northwest at 9 mph." According to the Post, "the Keys are poised to take a direct and devastating hit from Irma" while "the current forecast track has Irma making her final landfall in between Naples and St. Petersburg."

However, the [Miami Herald](#) (9/9, Dahlberg) reports that Irma's winds have already begun striking Florida, and as of 6 p.m. "in Miami-Dade County, 57,170 homes and businesses were without power, according to" Florida Power & Light (FPL), which represents "about 5 percent of its 1.1 million customers. Service to another 70,170 customers was impacted but had been restored." The Herald says "in Broward County, 25,890 homes and businesses were without power at 6 p.m., nearly 3 percent of FPL's customer base, and power had been restored to 10,780 properties. FPL has 933,300 customers in Broward, where a tornado touched down in Oakland Park early Saturday evening." The Herald adds "in Palm Beach County, 3,260 of its 739,000 customers were experiencing an outage. An additional 7,170 customers had outages, but their power has been restored."

FEMA Administrator Long told [CNN](#) (9/9, Green, Marsh), "We could see millions of people without power in Florida for multiple days in some areas, maybe weeks, and so I think it's very important to set the expectations of citizens." Long said, "This is why we ask and plead with people to be ready for multiple days, and unfortunately this is coming into reality." Long added, "it's hard to speculate, but some of the estimates could be 5 million people without power based on this, you know, south-to-north trajectory, and it's not just Florida; it's going to be moving into Georgia as well ... over the next five days." Acting Homeland Security Secretary Elaine Duke told CNN, "Electrical outages are going to be extremely, extremely broad and probably long-lived. It will take a long time to put the electrical grid back together. And that's going to be a hard recovery for those survivors in Florida."

Meanwhile, [Reuters](#) (9/9, Thevenot) reports "thousands of line workers [were] racing through the night to stage their trucks and tools for Hurricane Irma, a monstrous storm expected to knock out power to half of the nation's third most-populous state." According to Reuters, they have been "told to expect to work at least a month of straight 16-hour days, with no breaks, trying to restore power to millions of homes." Reuters says Irma represents "a far bigger threat to the electric grid than Hurricane Harvey in Texas, [as it] threatens to knock out power to more than 4.1 million homes and businesses served by Florida Power & Light, affecting about 9 million people."

Florida Power & Light Shuts Down Nuclear Reactor At Turkey Point. The [Miami Herald](#) (9/9, Dahlberg) reports that Florida Power & Light (FPL) announced that as of early Saturday morning, it has shut down one of the two nuclear reactors at its Turkey Point nuclear plants. The decision "was anticipated and didn't impact power to customers, contrary to false reports circulating on social media on Friday."

[Reuters](#) (9/9, DiSavino, Gardner) calls Hurricane Irma "the toughest test yet for U.S. nuclear power plants since reactors strengthened their defenses against natural disasters following the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident in Japan in 2011," as Irma moves closer to impacting Florida – the home to four coastal nuclear reactors. In addition to saying it will shut down the Turkey Point plant before hurricane-strength winds reach it, FPL "said it will also shut the other nuclear plant in Florida at St Lucie, which also has two reactors on a barrier island on the state's east coast." FPL Chief Executive Silagy told a news conference, "We will shut the reactors down 24 hours before Category 1 force winds are forecast to hit."

Some Florida Residents Refusing To Evacuate. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/9, 2:38, Holt), Gabe Gutierrez reported from a "massive shelter" in Estero that "is almost at capacity, [as] for many of these evacuees it was a desperate scramble once they realized Irma was on its way and they had few options." According to Gutierrez, officials have ordered more than six million Floridians to evacuate and at least 54,000 people will be temporarily housed in 320 shelters located across the state. [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/9, 2:09, Holt) Kerry Sanders reported from Naples, Florida that state officials now "say it's too late to move any distance safely. Those who decided not to leave need to get into position and ride it out."

The [New York Times](#) (9/9, Fountain, Stevens) reports that over the past day and a half, "residents of southwest Florida went from worried observers of Irma to its primary target for destruction." According to the Times, "the slight westward shift in the storm's trajectory prompted a flurry of last-minute evacuation orders" in numerous counties that had not been expecting to bear the brunt of the storm, "leaving little time for residents to pack up and find refuge."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/9, Campo-Flores, Bernstein) reports on the Floridians who refused to evacuate, as does the [Miami Herald](#) (9/9, Ovalle), which says that "a ride south into

the Keys certainly felt desolate." Although officials "beseeched more than 6 million people in Florida and Georgia to evacuate," the [AP](#) (9/9, Dearen, Lush) similarly says "some around Florida are choosing to stay, a rite of passage for many in the state who boast about the storms they weathered: Camille, Andrew, Katrina and others." However, the [Miami Herald](#) (9/9, Ovalle) reports "the storm nevertheless scattered the homeless men who vowed to ride out Irma in the storefronts of Duval Street."

Monroe County Sheriff Discovers Man Killed In Keys Car Accident. "A Middle Keys woman took to Facebook Saturday afternoon, distraught after finding a truck had crashed into a tree and a dead man was inside at 98th Street, oceanside, in Marathon," the [Miami Herald](#) (9/9, Atkins) reports, but when she called 911, "no one answered, which Monroe County officials warned would happen in the wake of a mandatory evacuation order it issued in anticipation of Hurricane Irma." A spokeswoman for the Monroe County Sheriff's Office said deputies were eventually "able to find a tow truck, which quickly removed the truck and body for safe keeping."

WPost A1: Mass Evacuation Of Florida's Seniors Has Unique Risks. In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (9/9, A1, Davis, Somashekhar, Sullivan, Stein) reports on the evacuation efforts in Florida's nursing homes ahead of Hurricane Irma's landfall, with more than 150 assisted-living facilities and nursing homes evacuated across the state by Friday afternoon. Experts have said that by Sunday, it "will probably become the nation's largest-ever emergency evacuation of licensed facilities for senior care, with 13,000 or more residents relocated to points across Florida and the greater Southeast, from Georgia to Louisiana." The Post highlights some of the "unique risks" involved in evacuating the elderly, such as transporting those with cognitive disabilities such as Alzheimer's and dementia and moving those in wheelchairs and beds.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/9, 1:46, Holt) reported on the Miami Jewish health complex, where 700 senior residents "will not evacuate." Staff say supplies are stocked.

Immigrants In Florida's Orange County Nervous About Seeking Shelter. [Reuters](#) (9/9, Trotta) reports undocumented immigrants in Orange County, Florida said they are "nervous" about seeking shelter and reporting to authorities – fearing the possibility of arrest. Fear among immigrants in the area was "heightened in recent days after the sheriff in neighboring Polk County pledged to check criminal records of people seeking shelter."

WPost A1: Fear Pervasive Ahead Of Irma's Arrival. In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (9/9, A1, Fisher, Stein) reports "fear" of the storm this week "dominated Floridians' Facebook feeds – telegraphic reports and play-by-play accounts from friends and family who were packing up, hauling out or hunkering down." According to the Post, "Fear is in the water these days, spread with a new and viral efficiency on social media, into everyone's homes and everyone's pockets at all hours, every day." The Post adds that with "so many fears and faux fears making people jittery...it has taken a special effort to get some Americans to pay proper attention to Irma, a storm whose danger is obvious to the naked eye." The Post also emphasizes that in Florida, "anxiety over Irma has created instant community, bringing strangers, neighbors and families together in common concern and common flight."

Trump Signs \$15 Billion Disaster Funding Bill That Raises Debt Ceiling.

President Trump on Friday signed legislation passed by Congress earlier in the day that allocates \$15.25 billion in additional disaster relief funds while also raising the debt ceiling. While media coverage was largely favorable toward Trump for signing the funding package, reporting highlighted that Congressional Republicans were furious with the President for striking a deal with Democrats to pass the legislation.

[USA Today](#) (9/8, Korte, Jackson) reports that after Trump arrived at Camp David on Friday for "a weekend huddling with his cabinet and monitoring the federal response to hurricanes Harvey and Irma," the President "signed a bill to provide \$15.25 billion in additional disaster relief funds, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said." According to USA Today, the Administration's response is "increasingly complicated as the federal government fights what is essentially a three-front war: Recovery in Texas and Louisiana, life-saving efforts in Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, and preparation and evacuation in Florida, Georgia and South Carolina." [Bloomberg News](#) (9/8, Wasson) reports Sanders [tweeted](#) H.R. 601 would provide "much needed support for storm survivors. Our thoughts and prayers are with all impacted."

The [Washington Times](#) (9/8, Miller) reports Sanders additionally argued Trump was "not concerned that he angered some Capitol Hill Republicans by striking a deal with Democrats to quickly pass emergency disaster relief" because "it was more important to break the gridlock in Congress." Sanders said, "The biggest message is we are a lot less focused on what makes Congress happy and [instead on] what makes Americans better and stronger." She continued,

"He's going to continue working with whoever is interested in moving the ball forward to help the American people." [Reuters](#) (9/8, Rampton, Zargham) reports Sanders added, "I certainly think that the goal is to have bipartisan efforts and certainly legislation where you've got Republicans and Democrats both working towards it. ... And I certainly would expect to continue to see that."

Meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/8, Radnofsky) reports Trump defended his decision on Friday and the [New York Times](#) (9/8, Baker) reports he also "rejected Republican complaints about his decision to work with Democrats on fiscal and immigration issues" in several tweets "chiding his own party for failing to advance major legislation and calling on congressional leaders to begin overhauling the tax code immediately." In [two posts](#), the President said, "Republicans, sorry, but I've been hearing about Repeal & Replace for 7 years, didn't happen! Even worse, the Senate Filibuster Rule will never allow the Republicans to pass even great legislation. 8 Dems control – will rarely get 60 (vs. 51) votes. It is a Repub Death Wish!" He [continued](#), "Republicans must start the Tax Reform/Tax Cut legislation ASAP. Don't wait until the end of September. Needed now more than ever. Hurry!" However, the [AP](#) (9/8) says that Trump's tweet "ignores the fact that Senate Republicans trying to pass the health care bill were working under rules that required a simple majority, not 60 votes."

In addition, the [Washington Times](#) (9/8, Persons) reports Office of Management and Budget Director Mulvaney on Fox News "said Friday that President Trump proved he can govern in his deal with Democrats this week." Mulvaney asserted, "Let's look at it from this perspective, what did the president do in addition to clearing the decks by cutting this deal with the Democrats earlier this week? He proved that he can govern. He proved that he can run the country and prioritize what's most important at the appropriate times." Mulvaney added, "I think he's looking at that debt ceiling saying, look, that might impede my ability to effectively govern the country, so is there a way to deal with this in a different way?"

Conservative Lawmakers Boo, Hiss As Bill Passes. The [AP](#) (9/8, Taylor) reports "the House voted 316-90 for the measure that would refill depleted emergency accounts as Florida braces for the impact of Hurricane Irma and Texas picks up the pieces after the devastation of the Harvey storm" and raise the debt ceiling, but "all 90 votes in opposition were cast by Republicans, many of whom seethed after Trump cut the disaster-and-debt deal with Democratic leaders with no offsetting budget cuts." The [New York Times](#) (9/8, Kaplan, Shear) reports conservatives lawmakers "vented" at Treasury Secretary Mnuchin and Mulvaney during a closed-door meeting that had "sought to drum up more Republican support for the legislation" and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/8, Peterson, Hughes) reports House Republicans were surprised by the appeal from Mulvaney, given his former opposition to raising the debt limit during his tenure in the House. The [AP](#) (9/8, Daly) reports the lawmakers "hissed and booed" both Mnuchin, who asked Republicans to "vote for the debt ceiling for me," and Mulvaney, "though at least one lawmaker said the booing was largely good-natured."

According to the [Washington Post](#) (9/8, Debonis, Snell), "to many GOP members, the administration's messengers were poorly chosen: Mnuchin is a New York financier known for his past as a Democratic fundraiser. Mulvaney is a former House conservative who spent much of his legislative career browbeating GOP leaders over the national debt and budget deficits." Rep. Ryan Costello asserted, "There were probably a lot of members in there in disbelief. ... I do know that there is a lot of frustration with the deal that was cut by the president, and I think it's a very difficult pill for many in there to swallow." [Politico](#) (9/8, Bade, Cheney) similarly says "the huddle quickly went off the rails when Rep. Tim Walberg stood up to say...Trump needed to play more with the team" while "more than a dozen lawmakers...echoed that same sentiment, according to sources in the room."

Meanwhile, [Politico](#) (9/8, Scholtes) in a separate article reports "several Republicans pressed the Cabinet officials to commit to a strategy for handling deficit spending the next time Congress must vote to raise the debt limit, according to lawmakers who attended the meeting." Rep. Jeff Duncan said that he told Mnuchin, "Show us a plan. ... We can't just keep borrowing money. We're going to be \$22 trillion in debt."

Ultimately, [McClatchy](#) (9/8, Dumain) reports "more than two dozen congressional Republicans from storm-vulnerable states Friday voted against authorizing \$15.25 billion in disaster relief funds." McClatchy says that although they appeared "insensitive," the conservative lawmakers "insisted constituents would understand their votes." In a separate article, [McClatchy](#) (9/8, Daugherty) reports Reps. Matt Gaetz and Ted Yoho voted against the bill, with Gaetz condemning the funding package as "generational theft." [Bloomberg News](#) (9/8, Wasson) reports that in an interview after the meeting, Yoho "responded to Mnuchin's comments by saying: 'He's not one of my constituents!'" In addition, Rep. Dave Brat of Virginia said: "The comments from the Treasury secretary today were not helpful. I found them to be intellectually insulting."

Trump Calls For Churches To Receive FEMA Relief Funds. [Reuters](#) (9/8, Beech) reports Trump on Friday [tweeted](#), "Churches in Texas should be entitled to reimbursement from FEMA Relief Funds for helping victims of Hurricane Harvey (just like others)." According to The Hill, the President's comments come after "three Texas churches severely damaged by the hurricane sued FEMA on Monday, saying the agency has a ban on providing relief where at least half a building's space is used for religious purposes."

Lawmakers Introduce Hurricane Preparedness Bill. [The Hill](#) (9/8, Henry) reports Reps. Scott Peters, Elise Stefanik, and a dozen other House lawmakers "introduced legislation to help states and localities prepare for natural disasters like hurricanes and wildfires." According to The Hill, "the legislation would create a clearinghouse designed to help communities lay the groundwork for disasters like hurricanes, including information on planning and response techniques that have been successful in past incidents." In a statement, Peters said, "We can't keep waiting for the next Harvey, or the next Irma, or the next big fire to finally have a national vision for strengthening community resiliency in the face of these increasing extreme weather events." Stefanik added, "Natural disasters should be prepared for in advance to better ensure families, businesses and communities are ready when they strike."

Pelosi Refuses To Apologize For Reaching Agreement With Trump. The [Washington Post](#) (9/8, Snell) reports House Minority Leader Pelosi "isn't apologizing to Democrats and liberal activists for cutting a deal with President Trump on spending and the debt limit." In an interview on Friday, Pelosi asserted, "I make no apology for doing that with the person who is going to sign the bill. ... It gives you great leverage." The [AP](#) (9/8, Werner) reports she also "predicted on Friday that Democrats will have increased leverage on immigration and other issues, after a debt and disaster aid deal they cut with... Trump passed the House on the strength of Democratic votes." Pelosi told reporters that if legislation depends "on Democratic votes, it increases our leverage. ... It gives us a possibility for passing the DREAM Act" as an amendment to spending legislation.

Although Pelosi and other Democratic leaders "have been running victory laps in the days since they struck a deal with President Trump, over Republican objections, to extend the nation's borrowing limit and keep the government open for three months," the [Washington Post](#) (9/8, Sullivan, Gearan) warns, "a growing number of Democratic lawmakers and activists are voicing worries about getting too close to Trump, whom they have held up as the opposite of what they stand for on issues of race, immigration, the environment and the economy – and whom they hope to campaign against in next year's midterm elections."

Meadows: Trump Deal With Democrats A "One Off" Occurrence Due To Hurricane. The [Washington Times](#) (9/8, Persons) reports House Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows insisted Friday on MSNBC that Trump's deal with Democrats was a "one off" occurrence and not a trend. He asserted, "Because of [the] hurricane relief, there wasn't a whole lot of options. When you look at this you either had an 18-month clean debt limit, or you had what was agreed to, a three-month clean debt limit. When given two bad options, you can't be too critical of anybody, but I can tell you what it was. Our grassroots are very confused."

Former Presidents Launch Fund For Hurricane Relief Aid. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/8, Radnofsky) reports former Presidents Barack Obama, George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush, and Jimmy Carter in a 30-second ad that aired during the opening National Football League game on Thursday night kicked off an appeal to Americans for hurricane relief funding. The [New York Times](#) (9/7, Haag) says "the campaign, One America Appeal, began with [the] public service announcement" in what "was a rare showing of unity in American politics, and President Trump, who has disregarded traditional presidential decorum and has criticized some of his predecessors, endorsed their effort." Trump [tweeted](#), "We will confront ANY challenge, no matter how strong the winds or high the water. I'm proud to stand with Presidents for #OneAmericaAppeal."

Long Facing Key Test As FEMA "Burning Through" Disaster Funds. The [New York Times](#) (9/8, Nixon) reports that while Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Long "received widespread praise for his handling of the federal response to Hurricane Harvey, the first major natural disaster faced by the Trump administration," he now "faces an even bigger test: FEMA is burning through money as it continues its recovery efforts in storm-battered Texas and ramps up assistance for the anticipated damage from Hurricane Irma, which expected to hit South Florida on Saturday." The Times adds that "even before Hurricane Harvey barreled into Texas and Louisiana, the agency was already responding to natural disasters in 20 states, from wildfires in the West to severe storms in Michigan and West Virginia. And more is likely to come: The hurricane season runs through the end of November." In an interview, Long vowed, "We're not going to let paperwork and money get in the way of saving lives."

NYTimes Analysis Examines Cruz's Changing Focus Amid Harvey Aftermath. In an analysis,

the [New York Times](#) (9/8, Flegenheimer) observes that as Sen. Ted Cruz is advocating for billions in federal aid for hurricane relief in Texas in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, he is shifting a political approach that during his Senate career has “often focused on cutting spending and building a national following as an avatar of unbending dogma.” The Times highlights Cruz’s opposition to a 2012 aid package for Hurricane Sandy relief and subsequent observations by colleagues and others who say Cruz in recent months has emerged as “an unlikely consensus builder among hard-right and moderate Republicans.”

Trump Calls For Republicans To Take Action On Tax Reform.

[The Hill](#) (9/8, Delk) “Briefing Room” blog reports President Trump in his [weekly address](#) on Friday “focused his attention on tax reform, a campaign promise his administration has set its sight on accomplishing in the coming months.” The President asserted, “Our current burdensome tax code is a massive lead weight against the American economy. ... It costs us millions of jobs, trillions of dollars and billions and billions of hours wasted on paperwork and compliance.” He added, “My administration is working closely with Congress to develop a plan that will deliver more jobs, higher pay and lower taxes for businesses of all sizes and most importantly for middle-class families all across America.”

[Reuters](#) (9/8, Chiacu) reports Trump also “urged fellow Republicans on Friday to begin work on tax reform legislation immediately, exhorting them to hurry up after two days in which he stunned members of his party with overtures to opposition Democrats.” He [tweeted](#), “Republicans must start the Tax Reform/Tax Cut legislation ASAP. Don’t wait until the end of September. Needed now more than ever. Hurry!”

Trump Campaign Ad Pledges Commitment To Tax Cut This Year. [Breitbart](#) (9/8, Hudson) reports Trump’s campaign has released a new 30-second ad titled “Finish the Job” that “boasts Trump administration accomplishments, including one million new jobs, a rising stock market, and companies investing millions in America,” while also promoting its “commitment to cut taxes this year.”

Corker Framing Senate Debate On Tax Reform. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/8, Rubin) reports Sen. Bob Corker, a member of the Senate Budget Committee, said Thursday that he would accept a tax reform blueprint that allows lawmakers to extend tax breaks on capital investment that are set to expire in 2019 without having to offset the costs in the form of new taxes. Corker told the Journal, “There’s an open discussion that’s taking place as to what is the appropriate amount of dynamic scoring. ... It would be helpful to us if [tax-bill writers] would sit down and tell us the kind of numbers they’re looking at.”

Meadows, Jordan Warn Mnuchin, Cohn, Short That They May Issue Separate Tax Reform Plan. [Politico](#) (9/8, Bade, Dawsey) reports House Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows and Vice Chairman Jim Jordan on Thursday told Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, National Economic Director Cohn, and White House legislative liaison Marc Short, “that Republicans need to release a tax plan soon – or the conservative group may put out one of its own.” In an interview with Politico on Friday, Meadows “downplayed the possibility that the group would release its own legislation,” saying, “I’m not threatening my own tax bill if we don’t get our way,” but “if we don’t make decisions in the near term on what we’re going to do, [we might] put forth something.” According to Meadows, “Every day that goes by, there is less and less of a chance of getting it done before the end of the year. And so for us, it’s all about promoting real dialogue right away, and we’ve been assured real dialogue right away is forthcoming.”

Financial Advisers Adopt “Wait And See” Approach On Tax Reform. “With any tax plan, the devil is in the details. And with this one, the details have been few,” the [New York Times](#) (9/8, Sullivan) reports, which is why “wealth advisers [are] urging caution to clients” and telling them to “wait and see.”

Media Analyses: Disaster Aid, Debt Ceiling Deal Shows Trump’s Political Positions Remain Unpredictable.

In a front-page analysis, the [New York Times](#) (9/9, A1, Baker) reports President Trump’s deal with Democrats on relief aid and the debt ceiling “demonstrated...that he still imagines himself a solitary cowboy as he abandoned Republican congressional leaders to forge a short-term fiscal deal with Democrats.” According to the Times, Trump has shown “that he is, in many ways, the first independent to hold the presidency since the advent of the current two-party system around the time of the Civil War.” The Times adds “the more immediate question is whether he will continue to seek agreements with Democrats.”

Meanwhile, a front-page [Washington Post](#) (9/9, A1, Parker, Rucker) analysis contends that

the deal “should come as no surprise to students of Trump’s long history of broken alliances and agreements.” The Post says that in his “business, his personal life, his campaign and now his presidency, Trump has sprung surprises on his allies with gusto. His dealings are frequently defined by freewheeling spontaneity, impulsive decisions and a desire to keep everyone guessing – especially those who assume they can control him.” The Post adds Trump “also repeatedly demonstrates that, while he demands absolutely loyalty from others, he is ultimately loyal to no one but himself.” However, the Post asserts that “what many Republicans saw as betrayal was, in the view of some Trump advisers, an exciting return to his campaign promise of being a populist dealmaker able to cut through the mores of Washington to get things done.”

[Breitbart](#) (9/9, Shaw) cites [Axios](#) in reporting “that Trump, who has spent much of his life seeking the adulation of Manhattan liberals, has fallen back on his weakness for flattery and desire to be loved.” A Trump adviser told Axios that the President “realized ‘people’ (presumably the elites he was so cozy with in his days as a real estate developer) don’t like him and he looked for a way to fix that,” culminating in the deal with Democrats, though “it is also possible that Trump is using the deal as a way of declaring his independence from the Republican leadership.”

The Hill Analysis: Trump Appoints Climate Skeptics To EPA, DOE.

[The Hill](#) (9/9, Henry) reports President Trump has appointed a large number of climate change skeptics to several agencies, most notably the EPA. The Hill details EPA Administrator Pruitt’s efforts to dismantle the Obama Administration’s environmental policies, adding that skepticism is “not confined to the EPA, either: Energy Secretary Rick Perry has parroted Pruitt’s disbelief in the role of carbon dioxide on warming.”

NYTimes: Trump Waging “War On Science.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/10, SR10) accuses the Trump Administration of waging a “war on science” by “appointing people with few scientific credentials to key positions, defunding programs that could lead to a cleaner and safer environment and a healthier population, and, most ominously, censoring scientific inquiry that could inform the public and government policy.” The Times goes on to say that the “unifying theme” of the Administration is opposition to climate change, criticizing efforts by EPA administrator Pruitt and Energy Secretary Perry to limit regulations. The piece concludes that as a result, “the future isn’t going to be nearly as promising for ordinary Americans as it should be.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“9/11: Finding Answers In Ashes 16 Years Later.” The [New York Times](#) (9/11, Board) editorializes that the offices of the New York City medical examiner have positively identified only 1,641 of the 2,753 victims of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks – 60 percent – “mostly through DNA analysis.” Their “success rate is slightly better, 64 percent, in regard to the 405 firefighters, police officers and emergency medical workers who died at ground zero.” The Times says the task has grown more challenging over the years, but victims’ relatives have neither given up nor “told the medical examiner’s office that, after the passage of so much time, they no longer care about matching slivers of remains to their loved ones.”

“Cambodia’s Democracy Betrayed.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/11, Board) says Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen has “vowed to stay in power” and does not intend to lose in general elections next year or in “future ones to an opposition that did better than expected in the last vote in 2013,” even if it “means charging opposition leaders with treason.” The Times warns that unless Hun Sen drops the charges against opposition leader Kem Sokha; “permit(s) a credible political opposition; and allow(s) The Daily, radio stations and all news outlets to operate freely, the world will know that Cambodia is no longer a democracy.”

“Kris Kobach And His 5,313 Fraudulent Voters.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/11, Board) recalls “explosive claims” made by the vice chairman of President Trump’s electoral-integrity commission, Kris Kobach, that “large-scale illegal voting swung a pivotal Senate election in 2016.” The Times says Kobach’s claims that the scheme “had national implications” in that “the Senate failed to repeal Obamacare by one vote” evidence why “serious people don’t take him seriously.” Instead of admitting “his obvious biases,” the Times says, Kobach has blamed the mainstream media, but in fact “Kobach and his band of vote suppressors belittle themselves, and threaten voting rights nationwide, with their dishonesty.”

Washington Post.

“Trump’s Travel Ban May Expire Before It Reaches The Supreme Court.” The [Washington Post](#) (9/10) says in an editorial that it is “not clear what the Justice Department hopes to gain” by appealing to the Supreme Court the latest Federal court injunction against President Trump’s immigration order since the High Court “was already set to hear arguments on the ban’s legality on Oct. 10.” The Post points out that “a significant portion of the ban will likely have expired by that date – and the rest before the justices can even rule on the case,” and argues that “the government’s best option would be to allow time to run out on an executive order lacking in any security benefit to justify its cruelty.” The Post adds that by allowing the ban to expire, the Administration could “save face while avoiding the risk of a damaging Supreme Court decision that could not only strike down the order but also place lasting constraints on presidential power over immigration and national security.”

“Trump Says He Cares About People In Coal Country. So Why Halt A Study On Their Health?” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/10) writes that the Interior Department’s recent decision to halt a study on the side effects of mountaintop-removal coal mining on people living in surrounding areas raises questions about the Administration’s supposed support for people in “coal country.” The Post highlights research about negative health and environmental side effects of such mountaintop landscape stripping and argues that the study should be restarted.

“A New Cancer Drug May Be The First In A Line Of Revolutionary Treatments.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/10) writes that a new drug recently approved by the FDA that treats acute lymphoblastic leukemia, called “Kymriah,” “might be only the first in a line of revolutionary new treatments,” as highlighted by FDA Commission **Gottlieb**’s statement that the drug could be “an inflection point in our ability to treat and even cure many intractable illnesses.” The Post acknowledges the difficulties of functioning immunotherapies and their high pharmaceutical costs, but concludes that new drugs in the vein of Kymriah “would nevertheless represent sorely needed progress.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Trump’s Hurricane Rebuilding Job.” On its editorial page, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/10) says that in the wake of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, the urgent need for more construction workers ought to get the President’s attention. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported 225,000 construction job openings in June, up 30% in the last year and 125% since 2012, and the National Association of Home Builders estimates that up to 20,000 workers will be needed to rebuild homes after Harvey. The Journal calls on Congress to authorize more guest-worker visas for construction as part of the Irma relief bill, and any undocumented worker who assists with rebuilding should receive one.

“It Is Chilling To Hear.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/10) highlights a letter from University of Notre Dame president Father John Jenkins to Sen. Dianne Feinstein in which he criticizes her questioning the Catholic faith of Notre Dame law professor and judicial nominee Amy Barrett. In the letter, Jenkins writes that Feinstein’s line of questioning was “chilling to hear.”

“Trial Lawyers And Breitbart Unite.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/10, Board) says that while President Trump and Senate Majority Leader McConnell are supporting Sen. Luther Strange in the Alabama GOP Senate runoff, Steve Bannon-led Breitbart is backing Roy Moore in an effort to deal a blow to McConnell, who Bannon and his allies fault for the failure to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, among other things. The Journal says that trial attorneys are also backing Moore, because his rulings have often benefited them and their firms. That Bannon is aligned with trial attorneys, adds the Journal, speaks to he and his allies’ lack of commitment to conservative ideals.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Hurricane Irma Churns Through Florida](#)

[Building Boom Puts Millions In Irma’s Path](#)

[The New Corporate Recruitment Pool: Workers In Dead-End Jobs](#)

[China Eases Measures Aimed At Bolstering Currency](#)

[How Kirkland Signature Became One Of Costco’s Biggest Success Stories](#)

New York Times:

[Irma Roars In And An Entire State Shakes And Shudders](#)
[Florida Is No Stranger To Hurricanes, But This Is Different](#)
[Violence Erupts On Desperate Caribbean Islands: 'All The Food Is Gone'](#)
[Where Trump's Hands-Off Approach To Governing Does Not Apply](#)
[Taxi Medallions, Once A Safe Investment, Now Drag Owners Into Debt](#)
[Rafael Nadal Wins The US Open For His 16th Grand Slam Title](#)

Washington Post:

[Storm Is Weaker But Still Threatens As A Category 2](#)
[Highly Populated Area Is Among Spots Most Vulnerable To A Hurricane Strike](#)
[Nerves Are Tested As Power Vanishes And Water Rises](#)
[Trump's Deal Shakes The System — And The GOP](#)
[German Campaign Mystery: A Lack Of Russian Meddling](#)

Financial Times:

[Irma Unleashes Its Fury On Florida Coast](#)
[Baltic States Urge NATO Unity As Russia Gears Up For War Games](#)
[Magic Mushrooms Take A Trip Into Clinical Trials](#)

Washington Times:

[Mueller's Criminal Investigators Focus On Trump's Tangled Financial Ties With Russians](#)
[Hurricane Irma Tears Through Florida, Leaves More Than 3 Million Without Power](#)
[Clinton Returns To Spotlight With Blame Book As Democrats Try To Move Past Election Loss](#)
[Trump White House 2.0: Deals Get Done With 'Resisters'](#)
[Merkel's Re-Election In Germany Is All But Certain, But World Of Fourth-Term Challenges Is Not](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Hurricane Irma-Naples, Florida; Hurricane Irma-Florida; Hurricane Irma-Forecast 1; Hurricane Irma-Miami; Hurricane Irma-Damages; Hurricane Irma-Tampa Bay; Hurricane Irma-Storm Surge; Hurricane Irma-Florida Keys; Hurricane Irma-Shelters; Hurricane Irma-Forecast 2.
CBS: Hurricane Irma-Marco Island; Hurricane Irma-Florida Keys; Hurricane Irma-Forecast; Hurricane Irma-Miami; Hurricane Irma-Fort Lauderdale; Hurricane Irma-Florida West Coast; Hurricane Irma-Tampa Bay; Hurricane Irma-Shelters; Hurricane Irma-Fort Myers; Hurricane Irma-Orlando; Hurricane Irma-Damages.
NBC: Hurricane Irma-West Florida; Hurricane Irma-East Florida; Hurricane Irma-Property Damage; Hurricane Irma-Forecast; Hurricane Irma-Tampa Bay Area; Hurricane Irma-Shelters; Hurricane Irma-Hospital Shelter; Hurricane Irma-Storm Surge; Pope Injured; Hurricane Irma-White House; Hurricane Irma-Damages In Its Path.

Network TV At A Glance:

Hurricane Irma – 55 minutes, 20 seconds
Pope Injured – 20 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Hurricane Irma; North Korea Threats.
CBS: Hurricane Irma; Mexico-Earthquake; Texas-Home Shooting; Hurricane Harvey-Gasoline Price Hike.
FOX: Hurricane Irma.
NPR: Hurricane Irma; North Korea Threats; Pope Injured.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — No public schedule announced.
VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 3:00 PM Senate votes on beginning debate on FY'18 NDAA – Senate convenes and resumes consideration of the motion to proceed to 'H.R.2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018', including a vote on a motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed

Location: Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

North Carolina Congressional delegation host NC Business and Economic Development Summit – Republicans Sen. Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott, Reps. George Holding, Walter Jones, Virginia Foxx, Mark Walker, David Rouzer, Richard Hudson, Robert Pittenger, Patrick McHenry, Mark Meadows, and Ted Budd, and Democratic Reps. G. K. Butterfield, David Price, and Alma Adams host 2017 North Carolina Business and Economic Development Summit, providing community leaders the opportunity to meet with federal government officials and discuss policies that affect local economies Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, 1st St NE, Washington, DC Butterfield.house.gov

US House: North Carolina Congressional delegation host NC Business and Economic Development Summit – Republicans Sen. Lindsey Graham and Tim Scott, Reps. George Holding, Walter Jones, Virginia Foxx, Mark Walker, David Rouzer, Richard Hudson, Robert Pittenger, Patrick McHenry, Mark Meadows, and Ted Budd, and Democratic Reps. G. K. Butterfield, David Price, and Alma Adams host 2017 North Carolina Business and Economic Development Summit, providing community leaders the opportunity to meet with federal government officials and discuss policies that affect local economies Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, 1st St NE, Washington, DC Butterfield.house.gov

House Ethics Committee self-imposed deadline to announce update on Dem Rep. Madeleine Bordallo – House Committee on Ethics due to announce its course of action on the matter regarding Democratic Rep. Madeleine Bordallo – which was referred to the Committee by the Office of Congressional Ethics in June – on or before today * Matter was extended in July, although with the Committee noting that the extension 'does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred, or reflect any judgment on behalf of the Committee' * Reasons for investigations are generally kept secret, although her spokesman has previously referred to a 'politically motivated complaint' over her lodging on Guam Location: TBD <http://www.house.gov/ethics/>

Other: Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute 40th Annual Hispanic Heritage Month celebration – Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute 40th Annual Hispanic Heritage Month celebration, themed 'Transformative Change: Innovate, Lead and Inspire', including CHCI Leadership Conference and 40th Anniversary Awards Gala * Events are split between Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center and Washington Marriott Marquis in Washington, DC Location: Washington, DC chci.org <https://twitter.com/CHCI>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Wall Street Journal: Interior Report Recommends Cuts Or Changes To Seven National Land Monuments.
- Washington Post: Trump Administration Working Toward Renewed Drilling In Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
- New York Times: This Season, Western Wildfires Are Close By And Running Free.
- McClatchy: Diverse Foes Of Offshore Atlantic Drilling Hope To Halt Trump Plan.
- Washington Examiner: Hurricanes Present New Challenge To Trump's Fast-track Permit Plan.

- E&E Publishing: 'I'm Working In The ... Soviet Union.' Interior Staff Eyed For Leaks.
- The Hill: After Massive Giveaways To Industry, Mining Executives Will Spend Big At Trump's D.C. Hotel.
- U.S. News & World Report: Damaged Chalet In Montana Being Protected From Winter.
- U.S. News & World Report: Feds Announce \$62 Million For Navajo Water Pipeline.
- Wyoming Public Radio: Wyoming's Sage Grouse Team Meets To Discuss Federal Shake Up Of Their Plan.
- Deseret (UT) News: Op-ed: Non-producing Oil And Gas Leases Tie Up 1.7 Million Acres Of Land In Utah.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Judge Nixes Challenge To Calif. Tribal Trust Land Decision.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Associated Press: Environmentalists Get Win In US Coal-climate Change Lawsuit.
- U.S. News & World Report: US Agent Out At BLM After Burning Man Probe.
- U.S. News & World Report: Lectures 'Bring Science And Nature' Into Prison.
- Salem (OR) Capital Press: Lawsuit Opposes Wild Horse Birth Control.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- BOEM Invites Public To Offshore Wind Meeting In New York.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Delta Tunnels Opponents Target WaterFix Money.
- How The Elsinore Water District Plans To Deal With Future Water Shortages.
- Lake Mohave Lowered For Annual Razorback Sucker Harvest.
- Water Managers Seek Certainty In Colorado Basin.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- U.S. News & World Report: Minnesota Artist Wins Federal Duck Stamp Contest.
- Summit (CO) Daily: Anti-poaching Wildlife Effort Brings African Contingent To Denver.
- U.S. News & World Report: Endangered Mexican Wolf Killed Following Livestock Attacks.
- Arizona Republic: Arizona Jaguar Turns Out To Be Another Male.
- U.S. News & World Report: Activist Urges Walrus Rafts In Absence Of Arctic Sea Ice.
- Newsweek: How 230 Endangered Parrots Survived Hurricane Irma In Puerto Rico.
- Rio Grande Valley (TX) Morning Star: Refuge Proposes Reopening Bayside Drive To Traffic.
- Bemidji (MN) Pioneer: Grizzlies, Noble And Worthy Creatures, On The Comeback.

National Park Service

- Washington Post: Weekend Of Juggalos, Trump Supporters, Counterprotesters Is Here. Get Ready For Street Closures And Police Presence.
- CBS: Trump, Pence Welcome Young Fan To White House To Mow Lawn.
- EcoWatch: New Bill Aims To Restore 'Common-Sense' Plastic Water Bottle Ban In National Parks.
- WTOP-FM Washington: Bill Introduced In Congress To Remove Robert E. Lee Statue From Antietam.
- Bloomberg News: Irma Stirs Fear Of Setback To \$16 Billion Everglades Restoration.
- Associated Press: Parts Of Blue Ridge Parkway Reopen Following Irma.
- Charleston (SC) Post and Courier: Fort Sumter Still Closed After Being Inundated With Water During Tropical Storm Irma.
- U.S. News & World Report: Lead Carver Of Mount Rushmore Honored With Plaque.
- Philly (PA): A Revolutionary Battlefield Is Saved In Chester County.
- WCBC-AM Cumberland (MD): Federal Grant Targeted At Western Maryland Battlefield.
- U.S. News & World Report: Stonemasons Go Old-School To Repair Colorado Monument Walls.
- Los Angeles Times: Lottery To Open For Hikers Who Want To Trek All 67 Miles Of Santa Monica Mountain's Backbone Trail.
- U.S. News & World Report: Conway Library Added To National Register Of Historic Places.
- Washington Post: Additional Coverage: Park Service Tests Technique For Cleaning Microbes From Jefferson Memorial Dome.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- USA Today: U.S. Rushes Hurricane Irma Aid To Caribbean Islands, But Not To Cuba.
- CBS: Hurricane Maria Moving Toward Caribbean.
- Miami Herald: National Hurricane Center Warns Maria Following Irma's Path Through Caribbean.
- NBC: US Prepares Militarily As North Korea Pledges "Military Equilibrium."

US Geological Survey

- Washington Post: After Disaster Strikes, Science Often Benefits.
- U.S. News & World Report: Tribal Leaders Urge Yellowstone Park Name Changes.
- Salt Lake (UT) Tribune: Commentary: National Earthquake Program Is Vital To Utah.
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- Associated Press: As He Prepares To Address UN, Trump Dubs North Korea's Kim Jong-Un "Rocket Man."
- Washington Post: Media Analyses Consider How Trump's UN Debut Will Test His Agenda.
- New York Times: Trump Pledges US Support To UK After Terror Attack, Pushes For Expanding Travel Ban.
- ABC: Trump Warns Of "Effective And Overwhelming" Response To North Korean Threat.
- CNN: White House: Trump Supports Making Deal On DACA, Provided Border Security, Wall Are Included.
- Washington Times: Cassidy: "48 Or 49" Republicans Back Plan To Replace ACA With Block Grants.
- ABC: McMaster: Administration Considering A "Tougher" Travel Ban.
- CBS: Tillerson, McMaster Dispute Report On Paris Accord Exit, But Leave Room For Negotiation.
- Wall Street Journal: Advisory Panel Recommends FAA Eliminate More Than 50 Air Safety Rules.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "Using The E.P.A. To Prop Up Big Coal."
 - "Squeeze Myanmar's Military."
- Washington Post.
 - "Trump Flirts With A New Age Of American Timidity."
 - "The Inexplicable Horror Of The Deaths Of Eight Elderly People In Florida."
 - "Turkey Still Hasn't Owned Up To A Vicious Assault On American Soil."
- Wall Street Journal.
 - "The Second Circuit's Insider Trading Feud."
 - "California Democrats Target Tesla."
 - "Reining In Mr. Sessions."

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DOI In The News

Trump Administration To Expand Hunting At National Monuments.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/15, Carlton) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Friday signed an order to expand hunting, fishing, and target shooting at national monuments that previously had banned those activities. Zinke said, "The more people we can get outdoors, the better things will be for our public lands. ... Some of my best memories are hunting deer or reeling in rainbow trout back home in Montana, and I think every American should be able to have that experience."

[The Hill](#) (9/15, Manchester) reports that the order is "an extension of a previous order he signed aimed at restoring the 'American sportsmen conservation ethic.'" According to the article, "the move is likely to be welcomed by hunters and fishers and is the latest Trump effort to reach

out to those groups.”

The [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (9/15) reports that “sportsmen’s and conservation groups across the country are applauding” the order. Chris Cox, executive director of the National Rifle Association, said, “In the past, management plans for federal lands have been put in place to ban hunting and shooting. Sportsmen and women can now breathe a sigh of relief that those days are over. This administration values access to public lands for sportsmen and we commend them for it.” The article notes that “other groups weighing in with support for the order included the National Wildlife Federation, the National Shooting Sports Foundation, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Congressional Sportsmen’s Caucus.”

However, the [AP](#) (9/15, Daly) reports that “environmentalists dismissed it as ‘a do-nothing order.’” Matt Lee-Ashley, a former Interior official who is now a senior fellow at the left-leaning Center for American Progress, said that “the public already has the right to hunt and fish on federal lands, and states have primary authority to regulate hunting and fishing in those areas.” Lee-Ashley said, “Secretary Zinke is trying desperately to create a distraction from his proposal to dramatically reduce the size of America’s national monuments, which would be the largest elimination of protections for wildlife habitat in U.S. history.”

Additional coverage was provided by [CNN](#) (9/15, Green), the [Washington Examiner](#) (9/15, Siciliano), the [Arizona Daily Star](#) (9/16, Davis), the [Huffington Post](#) (9/15, D’angelo), [Courthouse News](#) (9/15, Renda), the [Boating Industry](#) (9/15), [AmmoLand](#) (9/15, Evans), [Scout](#) (9/17, Young), [KXLF-TV](#) Butte, MT (9/15), and [KPAX-TV](#) Missoula, MT (9/16).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [ABC News](#) (9/15, Daly), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (9/15, Daly), the [Daily Mail](#) (9/15), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (9/1, Daly), the [Topeka \(KS\) Capital-Journal](#) (9/15, Daly), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (9/15, Daly), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (9/15, Daly), the [Washington Post](#), and the [Washington Times](#) (9/15, Daly).

Commentary: Increasing Access To Hunting, Fishing And Recreation. In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/17, Bernhardt), David Bernhardt, Deputy Secretary of the Interior Department, writes that the Interior Department is “working with the nation’s leading wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation groups, as well as our state partners,” to look “for ways to increase hunting, fishing and recreational boating opportunities and access on public and private lands for all Americans.” Bernhardt asserts that “it’s vital that we find ways to connect new generations with these pursuits, because they’re not just part of who we are individually. They constitute the very foundations of the healthy lands and waters that sustain healthy societies.”

Interior Report Recommends Cuts Or Changes To Seven National Land Monuments.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/17, Carlton) reports that according to a report sent to the White House, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has recommended reductions or other changes to almost half of the national monuments he reviewed at the President’s request. Among Zinke’s recommendations are condensing the boundaries of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante preserves in Utah, Nevada’s Gold Butte, Oregon’s Cascade-Siskiyou, and reopening hundreds of thousands of square miles of protected the Pacific and Atlantic oceans to commercial fishing.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/17, Eilperin) says that the White House “is reviewing the recommendations and has not reached a final decision on them.” If the changes recommended by Zinke are enacted, they “could test the legal boundaries of what powers a president holds under the 1906 Antiquities Act.”

The [AP](#) (9/17, Daly) reports that “if Trump adopts the recommendations, it would quiet some of the worst fears of his opponents, who warned that vast public lands and marine areas could be lost to states or private interests.” However, “significant reductions in the size of the monuments, especially those created by Obama, would mark the latest in a string of actions where Trump has sought to erode his Democratic predecessor’s legacy.”

Also reporting are [The Hill](#) (9/17, Seipel), the [Washington Times](#) (9/17, Morton), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (9/17, Coleman), the [Oregonian](#) (9/17, Kavanaugh), the [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (9/18, Rogers), and the [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#) (9/17).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (9/18, Daly), the [Charlottesville \(VA\) Daily Progress](#) (9/18, Daly), the [Daily Mail](#) (9/18), the [Fort Worth \(TX\) Star-Telegram](#) (9/17, Daly), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (9/15, Daly), the [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (9/17), the [New York Daily News](#) (9/18), the [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (9/17, Daly), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (9/17, Daly), the [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (9/17, Daly), the [Washington Post](#) (9/18, Matthew Daly |, Ap), and [KSNV-TV Las Vegas](#) Las Vegas (9/17, Daly).

Utah Quietly Tells Feds: Trim Bears Ears Monument By 90 Percent. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/17, Maffly) reports that Utah has submitted maps to the Interior Department detailing a

reduction in the size of Bears Ears National Monument. Utah's "vision, shared with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, is to shrink Bears Ears to one-tenth its current 1.35 million acres, scaling the southeastern Utah monument down to about 120,000 acres surrounding Mule and Arch canyons west of Blanding, according to maps and other documents prepared by Gov. Gary Herbert's office and obtained by The Salt Lake Tribune through records requests." However, the state's plan was "immediately panned by Native American leaders, who say it disregards the wishes of the tribes that sought the monument in the first place."

Additional Commentary. Additional commentary appeared in the [Woodland \(CA\) Daily Democrat](#) (9/16, Saylor), the [Fort Collins \(CO\) Coloradoan](#) (9/16, Lien), and the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (9/16, Sedall).

Trump Administration Working Toward Renewed Drilling In Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/15, A1, Eilperin) reports in a front-page article that the Trump Administration is moving to permit energy exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for the first time in 30 years. In August, Fish and Wildlife Service acting director James W. Kurth ordered an update to "a rule that allowed exploratory drilling between Oct. 1, 1984, and May 31, 1986," by removing the dates to allow "applicants to [submit] requests for approval of new exploration plans." According to [Fortune](#) (9/15, Reiss), "tens of millions of dollars have been spent on the battle for ANWR" over the years. The piece extensively details past efforts to open up the area to drilling as well as current struggles, adding that Alaska's senators – Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan – believe "that 2018 will be the best chance for success that the pro-ANWR-drilling movement has had in 25 years."

Also reporting are the [New York Times](#) (9/16, Friedman), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (9/17, Landers), [USA Today](#) (9/15), [Forbes](#) (9/17, Silverstein), and [Fortune](#) (9/15).

This Season, Western Wildfires Are Close By And Running Free.

"Extreme fire behavior – difficult to predict and dangerous to fight – has been the watchword of the 2017 season across the West," the [New York Times](#) (9/16, Johnson) reports, as "more large, uncontrolled wildfires were burning in 10 Western states in early September than at any comparable time since 2006." The Times says "from California to Utah and Montana, thousands...have also been forced to flee, and evacuation orders were still in place late last week for 23 active fires in four states, with nearly 21,000 firefighters in the field across the region." However, "at least so far, the year is not a record, with 8.3 million acres burned as of mid-September" compared with "more than 10 million acres burned in 2015, the worst fire season in decades." The Times adds that "much of that land...was far from population centers" whereas "in stark contrast, this year's fires are licking at people's back doors or, in some cases, consuming the doors altogether."

Meanwhile, the [New York Times](#) (9/16, Griggs, Lai, Ashkenas, Patel) in a separate article reports the wildfires in the Pacific Northwest have led to "dangerous air quality throughout the region, and generated plumes of smoke that spread across vast swaths of North America." Colin Seftor, an atmospheric scientist at NASA, "said he believed that the smoke beyond the Western states was high enough in the atmosphere that there were no immediate health concerns for the rest of the country. But he said that such large clouds of particulates in the air could have broader impact, like a reduction in temperatures on the ground."

The [CBS Weekend News](#) (9/16, story 7, 0:15, Morgan) briefly reported snow fell in the mountains of Montana and Wyoming on Friday, which fire officials acknowledged "is slowing the spread of wildfires, but it won't bring an end to the fire season."

Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by [NBC News](#) (9/16, Mccausland), the [AP](#) (9/17), the [Huffington Post](#) (9/15, Yonder, Contributor), the [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (9/16), the [Denver Post](#) (9/15, Baughman), the [The East Oregonian](#) (9/15, Baughman), the [Summit \(CO\) Daily](#) (9/16, Baughman), the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (9/15), the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (9/16), and the [Canada Free Press](#) (9/17, Driessen).

Diverse Foes Of Offshore Atlantic Drilling Hope To Halt Trump Plan.

[McClatchy](#) (9/15, Pugh) reports a bipartisan group of state and federal lawmakers have joined business leaders to convince President Trump to abandon plans to permit energy exploration in the Atlantic. Instead of making an environmental appeal, the group is "raising concerns about the economic effect that seismic testing and drilling could have on the multi-billion dollar coastal tourism and fishing industries." While oil producers argue Atlantic exploration would bring jobs and economic development to the coast, opponents claim that "restaurants, hotels and other

businesses could be jeopardized by the possibility of a large oil spill.”

Hurricanes Present New Challenge To Trump’s Fast-track Permit Plan.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/18, Siegel) reports that the Trump Administration, “wanting to rebuild America’s infrastructure as quickly as possible, has issued several executive orders to streamline the permitting and environmental review process for federally funded projects.” For instance, the Interior Department “this month issued a memo directing its agencies to limit environmental impact statements to 150 pages ‘or 300 pages for unusually complex projects.” However, “environmentalists, legal experts, and some lawmakers are now questioning the wisdom of these measures in the wake of major flooding and destruction caused by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.”

‘I’m Working In The ... Soviet Union.’ Interior Staff Eyed For Leaks.

[E&E Publishing](#) (9/15) reports the US EPA “intends to comply with a White House directive aimed at cracking down on leaks across the federal government, said agency spokeswoman Liz Bowman.” In an email, Bowman said, “We fully agree that government employees should do their part to protect classified information and control unclassified information. ... EPA is developing training to support the White House’s request.” Other officials in the government “are expected to get similar instructions after Trump’s national security adviser, H.R. McMaster, issued a memo earlier this month to the heads of agencies across government.” McMaster’s “directive comes as part of a broad effort by the Trump administration to crack down on leaks. The memo was sent to environmental and energy agency leaders, including EPA boss Scott Pruitt, Energy Secretary Rick Perry, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and the chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality (a post that is currently vacant).” E&E adds “press offices at DOE and Interior did not respond to requests for comment about whether they plan to hold training sessions.”

After Massive Giveaways To Industry, Mining Executives Will Spend Big At Trump’s D.C. Hotel.

[The Hill](#) (9/15, Manchester) “Briefing Room” blog cites the [Intercept](#) in reporting that the National Mining Association will hold a conference in October at the Trump International Hotel in Washington, DC. The event will “include strategic policy discussions, as well as speeches and meetings with members of the administration, including Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.” According to The Hill, “Zinke is considered to be a close ally of the coal industry, while the president has made repeated promises on the campaign trail and in his presidency to revamp the coal industry and bring jobs back to miners.” However, The Hill acknowledges that the venue “is likely to raise eyebrows, due to the president alleged business ties to the hotel, which he has frequented as president.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico Morning Energy](#) (9/15, Adragna).

Damaged Chalet In Montana Being Protected From Winter.

The [AP](#) (9/15) reports that “work is being done to help protect what remains of a fire damaged chalet in Glacier National Park from Montana’s winter weather.” The historic Sperry Chalet building was “burned by a wildfire on Aug. 31.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “has ordered an independent investigation into the incident and expedited the inspection of the remaining structure.” Zinke said “in a statement issued Friday that rebuilding the Sperry building is one of his top priorities.”

Also reporting are the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (9/16, Franz), the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (9/17), the [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (9/16, Kidston), [KRTV-TV Great Falls \(MT\)](#) Great Falls, MT (9/15, Sherman), [KTVO-TV Billings \(MT\)](#) Billings, MT (9/15, Sherman), and [KWYB-TV Butte \(MT\)](#) Butte, MT (9/15).

Feds Announce \$62 Million For Navajo Water Pipeline.

The [AP](#) (9/15) reports that the Interior Department “says it’s awarded a nearly \$62 million contract for construction of a water pipeline between two northwestern New Mexico communities.” The pipeline is part of the greater Navajo-Gallup Water Supply project. It “aims to create a sustainable water supply for Navajo Nation and Jicarilla Apache residents and Gallup.”

Wyoming’s Sage Grouse Team Meets To Discuss Federal Shake Up Of Their Plan.

[Wyoming Public Radio](#) (9/15, McKim) reports that “the sage grouse implementation team met for the first time since the Department of Interior announced recommendations to a collaborative

state and federal Obama era plan." At the meeting, the team talked about "changes they would like to see including fixing discrepancies between the state and federal maps that identify sage grouse lands that can be leased for energy development."

Op-ed: Non-producing Oil And Gas Leases Tie Up 1.7 Million Acres Of Land In Utah.

In an op-ed for the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/17, Saeger), Chris Saeger, executive director of the Western Values Project, claims that "despite strong public support for protecting our outdoor heritage, since the start of the Trump administration the scale has been steadily tipping in favor of the special interests that threaten access to public lands." Saeger accuses Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and the Interior Department of "short-changing families, using loopholes to capitalize off of our public lands and unfairly diverting taxpayer money to a handful of elites." Saeger decries a system that "overwhelmingly favors oil and gas development over conservation, despite the economic benefits recreation also brings to communities."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Judge Nixes Challenge To Calif. Tribal Trust Land Decision.

[Law360](#) (9/15, Westney) reports that "a California federal judge on Thursday tossed a suit by a community group seeking to block the Bureau of Indian Affairs from taking approximately 853 acres into trust for the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, saying the agency had properly evaluated the tribe's need for the land and potential jurisdictional and land use conflicts." The Capay Valley Coalition "filed a complaint in December 2015 claiming that the BIA and its officers violated the Administrative Procedure Act."

Bureau Of Land Management

Environmentalists Get Win In US Coal-climate Change Lawsuit.

The [AP](#) (9/15, Gruver) reports the 10th US Circuit Court of Appeals on Friday ruled that the Bureau of Land Management did not provide enough information to support its argument that blocking specific coal "leases would have no net effect on climate change" because power plants could get the coal elsewhere. The AP calls the ruling a "major victory" for environmentalists, who say they will use it to fight other coal mining leases across the country. However, mining will continue at the leases while a lower court considers the new information.

Additional coverage was provided by [Reuters](#) (9/15, Grzincic).

US Agent Out At BLM After Burning Man Probe.

The [AP](#) (9/15, Whitehurst) reports that "a federal agent who had been scrutinized for his handling of rare evidence as well as behavior at the counterculture Burning Man festival is no longer an employee of the Bureau of Land Management, authorities said Friday." Daniel Love, "who played a command role in federal agents' 2014 standoff with Nevada rancher and states' rights figure Cliven Bundy, no longer works for the agency, spokeswoman Megan Crandall told the Associated Press." Crandall "did not answer questions about the timing or circumstances of his departure, citing federal privacy laws."

Lectures 'Bring Science And Nature' Into Prison.

The [AP](#) (9/17, Marrow) reports that "more than 20 inmates at the Snake River Correctional Institution minimum-security facility were given the chance to take part in some community education when two presenters from local wildlife and ecology groups visited to educate them about owls within the state of Oregon." According to the article, "Nancy DeWitt, from the Institute of Applied Ecology, along with Corrine Coffman, from the Bureau of Land Management operated Morley Nelson Snake River Birds of Prey National Conservation Area, were on hand to offer information about the number of species of owls within Oregon." The presentation is part of a lecture series by the Institute of Applied Ecology.

Lawsuit Opposes Wild Horse Birth Control.

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (9/15, Perkowski) reports that "a lawsuit seeks to halt birth control treatments for wild horses in the West until the effects are better understood." The nonprofit animal rights group Friends of Animals has "filed a lawsuit seeking to stop the federal

government from administering birth control to wild horses in the West." The group "claims the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approved the birth control agent — porcine zona pellucida or PZP — without properly researching its impact on wild horses." In its complaint, the group "asked a federal judge to order EPA to suspend registration of PZP until it conducts a special review of the substance, which would effectively halt birth control treatments for wild horses."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

BOEM Invites Public To Offshore Wind Meeting In New York.

[North American Windpower](#) (9/15, Lillian) reports that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is "inviting the public to its fifth meeting of the New York Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force on Oct. 3 in New York." According to the bureau, "the meeting will continue stakeholder engagement related to the development of offshore wind on the Outer Continental Shelf of New York." Additional coverage was provided by the [Windpower Engineering & Development](#) (9/15, Froese).

Bureau Of Reclamation

Delta Tunnels Opponents Target WaterFix Money.

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (9/15, Kasler, Sabalow) reports that "opponents of the Delta tunnels proposal, facing a long-shot bid to kill the controversial project on environmental grounds, are now trying to undermine the plan's financial structure." According to the article, "six environmental groups filed court papers late Thursday attempting to derail the state Department of Water Resources' plans to bankroll the tunnels with billions of dollars in bond financing." The groups claimed "bonds can't be issued because the tunnels violate California environmental laws and because the project has received illegal subsidies from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation."

How The Elsinore Water District Plans To Deal With Future Water Shortages.

The [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (9/17, Williams) reports on the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District's proposed Drought Contingency Plan, which anticipates that customer demand will double by 2040 even as the water supply shrinks. The plan was financed by a \$115,000 grant from the Bureau of Reclamation. Drought planning grants were also awarded to the Inland Empire Utilities Agency in Chino Hills, the City of Rialto, and Southern California Edison for Catalina Island.

Lake Mohave Lowered For Annual Razorback Sucker Harvest.

The [Havasupai \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (9/16) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation's Lower Colorado Region is "lowering water levels in Lake Mohave to aid in harvesting razorback suckers, a species native to the Colorado River, from lakeside rearing ponds."

Water Managers Seek Certainty In Colorado Basin.

The [Glenwood Springs \(CO\) Post Independent](#) (9/16, Tory) reports that "bringing more certainty to an unruly and unpredictable Colorado River system was a common theme among water managers speaking at the Colorado River District's annual seminar Friday." According to the article, "as many of the speakers at the river district's annual seminar explained, water managers now have more tools than ever before to address those challenges — and new urgency with which to apply them."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Minnesota Artist Wins Federal Duck Stamp Contest.

The [AP](#) (9/16) reports that "a Minnesota artist has won the federal duck stamp art contest for 2017." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "announced Saturday that Bob Hautman from Delano won the contest with his acrylic painting of a pair of mallards." It is Hautman's third win.

Also reporting are the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (9/16, Giles), the [St. Paul \(MN\) Pioneer Press](#) (9/16, Orrick), [WLUK-TV Green Bay \(WI\)](#) Green Bay, WI (9/15, Peterson), and [WLUK-TV Green Bay \(WI\)](#) Green Bay, WI (9/16).

Anti-poaching Wildlife Effort Brings African Contingent To Denver.

The [Summit \(CO\) Daily](#) (9/17) reports that “conservation law enforcement officials and other wildlife experts from the United States and Africa are working together.” According to the article, “a group of 42 African officials from 16 different countries are spending Sept. 9-22 in the Washington, D.C., area and Denver to train with 32 members of U.S. anti-trafficking law enforcement at an academy to strengthen international partnerships and fight illegal wildlife dealing.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KUSA-TV](#) Denver (9/17, Garcia).

Endangered Mexican Wolf Killed Following Livestock Attacks.

The [AP](#) (9/15, Bryan) reports that “an endangered Mexican gray wolf has been killed by federal employees after a Native American tribe requested the animal be removed from the wild in the wake of a string of cattle deaths near the Arizona-New Mexico border.” The article notes that “the death of the female wolf marks the first time in a decade that efforts by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to curb livestock attacks by wolves has had lethal consequences for one of the predators.” According to the article, “the decision to remove the member of the Diamond Pack was first made in June after three calves were killed over several days, sparking concern among wildlife managers about what they described as an unacceptable pattern of predation.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KROQ-TV](#) Albuquerque, NM (9/15).

Arizona Jaguar Turns Out To Be Another Male.

The [Arizona Republic](#) (9/15, Loomis) reports that “Arizona state biologists say a jaguar sighted in the Chiricahua Mountains this summer is not the state’s first female of the species in decades, as wildlife conservationists had hoped.” The Center for Biological Diversity on Thursday “released video of the jaguar — the seventh known to have prowled southern Arizona since the mid-1990s — with a note of hope that it could be the first female in that number.” On Friday, the Arizona Game and Fish Department “released a photo of a jaguar taken in the same mountains by a U.S. Bureau of Land Management camera in April.”

The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (9/15, Davis) reports that “shortly after the center released the video Thursday morning, an Arizona Game and Fish biologist disclosed in an email that the jaguar is a male.”

Activist Urges Walrus Rafts In Absence Of Arctic Sea Ice.

The [AP](#) (9/18, Joling) reports that “an environmental activist is calling on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reconsider placing anchored rafts in the ocean as resting platforms for walrus after stampedes killed 64 animals on Alaska’s northwest coast.” Rick Steiner, “an environmental consultant and former University of Alaska marine conservation professor, pitched the idea two years ago.” The FWS “concluded it didn’t have the money or manpower to provide artificial resting platforms that might give a few walrus relief but not benefit the population as a whole in the absence of ice in the Chukchi Sea.” Steiner said “he’s again asking the agency to take the lead in a raft pilot project because sea ice continues to diminish and artificial platforms could provide alternatives to huge herds gathering on the Alaska coast.”

How 230 Endangered Parrots Survived Hurricane Irma In Puerto Rico.

[Newsweek](#) (9/15, Bartels) reports that “when Hurricane Irma started barreling toward Puerto Rico,” the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service took steps to protect 230 endangered Puerto Rican parrots. According to the article, “that meant gathering all 230 of them into the so-called hurricane room, a process that takes at least a few hours and sometimes half a day.” Edwin Muniz, a field supervisor at the Caribbean Ecological Services Office of the FWS, said, “Our staff has been trained—they’ve done this many times.”

Refuge Proposes Reopening Bayside Drive To Traffic.

The [Rio Grande Valley \(TX\) Morning Star](#) (9/15, Kelley) reports that “a four-year hiatus for vehicle traffic on popular Bayside Drive at Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge may be coming to an end.” According to the article, “in part to help counter a major decline in visitors since 2013, Laguna Atascosa officials are proposing to reopen the road with some significant changes in what would be a \$4.015 million project.”

Grizzlies, Noble And Worthy Creatures, On The Comeback.

In a piece for the [Bemidji \(MN\) Pioneer](#) (9/15, Klemek), Blane Klemek, a Minnesota DNR wildlife

manager, writes that “for certain, grizzly bear existence, as well as their 40-year recovery from less than 200 animals in the 1970s to the near 1,500 grizzlies today, was made possible by their receiving full protection under the ESA.” He asserts that “collaboration and cooperation was key to grizzly bear population recovery.”

National Park Service

Weekend Of Juggalos, Trump Supporters, Counterprotesters Is Here. Get Ready For Street Closures And Police Presence.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/15, Stein) reported that Saturday will see 35 events across federal parks in DC, ranging from weddings and charity races to a pro-Trump rally (dubbed the Mother of All Rallies), a counter-rally, and an unrelated rally for fans of the music group Insane Clown Posse who are protesting a 2011 FBI classification of the group as a gang. Leaders from the latter and the pro-Trump rally have stated that they do not wish for, nor do they expect any violent clashes with outside groups. Confidence in the police to do their jobs effectively was communicated by Peter Boykin, president of Gays for Trump and a speaker at the conservative rally.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/16, Jamison, Stein, Soong, Sacchetti) reported demonstrations “got off to a peaceful start in the nation’s capital Saturday” alongside “notoriously rowdy” fans of the rap-metal group Insane Clown Posse known as “Juggalo.” The Post reports that “the Mall had an atmosphere more akin to a military zone than tourist magnet, with police and Secret Service agents swarming the area,” in anticipation of a pro-Trump event, as well as “the march of the Juggalos,” who were “protesting their designation as a criminal gang by the FBI.”

The [CBS Weekend News](#) (9/16, story 2, 2:15, Morgan) aired footage of both the pro-Trump “Mother Of All Rallies” event, and the Juggalo protest of its gang designation. CBS reported that the pro-Trump appeared to be smaller than the 5,000 predicted.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/16, story 8, 0:25, Welker) called the Juggalo protest “one of the most unusual rallies” the capital has seen, and commented that while the pro-Trump event was billed as “the Mother of All Rallies,” the turnout “didn’t quite match that description.” According to the [New York Times](#) (9/16, Baumgaertner), “Washingtonians had nothing to fear. In fact, they barely blinked. It was just another day in the capital’s summer of protest.”

Also reporting are the [New York Times](#) (9/16, Baumgaertner), [NPR](#) (9/15, Simons), [NBC News](#) (9/16), the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (9/17, York), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (9/16), and [WRC-TV Washington](#) (9/16).

Trump, Pence Welcome Young Fan To White House To Mow Lawn.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/15, story 11, 0:25, Mason) reported 11-year-old Frank “FX” Giaccio of Falls Church, Virginia, “a young fan of President Trump,” last month “wrote him a letter offering to mow the White House lawn. And the President took him up on it.” CBS added that the President “asked FX what he wants to be when he grows up. He replied, ‘A Navy SEAL.’” [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/15, story 11, 0:25, Holt) reported FX “seemed to [mow the lawn] with such determination that it was hard for the President to get his attention. Afterward, Mr. Trump called Frank the ‘real future’ of the country.” The [Washington Post](#) (9/15, Moyer) reports Trump “[tweeted](#) a video that shows Frank at work behind a Honda mower with a steely-eyed stare before meeting Vice President Pence. Then he met Trump in the Oval Office.” The President stated, “Frank ‘FX’ Giaccio – On behalf of @FLOTUS Melania & myself, THANK YOU for doing a GREAT job this morning! @NatIParkService gives you an A+!”

Also reporting are [NPR](#) (9/15, Horsley), the [AP](#), and [USA Today](#) (9/15, Estepa).

New Bill Aims To Restore ‘Common-Sense’ Plastic Water Bottle Ban In National Parks.

[EcoWatch](#) (9/15, Chow) reports that Rep. Mike Quigley has introduced a bill to “address the issue of bottled water reduction in national parks.” The “Reducing Waste in National Parks Act” (HR 3768) “would allow National Park Service regional directors the discretion to implement the policy and encourages them to develop a visitor education strategy to explain the rationale for the program.” Quigley said in a statement, “President Trump and Interior Secretary Zinke’s decision to overturn the common-sense plastic water bottle ban in National Parks is a clear reminder that this Administration will continually bow to the agendas of profit-driven corporations at the expense of our National Parks, wildlife, and environment.”

Bill Introduced In Congress To Remove Robert E. Lee Statue From Antietam.

[WTOP-FM](#) Washington (9/15, Basch) reports that “a bill has been introduced in Congress calling for a statue of Robert E. Lee to be removed” from the Antietam National Battlefield near Sharpsburg, Maryland. The article notes that “the statue is widely considered historically inaccurate because it depicts the general on his horse, even though Lee was brought to Antietam in an ambulance.” In a statement, the National Park Service “said its policy is to make no changes to Civil War monuments, even when they are considered inaccurate, unless directed to through legislation.”

Additional coverage was provided by [WJZ-TV](#) Baltimore (9/17).

Irma Stirs Fear Of Setback To \$16 Billion Everglades Restoration.

[Bloomberg News](#) (9/18, Natter) reports that since Hurricane Irma “swung up through the Florida Keys and the state’s western coast, federal officials have struggled to access the 1.5 million acre Everglades National Park and assess the damage.” Scientists are “anxious” to see “Irma’s lashing winds and surging seas had setback what progress there has been.”

Parts Of Blue Ridge Parkway Reopen Following Irma.

The [AP](#) (9/15) reports that some sections of the Blue Ridge Parkway in North Carolina remained closed. The National Parks Service said that over 300 miles of the route had “downed trees and storm damage” and that “while some sections have reopened, others require more in-depth and technical cleanup.”

Fort Sumter Still Closed After Being Inundated With Water During Tropical Storm Irma.

The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (9/15, Behre) reports that Fort Sumter is “expected to remain closed for at least a few more days while the National Park Service works to dry out its interior and repair its tour boat dock.” Dawn Davis was “among the National Park Service employees who toured the fort two days after Tropical Storm Irma hit.” Davis said “there appears to be little or no damage to the historic fabric of the 19th century fort.”

Lead Carver Of Mount Rushmore Honored With Plaque.

The [AP](#) (9/16) reports that “the chief carver of Mount Rushmore who was responsible for refining the expressions on the faces of the monument’s four presidents was honored Saturday with a plaque that recognizes his work.” Luigi Del Bianco was “an Italian immigrant and stone carver whose job included the challenging tasks of sculpting Jefferson’s lips and Lincoln’s life-like eyes.” With the assistance of Del Bianco’s descendants, the National Park Service “unveiled a bronze plaque Saturday in his honor.”

Also reporting are [CBS News](#) (9/17) and [CBS News](#) (9/17).

A Revolutionary Battlefield Is Saved In Chester County.

[Philly \(PA\)](#) (9/15, Nark) reports that the Civil War Trust has purchased a “10-acre patch in Birmingham Township, known as the Dilworth Farm, for \$850,000.” The article notes that “it is the first Revolutionary War battlefield to be acquired in Pennsylvania with grants from the American Battlefield Protection Program, funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund and administered by the National Park Service.”

Federal Grant Targeted At Western Maryland Battlefield.

[WCBC-AM](#) Cumberland, MD (9/17) reports that “on the 155th anniversary of the Battle of South Mountain, Preservation Maryland announced ambitious plans to support and enhance Maryland Park Service efforts at the historic hillside battlefield.” According to the article, “with a \$55,000 grant from the National Park Service’s American Battlefield Protection Program, Preservation Maryland will convene a consensus driven planning effort to guide future preservation efforts and to develop community support for the park and its resources.” The plan will “consider both land protection priorities as well as historic structures of significance, including the Hamilton Willard Shafer Farm in Burkittsville, one of Preservation Maryland’s 2016 Six-to-Fix projects.”

Stonemasons Go Old-School To Repair Colorado Monument Walls.

The [AP](#) (9/16, Slivka) reports that “following in the nearly 100-year-old footsteps of Depression-era laborers, a group of National Park Service masons are assiduously repairing and stabilizing stone barriers along Rim Rock Drive in Colorado National Monument.” The masons are “using archaic tools for their deliberate work — trowels, brushes, chisels and damp, gritty mortar — plus patience and care.”

Lottery To Open For Hikers Who Want To Trek All 67 Miles Of Santa Monica Mountain's Backbone Trail.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/15, Forgione) reports that "the lottery will open soon for hikers who want to trek all 67 miles of Santa Monica Mountain's Backbone Trail on eight Saturdays between January and April." The National Park Service will pick 28 people "who want to see every inch of the through-trail that cuts across the Southern California coastal mountain range."

Additional coverage was provided by [KCET-TV](#) Los Angeles (9/15, Medina).

Conway Library Added To National Register Of Historic Places.

The [AP](#) (9/17) reports that "the Conway Public Library has been added to the National Register of Historic Places both for its architecture and its role as a center for learning."

Additional Coverage: Park Service Tests Technique For Cleaning Microbes From Jefferson Memorial Dome.

Additional coverage that the National Park Service has "started testing a process called laser ablation" to clean the Jefferson Memorial was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (9/16, Weil).

Office Of Insular Affairs

U.S. Rushes Hurricane Irma Aid To Caribbean Islands, But Not To Cuba.

[USA Today](#) (9/15, Stanglin) reports that in the 24 hours Hurricane Irma spent beating the northern parts of Cuba it damaged "more than 4,000 homes, inundating downtown Havana with knee-high floods and destroying thousands of acres of cane sugar," and disrupted water service for 3.1 million people – a quarter of the island's population – as "Small beach towns also were destroyed on the northern coast." At least 10 were killed. Despite this damage and the assistance being poured into neighboring islands, no US aid has been directed to Cuba. USA Today explains, "The guidelines for U.S. assistance include a requirement, not surprising, that a host country must request help, which Cuba — a proud adversary in a decades long battle with its superpower neighbor — is not inclined to do." The article says the tense relations are "compounded by President Trump's announced plan in June to roll back steps by President Barack Obama to normalize ties."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/15, story 7, 1:35, Holt) correspondent Stephanie Ruhle said in St. John, the hurricane "completely destroyed" much of the island. "Officials say schools could be closed for a year. One of the things that's the most stunning – the vegetation gone. A week ago, this was lush and green. Now it looks completely burnt out. It truly looks like a war zone." As of Friday, she added, "many are left without a livelihood on an island where tourism is critical," but residents "told us they're determined to help each other rebuild."

Cuomo To Tour Virgin Islands. [NY1-TV](#) New York (9/15) reports New York Governor Andrew Cuomo "will visit the U.S. Virgin Islands Friday to check out damage from Hurricane Irma." The state's national guard is in St. John and St. Thomas, having also sent crews to Texas after Harvey. Cuomo will tour the islands with Virgin Islands Governor Kenneth Mapp, who was born in Brooklyn, New York.

Tourism-Dependent Caribbean Islands Face Long Post-Irma Recoveries. The [New York Times](#) (9/15, Rosenbloom) reports that Hurricane Irma has left major cities, and in some cases entire Islands, in ruins in the Caribbean, setting the stage for a long road to recovery for many of the region's tourism-dependent communities. St. Martin and St. John are among the hardest hit while St. Kitts and Nevis, Anguilla, Haiti, the Dominican Republic, the Bahamas, and Sint Eustatius were able to emerge "mostly unscathed." The Times says instead of tourism, governments "were still struggling — and continue to struggle — to ensure people's health and safety and evacuate stranded visitors." The disparity in damage is reportedly drastic as "Barbuda, where Hurricane Irma made landfall, is devastated, while Puerto Rico is not only open to tourists, it's a hub for relief efforts, and is welcoming hundreds of people to its shores from battered neighboring islands." The article provides an island-by-island breakdown of damage and outlook.

Irma Destroyed Paradise Of US Virgin Islands. A piece in the [New York Times](#) (9/15, Ferrésadurni) provides a narrative description of the damage left behind in the US Virgin Islands by Hurricane Irma. The author describes small groups "huddled together to try to communicate with family abroad...Or to arrange to flee the island," on hilltops where cellphone service could be found. The story explains that "Ice was the most sought-after commodity, to quench children's thirst and to preserve perishable foods." The author explains, "The United States Virgin Islands

no longer has the air of paradise."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/17, Hennessy-Fiske).

More Than A Week After Irma, St. Martin Is Still Trying To Survive. The [New York Times](#) (9/15, Ahmed) reports that over a week after facing Irma, St. Martin is still one of the Caribbean islands' hardest hit spots. While "a delicate order has been restored," residual issues from the damage are pervasive as the article explains: "there is still almost no fuel or electricity, and food delivery, for now, remains erratic. A near total communication blackout throttles the island. Almost all of the schools are destroyed and will be closed for months, at best." Rampant looting is also detailed in the damaged and evacuated areas where the lawlessness has "shattered the image many residents had of their island." The island is reportedly split into two French and Dutch sides. The French side has reported a death toll of 11, but the Times says many find this much too low given the damage and the storm's power when it hit. Some officials reportedly estimate the number will reach over 100.

St. Martin Residents Face Existential Question Of Whether To Rebuild. The [Miami Herald](#) (9/16, Wyss) reports that "ten days after Hurricane Irma turned St. Martin into a jigsaw of ripped metal and shattered wood, residents were still struggling with an existential question: Should they cling to an island that can barely support life or start over elsewhere?" According to the Herald, the hurricane has transformed "the picturesque tourist haven into a sweltering trash heap without power, water or communications. What the hurricane didn't steal, looters often did." While some locals expressed interest in rebuilding, "St. Martin's economic lifeblood, tourism, doesn't seem like it will be pumping anytime soon. Streets remain choked with garbage, and hotels and rental properties have been cracked open like dollhouses with their façades removed."

Residents "Marooned" On British Virgin Islands, But Not Giving Up. "Hurricane Irma's winds annihilated many of the homes here on Jost Van Dyke, one of the British Virgin Islands," the [New York Times](#) (9/16, Ferré-Sadurni) reports, and "without electricity, running water or telephone lines, the island's 298 inhabitants have been marooned, forced to survive with what they salvaged: a satellite phone, a chain saw, a week's worth of food." According to the Times, "Many residents said the British government in London, which oversees the islands, has been sluggish to attend to their dire situation, so residents have had to band together."

Escaped British Virgin Islands Prisoners Rounded Up By Police, British Royal Marines. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/15, Gross) reports that after prisoners escaped from Basam Ghut prison on the British Virgin Islands, one of the worst-struck locations in the path of Hurricane Irma, a joint force of British Royal Marines, Police from the UK, local police, and Cayman Island police recaptured over 100 escapees in the storm's wake. Alan Duncan, a minister in Britain's Foreign Office, reportedly said over 180 troops were dispatched by Britain to aid in the effort. The WSJ reports various European governments have sent police and military forces to aid in distribution of resources and restoration of order in their Caribbean territories. The report adds that rumors which had circulated in St. Martin of escaped prisoners roaming the island armed with guns turned out to be false after authorities responded.

Barbuda Has No People For First Time In 300 Years. [CNN International](#) (9/15, Sterling, Santiago) reports according to Ronald Sanders, the Antigua and Barbuda ambassador to the US, "For the first time in 300 years, there's not a single living person on the island of Barbuda." Meanwhile, CNN says that "Antigua received minimal damage." Barbuda had about 3 percent of the nation's population. The [Washington Post](#) (9/15, Degrandpre) reports Sanders told PRI's the Takeaway, "The damage is complete." He added, "A civilization that has existed on that island for over 300 years has now been extinguished." According to the Post, "a local broadcaster in Barbuda summarized the situation thus: The island's history will now be described in two epochs. Before Irma and after Irma."

Barbuda "Uninhabitable" After Hurricane Irma. [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/16, story 3, 0:35, Welker) reported on "new images" revealing "the devastation in Barbuda, the small island that was perhaps hardest hit" by Hurricane Irma one week ago. "Ninety-five percent of the buildings on Barbuda were destroyed," and its "entire population has evacuated." It is now being "described as uninhabitable." Meanwhile, tropical storm "Maria could affect some of the same areas of the Caribbean that were hit hard by Irma."

Hurricane Maria Moving Toward Caribbean.

The [CBS Weekend News](#) (9/17, story 2, 0:20, Quijano) reported, "Hurricane Jose continues to rumble towards the East Coast" but is "not expected to make landfall." However, "a potentially larger threat, Hurricane Maria, is strengthening in the Atlantic, targeting Caribbean islands, still reeling from Hurricane Irma."

In its lead story, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/17, lead story, 2:05, Llamas) reported Maria's current path "looks similar to Irma," but computer models "hint" Maria "may go out to sea" instead of crossing over the Caribbean islands like Irma did. By contrast, [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/17, story 4, 1:40, Snow) said Maria "could cause more damage in already-hit-hard parts of the Caribbean." It is currently "strengthening as it heads for Barbuda, St. Maarten, and the Virgin Islands."

National Hurricane Center Warns Maria Following Irma's Path Through Caribbean.

The [Miami Herald](#) (9/16, Staletovich) reports that in its 8 p.m. update, National Hurricane Center forecasters said Tropical Storm Maria, which formed in the Atlantic Ocean on Saturday afternoon, "will likely bring dangerous winds, more storm surge and heavy rain to parts of the Lesser Antilles and strengthen into a hurricane Sunday, then approach the Leeward Islands on Monday." According to the Herald, hurricane watches were issued on Saturday evening "for Antigua, Barbuda, St. Kitts, Nevis, Montserrat and Guadeloupe. Tropical storm watches were issued for other islands in the chain." The Herald adds that "by midweek, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico could again face fierce winds." The Coast Guard captain of the Port of San Juan also "warned that sustained gale force winds greater than 39 miles per hour may arrive within 72 hours, and advised pleasure craft 'to seek safe harbor.'"

US Prepares Militarily As North Korea Pledges "Military Equilibrium."

Ron Allen of [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/16, story 5, 2:20, Welker) reported "Osan Air Base – just 50 miles from the border, home to many of the 28,000 US military personnel in South Korea – remains on constant state of alert" amid the escalating North Korean threat. The so-called "Dragon Lady," a "top-secret U-2 spy plane" first used to collect intelligence on the former Soviet Union, is "taking on one of America's toughest challenges here, trying to gather intelligence about what Kim Jong Un will do next."

President Trump said "US options to deal with the threat are, quote, 'effective and overwhelming,'" recalled the [CBS Weekend News](#) (9/16, story 4, 0:25, Morgan), which reported that North Korea "released photos of its Friday morning missile launch with leader Kim Jong Un watching on as it sailed over Japan and into the Pacific." In the images, published by North Korea's state-run news agency KCNA, Kim was shown "beaming as he watched the missile fly from a moving launcher in photos released by the agency, surrounded by several officials," [Reuters](#) (9/15, Kim, Nichols) reports. KCNA quoted Kim Jong Un as saying that the "final goal is to establish the equilibrium of real force" with the US military, and dissuade the Administration from discussing any "military option."

Economists: UN Sanctions Targeting North Korean Garment Exports To Impact Female Employees. The [Washington Post](#) (9/17, Fifield) reports "the United Nations Security Council unanimously decided this week to prohibit North Korea from exporting labor and textiles," a move Ambassador Haley said imposes "an almost \$800 million hit to its revenue." Diplomats said the ban refers to "textiles," but economists clarified that "it should more accurately be called a 'garment' ban" because the nation "does not export bolts of fabric but instead produces labor-intensive articles of clothing." Unlike previous actions against the regime, the move against "North Korea's garment industry is one that will have wide-reaching ramifications across North Korean society," not just the government. According to Marcus Noland of the Peterson Institute for International Economics, the ban will likely "hurt ordinary people and especially women," who account for about 98 percent of North Koreans employed in the garment industry.

House Considers Bill Targeting Multinational Banks With North Korean Ties. [The Hill](#) (9/16, Lane) reports the House Financial Services Committee is reviewing a bill that "would ban any foreign bank that services North Korea's government or regime-connected shell companies from opening a correspondent account with" an American bank. The bill has garnered bipartisan support, and is "currently circulating as a discussion draft, while other panels in both chambers of Congress work on their own offerings." While the measure "could have massive economic implications for the United States and its relationship with China," its supporters maintain that "North Korea's belligerent behavior and recent test of what appeared to be a hydrogen bomb requires a major response." The Hill says China hosts a number of shell companies that the North Korean "regime uses to support itself through money laundering and smuggling," and while the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control, or OFAC, "can list these companies and banks as they're revealed," experts have said China must intensify its efforts in identifying them.

NYTimes: US-China Relations Can Improve By Coordinating Against Climate Change. In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/16) concedes "no relationship is more crucial than that between"

the US and China, and “President Trump seems to understand all that.” However, the Times says, Trump “has failed to articulate a coherent strategy toward China or to achieve significant progress on the many consequential issues.” He also seems “to lump all China-related issues into one big, menacing ball – trade, tariffs, North Korea – rather than dealing with them separately, and this has added more complications.” The Times posits that the issue of climate change offers “a template for cooperation, and while it involves an issue in which Mr. Trump has no interest, it provides a glimpse of a way forward.”

US Geological Survey

After Disaster Strikes, Science Often Benefits.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/16, Yeager) reported that data collected during natural disasters can often help researchers discover better ways to help people in such emergencies. The article mentions “the science done during Hurricane Harvey” as an example. According to the article, “not long after the heavy rains stopped, crews of researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey fanned out across Texas, dropping sensors into streams.”

Tribal Leaders Urge Yellowstone Park Name Changes.

The [U.S. News & World Report](#) (9/17) reports that “leaders of Native American tribes gathered this weekend to urge the U.S. government to rename a valley and a mountain in Yellowstone National Park.” Tribal leaders “delivered a petition Saturday to park officials noting their opposition to the names of Hayden Valley and Mount Doane.”

Commentary: National Earthquake Program Is Vital To Utah.

In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/17, Arabasz), Walter J. Arabasz, research professor emeritus of geology and geophysics at the University of Utah; M. Leon Berrett, the chair of the Utah Seismic Safety Commission and associate director of operations for Salt Lake County Public Works; Keith Koper, professor of geophysics at the University of Utah and director of the University of Utah Seismograph Stations; and Peter Shearer, a professor of geophysics at U.C. San Diego and president-elect of the Seismological Society of America, warn that “the earthquake threat in Utah is real.” They urge support of a bipartisan bill introduced September 6 in Congress that would reauthorize the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program “to support wide-ranging endeavors to deal with the nation’s earthquake threat.”

Additional Reading.

- *Wide-ranging Spending Bill Includes Money To Combat Algae Blooms.* [TC Palm \(FL\)](#) (9/15, King).
- *Why A Glacier In Interior Alaska Is Being Used As Testing Ground For Equipment Intended For Outer Space.* [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/17, Rosen).
- *Western Fires Take Toll On Water Supplies.* [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (9/16, Berwyn).
- *Flooding From Irma Prompts A New Look At Marshfront Surge.* [Savannah \(GA\) Morning News](#) (9/16, Landers).
- *USGS Scientist Reports To Council About Storms, Rising Sea Level.* [Malibu \(CA\) Times](#) (9/17, Laetz).
- *Will Rain Help Or Hurt Eagle Creek Fire In The Gorge? It's Complicated.* [Oregonian](#) (9/16, Brettman).
- *Annual Feds Feed Families Food Drive Collects More Than 2,000 Pounds Of Food.* [Nevada Appeal](#) (9/16).
- *Earthquake: 3.1 Quake Strikes Near Morettis Junction.* [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/15).
- *Earthquake: 3.2 Quake Strikes Near Highland Springs, Calif.* [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/15).
- *Earthquake: 3.4 Quake Strikes Near Pentland.* [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/15).
- *Earthquake: Magnitude 3.1 Quake Strikes Near Salton Sea.* [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/16).

Top National News

As He Prepares To Address UN, Trump Dubs North Korea's Kim Jong-Un "Rocket Man."

The President's [tweet](#) Sunday morning mocking North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un as "Rocket Man" is garnering significant media attention. All three networks reported Sunday night on the tweet. Media reports widely note the President's remark comes as he prepares to address the UN General Assembly for the first time on Tuesday and that North Korea is expected to be a central part of his speech.

The [AP](#) (9/17, Superville) reports President Trump "mocked" the North Korean leader in a tweet saying he and South Korean President Moon Jae-in "discussed North Korea during their latest telephone conversation Saturday." The [CBS Weekend News](#) (9/17, story 5, 2:00, Quijano) said the President "launched a twitter insult at North Korea's leader," and "coin[ed] a new nickname" for him. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/17, story 3, 2:55, Snow), Kelly O'Donnell said, "Today amid tweets, the President weighed in on a dire threat as he described a call with President Moon of South Korea and taunted North Korea's leader with a new mocking label."

Asked about Trump's description of Kim on [Fox News Sunday](#), National Security Adviser McMaster said "Rocket Man" was "a new one and I think maybe for the president." But, McMaster added, "that's where the rockets are coming from. Rockets, though, we ought to probably not laugh too much about because they do represent a great threat to all." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/17, story 6, 2:30, Llamas) reported there was "no comment from the White House" on the President's tweet.

[USA Today](#) (9/17, Jackson) reports the tweet "came a day before Trump conferences with members of the United States General Assembly, where North Korea's development of nuclear weapons – and its threats to use them against the United States and allies – will be a major topic." The [Washington Post](#) (9/17, Nakamura, Morello) similarly says the President's "Twitter snark came two weeks after Kim's regime undertook its biggest nuclear test to date," [Politico](#) (9/17, Griffiths) that Trump took "a dig at North Korea's leader," and [Townhall](#) (9/17, Meads) that he "issued a new nickname for North Korean potbellied dictator."

[NPR](#) (9/17) reports that during their conversation Saturday night, Trump and Moon declared their commitment "to continuing to take steps to strengthen deterrence and defense capabilities and to maximize economic and diplomatic pressure on North Korea," according to the White House. The [New York Post](#) (9/17, Moore; Schultz) reports Trump also "signaled that United Nations' sanctions...are working as he referred to 'long gas lines' in North Korea."

The [Washington Times](#) (9/17, Richardson) writes, "You know you've run afoul of President Trump when he gives you a nickname." The Times says Trump's "approach represents the opposite of that of President George W. Bush, who gave out dozens of pet names for staffers, family, friends and foreign leaders. In the vast majority of cases, Mr. Bush's nicknames were affectionate, not insulting."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/17, Selk) similarly notes that "Rocket Man" is the "latest in a long line of nicknames" created by the President. "Without addressing the geopolitical wisdom of tweet-baiting an unpredictable dictator," The Post notes that "even some of Trump's critics had to admit that he'd come up with a pretty clever name."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/17, story 6, 2:30, Llamas) reported President Trump is already in New York City in advance of his address to the UN, where North Korea is expected to take "center stage." ABC's Gloria Riviera noted that "we do not anticipate seeing either Russia's President or China's President – both leaders are key in applying pressure on North Korea, but the President will not have the chance to make his case personally for harsher sanctions."

[Reuters](#) (9/17, Nichols) likewise says the nuclear threat posed by North Korea "looms large this week over the" UN General Assembly, where "North Korean diplomats will have a front-row seat...for Trump's speech on Tuesday morning, which will touch on the escalating crisis." National Security Adviser McMaster said Friday, "This is not an issue between the United States and North Korea. This is an issue between the world and North Korea." The [CBS Weekend News](#) (9/17, story 5, 2:00, Quijano) too reported that when Trump addresses the General Assembly, Ambassador Haley "said North Korea will be front and center," and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/17, King) says the gathering is "expected to focus on North Korea's growing nuclear and missile threat."

[USA Today](#) (9/17, Jackson) reports that as the President heads to the UN "to meet with world leaders, and many of them are anxious – not just about global national security challenges, but about Trump himself." While the President "hopes to use his first appearance before the UN General Assembly to rally other countries against North Korea's nuclear threats, some world leaders are still reeling from their last interactions with the somewhat testy Trump at global summits earlier this year."

Calling it a “pivotal week” for the President, the [Daily Caller](#) (9/17) says Trump’s appearance “will come amidst concerns over North Korea’s missile program, continued unrest in Venezuela, increasing tensions between the US and Russia, the ongoing civil war in Syria, and a whole host of global issues.” He also “has a packed schedule” of meetings with foreign leaders.

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/17, story 3, 2:55, Snow), Kelly O’Donnell also said the President has “a packed week ahead. [On Monday], the President meets with leaders of Israel and France,” and he’ll be on “center stage Tuesday, where his speech will praise values that bind democratic nations, while also calling for more urgent action.” Secretary of State Tillerson said Sunday, “He’s going to address these specific threats of North Korea, Iran, terrorism, global terrorism, and why it is important that all of us come together and confront these as a unified body.”

According to the [Korea Times](#) (9/17, Whan-Woo), Trump will hold also a summit with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe Thursday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York. Analysts said they expect the leaders to discuss “possible military options against North Korea.”

[The Hill](#) (9/17, Manchester) reports Trump, who once described the UN as “a club for people to get together, talk and have a good time,” is also expected to call for UN reform during his speech Tuesday. Senior level officials who “previewed themes” in Trump’s speech predicted his “call for change will set the tone for US involvement during a packed week of foreign policy.” Ambassador Haley told CNN’s “State of the Union,” “It is a new day at the UN. I think that the pleas he made in terms of trying to see change at the United Nations have been heard, and I think what we’ll do is see him respond to that.”

[Reuters](#) (9/17) reports Trump this week will try to “boost support for reforming” the UN, which he once called “a club for people to get together, talk and have a good time.” [The Hill](#) (9/17, Shelbourne) reports National Security Adviser McMaster told ABC’s “This Week” that Trump “is going to say the United Nations can’t be effective unless it reforms its bureaucracy and unless it achieves a higher degree of accountability for member states.”

Noting that the two have sometimes appeared at odds with each other, the [New York Times](#) (9/17, Sengupta) says a “crucial test” of Haley’s influence on the President “will come this week during Mr. Trump’s maiden visit to the United Nations, the organization he has repeatedly pilloried and whose very reason for being – international cooperation – he has dismissed with his promise of ‘only America first.’” According to the Times, “Many credit Ms. Haley for leading what Richard Gowan, a fellow at the European Council for Foreign Relations, called ‘the administration’s grudging but growing recognition of the UN’s significance.’”

Aides Warn North Korea Will Be “Destroyed” If Threats Continue. Several members of the Administration appeared on Sunday morning shows where they addressed the threat posed by North Korea, among other topics. [USA Today](#) (9/17, Jackson) reports Trump’s top aides “warmed up for this week’s series of United Nations meetings by calling for more global pressure on North Korea.”

The [AP](#) (9/17, Superville) likewise says the President’s top advisers “said the isolated nation would face destruction unless it shelves its weapons programs and bellicose threats.” Secretary of State Tillerson “held out hope the North would return to the bargaining table,” though Ambassador Haley said the Security Council had “pretty much exhausted” all its options. National Security Adviser McMaster told [ABC’s This Week](#), Kim Jong-Un is “going to have to give up his nuclear weapons because the president has said he’s not going to tolerate this regime threatening the United States and our citizens with a nuclear weapon.” Asked if that meant Trump would launch a military strike, McMaster said “he’s been very clear about that, that all options are on the table.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/17, Lim) also reports McMaster’s remarks.

[Bloomberg News](#) (9/17, John, Niquette) says Tillerson “made a rare appearance on a Sunday talk show” where he stressed that the US strategy is to pursue a “peaceful pressure campaign” based on “what he called the four ‘nos’: not seeking either regime change or collapse in North Korea, an accelerated re-unification of the Korean peninsula, or a reason to send in military forces.”

The [Washington Post](#) (9/17, Nakamura, Morello) reports Tillerson told On CBS’ “Face the Nation” Sunday morning, Tillerson said that if diplomacy fails to coerce North Korea to the negotiating table, “our military option will be the only one left. So all of this is backed up by a very strong and resolute military option. But be clear, we seek a peaceful solution to this.” Tillerson also warned on [CBS’ Face The Nation](#) that as North Korea continues to test its weapons, the timetable is growing shorter and China will need to step up.

[AFP](#) (9/17) says Haley also “kept up the rhetorical pressure ahead” of the General

Assembly, asserting that if the North should pose a serious threat to the US or its allies, "North Korea will be destroyed." Haley told [CNN's State of the Union](#), "None of us want war. We wanted to be responsible and go to all diplomatic means to get their attention first. If that doesn't work, General Mattis will take care of it."

[Reuters](#) (9/17, Chiacu) reports that asked about President Trump's warning last month that the North Korean threat will be met with "fire and fury," Haley said, "It was not an empty threat. If North Korea keeps on with this reckless behavior, if the United States has to defend itself or defend its allies in any way, North Korea will be destroyed. And we all know that."

The [Washington Times](#) (9/17, Richardson) and [Politico](#) (9/17, Meyer) similarly report Haley's comments, while the [New York Post](#) (9/17, Moore) reports that when asked about President Trump calling the new UN penalties "not a big deal," Haley said 90 percent of North Korea's trade has been cut off, further isolating the rogue regime. "We have economically strangled North Korea at this point and they have said as much. I think what the president's saying is, 'Look we've done all this, but we can do a whole lot more.' Everybody in the international community sees what a big deal it is."

Sen. Mike Rounds said on [Fox News Sunday Morning Futures](#) (9/17, Bartiromo) that President Trump "makes it very clear that there are military options, but that we would prefer to have a diplomatic solution that would be better for everyone." He added, "I think also he has to send a message to China that they do have a responsibility here and that they can help us to eliminate the possible use of military forces in the future based upon our own time frame and I hope that that's the message that he's able to convey."

Sen. John McCain said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (9/17, Dickerson), "This is one of the longest standing crises that we have faced. Three previous administrations have tried to make deals with North Korea in order to stop the steady progress they have been making towards the acquisition of nuclear...weapons and the means to deliver them." He added, "It seems to me China is very important and, yet we can't revisit that same old scenario we had before. So we're going to have to do a number of things, including incredible emphasis on missile defense in South Korea and our own missile defense system."

Julie Hirschfield Davis of the New York Times said on [CNN Inside Politics](#) (9/17), "I think some of this is the standard diplomatic maneuvering you see. A diplomatic option, talks, negotiations really have no compelling case to be made for them unless there is a threat of something else if that doesn't yield something."

US Seeking To Identify Sources Of North Korea's Rocket Fuel. The [New York Times](#) (9/17, Broad, Sanger) reports that North Korea's recent missile launches were powered by "a rare, potent rocket fuel that American intelligence agencies believe initially came from China and Russia." The US is "scrambling to determine whether those two countries are still providing the ingredients for the highly volatile fuel and, if so, whether North Korea's supply can be interrupted, either through sanctions or sabotage." Some experts believe the US "should focus on the fuel, either to halt it, if possible, or to take advantage of its volatile properties to slow the North's program," but "it may well be too late. Intelligence officials believe that the North's program has advanced to the point where it is no longer as reliant on outside suppliers, and that it may itself be making the deadly fuel."

Report: North Korea Building Nuclear Submarine. The [Washington Times](#) (9/17, Taylor) reports Japan's Sekai Nippo – citing an "informed" but unnamed "source familiar with the North Korean situation" – says North Korea is secretly building a nuclear-powered submarine. The newspaper "said the size of the nuclear-powered submarine under construction is unclear, but that the Kim Jong Un regime in Pyongyang hopes to have it deployed within three years." The Times notes that the claim could "not be independently verified" and US intelligence sources "could not immediately be reached for comment."

Bank Of Korea: South Korea Halves Investments In China. [Yonhap](#) (9/17, Dong) reports South Korean companies "have reduced their investments in China by nearly half this year as it has become difficult to do business there amid Beijing's growing economic retaliation against Korea's deployment of a US missile defense system." According to the Bank of Korea, South Korea's direct investment in China between January and July of this year was "down 43.7 percent from...the same period last year."

South's Humanitarian Aid Offer To North "Largely Unwelcomed." The [Korea Times](#) (9/17, Lee) reports South Korea's plan to offer \$8 million in humanitarian assistance to North Korea "is producing a frosty reaction at home and abroad due to its timing." According to the Times, "criticism is mounting over the timing of the announcement, which came only two days" after the UN Security Council adopted a new sanctions on Pyongyang. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

asked Moon Jae-in “to consider the timing of the proposed aid,” and the US “also expressed considerable discomfort on the matter.”

Media Analyses Consider How Trump’s UN Debut Will Test His Agenda.

On a day when there was limited media coverage of key Administration-related topics, a handful of analyses considered how President Trump’s debut at the UN General Assembly this week will impact his international and domestic agenda.

Typical of the tone of the reporting was the [Washington Post](#) (9/16, Gearan, Nakamura), which states that although Trump had once said the UN “risked becoming an irrelevant salon,” his first address to the world boy “will be a test of his ‘America First’ agenda on global engagement, climate change and North Korea, but one topic – Iran – looms largest.” According to the Post, the President’s speech on Tuesday as well as his meetings with foreign leaders “are freighted with expectations that the U.S. leader wants to pull away from the 2015 U.N.-backed nuclear deal with Iran.” Meanwhile, the Post adds that White House officials have “sketched out an ambitious series of events for Trump, including bilateral meetings Monday with French President Emmanuel Macron and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (9/16, Talev) similarly says the President “will embark on a whirlwind series of meetings next week at the United Nations General Assembly to make two big asks of the world: Stand with us against North Korea, and hold the line against Iran’s nuclear program.” Bloomberg states that “over the course of four days, beginning Monday, Trump will engage in a speed round of diplomacy that may test his patience for the notoriously factionalized, lethargic institution as well as his preference for one-on-one dealmaking in which the U.S. always holds the strongest hand.” On Friday, Ambassador Haley told reporters, “Next week is not going to be short on topics” and he asserted foreign leaders “are all very anxious to hear what he has to say. ... I think that he will make quite an impact.” Haley added that from her review of a draft of the President’s address, “I personally think he slaps the right people, he hugs the right people, and he comes out with the U.S. being very strong in the end.” The [AP](#) (9/16, Lemire) reports Haley added, “No one is going to grip and grin. ... The United States is going to work.” National Security Adviser McMaster similarly said Trump “will urge all states to come together to address great dangers’ facing the globe.”

In a front-page article, the [New York Times](#) (9/16, A1, Baker) reports McMaster in a preview of the week ahead said the President “would stress ‘sovereignty and accountability’” and “will emphasize longstanding efforts to reform what many Republicans see as the sclerotic and inefficient United Nations organization,” but the Times adds “aides would not say whether he would commit to the traditional level of American financing as Washington remains in arrears,” with Haley saying only, “You’ll have to wait and see.” The Times details Trump’s schedule and mentions Vice President Pence will stand in for a meeting with new Pakistan Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi while “many will watch Secretary of State Rex W. Tillerson, who has been overshadowed by Ms. Haley, to see if he has influence or is on the way out.”

While “the spotlight will be on...Trump and France’s new leader, Emmanuel Macron, who will both be making their first appearance at the General Assembly,” the [AP](#) (9/16, Lederer) reports, “it will be North Korea, which Secretary-General Antonio Guterres calls ‘the most dangerous crisis that we face today,’ that will be most carefully watched.” According to the AP, “No official event addressing Pyongyang’s relentless campaign to develop nuclear weapons capable of hitting the United States is on the U.N. agenda, but it is expected to be the No. 1 issue for most leaders.” The AP adds “not far behind will be the plight of Myanmar’s Rohingya Muslims, victims of what Guterres calls a campaign of ethnic cleansing.” However, the AP says world leaders will also address the threat posed by terrorism and climate change, as well as a US-led “declaration on U.N. reforms” backed by over 100 other countries, “but Russia’s U.N. Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said Friday that ‘we are not sure we will sign this declaration.’”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/16, story 6, 1:05, Welker) Kelly O’Donnell similarly admitted that “the stakes are already high” for the President, whose “message will be serious, saying that [North Korea] is a global issue, not an American-only problem.” O’Donnell added Trump will “host a high-profile lunch with the leaders of Japan and South Korea, whose nations are most vulnerable in all of this, and Ambassador Haley says recent sanctions need some more time to determine if they can have any impact on the regime.”

Politico Analysis: Trump’s UN Speech “May Provide Some Affirmation” For Sessions. When President Trump speaks with world leaders this week about “overhauling the United Nations, it may provide some affirmation for a struggling member of the president’s team: Jeff Sessions,” [Politico](#) (9/16, Palmeri) reports, as “while the attorney general’s relationship with his boss has been fraught since Sessions recused himself from the Russia probe, it was the former Alabama

senator's conviction that the New York real estate developer was the only person who could successfully modernize the U.N. that originally brought them together more than a decade ago." Politico recounted Sessions "invited Trump to testify before a Senate subcommittee in 2005 as Congress was considering whether to extend a \$1.2 billion loan to the UN for modernizing its decrepit headquarters on Manhattan's East River." At the time, "Trump – then riding high on his 'Apprentice' fame – told Congress to let him take on the UN renovation rather than making a loan."

US Reiterates Position On Paris Climate Accord Unchanged. After representatives from roughly 30 nations, including the US, China, and Canada, met in Montreal "to discuss the most-sweeping accord to date to protect the environment," European Union's climate chief, Miguel Arias Canete, suggested that the US is "willing to re-engage under the Paris agreement but they want to check some of the terms under which they agreed to participate previously," [Bloomberg News](#) (9/17, Krukowska) reports. Canete added, "We assume that means that the U.S. will revisit at some time the targets put forward by the previous administration." Canete's assertion "was quickly denied by the White House." White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders tweeted, "Our position on the Paris agreement has not changed. @POTUS has been clear, US withdrawing unless we get pro-America terms."

Kelly O'Donnell of [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/16, story 7, 0:55, Welker) reported that at the UN General Assembly this week, French President Emmanuel Macron will push "other leaders this week to begin to implement the" Paris climate agreement. However, O'Donnell added "so far, other world leaders say the time for negotiating is long past, so that will increase pressure on President Trump."

Wife Of Princeton Student Imprisoned In Iran Renews Call For Diplomatic Resolution. Hua Qu, the wife of former Princeton University student and naturalized US citizen Xiyue Wang, discussed in detail with [Reuters](#) (9/16, Ax, Torbati) her husband's espionage conviction and 10-year prison sentence in Iran. The interview – Qu's first extensive one since Wang's arrest 13 months ago – signaled "a shift in strategy for those closest to Wang," as "Princeton and the Obama and Trump administrations kept Wang's detention confidential in hopes of brokering a release on humanitarian grounds." Qu is now "speaking out to encourage Iran and the United States to resolve her husband's case diplomatically," potentially at the United Nations General Assembly. A State Department spokeswoman said of Wang's case, "This administration is redoubling efforts to bring home all Americans unjustly detained abroad."

Trump Pledges US Support To UK After Terror Attack, Pushes For Expanding Travel Ban.

ISIS has claimed responsibility for the bombing of a London metro station early Friday morning, though local police expressed skepticism. The terror attack was covered as the lead story on all of the network and cable news outlets, which focused heavily on President Trump's remarks citing the attack as justification for his travel restrictions and British Prime Minister Theresa May's subsequent criticism of his comments. Reporting also considered the threat of additional, imminent attacks, as the UK raised the threat level to "critical" in the wake of the bombing.

The [New York Times](#) (9/15, A1, Landler, Haberman) reports on its front page that "Trump seized on a terrorist attack in London on Friday to promote his ban on travel to the United States by Muslims and, in the process, ran afoul of Britain by claiming without evidence that the assailants had been "in the sights" of the British police." The Times adds that in his "fusillade of early morning tweets, Mr. Trump cited the chaotic scene in a London Underground station as Exhibit A for his hard-line policies." The Times labels this as "the latest episode in which Mr. Trump was at odds with Britain over sensitive security issues."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/15, story 2, 2:15, Holt) White House correspondent Hallie Jackson similarly reported that "hours after the explosion in London," the President issued an "eruption of tweets," which [Reuters](#) (9/15, Heavey) reports started with a denunciation of the attack. Trump [said](#), "Another attack in London by a loser terrorist. These are sick and demented people who were in the sights of Scotland Yard. Must be proactive!" He [continued](#), "Loser terrorists must be dealt with in a much tougher manner. The internet is their main recruitment tool which we must cut off & use better!"

However, [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 6:09 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) said that he also seized "on the incident to push his reposed travel ban, targeting merely all refugees as well as people from six Muslim-majority countries, a ban that is facing several legal challenges." [Reuters](#) (9/15, Heavey) reports Trump's comments comes in advance of "a key Supreme Court hearing next month on the constitutionality of his executive order on the ban."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/15, Wagner, Zapotosky) reports Trump [said](#), "The travel ban into

the United States should be far larger, tougher and more specific-but stupidly, that would not be politically correct!" The Post adds the President later "took credit for progress by his administration in combating the Islamic State terrorist group, asserting that more had been done in the past nine months than under Obama's eight years in office." The [Washington Times](#) (9/15, Persons) reports Trump [tweeted](#), "We have made more progress in the last nine months against ISIS than the Obama Administration has made in 8 years. Must be proactive & nasty!"

According to [Washington Post](#) (9/15, Bump) correspondent Philip Bump, "it didn't take President Trump long to turn Friday morning's terrorist attack in Britain to his political advantage." Bump added, "This is not the first time that we've seen this pattern from Trump." He continued that the President is "frequently...quick to ascribe incidents of violence to terrorism, particularly acts that he believes to have been committed by Islamist terrorists. He is much slower, however, to weigh in on incidents in which Muslims or his political opponents have been targeted."

The [AP](#) (9/15, Lucey) similarly contended that "Trump's rapid reaction Friday contrasts with a statement he made defending his muted response to the violence in Charlottesville last month, when he said he wanted to ensure he had the facts and not make a 'quick statement.'" In a separate [Washington Post](#) (9/15, Bump) analysis, Bump said the "early-morning tweets Friday had a common theme: Any enemies must be punished." Bump added that the enemies highlighted on Friday "included the perpetrator of a terrorist attack on London's subway which, happily, didn't result in any fatalities," as well as ISIS and the television network ESPN.

Meanwhile, the [Washington Times](#) (9/15, Miller) reports that speaking to reporters at the White House Rose Garden later on Friday, Trump "called the London subway bombing 'a terrible thing' and repeated his call a tougher travel ban to keep terrorists out of the U.S." He asserted, "It keeps going and going, and we have to be very smart and we have to be very, very tough – perhaps we're not nearly tough enough. ... We have to be smarter." [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/15, 6:39 p.m. EDT, Baier) broadcast Trump telling reporters, "America and our allies will never be intimidated." He continued, "We will defend our people, our nations, and our civilization from all who dare to threaten our way of life. This includes the regime of North Korea which has once again shown its utter contempt for its neighbors and for the entire world community."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 5:08 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) reported National Security Adviser McMaster, "later trying to explain what Trump meant," told reporters: "What the President is communicating is that obviously all of our law enforcement efforts are focused on this terrorist threat for years. He didn't mean anything beyond that."

Leading the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/15, lead story, 2:25, Mason), Correspondent Charlie D'Agata reported Trump's comments "drew a sharp rebuke from" the British Prime Minister. May told George Stephanopoulos of [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/15, story 3, 1:35, Muir), "I don't think it's helpful for anyone to speculate on what is an ongoing investigation." She added, "The police and the security services are doing the work necessary to discover the full circumstances of this cowardly attack that's taken place, and to identify all those who are responsible." [AFP](#) (9/15, Beatty) reports Trump's comments were also "described as 'unhelpful' by London's Metropolitan Police, as well as by Nick Timothy, May's former chief of staff." Timothy [tweeted](#), "True or not – and I'm sure he doesn't know – this is so unhelpful from leader of our ally and intelligence partner." According to AFP, "after his tweets, and with ties apparently under strain, Trump spoke with May to convey "his sympathies and prayers" for victims of the London attack, the White House said in a statement."

[Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/15, 6:01 p.m. EDT, Baier) White House correspondent John Roberts reported that a spokesperson for May said Trump called the Prime Minister "to offer his condolences over this morning's cowardly attack in London" while [Reuters](#) (9/15, Heavey, Brice) reports the White House said that in their phone call, the President "expressed support for those injured and 'pledged to continue close collaboration with the United Kingdom to stop attacks worldwide targeting innocent civilians and to combat extremism.'" [Bloomberg News](#) (9/15, Ross, Penny) reports that during the call, May "complained directly" to Trump over his tweets, "according to a U.K. government official familiar with the conversation."

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 6:13 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), Rep. Ruben Gallego said "the fact that it wasn't a suicide bomber should tell us a lot. Also, it kind of tells you about the nature of what is happening with ISIS. ISIS is losing the territorial boundaries that it used to claim under its big caliphate. So now in order to have relevance within the, you know, the terrorist world or at least those who are drawn towards terrorism, whether it is funding or to go fight, they are trying to export their method of battle and war through more terrorism unless the actual holding of territory. And the way to fight this, obviously, is going to be with greater integration of our

intelligence systems, both American and British, as well as the greater European in general." Gallego urged US intelligence officials to also work more closely with Muslim communities, which he argued have been instrumental in thwarting previous attempts on American soil.

Sen. Ben Cardin told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 5:12 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) that whether ISIS did in fact orchestrate the attack is unclear at this point. He added that the attack is "not the typical MO that we've seen in terrorist attacks in Europe; however, we'll wait to see exactly what the circumstances are. We know that as ISIS' caliphate, its geographical territory, is shrinking, that there is a lot more interest in what's happening in this type of terrorist episodes. So ISIS will claim credit, even if they had nothing to do with it." He stressed the need "to share intelligence information to try to prevent these types of things from occurring." Cardin added that he is "absolutely" concerned about the possibility of future, imminent attacks both in Britain and potentially the US. Cardin added that Trump's remarks on the attack were "not appropriate, and the fact that the National Security Adviser had to try to explain what the President meant, meant he shouldn't have said what he did."

Former State Department spokesman John Kirby told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 6:41 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) that while it may be "too early to say whether" Trump's remarks "hurt, it certainly didn't help any and it was inappropriate. This was hours after, not even hours after this, when he tweeted that," forcing May "to respond. And she was right to slap him back for that" because "speculating out there is certainly not helping authorities on the ground trying to solve this and to keep the city safe."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 5:31 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) chief political analyst Gloria Borger said she believes Trump, in his comments, implied "that maybe Scotland Yard wasn't doing its job, because they knew who this was." Former CIA counterterrorism official Philip Mudd said Trump's remarks that "we need to be proactive" is the part that is most insulting to British intelligence officers. He commented, "The British Security Service and British police are far advanced in terms of intelligence and policing. What that says to an intelligence officer is, you're not as good as you should be. They're better than we are. A little humility would help there."

Explosion On London Metro Train Injures At Least 29. Reporting from Parson Green Tube Station, the location of the attack, senior international correspondent Matthew Chance of [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 5:06 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) reported that the "device exploded at 8:20 local time on that metro station – tube train, as we call them here – at the height of rush hour. There were scenes of panic as people tried to escape the carriages onto the platform outside." [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/15, 6:05 p.m. EDT, Baier) reported witnesses described "a wall of fire from the homemade bomb," which elicited "panic" on the "crowded train." Correspondent Kitty Logan said the device did not fully detonate, potentially "sparing many lives."

However, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/15, Mancini, Kantchev, Douglas) reports 29 people were injured in the attack, which a front-page [New York Times](#) (9/15, A1, Chan, Kingsley, Yeginsu) article says "was the fifth terrorist attack in Britain this year and the first to hit London at its most vulnerable point – mass transit – since the 2005 bombings that killed 52."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 6:06 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) terrorism analyst Paul Cruickshank reported ISIS released two statements – "one from its affiliate news agency and one from ISIS proper" – that both claimed responsibility for the attack. One statement said "it was a detachment from the Islamic State that carried it out, and another saying it was soldiers of the caliphate that did this and planted multiple devices." He clarified that no evidence confirms "that there were multiple devices that were planted, and ISIS really hasn't offered any evidence to back up its claim that it had responsibility for this attack."

Leading [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/15, lead story, 3:05, Muir), correspondent Ian Pannell commented, "It takes a lot to spook people here, but the news that ISIS say that they've planted bombs across the city will surely mean that people will sleep less well tonight." Leading [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/15, lead story, 2:30, Holt), senior national security analyst Juan Zarate remarked, "Though the attack was relatively ineffective, it is part of a series of quickening attacks in London that not only worries officials in London and the UK, but also in Europe and in the United States."

[CNN's Situation Room](#)'s (9/15, 5:06 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Chance reported investigators believe that the perpetrator or perpetrators had attempted to construct "a sophisticated bomb" because it "had a timer on it. We've seen that very rarely." He added the device was also "designed to cause maximum damage and mass casualties, and it used this highly explosive substance called TATP," which has been used in "a host of other attacks." Chance explained, "One of the reasons for that is it can be easily manufactured from normal household products like household bleach that can be readily bought at supermarkets. That's what makes it even more

difficult for the authorities to pin down and try to trace who it was." [CNN's Situation Room](#)'s (9/15, 6:03 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Chance said British authorities said "they're making excellent progress in their investigation, but the details of that progress, they're not disclosing to us. They say because of the nature of their investigation, there is a heavy covert element. So we're still waiting for news this evening on any suspects or any arrests that may be made."

Meanwhile, [Bloomberg News](#) (9/15, Ross-Thomas, Penny) reports May in a televised statement "announced the U.K. terror threat level has been raised to critical, its highest level," following the assessment by the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre (JTAC) "that further attacks may be imminent." [Reuters](#) (9/15, Holton, Schomberg) reports May said that in the days ahead, "military personnel will replace police officers on guard duties at certain protected sites that are not accessible to the public." The [AP](#) (9/15, Lawless, Katz) reports May called the deployment of military troops to help the police a "proportionate and sensible step."

In the lead [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 5:01 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) story, Wolf Blitzer reported London police have categorized the attack as "a terrorist incident," and have launched a manhunt "with hundreds of detectives backed by Britain's intelligence service" to locate suspects. The [Washington Post](#) (9/15, A1, Booth, Adam) says in a front-page article that "as of Friday evening, authorities had given no details on possible suspects," though British media "said that investigators had images of a suspect from closed-circuit television." In the lead story for the second hour of [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 6:01 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), correspondent Brian Todd said London Police Commissioner Cressida Dick announced the department has "received about 77 images from the public, but they are pleading with people to come forward with more photos and videos to help them piece together what happened and who is responsible."

British Police Arrest Suspected Knifeman Near Birmingham Tube Station. [Reuters](#) (9/15, Pitas) cites the [Birmingham \(UK\) Mail](#) in reporting British police on Friday "arrested a suspected knifeman near Birmingham New Street Station."

UK Officials Aware Of Threat To Public Spaces, But Struggle To Secure Mass Transit Services. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/15, Gross) reports that Britain's National Risk Register on Thursday cautioned it was highly plausible that a terrorist attack could target crowded public spaces, but the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/15, Wall, Macdonald) in a separate article reports that despite spending decades in an attempt to secure mass transit services, the UK and governments worldwide continue to face challenges in protecting such vulnerable infrastructure.

Major US Cities Enhance Security On Mass Transit Services, Tourist Attractions. "The bombing of a packed London commuter train on Friday prompted officials to beef up security on New York City's subway system, major commuter rail networks, at airports and other locations," [Reuters](#) (9/15, Szekely, Dobuzinskis) reports, and "the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which operates mass-transit lines in New York City and the Long Island Rail Road and Metro-North commuter lines, said it was closely monitoring the investigation of the fiery blast that injured 29 people in a West London underground station." In a statement, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo "said...he had also directed authorities to increase security at airports, bridges, tunnels and other sensitive locations across the state."

[ABC World News Tonight](#)'s (9/15, story 2, 0:55, Muir) Linsey Davis reported that the New York City Police Department also said Friday it is "not taking any chances in the event of a copycat. Unfortunately, they know this drill well and once again they are beefing up security. That, of course, includes bomb-sniffing dogs, increased police presence, heavy weapons teams. They say there have been no direct threats to New York City, but they're also monitoring intelligence and asking people to remain vigilant. The governor is calling for increased security at bridges, tunnels, area airports, and mass transportation. New York City is, of course, not alone." According to Davis, the Los Angeles Police Department is similarly "increasing security on buses, on trains, and at major tourist attractions. DC police say they're telling riders to remain vigilant."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/15, story 2, 2:05, Mason), NYPD Deputy Commissioner of Intelligence and Counterterrorism John Miller commented, "In New York, we live with the reality that we are the most-targeted city in the United States by terrorist plots. We have a great relationship with the Joint Terrorism Task Force, our FBI partners, and together we've managed to thwart almost 100 percent of the plots that have been levied against us since 9/11/2001. We don't kid ourselves, though: There's no such thing as total protection in a free society." He added that the threat is "something of great concern to us, something that we follow every day, and something that we believe we've prepared for as well as we can."

Trump Warns Of "Effective And Overwhelming" Response To North Korean Threat.

President Trump on Friday vowed an "effective and overwhelming" response to North Korea over

the launch of a missile towards Japan. While focused on the UK terror attack, the network newscasts nonetheless devoted six and a half minutes combined to highlighting the tough talk from Trump, Defense Secretary Mattis, Secretary of State Tillerson, National Security Adviser McMaster, and Ambassador Haley.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/15, story 4, 0:45, Muir) reported the White House is talking "tough" after "North Korea's latest provocation," as Administration officials indicated "they are still giving diplomacy and sanctions a chance, but adding the US does have other plans at the ready." [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 6:08 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) reported the President arrived in New Jersey "just a few minutes ago," but before he left Joint Base Andrews, Trump addressed "this North Korea threat."

[CNN's Situation Room](#)'s (9/15, 5:08 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Athena Jones reported, "Speaking at Joint Base Andrews just before departing for New Jersey, the President said America's military options are robust. He called them both effective and overwhelming, should they be needed to respond to threats from North Korea. He said America and her allies will never be intimidated, and that North Korea has once again shown its utter contempt for its neighbors and the entire world community."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 5:11 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) broadcast Trump, who when asked whether he is "running out of diplomatic options" responded, "No." At Joint Base Andrews, the President "talked up the country's military might." Said Trump, "When our enemies hear the F-35 engines, when they're roaring overhead, their souls will tremble and they will know the day of reckoning has arrived." The [AP](#) (9/15, Superville) reports Trump said the North Korean regime "has once again shown its 'utter contempt' for its neighbors and for the entire world community" and asserted he is "more confident than ever, after seeing the military hardware on base, that U.S. options for addressing the threat from North Korea 'are both effective and overwhelming.'"

[AFP](#) (9/15) reports McMaster told a White House briefing on Friday that Trump "will host a lunch with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korea's Moon Jae-in on Thursday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly." McMaster said the "most recent launch demonstrates...this is one of the world's most urgent and dangerous security problems." However, according to AFP, "McMaster sent a mixed message Friday, insisting that the US retained a 'military option' in dealing with North Korea even while calling on 'everyone to do everything we can to address the global problem short of war.'"

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 6:49 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) broadcast McMaster asserting, "For those who have said and are commenting on the lack of a military option: There is a military option. Now, it's not what we would prefer to do." The [AP](#) (9/15, Riechmann) reports McMaster warned the US has "run out of road" to deal with North Korea while [Reuters](#) (9/15, Mason) reports he conceded the US "was approaching the limit of what sanctions and diplomacy can accomplish in terms of reigning in North Korea's weapons program."

Meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/15, Sonne, Wong) reports Ambassador Haley hinted the US was willing to consider military solutions. In video footage broadcast by [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/15, 6:43 p.m. EDT, Baier), Ambassador Haley warned, "What we are seeing is they continue to be provocative, they continue to be reckless. And at that point, there's not a whole lot the Security Council is going to be able to do from here when you've cut 90 percent of the trade and 30 percent of the oil. So, having said that, I have no problem kicking it to General Mattis, because I think he has plenty of options."

According to [Reuters](#) (9/15, Stewart), Mattis said Friday that he believes the latest launch "will further North Korea's isolation, diplomatic and economic isolation, because more and more nations are realizing there's simply no collaboration [by Pyongyang] with the international community."

[Reuters](#) (9/15, Heavey, Mitchell) reports Secretary of State Tillerson on Friday "said...that North Korea's continuing missile tests threaten the entire world and stressed the United States was working closely with regional allies Japan and South Korea on the problem." Speaking to the Community of Democracies, Tillerson said, "In East Asia, an increasingly aggressive and isolated regime in North Korea threatens democracies in South Korea, Japan, and more importantly, and more recently, has expanded those threats to the United States, endangering the entire world." Tillerson added, "We first look to our regional allies South Korea and Japan. By working with them and other democratic partners, we continue to build consensus at the United Nations Security Council to create a united international front that upholds our values and strives to make us safer." [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/15, 6:07 p.m. EDT, Baier) broadcast Tillerson asserting, "North Korea is now a global threat, and requires a global response from all nations."

[Reuters](#) (9/15, Miles) reports US disarmament ambassador Robert Wood at a news

conference in Geneva on Friday said the Administration “wants to exhaust every diplomatic option on North Korea’s nuclear and missile programs, and to see loopholes in the North Korean sanctions regime closed.” Wood asserted, “Sanctions have not had a real opportunity to bite as hard as we would like them to bite, and that comes from the fact that they have not been fully implemented.” He added, “We are not taking any options off the table but...we are pursuing the diplomatic track right now ... We want to exhaust all diplomatic options.”

However, [Politico](#) (9/15, McCaskill) reports Sen. Lindsey Graham on Friday criticized the Administration’s “response to Kim Jong Un’s saber-rattling.” In a series of tweets, Graham [said](#), “Clearly North Korea does not give a damn about UN sanctions or tough talk.” He [added](#), “It is time to more forcefully back up our diplomatic efforts with the threat of a credible military option.” Graham [continued](#), “North Korea believes there is no downside to pushing the envelope regarding their missile and nuclear programs.” He [concluded](#), “It is up to the Trump Administration and the world to make North Korea believe otherwise.”

Rep. Adam Kinzinger said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (9/15, 5:22 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) that because North Korea appears to have the technological capabilities to strike Guam, “it is a game changer.” He said the US and its allies have shown “a good, professional restraint for these massive provocations,” but that “it’s worrisome as they perfect their ICBM technology” and “are now within the continental United States. There are still key things they need to work out. But the pace they’ve been showing of development” suggests “they’re probably not far from having a completely workable, reentry-available ICBM.” When asked whether the US should shoot down North Korean missiles, Kinzinger said that “it may come to that point,” in large part because Pyongyang has “made the threat” against Japan, Guam, and the continental US.

[Reuters](#) (9/15, Heavey) reports a Gallup poll of 1,022 “US adults” (9/6-9/10) released Friday “found that 58 percent said they would favor military action against North Korea if the United States cannot accomplish its goals by more peaceful means first.” However, Reuters says the response “was largely split along political party lines. Among Republicans, 82 percent would back military action compared with 37 percent among Democrats. Among political independents, 56 backed such action.”

UN Secretary-General, Security Council Condemn North Korea Missile Launch. [Reuters](#) (9/15, Nichols) reports UN Secretary-General António Guterres in a statement “condemned North Korea’s missile launch over Japan on Friday and said he would discuss the situation at the United Nations General Assembly’s gathering next week.” He called upon the leaders of the DPRK “to cease further testing, comply with the relevant Security Council resolutions, and allow space to explore the resumption of sincere dialogue on denuclearization.”

In addition, the [AP](#) (9/15, Lederer, Tong-Hyung) reports the United Nations Security Council “strongly condemned the North’s ‘highly provocative’ ballistic missile test.” According to the AP, the Security Council “accused North Korea of undermining regional peace and security by launching its latest missile over Japan and said its nuclear and missile tests ‘have caused grave security concerns around the world’ and threaten all 193 U.N. member states.”

Kim: North Korea Seeking Military “Equilibrium” With US. [Reuters](#) (9/15, Kim, Nichols) reports that according to the North Korean state news agency KCNA, Kim Jong Un said his regime’s “final goal is to establish the equilibrium of real force with the U.S. and make the U.S. rulers dare not talk about military option.” Kim additionally said, “The combat efficiency and reliability of Hwasong-12 were thoroughly verified,” and asserted “the North’s goal of completing its nuclear force had ‘nearly reached the terminal.’”

David Martin of the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/15, story 3, 2:15, Mason) reported, “Until now, North Korea had tested its intermediate- and intercontinental-range missiles from fixed launchpads. This time, for the first time, an intermediate-range missile was launched from a mobile transporter, a significant development since it enables Kim Jong Un to fire a long-range weapon with little or no warning. In this case, though, spy satellites had seen the missile being rolled into position at an airfield near Pyongyang well before the actual launch, as if Kim was deliberately trying to avoid catching the US off guard.”

[CNN’s Situation Room](#) (9/15, 5:50 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) correspondent Will Ripley said “reports breaking right now” citing North Korea’s state-run KCNA outlet are claiming “that Kim Jong-un, the North Korean supreme leader, presided over this missile launch of what we have already believed to be a Hwasong-12. KCNA apparently confirming now their intermediate range missile was fired from the Pyongyang Sunan airport. They fired it right from their capitol, 2,300 miles over Japan’s northern island of Hokkaido.” He said the range is the longest ever fired from North Korea, leaving Guam “easily within striking range.” Clearly, Ripley said, “this is a strong message of defiance,” and “North Korea feels this is a reliable missile to hit the military targets in

South Korea, Japan, and Guam.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/15, story 3, 2:20, Holt) chief foreign correspondent Richard Engel reported, “It was an intermediate-range ballistic missile launched around 6:30 a.m. local time. It traveled 2,300 miles over northern Japan, landing in the Pacific Ocean. The US military said it posed no threat to American territory; Guam is far to the south, which Kim Jong Un has threatened before. South Korea responded to the launch by firing two missiles of its own into the sea, but at the same distance they’d have to travel to hit the North Korean launch site. Hours later, the UN convened an emergency session just days after imposing new sanctions watered down by Russia and China.”

China Deflects Blame For North Korea’s Belligerence, Criticizes South Korea. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/15, Wong) reports that within hours of the missile launch, a spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry condemned North Korea but insisted Beijing lacks the ability to solve the crisis while a [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/15, Browne) analysis says that Chinese leaders have instead been portraying South Korea as the party responsible for North Korea’s actions because they are afraid the US will one day turn Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (Thaad) against its military.

However, Ben Tracy of the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/15, story 4, 1:10, Mason) acknowledged, “This idea that China can somehow call up Kim Jong Un and just tell him to cut it out is not realistic. There is not a good relationship between these two countries right now. And if you need proof of that, there is no picture of Kim Jong Un and Chinese President Xi Jinping, and that is because the two have never met.” However, he added China “does not want to see the regime collapse, mainly because it does not want a united Korea that would be aligned with the West. That could mean US military on its border.”

Japan Reevaluates Military As Aid Dispute With South Korea Intensifies. According to a front-page [New York Times](#) (9/15, A1, Rich) article, Japanese officials “who may have considered intercepting the missile faced two immediate constraints – the country’s missile defenses are limited, and the Constitution limits military action only to instances of self-defense.” The Times reports these “constraints have weighed heavily on the debate in recent weeks over how Japan should be responding to the North’s rapidly advancing nuclear program, including what role it should play as an American ally and to what extent it should upgrade its armed forces.”

Meanwhile, the [New York Times](#) (9/15, Sang-Hun) reports Japan and South Korea “differed on Friday over providing humanitarian aid to North Korea’s malnourished children and pregnant women, hours after that country launched a ballistic missile over Japan.” While Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean President Moon Jae-in in a phone call “shar[ed] their condemnation of North Korea’s latest missile test and vow[ed] to work together to bring about more sanctions against the country, Mr. Moon’s office said,” Abe “took issue with South Korea’s plan to donate \$8 million to two United Nations humanitarian programs in North Korea. He asked Mr. Moon to reconsider the timing of the aid.” In an analysis, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/15, Martin, Jun) reports that while Moon has broke from his recent predecessors and pushed for peace talks with North Korea, his initiatives have been unsuccessful so far.

Russia: North Korea’s Violated UN Resolutions With Missile Launch. [Reuters](#) (9/15, Lowe) cites the Interfax news agency in reporting a spokeswoman for the Russian Foreign Ministry “said on Friday that North Korea’s latest missile test violated United Nations Security Council resolutions.” Meanwhile, [Reuters](#) (9/15, Lowe) reports the Kremlin in a statement Friday said Russian President Vladimir Putin and French President Emmanuel Macron spoke by phone the latest missile launch, in which they both “condemned Pyongyang’s ‘provocative’ actions, which risk leading to ‘irreversible consequences,’ the Kremlin said.”

Former US Official: North Korean Threat A Way Of Life For South Korea. Sue Mi Terry, a former CIA analyst and Korea director at the National Security Council, says in a [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/15, Terry) op-ed that while the US panics over North Korea’s intent to expand its nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs, Seoul has remained surprisingly calm as it bolsters its military. Terry explains that South Koreans have lived with the North Korean threat for decades – unlike the fear of President Trump dragging their nation into a war, which could threaten US-South Korean relations.

White House: Trump Supports Making Deal On DACA, Provided Border Security, Wall Are Included.

[CNN’s Situation Room](#)’s (9/15, 5:12 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) Athena Jones reported President Trump “may be signaling his willingness” to work with Democratic lawmakers to protect “young people brought to the United States illegally as children” under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, program, “but the move is causing a stir among some conservative

supporters." White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters that Trump "supports making an agreement on DACA, but that would have to include massive border security and interior enforcements. The President continues to push for those things. He's still one hundred percent committed to the wall, and we're going to be laying out what our specific priorities and principles are in that front in the next seven to ten days."

White House Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Short told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 6:23 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) that a dinner between Trump and House Minority Leader Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Schumer on the matter "was very cordial," and even "jovial, but there's not a deal in place. There was a beginning of a conversation in place." Short added that the President and White House believe former President Obama's "ruling was in fact unlawful, which was why it was overturned. Obama did that because he was frustrated Congress didn't act on it. So the President is trying to pull the sides together to say, we need to solve this problem." Short added Trump "feels that these are 800,000 people who came to the United States of no fault of their own who are productive and working in America's society. He wants to find a solution for them."

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 6:37 p.m. EDT, Blitzer), political analyst Ryan Lizza said Trump "says he wants them to stay, which is not the opinion of some other people in the Administration, so that's a clear indication that that's the White House's view on that right now. Jeff Sessions doesn't believe that. And I thought he was very expansive in how he wanted a deal. There weren't a lot of red lines being drawn in terms of what could be in a potential immigration deal. It sounded like they are very much in deal-making mode. They wanted to put all the White House's immigration proposals out on the table and see if they can come up with some broader package."

Chief political analyst Gloria Borger of [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/15, 5:40 p.m. EDT, Blitzer) said details of the purported agreement on DACA – specifically, whether DREAMers will have a path to citizenship – are unclear beyond "the fact that they have agreed in principle." Senior political analyst Mark Preston said if DREAMers "do not get citizenship and they're allowed to stay in this country, what we have effectively done is created another class of people, and we have created a class system at that point. That is so un-American in many ways. I just don't understand how you can allow somebody to stay here but say you can't become a citizen."

Trump Tweets That "Chain Migration" Cannot Be Included In Immigration Legislation. The [AP](#) (9/15) reports that President Trump "is reiterating his support for a plan that would curb legal immigration and shift the nation toward a system that would place an emphasis on merit and skills over family ties." Trump tweeted, "CHAIN MIGRATION cannot be allowed to be part of any legislation on Immigration!" The tweet comes amid discussions between Trump and congressional Democrats on a deal to preserve protections for DACA recipients. [Reuters](#) (9/15, Heavey) says that "chain migration" is a term used "to refer to citizens or permanent residents sponsoring relatives or the clustering of certain immigrants in the same areas."

[Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/15, 6:13 p.m. EDT, Baier) reported that the tweet came amid "some of the GOP pushback." Despite the uproar, correspondent Bret Baier said, "the deal looks like it's moving forward."

White House: "Priorities And Principles" For Immigration To Come In Seven To 10 Days. [Politico](#) (9/15, Conway) reports that press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders announced on Friday that the White House "plans to lay out its 'specific priorities and principles' for an immigration deal in seven to 10 days." After Schumer and Pelosi said a deal had been reached to protect former DACA recipients, President Trump "first denied that he had reached a deal with them, but later acknowledged they had discussed such an arrangement." The article also quotes Sen. Bernie Sanders, who said that Trump is "focused on making sure that in the efforts of these ongoing conversations between both Democrats and Republicans that we deliver on responsible immigration reform," but that a deal had not been finalized.

Ryan: Bipartisan Majority Exists To Protect DACA Recipients. The [AP](#) (9/15, Daly) reports House Speaker Ryan said Friday that "there's a sweet spot" in Congress for majority support to protect current DACA recipients, following a statement by President Trump that he was "fairly close" to an agreement with congressional Democrats on the issue. Ryan said that any such legislation would be paired with border-strengthening measures, and that "While we do this [legislative fix for young immigrants] we have a border problem we've got to fix." Ryan cautioned that Democrats "will have to stomach" that an immigration bill is likely to be perceived as a political victory for Trump, adding that it would be "a real mistake" for Democrats to oppose the bill simply because they dislike Trump."

NYTimes: Trump's Compassionate Deal Not "A Pivot Toward Principles." A [New York Times](#)

(9/15) editorial considers whether the deal President Trump reached with Democratic lawmakers this week “to enshrine into law protections for young illegal immigrants brought to the United States as children” signals “the arrival of a new, compassionate, capable” Trump. The Times laments, “Sadly, probably not,” because the President “is often transactional and capricious,” and thus “there must be an angle.” The Times concludes in warning, “No one should cheer Mr. Trump’s latest moves as a pivot toward principles. So far, his main operating principle seems to be service to himself.”

Cassidy: “48 Or 49” Republicans Back Plan To Replace ACA With Block Grants.

The [Washington Times](#) (9/17, Howell) reports that with time running out to replace the ACA with just 50 votes, Senators pushing a plan to replace the law with state block grants “are making real noise...insisting they are just one or two votes shy and that President Trump can nudge their last-gasp bill to victory.” Sen. Bill Cassidy, who co-wrote the legislation with Sen. Lindsey Graham said Friday, “We are thinking that we can get this done by Sept. 30.” Cassidy “said his informal whip count stands at ‘48 or 49’ Republican votes.” However, Sen. Rand Paul “announced Friday that he is staunchly opposed to the bill, lengthening the odds of success.” Democrat leaders, meanwhile, “are rallying Obamacare’s defenders to stamp out a revived threat to their signature law.” In a [tweet](#) over the weekend, Senate Minority Leader Schumer wrote, “Trumpcare is back & Senate GOP has until Sept 30 to pass their bill. ... We need your voices more than ever!”

[Politico](#) (9/17, Everett, Dawsey) says Senate Majority Leader McConnell and GOP leaders “are seriously considering voting” on the proposal, according to “congressional and Trump administration sources said.” While a final decision has not been made, McConnell “has told his caucus that if the bill...has the support of at least 50 of the 52 GOP senators, he will bring it to the floor, Graham and Cassidy say.” Politico says the move “would be a last-ditch attempt to repeal Obamacare before the GOP’s power to pass health care legislation through a party-line vote in the Senate expires on Sept. 30.”

E.J. Dionne writes in his [Washington Post](#) (9/17) column that before “supporters of universal health coverage get all wrapped up debating a single-payer system,” they must focus on the Graham-Cassidy proposal, which he describes as a “dire threat” to the ACA. The measure, Dionne argues, “would be disastrous” and in some ways is “even worse than earlier repeal measures, which at least kept some of the structure of Obamacare’s subsidies in place.”

McMaster: Administration Considering A “Tougher” Travel Ban.

On [ABC’s This Week](#) (9/17), National Security Adviser McMaster said the Administration is “looking at” a tougher travel ban. [USA Today](#) (9/17, Jackson) reports “McMaster echoed a Trump tweet calling for a tougher travel ban into the United States, saying ‘this is something we’re looking at.’” The [New York Post](#) (9/17, Schultz) reports that Trump on Sunday “retweeted himself in calling for another travel ban.” The [tweet](#) said, “The travel ban into the United States should be far larger, tougher and more specific-but stupidly, that would not be politically correct!”

[The Hill](#) (9/17, Shelbourne) reports McMaster said the travel ban is “a first step” toward better security screening of people entering the US. The [Daily Caller](#) (9/17) says that when asked if the Administration will propose a tougher travel ban, McMaster “didn’t give a straight ‘yes’ or ‘no’ in his response, but stated, ‘Well, if you can’t screen people to know who’s coming into your country then you shouldn’t allow people from that country to travel.’” [Newsweek](#) (9/17, Sinclair) reports McMaster “refused to rule out the administration considering a new travel ban.”

Meanwhile, [CNN](#) (9/17, Kenny) says McMaster also “echoed” another Trump tweet about terrorists’ use of the Internet for recruiting. McMaster told ABC, “Because of the strength of these terrorist organizations – why this is a greater danger than ever – is, first of all, their ability to communicate, to connect what would otherwise be disconnected cells in other places in the world.”

WPost Argues Against Further Reducing Refugee Resettlement. A [Washington Post](#) (9/17) editorial says that after having cut “refugee resettlement by more than half, compared with the Obama administration, officials close to Mr. Trump are pushing for a further draconian reduction, to levels not seen since the Cold War.” If Trump backs the proposal, the Post argues, “the message to those fleeing persecution and violence would be to shelter in place – any place, as long as it’s not the United States.” The Post says the Trump Administration “is waging a multi-front crusade against legal as well as illegal immigration,” and adds that by “rolling back refugee admissions to levels negligible when measured against the need, the administration would accelerate Washington’s retreat from the global stage and inaugurate a new age of American timidity.”

Tillerson, McMaster Dispute Report On Paris Accord Exit, But Leave Room For Negotiation.

Secretary of State Tillerson and National Security Adviser McMaster appeared on several of the Sunday morning political talk shows to discuss a variety of issues, and each responded to the Saturday Wall Street Journal report stating that President Trump would not withdraw the US from the Paris climate accord. Both said the report was false, with McMaster blunt and Tillerson more circumspect, though both also said that there could be room for the US to continue to participate if certain criteria are met.

Tillerson said on [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (9/17, Dickerson), "We are willing to work with partners in the Paris climate accord if we can construct a set of terms that we believe is fair and balanced for the American people." Tillerson added that the President is "open to finding those conditions where we can remain engaged with others on what we all agree is still a challenging issue." [Bloomberg News](#) (9/17, Krukowska) reports that Tillerson's comments came a day after the European Union said that the Trump Administration "is shifting its approach to the landmark global agreement on climate change, an assertion quickly denied by the White House." The [New York Post](#) (9/17, Schultz) also reports that Tillerson said Trump "could stay in the Paris climate accord if certain 'conditions' are met."

McMaster said on [ABC's This Week](#) (9/17) that Trump "left the door open to reentering if there can be a better deal for the United States." Trump's objection, according to McMaster, was not climate-related, but that "the agreement was not good for the environment." McMaster said if an agreement was reached that benefited US citizens, the US would stay in. The [Washington Post](#) (9/17, Gearan) reports, "McMaster denied Sunday that President Trump is reconsidering his decision."

McMaster was also questioned about the Wall Street Journal on [Fox News Sunday](#) (9/17, Wallace), where, according to [Politico](#) (9/17, Meyer), McMaster said, "That's a false report." McMaster "bashed the Paris deal," saying, "It gave the worst polluters the ability to continue polluting and emitting carbon without significantly reducing those levels." [Reuters](#) (9/17, Mutikani) says McMaster "struck a similar tone" to Tillerson in the two interviews.

On the [CBS Weekend News](#) (9/17, story 5, 2:00, Quijano), Errol Barnett reported that McMaster "disputed reports that the US is not leaving the international climate change agreement. ... The Trump Administration says it is exploring how the US can cut CO2 emissions. Chief Economic Adviser Gary Cohn will host an informal meeting Monday, ahead of the [UN General Assembly], with about a dozen senior climate and energy ministers from around the world." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/17, Peker, Timiraos, Gold) also reports that Cohn will outline the Administration's emissions goals while stating that the US stance on the accord has not changed. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/17, story 6, 2:30, Llamas) also ran a clip of McMaster's remarks; Washington Post columnist Josh Rogin [tweeted](#), "McMaster calls Paris 'the worst deal for the environment' but everybody knows he argued for it."

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (9/17, Walters) reports, "Senior Trump administration officials on Sunday signalled a further softening of America's resolve to leave the Paris climate accord, amid signs that the issue will be discussed at the United Nations general assembly in New York this week." Both Tillerson and McMaster "indicated that the US is open to negotiations on staying in the landmark international agreement to limit mankind's role in global warming."

The [New York Daily News](#) (9/17, Silverstein) says the Administration on Sunday "continued its cryptic about-face on the Paris climate accord, with two top officials hinting President Trump is open to negotiations that would keep the U.S. in the international environmental pact." By contrast, the [The Independent \(UK\)](#) (9/17, Francisco) reports, "White House officials have sent mixed messages on whether America remains in a global climate agreement."

The [Washington Times](#) (9/17, Richardson) reports, "The White House insisted that there has been 'no change' in US policy. Spokesperson Lindsay Walters said, "As the President has made abundantly clear, the United States is withdrawing unless we can re-enter on terms that are more favorable to our country."

[Breitbart](#) (9/17, Key) headlines its report "Tillerson: Trump Open To Staying In Paris Climate Accord, 'Under The Right Conditions.'" In a Sunday update of its original report, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/17, Peker) also highlights the comments by Tillerson and McMaster, which are also covered by the [Washington Examiner](#) (9/17, Feldscher) and [The Hill](#) (9/17, Savransky).

Advisory Panel Recommends FAA Eliminate More Than 50 Air Safety Rules.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/17, Pasztor) reports that as part of President Trump's targeting what he and aides describe as outdated and unnecessary government restrictions, the Aviation

Rulemaking Advisory Committee has delivered a report calling on the FAA to eliminate or roll back more than 50 air-safety rules. Several of the recommendations have garnered opposition from union groups, safety advocates and the families of crash victims.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Using The E.P.A. To Prop Up Big Coal.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/18, Board) calls EPA Administrator Pruitt’s order to delay by two years “the Obama administration’s tighter controls on lead, mercury, arsenic and other coal plant wastes that threaten human health” a “shocking” attempt by the Administration that “deliberately overlooks the blossoming of profitable and cleaner energy products simply because of Mr. Trump’s hollow showmanship before his campaign base.” The Times argues that “cheaper and abundant natural gas” was the prime driver of coal industry’s decline, a trend it predicts “will continue.” The Times concludes in saying that “the environmental safeguards Congress has ordered it to enforce have been crucial to the development of new technologies,” but Pruitt has sullied “that history with false promises to a fading industry is irresponsible.”

“Squeeze Myanmar’s Military.” A [New York Times](#) (9/18, Board) editorial laments that the Burmese “military’s vicious crackdown against the Muslim Rohingya minority in Rakhine State” makes it “tragically clear” that the nation’s democratic transition was incomplete when former President Obama announced the US would lift the remaining sanctions against the military. While “there is little chance the Security Council will vote for new sanctions,” the Times says, nothing prevents the US “from acting on its own.” Thus, the Times concludes, the Senate should go beyond Sen. John McCain’s suggestion of halting plans to expand US-Burmese military ties by reinstating sanctions “unless the carnage stops, humanitarian aid groups are allowed back into Rakhine State, United Nations investigators are permitted to do their job there and the Rohingya are restored safely to their homes as full citizens.”

Washington Post.

“Trump Flirts With A New Age Of American Timidity.” A [Washington Post](#) (9/17) editorial says that after having cut “refugee resettlement by more than half, compared with the Obama administration, officials close to Mr. Trump are pushing for a further draconian reduction, to levels not seen since the Cold War.” If Trump backs the proposal, the Post argues, “the message to those fleeing persecution and violence would be to shelter in place – any place, as long as it’s not the United States.” The Post says the Trump Administration “is waging a multi-front crusade against legal as well as illegal immigration,” and adds that by “rolling back refugee admissions to levels negligible when measured against the need, the administration would accelerate Washington’s retreat from the global stage and inaugurate a new age of American timidity.”

“The Inexplicable Horror Of The Deaths Of Eight Elderly People In Florida.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/17) laments the “inexplicable horror” of the deaths of eight elderly people “found in a sweltering nursing home in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma last week.” The Post says the investigation into the deaths “needs to sort out the conflicting accounts of what happened to determine who...dropped the ball in protecting these people,” and their must be “a thorough review of nursing-home policies and practices and state oversight.”

“Turkey Still Hasn’t Owned Up To A Vicious Assault On American Soil.” A [Washington Post](#) (9/17) editorial recalls “the violent attack on peaceful protesters by Turkish bodyguards during President Recep Tayyip Erdogan’s visit to Washington” four months ago, and says the incident has not triggered “protests from the State Department, not bipartisan condemnations from Congress and not the indictments of Turkish security officials on criminal charges.” The Post posits, “Perhaps a threat to block certain weapon sales,” as called for in a proposed amendment co-sponsored by Sens. Chris Van Hollen and Patrick J. Leahy,” will be a more meaningful way to suggest there is a price to be paid for such brutality.” The Post urges Congress to approve the measure, “part of a larger spending bill for the State Department that now goes to the full Senate,” and President Trump to sign it.

Wall Street Journal.

“The Second Circuit’s Insider Trading Feud.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/17) editorializes that the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals in 2014 tried to create a limiting principle for insider trading, the definition of which has been legally murky. According to the Journal, the court’s effort was

mitigated last month by a three-judge panel of the court, and this conflict – centering on whether “friendship” between figures in an alleged insider-trading scheme satisfies the definition of “personal benefit” under the statute – calls for a resolution by the entire 2nd Circuit.

“California Democrats Target Tesla.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/17) writes that California Democratic lawmakers passed legislation Friday that requires manufacturers participating in an electric car rebate program to receive permission from the state labor secretary to verify they are “fair and responsible in their treatment of workers” – a measure backed by the United Automobile Workers and that directly targets Tesla. The Journal observes the state’s Democrats showed that loyalty to organized labor takes priority over electric cars and green subsidies.

“Reining In Mr. Sessions.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/17) editorializes that Attorney General Sessions recently sparked bipartisan ire with the revival of a civil asset-forfeiture program that had been restricted by former Attorney General Eric Holder. According to the Journal, a bipartisan group last week countered Sessions’ move with a series of amendments to the annual appropriations package that is moving through the House. The Journal argues that the practice amounts to property being taken from individuals without due process or the determination of criminal culpability, and that it invites abuse. The House amendments would curtail the power of law enforcement officials under the program, and the Journal urges Congress to pass a separate law making these restrictions permanent, calling such a result a victory for property rights and due process.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Trump Administration To Brief Officials On Emissions Goals](#)
[Inside Bank Of America’s Move To Ditch 1,597 Branches Across The US](#)
[‘We’ve Been Breached’: Inside The Equifax Hack](#)
[In Libya, Islamic State Pursues Revival In Gateway To Europe](#)

New York Times:

[Amid Opioid Crisis, Insurers Restrict Pricey, Less Addictive Painkillers](#)
[Trump Lawyers Clash Over How Much To Cooperate With Russia Inquiry](#)
[How Violence In Myanmar Radicalized A New Generation Of Rohingya](#)
[In Alaska’s Far-Flung Villages, Happiness Is A Cake Mix](#)
[Facebook Navigates An Internet Fractured By Governmental Controls](#)
[A Potent Fuel Flows To North Korea. It May Be Too Late To Halt It.](#)
[‘The Handmaid’s Tale,’ Politics And ‘SNL’ Dominate The Emmys](#)

Washington Post:

[Fresh Warning Sent To N. Korea](#)
[Hurricane Responses Offer Painful Lessons](#)
[Presidency Reshapes A Key Trump Business](#)
[In Vermont, An Experiment In Simplicity](#)
[A Move To Dismiss A Tradition](#)

Financial Times:

[Bangladesh Restricts Rohingya Movement As Refugees Top 400,000](#)
[US Senate Investigators Train Sights On Facebook](#)
[Fears Of Being Left Behind Tinge Stuttgart’s Prosperity](#)
[Pakistan Warns On US Threat To Downgrade Relations](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump’s U.N. General Assembly Debut To Assert His ‘America First’ Message](#)
[Trump’s Speech On Terrorism Void Of ‘Islamic’ Under Pentagon Guidance](#)
[North Korea Secretly Building Nuclear Submarine To Deploy Within 3 Years: Report](#)
[Senate Republicans Near Votes To Replace Obamacare With State Block Grants](#)
[Carter Page Becomes Third Figure To File Slander Lawsuit Over Democrat-Funded Russia Dossier](#)
[Final Showdown With Islamic State Raises Worries About Civilian Casualties](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Hurricane Tracking; Hurricane Recovery-Caribbean; Hurricane Recovery-Florida; Louisiana-Racial Shootings; London Subway Bombing-Suspects; White House-Trump UN Address; St. Louis-Protest; France-American Students Attacked; Amusement Park Accident; Phone Scammer; Kevin Hart-Extortion Plot; Roadside Koala Rescue; Veteran Medical Student.

CBS: Hurricane Recovery-Florida; Hurricane Tracking; London Subway Bombing-Suspects; France-American Students Attacked; White House-Trump UN Address; White House-DACA Deal; Louisiana State University-Hazing Death; Amusement Park Accident; Hurricane Harvey-Mosquitoes; Vietnam War Documentary; New York City-Bird Watching.

NBC: London Subway Bombing-Suspects; France-American Students Attacked; White House-Trump UN Address; Hurricane Tracking; St. Louis-Protest; Netflix-Location Scout Murdered; Montana-Snow.

Network TV At A Glance:

Hurricane Recovery – 8 minutes, 40 seconds

White House-Trump UN Address – 7 minutes, 25 seconds

London Subway Bombing – 6 minutes, 5 seconds

Hurricane Tracking – 4 minutes, 5 seconds

St. Louis-Protest – 3 minutes, 25 seconds

France-American Students Attacked – 2 minutes

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: St. Louis-Protest; Louisiana-Racial Shootings; Hurricane Tracking; Hurricane Recovery; White House-Trump UN Address.

CBS: Emmy Award; St. Louis-Protest; Hurricane Tracking; Louisiana-Racial Shootings; White House-Trump UN Address.

FOX: Hurricane Tracking; St. Louis-Protest; Louisiana-Racial Shootings.

NPR: Hurricane Tracking; Hurricane Recovery-Florida; White House-Trump UN Address; London Subway Bombing; France-American Students Attacked.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in the Reforming the United Nations: Management, Security, and Development meeting; participates in an expanded meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel; participates in an expanded meeting with President Emmanuel Macron of France; attends a working dinner with Latin American leaders.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Hosts Honor Flight veterans from Lafayette, Indiana; joins the President for a working dinner with Latin American leaders.

US Senate: 3:00 PM Senate due to vote on FY'18 NDAA – Senate convenes and resumes consideration of 'H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018', with agenda including adopting an amendment in the nature of a substitute (which passed a procedural vote by 84 votes to nine last week), voting on a motion to invoke cloture, and – if cloture is invoked – voting on final passage of the bill Location: Washington, DC
<http://www.senate.gov/>

US House: 10:30 AM House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee field hearing on the Manchester VAMC in New Hampshire – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee field hearing on 'An Assessment of Leadership Failures at the Manchester, NH VA Medical Center', with testimony from Deputy Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Organizational Excellence Carolyn Clancy; Department of Veterans Affairs VISN 1 Director Michael Mayo-Smith; Manchester, NH, VA Medical Center Acting Director Alfred Montoya Jr., and Pain Management Specialist William Kois; and New Hampshire State Veterans Advisory Committee Chairman David Kenney Location: New Hampshire National Guard Edward Cross Training Complex, 772 Riverwood Dr, Pembroke, NH
<http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

2:00 PM House of Representatives convenes for pro forma session * House on recess from 15 Sep – 25 Sep Location: TBD <http://www.house.gov/>

On recess until 25 September.

Other: 8:30 AM IMF Managing Director Lagarde speaks at Brookings – 'Transparency, anti-corruption, and sustainable development: Is progress possible?' Brookings Institution discussion

on 'new developments in how transparency, accountability, and participation initiatives can contribute to reducing corruption and achieving sustainable development'. Speakers include International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde, BHP Billiton Chief External Affairs Officer Geoff Healy, Partnership for Transparency Fund Board Director Christiaan Poortman, and Oxfam America Accountable Development Finance Director Ian Gary * The event is co-hosted by the World Bank and International Finance Corporation, Partnership for Transparency's Anti-Corruption Forum, and Brookings Location: The Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst> #Transparency

8:30 AM CSIS discussion on 'Taiwan's Environmental Leadership' – 'Taiwan's Environmental Leadership' Center for Strategic and International Studies discussion, on 'Taiwan's leadership in global environmental protection as well as past and prospective cooperation for environmental protection between the United States and Taiwan'. Speakers include Taiwanese Minister of Environmental Protection Lee Ying-yuan, Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States Deputy Representative James Lee, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Acting Assistant Administrator Jane Nishida, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy Senior Researcher David Ribeiro, and Center for Strategic & International Studies Senior Vice President for Asia and Japan Chair Michael Green Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

3:00 PM EU Commissioner Moscovici speaks at Brookings on the eurozone – European Commission Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs, Taxation, and Customs Pierre Moscovici speaks at the Brookings Institution on his ideas for a 'more democratic and less divergent eurozone', and arguing for 'coming window of opportunity of not more than a year to agree these reforms' Location: The Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst>

7:00 PM Hillary Clinton begins her 'What Happened' book tour in Washington, DC – Hillary Clinton begins her 'What Happened' book tour in Washington, DC. The book features a collection of personal essays inspired by the hundreds of quotations she has been collecting for decades, which she uses to illustrate stories from her life, up to and including her experiences in the 2016 presidential campaign. During the tour, Clinton discusses her 'journey, what's next and what's on audiences' minds' Location: Warner Theatre, 513 13th St NW, Washington, DC <http://hillaryclintonmemoir.com/> <https://twitter.com/simonschuster>

Air, Space & Cyber Conference – Air Force Association Annual Air, Space & Cyber Conference and Technology Exposition. Speakers include Secretary of Defense James Mattis and Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson Location: Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, 201 Waterfront Street, National Harbor, MD National Harbor www.afa.org <https://twitter.com/AirForceAssoc> #ASC17

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- U.S. News & World Report: Park Service Announces Grant For Giffords Shooting Memorial.
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- U.S. News & World Report: All Of Blue Ridge Parkway Open After Irma's Heavy Rains.
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- Florida Times-Union: Cumberland Island Extends Cancellation Of Camping Reservations Through Oct. 11.
- Mount Desert (ME) Islander: Park Seeks Wiggle Room On Boundary.
- KPAX-TV Missoula (MT): 10 New U.S. Citizens Take Oath Of Allegiance In Glacier Park.
- U.S. News & World Report: Officials To Decide Fate Of Peninsula Mountain Goats.
- Fresno (CA) Bee: A Good Wildfire On Display At Yosemite National Park.
- U.S. News & World Report: Lawsuit Filed To Stop Mining Near Yellowstone In Montana.
- Northwest Indiana Post-Tribune: Indiana Dunes Hoping For 'Dark Sky' Designation.
- Chattanooga (TN): Plan For Moccasin Bend National Archaeological District Completed.
- Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel: Cabin Restoration Completed At Historic Elkmont In Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
- Carteret County (NC) News-Times: Cape Lookout Lighthouse Modernization Completed.

- Bristol (VA) Herald Courier: Local Residents Recognize Overmountain Men In Ceremony.
- Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner: Adventure Time: Fourth-graders From Joy Elementary Visit Denali National Park.
- Washington Post: The Washington Monument Will Endure.

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- Wall Street Journal: Puerto Rico's Governor Says Cost To Rebuild After Marie Will Be More Than \$7 Billion To \$8 Billion.
- WBUR-FM Boston: 'We Need Help': U.S. Virgin Islands Governor On Devastation After Maria And Irma.
- ABC: Media Analyses: Trump Raising Rhetoric Against North Korea.
- CBS: US Warplanes Conduct "Show Of Force" Ahead Of North Korean Official's UNGA Address.
- Quartz: North Korea Threatened A Hydrogen Bomb Test In The Pacific—which Is No Stranger To Nuclear Blasts.
- Radio New Zealand: Palau Signs UN Treaty Prohibiting Nuclear Weapons.
- Armen Press (ARM): Armenia Establishes Diplomatic Ties With Palau And Micronesia.

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- Fulton (MO) Sun: Katharine Hayhoe Talks Climate Science.

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- ABC: Puerto Rico Issues Evacuation Order For 70,000 People With Dam In Danger Of Failing.
- Washington Post: Graham And Cassidy Plan Changes To Bill As More GOP Senators Express Doubts.
- Politico: Trump, Pence Urge GOP To Repeal Obamacare As McCain Opposes Healthcare Bill.
- ABC: New Travel Restriction Policy Adds Chad, North Korea, Venezuela To List; Sudan Removed.
- The Hill: Trump: Border Wall Will Be "See Through."
- The Hill: Trump Focuses On Tax Reform, Promising "Largest Tax Cut" In US History.

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DOI In The News

Secretary Of Interior Ryan Zinke Visits Austin To Talk Harvey.

The [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (9/23, Goldenstein) reports that "about 16,000 Texans are

still displaced and living in hotels and other temporary housing because of Hurricane Harvey, federal officials said Saturday." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Saturday came to Austin to "visit the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Joint Information Center and receive a department update on relief efforts at a local U.S. Geological Survey office." Zinke said "that recovery will be a 'marathon, not a sprint,' that lasts for years." He said, "This is going to take a long time for recovery. I would say we're probably at 20 percent."

Hunting Is Down In The US. The Trump Administration Wants To Change That.

[CNN](#) (9/22, Green) reports on the Interior Department's efforts to promote hunting and fishing on public lands. The article notes that "a US Fish and Wildlife Service survey released last week found that there are 2.2 million fewer hunters in America now than in 2011." According to the article, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "passion for expanding hunting rights on public lands is both personal and political." However, "despite Zinke's clear efforts to woo hunters and anglers, not all of his decisions have gone over well with the conservationist-minded group." One example is "Zinke's leaked recommendations to the White House to shrink the boundaries of national monuments and open up some of the land to the fossil fuel industry and loggers."

Also reporting are [NPR](#) (9/23, Simon), the [Morristown \(NJ\) Daily Record](#) (9/24, Stabile), the [Orangeburg \(SC\) Times And Democrat](#) (9/25), the [Nevada \(MO\) Daily Mail](#) (9/22, White), and the [New Bedford \(MA\) Standard-Times](#) (9/23, Folco).

All-out Effort To Save Forests, Reduce Fuels Urged.

The [Payson \(AZ\) Roundup](#) (9/22, Aleshire) reports that "nearly 50,000 wildfires have burned 8 million acres across the country so far this year, prompting Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke to order the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to give thinning, fuel reduction and forest restoration projects top priority." Zinke said, "This administration will take a serious turn from the past and will proactively work to prevent forest fires through aggressive and scientific fuels reduction management to save lives, homes and wildlife habitat. It is well settled that the steady accumulation and thickening of vegetation in areas that have historically burned at frequent intervals exacerbates fuel conditions and often leads to larger and higher-intensity fires. These fires are more damaging, more costly, and threaten the safety and security of both the public and firefighters."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Payson \(AZ\) Roundup](#) (9/22).

New BLM Pilot Approach Uses Outcome-based Grazing.

The [Ruidoso \(NM\) News](#) (9/22) reports that "officials with the Bureau of Land Management announced a new initiative this week to provide grazing permit holders an unprecedented level of flexibility in the management of livestock while also protecting the public lands." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said in the release announcing the program, "Farmers and ranchers know the wildlife and the land they work better than anyone, it only makes sense that we would enlist them in conservation efforts. One of my top goals is for the government to be a better neighbor, land manager, and partner. I think it's a great step in that direction. I applaud the team at BLM for coming up with this innovative program."

Additional coverage was provided by [KTVN-TV](#) Reno, NV (9/22).

Interior Department Likely To Propose Big Changes To Sage Grouse Management Soon.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (9/23, Richards) reported that a rule meant to prevent the sage grouse bird from going extinct required the bird's habitat to be improved or at least not harmed. The Department of the Interior is likely to propose a new rule. Oil and gas companies fear an arbitrary measuring stick when it comes to a new rule as conservationists fear that the likely rule may erode "the protections that they fought to include in federal plans." Proposed changes to sage grouse management "would be filed Oct. 30, kicking off a 60-day public comment period."

[Politico Morning Energy](#) (9/22, Adragna) reports that "on the two-year anniversary of the Obama administration deciding the sage grouse didn't warrant Endangered Species Act protection, several dozen local elected Western officials today sent Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke a letter urging him to leave existing protection plans in place." They wrote, "We urge you to listen to us, as well as the governors, ranchers, sportsmen, industry officials, conservationists and other stakeholders who invested years of work into these management plans — and allow those plans to stay intact."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (9/25, Webb).

Grand Forks To Host Trump Advisers During North Dakota Petroleum Council Meeting.

The [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (9/23, Baumgarten) reports that the North Dakota Petroleum Council will host its 36th annual meeting on Sept. 26 through 28 at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks. It will “feature more than 20 panelists and speakers, including Vincent DeVito, counselor on energy policy for the U.S. Department of Interior, and Stephen Moore, a policy adviser for Trump.”

Agencies Begin White House-Mandated Training For Every Fed On Consequences Of Leaks.

[Government Executive](#) (9/21, Katz) reports that federal employees are starting training on the consequences of leaks. The campaign against “the unauthorized disclosure of unauthorized information,” as well as “controlled unclassified information,” came at the direction of the White House. National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster “last week sent a directive—subsequently obtained by several media outlets—to all federal agencies demanding they train their employees on the ‘serious consequences’ of improper leaks of such information by Sept. 22.”

The Interior Secretary’s Favorite Horse, ‘Tonto,’ Has Been Very Busy.

[Motherboard](#) (9/22, Emerson) reports on Tonto, the horse that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke rode in to work on his first day in March. The author submitted a public records request to the US Park Police and received “20 pages of documents.”

Additional Coverage: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Proposes Shrinking Monuments.

Additional coverage of the review of national monuments was provided by [The Atlantic](#) (9/24, Felton), the [National Review](#) (9/25, Pendley), the [Huffington Post](#) (9/22, Brune, Contributor), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/23, Bare), the [Las Vegas Sun](#) (9/24, Gonzalez), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (9/22, Sybert, Petersen), the [Silver City \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (9/19), the [Sidney \(MT\) Herald](#) (9/23, Denowh), the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (9/22, Kim), the [New Bedford \(MA\) Standard-Times](#) (9/23), the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (9/24, Dash), the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Business Journal](#) (9/22, Hazlehurst), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/22, Gehrke), the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (9/22, Lopez-Whiteskunk), [Business Insider](#) (9/24, Nickelsburg), and [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\) Las Cruces, NM](#) (9/23, Hendrickson).

Additional Coverage: State Receives Federal Grant.

Additional coverage of the money distributed to states from the Land and Water Conservation Fund was provided by the [Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette](#) (9/24), the [Bedford \(IN\) Times-Mail](#) (9/22), [KTUU-TV Anchorage \(AK\)](#) Anchorage, AK (9/21, Maguire), and [WBKO-TV Bowling Green \(KY\)](#) Bowling Green, KY (9/22).

Donald Trump Should Make Camp Nelson A National Monument To Black Soldiers.

In his column for the [Lexington \(KY\) Herald-Leader](#) (9/22, Eblen), Tom Eblen supports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s recommendation to elevate the Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park to a national monument. Eblen asserts that “it is a natural monument to freedom that should also become a national one.”

Time Is Running Out To Save The Eisenhower Memorial.

In a piece for the [Washington Free Beacon](#) (9/24, Meadowcroft) reports, Micah Meadowcroft writes that “a final, superficial design change” to the proposed Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial was approved by the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts Wednesday morning. Meadowcroft says that “if the Gehry design is to be scrapped and something more like a monument and less like a disappointing sculpture garden is to be built, it will be up to Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke to decline to sign off on the project, on his own judgment or by direction of President Trump.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Report Uncovers Numerous Safety Violations At Tribal Schools.

The [Gloucester \(MA\) Times](#) (9/23, Murakami) reports that “16 months after the first of two” General Accounting Office reports, “and six years after Indian Affairs auditors identified problems putting students at risk, the issues persist.” The article says that “in another report this month, the GAO said that of 50 recommendations it made in the past two years to fix numerous problems, including student safety issues, only one has been fully implemented.” The issues have

“caught the attention of senators., who are vowing to keep the heat on agencies responsible for Native American education, health and economic development.”

Winnebago Tribe Hoping To Reclaim Land In Iowa.

The [AP](#) (9/24) reports that “the Winnebago Tribe is hoping to reclaim land in Iowa that was once part of its reservation in northeast Nebraska, but local hunters are concerned they might lose access.” Rep. Steve King “introduced a bill earlier this month to transfer the land to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, where it would be held in trust for the tribe.” Tribal officials “say they would keep the land as hunting ground and habitat for wildlife.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Sioux City \(IA\) Journal](#) (9/24, Hytrek).

Bureau Of Land Management

Purchase Opens 32,600 Acres Near Coronado Forest To Hiking, Hunting.

The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (9/24, Windes) reports that “the Interior Department’s purchase of a plot of private land will allow public access to 32,600 acres of previously isolated forest land, a move that drew praise from wilderness advocates and hunters alike.” The acquisition “announced Wednesday opens up two parcels of public land, one in the Coronado National Forest and one northwest of Safford, that had been inaccessible because they were surrounded by private property.” The Bureau of Land Management “worked with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the South Eastern Arizona Sportsmen Club and the Trust for Public Land over several years to acquire the land needed for access.”

Also reporting are the [Eastern Arizona Courier](#) (9/23) and the [Havasupai \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (9/21, Windes).

Fracking Rule May See Jumbled Comeback As Court Tosses Case.

[E&E Publishing](#) (9/22, Gilmer) reported that the 10th US Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed a case Thursday over a Department of the Interior fracking rule, which emanated from the Obama Administration. Although the lower court struck down the regulation with a 2016 ruling, the 10th Circuit overturned the lower court’s decision allowing the rule to take effect. However, the Trump Administration is working to rescind the regulation. The court dismissed the case without ruling on the main “legal question of whether the federal government has authority over the oil and gas extraction process.” The regulation faced opposition after passage wherein “Wyoming and other states argued that it was beyond BLM’s authority because the Safe Drinking Water Act put EPA in charge of fracking, and the Energy Policy Act of 2005 subsequently assigned that power to state overseers.”

[PennEnergy](#) (9/22, Snow) reported that the court’s ruling gained positive responses from those interested in both sides of the case. Independent Petroleum Association of America President Barry Russell said that the “decision confirms what IPAA has advocated all along: Dismissing the appeal would protect independent producers from the uncertainty of whether it was necessary to comply with regulations that are certain to be revoked.” Russell also said, “All three judges ruled unanimously that it would be a waste of judicial resources to proceed with this case.” Western Energy Alliance President Kathleen Sgamma said, “We’re pleased that after today, IPAA and [WEA] are even closer to finally putting BLM’s ill-conceived fracking rule to bed.” Earthworks Energy Program Director Bruce Baizel said, “this decision is two victories in one. It means BLM can start enforcing a rule to protect water, public health, and communities threatened and harmed by fracking on public lands.” Baizel also said, “the second victory...is that in the eyes of the court and the eyes of the Trump administration, the public’s land managers have the authority to regulate drilling on the lands the public owns.”

[UPI](#) (9/22, Graeber) also reported.

BLM Sale In Wyoming Nets \$38.7 Million In Bonus Bids.

The [AP](#) (9/23) reported that the Bureau of Land Management’s oil and gas lease sales in Wyoming brought \$38.7 million in bonus bids. Bids were made on 106,000 acres out of 113,000 Thursday. The bonus bid funds will be split between the federal government and Wyoming. Parcels were offered in Niobrara, Big Horn, Goshen, Sheridan, Washakie, and other counties.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (9/24, Richards) reports that “the news comes on the heels of a push from conservation advocates to rehash the federal leasing program, holding leasees to a higher standard so that oil and gas firms aren’t gathering up parcels of land that they don’t

intend to drill in a timely manner.” The petitioners would “also like royalty rates for production to be in-line with revenue made on state and private land, leasing to cease on lands that do not have a strong potential for oil or gas production, and the minimum leasing bid to be increased.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (9/22, Richards).

Colorado’s Wild Horses Face A New Danger On The Range: Trump Budget Cuts.

The [Denver Post](#) (9/23, McGhee) reports that in Colorado, “rapid population growth of the herds has resulted in ranchers’ complaints that the animals consume forage and water needed for cattle; an exploding numbers of horses and burros that challenge the BLM’s ability to manage them on and off the range; and anxiety among advocates who fear the government will legalize their slaughter.” Advocates claim “contraceptive drugs can halt galloping herd growth, but the BLM says the drugs are difficult to administer and require frequent reapplication.” The Trump Administration has “proposed a \$10 million reduction to the government’s wild horse management program, a cut that advocates fear will place the horses in jeopardy of wholesale destruction.”

Rough Edges: Inmates Train Mustangs, Learn Life Lessons At Wyoming Corrections Facility.

The [Pueblo \(CO\) Chieftain](#) (9/23, Schmelzer) reports on the Honor Farm’s mustang program. In 1988, the Department of Corrections partnered with the Bureau of Land Management and “created the mustang program — the second mustang program for inmates established in the country and one of six total in the nation.” According to the article, “in the program’s 29 years, nearly 1,500 men and 4,000 mustangs and burros have completed the program.”

Private House On Public Land Causes Problems; Bend Business Owner Buys Home Built Inadvertantly On BLM Land.

The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (9/24, Hamway) reports that “nearly a decade after the co-founders of a prominent Bend biotechnology company inadvertently purchased a private home located on public land, the situation is approaching a conclusion.” In 2008, Chuck McGrath and Jennipher Grudzien, co-founders of Grace Bio-Labs Inc., “bought a remote, two-story log home southeast of Prineville.” In June, the Bureau of Land Management “sent out a letter requesting public input, the first public step toward resolving the situation.” The BLM will “prepare an environmental assessment that examines the benefits of three different options: leaving the land as is, removing the house and other structures, or selling the land to McGrath and Grudzien.” Jeff Kitchens, field manager for the Prineville district of the Bureau of Land Management, “said he’s hopeful the agency can issue a decision by the end of the year.”

The Myths Used To Needlessly Delay The Cadiz Water Project, Debunked.

In a piece published by the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/22, Hernandez, Rodriguez), Tracy Rafter Hernandez, chief executive of the Los Angeles County Business Federation, and Carlos Rodriguez, chief executive of the Baldy View chapter of the Building Industry Assn. of Southern California, writes that “for nearly a decade, the Cadiz Valley Water Conservation, Recovery and Storage Project, which will create a new water supply for 400,000 people and thousands of jobs, has followed the entire California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review and approval process from start to finish — public comment periods, public hearings, board approvals and litigation, all of which concluded last year, when the 4th District Court of Appeal sustained every approval of the project and concluded that it could be operated safely and sustainably.” The authors say “it’s disappointing that Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) and her allies, including state Assemblywoman Laura Friedman (D-Glendale), continue to perpetuate a series of myths about the Cadiz project as part of a campaign to derail it, including in a recent op-ed article for the Los Angeles Times.” The two provide “a few examples of the most common myths.” They “urge California’s leaders to continue to stand up for jobs, for citizens who need water, and for our state’s strong environmental review laws by rejecting sustained efforts to change the rules of the game for Cadiz or any other CEQA-approved project.”

Methane Rule Delay, Repeal Will Hurt Western Colorado.

In a guest column for the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (9/24, Otero) youth Sunday school teacher, youth volunteer coach and outdoor enthusiast Gabriel Otero suggests that “Congressman Scott Tipton continues to vote against the best interests of his constituents.” Otero writes that Tipton voted to defund the BLM methane waste prevention rule. The rule “has survived a U.S.

Senate vote to permanently get rid of it and a lawsuit from oil industry trade groups seeking to prevent it from going into effect." Otero states that "oil and gas aren't going away anytime soon, but in the meantime, we must extract them in a responsible and environmentally conscious manner."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Water Bailout?

Colorado River Tribes Pose Statewide Leasing Idea. The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (9/24, Davis) reports on "a complex plan to send tribal water from the Colorado River into Arizona's heartland to support existing residents and future development." The Colorado River Indian Tribes "want to lease more river water than is delivered each year to the city of Tucson to various water agencies, utilities and the feds." But "for that, they want more money than they now make from their alfalfa fields, where the water currently goes." However, "the negotiations are now on hold, partly because of a separate power struggle between the CAP and the Arizona Department of Water Resources that's kept their leaders from speaking to one another."

Fish And Wildlife Service

African Wildlife Protectors Get A Hand In Detective Training.

The [AP](#) (9/23, Brasch) reports that African conservation officers came to Commerce City, Colorado "to train with their U.S. counterparts" at the National Wildlife Property Repository. Coleen Schaefer, a specialist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "led the delegation of 42 conservation officials through the warehouse." During the training at the repository, USFWS IT specialist Mike McCloud "led the delegation through techniques to keep evidence secure and carefully cataloged."

Scientists: Desert Turtle Endangered, 100 Left In Arizona.

The [AP](#) (9/24, Windes) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the designation of the Sonoyta mud turtle as endangered last Wednesday, "citing threats from climate change to loss of habitat for the southern Arizona animal, whose numbers are believed to have dwindled to as low as 100 turtles." Steve Spangle, a field supervisor with Fish and Wildlife's Arizona Ecological Services, said in a release announcing the listing, "The Sonoyta mud turtle is clearly in danger of extinction." He added, "Protecting it under the Endangered Species Act will marshal increased attention and the resources needed by our U.S. and Mexican conservation partners to improve and expand its dwindling habitat and populations."

Nighttime Football Games Return To Kauai After 7 Years.

The [AP](#) (9/23) reports that "an agreement has paved the way for the first nighttime football games during fledgling seabirds season on Kauai in seven years." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "signed a deal Friday with Kauai County allowing four night games this football season." according to the article, "the first game was played Friday night, followed by games on Sept. 30, Oct. 7 and Nov. 4."

More Grizzly Bears Roaming Outside National Parks In Wyoming.

The [AP](#) (9/22, Moen) reports that "a growing number of grizzly bears are moving outside their established habitat in and around Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, causing more conflicts with humans, according to wildlife managers." The article says that "the conflicts in Wyoming resulted in 39 grizzly bears being captured by state game managers in 2016," and "twenty-two were killed for various reasons, such as a history of problems."

Monarch Butterflies Might Vanish From Northwest Summers.

The [AP](#) (9/23, Cary) reports that "a study published recently in the journal Biological Conservation documents the steep decline of the population of migrating monarchs in the West." The study "puts the risk at 72 percent that not enough of the monarchs will be migrating in the West within 20 years to sustain the population. In 50 years, the risk is 86 percent." The study was paid for by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "which is considering whether to list the monarch butterfly as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act."

64 Walruses Found Dead At Point Lay Haulout.

The [Arctic \(AK\) Sounder](#) (9/22) reports that “dozens of walruses were found dead earlier this month at their seasonal haulout near Point Lay.” The article notes that “the findings came just about a day after locals said they saw an airplane they believed to be flying inappropriately over the herd, which comes to shore each year once the sea ice recedes past the continental shelf and it becomes too deep for them to feed.” Andrea Medeiros, a spokesperson for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said, “We had heard from the community that they had seen an aircraft flying over the animals at [an altitude] they believed to be too close, and circled the animals. The community is very concerned about these animals when they are onshore and don’t want people to disturb them by flying over or trying to approach in any way, like using a boat.”

Senate Environmental Consultation Bill A Classic Case In Overreaction.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (9/22, Super), David A. Super, a professor of law at Georgetown Law, argues that S. 605, the “Litigation Relief for Forest Management Projects Act,” would “severely limit environmental review of projects that could badly damage vulnerable wildlife.” Super claims that the problem that the legislation is seeking to address is “a small one,” and S. 605 is “a classic case of overreaction.” Instead, Super says that the sponsors of the bill “should establish reasonable standards for when to reopen environmental consultations.”

Curry: Wildlife Lovers Savor Candy Darter Study Story.

In an op-ed for the [Roanoke \(VA\) Times](#) (9/23, Curry), Tierra Curry, a senior scientist with the Center for Biological Diversity, argues that “the work of closely studying” the candy darter “wouldn’t be happening if Americans were not allowed to petition the government to protect rare wildlife and to enforce our country’s essential environmental laws like the Endangered Species Act.” However, she warns that “some in Congress are working to undermine the Act and its lifesaving protections.” She urges voters to tell elected officials that “you care about saving threatened wildlife and the laws that ensure we don’t sacrifice the heritage of future generations for short-term economic gains.”

National Park Service

Melania Trump Hosts Her First Event In The Garden Michelle Obama Founded.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/22, Thompson) reports First Lady Melania Trump “held her first event in the White House Kitchen Garden on Friday, donning a plaid shirt and coordinating red gloves to pull up leeks and plant kale along with children from a local Boys & Girls Club.” According to the Post, “the garden, which then-first lady Michelle Obama established in 2009 as part of her healthy eating initiative, is closely identified with the previous administration, so Trump’s decision to embrace it is noteworthy.” The Post adds that the First Lady “hosted 10 children in the garden Friday, a much smaller group than Obama often welcomed, but her gathering, in 80-degree temperatures, felt much like the garden events of the past, with White House chefs and National Park Service staff members on hand.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/22, story 11, 0:20, Mason) briefly reported “Mrs. Trump told the kids she’s a big believer in healthy eating and intends to keep the garden.”

Also reporting are the [AP](#) (9/22, Kellman) and [Politico](#) (9/22, Evich).

Park Service Announces Grant For Giffords Shooting Memorial.

The [AP](#) (9/22) reports that the National Park Service is “giving over \$61,000 for the development of a memorial honoring the victims and survivors of the 2011 Tucson shooting that left six dead and 13 injured, including former U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords.” U.S. Rep. Raul Grijalva “said Friday that the grant will be used for the January 8th Memorial park in downtown Tucson.” According to the article, “a foundation set up to take charge of the memorial has spent several years raising money for a \$5 million monument that would include carved symbols along a dark red steel wall, items from makeshift memorials following the shooting and areas to reflect.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arizona Daily Star](#) (9/24) and [KTAR-FM](#) Glendale, AZ (9/22).

Glacier Park Plans To Begin Stabilization Efforts On Sperry Chalet In October.

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (9/24, Backus) reports that “stabilization efforts on the four stone walls that remain of the historic Sperry Chalet dormitory are expected to get underway in early October.”

However, "for the dormitory to stand a chance of being rebuilt, a park historic preservation crew will have to win the race against upcoming winter conditions to brace the walls with a series of large beams and plywood." Glacier Park spokesperson Lauren Alley said, "We have to be able to protect those walls from both the wind and being pushed sideways by this winter's snowfall. October is our window for getting that work accomplished."

Sperry Chalet Worth Trying To Rebuild. In an editorial, the [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (9/24) supports efforts to rebuild Sperry Chalet, "the historic backcountry lodge that was destroyed by the Sprague Fire the evening of Aug. 31." The paper acknowledges that "it will be a tall order gathering the money it will take to restore or replace the 103-year-old backcountry building." But it argues that "it makes sense to pursue a rebuild of the lodge."

Archaeologists: More Protections Needed For Chaco Region.

The [AP](#) (9/22, Bryan) reported that Friday researchers, archaeologists, and professors called for additional protections from oil and gas development in the Chaco Culture National Historical Park and a large adjacent area. The scientists said the industry may destroy portions of the landscape, which could assist in understanding ancient civilizations that used to live in the region. Scientists also said they are using new satellite and laser-imaging technology that could allow for more discoveries in the area.

All Of Blue Ridge Parkway Open After Irma's Heavy Rains.

The [AP](#) (9/22) reports that "the entire Blue Ridge Parkway has reopened after the heavy rains of Hurricane Irma forced the closure of some parts of it." The National Park Service "said the last of the debris from the storm was cleared away Thursday at Craggy Gardens near Asheville." The parkway was "open for travel Friday, the first day of fall."

Big Cypress, Everglades, State Parks Face Long Recovery.

The [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (9/24, Staats) reports that Hurricane Irma "mangled Florida's national and state parks, turning places meant to be enjoyed into disaster zones that could take weeks or longer to reopen." The National Park Service has "sent some 380 workers from 95 national parks in 35 states to 15 parks in Irma's path in Georgia, South Carolina, Florida and the Caribbean." At Big Cypress National Preserve, "crews have been clearing downed trees along Turner River Road, which had water too high to access for more than a week after the storm," according to Park Service Ranger Brett Everitt. He "couldn't provide a timeframe for reopening Big Cypress, but the Park Service reported a big step in that direction Friday with the restoration of power in Ochopee and the water plant coming back online."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (9/25).

Cumberland Island Extends Cancellation Of Camping Reservations Through Oct. 11.

The [Florida Times-Union](#) (9/23, Dickson) reports that "with Cumberland Island National Seashore still closed because of damage from Tropical Storm Irma, the park is extending the cancellation of camping reservations two more weeks through Oct. 11." The National Park Service "said Saturday the docks in St. Marys that are needed for access to the island were badly damaged and that crews are still working on the island itself." The article notes that "the ferries that serve the island were placed in sheltered mooring during the storm and came through undamaged."

Park Seeks Wiggle Room On Boundary.

The [Mount Desert \(ME\) Islander](#) (9/23, Broom) reports that Acadia National Park "wants to be able to make minor adjustments to its boundary without having to get congressional approval." According to the article, "a bill currently inching its way through Congress would validate Acadia's annexation of 1,441 acres on the Schoodic Peninsula, including the Schoodic Woods Campground, in 2015, but it would prohibit any future expansion of the park or other alterations of its boundary." Acadia and National Park Service officials back "the bill but would like for the park to have the same boundary adjustment wiggle room that most other national parks have."

10 New U.S. Citizens Take Oath Of Allegiance In Glacier Park.

[KPAX-TV](#) Missoula, MT (9/24, Miller) reports that "U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services hosted a Naturalization Ceremony in the Apgar Amphitheater on Friday as 10 new citizens from across the world took the Oath of Allegiance." Friday's event was the second Naturalization Ceremony that Glacier National Park has hosted. Glacier National Park's Deputy Superintendent Eric Smith said, "It's really an honor to be part of the process and for that process to take place

here instead of a courtroom. It is a very solemn and formal process that is at the end of a long and arduous process."

Officials To Decide Fate Of Peninsula Mountain Goats.

The [AP](#) (9/23, Bush) reports that this summer, the National Park Service "published four plans for goat management" at Olympic National Park. Park officials have "produced a nearly 500-page document that seemingly examines every angle, secured some funding for goat removal and wrangled other government agencies to participate." Officials "favor capturing as many mountain goats as possible over several years, transporting them to the North Cascades and killing goats that evade seizure."

A Good Wildfire On Display At Yosemite National Park.

The [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (9/22, George) reports that Yosemite National Park officials "aimed to help people better understand wildfire during a Thursday tour of the Empire Fire, which has burned more than 6,300 acres off Glacier Point Road." [KGPE-TV](#) Fresno, CA (9/22, Valera) reports that "Yosemite's fire ecologist Kristen Shive said fires like the Empire Fire are needed to prevent" bigger "fires from happening."

Lawsuit Filed To Stop Mining Near Yellowstone In Montana.

The [U.S. News & World Report](#) (9/22) reports that "opponents of mining near Yellowstone National Park filed a lawsuit Friday challenging a decision by Montana environmental regulators to allow a Canadian company to explore for precious metals just north of the park." The Park County Environmental Council and Greater Yellowstone Coalition "sued the Montana Department of Environmental Quality and Lucky Minerals, Inc. in state district court in Montana's Park County." Lucky Minerals was "given approval to drill on private land in the Absaroka Mountains to assess its prospects for mining of copper, gold, silver and molybdenum deposits."

Additional coverage was provided by [Montana Public Radio](#) (9/22, Cates-Carney).

Indiana Dunes Hoping For 'Dark Sky' Designation.

The [Northwest Indiana Post-Tribune](#) (9/24, Anderson) reports on the effort to get Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore designated as an International Dark Sky Park. Among the supporters of the push are Rep Pete Visclosky, and state House Minority Leader Scott Pelath, "who both wrote letters advocating for the Dunes to receive an International Dark Sky Park designation."

Plan For Moccasin Bend National Archaeological District Completed.

The [Chattanooga \(TN\)](#) (9/22) reports that "a General Management Plan for the Moccasin Bend National Archaeological District received final authorization from the National Park Service." According to the article, "Chickamauga and Chattanooga NMP is looking forward to implementing the plan which includes establishment of a visitor center on Hamm Road, as well as archaeological site protection, guided interpretation, and improved access to the Brown's Ferry site to better interpret the American Indian history of Moccasin Bend."

Cabin Restoration Completed At Historic Elkmont In Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (9/22, Ahillen) reports that a National Park Service project is renovating the Elkmont Historic District of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. According to the article, "four structures have been opened this weekend after nearly a year of restoration at the district off Little River Gorge Road." The National Park Service is "working to preserve more than a dozen buildings."

Cape Lookout Lighthouse Modernization Completed.

The [Carteret County \(NC\) News-Times](#) (9/24) reports that "the Coast Guard and National Park Service completed the Cape Lookout Lighthouse solar modernization Friday." The project "involved removing the previous optic, which was powered by a sub-cable, and replacing it with a solar-powered multi-tier LED optic, the Coast Guard said in a press release."

Local Residents Recognize Overmountain Men In Ceremony.

The [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (9/23, Sorrell) reports that "local residents recognized the service of two Revolutionary War veterans from Southwest Virginia on Saturday as Overmountain Victory Trail festivities continue in the region." The two men, Gen. William Campbell and John Broddy,

were "honored during wreath-laying ceremonies." Ben Richardson, of the National Park Service, provided the keynote address Saturday.

Adventure Time: Fourth-graders From Joy Elementary Visit Denali National Park.

The [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (9/24, Capps) reports that three classes of fourth-graders from a Fairbanks school traveled to Denali National Park "earlier this month, thanks to a grant from the National Park Foundation, submitted by the Alaska Public Lands Information Center in Fairbanks." The grant was part of the National Park Foundation's Every Kids In A Park program.

The Washington Monument Will Endure.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (9/22, Lamar), Eric Lamar, a D.C. tour guide, empathizes with visitors who are upset with the closure of the Washington Monument. But he urges those who are "frustrated" to "pause and remember that like the monument, Washington's life was a series of setbacks and defeats requiring fortitude, persistence and no small amount of courage." Lamar concludes: "The Washington Monument may be down for a bit, but like the man, it will endure, stronger for the hardship."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Hurricane Maria Heads North As It Departs Caribbean.

"Hurricane Maria finally began departing the Caribbean Friday afternoon, leaving a wake of destruction that left at least 30 dead and crippled Puerto Rico," the [Miami Herald](#) (9/22, Staletovich) reports, and in the National Hurricane Center's 5 p.m. advisory, "forecasters said Maria was passing offshore east of the southeastern Bahamas with sustained winds remaining at 125 mph. The storm was located about 395 miles east-southeast of Nassau." Meanwhile, [Reuters](#) (9/22, Graham, Respaut) reports Maria "skirted past the Turks and Caicos Islands on Friday, leaving devastation in its wake that included fresh flooding on Puerto Rico two days after pummeling the U.S. island territory." Reuters adds that "Maria, which ranked as the most powerful hurricane to strike Puerto Rico in nearly a century, has killed at least six people there and claimed 19 lives on several other Caribbean islands, according to government officials and local news media accounts."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/22, story 2, 0:30, Muir) in a brief report tracked "the possible paths for Hurricane Maria as it then moves toward the East Coast." Rob Marciano said Maria is currently "a Cat 3 and will weaken as it gets a little farther north; it'll be a Cat 1 by Wednesday, but just abreast of North Carolina." Marciano added "the forecast cone getting close to the US and our spaghetti models a little bit more spread out, so some uncertainty. And there could be some direct impacts from Maria in the US by the end of next week."

NYTimes Reflects On Status Of Caribbean Nations After Hurricanes. "After two major hurricanes tore through the Caribbean in less than two weeks, some of the most idyllic – and tourism-dependent – destinations have been devastated," the [New York Times](#) (9/22, Rosenbloom) says, and while "ferocious storms are nothing new to these islands," hurricanes Maria and Irma left "cities, and some islands...almost entirely in ruins." According to the Times, "In the hardest-hit places, including Dominica, Puerto Rico, Barbuda, St. Martin and the U.S. Virgin Islands, a slow and arduous recovery lies ahead." The Times breaks down the status of the various Caribbean nations and highlights that from Maria, "in Puerto Rico, at least 10 people died. The storm brought catastrophic flooding, destroyed homes and infrastructure, and left people without power, clean water and essential services. In Dominica, at least 15 people were killed."

Puerto Rico's Governor Says Cost To Rebuild After Marie Will Be More Than \$7 Billion To \$8 Billion.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/24, De Cordoba) says that while the Puerto Rican government does not yet have an estimate for the cost of reconstruction, Gov. Ricardo Rosselló said it will be "north of the \$7 billion to \$8 billion" cost to rebuild after Hurricane Georges in 1998. The [New York Times](#) (9/24, Robles, Ferré-Sadurní) says Maria left "a rich agricultural region looking like the result of a postapocalyptic drought." Maria "wiped out about 80 percent of the crop value in Puerto Rico – making it one of the costliest storms to hit the island's agriculture industry, said Carlos Flores Ortega, Puerto Rico's secretary of the Department of Agriculture." The storm "took out entire plantations and destroyed dairy barns and industrial chicken coops." According to preliminary figures, the island "suffered a loss of \$780 million in agriculture yields."

Citing Puerto Rico's "\$73 billion in debt," [Axios](#) (9/24, Pandey) says the federal government "will have to take a significant role in the recovery process to give the US territory a chance at bouncing back." [USA Today](#) (9/23, Jervis) reports on the relief efforts of FEMA teams in Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane Maria. The teams were already on the island and "sprung into reconnaissance and search-and-rescue missions as soon as Maria's winds died down."

Eva Pilgrim said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/24, story 6, 1:50, Llamas) that officials across Puerto Rico are "describing conditions as 'apocalyptic.'" David Begnaud said on the [CBS Weekend News](#) (9/24, story 6, 2:10, Quijano), "We're told there are still people in areas of the island that need to be rescued, but they have no way of calling for help."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/24, A1, Schmidt, Achenbach) reports in a front-page story that four days after the storm, "regions outside of San Juan remained completely disconnected from the rest of the island – and the world." As "the challenge of accessing the essentials of modern life – gasoline, cash, food, water – began to sink in" for residents, "government officials had no answers for them. Estimates for the return of electricity and basic services will be measured not in days but in weeks and months." On [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/24, story 5, 2:45, Snow), Gabe Gutierrez reported on "a FEMA search and rescue team from South Florida." Gutierrez said there is "an urgent rush to clear these roads and open up lines of communication. But the more people we speak with, it's clear this recovery won't be measured in weeks, but months, even years."

The [AP](#) (9/24, Coto) says that as authorities worked to assess the damage, Jenniffer González, Puerto Rico's nonvoting representative in Congress, said Sunday that Maria "set the island back decades." González said, "The devastation in Puerto Rico has set us back nearly 20 to 30 years. ... I can't deny that the Puerto Rico of now is different from that of a week ago. The destruction of properties, of flattened structures, of families without homes, of debris everywhere. The island's greenery is gone." The AP Adds that federal aid has "begun moving into Puerto Rico, welcomed by local officials who praised the Trump administration's response but called for the emergency loosening of rules long blamed for condemning the US territory to second-class status."

A [New York Times](#) (9/24) editorial urges federal help for Puerto Rico, arguing that while it "cannot vote for president and has no voting representatives in Congress," its citizens "are entitled to the same federal emergency funds and resources that Washington has been funneling to the far more politically powerful and economically resilient states of Texas and Florida in their hurricane miseries."

Dam Weakened By Maria's Rains Is In Danger Of Failing. [Reuters](#) (9/24, Graham, Respaut) reports that Guajataca Dam in the northwest of the island was damaged by Maria's heavy rains and was "in danger of bursting at any time." With around 70,000 people living downstream from the damn, Gov. Rosselló "reiterated his request on Saturday that people leave the area as soon as possible." However, [USA Today](#) (9/24, Dorell) reports that according to local officials, the dam "is holding and unlikely to threaten the lives of all 70,000 people ordered to relocate." Juan Morales Vega, public security director in the town of Isabela, "said the Guajataca dam in Quebradillas continues to hold despite reports of a fissure and partial breach, according to local paper El Vocero de Puerto Rico." Carlos Román, the special assistant to the executive director of the Center for Emergency Management in Quebradillas, "told El Vocero that alerts for the towns of Isabela and Quebradillas were overblown."

Tropical Storm Watches Issued For North Carolina, Virginia Coasts. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/24, story 7, 0:40, Llamas) reported that Maria is currently "a Category 2 storm, about four hundred miles southeast of Cape Hatteras." The [Washington Post](#) (9/24, Porter) reports that Maria is "still expected to remain off shore but sideswipe coastal locations with tropical storm conditions beginning on Tuesday," and "tropical storm watches have been issued for the entire North Carolina coast and parts of the extreme southern end of the Virginia coast."

'We Need Help': U.S. Virgin Islands Governor On Devastation After Maria And Irma.

[WBUR-FM](#) Boston (9/21) reports that U.S. Virgin Islands Governor Kenneth Mapp talked about the recovery effort following the passage of Hurricane Maria. Mapp said, "We need help. With our FEMA partners and our cruise ship partners, we're bringing in a lot of food, water, tarpaulins, personal hygiene packs, cots and blankets. That's really the immediacy of the need. We're asking folks who can go to USVI Recovery and they can donate there." He added, "I was able to speak to our Administrator William Brock Long of FEMA, and had a very good conversation with him, as well as the Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke, as we coordinate the relief for St. Croix."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (9/21, O'CONNOR), and the [Allentown \(PA\) Morning Call](#) (9/21).

Media Analyses: Trump Raising Rhetoric Against North Korea.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/24, story 4, 2:10, Llamas) reported that the “volley of insults” between President Trump and North Korea has reached “an alarming level.” On Saturday, Trump [tweeted](#), “Just heard Foreign Minister of North Korea speak at UN. If he echoes thoughts of Little Rocket Man, they won’t be around much longer!” That tweet followed North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho “slamm[ing]” Trump at the UN, calling him “a mentally deranged person” who “committed an irreversible mistake.” [USA Today](#) (9/24, Cummings) similarly reports that Trump “sent another belligerent tweet directed at North Korea Saturday night,” referring to Ri’s remarks at the UN. USA Today says the President “has been engaged in an escalating war of words with North Korea and its leader.”

[Reuters](#) (9/24, Choi, Nichols) says the President “dialed up the rhetoric against North Korea again at the weekend” as he Kim Jong-un “have traded increasingly threatening and personal insults.” Analysts say the “escalation in rhetoric is increasing the risk of a miscalculation by one side or the other that could have massive repercussions.” John Dickerson said on the [CBS Weekend News](#) (9/24, story 3, 2:15, Quijano), “The tension, of course, is one of the ways the US thinks it might get the North Koreans to the negotiating table – if the North Koreans take seriously the overwhelming force the US could deploy, if things got to a military pass.”

A front-page [New York Times](#) (9/24, A1, Davis) analysis says Trump’s “willingness to casually threaten to annihilate a nuclear-armed foe was yet another reminder of the steep risks inherent in his brute-force approach to diplomacy.” However, it has also “led to a deep uncertainty about whether Mr. Trump is all talk or actually intends to act. The ambiguity could be strategic, part of an effort to intimidate Mr. Kim and keep him guessing. Or it could reflect a rash impulse by a leader with little foreign policy experience to vent his anger and stoke his supporters’ enthusiasm.”

Toluse Olorunnipa of Bloomberg News said on [CNN’s Inside Politics](#) (9/24), “It does not seem like they’re trying to dial things pack. It seems like both President Trump and the leader of North Korea are trying to ratchet things up as much as possible. Both have sort of fragile egos, egos that they believe have been challenged by one another and the President seems to be wanting to move that forward and ratchet things up significantly.”

The [Washington Post](#) (9/24, Morello), meanwhile, reports that other US officials “were more restrained in their words Sunday.” Treasury Secretary Mnuchin “repeated the insistence that all options, including military force, remain on the table,” but “lingered more on discussing how he has greater authority to punish countries, companies and individuals who trade with North Korea under an executive order signed by Trump last week. And he downplayed the likelihood of nuclear war.” Mnuchin said on and [ABC’s This Week](#) (9/24, Raddatz), “The President doesn’t want to be in a nuclear war. And we will do everything we can to make sure that doesn’t occur.” On [CNN’s State Of The Union](#) (9/24, Tapper), Mnuchin said the executive order signed last week by the President “gives the Treasury more authorities than we’ve ever had before” by allowing for us to “block many transactions with anybody that does trade or other significant business with North Korea.” [Reuters](#) (9/24) also reports Mnuchin’s comments Sunday.

According to the [Washington Post](#) (9/24, Denyer), “The view from China could hardly be much worse: the leaders of North Korea and the United States threatening to rain down total destruction on each other, while US bombers and fighters stage a show of military might close to China’s shores.” While in public China’s foreign ministry “has calmly advocated restraint,” experts said Sunday that in private it “is as frustrated with North Korea, and with the situation, as it has ever been.”

US Warplanes Conduct “Show Of Force” Ahead Of North Korean Official’s UNGA Address.

Leading the [CBS Weekend News](#) (9/23, lead story, 1:25, Ninan), correspondent Reena Ninan reported that “American bombers and fighter jets flew off the coast of North Korea today in a show of force.” The flight “was the furthest north of the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea that US warplanes have flown in the 21st century.” The Pentagon said the move “was in response to North Korea’s, quote, ‘reckless behavior.’” Shortly after, North Korean Foreign Affairs Minister Ri Yong Ho, at the United Nations General Assembly, escalated the “war of words” with President Trump. In video footage, Ri asserted, “None other than Trump himself is on a suicide mission.”

Calling Ri’s address the culmination of “an extraordinary week of militaristic threats from both nations before an organization founded to maintain international peace and security,” the [Washington Post](#) (9/23, Morello) reports Ri said Trump’s belittling of Kim with the nickname “little

rocketman" rendered "our rockets' visit to the entire U.S. mainland inevitable." He pointed to a hydrogen bomb that can be affixed to an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of reaching the mainland US, and warned, "Trump might not have been aware what is uttered from his mouth, but we will make sure that he bears consequences far beyond his words, far beyond the scope of what he can handle even if he is ready to do so." The Post says the "rhetoric between Trump and Kim has grown exceptionally personal," and the heated exchanges "come at a time when diplomatic pressure may be starting to bear fruit," as Secretary of State Tillerson suggested last week.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/23, Fassihi, Kesling) similarly says Ri's address to the UNGA dampened hopes that North Korea may be open to diplomacy. The Journal says many foreign leaders addressed the North Korean threat in their addresses to the Assembly this week, but the North Korean minister's speech was one of the most anticipated.

[Reuters](#) (9/24) reports that later on Saturday, Trump [tweeted](#), "Just heard Foreign Minister of North Korea speak at U.N. If he echoes thoughts of Little Rocket Man, they won't be around much longer!" Reuters says that it was not apparent "from Trump's latest tweet if he was referring to Ri and Kim, or North Korea more broadly."

China To Impose Restrictions On Oil, Natural Gas Exports To North Korea. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/23, Chin) reports China's Commerce Ministry said in a late Friday online statement that beginning Jan. 1, it will cap refined petroleum exports to North Korea at two million barrels a year, and prohibit natural gas exports entirely. The ministry announced China will also prohibit North Korean textile imports, a key source of revenue that earned the nation \$760 million last year, according to US officials.

Seismic Activity Detected Near North Korea's Nuclear Test Site. The [Washington Post](#) (9/23, Denyer) reports the US Geological Survey detected a 3.5-magnitude earthquake in northern North Korea on Saturday afternoon. The seismic activity was detected near North Korea's known nuclear test site; however, "experts said seismic data suggested that it was probably not caused by a new nuclear test, although it could have been a delayed geological reaction to the last test nearly three weeks ago." Furthermore, there were no reports of radiation detected around the site.

Still, the seismic activity was similar to that detected after North Korea's Sept. 3 underground nuclear test, so when the China Earthquake Administration initially attributed the tremor to a "suspected explosion," the incident "immediately set off alarm bells," the [New York Times](#) (9/23, Sang-Hun) reports. While the tremor appears, at least for now, "to have been a false alarm," as of Saturday afternoon the Chinese agency had not modified its initial assessment. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/23, Chin) reports the US Geological Survey also declined to publicly determine the source of the tremor, saying in a statement that it "cannot conclusively confirm at this time the nature (natural or human-made) of the event." The Korea Meteorological Administration in Seoul, however, offered a different initial assessment: "We have determined that this was caused by a natural earthquake, not a big one at that, and had nothing to do with any explosion."

US Olympic Committee Addresses Concerns Over North Korean Threat. In a letter sent to potential Winter Olympic athletes that was obtained by the [AP](#) (9/22, Pells), US Olympic Committee Chief Security Officer Nicole Deal said heightening US-North Korean tensions will likely persist for the foreseeable future, and while they "should not be dismissed as insignificant," they should not be "feared as precursors of an inevitable conflict." The AP says Deal's remarks signal that the US Team is not "considering skipping the Pyeongchang Games for security reasons." In a separate statement issued publicly on Friday, US Olympic Committee chief executive Scott Blackmun asserted, "We will continue to work with our State Department and local organizers to ensure that our athletes, and our entire delegation, are safe." Earlier this week, "France's sports minister suggested the country's athletes would stay home if security could not be guaranteed," prompting the International Olympic Committee to attempt to assuage security concerns.

WPost A1: Poll Finds Americans More Confident In Military Than Trump On North Korean Crisis. In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (9/24, Clement, Rucker) reports on a new Washington Post-ABC News poll that found about "three-quarters of the public supports tougher economic sanctions on North Korea in an attempt to persuade it to give up its nuclear weapons, while just about one-third think the United States should offer the isolated country foreign aid or other incentives." The poll also found "37 percent of adults trust Trump either 'a great deal' or 'a good amount' to responsibly handle the situation with North Korea," compared to 72 percent who "trust U.S. military leaders, including 43 percent saying they trust them 'a great deal.'" Confidence in Trump's handling of the crisis was also "colored sharply by partisanship," with 11 percent of Democrats and 36 percent of independents trusting Trump to react responsibly,

compared to more than three-quarters of Republican respondents.

North Korea Threatened A Hydrogen Bomb Test In The Pacific—which Is No Stranger To Nuclear Blasts.

[Quartz](#) (9/22, Mollman) reports that North Korea “warned Sept. 21 it might detonate a hydrogen bomb over the Pacific Ocean in response to threats made by US president Donald Trump as he addressed the United Nations General Assembly on Sept. 19.” According to the article, “if North Korea did decide—and manage—to detonate its own hydrogen bomb in the Pacific, it would...put at risk people on ships or even land, depending on the location, not to mention create long-lasting environmental damage.”

Palau Signs UN Treaty Prohibiting Nuclear Weapons.

[Radio New Zealand](#) (9/22) reports that “Palau’s president Tommy Remengesau has signed the UN treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons.” UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres “described the treaty as a product of increasing concern over the risk posed by the continued existence of nuclear weapons, including the catastrophic humanitarian and environmental consequences of their use.” Remengesau also “condemned North Korea’s threats against Guam describing them as intimidation of the entire Pacific region.”

Armenia Establishes Diplomatic Ties With Palau And Micronesia.

The [Armen Press \(ARM\)](#) (9/22) reports that “on the sidelines of the session of the UN General Assembly, foreign minister of Armenia Edward Nalbandian and Palau’s minister of state Faustina Rehuher-Marugg on September 21 signed the protocol on establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries with the presence of President of Palau Tommy Remengesau, press service of the Armenian ministry told Armenpress.” After the signing ceremony, they “held a meeting discussing issues relating to the cooperation within the frames of international organizations.” The article notes that “on the same day, the Armenian FM and Secretary of foreign affairs of Micronesia Lorin Robert signed the protocol on establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries.”

US Geological Survey

USGS Says Cannot Confirm If North Korea Quake Natural Or Manmade.

[Reuters](#) (9/23, Feast) reports that the U.S. Geological Survey “said on Saturday it could not conclusively confirm whether a magnitude 3.5 earthquake detected in North Korea was manmade or natural.” USGS placed “the epicenter of the quake 22 km (14 miles) east-northeast of Sungjibaegam, North Korea, near the country’s main nuclear test site.” The article notes that “Chinese earthquake officials earlier said the tremor was a “suspected explosion”, while South Korean officials and CTBTO, the nuclear proliferation watchdog, both said they believed it was a natural quake.”

Katharine Hayhoe Talks Climate Science.

The [Fulton \(MO\) Sun](#) (9/24, Wilbers) reports that Katharine Hayhoe, the director of the Climate Science Center at Texas Tech University, and member of the Department of Interior’s South-Central Climate Science Center, gave a talk Wednesday at Westminster College’s Hancock Symposium. Hayhoe discussed climate science and focused “three common myths she thinks, contribute” to an “ideological divide” on the issue.

Top National News

Trump Ignites Backlash With Tweets On Sports.

President Trump posted several tweets about sports on Saturday, prompting widespread criticism from athletes and business leaders that media analyses said distracted from other important political issues. Reporting was almost uniformly negative toward the President, with even conservative outlets and generally nonpartisan sports icons questioning his decision to rescind the NBA Championship invitation to the Golden State Warriors to visit the White House and his call for the NFL to fire players who protest the National Anthem.

In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (9/23, A1, Kilgore, Phillip) reports the President

"turned professional sports into a political battleground Friday night into Saturday, directing full-throated ire toward African American athletes who have spoken out against him and prompting a sharp rebuttal from the National Football League and several prominent sports figures." The Post says that "in a span of roughly 12 hours, as the sports world would typically be gearing up for college football and baseball's pennant races, Trump ensnared and agitated the most powerful sports league in North America and angered NBA superstars Stephen Curry and LeBron James. His comments set the stage for potential mass protest Sunday along NFL sidelines."

[Reuters](#) (9/23, Goldberg, Schectman) reports Trump at an Alabama rally for Sen. Luther Strange began by calling on NFL owners to fire players who protest the flag and then in [two tweets](#) on Saturday said, "If a player wants the privilege of making millions of dollars in the NFL, or other leagues, he or she should not be allowed to disrespect our Great American Flag (or Country) and should stand for the National Anthem. If not, YOU'RE FIRED. Find something else to do!"

In addition, [USA Today](#) (9/23, Amick) reports that "less than a day after so many prominent members of the Warriors reiterated their stance that they didn't want to visit to White House to celebrate their title, and just hours after Trump's inciteful rally in Alabama where he took aim at NFL players who protest the national anthem, he wasted no time in taking to Twitter – again." Trump [said](#), "Going to the White House is considered a great honor for a championship team. Stephen Curry is hesitating, therefore invitation is withdrawn!"

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/23, Radnofsky, Beaton) characterizes the President's action as unusual and the [Daily Caller](#) (9/23, Pfeiffer) laments that "instead of the focus being on Republican struggles to pass health care and tax reform or the growing threat of a nuclear North Korea, Trump is now facing off in a battle against black athletes, which liberal journalists are already framing as racist." [Bloomberg News](#) (9/22, Jacobs) emphasizes that the President's "criticisms, directed primarily at black athletes, came after Trump fanned racial flames in August by repeatedly equating the actions of both sides after the death of a woman who was protesting against a demonstration by neo-Nazis, white supremacists and Confederate heritage groups in Charlottesville, Virginia."

The [New York Times](#) (9/23, A1, Belson, Davis) reports on its front page that although "many fans on social media were supportive of the president, the reaction from many athletes was immediate and impassioned, particularly among African-American football and basketball players who have criticized Mr. Trump on race."

On the [CBS Weekend News](#) (9/23, story 4, 2:20, Ninan), Tony Dokoupil said "the President's comments stirred fury online" while [Politico](#) (9/22, Griffiths, Jackson) reports Trump's tweets "drew an unusually blunt rebuke from National Football League commissioner Roger Goodell, who said the 'divisive comments' show a 'lack of respect' for the nation's most popular sport."

[USA Today](#) (9/23, Sports) reports Goodell in a statement added, "The NFL and our players are at our best when we help create a sense of unity in our country and our culture. There is no better example than the amazing response from our clubs and players to the terrible natural disasters we've experienced over the last month." The [AP](#) (9/23, Lucey) reports DeMaurice Smith, the executive director of the NFL Players Association, also "angrily denounced" Trump, tweeting: "We will never back down. We no longer can afford to stick to sports." Smith added the player's union is committed to "protecting the constitutional rights of our players as citizens as well as their safety as men who compete in a game that exposes them to great risks."

[USA Today](#) (9/23, Sports) reports NFL Players Association President Eric Winston tweeted, "I am extremely disappointed in the statements made by the President last night." Winston added, "The comments were a slap in the face to the civil rights heroes of the past and present, soldiers who have spilled blood in countless wars to uphold the values of this great nation and American people of all races, ethnicities, genders and sexual orientations who seek civil progress as a means to make this country, and this world, a better place."

[The Hill](#) (9/23, Seipel) reports Trump "fired back" late Saturday, [tweeting](#), "Roger Goodell of NFL just put out a statement trying to justify the total disrespect certain players show to our country. Tell them to stand!"

Meanwhile, the [New York Times](#) (9/23, Hoffman) says Trump's remarks drew an "intense reaction from athletes," who "have begun firing back" at the President. According to the Times, "the response from players was swift," while the [AP](#) (9/23, Lucey, Reynolds) similarly reports that the President's remarks "drew sharp responses from some of the nation's top athletes," and [The Hill](#) (9/23, Manchester) states that he "caught flak on Saturday after ratcheting up his barbs on NFL and NBA players, prompting criticism from various professional athletes."

The [Washington Times](#) (9/23, Blake) reports that after Trump "singled out" Curry, the

Golden State Warriors' "star athlete," the team on Saturday in a statement said, "While we intended to meet as a team at the first opportunity we had this morning to collaboratively discuss a potential visit to the White House, we accept that President Trump has made it clear that we are not invited." The Warriors added, "We believe there is nothing more American than our citizens having the right to express themselves freely on matters important to them. We're disappointed that we did not have an opportunity during this process to share our views or have open dialogue on issues impacting our communities that we felt would be important to raise." However, the team said it will still visit Washington, DC, but will use the trip "to celebrate equality, diversity and inclusion – the values that we embrace as an organization."

[The Hill](#) (9/23, Greenwood) "Briefing Room" blog reports that NBA Commissioner Adam Silver "said Saturday that he is 'disappointed' that the Golden State Warriors won't be visiting the White House in February, after the team canceled the plans amid a feud with President Trump." In a statement, Silver said, "I was in favor of the team visiting the White House and thought it was a rare opportunity for these players to share their views directly with the President." Silver added, "I am disappointed that that will not happen. More importantly, I am proud of our players for taking an active role in their communities and continuing to speak out on critically important issues." The [Daily Caller](#) (9/23, Hookstead) states that "it'll be interesting to see if this becomes a popular trend for sports teams as long as Trump is in the White House."

[The Hill](#) (9/23, Thomsen) reports in its "Briefing Room" blog that Curry on Saturday "fired back" at the President and "said it was 'surreal' for him to wake up and see that Trump had revoked his invitation." Curry asserted, "I don't know why he feels the need to target certain individuals rather than others." He added, "I have an idea of why, but, it's just kind of beneath, I think, a leader of a country to go that route. It's not what leaders do." [The Hill](#) (9/23, Manchester) "Briefing Room" blog notes Curry "told reporters on Friday that he did not want to visit the White House." Curry said, "by not going, hopefully it will inspire some change for what we tolerate in this country and what we stand for, what is accepted and what we turn a blind eye toward."

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (9/23, Ting) reports Curry's teammate Draymond Green became "the first Warriors player to weigh in on...Trump's decision to disinvite the reigning champs to the White House," tweeting that he is "still wondering how this guy is running our country," while [Breitbart](#) (9/23, Huston) reports "NBA star LeBron James" joined in "to slam the president, saying, 'U bum @StephenCurry30 already said he ain't going! So therefore ain't no invite. Going to White House was a great honor until you showed up!'" Nonetheless, Breitbart highlights that "James' claim does not stand on a firm historical footing," as "players have been refusing White House visits for many decades before Donald Trump's first year in office."

[USA Today](#) (9/23, Neuharth-Keusch) reports "this isn't the first time that James, one of the world's most influential athletes, has spoken out against Trump, his most recent comments coming in the wake of the violent rallies in Charlottesville, Va. last month." [The Hill](#) (9/23, Thomsen) "Briefing Room" blog reports that later on Saturday, "the Cleveland Cavaliers star said in a video...that he was 'frustrated' because 'this guy that we've put in charge has tried to divide us once again.'" James asserted, "We all know what happened at Charlottesville and the divide that caused and now it's even hitting more home for me now because he's now using sports as the platform to try and divide us."

A number of other basketball icons also criticized Trump. In its "Briefing Room" blog, [The Hill](#) (9/23, Carter) reports Houston Rockets point guard Chris Paul, the president of the NBA Players Association, "said Saturday President Trump isn't 'man enough' to call athletes a 'son of a b----' to their faces after Trump used the term to describe athletes who kneel during the national anthem." [The Hill](#) (9/23, Carter) "Briefing Room" blog reports that former Los Angeles Lakers player Kobe Bryant tweeted, "A #POTUS who's name alone creates division and anger. Who's words inspire dissension and hatred can't possibly 'Make America Great Again.'"

In addition, [ESPN](#) (9/23) highlights how numerous "former and present NFL players, and front-office executives, reacted on social media," which included "[Seattle Seahawks star Richard Sherman](#)," [Washington Redskins linebacker Zach Brown](#), [Buffalo Bills running back LeSean McCoy](#), [Tampa Bay Buccaneers wide receiver Desean Jackson](#), [Lions tight end Eric Ebron](#), and [former Heisman Trophy winner Reggie Bush](#), according to The Hill, which also shared criticism from [the co-owners of the New York Giants](#), [the CEO of the San Francisco 49ers](#), [the CEO of the Green Bay Packers](#), [the owner of the Miami Dolphins](#), and [the owners of the Philadelphia Eagles, Buffalo Bills, Indianapolis Colts, and Seattle Seahawks](#).

[USA Today](#) (9/23, Martinelli) reports the mother of former San Francisco 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, Teresa Kaepernick, also "responded to Trump's remarks about her son with some sass." [The Hill](#) (9/23, Greenwood) reports in its "Briefing Room" blog she said in an

interview with [Deadspin](#) that “it was ‘disappointing’ that Trump took aim at the NFL during a fiery campaign rally in Alabama Friday night, and accused him of playing to ‘racist people’ in the crowd of supporters.” She additionally compared Trump’s behavior to being “like a bully on a playground.”

Meanwhile, [USA Today](#) (9/23, Jones) reports Trump’s “could end up amplifying the number of demonstrations,” which extended to baseball, [The Hill](#) (9/23, Thomsen) “Briefing Room” blog reports, as the Oakland Athletics on Saturday “tweeted a statement in support of players who kneel during the national anthem moments after” catcher and rookie Bruce Maxwell “became the first major league baseball player to kneel during the national anthem Saturday night, one day after President Trump attacked NFL players who did the same.” New York Yankees pitcher CC Sabathia told the [New York Daily News](#) (9/23, Mazzeo) that “if the Yankees wind up winning the championship this season,” he would not visit the White House. He added, “I just don’t believe in anything that is Trump. So there wouldn’t be any reason for me to go at all.”

[The Hill](#) (9/23, Delk) reports the NAACP additionally “spoke out in defense of NBA All-Star Stephen Curry,” tweeting, “A hero dissed by a fill in the blank #TakeAKnee.”

According to [The Hill](#) (9/23, Lorenz), Milo Yiannopoulos also “disagree[d] with Trump’s statement that athletes who kneel during the national anthem should be fired.” In an interview, Yiannopoulos said, “I don’t think that people should be punished for kneeling during the national anthem. I think what should happen to them is they should be laughed at as attention seekers. ... I don’t think they deserve to be fired.”

UNC Men’s Basketball Championship Team Skipping White House Visit Due To Scheduling Conflict. The [AP](#) (9/23) reports a spokesman for the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill men’s basketball team, which won the national NCAA championship in April, announced Saturday that it “will not visit the White House because of a scheduling conflict.” The spokesman “said...that Hall of Fame coach Roy Williams and the players were willing to go, and the university and White House tried ‘eight or nine’ dates but none worked.”

Sports Columnists, Pundits Savage Trump Over Remarks. [New York Times](#) (9/23, Powell) sports columnist Michael Powell lauds the athletes who are responding to Trump and says that “in the surest and most striking sign of tectonic movements, N.F.L. Commissioner Roger Goodell, as careful and conservative a leader as you’ll find in pro sports, felt compelled to call out the president on Saturday.”

[Washington Post](#) (9/23, Jenkins) sports columnist Sally Jenkins argues that while the NFL’s response to the President’s “spit-foaming is hardly a test case for whether the republic will stand,” the league “is a maker of manners in this country, so it means something that Commissioner Roger Goodell and others are getting it right, striking the perfect calm but resistant tone in response to Trump’s gutter-mouthing, a tone that says, ‘We’re not your personal WrestleMania, and don’t use us for your sham body slams.’” She adds that the NFL, when “faced with whether to play to the basest instincts of the audience, declined. It adhered to civility.” Jenkins concludes that when “confronted with Trump’s vulgarity, rather than take him head on, [the NFL] chose simply to outclass him.”

[The Hill](#) (9/23, Carter) reports ESPN anchor Jemele Hill, who “called Trump a ‘white supremacist’ and a ‘bigot’ in a series of tweets earlier this month” that prompted the White House to call for her dismissal, predicted the President’s comments “will only incite more player protests, not quell them.”

In his [Sports Illustrated](#) (9/23, King) column, Peter King says “on the same day the media was filled with stories about a 27-year-old former NFL player who committed suicide and was found to have severe degenerative brain damage – likely much or all of it from football – the president decried how big hits have been taken out of the game.” While he admits that on the issue of tougher hits and opposing anthem protests, “the president might have the support of his core voters,” King contends “Trump’s longing-for-the-day-of-yore rhetoric in a speech in Alabama Friday night is the kind of anti-football, anti-player divisiveness that, frankly, no player or owner should stand for.” He adds that “Trump, apparently, is the only person in America who wants to see a more dangerous game of football.”

[USA Today](#) (9/23, Bell) NFL columnist Jarrett Bell hails Trump’s remarks as “fresh fuel for NFL players to engage in Colin Kaepernick-styled national anthem protests.” Bell asserts that “when the President of the United States, in all of his ignorance, urges his base of supporters to walk out on your game, your livelihood, your principles – because a number of NFL players have exercised their right to express discontent with some major inequalities of the American way – it is way past time to provide a determined response.” Bell adds “the rapid reactions from NFL commissioner Roger Goodell and NFL Players Association executive director DeMaurice Smith – who rarely agree on anything – was an encouraging sign of leadership that supplemented the

voices from the players.”

[USA Today](#) (9/23) sports columnist Christine Brennan contends that “by unleashing his own despicable brand of fire and fury against the National Football League and the First Amendment rights of its players Friday night, President Donald Trump exhibited his failure to grasp the lesson every schoolyard bully learned long ago: Don’t pick on the football players.” Brennan adds it was noteworthy “that Trump mustered more anger Friday over Kaepernick’s personal decision to not stand for the anthem than he did for the neo-Nazis and white Supremacists who marched in Charlottesville’s deadly protest last month.”

WPost: MLB Needs To Raise Netting To Protect Bystanders From Foul Balls. The [Washington Post](#) (9/23) editorializes another young girl was injured Wednesday at Yankee Stadium when she was hit by “a 105-mph foul ball,” which illustrates why Major League Baseball has to take action to prevent more injuries from taking place. The Post asserts “player after player has since insisted that stadiums need more netting to protect fans from incoming foul balls” and argues “a large number of injuries would nevertheless be prevented if major league ballparks installed more extensive netting.” The Post concludes that “MLB should look to stadiums in Japan, where netting often reaches from foul pole to foul pole. And the next time the organization issues an obvious safety finding, it should come in the form of a requirement, not a mere recommendation.”

Trump, Kim Ratchet Up Public Criticism.

President Trump on Friday responded to the first public criticism directly from North Korean leader Kim Jong-un. Media coverage, which included nearly four and a half minutes on the network newscasts, cast both of their remarks as a dangerous escalation in rhetoric. Reporting also highlighted that North Korea says that it is currently preparing to conduct a hydrogen bomb test over the Pacific Ocean, which analyses warn would further inflame the tense region.

[CNN’s Situation Room](#) (9/22, 6:05 p.m. EDT, Acosta) reported that a few hours after Kim described Trump as a “rogue,” “gangster,” “frightened dog,” and “a ‘dotard,’ which essentially means an old, senile lunatic,” the President [tweeted](#), “Kim Jong Un of North Korea, who is obviously a madman who doesn’t mind starving or killing his people, will be tested like never before!” The [Washington Post](#) (9/22, Gearan, Phillip) reports “the back-and-forth between the United States and North Korea is the latest in a series of events escalating tensions between the two nations.”

In a separate article, the [Washington Post](#) (9/22, Nakamura, Gearan) reports the comments came a day after Trump signed new sanctions that “seek to leverage the dominance of the U.S. financial system by forcing nations, foreign companies and individuals to choose whether to do business with the United States or the comparatively tiny economy of North Korea. U.S. officials acknowledged that like other sanctions, these may not deter North Korean leader Kim Jong Un’s drive to threaten the United States with a nuclear weapon, but are aimed at slowing him down.” Treasury Secretary Mnuchin asserted Trump’s executive order “significantly expands Treasury’s authority to target those who enable this regime...wherever they are located.”

[Reuters](#) (9/22, Heavey) reports that in an Thursday interview with [CNBC](#) that aired Friday, Commerce Secretary Ross said China’s steps to restrict trade with North Korea “would “be very” good if they succeed in cutting off imported goods, and showed lessening support from China toward Pyongyang.” Ross added, “Even more importantly, it sent a very powerful message to North Korea that China is not being as supportive of them as it had been.”

Although “North Korea has long cultivated an image of defiant belligerence, punctuating its propaganda and diplomacy with colorful threats, insults and bluster,” a front-page [New York Times](#) (9/22, A1, Sang-Hun) article cautions Kim’s personal statement “pushed his government’s brinkmanship to a new, potentially more perilous level.” According to the Times, “in a country where the leader is essentially portrayed as a god, Mr. Kim’s decision to respond personally to Mr. Trump’s speech to the United Nations General Assembly and pledge reprisals escalated the standoff over the North’s nuclear program in a way that neither he nor his predecessors had done before.”

Brian Todd of [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (9/22, 5:22 p.m. EDT, Acosta) asserted, “Never before have we seen this North Korean leader put his own name on a statement like this, and go after leader in such a personal and public way.” Todd added that US and South Korean officials are now “dissecting his words,” as well as “a threat by the foreign minister about testing a hydrogen bomb.” He also warned that US officials and analysts “believe the last nuclear bomb North Korea tested this month could have been a hydrogen bomb, which would be a game changer. Why? Because the blast may have been nearly 10 times more powerful than the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima, which killed an estimated 150,000 people.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (9/21, Kang, Kim) reports Trump “expanded on those comments at a political rally in Alabama Friday night, saying Kim may be ‘smart, he may be strategic’ or he may be ‘totally crazy,’ but no matter what, Americans will be protected.” In his speech, which was broadcast by [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (9/22, 8:12 p.m. EDT, Carlson), the President stressed his commitment to “always defend[ing] America’s interest above all else,” and lamented, “When you look around the world, you have so many where they don’t respect their people. but we want nations that cooperate together to work for all people. That’s what we care about, all people. We can’t have mad men out there shooting rockets all over the place.” Trump added, “And, by the way, Rocket Man should have been handled a long time ago.” He pledged to “handle it, because we have to handle it. Little Rocket Man. We are going to do it. Because we really have no choice [since Kim is] talking about a massive weapon exploding over the ocean. The Pacific Ocean. Which causes tremendous, tremendous calamity.”

On [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (9/22, 5:41 p.m. EDT, Acosta), senior political analyst Mark Preston said that “the unpredictability of the North Korean leader is, I think, the biggest wildcard and what concerns me the most, and probably concerns our intelligence officials the most as well. I do think, though, from a United States standpoint, trading barbs back and forth with the leader of North Korea is very ineffective. I think silence is deafening in many ways.” He called for tougher sanctions and “really pressuring China behind the scenes to take a more leadership role in this.” Senior congressional correspondent Manu Raju said US lawmakers are concerned that with his rhetoric, “the President painted himself in a corner here, and has given Kim Jong-un an excuse to move forward in a way that he may not have had otherwise.”

Meanwhile, Sen. Ed Markey said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (9/22, 5:17 p.m. EDT, Acosta), “I think that we should be concerned that this escalatory rhetoric between two leaders of countries that have nuclear weapons is slipping very quickly into something that could become dangerous for the planet. And, again, if he detonates a hydrogen bomb into the atmosphere – that’s why we had the atmospheric nuclear test ban in 1963.” On whether the US should consider a military option, Markey stated, “No. There is no military option. None. If we take a strike at North Korea, it could very quickly escalate into the deaths of hundreds of thousands or millions of people in South Korea and in other countries in that region. The only answer is to go to final sanctions on the North Koreans.”

On [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (9/22, 6:13 p.m. EDT, Acosta), Rep. Ruben Gallego said, “The problem is this is bluster, but it could easily get into what we call miscalculation, where one side decides they have to take some type of preemptive action to either protect themselves or get some kind of advantage. But the President did some correct things. He finally entered into a sanctions regime” that “can be helpful in compelling North Korea to the floor. Now he has to follow it through with our allies and make sure they’re enforced.”

[CNN’s Situation Room](#) (9/22, 5:52 p.m. EDT, Acosta) previewed “Trump and Twitter,” a special report about the President’s tweeting more generally. Former CIA Director Gen. Michael Hayden told chief innovation correspondent Bill Weir, “If I’m the head of a hostile or even friendly intelligence service, I got a new office over here – follow that account. Tell me what this man is saying. It’s tremendously revealing. we know the President’s hot buttons. We know his vulnerabilities. We know what upsets him. We know what he demands from his subordinates. We even know his sleep patterns based upon his Twitter usage. That’s a tremendous gift to a foreign power.”

North Korea Says Hydrogen Bomb Test In Preparation. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/22, Cheng) reports North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho said Friday that North Korea “might consider a historic aboveground test of a hydrogen bomb over the Pacific Ocean” in retaliation for Trump’s remarks at the UN General Assembly this week. Kristen Welker, the White House correspondent for [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/22, story 5, 2:00, Holt), asserted the “threat to test a hydrogen bomb over the Pacific” – rather than the “series of potentially dangerous verbal volleys” between Trump and Kim – is “raising alarm bells.” She added, “If North Korea launched a bomb, Pentagon officials say, under one scenario, advanced radars and satellites all over the world would detect the launch, giving the US the military options to intercept it or shoot it down before any radioactive material could do harm. But there are no guarantees.”

[CNN’s Situation Room](#) (9/22, 6:08 p.m. EDT, Acosta) Pentagon correspondent Barbara Starr said that “North Korea already is getting ready for its next missile launch, according to Administration officials, possibly a missile that could hit the US. Kim Jong-un now threatening the ‘highest level of hard-line countermeasure in history’ following President Trump’s speech at the UN.” Meanwhile, Starr said such a test “could change everything,” and that the US intelligence community is now watching “for very particular signs” of such a weapon. Yet North Korea is

seemingly undeterred, Starr added, and "all indications are to continue to proceed with their weapons program." A senior Administration official told [Reuters](#) (9/22, Spetalnick) that a hydrogen bomb test would be a "game-changer," but while the official did not give "too much credence" to the threat because "there's a certain amount of bluster that's taken for granted when you're dealing with North Korea," the US "to some extent [does] take it seriously."

Meanwhile, [Reuters](#) (9/22, Heavey) reports Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in "agreed to strengthen their defense posture amid rising tensions with North Korea, the White House said on Friday." In a statement, the White House said "Trump and Moon, who met on Thursday, committed to strengthen their 'combined defense posture, including through South Korea's acquisition and development of highly advanced military assets' and 'agreed to the enhanced deployment of U.S. strategic assets in and around South Korea on a rotational basis.'"

In a front-page article, the [New York Times](#) (9/22, A1, Baker, Sanger) examines some of the "pre-emption options" presented by aides to Trump, which "included cyberattacks against military or dual-use facilities, according to senior officials." The Times adds Defense Secretary Mattis "noted that the United States had not attempted to destroy the unarmed missiles that have been tested so far, because they were not on track to hit American territory, or allies like Japan." According to the Times, "so far, the president has declined to explicitly lay out a red line that, if crossed, would provoke some sort of action." A senior official "said that acting to prevent an atmospheric test, which would risk radiation spreading in the winds toward populated areas, could well result in a very different decision." However, the Times admits "such an operation would be highly risky even if it would be far more surgical than Mr. Trump's threat this week to 'totally destroy North Korea' if forced to defend the United States or its allies."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/22, story 5, 2:25, Muir) broadcast Secretary of State Tillerson, who in an interview with David Muir on "Good Morning America" was asked how the US would respond if North Korea detonated a hydrogen bomb. Said Tillerson, "Well, we will continue our efforts in the diplomatic arena, but all of our military options, as the President has said, are on the table." Tillerson added that "once we can assess the nature of this threat, the President will make a decision regarding the appropriate actions," broadcast [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/22, 5:07 p.m. EDT, Acosta), which said that, "despite the apocalyptic rhetoric" between Trump and Kim, Tillerson insisted that "the US has not given up on finding a diplomatic solution." [Reuters](#) (9/22, Chiacu) reports Tillerson asserted, "We are quite challenged but our diplomatic efforts continue unabated. ... We have put in place the strongest economic sanctions ever to have been assembled against...Kim Jong Un." Tillerson added, "he is being tested with the sanctions, voices from every corner of the world."

The [AP](#) (9/22, Burns, Pennington) reports Susan Thornton, the acting secretary of state for East Asia and the Pacific, "said Friday a North Korean H-bomb test in the Pacific would be 'outrageous.'" Thornton added that such action "would draw a 'concerted and determined international response' but declined to be specific."

According to the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/22, Cheng), the threat also prompted criticism from both Russia and China, which called on North Korea and the US to deescalate the situation. [Reuters](#) (9/22, Nichols) reports that at a news conference on Friday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said "the exchange of threats is quite bad, unacceptable" He added, "We have to calm down the hot heads." In a separate article, [Reuters](#) (9/22, Nichols, Brunstrom) reports Lavrov also "again pushed a proposal by Moscow and Beijing for a dual suspension of North Korean weapons tests and the U.S.-South Korean military drills to kick-start talks."

In addition, although "China has tightened the financial screws on North Korea under U.N. sanctions approved in recent weeks," the [Washington Post](#) (9/22, A1, Gearan, Denyer) in a front-page article reports China on Friday "disputed Trump's claim that it has joined a new round of punishing economic sanctions against its communist ally." While Trump said Thursday that Chinese President Xi Jinping "had ordered Chinese banks to cease conducting business with North Korean entities," Lu Kang, a spokesman with China's Foreign Ministry, "denied that Beijing had agreed to go that far." The Post adds that Lu instead "appealed for calm" and insisted, "What's needed now is to implement the U.N. resolutions strictly and positively explore channels to solve problems via talks, rather than provoking each other and adding oil to the fire."

US-Japanese Navies Conduct Drills Off Korean Peninsula. [Reuters](#) (9/22, Kelly, Kubo) reports "the U.S. Navy carrier Ronald Reagan is conducting drills with Japanese warships in seas south of the Korean peninsula, Japan's military said on Friday, in a show of naval power as Pyongyang threatens further nuclear and missile tests." Reuters adds that "the Reagan strike group will conduct a separate drill with the South Korean Navy in October, the defense ministry said in a statement distributed to South Korean lawmakers on Monday."

White House Aides Appealed To Trump To Tone Down UN Rhetoric. The [Los Angeles Times](#)

(9/22, Bennett) reports “senior aides to President Trump repeatedly warned him not to deliver a personal attack on North Korea’s leader at the United Nations this week, saying insulting the young despot in such a prominent venue could irreparably escalate tensions and shut off any chance for negotiations to defuse the nuclear crisis.” According to the Times, “some of Trump’s top aides, including national security advisor H.R. McMaster, had argued for months against making the attacks on North Korea’s leader personal, warning it could backfire.” The Times says “some advisors now worry that the escalating war of words has pushed the impasse with North Korea into a new and dangerous phase that threatens to derail the months-long effort to squeeze Pyongyang’s economy through sanctions to force Kim to the negotiating table.”

Army Investigating Fake South Korean Evacuation Order. The [Washington Post](#) (9/22, Lamothe) reports counterintelligence officials from the US Army in South Korea “are investigating fake mobile alerts and social media messages warning American military families and Defense Department personnel of orders to evacuate the volatile peninsula on Thursday.” The officials in a Facebook post stated that US Forces Korea “did NOT send this message” and they “warned that Americans living in South Korea with U.S. troops and Defense Department employees should confirm that any evacuation-related communications are legitimate before acting.”

South Korean Preppers Revise Emergency Plans As Tensions Rise. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/22, Lee) reports that while most South Koreans do their best to ignore the belligerence and threats from North Korea, preppers in the country are revising their disaster plans as tensions escalate.

WSJournal Reflects On Life In North Korea. In a more than 2,100-word article, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/22, Lyons, Cheng) reflects on a recent visit to North Korea and shares what its reporters saw on their closely monitored trip to Pyongyang earlier this week.

US Government Bonds Strengthen On North Korea Tensions. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/22, Banerji) reports US government bonds strengthened Friday as the yield on the benchmark 10-year US Treasury note declined from 2.278 percent on Thursday to 2.262 percent. The Journal attributes this change to market concerns over North Korea’s threat to test a hydrogen bomb over the Pacific Ocean.

WPost, WSJournal: Trump Should Allow Sanctions To Work, Stay Out Of Gutter. The [Washington Post](#) (9/22) editorializes that President Trump “appears to have embarked on a two-track approach to pressuring North Korea into restraining its nuclear weapons and missile programs” by focusing on “ever-tightening economic sanctions that, if properly implemented, could further isolate North Korea from world finance and trade” in addition to “a game of chicken to see who can hurl the harshest and most absurd rhetorical insults.” The Post asserts that while Kim Jong Un’s regime may avoid the penalties, “sanctions and coercive diplomacy, however difficult, offer the best available approach, given the unappealing alternatives.” However, the Post criticizes Trump for escalating “the food fight” with Kim and asserts the President “ought to focus on making his sanctions work and quit imitating the supposed madman he is trying to pressure.”

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/22) hails the latest sanctions on North Korea and argues Kim Jong Un’s threat to test a hydrogen bomb over the Pacific Ocean proves his regime is rattled. The Journal calls on China to live up to its commitments to avoid war, which the editorial acknowledges needs to be a last resort to prevent North Korea’s nuclear program from advancing further.

Puerto Rico Issues Evacuation Order For 70,000 People With Dam In Danger Of Failing.

In [ABC World News Tonight](#)’s (9/22, lead story, 3:00, Muir) lead broadcast, Rob Marciano reported Puerto Rican officials on Friday instituted a flash flood emergency in response to Hurricane Maria, which cracked the Guajataca Dam, “forcing 70,000 people to evacuate immediately.” In a front-page article, the [Washington Post](#) (9/22, A1, Schmidt, Zezima, Somashekhar, Cassidy) reports Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló said the dam had suffered a “fissure” and called on residents in municipalities of Quebradillas, Isabela, and part of San Sebastian to evacuate. While the status of the dam was unclear Friday evening, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/22, Kamp) reports the National Weather Service has warned of its imminent failure and called on Puerto Ricans to move to higher ground.

According to the [New York Times](#) (9/22, Times), “the news about the dam was a dramatic sign that the scale of the troubles left behind by the storm were just being understood.” On [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/22, story 2, 2:25, Holt), Gabe Gutierrez reported that elsewhere “the floodwaters are receding, but many communities are still inundated.” In Toa Baja, 30 miles west of San Juan, Gutierrez said, “The town’s mayor tells us at least eight people drowned here and authorities have rescued 4,000 to 5,000 trapped by floodwaters. Without working cellphones, he’s

coordinating with rescue crews from Florida and Virginia by word of mouth.”

The [New York Times](#) (9/22, A1, Robles, Alvarez, Walsh) reports in a front-page article that “with everyone from the governor of Puerto Rico to the mayor of San Juan predicting that it could take four to six months to resume electrical service, people [are] contemplating empty refrigerators, campfire cooking, bathing in their own sweat and perhaps wrangling for fresh water on an island accustomed to hard times but nothing like what the future may bring.” According to the Times, “the biggest long-term obstacle was the prospect of months without power.”

In the lead [CBS Evening News](#) (9/22, lead story, 2:20, Mason) segment, David Begnaud also reported residents are “trying to cope without power. Outdated and fragile, most of Puerto Rico’s power lines are above ground, no match for Maria.” Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority CEO Ricardo Ramos predicted that the island could be without power for months. He added, “If we go back to history under Hurricane Hugo, it took six months to restore power to everyone.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/22, De Córdoba, Campo-Flores) reports Rosselló said, “It has been difficult to see the deterioration of infrastructure in Puerto Rico. ... But it has been even more difficult finding citizens who have lost everything.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/22, story 3, 1:20, Holt) Gadi Schwartz reported that for the first responders, Maria has been “yet another disaster in what seems like an unrelenting season of catastrophe.” Schwartz added, “So many organizations have been stretched thin. FEMA supporting more than 30,000 people in disaster zones. The Red Cross deploying more than 5,000 workers and nearly its entire vehicle fleet. Samaritan’s Purse, a North Carolina nonprofit, responding to their third hurricane in the last few weeks with 50,000 pounds of emergency supplies to Puerto Rico.”

The [Washington Post](#) (9/22, O’Keefe) reports that in the days ahead, Puerto Rico “is set to ask for several billion dollars in federal relief after two major hurricanes, as officials acknowledge that the months-long recovery may compel more residents to abandon an already economically distressed island.” Sen. Marco Rubio said, “We have to begin to think in the worst possible terms, between power restoration, critical infrastructure, housing assistance, the need to airlift critical medical patients out of the island to the mainland, seniors, things like that.” Rep. Darren Soto (D), “the first Floridian of Puerto Rican descent to serve in Congress,” said Thursday, “We’ve anticipated we’ll see tens of thousands of folks here at least temporarily,” he said. “Many were, I’m sure, already contemplating the move, but this will push them over the top.”

Knicks Player Donates, Raises Money For Puerto Rico. [USA Today](#) (9/22, Tsuji) reports New York Knicks forward Carmelo Anthony has “set up a donation page and has contributed \$50,000” to Puerto Rico and is trying to \$1 million. In his statement, Anthony said “his father is Puerto Rican so he has family on the island, and that since the power has been knocked out after Hurricane Maria...he hasn’t heard from them. He’s also thinking of all the people struggling to recover.”

New York Governor Assembles Delegation To Puerto Rico To Assess Damage From Hurricane Maria. [CNBC](#) (9/22) reports online that the devastation Hurricane Maria caused on Puerto Rico “is nothing short of catastrophic.” Six people are confirmed dead, and the island’s infrastructure sustained a “ruinous blow.” After the hurricane struck, “New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo immediately assembled a delegation of administration officials and emergency response experts, including 60 members of the National Guard, to do a reconnaissance of the destruction. The relief flight, donated by JetBlue – the largest airline in Puerto Rico – departed from John F. Kennedy International Airport to San Juan Airport early on Friday.” President Trump said he will visit the island “to see the damage firsthand and disclosed that his Homeland Security adviser, Tom Bossert, has been helping him actively prepare the government’s response to Hurricane Maria.”

Graham And Cassidy Plan Changes To Bill As More GOP Senators Express Doubts.

With several senators from both the conservative and centrist wings of the Republican caucus saying over the weekend that they will not support, or have not yet committed to supporting, the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill, the [Washington Post](#) (9/24, A1, Sullivan, Cunningham, Phillip) reports that Sens. Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy “plan to release a revised version of their bill Monday sending more health-care dollars to the states of key holdouts” Sens. Susan Collins and Lisa Murkowski. But while Murkowski has been on the fence, “Republicans close to the process have long counted Collins as an eventual ‘no,’ with some predicting that little could be done to the bill to change her mind.” Sean Sullivan, one of the writers of the Post report, [tweeted](#), “There is pessimism tonight among some Rs close to the process that these changes to Cassidy-Graham will move Collins from likely no to yes.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (9/24, Dopp) reports that the revised bill “also changes language

regarding pre-existing conditions. ... States would have to describe how their health plans 'shall maintain access to adequate and affordable health insurance coverage for individuals with pre-existing conditions.' The original language said each state had to show how it 'intends' to have adequate and affordable access to coverage."

[The Hill](#) (9/24, Sullivan) reports that in a Sunday evening statement, Senate Minority Leader Schumer said, "Despite an attempt to appear to add money for a select few states, this bill is just as bad for those states and the rest of the states because it still contains a massive cut to Medicaid, and would throw our health insurance system into chaos while raising premiums. It still takes away protections for those with preexisting conditions and further weakens consumer protections."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/24, story 3, 2:30, Snow) reported earlier that passage of the bill is "looking more and more difficult now with two more Republicans today saying [that] they have big problems with this bill." NBC's Kelly O'Donnell reported, "Signs point to outright opposition and wavering reluctance from a few Republicans whose votes are critical." Collins: "Well, it is hard for me to envision getting to yes on this bill because my concerns are so fundamental." Sen. Rand Paul: "This is a bad idea. It's not repeal." The [AP](#) (9/24, Fram) reports that Sen. Ted Cruz "also voiced opposition, underscoring the bill's problems with both ends of the GOP spectrum." At a Texas event, Cruz said, "Right now, they don't have my vote." [USA Today](#) (9/24, Kelly) reports that Cruz also said that he does not think that fellow conservative Sen. Mike Lee is on board yet, either. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/24, story 8, 0:25, Llamas) said in a brief update that the legislation is "in critical condition." John Dickerson said on the [CBS Weekend News](#) (9/24, story 3, 2:15, Quijano), "There don't look like there are enough Republicans to support it because of its structural policy flaws."

The [New York Times](#) (9/24, Kaplan) reports that with no Democrats expected to back the bill, GOP leaders can afford to lose only two members of their caucus, and both Paul and Sen. John McCain have announced their opposition – though the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/24, A1, Radnofsky, Mann) says that only McCain said that his vote was totally out of reach. The [Washington Post](#) (9/24, Costa) reports that Paul "continues to engage with President Trump and Senate leaders, giving proponents of the latest GOP bill a glimmer of hope." He "signaled Sunday that he is willing to consider a 'narrow' version of the legislation."

Paul said on [NBC's Meet The Press](#) (9/24, Todd), "I have always been a yes for repeal, but the bill unfortunately keeps most of the Obamacare spending, almost all of it, and just reshelves it and block grants it to the states." Jonathan Swan of [Axios](#) (9/24) writes that Paul wants the legislation to "cut the Affordable Care Act spending way back" and "scrap way more Affordable Care Act regulations. ... Paul's list of demands suggest he's not an absolute no, but his conditions may be impossible to meet." Washington Post congressional reporter Paul Kane [tweeted](#), "Chasing a ghost – if you successfully buy off Murkowski with more \$\$\$, how do you placate Rand, who wants less \$\$\$?"

On [CNN's State Of The Union](#) (9/24, Tapper), Collins declined to confirm a "no" vote, saying she was waiting on an analysis from the Congressional Budget Office. Collins noted that the Affordable Care Act is "flawed" and that she sees "the work we're doing in the health committee as the path forward." Collins also joined CBS Face the Nation to talk about the bill. However, [Politico](#) (9/24, Robillard) reports that she said "it was 'very difficult for me to imagine a scenario' where she votes for Graham-Cassidy."

NBC's Benjy Sarlin [tweeted](#), "We may see some more 'Psh, I totally wasn't going to vote for that' comments if Collins/Murkowski officially kill it. Still kinda alive now."

Trump: "I Don't Know What They're Doing," But "Eventually We'll Win." The [Washington Post](#) (9/24, Phillip) reports that President Trump "left open the possibility that the latest Republican effort to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act might not be successful" at this time, and said "that his first priority has always been on overhauling the tax code." [The Hill](#) (9/24, Conradis) reports that Trump told reporters, "I have been watching for seven years at the Republicans that have been saying 'repeal and replace' and then you have John McCain voting 'no' for whatever reason. ... So I don't know what they're doing, but you know what? Eventually we'll win, whether it's now or later."

White House Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Short said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (9/24, Wallace) that the bill "is not dead" and "we're trying to win over the last couple of senators to get there." Short said on [NBC's Meet The Press](#) (9/24, Todd) that special interests were making decisions on healthcare, and that they should "push it to the states" to make decisions. He said that "preexisting conditions are protected by this legislation."

Graham Says GOP Will "Get The Votes Next Week." [Politico](#) (9/24, Robillard) reports that

Graham said on ABC's This Week that "the GOP would manage to round up the 50 votes necessary to pass Obamacare repeal through the Senate by the end of the next week. but their path to 50 is unclear." Graham said, "I think we're going to get the votes next week." When asked on [ABC's This Week](#) (9/24, Raddatz) about criticism of the bill from some insurance groups, Graham said, "I would have been surprised if these people were for our bill, because we take money away from them, [and] give it to state governments to design systems that will deliver a better outcome."

McCain Says His Stance Is Not About Trump. The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/24, Leonard) reports that McCain "defended his vote against the Republican healthcare bill this summer, saying that his decision was not rooted in antagonism against President Trump for mocking his military record." McCain told [CBS' 60 Minutes](#) (9/24, Stahl), "If I took offense at everybody who has said something about me, or disparaged me or something like that – life is too short. You've gotta move on. And on an issue of this importance to the nation, for me to worry about a personal relationship, then I'm not doing my job."

Some Democrats Wonder If Party Strategy Failed On Healthcare. The [Washington Post](#) (9/24, Weigel) reports, "This week, as Senate Republicans scrambled one more time to unravel the Affordable Care Act on a party-line vote, some Democrats asked whether it all could have been prevented with a little more strategy." They wonder if the agreement that Schumer and House Minority Leader Pelosi reached with Trump "on the debt limit that cleared the calendar" gave the GOP time to revisit healthcare, or if Sen. Bernie Sanders' announcement of a Medicare For All bill energized conservatives. One Democratic voter at an Iowa event told the Post, "That should have waited. They should have gotten this bill put down and decided what to do from there."

Sen. Cory Booker said on [MSNBC's Politics Nation](#) (9/24) that "every member of the Democratic caucus knows that right now what we need to be focused on is protecting and defending the Affordable Care Act. And actually working in a bipartisan manner to make it better, which we had going on." Several Democratic senators tweeted about the bill on Sunday. Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto [tweeted](#), "#GrahamCassidy is not about Republicans and Democrats, it's about life and death. Stop playing politics with healthcare." Sen. Kamala Harris [tweeted](#), "Don't stop calling, writing letters, and tweeting, telling Senators to vote NO on #GrahamCassidy. This isn't over until Sept 30th." Sen. Ron Wyden [tweeted](#), "As ranking member on cmte w/jurisdiction over health care, I've seen a lot of health care proposals. #GrahamCassidy is BAD POLICY & cruel."

Dionne: GOP Rushing Bill In Search Of "A Win." E.J. Dionne writes in his [Washington Post](#) (9/24) column, "There is only one reason the Senate even considered a vote this week: The GOP base, and particularly the party's donor class, wants repeal. ... Republicans scheduled a quickie, last-minute hearing this week for show. Because Trump and his party want 'a win,' they're willing to wreak havoc on the insurance markets, state governments and people's lives to get it."

Trump, Pence Urge GOP To Repeal Obamacare As McCain Opposes Healthcare Bill.

[Politico](#) (9/22, Nelson) reports President Trump on Friday "warned Republicans...to fall in line behind last-ditch legislation in the Senate to repeal and replace Obamacare, writing online that any GOP lawmaker who votes against the bill will be remembered as 'the Republican who saved Obamacare'" and he "singled out" Sen. Rand Paul. The President [tweeted](#), "Rand Paul, or whoever votes against Hcare Bill, will forever (future political campaigns) be known as 'the Republican who saved ObamaCare.'"

The [Indianapolis Star](#) (9/22, Cook, King, Groppe, Lange) reports Vice President Pence on Friday also "turned his attention to health care" on a visit to Indiana "to drum up support for tax reform," as he "called on Congress to pass the Graham-Cassidy health care bill." Speaking in Anderson, Pence "acknowledged the effort would not be easy" and admitted "some have gone so far as to announce their opposition already," but said he and Trump "remained 'undeterred' and could not 'in good conscience abandon this cause.'" The Vice President added, "A vote against Graham-Cassidy is a vote to save Obamacare. ... The Republican majority in Congress in particular was not elected to save Obamacare, they were elected to repeal and replace it – and it's time for every member of the Republican majority to keep their word to the American people."

Meanwhile, [The Hill](#) (9/22, Greenwood) reports White House counselor Kellyanne Conway said Friday on "Fox & Friends" that the White House is "increasingly optimistic about the chances to pass Graham-Cassidy," which she hailed as "an innovative solution that would still preserve many of the most important components of repealing and replacing ObamaCare, doing away with those draconian taxes and penalties – saving about \$300 billion in taxes, \$485 billion in

spending.”

However, the [New York Times](#) (9/22, A1, Kaplan, Pear) in a front-page article reports Sen. John McCain on Friday “announced...he would oppose the latest proposal to repeal the Affordable Care Act, leaving Republican leaders with little hope of succeeding in their last-ditch attempt to dismantle the health law and fulfill their longstanding promise to conservative voters.” The Times characterizes McCain’s decision as “a slightly less dramatic reprise of his middle-of-the-night thumbs-down that killed the last repeal effort in July.” The [Washington Post](#) (9/22, A1, Sullivan, Eilperin) says on its front page that McCain’s announcement left “the latest Republican effort to dismantle the Affordable Care Act...on the brink of failure” with Senate Majority Leader McConnell and the President backed “into a difficult corner” because “they must now decide whether to continue to pursue a vote that increasingly appears likely to fail, or short-circuit the endeavor and deal with the backlash after another unsuccessful try.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#)’s (9/22, story 4, 2:40, Muir) Mary Bruce reported “McCain might have just killed this new repeal, because Republicans can only afford to lose two votes. Rand Paul has already said no. And McCain did this even though his own best friend in the Senate, Lindsey Graham, is one of the architects.” In a front-page article, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/22, A1, Armour, Peterson) reports McCain in his statement said, “I cannot in good conscience vote for the Graham-Cassidy proposal. I believe we could do better working together, Republicans and Democrats, and have not yet really tried,” He added, “I take no pleasure in announcing my opposition. Far from it. The bill’s authors are my dear friends, and I think the world of them. I know they are acting consistently with their beliefs and sense of what is best for the country. So am I.”

In addition, [Politico](#) (9/22, McCaskill) reports Sen. Rand Paul, “a definitive ‘no’ on Senate Republicans’ last-ditch effort to repeal and replace Obamacare,” in a series of tweets said Friday that despite the President’s remarks, he “won’t be bribed or bullied” into voting for the legislation. Paul [asserted](#), “No one is more opposed to Obamacare than I am, and I’ve voted multiple times for repeal. The current bill isn’t repeal.” He [added](#), “I won’t vote for Obamacare Lite that keeps 90% of the taxes & spending just so some people can claim credit for something that didn’t happen” Paul [continued](#), “Calling a bill that KEEPS most of Obamacare ‘repeal’ doesn’t make it true. That’s what the swamp does. I won’t be bribed or bullied.”

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/22, story 3, 2:10, Mason), chief congressional correspondent Nancy Cordes said the “GOP repeal effort has been just as rushed as past attempts, leaving” Sen. Cory Gardner and other Republican senators “scrambling to figure out what it would mean for their states before next Saturday’s vote deadline.” She added that “with McCain and...Paul opposed, GOP leaders can’t afford to lose another senator.”

In the lead [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/22, lead story, 2:20, Holt) segment, Capitol Hill correspondent Kasie Hunt reported that “in the spotlight: undecided Sen. Lisa Murkowski,” which prompted the Vice President to go on Alaska radio “to keep up the pressure.” Pence said, “I probably don’t need to tell the people of Alaska about the failings of national socialized healthcare.” Hunt added Pence also lobbied Sen. Susan Collins, but the [AP](#) (9/22, Villeneuve) reports Collins “said Friday she’s ‘leaning against’ a new Republican proposal to eliminate the Affordable Care Act but is waiting on an analysis by the Congressional Budget Office before making a final decision.” When asked about Trump’s tweet on Friday, Collins “said she wants to fix serious issues in the health care law.” According to the AP, Collins’ comments came as Maine Gov. Paul LePage met with Pence in Washington, DC “to promote the legislation. LePage said the bill represents the ‘best chance’ to reform the current system and to return decision-making on health care funding to the states.”

According to the [Washington Post](#) (9/22, Sullivan), “consumer health organization” Community Catalyst Action Fund, which is “trying to defeat the latest Republican attempt to dismantle the Affordable Care Act,” on Friday launched a nearly \$200,000 radio advertising campaign focused on pressuring McCain, Murkowski, Collins and fellow Sens. Rob Portman and Shelley Moore Capito to oppose the legislation.

Trump Criticizes McCain For “Terrible” Opposition To Repeal And Replace. [The Hill](#) (9/22, Byrnes) reports that in his speech at a campaign rally in Huntsville, Alabama on Friday, Trump “chided” McCain over his “totally unexpected” and “terrible” opposition and insisted that when it comes to repealing and replacing Obamacare, “We’re going to do it eventually.”

Schumer Thanks McCain For Opposition, But Warns Democrats Against Celebrating. [Politico](#) (9/22, Schor, Caygle) reports Senate Majority Leader Schumer in a statement thanked McCain for his “courage” in opposing the healthcare bill and asserted he has “assured Senator McCain that as soon as repeal is off the table, we Democrats are intent on resuming the bipartisan process.”

However, Politico says that Schumer “signaled” Democrats not to celebrate and “they reminded each other in public and private on Friday that, McCain’s opposition aside, only the Sept. 30 expiration of Republicans’ ability to push through repeal with 50 votes can give Obamacare supporters room to breathe easy.”

GOP Sought To Placate Angry Donors With Latest Push For Obamacare Repeal. The [New York Times](#) (9/22, Hulse) reports “the backlash from big donors as well as the grass roots panicked Senate Republicans and was part of the motivation behind the sudden zeal to take one last crack at repealing the health care law before the end of the month.” The Times says that in the face of McCain’s new opposition, “Republicans must confront the possibility that they will once again let down their backers with no big win in sight.” According to the Times, “Republicans say the fund-raising drop-off has been steep and across the board, from big donations to the small ones the party solicits online from the grass roots.” The Times adds that GOP officials “say the hostile views of both large and small donors are in unusual alignment and that the negative sentiment is crystallized in the fund-raising decline.”

American Healthcare Associations “Mobilized” Against GOP Bill. In an analysis, the [Washington Post](#) (9/22, Ingraham) says that “one factor in the bill’s apparent (although not yet certain) demise: Cassidy-Graham has mobilized nearly the entire American health-care community in opposition.” The Post provides a list of national advocacy groups that oppose the measure and “strikingly...was unable to identify any medical associations that support the measure.” However, while “some antiabortion groups, such as the March for Life and National Right to Life, do support the bill,” the Post adds “they are not primarily medical or health-care-oriented in focus.”

In his [New York Times](#) (9/22) column, David Leonhardt asserts that because “defenders of the new Trumpcare – the Graham-Cassidy bill – are telling Jimmy Kimmel to be quiet and leave the health policy debate to the experts,” he shares the statements from the American Medical Association, American Nurses Association, American Hospital Association, AARP, and other major healthcare organizations criticizing the legislation.

Polls Highlight Opposition To GOP Healthcare Plan, Support For Single-Payer Healthcare. The [Hill](#) (9/22, Sullivan) reports a new [poll](#) of 638 “registered voters” (9/20-9/21) “from the left-leaning Public Policy Polling finds that less than a quarter of respondents approve of the Senate GOP’s latest repeal and replacement bill, while 50 percent disapprove.” In particular, “46 percent of voters said they would be less likely to vote for a member of Congress if he or she voted for Graham-Cassidy, while 23 percent would be more likely,” and 77 percent “said they agreed with late-night host Jimmy Kimmel that no one should be denied coverage because they cannot afford it.”

The [Washington Post](#) (9/22, Phillips) reports a Washington Post-ABC News poll of 1,002 “adults” (9/18-9/21) “finds that more than half of Americans prefer Obamacare (56 percent) to the latest GOP plan,” while 33 percent “prefer the bill that Senate Republicans, panicked by a month back home with their base and no Obamacare repeal to show, abruptly put on the table this month.” The Post adds that what is “worse for Republicans: Roughly twice as many people strongly prefer the current law to Republicans’ plan, 42 to 22 percent.” However, the Post acknowledges “Democrats are unsurprisingly supportive of the current health-care law – in all 85 percent of them prefer it to the Republican plan, with 70 percent strongly preferring it” whereas “Republicans favor the new plan by a nearly 3 to 1 margin, 66 to 23 percent over the current health-care law. But note that nearly a quarter of their party doesn’t support this bill, which is the closest thing to an Obamacare repeal that Congress has seriously considered.”

According to [The Hill](#) (9/22, Easley), the latest Harvard-Harris Poll survey of 2,177 “registered voters” (9/17-9/20) “found 52 percent favor a single-payer system against 48 who oppose it.” The Hill reports “a strong majority of Democrats – 69 percent – back the idea. Republicans oppose single-payer, 65-35, and independents are split, with 51 percent opposing and 49 supporting.” The Hill emphasizes that “the best-polling aspect of single-payer is the public’s belief that it will cover more people. Sixty-nine percent said it would provide more coverage, including 54 percent of Republicans.”

WSJournal Criticizes McCain, Paul For Healthcare Stance. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/22) laments that Sens. John McCain and Rand Paul are tarnishing their respective legislative records by opposing Republican efforts to repeal Obamacare and reform the country’s healthcare system. The Journal worries their actions will backfire on GOP moderates and leave Americans with fewer healthcare options.

WSJournal: Obamacare Mandate Hurts Low-Income Families. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/22) editorializes that IRS data reveals the Obamacare insurance mandate is disproportionately hurting low-income families. The Journal contends that failure to repeal the law and reform the

US healthcare system reinforces this status quo.

New Travel Restriction Policy Adds Chad, North Korea, Venezuela To List; Sudan Removed.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/24, story 10, 0:25, Llamas) reported that President Trump has revealed “his new travel ban. ... The President issu[ed] a new order, imposing travel restrictions on Chad, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Somalia, Syria, Venezuela, and Yemen.” The [CBS Weekend News](#) (9/24, story 4, 0:30, Quijano) reported that DHS “says these countries do not share sufficient information with the US or have not taken necessary security precautions.”

The [AP](#) (9/24, Colvin) reports that the restrictions “range from full travel bans on nationals from countries like Syria to more targeted restrictions. A suspension of non-immigrant visas to citizens for Venezuela, for instance, applies only to senior government officials and their immediate families.” The announcement came on “the same day as Trump’s temporary ban on visitors from six Muslim-majority countries is set to expire, 90 days after it went into effect.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (9/24, Dopp, Olorunnipa) reports that the President wrote in his proclamation, “I must act to protect the security and interests of the United States and its people.”

[USA Today](#) (9/24, Toppo) reports that while Chad, North Korea, and Venezuela have been added to the list, one nation on the original travel ban list – Sudan – has been removed. Administration officials said that Sudan “was cooperating with both monitoring security and sharing information with the US government.” Ryan Grim of The Intercept [tweeted](#), “Sudan getting dropped from the travel ban comes as the UAE has been lobbying hard for them in DC in exchange for mercenary support in Yemen.” (The [Washington Post](#) (9/24, Barrett) writes that Iraq was removed from the list between the original and second versions of the ban. [The Hill](#) (9/24, Beavers) reports that DHS now advise that “Iraqi nationals should ‘be subject to additional scrutiny to determine if they pose risks to the national security or public safety of the United States.’”)

The [New York Times](#) (9/24, Shear) reports that officials also “described the new order as a much more targeted effort than the president’s earlier one. Each of the countries will be under its own set of travel restrictions, though in most cases citizens of the countries will be unable to emigrate” to the US, “and most will be barred from coming to work, study or vacation in America.”

The [New York Times](#) (9/24, Shear) reports that lawyers who filed challenges to the previous travel ban “left open the possibility that they would also challenge the new restrictions.” Anthony Romero of the ACLU said, “This is an apparent effort to paper over the original sin of the Muslim ban, especially when just last week Trump said he wanted a ‘larger, tougher, more specific’ ban.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/24, Lauter, King) reports that “immigrant advocacy groups made clear that they would use many of the same arguments against the new restrictions.” Frank Sharry of America’s Voice said, “This is the Muslim ban by another approach. [Trump is] doing this to circumvent the courts and ban people based on the God they pray to, and that’s unconstitutional.”

The [Washington Times](#) (9/24, Dinan) reports, “No visas already issued in any of the countries will be revoked, but new visas will face the restrictions. The old travel policy remains in effect for now, with the carve-outs the Supreme Court imposed in June. The new restrictions generally take effect Oct. 18.”

Several Democrats commented on Twitter. Rep. Nanette Barragán (D-CA) [tweeted](#), “@realDonaldTrump can pretend all he want, but the new #travelban is the same racist policy as before. #NoMuslimBanEver”. Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO) [tweeted](#), “This #travelban, too, will be challenged in the courts.” Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard (D-CA) [tweeted](#), “This new #TravelBan is another discriminatory gimmick by POTUS that does not address our nation’s security needs.”

[Reuters](#) (9/24, Mason, Stewart), the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/24, Meckler), the [Washington Examiner](#) (9/24, Feldscher), and the [ABC News](#) (9/24) and [NBC News](#) (9/25) websites have similar coverage.

Experts Say SCOTUS May Now Decide Not To Hear Case Challenging Ban. [Reuters](#) (9/24, Hurley) writes that the new policy could mean that the Supreme Court will “skip deciding the case altogether,” since “the March 6 order under Supreme Court review banned travelers from six Muslim-majority countries and limited refugee admissions.” Experts say that “with the travel restrictions expiring, the court has an easy way out because it could simply say that the case is no longer a live issue and therefore, in legal parlance, moot.”

Trump: Border Wall Will Be “See Through.”

[The Hill](#) (9/22, Manchester) reports President Trump “told a crowd of supporters in Alabama on Friday night that his proposed wall along the U.S.-Mexico border would be ‘see through.’” Trump asserted, “The wall is happening. In fact, you probably saw, you know, we have a wall up there now, and re-renovating it already. It’s being made pristine, perfect, just as good as new, though we may go a little higher than that, but that’s OK. And we are building samples of a new wall. You know, it has to be a see-through wall.” He added, “If you can’t [see] through it, you don’t know who’s on the other side. Let’s say we build a pre-cast concrete wall and now we have people on the other side,” he continued. “It’s going to stop drugs. It’s going to stop a lot of bad things.”

Trump Focuses On Tax Reform, Promising “Largest Tax Cut” In US History.

[The Hill](#) (9/22, Greenwood) reports President Trump in his [weekly address](#) renewed his push for tax reform on Friday by previewing “a plan to simplify the tax code and lower corporate tax rates.” Trump explained that the Administration is “pursuing tax cuts and reform that create jobs in America, for American workers – not foreign workers, but American workers,” adding that “it will be the largest tax cut in our country’s history.” The Hill adds that a “key focus” of the plan will be the repatriation of “trillions of dollars in wealth held overseas.”

Pence Discusses Tax Reform During Indiana Visit. The [Indianapolis Star](#) (9/22) reports Vice President Pence on Friday visited Anderson, Indiana to speak about Trump’s upcoming tax overhaul plan. The [AP](#) (9/22, Slodysko) calls Pence’s visit “the continuation of a campaign by” the Administration “that is alternately attempting to woo and strong-arm [Sen. Joe Donnelly] into supporting whatever the GOP plan ends up being.” Donnelly, the AP says, is one of just three “Democratic senators who did not sign a letter addressed to Republican leaders and Trump that said the Democratic caucus would not support a tax overhaul that cuts taxes for the ‘top 1 percent’ or adds to the government’s \$20 trillion debt.” In a separate article, the [AP](#) (9/22) notes that Donnelly “has been coy thus far about whether he will support the GOP effort.”

The [AP](#) (9/22) reports Pence also announced during his speech that the President will visit Indianapolis next Wednesday to promote his tax reform plan. The [Indianapolis Star](#) (9/22, Groppe, Lange) suggests the state “is getting lots of attention in the Trump administration’s effort to win bipartisan support for a tax package because of Sen. Joe Donnelly,” who “crosses party lines more than most members of his party, including on some tax issues.” If Donnelly does not, the Star adds, “Republicans could use that against him in next year’s election.”

Republicans Prepare For Big Tax Week. The [Washington Post](#) (9/22, Debonis, Sullivan, Paletta) reports Republicans are targeting a 20 percent corporate rate in their tax reform plan, which the Post notes is a “substantial cut” from current rates despite falling “short of the 15 percent President Trump has long pushed for.” According to other “Republicans familiar the emerging details,” the plan will also include a temporary provision that allows “‘full expensing,’ which permits businesses to fully deduct their capital expenses immediately rather than writing off their depreciation over the course of several years.” According to Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, the lower rate and expensing provisions “will kick-start the economy in a way that reflects every Republican who has a vowel in his name.” Norquist also believes that Congress will extend the expensing provision indefinitely, once its popularity becomes apparent.

The [New York Times](#) (9/22, Rappoport) reports Republicans say that “the tax cuts will essentially pay for themselves by generating robust economic growth,” rejecting criticisms of the soon-to-be-unveiled plan and “setting the stage for a fight with Washington’s economic scorekeepers – such as the Joint Committee on Taxation and the Congressional Budget Office.” According to the Times, Republicans fear that the two bodies “will underestimate the amount of economic growth from their” reforms, which the Administration believes will reach 3%. Other groups are also “urging Republicans to stop relying on the taxation committee, saying it uses an antiquated economic model that underestimates growth.” The objections, the piece adds, come “ahead of a big tax week,” which includes a two-day House Ways and Means Committee “policy retreat” to discuss tax policy starting Sunday and an anticipated release of the Administration’s tax framework on Wednesday.

Poll Finds 89 Percent Of Voters Support Tax Reform, Simplification. [The Hill](#) (9/22, Easley) reports the latest Harvard-Harris Poll of 2,177 “registered voters” (9/17-9/20) found that 89 percent of voters surveyed support tax reform. What’s more, there is strong support for the Administration’s approach, with 58 percent in favor of “lowering corporate rates and incentivizing companies to bring foreign profits back into the country,” and 45 percent saying that reform should prioritize simplification, “followed by 31 percent who said reform should aim to stimulate jobs and 24 percent who said it should cut taxes.” According to Harvard-Harris co-director Mark

Penn, “support for dropping the top rate back to 35 [percent] in exchange for fewer deductions and for business tax cuts so long as they bring their overseas profits back home.” However, he adds, a deduction cap is “the best way to move forward” because the public “is reticent to give up any specific deductions.”

Former Treasury Secretary Provides Principles To Guide Tax Reform. Former Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew writes at the [New York Times](#) (9/22, Lew) on four principles that “should guide Congress in the coming debate” over tax reform. Lew argues that changes “must at least maintain the current levels of progressivity,” or it would risk deepening the “income inequality that underlies the anxiety and anger among American voters.” Similarly, he says that the “cuts need to be revenue neutral, paid for by reducing tax subsidies, ending loopholes or generating new revenue,” or they will “open the door to cuts in basic programs for low- and middle-income families.” The reforms must also not open up new loopholes that would facilitate tax evasion. Finally, Lew advises lawmakers to rely on estimates from the Joint Committee on Taxation and the Congressional Budget Office, warning that ignoring their projections “would almost surely produce an explosion of debt.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Puerto Rico Is American. We Can’t Ignore It Now.” A [New York Times](#) (9/24) editorial urges federal help for Puerto Rico, arguing that while it “cannot vote for president and has no voting representatives in Congress,” its citizens “are entitled to the same federal emergency funds and resources that Washington has been funneling to the far more politically powerful and economically resilient states of Texas and Florida in their hurricane miseries.”

“The Day The Real Patriots Took A Knee.” A [New York Times](#) (9/24) editorial says President Trump’s remarks about NFL protests “provide further evidence that he has no concern for the legitimate and deeply felt fears and grievances of minority Americans.”

“In Germany, A Victory For Angela Merkel And Populism.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/24) says German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s Christian Democrats “came in first in the German national election on Sunday” as anticipated, “assuring her of a fourth term as chancellor.” Since “coalition governments are the norm” in Germany, however, “voting is only the start of a process that can take months before a government emerges.” Merkel now “faces a formidable challenge,” in part because the far-right Alternative for Germany will enter Parliament. The politically greater challenge, the Times says, is the loss of Merkel’s “partner, the Social Democrats.” The Times says hopefully Merkel’s negotiations with potential coalition partners will not result in the “erosion of the values the chancellor has defended in the past” and have “helped Germany, Europe and the world.”

Washington Post.

“The Is What The Flag Stands For, Mr. President.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/24) says that while it is “embarrassing...to have to explain to the children that we have a president who speaks so rudely,” as it is “playing into the diversion he may seek when he finds himself flummoxed by Kim Jong Un or Sen. John McCain,” in some ways, “there is nothing more important than his misguided understanding of how to truly respect the flag.” The Post adds that “the response to Mr. Trump’s ugly tweets and threats, from players and team owners, reflects an encouraging consensus that the real way to respect the American flag is to respect the diversity of opinion it protects.”

“Amid The Russia Probes, Trump Makes An Important Nomination.” The [Washington Post](#) (9/24) says in an editorial that “it comes as welcome news that President Trump has named the well-qualified Adam Klein to chair” the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, “established on the recommendation of the 9/11 Commission...to provide independent oversight to ensure that national security and counterterrorism programs are conducted with appropriate protections for civil liberties.” The board “has been unable to perform its oversight role since January, when two members stepped down,” and Klein merits a quick confirmation. The Post says the Administration should also “continue working to get the board to a quorum and fully staff it, consulting with Democratic leaders in Congress to settle on nominees for the board’s two minority positions.”

“Good Luck Not Rolling Your Eyes At The Virginia Candidates’ Magic Math.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/24) attacks the “illogic at the heart of” Virginia’s Republican gubernatorial candidate Ed Gillespie’s tax proposal, “which would reduce income taxes by 10 percent over three

years, costing the state more than \$1.3 billion in annual revenue." The Post editorializes that "by an act of magical thinking," Gillespie says this revenue reduction "wouldn't put a dent in spending." Meanwhile, that tax plan of Democratic candidate Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam is "hardly more tethered to earthly reality," the Post writes. Northam would "scrap the state's 2.5 percent grocery tax for lower-income residents," but he "leaves unexplained which state-supported services would bear the brunt of the giveaway." The Post concludes that "of the two, Mr. Gillespie's plan...is the more fanciful and the more insidious," but each plan "would be given short shrift by lawmakers in Richmond, who know better."

Wall Street Journal.

"The Politicization Of Everything." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/24) says in an editorial that the President, NFL players, and the press are mixing politics with sports and the losers are Americans for whom the Sunday games are a break from work and the other divisions of American society.

"Restoring Due Process." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/24) applauds the Education Department's decision on Friday to formally rescind its 2011 "Dear Colleague" guidance on how universities and colleges should adjudicate sexual assault cases under Title IX and argues that the decision represents a return to the rule of law, due process, and the protection of students from provable cases of gender discrimination.

"Merkeldämmerung." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/24) editorial says the successes of Germany's smaller parties, including the far-right Alternative for Germany, free-market Free Democrats, and the Greens, in Sunday's national election reflect German voters' desire for more competitive politics. The Journal says Germans deserve a more vigorous discussion on European Union reform, and in the face of French President Emmanuel Macron's desire for fiscal integration in the bloc, German politicians should seize on the opportunity posed by Merkel's eventual departure and unveil policies that better address the demographic and competitive challenges facing the nation.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Merkel's Coalition Wins, But Support Slips](#)
[German Results Reflect European Unease Over Identity, Economy](#)
[GOP Health Push Hits More Snags](#)
[Leveraged Loans On Pace To Top Pre-Financial Crisis Levels](#)

New York Times:

[Angela Merkel Makes History In German Vote, But So Does Far Right](#)
[New Order Indefinitely Bars Almost All Travel From Seven Countries](#)
[Defying Trump, Athletes Intensify Debate On Race And Protest](#)
[Fueled By Trump's Tweets, Anthem Protests Grow To A Nationwide Rebuke](#)
[Budget Bus Lines Flout The Rules With Little Consequence](#)
[Is Trump All Talk On North Korea? The Uncertainty Sends A Shiver](#)

Washington Post:

[Obama Sought To Prod Facebook On Russia Role](#)
[Health Bill Fails To Find Support](#)
[Kushner Used Private Email For His Official Work](#)
[NFL Players Stand In Solidarity](#)
[White House Expands Travel Ban, Restricting Eight Countries](#)
[After Maria, The Misery Deepens](#)

Financial Times:

[Merkel Set For Fourth Term In Power But Support Weakens Sharply](#)
[London Accused Of "Bogus" Uber Ruling](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump's Call For Boycott Of NFL Reignites Furor Over Players' National Anthem Protests](#)
[Hurricane Relief, 'Chuck And Nancy' Talks Help Lift Trump's Job Approval Ratings](#)

[Republicans Press Ahead With Graham-Cassidy Health Care Bill Despite Mounting Defections In Senate](#)

[Merkel Celebrates Fourth-Term Victory: Right-Wing Nationalists Win Seats In German Parliament](#)
[Trump Expands Enhanced Vetting To Include Chad, North Korea And Venezuela](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: White House-NFL Clash; Pro Sports National Anthem Protests; Tennessee Church Shooting; North Korea Threats; Kushner-Private Email Use; Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Hurricane Tracking; Congress-Healthcare Reform Plan; NYC-Drone Crash; White House-New Travel Restriction; Air Show Crash; Coffee Recall; Disabled Veteran Athlete.

CBS: White House-NFL Clash; Trump-NFL Relations; John Dickerson-WH NFL Clash, Healthcare, North Korea; White House-New Travel Restriction; Tennessee Church Shooting; Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Mexico City Earthquake; German Election Result; Oprah Interview; Afghan Veteran.

NBC: White House-NFL Clash; Tennessee Church Shooting; Congress-Healthcare Reform Plan; German Election Result; Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Germany-ISIS Female Captives Recovery Program; US Spy Satellite Launch; Australia Train Surfing Arrest; Underwater Forest Discovery.

Network TV At A Glance:

White House-NFL Clash – 15 minutes, 15 seconds

Hurricane-Puerto Rico – 7 minutes, 25 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: White House-NFL Clash; White House-New Travel Restriction; Tennessee Church Shooting; Hurricane.

CBS: White House-NFL Clash; White House-New Travel Restriction; Tennessee Church Shooting; US Gasoline Price; Wall Street News.

FOX: White House-New Travel Restriction; White House-NFL Clash; Tennessee Church Shooting.

NPR: Tennessee Church Shooting; Germany Election Result; White House-NFL Clash; Hurricane.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Makes an announcement on the Trump Administration's commitment to equipping the American workforce for jobs of the future; has dinner with grassroots leaders.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Visits NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center; participates in a US Senate Rally for Luther Strange.

US Senate: 10:00 AM Senate Finance Committee hearing on 'Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson' health care reform proposal – Hearing on 'Graham-Cassidy-Heller-Johnson Proposal' * Congressional Republicans are rushing for a vote on the proposal to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act – spearheaded by Republican Sens. Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy and co-sponsored by Republican Sens. Dean Heller and Ron Johnson – before the end of the fiscal year 30 Sep, after which the Senate parliamentarian has ruled that any attempt to repeal 'Obamacare' could not be done under the budget reconciliation process and would therefore need 60 votes to overcome procedural votes in the Senate rather than just 51 (or 50, with a casting vote from Vice President Mike Pence) Location: Rm 215, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://finance.senate.gov>

4:00 PM Senate votes on NLRB nominee, and has goal of passing 'Obamacare' repeal bill by the end of the week – Senate convenes, with agenda including resumption of consideration of the nomination of William Emanuel to be a National Labor Relations Board member, including a vote * Agenda for the week due to include a new proposal to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act – spearheaded by Republican Sens. Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy and co-sponsored by Republican Sens. Dean Heller and Ron Johnson – after the Senate parliamentarian ruled that the 'budget reconciliation process' on such a measure expires at the end of the fiscal year 30 Sep, meaning any procedural votes in the chamber after that date would need 60 to pass rather than just 51 (or 50, with a casting vote from Vice President Mike Pence). The proposal has been criticized for lacking protection for people with pre-existing medical conditions, although President Donald Trump has claimed that it does cover them. Between two and four Senate Republicans are likely to oppose the bill, which could see it fall short of the 50-vote threshold Location: Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

US House: 10:00 AM Reps. Lewis, Kelly, and Demetrius Nash on gun violence. – News conference with Reps. John Lewis & Robin Kelly and Demetrius Nash of Chicago on gun violence prevention. Location: House Triangle.

2:00 PM House of Representatives returns after District Work Period Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM House GOP millennial task force hearing on 'Challenges and Opportunities within the Hydropower Workforce' – House Republican Policy Committee Millennial Task Force hearing on 'Challenges and Opportunities within the Hydropower Workforce', held by Committee Chairman Luke Messer and Task Force Chair Elise Stefanik, with panelists including Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions Director of Policy Charles Hernick, Oak Ridge National Laboratory Research and Development Associate Adam Witt, and Brookfield Renewable Director of Northeast Operations Justin Truedell Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2261, Washington, DC <http://policy.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPpolicy>

5:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 2824 – Increasing Opportunity through Evidence-Based Home Visiting Act' and 'H.R. 2792 – Control Unlawful Fugitive Felons Act of 2017' Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

7:15 PM House Democratic Caucus holds informal reception with media – House Democratic Caucus Chairman Joe Crowley and Vice Chair Linda Sanchez host latest informal, off-the-record reception with reporters and representatives, giving the Capitol Hill press corps an opportunity to socialize with Democratic members Location: HVC-200, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.dems.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseDemocrats>

Other: 12:00 PM Event for media to view NASA spacecraft that will 'touch the sun' – NASA hosts event for media to see the agency's Parker Solar Probe – humanity's first-ever mission to explore the sun's outer atmosphere – and learn about the mission, held at the Johns Hopkins University where the probe is being built * The spacecraft is in full flight configuration, complete with its revolutionary heat shield, and members of the engineering and science teams are available for interviews Location: Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, Laurel, MD <http://www.nasa.gov> <https://twitter.com/NASA>

12:30 PM Democratic Rep. Sander Levin speaks on 'International Trade Policy' at the Council on Foreign Relations Location: Council on Foreign Relations, 1777 F St NW, Washington, DC www.cfr.org <https://twitter.com/CFRLive>

2:00 PM 'Mental Health & The Opioid Crisis' NPC Newsmaker news conference – 'Mental Health & The Opioid Crisis' National Press Club Headliners Newsmaker news conference, with Democratic Rep. Tim Ryan, UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital Marriage and Family Therapist Jackie Schalit, Kaiser Permanente psychologist Kenneth Rogers, and Oriana House Clinical Coordinator Cuyler Costanzo – discussing the opioid crisis and 'what they see as the lack of parity between mental health and physical healthcare' Location: The National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC <http://press.org/> <https://twitter.com/PressClubDC>

2:00 PM Urban Institute discussion on the role of community development financial institutions – 'Building Healthier Economies with CDFIs' Urban Institute discussion, in collaboration with JPMorgan Chase, to highlight the role community development financial institutions play nationally in creating equity and restarting economic growth. Speakers include Republican Rep. Scott Tipton, JPMorgan Chase Executive Director Colleen Briggs, Access to Capital for Entrepreneurs President and CEO Grace Fricks, Chicago Community Loan Fund President Calvin Holmes, National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders Executive Director Noel Poyo, Community Ventures President and CEO Kevin Smith, Urban Institute Senior Research Associate Brett Theodos, and Urban Institute President Sarah Rosen Wartell Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.urban.org <https://twitter.com/urbaninstitute>

4:30 PM Liberian President Sirleaf delivers public address on Capitol Hill – Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf delivers public address on Capitol Hill, hosted by the U.S. Institute of Peace, International Republican Institute, International Foundation for Electoral Systems, National Democratic Institute, National Endowment for Democracy, and Democratic Sen. Chris Coons. She reflects on U.S. support for Liberia under her administration, and calls on the U.S. to 'continue its support for democracy, human rights, and good governance in Africa and around the world'. Other event participants include Sen. Coons and Republican Rep. Ed Royce Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Auditorium, Washington, DC www.usip.org <https://twitter.com/USIP> #SirleafDC

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

No late-night talk show aired on Sunday night.

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



DATE: THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 2017 7:00 AM EDT

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- High Country (CO) News: Legal Scholars Dispute Whether Monuments Are Permanent.
- Alaska Journal of Commerce: Fireworks Fizzle After Alleged Threat Over Vote.
- Williamson (WV) Daily News: Additional Coverage: Officials Applaud Mine Proposal To Create Jobs In West Virginia, Virginia.
- PBS NewsHour: Additional Coverage: Interior Official Turns Whistleblower, Claiming Retaliation For

Climate Change Work.

- Washington Times: 'Go West, Mr. President, Go West'.
- Bozeman (MT) Daily Chronicle: Zinke, Interior Botched Zuckerberg's Visit.
- Jackson Hole (WY) News & Guide: Lead Bullets Poison Wildlife, Our Families.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- 10th Circ. Won't Halt Tribal Gambling Procedures Ruling.

Bureau Of Indian Education

- Judge Dismisses Most Of Title IX Lawsuit Against Haskell.
- Native American Youth And Education On The Reservation.

Bureau Of Land Management

- U.S. News & World Report: Dinosaur Fossil Found On Future Site Of Mountain Bike Route.
- U.S. News & World Report: Officials Investigating Illegal Wild Horse Hazing Report.
- Cleveland Scene Magazine: Ongoing Resistance To Wayne National Forest Fracking As September Land Auction Looms.
- Rochester (MN) Post-Bulletin: Nolan, Emmers Want To Shortcircuit Mining Review.
- Breaking Energy: Progress On Increasing Access To Federal Lands.
- Bend (OR) Bulletin: Editorial: A Needed Second Exit For Crooked River Ranch.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- Hearings Ahead On Oil, Gas Leasing Program.
- Supporters, Detractors Spar Over Seismic Testing For Oil.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- San Antonio Express-News: Environmental Groups Join The Legal Fray On Golden-cheeked Warbler.
- Minneapolis Star Tribune: Nearly 2 Tons Of Seized Ivory To Be Crushed In Central Park.
- U.S. News & World Report: Review Of Nuclear Weapons Plant Says Protections Are Working.
- USA Today: Additional Coverage: Appeals Court Upholds Endangered Species Protection For Great Lakes Gray Wolves.
- Chicago Tribune: Memo To The West: When You Hunt Grizzlies And Wolves, You Lose Midwest Tourists.
- Albuquerque (NM) Journal: Editorial: New Wolf Recovery Plan Needs To Focus On Science.

National Park Service

- Salt Lake (UT) Tribune: National Park Service Grants Money To Preserve Bear River Massacre Site.
- Bangor (ME) Daily News: Maine Historic Preservation Commission Receives National Park Service Grant.
- U.S. News & World Report: Seniors Snap Up US National Park Passes Before Price Hike.
- CNN International: 10-year-old Offers To Mow White House Lawn.
- AM New York: Ellis Island Exhibit 'Streets Paved With Gold' To Feature New Yorkers' Handwritten Stories.
- Flathead (MT) Beacon: Glacier Park Announces New Procedures For Motorized Boats On Lake McDonald.
- Waynesville (NC) Smoky Mountain News: NPS Re-establishes Partnership With Oconaluftee Job Corps Center.
- Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel: Tips Sought In Smokies Hit-And-Run Crash That Injured Teenage Girl.
- U.S. News & World Report: Acadia Reopens Cliffs, Trails After Closures To Help Falcons.
- Inside NoVa (VA): Comments Being Solicited On Proposals For Theodore Roosevelt Island.
- Sierra Star (CA): This Park Ranger Has Been Selected As One Of The Nation's Best.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Marianas Variety: Interior Releases \$3M For Compact-Impact.
- Virgin Islands Daily News: Plaskett Touts Cooperation Amid 'Crazy' Washington Scene.
- Honolulu Civil Beat (HI): Court Rejects Marshall Islands' Suit Against US Over Nuclear Treaty.
- Reuters: Shunned From Bond Market, U.S. Virgin Islands Faces Cash Crisis.
- WMGT-TV Macon (GA): U.S. Test-Launches ICBM As Tensions Rise With North Korea.

Office Of Surface Mining

- Coal Mine Reclamation Project Will Clean Up Cook's Run.

US Geological Survey

- Oregon Public Broadcasting: Scientists On Case Of Deadly Bat Disease Discover New Clues.
- NJ News: Rapid Rise Of Coastal 'Ghost Forests' Provides Startling Glimpse Of Future.
- TIME: Total Solar Eclipse: How Everyone In America Can See It.
- New York Times: When Life On Earth Was Nearly Extinguished.
- Scientific American: How To Film A Polar Bear.

Top National News

- Bloomberg News: Trump Unveils Legal Immigration Plan Prioritizing English Speakers, Skilled Workers.
- ABC: Trump Signs "Seriously Flawed" Russia Sanctions Bill, Criticizing Congress As He Does So.
- Washington Examiner: Some Senate Republicans Hope To Return To ACA After Tax Reform.
- CNN: Mexico Denies Trump Claim About Phone Call Regarding Border Security.
- Bloomberg News: Meadows Says Congress Will Raise Debt Ceiling.
- The Hill: Meadows Seeks Corporate Tax Rate In High Teens.
- National Journal: National Journal Analysis: Trump Has Seen Most Success On Agency Regulations.
- Associated Press: EPA Highlights Improvements In Air Quality.

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DOI In The News

Interior Chief Zinke Spares Another Monument, Recommends No Changes To Upper Missouri River Breaks.

The [Washington Times](#) (8/2, Wolfgang) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has "spared another historic site," announcing Wednesday "that he will not recommend any changes to the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument." Zinke said in a statement that "the 378,000-acre monument is no longer a part of his comprehensive review of more than two dozen monuments across the country."

The [New York Times](#) (8/2, Lipton) reports that Zinke said, "The monument is one of the only free-flowing areas of the Missouri that remains as Lewis and Clark saw it more than 200 years ago."

The [AP](#) (8/2, Daly) reports that Montana Gov. Steve Bullock "had asked Zinke to keep the Breaks monument unchanged as he reviews 27 national monuments designated by previous presidents." The Montana monument is "the fourth Zinke has removed from his review ahead of a final report due later this month." Twenty-three other national monuments still "face curtailing or elimination of protections put in place over the past two decades by presidents from both

parties.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [ABC News](#) (8/2, Daly), the [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (8/2, Daly), the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (8/2), [Business Insider](#) (8/2, Daly), the [Harrisonburg \(VA\) Daily News Record](#) (8/2, Daly), the [Springfield \(OH\) News Sun](#) (8/2), the [Traverse City \(MI\) Record-Eagle](#) (8/2, Daly), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (8/2, Daly), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (8/2, Daly), the [Daily Mail](#) (8/2), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (8/1, Daly), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (8/2, Daly), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (8/2, Daly), and the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (8/2, Matthew Daly |, Ap).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (8/2, Lutey), [KTVO-TV Billings \(MT\)](#) Billings, MT (8/2, Klemann), and [KPAX-TV Missoula \(MT\)](#) Missoula, MT (8/2, Klemann).

Zinke Meets With Sportsmen As Some Ask ‘What Happened’ To Him.

[E&E Publishing](#) (8/2, Streater, Yachnin) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Wednesday met “with sporting groups in a closed-door meeting in Washington, even as a national sportsmen’s organization launched an ad campaign in Zinke’s home state of Montana questioning his ongoing review of national monuments and his overall commitment to public lands.” Zinke “hosted the private ‘Sportsmen’s Summit’ with dozens of organizations, including the Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, the National Rifle Association, Safari Club International and the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.” Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift said, “Access to our public lands for hunting and fishing is at the heart of Secretary Zinke’s agenda, which is why on day one he signed an order to look into areas to open up access. Today’s summit brought together more than 30 sportsmen’s organizations and wildlife conservation organizations at the Department to talk about how we can all work together to achieve this mission.”

Montana Sportsmen’s Group Criticizes Secretary Zinke In Ad Campaign. [Montana Public Radio](#) (8/2) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is “now the target of a new ad campaign launched by a Montana-based sportsmen’s group.” They’re concerned that “Zinke’s review of other national monuments could put a damper on hunting and fishing in public lands and water.” Land Tawney, CEO of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, says in an ad, “Make no mistake, Zinke’s national monument review threatens our heritage and thousands of jobs. Mr. Secretary, don’t turn your back on Roosevelt now.” The group is “launching a seven-figure radio, TV and web campaign.”

Legal Scholars Dispute Whether Monuments Are Permanent.

The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (8/2, Shogren) reports that “the high regard given” national monuments is “part of what makes President Donald Trump’s order to review all large monuments designated since 1996 so extraordinary.” The article notes that “courts have never decided whether a president has the legal authority to change or undo a designated monument, and now this uncertainty has sparked a clash of legal titans.” According to the article, “a multitude of legal experts — including 121 law professors — argue that presidents lack the power to alter or revoke monuments.” However, “a much smaller but no less adamant group asserts the opposite.” As a result, “the ultimate fate of any monuments Trump targets likely will lie with the courts.”

Additional coverage of the review of national monuments was provided by the [Moapa Valley \(NV\) Progress](#) (8/2, Robison), the [Arizona Daily Star](#) (8/2, Davis), the [Vail \(CO\) Daily](#) (8/2, Boyd), the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (8/2, Davidge), and [Ricochet](#) (8/2, Gabriel).

Fireworks Fizzle After Alleged Threat Over Vote.

The [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (8/2, Brehmer) reports that “the seemingly odd mix of health care and resource issues was blended July 26” when Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke called Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan “separately on behalf of President Donald Trump and expressed displeasure” with Murkowski’s vote against the repeal of the Affordable Care Act. Alaska Chamber CEO Curtis Thayer “said he also got a call from the nation’s capital July 26, but his call was from a friend there who said if he received a call from an unknown number he should answer it, as it would likely be from Zinke’s office.” Thayer “said he would be surprised if the administration actually tried to exact revenge in any material form on Alaska as a result of Murkowski’s health insurance votes.” He said, “I just don’t see with Secretary Zinke visiting here in May and the comments he made publicly — and the direction of the delegation — I don’t see a harsh penalty. I think there could be a reminder that we need to work together; you have things we need and

we have things you need, but I just don't see it being a long-term penalty — penalizing the state.”

Murkowski Earns Respect; ANWR Needs Protection. In an op-ed for the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (8/2, Demientieff), Bernadette Demientieff, executive director of the Gwich' in Steering Committee, lauds Murkowski “for her stand to protect the interest of the people’s health in this country” and expresses disappointment “by President Trump’s and Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke’s response.” Demientieff claims that “this administration’s response to Murkowski is a clear indication that they do not care about my land or my people.” She asserts that “the total lack of concern Trump and Zinke have shown during this incident must provide further incentive for Congress to take drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge off the table.”

Additional Coverage: Officials Applaud Mine Proposal To Create Jobs In West Virginia, Virginia.

Additional coverage that Secretary Ryan Zinke “this week applauded the initial construction of the Berwind Mine located on the border of West Virginia and Virginia” was provided by the [Williamson \(WV\) Daily News](#) (8/3).

Additional Coverage: Interior Official Turns Whistleblower, Claiming Retaliation For Climate Change Work.

Additional coverage of the reassignment of Interior official Joel Clement was provided by [PBS NewsHour](#) (8/2).

‘Go West, Mr. President, Go West’.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Times](#) (8/2, Hunt), Jeff Hunt, the Chairman of the Western Conservative Summit, Director of the Centennial Institute, and Vice President of Public Policy for Colorado Christian University, writes that “Western conservatives are fighting hard to advance conservative principles and public policy in their states.” He says that “Ryan Zinke, a Western conservative himself, was a great selection as U.S. secretary of the Interior.” In particular, Hunt welcomes Zinke’s actions on energy development and the review of national monuments. Hunt looks forward to “a visit from the president to the Western United States,” which “would strengthen grass-roots conservatives and help the president’s agenda.”

Zinke, Interior Botched Zuckerberg’s Visit.

In an editorial, the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (8/3) criticizes the Trump Administration and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for blocking “Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg from meeting with Glacier Nation Park’s superintendent and a prominent federal climate scientist.” The paper says that “if the intent behind this juvenile move was to distract attention from climate change, it had precisely the opposite effect, drawing more attention to the issue than it would have garnered had the meeting gone on as scheduled.” In conclusion, the paper seriously hopes that the Trump Administration will rethink its position on climate change and that Zinke “and his staff can find more important things to do with their time than deciding who goes along on celebrity tours.”

Lead Bullets Poison Wildlife, Our Families.

In a piece for the [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (8/2, Hatch), Cory Hatch writes that “in March one of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s first official acts was to reverse an Obama-era rule that would have phased out lead bullets on public lands.” Hatch questions why we would allow “children to eat meat tainted with lead bullet fragments?” According to Hatch, “Zinke enacted a reversal that, while popular with his constituents, only harms the American public and wildlife.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

10th Circ. Won’t Halt Tribal Gambling Procedures Ruling.

[Law360](#) (8/2, Powell) reports that “the Tenth Circuit refused Wednesday to halt the effect of its ruling that the head of the U.S. Department of the Interior lacks the authority to approve procedures allowing the Pueblo of Pojoaque to continue its casino operations in New Mexico in the absence of a state gambling compact.”

Bureau Of Indian Education

Judge Dismisses Most Of Title IX Lawsuit Against Haskell.

The [AP](#) (8/2) reports that “a federal judge has dismissed most of a Title IX lawsuit filed against Haskell Indian Nations University by a former student who says she was treated unfairly and ultimately expelled after she reported she was raped in a dormitory three years ago by two football players.” In his decision, U.S. District Judge J. Thomas Marten sided “with attorneys for the university who argued that Title IX doesn’t apply to Haskell as it does to other public colleges because the school is a federal agency operated by the Bureau of Indian Education.” Marten allowed “the woman’s request to allow a Privacy Act claim to proceed in court.” However, he held “that the woman, who has been named Jane Doe H. in court filings, would have to use her name to proceed with that claim.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Lawrence \(KS\) Journal World](#) (8/2, Shepherd).

Native American Youth And Education On The Reservation.

[The Atlantic](#) (8/2, Wong) reports on the challenges facing students on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Increasingly, some students “see educational attainment as key to reclaiming Native identity and culture.” Jacob Rosales, who will study at Yale University, said, “We are part of the Seventh Generation ... prophesied to be the generation that creates those individuals that will spearhead the economic, spiritual, and social renewal.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Dinosaur Fossil Found On Future Site Of Mountain Bike Route.

The [AP](#) (8/2) reports that “Colorado government officials say they found a dinosaur fossil while they were conducting early surveys for a bike trail.” According to the article, “experts believe the large lower leg bone belonged to a duck-billed dinosaur named hadrosaur that roamed in the Grand Junction area 70 million years ago.” The fossil was “removed from “the future site of the 30-mile (48-kilometer) Palisade Plunge mountain biking route” by “a Bureau of Land Management team, a local paleontologist and a sedimentologist last week.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KUSA-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (8/2, Moraitis).

Officials Investigating Illegal Wild Horse Hazing Report.

The [AP](#) (8/2) reports that the Bureau of Land Management and the Emery County Sheriff’s Office have “launched an investigation after a photographer reported seeing members of the sheriff’s search and rescue team harassing wild mustangs.” According to the article, “the photographer captured images of men on ATV and bikes chasing horses July 9.” BLM spokeswoman Lisa Reid “says the photographer handed over the photos and a video to the BLM, which has begun an investigation.”

Ongoing Resistance To Wayne National Forest Fracking As September Land Auction Looms.

[Cleveland Scene Magazine](#) (8/2, Sandy) reports the Bureau of Land Management will “sell rights to 141 acres” in Wayne National Forest Sept. 21 According to the article, “with the September auction looming, The Center for Biological Diversity, Heartwood, Ohio Environmental Council, Sierra Club, The Buckeye Environmental Network and Athens County Fracking Action Network have jointly filed a protest against the event.” The groups say “that the cumulative effect of Wayne National Forest drilling and the Rover pipeline construction was not considered in the BLM’s environmental assessment.”

Nolan, Emmers Want To Shortcircuit Mining Review.

In an op-ed for the [Rochester \(MN\) Post-Bulletin](#) (8/2, Zabokrtsky), Jason Zabokrtsky, founder and head guide for Ely Outfitting Co., and co-chairman of Sportsmen for the Boundary Waters, writes that Minnesotans “have a responsibility to protect” the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness “so future generations can enjoy the Boundary Waters in the same ways we have.” However, Zabokrtsky is dismayed that “the health and integrity of our priceless Boundary Waters appear to be of no concern to Minnesota Congressmen Rick Nolan and Tom Emmer.” He claims that “Nolan and Emmer are doing everything they can to roll back protections and give this most iconic of Minnesota’s publicly-owned northwoods lands to Chilean mining giant Antofagasta.” According to Zabokrtsky, “Nolan’s and Emmer’s efforts to halt an environmental review that would support a science-based determination constitute a blow at the heart of Minnesota.” He

argues that “not only would such a move create irreparable harm to the Boundary Waters and Superior National Forest, it would also endanger the \$913 million in annual consumer spending that the Boundary Waters and Voyageurs National Park generate.”

Progress On Increasing Access To Federal Lands.

[Breaking Energy](#) (8/2, Green) says that “it’s a positive step – for U.S. energy, economic growth, consumer benefits and climate progress – for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to begin rescinding its 2015 hydraulic fracturing rule.” The piece says the rule “duplicates existing and effective state regulation and risks delaying energy development, potentially impacting consumers.” The Interior Department’s Katharine S. McGregor explained: “Maintaining positive, productive working relationships with our state and tribal partners is a top priority of this Administration. We are committed to working collaboratively with them to ensure the safe and environmentally responsible development of our Nation’s energy resources. Our proposal to rescind the 2015 final rule responds to the President’s call to reduce regulatory burdens, foster job growth, and serve the energy needs of America’s families, small businesses, and manufacturers.”

Editorial: A Needed Second Exit For Crooked River Ranch.

In an editorial, the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (8/2) praises a plan “to add a second paved exit” from Crooked River Ranch, “doubling the routes out that can be used in case of a wildfire or other emergency.” The action, “announced July 20, comes as the result of work by Prineville District BLM officials, Deschutes County and Crooked River Ranch residents.” As a result, “a 1-mile paved road will run southwest across BLM land from NW Quail Road to join Lower Bridge Road west of Terrebonne.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Hearings Ahead On Oil, Gas Leasing Program.

The [Carteret County \(NC\) News-Times](#) (8/2) reports that North Carolina environmental officials will “conduct three public hearings to gather comments on the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management’s request for information and comments on the preparation of the 2019-24 national outer continental shelf oil and gas leasing program.” The BOEM is “seeking information and requesting comments on the preparation of a new five-year national outer continental shelf program for 2019-24, in accordance with the federal Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.” The N.C. Department of Environmental Quality is “seeking public input and information on the potential impact of oil and gas exploration and development on the biological, social, economic and aesthetic values of North Carolina’s coast.”

Supporters, Detractors Spar Over Seismic Testing For Oil.

The [Brunswick \(GA\) News](#) (8/3, Wolfe) reports that “as the months move closer to a possible opening of the Atlantic Coast to underwater seismic airgun exploration, opponents of the practice and industry advocates continue to push and pull in the debate that could — once exploration commences — lead to offshore oil and gas drilling.” Dustin Cranor, senior communications director of the ocean conservation and advocacy group Oceana, “said the damaging effects of seismic testing for oil to marine life are well-documented and significant.” However, “proponents of seismic testing and the drilling that would follow — notably, the industries engaged in that practice — strongly disagree with what are seen as overblown concerns that hinder otherwise responsible energy practices.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Environmental Groups Join The Legal Fray On Golden-cheeked Warbler.

The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (8/2, Gibbons) reports that “four environmental groups, two of them based in Texas, are asking to join the fight to keep the golden-cheeked warbler on the endangered species list.” The [Houston Chronicle](#) (8/2, Gibbons) reports that “Travis Audubon, the Texas Ornithological Society, the Center for Biological Diversity and Defenders of Wildlife filed a motion Tuesday asking a judge to let them intervene in a lawsuit by the Texas General Land Office to take the bird off the list.” According to the article, “the warbler case could test whether

Trump's Department of Justice and Department of the Interior will vigorously defend protections for endangered species."

Nearly 2 Tons Of Seized Ivory To Be Crushed In Central Park.

The [AP](#) (8/2, Esch) reports that "nearly two tons of trinkets, statues and jewelry crafted from the tusks of at least 100 slaughtered elephants are heading for a rock crusher in New York City's Central Park to demonstrate the state's commitment to smashing the illegal ivory trade." State environmental officials, "who are partnering with the Wildlife Conservation Society and Tiffany & Co. for Thursday's 'Ivory Crush,' say no price justifies slaughtering elephants for their tusks."

Review Of Nuclear Weapons Plant Says Protections Are Working.

The [AP](#) (8/2) reports that "the latest government review of a former nuclear weapons plant outside Denver says precautions put in place after a 10-year cleanup are protecting people and the environment." The U.S. Department of Energy "released the review Wednesday on the most contaminated portion of the Rocky Flats site west of Denver." According to the article, "the review covered the central part of the property where manufacturing took place."

Additional Coverage: Appeals Court Upholds Endangered Species Protection For Great Lakes Gray Wolves.

Additional coverage that "the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals on Tuesday affirmed a 2014 lower-court ruling that restored Endangered Species Act protection for gray wolves in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin" was provided by [USA Today](#) (8/2, Matheny), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (8/2, Flesher), the [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (8/2, Koshmrl), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (8/2, Landers), the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (8/3, D'Angelo), and [The Scientist](#) (8/2, Offord).

Memo To The West: When You Hunt Grizzlies And Wolves, You Lose Midwest Tourists.

The [Chicago Tribune](#) (8/2) editorializes that there are reasons to wary after the delisting of Yellowstone grizzlies. It notes that "a decade ago a similar lifting of protections backfired," the bears "hugely contribute to the Mountain West's economy," and "the feds' action doesn't ease the geographic and genetic isolation of this population." It hopes the superintendent of Yellowstone and several Native American tribes, who opposed the delisting, will "watch and publicize how the bears do under the new policy." It also hopes "federal and state agencies that often give too much deference to hunters and ranchers haven't repeated their bungling of a decade ago."

Editorial: New Wolf Recovery Plan Needs To Focus On Science.

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (8/3) editorializes that "the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's long-awaited revision of its Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan – currently a draft but due in its final form by Nov. 30 – isn't being fully embraced by environmental groups or cattle ranchers, which could indicate it's a fair compromise." However, "the plan, which hadn't been updated since 1982, contains some serious flaws that appear to place political expediency ahead of science." The paper says that "those shortcomings need to be addressed in the final document, as it will be the de facto road map for saving the Mexico gray wolf from extinction and ensuring a healthy ecosystem in southwestern New Mexico and Arizona."

National Park Service

National Park Service Grants Money To Preserve Bear River Massacre Site.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/2, Carlisle) reports that the National Park Service is "granting a Native American tribe \$72,000 to help preserve the site of the 1863 Bear River Massacre." The recipient, the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation, has "worked for years to memorialize the massacre. Up to 500 members of the tribe died during the attack by the U.S. Army." The grant was "announced as part of a nationwide effort by the Park Service to preserve battlefields."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Preston \(ID\) Citizen](#) (8/2, SEAMONS).

NPS Grants Hawaii Nearly \$80K To Preserve Historic Battlefield. [KGMB-TV](#) Honolulu (8/2, Donahue) reports that the National Park Service has "awarded the University of Hawaii nearly \$80,000 to help preserve the site of the Battle of Nuuanu." The grant was awarded through the American Battlefield Program, "which is providing \$1.2 million dollars to local communities across the country to preserve and protect historic battlefields." National Park Service Director Michael T.

Reynolds said, "We are excited to partner with public and private organizations committed to protecting and preserving our country's historic national treasures. Through these grants, and the work the grantees are accomplishing, we are ensuring that these hallowed sites are protected and maintained for future generations."

Local Research Center Awarded National Grant. The [Citrus County \(FL\) Chronicle](#) (8/2) reports that the National Park Service awarded the Gulf Archaeology Research Institute "\$72,500 for a study Second Seminole War Battle of Wahoo Swamp." Also, the Florida Museum of Natural History "received \$20,000 to research the English campaign against Spanish Florida that culminated the siege of the Castillo de San Marcos at St. Augustine"

Maine Historic Preservation Commission Receives National Park Service Grant.

The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (8/2) reports that the Maine Historic Preservation Commission has "announced that it has received a partial grant award of \$443,811 from the National Park Service for the 2017 federal fiscal year." The award was "made contingent upon raising a non-federal match of \$349,437.38."

Seniors Snap Up US National Park Passes Before Price Hike.

The [AP](#) (8/2, Ridler) reports that "seniors are snapping up so many lifetime passes good for U.S. national parks and other recreation areas ahead of a steep price increase later this month that some government agencies have run out and started issuing vouchers." The America the Beautiful Lifetime Senior Pass has "been available to buyers 62 and older for \$10 for the past two decades." On Aug. 28, the price is increasing "700 percent, to \$80, after a measure passed by Congress late last year."

10-year-old Offers To Mow White House Lawn.

[CNN International](#) (8/2, Landers) reports that "a 10-year-old boy named Frank" from Falls Church, Virginia has written to President Trump "to offer his lawn mowing services." White House press secretary Sarah Sanders "read the letter from the White House briefing podium on Wednesday." Sanders "said she spoke with the President and not only did he want to pass along the message to Frank that he's 'doing a great job,' but he also wanted to invite Frank to the White House to cut the grass in the famous Rose Garden."

Ellis Island Exhibit 'Streets Paved With Gold' To Feature New Yorkers' Handwritten Stories.

[AM New York](#) (8/2, Cook) reports that the National Park Service "wants to pave Ellis Island with gold, and it needs the help of immigrants to do it." The NPS is looking to collect "anecdotes, advice and messages from New Yorkers who are connected in some way with the immigration process." The NPS, "which manages Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty, will take those messages to feature in a new exhibit, 'Streets Paved with Gold.'"

Glacier Park Announces New Procedures For Motorized Boats On Lake McDonald.

The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (8/2) reports that Glacier National Park officials "announced Wednesday they will begin scheduling motorized watercraft inspections and sealing procedures for boaters who wish to launch on Lake McDonald after a 30-day quarantine period." According to the article, "the quarantine process is designed to prevent invasive zebra and quagga mussels and other invasive species from entering park waters on motorboats." The park has already started "allowing private landowners living within the park boundary around Lake McDonald, whose motorboats are exclusively launched there, to begin accessing the lake." According to Superintendent Jeff Mow, "those boats have exceeded the 30-day quarantine requirement and undergone boat inspections."

NPS Re-establishes Partnership With Oconaluftee Job Corps Center.

The [Waynesville \(NC\) Smoky Mountain News](#) (8/2) reports that "for the first time in 10 years, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is operating a career development center aimed at helping youth develop the skills they'll need to enter the workforce." The Oconaluftee Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center "closed in March 2007, at which point the National Park Service operated it, due to health and safety issues related to mold in the dining hall." According to the article, "the students were immediately transferred to other Job Corps Centers to complete their education and vocational training, with the U.S. Forest Service taking over operations in July 2008." Now, the NPS is "once more a partner in the endeavor after signing an agreement with the Forest Service in July." Park Superintendent Cassius Cash said, "We are fortunate to have the

Oconaluftee Job Corps Center in our backyard. This partnership will allow hard-working youth an opportunity to acquire important trade skills as they work alongside park staff. These skills can help them transition into the workforce of tomorrow."

Tips Sought In Smokies Hit-And-Run Crash That Injured Teenage Girl.

The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (8/2) reports that "investigators are asking for the public's help in the search for a motorcyclist who fled from the scene of a crash that seriously injured a 13-year-old girl in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park over the weekend." The National Park Service Investigative Services Branch is "seeking information from anyone who may have witnessed the collision or who may have seen the two motorcycles traveling from Gatlinburg toward Townsend on Little River Road, between 7:45 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Saturday."

Additional coverage was provided by [WBIR-TV](#) Knoxville, TN (8/2).

Acadia Reopens Cliffs, Trails After Closures To Help Falcons.

The [AP](#) (8/3) reports that the National Park Service "says it is reopening three cliffs and their associated trails to public entry soon following a closure to protect peregrine falcons." The NPS "closed the areas in March to protect the falcons from disturbances while they were nesting." The agency "says the protection resulted in the fledging of five chicks this year compared to 11 last year." The areas will reopen to the public on Thursday.

Comments Being Solicited On Proposals For Theodore Roosevelt Island.

[Inside NoVa \(VA\)](#) (8/2) reports that the National Park Service is "accepting comments through Sept. 8 related to the scope of projected improvements at Theodore Roosevelt Island." The NPS is "considering alterations to trails, viewpoints and landings for non-motorized watercraft, and must conduct the outreach as part of the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act."

This Park Ranger Has Been Selected As One Of The Nation's Best.

The [Sierra Star \(CA\)](#) (8/2) reports that Geoff Walker from Mount Rainier National Park has "been named the recipient of the annual Harry Yount National Park Ranger Award, one of the National Park Service's most prestigious honors." Walker received the award "at an Aug. 1 ceremony in Washington, D.C. sponsored by the National Park Foundation, the official charitable partner of the National Park Service." Acting National Park Service Director Michael T. Reynolds said, "Geoff exemplifies all of the personal and professional characteristics desired in a park ranger. His positive attitude, calm demeanor, exceptional skills, and desire to serve others shine through everything he does."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Interior Releases \$3M For Compact-Impact.

[Marianas Variety](#) (8/3) reports that Interior Acting Assistant Secretary Nikolao Pula "made available discretionary Compact impact funding in the amount of \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2017, as an additional federal contribution toward defraying the costs that Guam, Hawaii, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa bear due to the presence of migrants from the Freely Associated States of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau." Pula said, "The governors of the affected jurisdictions have reported that the federal government is not providing sufficient funds to cover the costs they bear for the impact of migrants from the freely associated states on social services. Both Guam and Hawaii have each reported costs exceeding \$100 million a year."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Big Island \(HI\) Now](#) (8/2), the [Hawaii Free Press](#) (8/2), the [Honolulu Civil Beat \(HI\)](#) (8/1, Blair), the [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (8/2, Borja), and [KGMB-TV](#) Honolulu (8/2, Mumphrey).

Plaskett Touts Cooperation Amid 'Crazy' Washington Scene.

The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (8/3, O'CONNOR) reports that V.I. Delegate to Congress Stacey Plaskett "says she's working to keep things moving," despite the "gridlock" in Washington. At a press conference on St. Croix on Wednesday, Plaskett said that "the Washington arms race has had some effect on territorial interests." For instance, the article notes that "the nomination of Douglas Domenech to head the Interior Department's Office of Insular Affairs, which coordinates

policy among U.S. territories and the federal government, has stalled.”

Also, the [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (8/3, O’CONNOR) reports that Plaskett said “that the 2018 federal budget looks mixed for the territory.” The article notes that “among the upsides” are “a 10 percent increase in funding for capital improvement grants through the Interior Department’s Office of Insular Affairs and proposed increases to the Homeland Security Department and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.” However, Plaskett said, “There are quite a bit of negatives in this budget.”

Court Rejects Marshall Islands’ Suit Against US Over Nuclear Treaty.

The [Honolulu Civil Beat \(HI\)](#) (7/31, Blair) reports that “the dismissal of a lawsuit that sought to force the United States to comply with an international treaty on nuclear nonproliferation was upheld Monday by a federal court in San Francisco.” The U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals “upheld a lower court’s 2015 dismissal of a legal challenge from a group called Nuclear Zero, brought by the Republic of the Marshall Islands.” The lawsuit “did not seek money, but asked that the U.S. be found in breach of treaty obligations under international law and the 1970 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.”

Shunned From Bond Market, U.S. Virgin Islands Faces Cash Crisis.

[Reuters](#) (8/2, Respaut) reports that “for years the U.S. Virgin Islands funded essential public services with help from Wall Street,” but “now the borrowing window has slammed shut.” According to the article, “trouble in neighboring Puerto Rico, which recently filed for a form of bankruptcy after a string of debt defaults, has investors worried that the U.S. Virgin Islands might be next.” The USVI has the “biggest per capita debt load of any U.S. territory or state,” with \$2 billion owed “to bondholders and creditors” and “billions more in unfunded pension and healthcare obligations.”

U.S. Test-Launches ICBM As Tensions Rise With North Korea.

[WMGT-TV](#) Macon, GA (8/2) reports that “the U.S. military successfully test-launched an Intercontinental Ballistic Missile from California early Wednesday, according to an Air Force spokesman — just days after North Korea’s second test of an ICBM.” According to the article, “the unarmed Minuteman III missile was launched at 2:10 a.m. PT from Vandenberg Air Force Base, about 130 miles northwest of Los Angeles.” An Air Force statement “said that the test was not a response to recent North Korean actions but show that the America’s nuclear enterprise is ‘safe, secure, effective and ready to be able to deter, detect and defend against attacks on the United States and its allies.’” The ICBM was “equipped with a test reentry vehicle, which officials said showed it traveled about 4,200 miles to the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands.”

Office Of Surface Mining

Coal Mine Reclamation Project Will Clean Up Cook’s Run.

The [Lock Haven \(PA\) Express](#) (8/2) reports that “on behalf of Governor Tom Wolf, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) on Tuesday announced the launch of a coal mine reclamation project in Sproul State Forest to help restore 40 acres and Cooks Run Watershed, a designated High-Quality Coldwater Fishery that was home to native brook trout before acid mine drainage (AMD) impaired it.” The Cooks Run Restoration Project is “part of the Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Pilot Program, funded by \$30 million from the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.”

US Geological Survey

Scientists On Case Of Deadly Bat Disease Discover New Clues.

[Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (8/1, Burns) reports that “a new study from the U.S. Geological Survey finds that the fungus that causes white-nose syndrome in bats can be spread much more readily than previously thought.” The research “suggests people and equipment can become contaminated with the fungus no matter what time of year they enter caves.” Lead author Anne Ballmann, a wildlife disease specialists with the USGS National Wildlife Health Center, said, “It’s not just within the winter season when white nose is much more prevalent in the bat populations. But it needs to be considered at all times of year because there’s always going to be that

potential to pick it up and move it.”

Rapid Rise Of Coastal ‘Ghost Forests’ Provides Startling Glimpse Of Future.

[NJ News](#) (8/2) reports on “ghost forests,” which are “dead trees along vast swaths of coastline invaded by rising seas, something scientists call one of the most visible markers of climate change.” According to the article, “the process has occurred naturally for thousands of years, but it has accelerated in recent decades as polar ice melts and raises sea levels, scientists say, pushing salt water farther inland and killing trees in what used to be thriving freshwater plains.” The article says that “efforts are underway worldwide to determine exactly how quickly the creation of ghost forests is increasing.” However, “scientists agree the startling sight of dead trees in once-healthy areas is an easy-to-grasp example of the consequences of climate change.” Greg Noe, a research ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, said, “There is a lot of change going on. It’s dramatic and it’s changing faster than it has before in human history.”

Total Solar Eclipse: How Everyone In America Can See It.

[TIME](#) (7/31, Wilson, Rebal) reports that a total solar eclipse “will traverse the U.S. on Aug. 21.” The authors “ran a few calculations to see whether there is enough open space within the umbra for every American to theoretically witness the complete eclipse.” Among the maps they used was a National Map published by the United States Geological Survey “that provides detailed data on all federal land.” They found that 876 square feet were available per person.

When Life On Earth Was Nearly Extinguished.

In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (7/29, Brannen), Peter Brannen writes that “a growing body of evidence suggests” that the “Great Dying” at the end of the Permian period was “brought on, in large part, by gigantic emissions of carbon dioxide from volcanoes that erupted across a vast swath of Siberia.” Seth Burgess, a geologist with the United States Geological Survey, is quoted saying, “The End-Permian mass extinction is unique in earth history. Nothing else is as severe, and it’s not even close.” This month, the journal *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology* “published a special issue that explores a growing body of evidence that past volcanic releases of carbon dioxide may have helped drive many of the most extreme die-offs in earth history.” Brannen writes that “though the Great Dying was truly extreme, and likely included some stresses beyond the scope of humanity’s armamentarium, we have emerged as a formidable geological force in our own right as we continue to tweak and warp the complex earth systems that sustain life.”

How To Film A Polar Bear.

In a piece for the [Scientific American](#) (8/1, Groskin), video producer Luke Groskin writes the “challenging logistics of polar bear research.” He describes filming United States Geological Survey scientist Karyn Rode and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Michelle St. Martin “working over an anesthetized polar bear” to “place an ear tag.” According to Groskin, the research will help to understand “how rapid changes to the sea ice...affect the bears of the Chukchi”

Top National News

Trump Unveils Legal Immigration Plan Prioritizing English Speakers, Skilled Workers.

To mostly unfavorable media coverage – including reports on all three major network newscasts – the President yesterday unveiled the Reforming American Immigration for Strong Employment (RAISE) Act. Under the proposal, [Bloomberg News](#) (8/2, Sink) reports, visa applications would be evaluated “based on merit, with a preference for people with higher education or job skills.” The White House, notes the [Washington Times](#) (8/2, Boyer, Dinan), said the new system “would be similar to the merit-based immigration systems used by Canada and Australia.” [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/2, story 2, 2:20, Bruce) said the plan would also “slash legal immigration in half” and limit “admissions based on family connections” – something which, according to [McClatchy](#) (8/2, Ordoñez), would “slash a key tenet of the American policy that helps keep families together.” In a “Fact Check” analysis, meanwhile, the [AP](#) (8/2, Boak, Galvan) says the plan “is based on some shaky assumptions, such as the idea that low-wage green-card holders are flooding in to take jobs from Americans.”

At any rate, media analysts are giving the plan little chance of becoming law. [NBC Nightly](#)

[News](#) (8/2, story 3, 2:00, Alexander), meanwhile, noted that the President “insists the proposal, if passed, would be the most significant change to the nation’s immigration system in half a century,” but “saying it and doing it are two very different things for a president still waiting for his first legislative victory.” Jeff Zeleny said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (8/2), “I think first and foremost, the White House is trying to appeal to their base” because “they’ve had a series of defeats here.” [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/2, story 2, 2:20, Bruce) said last night “this bill doesn’t seem to be going anywhere,” as “it lacks support even from Republicans.”

Announcing the plan at the White House, [USA Today](#) (8/2, Jackson, Gomez) reports, Trump hosted GOP Sens. Tom Cotton and David Perdue, who authored similar legislation months ago that “has been stalled in the Senate.” There, says [McClatchy](#) (8/2, Ordoñez), “the proposal will have to get 60 votes to cut off debate – a dim prospect.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/2, Bennett) uses identical language to assess the bill’s chances, while [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (8/2) gives it “long odds,” the [AP](#) (8/2, Thomas, Colvin) says it has “little traction,” and [Bloomberg News](#) (8/2, Sink) that it “faces a steep climb.” Mark Krikorian, writing for [National Review](#) (8/2, Krikorian), offers a glimmer of hope, “If the supporters of the DREAM Act are scared enough, they might be willing to deal. A package that includes DREAM, RAISE, and enforcement measures to prevent future DREAMer populations from forming, might actually have a chance. I wouldn’t bet my house on it, but it’s not crazy.”

[Reuters](#) (8/2, Rascoe, Rosenberg) indicates Trump’s push follows “a crackdown on illegal immigration that has sharply reduced the number of unauthorized border crossings from Mexico.” The [Washington Post](#) (8/2, Nakamura) reports “the outlines of the legislation” unveiled yesterday “reflect the aims Trump touted on the campaign trail,” calling “for drastic cuts to family-based immigration programs that allow siblings and grown children of US citizens and legal residents to apply for green cards. (Minor children and spouses would still be able to apply.)” It also establishes “a point system based on factors such as English ability, education levels and job skills would be created to rank applicants for the 140,000 employment-based green cards distributed annually.” Moreover, the proposal would “cap refugee levels at 50,000 per year and to end a visa diversity lottery that has awarded 50,000 green cards a year.”

Writing for [National Review](#) (8/2, VerBruggen), Robert VerBruggen called the “point system...a thing of beauty. Immigrants would be scored on a scale of zero to 100, though in practice it’s more like a scale of zero to 45 — someone with a perfect score would need a Nobel Prize (25 points), an Olympic medal (15), and \$1.8 million invested in a business (12), for instance.” VerBruggen adds that “those without at least 30 points would be ineligible.”

[USA Today](#) (8/2, Jackson, Gomez) notes the President “said the current system ‘has not been fair’ to US workers because it allows employers to undercut them by hiring migrants for less pay,” and [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/2, story 3, 2:00, Alexander) showed him saying, “This competitive application process will favor applicants who can speak English, financially support themselves and their families, and demonstrate skills that will contribute to our economy.” The [New York Times](#) (8/2, Baker) reports the President also said, “This legislation...will not only restore our competitive edge in the 21st century, but it will restore the sacred bonds of trust between America and its citizens. This legislation demonstrates our compassion for struggling American families who deserve an immigration system that puts their needs first and that puts America first.” [Townhall](#) (8/2, Pavlich), meanwhile, quoted Trump as saying, “The green card reforms in the RAISE Act will give American workers a pay raise by reducing unskilled immigration.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/2, Mann, Meckler) runs a similar report including the same Trump statements.

Perdue said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (8/2), “People out there in the rest of the country get this. Seventy-two percent believe it should be the primary worker plus their nuclear family or less. Eighteen percent believe it ought to be just the worker. So people out there in the real world get this. It’s pro-worker. It’s pro-growth. And it’s been proven to work in Canada and Australia.”

Cotton told [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (8/2), “The law of supply and demand applies to the labor market just like does every other market, even though some Republicans feel like it doesn’t apply there. Look, over the last 40 years, my lifetime, you’ve seen quadrupling of the number of foreign born residents in our country. The vast majority of those – 14 out of 15 – today come here not based on their skills or their education or their English language ability. ... They are, by definition, unskilled and low-skilled. In that 40-year window, if you have a high school degree or less, your wages have fallen. If you have more than that, so if you are not competing with those very same immigrants, your wages have increased. So there is a direct correlation between the mass unskilled, low-skilled migration we have seen over the last few

decades and stagnant wages and standards of living for working Americans.”

[Reuters](#) (8/2, Rascoe, Rosenberg) reports Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina “said his state is dependent on immigrant labor to sustain the two biggest sectors of the economy: agriculture and tourism.” [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/2) reported Graham seemed to speak “for a lot of Republicans.”

Asked on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (8/2) if this policy “expands the tent,” Sen. Jeff Flake said, “No. I do believe that we can do a merit-based system somewhat. SB-744, the last bipartisan immigration bill that I was a part of, we moved on legal immigration partly to a merit-based system. There was still a family-based side, but there was a merit-based system. We didn’t cut the number of immigrants in half. I don’t think that we should do that. I think we need to look out for the needs of our economy and I don’t think the economy will be well served by cutting the number of immigrants in half.”

Rep. Will Hurd said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/2), “When we look at trying to fix our broken immigration system, we should be looking at trying to turn it into a market-based system. ... I think this proposal that was introduced today doesn’t have a chance of going anywhere, especially in the Senate. If you can’t have a bipartisan piece of legislation on immigration, it’s not going to go anywhere in the Senate. So, this is, I think, something that has no place to go.”

[Breitbart](#) (8/2, Munro), meanwhile, reports “Democrats and their ethnic pressure groups are expected to oppose the immigration reform because they wish to increase the inflow of unskilled foreign migrants,” while “business groups also oppose the measure because it would raise wages and reduce the inflow of new welfare-aided consumers.” Senior economics reporter Steve Liesman said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (8/2), “Economists in general don’t give high marks to this bill endorsed by the President. ... Economists are most concerned about the decline in immigration. That would reduce the labor force growth and overall economic growth.” Liesman added that “a positive to the new point system” is that it “could be an increase in the skills of immigrants. That would be a positive for productivity and a positive for growth. But several economists say the economic impact of a half a million fewer immigrants which is called for in the bill would overwhelm those benefits.”

[Wired](#) (8/2, Lapowsky) reported that “in his remarks...Trump framed the RAISE Act as a bid to protect American workers and create good-paying jobs in America.” However, “40 percent of Fortune 500 businesses were started by immigrants and their children, ‘many of whom did not speak English or came here as refugees,’ says AOL cofounder Steve Case.”

Jeremy Robbins, the executive director of New American Economy, writes in the [Washington Post](#) (8/2) that “drastic cuts to legal immigration levels would hurt economic growth and result in fewer jobs for Americans,” stripping “the United States of our greatest competitive advantage in the global economy: that we attract so many talented, innovative entrepreneurs and individuals from so many different places.”

Sen. Dick Durbin said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (8/2), “A lot of the jobs filled by immigrants are jobs Americans don’t care to fill.” Durbin added that “you find a lot of immigrants taking these dirty, hot, sweaty jobs and there aren’t a lot of Americans standing in line trying to get that opportunity. So, I think they’re overlooking the obvious. There are some jobs immigrants will take that, quite frankly, Americans won’t take.”

Sen. Dianne Feinstein said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/2), “It doesn’t make sense to me what [Trump is] doing.” She continued that Trump is “cutting refugees with all the millions of people without homes, with all the terrible things that are happening,” and “to add insult to injury, he takes the scandal-ridden EB-5 program, which I gather the Trump family uses, and which both the chairman of my committee and myself believe should be abolished, and he continues it.” She said she doesn’t think the legislation passes the Senate, and she “will do everything I can to prevent it from passing.”

CNN's Acosta, Miller Clash Over Plan At White House Briefing. Following the announcement, CNN reporter Jim Acosta expressed outrage over the proposal at a White House press briefing, and engaged in a heated [exchange](#) with Trump aide Stephen Miller that was widely featured across the coverage. [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/2), for example, dedicated more than 14 minutes to the story, and the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/2, story 3, 1:30, Mason) devoted all but the very first sentence of its report on the immigration plan to the exchanges.

Miller’s handling of the clash, meanwhile, was relished in conservative media outlets. For instance, the [Daily Caller](#) (8/2, Pfeiffer) ran two pieces on it, once headlined “Miller Demolishes Journalists At Briefing” and [another one](#) (8/2, Hasson) titled “Stephen Miller Embarrasses Jim Acosta.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/2, Quinn), under the headline “Conservatives Praise Stephen Miller, Rebuke CNN's Acosta After White House Press Briefing,” notes Ann Coulter’s

praise for Miller's performance, and [The Federalist](#) (8/2) says Acosta "threw a fit in the briefing room."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (8/2, story 3, 2:00, Alexander) showed Acosta accusing the Administration of "trying to engineer the racial and ethnic flow of people into the country," and [USA Today](#) (8/2, Estepa) notes Miller said in response, "I am shocked at that statement. ... It reveals your cosmopolitan bias to a shocking degree. ... The notion that you think this is a racist bill is so wrong and so insulting." The [Washington Times](#) (8/2, Boyer) also highlights that part of the exchange, and [The Hill](#) (8/2, Fabian) indicates Miller called Acosta's question "one of the most outrageous, insulting, ignorant and foolish things you've ever said."

The [Daily Caller](#) (8/2, Pfeiffer) noted that at one point during the exchange, Acosta "interrupted Miller and asked, 'are we just going to bring in people from Great Britain and Australia?'" Miller responded, "I have to say, I am shocked at your statement that you think that only people from Great Britain and Australia would know English. It's all — it reveals your cosmopolitan bias to a shocking degree that in your mind — no, this is an amazing moment." The NYTimes' Glenn Thrush also pushed Miller on hard data backing his assertions, to which Miller said, "Maybe we'll make a carve-out in the bill that says The New York Times can hire all the less skilled, low paid workers from other countries and see how you feel about low wage substitution."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/2, story 3, 1:30, Mason) showed Acosta asking, "Aren't you trying to change what it means to be an immigrant coming into this country if you're telling them, if you have to speak English — can't people learn how to speak English when they get here?" Miller replied, "Well, first of all, right now it's a requirement that to be naturalized you have to speak English, so the notion that speaking English wouldn't be a part of the immigration system would be actually very ahistorical."

The [New York Post](#) (8/2, Fredericks) reports Acosta told Miller, "When it comes to immigration, the Statue of Liberty says 'give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses, yearning to be free.' It doesn't say anything about speaking English or learning to be a computer programmer." Miller replied, "I don't want to get off into a whole thing about history, but the Statue of Liberty is a symbol of American liberty lighting the world. The poem you are referring to was added later. It is not actually part of the original Statue of Liberty." The [AP](#) (8/2, Contreras) reports the exchange under the headline "Trump Aide Dismisses Statue of Liberty 'Huddled Masses' Poem."

Acosta later said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/2), "I think at times this the White House has an unhealthy fixation on what I call the three M's: the Muslims, the Mexicans and the media. Their policies tend to be centered around bashing one of those three groups, and we just see it time and time again. Today on immigration, what the White House is essentially saying with a wink and a dog whistle to some of these battleground states that they won, is that immigrants coming in from Latin America are taking your jobs."

Tucker Carlson said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (8/2), "Jim Acosta and the network he works for don't know much at all about this subject. They don't know how many immigrants come here every year or how. They don't have any clue as to how many should come ideally. They know very little of the economic effect those immigrants have on Americans who already live here because they don't care enough to find out. They are utterly ignorant on the subject of immigration and yet — and here is the amazing part — they are still filled with absolute moral certainty and boundless self-righteousness."

Charles Krauthammer said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/2), "I love the hypocrisy of the liberals who are so shocked by this. People who swoon over Canada's progressivism with its national healthcare and its matinee star liberal prime minister. ... All of a sudden, when the US proposes essentially the Canadian system, a merit-based system, they are shocked at how mean and racist it is."

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/2) says "Miller is correct that as a percentage of the country's population, foreign-born residents are near their highest level in almost a century. That stark fact is a major cause of the nativist, anti-immigration backlash that helped propel Mr. Trump's candidacy and that sustains the hard core of his political base even after a calamitous first six months in office."

"Upshot": Trump Primary Supporters More Likely To Consider European Ancestry Key To American Identity. The [New York Times](#) (8/2, Vavreck) "The Upshot" looks at "The Great Political Divide Over American Identity," writing that "the 2016 election made clear that there's not universal agreement on what it means to be an American, with restrictive views centered on ethnicity and religion playing a major role in the Trump campaign." [A survey](#) by the Democracy Fund found that while "relatively few members of both parties linked American identity with being

of European heritage (only 16 percent of Democrats and 23 percent of Republicans thought this was important)," 30 percent of President Trump's supporters said so, contrasted with 16 percent of Sen. Ted Cruz's supporters and nine percent of those who backed Gov. John Kasich. And while 63 percent of all Republicans said being born in the US was "was important for people who want to call themselves American," among Trump supporters the number was 72 percent.

Trump Signs "Seriously Flawed" Russia Sanctions Bill, Criticizing Congress As He Does So.

Coverage of President Trump's signing of Russian sanctions legislation focuses primarily on the President's highly critical signing statement, in which he called the measure "seriously flawed" and an affront to the role of the Executive Branch. Analyses say the President was essentially forced into signing the bill because near-unanimous votes in both the Senate and House would have made a veto override a near-certainty. Broadcast network coverage was limited, with only ABC running a full-length story – though all the major national newspapers have reports.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/2, story 3, 1:40, Muir) reported that the President "did sign [the sanctions bill], but without cameras, and he did not sign it without blasting lawmakers and the bill itself." ABC's Cecilia Vega: "President Trump, so often criticized for being too soft on the Kremlin, today reluctantly signed into law tough new sanctions on Russia. But for someone who seems to so enjoy a signing ceremony, the White House kept this one behind closed doors, away from the cameras. The President signing it but issuing scathing words at the same time, calling the legislation 'seriously flawed.'" [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/2, story 4, 0:25, Holt) briefly reported that the President "reluctantly" signed the measure.

The [AP](#) (8/2, Salama, Lardner) reports that Trump "grudgingly signed what he called a 'seriously flawed' package of sanctions against Russia on Wednesday, bowing for the moment to resistance from both parties to his push for warmer ties with Moscow." The AP says Trump "signed the most significant piece of legislation of his presidency with no public event" and with a "resentful" signing statement. [Reuters](#) (8/2, Rampton, Zengerle) reports that Trump "slammed the legislation as infringing on his powers to shape foreign policy, saying he could make 'far better deals' with governments than Congress."

The [New York Times](#) (8/2, Baker) reports that in his signing statement, Trump "asserted that the measure included 'clearly unconstitutional provisions' and left open the possibility that he might choose not to enforce them as lawmakers intended." [Politico](#) (8/2, Nussbaum, Schor) reports that the statement "included a stepped-up defense of his own administrations foreign policy and input on the legislation. Trump said that 'despite its problems,' he had signed the bill 'for the sake of national unity.'"

[USA Today](#) (8/2, Jackson) reports that some Democrats "saw Trump's signing statement as an 'apology' note" to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Democratic analyst Jesse Ferguson said, "It's far less significant that he signed a bill which would have become law anyway because of an override from Congress than it is that he attached a note apologizing to Putin for doing it." In a second item, [USA Today](#) (8/2, Korte) writes that the audience for such signing statements "is usually a small group of Washington players...in this case, there may be yet another audience: the world." Washington and Lee University law professor Mark Rush said, "What you see the President doing in this case is trying to maintain a powerful image in foreign affairs. ... I think this is just a bit of bluster."

Charlie Savage of the [New York Times](#) (8/2) writes, "It was politically remarkable for Mr. Trump to issue a statement challenging aspects of this particular bill, which a distrustful Congress forced upon him." But in legal terms, his "objections were unremarkable." Martin Lederman, who served in the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel during the Obama Administration, said, "The particular constitutional objections in the signing statement are not groundbreaking or particularly noteworthy – they reflect the likely views of most any administration."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/2, Ballhaus, Andrews) reports that during the congressional debate over the bill, the White House would not say whether Trump would sign it. The [Washington Post](#) (8/2, Phillip) writes, "Lawmakers' solidarity in tying Trump's hands on this issue reflects a deepening concern about the administration's posture toward Russia, which critics have characterized as naive. ... Despite Trump's considerable objections," House Speaker Ryan "praised the bill becoming law" Ryan said, "Today, the United States sent a powerful message to our adversaries that they will be held accountable for their actions."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/2, Bierman) reports that Trump "quietly signed" the legislation "without cameras. ... He had little choice about signing the bill after nearly unanimous votes in both houses of Congress approved it, all but guaranteeing any veto would be overridden." Sen.

James Lankford said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (8/2), "If the President wants to be able to pull those sanctions down, he needs to come back to Congress. We all agreed to put them in place, we all need to agree together to take them out."

Several Republicans praised the President's decision online. Sen. Jeff Flake [tweeted](#), "There are times I'll agree w @realDonaldTrump & times I'll disagree. Today he should be commended for signing #RussiaSanctionsBill". Sen. John McCain [tweeted](#), "Glad @POTUS signed #RussiaSanctions- hope he'll be as vocal about Russian aggression as he was about concerns w bill". The official Senate GOP account [tweeted](#), "Sanctions on Iran, North Korea, and Russia passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in Congress and were signed into law today."

Rep. Bill Flores (R-TX) [said on Facebook](#), "Pleased to see that President Trump has signed the bill to impose sanctions on Russia, Iran and North Korea into law. These rogue regimes must be held accountable for their aggressive behaviors." Rep. Dave Trott (R-MI) [said on Facebook](#), "Russia, Iran, & North Korea – these are some of our world's most nefarious actors. I applaud President Trump's implementation of these new sanctions, which choke off their economic lifelines and their ability to undermine our national security."

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/2, Talev), the [Washington Times](#) (8/2, Miller), and [The Hill](#) (8/2, Easley) also have reports.

Medvedev: "Incompetent" Trump Will Be "Liquidated" By US Establishment. Tom Rogan of the [Washington Examiner](#) (8/2) writes that "in a [Facebook post](#) specifically referencing Trump, the Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev (No. 2 only to Putin), warned that Congress sees Trump as 'an incompetent player' who must be 'liquidated,'" and later "continued his criticism on Twitter, saying in a [series of tweets](#) that, 'The Trump administration has shown its total weakness by handing over executive power to Congress in the most humiliating way.'" Medvedev added, "The US establishment fully outwitted Trump." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/2, Bierman) reports that Medvedev "denounced the measure as a 'full-scale trade war' and an end to 'the hope that our relations with the new American administration would improve.'"

Pence Praises Trump For Signing Bill. The [Washington Post](#) (8/2, Parker) reports that in a Wednesday interview on his flight back from Montenegro, Vice President Pence "touted President Trump's signing of a Russia sanctions bill as evidence that the White House strongly rejects Russian meddling and misbehavior around the world." Pence said, "His decision to sign the Iran sanctions bill – or the Iran-North Korea-Russia sanctions bill – I think is reflective of a desire to make sure that freedom-loving countries around the world know that we are with them, and that Russia and the rogue regimes in North Korea and Iran know that this president and this administration expect a change."

Ashley Parker of the [Washington Post](#) (8/2) reports that during his trip to Estonia, Georgia, and Montenegro, Pence "spoke forcefully about the specter of Russian aggression, talked of 'peace through strength,' and reaffirmed" the US commitment to NATO. But his "tough-on-Russia talk doesn't quite align with some of the previous comments from Trump, who remained mostly silent on the issue this week."

Politico Analysis: Congress Challenging Trump On Russia Again Over Nuclear Arms Treaty. [Politico](#) (8/2, Bender) writes, "Congress is moving to force the Pentagon to violate a nuclear arms treaty with Russia – in yet another effort to box" in Trump on relations with Russia. Language in pending defense bills "would require the military to begin developing medium-range missiles banned by a 1987." The legislation is "likely to stir up new friction between lawmakers and Trump, who has already accused Congress of illegally meddling in his dealings with Russia."

Congress Could Ban Any Federal Use Of Kaspersky Lab Products And Services. [National Journal](#) (8/2, Bordelon) reports that though Russian cybersecurity firm Kaspersky Lab "has already weathered a rough couple of months" after being removed as a General Services Administration-approved vendor following reports of its connection to Russian intelligence, its "troubles are just beginning. The Senate will soon consider a provision in the National Defense Authorization Act that bans the use of Kaspersky software, hardware, or services in all federal agencies," and the House may soon do the same. Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), the ranking member on the House Intelligence Committee, said, "I guess the bottom line for me is, is any of this data you'd be concerned about the Russian government having? If it is, then I wouldn't recommend the use of Kaspersky."

Some Senate Republicans Hope To Return To ACA After Tax Reform.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/2, King) reports that "some Senate Republicans say they are not abandoning Obamacare repeal, although any progress is likely months away." The leadership is interested in moving on to tax reform, and those senators who hope to return to work on the

Affordable Care Act say that must come first. Sen. Thom Tillis said, “We’ve gotta start forming up consensus around tax reform.” Sen. Rand Paul similarly said, “We should continue on the tax front, but we should continue negotiating on the health front.” Sen. Ted Cruz said more optimistically, “The media celebration that the vote last week came one vote short, I believe, was premature. We are close, and we could get to yes, and I believe we will.”

Mulvaney Says Congress Should Not Abandon Healthcare. OMB Director Mulvaney was asked on [Fox News’ Fox & Friends](#) (8/2) about Senate Majority Leader McConnell’s claim that it is time to move on from healthcare. Mulvaney said, “I understand why the leader is saying that but at the same time, I think it is important that we still deal with the issue. ... I don’t know how you run saying something for seven years – that we will repeal and replace Obamacare if you give us the House, if you give us the Senate, if you give us the White House – and then when the voters give that to you, you don’t follow through on that promise.”

Portman: ACA “Dying On Its Own.” Sen. Rob Portman said on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (8/2), “I think the Affordable Care Act is kind of dying on its own. In my own state of Ohio, we’ve got huge increases in deductibles and co-pays.” Portman added that is “not a good thing for us to pull the rug out from under those people who are depending on those plans. On the other hand, we’ve got to do some real reforms here and that’s why I did support the effort to replace, not just repeal, but to replace the Affordable Care Act with something better.”

GOP Senators: Trump Hurt Repeal Chances By Ignoring Advice To Name Senate Democrats To Cabinet. The [Daily Caller](#) (8/2, Crowe) reports that President Trump “ignored suggestions that he add to the GOP’s slim majority in the Senate” by appointing Senate Democrat to his Cabinet, which “may have cost the party the one additional vote needed to pass Obamacare repeal.” GOP senators reportedly suggested that Trump name Sen. Heidi Heitkamp agriculture secretary, or Sen. Joe Manchin energy secretary. North Dakota has a Republican governor, and though West Virginia has a Democratic governor, the state went heavily Republican in the presidential election.

Mexico Denies Trump Claim About Phone Call Regarding Border Security.

[CNN’s Situation Room](#) (8/2) reported President Trump’s “credibility and trustworthiness” are being called into question after Mexico denied Trump’s claim on Monday that Mexico “called me” and praised his success in slowing unauthorized border crossings. The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/2, story 2, 2:10, Mason) showed Trump saying, “Even the president of Mexico called me. They said their southern border, very few people are coming because they know they’re not going to get through our border, which is the ultimate compliment.” CBS (Reid): “But the Mexican Foreign Ministry responded that President Peña Nieto ‘has not recently spoken to Donald Trump over the telephone.’”

Cecilia Vega said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/2, story 4, 2:15, Muir), “Today, we asked the White House, did President Trump lie?” White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders: “No. On Mexico, he was referencing the conversation that they had had at the G20 summit.” Vega: “But the President specifically said that he received a phone call from the President of Mexico...” Sanders: “They were direct conversations, not phone calls.” Vega: “So he lied. He didn’t receive that phone call?” Sanders: “I wouldn’t say it was a lie. That’s a pretty bold accusation.” Vega: “How would you characterize it?” Sanders: “The conversations took place, they just simply didn’t take place over a phone call, that he had them in person.”

The [New York Times](#) (8/2, Davis) says the “nonexistent” Boy Scouts and Mexico calls “added to questions about Mr. Trump’s credibility and that of his White House, already in doubt given shifting explanations on matters large and small.”

Meadows Says Congress Will Raise Debt Ceiling.

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/2, Edgerton, Wasson) reports that Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC), who heads the House Freedom Caucus, “said Wednesday that Congress will raise the nation’s debt ceiling in September as he appeared to soften his earlier demands that any increase be paired with steep spending cuts.” Meadows said, “I don’t believe we should play around with the full faith and credit of our country – I’m bullish on getting it done.”

Meadows Seeks Corporate Tax Rate In High Teens.

[The Hill](#) (8/2, Jagoda) reports that House Freedom Caucus Chairman Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC) said Wednesday that “he wants Congress to enact a corporate tax rate that’s in the teens in order to go ‘big and bold’ on tax reform.” He said, “I don’t want to nibble around the edges. I think that something with a one in front of it, whether it’s 15 or 17 or 18 [percent], that’s where we need to be.”

Blinder: GOP Likely To Pursue Tax Cuts, Not Tax Reform. Alan Blinder of the Brookings Institution, a former Federal Reserve vice chairman, writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/2) that though everyone in Washington agrees that tax reform is desperately needed, there is no consensus on how to do so. He writes that Republicans are likely to instead pursue tax cuts for the wealthy and for corporations.

Van Hollen: Democrats Interested In "Genuine Tax Reform," Not Tax Cuts. Sen. Chris Van Hollen said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (8/2) that Senate Democrats "sent a letter to Mitch McConnell...saying we were happy to work with him on genuine tax reform. We're not interested in providing another round of windfall tax breaks to very, very wealthy people. We don't think that's the priority in the country."

National Journal Analysis: Trump Has Seen Most Success On Agency Regulations.

[National Journal](#) (8/2, Plautz) reports in an analysis that the Trump Administration "has enjoyed the most success" in "its largely under-the-radar effort to systematically shift administrative and regulatory decisions in the executive branch to the right." While these "advances have been overshadowed so far by Trump's legislative failures," in "decisions usually announced in the small print of the Federal Register, his administration is making a sharp turn to the right in virtually every federal department and agency." Taken together, they "amount to an organized assault on Democratic priorities and a hard tilt toward corporate and conservative preferences."

EPA Highlights Improvements In Air Quality.

The [AP](#) (8/2, Biesecker) reports that as EPA Administrator Pruitt "moves to roll back regulations aimed at making further gains" on air quality, he is "praising significant improvements" on that front. A report from the agency released Wednesday shows that "in the 45 years between the passage of the Clean Air Act and the end of 2016, emissions of six harmful pollutants declined by a combined 73 percent," but "nearly 40 percent of Americans live in areas that fail to meet federal air quality standards." Pruitt says "there is more work to be done," but the AP notes that since his appointment, Pruitt "has moved to block or delay several Obama-era regulations aimed at reducing pollutants caused by burning fossil fuels."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Capitol Shocker: Democrats And Republicans Start Working Together On Health Care."

The [New York Times](#) (8/3, Board) editorializes, "Something unusual and important is happening in Congress: Republicans and Democrats are working together to improve the health care system. And they're doing so in defiance of President Trump, who appears determined to sabotage the Affordable Care Act and the health insurance of millions of people." The Times writes that Congress can either "follow Mr. Trump's lead, and treat Americans' health care as a hostage in a purposeless political battle, or it can stabilize the health care market."

"Mr. Maduro's Drive To Dictatorship." The [New York Times](#) (8/3) says in an editorial that while Venezuela, "with possibly the world's largest oil reserves, had the chance to be one of South America's leading democracies," its "overdependence on oil has led to political and economic turbulence, which became disastrous" when President Nicolás Maduro "sought to emulate his left-wing predecessor, Hugo Chávez, with lavish public spending that falling oil prices and chronic mismanagement rendered unsustainable." The Times compares him to "Syria's Bashar al-Assad, North Korea's Kim Jong-un and Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe, whose rapacious greed for power has brought their countries to ruin."

"Helping The Poor Get Through The Turnstiles." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (8/3, Board) says that Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. "took an important step toward a more rational policy" on law enforcement "when he declared in June that his office would as of September no longer prosecute most people for bus or subway fare-beating, partly because the criminal charge unfairly penalizes people for being poor." The Times says the City Council should try again next year "to set aside money in the city budget to subsidize mass transit fares for the poorest New Yorkers."

Washington Post.

"Trump's War On Legal Immigration Would Cripple The Country." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/2) says White House senior adviser for policy Stephen Miller "is correct that

as a percentage of the country's population, foreign-born residents are near their highest level in almost a century. That stark fact is a major cause of the nativist, anti-immigration backlash that helped propel Mr. Trump's candidacy and that sustains the hard core of his political base even after a calamitous first six months in office."

"A Life Changing Genetics Breakthrough Deserves Celebration – And Demands Caution." The [Washington Post](#) (8/2) editorializes, "The news that researchers have carried out the first known attempt to create genetically modified human embryos is another signpost in an astounding revolution unfolding before our eyes." However, "this realm of scientific inquiry, manipulating the tiny building blocks of life, demands caution as well as enthusiasm and encouragement."

"Can Baltimore Go One Weekend Without A Murder?" The [Washington Post](#) (8/2) editorializes that Baltimore "is suffering through its bloodiest year in decades, a daily drumbeat of carnage impervious to community outrage and surge police deployments," and "is now on pace to exceed 400 killings this year." According to the Post, "so many factors have combined to produce the homicide spree that began in 2015" that "local officials often seem flummoxed in their attempts to unpack the causes." According to the Post, the police department "is understaffed, under-resourced and undertrained," and its "relations with the community it serves are strained to the breaking point." The Post adds that "the good news is that many residents, far from being resigned, are outraged," and "a broad coalition of churches and grass-roots groups, mainly in the black community, has launched an energetic campaign for a 72-hour cease-fire for this weekend."

Wall Street Journal.

"The Coming ObamaCare Bailout." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/2) says in an editorial that though the decision to make the Affordable Care Act's "cost-sharing" payments is in the hands of Congress, the Obama Administration continued the payments without authorization. The Journal says that Trump is right to consider ending the payments, but because they are illegal, not as a bargaining chip.

"Tillerson's Korea Confusion." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/2) editorial says that while Secretary of State Tillerson said Tuesday that the US doesn't seek regime change in North Korea, the Administration shouldn't take any options off the table. The Journal also argues that the best way for the US to secure Chinese cooperation is to work toward regime change.

"Bartman At The Bat." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/2, Board) editorial.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Dow Passes 22000, Fueled By Broad Global Growth](#)
[Trumps Signs—And Slams—Russia Sanctions](#)
[Struggling Americans Once Sought Greener Pastures—Now They're Stuck](#)
[In Gene-Editing Advance, Scientists Correct Defect In Human Embryos](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Supports Plan To Cut Legal Immigration By Half](#)
[In Breakthrough, Scientists Edit A Dangerous Mutation From Genes In Human Embryos](#)
[Trump Keeps His Conservative Movement Allies Closest](#)
[Affirmative Action Battle Has A New Focus: Asian-Americans](#)
[Wall Street, Climbing Sharply, Skips Washington's 'Soap Opera'](#)
[Under Trump, A Hollowed-Out Force In Syria Quickly Lost CIA Backing](#)
[Prince Philip Makes His Last Solo Appearance, After 65 Years In The Public Eye](#)
[Amazon's Jobs Fair Sends Clear Message: Now Hiring Thousands](#)

Washington Post:

[Plan Set To Slash Green Cards](#)
[Gene Fix In Human Embryos Is A First](#)
[Dow's Bulls On Parade Hurdle 22,000](#)
[Trump Reluctantly Signs Russia Sanctions Bill](#)
[Editor Brought Julia Child To The Table](#)

Financial Times:

[Neymar Free To Chase 222m Record Transfer](#)

[Trump Signs Russia Sanctions Law But Blasts Curbs On White House](#)

[Hungry Investors Pile Into First Iraq Bond Sale In More Than A Decade](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Endorses Merit-Based System That Would Cut Legal Immigration By Half](#)

[White House Not A 'Dump' For Trump, But Others See Signs Of Age](#)

[American Imams Apologize After Videos Verify Jihadi Rhetoric Against Jews](#)

[Trump Eager To Declare Iran Noncompliant On Nuclear Deal: Tillerson Argues For Leverage](#)

[Full Troop Withdrawal Off The Table As Trump, Aides Debate Options For Afghanistan](#)

[Trump Signs Sanctions Against Russia, Iran, North Korea, But Slams Constraints On Executive Powers](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Minneapolis-School Explosion; Trump-Legal Immigration Bill; Trump-Russia Sanctions Bill; Trump-Recent Comments Controversy; Pennsylvania-Train Derailment; North Korea-US Missile Test; Afghanistan-Two US Service Members Killed; Ford Police Cars-Carbon Monoxide; Weather Forecast; US Economy-Amazon Jobs; North Carolina-YMCA Chemical Leak.

CBS: Russia Investigation-Phone, Email Records; Trump-Recent Comments Controversy; Trump-Legal Immigration Bill; Justice Department-Affirmative Action; Afghanistan-Two US Service Members Killed; Baltimore-Police Body Cam Investigation; Minneapolis-School Explosion; Pennsylvania-Train Derailment; Venezuela-Economic Crisis; Wall Street; Health-CRISPR Breakthrough; North Carolina-YMCA Chemical Leak; Ford Police Cars-Carbon Monoxide; US Economy-Amazon Jobs.

NBC: US Economy-Amazon Jobs; Minneapolis-School Explosion; Trump-Legal Immigration Bill; Trump-Russia Sanctions Bill; North Korea-US Missile Test; Trump-Afghanistan Strategy; Innocence Project-Exonerate Attorney; Ford Police Cars-Carbon Monoxide; Severe Weather-Heat.

Network TV At A Glance:

US Economy-Amazon Jobs – 6 minutes, 15 seconds

Trump-Legal Immigration Bill – 5 minutes, 50 seconds

Minneapolis-School Explosion – 4 minutes, 35 seconds

Trump-Recent Comments Controversy – 4 minutes, 25 seconds

Ford Police Cars-Carbon Monoxide – 3 minutes, 40 seconds

Trump-Russian Sanctions Bill – 2 minutes, 5 seconds

Pennsylvania-Train Derailment – 1 minute, 30 seconds

North Carolina-YMCA Chemical Leak – 1 minute, 20 seconds

North Korea-US Missile Test – 50 seconds

Afghanistan-Two US Service Members Killed – 30 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Oklahoma-Earthquake; Minneapolis-School Explosion; Trump-Russia Sanctions Bill; Maduro-Vote Tampering Claims.

CBS: Trump-Legal Immigration Bill; Justice Department-Affirmative Action; Minneapolis-School Explosion; Severe Weather-Heat.

FOX: Trump-Legal Immigration Bill; Trump-Russia Sanctions Bill; Afghanistan-Two US Service Members Killed; Minneapolis-School Explosion; Pennsylvania-Train Derailment; Congress-Military Force Authorization; US Economy-Amazon Jobs; Wall Street.

NPR: Trump-Russia Sanctions Bill; Justice Department-Affirmative Action; Minneapolis-School Explosion; Afghanistan-Two US Service Members Killed; Yemen-Malnutrition, Cholera Epidemic; Mississippi Nissan Plant-Union Vote; Wall Street.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.**White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Receives daily intelligence briefing; meets with National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster; participates in a Department of Veterans Affairs Telehealth Event; departs Washington, DC en route to Huntington, West Virginia; participates in a Make America

Great Again Rally; departs Huntington, West Virginia en route to Washington, DC.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Departs Washington, DC en route to Nashville, Tennessee; delivers remarks to the Tennessee GOP 2017 Statesmen's Dinner; departs Nashville, Tennessee en route to Washington, DC.

US Senate: 10:00 AM Senate Finance Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Gilbert Kaplan to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade; and Matthew Bassett to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services. Location: Rm 215, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://finance.senate.gov>. Contacts: Senate Committee on Finance communications 1 202 224 4515.

10:00 AM Senate Natural Resources Committee hearing on wildland fires – Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources hearing to examine federal and nonfederal collaboration, including through the use of technology, to reduce wildland fire risk to communities and enhance firefighting safety and effectiveness, with testimony from US Forest Service Deputy Chief of State and Private Forestry Victoria Christiansen; Department of the Interior Office of Wildland Fire Director Bryan Rice; Alaska State Forester Chris Maisch (on behalf of National Association of State Foresters); Wenatchee, WA, Economic Development Director Steve King; and Michigan Tech Research Institute Research Engineer Dr Mary Ellen Miller. Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://energy.senate.gov/public/>. Contacts: Senate Energy Committee 1 202 224 4971.

10:00 AM Senate Commerce subcommittee hearing on insurance fraud – Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Insurance Fraud in America: Current Issues Facing Industry and Consumers', with testimony from Oklahoma Insurance Commissioner John Doak (on behalf of National Association of Insurance Commissioners); Coalition Against Insurance Fraud Executive Director Dennis Jay; Insurance Information Institute CEO Sean Kevelighan; National Insurance Crime Bureau Director of Government Affairs Tim Lynch; and Consumer Federation of America General Counsel Rachel Weintraub. Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>. Contacts: Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation press 1 202 224 4546.

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations of Jeffrey Bossert Clark to be Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division, Peter Deegan, Jr. to be US Attorney for the Northern District of Iowa, D. Michael Dunavant to be US Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee, Louis Franklin, Sr. to be US Attorney for the Middle District of Alabama, Marc Krickbaum to be US Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa, Jessie Liu to be US Attorney for the District of Columbia, and Richard Moore to be US Attorney for the Southern District of Alabama, plus 'S. 705, Child Protection Improvements Act of 2017'. Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 226, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate Judiciary Committee press 1 202 224 7703.

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, with agenda including 'S.XXXX, Taylor Force Act', and consideration of nominations of Michael Arthur Raynor to be US Ambassador to Ethiopia; Maria Brewer to be US Ambassador to Sierra Leone; and John Desrocher to be US Ambassador to Algeria. Location: US Capitol, S-116, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate Committee on Foreign Relations 1 202 224 4651.

US House: Not in session.

Other: No relevant events.

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "The Pew Research Center yesterday...released a report of the world's most dangerous threats. ... In the United States, we said cyberattacks are the most dangerous threat. Here in LA, we said traffic and gluten, but the rest of the country said cyberattacks."

Jimmy Kimmel: "The President's approval rating has dropped to a new low. This is a newer new low than the last new low. Trump's approval rating is down to 33 percent today, which I think is lower than the 'Emoji Movie.'"

Jimmy Kimmel: "According to Golf magazine, of all places, the President told a group of members

at his golf club in New Jersey, 'The White House is a real dump.' A White House spokesperson today denied the President said that, so it's true."

Jimmy Kimmel: [Referencing Trump's golf vacation] "You know it's going to be one of those 'Home Alone'-type scenarios when he forgets to take Barron with him. They leave him and he accidentally launches a nuke at North Korea or Canada or something."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Before heading out of town, President Trump today signed a round of sanctions against Russia to punish Russia for making him win the election. He's still very angry about that."

Jimmy Kimmel: "The sanctions...passed with an overwhelming majority in the House and the Senate, so Trump had to sign it. Vladimir Putin is not happy. In fact, he changed their relationship status on Facebook today to 'it's complicated.'"

Jimmy Kimmel: "The prime minister of Russia is calling this, now, 'full-scale trade war' with the United States, which, what do we even trade with them? I mean, does this mean we won't be able to get nesting eggs? I don't know."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Did you know Sean Spicer is still working at the White House? He resigned like two weeks ago, but he's still there and they're planning to have him stay on as de facto communications director, despite the fact that he quit. Sean Spicer's like the boyfriend who breaks up with you but still comes over to mow your lawn."

Trevor Noah: [Referencing Trump's support for new immigration bill] "Somewhere right now Hillary Clinton is like, 'Oh, you think people should advance based on merit now? Interesting.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "This morning, President Trump announced a new immigration plan that will favor people who speak English, which is why tonight he had to deport himself."

Jimmy Fallon: "He also signed off on new sanctions against Russia for interfering with our election. Source says that he talked to Vladimir Putin on the phone right before. Yeah. People said that was inappropriate. Trump said, 'I agree, I wanted to Facetime.'"

Seth Meyers: "A new Quinnipiac Poll found that 33 percent of people approve of the job President Trump is doing. Unfortunately, they're all under investigation."

Seth Meyers: "According to Axios, President Trump has been trying to impress his new White House chief of staff, John Kelly, by acting sharper in meetings and rattling off stats. So far, none have been right, but bless him, he's trying."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



DATE: THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2017 7:00 AM EDT

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- Daily Caller: Enviro-sue Over 'Sham' Monument Review.
- Washington Post: The Energy 202: The Interior Department Could Cost Taxpayers At Least \$60 Million By Rolling Back Obama Rule.
- Washington Times: Trump's Hiring Freeze Falls Flat With Government Reformists.
- Associated Press: Trump Administration Urged To Avoid Salmon Protection Rules.

- Planet Jackson Hole (WY): How Soaring Park Visitation Could Rescue Public Lands.
- Bloomberg News: Climate Reports May Slow Trump's Push To Undo Obama-Era Rules.
- Huffington Post: Ryan Zinke Settles Lawsuit Over 'Uninhabitable' \$5,800-A-Month Rental House.
- Elko (NV) Daily Free Press: Editorial: Western Perspective From Zinke Changes Sage Grouse Policy.
- Chattanooga (TN) Times Free Press: Sohn: Make Climate Great Again, Mr. President.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Calif. Tribe Wants Time-Out In Off-Reservation Casino Row.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Jackson Hole (WY) News & Guide: Federal Bills Studied For BLM Transfers.
- Las Vegas Review-Journal: California Company Submits Plans To Build Solar Facility In Nye County.
- Las Vegas Review-Journal: Prosecution To Rest In Bunkerville Standoff Retrial.
- St. George (UT) News: Another Wild Horse Roundup In Iron County, Officials Say Problems Remain.
- Albany (OR) Democrat-Herald: BLM Removes 12 Camping Sites Along Quartzville Corridor.
- Alaska Journal of Commerce: Additional Coverage: BLM Seeks Input On Opening Entire NPR-A To Leasing.
- Elko (NV) Daily Free Press: Thomas Mitchell: Rural Groundwater Grab Gets Federal Court Hearing.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- Gulf Oil Disaster & Deadly Climate Change Won't Stop GOP.
- Charleston-area Leaders Rally Against Offshore Oil Exploration; Gov. McMaster's Stance Against Drilling Affirmed.
- \$7M In Oil Spill Fines, 300 Conservation Jobs Over 3 Years.
- Decommissioning Platform Holly.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- BOR: Fresno, Nelson Reservoirs Near Lowest Levels For Season.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Washington Times: Galveston Suggested As Rescue Site For Endangered Turtles.
- WFSU-FM Tallahassee (FL): Animal Rights Groups Growl At Panther Regulators.
- Montana Public Radio: No Evidence Of Invasive Mussels After Divers Scour Tiber Reservoir.

National Park Service

- Denver Post: In East Arapahoe County, West Bijou Ranch Is Home To One Of The Best Places In The World To Study Earth's Fifth Great Extinction.
- U.S. News & World Report: Yellowstone Visitation Down In July And For The Year.
- Fresno (CA) Bee: BASE Jumper Faces Charges For Leaping Off Yosemite's Cliffs.
- ABC: ABC: Sequoia National Park-Mountain Lion Encounter.
- Flathead (MT) Beacon: Lessons From Night Of The Grizzlies.
- Island Free Press (NC): A Primer On Sea Turtle Nests, And A Inside Look Into The 2017 Nesting Season.
- U.S. News & World Report: 2 Rescued In Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park.
- U.S. News & World Report: 42-Year-Old Man Found Dead In Lake Mead.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- The Guardian (UK): Where Is Guam And Why Is North Korea Threatening It?
- Marianas Variety: Additional Coverage: Interior Funds One Stop Centers In Hawaii And Guam.

US Geological Survey

- Sierra (CA) Sun Times: Keep Tabs On Wildfire Activity Using U.S. Geological Survey Website, Geomac.

Top National News

- Reuters: North Korea Says It Will Have Plan To Strike Guam Developed "By Mid-August."
- ABC: White House Sources: Trump's "Fire And Fury" Threat Surprised His Own Advisers.
- Washington Post: Mattis Warns Of North Korea's "Destruction," Tillerson Tells Americans To "Sleep Well At Night."
- USA Today: Trump Blasts McConnell Over Failure Of ACA Repeal.

- Politico: White House Reportedly Seeking Budget Deal That Includes Border Wall Funding.

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- New York Times.
 - "Fear Of Missiles And Words."
 - "Closing The Courthouse Door."
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DOI In The News

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Proposes Expansion Of Hunting And Fishing At 10 Natural Wildlife Refuges.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/9, Jessen) reports that the Interior Department is seeking "to open or expand hunting and fishing recreational activities in 10 natural wildlife refuges." In a statement, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "These 10 refuges will provide incredible opportunities for sportsmen and anglers across the country to access the land and connect with the wildlife." The change would "bring the number of refuges where the public may hunt up to 373, and up to 312 where fishing would be permitted," according to the department.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Oregonian](#) (8/9, Theen) and the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (8/9, Urness).

Zinke Supports Opening Access To New Mexico Wilderness Site.

The [AP](#) (8/9) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "said Wednesday that federal land managers will be working to finalize a process for considering whether to accept a donation of land that will allow public access to a landlocked parcel of federally protected wilderness in northern New Mexico." According to the article, "if approved, the donation of an adjacent parcel of ranch land will allow" for the Sabinoso Wilderness "to be accessed without trespassing." Zinke "said expanding access to hunting, fishing and recreation on federal lands is a top priority." He said in a statement, "I originally had concerns about adding more wilderness-designated area, however after hiking and riding the land it was clear that access would only be improved if the department accepted the land and maintained the existing roadways."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [McClatchy](#) (8/9), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (8/9), the [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (8/9), the [Miami \(FL\) Herald](#) (8/9), and the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (8/9).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (8/9, Coleman), the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (8/10, Chacón), and the [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (8/9).

Enviros Sue Over 'Sham' Monument Review.

The [Daily Caller](#) (8/9, Pearce) reports that the Center for Biological Diversity "filed a lawsuit Wednesday against President Donald Trump's administration for withholding documents related to the Department of the Interior's (DOI) ongoing review of national monuments designated by

presidential authority under the Antiquities Act.” The Interior Department “has not answered Freedom of Information Act requests for Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke’s schedule, communication records and any other documents related to a review of national monuments mandated by an April 26 Executive Order, according to a CBD press release.” Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift confirmed that “a recap of the secretary’s schedule is available online at the end of every month after all of his agency-related interactions have been recorded.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Newsmax](#) (8/9, Reyner) and [Law360](#) (8/9, Phillis).

Outdoor Business Leaders Concerned About Economic Impact Of Rescinding National Monuments. The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (8/9, Loranger) reports that “a group of business leaders from five western states met in U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s home state on Wednesday to discuss the economic impact to outdoor oriented businesses of shrinking or rescinding national monuments.” Business for Montana’s Outdoors and the Colorado Outdoor Business Alliance co-hosted two Western Businesses for National Monuments roundtable discussions in Helena and Great Falls. Participants “said they would be affected by the loss or reduction of eight monuments: Rio Grande Del Norte, Upper Missouri River Breaks, Grand Staircase Escalante, Basin and Range, Mojave Trails, Sand to Snow, Canyons of the Ancient and Organ Mountains Desert Peaks.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (8/9, Puckett).

Secretary Zinke’s Monument Review Was Fair. In an op-ed for [NMPolitics \(NM\)](#) (8/9, Schickedanz), Jerry G. Schickedanz, a distinguished chair of the Linebery Natural Resource Policy Center at New Mexico State University, defends Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s visit to New Mexico against claims that “he didn’t talk to everybody.” According to Schickedanz, “Zinke visited with the governor, local governments, tribal representatives, veterans, Friends of the Organ Mountains, ranchers, and officials concerned with flood control, watershed management, rights of way, border security, and public safety.” Schickedanz believes Zinke “visited with a broad spectrum of local citizens to hear their concerns and not whether people were for or against the monument.”

The Energy 202: The Interior Department Could Cost Taxpayers At Least \$60 Million By Rolling Back Obama Rule.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/9, Grandoni) reports that “during his confirmation hearing for the job of running the Department of the Interior, Ryan Zinke told the Senate he wanted taxpayers to get ‘fair value’ on resources extracted from public lands by private companies.” However, “a recent move by him means taxpayers will get millions of dollars less from companies that extract oil and gas from public lands.” This week, Zinke “arrived at a final decision, to the consternation of environmental and fiscal critics, on exactly how Interior will define what is an appropriate value for oil, gas and coal taken from lands collectively owned by U.S. citizens.” On Monday, the Interior Department “officially repealed an Obama administration rule that in effect required oil, gas and coal extractors to pay more in royalties to the federal government and states.”

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s Royalty Rule Repeal Will Cost Taxpayers. In an op-ed for [U.S. News & World Report](#) (8/9, Alexander), Ryan Alexander, president of Taxpayers for Common Sense, criticizes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announcement on “the full repeal of a rule aimed at preventing companies from undervaluing oil, gas and coal developed on federal lands.” According to Alexander, “the goal of the rule was to provide taxpayers with increased royalty revenues based on prices closer to the fair market value of the resource; the result of repeal will cost taxpayers up to \$75 million annually.” Alexander concludes that “a full reversal of the rule with no alternative plan to correct the problems within our federal royalty collection system is a step backwards – as well as a boon to industry at the expense of taxpayers.”

Trump’s Hiring Freeze Falls Flat With Government Reformists.

The [Washington Times](#) (8/9, Miller) reports that while President Trump’s hiring freeze “helped cut the size of federal government by about 9,000 employees in his first six months in office,” that number represents only a fraction of the 2.8 million person federal workforce, “and the administration has ended the freeze to fill mission-critical positions at agencies.” The Times notes that the 2018 budget “called for eliminating 24,000 full-time employees across 17 agencies” and “one of the largest cuts” was to the Interior Department “with 4,100 jobs cut, or 6.3 percent of its employees.”

Trump Administration Urged To Avoid Salmon Protection Rules.

The [AP](#) (8/10, Ridler) reports that “a group that represents farmers is calling the costs of saving

imperiled salmon in the largest river system in the Pacific Northwest unsustainable and is turning to the Trump administration to sidestep endangered species laws." The Columbia-Snake River Irrigators Association "wants the government to convene a Cabinet-level committee with the power to allow exemptions to the Endangered Species Act." The group is "frustrated with court rulings it says favor fish over people, claiming the committee could end years of legal challenges over U.S. dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers and bring stability for irrigators, power generators and other businesses that rely on the water." However, "environmental groups call the request a publicity stunt and say it could hurt fishing companies and others that rely on healthy runs of federally protected salmon and steelhead." Darryll Olsen, association board representative, said, "What we're asking for is that the secretary give direction to the (Interior) Department to work with us to review the steps for implementing the God squad." According to the article, "Zinke can gather the committee, which he would chair and would include other natural resource agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency."

How Soaring Park Visitation Could Rescue Public Lands.

The [Planet Jackson Hole \(WY\)](#) (8/9, Sollitt) reports that "increased visitation to national parks is straining federal public lands and infrastructure – but it's also what will save them," according to former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. Addressing a Jackson Hole crowd on Friday, Jewell said that if she were still Interior Secretary, "her biggest priority would be to make to make sure that 'Nick Mulvaney and the budget committees in the house and senate, and frankly American people broadly, understand that there is tremendous value in public service, public servants, public lands.'" Jewell was "this year's Teton Science School Spirit of Conservation award recipient, and was the keynote speaker at Friday's 50th anniversary celebration."

Climate Reports May Slow Trump's Push To Undo Obama-Era Rules.

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/9, Sullivan) reports that "a pair of highly anticipated government studies...could complicate President Donald Trump's effort to roll back federal climate regulations." Bloomberg says "a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-backed report summarizing the global effects of climate change in 2016 is scheduled for release Thursday" and "its conclusion will be similar to previous years' versions, according to people familiar with the report: Climate change is real, it's man-made and it's dangerous." Meanwhile, "that report dovetails with a broader National Climate Assessment, which is due next year from the administration. Drafts of the study, compiled by scientists from across the federal government, show the effects of climate change in the U.S. are severe." Analysts say "both reports are at odds with Trump's contention that climate change is a 'hoax' and may hinder his moves to undo President Barack Obama's efforts to address the issue."

Science Says: Trump Team Garbles Climate Science. The [AP](#) (8/9, Borenstein, Biesecker) also reports that "Trump and his cabinet often avoid talking about the science of climate change, but when pressed what they have said clashes with established mainstream science." The AP says "even the federal government's own reports – including a draft science study for the National Climate Assessment obtained this week by The Associated Press and other media – paint an entirely different reality than what's coming from the Trump Administration." The AP also points out that cabinet members have questioned climate science.

Ryan Zinke Settles Lawsuit Over 'Uninhabitable' \$5,800-A-Month Rental House.

The [Huffington Post](#) (8/9, D'angelo) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "and his wife settled with a Washington, D.C., church that sued them for backing out of a lease on a \$1.9 million Embassy Row home they claimed was 'uninhabitable,' court documents show." The article says that "the terms of the settlement, reached in mid-June, remain confidential."

Editorial: Western Perspective From Zinke Changes Sage Grouse Policy.

In an editorial, the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (8/9) notes that "when a team of Interior Department officials this week released a proposal to loosen land use restrictions in sage grouse country, they included a positive statement on the impact of livestock grazing on sage grouse habitat." The paper says "that change in policy is a victory for ranchers and a victory for Nevada, which went to great lengths under Gov. Brian Sandoval to craft a state-specific sage grouse conservation plan." The editorial says that sage grouse are not being "displaced by people or human activity." Rather, "the biggest factors are the combined threat of fire and invasive species."

Sohn: Make Climate Great Again, Mr. President.

Pam Sohn writes at the [Chattanooga \(TN\) Times Free Press](#) (8/9, Sohn) that President Trump and his band of climate deniers “are, quite literally, snuffing out our world and our children’s future” by delaying action on climate change. According to a draft Climate Science Report, “there is at least a 95 percent likelihood that more than half of that mercury spike could be attributed to human activity.” Meanwhile, “despite all this evidence...the report still awaits an Aug. 18 approval by the Trump administration, which has mostly maintained that climate change is a hoax.” Sohn says a Yale survey found “a majority of Americans said they believe global warming will harm people in the U.S.” but days after the survey results were released, “Trump signed an executive order to review the Obama administration’s Clean Power Plan and unravel a number of other energy orders and memorandums.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Calif. Tribe Wants Time-Out In Off-Reservation Casino Row.

[Law360](#) (8/9, Westney) reports that “the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians on Tuesday said that a California federal court can press the pause button on the tribe’s suit challenging a U.S. Department of the Interior decision authorizing another tribe to conduct gambling at an off-reservation site, saying the case may be stayed while the state’s highest court weighs a related case.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Federal Bills Studied For BLM Transfers.

The [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (8/9, Gross) reports that “Teton County commissioners and landowners are in talks about using federal legislation to transfer parcels along the Snake River corridor from the Bureau of Land Management to the county.” The plan is for Sen. John Barrasso “to introduce a bill to accomplish that.” However, “first the county must decide the terms of the transfers, and which parcels to advance when.”

California Company Submits Plans To Build Solar Facility In Nye County.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (8/9, Botkin) reports that “a California company wants to build a 1,600-megawatt solar energy generation facility in Nye County.” The report says “Sandstone Solar Energy’s preliminary plans for the facility on 20,000 acres of federal public lands were in a filing sent this week to the Nevada Public Utilities Commission.” The Review-Journal says that “because the project is on federal land, the company needs approval from the Bureau of Land Management, a process that includes an environmental review and opportunity for public comment.”

Prosecution To Rest In Bunkerville Standoff Retrial.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (8/8, Ferrara) reports that “prosecutors questioned their final witness Tuesday in the retrial of four Bunkerville standoff defendants, whose attorneys began preparing to present their case to jurors.” U.S. District Judge Gloria Navarro “said she would allow one potential defense witness, who was at the 2014 armed standoff but not arrested, to give a proffer statement outside the presence of jurors Wednesday, while a private investigator could testify for the defense the next day.” According to the article, “after spending several hours on the witness stand detailing photographs and videos of the standoff and Bunkerville area, FBI special agent Joel Willis, a key government witness, responded to about 15 juror questions.”

With Jury Absent, Cliven Bundy Supporters Give Testimony. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (8/9, Ferrara) reports that “with the jury box empty, defense attorneys called four witnesses Wednesday in the retrial of four Bunkerville standoff defendants.” U.S. District Judge Gloria Navarro “allowed three men and one woman, each of whom attended the April 2014 protest, to give proffer statements, or a preview of what they might tell a jury.” However, “the judge ruled that jurors should not hear their testimony because none of them offered evidence of self-defense the men on trial hoped to claim.”

Another Wild Horse Roundup In Iron County, Officials Say Problems Remain.

The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (8/9, Sullivan) reports that “about 100 wild horses are slated to be

rounded up in Iron and Beaver counties Tuesday, one of several roundups conducted since 2014 to try and bring the overwhelming herd numbers under control." The Bureau of Land Management will be "removing the wild horses from areas within and outside the Bible Spring Complex located in both counties."

BLM Removes 12 Camping Sites Along Quartzville Corridor.

The [Albany \(OR\) Democrat-Herald](#) (8/9, Paul) reports that "about a dozen dispersed camping spaces along the Quartzville Recreation Corridor near Green Peter Reservoir have been removed, according to the Bureau of Land Management." BLM spokeswoman Jennifer Velez "said the sites have been removed because the BLM's lease with a private landowner for the spaces expired in December."

Additional Coverage: BLM Seeks Input On Opening Entire NPR-A To Leasing.

Additional coverage that the Bureau of Land Management is seeking input on whether "any more of the nearly 23 million-acre National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska should be open to development of its namesake resource" was provided by the [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (8/9, Brehmer).

Thomas Mitchell: Rural Groundwater Grab Gets Federal Court Hearing.

In his column for the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (8/9, Mitchell), Thomas Mitchell writes that "three years ago several counties and groups filed lawsuits in federal court" claiming the Interior Department and the Bureau of Land Management violated the National Environmental Policy Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act in approving a groundwater project. This past week, federal Judge Andrew Gordon "heard nearly two hours of oral arguments from both sides seeking summary judgment."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Gulf Oil Disaster & Deadly Climate Change Won't Stop GOP.

[NJ Today](#) (8/9) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "recently announced that the federal government would offer 75.9 million acres offshore Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida for oil and gas exploration and development – waters in the same Gulf of Mexico spoiled by the Deepwater Horizon disaster in 2010." The lease sale scheduled for August 16 "would include all available unleased areas in federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico and provide a reduced royalty rate for shallow water leases to encourage exploration and production under current market conditions." Lease Sale 249, "scheduled to be livestreamed from New Orleans, will be the first offshore sale under the National Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2017-2022."

Charleston-area Leaders Rally Against Offshore Oil Exploration; Gov. McMaster's Stance Against Drilling Affirmed.

The [Charleston \(SC\) City Paper](#) (8/9, Waters) reports that "with the possibility of oil and natural gas exploration off the Atlantic seaboard back on the table, South Carolina's coastal leaders find themselves once again taking a stand to prevent drilling in local waters." According to the article, "faced with an Aug. 17 deadline to provide public input, state and local officials rallied in Mt. Pleasant Monday to ask that citizens voice their opposition to such a proposal and encourage Gov. Henry McMaster to do the same."

\$7M In Oil Spill Fines, 300 Conservation Jobs Over 3 Years.

The [AP](#) (8/9, McConnaughey) reports that "about \$7 million in BP oil spill penalties will create 300 conservation jobs in Gulf of Mexico states." Jeff DeQuattro of The Nature Conservancy said "that employment will ramp up over three years: 10 people working in each state next year, 20 more in 2019 and another 30 in each state in 2020." The AP explains "the conservancy is working with The Corps Network and the Student Conservation Association under a RESTORE Act grant administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration."

Decommissioning Platform Holly.

The [Santa Barbara \(CA\) Edhat](#) (8/9) reports that when the oil company Venoco, Inc. "declared bankruptcy last spring and ceded its offshore lease, the state of California 'inherited' 50-year-old Platform Holly off the coast of Santa Barbara." Now the state is looking at "how to decommission

the platform, an arduous process that will require years to complete.” According to the article, “to inform the decommissioning process, a team from UC Santa Barbara is partnering with the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to determine the biological effects for various platform removal scenarios.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

BOR: Fresno, Nelson Reservoirs Near Lowest Levels For Season.

The [Havre \(MT\) Daily News](#) (8/9) reports that “with levels at Fresno and Nelson reservoirs at their lowest levels in years, the federal agency that administers the irrigation reservoirs said the water should start rising soon.” The Bureau of Reclamation, “which runs the reservoirs as part of the Milk River Project created at the start of the last century to provide irrigation water — they also provide municipal water to cities on the Milk River — said irrigation operations are starting to ramp down, about a month sooner than normal.” The bureau “said in a release Tuesday that Fresno is at 30 feet below its full storage elevation of 2575 feet — the BOR website reports as of this morning that Tuesday it was at 13.5 percent full with 604.9 cubic-feet-per-second of water coming in and 880.2 CFS going out — and Nelson is nearly 12 feet below the full storage level of 2,221.6 feet, with the website reporting Nelson Tuesday was at 47.7 percent full with an inflow of 584.1 CFS and outflow of 407.6 CFS.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Galveston Suggested As Rescue Site For Endangered Turtles.

The [AP](#) (8/9, Ketterer) reports that turtle monitors are pushing for a turtle incubation site on Galveston Island. However, environmentalists “would have to find a place to build a corral and then go through a lengthy permitting process.” Both Chuck Underwood, spokesman for the Fish and Wildlife Services North Florida office, and Donna Shaver, chief of the Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery at the National Park Service, confirmed the challenges of building such a site.

Animal Rights Groups Growl At Panther Regulators.

[WFSU-FM](#) Tallahassee, FL (8/9, Ash) reports that “animal rights and environmental groups are urging members to flood the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with pleas not to alter the Florida Panther’s ‘endangered’ status.” Federal regulators are conducting “a periodic review of the iconic predator and August 14th is the last day for public comment.” The Humane Society’s Laura Bevan said, “We want the Florida Panther recognized by that federal agency and we want the protections to be maintained and even increased.”

No Evidence Of Invasive Mussels After Divers Scour Tiber Reservoir.

[Montana Public Radio](#) (8/9, Whitney, Saboe) reports that “scuba divers from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have spent the past three days in north-central Montana, scouring the waters of Tiber Dam for any signs of aquatic invasive mussels.” In October of last year, “a juvenile mussel was found in a water sample from Tiber Reservoir by the Bureau of Reclamation, and suspicious samples were discovered in Canyon Ferry Reservoir, near Townsend.” Since then, Montana has “ramped up its efforts to stave off a potentially destructive infestation of non-native quagga and zebra mussels.”

National Park Service

In East Arapahoe County, West Bijou Ranch Is Home To One Of The Best Places In The World To Study Earth’s Fifth Great Extinction.

The [Denver Post](#) (8/9, Rubino) reports that Interior Secretary Sally Jewell “proclaimed West Bijou Site the country’s 599th national natural landmark in November.” The designation will be “celebrated at a dedication ceremony on Aug. 17 at the ranch.” A National Park Service news statement said, “The designation of West Bijou Site as a national natural landmark recognizes its incomparable contribution to the Earth’s geologic history through its unique features, including pollen records and vertebrate fossils.”

Yellowstone Visitation Down In July And For The Year.

The [AP](#) (8/9) reports that "more than half way through the calendar year, Yellowstone National Park has seen about 5 percent fewer visitors so far this year." The National Park Service on Wednesday said just over 962,400 people visited the park in July, down 3.4 percent from July 2016's 995,910 visits." The article notes that "Yellowstone officials are expecting a busy August because of the solar eclipse."

BASE Jumper Faces Charges For Leaping Off Yosemite's Cliffs.

The [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (8/9, Lopez) reports that BASE jumpers at Yosemite National Park are complaining of "a double standard." The park "allows high-risk sports such as hang gliding from Glacier Point Overlook and climbing of El Capitan and Half Dome without ropes or safety equipment. BASE jumpers, though, get prosecuted." According to Yosemite park spokesman Scott Gediman, "BASE jumping is illegal because it doesn't fit in with 'the park's values' that puts a high priority of providing a wholesome, quiet, safe environment for families and visitors." Gediman "said typically two to three BASE jumpers are prosecuted each year for illegally pursuing their sport in the park."

ABC: Sequoia National Park-Mountain Lion Encounter.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/9, story 10, 1:20, Muir) reported, "We turn next tonight to that close encounter in the woods. Two hikers in California's Sequoia National Park getting a little too close to nature. Crossing paths with a mountain lion ready to pounce. Authorities tonight with an important reminder about what you should do."

Lessons From Night Of The Grizzlies.

The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (8/9, Scott, Franz) reports that the deaths of two young women in separate grizzly bear incidents at Glacier National Park on Aug. 12, 1967 has had far-reaching impacts. According to the article, "the tragedy, indelibly etched into history as the 'Night of the Grizzlies,' would forever change the lives of those involved, and it would transform the nation's bear management policies." The Beacon reconstructed the tragic events from "numerous interviews with witnesses, as well as National Park Service incident reports."

A Primer On Sea Turtle Nests, And A Inside Look Into The 2017 Nesting Season.

The [Island Free Press \(NC\)](#) (8/9, Allman) reports that starting May 1, the National Park Service "monitors the beaches of Cape Hatteras National Seashore from Ramp 30 to Hatteras village for sea turtle nest activity." Currently, NPS workers begin "patrolling at 4:30 a.m. each morning in order to secure any recently laid turtle nests before 6 and 7 a.m., when the beaches open to ORV traffic." The NPS of Cape Hatteras welcomes "volunteers to their team who are willing to give two consecutive weeks of their summer for 3 or 4 nights a week to monitoring nests within villages." According to the article, "they have also begun exploring options in internships in wildlife management and beach clean-up for any adolescents wanting to gain skills in the field of biology and conservation at an early age."

2 Rescued In Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park.

The [AP](#) (8/9) reports that "Grand Teton National Park rangers have rescued two men who got lost and became stranded while descending Mount Moran in northwest Wyoming." The National Park Service "says 58-year-old Ron Sloat of Colfax, Washington and 35-year-old Geoff Mitchell of Spartanburg, South Carolina called for help about 2 a.m. Tuesday." According to the article, "a helicopter had to be used to get the men down safely about 3:30 p.m. Tuesday."

42-Year-Old Man Found Dead In Lake Mead.

The [AP](#) (8/9) reports that "the body of a 42-year-old Las Vegas man who went missing in late July while swimming at Lake Mead has been recovered." The man's body was recovered on Tuesday.

Office Of Insular Affairs

Where Is Guam And Why Is North Korea Threatening It?

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (8/9, Grierson) reports that Guam's location, "within range of North Korean

medium- and long-range missiles, and military significance to the US make it a logical target for Pyongyang." The US has "a naval base and coastguard station in the south, and an air force base in the north, which was used during the Vietnam war." According to the article, "though there has been some resistance and displeasure from the people of Guam over the US military's presence, it is also essential to the island's economy, second only to tourism."

Guam Is Overlooked Asset In Asia. In an op-ed for the [Detroit News](#) (8/9, Lennox), Dennis Lennox, who was executive director of the Republican Party of the Virgin Islands, writes that "North Korea's threat presents a unique opportunity for the federal government to simultaneously fly the flag while empowering Guam to promote the national interest, be it economically or diplomatically." To achieve this, Lennox urges President Trump "to reinvent the way the federal government oversees the territories." Lennox argues that "it's time to use broad authority of the president to transfer Guam and the territories from Interior to a new, standalone cabinet-level agency."

Additional Coverage: Interior Funds One Stop Centers In Hawaii And Guam.

Additional coverage that Interior acting Assistant Secretary Nikolao Pula "made available two technical assistance grants totaling \$467,095 to continue support for the Micronesia Resource Center One Stop Shop on Guam and the We are Oceania Halau Ola One Stop Center in Hawaii" was provided by [Marianas Variety](#) (8/9).

US Geological Survey

Keep Tabs On Wildfire Activity Using U.S. Geological Survey Website, Geomac.

The [Sierra \(CA\) Sun Times](#) (8/9) reports that "during a particularly heavy fire season 17 years ago, the USGS and partners identified the need to locate fires quickly for first responders, and started a consortium called the Geospatial Multi-Agency Coordination Group. eventually building a website called GeoMAC to fill that void." The site "provides one-stop shopping for emergency managers, fire responders and public eager to track where fires are burning, and their intensities." Elizabeth Lile, USGS scientist and GeoMAC project manager, said, "GeoMAC integrates daily wildfire perimeters for the public and wildland fire community. This tool is also a great resource for the public seeking more information about exactly where fires are burning."

Top National News

North Korea Says It Will Have Plan To Strike Guam Developed "By Mid-August."

[Reuters](#) (8/9, Kim, Kim) reports North Korean state-run media said Thursday that Pyongyang will develop a plan "by mid-August to launch four intermediate range missiles" at Guam "before presenting it to leader Kim Jong Un who will make a decision on whether to proceed." Reuters says the "unusually detailed report on the attack plan marked a further escalation in tensions" between Pyongyang and Washington one day after President Trump warned North Korea would face "fire and fury" if it threatened the US. North Korea called Trump's threat a "load of nonsense."

The [AP](#) (8/9, Lederman, Pennington) reports North Korea "officially dismissed...Trump's threats," calling the President "bereft of reason" and warning "ominously" that "only absolute force can work on him." [Reuters](#) (8/9, Oliphant, Blanchard) quotes the state-run KCNA news agency as saying "sound dialogue is not possible with such a guy."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/9, Kaiman) reports North Korea responded to Trump's threat "with vitriol." In a statement, the Korean People's Army threatened to "turn the US mainland into the theater of a nuclear war," sending "a strong signal that Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions remain unchecked."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/9, Cheng) reports North Korea said it would be "closely watching the speech and behavior of the US," and [USA Today](#) (8/9, James) reports North Korean media said the purpose of the missile launch will be "to interdict the enemy forces on major military bases on Guam and to signal a crucial warning to the US."

The [New York Times](#) (8/9, Sang-Hun) reports that "in addition to serving as a warning to the United States, the proposed missile firings would also be a challenge to Japan," noting that "some of the North Korean missiles launched in recent months have fallen in waters near Japan." The [New York Post](#) (8/9, Brown) also reports North Korea's response, and the [Los Angeles Times](#)

(8/9, King) notes that “at a distance of about 2,100 miles, Guam lies closer to North Korea than any other US territory.”

The [AP](#) (8/9, Bordallo, Bussewitz), meanwhile, reports Guam residents “say they’re afraid of being caught in the middle of escalating tensions between the US and North Korea,” but “local officials downplayed any threat.” Secretary of State Tillerson was also “unruffled as he headed to Guam to refuel on his trip back to Washington from Malaysia.” Said Tillerson, “I do not believe that there is any imminent threat.”

Media Analyses: US Missile Defenses Lack Real-World Tests. Martha Raddatz said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/9, story 2, 0:55, Muir) that while Trump’s statement “was a surprise to many” and “war is the last thing anyone at the Pentagon wants to see happen,” Pacific Command has been updating its “war planning, and they are certainly focusing on defensive measures.” [Reuters](#) (8/9, Stone) reports that the US military says its missile defense system and network of radars “allow it to successfully track and destroy incoming warheads,” but “test conditions do not accurately mimic those of wartime and critics are skeptical the country can truly defend itself.” On May 30 the Missile Defense Agency held its 10th successful test, in 18 attempts, of the Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system, but the test “took place during daytime and intercepted a single incoming missile. Few experts expect either of those assumptions to be likely if North Korea launched an attack.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/9, story 2, 2:10, Mason) reported the US is “scheduled to conduct an annual military exercise in South Korea later this month,” and Cynthia McFadden reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/9, story 2, 3:35, Holt) that the Pentagon has already prepared a “specific strike plan for a preemptive attack” that would involve B-1 bombers targeting “approximately two dozen North Korean missile launch sites and support facilities, which intelligence officials tell NBC News they feel confident they have accurately identified.”

North Korea Frees Jailed Canadian Pastor. The [New York Times](#) (8/9, Choe) reports that Canadian pastor Rev. Lim Hyeon-soo, who had been sentenced to hard labor for life in North Korea, was released on humanitarian grounds on Wednesday, North Korean state-run media said. Lim was sentenced in December 2015 after the nation’s Supreme Court convicted him of carrying out “subversive plots” and committing “activities against” the country. North Korea gave no further details about his release.

White House Sources: Trump’s “Fire And Fury” Threat Surprised His Own Advisers.

The tensions over the North Korean nuclear threat once again dominated the news cycle. All three networks led with the story, dedicating just over 23 minutes of combined coverage – up from 15 minutes on Tuesday night. One major topic of discussion was reporting, based on unnamed sources, on the President’s stern warning to North Korea the previous day.

Cecilia Vega reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/9, lead story, 3:55, Muir) that it “caught some in the President’s own inner circle by surprise. The President, in that statement, using language not vetted or pre-approved by his national security team.” According to Vega, “Sources close to the President say behind closed doors with top aides, including new Chief of Staff Gen. John Kelly, President Trump had discussed taking a tougher tone on Pyongyang. But even members of his own national security team had no idea the President would go this far.” Similarly, Anthony Mason said in the lead story on the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/9, lead story, 2:30) that Trump’s national security advisers had “agreed on a tough statement,” but “they didn’t expect” him to warn of “fire and fury like the world has never seen.”

Similarly, the [Washington Post](#) (8/9, Rucker, Deyoung) reports Trump discussed with his advisers “a strategy to escalate his rhetoric and deliver a more aggressive and overt challenge to North Korea’s leader, Kim Jong Un, said two senior White House officials.” The message Trump delivered Tuesday afternoon “was unexpected, but it wasn’t surprising,” one of the officials said.

The [New York Times](#) (8/9, A1, Baker, Thrush) reports that when Trump delivered his “fire and fury” threat to North Korea on Tuesday with “eyes flitting on what appeared to be a single page of talking points set before him on the conference table,” the piece of paper “was a fact sheet on the opioid crisis he had come to talk about.” Trump’s “ominous warning to Pyongyang was entirely improvised,” and he did not run the language by his advisers during talks beforehand.

The [Washington Times](#) (8/9, Boyer), however, reports that the White House said Wednesday that the President’s advisers were “well aware” that he planned to deliver a strong message, but Trump “chose the specific language.” Press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said Chief of Staff John Kelly and others on the President’s national-security team “were well aware of the tone of the statement of the president prior to delivery,” but “the words were his own.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/9, Faries, Syeed) reports White House senior adviser Stephen Miller “suggested one intended audience for Trump’s blunt rhetoric may have been China.” Said Miller, “One of the most important things that you’ve seen is the president being so clear so publicly about China’s responsibilities in this regard. But the frankness of the president’s comments, the straightforwardness of his comments broadcast publicly about his expectations in that area, again, represent a new approach to how we’re handling the issue.”

White House Deputy Assistant Sebastian Gorka said on [Fox News’ Fox & Friends](#) (8/9) that the President “is saying don’t test America and don’t test Donald J. Trump. We are just not a superpower. We were a hyper power. Nobody in the world, especially not North Korea, comes close to challenging our military capabilities, whether they’re conventional, whether they’re nuclear or whether they are special forces. So the message is very clear: don’t test this White House, Pyongyang.”

Gorka said on [Fox News’ Hannity](#) (8/9), “North Korea needs to understand the blackmail stops, and if you get into an arms race, as Secretary Mattis said, with United States of America, you will lose, whoever you are.”

Trump aides, [Politico](#) (8/9, Nelson) reports, are “warning against reading too much into the combative talk.” One “White House official” said, “I think he just wanted to show North Korea he was tired of it.” Trump, the official said, “was presented at his golf course on Tuesday with a new batch of information on North Korea a few hours before his controversial comments.”

Lawmakers, however, have been “worried about...Trump going off script for months,” [McClatchy](#) (8/9, Kumar, Clark) reports, and now they “are worried that his blunt and provocative warning to North Korea could lead to war.” Rep. John Garamendi (D-CA) said, “His bombastic rhetoric really inflamed a very...dangerous situation.” McClatchy says “it’s not just Democrats who are alarmed,” and “even some fellow Republicans criticized the president’s language.” Sen. John McCain told Arizona radio station KTAR, “It’s kind of the classic Trump in that he overstates things.”

Sen. Ben Cardin, ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (8/9), “I think the international community is looking to the United States for leadership to avoid a military confrontation with North Korea that could well involve nuclear weapons, and what the President said was just not helpful, but also raises the question to the international community whether the United States has a game plan for North Korea in order to change the equations.”

The [New York Times](#) (8/9, Myers, Choe) reports the President’s comments Tuesday also “sent a shudder through Asia on Wednesday, raising alarm among allies.” The Chinese Foreign Ministry “restated its position that the North Korean nuclear issue should be resolved by political means” and that “all relevant parties” should avoid “remarks and acts that may escalate the conflict.” South Korea, meanwhile, sought “to ease concern about the situation, saying that the North’s recent posturing, including its threat to attack Guam, appeared to be aimed at tightening solidarity among its own population and causing its neighbors anxiety.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/9, story 3, 1:50, Mason), however, reported that amid the heightened rhetoric, South Korean President Moon Jae-In says he will now allow the US to fully deploy the THAAD defense system in his country. Japanese lawmakers, meanwhile are “pushing for new weapons that could allow it to launch a preemptive strike on North Korea.”

Trump’s comments Tuesday, the [Washington Post](#) (8/9, Fisher, Johnson) reports, have also further raised concerns among “those who believe the president is a loose cannon, impulsively blurting whatever flits through his mind.” The Post says the incident recalls for some Hillary Clinton’s campaign ad featuring “a longtime nuclear missile launch officer” who warned against voting for Trump: “I prayed that call would never come. Self-control may be all that keeps these missiles from firing.”

While a [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/9) editorial hits back at criticisms of the President’s remarks, arguing that diplomacy works best when there is a credible threat to back it up, most commentary is critical of the President’s tone Tuesday. A [USA Today](#) (8/9) editorial, for example, argues that it is “time for a deep breath. Fiery rhetoric aside, it bears remembering that the United States and North Korea do not seek dominion over the other,” and “America fares best when it acts with steely resolve, not out of fear.” In Japan, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/9, Sonne, Radnofksy) reports Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s government welcomed Trump’s “fire and fury” language.

On its editorial page, the [New York Times](#) (8/9) writes that “on some emotional level, one might be able to see why Donald Trump threatened to unleash ‘fire and fury’ against North Korea,” but he “is president of the United States, and if prudent, disciplined leadership was ever

required, it is now." The Times argues that "rhetorically stomping his feet, as he did on Tuesday, is not just irresponsible; it is dangerous." Instead, "tougher sanctions, coupled with [Secretary of State] Tillerson's continued efforts at a diplomatic solution, are the best path to a peaceful end to this conflict. That is what Mr. Trump should also be focused on. Engaging in a war of words with North Korea only makes it harder for both sides to de-escalate."

[Washington Post](#) (8/9) columnist E.J. Dionne Jr. writes that while Trump "may be given to hyperbolic (and often fact-free) attacks on those he perceives as enemies," it's "hard to be hyperbolic where Kim is concerned. He's about as scary and cruel as they come. And this is where Trump's temperamental unfitness for the office he occupies is disturbing for reasons that go far beyond party or ideology." Politico's Edward-Isaac Dove [tweeted](#), "The president's aides would like you to know he wasn't prepared and didn't mean it when he threatened nuclear war."

Former Ambassador Bill Richardson said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/9, story 4, 2:20, Mason), "The best option is diplomacy. The best option is continued sanctions...continue to pressure China, continue the military exercises. But find a way to talk to the North Koreans." He added that "talk about preemptive military strikes and the President's very incendiary statement, which was not helpful, is not the way to go."

Rep. Andre Carson (D-IN) said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/9) said he doesn't think a military response should be taken off the table, but "our diplomatic response sends an example," and "I don't think that President Trump should try to make outlandish statements to one-up Kim Jong-un."

Many Democratic members of the House tweeted about the President's words. Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA) [tweeted](#), "Trump has said 'all options are on the table' w/r/t #NorthKorea but all we've seen is reckless bluster. Diplomacy must be the top priority." Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO) [tweeted](#), "@POTUS' reckless rhetoric on #NorthKorea could further escalate a very precarious situation. Thoughtful strategy & diplomacy is critical." Rep. Dan Kildee (D-MI) [tweeted](#), "When it comes to North Korea, we need a smart, strong and unified strategy – not bombastic rhetoric."

Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI) [tweeted](#), "Please, @realDonaldTrump, enough w/ the saber-rattling. You can't fight lunacy w/ lunacy. Diplomacy is the only way forward w/ #NorthKorea." Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) [tweeted](#), "Erratic and fiery belligerence of @POTUS statements do little to defuse North Korea situation and threaten to make a bad situation worse." Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA) [tweeted](#), "Constituent texts pouring in asking 'should we worry about North Korea?' I've never seen anything like chaos @realDonaldTrump has created."

Rep. Paul Tonko (D-NY) [tweeted](#), "Diplomacy = best & only peaceful way to push back on #NorthKorea. We must work w/ S.Korea, Japan & China to reverse their nuclear ambitions." Rep. Tim Walz (D-MN) [tweeted](#), "@POTUS rhetoric on N. Korea is reckless and does nothing to keep us safe. Clear he fails to understand the role of commander-in-chief."

Trump Comments Spark Debate Over War Resolution. [The Hill](#) (8/9, Wong) reports President Trump's warning to North Korea has "reignited a debate about whether the commander in chief needs congressional approval before launching a preemptive military strike." So far, however, "congressional leaders from both parties have been silent on the issue." The Hill suggests lawmakers are "reluctant to tie Trump's hands" and "recognize how unpopular and divisive a vote on a war resolution would be for lawmakers facing reelection next year."

Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA) [tweeted](#), "No debate here. It's unconstitutional for @realDonaldTrump to go to war with #NorthKorea without Congressional authorization."

Former GOP Senator Says Trump Should Be Removed From Office Via 25th Amendment. [WMUR-TV](#) Manchester, NH (8/9) reports on its website that former New Hampshire Sen. Gordon Humphrey, a Republican, has sent letters to the state's senators and two House members, all Democrats, urging them to support removing Trump from office, "citing the president's Tuesday promise to unleash "fire and fury" on North Korea if that nation continues its nuclear aggression. Humphrey says Trump is 'sick of mind' and 'dangerous'" and should be removed via the 25th Amendment. The [Boston Globe](#) (8/9, Pindell) reports that Humphrey "represented New Hampshire in the US Senate from 1978 to 1990, during which time he was viewed as one of the body's most conservative members."

WPost Analysis: Echoes Of Cuban Missile Crisis In Trump's North Korea Warnings. The [Washington Post](#) (8/9, Miller) reports President Trump's comments about North Korea have "echoed President Truman's warning to Japan two days after the bombing of Hiroshima" that if the country didn't surrender, it faced "a rain of ruin from the air, the like of which has never been seen on this Earth." But his "blunt words" also "reflect the influence not only of the military academy" Trump attended as a teen, "but also the Cuban missile crisis."

Author Michael Dobbs, writing in the [Washington Post](#) (8/9), also ties Trump's comments to

the Cuban missile crisis. Dobbs writes, "Given the explosive rhetoric of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, it is understandable that President Trump should be tempted to respond in kind. ... Playing chicken is, however, a dangerous indulgence for the leader of a nuclear superpower."

Media Analyses: Obama, Not Trump, Deserves Credit For Upgrading US Nuclear Arsenal. The President's tweets Wednesday morning also got extensive media attention, with analysts casting doubt on the accuracy of his claims about the nation's nuclear arsenal.

Kristen Welker, for example, reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/9, story 3, 2:25, Holt) that "privately, Administration officials acknowledge they've spent the day trying to turn down the heat, but the President may have added to the mixed messaging, [tweeting](#), 'My first order as President was to renovate and modernize our nuclear arsenal. It is now far stronger and more powerful than ever before.'" However, Welker reported that though it's true Trump ordered a review of the nuclear arsenal in January, former President Obama "had already launched an effort to upgrade the stock pile, and it's a project that will take at least 30 years to complete, making it impossible for there to have been any significant changes this year."

Major Garrett, in the lead story on the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/9, lead story, 2:30), likewise noted that "in fact, it was President Obama who directed billions over many years to improve aging nuclear weapons and delivery and targeting systems." The President did, however, "order an overall review of US nuclear strategy earlier this year."

Under the headline "Trump Makes False Claims About US Nuclear Arsenal," the [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/9, Hennigan) says "parts of the president's claims are false." Like other outlets, the Times says Trump "did not order the modernization of the nuclear arsenal, President Obama did that in 2014." And while Trump "did launch a top-to-bottom Nuclear Posture Review...just like each of his recent predecessors did when they took office," it "wasn't Trump's first order." Instead, it was issued "a week after Trump took office, and was preceded by more than a dozen orders on other topics." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/9, Sonne) also says the review ordered by Trump in January is a customary action taken by administrations, while a revamp of the nuclear arsenal would require congressional legislation

Trump, the [New York Times](#) (8/9, Qiu) reports, "claimed undue credit for revamping the nation's nuclear arsenal, wrongly suggested tremendous progress had been made since he took office, and misrepresented the sequence and scope of his executive actions." An [AP](#) (8/9, Baldor) "Fact Check" makes similar claims, adding that Trump's statement about overall nuclear strength is also "debatable," the [Washington Post](#) (8/9, Rucker, Wagner) calls it "an inflated claim," and [Bloomberg News](#) (8/9, Syeed) reports that "for now, at least, the arsenal is shrinking" under its obligations to the New START treaty.

Glenn Kessler writes in his [Washington Post](#) (8/9) "Fact Checker" column that "we wavered between Three and Four Pinocchios, but ultimately tipped to Four, given how Trump tooted his horn inappropriately."

Gorka: Clinton, Obama "Appeasement" Led To Current Predicament. During an appearance Wednesday on CBN, the [Daily Caller](#) (8/9) reports, Gorka blamed former Presidents Clinton and Obama for the rise of North Korea, and said the US is now "paying the price of that appeasement of Pyongyang." After CBN anchor David Brody played a 1999 clip of Trump "sounding the alarm on North Korea," Gorka "praised Trump for his foresight," saying he "saw the price of appeasement which happened afterwards during the Clinton administration and then during the Obama administration, and today we are paying the price of that appeasement of Pyongyang."

Global Stocks End Lower Amid North Korea Fears. [Reuters](#) (8/8, Campos) reports Trump's "warning to North Korea and Pyongyang's threat of possible armed retaliation drove investors away from stocks and other risky assets" on Wednesday and into "safe-havens like gold and Treasuries." Trump's remarks "weighed on Wall Street" as the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 36.64 points, or 0.17 percent, to 22,048.7, the S&P 500 lost 0.9 points, or 0.04 percent, to 2,474.02 and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 18.13 points, or 0.28 percent, to 6,352.33. The [Washington Times](#) (8/9, Miller) reports Trump's threatening rhetoric on North Korea "is almost entirely responsible for the pullback," said Randy Frederick, vice president of trading and derivatives for Charles Schwab.

WPost Recalls Nixon-Era Officer Dismissed For Questioning Nuclear Launch Protocol. The [Washington Post](#) (8/9, Rosenwald) recalls the story of Air Force Maj. Harold Hering, who in 1973 was training to be "a missileer – the guy who turns the keys to commence nuclear Armageddon." In an interview earlier this year, Hering said, "I assumed there had to be some sort of checks and balances so that one man couldn't just on a whim order the launch of nuclear weapons." According to the Post, Hering was forced to retire because "he wouldn't stop questioning the launch protocol." A [New York Times](#) (8/9) video says that with his threat, Trump could have been

employing a strategy used by former President Richard Nixon, the “madman theory.”

Mattis Warns Of North Korea’s “Destruction,” Tillerson Tells Americans To “Sleep Well At Night.”

Media reports are contrasting separate remarks made Wednesday by Secretary of State Tillerson and Defense Secretary Mattis regarding North Korea. While Tillerson was cast as urging calm, a warning to the North from Defense Secretary Mattis was described as echoing the President’s rhetoric. The [Washington Post](#) (8/9, Morello), at any rate, says Tillerson “defended” Trump’s forceful “warning to North Korea” even as he “attempted to dismiss concerns that Guam is in any imminent danger.” Speaking to reporters aboard a flight home from Asia, Tillerson said, “What the president is doing is sending a strong message to North Korea in language that Kim Jong Un would understand, because he doesn’t seem to understand diplomatic language.”

Meanwhile, another [Washington Post](#) (8/9, Lamothe) story indicates that in remarks that were “notably more measured” than the President’s, Mattis warned North Korea Wednesday that its actions “will continue to be grossly over-matched by ours,” and that Pyongyang would lose any conflict that it starts with the US. In a statement, Mattis said, “While our State Department is making every effort to resolve this global threat through diplomatic means, it must be noted that the combined allied militaries now possess the most precise, rehearsed and robust defensive and offensive capabilities on Earth.” He added that North Korea “should cease any consideration of actions that would lead to the end of its regime and the destruction of its people.”

In its lead story, [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/9, lead story, 3:25, Holt) said Mattis delivered “his own more artfully worded, but no less threatening message, warning North Korea against actions that could lead to ‘the destruction of its people.’” Mattis, the [Washington Times](#) (8/9, Muñoz) says, was “echoing the strong language coming from the Trump White House,” and [The Hill](#) (8/9, Mitchell) says he was “just as tough in tone with North Korea, but it indicated mere threats from Pyongyang, which are routinely made by that country’s government, would not lead to military action.” [Townhall](#) (8/9, Pavlich) also reports on Mattis’ statement.

[USA Today](#) (8/9, Brook) reports Mattis also said Trump “was informed of the growing threat from North Korea last December and has since stressed the need to enhance US readiness.” But USA Today expresses doubts that the US nuclear arsenal is, as Trump boasted, “now far stronger and more powerful than ever before.” While Trump ordered a review of the nation’s nuclear weapons programs, any changes take time “usually measured in years and decades, not weeks and months.”

The [AP](#) (8/9, Lederman), meanwhile, reports that as President Trump in a series of tweets on Wednesday declared the US nuclear arsenal “far stronger and more powerful than ever before,” Secretary of State Tillerson was working to calm the North Korea crisis and insisting there wasn’t “any imminent threat.” Only hours before Trump’s tweets, Tillerson urged calm and said Americans should have “no concerns” despite the recent rhetoric. Aboard his plane as he flew home from Asia, Tillerson said, “Americans should sleep well at night. Nothing that I have seen and nothing that I know of would indicate that the situation has dramatically changed in the last 24 hours.” The AP says the “mixed messages from Tillerson and Trump put the onus on the North Koreans to decide how to interpret the latest missives from the US.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/9, Kate, Foroohar) similarly reports Tillerson “tried to ease concerns that the US was heading toward a military confrontation with North Korea,” and the [Washington Times](#) (8/9, Boyer, Taylor) quotes him as saying, “I do not believe that there is any imminent threat, in my own view.”

Anthony Mason similarly said in the lead story on the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/9, lead story, 2:30) that Tillerson “tried to reassure Americans and the world that we are not on the brink of nuclear war,” and Bill Neely said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/9, lead story, 3:25, Holt) that Tillerson is “turning down the temperature.”

Cecilia Vega reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/9, lead story, 3:55, Muir) that Tillerson sent “a message of his own...offering very different words” and “striking a much softer tone” than the President. The [New York Times](#) (8/9, Baker, Harris, Sullivan) likewise says the Secretary sent “a more nuanced message” than Trump, and [USA Today](#) (8/9, Wolf) writes that while Tillerson “wants Americans to sleep well at night,” his “task as the nation’s chief diplomat facing his first major international crisis is tougher than promoting sweet dreams. He must try to tamp down” Trump’s threat “with an oilman’s background, a depleted senior staff, a threatened budget crunch and a power struggle with the White House.”

Dana Milbank writes in his [Washington Post](#) (8/9) column that on Tuesday, Trump “delivered remarks about North Korea – words we now know to have been off the cuff – that

pushed the world toward a nuclear standoff last seen in the Cuban missile crisis." But "then came Tillerson...to assure us that there is nothing to see. It has become a familiar exercise: walking back, cleaning up and outright contradicting crazy things uttered by the man with the nuclear codes." Milbank says that there "have been other such cleanup actions, and there will inevitably be many more, as Trump's advisers try to convey to the world a perverse message: Rest assured, sleep well – and pay no attention to the president's yammering."

Along similar lines, Gloria Borger said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (8/9), "I think what you saw was Mattis and Tillerson kind of being the shovel brigade here and trying to clean up the mess the President made with his rhetoric. You saw Tillerson trying to tamp down everyone, saying everyone ought to sleep well at night. You saw Mattis – it was a muscular statement from Mattis about America's military power, but it didn't draw a red line saying if you threaten us again, watch out. It was kind of more generalized. So there was clearly a recognition that something had to be said after the President. If the President had not spoken, I don't think you would see those two statements from these two men today."

State Dept.: Administration "Singing From The Same Hymn Book" On North Korea. The [New York Post](#) (8/9, Moore) reports State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert on Wednesday "dismissed a suggestion" that some in the Administration "weren't fully behind" President Trump's statements. Nauert said the Administration is "singing from the same hymn book" in its reaction to North Korea. "The United States is on the same page. ... We are speaking with one voice," she added. The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/9, Gehrke) reports Nauert also "scolded reporters...for being too interested in the US stance on North Korea." Her comment "rankled some reporters," including Matt Lee of the Associated Press, who said, "We're not 'obsessing' about this. This is the president of the United States threatening a nuclear-armed country...with 'fire and fury the likes of which the world has never seen.' I don't think it's obsessing to want to know, to have a further clarification of exactly what that means and whether or not it means that we're preparing to send 'fire and fury' raining down on the North Korean regime."

Washington Post conservative blogger Jennifer Rubin [tweeted](#), "State Dept: US speaking 'with one voice' on North Korea... you only say that when you're not."

WPost Analysis: Kelly "An Apolitical Force" In Divided White House. The [Washington Post](#) (8/9, A1, Costa, Rucker) reports that in an administration that "has split into factions and been ravaged by ideological warfare," Chief of Staff John Kelly has "asserted himself as a rare apolitical force." As Trump "bluntly addressed North Korean threats," Kelly has been "a constant by his side in Bedminster, N.J., keeping a low profile and serving as a neutral mediator more than a pacifier." According to the Post, Kelly is "one of a number of generals whom the president has come to rely on for national security guidance," along with Defense Secretary Mattis and National Security Adviser McMaster.

Trump Blasts McConnell Over Failure Of ACA Repeal.

In a [tweet](#) Wednesday, President Trump took a shot at Senate Majority Leader McConnell, questioning his explanation of why Congress has not repealed and replaced the ACA. Trump wrote, "Senator Mitch McConnell said I had 'excessive expectations,' but I don't think so. After 7 years of hearing Repeal & Replace, why not done?" Media reports cast Trump's tweet as an escalation of tensions between himself and McConnell, who is facing conservative ire over his criticism of what he described as Trump's "excessive expectations," as well as his inability to muster the necessary votes to pass a healthcare bill.

[USA Today](#) (8/9, Collins) reports that Trump's tweet was prompted by McConnell's comments in an interview this week in which he "blamed Trump for setting 'early timelines' and 'excessive expectations' as one of the reasons that people believe Congress is getting nothing done." [Townhall](#) (8/9, Pavlich) says the comments "didn't sit well with the president, who fired back on Twitter." The [AP](#) (8/9, Fram) says that while Trump "repeatedly used Twitter to pressure McConnell to find the votes to approve the health care bill, even saying hours after its failure that GOP senators 'look like fools,'" Wednesday's tweet "was an unusually personal reproach" of the Majority Leader.

The [New York Times](#) (8/9, Flegenheimer) reports that before Trump posted his tweet, he spoke with McConnell on the phone "to express his disappointment in the senator's comments, according to a person with knowledge of the call." During the call, Trump "emphasized that he would continue to push for a repeal, the person said, and suggested Mr. McConnell do the same." The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/9, Jessen) also reports on the Trump-McConnell conversation, citing the Times story.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/9, Tau) also reports on Trump's tweet, highlighting what it sees

as tensions between the President and the Majority Leader. Similarly, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/9, Bierman) describes an “escalating fight” between Trump and McConnell “over who is to blame for the Republican Party’s failure to repeal Obamacare,” and highlights that the “public nature of the intra-party fight is unusual.” It comes as Trump “has been increasingly frustrated with what he sees as a lack of support” from congressional Republicans, and “lawmakers have grown increasingly concerned that Trump’s low standing in the polls and lack of legislative accomplishments could hurt them politically.” Chris Cillizza writes in an analysis on [CNN](#)’s (8/9) website that Trump’s tweet was an “overreaction,” and “a needless fight to pick that could have decidedly negative consequences on the Trump’s agenda in the future.”

However, the [Washington Times](#) (8/9, Dinan) reports the President’s “defenders say the problem isn’t the president, but rather congressional Republicans’ inability to work out issues.” [Breitbart](#) (8/9, Spiering) also reports on Trump’s tweet, describing him as “fir[ing] back” at McConnell. Breitbart says Trump and his supporters were “disgusted” by the fact that Senate Republicans left for their August recess “after failing to repeal or replace Obamacare,” and the [New York Times](#) (8/9, Flegenheimer) says lawmakers’ “collective exhaling over this August recess has been complicated, as ever, by President Trump,” who “has found ways to encroach” on their time in their districts.

According to [Roll Call](#) (8/9, Lesniewski), McConnell is facing “a conservative backlash” over the comments, and [The Hill](#) (8/9, Carney) says conservatives, who have used McConnell’s “failure to win a victory on ObamaCare repeal against him,” have “found an ally, at least temporarily, in Trump.” [Bloomberg News](#) (8/9, Kapur, Litvan) reports that White House social media director Dan Scavino also unleashed a “rebuke” of the Majority Leader, [tweeting](#), “More excuses. @SenateMajLdr must have needed another 4 years – in addition to the 7 years – to repeal and replace Obamacare.....” Citing Scavino’s tweet in a separate story, [Politico](#) (8/9, Tesfamichael) says “the White House is pushing the blame on Capitol Hill.”

[Politico](#) (8/9, McCaskill) says “frequent Trump critic” Sen. Lindsey Graham “also came to the president’s defense, calling it ‘ridiculous’ for McConnell to blame Trump’s impatience and inexperience for the public sense that Congress hasn’t done much.” [Politico](#) (8/9, Morin) also reports that hours after he vowed to “stop ‘all petty political disagreements’ in light of new threats from North Korea,” Fox News host Sean Hannity called McConnell “weak” and “spineless,” writing in a [tweet](#), “@SenateMajLdr No Senator, YOU are a WEAK, SPINELESS leader who does not keep his word and you need to Retire!” In his monologue on [Fox News’ Hannity](#) (8/9) Wednesday night, Hannity said McConnell is making a “ridiculous excuse” for failing to repeal the ACA. Hannity added, “Senator, if you can’t get it done, get out of the way, retire, leave Washington, go play golf, go fishing.”

Meanwhile, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/9, Bierman) says that as the “fight” between Trump and McConnell “escalated,” the Administration “shifted tone Wednesday, opening the door for a bipartisan plan to ‘fix’ the law.” HHS Secretary Price told [Fox News’ Fox & Friends](#) (8/9), “Both folks in the House and the Senate, on both sides of the aisle frankly, have said that Obamacare doesn’t work, and it needs to be either repealed or fixed. ... So the onus is on Congress.” Asked if the Administration “is serious about a plan to fix the law,” White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders “did not back away from Price’s wording,” saying in an email, “We are always looking for best ways to improve and fix the broken Obamacare system.”

Lane: Eliminating Filibuster May Be In GOP’s Interest. Charles Lane writes in the [Washington Post](#) (8/9) that while “McConnell shows no signs of agreeing to” eliminate the Senate’s 60-vote filibuster, “there is a reasonable case to be made that it would be in the GOP’s interest to do what Trump says – if not immediately, then certainly if the Republicans manage to overcome Trump’s declining approval numbers and do well in the 2018 midterm elections.” If “2018 produces another GOP majority of fewer than 60 votes,” and Republicans “retain the House,” Trump “might see a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform a whole host of policies – taxes, spending, regulation, immigration – in ways Democrats could not reverse until that far-off day when they manage to capture both houses of Congress and the executive branch.”

White House Reportedly Seeking Budget Deal That Includes Border Wall Funding.

[Politico](#) (8/9, Kim, Bade, Bresnahan) reports that according to “multiple sources,” the White House is seeking a deal to avoid a government shutdown “that would lift strict spending caps long opposed by Democrats” in exchange for border wall funding. White House Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Short “met with top staffers from both parties on the Senate Appropriations Committee last week to make a hard sell for the proposal.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Fear Of Missiles And Words." On its editorial page, the [New York Times](#) (8/9) writes that "on some emotional level, one might be able to see why Donald Trump threatened to unleash 'fire and fury' against North Korea," but he "is president of the United States, and if prudent, disciplined leadership was ever required, it is now." The Times argue that "rhetorically stomping his feet, as he did on Tuesday, is not just irresponsible; it is dangerous." Instead, "tougher sanctions, coupled with [Secretary of State] Tillerson's continued efforts at a diplomatic solution, are the best path to a peaceful end to this conflict. That is what Mr. Trump should also be focused on. Engaging in a war of words with North Korea only makes it harder for both sides to de-escalate."

"Closing The Courthouse Door." The [New York Times](#) (8/10, New York (NY), Times) editorializes, "The Trump administration is moving to deny Americans their day in court when they have been wronged." Both the Education Department and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services are working to reverse Obama-era regulations barring forced arbitration, and now congressional Republicans are "attacking a new rule, issued by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, that will let Americans bring class-action lawsuits against banks instead of being forced into arbitration. ... If Senate Republicans...vote to repeal this rule, they will join their House colleagues and the Trump administration in closing the courthouse door to vulnerable, victimized and defrauded Americans."

"Frustration Over A War And Its Crimes." A [New York Times](#) (8/9) editorial acknowledges the frustration expressed by Carla del Ponte, who quit "the United Nations panel investigating atrocities in Syria in disgust." Yet, the Times says, "the Security Council's inaction has not been for lack of trying," but rather "because Russia, often joined by China, has obstinately propped up President Bashar al-Assad of Syria, using its veto eight times in the Council so far to block measures against him." While "deeply frustrating for victims of atrocities and for investigators," the Times argues, "international organizations and international justice are inherently dependent on the political will of those involved, and the Syrian conflict is an infernal tangle of political goals, ideologies and actors." Ultimately, the Times concludes, only a diplomatic solution can end "the carnage" and hold responsible parties, including Assad, accountable.

"Needed: Proposals To Fix New York's Crumbling Subways." The [New York Times](#) (8/9) editorializes, "Gov. Andrew Cuomo, Mayor Bill de Blasio and Albany lawmakers are at last talking about how to pay for vital improvements to the city's crumbling subways. ... At least New York politicians are publicly tossing around ideas," and de Blasio's proposed "millionaire's tax" is "an opening bid, flawed as it is. Now, Mr. Cuomo...and others need to step up."

Washington Post.

"Trump Ignores His Own Commission's Advice On Opioids." The [Washington Post](#) (8/9) editorializes that at his briefing on the opioid crisis on Tuesday, "after an appropriate nod to prevention, which is indeed a potentially efficient means of stemming the epidemic," President Trump "launched an extended attack on his predecessor's record. ... Not only did this inject a discordantly partisan note into a subject that had heretofore brought Democrats and Republicans together, but also it was of dubious logic. For much if not most of" Barack Obama's presidency, "users obtained opioids through legal channels – starting with doctor prescriptions. At least Mr. Obama's administration sought to clamp down on that through tightened national prescribing guidelines late in his term."

"Ideology Trumps Crime Fighting At Sessions's Justice Department." The [Washington Post](#) (8/9) editorializes that "in grappling with its worst epidemic of homicides in years, Chicago faces no more critical task than repairing frayed relations between its beleaguered police force and the communities it serves," and now the Trump Administration, "more eager to advance its anti-illegal-immigration agenda than to combat violent crime, is throwing up obstacles that will make it more difficult for Chicago and other localities to get a grip on the problems they confront." The Justice Department recently announced that "localities that refuse to cooperate with deportation agents are ineligible for a specific grant program for police departments." Attorney General Sessions "justifies barring the federal grants to Chicago – thereby impeding its ability to buy crime-fighting gear such as police cars, SWAT equipment and radios – by falsely linking the Windy City's homicide rate with its sanctuary policies." According to the Post, Sessions' demands "would undermine local law enforcement by driving a wedge between police and immigrant communities."

“China And Russia Go Further In Squelching Internet Freedom.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/9) writes that China recently created a new cybersecurity law “cracking down” further on free Internet access of foreign platforms by targeting popular software known as virtual private networks, or VPNs, that allow users to bypass the “great firewall” and that Chinese authorities have overlooked for years in an effort to attract foreign businesses. Noting that in Russia, Putin has also recently “signed legislation outlawing the use of VPNs,” the Post concludes, “In both Russia and China, the impulse is the same: Rulers fear the free flow of information.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Trumpian Fury On North Korea.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/9) editorial hits back at criticisms of the President’s remarks on North Korea, arguing that diplomacy works best when there is a credible threat to back it up.

“A Berkeley ‘Escape Hatch.’” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/9) writes that internal emails from the University of California at Berkeley show that staff are “deeply disturbed” by student protesters whose violent demonstrations in recent years have prompted the administration to request funding for a \$9,000 security door in the university chancellor’s office. The Journal argues that the Chancellor and staff are right to be concerned – noting the particularly violent riots in February during a visit by blogger Milo Yiannopoulos – and concludes by lamenting the state of campuses when administrators are purchasing physical barriers to defend themselves from the student body.

“New York’s Liberal Subway War.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/9) argues that the ongoing dispute between New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio over funding for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority offers an entertaining spectacle but hurts New Yorkers who experience widespread metro delays and face the possibility of tax increases. The Journal particularly highlights Mayor de Blasio’s proposal to raise taxes on individuals earning more than \$500,000, which the Journal says would hurt taxpayers even more and may receive support from Cuomo despite his past campaigns against tax hikes.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[US Presses North Korea But Dials Back Rhetoric](#)
[US Can’t Get Breakout Economic Growth With Productivity This Low](#)
[Investors Question Oil Output In America’s Fastest-Growing Field](#)
[The New Copycats: How Facebook Squashes Competition From Startups](#)

New York Times:

[Deep Divisions Emerge In Trump Administration As North Korea Threatens War](#)
[Trump’s Threat To North Korea Was Improvised](#)
[Democratic Fight In California Is A Warning For The National Party](#)
[Russia Wants Innovation, But It’s Arresting Its Innovators](#)
[Manafort’s Home Searched As Part Of Mueller Inquiry](#)
[644,000 Old Warrants Scrapped For Crimes Like Public Drinking](#)
[Ole Miss Edges Out Of Its Confederate Shadow, Gingerly](#)

Washington Post:

[Pre-dawn FBI Raid At Manafort Residence](#)
[In A White House Riven By Ideology, Kelly Plays Role Of Apolitical Mediator](#)
[Impulsiveness Or Savvy Instincts? Americans Split On Trump’s Rhetoric.](#)
[Personal Pain In Engaging With Former Neo-Nazi](#)
[A Year After Silver Spring Fire, Survivor Adjusts To A New Life](#)

Financial Times:

[North Korea Escalates Threat As Tillerson Seeks To Ease Tensions](#)
[Altice Lines Up \\$185bn Pitch For Cable Group Charter](#)
[Disney Takes On Netflix With Streaming Services](#)

[Telit's Oozi Cats Dogged By Near-Namesake's Fraud Indictment](#)

Washington Times:

[Tillerson, Mattis Back Up Trump's Stark Warning To North Korea](#)

[Congressional Staffers Lament Need For Resources And Raises, But Not Transparency And Accountability](#)

[LGBT Groups Fund Predictions Of Economic Backlash To Bathroom Bills](#)

[Trump's Hiring Freeze Falls Flat With Government Reformists](#)

[Change From Verizon Center To Capital One Arena In D.C. Comes With Promises Of Improvements](#)

[Death Row Inmates Sue For Equal Treatment, Call Solitary Confinement Cruel And Unusual](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: North Korea Threats; North Korea Threats-US Military Options; Russia Meddling Investigation-Manafort; Paris-Car Mowing Attack; Missouri-Police Shooter Arrested; Milwaukee-Home Explosion; Severe Weather-Hurricane Season; Healthcare-McCain Criticism; Google-Internal Memo Controversy; Sequoia National Park-Mountain Lion Encounter; Texas-Construction Accident; Health-Stroke Risk; CVS-Overcharge Lawsuit; Lottery Drawing.

CBS: North Korea Threats; North Korea Threats-US Military Options; North Korea Threats-International Reactions; North Korea Threats-Expert Comment; Russia Meddling Investigation-Manafort; Pittsburgh-Drug Raid; Severe Weather-Hurricane Franklin; Severe Weather-New Orleans; Health-Stroke Risk; Tiger Woods-Wreckless Driving; Dinosaur Fossil; Bruce Springsteen-New Show; Computer Password Tip.

NBC: North Korea Threats; North Korea Threats-US Military Options; WH-North Korea Threats; Russia Meddling Investigation-Manafort; Paris-Car Mowing Attack; Opioid Epidemic; Car Heat-Death; Severe Weather-Hurricane Season; Oprah-New Show; Bruce Springsteen-New Show; Dog Matching App.

Network TV At A Glance:

North Korea Threats – 23 minutes, 5 seconds

Russia Meddling Investigation-Manafort – 6 minutes, 50 seconds

Health-Stroke Risk – 2 minutes, 30 seconds

Paris-Car Mowing Attack – 2 minutes, 5 seconds

Severe Weather-Hurricane – 1 minute, 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: North Korea Threats; Russia Meddling Investigation-Manafort; Cuban Diplomats Expulsion.

CBS: North Korea Threats; Russia Meddling Investigation-Manafort; Pittsburgh-Drug Raid; Health-Stroke Risk;

FOX: North Korea Threats; Russian Spy Plane Fly-over.

NPR: North Korea Threats; Cuban Diplomats Expulsion; Montana-Wildfire; Severe Weather-Hurricane Franklin.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Has lunch with Vice President Mike Pence.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Has lunch with the President.

US Senate: 1:00 PM Senate Commerce subcommittee field hearing on threats facing Florida's tourism-driven economy – Field hearing on 'Threats Facing Florida's Tourism Driven Economy', with testimony from University of Florida Associate Dean for Research Dr Sherry Larkin; Roffer's Ocean Fishing Forecast Service President Dr Mitchell Roffer; and Tampa Bay Beaches Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Robin Sollie Location: University of South Florida St. Petersburg, 200 6th Ave S, St. Petersburg, FL St. Petersburg <http://commerce.senate.gov>
<https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

On recess until 5 September.

US House: 9:30 AM House Veterans' Affairs Committee oversight field hearing on veteran care in rural areas – Oversight field hearing on 'Veteran Care in Rural Areas: Increasing Access through Choice and Capacity Improvement', with testimony from National Association for Rural Mental Health President-elect Dr Paul Force-Emery Mackie; Itasca County Veterans Council Chairman

Hugh Quinn; Hearing Wellness Center co-owner Jonathan Gervais; Office of Community Care Deputy Executive Director of Provider Relations and Services Dr Kameron Matthews; Minnesota VAMC Director Patrick Kelly; and Office of Rural Health Acting Executive Director Dr Thomas Klobucar Location: Duluth Law Enforcement Center, 2030 N Arlington Ave, Duluth, MN Duluth
<http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

On recess until 5 September.

Other: 9:00 AM USPS FY'17 Q3 financial briefing – U.S. Postmaster General and U.S. Postal Service CEO Megan Brennan and CFO and Executive Vice President Joseph Corbett discuss USPS fiscal year 2017 third quarter financial results via media conference call Location: TBD
<http://www.usps.com/> <https://twitter.com/USPS>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Here's the theory. Maybe Kim Jong-Un is just trying to ruin Donald Trump's vacation."

Jimmy Kimmel: "[Secretary of State Rex] Tillerson, he said Trump was just speaking in a language Kim Jong-Un would understand. Was that Korean? I didn't think it was."

Jimmy Kimmel: "This problem with North Korea and the nukes is not an easy one to fix for anyone. President Clinton, President Bush, President Obama all tried different strategies and they didn't work. And so far, Trump's strategy of playing multiple rounds of golf and watching Fox & Friends is not working either."

Stephen Colbert: "This past weekend, the UN imposed harsh sanctions on North Korea to try to get them to curb their nuclear program. North Korea responded by threatening revenge on the US, so renowned deal artist, Donald Trump...saw their threat of apocalypse and raised them one Armageddon."

Stephen Colbert: "Look, North Korea, leave Guam out of this! They're a US territory. That means they don't participate in the elections! They didn't vote for Trump. Just like most of Americans."

James Corden: "It was announced today that the FBI conducted a raid on the home of Trump's former campaign manager, Paul Manafort. Yeah, so of course this afternoon, Trump fired the entire FBI."

Jimmy Fallon: "Last night, Kim Jong-Un actually threatened the US territory of Guam. Yeah. When he heard that, Trump said, 'Oh, my God, do I have any golf courses there?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that the 2018 Winter Olympics in South Korea are now just six months away. Hopefully."

Seth Meyers: "Following President Trump's threats of fire and fury against North Korea, Sen. John McCain has recommended that the President instead walk softly but carry a big stick, which incidentally is how Melania keeps away from him around the White House."

Seth Meyers: "Hey, man, when you respond to North Korea, you're not supposed to sound like North Korea. Obama didn't respond to Putin's hacking by riding shirtless on horseback, even though everyone would have loved that."

Seth Meyers: "Politico reported that inside the Administration, there was little initial support for [FBI Director Christopher] Wray. After talking extensively with [Chris] Christie, Trump decided to go with Wray without telling others on his staff. The most shocking thing about that story is the fact that Trump still talks to Chris Christie."

Conan O'Brien: "This study came out, a new study reveals one out of eight Americans is an alcoholic. However, after Trump's comments on North Korea yesterday, it's now seven out of eight Americans."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Groundwater District Gets Grant For Project.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Associated Press: Loss Of Sea Ice Leads Walruses To Early Appearance In Alaska.
- La Crosse (WI) Tribune: Hunting Bears With Dogs Comes Under Attack By Wisconsin Wolf Advocates.
- Havasu (AZ) News-Herald: Our View: Don't Miss Today's Meeting On Refuge Boating Regulations.

National Park Service

- U.S. News & World Report: National Parks Service Ends Ban On Disposable Water Bottles.
- San Francisco Chronicle: Permit For Right-wing Crissy Field Rally To Get 2nd Look By Officials.
- Waynesville (NC) Smoky Mountain News: New Smokies Science Program To Target Schools.
- Green Valley (AZ) News: On A Mission: Preservation Work Underway At Tumacacori.
- Springfield (MA) Republican: Springfield Armory Museum Closed Friday For Paving.
- San Francisco Chronicle: Yosemite's Half Dome Disappears Into A Plume Of Smoke From Wildfires.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- USA Today: Trump: Kim Jong-Un Made "Wise Decision" In Backing Off Plan To Attack Guam.
- Marianas Variety: American Samoa GDP Turns Down In 2016.

Office Of Surface Mining

- Panel Studying Possible Tie Between Health Problems, Appalachian Mining To Meet In Kentucky.

US Geological Survey

- Altus (OK) Times: USGS Begins Low-level Flight To Survey And Research Oklahoma Fault Lines.

Top National News

- ABC: Media Analyses: Trump Faces Growing Political Isolation In Wake Of Charlottesville Comments.
- McClatchy: Three House Democrats Seek Formal Censure Of Trump.
- CBS: Memorial Held For Woman Killed In Charlottesville Protest.
- Associated Press: White House Says Government Will Make August ACA Payments To Insurers.
- Washington Times: Brady Would Accept Tax Code Overhaul That Raises Deficit To Jump-Start Economy.
- Washington Free Beacon: Report: Reducing Regulations Could Spur Economic Growth.
- Daily Caller: Pruitt Criticizes "False Narrative" On "Leaked" NYTimes Climate Report.

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 - "After Racist Rage, Statues Fall Quietly."
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DOI In The News

Interior Secretary Removes 1 California Monument From Review.

The [AP](#) (8/16) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "will not recommend that any changes be made to the Sand to Snow National Monument in Southern California." Zinke "says in a statement Wednesday the monument is no longer under the Interior Department review ordered by President Donald Trump in April." He "says the monument has some of the most diverse terrain in the West and is home to "incredible" geographic, biologic and archaeological history."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/16, Halper) reports that "as with such promises Zinke has made regarding select monuments in other states, there seemed to be little rationale to the timing of the announcement, or why Zinke has chosen to publicly comment on this particular property but none of the five other monuments in California, which include Berryessa Snow Mountain, Carrizo Plain, Giant Sequoia, Mojave Trails and San Gabriel Mountains." According to the Times, "whether any other California monuments are safe from Trump's vow to shrink the size of public lands is an open question."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [ABC News](#) (8/16), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (8/16), the [Daily Mail](#) (8/16), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (8/16), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (8/16), the [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Press), the [Washington Times](#) (8/16), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (8/16, Press), the [Olean \(NY\) Times Herald](#) (8/16), and the [Santa Cruz \(CA\) Sentinel](#) (8/16).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Caller](#) (8/16, Pearce), the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (8/16, Roth), the [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (8/16, Steinberg), the [Inland Valley \(CA\) Daily Bulletin](#) (8/16, Steinberg), [My News LA \(CA\)](#) (8/16, McAllister), the [Highland \(CA\) Community News](#) (8/16), and [KTLA-TV Los Angeles \(CA\)](#) Los Angeles (8/16).

The 10 National Monuments Trump Is Most Likely To Shrink.

[USA Today](#) (8/16, Roth) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "wrapping up his review of nearly two dozen national monuments targeted for downsizing or elimination by the Trump administration." By next week, Zinke is "supposed to send to President Trump recommendations on the future of those land monuments, which were created or expanded by presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton." The article posts a gallery of "the monuments Trump is most likely to downsize or eliminate, in alphabetical order, based on interviews with supporters and opponents of the monuments review."

Greens Launch 'Final Push' Against Monument Review. [Politico Morning Energy](#) (8/16, Adragna) reports that the League of Conservation Voters is "launching a final \$100,000 push" Wednesday "across multiple platforms against the Trump administration's review of nearly two dozen previously-designated national monuments." The campaign will "urge people to urge Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke against making changes to the designations and promote videos highlighting support of public lands." The group also "plans to use Facebook and Instagram to push Reps. Paul Gosar, Steve Pearce, Doug LaMalfa and Doug Lamborn to stop their support of the review."

350 Outdoor Recreation Leaders Urge Zinke To Protect Public Lands. The [Denver Post](#) (8/16, Blevins) reports that "in one of the strongest displays of solidarity in the outdoor industry, more than 350 American outdoor businesses large and small have sent a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke urging him to keep the country's national monuments unchanged and intact." The letter, "which was signed by executives from the largest and most influential outdoor recreation companies in the country, including REI, Burton, Columbia, Patagonia, The North Face and more than two dozen Colorado-based recreation companies," read, "These places and experiences can't be exported or commoditized. They are a national competitive advantage. We ask you to not

erode that potential but create certainty for our businesses and for the communities that often need it most."

Lawsuit Filed Over Kane, Garfield Commissions' Meetings With Zinke. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/16, Maffly) reports that "during his May swing through Utah to review national monuments, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke had private meetings with three county commissions whose counties host two of the most controversial monuments under scrutiny — Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante." On Tuesday, the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance filed a lawsuit, "alleging Kane and Garfield commissions' May 10 meetings were illegal because they were not posted as required under Utah's Open and Public Meetings Act." The lawsuit stated, "The closed meetings flagrantly violated multiple provisions of the act and, if left unchecked, would shield defendants' activities on important public policy matters from the light of day."

What Veterans Have To Lose In Trump's National Monument Review. For the "Pundits" blog of [The Hill](#) (8/16, Myrick, Contributor), Brett Myrick, who served in U.S. Navy SEAL Team 5, writes that as a former SEAL, he is "focused on two areas: keeping our communities safe and ensuring that veterans have access to nature." Myrick sees "a strong connection between veterans and protected public lands." Myrick urges Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "to recommend no changes at the end of this month." He concludes: "As veterans, we fought to protect America and all her glory. Our national monuments are a part of that. He should leave them all intact."

Sec. Zinke Would Do Well To Honor Roosevelt. In an op-ed for the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (8/17, Anker), Conrad Anker, a mountaineer and author, writes that President Theodore Roosevelt's "legacy is built on the Antiquities Act of 1906." Anker claims that "President Trump's directive to review the 26 most recent monuments is a direct assault on the public lands we all own." He urges Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, "to leave our wild and cultural monuments as they are."

Trump Won't Remove Civil War Statues.

The [Daily Caller](#) (8/16, Bastasch) reports that the Interior Department "won't be removing monuments to Confederate soldiers at national battlefields that are 'an important part of our country's history,' according to a spokesman." Spokesman Jeremy Barnum said, "The National Park Service is committed to safeguarding these memorials while simultaneously educating visitors holistically and objectively about the actions, motivations and causes of the soldiers and states they commemorate." The article notes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "told reporters in July that battlefield monuments were worth preserving for their historical value." During his visit to Antietam National Battlefield, Zinke said, "Don't rewrite history. Understand it for what it is and teach our kids the importance of looking at our magnificent history as a country and why we are what we are."

Eye In Sky To Spy On Wildfires Awaits Green Light From Feds.

[KLCC-FM](#) Eugene, OR (8/16, Banse) reports that at the beginning of June, the Interior Department "solicited bids for drones and operators to support wildfire fighting, search and rescue and other remote sensing missions." Interior acquisitions branch chief Joshua Carter in Boise "said the agency is evaluating multiple offers." Carter "projected a 'mid-September timeframe' for making a bid award."

Aamodt Meetings Spark Anger, Frustration.

The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (8/17, Stelnicki) reports that "discontent over the implementation of the Aamodt water-rights settlement took center stage at a pair of meetings Wednesday, with non-Pueblo residents of the Pojoaque Basin north of Santa Fe expressing their frustration, anxiety and even anger about matters that concern the next steps for water use in the valley." According to the article, "at a town hall in Pojoaque, impassioned valley residents told Alan Mikkelsen, the deputy commissioner of the federal Bureau of Reclamation, that they were unhappy to be excluded from recent closed-door meetings over roadway easement disputes held by Mikkelsen's agency, Santa Fe County and four pueblos." The article says that "more than once, Mikkelsen told the crowd that the private meetings had been organized to resolve the roadway concerns without going to court."

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (8/16, Last) reports that "Mikkelsen also said that if push came to shove, the federal government has a responsibility to side with the pueblos, and Indian tribes rarely lose in court."

Additional Coverage: Ohio To Receive More Than \$1.4 Million In Federal Funding For

Conservation Projects.

Additional coverage of the funds awarded through the State Wildlife Grants program was provided by the [Circleville \(OH\) Herald](#) (8/16), the [Huron \(SD\) Plainsman](#) (8/16), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (8/16), [WTTV-TV Indianapolis \(IN\)](#) Indianapolis (8/16), and [WDTV-TV Bridgeport \(WV\)](#) Bridgeport, WV (8/16).

Coal Makes A Comeback.

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/16) writes that despite the Obama Administration's many efforts to reduce coal consumption and production through regulation, the Trump Administration has spurred coal production and exports through regulatory reform, such as repealing the steam rule, dismantling the power, ash, and methane rules, reopening coal leases, and rescinding the royalty revaluation. The Journal notes that the largest increase in coal exports is to countries with supposedly better climate records, and concludes that the last three quarters of data – while not necessarily indicative of a long-term trend – offer optimistic news to coal states.

Heavily Regulated Coal Mining Has High Standards.

In an op-ed for the [Gillette \(WY\) News Record](#) (8/16, Deti), Travis Deti, executive director of the Wyoming Mining Association, supports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "to allow for the continued leasing of federal coal at fair market value." According to Deti. "the decision is not a step to open more lands to mining. Rather, it merely ended an ill-conceived moratorium that was never intended to exist for more than three years anyway."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

10th Circ. Won't Budge On Chaparral Lease After BIA Redo.

[Law360](#) (8/16, Powell) reports that "the Tenth Circuit stayed firm Tuesday in its conclusion that an appeal in a dispute over the Bureau of Indian Affairs' approval of an oil and gas lease and drilling permits between an Osage Nation council and Chaparral Energy LLC is moot."

Gov't Is Owner In Navajo Land Uranium Cleanup Suit: Judge.

[Law360](#) (8/16, Sieniuc) reports that "an Arizona federal judge on Tuesday ruled that the federal government qualifies under environmental cleanup law as an owner of more than a dozen old uranium sites on Navajo Nation land and could be liable for cleaning up the area." U.S. District Judge David G. Campbell "partially granted El Paso Natural Gas Company LLC's bid for a quick win against the United States and U.S. the Department of the Interior, as well as the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the U.S. Department of Energy."

Bureau Of Land Management

BLM Looks To Approve Arch Coal's Request For Royalty Rate Reductions.

[Crested Butte News](#) (8/17, Todd) reports that the Bureau of Land Management "appears poised to approve Arch Coal's recent request for a renewed royalty rate reduction (RRR) on coal they've been digging from particularly troublesome areas of the West Elk Mine in Somerset." According to the article, "while the decision is not yet final, it appears likely to land in the coal mine's favor, as noted in a recent letter from the BLM to Colorado Governor Hickenlooper." Gunnison County Commissioners and High County Conservation Advocates have "written letters opposing the reduction."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Producers Bid \$121 Million For Gulf Of Mexico Blocks.

[Reuters](#) (8/16, Hampton) reports major oil producers pushed high bids during the Gulf of Mexico offshore auction to \$121 million, almost seven times greater than a year ago, as interest returned for deepwater exploration. Producers said that the Gulf of Mexico is more attractive, as operational cost cutting has helped projects become profitable at a lower break even. Shell claimed the largest number of blocks, with 19 high bids worth a combined \$25.1 million. Chevron

followed with 15 high bids for \$27.9 million, while Anadarko won 10 blocks for \$10.6 million and ExxonMobil took seven blocks for \$20.4 million. A second [Reuters](#) (8/17) report says producers bid on 90 tracts covering 508,096 acres, according to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. The sale offered 76 million acres and a reduced royalty rate for shallow water leases. A total of 99 bids were submitted by 27 companies, worth a total \$137 million.

The [AP](#) (8/16) reports that companies bid on far fewer tracts than in March, but the sale was the first to offer every available tract in the Gulf since 1983. Of the 90 tracts, 42 are in at least 1,600 meters of water. [Platts](#) (8/16) reports that the sale demonstrated the majors' preferences for deepwater areas, as shallow water bidding only accounted for 10 blocks and offers received for these were mostly under \$200,000 each. Total had the high bid of the auction, offering \$12.1 million for a block in the deepwater lower Garden Banks area. Wood Mackenzie senior research analyst William Turner said, "The deepwater industry is emphasizing short-cycle, low-risk prospects [rather than] impact, wildcat drilling. ... Operators continue[d] to focus on areas near existing infrastructure with a majority of bids close to existing hubs or appraised developments."

[UPI](#) (8/16, Graeber) reports Randall Luthi, the head of the National Ocean Industries Association, said bidders may avoid the shallow water areas, despite the lessened royalty rate, because of the low price environment. Luthi said, "Given current economic conditions and regulatory environment, offshore operators may choose to focus their capital on acquiring leases for longer range deepwater projects."

[E&P Magazine](#) (8/16, Addison) reports director of BOEM's Gulf of Mexico region Mike Celata said, "It's a continued show of the strength of deep water. ... It's a continued investment in the gulf looking at the Lower Tertiary and Miocene trends." Assistant secretary for Lands and Minerals Management Katharine MacGregor said, "I characterize this as a very successful sale. We made \$121 million, and last August for Lease Sale 248 we made \$18 million. ... There is something to be said about having a gulf-wide sale that offers more acreage for competitive leasing."

Additional coverage was provided by [UPI](#) (8/16, Graeber), [UPI](#) (8/16, Graeber), [Offshore Magazine](#) (8/16), [Offshore Engineer](#) (8/16, Sustaita), and [WLTZ-TV Columbus \(GA\)](#) Columbus, GA (8/16, Hammond).

Lawmakers Push Interior To Expand Offshore Drilling.

[The Hill](#) (8/16, Henry) reports more than 100 lawmakers wrote a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke urging the Administration to allow oil and gas drilling in more areas off the coast of the US. The letter said, "Just as today's energy security is the result of production set in motion by decisions made years ago, the decisions on [Outer Continental Shelf] leasing and development facing the department today will lay the groundwork for our energy and national security for decades." However, another group of lawmakers asked the department to block drilling in the Arctic and Atlantic as part of its ongoing review.

Christie Tells Trump White House "NO" On Coastal Energy. The [AP](#) (8/16) reports New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie signaled his opposition to Trump's plan to explore for oil and natural gas off the state's coast. Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Bob Martin sent a letter to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management saying the exploration program would hurt the wildlife and endanger the state's tourism industry.

Additional coverage was provided by [NJ Spotlight](#) (8/17, Johnson), [North Jersey \(NJ\) Media Group](#) (8/16, O'Neill), and the [Cape May County \(NJ\) Herald](#) (8/17).

NJ Enviro Regulator Blasts Atlantic Ocean Drilling Plan. [Law360](#) (8/16, O'Sullivan) reports that "New Jersey's environmental regulator voiced its opposition to the federal government's proposal for offshore drilling in the Atlantic Ocean waters off the state's coast, telling authorities on Wednesday that such industrialization could harm natural resources, coastal communities and the economy." In comments submitted by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, "the Garden State agency blasted the BOEM's proposed National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program."

About 30 Georgia Businesses Join Anti-drilling Alliance. The [Savannah \(GA\) Morning News](#) (8/16, Landers) reports that around 30 Georgia businesses have joined the Business Alliance for Protecting the Atlantic Coast to oppose drilling off the East Coast. The South Carolina-based organization has support from more than 41,000 businesses and 500,000 commercial fishing families.

Offshore Drilling Rally. The [Charleston \(SC\) Moultrie News](#) (8/16, Giroux) reports that more than 150 residents from South Carolina's Lowcountry rallied to protest offshore drilling when they discovered that the region lies on a fault line of the National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas

Leasing Program for 2019-2024. The protest was hosted by Stop Offshore Drilling in the Atlantic, which is dedicated to preventing offshore seismic testing and drilling.

Bureau Of Reclamation

Farmers & Environmentalists Join To Battle Planned Delta Tunnels Project.

[Courthouse News](#) (8/16, Cahill) reports that as the final approval of California WaterFix nears, “delta farmers, environmentalists and residents remain skeptical.” California Gov. Jerry Brown’s “appears to have the Trump administration’s support for the delta tunnels.” The project “still must be approved by the Bureau of Reclamation and the state’s water board.”

Groundwater District Gets Grant For Project.

The [Idaho Mountain Express](#) (8/16, Jensen) reports that the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is “funding a \$53,000 grant to help keep more water available for junior water users in the Big Wood and Little Wood basins.” Together with “other funding sources, the project will cost \$124,825 total and will repair banks along a section of Silver Creek that have eroded.” The project will “also install devices on the Little Wood River that record instantaneous flow information 24 hours a day, which will help the water master improve water allocation.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Loss Of Sea Ice Leads Walruses To Early Appearance In Alaska.

The [AP](#) (8/16, Joling) reports that “hundreds of Pacific walruses came ashore to a barrier island on Alaska’s northwest coast, the earliest appearance of the animals in a phenomenon tied to climate warming and diminished Arctic Ocean sea ice.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “announced Wednesday that several hundred walruses were spotted during the first week of August near the village of Point Lay on the Chukchi Sea.” According to spokeswoman Andrea Medeiros, “last week, the number had grown to 2,000.” The FWS said that “it’s the earliest date for the arrival, known as a ‘haulout,’ to form.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [U.S. News & World Report](#) (8/16, Joling), the [Daily Mail](#) (8/16), [Fox News](#) (8/16, Joling), the [Miami Herald](#) (8/16, Joling), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (8/16, Joling), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (8/16, Joling), the [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Dan Joling |, Ap), the [Washington Times](#) (8/16, Joling), and [ABC News](#) (8/16, Joling).

Hunting Bears With Dogs Comes Under Attack By Wisconsin Wolf Advocates.

The [La Crosse \(WI\) Tribune](#) (8/16, Marcotty) reports that “a national watchdog group says Wisconsin bear hunters are harassing wolves with their dog packs — then claiming state compensation when their hounds are killed — and wants the federal government to launch a criminal investigation.” In a letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an attorney for Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) said that the practice amounts to “a state-sanctioned financial subsidy for hunters engaged in the criminal harassment” of wolves. Adam Carlesco, staff counsel for PEER, noted that “Wisconsin is the only state that reimburses dog owners in addition to farmers and livestock owners for wolf depredation.”

Our View: Don’t Miss Today’s Meeting On Refuge Boating Regulations.

In an editorial, the [Havasu \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (8/17) urges the public to participate in a public forum hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “to go over new proposals establishing a series of no-wake and restricted zones through Havasu National Wildlife Refuge.” The paper says that “the future of the lake and the activities it supports are too important to let a bunch of bureaucrats decide what happens.” It concludes that “even though the new regulations seem acceptable, the feds need to know that we’re still paying attention.”

National Park Service

National Parks Service Ends Ban On Disposable Water Bottles.

The [AP](#) (8/16, Silber) reports that “the federal government announced Wednesday it will eliminate a policy that allowed national parks like the Grand Canyon to ban the sale of bottled

water in an effort to curb litter." The National Parks Service "said in a statement it made the decision to 'expand hydration options for recreationalists, hikers, and other visitors to national parks.'" International Bottled Water Association spokeswoman Jill Culora "praised the Park Service's decision in a statement, calling the policy 'seriously flawed' and noted it still allowed other less healthy beverages that are packaged in heavier types of containers." Officials said that "parks will still promote recycling of plastic water bottles, and many have worked with partners to provide free water in bottle-filling stations."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Washington Times](#) (8/16, Silber), the [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Clarice Silber |, Ap), the [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Clarice Silber |, Ap), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (8/16, Silber), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (8/16, Silber), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (8/16, Silber), and the [Arizona Republic](#) (8/16, Silber).

Additional coverage was provided by the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (8/16, Alexander), the [Cleveland \(OH\) Plain Dealer](#) (8/16, Eaton), and the [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (8/16).

Permit For Right-wing Crissy Field Rally To Get 2nd Look By Officials.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (8/17, Alexander) reports that the National Park Service on Wednesday "acknowledged widespread concern over plans to hold a right-wing rally at Crissy Field in San Francisco next week, and said it would make a decision soon on whether to let the event proceed on the park property." The superintendent of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, "in her first public statement on the event, said the agency was bound to honor free speech rights of the organizers, regardless of their politics, but also would have to account for public safety." GGNRA's acting general superintendent, Cicely Muldoon, said, "We have heard and take very seriously the concerns expressed by the public and elected officials regarding the proposed Aug. 26 Patriot Prayer First Amendment event at Crissy Field. Our highest priority is to ensure public safety, while honoring our obligation to uphold one of our nation's most cherished constitutional rights, the First Amendment right to free speech."

Additional coverage was provided by the [East Bay \(CA\) Times](#) (8/16, Kelly).

New Smokies Science Program To Target Schools.

The [Waynesville \(NC\) Smoky Mountain News](#) (8/16) reports that "a new science education program will soon launch in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park thanks to a \$1 million Veverka Family Foundation donation to the National Parks Foundation." Citizen Science 2.0 in National Parks will be "a three-year partnership between the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont, the park, and local middle and high schools, providing citizen science engagement for students and delivering professional development for teachers." According to the article, "the teacher education program will consist of a series of residential workshops at Tremont and consults at local schools, giving teachers practice with experiential learning and linking what they have learned with standards-based subject matter." Smokies Superintendent Cassius Cash said, "These science-based opportunities cultivate lasting connections between the public and their parks by establishing a fascination and love of science. We are thrilled to work with the National Park Foundation and the Veverka Family Foundation to implement this citizen-science based education project."

On A Mission: Preservation Work Underway At Tumacacori.

The [Green Valley \(AZ\) News](#) (8/16, Bottemiller) reports that "a five-year project involving backbreaking, eyeball-bending work is underway to conserve Tumacacori National Historical Park's valuable heritage." Frank Matero, "a visiting professor of architecture at the University of Pennsylvania, is overseeing a team of specialists on earthen architecture to conserve the original plasters and painted finishes inside San José de Tumacácori Mission Church south of Tubac." According to the article, "while the goal is to protect the culturally significant structure from the elements, the hope is that in doing so come educational and collaborative opportunities for internships involving Americans, Mexicans and Park Service professionals."

Springfield Armory Museum Closed Friday For Paving.

The [Springfield \(MA\) Republican](#) (8/16, Kinney) reports that the Springfield Armory National Historic Site will "close its museum Friday so contractors can complete paving work at the armory site." The paving is "part of a \$1.2 million project to redo the landscape, the road and the drainage at the Springfield Armory National Historic Site." The National Park Service is "restoring the landscape to what it looked like in the 1950s under Army control."

Yosemite's Half Dome Disappears Into A Plume Of Smoke From Wildfires.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (8/16, Graff) reports that smoke from two wildfires burning in Yosemite National Park has made the Half Dome not viewable. According to the article, "air quality in the park was especially poor on Monday and Tuesday with the amount of particulate matter in the air peaking between Monday and Tuesday afternoons and reaching unhealthy conditions." Yosemite spokesperson Jamie Richards said, "This morning it's not too bad. As the afternoon sets, we're in a low-lying valley at 4,000 feet, so it may change as the day progresses. If you're someone with asthma or respiratory issues, it might not be a good idea to go on a strenuous."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Trump: Kim Jong-Un Made "Wise Decision" In Backing Off Plan To Attack Guam.

[USA Today](#) (8/16, Onyanga-Omara) reports President Trump [tweeted](#) Wednesday that North Korean leader Kim Jong-un made a "wise and well reasoned decision," after backing off from a plan to fire four ballistic missiles at Guam. "The alternative would have been both catastrophic and unacceptable!" Trump tweeted. The [New York Times](#) (8/16, Perlez) says Trump offered "rare words of praise" for Kim, and [Reuters](#) (8/16, Brice) likewise said Trump "praised" the North Korean leader for making a "wise" decision, which "has eased escalating tension between the two countries."

The [New York Post](#) (8/16, Moore) also reports Trump's tweet about Kim's decision, which [Bloomberg News](#) (8/16, Olorunnipa) reports, "at least for now," has shifted "the focus...toward finding a diplomatic solution." At the UN on Wednesday, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called for confidence-building measures to defuse tensions and a return to negotiations. "As tensions rise, so does the risk of misunderstanding, miscalculation or escalation," Guterres told reporters. "There are many possible avenues for this dialogue, from various bilateral formations to the six-party talks."

Bannon On North Korea: "There's No Military Solution Here, They Got Us." In a telephone interview with the [American Prospect](#) (8/16), Steve Bannon said regarding North Korea, "There's no military solution, forget it. Until somebody solves the part of the equation that shows me that 10 million people in Seoul don't die in the first 30 minutes from conventional weapons, I don't know what you're talking about, there's no military solution here, they got us." The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/16, Siegel) reports that the American Prospect's Robert Kuttner "writes that Bannon told him [President] Trump should consider a diplomatic deal in which China got North Korea to freeze its nuclear program, in exchange for the US removing troops from the Korean Peninsula."

Pence Urges Latin America To End Diplomatic Ties With North Korea. [Bloomberg News](#) (8/16, Pettypiece) reports Vice President Pence on Wednesday called on Chile, Brazil, Mexico, and Peru to "cut all economic and diplomatic relations" with North Korea as the US looks to broaden the coalition of countries pressuring leader Kim Jong-Un to abandon his nuclear program. After meeting in Santiago with Chilean President Michelle Bachelet, Pence said, "We strongly urge Chile today, and we urge Brazil, Mexico and Peru to break all diplomatic and commercial ties to North Korea. The era of strategic patience is over, with regard to North Korea. All options are on the table." Pence, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/16, Radnofsky) reports, asked Bachelet to reclassify Chilean wine as export luxury goods under current US sanctions, which, he said "would prevent North Korea from obtaining these commodities and converting them into hard currency that support the regime."

According to the [AP](#) (8/16), Pence is "cutting short his trip to Latin America so he can join the President at a meeting about North Korea." The White House announced Wednesday that Pence would travel to Camp David with the President on Friday to meet with his national security team.

A [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Rucker) analysis says that during his week-long tour of Latin America, Pence has "cast himself to his hosts as a dutiful, even earnest messenger for President Trump. But in visits this week to Colombia, Argentina and Chile, Pence has acted more like Trump's translator." The Post writes that "again and again," Pence's statements have "sounded somewhat discordant from the ones his boss has been delivering back home," and "more than delivering Trump's messages, Pence is repackaging them with a decidedly sober and diplomatic spin."

Moon: US Promises To Seek Seoul's Approval Before Action On North Korea. [Reuters](#) (8/16, Kim, Kim) reports South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Thursday that President Trump has "promised to seek Seoul's approval before pursuing any option against nuclear-armed North

Korea." Trump's recent "aggressive comments" do "not appear to have been made with the intention to take military action, Moon said" at a news conference marking his first 100 days in office.

NYTimes Analysis: US War Games With South Korea May Be "A Bargaining Chip." The [New York Times](#) (8/16, Rich) reports that bi-annual joint US-South Korean military exercises are condemned "year after year" by the North "as a rehearsal for an invasion and demands that they be called off." Now, with President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un "recently trading threats of nuclear war, another round of the biannual drills is set to begin on Monday in South Korea." The Times notes that two years ago, the North proposed "a temporary moratorium on nuclear tests if Washington canceled" the exercises, and some analysts are suggesting that a "permutation of that offer may be the best way to defuse the crisis over North Korea's nuclear and missile programs."

China's Enforcement Of UN Sanctions Starts To Pinch. The [New York Times](#) (8/16, Perlez) reports that UN sanctions banning the import of North Korean seafood "started to bite on Wednesday, two days after China's Commerce Ministry announced it would enforce the new rules" passed earlier this month by the Security Council. By curtailing the trade, China is "obeying the intent of the latest sanctions resolution but harming its own businessmen." The Chinese traders were also "not given any warning about the sanctions enforcement," setting off protests.

Dunford Meets With Chinese Soldiers Near North Korean Border. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/16, Lubold, Page) reports Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph Dunford on Wednesday said he discussed with his Chinese counterparts ways to coordinate with China's military should war break out with North Korea. Dunford also paid a rare visit to the Chinese military command that oversees the North Korean border, viewing live-fire drills and meeting with People's Liberation Army troops.

American Samoa GDP Turns Down In 2016.

[Marianas Variety](#) (8/16) reports that in estimates of gross domestic product or GDP for American Samoa for 2016, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis said "that real GDP — GDP adjusted to remove price changes — decreased 2.5 percent in 2016 after increasing 1.2 percent in 2015." The drop in the American Samoa economy "reflected decreases in spending on construction and equipment; several investment projects in both the government sector and private sector had ended or entered their final stages during 2015." Also, "government spending decreased, reflecting a decline in investment spending by the territorial government." These estimates were "developed under the Statistical Improvement Program funded by the Office of Insular Affairs of the U.S. Department of the Interior," and "moving forward, an agreement between OIA and BEA will extend and improve the estimates of GDP for American Samoa."

Office Of Surface Mining

Panel Studying Possible Tie Between Health Problems, Appalachian Mining To Meet In Kentucky.

The [Lexington \(KY\) Herald-Leader](#) (8/16, Estep) reports that "a panel studying the potential link between surface mining and health problems in Appalachia plans meetings in Kentucky to gather information." The committee of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine will "hold a town hall meeting in Hazard on Aug. 21 to gain 'insights and information' from people in the area, according to a news release." The U.S. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement "commissioned the study, saying the research agency would examine a 'growing amount of academic research that relates to possible correlations between increased health risks as a result of living near surface coal mine operations.'"

US Geological Survey

USGS Begins Low-level Flight To Survey And Research Oklahoma Fault Lines.

The [Altus \(OK\) Times](#) (8/16, Goforth) reports that scientists with the U.S. Geological Survey and the Oklahoma Geological Survey "began a 6 to 10-week survey of southwest Oklahoma's fault lines on Monday at the Altus Quartz Mountain Regional Airport." USGS and OGS are "contracting with Glodak Airborne Surveys to conduct surveys in over 18 counties in southwestern and north-central Oklahoma to capture 3-D images of geology beneath Earth's surface for earthquakes

hazard and mineral resources." USGS scientist and project lead Dr. Anji Shah said, "Oklahoma has been experiencing increased seismicity since about 2009. Many of these earthquakes occur on faults that haven't been mapped. In order to better understand local seismic hazards, the USGS and OGS will use the new data to work toward improved fault maps."

Top National News

Media Analyses: Trump Faces Growing Political Isolation In Wake Of Charlottesville Comments.

Media outlets offered no respite to the President the day after his impromptu comments on the Charlottesville tragedy. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/16, lead story, 5:30, Muir) – as did the other two major network newscasts – showed him making the statements that sparked the outcry, "What I'm saying is this: You had a group on one side, and you had a group on the other, and they came at each other with clubs and it was vicious and horrible. I think there is blame on both sides." Pressed on whether he was defending neo-Nazis, the President said, "Excuse me. They didn't put themselves down as neo-Nazis. You had some very bad people in that group. You also had people that were very fine people on both sides." Media analyses were unremittingly hostile, both in terms of what Trump meant by his words and in their assessment of the implications for his presidency.

The [New York Times](#) (8/16, Peters, Martin, Healy), for example, refers to Trump's "embrace of the country's racially charged past," [Politico](#) (8/16, Dawsey) says he "offered what some perceived to be overtures to white supremacists," and the [Washington Post](#) (8/16) speaks in an editorial of a "stunning defense of white supremacist marchers." The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/16, story 4, 3:40, Mason), meanwhile, interviewed Bryan Stevenson of the Equal Justice Initiative, who said, "I think the President needs to step back. ... We cannot be ambivalent about the danger posed by Nazism and fascism."

Another [New York Times](#) (8/16, Landler) report accuses Trump of abdicating "what presidents from Roosevelt to Reagan have regarded as a cardinal duty of their job: to set a moral course for the nation." In that sense, to the Times "Trump's refusal Tuesday to pass an explicit moral judgment on the violence...seemed a genuine reflection of his beliefs," and was "similar to his refusal to condemn the tactics of autocrats like...Rodrigo Duterte...or...Vladimir V. Putin." John Kass, in his [Chicago Tribune](#) (8/16) column, charges that "the amoral man in the White House failed his morality test. And in doing so, he gave the left a powerful weapon."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (8/16, lead story, 3:20, Holt), meanwhile, reported "the shock" over Trump's comments triggered "a cascade of criticism that could further stall the President's agenda," and Wolf Blitzer said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/16) that Trump "may have derailed his presidency." Along similar lines, [USA Today](#) (8/16, Jackson) reports "some of...Trump's most ardent supporters are worried his impromptu comments on the racially motivated violence...will imperil the fate of his economic and policy agenda." The story cites two unnamed "prominent supporters who have worked with the Trump team" who "say they worry the self-inflicted Charlottesville controversy will only make it harder for the White House to get...anything...critical to his agenda out of Congress." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/16, Nicholas, Hughes, Bender) runs a similar analysis under the headline "Trump's Remarks Rattle His Staff, Threaten Agenda."

Sara Murray said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (8/16) that Trump "has no regrets about what he had to say," and "in fact...has been defiant. We are told he views this essentially as the liberal media and these East Coast liberal elites having a panic attack, hyperventilating over his comments." However, Trump is "increasingly isolated as the backlash to these remarks a day ago builds." The [New York Times](#) (8/16, Shear, Thrus, Haberman) also reports Trump "found himself increasingly isolated in a racial crisis of his own making on Wednesday, abandoned by the nation's top business executives, contradicted by military leaders and shunned by Republicans." [The Hill](#) (8/16, Easley) likewise says "Trump's political isolation mounted on Wednesday, with...GOP lawmakers ducking for cover."

The [New York Post](#) (8/16, Fredericks), meanwhile, reports Trump "stunned his top aides at his combative news conference" and ignored "their advice." The Post cites a quote from an unnamed "senior White House official" who told [NBC News](#) that the President "went rogue." [Politico](#) (8/16, Cook, Dawsey) says Trump's "decision to double down on his argument that 'both sides' were to blame...was driven in part by his own anger – and his disdain for being told what to do." Politico quotes "one adviser to the White House" as saying, "In some ways, Trump would rather have people calling him racist than say he backed down the minute he was wrong. ... This

may turn into the biggest mess of his presidency because he is stubborn and doesn't realize how bad this is getting." Meanwhile, "an adviser" says Trump "thinks he's right. He still thinks he's right."

The political devastation ensuing from the current controversy, says [McClatchy](#) (8/16, Glueck), could spread to the entire Republican party: "If...Trump's campaign stomped all over the Republican Party's 2012 plans to build a more diverse movement, his refusal now to squarely blame white supremacists and neo-Nazis for violence has destroyed those efforts entirely." McClatchy adds that "interviews with a dozen Republican operatives and activists around the country revealed genuine frustration – and for some, disgust – over Trump's repeated suggestions that there is an equivalence between the neo-Nazis, Ku Klux Klan members and white supremacists...and those who turned out to protest them."

Steve Hayes of The Weekly Standard said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/16) that the White House strategy Wednesday was "to stop digging. They didn't have the President out to continue to talk about this in a way that undoes what he tried to do on Monday and in that sense I think they have made some progress today. But you listen to Mike Pence say that the President was clear and unambiguous about his condemnation here and you look at the White House talking point...that talked about the President as a force for calm and unity. That's not only misleading and wrong, it's delusional."

Trump's "defense of far-right protesters" in Charlottesville drew criticism from two of his predecessors, the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/16, lead story, 2:30, Brennan) reported in its lead story. Without mentioning Trump by name, former Presidents George and George W. Bush issued a statement saying, "America must always reject racial bigotry, antisemitism, and hatred in all forms." CBS (Brennan) added that Trump "also drew sharp rebukes from" other GOP officials. Ohio Gov. John Kasich: "He has got to fix this, and Republicans have to speak out." Sen. Lindsey Graham said in a statement, "Mr. President, your words are dividing Americans, not healing them." The [Washington Times](#) (8/16, Dinan) also reports on the statement from the Bushes.

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (8/16, Spangler) reports that Rep. Dave Trott "had some advice" for Trump, saying in a [tweet](#) Wednesday, "I think America needs more unity and less divisiveness...meaning @realDonaldTrump should focus more on golf & have less press conferences."

The [AP](#) (8/16, Peoples, Beaumont) says that while "the nation's most powerful Republicans responded" to Trump's comments, "few mentioned the president." Senate Majority Leader McConnell "condemned 'hate and bigotry,'" and House Speaker Ryan "charged that 'White supremacy is repulsive,'" but neither "criticized the president's insistence that there were 'very fine people on both sides'" of the violent clash. Their "nuanced statements" are a reflection of the GOP's establishment's "delicate dance." While "few top Republican officeholders defended" the President, they "are unwilling to declare all-out war against Trump and risk alienating his loyalists."

[USA Today](#) (8/16, Przybyla) describes McConnell as "livid" over Trump's remarks, but adds that the "difficulty he felt responding to the leader of his party" underscores "the quandary facing many Republicans in the aftermath of Trump's comments." Republicans, USA Today adds, "are searching for ways to distance themselves from the president without personally taking on a president who remains popular in many GOP-dominated states."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/16, Mascaro) reports, however, that while a number of Republican lawmakers have criticized the President over his remarks on the Charlottesville violence, "the GOP-led Congress isn't expected to respond with much more than impassioned statements and social media posts." The Times adds that Trump "remains popular in many states and congressional districts that elected Republicans to the majority in Congress," and "lawmakers remain reluctant to put themselves crosswise with the voters many will need in next year's midterm election. Moreover, Republicans in Congress have hitched Trump's popularity – which stems in part from his disruptive and racially tinged tone – to their legislative agenda."

John Harwood said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (8/16), "This is an extraordinarily difficult moment for Republican leaders because it's embarrassing to them. ... This was a President revealing what he really thought and the problem has come because people see what he really thought and they don't like it. ... Republican leaders therefore are feeling the need to distance themselves." Jim Acosta said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/16), "It is not clear GOP are leaders are going to do much about" Trump's comments, but added that "one Republican source told CNN, 'I think the President's ability to effectively govern is dwindling by the hour.'"

In an op-ed for [Politico Magazine](#) (8/16), Matt Latimer, a former speechwriter for President George W. Bush, argues that while the media "has been biased" and "have gone after Trump with

a determination and fury that Barack Obama never faced," the media "didn't force the president to say – or rather not say – what he did on Saturday" or "to (yet again) fault 'both sides' on Tuesday afternoon, or suggest that those hanging around with armed Nazis...were just peaceful, lawful demonstrators speaking their minds." Latimer adds that it is "time to put the country ahead of the party. And for politicians in Washington, D.C., to prove they still have the ability to see the difference."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Degrandpre) reports that the "most senior leaders" of the US military "have publicly – and bluntly – repudiated the racist violence" in Charlottesville, "declaring the nation's armed forces as being unequivocally against hatred." The military's four service chiefs "issued firm, forceful statements that stand apart from remarks made by President Trump." The "flurry of activity prompted some observers to question whether the Pentagon aimed to create distance between the service chiefs and the commander in chief."

The [AP](#) (8/16, Burns) reports that Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson wrote in a [tweet](#) Saturday evening that the events in Charlottesville were "unacceptable and mustn't be tolerated," and issued a statement calling them "shameful." In a [tweet](#) Tuesday, Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert Neller wrote, "No place for racial hatred or extremism in @USMC. Our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment frame the way Marines live and act." On Wednesday, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley [tweeted](#), "The Army doesn't tolerate racism, extremism, or hatred in our ranks. It's against our Values and everything we've stood for since 1775." Also, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein wrote in a [tweet](#), "I stand with my fellow service chiefs in saying we're always stronger together – it's who we are as Airmen."

[Politico](#) (8/16, Klimas) says the military chiefs' statements were "in stark contrast" to Trump's remarks, while the [Washington Examiner](#) (8/16, McIntyre) says they "have to be especially careful not to cross a line into domestic politics" as it is "actually illegal under military law for a commissioned officer to say anything that could be construed as direct criticism of the commander in chief."

WPost A1: Since 1970s, Trump "Has Regularly Fanned The Flames Of Racial Controversies." On the front page of the [Washington Post](#) (8/16, A1), Marc Fisher writes, "From his first public controversy in the 1970s, when the federal government sued Trump and his father over discriminatory rental practices in their New York real estate empire, to the opening salvo in his 2016 presidential campaign, when he said that Mexicans entering the United States were criminals and 'rapists,' Trump has regularly fanned the flames of racial controversies." Fisher writes that some say Trump's "eagerness to speak up for at least some of the people who took part in the alt-right demonstrations in Charlottesville must be viewed as a reflection of his attitude on race."

Media Analyses: Trump's Base Siding With Him. While officials from both parties are blasting Trump over his comments, the [AP](#) (8/16, Sedensky) reports, "many men and women who helped put him in office remain unmoved by the latest uproar." They "wash their hands of neo-Nazis and wag their fingers at leftists. They denounce a press corps they see as biased and controversies they view as manufactured. But in the frenzied blame game over the deadly violence at a rally of white supremacists...Trump's loyal base is happy to absolve the president himself."

Along similar lines, the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/16, story 5, 2:20, Mason) interviewed several Trump voters, who said they remained on his side in this controversy, "These Republican women," CBS reported, "say if a President deserves blame for making racial tensions worse, it's Obama, not Trump, for the identity politics they say Democrats have practiced for the last eight years." [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/16, story 3, 2:00, Alexander) reported on reaction to Trump's words across the nation, and featured some Trump defenders while noting the "outrage blaring from newspaper headlines. In New York, 'Sympathy for the Devils.' In Chicago, 'Fake President.'"

Mollie Hemingway of The Federalist said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/16) that it is "so frustrating to people that we cannot acknowledge just the reality that of course, everyone, most everyone, should, of course, condemn white nationalism and other racists and it's also true that we do have a really serious problem in this country with leftist violence and even the inability of Republican leaders to admit that reality which is just factually true. That's actually just what happened even in this last weekend where you had violence on one side – you had the murderous violence of the racist and also violence on the other side it makes it very difficult to have a fruitful conversation."

In his opening monologue on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (8/16), Sean Hannity said, "What seemed to set the media off yesterday is that the President said there was violence on both sides. Whether we like it or not – this is an important point – the First Amendment does protect even hate speech. That is why even the ACLU defended these white supremacists and their right to say

what they want to say. Whether or not we like it or not, you are not allowed in America, under the rule of law to get into fist fights, to punch people, engage in fighting because you don't like what they say. Despite those facts, the media is living in an alternative universe. Why? Because all they want to do is destroy the President."

Marist Poll: 52 Percent Say Trump Response To Charlottesville Was "Insufficient." [Politico](#) (8/16, Conway) reports that a new Marist poll found that most Americans think Trump's response to the violence in Charlottesville "was not strong enough." According to the poll, 52 percent "said Trump's response to the violence was insufficient, while 27 percent said his reaction was strong enough and 21 percent were unsure." The poll was conducted Monday and Tuesday, which means "some respondents were surveyed before Trump made further remarks about the event at a freewheeling news conference in New York on Tuesday afternoon."

WPost Says Kelly "Deeply Frustrated And Dismayed," ABC Remarks On Apparent "Wince" As Trump Spoke. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/16, lead story, 5:30, Muir) reported last night that "many" are "studying...Chief of Staff...Kelly's face, appearing to wince as...Trump" made his remarks Tuesday. ABC further asked, "Was the White House blindsided on this?" The [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Parker, Costa) says the latest "uproar – which has consumed not only the White House but the Republican Party – left Kelly deeply frustrated and dismayed just over two weeks into his job, said people familiar with his thinking."

Pence: "I Stand With The President." The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/16, lead story, 2:30, Brennan) said "the President's comments...drew sharp rebukes from fellow Republicans," but Vice President Pence was shown saying, "And I stand with the President, and I stand by those words. ... The strength of the United States of America is always strongest as the President has said so eloquently, when we are united around our shared values. And so it will always be." [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/16, lead story, 3:20, Holt) reported that Trump's "surrogates" remained "largely silent" yesterday – with the exception of Pence. To the [AP](#) (8/16, Colvin), however, Pence "skirted questions about...Trump's comments voicing sympathy for Charlottesville protesters, but said he stands with the president nonetheless."

Cohn "Visibly Dismayed," "Disgusted"; White House Staff "Wrestling With How To Respond." The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/16, lead story, 2:30, Brennan) reported that "top aide Gary Cohn was visibly dismayed...by the President's comments, but he has no plans to resign." [Politico](#) (8/16, Dawsey), meanwhile, reports that "White House aides are wrestling with how to respond to...Trump's defiant news conference," though "no aides had yet threatened to resign." Cohn "was particularly displeased, according to people familiar with the matter."

The [New York Times](#) (8/16, Shear) focuses on "Jewish members of...Trump's administration," who "remained largely silent Wednesday after Mr. Trump came to the defense of nationalist and right-wing protesters...who had chanted anti-Semitic slogans and demeaned the president's Jewish son-in-law." Cohn "was described by several people close to him as 'disgusted' and 'deeply upset' by the president's remarks."

Rep. Marc Veasey said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/16), "What I think is that White House staff, they need to speak up. I mean, you have African Americans that work for him – Omarosa. You have, including his son-in-law, Jewish Americans that work for him. And I do think that their silence really speaks volumes. And by not saying anything at all, they absolutely are enabling him. And to me, they need to really step up and the reason I say that...is because...Trump right now, he is on a path that is going to make his presidency and his legacy perhaps the worst on race relations since Reconstruction ended."

Bannon Dismisses "Fringe Element," Welcomes Democratic Focus On "Identity Politics." Robert Kuttner of the [American Prospect](#) (8/16) writes that during a telephone conversation that Steve Bannon initiated, Bannon "dismissed the far right as irrelevant and sidestepped his own role in cultivating it." Bannon said, "Ethno-nationalism – it's losers. It's a fringe element. I think the media plays it up too much, and we gotta help crush it, you know, uh, help crush it more." Bannon added, "The Democrats, the longer they talk about identity politics, I got 'em. I want them to talk about racism every day. If the left is focused on race and identity, and we go with economic nationalism, we can crush the Democrats."

[USA Today](#) (8/16, Cummings) reports that in the interview, Bannon "seemed thrilled that Trump's opponents are talking so much about race." In a piece consisting primarily of large excerpts from the American Prospect piece, [Breitbart](#) (8/16, Pollak) writes that Bannon said he "welcomed the Democrats' obsession with the Charlottesville incident, and identity politics in general." The [New York Post](#) (8/16, Perez) has a report headlined "Bannon Calls White Nationalists 'A Collection Of Clowns.'"

Jonathan Swan of [Axios](#) (8/17) writes, "Bannon's White House colleagues can't believe what

they're reading tonight – and here's the twist: neither can Bannon." Bannon "has told associates he never intended to do an 'interview' with an editor at the American Prospect, a left-wing publication," but that he simply called Kuttner to discuss a recent piece on China. Bannon "never thought that the journalist might take his (very newsworthy) comments and turn them into a story."

The [New York Times](#) (8/16, Shear, Thrusch, Haberman) reports that "one aide who felt energized by the president's actions was...Bannon," whose "future in the White House remains uncertain" and "has been encouraging Mr. Trump to remain defiant." The Times adds that "two White House officials who have been trying to moderate the president's position suggested that Mr. Bannon was using the crisis as a way to get back in the good graces of the president."

Trump Ends Advisory Councils As CEOs Quit Them; Breitbart Sees "Blow" To Cohn's Influence.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/16, lead story, 5:30, Muir) reported that Trump's comments Tuesday "did not sit well with many CEOs on the President's business advisory councils." After a number of "CEOs called the White House to inform the President of their decision and he quickly put out this [tweet](#): 'Rather than putting pressure on the business people of the manufacturing council & strategy & policy forum, I am ending both. Thank you all!'" The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/16, lead story, 2:30, Brennan) noted that "by the time the President tweeted he was disbanding his business advisory councils, almost a dozen members, including the heads of GE, Campbell Soup, and 3M, had resigned." On [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/16, lead story, 3:20, Holt), Kristen Welker said the President faced "a full scale rebellion by the very CEOs he once called colleagues," in what amounted to "a punch in the gut to Mr. Trump, a billionaire former CEO."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/16, Lien) notes that the two councils Trump dissolved are "the White House's economic advisory council and manufacturing council – panels that consisted of business leaders from firms such as BlackRock, JPMorgan Chase, IBM and PepsiCo." To [Politico](#) (8/16, Diamond), "the president who promised business leaders would 'thrive' under his administration cut ties Wednesday with three dozen of America's top CEOs."

The [New York Times](#) (8/16, Gelles, Thomas, Kelly) reports "the quick sequence began late Wednesday morning when Stephen A. Schwarzman, the chief executive of the Blackstone Group and one of Mr. Trump's closest confidants in the business community, organized a conference call for members of the president's Strategic and Policy Forum." The Times adds that "after a discussion among a dozen prominent C.E.O.s, the decision was made to abandon the group altogether, said people with knowledge of details of the call." [U.S. News & World Report](#) (8/16, Soergel), [Reuters](#) (8/16, Shepardson, Erman), [Bloomberg News](#) (8/16, Tracer, Townsend), the [Washington Times](#) (8/16, Boyer), [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/16, Glazer, Krouse), and [USA Today](#) (8/16, Yu), among other news outlets, run similar stories this morning.

[Breitbart](#) (8/16, Boyle), meanwhile, reported "the move is a significant blow to the influence of Cohn in the White House," as "his level of control in the White House is dwindling by the minute." To Breitbart, "the organizational structure that empowered American CEOs – and not small business leaders – was always fraught with potential peril if and when something like this came up," but "Cohn and Trump son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner pushed the president forward in advising the course of action that included the creation of these institutions full of corporatists and globalists."

Andrew Ross Sorkin said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (8/16), "The President has said he is disbanding these groups, but let there be no doubt, both of these groups decided to disband en masse themselves. A resignation of dozens at this point, deciding that it wasn't because of embarrassment about their own roles, but in part, outrage and fury over President Trump's comments over the past several days."

Yahoo News and Finance anchor Bianna Golodryga said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/16), "The President can say that he disbanded them, but these CEOs were breaking up with him way beforehand, especially over the last 48 hours. You know, these councils are traditionally prestigious and they're not really risky. ... I think regardless of what a lot of CEOs personally felt about this President, they thought he would be offering more business-friendly priorities and policies like deregulation, tax reform, what have you. They did not think they would have to be answering questions from reporters as to whether or not they support Nazis and white supremacists."

VA Chief Defends Trump, Says It's A "Dishonor" To Have Neo-Nazis "Go Unchallenged." The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/16, lead story, 2:30, Brennan) reported VA Secretary Shulkin "said he's...staying" in his post, "but it is a 'dishonor' to all veterans to let Nazis 'go unchallenged.'" [The Hill](#) (8/16, Greenwood) notes that "in a short press briefing in Bedminster, N.J., Shulkin denounced white supremacists and hate groups that fed the violence," saying "their ideology and

behavior is an 'affront to American ideals.'" The [Washington Times](#) (8/16, Boyer) notes Shulkin also said Trump "has done a good job of speaking for himself," and that "he's denounced bigotry, hatred, violence, Nazis, white supremacists. ... I think he has been very clear that this was not acceptable to him, that he has denounced them."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Lamothe) reports that "Shulkin, who served in the Obama administration and was kept on under Trump, said that the president can speak for himself," but also "offered his own thoughts," saying, "I do feel like as an American and as a member of the Cabinet, that I can speak for my own personal opinions on this, and I am outraged by the behavior that I have seen with the Nazis and the white supremacists. I am outraged on the use of violence – to be able to put one's ideals, and force them upon others."

WPost Offers Advice To Top Trump Officials. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/16) ponders whether Kelly, Secretary of State Tillerson, Defense Secretary Mattis "or national security adviser H.R. McMaster" should resign. To the Post, "each of these men must consider, every day, whether they are maximizing whatever leverage they have for the good of the country, and whether their accomplishments justify whatever 'normalizing' benefit their presence conveys on their chief executive. As long as they can answer yes, we think they should be thanked, not condemned."

NBC News Features "White Nationalist" Praising Trump. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/16, story 5, 2:15), Lester Holt said that after Trump's remarks on Charlottesville, "white supremacists have come out of the shadows to cheer his message, viewing it as a validation of their own racist beliefs, including some...in California." NBC's Jacob Soboroff said that "white nationalist William Johnson," who lives in Los Angeles, "was elated with...Trump's press conference." After Trump was shown saying, "I think there's blame on both sides," Johnson said, "That's an honest man saying what he believes in his heart." Asked if he thinks "Trump saying things like that will ultimately bring America closer to your goal of a white ethno-state," Johnson replied, "We have a festering racial problem. ... I think the only solution is separation, but there may be another solution, and Donald Trump is going to...help us overcome the racial divide. I think that he will encourage fair-minded, deep-thinking people to realize that separation is the only way we can achieve racial goals."

In a follow-up segment on [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/16, story 6, 1:10, Holt), Holt asked Tom Brokaw, "who covered the civil rights movement of the 1960s," to share "what lessons can we learn from that experience." Brokaw said, "I thought the most dramatic example that still resonates with me was in the 1960s when Dr. Martin Luther King launched the nonviolent movement. And it was a strong moral cause that advanced his cause and alerted the country to the kinds of absolutely unacceptable things that we should not be tolerating anymore."

CBS News Highlights Scalise Tweet Decrying "White Supremacy And All Forms Of Hatred." The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/16, story 6, 0:25, Mason) reported, "Following President Trump's news conference yesterday, Louisiana Congressman Steve Scalise tweeted, 'We must defeat white supremacy and all forms of hatred.' The House Republican whip was critically wounded in June when a gunman opened fire on GOP lawmakers practicing for a congressional baseball game." The report doesn't mention that the alleged shooter was a progressive supporter of Sen. Bernie Sanders.

NYTimes Analysis: Trump Lawyer's Email "Echoed Secessionist Civil War Propaganda." The [New York Times](#) (8/16, Schmidt, Apuzzo) reports that "Trump's personal lawyer on Wednesday forwarded an email to conservative journalists, government officials and friends that echoed secessionist Civil War propaganda and declared that the group Black Lives Matter 'has been totally infiltrated by terrorist groups.'" The Times adds that "the email forwarded by John Dowd, who is leading the president's legal team, painted the Confederate general Robert E. Lee in glowing terms and equated the South's rebellion to that of the American Revolution against England."

Politico Transcript Erroneously Had Trump Calling White Supremacists, Alt-Right "Us." [BuzzFeed](#) (8/15, Koerner) reports that Politico's [transcript](#) of President Trump's Tuesday press conference said he referred to white supremacists and the alt-right "as 'us' – but a review of the audio doesn't back that up." The Federal News Service transcript quotes Trump as saying, "OK, what about the alt-left that came charging them? Excuse me. What about the alt-left that came charging at the – as you say, the alt-right? Do they have any semblance of guilt?" The White House's official transcript quotes Trump as saying, "Okay, what about the alt-left that came charging at – excuse me, what about the alt-left that came charging at the, as you say, the alt-right? Do they have any semblance of guilt?" Politico's version, however, reads, "Okay, what about the alt-left that came charging at us – excuse me – what about the alt-left that came

charging at the, as you say, the alt right? Do they have any semblance of guilt?" [Townhall](#) (8/16, Vespa) also reports on the Politico transcript, citing the BuzzFeed report.

AP Offers "Some Facts About The Antifa Movement." The [AP](#) (8/16, Baumann, Rankin) runs a piece offering "some facts about the antifa movement and those who protested the [Charlottesville] rally." The AP says, "According to websites and Facebook posts, people who affiliate with the term take a militant approach against fascism and white nationalism that doesn't necessarily shy away from violence." Regarding the Charlottesville rally, the AP says, "Both sides did engage in violence Saturday. ... In the mass of hundreds of people, it was not always possible to see who was instigating the fights."

Writing for the [Daily Caller](#) (8/16), Peter Hasson said that members of antifa "aren't interested in protecting America's system of government, according to their own statements – they're interested in destroying it." For example, Hasson quoted "a female leader for Refuse Fascism" as saying not long after Trump was inaugurated, "We need to make this country ungovernable. We need to do what the German people should have done when Hitler was elected."

Breitbart: Harvard/MIT Study Concludes Site Is Not "Alt-Right." [Breitbart](#) (8/16, Lee) reports under the headline "Harvard/MIT Study: 'Breitbart Is NOT Alt-Right'" that a New York Times Magazine piece on the website features a comment from Harvard's Yochai Benkler, who studied Breitbart content along with colleagues from both Harvard and MIT. He said, "Breitbart is not talking about these issues in the same way you would find on the extreme right. They don't use the same language you find on sites like VDARE and The Daily Stormer. ... Breitbart is not the alt-right."

AP Will Not Use Term "Alt-Right." The [Taegan Goddard's Political Wire](#) (8/16, Goddard) cites new guidance from the AP which says that "we have taken the position that the term 'alt-right' should be avoided because it is meant as a euphemism to disguise racist aims. So use it only when quoting someone or when describing what the movement says about itself."

UN Secretary General Offers "Veiled But Unmistakable Rebuke" Of Trump. In what the [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Gearan) calls "a veiled but unmistakable rebuke to President Trump," UN Secretary General António Guterres said Wednesday that "the world must reject intolerance and speak up against 'irrationality.'" Asked about Trump's response to the violence in Charlottesville, Guterres "said he does not comment on individual leaders," but "his criticism of Trump was nonetheless plain." Guterres said, "Racism, xenophobia, anti-Semitism or Islamophobia are . . . poisoning our societies. ... And it is absolutely essential for us all to stand up against them everywhere and every time." While Guterres "did not mention Trump by name in answering direct questions about the U.S. president," he "made clear he sees dangers from the brand of nationalism and populism that fueled Trump's election as well as political changes elsewhere."

Trump Faces "Backlash" From World Leaders. In a separate story, the [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Wang) reports on a "wave of backlash from world leaders" over Trump's comments. British Prime Minister Theresa May "didn't call Trump out by name," but "said in a statement Wednesday there was 'no equivalence' between the two sides." The European Commission "mentioned neither Trump nor Charlottesville," but said in a [tweet](#) Wednesday morning, "We reject and condemn all forms and manifestations of racism and xenophobia." In "more explicit" criticism, Germany Justice Minister Heiko Maas said, "It is unbearable how Trump is now glossing over the violence of the right-wing hordes from Charlottesville. ... No one should trivialize anti-Semitism and racism by neo-Nazis." Also, Martin Schulz, leader of the Social Democratic Party of Germany, said, "Nazis must be confronted decisively. ... What Trump is doing is highly incendiary. Those who downplay violence and hate betray the values of the West!"

Milbank Decries "Fox & Friends" For Defending Trump. In his [Washington Post](#) (8/16) column, Dana Milbank says that amid the fallout over his remarks on Charlottesville, Trump "was in need of a friend. And that's what 'Fox & Friends' is for." Milbank says that he watched "all three hours of 'Fox & Friends'" on Wednesday, and that the hosts sought to defend the President. Milbank adds, "It was obscene and unthinkable that" Trump "let white supremacists know it's okay to hold and act on their hateful views. In defending Trump, Fox is further encouraging these racists to crawl out from under their rocks and preach in the open."

WPost's Sullivan: Media Shouldn't "Be Falsely Evenhanded" In Covering Trump. In her [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Sullivan) column, Margaret Sullivan writes, "During the 2016 presidential campaign, the national news media's misguided sense of fairness helped equate the serious flaws of Hillary Clinton with the disqualifying evils of Donald Trump." Sullivan says, "Elected with the help of false equivalency, Trump is now creating some of his own" with his remarks on Charlottesville. Sullivan says, "With the issue of false equivalency front and center once again, a

profound question arises for journalists: What does true fairness look like in covering this president?" After highlighting some harsh coverage of Trump, Sullivan adds, "In dealing with the false-equivalency president they helped to get elected, the news media may have learned something. The best way to be fair is not to be falsely evenhanded, giving equal weight to unequal sides. It's to push for the truth, and tell it both accurately and powerfully."

Three House Democrats Seek Formal Censure Of Trump.

[McClatchy](#) (8/16, Clark) reports, "House Democrats are introducing a formal resolution" to censure President Trump "for saying that 'both sides' are to blame" for the violence in Charlottesville. So far, "just three Democrats have signed on" to the measure – Reps. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA), Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), and Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ) – and it "is unlikely to see traction in the GOP-led House." [The Hill](#) (8/16, Marcos) reports that the measure "specifically condemns Trump for employing chief strategist Stephen Bannon and national security aide Sebastian Gorka in the White House for their 'ties to white supremacist movements.'"

The [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Debonis) reports that the move "reflects a growing frustration among Democratic lawmakers and activists with the seemingly never-ending cycle of Trump controversies." The [Washington Times](#) (8/16, Dinan) reports, "Censure of a president is rare. The Senate lists just one occasion, in 1834, when Andrew Jackson drew the ire of lawmakers." The [New York Daily News](#) (8/16, Blain) also reports.

[USA Today](#) (8/16) editorializes that Republicans "should join together with Democrats to censure Trump. Censure is not impeachment. Whether that's appropriate will likely depend on the outcome" of the Russia investigation. But censure "would constitute a forceful way of rebuking the White House and condemning the vile views of a bigoted fringe, even as those people's right to free speech and peaceful protest is protected under the First Amendment."

The [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (8/16) editorializes, "It's time for Republicans to make a forceful and permanent break from the accidental president. ... General boorishness, bad-mouthing war heroes, mocking the handicapped: Republicans calculated that these were tolerable. Now they have a new calculation that should not be one at all: Will they stand with a man who stands with neo-Nazis and white supremacists?" The Observer says that Republicans should "show voters they do not share Trump's views on exclusion by joining Democrats in a proposed censure."

[Washington Post](#) (8/16) conservative blogger Jennifer Rubin writes that "every Republican must sign a censure" of Trump: "They lifted this president to office and now they must disown him. ... Any Republican not willing to sign on should be voted out. Period." [The Hill](#) (8/16) columnist Brent Budowsky also backs censure "for conduct unfit for the American presidency and in violation of the principles of our country."

Ellison: Trump "Has Some Level Of Sympathy" For "Neo-Nazis And Klan Members." The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/16, Langille) reports, "Democratic National Committee Vice Chairman Rep. Keith Ellison says he sees President Trump's reluctance to denounce white supremacy as evidence he has sympathy for them." Ellison told the Washington Post, "I have to come to a conclusion, based on all of the behavior I've seen out of Donald Trump, that the reason he is reluctant to denounce white supremacy and neo-Nazis and Klan members is because he has some level of sympathy for them."

Perez: RNC Chair Has "Responsibility" To Hold White Supremacists Accountable. [USA Today](#) (8/16, Przybyla) reports that DNC Chairman Tom Perez, in a Wednesday letter to his Republican National Committee counterpart Ronna Romney McDaniel, wrote, "There is no denying that these white supremacists, neo-Nazis, and the Ku Klux Klan have made their home in this president's Republican Party. As chairwoman, you bear a responsibility not just to reject hateful ideology generally, but to hold accountable the individuals in your party who have allowed that ideology to flourish."

Memorial Held For Woman Killed In Charlottesville Protest.

A memorial service was held Wednesday for Heather Heyer, who was killed when a drive plowed his car into a group of demonstrators in Charlottesville last weekend. The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/16, story 2, 1:50, Mason) says Heyer was "killed in an act of domestic terrorism." CBS (Begnaud) added that it was "largely peaceful" as "about 1,500 people filed into the Paramount Theater" for the service. While supporters outside "offered protection against any white supremacist who might show up and try to cause trouble...there ended up being no trouble." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/16, story 2, 2:55, Pilgrim) reported that Heather's mother Susan Bro

offered “defiance,” telling those gathered, “They tried to kill my child to shut her up. Well, guess what? You just magnified her.” She also issued “a call to action,” saying, “Say to yourself, what can I do to make a difference? And that’s how you’re going to make my child’s death worthwhile. I’d rather have my child, but by golly, if I have to give her up, we’re going to make it count.” The [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Silverman, Hernández, Hendrix) says Bro’s comments sparked “a cheering ovation” from the crowd that included Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe and Sen. Tim Kaine.

The [New York Times](#) (8/16, Spencer, Dickerson) reports that Heyer was remembered “for a quality that friends and family described as her most frustrating, and most admired – a passion for fighting injustice that was so relentless, it often spilled into her work and personal life.” Friends and family members “described her convictions as so intense that they prompted tearful outbursts at work, collapsed relationships and argumentative dinners at home, from which her father would occasionally escape to his car to play video games and avoid being lectured.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/16) says Heyer’s “principles and resolve were incontrovertible proof of her integrity – far more proof than a morally compromised president could possibly confer by his words.” Heyer, the Post adds, “is in that tradition of ordinary Americans of all races and creeds who perceived injustice clearly and, in standing up to it, lost their lives.”

911 Transcripts Show Accused Driver “Terrorizing” His Mother. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/16, story 3, 1:35, Muir) reported that authorities have released records of 911 calls showing the accused driver of the car that killed Heyer, James Alex Fields’, “alleged treatment of his own mother.” ABC (Thomas) added that the transcripts portray Fields, who is accused of driving his car into a crowd of demonstrators in Charlottesville, killing one person and injuring 19 others, “terrorizing his wheelchair-bound mother three times from 2010 to 2011.”

USA Today Analysis: Trump Comments May Have Prejudiced Case Against Fields. [USA Today](#) (8/16, Johnson) reports that Trump “may have unwittingly prejudiced the legal case” against James Alex Fields, who is accused of slamming a car in to a group of demonstrators last weekend in Charlottesville, by calling him “a murderer” during his “rollicking press conference” on Tuesday. Trump, USA Today adds, “likely made it harder to seat an impartial jury, legal analysts said, and offered his defense lawyers an opportunity to argue the case should be moved out of Charlottesville.”

Charlottesville Synagogue Felt “Under Siege” During Demonstrations. [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/16, story 4, 2:05, Holt) reported that rabbis say a Charlottesville synagogue “was under siege” Saturday with “dozens of people inside...afraid to leave while outside, armed men and marching neo-Nazis invoked painful echoes of the past.” Alan Zimmerman, President of Charlottesville’s Beth Israel congregation: “It was indescribable. I never, for a minute, ever thought in my life that I would see that on the streets of America. This is our sanctuary. ... If I’d taken a camera and filmed that in black and white, it would look to people like newsreels from 1933 in Germany. Even now just unbelievable.” NBC (Gutierrez) added, “Zimmerman told us he saw parades of Nazis walking by, some heckling the temple.”

WSJournal Analysis: Charlottesville Shows White Nationalist Movement Is Unifying. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/16, Frosch, McWhirter, Kesling) cites the white nationalist rally in Charlottesville as evidence that the movement is unifying, aided by an online rebranding that has enabled groups to work together, new young leadership that has helped heal longstanding divisions, and President Trump’s comments on immigrants, Muslims and the media bias, which have energized the groups.

Silicon Valley Steps Up Efforts Against White Supremacy. The [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Jan, Dwoskin) reports in a front-page story that Silicon Valley has “significantly escalated its war on white supremacy,” curtailing “the ability of hate groups to raise money online, removing them from Internet search engines, and preventing some sites from registering at all.” In a reversal of their “hands-off approach about content supported by their services,” tech companies including Google, GoDaddy, and PayPal are “making it much more difficult for ‘alt-right’ organizations to reach mass audiences.” But the moves are “heightening concerns over how tech companies are becoming the arbiters of free speech in America,” and “right-wing technologists are building parallel digital services that cater to their own movement” in response.

Colleges Prepare For Fall Protests. The [New York Times](#) (8/16, Goldstein) reports that college administrators and law enforcement officials across the country “are bracing for a wild fall of protests as their campuses become battlegrounds for society’s violent fringes.” The Times cites examples of such preparations and notes that due to the First Amendment, “colleges and universities that rely on public funding have few legal options in preventing offensive lectures from taking place, especially if a student group is affiliated with the event” and even “the violence in Charlottesville is not likely to help universities make a case in court.”

SPLC Identifies 1,500 Confederate Monuments In US. The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/16, story 3, 2:10, Mason) reported that while the Southern Poverty Law Center “found some 1,500 Confederate memorials across the country, including 718 statues and monuments, and 10 US military bases named after Confederate officers,” the list “has gotten a little smaller” as cities and states have moved to take them down. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/16, Calvert, Kamp) reports that the city of Baltimore removed several Confederate monuments in an unannounced pre-dawn operation Wednesday.

A [New York Times](#) (8/16) editorial praises the push to remove Confederate monuments, saying the “racist rage in Virginia and President Trump’s shamefully sympathetic response have prompted local and state politicians to encourage community peace by weighing the future of Confederate monuments civilly and unapologetically, even if the president has not.” Chicago Pastor Calls For Removal Of Washington Statue, Renaming Of Park. The [Washington Times](#) (8/16, Ernst) reports that in the wake of Trump’s question to reporters “about the possibility of tearing down historical monuments,” Bishop James E. Dukes of Chicago’s Liberation Christian Center has called on Mayor Rahm Emanuel “to rename Washington Park and remove a statue of the first U.S. president over his ties to slavery.” Dukes [wrote](#) on Facebook, “It’s time. Please read my letter to Mayor Rahm Emanuel and The Chicago Park District. ... I’m calling on them to change the names of Washington and Jackson Park. Slave owners do not deserve the honor of our children playing in parks named after them. There is no way a Native American Community would allow a General Custer Park or a Jewish Community allow a Gestapo Park in their community.”

Capitol Has More Statues Of Confederates Than Black People. The [Washington Post](#) (8/16, Ingraham) reports that in the US Capitol’s National Statuary Hall Collection “there are three times as many statues of Confederate soldiers and politicians as there are statues of black people in the entire Capitol complex, according to records maintained by the Architect of the Capitol.”

Cuomo Asks Army Secretary To Change Names Of Streets Named After Southern Generals. The [New York Times](#) (8/16, Nir, Otterman) reports that Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D-NY) on Wednesday “asked the acting secretary of the Army to change the names of two streets at the Fort Hamilton Army base in Brooklyn that are named after Southern generals.” The Times says Fort Hamilton “has streets named after [Gen. Robert E.] Lee and Gen. Thomas Jonathan ‘Stonewall’ Jackson, both of whom served there decades before the Civil War.” In a letter to acting Army Secretary Ryan McCarthy, Cuomo “singled out President Trump for his remarks this week in which he blamed both the white nationalists and counterprotesters for the violence in Charlottesville,” Virginia, writing, “Renaming these streets will send a clear message that in New York, we stand against intolerance and racism, whether it be insidious and hidden or obvious and intentional.” Cuomo, who faces reelection next year, is considered a potential 2020 presidential candidate. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/16, Alfaro) also reports on the story.

White House Says Government Will Make August ACA Payments To Insurers.

A White House official said Wednesday that the government will make this month’s payments to insurers under the ACA, the [AP](#) (8/16, Alonso-Zaldivar) reports. While President Trump “has repeatedly threatened to end the payments,” a White House spokesman who “insist[ed] on anonymity to discuss the decision ahead of the official announcement,” said “the August payment will be made.”

WSJournal: CBO Shows Insurance Market Won’t Collapse If ACA Subsidies End. Citing this week’s report from the CBO, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/16) argues in an editorial that congressional Republicans should not move quickly to make a deal with Democrats that would preserve the ACA’s subsidies for insurers. The Journal says the insurance market will not collapse if the subsidies end and the CBO provided no evidence that allowing the subsidies to continue will stop the law’s move toward higher costs and fewer choices.

Brady Would Accept Tax Code Overhaul That Raises Deficit To Jump-Start Economy.

The [Washington Times](#) (8/16, Sherfinski) reports that House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady “said Wednesday that he’s willing to stomach a tax code overhaul that deepens the federal deficit in order to jump-start the economy.” Speaking at the Reagan Ranch Center in California, Brady said that this “could mean expanding on existing deductions for charitable giving and ‘unprecedented’ capital expensing for businesses.” Brady “said eventually the package must reach balance, but in the near term he’s looking for ‘the greatest growth for the greatest number of years.’”

Report: Reducing Regulations Could Spur Economic Growth.

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (8/16, Meyer) reports that a new Competitive Enterprise Institute [report](#) found that reducing government regulatory authority “could boost economic growth and increase job creation.” The “Shrinking Government Bureaucracy” report provides “detailed steps” for the Administration and Congress to address regulations – particularly, cuts to the EPA, partial privatization of Commerce Department activities, greater controls over the FDIC, the transfer of Consumer Financial Protection Bureau authority to the Federal Trade Commission, a reduction of SEC authority, and the elimination of the National Labor Relations Board.

Pruitt Criticizes “False Narrative” On “Leaked” NYTimes Climate Report.

The [Daily Caller](#) (8/16, White) reports EPA chief Scott Pruitt has criticized a recent National Climate Assessment (NCA) report “leaked to The New York Times” for, in the Caller’s words, allegedly “stoking...fears that President Donald Trump might dismiss findings that supposedly show man-made global warming is already affecting the environment.” Pruitt said, “The report doesn’t impact the process. It doesn’t impact the responsibilities that we are taking already with respect to CO2. And so I think some of those are simply legend and false narrative that people try to put on the marketplace.” The Times reportedly quoted “scientists who feared ‘the Trump administration could change or suppress the report’” and “suggested skeptics were ‘equally worried that the draft report, as well as the larger NCA, will be publicly released,’” despite reports that “several of the scientists who worked on the report wrote on Twitter that the NCA has been public since January.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Exporting Chaos To Venezuela.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (8/17) writes, “Having scared a lot of people last week with his bombast over North Korea, causing jitters about nuclear war, he threatened on Friday to use force to quell chaos in Venezuela. That threat poured fuel on the worsening conflict between President Nicolás Maduro and his opponents. It also unsettled people across Latin America.” The Times warns that the “precipitous decline of Venezuela is not just a tragedy for its people, but a threat to regional stability,” and Trump should “continue to toughen sanctions, but any lasting solution will be achieved only in concert with regional leaders.”

“After Racist Rage, Statues Fall Quietly.” A [New York Times](#) (8/16) editorial praises the push to remove Confederate monuments, saying the “racist rage in Virginia and President Trump’s shamefully sympathetic response have prompted local and state politicians to encourage community peace by weighing the future of Confederate monuments civilly and unapologetically, even if the president has not.”

Washington Post.

“Should The President’s Advisers Stay Or Resign?” The [Washington Post](#) (8/16) speaks in an editorial of President Trump’s “stunning defense of white supremacist marchers.”

“The US Cannot Abandon Afghanistan Now.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/16) writes that President Trump’s concerns about continuing the United States’ lengthy involvement in Afghanistan are “entirely understandable,” but adds that the President should “listen to the generals” that advise deploying an additional 3,000 to 5,000 troops to the country to help block the Taliban’s momentum. The Post argues that US withdrawal “would accelerate” the Taliban’s gains and potentially again provide a “sanctuary” for extremists. The Post concludes that the President should choose a strategy “with a clear, limited goal: shore up the Afghan government, help it gain greater legitimacy and strengthen its security forces.”

“Remember Heather Heyer.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/16) praises Heather Heyer, who was killed when a driver plowed his car into a group of demonstrators in Charlottesville, saying her “principles and resolve were incontrovertible proof of her integrity – far more proof than a morally compromised president could possibly confer by his words.” Heyer, the Post adds, “is in that tradition of ordinary Americans of all races and creeds who perceived injustice clearly and, in standing up to it, lost their lives.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Coal Makes A Comeback.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/16) writes that despite the Obama Administration’s many efforts to reduce coal consumption and production through regulation, the Trump Administration has spurred coal production and exports through regulatory

reform, such as repealing the steam rule, dismantling the power, ash, and methane rules, reopening coal leases, and rescinding the royalty revaluation. The Journal notes that the largest increase in coal exports is to countries with supposedly better climate records, and concludes that the last three quarters of data – while not necessarily indicative of a long-term trend – offer optimistic news to coal states.

“Blame-Sharing On ObamaCare.” Citing this week’s report from the CBO, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/16) argues in an editorial that congressional Republicans should not move quickly to make a deal with Democrats that would preserve the ACA’s subsidies for insurers. The Journal says the insurance market will not collapse if the subsidies end and the CBO provided no evidence that allowing the subsidies to continue will stop the law’s move toward higher costs and fewer choices.

“Britain’s Brexit Flights Of Fancy.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/16) editorial welcomes Britain’s release of some specifics about its plans for the nation’s relationship with the EU after its departure. But the Journal says that as the two sides reveal their negotiating positions, it is becoming clear that an easy trade solution is unlikely.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Fed Officials Split Over Timing Of Next Rate Increase](#)
[Trump’s Business Councils Disband After CEOs Defect](#)
[The New Right-Wing Extremism: Unified, Tech-Savvy And Emboldened](#)
[Apple Readies \\$1 Billion War Chest For Hollywood Programming](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Comments On Race Open Breach With CEOs, Military And GOP](#)
[After Trump Hedges His Condemnation Of Hate, CEOs Organize A Mass Defection](#)
[Trump’s Embrace Of Racially Charged Past Puts Republicans In Crisis](#)
[Charlottesville Violence Spurs New Resistance To Confederate Symbols](#)
[In Ukraine, A Malware Expert Who Could Blow The Whistle On Russian Hacking](#)
[In China, An Action Hero Beats Box Office Records \(And Arrogant Westerners\)](#)
[De Blasio Would Sooner Tax The Rich Than Befriend Them](#)

Washington Post:

[President’s Past Threaded With Racial Ambiguity](#)
[Silicon Valley Aims To Limit Online Reach Of Hate Groups](#)
[Two Of Trump’s Industry Groups Are Disbanded](#)
[Cities Dread Becoming The Next Charlottesville](#)
[Pressure Grows To Recover China’s Stolen Children](#)
[DC’s Arts School Reopens, \\$100 Million Over Budget](#)

Financial Times:

[Trump’s Business Councils Disbanded After Run Of Resignations](#)
[Fed’s Fischer Attacks Moves To Unwind Regulations](#)
[Hedge Funds Start To Face Up To Extreme Gender Imbalance](#)
[NAFTA Exit Will Be “Destructive” For US, Warns Cargill Boss](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Disbands Two Economic Advisory Councils After Mass Resignations Of Business Leaders](#)
[Heroin, Fentanyl Contribute To Sharp Rise In Teen Overdose Deaths](#)
[Sessions Praises Miami-Dade Progress, Challenges Crime-Ridden Chicago To End “Sanctuary” Policy](#)
[Mourners Remember Heather Heyer As Martyr In Fight Against Bigotry](#)
[Gentrification Pushes Out “Affordable Housing” And Longtime Residents In Nation’s Capital](#)
[Congo Tensions Rise As Kabila Government Postpones Presidential Vote](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: WH-White Nationalism Clash; White Nationalism Clash-Car Mowing Victim; White Nationalism Clash-Car Mowing Suspect; Hurricane Gert Tracking; JetBlue-Flight Sickness; Hawaii-

Army Chopper Crash; London-Jewelry Shop Heist; Special Counsel-Investigator Leaves; Robocall-Class Action Lawsuit; Missouri-Tanker Crash; Cancer-Blood Test; Next 007 Movie Series; White Water Rescue.

CBS: WH-White Nationalism Clash; White Nationalism Clash-Car Mowing Victim; White Nationalism-Confederate Monuments; White Nationalism Clash-Expert Comment; White Nationalism Clash-Republican Voters; White Nationalism Clash-Steve Scalise Comment; Alzheimer-Music Therapy; Elvis Presley-40th Anniversary; Hawaii-Army Chopper Crash; Sierra Leone-Mudslide; WWII Veteran-White Nationalism Clash.

NBC: WH-White Nationalism Clash; White Nationalism Clash-Car Mowing Victim; White Nationalism Clash-Responses; White Nationalism Clash-Charlottesville Locals; White Nationalism-California; White Nationalism Clash-Expert Comment; Hawaii-Army Chopper Crash; JetBlue-Flight Sickness; Tom Cruise-Filming Injury; Kansas-Truck Traffic Accident; Freshman Move-in Day Tweet; Elvis Presley-40th Anniversary.

Network TV At A Glance:

White Nationalism Clash – 24 minutes, 45 seconds

WH-White Nationalism Clash – 11 minutes, 20 seconds

JetBlue-Flight Sickness – 3 minutes, 10 seconds

Hawaii-Army Chopper Crash – 55 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: White Nationalism Clash-Car Mowing Victim; WH-White Nationalism Clash; Sessions-Sanctuary Cities; Opioid Epidemic.

CBS: White Nationalism Clash-Car Mowing Victim; WH-White Nationalism Clash; Military-White Nationalism Clash; Hawaii-Army Chopper Crash; North Korea Threats; Elvis Presley-40th Anniversary; Wall Street News.

FOX: White Nationalism Clash-Victims; WH-White Nationalism Clash; Bannon-Far Right Comment.

NPR: White Nationalism Clash-Victims; WH-White Nationalism Clash; Hospice Comparison Service.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Will have lunch with the Governor of Florida; will meet with the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Concludes trip to Central and South America, on behalf of President Donald Trump. *Vice President Pence is returning to the US slightly earlier than previously scheduled to attend a national security meeting with President Donald Trump.

US Senate: On recess until 5 September.

US House: On recess until 5 September.

Other: No notable event scheduled.

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Here we are enjoying a little bit of calm after a storm named Hurricane Donald ravaged much of the country yesterday. The effects are still being felt and talked about."

Stephen Colbert: "Yesterday afternoon, when he was supposed to be talking about highway infrastructure, Donald Trump drove America's moral leadership right through the guardrails by saying some of the people bearing torches with the Nazis were just good Joes."

James Corden: "Let's start off with some good news: Donald Trump did not have a press conference today."

James Corden: "Today, Donald Trump completely disbanded his manufacturing council after

eight members quit in 48 hours. The way these CEOs are leaving Trump, you'd think they were married to him."

James Corden: "Forget creating new manufacturing jobs in this country. Trump can't even manufacture manufacturing councils."

James Corden: "The CEO of the company 3M also resigned, and when Donald Trump asked why, they said that 3M doesn't want to be associated with three ks."

James Corden: "Here's a photo of workers taking down the Robert E. Lee statue last night, and the horse is like, 'What did I do? Take him. Leave me. I love it here.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Yesterday, President Trump made a big press conference on the subject of infrastructure. And all he had to do was just stop right there."

Jimmy Fallon: "[President Trump] can't even get vacation right. Imagine coming back to the office: 'Hey, how was your two-week break?' 'It was good, I defended Nazis. What'd you do?'"

Seth Meyers: "The studio behind The Hunger Games movies announced that it will be opening a theme park in South Korea dedicated to the films. They're calling it North Korea."

Conan O'Brien: "As you probably all heard, North Korea has backed off its threat to launch a nuclear missile at Guam. That's good news. Be happy about that! So now, now the title of crazy tyrant most likely to destroy America returns to defending champion, Donald Trump!"

Conan O'Brien: "Today, President Trump dissolved his advisory council because a bunch of CEO's dropped out. Trump said they didn't take their jobs seriously. Trump then went back to golfing and re-tweeting memes while sitting on the toilet."

Conan O'Brien: "Last night, the city of Baltimore removed four statues of Confederate heroes. Or, as Fox News reported it, Baltimore liberals force pigeons from their homes."

Conan O'Brien: "Check this out. Today, all McDonald's in Canada are offering 67-cent burgers. Isn't that cool? As if Americans need yet another reason to move to Canada."

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Fish And Wildlife Service

- U.S. News & World Report: Judge: Bears Near US-Canada Border Merit Endangered Status.
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- Sunshine State (FL) News: Vern Buchanan Urges FWS To Create A Habitat For Florida Panthers.
- Jackson Hole (WY) News & Guide: Grizzly Delisting Jeopardizes Population.

National Park Service

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- U.S. News & World Report: Parks Service Issues Permit For San Francisco Rally.
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- U.S. News & World Report: Great Smoky Mountains Observation Tower Closes For Repairs.
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- Fredericksburg (TX) Standard: LBJ State, National Parks To Honor 109th Birthday Of Former President.
- CBS News: Shark Bites Surfer's Paddle Board In Shallow Water At Cape Cod Beach.

Office Of Insular Affairs

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- NPR: Former Marshall Islands Foreign Minister Tony DeBrum Dies.
- Radio New Zealand: Air Link Woes Are Barriers For FSM Tourism.
- KNWA-TV Fayetteville (AR): Springdale Schools Welcomes First Marshallese Teacher.

US Geological Survey

- Associated Press: Magnitude 3.3 Earthquake Shakes Parts Of Central Oklahoma.

Top National News

- NBC: As Trump Calls For Unity In Reno, Media Points To Contrast With Phoenix Remarks.
- Los Angeles Times: White House, McConnell Downplay Reports Of Feud.
- New York Times: Hill GOP Concerned By Trump's Shutdown Threat Over Border Wall Funding.

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 - "New York Democrats Snub The Voters."
- Washington Post.
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DOI In The News

Trump To Hear Recommendations For National Monuments.

[The Hill](#) (8/23, Cama) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke faces a Thursday deadline “to issue recommendations to the White House for any changes he thinks President Trump should make” to 21 national monument designations. The announcement will “close a chapter on the administration’s highly contentious review that has fueled significant opposition among conservationists and support by Republicans and industries like oil and agriculture that use federal land.” The article notes that “Zinke invited comments from the public on the review, the first time such a formal process has been taken for national monuments,” and “he also traveled to many of the monuments and met with opponents and supporters.”

Meanwhile, the [AP](#) (8/23, McCOMBS) reports that “conservation and tribal groups are airing TV ads, sending letters to President Donald Trump and creating parody websites in a last-minute blitz to stop Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke from downsizing or eliminating national monument areas that cover large swaths of land and water from Maine to California.” The AP says that “groups that want to see the areas reduced have been less vociferous, pleading their cases on social media and working behind the scenes to lobby federal officials.”

Also reporting are the [AP](#) (8/24), the [New York Times](#) (8/24, Turkewitz, Friedman), the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (8/23), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (8/23, Coleman), the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (8/23, Brean), the [Arizona Republic](#) (8/23, Devoid), [KSBW-TV Monterey \(CA\)](#) Monterey, CA (8/23), [KSTU-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (8/23, Edwards), [WMEA-FM Portland \(ME\)](#) Portland, ME (8/23, Sharon), and [KCRA-TV Sacramento \(CA\)](#) Sacramento, CA (8/23).

Breathtaking Utah Monuments To Test Trump, Antiquities Act. The [Washington Times](#) (8/23, Wolfgang) reports that the Trump Administration is “considering pairing down” the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah “in what environmentalists, Western land advocates and energy industry leaders agree is a key test of the century-old Antiquities Act, the 1906 law that gives presidents authority to create monuments.” Opponents of the designation say President Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke have “a key opportunity to right a decades-old wrong that’s still harming local economies in the state, greatly depressing energy development and stands as a bright reminder of just how much unchecked power presidents wield under the Antiquities Act.”

In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/24, McIntosh), Heidi McIntosh, a managing attorney and public lands expert at Earthjustice, writes that after President Clinton designated the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in 1996, “Utah politicians howled, in chorus with coal, oil and gas interests, that the monument would spell economic doom for the region.” But “instead, the communities in this rugged landscape thrived.” According to McIntosh, “they’ve grown sustainable economies and rejected the boom-and-bust fossil fuel industries that have long pillaged the West’s fragile landscapes.” In fact, “recreation from adventure-seekers, hikers, amateur geologists and families simply getting outdoors now funnels more than \$12 billion into Utah’s economy.” McIntosh argues that “stripping the Grand Staircase of its monument protections, in whole or in part, and turning it over to mining and drilling outfits would be destructive and unlawful.” She concludes that “it should remain protected, not lost forever to pad the balance sheets of the fossil fuel industry for a few years.”

Review Unlikely To Spur Oil And Gas Rush. [E&E Publishing](#) (8/23) reports that while the Department of Interior’s review of 21 national monuments could create limited opportunities for oil and gas operators, it is unlikely that unlocking monument-designated land will offer widespread development. The Interior Department has not said whether fossil fuel development is a factor in assessing the monument designation, while the Western Energy Alliance said its support for the review is more about the harm future designations could cause than energy potential. However, environmental groups have raised concerns that the review is about expanding drilling opportunities. Chris Saeger, executive director of the Western Values Project, said, “It’s very clear that Secretary Zinke and this administration is willing to risk just about every national monument under review that has the potential for development at the behest of the fossil fuel industry.”

With Redraw Of Bears Ears, Grand Staircase Looming, Utah State University Study Says National Monuments Are Neither Economic ‘Boon Nor Bane’. The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/23, Maffly) reports that a study by Utah State University economics professor Paul Jakus and his colleague

Sherzod Akhundjanov "concludes that landscape-scale monuments are 'neither a boon nor a bane.'" They "compared changes in per-capita income for Garfield and Kane with changes in Utah's other counties and four bordering counties in Arizona." The economists found "incomes rose in step with comparable counties, although they remain lower than the state as a whole."

Heller Touts Himself As Nevada's Foremost Republican Champion For Immigrants, Opposes Arpaio Pardon. The [Nevada Independent](#) (8/23, Rindels) reports that during a Wednesday appearance in Las Vegas before the Hispanics in Politics group, Sen. Dean Heller "touched on a pending review of national monuments." Heller said he planned to meet Wednesday with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, "who has previously toured the monuments." Heller "said he supports monuments but questions whether they should be so large and believes the process should be handled through Congress and not executive order."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the review was provided by the [Santa Rosa \(CA\) Press Democrat](#) (8/23, Mason), the [Arizona Daily Star](#) (8/23, Davis), the [Visalia \(CA\) Times-Delta](#) (8/23, Romero), the [Santa Barbara \(CA\) Independent](#) (8/23, DeMaria), the [Paso Robles \(CA\) Daily News](#) (8/23), the [Taft \(CA\) Midway Driller](#) (8/23), and [Coastal View News \(CA\)](#) (8/23, Graham).

Additional Commentary. Additional commentary appeared in the [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (8/23, Connelly), the [Oregonian](#) (8/23, Freeman), the [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (8/23), the [Pasadena \(CA\) Star-News](#) (8/23), the [Victorville \(CA\) Daily Press](#) (8/23, Cook), the [Fredericksburg \(VA\) Free Lance-Star](#) (8/23, Finnerty), the [Arizona Republic](#) (8/23, Spivak), and the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (8/22, Calvert).

Interior, Agriculture Secretaries To Visit Montana Wildfire.

The [AP](#) (8/23) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue "plan to visit a Montana wildfire command post Thursday as dozens of blazes rage across the western U.S." Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift "said Wednesday that the two members of President Donald Trump's cabinet will receive a briefing from firefighters battling a 50-square-mile blaze burning northwest of Missoula." According to Swift, "the visit was requested by the two Republicans on Montana's congressional delegation, Sen. Steve Daines and Rep. Greg Gianforte."

Also reporting are the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (8/23, Wright) and [KTVH-TV Helena \(MT\)](#) Helena, MT (8/23, Garrison).

Interior Dept. Agencies Could Move West, High-Level Official Says In Denver.

The [Denver Business Journal](#) (8/23, Proctor) reports that senior officials at the Interior Department "are 'actively looking' at moving 'some' of its agencies out of Washington, D.C., to the western states, a senior Interior official said at a Denver oil and gas forum."

Study: Public Lands Bolster State's Economy.

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (8/23, Backus) reports that "Montana's wealth of public lands are an economic driver that has fueled state job and income growth enough to surpass the national average over the last 15 years, according to a study released Tuesday." The study, commissioned by the group Business for Montana's Outdoors, "showed the five fastest-growing counties in the state have the highest percentage of the lands protected for public use." The Headwaters Economics' report, "Business for Montana's Outdoors Five-year Report: Montana's Public Lands, Jobs, and the Economy" found "102,000 new jobs were created in Montana between 2000 and 2015."

Commentary: Interior's New Sage Grouse Protection Efforts Welcomed.

In his column for the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (8/23, Mitchell), Thomas Mitchell welcomes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's order to implement "recommendations from a team that reviewed the previous administration's draconian land use restrictions under the guise of protecting greater sage grouse." According to Mitchell, the move by the Interior Department "should have a salutary impact on Nevada's economy."

Bureau Of Land Management

Critics: Utah Horse Meeting Is Secretive 'Slaughter Summit'.

The [AP](#) (8/23, Price, Sonner) reports that "swollen populations of federally-protected wild horses roaming 10 Western states are starved and damaging rangelands, Utah and U.S. government

officials said at a conference Wednesday, an invitation-only meeting that mustang-protection advocates say is promoting the slaughter of an icon of the American West." According to the article, "members of Utah's congressional delegation and a U.S. Interior Department official speaking at the National Horse and Burro Summit in Salt Lake City all described an unsustainable population of wild horses that's nearly three times the size that federal officials think the rangeland can support." Meanwhile, "horse-protection groups who weren't allowed into the Utah State University-hosted event protested outside the downtown hotel where it was held, calling it a 'slaughter summit' that's kowtowing to livestock interests, promoting increased roundups and slaughter of wild horses from California to Colorado without public input."

In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/24, Feral), Priscilla Feral, president of Friends of Animals, writes that "the main concern of a national wild horse summit should be the *protection* of wild horses and keeping them roaming free on western public lands, not manipulated by humans by roundups or forcibly drugging them with fertility control." However, Feral claims that "the truth is the organizers don't want the public to get wind of their pro-slaughter agenda and wild horse extinction plan that placates cattle and sheep ranchers."

Also reporting are the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/23, Feral), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (8/23, O'Donoghue), and the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (8/23, Botkin).

Prosecutor Vows 3rd Trial For 2 In Bundy Ranch Standoff Case.

The [AP](#) (8/23, Ritter) reports that acting Nevada US Attorney Steven Myhre "vowed a third trial Wednesday for two men accused of armed assault on a federal officer in a 2014 standoff that stopped a cattle roundup near the ranch of states' rights figure Cliven Bundy. 'There's no question about us proceeding forward. Just so the record's clear,'" Myhre told Chief US District Judge Gloria Navarro "a day after a jury acquitted two defendants of all 10 charges but failed to reach verdicts on four charges against Eric Parker and two counts against Scott Drexler. 'Raising a firearm against a federal law enforcement officer, or any law enforcement officer, is a crime,' Myhre declared as he lost a bid to keep the two men in federal custody until the next trial. 'That's why we brought (Parker) to trial and ... intend to try him a third time.'"

[The Hill](#) (8/23, Bowden) reports that Scott Drexler, Ricky Lovelien, Eric Parker and Steven Stewart "were found not guilty on multiple charges, including conspiracy, assault on a federal officer, extortion and weapons law violations related to the standoff with federal authorities." The jury "deadlocked on four charges for Parker and two against Drexler." The Hill adds that "the standoff occurred when federal authorities obtained a court order to seize Bundy's cattle in 2014 for decades of unpaid grazing fees that totaled more than \$1 million," and "instead, hundreds of supporters converged from around the country to begin an armed standoff with authorities, which resulted in the government backing down."

The [Washington Times](#) (8/23, Richardson) reports that prosecutors "have argued that the defendants brandished weapons and placed BLM agents in fear of their lives after hundreds of Bundy supporters descended on the rural area after the agency, prompted by Cliven Bundy's refusal to pay grazing fees as a protest against the federal government, began impounding cattle." Defense attorneys "have countered that nobody was harmed in the standoff, described by the prosecution as a 'massive armed assault against federal law enforcement.'"

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (8/23, Anglen).

Bishop Seeks Full Investigative Report On BLM Agent.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (8/23, O'Donoghue) reports that Rep. Rob Bishop "wants the names and other redacted information revealed in an ethics probe of the Bureau of Land Management law enforcement supervisory agent once in charge of Utah and Nevada." According to the article, "details of the more than yearlong probe by the Interior Department's Office of Inspector General were released in a February report, but key names were blacked out – including that of Dan Love, who the Deseret News confirmed was at the center of the probe." Bishop requested "the full report by no later than noon Thursday, wanting the information 'concerning serious misconduct by a senior Bureau of Land Management law enforcement manager.'"

Officials Propose Raising Fees For Red Rock Canyon Park.

The [AP](#) (8/23) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is "considering raising the entrance fees for the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area in Las Vegas." BLM spokesman John Asselin, "if the fee increase is approved, drivers will be charged \$15 per visit, motorcyclists will pay \$10 and pedestrians and bicyclists will pay \$5 by 2018." Asselin "says the additional money would be used to pay for trail maintenance, search-and-rescue costs, educational program and

other upkeep costs." The BLM will "host three meetings to hear public comments on the proposal before sending it to a Resource Advisory Council for approval."

Remodeling Project For Prineville BLM;

The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (8/24) reports that "beginning next week, the Bureau of Land Management will be remodeling its district office in Prineville, and closing its front desk to visitors in the process." The project will "include upgrades to make the office more energy efficient, and the existing carpet in the office will be replaced, according to a Bureau of Land Management news release." According to the article, "during the remodeling project, which is expected to take several months, the district office's front-desk staff will be stationed next door at the Ochoco National Forest headquarters, at 3160 NE 3rd St."

Additional coverage was provided by [KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (8/23).

County Sets Protocols For Snake Transfers.

The [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (8/23, Gross) reports that Teton County commissioners "approved a set of guidelines to shape the transfer of 24 Bureau of Land Management parcels to Teton County ownership." Since federal lands are "involved a special bill must be introduced in Congress." According to the article, "once the county reaches agreements with the parcels' neighbors, it will request that U.S. Sen. John Barrasso draft federal legislation authorizing the transfer of a 'bundle' of five parcels."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Our View: Neil Creek Shows Salmon Projects Work.

In an editorial, the [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (8/23) points to the stream restoration work that has "brought juvenile coho and chinook salmon back to Neil Creek" as an example of a project that works. Meanwhile, "irrigators who object to federal protections hope the Trump administration will agree to convene what is known as the 'God squad,' a committee with the power to grant exemptions to environmental regulations." The paper concludes: "It's unclear whether the God squad will be convened, or if it is, whether it will issue the ruling the irrigators want. But here in Southern Oregon, the Neil Creek project shows protection methods are working."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Judge: Bears Near US-Canada Border Merit Endangered Status.

The [AP](#) (8/23, Volz) reports that "animals and plants can be considered endangered even if they are not on the brink of extinction, a judge ruled in overturning the U.S. government's re-classification of a small population of grizzly bears living in the forests of Montana and Idaho near the Canada border." Tuesday's decision by U.S. District Judge Dana Christensen "said that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is prohibited from narrowing the definition an endangered species in its future decisions without explaining why it wants to make the policy change."

[Reuters](#) (8/23, Zuckerman) reports that the FWS "in 2014 determined the fewer than 50 grizzlies that roam the Cabinet Mountains and Yaak River drainage in the Northern Rockies were not in danger of extinction and did not warrant re-classifying as endangered or threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act." The Alliance for the Wild Rockies sued, "arguing the so-called Cabinet-Yaak population of grizzlies would go extinct unless U.S. wildlife managers tightened restrictions on logging, mining and other activities in bear habitat, all safeguards that would come with endangered status." The judge "sided with the conservation group in a ruling that found that the Fish and Wildlife Service had violated U.S. law in determining that the number of outsized, hump-shouldered bears in the Cabinet-Yaak ecosystem could reach a targeted recovery goal of 100 without added protections."

Also reporting are the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (8/23, Chaney) and [Law360](#) (8/23, Sieniuc).

Litigation Reform Needed To Curb Lawsuits Undermining Conservation.

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (8/23, Mooney) reports that "well-endowed environmental advocacy groups have exploited the 'perverse incentives' of federal laws with 'sue and settle' arrangements that enrich trial lawyers at the expense of taxpayers while undercutting successful conservation

efforts, according to congressional figures and attorneys who favor litigation reform." The House Committee on Natural Resources held a hearing on July 17 on "five new bills aimed at reforming the ESA." A spokesperson for the House Natural Resources Committee said the "full slate of bills has not been finalized" but "various ESA reform measures will advance through committee in September."

Vern Buchanan Urges FWS To Create A Habitat For Florida Panthers.

The [Sunshine State \(FL\) News](#) (8/23, Derby) reports that Rep. Vern Buchanan "continued his efforts on behalf of the Florida panther this week, urging the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to continue to protect that animal." In a letter to Greg Sheehan, the acting director of the FWS, "Buchanan called on the federal government to continue its current efforts instead of removing them from the endangered species list." Buchanan wrote, "I am writing to express my strong concern over reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may weaken protections for Florida panthers under the Endangered Species Act. While it is heartening to see the Florida panther population increase to more than 200 in recent years, major hurdles remain to the full recovery of these majestic animals. That is why it is essential to maintain current federal protections to prevent one of the world's rarest cats from becoming extinct."

In an editorial, the [Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#) (8/23) supports continuing protections for the panthers. The paper argues that "instead of making things easier for big land owners, state and federal officials should boost efforts to save Florida's big cats and protect the open spaces where they live."

Grizzly Delisting Jeopardizes Population.

In an op-ed for the [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (8/23, Mader), Sharon Mader, the Grand Teton senior program manager for National Parks Conservation Association, explains why the National Parks Conservation Association plans to sue over the removal of the grizzly bear from the endangered species list. Mader argues that "the final decision fails to assure adequate protections for GYE grizzlies into the future."

Additional coverage of the grizzly bear decision was provided by the [Planet Jackson Hole \(WY\)](#) (8/23, Thomasma).

National Park Service

Trump Goes To Bat For NRA-Backed Bill By Stifling National Parks Director.

[McClatchy](#) (8/23, Leavenworth) reports that efforts by the National Park Service to express concerns about the impact of an NRA-backed bill that "would restrict" the NPS "from regulating hunting and fishing within park boundaries" have so far been halted, according to a leaked memo from the Department of Interior. NPS Acting Director Michael Reynolds had submitted to Interior's Legislative Counsel a June 30 memo "detailing his agency's objections to the draft legislation," and received a response from Interior "with sections of Reynolds' concerns crossed out." According to Jeff Ruch, executive director of Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility and the individual who obtained the leaked memo, agency officials "were told they could not repeat their concerns to Congress."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Caller](#) (8/23, Pearce), the [Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette](#) (8/24, Leavenworth), the [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (8/23, Levitz) and the [Wisconsin Gazette](#) (8/23, Pacelle).

Parks Service Issues Permit For San Francisco Rally.

The [AP](#) (8/23, Elias) reports that "federal authorities on Wednesday issued a permit to a politically conservative group for a Saturday afternoon rally in San Francisco that local officials fear could turn violent." The National Park Service "had earlier told Patriot Prayer leader Joey Gibson that he had permission for the event, but withheld issuing the permit until the group agreed to several conditions, which include banning guns, tiki torches and other items that can be turned into weapons." The NPS "said denying Patriot Prayer a permit would violate the organization's free speech rights."

Also reporting are [Fox News](#) (8/23, Wallace), the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (8/23, Alexander), the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (8/23, Francisco), [KPIX-TV San Francisco](#) San Francisco (8/23), and [KPIX-TV San Francisco](#) San Francisco (8/22, Caen).

Coming Soon To The National Mall: A Pro-Trump Protest, Juggalo Rally, Liberal March And

Weddings – On The Same Day.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/23, Stein) reports that the National Park Service is “preparing for one of its busiest days of the year in the nation’s capital next month – a fall day when more than 30 events are expected to coincide, including a pro-Trump rally and a demonstration of Insane Clown Posse fans who have dubbed themselves Juggalos.” NPS spokesman Mike Litterst “said the agency is sifting through applications to determine where best to situate each group on Sept. 16.” The U.S. Park Police “wouldn’t discuss its security plan for the day, but said the agency is prepared to provide security while protecting First Amendment activities on federal property.”

Maine’s American Indian Tribes Getting \$80K For Preservation.

The [AP](#) (8/24) reports that the National Park Service is “providing more than \$80,000 to Maine’s American Indian tribes to help with historic preservation.” The tribal offices receiving the funds include those of the Aroostook Band of Micmacs, the Passamaquoddy Tribe and the Penobscot Nation.

Park Service Fixes Family Cemetery Within Flight 93 Memorial.

The [AP](#) (8/23) reports that the National Park Service has “restored a family cemetery that just happens to lie within the Flight 93 National Memorial, which honors those killed on the hijacked airliner that crashed in western Pennsylvania during the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.” The cemetery “belongs to the Sorber family, who buried relatives there from 1856 to 1892.” The NPS “says it has straightened headstones, landscaped and cleaned up the small cemetery, and fenced it in.” The NPS will “offer tours of the fixed up cemetery on Tuesday.”

Great Smoky Mountains Observation Tower Closes For Repairs.

The [AP](#) (8/23) reports that the Great Smoky Mountains National Park has “closed an observation tower at the park’s highest point for extensive renovations and repairs.” The Clingmans Dome Observation Tower “closed Wednesday and will remain closed through the end of the 2017 season for rehabilitation work, including repairing deteriorated areas on the tower’s columns and walls, repointing stone masonry and stabilizing support beams at the base of the ramp.”

National Park Awarded Student Conservation Association Medal.

The [Peninsula \(WA\) Daily News](#) (8/23) reports that “the Student Conservation Association has awarded Olympic National Park its Founder’s Medal.” According to park interim spokeswoman Penny Wagner, “the park is one of the original partners of the Student Conservation Association (SCA) and the only park to provide young SCA stewards with service opportunities in each of the past 60 years.” Margie Brown, chairwoman of the SCA board, “presented the medal to park Superintendent Sarah Creachbaum at park headquarters in Port Angeles on Aug. 12.”

LBJ State, National Parks To Honor 109th Birthday Of Former President.

The [Fredericksburg \(TX\) Standard](#) (8/23) reports that “in honor of the late president, the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park and Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site will celebrate the 109th anniversary of President Johnson’s birth on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 26-27. “

Shark Bites Surfer’s Paddle Board In Shallow Water At Cape Cod Beach.

[CBS News](#) (8/23) reports that “a Cape Cod beach was closed until further notice after a shark bit a surfer’s paddle board Wednesday morning.” The National Park Service “in Cape Cod said on its Facebook page that the person on the board wasn’t bitten or injured.” The NPS “said it was investigating the incident alongside members of the Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries and the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

North Korea Hints It Is Developing More Advanced Ballistic Missiles.

The [New York Times](#) (8/23, Sang-Hun) reports North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, when visiting the Chemical Material Institute of the Academy of Defense Science, ordered the production of more rocket engines and warheads, according to state news media. A photograph in the state-run newspaper Rodong Sinmun “showed what appeared to be a conceptual diagram for a missile called the Pukguksong-3,” which would be “a more powerful solid-fuel ballistic missile” than the

Pukguksong-1. The missile “was identified as an ‘underwater strategic ballistic missile.’”

[Reuters](#) (8/23, Kim) reports, however, that the KCNA news agency’s report, which came soon after Secretary of State Tillerson “appeared to make a peace overture, welcoming what he called recent restraint shown by the reclusive North,” did not include “the traditionally robust threats against the United States.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/23, Cheng) also covers this story.

Russian Diplomat Warns Against Further Sanctions Against North Korea. The [AP](#) (8/23) reports Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov warned against expanding sanctions against North Korea, saying, “the scope of sanctions already endorsed by the U.N. Security Council is such that any possibilities of expanding such measures have been exhausted.” He also “bemoaned Washington’s ‘absolute and boundless’ emphasis on developing new sanctions against Pyongyang” and called for the UN Security Council to focus on a political settlement.

Former Marshall Islands Foreign Minister Tony DeBrum Dies.

[NPR](#) (8/22, Shapiro) reports that “the former foreign minister for the Marshall Islands, Tony deBrum, has died.” DeBrum was “an advocate for climate policies that would keep his homeland from drowning under rising seas.” The [New York Times](#) (8/22, Friedman) reports that de Brum “died on Monday in the capital city, Majuro. He was 72.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (8/22).

Air Link Woes Are Barriers For FSM Tourism.

[Radio New Zealand](#) (8/23) reports that “the president of the Federated States of Micronesia Peter Christian says access and regional inter-airline agreements are holding back tourism.” Christian has “been in talks with the South Pacific Tourism Organisation to improve air access and develop the Chinese tourism market.”

Springdale Schools Welcomes First Marshallese Teacher.

[KNWA-TV](#) Fayetteville, AR (8/22, Chambers) reports that Springdale’s “school district educates over 2,500 Marshallese students,” and “for the first time in history, the district is putting a relatable face at the head of the class.” At Sonora Middle School, where “over 20% of the students are Marshallese,” physical education teacher Jessica Olson “became the first Marshallese teacher in the history of Springdale School District.”

US Geological Survey

Magnitude 3.3 Earthquake Shakes Parts Of Central Oklahoma.

The [AP](#) (8/23) reports the USGS recorded a 3.3 magnitude earthquake in central Oklahoma on Wednesday. The quake occurred at a depth of about two miles. No injuries or damage was reported.

Top National News

As Trump Calls For Unity In Reno, Media Points To Contrast With Phoenix Remarks.

While coverage of President Trump’s speech before the American Legion National Convention in Reno is largely favorable, most national reports juxtapose it with the President’s Tuesday night speech in Phoenix, focusing on the marked differences in tone and content to paint the President as erratic. Several analyses say that the President stuck to his scripted text on Wednesday, while his Tuesday speech was off the cuff.

Lester Holt asked in opening [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/23, lead story, 2:25), “Healer or antagonist? The answer may depend up on which Donald Trump you heard over the last 24 hours. After casting himself as the victim of bad news coverage at a fired-up rally in Phoenix, blasting everyone from the media to fellow Republicans, the President appeared in Nevada today, where he returned to a call for unity based on common values,” a “head-snapping change of tone.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/23, lead story, 3:00, Muir) reported that Trump went “on the attack” in Phoenix – “defiant, standing by his decisions and his words. Then today, another speech and a starkly different tone.” ABC’s Cecilia Vega: “At the American Legion today, President Trump calling on the nation to come together.” Trump: “It is time to heal the wounds that divide us and to seek a new unity based on the common values that unite us.” Vega: “It

came just hours after his own divisive rhetoric in Phoenix. For 75 fiery minutes, he unloaded."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/23, lead story, 2:50, Mason) reported that in Phoenix, "the on-again-off-again presidential teleprompter was off again, and the President went off again on the media, fellow Republicans, and anything else that came to mind." Wolf Blitzer said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/23), "After an off-the-rails rant in Phoenix in which he angrily attacked the news media, Democrats and members of his own party, President Trump was back on script today in Reno calling for unity in a speech to veterans."

[KTVN-TV](#) Reno, NV (8/23, 6:32 p.m. PDT) reported that Trump spoke "to a packed room of veterans" and focused on "issues facing our veterans and the military. While the American Legion is a nonpartisan crowd, most of its members seemed to like his overall message." [KLAS-TV](#) Las Vegas (8/23, 6:33 p.m. PDT) reported that Trump "didn't insult the media or refer to any of Nevada's competitive 2018 political races in his 22-minute speech to veterans. Instead, he ran down a list of reforms enacted since he took office, and signed a bill that shortens the period veterans have to wait to have their appeals decided." [KSNV-TV](#) Las Vegas (8/23, 3:04 p.m. PDT) reported, "This was very friendly Trump territory at the Reno Sparks Convention Center."

The [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (8/23, Litz) reports, "In a measured 20-minute speech that deviated little from his prepared remarks," Trump "told the American Legion that they serve as a model for 'the bonds of loyalty' that are needed for the country to find unity again." The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (8/23, Delaney) reports that the President "sidestepped political controversy for the most part" in a "patriotic" speech. Trump "couldn't resist a few political comments, however, noting that the veterans he spoke to backstage before his public remarks were 'much more proud than they were last year at this time.'" The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/23, Ballhaus) reports that Trump invited Medal of Honor recipient Donald Ballard up on stage, where the Vietnam veteran praised the President.

The [Military Times](#) (8/23, Shane) reports, "Trump touted veterans as an example of unity and harmony for a divided America...just hours after a fiery campaign rally in Phoenix the night before." [Stars And Stripes](#) (8/23, Wentling) calls Trump's remarks "a shift from what Trump said just yesterday during a divisive, campaign-style event in Phoenix."

The [New York Times](#) (8/23, Landler) reports under the headline "Different Day, Different Audience, And A Completely Different Trump" that the President "reverted to his script as commander in chief" on the day after "he delivered an aggrieved and impromptu defense of his comments on the violence in Charlottesville." The Reno speech "was a day-and-night contrast to Mr. Trump's performance Tuesday night in Phoenix. ... But such contrasts have become a recurring motif of his presidency: Mr. Trump has toggled between Teleprompter Trump and Unplugged Trump every day since the deadly clashes in Virginia, leaving Washington and the rest of the nation with a chronic case of rhetorical whiplash."

The [AP](#) (8/23, Bykowicz, Lemire) writes, "It was a tale of two Trumps in the desert Southwest." The [Washington Post](#) (8/23, Rucker) writes, "In the span of 48 hours this week, President Trump has boomeranged among three roles – the commander in chief, the divider and the uniter. Like a contestant on one of his reality TV shows, Trump has taken on contrasting personas, showcasing divergent traits with flourishes seemingly to survive another day of his beleaguered presidency. Or, as Trump the television producer might put it, to keep up the ratings."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/23, Finnegan, Willon) reports, "A day after stoking the nation's racial tensions" in Phoenix, Trump "set aside his anger and called for healing 'the wounds that divide us'" in a "subdued speech, read from a teleprompter, [that] contrasted sharply with his ad-libbed tirade" on Tuesday night. [CNN](#) (8/23, Bradner, Tatum, Liptak) reports on its website that Trump "struck a drastically different tone Wednesday." [US News & World Report](#) (8/23, Camera) says Trump "largely stuck to his script," and [Politico](#) (8/23, Conway) calls the speech "a significant change in tone" for Trump.

White House reporter Kaitlin Collins said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/23), "I think you know which one is the real one, and we all do. It's when he's not reading off of the teleprompter. ... When he was on the teleprompter, he was talking about unity, love, patriotism. When he was off the teleprompter, he was attacking the media, threatening to shut down the government and bragging about how big his apartment is."

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/23, Olorunnipa, Epstein), the [Washington Examiner](#) (8/23, Westwood), and [The Hill](#) (8/23, Fabian) also report.

Trump Signs VA Reform Bill After Reno Speech. The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (8/23, Dupree) reports that following his speech, the President "signed the latest bipartisan bill from Congress into law that seeks to make new reforms" at the Department of Veterans Affairs.

[Townhall](#) (8/23, Pavlich) says the new law will “allow veterans to appeal or ask questions about their benefits in a more timely and organized fashion.”

Media Analyses: Debating Trump’s Mental Health Moves Into “The Mainstream.” Under the headline “Amid Mounting Bipartisan Concerns, Debating Trump’s Mental Health Becomes Cottage Industry,” [USA Today](#) (8/23, O’Donnell) reports that Sen. Bob Corker (R-TN) last week said that Trump “hasn’t ‘been able to demonstrate the stability’ needed for success.” And in the wake of the President’s Phoenix speech, ex-DNI Director James Clapper on Wednesday “questioned Trump’s ‘fitness to be in this office’ and said he was worried about the president’s access to the nuclear codes.” USA Today adds, “Until now, talk of Trump’s erratic behavior and alleged narcissism was common on social media, late-night talk shows and among political opponents. But Trump’s ‘fire and fury’ comments about North Korea,” the Phoenix rally, “and changing response to the violent protests in Charlottesville, Va., crossed a line for some Republicans and brought the conversation into the mainstream, even among some supporters.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/23, story 2, 1:00, Mason) broadcast CNN footage of Clapper saying of Trump’s Monday address on Afghanistan and the President’s Tuesday speech in Phoenix, “It’s interesting to contrast last night’s teleprompter Trump performance versus tonight, which is, of course, the real Trump, just as it was in the unglued, impromptu press conference at Trump Tower. So I just find this extremely disturbing.” CNN anchor Don Lemon asked Clapper, “Are you questioning his fitness?” Clapper replied, “Yes, I do. I really question his ability to – his fitness to be in this office, and I also am beginning to wonder about his motivation for it. Maybe he is looking for a way out.”

[Politico](#) (8/23, Marinucci) reported, “California Democrats are stoking a debate over” the President’s “mental health and fitness for office, opening a new front in the resistance to” Trump “but raising fears that the line of criticism could backfire. As early talk of impeachment wanes and questions about Trump’s stability have surfaced after his volatile responses to the violence in Charlottesville – most recently by [Clapper and Corker] – California’s Democratic House delegation has seized on an issue that until recently was limited to the Internet fever swamps.” As one of several examples, Politico said that Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) “last week introduced a congressional resolution urging Trump to seek a medical and psychiatric evaluation to determine if he is unfit for the office.”

[USA Today](#) (8/23, O’Donnell) reports that “psychiatrists including Bandy Lee, editor of the upcoming book *The Dangerous Case of Donald Trump*, worry about how Trump responds to what are likely stressful crises with fiery rhetoric that could provoke violence. There’s evidence to support their concerns, given heightened terrorism concerns. Health company Sharecare did a voice analysis of Trump’s stress during recent public appearances for USA TODAY. It found talking about firing former FBI Director James Comey, who was leading the Russia probe, did not appear to induce stress in Trump. Discussing the Islamic State did.”

Axelrod Warns Talk Of Removing Trump “A Very Dangerous Road To Go Down.” [The Hill](#) (8/23, Shelbourne) reported that during a Wednesday appearance on CNN, ex-Obama advisor David Axelrod “cautioned against talk that...Trump is unfit for office, saying it opens the door to a potentially ‘dangerous road.’” Commenting on Clapper’s remarks, Axelrod said, “The inference was that somehow there should be some effort to remove him, or at least that’s how some people would have heard it. And I think we have to be very, very careful when we have these discussions because we have a system, a Constitutional system.” Axelrod added, “Remember a third of the country supports this president, that’s a very dangerous road to go down. And if you ever did go down that road, you’re open a Pandora’s box that will never end.”

Media Fires Back At Trump Over Phoenix, Frets About Potential Violence. In the wake of Trump’s Phoenix address, in which he lambasted the media, several reports focus on the press’ reaction to the President’s attacks. Some reports warn the comments could result in violence against journalists.

Under the headline “Media Lets Loose Its Fury After Trump Attacks,” [The Hill](#) (8/23, Easley) reported that media members on Wednesday ripped Trump “after he railed against the press” in Phoenix, calling “journalists ‘dishonest people’ who ‘don’t like our country.’” For example, said The Hill, CNN anchor Don Lemon “accused the president of ‘trying to ignite a civil war’ and likened Trump to a 6-year-old child with imaginary friends. ‘He’s unhinged,’ Lemon said,” adding of Trump’s speech, “There was no sanity there. ... [Trump is] clearly wounded by the rational people who are abandoning him in droves, meaning the business people and the people in Washington now who are questioning his fitness for office and whether he is stable.”

In her [Washington Post](#) (8/23, Sullivan) column, Margaret Sullivan says that Trump’s Tuesday attacks on the media were “both shocking and completely predictable. Shocking because it was the most sustained attack any president has made on the news media,” but “predictable

because this is exactly what Trump does when he's in trouble. He finds an enemy and punches as hard as he can. Make no mistake, he is in trouble." Sullivan adds, "Under siege, Trump needs a foil more than ever, so these media attacks are only going to grow in intensity. It will be journalists' continued challenge not to take the bait, to refuse to play the assigned role of presidential enemy."

Writing for the [New York Times](#) (8/23, Rutenberg), Jim Rutenberg says that Trump's "latest attack on the media came at a time of heightened racial tension stoked by a white supremacists' rally in Charlottesville, Va., and continuing now in the national debate over removing statues that commemorate Confederate figures from the Civil War. Mr. Trump's speech in Phoenix reprised a question spawned by his raucous rallies during the presidential campaign: How long before someone is seriously hurt, or worse?"

The [New York Times](#) (8/23, Victor) reports that Trump's "angry condemnation of the news media during" the rally "heightened the fear among journalists that verbal attacks on the profession could lead to physical attacks." The Times says Trump's broadsides of the media "took even seasoned journalists by surprise. He called journalists 'sick people,' accused the news media of 'trying to take away our history and our heritage' and questioned their patriotism." Committee to Protect Journalists advocacy director Courtney Radsch told the Times, "To see this sort of attack coming yet again from the president is deeply disturbing. It creates an environment in which attacks on the press, both verbal and potentially physical, could become common."

The [New York Times](#) (8/23) editorializes, "Trump trotted out the usual enemies, the malefactors in the 'very dishonest media' and the 'anarchists' of the left. ... But this time he gave equal billing to his fellow Republicans in Congress – the people he will surely need if he hopes to deliver on infrastructure or anything else of value to the working-class Americans who elected him." The President offered "77 minutes worth of anger that began, as the evening wore on, to exhaust even his most fervid listeners, who began quietly to fade away."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/23) editorializes, "There is a danger...that we become inured to President Trump's mockery of democratic norms and common decency." The Post juxtaposes Trump's Phoenix comments "what we imagine a presidential president – a president we could be proud of – might have said." The editorial goes through several of the President's remarks.

WPost Analysis: Trump Lost Attention Of Crowd With Long Phoenix Speech. The [Washington Post](#) (8/23, Johnson) reports under the headline "As Trump Ranted And Rambled In Phoenix, His Crowd Slowly Thinned" that "as the night dragged on" Tuesday, "many in the crowd lost interest in what the president was saying. Hundreds left early, while others plopped down on the ground, scrolled through their social media feeds or started up a conversation with their neighbors." Though Trump "has long been the master of reading the mood of a room and quickly adjusting his message to satisfy as many of his fans as possible, his rage seemed to cloud his senses." [Roll Call](#) (8/23, Bennett) writes, "Trump roared, blamed, boasted, omitted and obfuscated Tuesday night at a campaign rally in Phoenix, but there was one thing he decided against doing: selling his stalled legislative agenda."

AP Fact Check: Trump Selectively Quoted His Own Charlottesville Remarks In Phoenix. The [AP](#) (8/23, Lemire) writes in a Fact Check piece that Trump "accused the media of selectively quoting from his remarks" about Charlottesville, then "turned around and did the same thing himself: At a Tuesday night rally in Phoenix, the president re-read portions of his comments about the violence – but left out the specific phrase that generated all the controversy."

Jake Tapper said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (8/23) that Trump "attempted historical revisionism, insisting he had never done anything but condemn the racists in Charlottesville. In this retelling, the President omitted the controversial parts of his post-Charlottesville remarks" in which he condemned hatred, bigotry, and violence "on many sides," which "was the part that was controversial." [Fact Check](#) (8/23, Kiely) headlines its 4,500-word analysis of the Arizona speech "At Phoenix Rally, Trump Revises History, Exaggerates Accomplishments And Makes False Claims."

WSJournal Editor Chides Staff's Trump Coverage As "Commentary Dressed Up As News Reporting." The [New York Times](#) (8/23, Grynbaum) reports that Wall Street Journal editor-in-chief Gerard Baker "has faced unease and frustration in his newsroom over his stewardship of the newspaper's coverage of...Trump, which some journalists there say has lacked toughness and verve. Some staff members expressed similar concerns on Wednesday after Mr. Baker, in a series of blunt late-night emails, criticized his staff over their coverage of Mr. Trump's Tuesday rally in Phoenix, describing their reporting as overly opinionated. 'Sorry. This is commentary dressed up as news reporting,' Mr. Baker wrote" early "Wednesday morning to a group of Journal reporters and editors, in response to a draft of the rally article that was intended for the newspaper's final

edition. He added in a follow-up, 'Could we please just stick to reporting what he said rather than packaging it in exegesis and selective criticism?'"

AP, WPost Analyses Differ On Whether Carson "Likely" Violated Law With Rally Appearance.

The [AP](#) (8/23, Kerr) reports, "Legal experts said Wednesday that HUD Secretary Carson's appearance with Trump at the Phoenix rally "likely did not violate federal law." Following the rally, "questions were raised on Twitter about whether Carson had violated the federal law known as the Hatch Act, which bars most executive branch officials from using their government positions to influence elections." HUD spokesman Jerry Brown "said the agency doesn't think Carson did anything wrong. 'His travel and lodging were not paid for by the department. He was there in his personal capacity. He didn't discuss HUD during the speech.'"

However, writing for the [Washington Post](#) (8/23, Bump), Phillip Bump says that prior to Carson taking "the stage at" the rally, "the announcer introduced him. 'The secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Dr. Ben Carson,' the voice intoned, prompting cheers from the audience. And, as simply as that, a law was likely broken." Bump adds, "Among the prohibitions included in the Hatch Act is one prohibiting Cabinet secretaries from leveraging their positions for a political cause. That means that the head of, say," HUD, "can't appear at a campaign rally in a way that implies he's doing so in an official capacity. Say, by being introduced with his official title."

Police Responded To Protesters With "Tear Gas, Pepper Spray And Rubber Bullets." Drawing from a Daily Mail [report](#) (8/22, Martosko), the [New York Post](#) (8/23, Moore) says that protesters outside Trump's Tuesday speech in Phoenix "tossed rocks and bottles at police who responded with tear gas, pepper spray and rubber bullets. ... At one point, a man wearing a gas mask kicked a tear gas canister back at police. Moments later, the protester doubled over in pain as a cloud of dust spilled from his groin area. A news anchor for the local CBS station remarked on the unfolding scene that was caught on camera. 'A guy just got shot with a rubber bullet,' the anchor said as the stricken man was dragged away by another demonstrator. 'So – er – yeah, the officers are not, are not messing around at all.'"

White House, McConnell Downplay Reports Of Feud.

Amid "reports of a deteriorating relationship with President Trump," Senate Majority Leader McConnell "sought to dispel" the reports and "insist[ed] they remain in 'regular contact over shared Republican goals,'" the [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/23, Mascaro) reports. The Times calls McConnell's statement "uncharacteristic," but adds that a New York Times report which said "the two men had not spoken since Trump berated McConnell in a phone call earlier this month following the collapse of the healthcare bill, provoked a response." Likewise, the [Washington Times](#) (8/23, Miller) says the White House "pushed back against reports of a feud."

[Reuters](#) (8/23, Becker) says both Trump and McConnell "emphasized their plans to cooperate on shared goals." The White House issued a statement which said the two leaders "remain united on many shared priorities, including middle class tax relief, strengthening the military, constructing a southern border wall, and other important issues." A statement from McConnell said, "The President and I, and our teams, have been and continue to be in regular contact about our shared goals. ... We have a lot of work ahead of us, and we are committed to advancing our shared agenda together and anyone who suggests otherwise is clearly not part of the conversation." On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/23, story 2, 0:45, Muir), Cecilia Vega also reported that the McConnell camp is "dismissing this story" and the White House said "that both sides will indeed meet after the August recess."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/23, Phillip) quotes White House press secretary Sarah Sanders as saying, "They will hold previously scheduled meetings following the August recess to discuss these critical items with members of the congressional leadership and the president's Cabinet. ... White House and leadership staff are coordinating regarding the details of those meetings." [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/23, story 2, 0:15, Holt) also reported briefly on the story.

According to the [AP](#) (8/23, Peoples, Fram), the "escalating tension" between Trump and McConnell "is threatening the GOP's re-election prospects and its ability to govern." McConnell and other Republicans are "particularly upset by Trump's consistent attacks against vulnerable Republican senators who need his help, according to a person familiar with the Kentucky Republican's thinking." According to this person, "McConnell questions whether Trump is capable of righting his struggling presidency."

Wolf Blitzer said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/23), "A Republican senator tells CNN his colleagues are rallying behind" McConnell "after some sharp attacks by President Trump. Sources say their last phone call broke down in a shouting match with the President cursing at

McConnell.” CNN senior congressional reporter Manu Raju said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (8/23) that Senate Republicans are “not happy with the President. They are overwhelmingly siding with Mitch McConnell. I talked to one Republican today. He said it had a unifying effect within the Republican conference. They’re getting behind him.”

[The Hill](#) (8/23, Bolton, Wong) describes a Republican Party “at the brink of breaking out into open warfare with itself after months of straining to keep its internal divisions under control.” Trump “is firing warning shots at Capitol Hill and openly criticizing” McConnell. House Freedom Caucus Chairman Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC) is warning that House Speaker Ryan and McConnell “could lose their jobs if they fall short on tax reform and funding the U.S.-Mexico border wall.” At the same times, GOP leaders “are scrambling to deflect blame.” Ryan has been emphasizing the number of bills passed by the House in “a tacit complaint that it is the Senate where Republican legislation is dying.”

Hill GOP Concerned By Trump’s Shutdown Threat Over Border Wall Funding.

The [New York Times](#) (8/23, Davis) reports, “President Trump issued an extraordinary challenge to his own party” in his Tuesday evening remarks in Phoenix, “threatening to shut down the government in a matter of weeks if Congress did not fund” a US-Mexico border wall, and “followed up on that threat on Wednesday by going after” Sen. Jeff Flake, “who has been skeptical” of the wall plan, on Twitter. Trump [tweeted](#), “Not a fan of Jeff Flake, weak on crime & border!” The [Washington Post](#) (8/23, Debonis, Viebeck, Paletta) reports that “Trump’s threat to shut down the federal government over his demand for \$1.6 billion in border wall money could upend delicate negotiations” on keeping the government operating past September 30, “further entrenching Democrats against what they see as an unpopular president scrambling to appeal to his base of supporters.”

[Politico](#) (8/23, Dawsey) reports that Trump’s Tuesday “vow...mirrors private comments he has made to advisers in recent days.” The President “has told his advisers he will not accept a deal on other issues without money for the wall ‘and it has to be real money,’ said one senior White House official.” But [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/23, Peterson, Hughes) reports that Capitol Hill Republicans were alarmed by the threat. [Reuters](#) (8/23, Mikolajczak, Morgan) reports that Republicans “rebuked the president,” with the [Washington Times](#) (8/23, Sherfinski) reporting that House Speaker Ryan said, “I don’t think a government shutdown is necessary and I don’t think most people want to see a government shutdown – ourselves included.” On the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/23, story 3, 2:15, Mason), Major Garrett said, “The President...rattled GOP congressional leaders with [the] threat.”

[The Hill](#) (8/23, Bernal) reports that Democratic leaders also said they would not give in. Senate Minority Leader Schumer “said Trump’s demands for wall funding in a government-funding bill would lead to a shutdown,” while House Minority Leader Pelosi said, “President Trump’s multi-billion dollar border wall boondoggle is strongly opposed by Democrats and many Republicans. Democrats will stand fast against the immoral, ineffective border wall and the rest of Republicans’ unacceptable poison pill riders.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/23, Wasson) writes, “Trump’s shutdown threat may just be part of the routine bluster he employs in negotiations, but it still raises the specter of a potentially market-shaking showdown if he decides to follow through on it.” In fact, [Reuters](#) (8/23, Chin) reports, “stocks closed lower...as investors grappled with [the] threat” from the President.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/23) says in an editorial that while the threat was popular with Trump’s Arizona audience, it is reckless and counterproductive, with GOP leaders knowing that they and the unpopular Trump will take the blame for any shutdown. The Journal says Democrats will be happy to let Trump force a shutdown.

Steve King Calls Border Wall A “Mandate From The American People.” Rep. Steve King (R-IA) said on [Fox News’ Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (8/23) that the border wall “is a mandate that came from the American people. The mandate says build the wall. The President said he is going to build the wall. If he vetoes an appropriations bill because it lacks funding for the wall...the votes won’t be there to override a presidential veto and eventually this will get done.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“The President Turns On His Own.” The [New York Times](#) (8/23) editorializes, “Trump trotted out the usual enemies, the malefactors in the ‘very dishonest media’ and the ‘anarchists’ of the

left. ... But this time he gave equal billing to his fellow Republicans in Congress – the people he will surely need if he hopes to deliver on infrastructure or anything else of value to the working-class Americans who elected him.” The President offered “77 minutes worth of anger that began, as the evening wore on, to exhaust even his most fervid listeners, who began quietly to fade away.”

“New York Democrats Snub The Voters.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (8/24) writes New York City politicians’ “tendency to freeze out” voters “has been on conspicuous display in recent weeks,” with Democrats timing departures to come after the deadline to enter primaries “so that picking successors would in effect fall to party leaders, not to registered Democratic voters.” Such “shenanigans foster cynicism, which is already deep enough,” and the Times call for political leaders to act “to put power where it belongs, with the voters.”

Washington Post.

“What A Presidential President Would Have Said In Phoenix.” The [Washington Post](#) (8/23) editorializes, “There is a danger...that we become inured to President Trump’s mockery of democratic norms and common decency.” The Post juxtaposes Trump’s Phoenix comments “what we imagine a presidential president – a president we could be proud of – might have said.” The editorial goes through several of the President’s remarks.

“Trump Has Sent The Right Signal To Egypt. But There’s More He Needs To Do.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/23) calls the Administration’s move to withhold aid “an appropriate response to the most severe repression in” Egypt’s modern history and the country’s “collaboration with North Korea,” but warns the move isn’t due to a shift in President Trump’s views but was “largely forced by congressional legislation, and they are unlikely to have much effect unless there is follow-up in the next federal budget.” The Post calls for the Administration and Congress to “fundamentally reform aid to Egypt.” The Post argues the end of cash-flow financing “provides a chance to undertake a wholesale restructuring of the aid” and suggests shifting some of it to Tunisia, “a struggling democracy that, unlike its neighbor, is eager to partner with the United States.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Cuomo’s Natural Gas Blockade.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/23) writes that New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s blocking last year of the Constitution pipeline transporting natural gas from Pennsylvania to upstate New York and New England has resulted in fewer jobs and less local government revenue, has demonstrated an abuse of state discretion over environmental rules, has increased energy costs, and has caused a halt to natural gas to a region that needs another power source to replace shuttering nuclear and coal plants.

“Beating His Own Head Against The Wall.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/23) says in an editorial that while the threat to shut down the government over the border wall was popular with President Trump’s Arizona audience, it is reckless and counterproductive, with GOP leaders knowing that they and the unpopular Trump will take the blame for any shutdown. The Journal says Democrats will be happy to let Trump force a shutdown.

“Nisman And The Iranians.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/23) writes that a new toxicology analysis of the body of late Argentine prosecutor Alberto Nisman – who had been investigating Iran’s role in the 1994 bombing of a Buenos Aires Jewish community center – shows that the drug ketamine was present, indicating what one criminal prosecutor called a “mountain of evidence” that Nisman’s death was a homicide. The Journal concludes that this new evidence may lead to the truth of Nisman’s death, potentially at the hands of Iran, if the Argentine judiciary allows the investigation to proceed unimpeded.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[White House Sets Rules For Military Transgender Ban](#)

[How Budget Carriers Transformed The Airline Industry—In 14 Charts](#)

[Big Economies Are Growing In Sync For First Time In Years](#)

[Ad Giant Signals Deepening Industry Woes Amid Shift To Digital](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Widens Rift With Congress As Critical Showdowns Loom](#)
[Spanish Thrives In The US Despite An English-Only Drive](#)
[Rabbis Protest Trump's Comments By Boycotting Conference Call](#)
[Alaska's Permafrost Is Thawing](#)
[Graphic: 'It's A Slow Death': The World's Worst Humanitarian Crisis](#)
[Mastermind Or Naif? Samsung Heir's Fate Hinges On The Question](#)
[How A Shadowy Imam Evaded Scrutiny And Forged The Barcelona Cell](#)

Washington Post:

[Trump-Congress Conflict Escalates](#)
[Commander, Divider, Uniter: 3 Roles Of Trump](#)
[Returning To Mosul's Old City, Where Homes Are Now Tombs](#)
[Boxing's Long Tradition Still Stoking Racial Embers](#)
[Unusually Similar Candidates In A Divided Va. House District](#)

Financial Times:

[Typhoon Hato Leaves 3 Dead In South China](#)
[WPP Hit By Ad Spending Squeeze As Digital Disruption Gathers Pace](#)
[Credit Default Swap Bundles Make A Comeback 10 Years After Financial Crisis](#)

Washington Times:

[Democrats Brand Trump As Reckless, Redouble Resist Vow After Shutdown Threat On Border Wall](#)

[Trump Blames Congress For Stalled Agenda, Urges Senate To Abolish Filibuster Rules](#)
[Every U.S. County Except One Has Obamacare Options For 2018](#)
[Ukraine Fighters Vow To Press On In Conflict Now In Its Fourth Year](#)
[California Parents Feel 'Betrayed' By Transgender Reveal In Kindergarten Class](#)
[Breathtaking Utah Monuments To Test Trump, Antiquities Act](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Trump-Phoenix, Reno Speeches; Trump-McConnell Relationship; Severe Weather-Hurricane Watches; Cuba-Possible Sonic Attack; US Navy-Seventh Fleet Commander Dismissed; Opioid Epidemic-Chinese Fentanyl Shipments; Hillary Clinton-New Book; Charlottesville-Lee Statue Covered; Google, Walmart Partnership-Amazon Competition; Rotterdam Concert Canceled-Terror Threat.

CBS: Trump-Phoenix, Reno Speeches; Clapper-Trump Presidential Fitness; Trump Agenda-Analysis; Trump-Party Ties; Thea Lee-WH Advisory Committee Resignation; Hillary Clinton-New Book; US Navy-Seventh Fleet Commander Dismissed; Severe Weather-Hurricane Watches; Rotterdam Concert Canceled-Terror Threat; Health-Study Links Sleep, Dementia; Cuba-Possible Sonic Attack; Charlottesville-Lee Statue Covered; ESPN Announcer Robert Lee Reassigned Over Name.

NBC: Trump-Phoenix, Reno Speeches; Trump-McConnell Relationship; Charlottesville-Lee Statue Covered; Hillary Clinton-New Book; Severe Weather-Hurricane Watches; Google, Walmart Partnership-Amazon Competition; Opioid Epidemic-Chinese Fentanyl Shipments; Mar-a-Lago Resort-Charities Withdraw Fundraiser Events; Samsung-Galaxy Note 8.

Network TV At A Glance:

Trump-Phoenix, Reno Speeches – 8 minutes, 15 seconds
Hillary Clinton-New Book – 6 minutes, 45 seconds
Opioid Epidemic-Chinese Fentanyl Shipments – 4 minutes, 20 seconds
Google, Walmart Partnership-Amazon Competition – 3 minutes, 15 seconds
Severe Weather-Hurricane Watches – 2 minutes, 45 seconds
Cuba-Possible Sonic Attack – 2 minutes, 30 seconds
US Navy-Seventh Fleet Commander Dismissed – 2 minutes, 10 seconds
Charlottesville-Lee Statue Covered – 1 minute, 10 seconds
Trump-McConnell Relationship – 1 minute
Rotterdam Concert Canceled-Terror Threat – 40 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Lottery-Powerball Jackpot; Trump-Phoenix, Reno Speeches; Severe Weather-Hurricane Watches

CBS: Severe Weather-Hurricane Watches; Energy Department-Electrical Grid Warnings; Trump-Phoenix, Reno Speeches; Trump-McConnell Relationship; Pentagon-Transgender Ban; Lottery-Powerball Jackpot.

FOX: Trump-Phoenix, Reno Speeches; Trump-McConnell Relationship; South China-Deadly Typhoon; Lottery-Powerball Jackpot; Wall Street.

NPR: Trump-Phoenix, Reno Speeches; Charlottesville-Lee Statue Covered; North Korea-Rocket Engine, Warhead Production Orders; USS John S. McCain-Search Continues; Cambodia-Democratic Climate; Amazon-Whole Foods Market Acquisition; Google, Walmart Partnership-Amazon Competition.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Receives his daily intelligence briefing; meets with the National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster; meets with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget Mick Mulvaney and the Office of Legislative Affairs.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President meet with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget Mick Mulvaney and the Office of Legislative Affairs; joins Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats to tour the National Counterterrorism Center and participate in a series of briefings.

US Senate: 1:00 PM Senate Judiciary subcommittee field hearing on the Ninth Circuit – Privacy, Technology and the Law Subcommittee hearing on 'Rebooting the Ninth Circuit: Why Technology Cannot Solve Its Problems' * President Donald Trump has previously said he was considering splitting up the court – which some Republicans accuse of bias because a high proportion of its judges were appointed by Democratic presidents – after it blocked both his travel ban and his efforts to withhold funding from 'sanctuary cities.' Location: Sandra Day O'Connor United States Courthouse, 401 W Washington St, Phoenix, AZ <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate Judiciary Committee press 1 202 224 7703.

1:00 PM Senate Small Business Committee field hearing on opportunities in Acadiana – Field hearing on 'Growing Opportunities for Businesses and Small Farmers in Acadiana', with testimony from Supreme Rice Vice President Bill Dore; Cajun Sugar Company General Manager Michael Comb; Faith Family Shrimp Company owner and operator Angela Portier; Louisiana Small Business Development Center Director Heidi Melancon; and Office of the Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade Senior Advisor for Policy Joseph Laroski, Jr. Location: Youngsville City Hall, 305 Iberia St, Youngsville, LA <http://sbc.senate.gov/>. Contacts: Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship 1 202 224 5175.

US House: 11:30 AM GOP Rep. Rob Bishop discusses National Monument designation review – House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop discusses the administration's review of National Monument designations and reforms to the Antiquities Act of 1906, via press conference call. Location: TBD <http://naturalresources.house.gov>

<https://twitter.com/NatResources>. Contacts: Parish Braden House Committee on Natural Resources parish.braden@mail.house.gov 1 202 226 9019 Katie Schoettler House Committee on Natural Resources katie.schoettler@mail.house.gov. CALL: 1-800-857-5745 Passcode: MONUMENT * To RSVP, please contact Katie Schoettler.

Other: No relevant events.

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Trevor Noah: [Referencing Trump's Phoenix rally] "Seeing as Trump won Arizona, it's no surprise that last night's rally was packed. There was a line around the block like someone was releasing a racist sneaker."

Trevor Noah: [Referencing Trump's Phoenix rally] "Now, although most of Trump's rally was an outstanding rejection of sanity, there was a key issue that he had to address, and that was demanding justice for the real victim of Charlottesville – himself."

Trevor Noah: [Referencing Trump's Phoenix rally] "He sounds less like a president and more like an angry waiter arguing about an order he got wrong. 'I got you the neo-Nazi! I got you the fries. I got you the KKK! I got it all!'"

Conan O'Brien: "In her new book, Hillary Clinton calls Donald Trump – this is true – a creep who made her skin crawl. ... When he heard this, Trump smiled and said, 'I still got it.'"

Conan O'Brien: "Last night, President Trump spoke at a rally in Arizona. ... He opened his speech by saying, this is a quote, 'Our movement is a movement built on love.' Yeah. In other words, he started with his best joke."

Conan O'Brien: "At yesterday's Trump rally, the crowd was chanting 'CNN sucks.' ... And man, you do not want to hear what they had to say about the Science Channel. That was ugly."

Conan O'Brien: "It's being reported that President Trump is no longer speaking to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. ... On hearing this, Melania went to McConnell and said, 'Teach me, master.'"

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



DATE: THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 2017 7:00 AM EDT

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- Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel: Please Come To Grand Junction, Towns To Tell BLM.
- The Week: Bizarrely, The State Department And Interior Department Just Commented On Trump's Tax Plan.
- The Hill: Blowing The Whistle On Trump's Mistreatment Of Civil Servants.
- Missoula (MT) Independent: Breaking The Rules: Zinke And Trump Go To War On Regulation.

- Helena (MT) Independent Record: Trump Administration Falsely Blames Lawsuits For Forest Fires.
- Los Angeles Times: Hey President Trump, Leave The San Gabriel Mountains Alone.
- Tri-City Herald (WA): Our Voice: National Monuments Still Need Defense.
- Valley News (VT): National Parks, A National Legacy.
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- Missoula (MT) Independent: Daunted Courage: Is Ryan Zinke Losing Touch With Montana?

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

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- Feds Urge Justices To Spurn NY Town's Tribal Land Challenge.
- Tribe Gets \$3.9 Million From BIA For Reforestation.
- Additional Coverage: Ex-Federal Officer Accused Of Blackmailing Woman Into Sex.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Jackson Hole (WY) News & Guide: BLM Land Transfers Near County Approval.
- Elko (NV) Daily Free Press: BLM To Offer Three Parcels In Oil And Gas Lease Sale.
- Wyoming Business Report: BLM Approves Decision To Remove Wild Horses.
- Sierra Star (CA): McClintock Spearheads Proposal To Stop Protecting Wild Horses.

Bureau Of Reclamation

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- There's Success In Money-for-water Programs.

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Fish And Wildlife Service

- Associated Press: Groups Sue To Protect Yellowstone Bears As Hunts Anticipated.
- Ruidoso (NM) News: Commissioners Oppose Wolf Recovery Draft.

National Park Service

- Fresno (CA) Bee: Yosemite Name Changes: Lawsuit In Dispute Inches Forward.
- U.S. News & World Report: Inoculations Give Endangered California Frog A Shot At Life.
- U.S. News & World Report: Smoke From Wildfires Forces Closure Of Lodge In Glacier Park.
- U.S. News & World Report: Attorney: Arkansas Man Fatally Shot By Rangers Had BB Gun.
- U.S. News & World Report: 3 Indicted On Big Game Hunt Charges In Alaska National Park.
- Asheville (NC) Citizen-Times: Great Smoky Mountains National Park To Get Emergency Radio Upgrade.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- ABC: Trump Says U.S. Is Paying 'Extortion Money' To North Korea.
- Saipan (MNP) Tribune: Interior's Zinke Recommends Local Access To Monument.
- Saipan (MNP) Tribune: National GOP Leaders' Push For Equal US Citizenship Is Backed.
- Daily Mail: Earthquake Strikes Guam Hours After Kim Jong-un Threats.
- Samoa News: Lolo Says Concerns Over N. Korea Threat Should Include Am Samoa.
- Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR): 'We Have To Make Tough Decisions If We Want To Survive'.
- Saipan (MNP) Tribune: New CW Permits Now Available.
- CNN International: Additional Coverage: Next Target Guam, North Korea Says.

Top National News

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- Washington Post: Trump Could Request Harvey Aid Package Next Week.
- New York Times: US Economy Grew 3% In Q2, In "Best Quarterly Showing In Two Years."
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- Reuters: Administration Nixes Obama Rule Requiring Companies To Report Pay Data.
- Associated Press: Trump Rolls Back Obama-Era Order To Fund Rebuilding After Storms.

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DOI In The News

Senators' Silence Kills Probe Into Zinke's Alleged Threats Against Alaska Senator.

[The Hill](#) (8/30, Henry) reports the Interior Department's Office of Inspector General is about to end "its investigation into Secretary Ryan Zinke's alleged threats against an Alaska senator during an ObamaCare fight last month after the lawmaker and her in-state colleague refused to participate in the probe." Interior's Deputy Inspector General Mary Kendall wrote to House Democrats who had asked for the investigation, saying that "her office 'does not believe it could meaningfully investigate the matter further' because Alaska Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, both Republicans, declined to be interviewed as part of the inquiry."

Also covering the story were the [Associated Press](#) (8/30), [Reuters](#) (8/30, Beech), [CNN](#) (8/30, Tatum), the [Washington Examiner](#) (8/30, Phillips), [Talking Points Memo](#) (8/30, Ollstein), the [Daily Caller](#) (8/30, Pearce), the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (8/30), the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (8/30, Ruskin), [KTUU-TV Anchorage \(AK\)](#) Anchorage, AK (8/30), and [KTVF-TV Fairbanks \(AK\)](#) Fairbanks, AK (8/30).

Trump Donation Will Help Restore Historic Home Near Confederate Statue.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/30, Moyer) reports that the National Park Service announced in July that it would use some of the funds from President Trump's donation of his first quarter salary "to restore a historic home at Antietam National Battlefield in Maryland." Next summer, work will begin "on property that includes a 24-foot statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee astride his horse, Traveller." The statue "sits on a bluff about 250 feet from the Newcomer House that will benefit from Trump's donation." The Post adds that the donation was made "before Trump called for the preservation of Confederate memorials following deadly violence in Charlottesville." Heather Swift, a spokeswoman for the Department of the Interior, "said the National Park Service, not Trump, selected the property, and that his donation will not be used to restore the statue."

States Win Hollow Victory Over Trump's Favors To Oil, Gas & Coal.

[Courthouse News](#) (8/30, Iovino) reports that "California and New Mexico won a hollow victory on Wednesday, as a federal judge found the U.S. Department of Interior unlawfully postponed a royalties rule for oil, gas and coal companies' benefit – but refused to reinstate the rule." California and New Mexico sued the Interior Department in April, "arguing its postponement of a new royalties rule this past February, after it took effect on Jan. 1, deprived states of an estimated \$72 million to \$85 million in royalties, which they depend on to help fund crucial services like public education." Meanwhile, the Interior Department "had already proposed a new rule to roll back the increased royalty valuations on April 4, with a public comment period ending May 4," and "the repeal is set to take effect on Sept. 6." U.S. Magistrate Judge Elizabeth Laporte

“found the department effectively repealed the royalties rule in February after it had taken effect and without allowing for public comment in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act.” However, “she said making companies comply with higher royalty valuations for a few days before the rule is repealed on Sept. 6 would be ‘unduly disruptive’ for the oil, gas and coal industries,” and “she declined to vacate the Interior Department’s postponement of the rule.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KXJZ-FM](#) Sacramento, CA (8/30, Bradford).

Please Come To Grand Junction, Towns To Tell BLM.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (8/31, Harmon) reports that the Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado “voted Wednesday to encourage the counties and cities within its area to write” to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke urging him to move the Bureau of Land Management to Grand Junction. Zinke is reportedly “considering moving the headquarters of three agencies – the BLM, Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Reclamation – to Denver.”

Bizarrely, The State Department And Interior Department Just Commented On Trump’s Tax Plan.

[The Week](#) (8/30, Stanek) said that it was strange to see Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson weighing in on President Trump’s tax reform plan. According to the article, “though Zinke’s domain is federal lands and natural resources,” he “couldn’t help but comment on how great Trump’s tax reform plan would be for the American people.” Zinke tied his statement “back to the Interior Department by claiming that Trump’s tax reforms would mean Americans ‘will have more money in their pockets’ to spend on trips to national parks, and that businesses would have more money to ‘invest in our public lands.’”

Blowing The Whistle On Trump’s Mistreatment Of Civil Servants.

For the “Pundits” blog of [The Hill](#) (8/30, Friedman, Geltzer, Contributors), Robert Friedman and Joshua Geltzer, who serve as institute fellow and executive director, respectively, at Georgetown University Law Center’s Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection, writes that “since Jan. 20, some civil servants, and especially certain senior civil servants, have fallen victim to an administration uninterested in their hard-earned experience and apparently intolerant of questioning of the administration’s pre-existing ideological commitments.” For this reason, the Georgetown University Law Center’s Institute for Constitutional Advocacy and Protection has “just filed a letter with the U.S. Office of Special Counsel on behalf of 12 leading scholars of constitutional, administrative and civil service law in support” of Joel Clement, a reassigned senior executive at the Interior Department. The authors argue that “Clement’s case presents an important opportunity for the Office of Special Counsel to send a clear signal to the administration.” They urge the office to “carefully police the line between mission-inspired reassignments and retaliatory ones to ensure that President Trump’s vow to ‘drain the swamp’ does not become a full-blown political purge of the civil service.”

Breaking The Rules: Zinke And Trump Go To War On Regulation.

In an op-ed for the [Missoula \(MT\) Independent](#) (8/31, Leiter), Amanda C. Leiter, a professor at American University’s College of Law, and former deputy assistant secretary, Land and Minerals Management, at the Interior Department, writes that “laws and regulations can always be reformed and improved, but the real threat to America’s natural resources, and to the health of our democracy, is the Trump administration’s nontransparent, one-sided assault on common-sense regulation.” Leiter touts the importance of the rulemaking process and criticizes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for catering to the fossil fuel industry, while shutting out other interests. Leiter concludes that the Trump Administration’s “disdain for open and participatory rulemaking is unlawful and undermines our democracy.”

Trump Administration Falsely Blames Lawsuits For Forest Fires.

In an op-ed for the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (8/30, Garrity), Mike Garrity, the executive director of the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, writes that “Ryan Zinke, Sonny Perdue, Steve Daines and Greg Gianforte followed Trump’s lead in using alternative facts in their recent press conference near the Lolo Peak Fire.” According to Garrity, “the Trump administration apparently believes that it is because of lawsuits that we have forest fires during this exceptionally hot, dry, and windy summer.” However, Garrity points out that “there is no lawsuit in the Lolo Peak area, and the Lolo Peak area has already undergone extensive logging.”

In an op-ed for the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (8/31, Scalia), Dr. Joseph Scalia III,

director of Northern Rockies Psychoanalytic Institute, criticizes the group of Republican politicians for supporting “a federal 2018 budget that would cut \$350 million from forest fire fighting and prevention programs.” Scalia claims that the politicians are “spouting dumbed-down ideology while ignoring wildland fire science in their attempt to sway public policy towards support of an extractive industry that will be regulated by an underfunded and understaffed Forest Service.”

Hey President Trump, Leave The San Gabriel Mountains Alone.

In his column for the [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/30, Lopez), Steve Lopez raises concerns that the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument may be scaled back. Lopez thinks that “it’s unlikely that the San Gabes would be in for any major scarring by commercial enterprise; other monuments around the country appear to be in far greater danger.” However, he notes that “some San Gabriels boosters remain worried, with possibilities that include expansion of a ski resort into the monument, erection of cellphone towers and tunneling for the bullet train.”

Our Voice: National Monuments Still Need Defense.

In an editorial, the [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (8/30) rallies support to preserve the Cascade-Siskiyou, the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments. The paper asserts that “reviewing the national monuments was an unnecessary process that never should have been started.” The paper urges “all those who weighed in to protect the Hanford Reach” to “help Oregon and Utah with the same passionate resolve.”

National Parks, A National Legacy.

In an editorial, the [Valley News \(VT\)](#) (8/30) touts the importance of the national parks and related sites, which “have shown the wisdom of preserving — rather than exploiting — the best of America and its natural resources.” The paper hopes that President Trump won’t follow Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s recommendation “to reduce the size of three national monuments and roll back protections in them.” The editorial says that if he does, then “it would be in keeping with his administration’s apparent mission of achieving a clean sweep of environmental degradation, involving the nation’s air, water and land. ”

A Year Worth Celebrating At Katahdin Woods And Waters.

In an op-ed for the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (8/30, Farmer), David Farmer, a political and media consultant in Portland, is heartened by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s “promising – if not complete – news about the review” of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. According to Farmer, “there are still people who oppose the monument, but their numbers are waning.” he also notes that “businesses throughout the region are reporting spikes in visitation and so far between the National Park Service and the endowment created by Elliotsville Plantation, the foundation which donated the land for the monument plus an endowment of \$20 million, about a half a million dollars have been invested in the region so far.”

Daunted Courage: Is Ryan Zinke Losing Touch With Montana?

In an op-ed for the [Missoula \(MT\) Independent](#) (8/31, Brooks), Dan Brooks satirically analyzes whether Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has lost his “Montana values.” Brooks compares Zinke’s record as a defender of public lands as a congressman, and now, as secretary, “his commitment to making public lands available to all Americans—particularly those Americans who own mining and drilling corporations.” Brooks figures Zinke is “as much a Montanan as he ever was, which is to say he lives somewhere else most of the time but keeps wearing a giant hat.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Ruling Paves Way For Freedmen’s Citizenship In Cherokee Nation.

The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (8/30, Hinchey) reports that “the descendants of Cherokee freedmen have a right to tribal citizenship,” the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia ruled Wednesday.” The holding is “an important victory in the freedmen’s longstanding legal battle to secure rights to Cherokee citizenship. The court held “that the Treaty of 1866, which entitled freedmen to ‘all the rights of native Cherokees,’ takes priority over the tribe’s constitution.”

Feds Urge Justices To Spurn NY Town’s Tribal Land Challenge.

[Law360](#) (8/30, Westney) reports that “the federal government has urged the U.S. Supreme Court

not to hear a New York town's bid to overturn a Second Circuit decision approving the government's decision to take land into trust for the Oneida Indian Nation, saying the Oneidas meet the requirements to have their land taken into trust under the Indian Land Consolidation Act."

Tribe Gets \$3.9 Million From BIA For Reforestation.

The [Omak-Okanogan County \(WA\) Chronicle](#) (8/30, Camp) reports that "the Colville Confederated Tribes are getting nearly \$3.9 million from the federal government for reforestation efforts in the wake of the 2015 fire season."

Additional Coverage: Ex-Federal Officer Accused Of Blackmailing Woman Into Sex.

Additional coverage that "a former law enforcement officer with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Montana is facing federal charges accusing him of coercing a woman into having sex and then lying about it to investigators" was provided by the [AP](#) (8/30).

Bureau Of Land Management

BLM Land Transfers Near County Approval.

The [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (8/30, Gross) reports that "three agreements are up for consideration by county commissioners Tuesday that outline terms for the transfer of several Bureau of Land Management land parcels to Teton County." Following approval, "the county can draft legislation for U.S. Sen. John Barrasso to introduce to Congress to realize the transfers." It is part of "the latest movement on an effort that has been ongoing for more than a decade as the BLM works to pass off ownership of 24 parcels scattered along the Snake River."

BLM To Offer Three Parcels In Oil And Gas Lease Sale.

The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (8/30) reports that the Bureau of Land Management will "offer three parcels in Nye County totaling approximately 3,680 acres in the Battle Mountain District at its September quarterly oil and gas lease sale." Bidding will begin on Sept. 12.

BLM Approves Decision To Remove Wild Horses.

The [Wyoming Business Report](#) (8/30, Mechling) reports that the Bureau of Land Management "announced its decision Tuesday to take 1,560 adult wild horses from the Great Divide Basin, Salt Wells Creek, and Adobe Town herd management areas." The roundup will "begin after Sept. 15 to restore herd populations to appropriate management levels, according to a press release."

McClintock Spearheads Proposal To Stop Protecting Wild Horses.

In an op-ed for the [Sierra Star \(CA\)](#) (8/30, White), Joseph H. White opposes that the Trump Administration's budget that "calls for the end of the prohibition of slaughtering wild horses and burros and "destroying" the 45,000-plus healthy horses and burros in holding pens, and up to 40,000 healthy animals on the range." Rep. Tom McClintock has "spearheaded the proposal, claiming that the wild horses and burros are starving to death when in reality almost every animal that has been captured in the BLM helicopter roundups would be graded as good to excellent (a score of four to six) on the Henneke condition score system for horses." According to White, "the truth is that the wild horses and burros are competing successfully for forage against the private livestock that outnumber them on the federal ranges, that were designated by Congress to be managed primarily for their benefit and are not yet overpopulated."

Bureau Of Reclamation

New Groundwater Basin Studies For Arizona And New Mexico.

The [AP](#) (8/31) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation is "launching two new groundwater basin studies, one in Arizona and the other in New Mexico." BOR Acting Commissioner Alan Mikkelsen "says growing imbalances between supply and demand are affecting many basins throughout the West." According to the article, "the groundwater is being over-drafted by about 230,000 acre-feet per year and causing severe caving-in of land in the basins, putting critical infrastructure at risk."

For Reclamation, Water Use And Small Hydropower Go Hand In Hand.

[Hydroworld](#) (8/30, Ingram) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation “recently announced it had selected 43 projects to receive a total of \$20.9 million for water delivery efficiency improvements.” The funds are being awarded as part of the WaterSMART project, “which aims to improve water conservation and sustainability, helping water resource managers make sound decisions about water use.” The bureau “says that when leveraged with non-federal funding sources, these projects will complete more than \$101 million in improvements.” The article notes that “of the 43 projects selected, eight involve hydroelectric generation.”

There’s Success In Money-for-water Programs.

The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (8/30, Tory) reports that in the Colorado River Basin, a money-for-water program is winning over skeptical farmers and ranchers. The pilot program was “launched in 2014 by the four largest municipal water providers in the Colorado River basin along with the Bureau of Reclamation.” The goal is to “see how complicated it would be to pay ranchers to use less water on their fields and instead let the water flow down the Green, Colorado and San Juan rivers to Lake Powell and Lake Mead, the two biggest water storage buckets in the Colorado River system.” According to the article, “after three years, the initiative, known as the ‘System Conservation Pilot Program,’ proved popular...but water officials called a halt to the program after this year until they work out some big challenges.”

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Fallout From Harvey To Disrupt Energy Markets Around The World.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/30, Sider, Yang) reports Tropical Storm Harvey is disrupting the flow of oil and petroleum worldwide because of the growing influence of the US in the global energy industry. The production disruptions will cause supply shortfalls in gasoline, chemicals, plastics and crude exports, and consumers from Houston to Beijing will be affected. The US Gulf Coast has become an increasingly critical link in the global energy chain, as shipments from the region now account for 6 percent of global demand for oil and liquid petroleum fuels. A second [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/30, Matthews, Sider) reports that more than a dozen refineries have been affected by the storm, while IHS Markit says more than 3 million bpd of refining capacity in Texas remained shut Wednesday mornings. Port closures are complicating refineries’ problems, as Port Houston has warned shippers it is likely closed to large vessels at least through the weekend. US Coast Guard officials said it could be weeks before large container ships and oil tankers can safely navigate the Houston Ship Channel. [Reuters](#) (8/30, Seba) reports Reuters estimates and company reports show that about 4.2 million barrels of US refining capacity has been shut because of the storm. More refineries could close now that Harvey has made landfall in Louisiana, where an additional 3.3 million bpd are produced. Anthony Scott, managing director of analytics at BTU Analytics, said, “We’re still pretty early in the process of figuring out the extent of any damage from the flooding. ... If flooding has washed out a pipeline or something else, you won’t find out until the water has receded.” The [Washington Times](#) (8/30, Wolfgang) reports Nicole Leonard, a senior project consultant at Platts Analytics Oil and Gas Consulting, said, “This is impacting the whole world. ... There’s so much more in getting back to normal than I think anyone understands.” Leonard said the slowdown in refining is hampering deliveries around the world, as foreign markets are not getting the usual cargoes of fuel from US suppliers.

Fish And Wildlife Service

Groups Sue To Protect Yellowstone Bears As Hunts Anticipated.

The [AP](#) (8/30, Brown) reports that “wildlife advocates and a Montana Indian tribe have asked a U.S. court to restore protections for grizzly bears in and around Yellowstone National Park so that trophy hunting of the fearsome animals would not be allowed.” The Northern Cheyenne Tribe, the Humane Society and several conservation groups “filed three lawsuits Tuesday and Wednesday in federal court in Montana, challenging the government’s recent move to lift protections.” Idaho, Montana and Wyoming “are planning limited public hunting of the region’s roughly 700 bears, although no hunts are expected this year,” but “critics say there is already too much pressure on the bear population as climate change affects what they eat and as conflicts with humans result in dozens being killed every year.”

[Reuters](#) (8/30, Zuckerman) reports that WildEarth Guardians “as well as a coalition including the Sierra Club and Northern Cheyenne Tribe separately sued Republican President Donald Trump’s administration in U.S. District Court in Missoula, Montana to prevent removal of the bears from the U.S. list of endangered and threatened species. ‘Grizzlies have disappeared in nearly 98 percent of their range in the Lower 48; now is not the time to strip these bears of vital federal protections,’ WildEarth Guardians carnivore advocate Kelly Nokes said in a telephone interview.” The lawsuits, “which name U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as plaintiffs, claim that illegal killing and climate changes have caused declines in the grizzlies’ food supplies and habitat loss.”

Also reporting are [The Hill](#) (8/30, Cama), the [Washington Times](#) (8/30, Richardson), the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (8/30, Wright), the [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (8/30, Connelly), [Yellowstone Insider](#) (8/30, Reichard), and [Law360](#) (8/30, Rodriguez).

Commissioners Oppose Wolf Recovery Draft.

The [Ruidoso \(NM\) News](#) (8/30, Stallings) reports that “as in past Mexican gray wolf recovery plans, the Lincoln County Commission approved a letter and reaffirmed a resolution in opposition to a draft released for public comment by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.” Commissioners were “following the recommendations last week of the board of supervisors of the Upper Hondo Water and Soil Conservation District and of the members of the county’s Land and Natural Resources Advisory Committee.” They “voted to submit a new letter of objection by the Aug. 29 deadline.”

National Park Service

Yosemite Name Changes: Lawsuit In Dispute Inches Forward.

The [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (8/30, Appleton) reports that the National Park Service and “Yosemite’s former concessionaire, Delaware North, remain embroiled in a legal battle over the names of some of the park’s most cherished landmarks: The Ahwahnee, Curry Village, Badger Pass, Wawona Hotel.” The two sides are “more than \$40 million apart on the amount owed.” The article says that “given the distance between the parties and how slowly the courts move in such cases, both sides agreed this week that it could be years before a resolution is reached.”

Inoculations Give Endangered California Frog A Shot At Life.

The [AP](#) (8/30, Smith) reports that “endangered California frogs are getting an immunity boost from scientists who are scooping them up from remote Sierra Nevada ponds and sending them to big city zoos for inoculation, giving them a fighting chance to beat extinction, officials said Wednesday.” Aquatic ecologist Danny Boiano of the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, “who has led the three-year project” to help the mountain yellow-legged frog, “said it appears to be paying off.” His team will next “study their frogs to determine if it’s working.”

Smoke From Wildfires Forces Closure Of Lodge In Glacier Park.

The [AP](#) (8/30) reports that “smoke from wildfires has led Xanterra Parks and Resorts to close Lake McDonald Lodge in Glacier National Park for the season.” The lodge “closed Wednesday, nearly a month ahead of schedule.” According to Xanterra, “the Sprague fire burning in the park was not threatening the lodge, but heavy smoke was settling in the area, at times creating hazardous air quality conditions.”

Also reporting are the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (8/30) and the [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (8/30).

Attorney: Arkansas Man Fatally Shot By Rangers Had BB Gun.

The [AP](#) (8/30) reports that “an attorney representing the family of a man who was fatally shot by two park rangers while camping in northern Arkansas says the camper had a BB pistol on him.” According to attorney David Ransin, “the BB gun didn’t have an orange tip on the barrel to indicate that it wasn’t a real weapon.” A statement from Buffalo National River officials “says the park rangers fired at 34-year-old Jonathan Bolger on Aug. 20 after he refused to drop the weapon.”

3 Indicted On Big Game Hunt Charges In Alaska National Park.

The [AP](#) (8/30) reports that “a federal grand jury has indicted three men on charges connected to

illegal hunting" in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. The indictment also alleges that two of the men "used artificial sweetener harmful to canines on bait piles to try to kill wolves and coyotes."

Great Smoky Mountains National Park To Get Emergency Radio Upgrade.

The [Asheville \(NC\) Citizen-Times](#) (8/30) reports that "in celebration of the organization's 25th anniversary next year, Friends of the Smokies has announced a capital campaign to fund a critical radio system upgrade in Great Smoky Mountains National Park." The total cost of the upgrade project is \$2.5 million. Jim Hart, president of the nonprofit, said, "Our target for this campaign is to raise \$1.25 million by this time next year, making it our biggest fundraising goal in a decade." According to the article, "federal funding sources and other grants will be used to match donations to Friends of the Smokies dollar for dollar to reach the total cost."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Trump Says U.S. Is Paying 'Extortion Money' To North Korea.

Coverage of the Administration's response to North Korea's latest missile launch over Japan continues, with media reports from cable outlets characterizing President Trump and Defense Secretary Mattis as giving conflicting statements regarding the response options available for the US. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/30, story 6, 1:35, Llamas), for example, said the Administration sent "mixed messages" Wednesday. While Trump "appeared to double down on a military option," Mattis "seemed to contradict him." Martha Raddatz said this isn't the first time the Administration has sent mixed signals, "but in the end, North Korea's leader listens most carefully to only one person: Donald Trump."

The [New York Times](#) (8/30, Sullivan, Landler) reports that in a [post](#) on Twitter on Wednesday, President Trump "accused past administrations of paying 'extortion money' to North Korea and said diplomatic talks are not sufficient." The President tweeted, "The US has been talking to North Korea, and paying them extortion money, for 25 years. Talking is not the answer!" The Times says it "was not clear what money the president was referring to," and also notes Trump has "been both open to and against talks with North Korea."

The [Washington Times](#) (8/30, Persons) says the President's tweet Wednesday follows his previous comments that "all options are on the table" if North Korea continues its missile testing. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/30, story 6, 2:10, Holt), Richard Engel said that "just hours after the President's tweet, Defense Secretary Mattis chimed in, seeming to contradict the President." [Reuters](#) (8/30, Ali, Kim) reports that while Trump declared "talking is not the answer" to the standoff with North Korea, Mattis "swiftly asserted that diplomatic options remain." When asked by reporters hours after Trump's tweet if the US was out of diplomatic solutions, Mattis replied: "No. We are never out of diplomatic solutions."

Trump, the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/30, story 9, 2:10, Mason) similarly reported, "seem[ed] to rule out the possibility that negotiations could end the building crisis with North Korea, but just a few hours later," Mattis, "meeting with his South Korean counter-part, sounded less belligerent." CBS showed Mattis saying in part, "We continue to work together, and the minister and I share a responsibility to provide for the protection of our nations, our populations and our interests."

The [AP](#) (8/30, Pennington) reports, "True to form...Trump sowed policy confusion with a tweet" that "appeared to clash with efforts by his Cabinet members to safeguard the possibility of a diplomatic solution." The AP says Trump's tweet "raised fresh uncertainty" about the Administration's strategy for North Korea.

Pointing to Wednesday's comments as an example, a [Washington Post](#) (8/30, Jaffe, Lamothe) analysis says that "away from the cameras and apart from the nonstop drama of the White House," Mattis has "come to play a role unlike any other Cabinet member," becoming a "force for calm, order and, in the eyes of the president's critics, quiet resistance to some of President Trump's most combative and divisive instincts." In what the Post says is "perhaps his greatest political feat," Mattis has "maintained this air of independence without directly provoking a president who demands absolute loyalty."

Trump Says 'Talking Not The Answer' On North Korea, Mattis Disagrees. [Reuters](#) (8/30, Ali, Kim) reports Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov spoke by telephone with Secretary of State Tillerson on Wednesday and "urged the US to refrain from any military action on the Korean peninsula," which it warned would be "fraught with unpredictable consequences." Lavrov "also

said Russia...believed any further sanctions on North Korea would be counter-productive."

U.S. Test Successfully Intercepts Ballistic Missile. The [New York Times](#) (8/30, Sullivan) reports the US conducted a missile-defense test on Wednesday off the coast of Hawaii and successfully intercepted a medium-range ballistic missile. Wednesday's test was conducted by the Missile Defense Agency and Navy sailors on the John Paul Jones, "a guided-missile destroyer." Missile Defense Agency Director Lt. Gen. Sam Greaves said, "We are working closely with the fleet to develop this important new capability, and this was a key milestone" in advancing the capability to intercept missiles.

[USA Today](#) (8/30, Michaels) says the test "raises fresh questions about the feasibility of the US military intercepting a North Korean missile test as a means of deterring the country from future provocative launches." Experts say the system "may not be a practical option since most North Korea missile tests have been aimed at the open seas."

Interior's Zinke Recommends Local Access To Monument.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (8/29, Bautista) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "wants the Marianas Trench Monument to continue to be federally protected, but acknowledged that it should be accessible as a resource to those who live in the area." In his report to President Trump last Friday, Zinke recommended "that the 27 national monuments, including the Marianas Trench Marine Monument, should continue to be federally protected, with a change as to who may access the monuments' grounds."

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (8/28) reports that the review of monuments was "praised by New England and Hawaii commercial fishing groups, along with New Mexico ranchers."

Strong Opposition Voiced To Reducing The National Marine Sanctuaries. The [Samoa News](#) (8/24, Sagapolutele) reports that "more than 98,000 whose comments were released on the federal portal – [www.regulations.gov](#) – in response to a US Department of Commerce notice issued June 26th seeking public input regarding President Trump's Apr. 28th executive order for the US Secretary of Commerce to conduct a review of national marine sanctuaries and marine national monuments designated or expanded since Apr. 28, 2007 throughout the nation." According to the article, "the vast majority of those who submitted comments strongly oppose any reduction to marine sanctuaries including the NMSAS, and some even specifically pointed to the importance of the Rose Atoll Monument to many marine species and birds."

National GOP Leaders' Push For Equal US Citizenship Is Backed.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (8/29, Encinares) reports that "Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and several members of the Legislature support the Republican Party's push for 'equal U.S. citizenship' to be extended to the three U.S. territories." The Republic National Committee last Friday adopted a resolution titled "Affirming Equal Citizenship for All Americans," which "says U.S. citizens residing in the 'territories of Guam, NMI, and the Virgin Islands,' regardless of their sex, race, color, ethnicity, religion or creed, are 'entitled to the full of enjoyment of their citizenship.'" The resolution calls for the U.S. Congress to "ensure that American citizens residing in the territories of Guam, NMI, and the Virgin Islands to have unfettered enjoyment of their American citizenship."

Earthquake Strikes Guam Hours After Kim Jong-un Threats.

The [Daily Mail](#) (8/30, Davies) reports that "a magnitude 5.2 earthquake has struck Guam just a day after Kim Jong-un promised to target a US military base on the island." The US Geological Survey "says the earthquake hit at 8am on Wednesday and that the epicenter was 51.7 miles (83.4km) southeast of Inarajan Village, a community of about 2,300 people."

Lolo Says Concerns Over N. Korea Threat Should Include Am Samoa.

The [Samoa News](#) (8/18, Sagapolutele) reports that "Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga says Congress needs to be aware that American Samoa is a US territory and a valuable platform for a military staging area and frontline defense, given its proximity to the Asian Rim countries." Moliga's "comments were made in an Aug. 15th letter to US Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke, a day after US Rep. William 'Mac' Thornberry, chairman of the US House Armed Forces Committee appeared on CNN discussing the escalating tension between North Korea and the U.S, particularly on the recent threat by North Korean leader, Kim Jong Un, to fire four missiles into waters near the US territory of Guam."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Talanei \(ASM\)](#) (8/18).

'We Have To Make Tough Decisions If We Want To Survive'.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (8/23) reports that Governor Kenneth Mapp said on talk radio "on Tuesday that the territory's financial condition demands difficult choices relative to government spending, stating that the territory's survival depends on its ability to live within its means." Mapp said, "We're just at a point where we simply have to make the tough decisions if we want to survive. Liken it to you in the community that have your family, if you're a two parent or one parent household and somebody gets laid off or your hours get reduced. Or if you're operating a business and the season goes off and the revenue is lower, you've got to make changes to survive because you can't just spend the way that you normally spend; you can't do the things that you normally do, so you must make the adjustments in order to remain balanced."

The [St. Croix Source](#) (8/22, Kossler) reports that "as a cost-saving measure to help with the territory's financial crisis, Gov. Kenneth Mapp sent a bill to the Senate this week changing the formula for premiums for active and retired government employees." According to the administration, "the changes would save about \$21 million every year."

Additional coverage of the Virgin Islands' financial crisis was provided by the [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (8/25).

New CW Permits Now Available.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (8/30) reports that Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan has announced "that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service has begun implementing his Northern Mariana Islands Economic Expansion Act, which President Trump signed into law on Aug. 22." According to the article, "an additional 350 CW-1 permits are now available for current employees whose permits expire between Aug. 23 and Sept. 30 of this year." The legislation "lifts the fiscal year cap on CW-1 permits from 12,998 to 13,348, the first time that the number of CW-1 permits has been allowed to increase."

Additional Coverage: Next Target Guam, North Korea Says.

Additional coverage of North Korea's launch of a missile over Japan was provided by [CNN International](#) (8/29, Lendon, Berlinger) and the [Guam Daily Post](#) (8/29).

Top National News

Media Analyses: Trump's Push For "Pro-Worker" Tax Reform Lacked Specifics.

Local TV outlets offered favorable assessments of the President's push for tax reform during a visit to Springfield, MO, but national media coverage was generally critical, charging that Trump did not provide enough specifics. In a brief report, for example, the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/30, story 8, 0:20, Mason) said last night Trump "gave no specifics other than cutting the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 15 percent," [USA Today](#) (8/30, Korte) indicated he "was selling a tax plan that largely doesn't exist," the [Dallas Morning News](#) (8/30, Benning) that "notably lacking was any plan," and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/30, Puzanghera) that the speech was "heavy on populism but almost devoid of specifics." Noted in nearly all stories was Trump's admonition to lawmakers that he doesn't "want to be disappointed" by them again – an apparent reference to efforts to repeal Obamacare earlier this summer which, says [Bloomberg News](#) (8/30, Sink, Olorunnipa), "ended...with a spectacular defeat." As [Reuters](#) (8/30, Morgan) reports, Trump went on to say, "I think Congress is going to make a comeback, I hope so. I'll tell you what, the United States is counting on it." According to [KOLR-TV](#) Springfield, MO (8/30, 6:01 p.m. CDT), that last comment "was met with some pretty enthusiastic applause."

[KYTV-TV](#) Springfield, MO (8/30, 6:02 p.m. CDT) reported, "The President is talking [about] rewriting the tax code and he said something we all can appreciate: he is planning to simplify the process. Apparently it used to be two pages long, the tax code, and now it's 100 pages long. He wants to take it back to simple." KYTV added that Trump "said 90% of Americans right now, 90%, have to hire a professional tax accountant to file their taxes every year. He's hoping that for the average Joe...those days are gone. Again, simplify the process, hopefully not make it so confusing, and for small business owners, he says ease the burden. And business owners here, at least, say it's about time."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/30, Paletta, Wagner) reports that "during the failed push to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, Trump seemed disinterested in fully utilizing the bully pulpit provided by his office," but "on tax reform, the White House is planning a series of pitches by

Trump himself, building on his remarks Wednesday." A "senior Republican congressional aide said Trump's speech was exactly the kind of message lawmakers want to see the president deliver and only wished he had started sooner."

The [AP](#) (8/30, Lucey, Thomas) reports that "Trump, who rarely travels to promote his policy agenda, chose to debut his tax overhaul pitch before employees at a manufacturing plant" in Springfield, "a community known as the birthplace of Route 66, one of the nation's original highways, and one known as America's Main Street." Said Trump, "This is where America's Main Street will begin its big, beautiful comeback." [KODE-TV](#) Joplin, MO (8/30, 5:03 p.m. CDT) said that Trump's "plan is to bring businesses back to the United States by exporting our goods and not our jobs. He plans to keep our jobs in America by reforming our taxes which according to him haven't been reformed in over 30 years." [KTVI-TV](#) St. Louis (8/30, 5:04 p.m. CDT) showed Trump saying, "We need a competitive tax code that creates more jobs and higher wages for Americans. It's time to give American workers the pay raise they have been looking for many, many years."

The [New York Post](#) (8/30, Fredericks) reports Trump said his tax reform ideas "would help workers and the middle class in an economy rigged against them," and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/30, Rubin) also reports the story under the headline "Trump Pitches Business Tax Cut To Middle Class." Meanwhile, the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (8/30, McDermott, Suntrup) refers to a "fervent call for lower and simpler taxes, including a more than 50-percent cut in business taxes," and notes Trump promised "a 'pro-job' 'pro-worker' 'pro-America' policy." [Townhall](#) (8/30, Pavlich) quotes the President as further stating, "This is our once in a generation opportunity to deliver real tax reform for everyday, hardworking Americans. ... This is our opportunity to deliver real tax reform for Americans. I am fully committed to working with Congress to get this job done." Trump also exhorted lawmakers to "out the partisan posturing behind us and come together as Americans, to create the 21st century tax code that our people deserve," adding, "What could possibly be more bipartisan than helping people keep more of what they earn?"

While the [New York Times](#) (8/30, A1, Davis) – as did the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/30, story 8, 0:20, Mason) – reports on its front page that Trump "offered few specifics beyond a goal of a 15 percent corporate tax rate," [The Hill](#) (8/30, Jagoda, Easley) indicated that he "laid out four principles he would like to see in a tax-code rewrite: A tax code that's simple and easy to understand, a globally competitive tax code, tax relief for middle-class families and bringing back trillions of dollars in money held overseas." [Breitbart](#) (8/30, Carney) said "this was a departure from the principles of tax reform announced during the 2016 campaign," which included a pledge not to "add to the debt or deficit of the federal government."

In an editorial, the [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (8/30) quips, "No wonder he went to Missouri to say all this rather than to Sam Brownback's Kansas, where he would have gotten laughs in all the wrong places."

Presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (8/30) that Trump went to Missouri and "basically said to them, 'We want those manufacturing jobs to come back. You deserve a pay raise, you deserve a tax cut.'" The instruction page is over 240 pages long. That's the instruction page. We are spending billions of hours, costing millions of jobs because of this draconian, outdated tax code." Trump "went to Missouri today to tell the nation and to tell the Congress...that this President is set on reforming the tax code and giving relief to middle-class families."

Conway said on [CNN's Cuomo Prime Time](#) (8/30), "This is basically like getting a pay raise for many middle-class Americans, middle-income earners, I should say. We are reducing their marginal rate, but we're also reducing the rate on small-business owners and entrepreneurs, who are already suffering under the yolk of Obamacare, which, of course, was one of the biggest job killers and tax raisers in modern history. In addition to that regulation they've had to overcome, they are now taxed in a way that hurts their productivity and their ability to attract and retain the American workforce, expand their operations, survive and prosper."

Former White House communications director Jen Psaki was asked on [CNN's The Lead](#) (8/30) if the White House should have postponed the push for tax reform. Psaki said, "If I were advising them, I would say yes, because the President's focus should be on Harvey. He should be communicating mainly about Harvey. What he is saying this week when Congress is not back is not changing the momentum for tax reform. Congress isn't even in Washington at this point in time."

Commentator Alice Stewart said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (8/30), "If he hadn't gone to Texas yesterday, I would say yes, postpone it. But going to Texas yesterday and showing his support and reiterating that the federal government is here to help you, that was critical. ... It's not going

away, this will be an ongoing effort, but walking and chewing gum at the same time, pushing the agenda down the road and getting the message out there. It's good to talk about the tax cut, the corporate tax, but also good for people watching. Contact your members of Congress, let them know you support tax reform, because this is an important agenda to get passed."

Mara Liasson of NPR said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/30), "President Trump sounded like he couldn't wait to get to Election Day, but he's got a long way to go on tax reform before he gets to blame Claire McCaskill for the end of it. Tax reform is an opportunity for Republicans to get all back on the same page with the President." But Trump "is going to have to get his Republicans together. Remember, the Treasury Secretary said this is going to be passed by August and it hasn't been. And some members of congress and tax-writing committee members have different ideas than the President about the rates should be, what those corporate rates should be.... But, tax reform is something, or at least released tax cuts is something that Republicans should be able to unite around."

Byron York of The Washington Examiner said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/30), "It was a disciplined speech, a focused speech. Trump stayed on script, which is always good news for him. The most important point he made was his second reason for tax reform: create more jobs and higher wages. Republicans are doing a lot of research on what they need to do to win next year, and it all boils down to more jobs at higher wages."

Trump Fails To Mention Cohn As He Praises Officials Involved In Tax Push. [Bloomberg News](#) (8/30, Jacobs, Olorunnipa) reports Trump "singled out several top advisers who accompanied him to a speech about overhauling the tax code on Wednesday, but not the man leading the administration's effort, chief economic adviser Gary Cohn." Cohn "was among the officials who traveled with Trump to Missouri, including senior adviser Ivanka Trump, White House chief of staff John Kelly, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and Small Business Administration chief Linda McMahon." The President "gave each of those five a shout-out," and also "named members of Congress in attendance."

[Politico](#) (8/30, McCaskill) points out that it "is unclear whether Cohn was inside the Loren Cook Company building as Trump spoke," but adds that "it's also not clear why Trump avoided a direct mention of Cohn, a potential candidate to replace Janet Yellen as chair of the Federal Reserve." Cohn "did criticize Trump last week during an interview for the president's response to the deadly violence at a white supremacist rally in Charlottesville."

Trump: If McCaskill Doesn't Support Tax Reform, "Vote Her Out Of Office." Also getting much press attention is the President's swipe at Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO). As the [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (8/30, McDermott, Suntrup) reports, Trump "edged, briefly, into Missouri's high-profile 2018 Senate race, in which" McCaskill "is seeking her third term." Said Trump, "Your Sen. Claire McCaskill must do this for you...and if she doesn't do it for you, you must vote her out of office." The Post-Dispatch adds that comment "evoked from the crowd the biggest cheer of the day." The story says that present at the event were "most top Missouri Republicans, including US Sen. Roy Blunt, Gov. Eric Greitens, all six of the state's Republican members of Congress and most of the state's statewide elected Republicans." In fact, says the [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (8/30, Lowry, Hancock), state Attorney General Josh Hawley (R), who is "exploring a run for US Senate next year against...McCaskill, was the only statewide Republican official to skip the president's visit."

The [Washington Times](#) (8/30, Boyer) reports that Trump also said, "We just can't do this anymore with the obstruction and the obstructionists. The Dems are looking to obstruct tax cuts and tax reform." Along those lines, the Times reports Trump's push is "likely to unify Republicans and raise pressure on Democrats in conservative states for some rare cooperation."

[Politico](#) (8/30, Gerstein) reported that Trump's "public electoral threat Wednesday against...McCaskill...triggered another round of questions about the administration's blurring the line between partisan politics and official business." According to "ethics experts...the main issue...is whether he was ad-libbing or whether White House aides planned for him to urge McCaskill's defeat." While "Trump is not covered by the Hatch Act, the federal law prohibiting politicking while on official duty...White House officials are subject to the measure." While "the White House did not respond to a question about who prepared the speech or how the related expenses would be paid for," press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said, "It's not a political threat when you ask a member of Congress to do their job."

In a piece titled "Why Claire McCaskill Is Holding Her Fire," Kevin Robillard wrote for [Politico Magazine](#) (8/30, Robillard) that Trump had "already launched an opening salvo at McCaskill, arguably the most vulnerable Democratic senator heading into the 2018 elections, saying [in a tweet] 'C.M.' is 'opposed to big tax cuts.' That tweet marked the unofficial start of what will be a two-year GOP-wide effort to disparage and eventually defeat" McCaskill, who "knows what's

coming, and she has chosen not to fire back, even at a president who is as hot a target for her party as Trump. That's because McCaskill knows the futility of trying to persuade staunchly conservative voters."

White House Targeting Manchin, Donnelly And Heitkamp As Potential Tax Reform Backers. [Politico](#) (8/30, Nussbaum, Schor) that even as Trump tried to put McCaskill on the spot, Vice President Pence was preparing to visit West Virginia – "a state Trump carried by more than 40 points" – to "appear alongside Sen. Joe Manchin...at a Chamber of Commerce event." Manchin "is up for re-election in 2018. Like Manchin, Sens. Joe Donnelly and Heidi Heitkamp...are also top targets for the White House," as the three "were the only three Democratic senators who didn't sign a letter circulated by minority leader Chuck Schumer this month outlining principles for Democrats on tax reform." A "senior administration official" is quoted as saying, "If they don't help us, it could end up hurting them in the 2018 midterms."

CNN Cut Away From Trump Speech. [The Hill](#) (8/30, Concha) reported that "CNN cut away early from...Trump's speech on tax reform Wednesday, breaking with other cable news and business networks." The Hill added that "seven minutes into the president's speech, at approximately 2:48 p.m., CNN switched to covering anchor Brooke Baldwin's Skype interview with a flood victim in Texas." Fox News, Fox Business, MSNBC, CNBC, Bloomberg TV, One America News and Newsmax TV "all stayed with the president's speech" for the 34 minutes it lasted.

Trump To Discuss Tax Reform With "Big Six" As Ryan, Brady Express Support. A "White House official" told [Roll Call](#) (8/30, Bennett) Trump "will meet with the 'Big Six' group of tax writers Tuesday at the White House." The "group of heavy-hitters includes: Speaker Paul D. Ryan, House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady," Mnuchin, "Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch, and Cohn." Roll Call adds that "one member of that group, Ryan, described Trump and congressional Republicans as 'united in our determination to get this done,'" while Brady "said he was encouraged by Trump's remarks."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (8/30, story 5, 2:20, Jackson) said "top Republicans on Capitol Hill tell NBC News they're confident tax reform will be easier than healthcare," but adds that "before Congress can get to that, it has to pass a budget first, as pressure from the President builds." In an editorial, meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/30, Board) ties success on tax reform to any GOP chances of winning in 2018, and urges Republican lawmakers to gear their efforts toward crafting a bill that lowers taxes and helps spark economic growth.

Fox Poll: Only 14% Believe Tax Reform Likely To Be Enacted. [Fox News](#) (8/30, Blanton) reported that "the latest Fox News poll finds that just 15 percent of voters approve of the job Congress is doing, while about five times as many, 74 percent, disapprove." Meanwhile, "49 percent of voters feel it is important Congress pass tax reform legislation this year," but "far fewer, 14 percent, think it's likely to get accomplished."

Milbank: Republican Tax Cuts Will Balloon The Debt. In his [Washington Post](#) (8/30) column, Dana Milbank writes that Republicans – in the words of Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget President Maya MacGuineas – are starting to fall into a "predictable spiral" of pressing for tax cuts while failing to address their impact on the federal debt, as evidenced by the cuts in President Trump's announced tax reform plan coupled with increases in defense spending. Milbank argues that Trump "is poised to oversee an exponential increase in that debt."

Trump Could Request Harvey Aid Package Next Week.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/30, Paletta, O'Keefe, Debonis) reports that the President "could request a package of emergency funding to deal with the damage caused by Hurricane Harvey as soon as next week," according to "a senior administration official," but "no final decision on the funding request has been made and it could fluctuate based on conversations with lawmakers." [Roll Call](#) (8/30, Bennett) reports that Senate Majority Leader McConnell, House Speaker Ryan, Senate Minority Leader Schumer, and House Minority Leader Pelosi are expected to meet with White House officials next week.

However, [Roll Call](#) (8/30, Bennett) reports, "The White House has a message for those speculating on how much hurricane-ravaged Texas might need from the federal government and how a relief package might move through Congress: Pump the brakes." Press secretary Sarah Sanders said Tuesday evening "that it is too soon to say how a Harvey aid package might move through Congress." Sanders said, "We are still working through that process, I think the first thing is to determine how much they need, what the need is, and then develop the best process and plan for them." The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/30, Giaritelli) reports that Sanders said the President "will act to ensure Texas receives federal funding approved by Congress but skated

around what that process could entail." Kellyanne Conway similarly said on [CNN's Cuomo Prime Time](#) (8/30), "We don't know if it will be weeks, months, years. But this president and vice president and Cabinet stand ready to assist those in need."

The [AP](#) (8/30) reports that though the President "is promising billions...his Republican allies in the House are looking at cutting almost \$1 billion from disaster accounts to help finance the president's border wall." The pending FEMA budget cut "is part of a massive spending bill that the House is scheduled to consider next week." [McClatchy](#) (8/30, Clark) reports that though the President has threatened to shut down the government over border wall funding, that "may be muted by negotiations among congressional leaders" eager to avoid a shutdown "and quickly deliver aid to storm-ravaged Texas."

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (8/30, Ramirez) reports, "Harvey is gone, but the difficult task of rebuilding the Texas coast still remains." At a joint news conference, Sen. Ted Cruz, Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), and Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner "stressed the need to push a united message to Washington." Jackson Lee said, "This is a bipartisan effort. I've gotten calls from across the country from Republicans and Democrats."

Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX) said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (8/30), "I hope Congress can go back into session and Texas will be a supplemental package in the tens of billions of dollars. I hope we can support that as Republicans and Democrats and really learn a lesson not to get into the divisiveness that characterized the Superstorm Sandy relief package."

Rep. Mike McCaul (R-TX) was asked on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (8/30) if he is concerned that federal agencies have sufficient personnel in their regional offices to handle the recovery process. McCaul said, "I believe they have it right now. The question is at what point is that going to be depleted and we are going to need assistance coming in. ... FEMA has a \$3 billion disaster recovery fund. That will be depleted I think fairly soon as you all well know, this will be a topic of conversation when we get back into Congress. There will be an emergency supplemental bill to deal with this."

Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX) said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (8/30), "The state and the local folks are responsible first for disaster relief funds, and I think they have spent all of those. There are some funds available already, but I do believe that there will have to be some type of appropriation specifically for Hurricane Harvey for the entire Gulf Coast, wherever it goes. ... I think people get it, that this is a national disaster that affects everybody, and I think there will be an appropriation."

Joel Pollak of [Breitbart](#) (8/30, Pollak) suggests President Trump tie Harvey aid to his infrastructure bill, writing, "The issues are closely related, since there will be an urgent demand to rebuild or repair infrastructure damaged by the storm, and other states threatened by future natural disasters – not just hurricanes – will want to shore up their defenses now." And "there may not be another opportunity to jump-start the president's stalled infrastructure plans." [The Hill](#) (8/30, Zanona) reports that Administration officials said Wednesday that the infrastructure package "will be broken up into three pieces, with the largest chunk of funding dedicated to projects that already have some private or local money secured." OMB Director Mulvaney told state and local officials, "We're looking at breaking this up into pieces. The largest piece of the package is going to be wrapped around incentives."

[USA Today](#) (8/30, Jansen) reports that though Texas "has a larger-than-average share of bridges: 53,488 out of the country's 614,387," the state "takes above-average care of them, according to a review by the American Society of Civil Engineers: Only 900 or 1.7% are rated structurally deficient by federal inspectors. For comparison, 9% of bridges nationwide are rated deficient."

Abbott Says Recovery May Cost Federal Government More Than \$125 Billion. The [Washington Times](#) (8/30, Dinan) reports that Gov. Greg Abbott said Wednesday that "he expects federal taxpayers will have to pony up 'far in excess' of \$125 billion to help the recovery effort. ... He said the federal government spent about \$125 billion on Katrina – though federal budget numbers say the figure was closer to \$100 billion – and Mr. Abbott said Texas will need more than that." [Reuters](#) (8/30, Scheyder) briefly reports on Abbott's statement. [Bloomberg Business](#) (8/30, Romero) reports that the "full economic impact is still unclear. Risk-modeling company RMS estimates \$70 billion to \$90 billion in losses from wind, storm surge and flood damage," most of it in the Houston area.

Trump Rolled Back Obama Disaster Aid Order Two Weeks Before Storm. The [AP](#) (8/30, Biesecker, Lowy) reports that two weeks before the storm, President Trump "quietly rolled back an order by his predecessor that would have made it easier for storm-ravaged communities to use federal emergency aid to rebuild bridges, roads and other structures so they can better

withstand future disasters." Critics say the order "could force Houston and other cities to rebuild hospitals and highways in the same way and in the same flood-prone areas."

NYTimes Analysis: 2013 Sandy Aid Bill Was Not "Full Of Pork." The [New York Times](#) (8/30, Qiu) reports, "As Tropical Storm Harvey barrels down the Gulf Coast and talk of a disaster-relief bill begins, Republican lawmakers from Texas are rushing to defend their 2013 votes against spending \$50.5 billion on Hurricane Sandy relief." While GOP critics say the 2013 bill was "full of pork," a Times assessment finds the claims "hyperbolic and misleading," with most of the funding either "Sandy-related" or intended "to mitigate future storms."

Gov. Chris Christie said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (8/30) that Congress should pass a relief bill "quickly. The fact is that we know after Katrina and Sandy, we know the parameters of the kind of aid that will be necessary and how it will be used. The recovery time for Sandy has been half the amount of time it took for Katrina. We learned a lot from the mistakes of Katrina and they can learn from some of the mistakes they learned from Sandy."

US Economy Grew 3% In Q2, In "Best Quarterly Showing In Two Years."

The [New York Times](#) (8/30, Schwartz) reports that the Commerce Department on Wednesday said "that the economy had expanded at an annual rate of 3 percent in the second quarter of the year, better than initially estimated, and a substantial acceleration over the first quarter's lackluster 1.2 percent pace. The revised figure is still well below President Trump's target of 4 percent growth, but it is the economy's best quarterly showing in two years. 'The economy is stronger than you think,' said Chris Rupkey, the chief financial economist at Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group in New York. 'Bet on it.'"

[Reuters](#) (8/30, Mutikani) reports, "The upward revision from the 2.6 percent pace reported last month reflected robust consumer spending as well as strong business investment. ... Economists had expected that second-quarter GDP growth would be raised to a 2.7 percent rate." Reuters adds, "Growth estimates for the third quarter are as high as a 3.4 percent rate."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/30, Leubsdorf) reports that there is currently little indication that a downturn in the economy is imminent. Morgan Stanley chief US economist Ellen Zenter told the Journal, "Typically in a business expansion, you would see growth start to arc downward as we get later into the cycle. ... It's incredible to sustain this kind of momentum this far into a business expansion."

[The Hill](#) (8/30, Ellis) reported that President Trump on Wednesday "touted" the upward revision "showing that the economy grew at an annualized rate of 3 percent in the second quarter of 2017, while attempting to take a shot at his predecessor, Barack Obama. 'We just announced that we hit 3 percent in [gross domestic product]. It just came out. And on a yearly basis, as you know, the last administration during an eight-year period never hit 3 percent, so we're really on our way,' Trump said during a speech on tax reform in Springfield, Mo."

Private-Sector Added "Robust 237,000 Net New Jobs" In August. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/30, Puzanghera) reports that the private sector added "a robust 237,000 net new jobs" in August, "a sign that the labor market remains strong and should start pushing up wages. The figures released Wednesday by payroll firm Automatic Data Processing exceeded analysts' expectations of 185,000 and were a significant improvement over an upwardly revised 201,000 net new private-sector jobs in July." Said Moody's Analytics chief economist Mark Zandi, "The job market continues to power forward. ... Job creation is strong across nearly all industries [and] company sizes. Mounting labor shortages are set to get much worse."

Buffett: "I Would Guess We Are In A 2% Growth Economy." [USA Today](#) (8/30, Shell) reports that billionaire investor Warren Buffett "says it still feels more like a 2% economy to him despite the government" revising "its second-quarter GDP growth estimate to 3%." USA Today adds, "When asked if it felt like a 3% economy, Buffett" – appearing on CNBC – replied, "I would guess we are in a 2% growth economy now. Every now and then we think we are accelerating, and every now and then that maybe there's a double dip. It just seems to be a couple of percent."

Trump Administration Revokes Waiver Policy For Welfare Work Requirements.

In a move toward reimposing work requirements for welfare recipients, the Trump Administration on Wednesday revoked "an Obama-era policy that had urged states to apply for waivers exempting the poor from having to show they were either getting job training or looking for work," the [Washington Times](#) (8/30, Dinan) reports. The move restores the 1986 welfare reform law, which includes the work requirement, as written.

The [AP](#) (8/30) says the Obama Administration said in 2012 that "it would be willing to grant states waivers to some of the requirements" if governors "could show they could accomplish the

same welfare-to-work goals using different methods." While Ohio was the only state to apply for a waiver, it was "neither approved nor denied by the Obama administration." The state was told Wednesday that its application was being denied. According to Acting Assistant Secretary for Children and Families Steven Wagner, the waiver option is being replaced "by an expectation that work should always be encouraged as a condition for receiving welfare."

Administration Nixes Obama Rule Requiring Companies To Report Pay Data.

[Reuters](#) (8/30, Wiessner) reports that the Trump Administration has blocked an Obama-era rule "requiring US employers to report detailed pay data broken down by gender and race echoing business groups by saying it would not have the intended effect of addressing wage gaps." OMB said in a memo on Tuesday that "the rule was burdensome to companies and could pose privacy and confidentiality issues." Reuters calls the move "the Trump administration's latest bid to undo Obama-era policies designed to help workers or unions." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/30) editorial is critical of the rule and says the decision to block it is good news for employers and workers who want their pay to be based on merit rather than government mandates.

Trump Rolls Back Obama-Era Order To Fund Rebuilding After Storms.

Two weeks before Hurricane Harvey "engulfed much of Houston" in floodwaters, the [AP](#) (8/30, Biesecker and Lowy) reports President Trump "quietly rolled back an order by his predecessor that would have made it easier for storm-ravaged communities to use federal emergency aid to rebuild bridges, roads and other structures." The AP says that order "would have permitted the rebuilding to take into account climate scientists' predictions of stronger storms and more frequent flooding."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Affirming Privacy, Rebuking India's Leaders." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (8/30) writes that the Indian Supreme Court's unanimous decision last week affirming a fundamental right to privacy has opened the door "to litigation on specific privacy issues down the line," such as dietary restrictions or gay marriage, and has reaffirmed "the fundamental freedoms that make all democracies strong."

"On Voting Reforms, Follow Illinois, Not Texas." The [New York Times](#) (8/31) editorializes, "In the face of America's abysmal voter participation rates, lawmakers have two choices: They can make voting easier, or they can make it harder. Illinois made the right choice this week" by enacting automatic voter registration. The bill, "which could add as many as one million voters to the state's rolls, was signed by Gov. Bruce Rauner, a Republican who had vetoed similar legislation last year."

"Beyond Houston, A World Awash." The [New York Times](#) (8/31) editorializes, "Houston isn't the only major city reeling from record rainfall and devastating floods. ... So far this summer, flooding has killed more than 1,000 people in India, Nepal and perennially flood-prone Bangladesh. The United Nations says at least 41 million people have been directly affected by flooding and landslides in South Asia, with homes and croplands destroyed." Like Hurricane Harvey, "these unnatural rainfalls carry two messages. One is the risk of unregulated development. ... The second message is that unabated climate change does, indeed, exact a price."

Washington Post.

"After Harvey, Flood Insurance Needs Reform." A [Washington Post](#) (8/30) editorial says the US is "long overdue for smart reforms" to the National Flood Insurance Program, and that the reauthorization deadline next month should "galvanize Congress to ensure enough money is available to pay current commitments, while reforming NFIP for the future." The Post argues that "what's needed are tougher flood-risk mitigation requirements, more realistic premiums and encouragement for private-sector involvement in the business, based on modern technology that may enable insurance companies to underwrite risks they could not have underwritten in the 1960s."

"Will The Divider In Chief Strike Again?" In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/30) wonders whether President Trump will dismantle DACA as requested by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and other conservatives who challenge the program as unconstitutional or preserve it. The

Post concludes, "There is no clamor for ending DACA, which polls suggest enjoys broad public support. Ending the program would be a cruel betrayal and a gratuitous blow against the very people Mr. Trump just months ago described as 'incredible.'"

"Fixing The 'Grocery Gap.'" In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/30) writes that the DC government needs to address better the lack of grocery options in the city's Wards 7 and 8, arguing that the lack of access to fresh produce and other foods "can lead to poor nutrition and bad health outcomes," especially among "some of the city's most vulnerable people."

Wall Street Journal.

"The GOP's Tax Reform Baseline." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/30, Board) ties success on tax reform to any GOP chances of winning in 2018, and urges Republican lawmakers to gear their efforts toward crafting a bill that lowers taxes and helps spark economic growth.

"Rauner's Big School Victory." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/30) writes that Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner on Wednesday signed into law a state private-school choice program providing \$100 million in tax-credit scholarships that will allow low-income students to attend private schools. The Journal argues that the law – which also includes \$450 million for Chicago Public Schools – offers a great step forward in helping poorer students have greater academic opportunities.

"An Obama Pay Rule Dies." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/30) editorial is critical of an Obama-era rule requiring companies to report pay data broken down by gender and race, and says the Trump Administration's decision to block it is good news for employers and workers who want their pay to be based on merit rather than government mandates.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Harvey Ripples Through US, Global Energy Markets](#)

[Harvey Delivers Another Blow To Katrina Survivors](#)

[Cadillac, After Years Of Struggle, Has Found Its Sweet Spot: China](#)

[Paul Manafort's Overseas Political Work Had A Notable Patron: A Russian Oligarch](#)

New York Times:

[As Houston Looks To Recover, Small Towns Now Bear The Brunt](#)

[A Storm Forces Houston, The Limitless City, To Consider Its Limits](#)

[Clinging To Her Drowning "Mama," A Little Girl Survives The Raging Flood](#)

[Trump In Missouri Lays Groundwork For Tax Overhaul But Offers No Details](#)

[Google Critic Ousted From Think Tank Funded By The Tech Giant](#)

[Diana's Legacy: A Reshaped Monarchy, A More Emotional UK](#)

Washington Post:

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[Pentagon Chief Shows A Deft Touch](#)

[As Trump Embraces Egypt's Sissi, Abuses Rise](#)

[Harvey Crashes Into Texas And Louisiana, Bringing New Waves Of Punishing Rain And Emergency Conditions](#)

[For Police, A Grim Turn On Houston's Graveyard Shift](#)

[Next Are Insurance Battles And The Search For Housing](#)

Financial Times:

[European Fuel Armada Heads For US After Tropical Storm Harvey](#)

[Theresa May Vows To Fight Next UK Election As Prime Minister](#)

[David Tang, Bon Vivant And FT Columnist, Dies Aged 63](#)

[Tech Companies Endure Near-Doubling Of Requests For Personal Data](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump's "American Model" For Tax Cuts Encourages Republicans, Unites Democrats In Opposition](#)

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[Harvey Leaves Massive Public Health Problems In Its Wake](#)
[Federal Judge Blocks Enforcement Of Texas Crackdown On Sanctuary Cities](#)
[Acid Flashback: CIA's Mind-Control Experiment Reverberates 40 Years After Hearings](#)
[Sheriffs Near Agreement To Act As Contractors, Hold Illegal Immigrants For Feds](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Hurricane Harvey-Volunteer Rescuers; Hurricane Harvey-Airborne Rescues; Hurricane Harvey-Evacuees; Hurricane Harvey-Chemical Plant Danger; Hurricane Harvey-Forecast; North Korea Threats; New Cancer Therapy; McCain-Health Condition; Hurricane Harvey-Gasoline Price; California-Police Shooting; Hurricane Harvey-Houston Airports; Hurricane Harvey-Philanthropist.

CBS: Hurricane Harvey-Rescues; Hurricane Harvey-Neighborhoods Flooding; Hurricane Harvey-Victims; Hurricane Harvey-Airborne Rescues; Hurricane Harvey-Chemical Plant Danger; Hurricane Harvey-Climate; Hurricane Harvey-Trump Comment; Trump-Tax Reform; North Korea Threats; New Cancer Therapy; Hurricane Harvey-Philanthropist.

NBC: Hurricane Harvey-Airborne Rescues; Hurricane Harvey-Houston; Hurricane Harvey-Forecast; Hurricane Harvey-Gasoline Price; Trump-Tax Reform; North Korea Threats; Hurricane Harvey-Health Concerns; New Cancer Therapy; US Fathership Average Age; Princess Diana-Passing Anniversary; Hurricane Harvey-Donations.

Network TV At A Glance:

Hurricane Harvey – 40 minutes, 35 seconds
North Korea Threats – 5 minutes, 55 seconds
New Cancer Therapy – 3 minutes, 45 seconds
Trump-Tax Reform – 2 minutes, 40 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Hurricane Harvey; Hurricane Harvey-Chemical Plant Danger; Texas Sanctuary Cities Law Blocked; California-Police Shooting; California-Wildfire; Wall Street News.

CBS: Hurricane Harvey; Hurricane Harvey-Forecast; Trump-Tax Reform; Texas Sanctuary Cities Law Blocked; Wall Street News.

FOX: Hurricane Harvey; Texas Sanctuary Cities Law Blocked.

NPR: Hurricane Harvey; Hurricane Harvey-Chemical Plant Danger; Texas Sanctuary Cities Law Blocked.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster; meets with the Director of the Office of Management and Budget Mick Mulvaney.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Meet with storm survivors and survey damage in Rockport, Texas; participates in a media availability.

US Senate: On recess until 5 September.

US House: On recess until 5 September.

Other: No notable events scheduled.

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Trevor Noah: "It is a time for Americans to help our fellow Americans. And as we just learned, it's also a time for non-Americans to help out too. ... I guess Donald Trump is right, some Mexicans are good people."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Jefferson (IN) News & Tribune: Town Clock Church Gets Network To Freedom Grant.
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- Kingman (AZ) Daily Miner: Katherine Landing's Commercial Services To Be Updated.
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Office Of Insular Affairs

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US Geological Survey

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- FINALLY! President Trump Kicks Off The Rollback Of National Monument Abuse.
- Additional Reading.

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- Reuters: Senate Votes To Go To Conference With House On Tax Legislation.
- Reuters: Ahead Of Meeting With Congressional Leaders, Trump Says Shutdown "Could Happen."
- Platts: Murkowski Touts Senate Energy Bill As Springboard For Trump's Infrastructure Plan.
- Associated Press: Trump's Travel Ban Faces More Court Challenges.
- Bloomberg News: Branstad: North Korea Must Halt All Testing For Talks.
- Associated Press: ADP: US Businesses Added 190,000 Jobs In November.
- Associated Press: National Homelessness Rates Rise For First Time Since 2010.
- New York Times: EPA Chief Assures Congressmen Of Agency's Scientific Integrity Policy.
- Washington Examiner: EPA Administrator Announces More Hearings On Clean Power Plan Repeal.

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 - "Let's Limit The Term Limit Debate."
 - "The Olympic Ban Helps Mr. Putin, Hurts Russia."
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- "Trump's Radical Monuments Reduction Will Sully Precious Lands."
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DOI In The News

Lawuits Address Whether Presidents Can Modify Monuments.

The [AP](#) (12/6, McCombs, Price) reports that "a flurry of lawsuits" President Trump's move to shrink the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments "could finally bring an answer to the much-debated question of whether presidents have the legal authority to undo or change monuments created by past presidents." Already, four lawsuits have been filed, "and more are expected – especially if Trump follows Zinke's recommendations to shrink two other monuments – Gold Butte in Nevada and Cascade Siskiyou in Oregon." But "legal experts disagree on whether the 1906 Antiquities Act – allowing presidents to create a monument – also lets them reduce one."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (12/6, Grandoni).

Patagonia Sues To Prevent Trump Administration From Shrinking Bears Ears Monument. The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/6, Correll) reports that "outdoor recreation company Patagonia sued Wednesday to block President Trump from shrinking Bears Ears National Monument in Utah." Patagonia called Trump's decision to reduce the size of the Bears Ears monument an "extreme overreach in authority." The [Huffington Post](#) (12/6, Madani) reports that Patagonia President and CEO Rose Marcario said in a statement, "The Administration's unlawful actions betray our shared responsibility to protect iconic places for future generations and represent the largest elimination of protected land in American history. We've fought to protect these places since we were founded and now we'll continue that fight in the courts."

Patagonia, Interior Department Trade Twitter Barbs Over 'Special Interests'. [CNN](#) (12/6, Green) reports the Interior Department and outdoor retailer Patagonia "continued their public spat over US national monuments Tuesday on Twitter, trading barbs over each others' ties to 'special interests.'" In a tweet, Patagonia referred to "a back-and-forth over" Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "travel on behalf of the agency: 'It's odd that @SecretaryZinke has no problem with special interests when they're paying for his private jets. We have been fighting for these lands for decades, so that hunters, fisherman, hikers and everyone else can use them and help us protect them.'" Following Patagonia's tweet, "the official Interior spokesperson account piped in, calling aspects of Patagonia's statement 'fake news.'" Another tweet a few minutes later said, "Not a jet. Not paid by spec interest. Same prop that prev secs used. selected by career officials."

Patagonia CEO On Trump Shrinking Monuments: 'This Is Not About Politics'. In its "Blog Briefing Room" blog, [The Hill](#) (12/6, Delk) reports that Patagonia CEO Rose Marcario "denied the company having any political motivations in its website's statement condemning President Trump's 'illegal' move to shrink two national monuments in Utah." In an op-ed for [TIME](#) (12/6, Marcario), Marcario wrote, "This is not about politics; it's about protecting the places we love and keeping the great promise of this country for our children and grandchildren. We won't let President Trump tear down our heritage and sell it to the highest bidder." Marcario also "defended the company's claim that Trump's move was illegal, citing the Antiquities Act of 1906 that allows presidents to designate national monuments but noted it does 'not give the President the power to undo a prior president's monument designations.'"

Additional Coverage. Also reporting are [AP](#) (12/6, McCOMBS), [NBC News](#) (12/6, Rainey), [PBS NewsHour](#) (12/6, Grabenstein), [The New Yorker](#) (12/6, Nijhuis), and the [Santa Fe \(NM\) Reporter](#) (12/6, Paskus).

Alaskan Oil Lease Sale Brings Few Bids Despite Vast Territory Offered.

[Reuters](#) (12/6, Rosen) reports the Trump Administration's oil and gas lease sale in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska only received seven bids. The bids covered about 80,000 acres, less than 1 percent of the 10.3 million acres offered in the sale. ConocoPhillips Alaska submitted all seven bids, worth \$1.16 million, in partnership with Anadarko. Ted Murphy, associate director of the BLM's Alaska office, said, "Lease sale interest is unpredictable. ... We don't know what industry, ultimately, will be interested in getting from year to year." The [AP](#) (12/6, Joling) reports Kristen Miller, conservation director of the Alaska Wilderness League, said the sale shows that any drilling in the Arctic Refuge will not bring in the expected revenue. The bids on Wednesday brought in \$14.99 an acre, leading Miller to say, "At that price, leasing the entirety of the Arctic Refuge coastal plain's 1.5 million acres would raise slightly more than \$11 million in revenue for the federal government, a far cry from the billion dollar lie that Trump and Republicans are feeding the American public."

Additional coverage was provided by [UPI](#) (12/6, Graeber) and the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (12/6, Harball).

Conservation Group Takes After Zinke Over Park Fees; Praises Tester.

[KRTV-TV](#) Great Falls, MT (12/6, Dennison) reports that the political arm of the Natural Resources Defense Fund, has launched a "five-figure" ad campaign in Montana opposing the Trump Administration proposal to hike "entrance fees to national parks – and praising Democratic U.S. Sen. Jon Tester for his stand on the issue." Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift said "Wednesday that the increase is 'still more affordable than taking a family of four to see a 3-D movie,' and that the majority of the increased funds will pay for park maintenance." Swift "also noted that NRDC has filed several 'expensive and frivolous lawsuits' against the Interior Department, wasting 'valuable taxpayer funds.'" The campaign by NRDC Action Fund is "the latest of several efforts by conservation groups either taking" after Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, "or boosting Tester, who is up for re-election in 2018."

Additional coverage was provided by [KTVQ-TV](#) Billings, MT (12/6, Dennison) and [KPAX-TV](#) Missoula, MT (12/6, Dennison).

Four Major Wildfires Ravage California.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/6, lead story, 3:35, Muir) reported that "at least four major fires" burned out of control in California, with "flames creeping towards the homes perched on the hills of LA." 200 structures, including a hospital, homes, and apartment buildings, have been destroyed so far. At least seven firefighters have been injured at the Creek Fire. Gale-force winds were predicted for Wednesday night, which could only exacerbate the situation. The [CBS Evening News](#) (12/6, story 3, 2:15, Glor) reported that "for much of the day, a stretch of the 405, a major highway, was closed."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (12/6, lead story, 2:50, Holt) reported that a fifth major wildfire broke out in Los Angeles near Brentwood early in the morning. Winds "could reach 70 miles per hour tomorrow," while about "15,000 homes are in the path of fire." On the ground, hundreds of firefighters "scrambled door to door, saving dozens of homes." The dry, summer-like conditions have made efforts to fight the fires far more difficult. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/6, story 2, 0:50, Muir) reported that Los Angeles could face 30 to 40-mile-per-hour wind gusts tomorrow, with 70 to 80-mile-per-hour gusts possible in the mountains.

The [AP](#) (12/7, Balsamo, Melley) reports that "about 200,000 people were under evacuation orders." There have only been a few reported injuries, and no deaths. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection Director Ken Pimlott said that the department "issued a purple forecast, the most severe, for the first time ever." Production of at least two television shows, HBO's "Westworld" and CBS' "S.W.A.T.," "was suspended because of the danger to cast and crew from two nearby fires."

[USA Today](#) (12/6) reports that there were five separate fires: "the Thomas fire, which started in Ventura County northwest of downtown Los Angeles;" "the Creek fire, north of downtown Los Angeles;" "the Rye fire...near Santa Clarita;" "the Little Mountain fire in San Bernardino;" and the Skirball fire, which began "near the Skirball Cultural Center in west Los Angeles."

The [Washington Post](#) (12/6, Wilson, Berman, Rosenberg) reports that "the Thomas Fire burned across 90,000 acres on Wednesday, spreading through an area larger than the city of Detroit." The Skirball Fire forced the evacuation of 1,200 homes. Officials in Ventura County "said

they expected the fire to grow to the north and west over the next two days, as well as what one Cal Fire official, Tim Chavez, said was a 'large probability of spot fires that will spread easily and spread rapidly.'"

The [New York Times](#) (12/6, Medina, Pérez-Peña) reports that "smoke from the fires ringing the region could be spotted from the Santa Monica Pier, the streets of downtown and the beaches of Santa Catalina Island." Additionally, "the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles was closed to the public for a second day on Wednesday because of the wildfires."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/6, Etehad, Nelson, Kohli) reports one fire destroyed several homes in the exclusive Los Angeles neighborhood of Bel-Air.

Fires Cause Air Quality To Deteriorate. [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/6, story 2, 1:20, Dahlgren) reported that the fires have caused a thick haze to envelop Southern California, with "smoke so dense, you can see it from space." In several counties, air quality warnings have been issued. Residents have been warned to stay indoors, and over 200 schools have closed. The [CBS Evening News](#) (12/6, story 4, 0:55, Glor) reported that Ventura County officials have warned residents that "there will be a severe impact on air quality and visibility."

Vietnam Wall Brings Healing.

The [Nevada Appeal](#) (12/6, Ranson) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was among the speakers on Veterans Day at the Vietnam Wall Zinke "said the wall is a tribute to remembering Vietnam veterans." He said, "We should never run away from the history of our country. We should learn. When I served in the seal teams for 23 years, 1985, most of my instructors were SEALs that had served in Vietnam. They cut their teeth in the jungles and the rivers. I learned a lot from those fine warriors. I have learned a lot from you, those that have fought. I've learned commitment, dedication, sacrifice."

Heller Bill Protects Special Federal Lands Without Using Taxpayer Funds.

The [Ripon Advance](#) (12/6) reports that Sen. Dean Heller on Monday "introduced bipartisan legislation to enable protecting and preserving iconic Western federal lands with special conservation importance without using taxpayer funds." The bill "reauthorizes the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA), which expired in 2011." Heller said, "This bipartisan program provides a fiscally responsible way to protect and manage important public lands in Nevada and throughout the West. Not only will it spur economic growth and development, it will also keep conservation at the forefront of the region's needs."

Area Of Protected Land Larger Than California At Risk From Drilling.

The [MintPress News](#) (12/6, Carter) reports that "an area of protected land larger than California could be at risk from fossil fuel development, as the Trump administration looks to ramp up drilling on federal lands – according to a new investigation by Uearthed." The analysis "mapped the overlap between every protected park in the US and potentially major reserves of oil, gas and coal." The report "shows how much protected land – and which iconic landscapes – could be affected by the Trump administration's goal of opening up more land for energy development than ever before."

Bureau Of Land Management

Grazing Resumes On Land Burned In Oregon, Idaho Wildfires.

The [AP](#) (12/6) reports that "ranchers in Idaho and Oregon have begun grazing their cattle again on some of the thousands of acres burned in wildfires in 2015." The Bureau of Land Management has "allowed grazing to resume on 48 of the 84 pastures on affected allotments in southwest Idaho and southeast Oregon." According to Peter Torma, Soda Fire project manager for the BLM, "a decision on whether to resume grazing on the remaining 36 pastures is expected to come later this month."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Soon, Solid Footings.

The [Star of Grand Coulee \(WA\)](#) (12/6) published a photo of concrete being poured Thursday "for the foundation of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's new fire station above SR-155 across from

Pole Park." According to the caption, "the \$13.6 million project is scheduled to be completed next summer."

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Gulf Rig Worker Killed In Apparent Equipment Accident.

The [AP](#) (12/6) reports that a worker was killed on Transocean Ltd.'s drillship located in the Gulf of Mexico. The incident appeared to be related to an equipment accident on the drillship. In a Wednesday news release, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement said the incident took place Sunday. The "worker was employed by Spencer Ogden Ltd. as a floorhand and was engaged in pipe-handling operations."

Additional coverage was provided by [Rigzone](#) (12/6), [Maritime Executive](#) (12/6), [Offshore Engineer](#) (12/6, Leon), [WVUE-TV New Orleans](#) New Orleans (12/6), and [WVLA-TV Baton Rouge \(LA\)](#) Baton Rouge, LA (12/6, Vaughn).

Fish And Wildlife Service

US To Review End Of Protections For Yellowstone Grizzlies.

The [AP](#) (12/6, Brown) reports that federal officials "said Wednesday they'll review the recent lifting of protections for Yellowstone-area grizzly bears in light of a court ruling that retained protections for gray wolves in the Great Lakes." According to the article, "in its response to the appeals court ruling, the Fish and Wildlife Service said it's now seeking public comment on the potential implications for Yellowstone bears." The FWS "plans to release its conclusions by March 31."

Additional coverage was provided by [Reuters](#) (12/6), [MLive \(MI\)](#) (12/6, Raven), the [WyoFile](#) (12/6, Thuermer), and [KTVH-TV](#) Helena, MT (12/6, Jochim).

House Panel Considers Extending Endangered Fish Recovery Programs.

[Courthouse News](#) (12/6, Buchman) reports that "the House Natural Resources Committee considered legislation Wednesday that will extend endangered fish recovery programs in the Upper Colorado and San Juan rivers and direct the Interior Department to conduct an in-depth review of the success of the program to date." Rep. John Curtis' bill, the Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Extension Act of 2017, "would do two things: first, it would allow for the continued annual collection of fees from water and power users to continue funding the collaborative restoration efforts involving state and federal agencies, tribes and other stakeholders." Second, the legislation "directs the Interior Department to assess how well the programs are working and how they can be improved."

Georgia Initiative Brings Business To The Table To Save A Rare Animal.

On its website, [WABE-FM](#) Atlanta (12/6, Samuel) discusses the Georgia Gopher Tortoise Initiative, a partnership between state wildlife officials and businesses working to protect the tortoise and its habitat. The goal is to prevent the tortoise from being included on the federal endangered species list, which "can be bad for business, since protected species can mean red tape and additional costs." The article highlights the Gopher Tortoise habitat maintained by Georgia Power adjacent to Plant Hatch. Georgia Power wildlife biologist Jim Ozier said, "We're glad to have them here. ... Gopher tortoises do very well right next door." According to the article, Ozier "says in addition to planning around the tortoises, to make sure they're not affected by transmission line maintenance, Georgia Power plans to bring fire back to the woods next to the power lines, in the form of controlled burns, to restore the longleaf pine savannah that would have grown here naturally."

Panther Deaths Down For First Time In Years.

The [Fort Myers \(FL\) News-Press](#) (12/6, Gillis) reports that "although the Florida panther population is growing, the number of overall documented deaths may be down this year for the first time in years." According to the article, "twenty-eight big cats have died this year, with 23 of those being road kills and the others with cause of death listed as intraspecific aggression (panthers killing panthers) and unknown." The article notes "that's down from last year's record of 42 overall deaths and 34 vehicle kills, although there are still three weeks left in the year."

National Park Service

National Park Service Awards \$18,000 Grant To Aid Restoration Of Topeka's Historic Constitution Hall.

The [Topeka \(KS\) Capital-Journal](#) (12/6, Hrenchir) reports the National Park Service recently awarded \$18,000 "to help restore the front doors and windows of Topeka's Constitution Hall, which was the site of events in the 1850s that helped shape this nation's history." Diane Miller, national program manager for the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom, noted that "the effort to restore the front doors and front windows at Constitution Hall, 427-429 S. Kansas Ave., was among only 16 projects chosen to receive funding from 41 applications nationwide." In a letter to Grant Glenn, president of the not-for-profit Friends of the Free State Capitol, Inc., Miller wrote, "We found your project to be very exciting and feel that it will advance the goals of preserving the history of the Underground Railroad and informing the public. We commend your creativity in developing the proposal and your dedication to this important part of our heritage."

Town Clock Church Gets Network To Freedom Grant.

The [Jefferson \(IN\) News & Tribune](#) (12/6) reports that the National Park Service awarded a Network to Freedom grant of \$15,940 to the Friends of the Town Clock Church. The application sought funds for "tuck-pointing the historic Town Clock Church at Second Baptist Church in New Albany." The article notes that "the federal grant requires a dollar for dollar match" and "the Friends of the Town Clock Church will need to raise \$15,940 to match the grant."

In Oklahoma, The National Park Service Estimates There Are \$19.9 Million In Deferred Maintenance.

The [Oklahoma Gazette](#) (12/6, Eastes) reports that "according to National Park Service, Chickasaw National Recreation Area, Washita Battlefield National Historic Site and Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum welcomed 1.6 million visitors, who spent an estimated \$27 million in OKC and across the state." However, the article notes that Chickasaw National Recreation Area "requires \$19.7 million in repairs" and Washita Battlefield National Historic Site "lists \$196,027 in needed repairs."

North Dakota: Refinery Near National Park Could Win Permit.

The [AP](#) (12/6, Nicholson) reports that a proposed oil refinery that would be near the "Theodore Roosevelt National Park has met federal and state air pollution rules" and will now undergo a public comment period prior to obtaining a permit. Meridian Energy Group has met or exceeded the air quality permit requirements for the proposed Davis Refinery that is expected to be worth more than \$800 million. The Davis Refinery must also obtain a water permit from North Dakota.

Katherine Landing's Commercial Services To Be Updated.

The [Kingman \(AZ\) Daily Miner](#) (12/6) reports that the National Park Service has "awarded a 15-year contract to Urban Park Concessionaires to operate commercial services at Katherine Landing on Lake Mohave." Lizette Richardson, Lake Mead National Recreation Area superintendent, said, "The National Park Service has invested millions to enhance the services at this popular destination. With our new private partner, we anticipate there will be even further redevelopment of the area." Beginning in the spring, Urban Park Concessionaires will "provide a variety of commercial services at Katherine Landing, including a full-service marina with moorage, boat rentals, food and beverage, retail, fuel, campground and other related services."

NPS Set To Rehabilitate Kalahaku Overlook Area.

The [Maui \(HI\) News](#) (12/6) reports that the National Park Service is proposing a plan to rehabilitate the Kalahaku Overlook at Haleakala National Park. The NPS will host a public meeting on Thursday to discuss the proposal.

Sea Level Rise Could Drown More Than 2,500 Louisiana Historic Sites.

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (12/6, Sneath) reports that "more than 19,600 historically significant sites along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts could be lost to sea level rise, according to a new peer-reviewed study published in PLUS ONE." The study examined "records of archaeological sites and the National Register of Historic Places from nine states and overlays that information

with projected sea level rise over the next century." The study said, "Tens of thousands of historic and prehistoric archaeological sites, and thousands of properties currently designated eligible for inclusion on the (National Register of Historic Places), which include archaeological sites, standing structures, and other cultural property types, will be submerged and hence lost or damaged, as well as underwater resources that will be effected by changes in ocean acidification, currents, and shipping patterns."

Armory Gets Listed On National Register Of Historic Places.

The [Worthington \(MN\) Daily Globe](#) (12/6, Buntjer) reports that the former National Guard Armory in Worthington has been listed on National Register of Historic Places

Office Of Insular Affairs

Sen. Murkowski Moves To Retake Federal Control Over Bikini Trust Fund.

[Hawaii Public Radio](#) (12/6, Conan) reports that last month, the Interior Department "announced it was time for the people of Bikini to make decisions, not policy makers in Washington DC, and transferred control over the Bikini Resettlement trust fund." Soon after, "11 million dollars was withdrawn from the 59 million dollar fund, and now Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska plans legislation to restore federal supervision." Murkowski "objected that an amount more than double the annual budget was withdrawn without any agreement on how it would be spent."

US Geological Survey

Interior Department's Climate Science Centers Persevere.

The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (12/7, Shogren) reports that President Trump's "first budget proposal took a big swing" at Interior's eight regional Climate Science Centers, "proposing to cut their numbers in half and reduce their budget by a third." However, the Trump Administration "didn't try to eliminate them outright as it has many other Obama climate change initiatives." The article says that "the key to their resilience is that they don't focus on the kinds of climate science that the Trump administration likes least – research into the human role in climate change and how to reduce greenhouse gas emissions." Supporters of the Climate Science Centers are now hopeful "the centers will ride out" the Trump Administration.

West Coast Earthquake Early Warning System Continues Progress Toward Public Use.

[Phys \(UK\)](#) (12/6) reports that "in two papers published December 6 in Seismological Research Letters, researchers describe the key components and testing platform for the prototype ShakeAlert system, now being tested in California, Oregon and Washington." According to Monica Kohler, a Caltech research faculty member in the Department of Mechanical and Civil Engineering, "the development of ShakeAlert has shown that a dense network of seismic stations, swift transfer of seismic data to a central processing and alert station, speedy paths for distributing alert information to users, and education and training on how to use the alerts are all necessary for a robust early warning system."

Additoinal Reading.

- *The Firestorm This Time: Why Los Angeles Is Burning.* [Wired](#) (12/6, Rogers).
- *Biologist: Mad Deer Disease Likely To Reach Indiana.* [Dubois County \(IN\) Herald](#) (12/6, Burke).

Opinion Pieces

Trump's Radical Monuments Reduction Will Sully Precious Lands.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/6) says in an editorial that with President Trump's announcements that he will reduce the size of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments in Utah, the "degree of his shortsightedness became clearer." The Post argues that while "public lands and waters should be open to development, including drilling, so that the nation's resources can drive national growth, enable all sorts of recreation and benefit nearby towns and cities," the federal government "owns some lands that are simply too precious to permanently sully in pursuit of temporary economic gains."

FINALLY! President Trump Kicks Off The Rollback Of National Monument Abuse.

In an op-ed for the [Daily Caller](#) (12/6, Cohen, Boneta), Bonner Cohen, a senior policy analyst with the Committee for a Constructive Tomorrow, and Martha Bonet, a policy advisor with America First Policies, writes that “by significantly reducing the size of two gargantuan national monuments on federal land in Utah, President Donald Trump has begun to undo the decades-old mistreatment of rural Westerners by smug elites in faraway Washington.” In doing so, they say Trump has “shown a respect for the rule of law that was conspicuously absent when President Bill Clinton created the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in 1996, and when President Barack Obama designated the Bears Ears National Monument in 2016.” The authors urge the Trump Administration to move forward and “right the wrongs at other national monuments around the country, including the Katahdin Woods and Waters in Maine, the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks in New Mexico, Cascade Siskiyou in Oregon and California, Basin and Range in Nevada and castle Mountains in California.”

Additional Reading.

- *Trump Argued For Keeping Confederate Monuments. Then He Scaled Back Those Of Native Americans.* [Washington Post](#) (12/6, Scott).
- *Trump’s Cuts To National Monuments Are An Assault On Our Humanity.* [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (12/6, Norton).
- *Editorial: Honey, I Shrunk The National Monuments.* [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (12/6)
- *Donald Trump’s Unprecedented Assault On Mother Nature.* [Boston Globe](#) (12/7).
- *Trump Smashes A National Treasure.* [The Week](#) (12/6, Cooper).
- *No Shame, No Future.* [Huffington Post](#) (12/6, Brune).
- *GOP Finally Delivers On Promise To Americans.* [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (12/6, Jensen).
- *Entrance Fee Increase Bad For Montana: Keep National Parks Affordable, Accessible.* [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (12/6).
- *Indiana Dunes Not Worthy Of Being A National Park, Prof Says.* [Indianapolis Star](#) (12/6, Adams).
- *Congress: Treat Wildfires Like Disasters – And Fix The Funding Problem.* [Pierre \(SD\) Capital Journal](#) (12/6).
- *Miners Need Assurance They Can Produce Minerals For The Nation.* [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (12/6, Baker).
- *Thomas Mitchell: What To Do About Wild Horses? Part 2.* [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (12/6, Mitchell).
- *Trump Administration Defends American Indians.* [Detroit News](#) (12/7, Carlson).

Top National News

Trump Names Jerusalem Israel’s Capital, Announces Plans To Move Embassy.

Coverage of the President’s announcement that the US now recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and that he has ordered the State Department to begin planning to move the US Embassy to that city from Tel Aviv is highly negative. Reports cast the decision as being made against the urging of world leaders and members of the President’s own Cabinet – including Secretary of State Tillerson and Defense Secretary Mattis – amid fears the move could lead to violence in the region and possibly the end of the peace process between Israel and the Palestinians.

In the lead story for [CBS Evening News](#) (12/6, lead story, 2:45, Glor), Major Garrett said Trump’s decision is “an appeal to his Christian conservative base,” but it “rejects...the recommendations of his Secretaries of State and Defense,” and Administration officials “could point to no evidence this symbolically important shift in US policy will accelerate peace talks.”

James Rosen reported in the lead story for [Fox News Special Report](#) (12/6), “He was cautioned not to do it by advisers and world leaders alike, but today President Trump insisted 22 years of doing the same thing in Israel has yielded nothing in terms of peace, so he is going to shake it up.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/6, Wilkinson, Bennett) says the President “took a swipe at previous presidents who failed to officially recognize Jerusalem or move the embassy,” saying they “lacked courage.”

Another [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/6, Bierman) piece says that while the “decision may have

alarmed prime ministers, presidents, kings and their subjects around the world," Trump is the president who tallies "promises kept," and "especially important are promises to the voters Trump sees as his base, who include a strong majority of evangelical Christians."

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/6, Talev, Jacobs) says Trump's decision "divided his top advisers and at best complicates an effort to restart peace talks between the Israelis and Palestinians" directed by Kushner. According to Bloomberg, the "urgency for Trump's announcement...was driven partly by Vice President Mike Pence's planned travel to the Mideast later this month." During a meeting last month discussing Jerusalem, Pence reportedly "argued...it was past time for the US to recognize the 70-year reality that Jerusalem is the country's center of government." Chief of Staff Kelly and Ambassador Haley agreed, while Tillerson and Mattis "recommended against the move."

A front-page [New York Times](#) (12/6, A1, Landler) analysis says that for Trump, "the status of Jerusalem was always more a political imperative than a diplomatic dilemma. Faced with disappointing evangelical and pro-Israel backers like [Sheldon] Adelson, or alarming allies and Arab leaders while jeopardizing his own peace initiative, the president sided with his key supporters."

Also in a front-page report, the [Washington Post](#) (12/6, A1, Dawsey, Ryan, DeYoung) says the "decision to shake off warnings from senior officials such as" Tillerson and "align himself instead with prominent proponents of the move, including Vice President Pence and major donor Sheldon Adelson, underscored the president's determination to break with past policy and keep a key campaign pledge – despite the potential risks to US interests in the region and the goal of Middle East peace."

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/6) editorial praises the President for keeping his campaign promise and argues that the move is not a radical policy departure. The Journal agrees with Trump's assertion that his decision is "a recognition of reality." The [Washington Post](#) (12/6) editorializes that at the "heart of Mr. Trump's speech was his boast that 'while previous presidents...failed to deliver' on their campaign promises about Jerusalem, 'I am delivering.'"

Martha Raddatz reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/6, story 3, 2:30, Muir) that Trump "had promised this day would come, but to hear these words from the White House was jaw-dropping." Trump: "I have determined that it is time to officially recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. ... We cannot solve our problems by making the same failed assumptions and repeating the same failed strategies of the past." The President is "calling this a long overdue step to advance the peace process, but it's unclear what the new strategy to attain peace is."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/6, story 3, 2:25, Holt), Hallie Jackson reported, "Leaving a little wiggle room, the President is not taking a position on whether or how Jerusalem should be divided. He also says he's not ending support for a two-state solution. But in reality, experts say, any solution looks exponentially more difficult now." Former Ambassador Nicholas Burns: "By giving this unilateral concession to the Israelis today and getting nothing for it, the President has weakened the American position and made it less likely that we'll get progress from the Israelis at the negotiating table."

The [New York Times](#) (12/6, Landler) reports Trump "cast his decision as a break with decades of failed policy on Jerusalem," saying, "It would be folly to assume that repeating the exact same formula would now produce a different or better result." But the Times says the move "isolates the United States on one of the world's most sensitive diplomatic issues."

While the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/6, Schwartz) reports Trump said the decision is "the right thing to do" and in the best interests of the US, [Reuters](#) (12/6) says it "jeopardizes the United States' historical role as a mediator in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and frays relations with Arab allies that Washington relies on to help it oppose Iran and fight Sunni Islamist militants."

Trump, the [AP](#) (12/6, Lee, Klapper) says, "def[ined] dire, worldwide warnings" and "insisted that after repeated peace failures it was past time for a new approach." The AP notes that "no government beyond Israel spoke up in praise of Trump or suggested it would follow his lead."

[USA Today](#) (12/6) reports analysts said the move "sends a stark message that Palestinians should abandon their all-or-nothing demands in peace talks and applies subtle pressure on the Jewish state to make concessions." The [Washington Post](#) (12/6, Nakamura) calls the move "politically risky," and "in a sign that the move could backfire," Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas "slammed" the announcement as a "declaration of withdrawal" by the US from the peace process. On the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/6, story 2, 2:55, Glor), Seth Doane likewise reported Abbas "said that he believes this disqualified America...from being a negotiator." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/6, Jones) and [Axios](#) (12/6, Treene) similarly report Abbas' reaction.

Husam Zomlot, the chief Palestinian representative to the US, said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (12/6) that Trump's decision "would be a kiss of death to the two-state solution" because "we

will never recognize Israel's annexation of Jerusalem or control of Jerusalem." He later added, "What is the purpose of this move? It has just injected anxiety in the process, it has injected suspicions and anger. ... I believe today what is certain is that the US has done a self-inflicted disqualification of being the sole arbitrator of this."

[USA Today](#) (12/6, Korte) says Trump sought to "minimize the diplomatic consequences of the move" by emphasizing that the decision "is not intended in any way to reflect a departure from our strong commitment to facilitate a lasting peace agreement." [Politico](#) (12/6, Nelson) similarly says he was "emphatic in declaring that his decision did not represent a shift in US dedication to the peace process." Trump, the [Jerusalem Post](#) (12/6, Wilner) reports, insisted, "We are not taking a position on any final status issues." But the international community "did not immediately interpret Trump's moves in this way." UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told reporters, "Jerusalem is a final status issue that must be resolved in final status negotiations between the two parties."

Asked on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (12/6) if the Administration now considers the Old City of Jerusalem part of Israel, and whether the Administration will now "differentiate between West and East Jerusalem," UN Ambassador Haley said, "We are not going to weigh in anymore on that out of our commitment for the peace process. ... What we want to say is, it is time – for the sake of Israeli children and Palestinian children – it is time for those two sides to come together. It's time for them to negotiate."

Speaking to reporters in Brussels ahead of the President's highly anticipated announcement, the [New York Times](#) (12/6, Harris) reports Tillerson said peace in the Middle East was still possible. "The President's very committed to the Middle East peace process," Tillerson said. While Tillerson "has been largely shut out of the usual back-and-forth between Israelis and Palestinians that many secretaries of state spent much of their tenures conducting," he was "complimentary" toward Jared Kushner's Middle East peace efforts. The [Washington Times](#) (12/6, Boyer) quotes Tillerson as saying, "We continue to believe there is a very good opportunity for peace to be achieved, and the President has a team that is devoted to that entirely. That team has been working very diligently on new approaches to the peace process. They've been engaged in a quiet way with many in the region around that process."

The [Washington Post](#) (12/6, Morello) says Tillerson's message was "one he has delivered repeatedly – with little success in convincing anyone – during two days of meetings at NATO as the anticipated US recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital was criticized from the Kremlin to the Vatican." According to the Post, "Since arriving in Brussels on Monday night, virtually every diplomat who has met with Tillerson has raised objections to Trump's move, though Tillerson said they did not spend much time discussing it." Calling it Tillerson's "go-to catchphrase," the [AP](#) (12/6, Lederman) reports that when Tillerson is "called on to explain his boss on the world stage," he responds, "America first is not America alone." Yet on Wednesday, the AP says Tillerson "stood all by himself."

Richard Engel said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/6, story 4, 2:00) that "it seems the Israelis and President Trump are largely alone in supporting this move," while Jim Acosta reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (12/6) that some of America's "closest allies in the region and elsewhere" are "very disturbed by the President's move."

The [Washington Post](#) (12/6, Noack) reports that "several countries are warning that the move could worsen relations between Palestinians and Israelis and spark unrest in the region." British Prime Minister Theresa May "indicated that she would discuss the decision with Trump," and in the Netherlands, "criticism of Trump was unusually strong." Dutch Foreign Minister Halbe Zijlstra said in an interview, "We think it's an unwise step and a counterproductive step. If we want to solve at some moment the conflict between the Palestinians and the Israelis, we need a two-state solution, and a one-sided step is not going to help."

The [New York Times](#) (12/6, Horowitz) says "a chorus of international leaders criticized the Trump administration's decision," including UN Secretary-General António Guterres and Pope Francis, who "both expressed alarm that the announcement would provoke new tensions in the Holy City." The leaders of France, Germany and Italy all also spoke out against the decision. French President Emmanuel Macron, [Bloomberg News](#) (12/6, Valentini, Fouquet) reports, said the it "contravenes all rules of international law."

[Reuters](#) (12/6) says Arabs and Muslims across the Middle East also condemned the decision as "an incendiary move in a volatile region." Egypt "rejected Trump's decision," while Jordan said Trump's action was "legally null." Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani said Trump's undertaking was a "death sentence for all who seek peace" and called it "a dangerous escalation." The [AP](#) (12/6, Karam) reports Saudi Arabia also voiced "strong opposition"

to Trump's move, saying it would "provoke sentiments of Muslims throughout the world." [USA Today](#) (12/6, Dorell, Hjelmgard) reports Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said the "whole world is against" Trump, while "diplomats from Iran to China expressed concern the move would aggravate tensions."

The [Washington Post](#) (12/6, Morris), however, reports that the announcement was met with "celebration" by Israelis. An hour before Trump delivered his speech, "municipal authorities lit up the ancient walls of the Old City with images of the Israeli and American flags 'as a token of appreciation' to Trump." [Politico](#) (12/6, Pazmino) reports the announcement "sent ripples across the local political scene...with many legislators voicing strong support for Trump's decision and others warning that any hopes for a two-state solution would immediately vanish." For his part, the [Washington Post](#) (12/6, Morris, Eglash) reports, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hailed Israel's "irreplaceable" relationship with the US in his first public remarks after the announcement, but he "did not address the move directly."

[New York Times](#) (12/6) columnist Thomas Friedman writes, "I've never seen a president give up so much to so many for so little." He notes that "every Israeli government since its founding has craved United States recognition of Jerusalem as its capital. And every United States government has refrained from doing that...until now. Today, Trump just gave it away – for free. Such a deal! Why in the world would you just give this away for free and not even use it as a lever to advance the prospect of an Israeli-Palestinian deal?"

Dana Milbank writes in his [Washington Post](#) (12/6) column that Trump is "effectively throwing in the towel on Mideast peace. He's inflaming Arab allies, denying the United States legitimacy as a broker and putting already remote hopes of a peace deal into the category of pipe dreams. Not only did he announce the embassy move, but he also softened the longtime American commitment to a two-state solution (embraced by George W. Bush in 2002)," saying the US would support two states "if agreed to by both sides."

Former Wall Street Journal reporter Brett M. Decker writes for [USA Today](#) (12/6) that "recognizing Jerusalem is consistent with this president's agenda to be a purposeful disrupter of the stale, hypocritical status quo that brought him to power."

US Posts Across Middle East Bracing For Protests. [Bloomberg News](#) (12/6, Sink) reports that in the wake of the President's announcement, "US facilities in the Middle East are bracing for possibly violent protests." The State Department "sent alerts to embassies and consulates in Muslim-majority countries last week to warn them of unrest." James Longman reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/6, story 4, 0:55, Muir) that the Marines have sent security teams to various US facilities across the region. While things appear "quiet" on the streets of Jerusalem, Longman said "that could change in the days to come."

White House: Trump Slurred Speech Result Of Dry Throat. The [New York Post](#) (12/6, Fredericks) reports the President "provoked a Twitterstorm" after his speech Wednesday "in which he appeared to be breathing heavily and slurring some of his words toward the end." Some Twitter users "questioned whether the president was on medication – or if he had dentures that possibly came loose." According to the Post, the White House "did not immediately return a request for comment," but the [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/6, Bennett) reports it said later that Trump's slurred speech "was no more than a case of dry mouth." Spokesman Raj Shah said, "His throat was dry. There's nothing to it." Pressed on whether the slurred words "might indicate any health concerns," Shah said: "I know what you're getting at. I'm saying there's nothing to it."

Senate Votes To Go To Conference With House On Tax Legislation.

[Reuters](#) (12/6, Morgan, Becker) reports that the Senate formally [voted 51-47](#) on Wednesday to go to a conference committee with the House to work out differences between the tax bills passed in each chamber. Senate Majority Whip Cornyn expressed optimism that an agreement could be reached before the GOP's self-imposed December 22 deadline. The [Washington Times](#) (12/6, Sherfinski) reports that Senate Majority Leader McConnell named Cornyn and Sens. Mike Enzi, Orrin Hatch, Lisa Murkowski, Rob Portman, Tim Scott, John Thune, and Pat Toomey to the conference committee.

State And Local Tax Deduction Could Be Expanded. The [AP](#) (12/6, Ohlemacher, Gordon) reports that one "possible solution to a standoff with rebellious House Republicans from high-tax states" would be to expand the "deduction for state and local taxes to enable Americans to deduct local income taxes as well as property taxes." House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady said that negotiators "are looking at several options to help people who live in high-tax states." The [New York Times](#) (12/6, Rappeport) reports that McConnell "threw his support behind allowing a more generous state and local tax deduction in the final legislation."

[Reuters](#) (12/6, Bernstein, Schneider) reports that any “elimination or reduction of tax breaks for homeowners” could hurt the GOP in wealthy suburban districts in the 2018 elections. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/6, Brody, Hackman) reports that as the tax bills now stand, school districts in high-tax states could suffer because state and local governments will face pressure to cut taxes. Michael Borges of the New York State Association of School Business Officials said, “Taxpayers that may end up paying higher taxes may take out their anger on school budget votes.” However, in an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/6) says that instead of compromising, the GOP would best serve residents of high-tax states by cutting all tax rates in return for eliminating deductions.

Corporate Tax Rate May Be Set At 22% Rather Than 20%. The [Washington Post](#) (12/6, Paletta, Werner) reports that Republicans are also mulling “scaling back some of the corporate tax cuts that they are trying to usher into law.” Both chambers’ bills would cut the corporate tax rate from 35% to 20%, “but GOP negotiators are now openly discussing the possibility of moving that rate up to 22 percent in order to free up more revenue, people familiar with the discussions said.”

Final Version Expected To Kill ACA Coverage Mandate. The [New York Times](#) (12/6, Pear, Kaplan) reports that while negotiators “are likely to eliminate the insurance coverage mandate at the heart of the Affordable Care Act,” that could “potentially jeopardiz[e]” Sen. Susan Collins’ support for the final measure. Collins voted for the Senate bill only after a “deal [was] struck...to mitigate the effect of the repeal.”

Conservative Groups Find Tax Bills To Be A Hard Sell. The [New York Times](#) (12/6, Peters) reports that a “problem” Republicans are facing is “that most Americans do not believe” the tax plan will put “more money in the pockets of American families.” Republican strategist Steve Schmidt “said that amid all the talk about the need to score an important victory for their party, ‘it bears mentioning that the ‘win’ is something that is extraordinarily unpopular with 75 percent of the American people.’” Yet, for groups like the US Chamber of Commerce and others, “the tax bill would be the only tangible legislative achievement after 11 months of an uneasy and, so far, unproductive alliance with a president they fiercely resisted during last year’s election.”

Will Says GOP’s “Wager Is Worth Trying.” George F. Will writes in his [Washington Post](#) (12/6) column that the tax bills are “an amalgam of earnest hoping and transparent make-believe” but are also “a serious lunge for sustained 3 percent growth. Without this, the economy, and hence the entitlement state, will buckle beneath the strain of 10,000 of the elderly each day becoming eligible for Social Security and Medicare.” Will says the GOP’s “wager is worth trying.”

Ahead Of Meeting With Congressional Leaders, Trump Says Shutdown “Could Happen.”

A day before he was to meet with congressional leaders from both parties to discuss a spending bill, President Trump on Wednesday “again raised the possibility of a US government shutdown” by the end of the week, “blaming Democrats for that possible outcome,” [Reuters](#) (12/6, Cowan, Cornwell) reports. Democrats “have demanded legislative protections” for so-called Dreamers as a condition of their support for a new spending measure, a condition the President has criticized, “saying it could set the stage for an impasse.” Trump told reporters, “The Democrats are really looking at something that is very dangerous for our country. ... They are looking at shutting down.”

[The Hill](#) (12/6, Fabian) says Trump “accused Democrats of impeding talks on a spending deal with demands on immigration.” The [AP](#) (12/6, Fram, Taylor) reports that Trump said of a shutdown, “It could happen,” arguing that Democrats “want to have illegal immigrants pouring into our country bringing with them crime, tremendous amounts of crime. We don’t want to have that.” The [Washington Times](#) (12/6, Boyer, Howell) reports that Trump said, “We want to have a great, beautiful, crime-free country. That’s why we’re being so careful with our process and with our screening.”

House Minority Leader Pelosi responded to Trump’s comments with a [tweet](#) in which she said, “President Trump is the only person talking about a government shutdown. Democrats are hopeful the President will be open to an agreement to address the urgent needs of the American people and keep government open.”

The [Washington Post](#) (12/6, Debonis) says Trump’s comments came “as tensions on Capitol Hill appeared to diminish after hard-line House conservatives backed off plans to oppose a short-term stopgap.” House Freedom Caucus leaders on Wednesday morning left meetings with House Speaker Ryan and House Majority Leader McCarthy “saying they had not decided whether the group’s three dozen members would back the two-week stopgap favored by the GOP leaders,” but that “they had backed off pushing for a longer-term spending bill and were instead focused on setting up a more advantageous fight with Democrats shortly before Christmas.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/6) says GOP leaders are considering a plan pushed by the Freedom Caucus under which the House's fiscal year 2018 defense spending bill would be attached to "a resolution to keep the government funded after Dec. 22," according to Freedom Caucus Chairman Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC) and House Armed Services Chairman Mac Thornberry. According to Meadows, "progress had been made in obtaining assurances this plan would be followed." However, even if the plan clears the House, "it is practically dead on arrival in the Senate where Democratic votes are needed to end debate."

[Politico](#) (12/6, Bade, Ferris) says House leaders and conservatives "appear close to reaching a reluctant truce." Meadows said, "I think the real focus for all of us is tax reform and getting tax reform done. ... That was the crux of the conversation we had today: that we gotta get across the finish line on tax reform. Any distraction from that is a problem." Politico adds that if conservatives back the package, "it would likely seal the GOP's hopes of avoiding the need for a last-minute deal with" Pelosi.

Baldwin Indicates Willingness To Support A "Very Short-Term" Spending Bill. Sen. Tammy Baldwin said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (12/6), "I think I am open to short-term, a very short-term extension so that we can resolve the year-end spending issues. I was disappointed that Trump sort of made it harder last week when the leaders were scheduled to meet on a bipartisan basis, but I do think we can work our way through this with the spending caps and an omnibus. Much work has already been done in the House and Senate appropriations committee so I'm hopeful if there is a short-term extension we can get the job done."

Poll: 63% Say Congress Should Avoid Shutdown "At All Costs." [Politico](#) (12/6, Shepard) reports that a Politico/Morning Consult poll found that "a majority of voters think Congress should avoid shutting down the federal government – and members shouldn't threaten a shutdown to enact policy changes." According to the poll, 63% said lawmakers "should avoid a shutdown at all costs," while 18% said that "members should allow a temporary government shutdown if it helps them achieve their policy goals." Another 19% were undecided.

Murkowski Touts Senate Energy Bill As Springboard For Trump's Infrastructure Plan.

[Platts](#) (12/6, Melvin) reports that Sen. Lisa Murkowski, chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, is touting the Senate's bipartisan energy bill as an springboard for President Trump's infrastructure plan, which remains short on details. She said the bill, which streamline permitting for natural gas and hydropower projects, facilitate LNG exports, support modernization of the electric grid, and more, is "ready to go and that's already pre-vetted."

Trump's Travel Ban Faces More Court Challenges.

The [AP](#) (12/6, Johnson) reports that in the wake of the Supreme Court's decision allowing President Trump's third travel ban to take effect, there is increased attention on "a legal showdown Wednesday before three judges in Seattle who have been cool to the policy." Ninth US Circuit Court of Appeals Judges Ronald Gould, Richard Paez, and Michael Hawkins were scheduled to hear arguments to Hawaii's challenge to the ban. The judges "unanimously ruled against the second version of the travel ban, saying the president had not shown that allowing travelers from the listed nations would harm American interests." While courts in Hawaii and Maryland partially blocked the ban, the Supreme Court "lifted those orders pending the outcome of legal challenges in the 9th Circuit and the 4th US Circuit Court of Appeals, which is scheduled to hear arguments Friday in Richmond, Virginia." [Bloomberg News](#) (12/6, Mehrotra) says that whatever the judges rule in those cases, "the president's directive will remain in effect until the Supreme Court says otherwise."

Branstad: North Korea Must Halt All Testing For Talks.

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/6) reports US Ambassador to China, Terry Branstad, said Wednesday that the Administration "would be ready to talk with North Korea if it renounced further nuclear or missile tests and followed through on the pledge." Appearing on Bloomberg Television, Branstad said, "If they announce that they're not going to be doing any more nuclear tests and they're not going to be launching any more missiles. If they announce that and do that, I think there's an opportunity for us to get back to the bargaining table." With regards to Chinese pressure, he said, "We believe we need to go further. We think oil and also these North Korean workers working in China and other countries, that needs to stop."

Chinese Border Province Warns About Dangers Of Nuclear War. The [Washington Post](#) (12/6, Denyer) reports that a provincial state newspaper on China's border with North Korea "spooked a

few people Wednesday by dedicating an entire page to advice for local residents on how they might survive a nuclear war." The advisory, by the official Jilin Daily, "was picked up by many online news services and circulated widely on Chinese social media, forcing the paper and other state media outlets to hurriedly issue statements trying to calm people down." The full-page advisory also included "a series of cartoons" reminiscent of public service announcements in 1950s America advising children to "duck and cover" in order to survive a nuclear attack. One cartoon states that "if a bomb goes off when you are near a river, pond or lake – jump in it." The [New York Times](#) (12/6, Bradsher) likewise says the publication "caused a flurry of discussion on social media in China, and official news media sought to discourage speculation that a nuclear conflict might be imminent."

ADP: US Businesses Added 190,000 Jobs In November.

In what the [AP](#) (12/6, Rugaber) describes as "a sign that hiring is strong enough to reduce an already-low unemployment rate," payroll processor ADP said Wednesday that US companies "added a robust 190,000 jobs in November." Manufacturers added "40,000 jobs, the largest gain this year," while healthcare "added 31,000 positions, and a category that includes restaurants and hotels hired 25,000."

National Homelessness Rates Rise For First Time Since 2010.

The [AP](#) (12/6, Weber, Mulvihill) reports for the first time in seven years, homelessness numbers in the US increased by one percent to approximately 554,000 people, according to statistics released by HUD. Of those, 193,000 lacked access to nightly shelter, representing an increase of "more than 9 percent compared to two years ago." Homelessness rates continued to fall in most places, except on the West Coast, where they grew, particularly in major urban centers. Favorable economic conditions were blamed for increasing living costs in those areas and forcing many out onto the street.

EPA Chief Assures Congressmen Of Agency's Scientific Integrity Policy.

The [New York Times](#) (12/6, Friedman) reports EPA Administrator Pruitt reassured lawmakers from now on EPA scientists would not face restrictions on discussing their work, following reports that two EPA scientists were prevented in October from presenting on environmental issues to the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program. The canceled EPA scientist presentations reportedly were to touch upon the concept of climate change. In a letter to Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, Pruitt said, "Procedures have been put in place to prevent such an occurrence in the future." Whitehouse and other Democrats who challenged the EPA on the issue were reportedly satisfied with Pruitt's response.

EPA Administrator Announces More Hearings On Clean Power Plan Repeal.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/6, Siegel) reports the Environmental Protection Agency yesterday announced that "it will host three more public hearings on its move to repeal the Clean Power Plan, including one in San Francisco, after the agency was criticized for not conducting a transparent review process." The agency "had planned only one public hearing, which it held last week over two days in Charleston, W.Va., the heart of coal country." EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said, "Due to the overwhelming response to our West Virginia hearing, we are announcing additional opportunities for the public to voice their views to the agency."

The [AP](#) (12/6) reports the hearings will take place "in San Francisco, Gillette, Wyoming, and Kansas City, Missouri."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Holding Prison Guards Accountable." A [New York Times](#) (12/6) editorial says "a radically different" version of the state's contract with the New York State prison guards union is needed in order to ensure prison guards answer for wrongdoing. As the contract undergoes a renegotiation, the Times urges Gov. Andrew Cuomo to "hold out for a new one that strengthens state control over the prison system" and "push for a sensible disciplinary system, like that used by the State Police." The current contract contains "a convoluted disciplinary process" and "makes it difficult to fire officers," even in cases of egregious wrongdoing.

"Let's Limit The Term Limit Debate." A [New York Times](#) (12/6) editorial says that in response

to a new proposal to extend term limits for New York City elected officials, members of the New York City Council should remember that “over the last quarter-century, city voters have affirmed in three referendums – in 1993, 1996 and 2010 – that they want all their officeholders to max out at two consecutive terms.” Proponents of the bill say “that a Council with longer terms for its members could be more effective at providing the checks and balances that are part of this country’s founding principles.”

“The Olympic Ban Helps Mr. Putin, Hurts Russia.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (12/7) writes that Russia’s “Olympic ban was the perfect setup” for Vladimir Putin to announce he is running for yet another term as Russia’s president, as “Putin has maintained his popularity in large part by persuading Russians that he is the guarantor of their national greatness against the machinations of a West forever conniving to keep Russia down.” However, “the same power plays that garner Mr. Putin plaudits at home have spectacularly backfired abroad” and “sharply diminished Mr. Putin’s, and Russia’s, stature in much of the world.” The Times concludes by praising the International Olympic Committee for still allowing clean Russian athletes to compete, stating that “the sanctions make clear that the culprit is the Kremlin and its greed for glory.”

Washington Post.

“Trump’s Jerusalem Move Is A Big Risk.” The [Washington Post](#) (12/6) editorializes that at the “heart” of President Trump’s speech recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel “was his boast that ‘while previous presidents...failed to deliver’ on their campaign promises about Jerusalem, ‘I am delivering.’”

“Trump’s Radical Monuments Reduction Will Sully Precious Lands.” The [Washington Post](#) (12/6) says in an editorial that with President Trump’s announcements that he will reduce the size of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments in Utah, the “degree of his shortsightedness became clearer.” The Post argues that while “public lands and waters should be open to development, including drilling, so that the nation’s resources can drive national growth, enable all sorts of recreation and benefit nearby towns and cities,” the federal government “owns some lands that are simply too precious to permanently sully in pursuit of temporary economic gains.”

“Russia Scores An Olympic Own Goal.” A [Washington Post](#) (12/6) editorial argues that Russian objection to the IOC ruling “would be quite wrong,” given that the doping was state-sponsored, and that “Russian fans ought to be angry at their leadership for such reckless disregard for the integrity of international sport.” Although Russians object that “sports doping and cheating exist in the West, too,” Russia’s “systematic and centralized cover up and manipulation of the doping control process” means that the punishment imposed by the IOC is justified.

Wall Street Journal.

“How To Help The High-Tax States.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/6) says that instead of compromising, the GOP would best serve residents of high-tax states by cutting all tax rates in return for eliminating deductions.

“Trump’s Frankenmoore Nightmare.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/6) says that with a mass of Senate Democrats having called on Sen. Al Franken to resign, President Trump should pull his and the RNC’s support from Alabama Republican Senate candidate Roy Moore. The Journal argues that if Trump doesn’t do so, Democrats – having likely purged their congressional caucus of those accused of sexual misconduct (Franken and Rep. John Conyers) – will use Moore to paint the President and the GOP as soft on sexual harassment.

“The Reality Of Jerusalem.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/6) editorial praises the President for keeping his campaign promise to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and argues that the move is not a radical policy departure. The Journal agrees with Trump’s assertion that his decision is “a recognition of reality.”

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Trump Says US Recognizes Jerusalem As Israel’s Capital](#)
[Democrats Call For Al Franken To Resign](#)

[Wall Street Tells Frackers To Stop Counting Barrels, Start Making Profits](#)
[GM's Latest Weapon In Pickup Truck Wars: Carbon Fiber](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Calls Jerusalem Plan Step Toward Peace, But It Puts Mideast On Edge](#)
[For Trump, An Embassy In Jerusalem Is A Political Decision, Not A Diplomatic One](#)
[A Democratic Chorus Rises In The Senate: "Franken Should Resign"](#)
[California Fires Enter The Heart Of Los Angeles](#)
[Conservative Groups Seeking Support For Tax Cuts Find It A Hard Sell](#)
[The Mysterious Buyer Of The \\$450 Million Leonardo Da Vinci? A Saudi Prince](#)
[Putin Confirms He Is Running For President](#)

Washington Post:

[President Was Bent On Fulfilling Vow On Jerusalem's Status](#)
[GOP Steps Up Criticism Of Mueller, FBI Probes](#)
[Democrats Call For Franken To Resign](#)
[Trump Orders Israel Switch](#)
[As Calif. Wildfires Rage, Threat Is Forecast To Grow](#)

Financial Times:

[Apple Will See Up To \\$47bn Potential Benefit From Tax Reform](#)
[Trump Recognises Jerusalem As Capital Of Israel](#)
[Vladimir Putin Announces He Will Seek Re-Election In 2018](#)
[Big Banks Push Back On Launch Of Bitcoin Futures](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump's Recognition Of Jerusalem As Israeli Capital Fulfills Campaign Promise Broken By Predecessors](#)
[Gun Rights Activists Celebrate House Approval Of Concealed Carry Reciprocity Bill](#)
[Franken Expected To Resign After Pressure From Fellow Senate Democrats](#)
[As Millennial Republican Women Fret, 'Bama Boomers See Nothing Inappropriate From Moore](#)
[Stanford Professor's Defamation Lawsuit Puts Chill In Atmosphere Of Climate Scientists](#)
[Rich In Historic Architecture, Mosul Faces A Painful Recovery From Islamic State War](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: California Wildfires; California Wildfires-Forecast; Trump Israel Announcement; Trump Israel Announcement-Responses; Al Franken Sexual Allegations; Russia Meddling Investigation; Roy Moore Campaign; TIME Magazine-#MeToo Movement; Houston-Robbery Manhunt; Florida-Police Car Thief; LA-Cargo Plane On Fire; UPS-Shipping Delays; Birth Control-Breast Cancer; Christmas Cards.

CBS: Trump Israel Announcement; Trump Israel Announcement-Responses; California Wildfires; California Wildfires-Air Quality; VW-Emission Scandal Trial; Al Franken Sexual Allegations; TIME Magazine-#MeToo Movement; Conceal Carry Permits Bill; Homeless Numbers Increase; Winter Weather; Birth Control-Breast Cancer; First And Second Ladies-Texas Visit; SI-Persons Of The Year; Da Vinci Painting; RV Boom.

NBC: California Wildfires; California Wildfires-Air Quality; Trump Israel Announcement; Trump Israel Announcement-Responses; Al Franken Sexual Allegations; TIME Magazine-#MeToo Movement; Russia Meddling Investigation; Birth Control-Breast Cancer; St. Louis-Plane Crash; Google-Amazon Feud; UPS-Shipping Delays; Musician Best Friends.

Network TV At A Glance:

Trump Israel Announcement – 13 minutes, 30 seconds
California Wildfires – 11 minutes, 45 seconds
Al Franken Sexual Allegations – 6 minutes, 20 seconds
Russia Meddling Investigation – 4 minutes
Birth Control-Breast Cancer – 3 minutes, 50 seconds
TIME Magazine-#MeToo Movement – 2 minutes, 40 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Russia Meddling Investigation; California Wildfires; Al Franken Sexual Allegations; Conceal Carry Permits Bill; Wall Street News.

CBS: Trump Israel Announcement; California Wildfires; Al Franken Sexual Allegations; VW-

Emission Scandal Trial; Russia Meddling Investigation; Wall Street News.

FOX: Al Franken Sexual Allegations; Trump Israel Announcement; Russia Meddling Investigation.

NPR: Trump Israel Announcement; Al Franken Sexual Allegations; Roy Moore Campaign; California Wildfires.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with Republican Members of the Senate; meets with the Chairwoman of the Republican National Committee; signs a proclamation for National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day; meets with Congressional leadership; meets with former Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton; hosts a Hanukkah Reception.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 10:00 AM NIH and FDA heads testify to Senate HELP Committee on 21st Century Cures Act implementation – Hearing on 'Implementation of the 21st Century Cures Act: Progress and the Path Forward for Medical Innovation', with testimony from National Institutes of Health Director Dr Francis Collins; and Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb
Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on DoD acquisition reform – Hearing on 'Department of Defense Acquisition Reform Efforts', with testimony from Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics Ellen Lord; Secretary of the Army Mark Esper; Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer; and Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson
Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of the nominations of Leonard Steven Grasz to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit; James Ho and Don Willett to be U.S. Circuit Judges for the Fifth Circuit; Terry Doughty to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana; Terry Fitzgerald Moorer to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama; Mark Saalfeld Norris Sr. to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee; Claria Horn Boom to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky; John Broomes to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Kansas; Rebecca Grady Jennings to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky; and Robert Earl Wier to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky
Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

11:00 AM Bicameral Dems highlight Alzheimer's research fundraising postal stamp – Democrats Sen. Ed Markey and Rep. Elijah Cummings announce legislation to increase Alzheimer's research funding by extending a recently released semipostal stamp, via press conference with Alzheimer's disease patients, researchers, caregivers and advocates
Location: U.S. Capitol, SVC 212, Washington, DC www.markey.senate.gov
<https://twitter.com/MarkeyMemo>

2:00 PM Executive session to consider the nomination of Kevin McAleenan to be Customs and Border Protection commissioner
Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 215, Washington, DC <http://finance.senate.gov>

2:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters
Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

Senate HELP Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Mitchell Zais to be Deputy Secretary of Education; James Blew to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development; Kate O'Scannlain to be Department of Labor Solicitor; and Preston Rutledge to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Employee Benefits Security Administration
Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

US House: 8:30 AM U.N. high commissioner for human rights at event on Capitol Hill – United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein at event in the U.S. Capitol, hosted by the United Nations Foundation in cooperation with the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, in honor of Human Rights Day and in recognition of the 69th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights * Honorary Co-Hosts are bipartisan Reps. James McGovern and Randy Hultgren
Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2045, Washington, DC www.unfoundation.org <https://twitter.com/unfoundation>

9:00 AM Children and teens deliver holiday letters to Congress calling for passage of clean

'Dream Act' – Delegation of children and teenagers deliver letters sharing their 'Dream for the Holidays', calling on Congress to pass a clean 'Dream Act' and protect immigrant families threatened by the elimination of Temporary Protected Status before Congress goes on break for the holidays. Press conference with Democratic Reps. Pramila Jayapal and Lucille Roybal-Allard, MomsRising Director Kristin Rowe Finkbeiner and We Belong Together's Anna DUncan, Rm 2103, Rayburn House Office Bldg (9:00 AM EST); before visits to Congressional offices, starting with House Speaker Paul Ryan, to deliver letters or 'coal', depending on whether the lawmaker has been 'naughty or nice' Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.domesticworkers.org
<https://twitter.com/domesticworkers>

9:30 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on counterterrorism efforts in Africa – Hearing on 'Counterterrorism Efforts in Africa', with testimony from Deputy Secretary of State for John Sullivan; and Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Policy David Trachtenberg Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

10:00 AM Hearing on 'Oversight of the Federal Bureau of Investigation', with testimony from FBI Director Christopher Wray. NOTE: Congressionally-credentialed members of the media MUST RSVP to their respective Press Gallery no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 6. Due to anticipated interest, attendance will be limited to one media representative from each outlet. Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2141, Washington, DC
<http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on DHS efforts to counter WMDs – Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining the Department of Homeland Security's Efforts to Counter Weapons of Mass Destruction', with testimony from Department of Homeland Security Domestic Nuclear Detection Office Director Assistant Secretary for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction James McDonnell; Department of Homeland Security Director of the Office of Health Affairs Deputy Assistant Secretary for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Larry Fluty; Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate Acting Under Secretary William Bryan; and Government Accountability Office Homeland Security and Justice Team Emergency Management, National Preparedness, and Critical Infrastructure Protection Director Chris Currie Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov
<https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee oversight hearing on DOI reorganization – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'Transforming the Department of the Interior for the 21st Century', with testimony from Coalition to Protect America's National Parks advisor Denis Galvin; Heritage Foundation Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies Fellow in Energy and Environmental Policy Nicolas Loris; Property and Environment Research Center Research Fellow Shawn Regan; and Western Energy Alliance President Kathleen Sgamma Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC
<http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM EPA Administrator Pruitt testifies to House Energy and Commerce subcommittee – Environment Subcommittee hearing on 'The Mission of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency', with testimony from EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Administration Committee hearing on reforming the Congressional Accountability Act – Hearing on 'Preventing Sexual Harassment in the Congressional Workplace: Examining Reforms to the Congressional Accountability Act', with testimony from Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Acting Chair Victoria Lipnic; Office of Compliance Executive Director Susan Tsui Grundmann; Office of House Employment Counsel counsel Gloria Lett; and K&L Gates partner Daniel Crowley Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1310, Washington, DC <http://cha.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAdmnGOP>

10:00 AM House Committee on Veterans' Affairs hearing on the VA Medical Surgical Prime Vendor Program – Oversight hearing on 'New Names, Same Problems: The VA Medical Surgical Prime Vendor Program', with testimony from Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Health Administration Acting Chief Procurement and Logistics Officer Rick Lemmon; Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Acquisition Operations Acting Executive Director Phillip Christy; Government Accountability Office Acquisition and Sourcing Management Director Shelby Oakley; and The Coalition for Government Procurement President Roger Waldron Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

10:00 AM Office of Financial Research director testifies to House Financial Services subcommittee – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on ‘Examining the Office of Financial Research’, with testimony from OFR Director Richard Berner Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Transportation subcommittee roundtable on emerging technologies in the trucking industry – House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Highways and Transit Subcommittee roundtable on ‘Emerging Technologies in the Trucking Industry’, featuring J.B. Hunt Senior Vice President of Safety, Security, and Driver Personnel Greer Woodruff (on behalf of American Trucking Associations), Peloton Technology founder and Vice President of External Affairs Steve Boyd, Volvo Group North America Senior Vice President of Public Affairs Susan Alt, National Safety Council Senior Director of Government Affairs Jane Terry, and AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department President Larry Willis Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

11:00 AM Bicameral Dems highlight Alzheimer’s research fundraising postal stamp – Democrats Sen. Ed Markey and Rep. Elijah Cummings announce legislation to increase Alzheimer’s research funding by extending a recently released semipostal stamp, via press conference with Alzheimer’s disease patients, researchers, caregivers and advocates Location: U.S. Capitol, SVC 212, Washington, DC www.markey.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/MarkeyMemo>

12:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include ‘H.J.Res. 123 – Continuing Appropriations Act’ and ‘H.R. 3971 – Community Institution Mortgage Relief Act of 2017’ Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

12:00 PM APA Congressional briefing on ‘Improving the Physical Health of Patients with Serious Mental Illness’ – American Psychiatric Association congressional briefing on ‘Improving the Physical Health of Patients with Serious Mental Illness: Identifying Breakthroughs in Approaches to Treatment’, including the release of a new white paper focused on the importance of addressing the whole health of patients, including their mental, physical and social needs. Speakers include Democratic Rep. Grace Napolitano, APA CEO and Medical Director Saul Levin, Morehouse School of Medicine Kennedy-Satcher Center for Mental Health Equity Director Glenda Wrenn, TennCare Strategic Planning and Innovation Group Primary Care Transformation Manager Julia Harris, Mosaic Community Services Health Homes Assistant Director Lauren Swanner, NAMI Board Member Adrienne Kennedy, and Emory University Rollins School of Public Health Mental Health Chair Benjamin Druss Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Meeting Room S, Washington, DC, Washington, DC <http://www.psych.org/> <https://twitter.com/APAPsychiatric>

2:00 PM House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform subcommittee hearing on IT and cybersecurity at VA – Information Technology Subcommittee hearing on ‘Oversight of IT and Cybersecurity at the Department of Veterans Affairs’, featuring testimony from Department of Veteran Affairs Acting Chief Information Officer Scott Blackburn; Department of Veteran Affairs Chief Information Security Officer Dominic Cussatt; and Government Accountability Office IT Management Issues Director David Powner Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

2:00 PM House Financial Services subcommittee latest hearing on ‘a more efficient federal financial regulatory regime’ – Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee hearing on ‘Legislative Proposals for a More Efficient Federal Financial Regulatory Regime: Part II’, with testimony from the Financial Services Roundtable Senior Vice President and Head of Government Affairs Anthony Cimino; MIT Federal Credit Union President and CEO Brian Ducharme (on behalf of the National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions); the Mortgage Bankers Association Chairman Elect Christopher George; and Americans for Financial Reform Policy Director Marcus Stanley Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

2:00 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Federal Lands Subcommittee legislative hearing on ‘H.R. 805, Tulare Youth Recreation and Women’s History Enhancement Act’, ‘H.R. 1349, To amend the Wilderness Act to ensure that the use of bicycles, wheelchairs, strollers, and Game carts is not prohibited in Wilderness Areas and for other purposes’, ‘H.R. 3371, Modoc County Land Transfer and Economic Development Act of 2017’, and ‘H.R. 3961, Kissimmee River Wild and Scenic River Study Act of 2017’, with testimony from Republican Reps. Tom McClintock, Doug LaMalfa, and Devin Nunes; Democratic Rep. Darren Soto; USDA Forest Service Associate Deputy Chief Glenn Casamassa; County of Modoc, Alturas, CA, District 4 Supervisor Elizabeth Cavasso; Sustainable Trails Coalition President Ted Stroll; The

Nature Conservancy Government Relations Manager Garrett Wallace; and Tulare, CA, Vice Mayor Maritsa Castellanoz Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

Other: 8:00 AM Presidential Rank Awards Leadership Summit – 2017 Presidential Rank Awards Leadership Summit – the inaugural event – ‘celebrating the extraordinary public service of senior career professionals by honoring the 2016 and 2017 awardees with the nation’s highest civilian career leadership awards’. Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Elaine Duke, NASA Acting Administrator Robert Lightfoot, and Small Business Administration Administrator Linda McMahon keynote, with other speakers including U.S. Patent and Trademark Office’s Wynn Coggins, Office of Personnel Management’s Suzanne Logan, and Government Accountability Office’s Chris Mihm Location: Mayflower Hotel, Washington, DC <http://seniorexecs.org/> <https://twitter.com/seniorexec1>

8:00 AM International LGBTQ Leaders Conference – International LGBTQ Leaders Conference, themed ‘Representation is Power’, with speakers including Democrats Sens. Tammy Baldwin and Cory Booker and Rep. Mark Takano, and Virginia Delegate-Elect Danica Roem Location: Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC www.lgbtleaders.org <https://twitter.com/VictoryFund>

8:30 AM Bipartisan Reps. Mike Coffman, Don Bacon, Ruben Gallego, and Jimmy Panetta speak on AUMF at CSIS – ‘Finding Consensus for a New Authorization for the Use of Military Force’ Center for Strategic and International Studies panel discussion on congressional war powers authority and their proposal for a new Authorization for the Use of Military Force. Panelists include Republican Reps. Mike Coffman and Don Bacon, and Democratic Reps. Ruben Gallego, and Jimmy Panetta Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

9:00 AM GOP Sen. Ted Cruz speaks at NRB event on internet freedom – National Religious Broadcasters ‘Internet Freedom: Rights and Responsibilities’ panel discussion and press conference at the National Press Club, including the announcement of a new internet freedom initiative. Speakers include Republican Sen. Ted Cruz, NRB President and CEO Jerry Johnson, former Federal Communications Commission Commissioner Robert McDowell, PragerU Chief Marketing Officer Craig Strazzeri, and Century Strategies Chairman and CEO Ralph Reed Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.nrb.org/> <https://twitter.com/NRBToday>

10:00 AM GOP Sen. James Lankford discusses ‘Federal Fumbles’ report in CAGW Facebook Live event – Citizens Against Government Waste Facebook Live conversation with Republican Sen. James Lankford on the latest edition of ‘Federal Fumbles’, Sen. Lankford’s annual report on govt waste Location: TBD www.cagw.org <https://twitter.com/GovWaste>

12:00 PM GOP Sen. James Lankford speaks at Cato Institute briefing on curbing wasteful spending – ‘Curbing Wasteful Spending Now and into the Future’ Cato Institute Capitol Hill briefing, with Republican Sen. James Lankford, Taxpayers for Common Sense Vice President Steve Ellis, Heritage Foundation Institute for Economic Policy Studies Deputy Director Romina Boccia, and Cato Institute Chair for the Public Understanding of Economics Ryan Bourne Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2043, Washington, DC <http://www.cato.org/> <https://twitter.com/CatoInstitute>

3:30 PM Dem Sen. Chris Coons discusses the judicial nominations process in ACS briefing call – American Constitution Society ‘Democracy at Risk: The Judicial Nominations Process’ American Constitution Society briefing call on longstanding advice and consent norms, including respect for blue slips, stacking confirmation hearings, and ‘lack of thorough vetting of the significant number of nominees’. Speakers include Democratic Sen. Chris Coons and former Deputy Counsel to President Barack Obama Susan Davies Location: TBD www.acslaw.org <https://twitter.com/acslaw>

6:30 PM Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders speaks at ‘Saving Capitalism’ NPC screening – ‘Saving Capitalism’ NPC Headliner Netflix original documentary screening, with special guest Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders and writer and director Jacob Kornbluth who, with author and former Secretary of Labor Robert Reich, looks at America’s ‘staggering socio-economic divide’ and possible solutions Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC <http://press.org/> <https://twitter.com/PressClubDC>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to Donald Trump's announcement on recognizing Jerusalem as the capital of Israel] "The move was opposed by France, the UK, Germany, Russia, China, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Syria, and the Pope. I never thought I'd say this, but Donald Trump is really bringing the world together!"

James Corden: "A recent article revealed that Vice President Mike Pence once snitched on his college fraternity brothers for, get this, having a keg at a party. I have been thinking about this. I personally think we should praise Mike Pence for being so honest. You know, Mr. Vice President, I know that you are watching, great job. Now be a good boy and also tell Robert Mueller where the kegs are, you know what I am talking about?"

Trevor Noah: "Donald Trump just blew up the Middle East so hard that ISIS is going to take credit for it. And since he is so desperate for compliments, he would be like, 'You know what, ISIS has many sides folks, many sides.'"

Trevor Noah: "This is how Trump probably wants to put out the California fires, by throwing Samsung phones at them."

Trevor Noah: "This is big news. Al Franken is going to be making an announcement tomorrow. He could be stepping down, or he could be announcing he's having a baby! Either one. So it looks like Al Franken's political career could be over, unless he moves to Alabama to run as a Republican."

Jimmy Fallon: "And following more allegations of sexual harassment, 30 Democratic senators called on Al Franken to resign as senator of Minnesota. But he's already got a back-up plan. He's going to run for senator of Alabama."

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that Vladimir Putin just announced he is seeking reelection. Really? Who's running against him? That's like running for class president when you're home-schooled."

Seth Meyers: "Towards the end of the speech on Israel today, President Trump began to slur his words, leading some to speculate that he may have been wearing dentures. But the White House insists that it's nothing unusual and that most of his words are slurs."

Seth Meyers: "Thirty-two Democratic senators have now called on Senator Al Franken to step aside after another woman accused him of sexual misconduct. Also stepping aside: women when they see Al Franken coming."

Conan O'Brien: "'TIME magazine announced the person of the year today and it is not President Trump. When asked for comment, the White House said, 'Shhh, we haven't told him yet.'"

Conan O'Brien: "In an interview, Senate candidate Roy Moore's spokesperson said his accusers gave Academy Award performances. Then Moore interrupted and said, 'I just wish they'd been Teen Choice Awards.'"

Conan O'Brien: "This morning, Vladimir Putin announced he's going to run for re-election. Then this afternoon, he announced he'd won."

Jordan Klepper: "Today, TIME magazine named their 2017 Person of the Year, honoring the 'silence breakers' who have spoken out against sexual harassment and assault. This comes after the magazine refused to give the cover to its rightful owner, President Trump. But the joke's on TIME. If Trump isn't Person of the Year, then how come the article spends so much time recognizing the contributions he's made to awareness of sexual predators?"

Jordan Klepper: [Referring to Steve Bannon's comment on Mitt Romney] "That's right, Mitt. If you're going to get a deferment, don't hide behind your religion and do missionary work. Real men defer enlistment because they have bone spurs and bravely stay in New York to try their hand at real estate development."

Samantha Bee: [Referring to Rep. John Conyers' resignation and Sen. Al Franken's

announcement tomorrow] "Great news today, the grabby creeps on Capitol Hill is down to infinity minus one. ... And if the Democratic women of the Senate have anything to say about it, it's about to be infinity minus two."

Samantha Bee: "Great job, Democrats. You really showed that Democrat lawmakers will not tolerate a predator with more than six sexual harassment allegations against them. Seven strikes and you are out, probably."

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DATE: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2017 6:00 AM EST

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DOI In The News

Congress Far Away From Solution To Help Prevent Wildfires As Blazes Sweep Through California.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/13, Siegel) reports that Congress is “no closer to agreeing on a plan to try to reduce the risk of wildfires and fix a funding problem that challenges the federal response, more than a week after damaging fires in Southern California worsened a record wildfire season.” Lawmakers have “disagreed over how to help fund wildfire response and impose forest management changes that could prevent fires from starting.” Rep. Bruce Westerman and Rep. Rob Bishop, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, “met this week with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, to discuss forest management options.” However, “Westerman says he is not aware of any ‘substantive’ negotiations occurring between the House and Senate to bridge a solution.”

House Offers Unanimous Support For Pair Of Hydro Project Development Bills.

[Hydroworld](#) (12/13, Harris) reports that the U.S. House of Representatives has “unanimously approved a pair of bills that would promote the development of qualifying pumped storage projects and addition of hydroelectric capacity to existing non-powered dams.” Rep. Morgan Griffith’s Promoting Closed-Loop Pumped Storage Hydropower Act (House Resolution 2880), would “limit the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s authority to enforce licensing conditions for closed-loop proposals ‘only as necessary to protect public safety’, or in instances ‘that are reasonable, economically feasible, and essential to protect fish and wildlife resources.’” The second bill, called the Promoting Hydropower Development at Existing Non-powered Dams Act (H.R. 2872), “would establish an expedited licensing process, resulting in decisions on applications in two years or less.” The bill would “also require FERC, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Department of the Interior to develop a list of existing non-powered, federally-owned dams that have the greatest potential for private sector hydropower development.”

For The First Time, Interior Makes More Details Of Recent SES Reassignments Public.

[Federal News Radio \(DC\)](#) (12/13, Ogrysko) reports that the Interior Department is “beginning to make more details public about its recent – and often controversial – round of senior executive reassignments.” According to documents Interior recently made available, 33 senior executives, “or 15 percent of the department’s Senior Executive Service cadre, received reassignment notices from Interior on June 15,” and 23 of “those SES accepted and made the transfer to their new positions.”

Barr Seeks Trump’s Approval On Camp Nelson Becoming National Monument.

[WKYT-TV](#) Lexington, KY (12/13) reports that Rep. Andy Barr is urging President Trump to designate Camp Nelson a national monument. In a release on Wednesday, Barr says the camp was recommended by Secretary Ryan Zinke as a possible addition for monument status. Barr said, “I applaud Secretary Zinke for recognizing this site’s potential to convey nationally significant information about the survival and persistence of African-American soldiers and their families as they fought for their freedom. I strongly encourage President Trump to follow through on the secretary’s recommendation so that, like the 6th District of Kentucky, the entire nation can experience the rich history Camp Nelson has to offer.”

Mark Ruffalo Is ‘Disgusted’ With Trump’s Monuments Decision.

The [AP](#) (12/13, Landrum) reports that actor Mark Ruffalo “said he is disgusted with President Donald Trump’s plan to shrink two sprawling Utah national monuments by nearly two-thirds.” Ruffalo “said Trump’s decision is environmentally wrong and an attempt to cater to a group of wealthy people.”

Uranium Mill Pressed Trump Officials For Bears Ears Reductions, Records Show.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/13, Maffly) reports that “energy extraction on public lands had a lot more to do with Utah’s national monument reductions than the Department of Interior and the state’s elected leaders are acknowledging, newly disclosed documents suggest.” According to a May 25 letter obtained by The Washington Post, Energy Fuels Resources “implored Interior officials to trim Bears Ears National Monument in ways that protect its assets just outside the monument’s periphery, which included the country’s last operating uranium mill.” The firm “apparently feared that having a national monument abutting the mill located at southern Utah’s White Mesa – which features a sprawling network of wastewater ponds – would hurt its operations, putting at risk the nation’s domestic ore-processing capacity.”

River Advisory Group Axed.

The [Weaverville \(CA\) Trinity Journal](#) (12/13, Gittelsohn) reports that the Interior Department has “taken an action that effectively dissolves the advisory group that provides input on Trinity River Restoration Program decisions.” Members of the advisory group known as the Trinity Adaptive Management Working Group were “advised in November that the Interior Department had declared the group ‘administratively inactive.’” Rep. Jared Huffman has sent a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke writing “that the stakeholder group is ‘an important oversight committee’ and essential to the restoration program.”

State Proposes \$562 Million In Coastal Restoration, Hurricane Protection In FY ‘19, Drop From ‘18.

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (12/13, Schleifstein) reports Louisiana expects to spend \$561.8 million on coastal restoration and hurricane protection projects for the 2019 fiscal year, according to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority. The total funding is less than the state budgeted for the current year, in part because the state expects less offshore oil revenue than previously expected under federal law. Most of the funding comes from financial settlements from the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon spill. The state expects to have 23 projects under construction for the year.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

DC Circ. Nixes Freedmen Descendants’ Suit Against DOI.

[Law360](#) (12/13, Posses) reports that “the D.C. Circuit on Tuesday declined to revive a proposed class action, brought by descendants of slaves held by Native American tribes, claiming the U.S.

Department of the Interior owes them royalties from land granted to their ancestors, agreeing with a lower court that alleged injuries to their relatives aren't enough to give them standing."

Albuquerque Man Pleads Guilty To Assaulting Tribal Policeman.

The [AP](#) (12/13) reports that "an Albuquerque man has pleaded guilty to assaulting an officer with the Pueblo of Isleta tribal police." According to a criminal complaint, Daniel Mendoza, 20, "intentionally backed his truck into the tribal police officer's vehicle while attempting to evade arrest in September 2016 on the Isleta Pueblo in New Mexico's Bernalillo County." The officer was commissioned as a Special Law Enforcement Officer by the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Office of Justice Services. Mendoza "faces up to 20 years in prison when he's sentenced."

Additional Coverage: County, Tribes Make Progress Toward Roadway Settlements.

Additional coverage that Santa Fe County this week "revealed the scope of proposed settlements to resolve long-standing roadway disputes with four pueblos after months of closed-door negotiations" was provided by the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (12/14, Stelnicki).

Bureau Of Land Management

"Congress Has Spoken" On BLM Rule – Cantwell.

[E&E Publishing](#) (12/13, King) reports that in discussions over the speed at which permits are processed for federal land energy projects, some on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee were still considering the Obama-era Department of the Interior rule that was suspended last week. During a line of questioning, Democratic Sen. Maria Cantwell of Washington said "I think Congress has spoken on that" in reference to the BLM's delay of methane emissions standards. The questions were being directed at Interior Associate Deputy Secretary Jim Cason. Cason discussed the methane rule and said, "we were attempting to levy royalties on methane that was vented when we didn't have the presence of gathering lines to actually gather the materials." Cason added, "we're going back to a basically conservation of resource thought process."

Feds Rake In \$6 Million From Oil And Gas Lease Auctions, Including Lands Near Utah's Dinosaur National Monument.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/13, Maffly) reports that Tuesday's auction held by the Bureau of Land Management brought in \$6 million from oil and gas lease options. Bids were fielded on almost 94,000 acres throughout Utah, which includes some of the Dinosaur National Monument. Meanwhile, some "parcels covering about 40,000 acres...failed to attract acceptable minimum bids, including lands near Molen Reef, an area rich in ancient rock art in Emery County."

BLM Relocation? Colorado Democrats Jared Polis And Ed Perlmutter Sign Onto GOP Legislation.

The [Denver Post](#) (12/13, Paul) reports that Democrat Reps. Ed Perlmutter and Jared Polis have "joined their Republican congressional colleagues in backing legislation that would allow the Bureau of Land Management to relocate its headquarters to the West, and possibly to Colorado." Perlmutter said in a statement, "Relocating BLM headquarters to the West would be a natural fit with the agency's mission and purview, and allow agency officials to be closer to the land and minerals they oversee. I believe Colorado is well-positioned to house the BLM headquarters as Coloradans value our public lands and outdoor recreation." Gardner applauded Polis' and Perlmutter's co-sponsorship, saying "this is a common-sense proposal that Coloradans from across the political spectrum support."

Lawmakers Urge Leaders To Protect Wild Horses.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/13, Siciliano, Siegel) reports that "a bipartisan coalition of more than 40 lawmakers are urging House and Senate leadership to keep current protections for wild horses and burros in the West in its 2018 government funding bill." The House lawmakers wrote in a letter to this week, "While we recognize that management issues must be addressed, killing these magnificent creatures is not the answer."

New Mexico Oil And Gas Companies Sign On To Reduce Emissions.

The [AP](#) (12/13, Bryan) reports that energy firms in New Mexico have "signed on to a national

effort within the oil and gas industry to curb methane emissions as pressure mounts for states to enact more pollution laws." Industry officials in New Mexico "say BP America, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, Devon Energy and others see the effort to reduce emissions as a priority and that work already underway has led to lower methane levels." Through the initiative, "companies will participate in programs that focus on addressing leaks and repairing or replacing certain pneumatic controllers at wells and other sites that are known for releasing methane."

Mormon Religion Used To Justify Extreme Anti-Government Ideology In Cliven Bundy Case.

[Newsweek](#) (12/13, Maza) reports that "an obscure Mormon religious text has emerged as one of the central tenets influencing the anti-government ideology of Cliven Bundy, a militiaman accused of leading an armed standoff against federal agents near a ranch outside Las Vegas in 2014." Researchers at the Southern Poverty Law Center have noted that the Bundy family and its supporters "follow a text called The Nay Book, allegedly compiled by Bundy's friend and fellow rancher Keith Allen Nay, who died in 1997." According to the center, "the book lays out a religious justification for resisting the federal management of public lands."

BLM Seeks Public Comment On Proposed Parkdale Mineral Sampling In Fremont County And More.

The [Canon City \(CO\) Daily Record](#) (12/13) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is seeking public input "on its draft environmental assessment to sample hard rock minerals in the Parkdale area as part of a mineral materials sale application."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Bureau Of Reclamation Plans Conservation Efforts For Planet Ranch.

The [Havasupai \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (12/14, Louis) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation has "a plan to add 3,400 acres of land near Planet Ranch to the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program." The addition of land is "a result of a controversial water transfer by the mining company Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Inc." John Swett, manager for the conservation program, said, "What we've done is to insure we are not going to use the water that it would adversely affect the nearby Bill Williams National Wildlife Refuge. This was a big part of the deal. We wanted to make sure the water would stay in the aquifer. If it all gets used up, the refuge would be in a lot of trouble because that's its source."

Feds Give Initial OK To Utah's Application To Build Lake Powell Pipeline.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/13, Penrod) reports the FERC conditionally approved an application by Utah for the construction of the Lake Powell Pipeline, which will "pump Colorado River water from Glenn Canyon Dam to St. George and 12 other southern Utah communities." At the same time, however, FERC was reviewing if additional federal entities, such as the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management, would have "jurisdiction over the six hydroelectric sites along the route." Should that be the case, Utah would be expected to also navigate "a lengthy review from a host of other federal agencies."

Also reporting are the [AP](#) (12/13) and the [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (12/13, Kessler).

Dam Police Department Dissolved; Park Rangers Now Patrol Facility.

[Boulder City \(NV\) Review](#) (12/13, Goodyear) reports that National Park Service rangers now provide law enforcement at Hoover Dam, "rather than the Bureau of Reclamation's defunct police department." According to the article, "the Bureau of Reclamation's security force now handles all security needs for the Hoover Dam facility, and when it encounters a situation where law enforcement is needed, the park rangers will come in." Terry Fulp, Lower Colorado Region director of the Bureau of Reclamation, "said it was hard for the federal agency to maintain a police department because of the requirements it had to meet and its size."

Federal Official, Accountant Indicted In Las Vegas Bribery Case.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (12/13, Brean) reports that "a former official for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in Boulder City and an accountant for a private accounting firm have been indicted on federal corruption charges." Fredrick J. Leavitt and Dustin M. Lewis "each face one count of conspiracy in connection with a bribery scheme involving a government contract, the U.S."

Attorney's Office in Las Vegas announced Wednesday." Leavitt was the director of the financial management office for the bureau's Lower Colorado Region. Lewis was employed by LL Bradford & Company, an accounting and tax firm. Their indictment claims "that between February 2015 and February 2016, Lewis bribed and provided kickbacks to Leavitt so he would steer a Southern California Public Power Authority audit contract to LL Bradford."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Las Vegas Sun](#) (12/13, Torres-Cortez).

Fish And Wildlife Service

Final GOP Tax Bill Would Allow Arctic Refuge Drilling.

[The Hill](#) (12/13, Henry) reports the compromise tax cut bill reached Wednesday by the GOP included the provision to drill for oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, according to Sen. Lisa Murkowski. She said the bill "contains the single most important step I believe we can take to strengthen our energy security and create new wealth." Rep. Raúl Grijalva, another tax bill negotiator, said the ANWR measure is a "a completely unrelated, unpopular provision that should not be forced through this Congress under these procedures." The [Seattle Times](#) (12/13, Bernton) reports the overall tax legislation is expected to be voted on by the House and Senate in the coming days.

Environmentalists Drag Out Robert Redford To Protest Arctic Drilling. The [Daily Caller](#) (12/13, Bastasch) reports Robert Redford is working with the National Resource Defense Council to advocate opposition to the Republican tax bill over ANWR drilling. In an ad for the NRDC, Redford says, "Republican leaders are saying the refuge needs to be auctioned off to the oil industry to help offset a \$1.5 trillion tax giveaway. ... They claim that they can raise \$100 million plundering these public lands."

House Committee Approves Monomoy Boundary Bill.

The [Cape Cod \(MA\) Chronicle](#) (12/13, Wood) reports that "the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources approved legislation Wednesday to restore the western boundary of the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge to mean low tide." Rep. William Keating "filed the legislation to restore what town officials say was the historically recognized western boundary." The legislation is "opposed by environmental groups like Mass Audubon which see it as relinquishing federal control of an environmentally sensitive area."

Wildlife Managers On The Lookout For Grizzlies In The Bitterroot.

[Montana Public Radio](#) (12/13, Burnham) reports that "wildlife managers in the Bitterroot Ecosystem are stepping up their efforts to document the presence of grizzly bears there." At a Tuesday meeting of the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee in Missoula, Kimberly Nelson with the Salmon-Challis National Forest "reported on managers' efforts to document evidence of grizzlies in the Bitterroot." She "told the committee that places with credible grizzly sightings like the Ninemile and the Lower Clark Fork will be a prioritized for data gathering over the next 5 years."

National Park Service

Poliquin Bill To End Acadia Mudflats Disputes Advances.

The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (12/13, Sambides) reports that "a bill designed to resolve border disputes between Acadia National Park and its neighbors cleared a hurdle on Wednesday." The House Committee on Natural Resources "unanimously endorsed HR 4266, which includes language aimed at ending confusion among clam and worm diggers who use mudflats near the park and rangers who have stopped them." The legislation "reinforces the Schoodic Point donation, repeals the 1929 law and maps the park's boundaries."

Wreaths Across America Event Happens Saturday.

The [Greeneville \(TN\) Sun](#) (12/13, Shepherd) reports that "thousands of wreaths will be placed over graves at Andrew Johnson National Cemetery on Thursday, and the annual program will take place on Saturday." The featured speaker this year is Lt. Col. Neal Kerney, of the Tennessee National Guard, with remarks also given by Acting Superintendent Eric Leonard. Leonard said, "The Wreaths Across America Program is an iconic annual event for national cemeteries. And it

reflects the best side of any community. On behalf of the National Park Service we are grateful for the annual support from students, leaders, veterans and community members.”

Postal Service Stamp Will Feature Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore.

[MLive \(MI\)](#) (12/13, Champion) reports that the United States Postal Service “unveiled a portion of its 2018 stamp collection on Tuesday, Dec. 12” and Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore is “among the images that will be featured.” A USPS news release said, “With this Priority Mail Express stamp, the Postal Service celebrates the Sleeping Bear Dunes, a national park in Michigan that takes its name from a Native American legend.”

Higher Entry Fees Announced For Great Basin National Park.

The [AP](#) (12/14) reports that “federal officials are raising fees for cave tours and campground stays within Nevada’s vast Great Basin National Park.” Acting park Superintendent Curt Dimmick “calls the increases modest, and says the money they raise will underwrite services at the park where visitation increased 25 percent in 2016, to nearly 145,000 people.”

New Concessionaire Named For Katherine Landing At Lake Mohave.

[Boulder City \(NV\) Review](#) (12/13) reports that the National Park Service has “awarded a 15-year contract to Urban Park Concessionaires to operate commercial services and facilities at Katherine Landing on Lake Mohave in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area.” Lizette Richardson, Lake Mead National Recreation Area superintendent said, “We are pleased to announce that Urban Park Concessionaires is the new concessionaire at Katherine Landing. The National Park Service has invested millions to enhance the services at this popular destination. With our new private partner, we anticipate there will be even further redevelopment of the area.” John Koeberer, CEO of Urban Park Concessionaires, “said the company is ‘anxious’ to begin revitalizing the area and plans to update the restaurant and retail facilities, increase water conservation and reduce electricity and fuel consumption.”

Buffalo National River Superintendent Kevin Cheri Honored Tuesday.

The [Harrison \(AR\) Daily Times](#) (12/13) reports that Buffalo National River Superintendent Kevin Cheri, “who has announced his retirement, was honored Tuesday with the Regional Director’s Award for Outstanding Service for exceptional leadership in the National Park Service.” A statement said, “Throughout his 43 years of service, Kevin has strengthened resource stewardship by advancing employee development, community engagement, diversity, and inclusion in parks.”

Park Natural Resources Manager Recognized For Excellence.

The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (12/13) reports that Glacier National Park Natural Resources Program Manager Mark Biel has “earned the 2017 National Park Service Intermountain Region Director’s Award for Professional Excellence in Natural Resource Stewardship.” Biel was “recognized for his leadership on several fronts, including his work to initiate a wildlife shepherding program, dark sky conservation and mountain goat research.”

City Of Shelby Earns Certified Local Government Status.

The [Richland Source \(OH\)](#) (12/13) reports that “the City of Shelby is now a Certified Local Government through the Department of Interior, National Park Service and the State Historic Preservation Office, as of Oct. 13.”

Surry On National Register.

The [Smithfield \(VA\) Times](#) (12/13, McFarland) reports that the town of Surry was recently added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Hurricane Harvey Flooding Claims Historic Katy Home.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (12/13, Zurawski) reports that the B. Ray and Charlotte Woods House, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, was flooded in August by Hurricane Harvey

Office Of Insular Affairs

Hurricane-hit Caribbean States Target Future Safe From Climate Harm.

[Reuters](#) (12/13) reports nearly a dozen hurricane-hit Caribbean countries announced, during the “One Planet” conference in Paris, the creation of action plan to “restructure up to \$1 billion in debt” in an effort to help the countries pay for upgrades necessary to defend “against the effects of global warming.” The plan also aims to connect “companies, development banks and other organizations to curb damage from climate change and grow cleanly.”

Office Of Surface Mining

Mining Mogul Murray Gets Coal In His Stocking—and Wants More.

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/13, Loh) reports that President Trump has at least partially delivered on “more than one-third of a three-and-a-half page list of policy proposals” offered up by coal mogul Robert Murray. Murray is described as one of the most vocal energy executives “pushing Trump to shift US policies more in favor of fossil fuels.”

US Geological Survey

Williston Oil, NatGas Resources To Be Reassessed.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (12/13, Nemec) reports that the U.S. Geological Survey has agreed to undertake a new assessment of technically recoverable oil and natural gas resources in the Williston Basin at the bidding of North Dakota Republican Sen. John Hoeven and energy industry stakeholders who say “an updated assessment may spur more interest in the Bakken Shale.” According to North Dakota Petroleum Council President Ron Ness, the updated assessment “would provide a much clearer picture of the resources in North Dakota.” AN NDPC spokeswoman added, “There is more competition for investment dollars today and having the best information available would reaffirm development in the Bakken and show the potential for underdeveloped formations in North Dakota.”

Noting that there are “up to 19 producing formations in the Williston Basin,” the [Prairie Public News \(ND\)](#) (12/13, Thompson) quoted NDPC’s Ron Ness as saying, “Now, we hope the USGS goes back to look at the entire basin, and then do an assessment of all the other horizons,” Ness said. According to Ness, these assessments have been an important tool in helping to attract investors, not just in drilling wells, but “investors into hotels, retail and real estate” as well.

Fracking Sites May Raise The Risk Of Underweight Babies, New Study Says.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/13, Fears) reports, “Living within half a mile of a hydraulic fracturing site carries a serious risk for pregnant women,” investigators found in a “five-year study of more than 1.1 million births” in Pennsylvania. In “Science Now,” the [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/13, Healy) reports that the study authors also “estimated that, in 2012, about 29,000 of the close to four million annual births in the United States – roughly 0.7% of babies born each year – were to women who lived within about two-thirds of a mile of a hydraulic fracturing operation during their pregnancies.”

Also covering the story are the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/13, Gold), [The Atlantic](#) (12/13, Meyer), and [TIME](#) (12/13, Worland).

After Fires, Southern California Faces Risk Of Mudslides.

[Reuters](#) (12/13, Gruber, Dobuzinskis) reports that “firefighters in Southern California are slowly gaining control of one of the largest wildfires in state history, but residents may not enjoy much relief as experts said the flames are laying the groundwork for the next disaster – mudslides.” According to experts, “the intense fire is burning away vegetation that holds the soil in place and baking a waxy layer into the earth that prevents the water from sinking more than a few inches into the ground.” Jason Kean, research hydrologist for the U.S. Geological Survey, said, “Pretty much anywhere there’s a fire on a steep slope, there’s cause for concern.”

Opinion Pieces

The Trump Regulatory Game Plan.

In an op-ed in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/13), Neomi Rao, the administrator of the Office of

Information and Regulatory Affairs in the Office of Management and Budget, opines that the Trump Administration's efforts to dismantle the regulatory state have reassured businesses and families that planning for the future without worrying about regulatory red tape is OK. Rao criticizes President Obama for burdening the economy with up to \$15.2 billion in regulatory costs and praises the Trump Administration's confidence in the decision-making abilities of the American people. Rao also asserts that regulatory reform strengthens and promotes constitutional democracy by deferring to Congress' power to assign legal authority to agencies.

What Is Zinke Doing?

In his column for the [Glasgow \(MT\) Courier](#) (12/13, Carmichael), Alec Carmichael is surprised that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke went along with the decision to reduce Bears Ears and Grand Staircase – Escalante National Monuments "in such a rank and file manner that one could hardly remember the lowly outsider who stood up to the Republican Party's position on selling off federal lands." What Carmichael is most concerned about is "how quickly he abandoned the character of a Montana do-no-wrong conservative in apparent hopes of appeasing the Trump machine, and riding the wave to power." Carmichael acknowledges that Zinke has "merely reshuffled lands back to other agencies," but notes that "in doing so has opened up those lands to the development of fossil fuels and other mining operations." He argues that "grazing lands, and development by industry actually harm public access and hunting access due to the need to protect equipment, livestock and everything else that goes along with industrial development."

Energy Fuels Was One Voice Among Many In Bears Ears Debate.

In an op-ed for The [Denver Post](#) (12/13, Chalmers), Mark Chalmers, president of uranium producer Energy Fuels, seeks to defend Energy Fuels from a "wildly exaggerated impression" advanced in a Washington Post article that the company "somehow played a significant role in the decision to reduce the size of Utah's Bears Ears National Monument." Chalmers says the company was "only one voice among many" in offering input during both the early and later stages of the "Administration's monument review process."

Cutting The Red Tape On The Way To U.S. Global Energy Dominance.

In an op-ed for the [Daily Caller](#) (12/13, Cohen), Bonner R. Cohen, Ph. D., a senior fellow at the National Center for Public Policy Research, President Trump's goal for the US to achieve "global energy dominance" is "absolutely achievable in light of America's abundance not only of hydrocarbons, but also of innovative technologies and nimble businesses practices that enable energy to be produced and brought to market at an affordable price." Cohen lauds the Trump Administration for making "enormous strides in rolling back Obama-era regulations specifically crafted to hamstring American energy production." However, Cohen writes that "the swamp in Washington is still very much with us, and there are further steps Team Trump can take to accelerate its draining." Notably, Cohen suggests that "the Washington-centric management" Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "inherited should be dismantled in favor of engaging rural western communities and resource developers in the decision-making process."

Additional Coverage.

- *Another 'Emergency,' Another Rollback Of Environment Protections.* [The Hill](#) (12/13, Super).
- *Don't Drill In Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Facts Show It Makes No Sense.* [USA Today](#) (12/13, Murphy, Contributor).
- *We're About To Open ANWR, And That Means More Years Of Patience.* [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (12/13, Bradner).
- *Our View: Taking Refuge In Oil?* [Lompoc \(CA\) Record](#) (12/13).
- *Editorial: Congress Should Block Efforts To Expand Offshore Drilling.* [Tampa \(FL\) Tribune](#) (12/13).
- *Daines' Public Lands Bill Won't Protect Public Lands.* [Montana Standard](#) (12/14, Thomas).
- *Why Are Palaeontologists Suing Trump?.* [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (12/13, Panciroli) .
- *Now What?* [Salt Lake City Weekly](#) (12/13, Harris).
- *Answers, Reinstatement Needed On TAMWG.* [Weaverville \(CA\) Trinity Journal](#) (12/13).
- *How About A BLM Move Under Tree?* [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (12/13).
- *Ruckelshaus, Reilly, Babbitt, Whitman Say No To Pebble Mine.* [Huffington Post](#) (12/13, Reynolds).

- *Memo To Supreme Court: Grant Cert In The Weyerhaeuser Case!*. [Power Line Blog](#) (12/13, Hinderaker) .
- *House Of Representatives And Logging Industry Poised To Make Eagle Creek Fire Damage Worse.* [Portland \(OR\) Mercury](#) (12/13, Herzog).
- *Perspective Of The West, From The East.* [Idaho Mountain Express](#) (12/13, Dart).

Top National News

Trump Delivers “Closing Argument” As Republicans Reach Agreement On Tax Plan.

Republican leaders have reportedly reached agreement on a tax plan on the same day President Trump delivered what aides described as a “closing argument” for it. While Trump said the plan would provide “massive tax relief for American families and for American companies,” many media reports cast the plan in a negative light, saying it will largely benefit corporations and the wealthy.

[Reuters](#) (12/13, Morgan, Becker) says the agreement “would repeal the corporate alternative minimum tax...and expand a proposed \$10,000 cap for state and local property tax deductions to include income tax, lawmakers and sources familiar with the negotiations said.” In addition, it was “expected to limit the popular mortgage interest deduction to home loans of no more than \$750,000 and provide the owners of pass-through businesses...with a 20 percent business income deduction.” It would also “gut part of the Obamacare health law” by repealing the individual mandate. Reuters says the final bill “could be formally unveiled on Friday,” with final votes expected next week. The [New York Times](#) (12/13, Tankersley, Kaplan, Rappeport) says the “overall cost of the revised legislation” is unclear, and adds that it “cannot exceed the \$1.5 trillion bucket that lawmakers have allowed if they want to pass the bill without Democratic support.” Several Senate provisions added “to help pay for the overall bill were either reversed or scaled back in the consensus version, and some tax breaks eliminated by the House were added back in.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (12/13, story 8, 0:20, Glor) mentioned the agreement briefly in a 20-second report.

[The Hill](#) (12/13, Bolton, Wong) reports that while House conservatives “said they didn’t like the bump in the corporate rate,” with “a tax victory so close, they said the tweak would not be a deal breaker.” Republican Study Committee Chairman Rep. Mark Walker said, “We don’t like it; it causes some consternation. I am concerned about the business rate. ... But it’s not a deal breaker.”

[Politico](#) (12/13, Faler, Kim, Cook) says that with Senate expected to take up the bill Monday and hold a final vote on Tuesday, “attention turns to a handful of Republican senators who have held considerable leverage in the tax fight,” including Sen. Susan Collins, who “stressed on Wednesday that she doesn’t believe the top individual tax rate should be lowered,” and Sen. Marco Rubio, who “hinted Wednesday that his vote for the plan was not guaranteed. He has demanded that, if his colleagues back off their promises to cut the corporate tax rate to 20 percent, they must use at least some of the budget savings to expand the refundability of the child tax credit.” Sen. Bob Corker was also “non-committal.”

Senate Majority Whip Cornyn told the [Washington Examiner](#) (12/13, Ferrechio) that Republicans are “in good shape” to pass the bill with at least 51 votes, and said he is hopeful that Corker, who was “the only holdout on the initial Senate plan, may also vote for it.” [Breitbart](#) (12/13, Moran) reports that Republicans “hope to pass the tax bill before Christmas.” The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/13, Burr) says that at a White House meeting Wednesday, Sen. Orrin Hatch told the President. “We’ll get it done.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/13, Mascaro) calls the “tentative accord” a “significant step” in the GOP effort to get the bill to Trump by Christmas, but says Republicans “did not release details of the compromise or the text of a final bill as negotiations continued.” Critics meanwhile, “said the latest changes...only reaffirmed several independent analyses that show the bulk of the savings from the Republican plan would go to businesses and the wealthy.”

The [Washington Post](#) (12/13, Paletta, Werner) says the agreement “would deliver a major tax cut for upper-income households.” Its passage would “amount to the biggest legislative victory President Trump has secured since taking office.” The [AP](#) (12/13, Ohlemacher, Taylor, Gordon) similarly says passage of the plan, which “would provide generous tax cuts for corporations and the wealthiest Americans,” would be Trump’s “first major legislative accomplishment.” The [New York Post](#) (12/13, Fredericks) says that while the plan “would give Trump his first major victory in Congress and fulfill a longstanding goal of top Republicans,” it

“has come under assault by Democrats, who say it is unfairly tilted in favor of business and the wealthy.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/13, Rubin, Hughes) says Republicans crafted the agreement with no input from Democrats. Sen. Joe Manchin said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (12/13), “There were 15 Democrats that wanted to be part of this. I’m the easiest pick up they would have had, but it was designed not to have any Democrats.”

[USA Today](#) (12/13, Jackson, Shesgreen, Collins, Today) reports that Senate Minority Leader Schumer on Wednesday “called for action on taxes to be delayed until the newly elected senator from Alabama, Democrat Doug Jones, can be sworn in.” The [New York Times](#) (12/13, Stolberg) says Schumer called on Senate Majority Leader McConnell to “hit the pause button,” arguing, “It would be wrong for Senate Republicans to jam through this tax bill without giving the newly elected senator from Alabama the opportunity to cast his vote.” Sen. Bernie Sanders said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (12/13) that “the precedent here is when Scott Brown of Massachusetts was elected to replace the late Ted Kennedy, he was allowed to participate in voting on the Affordable Care Act. That’s the precedent there. And I think Schumer is exactly right in saying that Mitch McConnell should give Doug Jones the same opportunity.”

[The Hill](#) (12/13, Jagoda) reports that at the start of the conference committee’s open meeting on Wednesday, Democrats sought to postpone the conference until Jones is seated “but their effort was shot down.” Rep. Richard Neal “offered a motion to delay conference work until after Jones takes office,” but Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady “said Neal’s motion was ‘not available.’”

The [Washington Times](#) (12/13, Sherfinski) says that “Republican leaders say they’re pressing forward,” and White House Legislative Director Marc Short told [Fox News’ Special Report](#), “I think the American people need this tax relief now so there is no need for us to wait. We hope when Doug Jones arrives here in Washington, DC...if he is representing the people of Alabama, then he will be wanting to make sure they get this middle income tax relief, too.”

In a televised speech from the White House Wednesday that [USA Today](#) (12/13, Jackson) says aides called a “closing argument” for the Republican tax bill, Trump promised a “giant tax cut for Christmas,” [Bloomberg News](#) (12/13, Sink, Epstein) reports. Trump said, “When I say giant, I mean giant. ... As we speak, Congress has reached an agreement on tax legislation that will deliver more jobs, higher wages and massive tax relief for American families and for American companies.” Trump said, “It’s critically important for Congress to quickly pass these historic tax cuts. ... If Congress sends me a bill before Christmas – this is breaking news – the IRS has just confirmed that Americans will see lower taxes and bigger paychecks beginning in February.”

[Politico](#) (12/13, McCaskill) reports that Trump said, “I’m here today to tell you that we will never let bad things happen with respect to the economy of our country.” Trump called the current tax code as “burdensome, complex and profoundly unfair,” and it “blam[ed] it for the loss of jobs that have gone overseas.” Said Trump, “And you see it. Even before we do this...they’re starting to come back. Our country’s starting to do really well again. And as a country, we’re being respected again. We’re being respected again.”

[The Hill](#) (12/13, Easley) quotes Trump as saying, “Our tax cuts will break down – and they’ll break it down fast – all forms of government and all forms of government barriers and breathe new life into the American economy. ... They will unleash the American people, they will tear down the constraints on discovery, innovation and creation, and they will restore the hopes and dreams of the American family. Millions of middle class families will win under our plan.” The [Washington Times](#) (12/13, Dinan) says Trump “surrounded himself with families who would benefit from the tax cuts,” as he delivered the speech, which “seemed designed to counter the claims of Democrats who have ridiculed the tax cuts as too little and too skewed to the wealthy.” Mary Bruce reported in the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/13, lead story, 3:45, Muir) that Trump is “cautious.” Trump: “I mean, we are so close right now, so close, in fact, almost – I don’t want to talk about it. Maybe we shouldn’t talk about it.”

Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway said on [Fox News’ Hannity](#) (12/13), “We are on the verge of passing historic tax reform.” The President “said people would start seeing the difference in their paychecks in February. When you file your taxes by April 15th next year, you will have seen the difference in your paychecks. He is the paycheck President.”

Peter Alexander reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/13, lead story, 2:35, Holt) that outgoing Fed Chair Yellen on Wednesday “cast doubt on the President’s rosy economic projection.” Yellen: “It would be challenging to achieve numbers like that.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/13, Board) says that in its report Wednesday, the Federal Open Market

Committee did not indicate that it believes the Republican tax bill will have much of an impact on the economy.

WPost Analysis: Despite Trump Comments, Ireland Not Threatened By US Tax Overhaul. The [Washington Post](#) (12/13, Pogatchnik, Long) reports that as he has argued that the US must overhaul its tax code “to win back American investments and jobs,” Trump “has singled out Ireland for its extraordinarily low corporate tax rate.” However, according to “Irish government officials, accountants and highly skilled workers” see “little threat” to Ireland from the US tax changes, which the Post says “underscores why many experts are forecasting that the GOP tax plan will do little to alter the forces that drive American industry overseas.” In fact, “some argue, US moves could make Ireland an even more attractive landing spot for members of the Fortune 500 in Europe.”

Personal Finance Experts Offer Tips On Preparing For Coming Tax Changes. Lester Holt said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/13, story 2, 1:55, Holt) that with the coming tax changes, “there’s a lot to process including the loss of and limitations on a long list of popular deductions and you might be wondering what you should do now to prepare before they take effect.” Tom Costello added that with the new tax year drawing near, “personal finance experts say the time to act is now before the new rules take effect.” The story featured comments from personal finance experts.

Samuelson: “Tax Gap” Of GOP Bill Is Between \$7 Trillion And \$12 Trillion. Robert Samuelson writes in the [Washington Post](#) (12/13) that while estimates have said “that the tax gap of the Trump-Republican program – the net amount of the tax cut – is somewhere between zero (the administration’s position – the tax cut will pay for itself through stronger economic growth) and \$1.5 trillion over a decade (the position of many economists who doubt much of a boost to economic growth),” a “more realistic estimate of the tax gap is somewhere between \$7 trillion and \$12 trillion, again over a decade.” Samuelson argues that even if the plan works, “it won’t cure chronic deficits,” but both parties “find it more convenient to argue over the plan’s distributional effects – are the rich and well-to-do unfairly favored? – than to close the gaping deficits.”

Trump Says He Originally Backed Strange Because He Knew Moore Wouldn’t Win.

Coverage in the wake of Doug Jones’ Tuesday win over Roy Moore in Alabama’s Senate special election largely focuses on two themes: First, that the outcome imperils both President Trump’s agenda and the GOP Senate majority in 2018. And second, Moore’s loss has led to a spate of finger-pointing within the GOP between Republican establishment allies of Senate Majority Leader McConnell and supporters of ex-White House chief strategist Steve Bannon.

The [Washington Times](#) (12/13, Boyer) reports that President Trump on Wednesday said he knew Roy Moore wouldn’t win the Alabama Senate special election, “after Democrat Doug Jones’ stunning victory dealt the president one of the biggest defeats of his first year in office. It was the president’s second loss in the Alabama Senate race this year, after he backed losing Republican Luther Strange in the GOP primary.” In a [tweet](#), Trump said, “The reason I originally endorsed Luther Strange (and his numbers went up mightily), is that I said Roy Moore will not be able to win the General Election. I was right! Roy worked hard but the deck was stacked against him!” In a “Fact Check” piece headlined “Trump’s Revisionist History Of His Role In Alabama Race,” the [New York Times](#) (12/13, Qiu) says that Trump’s Wednesday tweet “is a highly amended account of the president’s efforts in the Alabama race.”

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/13, story 2, 2:55, Muir), Jonathan Karl reported, “A subdued President Trump made it clear today he is unhappy with the results in the Alabama Senate race, even as many in his party are relieved.” Trump was shown telling reporters, “A lot of Republicans feel differently. They’re very happy with the way it turned out. But I would have – as the leader of the party, I would have liked to have had the seat. I want to endorse the people that are running.” Karl added that “unlike many Republicans in Congress, Trump went all-in for Moore...despite the fact that eight women accused the candidate of sexual misconduct, much of it when they were teenagers.”

Under the headline “Trump’s Unexpected Reaction After Alabama Loss: Magnanimity,” [Politico](#) (12/13, Karni) reported that Trump, “famous for his tantrums and his Twitter tirades, appeared to take” Moore’s defeat “in stride on Wednesday as he basked in a soon-to-be victory on tax reform.” Politico reported on the President’s remarks to the press, and added, “Setting aside his personal disappointment, Trump” called Jones, “congratulating him on the win and inviting him to visit the White House, even as Moore was still demanding a recount. It was a muted reaction to a stunning loss from a gut-trusting president who had endorsed the candidate

against the advice of his own political shop and family members – and who rarely admits to being wrong.”

[Breitbart](#) (12/13, Spiering) reported Trump also “said that Moore’s loss would not affect his agenda going forward, but urged his supporters and the” GOP “to come out strong in the midterms. ‘We have to get more senators and more congressmen that are Republicans elected in ‘18,’ Trump said.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/13, Westwood) also reported on Trump’s remarks.

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/13, story 2, 2:00, Glor), Nancy Cordes reported, that in the wake of Moore’s loss, “Republicans were so relieved today you’d think they picked up a seat.” Sen. Bob Corker was shown saying, “Strange to say I guess for my side of the aisle, but I thought it was a great night for America.” [USA Today](#) (12/13, Collins) reports that Corker, speaking with reporters, said “that he’s ‘really, really happy’ that Jones defeated...Moore. ‘I know we’re supposed to cheer for our side of the aisle, if you will,’ Corker said. ‘But I’m really, really happy with what happened for all of us in our nation, for people serving in the Senate, to not have to deal with what we were likely going to have to deal with should the outcome have been the other way.’”

The [Washington Post](#) (12/13, Terris, Zak) reports that Sen. Richard Shelby, “who’d made a rare appearance on the Sunday talk shows to tell his fellow Alabama Republicans they need” to vote for someone other than Moore, said of Tuesday’s results, “It bodes well for ‘18 for us. Roy Moore would’ve been very toxic. ... We dodged that bullet.” [The Hill](#) (12/13, Carney) reported that in the wake of Moore’s loss, “Republicans are breathing a sigh of relief.” While Tuesday’s outcome shrinks the party’s Senate majority to a “razor-thin 51-49 margin,” Republican “senators said the slimmer majority is a small trade-off for avoiding long-term damage to the party caused if Moore had won.”

[Politico](#) (12/13, Nelson) reported that while Moore’s defeat “narrows Republicans’ already razor-thin majority in the Senate,” the President “was undeterred when asked about the prospects for his legislative to-do list. ‘I don’t think it’s going to affect it. I think that we’re doing a lot. This is the biggest thing that we’ve worked on,’ Trump said at a White House meeting with lawmakers about the tax reform package currently making its way through Congress.”

Moore “Substantially Underperformed” Among White Evangelicals. Writing for [The Federalist](#) (12/13), Lyman Stone said that while exit polling indicated Moore captured “80 percent of the white evangelical vote” in Tuesday’s election, he actually “substantially underperformed” the demographic, scoring “the worst showing of any Alabama Republican Senate candidate in the twenty-first century.”

Jones Says Trump Invited Him To White House During “Very Gracious Call.” [The Hill](#) (12/13, Shelbourne) reported that Jones on Wednesday said “that he had ‘a very gracious’ phone call with...Trump,” who “invited him to visit the White House and congratulated his campaign’s victory. ‘It was a very gracious call. I very much appreciate it. He congratulated me on the race that we won. He congratulated me and my staff on the manner in which we handled this campaign and went forward. And we talked about finding that common ground, to work together,’ Jones said during a news conference.”

[Politico](#) (12/13, Lima) quoted Jones as saying, “Very nice phone call, very pleasant phone call, and I appreciated him very much reaching out to me.” Jones “added that Sen. Luther Strange, the appointed incumbent whose seat Jones will fill, was among the first to call and congratulate him on his upset” win. Jones said “the calls from Strange and Trump were ‘very gracious.’” However, Jones “said he had yet to receive any such call from Moore.”

Media Analyses: Jones’ Win Imperils Trump’s Agenda, GOP Senate Majority. However, the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/13, lead story, 3:00, Glor) reported, “When Jones takes office next month, the Republican advantage in the Senate will shrink to just one seat, 51-49,” making “it more difficult for President Trump to get his agenda passed.” And under the headline “The Alabama Senate Loss Just Made Trump’s Job A Lot Harder,” the [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/13, Bierman) reports that in the wake of Jones’ victory, “Republicans [will] have one less vote to spare in the Senate,” making “passing major legislation even more difficult than it has been in Trump’s rocky first year, absent compromises with emboldened Democrats.”

In an “analysis” for [Townhall](#) (12/13), Guy Benson said that in the wake of Jones’ win, Senate Republicans “will now have just a one-vote cushion for the next year, which is a scary prospect,” in terms of the GOP-controlled Congress being able to implement Trump’s agenda. In addition, said Benson, Jones’ victory “makes the path more plausible” for Democrats to retake the Senate in the 2018 midterms.

In an analysis, [USA Today](#) (12/13, Jackson) reports that Trump’s backing of “a controversial

candidate accused of serial sexual assault and harassment of young girls, analysts say, may haunt the president as he and the GOP pursue a conservative agenda and try to keep control of Congress in next year's national elections." [Politico](#) (12/13, Johnson) reported, "Jones' win, said one senior administration official, 'is a big black eye for the president.' For the president, who ignored the advice of both Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and his own political team at the White House to stay out of the race, it was a self-inflicted wound."

In an "analysis" for the [AP](#) (12/13), Julie Pace says, "Rarely has a sitting president rallied behind such a scandal-plagued candidate the way...Trump did with...Moore. And rarely has that bet failed so spectacularly." In the wake of the election, adds Pace, Trump will "head into his second year in office with one less Republican senator, narrowing a margin already so slim that it has so far left him unable to push major legislation through Congress. Democrats, who started the year as a deeply wounded minority party, press toward the midterm elections with a burst of momentum from the most unlikely of states." [Bloomberg News](#) (12/13, Litvan) reports that with Jones' win, "Senate Democrats gained significant new leverage to stymie the Republican agenda and make demands on spending and immigration in Congress next year."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/13, story 3, 2:45, Glor), "Face the Nation" host John Dickerson said that "the major takeaway for Republicans is what kind of candidates are they going to nominate in other states where there are going to be close election in Nevada and Arizona? Are they going to have hardline candidates that thrill the primary audiences or ones that can win in the general election? For Democrats, the takeaway is in the Virginia governor's race and in this race, the President thrilled the Democratic base, got them to turn out. If that's true in 2018, that's great news for Democrats."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/13, story 4, 2:20), Lester Holt reported that "Moore's loss is a big blow to...Trump, who went all in by endorsing the controversial candidate. And it could spell trouble for the GOP in 2018 and beyond." NBC's Gabe Gutierrez added, "Jones' victory relied heavily on strong support from women, crossover suburban Republicans, and African-Americans, who made up 29 percent of the electorate – up slightly from when Barack Obama was last on the ballot." [Reuters](#) (12/13, Whitesides) reports that Jones' victory "in Alabama, coupled with last month's Democratic sweep in Virginia, has given" Democrats "new optimism about" their "2018 prospects in the South and other conservative, heavily rural regions where Republicans have dominated for decades."

The [Washington Post](#) (12/13, Scherer, Costa, Dawsey) reports that Jones' win "was the latest example in a string of elections this year that Democratic leaders think represent a growing backlash against...Trump – and a potential building wave for 2018." Republicans, meanwhile, "were buzzing about how their hopes of retaining power on Capitol Hill after 2018 suddenly looked dimmer. No Republican 'should feel safe about anything' Sen. Lindsay O. Graham (R-SC) said Wednesday. 'Our party is in turmoil.'"

In an online analysis for [CNN](#) (12/13, Cillizza), Chris Cillizza said Jones' win "sent a very clear signal heading into the 2018 election: No Republican Senate seat is safe. What that means is this: Democrats now have a reason to believe that they could do something that was considered unthinkable as recently as the start of this week: Retake control of the Senate next November." [The Hill](#) (12/13, Hagen, Kamisar) reported that Jones' victory "gives the Democrats a narrow path to winning back the [Senate] majority in the 2018 midterm elections."

Under the headline "Alabama Win Stokes Democratic Senate Majority Hopes," [Politico](#) (12/13, Robillard) reported that Jones' victory "has cracked open a path to the Senate majority in 2018 that looked all but impassable before Tuesday night. The party will still have to defend 10 incumbents next year in states carried by President Donald Trump in 2016 – a long shot in even the best political environment – in addition to snagging Republican-held seats in Nevada and Arizona. But the party no longer needs to stage an upset in another forbidding red state – like Tennessee or Texas – on top of that."

[McClatchy](#) (12/13, Roarty) reports that Democratic "leaders are eagerly anticipating the 2018 midterm elections in the" wake of Jones' win, "convinced they can now win outright majorities in the House and Senate in addition to a fleet of marquee gubernatorial races. To them, the victory in Alabama was the culmination of victories last month in Virginia and New Jersey, where the party swept to big wins in both gubernatorial and state legislative races." The [AP](#) (12/13, Barrow) reports that Democratic "leaders cast the upset as a sign of growing nationwide momentum among voters opposed to...Trump and an indication that Democrats shouldn't shy away from competing in Republican territory."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/12, Decker) reports, "Democrats who opened the year clashing among themselves and" bemoaning "Trump's election have closed 2017 with victories that demonstrated their ability to weaponize party enthusiasm and draw a template for success in a

sharply competitive battle for Congress in 2018.”

The [Washington Post](#) (12/13, Weigel, Scott) reports, “The Alabama race, like last month’s elections in Virginia, saw Democrats outperform expectations and polling thanks to a surge of nonwhite voters. ... Democrats in Alabama and elsewhere spent Wednesday thanking black voters – and studying what had been so successful in getting them to the polls.” Said DNC chief Tom Perez, “Let me be clear: We won in Alabama and Virginia because black women led us to victory.” The Post adds, “Now, Perez and other Democrats said, they have a road map to follow in next year’s midterm elections, where they hope to make gains in battlegrounds with large nonwhite populations, including Nevada, Arizona and even Texas.”

Writing in “The Upshot” on the website of the [New York Times](#) (12/13), Nate Cohn said, “Over the last eight years, political analysts had come to think that Democrats were at a distinct disadvantage in midterm elections, since their younger and nonwhite coalition was less likely to turn out than older and white voters. It is time to retire that notion” in the wake of Tuesday’s election, which saw Democrats benefit “from strong turnout that plainly exceeded midterm levels, while white working-class Republicans voted in weaker numbers. This has been a pattern in all of this year’s major special elections, as well as in the Virginia general election,” and “suggests that President Trump’s less educated and affluent version of the Republican coalition has eroded the party’s traditional turnout advantage.”

DSCC Chairman Sen. Chris Van Hollen was asked on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (12/13) if Jones’ win was more than just people casting a vote against Moore and has significance for races outside Alabama. Van Hollen said, “I think you have to look at this in the context of the elections we saw just last month in November – from Virginia, New Jersey, to races throughout the country where you had a huge turnout, not just of Democrats, but independents and people really rejecting the kind of crude Trumpism that we’ve seen. ... I do think that while there were obviously some special circumstances in Alabama, putting that together with what happened last month around the country and you see voters who are fed up and want to send a message that they don’t like Trumpism and want to go in a different direction.”

Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (12/13) that Tuesday’s outcome “shows that the voters of Alabama are taking another look at the Trump Administration and at who is running on the Republican ticket. In this particular case, I think it’s important for us to look at who the citizens of Alabama voted for – a dedicated public servant, an experienced prosecutor, somebody who stood up for civil rights, and the fact that Doug Jones was able to win in a deeply red state that hasn’t elected a statewide Democrat in 25 years, that there was terrific and strong turnout across the board both by the African-American community and by folks who typically vote for Republican candidates. ... I think that should make it clearer that there is a real chance for a Democratic sweep in the House and for Democrats to hang on to our seats, even to pick up a few seats in the Senate.”

Sen. Bernie Sanders said on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (12/13) that Tuesday night “was a defeat for Trump. November seventh was a defeat for Trump and I think if we can mobilize the American people to demand that we have a government that works for all of us and not just the one percent, that we end the divisiveness that Trump has been advocating, I think we can win tremendous victories in 2018.”

Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA) said on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (12/13), “It’s a huge win for America, not just for Democrats. A great repudiation of someone who has no business being in the United States Senate. It shows when we put forward good candidates and we get our base energized and activists working, we can make a difference even in the deep South.” Asked if Democrats are in danger of “over-reading a win against a guy that was accused multiple times of being a pedophile,” Moulton said, “Yes, absolutely. There absolutely is. That’s why I’ll continue my call for a new generation of leadership in the party, a generation that has some vision, that is not just talk about how the Republicans are terrible, how Trump is an awful President, but really talk about what our plan is for the future of our country.”

In a [Washington Post](#) (12/13) op-ed, Emory University political scientist Alan Abramowitz says that Jones’ win “reinforces the conclusion, based on the results of numerous special and off-year elections and other leading indicators, that 2018 is shaping up to be a Democratic wave election. One of those leading indicators is the generic ballot,” which “an average of recent national polls” shows Democrats leading by 10 points. Abramowitz adds, “That is the largest Democratic advantage on the generic ballot question since 2008 and, if it continues into next fall, it would predict substantial Democratic gains in the midterm elections.”

The [New York Times](#) (12/13, Fausset) reports that exit polling by CNN found that “30 percent of the electorate was African-American” in Tuesday’s election, “with 96 percent of them

voting for Mr. Jones. ... The share of black voters Tuesday was higher than the share in 2008 and 2012, when Barack Obama was on the ballot." A number of black voters said "they had long harbored a distaste for the fiery brand of evangelical politics that Mr. Moore had relied on to court working-class whites. But many others said that the Jones campaign uncorked the intense feelings of alarm and distaste that many African-Americans harbor toward...Trump."

Media Analyses: In Wake Of Moore's Loss, GOP Finger-Pointing. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/13, story 5, 1:55, Holt), Kristen Welker reported that Tuesday's outcome is "a huge embarrassment for the President." who after having supported Strange in the GOP primary backed "Moore in the general election in part after...Bannon convinced him to do so." Welker added, "Deepening GOP concerns, the rift in the" GOP "is growing, with Bannon saying Moore's loss has energized his war against the establishment. ... Even as many Republicans are stepping up their calls for Bannon to abandon his anti-establishment battle."

The [Washington Post](#) (12/13, Parker, Dawsey) reports that while the President congratulated Jones via Twitter on Tuesday night, "by Wednesday morning, as Trump watched the unflattering portrait of the loss unfold on television," he "grew piqued at the notion that he, somehow, was responsible. 'I won Alabama, and I would have won Alabama again,' Trump said, according to a senior administration official." The Post says Trump "spread the blame," faulting Bannon "for selling him what one outside adviser described as 'a bill of goods' in urging him to" back "Moore, and he faulted Moore himself for being an abysmal candidate." Trump previously "had also groused about [McConnell], saying he had been too aggressive in trying to push out Moore. But the president, White House officials said, was in largely good spirits – surprisingly so, some thought – throughout the day."

In a "news analysis," the [New York Times](#) (12/13, Baker, Haberman) reports, "Aides to the temperamental president reported being pleasantly surprised that he did not rage against the setback in private, as he is wont to do in moments of difficulty. But neither did he concede a mistake in" supporting "Moore, despite sexual misconduct allegations, attributing the loss to Mr. Moore and the national party establishment that abandoned him." The Times adds, "Behind the scenes, some advisers hoped the loss would persuade Mr. Trump to stop listening to...Bannon, his former chief strategist who has vowed war against the Republican establishment. But Mr. Trump talked with Mr. Bannon for 15 minutes by phone on Tuesday, aides said, and seemed disinclined to cut the adviser from his circle."

The [AP](#) (12/13, Miller) reports that in having backed Strange in the GOP primary and Moore in the general election, Trump "managed to endorse two different losing candidates in the same Senate race, a setback that is highlighting an experience deficit within the White House political team." The AP adds, "There is growing sentiment both inside the West Wing and around the nation's capital that there's a shortage of political know-how in the upper echelon of the administration. The Alabama defeat has some inside the White House hoping for a moment of reckoning with the president."

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/13, Asseo, Talev) reports that GOP "finger-pointing started minutes after" Jones' win, "with nervous party members fearing more of the same in the 2018 election might take away their majorities in Congress." Bloomberg News quoted Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL) as tweeting on Wednesday, "Congratulations to the Bannon wing of the @GOP for gifting a seat to @SenateDems in one of the reddest states. You have no future in our country's politics." Meanwhile, McConnell, "who opposed Moore, was blamed by an adviser to the pro-Trump Great American Alliance. 'Mitch McConnell and the Republican establishment got their wish: they successfully delivered Alabama to a liberal Democrat,' said adviser Andy Surabian."

The [New York Times](#) (12/13, Martin, Burns) reports that Jones' win "tore open divisions between the party's establishment and populist wings, inciting bitter recriminations in the" GOP "as Democratic enthusiasm surges." In the GOP's case, "competing in the first midterm elections of a president this unpopular was always going to be difficult. But that natural disadvantage is being exacerbated by the conflict between Senate Republicans and antiestablishment conservatives such as...Bannon." The Times adds that GOP "lawmakers were all but gleeful on Wednesday at Mr. Bannon's comeuppance, ridiculing him for supporting the rare Republican who could lose an Alabama Senate race."

Under the headline "Republican Civil War Erupts Anew," [Politico](#) (12/13, Johnson, Isenstadt) reported that Jones' win – "far from settling the score between the McConnell and Bannon wings of the" GOP – "instead touched off another round of" Republican "infighting over who's to blame for the party's loss in one of the most conservative states in the country. From the outset, the race served as a proxy war between [Bannon and McConnell]. Now, both sides are blaming the other for Tuesday's loss, with each painting the results as a case study in the other's political ineptitude." Under the headline "Alabama Defeat Stokes Divisions Among Republicans," the [Wall](#)

[Street Journal](#) (12/13, Hook, Peterson, Bender) similarly reports on the GOP infighting.

Rep. Bradley Byrne (R-AL) said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (12/13), "Mitch McConnell should have stayed out of this race. If he would have, we'd have a Republican US senator coming up there, not a Democrat."

The [Washington Post](#) (12/13, Sullivan, Weigel, Scherer) reports, "Stunned Republicans began casting blame Wednesday" in the wake of Moore's loss, as "members of the GOP began pointing fingers at one another for his defeat after being steamrolled in Virginia's elections last month." The Post adds that GOP "lawmakers, strategists and party figures picked sides: either with McConnell, who kept his distance from Moore's campaign, or...Bannon, who was among Moore's most ardent backers." On Twitter, "even Trump suggested that Moore had been a weak candidate, a tacit rebuke of Bannon's support." The [Washington Times](#) (12/13, Boyer, Miller) reports, "There was plenty of blame to go around" among Republicans in the wake of Moore's loss, "but most of the finger-pointing was directed at...Bannon."

[The Hill](#) (12/13, Greenwood) reported that during a Wednesday appearance on Fox News, Strange slammed Bannon, faulting him for Jones' win. Of Bannon, Strange said, "I have never seen him accomplish anything. ... He has accomplished one thing that I don't think anybody in America thought was possible. And that's getting a Democrat elected in the state of Alabama."

The [Washington Post](#) (12/13, Dawsey, Parker) quoted Steven Law, "a top McConnell ally who leads the Senate Leadership Fund.," as saying, "Not only did Steve Bannon cost us a critical Senate seat in one of the most Republican states in the country, but he also dragged the president of the United States into this fiasco."

The [New York Post](#) (12/13, Fredericks) reports that during a Wednesday appearance on MSNBC, Rep. Peter King blasted Bannon as "a 'phony' and a 'disheveled drunk' who does not deserve a role in national politics. 'I don't think Steve Bannon adds anything positive at all to the dialogue in the country,'" said King. The congressman also "said Bannon, whom he also called the 'phony type from Goldman Sachs,' should be kicked out of the GOP because of his declaration of war on the Republican establishment." In his [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/13) column, Gerald Seib says that Moore's loss may further stoke the divisions between Trump, Bannon, and GOP leaders.

The [New York Daily News](#) (12/13, Cullen) reports that Bannon, a vocal critic of McConnell, "said his battle to rid the GOP of what he believes are Washington insiders could take up to 20 years. 'You have to grind it out,' he reportedly told Breitbart Radio. 'Every day. If we're prepared to do it, we win.'"

The [Washington Post](#) (12/13, Farhi) reports, "The Alabama results suggest that a reckoning is due for both Bannon and Breitbart, whose influence and audience grew exponentially during Trump's presidential campaign. Since then, as support for Trump has declined, so has Breitbart's traffic, settling back to the 15 million people a month it drew before a spike around the election last year."

In an "analysis," [Roll Call](#) (12/13, Garcia) reported that ex-McConnell chief of staff Josh Holmes said on Twitter that Bannon "showed how to lose 'the reddest state in the Union.' But it was the second part of Holmes' tweet blaming Alabama's Republican Gov. Kay Ivey that also shows that there are more Republicans who share some blame for the rise of Moore, including Holmes' former boss."

In his [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/13) column, Karl Rove says that the GOP has in recent years lost a number of winnable Senate races by nominating sub-standard and erratic candidates, the latest example being Moore. Rove says that GOP will continue to suffer losses if Bannon is successful in boosting candidates he supports to primary wins.

In an editorial, the [National Review](#) (12/13) said, "There are several obvious lessons from Alabama: Character still matters; if he gets his way in other primary" contests, "Bannon could help throw away other winnable Senate races" and cost Republicans their majority in the Senate; "Democratic constituents are, as we also saw in Virginia, highly mobilized, and Republicans will need impressive candidates and campaigns to try to survive next year's mid-terms;" the President "would be well-served to listen to political advisors who aren't, like Bannon, hoping to tear down the GOP for fun and profit."

Will: Trump Has Supplanted Andrew Johnson As "Nation's Worst President." In his [Washington Post](#) (12/13) column, George Will says, "By joining...Bannon's buffoonery on Moore's behalf," Trump "planted an exclamation point punctuating a year of hitherto unplumbed presidential depths. He completed his remarkably swift – it has taken less than 11 months – rescue of the 17th, Andrew Johnson, from the ignominy of ranking as the nation's worst president."

WPost Analysis: Jones' Win Celebrated "In A Europe Horrified By Trump." Under the headline "Alabama Election Result Seen As 'Miracle' In A Europe Horrified By Trump," the [Washington Post](#)

(12/13, Noack), reporting from Berlin, Germany, says that Moore's loss "may have come as a relief to liberal Americans, but in Europe it was taken as a sign that the United States has not totally lost its moral compass. The 2016 election victory of President Trump, who is deeply unpopular across Western Europe, appears to have severely damaged the United States' status as a role model in Europe." Consequently, Jones' defeat of Moore, "who was dogged by allegations of sexual misconduct involving teenage girls decades ago...was interpreted by many in Europe as a reversal for Trump and a sign that all is not lost across the Atlantic."

Politico: Jones "Figures To Make Progressives In The Democratic Caucus Quite Happy." Under the headline "The Next Senator From Alabama Would Make Bernie Sanders Proud," [Politico](#) (12/13, Strauss) reported that Jones "favors abortion rights and same-sex marriage, and believes young immigrants brought to the country as children should be allowed to become US citizens. And he opposes both...Trump's border wall and the Republican tax plan." Politico added that though "the last generation of Democratic senators from the Deep South were reliable conservatives on many issues, Jones figures to make progressives in the Democratic caucus quite happy once he's sworn in."

White House: Now Not Right Time For North Korea Talks.

[Reuters](#) (12/13) reports that "a White House official" said Wednesday that no negotiations can be held with North Korea until it changes its behavior, "raising questions" about Secretary of State Tillerson's offer to begin talks any time and without pre-conditions. "Given North Korea's most recent missile test, clearly right now is not the time," a White House official told Reuters. A day after Tillerson's comments, the official, "who declined to be named, laid out a more restrictive formula for any diplomatic engagement with North Korea," saying, "The administration is united in insisting that any negotiations with North Korea must wait until the regime fundamentally improves its behavior. As the secretary of state himself has said, this must include, but is not limited to, no further nuclear or missile tests."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (12/13), however, reported "there are conflicting signals about whether the United States is willing to negotiate with North Korea." Tillerson on Tuesday "appeared open to starting talks" with Pyongyang "without any preconditions," but "Tillerson's not on the same page with President Trump." The White House is "saying now is not the time for any talks because North Korea's simply been too aggressive." The [New York Times](#) (12/13, Landler) likewise says the President and Tillerson "are once again at odds over how to deal with" North Korea. In "an unusual statement" Tuesday evening, press secretary Sarah Sanders said Trump's position on North Korea was unchanged. Other sources, however, said "White House officials were alarmed by Mr. Tillerson's remarks...fearing that they would sow confusion among allies after Mr. Trump rallied them behind a policy of 'maximum pressure.'"

The [AP](#) (12/13, Pennington) says Tillerson's "surprising diplomatic offer of unconditional talks...hinges on two big X factors: Does the North even want talks, and is President Donald Trump fully behind his top diplomat?" A [Washington Post](#) (12/13, Taylor) analysis says a "major stumbling block" to talks with North Korea has been "a long-standing US insistence on North Korea meeting certain preconditions before any talks could begin." While Tillerson "appeared to back away from that position," the Post says it will depend on what Tillerson "consider[s] preconditions."

UN's Feltman: North Koreans Agree On Importance Of Avoiding War. [Deutsche Welle](#) (12/13, Welle) reports UN Under Secretary-General Jeffrey Feltman said Tuesday that senior North Korean officials told him during a recent visit that "it was important to prevent war but they did not commit to talks." Feltmen met with North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho and Vice Minister Pak Myong Guk during a four-day visit to Pyongyang last week. "Time will tell what was the impact of our discussions, but I think we have left the door ajar and I fervently hope that the door to a negotiated solution will now be opened wide," Feltmen said after a closed door briefing at the UN Security Council.

Fed Increases Interest Rate, Boosts 2018 Growth Forecast.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (12/13, story 9, 0:20, Glor) reported that "the Fed raised interest rates for third time this year and plans to raise them three more times next year, a sign the economy is in strong shape." [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/13, story 3, 0:15, Holt) reported that "the cost of borrowing still on the low end range of one and a quarter to one and a half percent."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/13, Puzanghera, Lee) reports that monetary policymakers at the Federal Reserve increased the short-term federal funds interest rate "to a target range between 1.25% and 1.5%" on Wednesday. The rate hike was approved in a 7-2 vote, with "two

regional Fed bank presidents, Neel Kashkari of Minneapolis and Charles L. Evans of Chicago" opposing. The officials also "forecast 2.5% growth next year with an increase in consumer spending and business investment expected from the lower taxes, with growth declining in subsequent years and running below 2% in the longer run."

The [New York Times](#) (12/13, Appelbaum) reports that outgoing Fed Chairwoman Janet L. Yellen "said the faster growth forecasts reflected an assessment of the \$1.5 trillion tax cut moving through Congress," however, Fed officials "did not deviate from their 2018 outlook for interest rates or inflation and continued to signal three interest rate increases next year." The Times adds that the Fed "continues to raise interest rates because officials are confident that the economy is in good health. This is the third time the Fed has raised its benchmark rate this year." In a statement, it said that "the labor market has continued to gain strength and that economic activity has been rising at a solid rate." [USA Today](#) (12/13, Davidson) adds that the rate hike "is expected to ripple across the economy, nudging up rates, most noticeably for credit cards, adjustable-rate mortgages and home-equity lines of credit."

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/13, Condon, Torres) reports that in "its statement announcing the decision, the Federal Open Market Committee omitted prior language saying it expected the labor market would strengthen further," and instead wrote that "monetary policy would help the labor market 'remain strong.'" Following the announcement, both the Bloomberg Dollar Spot Index and "the yield on 10-year US Treasury notes" dropped. Additionally, "stocks jumped...before paring gains." The [Washington Post](#) (12/13, Long) reports that "unemployment is at the lowest level since 2000, growth is picking up, and inflation remains tame." Unemployment is projected to drop even more, to below 4 percent next year. Yellen said that "Fed governors expect a 'modest' increase in growth from the tax plan that the Republican-controlled Congress is finalizing...although she warned that 'the magnitude and timing of the macroeconomic effects of any tax package remain uncertain.'"

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/13, Timiraos) reports that Evans and Kashkari both pointed to weak inflation as the reason for their votes against the rate hike. Officials expect inflation to grow to the 2% target by 2019. Economists opined that both Yellen's comments and the new projections demonstrate that officials don't believe growth will generate as much inflation as they once thought.

Financial Experts Question Fed's Readiness For Booming Economy. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/13, Gramm, Saving), former Senate Banking Committee Chairman Phil Gramm and economics professor Thomas Saving opine that Obama-era Fed policies have created an environment that is not conducive to triggering a sustainable economic recovery. The two specifically critique monetary easing programs used in the immediate aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis that essentially paid banks not to lend. The pair believe that the Fed will put pressure on interest rates if it attempts to prevent inflation by selling securities going forward.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"The Pentagon Is Not A Sacred Cow." The [New York Times](#) (12/13) writes in an editorial that while "health care, Social Security, Medicare and other social programs are all on the chopping block as the Republican-led Congress scrambles to make up for the revenue lost to its planned tax cuts," the military budget "remains a sacred cow, destined to receive yet more money." While "the actual and potential threats from Russia, China, North Korea and Islamic extremists are all serious," the Times argues that "giving the Pentagon another huge increase defies common sense. The Pentagon already wastes about one in five of the taxpayer dollars it receives, according to a Pentagon-commissioned study." And the US "already spends more on its military than the next seven countries combined."

"When The People's Lawyer Breaks The Law." The [New York Times](#) (12/13) editorializes that "the renegade Rensselaer County, N.Y., district attorney, Joel Abelove, showed his contempt for the law and his unworthiness to hold office last year, when he brazenly obstructed a state investigation of a fatal shooting by a police officer in Troy." According to the Times, "a grand jury indictment unsealed this month, charging him with perjury and official misconduct, makes a strong case for removing Mr. Abelove from office." The Times notes that "removal proceedings against elected officials in New York State are rare," but argues that "given the egregiousness of Mr. Abelove's conduct," New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo "has little choice but to start removal proceedings." The Times concludes that "Abelove would be wise to resign now, to not further damage the already ravaged reputation of the Rensselaer County district attorney's office."

Washington Post.

“Republicans Are Worried About The Integrity Of Mueller’s Team. That’s Overblown.”

The [Washington Post](#) (12/13) says in an editorial that “there is no basis” for the GOP criticisms of special counsel Robert Mueller. In testimony Wednesday before the House Judiciary Committee, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein “gave a vote of confidence to the special counsel’s work,” and “we are glad to see Mr. Rosenstein stand firm in support of the special counsel he appointed despite the onslaught of partisan attacks. In doing so, he is upholding no less than the rule of law.”

“Sandy Hook Was Five Years Ago. Congress Has Still Done Nothing.” The [Washington Post](#) (12/13) editorializes that the efforts of the family members of victims of the Sandy Hook massacre to change their tragedy to positive change through a number of foundations and charities “puts Congress and its inaction” on passing sensible gun control to shame. The Post opines that in the years since Sandy Hook, “the gun lobby has become more emboldened,” as demonstrated by “the House’s passage of legislation allowing people, including those with dangerous backgrounds, to carry concealed guns across state lines.” However, the Post finds actions at the state level, where “states have enacted laws to strengthen gun safety, including new or expanded background checks, and candidates promising gun control have won elections,” to be more encouraging.

Wall Street Journal.

“The FBI’s Trump ‘Insurance.’” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/13) says in an editorial that anti-Trump text messages to and from Peter Strzok undermine the credibility of special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation.

“Yellen’s Fed Farewell.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/13, Board) says that in its report Wednesday, the Federal Open Market Committee did not indicate that it believes the Republican tax bill will have much of an impact on the economy.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Final GOP Deal Sets 21% Corporate Tax, Cuts For Top Earners](#)
[From German Faucets To Italian Chocolate, Trade Barriers Are Rising Again in Europe](#)
[Disney Finalizing Pact To Acquire Assets From 21st Century Fox](#)
[Fed Raises Rates, Sticks To Forecast for 2018 Increases](#)
[Alabama Defeat Stokes Divisions in GOP](#)

New York Times:

[Republican Tax Bill in Final Sprint Across Finish Line](#)
[Alabama Loss Exposes Republican Fissures Amid a Democratic Surge](#)
[For Trump, a Moment of Defeat but Maybe Not Recalibration](#)
[In Alabama, Blacks Saw a Vote Against Moore as a Vote Against Turning Back the Clock.](#)
[Music Mogul Russell Simmons Is Accused of Rape by 3 Women](#)
[Newtown Is “Still So Raw,” Five Years After Massacre](#)

Washington Post:

[Jones Treads Lightly After Win](#)
[Studies: Climate Change Intensified Harvey’s Rain](#)
[Middle East Christians Incensed By Trump Decision](#)
[Irish Eye Republican Tax Plan – And Shrug](#)
[For Both Parties, A New Midterm Election Playbook](#)
[Trump Spreads Blame For Moore’s Loss In Senate Race](#)

Financial Times:

[Fed Raises Rates And Signals Three More Moves For 2018](#)
[Banks Defy Gloomy Brexit Forecasts For London With Plans To Shift Just 6% Of Jobs](#)

Washington Times:

[After Roy Moore's Loss, Republicans Turn Wrath Against Steve Bannon](#)
[Trump Promises Americans Bigger Paychecks By February If Congress Gets Tax-Cut Law By Christmas](#)
[Power Of The Force: "Star Wars" Merchandisers Hit Hyperdrive With "Last Jedi" In Sight](#)
[New Homeland Security Chief: Presence Of Agents Sows Fear, Urges Cities To Cooperate](#)
[Muslim Leaders Say US Lost Influence With Jerusalem Move](#)
[Deputy Attorney General Defends FBI, Mueller After Employee's Anti-Trump Messages Found](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: GOP Tax Bill; Alabama Senate Race Results; Russia Investigation; WH-Omarosa Resignation; Pittsburgh-Campus Shooting; Michigan-Police Incident; Weather Forecast; Holiday Deliveries; Atlanta Airport-Taxiway Mistake; McCain's Health-Biden.

CBS: Alabama Senate Race Results; Alabama Senate Race-Reactions; Alabama Senate Race-Analysis; Russia Investigation; WH-Omarosa Resignation; Russell Simmons-Rape Allegations; Weinstein-Salma Hayek Op-Ed; GOP Tax Bill; Interest Rate Hike; UK-US Embassy Opening; McCain's Health-Biden; Florida-Animal Cruelty Incident.

NBC: GOP Tax Bill; GOP Tax Bill-Analysis; Interest Rate Hike; Alabama Senate Race Results; Alabama Senate Race-Trump; WH-Omarosa Resignation; Russia Investigation; McCain's Health-Biden; Holiday Shopping Deals; Weinstein-Salma Hayek Op-Ed; Study-Personality Traits.

Network TV At A Glance:

Alabama Senate Race Results – 14 minutes, 55 seconds
GOP Tax Bill – 8 minutes, 35 seconds
Russia Investigation – 7 minutes 10 seconds
WH-Omarosa Resignation – 3 minutes, 50 seconds
McCain's Health-Biden – 3 minutes, 30 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Alabama Senate Race Results; GOP Tax Bill; Kentucky Lawmaker Commits Suicide; Military Sexual Assault Records.

CBS: GOP Tax Bill; Interest Rate Hike; Alabama Senate Race Results; Russell Simmons-Rape Allegations; Weinstein-Salma Hayek Op-Ed.

FOX: GOP Tax Bill; Alabama Senate Race Results; Kentucky Lawmaker Commits Suicide; California-Deputies Corruption List; NYC Terror Attack; Florida-Animal Cruelty Incident; Massachusetts-Rockwell Art Sale.

NPR: Russia Investigation; ACA Enrollment; California Wildfires; Kentucky Lawmaker Commits Suicide; Ohio-Abortions Legislation; PBS-Tavis Smiley Suspended; Uber Data Breach.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — No public events scheduled.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public events scheduled.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Helsinki Commission hearing on five years of the Global Magnitsky Act – Helsinki Commission hearing on 'The Magnitsky Act at Five: Assessing Accomplishments and Challenges', with witnesses – Human Rights Foundation Chairman Garry Kasparov, Hermitage Capital Management CEO William Browder, and Raoul Wallenberg Center for Human Rights Chair Irwin Cotler – examining the implementation of the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act, the resistance of the Russian Govt to it, and the impact of sanctions on senior members of Russian President Vladimir Putin's inner circle.

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee top secret briefing on new counterterrorism guidance – Closed / Top Secret / Sensitive Compartmented Information briefing on 'New Counterterrorism Guidance', given by State Department Coordinator for Counterterrorism Nathan Sales; Joint Staff Deputy Director for Special Operations and Counterterrorism Maj. Gen. Albert Elton II; and Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Counterterrorism Andrew Knaggs.

10:00 AM Nominations hearing considers Margaret Weichert to be Office of Management and Budget Deputy Director for Management.

10:00 AM Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on U.S. strategy in the Middle East –

Hearing on 'U.S. Policy and Strategy in the Middle East', with testimony from Princeton University Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs International Affairs Ryan Crocker; Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments counselor Eric Edelman; The Washington Institute for Near East Policy Distinguished Fellow James Jeffrey; and The Cohen Group Vice President Stuart Jones.

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of the nominations of Stuart Kyle Duncan to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit; David Ryan Stras to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit; Fernando Rodriguez Jr. to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Texas; Andrei Iancu to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Director; Duane Kees to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Arkansas; Stephen McAllister to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Kansas; Ronald Parsons Jr. to be U.S. Attorney for the District of South Dakota; Ryan Patrick to be U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Texas; and Michael Stuart to be U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia; and well as 'S. 2152, Amy, Vicky, and Andy Child Pornography Victim Assistance Act of 2017'

2:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters.

US House: 9:00 AM House expected to vote on two bills – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of 'H.R. 2396 – Privacy Notification Technical Clarification Act' and 'H.R. 4324 – Strengthening Oversight of Iran's Access to Finance Act'.

9:00 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on the CFIUS – Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining the Operations of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS)', with testimony from Deloitte Consulting's Alan Estevez; WilmerHale Senior International Counsel Robert Kimmitt; Organization for International Investment President and CEO Nancy McLennon; Kevin Wolf; and Council on Foreign Relations Digital and Cyberspace Policy Program Director Adam Segal.

9:30 AM Helsinki Commission hearing on five years of the Global Magnitsky Act – Helsinki Commission hearing on 'The Magnitsky Act at Five: Assessing Accomplishments and Challenges', with witnesses – Human Rights Foundation Chairman Garry Kasparov, Hermitage Capital Management CEO William Browder, and Raoul Wallenberg Center for Human Rights Chair Irwin Cotler – examining the implementation of the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act, the resistance of the Russian Govt to it, and the impact of sanctions on senior members of Russian President Vladimir Putin's inner circle.

9:30 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Federal Lands Subcommittee legislative hearing on 'H.R. 4558, Grand Staircase Escalante Enhancement Act', with testimony from Republican Rep. Chris Stewart; Willow Canyon Outdoor General Manager and Outdoor Goods Buyer Susan Hand; former Utah Governor Mike Leavitt; Garfield County, UT, Commission Chairperson Leland Pollock; and Utah Office of Tourism, Film and Global Branding Managing Director Vicki Varela * Bill would establish the 'Escalante Canyons National Park and Preserve' within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Earlier this month, President Donald Trump announced plans to almost halve the size of the monument.

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 1997, Ukraine Cybersecurity Cooperation Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2219, End Banking for Human Traffickers Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2646, United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Extension Act', and 'H.R. 3851, War Crimes Rewards Expansion Act'.

11:30 AM House Speaker Paul Ryan holds weekly press briefing.

12:00 PM 'The Growing Threat to Religious Freedom in Russia' briefing – International Religious Freedom Caucus and International Religious Freedom Roundtable host joint briefing on 'The Growing Threat to Religious Freedom in Russia', discussing the growing threat to religious freedom due to the misuse of anti-extremism and terrorism laws. Archbishop Andrew and Alexander Soldatov (Russian Orthodox Autonomous Church of America), Anastasiia Aseeva (Union of Councils for Jews in the Former Soviet Union), and Lauren Homer (Law and Liberty Trust) assess the status of religious freedom in Russia, as well as the tactics used by the gov't to oppress religious minorities, and ask 'how the U.S. can engage more effectively to hold Russia accountable for their human rights violations'.

Other: 9:00 AM Interdepartmental Serious Mental Illness Coordinating Committee press conference on first Report to Congress – Interdepartmental Serious Mental Illness Coordinating Committee members discuss the recommendations in their first Report to Congress – 'The Way Forward: Federal Action for a System That Works for All People Living with SMI and SED and Their Families and Caregivers' – via press conference. Speakers include Acting Secretary of Health and Human Services Eric Hargan and Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance

Use Dr Elinore McCance-Katz, SAMHSA Chief Medical Officer Dr Anita Everett, and non-federal members Mary Giliberti and Pete Earley * Press conference (9:00 AM EST) followed by virtual public meeting of the committee (10:30 AM EST). Location: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 200 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC <http://www.samhsa.gov/> <https://twitter.com/samhsagov>.

9:00 AM Net Neutrality Wake-Up Call Rally – Voices for Internet Freedom 'Net Neutrality Wake-Up Call Rally', as the Federal Communications Commission votes on a proposal to replace net neutrality rules introduced by the Obama administration in 2015. Speakers include Democratic Reps. Ro Khanna, Keith Ellison and Maxine Waters, CNN contributor Symone Sanders, actress Amanda Seales and former EBONY magazine Editor Jamilah Lemieux. Location: Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th St SW, Washington, DC <https://twitter.com/spitfiresays>.

9:30 AM IMF regular press briefing – IMF regular press briefing with Communications Department Deputy Spokesman William Murray. Location: International Monetary Fund, 700 19th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.imf.org> <https://twitter.com/IMFNews/>

1:00 PM Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies '2017 America's Rental Housing' report release – Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies release '2017 America's Rental Housing' report, showing that 'addressing the challenges facing renters — particularly low-income renters — requires bold leadership and hard choices from both the public and private sectors'. Speakers include Democratic Sen. Maria Cantwell and Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Pamela Hughes Patenaude. Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.jchs.harvard.edu [#harvardhousingreport](https://twitter.com/harvard_jchs).

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Last night, there was real concern the voters in Alabama would put an alleged child molester and bigot and homophobe – all the bad things Santa frowns on – in the United States Senate. But it didn't happen. The special election actually turned out to be a very special election after all. Last night, Doug Jones beat Roy Moore to become the first Democratic senator from Alabama since 1992. It was a major upset. A Republican losing to a Democrat in Alabama is like a grizzly bear losing to a fish."

Jimmy Kimmel: "It just doesn't happen. Unless the Republican happens to be so creepy around young girls, he was banned from the local mall. If the Republican you're running against is not allowed inside Forever 21, your odds of winning increase significantly."

Jimmy Kimmel: "It is kind of depressing that in 2017, barely not electing an alleged pedophile to the Senate is something to celebrate. But we'll take what we can get at this point."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Not long after they announced Doug Jones was winning, I went to Donald Trump's Twitter account. He wrote, 'Congratulations to Doug Jones and a hard-fought victory. The write-in votes played a very big factor but a win is a win. The people of Alabama are great. Republicans will have another shot at the seat in a very short period of time, it never ends.' He was gracious, he was tasteful, he didn't insult anybody. Which means there's no way he wrote one word of that tweet."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Then this morning, he [Trump] was back to his old self. He wrote, 'The reason I originally endorsed Luther Strange and his numbers went up mightily is that I said Roy Moore will not be able to win the general election, I was right. Roy worked so hard but the deck was stacked against him.' Which is absolutely perfect. Only Donald Trump could say, 'Remember when I was wrong? I was right!'"

Jimmy Kimmel: "And the idea that the deck – he said the deck was stacked. ... Does Donald Trump know how a stacked deck works? Maybe this is why his casinos went bankrupt."

Jimmy Kimmel: "The USA Today editorial board took an unusually harsh stance against the President. Among many other things, they wrote, 'A President who would all but call Senator Kirsten Gillibrand a whore is not fit to clean the toilets of the Barack Obama's library or shine the shoes of George W. Bush.' That is from USA Today. The previously most controversial thing they

published was a pie chart asking whether cats made great pets.”

Stephen Colbert: “Jones is the first Democrat to win an Alabama Senate seat in 25 years. So a quarter of a century. So the last time Alabama elected a Democratic senator, the biggest movie was ‘Aladdin’, or as Roy Moore calls it, ‘the perfect date movie.’”

Stephen Colbert: “[Donald Trump] tweeted, ‘The reason I originally endorsed Luther Strange – and his numbers went up mightily – is that I said Roy Moore will not be able to win the election. I was right! Roy worked hard, but the deck was stacked against him!’ Yes, the deck was stacked, and we also learned that Donald Trump’s endorsement is a royal flush.”

Bryan Cranston: “Now the big news was last night that Democrat Doug Jones defeating controversial Republican candidate Roy Moore. Wow. People are excited. Now he lost, but on the bright side, Roy Moore can now focus his energies on his real passion, hiding from shopping mall security guards.”

Bryan Cranston: “But this is really historic because it’s the first time in 25 years that a Democrat has been elected senator in Alabama. Now to give you an idea of how long ago it was, Roy Moore was dating girls back then who are now in their 30s.”

Bryan Cranston: “And some other news out of the White House: It was revealed that Omarosa [Manigault], the former ‘Apprentice’ contestant and recent White House aide, has been fired. Omarosa is out of a job. So now she’ll be doing, well, pretty much the same thing she was doing at the White House. Absolutely nothing.”

Bryan Cranston: “Now Omarosa was reportedly fired after a heated argument with Chief of Staff John Kelly and escorted off of the White House grounds. Now on the bright side for her, it’s the first time in months that a Trump staffer was not led away in handcuffs.”

Bryan Cranston: “Moving on to the newspaper, USA Today published an editorial – listen to this – that bashes Trump as ‘not fit to clean the toilets in Obama’s presidential library.’ But when you think about it, come on, as if Donald Trump would ever set foot inside a library.”

Jimmy Fallon: “Last night, Doug Jones pulled off a shocking win over Roy Moore to become senator of Alabama. And you know it’s been a crazy year when an alleged pedophile loses a Senate race and we’re like, ‘Wow, what an upset.’”

Jimmy Fallon: “Roy Moore became the first Republican to lose an Alabama Senate race in 25 years. It was so embarrassing his horse went home in an Uber.”

Jimmy Fallon: “As the results came in, reporters said it was very quiet at Moore’s campaign headquarters. But to be fair, it was a school night.”

Seth Meyers: “Last night, the people of Alabama made the apparently very difficult decision of choosing a Democrat over a guy who was banned from a mall.”

Seth Meyers: “I know we’re all tired of mall jokes, so let me just say one thing very seriously. Sure, Roy Moore was the Hot Topic for a while, but America’s not a Banana Republic, and the voters made that Claire’s. The voters said Ugg and they were able to Chanel their energy and send that Fossil off on some New Journeys.”

Seth Meyers: “According to a new Monmouth university poll, only 32 percent of people approve of the job President Trump is doing. Oh, wait. Oh, I’m sorry I read that wrong. Only 32 people approve of the job President Trump is doing.”

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DOI In The News

Trump Orders Boost In Production Of Critical Minerals.

The [AP](#) (12/20, Daly) reports that President Trump on Wednesday "ordered the government to boost production of critical minerals used for manufacturing everything from smartphones to wind turbines and cars, raising the prospect of more mining." The new executive order "directs federal agencies to find ways to increase exploration, mining and processing of critical minerals and streamline permits for private mining companies."

[The Hill](#) (12/20, Cama) reports that "the order, directed toward Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, came a day after Zinke released an in-depth report concluding that the United States depends entirely or almost entirely on foreign imports for many important non-fuel minerals like titanium, fluorine, cobalt and manganese." According to the article, "Zinke's strategy, due in 180 days, will outline options to reduce the country's dependence on foreign critical minerals, assess progress toward large-scale mineral recycling and recommend ways to streamline mining permitting, among other factors."

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/20, Barton) reports that Trump said in the statement, "This executive order will prioritize reducing the nation's vulnerability to disruptions in our supply of critical minerals safely and responsibly for the benefit of the American people."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Examiner](#) (12/20, Siciliano).

Drilling In Arctic Refuge Gets A Green Light. What's Next?

The [New York Times](#) (12/20, Fountain, Friedman) reports the GOP tax bill passed Congress on Wednesday, including a provision lifting a ban on oil and gas drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. However, both supporters and opponents of ANWR drilling say it could be years before the first lease sale. While the Interior Department is expected to conduct one sale within four years, there are a number of steps that need to be taken before any lease can be held. The process moving forward is not clear, as lawsuits and other actions are expected to slow down any drilling efforts. The Interior will work to identify land for lease, after which it must hold at least one public comment period. There are also doubts that oil companies are interested in conducting seismic surveys in the region or if they are looking to bid on the newly opened territory.

The [AP](#) (12/20, Bohrer) reports Alaska's political leaders hailed the bill's passage as a victory that has been decades in the making. US Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, along with Rep. Don Young, were invited to speak at an event marking the bill's ratification. Young said persistence paid off, while Murkowski highlighted how drilling can occur in way that balances

development with environmental stewardship.

[The Hill](#) (12/20, Cama) reports Speaker Paul Ryan said, "After decades and decades in this chamber, we are opening up a small non-wilderness area of the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge for responsible development. That is the most ambitious step we have taken in years to secure our own energy future." At a Cabinet meeting, President Trump told reporters, "We're going to start drilling in ANWR, one of the largest oil reserves in the world, that for 40 years this country was unable to touch. That by itself would be a massive bill. ... They've been trying to get that, the Bushes, everybody. All the way back to Reagan, Reagan tried to get it. Bush tried to get it. Everybody tried to get it. They couldn't get it passed. That just happens to be here."

The [Washington Times](#) (12/20, Boyer, Miller) reports Trump said, "We got it done. ... Above all else, it's a jobs bill. We have done a job like no other administration." He also said, "ANWR by itself would be a massive bill. ... ANWR is a big, big deal." The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/20, Siciliano) reports Trump went on to describe the ANWR, saying, "It'll be one of our biggest oil reserves. It's one of the biggest in the world. ... It puts us at a level that we're not even at now. And we're doing very well all in terms of energy."

Also reporting are the [Seattle Times](#) (12/20, Mapes), [E&E Publishing](#) (12/20), [Vox](#) (11/28, Irfan), [UPI](#) (12/20, Graeber), and the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (12/20, Harball).

For Oil Drillers, Glut Damps The Excitement As Arctic Opens Up. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/20, Puko) reports that Congressional Republicans and the Trump Administration are slated to offer new exploration opportunities in federal land, but the depressed oil market may limit interest. The glutted oil market has left companies less willing to find new sites to drill. Investors and analysts only expect light interest when Arctic lands are opened for exploration. Wood Mackenzie found that with the global oversupply, companies have cut their exploration budgets by more than half since 2014, down to about \$40 billion. The trend is likely to continue for government sales, especially for remote or environmentally-sensitive areas. [Bloomberg News](#) (12/20, Nussbaum) reports Raymond James analyst Pavel Molchanov said, "Our sense is that there is little to no current interest in the industry to invest in ANWR. ... This is high-risk 'frontier exploration' with a very distant roadmap to cash flow."

Fight Over Alaska Arctic Drilling Has Just Begun, Opponents Vow. [Reuters](#) (12/20, Gardner) reports Democrats and environmentalists have vowed to challenge ANWR drilling every step of the way. Environmentalists are planning to challenge applications to conduct seismic tests, saying they could block drillers with lawsuits over endangered species or other environmental laws. Trustees for Alaska lawyer Suzanne Bostrom said, "We will be working every step of the way to make sure that the coastal plain is protected." Barclays analysts also warned that environmentalists could delay the lease sales and project approvals, and could even discourage investment entirely. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (12/20, Osborne) reports the National Audubon Society released a statement saying it would "do whatever it takes to prevent drilling in America's bird nursery." President David Yarnold said, "This tax bill trades away a national treasure – for what – oil we don't need and the fiction that oil from the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will serve as a bank to offset tax cuts? This is the biggest threat the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge has ever seen." Sierra Club executive director Michael Brune said, "This outrageous scheme is among the worst pieces of legislation we've seen in over a generation. It's made even more tragic because it sacrifices one of our last great wild places."

Judge Declares Mistrial In Bundy Case In Las Vegas.

The [New York Times](#) (12/20, Pérez-Peña, Turkewitz) reports that, in "the latest failure by federal prosecutors to convict participants" in the armed standoff led by Cliven D. Bundy over decades of unpaid grazing fees, Judge Gloria M. Navarro declared a mistrial for Bundy, his two sons, and supporter. The judge "stated that prosecutors had improperly withheld evidence from the defense." The move follows the unearthing of "powerful evidence" supporting the Bundys' claims of misconduct by federal agents and prosecutors, when The Oregonian newspaper made public a complaint that a Bureau of Land Management agent filed with the Justice Department alleging "unprofessionalism, bias, heavy-handed tactics, and withholding of evidence by his colleagues during and after the standoff."

The [Washington Post](#) (12/20, Sottile) reports, "Navarro determined that the prosecution suppressed evidence from FBI surveillance cameras recording the Bundy family home and the presence of Bureau of Land Management snipers around the property," as well as withholding "FBI logs, maps, reports and threat assessments that said the Bundy family was not dangerous." The Post casts the evidence as creating doubt of "the government's portrait of the family as violent, paranoid, anti-government extremists." [Reuters](#) (12/20) reports Navarro offered "a stinging rebuke" to prosecutors saying they, in Reuters' words, "knew or should have known of

the existence of memos from Federal Bureau of Investigation agents that might have been helpful to the defense.”

Also covering this story are the [AP](#) (12/20, Ritter), [The Hill](#) (12/20, DeIk), the [Washington Times](#) (12/20, Richardson), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/20, Montero), [USA Today](#) (12/20, Anglen, Republic), [NPR](#) (12/20, Dwyer), [PBS](#) (12/20, Childress), [E&E Publishing](#) (12/20, Yachnin), the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (12/20, Wiles), the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (12/20, Parker), the [Oregonian](#) (12/20, Bernstein), the [Arizona Republic](#) (12/20), the [Daily Caller](#) (12/20, White), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (12/20, Levin), the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (12/20, Francisco), and [RT](#) (12/21).

Interior Reimbursed For Zinke Virgin Island Fundraiser, But Contributions Unaccounted For.

[Politico](#) (12/19, Lefebvre) reports that “taxpayers have been reimbursed for Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s participation in a political fundraiser last spring in the Virgin Islands — but questions remain about the donations he helped solicit, according to campaign finance records and interviews.” The Virgin Islands Republican Party “repaid on Oct. 5 the Interior Department \$275 for expenses related to Zinke’s appearance, according to recent federal campaign finance filings.” According to the article, “the reimbursement may be enough to protect Zinke from accusations that his Virgin Islands appearance violated the Hatch Act, which prohibits government officials from using taxpayer resources to advance partisan causes.”

Rob Bishop Slams Criticism Of National Monuments Rollback As ‘Lie’.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/20, Siciliano, Siegel) identifies Rep. Rob Bishop as “the chief congressional backstop and encourager of President Trump’s rollback of national monuments.” In response to criticism of the decision to reduce the size of two national monuments in Utah, Bishop, who is also chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, characterized the opposition as attempting to introduce a false choice between preservation and development. Specifically, Bishop singled out the owner of outdoor retailer Patagonia, Yvon Chouinard, who has filed a lawsuit against the government over the decision. Bishop said, “I am not saying Patagonia is lying, but they are.”

Federal Agency Reports Show ‘Continuum Of Harm’ From Workplace Sexual Misconduct.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/20, Davidson) reports there is a “continuum of harm” caused by different forms of sexual misconduct, according to a report released by the Government Accountability Office. The article reports the GAO found that “sexual harassment is a gateway offense to more serious transgressions.” The Post notes that “the everlasting effects of sexual misconduct also were shown by an Interior Department survey issued last week.”

Methane Emissions From Oil And Gas Are Plummeting Without Obama Rule.

The [Daily Caller](#) (12/20, White) reports that in the last six years, natural gas well methane emissions have decreased “even as activists and lawmakers argue that stringent regulations are required to tackle” the task of reducing emissions. Emissions from the Appalachian Basin, for example, have decreased by 26 percent since 2011, according to federal data. These decreases are happening alongside the Trump administration’s rollback of Obama-era methane regulations for oil and gas operations.

YEAR IN REVIEW: Port Project, King Cove, Alaska-Virgin Merger.

The [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (12/20, Brehmer) posts a year in review regarding top stories from 2017. The article says that “proponents of a road from King Cove to Cold Bay feel renewed hope under discussions with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s administration for a different land swap than was proposed in the past.” According to the article, “discussions involve setting up a federal lands appraisal process on 200 to 300 acres owned by the King Cove Corp. that could be swapped with the federal government for land to complete the road with an 11-mile connection through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge to reach Cold Bay and its all-weather airport.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Feds Hit With FOIA Suit For Tribal Leadership Dispute Docs.

[Law360](#) (12/20, Lidgett) reports that “seeking information regarding a Timbisha Shoshone Tribe leadership row, the Indian Law Resource Center filed a lawsuit Tuesday urging a D.C. federal

judge to force the federal government to turn over records that it said were either improperly kept from the organization or redacted." The Freedom of Information Act suit was filed "against the Office of Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs, Pacific Regional Office of the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Office of the Solicitor of the DOI."

Spokane Tribe Announces Opening Date For Airway Heights Casino.

The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (12/20, Kramer) reports that the Spokane Tribe will hold the grand opening of its new casino in Airway Heights on Jan. 8. The tribe "first proposed the casino development in 2006, but waited nine years for the greenlight from the U.S. Department of Interior to build the off-reservation casino." Washington Gov. Jay Inslee approved the project in 2015.

Michigan Sending 20 Firefighters To Battle California Wildfires.

[MLive \(MI\)](#) (12/20, Champion) reports that "a team of 20 Michigan firefighters are set to spend two weeks on the West Coast to help subdue fires that have burned more than 270,000 acres since the beginning of December." According to the article, "the Michigan Department of Natural Resources will send 13 firefighters while seven firefighters are coming from Michigan's Bureau of Indian Affairs." Jim Fisher, the DNR's fire section manager, said, "They choose to go for a variety of reasons. This is the kind of work they enjoy doing, they're helping other states and fire agencies and they gain valuable experience while they are there."

Also reporting are the [AP](#) (12/20), [WLUK-TV Marquette \(MI\)](#) Marquette, MI (12/20, Miller), [WOOD-TV Grand Rapids \(MI\)](#) Grand Rapids, MI (12/20), [WJMN-TV Marquette \(MI\)](#) Marquette, MI (12/20), [WWTW-TV Cadillac \(MI\)](#) Cadillac, MI (12/20, Clor), and [WMNN-TV Cadillac \(MI\)](#) Cadillac, MI (12/20, Owens).

Bureau Of Land Management

Everyone's Fighting Over BLM's Methane Rule.

[E&E Publishing](#) (12/20) reports that "states and environmental groups" have filed two new lawsuits against Trump administration's decision to suspend a Bureau of Land Management rule designed to regulate methane emissions from oil and gas operations. According to New Mexico Attorney General Hector Balderas (D), "Quite frankly, Secretary Zinke's action to suspend the BLM methane rule is not only short-sighted but ignores the strong local and national support for curbing methane waste." Meanwhile, Western Energy Alliance President Kathleen Sgamma said, "I think you have some AGs who are trying to make a name for themselves by opposing responsible oil and natural gas development whenever they can," while the Independent Petroleum Association of American dismissed the challenges as "short-sighted" opposition.

BLM Nets \$1M-Plus In Ohio, Louisiana Lease Sales.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (12/20, Cocklin) reports that last week, the US Bureau of Land Management auctioned acreage for the development of oil and natural gas in Wayne National Forest, and the Kisatchie National Forest, which produced more than \$1 million in revenues to be split between the state governments of Ohio, Louisiana, and the federal government. The BLM started auctioning off parcels within the Marietta Unit last year, which has produced a total of more than \$7 million in revenues. The unit was first nominated for unconventional development two years ago, according to the BLM.

New Mexico Delegates Renew Push To Limit Drilling.

The [AP](#) (12/21) reports that "Democratic members of New Mexico's congressional delegation" called for limits on oil and gas drilling in New Mexico's northwestern corner. The legislators sent a letter to a federal land official in New Mexico expressing concerns over potential effects of drilling on the "archaeological and cultural sites that dot the region." The Trump Administration reportedly is considering relaxing restrictions on land surrounding Chaco Culture National Historical Park.

HCCA Sues Federal Government To Prevent Coal Mining Expansion.

The [Crested Butte News](#) (12/21, Eaton) reports that the nonprofit group High County Conservation Advocates has sued the Trump Administration and has "asked for a temporary restraining order against several government agencies to stop road building and the expansion of

mining in the West Elk Wilderness by national coal mining giant Arch Coal." According to HCCA public lands director Matt Reed, "the move comes after a series of decisions that will open the Sunset Roadless Area, a 5,800-acre forested landscape in northwestern Gunnison County to road building and coal mining." Reed said, "On December 11, the Forest Service consented to the modification of two coal leases in the West Elk Wilderness. This paves the way for the West Elk Mine to enter into 1,700 acres of the Sunset Roadless Area and to access 17 million tons of coal."

BLM Hopes To Install Digital Payment At Blackwell Island.

The [Coeur d'Alene \(ID\) Press](#) (12/20) reports that The Bureau of Land Management Coeur d'Alene Field Office is "hoping to make the public's visit to the popular Blackwell Island boat launch and recreation site a bit more convenient." The bureau "hopes to provide more flexibility and convenience for users by installing two automated machines that would accept day-use fee payments by either credit or debit card, eliminating the need for cash."

BLM Issues Final Supplementary Rules For Guffey Gorge.

[KOAA-TV](#) Colorado Springs, CO (12/20, Dumas) reports that the Bureau of Land Management's Royal Gorge Field Office will "implement supplementary rules for public lands at Guffey Gorge beginning Jan. 19, 2018." The bureau "said that increased visitation to the area has caused a number of public safety and natural resource concerns in recent years." According to the article, "the new rules prohibit possessing alcoholic beverages, parking motor vehicles outside of designated areas, playing amplified music, and bringing animals into the area without a leash."

Local Motion: Protest At BLM.

[KVNF-FM](#) Paonia, CO (12/20, Goold) reports that "about 40 stakeholders from the North Fork Valley and beyond were at the headquarters of the Bureau of Land Management in Montrose on December 15th to protest the BLM's approval of oil and gas development at Bull Mountain."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Three Companies Submit Bids For Offshore Wind Power.

The [Cape Cod \(MA\) Times](#) (12/20, Bragg) reports that "three offshore wind energy developers bid Wednesday on contracts to sell electricity to Massachusetts power companies, taking the next big step in a process that could set turbines spinning south of Martha's Vineyard within the next five years." According to the article, "by April, Vineyard Wind, Bay State Wind and Revolution Wind will hear whether their bids have been selected for negotiation by the handful of electric distribution companies that will buy the wind energy." Then, "by the end of July, the utilities and offshore wind energy companies are expected to finalize long-term contracts and hand them over to the state Department of Public Utilities for review and approval."

Also reporting are the [Springfield \(MA\) Republican](#) (12/20, Serreze), [Renewable Energy World](#) (12/20, Delony), [reNews](#) (12/19), and [RTO Insider](#) (12/20, Kuser, Heidorn).

Bureau Of Reclamation

Reservoirs Release More Than Normal.

The [Cody \(WY\) Enterprise](#) (12/20) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation will be "releasing higher than normal flows in the Wind and Bighorn Rivers downstream of Boysen Dam and also in the Shoshone River below Buffalo Bill Dam." According to the article, "the release from Boysen Reservoir to the Wind River will be approximately 1,250 cubic feet per second for the winter months, which is about 300 cfs above normal." Also, "the release from Buffalo Bill Reservoir to the Shoshone River is expected to be set at approximately 500 cfs, which is about 150 cfs above normal, and remain at that flow for the winter months." Wyoming Area Manager, Carlie Ronca, said, "These water operations are needed to manage reservoir levels and will have the added benefit of increased power generation, while still appropriately managing for this coming season's irrigation water supply."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Prairie Dog Endangered-Species Plan Eases Rules Under Trump.

The [AP](#) (12/20, Whitehurst) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is “moving to loosen endangered-species protections for Utah prairie dogs, flipping the script in a long-running conflict over federal policies in a town where residents say they’re overrun by the creatures.” The plan would “allow prairie dogs to be killed or removed from private property more often, relaxing regulations designed to protect the species.” The FWS “said Wednesday that the plan will preserve the prairie-dog numbers while helping people in the southern Utah town of Cedar City.”

Border Wall Lawsuit Details Environmental Concerns.

[Business Insider](#) (12/20, Garfield) reports that “four environmental conservation nonprofits have filed suit against the United States Department of Homeland Security.” The groups claim that the Trump Administration’s “planned border wall would jeopardize more than a dozen endangered species, including the Quito checkerspot butterfly and the Arroyo toad.” A judge is set to make a decision during a hearing in February.

Government Agencies, Landowners Team Up To Help Cottontail.

The [Hartford \(CT\) Courant](#) (12/21, Coffey) reports on the efforts of “a region-wide initiative” to help the “struggling” New England Cottontail rabbit. The efforts included “preserving and creating habitat for the rabbit, specifically early successional habitat with thick shrubs for food and cover.” The article notes that “because 90 percent of the state is in the hands of private landowners, Working Lands for Wildlife was born, a voluntary cost reimbursement program for private landowners.”

USFWS To Restore Wetlands On Bloom Township Parcel.

The [Worthington \(MN\) Daily Globe](#) (12/20, Buntjer) reports that “a representative from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service appeared before Nobles County commissioners on Tuesday to discuss a 97-acre Bloom Township parcel that will be restored to wetlands, native prairie grasses and forbs.” Todd Luke, district manager for the FWS at Windom, “said the parcel, adjacent to the already developed Bloom Waterfowl Production Area (WPA), had appeal because of the ability to develop a larger tract for brood habitat for waterfowl.” The FWS will “be involved in the restoration of the site, including converting two semi-permanent wetlands on the property to permanent wetlands.”

Additional coverage was provided by [AgWeek](#) (12/20, Buntjer).

Game Commission Approves Wolf Plan, Releases.

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (12/20, Hayden) reports that the New Mexico State Game Commission “approved the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s final Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan during a meeting Wednesday morning in Albuquerque, a move that some hope signals the start of a better relationship between the two groups.” The commission also “approved Fish and Wildlife permits to allow the cross-fostering of up to 12 pups in New Mexico in 2018 and for some pups to be moved into captivity in New Mexico from Arizona.” The Department of Game and Fish said in a statement, “The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish is satisfied with the Mexican wolf recovery plan which includes; measurable recovery criteria, biological and legal considerations. Key to our support is that consideration of the historical range of the Mexican wolf are taken into account, recognizing that approximately 90 percent of the subspecies’ historical habitat exists in Mexico.”

Michigan Fish Dealer Sentenced In Lake Trout Case.

The [AP](#) (12/20) reports that “a Michigan fish dealer has been sentenced to four months in prison for buying and selling lake trout from Lake Michigan that had been illegally taken by a tribal fisherman.” George Eugene Schrink “pleaded guilty to the false labeling of fish.” Schrink was nabbed “in a three-year investigation conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.”

National Park Service

Poll: National Park Fee Hikes Likely To Reduce Visits.

[The Hill](#) (12/20, Cama) reports that “nearly two-thirds of Americans would be less likely to visit a national park if its fees increased, a new poll finds.” The survey, commissioned by the Outdoor Alliance For Kids, “found that 64 percent of respondents would be less likely to visit parks with

higher fees, while 68 percent oppose the Trump administration's proposed fee hikes." The findings are intended "to push back against the National Park Service's proposal, floated in October, to increase entrance fees at 17 of the system's most popular parks."

Additional coverage of the proposal was provided by [Federal News Radio \(DC\)](#) (12/20).

Arizona Parks Prepare To Close As Government Shutdown Looms.

[KVOA-TV](#) Tucson, AZ (12/20, VinZant) reports that "according to the National Park's Service contingency plan, parks will start closing at noon on Friday if Congress is unable to reach a funding deal" and avert a government shutdown. The NPS' contingency plan "calls for park's to operate with only 'essential' personal."

Trump Goes Big With White House Christmas, But Who Pays?

Reporting on the holiday festivities during December at the White House, [ABC News](#) (12/20, Phelps, Hughes) notes that "the amount of Christmas decoration in the Trump White House appears consistent with their predecessors." The National Park Service "said it has helped purchase the 53 trees dotting the inside of the White House — similar to the number it acquired in other years." NPS spokesperson Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles said, "This year, the trees were purchased from farms in West Virginia and North Carolina."

Park Service To Conduct GW Parkway Traffic Study.

[Covering the Corridor \(VA\)](#) (12/20) reports that the National Park Service will "begin a study of traffic on the George Washington Memorial Parkway between Belle Haven to Mount Vernon later this year," Rep. Don Beyer's office confirmed. The study, "which will be completed in either late 2018 or early 2019, is expected to evaluate safety at problem intersections, look at ways to automate traffic enforcement, and provide recommendations to improve safety on that section of roadway, according to information provided by Beyer's office."

Sea Lions Terrorize San Francisco Bay Swimmers In Spate Of Attacks.

[Fox News](#) (12/20, Rogers) reports that "a spate of a sea lion attacks prompted authorities to close part of San Francisco Bay to swimmers this week." A spokeswoman for the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park said that Aquatic Park Cove re-opened for swimming Wednesday. Over the past several days, she explained, "park rangers have not observed any unusual marine mammal activity, and the park has received no new reports of animal bites."

Report: Inadequate Warning By Park Officials In Smokies Fire.

The [AP](#) (12/20, Mattise) reports that "insufficient warning by Great Smoky Mountains National Park officials contributed to dramatically less time to evacuate people during a Tennessee wildfire that killed 14 people in November 2016, according to a report released this week." According to the article, "the outside review ordered by the city of Gatlinburg and Sevier County says reliance on limited information from the National Weather Service and park officials meant that the predicted speed and severity of the impending firestorm was inaccurate." The report states, "More timely and accurate communications from the (park) personnel would have helped the city to prepare sooner for what was a catastrophic event."

Study: Moose On Lake Superior Island Are Shrinking.

The [AP](#) (12/20) reports that "scientists studying the moose population on a national park in Lake Superior have discovered that the size of the animals has been shrinking over the years." Michigan Tech University researchers "studied more than 660 moose skulls from Isle Royale National Park." They "discovered that the skulls have shrunk by 16 percent over the past 40 years." John Vucetich, an ecologist at the university who co-authored the study, said, "As wolf predation has gone down on the island, moose abundance has gone up, and that's contributed to most of the changes we've seen, maybe 80 percent of the changes we've seen."

Blue Ridge Parkway Ranger Vehicles Totaled By Drunk Drivers.

The [Asheville \(NC\) Citizen-Times](#) (12/20, Chávez) reports that "drunken driving continues to be a big problem on the Blue Ridge Parkway, as it is across the country." According to the article, "to raise awareness and cut down on potentially deadly offenses, the parkway, a unit of the National Park Service, is joining the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's National Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month." The national "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign will be enforced through Dec. 31.

Company Wins Legal Fight To Lead Park Tours.

The [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (12/20, Koshmrl) reports that “more than four years after filing suit against the National Park Service, a local wildlife safari company has won its legal bid to guide clients over the snow in Grand Teton National Park.” Eco Tour Adventures owner Taylor Phillips was disagreed “with a 2014 federal court ruling that said he should have won a permit to guide cross-country skiers and snowshoers in Teton Park, but that the judge lacked the authority to force the Park Service’s hand.” Phillips “wanted the permit — not the \$50,000 the judge awarded — and so he continued to push the issue.” According to the article, “Phillips saw his fortune take a turn for the better in April, when U.S. District Court Judge Beryl Howell ruled from Washington, D.C., that the agency ‘violated its own clear regulations’ by awarding the contracts to Jackson Hole Mountain Resort and the Hole Hiking Experience.” The settlement agreement with the NPS was finalized this fall.

Office Of Insular Affairs

America’s Overlooked Pacific Island Partners.

In a piece for the [Diplomat](#) (12/21, Leis), Scott Leis, an International Program Officer for the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration in Washington, D.C. and an officer for Habele Fund, writes that “the U.S. is finally taking a more overt interest in the strategic importance of the Freely Associated States.” He notes that in early December, President Trump “signed the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), and, in doing so, the 2010 Compact Review Agreement between the U.S. and Palauan governments as well.” Leis praises officials for recognizing the “strategic importance” of the Freely Associated States “to U.S. interests.”

World Bank Commits US\$34m To Marshall Islands Energy Project.

[Voxy \(NZL\)](#) (12/18) reports that “the Republic of the Marshall Islands will be closer to its goals of greener, more efficient and more reliable energy, following the approval by the World Bank’s Board of Executive Directors of US\$34 million for the Sustainable Energy Development Project.” Marshall Islands Minister of Finance, Hon. Brenson S. Wase said, “The Marshallese government is working hard with development partners to meet our targets of 20 percent renewable energy by 2020, and 100 percent renewable energy by 2050. We are excited by this new World Bank-supported project, which will significantly boost access to reliable, efficient and ultimately more affordable renewable energy for residents and businesses across Majuro and Ebeye.”

Governor To Kilili: ‘Stop Saying I Supported HR 339’.

[Marianas Variety](#) (12/20, Villahermosa) reports that Gov. Ralph D.L.G. Torres, “who has just returned from a recent trip to Washington, D.C., said he discovered a lot of “misleading information” coming from the office of U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan.” The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (12/20, Encinares) reports that Torres said that the intent of House Resolution 339 and “the repercussions of it after being enacted into law was something that he did not support.” Torres said, “...My support [on the bill] originally is not what has transpired and it is not what I supported; the outcome of [H.R. 339’s enactment] is devastating everybody here on the island and I am very concerned because those good folks that have been here on the island as construction workers, maintenance workers, gardeners—all fall under the category of construction workers.”

Three Months After Hurricanes Irma And Maria, V.I.

National Guard Soldiers Have Yet To Receive Full Pay. The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (12/20) reports that over three months since Hurricanes Irma and Maria, “V.I. National Guard soldiers have yet to receive their full pay for their hurricane-related efforts.” The article notes that “the Government of the Virgin Islands, under financial pressure even before Hurricanes Irma and Maria, has found itself in a worse position following the storms, forcing the government to agree to a federal community disaster loan that not only breaks the government’s covenant with its current bondholders, but weakens an already frail position in the bond market.” Moreover, “compounding the matter is a 2018 budget deficit projected to be around \$250 million.”

US Geological Survey

Update On The USGS Aerial Survey With The Hula-hoop Helicopter.

The [Crested Butte News](#) (12/21, Minsley) reports that the US Geological Survey "finished its survey of the valleys around Crested Butte in early November," with "more than 1,200 miles of data...successfully collected." According to the article, "the data will be used to generate a three-dimensional view of the local geology." The article says that "the information will be released to the public and be used as part of other research to understand groundwater flow and other processes in mountain headwater systems."

Small Earthquake Recorded In North-Central Oklahoma By USGS.

The [AP](#) (12/20) reports that on Wednesday, the US Geological Survey reported a 3.3 magnitude earthquake in Oklahoma. This earthquake follows one "day after at least 10 temblors were recorded in the state, including one of magnitude 4.0." The earthquake did not cause any reported injuries or damages. The state has recently experienced thousands of earthquakes that are being "linked to underground wastewater injection from oil and gas" operations.

Additional Reading.

- *Snakes: Deadly Fungal Infection That Rots Skin Spreading Around World And No Species Are Immune.* [Newsweek](#) (12/20, Hugo).
- *Study Warns That Snake Fungal Disease Could Be A Global Threat.* [Phys \(UK\)](#) (12/20).
- *Study Finds California's Seaside Cliffs Crumbling Without Discernible Pattern.* [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (12/18, Smith).

Opinion Pieces

Yes, Something Can Be Done About Wildfires.

In a column for the [New York Times](#) (12/19), Gregory Scruggs discusses how develop a "comprehensive approach" to reducing wildfire risks, writing, "Experts believe that a cohesive strategy involving public education, community outreach, landscape restoration and robust emergency response could at least begin to mitigate the potential for such devastation." Scruggs highlights Deschutes County, Oregon, calling the area "a national leader in pursuing such a comprehensive approach." According to Scruggs, "It too experiences regular wildfires. Nevertheless, no house has burned here since 2003, even as fires caused enormous property damage elsewhere in the West."

Cassidy, Scalise Boost State's Oil Revenues.

The [Lake Charles \(LA\) American Press](#) (12/20) editorializes that Louisiana's Republican US Sen. Bill Cassidy and Louisiana's Republican House Majority Whip Steve Scalise worked two measures into the tax reform bill that will "increase the revenue sharing cap for Louisiana from \$500 million to \$650 million for the two-year period of 2020-2021." The two legislators "have done a great job ensuring that Louisiana gets its fair share of offshore oil revenue." The protective measures will "allow the sale of five million barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in either 2026 or 2027."

Additional Reading.

- *Opinion: California Needs The Wildfire Disaster Funding Act.* [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/20, Coca).
- *Mace Hack: Be Wise With Fire Funding.* [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (12/21, Hack).
- *Opening ANWR To Energy Development May Be Too Late.* [New American](#) (12/20, Adelman).
- *Tax Bill-Approved Arctic Drilling Will Plunder 10 Billion Barrels Of Oil And Destroy One Million Acres Of Wilderness.* [Newsweek](#) (12/20, Montgomery).
- *Opinion: The Interior Department Is Being Destroyed.* [Adventure Journal](#) (12/20, Grijalva).
- *There's Another Way To Save (Some Of) Bears Ears.* [Outside](#) (12/20, Randall).
- *AJOC EDITORIAL: Wrapping Up A Wild Year From ANWR To Zinke.* [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (12/20, Jensen).
- *Ernst Supports One Of America's Great Conservation Programs.* [Newton \(IA\) Daily News](#) (12/14, Aschenbrenner, Glendening).
- *Historic Preservation Tax Credit Is Saved, But Weakened.* [Chicago Tribune](#) (12/20, Kamin).

- *Banish The Bureaucrats: Driving Federal Workers Out Of DC.* [New York Post](#) (12/20, McCaughey).
- *State Assembly Leaders Respond To National Park Service.* [Oakland \(CA\) Post](#) (12/20, Rendon, Holden).
- *Water Utility May Head Off Big Problems Down The Road.* [Yakima \(WA\) Herald-Republic](#) (12/21).

Top National News

Trump, Republicans Take Victory Lap After Passage Of Tax Reform Bill.

Wednesday's passage of the Republican tax plan receives extensive media coverage, including 14-and-a-half minutes of coverage on the network news broadcasts – all three of which led with the story – and heavy print and online reporting. Generally, the coverage – which describes Trump as “triumphant” and “jubilant” as he celebrated the victory with Republican leaders at the White House – is positive for the President and Republicans, casting the bill's passage as their first major legislative victory since taking control of Congress and the White House. However, several reports highlight Democrat claims that the measure benefits the wealthy and corporations more than the middle-class Americans whom Republicans had promised would see substantial benefits from the legislation. The reports also say Republicans now face a difficult task in selling the legislation to voters.

[Politico](#) (12/20, Nussbaum) says Republicans gathered at the White House on Wednesday to make sure Trump, “who prizes winning over all else...received his thanks.” Politico described a “love-fest, a scene unprecedented in any other presidency but almost normal-seeming in Trump's Washington,” as a “triumphant” Trump took the stage “and kicked off a series of speeches aimed at touting the legislation – and especially on praising the president, who is expected to sign it in the days ahead.” Congressional leaders, Politico adds, “seemed to compete for who could lavish the most praise on the president, whose hunger for aggrandizement is well known.” For his part, Trump “appeared to soak it all in, smiling and nodding along, playing the role of emcee as he summoned each speaker to deliver his or her thanks.”

The [Washington Times](#) (12/20, Boyer, Miller) describes Trump as being in “a jubilant mood” as he took what [Bloomberg News](#) (12/20, Jacobs, Epstein) and the [Washington Examiner](#) (12/20, Westwood) called “a victory lap” after the House cleared the bill. [USA Today](#) (12/20, Jackson, Przybyla) says Trump “enthusiastically declared victory” as Republicans handed him “the first major legislative achievement of his 11-month-old presidency.” Speaking at a “pep-rally like event on the South Lawn of the White House,” Trump declared, “It's always a lot of fun when you win.” USA Today added that while Trump “says the tax cuts will spur investment,” there is “significant skepticism among Democrats that U.S. corporations, already flush with cash, will reinvest the money instead of using it to buy back shares to drive up stock prices.”

[Townhall](#) (12/20, Pavlich) quotes Trump as saying, “We had a historic victory for the American people. It will go through final passage today in the House. Then the congressmen and women and the Senate will be coming over – the Republican Senate. ... We're going to have the Republican senators come over, we're going to have the Republican members of the House come over. And we're going to have a news conference. And people are starting to see how great this historic victory was.” Treasury Secretary Mnuchin said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (12/20), “We fixed a broken tax system, we've delivered on tax cuts for individuals and business. This is all about creating jobs. I think this is going to be an enormous impact on the US economy.”

David Muir said in the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/20, lead story, 3:30, Muir) that while “not everyone is convinced” that the bill will result in “jobs, and pay raises for the middle class,” Trump “is beaming. The Christmas promise he made is coming true.” The [New York Post](#) (12/20, Schultz, Fredericks) says a “jubilant” Trump touted the plan, saying, “People are starting to see how great this historic victory was, the passage of the massive tax cuts and reform that's – a lot of reform in there, but the tax cuts supersede and I said very specifically ‘use the word tax cuts.’ ... It will be an incredible Christmas gift for hard-working Americans. I said I wanted to have it done before Christmas. We got it done.” In an earlier [tweet](#), Trump blasted the media “for portraying the reforms as a giveaway to the rich and big business, and for emphasizing polls that show most Americans oppose the bill.” Trump wrote, “The Tax Cuts are so large and so meaningful, and yet the Fake News is working overtime to follow the lead of their friends, the defeated Dems, and only demean. This is truly a case where the results will speak for themselves, starting very soon. Jobs, Jobs, Jobs!”

[The Hill](#) (12/20, Easley) quotes Trump as saying, “It's the largest, I always say the most

massive, but it's the largest tax cut in the history of our country and reform. Something special." However, although "the cuts are among the largest since 1918, they are not largest in history, according to an analysis by the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget." The [New York Times](#) (12/20, Shear, Tackett) says Trump's "significant legislative victory" came "after nearly a year of humiliating defeats in Congress, making good on his promise to deliver what he called a 'big, beautiful' tax cut before Christmas and finally demonstrating the political power of unified Republican control in Washington." Trump "will enter his second year in office with a roster of Republican achievements that he and his party will attempt to sell to voters in the 2018 midterm elections: Lower taxes, more conservative judges, fewer regulations and more restrictive borders." Gary Varvel writes in his column in the [Indianapolis Star](#) (12/20, Varvel) that as recently suggested by White House press secretary Sarah Sanders, "The good news of Trump's presidency hasn't received much attention." Varvel lists some of the "good news" including "defeating ISIS," tax cuts, economic growth, greater consumer confidence, deregulation, the stock market, judicial appointments, unemployment, trade, immigration, energy, Israel, climate change, coal, and school choice as areas in which Trump has been successful. Varvel concludes, "Trump has more wins than losses."

Likewise Major Garret said in the lead story for The [CBS Evening News](#) (12/20, lead story, 2:40, Glor) that the celebration at the White House "capped a year of accomplishment. Neil Gorsuch on the Supreme Court. ... Fewer illegal crossings on the southern border, regaining territory from ISIS in Iraq and Syria, and eliminating regulation. But the President fell short on replacing the Affordable Care Act." However, also on The [CBS Evening News](#) (12/20, story 2, 2:35, Glor), CBS "Face the Nation" anchor John Dickerson highlighted "a bit of a paradox. If you look on the one side, you have all of those achievements...that the President got," but "for somebody who came into the office with his signature skill being marketing, all of those achievements have not paid off in popularity. His approval rating, the average is about 39 percent. This tax bill that he's been selling, the approval rating for that is below 30 percent. About 10 points away from where the Affordable Care Act was when President Obama signed it. The Republican Party is less popular. And so, he has gotten the achievement, but what has eluded him so far is the approval."

[Breitbart](#) (12/20, Spiering) reports that Trump thanked Senate Majority Leader McConnell and House Speaker Ryan "and many other senators and members of Congress for their efforts to pull the bill across the finish line on Wednesday." Trump said, "I want to thank you, Mitch McConnell. What a job." He also praised Ryan, calling him "a great Speaker." The [Washington Post](#) (12/20, Paletta, Stein) says Republicans "were united in ways they haven't been at any point during the Trump presidency, rebounding from internal divisions that plagued them when they sought to overhaul the nation's health-care laws." The [Washington Post](#) (12/20, Wagner) says Trump "basked in the praise of Republican lawmakers" as they "lauded" him for his "exquisite presidential leadership." Republicans "touted" him as "one heck of a leader" and as a "man of action." The Post adds that "the adulation from the Republican lawmakers signaled an even bigger moment: Many were embracing not only a shared accomplishment with Trump, but also his unorthodox presidency itself."

Eamon Javers said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (12/20), "You saw the relationship between Mitch McConnell and the President of the United States much different today. Remember the President's former political adviser Steve Bannon has been overtly campaigning against Mitch McConnell and branding him as sort of a wing of the Republican establishment that needs to go away. Today, the President, though, saying very much Mitch McConnell, heck of a job here, pushing this tax bill through. So perhaps bygones are bygones and this victory will help paper over some of the rifts within the Republican Party, or perhaps this is just a temporary ceasefire in that ongoing debate within the party of which direction they're going to go. But this was a very united Republican party we saw here today."

On its website, [Roll Call](#) (12/20, McKinless) features a video of GOP lawmakers at Wednesday's ceremony "showering...Trump with praise for his role in helping get the bill across the finish line." The [Daily Caller](#) (12/20, Donachie) says Sen. Tim Scott "got choked up" as he spoke about "the benefits of tax reform Wednesday, completely stealing the show at what was already a celebratory affair for Republicans and the administration." Scott "discussed how Republicans are bringing tax relief to single-mothers, middle-class Americans and will ultimately help many achieve the 'American Dream.'"

The [AP](#) (12/20, Peoples, Lucey, Gordon) says that while a "triumphant" Trump and "jubilant" Republicans celebrated the measure's passage, the American people "will need some convincing." Some Republicans "warned that the party could face a painful political backlash

against an overhaul that offers corporations and wealthy taxpayers the biggest benefits and triggers the loss of health care coverage for millions of Americans" and even some of "the president's strongest allies conceded that voters may not immediately warm to the new law." The AP adds that there are calls from GOP strategists and candidates for Trump "to launch an immediate public relations tour to sell the plan to help avert an anti-Republican tsunami in 2018."

In the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/20, lead story, 2:30, Holt), Lester Holt said a "practically giddy" Trump was "savoring his first big legislative win" with "a victory lap at the White House." The hope now, Holt added, is "that the large number of Americans unhappy with the bill will learn to love it." Chief White House correspondent Hallie Jackson said Republicans are "betting there will be no political hangover, that this tax plan will end up winning over more Americans." Similarly, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/20, Hughes) says that while passage of the measure is a political win for McConnell and Ryan, they now face the task of selling the measure to the public, which they believe will become easier once the tax cuts kick in. [Politico](#) (12/20, Bade, Kim) says that while Republicans "have every reason to feel euphoric" about the tax bill, "on the periphery is palpable angst, particularly in the House." Ryan and McConnell "scored an undeniable win this week" but "the victory lap for both men may be short-lived" as Republicans by Friday "will have to figure out how to fund the government, and there are no good options."

The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (12/20, Gilbert) reports that Ryan said in an interview "that he would be happy to have the battle for Congress next year hinge on the sweeping tax bill that Republicans just passed, despite the bill's unpopularity today." Ryan said, "I think that would work very well for us." Ryan told [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (12/20), "The average taxpayer in every income group including people in these high tax states still get a tax cut." Asked if the result of the bill may be that legislatures in high-tax states will "have to do something about the high tax rate," Ryan said that "what members of Congress or conservatives see is basically 46 state are paying higher federal taxes to subsidize higher state taxes in about four states. It's really a fairness argument."

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (12/20, Meyer) cites a Tax Foundation analysis which find that the final version of the bill "will reduce taxes for nearly every household." According to the Foundation, "Our results indicate a reduction in tax liability for every scenario we estimated, with some of the largest changes in after-tax income accruing to moderate-income families with children."

[USA Today](#) (12/20, Shesgreen) reports that the House had to hold "an unusual do over vote," on the measure after the Senate was forced to make changes to comply with Senate rules, providing "an anti-climactic end to an otherwise triumphant win for the GOP." The [New York Times](#) (12/20, Kaplan) says the need for a second House vote "gave ammunition to Democrats, who had already accused Republicans of trying to rush the tax overhaul through the House and Senate." Rep. Louise Slaughter said, "We are five days away from Christmas, but it feels like Groundhog Day," and Rep. Lloyd Doggett said, "We will be cleaning up this mess and the blunders in this bill all of next year." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/20, Mascaro) also reports briefly on the GOP plan.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/20, Merle, Gregg) says that while workers "will see the first glimpse of a tax cut in February at the earliest," it "won't be until 2019 – when people file their taxes for next year – that most will know whether they will pay more or less to the federal government." The Post adds that "tax attorneys, accountants and corporate payroll departments are scrambling to adjust to changes that won't be official until Trump signs the bill in January."

AT&T To Increase US Capital Spending Give Employee Bonuses After Tax Bill. [Politico](#) (12/20, Lima) reports that Trump announced during his remarks, "AT&T plans to increase U.S. capital spending \$1 billion and provide \$1,000 special bonus to more than 200,000 U.S. employees, and that's because of what we did." AT&T chairman and CEO Randall Stephenson "announced Wednesday that the company would increase its capital expenditures budget in the U.S. by \$1 billion once the bill is approved by the president." In addition, "employees would also receive a \$1,000 individual bonus, which be awarded over the holidays if the law were signed by Christmas." On its website, [CNBC](#) (12/20, Jeffery) says the announcement came "a month after the Justice Department challenged AT&T's pending merger with Time Warner. Trump has said the deal is 'not good for the country' because it might make prices increase."

The [Washington Times](#) (12/20, Richardson) says that in addition to AT&T, Fifth Third Bancorp "also announced bonuses of \$1,000 to more than 13,500 employees and said it would raise its minimum hourly wage to \$15. The banking corporation said approximately 3,000 employees will benefit from the wage increase." On its website, [CNBC](#) (12/20, Moyer) reports that Wells Fargo "also said it would be boosting its minimum wage for employees to \$15 an hour" and would "target \$400 million in donations to community and nonprofit organizations next year."

Also Wednesday, [Breitbart](#) (12/20, Mason) reports, Boeing tweeted that the tax bill “will allow them to spend \$300 million on ‘employee-related and charitable investment.’” Boeing [tweeted](#), “#Boeing announces \$300M employee-related and charitable investment as a result of #TaxReform legislation to support our heroes, our homes and our future.” Boeing CEO Dennis Muilenburg said in a statement, “On behalf of all of our stakeholders, we applaud and thank Congress and the administration for their leadership in seizing this opportunity to unleash economic energy in the United States. ... It’s the single-most important thing we can do to drive innovation, support quality jobs and accelerate capital investment in our country.” A feature on the [Washington Post](#) (12/20) highlights how the nation’s 20 largest companies “will use their tax cut money.”

Presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway said on [Fox News’ Hannity](#) (12/20), “Unfortunately there were no Democrats there because none of them took an opportunity to give tax cuts and relief to our job creators, to middle class families, and they are going to have to go home this Christmas and all next year and explain why they insist this is a tax cut for the rich when just today you had major companies say they are going to give bonuses and other charitable contributions to their employees. Are those employees receiving those hard working men and women the rich? I think the Democrats missed a huge opportunity here with President Trump’s leadership that really put this over the top.”

Pence: Growth From Tax Bill Will Outpace Deficit Predictions. Vice President Pence was asked on [Fox News The Ingraham Angle](#) (12/20) about the estimates that the bill will increase the deficit. Pence said, “The need for the Congress to always look for ways to tighten its belt is a real priority for President Trump. The estimates of deficits here are all based on some pretty predictable growth estimates going forward.” Pence added, “I have to tell you President Trump really believes, we all do, that by letting the American people keep more of what they earn, by letting middle income Americans have more spending power, by lowering taxes on businesses large and small that we are going to outperform those growth projections and we will see those deficits overcome by growth, but also by exercising the kind of fiscal responsibility that President Trump has been driving for since the first day of this administration.”

Toomey Argues Tax Cuts Will Pay For Themselves. Sen. Pat Toomey was asked on [CNN’s The Lead](#) (12/20) about The New York Times’ claim that no economic analysis supports the idea that the tax cuts will pay for themselves. Toomey said, “That’s not true. Larry Lindsey’s done a great analysis that demonstrates why it’s very likely we will have a smaller budget deficit as a result of this bill, not a larger one. Fundamentally you need to ask yourself how much extra economic growth will it take over the ten-year window of this budget or longer to fully offset the foregone revenue? The answer is less than half of one percent of extra economic growth. CBO’s projecting that our economy will only grow by 1.9 percent per year over this period of time. If we get to 2.5 percent, we don’t even have to quite get there, we will more than fully offset all lost revenue.”

Meadows: Tackle Deficit By Slowing Growth Of Government. Rep. Mark Meadows was asked on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (12/20) about concerns that the bill will add to the debt. Meadows said that “the deficit is something we have to tackle. ... We have to make sure that we slow down the growth of government. Really, government has been growing twice as fast as paychecks back home on Main Street. So what I propose is that we slow down the growth. Not cut government. Just slow down the growth.”

WPost Analysis: Trump Likely To Save Millions Under Tax Bill. The [Washington Post](#) (12/20, Harwell) reports in an analysis that while Trump said he would be a “big loser” if the bill passed, he “will likely save millions of dollars.” Trump “stands to gain immensely” from the measure “including through a lower top tax rate and lucrative deductions for top-earning households, according to attorneys and tax experts who reviewed the final bill.” The White House “has claimed repeatedly that the tax bill could cost the president ‘a lot of money,’” but on Tuesday, press secretary Sarah Sanders “acknowledged that the overall impact on his finances could be more complicated,” saying, “In some ways, particularly on the personal side, the president will likely take a big hit. ... But on the business side he could benefit.”

Democrats Vow To Make Tax Bill An Issue In 2018. [Reuters](#) (12/20, Morgan, Becker) says there was united Democratic opposition to the measure, which polls show is “unpopular with the public,” and Democrats “promised to make Republicans pay for their vote during next year’s congressional elections.” House Democratic Caucus Chairman Joe Crowley said on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (12/20), “I think it was a bait and switch on a proportion we’ve never seen before. The President said that he would help the middle class. He campaigned on that in middle America. And, in essence, what he’s doing here and what the Republicans are doing is giving a

huge corporate tax break. ... It really was a classic bait and switch. They dangled it out there for the middle class...and what it's really doing is helping the corporate special interests as well as the wealthiest in this nation to the tune that's been really unheard of in modern history." Peter Alexander said in an analysis for [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/20, story 2, 1:50, Holt) that while Trump "repeatedly branded it as a middle class miracle," analysts "say in 10 years, more than 80 percent of the benefits will go to the top one percent."

Meanwhile. Rep. Jim Himes told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (12/20), "The President doesn't understand that what he's just done is he's just raised...health insurance premiums on every American. Why is that? ... The reason we have a mandate is because people, often young people who are very healthy think I don't need health insurance. ... The reality is that healthy 25-year-olds get hit by buses sometimes and those healthy 25-year-olds get hit by buses and show up in emergency rooms if they do not have health insurance, guess who pays for their cost to the emergency room? Those of us who actually do buy insurance. What will happen if you do away with the mandate and healthy people don't buy insurance, now you've got people who are older and sicker and using more health care buying insurance. ... If that is true, everybody's premiums go up."

Republicans Rejected Manchin Proposal. The [Washington Post](#) (12/20, Debonis, Werner) reports that in the days before the Senate voted on the tax bill, Sen. Joe Manchin told Sen. Rob Portman that "he would consider joining the tax effort" if the corporate tax rate was cut to 25 percent instead of 20 percent and the proceeds were used "for bigger middle class tax cuts." Portman took the proposal to GOP leaders, but they rejected it because "the prospect of a bipartisan deal that could have solidified public support for the tax plan was far outweighed by the imperative to keep the GOP unified and the belief that deep cuts in corporate taxes, more than anything else, were the recipe for economic and political success." The Post says the rejection of the Democrat's offer "underscores the political risks undertaken by the GOP." But Republicans believe the cuts will "spur economic growth, and that everyday Americans will reward the GOP."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/20, Drucker) says Manchin "struggled" Wednesday to explain his opposition to the bill, "conceding in a local radio interview that it contains 'some good things' that could benefit his state." Manchin said in the interview, "There's some good in this bill. I acknowledge that." Asked why he "opposed legislation that will benefit the 'vast majority' of taxpayers and businesses in the state," Manchin said, "The things that you mention are correct. Initially people will benefit and see some changes in their taxes." He blamed his opposition on predictions that the measure will add to the debt and that cuts for individuals and married couples will expire while the corporate cuts are permanent. The Examiner said that it appeared at times that "Manchin was wrestling with his answers, trying to justify his 'no' vote without being too critical, and antagonizing Trump."

NYTimes Analysis Considers Next Steps After ANWR Drilling Is Approved. The [New York Times](#) (12/20, Fountain, Friedman) reports on what will occur now that the GOP Tax bill lifts a ban on oil and gas drilling in ANWR. The Times says supporters and opponents both say it could be years before the first lease sale, which is "a precursor to any drilling." On the issue of what Democrats can do to stop it, the times says, "not much" as their "ability to halt progress toward drilling in the refuge hinges on the party's ability to recapture the majority in one or both houses of Congress in the 2018 midterm elections." In the short-term environmental groups can do "potentially more than Democratic politicians" by seeking "to block drilling through legal or procedural means and by mobilizing public opinion against it."

CNN's King: GOP Bill Provides "Damn Good Money:" To Working Families. Matt Vespa writes on [Townhall](#) (12/20, Vespa) reports that CNN's John King "asked if Democrats, especially those from states that Trump won in 2016, were taking a risk by opposing this historic bill." King said, "If you're a working class family, a lot of people say, 'oh, it's only \$200, oh, it's only \$300;' if you're a working class family living paycheck-to-paycheck – \$200-300 is damn good money and you are grateful for it."

WSJournal Sees Benefits In Tax Bill While WPost Denounces It. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/20, Board) in an editorial on the tax plan comments on the criticism that it will not increase American competitiveness, citing a study from Germany's Center for European Economic Research concluding that the tax plan will encourage foreign investment in the US, which, it said, had been discouraged by US tax rates. Under the new tax rates, the economists found that US taxes will now be about the EU average and lower than those of France or Germany. The Journal concludes by suggesting that France and Germany may well follow the US in lowering taxes.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/20, Board) in an editorial on the tax act suggests it may

encourage states to reconsider their tax rates, as high earners who will have the deductibility of state taxes capped may lobby state legislatures to reduce the rates. The Journal identifies 17 states that may be affected and singles out the four with the highest income tax rates – California, New York, Oregon, and Minnesota – as unlikely to change given the states politics, but notes a number of the higher-rate states have Republican governors or legislatures that may decide to reduce rates including Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, Nebraska, South Carolina, and Wisconsin.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/20, Board) in its editorial on the “huge tax bill” calls it “an ignominious moment for Republicans,” describing it as beneficial for “wealthy heirs” and for “tax dodgers and their lawyers” as well as “for corporations that look like the Trump Organization,” and “pass-through” businesses. The Post also says the act is based on “the discredited theory of trickle-down economics,” and “know-nothing anti-intellectualism.” The Post further says it is “a victory for corrosive partisanship,” but “most of all...for fiscal irresponsibility.” The Post concludes by saying the bill will require more legislation “to limit the damage to already shaky health-care insurance markets,” as well as “a technical-corrections bill” and in the “longer term” will require tax increases and cuts in entitlement programs.

More Commentary. Robert J. Samuelson writes in his column in the [Washington Post](#) (12/20, Samuelson) in opposition to the tax bill, accusing Republicans of “shameless cynicism” by, he says, borrowing \$1.5 trillion “to cut taxes for major constituencies – workers, families, small businesses and big companies,” in order to “buy votes.” Samuelson adds, “We need more taxes, not fewer.”

Binyamin Appelbaum and Ana Swanson write in the [New York Times](#) (12/20, Appelbaum, Swanson), that the bill will test whether President Trump’s “ideas for strengthening American business will increase the prosperity of the American people.” They identify Trump’s goal as “increasing the output of the United States economy.” They also argue that Trump favors lower domestic taxes and higher tariffs to support “the United States economy in what he sees as a zero-sum competition among nations.”

Greg Ip writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/20, Ip) that the GOP plan address only some of the problems economists have cited with the tax code and exacerbates others, which will force lawmakers to revisit the issue in years to come.

Rosie O’Donnell Offered Senators \$2 Million To Vote Against Tax Bill. [The Federalist](#) (12/20, Payton) reports that Rosie O’Donnell posted a tweet Wednesday in which she offered Republican Sens. Jeff Flake and Susan Collins \$2 million in cash to vote against the GOP tax bill. The Federalist notes that is a federal crime to offer members of Congress “money or anything else of value in exchange for an official act.”

Congress Working To Avert Shutdown Over End-of-year Funding Bill.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (12/20, story 3, 1:55, Holt) reported Congress has an “end of the year to do list [that] includes urgent matters like funding for” CHIP and “preventing a government shut down.” NBC (Hunt) added that under CHIP “nine million children are covered. It helps those who don’t qualify for Medicaid but can’t afford private insurance.” Now “Congress is arguing over a permanent solution.” Also on the “to do list” is “the future of more than 700,000 undocumented immigrants brought to the US as children,” and “billions for disaster relief, reauthorizing the surveillance laws that lets the government wire tap foreigners without warrant, and keeping the government open because funding runs out at midnight on Friday.”

The [New York Times](#) (12/20, Stolberg, Alcindor) reports a large bill including agreements “once promised over delicate issues like immigration, health care and surveillance appeared to fizzle on Wednesday,” as Sens. Susan Collins and Lamar Alexander “dropped their demands” for plans “to shore up shaky health insurance markets,” while Democrats and Sen. Jeff Flake “appeared to abandon” demands for action on DACA. The Times adds that the more likely bill would be “a one-month punt that would keep the government funded into January.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/20, Wasson, Litvan) also reports Republican leaders are expected to put forward “a stripped down temporary funding measure to avert a government shutdown,” because no deals were forthcoming on “a host of other issues,” including a plan “to stabilize Obamacare markets”; “an immigration deal”; “full-year funding for the Pentagon”; extending the Children’s Health Insurance Program; and “a government surveillance program.” The House may opt to “pass an extension of current government funding until Jan. 19 along with separate bills” for “hurricane and wildfire recovery assistance.” The [AP](#) (12/20, Taylor) reports “congressional Republicans scrambled on Wednesday” to put together the “must-pass spending bill,” and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said there may be a “patch” to prevent states from running out of funding for CHIP.

[Politico](#) (12/20, Ferris, Caygle, Haberkorn) reports House Republican leaders will urge “their fractured caucus to swallow another spending bill that shelves the problem for a few more weeks.” Meanwhile, Democrats said “they will refuse to back to the bill.” Politico adds that both House and Senate Republicans on Tuesday had suggested they would pass bills at odds with each other and fight for their own priorities.

Mnuchin, Short Endorse Short-term Bill. Treasury Secretary Mnuchin said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (12/20), “I think it’s highly unlikely that there’s a government shutdown. But, I don’t want to give the assurance until it’s passed by Congress and gets to the President. I can tell you the President doesn’t want to shut down. I think the right thing to do is let’s get a short-term funding and will deal with it in January.”

White House Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Short said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (12/20), “I don’t think anybody’s advocating for a shutdown right now. I think Congress will do the right thing and we’ll get a short-term continuing resolution to get us into January.” Asked about CHIP, and other matters, Short said, “I think there will be short-term patches in each of those programs...that basically provide a 30-day patch, and a longer extension that comes in January.”

Collins And Alexander Plan Effort On Healthcare Early In New Year. [USA Today](#) (12/20, Collins) reports Sens. Collins and Alexander abandoned their healthcare effort because of “resistance from hardline conservatives in the House.” They said that instead, “they would offer the bill early next year.” They also said that Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has committed to bringing it to a vote and Collins said that Speaker Paul Ryan had told her, “by waiting until early next year, we will be able to use a new (Congressional Budget Office) baseline that will result in more funding being available for reinsurance programs that have been proven effective in lowering premiums while protecting people with pre-existing conditions.”

Dreamers Say Democrats Betrayed Them. The [Washington Times](#) (12/20, Dinan, Swoyer) reports that “Dreamers said they have been betrayed by Democratic leaders who failed to force a government shutdown showdown” in order to press their “demands to pass a legalization bill” this year. Protesting “Dreamers” on Wednesday, “took to the hallways in Congress to march and conduct lie-downs in office corridors to complain that they have been forgotten.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/20, Ulloa) reports California Senate leader Kevin de León, who is challenging Sen. Dianne Feinstein in next year’s Senate race, “urged Democrats to block a year-end spending bill as leverage to pass a Dream Act,” and “commended Sen. Kamala Harris for pledging to block the measure,” while accusing Feinstein of being “AWOL.” He added, “Don’t come back to California if you haven’t demonstrated your leadership and your courage to stand up for these young men and women.”

Scientists Estimate Large Consequences From Humanity’s Use Of Land.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/20, Mooney) reports that new research from Austria’s Institute of Social Ecology “provides a surprisingly large estimate of just how consequential” humanity’s “treatment of land surfaces and vegetation has been for the planet and its atmosphere.” The research suggests “that current human use of land is responsible for roughly halving the potential storage of carbon by that land.” This “simultaneously suggests that restoring land could do a lot to fight climate change but also that the highly popular idea of using biomass to withdraw carbon dioxide from the air may need some rethinking.”

Heavy Snowfall On Alaska Mountain Linked To Climate Change.

The [Washington Times](#) (12/19, Richardson) reports that “a study released Tuesday in the journal *Scientific Reports* found that snowfall on the highest peak in the Alaska Range has more than doubled since the start of the Industrial Revolution in the mid-19th century, which researchers attribute to climate change.” Scientists believe the snow accumulation has been caused by “warmer waters thousands of miles away in the tropical Pacific and Indian oceans,” which were “driven by rising greenhouse gas emissions.” “We had to check and double-check our results to make sure of the findings,” said researcher Erich Osterberg. “Dramatic increases in temperature and air pollution in modern times have been well established in science, but now we’re also seeing dramatic increases in regional precipitation with climate change.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“New York Hot Dogs In A Corn Dog State.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (12/20) says that New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio on Tuesday visited the lead-off presidential caucus state of Iowa, where he continued to insist he’s not planning a 2020 White House run. The Times says Iowa may see other New York politicians in the future, as Gov. Andrew Cuomo and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand “are both widely presumed to be thinking 2020 would be a splendid year to try ascending the political ladder. Should those thoughts become reality, New York accents might well reverberate from Sioux City to Dubuque.”

“Congress Refuses To Do Right By Children’s Healthcare.” The [New York Times](#) (12/20) in an editorial faults the Congress for having approved “a tax bill that will make the wealthiest Americans richer,” while leaving “lower-income families” to worry “their children will soon lose their health insurance because Congress didn’t care enough to renew funding for it.” The Times also approves Democrats’ refusal to accept Republican plans to pay for the CHIP program by “raising Medicare premiums on affluent retirees and cutting spending on public health programs” under the ACA, arguing that the tax bill would add “more than \$1.4 trillion to the federal deficit” while “CHIP costs just \$14 billion a year.” The Times concludes that President Trump and the Republicans “were desperate to pass a tax bill by Christmas but seem unconcerned about the more urgent and important work” of funding CHIP.

Washington Post.

“The Government Abuses Its Power Over Pregnant Teenagers – Again.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (12/20) blasts the federal government for again seeking “to prevent two more pregnant teenagers from getting the medical care they desired.” Its failure to do so “demonstrates just how absurd” Health and Human Services’ Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) head and antiabortion activist E. Scott Lloyd’s policy of barring “federally funded shelters for undocumented minors from ‘supporting’ access to abortion without his approval” is. The Post welcomes that “the government is no longer abusing its power over these two vulnerable teenagers” but warns “it’s likely that ORR will continue to trap other undocumented teenagers in the same situation” and calls for Lloyd to “abandon this cruel policy.”

“A Day Of Reckoning For Charlottesville, At Last.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (12/20), welcomes the beginning of the accounting for law enforcement’s “stunning failure” in Charlottesville with the resignation of Charlottesville Police Chief Alfred Thomas and the retirement of State Police Superintendent Col. W. Steven Flaherty. The Post condemns the “incompetence of state and local police” who “failed in their most basic duties” through “bumbling and ineptitude.” Noting the lack of action by law enforcement to violence occurring feet from officers, the Post asks, “why have police?” The Post concludes with the hope that the top commanders’ departures are “a sign that lessons have been learned from that debacle.”

“A Win For The Wealthy, The Entitled, And The Irresponsible.” The [Washington Post](#) (12/20, Board) in its editorial on the “huge tax bill” calls it “an ignominious moment for Republicans,” describing it as beneficial for “wealthy heirs” and for “tax dodgers and their lawyers” as well as “for corporations that look like the Trump Organization,” and “pass-through” businesses. The Post also says the act is based on “the discredited theory of trickle-down economics,” and “know-nothing anti-intellectualism.” The Post further says it is “a victory for corrosive partisanship,” but “most of all...for fiscal irresponsibility.” The Post concludes by saying the bill will require more legislation “to limit the damage to already shaky health-care insurance markets,” as well as “a technical-corrections bill” and in the “longer term” will require tax increases and cuts in entitlement programs.

Wall Street Journal.

“Tax Reform Take 2: The States.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/20, Board) in an editorial on the tax act suggests it may encourage states to reconsider their tax rates, as high earners who will have the deductibility of state taxes capped may lobby state legislatures to reduce the rates. The Journal identifies 17 states that may be affected and singles out the four with the highest income tax rates – California, New York, Oregon, and Minnesota – as unlikely to change given the states politics, but notes a number of the higher-rate states have Republican governors or legislatures that may decide to reduce rates including Arkansas, Idaho, Iowa, Nebraska, South Carolina, and Wisconsin.

“Obama’s Pass For Hezbollah.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/20) argues that the information presented in the Politico report warrants a Congressional investigation, because it presents “compelling evidence” that the Obama Administration undermined DEA’s Project Cassandra. This evidence includes statements from Obama Administration officials, including

Obama's counterterrorism chief, a Treasury Department official, and an unnamed former CIA officer. *"The Germans Are Impressed."* [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/20, Board) in an editorial on the tax plan comments on the criticism that it will not increase American competitiveness, citing a study from Germany's Center for European Economic Research concluding that the tax plan will encourage foreign investment in the US, which, it said, had been discouraged by US tax rates. Under the new tax rates, the economists found that US taxes will now be about the EU average and lower than those of France or Germany. The Journal concludes by suggesting that France and Germany may well follow the US in lowering taxes.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Trump Cheers GOP Tax Overhaul, Slams Democrats Who Opposed It](#)
[How Trump, GOP Forged Landmark Tax Plan](#)
[Venezuela's Brutal Crime Crackdown: Executions, Machetes And 8,292 Dead](#)
[Tables Turned: Saudi Arabia Hunts For Oil Assets In The US](#)

New York Times:

[With Tax Overhaul, Trump Fulfills A Campaign Promise And Flexes Republican Muscle](#)
[In Tax Overhaul, Trump Tries To Defy The Economic Odds](#)
[Trump Threatens To End American Aid: 'We're Watching Those Votes' At The UN](#)
[Presidential Ally Is Arrested, And Mexico Corruption Investigation Deepens](#)
[Facebook Job Ads Raise Concerns About Age Discrimination](#)
[How Cuts In Basic Subway Upkeep Can Make Your Commute Miserable](#)

Washington Post:

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[Under MS-13, 'People Here Live In Fear'](#)
[Drug Crisis Fuels Drop In At-Birth Life Expectancy](#)
[Control Of Virginia House Comes Down To A Coin Toss](#)
[Taxpayers Must Wait To See How Bill Affects Them](#)

Financial Times:

[Democrats Look To Capitalise On Unpopular Tax Reform](#)
[ECJ Rules Uber Can Be Regulated As Taxi Company](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Wants More Credit For His 'Big, Beautiful' Accomplishments This Year](#)
[Immigrants Feel Betrayed By Democrats Who Promised Dream Act Or Government Shutdown](#)
[Faced With Libel Lawsuit, Dossier Drafter Christopher Steele Hedges On Linking Trump To Russia](#)
[Zimbabweans Fear Mnangagwa's Rewards To Military Will Usher In Era Of Martial Law](#)
[Mistrial Bolster's Bundy's Claim Of Federal Persecution, Gives Prosecutors Black Eye](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Tax Reform Passing; Weather Forecast; Mexico Bus Crash; USA Gymnastics Sexual Scandal; Houston Amber Alert; High School Runaway Trial; Russia Meddling Investigation; Russia Election-Putin; Christmas Shopping Tips; Highway Debris Murder; Florida Police Chase; Vegetable-Health; UK Royals-News; Grocery Shop-Christmas Carol.

CBS: Tax Reform Passing; Tax Reform Passing-Analysis; Mexico Bus Crash; Seattle Train Crash; USA Gymnastics Sexual Scandal; Frozen Embryo Birth; Controversial Catholic Archbishop Dies; Virginia House Election; California Wildfires; Delivery Thieves; Average Commute Time; Longest Christmas Stocking; Christmas Songs; Troubled Kid-Christmas Smile.

NBC: Tax Reform Passing; Tax Reform Passing-Analysis; Government Funding; Mexico Bus Crash; Seattle Train Crash; Controversial Catholic Archbishop Dies; USA Gymnastics Sexual Scandal; Florida Police Chase; Delivery Thieves; Chipotle Food Poisoning; Apple Products-Slowdown; Retirement-Health; Musical Instrument Charity.

Network TV At A Glance:

Tax Reform Passing – 14 minutes, 30 seconds
Mexico Bus Crash – 6 minutes
USA Gymnastics Sexual Scandal – 6 minutes

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Los Angeles Building Explosion; Tax Reform Passing; Russia Meddling Investigation; Government Funding; North Korean Soldier Defection.

CBS: Tax Reform Passing; Government Funding; Mexico Bus Crash; Seattle Train Crash; WH-UN Jerusalem Vote; Wall Street News.

FOX: Tax Reform Passing; North Korean Soldier Defection.

NPR: Tax Reform Passing; Government Funding; Russia Meddling Investigation; US Life Expectancy; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — No public events scheduled.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: No relevant event scheduled.

US House: House possibly debates FISA reauthorization – House of Representatives convenes for legislative business, with agenda possibly including 'H.R. 4478 – FISA Amendments Reauthorization Act of 2017' and legislation related to further funding for Fiscal Year 2018

Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

Other: 1:30 PM AG Sessions remarks at Pan Am Flight 103 Memorial – Attorney General Jeff Sessions will deliver remarks at the Arlington National Cemetery memorial service for the victims of Pan American Flight 103. (All media must meet at the front gate of Arlington National Cemetery by 12:40 p.m. for a security check and escort to the ceremony site. The media escort will leave promptly at 12:45 p.m. for the ceremony) NOTE: All media must RSVP and present government-issued photo I.D. (such as a driver's license) as well as valid media credentials. The RSVP and any inquiries regarding logistics: Kelly Laco, Office of Public Affairs at (202) 305-5219, kelly.laco@usdoj.gov. RSVP with the email address of the person(s) attending the event, so they can be contacted directly if details change. Location: Arlington National Cemetery The Cairn Section 1: Civil War Officers Section Arlington, VA 22211 www.justice.gov
<https://twitter.com/TheJusticeDept>

8:00 AM AXIOS News Shapers conversation with Democratic Sen. Mark Warner Location: AJAX, 1011 4th St NW, Washington, DC <http://warner.senate.gov/public/>
<https://twitter.com/MarkWarner>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Fallon: "I read that only 24 percent of Americans think the GOP tax plan is good. To put that in perspective, the Spice Girls movie got a 29 percent on Rotten Tomatoes."

Jimmy Fallon: "House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi said that the tax plan is an all-out looting of America and a wholesale robbery of the middle class, which incidentally is also the slogan for Whole Foods."

Jimmy Fallon: "University of Pennsylvania, which is Trump's alma mater, says the tax bill will add \$2.2 trillion to the national debt. Trump was like, 'Come on, are you really going to believe a school that let me graduate? Give me a break, come on.'"

Seth Meyers: "It tells you everything you need to know about the Trump era that this is how 2017 is ending, with Republicans ransacking the country, taking healthcare away from millions, and then telling women that the solution is for them to have more babies."

Samantha Bee: "This week, the Republican tax bill has lurched its way into becoming a law,

which was like a Christmas miracle for Paul Ryan.”

Samantha Bee: “Lucky for Trump, he surrounded himself with an evangelical council who are equally fascinated to find themselves in the White House, and they’re still there after the sexual harassment allegations and mocking the disabled and sympathizing with white supremacists and endorsing an accused child molester. He’s running out of commandments.”

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



DATE: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2017 6:00 AM EST

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- Salem (OR) Capital Press: Senators Question USFS Role In Sage Grouse Review.
- Washington Post: The Most Consequential Environmental Stories Of 2017.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- MGM Resorts Wants To Intervene In Suit Over 3rd-Casino Gaming Amendments.

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- City Sets New Sewer Charges For USBR, Others.

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- Associated Press: Record Number Of Kirtland's Warbler Nests Found In Wisconsin.
- Valley (PA) News Dispatch: Another Species Of Asian Carp Could Become Threat To Pennsylvania's Waterways.
- Valdosta (GA) Daily Times: Banks Lake Drawdown This Winter.

National Park Service

- CBS: Decaying Portion Of Jackson Magnolia Removed.
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- Marin (CA) Independent Journal: National Park Service Drops Marin Leash Law Plan.
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- Cleveland (TN) Daily Banner: Entrance Fee To Increase At Point Park.
- Chico (CA) Enterprise-Record: Lassen Park, Whiskeytown Entry Fees Increasing Jan. 1.
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- KGMB-TV Honolulu: National Park Service To Visitors: Please (Please) Leave The Rocks.
- Associated Press: Florida Man Dies While Snowshoeing In Glacier National Park.
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DOI In The News

Italy's Eni Begins Drilling Oil Well In Alaska's Beaufort Sea: BSEE.

[Reuters](#) (12/27, Sims) reports that the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement said Wednesday that Italian oil company Eni started drilling a new well in U.S. waters off the north coast of Alaska this week. As "the first company to do so since 2015," Eni "is working from an artificial island in the Beaufort Sea about three miles off Oliktok Point in the Arctic Ocean," and "the well is expected to run more than 6 miles (10 km) long." According to the BSEE, "the project could result in 20,000 barrels a day of oil production," as "Eni plans to use extended-reach drilling techniques to tap a formation on the Outer Continental Shelf that regulators approved a year ago."

The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (12/27, DeMarban) reports Interior Department Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management Joe Balash "said in the statement that the Arctic is important to the Trump administration's national energy strategy." The BSEE "said its inspectors will visit the site as drilling continues in the coming weeks, including during critical periods such as testing of the blowout preventer designed to prevent an oil spill," and that "the drilling is expected to last more than two months." The article emphasizes that the planned oil well would be Alaska's longest.

[Offshore Engineer](#) (12/27) says that "the start of drilling follows BSEE's 28 November approval of Eni's Beaufort Sea plans and a pre-drill inspection that took place from 6-10 December." The BSEE said last month that "Eni and Shell will jointly explore the unit using the Doyon Rig 15." The article adds that "Eni plans to drill four exploration wells – including two mainbores and two sidetracks – over the next two years from its Nikaitchuq North project." BSEE Alaska Region Director Mark Fesmire said in a statement Wednesday that "as drilling continues, BSEE will provide oversight to ensure operations are being conducted in accordance with approval plans and permits."

Also reporting are the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (12/27, Koenig), [Marine Link](#) (12/27, Lakshmi), and [Splash 24/7 \(SGP\)](#) (12/27, Scully).

Westmoreland Wasn't Cleared To Expand Coal Mine, Interior Says.

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/27, Loh) reports that "Westmoreland Coal Co. hasn't received federal approval to expand a Montana mine, the U.S. Interior Department said Wednesday, a day after the miner's shares surged on a report the project had been cleared." Spokeswoman Heather Swift said by email, "A previous statement by the Department that it had approved the expansion of the mine was incorrect and was the result of an internal miscommunication." Swift was "correcting her statement that appeared in an Associated Press article last week that Westmoreland had been cleared to expand the facility, potentially unlocking 60 million tons of coal production there."

Additional coverage was provided by [KUSA-TV](#) Denver (12/27).

Court Won't Reconsider Dismissing Case Against Obama Fracking Rule.

[The Hill](#) (12/27, Cama) reports that on Wednesday, a federal appellate court "declined...to reconsider its September decision that undid a previous court ruling overturning the Obama administration's fracking rule for federal land." The order was not accompanied by an explanation, but did indicate that no judges were interested in having a second hearing on the

matter. The Trump Administration's Department of the Interior is currently attempting to repeal the regulation, which would render the Wednesday order moot. The court wrote, "Our proceeding to address whether the District Court erred in invalidating the BLM's fracking regulation when the BLM has now commenced rescinding that same regulation appears to be a very wasteful use of limited judicial resources."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/27, Siciliano) reports that the court said in September the matter is moot as the Administration is working to repeal the regulation. Some anticipated that activist groups will sue "the agency after the rule is made final, adding to the list of Trump administration actions being challenged in court in the new year."

Senators Question USFS Role In Sage Grouse Review.

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (12/27, Plaven) reports that thirteen Democratic senators are "questioning what role the U.S. Forest Service played in the Trump administration's recent decision to review protections for the greater sage grouse." In a letter sent Dec. 20 to USFS Chief Tony Tooke, the lawmakers "pose a list of 10 questions stemming from federal orders to review the 2015 sage grouse plans, which sought to keep the peculiar bird off the Endangered Species List." The article notes that "among their questions, they ask how the Forest Service was involved in working with the Department of the Interior on its recommendation to review sage grouse plans, and if the agency held any meetings with local stakeholders."

The Most Consequential Environmental Stories Of 2017.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/27, Dennis, Fears) reviews the most substantial environmental stories of 2017, a year in which President Trump "scaled back regulations on the fossil fuel industry and pushed for more drilling." In November, the Trump Administration offered 77 million acres in the Gulf of Mexico for oil and gas leases. Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke opened up more land for coal exploration. In 2017, the price of oil has increased as coal has struggled to come back amid the rise in the popularity of natural gas. The past year also saw disputes and protests over the Dakota Access Pipeline, Keystone XL Pipeline, and others. The Post adds that the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge could be drilled soon, as "the Republican-controlled Congress greenlighted leases for exploration in the recently passed tax bill completely along party lines." However, Royal Dutch Shell spent \$7 billion to drill "in the Chukchi Sea in 2014 and has nothing to show for it."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

MGM Resorts Wants To Intervene In Suit Over 3rd-Casino Gaming Amendments.

The [New London \(CT\) Day](#) (12/27, Hallenbeck) reports that MGM Resorts International is "seeking to intervene on the side" of the Interior Department "in the lawsuit the state and the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes lodged last month against the department." In a court filing Tuesday, lawyers for MGM Resorts assert "the Las Vegas-based casino operator should be allowed to intervene in the suit because its business interests are at stake." MGM Resorts claims "that it meets all legal requirements for intervenor status, noting that the Interior Department wouldn't represent 'MGM's private, competitive interests because those interests differ from Interior's institutional interests as a federal agency charged with representing the public and with carrying out the United States' trust obligations to Indian tribes.'"

Bureau Of Land Management

Wyoming Oil And Gas Lease Revenue Increases By 800 Percent In 2017.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (12/27, Richards) reports that from 2016 to 2017, Wyoming's revenues from oil and gas leases have increased by more than 800 percent. When compared to the Permian Basin, "Wyoming is still a bargain." The [AP](#) (12/27) reports that "the revenue from lease sales from the Bureau of Land Management and the auctions from the Office of State Lands added up to about \$16 million last year when oil and gas activity was still in a downturn."

Bureau Of Reclamation

City Sets New Sewer Charges For USBR, Others.

The [Star of Grand Coulee \(WA\)](#) (12/27, Hunter) reports that "Coulee Dam's city council voted Wednesday to sewer service rates that will charge low-income customers a little less and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation a lot more." The USBR's sewer bill will "go up considerably after the change approved to the amount of equivalent residential units, or ERUs, the new resolution states the bureau uses." The USBR has been "charged for 88 ERUs, but will now be charged for 114."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Accidentally Killing Birds Isn't A Crime, Says Trump Administration.

[NPR](#) (12/27, Wamsley) reports that the Trump Administration "says it will no longer criminally prosecute companies that accidentally kill migratory birds." A legal memo from the Interior Department "posted Friday declares that the Migratory Bird Treaty Act applies only to purposeful actions that kill migratory birds, and not to energy companies and other businesses that kill birds incidentally." In a memo, Daniel Jorjani, Interior's principal deputy solicitor, writes, "Interpreting the MBTA to apply to incidental or accidental actions hangs the sword of Damocles over a host of otherwise lawful and productive actions, threatening up to six months in jail and a \$15,000 penalty for each and every bird injured or killed."

Also reporting are the [Smithsonian](#) (12/27, Daley).

Bill Would Vastly Increase Money Available For Managing At-Risk Species.

The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (12/26, Barker) reports that "a bill pending in Congress would vastly increase money available for the management of at-risk species by minimizing long-standing wildlife funding mechanisms." The Restoring America's Wildlife Act "would direct \$1.3 billion of existing royalties collected from companies that drill for oil and gas on federal lands and allocate it to state fish and wildlife agencies." However, "one possible hurdle to the bill could be the requirement of new federal spending to be offset by cuts or new revenue."

Record Number Of Kirtland's Warbler Nests Found In Wisconsin.

The [AP](#) (12/27) reports that "conservationists in Wisconsin say they've spotted a record number of nests from the endangered Kirtland's warbler this year, a decade after the songbird was first spotted in the state." According to the article, "fifteen nests have been found so far in Wisconsin." Meanwhile, "state and federal agencies are working to create more habitat area for Kirtland's warblers and to protect the birds from predators."

Another Species Of Asian Carp Could Become Threat To Pennsylvania's Waterways.


The [Valley \(PA\) News Dispatch](#) (12/27, Thomas) reports that the black carp could be spreading in Pennsylvania's waterways. Charlie Wooley, Midwest deputy regional director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, said, "We are concerned about the black carp moving up the Ohio River and moving to waters with native mussel population, which are already stressed in the Ohio River tributaries."

Banks Lake Drawdown This Winter.

The [Valdosta \(GA\) Daily Times](#) (12/27) reports that "personnel at Banks Lake National Wildlife Refuge are drawing down water levels in Banks Lake this winter as a means to control aquatic vegetation." According to the article, "the drawdown began in November, with staff gradually reducing the water levels with the goal of lowering the water level by seven to eight feet to maximize the amount of vegetation exposed to cold temperatures." The article says that "at its lowest level, one-third of the 900-acre lake will remain underwater, allowing fish to survive and re-populate the lake once water levels are raised."

National Park Service

Decaying Portion Of Jackson Magnolia Removed.

The [CBS Evening News](#)  (12/27, story 11, 0:20, Quijano) reported that "today, White House workers removed a decaying limb from" a magnolia tree that was planted on the South Lawn by President Andrew Jackson in 1835. The [AP](#) (12/27, Superville) reports that "former first daughter Chelsea Clinton, who grew up in the White House during Bill Clinton's two terms in office, tweeted her thanks late Tuesday to the horticulturists and National Park Service attendants who take care

of the White House grounds.”

Also reporting are the [CBS News](#) (12/27) website, the [New York Post](#) (12/27, Moore), and the [Telegraph \(UK\)](#) (12/27, Millward).

How Much Cell Service Is Too Much In Yosemite, Other National Parks?

[McClatchy](#) (12/27, Leavenworth) reports that “environmentalists are pressing the National Park Service to slow or halt construction of new cellular towers within park boundaries.” They claim the park service is “quietly facilitating a digital transformation with little public input or regard to its mission statement — to preserve ‘unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System.’” On the other hand, “advocates for increased cell service, including many NPS officials, say the parks can’t cling to an earlier era.” They argue that “expanded cellular and broadband coverage...helps rescue teams respond to emergencies and are necessary to draw a new generation to the parks.”

National Park Service Drops Marin Leash Law Plan.

The [Marin \(CA\) Independent Journal](#) (12/27, Prado) reports that “National Park Service plans for new leash laws were officially withdrawn with the decision posted in the Federal Register” on Wednesday. The notice in the Federal Register said, “The National Park Service no longer intends to prepare a final rule or issue a Golden Gate National Recreation Area dog management plan. The NPS has terminated the rulemaking process.”

Lincoln Boyhood Entrance Fees Suspended.

The [Dubois County Free Press](#) (12/27) reports that “visitors to Lincoln Boyhood National Memorial will be able to enter the park for free beginning January 1, 2018.” Kendall Thompson, the superintendent at the park, announced the new policy because “these lands belong to, and should be accessible to, all Americans.” Thompson said the park looks “forward to serving even greater numbers of visitors in the future.”

Entrance Fee To Increase At Point Park.

The [Cleveland \(TN\) Daily Banner](#) (12/22) reports that on Jan. 1, the National Park Service will “increase the entrance fee to the Point Park area of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park to \$7 per person (from the current \$5), to fund ongoing maintenance and improvement projects within the park. However, the price of an annual pass will remain unchanged at \$30.”

Lassen Park, Whiskeytown Entry Fees Increasing Jan. 1.

The [Chico \(CA\) Enterprise-Record](#) (12/27) reports that entrance fees will be increasing Jan. 1 at Lassen Volcanic National Park and Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. The fees are “used within the parks to make improvements such as trails, visitor facilities and access roads.”

NPS Wants To Keep Lake Roosevelt Mussel-free.

The [Star of Grand Coulee \(WA\)](#) (12/27) reports that as part of “an ongoing effort to prevent aquatic invasive species, the National Park Service (NPS) at Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area is implementing a mussel-free self-certification program.” The NPS is “requesting operators certify their boat or personal watercraft free of aquatic invasive species, especially quagga/zebra mussels, prior to launching, and for boaters who have recently boated in infested waters, that will take some doing and some time.” The park service said, “Boats that have been in infested waters should be drained of all water, washed thoroughly with hot water and dried for at least seven days before entering Lake Roosevelt. It is important to remove all dirt, plants and water from boats and trailers prior to launching every time.”

Devils Tower Plans Accessibility Improvements.

The [Oil City Wyoming](#) (12/27) reports that Devils Tower National Monument “plans to design and construct a new accessible approach route to the Tower Trail, a 1.3 mile hiking trail around the base of the Tower.” The National Park Service “recently created an Accessibility Task Force to recommend a more effective organizational approach to improving accessibility across the service.” Also, “new accessible interpretive wayside exhibits along the trail, an accessible interpretive plaza and exhibits, accessible walkways to the trailhead, visitor center, and climber registration office will be developed and installed.”

Wind Cave Continues Efforts To Limit CWD In Elk Herd.

The [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (12/27, Rempp) reports that two initiatives are underway "to address the prevalence of Chronic Wasting Disease in the Wind Cave National Park elk herd." One is "a research endeavor while the other focuses on population control." According to the article, "current estimates indicate there are around 260 elk located in the park," while "long term management plans call for a population of 232-475."

National Park Service To Visitors: Please (Please) Leave The Rocks.

[KGMB-TV](#) Honolulu (12/27) reports that National Park Service rangers are reminding visitors to not take rocks. According to the article, "this year, as they do every year, Hawaii national parks got boxes of rocks returned to them by visitors who shouldn't have lifted them in the first place." The National Park Service said, "We can't return rocks to the crater because doing so confuses the geological story — we don't know what part of the volcano the rocks came from. So leave rocks alone, don't take them home!"

Florida Man Dies While Snowshoeing In Glacier National Park.

The [AP](#) (12/27) reports that "a 64-year-old Florida man collapsed and died while on a guided snowshoe walk in Glacier National Park." According to park officials, the man's "death is believed to be due to natural causes."

Boy Scout Cabin Placed On National Register Of Historic Places.

The [Tomah \(WI\) Journal](#) (12/27, Flynn) reports that the Tomah Boy Scout Cabin has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Downtown Neligh Added To Historic Registry.

[Columbus News Team \(NE\)](#) (12/27, McKay) reports that Downtown Neligh has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

US Geological Survey

California Earthquake: Two Minor Quakes In San Jose.

The [AP](#) (12/27) reports that "the U.S. Geological Survey says a pair of minor earthquakes just a few hours apart rattled the San Jose area in central California." The San Jose Mercury News, "citing the USGS, reports a 3.1 magnitude quake hit an area northeast of San Martin at 7:19 p.m. Tuesday. A stronger 3.9 magnitude quake hit at 10:32 p.m. northeast of Alum Rock."

Also reporting are [USA Today](#) (12/27, Bacon), [Newsweek](#) (12/27, Sheridan), and [International Business Times](#) (12/27, Glowatz).

Opinion Pieces

In 2017, The White House Abandoned The Environment And Public Health.

John O'Grady, president of a group "representing over 9,000 bargaining unit employees at the US EPA nationwide," writes in a piece for [The Hill](#) (12/27) that "2017 was the worst year on record" for people who "care about public health and the environment." He says EPA Administrator Pruitt "continues to challenge the two central Obama-era rules, the Clean Power Plan and the Clean Water Rule, while" President Trump "doubles down to make his children and grandchildren's generations more fossil fuel reliant, and isolates us from the rest of the world on climate leadership."

Trump Administration Reversal On Mining Leases Near BWCA Is No Surprise.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (12/27) editorializes that "the recent reversal of a last-minute Obama administration move to block a mining project on the edge of northern Minnesota's Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness is troubling but should come as a shock to no one." The Editorial Board has "put its faith in traditional environmental and permitting reviews that rely on data-driven analyses by state and federal agencies" but "the retaliatory politics now re-energizing the Twin Metals project cast serious doubt on the process for this particular project." For that reason, the paper says that "it's time to discuss other protective measures, such as legislation creating a permanent mining buffer zone around the BWCA."

Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Is Now Up For Sale.

Federal lands management official Tim Lydon writes in [The Hill](#) (12/27, Lydon) in opposition to the opening of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. Lydon says the "Republican tax bill...gifted one of your most treasured national landscapes to oil companies" "against any measure of public interest, and in defiance of plausible economic reason." Lydon cites how the wildlife refuge "supports Alaska's highest density of denning polar bears, exclusively mothers nursing newborns," "millions of migrating birds...swans, terns, sandpipers, loons, eiders, and others." In addition, the lands are "critical human habitat," as "the Gwich'in people have lived there for millennia, calling it the sacred place where life begins." Lydon targets Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), who he says pushed the passage of the measure.

Don't Loosen Safety Regulations On Offshore Drilling.

The [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (12/27) editorializes against the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement's proposed rollback of offshore drilling safety measures. The Times says that "if approved, the measure would repeal a requirement that the agency certify third-party inspectors of equipment, including blowout preventers," which was "a critical last line of defense that failed in the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster in the gulf." The editorial opposes the elimination of the term "safe" from the rule that requires companies to "stream real-time oil production data to onshore facilities that regulators could review." The Times asserts, "The harsh and unpredictable environment a mile under the sea requires that drilling standards put safety first."

Guest Opinion: Congress Should Fund Crater Lake Maintenance.

In an op-ed for the [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (12/27, Thorndike, Hicks), Bill Thorndike, president of the Crater Lake National Park Trust, and Brad Hicks, CEO of The Chamber of Medford/Jackson County, write that Crater Lake is "an economic engine for Southern Oregon and it is important that we take the steps necessary to make sure that the park can continue to serve in that role, particularly as visitation increases." But they note that "Crater Lake has a backlog of important maintenance projects that total more than \$85 million." They urge Congress to "make sure the National Park Service has the funds and certainty necessary to keep its crown jewels like Crater Lake open for business."

The Story Of The White House's Famous Magnolia Tree.

Meryl Gordon, author of a book about Bunny Mellon, writes in an op-ed in the [Washington Post](#) (12/27) that the Jackson Magnolia was key to Mellon's redesign of the White House Rose Garden, which she began in 1961. Mellon sought "to create the equivalent of an elegant outdoor stage set for use as a backdrop for ceremonies and entertaining," and was inspired by the presence of the Jackson Magnolia. She eventually imported magnolia trees from Washington's Tidal Basin to serve her purposes.

Editorial: Wolf Recovery Plan Based On Reason, Compromise.

In an editorial, the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (12/28) argues that "a decision earlier this month by the state Game Commission to approve the new federal wolf recovery plan strikes a blow for reason and compromise." The paper says that "the new plan reflects compromise and science, and the hope of a new relationship that values both ranchers and wolves."

BLM Needs To Build Firebreaks.

In an editorial, the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (12/27) notes that the Bureau of Land Management is "launching an effort to consider adding more firebreaks to the federal rangeland across Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Utah and Washington." According to the paper, "the multi-state scale of the proposal could help speed up environmental approval of a number of smaller projects, which makes sense." Although the strategy is "not going to stop rangeland fires," the editorial concludes that "it is worth doing to help firefighters be able to better protect lives, property and habitat."

Micronesia Won't Soon Break Its Addiction To US Dollars.

In his column for the [Honolulu Civil Beat \(HI\)](#) (12/27, Blair), Chad Blair writes about the ties that bind the US and three Micronesian nations. Blair says that Palau, the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, are "particularly dependent on American largesse." Meanwhile, with heightened tensions East Asia, the US is increasingly beginning to recognize the strategic

importance of its relationship with the COFA nations.

Additional Reading.

- *Jenny Rowland And Kate Kelly: 6 Ways Interior Secretary Zinke Failed American Public Lands And Taxpayers In 2017.* [YubaNet \(CA\)](#) (12/27, Rowland, Kelly).
- *The State Of The U.S. Oil And Gas Industry Is Strong As 2017 Comes To A Close.* [Forbes](#) (12/27, Blackmon).
- *How The Fight To Save A Bird Species Shows How To Bridge The Red/blue Divide.* [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (12/27, Rogers).
- *Trump's Offshore Oil Plan Is Coming.* [Lake County \(CA\) Record-Bee](#) (12/27, Haifley).
- *The Slow But Steady Progression Toward Environmental Sustainability.* [Huffington Post](#) (12/27).
- *Hope For Natural Resource Policy In New Year.* [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (12/27, Farron).
- *Christmas Came Early For Montana Sportsmen And Women.* [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (12/27, Farron).
- *Environmental Protection Makes A Good Card.* [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (12/27, Absolon).
- *Native Voices Will Not Be Quelled On Monuments.* [Las Vegas Sun](#) (12/28, Douglas).
- *EDITORIAL: Our Natural Treasures.* [York \(PA\) Dispatch](#) (12/27).
- *Congress Looks To Modernize Funding For Wildlife, Outdoors Aid.* [Poughkeepsie \(NY\) Journal](#) (12/27, Conners).
- *No Simple Fisheries Fix.* [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (12/27, Breeding).
- *Thomas Mitchell: What Evidence Is Pertinent In Bundy Trials?* [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (12/27, Mitchell).
- *Pull The Plug, Commit To Historic Flow South Of Lake O.* [Fort Myers \(FL\) News-Press](#) (12/27, Urich).
- *Historic Tax Credits Preserve The Essence Of New Orleans.* [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (12/27).
- *Grizzly Hunt Plans Are A Step Backward.* [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (12/27, Salter).

Top National News

Trump Visits First Responders In West Palm Beach.

President Trump on Wednesday visited West Palm Beach Rescue Station where he took photos with firefighters and paramedics and thanked them for their work. Coverage of the visit is relatively light and generally focuses on Trump's discussion of his record during his first year in office rather than his comments thanking the first responders.

[WPBF-TV](#) West Palm Beach, FL (12/27, 6:04 p.m. EST) reported that Trump "shook hands with all the firefighters in attendance and even took a handful of their questions." The [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (12/27, Washington) reports that Trump "sandwich[ed] pats on the back for his economic stewardship and last week's passage of tax legislation between thanks for the first responders." His theme "was that his administration was rescuing a nation from economic danger." [The Hill](#) (12/27, Beavers) says Trump "took time out of the unscheduled stop to highlight the recent GOP tax-cut plan, which passed shortly before the holiday season." He said, "We took a big, big beautiful ship that we're turning around, and a lot of good things are happening." Trump "also noted that there is 'a lot of legislation' he helped pass since taking office."

The [AP](#) (12/27) reports that Trump said the firefighters are "great people" who do "a fantastic job," and he said that "the country is 'doing well,' with the stock market and 401(k) retirement plans rising." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/27, story 4, 0:25, Llamas) said Trump "tout[ed] his record, saying he signed, quote, more legislation than anybody, a claim widely challenged." The [Daily Beast](#) (12/27) reports that Trump has actually "signed 96 bills, the fewest of any president since before Truman." [Politico](#) (12/27, McCaskill) reports that while Trump "had signed more bills in his first 100 days than any president since Truman," as he nears the anniversary of his inauguration, "he is far removed from his 100th day. And he has now signed the fewest number of bills into law of any first-year president dating back to Dwight Eisenhower, according to a recent [report](#) from the website GovTrack."

[WPTV-TV](#) West Palm Beach, FL (12/27, 6:00 p.m. EST) reported that Trump also “addressed the stock market hitting new highs since taking office.” The [Washington Times](#) (12/27, Boyer) says Trump “also said he has achieved ‘the all-time record for stopping ridiculous regulations.’” He said, “We’re very proud of that, that’s one of the reasons stocks are up to record level.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/27, Phillips) reports that Trump told the first responders that “under his administration, local law enforcement agencies are getting military-grade equipment back.” Said Trump, “Particularly the police, we’re giving them military equipment which was taken away by the previous administration, you know all about that. ... Now you have the best military equipment and you’re able to use it for the police force.”

Media Highlights Trump Playing Golf After Tweeting He Would Be “Back To Work” After Christmas. [BuzzFeed](#) (12/27, Montgomery) reports that Trump “was spotted” on his West Palm Beach golf courses “on Wednesday for a second day despite his tweet saying he would be ‘back to work in order to Make America Great Again’ the day after Christmas.” CNN “aired video of the president golfing at his course in West Palm Beach on Tuesday, the day after Christmas,” but on Wednesday, “a truck blocked CNN’s view of the president.”

Trump’s round of golf on Wednesday also received attention in the local media. [WPEC-TV](#) West Palm Beach, FL (12/27, 5:59 p.m. EST) reported that Trump “promised to get back to work after the holiday, but he started the day with a round of golf at Trump International. ... It was around 4:00 when the President stopped at West Palm Beach Fire Station Number Two where he made some brief remarks and took a few questions.” The [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (12/27, Washington) says that while Trump’s visit to the fire rescue station “accomplished Trump’s goal of shining the media spotlight that follows him onto first responders,” it “won’t obscure the reality that Wednesday was spent largely at one of his properties, this one Trump International Golf Club in unincorporated West Palm Beach.”

Trump Active On Twitter While In Florida. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/27, Nicholas) reports that while Trump has remained largely out of the public eye since he arrived at Mar-a-Lago, he has been active on Twitter commenting on the news and touting his record in office.

Palm Beach Adjusts To Trump Being A Part-Time Resident. The [Washington Post](#) (12/27, Lee, Rozsa) reports that while Trump’s visits to Palm Beach in the months following his election “would cause a stir among locals and visitors,” during “this holiday season, as Trump makes his tenth visit as president, his presence has become an afterthought to many.” Although “logistical problems caused by his stay remain a mild annoyance...those who live and visit here say they have learned to plan around the inconveniences.” The town “has adjusted to having the president of the United States as one of its part-time residents.”

Trump Plans Infrastructure Push In January.

[CNN](#) (12/27, Merica, Liptak) reports on its website that according to aides, President Trump “plans a major push on infrastructure in January.” During the campaign, Trump promised “a \$1 trillion infrastructure bill,” but “a White House official said on Tuesday the current proposal...would propose spending at least \$200 billion on infrastructure projects over the next decade, with the hopes of spurring an additional \$800 billion in state and local funding.” The \$200 billion figure has been criticized by some Democrats and business groups as too low, but “the White House official characterized the figure as a floor, not a ceiling, and said Trump is willing to spend more federal dollars if it means getting a package through Congress.”

Rep. Gregory Meeks said on [CNN’s The Lead](#) (12/27), “The devil is always in the details. My concern is that was before we spent over \$2 trillion for tax cuts for the top one percent. Now you’re talking about \$200 billion, which is not enough to do anything of substantial nature as far as what our infrastructure needs are, and, you know, I think that you look at what the middle class, the working class and poor folks – well, clearly you’re going to cut things that are important to them. Like I think they would like to go – Republicans would like to go after entitlements like Medicare and Social Security and Medicaid. So I’ve got to look at the entire package.”

Trump To Host GOP Leaders At Camp David To Lay Out 2018 Agenda. The [AP](#) (12/27, Superville) reports that President Trump is “eager for more legislative achievements before Washington’s focus shifts to the midterm elections,” and will host House Speaker Ryan and Senate Majority Leader McConnell at Camp David during the weekend of Jan. 6-7 “to map out the 2018 legislative agenda, the White House said.” the AP says the GOP agenda for 2018 is “already lengthy.” Trump has predicted that the parties will “eventually come together” to craft a new healthcare plan and he is anticipating bipartisan agreement on infrastructure spending. Ryan “has

talked about overhauling Medicaid and Medicare and other welfare programs," and Congress will begin the new year needing to address issues left unfinished in 2017 including a spending bill, aid for hurricane victims, raising the debt ceiling, and extending protections for "Dreamers."

The [Washington Post](#) (12/27, Scott) reports that Ryan would like Congress' next move to be "cutting welfare programs that benefit low-income Americans – a move that is not particularly popular with the American public, including the congressman's own party." According to a Kaiser Family Foundation survey, "only 12 percent of American adults want to see President Trump and Congress decrease spending for Medicaid," and "four in 10 preferred to increase Medicaid spending," while "nearly half – 47 percent – want funding levels to remain the same." Pew Research Center data show that "only 15 percent of Republicans support decreasing funding for Medicare," and "only 10 percent of Republicans support decreased funding for Social Security."

Daily Caller Analysis: Despite Gloomy Predictions, Economy Faring Well Under Trump.

The [Daily Caller](#) (12/27, Athey) reports in an analysis that while the media, businessmen and economists "predicted a economic collapse would occur under President Donald Trump," the "2017 economy tells a different story." The DC cites a number of predictions of economic decline under Trump but says "the stock market hit a number of record highs and the economy experienced high growth during Trump's first year in office."

Housing Market Booming. The [CBS Evening News](#) (12/27, story 4, 1:55, Quijano) reported that "the housing market is booming." CBS (Villafranca) added that "new and existing home sales [are] driving the market, both up five percent just in October. And realtors expect to see an increase in 2018 and continued strong sales growth in the South."

Ip: Technology-Driven Economic Boom Could Be Coming Soon. Greg Ip writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/27) that an economic boom driven by advancements in technology including artificial intelligence and robotics could be coming soon. Ip cites historical examples which suggest that technological breakthroughs can take decades to register on traditional economic gauges.

EPA Chief Favors Conservative Understanding Of "Environmentalism."

[The Hill](#) (12/27, Cama) reports that Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt is challenging the "established" definition of environmentalism used over the last few decades in favor of a more conservative version. Pruitt has said in interviews that "environmentalism ought to mean using natural resources like fossil fuels and agricultural products to their fullest potential, while being mindful of their impact." Like others in the conservative ilk, "Pruitt says he wants to prioritize cleaning up air quality and contaminated lands, which he sees as affecting people more acutely, directly and immediately than climate change."

The [Daily Caller](#) (12/27, White) reports, "activists are scoffing as EPA chief Scott Pruitt's mission to completely redefine what it means to be a 'true' environmentalist." In an interview with the National Review earlier this month, Pruitt argued, "If you are of the side that says we exist to serve creation, then you have no trouble putting up a fence and saying, 'do not use' oil or coal, even if it might mean misery for millions in the developing world."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"The Yemen Crucible." The [New York Times](#) (12/27) editorializes that the Administration applies "a double standard to the violence in Yemen" by condemning Iranian support for the indigenous Houthi insurgents while "enabling... Saudi Arabia's savage bombing in support of Yemen's government." Despite "signs the administration is beginning to listen and even exert a constructive influence on the Saudis," the Times argues much more needs to be done to end the war, for example encouraging Saudi Arabia to lift its blockade of Yemen's major ports and airports and "challeng[ing] the Houthis and the Iranians to join in an immediate unconditional cease-fire." This would help save Yemeni lives in the process.

"Reforms Rein In Police Harassment; Now More Is Needed." The [New York Times](#) (12/27) editorializes that New York City's police commissioner, James O'Neill, "showed admirable candor" when he publicly admitted "that the department had 'overused and sometimes misused' its stop-and-frisk program in past years – particularly in minority neighborhoods." The Times also praises O'Neill's embracing of reforms to end the department's "unreasonable search and seizure" and discrimination against black and Latino citizens, and urges the department to take further steps

“to rid itself of longstanding, often unconscious, racial biases.”

Washington Post.

“What A Presidential President Would Have Said About His First Year.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (12/27) offers a series of “imaginary” tweets that President Trump might offer, if he were “more presidential.” For instance, one of the “tweets” reads, “[C]an you really be a president of all Americans if you’re not believing the women? I don’t think so. Of course I want a Republican majority in the Senate. But that can’t be more important than listening to women who were preyed on as teenage girls. ... I apologize to them. I apologize for calling my own accusers liars. Sen. Gillibrand, I apologize to you.”

“Turkey’s Stalinist Prosecution Of Journalists For Tweets And Blogs.” The [Washington Post](#) (12/27) editorializes that the increasing number of Turkish journalists falsely accused by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of supporting terrorism or attempting to overthrow the constitutional order reflect the country’s ongoing fall “into the grip of dictatorship.” The Post cites several cases of such journalists, adding that “many civil servants and academics face the same dreaded punishment.” The Post further describes one case in which a detained journalist is being held in solitary confinement and pressured to confess “to carrying out orders from the exiled cleric Fethullah Gulen, who lives in Pennsylvania.” The Post says of this trend: “The losers will be the Turkish people.”

“The Authorities Stay Silent On A Local Police Shooting.” The [Washington Post](#) (12/27) editorializes “the curtain of official silence that continues to shroud the death of Bijan C. Ghaisar” in a shooting by US Park Police six weeks ago “makes a mockery of the open society that distinguishes the United States from autocracies and dictatorships,” adding, “the longer it continues, the more the public will suspect a coverup.” The Post suggests the public may suspect the police of ethnic profiling.

Wall Street Journal.

“Google-Hotel Travelopoly.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/27) argues in an editorial that Google and some major hotels have “ganged up” to undercut competition in the travel industry, leaving travelers facing higher prices and fewer choices. According to the Journal, Google is exploiting its market dominance and working with major hotels to get around online travel agencies (OTAs) such as Expedia, Priceline and Travelocity. This will ultimately cause the OTAs, as well as mom-and-pop hotels, to raise their prices as they suffer from profit losses.

“Murder Most Foul In Argentina.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/27) editorializes the ruling of an Argentine judge that Alberto Nisman, the prosecutor who was investigating former President Cristina Kirchner’s links to Iran, was murdered is part of an independent investigation promised by current President Mauricio Macri. The Journal asserts that the investigation should continue to uncover evidence about Mrs. Kirchner’s links to Tehran.

“Washington’s Carbon Overreach.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/27) editorializes that Washington Gov. Jay Inslee’s attempt to use executive powers to require its largest emitters, including “indirect emitters,” to reduce carbon emissions represented an attempt by progressives to impose their climate agenda “by regulatory fiat” rather than democratic procedures. The Journal argues that a Washington judge’s ruling that the Inslee Administration lacked the legal authority to regulate indirect emitters is a victory for the rule of law.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Democrats Struggle To Convert Voter Enthusiasm Into Cash Contributions](#)

[Tillerson Discusses Conflict Zones In Call With Russia](#)

[The Worst Job In Technology: Staring At Human Depravity To Keep It Off Facebook](#)

[China’s Geely Accelerates Global Expansion With Volvo Truck Stake](#)

New York Times:

[Crime In New York City Plunges To A Level Not Seen Since The 1950s](#)

[Once A Cash Cow, Venezuela’s Oil Company Now Verges On Collapse](#)

[In A Complex Tax Bill, Let The Hunt For Loopholes Begin](#)

[The Robots Are Coming, And Sweden Is Fine](#)
[When Picking Apples On A Farm With 5,000 Rules, Watch Out For The Ladders](#)
[Assad Must Go, Says Turkey's Leader, Seeking Leverage As War Winds Down](#)
[The Giant, Under Attack](#)

Washington Post:

["I Want It To Stop"](#)
[Documents Shed Light On Gains By N. Koreans](#)
[Attack On Flynn As A Liar Readied](#)
[GOP Rivalries May Play Out Again In Miss. Senate Race](#)
[Where Have All The Original Plays Gone?](#)
[IRS Upends The Rush To Prepay Taxes](#)

Financial Times:

[Critically Ill Children Evacuated From Besieged Syrian Suburbs](#)
[Global Number Of IPOs Highest Since Financial Crisis](#)
[China's Geely Takes €3.25bn Stake In Truckmaker Volvo Group](#)

Washington Times:

[Democrats' Case For Trump-Russia Grand Conspiracy Crumbles With Lack Of Evidence](#)
[Anita Hill As Voice Against Sexual Harassment In Hollywood A "Bad Joke" To Some](#)
[Chain Migration A Growing Concern As US Immigrant Levels Hit Record Set In 1999](#)
[Drain On Democrat Voter Rolls Signals Trouble For Midterm Elections](#)
[Trump's Touch Toxic Enough To Flip Public Opinion On Range Of Issues](#)
[Sirte, Libya, Begins To Rebuild After Years Of Conflict And Islamic State Oppression](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Winter Weather; Weather Forecast; Japan Bound Flight Security Breach; Trump-Working Vacation; Tax Reform-Tax Tips; Highway Prank Murder Investigation; Seattle Train Accident Investigation; Social Media Addiction; Milwaukee-Police Rescue; Corey Lewandowski-Sexual Allegation; Obama-Prince Harry Interview; Organ Donor.

CBS: Winter Weather; Weather Forecast; Tax Reform-Tax Tips; Housing Market Boom; Trump-Russia Meddling Investigation; Highway Prank Murder Investigation; Russia-Supermarket Explosion; WHO-Video Game Addiction; Disneyland Power Outage; California-Cannabis Legalization; White House Tree Removal; Japan Bound Flight Security Breach; Obama-Prince Harry Interview.

NBC: Winter Weather; Weather Forecast; Justice Department-Harassment Policy; Trump-Obamacare; DoD Gun Control Failure Lawsuit; Disneyland Power Outage; Japan Bound Flight Security Breach; Obama-Prince Harry Interview; Virtual Reality Desktop; Faithful Chihuahua; Lottery Glitch; Holocaust Survivor Autobiography.

Network TV At A Glance:

Winter Weather – 11 minutes, 15 seconds
Obama-Prince Harry Interview – 5 minutes, 15 seconds
Tax Reform-Tax Tips – 5 minutes, 5 seconds
Japan Bound Flight Security Breach – 3 minutes, 15 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Trump-Working Vacation; Winter Weather; Baltimore Police Suicide Investigation; Lottery.

CBS: Winter Weather; Tax Reform Effect; Trump-2018 GOP Roadmap; New Years Security; Obama-Prince Harry Interview; Wall Street News.

FOX: Trump-Working Vacation; Winter Weather.

NPR: Tax Reform Effect; New Years Security; Disneyland Power Outage; North Korea-Border Industrial Complex.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — No public events scheduled.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: On recess until 3 January.

US House: On recess until 3 January.

Other: 10:00 AM Wreath-laying at Washington National Cathedral to mark Woodrow Wilson's birthday – Presidential Armed Forces Full Honor wreath-laying ceremony at the gravesite of President Thomas Woodrow Wilson at the Washington National Cathedral Location: Washington National Cathedral, 3101 Wisconsin Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://mdwhome.mdw.army.mil/>
https://twitter.com/JFHQNCR_MDW

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

All late-night talk shows were re-runs.

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- E&E Publishing: Climate, Poverty Woes Fuel BLM Rule Debate In N.M.
- Law360: GAO Rejects Helicopter Co.'s Protest Of Contract Conditions.

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Bureau Of Reclamation

- Montana Dam Blocked Again Over Threat To Endangered Fish.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- U.S. News & World Report: Tribes Oppose Removal Of Grizzly From Protected Status.
- Ukiah (CA) Daily Journal: U.S. Fish And Wildlife Working In Potter Valley To Save Pacific Lamprey.
- WLUC-TV Marquette (MI): U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Spraying For Lamprey.
- Greensburg (IN) Daily News: Big Oaks NWR Hosts 'Take A Kid Fishing Day'.

National Park Service

- Federal Times: Lack Of Discipline For Upper Management Of The NPS.
- U.S. News & World Report: 2 Arkansas Veterans Advance Gulf War Memorial Plans In DC.
- WUSA-TV Washington: Lasers To The Rescue! Slime & Grime Set To Be Removed From Jefferson Memorial.
- Elkins (WV) InterMountain: Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area Bill Introduced.
- KTVA-TV Anchorage (AK): 22-year Wolf Control Study Gives Insight On Interior Populations.
- Beckley (WV) Register-Herald: Camp Brookside Bridge In Summers To Be Closed For Five Weeks.
- U.S. News & World Report: Florida Man Dies After Fall Into Crater Lake Caldera.
- U.S. News & World Report: Skier Missing After Falling Through A Snow Bridge.
- North Andover (MA) Eagle Tribune: Partnerships Can Enhance The National Park Experience.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Saipan (MNP) Tribune: \$3.5M Energy Grants For Territories.
- Kaselehlie Press (FSM): President Proposes \$591.9 Million FY18 Budget For The U.S.
- Guam Daily Post: Resolution Honors Guam Youth's Great-grandma, A NASA Pioneer.
- Samoa News: Definition Of 'Cultural Fishing' Still Being Debated.
- Bush 'N Beach Fishing: Pacific Fisheries Ministers Touch Down In Australia To Talk Tuna.
- Saipan (MNP) Tribune: The Marianas Named 'Best Island Destination'.

Top National News

- NBC: Haley To Security Council: "If Need Be," US Ready To Use Force On North Korea.
- New York Times: CNN Faces "Backlash" Over Story About Source Of Trump Wrestling Video.
- Washington Times: Citing "Market Realities," EPA Proposes Lowering Biofuel Mandates.
- Washington Post: Study: Global Warming Models Likely More Accurate Than Historical Inferences.

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DOI In The News

Trump Donates First Presidential Paycheck To Antietam Battlefield.

The [Washington Times](#) (7/5, Dinan) reports that President Trump "donated the first few months of his White House salary to Antietam National Battlefield, the national park in Maryland that preserves the hallowed ground of the bloodiest day of the Civil War, the government said Wednesday." Trump's "first quarter salary of \$78,333 was matched by an anonymous donor who gave another \$22,000, bringing the gift to \$100,000, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said." Zinke issued a statement saying, "As both the Secretary of the Interior and a military veteran, I'm deeply honored and humbled to deliver the donation to Antietam National Battlefield on behalf of President Trump. ... The president's donation will allow generations of Americans to learn about our history and heritage on this sacred site."

The [AP](#) (7/5) reports that "the donation will restore the Newcomer House on the Antietam Battlefield." It also will go toward replacing "5,000 feet of deteriorated rail fencing along the Hagerstown Turnpike, where some of the most intense fighting of the battle occurred."

[The Hill](#) (7/5, Cama) reports that Zinke also "used the Wednesday event, the day after Independence Day, to announce \$7.2 million in new grants going to states, localities or nonprofits to buy historic battlefield land at 19 sites from the Civil, Revolutionary and 1812 wars and preserve it." That money comes from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/5, Siciliano) reports that "the \$7.2 million in grants for historic battlefields will go toward preserving about 1,200 acres as part of the pre-existing American Battlefield Land Acquisition Grants program." Zinke said the lands "were once the scenes of our nation's bloodiest conflicts" that "we must preserve...for future generations of Americans to remember and understand the impact of sacrifices of those who fought on these hallowed grounds. This grant program, along with President Trump's donation will help ensure just that."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (7/6), [CNN](#) (7/5, Stafford), [CNN International](#) (7/5, Stafford), [CBS News](#) (7/5, Tillett), [Fox News Insider](#) (7/5), the [Huffington Post](#) (7/6, Visser), the [Independent Journal Review](#) (7/5, Dorman), the [Baltimore \(MD\) Sun](#) (7/5, Pitts), the [New York Post](#) (7/6), the [Annapolis \(MD\) Capital Gazette](#) (7/5, Pitts), the [Harrisonburg \(VA\) Daily News Record](#) (7/5), the [Hagerstown \(MD\) Herald-Mail Media](#) (7/5, Lovelace), the [Roanoke \(VA\) Times](#) (7/5, Schemmer), the [Frederick \(MD\) News-Post](#) (7/5, Anderson), the [Albany \(NY\) Times Union](#) (7/5, Liberatore), the [Fredericksburg \(VA\) Free Lance-Star](#) (7/5, Schemmer), the [Fredericksburg \(VA\) Free Lance-Star](#) (7/5, Schemmer), the [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (7/6), the [Winchester \(VA\) Star](#) (7/5, Castiglia), the [West Virginia MetroNews](#) (7/5), the [Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal](#) (7/5), [WTTG-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (7/5), [WCBC-AM Cumberland \(MD\)](#) Cumberland, MD (7/5), [KPTV-TV Portland \(OR\)](#) Portland, OR (7/5, Stafford), [KTVX-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (7/5, Stafford), [KEDX-TV Wichita Falls \(TX\)](#) Wichita Falls, TX (7/5, Stafford), [KNWA-TV Fayetteville \(AR\)](#) Fayetteville, AR (7/5), [KARK-TV Little Rock \(AR\)](#) Little Rock, AR (7/5, Lampe), and [WDEF-TV Chattanooga \(TN\)](#) Chattanooga, TN (7/5).

Ryan Zinke: Activists Shouldn't 'Rewrite History' By Removing Confederate Monuments.

[Breitbart](#) (7/5, House) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "told Breitbart News that 'history is important' and it should not be rewritten when asked about those attempting to destroy or remove Confederate monuments while touring Antietam National Battlefield on Wednesday in western Maryland." Zinke "explained the significance of history, gesturing to the area around him, 'As an example, what did the battle of Antietam bring us? One is that it was the deadliest battle in the history of our country. But also, one could argue successfully, it also brought the Emancipation Proclamation.'" He continued, "So there is goodness that came out of

this battlefield. Recognizing that two sides fought, recognizing (the) historical significance of a change in our country...so I'm an advocate for recognizing history as it is. Don't rewrite history. Understand it for what it is and teach our kids the importance of looking at our magnificent history as a country and why we are who we are."

Man Receives Medal Of Valor For Aid In Crash At Pearl Harbor.

The [AP](#) (7/5) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "presented Bryan Eisenberg with the Medal of Valor Tuesday for his role in saving a pilot and a family of four Feb. 18, 2016, after their tour helicopter plunged into the water" at Pearl Harbor. Eisenberg, "was working as a federal police officer for the National Park Service at the time of the crash," was "one of the bystanders who jumped in and pulled the four survivors out of the harbor."

[KTAL-TV](#) Shreveport, LA (7/5, Wiernicki) reports that Zinke said, "Especially on the fourth of July when we are celebrating the birth and the greatness of our nation, to have people that go above and beyond the highest tradition of service, self-sacrifice, I was very honored to give the awards of Valor today and recognize them for a job well done."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/5), the [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (7/5), and the [Stars And Stripes](#) (7/5).

Interior Chief: New Offshore Drilling Funds Should Pay For Parks.

[The Hill](#) (7/5, Cama) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke wants the income from offshore oil and gas drilling to pay for budget gaps in national parks. Zinke said the royalty and fee payments could help reduce the \$11 billion maintenance backlog at the National Park Service, and help negate the effects of the \$360 million budget reduction that the Trump Administration proposed. Zinke said, "Across the board, we're looking at revenue, to make sure we catch up, and my priority is the infrastructure in our park system. We've got to protect our parks."

EXCLUSIVE: Angela Marshall Speaks One-On-One With Interior Secy.

In an interview on [KULR-TV](#) Billings, MT (7/5, Marshall), Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke talked about his approach to managing the nation's public lands. Zinke's first priority is to restore the public's trust. He said, "In the political environment we live in, where everything is so polarized, our public lands should be an American issue and not necessarily a Republican, or Democrat, or Independent. Being a steward of our greatest treasures, that takes all sides to invest."

The interview also appears at [KWYB-TV](#) Butte, MT (7/5, Marshall).

CA Bill Takes Aim At Groundwater Project With Ties To Trump Nominee.

The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (7/6, Roth) reports that "a new bill in the state Legislature would require California to review the environmental impacts of a company's proposal to pump groundwater from beneath the Mojave Desert and sell it to Southern California cities — a controversial plan that was slowed down by President Obama, but which appears to have the backing of the Trump administration." Assemblymember Laura Friedman's legislation, AB 1000, "singles out Cadiz by requiring state regulators to review projects that seek to transfer groundwater away from desert lands in the vicinity of national monuments, national preserves and other protected spaces." Cadiz spokesperson Courtney Degener called Friedman's bill "a thinly-veiled effort to delay and obstruct a fully-reviewed, approved and lawful new water supply for 400,000 people."

Additional coverage was provided by [USA Today](#) (7/6, Roth).

Additional Coverage: Interior Secretary Recommends Scaling Down Bears Ears National Monument.

Additional coverage that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has "issued a preliminary recommendation to shrink Bears Ears National Monument" was provided by [Public Radio International](#) (7/5, Wernick).

An Open Letter To Secretary Zinke.

In a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke published in [Outdoor Life Magazine](#) (7/5, McKean), Andrew McKean, Editor-in-Chief of Outdoor Life, provides his comments in opposition to "any change in size or management of our current roster of national monuments." McKean believes that Zinke has called for a review of national monuments "as a clever (and slightly subversive) way to call attention to these special places that are reservoirs of the American qualities of equality, adventure, self-reliance, and democracy." He encourages Zinke "to take no action on

this misguided and ineffectual review of monuments, and instead to devote your department's resources to adequately funding the management of our existing national treasures."

Additional coverage of the review of national monuments was provided by the [Foothills \(CA\) Sun-Gazette](#) (7/5, Carmen), the [Missoula \(MT\) Independent](#) (7/6, George), the [Steamboat \(CO\) Pilot & Today](#) (7/5, Marchand), the [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (7/5, Romo), the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (7/6, Krasnow), the [Victorville \(CA\) Daily Press](#) (7/5, McDonald), the [Sierra \(CA\) Wave Online](#) (7/5, Pietasanta), [Curbed](#) (7/5, Barber), and [KCNC-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (7/5, Bush).

Theirs: Sage Grouse Plan Needs Time To Work.

In a piece for the [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (7/5, Pfankuch), Bart Pfankuch writes that "the country's plan to manage sage grouse populations across the West was a compromise" and "none of the groups received everything it wanted, so the plan to manage the iconic Western species wasn't wildly popular with any one side." However, "it had approval from all stakeholders, which made it a rare and significant success story at the intersection of agriculture and energy development and conservation." But now, "those plans have come under attack from Interior Department Secretary Ryan Zinke." Pfankuch finds it "troubling that Zinke appears willing to throw cold water on these landmark management plans after all the work that went into them." He argues that "the federal government should not waste time wading into these hard-fought sage grouse management strategies."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Interior Department Wants One More Go At Mashpee Wampanoag Land Ruling.

The [Brockton \(MA\) Enterprise](#) (7/5, Winokoor) reports that "the key counsel for two dozen plaintiffs who have managed to block construction of a resort casino in East Taunton says an email sent Friday by the U.S. Department of Interior does little more than delay the inevitable." Referring to the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe and "its ongoing attempt to secure a favorable Interior Department ruling to retain 151 acres in Taunton and 170 acres in Mashpee as tribal, sovereign land," Nixon Peabody attorney David Tenant said, "It's their only chance, and it will be denied." Meanwhile, Taunton Mayor Thomas Hoye Jr., "a staunch supporter of the tribal casino — which potentially would create thousands of construction jobs and 2,600 permanent jobs — said the email from Interior Department associate deputy secretary James Cason is to some extent encouraging." Hoye said, "It appears the DOI wants to see them (the tribe) succeed in their quest. They haven't said no, which leads me to believe there is hope."

Bureau Of Land Management

California, New Mexico File Environmental Lawsuit.

The [AP](#) (7/5) reports that "the attorneys general of California and New Mexico sued the Trump administration Wednesday for delaying new rules to reduce methane leaks on federal lands." According to the article, "opposition from energy companies and several states, including Wyoming, prompted the U.S. Department of the Interior to delay pieces of the rule." It notes that "the postponed pieces are not set to take effect until January 2018."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (7/6, Moss).

BLM Considers Offering Utah's Recapture Canyon – Rich In American Indian Artifacts – For Oil And Gas Leasing.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (7/5, Maffly) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is planning to lease Recapture Canyon in Utah for oil and gas development, despite its importance in Native American prehistorical artifacts. The BLM initiated an environmental assessment of leasing 45 parcels covering 57,074 acres of land nominated by energy companies. Historic preservationists are concerned that drilling activity could threaten the sites occupied by Ancestral Puebloans, who left behind a record of their lives in the canyons and mesas. Robin Naeve, fluid minerals chief for the BLM's Utah state office, said, "The BLM is aware there are sensitive resources here and will be carefully reviewing each parcel, consulting with tribes and cultural resource experts, and reaching out to the public as part of our environmental review process and responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act."

Climate, Poverty Woes Fuel BLM Rule Debate In N.M.

Gas Patch. [E&E Publishing](#) (7/5) reports that with the Interior Department “set to completely scrap and rewrite the BLM methane rule,” Don Schreiber is “preparing to resurrect his campaign to stop methane emissions that he says are harming his ranch and other public landscapes.” Schreiber was “a regular Capitol Hill fixture during lawmakers’ battle to kill the rule under the Congressional Review Act (CRA) earlier this year.” He is vowing to continue the fight, and “he returns to Washington next week.”

GAO Rejects Helicopter Co.’s Protest Of Contract Conditions.

[Law360](#) (7/5, Stanley) reports that the Government Accountability Office has “rejected a helicopter company’s claim that the Department of Interior’s requirements in a solicitation for transport services are impossible to comply with, finding the complaint was based on a misunderstanding of Federal Aviation Administration policy.” Timberline Helicopter Companies Inc. had “argued it would be impossible to attain authorization for a helicopter requested by the DOI’s Bureau of Land Management to both fly restricted missions and carry non-crew members such as firefighters to support natural resource missions.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Time Is Now To Comment On Offshore Drilling Plans .

[WRAL-TV](#) Raleigh, NC (7/5) reports in continuing coverage that the Trump Administration is opening the public comment period for a new five-year energy leasing program for the outer continental shelf in a move that seeks to open Atlantic and Arctic waters to drilling. The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is looking to input on the “economic, social and environmental values of all outer continental shelf resources, as well as the potential effects of oil and gas exploration and development on other resources and the marine, coastal and human environments.”

The [Washington Post](#) (7/5, Grandoni) reports that there are currently two obstacles facing President Trump as he pushes for more offshore drilling. First, there is bipartisan opposition to more drilling as representatives from coastal states have sponsored or supported legislation locking in Obama-era offshore policies. Second, the price of oil has remained below \$50 a barrel, which gives oil and gas companies less motivation to pursue expensive offshore extraction.

In an editorial, the [Baltimore Sun](#) (7/3) writes that “offshore drilling is a loser.” On Monday, the Trump Administration published notice in the Federal Register of a new five-year plan to open up offshore waters to energy exploration. The editorial says this is a “frightening prospect to millions of Americans who vacation on, own property along, or whose livelihoods depend on Atlantic beaches.” Maryland risks an estimated 90,000 jobs and \$5.4 billion in GDP from the coastal economy if offshore drilling moves forward. The editorial concludes, “Being pro-business requires standing up for those jobs — as publicly and firmly as possible — so that nobody in the White House or Congress gets the idea that Maryland is the least bit undecided about the wisdom of offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling.”

Pete Stauffer, environmental director of the Surfrider Foundation, writes in the [Miami Herald](#) (7/5, Stauffer) that “beaches are the workhorse engines that drive coastal economies,” but the “nation’s coasts are under threat.” The Trump Administration has launched plans to “expand offshore drilling, eliminate beach water quality grants, and reverse climate change policies,” would result in “permanent damage to the nation’s magnificent coasts if we don’t hold our federal leaders accountable.”

The [Huffington Post](#) (7/5, Kaufman) provides coverage of the opinion piece former Florida Gov. Bob Graham and former EPA Director William K. Reilly wrote in the New York Times yesterday. Graham and Reilly warned that President Trump’s order to expand offshore drilling would allow energy exploration in “environmentally sensitive” areas and “threatens to abolish” safety regulations implemented to protect against disasters.

Additional coverage was provided by [The Atlantic](#) (7/5, Yong), and the [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (7/5).

Bureau Of Reclamation

Montana Dam Blocked Again Over Threat To Endangered Fish.

The [AP](#) (7/5, Volz) reports that “a judge on Wednesday blocked construction of a \$59 million irrigation dam because of the potential threat to an ancient fish species in Montana’s Yellowstone

River just three months after he lifted a previous injunction on the project." In his order reinstating the injunction, U.S. District Judge Brian Morris "wrote that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' new analysis of the proposed dam and a separate channel to allow pallid sturgeon to swim around the dam likely violated federal environmental laws." In his order, Morris "noted that the U.S. government estimated about 41 percent of the fish would use the bypass channel, but didn't analyze what effect those low numbers would have on the overall population."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (7/5, Volz), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (5/7, Volz), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (7/5, Volz), and the [Fort Wayne \(IN\) Journal-Gazette](#) (7/5).

Fish And Wildlife Service

Tribes Oppose Removal Of Grizzly From Protected Status.

The [AP](#) (7/5) reports that "tribal leaders from the Great Plains and across Canada have come together in opposition to removal of the Yellowstone Grizzly Bear from the Endangered Species Act protection." According to the article, "more than 128 tribal nations have signed a 'Reclamation of Independence' treaty of cooperation in the wake of the removal." Tribal leaders "say they fear removing the grizzly not only will lead to trophy hunting of an animal they consider sacred, but also comes as President Donald Trump has proposed the opening of more tribal lands for oil exploration and mining."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [ABC News](#) (7/5), [Fox Business](#) (7/5), the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (7/5), the [Daily Mail](#) (7/5), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (7/5), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (7/5), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/5, Press), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/5).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (7/5, Holland) and [South Dakota Public Broadcasting](#) (7/5, Wicks).

U.S. Fish And Wildlife Working In Potter Valley To Save Pacific Lamprey.

The [Ukiah \(CA\) Daily Journal](#) (7/5) reports that "U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists, along with local tribes and state partners, have started the Van Arsdale project in Potter Valley to reverse the decline of Pacific lamprey and avoid placing the species on the federal Endangered Species List, according to a report by the service's Pacific Southwest Region." Damon Goodman with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Arcata office and Dr. Stewart Reid with Western Fisheries, "started the project in 2015 at the Van Arsdale Fisheries Station."

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Spraying For Lamprey.

[WLUC-TV](#) Marquette, MI (7/5, Markle) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has "begun their yearly process of trying to rid the Great Lakes and other bodies of water in the area of sea lamprey." Jamie Criger, lead physical science technician for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said, "We've started doing this type of operation more in an effort to basically knock down the population in the Great Lakes even further than what our normal target values are."

Big Oaks NWR Hosts 'Take A Kid Fishing Day'.

The [Greensburg \(IN\) Daily News](#) (7/5) reports that Big Oaks National Wildlife Refuge will host a 'Take a Kid Fishing Day' on Saturday, July 8.

National Park Service

Lack Of Discipline For Upper Management Of The NPS.

[Federal Times](#) (7/5, Kalinyak) reports that "the acting National Park Service Director Michael Reynolds has not been following up on his previous pledge to 'fundamentally change the culture of the National Park Service,'" according to independent watchdog group Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility. The article notes that "two individuals in particular are getting attention — Mike Caldwell and Myrna Palfrey." According to PEER, "the lack of disciplinary actions taken against managers in the NPS only serves to reinforce perceptions of a biased hierarchy within the system."

2 Arkansas Veterans Advance Gulf War Memorial Plans In DC.

The [AP](#) (7/5) reports that "two Arkansas Gulf War veterans are leading a campaign to build a

Desert Storm War Memorial in Washington, D.C." Jeff Kurczek and Brenten Byrd serve on the board for the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association. The National Park Service will "hold a hearing for two proposed sites later this month."

Lasers To The Rescue! Slime & Grime Set To Be Removed From Jefferson Memorial.

[WUSA-TV](#) Washington (7/5, Valerio, Block) reports that "dark slime and grime now covers the top of the Jefferson Memorial, an eyesore the National Park Service is ready to confront – with lasers." According to the article, "after a year of testing different chemical compounds used to clean other architectural landmarks, the National Park Service said a laser treatment proved to be most effective, and would not damage or corrode the stone." A contractor has been chosen "to perform the monumental task of removing the slime, and work is set to begin later this summer."

Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area Bill Introduced.

[Elkins \(WV\) InterMountain](#) (7/5) reports that Rep David McKinley has "introduced H.R. 3142 — the Appalachian Forest National Heritage Area Act of 2017 — in the U.S. House of Representatives, bringing national recognition for Appalachian Forest Heritage Area one step closer to reality." Co-sponsored by Rep. Evan Jenkins and Rep. John Delaney, "the bill will designate the 18-county region in the highlands of West Virginia and western Maryland as a National Heritage Area." The Appalachian Forest Heritage Area has been "seeking National Heritage Area designation since approval of their feasibility study by the National Park Service in 2006."

22-year Wolf Control Study Gives Insight On Interior Populations.

[KTVA-TV](#) Anchorage, AK (7/5) reports that "a 22-year wolf control study gives new insights into how species management programs in adjacent areas effect Interior Alaska populations." According to the article, "from 1993 to 2014, National Park Service researchers monitored wolf population dynamics, to assess how two large-scale wolf control programs affected a population located within the adjacent protected area of the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve." The study "found when wolf control programs were implemented, wolf survival rates in the national preserve were lower than usual even though the preserve encompasses 2.7 million acres and wolf control activities are prohibited in the preserve (and on other lands managed by the National Park Service)."

Camp Brookside Bridge In Summers To Be Closed For Five Weeks.

The [Beckley \(WV\) Register-Herald](#) (7/5) reports that the National Park Service, "working in coordination with the Federal Highway Administration, announced Wednesday that the Camp Brookside Bridge will be closed for repairs during July and August." The closure will begin Thursday, July 6, "and is scheduled to be in effect for five weeks." Lizzie Watts, superintendent of New River Gorge National River, said, "We understand this temporary closure will be an inconvenience to some folks over the next few weeks. However, with an improved bridge, we look forward to welcoming even more visitors to the Camp Brookside area in the coming years."

Florida Man Dies After Fall Into Crater Lake Caldera.

The [AP](#) (7/5) reports that "a 20-year-old man from Florida is dead after tumbling up to 70 feet down a steep cliff in Crater Lake National Park in Oregon." The accident happened Tuesday "when the man walked out onto a rocky point and the rocks broke loose." The National Park Service "says hiking on the rim around the collapsed volcano – or caldera – is not allowed because it is extremely hazardous."

Additional coverage was provided by [CNN](#) (7/5, Levin).

Skier Missing After Falling Through A Snow Bridge.

The [AP](#) (7/5) reports that "a skier is missing after falling through a snow bridge into Pebble Creek in Mount Rainier National Park." According to the article, "the 30-year-old Washington man was skiing from Camp Muir to Paradise Monday when he fell into a hole that spanned Pebble Creek." Authorities "launched a search Monday night, followed by an aerial search Tuesday, but neither turned up any sign of the missing skier."

Partnerships Can Enhance The National Park Experience.

In an editorial, the [North Andover \(MA\) Eagle Tribune](#) (7/5) supports the proposal to turn "over even more functions to vendors, mainly at national park campgrounds." According to the paper,

“this is a commonsense move with the potential to save money for the government and improve the experiences of park visitors.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

\$3.5M Energy Grants For Territories.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (7/5) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “last week informed American Samoa Gov. Lolo Moliga, Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo, and CNMI Gov. Ralph DLG Torres that he has approved a total of \$3,489,427 in energy grants for the three territories.” In addition, Zinke “announced energy grants for the U.S. Virgin Islands.” Zinke said, “We recognize that the cost of electricity in the U.S. territories is three times higher, on average, than the U.S. national average. The energy needs of the territories are unique and I am pleased to help bring them into focus as President Trump highlights energy strategies across America during Energy Week.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [St. Croix Source](#) (6/27), the [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (6/30), and the [Marianas Variety](#) (6/30).

President Proposes \$591.9 Million FY18 Budget For The U.S.

Territories And Freely Associated States. The [Kaselehlie Press \(FSM\)](#) (6/17) reports that President Trump has “proposed \$591.9 million for Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) for the benefit of the U.S. Territories of Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Freely Associated States of the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands through the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA).” Acting Assistant Secretary Nikolao Pula said, “While we continue to support all of our U.S. insular areas, we have long been striving to meet our commitments to the Republic of Palau. President Trump’s strong support for the Palau Compact shows that he recognizes the strategic importance of our U.S. Territories and the Freely Associated States.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, “The Territories and Freely Associated States are absolutely critical to the strategic readiness of the United States, and they are part of the fabric of who we are as fellow Americans. President Trump’s budget proposal makes it abundantly clear that these lands, often on the front lines of escalating tensions, are under our protection and serve vital importance. The President’s budget balances these priorities and commitments to the Insular Areas with his promise to make government work for the taxpayer again and support a balanced budget by 2027.”

Resolution Honors Guam Youth’s Great-grandma, A NASA Pioneer.

The [Guam Daily Post](#) (6/28, Lujan) reports that “the major motion picture ‘Hidden Figures,’ which is based” on Katherine Johnson – “as well as two other notable African-American women – premiered in January.” Johnson’s great-grandson, Trevor Boykin, “worked to honor his great-grandmother’s legacy further by organizing a special screening of the movie at the Micronesia Mall theaters on Jan. 7.” Johnson was “also honored locally by the Guam Legislature in the form of Resolution 7-34, introduced by Sen. Regine Biscoe Lee in January.”

Definition Of ‘Cultural Fishing’ Still Being Debated.

[Samoa News](#) (6/29, Sagapolutele) reports that “an attorney with the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has hinted to a federally established group that its work to define cultural fishing will have an impact on future issues pertaining to fisheries in American Samoa.” According to the article, “one of the main issues on the agenda at last week’s three-day meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Council, held in Honolulu, dealt with defining cultural fishing in American Samoa, following a Honolulu federal judge’s decision in March, that the US National Marine Fisheries Services failed to consider the Deeds of Cession, when implementing the 2016 amendment to the Large Vessel Prohibited Area in territorial waters.”

Pacific Fisheries Ministers Touch Down In Australia To Talk Tuna.

[Bush ‘N Beach Fishing](#) (7/4) reports that “fisheries ministers from across the Pacific have converged on Mooloolaba, Queensland” for the 14th Forum Fisheries Committee Ministerial Meeting to discuss “the future of critical tuna fisheries.” Assistant Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources Anne Ruston said the meeting “would discuss the sustainable management of fisheries in the Pacific, particularly tuna fisheries.”

The Marianas Named 'Best Island Destination'.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (6/29) reports that "the Marianas was named 'Best Island Destination' of the year by Travel Weekly China at its China Travel & Meetings Industry Awards gala at Peace Hotel in Shanghai." The article notes that "so far this fiscal year, The Marianas has received 146,159 visitors from China, comprising 34 percent of all visitors to the islands."

Top National News

Haley To Security Council: "If Need Be," US Ready To Use Force On North Korea.

Media coverage of the ongoing tensions with North Korea is dominated by reports on Wednesday's emergency session at the UN Security Council. [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/5, lead story, 2:40, Guthrie) opened its broadcast last night saying "the US is scrambling to deal with a North Korea that is more aggressive than ever, and now closer than ever to being able to deliver a nuclear blow to the United States." Sources tell NBC News the US was "caught by surprise" by North Korea's test of an ICBM on Tuesday. NBC also reported that "in stunning comments, the commander of American troops" in South Korea is "saying all-out war is possible. 'Self-restraint, which is a choice, is all that separates armistice and war.'" [Politico](#) (7/5, Nelson) also reports the comments by Gen. Vincent Brooks, who added, "It would be a grave mistake for anyone to believe anything to the contrary."

The [Washington Post](#) (7/5, Nakamura, Rauhala) says Ambassador Haley's "pointed speech" to the Security Council "marked the latest effort by the Trump administration to rally allies and rivals around a common agenda to blunt North Korea's progress," but her remarks "also illustrated the limits of the White House's options and lacked specifics about what concrete steps the administration is considering." On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/5, story 2, 2:00, Muir), Haley was shown saying: "Time is short. Action is required. The world is on notice." [Reuters](#) (7/5, Kim, Kim) reports Haley told the Council that the US is "ready to use force if need be to stop North Korea's nuclear missile program but said it preferred global diplomatic action against Pyongyang." Haley warned that North Korea's actions were "quickly closing off the possibility of a diplomatic solution" and that the US was prepared to defend itself and its allies. The [New York Post](#) (7/5, Fredericks) reports Haley "slammed" North Korea, saying it "does not want to be part of a peaceful world."

Deputy assistant to the President Sebastian Gorka similarly said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (7/5), "The Administration will use whatever tools and instruments the President deems necessary," because North Korea "is a grave threat, not only to our allies and partners, but now to the United States, and we cannot permit it to move down this trajectory of further developing longer and longer range ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons. It cannot go on." Gorka added that the US "is not just this superpower, we are a hyperpower. Nobody comes close to our capabilities. What it looks like is happening now is their attempt to destabilize the region, to make our friends nervous, and potentially to blackmail the Western community. We won't stand for any of that."

[Politico](#) (7/5, Toosi) says Haley "did leave some wiggle room, however, noting that diplomatic options are still on the table," but the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/5, A1, Cheng) reports she warned fellow diplomats that "time is short" and that all nations must pressure North Korea, including through new sanctions, to change course.

The [New York Times](#) (7/5, Sang-Hun) reports Haley said the US was working on a Security Council draft resolution that "raises the international response," but did not specify what the resolution would do or when it might be ready for a vote. According to the Times, she "alluded to punishments including a complete cutoff of North Korea's access to international currency markets, severe restrictions on high-level North Korean officials and, in a reference to China," penalties for "any country that chooses to do business with this outlaw regime." In fact, the [AP](#) (7/5, Lederer) reports Haley warned China that it "risks its trade with the United States if trade with North Korea violates UN sanctions."

In what [Bloomberg News](#) (7/4, Wadhams, Foroohar) calls "a warning to China and other nations" the US says aren't doing enough to rein in North Korea, Haley "threatened trade ties with countries that continue to do business with North Korea." Said Haley, "There are countries that are allowing, even encouraging, trade with North Korea in violation of UN Security Council resolutions. Such countries would also like to continue their trade arrangements with the United States. That's not going to happen."

Another [AP](#) (7/5, Pace, Salama) report says President Trump "and other senior officials

dangled the prospect of punishing countries that trade with North Korea." In a [tweet](#) Wednesday morning, Trump questioned why the US should continue what he sees as bad trade deals "with countries that do not help us." [The Hill](#) (7/5, Savransky) also reports the President's tweet.

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/5, story 3, 1:30, Brown), Margaret Brennan said the Administration "is trying to find new ways to cut off North Korea's financial lifeline without Beijing's help." A [Washington Post](#) (7/5, Rauhala) analysis says in the wake of North Korea's latest missile test, the US and China are "at odds about what to do next." Trump took to [Twitter](#) on Wednesday, "appearing to blame China for failing to tighten the economic noose," saying, "Trade between China and North Korea grew almost 40% in the first quarter. So much for China working with us – but we had to give it a try."

A [New York Times](#) (7/5, Perlez) analysis says this week's test of the North's first intercontinental ballistic missile "has raised the question of what is China's red line for its ally, and whether the test will force" President Xi Jinping "to act decisively against North Korea." The Times, however, says he will "probably do little, if anything."

A [USA Today](#) (7/5, Dorell) analysis says the US "could start calling out companies involved in North Korea's weapons programs, such as two Chinese trucking companies that provided or helped build large vehicles that North Korea uses to transport, erect and launch its missiles." The [CBS Evening News](#) (7/5, story 2, 1:50, Brown) said "China has stopped buying North Korean coal, but it has not cut off oil shipments to North Korea, fearing that could cause Kim Jong-Un's regime to collapse, destabilizing the Korean Peninsula," and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/5, Demick) reports "nonproliferation experts say that the United States has yet to implement the kind of far-ranging sanctions against North Korea that the Obama administration used to pressure Iran."

Jim Sciutto said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/5), "The Trump brand on this issue and others is 'I'm a great negotiator, and just with toughness and quid pro quo, I'll make things happen.' But what you cannot change are the essential differences in interests here. Frankly, China does not want a reunited Korean Peninsula. They don't want a Western democracy on their border – a US ally, et cetera, on the border. It's kind of impossible to square that circle at the end of the day."

The [Washington Times](#) (7/5, Boyer), meanwhile, reports Trump also discussed the North Korean threat with President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi on Wednesday. While flying aboard Air Force One to Europe, Trump spoke with Sisi, urging Egypt to "fully implement UN Security Council resolutions on North Korea."

Meanwhile, the [AP](#) (7/5, Klug, Kim) reports North Korean leader Kim Jong-un vowed Wednesday his nation will "demonstrate its mettle to the US" and that its weapons programs is not up for negotiations. The AP says the "hard line suggests that North Korea will conduct more weapons tests."

While Haley said the US was prepared to respond militarily, [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/5, story 2, 2:15, Guthrie) said "US options are few, each with critical risks," and a [New York Times](#) (7/5, Rich) analysis says that "even the most limited strike risks staggering casualties, because North Korea could retaliate with the thousands of artillery pieces it has positioned along its border with the South." In addition, [Bloomberg Politics](#) (7/5, Capaccio) reports that North Korea's test of an ICBM "capable of striking the US mainland is putting renewed pressure on a US missile defense system racing to keep up with North Korea's quickly evolving military threat." The [Washington Post](#) (7/5, Lamothe) reports that while the US "has built a web of missile defense weapons around the Pacific over the last few years...one of the main cogs in it — missile interceptors known as the ground-based midcourse system — have struggled in testing."

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/5, story 3, 0:45, Muir), military analyst Steven Ganyard said, "The North Koreans demonstrated they have a rocket that can reach the United States. This is what's disturbing. This is what we believe is a miniaturized nuclear warhead. We don't know yet if they can put the warhead with the rocket and have it survive the heat of re-entry. It's the last piece of the puzzle, and we know they are working hard to get it."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (7/5, lead story, 2:35, Brown) reported former CIA Director and Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said, "You can't out-bully a bully in North Korea. So it doesn't make a lot of sense simply to sit back and threaten this leader." Rep. Lee Zeldin said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (7/5) that military action "is an absolute last possible option. What will be important for the Administration right now to do...is to be prepared for any of those scenarios." Charles Krauthammer said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/5), "We have two choices: we are either going to go to war or acquiesce."

Rep. Adam Schiff said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/5) that the situation won't be resolved by "Twitter diplomacy...we're going to have to put much more meaningful pressure on China."

The [Washington Times](#) (7/5, Muñoz) says the Administration and the international community are “weighing a range of bad policy options after North Korea’s ballistic missile program cleared a dangerous milestone this week.”

A [Washington Post](#) (7/5) editorial says in response to the latest missile test, the Administration “must now rally not only Republicans and Democrats within this badly polarized country but also the widest possible range of like-minded countries around the world.” President Trump, however, “is an unlikely orchestrator of a multilateral approach, given both his erratic conduct and his off-putting rhetoric about ‘America first.’” In order to “construct a widening circle of cooperation against the North,” the Post says Trump must “overcom[e] the resistance of skeptical governments — and his own most impulsive tendencies.”

A [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/5) editorial says the US “should continue to lean on China” and also “leave the door open to negotiations with North Korea – including direct talks. ... There is no guarantee that diplomacy will solve this problem, but a reckless military response will surely make it worse.”

North Korean Broadcaster Makes Only Rare Appearances For Major News. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/5, Stiles) reports that on the “rare occasions these days when Ri Chun Hee appears on North Korea’s state-run news network, the audience knows the looming declaration is serious.” The latest broadcast came when Ri “told the world Tuesday about North Korea’s successful test launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile.” The Times says Ri’s “three-minute monologue...is one of many historic moments in North Korean history the anchor has announced over a decades-long career for Korean Central Television.”

CNN Faces “Backlash” Over Story About Source Of Trump Wrestling Video.

According to multiple reports and analyses, CNN on Wednesday suffered a “backlash” over its handling of a story about the anonymous Reddit user who was the source of a doctored video President Trump tweeted this past weekend. In that video, Trump was shown assailing a man who had the CNN logo superimposed over his face. The [New York Times](#) (7/5, Victor) reports that the [CNN](#) story, published on Tuesday, “has inspired multiple backlashes. Some criticized it as a form of blackmail. Others raised issues of journalism ethics over the network granting conditional anonymity to the user.” In its story, CNN said “that it was not publishing the user’s name ‘because he is a private citizen who has issued an extensive statement of apology, showed his remorse by saying he has taken down all his offending posts, and because he said he is not going to repeat this ugly behavior on social media again.’”

[USA Today](#) (7/5, Snider) reports that “#CNNblackmail trended Wednesday as Twitter users including Trump’s family and far-right pundits blasted the network, claiming it had blackmailed the creator of that video into promising to desist.” USA Today says Donald Trump, Jr. “called the network ineffective at ‘threatening the admin(istration) so they go after and bully a 15 y/o?’, tweeting a description of the person passed along online by many.” In response, CNN on Wednesday said “it had decided not to publish the name of the Reddit user out of concern for his safety. ‘Any assertion that the network blackmailed or coerced him is false,’ said” CNN, adding, “The user, who is an adult male, not a 15-year-old boy, apologized and deleted his account before ever speaking with our reporter. CNN never made any deal, of any kind, with the user.”

[McClatchy](#) (7/5, Irby) reports that CNN’s statement saying it “reserves the right to publish his identity” sparked “polarizing opinions, with some defending CNN’s right to name a confirmed source if they choose and others interpreting the statement to mean the major news network was blackmailing a private citizen into staying quiet.”

Under the headline “CNN Faces Backlash Over Handling Of Doctored Trump Video,” the [AP](#) (7/5, Bauder) reports that the “reserves the right to publish his identity” line “made CNN a target. ‘That’s essentially blackmail,’ wrote conservative activist Ben Shapiro. ‘That’s CNN stating that it will out the guy if he dares to defy their political perspective or offends them sufficiently.’”

The [Washington Times](#) (7/5, Richardson) reports that in the wake of CNN’s story, “a swift backlash on social media ensued, with users accusing CNN of engaging in ‘extremely unethical’ behavior and using the hashtag ‘#CNNBlackmail.’” The [New York Post](#) (7/5, Moore) reports, “Even WikiLeaks took CNN to task. ‘Trump was bad. CNN is worse: CNN threatens amateur satirist behind Trump video: make fun of us again and we dox you,’ it wrote on Twitter, using the term for publishing somebody’s identity on the internet.”

Under the headline “How A CNN Investigation Set Off An Internet Meme War,” the [New York Times](#) (7/5, Roose) reports that “in instances where the meme-making community finds itself facing off against a clear antagonist, its tactics can be swift and brutal, and can catch large institutions off guard. In these communities, a feud with CNN over the identity of a Reddit user provided a perfect storm of hot-button topics: speech policing, journalist ethics and the perceived

bullying of right-wing sympathizers on social media. The fact that the media organization in question was CNN, which has been singled out for criticism in recent weeks by the Trump administration, only added fuel to the fire."

In his [Washington Examiner](#) (7/5) column, Becket Adams said that "CNN appears to be dangling the threat of revealing" the meme-creator's "identity should he renege on his apology and slip back into what CNN characterized as 'ugly behavior.' Publishing what looks like an obvious threat to expose a private citizens' identity is a very, very bad look for a professional newsroom."

Writing at [Townhall](#) (7/5), Matt Vespa asks rhetorically of CNN's "reserves the right to publish his identity" line, "You're telling me that this isn't coercion of some sort?" Writing for [The Federalist](#) (7/5), Bethany Mandel said, "Think or say anything negative about CNN and play into President Trump's war against them, even in your capacity as a private citizen, and you may have the resources of an international news organization devote themselves to destroying your life. CNN has set a bullseye on not only President Trump, but his fans as well."

Writing for [National Review](#) (7/5), David French said that "when CNN completed its investigation and found that the poster wasn't a member of the Trump administration or a pro-Trump journalist or other public figure, it should have either protected the man's privacy or exposed him as an example of the kind of person who's polluting the internet with the recent wave of alt-right sludge. Instead, it chose a bizarre and ominous third course – to protect his privacy while reserving the right to expose him if he restarted his 'ugly behavior.' At that point, the CNN story changes from a news story of debatable value into ham-handed blackmail."

In his [USA Today](#) (7/5) column, Jonathan Turley writes that CNN has not revealed the identity of the creator of the video "while making a thinly veiled threat that it will release his name if he posts anything CNN finds disturbing or offensive. That is an odd role for a news organization. The media do not usually put citizens on probation for exercising their free speech." Turley adds, "Once a news organization becomes the manager of free speech, it becomes a menace to the free press."

Meanwhile, in his [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (7/5), Christian Schneider said that in the immediate wake of Trump tweeting the video, CNN said in a statement, "It is a sad day when the President of the United States encourages violence against reporters." Saying that some other pundits and news outlets sounded a similar note, Schneider added, "Those with even a fleeting knowledge of professional wrestling, of course, know that Trump's tweet wasn't inciting any sort of violence. ... Wrestling is fake and fun, and pretty much everyone gets it. What Trump's tweet did expose, however, was the cultural bubble that a good number of our political pundits refuse to escape."

Cruz: CNN May Have Broken Law With Threat To Reveal Reddit User's Identity. The [Washington Times](#) (7/5, Richardson) reports that Sen. Ted Cruz on Wednesday "said CNN may have committed a crime by threatening to publish the identity of [the] private citizen," tweeting that the network "may be guilty of 'extortion.'" In a pair of tweets, Cruz said, "Troubling. I assume CNN's lawyers are examining GA § 16-8-16 Theft by extortion. If CNN constructively obtained the gif-maker's IP...it's a GA crime if they threatened to 'Disseminate any information tending to subject any person to hatred, contempt, or ridicule.'" [The Federalist](#) (7/5) also reported on Cruz's tweets.

Trump's Tweet Of Faux Attack On CNN Now His Most Retweeted Post. The [AP](#) (7/5) reports that the President's tweeting of the video "showing him pummeling a man whose face is covered by the CNN logo has become Trump's most-shared post on the platform." Trump's tweet "had been retweeted more than 340,000 times as of early Wednesday morning. The mark edges out his tweet from the morning of Election Day reading, 'TODAY WE MAKE AMERICA GREAT AGAIN!'"

NYTimes Examines Trump-CNN Feud. Under the headline "The Network Against The Leader Of The Free World," the [New York Times](#) (7/5, Grynbaum) reports on the feud between Trump and CNN, saying that "the president's denunciations" of the network "have far outstripped his criticisms of other prominent news outlets, like The New York Times or The Washington Post. And his attacks have spawned a cottage industry of Trump supporters who have declared a digital war of sorts against CNN, including gotcha videos of network employees and threatening messages sent to anchors' cellphones." Even so, says the Times, "CNN's troubles have been compounded by a series of recent self-inflicted wounds – not least a high-profile retraction of a sensitive article about one of Mr. Trump's close allies, which last week led to the forced resignations of three veteran journalists."

Barkoukis: Prior To Inauguration, CNN's Zucker Issued "Veiled Threat At Trump." Leah Barkoukis wrote at [Townhall](#) (7/5), "WeazelZippers dug up a Q&A between CNN's Jeff Zucker and the New York Magazine days before...Trump's inauguration in which the network's president

lobbed a veiled threat at Trump if he continued to be hostile toward CNN.” Barkoukis highlighted a passage from the [interview](#), in which Zucker – responding to a question about whether he is “concerned about getting access to Trump” – said, “One of the things I think this administration hasn’t figured out yet is that there’s only one television network that is seen in Beijing, Moscow, Seoul, Tokyo, Pyongyang, Baghdad, Tehran, and Damascus – and that’s CNN. The perception of Donald Trump in capitals around the world is shaped, in many ways, by CNN. Continuing to have an adversarial relationship with that network is a mistake.”

The Federalist’s Hemingway: CNN Tweeted Incorrect Quote From Abraham Lincoln. Writing for [The Federalist](#) (7/5), Mollie Hemingway said, “CNN tweeted out quotes from notable Americans for the Fourth of July. Here was one of the quotes they tweeted from Abraham Lincoln: ‘Let the people know the facts, and the country will be safe.’ The quote, which is also displayed at the Newseum, was interpreted as yet another attack from the media giant against” Trump. However, Hemingway said that “Quote Investigator [later] found a quote with some similarities, and some differences, to the one being put out by CNN.” Quote Investigator tweeted Lincoln as actually saying, “Let them know the truth, and the country is safe,” citing a journalist’s report in a West Virginia newspaper dated April 21, 1865.

Citing “Market Realities,” EPA Proposes Lowering Biofuel Mandates.

The [Washington Times](#) (7/5, Wolfgang) reports the EPA yesterday “proposed to lower the amount of renewable fuels that must be blended into the nation’s gasoline supply next year, saying ‘market realities’ have informed its decision and leaving the door open for a much broader overhaul of the entire Renewable Fuel Standard in the near future.” EPA Administrator Pruitt said in a statement “the decision was made because of ‘challenges’ in getting more advanced biofuels into the marketplace,” and added, “We are proposing new volumes consistent with market realities focused on actual production and consumer demand while being cognizant of the challenges that exist in bringing advanced biofuels into the marketplace. Timely implementation provides certainty to American refiners, the agriculture community and broader fuels industry, all of which play an important role in the RFS program.”

[Reuters](#) (7/5, Prentice, Renshaw, Shepardson) says “the proposal marks the first plan for US biofuels usage announced under President Donald Trump, who has promised to cut regulations on industry.” Reuters adds that “the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) has become a battlefield between entrenched corn and oil interests,” with “petroleum companies” saying “the biofuel targets are impossible to meet and add billions in costs” whereas “the law has been a boon to agriculture, supporting economies across the corn belt.”

Study: Global Warming Models Likely More Accurate Than Historical Inferences.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/5, Harvey) reports a study out yesterday in the journal *Science Advances* “joins a growing body of literature that suggests” global warming “models are on track after all,” despite the difficulty of predicting the extent to which future greenhouse gas emissions will cause Earth to warm. The Post says while the study’s findings “may be worrisome for the planet, [they’re] good news for the scientists working to understand its future.” The Post explains that the study “helps to reconcile the models,” which predict up to 4.5 degrees Celsius in warming with the doubling in the preindustrial level of carbon dioxide, “with the historical record,” whose patterns would suggest a doubling in carbon dioxide would lead to only about a three-degree Celsius increase. The study says global warming occurs in different “modes” throughout the planet, some of which happen faster than others.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Showdown In Hamburg.” The [New York Times](#) (7/6, Board) editorializes, “Stopping over in Poland on his way to the Group of 20 summit meeting in Germany gives President Trump a chance to briefly bask in the acclaim of a right-wing, illiberal Polish leadership before he starts taking flak from more powerful allies like Germany and France.” Germany’s Angela Merkel “has made clear that she intends to focus on issues on which Mr. Trump has sharply parted ways with much of the European Union, including trade, climate change and migration. ... The overriding question is whether Mr. Trump can reach some sort of détente with other leaders.”

“Work And Reward: The Great Disconnect.” The [New York Times](#) (7/6, Board) editorializes, “Working hard and getting ahead used to go hand in hand. But that was a long time ago, before

decades of stagnating incomes and rising inequality took their toll." A National Bureau of Economic Research study indicates that "lifetime income [will] continue to lag. ... As workers lose ground, inequality deepens, because money that would flow to wages tends to flow instead to those at the top of the income ladder."

Washington Post.

"What Trump Can Do About North Korea." A [Washington Post](#) (7/5) editorial says in response to North Korea's latest missile test, the Administration "must now rally not only Republicans and Democrats within this badly polarized country but also the widest possible range of like-minded countries around the world." President Trump, however, "is an unlikely orchestrator of a multilateral approach, given both his erratic conduct and his off-putting rhetoric about 'America first.'" In order to "construct a widening circle of cooperation against the North," the Post says Trump must "overcom[e] the resistance of skeptical governments — and his own most impulsive tendencies."

"The G-20 Should Put Climate Change At The Top Of Its List ." A [Washington Post](#) (7/5) editorial argues that climate change "must be at the top of the list of global priorities" at the G-20 summit, adding that regardless of "how irresponsible President Trump's behavior [is] on this matter, the world cannot afford to lose four years."

"The FCC Is Gearing Up To Shut Down Robo-Callers." The [Washington Post](#) (7/5) editorializes that the FCC's \$120 million fine for Adrian Abramovich's estimated 96,758,223 illegal robocalls made over the course of three months should be just the "first step in shutting down a practice that preys on consumers and causes plenty of annoyance along the way." The Post says it approves of FCC Chairman Ajit Pai's prioritization of the issue and a proposal to create a list of fraudulent numbers that carriers can choose to block from reaching any of their clients. However, this "leaves some problems unsolved," such as filtering out callers going unidentified for legitimate reasons and tracking down scammers.

Wall Street Journal.

"Trump's Putin Test." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/5) editorial advises President Trump to show strength rather than charm with Russian President Vladimir Putin, arguing that the chances for a improved ties will be better if Trump shows Putin that the cost of a better relationship is better behavior by Russia.

"State Of The Teachers Union." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/5) writes that the exasperation of National Education Association President Lily Eskelsen Garcia with President Trump and Education Secretary DeVos shows the Administration is doing something right. The Journal says the union's July 4 statement renewing criticism of charter schools as "a failed and damaging experiment" shows the group's focus on the adults, not students, in America's education system. Regarding the Education Department, the Journal says that since it has insufficient funding and authority to have a significant impact on schools, DeVos should use her stature to advocate for parents who are desperate for better schooling options for their children.

"Junk By Any Name In Illinois." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/5) editorializes that as credit-rating agencies back off their threats of downgrading Illinois' debt to junk status following the state legislature's override of Gov. Bruce Rauner's veto of a budget deal, bondholders should remain wary. The Journal says that while Moody's, S&P, and Fitch are good at highlighting fiscal deficits, they often fail to adequately estimate credit risk in a timely matter, and they pay little heed to how deficits are closed. For instance, in Illinois they accepted the temporary fix of an income tax hike, which the Journal says ultimately will prove insufficient to address the fundamental flaws with the state's tax-borrow-and-spend culture. The Journal underscores that the rating agencies didn't reprimand Puerto Rico, Detroit, or Stockton, California when they raised taxes and deferred spending reforms, but the policy resulted in economic decline, population flight, and the fleeing of bondholders.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Fed Officials Ready To Start Shrinking Portfolio In Months](#)
[US, Russia Spar Over Approach To North Korea Threat](#)

[Volvo Gives Tesla A Shock, As Others Plan Electric Push](#)
[11,155 Dead: Mexico's Violent Drug War Is Roaring Back](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Aides' Biggest Worry About Europe Trip: Meeting With Putin In North Korea, "Surgical Strike" Could Spin Into "Worst Kind Of Fighting"](#)
[Police Officer Is "Murdered For Her Uniform" In The Bronx](#)
[Volvo, Betting On Electric, Moves To Phase Out Conventional Engines](#)
[Oil Exports, Illegal For Decades, Now Fuel A Texas Port Boom](#)

Washington Post:

[Nations Eye Trade Deals, With Or Without Trump](#)
[Haley Hits China And Russia At UN](#)
[At Least 44 States Deny Full Data To Voting Panel](#)
[Amid Opioid Crisis, A Door To Hope](#)
[Parolee's Anger At Police May Have Led To Shooting](#)

Financial Times:

[Angela Merkel Walks G20 Diplomatic Tightrope](#)
[Fed Set To Begin Unwinding Stimulus Within Months](#)
[US Raises Specter Of Military Action Over North Korea](#)
[US Laptop Ban Lifted On Dubai And Istanbul Flights](#)

Washington Times:

[Hacked Computer Server That Handled DNC Email Remains Out Of Reach Of Russia Investigators](#)
[Merkel To Take Charge Of G-20 Agenda, Press Multilateralism Message To Trump](#)
[Despite Paris Accord, G-20 Countries Invest Four Times As Much In Fossil Fuels As Green Energy](#)
[US Suggests Military Response To North Korea As International Community Weighs Bad Options In Mexico, Reporting The News Is A Deadly Profession With Little Protection](#)
["Fake News": Kobach Counters Claims That States Won't Cooperate With Voter Integrity Commission](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: NYC-Officer Shot; North Korea ICBM Test; North Korea ICBM Test-Expert Opinion; Trump-Putin Meeting; Louisiana Rep-Auschwitz Video; Mosul Assault; Holiday Shootings; Arizona Arson Suspect; British Baby-US Treatment; Illinois-Chinese Student Kidnapped; Indiana-Self Defense Shooting; Florida-AF Base Lab Explosion; Weather Alert; Electric Hybrid Cars; Friendly Police Response.

CBS: North Korea ICBM Test; North Korea ICBM Test-US Options; North Korea ICBM Test-WH; Healthcare Reform Bill-Protests; NYC-Officer Shot; Chicago Holiday Shootings; Minimum Wages; California-Snowy Mountain Tops; Afghanistan-US Casualty; Heat Wave-Wildfires; Prince Charles-Canada Visit; Amelia Earhart Gone Missing Mystery.

NBC: North Korea ICBM Test; North Korea ICBM Test-US Options; Trump-G20 Visit; NYC-Officer Shot; Chicago Holiday Shootings; Louisiana Rep-Auschwitz Video; Amelia Earhart Gone Missing Mystery; Acid Reflux-Hypnosis Treatment; Venezuela-Political Instability; Heat Wave-Wildfires; French President-Submarine Training; Wimbledon Tennis-Towel Fight.

Network TV At A Glance:

North Korea ICBM Test – 13 minutes, 35 seconds
NYC-Officer Shot – 6 minutes, 45 seconds
Louisiana Rep-Auschwitz Video – 3 minutes, 20 seconds
Chicago Holiday Shootings – 2 minutes, 30 seconds
Heat Wave-Wildfires – 40 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: North Korea ICBM Test; Rep Scalise-Health Condition; Trump-G20 Visit; SpaceX Satellite Launch; Indiana-Self Defense Shooting; Wall Street News.

CBS: North Korea ICBM Test; Trump-G20 Visit; Chicago Holiday Shootings; Severe Weather; Louisiana Rep-Auschwitz Video.

FOX: Trump-G20 Visit; Trump-Putin Meeting; North Korea ICBM Test; Heat Wave-Wildfires.

NPR: North Korea ICBM Test; Rep Scalise-Health Condition; Afghanistan-US Casualty; Voter Fraud Investigation.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in an expanded bilateral meeting with President Andrzej Duda of Poland; participates in a photo opportunity with European leaders; will give remarks at Three Seas Initiative Summit; will give remarks at Three Seas Initiative Summit; participates in a bilateral meeting with President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic of Croatia; gives remarks to the people of Poland; participates in an expanded meeting with Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany; attends the Northeast Asia Security Dinner with President Moon Jae-in of the Republic of Korea and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Delivers remarks at the Kennedy Space Center; tours the Neil Armstrong Operations and Checkout Building.

US Senate: 9:00 AM Senate meets in pro forma session Location: TBD <http://www.senate.gov/>
On recess until 10 July.

US House: 9:00 AM House of Representatives meets in pro forma session Location: TBD
<http://www.house.gov/>
On recess until 10 July.

Other: 10:00 AM Fed Governor Jerome Powell speaks on housing finance reform at AEI – Federal Reserve Governor Jerome Powell speaks at the American Enterprise Institute event on housing finance reform, discussing lessons learned from previous efforts to reduce risks to the economy from other parts of the financial system, and how they can inform the housing reform process Location: American Enterprise Institute, 1150 17th St NW, Washington, DC
<http://www.federalreserve.gov> <https://twitter.com/federalreserve>

11:00 AM Heritage Foundation hosts annual review of SCOTUS decisions – Heritage Foundation's annual review of the biggest U.S. Supreme Court decisions, entitled 'Scholars and Scribes Review the Rulings: The Supreme Court's 2016-2017 Term'. Panelists include Will Consovoy (Consovoy McCarthy Park), Kyle Duncan (Schaerr Duncan), Neal Katyal (Hogan Lovells), Jess Bravin (The Wall Street Journal), Kevin Daley (The Daily Caller), and Adam Liptak (The New York Times) Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

Vice President Pence visits Kennedy Space Center – Vice President Mike Pence visits NASA's Kennedy Space Center, touring the center, learning about its work as a multi-user spaceport for commercial and govt clients, seeing the agency's progress toward 'launching from U.S. soil on spacecraft built by American companies, and traveling past the moon, and eventually on to Mars and beyond with the help of NASA's new Orion spacecraft and Space Launch System rocket', and delivering a special address to the agency's workforce Location: Kennedy Space Center, FL
<http://www.nasa.gov> <https://twitter.com/NASA>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

All late-night talk shows were in re-runs or did not run.

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Seattle Post-Intelligencer: Trump 'Review' Will Keep Hands Off Hanford Reach National Monument
- DailyEnergyInsider: Benefits Of Expanding Offshore Oil And Natural Gas Development Benefits Highlighted During House Hearing.
- Carlsbad (NM) Current-Argus: Heinrich Introduces Every Kid Outdoors Act.
- McClatchy: Trump's Environment And Energy Policies Trigger Storm Of Lawsuits.

- Montana Public Radio: Montana Pushes To Use State Helicopters To Fight Fires On Federal Land.
- Silsbee Bee: Big Thicket Employee Honored For Heroism.
- Politico Influence: Khanna Starts PAC-Free Caucus.
- Albuquerque (NM) Weekly Alibi: Additional Coverage: Environment: Zinke Says Drill!
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- Daily Signal: America's Energy Dominance Won't Sacrifice Environmental Quality.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- No Evidence Of Theft From Shoshone Tribe: DOI Watchdog.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel: BLM Looks To Expedite Planning.
- Natural Gas Intelligence: Senate Democrats Urge Trump To Reverse Course On BLM, EPA Methane Rules.
- KSBW-TV Monterey (CA): House Of Representatives Passes Clear Creek Re-opening.
- U.S. News & World Report: Drilling Plan In SW Wyoming Draws Opposition.
- Idaho Statesman: Washington Firefighters Save Pygmy Rabbits From Burned Area.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- Florida Senator Releases DOD Letters Backing Eastern Gulf Moratorium.
- Government OKs Eni Plans To Drill From A Man-made Island Into Federal Arctic Leases.
- New Report Outlines Potentially Bright Future For Deepwater GoM.
- Comment Now On Proposed Offshore Drilling Plan.
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- President Trump: Don't Risk Fishing, Tourism Jobs On A Small Amount Of Oil.

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- A Damming Proposal.

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

- Scott Angelle Talks Reliable And Safe Energy Production.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Wisconsin Public Radio: Congress Renews Efforts To Remove Gray Wolf Protections.
- KCNC-TV Denver: 'Donut Hole' Would Remain Restricted To Rocky Flats Refuge Visitors.
- U.S. News & World Report: US Supreme Court Asked To Step Into Endangered Frog Case.
- U.S. News & World Report: US Judge Orders Documents Sealed In Case Against FBI Agent.
- U.S. News & World Report: Customs And Border Protection To Host Trade Day In Detroit.
- U.S. News & World Report: Additional Coverage: US Customs Agents Find Cobras Inside Mail At JFK Airport.

National Park Service

- Associated Press: Parks Group Sues Over Jamestown Transmission Line Project.
- Marin (CA) Independent Journal: Point Reyes Ranching Threatened In Lawsuit Settlement.
- U.S. News & World Report: Mount Baldy Beach Reopens Friday 4 Years After Boy Trapped.
- East Bay (CA) Times: U.S. House OKs John Muir National Park Expansion.
- U.S. News & World Report: More Than 803,000 Visits To Yellowstone Park In June.
- Outer Banks (NC) Voice: Park Service OKs Plans For Passenger Ferry Facilities.
- U.S. News & World Report: Thurmond Train Day Is Saturday At New River Gorge.
- Hawaii Tribune-Herald: National Park Officials Seek Witnesses To Campground Fire.
- Yellowstone Insider: Longtime Assistant To Yellowstone Superintendents Retires After Years Of Service.
- Arizona Republic: Additional Coverage: National Parks Senior Pass Price Goes Up Aug. 28.
- Washington Post: Additional Coverage: A Beloved Yellowstone Grizzly Was Killed Two Years Ago.

US Geological Survey

- Associated Press: Study: No Major Hurricanes, Louisiana Wetlands Loss Slowed.

Top National News

- The Hill: Trump Defends Son, Says Putin Would Have Preferred Clinton As President.
- Associated Press: Wray: Russia Probe Not A "Witch Hunt," Would Resign If Pressured By White House.
- Associated Press: Trump Says He'll Be "Very Angry" If Senate Fails To Pass Healthcare Bill.
- Bloomberg News: Conservatives Threaten To Vote Against Budget Without Tax Reform Details.
- Wall Street Journal: WSJournal Analysis: Aging Waterway Infrastructure In US Near Breaking Point.
- Reuters: Tech Giants Join Online Protest Against Net Neutrality Repeal.
- Reuters: Conservative Coalition Lobbies Lawmakers To Remove Pentagon Climate Policies.

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DOI In The News

House Panel Approves \$31.4B Interior, EPA Funding Bill.

[The Hill](#) (7/12, Henry) reports that "a House panel on Wednesday approved a \$31.4 billion bill funding the Interior Department and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the first step toward moving the legislation to the floor." An Appropriations Committee subpanel quickly approved the legislation on Wednesday, cutting "spending for the Interior Department and programs like the Land and Water Conservation Fund, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey." The article notes that "none of the cuts were close to the levels Trump envisioned in his budget proposal."

[Bloomberg BNA](#) (7/12, Kovski, Stecker) reports that the Bureau of Land Management would "receive \$1.2 billion in fiscal year 2018, a cut of \$46 million or 4 percent from the current year, including a \$20 million cut for land acquisition." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would "receive \$1.5 billion, a \$38 million or 2 percent decrease." The bill "prioritizes funding to reduce the endangered species delisting backlog and to fight invasive species, among other things." The legislation "provides \$275 million for Land and Water Conservation Fund programs, down \$125 million or 31 percent from the current level despite the fact that many Democrats and Republicans alike in Congress are reluctant to reduce spending from the fund." The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement would "receive \$213 million, down \$40 million or 16 percent."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (7/12, Siciliano) and [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (7/12, Passut).

Park Service To Take Better Care Of What It Has Instead Of Buying New Land. The [Daily Caller](#) (7/12, Follett) reports that House Republican introduced a draft bill Wednesday to cut National Park Service funding by \$64 million, "largely stemming from cuts to land purchases" According to the article, "most of the Park Service budget will go towards maintaining park operations and addressing the \$12 billion dollar maintenance backlog." Rep. Ken Calvert, chairman of the House Interior Subcommittee, said in a statement, "The agencies funded in the Interior and

Environment Appropriations bill do important work protecting public lands, the air we breathe, and the water we drink. Our subcommittee prioritized proven programs that have a meaningful impact to achieve these goals while also ensuring our economy can continue to grow.”

Congress Votes To Spare Earthquake Early Detection Warning System For California, Oregon, Washington. [KGO-TV](#) San Francisco (7/12, Freedman) reports that “members from both political parties in the House appropriations subcommittee overseeing the Department of the Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency voted Wednesday” to save the earthquake early warning system for California, Oregon and Washington, from a \$10 million cut that President Trump proposed for the budget. The funds allow the United States Geological Survey “to continue research on a system that could provide potential victims with several seconds to get out of harm’s way.”

Wild Horses And Burros On Public Lands Won’t Be Killed. The [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (7/12, Horseman) reports that “the federal government would be barred from euthanizing wild horses and burros on public lands if provisions in a draft House spending bill released this week end up in the final legislation.” According to the article, “the sale of wild horses to slaughterhouse buyers also would be forbidden by the bill.”

U.S. Dept. Of Interior Provides \$250,000 In Funding To USVI For New Consumer Price Index.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (7/12) reports that the Office of Insular Affairs has “awarded the U.S. Virgin Islands a \$250,000 grant for the development and implementation of a 2017 Consumer Price Index (CPI).” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “presented the grant award to Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands Kenneth E. Mapp during their meeting at Interior Headquarters on Monday.” Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula said, “The new CPI will be based on a new 2016 Household Income and Expenditure Survey. The major focus of the project is to provide current data on consumer expenditures in the U.S. Virgin Islands, congruent with national standards. This is critical in order to better assess and evaluate price trends in various sectors of the economy and prospects for economic growth and development.”

[Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (7/12) reports that Interior Department officials “say they will support the territory’s efforts to establish a ‘day visa’ program, expand parking in Christiansted, resolve longstanding issues within the National Park on St. John and back a permanent increase in the amount of federal rum excise taxes returned to the local treasury.” Governor Kenneth Mapp “described his meeting this week with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in Washington D.C. as highly productive.”

Trump ‘Review’ Will Keep Hands Off Hanford Reach National Monument

The [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (7/12, Connelly) reports Washington Democratic Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell confirmed Wednesday that the Hanford Reach National Monument “will not be reduced or deleted as a result of President Trump’s ‘review’ of monuments in the American West.” Murray said, “Today, the Department of the Interior confirmed what so many Washingtonians have known all along – that the Hanford Reach, designated after year of collaboration in the Tri-Cities community, is worthy of protection for generations to come.” According to the Post-Intelligencer, “the Monument was carved out of the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, and still has Manhattan Project-vintage reactors nearby.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (7/12) and the [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (7/12, Cary).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [U.S. News & World Report](#) (7/12), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/12), and the [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (7/12), and the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (7/12).

Bronson Blasts GOP Call To Eliminate Ironwood Nat’l Monument. The [Tucson \(AZ\) Sentinel](#) (7/12, Smith) reports that Sharon Bronson, the chair of the Pima County Board of Supervisors, “said she is ‘astounded’ that three Republican congressman from Arizona are calling for the elimination of four national monuments in the state, including the Ironwood Forest just outside Tucson.” Bronson sent a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Monday, “responding to the call by U.S. Reps. Paul Gosar, Andy Biggs and Trent Franks to reverse the declaration of Ironwood, as well as shrinking or de-listing other monuments across the nation.” Bronson “told Zinke that none of the Arizona congressmen who backed rescinding the monument designations had inquired of her about the impacts to the local economy or environment if that were to take place.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KVOA-TV Tucson \(AZ\)](#) Tucson, AZ (7/12, Wallen).

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the review of national monuments was provided by the [Navajo Times \(AZ\)](#) (7/12, Quintero), the [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (7/12), the [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (7/12), the [Livermore \(CA\) Independent](#) (7/13), the [Santa Barbara \(CA\) Independent](#) (7/12, Welsh), the [Highland \(CA\) Community News](#) (7/12), the [Victorville \(CA\) Daily Press](#) (7/12, Lindsey), the [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (7/12, Steinberg), the [Nevada Independent](#) (7/12, Messerly, Valley), and [Ammoland](#) (7/12, Johnson).

Benefits Of Expanding Offshore Oil And Natural Gas Development Benefits Highlighted During House Hearing.

[DailyEnergyInsider](#) (7/12) reports that the House Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources "convened an oversight hearing on Wednesday to review the status of oil and gas leasing and drill permitting processes on the outer continental shelf (OCS), where panelists said expanding access would lead to more jobs and increased revenues for states and the federal government." Katherine MacGregor, acting Assistant Secretary of Land and Minerals Management at the Department of the Interior, said in prepared testimony, "OCS activities are a key aspect of the Trump Administration's America First Energy Agenda and Secretary (Ryan) Zinke's goal of maintaining our nation's energy dominance by advancing domestic energy production, generating revenue, and creating and sustaining jobs throughout our country." MacGregor "highlighted recent secretarial orders to reshape the 2017-2022 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Proposed Final Program, also known as the Five Year Plan.," and "she also discussed efforts to approve permits for new seismic surveys, and the review and overhaul of regulations from the Obama Administration to improve certainty and data transparency."

Additional coverage was provided by [Axios](#) (7/12, Geman).

Heinrich Introduces Every Kid Outdoors Act.

The [Carlsbad \(NM\) Current-Argus](#) (7/12, Booth) reports that lawmakers are "hoping to turn an initiative into law, allowing free access to federal public lands and water to fourth grade students and their families." Sen. Martin Heinrich, along with Sen. Lamar Alexander, introduced the Every Kid Outdoors (EKO) Act on Wednesday. The legislation "builds on the 'Every Kid in a Park' initiative, which was implemented by the Obama Administration a few years, offering free entry to fourth graders."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Chattanooga \(TN\) Times Free Press](#) (7/12).

Trump's Environment And Energy Policies Trigger Storm Of Lawsuits.

[McClatchy](#) (7/12, Leavenworth) reports President Trump's efforts to roll back energy and pollution rules has been met with a surge of lawsuits from environmental groups and Democratic state attorneys general. Trump Administration efforts have been confronted with more than four dozen lawsuits challenging executive orders and decisions by the EPA, Interior Department and other agencies. A McClatchy review of the federal Public Access to Court Electronic Records found that environmental groups have sued the Administration more than 50 times since Trump took office. The early rounds of litigation have been favorable to the challengers, as a US Court of Appeals blocked efforts from delaying compliance with a methane leak regulation and a federal judge ruled against permits needed to complete construction of the Dakota Access pipeline. Abigail Dillen, VP of litigation at Earthjustice, said, "What we are seeing is unprecedented. ... With this administration, we face a disregard to basic rules of environmental decision making."

Montana Pushes To Use State Helicopters To Fight Fires On Federal Land.

[Montana Public Radio](#) (7/12, Cates-Carney) reports that Montana has "five large helicopters used to fight fires on state land, but they can rarely be used on federal land, which makes up about 29 percent of the state." Montana's Environmental Quality Council "sent a letter to the secretaries of the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior Wednesday, urging an end to what was described by the state council as an illogical bureaucratic technicality." An emailed statement from an Interior spokesman said Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "continues to monitor the fire situation in Montana and is 'dedicated to keeping our people, and wildlife safe.'"

Additional coverage was provided by [KTVH-TV](#) Helena, MT (7/12, Ambarian).

Big Thicket Employee Honored For Heroism.

The [Silsbee Bee](#) (7/12) reports that Big Thicket National Preserve Superintendent Wayne Prokpetz is announced that on July 4th, Park Ranger Michael Hughes was honored with a

Department of Interior Valor Award, "for outstanding performance and bravery while responding to the May, 2016 flooding throughout Southeast, Texas." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke presented Ranger Hughes and others with "citations during the Department's 2017 Independence Day celebration in the Main Interior Building in Washington, DC."

Khanna Starts PAC-Free Caucus.

[Politico Influence](#) (7/12, Meyer) reports that at the Capital Grille Tuesday night, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke dined with John Green of Crossroads Strategies in a private room.

Additional Coverage: Environment: Zinke Says Drill!

Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's order "aimed at boosting oil and gas leasing on federal lands" was provided by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Weekly Alibi](#) (7/13, Paskus).

Additional Coverage: Pearce Chief Of Staff Lands Interior Department Job.

Additional coverage that Todd Willens, Rep. Steve Pearce's longtime chief of staff, has been named assistant deputy secretary of the Interior Department was provided by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/12, Coleman), the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (7/12), and the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (7/13).

America's Energy Dominance Won't Sacrifice Environmental Quality.

In commentary for the [Daily Signal](#) (7/12, Loris), Nicolas Loris, a fellow at the Heritage Foundation, welcomes President Trump's declaration "during energy week that the United States would 'usher in a golden age of American energy dominance.'" But Loris argues that "energy dominance need not mean disregarding our nation's strong environmental record, as too many have assumed." He notes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "emphasized improving the environmental stewardship of federal lands." Zinke "plans to solicit input from the Western governors, native tribes, and citizens living in those states." He "emphasized unlocking valuable resources for private sector development and advancing human knowledge by promoting innovative technologies." Loris concludes that "the reality is that the Trump administration's efforts to strengthen an already dominant energy industry in the U.S. are fully compatible with a healthy environment."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

No Evidence Of Theft From Shoshone Tribe: DOI Watchdog.

[Law360](#) (7/12, Guarnaccia) reports that the Office of the Inspector General for the Interior Department has "found no evidence of theft from the federal or tribal funds of the Eastern Shoshone Tribe but said the tribe's finance office improperly commingled funds and failed to keep adequate accounting records."

Bureau Of Land Management

BLM Looks To Expedite Planning.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (7/13, Webb) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is "seeking ideas this month for how to make its land use planning procedures and environmental reviews timelier and less costly." The BLM "noted in its news release that its outreach follows President Trump's March 27 signing of a congressional resolution nullifying the BLM's Planning 2.0 rule."

Senate Democrats Urge Trump To Reverse Course On BLM, EPA Methane Rules.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (7/12, Passut) reports that "a group of 27 Senate Democrats has urged President Trump to reverse course and allow methane emissions regulations promulgated by the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to take effect." In a four-page letter to Trump dated Monday, the senators called the BLM's venting and flaring rule and the EPA's updates to its New Source Performance Standards "commonsense, cost effective requirements that direct the oil and gas industry to find and fix leaks, use up-to-date readily available equipment, and prevent waste of a natural resource – saving taxpayers money while also reducing air pollution and protecting human

health." The senators wrote, "These requirements drive innovation and increase jobs in the growing sector of methane detection and capture technologies. We urge you to fully implement the EPA and BLM methane and air pollution regulations as legally required without delay and to keep these important protections for public health, American taxpayers, and our energy security in place."

House Of Representatives Passes Clear Creek Re-opening.

[KSBW-TV](#) Monterey, CA (7/12) reports that "a bill that opens 63,000 acres in San Benito and Fresno Counties for use by off-road vehicles, unanimously passed the House of Representatives on Tuesday." The Clear Creek National Recreation Area and Conservation Act, a bill introduced by Rep. Jimmy Panetta, directs the Bureau of Land Management "to reopen the Clear Creek Management Area in San Benito and Fresno counties for use by off-road vehicles." The act also "protects 21,000 acres of BLM land adjacent to Clear Creek by designating the area the Joaquin Rocks Wilderness."

Drilling Plan In SW Wyoming Draws Opposition.

The [AP](#) (7/12) reports that "an energy company is proposing to drill up to 3,500 natural gas wells on 220 square miles (570 square kilometers) of Bureau of Land Management property in southwest Wyoming." The [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (7/12, Koshmrl) reports that the Normally Pressured Lance project, "located south of the Anticline and Jonah fields, would add up to 3,500 wells on 220 square miles of mostly Bureau of Land Management property." The project "must navigate the National Environmental Policy Act approval process before it adds to the activity." The article says that "a draft environmental impact statement released last week is a first step, and though the development remains tentative it is already a cause of worry for conservationists like the Upper Green River Alliance's Linda Baker."

Washington Firefighters Save Pygmy Rabbits From Burned Area.

The [Idaho Statesman](#) (7/12, Blanchard) reports that "a crew of Washington state firefighters took a break from battling wildfires to save some tiny, adorable wildlife last week, according to a Facebook post from the Oregon Bureau of Land Management." Spokane BLM fire management officer Richard Parrish said that "a team of seven BLM firefighters accompanied a state wildlife biologist to the breeding area as part of a 'capture team.'" [KTVB-TV](#) Boise, ID (7/12) reports that "a total of 32 pygmy rabbits were rescued," but "wildlife officials say about 70 rabbits likely died in the fire."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Florida Senator Releases DOD Letters Backing Eastern Gulf Moratorium.

[PennEnergy](#) (7/12, Snow) reports that the office of Sen. Bill Nelson "released two letters on July 11 from officials at the US Department of Defense urging retention of a moratorium on offshore oil and gas leasing in the eastern Gulf of Mexico." Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. David L. Goldfein said in a June 27 letter to Nelson, "The moratorium is essential for developing and sustaining the Air Force's future combat capabilities. Although the Gulf of Mexico Security Act's moratorium the certainty of the proposed extension to guarantee long-term capabilities for future tests." According to the article, "a second letter—from A.M. Kurta on behalf of the US under-secretary of Defense for personnel and readiness to US Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.) on Apr. 26—said emerging technologies such as hypersonics, autonomous systems, and advanced subsurface systems 'will require enlarged testing and training footprints' and increased DOD reliance on the moratorium beyond 2022."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Northwest Florida Daily News](#) (7/12, McLAUGHLIN).

Government OKs Eni Plans To Drill From A Man-made Island Into Federal Arctic Leases.

The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (7/12, DeMarban) reports that on Wednesday, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management "said it had approved the plan by Eni US, a subsidiary of Eni S.p.A., to drill four exploration wells into federal submerged lands in the Beaufort Sea." A conservation group "reacted immediately to the announcement, saying drilling by Italian oil company Eni US will set the stage for a spill in the ecologically sensitive area that's home to whales, polar bears and other imperiled animals."

New Report Outlines Potentially Bright Future For Deepwater GoM.

[Offshore Magazine](#) (7/12) reports new research from Petrologica found that the deepwater oil and gas industry in the Gulf of Mexico has a bright future. The report found that there will be relatively high E&P costs, leading to a preference for near-field exploration and expansion because of the lack of development options. Petrologica found that only 33 percent of recoverable reserves have been produced, with an additional 48 percent remaining undiscovered. The USGS expects that 51 percent of the recoverable undiscovered reserves, about 37.7 billion barrels of oil, could be produced economically at \$50 a barrel prices.

Comment Now On Proposed Offshore Drilling Plan.

The [Cordova \(AK\) Times](#) (7/12) reports that “comments are being accepted through Aug. 17 on the proposed new five-year national offshore oil and gas leasing program in the Outer Continental Shelf, including offshore exploration in the Alaska Arctic.” The notice was published on Jul 3 in the Federal Register.

Don't Expose Atlantic Coast To Drilling Risks.

In an editorial, the [Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#) (7/10) notes that “recently two U.S. House members — Republican John Rutherford of Jacksonville and Democrat Don Beyer of Virginia — co-authored a letter to U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke declaring “strong opposition” to opening waters off the Atlantic Coast to exploration for oil and natural gas.” The paper says that “it’s notable — and encouraging — when rival party members come together on the right side on an issue.” The editorial argues that since “U.S. oil and gas production is already booming,” it’s “neither necessary nor rational to endanger the environment, the economy and the way of life of coastal communities in Florida or anywhere else on the Atlantic seaboard by expanding offshore drilling.”

In an editorial, the [Ocala \(FL\) Star-Banner](#) (7/13) also opposes offshore drilling.

President Trump: Don't Risk Fishing, Tourism Jobs On A Small Amount Of Oil.

In an op-ed for the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (7/12, Savitz), Jacqueline Savitz, a senior vice president at Oceana, argues that “offshore oil exploration threatens decades of progress toward making America’s fish stocks great again and thereby threatens economies and livelihoods along the East Coast.” She asserts that “it’s not worth taking these risks, especially considering the small amount of oil at stake.” Savitz asks, “Why would we bet a sure thing that we know helps our economy — thriving fishing and tourism industries — on a prospect that we know will harm our economy — disruptive and dirty oil exploration and drilling?”

Bureau Of Reclamation

California Water Bill Passes House, But Democrats Vow To Fight It In The Senate.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/12, Wire) reports that the Gaining Responsibility on Water Act, sponsored by Rep. David Valadao, was “approved in the House by a 230-190 vote largely along party lines.” Republicans say the legislation will bring more water to the Central Valley, “streamline dam construction and other water storage projects, and allow more water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta to be used in the Central Valley rather than flowing out to sea,” but “California’s Democratic senators have promised to fight the bill in the Senate because it weakens California’s ability to manage its own resources.” Democrats say the bill “would preempt California water laws and impede the Endangered Species Act by waiving some of the most stringent environmental reviews required by the law.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Central Valley \(CA\) Business Times](#) (7/12).

A Damming Proposal.

The [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (7/12) editorializes that “five members of Congress from the Pacific Northwest are attempting to overturn a court order that found the federal government is not doing enough to protect threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead species in the Columbia and Snake River basins.” The paper calls the bill — introduced by Washington Reps. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Jaime Herrera Beutler and Dan Newhouse and Oregon Reps. Kurt Schrader and Greg Walden — a “naked power grab, and a thumbing of congressional noses at the judiciary.” The paper also argues that “they could hardly have picked a worse time — salmon runs are the lowest in decades, which is matter of some concern to people in the representatives’ districts.” It hopes the bill dies “a quick death.”

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Scott Angelle Talks Reliable And Safe Energy Production.

[KATC-TV](#) Lafayette, LA (7/12, Baker) reports that Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Director Scott Angelle is "touring the Gulf Coast, and Acadiana, meeting with industry leaders and other stakeholders to explore ways to move the offshore energy program forward." Angelle is "determined to listen to these people and see if there are ways that new policies can be written to get the outer continental shelf oil industry moving again and get people back to work." According to the article, "Angelle also believes it's a delicate balance and it takes a lot of work to provide a sustainable energy sector while keeping workers safe and protecting the environment."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Congress Renews Efforts To Remove Gray Wolf Protections.

[Wisconsin Public Radio](#) (7/12, Quirnbach) reports that two measures in Congress could "knock the gray wolf in Wisconsin off the endangered species list." One is a House of Representatives funding bill for the Interior Department "that would de-list the gray wolf within 60 days of passage and block the department from spending money to enforce Endangered Species Act protections for the wolf in the lower 48 states." The other legislation is a U.S. Senate bill "being discussed next week by a Senate committee," which "would restore a previous U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services decision to de-list wolves in the western Great Lakes region."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Detroit \(MI\) News](#) (7/11, Burke).

'Donut Hole' Would Remain Restricted To Rocky Flats Refuge Visitors.

[KCNC-TV](#) Denver (7/12, Sallinger, Ackerman) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service plans to open the Rocky Flats Wildlife Refuge to visitors in 2018, "but a large area in the middle of the site will remain off limits." According to the article, "both wildlife and people" are expected to be allowed "to roam where nuclear weapons were once built." However, "the center of Rocky Flats, which some call the 'donut hole,' will stay closed to visitors."

US Supreme Court Asked To Step Into Endangered Frog Case.

The [AP](#) (7/12, McCONNAUGHEY) reports that the Pacific Legal Foundation is asking the U.S. Supreme Court "to overturn a declaration that Louisiana timberland is critical habitat for an endangered frog found only in Mississippi." The nonprofit "wants the high court to overturn lower court rulings that have upheld the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which says the 1,500-acre (607-hectare) tract is the only potential breeding ground outside Mississippi for dusky gopher frogs." However, a lawyer with the Center for Biological Diversity "says the foundation's challenge is pointless because no appeals court has ever ruled that the federal agency violated the Constitution when implementing the Endangered Species Act."

US Judge Orders Documents Sealed In Case Against FBI Agent.

The [AP](#) (7/12) reports that "a federal judge says government documents from a case against an FBI agent will remain sealed to protect the identities of other law enforcement officers involved in a deadly confrontation with one of the people who occupied a remote Oregon wildlife refuge last year." Government lawyers "in Oregon requested the move Tuesday in their case against FBI agent W. Joseph Astarita."

Customs And Border Protection To Host Trade Day In Detroit.

The [AP](#) (7/12) reports that the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Detroit Field Office will "host its annual Trade Day on Aug. 16 at downtown's Cobo Center." The article notes that "other participants include the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and Food and Drug Administration."

Additional Coverage: US Customs Agents Find Cobras Inside Mail At JFK Airport.

Additional coverage that U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents "seized five live king cobras

and three geckos during an inspection" of a mail container at Kennedy International Airport was provided by the [AP](#) (7/12).

National Park Service

Parks Group Sues Over Jamestown Transmission Line Project.

The [AP](#) (7/12) reports the National Parks Conservation Association has filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers over its decision to grant Dominion Energy a permit for the controversial Surry-Skiffes Creek transmission line. The [Washington Post](#) (7/12, Schneider) reports the project is opposed by historic preservationists, who argue that "it will alter a landscape that has changed little since Capt. John Smith and the Virginia Company founded the first permanent English settlement in America more than 400 years ago." National Parks Conservation Association CEO Theresa Pierno said, "If we allow this to happen to one of America's most important historic areas, what's next for our other national parks? ... We will continue to fight in court to ensure that reckless development does not destroy this treasured and historic area." However, Dominion Energy spokeswoman Le-Ha Anderson said, "The Army Corps and other approving agencies followed the law and based their permitting decisions on sound legal basis after considerable study and input from the public and various other constituents. ... This has been one of the most heavily scrutinized infrastructure projects in the history of Virginia and any further delay in its construction will only put at greater risk our ability to keep the lights on in the Peninsula."

Likewise, the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (7/12, Zullo) reports Dominion Energy spokeswoman Bonita Harris said that the utility stands behind the Corps' decision making, adding that the project also faced review by the State Corporation Commission and the Virginia Supreme Court, among other agencies. Harris said, "It is clearly needed to maintain electric reliability for more than 600,000 people and was carefully sited to ensure it would not be visible from the Jamestown Settlement, Colonial Williamsburg and the Yorktown Battlefield. ... Every other alternative fails to meet the need or has greater environmental and cultural impacts. No amount of additional study will change the facts."

The [Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (7/12, Ress) and [WVEC-TV](#) Hampton Roads, VA (7/12) carries additional coverage.

Point Reyes Ranching Threatened In Lawsuit Settlement.

The [Marin \(CA\) Independent Journal](#) (7/12, Prado) reports that "a settlement in a lawsuit that targeted dairy and beef cattle operations in the Point Reyes National Seashore now threatens the future of ranching in West Marin." The settlement announced Wednesday requires the National Park Service "to consider and evaluate a no-ranching alternative, a no-dairy-ranching alternative and a reduced-ranching-alternative as part of a management plan." Under terms of the agreement, the NPS will "decide future uses of the lands that are currently leased for ranching by amending the national seashore's general management plan within four years." The NPS will "then decide what ranch operations will look like after public input."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (7/13) and the [Point Reyes \(CA\) Light](#) (7/12).

Mount Baldy Beach Reopens Friday 4 Years After Boy Trapped.

The [AP](#) (7/12) reports that the National Park Service "says the beach at Mount Baldy in Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore will reopen at noon Friday more than four years after the massive dune swallowed a young boy." However, National Lakeshore spokesman Bruce Rowe "says that even with the beach opening, the dune at Mount Baldy will remain closed for public safety and dune protection."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Times of Northwest Indiana](#) (7/12, Cross) and the [La Porte County \(IN\) Life](#) (7/1).

U.S. House OKs John Muir National Park Expansion.

The [East Bay \(CA\) Times](#) (7/12, White) reports that "for the second time, the U.S. House of Representatives has approved a bill allowing the National Park Service to accept 44 acres donated to the John Muir National Historic Site." Rep. Mark DeSaulnier "introduced the bill in the last Congress, but it stalled in the Senate." Sen. Kamala Harris is pushing similar legislation.

More Than 803,000 Visits To Yellowstone Park In June.

The [AP](#) (7/12) reports that visitation to Yellowstone National Park during June has declined “4.8 percent from a year ago but is still the second busiest June on record in the nation’s first national park.” The National Park Service tallied “more than 803,000 visits last month.” In June 2016, the park saw “over 838,000 visitors.”

Park Service OKs Plans For Passenger Ferry Facilities.

The [Outer Banks \(NC\) Voice](#) (7/12, Walker) reports that the National Park Service has “approved a plan submitted by the North Carolina Department of Transportation to build a system to support the Hatteras-Ocracoke Passenger Ferry, which is scheduled to start running in 2018.” A Finding of No Significant Impact was recently signed by Stan Austin, director of the Southeast Region of the National Park Service, “completing the National Environmental Policy Act and National Historic Preservation Act processes that began earlier this year, according to a news release.”

Thurmond Train Day Is Saturday At New River Gorge.

The [AP](#) (7/13) reports that Thurmond Train Day will be held at the New River Gorge National River park this weekend. The National Park Service “said in a news release the event Saturday will feature half-mile walking tours with stories of the historic town and the railroad.”

National Park Officials Seek Witnesses To Campground Fire.

The [Hawaii Tribune-Herald](#) (7/12) reports that “fire officials at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park are seeking witnesses to a fire Tuesday afternoon that burned about 1/4 acre of native koa and ohia forest behind a cabin at Namakanipaio Campground.” The blaze “started behind Cabin 3 shortly before 3 p.m., and was human-caused.” According to the article, “a woman and several children told firefighters they saw how it started, but left the scene before anyone could get her name and contact information.”

Longtime Assistant To Yellowstone Superintendents Retires After Years Of Service.

[Yellowstone Insider](#) (7/12, Kearney) reports that Jane Laye has “retired after 25 years as secretary and special assistant to Yellowstone National Park’s four most recent superintendents.” Laye, 62, started at the National Park Service in 1991.

Additional Coverage: National Parks Senior Pass Price Goes Up Aug. 28.

Additional coverage that the price of the national parks Senior Pass will increase on Aug. 28 was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (7/12, Johnson), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (7/12, Rubenstein), and the [Cleveland \(OH\) Plain Dealer](#) (7/12, Eaton).

Additional Coverage: A Beloved Yellowstone Grizzly Was Killed Two Years Ago.

Now We Know Why. Additional coverage of the recently released investigative report on the death of the Yellowstone grizzly known as Scarface was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (7/12, Brulliard).

US Geological Survey

Study: No Major Hurricanes, Louisiana Wetlands Loss Slowed.

The [AP](#) (7/12, McConnaughey) reports that a new federal study released Wednesday “says Louisiana’s devastating wetlands loss has slowed slightly since 2010, but cautions that the main reason is probably that no major hurricanes have hit the state since 2008.” Brady Couvillion, lead author of the U.S. Geological Service study, said in an interview, “It’s been a period of relative calm in hurricane activity, so it has reduced the stress on coastal wetlands.” Couvillion explained “that the lack of destructive hurricanes allows plants to settle in.”

Top National News

Trump Defends Son, Says Putin Would Have Preferred Clinton As President.

In comments that media reports cast as a pushback against the intelligence community’s belief that Russia interfered in the 2016 election in a bid to aid his campaign, President Trump told Pat Robertson of the Christian Broadcasting Network that Vladimir Putin would have preferred it if

Hillary Clinton prevailed because she would have weakened the nation. Trump's interview, which will air Thursday, came as his son's meeting with a Russian lawyer continued to receive extensive media coverage – including as the lead story on all three network news broadcasts, which spent nearly 16 minutes on the story. Comments from the President defending his son also receive heavy coverage, much of which highlights that he appeared angry at the media, not Trump Jr., over the matter.

[The Hill](#) (7/12, Fabian) says that in the interview, which came “a day after emails reported by the New York Times showed Trump's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., agreeing to a 2016 meeting where he was promised damaging information on Clinton as ‘part of Russia and its government's support for Mr. Trump,’” Trump “appeared to be push[ing] back on the US intelligence community's conclusion that Russia meddled in the 2016 election to help him and hurt Clinton.” However, the [New York Post](#) (7/12, Fredericks) says Trump's position “is at odds with US intelligence assessments.”

Similarly, [Politico](#) (7/12, McCaskill) reports that “despite the US intelligence community's conclusion that the Kremlin meddled in the 2016 election to boost Trump over the Democratic nominee,” Trump told Robertson that Putin would have preferred Hillary Clinton to win the election because Clinton would have made the country weaker. The [Washington Times](#) (7/12, Boyer) says Trump “tried to debunk claims that Russia wanted him to win the election.” Trump said, “We are the most powerful country in the world and we are getting more and more powerful because I'm a big military person. ... As an example, if Hillary had won, our military would be decimated. Our energy would be much more expensive. That's what Putin doesn't like about me. And that's why I say, why would he want me? Because from day one I wanted a strong military, he doesn't want to see that.” [USA Today](#) (7/12, Estepa) reports that Trump described his meeting with Putin at the G20 summit as “good,” saying, “I think we got along very, very well. We are a tremendously powerful nuclear power, and so are they. ... It doesn't make sense not to have some kind of a relationship.” However, Trump also said that he and the Russian leader “still differ because they're working on behalf of their respective countries.” Said Trump, “Well, he wants what's good for Russia, and I want what's good for the United States.”

In an interview with [Reuters](#) (7/12, Holland), Trump said he asked Putin directly “if he was involved in what U.S. intelligence says was Russian meddling in the presidential campaign and that Putin had insisted he was not.” Trump said, “I said, did you do it? And he said no, I did not. Absolutely not. I then asked him a second time in a totally different way. He said absolutely not.” [USA Today](#) (7/12, Jackson) reports that Reuters asked Trump “if he believes Putin's denials.” Trump said, “Look. Something happened and we have to find out what it is, because we can't allow a thing like that to happen to our election process. So something happened and we have to find out what it is.” Trump added, “Somebody did say if he [Putin] did do it you wouldn't have found out about it. Which is a very interesting point.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/12, Quinn) says Trump “has largely remained out of the public's view since returning from Europe” while his White House “grappled” with the news of Trump Jr.'s meeting with a Russian lawyer “in hopes of receiving damaging information about Clinton.” However, in the interview with [Reuters](#) (7/12, Holland), Trump said he was unaware of Trump Jr.'s meeting and “only learned of it a couple of days ago.” Asked if he knew his son was meeting with the lawyer, Trump said, “No, that I didn't know until a couple of days ago when I heard about this.” Trump also “said he did not fault his son for holding the meeting,” telling Reuters, “I think many people would have held that meeting.”

Privately, the [AP](#) (7/12, Lemire, Pace) reports, Trump “has raged against the latest Russia development, with most of his ire directed at the media, not his son, according to people who have spoken to him in recent days.” According to the AP, “in conversations with confidants,” Trump “has questioned the quality of advice he has received from senior staff, including chief of staff Reince Priebus.” Chief White House correspondent Jonathan Karl said in the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/12, lead story, 3:30, Muir) that aides describe Trump “as angry and frustrated, but today these images emerged, the President meeting with faith leaders in the Oval Office, laying their hands on him in prayer.”

The [New York Times](#) (7/12, Baker, Macfarquhar) says Trump is taking the “fierce criticism” of Trump Jr.'s meeting “personally.” The criticism “has left the president by turns angry, defensive and protective but ultimately relieved that for now, the worst appears to be over, people who spoke to him said Wednesday.” Gloria Borger said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/12) that according to a person “who does talk to the President regularly,” Trump “remains angrier at the media than anything he might feel in anger at all towards Donald Trump, Jr. And I think that he believes that we are creating this conspiracy, I was told, and that he believes that when everything comes out in the open, people will see no culpability. And that what we're trying to do

is create a conspiracy that doesn't exist." The source added that Trump's instinct is "to fight. He believes that this is all garbage, and that, in fact, Mueller, the special counsel, is out to get him."

Trump defended his son on Twitter Wednesday, offering what [Politico](#) (7/12, McCaskill) describes as "the most vigorous defense yet" of Trump Jr.'s meeting with the lawyer. In a [tweet](#) Wednesday morning, Trump wrote, "My son Donald did a good job last night. He was open, transparent and innocent. This is the greatest Witch Hunt in political history. Sad!" Politico adds that Trump, who "appeared to be rankled by the news coverage," argued in another [tweet](#) "more than three hours later that his administration is held to a tougher standard than Democrats," writing, "Look what Hillary Clinton may have gotten away with. Disgraceful!" Peter Alexander reported in the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/12, lead story, 2:30, Holt) that the White House is "under siege" and Trump is "now acting as defender in chief."

Citing another [tweet](#) in which Trump wrote, "The W.H. is functioning perfectly, focused on HealthCare, Tax Cuts/Reform & many other things. I have very little time for watching T.V.," Dana Bash said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (7/12) that the tweet is "like the ultimate example of protesting too much. We know that that's not the case." The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/12, Westwood) reports that deputy White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said that "the trickle of revelations about contacts between President Trump's associates and Russian officials has not undermined the administration's credibility." Sanders argued, "I think it's actually undermining the credibility of the media."

Jessica Schneider reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/12) that while Trump is "presenting a forceful and defiant front," a "top Republican source in tune with the West Wing does say that there is that sense of paralysis" in the White House. John Roberts noted the "reports the White House is in a state of paralysis" on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/12), adding that the controversy is "smothering any progress that came out" from Trump's meeting with Putin.

Appearing on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (7/12) Wednesday night, deputy assistant to the President Sebastian Gorka denied reports that there is a bunker mentality in parts of the White House, calling it "laughable." Gorka added, "I work in the West Wing, I work in the White House. It is absolutely nothing of the kind. We are pushing the make America Great Again agenda. The President is a steam locomotive that will not be stopped. It's just fake news. I'm sad to see CNN fall to this. I know you want salacious, sensational coverage for your ratings, so your corporate sponsors and owners will have more money. But that's not media, that's not reportage. It's just fake news."

Meanwhile, in a series of interviews Wednesday morning, the President's attorney Jay Sekulow argued that Trump Jr. did nothing illegal by having the meeting and that the President was unaware that it was taking place. Sekulow said on [CBS This Morning](#) (7/12), "There was not a violation of the law, no illegality. . . . If you look at the law as it was written, as it is applied, there's not a violation of the law here. Meetings like this, on opposition research are not uncommon, even when the government aspect has raised a lot of interest, obviously we're talking about it this morning." On [ABC's Good Morning America](#) (7/12), Sekulow said that "the President wasn't aware of the meeting, did not participate in the meeting, did not attend the meeting and was only made aware of the email, actually reading the emails, seeing the emails yesterday when they were released but very, very recently is when the lawyers, our legal team briefed the President on this. So that was very, very recent." Asked on [NBC's Today Show](#) (7/12) if Trump will now "acknowledge this is a legitimate area of investigation," Sekulow said, "There's no illegality. The question is – you're talking about an investigation – investigating what violation of what law? That's what I look at, in any case. What's the law alleged to be violated here? And the truth of the matter is, that a meeting under the circumstances that were described by the release of the emails that Donald Trump Jr. did yesterday, is not a violation of the law." Alexander reported in the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/12, lead story, 2:30, Holt) that Trump's lawyer, Marc Kasowitz, was also "fending off accusations of collusion." Kasowitz: "There was no law that was violated here. There was no violation of law here. The meeting that took place is not illegal."

The [New York Times](#) (7/12, Martin) reports that while "opposition research is part of modern presidential campaigns, it normally does not come from representatives of a hostile foreign power." The Times goes on to describe "how the peddling of opposition research – or oppo, as political professionals and reporters call it – typically works." The [Washington Post](#) (7/12, Phillip) says Trump Jr.'s June 9, 2016 meeting and a June 7, 2016 appearance in which Trump Sr. promised a "major speech" in which "we're going to be discussing all of the things that have taken place with the Clintons," underscore "the freewheeling nature of the Trump campaign,

which at that moment found itself unprepared and underfinanced to face Clinton's machine-like campaign in the general election." A video on the [New York Times](#) (7/13) website describes "How a Russian Offer Got to Donald Trump Jr.'s Inbox."

Discussing Trump Jr.'s Fox News interview on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (7/12), counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway said, "How refreshing to have someone take responsibility, be transparent and earnest, admit that maybe he would have done things differently." In a profile of Trump Jr., the [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/12, Demick) says his critics see "his willingness to meet with a Russian fixer to get dirt on Hillary Clinton" as "'criminally stupid,' as the New York Post put it in an editorial on Wednesday," while his defenders "say that his public release of emails about the meeting was perfectly in keeping with his personality — direct, transparent and brave."

Nonetheless, in cable appearances Wednesday, lawmakers from both sides of the aisle were critical of Trump Jr.'s meeting. Rep. Eric Swalwell was asked on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (7/12) about the argument that Trump Jr. took the meeting because he was naïve. Swalwell said, "Ignorance is not a defense, especially for a high level executive like Donald Trump Jr. Look, you're playing in the majors now. You're running for President of the United States. The pitches come faster, the strike zone is a little bit different. And so you can't, you know, plead that you didn't know what you were getting into."

House Oversight Committee Chairman Rep. Trey Gowdy told the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/12, story 3, 2:25, Mason), "Potentially there could be four or five different statutes impacted, most of which deal with whether or not you can solicit or receive anything of value from a foreign national, but Bob Mueller is an expert in criminal law, and I never was. I certainly am not now, so I trust Bob Mueller to sort all that out." Asked what he would say to the Administration, Gowdy said, "You should get everyone in a room, and from the moment you watched either Dr. Zhivago or read The Brothers Karamozov, to the point you had a shot of liquor with a guy in a furry hat, you need to disclose every contact you have ever had with Russia. We're not going to have any more of these disclosures coming out on the front page of the newspaper."

Rep. Adam Kinzinger said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (7/12), "Opposition research is one thing. It's how politics works. ... But I think when a foreign government if, in an e-mail, it says the Russian government has information, that is when you hit the hard stop on it. I don't know exactly where espionage laws apply in this situation. What I do know in the very least is if I got an email that said, 'Hey, Congressman Kinzinger, we have information on the government or on your opponent,' I would walk it to the FBI and say, 'We have a problem.'"

[USA Today](#) (7/12, Kelly) reports that House Speaker Ryan said Wednesday that "it is 'absolutely unacceptable' that Russia interfered in the US presidential election and urged congressional investigators and special counsel Robert Mueller to get to the truth." However, Ryan "refused to answer a question about whether he would have accepted a meeting" similar to the one Trump Jr. attended, saying, "I'm not going to go into hypotheticals."

Other commentary was also largely — although not universally — negative for the Administration. CNN White House correspondent Sara Murray said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (7/12) that the White House is "struggling through this...and we saw...an attempt to turn this back around on Hillary Clinton and her campaign, but we also saw Sarah Huckabee Sanders dodging the question of why we are yet again facing another previously undisclosed closed meeting between a Trump official and a Russian, this time President Trump's own son." Guy Benson of Townhall.com said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/12), "I think the White House problem right now is one of credibility. I've seen some of the arguments about Donald Trump, Jr. and his actions and to me they are decent arguments. ... The problem is, you have this blanket assertion from the President, Vice President, all the way down, that there was no collusion, there were no meetings with Russians, this is all a fairy tale and then slowly but surely the thread gets pulled and there are retractions and backpedaling and revisions of the public record."

[USA Today](#) (7/12, Schouten) writes that while Trump Jr. called the meeting "standard opposition research into a political rival," opposition research "normally involves slogging through public records, poring over candidate statements and tracking a politician's every public appearance," not "meeting of high-ranking campaign aides with someone they believed represented a hostile foreign government," according to "several campaign and ethics experts." President George W. Bush's former ethics lawyer Richard Painter said, "It's called spying, not opposition research."

The [Washington Post](#) (7/12) says in an editorial that Russia "is a hostile power" because of President Vladimir Putin's "adherence to, and dependence on, a set of values that are antithetical to what have been, at least until now, bedrock American values. ... His antipathy toward Hillary Clinton was not personality-driven but based on her advocacy of values that would threaten his

rule. ... So while the younger Mr. Trump may have seen advantage in accepting Russia's help, Russia certainly would have seen an advantage in proffering it."

Pence Team Denies He Is Distancing Himself From Trump. Amid reports that "some White House aides said they were blindsided" by a statement Tuesday from Vice President Pence's office that he "not focused on stories about the campaign, particularly stories about the time before he joined the ticket," [Politico](#) (7/12, Palmeri) reports that Pence's team "pushed back...against the notion that he was trying to distance himself" from the President. According to Politico, the statement from Pence's office "drew raised eyebrows," and some "White House officials said they felt the statement implied guilt on the part of the campaign." Politico quotes "a source close to Pence" as saying, "The Vice President finds any suggestion that he's distancing himself from the President to be offensive." Politico adds, however, that a Pence spokesperson "did not respond to inquiries about whether Pence's office ran the statement by counterparts in the White House before releasing it." To [USA Today](#) (7/12, Groppe, Cook), Pence's statement "appeared to be a stark departure from his usual blanket rejections that there was any contact between Trumpland and the Russians, as well as from Pence's usual effusive praise of Trump." USA Today cites a Pence "adviser, who was not authorized to speak publicly," who said the Vice President "is taking a wait-and-see approach to the latest controversy before mounting a robust defense of the administration."

E.J. Dionne writes in his [Washington Post](#) (7/12) column that Pence's "effort to stay loyal to Trump while tiptoeing away from the latest disclosures is another sign of chaos." Pence, Dionne adds, "cannot be allowed to slink away from the administration whose cause he has advanced. If he's starting to see reasons for breaking with Trump, he'll have to do it outright and end his own collusion with one of the most disingenuous White Houses in our history."

[Indianapolis Star](#) (7/12) columnist Matthew Tully calls Pence's statement "classic Pence," and writes that "there's a decent chance" that Pence "will someday be president." Tully argues that Pence is thinking "All the drama and all the craziness, as well as the close proximity to scandal and the spot forever etched in history next to an inept, mean-spirited president" will "all be worth it."

Grassroots Republicans Unfazed By Russia Revelations. [Politico](#) (7/12, Debenedetti, Lahut) reports that a "POLITICO survey of more than two dozen local Republican Party leaders in counties where 2018's most competitive races are shaping up," found that "the GOP grassroots aren't fazed by news of Donald Trump Jr.'s meeting last year with a Kremlin-linked lawyer or the daily drip of stories about Trump and Russia." [Reuters](#) (7/12, Reid) reports that interviews with 20 people in Ohio towns that went heavily for the President last year found them "dismissive of the barrage of headlines" about Trump Jr.'s emails and the meeting. Said one, "I don't mind Donald Trump being treated critically or aggressively, but not in a way that is an effort to drag him down. Donald Trump Jr. had one 20-minute meeting with a lawyer from Russia and it's wall-to-wall coverage."

Richard Grenell, former US spokesman at the UN, said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/12) that outside Washington, "people don't care about this. There's such a difference between listening and acting. I think Donald Trump Jr. listened to something that was brought to him. He didn't act on it. ... It was nothing. It was a crazy person coming up with some idea that when they heard it, they were like, were not doing anything. ... I don't think people care about this at all."

Gorka: Russia Focus Explains Why "More People Watch Nick-at-Nite Cartoons" Than CNN. [Townhall](#) (7/12, O'Brien) reports that in an appearance on [CNN](#) (7/11), Deputy Assistant to the President Sebastian Gorka highlighted a recent study that showed "that CNN had plummeted to No. 13 in the 8-11 p.m. time slot," telling anchor Alisyn Camerota, "The amount of time you spend in desperation on a topic that has plummeted you to 13th place in viewership ranking across America. ... I mean more people watch Nick-at-Nite cartoons than CNN today."

Trump Lawyers Seek Wall Between Kushner, Trump On Russia Discussions. Jonathan Swan writes on [Axios](#) (7/12) that Trump's legal team "wants to wall off Jared Kushner from discussing the Russia investigation with his father-in-law, according to sources with direct knowledge of the discussions." The attorneys contend that they are not "out to get Kushner," but want "to protect the president because his son-in-law is so wrapped up in the investigation."

Constitutional Law Experts Say Trump Jr.'s Actions Not Treasonous. [The Hill](#) (7/12, Greenwood) reports, "Experts on constitutional law say lawmakers should be careful before throwing around words like 'treason,'" since it is "a charge where a high and specific evidentiary standard must be proven. It requires testimony from two witnesses who participated in the crime or a confession from the accused in an open court." Richard Cohen writes in the [Washington Post](#)

(7/12) "PostPartisan" blog that while "Trump Jr., his father and others" may have "committed a crime," that offense "is certainly not treason. ... The loose talk of treason is both ugly and counterproductive," and "is unfortunately reminiscent of Sen. Joseph McCarthy's demagoguery." In related coverage, [Politico Magazine](#) (7/12) runs a 4,000-word piece on "what precisely would constitute collusion," and whether "we actually seen evidence of it so far." The piece consists of brief essays from a number of experts on the subject.

Veselnitskaya Denies Kremlin Connections, Says She Had No Dirt On Clinton. Chief foreign correspondent Terry Moran reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/12, story 2, 2:15, Muir) that Natalia Veselnitskaya, the Russian attorney with whom Trump Jr. met, told ABC, "I have never had compromising materials on Hillary Clinton." Veselnitskaya "insisted she is not a Kremlin emissary." Julianna Goldman reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/12, story 2, 2:10, Mason) that while the Russian government "says they don't even know who [Veselnitskaya] is," like "most things Kremlin, there's more to that story." Veselnitskaya "represents a wealthy Kremlin-connected family in Moscow, the Katsyvs," who have "lobbied hard to overturn US sanctions against Russian officials accused of money laundering."

Upon Leaving Congress, Democrat Dellums Worked As Lobbyist For Veselnitskaya. The [Daily Caller](#) (7/12, Pollock) reports that former Rep. Ron Dellums was hired as a lobbyist for Veselnitskaya. Dellums "is one of several high-profile Democratic partisans who was on Veselnitskaya's payroll, working to defeat a law that is the hated object of a personal vendetta waged by Russian President Vladimir Putin." The DC cites "a complaint filed to the Department of Justice Foreign Agents Registration Act division last July," which alleged that Dellums "failed to register as a foreign agent representing a Russian-driven effort led by Veselnitskaya to repeal the Magnitsky Act."

Lavrov Calls For Proof Of Russia's Election Meddling. [Reuters](#) (7/12) reports that Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Wednesday that "he wanted to be shown at least one fact proving Moscow's meddling in the 2016 US presidential election." Speaking at a news conference in Belgium, Lavrov said, "I don't know anything about this fact. It's amazing that serious people are making a mountain out of a molehill."

Video Shows Trump With Agalarovs And Goldstone In 2013. [CNN](#) (7/12, Diamond) reports on its website that video it has obtained shows President Trump at a Las Vegas dinner with Aras and Emin Agalarov, and their publicist Rob Goldstone, in 2013. The footage, "a series of clips from the eve of the Miss USA pageant, documents more than three minutes of interactions between Trump, the Agalarovs and Goldstone." The [Washington Post](#) (7/12, Abbakumova) reports that in a Wednesday interview with a Moscow radio station, Aras Agalarov "insisted he did not know Trump Jr." or Goldstone. Agalarov said of Goldstone, "He worked with Emin at some point." [USA Today](#) (7/12, Reilly, Dorell) has a profile of the "Putin-connected Russian billionaire."

Rep. Jim Himes, a member of the House Intelligence Committee, said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/12) that the video "establishes that then Donald Trump knew the people concerned at the very center of this, and it puts some question and doubt on his repeated statements that he didn't know Russian oligarchs, he doesn't know Russia, he doesn't do business with Russia." Himes later added that if Trump "himself knows these people, what is the probability that this meeting happened without somebody in that room going back to" him "and saying, 'here's the deal, here's what they have to offer.'"

Sen. James Lankford, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/12) he has no problem with Trump knowing the Russians from the video back in 2013, calling that "old news," but added that "what I want to know about is what happened in the meeting" with the Russian lawyer, "what documents were exchanged, was anything given to them, was there a follow-up after that. Those are reasonable questions."

Intelligence Agencies: Russian Officials Discussed Trump Associates In 2015. In the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/12, lead story, 2:55, Mason), Major Garrett reported that "US intelligence picked up electronic intercepts of Russian officials discussing presidential candidates, including Mr. Trump, as far back as mid-2015." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/12, Harris) says US intelligence agencies detected conversations in which Russian officials discussed Trump associates starting in early 2015. The reports were seen as inconclusive, but are being reviewed in light of the release of Trump Jr.'s emails.

Sherman Introduces Articles Of Impeachment Against Trump. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/12, Mai-Duc) reports on its "Essential Politics" blog that in a move that "has put him at odds with House Democratic leaders, who have tried to quiet talk of impeachment," Rep. Brad Sherman on Wednesday "introduced articles of impeachment against President Trump, making good on a promise to move the process forward." Sherman's measure "accuses Trump of obstruction of

justice and seeking to 'use his authority to hinder and cause the termination' of an investigation into former national security advisor Michael Flynn, including 'through threatening, and then terminating, James Comey.'" Sherman said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (7/12), "I didn't file these in response to the emails. They further bolster it, but I circulated these articles a month ago and said I was going to consult with experts, did that for about three weeks, then Congress went on break. This is our first day back." Sherman added that Trump "threatened Comey in order to get Comey to curtail the investigation of Flynn. That's obstruction of justice and it lines up perfectly with the code section and with the cases that have defined it. Secondly, he fired Comey and then said that his reason, or that the effect, was to curtail or thwart the investigation into the general Russia matter. And of course, in the last couple of days, we learned how important that Russian matter was."

[McClatchy](#) (7/12, Welsh) reports that other Democrats "have expressed concern" about Sherman's push, and his resolution "had only one cosponsor, Rep. Al Green." [USA Today](#) (7/12, Estepa) says "this resolution is unlikely to go anywhere in the House," and the [Washington Post](#) (7/12, Debonis) calls it "fantastic to think that the impeachment push might proceed in any meaningful way in the coming months."

The [AP](#) (7/12, Ohlemacher) reports that Sanders "blasted" Sherman's move, saying, "I think that is utterly and completely ridiculous, and a political game at its worst." The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/12, Quinn) also highlights Sanders' comments.

Grassley To Call Manafort Before Senate Judiciary Committee. [USA Today](#) (7/12, Kelly) reports in a brief item that Senate Judiciary Chairman Charles Grassley told reporters that he intends to call Manafort to testify "and will subpoena him if necessary as part of the panel's investigation into Russian meddling in last year's presidential election." [Politico](#) (7/12, Kim, Wright) reports that he may be called to appear "as soon as next week."

Grassley said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (7/12), "I think that the lady Russian lawyer that was there at that meeting, I've written to Secretary Tillerson and Secretary Kelly...to find out what she was doing in the country when presumably either a visa or parole expired, she wouldn't have been in the country at that particular time. We are trying to get information on that." Asked if "this could have been a setup," Grassley said, "There's no way I know that, and I shouldn't comment on things you don't know. But we do have a responsibility to congressional oversight to the bottom of it."

Fusion GPS Co-Founder To Testify Before Senate Panel. [The Hill](#) (7/12, Manchester) reports in its "Blog Briefing Room" blog that Glenn Simpson, co-founder of the Firm Fusion GPS, which "hired former British spy Christopher Steele to investigate then-candidate Trump," will "testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee next week." [Politico](#) (7/12, Wright) also reports on Simpson's scheduled testimony.

Gorka: Clinton Campaign Sent Operative To Ukrainian Embassy. [Breitbart](#) (7/12, Riehl) reports that Gorka told Breitbart News Daily on Wednesday, "The Hillary campaign...actually sends one of its operatives to the Ukrainian embassy to collect oppo research, to actually collect it and then coordinates with members of that foreign government attacks on our campaign." The [New York Times](#) (7/12, Qiu) reports that while Trump Jr.'s defenders "have offered a familiar argument: Hillary Clinton's actions were more egregious," the "same standards don't apply to the cases surfaced by Mr. Trump's supporters, experts agreed."

Meanwhile, [CNN](#) (7/12, Merica) reports on its website that DNC officials, former Clinton campaign officials, and "Democratic sources" have all denied that the DNC or Clinton's campaign worked with the Ukraine government "to dig up dirt on Donald Trump and his top aides." However, CNN cites "multiple Democratic sources" who "said that a DNC contractor, whose work included organizing political events for Ukrainian-Americans, did tell DNC operatives that Ukrainian officials would be willing to deliver damaging information on Trump's campaign and, most notably, Paul Manafort." CNN adds that the denials seek to "cut against a talking point the White House and pro-Trump Republicans are using to deflect attention from" Trump Jr.'s meeting with Veselnitskaya.

Futerfas Backed Clinton And Obama, Criticized Trump Over Yates Firing. The [New York Post](#) (7/12, Golding) reports that Trump Jr.'s attorney Alan Futerfas is "a Democrat who supported both Hillary Clinton" and President Obama and who "bashed President Trump as ignorant of history and the Constitution following his firing of acting Attorney General Sally Yates." In an email to members of the New York Council of Defense Lawyers on the night of the Yates firing, Futerfas "backed a proposal that the group take a public stand against 'what increasingly appears to be a renegade and lawless President.'"

Ex-DNC Staff Member, Donors Sue Trump Campaign And Stone Over Email Leaks. The [New](#)

[York Times](#) (7/12, Savage) reports that former Democratic National Committee staff member Scott Comer and DNC donors Roy Cokrum and Eric Schoenberg “have filed an invasion of privacy lawsuit against President Trump’s campaign” and Trump adviser Roger Stone, “accusing them of conspiring in the release of hacked Democratic emails and files that exposed their personal information to the public.” Their [complaint](#) “does not contain any hard evidence” that the Trump campaign colluded with Russia, “but it is seeking to depose witnesses and obtain campaign emails and other documents during the discovery process.”

Brazile Book Due On Anniversary Of Election. The [Washington Times](#) (7/12, Boylan) reports that ex-DNC chair Donna Brazile will “soon publish a book titled: ‘Hacks: The Inside Story of the Break-ins and Breakdowns that Put Donald Trump in the White House.’ The book deal was announced Wednesday with a publication date set for the one-year anniversary” of the 2016 election.

Previously Leaked Email Says Clinton Camp “Killed” Bloomberg Story. [Breitbart](#) (7/12, Klein) reports that an email from Clinton’s campaign that was previously published by Wikileaks “may take on new significance” because of the Trump Jr. story. The message “was purportedly sent” by Clinton foreign policy spokesman Jesse Lehigh, and says that the campaign “‘killed a Bloomberg story’ attempting to link Clinton’s opposition to the anti-Russia legislation known as the Magnitsky Act to a speech that Bill Clinton delivered in Moscow for \$500,000.”

Wray: Russia Probe Not A “Witch Hunt,” Would Resign If Pressured By White House.

Media reports, including reports on all three network newscasts, cast Christopher Wray’s performance during his confirmation hearing in a positive light. Analyses describe him as establishing his independence from the White House, and highlight his apparent disagreement with the President on the Russia investigation.

The [AP](#) (7/12, Gurman, Tucker) reports that FBI Director-designate Wray “broke with the president in key areas Wednesday, rejecting the idea that an investigation into possible coordination” between Russia and President Trump’s 2016 campaign “is a ‘witch hunt’ and promising not to cave to any pressure from a White House that has challenged boundaries” with the FBI. The AP says that his “responses seemed to satisfy both Democrats and Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee, many of whom signaled their support for him.”

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/12, story 3, 2:10, Muir), Pierre Thomas reported that Wray faced “intense scrutiny today, grilled about everything from the loyalty to the President to Don Jr.” Sen. Lindsey Graham: “If you get a call from somebody suggesting that a foreign government wants to help you by disparaging your opponent, tell us to call the FBI.” Wray: “Any threat or effort to interfere in our elections from any nation-state or any non-state actor is the kind of thing the FBI would want to know.” Thomas: “I think [senators] were satisfied with answers that he is not afraid to challenge the President. He once threatened to resign over a controversial surveillance plan during the Bush Administration.”

Lester Holt said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/12, story 2, 2:30) that Wray “is widely regarded as well qualified to lead the FBI. Nonetheless, after the messy firing of James Comey amid the Russian influence investigation, Wray faced some unusually pointed questions.” On the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/12, story 4, 2:25, Mason), Nancy Cordes reported, “Wray is poised for easy confirmation, but even Republicans acknowledge today that the job of FBI director is currently strewn with landmines. As Utah’s Orrin Hatch put it, Wray’s going to have an interesting life over next couple years, but he’s not sure it’s going to be a very nice life.”

[US News & World Report](#) (7/12, Neuhauser) reports that Wray said in his opening statement, “If I am given the honor of leading this agency, I will never allow the FBI’s work to be driven by anything other than the facts, the law, and the impartial pursuit of justice. Period. My loyalty is to the Constitution and the rule of law. They have been my guideposts throughout my career, and I will continue to adhere to them no matter the test.” [Reuters](#) (7/12, Ainsley) reports that Wray, who “who appeared on target” to be confirmed, “vowed to quit if told by the president to do something unlawful.”

[USA Today](#) (7/12, Johnson) reports that Wray “said that ‘no one asked me for any kind of loyalty oath during any part of this process,’ and he would not provide one if asked.” He also “pledged to guard the independence” of Robert Mueller’s Russia investigation, “and said any effort to tamper with the inquiry would be ‘inappropriate.’”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/12, Tanfani) reports that Wray declined to directly criticize former FBI Director James Comey, “but he said he doesn’t think the FBI director should be offering opinions on people who aren’t charged.” Referring to Justice Department policies, Wray said, “I think those policies are there for a reason and I would follow them.” The [Wall Street Journal](#)

(7/12, A1, Wilber, Viswanatha) reports that Wray had kind words about Comey in general, saying, "In all my dealings with Jim Comey, he was a terrific lawyer, a dedicated public servant and a wonderful colleague."

[The Hill](#) (7/12, Williams) calls Wray's testimony "calm and understated." The [Washington Post](#) (7/12, Nakashima, Demirjian) describes Wray as "an accomplished lawyer with a classic establishment pedigree...and a strong résumé as a former federal prosecutor who rose high within Justice's ranks."

The [Washington Times](#) (7/12, Ernst) reports that Sen. Al Franken, one of the President's "most ardent critics, said he was 'impressed'" with Wray's performance, and [Townhall](#) (7/12, O'Brien) reports that Sen. Dianne Feinstein also indicated that she will back his confirmation.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/12) editorializes, "Wray bore a special responsibility to assure lawmakers and the public that he would support a fair investigation into the administration of the man who appointed him, resisting any bullying or blandishments." His "testimony Wednesday was encouraging, but it will take more than an FBI director of integrity to restore faith in government."

The [New York Post](#) (7/12, Schultz, Eustachewich) headlines its brief report "FBI Nominee Breaks With Trump On Several Fronts." [Bloomberg News](#) (7/12, Strohm, Dennis) and [Politico](#) (7/12, Kim, Samuelsohn, Gerstein) also report.

Trump Says He'll Be "Very Angry" If Senate Fails To Pass Healthcare Bill.

The [AP](#) (7/12, Fram) report that in an interview with Pat Robertson of the Christian Broadcasting Network Wednesday, President Trump said he will be "very angry" if the Senate does not pass a revised healthcare bill, and argued that Majority Leader McConnell must "pull it off." The comments, which came a day before McConnell "planned to release his revised legislation to a closed-door meeting of GOP senators," intensified "pressure on party leaders laboring to win over unhappy GOP senators and preserve the teetering measure." Asked "what would happen if the effort fails," Trump said, "Well, I don't even want to talk about it because I think it would be very bad. ... I will be very angry about it and a lot of people will be very upset." When Trump was asked if McConnell can get the bill through the Senate, [The Hill](#) (7/12, Hagen) reports, Trump said, "He's got to pull it off. Mitch has to pull it off. He's working very hard. He's got to pull it off." The [Washington Post](#) (7/12, Wagner) quotes Trump as saying, "I am sitting in the Oval Office with a pen in hand, waiting for our senators to give it to me. ... It has to get passed. They have to do it. They have to get together and get it done." The Post adds that Trump's "urgency" on the matter "stood in sharp contrast to comments last month, when he said that it would be unfortunate if the bill didn't reach his desk but that it would be 'okay.'" Likewise, [Politico](#) (7/12, Tesfamichael) says Trump's comments "stand in contrast to his earlier statement in late June."

Conservatives Threaten To Vote Against Budget Without Tax Reform Details.

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/12, Edgerton) reports that House conservatives "are threatening to vote against a budget deal unless it lays out details of a plan to overhaul the US tax code." House Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows "said the House should cancel or delay the planned August recess until there is agreement on 'a set of principles' for the tax plan that President Donald Trump and congressional leaders have promised since shortly after his election." Among them, he said, should be "a decision on the unpopular border-adjusted tax that House Speaker Paul Ryan defends as a way to pay for cutting corporate and individual rates." Bloomberg calls the request "the strongest message yet that some rank-and-file members want to see the tax plan details before voting to adopt a budget resolution for the next fiscal year – or leaving for August recess."

Meadows Calls For 16 Percent Corporate Tax Rate. [Roll Call](#) (7/12, McPherson) reports that House Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows on Wednesday "present[ed] a third number for Republicans to consider as they seek to rewrite the tax code by year's end," calling for "cutting the corporate tax rate to 16 percent," while the President "has called for a 15 percent corporate rate," and the "House Republican leadership's blueprint calls for 20 percent." Meadows told Roll Call "that a 16 percent corporate tax rate 'helps with base erosion based on the tax rates of other countries.'"

Will Highlights Wyden's Pessimism About Tax Reform. George Will uses his [Washington Post](#) (7/12) column to highlight Sen. Ron Wyden's concerns about the US tax code. But Wyden "is skeptical about fixing much this year," in large part because Republicans appear to "plan to pass tax reform without Democratic votes, under 'reconciliation,' which is inherently partisan." Wyden has "described the tax code as 'a rotting economic carcass,'" but he seems "to be preemptively,

but not prematurely, disappointed about a legislative process that will fall somewhat short" of fixing it.

WSJournal Analysis: Aging Waterway Infrastructure In US Near Breaking Point.

In a 2,000-word analysis, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/12, Maher) reports that decades of underinvestment in US infrastructure have caused damage to much of the nation's network of dams and locks that allow commercial waterway traffic accounting for more than \$70 billion in cargo to be transported annually along the country's 12,000 miles of river. The Journal highlights two major waterways infrastructure projects already underway that the US Army Corps of Engineers views as top priorities for completion – the repair of three locks along the Monongahela River in southwest Pennsylvania and improvements to several locks along the Ohio River near Cairo, Illinois – and emphasizes the potential economic losses should commercial waterway traffic be impeded because of poorly maintained infrastructure.

Tech Giants Join Online Protest Against Net Neutrality Repeal.

[Reuters](#) (7/12, Moon, Shepardson) reports that Twitter, Alphabet Inc., Facebook, Netflix, Amazon and "dozens" of other major technology firms "are participating in an online protest" Wednesday in which more than 80,000 websites "are displaying alerts, ads and short videos to urge the public to oppose the overturn of the landmark 2015 net neutrality rules," which forbid broadband providers from "giving or selling access to certain internet services over others." Supporters of Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai's proposal to repeal net neutrality rules claim that the rules hurt jobs and investment, but opponents argue that repeal would signify "worse internet for consumers and less innovation online." The public has until mid-August to submit comments to the FCC before its final vote.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/12, Puzanghera) reports that participants in the "Internet-Wide Day of Action to Save Net Neutrality" say the protest was "the first major salvo of what they promised would be a long battle" involving the courts, the FCC, and potentially Congress. Commissioner Pai hasn't publicly acknowledged the online protest but assured lawmakers in a letter Tuesday that the FCC's staff would be "on high alert" to ensure that the public comment system on the agency's website did not shut down from the volume of comments.

Conservative Coalition Lobbies Lawmakers To Remove Pentagon Climate Policies.

[Reuters](#) (7/12, Gardner) reports that a coalition of 14 conservative groups urged in a letter to Congress Wednesday that House lawmakers support Rep. Warren Davidson's (R-OH) amendment to the annual National Defense Authorization Act, which "would prevent the Pentagon from implementing climate-change and green energy policies meant to save taxpayers money and protect the planet." In the letter, the groups, which include the Competitive Enterprise Institute, Americans for Prosperity, and Americans for Limited Government, argue that the Obama-era climate policies "are likely to undermine military readiness by diverting scarce resources." Reuters writes that Defense Secretary Mattis "has long been supportive of programs that reduce troops' petroleum dependence." The House of Representatives is scheduled to vote this week on its version of the NDAA, and the Senate version "will follow later this year."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Obamacare Is Not Collapsing, Imploding Or Exploding." The [New York Times](#) (7/13) editorializes, "The biggest lie that President Trump and other Republican leaders have been repeating about the Affordable Care Act for years is that it is collapsing, imploding or exploding." The ACA "is actually working reasonably well, and even the part that has shown the most weakness – the health insurance marketplaces – has been stabilizing." But the White House and GOP "continue to peddle horror stories about the ACA as they try to gather the votes for repeal of major provisions of the law."

"States Fight To Protect Students Of Schools." The [New York Times](#) (7/13, Board) says in an editorial that "states are still fighting the good fight" against for-profit colleges "that saddle students with crushing debt in exchange for degrees that are essentially useless." Earlier this year, the Education Department "abruptly suspended federal rules that allow students who have been defrauded by colleges to have their federal loans forgiven," so 19 states and the District of Columbia took legal action. The Times says that until the department crafts new rules, courts

"should require the department to enforce the rules that are already on the books."

"Help Fix Transit, Mr. De Blasio, And Be A Hero." The [New York Times](#) (7/13, Board) says in an editorial that New York Mayor Bill de Blasio needs to offer the "money and political will" necessary to fix the city's mass transit system.

Washington Post.

"This Is What Makes Russia A Hostile Power." The [Washington Post](#) (7/12) says in an editorial that Russia "is a hostile power" because of President Vladimir Putin's "adherence to, and dependence on, a set of values that are antithetical to what have been, at least until now, bedrock American values. ... His antipathy toward Hillary Clinton was not personality-driven but based on her advocacy of values that would threaten his rule. ... So while the younger Mr. Trump may have seen advantage in accepting Russia's help, Russia certainly would have seen an advantage in proffering it."

"Worried About Trust In Government, Senators? Prove You Deserve It." The [Washington Post](#) (7/12) editorializes that during his confirmation hearing, FBI Director-designate Christopher Wray "bore a special responsibility to assure lawmakers and the public that he would support a fair investigation into the administration of the man who appointed him, resisting any bullying or blandishments." His "testimony Wednesday was encouraging, but it will take more than an FBI director of integrity to restore faith in government."

"There's No Way To Replace Planned Parenthood." A [Washington Post](#) (7/12) editorial takes aim at Republican arguments "accompanying efforts to defund Planned Parenthood" that "other health-care providers would easily absorb the patients left adrift if Planned Parenthood could no longer receive Medicaid reimbursements." The Post argues that "there is no way community health-care centers cited by Republicans as an alternative could fill the gap" and "millions of women would lose access to critical health care."

Wall Street Journal.

"ObamaCare Freedom And Failure Options." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/12) calls a healthcare plan from Sens. Ted Cruz and Mike Lee a good one, but worries that it would shift the bill too far to the right to be able to get 50 votes.

"Richard Cordray's Financial Damage." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/12, Journal) editorializes that President Trump should fire CFPB Director Cordray for "inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office," with the last straw having been the bureau's announcement on Monday that it had finalized a rule banning mandatory arbitration at financial institutions. While the CFPB claims the move is in the interest of consumers, the Journal says resultant class-action suits largely will benefit trial lawyers, provide consumers with few benefits, and saddle financial institutions with such high legal fees that they will be unable to engage in arbitration, which does benefit consumers. The OCC raised concerns this week that the rule will adversely affect the soundness of the federal banking system due to resultant increased litigation costs. The Journal adds that the rule is an obvious violation of the Administrative Procedure Act.

"US Marines And Risk." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/12) writes that Monday's crash of a KC-130 Marine cargo plane illustrates a growing trend – that Marine aviation has recently faced a steady increase in Class A Mishaps, accidents that result in casualties or more than \$2 million in aircraft damage. The Journal notes the increased accident rate in 2015 and 2016 and says some have theorized that the fault lies with a combination of old equipment and reduced pilot hours due to funding cuts. The Journal concludes that, regardless of the reasons, Marines and other service members deserve to fly under safer conditions when conducting routine training and transport.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[FBI Director Nominee Christopher Wray Pledges Independence](#)
[Want A Higher Interest Rate On Your Bank Account? Tough Luck](#)
[China's Booming Housing Market Proves Impossible To Tame](#)
[The Price Dilemma Over A \\$16,000 Drug](#)

Washington Post:

[FBI Pick Vows Independence](#)
[A Chaotic Campaign Pressing To Catch Up](#)
[Last Gasp Of Opposition To Senate Healthcare Bill](#)
[GOP Implodes Gillespie To Hire Trump Strategists](#)
[Abbas Increases Gazans' Pain In Feud With Hamas](#)

Financial Times:

[Yellen Caution On Low Inflation As Fed Plots Rises](#)
[Trump Says Son Is "Innocent" Over Russia Emails](#)
[Google Wins Challenge To €1.1bn French Tax Bill](#)

New York Times:

[F.D.A. Panel Recommends Approval For Gene-Altering Leukemia Treatment](#)
[Conspiracy Or Coincidence? A Timeline Open To Interpretation](#)
[With Glare On Trump Children, Political Gets Personal For President](#)
[An Iceberg The Size Of Delaware Just Broke Away From Antarctica](#)
[Campus Rape Policies Get A New Look As The Accused Get DeVos's Ear](#)
[Ex-President Of Brazil Sentenced To Nearly 10 Years In Prison For Corruption](#)
[Firebrand Hindu Cleric Ascends India's Political Ladder](#)

Washington Times:

[Times' Legislative Activity Index Shows Good Pace For Unified Congress](#)
[Europol Chief Defends EU Counterterrorism Efforts As Battle-Hardened Islamic State Fighters Return](#)
[Conservative Suppression On Campus Turns Parents Away From Colleges](#)
[In FBI Confirmation Hearing, Wray Denies Russia Investigation Is A "Witch Hunt" Of Trump](#)
[Pentagon Intensifies Focus On Missile Defense Reliability After North Korea's Long-Range Advances](#)
[Trump: Putin Wanted Hillary To Win Election To Weaken America](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Jr Email; Russia Meddling Investigation-Russian Lawyer; FBI Director Nominee; Greece-Fatal American Beating; Philadelphia-Missing Men; Severe Weather; Antarctica-Iceberg Break Off; Mystery Shopper Program; Boston Transit-Fire; Leukemia-Gene Therapy; Most Valuable Sports Teams; Broadway Back Stage.

CBS: Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Jr Email; Russia Meddling Investigation-Russian Lawyer; Russia Meddling Investigation-Rep Trey Gowdy; FBI Director Nominee; Ford SUV-Carbon Monoxide Leak; Philadelphia-Missing Men; Antarctica-Iceberg Break Off; Country Music Artist.

NBC: Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Jr Email; FBI Director Nominee; Leukemia-Gene Therapy; Antarctica-Iceberg Break Off; Severe Weather; Opioid Crisis-Naloxone; United Air-New Overbooking Policy; Wimbledon Tournament News; Gymboree Retail Stores Closing; Amelia Earhart Mystery; Workplace-Mental Health.

Network TV At A Glance:

Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Jr Email – 15 minutes, 45 seconds
FBI Director Nominee – 7 minutes, 5 seconds
Antarctica-Iceberg Break Off – 4 minutes, 45 seconds
Philadelphia-Missing Men – 4 minutes
Leukemia-Gene Therapy – 2 minutes, 40 seconds
Weather – 1 minute, 25 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Philadelphia-Missing Men; Trump-Putin Meeting Comment; Healthcare Reform Bill.

CBS: FBI Director Nominee; Trump-Putin Meeting Comment; Philadelphia-Missing Men; Obesity-Prostate Cancer Risk; Antarctica-Iceberg Break Off; Wall Street News.

FOX: Trump-France Visit; Trump-Healthcare Reform Bill; Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Jr Email; FBI Director Nominee; Kid Rock-Senate Running.

NPR: Antarctica-Iceberg Break Off; DNC Leak-Trump Lawsuit; Healthcare Reform Bill; Wall Street News; FIFA Former President Dies.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Arrives in France, for a Bastille Day visit at the invitation of President Emmanuel Macron and holds bilateral meeting.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a listening session with representatives of the Philanthropy Roundtable.

US Senate: 9:00 AM Senate Transportation subcommittee hearing on commercial space / U.S. Govt partnership – Space, Science, and Competitiveness Subcommittee hearing on 'Reopening the American Frontier: Promoting Partnerships Between Commercial Space and the U.S.

Government to Advance Exploration and Settlement', with testimony from NASA Kennedy Space Center Director Robert Cabana; Relativity co-founder and CEO Tim Ellis; SpaceX Senior Vice President for Global Business and Government Affairs Tim Hughes; University of Texas at Austin Cockrell School of Engineering Associate Professor of Aerospace Engineering and Engineering Mechanics Dr Moriba Jah; and Nanoracks CEO Jeffrey Manber Location: Rm 253, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

9:00 AM 'Family friendly' protest event on Capitol Hill calling for 'climate action' – Annual 'Play-In for Climate Action' rally and press conference on Capitol Hill, organized by Moms Clean Air Force, with hundreds of moms and their children focusing on 'the need to address climate change and air pollution' and demanding climate solutions such as renewable energy and limits on greenhouse gas emissions. Speakers include Democratic Sens. Jeff Merkley and Sheldon Whitehouse, Republican House members of the Climate Solutions Caucus, actress Megan Boone ('The Blacklist', 'Noticiero Telemundo' correspondent Vanessa Hauc, and Native rights activist and environmentalist Casey Camp-Horinek * Following the event, the families and kids meet their corresponding Members of Congress Location: Upper Senate Park, Washington, DC www.momscleanairforce.org <https://twitter.com/CleanAirMoms>

9:30 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on the 2017 Trafficking in Persons Report – Hearing on 'Review of the 2017 Trafficking in Persons Report', with testimony from Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan; and State Department Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Ambassador-at-Large Amb. Susan Coppedge Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

9:30 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations of John Kenneth Bush to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit; Kevin Christopher Newsom to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit; Damien Michael Schiff to be a U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judge; Timothy Kelly and Trevor McFadden to be U.S. District Judges for the District of Columbia; Jeffrey Bossert Clark to be Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division; Beth Ann Williams to be Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Policy; and John Huber to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Utah (reappointment) Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

9:30 AM Senate HELP Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Patrick Pizzella to be Deputy Secretary of Labor; and Marvin Kaplan and William Emanuel to be National Labor Relations Board members Location: Rm 430, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

9:30 AM Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on 'malign Russian influence on Europe' – Hearing on 'Attempted Coup in Montenegro and Malign Russian Influence in Europe', with testimony from Montenegro Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Nebojsa Kaludjerovic; Center for European Policy Analysis Senior Fellow Janusz Bugajski; Center for Strategic and International Studies International Security Program Senior Fellow Lisa Sawyer Samp; and Atlantic Council Executive Vice President Damon Wilson Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Agriculture Committee hearing on the 2018 Farm Bill – Hearing on 'Opportunities in Global and Local Markets, Specialty Crops, and Organics: Perspectives for the 2018 Farm Bill', with testimony from Clarkson Grain Company President and COO Dr Kenneth Dallmier; Wholesum Harvest Vice President of Operations Theojary Crisantes, Jr.; The Common Market Director Haile Johnston; Black Gold Farms CEO Eric Halverson; and U.S. Meat Export Federation Executive Committee Member Dean Meyer Location: Rm 328A, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://agriculture.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Fed Chair Yellen presents Monetary Policy Report to Senate Banking Committee – Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs hearing on 'The Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress', with testimony from Federal Reserve Board Chair Janet Yellen

Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.federalreserve.gov>
<https://twitter.com/federalreserve>

10:00 AM Dem Sens. Tom Carper, Debbie Stabenow, Ben Cardin, Tammy Duckworth, and Cory Booker host roundtable on drinking water – Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works Ranking Member Tom Carper and fellow Democratic Sens. Debbie Stabenow, Ben Cardin, Tammy Duckworth, and Cory Booker co-host roundtable on ‘Drinking Water: A Crisis in Every State’, hearing from drinking water experts Elin Betanzo (Safe Water Engineering), Mary Beth Haller (Baltimore City Health Department), Chris Sturm (New Jersey Future), Dr Marc Edwards (Virginia Tech), and Joaquin Esquivel (California State Water Resources Control Board) on contamination in the nation’s drinking water infrastructure and funding priorities leading up to a larger infrastructure debate that is facing the Senate Location: Rm 406, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/latest-updates-democratic>

10:15 AM Nominations hearing considers Kevin McAleenan to be Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Location: Rm 215, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://finance.senate.gov>

10:30 AM Markup hearing on ‘Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018’ Location: Rm 106, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

2:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

2:00 PM Transportation Secretary Chao testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on FY’18 budget – Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on ‘Review of the FY2018 Budget Request for the U.S. Dept. of Transportation’, with testimony from Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao Location: Rm 192, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

4:00 PM ZEE Entertainment honors FCC Chairman Pai – ZEE Entertainment National Leadership Award presented to Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai, at a reception gathering Members of Congress, diplomats, FCC and administration staff, think tanks, and leaders from the cable, broadcast, internet, and telecommunications industries Location: Rm 2044, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.zeetelevision.com/>
<https://twitter.com/ZEECorporate>

GOP Sen. Mitch McConnell releases updated version of controversial health care reform proposal – Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell introduces updated health care reform legislation, two weeks after he dropped plans for a vote on the original Better Care Reconciliation Act due to a lack of support from a number of members of his party * The original bill, controversially drafted by the chamber’s Republicans through closed-door meetings, featured some changes from the American Health Care Act which had previously passed the House of Representatives by four votes, but a number of Senate Republicans still expressed concerns over various aspects of the proposal, which would likely have been opposed by all the chamber’s Democrats. Despite the updates, reportedly including maintaining Obama-era tax increases on high-earners, analysts have suggested the bill may still lack sufficient support to pass Location: TBD www.republicanleader.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/SenateMajLdr>

US House: 9:00 AM Closed markup hearing on ‘H.R. 3180, Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018’ Location: HVC-304, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseIntelComm>

9:00 AM ‘Family friendly’ protest event on Capitol Hill calling for ‘climate action’ – Annual ‘Play-In for Climate Action’ rally and press conference on Capitol Hill, organized by Moms Clean Air Force, with hundreds of moms and their children focusing on ‘the need to address climate change and air pollution’ and demanding climate solutions such as renewable energy and limits on greenhouse gas emissions. Speakers include Democratic Sens. Jeff Merkley and Sheldon Whitehouse, Republican House members of the Climate Solutions Caucus, actress Megan Boone (‘The Blacklist’, ‘Noticiero Telemundo’ correspondent Vanessa Hauc, and Native rights activist and environmentalist Casey Camp-Horinek * Following the event, the families and kids meet their corresponding Members of Congress Location: Upper Senate Park, Washington, DC www.momscleanairforce.org <https://twitter.com/CleanAirMoms>

9:30 AM Bipartisan Reps. Patrick Meehan and Marcia Fudge discuss REACH Act – Republican Rep. Patrick Meehan and Democratic Marcia Fudge host a press conference to ‘urge’ passage of the Report and Educate About Campus Hazing (REACH) Act, legislation they have introduced that addresses hazing on college campuses. Other speakers include former Sen. Richard Lugar, Penn State University Provost Nick Jones, and Gary and Julie DeVercelly – parents who lost their son in

a 2007 hazing incident Location: House Triangle, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC
meehan.house.gov <https://twitter.com/repmeehan>

9:30 AM House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee joint oversight hearing on VA processing of Gulf War illness claims – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee and Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee joint oversight hearing on 'Examining VA's Processing of Gulf War Illness Claims', with testimony from Veterans Benefits Administration Compensation Service Senior Advisor Bradley Flohr; Washington VA Medical Center Occupational Health Clinics Chief Patrick Joyce; Government Accountability Office Director of Education, Workforce and Income Security Melissa Emrey-Arras; The American Legion Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation Division Deputy Director for Claims Zachary Hearn; Veterans of Foreign Wars National Veterans Service Deputy Director Michael Figlioli; and Veterans for Common Sense National Board Chair and Director Anthony Hardie + written submissions from National Gulf War Resource Center; Paul Sullivan; Denise Nichols; and Kirt Love Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

9:30 AM GOP Rep. Ed Royce keynotes SID discussion on 'Successful Public-Private Partnerships for Africa's Energy Future' – Society for International Development Washington, DC Chapter Institutional Member event, featuring discussion on 'Power Africa and Successful Public-Private Partnerships for Africa's Energy Future', with keynote from Republican Rep. Ed Royce. Other panelists include USAID Power Africa Coordinator Andrew Herscovitz and NRECA International Senior VP Dan Waddle Location: Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.sidw.org/> <https://twitter.com/SIDWashington>

10:00 AM House Agriculture subcommittee hearing on the future of farming – General Farm Commodities and Risk Management Subcommittee hearing on 'The Future of Farming: Technological Innovations, Opportunities, and Challenges for Producers' Location: Rm 1300, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://agriculture.house.gov/>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee oversight hearing on trust land acquisition practices – Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'Comparing the 21st Century Trust Land Acquisition with the Intent of the 73rd Congress in Section 5 of the Indian Reorganization Act', with testimony from Acting Deputy Secretary of the Interior James Cason; United South and Eastern Tribes President Kirk Francis; Ledyard, CT, Mayor Fred Allyn III; and attorney at law Donald Mitchell Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM Tax Policy Subcommittee hearing on 'How Tax Reform Will Help America's Small Businesses Grow and Create New Jobs' Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

10:00 AM House Small Business subcommittees joint hearing on Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act – Contracting and Workforce Subcommittee and Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access Subcommittee joint hearing on 'The Puerto Rico Oversight, Management, and Economic Stability Act: State of Small Business Contracting', with testimony from Government Accountability Office Director of Financial Markets and Community Investment William Shear; and Small Business Administration Associate Administrator for Government Contracting and Business Development Robb Wong Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

10:00 AM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on 'impact of bad patents' – Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet Subcommittee hearing on 'The Impact of Bad Patents on American Businesses', with testimony from Mapbox's Tom Lee; former U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit Chief Judge Paul Michel; The Clearing House Senior Vice President and Associate General Counsel Sean Reilly; and Engine President of the Board of Directors Julie Samuels Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM House Appropriations Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'FY 2018 Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Bill' and 'FY 2018 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill' Location: Rm 2359, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on al-Qaida – Counterterrorism and Intelligence Subcommittee hearing on 'The Persistent Threat: al Qaeda's Evolution and Resilience', with testimony from American Enterprise Institute Research Fellow Katherine Zimmerman; Institute for the Study of War Lead Intelligence Planner Jennifer Cafarella; and RAND Corporation International Security and Defense Policy Center Director Dr Seth Jones Location: HVC 210, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov

<https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

10:00 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on impact of the 'Fiduciary Rule' on capital markets – Capital Markets, Securities, and Investment Subcommittee hearing on 'Impact of the DOL Fiduciary Rule on the Capital Markets', with testimony from 1st Global President David Knoch; Transamerica Senior Director and Head of Industry and Regulatory Strategy Mark Halloran; Janney Montgomery Scott Private Client Group President Jerome Lombard; AARP Director of Financial Security and Consumer Affairs Cristina Martin Firvida; and American Action Forum President Dr Douglas Holtz-Eakin Location: Rm 2128, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Education subcommittee hearing on early childhood programs – Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee hearing on 'Opportunities for State Leadership of Early Childhood Programs' Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:00 AM Environment Subcommittee markup hearing on 'H.R. XXXX, the Drinking Water System Improvement Act of 2017' Location: Rm 2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

11:30 AM Conversations with Conservatives event – Conversations with Conservatives session, with Republican Reps. Andy Biggs, Dave Brat, Matt Gaetz, Paul Gosar, Morgan Griffith, and Thomas Massie meeting traditional press and bloggers to discuss issues of the day * Chaired by Reps. Raul Labrador, Jim Jordan, and Mark Meadows Location: Rm 2247, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://jordan.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/conversations#CWC115>

12:00 PM House debates FY'18 National Defense Authorization Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including continued consideration of 'H.R. 2810 – National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

1:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on FY'18 budget for 'U.S. interests in the Middle East and North Africa' – Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee hearing on 'America's Interests in the Middle East and North Africa: The President's FY 2018 Budget Request', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Stuart Jones; and USAID Acting Assistant Administrator for the Middle East Maria Longi Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

1:00 PM Dem Rep. John Yarmuth participates in House Summer Intern Lecture Series – Democratic Rep. John Yarmuth addresses group of Congressional interns as part of the House of Representatives' Summer Intern Lecture Series Location: Capitol Visitor Center, Washington, DC yarmuth.house.gov <https://twitter.com/RepJohnYarmuth>

2:00 PM House Ways and Means Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 3178, Medicare Part B Improvement Act of 2017', 'H.R. 3168, To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide continued access to specialized Medicare Advantage plans for special needs individuals, and for other purposes', and 'H.R. 1843, Restraining Excessive Seizure of Property through the Exploitation of Civil Forfeiture Tools Act' Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

2:00 PM Counterterrorism and Intelligence Subcommittee hearing on 'The Terrorist Diaspora: After the Fall of the Caliphate' Location: HVC 210, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

2:00 PM House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee oversight hearing on 'VA productivity and efficiency' – Health Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'Maximizing Access and Resources: An Examination of VA Productivity and Efficiency', with testimony from Grant Thornton Principal C. Sharif Ambrose; Government Accountability Office Director of Health Care Randall Williamson; HCA Healthcare Chief Medical Officer Dr Jonathan Perlin; Veterans Health Administration Deputy Under Secretary for Organizational Excellence Carolyn Clancy; and Veterans Integrated Service Network 10 Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center Chief of Staff Murray Altose Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

3:00 PM State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee markup hearing on FY 2018 Appropriations Bill Location: Rm 2362-A, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

4:00 PM ZEE Entertainment honors FCC Chairman Pai – ZEE Entertainment National Leadership Award presented to Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai, at a

reception gathering Members of Congress, diplomats, FCC and administration staff, think tanks, and leaders from the cable, broadcast, internet, and telecommunications industries Location: Rm 2044, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.zeetelevision.com/>
<https://twitter.com/ZEECorporate>

4:30 PM House Appropriations subcommittee markup hearing – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee markup hearing on FY 2018 Appropriations Bill Location: Rm 2358-C, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

Future Space Leaders Foundation annual event on Capitol Hill – Future Space 2017: Future Space Leaders Foundation annual one-day event on Capitol Hill, covering cross-cutting issues in space and raising grant funds to support educational programs and networking opportunities for graduate students and young professionals Location: Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://www.futurespaceleaders.org> https://twitter.com/Space_Leaders

Other: 8:00 AM GOP Rep. Jeb Hensarling and Dem Sen. Debbie Stabenow speak on the 'Economy in 2017' – Axios and NBC host discussion on the 'Economy in 2017', with House Financial Services Committee Chairman Rep. Jeb Hensarling and Democratic Sen. Debbie Stabenow speaking with NBC 'Meet the Press' Moderator Chuck Todd and Axios CEO Jim VandeHei Location: AJAX, 1011 4th St. NW, Washington, DC www.axios.com
<https://twitter.com/axios>

8:20 AM Bicameral, bipartisan legislators participate in panel discussion on tax reform for family caregivers – The Hill hosts 'The Cost of Caring: Family Caregivers and Tax Reform' panel discussion, exploring the cost of family caregiving and the approach Congress is likely to take, as well as examining cost-benefit ramifications and discussing the latest in tax reform negotiations taking place on Capitol Hill. Participants include Democrats Sen. Tammy Baldwin and Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham, and Republicans Sen. Joni Ernst and Rep. Dan Donovan * Event sponsored by AARP Location: The Liaison Capitol Hill, 415 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, DC thehill.com <https://twitter.com/TheHillEvents> #CostofCaring

9:00 AM Brookings annual John Hazen White Forum on Public Policy – Brookings Institution Governance Studies annual John Hazen White Forum on Public Policy, 'Manufacturing under the Trump administration'. Conference discusses the future of manufacturing policy under the Trump administration, discussing the administration's activities and proposals for this sector of the economy. Panelists include Democratic Rep. David Cicilline, Taco President and CEO John White, Jr., and reporters Michelle Jamrisko (Bloomberg News), Timothy Aepfel (Reuters), and Nancy Marshall-Genzer (Marketplace) * Annual forum convenes leaders from academia, business, and govt to discuss and identify solutions to the nation's most pressing challenges Location: Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu>
<https://twitter.com/BrookingsGov>

2:00 PM Cabinet members discuss annual Social Security and Medicare Trustees Reports – Board of Trustees of the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds Managing Trustee Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin and Trustees Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta, Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price, and Social Security Administration Acting Commissioner Nancy Berryhill outline the 2017 report to Congress, via press briefing * Press conference followed by pen-and-pad staff briefing Location: U.S. Department of The Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.treas.gov <https://twitter.com/USTreasury>

3:00 PM 'School Vouchers and Segregation: Past, Present and Future' discussion at CAP Action Fund – Center for American Progress Action Fund holds 'School Vouchers and Segregation: Past, Present and Future' discussion, with panelists discussing the new CAP issue brief 'The Racist Origins of Private School Vouchers', which looks at the segregationist policies and actions that led to the implementation of one of the first voucher systems in the country, and addressing 'current voucher programs that have led to inequities along racial and socioeconomic lines, as well as various voucher schemes proposed by President Donald Trump and Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos'. Democratic Rep. Bobby Scott delivers opening remarks, with panelists including American Association of School Administrators Executive Director Daniel Domenech, The Century Foundation Senior Fellow Richard Kahlenberg, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Chair Catherine Llamon, and Virginia Foundation for the Humanities African American Programs Director Justin Reid Location: American Federation of Teachers, 555 New Jersey Ave NW Washington, DC www.americanprogressaction.org <https://twitter.com/CAPaction>

6:30 PM Future Tense hosts 'My Favorite Movie' with Dem Rep. Ted Lieu – Future Tense hosts 'My Favorite Movie' with Democratic Rep. Ted Lieu, with a screening and discussion of 'Ex Machina' Location: 555 11th St, NW, Washington, DC <http://www.newamerica.org/>
<https://twitter.com/NewAmerica>

GOP Rep. Paul Ryan speaks at Maverick PAC Leadership Dinner – Leadership Dinner held ahead of Mavericks Conference 2017, hosted by Maverick PAC. Speakers include House Speaker Paul Ryan and fellow Republicans Sen. Lindsey Graham and Reps. Mike Gallagher and Trey Hollingsworth * Open to Chapter Leaders and Chairman’s Circle Members Location: Washington, DC www.maverickpac.com <https://twitter.com/mavpac>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: “One thing President Trump definitely did watch was his son Jr.’s interview with Sean Hannity last night on Fox News. Trump said his son was open, transparent, and innocent. That’s three lies in four words. That’s 75 percent, a new record.”

Stephen Colbert: “Donald Trump Jr. is quickly rising to the ranks of America’s most embarrassing Donald Trumps.”

Stephen Colbert: “So with his agenda in tatters, with his White House paralyzed, in turmoil, and with his family in disgrace, the President did the right thing and headed to France tonight.”

Trevor Noah: “Most people, including many prominent conservatives, have agreed that Donald Trump Jr. clearly colluded with the Russians. I know they’re all walking around pretending like we didn’t know what collusion is.”

Trevor Noah: “The first event tonight: the Hillary Deflection, where participants do all they can to take away attention from Don Jr. back to last year’s nominee.”

Trevor Noah: “Last year, the Republicans entered into power with a clear agenda: repeal Obamacare, pass tax reform, and spend on infrastructure. After six months in power, they’ve got nothing to show for it, sort of like Ben Carson in a rap battle.”

Conan O’Brien: “Today, President Trump tweeted that his son, Donald Jr., is, quote, ‘open, transparent, and innocent.’ Open, transparent, innocent. Which is why President Trump is now demanding a paternity test.”

Conan O’Brien: “According to friends of Donald Trump Jr., back in college he was a blackout drunk, so he does have a long history of meeting with white Russians.”

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DOI In The News

Belle Isle Gets \$750K For Walking Trails, Renovation.

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (7/19) reports that the Interior Department and the National Park Service is "giving \$750,000 to renovation and develop walking trails on Detroit's Belle Isle." The funds were "awarded to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, which manages Belle Isle, through the federal Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership program." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "Every kid deserves the opportunity to get outside and play. Whether it's downtown Detroit or rural Wyoming, investing in public lands is an investment in communities."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Detroit \(MI\) News](#) (7/19, Rahal) and [WDIV-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (7/19, Block).

Duluth Gets \$750,000 Grant To Refurbish Lincoln Park. The [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (7/19, Myers) reports that the Interior Department "on Wednesday announced a \$750,000 grant to the city of Duluth to help refurbish recreational facilities in Lincoln Park." The project will "improve playgrounds, basketball courts, disc golf and handicapped-accessible trails that federal officials hope will encourage local residents to be more active." The federal grant was "part of \$13.3 million doled out Wednesday to 22 cities in 17 states."

Additional coverage was provided by [WDIO-TV Duluth \(MN\)](#) Duluth, MN (7/19) and [KQDS-](#)

[TV Duluth \(MN\)](#) Duluth, MN (7/19, Lentz).

Burlington Gets \$500K To Build Park At Lake Champlain. The [AP](#) (7/20) reports that "Vermont's congressional delegation says the city of Burlington is getting a \$500,000 federal grant to help create a new park on the Lake Champlain waterfront." The funds from the National Park Service "will help the city acquire 12 acres (4 hectares) of land along Lake Champlain to develop the park and, eventually, a trail connecting two other park properties."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Burlington \(VT\) Free Press](#) (7/19), [Vermont Business Magazine](#) (7/19), and [WCAX-TV Burlington \(VT\)](#) Burlington, VT (7/19, Liguori).

Duluth Gets \$750,000 Grant To Refurbish Lincoln Park. The [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (7/19, Myers) reports that the Interior Department "on Wednesday announced a \$750,000 grant to the city of Duluth to help refurbish recreational facilities in Lincoln Park." The project will "improve playgrounds, basketball courts, disc golf and handicapped-accessible trails that federal officials hope will encourage local residents to be more active." The federal grant was "part of \$13.3 million doled out Wednesday to 22 cities in 17 states."

A 1930s Campground Will Be Revived In Gwynns Falls Park. The [Baltimore Sun](#) (7/19, Wells) reports that "a 1930s-era campground in Gwynns Falls Park will be revived with a \$750,000 grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior announced Wednesday." The campground, "which is adjacent to the Cahill Recreation Center and the Jastrow Levin picnic grove, was a Girl Scout camp in the early 20th century, said Richard S.B. Smith, the director of Friends of Orianda House, a historic mansion in the park."

Grant Aids Funding For Clary-Shy Park Expansion. The [Columbia \(MO\) Missourian](#) (7/19, Lagore) reports that "a \$400,000 grant from the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership program will be gifted to the city of Columbia to help fund the Clary-Shy Park Urban Demonstration Farm project."

Chavis Park: Ice Rink, Stage, Water Play Area With \$747,600 Federal Grant. The [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (7/19, Bennett) reports that the Interior Department "announced on Wednesday \$747,600 that will go to North Carolina for improvements at Central Plaza at John Chavis Memorial Park in Raleigh." According to the article, "the Central Plaza revitalization project for the park includes a water play area, seasonal ice rink, stage area and concrete amphitheater seating."

With Finances In Disarray, City Of Hartford Gets Park Grant. [Connecticut Public Radio](#) (7/19, Skahill) reports that the Interior Department and the National Park Service have "selected Hartford as the beneficiary of a \$750,000 grant."

Anchorage Gets Federal Grant To Develop Muldoon Park. The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (7/19, Zak) reports that the Interior Department and the National Park Service "on Wednesday announced a grant of \$750,000" to Anchorage "toward the development of Muldoon Town Square Park."

Outdoors Roundtable Meets With Interior Secretary.

[Trade Only](#) (7/19) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and "members of Congress met with the Outdoor Recreation Industry Roundtable at the Interior Department on Tuesday to discuss how public-private partnerships can improve visitor experiences on public lands and waters." The meeting was "followed by a showcase of American-made outdoor recreation equipment — including boats, RVs, off-road vehicles and fishing gear — as part of "Made in America Week" in Washington, D.C."

The [BDOutdoors](#) (7/19) reports that Boat Owners Association of The United States sat down with Zinke at the Tuesday event in Washington "to discuss his agency's support for maintaining boating infrastructure and growing access to federal waters." Zinke's "interview with BoatUS was part of a coalition of outdoor recreation industry associations that met with him to highlight the economic importance of outdoor products and the enjoyment they bring American families." In the interview, Zinke "made clear his advocacy for expanded access to federal public lands and waters and improving infrastructure at many of the aging facilities."

Additional coverage was provided by [RVBusiness](#) (7/19).

Report Details Administration Regulator Rollback Efforts.

The [New York Times](#) (7/19, Eder) reports that the White House has released its first report on its regulatory rollback efforts, "claiming that during President Trump's first five months in office it had brought about savings for the economy rather than impose regulatory costs." According to the report, "President Obama's agencies accrued \$3.1 billion in regulatory costs during the same period at the start of his administration." In addition, the Administration "said it was ahead of

schedule in implementing President Trump's pledge to eliminate two regulations for each new one on the books."

The [Washington Post](#) (7/19, Paletta) says OMB plans "to release a list of rules it plans to weaken or eliminate" on Thursday. Regulations on the list "will run the gamut from significant policy measures to minor procedural measures, said Neomi Rao, who heads the White House's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs." While Trump "has promised to jettison 80 percent of all federal regulations," Thursday's list "will fall far short of that." However, Rao "said the process is expected to intensify even further later this year."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (7/19), the [AP](#) (7/19, Boak), [Reuters](#) (7/19, Mason), and [Forbes](#) (7/19).

Trump Names Alaskan To Interior Department Post.

The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (7/19, Martinson) reports that President Trump has "nominated Joseph Balash, Alaska Sen. Dan Sullivan's chief of staff, to head the interior, land and mineral management office at the Department of the Interior." Balash is an Alaskan who previously served as commissioner and deputy commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources before heading to Washington, D.C., to work in the U.S. Senate." He "also worked for two Alaska governors and in several positions with the state legislature."

Additional coverage was provided by [KTUU-TV](#) Anchorage, AK (7/19).

In The Push To Deliver On Campaign Promises, Interior's Energy Drive Looms Large.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/19, Eilperin) reports that "with control over more than 500 million acres of public land and hundreds of millions of acres offshore, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is moving rapidly to promote American production of coal, oil and gas." The Post adds, "in the past few weeks alone, Zinke has lowered the price companies must pay the government for offshore drilling; acted to accelerate approval for onshore drilling permits; approved exploratory drilling in the Arctic's Beaufort Sea; and scheduled lease sales on Western lands the Obama administration had deemed off limits."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (7/19, Hatch) and [WBIR-TV Knoxville \(TN\)](#) Knoxville, TN (7/19, Crowe).

Creating Memorial For War On Terror Before It's Over Gains Support In Washington.

The [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) (7/19, Mauriello) reports that "a Pittsburgh veteran's monumental effort to memorialize his comrades' sacrifices is gaining traction in Congress." Andrew Brennan's "quest to ensure veterans of the Global War on Terror have a memorial in Washington D.C." started five years ago. The article notes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke supports the legislation.

Will Zinke Undo Protections For The West's Most Iconic Bird?

The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (7/19, Wiles) reports that "just over two weeks remain in the Department of Interior's review of sage grouse management plans that span 10 Western states." In early June, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "ordered the review to ensure the plans adhere to President Donald Trump's 'America First' vision for energy development and give more say to states in how the bird is managed." The article notes that "the review comes despite the completion of 98 different sage grouse plans in 2015 that took five years to negotiate."

Additional Coverage : Trump Is Safe To Reduce The Size Of National Monuments.

Additional coverage of the review of national monuments was provided by the [Inside Sources](#) (7/19, Wardle), the [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (7/20), the [Ashland \(OR\) Daily Tidings](#) (7/20), the [Idaho Mountain Express](#) (7/19), the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (7/19, Olsen), [Hawaii Public Radio](#) (7/19, Yoshioka), and the [Windham County \(VT\) Commons](#) (7/19).

I'm A Scientist. I'm Blowing The Whistle On The Trump Administration.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (7/19), Joel Clement, who served as director of the Office of Policy Analysis at the Interior Department until last week, and is now a senior adviser at the department's Office of Natural Resources Revenue, calls himself "a whistleblower on an administration that chooses silence over science." Writing that he is "one of about 50 senior department employees" who were involuntarily reassigned, Clement argues that he was "retaliated against for speaking out publicly about the dangers that climate change poses to Alaska Native communities." Clement adds that he has filed a complaint with the Office of Special

Counsel “because the Trump administration clearly retaliated against me for raising awareness of this danger.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (7/19, Henry) and [NPR](#) (7/19, Rott).

At Interior, Foxes Now Run The Hen House.

In a piece for the [Huffington Post](#) (7/19, Greenwald, Contributor), Noah Greenwald, Endangered Species Director, Center for Biological Diversity, writes that the Trump Administration has been “quietly staffing the Department of the Interior, which oversees protection of more than 1,500 of the nation’s most endangered species and millions of acres of public lands, with the worst cast of anti-environmental, corporate stooges in history.” Greenwald calls out the conservation records of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, David Bernhardt, nominated as deputy secretary for Interior, and Susan Combs, nominated as Interior’s assistant secretary for policy, management and budget. He also calls the appointments of Todd Willens and Greg Sheehan “lousy.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Dr. Gavin Clarkson Appointed To New Role With Bureau Of Indian Affairs.

The [Gardnerville \(NV\) Record Courier](#) (7/19) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced this month “he had appointed Dr. Gavin Clarkson, a citizen of The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, as the new Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Economic Development-Indian Affairs, within the Office of the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs, a supervisory position for the Offices of Indian Energy and Economic Development, Indian Gaming and Self-Governance.” Zinke said, “Dr. Gavin Clarkson’s expertise in the areas of law, finance and economic development are a valuable asset to the Department of the Interior and the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs as we work together with tribes to increase economic opportunity and promote self-determination throughout Indian Country.” Clarkson assumed the position on June 11.

10th Circ. Backs Nixing Of NM Tribal Road Dispute.

[Law360](#) (7/19, Westney) reports that “the Tenth Circuit on Wednesday upheld the dismissal of a suit by New Mexico landowners over a Bureau of Indian Affairs letter that supported the San Ildefonso Pueblo’s right to deny them the use of roads leading to their property, saying the group didn’t raise a dispute that the court could settle.”

California Governor Signs Sacramento County Casino Compact.

The [AP](#) (7/19) reports that California Gov. Jerry Brown announced Wednesday “he has signed a tribal-state gaming compact with the Wilton Rancheria tribe.” The federal government has “granted the tribe permission to control 36 acres” for a casino project.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (7/19, Chang, Kasler) and the [Elk Grove News \(CA\)](#) (7/19).

Bureau Of Land Management

Congressional Panel Permits Culling Of Wild Horses.

[USA Today](#) (7/19, Sullivan) reports that “a congressional committee Tuesday night authorized the ‘humane euthanization’ — some called it ‘extermination’ — of what many acknowledge is a large and unsustainable population of wild horses and burros on public land in the West.” The House Appropriations Committee “voted to remove language from the Interior Department’s budget that would have prohibited ‘the destruction of healthy, unadopted wild horses and burros in the care of’ the Bureau of Land Management or its contractors.” The author of the amendment, Rep. Chris Stewart, R-Utah “stressed that it did not make the horses available for sales that would result in their ‘processing as commercial products, including for human consumption.’”

The [Denver Post](#) (7/19, Mcghee) reports that Suzanne Roy, director of the American Wild Horse Campaign said, “Let’s be clear: House Appropriations Committee members just signed a death warrant for America’s mustangs and it will lead to the wholesale destruction of these irreplaceable national treasures.” She added, “It’s being spun as ‘euthanasia’ but it’s really license to kill tens of thousands of healthy wild horses and burros.”

9th Circ. Affirms BLM Win In Enviros’ Sage-Grouse Suit.

[Law360](#) (7/19, Sieniuc) reports that “the Ninth Circuit on Tuesday tossed an environmental group’s suit alleging the Bureau of Land Management didn’t properly study how proposed fencing and pipeline projects running through eastern Nevada might hurt sage-grouse in the area before it signed its approval, saying the BLM has met the standard for a legal environmental review.”

BLM Open House In Craig Will Discuss Roads And Trails.

The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (7/19) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is “hosting an open house July 25 in Craig to discuss preliminary alternatives for managing roads and trails on 370,000 acres of BLM-administered lands in Moffat County.” The Little Snake Field Office in northwestern Colorado is “undertaking a comprehensive, multi-year look at the roads and trails it manages to address current and future needs.” Little Snake Field Manager Bruce Sillitoe said, “We developed these preliminary alternatives after asking the public last winter about how they are currently using the roads and trails in this area, and what they would like to see in the future. We want feedback on these preliminary alternatives before we begin the detailed analysis in an environmental assessment.”

Congress, Don’t Let Logging Industry Decide Fate Of American Forests.

For the “Pundits” blog of [The Hill](#) (7/19, Super, Contributor), David A. Super, professor of law at Georgetown Law, criticizes Rep. Bruce Westerman’s Resilient Federal Forests Act as “extreme legislation” that “would give logging interests virtual absolute primacy in setting forestry policy, to the exclusion of others that depend on our forests.” Super warns that “the reckless logging likely to follow would do serious damage to the forests’ natural ecology.” According to Super, “turning our forests into political battlefields is likely to produce a boom-and-bust cycle that is uneconomical for industry, chaotic for local communities, and ruinous for hikers, trout enthusiasts, hunters, and wildlife.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Bay State Clears BOEM Hurdle.

[reNews](#) (7/18) reports that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has “approved the site assessment plan for the 1GW Bay State offshore wind farm off the Massachusetts coast.” The project, “which is being developed by a joint venture between Dong Energy and Eversource, will be located 15 nautical miles south of Martha’s Vineyard.” The decision “paves the way for the developers to deploy a WindSentinel floating lidar to measure wave and wind speeds in the project’s lease area.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Pittsfield \(MA\) Berkshire Eagle](#) (7/19), [Recharge News](#) (7/19), [North American Windpower](#) (7/19, Lillian), and [Offshore Wind](#) (7/19).

Gulf Of Mexico Survey Will Explore Potential Of Offshore Wind.

The [Offshore Wind Journal](#) (7/19, Foxwell) reports that “the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in the US will conduct a survey to determine if the region can transform 50 years of offshore manufacturing and deployment expertise into a thriving offshore renewables industry.” Funded by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, “the project will examine the feasibility of potential offshore energy resources in the Gulf of Mexico.” The Department of Energy’s Wind Vision Report “aims to install 86 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind by 2050, with the Gulf Coast playing a large role.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Renewables Now](#) (7/19, Kim).

Group Criticizes Hurdle Congressman Added For Offshore Wind.

The [AP](#) (7/19) reports the Maryland Climate Coalition “is criticizing an amendment added to legislation by U.S. Rep. Andy Harris that they say could stop two offshore wind proposals near Ocean City.” The group said yesterday that “the amendment approved by the House Appropriations Committee this week would prohibit the Interior Department from approving project construction plans, despite six years of debate and approval by state lawmakers and regulators.” The AP adds “the amendment blocks federal funding for reviews of plans to put turbines less than 24 nautical miles from land, where they would be visible from shore.”

Martin County To Receive 1 Million Cubic Yards Of Sand.

[TC Palm \(FL\)](#) (7/19, Broadt) reports that “by mid-2018, Martin County is to receive up to 1

million cubic yards of sand from an offshore federal sand site, according to an agreement signed earlier this week." The agreement, "between the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the Army Corps of Engineers and the county, authorizes using the sand to renourish a 4-mile stretch of shoreline on south Hutchinson Island." The project aims "to restore the beach profile following damages from Hurricane Matthew in October and to reduce future erosion."

Bad Plan For Arctic Drilling.

The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (7/20) editorializes that that "despite bans on offshore oil exploration in the Arctic, the Trump administration has cleared the way for drilling to start as early as December in Alaskan waters where environmentalists say a spill would threaten marine life, polar bears and birds, and be nearly impossible to clean up. It is a terrible plan." The paper argues that "Trump's decision to support Arctic drilling was as rash as his plan to open the Atlantic Coast to oil exploration and drilling in the face of strong community opposition." It concludes that "there is no upside to risky drilling."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Closed Meetings Lead To Mistrust.

The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (7/18) editorializes that "mistrust is the one of the best reasons for all governments to remember to operate openly and with transparency." Santa Fe County "fell short last week in agreeing to keep the public out of meetings to discuss road disputes with four area pueblos." According to the paper, "the people perhaps most affected – property owners in disputed areas – did not get to participate." It urges Santa Fe County to "do more to inform citizens what is happening." The editorial says that "a good first step would be to hold an informational meeting on what took place in these closed meetings."

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

LAGCOE 2017 Announces Topics Of Keynote Presentations.

The [World Oil](#) (7/19) reports that LAGCOE, "a nonprofit energy industry organization focused on educational programs and organizer of a leading technical exposition and conference, has announced the details of the opening and keynote presentations to be delivered at LAGCOE 2017, held Oct. 24-26 in Lafayette, La., USA." Of note, "on Tuesday, October 24, 'BSEE's Role in Fostering Secure and Reliable Energy Production from the Outer Continental Shelf' will be presented by Scott Angelle, director, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), Department of the Interior."

The U.S. Is Not Ready To Clean Up An Arctic Oil Spill.

[Scientific American](#) (7/19, Waldman) reports Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Paul Zukunft spoke at a Washington symposium hosted by the US Arctic Research Commission and warned that the US is not ready to clean up an Arctic oil spill. Zukunft "said that the challenges of cleaning up the BP PLC Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010 in the Gulf of Mexico – where the conditions were much more favorable – show the extreme difficulty of Arctic oil spill recovery." [Maritime Executive](#) (7/19) reports Zukunft "drew on his experience as the federal on-scene coordinator during the Deepwater Horizon response to predict the likely outcome of an Arctic spill."

Fish And Wildlife Service

GOP Takes Aim At Reforming Endangered Species Act.

[The Hill](#) (7/19, Cama) reports that "Congressional Republicans launched efforts Wednesday aimed at reforming the Endangered Species Act to make it more friendly for states, landowners, industry and others." According to the article, "the debates in the House and Senate were on bills with specific, limited purposes, not the full-scale comprehensive reforms that Republicans and some industries have been craving." Nonetheless, Republicans "made it clear that they want to make significant changes to the law that they see as outdated, ineffective and unnecessarily costly for states and land users." On the other hand, Democrats "see the proposals as significant threats to a bedrock environmental law and a handout to industries, including oil and natural

gas.”

The [AP](#) (7/19, Daly) reports that “five bills were being considered by the House panel, and a sixth bill was being heard in the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.”

Environmental groups “called the simultaneous hearings a ‘one-two punch’ on threatened wildlife.” Jamie Rappaport Clark, president and CEO of Defenders of Wildlife, said, “While nine out of ten Americans want to protect endangered species and their habitat, Congressional leaders are spending their time dismantling the ESA in favor of special interests. Enactment of any of these bills will only hasten the disappearance of endangered and threatened species from our planet.”

[E&E Publishing](#) (7/19, Doyle) reports that the Fish and Wildlife Service “backed ‘in general’ a package of Republican-authored Endangered Species Act reform bills that critics contend would gut the 1973 law.” However, “in a sign of negotiations to come, the agency’s acting director advised lawmakers that certain ‘technical modifications’ are still needed to meet specific concerns.” Fish and Wildlife Service acting Director Greg Sheehan said, “My goal as the acting director of the service is for the organization to be a better neighbor and partner to the states.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/19, Daly), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/19, Daly), the [Daily Nonpareil \(IA\)](#) (7/19, Daly), the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (7/19, Daly), the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (7/19, Daly).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Huffington Post](#) (7/19, D’angelo), the [Huffington Post](#) (7/19, D’angelo), the [Japan Times](#) (7/19), and [Agri-Pulse](#) (7/19, Davies).

Minnesota Gets Money For Bat Research.

The [International Falls \(MN\) Daily Journal](#) (7/19, Beager) reports that “Minnesota is among 37 states to receive grants from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to help combat white-nose syndrome.” The grants “bring the total funding to states for WNS response over the last eight years to \$7 million.”

Texas Receives Grant To Prevent Local Bats From Disease-causing Fungus. [KXAN-TV](#) Austin, TX (7/19, Ferrari) reports that “Texas has received a \$30,000 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in hopes to aggressively monitor affected bats, prevent” white-nose syndrome, “and eventually find a treatment.”

Court Ruling Paves Way For Purple Line Construction To Begin.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/19, Shaver) reports that a federal appeals court reinstated the Purple Line’s environmental approval, allowing Maryland to “begin building the Purple Line while a lawsuit opposing it continues.” The ruling will make it possible for Maryland “to secure \$900 million in federal grants for the line’s \$2 billion construction.” Construction on the line could begin within a few weeks. However, the article notes that a “key issue remains” over “whether the U.S. Department of Transportation will consider the ruling to provide enough legal certainty to sign a multiyear funding agreement with the state for nearly \$1 billion in federal aid.”

The [Washington Business Journal](#) (7/19, Gilgore) and the [AP](#) (7/19) similarly report on the story.

WPost: Ruling Gives Way For DC-Area’s “Most Important” New Transit Link. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/19) writes that reinstatement of the environmental approval for the Purple Line signals a potential resurrection of what could be “the Washington area’s most important new transit link.” The court order “gives the state of Maryland a fighting chance at reclaiming \$900 million in federal funding for the Purple Line that was blocked at the 11th hour by US District Judge Richard J. Leon.” The Post concludes by noting that the lawsuit blocking the Purple Line “will continue for now,” but that regardless of the legal dispute, the Purple Line “would provide an enormous convenience to tens of thousands of daily commuters and a means of revitalizing aging neighborhoods in its path.”

No-wake Zones Proposed For Refuge Backwaters.

The [Havasu \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (7/19, MESSICK, WALTERS) reports that “a new proposal being floated by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service establishes a series of no-wake and restricted zones throughout Havasu National Wildlife Refuge backwaters.” The proposal released Wednesday is “a compromise, according to Refuge Manager Richard Meyers, after public outcry against stricter proposals in 2016.” While the FWS “has some restrictions in mind for Refuge boaters, Meyers says those restrictions will do little to obstruct recreational boating in the Refuge or on the Colorado River.”

Wolf Plan Gets Skeptical Greeting At Flagstaff Meeting.

The [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (7/19, Cowan) reports that “federal wildlife managers in charge of a new draft recovery plan for the endangered Mexican gray wolf received a barrage of questions during a public meeting Tuesday night that suggest the plan still has many skeptics.” According to the article, “many people during the three hour event in Flagstaff asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to defend both its wolf population targets as well as provisions in the newly released plan that limit the wolves to an area south of Interstate-40 in Arizona, New Mexico and Mexico.” Meanwhile, “others questioned the more than \$7 million a year the recovery program is expected to cost and pushed for more local input when it comes to decisions on how to deal with wolves that have threatened livestock.”

House Of Horrors: Inside The US Wildlife Repository.

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (7/20, Milman, Staver) reports that “the National Wildlife Property Repository, operated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), is a warehouse of the macabre.” According to the article, “there are about 1.5m items at the repository, with approximately 200 specimens arriving each week for storage and education purposes.” Coleen Schaefer, the repository’s supervisor, said, “The US is a big player in all this, you can’t get around that. We are a consumer nation. We aren’t the source country of rhinos, or tigers or elephants, but they are here and they wouldn’t be unless someone was importing them.”

Portions Of Hilton Head Beaches Are Roped Off To Protect Piping Plovers, And Will Be Until 2021.

The [Hilton Head Island \(SC\) Packet](#) (7/19, Kincaid) reports that “a federally protected shorebird is at the center of a dispute between some Port Royal Plantation residents and Hilton Head town officials over access to a large chunk of beach.” According to the article, “more than nine acres of beach encompassing the north end of the plantation and a small island next to Fish Haul Creek and Mitchelville Beach Park have been roped off with twine and ‘Area Closed’ signs to protect the piping plover.” Melissa Chaplin, “a U.S. Fish and Wildlife official working with the town, said Wednesday the federal agency is considering creating an access point to give Port Royal Plantation residents an easier way to get to the beach, though a final decision hasn’t been made.”

Rare Floodplain Forest At Fannie Stebbins Wildlife Refuge In Longmeadow To Get 2-year, \$400K Restoration.

The [Springfield \(MA\) Republican](#) (7/19, White) reports that “starting this summer and for the next two years, The Nature Conservancy, the leading conservation organization in the world, will be restoring the floodplain forest at the Fannie Stebbins Wildlife Refuge on the banks of the Connecticut River in the area of Longmeadow known as The Meadows.” The project will “restore 223 acres of the refuge – including reforesting seven old farmers’ fields comprising 32.2 acres – and is expected to cost approximately \$400,000, funded by the Natural Resources Conservation Service, a division of the United States Department of Agriculture.”

Kate MacFall: Time To Speak Up For Florida Panther.

In an op-ed for [Florida Politics](#) (7/19, McFall), Kate McFall, Florida State Director of the Humane Society of the United States, urges Floridians to comment on the review of the endangered status of the Florida panther. According to MacFall, “this U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service review comes at a time when panther deaths on Florida roads are outpacing the number of documented panther births.” MacFall wants to “let the federal government know we value Florida’s wild heritage and we want our panthers protected.”

National Park Service

House Passes DeSaulnier’s Bill To Expand John Muir Site.

The [Martinez \(CA\) News-Gazette](#) (7/19, Weilenman) reports that the House has passed Rep. Mark DeSaulnier’s bill “that would expand the John Muir National Historic Site.” DeSaulnier’s legislation, HR 1719, “would add 44 acres of donated land to the park to improve access and preserve the land for future generations.” Sen. Kamala Harris has “introduced similar legislation in the Senate.”

Angus King, Park Service At Odds Over Bill Protecting Clamming, Harvesting In Acadia National Park.

[WMEA-FM](#) Portland, ME (7/19, Leary) reports that the National Park Service is “criticizing legislation sponsored by independent U.S. Sen. Angus King of Maine that’s intended to protect traditional intertidal clamming and worm harvesting in Acadia National Park.” King “told a hearing of the National Parks subcommittee that his bill is simply designed to make sure traditional uses of the park by Maine wormers and clammers can continue.” However, Robert Vogel, acting deputy director of the National Park Service, “testified that the Park Service wants to limit uses to current levels and allow the secretary of the interior to develop rules to protect the park from overuse by mechanical harvesting devices and by expansion of harvesting to other crops.”

Pork-Barrel Spending Surging Despite Earmark Ban, ‘Pig Book’ Says.

[Fox News](#) (7/19, Weber) reports that “pork-barrel spending is surging despite a roughly five-year-old moratorium on so-called earmarks, according to the annual ‘Pig Book’ report released Wednesday.” The report “calls out special projects that receive billions of dollars thanks to Capitol Hill lawmakers who tuck the funding – which critics call ‘pork’ – into appropriations bills.” The article notes that “among them in fiscal 2017 was \$10.3 million to support 49 National Heritage Areas under the National Park Service.” Additional coverage was provided by the [McClatchy](#) (7/19, Siripurapu).

California Wildfire Forces Thousands To Evacuate, Threatens Power In Yosemite.

The [AP](#) (7/19, Newman) reports that “a wildfire in Mariposa County, California, doubled in size between Sunday and Tuesday, forcing 4,000 residents to evacuate and threatening the power supply to Yosemite National Park, according to local fire officials.” The article says that “since igniting Sunday, the Detwiler fire has burned across more than 45,000 acres of land west of the national park and is only 7 percent contained, the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, announced Wednesday.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/19, Branson-Potts, Rocha) reports that “the conflagration has made for a hazy few days in Yosemite, where roaring waterfalls aided by a record-setting wet winter have drawn legions of tourists.” The fire “knocked out power in Yosemite National Park for several hours Tuesday, but crews were able to restore service at 11 p.m., said Denny Boyles, spokesman for Pacific Gas & Electric Co.”

Trump Initiative Changes Name Of V.I. National Park To ‘Caribbean National Parks’, Upsetting Local Leaders.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (7/19) reports that Senate President Myron Jackson on Wednesday “encouraged concerned residents to attend a public meeting to discuss the sudden reorganization and name change of the Virgin Islands National Park.” Jackson said, “The possible change of name of the Virgin Islands National Park to the Caribbean National Parks and news that superintendents will be located in Puerto Rico is unacceptable in this day and age. This centennial year should be about revisiting the Virgin Islands Park System in addressing the cultural resources, community values, heritage and land issues of the Virgin Islands. Why were we not consulted as a community? Why has the Governor or the Delegate not addressed the community on this drastic change?”

National Parks Service Cleans Up Crookes Point.

The [Staten Island \(NY\) Live](#) (7/19, Bascome) reports that Sen. Charles E. Schumer announced Wednesday that the National Park Service “-- in response to a letter he sent earlier this month – cleaned up all of the litter at Crookes Point and will continue to monitor the area over the next six weeks.” The NPS was “helped by members of the Summer Youth Employment Program.” Schumer said, “Now that NPS has heeded my call, Staten Islanders can once again put their toes in the sand at Crookes Point without worrying what’s underneath. As a local gem, and a critical habitat for marine life and a great spot for fishing, Crookes Point must continue to be properly maintained by the feds.”

Possible World War II Era Unexploded Ordnance Found Near Hatteras Island.

[WTKR-TV](#) Norfolk, VA (7/19) reports that “a potential World War II era unexploded ordnance was found in a remote area near Hatteras Island, the National Park Service announced.” The National Park Service “located the ordnance Tuesday and contacted the U.S. Navy.” The article notes that “this is the second unexploded ordnance found in the Outer Banks in the last six days.”

Area At New River Gorge Closing To Prepare For Upgrades.

The [AP](#) (7/20) reports that “the Grandview Sandbar and River Access Area of New River Gorge National River will close for a few days to prepare for upgrades.” The National Park Service “says the area will be closed from noon Sunday until 7 a.m. July 28 while park staff and workers prepare the area for a service project with Boy Scouts during the 2017 National Scout Jamboree.” The NPS said “that the troops will work with staff to convert and upgrade two picnic areas to accessible design standards.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

Counting Breadfruit Trees From Outer Space.

The [Samoa Observer](#) (7/19, Feagaimaali'i-Luamanu) reports that “a Hawaiian student from Kapiolani Community College, Mervin Tano, has been accepted by the 2017 N.A.S.A. Summer Research Experience for Tribal College Undergraduates.” According to Papali'i Dr. Tusi Avegalio, Director of the Pacific Business Center Programme at the University of Hawai'i, Manoa, “Mervin's project will take the Pacific Business Center Program (P.B.C.P.), titled the ‘Pacific Regional Breadfruit Initiative’ (P.R.B.I.), to a higher level.”

Bringing The Pacific Into View For Chinese Tourists.

[Loop Pacific](#) (7/19) reports that “Pacific Trade Invest (PTI) China has teamed up with China's leading Travel Channel to Im a US\$350,000 series of promotions of Pacific Island destinations that will go to air later this year.” “PTI China's Beijing based Tourism Manager Vivienne Song organised an itinerary for the film crew that has included Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, Tonga, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and Samoa, supported by the National Tourism Organisations in each country.”

Additional Coverage: FSM Has Increased Efforts To Combat Human Trafficking, More Work To Be Done, Report Says.

Additional coverage that “for the fourth year in a row, the U.S. State Department has ranked efforts by the Federated States of Micronesia to combat the despicable crime of human trafficking as better but still plenty of room for improvement” was provided by [Marianas Variety](#) (7/19).

To Save My Island Homeland, Large Nations Must Do More To Combat Climate Change: Hugh Sealy (Opinion).

In an op-ed for the [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (7/19, Sealy), Hugh Sealy, a professor in the Department of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at St. George's University in Grenada, writes that “small island nations the world over are at risk of seeing their economies – and their lands themselves – wash away” from climate change. He argues that “it's perverse and unjust to force small island nations to pay for the climate sins of the developed world.” Sealy concludes that “without aggressive action, however, global warming could soon leave many island economies – and, indeed, entire nations – submerged.”

US Geological Survey

New App Shows Exactly Where Houston Is Sinking.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (7/19, Baddour) reports that the U.S. Geological Survey on Wednesday unveiled “a web portal displaying 40 years worth of Houston-area data on subsidence, or sinkage of the ground, which has become a major factor guiding the development of Houston in recent decades.” The data, “covering the years 1977 to 2016, shows the substantial recovery of groundwater levels since governmental action was taken to limit their decline.” Sachin Shah, USGS chief of Gulf Coast hydrologic studies and research, said, “This is the first time that groundwater and subsidence data have been put together to illustrate the story of what is happening to our land and water resources in the region. The ability to explore, visualize and compare how groundwater levels are changing over time in an easily accessible and uniform format is a tool that we hope will effectively communicate this information to area cooperators, stakeholders and the public.”

Top National News

Trump Tells Senators To Stay In Washington Until They Pass A Healthcare Bill.

Coverage of President Trump's meeting with Republican senators at the White House on Wednesday highlights what it sees as the President's reversals on repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act over the past few days. Analyses also indicate that a late revival of the Senate legislation – that appeared dead earlier this week – remains unlikely. Most reports also note the President's public pressuring of Sen. Dean Heller, who faces a tight reelection race next year.

Anthony Mason opened the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/19, lead story, 2:50) by reporting that the President "invited Republican senators to the White House today for lunch and served up healthy portions of pressure. He urged them to pass a healthcare bill before they leave Washington for their summer recess. The President reminded senators that they and he had promised to replace Obamacare, and said, 'I intend to keep my promise, and I know you will, too.'" CBS' Nancy Cordes reported that Trump "even issued this veiled threat to Dean Heller of Nevada, who was seated conveniently to his right." Trump: "Look, he wants to remain a senator, doesn't he? And I think the people of your state, which I know very well, I think they're going to appreciate what you hopefully will do." Cordes: "But the President himself has sent mixed messages. In the last 24 hours, he's promoted repeal and replace, repeal alone, and doing nothing."

Lester Holt said in the lead story on [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/19, lead story, 2:30) that Trump, "who only 24 hours ago was willing to let government healthcare die a slow death, performed a head-snapping turnabout today...effectively ordering CPR on a bill that fractured Republicans fear may be beyond saving." Trump: "We shouldn't leave town until this is complete, until this bill is on my desk. We're very close." NBC's Hallie Jackson: "They're not. Not right now. But President Trump's pushing them back to 'Plan A' again." Trump: "I think the people of this country need more than a repeal. They need a repeal and a replace." Jackson also noted Trump's comment about Heller, a "jab couched as a joke," and said that Trump made "an about-face. Monday's message, repeal and replace...turned into repeal now, replace later that night. But by Tuesday..." Trump: "We'll let Obamacare fail." Jackson: "Now today." Trump: "We have no choice. We have to repeal and replace."

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/19, story 5, 3:00), which did not lead with the story, David Muir said the President brought Senate Republicans to the White House, "issuing a new order: Do not leave Washington until you come up with a new plan to repeal and replace Obamacare. But then the White House was asked, is the President promising the same himself? Will he stay in Washington until it happens too?" ABC's Mary Bruce: "The White House says the President is willing to stay in town so long as senators are right here on the Hill and working on healthcare." ABC also carried the comment about Heller.

The [AP](#) (7/19, Werner, Fram) reports that Trump, "lecturing fellow Republicans...told them face-to-face they must not leave town for their August recess" without sending him a bill to sign. The President "spoke at length as he cajoled, scolded and issued veiled threats to his fellow Republicans, all aimed at wringing a health care bill out of a divided caucus that's been unable to produce one so far." The AP reports that "Heller gave a strained grin" when Trump made his comment about him, while [Bloomberg News](#) (7/19, Pettypiece, Litvan) reports that Trump "directed some joking but pointed remarks to the senators whose opposition sunk" Senate Majority Leader McConnell's plan. The President referred to Sens. Mike Lee and Jerry Moran as "my friends, they really were and are, they might not be very much longer."

The [New York Times](#) (7/19, A1, Sullivan, Haberman) reports Trump "vigorously defended an all-but-dead" Senate healthcare bill, "pressing Republicans to stay in Washington and improve the proposal or risk being tagged as supporting the current system." The Times calls it "a stark turnabout from earlier this week" and "a pep talk that could have been more effective in the last several days as Republican leaders desperately sought support." The [Washington Post](#) (7/19, A1, Nakamura) writes that Trump is "hoping to avoid a humiliating political defeat," and "appeared to issue a veiled threat that he would campaign against Republicans who stood in his way." [Townhall](#) (7/19, Pavlich) similarly reports that "the President also sent veiled warnings to vulnerable senators" like Heller "by joking about his chances of being re-elected in 2018."

The [New York Times](#) (7/19, Qiu) reports that Trump's remarks included "several falsehoods." The Times says the President "conflated data about health care premiums, selectively chose the largest increases, and falsely suggested they were representative," made "misleading claims that the Senate bill will 'substantially lower premiums,'" and "falsely said that people with pre-existing medical conditions will have 'better' coverage" than under the ACA.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/19, A1, Radnofsky) reports that Trump and the White House say

a bill can still be passed. Earlier Wednesday, Trump [tweeted](#), "I will be having lunch at the White House today with Republican Senators concerning healthcare. They MUST keep their promise to America!" He then [tweeted](#), "The Republicans never discuss how good their healthcare bill is, & it will get even better at lunchtime. The Dems scream death as OCare dies!"

Kellyanne Conway said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (7/19) that Wednesday's lunch "showed the President at his finest. It is real leadership to go in and to say, 'I want you to stay in Washington and do your job.' ... The President said, 'I have been here six months. You have been here for seven years, promising in four consecutive election cycles to repeal and replace Obamacare.' The President has done his job. He ran successfully on repealing and replacing Obamacare. The House bill got passed and he is waiting...in his office, pen in hand, ready to sign it."

The [Washington Times](#) (7/19, Persons) reports that ex-Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski "expressed full confidence Wednesday that the health care repeal bill will pass." Lewandowski said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (7/19), "I think this bill is probably going to get done. ... I know the President. I know he's a deal-maker, I know he's going to do whatever it takes to get this done."

But congressional correspondent Phil Mattingly said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/19) that Trump is "desperately deploying a last-minute pressure play on Republican senators to revive the all but dead Obamacare repeal effort," and Charles Krauthammer said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (7/19), "I think the chances of a resurrection are rather small. If it succeeded, it would be the most spectacular since Lazarus."

The [Washington Times](#) (7/19, Boyer) reports under the headline "Trump Delivers Ultimatum To GOP On Health Care Bill" that "a combative President Trump implored Republican senators Wednesday not to go on their summer recess until they vote on a bill to repeal and replace" the ACA. [The Hill](#) (7/19, Fabian) headlines its report "Trump Plays Hardball On ObamaCare Repeal." Karl Rove writes in his [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/19) column that though conservatives are right that the measure would not solve all of the ACA's problems, their refusal to support the McConnell bill serves only to leave bad policy intact. The [New York Post](#) (7/19, Fredericks) and the [CNN](#) (7/19, Merica, Lee) website also report on the meeting.

Trump Says Obama Lied About ACA. The [Washington Times](#) (7/19, Boyer) reports, "In unusually strong language about his predecessor, President Trump called President Obama a liar" during the Wednesday meeting. Trump said, "Obamacare was a big lie You can keep your doctor? Lie. You can keep your plan? Lie." [Breitbart](#) (7/19, Spiering) reports that Trump continued, "It was a lie, directly from the President. Twenty-eight times, he said it. Twenty-eight times."

McConnell: Senate Will Hold Procedural Vote Next Week. [The Hill](#) (7/19, Fabian) reports that after the White House meeting, McConnell "insisted the Senate will take a procedural vote next week to move toward ObamaCare repeal." But it is "unclear whether that will lead to a vote on ObamaCare repeal, with Republicans putting off a plan to replace the healthcare law, or a vote on the Senate's ObamaCare repeal-and-replace legislation, which had seemed dead days ago." The [New York Times](#) (7/19, Hulse) writes, "The Republican health care push was declared dead Wednesday morning. By afternoon it had a breath of life. Legislation in Washington can assume Frankenstein-like qualities."

[Reuters](#) (7/19, Zargham) reports that McConnell said, "I think we have two options here, I think we all agree it's better to both repeal and replace, but we could have a vote on either, and if we end up voting on repeal only, it will be fully amendable on the Senate floor, and if it were to pass without any amendment at all, there's a two-year delay before it kicks in...so the takeaway from what I'm telling you is no harm is done from getting on the bill."

HHS Analysis: Cruz Amendment Would Lower Premiums. [Politico](#) (7/19, Cancryn) reports that an [HHS analysis](#) of Sen. Ted Cruz's proposal "to let insurers sell plans that don't comply with Obamacare regulations appears to back up" Cruz's claim "that the idea would lower premiums across the individual insurance market. But the internal report relies heavily on a so-called proprietary model that offers little insight into its calculations." The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/19, Ferrechio) also covers the analysis of the Cruz proposal.

Grassroots Conservatives Blaming Senate, Not Trump. [McClatchy](#) (7/19, Clark) writes that even if Trump's "personal intervention" does not "revive the seemingly dead" GOP effort, he is "unlikely to take the fall for its collapse." GOP senators are instead "taking aim at their own for the bill's malaise," while "grassroots conservatives are furious at the senators who have blocked the bill." David Weigel of the [Washington Post](#) (7/19) writes that "pundits and outside groups cast senators as 'traitors' if they did not deliver a victory for the president. ... On the right, the final repeal push has been framed as a rematch of Trump's 2016 victory – a chance for Republicans to go with their president, or reveal themselves as sellouts." The [Washington Times](#) (7/19, Miller)

reports that “blue-collar voters across the Rust Belt” primarily fault the “Washington establishment” for Trump’s failure to advance legislation.

Senate Leadership May Offer \$200 Billion In Assistance To States That Expanded Medicaid. [The Hill](#) (7/19, Bolton) reports that Senate Republican leaders “are getting ready to propose giving \$200 billion in assistance to states that expanded Medicaid, according to a person familiar with internal Senate negotiations,” with the goal of winning over Heller and fellow Sens. Shelley Moore Capito, Lisa Murkowski, and Rob Portman. A McConnell spokesman “declined to confirm or deny the pending offer, as has been the leader’s practice of not commenting on negotiations.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/19, King, Ferrechio) reports that “the offer has not flipped any ‘no’ votes yet.”

House Freedom Caucus Pushing Vote On Clean Repeal. [Politico](#) (7/19, Cheney, Bade) reports, “House conservatives are launching a late effort to force their colleagues to vote on an outright repeal of Obamacare.” The House Freedom Caucus “will jump-start a process intended to force the measure...to the floor as early as September.” Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC), who chairs the caucus, said, “There’s no reason we should put anything less on President Trump’s desk than we put on Obama’s. President Trump wants to sign repeal – it’s time Congress send it to him.”

Trump Says He Wouldn’t Have Appointed Sessions Had He Known About Recusal.

In what the [New York Times](#) (7/19, Baker, Schmidt, Haberman) says is a “remarkable public break with one of his earliest supporters,” President Trump said in an [interview](#) with the Times on Wednesday that he would not have appointed Attorney General Sessions if he has known Sessions “would recuse himself from overseeing the Russia investigation that has dogged his presidency, calling the decision ‘very unfair to the president.’” Trump “complained” that the decision “ultimately led to the appointment of a special counsel that should not have happened.” Said Trump, “Sessions should have never recused himself, and if he was going to recuse himself, he should have told me before he took the job and I would have picked somebody else.”

Trump Also Criticizes Rosenstein. The [New York Post](#) (7/19, Perez) reports that Trump also said in the interview that “he doesn’t like” Deputy Attorney General Rod “Rosenstein — simply for the fact that he’s from Baltimore.” The Post says the Times describes Trump as having been “‘irritated’ to learn where the former federal prosecutor earned his chops before landing in Washington.” Trump “‘expressed discontent’ with Rosenstein,” and “reportedly claimed that Rosenstein — who was born in Philadelphia and worked in Baltimore as a federal prosecutor — had been playing both sides when it came to the firing of former FBI Director James Comey back in May.”

Rosenstein Indicates He Disapproved Of Comey Leak. The [Washington Post](#) (7/19, Zapotosky) reports that in an interview with [Fox News](#), Rosenstein “suggested he did not approve of former FBI director James B. Comey engineering a leak of information about a request from the president to shut down the bureau’s probe into former national security adviser Michael Flynn.” Asked if “it would ‘ever be proper’ for the FBI director to ‘make notes of a conversation in that regard and leak them to the press,’” Rosenstein said, “As a general proposition, you have to understand the Department of Justice. We take confidentiality seriously, so when we have memoranda about our ongoing matters, we have an obligation to keep that confidential.”

White House Downplays Second Trump-Putin Meeting While Democrats Attack. Media coverage continues to focus heavily on Trump’s previously undisclosed second meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the G-20 summit. While many reports cast the White House as denouncing the coverage and downplaying the significance of the meeting, the coverage continues to be negative for the Administration and Democratic lawmakers remain vocal in their criticism. [USA Today](#) (7/19, Jackson) reports that Administration officials on Wednesday “denounc[ed] news coverage” of the meeting. Deputy press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said, “Once again, the Russian fever has caught up with the media.” The [Washington Post](#) (7/19, Phillip) says Sanders “played down the controversy” over the second meeting, saying, “It would be incredibly awkward for them to all be at a dinner and not speak with each other.” Sanders would not “say what was discussed.”

New York Times White House correspondent Maggie Haberman, who [interviewed](#) Trump on Thursday, said on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (7/19) that Trump said the second conversation with Putin lasted only 15 minutes. However, noting that “Ian Bremmer, the columnist and consultant who revealed the meeting, said it lasted nearly an hour,” the [AP](#) (7/19, Lederman) says in an analysis that a meeting of that length “is unlikely to have been limited to casual chit-chat.” Margaret Brennan said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/19, story 2, 2:35, Mason) that while the White House “pointed out that President Obama also huddled with Vladimir Putin and the

same Kremlin translator," Obama "was accompanied by his National Security Adviser Susan Rice for this 2015 conversation" and "no US official was with President Trump for his chat."

Former Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (7/19), "There is nothing there. ... All of a sudden this is a secret meeting? There is nothing secret when there are 40 people at the dinner."

Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (7/19), "We talk about America – this was Made in America week here at the White House – they get to talk about Russia, Russia, Russia again. But, this one is really over the top. ... Any description of this as an undisclosed secret second furtive meeting is complete nonsense. That was part of the public schedule. This is what leaders do, they talk to each other. ... This is just another attempt to bring Russia into the conversation." Deputy assistant to the President Sebastian Gorka said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (7/19) that the story is "a massive nothing burger." Gorka added, "Can I tell you how we react to these stories in the White House, we love it. You know why? Because it's just an indicator of one thing: They are desperate."

Democrats, however, continued criticizing the meeting. Sen. Tim Kaine said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (7/19) that the meeting is "troubling because last week we heard we're going to hear everything, now we're going to be completely transparent but as John McCain once said... 'I guess there's more shoes to drop off this centipede.' It seems there's always another shoe to drop." Rep. Eric Swalwell, a member of the Intelligence Committee, said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/19) that the meeting "fits the pattern of what we've seen with Donald Trump, his campaign, his businesses and their ties with Russia. And it goes something like this: you hold secret, undisclosed meetings with Russia, you deny or not acknowledge they exist, only when confronted with overwhelming evidence do you attempt to explain it, and now it goes to the very top." Rep. Jackie Speier said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (7/19), "I think it was very poor judgment. And, again, added with everything else we know about the Putin/Trump bromance, it raises lots of questions."

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/19) argues that "the problem is not so much that he sought out Mr. Putin for an informal chat," but "the deeply troubling and unresolved questions about his relationship with Russia, which mean that any such contact raises serious — and understandable — concerns." The Post adds that the larger issue is "the epidemic of mistrust Mr. Trump has created about his ties to Russia, which sensationalizes contacts that might otherwise be unremarkable."

That sentiment is reflected in a comment by Fox News media analyst Howard Kurtz on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/19). According to Kurtz, it is "hard to fathom how a conversation in full view of the 18 world leaders and their spouses gets billed as a shadowy secret meeting. When it comes to this president, many news outlets don't give him the benefit of the doubt."

Breitbart: CNN's Cillizza Became "A Fake News Purveyor" With Article On Trump. Under the heading "Very Fake News Scandal Erupts Again: CNN's Cillizza's Latest Attack On Trump Debunked By His Own Network," Matthew Boyle – writing for [Breitbart](#) (7/19) – said, "The very fake news scandal engulfing CNN just erupted again on Wednesday afternoon as CNN's Chris Cillizza [published](#) demonstrably fake news. What's more, Cillizza's significant mistake ropes two more CNN anchors – Kate Bolduan and Brooke Baldwin – into the very fake news scandal touching nearly every single person at CNN." Boyle said, "The fake news from Cillizza specifically was meant to rebut President Trump's attacks on the fake media after the nothing story about a supposed extra, previously unreported "meeting" with Russian president Vladimir Putin at the recent G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany." However, "Cillizza made a number of inaccurate statements himself – thereby becoming a fake news purveyor."

Trump Jr., Kushner, Manafort To Testify Before Senate Next Week. [Politico](#) (7/19, Cheney) reports that Donald Trump Jr., Jared Kushner, and Paul Manafort are scheduled to appear on Capitol Hill next week "in the highest-stakes hearings yet on Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election." The [New York Post](#) (7/19, Fears) says Kushner "will testify privately before the Senate Intelligence Committee" on Monday, while Trump Jr. and Manafort "will testify publicly before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Wednesday." Senior White House correspondent Cecilia Vega said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/19, story 4, 1:40, Muir) that Kushner will likely "face tough questions about his meetings with Russian officials during the transition, meetings he did not initially disclose on security clearance applications," as well as "that Trump Tower meeting with Donald Trump Jr. two weeks after Mr. Trump became the Republican nominee."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/19, Siegel) reports that the committees and Mueller "are believed to be focusing on Kushner's interactions with Russian officials as part of investigations

into Moscow's election interference." In addition, investigators are "likely to focus on Kushner's failure to initially disclose some of these conversations on his security clearance application." [Reuters](#) (7/19) reports that senators are expected to question Trump Jr. and Manafort "about allegations Russia meddled in the 2016 U.S. presidential election and possible collusion with the Trump campaign." Vega also said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/19, story 4, 1:40, Muir) that representatives for Trump Jr. and Manafort "confirmed they have received these invitations, but their appearances are not confirmed." [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/19, story 3, 0:35, Holt) also reported on next week's expected testimony, as does [The Hill](#) (7/19, Williams).

Brianna Keilar reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/19) that Glenn Simpson, "one of the people who hired a former British spy to write what has now become an infamous dossier" about President Trump, will testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee next week.

Cyprus Records Show Manafort Debt To Pro-Russian Interests. The [New York Times](#) (7/19, McIntire) reports that financial records filed last year in Cyprus indicate that Manafort "had been in debt to pro-Russia interests by as much as \$17 million before he joined Donald J. Trump's presidential campaign in March 2016." Manafort kept bank accounts in Cyprus "during his years working in Ukraine and investing with a Russian oligarch." The Times says the records "were certified as accurate by an accounting firm as of December 2015, several months before Mr. Manafort joined the Trump campaign, and were filed with Cyprus government authorities in 2016." A spokesman for Manafort "did not address whether the debts might have existed at one time," but "maintained that the Cyprus records were 'stale and do not purport to reflect any current financial arrangements.'"

Source Says Trump Jr. Is "Miserable" With His Father In White House. [People](#) (7/18, Westfall) reports that Trump Jr. has been "long outshone by his sister," Ivanka who, along with her husband, Jared Kushner, has a West Wing office and a White House title, "has had a harder time adapting to life after the election." People cites a friend of Trump Jr. and his brother Eric who said the brothers "hate their role as First Sons: 'Eric and Don, they never wanted this.'" People quotes "a source in their circle," as saying, "Don can't do any deals, because he'll be overly scrutinized. He just goes to work every day and is miserable."

Veselnitskaya Says She Would Give Senate Testimony. Natalia Veselnitskaya, the Russian lawyer who met with Trump Jr. last year, said in an interview with the Russian government-funded television network RT that "she would testify before the Senate in order to 'clarify' what had happened during the meeting, the Associated Press reported," [USA Today](#) (7/19, Estepa) reports. Veselnitskaya said, "I am ready to clarify the situation behind the mass hysteria, but only through lawyers or testifying in the Senate. ... If the Senate wishes to hear the real story, I will be happy to speak up and share everything I wanted to tell Mr. Trump." Jessica Schneider reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/19) that Veselnitskaya said that "she's happy to disclose details about her meeting with Donald Trump Jr. if she gets a guarantee her family will stay safe."

Free Beacon Analysis: Power A Key Figure In Obama Unmasking Probe. The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (7/19, Kredo) reports that the involvement of former UN Ambassador Samantha Power "in the unmasking by former Obama administration officials of sensitive national security information is raising red flags over what insiders view was an attempt by the former administration to undermine President Donald Trump and key figures on his team." The Examiner cites "multiple sources" who say Power "appears to be central to efforts by top Obama administration officials to identify individuals named in classified intelligence community reports related to Trump and his presidential transition team." The House Intelligence Committee "has issued subpoenas for Power and other top Obama administration figures, including former national security adviser Susan Rice, as part of congressional efforts to determine the source of these leaks."

Wasserman Schultz Will Allow Investigators To Scan Her Laptop. [Fox News](#) (7/19, Weber) reports on its website that former DNC Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz "is expected to start cooperating with federal investigators in a separate cybersecurity case, after months of apparent stonewalling." Wasserman Schultz "plans to allow federal investigators to scan a laptop belonging to her as part of a complex probe into allegations of computer theft, over-billing and possible email hacking."

Kelly: States "Nuts" For Not Seeking Election Security Help. [Politico](#) (7/19, Toosi) reports that during the opening session of this year's Aspen Security Forum, DHS Secretary Kelly said states are "nuts" if they are not seeking federal help in protecting their election systems from hackers. Kelly said, "All of the input I get from all of the states are 'We don't want you involved in our election process' ... I think they're nuts if they don't [seek help. But] if they don't want the help,

they don't have to ask."

Mook, Rhoades To Lead Harvard Anti-Election Hacking Initiative. The [Washington Times](#) (7/19, Blake) reports that Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign manager Robbie Mook and Mitt Romney's 2012 campaign manager Matt Rhoades "will co-lead a Harvard initiative aimed at safeguarding the nation's elections from future cyberattacks." Mook and Rhoades "will join the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard Kennedy School's newly established 'Defending Digital Democracy' (DDD) Project as 'fellows and co-leaders,' the center announced Tuesday."

Gore Urges Democrats To Hold Off On Treason Accusations. [The Hill](#) (7/19, Kurtz) reports in its "In The Know" blog that former Vice President Al Gore said that Democrats should "wait" until Mueller concludes his investigation before suggesting that Trump committed treason. Gore said, "Anything having to do with the investigation, I think people ought to wait for Bob Mueller to conduct his investigation."

Trump Stresses Concerns About Voting Fraud.

The Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity met on Wednesday for the first time at the White House. Media reports took on a decidedly skeptical tone, focusing heavily on Trump's previous unproven claims of widespread voter fraud in last year's White House race. On the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/19, story 3, 2:00), for example, Anthony Mason reported that "Trump has set up a panel to investigate election fraud with little evidence, if there is any." CBS' Chip Reid added that the commission's "origin goes back to November, when [Trump] won the Electoral College," but lost "the popular vote to Hillary Clinton by almost three million votes. Mr. Trump has refused to believe it, insisting that millions of people illegally voted for Clinton, but he has cited no evidence. Critics say the President created this commission in a desperate effort to prove that he did win the popular vote."

The [Washington Times](#) (7/19, Swoyer) reports that Trump "pushed back Wednesday against critics who say" the panel "was created to support his claim of widespread voter fraud, questioning the intent of some states withholding voter data." The President "said at least 30 states are willing to hand over the information and he wonders why a state would be worried about disclosing its voter data." Said Trump, "This issue is very important to me because through the campaign, and even after, people would come up to me and express their concerns about voter inconsistencies and irregularities which they saw." Trump added, "All public officials have a profound responsibility to protect the integrity of the vote."

The [Washington Post](#) (7/19, Wagner, Berman) reports that Trump "repeatedly characterized the group as a 'bipartisan panel' – it includes seven Republicans and five Democrats – and said it is engaging in 'very, very important work.' 'If we want to make American great again, we have to protect the integrity of the vote and our voters,' Trump said." Trump also asserted, "This commission, let me be clear, has no preconceived notions or preordained results. We're fact-finders."

[Reuters](#) (7/19, Rampton, Chiacu) reports that during Wednesday's meeting, Trump "pressed his unproven claims of voter fraud," alluding "to his campaign claim that millions of illegal immigrants voted in the November 2016 election. 'Every time voter fraud occurs it cancels out the vote of a lawful citizen,'" said Trump, adding, "Any form of illegal or fraudulent voting, whether by non-citizens or the deceased, and any form of voter suppression or intimidation must be stopped."

The [AP](#) (7/19, Williams) reports that Trump "told [the] hand-picked White House" panel "that it must follow where the facts lead it, but suggested that states who have refused to give it detailed information on voter rolls – including names, party affiliations, and voting patterns – probably have something to hide. 'If any state does not want to share this information, one has got to wonder what are they worried about,' Trump said," adding, "There's something – there always is." Trump "also vowed that the commission will be transparent, insisted it is bipartisan and said that its formation was in response to repeated public concerns about problems at the polls."

[Roll Call](#) (7/19, Bennett) highlighted Trump's, "If any state does not want to share this information, one has to wonder what they're worried about," statement, and added, "That's when the unpredictable president appeared to venture from his prepared remarks and went right after state officials who are withholding the voter data his administration is seeking. 'And I ask the vice president and I ask the commission: What are they worried about?' he said, referring to Mike Pence, also the commission's chairman."

[Politico](#) (7/19, Nussbaum) reported that the President "has repeatedly declared, without evidence, that the American electoral system is rigged and that mass voter fraud took place

during the 2016 election." And he "further stoked fears of voter fraud at the start of the commission meeting on Wednesday, saying states that have declined to provide information to the committee are attempting to hide something." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/19, Ballhaus) headlines its report, "Trump Suggests States Resisting Records Request Have Something To Hide."

Similarly, [USA Today](#) (7/19, Przybyla) reports that Trump on Wednesday "cited 'very large numbers of people in certain states' who may have voted fraudulently, resurrecting a claim from the campaign that remains unproven." USA Today adds that "there is no major study showing the incidence of fraud is statistically significant. On the contrary, numerous studies have found the incidence to be low."

[McClatchy](#) (7/19, Kumar) reports that Trump "created the elections commission after claiming – without evidence – that millions of people had voted illegally and deprived him of a popular-vote victory. He has argued specifically that fraud denied him a win in three states: California, New Hampshire and Virginia. Independent groups and election officials said there was no evidence of either charge."

Writing for the [Washington Post](#) (7/19), Philip Bump discusses the President's remarks, saying that Trump "said the thing he wasn't supposed to say. The meeting was not supposed to be about his conspiracy theory. It was supposed to be about an evenhanded look at voting systems, a lot of chin-stroking academics who were weighing the evidence impartially. So Pence was given the microphone and did a little cleanup."

Dianne Gallagher said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (7/19) that Wednesday's meeting "seemed to be more of an idea session. The commission seems to be working on what the full scope or goal of its mission will be." Gallagher added that Pence "play[ed] cleanup, insisting afterward, 'Look, this is not about preconceived notions here.' But the majority of the conversation did focus on who is voting and how they're doing it."

Kobach: Requested Voter Data Already "Publicly Available." Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach (R), the commission's vice chair, said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (7/19) that the pushback from states over the commission's request for voter data "wasn't about ballots. It was actually about the voter rolls. ... The commission asked, 'Can we have the publicly available voter rolls that any person who walks in off the street can have?' The reason you need that is so you can start somewhere when you are looking at things" such as "deceased people on the voter rolls, noncitizens on the voter rolls, things like that." Asked about efforts to have him removed from the commission, Kobach said, "I think they want me removed because I have been fighting voter fraud in my state of Kansas for over six years now. ... I guess they just don't want someone heading the commission as vice chair who knows this issue and knows how to get at the problem."

Kobach: "We May Never Know" If Clinton Won 2016 Popular Vote. [USA Today](#) (7/19, Estepa) reports that Kobach "suggested Wednesday 'we may never know' if Hillary Clinton won the popular vote in the 2016 election." Speaking with MSNBC, Kobach "was asked if he believed that Hillary Clinton won the popular vote. Kobach's reply: 'You know, we may never know the answer to that question.'" Kobach later said, "It's impossible to know exactly, if you take out all the ineligible votes, what the final tally would be in that election." And "asked if the votes that won Trump the election are also in doubt, Kobach replied, 'Absolutely.'" [The Hill](#) (7/19, Greenwood, Kamisar) also reported on Kobach's remarks.

NAACP Suit Alleges Racial Motivations Behind Commission. Under the headline "NAACP Lawsuit Against Trump Voter Commission Centers Around Alleged Racism," the [Washington Free Beacon](#) (7/19, Schoffstall) reports that a lawsuit filed Tuesday against the commission by the NAACP Legal Defense Fund "in part centers around the argument that the commission is racist." The suit states, "The President and his surrogates have...repeatedly described voter fraud in language suggesting that voters of color are more likely to commit voter fraud than white voters, using racially-coded language linking voter fraud to predominantly-minority urban communities and to 'illegals.'" The suit also contends "that Trump's choice of Kobach to serve as vice-chair shows that motivations for the commission in part stem from 'racial discrimination.'"

CBO: ACA Repeal Would Leave 32 Million More Uninsured By 2026.

The [AP](#) (7/19) reports that the Congressional Budget Office [estimates](#) that the Senate Republican legislation "erasing but not replacing much" of the Affordable Care Act "would mean an additional 32 million uninsured people by 2026." [Bloomberg News](#) (7/19, Edney, Tracer) reports that that is "about 10 million more uninsured than the estimated 22 million people who wouldn't be covered under a previous Senate Republican bill to replace many parts" of the ACA, leading Lester Holt to

say on [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/19, story 2, 2:00) that “10 million Americans who receive their coverage through Obamacare are essentially in limbo.” [Reuters](#) (7/19, Becker, Cornwell) reports that the CBO estimates that “17 million would become uninsured next year alone,” while “premiums on individual insurance plans would rise 25 percent next year and double by 2026.” [USA Today](#) (7/19, Groppe) writes that “faced with fewer customers with higher expenses, some insurers would likely stop selling plans. About half the country could have no option in the first year after subsidies are eliminated,” and after a decade, “three out of four Americans might not be able to buy a plan on the individual market, according to the CBO.” The [New York Post](#) (7/19, Fredericks) reports that the repeal “would cut federal deficits by \$473 billion over the coming decade,” according to the CBO. [Politico](#) (7/19, Cancryn) also covers the CBO report.

WPost A1 Analysis: Trump “Heavily Engaged” In Immigration Policy.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/19, A1, Parker, Nakamura, Rucker) runs a 2,500-word, front-page story headlined “Trump’s Wall: The Inside Story Of How The President Crafts Immigration Policy.” The Post writes that while Trump “is often dismissed by critics as a chief executive uninterested in the policy process,” on immigration he “has been heavily engaged in the administration’s roiling debate. Officials credit him for being relentless in framing illegal immigration as a threat to public safety and to the economic security of American workers, and for turning a border wall into a populist rallying cry.” The Post says the President “is torn over how to address the status of the younger immigrants who were brought to the country illegally by their parents,” but “is far more certain” about building a wall on the US-Mexico border. While “the structure could change in design or function,” his “security argument for it has remained constant.”

Brady: Republicans May Include Elimination Of ACA Tax As Part Of Tax Reform.

[Reuters](#) (7/19, Morgan) reports House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady said Wednesday that if the Senate does not overturn the ACA, Republicans will consider using tax reform to eliminate the 3.8 percent Net Investment Income Tax, which is one of the law’s “biggest taxes.” Brady told Reuters that Republicans will look at the tax “in discussions aimed at unveiling a tax reform plan in September. The levy is a weight on economic growth.” Brady added that “tax legislation was unlikely to be able to include the repeal of other Obamacare taxes,” as that “would result in about \$1 trillion in additional revenue losses over a decade, cutting into efforts to avoid adding to the federal deficit in the overall tax package.”

Administration Scaling Back Proposed Business Tax Rate Cut Plans.

The [New York Times](#) (7/19, Kelly, Rappeport) reports that Administration officials “are scaling back their ambitions to cut the corporate tax rate sharply.” With Republican healthcare legislation “nearly dead,” the Times says Republicans are “apparently taking a more pragmatic approach as they scramble to secure a major legislative victory this year.” A “person briefed on the matter,” said that “discussions among Mr. Trump’s economic advisers over promised tax cuts for corporations and individuals have taken on new urgency,” and a “crucial point of discussions in the coming days...will be the proposed business tax rate.” While an April policy paper from the White House “pegged it at 15 percent for corporations and small businesses alike,” the Times’ source said the proposed rate is “drifting higher” and “may end up in the low 20 percent range.”

Politico Analysis: House Republicans Lack Votes To Pass Their Budget.

[Politico](#) (7/19, Bade, Ferris) describes “a serious math problem” facing House Speaker Ryan and House GOP leaders with regard to their budget as “they’re far from the 218 votes needed to pass it on the floor, according to multiple GOP aides and lawmakers.” Politico says “it looks increasingly likely that Republicans will punt once again on the most fundamental task of governing: passing a budget,” leaving Republicans “exposed to criticism at home and undermin[ing] their chances of moving on to” tax reform, “another key agenda item.”

Handling Of Spending Bills Exposing “Tensions” Within House GOP. The [Washington Post](#) (7/19, Debonis) reports that House GOP “leaders announced Tuesday that they plan to bring a package of 2018 spending bills to a vote next week,” which “would probably be the last item passed in the chamber before members depart for a five-week summer recess. But in the latest instance in which the House GOP has flinched from the basic responsibilities of governing, that package is set to include only four of the 12 yearly appropriations bills. That has exposed tensions inside the GOP over how its leaders have approached the annual spending cycle.” Said Rep. Mark Walker (R-NC), chair of the conservative Republican Study Committee, “There is an overwhelming frustration that this looks like this is the same pattern, that we are on the same

spinning hamster wheel that we have been on for the last few years.”

WPost Analysis: Federal Workers Feel Impact Of Trump’s Spending Priorities.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/19, Rein) reports that “President Trump’s ascendancy” has been felt across the federal workforce, “upending their sense of mission or empowering it, depending on where they sit.” While employees in areas where “Trump is putting resources and priorities...describe a sense of validation and optimism,” employees where he is “dismissive of their mission and their value as public servants” are “anxious, discouraged and sometimes hostile.” Meanwhile, “in offices where the White House envisions severe budget cuts and has set in motion buyouts, early-retirement offers and possible layoffs, civil servants are ill at ease, their futures uncertain.”

Samuelson: Large Deficits Are Likely To Continue.

In his [Washington Post](#) (7/19) column, Robert Samuelson writes that “chronic deficits reflect a basic political impasse that can be broken only if majorities in Congress do things they’ve refused to do: trim Social Security benefits; raise taxes significantly; control health spending.” Large deficits, he adds, “are likely to persist until some sort of debt crisis — by no means inevitable — forces action or the United States’ political leaders decide to engage the unpopular question of paying for popular government.”

Trump Nominates Sam Clovis To Key USDA Scientific Post.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/19, Eilperin, Mooney) reports that President Trump nominated Sam Clover, “a talk radio host who has challenged the scientific consensus that human activity has been the primary driver of climate change, to serve in the Agriculture Department’s top scientific post.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Avoiding War With Iran.” A [New York Times](#) (7/20) editorial argues that “the last thing the United States needs is another war in the Middle East. Yet a drumbeat of provocative words, outright threats and actions — from President Trump and some of his top aides as well as Sunni Arab leaders and American activists — is raising tensions that could lead to armed conflict with Iran.” While it acknowledges that “Tehran invites some of this hostility,” the Times says the US and Iran “also share some interests, like fighting the Islamic State. So why not take advantage of all the diplomatic tools, including opening a dialogue, used before to manage difficult and even hostile governments?”

Washington Post.

“If We Could Trust Trump His Chat With Putin Wouldn’t Be Problem. But We Can’t.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/19) argues that although “it is possible to object to [President] Trump’s impulsive style and tendency to bypass established channels, the problem is not so much that he sought out [Russian President Vladimir] Putin for an informal chat,” but “the deeply troubling and unresolved questions about his relationship with Russia, which mean that any such contact raises serious — and understandable — concerns.” The Post adds that the larger issue is “the epidemic of mistrust Mr. Trump has created about his ties to Russia, which sensationalizes contacts that might otherwise be unremarkable.”

“Watch Your Wallets: Sessions Just Turned On The Asset Forfeiture Spigot.” A [Washington Post](#) (7/19) editorial calls for reform of the “scandal-plagued” asset forfeiture program which has been reinstated by the Justice Department. While Attorney General Sessions “said he would instruct department officials to use an ‘abundance of caution’ for seizures involving vehicles and residences, where many mistakes have occurred,” the Post argues that is insufficient and calls on Congress “to consider legislation introduced by Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.) with bipartisan support that would increase the government’s burden of proof before seizing assets.”

“The Purple Line Resurrected.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/19) writes that the US DC Circuit Court of Appeals’ reinstatement on Wednesday of the environmental approval for the Federal Transit Administration’s construction of the Purple Line signals a potential resurrection of what could be “the Washington area’s most important new transit link.” The court order “gives the state of Maryland a fighting chance at reclaiming \$900 million in federal funding for the Purple

Line that was blocked at the 11th hour by U.S. District Judge Richard J. Leon.” The Post concludes by noting that the lawsuit blocking the Purple Line “will continue for now,” but that regardless of the legal dispute, the Purple Line “would provide an enormous convenience to tens of thousands of daily commuters and a means of revitalizing aging neighborhoods in its path.”

Wall Street Journal.

“A Bad GOP Dream.” Citing a letter from 10 state attorneys general to Attorney General Sessions asking that the DHS Secretary end the DACA program and threatening to sue if the Administration does not act, a [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/19) editorial says state level Republicans are trying to pressure Trump into deporting Dreamers.

“Betsy DeVos’s Due Process.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/19) writes that liberal opponents to Education Secretary DeVos’ recent efforts to review the adjudication process for campus sexual assault cases covered under Title IX law are wrongly outraged. The Journal contends that Secretary DeVos’ investigation into Obama-era Title IX guidance that established more stringent requirements for proving innocence introduces much-needed due process to an area of law in which the accused have little recourse despite frequently being innocent, according to data from the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education.

“The Wolves Of Long Island.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/19) writes that the Securities and Exchange Commission appears to be performing an often-overlooked duty of protecting smaller investors, as evidenced by the SEC’s charging of 13 individuals last week in a Long Island penny stock scheme that cost more than 100 small investors millions. The Journal concludes that the SEC under Chairman Clayton deserves credit for making small investor protection a focus of SEC enforcement.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Trump Implores GOP Senators To Come Together Over Troubled Health Bill](#)
[Supreme Court Delivers Compromise In Latest Ruling On Trump Travel Ban](#)
[Banks’ Earnings Highlight Diverging Paths Since Crisis](#)
[How A Saudi Prince Unseated His Cousin To Become The Kingdom’s Heir Apparent](#)

New York Times:

[Citing Recusal, Trump Says He Wouldn’t Have Hired Sessions](#)
[Trump Demands That Senators Find A Way To Replace Obamacare](#)
[Big German Bank, Key To Trump’s Finances, Faces New Scrutiny](#)
[John McCain Has Brain Cancer, His Office Says](#)
[In Poland, An Assault On The Courts Provokes Outrage](#)
[As US Attention Wanes In Southeast Asia, China Woos Myanmar](#)
[New York Becomes The City That Never Shuts Up](#)

Washington Post:

[President Persists On ACA Overhaul](#)
[Trump Ends CIA Program In Syria](#)
[No Wall Between Trump And Immigration](#)
[Muslim Community Fears Its End](#)
[McCain Diagnosed With Aggressive Brain Cancer](#)

Financial Times:

[Morgan Stanley Delivers At A Tough Time For Trading](#)
[France’s Military Chief Resigns After Macron Spat](#)
[Tennis, Boating And Spies: Fight Heats Up Over Russia’s US Estate](#)
[CIA Boss Warned UK Against Development Of Concorde](#)

Washington Times:

[Supreme Court Lets Trump Restore Strict Limits On Refugees, Expands “Close Relatives” Category](#)
[Trump Warns Senate Republicans About Dire Consequences Of Failure To Pass Health Care Bill](#)

[John McCain Diagnosed With Brain Cancer](#)
[Army To Discharge Sergeant Who Tried To Keep Secret Data On Bin Laden Raid Revealed By Obama](#)
[Blue-Collar Voters In Democratic Strongholds Blame Washington Establishment, Not Trump](#)
[Yazidi Boy's Rescue, Reunion With Family A Bright Spot Amid Humanitarian Crisis In Mosul](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Minnesota-Police Shooting Investigation; West Coast-Wildfires; Weather Forecast; Russia Meddling Investigation; Healthcare Reform; OJ Simpson Parole Hearing; Baltimore Police-Misconduct; Virginia-Road Rage Shooting; Long Island-Helicopter Emergency; Antidepressants-Autism Link; New Jersey Gov-Booed; Africa-Famine.

CBS: Healthcare Reform; Russia Meddling Investigation; WH-Election Fraud Investigation; West Coast-Wildfires; Minnesota-Police Shooting Investigation; Venezuela-Political Turmoil; OJ Simpson Parole Hearing; Afghan Teens-Robot Competition; Baltimore Police-Misconduct; T-Rex Physiology.

NBC: Healthcare Reform; Healthcare Reform-Impact; Russia Meddling Investigation; Baltimore Police-Misconduct; OJ Simpson Parole Hearing; West Coast-Wildfires; NYC-Counterterrorism; Distracted Driving; Minnesota-Police Shooting Investigation; South Carolina-Road Accident; Airfare-Extra Fees; Mystery Kind Words Notes.

Network TV At A Glance:

Healthcare Reform – 10 minutes, 20 seconds

Minnesota-Police Shooting Investigation – 5 minutes, 25 seconds

Russia Meddling Investigation – 4 minutes, 50 seconds

West Coast-Wildfires – 4 minutes, 15 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: McCain-Brain Tumor; Healthcare Reform; Russia Meddling Investigation-Donald Jr.

CBS: McCain-Brain Tumor; Healthcare Reform; Trump-Sessions Comment; West Coast-Wildfires; Wall Street News.

FOX: Healthcare Reform; McCain-Brain Tumor; Trump-Sessions Comment; Trump-Special Counsel; Russia Meddling Investigation; WH-Election Fraud Investigation; House Budget Plan.

NPR: McCain-Brain Tumor; Healthcare Reform; Russia Meddling Investigation; NAFTA Renegotiation; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in a Pol-Mil session; makes an announcement regarding a pharmaceutical glass packaging initiative.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President to participate in a Pol-Mil session; participates in an interview with Tucker Carlson of Fox News; participates in an interview with Sean Hannity of The Sean Hannity Show.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Kay Bailey Hutchison to be U.S. Permanent Representative on the NATO Council, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary; Kelly Knight Craft to be U.S. Ambassador to Canada; and Robert Wood Johnson IV to be U.S. Ambassador to the UK Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

9:30 AM Senate Judiciary Committee votes on FBI director nominee – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of nominations of Christopher Wray to be FBI Director; Trevor McFadden to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia; Jeffrey Bossert Clark to be Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division; Beth Ann Williams to be Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Policy; and John Huber to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Utah (reappointment) * President Donald Trump nominated former Department of Justice official Wray last month, having fired James Comey the month before – a move that led to controversy after the DoJ cited his handling of a probe into former Secretary of State and Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server, only for his termination letter to mention the agency's probe into contacts between Russia

and the Trump campaign * Wray previously worked as personal attorney for New Jersey Governor Chris Christie during his 'Bridgagate' scandal Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Public Works subcommittee hearing on 'crumbling water infrastructure' – Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife Subcommittee hearing on 'Innovative Financing and Funding: Addressing America's Crumbling Water Infrastructure', with testimony from recent rural drinking water assistance program participant Mike Frazee; Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority (NJ) Executive Director/Chief Engineer Andrew Kricun; and Metropolitan Planning Council Vice President Josh Ellis Location: Rm 406, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Brenda Burman to be Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner; Susan Combs to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy, Management and Budget; Paul Dabbar to be Under Secretary of Energy for Science; Douglas Domenech to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Affairs; David Jonas to be Department of Energy General Counsel; and Mark Wesley Menezes to be Under Secretary of Energy Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energy.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Senate Commerce subcommittee hearing on FirstNet – Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet Subcommittee hearing on 'An Update on FirstNet', with testimony from Virginia Deputy Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Curtis Brown; University of Mississippi Medical Center Assistant Professor Dr Damon Darsey; Government Accountability Office Physical Issues Director Mark Goldstein; FirstNet CEO Michael Poth; and AT&T Senior Vice President Chris Sambar Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

10:00 AM Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee hearing on housing finance reform – Hearing on 'Housing Finance Reform: Maintaining Access for Small Lenders', with testimony from First Federal Savings Bank of Twin Falls Senior Vice President and Director of Mortgage and Retail Lending Brenda Hughes (on behalf of the American Bankers Association); Wright-Patt Credit Union Senior Vice President and Chief Lending Officer Tim Mislansky (on behalf of Credit Union National Association); CorTrust Bank President and CEO Jack Hopkins (on behalf of Independent Community Bankers of America); Coastal Federal Credit Union President and CEO Charles Purvis (on behalf of National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions); Homestar Financial Corporation President Wes Hunt (on behalf of Community Mortgage Lenders of America); and Community Home Lenders Association President Bill Giambone Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Executive Session, to consider the nomination of David Kautter to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Tax Policy Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 215, Washington, DC <http://finance.senate.gov>

10:30 AM MomsRising deliver superhero capes to GOP Sens. Shelley Moore Capito, Susan Collins, and Lisa Murkowski – MomsRising Vice President Donna Norton, Maternal Justice Campaign Director S. Nadia Hussain, and other members deliver superhero capes to Republican Sens. Shelley Moore Capito, Susan Collins, and Lisa Murkowski, who have all said they are opposed to repealing the Affordable Care Act without also replacing it. The members also deliver storybooks – collections of personal experiences of moms and dads from all 50 states – to senators and their staff members, and carry the message 'Medicaid does wonders for America's kids and families!' Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC momsrising.org <https://twitter.com/MomsRising>

10:30 AM Senate Appropriations Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, with agenda including subcommittee funding guidance, and markup of 'Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018' and 'Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Act, 2018' Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 106, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

12:00 PM Business Meeting, to consider nominations Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://veterans.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/VACHair>

2:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

US House: 8:30 AM Dem Rep. Keith Ellison speaks at Emgage Advocacy Day – Emgage Advocacy Day, for the Muslim American advocacy organization to engage with elected officials on the issue of hate crimes, including Congressional Breakfast Reception with Democratic Rep. Keith Ellison, Emgage CEO Wa'el Alzayat and Emgage Chairman Khurram Wahid * Day includes

discussion on 'H.Res 257 – Anti-Hate Crimes Resolution' and 'S. 994 – Protecting Affiliated Institutions Act of 2017', along with Muslim political involvement, immigration and health care Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2043, Washington, DC www.emgageusa.org
<https://twitter.com/emgageusa>

9:00 AM House expected to vote on King Cove Road Land Exchange Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of 'H.R. 218 – King Cove Road Land Exchange Act', plus consideration of 'H.R. 2825 – DHS Authorization Act of 2017' under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC
<http://www.house.gov/>

9:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee oversight hearing on the future of hardrock mining – Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'Seeking Innovative Solutions for the Future of Hardrock Mining', with testimony from Bryan Cave counsel Jim Cress; U.S. Geological Survey Associate Director for Energy and Minerals Murray Hitzman; Coeur Mining President and CEO Mitchell Krebs; Earthworks Policy Director Lauren Pagel; and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality Deputy Director Bret Parke Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/NatResources>

9:30 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on 'monetary policy v. fiscal policy' – Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee hearing on 'Monetary Policy v. Fiscal Policy: Risks to Price Stability and the Economy', with testimony from Cato Institute Center for Monetary and Financial Alternatives Director Dr George Selgin; Berenberg Capital Markets Chief Economist for Americas and Asia Dr Mickey Levy; Center on Budget and Policy Priorities Senior Fellow Dr Jared Bernstein; and Indiana University Bloomington Economics Professor Dr Eric Leeper Location: Rm 2128, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on improving Medicare – Health Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining Bipartisan Legislation to Improve the Medicare Program', with testimony from Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition CEO Christel Aprigliano; ALS of Michigan speech-language pathologist Lisa Bardach; American Academy of Home Care Medicine (AAHCM) President-elect Dr K. Eric DeJonge; CHIME Board of Trustees Chairman-elect Cletis Earle; Healthcare Leadership Council President Mary Grealy; Integrated Medical Professionals Chairman and CEO Dr Deepak Kapoor; University of Cincinnati Gardner Neuroscience Institute Department of Neurology and Rehabilitation Medicine Chair Dr Brett Kissela (on behalf of American Academy of Neurology); American Physical Therapy Association CEO Dr Justin Moore; National Association for the Support of Long Term Care (NASL) Diagnostic Services Committee Chair Alan Morrison; National Home Infusion Association Board Chair Dr Varner Richards; and Medicare Rights Center Federal Policy Director Stacy Sanders Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Small Business subcommittees joint hearing on telehealth – Agriculture, Energy, and Trade Subcommittee and Health and Technology Subcommittee joint hearing on '21st Century Medicine: How Telehealth Can Help Rural Communities', with testimony from Government Accountability Office Health Care Team Managing Director A. Nicole Clowers; HealthLinkNow CEO and co-founder Barb Johnston; University of Mississippi Medical Center Center for Telehealth Administrator Michael Adcock; and National Rural Health Association President David Schmitz Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

10:00 AM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on gangs – Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Gangs in Our Communities: Drugs, Human Trafficking, and Violence', with testimony from Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division Kenneth Blanco; Midwest Gang Investigators Association Illinois Chapter Board Advisory Member Marc Vanek; Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Captain Chris Marks; and Cue Violence founder Dr Gary Slutkin Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on the Philippines – Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on 'The Human Rights Consequences of the War on Drugs in the Philippines', with witnesses – iDEFEND (Philippines) spokesperson Ellecer Carlos, Amnesty International Senior Crisis Advisor Matthew Wells, and Human Rights Watch Asia Division Deputy Director Phelim Kine – analyzing the implementation of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's 'war on drugs' and its consequences for the human rights situation in the country, and providing policy recommendations for ensuring accountability for human rights violations and for addressing the problems of drug abuse and trafficking in ways consistent with promoting public

health and strengthening rule of law Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2200, Washington, DC <http://tlhrc.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/TLHRCommission>

Other: 8:00 AM The Hill hosts discussion on 'The Prescription Drug Delivery System' – The Hill hosts 'The Prescription Drug Delivery System: Tackling Costs, Ensuring Access' discussion, to explore a 'healthcare landscape where stakeholders are working to ensure patients get the medicines they need, at a price they can afford'. Speakers include Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy, Democratic Reps. Diana DeGette and Gene Green, FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, Alliance of Community Health President and CEO Ceci Connolly, Association for Accessible Medicines President and CEO Chester Davis Jr., OptumRx Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer Sumit Dutta, ERISA Industry Committee Health Policy Senior Vice President James Gelfand, Eli Lilly and Company Global Public Policy and Anti-Counterfeiting Operations Senior Director Bill Reid, Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs Executive Director Meghan Scott, and Friends of Cancer Research Chairperson and Founder Ellen Sigal Location: The Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC thehill.com <https://twitter.com/TheHillEvents> #WhatsNextRx

8:45 AM Agriculture Secretary Perdue highlights 'critical' role of local park and recreation agencies – Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue joins representatives from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) and the Washington, DC, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) at Turkey Thicket Recreation Center in Washington, DC, to highlight 'the critical role local park and recreation agencies play in providing activities, programming, and meals to children during out-of-school time throughout the country'. During the visit, he tours the center and interacts and eats breakfast – part of the USDA's Summer Food Service Program – with children enrolled in DPR's summer programming (8:45 AM EDT), then holds media availability (9:20 AM EDT) Location: Turkey Thicket Recreation Center, 1100 Michigan Ave NE, Washington, DC www.usda.gov <https://twitter.com/USDA>

10:00 AM CAP discussion on 'Options for the Trump Nuclear Posture Review' – 'Options for the Trump Nuclear Posture Review' Center for American Progress discussion, previewing the options and consequences of the upcoming Nuclear Posture Review and recommend a sustainable way forward. Panelists include Democratic Rep. Adam Smith, Stimson's Budgeting for Foreign Affairs and Defense Program Fellow Laicie Heeley, former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nonproliferation Programs Simon Limage, and former Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Brian McKeon Location: Center For American Progress, 1333 H St NW, Washington, DC www.americanprogress.org <https://twitter.com/amprog>

3:00 PM Mars rover concept vehicle preview at the National Air and Space Museum – Mars rover concept vehicle and 'Mars Day!' activities preview and media availability, hosted by the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum and NASA's Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex ahead of tomorrow's 'Mars Day' celebration at the museum, which includes a display of the 5,500 pound, nearly 11-foot-tall Mars rover concept vehicle. Speakers include National Air and Space Museum Center for Earth and Planetary Studies Geologist Ross Irwin, Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex COO Therrin Protze, and Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex Senior Director of Sales & Marketing and Content & Education Lisa Hultquist * 'Mars Day!' is an annual celebration of the Red Planet, giving visitors the opportunity to talk to scientists active in Mars research and learn about current and future missions * Mars Day! annually marks the July 1976 landing of Viking 1, the first spacecraft to operate on Mars Location: National Air and Space Museum, 600 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC <http://www.nasm.si.edu/marsday> <https://twitter.com/airandspace>

7:00 PM NFBPA National Leadership Awards Dinner – National Forum for Black Public Administrators National Leadership Awards Dinner, themed 'Inspired Leadership: A Future of Possibilities'. Honorees include Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, Denver Mayor Michael Hancock, Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh, and Louisiana state Sen. Karen Carter Peterson Location: MGM National Harbor, 101 MGM National Harbor Ave., Oxon Hill, MD <http://www.nfbpa.org> <https://twitter.com/NFBPA>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "[President Trump] told everyone not to go home for break before they get [the healthcare reform bill] done. It was like the rewind of Sunday night on 'Game of Thrones.'"

Jimmy Kimmel: "The Russians are worried that fidget spinners are a Western plot to zombie-fy their children. iPads are our plan. Fidgets just give them something to do while they're charging."

Stephen Colbert: "The [healthcare] bill is less popular than the cereal parts of Lucky Charms, or as I call them, disappointment between marshmallows."

Stephen Colbert: "The White House statement goes on to say that the insinuation that the White House has tried to hide a second meeting [between Trump and Putin] is false, malicious, and absurd. Strong words. And I think we've also found Trump's re-election slogan."

Trevor Noah: "Russia is banning fidget spinners. And just like that, there goes Russia's reputation as a fun country."

Trevor Noah: "I'm starting to think Donald Trump never wants us to stop talking about Russia because then we would start talking about the fact that he doesn't know how to be President."

Jimmy Fallon: "A new book just came out claiming that last summer, President Trump yelled at former campaign manager Paul Manafort and said, 'You treat me like a baby.' But Trump said it wasn't a complaint; it was an order."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump spoke at a lunch with Republican senators today, and said that his GOP friends who opposed the party's healthcare bill may not be his friends much longer. Just so you know, Mr. President, you're supposed to threaten people with things they don't want."

Seth Meyers: "During his lunch with Republican senators today, President Trump said that the only thing Democrats are good at is screaming, 'Everyone is going to die.' Whereas Republicans are the only ones who know how to get it done."

Seth Meyers: "A new poll found that 32 percent of Americans who voted for President Trump said they don't believe that Donald Trump Jr. met with a Russian lawyer last year. What? That's an established fact. That's like not believing in global warm...oh, okay. Yeah, all right."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Daily Caller: Dozens Of GOP Senators Urge Trump To Expand Offshore Drilling.
- Alaska Journal of Commerce: Zinke Call Has Sullivan 'Very Concerned' After Tuesday Vote.
- Associated Press: Zinke Incorrectly Identifies Veterans Affairs Secretary As A 'Fellow Veteran'.
- Huffington Post: Trump Interior Nominee Has A History Of Contempt For The Agency She's About To Lead.

- Los Alamos (NM) Daily Post: Interior Not Top-Heavy Enough To Relieve Field.
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- Federal Official Outlines Economic Development Goals To Promote 'Robust' Tribal Economies.

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- North Platte (NE) Telegraph: Biologist Skips Private R-Project Meeting After NPPD Inquiry.
- TIME: Man Arrested For Smuggling Live Cobra Snakes In Chip Cans.
- U.S. News & World Report: Additional Coverage: Man Accused Of Burglary, Stealing From Crane Trust.
- Arizona Daily Sun: Wolf Plan Needs More Public Outreach, Education.

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- Cleveland Plain Dealer: Cuyahoga Valley National Park Awarded \$1.5 Million For New Boston Mills Visitor Center.
- U.S. News & World Report: Daines Backs Yellowstone Protections, Not Tester's Bill.
- Corpus Christi (TX) Caller-Times: Fee Hikes Proposed For Padre Island National Seashore.
- WTOP-FM Washington: DC's Operation Desert Storm Memorial Receives \$100K Donation.
- Delmarva (MD) Daily Times: Feds Seek Public Comment On Assateague Beach Design.
- Cody (WY) Enterprise: Chinese Tourists Come For Park.
- WTOP-FM Washington: New App Lets Users Wander C&O Canal Park Without Getting Lost.
- Denver Post: Destructive Acts At Mesa Verde National Park Marring Landscape.
- U.S. News & World Report: Oregon House Makes National Register Of Historic Places.
- Conway (NH) Daily Sun: Conway Public Library Named To National Register Of Historic Places.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Saipan (MNP) Tribune: Interior Provides \$635,885 For Micronesia Region.
- St. Thomas Source: Financial Crisis Worries Head To Virgin Islands While Puerto Rico Recovers.
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- NBC: Trump Announces Ban On Transgender People Serving In US Military.
- CBS: Trump Announces Foxconn To Build Wisconsin Factory.
- ABC: Senate Expected To Consider "Skinny Repeal" After ACA Repeal Measure Fails.
- Associated Press: House Republicans Working To Fund Border Wall.
- Politico: Sources: Congress, Administration Set To Release Tax Proposal Friday.

- Washington Times: EPA, Army Announce Plans To Rescind Clean Water Rule.

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DOI In The News

Interior Secretary To Visit Las Cruces Amid Monuments Review.

The [AP](#) (7/26, Contreras) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "scheduled to visit Las Cruces this week in connection with the Trump administration's review of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument." The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/26, Coleman) reports that "on Thursday, Zinke will tour the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument by helicopter then meet with elected officials, ranchers, academics, border security experts, and others local stakeholders 'who represent all sides of the issue,' according to the Interior Department." On Friday, Zinke is scheduled to "hike with southern New Mexico veterans and then hold meetings with the Mescalero Apache, Fort Sill Tribe, and Friends of Organ Mountains Desert Peaks ". On Saturday, Zinke will "hike and ride horseback with Sens. Martin Heinrich and Tom Udall, both of whom are opposed to shrinking either monument."

The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (7/26, Soular) reports that Zinke won't attend "a Thursday evening gathering of monument supporters, including local elected officials, at the Las Cruces Convention Center." The article notes that "most of Zinke's itinerary is closed to the press and to the public at-large, though a portion of the schedule includes invited attendees from different sides of the monument debate."

The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (7/26, Oxford) notes that "Zinke's agenda does not include a visit to the Rio Grande del Norte near Taos, though it is also part of the secretary's review."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Baytown \(TX\) Sun](#) (7/26), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/26, Coleman), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/26, Contreras), the [Midland \(TX\) Reporter-Telegram](#) (7/26, Contreras), [KLTV-TV Tyler \(TX\)](#) Tyler, TX (7/26, Contreras), [KROE-TV Albuquerque \(NM\)](#) Albuquerque, NM (7/26), [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (7/26), and [KOB-TV Albuquerque \(NM\)](#) Albuquerque, NM (7/26).

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (7/26, Contreras), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/27, Coleman), the [Santa Fe \(NM\) Reporter](#) (7/26, Grubs), [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (7/26, Heinrich), and [KVIA-TV El Paso \(TX\)](#) El Paso, TX (7/26, Bieri).

Editorial: NM Monuments: Love Them & Leave Them Be. In an editorial, the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/27) urges Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to "keep Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument near Las Cruces and Rio Grande del Norte National Monument west of Questa just the way they are." The paper points to their "historical, cultural, geographical and environmental importance," as well as "the wide and deep groundswell of public support." It asserts that "in this highly partisan world, it's hard to argue with something that has the backing

of 16 local government bodies; multiple chambers of commerce; several Indian tribes and pueblos; 375-plus businesses; hunting, fishing and environmental groups; and dozens of civic organizations."

Ryan Zinke Expected In Nevada On Monday For Monument Review.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (7/26, Brean, Martin) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is expected on Monday to visit Nevada to hear input on two national monuments in the state. The Interior Department has "not yet announced the visit, but Nye County Commission Chairman Dan Schinhofen said he and other local officials are scheduled to meet with Zinke Monday at the community center in Overton, 65 miles northeast of Las Vegas." Also, "a congressional aide confirmed the visit, saying Zinke's schedule includes a meeting in Mesquite with the monument advocacy and stewardship group Friends of Gold Butte at 10 a.m., followed by roundtable with state and local officials in Overton at noon."

Meanwhile, the [Pahrump \(NV\) Valley Times](#) (7/26, Brean) reports that "the Democratic congressman who represents the area said he feels left out of the process." At a news conference in Las Vegas on Friday, Rep. Ruben Kihuen "called it 'highly disrespectful' for Zinke not to tell him about his upcoming visit or respond to a letter the congressman sent to Zinke's office a week ago about the ongoing national monuments review." Interior Department press secretary Heather Swift "disputed Kihuen's claims of being ignored." She said in an email, "The congressman's letter will be received by the Office of Congressional Affairs and be processed accordingly. The secretary is on Capitol Hill quite often and always enjoys talking with members about local issues while he's there."

Ex-Interior Secretary Jewell Blasts Trump's Monument Review.

The [AP](#) (7/26, McCOMBS) reports that former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell "blasted President Donald Trump's review of two dozen national monuments Wednesday, calling it a move that is out of step with what Americans want that puts the Republican on the wrong side of conservationist history." Speaking to attendees of the Outdoor Retailer show being held this week in Salt Lake City, Jewell "said Trump should be reviewing what public lands are deserving of new protections, not trying to reverse measured decisions by past presidents to safeguard areas that include ancient cliff dwellings, towering sequoia trees, deep canyons and ocean habitats where seals, whales and sea turtles roam." Jewell said, "President Trump is playing games with our public lands, treating the monuments like they are contestants on a game show. But the consequences, as you know, are real and devastating and create uncertainty for businesses and uncertainty for residents."

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (7/26, Maffly) reports that Jewell's remarks were "made during what was her first major appearance since leaving office in January." Jewell said "she was hesitant to chastise her successor so early in his tenure, given Trump's push to undo much of the President Obama's conservation agenda." She said, "We have very real threats facing the public lands we love so much, and so I intend to speak up thoughtfully, respectful and factually."

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (7/26, O'Donoghue) report that "later, at a meeting with the Deseret News and KSL editorial boards, Jewell said the only change that should come to Bears Ears is congressionally passed legislation that would clarify and strengthen management responsibilities for Native American tribes." She "noted that such unified support among Native American tribes toward a common goal is rare, and speaks to the long history and traditions held by the Bears Ears landscape and its importance." Jewell "emphasized, too, that the monument's designation was inevitable in the face of the failure of the massive Public Lands Initiative legislation to move forward."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/26, McCombs), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (7/26, McCOMBS), and the [Fredericksburg \(VA\) Free Lance-Star](#) (7/26, McCOMBS).

Additional coverage was provided by [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (7/26, O'Donoghue) and [KSTU-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (7/26, McDonald).

Outdoor Industry Flexes Political Muscle In US Land Fight. The [AP](#) (7/26, McCombs) reports that "outdoor recreation industry leaders aren't going quietly as they stage their last trade show in Utah before moving it to Colorado." According to the article, "as they said goodbye and thank you Wednesday to Salt Lake City for hosting the expo for two decades, some industry leaders also criticized Utah's Republican leaders for their hard-line opposition to a new national monument and for their efforts to seize control of federal lands." The article says that "several heavy-hitters in the industry spoke at the start of the show, saying the decision to relocate to Denver is part of their effort to flex the industry's collective power and support preservation of

public lands.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [Business Insider](#) (7/26, McCombs), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (7/26, McCombs), the [Journal-News \(OH\)](#) (7/26), the [Logan \(UT\) Herald Journal](#) (7/26, McCombs), the [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (7/26), and the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (7/26, McCombs).

Additional coverage was provided by the [New York Times](#) (7/27, Friedman).

Dozens Of GOP Senators Urge Trump To Expand Offshore Drilling.

The [Daily Caller](#) (7/26, Pearce) reports that “three dozen Republican senators sent a letter to Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke Wednesday supporting a plan that would increase access and development of offshore drilling along the U.S. east coast.” [The Hill](#) (7/26, Cama, Henry) reports that in the letter, “the senators said the government should write a drilling plan that would allow oil and gas leasing in areas not included in the 2017-2022 outline finalized by the Obama administration.” The senators wrote, “Offshore projects often have long lead times, so it is important to start today to make sure that the United States is planning for the future to maintain its steady and stable supply of production. We look forward to working with the Department of the Interior as you advance the new five-year program.”

Zinke Call Has Sullivan ‘Very Concerned’ After Tuesday Vote.

The [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (7/26, Brehmer) reports that “according to Sen. Dan Sullivan’s spokesman Mike Anderson, Sullivan took a phone call from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Wednesday.” Anderson said, “As a result of that call, he’s very concerned about Alaska’s economy.” The article speculates that the call may be tied to Sen. Lisa Murkowski’s opposition to Republican efforts to reform health insurance.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Huffington Post](#) (7/27, Shapiro) and the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (7/27, Samuels).

Zinke Incorrectly Identifies Veterans Affairs Secretary As A ‘Fellow Veteran’.

The [AP](#) (7/26, Daly) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Tuesday “incorrectly identified Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin as a ‘fellow veteran’” in a photo the former Montana congressman “tweeted from Air Force One.” Zinke, who is a former Navy SEAL, “tweeted a photo of himself with Shulkin, Energy Secretary Rick Perry and White House adviser Kellyanne Conway on the way to Youngstown, Ohio, Tuesday with President Donald Trump.” Zinke tweeted, “Aboard #AirForceOne w/ fellow veterans @SecShulkin & @SecretaryPerry for @POTUS #AmericanHeroesWeek in #Ohio.” Perry is a veteran of the Air Force. Shulkin, is a medical doctor, who “was appointed by President Barack Obama as the VA’s undersecretary for health in 2015 and became secretary this year.” He didn’t “serve in the military.”

Trump Interior Nominee Has A History Of Contempt For The Agency She’s About To Lead.

The [Huffington Post](#) (7/26, D’angelo) reports that former Texas Comptroller Susan Combs, who has been nominated to serve as assistant secretary of the Interior Department’s Office of Policy, Management and Budget, could “join the likes of Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt and Energy Secretary Rick Perry as top Trump officials with vehement opposition to agencies they’re tasked with helping to lead.” The article notes that Combs “regularly sparred with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over species listings, petitioning in 2015 to have protections removed for an endangered songbird native to central Texas.” Last week, “some 70 conservation groups sent a letter to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee urging members to reject the nomination, describing Combs as someone who ‘built her career favoring big corporations and special interests over the needs and survival of imperiled species.’”

Interior Not Top-Heavy Enough To Relieve Field.

The [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (7/26) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has “repeatedly said he wants to fill growing staff shortfalls in national parks and refuges by moving employees from headquarters and regional offices to ‘front line’ field positions.” However, “figures obtained by Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) indicate that there are not enough bodies in these agencies’ rear echelons to fill the gaps.” PEER Executive Director Jeff Ruch said, “Not only are there fewer staff in many of these central offices, but the number of parks and refuges they support and the complexity of the management issues they face have both grown substantially during the past decade.”

Is Bears Ears Too Big? New Poll Says Utahns Split On Shrinking The Monument.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (7/26, Maffly) reports that “while Utah’s political leaders are largely united in arguing the new Bears Ears National Monument must be shrunk, a far smaller share of Utahns agrees that the 1.3 million-acre monument covers too much terrain in San Juan County.” A new Salt Lake Tribune-Hinckley Institute poll “found that 43 percent of registered voters believe the controversial monument is too big, while 39 percent disagreed.” The poll also “found most Utahns believe Congress should consider amending the Antiquities Act to limit presidential authority to designate monuments.”

Additional coverage of the review of the monument was provided by the [Salt Lake City Weekly](#) (7/26, Harris, Dougherty).

9-Year-Old Launches Nonprofit To Fight Trump’s Monument Reviews.

The [Huffington Post](#) (7/26, D’angelo) reports that “in a stand” against the Trump Administration’s review of national monuments, nine-year-old Hawaii resident Robbie Bond “announced Tuesday that he has launched a nonprofit called Kids Speak for Parks, and he plans to take his message to all 27 monuments targeted by a pair of executive orders signed by Trump in April.” The goal, he said, “is to protect, advocate for and educate others about America’s national monuments and parks, which he fears will disappear, shrink or face damaging development.” He said, “I want to make sure that our national monuments are available for my kids and for future generations.”

Outdoor Recreation Credited With \$8.2 Billion Annual Impact On Maine’s Economy.

The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (7/26, Holyoke) reports that “the outdoor recreational economy is a major driver that injects \$8.2 billion in spending” to Maine “each year, according to a report released by the Outdoor Industry Association on Wednesday.” Also, the outdoor economy “generates 76,000 jobs in the state, according to the report.” Amy Roberts, the OIA’s executive director, said, “No matter your political affiliation, where you live, or your walk of life, the outdoors brings us together. From Maine to California, consumers are spending more on outdoor recreation as millions of Americans depend upon it for their livelihoods.”

Additional Coverage: Off The Record With ALEC: What Did Zinke Say In Denver?

Additional coverage of Interior Ryan Zinke’s trip to Colorado last week was provided by the [Missoula \(MT\) Independent](#) (7/27, Sakariassen).

The Busy Life Of The Secretary Of The Interior.

In an editorial, the [Narrowsburg \(NY\) River Reporter](#) (7/26) takes a look at some of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s most important decisions since taking office. Although it might seem like “Zinke’s job is...all business, conflict or darkness,” the paper says that “he is in a position where, from time to time, he can seem like a generous and loving grandpa.” The editorial lauds Zinke for “making the right decision” on the Upper Delaware Wild and Scenic River, and hopes “that a similar sensitivity to the needs of other ecosystems and communities becomes more evident in his future decisions.”

We Need To Preserve America’s Rich Investment In The Seas.

For the “Pundits” blog of [The Hill](#) (7/26, Lautenbacher, Contributor), retired Navy Vice Adm. Conrad C. Lautenbacher Jr., argues that reducing protections for marine monuments “would be a serious disservice to America.” Lautenbacher asserts that “while reviewing monument status, priority one should be ensuring that we have appropriately protected places for sea life to thrive, such as in Papahānaumokuākea and Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monuments.” He concludes that “instead of removing protections, we should be asking how we can add to our investment in a healthy ocean by expanding our existing marine monuments.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Federal Official Outlines Economic Development Goals To Promote ‘Robust’ Tribal Economies.

The [West Fargo \(ND\) Pioneer](#) (7/26, Dalrymple) reports that “a Department of Interior official visited the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation Tuesday, July 25, outlining his goals for improving economic development of Indian Country.” Gavin Clarkson, deputy assistant secretary of Indian Affairs for policy and economic development, “told attendees of the MHA Energy Symposium how

he wants to change federal policies to empower tribes economically.” Clarkson said, “We need to have robust, self-sustaining tribal economies. When tribes are prosperous, so too are surrounding states.” Highlighting the importance of energy development for tribal economic development, “Clarkson said and his goal is to remove hurdles, such as burdensome regulations, that slow down development on reservations.”

Additional coverage was provided by [WDAY-TV](#) Fargo, ND (7/26, Dalrymple).

Bureau Of Land Management

BLM Supports Goal Of Red River Bill.

The [Wichita Falls \(TX\) Times Record News](#) (7/26, Ingle) reports that “a representative of the Bureau of Land Management said in written testimony to a U.S. Senate committee that the federal agency supports the goal of legislation filed to resolve the Red River land dispute between Texas landowners and the federal agency.” John Ruhs, acting deputy director of operations for the BLM, “went before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee’s Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining in regards to 12 pieces of legislation, including Texas Republican Sen. John Cornyn’s Senate Bill 90.” Ruhs “verbally told the panel that the Department of Interior, which the BLM falls under, supports the goal of the bill but wants to work with the senator on a few modifications.”

Man Gets 68 Years In Prison In Bundy Ranch Standoff Case.

The [AP](#) (7/26, Ritter) reports that on Wednesday, Chief U.S. District Judge Gloria Navarro in Las Vegas sentenced Gregory Burleson of Phoenix “to 68 years in prison for his role as a gunman in a standoff that stopped federal agents from rounding up cattle near the Nevada ranch of anti-government activist Cliven Bundy three years ago.” The AP notes that prosecutors “had sought a maximum sentence of 73 years for...Burleson after he was convicted of threatening and assaulting a federal officer, obstruction and traveling across state lines in aid of extortion.” However, Navarro “knocked five years off the recommendation, noting that the 53-year-old Burleson has gone blind, has serious health issues and was once an informant for the FBI.”

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (7/26, Wilson) reports that Burleson is “a member of Arizona militia groups.” Assistant U.S. Attorney Nicholas Dickinson said Burleson “failed to show any remorse for his actions in Bunkerville, and that he came to the town with a small arsenal of weapons, knives, and swords.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/26, Montero) says the trial of Burleson and five others “earlier this year underwent intense scrutiny as a pre-cursor to Cliven Bundy’s trial scheduled for later this year.” The Times says “the government suffered a blow in April when only Burleson and Todd Engel were found guilty of crimes including assaulting a federal officer, obstruction of justice and interstate travel to aid extortion while the other counts against the remaining defendants resulted in a hung jury.” Eric Parker, O. Scott Drexler, Richard Lovelien and Steven Stewart will all be retried.

Additional coverage was provided by [Reuters](#) (7/26, Gorman), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Sun](#) (7/26, Ritter), and the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (7/26, Wiles).

Montana Federal Judge Lets Wyoming Into Coal Leasing Case.

[Law360](#) (7/26, Phillis) reports that “a Montana federal judge on Tuesday granted Wyoming’s request to take part in a case challenging U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s decision to lift the moratorium on the federal coal leasing program, saying that Wyoming had a compelling and unique reason to take part in the suit.”

Additional Coverage: House Takes Step Toward Culling Wild Horses.

Additional coverage that the House Appropriations Committee last week “adopted an amendment sponsored by Rep. Chris Stewart that would allow for the culling of wild horses” was provided by [NPR](#) (7/26) and [Yahoo! News](#) (7/26, Carter).

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Congressman: How To Protect Jersey Shore From Trump’s Reckless Policies.

In an op-ed for [NJ News](#) (7/26, Pallone, Brune), Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. and Sierra Club executive

director Michael Brune write in opposition to offshore drilling in the Atlantic. They argue that “drilling poses serious risks not just to the environment but also to local economies.” The authors note that “New Jersey beaches are a primary driver of tourism, supporting 312,000 jobs and generating \$38 billion in economic activity for the state each year.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Red Wolf Proposed Changes By US Fish And Wildlife Service Draws Opposition.

The [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (7/26, Moody) reports that “proposed changes to how and where to manage the world’s only wild population of red wolves have drawn much criticism over the past week.” A public comment period “ending at midnight Monday produced more than 12,200 comments on the proposed rule changes posted online.” According to the article, “many of them were made by people who oppose the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s plan to scale back the territory of the endangered, dwindling and wild population of the species that is found only in Eastern North Carolina.”

Biologist Skips Private R-Project Meeting After NPPD Inquiry.

The [North Platte \(NE\) Telegraph](#) (7/26, Bain) reports that “tensions are high after Sandhills landowners and a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist planned to meet about a proposed power transmission line, and the Nebraska Public Power District objected.” The meeting was “in reference to the power district’s proposed R-Project, a 345,000-volt transmission line that would extend from Sutherland to Holt County, about 225 miles long.” Biologist Robert Harms “said he was asked to meet with landowners and answer questions regarding the USFWS environmental impact study. ”

Man Arrested For Smuggling Live Cobra Snakes In Chip Cans.

Additional coverage that “a man was arrested on federal smuggling charges Tuesday after customs officers intercepted a shipment with three live king cobras hidden inside potato chip canisters that were being mailed to his California home” was provided by [TIME](#) (7/26, Balsamo), [NPR](#) (7/26, Chappell), and [BBC News \(UK\)](#) (7/26).

Additional Coverage: Man Accused Of Burglary, Stealing From Crane Trust.

Additional coverage that “a former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employee has been charged with burglarizing the service office in Wood River and stealing property from the service and cash from Crane Trust” was provided by the [AP](#) (7/26).

Wolf Plan Needs More Public Outreach, Education.

The [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (7/26) editorializes “in the case of wolves, there appears to be no middle ground.” It notes that “the latest draft plan by the feds puts implementation and enforcement in the hands of state game managers – the same people, say critics, who are the reason the federal Endangered Species Act is needed.” Despite the “compromise,” Arizona wildlife managers “continue to oppose any new wolf releases, much less any growth in the packs.” Meanwhile, “wolf advocates and conservationists are dismayed by more state involvement in the plan and its disregard for northern reintroduction.” The paper urges “Fish and Wildlife to take a go-slow approach to reintroduction that balances sustainable pack numbers with minimal levels of cattle predation.”

National Park Service

House Passes Clay-Smith Bill Directing Park Service To Commemorate Civil Rights Movement.

The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (7/26, Raasch) reports that the House on Wednesday passed a bill by Rep. William Lacy Clay called the “African-American Civil Rights Network Act of 2017.” The legislation authorizes the National Park Service to “establish a program to preserve and protect the memory of the people and the places that were significant in the struggle to secure equal rights for African-Americans,” according to Clay. The bill requires the NPS “to note sites significant to the civil rights movement, and to coordinate federal, state and local activities to ‘commemorate, honor, and interpret the history of the African-American civil rights movement

during the period from 1939 through 1968,' according to a background of the legislation by Clay's staff."

Cuyahoga Valley National Park Awarded \$1.5 Million For New Boston Mills Visitor Center.

The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (7/26, Conn) reports that the Cuyahoga Valley National Park has "received nearly \$1.5 million for its new visitor center through the National Park Service Centennial Challenge program." Park Superintendent Craig Kenkel in a statement, "This is a great example of how government can work effectively with nonprofit organizations to secure funding for the future of our nation's treasures. We are grateful for the commitment that Northeast Ohioans have shown for providing excellent services to visitors to CVNP, through donations to this project."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Akron \(OH\) Beacon Journal](#) (7/26).

Daines Backs Yellowstone Protections, Not Tester's Bill.

The [AP](#) (7/26) reports that Sen. Steve Daines "says he opposes mining in some areas outside Yellowstone National Park but stopped short of endorsing proposed legislation on the matter from" Sen. Jon Tester. Daines "appeared to speak favorably" of Tester's "bill to block Yellowstone-area mining during a Wednesday hearing before a senate committee." However, "a spokeswoman said afterward the Republican still is weighing the best way to achieve the withdrawal of lands outside the park from future mining."

The Latest: Gold Mining Proposal Near Yellowstone Advances. The [AP](#) (7/26) reports that "Montana environmental regulators say a Canadian company can move forward with plans to explore for gold in an area north of Yellowstone National Park despite local opposition." The Montana Department of Environmental Quality on Wednesday "released a months-long evaluation of Lucky Minerals' exploration proposal." State officials said the firm "had agreed to extensive water quality and wildlife monitoring plans."

Fee Hikes Proposed For Padre Island National Seashore.

The [Corpus Christi \(TX\) Caller-Times](#) (7/26, Sikes) reports that "fees are likely to increase soon for park entry and certain amenities at Padre Island National Seashore." According to park officials, "included in the proposal is a doubling of the seven-day single vehicle pass to \$20 from \$10, as well as a cost hike from \$20 to \$40 for an annual pass." If adopted, fees would increase Jan. 1.

DC's Operation Desert Storm Memorial Receives \$100K Donation.

[WTOP-FM](#) Washington (7/26, Hensley) reports that "Pilot Flying J, a chain of truck stops in the United States and Canada, announced Wednesday that it donated \$100,000 to help build the National Desert Storm War Memorial." Scott Stump, CEO of the National Desert Storm War Memorial, said, "There is a 25-step process that we have followed to ensure this memorial is built; and we have been able to secure the funding necessary to quickly move through the process. Once the National Park Service determines the location of the Memorial, we move to the next phase of rigorous fundraising and finalization of the design concepts."

Feds Seek Public Comment On Assateague Beach Design.

The [Delmarva \(MD\) Daily Times](#) (7/26, Vaughn) reports that "visitors and locals alike this week had the chance to see conceptual designs for a new recreational beach planned for Assateague Island National Seashore in Virginia." The article says that "an informal open house was held July 25, 26 and 27 at the Herbert H. Bateman Educational and Administrative Center at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge to give people a chance to see alternative designs being considered for parking and the road to the new beach." The alternative designs were "developed by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Park Service through a collaborative process involving local stakeholders, including the town of Chincoteague and Accomack County." The public comment period is open until Aug. 24.

Chinese Tourists Come For Park.

The [Cody \(WY\) Enterprise](#) (7/26, Freedman) reports that "in mid-May, at the annual National Parks Day luncheon in Cody, Yellowstone Superintendent Dan Wenk said Chinese tourists have by far become the largest group of international visitors to the Park." According to the article, of "the 17 percent foreign visitors, Chinese people represented 34 percent or basically one-third of all Yellowstone tourists from beyond U.S. boundaries." The article notes that "as summer seasonal

staff in 2016, Yellowstone hired three Mandarin-speaking rangers and in 2017 hired four."

New App Lets Users Wander C&O Canal Park Without Getting Lost.

[WTOP-FM](#) Washington (7/26, Nadeem) reports that "visitors of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park can now use an app to navigate the attractions of its 19,000-plus acres." Created by the C&O Canal Trust, "the app allows users to search for trails, historic sites, parking and more."

Destructive Acts At Mesa Verde National Park Marring Landscape.

The [Denver Post](#) (7/26, Nicholson) reports that "recent and increasing acts of graffiti, vandalism and even "intentional littering" are marring Mesa Verde National Park, and officials are urging park visitors to help in reversing the disturbing trend."

Oregon House Makes National Register Of Historic Places.

The [AP](#) (7/26) reports that "the Jacob Clearwater Farmhouse in Oregon has qualified for listing on the National Register of Historic Places."

Conway Public Library Named To National Register Of Historic Places.

The [Conway \(NH\) Daily Sun](#) (7/26, Eastman) reports that "the 1900-built Conway Public Library building was named to the National Register of Historic Places on July 17."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Interior Provides \$635,885 For Micronesia Region.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (7/26) reports that acting Interior assistant secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula has "made available \$635,885 for natural and cultural resource protection for all U.S. island jurisdictions in the Micronesia region." Pula said, "It is reassuring to see the range of initiatives we have been able to support with this funding, from managing fisheries that support people's livelihoods to suppressing the impacts of the damaging coconut rhinoceros beetle and little fire ant. We are happy to support and bolster the collaborative efforts of conservation-minded leaders across the Micronesia region."

Additional coverage was provided by [Marianas Variety](#) (7/26).

Financial Crisis Worries Head To Virgin Islands While Puerto Rico Recovers.

In a piece for the [St. Thomas Source](#) (7/25, Walton), James Walton writes that United States Virgin Islands government officials are hoping "to stave off the same kind of fiscal collapse that its neighbor Puerto Rico has encountered." Walton says that "the general debts of the Virgin Islands are smaller than those in Puerto Rico, which effectively made them declare bankruptcy two months ago during May 2017." But "they're combination of factors including the insufficient tax revenue, a pension delicate system, the loss of a major employer and a new reluctance in the markets to give the Virgin Islands any more money which has made it almost impossible for the government to meet its obligations."

At Northwest Clinic, Patients See A (Rare) Marshallese M.D., Hear A Hearty 'lakwe!'

[KUAR-FM](#) Little Rock, AR (7/25, Froelich) reports that Dr. Sheldon Riklon, "one of only two U.S. trained Marshallese doctors in the world," moved "from the Hawaii islands last year to Northwest Arkansas where the largest population of migrants from the Republic of the Marshall Islands in the world now reside." Riklon "practices family medicine at Community Clinic, a federally qualified health center which last year served more than 36,000 middle- to low-income patients in Benton and Washington Counties, thousands of them Marshallese."

Top National News

Trump Announces Ban On Transgender People Serving In US Military.

President Trump's announcement via Twitter on Wednesday that transgender persons will not be permitted to serve in the US military receives heavy media coverage, most of which is negative, highlighting criticism of the policy from lawmakers on both sides of the aisle as well as LGBT advocacy groups. Coverage also points out that the move, which reportedly caught Pentagon

officials by surprise, came as Trump was facing criticism from social conservatives over his public criticism of Attorney General Sessions.

In a series of tweets, Trump wrote, "After consultation with my Generals and military experts, please be advised that the United States Government will not accept or allow...Transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the US Military. Our military must be focused on decisive and overwhelming...victory and cannot be burdened with the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender in the military would entail. Thank you."

Lester Holt said in the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/26, lead story, 3:15, Holt) that in "tweeting a major reversal of policy," Trump "may have bypassed his own military," and in the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/26, lead story, 2:50, Mason), Major Garrett said the Pentagon and Congress were caught "completely off guard" by the announcement. Jonathan Karl said in the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/26, lead story, 3:50, Muir) the Pentagon "directed all questions to the White House, making it clear the change came from the President himself." But, "the White House couldn't provide answers to the most basic questions. What happens to transgender service members now? Are they immediately thrown out of the military?" White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders: "That's something that the Department of Defense and the White House will have to work together as implementation takes place and is done so lawfully."

[USA Today](#) (7/27, Hafner) reports that while Trump cited the "tremendous medical costs" involved with having transgender soldiers in the military, a "report for the Pentagon last year found that transition-related care would cost between about \$2.4 and \$8.4 million per year," which is "roughly the cost of four of Trump's trips to Mar-A-Lago." The [Washington Post](#) (7/26, Ingraham) says "total military spending on erectile dysfunction medicines amounts to \$84 million annually, according to an analysis by the Military Times – 10 times the cost of annual transition-related medical care for active duty transgender servicemembers." The [New York Times](#) (7/26, Davis, Cooper) reports that Trump's decision to make the announcement on Twitter "raised immediate questions about how the shift would be put into effect and what would happen to openly transgender people on active duty." The [AP](#) (7/26, Burns, Lucey) says Trump "abruptly declared" the ban, "catching the Pentagon flat-footed and unable to explain what it called Trump's 'guidance.'" The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/26, Bennett) says the Pentagon was "surprised" by the "unexpected announcement," and adds that Sanders "acknowledged" that the military "has not had a chance to decide how to put such a ban into effect." Sanders said, "Sometimes you have to make a decision and once he made a decision, he didn't feel it was necessary to hold that decision."

The [Washington Post](#) (7/26, Phillip, Gibbons-Neff) reports that Trump's declaration, which is "a reversal of the Obama administration decision that would have allowed" transgender people to serve, came after Defense Secretary Mattis "delayed the implementation of the plan to accept transgender troops by six months." [BuzzFeed](#) (7/26, Lewis) reports, "At the Pentagon, the first of the three tweets raised fears that the president was getting ready to announce strikes on North Korea or some other military action. Many said they were left in suspense for nine minutes, the time between the first and second tweet. Only after the second tweet did military officials receive the news the president was announcing a personnel change on Twitter."

[Politico](#) (7/26, Siu) reports that VA Secretary Shulkin said he "was not aware" that Trump would make the announcement, but he "backed up Trump's assertion that transgender service members have additional costs." In a radio interview, Shulkin said, "Certainly, when you personalize care, there are added costs," Shulkin said. "Transgender veterans do require staff that are trained to be able to deal with their situation appropriately so that they can get the care that they want with the dignity and the outcomes that they deserve."

[The Hill](#) (7/26, Bowden) says "multiple Republican senators broke" with Trump over the announcement, while Aaron Blake writes in a piece for the [Washington Post](#) (7/26) "The Fix" blog that the move is "another piece of political malpractice and poor planning from the White House." Blake highlights criticism from Republican lawmakers, including Sen. John McCain, who said, "Any American who meets current medical and readiness standards should be allowed to continue serving," and "criticized Trump for announcing the new policy on Twitter." Likewise, a spokeswoman for Sen. Joni Ernst expressed the senator's opposition to the policy, and "even...GOP senators from heavily conservative states" like Sens. Richard Shelby and Orrin Hatch made "critical statements."

Democrats were also very critical of the move. [Bloomberg News](#) (7/26, Olorunnipa) says House Minority Leader Pelosi "blasted" the decision as "vile and hateful" and "said in a statement that it would 'blindsides thousands of patriotic Americans already serving with honor and



bravery.'" Rep. Eric Swalwell said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/26), "It shouldn't matter who you are...only who you are for, and if you're for the United States, you should be able to serve in our armed services. This takes us very, very backwards." Swalwell added that "the will of the House of Representatives is to oppose this. We voted on similar amendment last week. That was defeated."

The decision, [Reuters](#) (7/26, Stewart, Chiacu) reports, was also "condemned by critics as 'raw prejudice' and a political stunt." The [AP](#) (7/26, Cray) says that while "most LGBT-rights activists never believed Donald Trump's campaign promises," with Wednesday's action, "they now see him as openly hostile." The AP Adds that "leaders of major advocacy groups" cast the declaration "as an appeal to the portion of his conservative base that opposes the recent civil-rights gains by the LGBT community." [Bloomberg News](#) (7/26, Olorunnipa) also highlights that Trump's announcement came a day after he "provok[ed] criticism from social conservatives and southern senators for his continuing public disparagement of Attorney General Jeff Sessions, the most prominent cultural traditionalist in his cabinet."

Jonathan Swan writes on [Axios](#) (7/26) that the issue "had been quietly burning for months, with social conservative leaders pressing the White House on why it hadn't made a decision." Following the failure of an amendment to reverse the policy, "House conservatives, especially Rep. Mark Meadows of the House Freedom Caucus, started threatening not to vote for the military appropriations bill unless the transgender issues were resolved." Meanwhile, inside the White House, "Mike Pence, Rick Dearborn, Marc Short, Steve Bannon and Paul Teller were pushing to overturn" the policy and Meadows' "intervention empowered Bannon and others to make the point to Trump that the security bill, which included Trump priorities like the border wall, could be derailed unless they handled this issue now."

The [New York Times](#) (7/26, Philipps) says "thousands" of "transgender veterans and members of the military...grappled with a mix of anger, sadness and fear" following Trump's announcement. Some, "were left to wonder if they would face a quick discharge from the military or if scheduled medical appointments would be canceled," and "nearly all expressed dismay at what they saw as a misguided action that could purge the military of untold numbers of highly skilled and dedicated service members and bring back an era when many troops lived in secrecy and shame." Chelsea Manning, who [McClatchy](#) (7/26, Irby) describes as "the most well-known transgender military figure, sharply disparaged" the move and "questioned the reasoning Trump gave for the ban and calling his actual motivation 'cowardice.'" Manning [tweeted](#), "so, biggest baddest most \$\$ military on earth cries about a few trans people but funds the F-35? sounds like cowardice."

In a separate story, [CBS Evening News](#) (7/26, story 2, 2:30) anchor Anthony Mason pointed out that Trump's announcement came on the same day that President Truman in 1948 "declared that all members of the armed services would have equal treatment and opportunity, regardless of race, color, religion, or national origin. Transgender service members say they deserve the same." A [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/26) editorial calls Trump's announcement "deeply troubling," arguing that he "essentially called for a step backward in time that goes counter to all the slow but necessary progress the United States has made in recent years in its treatment of transgender people." A [Washington Post](#) (7/26) editorial says Trump "turned his back on the thousands of transgender people currently serving in the military – and he did so with his characteristic dishonesty." While Trump promised during his campaign to "'do everything' to protect members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community," his Administration's "small-minded and ignorant policies toward transgender people – first students, and now service members – are doing just the opposite."

Ivanka Trump's Pro-LGBT Tweet Draws Fire. [USA Today](#) (7/26, Miller) reports that in the wake of the President's announcement, "Ivanka Trump is taking heat for a tweet sent more than a month ago expressing her support for the LGBTQ community." Ms. Trump [tweeted](#) in June, "I am proud to support my LGBTQ friends and the LGBTQ Americans who have made immense contributions to our society and economy." USA Today adds that after Wednesday's announcement, her tweet is facing "even more scrutiny for what some saw as hollow words," and provides several examples of tweets criticizing it.

Trump Announces Foxconn To Build Wisconsin Factory.

President Trump's announcement Wednesday that Taiwanese electronics firm Foxconn intends to open a factory in Wisconsin is greeted with positive, but fairly light coverage. CBS and NBC covered it only briefly, and most national print and online outlets mainly cover comments by the President and others at the announcement with little analysis. Some reports mention that Foxconn has hinted at US investment in the past, only to renege. Local news coverage was more

upbeat.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (7/26, story 4, 2:35, Mason) reported that “bringing back jobs” was “one of President Trump’s key campaign promises,” and he announced Wednesday that “electronics giant Foxconn will build a factory in Wisconsin, expected to create 3,000 jobs.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/26, story 11, 0:25, Holt) reported that Foxconn, “which is best known as one of Apple’s suppliers, will open a multi-billion dollar plant in Wisconsin, where it will make display panels used in TVs and computer screens. The company made the announcement late today at the White House, where officials say the factory – to be built in House Speaker Paul Ryan’s district – could mean up to 13,000 jobs.” The [AP](#) (7/26, Bauer, Wiseman) clarifies the discrepancy by reporting that while the \$10 billion factory is expected to create 3,000 jobs at opening, “Foxconn could eventually employ 13,000 workers” there. The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (7/27, Barrett) says the project will also “lead to another 22,000 indirect positions at suppliers and other employers, along with 10,000 construction jobs over each of the next four years, and 6,000 indirect jobs from the construction, according to estimates from the company and state.”

[Reuters](#) (7/26, Shepardson) reports that the President “praised Foxconn chairman Terry Gou at a White House event, asserting: ‘If I didn’t get elected, he definitely wouldn’t be spending \$10 billion. ... This is a great day for America.’” The [Huffington Post](#) (7/26, Delaney), highlighting that remark, writes that “Trump gave himself credit for the deal.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/26, Mickle, Ballhaus) reports that a White House official said Foxconn’s decision was a victory for the President’s “buy America principles.”

[WKBT-TV](#) La Crosse, WI (7/26, 9:02 p.m. CDT) reported, “Thousands of jobs are in store for Wisconsin as the US President announces an international electronics manufacturing company is coming to the state.” [WFRV-TV](#) Green Bay, WI (7/26, 10:06 p.m. CDT) reported that Trump “took credit for convincing the company to invest \$10 billion dollars to build the Wisconsin plant.” [WKOW-TV](#) Madison, WI (7/26, 6:06 p.m. CDT) reported that Trump was “clearly taking a lot of the credit for today’s announcement as he does make good here on a promise to bring manufacturing jobs back to the US.”

[WTMJ-TV](#) Milwaukee (7/26, 6:01 p.m. CDT) reported that Trump said “he’s delivered on another of his campaign promises to bring jobs to America that have products made in America.” [WLUK-TV](#) Green Bay, WI (7/26, 10:03 p.m. CDT) called the announcement “a huge economic boost for Wisconsin.” Trump: “This is a great day for American workers and manufacturing and for everyone who believes in the concept and the label made in the USA.”

The [Washington Times](#) (7/26, Miller) reports that Ryan, Vice President Pence, and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker were on hand for the announcement. Pence said, “Company after company are announcing record investments – billions of dollars and thousands of jobs. Companies across this country and across the wider world are going to continue to invest in American jobs and American workers and America’s future, because under President Donald Trump, America is back.” Walker [tweeted](#), “Foxconn is bringing 13,000 high-tech jobs to Wisconsin – the biggest jobs announcement in our state’s history!”

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/26, Sink) reports that Ryan “personally lobbied Trump and White House chief of staff Reince Priebus,” a fellow Wisconsinite, to help secure the plant. The White House’s Office of Innovation, headed by Jared Kushner, “led administration efforts to land the \$10 billion facility, according to a White House official.” Bloomberg News calls the announcement “a political win” for Ryan, “whose relationship with Trump has at times been strained.” However, [Politico](#) (7/26, Overly) reports that a White House official “said political calculations weren’t a factor in Wisconsin’s selection.”

The [New York Times](#) (7/26, Schwartz, Goel) reports that Foxconn “has made promises to invest in the United States before, including in Pennsylvania, with little to show for it,” which “left some experts skeptical of the company’s latest commitment, and of the White House’s eagerness to claim credit for a major economic victory.” Scott Paul of the Alliance for American Manufacturing said, “I’ll be excited about the Foxconn announcement when workers are getting paychecks in Wisconsin. Foxconn has a history of talking big and not necessarily delivering on their commitments.”

[Wired](#) (7/26, Lapowsky) reports that the “jobs Foxconn says it will create in Wisconsin aren’t the kind of manufacturing jobs that so many laid off auto and steel workers have been clamoring for,” nor are they “a pathway to the American-made iPhone President Trump promised during the 2016 election. They are, instead, part of a new generation of advanced manufacturing jobs, requiring high levels of engineering skills – skills that are still sorely lacking in the American workforce.”

The [Washington Post](#) (7/26, Paquette, Frankel, Shaban) reports that Foxconn “has been

talking to at least six states about its new factory," and Wisconsin officials "have said that they would consider legislative sweeteners to attract the company." The [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (7/26, Gearino) reports that Central Ohio "remains in the running to attract" a Foxconn plant, "even with an announcement Wednesday that the company plans to build in Wisconsin." [The Hill](#) (7/26, Neidig), [Business Insider](#) (7/26, Leswing), and the [CNBC](#) (7/26) website also have reports.

Scaramucci Hits Clinton In Tweet About Announcement. White House Communications Director Anthony Scaramucci [tweeted](#), "The President was proud to announce that Foxconn will create 13,000 jobs in Wisconsin. Or as Hillary would call it, in Russia." Most [Twitter discussion](#) of the announcement was positive, though some critically mentioned bad working conditions at Foxconn facilities in China.

Amazon Plans To Make 50,000 US Job Offers At August 2 Events. The [AP](#) (7/26, Pisani) reports, "Amazon plans to make thousands of job offers in just one day as it holds a giant job fair next week at nearly a dozen warehouses" across the US. Nearly 40,000 of the 50,000 jobs will be full-time. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/26, Stevens) reports that most of the part-time jobs to be offered at the August 2 events are at sortation centers. The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (7/26) reports that at an Amazon facility in Kenosha, Wisconsin, the full-time jobs will "have a pay range of \$12.25 to \$13.25. ... Part-time positions start at \$11.75 an hour."

Lane: "Bizarre President" Not Hurting US And Global Economy. Charles Lane writes in his [Washington Post](#) (7/26) column, "There seems to be no end to tumult in Washington," and "the paranoia and vulgarity emanating from the White House do harm, probably lasting, to the political culture" of the US. But it is "amazing how little difference the absence of a functional figure at the top in Washington has made" economically. Lane writes, "Even a bizarre president can't necessarily bring down the global economy."

Senate Expected To Consider "Skinny Repeal" After ACA Repeal Measure Fails.

The Senate on Wednesday voted down a measure to repeal the Affordable Care Act without a replacement, the second failure of a GOP measure since the Senate voted to open debate on Monday. Reports now indicate that the Senate is likely to consider a so-called "skinny repeal" that would leave much of the ACA intact, but which would advance legislation to a conference between the Senate and House. A major sub-story, noted in all three broadcast network newscasts, was President Trump's Twitter criticism of Sen. Lisa Murkowski, one of just two Republican senators who voted against beginning debate.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/26, story 3, 2:55, Muir) reported that after Senate Republicans "did not get the votes they needed" for the Better Care Reconciliation Act late Tuesday, "they tried a simple repeal. They did not get the votes again." The [CBS Evening News](#) (7/26, story 3, 2:05, Mason) reported, "One day after Senate Republicans brought their healthcare plan back from the dead, carrying it to the Senate floor on a stretcher, its chancing for survival are still in doubt." CBS' Nancy Cordes: "Seven Republicans bucked their leaders this afternoon, voting along with every Democrat against repealing Obamacare without a replacement." [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/26, story 4, 2:10, Holt) reported, "Already, two plans have gone down in defeat since debate opened yesterday, but the GOP is set to try again with a so-called 'skinny repeal.'"

The [AP](#) (7/26, Werner, Fram) writes, "After seven years of emphatic campaign promises, Senate Republicans demonstrated Wednesday they don't have the stomach to repeal 'Obamacare' when it really counts, as the Senate [voted 55-45](#) to reject legislation undoing major portions" of the Affordable Care Act without replacing it. Republican Sens. Lamar Alexander, Shelley Moore Capito, Susan Collins, Dean Heller, John McCain, Murkowski, and Rob Portman opposed the measure. [Reuters](#) (7/26, Cowan) says it was "the Senate's second failure in 24 hours to repeal" the ACA, underscoring "the party's deep divisions on the role of government in helping provide access to healthcare." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/26) criticizes GOP dissenters like Heller and Murkowski, arguing that they are only serving to preserve a law that they say they oppose.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/26, A1, Snell, Eilperin, Sullivan) similarly reports, "In two separate votes over the course of less than 24 hours, lawmakers have rejected different approaches to rewriting" the ACA. But many Republicans "have expressed an openness to passing a minimalist measure that abolishes two of the ACA's insurance mandates and a single tax on medical devices, which is being dubbed 'skinny repeal.'" The [New York Times](#) (7/26, Kaplan, Sullivan) reports that Senate Republican leaders "may have no choice but to fall back" on the "far more limited measure that repeals parts of the Affordable Care Act, such as its mandate that most people have insurance and a tax on medical devices," but leaves most of the ACA intact.

[McClatchy](#) (7/26, Pugh) reports, "The defeat of both repeal measures appears to limit the scope of the Senate's final legislation to replace the ACA," The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/26, Mascaro) reports that GOP senators are left "with few remaining options to fulfill their campaign promise to gut the 2010 law."

[Politico](#) (7/26, Everett, Haberkorn, Kim) reports, "At this point Senate Republicans are just looking to get something – anything – through the chamber with a bare majority." They are now aiming for what HHS Secretary Price "called the 'lowest common denominator' as its likely end game: repealing Obamacare's individual and employer mandates as well as its tax on medical devices." The [AP](#) (7/26, Ohlemacher, Taylor) reports that Sen. Lindsay Graham said of the skinny repeal option, "It's just a vehicle to get into conference [with House Republicans] so it may lead to a broader solution."

[Roll Call](#) (7/26, Williams) reports that some of the Republicans who opposed the first two measures "are withholding judgment" on the skinny repeal. But the [Washington Post](#) (7/26, Debonis) reports that key House conservatives expressed skepticism. Rep. Mark Walker (R-NC) said, "I don't think it's going to be very well received." Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC), who chairs the House Freedom Caucus, "told reporters in recent days that a skinny-repeal bill would be 'dead on arrival' in the House and that a conference committee would have to be convened to work out a compromise."

Democratic senators criticized the plan on Twitter. Sen. Richard Blumenthal [tweeted](#), "The CBO confirms it – 'skinny repeal' would be a giant disaster for our #healthcare system and millions of Americans." Sen. Dianne Feinstein [tweeted](#), "The Congressional Budget Office says the Republican's so-called 'skinny' repeal would increase premiums by 20% NEXT YEAR." Sen. Tim Kaine [tweeted](#), "'Skinny repeal' is just another way to say millions will lose their health care." Sen. Jeff Merkley [tweeted](#), "I repeat: this is not a drill. According to @USCBO estimates, even GOP's 'skinny' repeal would kick 16 million off their health care by 2024." Sen. Ron Wyden [tweeted](#), "Tell an American who is losing their health insurance or facing a huge premium increase that this is 'skinny.'"

The [Washington Post](#) (7/26) editorializes, "Republicans' strategy to end Obamacare unilaterally, through pure force of partisan will, has discredited Congress's claim to be a deliberative body and utterly failed to produce a workable plan," and "their cynicism is visible in the move toward a skinny, lowest-common-denominator bill." The legislation "is likely to only get worse in a House-Senate conference, altered to better resemble the cruel, deservedly unpopular Obamacare replacement bills House and Senate leaders have floated in recent months."

The [New York Times](#) (7/26) similarly editorializes, "This is not how laws affecting the health of millions of people and an industry that accounts for about one-sixth of the American economy should be made. Yet, here we are. To senior Republicans" like Price, "this process is about getting to the 'lowest common denominator,' not about improving health policy or providing people with better, more affordable medical care."

Case Western Reserve University professor of healthcare finance J.B. Silvers writes in the [New York Times](#) (7/26), "A 'skinny repeal' will result in an unintended expansion of ever larger government subsidies to the working poor. The difference is that those people will have higher incomes than allowed under normal Medicaid or the expanded Medicaid coverage that has been so controversial in red states." Republicans who advocate skinny repeal "as just a lighter version of 'repeal and replace' are likely to be very surprised at the unintended result."

The [Washington Times](#) (7/26, Howell), the [Washington Free Beacon](#) (7/26, Meyer), and [The Hill](#) (7/26, Carney) also report on Wednesday's vote.

Scaramucci Says Reform Must "Start With Incrementalism." Before the Wednesday vote, White House Communications Director Anthony Scaramucci said on [CNN's New Day](#) (7/26), "We have to...start with incrementalism. All good entrepreneurs have to start somewhere with a dedicated plan to finish in a great place. While things may not be perfect right now, whether it's repeal and replace or delay, you are moving the process towards a freer system. ... But what you can do is, working with the great leadership of the President, is move the process along to get it in a place where the American people will like in the next three, five, and 10 years."

Murkowski Says She Is Unfazed By Trump Tweet. Mary Bruce reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/26, story 3, 2:55, Muir) that the President "is taking aim as Republican holdouts like Susan Collins and Lisa Murkowski who have been voicing concerns for weeks." Murkowski: "I said in January we should not repeal without a replacement, and just an indefinite hold on this just creates more chaos and confusion." Bruce: "The President today [tweeting](#), 'Senator @Isamurkowski of the Great State of Alaska really let the Republicans, and our country, down yesterday. Too bad!' ... Are you concerned at all about political retaliation here?" Murkowski: "My

vote yesterday was from my heart for the people that I represent. I have to focus on my job. I've got to focus on what I came here to do." Bruce: "So no second thoughts?" Murkowski: "No second thoughts. None!"

Nancy Cordes of the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/26, story 3, 2:05, Mason) asked Murkowski, "Do tweets like that from the President work? Do they intimidate you, put pressure on you?" Murkowski: "If I were to focus on every little morsel that comes out every day, I wouldn't have time to do the job that I need to do." [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/26, story 4, 2:10, Holt) also mentioned the President's tweet in its coverage.

But the [New York Times](#) (7/26, Hulse) reports that Murkowski reportedly told Trump at last week's lunch meeting of GOP senators, "With all due respect, Mr. President, I didn't come here to represent the Republican Party. I am representing my constituents and the state of Alaska." The Times says the President "did not appreciate the pushback." But he "picked on someone unlikely to be rattled by his attack." Collins said, "She is unshakable when it comes to her constituents. She has a spine of steel." The [AP](#) (7/26, Fram), [Politico](#) (7/26, Nelson), and [Roll Call](#) (7/26, Garcia) also briefly covered the President's tweet.

Sullivan Says Zinke Warned Alaska May Suffer Because Of Murkowski's Vote. [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (7/26, Martinson) reports that both Murkowski and fellow Alaska Sen. Dan Sullivan received phone calls from Interior Secretary Zinke on Wednesday "letting them know [that Murkowski's] vote had put Alaska's future with the administration in jeopardy." Murkowski "was not available for comment," but Sullivan said Zinke "was clear that his message was in response to the no vote Murkowski cast Tuesday on the motion to proceed." Sullivan said, "I fear that the strong economic growth, pro-energy, pro-mining, pro-jobs and personnel from Alaska who are part of those policies are going to stop."

DSCC May Step Up Anti-Heller Ads If He Backs Skinny Repeal. [Politico](#) (7/26, Everett) reports that the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee is "already running radio ads against Heller for trying to 'save his political career'" for voting to open debate on ACA repeal and replacement, "and Democrats are mulling expanding their ad campaign against Heller now that he is indicating he may support" the skinny repeal bill.

Democrats Take Up McCain's Call For Fresh Start. [USA Today](#) (7/26, Gaudiano) reports, "Democrats are seizing on...McCain's call for a back-to-the-drawing-board approach to health care reform, with committee hearings and input from both parties if the GOP bill fails." Merkley has "filed more than 100 amendments, all of them motions to refer the bill to a committee," and Sen. Joe Donnelly "offered a Democratic motion to send the GOP bill to the Finance Committee with instructions to strike provisions that would reduce Medicaid benefits." However, McCain "opposed Donnelly's motion, which failed 52-48." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/26, A1, Peterson) reports that Democrats continue to argue that the ACA can be improved, and need not be replaced.

Durbin Says "Single-Payer Option" On The Horizon. Senate Minority Whip Durbin said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (7/26), "What we're going through is the last gasp for private health insurance in America, as far as I'm concerned. If we can't make this work with the private health insurance industry, we start moving closer to a Medicare model. ... If the private health insurance industry can't make the current approach work, we're moving closer and closer to a single-payer option."

Poll: Majority Of Voters Trusts Democrats On Healthcare, Says ACA Is Working. [The Hill](#) (7/26, Easley) reports that a Harvard-Harris poll finds that "a majority of voters trust Democrats more than Republicans on the issue of healthcare and most say that ObamaCare is working fine." The poll found that 52 percent of voters "trust Democrats to provide the best way forward on healthcare. Twenty-seven percent said they trust President Trump and only 21 percent said they trust Republicans in Congress, bringing the total GOP figure to 48 percent." Fifty-three percent "said they believe ObamaCare is working, rather than failing."

House Republicans Working To Fund Border Wall.

The [AP](#) (7/26, Taylor) reports that House Republicans are working to include \$1.6 billion in border wall funding in "a massive \$788 billion spending bill that includes money for the military and the Department of Veterans Affairs, which provides political cover for any Republicans that might have qualms." The \$1.6 billion – which would presumably go to fund the construction of the 74 miles of wall the Administration specified in its May budget – would be included in a procedural vote on Thursday, and the final measure is "expected to pass on Friday."

Sources: Congress, Administration Set To Release Tax Proposal Friday.

[Politico](#) (7/26, Cook) reports that the “Big Six” tax reform group, consisting of Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn, House Speaker Ryan, Senate Majority Leader McConnell, Senate Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT), and House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady (R-TX), is planning to unveil a “broad-brush” tax proposal on Friday “before the House leaves for its August recess, according to six sources close to the administration.” A source “close to the administration” says the blueprint’s policy details were being finalized at a Big Six meeting on Wednesday at 5:30 pm, and according to two lobbyists attending a Capitol Hill fundraiser Tuesday evening, Speaker Ryan told supporters at the fundraiser “to expect the plan by the end of the week.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/26, Rubin) reports that the tax proposal will contain broad principles – lower tax rates in a deficit-neutral tax code overhaul – instead of legislative text and will reflect areas of agreement among Republicans. Sources did not clarify how the proposal would address the House Republican plan for border-adjusting the corporate tax, an idea that has drawn criticism from retailers and some senators in recent months. Congress will draft the legislation based on the proposal after returning from recess, and members of the Big Six say they hope to pass the final tax reform law by the end of the year.

[The Hill](#) (7/26, Jagoda) reports that the Big Six “have reached an agreement on six tax-reform principles and are briefing congressional staff about the plan.” [Reuters](#) (7/26, Gibson, Morgan) reports that Grover Norquist, the president of the anti-tax Americans for Tax Reform who has close ties to Republican leadership, said that the Big Six “was targeting the end of this month for producing a basic framework for a bill that would be introduced in September.”

Bannon Lobbying For 44 Percent Top Tax Rate. The [Intercept](#) (7/26, Grim) reports that White House Chief Strategist Steve Bannon is advocating for Congress’ final tax plan to raise the top marginal tax rate from 39.6 percent to 44 percent, affecting people earning more than \$5 million a year, “according to three people who’ve spoken to him recently.” The increase would generate “around \$18 billion per year” in revenue. The Intercept adds that the tax hike “would face stiff opposition from congressional Republicans.” [Bloomberg News](#) (7/26, Talev) reports that it is “unclear whether President Donald Trump would support the move.”

EPA, Army Announce Plans To Rescind Clean Water Rule.

The [Washington Times](#) (7/26, Richardson) reports that the EPA and the Department of the Army announced Wednesday their intention to begin the process of rescinding the 2015 Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule starting Thursday, “dealing another blow to the Obama-era environmental regulatory regime.” The agencies also said they “will re-evaluate the definition of WOTUS” to align with the President’s February 28 executive order calling for clean navigable water “while at the same time promoting economic growth, minimizing regulatory uncertainty, and showing due regard for the roles of Congress and the States under the Constitution.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Donald Trump’s Assault On Jeff Sessions.” A [New York Times](#) (7/26) editorial says President Trump’s “passive-aggressive assault” on Attorney General Sessions “has crossed a line even for many of the president’s most stalwart supporters.” The Times says it agrees with the criticism of Trump, but is “puzzled by the sense of surprise” as Trump’s “debasement of Mr. Sessions...is in line with everything he’s said and done since he fired James Comey.”

“The Senate’s Lowest Common Denominator Health Debate.” The [New York Times](#) (7/26) editorializes, “This is not how laws affecting the health of millions of people and an industry that accounts for about one-sixth of the American economy should be made. Yet, here we are. To senior Republicans” like HHS Secretary Price, “this process is about getting to the ‘lowest common denominator,’ not about improving health policy or providing people with better, more affordable medical care.”

“Uncle Sam No Longer Wants You.” The [New York Times](#) (7/27, Board) in an editorial says that one “year after transgender Americans secured the right to defend their nation as equals in the military service, President Trump...declared on Wednesday that he was banishing them from serving.” The Times says the decision was “obvious pandering to regressive generals and right-wing zealots.” The Times says Trump’s “about-face on a basic human rights issue” was prepared by the decision by Defense Secretary Jim Mattis to delay by “six months the Obama administration’s July 1 deadline for admitting transgender recruits.” The Times characterizes the

new policy as “thoughtless and cruel.”

Washington Post.

“Trump’s Dishonest Betrayal Of America’s Transgender Troops.” A [Washington Post](#) (7/26) editorial says that with his announcement that transgender people will not be permitted to serve in the US military, President Trump “turned his back on the thousands of transgender people currently serving in the military – and he did so with his characteristic dishonesty.” While Trump promised during his campaign to “do everything’ to protect members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community,” his Administration’s “small-minded and ignorant policies toward transgender people – first students, and now service members – are doing just the opposite.”

“The Hefty Downsides Of The ‘Skinny’ Healthcare Proposal.” The [Washington Post](#) (7/26) editorializes, “Republicans’ strategy to end Obamacare unilaterally, through pure force of partisan will, has discredited Congress’s claim to be a deliberative body and utterly failed to produce a workable plan,” and “their cynicism is visible in the move toward a skinny, lowest-common-denominator bill.” The legislation “is likely to only get worse in a House-Senate conference, altered to better resemble the cruel, deservedly unpopular Obamacare replacement bills House and Senate leaders have floated in recent months.”

“After Otto Warmbier, The US Must Fight To Free American Hostages In Iran.” A [Washington Post](#) (7/26) editorial writes that less than a month after the death of Otto Warmbier, news emerged of another American student imprisoned by a hostile power. Xiyue Wang has been sentenced to 10 years in an Iranian prison on charges of espionage. He is one of “at least four American citizens and two permanent US residents currently behind bars in Iran.” The Post notes that after Warmbier’s “tragic” death, the Administration “has indicated that it will make freeing American hostages a priority. Addressing Iran’s practice of de facto hostage-taking is a good place to start.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Why Jeff Sessions Recused.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/26) defends Attorney General Sessions’ decision to recuse himself from the Russia investigation, arguing it was soundly based on the law and DOJ policy.

“Michigan Union To Animal Crew: Hoof It.” In a brief editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/26, Board) writes that despite increasing fears of robots displacing human workers, a recent competition at Western Michigan University used goats to clear poison ivy and other weeds from campus, saving the university \$1,350 for each acre cleared – a project that local union Afsome Local 1668 is protesting, arguing that the goats cost nine union members their jobs on campus.

“ObamaCare’s GOP Preservers.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/26) criticizes GOP dissenters on healthcare, like Sens. Dean Heller and Lisa Murkowski, arguing that they are only serving to preserve a law that they say they oppose.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Senate GOP’s Fallback Health Plan Picks Up Support](#)

[Foxconn To Build \\$10 Billion Factory In US](#)

[Talk Is Cheap: Automation Takes Aim At Financial Advisers—And Their Fees](#)

[A Catholic School’s Dilemma: How To Spend Its Snap IPO Millions](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Says Transgender People Will Not Be Allowed In The Military](#)

[Senate Soundly Rejects Repeal-Only Health Plan](#)

[Allies Warn Trump Of Conservative Revolt Unless He Backs Off Sessions](#)

[Lisa Murkowski, A Swing Vote On Healthcare, Isn’t Swayed](#)

[No Links To Cuomo? Their Ad Was Labeled “Client: Andrew Cuomo”](#)

[111 NFL Brains. All But One Had CTE](#)

Washington Post:

[Transgender Ban In Military Revived](#)

[Trump's LGBT Views Shift In The Moment](#)
[GOP May Back Modest ACA Overhaul](#)
[Tech Giant, Courted By Trump, To Build On U.S.](#)
[Baltimore Police Station's Aim: From Fearsome To Friendly](#)

Financial Times:

[Amazon Leaps Into \\$500bn Club](#)
[Peugeot And Daimler Records Bolster Europe Carmakers](#)
[EU Cries Foul At US Vote To Tighten Russia Sanctions](#)
[Fed Prepares To Unwind Crisis-Era Stimulus](#)

Washington Times:

['Sanctuaries' Break Smuggling Laws](#)
[Trump Ends Transgender Service In U.S. Military](#)
[Is Priebus Next To Go?](#)
[Republicans Offer 'Skinny' Repeal Of Obamacare](#)
[Intelligence Firm Behind Trump Dossier In Business Of Doing Dirty Deeds](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Armed Services-Transgender Ban; Trump-Sessions; Healthcare Reform Plan; Jail Escape Video; Traffic Accident-Live Streaming; Utah-Small Plane Crash; TSA-New Security Policy; Scalise-Health Condition; Mexico-Resorts Alcohol Tainting; Rhode Island-Car Shooting; Cruise Ship Death; Mississippi-Man Mistakenly Shot; Special Nurse's Aid.

CBS: Armed Services-Transgender Ban; Transgender Service Members; Healthcare Reform Plan; Trump-Public Opinion; Scalise-Health Condition; New Russia Sanctions; Texas-Police Violence; Cruise Ship Death; Minneapolis-Police Body Cam; Southern Europe-Wildfires; Chicago-Baby Boom; Guide Dogs Selection.

NBC: Armed Services-Transgender Ban; TSA-New Security Policy; Trump-Sessions; Healthcare Reform Plan; Scalise-Health Condition; US-North Korea Tensions; Declining Male Fertility; Jail Escape Video; Southern Europe-Wildfires; Mexico-Resorts Alcohol Tainting; Foxconn-US Plant; Chicago-Baby Boom.

Network TV At A Glance:

Armed Services-Transgender Ban – 12 minutes, 25 seconds
Healthcare Reform Plan – 7 minutes, 10 seconds
Trump-Sessions – 4 minutes, 10 seconds
TSA-New Security Policy – 3 minutes, 15 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Ohio State Fair-Ride Accident; Armed Services-Transgender Ban; Healthcare Reform Plan.

CBS: Ohio State Fair-Ride Accident; Armed Services-Transgender Ban; Healthcare Reform Plan; TSA-New Security Policy; Spicer-Dancing With The Stars; Wall Street News.

FOX: Healthcare Reform Plan; Armed Services-Transgender Ban; Ohio State Fair-Ride Accident.

NPR: Ohio State Fair-Ride Accident; Armed Services-Transgender Ban; Federal Reserve-Interest Rate Held; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in a ceremony recognizing the first responders to the June 14 shooting involving Congressman Scalise.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Delivers remarks to the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) at its annual DC Fly-In; joins the President to participate in a ceremony recognizing the first responders to the June 14 shooting involving Congressman Scalise; participates in a swearing-in ceremony for US Ambassador to Japan William F. Hagerty IV.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Agriculture Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Rostin Behnam, Brian Quintenz, and Dawn DeBerry Stump to be Commodity Futures Trading Commission Commissioners Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 328A, Washington, DC <http://agriculture.senate.gov/>

9:30 AM POSTPONED – Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Business Meeting – This Business Meeting has been postponed until a date and time to be determined: to consider nominations of Brenda Burman to be Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner; Susan Combs to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy, Management and Budget; Paul Dabbar to be Under Secretary of Energy for Science; Douglas Domenech to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Affairs; David Jonas to be Department of Energy General Counsel; and Mark Menezes to be Under Secretary of Energy Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energy.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Banking Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing, considering Joseph Otting to be Comptroller of the Currency; and Randal Quarles to be a Federal Reserve System Board of Governors member (reappointment) and Vice Chairman for Supervision Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Business Meeting, with agenda including 'S.XXXXX, Department of State Authorization Act, Fiscal Year 2018' Location: U.S. Capitol, S-116, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:30 AM Senate Appropriations Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018', 'Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018', and 'Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2018' Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 106, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

11:30 AM Bicameral, bipartisan legislators keynote National Whistleblower Day event – National Whistleblower Day Expert Celebratory Luncheon, hosted by National Whistleblower Center. Event features invite-only celebratory luncheon with keynotes from Democrats Sen. Ron Wyden and Rep. Kathleen Rice, and Republicans Sen. Chuck Grassley and Rep. Rod Blum. Other speakers include IRS Office of the Whistleblower Director Lee Martin, Department of Justice Inspector General Michael Horowitz, former Department of Justice Environment and Natural Resources Division Assistant Attorney General John Cruden, and whistleblowers Sherron Watkins (Enron), Bradley Birkenfeld (UBS), and Toni Savage (Army Corps of Engineers), Capitol Hill (11:30 AM EDT) * Follows an informal, off-the-record conversation with Office of Special Counsel Special Counsel nominee Henry Kerner (10:30 AM EDT) * National Whistleblower Day (30 Jul) celebrates the 'courage and accomplishments of whistleblowers', and aims to 'chart a new course for the future of whistleblower policy in the U.S.' Location: Washington, DC www.nationalwhistleblowerday.org <https://twitter.com/StopFraud>

Senate due to resume health care debate – Senate due to resume consideration of 'H.R. 1628, the American Health Care Act' – to repeal and replace 'Obamacare' – with agenda expected to include a 'vote-a-rama', featuring votes on a number of amendments to the bill submitted by both Republicans and Democrats * The Senate parliamentarian has already ruled that a number of proposed provisions in Senate Republicans' health care proposals are not covered by the 'Byrd Rule' on budget reconciliation, meaning they would need 60 votes to pass rather than 51 * A motion to proceed to the bill only passed by 51 votes to 50 on Monday, with Vice President Mike Pence breaking the tie after Republican Sens. Susan Collins and Lisa Murkowski joined Democrats in voting in opposition Location: Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

US House: 9:00 AM House Oversight subcommittees joint hearing on challenges to freedom of speech on college campuses – Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee and Health Care, Benefits, and Administrative Rules Subcommittee joint hearing on 'Challenges to Freedom of Speech on College Campuses', with testimony from New York Law School Professor Nadine Strossen; The Daily Wire Editor-in-Chief Ben Shapiro; comedian and filmmaker Adam Carolla; former Evergreen State College Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr Michael Zimmerman; and Anti-Defamation League National Commissioner Frederick Lawrence Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM Treasury Secretary Mnuchin testifies to annual House committee hearing on 'The State of the International Financial System' – Annual hearing on 'The State of the International Financial System', with testimony from the Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on the FEMA workforce – Oversight and Management Efficiency Subcommittee hearing on 'Employee Misconduct: How Can FEMA Improve the Integrity of its Workforce', with testimony from Federal Emergency

Management Agency Acting Deputy Administrator David Grant; Government Accountability Office Director of Homeland Security and Justice Issues Chris Currie; and American Federation of Government Employees Director of Policy Jacqueline Simon Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee legislative hearing, with testimony from Republican Reps. Liz Cheney, Evan Jenkins, and Tom Emmer; Wyoming Mining Association Executive Director Travis Deti; Heritage Foundation Institute for Economic Freedom and Opportunity Research Fellow in Energy and Environmental Policy Nicholas Loris; Minnesota Power, an ALLETE Company Director of Regional Development Nancy Norr; and Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment Professor of Earth Sciences Drew Shindell Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Judiciary Committee hearing on a balanced budget – Hearing on ‘The Need for the Balanced Budget Amendment’, with testimony from bipartisan Reps. John Ratcliffe, Bobby Scott, Vern Buchanan, Steve Stivers, Justin Amash, Barry Loudermilk, and Stephanie Murphy; American Action Forum President Douglas Holtz-Eakin; Princeton University Professor of Economics and Public Affairs Alan Blinder; University of Rochester Associate Professor of Political Science and Business Administration David Primo; and Compact for America Educational Foundation President and Executive Director / Compact for a Balanced Budget Administrator Nick Dranias Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on legislation including ‘H. Res. 128, Supporting respect for human rights and encouraging inclusive governance in Ethiopia’, ‘H. Res. 259, Expressing concern and condemnation over the political, economic, social, and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela’, ‘H. Res. 311, Recognizing that for 50 years the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has worked toward stability, prosperity, and peace in Southeast Asia’, ‘H. Res. 359, Urging the European Union to designate Hizballah in its entirety as a terrorist organization and increase pressure on it and its members’, ‘H. Res. 449, Urging the Government of Kenya and Kenya’s political parties to respect democratic principles and hold credible, peaceful, and transparent elections in August 2017’, ‘H.R. 1918, Nicaragua Investment Conditionality Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 2061, North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2017’, and ‘H.R. 2408, Protecting Girls’ Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act’ Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

10:00 AM House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on ‘H.R. 1758 – Brownfields Reauthorization Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 1735 – the Community Empowerment for Mitigated Properties Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 3176 – the Disaster Assistance Fairness and Accountability Act of 2017’, ‘H. Con. Res. 69 – Authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run’, and ‘H. Res. 437 – Of inquiry requesting the President to provide certain documents in the President’s possession’ Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM House Commerce Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on ‘H.R. 767, Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond (SOAR) to Health and Wellness Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 772, Common Sense Nutrition Disclosure Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 880, Military Injury Surgical Systems Integrated Operationally Nationwide to Achieve ZERO Preventable Deaths Act’ (‘MISSION ZERO Act’), ‘H.R. 931, Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 2422, Action for Dental Health Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 3387, Drinking Water System Improvement Act’, and ‘H.R. 3388, Designating Each Car’s Automation Level Act’ Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:30 AM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on transfer of excess military equipment to civilian law enforcement agencies – Readiness Subcommittee hearing on ‘Continued Oversight of the Transfer of Excess Military Equipment to Civilian Law Enforcement Agencies’, with testimony from Government Accountability Office Director of Defense Capabilities and Management Zina Merritt, and Forensic Audits and Investigative Service Director Wayne McElrath; and Defense Logistics Agency Deputy Director of Logistics Operations Mike Scott, and Disposition Services’ Mike Cannon Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2118, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

11:00 AM Annual Human Rights Without Borders Exhibition and Human Rights and Freedom Defender Award Ceremony – 3rd Annual Human Rights Without Borders Exhibition, co-sponsored by Freedom House, Wei Jingsheng Foundation, European Parliament Liaison Office with U.S.

Congress, Reporters Without Borders, Tianwen United Institute, and IFCSS (Independent Federation of Chinese Students and Scholars, USA), with the main theme this year of observing of the 50th anniversary of the Cultural Revolution in China. Day one includes Human Rights and Freedom Defender Award Ceremony, honoring Republican Rep. Chris Smith, for his 'decadeslong devotion and effort to improve human rights and freedom all over the world, especially China' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Foyer, Washington, DC www.freedomhouse.org <https://twitter.com/FreedomHouseDC>

11:30 AM House Speaker Paul Ryan holds weekly press briefing Location: HVC Studio A, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.speaker.gov <https://twitter.com/SpeakerRyan>

11:30 AM Bicameral, bipartisan legislators keynote National Whistleblower Day event – National Whistleblower Day Expert Celebratory Luncheon, hosted by National Whistleblower Center. Event features invite-only celebratory luncheon with keynotes from Democrats Sen. Ron Wyden and Rep. Kathleen Rice, and Republicans Sen. Chuck Grassley and Rep. Rod Blum. Other speakers include IRS Office of the Whistleblower Director Lee Martin, Department of Justice Inspector General Michael Horowitz, former Department of Justice Environment and Natural Resources Division Assistant Attorney General John Cruden, and whistleblowers Sherron Watkins (Enron), Bradley Birkenfeld (UBS), and Toni Savage (Army Corps of Engineers), Capitol Hill (11:30 AM EDT) * Follows an informal, off-the-record conversation with Office of Special Counsel Special Counsel nominee Henry Kerner (10:30 AM EDT) * National Whistleblower Day (30 Jul) celebrates the 'courage and accomplishments of whistleblowers', and aims to 'chart a new course for the future of whistleblower policy in the U.S.' Location: Washington, DC www.nationalwhistleblowerday.org <https://twitter.com/StopFraud>

12:00 PM House expected to continue debate on Make America Secure Appropriations Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include continued consideration of 'H.R. 3219 – Make America Secure Appropriations Act, 2018' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

1:00 PM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on antitrust concerns and the FDA approval process – Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law Subcommittee hearing on 'Antitrust Concerns and the FDA Approval Process', with testimony from Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb; Federal Trade Commission Bureau of Competition Acting Director and Health Care Division Assistant Director Markus Meier; Boston College Law School Associate Professor David Olson; University of Missouri School of Law Associate Professor Erika Lietzan; Heritage Foundation Deputy Director and Senior Legal Fellow Alden Abbott; and Harvard Medical School Associate Professor of Medicine Aaron Kesselheim Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

2:00 PM House Oversight subcommittee hearing on combating homegrown terrorism – National Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Combating Homegrown Terrorism', with testimony from FBI Office of Partner Engagement Assistant Director Kerry Sleeper; Department of Homeland Security Director of Countering Violent Extremism George Selim; Muslims Facing Tomorrow President Raheel Raza; Gen Next Foundation Director of Global Security Ventures Adnan Kifayat; and George Washington University Program on Extremism Deputy Director Seamus Hughes Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

2:15 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee markup hearing – Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee markup hearing on 'H. Res. 422, Urging adherence to the 'one country, two systems' policy as prescribed in the Joint Declaration between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Question of the Hong Kong', 'H. Res. 445, Honoring the life and legacy of Liu Xiaobo for his steadfast commitment to the protection of human rights, political freedoms, free markets, democratic elections, government accountability, and peaceful change in the People's Republic of China', 'H.R. 2732, North Korea Travel Control Act', and 'H.R. 3320, To direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, and for other purposes' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

2:30 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on FY'18 budget request for the Asia-Pacific – Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee 'U.S. Interests in the Asia-Pacific: FY 2018 Budget Hearing', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Susan Thornton; and USAID Acting Assistant Administrator for Asia Gloria Steele Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

3:00 PM House Rules Committee emergency hearing – Emergency hearing on 'H.R. 3180 –

Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018' Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC
<http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

5:30 PM House Democratic Caucus holds informal reception with media – House Democratic Caucus Chairman Joe Crowley and Vice Chair Linda Sanchez host latest informal, off-the-record reception with reporters and representatives, giving Democratic Members an opportunity to get to know the Capitol Hill press corps Location: HVC-200, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC
<http://www.dems.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseDemocrats>

Other: 8:00 AM Corporate Disability Employment Summit – Corporate Disability Employment Summit: Leading Corporate Practices on Disability Inclusion, hosted by U.S. Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with U.S. Business Leadership Network, with keynotes from Democratic Sen. Bob Casey and Republican Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H Street NW, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com
<https://twitter.com/USChamber>

8:30 AM Bipartisan Sens. Ron Wyden and Rand Paul speak at Cato Institute on 'The Future of Surveillance' – 'The Future of Surveillance: Reform, Repeal, or Renewal for Section 702?' Cato Institute Policy Forum, with Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden and Republican Sen. Rand Paul speaking on Section 702 of the FISA Amendments Act of 2008, which allows the government to intercept the communications of foreign targets as they cross U.S. soil, including conversations with American citizens Location: Cato Institute, 1000 Massachusetts Ave, Washington, DC
<http://www.cato.org/> <https://twitter.com/CatoInstitute> #CatoEvents

9:00 AM United States Energy Association Annual Energy Supply Forum – United States Energy Association Annual Energy Supply Forum. Speakers include Republican Rep. Joe Barton, Secretary of the Interior's Counselor for Energy Policy Vincent Devito, Elysium President Youssef Ballout, Verdant Power Principal Trey Taylor, American Electric Power Regulatory Services Vice President Raja Sudararajan, Gas Technology Institute Vice President Edward Johnston, Penn State Marcellus Center for Outreach and Research Director Thomas Murphy, Exelon Senior Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer William Von Hoene, and Westinghouse Americas Region President David Howell Location: The National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC
http://www.usea.org <https://twitter.com/USEnergyAssn> #USEAEnergySupplyForum

7:15 PM Young Americans for Liberty National Convention continues – Young Americans for Liberty National Convention, with today's speakers including Republican Rep. Justin Amash Location: Sheraton Reston Hotel, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA www.yaliberty.org
<https://twitter.com/YALliberty>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to President Trump's transgender ban in the armed services] "The whole thing took Trump-supporter Caitlyn Jenner by surprise. ... Caitlyn, I don't know if I'm the first person to break this to you, but he's a liar."

Stephen Colbert: "Those 15,000 transgender troops, who volunteered to serve our country, were minding their own business, protecting our freedoms, when they all got fired by tweet. That's like your wife divorcing you by cookie bouquet."

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to President Trump's transgender ban in armed services] "So, the Pentagon didn't even know. Wait a second, Trump said he consulted with 'my generals.' I know, that must be a typo. He meant 'my genitals.' Damn you, Siri."

James Corden: "At this point, it just seems like Trump wants to do the opposite of everything Obama did. He is like, 'Oh, Obama pardoned a turkey on Thanksgiving? Well, I'm going to slaughter a turkey with a chainsaw on the front lawn.'"

James Corden: "Energy Secretary Rick Perry recently spent 20 minutes on the phone talking to the prime minister of the Ukraine, only to find out he was actually being pranked by a Russian comedian. So it looks like Russia is now two for two pranking America."

Trevor Noah: "The Republicans have voted more times [on healthcare] than those illegal Mexicans that voted for Hillary."

Trevor Noah: "Donald Trump said he would protect LGBTQ citizens, and actually, considering how many wars he is going to start, maybe he just did."

Jimmy Fallon: "Today, President Trump went on Twitter and announced that he is banning transgender people from serving in the military. Trump said he understands this is a very sensitive issue, so he made sure to choose his emojis very carefully."

Jimmy Fallon: "Trump held a big rally in Ohio last night. I saw that he rubbed Melania's back while she was introducing him. It was the first time someone has ever shivered in 80 degree weather."

Jimmy Fallon: "Trump's new communications director, Anthony Scaramucci, addressed all the leaks that have been coming out and asked staffers, 'You want to sell postcards to the tourists or do you want to work in the West Wing?' And the staffers said, 'Wait, is that postcard thing a real option?'"

Seth Meyers: "According to Politico, President Trump and Attorney General Jeff Sessions are no longer on speaking terms. Though come to think of it, Trump by himself is barely on speaking terms."

Seth Meyers: "Hillary Clinton's new memoir on the 2016 presidential race will be released in September. It just has to be transcribed from the car she keyed it into."

Seth Meyers: "If you devote yourself to Donald Trump like Sessions did, it will mean nothing to him. If it helps him save his own skin, he will throw you under the bus. Just ask the professional speed bump Chris Christie."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Nation Sun News: Secretary Zinke Testimony Overshadowed By Trump's FBI Controversy.
- Bloomberg News: Trump Said To Mull Combining Agencies Separated After Gulf Spill.
- Morning Consult: Utahns Unsure What to Expect From Interior on National Monument.
- USA Today: Ken Burns To Trump: Don't Scale Back Our National Parks.
- WCSH-TV Portland (ME): Rep. Poliquin Says State Should Have Control Of KWW, St. Clair Responds.

- Salem (OR) Capital Press: Idaho Cattle Producers Impressed With Perdue, Zinke.
- New Orleans Times-Picayune: Keep Gulf Revenue In Budget, Oil/Gas Industry Tells Trump.
- Law360: Environmental Groups Want In On National Forest Canceled Leases Suit.
- Arizona Republic: Additional Coverage: Mohave County Asks Feds To Review Ban On Mining Uranium Near The Grand Canyon.
- Huffington Post: We Must Protect Our U.S. National Monuments Established Through The Antiquities Act – Created By Republican President Teddy Roosevelt.
- Las Vegas Sun: Let's Take A Stand For National Monuments.
- Kenai (AK) Peninsula Clarion: Voices Of Alaska: Zinke's Message Brings Hope To Arctic Inupiat.
- Alaska Dispatch News: Bradner: Alaskans Should Take Initiative To Explore ANWR.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- President Begaye Calls For DOI Improvements.

Bureau Of Indian Education

- McCain Introduces Bill To Expand School Choice To Tribal Kids.

Bureau Of Land Management

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- Fairfield (MT) Sun Times: 69,056 Acres: Montana/Dakotas BLM Online Sale Slated For June 12.

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- Infrastructure Investments Must Prioritize The Colorado River, One Of The Hardest-working Rivers In The World.

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- Fort Hood (TX) News Sentinel: USFWS Recognizes Fort Hood For Conservation.
- Courthouse News: Texas Sues U.S. To Delist Endangered Songbird.
- Missoulian (MT): Bison Range Meeting Tiptoes Around Question Of Tribal Management.
- U.S. News & World Report: Montana To Switch How It Counts Wolves In The State.
- Huffington Post: Second Lady Pence Pushes Bee Conservation, An Effort One Critic Labels 'Hypocritical'.
- Huffington Post: The Lehua Aerial Poison Drop – Endangering Native Hawaiians And The Local Fishing Industry?

National Park Service

- Billings (MT) Gazette: Montana Senator: 'Bullying Is Rampant, Sexual Harassment Goes Unaddressed' In National Parks.
- Politico Morning Energy: Report: Energy Development Endangers National Parks.
- U.S. News & World Report: Mountain Lion Kittens Near LA Die After Mother Abandons Them.
- Washington Post: In A Limited Engagement, The Fireflies Blink In Sync In The Great Smoky Mountains.
- U.S. News & World Report: 2017 Travel Season Off To Busy Start At Rocky Mountain Park.
- KCET-TV Los Angeles: Burning For Acorns In Sequoia National Park: Native Peoples And The Park Service Working Together.
- WHTM-TV Harrisburg (PA): Park Service Investigating Helicopter Incident At Gettysburg.
- San Francisco Chronicle: Coyote Encounters Force Trail Closures In SF's Presidio.
- NPR: Site Of Woodstock Added To National Registry Of Historic Places.
- USA Today: Our National Parks Must Tell The Whole Story.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR): Mapp Meets With Dept. Of Interior Officials As VI Government Receives Over \$700,000 In Grants.
- Marianas Variety: American Samoa's Aumua Backs Fresh Climate Talks.
- Samoa News: Amata And Governor Talk Issues With Secretary Of State Tillerson.
- Marianas Variety: CUC Gets Over \$60M In Grants.
- Marianas Variety: US Labor To Ramp Up Fraud Probes Of Foreign Visa Programs.

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- A Look At How Trump's Climate Moves Affect The Coal Industry.

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- UAS Magazine: US Geological Survey Using Drones To Study Prescribed Burns.

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- Cincinnati Enquirer: Trump Touts Infrastructure Plans, Blasts Democrats' "Obstruction" In Visit To Ohio.
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- ABC: Trump Announces Wray Nomination To Lead FBI To Cautiously Favorable Reviews.
- Washington Post: Trump Suggests Building Border Wall With Solar Panels.
- Fox News: Cohn: Administration, GOP Leaders On Board To Do Tax Reform This Year.
- Bloomberg Politics: Ryan: Mnuchin Is In Charge Of Debt Limit Negotiations.
- Washington Post: Chao Defends Plans To Privatize FAA Before Senate Commerce Committee.
- Washington Examiner: Labor Department Reverses Obama's Expanded "Joint Employer" Rule.
- New York Times: Hawaii Passes Laws Committing To Climate Goals Of Paris Agreement.
- Washington Post: Pruitt Wants To "Red Team" Climate Science.

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 - "James Comey And The Fear Of Being Alone With Donald Trump."
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DOI In The News

Interior Chief To Review Sage-Grouse Conservation Plan.

The [AP](#) (6/7, Daly) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said he is ordering a review of federal actions to protect the sage grouse to ensure that officials from 11 western states where the bird lives are consulted. [E&E Publishing](#) (6/7, Yachnin, Lunney) reports that Zinke, "who has been a vocal critic of the Obama-era sage grouse plans," will sign a secretarial order on Thursday "to establish a review panel to look at both federal- and state-level efforts to protect the birds and possibly recommend significant changes to how they are managed." Zinke said, "While we in the federal government have a responsibility under the Endangered Species Act to take action, we also want to be a good neighbor, a good partner and recognize that a lot of the state agencies and the work that has been done thus far are really the forefront of the efforts."

[The Hill](#) (6/7, Cama) reports that Zinke "said Wednesday that the team's goals are to evaluate whether the federal government's policies related to the greater sage grouse are compatible with state policies, whether they're beneficial for local economies and jobs and how they impact production of domestic energy." Zinke "said he wants to restore trust in the process, listen to states and businesses and improve consistency among Interior agencies like the Bureau

of Land Management (BLM) and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) in enforcing the policies.”

The [Washington Post](#) (6/7, Fears) reports that “the two-month review will take into consideration issues that concern some western politicians: jobs and energy development, some of the very things that scientists say led to the bird’s decline.”

[Reuters](#) (6/7, Gorman) reports that “environmental groups immediately protested the move, saying it might lead to unraveling a complex and delicately balanced strategy that took federal agencies years to negotiate with state and local governments, scientists, ranchers and other private interests.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/7, Carlton) reports that business groups were hopeful the move would lead to a reduction in restrictions on the affected lands. Kathleen Sgamma, president of the Denver-based Western Energy Alliance, said in a statement, “We hope Secretary Zinke will give western states a real chance to implement sage grouse protections tailored to actual conditions on the ground in each state, rather than the existing plans that don’t effectively protect sage grouse but do kill jobs.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (6/7, Siciliano), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (6/7, Yardley), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (6/7, Richards), the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (6/7, Hamway), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (6/7, Finley), the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (6/8, Harmon), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (6/7, Flatt), the [Huffington Post](#) (6/7, D’angelo), and [Law360](#).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [U.S. News & World Report](#) (6/7, Daly), [Business Insider](#) (6/7, Daly), [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (6/7, Daly), the [Owosso \(MI\) Argus-Press](#) (6/7, Daly), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (6/7, Daly), the [Daily Mail](#) (6/7, Daly), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/7, Daly), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/7, Daly), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/7, Daly), the [Fort Wayne \(IN\) News-Sentinel](#) (6/7, Daly), the [Laredo \(TX\) Morning Times](#) (6/7, Daly), [Montana Public Radio](#) (6/7), [KTVZ-TV Bend \(OR\)](#) Bend, OR (6/7), [KTVB-TV Boise \(ID\)](#) Boise, ID (6/7, Daly), and [KOLO-TV Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (6/7, Daly).

Sec. Ryan Zinke On Trump’s Push To Overhaul Infrastructure.

On [Fox News](#) (6/7), Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke commented on President Trump’s remarks Wednesday on his call to overhaul America’s infrastructure. Zinke said that Trump was not distracted from focusing on rebuilding America’s infrastructure and creating jobs.

Zinke Addresses NPS Issues At Committee Week.

[RVBusiness](#) (6/7, Kessler) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke his remarks “to an appreciative RV industry audience during a keynote presentation on the second full day of the Recreation Vehicle Industry Association (RVIA) Committee Week, an annual conference at which industry leaders gather in Washington, D.C., to set strategy and lobby Capitol Hill.” Saying he “loves public-private partnerships,” Zinke “gave a clear signal Tuesday (June 6) as to his intentions in dealing with modernizing the National Park System (NPS) campgrounds and related infrastructure.” Zinke said, “I love public-private partnerships. There’s real opportunity, especially in our park systems, for public-private partnerships.”

Secretary Zinke Testimony Overshadowed By Trump’s FBI Controversy.

The [Nation Sun News](#) (6/7) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s congressional testimony will take “place at the same time” as former director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation James Comey’s. According to the article, “the drama means Indian Country’s interests are once again playing second fiddle to the FBI controversy.”

Trump Said To Mull Combining Agencies Separated After Gulf Spill.

[Bloomberg News](#) (6/8, Dlouhy) reports that “after the 2010 Gulf oil spill, the Obama administration broke the scandal-plagued federal agency that policed offshore drilling into separate bureaus,” but “now the Trump administration is considering putting it back together again.” The move, “described by Interior Department officials and lobbyists familiar with the deliberations, would combine two agencies: one that enforces regulations on offshore drilling safety and another in charge of leasing offshore tracts.” The article notes that “keeping those roles separate was a key recommendation of a presidential commission that investigated the Deepwater Horizon blast that killed 11 men and sent oil gushing into the Gulf of Mexico for months.” The Office of Natural Resources Revenue would “be untouched by the organizational plans now under consideration by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.” The two agencies that would be combined are the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the Bureau of Ocean

Energy Management.

Utahns Unsure What to Expect From Interior on National Monument.

The [Morning Consult](#) (6/7, Fitzpatrick) reports that neither supporters nor opponents of the Bears Ears National Monument are “sure what to expect ahead of the Department of the Interior’s Saturday deadline to review its designation.” According to Gavin Noyes, executive director of Utah Dine Bikeyah, a nonprofit that supports the monument, “representatives from five tribes that initially proposed the monument designation and a nonprofit representing tribal interests met on May 25 with James Cason, who was named Interior’s associate deputy secretary the next day.” Noyes, who plans to file a lawsuit if President Trump revokes the monument, “credited the administration for agreeing to meet with his organization and the tribes that support the monument.”

Ken Burns To Trump: Don’t Scale Back Our National Parks.

Documentary filmmaker Ken Burns is urging President Trump “to reject any proposal to scale back federal park land,” telling [USA Today](#) (6/7, Ullmann), “The president donated his first paycheck to the national parks. ... I would just ask him to go out into those parks and see their transforming force...to understand that they are these important economic engines in every local economy. And as a businessman, it is going to make sense to save them.” Dayton Duncan, who along with Burns created the PBS documentary “The National Parks: America’s Best Idea,” said the President “should follow the lead of two other presidents who also came from New York City,” and pointed out that President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Antiquities Act and President Franklin Roosevelt used the act to expand Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming.

Rep. Poliquin Says State Should Have Control Of KWW, St. Clair Responds.

[WCSH-TV](#) Portland, ME (6/7, Coleman) reports that this week, Rep. Bruce Poliquin sent a letter to the Interior Department “saying regardless of President Trump’s decision, the state should gain control of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.” On Wednesday, Lucas St. Clair, President of Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters, “told NEWS CENTER reporters that he’s confident in the national monument review process.” St. Clair added that if the Trump Administration were “to rescind the national monument designation, he and his family foundation are ready to stand their ground against the state.”

Additional coverage was provided by [WMEA-FM](#) Portland, ME (6/7, Sambides).

Idaho Cattle Producers Impressed With Perdue, Zinke.

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (6/7, Dumas) reports that the Trump Administration’s “focus on collaboration between agencies and stakeholders and its position of aggressively managing issues has Idaho cattle producers optimistic about better management of public lands.” Idaho cattle producers “say they are optimistic the Trump administration will get federal agencies back on track for sustainable land management after meeting with USDA Secretary Sonny Perdue and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke late last week.”

Welcome To Idaho, Secretaries Zinke And Perdue. In an op-ed for the [Idaho Mountain Express](#) (6/7, Johnson), Rick Johnson, the executive director of the Idaho Conservation League, writes that “it was great to see the nation’s two top stewards of public lands—Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke and Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue—in Idaho on Friday.” Johnson emphasizes that “Idaho is a conservative place,” but the state also “loves its public lands.”

Keep Gulf Revenue In Budget, Oil/Gas Industry Tells Trump.

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (6/7, Schleifstein) reports two energy industry lobby groups for companies in Louisiana said President Trump should abandon his plans to rescind the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, which distributes revenue from offshore Gulf of Mexico oil and gas operations. Don Briggs, president of the Louisiana Oil and Gas Association, said, “Revenues that are shared through GOMESA are vital to the health of Louisiana’s working coast. ... The oil and gas industry worked hand-in-hand with the Congressional Delegation to ensure that these shared revenues were made permanent in order to protect Louisiana’s coastal communities.” Chris John, president of the Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association, said, “These dedicated funds should be used for coastal restoration and protection as intended by the Congress. Louisiana expects these funds to be used as a steady and predictable funding stream. Even hinting at diverting these funds from its original dedication puts meaningful dollars for coastal restoration at risk.”

Environmental Groups Want In On National Forest Canceled Leases Suit.

[Law360](#) (6/7, Sieniuc) reports that “environmental and tribal groups on Tuesday told a Washington, D.C., federal court that they want to join a suit brought by an oil and gas lessee challenging a move by the U.S. Department of the Interior to void leases on portions of a Montana national forest, saying they are better positioned to defend against efforts to invalidate the DOI’s lease-cancellation decision than the government.”

Additional Coverage: Mohave County Asks Feds To Review Ban On Mining Uranium Near The Grand Canyon.

Additional coverage that the Mojave County Board of Supervisors asked Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “this week to consider lifting a 20-year uranium mining ban on public lands in northern Arizona” was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (6/7, Dungan).

We Must Protect Our U.S. National Monuments Established Through The Antiquities Act – Created By Republican President Teddy Roosevelt.

In a piece for the [Huffington Post](#) (6/7, Ertll, Contributor), Randy Jurado Ertll, executive director of the California Latino Environmental Advocacy Network, calls for “protecting 27 of our National Monuments that were created since 1996.” He warns that “these U.S. National Monuments are at risk throughout the United States and it does affect our daily lives since our natural resources/environment would become under further threat to be privatized and possibly destroyed through development.”

Let’s Take A Stand For National Monuments.

In an op-ed for the [Las Vegas Sun](#) (6/8, Tait), Thomas Tait, the former secretary of the Nevada Tourism Commission and former president of the Nevada Tourism Alliance, argues that the “executive order to review national monuments throughout the country and potentially strip them of protection” is “unnecessary.” He warns that the “order represents a serious threat to our state economy given that public lands play an integral role in the Nevada tourism industry, our largest employer and economic engine.” He urges the public to tell the Trump Administration “to maintain protections for our national monuments and continue to safeguard Gold Butte and Basin and Range by posting a comment at [protectgoldbutte.org](#).”

Voices Of Alaska: Zinke’s Message Brings Hope To Arctic Iñupiat.

In an op-ed for the [Kenai \(AK\) Peninsula Clarion](#) (6/7, Sr.), Sayers Tuzroyluk Sr., president of the Voice of the Arctic Inupiat, welcomes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s comments on “the central role Alaska Natives” when he visited Alaska. Tuzroyluk expressed appreciation that Zinke took “the time to listen to us about the needs of our people.” Tuzroyluk thanks Zinke, for his “commitment to restoring trust among Alaska Natives and for taking concrete steps toward allowing decisions in our region to be driven by the local people.”

Bradner: Alaskans Should Take Initiative To Explore ANWR.

Tim Bradner, an Anchorage author, writes in [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (6/7) that Alaskans should take the initiative proposed by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to update the geological assessments of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Bradner said that “Alaskans deserve to have a better feel for whether major oil discoveries are really possible.” Former Gov. Sean Parnell had proposed a limited state-led, one-winter program to conduct 3D surveys, and Bradner urges Gov. Bill Walker to bring the plan back. Bradner acknowledges that securing funding for the project would be difficult, but he says, “If Alaskans are really serious about ANWR, they should step up to the plate with some money.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

President Begaye Calls For DOI Improvements.

The [Lake Powell Life](#) (6/7) reports that on June 1, Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye addressed a Department of Interior panel “calling for improvements to federal agencies that impact the lives of Native Americans across the country.” Begaye began “his statement by letting the panel know that the timeframe put forth by the DOI to solicit commentary from tribal leaders was insufficient.” The article notes that “among many issues, President Begaye presented concerns addressing tribal authority over land, efficient distribution of funding, and attention to

redundancy in tribal public safety.”

Bureau Of Indian Education

McCain Introduces Bill To Expand School Choice To Tribal Kids.

[KJZZ-FM](#) Phoenix (6/7, Jung) reports that on Tuesday, Sens. John McCain and James Lankford “introduced a bill that would give students enrolled in Bureau of Indian Education schools an education savings account that can be used for things like private-school tuition.”

Bureau Of Land Management

In Utah, Federal Land Opponent Reverses Stance On Drilling Near Zion National Park.

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (6/7, La Ganga) reports that Utah Gov. Gary Herbert reversed a previous position and “decided oil and gas companies should not be allowed to drill near Zion national park.” Last week, Herbert declared: “In keeping with our current economic track, I support the tourism and recreation economies and not leasing the parcels that have helped define Washington County and the state of Utah. In keeping with our current economic track, I support the tourism and recreation economies and not leasing the parcels that have helped define Washington County and the state of Utah.”

69,056 Acres: Montana/Dakotas BLM Online Sale Slated For June 12.

The [Fairfield \(MT\) Sun Times](#) (6/7) reports that “the Montana/Dakotas Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will be holding a quick online oil and gas lease sale commencing on June 12.” According to the article, “a total of 156 parcels comprising 69,056.13 acres in Montana will be available for bid at the upcoming event.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

California’s Green Culture May Slow Offshore Wind Progress.

[Recharge News](#) (6/7) reports that “California’s ‘jealous guardianship of the ocean’ could slow offshore wind development off the Golden State, say developers and regulators.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

Infrastructure Investments Must Prioritize The Colorado River, One Of The Hardest-working Rivers In The World.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Examiner](#) (6/7, Connor, Scarlett), Mike Connor, an Environment Program Fellow with the Walton Family Foundation and a former Deputy Secretary of the Interior and Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation in the Barack Obama Administration; and Lynn Scarlett, the Global Managing Director for Public Policy at The Nature Conservancy and a former Deputy Secretary of the Interior in the George W. Bush Administration, urges the Trump Administration to prioritize 15 projects across the Colorado River basin as highlighted in the Walton Family Foundation’s white paper “Colorado River Critical Infrastructure Needs.” The white paper, “while not an all-inclusive list of needed actions, identifies over a dozen specific projects as well as some basin-wide initiatives that have significant water user support and represent a range of strategies to address water resource challenges, including traditional water supply improvements, habitat and stream restoration actions, and improved data-gathering networks.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

USFWS Recognizes Fort Hood For Conservation.

The [Fort Hood \(TX\) News Sentinel](#) (6/8, Ashley) reports that Fort Hood was “recognized Wednesday by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with the agency’s 2017 Military Conservation Partner Award at a ceremony held at III Corps Headquarters.” Dr. Benjamin Tuggle, southwest regional director, USFWS, “presented the award to Fort Hood Garrison Commander Col. Todd Fox,

on behalf of the Service to recognize the post's efforts with conservation and environmental stewardship." Tuggle said, "Fort Hood serves as an outstanding example of the many conservation contributions that military installations make across the country. They have ensured in execution of the training of our young Soldiers ... that they pay attention to the stewardship responsibility that comes with that."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Killeen \(TX\) Daily Herald](#) (6/7, Douglas).

Texas Sues U.S. To Delist Endangered Songbird.

[Courthouse News](#) (6/7, De La Garza) reports that "the Texas land commissioner sued the United States this week, claiming its refusal to delist the golden-cheeked warbler from the endangered species list prevents landowners from effectively managing their own properties." The Texas Public Policy Foundation, "acting on behalf of the Texas General Land Office, filed the lawsuit Monday against the Department of the Interior and U.S. Fish and Wildlife in Austin federal court after sending an intent-to-sue letter in March." The lawsuit argues "new scientific data shows the migratory songbird's population has recovered and that environmental protections are unnecessary because it has approximately five times more breeding habitat than estimated at the time of its listing in 1990."

Habitat Shows Why Golden-cheeked Warbler Isn't At Risk. In an op-ed for the [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (6/7, Wilcox), Erim Wilcox, an attorney with the Center for the American Future at the Texas Public Policy Foundation, writes that the golden-cheeked warbler has "been listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act since 1990," but "despite federal law requiring that it do so, the USFWS has refused to designate critical habitat for the warbler, leaving landowners in 39 counties in regulatory limbo." Wilcox writes that "when USFWS first listed the warbler as endangered in 1990, it claimed that habitat destruction was one of the main reasons for protecting the warbler." But he argues that "if USFWS doesn't know which habitat is critical for the warbler, how can habitat destruction justify the listing?"

Bison Range Meeting Tiptoes Around Question Of Tribal Management.

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (6/7, Chaney) reports that "Tuesday's Polson meeting and a second session set for Wednesday in Kalispell open a three-year process of writing a comprehensive conservation plan for the National Bison Range." FWS Regional Refuge Supervisor Bernie Petersen "said in Polson that the Obama Administration's work leading up to the Federal Register notice was still on the table, but was part of a new process." Petersen said, "We won't say it's not going to be used, but we're taking a fresh look at all of it. There is an alternative on the table for a transfer (to CSKT management), but when the secretary decided to change course, that means he's not in favor at this time of doing a transfer."

Montana To Switch How It Counts Wolves In The State.

The [AP](#) (6/7, Volz) reports that "Montana wildlife officials say the way they count wolves is too expensive and falls far short of an actual population estimate, so they plan to switch to a model that uses information gathered from hunters." But wildlife advocates "say wolf numbers are declining and the switch could threaten the species' survival." They are concerned "the data is too unreliable to be used to manage the population."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [ABC News](#) (6/7, Volz), the [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (6/7, Volz), [Fox News](#) (6/7, Volz), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/7, Volz), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (6/7, Volz), and the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/7, Matt Volz |, Ap).

Second Lady Pence Pushes Bee Conservation, An Effort One Critic Labels 'Hypocritical'.

The [Huffington Post](#) (6/7, D'angelo) reports that "in hopes of boosting the local bee population and raising awareness about the threats facing the planet's most important pollinators, second lady Karen Pence has installed a honeybee hive at the vice presidential residence in Washington." Pence and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue "unveiled the new hive — home to a growing population of some 20,000 bees — at an event Tuesday and 'urged Americans to do their own part to help reverse' an ongoing worldwide decline in the bee population, according to a White House release." But Tiffany Finck-Haynes, "an expert in bee populations at the nonprofit advocacy group Friends of the Earth, called the White House request 'extremely hypocritical' in light of the administration's proposed cuts to funding for environmental protection." Finck-Haynes said, "They're not putting their money where their mouth is, based on their proposed budget cuts to critical agencies that are needed to help protect bees, butterflies and other pollinators."

The Lehua Aerial Poison Drop – Endangering Native Hawaiians And The Local Fishing Industry?

In a piece for the [Huffington Post](#) (6/7, Sergio, Contributor), Maggie Sergio, a conservationist, writes that “in Hawaii, the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), and U.S Fish & Wildlife, (USFWS) are planning several rat poison drops via helicopter onto Lehua Island, located approximately 30 miles west of Kaua’i.” She notes that “the planned drop is ¾ of a mile from an important Native Hawaiian community, the Ni’ihauans.” Sergio raises concerns that “there is risk that the poison pellets (lethal anticoagulant rodenticides) could impact the biologically diverse and important Lehua Crater.”

National Park Service

Montana Senator: ‘Bullying Is Rampant, Sexual Harassment Goes Unaddressed’ In National Parks.

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (6/7, Lutey) reports that the National Park Service has “become a workplace where ‘bullying is rampant, sexual harassment goes unaddressed’ and top employees go unpunished, U.S. Sen. Steve Daines, R-Mont., said Wednesday during a hearing sparked by a Yellowstone Park scandal.” Daines, “chairing a subcommittee hearing on National Park Service workplace problems, said, “As a son, husband and father of four, including two young women, this is completely unacceptable.” The NPS is “working on workplace issues, said Michael T. Reynolds, acting director of NPS, but restoring employee trust will take work. Reynolds said, “There are some park locations where these cases were allowed to fester, where employees felt reporting these conditions would change nothing and invite retaliation. That was a wakeup call that we needed to make significant improvements to our workplace environment.”

Report: Energy Development Endangers National Parks.

The “Morning Energy” blog of [Politico](#) (6/7) reported “the National Parks Conservation Association is out with a report warning of negative consequences from improperly sited oil and gas leases at seven national parks.”

Mountain Lion Kittens Near LA Die After Mother Abandons Them.

The [AP](#) (6/7) reports that “two mountain lion kittens being tracked by scientists have died in the Southern California wilderness after being abandoned by their mother.” The male and female known as P-57 and P-58 were “part of a study of cougars by researchers with the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, which sprawls from Los Angeles westward along the coast.” The two were “believed to be the first litter for their mother, 3-year-old P-42, National Park Service spokeswoman Kate Kuykendall said via Facebook this week.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/7), [Business Insider](#) (6/7), the [Daily Mail](#) (6/7), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/7), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/7), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (6/7), [Tucson News Now \(AZ\)](#) (6/7), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/7, Press), and [WTOP-FM Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (6/7).

In A Limited Engagement, The Fireflies Blink In Sync In The Great Smoky Mountains.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/7, Sachs) reports that “for two or three weeks in late May and early June, Great Smoky Mountains National Park pulsates with light and darkness.” The park is “home to 19 species of fireflies, including 13 that flash.” According to the article, “only one — the synchronous firefly — turns the springtime mating ritual into an incandescent performance that dazzles like a laser show.”

2017 Travel Season Off To Busy Start At Rocky Mountain Park.

The [AP](#) (6/7) reports that “the 2017 travel season is off to a busy start at Rocky Mountain National Park, which set a record for visitors last year.” Park spokeswoman Kyle Patterson “said Tuesday visitor numbers in April were up 21 percent over the same month in 2016.”

Burning For Acorns In Sequoia National Park: Native Peoples And The Park Service Working Together.

[KCET-TV](#) Los Angeles (6/7, Clarke) reports that fire crews from Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks this week are “managing a controlled burn in Sequoia’s Ash Mountain area, adjacent to the Park entrance on Route 198 east of Three Rivers.” According to the article, “the

26-acre burn, which will continue in several sections for four or five days, is being conducted in part to attempt to knock down grassy fuels whose growth was stimulated by the Sierra Nevada's wet winter." The article notes that "controlled burns in the Parks are nothing new, but the Ash Mountain burn is a little different: it's happening with advice and assistance from the Parks' Indigenous neighbors, and reducing fuel load is just one of the objectives." The Ash Mountain burn is "also intended to boost the health of oak trees in the area, and increase acorn crops in subsequent yields."

Park Service Investigating Helicopter Incident At Gettysburg.

[WHTM-TV](#) Harrisburg, PA (6/7, Snyder) reports that the National Park Service is seeking information on "what a helicopter pilot was up to Sunday morning at Gettysburg National Military Park." According to the park service, "the helicopter was seen flying low and may have been dropping something."

Coyote Encounters Force Trail Closures In SF's Presidio.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (6/7, Fimrite) reports that the Presidio Trust, "which manages the area for the National Park Service, banned dogs this week on the Park Trail, between West Pacific Avenue and Crissy Field, and the Bay Area Ridge Trail, between Arguello Boulevard and the Rob Hill Campground, in an effort to protect people and their pets." Michael Boland, chief of parks development and operations at the Presidio Trust, said, "They perceive all canines as coyotes, so they are very threatened, very territorial and they are protecting their offspring. What's happening is they are trying to scare the dog away. It's designed to be threatening, but it can be scary if you are not used to having that kind of interaction with a coyote."

Site Of Woodstock Added To National Registry Of Historic Places.

[NPR](#) (6/7, Flanagan) reports that "the Bethel Woods Center for the Arts, the site of the Woodstock music festival in 1969, has been added to the National Register of Historic Places, according to an announcement on its website."

Our National Parks Must Tell The Whole Story.

In an op-ed for [USA Today](#) (6/8, Warren), Mackenzie Warren, who is on a mission to get to visit all 417 National Park Service sites, writes that "national parks are inherently egalitarian in their ideal," but "in many parks, the visitor profile does not match the makeup of America." Warren notes that "recent park service-funded research suggests a complex network of economic, historical and cultural barriers keeping some segments of American society away from national parks." Warren calls for more to "be done to document the struggles, controversies, contributions and achievements that continue to define our nation." In order for national parks to remain America's "best idea," Warren argues that "the concept needs to grow and evolve to reflect a wider range of experiences and be more accessible to all Americans."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Mapp Meets With Dept. Of Interior Officials As VI Government Receives Over \$700,000 In Grants.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (6/7) reports that on Tuesday, Interior Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula and "other officials met with Governor Kenneth Mapp to discuss issues facing the territory, the Department of Interior announced Wednesday." They talked about "infrastructure challenges related to the hospitals and various initiatives that Mr. Mapp has implemented and is developing to bring greater fiscal stability to the Virgin Islands." Mapp's "trip coincided with the release of \$704,000 in technical and maintenance assistance funding from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) which will support the governor and his administration in several important ways." According to the article, "funds will be used to explore potential manufacturing and production in food and agricultural products and to save costs and improve the provision of public services in water distribution and maintenance and correctional safety." Pula said, "The governor and I were able to have frank discussions on his priorities for the U.S. Virgin Islands. I am pleased OIA is able to provide some assistance to worthy projects that will directly impact and enhance the government's ability to deliver services and opportunities."

Additional coverage was provided by the [St. Thomas Source](#) (6/8) and the [Virgin Islands](#)

[Daily News](#) (6/8, Carlson).

American Samoa's Aumua Backs Fresh Climate Talks.

[Marianas Variety](#) (6/6) reports that "American Samoa's delegate to the U.S. Congress, Aumua Amata, says she can understand the disappointment Pacific Islanders feel about the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris Climate Change Pact." But "she feels that this is an opportunity to come up with a better and more effective agreement." Aumua said Trump "did not believe that sending U.S. dollars to an international body was the best way to expend resources." Aumua added that "she was pleased that he committed to begin immediate negotiations for terms more favorable to the U.S., so the U.S. could rejoin the agreement."

Amata And Governor Talk Issues With Secretary Of State Tillerson.

[Samoa News](#) (6/7) reports that Congresswoman Aumua Amata met with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson "during his second stopover in Pago Pago over the past few days to discuss some of the pressing issues facing American Samoa." The article notes that "also participating in the historic meeting were Gov. Lolo Matalasi Moliga and Lt. Gov. Lemanu Peleti Mauga." Amata said, "It was a very successful meeting. The Governor and I discussed issues pertaining to the Pacific, American Samoa, and the United States' commitment to the region. This is the second high-profile visitor that American Samoa has welcomed in the past few months, which demonstrates just how receptive and involved the new administration is in regards to the territories... a welcome change."

CUC Gets Over \$60M In Grants.

[Marianas Variety](#) (6/8, Todiño) reports that "the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. was able to secure \$60.03 million in grants as of April, its executive director, Gary Camacho, said on Wednesday." CUC grant administrator Carl J. Castro, "in a separate interview, said they expect a 'significant increase' in obligated grants in the next few months, adding that they will obligate a huge portion of their grant money to various projects." According to the article, "as of April, Castro said of the \$60.03 million in grants they received, \$43.04 million had been obligated while only \$16.98 million remained unobligated."

US Labor To Ramp Up Fraud Probes Of Foreign Visa Programs.

[Marianas Variety](#) (6/8) reports that the U.S. Labor Department "said on Tuesday it is stepping up efforts to root out potential fraud in its visa programs for foreign workers, a move that will include increases in both civil investigations as well as criminal referrals." The announcement by Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta follows President Trump in April "ordering a review of the U.S. visa program as part of his 'America First' campaign pledge." On Tuesday, the Labor Department said its new policy will be to "enforce vigorously all laws within its jurisdiction governing the administration and enforcement of non-immigrant visa programs."

Office Of Surface Mining

A Look At How Trump's Climate Moves Affect The Coal Industry.

The [AP](#) (6/7, Gruver, Brown) reports that long-term energy trends within the coal industry, such as the growing competition from natural gas, wind and solar power, have had "far more of an effect on the fossil fuel industries than climate regulations." Over the last decade, coal's share of the U.S. power market fell from 50 percent to about 32 percent, and hundreds of coal-burning power plants are scheduled to retire or shut down soon. The Trump administration, however, is undeterred in its support of coal. During a Wednesday meeting with international energy ministers in Beijing, Energy Secretary Rick Perry "said devising ways to burn coal more cleanly could stimulate economic growth."

US Geological Survey

Fisheries Scientists To Review Minnesota Lake's Fish Count.

The [AP](#) (6/7) reports that "a nationwide group of fisheries scientists will review the Minnesota Department of Natural Resource's walleye assessment on a popular fishing lake after nearby resort owners questioned the department's low population assessment of the fish." The experts,

led by Chris Vandergoot of the U.S. Geological Survey, will be available to answer questions from members of the Mille Lacs Fisheries Advisory Committee.

US Geological Survey Using Drones To Study Prescribed Burns.

[UAS Magazine](#) (6/7, Miller) reports that U.S. Geological Survey scientists and its partners are “using unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) to gather data on the prescribed burns used to protect lives and property during wildfires.” The program “combines expertise from multiple USGS partners with the goal of reducing the harmful effects of smoke impacts during planned burns.” Todd Hoefen, USGS lead scientist, said, “We aim to use drones to better understand the relationship between fire intensity and what type of particulates are released from fires of greater or lesser intensity. This can tell us what a fire leaves behind and how that could affect people and the environment.”

Top National News

Trump Touts Infrastructure Plans, Blasts Democrats’ “Obstruction” In Visit To Ohio.

Media coverage of the President’s remarks in Cincinnati cast them as a return to his campaign themes – and as an attempt to gain momentum for his agenda as the Russia investigation picks up steam in Washington, DC. The [Cincinnati Enquirer](#) (6/7, Williams) says Trump “was in his element” and “found solace in a region that played a big role in sending him to the White House last November,” but [Reuters](#) (6/7, Mason) reports that his efforts to “refocus attention on core” campaign “promises to boost jobs and the economy” were “eclipsed by the furor over Russia’s alleged meddling in the election.” Likewise, [CNN](#) (6/7, Merica) said that “though Trump stuck to the script, only veering from infrastructure to talk about health care briefly, his top White House aides were focused on what will happen less than two miles down Pennsylvania Avenue on Thursday.” CNN added that former FBI Director “Comey’s testimony has all but stalled Trump’s legislative agenda.”

The [Cincinnati Enquirer](#) (6/7, Williams, Horn), meanwhile, refers to a “campaign-style speech” by the President, who attacked “Democrats while promising to fix roads, bridges, dams, the steel and coal industries, health care and the tax code.” The Enquirer highlights that “though Republicans control the House, Senate and White House, Trump said Democrats are responsible for the challenges some of his initiatives have faced, including the GOP health care bill now in the Senate.” Said Trump, “Total obstruction from Democrats. ... We have had no help.”

To the [New York Times](#) (6/7, Thrush), Trump’s “forceful “America first” message” was “a wandering assortment of self-defenses, attacks and non sequiturs that bumped into one another like untethered barges.” The [Dayton \(OH\) Daily News](#) (6/7, Hulsey) notes “the Ohio River was the backdrop to Trump’s speech,” with “a barge loaded with what appeared to be coal...docked on the Kentucky side.” Then, “just before 1 p.m. a huge American flag was draped over its tug boat.” [WVXU-FM](#) Cincinnati (6/7, Wilkinson) said the barge was “full of West Virginia coal.”

[WXIX-TV](#) Cincinnati (6/7, 10:21 p.m. EDT) showed Trump saying, “The great highway system, the Interstate highway system, we don’t do that any more. We really don’t. We don’t even fix the old highways anymore. We’ll take even fixing ‘em. But we are going to get them going again like they’ve never been before.” [WKBN-TV](#) Youngstown, OH (6/7, 6:08 p.m. EDT) showed him saying, “It’s time to rebuild our country, to bring back our jobs, to restore our dreams, and yes, it’s time finally to put America first. And that’s what I’ve been doing, if you haven’t noticed.” [WCPO-TV](#) Cincinnati (6/7, 7:01 p.m. EDT) reported that Trump addressed “a much smaller crowd, a lot different than what we have seen in the past at his big rallies.”

The [Washington Post](#) (6/7, Paletta, Nakamura) portrays Trump as seeking “to rally blue-collar workers,” and adds that if “part of the aim was to build crucial bipartisan support for a plan he has claimed will boost jobs, Trump was unable to mask his disdain for his political rivals.” Said the President, “Every single thing is obstruction.” He added that “if I was in that party, I would not do it that way. I’d be doing positive things. That’s why they lost the House, it’s why they lost the Senate, it’s why they lost the White House.”

The [Toledo \(OH\) Blade](#) (6/7, Provance) reports that “early on, the idea of a massive federal investment into the nation’s aging bridge, highway, rail, and other public infrastructure was cited as an area where Democrats and the new Republican president might find common ground.” Sen. Sherrod Brown said yesterday, “I will judge any infrastructure package by whether it’s good for Ohio. ... What we’ve seen from the President so far falls short. We need the real, meaningful investments the President promised on the campaign trail, not handouts to Wall Street or fees

and tolls on working families." The [AP](#) (6/7) says "Democrats have balked at Trump's plan for financing improvements, arguing it would result in taxpayer-funded profits for corporations with the cost offloaded on consumers." To [Politico](#) (6/7, Nelson), meanwhile, the reason Democrats haven't backed Trump's plans is that they have "come via a bare-bones outline in his administration's budget proposal, and the White House has up to this point placed more emphasis on undoing Obamacare and pushing an overhaul of the US tax code."

The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (6/7, Pelzer) notes the President's appearance came "days after he announced a \$1 trillion plan to help build and refurbish the country's transportation and utility infrastructure using a mix of public and private funding (the former coming mostly from state and local governments)." The [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (6/7, Ludlow) says Trump "wants to leverage \$200 billion in the pending federal budget to obtain matching spending by private corporations and state and local governments to generate \$1 trillion to tackle a backlog of infrastructure maintenance needs." Said the President yesterday, "Yet, if we want to fix a road or build a school, we don't ever seem to have the money. It's got to change, folks. It's wrong. ... It's time to rebuild our country to bring back our jobs and restore our dreams and it's time, finally, to put America first and that's what I've been doing if you haven't noticed."

[WHIO-TV](#) Dayton, OH (6/7, 11:05 p.m. EDT) highlighted the fact that Trump "did not call for a gas tax increase to pay for" his plan. Instead, "his plan leaves the door open for private investment. Companies would build for projects up front and be paid back over time with tolls and user fees." Trump: "It is time to recapture our legacy as a nation of builders and create new lanes of travel, commerce, and discovery and we are going to see all the way into the future."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/7, Boyer, Miller) reports "Trump said his predecessor, President Barack Obama, and a Democratic Congress failed to help rebuild America in 2009 with an infamous \$825 billion 'stimulus' package." The President also "said his approval of the once-installed Dakota Access oil pipeline is indicative of his approach to getting things done." Said Trump, "Nobody thought any politician would have the guts to approve that final link. ... I just closed my eyes and said 'do it.' When I approved it, I thought I'd take a lot of heat. I took none, actually none. People respected that I approved it. I take so much heat for nonsense, it probably overrode the other. It's like a decoy." The [Daily Caller](#) (6/7, Goodman) noted that Trump also "reiterated his commitment to the American worker," saying to "applause," "As long as I am president, America's labor leaders will always find an open door at the White House."

The [Dayton \(OH\) Daily News](#) (6/7, Hulsey) reports that Frani Jones, "whose husband Don owns the marina" where Trump spoke yesterday, "said the White House called them on Friday asking to allow the president to appear there." Said Mrs. Jones, "We're very excited to be hosting the president of the United States." The Daily News adds that "Tom Jones, Don's brother and the chairman of the board of Bryan Equipment Sales in Cincinnati, said he also is a Trump supporter."

Chris Cilizza said on [CNN Wolf](#) (6/7), "This is an attempt to talk about something that, frankly, does have some possibility or at least did have some possibility of getting bipartisan support or at a minimum, putting Democrats in tough spots." David Gregory said on [CNN Wolf](#) (6/7) that "you can't just talk about infrastructure in a vacuum. This requires a lot of the political capital. It is a campaign that requires a lot of work, working together in the administration, having issue discipline and then you look at the backlog in terms of legislative accomplishments."

Collins: Trump Not Advancing Infrastructure Plan. Gail Collins, in a column in the [New York Times](#) (6/8, Collins), writes that while Trump pronounced this to be Infrastructure Week, he hasn't discussed the issue with legislative leaders; never reached out to Democrats willing to consider infrastructure spending, instead calling them "obstructionist" on the issue; and "didn't say anything at all about how his infrastructure plan would work, possibly because it doesn't appear to exist at this point in time."

Comey Told Trump He Wasn't Under Investigation, Says Trump Asked Him To Drop Flynn Probe.

The release of former FBI Director James Comey's [written testimony](#) ahead of his Thursday appearance before the Senate Intelligence Committee dominated the news cycle, with extensive cable commentary and more than 29 minutes of combined airtime on the major network newscasts. Much of the mainstream media's tone cast Comey's disclosures as raising serious legal questions about the President, with several Democrats and commentators speaking of possible obstruction of justice. Republicans and conservative news outlets, meanwhile, portrayed the President's interactions with Comey as legitimate, and highlighted the fact that Comey confirmed that he told Trump that he was not under investigation.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (6/7, lead story, 4:40, Holt) called Comey's statement "explosive" in its

lead story, and the [Washington Post](#) (6/7, A1, O'Keefe, Demirjian) reports on its front page that Comey "could bring the question of whether...Trump attempted to obstruct justice to the forefront." House Intelligence Committee ranking member Adam Schiff said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/7) that it's "certainly very possible that this is evidence...that could amount to obstruction," and Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, also on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/7), said Trump's behavior was "prima facie obstruction of justice." Sen. Ron Wyden, on [CNN's The Lead](#) (6/7), referred to "a Watergate-level effort to interfere with an ongoing investigation." Pressed on whether it amounted to obstruction, he added, "That's going to be a topic for lawyers, but I'll tell you if it looks like a duck and it quacks like a duck, it just might be a duck."

On the other hand, GOP Sen. James Lankford said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/7) that what is "very clear is the President wasn't saying" to Comey that he had to drop the Flynn probe "or else. ... What I hear from it is the President just fired Flynn, who he liked and who he respected, but understood he lied to the Vice President, he's not going to do that and be in the Administration. He's trying to say we fired him, that's enough." Rich Lowry, writing for [National Review](#) (6/7), summed it all up by concluding that "this isn't much of a bombshell and is going to be a very thin reed to try to build an obstruction case on."

There were also differing reactions to Comey confirming he told Trump he wasn't under investigation. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/7, Lauter), for example, indicates that "Republicans quickly seized on" that fact "as a major talking point," but the Times argues that "the idea that the president might personally be under scrutiny was never at the center of the controversy" in the first place. The [Washington Post](#) (6/7, Barrett), meanwhile, reports that "in essence, Comey's written testimony confirms a key claim that Trump has made," but to the [New York Times](#) (6/7, Schmidt, Goldman), even his attempts to get "Comey to announce" that he "was not personally under investigation" were part of Trump's "wide-ranging effort by...to influence the FBI's investigation into Russia's meddling in the election." [Politico](#) (6/7, Gerstein) notes that Comey made it clear he "rebuffed the president's attempts to have the agency clear him publicly in case the probe did eventually turn to Trump."

Eli Lake writes for [Bloomberg View](#) (6/7, Lake) that "it's strange that Comey's devastating testimony before the Senate on Thursday will end up vindicating in part something Trump and his advisers have been saying for months." But "make no mistake. The Boy Scout will fire back at the president who fired him." The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (6/7, Harrington), meanwhile, headlines its story "Comey Assured Trump Three Times He Was Not Being Personally Investigated," [Townhall](#) (6/7, Pavlich) "Comey Confirms President Trump Is Not Under FBI Investigation," [The Federalist](#) (6/7, Hemingway) "Comey Confirms He Thrice Told Trump He Was Not Being Investigated," and [Breitbart](#) (6/7, Pollak) "James Comey Testimony Proves Trump Right, CNN Wrong" – noting that "CNN reported on Tuesday that Comey was 'expected to refute Trump.'"

Former senior communications adviser for the Trump campaign Jason Miller said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/7), "I thought this was supposed to be about Russia. I thought this was supposedly about trying to get to the President about some supposed coordination between the campaign and some foreign entity. That seems to have been completely thrown out. You can see why Republicans look at this and feel like it's a witch-hunt."

According to the [Washington Times](#) (6/7, Dinan, Noble), "former bureau officials" said Comey "is unlikely to shed new light on the ongoing investigation into Russian interference in the presidential election and any links with members of the Trump campaign." Meanwhile, another [Washington Times](#) (6/7, Dinan) report notes "White House deputy press secretary Sarah Sanders told reporters Wednesday afternoon that she found the timing of the released testimony 'a little bit interesting.'"

Last night, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/7, lead story, 6:00, Muir) reported that at Thursday's hearing Comey will "acknowledge that he did tell the President that he was not under investigation personally on multiple occasions." However, "when it came to the investigation into...Flynn, Comey will say the President urged him to 'let this go.'" Catherine Herridge reported on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/7) that "Comey stated, 'I understood the President to be requesting that we drop any investigation of Flynn in connection with false statements about his conversations with the Russian ambassador in December. I did not understand the President to be talking about the broader investigation into Russia, more possible links to his campaign.'" However, Herridge noted that Comey "continues, 'It was very concerning, given the FBI's role as an independent investigative agency.'"

The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/7, lead story, 3:55, Pelley) reported that Comey found that meeting with the President "so concerning that he...decided to implore the Attorney General to prevent any future direct communications between the President" and himself. CBS also noted

that "Comey reassured Mr. Trump that he was not personally under investigation." After that, the former FBI chief claims, Trump "repeatedly told me, 'we need to get that fact out.'" Jonathan Karl said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/7, story 2, 0:55, Muir) that Comey provided "several reasons" for not going public "with the fact that Trump was not under investigation. ... Primarily, because if it changed and if the FBI investigation began to turn to focus on...Trump, Comey said it would have been a duty to correct the record."

[USA Today](#) (6/7, Johnson) reports that Comey's statement outlined "nine contacts with...Trump, including a Jan. 27 dinner in which Trump apparently said: 'I need loyalty, I expect loyalty.'" USA Today adds that "later, in a Feb. 14 meeting at the White House, Comey said Trump strongly defended Flynn, saying that his former national security adviser 'hadn't done anything wrong' in his prior contact with Russian ambassador Sergey Kislyak." Trump added, "He is a good guy. I hope you can let this go." [McClatchy](#) (6/7, Welsh, Irby) notes that "Trump had asked for Flynn's resignation the day before, following revelations that the former national security adviser misled Vice President Mike Pence regarding his phone conversations" with Kislyak.

To John Dickerson of the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/7, story 3, 1:55, Pelley), "the fact that the President asked for private meetings to have these conversations leads some to believe that he knew what he was doing wasn't right." Jeffrey Toobin said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/7) that if Comey's testimony is "to be believed, I think it does lay out a case of obstruction of justice against the President." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/7, story 3, 2:05, Muir) called "reaction to Comey's account of his conversations with the President swift, and from Democrats, fierce." Schiff was shown saying, "The President demanded his loyalty, didn't get it. The President asked him to drop the Flynn case, and he didn't do it. Is this why Jim Comey was fired?" ABC (Bruce) added, however, that "the number two Republican in the Senate sees it through a different lens. Is it appropriate for the President to be demanding loyalty of his FBI director?" Sen. John Cornyn was shown saying, "I think every President wants loyalty from his appointees. But I think Mr. Comey appropriately pointed out that an FBI director is different from a traditional political appointee, and they seem to have agreed to something called honest loyalty or loyal honesty."

[Fox News](#) (6/7, Berger) reported that "Comey admitted that when Trump later said he wanted 'honest loyalty,' Comey assured, 'You will get that from me.'" Comey "later wrote in a personal memo he may have interpreted that term differently from Trump." The [New York Post](#) (6/7, Moore) reports that Comey wrote in a memo that very night, "It is possible we understood the phrase 'honest loyalty' differently, but I decided it wouldn't be productive to push it further. The term – honest loyalty – had helped end a very awkward conversation and my explanations had made clear what he should expect."

[Roll Call](#) (6/7, Lesniewski), [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/7, Talev, Strohm), [The Hill](#) (6/7, Williams) and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/7, Wilber), among other news outlets, focus their reporting on the Flynn and "loyalty" issues. Sen. Martin Heinrich, on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/7), said "it's absolutely devastating, completely inappropriate and I would leave it to someone like Bob Mueller...as to whether it's prosecutable." Rep. Eric Swalwell, a member of the House Intelligence Committee, said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/7) that it "is wrong the President demanded loyalty for...Comey to keep his job. It was wrong to ask him to drop the case against his friend, Michael Flynn. And [it was] wrong that he hounded obsessively James Comey to, as he called it, 'lift the cloud' around the Russia investigation."

Trump Feels "Totally Vindicated" By Comey Statement. The [New York Post](#) (6/7, Fredericks) reports that "Trump's personal lawyer said Wednesday that...Comey's testimony to the Senate Intelligence Committee has left Trump feeling 'completely and totally vindicated.'" Wrote Marc Kasowitz, "The president is pleased that Mr. Comey has finally publicly confirmed his private reports that the President was not under investigation in any Russia probe. ... The president feels completely and totally vindicated. He is eager to continue to move forward with his agenda."

White House Mobilizing To Defend Trump; RNC Produces Talking Points. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/7, Cirilli, Jacobs) reports that the White House is "mobilizing" to defend Trump during former FBI Director Comey's Senate testimony, "an effort comparable to preparations for the presidential debate following the release of an Access Hollywood tape that nearly derailed his campaign." Trump's personnel attorney Marc Kasowitz was at the White House on Wednesday morning, while an "outside rapid-response operation" will be led by former deputy chief of staff Katie Walsh, who left the White House in March to join a pro-Trump group, and Mike Dubke, who recently resigned as White House communications director.

[Politico](#) (6/7, Nussbaum, Dawsey, Samuelsohn, Palmeri) likewise reports that "the White House and its allies have scrambled to create a robust outside operation to punch at...Comey"

during his testimony on Thursday, but “West Wing aides – fearful that they could get further sucked into the Russia probe – are trying to avoid being the messengers themselves.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/7) reports that the RNC has produced talking points which offer “Republicans a number of pointers including how to respond to Comey’s opening statement.” The Examiner, which obtained a copy of the talking points, highlights several, including, “President Trump feels completely and totally vindicated by...Comey’s opening testimony and is eager to move forward,” Comey “has a long history of blatant contradictions and misstatements,” and “There is no evidence of collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia,” among others.

WPost Analysis: Trump Does Not See Russia Investigation As Legitimate. A [Washington Post](#) (6/7, Rucker) analysis says President Trump does not see the Russia matter as “a legitimate federal investigation into a foreign government’s interference with American democracy,” and he does not regard it “as an issue that could result in his impeachment, or even one that could expose him to legal trouble of any kind.” Instead, he sees it as “a political ‘cloud’ that hangs over him.” To Trump, “the Russia investigation has been an act of personal betrayal with political, though not legal, consequences, insofar as it has impeded his agenda and sullied the start of his presidency.” Moreover, according to “friends and advisors,” he “views the Russia scandal as a threat to the legitimacy of his election.” Trump “feels immense pride that he...defied the polls and pundits to handily win an electoral college majority.” The Russia probe “challenges the validity of that win,” and “for that, he exhibits a feeling of victimization.”

Sources: Comey Testimony “Closely Coordinated” With Mueller. According to a [Fox News](#) (6/7, Gibson) exclusive, a source close to Comey says his testimony has been “closely coordinated” with Robert Mueller, whom the Justice Department appointed as special counsel to oversee the Russia investigation. The source also told Fox News that Comey “will not come to any legal conclusions about whether there was ‘obstruction of justice’ on the part of President Trump.” The [New York Times](#) (6/7, Baker, Thrush) reports that by authorizing the release of his opening statement, Comey “instantly changed the conversation back to his assertion that the president tried to shut down part of the FBI investigation,” leaving the White House “on the defensive.”

Philip Wegmann writes for the [Washington Examiner](#) (6/7) that the Russia investigation also has “sparked a beautiful and influential relationship” between Comey and Benjamin Wittes, an editor of the Lawfare blog who “meets and occasionally speaks for the beleaguered lawman.” Wegmann says that “because of that relationship, his analysis of the FBI director’s written testimony comes closest to the real opinion of Comey.”

Poll: 61% Believe Trump Fired Comey To Protect Himself. [TIME](#) (6/7, Jenkins) reports that “more than 60% of Americans” think Trump fired FBI Director Comey “in order to protect himself rather than to help the country,” according to a new ABC News/Washington Post poll. The survey also found 72% of Americans “don’t trust Trump’s word on Russia, but 55% also don’t buy Comey’s – likely a reflection of his own past controversies such as Hillary Clinton’s email scandal and an overall distrust of the federal government.”

Rogers And Coats Say They Didn’t Feel “Pressured” On Russia Investigations, Won’t Offer Specifics. Media reports on the testimony of DNI Dan Coats and NSA Director Rogers cast their words as unfavorable toward the White House’s interests. The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/7, story 2, 2:50, Pelley) reported “just as Comey alleges Mr. Trump pressured him over the investigation, sources also say he made similar requests of” Coats and Rogers. During testimony Wednesday before the Senate Intelligence Committee, “neither would answer questions about their interactions with the President, but they denied any outside influence.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/7, story 2, 2:30, Holt) showed Rogers saying, “I do not recall ever feeling pressured to do so,” while Coats was shown stating, “I never felt pressure to intervene or interfere in any way.” But NBC (Jackson) added, “Asked to elaborate, they didn’t.” The [Washington Times](#) (6/7, Boylan) runs the full statement by Coats: “I have never felt pressure to intervene or interfere in any way with shaping intelligence in a political way or in relationship to an ongoing investigation.”

Pierre Thomas said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/7, story 4, 3:30, Muir), “Over and over, they would not reveal what, if anything, the President had said to them. And many senators grew frustrated, saying there was no reason not to answer the questions.” Sen. Martin Heinrich was shown saying, “I think your unwillingness to answer a very basic question speaks volumes.”

[USA Today](#) (6/7, Kelly) reports Coats and Rogers “told a Senate panel Wednesday that they would not answer questions about whether...Trump asked them to downplay possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russian officials.” [Politico](#) (6/7, Cheney, Gerstein) headlines its report “Coats And Rogers Refuse To Say If Trump Asked Them To Sway Russia Probe,” the

[Washington Post](#) (6/7, Nakashima, Demirjian) says the two “said...they would not discuss specifics of private conversations with...Trump,” and [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/7, Strohm, Dennis) that they “refused to say whether they were asked...to help impede an FBI investigation.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/7, Tau, Sonne) and [New York Times](#) (6/7, Huetteman, Savage) run similar reports.

Dana Bash said on [CNN Wolf](#) (6/7), “I don’t remember ever seeing anything quite like this. Not that we haven’t seen hearing after hearing where witnesses didn’t want to or didn’t feel that it was their responsibility or appropriate to give a response. But nothing at this level when it was very well-known that this is where the panel was going to be going. ... They just didn’t have a real answer except for it wasn’t appropriate.” Bash added that there is “bipartisan frustration and they are perplexed at why there weren’t better answers.”

Journalist Carl Bernstein said on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/7), “It was an appalling moment, their absolute contempt for the Congress of the United States and its legitimate function, and they showed it in their attitude.”

Wyden said on [CNN Wolf](#) (6/7) that “on March 23rd, Director Coats told the Armed Services Committee that he wasn’t aware of the President or the White House contacting anyone in the intelligence community with respect to a request to drop the investigation into General Flynn.” The press has been “reporting otherwise and both accounts cannot be true. So I intend to keep digging.” Wyden said on [CNN’s The Lead](#) (6/7) that “they just pretty much stonewalled everything other than their talking points, and the irony of this is, of course, the President has spoken so expansively about these issues. He’s been so outspoken in public. This idea that they can’t say anything that touches on what the President has talked about widely in the public square just doesn’t add up. ”

[Reuters](#) (6/7) reports that following Wednesday’s hearing, Sen. Mark Warner said there was “more investigating to do.” Warner said in a [tweet](#), “Our intelligence leaders could have laid allegations against (Trump) to rest. They chose not to and didn’t explain why they wouldn’t answer.” He [added](#), “That tells me we have more investigating to do.”

Former Federal prosecutor Michael Zeldin was asked on [CNN Wolf](#) (6/7) if there is a legal basis “for these witnesses to refuse to answer those questions.” Zeldin said, “Sure, executive privilege. ... That I thought was very instructive in terms of the whole way the hearing unfolded. Rogers said, I called the White House and I asked them, are you asserting executive privilege here? And I got no answer. And so with no answer, he doesn’t really know what he can and cannot do. So he’s stuck with this position of I can’t tell you anything because I don’t know what I can tell you.”

Syndicated columnist Charles Krauthammer said on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (6/7), “I think the advantage here is to the senators. If you’re going to go up there and you say, ‘I refuse to talk about what was said,’ then invoke executive privilege. That’s a legal basis. Fight it out on that. But to say, ‘I don’t think it’s appropriate,’ I think the senators are right. On the basis of what? If you listen to what the intelligence chiefs were saying, they were saying, ‘We were not directed.’ ... This is lawyerly stuff. I hate to say it but it’s rather Clintonian. It depends on what ‘directed’ means. It sounds as if it’s very carefully crafted.”

Before Wednesday’s testimony, Sen. Chris Murphy said on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (6/7), “Coats is a guy with an ethical center. He’s also a really smart and careful politician, having served in the Senate for a long time. You should read his statement [Tuesday] night very carefully. He says he never has felt pressured by the President. That doesn’t mean that the President didn’t ask him to back off – to push Comey to back off the investigation.” Murphy added, “Frankly, I think knowing Dan Coats, I would read his statement last night to be almost a confirmation of the fact that Trump had that conversation with him.”

[USA Today Analysis: Comey’s Firing Is Trump’s “Most Consequential Miscalculation.”](#) [USA Today](#) (6/7, Johnson) reports that when Trump “declared war on the US intelligence community for its collective finding that Russia sought to steer the election in his favor, the president sowed a palpable level of suspicion among its top leaders.” In particular, “just 10 days before his inauguration,” Trump tweeted “a thinly-veiled shot at the FBI for the alleged ‘leak’ of an unsubstantiated dossier purportedly detailing the Trump campaign’s ties to the Kremlin, asking, ‘Are we living in Nazi Germany?’” USA Today adds that “the raw assertion from the president-elect did not escape the notice of top FBI officials, people familiar with the matter have said,” and when he fired Comey “the president effectively freed the former director to publicly air some of the most potentially damaging information to his young presidency.” That is why “former colleagues and legal analysts said the former director perhaps embodies the president’s most consequential miscalculation.”

Green Drafting Articles Of Impeachment. The [Washington Times](#) (6/7, Howell) reports that “maverick Democrat” Rep. Al Green said he is “drafting articles of impeachment against President Trump, alleging the Republican president broke the law in May and must be held to account.” Green argues that Trump obstructed justice when he fired Comey “and then told a TV reporter he did so because of ‘this Russia thing.’” Green said, “The remedy for obstructing justice is impeachment. ... The firing, coupled with the statement, indicated that the president intended to do what he did.” Green added that he “has no ‘acid test’ for when he might actually file the document, saying he wants the public to weigh in first.” [Politico](#) (6/7, Lahut) says Rep. Brad Sherman has joined the effort. Green said, “The important thing is that you have two members of Congress who are drafting, or have drafted – to an extent – articles of impeachment.” Green “said Sherman offered to join him in part because of threats to the Texan’s safety, after he reportedly received racial slurs and death threats after announcing his plans to draft articles of impeachment.”

Reich: Use 25th Amendment To Remove “Mentally Unstable” Trump From Office. The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/7, Langille) reports that former Labor Secretary Robert Reich argued in a Facebook [post](#) Tuesday that President Trump “is so mentally unstable that the 25th amendment should be used to remove him from office.” Reich wrote, “This is why it is now time to seriously consider the 25th Amendment to the Constitution, which provides for removal of a president who is ‘unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office.’” Reich added, “[A]s Trump becomes more isolated, he becomes more paranoid – more fearful of becoming weak and humiliated. We know from Trump’s history that whenever he’s cornered he also becomes more aggressive. The further he falls, the more fragile his ego becomes, and the greater is the danger that he will do something desperate.”

Millions Expected To Watch Comey Testimony; Bars Hosting Viewing Parties. The [New York Times](#) (6/7, Grynbaum, Rogers) reports that millions of Americans are expected to watch Comey’s testimony, which is “already being compared to other political-cultural touchstones, like the Army-McCarthy hearings and Anita Hill’s testimony about Clarence Thomas.” According to Times, “every national broadcast network – along with an alphabet soup of cable stations from CNBC to HLN – plans to carry the 10 a.m. hearing live.” President Trump “is expected to be among the viewers, and there is speculation that he may respond to Mr. Comey on Twitter in real-time.”

The [New York Post](#) (6/7, Lapin) reports that “bars across the country are hosting viewing parties” for Comey’s testimony, and the Post cites several examples.

Leaked Document Shows Russia Targeted State Election Officials. [Reuters](#) (6/7, Menn) reports that the top secret NSA document that was leaked and [published](#) by The Intercept shows that “Russian hacking of the 2016 US election included sophisticated targeting of state officials responsible for voter rolls and voting procedures.” NSA analysts “believed the hackers were working for the Russian military’s General Staff Main Intelligence Directorate, or GRU, according to the document.” While the document suggests “that US investigators are also still probing a more direct attempt to attack the election itself,” there is “no evidence that hackers were able to manipulate votes, or the vote tally.”

Former Defense Official Calls For More Information On Kushner Meeting With Russian Banker. Former deputy assistant secretary of defense for Russia, Ukraine and Eurasia Evelyn N. Farkas, in an op-ed in the [New York Times](#) (6/8, Farkas), writes that because most Russian financial, media, and energy companies are “virtual branches of the government,” the secret meeting President Trump’s son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner had with the chief executive of Russian bank Vnesheconombank is “worthy of deeper scrutiny.” The bank “is regularly used by the Kremlin to finance politically important projects” and has been linked to espionage. When Kushner spoke to the executive, “he was also talking to the Kremlin, and we should know what they discussed.”

Officials Confirm Unmasking For Political Purposes Is A Crime. [Townhall](#) (6/7, Pavlich) reports that Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein confirmed Wednesday that “unmasking American citizens for political reasons is in fact a crime.” During a Senate Intelligence Committee hearing Wednesday, Sen. John Cornyn asked Rosenstein, “If someone is to use the unmasking process for a political purpose, is that potentially a crime?” Rosenstein replied, “Yes sir,” and acting FBI Director McCabe “agreed, adding that leaking the name of an unmasked individual is also a crime.”

House Intel Panel Wants Ex-DHS Chief Johnson To Testify As Part Of Russia Probe. House Intelligence Committee ranking member Adam Schiff said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (6/7) the panel will hold its next open hearing with former DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson, who “can shed light

on what he knew" about Russia's interference in the 2016 presidential election. Schiff said the committee has been in contact with Johnson "to schedule that testimony."

More Commentary. A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/7) editorial says that at its worst, Comey's prepared testimony reveals Trump is a naive narcissist who believes he can intimidate the director of the FBI. The [USA Today](#) (6/7) editorial page similarly says the testimony shows Trump "treats the FBI directorship, a 10-year term designed to preserve independence, like a patronage job." But "most disturbingly...Trump tries to obstruct" the investigation into Flynn.

Jonathan Turley of George Washington University writes in [USA Today](#) (6/7) that "ironically, those who want a criminal charge...are committing the very offense that they accuse Trump of committing: disregarding the law to achieve their desired goal. It would be a highly dangerous interpretation to allow obstruction charges at this stage."

RNC Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel writes in [USA Today](#) (6/7) that the "constant media feeding frenzy reeks of desperation to keep a fabricated anti-Trump narrative alive despite there being no basis in fact. The effort by the left to distract from the work the president is doing on behalf of the American people is truly troubling, yet this administration remains laser-focused on advancing the agenda he promised to the American people."

[Washington Post](#) (6/7) columnist E.J. Dionne Jr. writes that "succeeding in politics in a democratic nation is different from making a go of it in a business centered on one person," and "almost all of President Trump's problems can be traced to his failure to grasp this." Dionne says it also "explains why he now has such a big problem with...Comey."

Trump Announces Wray Nomination To Lead FBI To Cautiously Favorable Reviews.

President Trump [tweeted](#) early Wednesday morning, "I will be nominating Christopher A. Wray, a man of impeccable credentials, to be the new Director of the FBI." The choice generated cautiously favorable reactions across the political spectrum. While [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/7, story 5, 0:35, Muir) indicated that the announcement caught even "some in the White House...by surprise," [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/7, story 4, 1:55, Holt) cited "one administration official" who said "the President picked Wray because he's widely respected and has bipartisan support." NBC went on to report that "the reaction was largely positive from both sides of the aisle." Less favorable was the assessment on the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/7, story 4, 1:45, Garrett), which reported that although "respected in the legal community," Wray is "not well-known among rank-and-file FBI agents," and "lacks extensive background in terrorism and national security prosecutions." Some media analysts and Democrats, meanwhile, criticized the timing of announcement as an attempt to divert attention from the Russia investigation.

[Reuters](#) (6/7, Ainsley, Holland), for example, reports Democratic lawmakers said it "seemed designed to distract" from former FBI Director Comey's "testimony," and [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/7, Voreacos, Schoenberg, Shields) that "the timing suggests the White House is trying to turn the page...before" the Senate hearing. At any rate, says the [AP](#) (6/7, Gurman, Jalonick), while Trump "surprised Washington...with his choice" and it "captured headlines early in the day, it was quickly overwhelmed by the advance release of Comey's riveting testimony."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/7, Tanfani) says that Trump "spent a month working through a long list of politicians, former prosecutors and others, in a chaotic month for a White House still struggling to fill many key positions." He "settled on Wray after interviewing him last week at the White House, along with former Transportation Security Administration Director John Pistole." Trump "did not brief key lawmakers" before tweeting his decision, [USA Today](#) (6/7, Gaudiano, Collins) reports.

The [New York Times](#) (6/7, Goldman, Apuzzo) reports that "those who know Mr. Wray say... he will brush back any political interference and protect the bureau's independence." In a separate story, the [New York Times](#) (6/7, Thrush, Davis) refers to a "a safe, mainstream pick" which appears "likely to allay the fears of FBI agents who worried that Mr. Trump would try to weaken or politicize the FBI," and the [Washington Post](#) (6/7, Zapotosky) says that "people who had worked with" him "said he is an accomplished, if low-key lawyer who would not hesitate to stand up to the president if he believed he had to."

[USA Today](#) (6/7, Jackson, Johnson) quotes Attorney General Jeff Sessions as saying in a statement, "Chris combines a brilliant legal mind, outstanding accomplishments and a proven record of public service. ... His exceptional abilities were recognized, and he was brought to the Department of Justice headquarters...where he performed superbly during the incredibly intense period after 9/11." Ken Wainstein, "former chief of the Justice Department's National Security Division, described Wray as 'an exceptionally strong choice.'"

The [AP](#) (6/7, Gurman, Jalonick), meanwhile, says the Senate's response to Wray was

“supportive but cautious.” Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley said the nominee is “certainly...a suitable candidate,” and Majority Leader McConnell praised his “impressive credentials.” Democratic Sen. Chris Coons, meanwhile was “encouraged that Trump’s pick is a veteran of law enforcement ‘rather than a career in partisan politics.’” [Reuters](#) (6/7, Ainsley, Holland) reports that Sen. Ben Sasse, a “frequent Trump critic,” called Wray “tough, qualified and principled,” and “Republican Representative Mike Conaway, who is leading the House of Representatives intelligence committee probe of the Russia matter, told reporters: ‘It appears from the reading of his biography it’s a great choice.’”

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/7, Voreacos, Schoenberg, Shields) quotes Speaker Ryan as saying, “I don’t know the guy, but I’ve looked at his resume. He seems like the right person. He seems like to me he’s the perfect kind of person.” [Breitbart](#) (6/7, Spiering) reports Wray also “earned praise from Norm Eisen, a Brookings Institute fellow and former ethics czar for former president Obama.” Said Eisen, “Good choice. Oversaw Enron case, which I also spent years of my life on. ... He was very fair. I endorse.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/7, Wegmann) reports that Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, “demurred Wednesday morning, telling reporters that the nominee ‘may be fine.’” Sen. Mark Warner, ranking member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, told CNN, “There will be a time and place to review him. ... But it seems to me that this is an effort to try to take people’s attention off what is going to be the main event, at least for the next two days: the leaders of our intelligence community and the FBI director.” Warner said on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (6/7), “I don’t know that much about him. I hear he had a good reputation.” Warner added that it appears “the President is trying to change the topic because we have got two days of hearing here and it could be explosive.” [Politico](#) (6/7, Nelson, Schor, Kim) quotes Sen. Richard Blumenthal praising Wray’s “solid experience and expertise,” while Senate Minority Whip Dick Durbin “said he...had heard a ‘positive response’ from Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), who does know the prospective nominee.”

The [Washington Times](#) (6/7, Noble), meanwhile, reports that at DOJ, “Wray became the principal associate deputy attorney general under Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson,” who yesterday called him a “highly experienced” and “super smart” lawyer.

“Source” Tells NYPost Nomination A “Warning Shot” At Sessions. The [New York Post](#) (6/7, Morrongiello, Golding) reports that “Trump’s selection of a former top Justice Department official with ties to...Christie...was a ‘warning shot’ at...Sessions, a source close to the matter told The Post.” This “source close to the White House said Wray’s selection was meant to send a message to Sessions, who, according to reports, recently offered to resign over Trump’s continued disappointment that he recused himself from the federal probe of Russian meddling in last year’s election.” The “source” said, “I can’t imagine Sessions is pleased knowing a friend of Christie’s could soon be running the FBI.”

Wray Has Donated Funds Only To Republicans, Currently Works With Trump’s Ethics Adviser. [Business Insider](#) (6/7, Sheth, Bondarenko) reported that “Wray donated thousands of dollars to exclusively Republican candidates throughout his career, and he now works closely with Bobby Burchfield, Trump’s ethics adviser.”

Senate Unanimously Confirmed Wray In 2003; Comey Endorsed His Confirmation. To the [Washington Examiner](#) (6/7, Wegmann), Trump “has put Democrats in a bind and made opposition to the pick all but impossible,” because Wray “has impeccable credentials – at least that’s what the Senate believed in 2003.” Back then, “when President George W. Bush nominated Wray to become assistant attorney general, he was confirmed unanimously by voice vote. ... Should they protest, Democrats would have a hard time explaining why they were for Wray before they were against him.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/7, Ballhaus) recounts that Wray served under Attorney General John Ashcroft and then-Deputy AG Comey, who wrote the Senate Judiciary Committee, “The president has found someone who is...whip-smart, hardworking and possesses indispensable experience as a line prosecutor. ... The president has chosen wisely in deciding upon a governmental version of hockey’s substitution on the fly. The stakes are too high to have it otherwise.”

The [New York Post](#) (6/7, Golding) noted that “upon leaving the government, he was given the Edmund J. Randolph Award, the DOJ’s highest honor for public service and leadership.”

Merkley, Rolling Stone’s Berney Among Wray’s Few Outright Critics. [Politico](#) (6/7, Nelson, Schor, Kim) reports that “one Senate Democrat – Jeff Merkley of Oregon – quickly went on the attack against Wray, questioning whether the nominee could exercise true independence from the man who nominated him.” Politico adds that, “noting that Wray represented Christie during the

so-called 'Bridgegate' scandal, is a Republican donor and that his firm 'represents Trump Trust and Russian oil,' Merkley tweeted: 'Wray doesn't pass the test.'" But "asked about Wray's ties to Christie, Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ) said: 'I don't know that anyone who's ever associated with anybody in the campaign is necessarily automatically disqualified.'"

Jesse Berney, meanwhile, writes in [Rolling Stone](#) (6/7, Berney), "I don't care about Christopher Wray's qualifications. ... How could we possibly trust that anyone Trump chooses to head the FBI hasn't offered him some kind of assurance? Or that Trump hasn't made it clear to him he too will be fired if the FBI continues its investigations?" Berney also notes that Republicans refused to consider former President Obama's Supreme Court pick Merrick Garland, and concludes that while Wray "may be well-qualified...not allowing" him "a hearing on his nomination as FBI director is clearly the right thing to do."

WPost Urges "Intense Scrutiny;" USA Today Says "Bridgegate" Ties Should Be "Thoroughly Explored." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/7) argues that "Wray must get much more intense scrutiny than the typical executive nominee, because it is evident that the next FBI chief may face severe pressure from a president who is unwilling to respect the boundaries of his office." While "at first glance" he "seems to be a solid choice," his "work during the Bush administration deserves a careful look, as does his relationship to Mr. Christie." Moreover, "Wray must be prepared to reveal whether Mr. Trump demanded his 'loyalty before nominating him," and "should detail his conversations with the president and in particular disclose whether the two discussed the Russia probe." Adds the Post, "If he admits to making any commitments or refuses to answer, the Senate should reject his nomination."

USA Today (6/7) editorializes that "at first blush, Wray would appear" to be a good candidate, but "one area...needs to be thoroughly explored during his confirmation hearings for the 10-year term: Wray's law firm clients, especially New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie in the so-called Bridgegate scandal."

NYTimes: Next FBI Chief Needs To Resist Political Meddling. In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/8) writes that former FBI Director James Comey's prepared remarks "tell a shocking story," adding that Comey's successor will need to be able "to protect the bureau's independence from political meddling," a qualification "all the more critical when the White House is led by a man with no respect for the established barriers between politicians and law enforcement."

Trump Suggests Building Border Wall With Solar Panels.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/7, Yeo) reports that during a White House meeting Tuesday, President Trump suggested "a new idea on how to cover the costs for a proposed border wall between the United States and Mexico: build it with solar panels." According to comments posted by [Axios](#), Trump "floated the concept of 'beautiful structures,' 40 to 50 feet high, that generate clean electricity from the sun – and would help cover the cost of the project." The Post says "the realities of building a 1,000-mile wall covered with solar panels – and then getting that electricity to market on either side of the border – are not so simple" and "with few actual details about the design of the wall, the cost of building it or the price that would be paid for the electricity, it is difficult to make any realistic conclusions about the impact of Trump's solar wall."

Cohn: Administration, GOP Leaders On Board To Do Tax Reform This Year.

President Trump's Chief Economic Advisor Gary Cohn said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (6/7), "[Tuesday] was actually a very good day for us on tax reform." The President "had Republican leadership into the White House. Then later in the day, Secretary Mnuchin and myself met with both House leadership, Speaker and Chairman Brady and we met with Senate leadership. We met with Leader McConnell and Leader Hatch. The six of us met. We talked about a tax plan. We talked about the schedule. We agreed on a schedule. We agreed on our objectives and agreed on a time frame and we are all on board to do it this year. There is universal consent to get it done this year."

Ryan: Mnuchin Is In Charge Of Debt Limit Negotiations.

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/7, Edgerton) reports that while there have been questions "about how and when" the Administration "expects Congress to authorize more borrowing to keep from defaulting on US debts," House Speaker Ryan on Wednesday "said that when it comes to negotiating legislation to raise the US debt ceiling, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin is in charge." Ryan told reporters, "The Treasury secretary is and should always be the person in charge of debt-limit negotiations, debt-limit legislation. ... That's the natural thing." Mnuchin favors "a clean bill without other conditions attached," while OMB Director Mulvaney "has said other policy changes

and spending cuts could be included to reach a deal.” Bloomberg adds that according to a [report](#) from Politico, the President “also stands behind Mnuchin.”

The [New York Times](#) (6/7, Rappeport) says that with Republicans in control of Congress and the White House, “some thought that the debt ceiling would be an easy lift.” However, “it has become an obstacle threatening to further stall an agenda that has already fallen well behind schedule.”

Chao Defends Plans To Privatize FAA Before Senate Commerce Committee.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/7, Halsey) reports that on Wednesday, Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao answered questions on a plan to privatize the FAA before the Senate Commerce Committee, as “Republicans voiced skepticism.” Chao said, “We’re very much aware that the members of this committee come primarily from rural states, so this is an issue that we are very cognizant of. I am very concerned about the rural areas.” Meanwhile, a House bill introduced by Reps. Peter DeFazio (D-OR) and Rick Larsen (D-WA) “makes critical reforms to the FAA” but would preserve the agency, although it has “little chance in a committee where...Republicans hold a 34-27 majority.” Chao is scheduled to appear before the House Transportation Committee today.

Labor Department Reverses Obama’s Expanded “Joint Employer” Rule.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/7, Higgins) reports that on Wednesday, the Labor Department announced the rescission of “an Obama administration rule that expanded the ‘joint employer’ doctrine, the conditions for when one business can be held liable for employment and civil rights law violations at another company,” marking “a win for business groups.” However, the Examiner points out “the Obama-era standard can still be applied to businesses” by the National Labor Relations Board.

Hawaii Passes Laws Committing To Climate Goals Of Paris Agreement.

The [New York Times](#) (6/7, Bromwich) reports that on Tuesday, Hawaii “became the first state to pass a law committing to the goals and limits of the Paris climate accord, defying President Trump.” Hawaii Gov. David I. Ige signed two bills that are “geared toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with the landmark goals adopted by” the Paris Agreement and that “will establish a task force to help the state improve soil health and remove carbon from the atmosphere.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/7, Lee) highlights how the laws are “a message for President Trump” in favor of the Paris Agreement.

California Gov. Brown Visits China To Spur Investment In Renewable Energy. The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/7, story 9, 1:55, Pelley) reported that “in a setting normally reserved for visiting heads of state,” California Gov. Jerry Brown (D) met with Chinese President Xi Jinping, “who is now viewed as the world’s leader on climate change,” to “spur more Chinese investment in renewable energy...which will help California achieve its own ambitious clean energy goals.” Asked whether Brown trusts China to lead the world on this issue, Brown said, “They’re taking the climate threat serious, so I say all for the good, and California will collaborate. I just hope that Washington comes on board.” China has asserted its clean energy initiatives will create 13 million jobs, despite President Trump’s stated concern that climate change goals would lead to job loss.

Canada Aims To Work With US States, Localities On Climate Change. The [New York Times](#) (6/7, A14, Austen) reports on “a broad strategy by the Canadian federal government to work directly with American states and cities on global warming, and to become a leader on the issue.” Canada’s environmental minister Catherine McKenna said, “I think it’s disappointing that the United States’ administration has not stepped up” to act on climate change, “But the United States is bigger than the administration.” The Times adds that privately, Canadian officials indicated “it is unlikely that the Trump administration will reverse its stand, making working with states and local governments even more critical.”

NOAA Records Second-Largest Carbon Dioxide Rise In 2016. [USA Today](#) (6/7, Rice) reports the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced “2016 tallied the second-largest rise in atmospheric carbon dioxide ever recorded,” which was “nearly double the average pace since measurements began in 1979.” Last year, the CO2 level rose 2.93 ppm, down from the record 2015 rise of 2.96 ppm. NOAA scientist Steve Montzka, who co-authored the update, said, “The warming effect of these chemicals we’re tracking has increased by 40% since 1990.”

North Korean Statement Blasts Administration Over Paris Agreement Withdrawal. [USA Today](#) (6/7, Abbasi) reports an unnamed North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman “lashed out this week at the Trump administration for withdrawing from the Paris climate agreement, calling it a

‘short-sighted and silly decision.’” USA Today adds, “The harsh rhetoric by North Korea wraps up with a call for the world to remain highly vigilant about ‘the dangerous ideological trend’ surfacing in the U.S. with the Trump administration.”

Pruitt Wants To “Red Team” Climate Science.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/7, Samenow) reports that EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt told Breitbart News that he wants to re-litigate climate change science, despite the fact that multiple assessments have concluded that climate change is man-made and poses significant risks. Pruitt said, “What the American people deserve, I think, is a true, legitimate, peer-reviewed, objective, transparent discussion about CO2.” NYU Professor Steven Koonin said, “The outcome of a Red/Blue exercise for climate science is not preordained, which makes such a process all the more valuable. ... It could reveal the current consensus as weaker than claimed. Alternatively, the consensus could emerge strengthened if Red Team criticisms were countered effectively.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“President Trump Picks Sides, Not Diplomacy, In The Gulf.” On its editorial page, the [New York Times](#) (6/7) says that “rather than position the United States to ease tensions in the Middle East, Mr. Trump has, essentially, picked one side in a small rivalry within a big rivalry.” The Times writes that there is also “no sign that Mr. Trump has actually thought any of this through” and calls on Congress to block the \$110 billion weapons package Trump signed in Riyadh “until the Saudis enter into serious negotiations on Yemen and resolve their differences with Qatar.”

“James Comey And The Fear Of Being Alone With Donald Trump.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/8) writes that former FBI Director James Comey’s prepared remarks “tell a shocking story,” adding that Comey’s successor will need to be able “to protect the bureau’s independence from political meddling,” a qualification “all the more critical when the White House is led by a man with no respect for the established barriers between politicians and law enforcement.”

Washington Post.

“Trump’s FBI Pick Deserves Intense Scrutiny. Here’s What He Should Be Ready For.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/7) argues that President Trump’s nominee for FBI director, Christopher Wray, “must get much more intense scrutiny than the typical executive nominee, because it is evident that the next FBI chief may face severe pressure from a president who is unwilling to respect the boundaries of his office.” While “at first glance” he “seems to be a solid choice,” his “work during the Bush administration deserves a careful look, as does his relationship to Mr. Christie.” Moreover, “Wray must be prepared to reveal whether Mr. Trump demanded his ‘loyalty before nominating him,” and “should detail his conversations with the president and in particular disclose whether the two discussed the Russia probe.” Adds the Post, “If he admits to making any commitments or refuses to answer, the Senate should reject his nomination.”

“The Trump Administration’s Birth Control Overhaul Could Do Serious Harm.” The [Washington Post](#) (6/7) argues in an editorial that the Trump Administration’s birth control overhaul could do serious harm, undoing access to no-cost birth control gained in the ACA. The Post laments that although the repeal and replacement of the ACA has stalled in Congress, a draft of “proposed regulation, which could go into effect as soon as it is published in the Federal Register, sadly demonstrates the harm that can be done if the executive branch sets its mind – and authority – to dismantling key provisions.”

“D.C.’s Campaign Finance Office Tells Candidates It’s Okay To Ignore The Rules.” The [Washington Post](#) (6/7) editorializes that the “paltry” fine of \$5,100 against DC Council member Brandon T. Todd for failing “to meet deadlines in properly accounting for more than \$100,000 in contributions” shows “that action is...needed by the D.C. Council to overhaul the city’s campaign-finance laws and how they are enforced,” as the violation was “discovered not by the campaign office but by the nonprofit Public Citizen.” The Post urges outside review by DC Attorney General Karl A. Racine into “lingering questions” about the campaign finance violations.

Wall Street Journal.

“The ‘Independent’ Mr. Comey.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/7) editorial says that at its worst, former FBI Director Comey’s prepared testimony reveals President Trump is a naive narcissist

who believes he can intimidate the director of the FBI.

“The Death Of Obama’s Slush Funds.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/7) editorializes in support of Attorney General Sessions’ decision to end a Justice Department practice of directed funds from settlement agreements to non-governmental third parties that were not directly harmed by the conduct in dispute. Sessions sent a memo to US attorneys directing them to immediately put an end to the practice, telling them that financial penalties are meant to punish perpetrators and provide relief to victims, and that funds from future settlements will generally go directly into the US treasury.

“Qatar’s Reckoning.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/7) editorial says the US goal should be to restore Arab unity to forge a common front against Sunni extremists and Iran, and not to isolate Doha.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Former FBI Director Comey Details Pressure From Trump](#)
[Terrorists Attack Iran’s Parliament And A Shrine In Deadly Rare Assault](#)
[‘I’m Not Sure I Understand’—How Apple’s Siri Lost Her Mojo](#)
[LeBron James’s Media Empire Is Out Front \(Even If His Team Isn’t\)](#)

New York Times:

[Comey Says Trump Pressured Him To ‘Lift The Cloud’ Of Inquiry](#)
[At Least 12 Killed In Pair Of Terrorist Attacks In Iran](#)
[Who Is Christopher Wray? Trump’s FBI Pick Is Said To Be Low-Key And Principled](#)
[Trump Has Busy Day In Vortex Of Middle East Relations](#)
[Theresa May Stumbles Awkwardly To Election Day](#)
[Solved: The 47-Year Mystery Of A Murder Victim’s Many Identities](#)
[Oldest Fossils Of Homo Sapiens Found In Morocco, Altering History Of Our Species](#)

Washington Post:

[ISIS Claims Twin Attacks In Tehran](#)
[White House Split On Throwing The ACA A Lifeline Or Letting It Die](#)
[Obstruction Question Could Move To The Fore](#)
[Comey: Trump Asked For Loyalty](#)
[Trump Chooses Wray For FBI Chief](#)
[GOP Votes To Reverse Tax Cuts In Kansas](#)

Financial Times:

[Santander Takes Over ‘Failing’ Banco Popular After EU Acts](#)
[Revolutionary Guards Blame Saudis For Tehran Attack](#)
[How Britain And France’s Economies Match Up](#)
[Trump Taps Former Federal Prosecutor To Head FBI](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Backs Permanent Snooping Powers He Once Criticized As Abusive](#)
[Russia’s Role In Election Likely To Remain A Mystery After Comey Testifies](#)
[Two Top Intelligence Chiefs Felt No Pressure From Trump To End Russia Investigations](#)
[Virginia Democrats Torn Between Idealism, Pragmatism In Primary Race For Governor](#)
[National Religious Broadcasters Leader ‘Encouraged And Frustrated’ By Washington](#)
[Islamic State Claims Deadly Attacks In Tehran, But Iran Points Fingers At Saudi Arabia And Trump](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: Comey Testimony; Comey Testimony-Expert Opinion; Comey Testimony-Congress; Russia Meddling Investigation-Intel Chiefs; Iran Terror Attack; London Terror Attack; Teen Suicide Texting Trial; Severe Weather; Ohio-Road Rage; Highest Paid Athlete; Baby Gorilla.

CBS: Comey Testimony; Russia Meddling Investigation; Comey Testimony-Expert Opinion; FBI Director Candidate; Iran Terror Attack; London Terror Attack; Bill Cosby Trial; NASA New Astronauts; California Gov-China Visit; Child-Lemonade Stand.

NBC: Comey Testimony; Russia Meddling Investigation-Intel Chiefs; Comey Testimony-Expert Opinion; FBI Director Candidate; Iran Terror Attack; Bill Cosby Trial; Kids Migraines; Severe Weather; Honoring Lost Firefighters; MLB News.

Network TV At A Glance:

Comey Testimony – 20 minutes, 30 seconds
Russia Meddling Investigation-Intel Chiefs – 8 minutes, 50 seconds
FBI Director Candidate – 4 minutes, 15 seconds
Iran Terror Attack – 4 minutes, 5 seconds
London Terror Attack – 40 seconds
Severe Weather – 30 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Comey Testimony; FBI Director Candidate; Trump-Cincinnati Speech; Wall Street News.
CBS: Comey Testimony; Russia Meddling Investigation-Intel Chiefs; FBI Director Candidate; Bill Cosby Trial; West Virginia-Opioid Epidemic; Wall Street News.
FOX: Comey Testimony; Trump-Cincinnati Speech; North Korea Missile Test; NBA News.
NPR: Comey Testimony; Trump-Cincinnati Speech; Qatar Diplomatic Crisis; UK Elections.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Gives remarks at Faith and Freedom Coalition's Road to Majority Conference; hosts Infrastructure Summit with Governors and Mayors.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao and Director of the Office of Management and Budget Mick Mulvaney for an Infrastructure Summit Working Luncheon; participates in a bilateral meeting with President Nicos Anastasiades of Cyprus.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations of Noel Francisco to be Solicitor General; Makan Delrahim to be Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division; Steven Engel to be Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel; David Nye to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Idaho; Scott Palk to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma; Vishal Amin to be U.S. Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator; Stephen Elliott Boyd to be Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs; and Lee Francis Cissna to be U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director, as well as 'S. 782, PROTECT Our Children Act of 2017'
Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

9:30 AM National Reentry Resource Center launches new national progress report – National Reentry Resource Center launches new national progress report 'Making People's Transition from Prison and Jail to the Community Safe and Successful', which features new data highlighting progress in recidivism reduction in individual states over the past 10-15 years. Panel of state correctional, judicial, and elected leaders – Republican Sen. John Cornyn, bipartisan Reps. Danny Davis, Jim Sensenbrenner, and Bill Johnson, Supreme Court of Georgia Justice Michael Boggs, Michigan Department of Corrections Director Heidi Washington, Alabama State Sen. Cam Ward, Texas Department of Criminal Justice Executive Director Bryan Collier, and North Carolina Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice Chief Deputy Secretary David Guice highlight insights found in the report and speak to the progress they have experienced in their respective states Location: Rm 562, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://csgjusticecenter.org/> <https://twitter.com/csgjc>

9:45 AM HHS Secretary Price testifies to Senate Finance Committee on FY'18 budget – Hearing on 'The President's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget', with testimony from Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price Location: Rm 215, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://finance.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Joint Economic Committee hearing on the opioid crisis – Hearing on 'Economic Aspects of the Opioid Crisis', with testimony from Princeton University Professor Emeritus (and Nobel Laureate) Sir Angus Deaton; Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine; Congressional Research Service Crime Policy Analyst Dr Lisa Sacco; and Harvard Medical School Department of Health Care Policy Professor of Health Economics Dr Richard Frank Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.jec.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/JointEconCmte>

10:00 AM Commerce Secretary Ross testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on

FY'18 budget – Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on 'Review of the FY2018 Budget Request for the U.S. Department of Commerce', with testimony from Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross Location: Rm 192, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

10:00 AM Senate Governmental Affairs subcommittee hearing on OMB memo on the federal workforce – Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management Subcommittee hearing on 'Agency Approaches to Reorganization: Examining OMB's Memorandum on the Federal Workforce', with testimony from Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Administration and Department of Commerce Office of the CFO Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administration Lisa Casias; Assistant Attorney General for Administration Lee Lofthus; U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Budget and Program Analysis Associate Director Don Bice; and Department of Homeland Security Office of the CFO Program Analysis and Evaluation Division Deputy Director Bridgette Garchek Stone Location: Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

10:00 AM Senate Energy Committee hearing on cost reductions in emerging technologies – Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources 'Hearing to study cost reductions in emerging energy technologies with a specific focus on how recent trends may affect today's energy landscape', with testimony from Rocky Mountain Institute Business Renewables Center Principal Lily Donge; NRG Energy Vice President of Development David Greeson; Cimarex Energy Company Vice President for Drilling & Completion Steve Simonton; Cree Vice President of Marketing and Public Affairs Greg Merritt; Mercedes-Benz Energy Americas (a Daimler company) Business Development Manager Russell Vare; and Siemens USA President of Energy Management Kevin Yates Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.energy.senate.gov

10:00 AM Senate Banking Committee hearing on the role of financial institutions in local communities – Hearing on 'Fostering Economic Growth: The Role of Financial Institutions in Local Communities', with testimony from Cape Cod Five Cents Savings Bank Chairman, President, and CEO Dorothy Savarese (on behalf of American Bankers Association); 1st Liberty Federal Credit Union President and CEO Steve Grooms (on behalf of National Association of Federally-insured Credit Unions); ValueBank President and CEO R. Scott Heitkamp (on behalf of Independent Community Bankers of America); INOVA Federal Credit Union CEO Dallas Bergl (on behalf of Credit Union National Association); Greylock Federal Credit Union President and CEO John Bissel; and Georgetown University Law Center Professor Adam Levitin Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on the Islamic State group outside the Middle East – Hearing on 'Beyond Iraq and Syria: ISIS' Global Reach', with testimony from George Washington University Program on Extremism Director Dr Lorenzo Vidino; and Georgetown University School of Foreign Service Professor / Brookings Institution Center for Middle East Policy Senior Fellow Dr Daniel Byman Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Transportation Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Derek Kan to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy; David Redl to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information; and Robert Sumwalt III to be a National Transportation Safety Board member (for five years) and Vice Chairman (for two years) Location: Rm 253, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Business Meeting Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Fired FBI Director James Comey testifies to Senate Intelligence Committee on Russia – Hearing on 'Russian Federation Efforts to Interfere in the 2016 U.S. Elections', with testimony from former FBI Director James Comey, who was controversially fired by President Donald Trump last month * Open session from 10:00 AM EDT followed by closed session from 1:00 PM EDT * The White House has said President Trump is not exerting executive privilege to prevent the testimony * After the firing, Department of Justice cited Director Comey's handling of a probe into former Secretary of State and Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server, although the termination letter mentioned the agency's probe into contacts between Russia and the Trump campaign, including controversially claiming that Director Comey had informed President Trump three times that he was not under investigation as part of the probe. While running for the presidency, Trump praised Director Comey's actions in the Clinton email investigation Location: Rm 216, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

11:30 AM President Donald Trump speaks at Faith & Freedom Coalition Conference – Faith & Freedom Coalition ‘Road to Majority’ Annual Conference, with opening day speakers including President Donald Trump, Republican Sens. Ted Cruz and David Perdue and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton * Agenda today also include Capitol Hill Townhall with House Speaker Paul Ryan, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy and Republicans Sens. Joni Ernst and John Boozman and Reps. Mark Meadows, Marsha Blackburn, Diane Black and Bob Goodlatte, Rm 50, Senate Dirksen Office Bldg, Washington DC (2:30 PM EDT) Location: Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert St NW, Washington, DC www.roadtomajority.com
<https://twitter.com/FaithandFreedom>

12:45 PM CBO Director Hall and GOP Sens. Enzi and Johnson speak at event on a regulatory budget – ‘Building a Regulatory Budget: What to Know and Where to Start’ George Mason University Mercatus Center event, with speakers – including Congressional Budget Office Director Keith Hall, Senate Budget Committee Chairman Mike Enzi, Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Chairman Ron Johnson, White House Budget Policy Director Paul Winfree, Business Roundtable Executive Vice President Marcus Peacock, George Washington University Regulatory Studies Center Director Susan Dudley, and Deloitte Managing Director in Public Sector Practice Jitinder Kohli – discussing ‘how a regulatory budget can manage economic effects of regulation’, lessons learned from other nations that have implemented and sustained a regulatory budget, the agency role in implementation and how CBO, BEA, and OIRA can work together, and what Congress can do to encourage a functional regulatory budget Location: Rm 608, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.gmu.edu/>
<https://twitter.com/GeorgeMasonU>

1:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

US House: 9:30 AM Transportation Secretary Chao testifies to House Committee on FAA authorization – Hearing on ‘Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Federal Aviation Administration Authorization’, with testimony from Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/Transport>

9:30 AM National Reentry Resource Center launches new national progress report – National Reentry Resource Center launches new national progress report ‘Making People’s Transition from Prison and Jail to the Community Safe and Successful’, which features new data highlighting progress in recidivism reduction in individual states over the past 10-15 years. Panel of state correctional, judicial, and elected leaders – Republican Sen. John Cornyn, bipartisan Reps. Danny Davis, Jim Sensenbrenner, and Bill Johnson, Supreme Court of Georgia Justice Michael Boggs, Michigan Department of Corrections Director Heidi Washington, Alabama State Sen. Cam Ward, Texas Department of Criminal Justice Executive Director Bryan Collier, and North Carolina Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice Chief Deputy Secretary David Guice highlight insights found in the report and speak to the progress they have experienced in their respective states Location: Rm 562, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://csgjusticecenter.org/> <https://twitter.com/csgjcc>

9:30 AM Interior Secretary Zinke testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on budget – Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee ‘Department of the Interior – Budget Hearing’, with testimony from Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget, Finance, Performance, and Acquisition Olivia Ferriter; and Department of the Interior Office of Budget Director Denise Flanagan Location: Rm 2007, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM HUD Secretary Carson testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee on budget – Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee ‘Department of Housing and Urban Development – Budget Hearing’, with testimony from Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson Location: Rm 2359, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM CFTC Acting Chairman Giancarlo testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on budget – Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee ‘Commodity Futures Trading Commission – Budget Hearing’, with testimony from CFTC Acting Chairman J. Christopher Giancarlo Location: Rm 2362-A, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM Nutrition Subcommittee hearing on ‘The Next Farm Bill: SNAP Technology and

Modernization' Location: Rm 1300, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://agriculture.house.gov/>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee legislative hearing on 'H.R. 2083, Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act' and discussion draft of 'H.R. XXXX, Reclamation Title Transfer Act', with testimony from The Family Farm Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen; National Water Resources Association Board of Directors Member Tom Knutson; Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission Chairman Leland Bill; Nez Perce Tribe Chairman Gary Dorr; Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross (invited); and Bureau of Reclamation Chief of Staff James Hess Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'VA and Academic Affiliates: Who's Benefiting Now' Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

10:00 AM Joint Economic Committee hearing on the opioid crisis – Hearing on 'Economic Aspects of the Opioid Crisis', with testimony from Princeton University Professor Emeritus (and Nobel Laureate) Sir Angus Deaton; Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine; Congressional Research Service Crime Policy Analyst Dr Lisa Sacco; and Harvard Medical School Department of Health Care Policy Professor of Health Economics Dr Richard Frank Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.jec.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/JointEconCmte>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on 'Hezbollah's financial network' – Hearing on 'Attacking Hezbollah's Financial Network: Policy Options', with testimony from The Washington Institute for Near East Policy Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence Director Dr Matthew Levitt; Foundation for Defense of Democracies Center on Sanctions and Illicit Finance Board of Directors member Dr David Asher; Pen-Link Executive Director of Governmental Relations Derek Maltz; and SAIS Associate Professor of Practice and Associate Director of Strategic Studies Dr Mara Karlin Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on fintech – Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee hearing on 'Disrupter Series: Improving Consumer's Financial Options With FinTech', with testimony from Center for Financial Services Innovation Vice President Jeanne Hogarth; Fenway Summer Ventures Managing Director Javier Saade; Consumer Union Staff Attorney Christina Tetreault; Coin Center Research Director Peter Van Valkenburgh Location: Rm 2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Financial Services Committee hearing on virtual currency and national security – Terrorism and Illicit Finance Subcommittee hearing on 'Virtual Currency: Financial Innovation and National Security Implications', with testimony from Coin Center Executive Director Jerry Brito; The Identity and Payments Association President Scott Dueweke; Stanford Law School lecturer Kathryn Haun; Chainalysis co-founder Jonathan Levin; and Elliptic Vice President for Business Development-Investigations Luke Wilson Location: Rm 2128, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Administration Committee hearing on Library of Congress IT – Hearing on 'Oversight of the Library of Congress' Information Technology Management', with testimony from Librarian of Congress Dr Carla Hayden; and Library of Congress CIO Bernard Barton, Jr., and Inspector General Kurt Hyde Location: Rm 1310, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://cha.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAdmnGOP>

10:00 AM House Space subcommittee hearing on FY'18 NASA budget – Space Subcommittee hearing on 'An Overview of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Budget for Fiscal Year 2018', with testimony from NASA Acting Administrator Robert Lightfoot, Jr. Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on DoJ grant programs – Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Oversight of Department of Justice Grant Programs', with testimony from Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs Alan Hanson Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:15 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on 'the role of HHS in health care cybersecurity' – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining the Role of the Department of Health and Human Services in Health Care Cybersecurity', with testimony from

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Chief Information Security Officer and Senior Privacy Official Emery Csulak; Office of the Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Preparedness and Response Office of Emergency Management Division of Resilience Director Steve Curren; and HHS Deputy Chief Information Security Officer Leo Scanlon Location: Rm 2322, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

11:30 AM President Donald Trump speaks at Faith & Freedom Coalition Conference – Faith & Freedom Coalition ‘Road to Majority’ Annual Conference, with opening day speakers including President Donald Trump, Republican Sens. Ted Cruz and David Perdue and Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton * Agenda today also include Capitol Hill Townhall with House Speaker Paul Ryan, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy and Republicans Sens. Joni Ernst and John Boozman and Reps. Mark Meadows, Marsha Blackburn, Diane Black and Bob Goodlatte, Rm 50, Senate Dirksen Office Bldg, Washington DC (2:30 PM EDT) Location: Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert St NW, Washington, DC www.roadtomajority.com
<https://twitter.com/FaithandFreedom>

12:00 PM House expected to vote on Financial CHOICE Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of ‘H.R. 10 – Financial CHOICE Act of 2017’ Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

1:00 PM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on DoJ oversight – Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law Subcommittee hearing on ‘A Time to Reform: Oversight of the Activities of the Justice Department’s Civil, Tax and Environment and Natural Resources Divisions and the U.S. Trustee Program’, with testimony from Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division Chad Readler; Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division Jeffery Wood; Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Tax Division David Hubbert; U.S. Trustee Program Director Clifford White III; Heritage Foundation Election Law Reform Initiative Manager Hans von Spakovsky; Foley and Lardner partner Clea Mitchell; Baker & Hostetler partner Andrew Grossman; and Public Citizen President Robert Weissman Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

1:00 PM HHS Secretary Price testifies to House Ways and Means Committee on FY’18 budget – Hearing on ‘Department of Health and Human Services’ Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Request’, with testimony from Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

1:30 PM Markup hearing on ‘H.R. XXX, the American Space Commerce Free Enterprise Act of 2017’ Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

2:00 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee oversight hearing on ‘overgrown, fire-prone National Forests’ – Federal Lands Subcommittee oversight hearing on ‘Burdensome Litigation and Federal Bureaucratic Roadblocks to Manage our Nation’s Overgrown, Fire-Prone National Forests’, with testimony from The Laverty Group President Lyle Laverty; American Forest Resource Council General Counsel Lawson Fite; Salt River Project Director of Water Supply Bruce Hallin; and Western Environmental Law Center Staff Attorney Susan Jane Brown Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/NatResources>

2:00 PM House Veterans’ Affairs subcommittee hearing on GI Bill processing for student vets – Economic Opportunity Subcommittee hearing on ‘Improving the Quality and Timeliness of GI Bill Processing for Student Veterans’ Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

2:00 PM U.S. Secret Service director testifies to House Homeland Security subcommittee – Transportation and Protective Security Subcommittee hearing on ‘How Can the United States Secret Service Evolve to Meet the Challenges Ahead?’, with testimony from U.S. Secret Service Director Roger Alles Location: HVC 210, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov
<https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

2:00 PM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on NASA budget – Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee ‘National Aeronautics and Space Administration – Budget Hearing’, with testimony from NASA Acting Administrator Robert Lightfoot Location: Rm 2359, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

2:30 PM House Armed Services Committee Ranking Member Adam Smith hosts ‘major’ press availability Location: Rm 2212, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://democrats-armedservices.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HASCDemocrats>

2:30 PM Pelosi Holds Press Conference to Reject the Wrong Choice Act – The Wrong Choice Act which would “repeal Dodd-Frank and roll back the consumer protections put in place following the 2008 financial crisis”. Participants: Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi; Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer; Rep. David Cicilline, Co-Chair of the Democratic Policy and Communication Committee; Rep. Maxine Waters, Ranking Democrat on the Financial Services Committee; Rep. Dan Kildee, Vice Ranking Member on the Financial Services Committee. Contact: Ashley Etienne or Caroline Behringer, 202-226-7616 Livestreamed at:

<https://www.facebook.com/HouseDemocrats/> Location: HVC Studio A (Enter through HVC-117) Capitol Visitor Center The Capitol.

Latest House Oversight Committee deadline for FBI to provide any memos made by former Director James Comey – Latest deadline set by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform for the FBI to provide the committee with all memoranda, notes, summaries, and recordings relating to any communications between former FBI Director James Comey and President Donald Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, other White House employees, the attorney general, or the deputy attorney general * Committee has accused the agency of withholding documents and citing the appointment of a special counsel to investigate Russian efforts to interfere with the 2016 U.S. presidential election as their reason * Request followed a New York Times report that said then-Director Comey memorialized the content of phone calls and meetings with President Trump, including one in which the president reportedly referenced the agency’s investigation of former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn and said ‘I hope you can let this go’, which the committee said raises questions over whether he attempted to influence or impede the investigation Location: TBD <http://oversight.house.gov/>

<https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

Other: 9:00 AM Bipartisan Reps. Michael Burgess and Gene Green speak on the future of the ACA – Health Affairs media briefing on ‘The Future of the Affordable Care Act’ with House Energy & Commerce Committee Chairman Republican Rep. Michael Burgess, Ranking Member Democratic Rep. Gene Green, Health Affairs Editor-in-Chief Alan Weil and The Commonwealth Fund President David Blumenthal Location: Reserve Officers Association, 1 Constitution Ave. NE, Washington, DC www.healthaffairs.org https://twitter.com/Health_Affairs

9:30 AM CSG Justice Center release report on combating recidivism – Council of State Governments Justice Center release report expected to demonstrate ‘significant progress in combating recidivism over the last 15 years’ at Capitol Hill event with Republicans Sen. Rob Portman and Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner and Democrats Sen. Cory Booker and Rep. Danny Davis Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://csgjusticecenter.org/> <https://twitter.com/csgjcc>

9:30 AM Amtrak and USRC host Industry Open House on the 2nd Century Plan – Amtrak and Union Station Redevelopment Corporation host an Industry Open House to provide interested private sector individuals with updates on the 2nd Century Plan – an improvement initiative comprised of multiple projects that seeks to double passenger and train capacity over the coming decades – as well as information about the upcoming construction solicitations for near-term station and rail infrastructure improvements for Washington Union Station Location: Washington Union Station’s Columbus Club, 50 Massachusetts Ave. NE, Washington, DC <http://www.amtrak.com/home> <https://twitter.com/Amtrak>

10:00 AM FCC Commissioner Clyburn speaks at ITIF on spurring broadband development – Federal Communications Commission Commissioner Mignon Clyburn speaks at the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation on ‘How Municipalities and Industry Can Collaborate to Spur Broadband Deployment’, followed by panel discussion with Wireless Infrastructure Association Senior Government Affairs Counsel Van Bloys, CTC Technology & Energy President Joanne Hovis, Crown Castle Corporate Development & Strategy External Affairs Rebecca Hunter, and Montgomery County Council At-Large Member Hans Riemer Location: ITIF, 1101 K St., NW, Washington, DC www.itif.org <https://twitter.com/ITIFdc>

11:30 AM GOP Sen. John Boozman speaks at Hudson Institute on ‘Strengthening America’s Infrastructure’ – ‘Strengthening America’s Infrastructure: What Next?’ Hudson Institute discussion, on the importance of modernizing America’s infrastructure to spur sustained economic growth and job creation and improve the quality of life for all Americans. Includes keynote from Republican Sen. John Boozman, with other speakers including Virginia Secretary of Transportation Aubrey Layne, FaegreBD Consulting Senior Director Charles Stitt, and Transurban North America Group General Manager Jennifer Aument Location: Hudson Institute, 1201 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC <http://www.hudson.org> <https://twitter.com/HudsonInstitute>

2:00 PM National Low Income Housing Coalition discusses study of gap between renters’ wages and cost of housing – National Low Income Housing Coalition discuss ‘Out of Reach 2017:

The High Cost of Housing' – a study documenting 'the mismatch between renters' wages and the cost of rental housing' – via press call. Report includes the 'Housing Wage' – the hourly wage a full-time worker must earn to afford a modest rental home without spending over 30% of his or her income on housing costs – and states that 'a person working full-time must earn \$21.21 an hour to afford a decent two-bedroom rental home at the HUD-estimated Fair Market Rent and \$17.14 an hour to afford a decent one-bedroom'. Speakers include Democratic Rep. Keith Ellison, and NLIHC President and CEO Diane Yentel and Vice President for Research Andrew Aurand
Location: TBD www.nlihc.org <https://twitter.com/NLIHC>

2:00 PM AG Sessions speaks at DoJ OIG awards – Department of Justice Office of Inspector General Annual Honorary Award Ceremony, including remarks from Attorney General Jeff Sessions
Location: Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC
www.justice.gov <https://twitter.com/TheJusticeDept>

5:00 PM Dem Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse speaks at CSIS on 'The Kremlin Playbook' – Center for Strategic and International Studies Schieffer Series Dialogues continue with 'The Kremlin Playbook: Understanding Russian Influence', with Democratic Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, 'The Kremlin Playbook' author CSIS Europe Program Director Heather Conley, and The New York Times National Security Correspondent David Sanger
Location: CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Ave, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

6:00 PM Dem Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton hosts annual Service Academy College Fair and Sendoff – Democratic Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton hosts her annual Service Academy College Fair and Sendoff, to present her ten 2017 nominees to the U.S. Service Academies and Service Academy Preparatory Schools
Location: One Judiciary Square, 441 4th St. NW, Washington, DC
www.norton.house.gov <https://twitter.com/EleanorNorton>

6:00 PM Annual Housing Visionary Award Gala – The National Housing Conference 45th Annual Housing Visionary Award Gala, honoring former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Shaun Donovan, Republican Rep. Pat Tiberi, Habitat for Humanity and Rebuilding Together
Location: National Building Museum, 401 F St NW, Washington, DC
<http://www.nhc.org/2015-NHC-Annual-Gala.html> <https://twitter.com/NHCandCenter>

American Constitution Society National Convention – American Constitution Society for Law and Policy 2017 National Convention, bringing together over 1,000 of the nation's leading lawyers, judges, law students, policymakers, scholars, and activists to discuss critical legal and public policy issues, and to network with lawyers and company representatives from around the country. Day one speakers include U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, and Southern Center for Human Rights President Stephen Bright
Location: Capital Hilton, Washington, DC www.acslaw.org <https://twitter.com/acslaw>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Stephen Colbert: "It's the most magical night of the year because it's Comey testimony eve. I'm ready. I have the decorations up. I hung my socks up over CNN. Got to put a few more of them up. I can still see Wolf Blitzer."

Stephen Colbert: "Trump's pressure to drop the Russia investigation made Comey so uncomfortable he told Attorney General Jeff Sessions, 'Don't leave me alone with Trump.' Which is a phrase you normally hear backstage at the Miss USA pageant."

James Corden: "We Brits hold our elections similar to the way we make love. Quickly and without a lot of unnecessary emotion and followed by an apology, just seven weeks to see who gets the most votes. But in America, they are much more thorough. They take two years to see who gets the most votes. Then they elect the person who gets the second most votes. I'm kidding. They elect whoever Vladimir Putin wants."

Trevor Noah: "Reportedly, Jeff Sessions has threatened to resign. And that would be insane for two reasons. One, he was one of Trump's first big supporters in Washington. And, two, I didn't know that house elves could leave of their own accord."

Trevor Noah: "You know, getting fired at the start of the Trump Administration is like being kicked off the 'Titanic' before it sets sail."

Jimmy Fallon: "President Trump tweeted that he's nominating Christopher Wray to be the new director of the FBI and called him a man of impeccable credentials. Wray was like, 'Thanks, can I put that on my resume when you fire me?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "This is interesting, I read that Wray was actually Chris Christie's lawyer. He helped Christie with the Bridgewater scandal and also got restraining orders dropped from seven KFCs."

Jimmy Fallon: "Former FBI Director James Comey released the opening statement for his testimony tomorrow. He said that Trump once invited him out to dinner and it turned out to be just the two of them. Even worse, he made them sit on the same side of the booth. This is weird. After dinner, Comey says, Trump asked him for loyalty, and then they just looked at each other in silence. Then Melania said, 'That's what I should have done.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "So the bar is opening at 9:30 a.m. in DC for Comey's hearing and will give everyone a free round of drinks each time Trump tweets about it, which means everyone will be blacked out around 9:31 a.m."

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that today is Vice President Mike Pence's 58th birthday. That's right. But the White House is gonna leave the decorations up all week so they can celebrate Pence's inauguration."

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that President Obama visited George and Amal Clooney at their home in the UK right before Amal gave birth to their twins. I knew Obamacare was good, but I didn't know he actually showed up to deliver your baby."

Seth Meyers: "Happy birthday to Vice President Mike Pence, who turned 58 today. He made a wish and blew out the candles, and tomorrow we'll find out if James Comey can make his wish come true."

Seth Meyers: "A bar in Washington, DC will offer customers a free round of drinks every time President Trump tweets about former FBI director James Comey during his testimony tomorrow. That story again, a bar in Washington, DC is having a going-out-of-business sale."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump announced his pick for FBI director today on Twitter, and you could tell he was excited about it because he spelled 'FBI' with two fefes."

Seth Meyers: "North Korea said yesterday that the United States' decision to pull out of the Paris climate agreement is shortsighted and silly. North Korea. Man, you know your country is in trouble when a guy with that haircut is telling you to get with the times."

Seth Meyers: "For a potential upcoming meeting between President Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin, it is being reported that the press may be excluded. Oh, I'm sorry, may be executed."

Conan O'Brien: "Former FBI Director James Comey apparently did not want to be left alone in a room with Donald Trump, which is why James Comey was just named an honorary Miss Universe contestant."

Conan O'Brien: "It's been reported that Attorney General Jeff Sessions has offered to resign. President Trump told him, 'That won't be necessary, I'm taking you down with me. We're going to go together.'"

Conan O'Brien: "In Utah, a woman pulled out two of her son's teeth in a Walmart bathroom. Or as that procedure will soon be known, the Trumpcare dental plan."

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- Elko (NV) Daily Free Press: Elko BLM Fire Specialist Wins National Award.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Lake Mead Water Levels Could Lead To Statewide Water Limits.
- Projected New Los Banos Residents From San Luis Dam Project Less Than Advertised.
- Tell The Feds How To Improve Horsetooth Reservoir.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Associated Press: West Virginia To Get \$11.6M For Fish, Wildlife Restoration.
- Summit County (CO) Citizens Voice: GOP Launches New Assault On Public Lands.
- Associated Press: Experts: Keystone XL Pipeline Power Lines Will Hurt Cranes.
- Washington Times: Peregrine Falcon Population Rises In Southeastern Michigan.
- U.S. News & World Report: Additional Coverage: Wyoming Coalition Seeks Ban On Cyanide Traps To Kill Coyotes.
- Thomson Reuters: Will Trump's Oil Flow From U.S. Reserves Or The Arctic?

National Park Service

- Washington Times: North Carolina Man Fell Into Yellowstone Hot Spring, Burned.
- Yellowstone Insider: A Tour Of The Mammoth Hotel Renovations In Yellowstone.
- U.S. News & World Report: Grand Canyon National Park Rangers Search For Missing Hiker.
- Springfield (IL) State Journal-Register: Superintendent Of Lincoln Home National Historic Site Retires.
- Spokane (WA) Spokesman-Review: Franklin Elementary School Wins A Spot On National Historic Register.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Saipan (MNP) Tribune: 22 Pacific Graduates From Leadership Dev't Program.
- Virgin Islands Daily News: St. Thomas Native Commands New Navy Ship.

Top National News

- Washington Post: Trump Calls For National Unity In Wake Of Attack On GOP Lawmakers.
- Washington Post: WPost Report: Mueller Investigating Trump For Obstruction Of Justice.
- New York Times: Senate Votes 97-2 To Tighten Sanctions On Russia.
- Los Angeles Times: Media Analyses: Rate Hike Shows Fed Sees Stronger Economy.
- Washington Post: DeVos Suspends Obama-Era Rules On For-Profit Colleges.
- Washington Post: Judge Orders Environmental Review Of Dakota Access Pipeline.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "America's Lethal Politics."
 - "Daughters Will Suffer From Medicaid Crisis."
 - "How ISIS Grew In The Philippines."
- Washington Post.
 - "The Shooting At A GOP Baseball Practice Was An Assault On Democracy."
 - "Thousands Of Russians Prove They're Fed Up With Putin's Authoritarianism."
 - "Two Surprising – And Mostly Positive – Results From Virginia's Primary."
- Wall Street Journal.

- "ObamaCare's 'Secret' History."
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- "Their Finest Hour."

Big Picture

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Washington Schedule

- Today's Events In Washington.

Last Laughs

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DOI In The News

US Interior Chief 'Comfortable' Keeping Maine Land Public.

The [AP](#) (6/14, Whittle) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "praised the beauty of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument on Wednesday and said he's 'comfortable' with the National Park Service property remaining in public hands." Zinke "sounded optimistic about the future of special land designation granted by then-President Barack Obama last summer with a goal of giving an economic jolt to the region." He said, "I'm confident there's a path forward here that will work."

The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (6/14, Sambides) reports that Zinke "did not address whether he would recommend that President Donald Trump rescind its status or make major changes to it." But he "said that dividing the monument's assets into different classifications, like he recommended as part of shrinking the much larger Utah's Bears Ears National Monument, would not be wise." Zinke said, "Scaling back, I don't think, makes a lot of sense from here."

The [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (6/14, Miller) reports that on Thursday, Zinke is "slated to meet in the morning with monument supporters from the Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce and in the afternoon with opponents who are part of the Maine Woods Coalition." He will also "meet with leaders of the Penobscot Nation."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Connecticut Post](#) (6/14, Whittle), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (6/14, Whittle), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/14, Patrick Whittle |, Ap), the [Lewiston \(ME\) Sun Journal](#) (6/14), [WSB-TV Atlanta \(GA\)](#) Atlanta (6/14, Whittle), [WCSH-TV Portland \(ME\)](#) Portland, ME (6/14, Blanchard), and [WLBZ-TV Bangor \(ME\)](#) Bangor, ME (6/14, Blanchard).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (6/14, Sambides), the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (6/14), [WCSH-TV Portland \(ME\)](#) Portland, ME (6/14, Blanchard), and [WCSH-TV Portland \(ME\)](#) Portland, ME (6/14, Komulainen-York).

Maine National Monument Built On Public Outreach. In his column for the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (6/14, Farmer), David Farmer writes that he "started work on the national monument project in 2012." He notes that "today, there are former opponents who are now supporters, a growing list of businesses who want the monument preserved, and three out of four members of Maine's congressional delegation who oppose any changes to the monument designation." He urges supporters to provide input.

Pretty As A Picture: Zinke Gets A Monumental View. In a piece for the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (6/14, Holyoke), John Holyoke writes that Zinke "seemed duly impressed, setting up his staffers for a photo at the overlook, the new iconic view of Katahdin in the background." Holyoke hopesit "would mean something in a few weeks or months, when Zinke gets down to the business of making his recommendation to President Donald Trump."

County To Secretary Zinke: Help.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (6/15, Ashby) reports that in a letter sent to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Tuesday, the three members of the Mesa County Board of Commissioners are "asking for aid in reversing a few President Barack Obama-era decisions beyond his designation of national monuments, which earlier this week Zinke suggested might happen." Commissioners Scott McInnis, John Justman and Rose Pugliese wrote, "Mesa County, our region and much of the western United States have experienced significant negative impacts of over-regulation by the DOI. We have nurtured good working relationships with local DOI agency staff only to be frustrated with the interference of bureaucrats at the national level time

and time again." They "cite three main issues: closure of roads on Bureau of Land Management property, canceled gas leases on the Thompson Divide and designation of certain critical habitat for endangered species, such as the yellow-billed cuckoo and the Gunnison sage-grouse."

Cortez Council OKs Letter Supporting Unchanged Canyons Monument. The [Southwest Colorado Journal](#) (6/14, Alderton) reports that the Cortez City Council "voted Tuesday to send a letter to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior asking that no changes be made to the national monument designation of Canyons of the Ancients." The council "voted 6-1 to allow Cortez Mayor Karen Sheek to sign the letter and send it to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke."

OPINION: Regarding President Trump's Review Of National Monuments. In an op-ed for the [Pagosa \(CO\) Daily Post](#) (6/14, Whiting), Michael Whiting writes that "federally protected lands are a critical component in ensuring Southwest Colorado's economic vitality." He urges "each of our state and federal elected representatives to publicly declare or re-declare where they stand for the people and values of Archuleta County and southwestern Colorado, and the public lands that sustain us, by rejecting this insult to our collective will and of our treasured National Monuments."

Experts: Captive Breeding Of Sage Grouse Won't Work.

The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (6/14, Thuermer, Graham) reports that "prominent greater sage grouse conservationists say Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's plan to consider captive breeding of the bird would meet a dead end." According to the article, "several persons immersed in sage grouse conservation," including Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead, "say captive breeding hasn't worked, is inappropriate and may harm wild sage grouse populations." Mead said, "I follow the lead of our scientists and experts on that who suggested that's just really not going to be something that works." He continued, "The issue wasn't necessarily a population at a point in time – it's whether the habitat was there to support a healthy population. If we're talking about captive breeding, it sort of dismisses that there's a healthy population of birds out there. There's many, many birds."

Commentary: Nevadans Welcome Review Of Sage Grouse Land-Use Plans. In commentary for the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (6/14, Mitchell), Thomas Mitchell writes that Nevada Attorney General Adam Laxalt, "who had filed a lawsuit attempting to overturn the Interior Department's 2015 land use plan to protect greater sage grouse, is praising the recent decision by the Trump administration to review those plans." Mitchell notes that "Interior's draft environmental impact statement estimated its grouse restrictions would reduce economic output in Nevada each year by \$373.5 million, cost \$11.3 million in lost state and local tax revenue and reduce employment by 739 jobs every year for the next 20 years."

Zinke's Doublespeak Is Bad For Sage Grouse. In a piece for the [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (6/14, Hatch), Cory Hatch claims that Zinke's order is "designed to open more sage grouse habitat to oil and gas development." However, Hatch argues that "Order 3353 hurts not only sage grouse but also the oil and gas industries it's designed to promote." According to Hatch, "by compromising those sage grouse plans, Zinke runs the risk of triggering another ESA review and subjecting the oil and gas industry to much stricter regulations."

Zinke's Bears Ears Report Featured Photo Of Another Site.

[E&E Publishing](#) (6/14, Yachnin) reports that the Interior Department "topped its Monday announcement that Secretary Ryan Zinke will recommend significant reductions to the 1.35-million-acre Bears Ears monument with a striking photo of the former Montana lawmaker looking over a vista of rocky, red hills." However, "according to Interior's public account on photo sharing site Flickr, the image actually belongs to a collection of photos from Zinke's recent visit to Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument." The article says that "the photographic mix-up is only the latest in a string of errors identifying the Bears Ears monument."

Additional Coverage: Interior Secretary Visits State, Presents Millions For NH Fish And Game Programs.

Additional coverage Interior Ryan Zinke "signed a check for more than \$1.2 billion" while visiting Bass Pro Shops in Hooksett on Tuesday was provided by the [New Hampshire Union Leader](#) (6/14, Proulx), the [Savannah \(GA\) Morning News](#) (6/14), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (6/14, Blevins), the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (6/14, French), the [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (6/14, Clark), and [Inside Indiana Business](#) (6/14, McGowan).

Additional Coverage: Zinke Recommends Downsizing Bears Ears In Shocking Display Of Common Sense.

Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke recommendation for the Bears Ears National Monument was provided by [HotAir](#) (6/14, Shaw), [The Atlantic](#) (6/14, Meyer), and [Nation Sun News](#) (6/14).

Additional Coverage: Montana Senators Vow To Fight For Park Service Funding.

Additional coverage that Sen. Jon Tester organized a media call on Tuesday blasting the White House's proposed budget for the Interior Department was provided by the [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (6/14, Wilson).

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Ariz. Irrigation District Sues DOI, Claims Inflated Rates.

[Law360](#) (6/14, Phillis) reports that the San Carlos Irrigation and Drainage District in Arizona has filed a complaint in Federal Claims Court accusing the Interior Department and Bureau of Indian Affairs of "charging landowners improperly high operation and maintenance costs for water services." The suit accused the federal government of "charging too much for O&M costs for fiscal years 2011 through 2017."

Blackfeet Prepares For Historic Constitutional Reform Vote.

The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (6/14, Franz) reports that "for the first time in eight decades, members of the Blackfeet Nation are deciding how their government will be organized." According to the article, "a secretarial election organized by the Department of Interior is underway east of the continental divide to determine whether the Blackfeet Nation should adopt a new tribal constitution."

Ex-Volunteer Firefighter Admits To Role In Tribal Fire Fraud.

The [AP](#) (6/14) reports that "a former volunteer firefighter for an American Indian reservation has admitted to covering up for the department's former leader who is charged with arranging for fires to be set that the tribe was paid to fight." The U.S. Attorney's Office in Kansas "says 35-year-old Arlene Negonsott, of Horton, pleaded guilty Tuesday to concealing a felony." Negonsott "admitted through her plea to not telling investigators what she knew about former Kickapoo Tribal Volunteer Fire Department chief Stephen Ramirez when she was interviewed about a series of fires on the Kickapoo Reservation in Brown County."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Topeka \(KS\) Capital-Journal](#) (6/14, Anderson).

Bureau Of Land Management

Trump Administration To Suspend Rule On Natural Gas Waste: Document.

[Reuters](#) (6/14, Gardner) reports an Interior Department document indicated the Trump Administration is suspending compliance dates on a regulation that limits methane emissions from oil and gas companies working on public lands. Compliance dates will be suspended until a federal court in Wyoming considers litigation on the rule.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/14, Eilperin) reports in a filing, the Bureau of Land Management entered a notice in the Federal Register saying it would delay compliance with the rule limiting methane flared from drilling operations on federal and tribal lands. Interior officials did not issue a public statement on delaying the rule, but deputy assistant secretary for land and minerals management Katharine MacGregor wrote, "While the BLM believes the Waste Prevention Rule was properly promulgated, the petitioners have raised serious questions concerning the validity of certain provisions of the Rule."

[The Hill](#) (6/14, Henry) reports the BLM wrote in the register that it was delaying the rule limiting methane waste "in light of the regulatory uncertainty created by the pending litigation and the ongoing administrative review." The agency wrote, "Given this legal uncertainty, operators should not be required to expend substantial time and resources to comply with regulatory requirements that may prove short-lived as a result of pending litigation or the administrative review that is already under way." Environmental groups sued the EPA earlier this month when it was considering delaying the rule, saying the agency overstepped its bounds.

[Platts](#) (6/14, Scheid) reports Lena Moffitt, senior director for the Sierra Club, said, "Once again, Donald Trump and [Interior Secretary] Ryan Zinke are showing where their priorities lie:

the profits of corporate polluters above all else, including the health of our communities. ... BLM's methane rule would protect our public lands and communities, and it has already withstood legal challenges and an attempted repeal in Congress." The [Daily Caller](#) (6/14, Follett) reports the EPA justified its review of rule citing a new study by NOAA researchers, which said the agency used inflated methane emissions estimates to justify the regulation. The study said that the research used daily peak emissions, rather than daily averages.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (6/14, Siciliano), the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (6/15, Webb), the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (6/15, Moss), the [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (6/14, Passut), and [Greenwire](#) (6/14)..

Western Colorado E&P Group Urges BLM To Eliminate EAs Required Before Lease Sales.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (6/14, Nemec) reports that "the requirement to conduct environmental assessments (EA) before oil and natural gas lease sales are redundant and need to be eliminated, and the Trump administration should order a review, western Colorado producers urged in a letter earlier this month to the U.S. Bureau of Land Management." The Western Slope chapter of the Colorado Oil and Gas Association "wrote the two BLM offices in Grand Junction and Silt as part of comments regarding a planned December oil and gas lease sale in the state." The companies are "concerned about pre-leasing requirements under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) on a macro basis, even though similar environmental reviews are required of specific leases and drilling plans for each lease."

Big Solar Farm Near Joshua Tree National Park Signs Contract.

The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (6/15, Roth) reports that "the 500-megawatt Palen solar project would be built near Desert Center, between Interstate 10 and Joshua Tree National Park." Palen's developer, EDF Renewable Energy, has "signed a contract to sell the electricity the plant would generate to the region's major utility, Southern California Edison — a key step before construction can begin." The California Public Utilities Commission is "likely to approve that contract later this month." According to the article, "the developer must also wait for Riverside County and the federal Bureau of Land Management to conduct an environmental review, which the agencies expect to finish later this year."

Filmmakers Argue Verde Line Would Have 'Horrendous Effect' On N.M.

Film Industry. The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (6/14, Horwath) reports that "opponents of a 33-mile electric transmission line that a Texas company wants to build across parts of northern Santa Fe County and southern Rio Arriba County presented a documentary-style video in a packed Santa Fe County Commission chamber on Tuesday night as part of their efforts to sway decision-makers to reject the plan." Gregory Nava, "a filmmaker who wrote and directed *El Norte*, directed Selena and is on the Motion Picture Academy Board of Governors, was among area residents who spoke against the proposed 345-kilovolt transmission line, which could have support towers up to 110 feet tall." The article note sthat "Nava is the just the latest from the film industry to voice opposition to the proposed line." In December, Robert Redford wrote in a column published by *The New Mexican* "that the transmission line should not be built on Bureau of Land Management land because the agency's own classification charges it to 'retain the existing character of the landscape.'"

Elko BLM Fire Specialist Wins National Award.

The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (6/14) reports that "Elko District employee Clint Mothershead has become the first Bureau of Land Management employee to receive a Smokey Bear Award since the program began in 1957." Mothershead, "who received the 2017 Bronze award, has been the Fire Mitigation and Education Specialist on the Elko District for the last three years and is chairman of the Northeast Nevada Fire Prevention Group." Mothershead said, "It's an honor to receive this recognition, being from Elko and knowing multiple families who could be impacted by wildfire drives me a little harder to try and reach out to as many individuals possible. I couldn't have been as successful as I have been if it wasn't for the support I have received from my family and friends as well as my supervisor; Matt Murphy, the BLM Nevada State Office, cooperating agencies and the firefighters who attend the events promoting wildfire prevention."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Lake Mead Water Levels Could Lead To Statewide Water Limits.

[Cronkite News](#) (6/14, Kuhbander) reports that “Arizona risks losing water rights because of a lingering, nearly two-decade long drought in the Colorado River that could restrict water use ranging from farmers’ crops to how many households receive water, state water experts say.” According to Rose Davis, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, “state water officials from Arizona, Nevada and California – which draw water from Lake Mead – have been working with federal officials to reduce consumption and conserve water in other ways.” Davis said, “Water conservation for Lake Mead and the lower Colorado River relies on all of us. It’s you and me in our houses, how farmers are using their water, how businesses implement water conservation, and how we are starting to use reclaimed and re-purposed water.”

Projected New Los Banos Residents From San Luis Dam Project Less Than Advertised.

The [Merced \(CA\) Sun-Star](#) (6/14, Shanker) reports that “the number of new residents who could move to Los Banos in connection with a project on the San Luis Dam is much less than advertised to the Los Banos City Council last week, according to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.” The bureau “said that it now estimates the project will create about 200-300 construction jobs, a portion of which will go to area residents.” Last week, “the manager of a project that would raise the berms at specific points in the dam to prevent failure told the City Council that the project could generate ‘a couple thousand’ workers.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Banos \(CA\) Enterprise](#) (6/14, Shanker).

Tell The Feds How To Improve Horsetooth Reservoir.

The [Fort Collins \(CO\) Coloradoan](#) (6/14, Coltrain) reports that “local and federal agencies are taking feedback on how to improve local reservoirs, including for recreation.” The Bureau of Reclamation and the Larimer County Department of Natural Resources are “compiling an integrated resource management plan and environmental assessment for Horsetooth Reservoir, Carter Lake, Pinewood Reservoir and Flatiron Reservoir.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

West Virginia To Get \$11.6M For Fish, Wildlife Restoration.

The [AP](#) (6/15) reports that Sens. Joe Manchin and Shelley Moore Capito say West Virginia “will get \$11.6 million in federal funding for its wildlife programs.” According to the senators, the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources will “receive \$8.1 million for wildlife restoration and \$3.5 million for sport fish restoration from the U.S. Department of the Interior.”

GOP Launches New Assault On Public Lands.

The [Summit County \(CO\) Citizens Voice](#) (6/14, Berwyn) reports that Rep. Bruce Westerman has “reintroduced a measure that would allow logging projects on up to 30,000 acres — more than 46 square miles — of public land to proceed without meaningful public input, regardless of the environmental harms they might cause.” The legislation “would also remove protections for old-growth trees and make it easier for endangered wildlife to be harmed during logging projects.” The “Resilient Federal Forests Act” would “eliminate Endangered Species Act requirements that the Forest Service consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure logging projects don’t jeopardize endangered wildlife or plants.” It is scheduled for a hearing in the House Natural Resources Federal Lands Subcommittee on Thursday.

Experts: Keystone XL Pipeline Power Lines Will Hurt Cranes.

The [AP](#) (6/14, Press) reports Nebraska “environmental experts” are concerned that “transmission lines to power pumping stations for the planned Keystone XL pipeline would threaten endangered whooping cranes.” Environmental group representatives “submitted written testimony on Monday to the Nebraska Public Service Commission, saying they object to the \$8 billion pipeline’s impact on natural resources.” Retired biology professor Paul Johnsgard said, “We need to reduce the threats to this magnificent bird, not increase them.”

Peregrine Falcon Population Rises In Southeastern Michigan.

The [AP](#) (6/14) reports that “a new report says peregrine falcons are making a comeback in southeastern Michigan.” The state Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “say the region’s population has grown from five young birds introduced in 1987 to 15 nesting pairs that reared 30 young birds last year.” According to the report, “there were 54

peregrine falcon nest sites across Michigan in 2016.”

Additional Coverage: Wyoming Coalition Seeks Ban On Cyanide Traps To Kill Coyotes.

Additional coverage that “a coalition of environmental groups has petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service asking for a Wyoming statewide ban on cyanide traps being used to kill coyotes” was provided by the [AP](#) (6/14).

Will Trump’s Oil Flow From U.S. Reserves Or The Arctic?

John Kemp writes in the blog for [Thomson Reuters](#) (6/14) that President Trump has promised to balance the budget over the next 10 years by selling half the country’s crude oil reserves and opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling. The budget proposal calls for SPR sales starting in 2018, but Kemp says that sales estimates may be wrong because crude futures would likely drop due to the increased supply. A debate also remains on drilling in the ANWR because it houses large amounts of crude, but concerns remain over the risk of spills and climate change.

National Park Service

North Carolina Man Fell Into Yellowstone Hot Spring, Burned.

The [AP](#) (6/14) reports that “a 21-year-old North Carolina man has suffered severe burns after falling into a hot spring in Yellowstone National Park.” According to park officials, “Gervais Dylan Gate of Raleigh, an employee of park concessionaire Xanterra Parks and Resorts, fell into a spring in the Lower Geyser Basin on Tuesday.” Park spokeswoman Morgan Warthin “said the incident is still under investigation.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Fox News](#) (6/14, Fedschun), the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (6/14), and the [Gephardt Daily \(UT\)](#) (6/14).

A Tour Of The Mammoth Hotel Renovations In Yellowstone.

The [Yellowstone Insider](#) (6/14, Kearney) reports that the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel at Yellowstone National Park is “undergoing major infrastructure upgrades to its seismic stability and ADA compliance, along with the heating, electrical and fire suppression systems.” Peter Galindo, a National Park Service engineer and project manager, provided “a tour of the building on Tuesday, June 6.” According to Galindo, “the total bill for the project is about \$8 million, which is funded through a National Park Service Line Item Construction Program.”

Grand Canyon National Park Rangers Search For Missing Hiker.

The [AP](#) (6/14) reports that Grand Canyon National Park rangers are “searching the park’s backcountry for a missing California hiker.” According to park spokeswoman Emily Davis, “air and ground crews are looking for 72-year-old Raafat ‘Ralph’ Amin Nasser-Eddin of Los Angeles along the Hermit Trail and several other trails.”

Superintendent Of Lincoln Home National Historic Site Retires.

The [Springfield \(IL\) State Journal-Register](#) (6/14, Landis) reports that “the superintendent of the Lincoln Home National Historic Site has retired after seven years at the local landmark and more than 40 years with the National Park Service.” Dale Phillips, “who came to Springfield from George Rogers Clark National Historical Park in Indiana in 2010, said Wednesday he had been considering retirement and that the time was right.” Phillips’ “retirement took effect in late May after 41 years with the park service.”

Franklin Elementary School Wins A Spot On National Historic Register.

The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (6/14, Prager) reports that Franklin Park Elementary School has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Office Of Insular Affairs

22 Pacific Graduates From Leadership Dev’t Program.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (6/15) reports that “twenty-two participants from throughout the U.S. affiliated insular areas represented the 2017 graduating class of the Executive Leadership Development Program.” ELDP graduation ceremonies were held on June 9 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The ELDP is funded by the Office of Insular Affairs and administered by the Graduate School USA's Pacific Islands Training Initiative.

Additional coverage was provided by [Marianas Variety](#) (6/15).

St. Thomas Native Commands New Navy Ship.

The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (6/14, Austin) reports that "the new commander of the USS Gabrielle Giffords is Navy Cmdr. Keith Woodley, a native of St. Thomas." Congressional Delegate Stacey Plaskett "took to the House floor in Washington Monday to honor Woodley." She said, "With this being Caribbean-American Heritage Month, I wanted to highlight and congratulate a native Virgin Islander who is now the new commander of the USS Gabrielle Giffords, the Navy's newest littoral combat ship, which was commissioned this past weekend in Texas."

Top National News

Trump Calls For National Unity In Wake Of Attack On GOP Lawmakers.

News reports and analyses, including an editorial in the [Washington Post](#) (6/14), mostly praised President Trump for his comments following Wednesday's shooting of GOP lawmakers in Virginia. The story overwhelmingly dominated the news cycle on cable and online media, with the major network newscasts devoting nearly 46 minutes of combined airtime to the attack. All three broadcasts showed footage of Trump saying, "We may have our differences, but we do well in times like these to remember everyone who serves in our nation's capital is here because above all, they love our country." Almost universally, the coverage highlighted Trump's calls for unity. The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/14, story 4, 1:25, Brennan), for example, remarked on the fact that "an often-polarizing President delivered a message of unity," and added that according to "a White House official...the President was very aware of the delicate nature of what was unfolding...and...worked on his remarks with Vice President Pence, someone who served in Congress himself, to craft a speech that showed reverence and respect for the victims." [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/14, story 4, 2:35, Holt) cast Trump as "abandoning partisan rhetoric as he faces his first domestic crisis," and [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/14, story 5, 2:00, Muir) referred to "a bit of a test of sorts for the President."

Wolf Blitzer said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/14) that Trump responded to the shooting with "a very strong appeal for national unity." Jim Acosta added that "we heard from a very different...Trump," who "did not engage in any kind of divisive rhetoric" and "sounded a unifying theme." Anderson Cooper said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/14) that Trump "has been quick to react after other serious attacks and has come under criticism for some of what he said. This is certainly not the case this time. Today, his remarks drew bipartisan praise."

Jake Tapper said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (6/14) that Trump "had a somber and reflective message for the nation," and Kristen Welker said on [MSNBC Live](#) (6/14) that he "abandoned any partisan politics." John Roberts said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/14), "While some members of Congress at the ball field blamed what they called political rhetorical terrorism...Trump did not address the political environment." [Politico](#) (6/14, Samuelsohn) says Trump's "measured reaction...is being praised by all sides as they gauge his temperament in a time of crisis." Politico quotes former Harry Reid spokesman Jim Manley as saying, "His statement was measured and respectful and hit all the right notes." An anonymous "former senior Obama White House aide" was a bit more circumspect, saying, "I think he sufficiently played the part."

The [New York Times](#) (6/14, Thrush, Davis) reports that Trump delivered his comments "with a gravity and sense of focus not seen since his well-received address to a joint session of Congress in February," and that he "steered clear of the possible political motivations of the gunman." Meanwhile, [Roll Call](#) (6/14, Bennett) referred to "a measured message of national unity," and described Trump as "putting aside the scandals surrounding his presidency and pursuit of his embattled agenda."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/14, Miller) reports Trump "said that Americans would come together to confront violence and bloodshed," and [USA Today](#) (6/14, Jackson) notes that "in a message directed to Rep. Steve Scalise, the Louisiana Republican wounded in the attack, Trump said: 'America is praying for you, and America is praying for all of the victims of this terrible shooting.'" Before his remarks, the President "spoke with Scalise's wife and chief of staff, as well as House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and the chief of the Capitol Police."

[Townhall](#) (6/14, Pavlich) noted that the President "praised two Capitol Police officers who

were at the park where multiple members of Congress and staff were practicing for tomorrow's annual Congressional Baseball Game." The two were "shot and wounded, yet continued to take on the assailant." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/14, Lauter) quotes Trump as saying, "Many lives would have been lost if not for the heroic actions of the two Capitol Police officers," who were wounded responding to "a very, very brutal assault."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/14) editorializes that "Trump struck exactly the right tone" in his statement yesterday, and that the attack "should cause a gut check about what passes for political discourse in this country." The Post adds that "it was discouraging that some on both the political right and left couldn't wait for Mr. Scalise to even get out of surgery before escalating the rhetoric rather than toning it down." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/14) also praises Trump's tone in its editorial, in which it also lauds the police response to the attack and calls for enhanced security for lawmakers. [USA Today](#) (6/14), meanwhile, similarly editorializes that "the moment invites some reflection on the nature of debate."

The [New York Times](#) (6/14) editorializes that "Trump said just the right thing after the attack on Wednesday," and quotes him as saying, "We can all agree that we are blessed to be Americans, that our children deserve to grow up in a nation of safety and peace." The Times concludes, however, "Yet he will not help create that nation if he continues to advocate easy access to lethal weapons."

NYTimes Analysis: Trump's "Rhetorically Violent" Tone Has Permeated US Politics. Weighing in on Trump's call for more civil political discourse – in a story that is generally favorable toward him – the [New York Times](#) (6/14, Thrush, Davis) says that "moving beyond the confrontational, personal, rhetorically violent and at times divisive tone he has infused in politics will be no easy task," and describes the President as a "political agitator pressed into the unfamiliar new role of soothing a nation."

CBS Highlights Trump's Campaign Rhetoric. The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/14, story 6, 2:10, Garrett) reported last night that "partisan unity has been lacking for years," and showed Trump saying, "Hillary Clinton is a bigot," and then, also during the campaign, "Such nasty woman." CBS added that "she in turn called Trump supporters deplorable." CBS added that "the heated rhetoric has continued since...Trump's inauguration." CBS continued, "Comedian Kathy Griffin posed for this photo posted on social media, depicting a decapitated...Trump, and a New York city production of 'Julius Caesar' casted the assassinated emperor as a Trump look a-like."

Alleged Shooter A Left-Wing, Anti-Trump Activist Who Volunteered For Sanders. The alleged shooter's anti-Republican and anti-Trump activism was detailed across the coverage. The [New York Times](#) (6/14, Fandos) describes James Thomas Hodgkinson, a 66-year-old out of Belleville, IL as "distracted over the election of...Trump," and adds that he "traveled to Washington in recent weeks to protest, his brother said on Wednesday." [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/14, story 2, 3:00, Williams), however, said "investigators believe Hodgkinson was living out of his car, a white cargo van, since late March on the same street the ballpark is on, but they are trying to figure out why he came to Washington in the first place."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/14, story 2, 3:20, Thomas) called the shooter's political beliefs "strident," adding that his Facebook posts portray "a deep hatred for Republicans, even calling...Trump a 'traitor.'" Wrote the attacker, "Trump has destroyed our democracy. It's time to destroy Trump and company." He also "posted a cartoon critical of...Scalise," and "joined anti-Republican Facebook groups, including one dubbed 'Terminate the Republican Party.'" The latter, said [The Hill](#) (6/14, Williams), "took on a chilling significance after Wednesday morning."

The [Belleville \(IL\) News-Democrat](#) (6/14) also reports Hodgkinson was "a member of a number of anti-Republican groups on Facebook," including "The Road to Hell is Paved with Republicans," "Donald Trump is not my President," "Illinois Berners United to Resist Trump" and "Expose Republican Fraud." [USA Today](#) (6/14, Johnson, Locker) notes that "earlier this week, the suspect highlighted a campaign calling for the president's impeachment." He wrote, "Trump is Guilty & Should Go to Prison for Treason." He also posted frequently about MSNBC's The Rachel Maddow Show, "one of his favorite television programs." The suspect also left evidence of his liberal political leanings in numerous letters to the editor of the [Belleville \(IL\) News-Democrat](#) (6/14).

[USA Today](#) (6/14, Gaudiano) reports in a separate story that the suspect "'apparently volunteered in Iowa' for Sen. Bernie Sanders' 2016 presidential campaign, according to his staff." The [Washington Post](#) (6/14, Hermann, Kane, Phillips) reports that "Robert Becker, who served as the Iowa director of Sanders's presidential campaign, said that Hodgkinson had no formal role on the campaign and that he couldn't find anyone who remembered him." At any rate, notes the [Washington Times](#) (6/14, Dinan), Sanders took to the Senate floor yesterday and said, "I am

sickened by this despicable act. ... Let me be as clear as I can be. Violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society and I condemn this action in the strongest possible terms."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/14, story 3, 2:40, Pegues) noted that "in 2011, Hodgkinson...was interviewed in an Occupy Wall Street protest." Hodgkinson was shown saying back then, "Ninety-nine percent are getting pushed around, and the one percent are just not giving a damn." [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/14, lead story, 4:20, Costello), meanwhile, reported in its lead story that "it would certainly appear this was a targeted assassination attempt on members of Congress, and goes to the very heart of the democracy."

On [Fox News' Hannity](#) (6/14), Sean Hannity referred to the shooter as "a left-wing gunman" who was "targeting and attacking" Republicans. Hannity added that the shooter was "a staunch left-wing, liberal leftist with an apparent hatred for all things Republican, conservative, and especially...Trump." The [Washington Post](#) (6/14, Marimow, Jackman, Boburg) says he was "highly critical of...Trump and other Republican leaders on social media," and the [Washington Free Beacon](#) (6/14, Griswold) that he was "a diehard liberal."

Tucker Carlson said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (6/14), "The only person directly responsible for what happened today is the man who pulled the trigger. That said, there might be some lessons we can learn. One is that in this volatile moment...people with megaphones ought to be responsible about what they say. That means never excusing political violence under any circumstances. That means condemning shootings like this, but it also means riots, assaults, occupations, threats, any other attempt to achieve political goals through force ought to be condemned."

Charles Lane, in his [Washington Post](#) (6/14) column, says "acts of murderous political violence...do not tell us much about the state of the country and its political culture," and that "absolutely no one is responsible for this deed except the individual who carried it out." Lane goes on to urge conservatives not to blame their opponents' rhetoric for the attack.

Daily Caller Analysis: Second Case In Two Weeks Of Sanders Backers Involved In High-Profile Crime. The [Daily Caller](#) (6/14, Ross) reported that "Hodgkinson's Facebook profile strongly suggests a political motivation for the shooting," and that "this is the second time in as many weeks that a Sanders supporter has been involved in a high-profile criminal case." The DC added that "last week, the FBI arrested 25-year-old National Security Agency contractor Reality Leigh Winner for stealing Top Secret documents and mailing them to a news outlet." Winner's "social media footprint shows that she was also a Sanders backer."

Donald Trump Jr.: Shooting Illustrates Danger Of "Glorifying" Trump's Mock Assassination. [Politico](#) (6/14, Gold) reports that "some conservative political figures and alt-right news outlets began speculating on whether Wednesday's attack...was connected to left-wing rhetoric against...Trump." Donald Trump Jr. "pointed his followers on Twitter to commentator Harlan Hill saying, 'Events like today are EXACTLY why we took issue with NY elites glorifying the assassination of our President.'" The Hill added that "recent theatrical performances, including by comedian Kathy Griffin and rapper Snoop Dogg, have portrayed...Trump being hurt or killed." Rep. Rodney Davis similarly told CNN, "This could be the first political rhetorical terrorist attack." Conservative radio host "Michael Savage tweeted 'I warned America the Dems constant drumbeat of hatred would lead to violence!'" The Drudge Report, meanwhile, "highlighted left-wing Twitter users who 'celebrated' the shooting."

Charles Krauthammer said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/14), "I think this will help to pull people back and to realize that the kind of language – to celebrate the Julius Caesar in Central Park, in which the Julius Caesar is clearly Donald Trump, as some kind of great cultural achievement, I think it's really appalling. This is part of all that."

The [New York Post](#) (6/14, Massarella) reports the "modern production of 'Julius Caesar' – with an actor made up as...Trump getting offed onstage – will continue to play in Central Park as scheduled, the theater company said."

Republicans Denounce Spike In Violent Threats; Lawmakers Seek Added Security. The [AP](#) (6/14, Bykowicz) reports that "some Republicans say that in the era of...Trump, they're being threatened like never before." They "point to a virulent backlash against Trump that they say goes beyond the bounds of moderate political dissent and – subtly or not – encourages violence." Charlie Kirk, "a young conservative activist" who "has been chronicling threats that get little attention outside conservative media," said yesterday, "I've been saying, 'What is it going to take for this to get some visibility.' ... And now here we are."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/14, Boyer) reports "the 'Resist' movement spawned a shooting rampage Wednesday morning that targeted Republican lawmakers," and "the demonizing of Mr. Trump has become a contest of one-upmanship" which "has extended to his Republican allies in

Congress, whose support for the president's agenda has sparked such a heated outcry that some lawmakers have debated the need for more security at town hall meetings in their districts." To the [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/14, Barabak), meanwhile, "the attack almost seemed a natural, if sick, extension of the virulence that surrounds the country's increasingly tribal politics."

[POLITICO New York](#) (6/14, Vielkind) reports that "Rep. Claudia Tenney, a freshman Republican from suburban Utica, has forwarded a threatening email to Capitol Police in the wake of Wednesday morning's shooting at a Congressional baseball practice." Read the email, "One down, 216 to go. ... Did you NOT expect this? When you take away ordinary peoples very lives in order to pay off the wealthiest among us, your own lives are forfeit. Certainly, your souls and morality were lost long before. Good riddance." That message "came just hours after" the shooting. Added Politico, "Tenney's office said it 'regularly' receives threatening emails and social media replies, but that 'today's message was particularly disheartening following this morning's tragic events.'"

The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/14, story 2, 2:10, Cordes) showed Rep. Martha McSally, saying, "When you see some of the things going on out there, it's like the frog in the water where you're turning the temperature up one degree at a time. As I said, when the man was arrested making threats against me, threats of violence and acts of violence are not so far apart."

The [New York Times](#) (6/14, Hulse) reports on a "sense that national political conflict had escalated out of control," that there is an "acrid partisan atmosphere in Congress as well as back home, where lawmakers say they are increasingly worried about hostile audiences and constituents filled with vitriol who are unrestrained in venting at their member of Congress." Under the headline "Attack Tests Movement Sanders Founded," the [New York Times](#) (6/14, Alcindor) reports in a separate story that "in 2010, as the Tea Party movement rose, often with violent messages, Democratic lawmakers lamented the threats they faced." Republicans "are feeling a similar lash as the left rises to confront a Republican president."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/14, Costa, O'Keefe, Fahrenthold) reports that some "Republican lawmakers said the shooting made them more concerned about their own security, especially after tense town-hall meetings in recent weeks about the Republican efforts to repeal and replace President Barack Obama's health-care law." [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/14, House) notes "rank-and-file members generally aren't accompanied by the Capitol Police, whose mission is to protect Congress," and that "even before Wednesday's shootings, there has been rising concern among members amid threats and anger at town hall meetings."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (6/14, story 3, 2:25, Holt) interviewed Sen. Rand Paul, who said, "Sort of the irony is, you know, Congressman Scalise is the one who suffered, but had he not been there and his detail team, it would have been a disaster." The [Washington Times](#) (6/14, Boyer, Dinan) quotes Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe as saying of the officers, "They saved a lot of lives today." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/14, story 4, 2:20, Bruce) showed Rep. Ron DeSantis similarly saying, "Scalise gets a security [detail] because he's in leadership. Had Scalise not been there, I think it would have been a massacre today because there would have been no way to defend yourself."

Lawmakers Call For Easing Of Political Discord. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/14, Nicholas, Peterson, Lubold) quotes Speaker Ryan as saying on the House floor yesterday that "an attack on one of us is an attack on all of us," while Minority Leader Pelosi stated, "We are not one caucus or the other in this House today." The [Washington Post](#) (6/14, Costa, O'Keefe, Fahrenthold), meanwhile, reports that Rep. Rodney Davis, "who was present for the attack and did interviews in the Capitol's Statuary Hall while still wearing cleats and dirty baseball pants," said yesterday, "This has got to stop. ... We've got to ratchet down the rhetoric."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/14, Persons) reports "Rep. Mike Doyle, the manager for the Democratic baseball team, said he invited the Republican team for dinner at the Democratic Club as a first step towards changing the heated political climate." Said Doyle, "We want to be together. I just suggested to Joe [Barton] that we'd like to host the entire Republican team down at the Democratic Club. Probably some of them have never stepped foot in that building, but we want to have them to dinner and have both teams be together." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/14, story 4, 2:20, Bruce) also reported the "show of unity will extend to the baseball diamond tomorrow night," as "Democrats and Republicans feel it sends a strong message that Americans will not back down to fear."

[Politico](#) (6/14, Dove) sounds more skeptical note, reporting that "six years ago it was Giffords, now Scalise, but neither the politics nor the rhetoric are likely to change." Dana Milbank, in the [Washington Post](#) (6/14), says "there is something magical about the national pastime uniting our leaders – and something tragic that it takes the bullets of a madman to remind them

that their opponents aren't their enemies."

Gloria Borger said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/14), "Maybe people – as many members of Congress have talked about today – need to tone it down and maybe we need to sort of take a look at ourselves and our political discord and the rest of it."

Brianna Keilar said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/14), "You can't extrapolate with any certainty from this that even the discourse in Washington is what caused this" and "you can't extrapolate with certainty that it did not. So I think it becomes something on the minds of both Democrats and Republicans as they go through the process of making their arguments."

Susan Page of USA Today said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/14), "Maybe this will be short-lived, but I think there's a sense of 'Have we gone so far in the fierceness of our political debates and things like social media postings, going over the line of civil discourse that we should step back?'"

Davis, Collins Put Onus On Democrats. The [New York Post](#) (6/15, Fredericks, Schultz, Massarella) reports Rep. Rodney Davis told Fox News, "This political rhetoric and political discourse that has led to hate, has led to gunfire. ... This has got to stop, and it's gotta stop today." Meanwhile, Rep. Chris Collins also "pointed a finger squarely at the Democrats," telling radio station WBEN, "I can only hope that the Democrats do tone down the rhetoric."

McAuliffe At Crime Scene: "Too Many Guns On The Street." [Reuters](#) (6/14, Lynch, Colvin) reports the attack "quickly revived debate about gun rights in America," with "Virginia's Democratic governor, Terry McAuliffe," urging "gun control measures." McAuliffe said at the scene of the shooting, "This is not what today is about, but there are too many guns on the street." Reuters adds that "Scalise has been a strong opponent of gun control measures." In a separate story, [Reuters](#) (6/14, Cowan) reports that "despite the day's carnage, there was no immediate indication that...Trump or his fellow Republicans would shift from their position protecting gun ownership rights," and adds that "pro-gun voters lean heavily toward the Republican Party."

To [USA Today](#) (6/14, Gaudiano), meanwhile, the shooting "has re-energized both sides of the gun debate." Rep. Collins, "who was not at the practice, told a Buffalo television station he has decided to carry his gun with him everywhere as a result of the shooting." Said Collins, "I have a carry permit. ... On a rare occasion I'd have my gun in the glove box or something, but it's going to be in my pocket from this day forward."

Likewise, the [New York Times](#) (6/14, Martin) reports "shaken and angry" GOP lawmakers "seized on the brazen daytime shooting...to demand that existing restrictions on gun access be loosened so that people facing similar attacks are able to defend themselves." While "past shootings have brought calls for more gun control...the ardent supporters of gun rights who came under fire this time were not about to change their views." [Politico](#) (6/14, Kim, Everett, Caygle), meanwhile, reported that in contrast to past shootings, "on Wednesday, the tone among even the most ardent proponents of stricter gun laws was dramatically different," as "in multiple interviews, several Democratic lawmakers urged that no, today was not the day to revive the dormant gun control debate. It was too soon, it hit too close to home – and lawmakers simply didn't want to stand accused of politicizing a shooting that injured a colleague and friend."

Trump, First Lady Visit Scalise, Who Has Had Second Surgery And May Need More. The [Washington Times](#) (6/14, Miller) reports that the President and First Lady "visited...Scalise at the hospital Wednesday night, bringing him flowers." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/14) briefly remarks on the "surprise visit," and [USA Today](#) (6/14, Korte) notes Trump later [tweeted](#), "Just left hospital. ... Rep. Steve Scalise, one of the truly great people, is in very tough shape – but he is a real fighter. Pray for Steve!" [Politico](#) (6/14, Ocasio, Morin) and the [New York Post](#) (6/14, Tacopino), among other news outlets, run similar reports.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/14, lead story, 4:25, Kerley) described yesterday's attack in its lead story, "Just after 7:00 a.m., Hodgkinson opens fire through a fence near the third base dugout. The number three man in House leadership, Scalise from Louisiana, is playing second base and is hit by a bullet. ... Members of Congress forced to flee...as the shooter is on the move." Scalise's security detail engaged "the suspect from behind an SUV, according to witnesses," and "within minutes, local police" joined "in the gun battle." The gunman was shot "down at 7:14 and died later." The [AP](#) (6/14, Werner, Day) reports "colleagues said Scalise dragged himself away from the infield leaving a trail of blood as they rushed to his assistance." The [New York Times](#) (6/14, Shear, Goldman, Cochrane) noted his aides said "he had undergone surgery at MedStar Washington Hospital Center and was in critical condition." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/14, story 3, 1:45, Muir) devotes a second story to the frenzied scene, and a [third](#) (6/14, story 12, 1:25, Muir) to the two Capitol Hill police officers who were "wounded themselves" but saved "so many."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/14, lead story, 4:30, Pelley) showed Rep. Roger Williams saying, "There could have easily been 25 deaths or more today. But Officers Griner and Bailey prevented that, and my family and I will be forever grateful." CBS also reported that Rep. Jeff Duncan "left just before the shooting began, but he believes he encountered the gunman as he was leaving." Duncan was shown saying, "I had an interaction with someone in the parking lot who asked me if the team practicing were Democrats or Republicans. I told him they were Republicans. He said, 'Okay. Thanks.' And he turned around."

The [New York Times](#) (6/14, Shear, Goldman, Cochrane) reports "officials said Mr. Hodgkinson was armed with a handgun and a rifle," and "witnesses described a man with white hair and a beard wielding a long gun as he stood behind the dugout."

Suspect Had Arrest Record. [Business Insider](#) (6/14, Mark, Berke) reports "Hodgkinson has a varied arrest record in St. Clair County, for offenses such as failing to obtain electrical permits, damaging a motor vehicle, resisting a peace officer, eluding police, criminal damage to property, driving under the influence and assorted traffic offenses." The [Washington Times](#) (6/14, Miller, Noble) also reports that in Belleville, "deputies responded multiple times to his home to take complaints of damage to his yard, but a sheriff's report from a decade ago indicates that Mr. Hodgkinson was arrested and charged with domestic battery and aggravated discharge of a firearm for a domestic assault during which he was accused of firing a shotgun at a man." According to [Roll Call](#) (6/14, Pathé), "the most recent report was in March. Officers were dispatched when a caller reported hearing as much as 50 gunshots near Hodgkinson's house." When "they arrived...he showed them a valid state firearms permit, and the officers told him not to shoot in the residential area."

[Politico](#) (6/14, Woellert, Meyer) indicates that "St. Clair County is surrounded by communities that voted heavily for Trump in the 2016 presidential election," though "Hillary Clinton edged out Trump in St. Clair itself, home to Belleville."

WPost Report: Mueller Investigating Trump For Obstruction Of Justice.

A front-page [Washington Post](#) (6/14, A1, Barrett, Entous, Nakashima, Horwitz) report that special counsel Robert Mueller is investigating whether the President attempted to obstruct justice garnered relatively light media attention amid ongoing coverage of the shooting targeting member of Congress as they practiced for a charity baseball game. The Post, in what it casts a "major turning point" in the investigation, cited "officials" who say Mueller's "widening probe" now "includes an examination of whether...Trump attempted to obstruct justice." The Post also cites "five people briefed on the requests," who said DNI Coats, NSA Director Rogers and his former deputy, Richard Ledgett, "agreed to be interviewed by Mueller's investigators as early as this week," but adds that it "remains unclear whether they will describe in full their conversations with Trump and other top officials or will be directed by the White House to invoke executive privilege."

The [New York Times](#) (6/14, Schmidt, Apuzzo) says that while none of the men were involved in the Trump campaign, "recent news reports have raised questions about whether Mr. Trump requested their help in trying to get" Comey "to end an investigation into the president's former national security adviser, Michael T. Flynn." The Times adds that according to "an intelligence official," Mueller's office "has also asked the N.S.A. for any documents or notes related to the agency's interactions with the White House as part of the Russia investigation."

Adam Entous, a co-author of the Post's story, appeared on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/14) and confirmed that his report said the decision to investigate Trump for obstruction of justice came about because of Comey's firing. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/14, Wilber, Harris, Sonne) says a spokesman for Mueller declined to comment on the Post's report.

Jonathan Swan writes on [Axios](#) (6/14) that Republicans see a "familiar" and "distressing" pattern in which Trump's application of "unconventional or inappropriate pressure to 'independent' public officials" is "often followed by damaging leaks." Swan adds that after the Post story broke, he heard from "Republicans who are starting to draw a straight line from Trump's undisciplined venting to damaging leaks." One such text read: "Leak was probably a response to stories about POTUS firing Mueller. Can't fire him now."

Tucker Carlson said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (6/14) that the Post "said that investigation was not underway until Comey got fired and now it is. We know this, you won't be surprised to learn, from unnamed officials familiar with the matter. In other words, leaks." Cecilia Vega reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/14, story 6, 0:45, Muir) that in a statement, Trump's legal team "called this a leak that's outrageous, inexcusable and illegal."

Jeffrey Toobin said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/14) that this is "a huge deal, and I

don't hate to tell you that I told you so. When you listen to James Comey's testimony about how the President tried to get him to drop the investigation and then you see that he fired Comey when he didn't drop the investigation, that is evidence of obstruction of justice. When you combine it with the apparent – and I say apparent – conversations between Trump and the Director of National Intelligence, the Director of the NSA, trying to stop this investigation in other ways, that's worth investigating someone for obstruction of justice." Glenn Thrush of the New York Times said on [MSNBC's Hardball](#) (6/14), "As people have said before, it's often not the crime but the cover-up. ... What's novel about this story is they're also talking to Dan Coats, Admiral Rogers of the NSA and one of Admiral Rogers' deputies. I'm very intrigued to figure out what they are going to talk about."

Gloria Borger said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/14), "This is all kind of self-sabotage, if you think about it. Because if he hadn't fired Comey, Comey would not have believed perhaps that the President was obstructing. ... So when you look at this whole event, all of them, you have to think, that in a way, Donald Trump did this to himself." David Gergen said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/14), "I think in every case where there's been a special counsel appointed by the Justice Department, it is because the person being investigated brought it upon himself." Gergen added that "this is taking a major turn and it's potentially much more dangerous for Donald Trump than what this started with and that is the Russian issue."

Charles Krauthammer said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/14) that this is "a classic case of a special prosecutor expanding the scope of the investigation. The metastasis has begun." Karl Rove writes in his column for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/14) that given the available information, Trump is not vulnerable to an obstruction charge, but Mueller may find no underlying offense in the Russia investigation and decide he must charge someone for something.

Sen. Chris Coons said on [CNN's Out Front](#) (6/14), "This is a very stunning development," adding that "this report in the 'Washington Post' this evening suggests strongly, given five different sources that the scope of the investigation has changed, since the firing of the FBI director, and is now targeted directly at the President and his actions which may amount to obstruction of justice."

Mueller Meets With Heads Of Senate Intel Committee. News that Mueller is investigating possible obstruction by Trump came on the same day he met with leaders of the Senate Intelligence Committee "to discuss their respective investigations," the [Washington Times](#) (6/14, Boylan) reports. Mueller, Chairman Richard Burr, and ranking Democrat Mark Warner met in a secure room in the Capitol building. Burr and Warner said in a statement, "We had a constructive meeting with the special counsel today and we look forward to future engagements." Burr "refused to reveal further details to CNN other than to explain they met to open up lines of communication." [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/14, Dennis, House) says they "discuss[ed] preventing conflicts in their separate investigations into Russian election interference." Mueller "is set to meet with House intelligence panel leaders in the coming days."

Reed: Trump Must Testify Before Mueller. Sen. Jack Reed was asked on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (6/14) why he thinks Trump's offer to testify before the Senate is a bad idea. Reed said, "I think what you see is what we saw yesterday with Attorney General Sessions. 'I'm not going to answer that question. I have some policy reason, I'll claim executive privilege.' Then the sort of practical basis with five-minute rounds, there's no opportunity to develop I think a series of questions. But more practically, and more substantively to this investigation, he has to be deposed by – or testify before the special prosecutor, Mr. Mueller. That's the individual who will have all the information and he will have the legal authority to compel testimony unless there is some type of privilege and have the ability to follow up with questions. That's what should be done. I hope it will be done."

Senate Judiciary Committee To Investigate Comey Firing. Also Wednesday, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/14, Tau) reports, Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley announced that his panel will investigate Trump's firing of Comey. In a letter released Wednesday, Grassley wrote, "The Judiciary Committee has an obligation to fully investigate any alleged improper partisan interference in law enforcement investigations. ... It is my view that fully investigating the facts, circumstances, and rationale for Mr. Comey's removal will provide us the opportunity to do that on a cooperative, bipartisan basis. The American people deserve a full accounting of attempts to meddle in both our democratic processes and the impartial administration of justice."

Trump Met With Donors On Day Comey Testified. [Politico](#) (6/14, Palmeri, Vogel) reports that on the day Comey "delivered his damaging Senate testimony," President Trump's team "summoned about a dozen top donors" including "Ken Griffin, Doug DeVos, Tom Hicks, Jr., Rebekah Mercer, Todd Ricketts, Tom Saunders, Paul Singer and Dick Uihlein" to the White House

“to rally support for Trump’s agenda.” A “senior administration official and other people familiar with the event” said the donors “gathered in the Roosevelt Room on June 8 for a briefing from Trump’s legislative director Marc Short,” and Trump “stopped by the briefing to greet” them. Politico adds that “as if underscoring the distracting effect, the briefing occurred soon after Comey finished testifying.”

Johnson To Testify Before House Intelligence Committee. [Politico](#) (6/14, Wright) reports that “a congressional source” says former DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson will testify publicly before the House Intelligence Committee next Wednesday “as part of its investigation into Russia’s election meddling.” Politico says Johnson “is likely to face questions about Russian attempts to hack US election systems.”

Goldberg: If Democrats Retake House, They Will Impeach Trump. Jonah Goldberg writes in a piece for [National Review](#) (6/14) that Democrats “are every bit as committed to impeaching Trump as the GOP was to impeaching Clinton,” but unlike Republicans at the time, “Democrats don’t control the House – yet.” If they retake the house in 2018, he warns, “it won’t matter to most members whether the country as a whole supports impeachment, because the voters who elected them – and the donors who supported them – will be in favor of it.” Goldberg argues that “the only hope for the Trump presidency is for the GOP to maintain control of the House.”

Thiessen: False Charges Of Collusion Actually Furthering Russia’s Goals. Marc Thiessen argues in his [Washington Post](#) (6/14) column that those who are “falsely claiming that Trump was under FBI investigation for collusion with Moscow are, in fact, the ones inadvertently colluding with Putin to undermine American democracy.” Thiessen writes that “airing unproven allegations of coordinating with the Kremlin,” which “was seen as bad form,” is now “common practice in Washington,” and the “false charges and innuendo directly assist Russia in its efforts to undermine public confidence in our democratic institutions.”

Senate Votes 97-2 To Tighten Sanctions On Russia.

In a move media reports say sets up a potential confrontation with the White House, the Senate on Wednesday defied Administration wishes and voted 97-2 to approve a measure to tighten sanctions on Russia. The [New York Times](#) (6/14, Salam) reports that the issue “had many of President Trump’s allies siding with his harshest critics,” and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/14, Mascaro) calls the vote “a rare bipartisan move intended to respond to various aggressions by Russia against the US.” The measure “firms up existing sanctions against Russia and imposes new ones.” It targets “a wide array of what senators called ‘corrupt Russian actors,’ including those engaged in hacking, seizure of state resources, human rights abuses and supplying arms to the Syrian regime,” and “requires Congress to review any effort by the Trump administration to loosen sanctions on Russia.” [Politico](#) (6/14, Schor) calls the bill “the year’s most significant GOP-imposed restriction on the White House,” and [USA Today](#) (6/14, Collins) says the Senate passed it in defiance of the Administration, setting up “a confrontation with President Trump, who has dismissed reports of Russia’s interference in the election and whose administration has been attempting to improve US relations with Moscow.”

The [New York Post](#) (6/14, Fredericks) reports that the House has not indicated when – or if – it will take up the bill, and adds that Trump, who “has not publicly backed sanctions against Vladimir Putin’s regime,” could veto it. However, [Reuters](#) (6/14, Zengerle) says that if Trump were to veto the measure, “some of its backers said they expected enough congressional support to override a veto.” The [Washington Times](#) (6/14, Dinan) describes the vote as “a bipartisan strike against the government of President Vladimir Putin,” which “marked a rare spot of agreement between Democrats and Republicans.” Senate Minority Leader Schumer “said the White House should take note of the vote,” arguing, “The bill should be a powerful signal to President Trump and the White House that the concern that he might weaken or lift sanctions against Putin is a bipartisan concern, one that the Senate is not going to ignore.”

Tillerson Seeks “Flexibility” On Russia Sanctions. The Senate vote came on the same day that Secretary of State Tillerson “warned” the House Foreign Affairs Committee “against passing any further sanctions against Russia that would prohibit ‘dialogue’ with the country on issues like counterterrorism,” [The Hill](#) (6/14, Bowden) reports. Tillerson told the panel “that he agrees with Congress that Russia needs to be punished for meddling in the 2016 election, but asked lawmakers for ‘flexibility.’” He said, “I certainly agree with the sentiment that has been conveyed by several members from both parties that Russia must be held accountable for its meddling in US elections. ... I would urge Congress to ensure any legislation allows the president to have the flexibility to adjust sanctions to meet the needs of what is always an evolving diplomatic situation.”

Media Analyses: Rate Hike Shows Fed Sees Stronger Economy.

Media reports agree on casting the Fed's decision to raise interest rates as a good sign for the economy. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/14, Puzzanghera, Lee) reports "Federal Reserve policymakers on Wednesday enacted their third small hike in a key interest rate in six months, a move that will push it above 1% for the first time since the 2008 financial crisis." It was "another validation of the recovery from the Great Recession."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/14, Timiraos) runs a similar analysis of the Fed's motives, and the [New York Post](#) (6/14, Dugan) reports the it made its decision "as unemployment in the US has continued to fall and consumer confidence has risen." Likewise, [Business Insider](#) (6/14, Oyedele) that the Fed was "signaling that it believes the economy is healthy enough to withstand tighter financial conditions," [Reuters](#) (6/14, Dunsmuir, Schneider) that it cited "continued US economic growth and job market strength," the [New York Times](#) (6/14, A1, Appelbaum) that it demonstrated "confidence in the health of the American economy," and the [Washington Post](#) (6/14, Swanson) that it sent "a message of confidence in the strengthening of the US economy." The Post adds that the Fed also "laid out plans to begin rolling back the more than \$4 trillion balance sheet it accumulated in an effort to prop up the economy after the financial crisis."

To [USA Today](#) (6/14, Davidson), "the plan to unwind the balance sheet, beginning this year, represents a milestone in the eight-year-old recovery as the Fed grows increasingly confident the economy can move forward without the extraordinary support it has provided since the 2008 financial crisis." Fed Chairwoman Janet Yellen said yesterday, "We continue to feel the economy is doing well."

[Bloomberg News](#) (6/14, Condon, Torres), meanwhile, cautions the Fed acted "despite growing concerns over weak inflation," and [Politico](#) (6/14, Guida) that it did so "despite signs that the economy is not overheating." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/14) generally supports the Fed's pace in hiking interest rates, but the Journal editors would prefer that the Fed complete the sale of its mortgage bonds – which are cast, moreover, as unneeded.

Yellen Declines To Say Whether She Would Like A Second Term. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/14, Condon) reports that Yellen yesterday "declined to say whether she would serve a second term at the helm of the US central bank if asked to stay on by President Donald Trump." Said Yellen, "I have not had conversations with the president about future plans." Bloomberg notes her "four-year term as chair expires on Feb. 3."

In a front-page story titled "Fed Actions Show Confidence But Are Not At Trump Speed," the [New York Times](#) (6/14, A1, Appelbaum) reports that Yellen "may soon lose her role as the conductor of the Fed's slow, steady and successful retreat." The Administration "is beginning to consider whether Ms. Yellen should be replaced when her term as chairwoman ends in early February," and "Gary Cohn," who is "Trump's chief economic adviser, is heading the search for a new leader."

Stocks Indices Mixed As Dow Reaches New Record. The [AP](#) (6/14) reports "US stocks dipped Wednesday as investors worried about weak retail sales and oil prices sank." The S&P "slid 2.43 points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,437.92," the Dow "rose 46.09 points, or 0.2 percent, to a record 21,374.56," and the Nasdaq "lost 25.48 points, or 0.4 percent, to 6,194.89."

DeVos Suspends Obama-Era Rules On For-Profit Colleges.

In what the [Washington Post](#) (6/14, Strauss) describes as "a victory for Republican lawmakers and for-profit colleges," Education Secretary DeVos moved Wednesday to suspend two Obama-era rules "that were intended to protect students from predatory for-profit colleges, saying it will soon start the process to write its own regulations." A statement from the Education Department said "that it was going to create new committees to rewrite rules covering borrower defense to repaying (BDR) and gainful employment (GE)." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/14, Mitchell) reports that DeVos argued the suspended rules created an undue burden and would have been expensive for taxpayers. Said DeVos, "It's time for a regulatory reset. ... It is the Department's aim, and this Administration's commitment, to protect students from predatory practices while also providing clear, fair and balanced rules for colleges and universities to follow."

The [New York Times](#) (6/14, Cohen) says the Department said that while it develops "fair, effective and improved regulations to protect individual borrowers from fraud, ensure accountability across institutions of higher education and protect taxpayers," it will "continue to process nearly 16,000 claims for debt relief being made under existing rules, and said some borrowers could expect loans to be discharged within the next several weeks."

[USA Today](#) (6/14, McCoy) reports that the plan "drew criticism and predictions of legal challenges," and quotes DeVos' Obama Administration predecessor, John King, as saying the

decision was “deeply worrisome and wrong.”

Judge Orders Environmental Review Of Dakota Access Pipeline.

In what the [Washington Post](#) (6/14, Hsu) describes as a “limited victory” for Native American tribes in North Dakota that challenged the Trump Administration effort to speed the Dakota Access pipeline, US District Judge James E. Boasberg on Wednesday ordered the Administration “to conduct further environmental reviews” of the project but “stopped short of halting oil-pumping operations pending further hearings beginning June 21.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“America’s Lethal Politics.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/14) editorializes that “Trump said just the right thing after the attack on Wednesday,” and quotes him as saying, “We can all agree that we are blessed to be Americans, that our children deserve to grow up in a nation of safety and peace.” The Times concludes, however, “Yet he will not help create that nation if he continues to advocate easy access to lethal weapons.”

“Daughters Will Suffer From Medicaid Crisis.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/15, Board) warns that House Republican’s plans to cut Medicaid funding “would be devastating” to the elderly, which receive about two-thirds of Medicaid spending, as well as adult children, especially daughters, caring for elderly parents. Such cuts would cause the stresses on the children to “become extreme.” The Times warns of the cost to the economy and to physical and mental health due to caregiving, concluding, “If health, prosperity and dignity were driving policy making, lawmakers would be looking for ways to increase Medicaid coverage, not destroy it.”

“How ISIS Grew In The Philippines.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/15) writes that Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte “has a serious problem on his hands” in the ISIS-linked contesting control of the city of Marawi and who threaten “the security of the entire region.” The Times argues, “Mr. Duterte’s braggadocio is partly to blame for the escalation of the conflict” and warns that his “strongman tactics” and military displays of “brute force aided by the United States will not address the” poverty, lawlessness, and overcrowded prisons driving the militant movements on the island of Mindanao. The Times calls for “ratchet[ing] down the fight in Marawi and” pressuring “Duterte to restart negotiations with militant groups.”

Washington Post.

“The Shooting At A GOP Baseball Practice Was An Assault On Democracy.” The [Washington Post](#) (6/14) editorializes that “Trump struck exactly the right tone” in his statement yesterday, and that the attack “should cause a gut check about what passes for political discourse in this country.” The Post adds that “it was discouraging that some on both the political right and left couldn’t wait for Mr. Scalise to even get out of surgery before escalating the rhetoric rather than toning it down.”

“Thousands Of Russians Prove They’re Fed Up With Putin’s Authoritarianism.” A [Washington Post](#) (6/14) editorial says Monday’s protests in Russia “confirmed a trend that was seen in demonstrations in March” — that many young Russians are “fed up with the stagnant authoritarianism” that President Vladimir Putin “has come to represent.” The Post urges Putin to release jailed opposition leader Alexei Navalny and “permit a free and open presidential campaign leading up to the scheduled vote in 2018 in which Mr. Navalny is allowed to run.”

“Two Surprising – And Mostly Positive – Results From Virginia’s Primary.” The [Washington Post](#) (6/14) editorializes that in Virginia’s gubernatorial primaries, Democratic “voters chose experience over activist passion, picking Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam...over progressive favorite Tom Perriello by 11.8 points.” The editorial board writes, “it is heartening to see voters empower those who would make the most effective leaders, rather than the most emotionally satisfying rhetoricians.” Although Republican Ed Gillespie’s narrow victory over Corey Stewart will “feed the narrative that the Republican Party is now the Trump party,” the Post asserts “this account exaggerates the GOP establishment’s collapse” as “Stewart benefited from very low turnout on the Republican side, no doubt inspired in part by predictions that Mr. Gillespie was unstoppable.” The Post advises “establishment Republicans sickened by irrational populism” to aggressively confront the “populist rabble-rousers.”

Wall Street Journal.

“ObamaCare’s ‘Secret’ History.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/14) editorial notes charges from liberals that the Senate Republicans are drafting their healthcare bill in secret. The Journal, however, points to ObamaCare architect Jonathan Gruber told an audience in 2014 that “lack of transparency is a huge political advantage. And basically, you know, call it the stupidity of the American voter or whatever, but basically that was really, really critical to getting the thing to pass.”

“The Fed Moves Up.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/14) generally support’s the Fed’s pace in hiking interest rates, but have preferred that Fed complete the sale of its mortgage bonds – which are cast, moreover, as unneeded.

“Their Finest Hour.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/14) editorial praises President Trump’s tone in the wake of Wednesday’s shooting, lauds the police response to the attack and calls for enhanced security for lawmakers.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Fed Raises Rates, Sets Out Plan To Shrink Asset Holdings Beginning This Year](#)

[GOP Lawmakers Targeted In Ballfield Shooting Spree](#)

[OPEC Stumbles In Face Of Oil Glut](#)

[Chinese Deal Maker Held In Corruption Probe](#)

New York Times:

[Mueller Seeks To Talk To Intelligence Officials, Hinting At Inquiry Of Trump](#)

[Steve Scalise Among 4 Shot At Baseball Field: Suspect Is Dead](#)

[Virginia Shooting Suspect Was Distraught Over Trump’s Election, Brother Says](#)

[Shooting Is Latest Eruption In A Grim Ritual Of Rage And Blame](#)

[5 Charged With Involuntary Manslaughter In Flint Water Crisis](#)

[Fed Actions Show Confidence But Are Not At Trump Speed](#)

[Questions Mount After Fire At Grenfell Tower In London Kills At Least 12](#)

Washington Post:

[‘He’s Got A Gun!’ At Ballpark, Chaos And Courage Unfolded.](#)

[Trump’s Actions Now A Focus Of Mueller Inquiry](#)

[Congressman Shot In Va.](#)

[Residents: ‘Catastrophe Like This Was Inevitable’ Fire Engulfs Apartment High-rise In London](#)

[‘Fed Up’ With Politics, Man Visited Va. Site For Weeks](#)

Financial Times:

[Death Toll In London Tower Blaze Up To At Least 12](#)

[Fed Raises Rates For Second Time In 2017](#)

[Varadkar Elected Ireland’s Youngest Taoiseach](#)

[Anbang-Linked Stocks Fall After Chairman Detained](#)

Washington Times:

[‘Resist’ Follower’s Attack On Republicans Signals Grim Breaking Point Of Political Tensions](#)

[Capitol Police Heroes Used Guns To Prevent Massacre On Ballfield](#)

[Gunman Supported Sanders, Ranted Against Republicans](#)

[Senators Will Write A Bill With Stiff Sanctions For Russia And Limited Powers For President](#)

[Internet And Ingenuity Reshape The Way Charities Connect With Donors](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: Congressmen Shot; Congressmen Shot-Suspect; Congressmen Shot-Eyewitness; Congressmen Shot-Reactions; Congressmen Shot-WH; Special Counsel-Trump; San Francisco-Workplace Shooting; London-High Rise Fire; Georgia-Escapees Manhunt; Bill Cosby Trial; United-Fuel Leak; Congressmen Shot-Officers.

CBS: Congressmen Shot; Congressmen Shot-Reactions; Congressmen Shot-Suspect; Congressmen Shot-WH; Congressmen Shot-Eyewitnesses; Congressmen Shot-Politics; London-High Rise Fire; Congressmen Shot-Baseball Game.

NBC: Congressmen Shot; Congressmen Shot-Suspect; Congressmen Shot-Eyewitness;

Congressmen Shot-Reactions; San Francisco-Workplace Shooting; London-High Rise Fire; North Korea Detainee Freed; Bill Cosby Trial; Georgia-Escapees Manhunt; Congressmen Shot-Baseball Game.

Network TV At A Glance:

Congressmen Shot – 46 minutes, 45 seconds

London-High Rise Fire – 5 minutes, 5 seconds

San Francisco-Workplace Shooting – 2 minutes, 55 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Special Counsel-Trump; Congressmen Shot; London-High Rise Fire; San Francisco-Workplace Shooting; Wall Street News.

CBS: Congressmen Shot; San Francisco-Workplace Shooting; Special Counsel-Trump; Bill Cosby Trial; London-High Rise Fire.

FOX: Congressmen Shot; San Francisco-Workplace Shooting.

NPR: Congressmen Shot; San Francisco-Workplace Shooting; Southern Baptist-Anti-White Supremacy; Special Counsel-Trump.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Gives remarks on the Apprenticeship and Workforce of Tomorrow initiatives and signs an Executive Order; participate in the Investiture Ceremony for Justice Neil Gorsuch.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Delivers remarks at the Conference on Prosperity and Security in Central America; participates in a bilateral meeting with President Juan Orlando Hernández of Honduras; participates in a bilateral meeting with President Jimmy Morales of Guatemala; participates in a bilateral meeting with President Jimmy Morales of Guatemala; participates in a meeting with President Jovenel Moïse of Haiti.

US Senate: 7: 15 AM GOP Sen. James Lankford's public schedule – Republican Sen. James Lankford appears live on KWOX, K101 FM Country (8: 15 AM EDT); and speaks at 2017 Coptic Solidarity Conference, U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Washington, DC (12:00 PM EDT) Location: TBD <http://www.lankford.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenatorLankford>

9: 30 AM Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on Department of the Navy posture – Hearing on 'Posture of the Department of the Navy', with testimony from Acting Secretary of the Navy Sean Stackley; Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson; and U.S. Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert Neller Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

9: 30 AM Senate Governmental Affairs subcommittee hearing on OMB memo on the federal workforce – Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management Subcommittee hearing on 'Agency Approaches to Reorganization: Examining OMB's Memorandum on the Federal Workforce', with testimony from Department of Commerce CFO and Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Administration Ellen Herbst; Assistant Attorney General for Administration Lee Lofthus; U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of Budget and Program Analysis Associate Director Don Bice; and Department of Homeland Security Office of the CFO Program Analysis and Evaluation Division Director Michael Stough Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenRonJohnson>

9: 30 AM Senate Agriculture Committee hearing on the 2018 Farm Bill – Hearing on 'Agricultural Research: Perspectives on Past and Future Successes for the 2018 Farm Bill', with testimony from Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education & Economics Dr Ann Bartuska; USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture Director Dr Sonny Ramaswamy; USDA Agricultural Research Service Administrator Dr Chavonda Jacobs-Young; Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research Executive Director Dr Sally Rockey; Kansas State University's Dr John Floros; Georgia Tech Research Institute Food Processing Technology Division Chief Gary McMurray; Nueta Hidatsa Sahnish College's Dr Kerry Hartman; and farmer Steve Wellman Location: Rm 328A, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://agriculture.senate.gov/>

9: 45 AM Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee hearing on 'fostering economic growth' – Hearing on 'Fostering Economic Growth: Midsized, Regional and Large Institution Perspective', with testimony from Zions Bancorporation CEO and Chairman Harris

Simmons (on behalf of Regional Bank Coalition); The Clearing House Association President Greg Baer; South State Corporation CEO Robert Hill (on behalf of Midsize Bank Coalition of America); and Cornell University Law School Professor Saule Omarova Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations of David Nye to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Idaho; Scott Palk to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma; Vishal Amin to be U.S. Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator; Stephen Elliott Boyd to be Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs; and Lee Francis Cissna to be U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director, plus ‘S. 1312, Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2017’ and ‘S. 1311, Abolish Human Trafficking Act of 2017’ Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Natural Resources Committee hearing on USFS FY’18 budget – Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources hearing to examine the president’s budget request for the U.S. Forest Service for Fiscal Year 2018, with testimony from U.S. Forest Service Chief Thomas Tidwell Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energy.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM HHS Secretary Price testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on FY’18 budget – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on ‘Review of the FY2018 Department of Health & Human Services Budget Request’, with testimony from Secretary of Health and Human Services Tom Price Location: Rm 138, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

10:00 AM Senate Public Works Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of nomination of Kristine Svinicki to be a Nuclear Regulatory Commission member (reappointment) Location: Rm 406, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:15 AM Nominations hearing considers Mark Andrew Green to be USAID Administrator Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

11:00 AM Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee legislative hearing – Legislative hearing, with testimony from Veterans Benefits Administration Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Opportunity Curtis Coy, and Senior Advisor for Compensation Service Bradley Flohr; Student Veterans of America Vice President of Government Affairs Will Hubbard; The American Legion Assistant Director of Veterans Employment and Education John Kamin; Veterans of Foreign Wars National Legislative Service Associate Director Patrick Murray; and National Guard Association of the United States President Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Roy Robinson Location: Rm 418, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/VACHair>

1:30 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

2:30 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

US House: 9:00 AM Defense Secretary Mattis testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee on budget – Defense Subcommittee ‘Department of Defense – Budget Hearing’, with testimony from Secretary of Defense James Mattis; and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford, Jr. Location: Rm 2359, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

9:00 AM House Intelligence Closed hearing – House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence hearing on ongoing intelligence activities. (Closed). Location: HVC-304, The Capitol

10:00 AM House Technology subcommittees joint hearing on govt cybersecurity – Oversight Subcommittee and Research and Technology Subcommittee joint hearing on ‘Bolstering the Government’s Cybersecurity: Lessons Learned from WannaCry’, with testimony from Kryptos Logic CEO Salim Neino; National Institute of Standards and Technology Information Technology Laboratory Director Dr Charles Romine; Carnegie Mellon University Heinz College Adjunct Professor of Cybersecurity & Risk Management Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Gregory Touhill; and Symantec CTO Dr Hugh Thompson Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM House Judiciary Committee hearing on data stored abroad – Hearing on ‘Data Stored Abroad: Ensuring Lawful Access and Privacy Protection in the Digital Era’, with testimony from Acting Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division Richard Downing; UK Deputy National Security Advisor Paddy McGuinness; Google Director of Law Enforcement and Information Security Richard Salgado; Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Technical Services Unit

Special Agent in Charge Richard Littlehale; Center for Democracy & Technology Vice President for Policy Chris Calabrese; and University of Kentucky College of Law Assistant Professor Andrew Woods Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on foreign military sales – Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade Subcommittee hearing on 'Foreign Military Sales: Process and Policy', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs Tina Kaidanow; and Defense Security Cooperation Agency Director Vice Adm. Joseph Rixey Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

10:00 AM House Ways and Means Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 1551, To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the credit for production from advanced nuclear power facilities' Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

10:00 AM House Energy and Commerce subcommittee markup hearing – Environment Subcommittee markup hearing on 'H.R. 806, Ozone Standards Implementation Act of 2017', 'H.R. XXX, Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 2017', and 'H.R. XXX, Brownfields Enhancement, Economic Redevelopment, and Reauthorization Act of 2017' Location: Rm 2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Small Business Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 2763, the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Improvements Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2594, the Small Business Payment for Performance Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2333, the Small Business Investment Opportunity Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2364, the "Investing in Main Street Act of 2017", and 'H.R. 2056, the Microloan Modernization Act of 2017' Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

10:00 AM House Ways and Means Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 2742, Modernizing the Interstate Placement of Children in Foster Care Act', 'H.R. 2857, Supporting Families in Substance Abuse Treatment Act', 'H.R. 2834, Partnership Grants to Strengthen Families Affected by Parental Substance Abuse Act', 'H.R. 2866, Reducing Barriers for Relative Foster Parents Act', 'H.R. 2847, Improving Services for Older Youth in Foster Care Act', and 'H.R. 2842, Accelerating Individuals into the Workforce Act' Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

10:00 AM House Workforce subcommittee hearing on Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act implementation – Higher Education and Workforce Development Subcommittee hearing on 'Helping Americans Get Back to Work: Implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act'. Witnesses: Michelle Paczynski, Deputy Assistant Executive Director for Workforce and Economic Development, South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce, Columbia, SC; Heath Berlin, Information Assurance Manager, Naval Health Clinic, Annapolis, MD; Ron Painter, President, National Association of Workforce Boards, Washington; Louis Dubin, Board Chair, Workforce Development Board for the State of Maryland, Baltimore, MD. Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Federal Lands Subcommittee legislative hearing on discussion draft of 'H.R. XXXX, the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017'. Witnesses: Jim D. Neiman, President & CEO, Neiman Enterprises, Hulett, WY; Granger MacDonald, Chairman, National Association of Home Builders, Washington, DC; Tim Freeman, Commissioner, Douglas County Board of Commissioners, Roseburg, OR; Jim Furnish, Former Deputy Chief, US Forest Service, Silver Spring, MD. Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

11:00 AM EPA Administrator Pruitt testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee on budget – Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'Environmental Protection Agency – Budget Hearing', with testimony from EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, and Administrator's Senior Advisor Holly Greaves Location: Rm 2007, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

11:00 AM Transportation Secretary Chao testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing – Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'Department of Transportation – Budget Hearing', with testimony from Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao Location: Rm 2358-A, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

11:00 AM Immigrant Youth and Members of Congress to Assess DACA Five Years Later – Press conference to assess the status and vast impact of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program known as DACA five years later and discuss updates on the most recent cases of DACA recipients targeted by Trump's deportation force. Who: Congressman Luis Gutierrez (D-II); Congressman Adriano Espaillat (D-NY); Greisa Martinez Rosas – Advocacy Director, United We Dream and DACA beneficiary; Jessica Cololt – Immigrant youth whose DACA had been arbitrarily revoked by the Trump Administration; Ingrid Vaca – Immigrant mother of DACA beneficiaries; Additional DACA beneficiaries and speakers TBD. Contact: Marlene Peralta, marlene.peralta@progressivecities.com, 646.601.4267; Adam Luna, adam@unitedwedream.org, 202.486.3020; Dan Morris, dan.morris@progressivecities.com, 917.952.8920. Location: House Triangle – US Capitol Building Grounds

12:00 PM House debates Protecting Access to Care Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including 'H.R. 1215 – Protecting Access to Care Act of 2017' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM House Democrats hearing on 'A Brighter Future for Millennials' – House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee hearing on 'We Hear You: A Brighter Future for Millennials'. House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Committee Co-Chairs Rosa DeLauro and Eric Swalwell, and other House Democratic Caucus members hear from experts and community leaders 'with real stories about the need for Congress to come together on policies that create a brighter future for the nation's young people' – Young Invincibles Executive Director Jen Mishory, IBEW's Rachel Bryan, Student Veterans of America Vice President of Government Affairs William Hubbard, and Lulu's Ice Cream founder Luisa Santos Location: HVC-215, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.democraticleader.gov/> <https://twitter.com/NancyPelosi>

2:00 PM House Appropriations Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'FY 2018 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill and Interim Suballocation of Budget Allocations' Location: Rm 2359, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

2:00 PM POSTPONED: House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on international antitrust enforcement – POSTPONED: Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law Subcommittee hearing on 'Recent Trends in International Antitrust Enforcement', with testimony from Covington & Burling Antitrust and Competition Law Practice Group Co-chair Deborah Garza; Global Antitrust Institute Director Koren Wong-Ervin; Heritage Foundation Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies Deputy Director Alden Abbott; and American Antitrust Institute Associate General Counsel Randy Stutz Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on Russian strategic objectives in the Middle East and North Africa – Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee hearing on 'Russia's Strategic Objectives in the Middle East and North Africa', with testimony from Open Russia Vice Chairman Vladimir Kara-Murza; The Washington Institute for Near East Policy Fellow Anna Borshchevskaya; and Center for American Progress Senior Fellow Brian Katulis Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

2:30 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee markup hearing, hearing on U.S.-Taiwan ties – Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee markup hearing on 'H. Res. 311, Recognizing that for 50 years the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has worked toward stability, prosperity, and peace in Southeast Asia', 'H.R. 535, Taiwan Travel Act', 'H.R. 2061, North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2017', and 'H.R. 2397, Distribution and Promotion of Rights and Knowledge Act of 2017' * Immediately followed by hearing on 'Renewing Assurances: Strengthening U.S.-Taiwan Ties', with testimony from U.S.-Taiwan Business Council President Rupert Hammond-Chambers; American Enterprise Institute Director of Asian Studies Dan Blumenthal; and Global Taiwan Institute Executive Director Russell Hsiao Location: Rm 2200, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

House Floor scheduling update – The House will now consider both H.R. 2372 and H.R. 2579 tomorrow. Information regarding consideration of H.R. 1215 will be relayed at a later date. Last votes for the day and week will occur no later than 4:00 PM tomorrow. Votes are no longer expected in the House on Friday, June 16.

Other: 9:15 AM GOP Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer speaks at FSR on financial regulation – Financial Services Roundtable discussion on 'Financial Regulation: What to Expect from the Trump Administration and Congress', with remarks from Republican Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer and FSR

CEO Tim Pawlenty, and panel discussion on the 'CHOICE Act' and next steps on the regulatory horizon with Citi's Julie Bell Lindsay, Patomak Global Partners' Paul Atkins, and American Action Forum's Douglas Holtz-Eakin Location: FSR, 600 13th St. NW, Washington, DC www.fsround.org <https://twitter.com/fsroundtable>

10:00 AM Puerto Rico Gov. Rossello speaks at NPC on statehood – Puerto Rico Governor Ricardo Rossello speaks at NPC news conference on statehood for the U.S. territory, following Sunday's non-binding referendum in which over 500,000 voted for statehood. Almost 7,800 votes were cast for free association / independence, and over 6,800 votes were for the current territorial status, though voter turnout was just 23%, the lowest level of participation in any election in Puerto Rico since 1967 * Congress has the final say in any changes to Puerto Rico's political status Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St., NW, Washington, DC fortaleza.gobierno.pr <https://twitter.com/fortalezapr>

10:00 AM Bicameral, bipartisan legislators introduce bill to establish National Smithsonian American Latino Museum – Democratic Sen. Robert Menendez, Democratic Rep. Jose Serrano and Republican Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen introduce a bill to establish a National Smithsonian American Latino Museum. Attendees include Democratic Reps. Michelle Lujan Grisham, Adriano Espaillat, Darren Soto, J. Luis Correa and Albio Sires Location: House Triangle, U.S Capitol, Washington, DC www.americanlatinomuseum.org <https://twitter.com/latinomuseum>

10:00 AM Democratic Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton hosts 2017 Small Business Fair Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon PI NW, Washington, DC www.norton.house.gov <https://twitter.com/EleanorNorton>

7:05 PM Congressional Baseball Game – Annual Congressional Baseball Game – annual game that sees Democrats face Republicans, with funds raised going to The Washington Literacy Council, The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington, and Washington Nationals Dream Foundation * Series is tied 39-39 (with one tie), after the GOP broke a seven-year Dem winning streak last year * House Majority Whip Steve Scalise was shot during Republican practice for the game yesterday, along with several other people Location: Nationals Park, Washington, DC www.congressionalbaseball.org <https://twitter.com/thehillbaseball>

Coptic Solidarity Annual Conference – Coptic Solidarity Annual Conference, themed 'Combating Terrorism Without Sacrificing Civil Rights'. Speakers include bicameral Members of Congress, Canadian Member of Parliament Kellie Leitch, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations John Bolton, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom Commissioner Sandra Jolley, and State Department Special Advisor for Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia Knox Thomas Location: Washington, DC www.copticsolidarity.org

College Republican National Committee Biennial Convention
Location: Washington Marriott at Metro Center, 775 12th Street NW., Washington, DC
<http://crnc2017.org/> <https://twitter.com/CRNC>

NASA annual 'Technology Day' event on Capitol Hill – NASA Technology Day on the Hill – annual event showcasing the latest transformational technologies from the agency and the aerospace industry Location: Capitol Hill, Washington, DC <http://www.nasa.gov> <https://twitter.com/NASA>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "On this day 71 years ago, a bolt of lightning struck a clump of hair in a golden shower drain and a President was born. Donald Jennifer Trump turned 71 today."

Jimmy Kimmel: "At the White House, they had a little party for the President. They played pin the blame on the press secretary."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Seventy-one years ago, Donald Trump was just a little baby with little hands and feet going wah-wah-wah all day long, and nothing has really changed since then."

Stephen Colbert: "It's Donald Trump's birthday. Seventy-one candles on that cake. Although, Trump later said it was 'Over a million candles. Most candles ever.'"

Stephen Colbert: "You can't just refuse to answer a question in case the President later decides he didn't want you to answer it. You can't just, that's like saying, 'I invoke my constitutional right

to the 28th amendment, which, of course, is not written yet, but it might be written one day. And it might say that I don't have to answer your question."

James Corden: "Trump says the [healthcare] bill needs to be less mean and more generous. In other words, it needs to be Obamacare."

James Corden: "The Fox News Channel has said that it's getting rid of its longtime slogan 'fair and balanced.' They're getting rid of that. Here is an idea. If Fox News really wants to be accurate, shouldn't they just really drop the part that says 'news'? But then again, it is, it's just nice to see Fox get rid of something for reasons other than sexual harassment."

Jimmy Fallon: "Trump turned 71 today. He got a lot of birthday cards from different people. And we actually got our hands on a few of them. Let's take a look at these. For example, here's one from Vladimir Putin. His card says, 'It sounds like you had a great party.' Inside it says, 'Based on our recordings from the Oval Office.' ... Next one is from Sean Spicer. It says, 'Today I'm toasting to you.' And inside it says, 'Because you're the reason I drink every day.' Here's one from Al Gore. It says, 'Warmest wishes.' Open it up, it says, 'Due to climate change.' ... This next one is from Jeff Sessions. It says, 'Today I have only one thing to say to you.' Open up, it says, 'I can't recall.'"

Seth Meyers: "Fox News has announced it's dropping it's slogan 'fair and balanced' for the same reason United dropped 'fly the friendly skies.'"

Seth Meyers: "Sen. Bernie Sanders published an op-ed yesterday, saying Democrats should pay more attention to young voters. Well, most Democrats."

Conan O'Brien: "Today is President Trump's 71st birthday. ... Trump received a card from Vladimir Putin saying, 'I hope you enjoyed the birthday present I gave you in November.'"

Conan O'Brien: "President Trump said the GOP healthcare bill that passed through the House was mean and difficult to defend. Then Trump said, 'In other words, I love it.'"

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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DOI In The News

Interior Chief Wants To Shed 4,000 Employees In Department Shake-Up.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/21, Rein) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told a Senate panel on Wednesday that he plans to reduce his department's workforce by 4,000 employees, about eight percent of its full-time staff. The budget-cutting measure would be achieved through attrition, reassignments, buyouts, and potentially layoffs if necessary. The Post says Zinke defended President Trump's proposal to reduce his department's budget by 13.4 percent, though he didn't specify whether the cuts would be concentrated in some offices or spread throughout, nor whether they would occur in the next year or over a longer period of time. According to an email sent from the Bureau of Land Management's acting director to employees last Friday, 1,000 jobs would be cut from the bureau. The Post says Zinke's proposal aligns with a larger push by Trump to downsize the federal bureaucracy.

Additional coverage was provided by [Bloomberg BNA](#) (6/21, Schultz, Kovski), [Newsweek](#) (6/21, Main), the [Stars And Stripes](#) (6/21, Rein), the [Aspen \(CO\) Times](#) (6/21, Fixler), the [Park City \(UT\) Park Record](#) (6/21, Fixler), [RVBusiness](#) (6/21), and [MSN](#) (6/21, Main).

Zinke Hits Dems For Delaying Interior Nominees. [The Hill](#) (6/21, Costello) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "hit back at Democrats on Wednesday during a contentious budget hearing, accusing them of 'willfully' delaying the confirmation of his department's nominees." In response to questions from Sen. Lisa Murkowski "on the slow pace of staffing during a hearing of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, the Environment and Related Agencies," Zinke said, "In my opinion, it's being slow-rolled, and it's not the White House." He added, "That is a frustration, and I suspect it's being done willfully."

Interior Secretary May Not Reduce Size Of NM Monuments. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (6/21, Coleman) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "said Wednesday he is open to keeping two new national monuments in New Mexico in their current configuration, although he has recommended scaling back Bears Ears National Monument in Utah and is considering similar changes to other monuments." In response to questioning from Sen. Tom Udall, "during a hearing on the Interior Department budget on Wednesday, Zinke said if state and community leaders are happy with the current configuration of the New Mexico monuments, he'll leave them alone. But he also did not rule out changes." Zinke said, "I do not want to rip a band-aid off of a monument that is settled. I will talk to the governor and the congressional representatives and I

will talk to the county commissions ...and if it is settled and people are happy with it, I find no reason to recommend any changes." He added, "There might be a recommended change on a proclamation (designating the monument) if the community feels the proclamation is too stringent."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (6/21, Oxford) and the [Westerner](#) (6/21, DuBois).

US: Canyons Of The Ancients Not A Priority For Review. The [AP](#) (6/21) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "says Colorado's Canyons of the Ancients is not currently a priority as his agency reviews protections granted to more than two dozen national monuments nationwide." Interior Department spokeswoman Heather Swift "did not elaborate on Zinke's statement."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (6/21), the [Fort Collins \(CO\) Coloradoan](#) (6/21), the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (6/21, Njegomir), the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (6/21), [KXRM-TV Colorado Springs \(CO\)](#) Colorado Springs, CO (6/21, Asperin), [KRDO-TV Colorado Springs \(CO\)](#) Colorado Springs, CO (6/21), and [KCNC-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (6/21).

Sen. Alexander Demands Answers About Delay In Smokies Wildfire Report. [WATE-TV](#) Knoxville, TN (6/21) reports that "the review of the damage from the Chimney Tops wildfires in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park still has not been released." During a Senate hearing Wednesday, Sen. Lamar Alexander "demanded answers about what's taking so long." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "admitted the report is overdue, but Sen. Alexander stressed how much it means to the community." Zinke said, "We owe you a report. We're late on it, and I expressed my priority to get it to you by the week's end, but we are overdue on that report. I talked to Representative Roe as well, and he shared the same concerns. I had the same concerns why that report is not submitted to you."

NM Interior Officials Undergoing Shuffle. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (6/22, Coleman) reports that "the director of the Bureau of Land Management in New Mexico is among dozens of top U.S. Department of Interior officials asked by Secretary Ryan Zinke to accept new positions or resign, a move that drew criticism Wednesday from New Mexico's senators in Washington." Amy Lueders, director of New Mexico's BLM office, "has been reassigned to an as-yet-unannounced position in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." at an Interior budget hearing on Capitol Hill on Wednesday, Sen. Tom Udall told Zinke, "Amy has served as our BLM state director for the past two years, and she has been incredibly engaged and responsive. Quite frankly, I don't want New Mexico to lose her, and I'm very concerned about the impacts of other changes as well."

Zinke's Answer About Temperature Is Called 'Stupid'. [E&E Publishing](#) (6/21, Patterson) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "evaded questions" on Tuesday "about the extent of rising temperatures during a Senate budget hearing for an agency that oversees fossil fuel development on a fifth of the nation's land." According to the article, "during a heated exchange with Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.), Zinke punted on basic questions about climate science." Zinke "declined to engage in a line of inquiry that focused on government predictions of rising temperatures over the next 80 years. He claimed instead that climate models are inaccurate, a frequent talking point among climate skeptics."

Trump's Cabinet Takes Beating Over Budget Plan. [The Hill](#) (6/21, Elis) reports that Trump Administration officials are "taking a beating on Capitol Hill over the president's budget request." According to the article, "in hearing after hearing, Cabinet officials are absorbing heavy fire — much of it from Republicans."

Additional coverage was provided by [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (6/21, Passut), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (6/21, Passut), [Big Island \(HI\) Video News](#) (6/21), and [KPAX-TV Missoula \(MT\)](#) Missoula, MT (6/21, Miller).

Department Seeks Input On Which Rules To Kill.

[E&E Publishing](#) (6/21) reports that the Interior Department on Wednesday "kicked off its regulatory reform initiative, seeking public comment on which policies it should work to eliminate or amend." The department "revealed in a press release that it will begin accepting comments at regulations.gov for policies implemented by the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Education, National Park Service, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Geological Survey, among others." The statement said, "Interior is seeking input from the public, and specifically from entities significantly affected by Federal regulations, on what Interior regulations may be

appropriate for repeal, replacement, or modification. This initiative is part of a government-wide initiative to alleviate unnecessary regulatory burdens on the American public.”

Trump’s Interior Secretary Calls Obama-Backed Solar Project A ‘Sphere Of Death’ For Birds.

The [Daily Caller](#) (6/21, Bastasch) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “said he’s not against any one form of energy, but still took the time during a recent speech to highlight how green energy from solar panels and wind turbines comes with an environmental cost.” At an event hosted by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on Tuesday, Zinke said, “You know wind chops up around 650- or 750,000 birds a year. Wind comes at a cost. If you’re a fisherman, offshore wind isn’t particularly enamored with because it prevents you from fishing which is an important part of our economy.” Zinke also “said a massive government-funded solar thermal plant in the Southern California desert was a ‘sphere of death’ for insects and birds and looked like something out of the movie ‘Mad Max.’”

Bears Ears Monument Information Sought By Democrats Is Readily Available On Google, Chairman Says.

The [Washington Times](#) (6/21, Richardson) reports that “House Democrats demanding transparency on the Interior Department’s national-monument review process might want to start by checking Google, according to House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop.” In a Wednesday reply to Rep. Raul Grijalva, Bishop “said he found the information the Democrat has sought after ‘a few cursory Google searches,’ adding that the department has made the details readily accessible to the public online.” Grijalva “wasn’t amused” by Bishop’s reply, calling it “disappointing that House Republican oversight of the off-the-rails Trump administration goes no further than a Google search.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Caller](#) (6/21, Pearce).

Lawmaker: Interior Asking Locals For Monument Maps. The [AP](#) (6/21) reports that “a Utah lawmaker says Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is asking state and local leaders to propose new, smaller boundaries for two national monuments under review by the Trump administration.” Rep. Mike Noel “said Tuesday that the Interior Department wants Utah to draft proposed maps of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments.” According to Noel, “commissioners in his county near Grand Staircase-Escalante have already submitted a map of changes they’d like to see to that monument created by President Bill Clinton, but federal officials want to see a single, unified proposal from all state leaders.”

Western Governors Want A Say As Sage Grouse Plans Are Reviewed.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (6/21, Richards) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has “yet to announce the experts who will lead a two-month examination of Obama-era plans to protect the imperiled sage grouse.” Gov. Matt Mead “along with the leaders of Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Utah and Nevada want to be directly involved in the recently announced 60-day review of federal strategies to protect the sage grouse.” In a letter to Zinke on Tuesday, the governors “asked that the feds initiate their promised partnership with the states at a meeting next week in Whitefish, Montana.”

Additional coverage of the review was provided by the [Daily Yonder](#) (6/21, Oates).

National Wild Horse Forum Planned In Utah; Zinke May Attend.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (6/21, O’Donoghue) reports that “Utah’s wildland managers say they plan to take a half-million dollars given to them by state lawmakers to put on a national wild horse forum to address the animal’s explosive population growth, plus use the money to carry out rangeland restoration projects.” The forum, scheduled “for three days in August, will seek solutions to tackle the wild horse numbers — now in Utah at more than twice the Bureau of Land Management’s targeted levels — and the hope is that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will accept the invitation to attend.”

UDC Mired In Paperwork Swamp.

The [Narrowsburg \(NY\) River Reporter](#) (6/21, Hulse) reports that “a review of all ongoing Department of the Interior (DOI) grant and cooperative agreement programs exceeding \$100,000 ordered by” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “may soon cause the suspension of the work of the Upper Delaware Council (UDC), officials say.” According to the article, “the review has stopped all such federal funding, and DOI has provided no anticipated date for completion of the

review.”

American Canyon Council Members Vow To Fight For Berryessa National Monument Status.

The [Vallejo \(CA\) Times Herald](#) (6/21, Raskin-Zrihen) reports that American Canyon council members “unanimously agreed to support efforts to maintain the National Monument designation of Berryessa Snow Mountain — which may be threatened by Trump Administration policy — and to send individual letters to that effect to the federal government.”

Guest Opinion: Zinke Flip Flops On Land Management Pledges.

In an op-ed for the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (6/21, Penfold), Mike Penfold, a retired BLM state director and U.S. Forest Service forest supervisor, writes that as President Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “look to trim the fat in the bureaucracy, they have arrived at a proposed budget that quite simply will hurt jobs and livelihoods in Montana reliant on public lands.” According to Penfold, “communities throughout Montana depend on our public lands to fuel our outdoor recreation industry, tourism, livestock grazing, timber and small businesses.” Penfold writes that “it appears Zinke has gone to Washington and forgotten not only where he came from but what he promised during the confirmation hearing for his new job.” Penfold hopes that “the Teddy Roosevelt conservationist we were promised” will “take over the helm of the Department of Interior.”

I Hope Zinke’s Visit Showed Him The Importance Of The North Woods Monument.

In an op-ed for the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (6/21, Steele), Sheridan Steele, an executive council member for the Coalition to Protect America’s National Parks, writes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s “recent visit to Maine to see firsthand our majestic landscapes is a good exercise of his role of chief steward of our nation’s national parks and monuments.” However, “contemplating reduction or elimination of our public land is not.” Steele hopes to “work together to keep our public lands protected for generations today and tomorrow.”

Guest Opinion: National Parks Need Zinke’s Support.

In an op-ed for the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (6/21, Melton), Bart Melton, the Northern Rockies Regional Director for National Parks Conservation Association, writes that “while there are still plenty of opportunities” for the Trump Administration and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “to work to protect and fund our parks, their actions to date aren’t quite consistent with the secretary’s initial proposals, and may have negative impacts on the sites often referred to as ‘America’s best idea’.” The Trump Administration is “proposing Park Service budget cuts, threats to our national monuments, and a rollback of policies that protect Park Service lands, inside and out.” National Parks Conservation Association urges Zinke “to ensure our national parks get the dollars they need to properly operate; to protect President Theodore Roosevelt’s intent in the creation of the Antiquities Act; and to act to keep mining and energy development off the doorsteps of Yellowstone and Glacier.”

Protect Carrizo Plain In San Luis Obispo County.

In an editorial, the [San Luis Obispo \(CA\) Tribune](#) (6/21) urges support for the Carrizo Plain National Monument. The paper warns that “if these protected lands lose their national monument status, that leaves them open to development, including oil, gas and mineral exploration.”

Trump Budget Threatens Key Programs.

In an op-ed for the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (6/22, DeVille), Lisa DeVille, president of Fort Berthold POWER, criticizes President Trump’s budget proposal for jeopardizing “the future of Native American people and tribes.” According to DeVille, Trump’s, “so-called ‘America First’ budget clearly puts America last, gutting the Environmental Protection Agency and Department of the Interior in favor of corporate special interests and CEOs.” She argues that “we will not be able to safeguard our public lands and our families’ drinking water if leaders in Washington continue to allow special interests to take priority over the needs of average Americans.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Wilton Rancheria Accused Of Working Too Closely With City On Casino.

The [Nation Sun News](#) (6/21) reports that "it took the Wilton Rancheria more than three years to gain federal approval for a casino in northern California but opponents are accusing the tribe of rushing through the process." The tribe "secured the city's support for the project as its land-into-trust application was being reviewed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs." However, "the city's stance was not formally required by the federal agency." Yet, "opponents claim city officials colluded with tribal leaders to ensure the casino went through, at least on the local level."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Elk Grove \(CA\) Citizen](#) (6/21, Armstrong).

FBI Charges 12 With Marriage Fraud.

The [Waynesville \(NC\) Smoky Mountain News](#) (6/21, Kays) reports that "the deputy superintendent of the Cherokee's Bureau of Indian Affairs office will face federal charges following her arrest...for allegedly making money off of marriage fraud." Ruth McCoy is "one of 12 defendants named in a Grand Jury indictment filed June 7." The indictment claims "that McCoy worked with Golan Perez and Ofir Marsiano to connect U.S. citizens with non-citizens who hoped that marriage to a U.S. citizen would improve their immigration status."

MGM's Connecticut Casino Wrangle Crashes On Appeal.

[Courthouse News](#) (6/21, Stuart) reports that "plans for a new Connecticut casino operated by the state's two federally recognized Indian tribes received a boost Wednesday as the Second Circuit rejected a challenge by MGM Resorts International." The New York-based federal appeals court held that "just as Special Act 15-7 allows the Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot tribal nations to enter into development agreements with municipalities, so too does the Connecticut law allow MGM to make a similar deal." U.S. Circuit Judge John Walker Jr. wrote in the decision, "MGM and any other developers are permitted to negotiate with municipalities for contingent future gaming contracts."

Bureau Of Land Management

Long Overdue Improvements To Data Tracking In Sight For BLM.

[Federal News Radio \(DC\)](#) (6/21, Thomas) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has been "scrutinized recently for inconsistencies in data monitoring throughout its offices, but an update to its 20-year-old tracking system may be coming soon." According to the article, "the proposed update to the system, retitled AFMSS II, will overhaul paper applications and turn to web-based software to create more of a national standard application to ensure the offices are looking and tracking the same data." Steve Wells, BLM division chief for fluid materials, said that the BLM is "working on the first module of the new program designed to begin the drilling permit process."

Interior Pushes To Freeze Appeal As Plans To Nix Rule Advance.

[E&E Publishing](#) (6/21) reports the Interior Department filed a brief to the 10th US Circuit Court of Appeals yesterday urging the panel of judges to reject a request from environmental groups to move forward with the case over whether the federal government has the authority to regulate hydraulic fracturing on public and tribal lands. The Trump Administration said it was inappropriate to move forward with the case while Interior is reconsidering the rule. The filing said, "BLM's progress toward the publication of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking strengthens the arguments that BLM made in favor of abeyance in its supplemental brief."

Wildfire Bill Shifting Liabilities From Utilities Passes House.

[Bloomberg BNA](#) (6/21, Moran) reports that "utility companies would be allowed to remove trees and other vegetation near transmission lines and could in some cases be shielded from liability for attempting to prevent wildfire damages under a bill passed by the House June 21." The Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act "would also require federal agencies that manage public lands such as the U.S. Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management to take responsibility for any costs associated with failure to remove a tree or vegetation if the utility request to do such clearing is denied." The bill "passed by a vote of 300-118," but "its outlook in the Senate is unclear, largely because no companion measure has been introduced there."

Tipton Reintroduces Bill To Protect Water Rights, Preserve State Water Law.

The [Vail \(CO\) Daily](#) (6/21) reports that Rep. Scott Tipton has reintroduced the Water Rights Protection Act, "a bill that would uphold federal deference to state water law and prevent federal

takings of privately held water rights.” Tipton said, “In recent years, the federal government has repeatedly attempted to circumvent long-established state water law by requiring the transfer of privately-held water rights to the federal government as a permit condition for use of land owned by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. These efforts constitute a gross federal overreach and violation of private property rights. My bill provides permanent protections for ski areas, farmers, ranchers, and others in the West.”

Senate Misstep Will Cost Jobs And Energy.

In an op-ed for the [Detroit News](#) (6/22, Stier), Jeff Stier, a senior fellow at the National Center for Public Policy Research, writes that “the Senate just failed to roll back an Obama-era regulation that will discourage energy production, cost millions of dollars and kill thousands of American jobs.” The rule, “issued in the 11th hour of the Obama presidency by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), was designed to limit already decreasing methane emissions from oil and natural gas wells on federal lands.” Steir urges the Interior Department to “suspend, revise, or rescind” the rule.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Hilcorp Only Bidder In Alaskan Lease Sale.

The [Maritime Executive](#) (6/21) reports that “Hilcorp Alaska LLC was the only bidder in the U.S. government’s Cook Inlet oil and gas lease sale this week.” The firm, “the primary producer of oil and gas in the Inlet, spent \$3.95 million on 20 blocks, \$922,000 on state leases and \$3.03 million on federal leases, including 14 in the middle of the Inlet in front of Kachemak Bay.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Offshore Magazine](#) (6/21), [Offshore Engineer](#) (6/21), [Upstream Online](#) (6/21, Schmidt), the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (6/21, Rosen), [KTOO-FM Juneau \(AK\)](#) Juneau, AK (6/21, Harball), and [KTVA-TV Anchorage \(AK\)](#) Anchorage, AK (6/21, Maxwell).

City’s Vote Against Offshore Drilling Is A Message To Trump.

The [AP](#) (6/21) reports the Virginia Beach city council voted to oppose any offshore drilling operations in the Atlantic Ocean. The city has been under pressure from the tourism sector, hotel associations, civic and environmental groups who oppose offshore projects.

Bureau Of Reclamation

Federal Government Funding Millions In North Dakota Water Projects.

[KFYR-TV](#) Bismarck, ND (6/21, Skurzewski) reports that “the federal government is sending more than \$24 million to North Dakota improve the water supply to several state and tribal communities.” The Bureau of Reclamation will “send \$24.4 million to the Peace Garden State.” The funds will “go toward creating a more stable water intake for Mandan, improving water treatment and intake for the MHA Nation, building a new water tower for Burlington, and improving the water main system in Dickinson.”

Rep. Ken Buck Pushes For Streamlined Approval Process For Water Storage Projects.

The [Greeley \(CO\) Tribune](#) (6/21, Miller) reports that Rep. Ken Buck on Wednesday “called for a streamlined process for federal approval of water storage projects.” Buck said, “In Colorado, water is tough to come by, which makes water storage a necessity. That’s why House Resolution 1654 is so important. We need to streamline the water project permitting process so that future projects like NISP don’t take over a decade to win a permit.” The legislation places the Bureau of Reclamation “in charge of coordinating project permitting among state and federal governments on federal lands, allowing for a more streamlined process.”

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Storm Cindy Crimps Shipping, Forces Energy Workers Out Of Gulf.

[Bloomberg News](#) (6/21, Sullivan) reports Tropical Storm Cindy has shut down some oil production in the Gulf of Mexico, halted vessel unloadings at the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port, and triggered a force majeure on the Destin natural gas line. The storm could also disrupt energy operations once

it makes landfall. Andy Lipow, president of Lipow Oil Associates, said, "The biggest impact would be on shipping activity which will remain suspended through Friday." Stephen Schork, president of Schork Group, said the storm would not have much of an impact on natural gas because much of production has shifted to other parts of the country. [Reuters](#) (6/21, Hampton) reports the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement said energy companies have shut down roughly 17 percent, about 301,618 bpd, of oil production in the Gulf of Mexico ahead of the storm. BSEE also said that personnel have been evacuated from 40 platforms, about 5.5 percent of the 737 manned facilities. [Reuters](#) (6/21, Hampton) reports the tropical storm weakened on Wednesday afternoon as it headed towards land on the Texas-Louisiana border, although there is still a threat of flash floods, according to the National Hurricane Center. Rains and wind could still disrupt regional refineries that produce around 2.3 million bpd. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (6/21, Hunn) reports Anadarko Petroleum stopped production at the Marlin, Holstein and Heidelberg platforms after pipelines run by other companies stopped shipping product. BP evacuated non-essential personnel from the Mad Dog and Atlantis platforms, but workers operation production equipment remained. BP said, "Our top priority is the safety of all personnel and protecting the environment. ... We remain prepared to respond as conditions warrant." Cheniere Energy said, "We are preparing for the weather as we always do to keep our workers and our facility safe." [Offshore Magazine](#) (6/21) reports Enbridge also decided to evacuate nonessential workers from Gulf platforms.

[Platts](#) (6/21) reports offshore US natural gas production declined for the second consecutive day, even though no impact on Gulf Coast hub prices was obvious as the storm approaches. Production in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama fell to 2.23 Bcf on Wednesday after dropping to 2.49 Bcf on Tuesday. However, prices at ANR Louisiana and Trunkline ELA only increased 2 cents/MMBtu on Wednesday.

The [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (6/21) also provided coverage that some production platforms are being evacuated.

Fish And Wildlife Service

Chatham Petition Supports Refuge Boundary Challenge.

The [Cape Cod \(MA\) Times](#) (6/21, Fraser) reports that "town officials have started a petition in support" of legislation introduced by Rep. William Keating "to restore the western boundary" of the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge. The petition will be "available until June 30, when it will be sent to Gov. Charlie Baker for his support."

Additional coverage was provided by [Wicked Local Cape Cod \(MA\)](#) (6/21, Leggett), [Wicked Local \(MA\)](#) (6/21, Leggett), and [Wicked Local Chatham \(MA\)](#) (6/21, Leggett).

Federal Judge Won't Halt Construction.

The [Denver Post](#) (6/21, Aguilar) reports that "community activists trying to stop construction at Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge were premature in filing a temporary restraining order because the work they targeted won't begin until next year at the earliest, a federal judge said in a ruling this week." U.S. District Judge Christine Arguello "said in her ruling, made Tuesday and released Wednesday, that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had shown the court that 'construction will not begin on the project until 2018, at the earliest.'"

Additional coverage was provided by the [Huffington Post](#) (6/21, Grenoble).

Agencies Ponder Next Steps For Montana Grizzly Bears.

[Courthouse News](#) (6/21, Lundquist) reports that "with grizzly-bear recovery potentially complete in the greater Yellowstone ecosystem, agencies are daring to plan for a time when the bears are under state control." The Interagency Grizzly Bear Executive Committee "met to consider its five-year plan." The committee is "juggling the pending delisting of the Yellowstone grizzly bear population from the endangered species list, along with the myriad of challenges posed by the six other regions of grizzly recovery in the Northwest."

Probation Sentence Expected For Oregon Refuge Occupier Geoffrey Stanek.

The [Oregonian](#) (6/21, Bernstein) reports that Geoffrey Stanek, "who pleaded guilty to federal conspiracy last year in the takeover of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, shouldn't face a sentence longer than the probation given to three co-defendants who pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor, his lawyer argues." Stanek "left the property voluntarily after the occupation

leaders were arrested on Jan. 26, 2016, his lawyer noted in a sentencing memo filed in court Wednesday." Benjamin Andersen, Stanek's lawyer, wrote, "This court should impose a sentence no more severe than the sentences imposed on other defendants, some of whom have worse records and arguably have more culpability in the overall offense."

Public Comment Open On Red Wolves' Future.

The [Waynesville \(NC\) Smoky Mountain News](#) (6/21) reports that "the future of the world's only remaining wild red wolf population will be decided following a public comment period ending July 24." Earlier this month, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "held two public hearings on the matter in the eastern part of the state, where the red wolves live in a five-county area."

National Park Service

National Park Service Seeks Public Input On Birmingham, Anniston Parks.

The [Birmingham \(AL\) News](#) (6/21, Edgemon) reports that the National Park Service is "holding community meetings in Birmingham and Anniston next week to begin establishing the framework for the management of Alabama's newest national parks." The open houses are "part of a comprehensive planning process for establishing the parks' foundation documents." Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument Superintendent Reggie Tiller said in a statement, "The foundation document will be critical to helping the National Park Service map out management plans and priorities for the new park. We are inviting the public to play a role in shaping the park's future operations."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Anniston \(AL\) Star](#) (6/21, Burkhalter) and the [Birmingham \(AL\) News](#) (6/21, Edgemon).

Worried About Cuts, Federal Employees To Protest In Philly.

[Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/21, Von Bergen) reports that "federal employees will rally Thursday at noon at Independence Mall to protest proposed cuts in federal funding that will likely eliminate jobs in the Environmental Protection Agency, Social Security Administration, Veterans Administration, and the National Park Service." Leaders of the American Federation of Government Employees expect "hundreds" to attend.

Boundary Bills Still Stuck In Congress.

The [Mount Desert \(ME\) Islander](#) (6/21, Broom) reports that "bills validating the park's 2015 annexation of 1,441 acres on the Schoodic Peninsula, including the Schoodic Woods Campground, are still stuck in committees in the U.S. House and Senate." Last June, Sen. Angus King "introduced a bill to make the annexation legal, but also to clarify that there could be no further expansion of the park beyond the permanent boundaries that Congress established in 1986." Rep. Bruce Poliquin "introduced a bill similar to King's in the U.S. House last September." However, "both bills died because they were not acted on before Congress adjourned in December."

National Park Service Steps In On Cumberland Island Controversy.

The [Savannah \(GA\) Morning News](#) (6/20, Landers) reports that "a last-minute request from the National Park Service has postponed a controversial decision on rezoning private property within Cumberland Island National Seashore." The Camden County Board of Commissioners "last week voted to allow time for negotiations between the park and private landowners rather than moving forward with either an ongoing zoning variance request or a new zoning district." Environmental groups welcomed the move.

National Park Service Issues Beach Warnings In Light Of Tropical Storm.

The [Corpus Christi \(TX\) Caller-Times](#) (6/21, Pettis) reports that the National Park Service "announced Wednesday that although Tropical Storm Cindy is far to the east, it is causing dangerous conditions locally." The agency "issued a coastal flood advisory, a beach driving alert and warned of high current danger at the Padre Island National Seashore." According to the NPS, "the storm is causing extremely high tides, with gulf waters reaching the dune lines, and rough waves at the national seashore."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Mumps Outbreak In Arkansas May Be Linked To Marshall Islands.

[Pacific Islands Report](#) (6/20) reports that “a health consultant to the Marshall Islands says a mumps outbreak in Arkansas State last year could be linked to the current outbreak in the Marshalls.” Arkansas has “a large Marshallese community, and they accounted for more than half of cases during a mumps outbreak there late last year.” The Marshall Islands is “battling at least a thousand cases of mumps, which was first discovered in March.” Jill McCready, “who works for the Pacific Island Health Officers’ Association, said travel advice was issued to Marshallese living in Arkansas in October, but this wasn’t enough to keep the outbreak contained.”

Nova Southeastern University Continues To Oversee National Coral Reef Fellowship Program.

[Newswise](#) (6/21) reports that Nova Southeastern University will “once again oversee the National Coral Reef Management Fellowship Program.” The program is “a partnership between NSU, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s (NOAA) Coral Reef Conservation Program, the Department of the Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs and the U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee.”

US Geological Survey

Fake Quake: Report Of Major California Temblor A False Alarm.

The [AP](#) (6/21, Dalton) reports that “seismologists said Wednesday’s automatically generated report of a magnitude 6.8 quake in the Pacific Ocean 10 miles west of Santa Barbara was a false alarm based on a quake that happened in the same area nearly a century ago.” Rafael Abreu, a geophysicist from the US Geological Survey, said, “The quake did happen, but it happened in 1925.” According to the article, “researchers from the California Institute of Technology had been using new information to relocate the epicenter of a 1925 earthquake in the Santa Barbara Channel, and somehow set off the automated alert that went out to email accounts.”

Scientists Predict A Gulf Of Mexico ‘Dead Zone’ The Size Of New Jersey This Summer.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/21, Harvey) reports that “an oxygen-poor ‘dead zone’ in the Gulf of Mexico, which can prompt harmful algae blooms and threaten marine life, could approach the size of New Jersey this summer, federal scientists say — making it the third-largest the Gulf has seen.” A new forecast from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration “predicts that the annual dead zone will reach an area of nearly 8,200 square miles in July, more than 50 percent larger than its average size. Each year, NOAA scientists “create a forecast for the coming summer’s dead zone, based on nutrient runoff data collected by the U.S. Geological Survey.” The USGS data “indicates that more than 360 million pounds of nitrogen and nearly 50 million pounds of phosphorus flowed into the Gulf last month.”

Top National News

Trump Touts “Amazing Progress” During “Campaign-Style” Iowa Rally.

Media coverage of President Trump’s speech in Cedar Rapids, Iowa Wednesday night casts the event as a “campaign-style” rally and a “victory lap” following Republican victories in special elections that were seen as referendum on his presidency. While some coverage was very positive for the President, a number of reports and pundits pointed out that amid the controversies and investigations confronting him in Washington, Wednesday’s trip was an opportunity for him to rally his base and attempt to redirect the narrative toward what he said was the “amazing progress” his Administration has made since taking office.

The [AP](#) (6/21, Lemire) reports that Trump “traveled to the Midwest on Wednesday in search of his supporters’ warm embrace and to celebrate a Republican congressional victory in an election viewed as an early referendum on his presidency.” The AP adds that Trump turned the visit “into a celebration of his resilience despite the cloud of investigations that has enveloped his administration and sent his poll numbers tumbling.” The [New York Times](#) (6/21, Haberman) says Trump delivered a “conquering-hero-returns speech,” during which “he – mostly – managed to avoid raising the topic he struggles to stop talking about: the investigations of Russian meddling in the 2016 election and possible collusion with his campaign.” The Times adds that the rally

“served as a venting session for a pent-up president who has stewed and brooded from inside the gilded cage of the White House over attacks from investigators, Democrats and the news media, his interview schedule drastically pared down and his aides imploring him to stay off Twitter.”

On its website, [ABC News](#) (6/21, Caplan, Cohen, Wells) says Trump “emphasized his administration’s successes and preached a call to unite, even in the face of Democratic ‘obstructionists.’” Like many reports, ABC describes a “campaign-style rally,” as does [CBS News](#) (6/21) on its website. Trump, CBS adds, “is trying to find a way to message his own agenda.” Similarly, Jeff Zeleny said on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/21) that the event was “a re-election campaign rally,” while the [New York Post](#) (6/21, Perez) calls the rally a “victory lap” and says Trump “boast[ed] that Republicans were ‘5-0 in special elections’ — after notching wins in South Carolina and Georgia.”

[Reuters](#) (6/21, Holland) says that Trump, who is “under siege in Washington, defended his record” at the “raucous” rally, which was “similar to those he held during last year’s presidential campaign.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/21, Pappas) reports that Trump “argu[ed] his administration has already made ‘amazing progress’ in the five months since the inauguration.” [CNBC](#) (6/21, Pramuk) reports on its website that at the “campaign-style rally,” Trump “bask[ed] in an energetic...crowd” as he “slammed his most frequent targets and promised lofty policy changes in the near future.”

Kimberly Guilfoyle said on [Fox News’ The Five](#) (6/21), “I thought he did a fantastic job because you could tell that he was in a very good mood. ... He is euphoric after that big win” in Georgia. Trump was “able to come off of that high to say wait a second, this is supposed to be a referendum against me. It in fact was not.” Guilfoyle added. “When you look at the juxtaposition, of this high coming off the big win, coming out in front of a crowd that enjoys his company, then you have the Russia thing seems to pale in comparison at least tonight.”

Juan Williams said on [Fox News’ The Five](#) (6/21), “What you saw in this speech, the spine of it was going after the media. ... His problem is if Republicans continue – you see a slight decline down to about 70 percent Republican support from what was 80 – he’s going to have problems. He needs to keep the conservative media on his side.” Political commentator Erroll Louis said on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/21) that Trump “needs to shore up some of his sagging approval ratings,” and “consolidate his base.” Trump, he added, “wants to change the narrative. He wants to show himself being cheered by thousands of people.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/21, story 4, 2:10, Mason) highlighted “steadfast” Trump supporters waiting in line for Wednesday’s speech. These supporters “expressed little interest in current polls, which show a softening for support for Mr. Trump because...they know their support for him is strong.”

Local TV coverage across the state was very positive for Trump. For example, [KWWL-TV](#) Cedar Rapids, IA (6/21, 10:11 p.m. CDT) reported that people who attended the rally said that Trump “addressed many of the concerns and issues they felt were most important.” Trump, KWWL added, “pointed to the success he has had in office and promised much bigger successes in the near future, including tax cuts and healthcare.”

[KCCI-TV](#) Des Moines, IA (6/21, 10:06 p.m. CDT) reported that “thousands of supporters turned out” for the rally. KCCI’s reporter at the event said that “of all the political rallies I have covered, this crowd was one of the most fired up I have ever seen.” Trump “emphasized his accomplishments in office the first few months, saying he is keeping his promises to Iowans since we helped to elect him. He told the group he will protect the ethanol industry, eliminate regulations on workers and farmers, and will rebuild rural America. The crowd roared the loudest when he talked about immigration and building a wall.”

[WOAD-TV](#) Davenport, IA (6/21, 10:06 p.m. CDT) reported that “Trump came to Iowa to rally supporters and tell them he’s fighting for them, and that includes healthcare.” WOAD added that Trump “brought back the campaign stump speech, but this time saying his promises made are promises he kept.” [KTIV-TV](#) Sioux City, IA (6/21, 10:02 p.m. CDT) reported that Trump “tout[ed] his agenda directly to his supporters” at the “campaign-style rally.”

However, Iowa’s support for Trump was not universal. [The Hill](#) (6/21, Thomsen) reports in its “Blog Briefing Room” blog that the Cedar Rapids Gazette ran a front-page [editorial](#) Wednesday telling Trump that “now is not the time for a rally” and asking him “to not hold his scheduled rally in the city but instead talk about his policies and how he will help Iowans.” The open letter to Trump read, “Mr. President, the campaign is over. You won. Now is not the time to rally. Now is the time to sell your policies, listen to Americans with a stake in those efforts and govern. ... Iowans have questions and concerns about your plans. They can’t be heard over the cheers of a rally.” The letter also “listed a litany of topics that it said Iowans are concerned about, like cuts to crop insurance in Trump’s budget, paying for flood protection in Cedar Rapids, climate change,

healthcare and funding for public schools.”

The [Des Moines \(IA\) Register](#) (6/22, Petroski) reports that “about 250 to 200 anti-Trump activists” gathered about a block from the US Cellular Center where Trump’s rally was taking place and “voiced boisterous opposition” to the President. [Breitbart](#) (6/21, Spiering) says Trump was interrupted by “dozens of protesters” as he paid tribute to Rep. Steve Scalise, “who was shot and wounded by a liberal gunman at the congressional baseball game.” According to Breitbart, more than “two dozen protesters, who infiltrated the crowd, started shouting and blowing whistles, interrupting the president’s tribute.”

Trump Says He Will Push To Expand Rural Internet Access As Part Of Infrastructure Plan. The [Cedar Rapids \(IA\) Gazette](#) (6/21, Patane) reports that in a visit to Kirkwood Community College, Trump said he “will push for increased rural internet access in his proposed \$1 trillion infrastructure plan.” The visit “came as a part of Technology Week for the White House.” [Bloomberg News](#) (6/21, Bjerga) quotes Trump as saying, “I will be including a provision in our infrastructure proposal – \$1 trillion proposal, you’ll be seeing it very shortly – to promote and foster, enhance broadband access for rural America also. ... We will rebuild rural America.”

[KWWL-TV](#) Cedar Rapids, IA (6/21, 10:11 p.m. CDT) reported that Trump spoke to “a large crowd” at Kirkwood. Trump: “It’s so important to support schools like Kirkwood, which are helping to train young people in cutting-edge new technologies that are making American agriculture greater than ever before.” KWWL added that Trump focused “the majority of his speech on farming.” Trump: “We will protect the corn-based ethanol and biofuels that power our country.” [KTIV-TV](#) Sioux City, IA (6/21, 10:02 p.m. CDT) reported that Trump “met with state leaders in the ethanol industry.”

[The Hill](#) (6/21, Shelbourne) reports that Trump told the crowd at Kirkwood that “he had promised to come back to see them. ‘And here I am,’ he said.”

McConnell Set To Reveal Healthcare Bill Amid Ongoing GOP Doubts.

Several sources report on emerging components of the Senate Republican healthcare bill, which Senate Majority Leader McConnell will unveil today. But most coverage continues to be about GOP doubts regarding the bill, and on whether McConnell can hold 50 of the chamber’s 52 Republicans in line to pass the bill before the recess that begins at the end of next week.

While NBC ran a full-length report, ABC aired just a brief item, while CBS had no coverage. Lester Holt said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/21, story 2, 2:30), “With coverage for millions at stake and the clock ticking for a vote, details are finally expected to be released tomorrow. But Democrats are turning up the pressure, hoping to peel away the three GOP votes they need to defeat it.” NBC’s Kasie Hunt: “Washington lobbyists are seeing early drafts, but Republican senators say they won’t see the full bill until around breakfast time tomorrow. Where it goes from there comes down to a handful of key Republicans.” On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/21, story 10, 0:35, Muir), Mary Bruce called the bill “the best-kept secret in Washington. Even Republicans helping to write the bill still don’t know what is in it.”

Several outlets report on the likely contents of the bill based on comments from legislative aides and lobbyists. The [AP](#) (6/21, Fram, Alonso-Zaldivar) reports that the proposal “would cut and revamp Medicaid, end penalties on people not buying coverage and eliminate tax increases that financed the statute’s expansion of coverage.” The Senate bill, would drop the House bill’s “waivers allowing states to let insurers boost premiums on some people with pre-existing conditions,” and “would also largely retain the subsidies” provided by the Affordable Care Act “to help millions buy insurance.” The [Washington Post](#) (6/21, Cunningham) says the Senate bill “largely mirrors” the House’s American Health Care Act, “but with some significant changes.” It “cuts off Medicaid expansion more gradually than the House bill, but would enact deeper long-term cuts” to the program.

[Axios](#) (6/21, Owens) reports that the bill “will also include an insurer stabilization fund, like the House bill. This probably will be funneled through the Children’s Health Insurance Program,” which is included under the Hyde Amendment barring federal funding of abortions. Since “most plans will use the stabilization fund, they won’t be allowed to cover abortions – a roundabout way of including pro-life protections.” The [New York Times](#) (6/21, Pear, Kaplan) says that the House bill “would bar the use of federal tax credits to help purchase insurance plans that include coverage of abortion.” But the Senate may need to drop that provision for procedural reasons, which could “generate concern among abortion opponents, as well as conservative lawmakers.”

White House Officials Get Capitol Hill Briefing On Bill. [The Hill](#) (6/21, Fabian) reports that “a group of White House officials” was due on Capitol Hill Wednesday evening for a briefing on the bill. The Hill says the conversation may have included “what role, if any, senators want

[President] to play in selling the bill or whipping votes." Jeff Zeleny briefly reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/21) about the planned meeting.

Kellyanne Conway said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (6/21), "People know that Obamacare is broken. What Leader McConnell and the Senate have done, he's putting together a plan that he knows rips out Obamacare, branch and root."

GOP Senators Across Spectrum Express Doubts About Bill. The [AP](#) (6/21, Fram) reports, "Republican senators complained about their party's secretive health care bill" on Wednesday, with complaints "coming from all along the GOP political spectrum." Sen. Rand Paul "seemed skeptical that McConnell's package would go far enough in dismantling" the ACA, while Sen. Susan Collins "said she had 'no idea' if she'd back the legislation until she sees the language." Sen. Ron Johnson questioned whether senators will have enough time to review the bill, saying, "I've made leadership well aware of the fact that I need information to make the final decision. And if I don't have the information to justify a yes vote, I won't be voting yes."

[Bloomberg News](#) (6/21, Edney) reports that Sen. Thom Tillis, like Paul, questioned whether the bill goes far enough. He said, "It will probably put some on my side of the aisle outside their comfort zone. We have to look at these soft-landing strategies most importantly for the insured population but also to a secondary degree for the states so they have time to plan out their transition strategies as well."

Sen. Marco Rubio said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (6/21), "I respect what the leadership is trying to do. Perhaps what they produce is something that everyone's in agreement with, so you can move to a vote fairly quickly. But my sense of it is there will still be some differences that need to be worked out." Fellow Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (6/21), "The current Medicaid expansion is not sustainable for states. States will be picking up 10 percent of that expense in 2020. ... The states that expanded cannot afford their 10 percent. There's something that has to be done to make it sustainable for both the state taxpayer and the federal. We've got to take care of the patient. ... And that's the sweet spot we're trying to search for."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/21, A1, Armour, Peterson, Radnofsky) reports on its front page that in all, at least six Republican senators said they are not sure how they will vote. The [New York Times](#) (6/21) says in an editorial that "the country needs...at least three Republican senators to come out against the bill," listing Collins and Sens. Shelley Moore Capito, Dean Heller, Lisa Murkowski, and Rob Portman as possible no votes. The Times writes, "The health care of millions of Americans rests in the hands of a few Republican senators. Who among them will be willing to defy their party and fight for their constituents?"

GOP May Invoke "Seldom-Used Rule" To Advance Bill. [Roll Call](#) (6/21, Williams) reports that Republicans "appear ready to make a small, but significant change to historic Senate procedure" to advance the bill. A "seldom-used rule included in the Congressional Budget Act" would let Senate Budget Chairman Michael Enzi "skirt a decision from the chamber's parliamentarian" in order to move the bill via reconciliation, which "would have ripple effects" far into the future.

Tumulty: GOP Engaged In "Flagrant" Hypocrisy. Karen Tumulty of the [Washington Post](#) (6/21) writes, "Hypocrisy has always been a vital lubricant to making the gears turn in Washington. ... Rarely, however, has the double standard been so flagrant as now, when Republicans are scrambling to keep their promise to 'repeal and replace Obamacare.'" In 2010, then-Minority Leader McConnell "was full-throated in his denunciation of 'the partisan route' that majority Democrats had taken and of the 'closed-door sweetheart deals that were made to gain the slimmest margin for passage of a bill that's about their health care.'" Also in 2010, HHS Secretary Price, then a GOP congressman, tweeted, "With Democrats discussing health care in secret, they're sacrificing the trust of the American people."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/21) editorializes, "Remember when Obamacare was written 'hastily,' 'behind closed doors' in 'secret' negotiations, so that Democrats could 'jam' an unpopular health-care bill through Congress? ... Republicans are hoping you do not remember, or that you are willing to forget now that the shoe is on the other foot."

Polls Show Doubts About GOP Efforts, Even Among Republicans. Two new polls show wide public skepticism about GOP reform efforts. [Politico](#) (6/21, Shepard) reports that a Politico/Morning Consult poll found that just 22 percent of voters "say they have heard a lot about Senate Republicans writing their own health care bill," and 65 percent (including 54 percent of Republicans) "want Republicans to 'compromise with Democrats to reach bipartisan reforms.'" As for the House's AHCA, just 35 percent approve of it and 49 percent disapprove. Republican disapproval has doubled since May, from 15 percent to 30 percent. [Reuters](#) (6/21, Kahn) reports that a Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted earlier this month, 41 percent opposed the AHCA, while 30

percent supported it.

House Budget Committee Agrees To Tentative Resolution.

The [AP](#) (6/21, Taylor) reports the House Budget Committee agreed on a budget resolution yesterday that would give the military more money than President Trump requested, while largely rejecting cuts the White House proposed for domestic agencies' operating budgets. The plan would "modestly" cut benefit programs such as food stamps and "pav[es] the way for Congress to tackle an overhaul of the tax code this fall." The AP says House Speaker Paul Ryan has yet to sign off on the plan, which could face resistance from conservatives desiring more spending cuts and "defense hawks" requesting more for the military. According to the AP, "GOP leaders are worried that [Committee Chairman Diane] Black's proposal may not be able to win enough votes to pass on the floor."

[Politico](#) (6/21, Ferris) reports the committee plans to unveil the resolution next Wednesday, "despite lingering disputes within the GOP conference." The resolution would set spending levels at \$511 billion for domestic programs and \$621 billion for defense, according to two lawmakers, which amounts to a \$72 billion boost for defense and a \$4 billion cut for domestic spending. The resolution also would instruct GOP committees to cut \$150 billion from mandatory programs in the next decade, which Rep. Mark Sanford said is not "robust" enough of deficit reduction.

Powell, Noreika Say Banking Regulators Ready To Roll Back Rules.

[Reuters](#) (6/21, Rucker) reports Federal Reserve Governor Jerome Powell said in prepared testimony due to be delivered to Congress today that the US bank regulators have room to relax the Volcker rule, which seeks to prevent banks from using customer deposits to make risky bets. Powell said, "We look forward to working with the other four Volcker Rule agencies to find ways to improve the regulation."

According to [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/21, Hamilton), Powell and Acting Comptroller of the Currency Keith Noreika's prepared remarks for addressing the Senate Banking Committee today will also show an openness to rethinking "the burden of the annual exams that evaluate banks' ability to weather severe economic shocks." Noreika's remarks argue that the many banking regulators too often overlap, which stunts economic growth by making redundant and contradictory requests to lenders. He acknowledged that his thinking has been influenced by a Treasury Department report out June 12 that promoted a series of regulatory rollbacks.

House Republicans Reviving Effort To Privatize Air Traffic Control.

The [AP](#) (6/21, Freking) reports House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster said yesterday that next week, the committee will consider his proposed legislation, which would shift responsibility for the nation's air traffic control operations to a private, nonprofit corporation. The full House likely will vote on the bill in mid-July. The AP says the measure faces bipartisan opposition in the Senate. Shuster explained that his proposal broadens participation in the corporation's 13-seat board of directors in order to prevent any particular group from dominating the panel. "Their No. 1 priority has to be the success of this corporation," regardless of which stakeholder group they represent, he said.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Misguided Attacks On Al Jazeera." A [New York Times](#) (6/21) editorial says Qatar's critics accuse Al Jazeera "of supporting Sunni Islamist terrorism and Iranian ambitions. But Saudi Arabia is hardly innocent when it comes to spreading Islamist extremism or supporting terrorist groups." The Times argues that "in reality, by attacking Al Jazeera, the Saudis and their neighbors are trying to eliminate a voice that could lead citizens to question their rulers."

"Uber Is A Creature Of An Industry Struggling To Grow Up." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/21) writes that "there's a cautionary message in Travis Kalanick's resignation" as Uber CEO under investor pressure over sexual harassment scandals, as "in many ways Uber is an extreme case of a business where rapid growth has fueled executive hubris and an anything-goes corporate culture." Indeed, it's "very much a creature of a technology industry that is still struggling to graduate from adolescence to adulthood." The Times says it "would be ridiculously naïve" to say that the departure of top executives would solve Uber's problem because its culture "is enabled by an ecosystem in which venture capitalists, investors, board members and others

let founders and executives indulge in bad behavior as long as they keep delivering rapid-fire growth with the promise of a stupendous return on investment." The Times says Silicon Valley must "learn to leaven [its] aggressiveness with good judgment, humility and a large helping of ethics."

"Congress Steps Up On Foreign Policy." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/22, Board) commends the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for voting in favor of strengthened sanctions against Russia, considering a bill "to assert more power over military troop deployments," and attempting "to block a \$500 million arms sale to Saudi Arabia." The Times says these actions are to some extent "simply the latest manifestation of the long historical struggle for control over national security policy between the executive and legislative branches," in part because of the "striking expansion of the president's executive power, particularly in the area of national security," since 9/11. While President Trump "remains the most influential player on the world stage," the Times says, it "does not mean that Congress has to remain silent."

Washington Post.

"Republicans' Healthcare Hypocrisy Is On Full Display." The [Washington Post](#) (6/21) editorializes, "Remember when Obamacare was written 'hastily,' 'behind closed doors' in 'secret' negotiations, so that Democrats could 'jam' an unpopular health-care bill through Congress? ... Republicans are hoping you do not remember, or that you are willing to forget now that the shoe is on the other foot."

"The Trump Administration Has Expanded Sanctions On Russia. Here's What It Should Target Next." A [Washington Post](#) (6/21) editorial says the Trump Administration's sanctions on Russia represent a "modest" expansion, but are "an encouraging sign that it will continue to raise the pressure" on Moscow "for its illegal activity in Ukraine." The Post argues that "pressure needs to be raised on Moscow until it agrees to international negotiations on its Crimea occupation, like those it has with Ukraine, France and Britain on its military incursion in eastern Ukraine."

"Prince Georges Residents Deserve An Answer To Charges Of Systemic Corruption." The [Washington Post](#) (6/21) editorializes that Maryland state education officials must examine the claim that "systemic corruption in the Prince George's County school system led to the fraudulent boosting of graduation rates." County residents must know "if school administrators engaged in unethical practices to burnish the system's credentials, or if the school board's small group of disaffected members is so reckless as to advance its interests by belittling the efforts of teachers and students." Noting the "significant improvement" in the county's graduation rate from 74.1 percent in 2013 to 81.4 percent in 2016, the Post says that while teachers should be lauded for helping more students graduate, it's problematic if the boost comes from students receiving diplomas they didn't earn.

Wall Street Journal.

"The Next Step On North Korea." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/21) editorial says this week's death of American student Otto Warmbier is a reminder of the brutal nature of the North Korean regime and underscores the urgency of curbing its nuclear ambitions. The Journal argues that the next step should be to sanction the Chinese financiers and traders who sustain Kim Jong-Un.

"The Real Georgia Lesson." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/21) says that the outcome of Tuesday's election in Georgia's Sixth Congressional District shows that the GOP can retain its majorities in Congress despite lingering skepticism about President Trump, if the party makes good on its campaign promises.

"Change In The House Of Saud." On its editorial page, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/21) says the elevation of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is a welcome change for the Kingdom, that it hopes will help propel it into modernity.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[How Uber Backers Orchestrated Kalanick's Ouster As CEO](#)

[Senate Republicans' Support For Health Bill Wavers](#)

[The Saudi Shake-Up Has One Goal: Drag The Country Into Modern Era](#)

[In The New Bond Market, Bigger Is Better](#)

New York Times:

[Democrats Seethe After Georgia Loss: "Our Brand Is Worse Than Trump"](#)
[Interactive Feature: Psychologists Open A Window On Brutal CIA Interrogations](#)
[Abortion Adds Obstacle As Republicans Plan To Unveil Health Bill](#)
[Inside Travis Kalanick's Resignation As Uber's CEO](#)
[Milwaukee Officer Is Acquitted In Killing Of Sylville Smith](#)
[When Helicopter Parents Hover Even At Work](#)

Washington Post:

[Philippines Police Use Chaos Of Duterte's Drug War A Cover For Extortion](#)
[Senate GOP Set To Release Healthcare Bill](#)
[Aboard The Fitzgerald, A Painful Decision](#)
[Debate Over Next Steps In ISIS Fight](#)
[Plan To Oust Uber's CEO Began Once He Took Leave](#)

Financial Times:

[Kalanick Departure Leaves Uber's Top Ranks Vacant](#)
[Senate Republicans Struggle Over Healthcare Divisions](#)
[Saudi King Replaces Crown Prince With Favoured Son](#)

Washington Times:

[Democrats At A Loss For Explanation After Another Special-Election Defeat](#)
[Nearly 30% Of Illegal Immigrant Children At Border Have Ties To MS-13 Or Other Gangs](#)
[Senate Republicans May Need Trump's Help To Prevent Defections On Health Care Bill](#)
[Who Needs Paris? U.S. Is Well On Its Way To Lower Emissions With Economic, Technological Changes](#)
[Jeh Johnson 'Not Pleased' DNC Turned Away Homeland Security Assistance After Hacking](#)
[Egypt's Coptic Christians Question Whether El-Sissi Alliance Can Protect Them From Terror](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Michigan Airport Terror Attack; Milwaukee Police Violence Trial; Houston F-16 Crash; Severe Weather-Tropical Storm Cindy; Weather Forecast; Severe Weather-Heat; Georgia-House Special Election; Kushner-Middle East Trip; Russia Meddling Investigation; Healthcare Reform Bill; Congressman Shot-Recovery; Independence Day Travel; Road Rage Murder-Muslim Girl; NYC-Bus Crash; Health-Olive Oil; Clooney-Distiller Sale; Diabetic Girl.

CBS: Severe Weather-Tropical Storm Cindy; Michigan Airport Terror Attack; Georgia-House Special Election; Iowa-Trump Rally; Russia Meddling Investigation; Minnesota Police Violence-Trial; Uber CEO Steps Down; ISIS-Mosul Mosque Demolition; Americans Aiding Mosul; Congressman Shot-Recovery; Solar Eclipse.

NBC: Michigan Airport Terror Attack; Healthcare Reform Bill; Severe Weather-Tropical Storm Cindy; Uber CEO Steps Down; Road Rage Murder-Muslim Girl; Georgia-House Special Election; Congressman Shot-Recovery; Police-Text Detector; Prince Philip Hospitalized; Sailing With Disabilities; Clooney-Distiller Sale.

Network TV At A Glance:

Weather – 8 minutes, 55 seconds
Michigan Airport Terror Attack – 6 minutes, 35 seconds
Georgia-House Special Election – 4 minutes, 55 seconds
Russia Meddling Investigation – 3 minutes, 30 seconds
Congressman Shot-Recovery – 3 minutes, 10 seconds
Healthcare Reform Bill – 3 minutes, 5 seconds
Road Rage Murder-Muslim Girl – 2 minutes, 25 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Michigan Airport Terror Attack; Severe Weather-Storm; Milwaukee Police Violence Trial.

CBS: Severe Weather-Storm; Michigan Airport Terror Attack; Iowa-Trump Rally; Healthcare Reform Bill; Bill Cosby Mistrial; Bust Flu Vaccine.

FOX: Trump-New Immigration Order; Healthcare Reform Bill; Severe Weather.

NPR: Healthcare Reform Bill; Insurance Exchange Pullouts; Georgia-House Special Election; Michigan Airport Terror Attack.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participate in the American Leadership in Emerging Technology Event; will meet with the International Olympic Committee; host the Congressional Picnic.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Delivers the keynote address at the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) Legislative Day; delivers remarks at the Wilson Center; joins the President to participate in the Congressional Picnic.

US Senate: 9:00 AM Inaugural, bipartisan Capitol Hill National Security Forum – Inaugural, bipartisan Capitol Hill National Security Forum, presented by Republicans Rep. Michael McCaul and Sen. Marco Rubio and Democrats Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger and Sen. Chris Coons, gathering 'national leaders and key stakeholders' to address U.S. security and 'discuss ideas and policies for improving defenses at home and abroad'. Speakers/participants include Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Amb. Nikki Haley, bipartisan Reps. Jim Langevin, Kathleen Rice, Ed Royce, Will Hurd, John Ratcliffe, and Mike Gallagher, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, former Secretaries of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson and Michael Chertoff, National Security Agency Deputy Director George Barnes, National Security Council Senior Director for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation Jon Wolfsthal, National Counterterrorism Center Director Nicholas Rasmussen, former CIA Director John Brennan, and former Reps. Jane Harman, Pete Hoekstra, and Buck McKeon Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

9:30 AM Nominations hearing considers Richard Spencer to be Secretary of the Navy Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

9:30 AM Nominations hearing considers J. Christopher Giancarlo to be Commodity Futures Trading Commission Chairman Location: Rm 328A, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://agriculture.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on FY'18 NIH budget – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on 'Review of the FY2018 Budget Request for the National Institutes of Health', with testimony from NIH Director Dr Francis Collins, National Cancer Institute Acting Director Dr Douglas Lowy, National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute Director Dr Gary Gibbons, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases Director Dr Anthony Fauci, National Institute on Aging Director Dr Richard Hodes, National Institute on Drug Abuse Director Dr Nora Volkow, and National Institute of Mental Health Director Dr Joshua Gordon Location: Rm 138, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including nomination of Stephen Elliott Boyd to be Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs, plus 'S. 1312, Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2017' and 'S. 1311, Abolish Human Trafficking Act of 2017' Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Commerce subcommittee hearing on marine debris – Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee hearing on 'Marine Debris: Efforts on Marine Debris in the Oceans and Great Lakes', with testimony from Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and Fisheries David Balton; and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Debris Program Director Nancy Wallace Location: Rm 253, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

10:00 AM Senate Banking Committee hearing on 'fostering economic growth' – Hearing on 'Fostering Economic Growth: Regulator Perspective', with testimony from Federal Reserve Governor Jerome Powell; Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Chairman Martin Gruenberg; National Credit Union Administration Acting Chairman J. Mark McWatters; Acting Comptroller of the Currency Keith Noreika; and Texas Department of Banking Commissioner Charles Cooper (on behalf of Conference of State Bank Supervisors) Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

10:30 AM Senate Energy Committee hearing on DOE FY'18 budget – TIME CHANGED TO 10:30 a.m. START TIME – Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources hearing to examine the president's budget request for the Department of Energy for Fiscal Year 2018, with testimony from Secretary of Energy Rick Perry Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energy.senate.gov/public/>

11:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee top secret briefing on North Korea – Closed / Top Secret / Sensitive Compartmented Information briefing on ‘North Korea: Recent Developments’, given by U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Policy and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Korea and Japan Joseph Yun Location: SVC-217, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

2:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

US House: 8:45 AM Readiness Subcommittee markup hearing on ‘2018 National Defense Authorization Act’ Location: Rm 2212, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

9:00 AM Inaugural, bipartisan Capitol Hill National Security Forum – Inaugural, bipartisan Capitol Hill National Security Forum, presented by Republicans Rep. Michael McCaul and Sen. Marco Rubio and Democrats Rep. Dutch Ruppersberger and Sen. Chris Coons, gathering ‘national leaders and key stakeholders’ to address U.S. security and ‘discuss ideas and policies for improving defenses at home and abroad’. Speakers/participants include Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Amb. Nikki Haley, bipartisan Reps. Jim Langevin, Kathleen Rice, Ed Royce, Will Hurd, John Ratcliffe, and Mike Gallagher, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, former Secretaries of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson and Michael Chertoff, National Security Agency Deputy Director George Barnes, National Security Council Senior Director for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation Jon Wolfsthal, National Counterterrorism Center Director Nicholas Rasmussen, former CIA Director John Brennan, and former Reps. Jane Harman, Pete Hoekstra, and Buck McKeon Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

9:30 AM Interior Secretary Zinke testifies to House Natural Resources Committee on FY’18 budget – Oversight hearing on ‘Examining the Department of the Interior’s Spending Priorities and the President’s Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Proposal’, with testimony from Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget, Finance, Performance and Acquisition Olivia Barton Ferriter; and Department of the Interior Office of Budget Director Denise Flanagan Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Science, Space, and Technology Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on ‘H.R. 2763, the Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Improvements Act of 2017’ Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM House Energy subcommittee markup hearing – Energy Subcommittee markup hearing on ‘H.R. 2786, to amend the Federal Power Act with respect to the criteria and process to qualify a qualifying conduit hydropower facility’, ‘H.R. 2883, Promoting Cross-Border Energy Infrastructure Act’, ‘H.R. 2910, Promoting Interagency Coordination for Review of Natural Gas Pipelines Act’, ‘H.R. XXXX, Hydropower Policy Modernization Act of 2017’, and ‘H.R. XXXX, Enhancing State Energy Security Planning and Emergency Preparedness Act of 2017’ Location: Rm 2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM Hearing on ‘The Next Farm Bill: University Research’ Location: Rm 1300, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://agriculture.house.gov/>

10:00 AM Hearing on ‘U.S. Trade Policy Agenda’, with testimony from U.S. Trade Representative Amb. Robert Lighthizer Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

10:00 AM House Transportation and Infrastructure subcommittee hearing on intercity passenger rail – Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee hearing on ‘Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Challenges and Opportunities for Intercity Passenger Rail Service’, with testimony from Federal Railroad Administration Associate Administrator for Railroad Policy and Development Paul Nissenbaum; Amtrak President and CEO Wick Moorman IV; Gateway Program Development Corporation Interim Executive Director John Porcari; Florida East Coast Industries Executive Director Mike Reininger; and California High-Speed Rail Authority Chair Dan Richard Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM House Small Business subcommittee hearing on broadband deployment – Agriculture, Energy, and Trade Subcommittee hearing on ‘Improving Broadband Deployment: Solutions for Rural America’, with testimony from NTCA – The Rural Broadband Association Senior Vice President for Industry Affairs & Business Development Mike Romano; VTX1 CEO Dave Osborn (on behalf of Western Telecommunications Alliance Testimony); Competitive Carriers

Association Senior Vice President for Legislative Affairs Tim Donovan; and Jo-Carroll Energy Vice President of External Relations and General Counsel Chris Allendorf Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

10:00 AM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on juvenile justice reform – Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on ‘Juvenile Justice Reform in the Modern Era’, with testimony from Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice Assistant Commissioner and Chief of Staff Joe Vignati; Indiana Criminal Justice Institute Chief of Staff and General Counsel Devon McDonald; Preparing Leaders of Tomorrow co-founder Jim SaintGermain; and Youth First President and CEO Liz Ryan Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM House Education & the Workforce Committee hearing on student safety in the Job Corps program – Hearing on ‘Student Safety in the Job Corps Program’, with testimony from Government Accountability Office Director of Education Workforce and Income Security Cindy Brown Barnes; Earle C. Clements Job Corps Academy Center Director Jeffrey Barton; and Department of Labor Deputy Inspector General Larry Turner Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:30 AM Strategic Forces Subcommittee markup hearing on ‘2018 National Defense Authorization Act’ Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

10:30 AM Members of Congress introduce Voting Rights Advancement Act – Members of Congress hold voting rights Speak Out with lawmakers and advocates, to introduce the Voting Rights Advancement Act – legislation which would restore protections for voters in states with a recent history of discrimination. Participants include Democratic Reps. John Lewis, Terri Sewell, Judy Chu, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Jim Clyburn, and Joseph Crowley and Sen. Patrick Leahy, NAACP Washington Bureau Director Hilary Shelton, The Leadership Conference President Vanita Gupta, ACLU Political Director Faiz Shakir, and AAJC Director of Census and Voting Programs Terry Ao Minnis Location: East Capitol Lawn, Washington, DC sewell.house.gov/
<https://twitter.com/RepTerriSewell>

10:30 AM Speaker’s Task Force on Intergovernmental Affairs inaugural hearing – Newly-formed Speaker’s Task Force on Intergovernmental Affairs holds its inaugural hearing, ‘Local Perspectives: Examining the Current State of Intergovernmental Relations’. Witnesses include National Governors Association CEO and Executive Director Scott Pattison, National Association of Counties President Bryan Desloge, and Tennessee Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris * Last month, House Speaker Paul Ryan and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi announced the creation of the bipartisan group of lawmakers focused on balancing the interests between federal and local govts Location: HVC 210, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <https://robbishop.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/RepRobBishop>

11:30 AM Military Personnel Subcommittee markup hearing on ‘2018 National Defense Authorization Act’ Location: Rm 2212, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

12:00 PM House expected to vote on Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of ‘H.R. 1654 – Water Supply Permitting Coordination Act’, beginning consideration of ‘H.R. 2842 – Accelerating Individuals into the Workforce, and consideration of ‘H.R. 2353 – Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act’ under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

12:30 PM Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee markup hearing on ‘2018 National Defense Authorization Act’ Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

1:15 PM House Dems and health care providers highlight ‘devastating impact of ‘Trumpcare’ on patients’ – House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, fellow Democratic Reps. Raul Ruiz and Ami Bera, and dozens of doctors and health care providers hold press event to highlight ‘the devastating impact of the Republican proposals to roll back access to health care for millions of Americans’. Participants ‘underscore the very real consequences of the Republicans’ health care plan for patients and families, and what a lack of coverage means to the people they serve’ Location: House Zone 10, Washington, DC <http://www.democraticleader.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/NancyPelosi>

2:00 PM Health Subcommittee hearing on ‘FY 2018 Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for the Veterans Health Administration’ Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

4:00 PM House Natural Resources Committee markup hearing begins – Markup hearing begins on legislation including ‘H.R. 218, King Cove Road Land Exchange Act’, ‘H.R. 289, Guides and Outfitters Act’, ‘H.R. 597, Lytton Rancheria Homelands Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 1107, Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act’, ‘H.R. 1306, Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act’, ‘H.R. 1399, American Soda Ash Competitiveness Act’, ‘H.R. 1719, John Muir National Historic Site Expansion Act’, ‘H.R. 1731, Revitalizing the Economy of Coal Communities by Leveraging Local Activities and Investing More Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 1927, African American Civil Rights Network Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 2053, Mining School Enhancement Act’, ‘H.R. 2156, Saint Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Act’, ‘H.R. 2370, Escambia County Land Conveyance Act’, ‘H.R. 2425, Public Lands Telecommunications Act’, ‘H.R. 2936, Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 2937, Community Reclamation Partnerships Act’, and ‘H.R. 2939, Water Rights Protection Act of 2017’ * Reconvenes 27 Jun Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

Other: 8:30 AM GOP Sen. Chuck Grassley speaks on criminal justice reform at AEI – Senate Committee on the Judiciary Chairman Sen. Chuck Grassley speaks on ‘Criminal Justice Reform and Reducing Recidivism’ at the American Enterprise Institute, before panel discussion with Vera Institute of Justice’s Hayne Yoon, Living Classrooms Foundation’s John Huffington, and American Conservative Union Center for Criminal Justice Reform’s Pat Nolan Location: AEI, 1789 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC www.aei.org <https://twitter.com/AEI> #GrassleyatAEI

10:00 AM ‘Deepening Europe’s Economic and Monetary Union’ Peterson Institute conference – ‘Deepening Europe’s Economic and Monetary Union’ Peterson Institute for International Economics conference, focusing on the European Commission’s new ‘Reflection Paper on the Deepening of the Economic and Monetary Union’. Attendees include EU Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. David O’Sullivan, and Jose Leandro and Gabriele Giudice (European Commission) Location: Peterson Institute, 1750 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC <http://www.piie.com> https://twitter.com/PIIE_com

11:00 AM Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders speaks on ‘threats to democracy’ at Carnegie Endowment – Carnegie Endowment for International Peace holds ‘U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders on Threats to Democracy’, with Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders discussing ‘rise of authoritarianism and emerging threats to democracy in the United States and around the world, and the implications for U.S. domestic and foreign policy’. Carnegie Endowment Senior Fellow Sarah Chayes moderates Location: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1779 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.carnegieendowment.org> <https://twitter.com/CarnegieEndow>

12:30 PM GOP Sen. John Cornyn speaks at Council on Foreign Relations – Republican Sen. John Cornyn speaks at Council on Foreign Relations on the challenges facing the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S., and legislation to require heightened scrutiny of foreign investment transactions to minimize national security risks, particularly in the context of Chinese technology deals Location: Council on Foreign Relations, 1777 F St., NW, Washington, DC www.cfr.org https://twitter.com/CFR_org #CFRLive

1:30 PM National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education marks 45th anniversary of Title IX – National Coalition for Women and Girls in Education (NCWGE) and Honorary Co-Chair Democratic Sen. Mazie Hirono present ‘Title IX: Advancing Opportunity through Equity in Education’ – a discussion in recognition of the 45th anniversary of Title IX. NCWGE releases their latest report, with a panel speaking on the impact of Title IX and analysis of the findings and policy recommendations highlighted in the report Location: Rm 385, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.ncwge.org/>

4:30 PM Congressional forum on ensuring diversity and inclusion in the STEM fields – ‘You Can’t Be What You Can’t See’ Congressional forum on ensuring diversity and inclusion in the STEM fields, with panelists Morgan State University Clarence Mitchell School of Engineering Founding Dean Eugene DeLoatch, American Indian Science and Engineering Society CEO Sarah EchoHawk, Cardiothoracic Surgeon Dr Jennifer Ellis, U.S. Business Leadership Network – Disability At Work President and CEO Jill Houghton, and Great Minds in STEM Chair and Founder Raymond Mellado * Hosted by URU The Right To Be CEO Crystal Emery and Democratic Rep. Terri Sewell, and presented in conjunction with Democratic Sens. Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy and Reps. Rosa DeLauro, Robin Kelly and Terri Sewell Location: National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave., Washington, DC <https://urutherighttobe.org/>

6:30 PM World Affairs Council Embassy Series event with Armenia Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Grigor Hovhannissian Location: 2225 R St, NW, Washington, DC <http://www.worldaffairsdc.org> https://twitter.com/wac_dc

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "A lot of people are saying Jared Kushner isn't qualified. But actually, he has been to Israel before on a high school trip with his mom. So they're wrong."

Stephen Colbert: "With that deadline looming, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell is rushing to put the bill together in what's being described as 'a frantic scramble,' which is the best way to make all your healthcare decisions. 'Honey, what do you make of this mole on my thigh?' 'Cut off the leg and burn it in a pit!'"

Stephen Colbert: "The tough part of this has been getting Republican moderates to vote for the bill. They don't like the idea of phasing out extra federal funding for Medicaid in 2020, which is the plan right now. So, to lure them in, McConnell is proposing doing it in 2023. 'I'm sorry, Mitch, I cannot in good conscience vote to take away life-saving healthcare from low-income people. What's that? Three years later? I'm in!'"

James Corden: "There is always an election here. You love elections. The only thing you love more than elections is moaning about the outcome of elections."

James Corden: "Experts say the Republican victory in Georgia shows that Americans may not be as dissatisfied with Trump as, let's say, Melania is."

James Corden: "In her latest speech, her majesty the Queen did not mention Donald Trump's state visit to the UK, leading some to speculate that it may have been canceled. So apparently, two can play this whole travel ban game. The Queen wouldn't even mention his name in his speech, so at this point, Trump has literally become Lord Voldemort."

Trevor Noah: "I don't know if you heard, but last night, the Democratic Party ended forever."

Trevor Noah: "When you're not having a good time, time lasts forever. Right now, the Democrats are the designated driver at the club who is not drinking. ... But when you're drinking, you're like, 'What, do you mean we're closing? Oh, my God, have we been here for a week? Wow, time flies.' Those are Trump supporters. And for them, it's only 1:00 a.m. in the club."

Trevor Noah: "I'm just saying that it might be too early for Trump's people to make a judgment about him. Trump has still got that new President smell for them. I mean, it smells like hair spray and taco bowls, but it's still new for them, still new."

Jimmy Fallon: "I read that Mitch McConnell wants to force a Senate vote on healthcare before July 4. Yeah, 'cause if there's one day you want to take away people's healthcare, it's the day when they get drunk and set off fireworks"

Seth Meyers: [Referring to the loss in Georgia House special election] "I would tell Democrats to go back to go back to the drawing board, but it would probably fall on them and kill them."

Seth Meyers: "Following two special election losses for the Democratic Party yesterday, one Democratic congressman said, quote, 'Our brand is worse than Trump.' 'Hey, that's our slogan,' said United Airlines."

Seth Meyers: "The White House is like a poorly wrapped burrito. It's falling apart, and we're all going to get E. Coli."

Seth Meyers: "The House bill cut Medicaid spending by \$880 billion dollars to give the wealthiest people a near trillion dollar tax cut. A plan that is so toxic just 8 percent of Americans think the Senate should pass the healthcare bill as is. Eight percent! Even 'The Mummy' got a 15 percent on Rotten Tomatoes. In fact, 'The Mummy' might be the healthcare bill."

Conan O'Brien: "President Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner is right now in the Middle East to

broker historic peace between Israel and the Palestinians. Kushner thinks real progress will start once both sides stop laughing.”

Conan O'Brien: “In Israel, a court ruled that a religious man cannot force a woman to move seats on an airplane just because he’s afraid of having accidental physical contact with her. The landmark case of Israel versus Mike Pence.”

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DOI In The News

Trump: 'We Want To Be Energy Dominant'.

The [AP](#) (6/28) reports that in a meeting with several state and tribal leaders as part of the White House Energy Week, President Trump said he wants to make the country "energy dominant." The [Washington Times](#) (6/28, Wolfgang) reports that Trump "promised to usher in a 'golden age of American energy dominance,' pledging that his administration will lift regulatory restrictions that hamper coal mining and oil drilling." The President said, "For too long the federal government has put up restrictions and regulations that put this energy wealth out of reach. It's just totally out of reach. ... We're going to put it back in your hands." The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/28, Siciliano) reports that the President also "said Wednesday that he wants to see job growth like 'never seen before' from energy development on tribal lands." Trump said, "We love Indian country, right?" [The Hill](#) (6/28, Cama) says that a reporter "asked Trump at the end of the speech whether he believes in climate change. ... Trump listened to the question, but did not answer. Instead, Trump thanked the journalists as they were escorted out of the room."

[The Hill](#) (6/28, Cama, Henry) reports that on Thursday, President Trump, Energy Secretary Rick Perry, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt will "speak at the Energy Department as part of the White House's Energy Week festivities."

Interior Sec Zinke Calls Obama Environmental Policy 'Un-American'.

The [Daily Caller](#) (6/28, Pearce) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "criticized a 2015 presidential memorandum for stunting job growth and industry on federal lands at a Montana Western Governors Association conference Tuesday." The memo, signed by former President Obama, "requires federal agencies to 'minimize harmful effects to land, water, wildlife, and other ecological resources' from any development opportunities taken or sanctioned by the agency." The Interior Department is "reviewing its enforcement of the Obama memorandum specifically." Zinke said of the memo, "Some people would call it extortion. I call it un-American."

US: Montana's Breaks Monument 'Likely' Will Not Be Changed. The [AP](#) (6/28) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke says he "likely" won't recommend changes to the Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument. Gov. Steve Bullock "sent a letter to Zinke last week asking him to keep the Breaks monument unchanged." Zinke said, "The elected officials and the vast majority of Montanans are comfortable with the Missouri Breaks as it is. The governor certainly is. And I see no reason to change that." Zinke "said he asks three questions when assessing changes to national monuments: Did creation of the monument follow the guidelines for creating monuments as spelled out in the Antiquities Act, was there enough public input when it was formed and would it be more disruptive or in the best interest of the local communities to do further review?"

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (6/28) and [KTVQ-TV](#) Billings, MT (6/28).

Republicans Fear Onslaught Of Green Group Lawsuits.

[The Hill](#) (6/28, Park) reports that "Republican lawmakers on Wednesday held a hearing to address what they fear is 'excessive litigation' against the Interior Department from green groups and other liberal activists." At a hearing of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Oversight, "lawmakers heard from experts who said that green groups are abusing the courts to

challenge the agency's policies." Rep. Mike Johnson said, "Excessive litigation against the department drains our taxpayers' dollars away from good stewardship of our natural resources."

Trump Gains Local Support In Possible Shrinking Of California's Sequoia Monument.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (6/28, Alexander) reports that the Tulare County Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday to send a letter to the Trump Administration "urging it to reduce the 328,000-acre Giant Sequoia monument to 90,000 acres." Meanwhile, "a similar request before the Kern County Board of Supervisors fell short." The board decided Tuesday "to take no position on the monument amid a groundswell of public opposition to any changes."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Visalia \(CA\) Times-Delta](#) (6/28).

Zinke Is Right, It's Fine The Way It Is.

The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (6/28) editorializes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "right in believing" the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument is "settled, and his decision to leave well enough alone is a wise one." It notes that "multiple use is still the management philosophy of the monument." It concludes that "while CANM appears to be off the chopping block for now, it still needs advocates because changing the monument's designation is not the only way to destroy it."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Tribe Suspends Bid For Federal Designation On Casino Land.

The [AP](#) (6/28) reports that the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe has "suspended its efforts to get the federal government to designate 321 acres as sovereign tribal land." The tribe "says it made the decision in consultation with the U.S. Department of Interior, which was expected to render a decision on the tribe's request by Tuesday." According to the tribe, "the move preserves its right to seek the designation later."

Additional coverage was provided by the [New Bedford \(MA\) Standard-Times](#) (6/28, Lindahl).

Bureau Of Land Management

As Wildfires Rage In West, DC Lawmakers Fight Over Forest Policy.

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (6/28, Siripurapu) reports that "with wildfire season raging in western states, Congress is embroiled in a battle over how best to fight the fires." The "Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017" would give the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management "access to funds to fight fires from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which coordinates responses to disasters like hurricanes, if their budgets for fighting wildfires run out." Many Republicans "want to help prevent and fight wildfires by giving the agencies that manage the federal forests more money and greater ability to thin out the forests." On the other hand, "most Democrats, as well as environmental groups, say the bill would lead to more logging without first considering potential damage to the forests."

Bureau Of Land Management Buys Land Near Utah National Trail.

The [AP](#) (6/28) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has "acquired 231 acres (935,000 square meters) from a private property owner near the Gooseberry Mesa National Recreation Trail." The BLM's St. George field office manager Brian Tritle "says the land was purchased from Quarter Circle 2 Ranch for \$600,000." The BLM "hopes to enhance the outdoor recreation experience for visitors and provide economic growth for the tourism-based economy in Washington County."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Watershed Projects In Five States Awarded Bureau Of Reclamation Grants.

The [American Security News](#) (6/27) reports that "watershed management projects to improve water quality, water conservation and ecological health in Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho and New Mexico were recently awarded Bureau of Reclamation grants totaling \$664,754."

According to the article, "seven projects in those five states will receive the funds through the

WaterSMART program.”

Embattled Navajo Coal Power Plant To Survive Through 2019.

The [Washington Times](#) (6/28, Wolfgang) reports the Navajo Generation Station, which is “partially owned by the federal government and critical to tribal economies in the West,” will stay open “for another two years, though its future beyond that remains uncertain.” On Tuesday, the Navajo Nation “approved a lease extension of the Navajo Generating Station (NGS) through 2019, temporarily heading off a catastrophic closure that would’ve left hundreds without jobs and almost certainly would’ve led to the shuttering of Peabody Energy’s nearby Kayenta Mine that supplies the facility.” Administration officials “say they’ve spent months searching for a way to keep NGS up and running.”

Large Sinkhole Opens At Wickiup Reservoir; Officials Warn That The Ground Is ‘Highly Unstable’.

The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (6/28, Hammers) reports that “a sinkhole opened up on the edge of Wickiup Reservoir over the weekend — possibly due to a collapsed lava tube — but officials say water levels at the reservoir just west of La Pine are expected to remain stable.” Dave Walsh, spokesman with the Bureau of Reclamation, “said the hole is roughly 10 to 12 feet across and about 4 feet deep.” The bureau has “taped off the area to deter visitors from getting too close.”

There’s No Green Light For Terrible Delta Tunnels.

In an op-ed for the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (6/28, Garamendi), Rep. John Garamendi calls the California WaterFix a “\$15 billion boondoggle.” Federal agencies, in biological opinions issued this week, “only examined phase one, which is limited to the construction of the Delta twin tunnels themselves and the expansion of Clifton Court Forebay – not the project’s real environmental danger of actually moving water through the tunnels.” Garamendi argues that “instead of wasting time and money on a project that risks massive environmental damage, the state should immediately proceed with projects that actually increase our water supplies.”

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

At Offshore Drilling Regulator, Focus On “Economic Development”.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (6/28, Osborne) reports the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement has put a new priority on economic development, according to Lars Herbs, Gulf of Mexico Regional Director at BSEE. He said, “Our mission has not changed. I don’t want folks to think we’re just looking at the economic development. ... We always had a conservation mission as well, which was not very well understood, about the effective and efficient development of offshore resources. This administration is looking at it as it’s not ‘either or,’ it’s ‘and.’” He said the driving concern is that production in the Gulf will go down if new investments in offshore fields do not increase quickly. He said, “Right now what may surprise some people is we’re at a record level of oil production offshore. ... That’s only because of past investments companies have made. If we don’t see some capitol investment that production will start dropping off.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Western Governors Back Endangered Species Act, With Changes.

The [AP](#) (6/28, Elliott) reports that the Western Governors Association “endorsed the aims of the Endangered Species Act on Wednesday but asked Congress to make changes, including giving states a bigger role and clarifying recovery goals for species protected by the law.” The governors “said Western states benefit economically from healthy species and ecosystems but bear the burden of land-use restrictions that usually come with species protection, as well as some of the cost of recovery programs.” The association “approved a resolution giving qualified backing for the act during a meeting in Whitefish, Montana.”

F.B.I. Agent Is Indicted In Shooting During Oregon Standoff.

The [New York Times](#) (6/28, Goldman) reports FBI agent Joseph Astarita, a member of the “elite Hostage Rescue Team involved in a deadly confrontation last year with a prominent antigovernment protester in Oregon,” was indicted yesterday on charges of obstruction of justice

and lying to supervisors about firing his weapon in the effort to arrest protester Robert Finicum, who was killed. Astarita pleaded not guilty to all five counts yesterday and was released pending court appearances. The Times says the indictment "is a blow to the reputation of the hostage team, which carries out the bureau's riskiest missions in the US and abroad."

Describing the January 26, 2016 incident, the [Washington Post](#) (6/28, Sottile) explains that FBI agents and Oregon State Police troopers "swarmed" a group of protesters who had been occupying the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge as they drove down the highway. Swerving to avoid a police roadblock, Finicum ran into a snowbank and nearly hit an agent before walking toward an officer and appearing to reach for a loaded gun in his jacket. State troopers opened fire and fatally shot Finicum three times in the back, a move authorities deemed justified weeks later. The same day, Oregon officials and the DOJ IG announced they were investigating FBI agents' actions during the encounter to determine the source of an unaccounted-for bullet that hit the roof of Finicum's car. According to the [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/28, Denson, Pearce), Astarita's charges allege that during multiple interviews, he failed to admit to firing the shot. Finicum's wife Jeanette told the Times that while she's grateful for the indictment, "I believe there's more that needs to be done; there were other officers involved in the coverup."

Longmont Prairie Dog Colony May Be Moved To Rocky Flats.

The [Denver Post](#) (6/28, Fryar) reports that "prairie dog protection advocates announced this week that they've found a new home for a southeast Longmont prairie dog colony that the activists are hoping to prevent being exterminated." According to the article, "the estimated 200 or more prairie dogs that now live on about 12 acres of private property southwest of East Third Avenue and Great Western Drive may be relocated to an area on the federal Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge." Deanna Meyer, executive director of Prairie Protection Colorado, "said that David Lucas, manager of the Rocky Flats Wildlife Refuge, has notified her that the refuge is available as a receiving site for the southeast Longmont prairie dogs."

95 Acres Of Wetlands And Hull's Trace Now In Preservation Agreement.

The [Monroe \(MI\) Evening News](#) (6/28, Cousino) reports that "federal, state and local officials are hailing a public-private partnership to preserve a corduroy road dating back to the War of 1812 and 95 acres of coastal wetlands at the mouth of the Huron River here." According to the article, "at a press conference Monday held at the Brownstown Event Center, authorities praised U.S. Silica for its plan to donate 95 acres of high-quality coastal wetlands to the U.S. National Park Service and Fish and Wildlife Service for inclusion in the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge."

Grizzlies 'Recovered'? Yeah. I Mean, Sorta.

In his column for the [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (6/28, Hatch), Cory Hatch writes that "the grizzly's miraculous comeback" is a "success story," but "many wildlife advocates — myself included — have greeted the delisting decision with a sense of dread." According to Hatch, "the problem is that the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is poised for a drastic transformation thanks to climate change and an increasing human population" and "this transformation will almost certainly be bad for bears." Hatch concludes that "a token population of any species, hemmed in and hounded at its borders, and under siege from any number of human-caused threats, is not a recovered population."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Missoula \(MT\) Independent](#) (6/29, Sakariassen).

National Park Service

Proposal Would Make Civil War Origin Site A National Park.

The [AP](#) (6/28) reports that "two South Carolina lawmakers have proposed that the site where the Civil War began be raised in status to a national park." Sen. Tim Scott and Rep. Mark Sanford "on Wednesday introduced legislation creating the Fort Sumter and Fort Moultrie National Park as the nation's latest national park and second in South Carolina."

July 4th Citizenship Ceremony Being Held At Saratoga Park.

The [AP](#) (6/29) reports that "a group of new United States citizens will be sworn in during a ceremony being held on the Fourth of July at the site of a famous Revolutionary War battle." The National Park Service "says a citizenship ceremony and traditional reading of the Declaration of

Independence will be held Tuesday morning at Saratoga National Historical Park." According to park officials, "20 immigrants from around the world will become new U.S. citizens during a ceremony that also will include fife and drums, a color guard and musket firings."

National Park Service Agrees To Stop Discriminating Against Christian Geologist.

The [Arizona Daily Independent](#) (6/29) reports that "an experienced geologist's lawsuit has prompted federal officials to grant him a long-awaited research permit after they originally denied his application because of his Christian beliefs about the origins of the Earth." In light of this decision, "an Alliance Defending Freedom allied attorney together with ADF attorneys who represent the geologist, Dr. Andrew Snelling, voluntarily dismissed Snelling v. United States Department of Interior in federal court Wednesday."

Prehistoric Stone Fish Trap Discovered On Alaska Island.

The [AP](#) (6/28) reports that "archaeologists have discovered a prehistoric fish trap constructed of rock walls near the mouth of a salmon stream on Alaska's Kodiak Island." The article notes that "the survey is being conducted with National Park Service grants as part of a two-year Afognak Native Corp. effort to map important cultural sites on the corporation's 387 square miles (1,000 square kilometers) of land." The survey has "uncovered other historical sites including fox farms and an abandoned gold mine."

Tioga Pass, The Busy Back Door To Yosemite, Is Finally Cleared And Is Opening To Vehicles Thursday.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/28, Erskine) reports that Tioga Pass will "finally open to vehicles at 8 a.m. Thursday, a month later than usual." The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (6/27, Oide) reports that "snowmelt on the roadway and infrastructure repairs were two of the factors that kept Highway 120/Tioga Road closed."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (6/28, Fritz) and [KGO-TV](#) San Francisco (6/28).

Retiring Parkway Superintendent Reflects On 37 Years With The Park Service.

The [Waynesville \(NC\) Smoky Mountain News](#) (6/28, Kays) reports that "Mark Woods will retire as superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway on July 3, but on July 4 he'll don the flathat one last time as grand marshal of the Lake Junaluska Fourth of July Parade." Woods "worked with the National Park Service for 37 years before making his decision to retire, positions ranging from resource management to law enforcement to superintendent." He said, "I'm very thankful I've had a career I've absolutely loved and looked forward to going to work every day."

Our National Parks Need Updates; Congress Can Help.

For the "Pundits" blog of [The Hill](#) (6/28, Wathen, Contributor), Tom Wathen, who leads The Pew Charitable Trusts' ocean and lands conservation projects in the United States, writes on the "backlog of restoration projects" at national parks, "in large part because of shortfalls in congressional funding needed to maintain the National Park Service's aging infrastructure." Wathen urges support for the National Park Service Legacy Act, which "would direct annual federal funding to national park deferred maintenance needs and provide incentives for private-public matching, in an effort to ensure that the NPS has the predictable resources needed to preserve our natural, cultural, and historical sites for future generations." According to Wathen, "addressing deferred maintenance will also ensure that park visitors continue to have positive, safe experiences, and spend money in cities and towns near park sites," and "as an added bonus, by funding these critical repairs Congress will help create infrastructure-related jobs."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Interior Secretary Applauds Nomination Of Domenech As Assistant Secretary For Insular Areas.

[Marianas Variety](#) (6/29) reports that President Trump has "announced his intent to nominate Interior Department veteran Douglas William Domenech as assistant secretary of the Interior for insular areas." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "I am excited to announce that the president and I have selected Doug Domenech to lead the administration's initiatives in the insular areas. Domenech's experience serving former Interior Secretaries Gale Norton and Dirk Kempthorne, his

passion for the people and priorities in the islands, and his previous service in state and federal government combine to make him the ideal candidate for this position.”

Also, [KUAM-TV](#) Dededo, GUM (6/28, Delgado) reports, that Gov. Eddie Calvo “joined in endorsing Domenech’s nomination.”

‘Indispensable’ Palau Deal At Risk; Will China Get Access?

In a piece for [Breaking Defense](#) (6/27, Clark), Colin Clark questions why the House Armed Services Committee has defunded “a \$123.9 million payment” that gains the US access to Palau. According to Clark Palau is “indispensable” because of its geographic location. Clark expects that the Senate Armed Services Committee, led by Sen. John McCain, will “make a very persuasive argument in the NDAA conference that Palau receive the money America committed to pay it, period.”

ADB Rolls Out \$200m Renewables Package For 11 Pacific Islands.

[PV Magazine](#) (6/26, Clover) reports that the Asian Development Bank has “announced a \$200 million finance package for the support and deployment of renewable energy projects in the 11 smallest island nations of the Pacific.” The Pacific Renewable Energy Investment Facility will “steer funds to the Cook Islands, Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, the Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.” According to the article, “each of these small Pacific states faces its own set of energy generation, climate change and economic problems, and thus the ADB believes that the potential \$200 million package is money well spent.”

Mapp Approves Medicaid Match, Hospital Funds.

The [St. Thomas Source](#) (6/27) reports that Gov. Kenneth Mapp has “approved spending \$2.5 million in reprogrammed bond funds for emergency repairs and sewer line replacement at the Gov. Juan F. Luis Hospital and Medical Center on St. Croix.” The bill also “appropriated rum funds and hotel occupancy tax funds to the General Fund, so another bill could spend them on federal matching funds for Medicaid and other priorities of the governor.”

Corals May Hold Cancer Insights.

[Stanford University \(CA\)](#) (6/28, Jordan) reports that “more than 70 years after the U.S. tested atomic bombs on a ring of sand in the Pacific Ocean called Bikini Atoll, Stanford researchers are studying how long-term radiation exposure there has affected corals that normally grow for centuries without developing cancer.” The researchers’ work is featured in the June 28 episode of PBS’ “Big Pacific.” Stephen Palumbi, the Harold A. Miller Professor of Marine Science, said, “The terrible history of Bikini Atoll is an ironic setting for research that might help people live longer. By understanding how corals could have recolonized the radiation-filled bomb craters, maybe we can discover something new about keeping DNA intact.”

Top National News

Trump Calls On Congress To Pass “Kate’s Law,” “No Sanctuary For Criminals Act.”

The President’s call for Congress to pass legislation targeting crimes committed by undocumented immigrants was not mentioned on the major network newscasts, and was not a significant topic of discussion on cable. The [AP](#) (6/28) reports Trump “met with more than a dozen people whose loved ones were killed by people in the country illegally,” and pushed for “passage of two pieces of legislation”: “Kate’s Law” would “impose harsher mandatory minimum prison sentences on deportees who re-enter the United States, with stronger penalty increases for those who have been convicted of non-immigration crimes.” The “No Sanctuary for Criminals Act” would “bar states and localities that refuse to cooperate with immigration authorities from receiving certain Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security grants.”

The [Washington Post](#) (6/28, Debonis, Nakamura) reports that Trump’s “focus on immigration, a day after Republican leaders in the Senate postponed efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act, illustrated the White House’s eagerness to get back onto comfortable footing.” The Post also reports that “the House votes” on the two bills, “coming six months into Trump’s presidency,” are “highlighting the limits of congressional action and the frustrations of conservatives who expected much more to have been done already.” While “arrests of undocumented immigrants have spiked under Trump” and “illegal border crossings have fallen

significantly since Trump took office," there has been "little activity" on "the legislative front."

However, says the [New York Daily News](#) (6/28, Joseph), "both bills, strongly favored by...Trump, will be put on the House floor and are expected to pass largely along partisan lines." The [Des Moines \(IA\) Register](#) (6/28, Sullivan) notes that Michelle Wilson-Root, "the mother of 21-year-old Sarah Root of Council Bluffs, killed last year by an drunken driver in the United States illegally," met with Trump yesterday, and "will be in the House Chamber on Thursday" when immigration legislation is "debated and voted on, she said."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/28, Miller) reports that "championing the victims of illegal-immigrant crime was a hallmark of Mr. Trump's presidential run, and he vowed Wednesday follow through by quickly signing the bills when they reach his desk." Said the President, "You lost the people that you love because our government refused to enforce our nation's immigration laws and that's including the existing immigration laws." Trump also "called on all member of Congress to honor grieving American families by passing these life-saving measures."

The President, says [Politico](#) (6/28, Lahut), "painted a grim picture of the homeland Wednesday, saying his actions to crack down on illegal immigration in the United States were 'liberating towns' from gangs such as MS-13." Said Trump, "We're freeing up towns, actually we're liberating towns, if you believe we have to do that in the United States of America. ... But we're doing it and we're doing it fast."

[TIME](#) (6/28, Rhodan) reported that Attorney General Sessions "released a statement in support of the bill, saying criminals and gangs take advantage of sanctuary policies in order to wreak havoc on communities." Said Sessions, "Closing these loopholes in our laws must be a priority if we are to make America safe from these dangerous transnational organizations. ... These bills can restore sanity and common-sense to our system by ending abusive attempts to undermine federal law, and they can prevent future tragedies by empowering law enforcement."

[Breitbart](#) (6/28, Mason) quotes Sessions as also saying, "Countless families and communities have suffered as a result of these 'sanctuary' policies, which undermine federal law by safeguarding criminal illegal aliens from federal law enforcement. One victim of these policies was Kate Steinle, who was killed by an illegal alien who had been deported five times and yet still walked the streets freely. Her death was preventable, and she would still be alive today if only the City of San Francisco had put the public's safety first. How many more Americans must die before we put an end to this madness?"

Media Analyses: ICE Head's Comments Mark Break With Trump. Media analyses are casting comments yesterday by ICE Acting Director Thomas Homan as a break with the President's positions on immigrants and crime. [Newsweek](#) (6/28, Miere), for example, reported that Homan "effectively conceded that a claim that helped propel Donald Trump toward the White House was, as the president might put it, 'fake news,'" and [BuzzFeed](#) (6/28, Flores) that he "appeared to undercut his boss."

[Business Insider](#) (6/28, Mark) said Homan "appeared to break with one of...Trump's key campaign assertions on Wednesday, suggesting he didn't believe immigrants in the country illegally commit more crimes than Americans." In an "off-camera briefing," Homan said, "Did I say aliens commit more crimes than US citizens? I didn't say that. ... I'm saying, number one, they're in the country illegally. They already committed one crime by entering the country illegally. But when they commit a crime against a citizen of this country, they draw our attention." Business Insider added that "the statement contrasts with Trump's frequent insistence that immigrants living in the country illegally present a public safety threat to Americans, and his insinuations that illegal immigration and crime are linked."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/28, Miller) reports that Horman also "teared up at a White House press briefing Wednesday describing how he found a dead five-year-old boy in the back of a tractor trailer smuggling illegal immigrants – one of the often overlooked victims of lax immigration laws, he said." Homan and US Attorney for Utah John W. Huber "appeared before the White House press corps to help make the case for the House bills that have strong backing by...Trump."

Suspected Killer Of Virginia Muslim Girl An Illegal Immigrant Accused Of Sexual Assault. [The Federalist](#) (6/28) reported that "the suspect charged with the kidnapping and murder of a Muslim girl in Reston, Virginia earlier this month had been accused of sexually assaulting a woman in front of a child one week before." Darwin Martinez Torres, "a 22-year-old man from El Salvador who entered the United States illegally, was detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement after he allegedly kidnapped" and killed "17-year-old Nabra Hassanen while she walked with her friends to the All Dulles Area Muslim Society mosque." An unnamed "woman" claims "he sexually assaulted her in front of a child" one week earlier, but she "decided not to press charges, telling authorities she was afraid of her attacker," who she "said...was a member of the gang MS-13."

Amid Trump Sparring With Media, Video Shows Van Jones Calling Russia Story “Nothing Burger.”

Following the release of footage showing a CNN producer dismissing the Trump-Russia story as “bullsh*t,” conservative media yesterday highlighted a new video featuring remarks by former Obama aide and CNN contributor Van Jones. The [Washington Times](#) (6/28, Richardson) reports “CNN was hit Wednesday with a second undercover video, this one” showing Jones “calling the Russia controversy a ‘nothing burger.’” [The Hill](#) (6/28, Concha) said “Jones appears to recognize the person he is speaking to, but does not seem to know he is being taped.” The Hill added that “‘Van Jones’ quickly began trending on Twitter after O’Keefe released the video through his personal Twitter account,” and [Mic](#) (6/27, Alcorn) pointed out that “conservatives on Twitter spent Wednesday afternoon celebrating the release of new video.”

[Politico](#) (6/28, Gold) reports “Trump and his allies believe he’s gained a tactical advantage in his war with the media,” amid “an escalation of Trump’s strategy of citing media bias to rally conservatives and undecided voters around the idea that the investigations of Russian influence in the 2016 election are media-driven and politically motivated.” Tucker Carlson said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (6/28), “How wonderfully revealing this exchange is. The Russia story is a nothing burger? We knew that. If only they admitted as much on CNN. But in private, they know it, too.” Sean Hannity said on [Fox News’ Hannity](#) (6/28) that Jones, who is “constantly smearing and slandering the President,” might “have some explaining to do.” Hannity went on to reiterate his call for CNN President Jeff Zucker to be held accountable, arguing that he “is leading all the fake new circus at CNN” and “all the blame for what is happening at CNN should be on his shoulders.” On [Fox News’ The Five](#) (6/28), Kimberly Guilfoyle called the Jones video “another layer to the CNN problem,” adding that “the network [is] under siege.”

Deputy assistant to the President Sebastian Gorka said on [Fox News’ Hannity](#) (6/28), “If you look at how the media has spun the story, the latest Harvard poll says that more than 70 percent of Americans don’t trust the media. Why? Because of these false, fake news, propaganda products like Russian collusion. Let me give you an example. We’ve had six months of Russia, from places like CNN, and then they try to say that we are going to go to war with Russia and Syria? Either we are in bed with Moscow or we want to go to war with them. Which one is it? They are schizophrenic.” Gorka added that the news organizations in question “may not be able to win their reputation back. ... The house of cards has crumbled because they can’t see beyond their political agendas, and the people see through it. Thanks to the President and his Twitter, he can just short-circuit all of it.”

[Newsweek](#) (6/28, Price) noted “a CNN spokesman responded to Newsweek’s request for comment by email saying: ‘LOL.’” [Business Insider](#) (6/28, Tani) says “the dismissive reply came after observers pointed to Jones’ frequent public comments saying he believes the Russia investigation will likely not yield any evidence of collusion.” [WND](#) (6/28, Unruh), which said Jones “agrees with...Trump” on “the Russia scandal,” had “previously attacked Trump over the ‘Putin relationship.’” The [Washington Times](#) (6/28, Richardson) reports that “in a Dec. 18 CNN segment included on the Project Veritas footage, Mr. Jones criticized the Trump administration for reaching out to Russia ‘in the face of an active attack on the country.’” However, “more recently, he tried to warn off Democrats fixated on the Russia-Trump connection. In a June 23 video Q&A on Twitter, Mr. Jones said he was ‘glad there is a Russian investigation and I hope they get to the bottom of it,’ but also expressed skepticism.” Jones said at the time, “Unless there is a real smoking gun, which there is probably not, it’s just going to be a big old mess.”

To the [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/28, Ng), “CNN has become a point of obsession among many conservative activists who see the network as their prime ideological foe for its coverage of President Trump.” The Times adds that “some of their motivation stems from left-wing attacks on Fox News that resulted in the firing of host Bill O’Reilly in April and a failed effort to unseat Sean Hannity after he pushed a right-wing conspiracy theory that Democratic National Committee staffer Seth Rich may have been killed because he provided emails to WikiLeaks.” Matt Vespa, meanwhile, writes for [Townhall](#) (6/28) that “since the inauguration, Russia has been mentioned in CNN’s coverage of the Trump White House 15,694 times,” despite the fact that “there is zero evidence that there was any collusion between the Trump campaign and Russian intelligence operatives during the 2016 election. None.”

Greg Gutfeld said on [Fox News’ The Five](#) (6/28), “It’s not a nothing burger, it’s a nothing caviar. I will defend Van Jones in the sense that I don’t think he was never on the Russian-Trump thing, the narrative of the network. Definitely, they are pushing this. But he always seemed more measured. ... I don’t think he’s being a hypocrite. So I have to praise him for being consistent

off-camera and on camera.”

Juan Williams said on [Fox News' The Five](#) (6/28), “I think this is an overreaction. I’m amazed at anybody thinking the media doesn’t make mistakes. ... They made a mistake, and guess what, we know networks, and we know newspapers that have had to retract stories and haven’t fired people and having apologized.” Williams added, “When I look at the reality of Trump putting up fake Time magazine covers, I think fake news. When I hear about Trump saying Obama was spying on him during the campaign and he can’t prove anything, fake news. When he says, guess what, I’ve got tapes on James Comey, and there’s no such thing, I think fake news.”

The [Washington Post](#) (6/28, Farhi) reports that Project Veritas “has been repeatedly criticized for intentionally deceptive editing...and O’Keefe has a criminal record from an effort to illegally infiltrate a Democratic senator’s office.” The Post adds that “the video includes several journalistic evasions and shortcuts that would likely elicit outrage from critics if a mainstream news organization had employed the same techniques.”

Gingrich: CNN Should Appoint Outsider To Investigate Its Coverage. [Breitbart](#) (6/28, Kew) reported that Newt Gingrich told Fox and Friends that “should appoint an outside analyst, somebody of impeccable authority like Michael Mukasey, who used to be Attorney General of the United States, to view everything of CNN and basically reset it. ... You cannot get to a believable network while Zucker is there. He clearly made a gamble last year to be the leading anti-Trump network, he’s clearly done things that are absurdly wrong. I like lots of the people at CNN, I worked with them for a while. There are some very, very good people at CNN, they have a very long tradition of being good journalists. But the culture of the overall system right now is very toxic.”

Trump: #AmazonWashingtonPost Is “Fake News.” [USA Today](#) (6/28, Estepa) reports, “Have we just witnessed the creation of a new Trump nickname?” Yesterday, the President “[tweeted](#) about the Washington Post and Amazon: ‘The #AmazonWashingtonPost, sometimes referred to as the guardian of Amazon not paying internet taxes (which they should) is FAKE NEWS!’” To [The Hill](#) (6/28, Fabian), meanwhile, Trump “is escalating his attacks on the news media as he struggles to advance his agenda in Congress and grapples with the wide-ranging probe into whether his associates colluded with Russia in its efforts to influence the 2016 presidential election.”

The [New York Times](#) (6/28, Cohen) reports on what it terms Trump’s “angry tweet,” concluding that he “may not have meant to, but on Wednesday he seemed to endorse a longer reach for the tax collector.” To the Times, “The White House did not elaborate. But one possibility is that Mr. Trump was thinking of a proposal to allow state governments to force internet retailers to collect sales taxes from their customers. The bill — called the Marketplace Fairness Act — has been pushed for years by brick-and-mortar retailers like Walmart, which have been losing ground as e-commerce has grown.” The proposal “not only is anathema to anti-tax advocates but also would seem to be at odds with Mr. Trump’s own promise that ;we are going to be cutting taxes massively both for the middle class and for companies.”

Blitzer Asks WHCA Chief About “Potentially Dangerous” Trump Anti-Media Rhetoric. [Breitbart](#) (6/28, Key) reports that on his CNN program on Wednesday, Wolf Blitzer asked White House Correspondents’ Association President Jeff Mason “if he has discussed the ‘potentially very dangerous’ issue” of President Trump “calling the media ‘enemies’ of the American people with the White House communications team.” Mason replied, “That type of rhetoric is something that we have spoken about since he first said that. ... That is rhetoric that we reject and is just not something that I think is helpful to the public discourse.”

CNN Report: “Officials Struggle To Convince Trump That Russia Remains A Threat.” In a story headlined “Officials Struggle To Convince Trump That Russia Remains A Threat,” [CNN](#) (6/28, Murray, Bash) reported that “the Trump administration has taken no public steps to punish Russia for its interference in the 2016 election,” and that “multiple senior administration officials said there are few signs the President is devoting his time or attention to the ongoing election-related cyber threat from Russia.” Asked “whether Trump was convening any meetings on Russian meddling in the election,” a “senior administration official” said, “I’ve seen no evidence of it.” CNN also reported that “some in Trump’s own party believe he hasn’t done enough to repudiate Russia’s actions,” and quotes Sen. John McCain to that effect.

Burr Aims To Complete Intel Committee’s Russia Probe By Year’s End. [Politico](#) (6/28, Samuelsohn) reports Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr told reporters Wednesday that his panel is aiming to finish its probe of Russian interference in the 2016 election “by the end of this year and plans to double the number of witness interviews to nearly 90 before lawmakers break for the August recess.” Burr said, “I’d like to finish by the end of this year, but

that's aspirational right now. ... It can be done." Burr added, "We've got a very aggressive schedule in July. ... We may double the number of interviews by the time we leave for the August recess based upon our schedule."

[Bloomberg News](#) (6/28, Dennis, House) says the investigation "is now focused sharply on financial transactions involving the president's associates – with the committee searching for improprieties in more than 2,000 documents it has received from the Treasury Department's financial crimes unit." Meanwhile, Sen. Mark Warner, the ranking Democrat on the panel, "told reporters that the committee is entering a higher profile phase where they plan to interview associates of President Donald Trump who have been mentioned in the press as having possible ties to Russians."

Warner: Intel Panel Has Agreement To Get Comey Memos. Warner confirmed Wednesday that the committee has an agreement to get former FBI Director Comey's memos concerning his conversations with the President, the [AP](#) (6/28, Jalonick) reports. Warner told reporters, "We have a commitment to get appropriate access to the Comey memos. ... I'm pleased, I think it's critical information we have to have as part of our review process."

Kasowitz Postpones Plan To File Complaint Against Comey. [The Hill](#) (6/28, Fabian) cites a Bloomberg report which said that President Trump's personal attorney, Marc Kasowitz, "is postponing a plan to file a complaint against former FBI Director James Comey." Bloomberg said Kasowitz "still plans to file the complaint," which "was supposed to have centered on Comey's testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee, in which he admitted to arranging for his accounts of conversations with Trump to be provided to the news media," but the [New York Post](#) (6/28, Fredericks), also citing the Bloomberg report, said the delay is "'a professional courtesy' to Robert Mueller, the former FBI chief who is heading the probe." According to Bloomberg, a source said the White House "wants to send a signal that Mueller will have 'space' to do job."

Several GOP Senators Admonish Obama Over Russia's Election Meddling. [Politico](#) (6/28, Bennett) reports that during a hearing of the Senate Intelligence Committee Wednesday, several Republicans "admonish[ed] former President Barack Obama for failing to stop Russia's hacking of the 2016 presidential campaign, echoing a narrative that President Donald Trump has promoted in recent days." Sen. Tom Cotton said, "He stood idly by in the 2016 election," while Sen. Jim Risch argued, "I'm talking about somebody that could have done something while this was going on." Political adds, however, that "not all Republicans said Obama was singularly to blame." For example, Sen. Susan Collins "argued that while Obama's reaction was 'behind-the-scenes, ineffective and tardy,' Trump has not been any better."

Athena Jones said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/28), "Never in modern times has there been such a sustained public display of animosity by a President towards his predecessor as we are seeing now with Trump's frequent attacks on President Obama."

Schiff: Trump Should Confront Russia Over Election Meddling. Rep. Adam Schiff, ranking Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, addressed Trump's criticism of Obama on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (6/28), saying, "Of course this is a continuation of the President's strategy to try to demean, downplay the investigation. The irony this week which is so inescapable is the President is criticizing his predecessor for not doing more to speak out on Russia, at the very time the President, the current President, is refusing to speak out on Russia." Schiff said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (6/28) that Trump "should confront Russia over what they did. He should be plain that it won't be tolerated again, that there will be severe repercussions, and second, he ought to be leveling with the American people and say, look, this is what Russia did. If they do this again, Democrats and Republicans need to come together and we all have to reject it no matter who it helps or who it hurts. It has to be rejected."

Burns Criticizes Obama, Trump Administrations Over Russia Threat. [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/28) reported "former diplomats told a Senate panel" that the Obama Administration's response to Russia's election interference wasn't proportional. Former Ambassador Nicholas Burns told lawmakers, "We should've had a more immediate response that was painful to the Russians." Fox's Catherine Herridge added that witnesses "pointed to the French elections where the government moved quickly and publicly after suspected hackers targeted Emmanuel Macron." Rep. Jason Chaffetz said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/28) that the Obama Administration believed Hillary Clinton was on her way to winning the election, "and when you think your team is going to win, you just let it slide."

Meanwhile, [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/28) reported that Burns "raised some serious concerns that President Trump is not doing enough on Russia." Burns was shown stating, "I find it dismaying and objectionable that President Trump continues to deny the undeniable fact that Russia launched a major cyberattack against the United States regardless of what party he

launched it against." [Reuters](#) (6/28, Zengerle, Volz) quotes Burns as saying, "Russia's going to do this again. ...Russia's our most dangerous adversary in the world today, and if he continues to refuse to act, it's a dereliction of the basic duty to defend the country."

Burns said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/28) that while "all of our intelligence services agree" that Russia conducted a massive cyber attack, "for six months the President has done nothing. He has not initiated an investigation into what happened. He's not had conversations with his cabinet officials to ask them what they think happened. He's not been talking to the European governments" that are "also victims...of Russian cyber attacks."

Sen. Mark Warner, the ranking Democrat on the panel, said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/28) that he agrees with Burns, adding, "I just don't understand why this president won't accept the unanimous conclusion of his entire intelligence community," foreign leaders, and "every Democrat and Republican senator I know."

Rep. Jim Himes said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/28) that the President and his Administration are "not taking the Russia threat at all seriously. Perhaps it's because this President happens to have a soft spot for Russia. There's plenty of evidence for that to be true. He clearly regards any talk of Russia as undermining his claim to the presidency of the United States, and that's why he's called this a hoax."

Sara Murray said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/28) that "multiple senior officials say they struggle" with Trump's refusal to engage on the issue of Russia's interference. "Administration officials" claim "there is really no paper trail, no schedules, no read outs, no briefing documents, nothing to indicate the president is convening meetings or round tables on this subject." Murray added that sources have told CNN's Jim Sciutto that NSA Director Rogers "actually expressed to lawmakers how frustrated he is that he can't convince Trump to even accept US intelligence that Russia meddled in the election."

McMullin: GOP In Danger Of Becoming Putin-Aligned Party In US. In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (6/28), former CIA operations officer Evan McMullin, who ran as an independent candidate in the 2016 presidential election, argues that the GOP "is at risk of becoming the Vladimir Putin-aligned party in the United States." While "increasingly sophisticated Russian influence and cyberoperations threaten Americans' ability to choose their own leaders," Trump "continues to sow doubt about whether Moscow even interfered in the 2016 presidential elections and to suggest the question's insignificance by ignoring it all together." Trump, he adds, "seems more interested in protecting Moscow than he does in deterring its future attacks."

Stone To Testify Before House Intel Committee Next Month. Manu Raju reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/28) that former Trump campaign adviser Roger Stone will testify behind closed doors to the House Intelligence Committee next month. Stone reportedly said "he is more than willing to go before the...committee to answer any questions they may have about his – what he says are brief interactions with the Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak."

FBI Investigating Russian Cybersecurity Firm For Potential Espionage In US. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/28, story 5, 2:35, Llamas) reported the FBI is investigating employees of Kaspersky Lab, the Russian-based cybersecurity company whose software is "widely used in American businesses, government, and maybe even your home." The Bureau is looking into the company's potential ties to the Kremlin over concerns its software could be used to spy on Americans. DNI Coats gave a "stark assessment" at a recent Senate Intelligence Committee meeting. Sen. Marco Rubio: "Would any of you be comfortable with Kaspersky Lab software on your computers?" Coats: "A resounding no from me." ABC (Thomas) added that the company has at least three executives with past ties to the KGB or Russian military, but its CEO, Eugene Kaspersky, "rejects any claim that his company is or would allow itself to be a tool of the Russian government."

Manafort Made \$17 Million Working For Ukrainian Political Party. The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/28, story 3, 2:35, Mason) reported that President Trump's former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort registered this week as a foreign agent, revealing that "he made \$17 million in two years while working for a Ukrainian political party sympathetic to the Russian government." CBS (Garrett) added that Manafort worked for the Party of Regions, "a political party in Ukraine with ties to the Kremlin," from "2012 to 2014, but until this week, he did not disclose his activities as required by US law."

McCaskill Used Personal Foundation To Pay For Dinner At Kislyak's Residence. The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (6/28, Scher) reports that Sen. Claire McCaskill "used a personal foundation to pay for a dinner she attended at Russian ambassador Sergey Kislyak's Washington, D.C., residence." McCaskill made the payment "through a foundation, the Shepard Family Foundation, that she set up with her husband Jon Shepard in 2013 but failed to disclose in filings to the Senate ethics committee until three weeks ago." Guy Benson writes about the payment on

[Townhall](#) (6/28) and asks, "can we prove that Claire McCaskill is doing Moscow's bidding? Nyet, but think of the seriousness of the allegation, and consider her multiple layers of deception on these issues. Very suspicious (#impeach)." Benson adds that "Democrats who've fed into groundless hysteria deserve ruthless ridicule."

Trump Sounds Optimistic Note On Healthcare Bill, Predicts "Great, Great Surprise."

President Trump's optimistic tone on the prospects for Senate passage of a bill repealing Obamacare sparked mostly skeptical media analyses. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/28, story 2, 2:40, Karl) showed the President saying, "Healthcare is working along very well. You're going to have a great surprise, with a great healthcare package." To ABC, "at this point, victory would be a big surprise." The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/28, Westwood) notes that Trump added, "We're going to have a great, great surprise."

The [New York Post](#) (6/28, Schultz, Fredericks) reports Trump "mysteriously promised Americans 'a big surprise,'" and [Politico](#) (6/28, Nelson) notes that he also said that "by postponing the vote...Republicans 'have given ourselves a little bit more time to make it perfect.'" [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/28, story 2, 2:30, Holt) reported that despite Trump's optimism, "after seven years of promising to repeal Obamacare and six months of GOP control of the White House and Congress, a new reality is starting to sink in."

The White House, the [Washington Times](#) (6/28, Miller) reports, reiterated that Trump "remained confident that he would get a bill to repeal and replace Obamacare through Congress." Said White House Deputy Press Secretary Sarah Sanders, "It's really simple. Republicans have been talking about doing this for a number of years and they are committed to getting it done. ... You are talking about it as if it is over. It is certainly not. ... This is part of the process."

CNN's Acosta: Trump "Appeared To Be Bracing For A Potential Defeat." Jim Acosta said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/28) that Trump "is not sounding so sure about victory in the healthcare debate" and "appeared to be bracing for a potential defeat."

Trump On Reports He's Not Involved In Healthcare Debate: "Fake News Media" Is "Wrong." Moreover, [Roll Call](#) (6/28, Bennett) reported the President yesterday "pushed back against reports that he has not taken a hands-on role in crafting the measure or garnering ample votes to pass it." He "used one of his typical morning [tweets](#) to lash out at a narrative that has emerged in recent days, including a [New York Times](#) piece posted online Tuesday evening, describing the president as not heavily involved" in Senate Majority Leader Mitch "McConnell's efforts." Trump "tweeted that some 'Fake News Media' outlets are painting him as 'not totally engaged in healthcare,' adding that assessment is 'Wrong.'" Another [Roll Call](#) (6/28, Bennett) piece quoted Sanders describing "Trump as 'fully engaged'...after multiple media reports describing him as taking a more hands-off approach than he did both times House Republicans took a swing at a health care overhaul measure."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/28, Persons) reports Sen. John Thune also "said Wednesday that...Trump is involved in the health care talks, despite reports that he's actually removed from the negotiations." Thune told [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (6/28), "The President has been very involved. He's engaged with individual members that have specific concerns they want addressed. He's engaged in our entire conference as you saw yesterday."

WPost A1: "Trump Loyalists" And "Seasoned Senators" Offer Differing Takes On Healthcare Bill Meeting. On its front page, the [Washington Post](#) (6/28, Costa, Sullivan, Eilperin, Snell) looks at "how the push for a Senate health-care vote fell apart" amid Republican tensions, writing that "nearly everyone" who took part in a meeting between Trump and GOP senators "had a different take" on the Tuesday session. While "White House officials and Trump loyalists saw a president diving in to patch up strife and save" the legislation, "some seasoned senators...saw a president unable to grasp policy details or the obstacles ahead." Trump's remark that he would understand if senators failed to pass a bill "prompted some senators to exchange concerned glances during the meeting," with some saying it "had the same ring as his comment a week earlier about the House's health bill being 'mean.'"

NYTimes: Trump Ruined Chance For Bipartisanship By Pursuing ACA Repeal. The [New York Times](#) (6/28, Steinhauer) reports that in the wake of Trump's election win, several Democratic senators "began the search for common cause with the unlikely new president." GOP lawmakers, meanwhile, thought "Trump's win in nine states where Democratic senators are up for re-election next year would scare those lawmakers into acceptance of a Republican agenda, perhaps even voting to repeal" the Affordable Care Act. The Times says that instead of "taking advantage of his honeymoon phase to pick an issue on which Democrats from conservative states might be amenable," the President "raced toward the most partisan corner of the room, pushing to repeal

the" ACA "with no input from Democrats, in a manner that has proved deeply unpopular."

Revived Travel Ban To Take Effect Today.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/28, story 2, 0:20, Mason) reported President Trump's "partial 90-day ban on travel from six mostly Muslim nations goes into effect" on Thursday. The [AP](#) (6/28, Lee, Caldwell) reports that the Administration on Wednesday "set new criteria for visa applicants from six mainly Muslim nations and all refugees that require a 'close' family or business tie to the United States." While approved visas "will not be revoked," instructions issued by the State Department "say that new applicants from Syria, Sudan, Somalia, Libya, Iran and Yemen must prove a relationship with a parent, spouse, child, adult son or daughter, son-in-law, daughter-in-law or sibling already in the United States to be eligible." Refugees awaiting approval for admission would be subject to the same requirement. In addition, a legitimate business relationship must be "formal, documented and formed in the ordinary course rather than for the purpose of evading" the ban.

Sudanese Activists In Egypt In "Legal Limbo" Following Supreme Court Ruling. The [AP](#) (6/28, Rohan) reports that following the Supreme Court's partial reinstatement of the ban, dozens of Sudanese activists in Egypt, who "were close to approval for resettlement in the United States, now face legal limbo." Many fear for their safety in Egypt "because Sudanese agents operating in the country under tacit Egyptian approval regularly threaten them and their families, sometimes targeting them with violence."

GOP Lawmakers Say Ginsburg Should Recuse Herself From Travel Ban Case. The [Washington Times](#) (6/28, Swoyer) reports that more than 50 House Republicans have demanded that Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg recuse herself from the travel ban case, "saying she's already shown she can't be an impartial jurist when it comes to Mr. Trump." Citing Ginsburg's claim during last year's campaign that "she worried for the country should Mr. Trump be elected, and accus[ed] him of being 'a faker,'" the lawmakers "fired off a letter saying that creates a situation where her 'impartiality might reasonably be questioned' – the standard laid out in law for a justice to drop out of a case."

Cohn: "Pass-Through" Businesses Pose "Toughest Issues" For Tax Reform.

During a White House meeting with representatives from energy-industry groups on Wednesday, White House economic adviser Gary Cohn said "that the 'toughest issues' on tax reform that policymakers are dealing with relate to 'pass-through' businesses whose income is taxed through the individual code," [The Hill](#) (6/28, Jagoda) reports. Cohn said, "The personal side is relatively easy and the corporate side is relatively easy." But, "there's a big group in the middle, pass-through entities, which is really tough, but that group is really important." According to Cohn a decision has not been made on what the Administration will "do with pass-throughs in tax reform but [it] has received a lot of feedback on the topic."

Business Groups Urge Congress To Resolve Spending Disputes To Set Stage For Tax Reform.

[Reuters](#) (6/28, Gibson) reports that the US Chamber of Commerce, Business Roundtable, the National Association of Manufacturers, and the National Federation of Independent Businesses have written to Congress to urge lawmakers "to settle their differences on government spending so they can move forward on overhauling the U.S. tax code in the next year." The groups wrote, "In our view, given the historic opportunity before Congress, no other reforms under consideration rise to the importance of pro-growth, comprehensive tax reform." [The Hill](#) (6/28, Jagoda) quotes the letter as saying, "We understand that the Senate is actively considering health care legislation, but it is important that the House start the budget process now, so that reconciliation instructions will be available to move tax reform legislation expeditiously."

Republican Divisions Thwart Black Plan To Move Forward With Budget.

[Politico](#) (6/28, Bade, Ferris) reports that while House Budget Committee Chairwoman Diane Black "was set to stick it to her reluctant colleagues and forge ahead with her conservative fiscal blueprint — even without House GOP leadership's blessing," the decision, which was "made in a closed-door Republican budget panel huddle last Thursday, fell through after Black delivered that message to GOP leaders, who wanted more time to strike a deal with the broader and deeply divided Republican conference." Now, lawmakers are set to leave town for a recess "having once again missed their goal to finish writing a budget...by July 4." Black, [Politico](#) adds, finds herself "caught between a committee stocked with fiscal hawks eager to cut the deficit, whom she

sympathizes with, and GOP chairmen loath to go along with her ambitious plan for curbing Pentagon spending and mandatory programs like food stamps.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“The False Premise Behind G.O.P. Tax Cuts.” A [New York Times](#) (6/29) editorial says that “with the Senate effort to upend Obamacare suspended for the Fourth of July holiday, there’s a chance to step back and examine the assumptions behind Republicans’ longstanding objections to the social safety net — as well as the flaws in those assumptions.” The Times argues that “in the next decade, higher spending on low-income health programs is expected to be offset by lower spending on other low-income programs. So total federal spending on people struggling to get by is projected to hold steady. That is not lavish. And it is not an excuse for tax cuts that deprive tens of millions of people of health insurance.”

“Political Clarity After The Grenfell Tragedy.” The [New York Times](#) (6/29) editorializes that “there are disasters that enter history as much for the political mark they leave as for the death and destruction they wreak. ... And such may be the Grenfell Tower fire for Prime Minister Theresa May, and more broadly for the infatuation with austerity and deregulation of British governments for the past four decades.” The Times argues that “more important, perhaps, is that Grenfell Tower offers tragic evidence that the British state, in its relentless pursuit of less government, has gone too far in shedding its fundamental duties to protect public health and safety. That is where the political and moral investigation must start.”

Washington Post.

“Republicans, Step Away From The Brink.” The [Washington Post](#) (6/28) editorializes that “if both sides sat down in good faith, there would be a wide range of possible compromises” on healthcare legislation. Senators “could work off the Cassidy-Collins plan, which is not preoccupied with cutting taxes and allows states that want to keep the Obamacare system to do so, while letting others try a different course.” Also, “in any compromise scenario, Democrats would seek commitments that health-care markets would be properly subsidized and administered, and Republicans would seek some loosening of Obamacare regulations, particularly if doing so allowed younger people to buy bare-bones coverage. That is grounds for an obvious trade.”

“Texas’s New Law On Immigration Policy Is A Blow To Good Policing.” The [Washington Post](#) (6/28) editorializes, “At a stroke, Republicans in Texas enacted a law this spring that undercuts law enforcement chiefs in the state’s biggest cities and amounts to a frontal assault on the Hispanic population.” The law “threatens police chiefs, sheriffs and other officials with fines, removal from office and even imprisonment if they take steps to impede officers from questioning the immigration status of people they arrest or detain, including those stopped for minor traffic violations — even if they’re not charged with a crime” — and is “in some ways more draconian than Arizona’s notorious ‘show me your papers’ law.”

“Would More Evidence Have Changed The Catherine Fuller Case’s Outcome? We’ll Never Know.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/28) says the Supreme Court recently refused to grant a new trial for those convicted of the 1984 murder of Catherine Fuller, determining “that while the prosecution withheld information from the defense, it wouldn’t have made a difference in the outcome.” The Post says “we will never know” whether “evidence presenting an alternative theory of the crime with an alternative suspect would not have caused reasonable doubt in one or more jurors.” The Post says that this uncertainty “reinforces the need for reforms that give defense attorneys open access to all evidence collected during the investigation of a crime.”

Wall Street Journal.

“The Republican Party?” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/28) says in an editorial that Republican moderates are behaving like liberals by backing away from the Senate healthcare bill’s efforts to reform Medicaid. Arguing that that Republicans always campaign on the idea of cutting federal spending, shrinking government, and making it more efficient, the Journal says this is their best opportunity in a generation to do so.

“The Trump Labor Board’s List.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/28) says in an editorial that the NLRB made radical decisions during President Obama’s tenure, and with Emanuel and fellow Trump nominee Marvin Kaplan on the board, it will be able to start undoing them.

“Seattle Workers Pay For The Minimum Wage.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/28) editorializes

that a recent Seattle-commissioned study by the University of Washington on the city's implementation of a minimum-wage climb to \$15 per hour proves the obvious law of economics that increasing labor costs will lead to fewer hours worked. The Journal calls Seattle Mayor Ed Murphy's promotion of a UC Berkeley study purporting to find no adverse affects of the wage hike an attempt to avoid reality, as he requested an advance copy when he heard the negative Washington study was set to come out.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Fed's Stress Tests: All Banks Cleared On Payouts To Shareholders](#)
[Markets Jittery As Central Banks Signal End Of Easy Money](#)
[Nike Thought It Didn't Need Amazon—Then The Ground Shifted](#)
[Chopper Flight Leaves Venezuelans Mystified](#)

New York Times:

[In McConnell's Own State, Fear And Confusion Over Healthcare Bill](#)
[As Affordable Care Act Repeal Teeters, Prospects For Bipartisanship Build](#)
[Hacks Raise Fear Over NSA's Hold On Cyberweapons](#)
[Ukraine Cyberattack Was Meant To Paralyze, Not Profit, Evidence Shows](#)
[Phil Jackson Is Out As Knicks President](#)
[Amid Turkey's Purge, A Renewed Attack On Kurdish Culture](#)

Washington Post:

[Health Bill Set For Fast Rewrite](#)
[Anti-ISIS Strategy Looks Like Obama's](#)
[Division, Mistrust Undercut GOP Push On Signature Issue](#)
[DC's Poor Are Left Out Of Supermarket Surge](#)
[They Fled To Safety, And Were Forced Back](#)

Financial Times:

[Carney And Draghi Struggle To Clarify Stimulus Exit](#)
[Cyber Attack Hits Global Businesses And Ukraine](#)
[Macron Invites Trump To Bastille Day Celebrations](#)

Washington Times:

[Obama-Appointed Judges Dismiss Supreme Court Ruling, Continue Blocking Trump's Immigration Crackdown](#)
[Awkward Talks Ahead As Trump Seeks Pressure On North Korea From South's Dovish President](#)
[Hong Kong's Festive Spirit Tempered 20 Years After Handover From Britain To China](#)
[Pelosi Holds On To Leadership Post, But Democrats Searching For Successor](#)
[Sounding Alarm On Terror Threats, DHS Says New Security Demands For Flights To US Are Just A Start](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Severe Weather-Tornadoes; Healthcare Reform Bill; New Flight Security Policy; Heat Wave-Wildfires; Russian Cybersecurity Company-Possible Hacking; Baltimore Bus Shooting; Venezuela Political Crisis; Cyber Attacks; Shark Warning; Central Park Explosion Investigation; Fireworks Recall; Colorado Bear Scare; Charity-Car Giving.

CBS: New Flight Security Policy; Immigration Order; Russia Meddling Investigation-Manafort; Healthcare Reform Bill; Syria-US Deployment; Florida Police Violence; Heat Wave-Wildfires; Urban Air Pollution; Guardrail Defect Lawsuit; Severe Weather-Tornado; Flu Vaccine-Skin Patch; Suicide Prevention.

NBC: New Flight Security Policy; Healthcare Reform Bill; Heat Wave-Wildfires; Low Gasoline Price; Central Park Explosion Investigation; Cyber Attacks; Syria-Missing US Journalist; Health-Gene Testing; Hot Car-Kid Alarm; Paddington Bear Author Dies.

Network TV At A Glance:

New Flight Security Policy – 7 minutes, 20 seconds

Healthcare Reform Bill – 5 minutes, 30 seconds

Heat Wave-Wildfires – 3 minutes, 30 seconds

Weather – 1 minute, 20 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Immigration Order; Healthcare Reform Bill; Severe Weather-Tornadoes; Heat Wave-Wildfires; Australian Bishop-Sex Abuse; Wall Street News.

CBS: Immigration Order; New Flight Security Policy; Healthcare Reform Bill; Heat Wave-Wildfires.

FOX: Immigration Order; New Flight Security Policy; Healthcare Reform Bill.

NPR: New Flight Security Policy; Healthcare Reform Bill; ABC-Beef Manufacturer Lawsuit; Samsung US Plant.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Gives remarks at the Unleashing American Energy event; has dinner with President Moon of the Republic of Korea.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Introduces the President at the Unleashing American Energy event.

US Senate: 7:00 AM Senate Armed Services Committee marks up National Defense Authorization Act – Closed markup hearing on 'National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018' * Conducted at the secret level Location: Rm 222, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

9:00 AM Senate Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee Executive Session – Executive Session, to consider 'S. 1405, Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2017', 'S. 875, To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study and submit a report on filing requirements under the Universal Service Fund programs', 'S. 1426, United States Center for Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017', and 'S. 1393, Jobs for Our Heroes Act', and nominations of Vice Adm. David Pekoske to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, Robert Sumwalt III to be a National Transportation Safety Board member, and Derek Kan to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy Location: Rm 106, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

9:30 AM Senate Agriculture Committee hearing on the 2018 Farm Bill – Hearing on 'Conservation and Forestry: Perspectives on the Past and Future Direction for the 2018 Farm Bill', with testimony from U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Deputy Chief of Programs Jimmy Bramblett; USDA Farm Service Agency Conservation and Environmental Programs Division Director Misty Jones; Delta Wildlife Chairman Paul Dees; Downey Ranch's Barb Downey; Ohio Farm Bureau Federation Executive Vice President Adam Sharp; tree farmer Dr Salem Saloom; F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Company Vice President and General Manager Chuck Roady; The Nature Conservancy North America Region Director of North America Forest Restoration Dr Christopher Topik; and Horning Farms' Steven Horning Location: Rm 216, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://agriculture.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM NASA acting administrator testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on FY'18 budget – Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on 'Review of the FY2018 Budget Request for NASA', with testimony from NASA Acting Administrator Robert Lightfoot, Jr. Location: Rm 192, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations of Stephen Elliott Boyd to be Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs, John Kenneth Bush to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, Kevin Christopher Newsom to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, and Damien Michael Schiff to be a U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judge, plus 'S. 1312, Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2017' and 'S. 1311, Abolish Human Trafficking Act of 2017' Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee hearing on housing finance reform – Hearing on 'Principles of Housing Finance Reform', with testimony from Mortgage Bankers Association President and CEO David Stevens; Financial Services Roundtable Housing Policy Council President Edward DeMarco; and Center for Responsible Lending President Michael Calhoun Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://banking.senate.gov/>

10:15 AM Senate Appropriations subcommittee part-classified hearing on FY'18 Congressional budgets – Legislative Branch Subcommittee hearing on 'Review of the FY2018 Budget Requests for the Senate Sergeant at Arms, U.S. Capitol Police', with testimony from Senate Sergeant at Arms Frank Larkin; and U.S. Capitol Police Chief Matthew Verderosa * Unclassified session in Rm 124, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg immediately followed by classified session (for Members and staff with Top Secret clearance only) in SVC-217 Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

12:00 PM Senate Environment and Public Works Business meeting – Business Meeting to consider the following items: PN 560, Annie Caputo, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; PN 562, David Wright, of South Carolina, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission; PN 460, Susan Parker Bodine, of Maryland, to be Assistant Administrator of the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance of the Environmental Protection Agency; Substitute amendment to S. 822, the Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development Act of 2017; S. ___, the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act of 2017; S. 1359, John F. Kennedy Center Reauthorization Act of 2017; Substitute amendment to S. 810, a bill to facilitate construction of a bridge on certain property in Christian County, Missouri, and for other purposes; S. 1395, a bill to revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in Delaware; 5 General Services Administration resolutions. Location: 406 Dirksen

2:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

US House: 8:45 AM Dem Rep. Nydia Velazquez speaks at Music Education Rally on Capitol Hill – Music Education Rally on Capitol Hill to advocate for music education, with remarks from Democratic Rep. Nydia Velazquez. Over 300 music educators, including over 100 collegiate music education majors, are expected to attend Location: Capitol Steps (Senate side), Washington, DC <http://www.nafme.org/> <https://twitter.com/NAfME>

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee markup hearing – Health Subcommittee markup hearing on 'H.R. 767, Stop, Observe, Ask and Respond (SOAR) to Health and Wellness Act of 2017', 'H.R. 880, Military Injury Surgical Systems Integrated Operationally Nationwide to Achieve ZERO Preventable Deaths Act (MISSION ZERO) Act', 'H.R. 931, Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2422, Action for Dental Health Act of 2017' Location: Rm 2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM EESI co-hosts briefing on 'Protecting America's Water Amid Growing Threats' – 'Protecting America's Water Amid Growing Threats' Hudson River Sloop Clearwater / Clean Water Action / Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) briefing, featuring Democratic Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, Hip Hop Caucus Senior Vice President of Climate, Environmental Justice and Community Revitalization Mustafa Ali, original Hudson Riverkeeper John Cronin, Union of Concerned Scientists President Kenneth Kimmell (invited), former New York State Department of Health Epidemiological-Spatial Analyst Aaron Mair, Stony Brook University School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences Professor Michael Frisk, Hudson River Sloop Clearwater Board Chair Betsy Garthwaite, Arent Fox attorney and partner Les Jacobowitz, The River Project Marine Ecologist Jeffrey Levinton, Earth Conservation Corps Interim Managing Director Brenda Lee Richardson, Stony Brook University Acoustic Laboratory for Ecological Studies Associate Professor Joseph Warren, Tinya Seeger – daughter of folk singer Pete Seeger, and other Members of Congress Location: HVC 200, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.eesi.org/ <https://twitter.com/eesionline> #eesitalk

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee oversight hearing on oil and gas development on federal lands – Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'Examining Access to Oil and Gas Development on Federal Lands', with testimony from Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management Katherine MacGregor; New Mexico Oil and Gas Association Executive Director Ryan Flynn; Utah Governor's Energy Advisor Dr Laura Nelson; and University of Colorado Law School Professor Mark Squillace Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Ways and Means subcommittees joint hearing on Social Security coverage and payroll tax compliance – Social Security Subcommittee and Oversight Subcommittee joint hearing on 'Complexities and Challenges of Social Security Coverage and Payroll Tax Compliance for State and Local Governments' Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

10:00 AM House Small Business subcommittee hearing on SBA 504 Loan program –

Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access Subcommittee hearing on 'A Review of SBA's 504/CDC Loan Program', with testimony from Business Finance Group Senior Vice President Wayne Williams; National Association of Development Companies (NADCO) President and CEO Barbara Vohryzek; and Seedcopa Managing Director Sherwood Robbins Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

10:00 AM House Space subcommittee hearing on in-space propulsion – Space Subcommittee hearing on 'In-Space Propulsion: Strategic Choices and Options', with testimony from NASA Associate Administrator for Human Exploration and Operations William Gerstenmaier, and Associate Administrator for the Space Technology Mission Directorate Stephen Jurczyk; American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Electric Propulsion Technical Committee Chair Dr Mitchell Walker; Ad Astra Rocket Company founder and CEO Dr Franklin Chang-Diaz; Aerojet Rocketdyne's Joe Cassidy; and MSNW Director of Propulsion Research Dr Anthony Pancotti Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on international antitrust enforcement – Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law Subcommittee hearing on 'Recent Trends in International Antitrust Enforcement', with testimony from Covington & Burling Antitrust and Competition Law Practice Group Co-chair Deborah Garza; Global Antitrust Institute Director Koren Wong-Ervin; Heritage Foundation Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies Deputy Director Alden Abbott; American Antitrust Institute Associate General Counsel Randy Stutz; and New York University School of Law Professor of Trade Regulation Eleanor Fox Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee legislative hearing – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee legislative hearing on legislation including a draft bill entitled 'To improve the hiring, training, and efficiency of acquisition personnel and organizations of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes', with testimony from Deputy Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction Jan Frye; Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Executive Director of Small and Veteran Business Programs Tom Leney; Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States National Legislative Service Associate Director Patrick Murray; The American Legion National Veterans Employment and Education Division Director Joseph Sharpe, Jr.; and National Veterans Small Business Coalition member Wayne Simpson Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee markup hearing – Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee markup hearing on 'H. Res. 185, Calling on the Government of Iran to fulfill repeated promises of assistance in the case of Robert Levinson, the longest held United States civilian in our Nation's history', 'H. Res. 218, Recognizing the importance of the United States-Israel economic relationship and encouraging new areas of cooperation', 'H. Res 274, Condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights', 'H. Res. 317, Calling for the unconditional release of United States citizens and legal permanent resident aliens being held for political purposes by the Government of Iran', 'H. Res. 359, Urging the European Union to designate Hizballah in its entirety as a terrorist organization and increase pressure on it and its members', and 'H.R. 2646, United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Extension Act' Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

10:30 AM Markup hearing on 'FY 2018 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill' and 'FY 2018 Defense Appropriations Bill' Location: Rm 2359, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

11:30 AM House Workforce Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 986, Tribal Labor Sovereignty Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2776, Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act', and 'H.R. 2775, Employee Privacy Protection Act' Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

12:00 PM House expected to vote on No Sanctuary for Criminals Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of 'H.R. 3003 – No Sanctuary for Criminals Act', and consideration of 'H.R. 3004 – Kate's Law' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee legislative hearing – Economic Opportunity Subcommittee legislative hearing on legislation including draft bills entitled 'To amend title 38,

United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish assistance for adaptations of residences of veterans in rehabilitation programs under chapter 31 of such title, and for other purposes' and 'To amend title 38, United States Code, to permit appraisers approved by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make appraisals for purposes of chapter 37 of such title based on inspections performed by third parties' Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

2:00 PM Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee markup hearing on FY 2018 Appropriations Bill Location: H-140, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

3:00 PM Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee markup hearing on FY 2018 Appropriations Bill Location: Rm 2358-C, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

7:00 PM ERLC / Alliance Defending Freedom event on 'Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia v. Comer' SCOTUS decision – 'Capitol Conversations with ERLC and Alliance Defending Freedom: The Supreme Court's Trinity Lutheran Decision' event, with a panel of Republican Rep. Vicky Hartzler, Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware executive director Kevin Smith, Southern Baptist Convention Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission president Russell Moore, and Alliance Defending Freedom senior counsel and vice president of U.S. litigation David Cortman discussing the U.S. Supreme Court decision in 'Trinity Lutheran Church of Columbia v. Comer' * Earlier this week, SCOTUS ruled (in a 7-2 decision) that Missouri's decision to deny the church state funding for its playground violated the Free Exercise Clause Location: Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.adfmedia.org

Other: 8:30 AM Dem Rep. Carolyn Maloney speaks at Women in Government Relations breakfast – Women in Government Relations Financial Services Task Force hosts breakfast and discussion with Democratic Rep. Carolyn Maloney Location: Control Point Townhouse, 458 New Jersey Ave SE, Washington, DC <http://www.wgr.org> <https://twitter.com/WGRDC>

8:30 AM Data Transparency Coalition annual DATA Act Summit – Data Transparency Coalition annual DATA Act Summit, bringing together the Congressional supporters of the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014, the lead implementers from the Departments of the Treasury and Health and Human Services, OMB, and the General Services Administration, tech companies, nonprofit transparency advocates, and grantees and contractors. Speakers include Republicans Sen. James Lankford and Reps. Darrell Issa and Blake Farenthold, Democratic Rep. Gerry Connolly, President's Special Assistant for Innovation Policy and Initiative Matt Lira, and Fiscal Assistant Secretary of the Treasury David Lebryk Location: The Mayflower, 1127 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.datacoalition.org/> <https://twitter.com/DataCoalition>

9:00 AM Atlantic Council / Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung event on 'Disinformation' – Atlantic Council #DisinfoWeek event – 'Disinformation: The Next Frontier and How to Strike Back', co-hosted with the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and featuring panels on the threat of Russian influence in Europe, the next frontier in digital disinformation, and how to strike back. Includes keynotes from Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy and former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, with other speakers including Republican Rep. Will Hurd, The McCain Institute for International Leadership Executive Director Kurt Volker, State Department Office of Analytics, Bureau of International Information Programs Deputy Director Dr Jennifer Lambert, European Parliament Committee of Foreign Relations Head David McAllister, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Washington Office Head Nico Lange, and Atlantic Council President and CEO Frederick Kempe Location: Atlantic Council, 1030 15th St., NW, Washington, DC www.atlanticcouncil.org <https://twitter.com/AtlanticCouncil> #DisinfoWeek

9:00 AM Dem Rep. Ro Khanna speaks at Atlantic Council Southeast Asia Center – Atlantic Council Southeast Asia Center hosts dialogue with Democratic Rep. Ro Khanna, who addresses his proposed bill centered on reforming the H-1B and L-1 visas for high skilled workers Location: Atlantic Council, 1030 15th St., NW, Washington, DC <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/> <https://twitter.com/AtlanticCouncil>

12:00 PM GOP Sen. Luther Strange keynotes 'Securing the Border' discussion at Heritage Foundation – Heritage Foundation hosts 'Securing the Border and Protecting Our Communities' discussion, with keynote from Republican Sen. Luther Strange, who discusses 'the extent of the problem and his new proposal to address it' in regards to Sanctuary Cities and their 'harmful side effects' Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

12:00 PM Qatari foreign minister speaks at Arab Center Washington DC – Arab Center Washington DC hosts discussion on 'Resolving the Gulf Crisis: Challenges and Prospects', with

Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al Thani Location: JW Marriott, Washington, DC arabcenterdc.org <https://twitter.com/ACWDC>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Stephen Colbert: "While they've pulled the bill, Republicans say they're going to come back with something better. So, they're going to...what do you call it? Repeal and replace their bill."

Stephen Colbert: "Our presidential elections are one thing, but how dare you hack our drugs and our cookies? That's how we cope with the results of our presidential election, okay?"

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw yesterday Republican senators took buses to the White House to meet with Trump about healthcare. You can tell which senators actually read the bill, 'cause they were the ones buckling their seat belts."

Seth Meyers: "The Chicago Cubs made their second visit to the White House today. Wow! Two White House visits in one year. Who do they think they are, the President?"

Seth Meyers: "The Fox and Friends showered Trump with so much praise they're starting to sound like the helicopter parents of a private school kid."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Missoulian (MT): Zinke: National Bison Range To Remain Under FWS Management.
- Lake Powell (AZ) Chronicle: Zinke: No Decisions Made On National Monuments.
- Politico: Murkowski To Have Cabinet Members In Front Of Her Committees Soon.
- Wilmington (DE) News Journal: Opinion: Trump's Budget Cuts Will Hurt Interior Department.

America's Great Outdoors

National Park Service

- Associated Press: Washington Monument To Display Plaque From Ireland.
- Forbes: Glacier National Park May Lose Glaciers In Upcoming Decades, Study Says.
- RV Daily Report: National Park Service Reflects On Fallen Rangers During Police Week.
- Rockport (TX) Pilot: Rockford, Texas Resident Has Photo Featured On National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass.
- Country Living: Additional Coverage: Yellowstone Offers Reward For Information About Shooting Of Rare White Wolf.
- Associated Press: Low-Income Families Invited To Grand Teton National Park.
- Hot Springs (AR) Sentinel-Record: Garland County Historical Society Pays Tribute To First NPS Ranger Killed While On Duty.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Denver Post: Activist Groups File Lawsuit To Block Construction Of Rock Flats Visitor Center.
- The Verge: Hawaiian Plant Extinction Prevention Program Faces Budget Cuts.
- KWPC-AM Muscatine (IA): Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge Hosting Bird Festival.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Law360: BLM, Conservation Groups Settle Utah Land Use Plans.
- Lake Powell Life: Ex-BLM Head Tells US House Committee National Monuments Hurt Local Economies.
- Deming (NM) Headlight: Council Members, Senators Upset By Interior's Suspension Of Resource Advisory Councils.

US Geological Survey

- KBOI-TV Boise (ID): Idaho USGS Researchers Measure Flow Of Boise River.

Securing America's Energy Future

Offshore Energy Development

- The Hill: Panetta: Trump's Offshore Order Attacking Legacy Of Protecting Marine Sanctuaries.

Onshore Energy Development

- Fuel Fix (TX): BLM Looking For Ways To Speed Up Application Process.
- Alaska Journal of Commerce: Alaska Seeks Revised Rules For National Petroleum Reserve From Interior Department.
- Politico: Groups Ask FERC To Halt Construction Of Rover Pipeline.
- Arkansas Democrat Gazette: New Natural Gas Pipeline To Cross Arkansas River.
- Bloomberg News: Lack Of Fracking Crews May Push Oil Production Increases To 2018.

Renewable Energy

- Fuel Fix (TX): US Less Attractive For Renewable Energy Investment.
- NPR: Philadelphia Seeks To Add More Rooftop Solar.

Empowering Native American Communities

- The Seventy Four: GAO Report Criticizes Bureau Of Indian Education.
- Associated Press: Bureau Of Reclamation Says South Dakota Tribe Repaid \$54K In Questionable Costs.
- Rome (NY) Sentinel: SCOTUS Denies Challenge To New York Land Trust Decision.
- Muskogee (OK) Phoenix: Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Testifies Before US House Appropriations Subcommittee.

Tackling America's Water Challenges

- Associated Press: Federal Government Approves \$400 Million Northern Colorado Reservoir.
- Salt Lake (UT) Tribune: Utah Town Seeks Restriction Of Popular Hiking Trail Due To Drinking Water Concerns.

Top National News

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- USA Today: Trump Tells USCG Graduates "No Politician In History" Has Been Treated As Unfairly.
- NBC: Multiple Committees Seek Comey Testimony; Two GOP House Members Raise Impeachment.

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 - "The Special Counsel America Needs."
 - "China's Trillion-Dollar Foreign Policy."
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 - "Trump's Commission On Voter Fraud Is, Well, Fraudulent."
 - "A Note To Erdogan And His Thugs: You Can't Beat Up Protestors Here."
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- Wall Street Journal.
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Big Picture

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Washington Schedule

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Last Laughs

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DOI In The News

Bernhardt Faces Opposition As Nominee For Top Interior Spot.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/17) reports that, in "an eleventh-hour push," more than 100 environmental groups sent a letter to all senators calling for them to not support the confirmation of David Bernhardt as Interior Department deputy secretary. The groups argue that "Bernhardt's representation of oil, coal and mining companies during his career in private legal practice as a major conflict of interest that will jeopardize the nation's federal lands." In the letter, the groups argue Bernhardt "should not seek, accept or be granted any exemptions from issues that he may have a conflict." [The Hill](#) (5/17, Henry) predicts "a contentious confirmation hearing," with opponents "gearing up to scrutinize his professional history and the role he intends to play in a Trump Interior Department that had already ruffled feathers among greens and conservationists." Critics say that Bernhardt's lobbying makes him a "walking conflict of interest."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/17, Boxall) reports Bernhardt has a history of doing "lobbying and doing legal work to elude or undermine Interior Department policies and protections." As a partner in the lobbying-law firm of Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, Bernhardt "represented major players in oil, mining and western water – all areas that fall under the purview of Interior agencies that Bernhardt would oversee if confirmed." Environmentalists argue that Bernhardt either "would be unable to do his job" due to the many important issues he would have to recuse himself on or "will receive administration waivers to deal with them despite his history of representing department adversaries." Bernhardt's potential conflicts of interest are "likely to be a major focus of Bernhardt's confirmation hearing Thursday before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources."

The [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (5/17, Matthews), [EcoWatch](#) (5/17), and another [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (5/17, Boxall) article also cover this story.

Zinke: National Bison Range To Remain Under FWS Management.

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (5/17, Chaney) reports Interior Secretary confirmed his intention to keep the National Bison Range under US Fish and Wildlife Service management. FWS was "on track to transfer Bison Range management to" the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) "until the end of President Barack Obama's administration." Zinke said in a Wednesday press release, "As secretary, my job is to look 100 years forward at all of Interior's resources. I recognize the Bison Range is a critical part of our past, present and future, which is why I have changed course." Zinke announced April 12 his intention to revisit the transfer plan "and restart the Bison Ridge's comprehensive conservation plan," and Wednesday's announcement "expanded on that."

The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (5/17, Chaney) reports the Interior Department said in its news release that the agency "is committed to evaluating a range of options that include opportunities for the CSKT to take part in the future management."

Zinke: No Decisions Made On National Monuments.

The [Lake Powell \(AZ\) Chronicle](#) (5/17, Law) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was in Kanab, Arizona, last Wednesday after touring portions of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument with Kane and Garfield county commissioners. Zinke met with reporters in Kanab and emphasize that neither the Trump Administration nor the department had reached a conclusion on the possibility of rescinding or shrinking 27 of America's national monuments. He told reporters, "These are absolutely places that need to be protected, and that is our ultimate goal, to make sure the land is managed well." Zinke added, "Everyone wants to protect their culture and traditions. There are a lot of things we can do better." According to the article, Zinke "emphasized that he and the Department of the Interior are considering input from all parties involved from local governments."

Murkowski To Have Cabinet Members In Front Of Her Committees Soon.

The "Morning Energy" blog of [Politico](#) (5/17, Adragna) reported Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski "says she looks forward to hearing from the trio of relevant Cabinet members in front of her committees in the next few weeks." Murkowski "said Tuesday afternoon that she has penciled in days to bring Energy Secretary Rick Perry, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt up to Capitol Hill." Murkowski has "found the pace of nominations coming out of the White House 'problematic'" and "even people officially nominated aren't moving all that fast." At the Energy Department, "Trump announced Dan Brouillette as his pick for deputy energy secretary more than six weeks ago – but the White House did not officially send his nomination to the Senate until Tuesday." [E&E Daily](#) (5/17) also provides coverage.

Opinion: Trump's Budget Cuts Will Hurt Interior Department.

In the [Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#) (5/17, Hoff), Dr. Samuel B. Hoff, George Washington Distinguished Professor of History and Political Science and Law Studies Director at Delaware State University, writes that the Trump Administration's proposed budget cuts to the Department of the Interior "will impact national parks, conservation initiatives, and even national monuments on land and water." Over the objections of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Trump has outlined a 12 percent cut in the department's budget, approximately \$1.6 billion in lost funds. Hoff argues there is "no logical rationale for diminishing a department, which, through its supervision of natural resources, produces revenue for the federal government." Hoff also calls relaxing rules on energy exploration for federally protected lands "problematic for several reasons." The budget cuts will also "endanger national monuments."

America's Great Outdoors

National Park Service

Washington Monument To Display Plaque From Ireland.

The [AP](#) (5/18) reports the National Park Service on Thursday "will accept a plaque from the people of Ireland that will be hung in the staircase of the monument." The plaque "highlights the connection between the 2016 centennials of the park service and Ireland's Easter Rising." The monument's stairwell "has scores of commemorative stones, most of which were received in the mid-19th century," and the NPS says news donations are accepted "only in very rare circumstances."

Glacier National Park May Lose Glaciers In Upcoming Decades, Study Says.

[Forbes](#) (5/17, Nace) contributor Trevor Nace writes recent studies "present strong evidence that in the coming decades" Glacier National Park in Montana "will have none of the glaciers from which the park is named after." A United States Geological Survey and Portland State University study examined how 39 glaciers in the park have been impacted by warming temperatures in the previous decades. Since the monitoring began in 1966, "the glaciers have on average declined 39% with some glaciers declining as much as 85% of their previous extent." The study further estimates "that the contiguous United States will lose its glaciers by mid-century, impacting seasonal runoff from glaciers, streams, ecological systems, and biodiversity." The loss of the glaciers will "impact the park's tourism and thus its budget and conservation effort."

National Park Service Reflects On Fallen Rangers During Police Week.

[RV Daily Report](#) (5/17) reports the National Park Service and the United States Park Police are remembering the service and sacrifice of 41 law enforcement rangers and 13 police officers who have fallen in the line of duty for Police Week. Charles Cuvelier, NPS Law Enforcement, Security, and Emergency Services (LESES) Division chief, said, "Our rangers face risk every day as they protect the nation's most treasured natural and cultural resources. Those who have fallen while honorably serving our country will not be forgotten." According to the article, there are approximately 2,300 National Park Service Law Enforcement rangers and United States Park Police officers "responsible for securing and protecting more than 84 million acres across 417 National Park Service locations."

Rockford, Texas Resident Has Photo Featured On National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass.

The [Rockport \(TX\) Pilot](#) (5/17, Woolston) reports Rockport resident Craig McIntyre's photo taken at the Arkansas National Wildlife Refuge was "chosen out of more than 16,500 entries as the grand prize winner" in the Department of the Interior's 2016 Share the Experience photography contest. McIntyre initially thought his victory "was a scam," but now his photo of a frog will be featured on the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands pass.

Additional Coverage: Yellowstone Offers Reward For Information About Shooting Of Rare White Wolf.

[Country Living](#) (5/17, Matthews) reports in additional coverage that Yellowstone National Park is offering a \$5,000 award for information leading to the arrest of the people responsible for mortally wounding one of the park's "most recognizable white wolves."

Low-Income Families Invited To Grand Teton National Park.

The [AP](#) (5/17) reports low-income families were invited to Grand Teton National Park's National Junior Ranger Day through the "Roll Into Readiness" program, which is part of a "six-organization community outreach effort that includes Teton Literacy Center and the Children's Learning Center." Programming for the event was provided in Spanish and English. Millie Jimenez, community engagement and volunteer coordinator for Grand Teton, said the event helps community members feel welcome in the park.

Garland County Historical Society Pays Tribute To First NPS Ranger Killed While On Duty.

The [Hot Springs \(AR\) Sentinel-Record](#) (5/17, Bryan) reports the Garland County Historical Society paid tribute on Tuesday to Hot Springs National Park Ranger James Alexander Cary, the first NPS ranger killed while on duty. Cary was killed by bootleggers on March 12, 1927. NPS Ranger Zach Summerlin gave a presentation about Cary, and "gave context to the shooting by pointing out that Raymond Hunt, arguably the most egregious offender in Ranger Cary's death, had been arrested by the park ranger prior to the incident." Hunt vowed that Cary would "never be able to testify" against him, and subsequently, he and four other bootleggers "met Ranger Cary on West Mountain and shot him following an altercation." Summerlin said the arrest of 35 suspects following the shooting "was the result of the loyalty and brotherhood among law enforcement."

Fish and Wildlife Service

Activist Groups File Lawsuit To Block Construction Of Rock Flats Visitor Center.

The [Denver Post](#) (5/17) reports community and activist groups filed a federal lawsuit on Wednesday to "block trail-building and construction of a visitor center at the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge, claiming that government officials have not adequately analyzed the environmental risks of opening the former nuclear weapons manufacturing site to the public." The groups allege that the US Fish and Wildlife Service has not "complied with the National Environmental Policy Act in moving forward with plans to begin building a visitor center at the 6,200-acre property 16 miles northwest of Denver as early as next month." David Lucas, refuge manager for FWS, "responded to the lawsuit by saying that construction of the visitor's center wasn't planned to start in June and that it hasn't been fully designed"

The [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (5/17, Brennan) reports Randall Weiner, a Boulder environmental law specialist who represents the plaintiffs in the suit, said, "Federal agencies have to comply with environmental statutes before they engage in significant actions that impact the

public." Mark Squillace, a professor specializing in environmental law at the University of Colorado School of Law and a former Department of Interior special assistant, said, "In my mind, there is little doubt they (Fish and Wildlife) at a minimum have to prepare an environmental assessment before they go ahead, and they have to engage the public."

Hawaiian Plant Extinction Prevention Program Faces Budget Cuts.

[The Verge](#) (5/17, Potenza) reports on Hawaii's Plant Extinction Prevention Program (PEPP), which "focuses on protecting Hawaiian plants that only have fewer than 50 individuals left in the wild." The future of the program is in peril because the bulk of its funding comes from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and in the past year, "the FWS funding has been cut by 50 percent, to about \$500,000." When the new fiscal year comes in October, even more cuts are expected. The cuts started in the previous administration, but "President Donald Trump is requesting a 12 percent cut to the Interior Department." Miel Corbett, FWS deputy assistant regional director of external affairs, said, "Our federal funding levels are decreasing and so our ability to continue to provide financial support to our partners is shrinking as federal budgets shrink," adding that it is "a reflection of the overall budget situation at the federal level."

Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge Hosting Bird Festival.

[KWPC-AM](#) Muscatine, IA (5/17, Mason) reports on its website that the Port Louisa National Wildlife Refuge Bird Festival will take place Saturday, May 20. A refuge biologist and trained volunteers will use mist-nets to capture songbirds, which will be banded and released.

Bureau of Land Management

BLM, Conservation Groups Settle Utah Land Use Plans.

[Law360](#) (5/17, Sieniuc) reports the Bureau of Land Management and conservation groups challenging six land use and travel management plans "on about 10 million acres in Utah administered by BLM asked a federal court on Tuesday to approve their deal to resolve the long-standing litigation, which includes new travel plans for site-specific areas."

Ex-BLM Head Tells US House Committee National Monuments Hurt Local Economies.

The [Lake Powell Life](#) (5/17) reports former BLM head Kathleen Clarke appeared before a US House committee and "blasted national monuments for harming local economies and communities' way of life." She told the committee, "Monuments have had significant and negative impacts on the traditional uses of these lands and on the lives and livelihoods of local populations." She added, "Landscapes don't disappear, but jobs do." The article mentions her position "contradicts the findings of two recent studies into the effects of monument creation."

Council Members, Senators Upset By Interior's Suspension Of Resource Advisory Councils.

The [Deming \(NM\) Headlight](#) (5/17, D'Ammassa) reports the US Department of Interior last week "abruptly suspended the activity of 200 natural resource advisory councils and national park committees that provide local input into federal management of public lands." The department explained in a statement, "To maximize feedback from these boards and ensure their compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act and the president's recent executive orders, the department is currently reviewing the charter and charge of each board/advisory committee." Council members were surprised by the suspensions of RACs. Randy Gray of Hillsboro, vice chairman of the Las Cruces District RAC, said, "We were just getting steam for making good recommendations, and now there is this hiatus. That was disappointing to me." New Mexico's US Sens. Martin Heinrich and Tom Udall "were among eight Democratic senators who signed a letter on May 11 to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke calling for reinstatement of RAC activity."

US Geological Survey

Idaho USGS Researchers Measure Flow Of Boise River.

On its website, [KBOI-TV](#) Boise, ID (5/17, Osumi) explains how the United States Geological Survey measures the flow of the Boise River. A hydrographer places a device in the water that "transmits how many cubic feet per second the water is traveling." To make sure the gauge is accurate, "crews have to make manual measurements, a task that isn't as easy as it may sound."

The data the USGS gathers “is used to make sure the permanent steam gage is accurate because so many people rely on the numbers it transmits.” Tim Merrick, Idaho USGS spokesperson, said, “The Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation are using data from this gage to make decisions about releases from Lucky Peak.”

Securing America’s Energy Future

Offshore Energy Development

Panetta: Trump’s Offshore Order Attacking Legacy Of Protecting Marine Sanctuaries.

Rep. Jimmy Panetta writes in the Congress Blog for [The Hill](#) (5/17, Panetta) saying that President Trump’s executive order to expand offshore drilling is “attacking a legacy of laws, leaders, and local communities that have long fought to prevent any attempts to drill for oil in our treasured marine sanctuaries.” Marine sanctuaries were designed to protect important and unique areas of the ocean, so there must be more than an “executive order by President Trump to turn back the clock on the incredible work done to establish these treasures.” Panetta says that for California, “it would take an act of Congress to open them up for oil exploration and exploitation.” He promises to “fight not only for our marine sanctuaries in California and across our nation, but also to preserve the many benefits that our oceans bestow upon our communities, country, and future generations.”

Onshore Energy Development

BLM Looking For Ways To Speed Up Application Process.

[Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (5/17, Osborne) reports that a drilling application backlog is hampering new oil and gas drilling on federal lands, as more than 3,000 applications for drilling permits are awaiting review at the Bureau of Land Management, according to E&E News. Acting Director Mike Nedd said the agency is working on several strategies to speed up the application process. He said, “It may be a strike team. It may be shifting the workload to a different office.” Neal Kirby, spokesman for the Independent Petroleum Association of America, said, “Every day that goes by while independent producers — companies with an average of 12 employees — wait for their permits to be approved means more money out of their own pockets.”

Alaska Seeks Revised Rules For National Petroleum Reserve From Interior Department.

The [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (5/17, Bradner) reports Alaska officials will urge Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “for a revamp of Obama administration rules restricting oil and gas development in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, state Natural Resources Commissioner Andy Mack said May 12.” Mack said in an interview, “We believe we can help BLM (Bureau of Land Management) in developing a new plan that is balanced,” between resource development and environmental protection. BLM would develop the new plan, as it manages the 23-million-acre petroleum reserve, “but Mack said the state hopes to be heavily involved.” The current management plan “was implemented in 2013 and placed large parts of the reserve into special conservation areas, effectively putting large areas off-limits to petroleum exploration and development.”

Groups Ask FERC To Halt Construction Of Rover Pipeline.

The “Morning Energy” blog of [Politico](#) (5/17, Adragna) reported that more than 110 organizations released a letter yesterday “morning asking FERC to halt all construction on the Rover Pipeline and reopen the project’s environmental impact statement in light of the recent spill of 2 million gallons of drilling fluid.” The letter “also asks FERC to review...its horizontal drilling regulations in general and pause all pipeline projects in its docket while undertaking that action.”

New Natural Gas Pipeline To Cross Arkansas River.

The [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (5/17) reports Enbridge Inc. said “a new pipeline to transport natural gas is scheduled to be installed under the Arkansas River between Little Rock and North Little Rock, near the site where a similar pipeline ruptured nearly two years ago.” The pipeline industry says that using a horizontal directional drill process to bury the pipeline well under the riverbed “will result in a safer natural-gas transportation and storage system, protecting it from the turbulence of the river as opposed to the existing pipelines, which are on the river floor.”

Lack Of Fracking Crews May Push Oil Production Increases To 2018.

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/17, Carroll, Wethe) reports the shale explorers that have been expanding oil production are struggling to find enough hydraulic fracturing crews after thousands were dismissed during the market downturn. Infill Thinking LLC said independent US drillers underspent their first quarter budgets by \$2.5 billion because many could not find crews to handle all the planned work. Infill's founder Joseph Triepke said that if the struggle to find workers continues, the output increases planned for the summer may be pushed into 2018, which could create an unanticipated production bulge. Some workers are even paying early termination fees to take higher paying jobs at other fields. EQT Corp CEO Steven Schlotterbeck said, "So we will get some penalty fees but that obviously is far less than the value of having the wells fracked on the schedule that we would have liked."

Renewable Energy

US Less Attractive For Renewable Energy Investment.

[Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (5/17) reports that accounting firm Ernst and Young says Administration plans to undo the Clean Power Plan and the possibility of dropping out of the Paris climate accords "could push renewable energy investors away from the United States." The US's Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index has fallen below that of China and India.

Philadelphia Seeks To Add More Rooftop Solar.

[NPR](#) (5/17, Phillips) reports new employment is growing in the solar industry, and "Philadelphia has a plan to take advantage of this trend, and get young people without college degrees into the field." As part of a city plan to create 10,000 green jobs in the next ten years, the nonprofit Philadelphia Energy Authority is seeking "proposals from solar companies to install panels on 500 rooftops in the city by the end of 2018." The Solarize Philly plan seeks to take advantage of economies of scale and "negotiate deals with equipment manufacturers to bring down the cost enough to allow moderate income homeowners to participate."

Empowering Native American Communities

GAO Report Criticizes Bureau Of Indian Education.

The [Seventy Four](#) (5/17, Phenicie) reports the Government Accountability Office has released its biennial report on fraud, waste, and mismanagement in federal programs, and this iteration "includes the federal government's management of Indian education, primarily its mismanagement of spending and facilities." The report says the Bureau of Indian Education "doesn't have appropriate policies for overseeing school spending, and officials charged with that task often don't have the requisite training."

Bureau Of Reclamation Says South Dakota Tribe Repaid \$54K In Questionable Costs.

The [AP](#) (5/17) reports the US Bureau of Reclamation said Wednesday that a South Dakota Native American tribe "has repaid roughly \$54,000 in costs questioned by auditors" and agreed to "increase oversight of financial reporting and agreements." The bureau's decision "came after an audit found the tribe claimed \$1.44 million in costs for the operation and maintenance of a water system that was unsupported, unallowable or unreasonable." Reclamation's Great Plains Regional Director, Michael Ryan, "says the bureau made the decision after a careful review of the audit findings."

SCOTUS Denies Challenge To New York Land Trust Decision.

The [Rome \(NY\) Sentinel](#) (5/17) reports the US Supreme Court on Monday denied a petition from a group of plaintiffs challenging "a New York federal judge's March 2015 ruling that Interior had reasonably decided to take thousands of acres in Oneida and Madison counties, including the Turning Stone Resort Casino in Verona and the Oneidas' 32 acres of reservation land in Madison County, into trust for the Oneidas." Interior placed the land into a trust "following the 2013 agreement with the state, Oneidas, and Oneida and Madison counties that settled trust land and tax issues."

Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Testifies Before US House Appropriations Subcommittee.

The [Muskogee \(OK\) Phoenix](#) (5/17) reports Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker testified before the US House Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, environment, and related agencies as “part of a tribal leaders’ panel invited to deliver comments on funding for American Indian/Alaska Native programs.” Baker discussed the “effect the budget cuts to the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of the Interior” and called for “a Bureau of Indian Education program equivalent to the Indian Health Service Joint Venture Construction Program.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges

Federal Government Approves \$400 Million Northern Colorado Reservoir.

The [AP](#) (5/17, Elliott) reports the US government gave final approval Wednesday “for a \$400 million dam and reservoir in northern Colorado where 13 cities and water districts will store water from the other side of the Continental Divide.” According to the AP, the Army Corps of Engineers “issued a permit for construction of the Chimney Hollow Reservoir in the foothills about 50 miles (80 kilometers) north of Denver.” A spokesman for the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District said it was the last approval the reservoir needs, and “construction could start in early 2019, after the district refines the plans, hires a project manager and awards contracts.”

Utah Town Seeks Restriction Of Popular Hiking Trail Due To Drinking Water Concerns.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (5/17, Maffly) reports town leaders of Kanarrville, the home of one of Utah’s busiest hiking destinations, “fear the recreational traffic could degrade the drinking water, which comes from a spring on a state trust section” located near waterfalls and is piped to tanks at Kanarra Creek canyon’s mouth. The Utah town is seeking a leasing deal with the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration “that would enable officials to severely limit the number of people hiking the scenic canyon, even though the trail crosses public lands.” However, the proposal concerns public access advocates, “especially if it’s approved without first exploring other options that don’t restrict access and figuring out whether recreational use is actually hurting the town’s water.”

Top National News

DOJ Names Mueller As Special Counsel To Investigate Russian Interference In Election.

The Justice Department announced late Wednesday that Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein appointed former FBI Director Robert Mueller as special counsel to lead the investigation into Russian interference in the presidential election. Media coverage overwhelmingly characterizes the announcement as a defeat for President Trump, while taking a favorable view of the selection of Mueller for the role. Indicative of the overall reporting, the [Washington Post](#) (5/17, Barrett, Horwitz, Zapotosky) characterizes the move as “a concession by the Trump administration to Democratic demands for the investigation to be run independently of the Justice Department.”

The [Washington Times](#) (5/17, Noble) reports Trump issued a statement about 90 minutes after the announcement in which he said, “As I have stated many times, a thorough investigation will confirm what we already know – there was no collusion between my campaign and any foreign entity.” The President added, “I look forward to this matter concluding quickly. In the meantime, I will never stop fighting for the people and the issues that matter most to the future of our country.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/17, lead story, 4:00, Muir) reported the White House was “blindsided” by the “bombshell announcement,” and Jonathan Karl said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/17, story 2, 0:40, Muir) that “they were completely taken off guard by this.” Karl added, “I’m told the senior staff of the White House didn’t get word of this until about 30 minutes before the news was shared with the news media.” Pamela Brown said on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (5/17) that Rosenstein “wanted to make sure he didn’t give a long advance warning to the White House and to the Attorney General, Jeff Sessions, about this decision to appoint Bob Mueller as special counsel.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/17, A1, Wilber, Viswanatha) says Rosenstein had previously indicated he did not see a need for a special counsel and indicated he felt the individuals currently involved in the probe were independent enough. The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/17, lead story, 4:00, Pelley) said “the tipping point came yesterday when it was revealed” that former FBI

Director Comey allegedly wrote in a memo that Trump asked him to stop investigating former National Security Adviser Flynn. [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/17) reported that "Mueller was at the Department of Justice last week" and that he met with Rosenstein a day after the Comey firing. CNN said Rosenstein was not ready to have a special counsel at that point, but that "clearly changed" after the reports regarding Comey's memo.

John Roberts said on [Fox News The Story](#) (5/17) that Trump's statement after the announcement made it seem "that he is completely comfortable with this, that he shows no worry about the fact that this has gone into the hands of the special prosecutor as opposed to the Deputy Attorney General at the Department of Justice." David Axelrod said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (5/17) that "if the President truly believes in his statement that his campaign and his associates and he will be cleared by such an investigation, then he should welcome this." Paul Begala said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (5/17) that the sentence missing from Trump's statement was, "I and my staff and my campaign will cooperate fully." Begala added, "He is making a huge mistake...by not volunteering that he will cooperate fully. ... The fact that he has not tells me something."

Roberts also said on [Fox News The Story](#) (5/17) that "for the White House, this is kind of a two-edged sword." Roberts said the decision "gets Democrats off their back," but "just three months into his presidency, a special prosecutor has been named to look into a lot of the dealings surrounding the Trump campaign." Jim Acosta said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/17) that "one thing we are going to have to be watching for is whether the President can show any restraint. Does he go after Bob Mueller if there is a day in the news he doesn't like?"

The [New York Times](#) (5/17, Ruiz) says that a special counsel "would remain ultimately answerable to Mr. Rosenstein – and by extension, the president," but he would "have greater autonomy to run an investigation than a United States attorney." [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/17, lead story, 2:50, Holt) reported that while Mueller will need to "get permission" from Rosenstein to "expand the investigation," it "seems like, at this point, if Mueller asks for something, he's going to get it."

Rosenstein said in a statement, according to [The Hill](#) (5/17, Williams), "In my capacity as acting attorney general I determined that it is in the public interest for me to exercise my authority and appoint a special counsel to assume responsibility for the matter." [Politico](#) (5/17, Gerstein) reports Rosenstein "stressed that the move to appoint a special prosecutor did not mean anyone involved acted illegally." Rosenstein said, "My decision is not a finding that crimes have been committed or that any prosecution is warranted."

The [AP](#) (5/17, Tucker, Gurman) and [Roll Call](#) (5/17, Ruger) indicate Rosenstein explained, "What I have determined is that based upon the unique circumstances, the public interest requires me to place this investigation into the authority of a person who exercises a degree of independence from the normal chain of command." The [New York Daily News](#) (5/17, Joseph) quotes Rosenstein as saying, "A special counsel is necessary in order for the American people to have full confidence in the outcome. Our nation is grounded on the rule of law, and the public must be assured that government officials administer the law fairly."

Steve Hayes said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (5/17) that "there are several reasons why Rosenstein had to take the step." Hayes added that Rosenstein "presumably" has seen Comey's memos. In addition, Hayes said Rosenstein "knows the status of the investigation more broadly and thought that this was the next logical step." Dana Bash said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (5/17) that according to "a senior Republican source," Rosenstein "was more and more agitated with the White House's actions and being put in the position that he had been put in, to the point where he was so angry, according to the source who was in contact with Rosenstein, that he was ready to, quote, pack his bags, last week."

In his [Washington Post](#) (5/17) column, Dana Milbank says Rosenstein's decision to appoint Mueller "redeemed his reputation, preserved the justice system, pulled American politics back from the brink – and, just possibly, saved the Republican Party and President Trump from themselves." Milbank says the first months of the Trump Administration "have tested the strength of America's democratic institutions," but "the good news is it appears those institutions are holding." However, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/17) editorializes that Rosenstein bowed to pressure from Democrats and the media.

The [Washington Post](#) (5/17, Gold, Helderman, Hamburger) reports Mueller "brings to his new role as special counsel a proven willingness to take on a sitting president." [Reuters](#) (5/17, Rascoe, Cowan) quotes Mueller as saying in a statement – [tweeted](#) by CBS News – "I accept this responsibility and will discharge it to the best of my ability."

The [New York Post](#) (5/17, Tacopino) says the appointment as special counsel means

Mueller, who will resign from the law firm WilmerHale, “has all powers of a federal prosecutor, including subpoena power.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/17, Tanfani) reports he will have authority to hire a staff and request a budget from the Justice Department, while [Townhall](#) (5/17, Vespa) says Mueller “will take command of the prosecutors and FBI agents who are working on the far reaching Russia investigation.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/17, story 4, 1:25, Muir) reported Mueller could decide to “start over” with the investigation. ABC added that Mueller “can now decide what he wants to do with all that information.” [Breitbart](#) (5/17, Mason) cites the [order of appointment](#) giving Mueller authority over the probe into “any links and/or coordination between the Russian government and individuals associated with the campaign of President Donald Trump,” “any matters that arose or may arise directly from the investigation,” and “any other matters within the scope of 28 C.F.R. §600.4(a).” Breitbart says 28 C.F.R. §600.4(a) “expands a special counsel’s jurisdiction to all crimes, such as perjury or obstruction of justice, that interfere with his original named responsibility.” According to the [CBS Evening News](#) (5/17, story 10, 0:50, Pelley), a probe into “all other matters that arise from that case” includes Trump’s “dismissal last week of FBI Director James Comey.”

Jeffrey Toobin said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (5/17) that Mueller “is an absolutely brilliant choice. There is no more respected figure in American law enforcement than Bob Mueller.” Mueller is, Toobin added, “someone of what unquestioned integrity. Extreme confidence.” Brit Hume said on [Fox News The Story](#) (5/17) that Mueller “is universally respected. His reputation as a totally straight shooter is widely recognized. He is the kind of grown-up who, in that job, may not feel compelled, as some previous special prosecutors have, to find a crime, whether one turns up at first or not.” The [New York Times](#) (5/17) editorializes that Rosenstein “has done the nation a service in choosing Mr. Mueller, one of the few people with the experience, stature and reputation to see the job through.”

The [Washington Post](#) (5/17, Sullivan, O’Keefe, Viebeck, Debonis) reports the approval of Mueller was “a rare moment of bipartisanship on Capitol Hill over a politically charged issue.” [USA Today](#) (5/17, Johnson) reports “key” Republican lawmakers and Democratic Senators “welcomed” the news. The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/17, story 4, 2:30, Pelley) similarly said “Democrats are hailing the appointment of a special prosecutor as a victory and a good first step, and the move will be welcomed by small but growing number of Republicans.”

Rep. Jackie Speier told [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (5/17) that the decision of Rosenstein “to identify a special counsel and name Robert Mueller is remarkable.” Speier added, “It took a lot of guts for him to make this decision and place someone with sterling credentials to take over this position.” Sen. Richard Blumenthal said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (5/17) that the appointment of a special counsel is a “very solid and significant step.” Blumenthal added, “Bob Mueller is someone with a history of expertise and experience with the guts and backbone to stand up and speak out against any kind of political influence.” Sen. Chris Coons told [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (5/17) that he was “encouraged” by the appointment. Coons added that Mueller’s “long record of service as a senior federal prosecutor and as former FBI Director, suggests that he’s exactly the sort of person that many of us hoped would be named for special counsel.”

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (5/17, McLaughlin, Harris) reports Rep. Jason Chaffetz [tweeted](#) that Mueller “is a great selection” with “impeccable credentials” and he “should be widely accepted.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/17, story 3, 2:25, Pelley) showed Chaffetz saying Mueller will “provide a great deal of comfort on both sides of the aisle. He’s a real professional. People will have great trust in him.” However, Chaffetz said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (5/17) that while Mueller is a good choice, “I also agree that I don’t think they actually should have appointed somebody.”

Rep. Adam Kinzinger said on [Fox News The Story](#) (5/17) that “this is the right thing.” Kinzinger said he “changed [his] mind” about the need for a special counsel when the information about Comey’s memo came out and he “saw this partisan hysteria.” Kinzinger added that he “came to the realization that an independent counsel, a special counsel, can take the heat off of this, can detox the partisanship of it.” Sen. James Lankford told [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (5/17) that the appointment is “positive” because “everyone wants to get to an answer” and “no one wants to see it drag on.” Lankford said on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (5/17) that he thinks “the decision was made to say we’ve got to have someone who is a prime mover and decision-maker that is unequivocally neutral and nonpartisan.”

However, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/17, Mascaro, Halper) reports some Republicans – who have “preferred to keep the investigation relegated to congressional committees” – were “less

enthused and slower to react." Senate Majority Leader McConnell said the appointment "confirms that the investigation into Russian intervention into our election will continue." House Speaker Ryan said his "priority has been to ensure thorough and independent investigations are allowed to follow the facts wherever they may lead" and the "addition of Robert Mueller as special counsel is consistent with this goal."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/17) editorializes that the appointment of a special prosecutor is "a much-needed shot of good news," but it "does not let Congress off the hook." The Post says that a special counsel's role "is only to look for criminal behavior" and prosecute it, as opposed to "inform the public or to pass judgment on actions that may have been unwise, inappropriate or unethical."

Reuters: Trump Campaign Had At Least 18 Previously Undisclosed Contacts With Russia.

[Reuters](#) (5/18, Parker, Landay, Strobel) reports in an exclusive this morning that "Michael Flynn and other advisers to Donald Trump's campaign were in contact with Russian officials and others with Kremlin ties in at least 18 calls and emails during the last seven months of the 2016 presidential race. ... The previously undisclosed interactions form part of the record now being reviewed by FBI and congressional investigators."

Putin Offers To Provide Transcript Of Russian Officials' Meeting With Trump. Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday said he would be willing to provide Congress with a record of Trump's Oval Office meeting with Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and Russia's ambassador to the United States if the request comes from the Trump Administration. The [Washington Times](#) (5/17, Miller) says Putin "mocked the news media furor in the US over alleged intelligence sharing." According to a report in RT, Putin "said no secrets were shared at the meeting," and said, "We are seeing in the US a developing political schizophrenia. ... There is no other way I can explain the accusations against the acting US president that he gave away some secrets to Lavrov." [USA Today](#) (5/17, Stanglin) quotes Putin as saying, "If the US administration considers it possible, we are ready to submit a transcript of Lavrov's talk with Trump to the US Senate and Congress, if, of course, the US administration would want this."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/17, Grove) reports that Putin said that Lavrov did not pass on any US secrets following the meeting, and joked that he would have to admonish him for not handing such secrets over to the Kremlin or intelligence services. The Journal cites the joke as evidence that Putin enjoys the turmoil gripping the US.

The [New York Times](#) (5/17, Higgins) reports that "the offer left everyone guessing about what kind of 'record' Mr. Putin has of his diplomats' meeting with Mr. Trump. Intentionally or otherwise, Mr. Putin muddied the waters by using a Russian word that can mean both audio recording and a written account." [Reuters](#) (5/17, Pinchuk, Osborn) reports, Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov, "told reporters that Moscow had a written record of the conversation, not an audio recording." The [Washington Post](#) (5/17, Roth) calls the Kremlin's offer "provocative" and says "the tactic may have more to do with attempts to sow further chaos in Washington than assuage suspicions about the talks." The [New York Times](#) (5/17, Higgins) likewise says that Putin's offer "suggested less an effort to create clarity over what Mr. Trump actually said in the Oval Office last Wednesday than a headline-grabbing assertion of his own authority and a reminder that he should not be ignored." In a separate story, the [Washington Post](#) (5/17, Wang) says lawmakers from both sides of the aisle "quickly brushed off — even laughed off" — Putin's offer.

Rubio: Person In Meeting Says Trump Didn't Compromise Intelligence. The [Washington Times](#) (5/17, Persons) reports that in an interview with [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) on Wednesday, Sen. Marco Rubio said that "he spoke with a person in the meeting between President Trump and Russian officials who said Mr. Trump didn't compromise intelligence information." Rubio said, "I didn't just speak to the White House, I spoke to one of the people that was in that meeting, and they vehemently and repeatedly denied that the president said or did anything that would've compromised US intelligence, its sources, its methods or our intelligence relationships around the world." Rubio added, "There are no transcripts of the meeting. There are notes, and I would imagine at some point here fairly soon the White House should make those notes available to the appropriate committees."

NYTimes Analysis: Trump "Far Less Forgiving" Of Other Recent Leaks. In an analysis, the [New York Times](#) (5/17, Qiu) says that while President Trump asserted his "'absolute right' to reveal highly classified information to Russian officials and defended his disclosure as a way to collaborate against terrorism," that stance "contradict[s] earlier positions on leaks." The Times describes Trump as "far less forgiving of recent leaks of government secrets," adding that he has offered "scathing assessments and suggesting harsh punishments."

In a piece for [USA Today](#) (5/17), James S. Robbins decries leaks and argues that "if anyone

was placing sources and methods in danger it was the anonymous intelligence official who put a neon sign on the key bit of information that ISIS should be paying attention to. Good job.” Robbins adds that “it is clear that some people are in the wrong line of work. Those who feel that it is their duty to criminally reveal secret information in the interests of hobbling the president should reexamine their priorities and their commitment to public service.”

In 2016, McCarthy Told Colleagues “I Think Putin Pays” Trump. The [Washington Post](#) (5/17, A1, Entous) reports that in a “private conversation on Capitol Hill with his fellow GOP leaders” a month before President Trump secured the GOP presidential nomination, House Majority Leader McCarthy “made a politically explosive assertion” that “Trump could be the beneficiary of payments from Russian President Vladimir Putin.” According to a recording of the June 15, 2016 conversation, McCarthy said, “There’s two people I think Putin pays: [Rep. Dana] Rohrabacher and Trump.” At that point, House Speaker Ryan “immediately interjected, stopping the conversation from further exploring McCarthy’s assertion, and swore the Republicans present to secrecy.” Ryan said, “No leaks...This is how we know we’re a real family here.” To the Post, the conversation provides a look at “the internal views of GOP leaders who now find themselves under mounting pressure over the conduct of President Trump.”

White House correspondent Hallie Jackson said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/17, story 2, 1:20, Holt) that the Post report on McCarthy’s comment is potentially “explosive” and “could do some real damage between the relationship between President Trump and Republican leaders.” Jackson added that “McCarthy told NBC News, it’s a bad attempt at a joke” and a spokesman for Ryan “echoed that, telling us tonight, ‘This entire year-old exchange was clearly an attempt at humor.’”

Flynn Told Trump’s Transition Team He Was Under Investigation. The [New York Times](#) (5/17, A1, Rosenberg, Mazzetti) cites “two people familiar with the case” who say former National Security Adviser Flynn “told President Trump’s transition team weeks before the inauguration that he was under federal investigation for secretly working as a paid lobbyist for Turkey during the campaign.” Flynn first disclosed the information to transition team attorney and now White House counsel Donald McGahn, and his lawyers told transition lawyers two days later. This, the Times adds, “shows that the Trump team knew about the investigation of Mr. Flynn far earlier than has been previously reported.”

Report: Flynn Stopped Attack On ISIS Opposed By Turkey. According to [McClatchy](#) (5/17, Bergengruen), one of the Trump Administration’s “first decisions about the fight against the Islamic State was made by Michael Flynn weeks before he was fired – and it conformed to the wishes of Turkey, whose interests, unbeknownst to anyone in Washington, he’d been paid more than \$500,000 to represent.” The decision, McClatchy says, came 10 days before Trump was sworn in during a conversation with Flynn’s predecessor, Susan Rice, who had explained the Pentagon’s plan to retake Raqqa with Syrian Kurdish forces. The Obama Administration “decided to ask for Trump’s sign-off, since the plan would all but certainly be executed after Trump had become president,” but according to “timelines distributed by members of Congress in the weeks since, Flynn told Rice to hold off, a move that would delay the military operation for months.”

Morrell Sees Three Lessons From Scandal. In a [Washington Post](#) (5/17) op-ed, former Deputy CIA Director Michael Morrell writes that the scandal provides “three lessons.” First, Trump “is actually paying attention to the intelligence community,” because he was “evidently able to recite to the Russians the Islamic State-related threat intelligence on which he had been briefed with a significant level of detail.” Second, National Security Adviser McMaster and his staff “are not succeeding in persuading Trump to work off of a set of carefully written and coordinated talking points when meeting with foreign officials” and are “not always willing or able to redirect the conversation between the president and foreign officials when it is heading into inappropriate areas.” Finally, “the leaks that led to The Post’s article on the issue have made matters worse.” As a result of the leaks, ISIS “may now be narrowing its search for the source or method of the intelligence on its attack plans.”

Trump Tells USCG Graduates “No Politician In History” Has Been Treated As Unfairly.

Coverage of President Trump’s [commencement address](#) at the US Coast Guard Academy focuses mainly on the President’s comments about how he is being treated unfairly by the media – remarks that are being criticized as self-pitying. [USA Today](#) (5/17, Jackson) reports, “On a brief escape from the political firestorm brewing in Washington, President Trump protested the media coverage of his four-month-old administration” in his address. Trump said, “No politician in history, and I say this with great surety, has been treated worse or more unfairly.” Trump “did not make specific references to the problems awaiting him back at the White House, but they are multiplying.”

The [New York Times](#) (5/17, Haberman, Thrush) says that the “embattled” President signaled with his remarks that he “will hunker down for a lengthy fight.” The [Washington Post](#) (5/17, Nakamura) says Trump “was clearly eager to address the controversies, using the second half of his commencement address to express his frustration in rhetoric just loosely cloaked as ‘advice’ for the new cadets.” He said, “Over the course of your life, you’ll find things are not always fair. Things happen to you that you do not deserve and are not always warranted, but you have to put your head down and fight, fight, fight. Never, ever give up. Things will work out just fine.”

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/17, story 3, 3:20, Muir), Mary Bruce said the President was “venting to the Coast Guard graduation class.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/17, Bierman) writes that while the speech “contained much of the traditional praise for the new graduates, and ceremonial pardons of their ‘oversights or slight violations,’ it was also laced with Trump’s hallmark defiance and boastfulness that put himself at the center.” [NPR’s All Things Considered](#) (5/17) reported, “The Coast Guard is famous for rescues at sea. President Trump used a graduation speech at the Coast Guard Academy today to try to right his own listing Administration.” The [New York Daily News](#) (5/17, Edelman) says Trump used the speech “to toot his own horn and complain about how he’s treated by the media.”

Gail Collins writes in her [New York Times](#) (5/17) column, “Wow, Donald Trump can’t even give a commencement speech to the military without making it all about him.” Sen. Tim Kaine referenced the song “You’re So Vain,” [tweeting](#), “You probably think this graduation is about you...” Washington Post conservative blogger Jennifer Rubin [tweeted](#), “Pathetic. What contempt they must have for this whining.” A [Daily Intelligencer](#) (5/17, Raymond) piece is headlined “Trump Keeps The Focus On Himself In Coast Guard Commencement Address,” while a story in the Guardian is headlined “Trump To Coast Guard: It’s Rough Out There... For Me.” The [Washington Times](#) (5/17, Miller) also covers the President’s remarks.

Multiple Committees Seek Comey Testimony; Two GOP House Members Raise Impeachment.

Several congressional committees are now seeking testimony and documents from former FBI Director Comey, and Republicans are vocally joining Democrats in seeking a complete investigation into President Trump’s interactions with Comey regarding former National Security Adviser Flynn and the FBI’s Russia probe. Coverage is extensive and highly negative toward the President, with many reports including speculation over impeachment. A major component of the coverage deals with the Republican reaction – GOP legislators have been reticent to defend Trump, and two have said that impeachment may be on the table.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (5/17, story 3, 3:05, Holt) reported that “congressional committees [are] anxious to put James Comey under oath to hear from him whether President Trump did, in fact, ask him to back off the Michael Flynn part of the Russia investigation.” House Oversight Chairman Jason Chaffetz wants a hearing next week while “three different congressional committees now demanding memos, recordings and clarity about the President’s conversations with” Comey. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/17, story 3, 3:20, Muir) reported both Democrats and Republicans want “Comey on the Hill testifying before the American people about what he wrote about his meetings with the President.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/17, story 4, 2:30, Pelley) reported that Sen. Lisa Murkowski “put out a statement saying that these White House crisis are eroding public trust, and that ‘it may be that we need the look to an independent commission or special prosecutor to regain that credibility.’”

The [New York Times](#) (5/17) reports that the Senate Intelligence Committee has invited Comey “to testify in both open and closed-door hearings, offering him the opportunity to address reports Mr. Trump asked him to scuttle the investigation into Mr. Flynn.” Ranking Democrat Mark Warner said, “I don’t think I know any member that I’ve talked to, publicly or privately, Democrat or Republican, that doesn’t think that Jim Comey deserves a chance to tell his side of the story.” [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (5/17) showed Warner saying, “I want to see the documents, I want to hear from Director Comey, and I want the FBI to come forward with any other relevant materials and then we can continue in a bipartisan way. We’ll follow the intel and the facts.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/17, Mascaro) reports, “The committee hopes to have a response from the FBI within 72 hours, and expects to hear from Comey soon, possibly next week.”

[McClatchy](#) (5/17, Goldstein, Wise) reports, “Washington went into full-blown crisis mode Wednesday as the controversies surrounding” Trump “ballooned into questions about whether the president might be guilty of obstruction of justice. ... With Trump scheduled to embark on his first foreign trip Friday, fears were high that another shoe might drop. Some experts suggested the

president cancel his travels, but there was no indication such a dramatic step was even being considered." The [Washington Post](#) (5/17, Weigel, DeBonis) reports, "For much of a frenzied day, Democrats and Republicans were asked not just whether there needed to be further investigations of the president, but whether impeachment...was on their minds."

The [Washington Post](#) (5/17, Viebeck, Sullivan, DeBonis, Kane) reports that congressional Republicans "are increasing pressure on the administration to produce records related to the latest string of controversies involving President Trump, amid flagging confidence in the White House and a growing sense that scandal is overtaking the presidency." The Senate Judiciary Committee has "also asked the White House to provide any records of interactions between Trump officials and Comey, including audio recordings." Chairman Charles Grassley told [Politico](#) (5/17, Wright, Kim), "We need all those memos. We're going to try to get not just the Comey memo as you heard in my letter, but all memos, all communications between everybody – Comey, and other people in the hierarchy – and throughout the organization, wherever we have to, and over a long period of time."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/17, Tau, Andrews, Epstein) reports that Republican leaders are playing active roles in all of these inquiries, and [USA Today](#) (5/17, Kelly, Collins) says congressional Republicans "appeared to be digging in Wednesday for a long investigation of President Trump." House Speaker Ryan said, "Now is the time to gather all of the pertinent information. Our job is to be responsible, sober and concentrate on gathering the facts." The [Washington Times](#) (5/17, Dinan) reports that Ryan "said the House will pursue its investigation 'regardless of which party is in the White House.'" Amber Phillips writes in the [Washington Post](#) (5/17) "The Fix" that Republicans "face a difficult choice: Do they keep giving the president the benefit of the doubt that he's done nothing improper? Or do they take concrete steps to get more evidence, wherever it may lead?"

The [Washington Times](#) (5/17, Noble) reports that "following explosive reports" on the Comey memo, "members of Congress are now seeking records kept by the former director about his communications with the president. Given Mr. Comey's penchant for documenting what he considered to be controversial conversations or requests, there might be a lot to turn over." The [New York Times](#) (5/17, Ruiz) writes that "for law enforcement officials like Mr. Comey, who was fired last week as the director of the FBI, documenting sensitive conversations is a reflex – and in keeping with the habits of diligent lawyers." Charles Lane of the [Washington Post](#) (5/17) writes, "Today's lesson in How Washington Really Works begins with the 11th Commandment: 'Thou shalt retain documentation of all communications with the boss.' If anyone understands that, it's James B. Comey." [USA Today](#) (5/17, Johnson, Jackson) writes that "by firing the FBI director...Trump has unleashed a formidable rival who may finally outdo him. An untethered James Comey is now the single greatest threat to his young administration."

House Intelligence Committee ranking Democrat Adam Schiff told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/17) that we "don't know enough yet to conclude" whether Trump obstructed justice. He said, "The very best evidence, if it exists, would be any tape recorded conversations as the President threatened he had. The next best evidence would be any memoranda that Director Comey produced and his own testimony." Schiff said on [ABC's Good Morning America](#) (5/17), "We don't really know what took place here and we need to find out." Schiff said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (5/17), "I think there are questions that go to a legal standard which will mostly revolve around what the President's intent was. ... But then as a very practical question and that is in the context of, you know, a potential removal from office, would the country, would the Congress, both Democrats and Republicans, view the President's conduct as so serious to be disqualifying?"

Sen. Tim Kaine was asked on [CBS This Morning](#) (5/17) if Trump's actions are close to obstruction of justice. Kaine said, "If the facts are as they are alleged, yes it would get close to obstruction of justice." Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/17) that Trump's actions are "a textbook prima facie case of attempted obstruction." Sen. Joe Manchin said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (5/17), "The Intel Committee will get the facts. We'll get the facts and go from there. I'm not going to speculate until I see the facts."

Sen. Susan Collins said on [CNN's New Day](#) (5/17) that the Senate Intelligence Committee "is vigorously pursuing all of the allegations involving Russian influence on the campaign, including the vital question of whether there was collaboration between any member of the Trump campaign and the Russians." Sen. Marco Rubio said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (5/17) that it is "inevitable" and "inescapable" that Comey "will have to testify before the Congress. I imagine before the Judiciary Committee, and he's going to have to turn over these notes and anything else that he kept, and we'll go from there."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/17) says in an editorial that both Comey and the White House

should release any records or tapes, and says it was foolish of Trump to discuss the Russia investigation with Comey.

Amash, Curbelo Become First Republicans To Mention Impeachment. On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/17, story 3, 3:20, Muir), Mary Bruce reported that Rep. Justin Amash became the first Republican to say that “if the allegations in the Comey memo are true, it could be an impeachable offense.” [USA Today](#) (5/17, Kelly, Collins) says Amash “was the first Republican lawmaker to raise impeachment publicly,” though [The Week](#) (5/17) reports that GOP Rep. Carlos Curbelo’s spokeswoman “made a point of reaching out to Mother Jones to clarify that Curbelo was ‘the first Republican to mention impeachment.’” The magazine’s editor then [tweeted](#), “This correction we just ran makes clear how bad it’s gotten for Trump.”

Brian Todd said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (5/17) that “a huge question tonight is whether Congress, with both houses led by Republicans, is going to have the political will to establish a commission to investigate the President or to push impeachment proceedings in the months ahead.” Nancy Cordes said on [CBS This Morning](#) (5/17) that the Comey memo “does seem to be a turning point for some Republicans whose instinct until now has been to stand by the President or minimize his mistakes.” Legal analyst Dan Abrams said on [ABC’s Good Morning America](#) (5/17), “When we’re talking about impeachment, it’s not about the definition of the statute. It’s about the fact that Fox News at 6:00 [Tuesday] night couldn’t get a single Republican to come on to defend Donald Trump. That should be a bigger concern than the legal statue.”

Dana Bash said on [CNN’s Wolf](#) (5/17) that this situation is “being received differently. It is being taken seriously in a way that we have not seen from the many, many other self-inflicted wounds, crises that have been manufactured from the Oval Office.” “The Art Of The Deal” co-author Tony Schwartz said on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (5/17) that Trump “is in pure terror that he is going to lose. And, by the way, he is going to lose. I surely believe that at some point over the next period of time, he is going to have to figure out a way to resign.”

The [New York Times](#) (5/17, Hulse) writes that Republicans “are acutely aware that if they turn on Mr. Trump, they run the real risk of alienating the voters who made him president, voters the Republican Party is going to badly need in the midterm elections.” However, the [Washington Post](#) (5/17, Fisher) writes that “within the president’s party this week, what had been a fairly solid wall of support has suddenly developed cracks.” David Leonhardt of the [New York Times](#) (5/17) notes that “well into 1974, most Republicans stayed loyal to Richard Nixon,” which “is actually a reason for optimism. Why? Because the minority of Republicans willing to back an honest investigation of the president four decades ago was enough to make the difference.”

As for other party, Dan Balz of the [Washington Post](#) (5/17) writes, “Democrats were at the barricades over the conduct and policies of President Trump long before the blockbuster developments of the past week. One question now is whether they can step back enough to let events play out slowly, deliberately and without prejudice, whatever the ultimate outcome.”

Philip Bump of the [Washington Post](#) (5/17) writes that “life for 101 Republicans and Democrats on Capitol Hill may be about to get rather sticky. Those Republicans, you see, voted to impeach [President] Clinton for obstruction of justice 17 years ago, and they would need to decide whether to cast a similar vote against Trump. The Democrats declined to impeach Clinton on that charge – and would similarly need to develop a new rationale.”

Stone: Trump’s Foes To Claim He Has Alzheimer’s To Invoke 25th Amendment. The [New York Times](#) (5/17, Peters) reports that Trump’s “most fervent supporters are building alternative narratives to run alongside the ‘establishment’ media account – from relatively benign diversions to more bizarre conspiracies.” Roger Stone, “the president’s friend and longtime associate,” said, “They’re going to say that Donald Trump has Alzheimer’s. This is the game plan. Watch carefully.” The Times writes, “With varying degrees of credibility and credulity, conservatives have fed stories that Mr. Trump is the victim of sabotage by an adversarial intelligence community full of Trojan horse holdovers from the Obama administration.” The [Washington Times](#) (5/17, Blake) also reports on Stone’s prediction that claims that Trump has “become incapacitated by Alzheimer’s disease” will be used to remove Trump via the 25th Amendment.

More Commentary. E.J. Dionne writes in his [Washington Post](#) (5/17) column, “There is really only one issue in American politics at this moment: Will we accelerate our way to the end of the Trump story, or will our government remain mired in scandal, misdirection and paralysis for many more months – or even years? ... It shows how far along we are that fears are already being voiced of a political backlash from his supporters if Trump is railroaded out of office. But delaying the process of getting to the truth will harm our country far more. And Republicans who throw up roadblocks will be hurt most of all.”

Karl Rove writes in his [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/17) column that while Trump has not

committed any crime, his actions have crippled his presidency, and a staff shake-up will not fix the problem. Rove says either Trump himself must change, or his presidency will fail.

[USA Today](#) (5/17) contributor Christian Schneider compares Trump's current woes to the 2005 "Access Hollywood" tape, which "gave us a glimpse into the mind of a delusional old man using his fame to have sex with a married woman whether or not she consented." He writes that the tape exposed Trump's "core belief that as long as you're an A-lister, there are no rules worth obeying. ... Because when you're a star, they let you do it."

Elizabeth Price Foley of Florida International University College of Law writes in the [New York Times](#) (5/17) that "as distasteful as the president's statements may be, they do not constitute an obstruction of justice. Indeed, if they did, virtually every communication between criminal defense lawyers and investigators would be a crime." Andrew McCarthy of [National Review](#) (5/17) similarly writes, "On its face, the statement does not amount to obstruction of justice. Trump could be said to be putting pressure on his subordinate. ... It is not frivolous to infer that Trump's statement to Comey was a veiled order. If that is your interpretation, though, you cannot avoid the conclusion" that President Obama's statements last year "were also veiled orders not to indict" Hillary Clinton. Guy Benson of [Townhall](#) (5/17) also cites this alleged Obama parallel.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"The Special Counsel America Needs." The [New York Times](#) (5/17) editorializes that Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein "has done the nation a service in choosing [as special counsel Robert] Mueller, one of the few people with the experience, stature and reputation to see the job through."

"China's Trillion-Dollar Foreign Policy." A [New York Times](#) (5/18) editorial says that "to hear the world leaders who gathered in Beijing last weekend boast about China's ambitious plans to spend more than \$1 trillion on roads, ports, energy and other major projects in 60 countries, linking Asia, Europe and Africa, is to be reminded how America's vision and influence have shrunk under President Trump." The Times says that while Trump "pushes an America First agenda of isolationism and protectionism and embroils himself in controversies that raise doubts about his competence," President Xi Jinping "exudes purpose and confidence as he tries to remake the global economic and political order and lure nations into Beijing's orbit."

Washington Post.

"Trump's Commission On Voter Fraud Is, Well, Fraudulent." The [Washington Post](#) (5/17) argues in an editorial that the commission impaneled by President Trump "to investigate voter fraud" is "the real fraud." Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, who will head the commission with Vice President Pence, "is notorious for erecting impediments to the ballot box – specifically, ones that would disproportionately discourage and deter minority and other Democratic-leaning voters." His presence "makes a farce of the idea that the commission's work will be dispassionate, fair and clear-eyed."

"A Note To Erdogan And His Thugs: You Can't Beat Up Protestors Here." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/17) says after President Trump "laid out the welcome mat" for Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, "the strongman apparently felt so much at home he thought it okay for his thugs to beat up peaceful demonstrators." The Post argues that "there need to be consequences," and that while the State Department "issued a relatively strong statement" condemning the attack on protesters outside the Turkish embassy in Washington, "it is not enough."

"A Special Counsel Is Essential. But Congress Isn't Off The Hook." The [Washington Post](#) editorializes that the appointment of a special counsel to investigate Russian attempts to influence the 2016 presidential election is "a much-needed shot of good news," but it "does not let Congress off the hook." The Post says that a special counsel's role "is only to look for criminal behavior" and prosecute it, as opposed to "inform the public or to pass judgment on actions that may have been unwise, inappropriate or unethical."

Wall Street Journal.

"Release The Comey Tapes." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/17) says in an editorial that both former FBI Director Comey and the White House should release any records or tapes, and says it

was foolish of Trump to discuss the Russia investigation with Comey.

“The Special Counsel Mistake.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/17) editorializes that in appointing a special counsel to investigate attempts by Russia to influence the 2016 presidential election, Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein bowed to pressure from Democrats and the media.

“West Coast Natural Gas Coup.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/17) praises the decision of 75 percent of Coos County, Oregon voters on Tuesday to reject a referendum looking to block the Jordan Cove liquefied natural gas terminal and a connecting 231-mile pipeline. As the nation’s first West Coast terminal, Jordan Cove would provide Rocky Mountain gas field producers access to fast-growing Asian markets. The \$7.5 billion project also would prompt economic growth in the region via job growth: 240 new permanent jobs and 4,000 construction jobs would have an average salary of \$85,000.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Former FBI Director Robert Mueller Named Special Counsel For Russia Probe](#)
[Stocks, Dollar Sink On Washington Turmoil](#)
[Russian State-Run Bank Financed Deal Involving Trump Hotel Partner](#)
[Health Of New CSX Chief In Focus Ahead Of Pay Vote](#)

New York Times:

[Robert Mueller, Former FBI Director, Is Named Special Counsel For Russia Investigation](#)
[Trump Team Knew Flynn Was Under Investigation Before He Came To White House](#)
[Washington Is Abuzz With Surround Sound Of Scandal](#)
[Drama In Washington Rattles Wall Street, And Stocks Dive](#)
[The Right Builds An Alternative Narrative About The Crises Around Trump](#)
[How Uber And Waymo Ended Up Rivals In The Race For Driverless Cars](#)
[Forsaken Village On Italy’s Coast Tells Tale Of A Paradise Lost](#)

Washington Post:

[Special Counsel Will Lead Russia Probe](#)
[Arrests Of Immigrants Soar Under New Administration](#)
[Mueller Roundly Lauded On Hill](#)
[Trump’s Support Develops Cracks As Trump’s Woes Grow, Support On Hill Wavers](#)
[Ryan Swore Republicans To Secrecy](#)
[DC Officials Skirted Rules For School Lottery, Report Finds](#)

Financial Times:

[Smith Defends Netflix Debut At Cannes](#)
[Trump Crisis Grows As Congress Seeks Russia Evidence](#)
[Indonesia Targets Islamist Group](#)
[Hong Kong Car Park Site Sells For \\$3Bn](#)

Washington Times:

[Longtime FBI Director Mueller Named Special Counsel To Investigate Russian Meddling In Election](#)

[Intel Officials Scoff At Hype Over Trump’s Reported Sharing Of Information With Russians](#)
[Trump Engulfed In Turmoil With Talk Of White House Shake-Up Ahead Of Overseas Tour](#)
[Free Of Obama Restraints, Immigration Agents Make 38% More Arrests In Trump’s First 100 Days](#)
[Environmental Partners Of Obama Administration Quickly Turn Into Litigation Adversaries Of Trump](#)
[Palestinians Clash Over Video Of Snacking Politician On Hunger Strike In Israeli Prison](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; Russia Meddling Investigation-WH; Russia Meddling Investigation-Congress; Russia Meddling Investigation-Expert Opinion; Trump-First Foreign Trip; Wall Street News; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; DC-Turkey Protest Violence;

High School-Pepper Spray Exercise; Pennsylvania-School Bus Hit And Run; High School Graduation Brawl; South Carolina-Sharks Spotted; First-Time Mother Age; Elderly Unemployed Documentary.

CBS: Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; Russia Meddling Investigation-WH; Russia Meddling Investigation-Congressman Chaffetz; Russia Meddling Investigation-Congress; Classified Info-ISIS Terror Plan; Syrian Civil War; Brady-Super Bowl; Severe Weather; Chelsea Manning Released; Russia Meddling Investigation-Recap.

NBC: Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; Russia Meddling Investigation-Kevin McCarthy Comment; Russia Meddling Investigation-Congress; Wall Street News; Airplane Laptop Ban; Severe Weather; Colon Cancer Survivors; Chelsea Manning Released; DC-Turkey Protest Violence; High School Prom.

Network TV At A Glance:

Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel – 29 minutes, 25 seconds

Weather – 4 minutes, 25 seconds

DC-Turkey Protest Violence – 3 minutes, 35 seconds

Chelsea Manning Released – 55 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Tulsa Police Shooting Trial; Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; Wall Street News.

CBS: Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; Ransomware Hacking; Airplane Laptop Ban; Trump-First Foreign Trip; Severe Weather.

FOX: Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; Tulsa Police Shooting Trial.

NPR: Russia Meddling Investigation-Special Counsel; Russia Meddling Investigation-WH; Trump-South Korea Meeting; Airplane Laptop Ban.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with National Economic Director Gary Cohn; meets with President Santos of Colombia.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Delivers the keynote address at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Invest in America! 2017 Summit; delivers remarks at the Laffer Associates 57th Washington Conference; joins the President to participate in an expanded bilateral meeting with President Juan Manuel Santos of Colombia.

US Senate: 8:30 AM Economic Equality Caucus Conference continues – Economic Equality Caucus Conference continues, with speakers today including Republican Sens. John Boozman and Roger Wicker and Democratic Rep. Jim Clyburn. Agenda includes sessions on 'Hunger, Nutrition, Rural Development Infrastructure and USDA Programs', Rm 385, Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC (8:30 AM EDT) and 'The Trump Budget Cuts and Their Impact Nationally as Well as on the Virginia/DC/Maryland Region', Lutheran Church of the Reformation, 212 East Capitol St NE, Washington, DC (11:30 AM EDT) Location: Washington, DC www.mdgc.us

9:30 AM Nominations hearing considers William Francis Hagerty IV to be U.S. Ambassador to Japan Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

9:30 AM Senate Armed Services Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Kari Bingen to be Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence; Robert Kareem to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs; and Kenneth Rapuano to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Global Security Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee Executive Session – Executive Session, to consider 'S. XXXX, Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2017', 'S. 118, Reinforcing American-Made Products Act of 2017', 'S. 396, A bill to make technical amendments to certain marine fish conservation statutes, and for other purposes', 'S. 793, Shark Fin Trade Elimination Act of 2017', 'S. 1057, A bill to amend the Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 to address harmful algal blooms', and 'S. 1096, Maritime Administration Authorization and Enhancement Act for Fiscal Year 2018' Location: Rm 216, Hart Senate Office

Bldg, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Finance Committee marks up CHRONIC Care Act – Executive Session, to consider the 'Creating High-Quality Results and Outcomes Necessary to Improve Chronic (CHRONIC) Care Act of 2017' Location: Rm 215, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://finance.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Nominations hearing considers David Bernhardt to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.energy.senate.gov

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including nomination of Amul Thapar to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, plus 'S.867, Law Enforcement Mental Health & Wellness Act' Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Hearing on 'Domestic and International Policy Update', with testimony from Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

2:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

2:30 PM Deputy AG Rosenstein addresses all-senators briefing on the firing of FBI Director James Comey – Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein addresses an all-senators briefing on President Donald Trump's sudden firing of FBI Director James Comey last week, following an invitation from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, in order to give the legislators an opportunity to ask him questions amid controversy over his possible role * White House has said President Trump received recommendations from Deputy AG Rosenstein and Attorney General Jeff Sessions over the firing, although the president subsequently said he made the decision before speaking to either. Department of Justice cited Director Comey's handling of a probe into former Secretary of State and Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server, although President Trump subsequently attributed it to the agency's probe into contacts between Russia and the Trump campaign. While running for the presidency, Trump had praised Director Comey's actions in the email investigation Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC mccconnell.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/McConnellPress>

2:30 PM POSTPONED: Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee hearing on the Balkan Peninsula – POSTPONED: Europe and Regional Security Cooperation Subcommittee hearing on 'The Balkan Peninsula: Strengthening Democracy and Countering Malign Foreign Influence', with testimony from Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Hoyt Brian Yee; Atlantic Council Executive Vice President Damon Wilson; SAIS Foreign Policy Institute Fellow Dr Majda Ruge; and National Endowment for Democracy Associate Director for Europe Ivana Cvetkovic Bajrovic Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

US House: 8:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on the USCG – Homeland Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Coast Guard Requirements, Priorities and Future Acquisition Plans', with testimony from U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Paul Zukunft Location: Rm 2007, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

8:30 AM Economic Equality Caucus Conference continues – Economic Equality Caucus Conference continues, with speakers today including Republican Sens. John Boozman and Roger Wicker and Democratic Rep. Jim Clyburn. Agenda includes sessions on 'Hunger, Nutrition, Rural Development Infrastructure and USDA Programs', Rm 385, Russell Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC (8:30 AM EDT) and 'The Trump Budget Cuts and Their Impact Nationally as Well as on the Virginia/DC/Maryland Region', Lutheran Church of the Reformation, 212 East Capitol St NE, Washington, DC (11:30 AM EDT) Location: Washington, DC www.mdgc.us

9:00 AM House Government Reform Committee hearing on federal employee compensation – Hearing on 'Federal Employee Compensation: An Update', with testimony from Congressional Budget Office Assistant Director for Microeconomic Studies Joseph Kile; American Enterprise Institute Resident Scholar Andrew Biggs; Heritage Foundation Research Fellow in Economics, Budget and Entitlements Rachel Greszler; and Government Accountability Office Director of Strategic Issues Robert Goldenkoff Location: Rm 2154, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on lessons from the IMF bailout of Greece – Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee hearing on 'Lessons from the IMF's Bailout of Greece', with testimony from Center for International Governance Innovation Senior Fellow Paul Blustein; Wilson Center Public Policy Fellow Meg Lundsager; Georgetown Law Professor Anna Gelpern; and Congressional Research Service Specialist in International Trade and Finance Dr

Rebecca Nelson Location: Rm 2128, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Workforce subcommittee hearing on 'regulatory barriers to saving for retirement' – Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee hearing on 'Regulatory Barriers Facing Workers and Families Saving for Retirement', with testimony from Drinker Biddle & Reath partner Bradford Campbell; Peterson Institute for International Economics Senior Fellow Dr Jason Furman; Transamerica Senior Vice President James Kais; and PepsiCo Vice President for Global Benefits and Wellness Erik Sossa Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on U.S. interests in Africa – Hearing on 'U.S. Interests in Africa', with testimony from former U.S. Africa Command Commander Gen. (Ret.) William Ward; explorer and investigative reporter Bryan Christy; SAIS Adjunct Professor Anthony Carroll; and former U.S. Representative to the African Union Reuben Brigety II Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

10:00 AM House Infrastructure subcommittee hearing on integrated planning and water infrastructure – Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee hearing on 'Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Improving Water Quality through Integrated Planning', with testimony from South Bend, IN, Mayor Pete Buttigieg (on behalf of U.S. Conference of Mayors); Hattiesburg, MS, Mayor Dr Johnny DuPree (on behalf of National League of Cities); Hamilton County, OH, Commissioner Todd Portune (on behalf of National Association of Counties); Ohio Environmental Protection Agency Director Craig Butler (on behalf of Environmental Council of the States); WE3 Consultants Principal William Spearman III (on behalf of American Public Works Association); and Natural Resources Defense Council Senior Attorney Lawrence Levine Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on emerging transportation tech – Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on 'Emerging Transportation Technologies', with testimony from RAND Corporation Senior Information Scientist Dr Nidhi Kalra; Stanford University Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics Professor Mykel Kochenderfer; Self-Driving Coalition for Safer Streets counsel and spokesperson David Strickland; and Association of Unmanned Vehicle Systems International President and CEO Brian Wynne Location: Rm 2358-A, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on U.S. Capitol Police budget – Legislative Branch Subcommittee hearing on 'U.S. Capitol Police: FY2018 Budget', with testimony from U.S. Capitol Police Chief Matthew Verderosa, and Assistant Chief Steven Sund Location: HT-2, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee legislative hearing on 'H.R. 2371, To require the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration to establish a pilot project to provide increased transparency for customers, and for other purposes' and a discussion draft of 'H.R. XXXX, Water Rights Protection Act', with testimony from Arizona G&T Cooperatives CEO Patrick Ledger; Utah Farm Bureau Federation CEO Randy Parker; Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Mielke & Brownell partner Vanessa Ray-Hodge; Western Area Power Administration CFO Dennis Sullivan; and Colorado River District External Affairs Manager Chris Treese Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM Tax Policy Subcommittee hearing on 'How Tax Reform Will Grow Our Economy and Create Jobs Across America' Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

10:00 AM House Judiciary Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 1973, Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse Act', 'H.R. XXXX, Enforcing Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act', 'H.R. XXXX, Michael Davis, Jr. and Danny Oliver in Honor of State and Local Law Enforcement Act', 'H.R. 2407, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Reauthorization Act', and 'H.R. 2406, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Authorization Act' Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee markup hearing – Health Subcommittee markup hearing on 'H.R. 1222, Congenital Heart Futures Reauthorization Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2410, Sickle Cell Disease Research, Surveillance, Prevention, and Treatment Act of 2017', and 'H.R. XXXX,

FDA Reauthorization Act of 2017' Location: Rm 2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

11:30 AM Speaker Ryan to Hold Weekly Press Conference – House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI) will hold his weekly press conference. Contact: House Radio-TV Gallery staff at 202-225-5214. Location: Capitol Visitor Center HVC Studio A, HVC 114 www.speaker.gov <https://twitter.com/SpeakerRyan>

12:00 PM House expected to vote on Thin Blue Line Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of 'H.R. 115 – Thin Blue Line Act', and consideration of 'H.R. 1039 – Probation Officer Protection Act of 2017' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM Wives of Chinese prisoners testify to House Foreign Affairs subcommittee – Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee hearing on 'Disappeared, Jailed, and Tortured in China: Wives Petition for Their Husbands' Freedom', with testimony from Lee Chin-yu – spouse of Lee Min-che; Wang Yanfeng – spouse of Tang Jingling; Jin Bianling – spouse of Jiang Tianyong; and Chen Guiqiu – spouse of Xie Yang Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

2:00 PM Hearing on 'Current Status of the Medicare Program, Payment Systems, and Extenders' Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

2:00 PM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on 'critical canine contributions to the DHS mission' – Oversight and Management Efficiency Subcommittee hearing on 'From the Border to Disasters and Beyond: Critical Canine Contributions to the DHS Mission', with testimony from Customs and Border Protection Canine Training Program Director Damian Montes; Transportation Security Administration Threat Assessment Division Director Melanie Harvey; U.S. Border Patrol Acting Deputy Chief of Law Enforcement Operations-Specialty Programs Peter Jaquez; Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency Director Dr Patrick Carrick; and Urban Search and Rescue-Florida Task Force Canine Search Specialist and Team Veterinarian Dr Jennifer Brown Location: HVC-210, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

2:00 PM GOP Rep. Mac Thornberry releases DoD reform bill – House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mac Thornberry releases his stand-alone acquisition bill – 'the third installment in his effort to enact reasonable, realistic reform in the Department of Defense' – via press conference Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

2:00 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on amphibious warfare – Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee hearing on 'Amphibious Warfare in a Contested Environment', with testimony from Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments analyst Jesse Sloman; and RAND Corporation Senior Policy Researcher Brad Martin Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

2:30 PM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on Library of Congress budget – Legislative Branch Subcommittee hearing on 'Library of Congress: FY2018 Budget', with testimony from Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden, and Deputy Librarian for Institutional Advancement Robert Newlen; and Library CIO Bud Barton Location: HT-2, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

4:00 PM Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission briefing on humanitarian protection – Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hosts 'Humanitarian Protection: Views from the Field' briefing, on the operational challenges of protecting civilians in the context of humanitarian crises. Coordinators of NGO humanitarian networks in Iraq, Burma (aka Myanmar), and Syria – NGO Coordination Committee for Iraq (NCCI) Executive Director Kelly Gilbride, INGO Forum (Burma) coordinator Marta Kaszubska, and Syria INGO Regional Forum representative Mathieu Rouquette – discuss the on-the-ground operational challenges they face in protecting civilians in the midst of such crises, and provide recommendations for meeting these challenges Location: Rm 2255, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://tlhrc.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/TLHRCommission>

Other: 8:00 AM SMART Congressional Breakfast Briefing and Symposium – SMART Congressional Breakfast Briefing and Symposium, hosted by the Hispanic Heritage Foundation, to discuss 'an innovative school health solution focused on academic achievement'. Speakers include Democratic Reps. Jan Schakowsky and Terri Sewell, Hispanic Heritage Foundation CEO Antonio

Tijerino, CVS Health Chief Diversity Officer David Casey, CVS Workforce Initiatives Senior Ernest DuPont, Brown University Vice President for Academic Development, Diversity, and Evaluation Dr Liza Cariaga-Lo, Ginn Group Consulting President and CEO Melanie Shaw Ginn, and University of Alabama College of Education Dean Dr Peter Hlebowitsh * SMART clinics employ social workers, nurses, physicians, administrators and other staff that work closely with educators to meet the unique needs of disadvantaged students and remove stigma and barriers to foster a culture of self-care Location: Ronald Reagan Bldg. and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC <http://www.hispanicheritage.org/> <https://twitter.com/HHFoundation>

8:30 AM CSID Annual Conference – Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy Annual Conference – ‘The Trump Administration and the Islamic World: From Fighting Extremism to Building Peace and Prosperity’. Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy keynotes Location: Renaissance Washington Hotel, 999 9th St. NW, Washington, DC islam-democracy.org

10:00 AM Dem Rep. John Delaney speaks at Bipartisan Policy Center on infrastructure funding – Democratic Rep. John Delaney speaks at Bipartisan Policy Center on ‘\$1 Trillion for Infrastructure – Balancing Public and Private Sources’, as part of National Infrastructure Week. Other speakers include City and County of Denver Chief Projects Officer Diane Barrett, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Executive Director Pat Foye, Prince George’s County, MD, Department of the Environment Director Adam Ortiz and S&P Global President and CEO Doug Peterson Location: Bipartisan Policy Center, 1225 Eye St., Washington, DC www.bipartisanpolicy.org https://twitter.com/BPC_Bipartisan #BPCLive

11:00 AM Bicameral Dems outline new govt ethics bill – Democrats Sens. Sheldon Whitehouse and Tom Udall and Rep. Ted Deutch discuss their Conflicts from Political Fundraising Act – new legislation to ‘close a glaring ethics loophole in the appointment process for high-ranking govt officials’ – via press call. They also discuss ‘how it would help to address some of the serious conflicts of interest posed by Trump administration appointees who used to solicit for or donate to special interest spending groups’ Location: TBD whitehouse.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/SenWhitehouse>

4:00 PM AAPSS annual Moynihan Prize Lecture – American Academy of Political and Social Science 2017 Daniel Patrick Moynihan Lecture on Social Science and Public Policy: prize-winner Princeton University Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs Professor of Economics and Public Policy Alan Krueger on ‘Independent Workers: What Role for Public Policy?’, introduced by Democratic Sen. Mark Warner Location: Rm 325, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.aapss.org> <https://twitter.com/TheAAPSS>

6:00 PM Colombian President Santos speaks at Economic Club of Washington, DC – Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos speaks at the Economic Club of Washington, DC * President Santos meets with President Donald Trump at the White House today Location: JW Marriott Hotel, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC www.economicclub.org <https://twitter.com/TheEconomicClub>

6:30 PM Transportation Secretary Chao and Netflix CEO give lecture at Library of Congress – Library of Congress John W. Kluge Center Third Annual Daniel K. Inouye Distinguished Lecture: ‘Inspiring a Sense of Service and Idealism’, with Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao and Netflix CEO Reed Hastings reflecting on their experiences as leaders in govt and business and discussing ‘the need for a spirit of service and idealism’ * This year’s lecture held as part of special Library programming to mark the centennial of John F. Kennedy’s birth Location: Library of Congress (Thomas Jefferson Bldg), 10 1st St SE, Washington, DC <http://www.loc.gov/homepage/lchp.html> <https://twitter.com/librarycongress> #Inouye

7:00 PM Committee of 100 Awards Gala Dinner – Committee of 100 Awards Gala Dinner, with Democratic Rep. Judy Chu and Republican Rep. Ed Royce providing remarks. Honorees include Chinese Ambassador to the U.S. Cui Tiankai * Summit takes place tomorrow Location: Ronald Reagan Building, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC <http://www.committee100.org/> <https://twitter.com/Committee100>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: “The temperature was higher than Sean Spicer’s blood pressure today in Washington, DC.”

Jimmy Kimmel: “By the way, betting odds, you bet on this sort of thing, betting odds on Donald Trump being impeached are close to 50-50, close to even. At this point, Melania is looking pretty

smart for not moving out of New York, you know.”

Jimmy Kimmel: “This explains why the Russian ambassador insisted Donald Trump speak directly into the flowers he brought him. Can you imagine a former KGB agent, Vladimir Putin, offering to vouch for our President’s credibility? What a love story this is. It is like ‘The Notebook 2.’”

Jimmy Kimmel: “All Trump said is, ‘I hope you can let it go.’ Maybe he was singing the song from ‘Frozen,’ we don’t know.”

Stephen Colbert: “There’s a huge scandal out of the White House. No, not that scandal. Or the one before that, or the one tomorrow.”

Stephen Colbert: “Right now, [NATO is] frantically trying to Trump-proof the President’s first visit. Now, ‘Trump-proofing’ traditionally means locking the door to the Miss USA dressing room.”

Stephen Colbert: “As one anonymous source put it, ‘It’s like they’re preparing to deal with a child.’ Yeah, with Trump around, you’ve got to put the hook on the cabinets, bumpers on the coffee table, and put one of one of those twisty caps to child-proof the nuclear button.”

Stephen Colbert: “ I suppose we should have seen [Trump’s] anti-exercise thing coming. After all, one of the first things Trump did was replace Michelle Obama’s ‘Let’s Move’ campaign with his own, ‘Let’s Not.’”

Trevor Noah: “People are talking about President Trump being in real trouble this time, which means for Trump, it’s a normal Wednesday.”

Trevor Noah: “Last week, it was firing FBI Director James Comey, who was coincidentally investigating Trump’s ties to Russia. Then Monday, we found out that Trump revealed national security secrets, coincidentally, to the Russians. And then last night, to complete the trilogy, yet another Trump scandal drops.”

Trevor Noah: “First, he helps Trump get elected, and now, he could be the reason that Trump gets kicked out. Comey reminds me of every black mother. I brought you into this world, and child, I can take you out of it.”

Trevor Noah: “Obstruction of justice to impeachment is what that funky robot voice is to Daft Punk. It’s the key ingredient.”

Trevor Noah: “Anyway, the point is, this is by far the biggest Trump scandal until the next one.”

Trevor Noah: “Last night, I realized why Donald Trump loves Fox News so much. They are basically his SnapChat filter, all right. Because whatever the reality is, they will always make him look better than he is. And just like a snap, we are all hoping that he disappears soon.”

Jimmy Fallon: “Some say that what Trump told Comey could be considered obstruction of justice and could land Trump in serious trouble. You can tell Trump’s worried because today he frantically signed an executive order to make all prisons super-nice.”

Jimmy Fallon: “In an op-ed, the New York Times argued that Trump should be declared unfit and removed from office via the 25th amendment. Well, when he heard that, Trump said, ‘Wait, there are 25 amendments?’”

Jimmy Fallon: “A reporter from Politico says that when she asked Republican Congressman Darrell Issa about the Flynn scandal, he gave her the middle finger and kept walking. Then Sean Spicer said, ‘Hang on, we’re allowed to do that to reporters? I would have done that four months ago.’”

Seth Meyers: “During his commencement speech at the Coast Guard Academy today, President Trump said that no politician in history has been treated worse or more unfairly by the media than he has. And when Hillary Clinton heard that, she laughed so loud the moon cracked.”

Seth Meyers: "Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said today that he would have no way of knowing if the Russians installed a listening device in the Oval Office during their recent meeting with President Trump. And why would they need to? They already installed a talking device."

Seth Meyers: [Referring to President Trump's speech at Coast Guard Academy Commencement] "No politician has been treated worse? Need I remind you about Lincoln? There were only 20,000 people at his inauguration, and none of the TV stations covered it."

Seth Meyers: "Even Fox News can't get Republicans to come on [TV]. That's E! not being able to book a Kardashian."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 25, 2017 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI In The News

- Salt Lake (UT) Tribune: Interior Sued For Documents On Monument Designations.
- U.S. News & World Report: Size Of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument A Concern For Ranchers.
- Washington Business Journal: Plans For RFK Memorial Move Forward.
- KGTV-TV San Diego: Secretary Zinke Asked To Ban Recreational Shooting In Wake Of Gate Fire.
- Salt Lake (UT) Tribune: Study: Presidents Can't Undo National Monuments.
- U.S. News & World Report: Supporters Of Katahdin Woods And Waters National Monument Hang Sign.
- Deseret (UT) News: Conservationist Buys Needles Outpost In Bears Ears For \$2.5M.

- Waynesville (NC) Smoky Mountain News: Judge Dismisses North Shore Road Case.
- EnergyWire: Additional Coverage Of White House Budget Proposal.
- Missoula (MT) Independent: Additional Coverage Of Secretary Zinke's Official Calendar.
- Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel: Suspension Of Resource Advisory Councils Criticized.
- Logan (UT) Herald Journal: Op-Ed: Federal Land Transfers Steal From Public.
- Logan (UT) Herald Journal: Trump Administration Urged To Rescind Bears Ears Designation.
- San Luis Obispo (CA) New Times: Support Urged For Carrizo Plain National Monument.

America's Great Outdoors

National Park Service

- Bloomberg News: NPS Assets At Risk From Rising Sea Levels.
- Associated Press: Investigators Say Employee Of USS Arizona Memorial Took Improper Gifts.
- U.S. News & World Report: Legislation Filed To Expand Little Rock Central High Site's Boundaries.
- Los Angeles Times: Installation Of Yosemite's Half Dome Cables Delayed.
- Redding (CA) Record-Searchlight: Officials Working To Legalize Mountain Bike Riding At Whiskeytown Recreation Area.
- Cape Cod (MA) Times: Repairs Planned For Herring Cove Beach Parking Lot.
- Las Vegas Review-Journal: NPS Has New Float Plane At Lake Mead.
- Arizona Republic: Additional Coverage: Video Shows Grand Canyon Filled With Ocean Of Clouds.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- USA Today: Petition To UNESCO World Heritage Committee Seeks To Stop Border Wall.
- Boulder (CO) Daily Camera: Lawsuit Filed To Block Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.
- U.S. News & World Report: Snowy Plover Chick Hatches On Oregon Beach.
- South Florida Sun Sentinel: Students Adopt Snails To Release Into Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge.
- National Geographic: Opinion: Illicit Mining Devastates Wildlife.

Bureau Of Land Management

- San Bernardino (CA) Sun: Sen Feinstein Asks Trump Administration To Protect Mojave Desert Water.
- Elko (NV) Daily Free Press: Groups Say White House Budget Proposal Would Lead To Horse Slaughter.
- Helena (MT) Independent Record: BLM Proposing Marysville-area Forestry Project.
- Monterey County (CA) Herald: Munitions Cleanup To Close Fort Ord Trails.
- KBOI-TV Boise (ID): Boise BLM Wild Horse Adoptions On Hold Due To Equine Distemper.

US Geological Survey

- Jamestown (ND) Sun: Students Visit Northern Prairie To Study Butterflies.

Securing America's Energy Future

Offshore Energy Development

- Wall Street Journal: Debate Over Trump Plan To Sell Half Of Strategic Petroleum Reserve.
- Gizmodo: BOEM Releases High Resolution Maps Of Ocean Floor.
- Dredging Today: BOEM To Help Dare County In Rebuilding Coastal Shoreline.

Onshore Energy Development

- U.S. News & World Report: Administration Unlikely To Revive Coal Industry And West Virginia With It.
- Las Vegas Review-Journal: Environmental Groups Seek To Block BLM Oil And Gas Lease Auction In Central Nevada.
- Pawhuska (OK) Journal-Capital: BIA Inspectors Recognized.

Empowering Native American Communities

- Yakima (WA) Herald-Republic: More Than 3,000 Yakamas Receive Land Buyback Offers.
- Salem (OR) Capital Press: Swinomish Indian Tribe Proposes To Broaden Jurisdiction.
- Fort Wayne (IN) Journal-Gazette: Schaghticoke Tribal Nation Threatens To Sue Over Third Casino.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Marianas Variety: Guam's Bordallo Slams White House Budget Proposal.
- Pacific Islands Report: American Samoa Retains DC Lobbyist To Push For Medicaid Solutions.

Tackling America's Water Challenges

- Riverside (CA) Press Enterprise: Columbia Elementary School To Mark Completion Of Drought-resistant Demonstration Garden.
- Twin Falls (ID) Times-News: Additional Coverage: Little Wood River Reservoir Campground Drinking Water Closed Due To Bacteria.

Top National News

- Associated Press: Media Analyses: Trump, Pope Francis Set Aside Past Differences For Brief Meeting.
- USA Today: White House, DOJ Miss Senate Judiciary Committee Deadline On Comey Requests.
- NBC: Media Analyses: CBO Report Will Hinder GOP Effort To Repeal, Replace ACA.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "The White House's Aversion To Ethical Scrutiny."
 - "Will President Trump Help Save Yemen?"
 - "As Statues Fall, The Specter Of The Noose Rises."
- Washington Post.
 - "The CBO Report Proves The GOP Healthcare Bill Is No Rescue Plan."
 - "The Supreme Court Issues A Welcome Ruling For Voting Rights."
 - "This Purple Line Ruling Would Be Laughable – If The Consequences Weren't So Dire."
- Wall Street Journal.
 - "How To Read An ObamaCare Prediction."
 - "Acosta's Fiduciary Duty."
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Big Picture

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Washington Schedule

- Today's Events In Washington.

Last Laughs

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DOI In The News

Interior Sued For Documents On Monument Designations.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (5/24, Burr) reports that "a government watchdog group is suing the Interior Department for any records relating to five national monuments named under President Barack Obama, arguing the public deserves to see just how much the Obama administration solicited input on the designations despite what Republicans are saying now." The Western Values Project filed suit Wednesday in the federal court for the District of Columbia, "asking a judge to force Interior to turn over a slew of documents the group had requested in January but that Interior has yet to produce." The Montana-based group "says Republicans have been pushing the false narrative that the Obama administration didn't invite public input into the designation of Bears Ears National Monument and four others, and the documents will prove that the Interior department under Obama asked for and received a deluge of comments."

Additional coverage was provided by [Law360](#) (5/24, Powell).

Size Of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument A Concern For Ranchers.

The [AP](#) (5/24, Gibbs) reports the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument has "become a point of pride for some and a bone of contention for others." In April, the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association urged President Trump "to eliminate certain large-scale national monuments, including the OMDP." Rep. Steve Pearce "said he has heard those concerns and believes the monument area around the Organ Mountains should be maintained at the roughly 60,000-acre footprint originally proposed."

Plans For RFK Memorial Move Forward.

The [Washington Business Journal](#) (5/24, Goff) reports that "Events D.C. and the family of Robert F. Kennedy are moving forward on plans for a memorial honoring the late senator, which will

stand on the site of the current, but aging, stadium bearing his name." Mayor Muriel Bower, Events D.C. and "members of the Kennedy family met in the District on Wednesday to discuss the memorial and announce a newly formed memorial committee." Bowser was also "scheduled to meet Wednesday afternoon with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke." The mayor sent a letter to President Trump "in March requesting that RFK and two other NPS-controlled properties be transferred to D.C."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (5/24, Ruane).

Secretary Zinke Asked To Ban Recreational Shooting In Wake Of Gate Fire.

[KGTV-TV](#) San Diego (5/24, Horn) reports that San Diego County Supervisor Dianne Jacob on Wednesday asked the Interior Department "to ban recreational shooting on federal land in East County where the Gate Fire started Saturday." In a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Jacob noted that Bureau of Land Management officials "had failed to act on her previous requests to prohibit year-round shooting on the property near Dulzura, despite the high risk of wildfire."

Additional coverage was provided by [KNSD-TV](#) San Diego (5/24, Pollock).

Study: Presidents Can't Undo National Monuments.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (5/24, Maffly) reports that "as Utah political leaders continue predicting President Donald Trump will shrink or even erase the new Bears Ears National Monument, a soon-to-be published legal analysis concludes that presidents have no authority to mess with monuments established by a predecessor." According to Sean Hecht, a law professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, "such moves would defeat the purpose of the Antiquities Act." Hecht, co-executive director of UCLA's Emmett Institute on Climate Change and the Environment, said, "If you look at both the original Antiquities Act in context of other statutes of its time and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act that overhauled public land management in 1976, the evidence is clear Congress intended this to be a one-way designation. It can be proclaimed, but not revoked or reduced."

Supporters Of Katahdin Woods And Waters National Monument Hang Sign.

The [AP](#) (5/24) reports that Maine Gov. Paul LePage is "refusing to allow road signs to be installed for a new national monument, so supporters of the park are taking matters into their own hands." Fans of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument "hung a banner advertising the park from a highway overpass above Interstate 95." According to the article, "the sign appears to be written on a bed sheet or piece of canvas," and "it says 'KWW Exit 264'."

Conservationist Buys Needles Outpost In Bears Ears For \$2.5M.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (5/24, O'Donoghue) reports that "in a bidding war Wednesday with a venture capital company," conservationist and millionaire Jennifer Speers "paid about \$1.5 million above the starting bid for 640 acres within Bears Ears National Monument – a spot called the Needles Outpost, which includes an old landing strip, a commercial campground, convenience store and the only gas station around for about 45 miles." Speers' real estate agent, Tom Shellenberger "said Speers plans to hold onto the property as is and will not 'escalate' it to some pricey resort development." He said, "In the short term, that is the plan. The campground provides overflow camping for the Needles District next to Canyonlands National Park. It is good news for conservationists."

Judge Dismisses North Shore Road Case.

The [Waynesville \(NC\) Smoky Mountain News](#) (5/24, Stone) reports that "a federal judge has dismissed Swain County's breach of contract lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Interior to collect \$39.2 million owed to the county from the 2010 North Shore Road settlement agreement." The federal government "filed a motion to dismiss the county's claim on April 27 for 'lack of subject-matter jurisdiction and for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.'" The county plans to file its claim again in federal court.

Additional Coverage Of White House Budget Proposal.

Additional coverage of the White House budget proposal for the Interior Department was provided by [E&E Publishing](#) (5/24, King), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/24, Grandoni), the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (5/23, Martinson), [CNBC](#) (5/24), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (5/24, Passut), [Offshore Engineer](#) (5/24), [Energy Business Review](#) (5/24), [World Oil](#) (5/24), the [Sunbury \(PA\) Daily Item](#) (5/24, Murakami), the [Sun Prairie \(WI\) Star](#) (5/24, Romano), and [Hatch Magazine](#) (5/24, Shmukler) .

Additional Coverage Of Secretary Zinke's Official Calendar.

Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's schedule of meetings was provided by the [Missoula \(MT\) Independent](#) (5/25).

Suspension Of Resource Advisory Councils Criticized.

In an editorial, the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (5/24) criticizes the suspension of Resource Advisory Councils. The paper says such a move raises questions about the sincerity of the Trump Administration's pledge to hear public input, especially as it reviews national monument designations. The editorial concludes: "If the Trump administration is truly interested in hearing from people who live near monuments, it will reactivate the groups with the most intimate knowledge of the issues surrounding them. Anything less is just lip service."

Additional coverage of the suspension of advisory bodies was provided by the [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (5/24, Cowan) and the [New Mexico Political Report](#) (5/24, Paskus).

Op-Ed: Federal Land Transfers Steal From Public.

In a piece for the [Logan \(UT\) Herald Journal](#) (5/23, Box), Thad Box writes about attending "a discussion of the study 'An Analysis of a Transfer of Federal Lands to the State of Utah' by economists from the University of Utah, Utah State University and Weber State University." Utah's representatives "arranged the town hall meeting last Thursday to get input on a report by economists hired to study whether the public lands could produce funds for their management plus a reliable income stream for the state." Box emphasizes that "land transfer affects its owners: the people." He hopes "the people of the United States will not allow 1 percent of Americans who live in Utah steal land from the other 99 percent of co-owners."

Trump Administration Urged To Rescind Bears Ears Designation.

In an op-ed for the [Logan \(UT\) Herald Journal](#) (5/24, Anderson), Matthew Anderson, a policy analyst for the Coalition for Self-Government in the West, writes that the Obama Administration, when it designated the Bears Ears National Monument, "ignored those most impacted by his decision – turning a deaf ear to San Juan County residents' fears that the monument will restrict access, weaken the economy, and corrode their community." According to Anderson, "these concerns are not unfounded, as locals have seen firsthand how grazing, woodcutting, outdoor recreation and other traditional uses of the land have been constrained – and, in some cases, eliminated – by national monuments." Anderson argues that by rescinding the monument, the Trump Administration "can usher in a new age of land management that will heed local voices, protect antiquities and restore the American dream to San Juan County."

Support Urged For Carrizo Plain National Monument.

In an op-ed for the [San Luis Obispo \(CA\) New Times](#) (5/24, Kuyper, Baker), Los Padres ForestWatch Executive Director Jeff Kuyper and Conservation Director Bryant Baker, call for support of the Carrizo Plain National Monument. They write that "after a thorough public process including hearings and thousands of comments, a comprehensive land management plan was adopted for the Carrizo Plain." According to the authors, "that plan is hailed as a model for public land management in the 21st century, and it continues to enjoy widespread community and stakeholder support." But President Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "review is unraveling this delicate balance that has been built over the course of the last three decades."

America's Great Outdoors

National Park Service

NPS Assets At Risk From Rising Sea Levels.

In an article titled "Saving The Statue Of Liberty From Climate Change," [Bloomberg News](#) (5/24, Clark) reports that "there'll be plenty of demand in the years ahead for those with experience moving or protecting vulnerable coastal structures." The article notes that "more than \$40 billion in National Park assets are located along coasts deemed 'high exposure' risks, according to a 2015 survey published by the agency."

Investigators Say Employee Of USS Arizona Memorial Took Improper Gifts.

The [AP](#) (5/24, McAvoy) reports from Honolulu that "a National Park Service employee at the USS

Arizona Memorial accepted gifts from tour operators in violation of ethics regulations, U.S. Department of Interior investigators said Wednesday." According to the AP, "the gifts included a \$50 jacket and golf course green fees valued at about \$85, the department's inspector general said in a three-paragraph summary of their report on the case." Investigators "didn't release their full report for privacy reasons and because it contained law enforcement information." The AP adds that "the report says the U.S. Attorney's Office in Hawaii declined to prosecute."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Honolulu Civil Beat \(HI\)](#), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (5/24, McAVOY), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (5/24, McAVOY), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (5/24, McAVOY), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/24, McAvoy), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (5/24, McAVOY), and the [Daily Mail](#) (5/24).

Legislation Filed To Expand Little Rock Central High Site's Boundaries.

The [AP](#) (5/24) reports that "lawmakers in Washington have filed legislation that would expand the boundaries of the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site." The measure filed Tuesday "would add seven homes to Central High's national historic site, which is operated by the National Park Service."

Installation Of Yosemite's Half Dome Cables Delayed.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/24, Parvini) reports that "hikers hoping to scale Yosemite National Park's Half Dome will have to wait until June instead of summiting over Memorial Day weekend." Park officials have "delayed installing the Half Dome cables until at least June 2 because of the heavy snowpack and other hazardous conditions on the trail." The cables were originally scheduled for installment Friday.

Officials Working To Legalize Mountain Bike Riding At Whiskeytown Recreation Area.

The [Redding \(CA\) Record-Searchlight](#) (5/24, Arthur) reports that National Park Service officials at Whiskeytown National Recreation Area want to make "it legal to ride mountain bikes on trails around the lake." Jim Milestone, superintendent at Whiskeytown, said, "The National Park Service has allowed mountain biking since the '70s, but it was never officially legalized. Within national parks you can't ride mountain bikes on backcountry trails." Whiskeytown officials are "going through the process to close that technical loophole and make it legal to ride mountain bikes on trails in the recreation area."

Repairs Planned For Herring Cove Beach Parking Lot.

The [Cape Cod \(MA\) Times](#) (5/24, Bragg) reports that "a storm-battered Cape Cod National Seashore beach parking area – known for its drive-up convenience and dramatic sunsets – will undergo \$420,000 in short-term repairs after an extensive lobbying effort." In addition, the National Park Service "authorized \$5.3 million to design and ultimately move the parking area away from the immediate reach of winter storm surges." According to Seashore Acting Superintendent Kathy Tevyaw, "the contract for the design could be awarded this summer, with construction scheduled to begin next year."

NPS Has New Float Plane At Lake Mead.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (5/24, Brean) reports that the National Park Service has "a faster way to respond to emergency calls on Lake Mead, just in time for the start of the busy summer season." The park service "recently upgraded to an airplane that can land on the water and quickly render assistance even in the park's most remote coves." Park pilot Scott Taylor "said he can reach just about any part of the 1.5 million-acre Lake Mead National Recreation Area in 30 minutes or less."

Additional Coverage: Video Shows Grand Canyon Filled With Ocean Of Clouds.

Additional coverage of a video that "shows the Grand Canyon filled with oceanlike clouds" was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (5/24, White) and [USA Today](#) (5/25, White).

Fish and Wildlife Service

Petition To UNESCO World Heritage Committee Seeks To Stop Border Wall.

[USA Today](#) (5/24, Nández) reports that "the latest attempt to stymie President Trump's planned border wall has united Tohono O'odham tribal members and conservation groups in an

international plea to protect jaguar, pronghorn and other endangered species along the Arizona-Mexico border." The Center for Biological Diversity, Greenpeace Mexico and the Tohono O'odham tribe in Sonora, Mexico, "filed a joint petition Tuesday with the UNESCO World Heritage Committee." The petition "asks that the El Pinacate and Gran Desierto de Altar Biosphere Reserve, a World Heritage Site in Mexico, be granted 'in danger' status."

Lawsuit Filed To Block Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

The [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (5/17, Brennan) reports that "a coalition of communities united around their opposition to the planned Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge filed a federal lawsuit on Wednesday in Denver seeking to block its opening until it has complied with a series of environmental laws to ensure its safety." The lawsuit "seeks full compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act, commonly known as NEPA, which requires public involvement to review decisions that might impact the environment."

Snowy Plover Chick Hatches On Oregon Beach.

The [AP](#) (5/24, Flaccus) reports that "a Western snowy plover chick that hatched on an Oregon beach this spring is the first of its species to emerge successfully in that area in more than 50 years and provides hope that a management plan for the federally threatened species is working, wildlife officials said Wednesday." Biologists spotted the chick "around the Nehalem Spit using a viewing scope but have had a hard time getting a good picture because the tiny, fluffy chick is roughly the size of two cotton balls." According to Chris Havel, a spokesman for the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, "the news is a sign that a recovery plan developed by state wildlife officials and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is making headway in its goal to return the tiny birds to their habitat along the length of the Oregon coast without banning humans from the beaches."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Daily Mail](#) (5/24, Flaccus), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (5/24, Flaccus), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/24, Flaccus), [ABC News](#) (5/24, Flaccus), [Fox News](#) (5/24, Flaccus), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (5/24, Flaccus), the [Seattle \(WA\) Times](#) (5/24, Flaccus)

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Astorian \(OR\)](#) (5/24, Frankowicz) and the [Tillamook \(OR\) Headlight-Herald](#) (5/24, Thompson).

Students Adopt Snails To Release Into Loxahatchee Wildlife Refuge.

The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (5/24, Engoren) reports that "through a partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute, the Florida Atlantic University Pine Jog Environmental Education Center and Grassy Waters Preserve, students at Palm Beach Day Academy, a private school in Palm Beach, are raising native Florida apple snails in their classrooms and will eventually release them in natural wetland areas in which their population has been declining." The article adds that "Palm Beach Day Academy second-graders, accompanied by teacher Wendy Bieneman, will also come out to help participate in restoration of the environment along with the fourth-graders to release the snails and help plant 200 bald cypress seedlings."

Opinion: Illicit Mining Devastates Wildlife.

In a piece for [National Geographic](#) (5/24, Ruggiero), Richard Ruggiero, the chief of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of International Conservation, writes about "the social upheaval caused by illegal sourcing of minerals and metals from Central Africa." According to Ruggiero, "illicit mining has been a sustaining force, and sometimes the initial catalyst, for violent armed conflicts and human rights abuses across the region." Ruggiero highlights the "less known...devastating effect illegal mining can have on wildlife, including species the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a legal mandate to protect and conserve, such as African elephants and great apes."

Bureau of Land Management

Sen Feinstein Asks Trump Administration To Protect Mojave Desert Water.

The [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (5/24, Danelski) reports that Sen. Dianne Feinstein on Wednesday called on the Trump Administration "to continue rules that now prevent the use of a Mojave Desert railroad right-of-way for a water extraction project." In a May 23 letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Feinstein "asked the government to uphold the Bureau of Land

Management's 2015 determination that Cadiz cannot use an existing the Mojave Desert without further federal environmental reviews." Feinstein said in a statement, "If Cadiz is successful in building its project, a major aquifer that sustains life in California's Mojave Desert will be destroyed. This would be a terrible legacy for this administration to allow the destruction of all that we've done to preserve this amazing desert for posterity."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (5/24, Danelski) and the [Redlands \(CA\) Daily Facts](#) (5/24, Danelski).

Sen Feinstein Opposes Cadiz Water Extraction Project. In an op-ed for the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (5/24, Feinstein), Sen. Dianne Feinstein writes in opposition to that the Cadiz water extraction project because it is "a particularly destructive project in California's Mojave Desert." According to Feinstein, "this project places a big emphasis on corporate profit at the expense of the broader public, which in this case harms our irreplaceable public lands." Feinstein is also troubled by the involvement of David Bernhardt, "who recently nominated to be the deputy secretary of the interior, the very department that oversees the federal permitting process for Cadiz."

Groups Say White House Budget Proposal Would Lead To Horse Slaughter.

The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (5/24) reports that the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was among the "groups denouncing the Trump administration's proposed federal budget proposal regarding wild horses, saying it will open the door 'for tens of thousands of horses to be immediately killed or sent to slaughter.'" The Wild Horse and Burro Program "would allow wild horses to be sold to the highest bidder, and would strip language prohibiting the killing of healthy wild horses, the group stated." Matt Bershadker, ASPCA President and CEO, said, "This proposal represents a dereliction of the Interior Department's responsibility to protect our nation's wild horses and an affront to public opinion and our shared values. Wild horses can and should be humanely managed on-range using simple fertility control, yet the BLM would rather make these innocent animals pay for draconian budget cuts with their very lives."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (5/25, Sonner).

BLM Proposing Marysville-area Forestry Project.

The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (5/24, Kuglin) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is seeking public comment and will "hold a public meeting on proposed thinning and prescribed burning on about 5,000 acres near Marysville." On Tuesday, the BLM "released an environmental assessment, asking the public to weigh in on work for about 5,000 acres." BLM documents say, "Action is needed in the Marysville PA to address the previously described conifer encroachment, declining forest health, and the high fuels concentrations and associated wildland fire danger to the public and to firefighter safety. Forest, woodland, riparian, and sagebrush/grasslands communities have departed from desired conditions in terms of ecosystem process and function, composition, structure and density, and providing native wildlife habitats."

Munitions Cleanup To Close Fort Ord Trails.

The [Monterey County \(CA\) Herald](#) (5/24, Herrera) reports that "prescribed burns and trail access were the hot topics at a public kickoff meeting on Tuesday for the munitions cleanup in the northern portion of the Fort Ord National Monument." According to officials, "five prescribed burns could happen if all conditions are met between July 1 and Dec. 31, and that trails would be periodically closed during work and then possibly rerouted afterward." Bill Collins, Base Realignment and Closure environmental coordinator, said, "Field work will start the first week of June with trail closures probably happening the second week. The prescribed burn units will be ready to go probably in mid-September."

Boise BLM Wild Horse Adoptions On Hold Due To Equine Distemper.

[KBOI-TV](#) Boise, ID (5/24) reports that the Bureau of Land Management "temporarily suspended wild horse and burro adoptions at the Boise BLM Wild Horse Corrals due to strangles, or equine distemper, in several horses." According to the article, "while the symptomatic horses are quarantined and being treated by a veterinarian, the BLM has decided to close the corrals to adoptions and public visitors as a precaution until further notice." Raul Trevino, BLM Boise Corral Manager, said, "Our priority is the safety of the horses at our facility and the potential of the disease being transmitted to privately-owned horses. We just don't want to take any chances while we wait for the disease to run its course. As soon as it is safe to do so, we will resume adoptions."

US Geological Survey

Students Visit Northern Prairie To Study Butterflies.

The [Jamestown \(ND\) Sun](#) (5/24, LaVenture) reports that “forty-one students from the two kindergarten classes at Gussner Elementary School visited Northern Prairie after studying the life cycle of the butterfly, which includes bee pollination of flowers and planting the school garden, said Kacey Schlafman, a kindergarten teacher at Gussner.” Clint Otto, “a research ecologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, said he organized the event after visiting the school.”

Securing America’s Energy Future

Offshore Energy Development

Debate Over Trump Plan To Sell Half Of Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/24, Sider, Ailworth) reports President Trump’s proposal to help fund his budget by selling an additional 270 million barrels of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) has reignited the debate over the stockpile’s usefulness. Critics argue that rising domestic production makes it unnecessary and its role as an emergency reserve is undercut by the time it takes for released oil to get to market. However, proponents argue the reserve continues to protect against sudden price spikes in the event of supply disruptions or crises.

In a blog on [Forbes](#) (5/24), contributor Robert Rapier writes that selling so much of the SPR “is a risk” With the US dependent on OPEC for 40 percent of its imports, “a significant supply disruption in the Middle East, Venezuela, or Nigeria could quickly remind us of the SPR’s importance.” Additionally GOP Administrations tend to increase the SPR, suggesting Trump may face resistance from his own party.

BOEM Releases High Resolution Maps Of Ocean Floor.

[Gizmodo](#) (5/24, Mandelbaum) reports that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has “released a new set of super high-resolution bathymetry data of the Northern Gulf of Mexico for anyone with a computer to enjoy.” According to the article, “it uses 90,000 square miles worth of 3D seismic data to increase the resolution of the regional maps 10 to 50 fold.” The article says that “it’s made up of 1.4 billion 40x40 foot pixels, according to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management website, which is incredibly high resolution compared with what we had before.”

BOEM To Help Dare County In Rebuilding Coastal Shoreline.

[Dredging Today](#) (5/24) reports that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has “announced that they will aid Dare County, North Carolina, in rebuilding its coastal shoreline in several locations over coming months.” The Town of Southern Shores “plans to conduct a small beach nourishment project at the southern portion of the town in late May, rebuilding about 2,500 feet of shoreline.” According to the article, “the project has been incorporated into the agreement that BOEM and Dare County signed in September 2016, adding 120,000 cubic yards of offshore sand for Southern Shores coastal restoration.”

Onshore Energy Development

Administration Unlikely To Revive Coal Industry And West Virginia With It.

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (5/25, Leins) reports on West Virginia’s declining economy and falling population, “which saw the largest percentage drop in the nation in 2016.” While many residents “have counted on President Donald Trump’s promises to revive the coal industry,” regulations are not the only obstacles coal faces. It “is threatened by alternative forms of energy like wind and solar energy, but mainly by cheap and abundant natural gas.” Also, with China’s “economy is growing at a much slower pace than around 2012,” demand has fallen in the world’s largest consumer of coal. Meanwhile, “West Virginia’s largely uneducated population prevents it from switching to a knowledge-based economy that doesn’t rely on coal.”

Environmental Groups Seek To Block BLM Oil And Gas Lease Auction In Central Nevada.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (5/24, Brean) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has “scheduled a June 13 auction for new oil and gas leases across almost 196,000 acres in central

Nevada." According to the article, "a coalition of environmental groups will file an administrative protest Thursday in hopes of blocking the online auction and any future fossil fuel development, which they say could contaminate land, air and water in Nevada while contributing to global warming." The article says that "the Center for Biological Diversity, Great Basin Resource Watch, the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada, the Sierra Club and the Western Watersheds Project teamed up to submit the protest." Meanwhile, "two other conservation groups, the Wilderness Society and WildEarth Guardians, are planning their own administrative protests of BLM's upcoming auction."

BIA Inspectors Recognized.

The [Pawhuska \(OK\) Journal-Capital](#) (5/24) reports that the Oklahoma Energy Resources Board "recognized the work of Bureau of Indian Affairs field inspectors as essential to the environmental restoration of 1,000 abandoned well sites in Osage County." The agencies "celebrated the milestone restoration with a ribbon-cutting ceremony to break ground on construction of the site on May 17." OERB Executive Director Mindy Stitt said, "The work the BIA has done on behalf of our restoration program has been absolutely vital to its success in Osage County. Without their dedicated service we would not have been able to reach 1,000 restorations."

Empowering Native American Communities

More Than 3,000 Yakamas Receive Land Buyback Offers.

The [Yakima \(WA\) Herald-Republic](#) (5/24, Ferolito) reports that the Interior Department extended land buyback offers to "nearly 3,600 tribal landowners with fractionated interests on the Yakama reservation." Landowners have "until June 19 to accept purchase offers."

Swinomish Indian Tribe Proposes To Broaden Jurisdiction.

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (5/24, Jenkins) reports that the Swinomish Indian tribe "announced Wednesday that its members have approved amending the tribe's constitution to erase references to reservation boundaries set in 1873." The tribe "proposes that its jurisdiction extend beyond its 7,000-acre reservation to the 'tribe's usual and accustomed fishing grounds and stations and all open and unclaimed lands.'" The Bureau of Indian Affairs "approved the wording of the constitutional change, which still must be approved by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke." Skagit County Commissioners, "who say the tribe is apparently trying to extend political control over much of the county, have pledged to challenge the tribe all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court if necessary."

Schaghticoke Tribal Nation Threatens To Sue Over Third Casino.

The [AP](#) (5/24, Haigh) reports that the Connecticut Senate "passed a bill early Wednesday allowing a new satellite casino to be built by two Native American tribes in East Windsor, but it's doubtful it will clear the House of Representatives." On Wednesday, the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation, "which wants to open its own casino, announced it 'will have no alternative' but to sue the state if the legislation allowing the two federally recognized tribes to open the \$200 million-to-\$300 million East Windsor facility prevails."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Boston \(MA\) Globe](#) (5/25, Haigh), the [Greenfield \(MA\) Recorder](#) (5/24, Haigh), the [Hartford \(CT\) Business Journal](#) (5/24, Pazniokas), the [Danbury \(CT\) News Times](#) (5/24, Dixon), the [Springfield \(MA\) Republican](#) (5/24, Glaun), and the [Connecticut Post](#) (5/24, Dixon).

Office Of Insular Affairs

Guam's Bordallo Slams White House Budget Proposal.

[Marianas Variety](#) (5/25) reports that U.S. Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo issued a statement regarding President Trump's budget proposal for fiscal year 2018. Bordallo said, "The president's budget is particularly concerning for Guam and the other territories as it decimates critical programs administered by the Office of Insular Affairs. The president's budget eliminates \$3 million in discretionary funding for Compact impact, \$800,000 in technical assistance, and \$650,000 in Brown Tree Snake Control programs. I am encouraged, though, that funding was included to execute the Palau Compact. While this funding is critical to strengthening our

relationships in the region, I am concerned about the management of the program under OIA and believe that it may be more appropriately administered under the State Department or other appropriate agency. We have heard the concerns raised by the Freely Associated States about execution of the Compacts. If Interior is unable to come up with the funding it is appropriate for Congress to look carefully at how this program is operating.”

Additional coverage of the budget proposal was provided by [USA Today](#) (5/24, Sablan, Raymundo), [Marianas Variety](#) (5/25) and [Radio New Zealand](#) (5/24).

American Samoa Retains DC Lobbyist To Push For Medicaid Solutions.

[Pacific Islands Report](#) (5/23) reports that “in a letter to Congresswoman Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen, Governor Lolo Matalasi Moliga has informed the Delegate that he has retained Taylor Strategies to help advance a legislative solution to the ACA Medicaid funding deadline coming up in FY 2019.” According to the article, “Lolo’s immediate priority for Congressional action is the extension of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care ACT ‘PPACA’ funding, lifting or increasing the Medicaid cap and improving the FMAP local matching percentage for the Medicaid program.”

Tackling America’s Water Challenges

Columbia Elementary School To Mark Completion Of Drought-resistant Demonstration Garden.

The [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (5/24, Shultz) reports that “Eastern Municipal Water District and Val Verde Unified School District will mark the completion of a drought-tolerant demonstration garden at Columbia Elementary School on Thursday, May 25.” The garden, “which was planted and will be maintained by Columbia students, was paid for through a grant from the United States Bureau of Reclamation.”

Additional Coverage: Little Wood River Reservoir Campground Drinking Water Closed Due To Bacteria.

Additional coverage that The Bureau of Reclamation “said it detected coliform bacteria in the drinking water system” at Little Wood River Reservoir Campground was provided by the [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (5/24).

Top National News

Media Analyses: Trump, Pope Francis Set Aside Past Differences For Brief Meeting.

Coverage of President Trump’s brief meeting with Pope Francis at the Vatican on Wednesday morning focuses on the past tension between the two men. The [AP](#) (5/24, Lemire, Winfield, Pace) reports, “Setting aside past differences and rude comments aside,” the President and the Pope “put a determinedly positive face on their first meeting Wednesday at the Vatican.” The two, “vastly different in temperament and views of the world, talked seriously and extensively in a 30-minute private meeting about terrorism, the radicalization of young people, immigration and climate change,” according to officials.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (5/24, story 5, 2:05, Holt) reported that a “deferential” Trump met with the Pope for “a visit that seemed impossible just 15 months ago when the President blasted the Pope for criticizing those who build walls and not bridges.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/24, story 10, 1:30, Pelley) also reported that “Trump spent 30 minutes with Pope Francis at the Vatican, and introduced him to First Lady Melania and daughter Ivanka.” Meanwhile, the President tweeted that it was “an honor of a lifetime that renewed his commitment to peace.” [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/24, story 7, 2:25, Muir) reported the President “promised to consider the Pope’s request not to drop out of the Paris climate accord.” [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (5/24) called it “a cordial first meeting after a contentious long-distance relationship.”

The [New York Times](#) (5/24, Landler, Horowitz) reports that the Pope was “by turns dour and smiling” as he “welcomed a more effusive president. ... The two stuck mainly to protocol, avoiding a public reprise of the barbs they aimed at each other during Mr. Trump’s presidential campaign or the pope’s thinly veiled critiques of Mr. Trump as a symbol of a dangerously reinvigorated nationalism.” However, “there appeared to be a message in the gifts the pope gave to his guest. They included a copy of his influential essay on the importance of saving the environment,” as well as “a medallion engraved with the image of an olive tree – ‘a symbol of

peace,' he explained."

[USA Today](#) (5/24, Lyman) reports that Trump "gave the pope a first-edition set of writings from Martin Luther King Jr., including five books. He also gifted the pontiff a piece of granite from the Martin Luther King. Jr. Memorial in Washington." The [Washington Times](#) (5/24, Boyer) reports that the President said later, "He is something. We had a fantastic meeting. We're liking Italy very, very much and it was an honor to be with the Pope."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/24, Lee, Rocca) reports that Secretary of State Tillerson later told reporters that he did not know if the President and the Pope had discussed climate change. Tillerson said they had "extensive conversations around extreme terrorist threats and extremism, radicalization of young people."

The [New York Post](#) (5/24, Moore, Brown) reports that the Pope and the First Lady "appeared to mock President Trump's weight on Wednesday – giggling over the portly president indulging in high-calorie Slovenian sweets. ... 'What do you give him to eat, potizza?' the Pope asked the svelte ex-model." Melania Trump at first "appeared to think he said, 'pizza' and looked at him quizzically – but then she laughed and said, 'Potizza. Yes.' The pontiff then turned to the president and gave him a wide grin." Trump "also laughed – but it wasn't clear if he got the joke."

[Politico](#) (5/24, Karni) reports that press secretary Sean Spicer, "a devout Catholic who told reporters earlier this year that he gave up alcohol for Lent," was not among the "an array of staffers" taken on the visit. Jim Acosta reported at [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/24) reported "a source close to the White House" said that "was a slight." [BBC News \(UK\)](#) (5/24) also covers the meeting.

First Lady Wore Head Covering For Papal Meeting, But Not In Saudi Arabia. The [AP](#) (5/24, Superville) reports, "Melania Trump wore a veil to the Vatican on Wednesday to meet the pope, but no head covering a few days earlier to meet the king of Saudi Arabia. ... Why the difference? The answer is a complicated mix of personal preference, diplomatic protocol and religious dictates." The First Lady's spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham "said Mrs. Trump's decision to wear a black lace veil known as a mantilla followed Vatican protocol," and that the Saudi government did not request that the First Lady wear a head covering. In addition, the First Lady is Catholic, "which likely made accompanying" the President "all the more meaningful to her."

Italian PM Urges Trump To Admit More Migrants To US. [USA Today](#) (5/24, Lyman) reports, "Italian Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni lobbied President Trump on Wednesday to make a dramatic about-face and open the United States border to more migrants." It was the second meeting between the two "in just over a month, following the Italian leader's state visit to Washington April 20." According to Gentiloni's office, they "focused their conversation on migration. Italy is second only to Greece as a European landing point for migrants" from Africa and the Middle East.

Donor Heart Located For Boy Who Met First Lady At Rome Hospital. The [Washington Times](#) (5/24, Boyer) reports, "A donor heart was located for a hospitalized young boy in Rome Wednesday, just hours after first lady Melania Trump visited him" at Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital. The First Lady "chatted in Italian with some of the 600 young patients, who greeted her in unison with 'Ciao, Melania!'" Upon arrival in Brussels several hours later, she "learned that a donor heart had been found for the boy."

White House, DOJ Miss Senate Judiciary Committee Deadline On Comey Requests.

[USA Today](#) (5/24, Johnson) reports that the White House and the Justice Department have missed the Senate Judiciary Committee's Wednesday deadline "to turn over any records detailing conversations between President Trump and James Comey before the FBI director's abrupt firing earlier this month, instead requesting more time to respond to lawmakers' demands." In a statement, the committee said, "We are still awaiting official responses from both the Justice Department and White House. The committee is seeking a broad set of material, some of which may be related to the special counsel's investigation, but some of it certainly is not."

Elise Labott reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/24) that House Oversight Chairman Jason Chaffetz said earlier that Comey "owes him paperwork by the end of the day, including memos about his meetings with President Trump." Chaffetz told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/24) that the FBI yesterday sent an "email, just two lines...telling us that they would not provide those documents given the fact there was a special counsel in place." Chaffetz said he also spoke Tuesday with Comey, who "said he wanted to speak to [special counsel Robert] Mueller before committing to any sort of public testimony."

Sen. Ben Sasse told [Fox News Special Report](#) (5/24), "We need to have Director Comey testify. This Russia thing, there are a number of things we failed to get right." Rep. Adam

Kinzinger (R-IL) told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/24) that he'd like to see congressional investigators have access to the memos. He said, "The American people deserve the bottom-line answer. Whatever happened, we deserve to know, and that's how you restore faith in the democracy in the long run."

Russians Bragged About Being Able To Use Flynn And Manafort To Influence Trump. Pierre Thomas reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/24, story 5, 1:30, Muir), "The New York Times is reporting that US intelligence officials allegedly obtained evidence [of] Russians bragging about the fact that they can use [President Trump's] advisers...as a way to influence Donald Trump's views on Russia. According to the Times, that intelligence apparently played a role in the decision to launch an FBI investigation into whether there was collusion between Trump campaign officials and Russia." The [New York Times](#) (5/24, Rosenberg, Goldman, Apuzzo) reports that the conversations focused on Gen. Michael Flynn and then-Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort. Both men "had indirect ties to Russian officials, who appeared confident that each could be used to help shape Mr. Trump's opinions on Russia."

Schiff Says House Intelligence Committee Will Subpoena Flynn. The [New York Times](#) (5/24, Huetteman) reports that House Intelligence Committee ranking member Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) said Monday that the panel will issue subpoenas to Flynn. Schiff said at a Christian Science Monitor breakfast, "Those subpoenas will be designed to maximize our chance of getting the information that we need. And I think we need to use whatever compulsory methods are necessary to get the information that he possesses." [McClatchy](#) (5/24, Cockerham) reports that the subpoenas "would be the first by the House panel targeting Flynn." [Politico](#) (5/24, Wright) reports that Flynn's attorney declined to comment. [USA Today](#) (5/24, Kelly) reports that Schiff also said the committee "will take the time it needs to do a thorough investigation."

Senate Minority Whip Durbin was asked on [CNN's The Lead](#) (5/24) if Flynn should be held in contempt of Congress. Durbin said, "I'm told that the Fifth Amendment does not apply to documents that already exist, and so he couldn't use the Fifth Amendment as his excuse for not complying with the subpoena that's been issued by the committee. If he wants to plead the Fifth Amendment in terms of his personal testimony, that's his right to do, but when it comes to documents, those already in existence, that would not apply."

Page Says He Will Appear Before House Intelligence Committee. [USA Today](#) (5/24, Kelly, Johnson) reports that ex-Trump campaign adviser Carter Page said Wednesday that he "plans to testify publicly before the House Intelligence Committee in June." He told USA Today, "I am an open book. Compared to the incomplete lies that defined me in the secret criminal justice system and the rest of the [intelligence community] last year, any actual facts and truths I can illuminate will be a giant leap in the right direction." [Politico](#) (5/24, Wright, Cheney) reports that while Page initially said he would appear on June 6, he later "backtracked," saying that "the hearing date was not yet finalized."

DOJ Says Sessions Did Not Disclose Meetings With Russian Officials. Manu Raju reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/24) that Justice Department officials have said Attorney General Sessions "did not disclose meetings he had last year with Russian officials when he applied for security clearance." CNN said, "This is the latest example of Sessions not listing contacts he had with Russian officials earlier this year." CNN's Collin Perez "was told initially Sessions had security clearance and he and an employee who filled out the form were told he did not have to list what happened." But, CNN said "a legal expert, an attorney here in Washington, regularly assisting officials and filling out forms...said Senators quote would still have to reveal the appropriate foreign government contacts assuming they were not at a foreign conference."

Sen. Richard Blumenthal told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/24) that he is "deeply troubled by his failure to testify, apparently truthfully, before the Committee hearings and possibly in other ways to fail to be completely truthful in connection with his confirmation and I think that it bears intense and immediate investigation."

Jeffrey Toobin said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (5/24), "It is something. I don't know how big a deal it is. He says he got some guidance from the FBI that the form does not mean what the form says. The form could not be clearer. First of all, it would be interesting to know if he got the guidance. The more interesting part of the story is, it's yet another example of Sessions and a Trump campaign official not disclosing all of their contacts with the Russian government. That is suspicious. It's important. There needs to be an explanation why."

House Democrats Ask Deutsche Bank If Trump Accounts Have Any Links To Russia. [Reuters](#) (5/24) reports Democrats on the House Financial Services Committee on Wednesday announced that they had written to Deutsche Bank Chief Executive Officer John Cryan requesting information as to "whether any accounts connected to...Trump have ties to Russia." They wrote, "Congress

remains in the dark on whether loans Deutsche Bank made to President Trump were guaranteed by the Russian government, or were in any way connected to Russia." The bank has not yet replied and a spokeswoman did not comment.

Fox News Poll: More Voters Now Believe Russia Aided Trump In Election. The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/24, Giaritelli) reports that a Fox News poll found that "an increasing number of registered voters believe Russian hackers helped President Trump win last year's election." The survey "found 44 percent of people think Russia attempted to influence the presidential election to help Trump. ... Last December, fewer than one-third of respondents said the Russians tipped the scales in Trump's favor. Forty-nine percent said Russia had no effect on the race, down 10 percentage points from 59 percent in December." [Fox News Special Report](#) (5/24) reported on the poll.

McCaskill: Evidence Of Russian Collusion Does Not Yet Exist. [Townhall](#) (5/24, Vespa) reports that Sen. Claire McCaskill said on MSNBC's Morning Joe on Wednesday that "the reporting on the conversations Trump had with the FBI and the intelligence community is nothing more than poor judgment at this point," and "that as of now, there's really no evidence of Russian collusion."

Most Republicans Questioned By WPost Decline To Say If They Trust Trump's Judgment. The [Washington Post](#) (5/24, Sullivan) looks at how Republicans are responding to questions about whether they "trust President Trump's judgment on major decisions?" Sen. Jeff Flake said, "I'm not answering questions like that. That's ah..." The Post says Flake "trailed off as he walked toward an elevator." The "easygoing Arizonan" is a frequent Trump critic, but other Republicans also "weren't eager to address the subject head-on." When asked, "they diverted and demurred," and "some grew visibly uncomfortable." Of the "dozen Republicans from across the ideological spectrum" questioned by the Post, only Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) "offered an unqualified yes regarding Trump himself."

Kasowitz "A Fiercely Loyal Defender" Of Trump. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (5/24, Van Voris, Hurtado) profiles Marc Kasowitz, President Trump's "go-to lawyer," who will now be defending Trump "in an investigation that could make or break the presidency." Kasowitz is "not a criminal defense lawyer" and is "not attuned to the ways of Washington." But he "is a bare-knuckled litigator [and] a fiercely loyal defender" of the President.

Senate Minority Whip Durbin said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (5/24) that Trump is "finally going lawyer up and take it seriously. ... I don't think he's taken this whole obstruction of justice issue seriously. The conversations he's had with Mr. Comey as well as the leaders in our intelligence agencies about stopping their investigation of Russian interference in our election are truly troubling."

William Cohen: Republicans Must Act On Russia As GOP Did On Watergate. The [Washington Post](#) (5/24, Kane) speaks with ex-Defense Secretary William Cohen, then a Republican congressman from Maine, about "the challenge of bucking his own party's president" during the Watergate scandal in 1973. Cohen, who "was a 33-year-old freshman on the House Judiciary Committee" at the time, "says that today's members of Congress must dedicate themselves in similar fashion to the task of learning what happened in the 2016 election – and whether any crimes, or high crimes, were committed."

Woodward: Media "Smug" About Trump. [Breitbart](#) (5/24, Key) reports that during an [interview with Axios](#) on Wednesday, Bob Woodward "said the press has a 'kind of smugness'" about President Trump. Woodward said, "On television particularly, you will see a White House correspondent deliver a report and then say, 'The Trump White House said...'" and then there's a kind of smug smile, which is the correspondent undermining what the White House says. And there may be grounds for that, but it should be reported. It should be straight." Woodward also said of Trump, "Odds are he is probably going to be president for a full term, four years and maybe even more."

FBI Investigation Of Clinton Emails Possibly Influenced By Fake Russian Document. The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/24, story 6, 2:10, Pelley) reported, "The FBI investigation of Hillary Clinton's emails may have been influenced by a document that turned out to be a fake, possibly from the Russians." CBS' Julianna Goldman reported, "Sources say the FBI obtained the potentially game-changing document in the spring of 2016. It cited a purported email saying that then Attorney General Loretta Lynch assured Hillary Clinton's campaign that she wouldn't let the investigation into her private email server get too far." But the Washington Post now reports "that the document was unreliable, possibly a fake product of Russian intelligence." The [Washington Post](#) (5/24, Demirjian, Barrett) reports, "According to the FBI's own assessment, the document was bad intelligence – and according to people familiar with its contents, possibly even a fake sent to confuse the bureau." Americans mentioned in the document "insist they do not know each other,

do not speak to each other and never had any conversations remotely like the ones described in the document.”

Clinton Special Counsel Offers Advice To “Defuse” Russia Crisis. In the [Washington Post](#) (5/24), Jane Sherburne, special counsel to President Clinton in his first term, offers “Seven Steps To Help Trump Defuse The Russia Crisis,” including designating a special White House counsel as the scandal manager, installing a process “to ensure consistent and accurate communication about the facts,” developing “the capacity to respond to subpoenas and requests for information generated by prosecutors and congressional investigators,” taking the initiative on disclosing bad facts, avoiding “stonewalling subpoenas and other requests for information,” establishing “a protocol for communicating with the personal counsel of White House officials caught up in the probe,” and, “Finally, tell the truth.”

Kerry Advises Harvard Graduates To “Learn Russian.” The [Washington Times](#) (5/24, Chasmar) reports, “Former Secretary of State John Kerry blasted the Trump administration during a commencement speech Wednesday at Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government, advising graduates to learn to speak Russian in light of collusion allegations.” Kerry said, “I’m often asked what the secret is...to having a real impact on government. ... I used to say, ‘Either run for office or get a degree from Harvard Kennedy School.’ With this White House, I’d say, ‘Buy Rosetta Stone and learn Russian.’”

Tea Party Patriots Co-Founder Seeks Inquiry Into Leaks, Unmasking. The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (5/24, Crabtree) reports that Tea Party Patriots co-founder Jenny Beth Martin has sent a letter to the heads of the House and Senate intelligence committees urging them “to investigate illegal Trump administration leaks and the Obama administration’s unmasking of US officials and other citizens during the presidential campaign and transition.”

Fox News Reportedly Did Not Pressure Hannity On Seth Rich Story. The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/24, story 7, 2:05, Pelley) reported, “Yesterday, the Fox News Channel retracted a story that said a Democratic National Committee staffer may have leaked sensitive emails before he was murdered last year. Well, there’s no evidence of this, but...several conservative commentators are still peddling this sensational conspiracy theory.” CBS’ Chip Reid: “Most of official Washington believes that Russia was behind the hacking of Democratic National Committee emails. But some supporters of President Trump have been pushing an alternate theory that Seth Rich, a DNC employee, stole the emails and gave them to WikiLeaks, and for doing so, became the victim of an unsolved murder. Fox host Sean Hannity, a fervent Trump supporter, has become a driving force behind the story.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/24, story 6, 2:10, Holt) reported, “Fox News has now disavowed its role in spreading those theories, but still they are feeling the fallout. Some companies have begun pulling ads” off Hannity’s show.

[Politico](#) (5/24, Gold) reports that while Fox News retracted its own article on the Rich theory, the network did not pressure Hannity to do the same, according to “a person with direct knowledge of the situation.” Hannity “is considered an opinion host at the channel, separate from the news division, and therefore not subject to the same editorial standards, the network has said in the past.” Jim Rutenberg of the [New York Times](#) (5/24) writes that while on Tuesday, Hannity said he had “retracted nothing,” something – “like a reminder that he is under lucrative contract – must have changed in the hours that followed because Mr. Hannity said on his prime-time show on Fox that he would not be ‘discussing the matter at this time’ out of ‘respect for the family’s wishes.’ Astute listeners picked up on two other words in his statement: ‘For now.’” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/24, Shalby) details how Rich’s death during “a botched robbery” became fodder for the conspiracy theory.

NYTimes Criticizes Administration For Challenging OGE. The [New York Times](#) (5/25) editorializes, “It takes a serious commitment to incompetence and deception to spawn as many ethical and legal concerns as the Trump administration has in just four months. The misbehavior by White House officials in the past few days has been impressive even by Trumpian standards.” For the first time, a White House is working against the Office of Government Ethics, and the Times asks if the President will “fire another independent official for excess loyalty to the law.”

Media Analyses: CBO Report Will Hinder GOP Effort To Repeal, Replace ACA.

Media coverage widely portrays the CBO analysis of the House-passed healthcare bill as an impediment to efforts by the Administration and congressional Republicans to repeal and replace the ACA. The tone of the coverage is very negative toward the Republican bill, with many outlets highlighting the CBO’s prediction that 23 million fewer people will have health insurance by 2026 as part of their headline and at the top of their story, while the CBO’s finding that the plan would reduce the federal deficit by \$119 billion over the next 10 years appears much later if at all.

For example, on [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/24, story 4, 1:15) Lester Holt began his report saying the CBO reported that “the plan would leave 23 million more Americans uninsured by 2026.” Mary Bruce said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/24, story 6, 2:35, Muir) that the CBO report said that some will see their premiums “skyrocket,” and warned that over time, “it would ‘become more difficult’ for people with [preexisting] conditions to purchase insurance because their premiums would ‘continue to increase rapidly.’” [The Hill](#) (5/24, Sullivan) reports that the CBO predicted “that a substantial number of people would live in states that took advantage of the new waivers for ObamaCare regulations.” According to the CBO, “one-sixth of the population would live in states that took full advantage and waived both rules,” and individuals “with pre-existing conditions in those states would have difficulty affording coverage.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/24, Edney, Tracer) reports that while the CBO projects the number of uninsured is about one million less than an earlier version of the bill, “the coverage they get under the GOP law will be less comprehensive than they have now.” Moreover, changes to the legislation will “destabilize insurance markets for about a sixth of the US population” because “states will be able use waivers to change insurance rules, freeing plans to charge sick people more and eliminate certain benefits.” According to the [New York Post](#) (5/24, Morrongiello), the CBO also said the bill “would reduce the federal deficit by \$119 billion” over the next 10 years, a figure “fiscal conservatives in the Senate...are likely to embrace...as they begin negotiations on the legislation.”

[Politico](#) (5/24, Cancryn) says the CBO’s “prediction of coverage losses is expected to add more fuel to Democratic arguments that the people who signed up for coverage under Obamacare would be much worse off under the GOP bill,” while the [New York Times](#) (5/24, A1, Pear) calls the CBO finding “another blow to Republican efforts to undo President Barack Obama’s signature domestic achievement.”

A [Washington Post](#) (5/24) editorial says Republicans sold their bill “with a number of untruths, chief among them that Obamacare is collapsing and the GOP effort is nothing short of a rescue plan,” and the CBO “found Wednesday that the Republicans’ bill is no such thing.” In that same vein, [USA Today](#) (5/24) argues in an editorial that the CBO numbers are the reason “House Republicans were so quick to ram through an Obamacare repeal-and-replace bill last month, not waiting for an estimate of its impact or holding any public hearings.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/24, Levey) says the CBO report “further undermines claims by President Trump and House Republicans that their campaign to repeal and replace the current healthcare law...will protect all Americans’ access to healthcare” and “cast a new shadow over the controversial legislation and likely will complicate Republican efforts to get the bill through the Senate, where it already faces difficult prospects.” A brief report on the [CBS Evening News](#) (5/24, story 5, 0:30, Pelley) said Senate Republicans “are starting over writing their own version.”

Both the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/24, A1, Armour, Peterson) and the [Washington Post](#) (5/24, A1, Eilperin, Snell) predict the CBO report will “complicate” efforts by Senate Republican efforts to pass legislation in that chamber, while [Reuters](#) (5/24, Abutaleb) says the report “raises the stakes for Republican senators now working on their own version of the legislation.” Senate Majority Leader McConnell “told Reuters on Wednesday he does not yet know how Republicans will have the necessary votes.”

[Politico](#) (5/24, Demko, Haberkorn) says the CBO report “reinforced” the “reality” that efforts to repeal the ACA are “in trouble in the Senate.” Politico adds that “within minutes of the release of the report,” two Senate Republicans “blasted the estimate and the House bill, underscoring just how much the legislation will have to change to get through the upper chamber.” Sen. Dean Heller, who is “expected to face a tough re-election contest next year, said the House bill ‘does not do enough to address Nevada’s Medicaid population or protect Nevadans with pre-existing conditions,’” while Sen. Bill Cassidy “criticized the House bill for failing to adequately protect Americans with pre-existing medical conditions.” According to Politico, Senate Republicans “clearly see the peril of passing a bill that’s projected to lead to 23 million fewer Americans having coverage.”

[The Hill](#) (5/24, Carney) reports GOP senators “quickly distanced themselves” from the plan. Sen. Ben Sasse said on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (5/24), “The House bill was not going to be the bill we were going to vote on in the Senate either way. So, the House passed something that created a reset moment for the Senate to tackle repeal and replace.” Sasse added that “the reality is Obamacare exacerbated more problems than it mitigated but it’s not sufficient for Republicans to just say what’s wrong with Obamacare. We need to admit there were structural problems in American health care before Obamacare.”

Nonetheless, the [Washington Times](#) (5/24, Howell) reports that House Speaker Ryan “saw validation in the numbers.” Ryan said, “This CBO report again confirms that the American Health Care Act achieves our mission: lowering premiums and lowering the deficit. It is another positive step toward keeping our promise to repeal and replace Obamacare.” [McClatchy](#) (5/24, Pugh, Clark) says Ryan had “delayed sending the bill to the Senate before the CBO report was released, fearing it wouldn’t meet Senate guidelines for reconciliation,” under which “the health care legislation can only be considered if it reduces the deficit by at least \$2 billion over 10 years.”

Rep. Adam Kinzinger argued on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (5/24), “The top line numbers are actually pretty similar to what we saw in the last iteration before the bill was passed. I think there’s an improvement of about a million people but a significant number of those 23 million that the CBO predicts are folks that basically choose not to have health insurance coverage. We believe philosophically that the government shouldn’t compel somebody to buy insurance, so there are going to be people – as there are now under Obamacare – they choose to pay the penalty instead of the coverage, that will choose not to take it. So, you know, that’s a top line score. I want to get in and read the details.”

[USA Today](#) (5/24, Collins) says that the Administration “attempted some counter-programming ahead of the CBO release Wednesday morning,” including a [tweet](#) from the President which read, “New @HHSgov report shows premiums increased 105% under #Obamacare. Not good! #RepealAndReplace this disaster,” and provided “a link to a Health and Human Services [report](#) that showed premiums had increased under Obamacare.” However, backers of the ACA “some of the issues with the law are caused by Republican policies,” arguing that the Trump Administration “has weakened the ACA with a series of actions...that led to much higher premiums and insurers’ withdrawals in several states.” The [Washington Times](#) (5/24, Boyer) says the White House “hit back,” saying that “the CBO is unreliable in evaluating health-care legislation.” The Times quotes a “White House official” as saying, “History has proven the CBO to be totally incapable of accurately predicting how healthcare legislation will impact health insurance coverage.” The official went on to cite the HHS report highlighted in the President’s tweet as “more alarming.”

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/24) editorial downplays the CBO report as speculation and says the HHS report highlighted by Trump in his tweet, and the decision by Blue CrossBlue Shield of Kansas City to withdraw its ObamaCare plans for 2018 in Kansas and Missouri are more significant.

Following the CBO release, HHS secretary Price “slammed” the CBO score as “wrong again,” [The Hill](#) (5/24, Hellmann) reports. In a statement released “minutes after” the CBO report was publicized, Price “dismiss[ed] the conclusion that it would substantially raise premiums for sick people.” Price said in the statement, “The CBO was wrong when they analyzed ObamaCare’s effect on cost and coverage, and they are wrong again. ... In reality, Americans are paying more for fewer healthcare choices because of Obamacare, and that’s why the Trump Administration is committed to reforming healthcare.”

[CNN](#) (5/24, Walsh, Producer) reports on its website that Rep. Tom MacArthur., who co-authored “a key amendment” to the House bill, also “said he disagrees” with the CBO report. MacArthur said, “I’ll put my knowledge of the insurance market against CBO’s knowledge of the insurance market. ... I respect the CBO’s role but just because a group of auditors down the block has created a model that has a lot of ‘if’s,’ ‘ands’ and ‘maybes’ looking out 10 years doesn’t make that the gospel. That is somebody’s opinion at CBO. I have a different opinion.” He continued, “It does not destabilize markets when you cover people with pre-existing conditions on the much broader shoulders of the taxpayer, and then you allow the rest of people to have lower premiums and an insurance market that actually works for them.”

On [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (5/24), Charles Krauthammer also took issue with the numbers, saying, “I am unimpressed with the CBO and the sanctity CBO numbers. ... Of course you’re going to get an increase in the number of uninsured when you abolish the provision that requires people – especially young people who are compelled to buy health insurance – that abolishes the compulsion to buy health insurance that is completely uneconomical and unnecessary. So, if you abolish that compulsion, you’re going to get fewer people who purchase health insurance. That’s not a calamity. That’s a rational economic decision.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“The White House’s Aversion To Ethical Scrutiny.” The [New York Times](#) (5/25) editorializes, “It takes a serious commitment to incompetence and deception to spawn as many ethical and legal concerns as the Trump administration has in just four months. The misbehavior by White House officials in the past few days has been impressive even by Trumpian standards.” For the first time, a White House is working against the Office of Government Ethics, and the Times asks if the President will “fire another independent official for excess loyalty to the law.”

“Will President Trump Help Save Yemen?” The [New York Times](#) (5/25, Board) editorializes, “President Trump could have used his trip to Saudi Arabia this week to spotlight the humanitarian catastrophe in Yemen and push for a political solution to the conflict.” He instead “basked in the adulation of King Salman and his court, uncritically embraced the country’s foreign and domestic policies, and then sold the Saudis \$110 billion in arms.” The Times says that Trump’s “failure to apply pressure, combined with the giant arms sale, is raising fears that he may give the Saudis a green light to escalate the fighting, as well as find other ways to beef up America’s own support for Riyadh.”

“As Statues Fall, The Specter Of The Noose Rises.” The [New York Times](#) (5/25) says in an editorial that the “bloody sacrifice to white supremacy” of lynchings and other violence against blacks in Mississippi “sprang immediately to mind over the weekend” when state Rep. Karl Oliver “railed in a Facebook post that elected officials in New Orleans deserved to be ‘lynched’ for arranging to have four Confederate memorials removed from the city.” While he “finally apologized” Monday, “citizens and elected officials were still appalled that such a comment would come from a lawmaker in Mississippi – the epicenter of racial terror during the lynching period.” The Times says Mississippi should “finally dispatch the Confederate emblem from the state flag.”

Washington Post.

“The CBO Report Proves The GOP Healthcare Bill Is No Rescue Plan.” A [Washington Post](#) (5/24) says Republicans sold their healthcare bill “with a number of untruths, chief among them that Obamacare is collapsing and the GOP effort is nothing short of a rescue plan,” and the CBO “found Wednesday that the Republicans’ bill is no such thing.”

“The Supreme Court Issues A Welcome Ruling For Voting Rights.” The [Washington Post](#) (5/24) in an editorial on the Supreme Court’s ruling striking down North Carolina’s 2010 congressional redistricting, approves of the court’s ruling, because it limits the legislatures’ “shuffling minority voters in or out of political boundaries,” and because it offered “those challenging district maps...several ways of substantiating their claims.” The Post says that North Carolina is now “the poster child for voter-suppression laws and absurd gerrymandering.”

“This Purple Line Ruling Would Be Laughable – If The Consequences Weren’t So Dire.” The [Washington Post](#) (5/24) in an editorial on the Purple Line light-rail project faults US District Judge Richard J. Leon’s recent ruling as “specious” for saying that “federal and state transit officials” failed to take the effort to, as the Post writes, “divine Metro’s ridership levels a decade or two from now.” The Post says Judge Leon “swallowed spurious arguments” from the line’s detractors, and in so doing “has ensured a delay, meaning spiraling costs, and further jeopardized nearly \$1 billion in federal funding,” regarded as essential to the project.

Wall Street Journal.

“How To Read An ObamaCare Prediction.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/24) editorial downplays as speculation the CBO report showing that under the House- passed healthcare plan, insurance premiums more than doubled on average since 2013, says an HHS report highlighted by President Trump in a tweet Wednesday morning, and the decision by Blue CrossBlue Shield of Kansas City to withdraw its ObamaCare plans for 2018 in Kansas and Missouri are more significant.

“Acosta’s Fiduciary Duty.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/24) in an editorial approves the recent decision by Labor Secretary Acosta to allow the fiduciary rule approved under the Obama Administration to take effect on June 9, while the department holds a public review. It supports Acosta’s finding that the Administrative Procedure Act sets forth procedures to be followed and that he is acting as it requires.

“North Korea’s Missile Advances.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/24) editorial warns that advances in North Korea’s missile program are increasingly putting the US mainland at risk. The Journal warns that if the US and its allies fail to stop North Korea, it may soon have a nuclear weapon.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[GOP Bill Has 23 Million Uninsured, Fewer Than Earlier Plan, But Won't Cut Deficit As Much, CBO Says](#)

[UK Police Probe 'Network,' Libyan Militia Cites Islamic State Role](#)

[J.Crew's Mickey Drexler Confesses: I Underestimated How Tech Would Upend Retail](#)

[US Charges Four With Trading Insider Tips](#)

New York Times:

[Top Russian Officials Discussed How To Influence Trump Aides Last Summer](#)

[Hunt For Manchester Bombing Accomplices Extends To Libya](#)

[Fighting Trump On Climate, California Becomes A Global Force](#)

[When Colleges Dangle Money To Lure Students Who Ignored Them](#)

[GOP Health Bill Would Leave 23 Million More Uninsured In A Decade, CBO Says](#)

[China's Addiction To Debt Now Threatens Its Growth](#)

[Graphic: Found At The Scene In Manchester: Shrapnel, A Backpack And A Battery](#)

[Manchester Bombing Victims Include At Least 7 Parents](#)

[European Leaders Hope To Win Trump's Favor](#)

Washington Post:

[Manchester Bomb Probe Expands To 2nd Continent Manchester Bomb Probe Expands To 2 Continents](#)

[Health Bill's New Score: 23 Million More Uninsured](#)

[Pregnant Teen Exiled To Sidelines For Graduation](#)

[Dubious Finding Shaped FBI Path In Clinton Case](#)

[Seeking Refuge, Somalis Find Death](#)

Financial Times:

[EU Leaders Seek To Charm Trump Over Climate Deal](#)

[Police Believe Manchester Bomber Part Of 'Network'](#)

[IBM Fights To Keep Up With Rivals In The Cloud](#)

[Fed Close To Pulling The Trigger On June Rate Rise](#)

Washington Times:

[Manchester Bomber Recently Visited Libya, A Terrorist Hotbed For Jihadi Training](#)

[Republican Health Care Plan Would Slash Premiums But Leave 23 Million Americans Uninsured](#)

[Media Leak Of Manchester Bomber's ID Further Undermines American Credibility Around World](#)

[Virginia Governor Pardons Illegal Immigrant Liliana Mendez In Hopes Of Thwarting Deportation](#)

[Planned Parenthood Closes Clinics But Continues To Collect \\$500 Million A Year In Taxpayer Funding](#)

[G-7 Leaders Prepare To Go Face To Face With Trump Over Paris Climate Accord](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Manchester Bombing; Manchester Bombing-Suspect; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Russia Meddling Investigation; Healthcare Reform Cost; Trump-Foreign Visit; TSA Screening Changes; Fitness Expert-Wanted; New York-Worker Buried; Sleep-Heart Disease; Lottery Winner; Disabled Student College Graduation.

CBS: Manchester Bombing-Suspect; Manchester Bombing-Security; Manchester Bombing-Witnesses; TSA Screening Changes; Healthcare Reform Cost; Clinton Email Investigation; Fox News Conspiracy Theory; Severe Weather; Mt Everest Climbing Deaths; Trump-Foreign Visit; Manchester Bombing-Victim.

NBC: Manchester Bombing-Suspect; Manchester Bombing-Victims; TSA Screening Changes; Healthcare Reform Cost; Trump-Foreign Visit; Fox News Conspiracy Theory; Marijuana-Seizures; California Coastline Landslide; High School Yearbook; Disabled Student College Graduation.

Network TV At A Glance:

Manchester Bombing – 17 minutes, 45 seconds

Trump-Foreign Visit – 6 minutes

TSA Screening Changes – 4 minutes, 45 seconds

Healthcare Reform Cost – 4 minutes, 20 seconds
Fox News Conspiracy Theory – 4 minutes, 15 seconds
Weather – 2 minutes, 15 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Healthcare Reform Cost; Manchester Bombing; California-Prison Fight; Heart Pump Recall; Wall Street News.

CBS: Healthcare Reform Cost; Manchester Bombing; Montana-House Special Election; Facebook-Media Investment; Wall Street News.

FOX: Manchester Bombing; Healthcare Reform Cost; Congressman Bodyslams Reporter.

NPR: Healthcare Reform Cost; Manchester Bombing; California-Prison Fight.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in an expanded bilateral meeting with European Union leadership; meets with President Emmanuel Macron of France; participates in the NATO unveiling of the Article 5 and Berlin Wall memorials; participates in the handover ceremony of the new NATO Headquarters.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Hosts a budget listening session.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Governmental Affairs Committee subcommittee hearing on U.S. strategy to combat illicit drugs – Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations hearing on 'Stopping the Shipment of Synthetic Opioids: Oversight of U.S. Strategy to Combat Illicit Drugs', with testimony from State Department Bureau of International Organization Affairs Office of Specialized and Technical Agencies Director Gregory Thome; U.S. Postal Service Vice President for Network Operations Management Robert Cintron, and Acting Inspector General Tammy Whitcomb; Customs and Border Protection Acting Executive Assistant Commissioner for Operations Support Robert Perez; United Parcel Service Vice President for Global Customs Policy and Public Affairs Norman Schenk; Boston Medical Center Grayken Center for Addiction Medicine Executive Director Michael Botticelli; Newtown, OH, Police Department Chief Thomas Synan, Jr.; Cuyahoga County (OH) Medical Examiner Thomas Gilson; Christiana Care Health Services Project Engage Medical Director Terry Horton Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

9:30 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, with agenda including 'S. 722, Countering Iran's Destabilizing Activities Act of 2017', with an amendment, 'S. XXXXX, Countering Russian Influence in Europe and Eurasia Act of 2017', 'S. 905, Syrian War Crimes Accountability Act of 2017', 'H.R. 601, Reinforcing Education Accountability in Development Act', with an amendment, 'S. 1141, A bill to ensure that the United States promotes the meaningful participation of women in mediation and negotiation processes seeking to prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict', 'S. Res. 114, A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate on humanitarian crises in Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, and Yemen', with amendments, and 'S. Res. 18, A resolution reaffirming the United States-Argentina partnership and recognizing Argentina's economic reforms', with amendments Location: S-116, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

9:30 AM Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on FY'18 Department of the Army budget – Hearing on 'Posture of the Department of the Army', with testimony from Acting Secretary of the Army Robert Speer; and U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

9:45 AM Senate Budget Committee hearing on 'President's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Proposal' – Hearing on 'President's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Proposal', with testimony from Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney Location: Rm 608, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://budget.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateBudget>

9:45 AM Senate Energy Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Dan Brouillette to be Deputy Secretary of Energy; and Neil Chatterjee and Robert Powelson to be Federal Energy Regulatory Commission members * Embargoed until 10:00 AM EDT: FERC Vacancies Coalition expected to cause disruption in the hearing room, 'ideally causing a cancelation or delay of the hearing itself', in order to demonstrate the message 'until Congress investigates the agency's abuses of power and law, the Senate must not approve new FERC commissioners' Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC

www.energy.senate.gov

10:00 AM Treasury Secretary Mnuchin testifies to Senate Finance Committee on FY'18 budget proposals – Hearing on 'Fiscal Year 2018 Budget Proposals for the Department of Treasury and Tax Reform', with testimony from Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin Location: Rm 215, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://finance.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Agriculture Committee hearing on the farm economy and rural America – Hearing on 'Examining the Farm Economy: Perspectives on Rural America', with testimony from U.S. Department of Agriculture Chief Economist Dr Robert Johansson; Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City Assistant Vice President, economist, and Omaha Branch Executive Dr Nathan Kauffman; Agri-AFC Director of Retail Sales Alex Sheffer; and Oregon State University Rural Studies Program Director Dr Bruce Weber Location: Rm 328A, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://agriculture.senate.gov/>

10:30 AM DHS Secretary Kelly testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on FY'18 budget – Homeland Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Review of the FY2018 Budget Request for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security', with testimony from Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly Location: Rm 138, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

1:00 PM Dem Sen. Joe Manchin speaks on the opioid epidemic on the chamber floor – Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin leads Senate colleagues in a colloquy on the chamber floor discussing 'the impact the opioid epidemic is having across the U.S. and how the Senate can work together to stop it' Location: Washington, DC www.manchin.senate.gov/ https://twitter.com/Sen_JoeManchin

2:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

2:00 PM Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee hearing on the UNHRC – Multilateral International Development, Multilateral Institutions, and International Economic, Energy, and Environmental Policy Subcommittee hearing on 'Assessing the United Nations Human Rights Council', with testimony from former Assistant Secretary of State for International Organization Affairs Kristen Silverberg, and former Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor Tom Malinowski; UN Watch (Switzerland) Executive Director Hillel Neuer; and Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Ted Piccone Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations of Noel Francisco to be Solicitor General; Makan Delrahim to be Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division; and Steven Engel to be Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel, as well as 'S. 782, PROTECT Our Children Act of 2017' Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

US House: 8:00 AM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on Department of the Air Force FY'18 seapower budget – Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee hearing on 'Department of the Air Force FY 2018 Budget Request for Seapower and Projection Forces', with testimony from U.S. Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations Lt. Gen. Mark Nowland, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Acquisition Military Deputy Lt. Gen. Arnold Bunch, Jr., and Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Plans and Requirements Lt. Gen. Jerry Harris Location: Rm 2212, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

9:00 AM House Dems reintroduce the ACTION for National Service Act – Democratic Reps. John Larson, John Lewis, Joe Kennedy, and Doris Matsui reintroduce the ACTION for National Service Act, alongside The McChrystal Group's Gen. (Ret.) Stanley McChrystal, Voices for National Service President AnnMaura Connolly, Service Year Alliance President Shirley Sagawa, and Be the Change President Rob Gordon * Bill would reduce the costs of education for people participating in national service Location: LOCATION CHANGED TO: 234 CANNON <http://www.house.gov/larson/> <https://twitter.com/RepJohnLarson>

9:00 AM House expected to vote on bills on sexual abuse and child exploitation – Houses meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of 'H.R. 1973 – Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse Act of 2017' and 'H.R. 1761 – Protecting Against Child Exploitation Act of 2017' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

9:30 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on U.S. Forest Service budget – Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'Budget Hearing – U.S. Forest Service', with testimony from Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue; and U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell Location: Rm 2007, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

9:30 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on U.S. Forest Service budget – Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee ‘Budget Hearing – U.S. Forest Service’, with testimony from Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue; and U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell Location: Rm 2007, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM ‘Trump’s Conflicts of Interest and the Americans Who Are Impacted By White House Ethics’ briefing – ‘Trump’s Conflicts of Interest and the Americans Who Are Impacted By White House Ethics’ briefing, co-hosted by Common Cause and Public Citizen, with Democratic Rep. Keith Ellison serving as honorary co-host, focusing on ‘everyday Americans adversely impacted by the Trump administration’s unprecedented conflicts of interest’. Speakers include small business owner and cancer survivor Ali Shapiro, and Iraq War veteran Will Fischer Location: Rm 122, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.commoncause.org

<https://twitter.com/CommonCause>

10:00 AM FDA Commissioner Gottlieb testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on budget – Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee ‘Budget Hearing – Food and Drug Administration’, with testimony from FDA Commissioner Dr Scott Gottlieb Location: Rm 2362-A, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on FY’18 atomic energy defense budget – Strategic Forces Subcommittee hearing on ‘Fiscal Year 2018 Priorities for Nuclear Forces and Atomic Energy Defense Activities’, with testimony from National Nuclear Security Administration Administrator Frank Klotz; U.S. Air Force Global Strike Command Commander Gen. Robin Rand; U.S. Navy Strategic Systems Program Director Vice Adm. Terry Benedict; Department of Defense Acting CIO Dr John Zangardi; Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Missile Defense Policy Dr Rob Soofer; and Acting Assistant Secretary of Energy for Environmental Management Susan Cange Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

10:00 AM House Small Business subcommittees joint hearing on ‘change orders delayed for small construction contractors’ – Contracting and Workforce Subcommittee and Investigations, Oversight, and Regulations Subcommittee joint hearing on ‘All Work and No Pay: Change Orders Delayed for Small Construction Contractors’, with testimony from Cohen Seglias Pallas Greenhall & Furman Federal Contracting Group Co-Chair Edward DeLisle; GlenMar Construction Vice President Andy Brown (on behalf of Associated General Contractors of America); Long Electric Company CEO Greg Long (on behalf of National Electrical Contractors Association); and American Subcontractors Association Chief Advocacy Officer Colette Nelson (on behalf of Construction Procurement Coalition) Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

10:00 AM House Government Reform subcommittee hearing on ‘improper’ federal student aid payments – Government Operations Subcommittee and Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee joint hearing on ‘Improper Payments in the Federal Government: Student Aid’, with testimony from Department of Education COO James Runcie, and Inspector General Kathleen Tighe; and National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) President Justin Draeger Location: Rm 2154, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:30 AM Commerce Secretary Ross testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee on budget – Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee ‘Department of Commerce Budget Hearing’, with testimony from Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross Location: H-309, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

12:30 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on Vietnam – Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee hearing on ‘Vietnam: Why Religious Freedom and Human Rights are Critical to U.S. National Interests’, with testimony from Rallying for Democracy Chairman Quan Nguyen; Boat People SOS President and CEO Dr Nguyen Dinh Thang; and Amnesty International Director of International Advocacy T. Kumar Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

1:00 PM Congressional Progressive Caucus unveils ‘21st Century New Deal for Jobs’ – Congressional Progressive Caucus Co-Chairs Democratic Reps. Raul Grijalva and Mark Pocan, Democratic Reps. Ted Lieu and Keith Ellison, and other CPC members unveil a ‘21st Century New Deal for Jobs’ – a proposal, first outlined in ‘The People’s Budget’, detailing a \$2 trillion

investment into rebuilding the nation's crumbling infrastructure. Other press conference participants include Progressive Change Campaign Committee co-founder Adam Green, PICO National Network Political Director Bishop Dwayne Royster, MoveOn Washington Director Ben Wikler, Demos Senior Campaign Strategist Vijay Das, VoteVets.org Director of Government Relations Will Fischer, and Delaware Alliance for Community Executive Director Darlene Battle Location: House Triangle, Washington, DC cpc.grijalva.house.gov
<https://twitter.com/USProgressives>

Other: 8:45 AM EESI WIRES University Graduate School – Environmental and Energy Study Institute WIRES University Graduate School – Electric Transmission Infrastructure, exploring the high voltage electric transmission grid and 'its importance as an enabler of markets and new technology as the economy becomes more thoroughly electrified'. Speakers include Democratic Rep. Jerry McNerney and Republican Rep. Tim Walberg Location: Reserve Officers Association, One Constitution Ave, Washington, DC www.eesi.org <https://twitter.com/eesionline>;

9:00 AM Wilson Center discussion with GOP Rep. Adam Kinzinger – 'A Conversation with Congressman Adam Kinzinger: The Way Forward for America's Longest War' Woodrow Wilson Center discussion with Republican Rep. Adam Kinzinger, who offers his thoughts on the war in Afghanistan and how U.S. policy can best address it Location: Wilson Center, Ronald Reagan Bldg., 1300 Pennsylvania Ave, Washington, DC <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/>
<https://twitter.com/TheWilsonCenter>

12:25 PM GOP Rep. Mike Coffman keynotes AEI event on 'From war to work: Saving veterans from the disability trap' – 'From war to work: Saving veterans from the disability trap' American Enterprise Institute event featuring keynote remarks from Republican Rep. Mike Coffman. Speakers also include Deborah Beidel (University of Central Florida), Mark Duggan (Stanford University), B. Christopher Frueh (University of Hawaii), Morgan Luttrell (Boot Campaign), Thomas Meyer (Philanthropy Roundtable), and Michael Sarraille (Vetted Foundation) Location: AEI, 1789 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.aei.org/>
<https://twitter.com/AEI>

1:00 PM Arlington National Cemetery 'Flags-In', honoring fallen military heroes – Arlington National Cemetery annual 'Flags-In', honoring the nation's fallen military heroes in a ceremony conducted annually since the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard) was designated as the U.S. Army's official ceremonial unit in 1948. Every available soldier in the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment participates, placing small American flags one foot in front and centered before each grave marker Location: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA
<http://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil> <https://twitter.com/ArlingtonNat>

1:30 PM Brookings Institution discussion on 'Trade, Security, and the U.S.-Mexico relationship' – 'Trade, Security, and the U.S.-Mexico relationship' Brookings Institution Mexico Initiative discussion examining the 'economic, security, and border challenges facing the U.S.-Mexico relationship and the implications for relations moving forward'. Participants include Mexican Ambassador to the U.S. Geronimo Gutierrez, former Mexican Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Arturo Sarukhan, former U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Amb. Earl Anthony Wayne, Brookings Institution Global Economy and Development Fellow Dany Bahar, Peterson Institute for International Economics Reginald Jones Senior Fellow Gary Hufbauer, Albright Stonebridge Group Senior Advisor Antonio Ortiz Mena, Brookings Institution Foreign Policy Senior Fellow Vanda Felbab-Brown, Migration Policy Institute U.S. Immigration Policy Program Senior Fellow and Director Doris Meissner, and Urban Institute Senior Fellow Audrey Singer Location: Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave, NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu>
<https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst>

7:00 PM Commerce Secretary Ross keynotes US-ASEAN Business Council annual gala dinner – US-ASEAN Business Council annual gala dinner, held in celebration of the 50th anniversary of ASEAN and the 40th anniversary of U.S.-ASEAN relations, featuring keynote from Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross Location: Four Seasons Hotel, 2800 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.usasean.org <https://twitter.com/USASEUANBusiness>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Trump felt very at home at the Vatican. He said it reminded him of one of the bathrooms at his house."

Jimmy Kimmel: "The Pope made it clear he would like our President to join him in promoting

peace, giving aid to the poor, and protecting our environment. The Pope is very persuasive. Unfortunately, Trump is only in year 70 of his 100-year deal with the devil right now. And he's got a no-trade clause."

Jimmy Kimmel: "So after their meeting, Trump said he would never forget what the Pope told him. Then he immediately forgot what the Pope told him."

Stephen Colbert: "President Trump is still on his semester abroad, getting his extra credits. And he might want to stay over there for a while until firemen can put out his budget proposal. Because not only does nobody like it, but it turns out it has a huge mistake in it. Not the part about cutting funding for cancer research. That's one of his passion projects. It turns out that the entire budget is based on a \$2 trillion math error. Yes, that's trillion, with a 't.' Now, there's a simple explanation for how this happened: Donald Trump is an idiot."

Stephen Colbert: "Here's a basic math lesson for Donald Trump. If a train leaves Washington, DC, traveling at 40 miles an hour, please get on it."

Stephen Colbert: "Trump visited the Vatican. That's exciting. It's one of the few places on Earth with more old men than his cabinet."

Stephen Colbert: "When asked for his impression of the Pope, Trump said, 'He is something.' That is true. Hard to argue with that. The Pope is, indeed, something. As Jesus himself said, 'Blessed are the vague for they shall inherit, you know, stuff.'"

James Corden: "[President Trump] met with the Pope today in Rome. It was a good meeting, but it got awkward when the Pope asked Trump if he wanted to confess, and Trump was like, 'I don't know anything about Russia.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Trump met with the Pope. It got weird when Trump was like, 'Jesus only had 12 followers? Sad! His tweets must have been terrible.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "In that photo, Trump looks like a guy who just flew on Air Force One, and the Pope looks like a guy who just flew United."

Seth Meyers: "Pope Francis met with President Trump today at the Vatican. 'Bless you my child,' said the Pope to the driver that took Trump away."

Conan O'Brien: "President Trump was at the Vatican meeting with Pope Francis. The world leader who believes himself God on Earth said he's a big fan of the Pope."

Conan O'Brien: "During her visit to the Vatican this morning, Melania Trump wore a black dress and black veil. According to experts, that means she and Donald Trump had sex last night."

Conan O'Brien: "Big news from Washington: According to the Senate, President Trump's budget is dead on arrival. That's what they said. In other words, Trump's budget is covered by Trump's healthcare plan."

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DOI In The News

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

[Politico](#) (11/1, Lippman) interviewed Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for a piece on his birthday. When asked about President Trump, Zinke responded, "The President is delivering on his campaign promises and is draining the swamp every day. Unemployment is down; the stock market is up. It's not easy or even popular, at times, draining the swamp, but the work needs to be done to make America great again. I have never worked for someone with so much energy and instincts than President Trump, and I am honored to be part of his team." Zinke also highlighted "a return to multiple use of our public lands." He said, "At Interior we are working to better manage our land at the ecosystem level to ensure the long-term health of the land. We are also expanding Americans' access to public lands. It's a mission worth fighting for."

Murkowski: Full Confidence In Zinke.

[Politico Morning Energy](#) (11/1, Adragna) reports that "concerns over his non-commercial travel, the controversial \$300 million Whitefish Energy contract and various campaign activities haven't shaken" Sen. Lisa Murkowski's "faith in Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke." She said, "What I can tell you is [that on] the issues that we have been working with him on, he is dogged, he is focused. We're good."

Udall Having Second Thoughts On Vote For Zinke. The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (11/1, Coleman) reports that Sen. Tom Udall "seems to be having second thoughts about his vote to confirm Ryan Zinke as interior secretary earlier this year." Udall "said Wednesday that Zinke, a former U.S. representative from Montana, misrepresented himself during his confirmation hearing and in meetings with him before the vote." Speaking of Zinke, Udall said, "He represented, both in the committee when he testified and represented himself to me personally, as a Teddy

Roosevelt Republican, so I'm very disappointed about how he's performed. I thought that the best thing to do in terms of working with him after those representations was to show good faith and vote for him." Udall continued, "That's water under the bridge. I'm moving forward, and we're going to try to hold him accountable on the things he's said."

Championing 'American Energy Dominance,' Feds To Scrap Master Plans For Leasing Public Lands.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/1, Maffly) reports that Interior Department Secretary Ryan Zinke has released a new 44-page report, which is "aimed at lifting barriers to development on public lands." Commenting on President Trump's leadership, Zinke said that the "Interior is fostering domestic energy production by streamlining permitting and revising and repealing Obama-era job killing regulations" while being environmentally responsible. The programs that may be removed or altered include "the Bureau of Land Management's master leasing process; its methane flaring and venting rule; hydraulic fracturing regulations; and its coal leasing program."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Southwest Colorado Journal](#) (11/1, Mimiaga).

House Passes Wildfire Reform Bill.

[The Hill](#) (11/1, Henry) reports that the House on Wednesday passed legislation "designed to help prevent future wildfires following a string of devastating fires in the West." The legislation "would make it easier for officials to prepare federal forests for potential fires by easing regulations governing forest management activities like controlled burns and clearing away brush that acts as wildfire fuel." It also seeks "to provide more funding for wildfire relief operations by establishing a wildfire-specific account within the Federal Emergency Management Agency."

The [AP](#) (11/1, Daly) reports that Republicans "say proactive management of forests — including prescribed burns, salvage logging of dead trees and projects to cut small trees and underbrush — reduces the risk of wildfires and lessens the severity of fires that occur." On the other hand, "Democrats say they support responsible projects to prevent fires, but accuse Republicans of using the current fires as an excuse to undermine the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act and other laws."

Wyden And Merkley Still In The Dark On Plan To Shrink Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument.

The [Oregonian](#) (11/1, Theen) reports that "more than a month after a draft plan from the Trump administration to shrink the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument leaked, Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley said they have yet to be briefed about the plan." They "blasted the draft report from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke obtained by The Oregonian/OregonLive on Sept. 18 as inaccurate and misleading and said they were "disappointed" to still be waiting for more details." The two "addressed a letter to President Donald Trump's chief of staff, Gen. John Kelly, on Tuesday expressing their frustration with the process."

[KOB-TV](#) Medford, OR (11/1) reports that the senators wrote, "We are disappointed to learn of the Department of the Interior's recommendations to diminish boundaries and protections for national monuments, including the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in our home state. We still have not received a briefing from the Department of the Interior regarding the proposed changes even though Secretary Zinke pledged to work directly with us. Instead, we learned about the report through the news." They added, "We are also concerned about the numerous factual errors in the report and the role they played in recommending changes to Cascade-Siskiyou. Had we been appropriately consulted, we could have easily addressed these errors prior to the report being sent to the President."

An Alaska Senator Wants To Fight Climate Change And Drill For Oil, Too.

The [New York Times](#) (11/1, Friedman) reports that Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska declared both her belief that "climate change is real" and her belief that drilling for oil in her state's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is important for US national security and the economic health of Alaska. Murkowski said in an interview that she thinks "for anybody who has spent any time in Alaska, there is an awareness that we all have that we are seeing the impacts of climate change perhaps more readily than in other parts of the country because of our Arctic environment...but we're also a place where we recognize that in order to stay warm, we have to have a resource that can keep us warm, and oil has been a mainstay for us."

Renewed Optimism Under Zinke's Interior Department For King Cove.

The [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (11/1, Klouda) reports that “proponents of a road from King Cove to Cold Bay feel renewed hope under discussions with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s administration for a different land swap than was proposed in the past.” King Cove Mayor Henry Mack “said the application for the road is back before the U.S. Department of the Interior.” According to the article, “discussions involve setting up a federal lands appraisal process on 200 to 300 acres owned by the King Cove Corp. that could be swapped with the federal government for land to complete the road with an 11-mile connection through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge to reach Cold Bay and its all-weather airport.”

As Wyoming Prepares Change To Coal Bonding Rules, Feds Announce Walk Back.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (11/1, Richards) reports that “proposed Wyoming rules for coal mining may fill a void in the Cowboy State created by the Trump administration’s push for deregulation within the industry.” The Trump Administration is “considering whether to halt proposed Obama-era rules that discourage self-bonding.” Meanwhile, the state’s Department of Environmental Quality is “nearly finished with a preliminary update to state regulations, including self-bonding, said Keith Guille, spokesman for the department.”

Trump To Reconsider Grand Canyon Uranium Mining Ban.

[The Hill](#) (11/1, Cama) reports that the Trump Administration is “targeting for review a uranium mining ban that former President Barack Obama instituted in the watershed of the Grand Canyon.” The Forest Service, “which owns some of the more than 1 million acres of land subject to the uranium ban in Arizona, put the withdrawal on a list of policies released Wednesday that it says inhibit the production and use of domestic energy.” The previous administration “instituted the ban in 2012 amid fears by American Indian tribes and environmentalists that uranium mining would pollute the Colorado River and the nearby Grand Canyon.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (11/1, Davenport) and [Reuters](#) (11/1, Valdmanis).

Forest Service Fire Experts Blocked From Attending Major Fire Conference.

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (11/1, Chaney) reports that “several of Missoula’s top federal fire scientists have been denied permission to attend the International Fire Congress later this month, leading conference organizers to suspect censorship of climate-related research.” Association for Fire Ecology President and University of Idaho professor Leda Kobziar “raised the issue in an Oct. 9 letter to Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.” Kobziar “noted that more than 100 federal fire experts hadn’t received approval to attend the Orlando conference.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Trump Administration Ends Funding For Blackfeet Range Rider Program.

[Montana Public Radio](#) (11/1, Hegyi) reports that the Trump Administration has “cancelled funding for the Blackfeet Nation’s range rider program.” The Bureau of Indian Affairs “stopped funding the tribe’s range rider program on October 5th.” Blackfeet tribal chairman Harry Barnes “says the move means those range riders and support staff could lose their jobs on the reservation.” He added, “We didn’t get a notice, we didn’t get consultation, none of that. We get a letter saying all that three percent is now going to treasury. So we lose it.”

Chumash, County Camp 4 Land Deal Signed.

The [Santa Barbara \(CA\) Independent](#) (11/1, Brugger) reports that “after years of contentious public and private negotiations, the County Board of Supervisors formalized on Tuesday an agreement with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians.” The agreement, “in short, requires the Chumash to pay the county \$178,500 annually and adhere to certain development restrictions when building homes and a tribal center.” The article adds that “no gaming is allowed” and “the county would also drop its formal opposition to the tribe’s Bureau of Indian Affairs petition to annex Camp 4.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Rep. Labrador Spoke To Sessions About Idaho Bundy Defendants.

The [Idaho Statesman](#) (11/1, Barker) reports that Rep. Raul Labrador “talked to Attorney General Jeff Sessions about looking into the prosecution, bail and sentences of four Idahoans caught up in the 2014 standoff between federal law enforcement officers, a Nevada rancher and 1,000 private militia members.” According to the Statesman, “the conversation came after the Idaho Republican wrote Sessions in support of a separate letter signed by more than 50 Idaho lawmakers that urged Sessions to stop the third trial of two men whose earlier trials ended in acquittals or deadlocked juries.” Labrador “suggested ‘a strong possibility that a miscarriage of justice is being committed.’” The Statesman adds that “following Labrador’s talk with Sessions, Parker and Drexler accepted a plea bargain deal with acting U.S. Attorney Steven Myhre, dropping their felony charges down to a misdemeanor charge of obstruction of a court order.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Oceana: Most Of Offshore Virginia Can’t Handle Both Drilling And DOD Training.

The [Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (11/1, Dietrich) reports that “a new analysis of military training conducted off Virginia finds that nearly all of the Outer Continental Shelf in that area is incompatible with offshore drilling now being pushed by members of Congress and the Trump administration.” The advocacy group Oceana “said Wednesday that its review of U.S. Defense Department planning assessments found that 94 percent of the waters off Virginia are vital to an array of military operations that would conflict with offshore oil and gas development.” Oceana’s campaign director Diane Hoskins said, “There’s little room to drill off Virginia’s coast. 94 percent (of the area) has longstanding DOD operations critical to national security and military readiness. There’s too much at stake.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Senate Energy Gears Up For Alaska Drilling Fight.

[Roll Call](#) (11/1, Dillon) reports that at a Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Thursday, Republicans in favor of opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration are expected to argue “improvements in drilling technology over the past decade will minimize potential damage to the environment.” The assertion may “rile committee Democrats” who plan to raise the specter of oil spills as a reason not to allow drilling in the reserve. Erik Milito, director with the American Petroleum Institute, said that “the natural gas and oil industry’s long record of production on the Alaska North Slope demonstrates that resources at ANWR could be developed in an environmentally responsible way,” concluding, “opening it would be an important step toward increasing American competitiveness and securing our nation’s energy future.”

Canada Sees ANWR Drilling Threat To Border-Crossing Caribou. [Roll Call](#) (11/2, Dillon) reports that the Canadian government has “come out against the U.S. proposal to open a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration, citing the feared impact on a caribou herd that migrates across the shared border.” Canadian Embassy spokesperson Christine Constantin said, “Canada opposes opening the Arctic Refuge and the 1002 area to resource development and supports continued conservation of the Porcupine Caribou herd’s habitat. We have long advocated for the permanent protection of the Arctic Refuge and have made strides to protect this herd through the establishment of important habitat areas, including two national parks, Ivvavik and Vuntut.”

US Rethinks Protections For Fly Imperiled By Climate Change.

The [AP](#) (11/1) reports that “U.S. officials are reconsidering whether federal protections are needed for a rare, cold-water insect after scientists confirmed its presence in previously-unknown locations in Wyoming and Montana.” Government biologist Jim Boyd “said Wednesday that climate change remains a concern for the western glacier stonefly despite the new findings.” The stonefly was “proposed for protections under the Endangered Species Act last year by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service” and “a decision on whether protections still are warranted is expected in early 2018.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (11/1, Reilly).

Reeds Beach Restoration Aims To Improve Water Flow, Reduce Flooding.

[Shore News Today \(NJ\)](#) (11/1, Benson) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “began a marsh restoration project at Cape May National Wildlife Refuge Wednesday, Nov. 1 that officials said will improve water flow in salt marsh north of Reeds Beach Road to benefit wildlife and reduce flooding.” The project is “part of a \$15 million project to restore marshes along 60 miles of coastal New Jersey that is supported by federal funding for Hurricane Sandy recovery and resilience.” Refuge manager Brian Braudis said, “This project will benefit both wildlife and human communities. A naturally functioning salt marsh offers resting and breeding habitat for species like the salt marsh sparrow and black duck, while helping protect private property from the effects of severe storms and sea-level rise.”

FWS Looks To Dodge Suit Over Endangered Texas Bird.

[Law360](#) (11/1, Reddan) reports that “the federal government, on behalf of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is looking to trim a Texas state agency’s lawsuit seeking to delist the golden-cheeked warbler as an endangered species, claiming in Texas federal court Tuesday that the suit is untimely.”

National Park Service

What’s In A Name? At Yosemite, Maybe It’s Money.

[E&E Publishing](#) (11/1, Doyle) reports that Justice Department lawyers are “pushing hard — and facing renewed resistance this week — as they probe how a major concessions company placed a dollar value on trademarked names at Yosemite National Park.” According to the article, “a former Yosemite concessionaire urged a judge yesterday to reject the government’s demand for depositions and documents concerning an intellectual property assessment.” For now, “neither side appears willing to give an inch,” and “the two sides are now grinding through discovery, which is scheduled to end next June.”

Group Cries Foul Over Cell Service Expansion In National Parks.

[Courthouse News](#) (11/1, Reese) reports that cellphone towers are propagating “around the country in the last frontier of cell coverage: national parks and national forests.” A recently filed complaint filed with the Interior Department’s Office of Inspector General “claims national parks across the United States are allowing cell coverage to spread into wild backcountry areas without public involvement, without getting paid and sometimes without knowing who owns the towers.” Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility “said in its Oct. 30 letter to Mary Kendall, deputy inspector general for the U.S. Department of Interior, that Yosemite National Park is the latest national park in America to allow cellphone towers to be built without adequate government or public oversight.”

House Approves Visclosky’s Indiana Dunes National Park Act.

The [Michigan City \(IN\) News Dispatch](#) (11/1) reports that the House on Wednesday approved Rep. Pete Visclosky’s legislation to designate the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore as a National Park. H.R. 1488, the Indiana Dunes National Park Act, was approved by unanimous consent. The measure is now awaiting consideration by the Senate.

Want To Go To Arches? You May Soon Need A Reservation, Under A New Park Service Plan.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/1, Maffly) reports that Arches National Park on Wednesday “unveiled a proposal for a reservation system that it hopes will reduce the crush of visitors, but may irritate some who are unable to plan ahead.” The plan would “limit park entries during certain three-hour windows between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. over the March-through-October high season.” According to the article, “park officials emphasized the point of the plan is not to limit the number of visitors, but to spread visitation out during the course of the day and throughout the year.”

Two Iconic Gumbo Limbo Trees To Be Removed From De Soto National Memorial.

The [Bradenton \(FL\) Herald](#) (11/1, Callihan) reports that “the largest gumbo limbo tree in the country will be removed from De Soto National Memorial.” The National Park Service “announced Wednesday that two gumbo limbo trees that sustained damage from Hurricane Irma, including

one that holds the title of American Forests Champion Tree for being the nation's largest tree of the species, will be removed from the park Monday and Tuesday." Park officials pointed to "safety concerns as the reason for the removal." De Soto National Memorial Superintendent Nathan Souder said, "Like many others, we love these trees. Ultimately our responsibility as public servants is to put the safety of our visitors first. The demise of these two trees is imminent and their location coupled with the amount of weight that will come down when they fall pose an unacceptable risk to visitors. This is a very difficult decision, but the most viable option."

Park Staff Explains Potentilla Project.

The [Half Moon Bay \(CA\) Review](#) (11/1, Hayden) reports that Rep. Jackie Speier has "called for a temporary stop to the removal of beloved trees at Rancho Corral de Tierra in Montara pending further discussion with National Park Service staff." According to the article, "a 'town hall' meeting that will focus on the Golden Gate National Recreation Area's Potentilla Protection Project is scheduled for 2 p.m. on Nov. 12."

Muir NHS Completes Gravesite Plan.

The [Martinez \(CA\) News-Gazette](#) (11/1, Weilenman) reports that "in its latest step in handling the Strentzel-Muir gravesites, the John Muir National Historic Site has completed its plans for the place where the legendary environmentalist John Muir is buried." Park superintendent Tom Leatherman said, "I am pleased that we have completed our planning process and are now able to provide an opportunity for the public to visit and pay respects at Muir's final resting place." According to the article, "that plan has been approved by Laura E. Joss, redirector of the Pacific West Region of the National Park Service, and the initial phase of the plan that allows limited visitor access to the graves will be put into place after Dec. 1."

Dogs Harassing Assateague Pony Photo Brings About Investigation.

The [Delmarva \(MD\) Daily Times](#) (11/1, Moore) reports that the National Park Service is "investigating recent photographs depicting two dogs running toward a wild pony on Assateague Island in Maryland." Liz Davis, public information officer of Assateague Island National Seashore, "confirmed officials are investigating the incident, but did not have any further details Tuesday." She "also confirmed the pony featured in the photographs is Susi Sole, or N2BHS-M."

Additional coverage was provided by [USA Today](#) (11/1, Moore).

Park Service Looking For Company Operate New Ferries.

The [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (11/1) reports that Gulf Islands National Seashore is "looking for a company to operate two ferries expected to carry passengers from Fort Pickens to Pensacola Beach and downtown Pensacola starting this spring." The National Park Service "said proposals from ferry operators will be accepted through Jan. 10."

Longtime VNP Employee Retires.

The [International Falls \(MN\) Daily Journal](#) (11/1, Degross) reports that "after working with the National Park Service for 29 years, Voyageurs National Park Facility Manager Bill Carlson retired Tuesday." Looking back on his career, "Carlson stated that he is most proud of his efforts to improve sustainability at the park and in lowering the overall costs of maintaining the park's facilities." Carlson "regularly recognizes that his career success was made possible through the expertise and professionalism of the facilities team that he has had the privilege to work with over the years."

Bath Farm Makes Register.

The [Roanoke \(VA\) Recorder](#) (11/2, Adams) reports that the Wilderness farm in northern Bath County has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Additional Coverage: Your Visit To RMNP Might Get More Expensive.

Additional coverage of the proposal to increase fees at national parks was provided by the [Estes Park \(CO\) Trail-Gazette](#) (11/1, Clemens), the [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (11/1, Cowan), the [Augusta \(VA\) Free Press](#) (11/2), the [Harrisonburg \(VA\) Daily News Record](#) (11/1, Stout), [WCAV-TV Charlottesville \(VA\)](#) Charlottesville, VA (11/1, Emokpae), [WINA-AM Charlottesville \(VA\)](#) Charlottesville, VA (11/1), and [WINA-AM Charlottesville \(VA\)](#) Charlottesville, VA (11/1).

Office Of Insular Affairs

Pula: Bank Reimburses All \$\$.

The [Marshall Islands Journal](#) (11/3) reports that “the Chairman of the Trust Fund for the People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands said Friday that money compromised by cyber attacks at State Street Financial Services Company have been fully restored and diligence stepped up after the discovery of fraudulent withdrawals of nearly \$700,000.” Trust Fund Chairman Nikolao Pula said, “Trust Fund staff first detected irregularities in early July 2017 and alerted custodian State Street leading to the discovery of fraudulent activity in the Trust Fund. All Trust Fund members and staff have been collaborating closely with State Street in monitoring and resolving the situation with the RMI Attorney General, RMI Auditor, and other officials from the Marshall Islands, Taiwan, and US governments.” He continued, “Together we will continue to protect and maintain the integrity of the Trust Fund for the People of the RMI.”

DoD Official Says Seeing NMI Worth Long Trip.

[Marianas Variety](#) (11/2, Villahermosa) reports that U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Basing Allison Sands “said travelling to the CNMI from Washington, D.C. is quite a long trip, but seeing the islands was worth it.” According to the article, “Sands and the CNMI officials discussed the divert airfield project on Tinian and the islands’ workforce issues.” Sands said in an interview, “It is important for us to come here and listen to the people who live here so we’ll know what are the important issues for them and what is the impact of us coming here. We want to make sure that our coming here is beneficial to everyone.”

Governor: HR 339 Not Good For Economy.

[Marianas Variety](#) (11/2, Villahermosa) reports that Gov. Ralph D.L.G. Torres “said he supported H.R. 339’s objective to increase the number of CWs, but it was never the administration’s intent to ‘ban’ construction workers.” Torres “on Wednesday said there could have been a better way to protect the hospital’s workforce without damaging the local economy.” He said, “From the crafting of H.R. 339, it was the intent of the congressional office and my office to increase the total CW allotment for FY 2017 to 15,000 [from 12,998]. The ban on construction workers was intended to occur after FY 2018 to allow construction companies to adjust to the new arrangements....”

Kilili Thanks Governor For Support Of HR 339.

[Marianas Variety](#) (11/2) reports that U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan “on Wednesday released his letter of thanks to Gov. Ralph D.L.G. Torres for the Governor’s support of Sablan’s bill, H.R. 339, increasing the number of CW permits available for the Marianas in 2017.” Kilili wrote to the governor, “It was not easy to get a bill dealing with foreign labor issues enacted in this Congress. Your letter of support for the legislation and your participation in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing held in April contributed significantly to our success.”

A Mysterious Ancient City Discovered In The Middle Of The Ocean.

[Ary News \(PAK\)](#) (10/31) reports that “a mysterious ancient city has just been found some time ago off the coast of the tiny nation of Micronesia.” According to the article, a “massive stone tomb buried beneath foliage in the long-abandoned city Nan Madol may have been built for the first chief of the island of Pohnpei.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [LAD Bible \(UK\)](#) (10/31, Dawson).

Office Of Surface Mining

Awaiting Trump’s Coal Comeback, Miners Reject Retraining.

[Reuters](#) (11/1, Volcovici) reports “despite broad consensus” about the “bleak future” of coal, “a years-long effort to diversify the economy of this hard-hit region away from mining is stumbling, with Obama-era jobs retraining classes undersubscribed and future programs at risk under President Donald Trump’s proposed 2018 budget.” The current president “has promised to revive coal by rolling back environmental regulations and moved to repeal Obama-era curbs on carbon emissions from power plants.” Reuters adds “what many experts call false hopes for a coal resurgence have mired economic development efforts here in a catch-22: Coal miners are resisting retraining without ready jobs from new industries, but new companies are unlikely to

move here without a trained workforce. The stalled diversification push leaves some of the nation's poorest areas with no clear path to prosperity."

US Geological Survey

USGS Reports Small Earthquakes Continue In Central Oklahoma.

The [AP](#) (11/1) reports that the US Geological Society announced that seven earthquakes hit an area northwest of Oklahoma city since Tuesday. The most severe earthquake had a magnitude of 4.1 and occurred at 4:50 am on Tuesday. Oklahoma has seen "thousands of earthquake...in recent years" with "many linked to the underground injection of wastewater from oil and natural gas production operations."

Female Focused Science Event Engages Young Women.

The [Topeka \(KS\) Washburn Review](#) (11/1, Rankin) reports that Washburn University held its annual Women in Science Day on October 31. According to the article, the event "brought over 250 seventh-grade students from around Topeka and northeast Kansas to learn from female scientists." The article says that "by seeing women like science professors from Washburn and the University of Kansas, scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Weather Service, the hope is to encourage girls to enroll in science classes that interest them."

Additional Reading.

- *Hawaii Volcanoes National Park: 'Alala Update, Lau Hala Art, Salute To Veterans, Hula Among Events In November.* [Hawaii Tribune-Herald](#) (11/1).
- *Imagine An 80-year Winter: Researchers Say Yellowstone Volcano Caused 2 Cool Periods.* [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (11/1, French).
- *Storm Forecast Brings Fear Of Toxic Runoff From Wine Country Burn Zones.* [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/1, Serna).
- *A Small Earthquake Rattled Howard County Sunday Night.* [Washington Post](#) (11/1, Samenow).

Dept. Of Interior Op/Eds & Editorials

How To Help National Parks Without Soaking American Families.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Examiner](#) (11/2, Anderson), Matthew Anderson, director of the Coalition for Self-Government in the West, writes that "if the National Park Service moves ahead with its latest proposal to drastically increase entrance fees, countless American families will be locked out of the natural beauty and grandeur of our national parks." Anderson argues that "our national parks should be within reach of every citizen." He asserts that "we cannot allow these natural wonders to become another economic divide, where hardworking Americans are once again left on the outside looking in while only the wealthy get to experience our national treasures."

Time Is Right To Open A Slice Of ANWR To Drilling.

In an op-ed for the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (11/1, Murkowski), Sen. Lisa Murkowski supports "the responsible development of a small portion of the 1002 Area in ANWR." Murkowski argues that "the economic benefits of limited development will be substantial." She also points out "how imperceptible our physical footprint will be." The plan is to "develop no more than 2,000 surface acres in the 1002 Area – about one ten-thousandth of all of ANWR."

After Hurricane Sandy, Wetlands, Restoration Help Protect Coast.

In an op-ed for the [Delmarva \(MD\) Daily Times](#) (11/1, Weber), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Northeast Regional Director Wendi Weber writes that "the destruction caused by Hurricane Sandy presented an opportunity to focus science and resources on building a stronger coast through natural infrastructure." She says that "the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and numerous partners in government, universities and nonprofits have been working hard...and five years after Hurricane Sandy some incredible work has been done — beaches restored, dams removed, river miles opened up, living shorelines built and marshes restored." According to Weber, "hoping for a solution that prevents damage entirely is foolhardy, but developing strategies that minimize the

damage is necessary and possible." She concludes that "protecting and restoring natural infrastructure — alone or combined with hybrid and gray infrastructure — can help reduce the impacts of storms and sea level rise and help communities recover more quickly."

When Horses Go Wild.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Times](#) (11/1, O'Toole), Sharon O'Toole, a rancher near Savery, Wyoming, writes that the wild horse issue, "which dominates the Western United States as more than 70,000 excess horses damage the landscape, will be front and center in Washington when the Senate Appropriations Committee debates the Interior appropriations bill." O'Toole urges Congress to "support the sale of wild horses without restriction." She argues that "the current situation, in which taxpayers support at least 70,000 excess horses, leaves us with no end in sight — not in numbers, not in funding, not in ecological damage."

How Will Louisiana Repair The Coast With Only Half The Money?.

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (11/1) editorializes that the Interior Department has said that Louisiana will be receiving half of the \$140 million of oil and gas royalties to fund coastal restoration efforts. If the amounts remain at roughly half, Louisiana "would have to scale back restoration and hurricane protection projects planned for 2019." Sen. Bill Cassidy's (R-LA) staff is double checking the Interior Department's calculations. Cassidy said "we're trying to do our own individual verification of those numbers." Cassidy added, "I'm not saying they're wrong. I'm not saying they're right."

Additional Reading.

- *Connelly: Oil Industry Move On Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Set To Begin.* The [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (11/1, Connelly)
- *Drilling In The Arctic Won't Offset Reconciliation's Deficit Increase.* [U.S. News & World Report](#) (11/1, Alexander)
- *Proposed Entrance Fee Increase For Yosemite.* [Sierra Star \(CA\)](#) (11/1).
- *Editorial – Major Fee Increase At SNP Uncalled For.* [Greene County \(VA\) Record](#) (11/1).
- *National Park Fees Rising Too Quickly;.* [Baker City \(OR\) Herald](#) (11/1).
- *Epilogue To The Too-long Fight Over Dogs In The GGNRA.* [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (11/1, Pandapas).
- *Silly Versus Serious – Flathead Beacon.* [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (11/1, Skinner).

Top National News

In Wake Of New York Attack, Trump Calls For End To Diversity Visa Lottery.

Tuesday's truck attack in New York City continued to dominate the network broadcasts Wednesday evening with more than 33 minutes of combined coverage. The attack was also the main topic of discussion on cable last night and receives extensive print and online coverage. Much of the coverage focuses on President Trump's comments Wednesday, in which he called the justice system's handling of terror suspects "a joke" and "a laughingstock," called for terminating the Diversity Visa Lottery program, for which he blamed Senate Minority Leader Schumer, and indicated a willingness to send accused attacker Sayfullo Saipov to the US military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The tone of the coverage is generally negative for the President, with a number of reports describing a "contrast" between his comments Wednesday and his reaction to last month's shooting massacre in Las Vegas.

Brian Ross reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/1, story 2, 2:35, Muir) that Trump "revealed Saipov had helped bring many other Uzbeks to the US." Trump: "He was the point of contact, the primary point of contact for, and this is preliminarily, 23 people that came in or potentially came in with him. And that's not acceptable." [Breitbart](#) (11/1, Moons) says Trump "clarified that 23 is a preliminary number." The [Washington Post](#) (11/1, Rucker) quotes Trump as saying, "Diversity lottery – sounds nice. It's not nice. ... It's not good. It's not good. It hasn't been good. We've been against it." Trump added, "I am today starting the process of terminating the diversity lottery program. I am going to ask Congress to immediately initiate work to get rid of this program." [The Hill](#) (11/1, Fabian) reports that Trump supports "a Republican bill that would end the program as part of a sweeping overhaul of the U.S. visa system," but his "initial response to the attacks could make it difficult for him to attract congressional support."

The [New York Times](#) (11/1, Jordan) reports that the program was “under scrutiny even before the terrorist attack.” Critics say it “poses security risks, brings in low-skilled immigrants and is unfair because it enables people with no connection to the United States to enter more easily than others.” However, the program does have supporters including “members of the Congressional Black Caucus, who highlight that it helps Africans who otherwise would not have the opportunity to come to the United States.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/1, Caldwell, Meckler) says Trump’s call to end the program was denounced by the ACLU, which said doing so would have a disproportionate impact on Africans and Muslims trying to enter the US. [Reuters](#) (11/1) also briefly reports on Trump’s comments about the program.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/1, Decker) says Trump turned “overtly to politics” in the wake of the attack, “assail[ing] Democrats in general and New York’s senior senator, Charles E. Schumer, in particular for blocking his proposals to restrict immigration.” Trump [tweeted](#), “The terrorist came into our country through what is called the ‘Diversity Visa Lottery Program,’ a Chuck Schumer beauty. I want merit based.” In another [tweet](#), Trump wrote, “We are fighting hard for Merit Based immigration, no more Democrat Lottery Systems. We must get MUCH tougher (and smarter).”

[Roll Call](#) (11/1, Bennett) says Trump began the day “not by offering consoling words to the families of the victims or giving the New York area a presidential pep talk or even vowing to wipe ISIS off the planet,” but by “erod[ing] the ‘buck stops here’ role of the presidency and deflect blame for the attack away from his administration.” Trump appeared to be “watching the Fox News Channel morning show” because he “quoted retired Army Lt. Col. Anthony Shaffer in one [tweet](#), who appeared on the show criticizing the minority leader around the time Trump posted his Schumer-blaming tweets.”

[Politico](#) (11/1, Nelson) says Trump “laid the blame for the deadly attack at the feet of Schumer,” who responded with a statement in which he “accused the president of politicizing Tuesday’s attack and urged him to push for more anti-terrorism funding from Congress.” Schumer said, “I have always believed and continue to believe that immigration is good for America. President Trump, instead of politicizing and dividing America, which he always seems to do at times of national tragedy, should be focusing on the real solution – anti-terrorism funding – which he proposed cutting in his most recent budget. ... I’m calling on the President to immediately rescind his proposed cuts to this vital anti-terrorism funding.” Schumer also “took to [Twitter](#) to criticize the president in a series of posts by drawing a contrast between Trump’s handling of the attack and former President George W. Bush’s response in the aftermath of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.”

[The Hill](#) (11/1, Fabian) reports that despite Trump’s tweets, the White House said Wednesday that he does not blame Schumer for the attack. Sanders told reporters, “Let me be really clear: The president did not blame Sen. Schumer and doesn’t feel that the senator is responsible for the attack.” The Administration, she added, believes “very strongly that the individual who carried out the attack is responsible and no one else.” Sanders said Trump’s tweets about Schumer were not political, the [New York Post](#) (11/1, Fredericks) reports. Sanders said, “Look, this wasn’t going [the] political route. This is something the president has been talking about for a new policy. this isn’t a new policy or conversation. ... The president has been talking about extreme vetting and the need for that for the purpose of protecting the citizens of this country long before he was a president. This isn’t a new argument or position. And this wasn’t new for the president to speak about it.”

Jonathan Karl said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/1, story 4, 2:30, Muir) that Trump’s comments were a “stark contrast to his response to the shooting in Las Vegas last month, when the White House, for days said it was inappropriate to talk about politics or policy.” Similarly, Jeff Glor said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/1, story 5, 2:00, Mason) that Trump’s response “was in sharp contrast to what he did after the massacre in Las Vegas.” Nancy Cordes added, “The conflicting reactions to two tragedies angered some Muslim American leaders,” and on [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/1, story 3, 2:05, Holt), Welker called Trump’s “call for action a sharp contrast to his response to the Las Vegas massacre,” when he “said it was too soon to talk about gun control. So what’s the difference now?” Sanders: “I said it wasn’t appropriate to politicize the conversation, which I don’t believe we are. We’re talking about protecting American lives.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/1, Morrongiello) reports that the White House “defended” Trump, who “has come under fire for his noticeably different reactions to the New York terror attack and the deadly Las Vegas shooting.”

Wednesday’s editorial pages were generally critical of Trump’s call to end the Diversity Visa program. A [USA Today](#) (11/1) editorial says that while “moving toward more of a merit-based

immigration system is a worthy idea...engaging in collective guilt for the actions of one Muslim immigrant (whom authorities say was radicalized after coming to America) is not only an ugly, insulting message to many citizens but also a counterproductive one." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/1) says in an editorial that Trump exploited immigration fears and argues that although improved vetting of immigrants and monitoring of terror risks are good ideas, a radicalized American citizen could have carried out Tuesday's attack.

A [Washington Post](#) (11/1) editorial describes Trump's reaction to the attack as "downright dispiriting," and says that rather than offering "a harangue about immigration" and an attack on Schumer, the Administration should make "a serious attempt to investigate and learn from this latest attack." A second [Washington Post](#) (11/1) editorial describes Trump as "ever prone to seek out scapegoats." Trump's tweet "made it appear that his overriding interest in an assault allegedly backed by the Islamic State is to use it to assail immigration."

Lawmakers Disagree About Trump's Calls To End Visa Program. The [Washington Times](#) (11/1, Dinan) says Republicans "sensed a shift in the immigration debate in the wake of the attack." Sen. Lindsey Graham "said he now thinks canceling the diversity lottery should be part of any Dream Act bill that clears Congress." House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Mike McCaul said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (11/1) that Trump is right about the need for more strict vetting of people entering the US, adding, "You know, Giuliani, and Judge Mukasey and I wrote a memo to then-candidate Trump calling for higher vetting in high threat areas and eventually the travel ban came out of that but, what we meant was, why aren't we scrutinizing people over there before they can even get into the country with a higher vetting system, putting ICS agents over in consulate and embassy offices? This case again kind of cries out for that legislation, but, also that policy. And I think it's high time that we do this."

Two conservative commentators were also critical of the program. Sean Hannity said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (11/1), "The President's right, the Diversity Visa lottery program was Chuck Schumer's stupid idea and the Department of Homeland Security has confirmed that the radical Islamist in fact use that program to enter our country in 2010." Hannity added, "We would be a safer country if it weren't for this program. Maybe those people would be alive today." Tucker Carlson said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (11/1), "Saipov was an Islamic radical from Uzbekistan who worked as an Uber driver. He wasn't a physician or an exceptional scientific mind or a business magnet. He was doing a job literally anybody could do in a country where we have to this day a severe shortage of low skill jobs for the poor in our working class. Why was this man even in our country? He was here because this country's leaders have decided that diversity in and of itself is of greater importance than the well-being of this country's people."

However, Trump's call to end the program drew fire from Democrats. Rep. Adam Schiff, ranking Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (11/1), "It's far more likely, given the passage of time between his immigration here and the attack, that he was radicalized while he was here. ... It's hard to see how you can vet against that, or people that are second generation. ... I understand the President wants to say something, that he's taking some action but it's really too early to say." Rep. Jerry Nadler said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (11/1), "It's not at all clear that this person had extremist leanings when he came here. He came here seven years ago. ... He may very well have been perfectly fine not to radicalize, nothing to see with extreme vetting or any other vetting." Nadler added, "The President, as usual, went off half-cocked without waiting for the facts."

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (11/1), "I think the first question is are they factual is normally the first question on the President's tweets. But I don't think this is the time to get political. We had a policy, an immigration policy in place in the '90s. It was a bipartisan policy, signed by a Republican President. There's no doubt that we have to be smarter and have more intelligence, but there's also no doubt that this is not the time to play politics."

[USA Today](#) (11/1, Korte) reports that Trump also "criticized a justice system that he said moves too slowly on terror cases," saying, "We also have to come up with punishment that's far quicker and far greater than the punishment these animals are getting right now. ... Because what we have right now is a joke and it's a laughingstock." Trump "even said he was considering sending the suspect to the US military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba," saying, "Send him to Gitmo — I would certainly consider that, yes." Noting that no one arrested on US soil has ever been sent to Gitmo, the [New York Times](#) (11/1, A1, Baker) says transferring Saipov from New York "would raise a host of thorny constitutional and legal issues, and it was not at all clear that Mr. Trump would actually follow through on the idea since his comment was a spontaneous reaction to a question rather than part of his prepared remarks."

The [Washington Times](#) (11/1, Boyer, Noble) reports that White House press secretary Sarah Sanders told reporters, "I believe we would consider this person to be an enemy combatant, yes. ... I think the actions that he took certainly justify that." [Politico](#) (11/1, McCaskill) quotes Sanders as saying, "The point he was making is that he supports or would support that, but he wasn't necessarily advocating for it. ... But he certainly would support it if he felt like that was the best move."

Kristen Welker said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/1, story 3, 2:05, Holt) that the move is "seemingly backed by some on Capitol Hill." Graham: "If you act like a terrorist, and you say you're a terrorist, that's enough for me. We ought to treat you as a terrorist." Sen. John McCain: "Because he's an enemy combatant. He killed Americans."

That sentiment is not universal among lawmakers, however. McCaul was asked on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/1) if he agrees with Trump's assertion that the US justice system for terror suspects is a "laughing stock." McCaul replied, "Well, we do have Guantanamo to deal with terrorists caught on the battlefield, but I would say that our criminal justice system is based on the constitution, and due process. This individual, like it or not, came into the United States legally, is a lawful permanent resident and has rights under the constitution." Major Garrett said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/1, story 4, 2:40, Mason) that "the White House said the President was merely venting his frustration and will not be proposing new ways to prosecute terrorism cases."

In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (11/1), Stephen I. Vladeck, a law professor at the University of Texas and co-editor of the online forum Just Security, writes that it is "hard to imagine a worse idea" than sending Saipov to Gitmo. Vladeck argues that doing so "would simply be unwise" because while there have been successful prosecutions in civilian courts "in post-Sept. 11 terrorism cases, the military commissions at Guantanamo have produced only eight convictions in 15 years, three of which were thrown out on appeal." Vladeck adds that the goal "should not be to score political points" but to "serve justice – not only for the victims of Tuesday's horrific attack but for its perpetrator, as well."

Saipov Charged With Terrorism Offenses. The [AP](#) (11/1, Miller, Lardner) reports that prosecutors in New York then "filed charges in federal court accusing Saipov with providing material support to a terrorist group and committing violence and destruction of motor vehicles." Another [AP](#) (11/1, Long, Peltz) story says Saipov could face the death penalty.

[Reuters](#) (11/1, Cherelus, Goldberg) reports that according to the complaint, Saipov "waived his rights to remain silent and avoid self-incrimination in agreeing to speak to investigators without an attorney present." [USA Today](#) (11/1, McCoy, James) says that Saipov "told investigators he 'felt good'" about the attacks and "asked to display flags of the ISIS terrorist group in his hospital room, according to a criminal complaint filed Wednesday." Saipov also told investigators "that he was inspired to carry out an attack in the U.S. by ISIS videos he watched on his cell phone and began planning the attack approximately one year ago, the complaint said."

According to the [Washington Post](#) (11/1, Merle, Barrett, Berman), the charging document says Saipov "decided to use a truck in order to inflict maximum damage against civilians." He "chose Halloween for the attack, federal authorities say, because he thought more civilians would be on the streets." Authorities added that he "left notes pledging his allegiance" to ISIS.

Savannah Guthrie said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/1, story 2, 3:55, Holt) that one of the notes found in the truck read, "ISIS lives forever."

Jeff Glor reported in the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/1, lead story, 3:00, Mason) that on one of Saipov's cellphones, "authorities found 90 ISIS-related propaganda videos and 3,800 propaganda images." According to "sources," police also "recovered knives from the truck and 10 to 15 pieces of paper which give ISIS credit for the attack, saying ISIS will live forever." However, the [New York Times](#) (11/1, Callimachi) reports that ISIS has "has not claimed attacks when a surviving recruit falls into the hands of the authorities." With few exceptions, the group "has followed this practice regardless of whether the attacker was directly dispatched or inspired remotely through online tutorials."

Gio Benitez reported in the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/1, lead story, 4:10, Muir) that according to authorities, "Saipov had been planning the rampage for weeks, conducting prior reconnaissance of the very spot where he would drive onto the jogging path." Investigators say that if Saipov had not crashed the truck "he was set to target the Brooklyn Bridge." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/1, West, Kanno-Youngs, Gay, Vilensky) reports that officials said Saipov "almost exactly" followed a blueprint provided by ISIS on social media. However Justice correspondent Pete Williams said in the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/1, lead story, 2:40, Holt) that the FBI "found no evidence of contact with terrorists overseas and say he

was not on any list of terror suspects." New York City Police Commissioner James O'Neill was asked on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/1, story 3, 2:40, Muir) if Saipov might have had help in the US. O'Neill said, "Don't know. That's part of the investigation." Asked if Saipov was on the NYPD's radar. O'Neill said, "He might have been connected to some people that we were looking at."

The [New York Times](#) (11/1, Barker, Goldstein, Schwirtz) describes Saipov's path to radicalization, reporting that he came to the US "as a moderate Muslim with dreams of making it," but "life did not work out the way Mr. Saipov had wanted. He could not find a job in the hotel business, in which he had worked back home. He developed a violent temper. He lost jobs. An imam in Florida worried that Mr. Saipov increasingly misinterpreted Islam." CBS homeland security correspondent Jeff Pegues reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/1, story 2, 2:30, Mason) before Tuesday's attack, Saipov "was not someone investigators seemed to view as capable of mass murder or even a threat," but while he "wasn't himself the subject of a law enforcement investigation, an intelligence source tells CBS News he had some contact with individuals who were considered radicalized extremists, and at least one of whom was from his native Uzbekistan."

[ABC News](#) (11/1, Margolin) reports on its website that a "federal official" told ABC that Saipov was listed as a "point of contact" for two men who were listed on a DHS counterterrorism database and later overstayed their tourist visas. One of the men "was flagged after arriving from a so-called 'threat country.'" The other "vanished and was being actively sought by federal agents as a 'suspected terrorist,'" but an official "told ABC News that the FBI has since located him and he is not believed to have been involved in Tuesday's attack."

The [Washington Times](#) (11/1, Morton) says investigators called Mukhammadzoi Kadirov a "person of interest" in Tuesday's attack, "only to back off within an hour." The [New York Times](#) (11/1, Mueller, Schwirtz, Goldman) says the FBI had "released an alert saying they were seeking information about" Kadirov "in connection with the attack."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/1, story 10, 1:10, Muir) reported on NYPD officer Ryan Nash, the "hero who stopped" Saipov by shooting him when he "would not drop those fake weapons." Nash: "Although I feel that we were just doing our job, like thousands of officers do every day, I understand the importance of yesterday's events and the role we played, and I'm grateful for the recognition." The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/1, story 3, 1:50, Glor), [New York Times](#) (11/1, Ransom, Nir, Barron), [Washington Post](#) (11/1, Radwin, Faiola, Schmidt, Wang), and the [New York Post](#) (11/1, Brown) all report on the victims of the attack.

Trump: Saipov Should Get The Death Penalty. The [New York Times](#) (11/1, A1, Baker) reports on its front page that "shortly before midnight," the President posted [tweeted](#) that Saipov, should be executed. "NYC terrorist was happy as he asked to hang ISIS flag in his hospital room. He killed 8 people, badly injured 12. SHOULD GET DEATH PENALTY!" he wrote. The Times says presidents "are typically advised never to weigh in on pending criminal cases because such comments can be used by defense lawyers to argue that their clients cannot get a fair trial," but Trump "has disregarded such advice in other instances, as well."

Grassley Asks State, DHS For Details On Saipov. The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (11/1, Crabtree) reports that Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley has asked the State Department and DHS "to confirm key immigration details" about Saipov and "whether he previously showed up on a government database that tracks travel records for immigration and anti-terrorism enforcement."

ISIS Followers Increasingly Choosing To Commit "Terrorism By Vehicle." The [Washington Post](#) (11/1, Warrick) that with ISIS "all but finished as a military force in Iraq and Syria, terrorism by vehicle is now firmly entrenched as the preferred choice for the group's scattered followers and sympathizers outside the war zones of the Middle East." According to terrorism experts, the tactic "requires no special skill or instruction, or formal membership in a terrorist group. And it is nearly impossible to prevent or stop." McCaul said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (11/1) that the New York attack "was the new sort of chapter of terrorism that we're seeing in the United States. I think fortunately, we haven't seen as many in the United States as we've seen in Europe, but tragically what happened yesterday was a horrible event that we need to take time to mourn and respect what happened and then we'll deal with the policy issues I think later."

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (11/1), "We're seeing an evolution in the tactics of the jihad. We saw it in 1993 was the first one with the world trade center bombing in New York. That was almost 35 years. And they've now evolved with the global platform through the Internet through a simple device, which is rent a car, rent a truck and create terror."

In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (11/1) says that while “federal and local authorities in the United States and Europe have made considerable progress in the struggle with terrorism,” the “hard fact is that it is not possible, and never will be, to anticipate every attack, to make cities teeming with life immune to the desperate acts of men seething with resentments, especially when final preparations are as banal as renting a truck.”

Saipov Attack Highlights Rise Of Extremism In Central Asia. The [Washington Post](#) (11/1, Filipov, Roth) reports that Saipov’s attack “casts a new spotlight on” Uzbekistan, a “tumultuous republic in Central Asia that has been a prominent source of fighters for the extremist Islamic State group.” The country is “one of five predominantly Muslim former Soviet republics in Central Asia that overnight became independent countries in 1991.” The region, which is “racked by poverty and corruption and ruled by autocratic leaders,” has “seen a growth of conservative versions of Islam and the recruitment of hundreds of militants to fight for the Islamic State.”

Muslim Writer Laments Terrorists’ Use Of Phrase “Allahu Akbar.” In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (11/1) attorney and writer Wajahat Ali writes that while “an overwhelming majority of Muslims, have never uttered “Allahu akbar” before or after committing a violent act,” terrorists “like ISIS and Al Qaeda and their sympathizers, who represent a tiny fraction of Muslims, have,” which “has given the phrase meaning that’s impossible to square with what it represents in my daily life.”

De Blasio: Trump Administration Threatening Anti-Terror Funds For New York City. New York City Mayor Bill De Blasio said on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (11/1), “We know we’re the number one...terror target in the United States of America. And we understand we have to be in a ready position. We have to be strong. We added 2,000 more police officers in the last two years largely so we could have that additional visible presence. We do bear a lot of that cost. Now, we do expect some of that to be taken over by Washington and that’s historically been the case. You know in recent months some of that funding has been threatened for other political and policy reasons by the Trump Administration. My message has been consistently how on earth are you going to take away anti-terrorism funding from the number one terror target in America? ... You would think the federal government would with see it as a national priority to protect our biggest city.”

NYTimes Analysis Questions Why Vegas Attack Was Not Labeled “Terrorism.” A [New York Times](#) (11/1, Fisher, Taub) analysis considers “a debate that has become a vessel for some of the most contentious questions dividing an increasingly polarized society: When is an attack terrorism?” The Times says the Las Vegas massacre “was not broadly branded an act of terrorism,” but “that label was immediately attached to the attack on Tuesday.” According to the Times, terrorism “is often in the eye of the beholder, determined as much by the attacker as by the community that is targeted,” and defining it “has become another way of debating who belongs and whose concerns matter.”

Vespa: Media Puts Facts Through A “Politically Correct Wash.” Matt Vespa writes for [Townhall](#) (11/1) that while Saipov is reported to have yelled “Allahu Akbar” – Arabic for “God is great” – during the attack, there is an “allergic reaction to call things what they are on the Left.” While CBS reported that Saipov yelled the phrase, “CNN decided to go the old Associated Press route and say Saipov yelled ‘God is great’ in Arabic.” Vespa adds that the media “laments how no one trusts them. Well, maybe it’s because they put what actually happens in the news through a politically correct wash that’s just unbelievable to anyone with cognitive function.”

Trump: “I’m Not Under Investigation.”

The [New York Times](#) (11/1, Haberman, Baker) reports that President Trump “projected an air of calm on Wednesday...insisting to The New York Times that he was not ‘angry at anybody’ and that investigations into his campaign’s links to Russia had not come near him personally.” In a brief telephone call to the newspaper, Trump said, “I’m not under investigation, as you know. And even if you look at [the Paul Manafort indictment], there’s not even a mention of Trump in there.”

[Reuters](#) (11/1) reports that White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said Wednesday that the President does not recall the March 2016 meeting with his foreign policy advisers when George Papadopoulos “suggested he could arrange a meeting between candidate Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin.”

Vanity Fair: Those Close To Trump Now See Impeachment As Real Possibility. [Vanity Fair](#) (10/31, Sherman) reports that the first charges in Special Counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation “have kindled talk of what the endgame for Trump looks like, according to conversations with a half-dozen advisers and friends of the president. For the first time since the investigation began,

the prospect of impeachment is being considered as a realistic outcome and not just a liberal fever dream." One source said that "advisers in the West Wing are on edge and doing whatever they can not to be ensnared." [Breitbart](#) (11/1, House) reports that according to Vanity Fair, on a phone call with Steve Bannon, President Trump "blamed Jared Kushner" for the investigation, specifically Kushner's advising that then-FBI Director James Comey and then-National Security Adviser Michael Flynn be fired.

Gutiérrez Plans New Articles Of Impeachment; Pelosi Reluctant. [The Hill](#) (11/1, Lillis) reports that Rep. Luis Gutiérrez (D-IL) said on Wednesday that "a group of Democrats will file new articles of impeachment against President Trump before Thanksgiving." Gutiérrez said, "It is clear to us that he is unfit to be president of the United States of America." While it is "unclear which Democrats will join Gutiérrez in the effort," one aide named Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN) as likely.

[Politico](#) (11/1, Caygle) reports that House Minority Leader Pelosi has been "urging members to avoid talk of impeachment." Pelosi "is eager to show her party can govern – in contrast to the chaos surrounding Trump – and believes that a reputation as the 'No Drama Democrats' is key to taking back the House in 2018 and whisking her backing into the speaker's chair."

[Breitbart](#) (11/1, Nazarian) reported that billionaire activist Tom Steyer, who has launched a \$10 million national ad campaign calling for Trump's impeachment, stood outside the district office of Rep. Darrell Issa (R-CA) on Tuesday to promote the effort. Steyer said, "This president is a danger to the American people, and I know the majority of Americans agree with me."

Greenfield: Trump Can Survive If He Maintains GOP Support. Jeff Greenfield writes in [Politico Magazine](#) (11/1) that "there is one rule in politics that approaches scientific certainty: A president, no matter how beleaguered, can survive if he retains significant support within his party." Lyndon Johnson chose to retire and Richard Nixon to resign after losing their party's support; Bill Clinton survived impeachment due to continued Democratic support. Greenfield writes, "Maybe there is a breaking point, somewhere down the road, where Trump could act in so blatant a way that a critical mass of GOP office-holders – and not just a few retiring RINOs – would say 'enough.' ... But right now, I don't see it happening."

Fusion GPS Paid Steele Firm \$168,000 For Dossier Work. [Reuters](#) (11/1, Hosenball) reports that Fusion GPS said in a Wednesday statement that it paid ex-British spy Christopher Steele's company "\$168,000 for work on a dossier outlining Russian financial and personal links" to Trump's 2016 campaign. While it was "public knowledge that Fusion GPS paid for the work, the amount had not been disclosed." The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/1, Correll) has a report based on the Reuters story.

Clinton Defends Campaign's Role In Dossier Research. [Politico](#) (11/1, Jackson) reports that Hillary Clinton, appearing on Comedy Central's The Daily Show, defended campaign attorney Marc Elias' "decision to pay for research that showed up in [the] salacious dossier." Clinton said, "It was research that started [with] a Republican donor during the primary, and when Trump got the nomination for the Republican Party, the people doing it came to my campaign lawyer."

Politico Cited Fusion GPS Employee In Article Criticizing WSJournal. Mollie Hemingway of [The Federalist](#) (11/1) writes, "On Monday, Politico ran [a story](#) criticizing the Wall Street Journal for failing to adopt the political groupthink that pervades most of the media elite." The Politico piece cites "former staffers" of the Journal criticizing the Journal's conservative editorial page, but the individual cited now works for Fusion GPS.

FBI Agent Reportedly Patted Down Manafort's Wife During Raid. The [Washington Times](#) (11/1, Scarborough) reports under the headline "FBI Agents Manhandled Manafort And His Wife During Pre-Dawn Raid In Intimidation Effort" that while "it has been reported that the agents checked Mr. Manafort and wife Kathleen for guns as they broke into" their Virginia home in July, "a source familiar with the case" now says that "an agent patted down Mrs. Manafort before she was allowed to get out of bed."

Manafort's Roots In Connecticut City Examined. The [New York Times](#) (11/1, Yee) looks at Manafort's roots in New Britain, Connecticut, an industrial city of 73,000.

Tony Podesta's Link To Manafort Examined. [USA Today](#) (11/1, Przybyla) examines why Mueller is investigating Tony Podesta and his firm the Podesta Group: the firm worked with Manafort, "helping Manafort's company on behalf of a group called the European Centre for a Modern Ukraine."

Social Media Representatives Again On Capitol Hill; Some Russian-Bought Ads Disclosed. The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/1, story 6, 2:05, Mason) reported that lawmakers on Wednesday released several of the Russia-backed ads that appeared on social media platforms during the presidential campaign as Congress "grilled" representatives of Facebook, Twitter, and Google.

CBS' Julianna Goldman added that the ads "focused on divisive issues, including immigration, guns, and black political activism, and targeted information to specific audiences." Sen. Dianne Feinstein: "What we're talking about is the beginning of cyber warfare." The [New York Times](#) (11/1, Kang, Fandos) reports that the Senate Intelligence Committee hearing was "the second of three in two days for the executives."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (11/1, story 4, 1:55, Holt) reported that Facebook admitted that "150 million Americans, far more than previously disclosed, were exposed to Russian content in the two years before the election," while Twitter revealed it found 37,000 automated accounts linked to Russian entities in the two months before the election. Senate Intelligence Vice Chairman Mark Warner noted one Russia-backed account "was a fake Tennessee Republican account." NBC's Jo Ling Ken added that during the campaign, that fake account's posts "were re-tweeted by then-campaign manager Kellyanne Conway and Donald Trump Jr. Another Kremlin-backed account was re-tweeted by President Trump himself." Rep. Jim Himes (D-CT): "Trump's campaign, in effect, whether knowingly or unknowingly, helped spread legitimize and spread the Russian disinformation."

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/1, story 5, 2:40, Muir), Dan Harris reported on a Russian "troll factory" where "dozens of Internet trolls are hard at work, trying to exploit America's divisions." Harris said that one of the trolls, Alan Beskaev, told "an independent, liberal Russian TV station" that he worked in the unit that specifically targeted America. "One minute," he said, "you needed to be a red neck from Kentucky, and then later, you had to be some kind of white dude from Minnesota. And then, in 15 minutes, you need to be from New York, writing something in black slang."

[USA Today](#) (11/1, Kelly) reports that as "angry senators warned attorneys for Facebook, Twitter and Google on Wednesday that they must do more to prevent Russian manipulation of their social media platforms or Congress will be forced to impose new rules to help readers identify malicious content," House Intelligence Committee Democrats "publicly released a sampling of ads and other content that Facebook, Instagram and Twitter have linked to Russian actors and turned over to the committee." The ads "focus on such issues as the black lives matter movement, illegal immigration, Islam, LGBT issues, Christianity, state pride, and Democratic presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/1, Timberg, Dwoskin, Entous, Demirjian) reports that the ads "made visceral appeals to voters upset about illegal immigration, black political activism, the declining economic fortunes of coal miners, gun ownership, African American political activism, the rising prominence of Muslims in some US communities and many other issues." Many of the ads "were bought in Russian rubles." The [Washington Times](#) (11/1, Boylan) says the effort "was extensive and ambitious, but it wasn't particularly sophisticated." [Politico](#) (11/1) offers "a sampling" of the ads "purchased by Russian-linked accounts and aimed at US Facebook and Instagram users."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/1, Wells, Seetharaman) reports that lawmakers also released the Twitter account names for 2,752 accounts linked to the so-called Russian troll farm Internet Research Agency. Many of the handles appeared to impersonate political figures and parties, and news agencies, such as @_GeorgeSchultz_, @NewYorkDem, @TheTimesOfLondon, and @tpartynews.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/1, Correll) reports that President Trump retweeted content from @10_gop, a "fake account affiliated with Russia," on September 19. The account "tweeted 'We love you, Mr. President,' and Trump [retweeted](#) the post saying 'So nice, thank you!' on Sept. 19."

Twitter Hid Tweets Related To Hacked Democratic Emails. The [Daily Caller](#) (11/1, Hasson) writes that Twitter "buried significant portions of tweets related to hacked emails from the Democratic National Committee and Clinton campaign chair John Podesta in the last two months of the 2016 presidential campaign." According to Twitter general counsel Sean Edgett's written testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee, Twitter's systems hid 48% of tweets using the #DNCLeak hashtag and 25% of tweets using #PodestaEmails.

Krastev: Mueller Will Not Discover Full Extent Of Russian Meddling. Ivan Krastev of the Center for Liberal Studies writes in the [New York Times](#) (11/1) that Mueller "will never get to the bottom" of the full extent of "Russia's meddling. ... The Kremlin's official position – that Russia never messed with the American politics – means that hardly anyone on the Russian side is willing to discuss the issue," and "those who actually do know what Russia did and why are extraordinarily few in number – and none are particularly talkative."

Trump To Push Xi To Rein In North Korea.

[Reuters](#) (11/1, Holland, Walcott) reports President Trump will “further pressure” Chinese President Xi Jinping in talks next week to take tougher measures against North Korea. Senior Administration officials say Trump will “try to convince Xi when they meet in Beijing to squeeze North Korea with steps such as limits on oil exports, coal imports and financial transactions.” Two Administration officials said the threat of additional UN and other economic sanctions on North Korea is “another option to solicit greater cooperation from China, by playing on Beijing’s concerns that deeper poverty in North Korea could prompt an exodus of refugees across its border.”

The [Washington Times](#) (11/1, A1, Taylor) reports that the North Korean nuclear threat “threatens to overshadow a large and diverse agenda” for the President’s trip to the region. The Times says that “warm receptions at the start of the trip in Japan and South Korea may provide respite from the political strife and sagging polls that Mr. Trump faces in Washington, but the president will be navigating the most delicate diplomatic challenge of his tenure when he arrives Wednesday in Beijing.”

As Trump prepares to travel to the region, [Bloomberg News](#) (11/1, Sharp) reports, Xi “called for stable China-North Korea ties in a message to Kim Jong Un.” According to North Korea state media, Xi “sent the note after Kim congratulated him last week on a second term as general secretary of the Communist Party.” [Reuters](#) (11/1) quotes Xi’s note as saying, “I wish that under the new situation, the Chinese side would make efforts with the DPRK side to promote relations between the two parties and the two countries to sustainable soundness and stable development and thus make a positive contribution to...defending regional peace and stability and common prosperity.”

Abe Urges Pressure On North Korea Ahead Trump Visit. The [AP](#) (11/1, Yamaguchi) reports Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe called Wednesday for pressure to be increased on North Korea “to convince it to begin talks on ending its nuclear and missile programs.” Ahead of President Trump’s arrival Saturday, Abe “reiterated his full backing of Trump’s policy of putting all options, including military ones, on the table in dealing with North Korea.”

Defector Warns North Korea Would Retaliate If US Strikes. The [AP](#) (11/1, Pennington) reports that a “high-ranking North Korean defector” warned US lawmakers Wednesday that a pre-emptive US military strike on the country would trigger “automatic retaliation, with the North unleashing artillery and short-range missile fire on South Korea.” The AP says the testimony from Thae Yong Ho, former deputy chief of mission at the North Korean Embassy in London, “underscored the high risk in using military force against North Korea,” which the Administration “has said...is among its options in stopping leader Kim Jong Un from perfecting a nuclear-tipped missile that could strike the United States.”

NYTimes Analysis: China “Abruptly Changed Course” On South Korea Amid Threat From North. The [New York Times](#) (11/1, Perlez, Choe) reports that “for more than a year, China has been railing against South Korea, recently encouraging boycotts of its products over a decision to let the United States deploy an antimissile system that Beijing fears threatens its own security. But on Tuesday, China abruptly changed course, essentially saying ‘never mind,’ as the two countries agreed to end their dispute” about the threat from North Korea.

Trump: Repeal Obamacare Individual Mandate To Help Fund Tax Cuts.

[USA Today](#) (11/1, Groppe) reports, “As Republicans struggle to overhaul the tax code and as the Obamacare health exchanges opened for 2018 enrollment Wednesday, President Trump threw out a suggestion.” USA Today quotes Trump as saying in [two tweets](#), “Wouldn’t it be great to Repeal the very unfair and unpopular Individual Mandate in ObamaCare and use those savings for further Tax Cuts for the Middle Class. The House and Senate should consider ASAP as the process of final approval moves along. Push Biggest Tax Cuts EVER.”

Under the headline “Trump Throws Curveball In Tax Talks, Says Bill Should Include Obamacare Changes,” the [Washington Post](#) (11/1, Paletta) reports, “The idea had already been rejected one day earlier by House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady (R-Tex.), who had said it risked bogging down the process.” However, with his tweets, Trump “pushed the idea, which has gained currency with some Senate Republicans.” The Post adds, “It could not be learned whether Trump’s Twitter posts were simply a musing or an official change in administration policy. The posts came just a few minutes after Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) talked about the exact same idea during an appearance on Fox News Channel.”

[Politico](#) (11/1, McCaskill) reported that Trump’s “position represents a bit of a reversal from the White House. Asked about the individual mandate at Tuesday’s press briefing, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters, ‘I don’t believe it has to be part of tax

reform, but the child care tax credit is something he'd certainly like to see." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/1, Armour, Peterson) reports that a number of Republicans support the idea of repealing the individual mandate, because doing so would generate \$300 billion in revenue.

GOP Pledges Thursday Tax Bill Rollout.

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/1, Basu, Wasson) reports White House Legislative Affairs Director Marc Short and House Budget Chairman Diane Black said that while the House GOP tax bill's rollout has been delayed to Thursday, it will not be pushed back further. Late Tuesday "GOP lawmakers and tax lobbyists remained confused" about parts of the bill, including possible changes to tax-deferred retirement savings accounts, individuals' deduction for state and local taxes, the estate tax, and the schedule for dropping the corporate tax rate to 20 percent from 35 percent. Short said, "Everything is on track," but acknowledged continuing discussions on the state and local tax deduction.

The [New York Times](#) (11/1, Tankersley, Kaplan, Rappoport) reports that the GOP delay in releasing its tax bill was due to "a math problem" caused by President Trump's insistence on "massive" tax cuts while also cutting taxes for the middle class. In attempting to offset the lost revenue the House GOP is "running into political challenges," seeing "continuing struggles to reach agreement on how to pay for everything lawmakers want to include." Efforts to find money by cutting "popular individual tax breaks" – such as limiting pretax dollars for 401(k) retirement plans and deductions for state and local taxes paid – are seeing push-back from "rank-and-file Republicans." A possible "bandage solution" would have the plan phasing in some rate cuts and making others temporary, giving the GOP "time to figure out the hard math" on revenue-raisers, which industry groups familiar with the discussions say would be put in the bill prior to the House vote on it. However, President Trump has "resisted" such a move.

The [AP](#) (11/1, Gordon, Taylor) casts the House GOP as "scrambl[ing]" to finish the bill, and talks on the deduction for state and local taxes "seemed to have broken off for now as Brady and other key Republicans scrambled to find offsetting tax revenues to help finance rate cuts." While on Wednesday President Trump tweeted in favor of the bill removing the ACA's individual mandate, such a move "was dismissed by key GOP leaders," in the AP's words, as additional "political complications to an already difficult task."

[Politico](#) (11/1, Faler, Bade) similarly reports "House Republicans are scrambling to release their tax bill on Thursday." A source familiar with the talks said that tensions are "very high," and the GOP tax writers' raised voices could be heard "during a more than two-hour meeting at the Capitol Tuesday night." The plan has faced resistance from Republicans representing Democratic states and sources say rank-and-file members "feel the plan has been written largely by party leaders without their input." People in both the executive and legislative branches "are growing impatient." On Wednesday, White House Economic Adviser Gary Cohn told GOP senators the house tax bill needs to be released by Friday and "and conservative leaders in the House, who have not been part of the closed-door deliberations, started to draw parallels to their botched health care effort."

Ip: Tax Plan Focused On Helping Corporations. Greg Ip, in his column in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/1), writes that while the GOP tax plan will benefit the rich, its leaving the top personal incomes tax rate alone in favor of reducing the corporate tax rate indicates the GOP has caught up with the rest of the world in concluding that taxing people is better than taxing capital. Ip explains this is because profit can be shifted easily to avoid taxes, while people are less mobile. Ip also warns that if there are any individual tax cuts, they are likely to be temporary. Historically tax increases follow tax cuts and, despite GOP claims – lacking historical or empirical bases – that the cuts will pay for themselves, the budget deficit will continue to rise and Ip predicts politicians will find personal taxes the most attractive way to address the issue.

Trump Signs Repeal Of CFPB Class-Action Regulation.

The [AP](#) (11/1, Thomas) reports that President Trump signed off on the repeal of a Consumer Financial Protection Bureau regulation "that would have allowed consumers to join together to sue their bank or credit card company to resolve financial disputes." CFPB Director Richard Cordray opined in a statement that the president's action "signed away consumers' right to their day in court." As a result of the repeal, customers at banks will continue to be subject to mandatory arbitration clauses.

Senators Continue To Work Toward Bipartisan Regulatory Reform Bill.

[Reuters](#) (11/1, Schroeder) reports that senior Democratic and Republican Senators said on

Wednesday that they will continue to attempt to come to a bi-partisan deal regarding rolling back certain financial regulations introduced following the financial crisis of 2008. This revelation comes despite the fact that “the leading Democrat on the Senate Banking Committee,” Sen. Sherrrod Brown, announced Wednesday that he will exit months-long negotiations with Sen. Mike Crapo, the Republican chair of the Committee, regarding rolling back parts of the 2010 Dodd Frank law. Crapo told reporters on Wednesday that he will renew efforts to come to a bipartisan consensus on a regulatory reform bill.

EPA To Bar Researchers Who Received Agency Grants From Science Boards.

[Politico Morning Energy](#) (11/1, Adragna) reports that science advocates and Democrats are slamming EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt’s decision to bar scientists who receive EPA research grants from serving on its advisory boards. “At least five of the 47 current Science Advisory Board members” have received funding from EPA grants in the past, and ultimately, Pruitt may be “able to replace more than half the members of SAB.”

[Vanity Fair](#) (11/1, Kosoff) reports that “the move will effectively purge the boards of top academic researchers, including experts on environmental science, clearing the way for industry representatives to take their place.” The article notes that Tony Cox – who has previously worked for the American Petroleum Institute and “once suggested that rising global temperatures would prevent the death of the elderly” – will lead the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee. In addition, Michael Honeycutt, the head of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s toxicology division, will serve as the head of the Science Advisory Board. Honeycutt previously downplayed concerns over ozone standards and said “most people are indoors for 90 percent of the time.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“About John Kelly’s Racist History Lesson.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (11/1) says, “Many Americans projected their own feelings of disgust as they watched the White House chief of staff, John Kelly, seem to grimace while President Trump spoke in August of the ‘very fine people’ on both sides of white nationalist demonstrations to preserve Confederate monuments, in which a counterdemonstrator was murdered.” However, the Times says that with Kelly having recently called Robert E. Lee “an honorable man” and having “said that in the Civil War ‘men and women of good faith on both sides made their stand where their conscience had them make their stand,’” he “has provided sickening clarification of what this presidency stands for.”

“After The Terror.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (11/1) says that while “federal and local authorities in the United States and Europe have made considerable progress in the struggle with terrorism,” the “hard fact is that it is not possible, and never will be, to anticipate every attack, to make cities teeming with life immune to the desperate acts of men seething with resentments, especially when final preparations are as banal as renting a truck.”

Washington Post.

“Trump’s Response To The New York Attack Was Downright Dispiriting.” A [Washington Post](#) (11/1) editorial describes President Trump’s reaction to the New York City attack as “downright dispiriting,” and says that rather than offering “a harangue about immigration” and an attack on Senate Minority Leader Schumer, the Administration should make “a serious attempt to investigate and learn from this latest attack.”

“For Trump, New York’s Tragedy Means A New Attack On Immigration.” A [Washington Post](#) (11/1) editorial describes President Trump as “ever prone to seek out scapegoats.” Trump’s call to end the Diversity Visa program “made it appear that his overriding interest in an assault allegedly backed by the Islamic State is to use it to assail immigration.”

“Ed Gillespie Has A Recipe For Metro Disaster.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/1) says, “Metro’s financial prospects are dire, as is its long-term outlook for adequate maintenance, dependable service and basic safety, without a major infusion of steady new revenue. Despite that fact, Virginia Republican gubernatorial candidate Ed Gillespie is dodging, ducking and deflecting questions of how to put Metro on a firm financial footing.” The Posts that with Paul Wiedefeld, “Metro’s respected general manager,” having warned “that service, safety and reliability will deteriorate rapidly without an additional \$500 million annually in capital revenue, Mr. Gillespie is looking for every excuse to perpetuate the very underfunding that led to Metro’s

crisis.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Trump’s Immigration Scapegoat.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/1) says in an editorial that in his comments Wednesday, President Trump exploited immigration fears and argues that although improved vetting of immigrants and monitoring of terror risks are good ideas, a radicalized American citizen could have carried out Tuesday’s attack.

“High On Incentives.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/1) editorializes that a report from Fitch Ratings makes a convincing argument that taxes on legal marijuana are too high in California. The Journal opines that business within the legal marijuana industry could exit the state in search of a market with lower taxes if the economics don’t change.

“Keeping Scott Pruitt Safe.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/1) editorializes that the high number of credible threats that have been made against Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt justify the more extensive security detail that the EPA has provided for him. The Journal asserts that the expenditures being made on the additional security are necessary to protect American democracy.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Trump To Tap Jerome Powell As Next Fed Chairman](#)
[Terror Charges Filed Against New York Suspect](#)
[Disney Lays Down The Law For Theaters On “Star Wars: The Last Jedi”](#)
[How China Swallowed The WTO](#)

New York Times:

[Prosecutors Describe Driver’s Plan To Kill In Manhattan Terror Attack](#)
[Finding A Rootless Life In US, Sayfullo Saipov Turned To Radicalism](#)
[Russia-Financed Ad Linked Clinton And Satan](#)
[Math Problem Bedevils Republican Tax Rewrite](#)
[Trump Declares Suspect “Should Get Death Penalty”](#)
[Navy Collisions That Killed 17 Sailors Were “Avoidable,” Official Inquiry Says](#)

Washington Post:

[Suspect Faces Terror Charge](#)
[NPR Exec Resigns Amid Harassment Allegations](#)
[Russian Facebook Ads Show Deft Tactics](#)
[Horror Unfolded In Five Nightmarish Minutes](#)
[Victory In Va. May Hinge On Black Voters](#)
[Trump Blames Attack On Weak Laws, Justice System](#)

Financial Times:

[HSBC Accused Of “Possible Criminal Complicity” In Gupta Scandal](#)
[Fed Holds Rates Steady Ahead Of Leadership Decision](#)

Washington Times:

[Argentines Shaken By Terrorism On Other Side Of The World](#)
[Republicans Take Aim At Visa Lottery Program That Let Terror Suspect Into US](#)
[North Korea Threat Looms Over Trump’s High-Stakes Asia Tour](#)
[Wasted Ads, Broken English: Russian Meddlers Showed Little Knowledge Of US Election System](#)
[Deja Vu In Colorado Suburbs: Fracking Measure On Ballot Again](#)
[North Korean Defector Says Trump Must Convince Kim Personally About Consequences Of War](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: NYC Truck Attack; NYC Truck Attack-Suspect; NYC Truck Attack-Expert Comment; NYC Truck Attack-White House; Russia Meddling Investigation-Social Media; California-School Hostage Takedown; Hollywood Sexual Misconduct; US Family Missing In Brazil; Airline Low Fare; NYC Truck Attack-NYPD Officer.

CBS: NYC Truck Attack; NYC Truck Attack-Suspect; NYC Truck Attack-Victims; NYC Truck Attack-White House; White House-Terror Attack Responses; Russia Meddling Investigation-Social Media; Navy Collisions Investigation; Utah-Attacked Nurse Settlement; Hollywood Sexual Misconduct; Miss Peru Anti-Violence Speech; Las Vegas Shooting-Recovering Victims.

NBC: NYC Truck Attack; NYC Truck Attack-Investigation; NYC Truck Attack-White House; Russia Meddling Investigation-Social Media; Apple CEO Interview; Hollywood Sexual Misconduct; Baseball World Series; NBA News; South Korea 2018 Winter Olympics.

Network TV At A Glance:

NYC Truck Attack – 33 minutes, 45 seconds

Russia Meddling Investigation-Social Media – 6 minutes, 40 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: NYC Truck Attack; Tax Reform Plan; Federal Reserve Chair; Colorado-Walmart Shooting; Wall Street News.

CBS: NYC Truck Attack; Navy Collisions Investigation; World Series; Bergdahl Trial; Post Hurricane Vehicle Sales.

FOX: NYC Truck Attack; Colorado Walmart Shooting

NPR: NYC Truck Attack; NYC Truck Attack-White House; NYC Truck Attack-Vigil; NASA-Administrator Candidate; World Series.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with Republican senators; makes a jobs announcement; meets with House Republican leaders and Republican members of the House Ways and Means Committee; announces the nominee for Chair of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President for a meeting with Republican senators; participates in a tour of Correct Craft and meets with the community to discuss the need for tax reform; delivers remarks on tax reform; delivers remarks at the Republican Party of Florida's Statesman's Dinner.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Energy Committee hearing on oil and gas exploration in the 1002 Area – Hearing on 'The Potential for Oil and Gas Exploration in the 1002 Area', with testimony from Republican Sen. Dan Sullivan; Republican Rep. Don Young; Alaska Governor Bill Walker, and Lieutenant Governor Byron Mallott; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Principal Deputy Director Greg Sheehan; Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government member Samuel Alexander; Native Village of Kaktovik Tribal Administrator Matthew Rexford; Doyon President and CEO Aaron Schutt; The Wilderness Society Arctic Program Director Lois Epstein; Arctic Slope Regional Corporation Executive Vice President for Land & Natural Resources Richard Glenn; former Secretary of the Interior's Special Assistant for Alaska Affairs Pat Pourchot; and biologist Dr Matthew Cronin
Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.energy.senate.gov

9:30 AM Senate Armed Services Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Dr Mark Esper to be Secretary of the Army; Robert Wilkie to be Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness; Joseph Kernan to be Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence; and Guy Roberts to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs
Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm G50, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations of Gregory Katsas to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit; Jeffrey Uhlman Beaverstock to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama; Emily Coody Marks and Brett Joseph Talley to be U.S. District Judges for the Middle District of Alabama; Holly Lou Teeter to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Kansas; Matthew Martin to be U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina; and Christina Nolan to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Vermont; as well as 'S. 807, Criminal Antitrust Anti-Retaliation Act of 2017'
Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:05 AM National Action Network Legislative and Policy Conference Hill Day – National Action Network Annual Legislative and Policy Conference Hill Day, on 'legislative policies that support NAN's core issues, such as a fair criminal justice system, access to the ballot box,

sustainable jobs with a living wage, and an equitable public education'. Speakers include Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders, Democratic Sens. Chuck Schumer, Cory Booker, Elizabeth Warren, and Kirsten Gillibrand, Democratic Reps. Barbara Lee, Ro Khanna, Al Green, Dwight Evans, Adriano Espaillat, Bobby Scott, Joyce Beatty, Frank Pallone, Andre Carson, Emmanuel Cleaver, Hakeem Jeffries, Al Lawson, Jim McGovern, and Brenda Lawrence, Washington, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, and NAN Founder and President Rev. Al Sharpton Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Auditorium, Washington, DC <http://www.nationalactionnetwork.net/> <https://twitter.com/NationalAction>

2:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

3:00 PM Bipartisan Sens. Rob Portman, Sheldon Whitehouse, and Jeanne Shaheen in conversation on the opioid epidemic – 'Across the Aisle: A Conversation on our Nation's Opioid Epidemic', with bipartisan Sens. Rob Portman, Sheldon Whitehouse, and Jeanne Shaheen discussing 'how the federal govt can best support the efforts of law enforcement, public health officials, community organizations, and families across the country to respond to the crisis'. Kennedy Institute co-founder and President of the Board Victoria Reggie Kennedy, and board member (and former Rep.) Patrick Kennedy, also deliver remarks Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 325, Washington, DC www.emkinstitute.org <https://twitter.com/emkinstitute>

Bicameral Dems react to GOP tax plan – Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, House Committee on Ways and Means Ranking Member Richard Neal, and Senate Committee on Finance Ranking Member Ron Wyden react to the unveiling of the Republican tax plan, via press conference Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC Studio A, Washington, DC www.schumer.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/SenSchumer>

US House: 10:00 AM House Democrats event in Solidarity with Puerto Rico & U.S. Virgin Islands – House Democrats will gather on the steps of the U.S. Capitol in solidarity with the people of Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands following the humanitarian crisis in the wake of hurricanes Irma and Maria. Participants: House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi; Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer; Democratic Caucus Chair Joe Crowley; Rep. José E. Serrano; Rep. Luis Gutiérrez; Rep. Nydia Velázquez; Rep. Stacey Plaskett; Rep. Darren Soto. Location: House East Front Steps U.S. Capitol.

10:00 AM House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Business Meeting Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM House Judiciary Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 3249, Project Safe Neighborhoods Grant Program Authorization Act of 2017', 'H.R. 1730, Combating Anti-Semitism Act of 2017', 'H.R. 3317, Stopping Abusive Female Exploitation Act', and 'H.R. X, Combat Online Predators Act' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2141, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee legislative hearing on 'H.R. 221, Hydrographic Services Improvement Amendments Act', 'H.R. 1176, Keep America's Waterfronts Working Act', and 'S. 140, To amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify the use of amounts in the WMAT Settlement Fund', with testimony from Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross (invited); Fugro Government Accounts Director David Millar; Maine Governor Paul LePage; Island Institute President Robert Snyder; and White Mountain Apache Tribe Vice-Chairman Kasey Velasquez Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Science subcommittee hearing on agriculture research – Research and Technology Subcommittee hearing on 'Putting Food on the Table – A Review of the Importance of Agriculture Research', with testimony from RAND Corporation senior policy researcher Dr Daniel Gerstein; Kansas State University Biosecurity Research Institute director Dr Stephen Higgs; University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Department of Crop Sciences professor of maize breeding and genetics Dr Stephen Moose; and National Pork Producers Council chief veterinarian Dr Elizabeth Wagstrom Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2318, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM House Small Business subcommittee hearing on SBA standard operating procedures – Investigations, Oversight, and Regulations Subcommittee hearing on 'Operating or Rulemaking? A Review of SBA's Opaque Standard Operating Procedures Process', with testimony from Small Business Administration COO Joseph Loddio Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2360, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

10:00 AM House Energy subcommittee hearing on the 2017 hurricane season – Energy

Subcommittee hearing on 'The 2017 Hurricane Season: A Review of Emergency Response and Energy Infrastructure Recovery Efforts', with testimony from witnesses including U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Director of Contingency Operations Ray Alexander; Deputy Assistant Secretary of Energy for Petroleum Reserves Robert Corbin, and Acting Under Secretary for Science and Energy and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability Patricia Hoffman; Southern Company President and CEO Thomas Fanning (on behalf of The Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council); National Nurses United Vice-President Cathy Kennedy; RaceTrac Petroleum Chief Supply Officer Max McBrayer; Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority Executive Director Julio Rhymer; Government Accountability Office Director of Natural Resources and Environment Frank Rusco; and American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers President and CEO Chet Thompson; and Public Utility Commission of Texas Chairman DeAnn Walker

Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC

<http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Infrastructure subcommittee hearing on the 2017 hurricane season – Hearing on 'Emergency Response and Recovery: Central Takeaways from the Unprecedented 2017 Hurricane Season', with testimony from bipartisan Reps. Michael McCaul, Gene Green, John Rutherford, Al Lawson, Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon, and Stacey Plaskett; Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Brock Long; U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Area Commander Vice Adm. Karl Schultz; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations Maj. Gen. Ed Jackson Jr.; and Environmental Protection Agency Region 2 Administrator Pete Lopez Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:05 AM National Action Network Legislative and Policy Conference Hill Day – National Action Network Annual Legislative and Policy Conference Hill Day, on 'legislative policies that support NAN's core issues, such as a fair criminal justice system, access to the ballot box, sustainable jobs with a living wage, and an equitable public education'. Speakers include Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders, Democratic Sens. Chuck Schumer, Cory Booker, Elizabeth Warren, and Kirsten Gillibrand, Democratic Reps. Barbara Lee, Ro Khanna, Al Green, Dwight Evans, Adriano Espaillat, Bobby Scott, Joyce Beatty, Frank Pallone, Andre Carson, Emmanuel Cleaver, Hakeem Jeffries, Al Lawson, Jim McGovern, and Brenda Lawrence, Washington, DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, and NAN Founder and President Rev. Al Sharpton Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Auditorium, Washington, DC <http://www.nationalactionnetwork.net/> <https://twitter.com/NationalAction>

10:15 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on dangerous pathogens – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Concerns Over Federal Select Agent Program Oversight of Dangerous Pathogens', with testimony from Government Accountability Office Acting Director Mary Denigan-McCauley; CDC Division of Select Agents and Toxins Director Dr Samuel Edwin; and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Director of Agriculture Select Agent Services Dr Freeda Isaac Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2322, Washington, DC

<http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:30 AM House Committee on Veterans' Affairs markup hearing Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

12:00 PM House expected to debate Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act and CHAMPION Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include 'H.R. 849 – Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act of 2017' and beginning consideration of 'H.R. 3922 – Community Health And Medical Professionals Improve Our Nation Act of 2017' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM The American Legion discuss survey of vets on medical cannabis research – The American Legion, in coordination with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs, hold press conference to discuss the results of its nationwide phone survey of vets on the issue of medical cannabis research. Speakers include The American Legion Executive Director Verna Jones and National Director of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Louis Celli, bipartisan Reps. Tim Walz and Matt Gaetz, other Members of Congress, Gold Star Mother Janine Lutz, and combat veterans and cannabis research advocates Boone Cutler and Josh Frey Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC www.legion.org [#Vets4MMJResearch](https://twitter.com/LegionInDC)

2:00 PM House Oversight subcommittee hearing on shark finning in the U.S. – Interior, Energy, and Environment Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining the Regulation of Shark Finning in the United States', with testimony from Oceana Campaign Director Lora Snyder; Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Law Enforcement Division Assistant Commander and Fisheries Law Administrator Brandi Reeder; and Georgia Aquarium Vice President of Research and Conservation

Dr Alistair Dove Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC
<http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

2:00 PM House Financial Services subcommittee latest hearing on housing finance reform – Housing and Insurance Subcommittee hearing on ‘Sustainable Housing Finance: Private Sector Perspectives on Housing Finance Reform, Part II’, with testimony from Mortgage Bankers Association President and CEO David Stevens; National Association of Home Builders CEO Jerry Howard; Structured Finance Industry Group Director of Mortgage Policy Dan Goodwin; Center for American Progress Director of Housing Policy Sarah Edelman; National Association of Realtors Conventional Financing & Policy Committee Chair Kevin Brown; and National Multifamily Housing Council Chairman Robert DeWitt Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

Bicameral Dems react to GOP tax plan – Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, House Committee on Ways and Means Ranking Member Richard Neal, and Senate Committee on Finance Ranking Member Ron Wyden react to the unveiling of the Republican tax plan, via press conference Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC Studio A, Washington, DC www.schumer.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/SenSchumer>

Dem Reps. Alma Adams and Nydia Velazquez host roundtable on HBCUs – Democratic Reps. Alma Adams and Nydia Velazquez host House Small Business Committee Roundtable to explore ‘the resources Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) need to successfully develop entrepreneurs and to ensure the success of alumni small businesses’, examining the role the Small Business Administration plays at universities and their outreach to HBCUs and reviewing the public/private partnerships HBCUs have cultivated in order to advance the entrepreneurial spirit of their students and alumni. Witnesses are Talib Graves-Manns and Awamary Khan (both Shaw University), Dr Kevin James (North Carolina A&T State University), Omar Muhammad (Morgan State University), Chad Womack (United Negro College Fund), Eric Watson (Carolinas-Virginia Minority Supplier Development Council), Shelly Bell (Black Girl Vision), and Naomi Brown (STAR Enterprises) * Held at 3:00 PM EDT or immediately following votes Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2360, Washington, DC <http://adams.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RepAdams>

Other: 8:30 AM Latina Equal Pay Day Summit – Labor Council for Latin American Advancement Latina Equal Pay Day Summit, aimed at identifying solutions to the Latina pay gap, with Democratic Rep. Linda Sanchez LCLAA Executive Director Hector Sanchez Barba and Deputy Director Monica Ramirez, actress Vannessa Vasquez, gender equity advocate Aileen Rizo, and former Treasurer Rosie Rios Location: AFL-CIO, 815 16th St NW, Washington, DC nationalhispanicleadership.org <https://twitter.com/NHLAgenda>

9:00 AM Den Sen. Ben Cardin speaks at CAP Action Fund event on the U.S. in Asia – ‘The United States in Asia: President Trump’s Choices and Challenges’ Center for American Progress Action Fund discussion, ahead of President Donald Trump’s first trip to the region. Includes remarks from Democratic Sen. Ben Cardin, before panel discussion with The German Marshall Fund Alliance for Securing Democracy Director Laura Rosenberger, CAP Action Fund East and Southeast Asia Policy Director Brian Harding, and CAP Action Fund National Security and International Policy Vice President Kelly Magsamen * President Trump departs tomorrow on a trip that includes stops in Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam, and the Philippines Location: Center for American Progress, Action Fund, 1333 H St NW, Washington, DC www.americanprogressaction.org <https://twitter.com/CAPaction>

9:00 AM Abt Associates discussion on coastal restoration – ‘Coastal Restoration: Will We Know It When We See It?’ Abt Associates discussion, on the restoration and protection of the coastline and the needs of affected communities, with Republican Rep. Garret Graves, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Chief Conservation Officer Holly Bamford, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Professor Donald Boesch, Coastal Marsh Sustainability expert Denise Reed, The Nature Conservancy Co-Chief External Affairs Officer and Global Climate Strategy Lead Lynn Scarlett, Resources for the Future Resident Scholar Leonard Shabman and Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council Deputy Executive Director and Program Director Buck Sutter Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.abtassociates.com <https://twitter.com/abtassociates>

10:00 AM Wilson Center discussion on President Trump’s Asia trip – ‘Trump’s Vision for Asia: What to Expect from the U.S. Presidential Visit to the Asia-Pacific Region’ Wilson Center Asia Program discussion, ahead of President Donald Trump’s visit to Japan, South Korea, China, and the Philippines, with The Asia Group CEO Kurt Campbell, Heritage Foundation Asian Studies Center Director Walter Lohman, and Yale Law School Paul Tsai China Center Senior Research Scholar in Law Mira Rapp-Hooper Location: Wilson Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW,

Washington, DC <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/> <https://twitter.com/TheWilsonCenter>

10:00 AM 'The Democratic Party in Crisis' report discussed at NPC news conference – 'AUTOPSY: The Democratic Party in Crisis', a new report assessing the continuing strategies of the national Democratic Party leadership one year after the presidential election, discussed at NPC news conference, with California Democratic Party Progressive Caucus Chair Karen Bernal, Progressive Democrats of America Executive Director Donna Smith and RootsAction.org Co-founder Norman Solomon addressing the Democratic Party's current problems and announcing a nationwide campaign to transform the party Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC pdamerica.org <https://twitter.com/pdamerica>

12:00 PM NEC Director Cohn speaks at Economic Club of Washington, DC – National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn speaks at the Economic Club of Washington, DC, with discussion expected on tax reform Location: JW Marriott Washington, DC, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.economicclub.org <https://twitter.com/TheEconomicClub>

1:00 PM NASA discusses science investigations launching on the next Orbital ATK commercial resupply flight to the ISS – NASA discusses select science investigations and technology demonstrations launching on the next Orbital ATK commercial resupply flight to the International Space Station – targeted for launch next week – via media teleconference featuring NASA Ames Research Center Small Spacecraft Technology Program Deputy Manager Elwood Agasid, E. coli AntiMicrobial Satellite (EcAMSat) project manager Stevan Spremo (NASA Ames Research Center), National Geographic Executive Director for Advanced Formats Matt Zymet, and Higher Orbits founder and President Michelle Lucas Location: TBD <http://www.nasa.gov> <https://twitter.com/NASA>

3:30 PM SCOTUS Justice Samuel Alito speaks at Georgetown Law Journal symposium – Georgetown Law Journal symposium on 'The Law of Nations and the United States Constitution', exploring 'The Judicial Perspective' on the status of customary international law under the Constitution and the role of such law in U.S. courts. Speakers include U.S. Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito, U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit Judge David Barron, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit Judge Debra Livingston, and U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit Judges Brett Kavanaugh and Sri Srinivasan Location: Georgetown University Law Center, Hart Auditorium, 600 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, DC www.law.georgetown.edu <https://twitter.com/GeorgetownLaw>

Annual U.S.-Japan Business Conference – 54th U.S.-Japan Business Conference, hosted by U.S.-Japan Business Council (a U.S. Chamber of Commerce affiliate) in collaboration with the Japan-U.S. Business Council. Over 50 companies and 180 participants from the U.S. and Japan attend, with speakers including Council of Economic Advisors Chairman Kevin Hassett, U.S.-Japan Congressional Caucus Co-Chair Republican Rep. Dave Reichert, Keidanren Chairman Sadayuki Sakakibara, USJBC Chairman (and Cisco Systems CEO) Chuck Robbins, JUBC Chairman Kunio Ishihara, and USCC President and CEO Thomas Donohue Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, 1615 H Street Northwest, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com <https://twitter.com/USChamber>

House Ways and Means Committee members introduce tax reform bill – House Committee on Ways and Means members introduce tax reform bill * President Donald Trump introduced his tax reform plan, based on work with Members of Congress, in September. It includes shrinking the current seven individual tax brackets into three (12%, 25%, and 35%), roughly doubling the standard deduction, reducing the corporate tax rate to 20%, and limiting the maximum tax rate for small businesses to 25% Location: TBD <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Stephen Colbert: "Last night, the President tweeted about the [New York] attack. Last night, he shared his thoughts and condolences. This morning, it was time for politics. 'The terrorist came into our country through what is called the 'Diversity Visa Lottery Program,' a Chuck Schumer beauty. I want merit based.' We all want merit-based, sir, but you're still the President."

Stephen Colbert: "The Republicans have been having trouble finalizing the [tax reform] bill. It was supposed to come out today, but they delayed it till tomorrow. And now we know why. Because Trump and leaders can't agree on a name for the bill. Apparently, calling it 'The Koch Brothers' All-American, Up-Tricklin', Cash-Grab-A-Rama' was a little on the nose."

Stephen Colbert: "Ladies and gentlemen, I give you the actual name our President proposed for his tax bill: 'The Cut, Cut, Cut Act. That name truly sucks, sucks, sucks."

Stephen Colbert: "Last night, Don Jr. tweeted a picture of his young daughter holding her candy bucket and said, 'I'm going to take half of her candy tonight and give it to some kid who sat at home. It's never too early to teach her about socialism.' Yes, it's never too early to teach kids the dangers of sharing."

James Corden: "On Twitter last night, Donald Trump Jr. used Halloween as an opportunity to take a shot at liberals. I don't know if you saw this. He posted a picture of his daughter with her Halloween candy that read, 'I'm going to take half of Chloe's candy tonight and give it to some kid who stayed at home. It's never too early to teach her about socialism.' Yeah. Here's what I am going to do. I'm going to take that tweet. I will show it to my daughter because it's never too early to teach her that 'too early' is spelled with two o's, not one."

Trevor Noah: "So when it was a Nazi, Trump needed more facts. When it was a Muslim, that was the only fact that he needed. And now, the President is still pretty new to politics, so other than being a fundamentally dishonest person, where did he learn to do this? Well, from the same place that he learns everything, the Trump intelligence briefing, a.k.a., Fox News."

Jimmy Fallon: "Here's what people are talking about. I saw that President Trump was talking to members of Congress about his tax reform bill today and says he wants to call it 'the Cut, Cut, Cut Act.' I guess that beats the name for his immigration bill, 'the Bye, Bye, Bye Act.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "This is a pretty big story. It came out that thousands of Americans actually attended a political rally that was organized by Russia. The rally was called Trump's inauguration."

Seth Meyers: "According to reports, President Trump wanted to call the upcoming Republican tax bill the 'Cut, Cut, Cut Act,' which is terrible name. But it is a lot shorter than calling it the 'I Cut Your Taxes, Will You Forget About My Treason Act.'"

Seth Meyers: "A former radioactive waste site off the coast of San Francisco is being turned into a \$5 billion housing development project. Residents are already giving it three thumbs up."

Conan O'Brien: "Today, President Trump's Press Secretary, Sarah Huckabee Sanders, said that no one in President Trump's Administration supports slavery. To put that in perspective, the last press secretary who had to make that statement worked for Ulysses S. Grant."

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DATE: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2017 6:00 AM EST

Holiday Message

In observance of the U.S. federal Veterans Day holiday, we will not publish on Friday, November 10, 2017. Service will resume on Monday, November 13, 2017. We wish our readers a safe holiday.

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- San Francisco Chronicle: Native Plant Nursery In South Texas Concentrates On Seeds.
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- Memphis (TN) Commercial Appeal: Historic Tax Credits On Chopping Block In House GOP Tax Plan.
- U.S. News & World Report: Higher Fares Sought For Ferryboat Rides To Isle Royale Park.
- San Francisco Chronicle: 2.4 Million Trees Are Dead In Yosemite National Park.

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- ABC: Media Analyses: Election Results "Rebuke" Of Trump, Ominous Sign For GOP.
- Washington Times: CBO: Repealing Individual Mandate Will Save \$338 Billion Over 10 Years.
- The Hill: CBO Says Republican Tax Plan Would Add \$1.7 Trillion To National Debt.
- Politico: Senate Tax Bill "Sharply Diverges" From House GOP Plan.
- USA Today: Pruitt: New Climate Report Won't Deter Roll Back Of Clean Power Plan.
- New York Times: Senators Criticize White For Climate Change Writings At Confirmation Hearing.
- Reuters: Climate Change Advocates Win Key Races Tuesday.
- USA Today: Senators "Grill" Nielsen On Climate Change During Confirmation Hearing.

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DOI In The News

Veterans Day Activities Begin With Reading Of Vietnam Memorial Wall Names.

[GrayDC](#) (11/8, Zampa) reports that the annual reading of names at the Vietnam Memorial Wall was underway as Veterans Day approached. One visitor "who waited in line to read names" was Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. Zinke, "a former Navy Seal says the country has gotten better since Vietnam when it comes to respecting our veterans." Zinke said, "A lot of what I received when I came home is a result of the Vietnam veterans that came before me." For Veterans Day weekend, Zinke "says he's visiting the Civil War battlefield at Manassas, Arlington Cemetery," and returning to DC "to wash the memorial wall."

Local TV coverage was provided by [KTUU-TV](#) Anchorage, AK (11/8), [WBKO-TV](#) Bowling Green, KY (11/8), and [WTAP-TV](#) Parkersburg, WV (11/8).

Durbin Blocks Interior Nominees From Confirmation.

[The Hill](#) (11/8, Cama) reports Sen. Dick Durbin has halted the confirmation process for "four pending Interior Department nominees over the Trump administration's plans to potentially shrink multiple national monuments." Durbin disclosed his actions "in a letter to the Interior Department, after Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke sent a public letter complaining about the confirmation process." Before Durbin wrote his letter on Wednesday, Zinke had "demanded 'immediate action' from Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and Minority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) on four pending nominees."

Also reporting are [E&E Publishing](#) (11/8, Doyle) and the [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Grandoni).

House Panel Passes Bill To Boost Drilling On Federal Land, Offshore.

[The Hill](#) (11/8, Cama) reports the House Natural Resources Committee passed the SECURE American Energy Act on a strict party line vote. The legislation will allow Alaska and Atlantic Coast states to take revenue from offshore drilling, and will end the president's authority to withdraw offshore areas for drilling. The measure also requires all planned offshore drilling rights sales to occur. Rep. Paul Gosar said, "The SECURE American Energy Act provides a multifaceted approach to improving access and management of our nation's valuable energy sources."

The [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (11/8, Stole) reports Democrats and environmentalists opposed the measure, calling it a giveaway to the fossil fuel industry. Rep. Raul Grijalva said, "It's the same polluter-industry wish list they've presented for years dressed up in yesterday's talking points." The bill's sponsor, Rep. Steve Scalise said, "The SECURE American Energy Act will create good jobs in communities all across our country, empower states, optimize onshore resource management and raise revenue-sharing caps that dedicate critical funds to Louisiana's

coastal restoration.”

Also reporting are the [Silver City \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (11/8), the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (11/8, Ruskin), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (11/8, Nemec), and [Maritime Executive](#) (11/8).

Wyden, Merkley Urge Full Funding For Invasive Weed Program.

[KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (11/9) reports that Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley “urged federal officials Wednesday to provide full funding for a successful 40-year program that conserves and restores healthy landscapes and waterways threatened by invasive weeds.” Their letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “notes that full funding in 2018 for the decades-old Strategic Integrated Noxious Weed Management partnership between the Bureau of Land Management and Oregon Department of Agriculture would be \$290,000.” However, “the current agreement calls for just \$70,000 – less than one-quarter full funding for assistance with weed control on federal lands, including education and outreach, prevention, physical and mechanical treatments, biological agents, herbicides, cultural methods including targeted grazing, and replanting.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Acoma Pueblo Still Awaits Return Of Tribal Shield.

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (11/8, Coleman) reports that “it’s been 18 months since a sacred tribal shield belonging to Acoma Pueblo turned up on a Paris auction block.” The foreign auction house halted the sale, “but Acoma Pueblo Gov. Kurt Riley told Congress Wednesday the shield still hasn’t been returned to New Mexico.” At a hearing of the Indian Affairs Committee on Wednesday, John Tahsuda, principal deputy assistant secretary for Indian Affairs at the Interior Department, “said the agency is being deliberate.” Tahsuda said, “We need to get this right. The full responsibility isn’t just in our hands – the Department of Justice and the State Department have a role in this. We need to do it the right way so that our actions are defensible and we can proceed with prosecutions.”

FBI Investigation Of Cherokee BIA Official Extends Beyond Marriage Fraud.

The [Waynesville \(NC\) Smoky Mountain News](#) (11/8, Kays) reports that “the FBI’s investigation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Cherokee Agency’s deputy superintendent Ruth Marie Sequoyah McCoy goes far deeper than the charges of marriage fraud that she and 11 others are currently facing, according to recently filed court documents.” The document “doesn’t provide any further details as to what that broader investigation entails.” However, the article notes that “the statement as to the existence of a broader investigation is the first time that rumor to that effect has been confirmed in an official, public document.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Settlement Reached In Lawsuit Against Bureau Of Land Management.

[KAUZ-TV](#) Wichita Falls, TX (11/8, Forester) reports that Commissioner George P. Bush on Wednesday announced that a settlement has been reached in the lawsuit filed by Red River property owners against the Bureau of Land Management. The agreement “protects both private property rights and the mineral rights of the school children of Texas according to the Texas Land Office.” Under the settlement, the BLM has “agreed the boundary once in dispute is governed by the opinion of the Supreme Court in *Oklahoma v. Texas* in 1923.”

Thousands Comment On Proposed Methane Rule Suspension.

The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (11/9, Moss) reports that “environmental advocates in New Mexico hand-delivered to five of the state’s Bureau of Land Management field offices this week more than 4,000 letters voicing objections to the federal government’s proposal to suspend Obama-era methane regulations for two years.” Many commenters “said the methane regulations were designed to provide crucial climate and health protections for state residents and asked that the BLM not overturn them.” Proponents of the delay also submitted comments. Ryan Flynn, director of the Oil and Gas Association, wrote that the stay “would allow for operators to continue to voluntarily reduce emissions, while at the same time greatly reducing regulatory impediments to the development of federal oil and gas resources.”

Motion To Dismiss Federal Case Against Cliven Bundy, Sons Denied.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (11/8, Lochhead) reports that “a judge denied a motion to dismiss the federal case against Bunkerville rancher Cliven Bundy, two of his sons and Montana independent militia man Ryan Payne.” Defense lawyers “in the case had filed the motion after previously undisclosed video surveillance of the Bundy home surfaced during a separate testimony last week.” Judge Gloria Navarro “did grant the defense more time to discover evidence pertaining to surveillance of the Bundy ranch and residence.”

BLM Proposes To Open Otero Mesa For Gas And Oil Development.

The [Alamogordo \(NM\) Daily News](#) (11/8, Devine) reports that a proposal by the Bureau of Land Management “has some people concerned with the region of the Otero Mesa as the proposal seeks to open up the area for oil and gas development. BLM drafts a plan for the area.” The BLM is “currently drafting a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the area that has important consequences for all these valuable assets, as well as for Otero County’s economy.” The plan is “due for public comment in spring 2018.”

New Mexico Land Managers To Address Overgrown Brush.

The [AP](#) (11/9) reports that “federal land managers in southern New Mexico say creosote is getting out of hand in some areas.” The Bureau of Land Management is “working with a local soil and water conservation district and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to treat about 11,000 acres (4,452 hectares) of the desert shrub.” According to the article, “herbicide pellets will be used to control the creosote so native grasses, forbs and other vegetation have a chance to grow.”

BLM Winnemucca District’s Black Rock Field Office to Begin Emergency Horse Gather.

[KTVN-TV](#) Reno, NV (11/8) reports that “the Bureau of Land Management Winnemucca District’s Black Rock Field Office will begin an emergency gather of approximately 200 wild horses on November 15 from a portion of the Fox and Lake Range Herd Management Area, which was recently burned by wildfire.”

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Shell Enchilada Oil Platform In Gulf Of Mexico Shut After Fire.

[Reuters](#) (11/8, Verma, Prasad) reports Shell shuts its Enchilada platform in the Gulf of Mexico after a fire broke out, causing injuries to two people. The Coast Guard said associated production was stopped and that the fire was reduced to a small flame from a pipeline on the platform. The crew of 46 were evacuated to a nearby platform. Shell said that it also shut the Salsa and Auger platforms and nearby fields, along with a 30-inch gas export pipeline.

The [AP](#) (11/8) reports the Coast Guard said a “light sheen” was spotted in the water north of the platform after the fire started. Shell spokesman Philip Robinson said the workers were safely evacuated. The company released a statement saying, “No harm to people or the environment is ever acceptable and Shell deeply regrets that this incident occurred.” The Coast Guard and BSEE are investigating the cause of the fire.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (11/8) reports a 54-year-old man suffered flash burns, while a 29-year-old man had a concussion and sprained wrist. Both were sent by helicopter to the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (11/8, Wells) reports a Shell spokesman said the fire broke out at 1:30 am on Wednesday and that the company had identified the source of the fire and was “actively responding to the situation.” The spokesman said, “An early morning U.S. Coast Guard overflight is complete and there were no signs of oil on the water at that time.” [Argus Media](#) (11/8) reports a spokesman for Shell Midstream Partners said, “For safety reasons, we have chosen not to extinguish the fire while the pipeline is safely depressurized.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (11/8), [WVLA-TV Baton Rouge \(LA\)](#) Baton Rouge, LA (11/8, Dotson), [WCSC-TV Charleston \(SC\)](#) Charleston, SC (11/8, Finch), [WKRG-TV Mobile \(AL\)](#) Mobile, AL (11/8), [KLFY-TV Lafayette \(LA\)](#) Lafayette, LA (11/8), [WPML-TV Mobile \(AL\)](#) Mobile, AL (11/8), [WKRG-TV Mobile \(AL\)](#) Mobile, AL (11/8, Best), and [WUSA-TV Washington](#) Washington (11/8, Dupuy).

Fish And Wildlife Service

Murkowski Bill Directs At Least 2 Major Lease Sales In Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Eilperin) reports that on Wednesday, Sen. Lisa Murkowski released a budget measure “that would open Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling for the first time in a generation.” The legislation “directs federal officials to auction off mineral rights in areas encompassing at least 400,000 acres each in the refuge’s coastal plain, which is also known as its ‘1002 area.’” It requires that revenues be split evenly between Alaska and the federal government, and requires a royalty rate of at least 16.67. A markup on the bill is scheduled for November 15.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Huffington Post](#) (11/9, D’Angelo, Visser).

Native Plant Nursery In South Texas Concentrates On Seeds.

The [AP](#) (11/8) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Native Plant Nursery “this year will produce 80,000 native herbaceous plants, shrubs and trees for restoration efforts on federal lands.” Kim Wahl, a plant biologist for the USFWS, said, “We do everything from the very start of seed collection, seed processing, filling the growing containers – what we call plant bands – filling them with soil mix, propagating the seeds and growing them out. We do that for 80,000 plants here.” The agency also contracts “with native plant growers for even more seedlings to ensure each restoration acre planted receives the right mix of species.”

130-Foot-Tall Cell Tower Coming To Naperville Golf Course.

The [Chicago Daily Herald](#) (11/8, Wilson) reports that the Naperville City Council approved a new cell tower Tuesday night. According to the article, “opposition to the cell tower came from residents and two council members who are concerned with aesthetics at the 1,800-acre Springbrook Prairie Forest Preserve and with the health of birds migrating through the area.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “reviewed the proposal and determined it will have no effect on endangered species because it will not remove native vegetation or any animal habitat.”

National Park Service

Lines Are Drawn Over Design For A National World War I Memorial.

The [New York Times](#) (11/8, Cochrane) reports that a groundbreaking ceremony for the new national World War I memorial is scheduled for Thursday, “but some members of Washington’s architecture community have lingering concerns because its design is not yet final.” According to the article, “the current redesign for Pershing Park – which has received concept approval from the Commission of Fine Arts, National Park Service and the National Capital Planning Commission – features an estimated 65-foot-long sculptural wall with soldiers poised in battle and a smaller, more contained water feature.”

Honoring Eisenhower At Long Last.

[Roll Call](#) (11/9, Akin) reports that “a memorial to former President Dwight D. Eisenhower, mired in controversy for more than 17 years, is the newest monument under construction on the National Mall.” According to the article, “until the Nov. 2 groundbreaking, some of the most stalwart detractors still hoped that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke would withhold the last approval required before construction could begin.” However, “those hopes were dashed at the last minute when the National Park Service quietly issued a construction permit three days before a groundbreaking ceremony.”

Official National Park Account: There’s ‘Overwhelming Consensus’ On Climate Change.

[The Hill](#) (11/8, Savransky) reports that on Wednesday the “official account of Joshua Tree National Park” tweeted out “that there’s an ‘overwhelming consensus’ that human activity is the driving force behind climate change.” The account tweeted, “An overwhelming consensus – over 97% – of climate scientists agree that human activity is the driving force behind today’s rate of global temperature increase.” The article adds “the tweets come after an extensive report was published earlier this month by the federal government that said humans are the primary drivers of climate change, causing higher temperatures, sea level rise and agriculture problems.”

Historic Tax Credits On Chopping Block In House GOP Tax Plan.

The [Memphis \(TN\) Commercial Appeal](#) (11/8, Risher) reports that “the House GOP tax plan released last week would eliminate investment tax credits for historic preservation projects as part of an effort to simplify the tax code.” In response, historic preservation advocates are “pushing back. They contend the program levels the playing field for projects that save historic treasures and generates 20-25 percent more federal income than it costs.”

Higher Fares Sought For Ferryboat Rides To Isle Royale Park.

The [U.S. News & World Report](#) (11/8) reports that “federal officials are proposing higher fares for trips to Isle Royale National Park aboard the Ranger III, the ferryboat that carries passengers between Houghton on the Michigan mainland and the park in northwestern Lake Superior.” The National Park Service “says raising prices for the first time since 2013 would help maintain the vessel, pay staffing costs and provide services to the public.” Under the proposal, “the cost of a one-way, low-season ticket for an adult would be \$55 next season, up from \$53 this year.” Also, “the one-way, high-season adult fare would rise to \$70 from the current \$63.”

2.4 Million Trees Are Dead In Yosemite National Park.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (11/8, Graff) reports that “there are 2.4 million dead trees within about 131,000 acres” of Yosemite National Park, “according the latest fall count, says park spokesperson Scott Gediman.” Gediman says, “As long as these things have been tracked, it’s the most dead trees we’ve seen in the park.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

Betsy DeVos Visits Storm-Battered Schools In Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Balingit) reports that Betsy DeVos “visited schools in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands” that had been affected by Hurricanes Irma and Maria on Wednesday. DeVos also “met with Puerto Rico Education Secretary Julia Keleher and Governor Ricardo Rosselló to discuss how the Education Department might help the schools there.” Puerto Rico’s “education department has opened 614 of the 1,113 schools in Puerto Rico, but the vast majority do not have electricity.”

Office Of Surface Mining

Wyoming Proposes Stronger Rules For Coal Cleanup.

The [AP](#) (11/8) reports that “Wyoming regulators are proposing changes to how coal companies secure the cost of cleaning up any of their mines that close in the state.” The state’s self-bonding rules have been “criticized by some as being inadequate, potentially leaving the state to pick up the expensive cost of cleaning up shuttered mines.” According to the article, “the state’s proposed changes don’t end self-bonding, but they do make it harder to qualify.”

US Geological Survey

Preliminary Magnitude 3.7 Earthquake In Central Oklahoma.

The [AP](#) (11/8) reports that the U.S. Geological Survey “reports an earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 3.7 has been recorded in central Oklahoma.” The article notes that “the quake struck about 30 miles (48 kilometers) northeast of where a series of about a dozen earthquakes, including one of magnitude 4.1, have occurred since Oct. 31.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (11/8).

Opinion Pieces

Charging More For National Parks Is Not A Bad Idea.

In a piece for the [Chicago Tribune](#) (11/8, Chapman), Steve Chapman, a member of the Tribune Editorial Board, supports the Trump Administration’s proposal to raise entrance fees at 17 popular national parks. Chapman calls the fee increase a “minimal burden” for a family that would also be spending on transportation, lodging, food, and souvenirs. Chapman argues that it’s fair to ask

those who visit national parks “to kick in a bit more.”

Don't Overturn Sage Grouse Habitat Management Plans Before They Have A Chance To Work.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (11/8, Rait), Ken Rait, director of The Pew Charitable Trusts' western lands initiative, warns that “plans to save the sage grouse and its habitat are under threat: The Interior Department is reconsidering the 2015 sage grouse management plans designed to reduce habitat loss and recover grouse populations.” Rait writes that “those habitat management plans grew out of a collaborative, science-based process, with significant opportunities for public involvement.” He adds that “the process sought – and achieved – a compromise among stakeholders, including sportsmen, Western governors and other elected officials, industry representatives, and conservationists.” Furthermore, “the plans allow for energy development while furnishing protections for the sage steppe landscape, and provide for tailored approaches by individual states to balance those needs.” As a result, Rait says that “the plans had helped federal agencies avoid the need to list the greater sage grouse under the Endangered Species Act, which could have triggered more restrictive land use policies across the region.”

America's Security And Economy Depend On ANWR.

In an op-ed for the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (11/8, Woolston), Kristina Woolston, an Athabaskan Indian from Naknek, Alaska, writes that the 1002 area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is “not designated as wilderness, and today, it is the largest unexplored, potentially productive onshore basin on the continent.” Woolston cites U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) estimates and says that “the resource could rival or even exceed the initial reserves at Prudhoe Bay, the largest existing oil field in the country.” Furthermore, “development would create tens of thousands of jobs nationwide in a diverse set of fields such as engineering, construction, machinery contracting, shipbuilding, manufacturing and many more.” For these reasons, Woolston sees exploring the ANWR as “a no-brainer for America.”

Additional Reading.

- *In Praise Of Parks, In Fear Of Frats.* [Observer \(NJ\)](#) (11/8, Leir).
- *The Curious Recovery Of A 'Threatened' Bat Species.* [Daily Signal](#) (11/8, Gordon).
- *Why We Invest In Protecting Wetlands: Delaware Voice.* [Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#) (11/8, Weber).
- *Regenerating Forests For Healthy Wildlife Habitats.* [Detroit Free Press](#) (11/8).
- *Back To The Battlefield For The Arctic Refuge?.* [Orlando \(FL\) Sentinel](#) (11/8, Call) .
- *AJOC EDITORIAL: Trump Administration Breathes Life Into Alaska.* [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (11/8, Jensen).

Top National News

Ahead Of Trump-Xi Talks, US And Chinese Companies Sign Deals Worth Billions.

President Trump began a two-day visit to Beijing Wednesday for talks expected to focus on trade and North Korea. As he arrived, [USA Today](#) (11/8, Jackson, Hjelmggaard) reports, US and Chinese companies signed “more than a dozen deals worth \$9 billion” at a ceremony attended by Commerce Secretary Ross and Vice Premier Wang Yang. No details “were immediately released, but such business contracts are a common fixture of visits by foreign leaders to China.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/8, A1, Dou, Page) indicates that among the deals announced by Ross were agreements by General Electric, DowDuPont, and Smithfield Foods with Chinese counterparts.

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/8) reports, meanwhile, that in total, the White House expects to announce “upwards of \$250 billion in business deals in China this week, an administration official said – exactly the sort of US jobs-based diplomacy that...Trump likes to deliver when traveling abroad.” Ross “boasted of that number in a meeting with chief executives in China on Wednesday, but offered few details, according to two people who attended the meeting.”

The [New York Times](#) (11/8, Bradsher, Swanson) reports Trump arrived in Beijing “accompanied by the chiefs of some of the most ambitious and influential American companies: Boeing, Goldman Sachs, Westinghouse Electric and Qualcomm, among others.” However, the Times say that “not much” is expected to come from Trump's meeting with Xi, “to the frustration of some American business executives.” The Administration, it adds, “has been stretched thin on

trade," and trade has been "supplanted by North Korea as the most talked-about issue" so far on the President's trip.

[Business Insider](#) (11/8) writes that while Trump "made the debate over free trade one of the central topics of his campaign...aside from leaving the TPP, he has delivered little on the trade front in the year since his election." The article attributes the lack of action "at least partially" to the on-going North Korea crisis, in which the US needs the support of China and South Korea.

[CNBC](#) (11/8, DiChristopher) reports Trump's "entourage" on the trip includes "a pair of natural gas executives, a sign that the White House is eager to build on progress earlier this year to ship more of the fuel to China." CNBC notes that natural gas demand in China is "rising and poised to boom in coming years," and the Administration is "making it a priority to assure US companies scoop up a significant share of the business." [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/8) columnist Nathaniel Taplin, however, contends that the deals announced Wednesday will only make a small dent in the US trade deficit with China.

Trumps Afforded Lavish Welcome Ahead Of Tough Talks. Media coverage of the President's arrival in Beijing cast his initial meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping as an exchange of pleasantries ahead of what are expected to be tough talks. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/8, story 4, 2:10, Karl), for example, referred to "a lavish red carpet welcome for...Trump complete with honor guards," and added that "on the motorcade route," there were "excited school children waving American and Chinese flags." The [AP](#) (11/9, Lemire, Colvin), meanwhile, says Trump's two-day visit "opened with diplomatic niceties aplenty," though "thorny issues await the two world leaders behind closed doors, including potential tensions" over trade and North Korea.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (11/8, story 4, 1:15, Jackson) also said "China has really been rolling out the red carpet so far, with plenty of public displays of political affection between these two leaders." NBC added that "at one point...Trump showed President Xi Jinping a video of Ivanka's daughter singing in Mandarin. The grandparent in chief hoping that warm personal relationship will pay off on the policy front."

[Reuters](#) (11/8, Wen, Holland) also says Xi greeted Trump with "lavish pageantry and an uncharacteristic personal flourish," ahead of talks that are expected to be dominated by North Korea and trade. In what Reuters calls a "break from precedent, Xi himself gave the Trumps a tour of the imperial treasures of the Forbidden City." The [Daily Caller](#) (11/8, Pickrell) reports the President and First Lady were also treated to "a rare dinner at the Forbidden City, an honor that has not been bestowed on a foreign leader since the founding of the People's Republic of China 68 years ago."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Nakamura, Parker) reports Trump "lavished praise" on Xi, touting the "great chemistry" between them and declaring their relationship a "great one." [USA Today](#) (11/8, Jackson) says Trump "has been full of praise for Xi and China on what is probably the most important stop of his Asia tour," in contrast from the presidential campaign, "when Trump constantly argued that China stole jobs from the United States."

On the issue of North Korea, the [New York Times](#) (11/8, Landler, Perlez) reports Trump arrived "primed to ask...Xi...to step up Chinese pressure on North Korea over its nuclear and ballistic missile programs. But Mr. Trump's latest foray into personal diplomacy may end in frustration," as the Chinese leader "either cannot, or does not want to, do the job." Trump, a senior Administration official said, "plans to call on the Chinese leader to cut off oil exports to North Korea, at least temporarily; to close down North Korean bank accounts in China; and to send home tens of thousands of North Koreans who work in China."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/8, story 6, 2:20, Tracy) reported that "imports of North Korean seafood, textiles, and coal are now banned" in China, "but just days before the sanctions took effect, China purchased 1.6 million tons of North Korean coal worth nearly \$140 million. Traders here in Dandong, say that some items banned by the UN are still being imported from North Korea, and that's because it's right here." The Chinese government, however, "says it is strictly enforcing the sanctions and that its imports from North Korea have fallen nearly 40 percent. But it's unclear if that's having impact on deterring North Korea from advancing its nuclear weapons program."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Fifield) reports that during a speech earlier on Wednesday in Seoul, the President "did not mince his words" about North Korea, saying it is "a country ruled as a cult. At the center of this military cult is a deranged belief in the leader's destiny to rule." [USA Today](#) (11/8, Durando) reports North Korea "shot back" at Trump's "rough rhetoric by saying the United States should oust him" from power "to get rid of the abyss of doom," state-run media said. North Korean state media referred to Trump as a "lunatic old man."

North Korea Says Sanctions Hurting Women, Children. [Reuters](#) (11/8, Nebehay) reports North Korea said Wednesday it was “working to uphold women’s rights and gender equality,” but that international sanctions are “taking a toll on vulnerable families.” North Korea’s Ambassador to the UN in Geneva, Han Tae Song, also urged South Korea to return 12 waitresses “kidnapped” while working in China in April 2016, calling it a “crime against humanity.”

Despite Security Concerns, Trump Tweets From China. [Bloomberg News](#) (11/8, Sink) reports on concerns over whether the President should use Twitter during his visit to China. The White House convened “internal discussions and tapped US counterintelligence officials to consult on the matter before the President left for Asia last week,” according to sources. Administration officials, however, said Trump would tweet during his visit, “even at the risk of flouting the privilege in a nation that generally denies Western social media to its own people.”

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Nakamura) reports Trump is “expected to continue his daily dose of high-octane missives” on Twitter over the visit, “but it’s what he might chose not to say that could send a more subtle but equally important message.” In fact, Trump [tweeted](#) Wednesday from Beijing, “Looking forward to a full day of meetings with President Xi and our delegations tomorrow. THANK YOU for the beautiful welcome China! @FLOTUS Melania and I will never forget it!”

Coons “Encouraged By The Tone And Tenor Of The Trip.” Sen. Chris Coons said on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (11/8), “I am encouraged by the tone and tenor of the trip, obviously, the self promotion notwithstanding, to have President Trump move towards a more diplomatic tone after some early bluster. Now that we have pre-positioned three aircraft carrier groups, the nuclear subs, the personnel and material in the region, I think President Trump is striking the right balance between having previously been overly threatening and now pursuing a diplomatic alternative. This has to be an off-ramp for North Korea to be consider taking. He is going to have to be to be strong with Xi Jinping. The next couple of days are going to be crucial. But, all of us that worry about America’s security and about the human consequences of a potential confrontation with North Korea going wrong have to be encouraged by President Trump’s tone.”

Congress Proposes Tougher Reviews Of Foreign Investments. The [New York Times](#) (11/8, Swanson) reports that a group of bipartisan lawmakers introduced legislation Wednesday “that would subject Chinese investments to greater scrutiny through a significant expansion of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, or Cfius.” The legislation is aimed at “preventing China from taking advantage of the United States’ open approach to foreign investment while refusing to fully open its own markets.”

China’s Tencent Buys 12 Percent Stake In Snap. Chinese Internet giant Tencent has become one of the largest shareholders in Snap, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/8, Russolillo, Vaishampayan, Farrell) reports, purchasing a 12 percent stake worth at least \$2 billion.

UCLA Basketball Players Arrested For Shoplifting In China. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/8, story 9, 0:15, Muir) reported, “Three American basketball players are facing possible charges in China. The UCLA players were arrested for allegedly shoplifting days before their season opener in Shanghai. They are under house arrest in their hotel tonight.”

Kremlin: Putin And Trump Likely To Meet In Vietnam. The [AP](#) (11/8, Isachenkov) reports the Kremlin said Wednesday that President Vladimir Putin and President Trump “have a full agenda for their likely encounter” on the sidelines of the APEC leaders’ summit later this week in Vietnam. Putin’s foreign affairs adviser, Yuri Ushakov, said the two leaders may have an “extensive” one-on-one meeting, although a specific time has not been set. “There are things to discuss and we are ready for it,” Ushakov said. The [Washington Times](#) (11/8, Blake) likewise reports that it is “very likely” Trump will meet “face-to-face” with Putin at the summit.

Duterte Urges Trump To “Lay Off” Human Rights During Visit. [Breitbart](#) (11/8, Martel) reports Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte told reporters Wednesday that he is prepared to tell President Trump to “lay off” if the US leader “challenged him on reports that his administration is violating the human rights of its citizens.” Asked what he would tell Trump if he mentioned human rights concerns, Duterte replied, “Lay off. That is not your business. That is my business. I take care of my country and I will nurture my country to health.”

Storey: By Battling ISIS In Philippines, Trump Proved Commitment To Security In Asia. Ian J. Storey, a senior fellow at the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore, writes an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/8) which highlights the US’s assistance to the Philippine army when ISIS took over the city of Marawi. He writes that by honoring the US alliance with the Philippines despite President Rodrigo Duterte’s anti-US rhetoric, President Trump demonstrated that the US commitment to regional security remains strong.

Trump’s Choice Of Hamburger Sparks “Twitter Firestorm” In Japan. [Fox News](#) (11/8) reports

that while visiting Japan, President Trump ate a hamburger, "setting off a Twitter firestorm of those both praising and criticizing the choice."

Media Analyses: Election Results "Rebuke" Of Trump, Ominous Sign For GOP.

In the wake of Democrats' successes in Tuesday elections, particularly Gov.-elect Ralph Northam's win in Virginia's gubernatorial election and big Democratic gains in that state's House of Delegates, media coverage – including reports on all three major network newscasts – frames the results as a rebuke of President Trump and an ominous sign for the GOP heading into next year's midterm elections.

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/8, story 5, 2:00, Muir), Mary Bruce reported, "Less than 30 minutes after Virginia voters delivered President Trump a resounding rebuke, the President took to Twitter, declaring the Republican's defeat had nothing to do with him. Instead, he blamed the candidate, Ed Gillespie, tweeting, he 'did not embrace me or what I stand for.' A complete 180. Trump had urged supporters to back Gillespie." Bruce added that "Northam's win was fueled by anti-Trump backlash. One-third of Virginia voters say they cast their ballot to protest the President. ... Democrats are now dreaming of a wave in the midterms."

In the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/8, lead story, 2:40), Anthony Mason reported that in the wake of Tuesday's victories in the New Jersey and Virginia gubernatorial races, Democrats are "suddenly feeling very good about next year's midterm elections." CBS' Nancy Cordes added, "In exit polls, 34 percent of Virginians said their vote was, at least in part, a vote against Trump. A surge in Democratic turnout handed the party at least 14 new seats in Virginia's House of Delegates." University of Virginia political scientist Larry Sabato was shown saying, "It was totally stunning to everybody who follows politics here."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/8, story 3, 2:15, Holt), Kasie Hunt reported on the Democratic wins in Virginia, and added, "Some congressional Republicans say it's a wake-up call." Rep. Scott Taylor (R-VA) was shown saying, "I think it's important for Republicans to self-reflect, starting from the top all the way down." Hunt: "Was it a referendum on Donald Trump?" Taylor: "I do believe so." And Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL) was shown saying, "Voters sent a strong message, especially in Virginia, that these nativist, divisive campaigns don't work in most parts of the country." Hunt added, "The White House tonight is down playing last night's election results, saying that 2018 is 'long ways away.' But it's putting even more pressure on Republicans in Congress to show they're capable of governing, as Republicans race to try to pass their tax reform plan before the end of the year."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Kane) reports that Democratic candidates successes on Tuesday, "particularly in key suburban battlegrounds across the nation, validates a strategy that Democrats on Capitol Hill had embraced earlier this year: trying to win back the majority by riding a wave of liberal resentment toward President Trump while also promising rational governance to centrist swing voters."

[Reuters](#) (11/8, Stein, Ax) reports Democrats on Tuesday "claimed historic gains in Virginia's statehouse and flipped Republican-held seats in other local races across the" US. The party "also held onto the Virginia governor's mansion and celebrated coast-to-coast victories in off-year elections that could foreshadow the mood of the national electorate heading into the November 2018 elections, when control of the US Congress will be at stake."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/8, Decker) reports, "Republicans awoke Wednesday facing a tortuous road ahead for their candidates in the 2018 elections, particularly in suburban areas where animosity toward...Trump overwhelmed his party in Tuesday's elections." The Times adds, "The view from the suburbs is key because it points to the central problem for Republicans in 2018: Control of the House will be decided in large part in districts similar to those that retaliated against Trump on Tuesday." In 2018, the GOP "will face the same conundrum that befell the losing Virginia gubernatorial candidate, Ed Gillespie: The racially tinged, culture war themes that appeal to Trump loyalists provoked a giant backlash among moderate suburbanites and nonwhite voters."

The [New York Times](#) (11/8, Burns, Martin) reports that US "suburbs appear to be in revolt against...Trump after a muscular coalition of college-educated voters and racial and ethnic minorities on Tuesday dealt the" GOP "a thumping rejection and propelled a diverse class of Democrats into office." The Times adds, "Leaders in both parties said the elections amounted to an earsplitting alarm bell for Republicans ahead of the 2018 elections, when the party's grip on the House of Representatives may hinge on the socially moderate, multiethnic communities surrounding major cities."

Under the headline "Republicans Have A Serious Suburban Problem In 2018," [Politico](#) (11/8,

Bland) highlighted Northam's large margins of victory over Gillespie in Virginia's suburbs, and added that GOP "strategists described Gillespie's 9-point loss and other election results around the country as a massive early-warning signal for the 2018 elections, when House Republicans must defend 23 mostly suburban districts that Trump lost last year." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/8, De Avila, Vilensky) reports that Democratic candidates in the suburbs of New York City rode anti-Trump sentiment to big wins.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Vozzella) quotes Northam as saying in a Wednesday interview, "I don't think there's any question that there are some policies coming out of Washington that are concerning to Virginia and perhaps a detriment to Virginians. But I think the message is, the divisiveness, the hatred, the divisive politics that is tearing this country apart, I think people...want to do things the Virginia way. Focus on the economy, focus on Virginians having a job, focusing on education...access to affordable and quality healthcare."

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/8, Dopp, John) reports, "Democrats won a sweeping statewide victory in Virginia by energizing the coalition that was supposed to carry them into the future but failed them in 2016: young voters and women." Bloomberg News says Northam "won women by 22 percentage points on Tuesday, outmatching Hillary Clinton a year earlier, when women backed her over Trump, 56 percent to 39 percent, according to NBC News exit polls. Among voters 18-29, Northam beat Gillespie, 69 percent to 30 percent, a margin that doubled Clinton's performance a year earlier." Bloomberg News adds that Northam also racked up huge margins in Virginia's suburbs.

Writing for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/8), Gerald Seib says that Democrats in Virginia were boosted to victory by strong support from wealthy whites, young voters, minorities, women who live in the suburbs, and unmarried women. The [New York Times](#) (11/8, Tackett, Gabriel, Johnson) reports, "If the 2016 presidential election reflected a primal roar from disaffected white working class voters that delivered for President Trump and Republicans, Tuesday's results showed the potential of a rising coalition of women, minorities, and gay and transgender people who are solidly aligning with Democrats."

The [Washington Times](#) (11/8, Dinan) reports, "Gun-control activists, Obamacare supporters, immigrant-rights advocates, environmentalists, gay rights activists – every part of the Democratic coalition – claimed momentum Wednesday in the wake of stunning victories in the off-year elections." The Times adds that "the fallout could reach deep into Capitol Hill, where Democrats said they're newly energized in their battle against the GOP's tax-cut bill, and warned Republicans to heed the signs out of Virginia." The Post adds that a number of the Democratic wins across the country were scored in "suburban areas that make up the key battlegrounds where next year's mid-term congressional elections are likely to be fought."

[McClatchy](#) (11/8, Glueck) reports that Tuesday's "rout of Republican candidates" across the country "triggered alarm bells in Republican circles that a deteriorating political environment could set in motion a Democratic wave in the 2018 midterm elections." McClatchy adds, "For Republicans," the outcomes of the elections "were a reminder that Democrats are, in fact, capable of translating liberal anti-Trump energy into actual votes. It was evidence of the environmental perils that often await a president's party in the midterm elections – especially when that president has historically low approval ratings."

The [AP](#) (11/8, Peoples) reports that Tuesday's elections "left little doubt that Trump's dismal approval ratings can drag down Republican allies, particularly those serving in states he lost last November. And even if his ratings show signs of improvement, history suggests that the first midterm elections for any new president often lead to major gains for the opposing party."

The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (11/8, Moomaw) reports, "To many observers on the right, the explanation for why so many suburban Virginia voters suddenly seemed allergic to voting Republican was simple. They were all itching to vote against Trump's party. Tucker Martin, a GOP strategist and adviser to...Gillespie, said Gillespie's unsuccessful campaign for governor was swamped by a wave of anti-Trump Virginians eager to cast a 'proxy vote' against the president in a state Trump lost last year."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Schneider) reports, "The sweeping gains won by Democrats in Tuesday's elections complete Virginia's transformation into the only blue state of the old Confederacy. ... Change has been coming to the increasingly diverse state for years, but the evolution was turbocharged by the provocative influence of...Trump," whose "victory last fall and subsequent knife-twisting tweets inspired a surge of Democratic candidates to run for office and pushed many voters to the polls. 'This election, more than anything else, was a Trump-effect election,' said Stephen Farnsworth, a political scientist at the University of Mary Washington."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Jordan, Tumulty, Chandler) reports, "Women racked up victories across the country on Tuesday, and are being credited with the Democrats' big night

overall. It is a testament to the remarkable explosion of women candidates who have entered the political stage since...Trump was elected president one year ago. The wave is likely to continue" next year, when "40 women are already planning to run for governor. Dozens more are considering congressional and other statewide office bids. And Tuesday's result has already become a rallying cry for activists seeking to draw even more women into the public square."

Under the headline "GOP Faces Wrenching Call: Running With Or Away From Trump," [Politico](#) (11/8, Isenstadt) reported that Tuesday's election setbacks "have exacerbated a growing rift inside the GOP over whether the party's candidates should embrace...Trump in next year's midterms — or make a clean break. With Trump's approval ratings cratering in swing states across the country, some senior party strategists are imploring lawmakers to abandon the president. Others argue that shunning Trump and his populist base is simply out of the question and that anything other than a full embrace of the president would spell electoral disaster."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Costa, Rucker) reports that Tuesday's "wave of Democratic victories ignited a ferocious debate across the Republican Party on Wednesday over whether...Trump's unorthodox behavior and polarizing agenda is jeopardizing the GOP's firm grip on power in Congress, governors' mansions and state legislatures." In the wake of Tuesday's results, "Republicans are increasingly uncertain about keeping their majorities on Capitol Hill and are worried about how damaging Trump's jagged brand of politics may become to the party." The Post adds, "The unease was palpable among vulnerable lawmakers, especially in suburban districts with the kind of voters who roundly rejected...Gillespie."

On its website, [CNN](#) (11/8, Bradner) reported, "The blue wave that crashed Virginia's suburbs on Tuesday could also — if it extends into the 2018 midterm elections — carry Democrats into control of the House." CNN said that Northam won Rep. Barbara Comstock's (R-VA) "northern Virginia district...by 13 percentage points" and also carried Rep. Scott Taylor's (R-VA) "Norfolk-based district. In those districts, Democrats see mirror images of some of their top House targets" across the US next year. Dave Wasserman, "the House editor for the nonpartisan Cook Political Report, which closely tracks each race," said Tuesday on Twitter, "You can't really look at tonight's results and conclude that Democrats are anything other than the current favorites to pick up the U.S. House in 2018."

[Politico](#) (11/8, Schneider) reported, "Virginia's elections set off a wave of panic inside the House GOP Tuesday night, increasing worries that the party's majority is in jeopardy in 2018 and that more incumbents may decide to retire rather than run for reelection next year." Politico added, "Data points out of Virginia confirm Republicans' fears that bubbled under the surface all year, which special election victories in safely red seats 'glazed over,' said a senior GOP aide. But 'now there's [electoral] evidence that there's reason to really worry.' Swing voters in suburban counties outside Washington and Richmond soured on Republicans up and down the Virginia ballot, an ominous sign for dozens of suburban Republicans in Congress."

The [New York Times](#) (11/8, Foderaro, McKinley) reports that after all the work New Jersey and New York Democrats did to turn out the vote ahead of Tuesday's elections, "there was always the nagging doubt: What if this wasn't enough? What if all this suburban anger toward...Trump still couldn't unseat Republicans in the New York suburbs? On Wednesday, after a nearly clean sweep of races from Long Island to northern New Jersey, doubt among local Democrats had been replaced wholesale by optimism. Now nearly nothing is off the table in the 2018 midterm elections. Republican congressional seats once thought to be almost unassailable are now being probed for signs of vulnerability, with their ties to Trump-backed policies a telling guide."

[McClatchy](#) (11/8, Roarty) reports, "Democratic leaders say this week's surprise" wins "are making them reconsider the 2018 midterm elections, convinced the party should grow more ambitious amid what they now see as a broad and deep backlash to...Trump. Not only are party strategists planning to replicate this year's winning strategies; they're dead-set on making sure the party continues to find and recruit new candidates in races once viewed as too Republican — confident that Tuesday's results prove Democrats can win almost anywhere."

In his [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/8, Rove) column, Karl Rove says that turnout in Tuesday's election was up significantly from 2013, with most of that increase coming from independent whites and suburban Democrats who were driven to the polls by anti-Trump sentiment. Rove says that Trump's low poll numbers pose serious risk to GOP congressional majorities in 2018.

However, writing in "The Upshot" on the website of the [New York Times](#) (11/8), Nate Cohn says Democrats on Tuesday "won big in Virginia, took full control of state government in New Jersey and Washington State, prevailed on an important ballot measure in Maine, and generally posted strong results across the nation." However, "the biggest difference between Tuesday's Democratic wins and the earlier Republican [special election] wins is deceptively simple: This time, elections were held on neutral or even Democratic-leaning terrain. For that reason, it is not

obvious that Tuesday's performance represents a significant improvement over the Democrats' showings earlier in the year. ... To take the House next November, they might have to do even better than they did on Tuesday."

And writing for [The Federalist](#) (11/8, Harsanyi), David Harsanyi said that "Trump may well obliterate the GOP's prospects for the coming decade or longer," but "big Republican losses in Virginia yesterday do not prove this contention. There's really nothing unprecedented about cyclical pushbacks in politics. And if every election were really imbued with the kind of game-changing importance that political pundits claim, it would mean Americans were going through massive ideological fluctuations every year, which seems unlikely."

Even so, the [Washington Times](#) (11/8, Dinan) reports, House Minority Leader Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Schumer "said Tuesday's massive victories for their party were a rejection of...Trump and predicted a wave election next year that could even switch control of the US House." Said Pelosi, "The door is certainly open for us."

Writing Tuesday night for the [National Review](#) (11/7), Jim Geraghty said, "Right now, the Republican party's brand in Virginia is dirt. Throw in the failure to make New Jersey even remotely competitive, and tonight is about as bad as it can get for the GOP – a sense of déjà vu from the results across the country 2006 and 2008."

DNC chief Tom Perez said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (11/8), "Donald Trump was undeniably on the ballot in a number of races because he is trying to divide America. People are so sick of these Twitter tirades. They want leaders they can be proud of. That's why people like Phil Murphy and Ralph Northam were able to win because they are sane. They're people who are speaking to the issues that people care about. They actually care about facts. ... They're not playing the politics of division. When we do that and when we organize, when we make those relationships, when we're running candidates, then when the false news comes out, if you've organized and built those relationships with people, that false news doesn't penetrate."

In an editorial titled "The Anti-Trump Wave," the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/8) says that Democrats turned out in scores in opposition to Trump, and Republican losses were heavy enough to indicate that the GOP may have a difficult time retaining its majorities in Congress in the midterm elections. The Journal says that if the GOP is to avoid bid losses next year, Republicans need to score legislative victories on issues such as tax reform.

In his [Washington Post](#) (11/8) column, E.J. Dionne says, "Tuesday's Democratic sweep obliterated a series of outdated story lines in American politics and opened a new era." It's apparent, says Dionne, "from Virginia and New Jersey to Washington state, Georgia, New York, Connecticut and Maine, that the energy Trump has unleashed among those who loathe him has the potential to realign the country."

Under the heading "Voters Repudiate Not Just Trump But The White-supremacist Hatred Seen In Charlottesville," Petula Dvorak writes in her [Washington Post](#) (11/8) column says, "This election wasn't just a repudiation of President Trump. It was a repudiation of white-nationalist leader Richard Spencer, the 'alt-right' and the violence and bigotry they are peddling."

In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (11/8) says, "From Washington to Maine, New Jersey to North Carolina, Trumpist ugliness was met and vanquished, sometimes by the very targets of right-wing scorn. ... Tuesday was the strongest sign yet that the politics of division can be rejected."

Media Analyses: Tuesday's Results A Victory For ACA. [Politico](#) (11/8, Pradhan) reported, "Obamacare made a comeback in Tuesday's elections, its strongest show of support since...Trump was elected and the GOP spent months on a futile effort to repeal it. In the governor's race in Virginia and a ballot initiative in Maine, the Affordable Care Act buoyed Democrats, a remarkable reversal from how Trump and congressional Republicans won elections excoriating the 'failed' and 'doomed' law." Politico added, "As Democrats now look to the 2018 midterms," the party "can begin to more confidently embrace the" ACA.

The [AP](#) (11/8, Alonso-Zaldivar) reports, "Emboldened by election wins, Democrats are starting to see a political edge in health care, particularly widening Medicaid access for more low-income people." The AP adds that Northam "promised a vigorous push as governor to expand Medicaid. Voters who said health care was important went decisively for Northam, according to political analysts. In Maine, voters defied Republican Gov. Paul LePage's determined opposition by passing a referendum to expand Medicaid to cover an estimated 70,000 more residents."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/8, Levey) quotes Robert Blendon, "an expert on public opinion about healthcare at Harvard's Kennedy School," as saying, "There has been a major change here. Democrats for years wouldn't talk about healthcare. ... Now, the implication is that if you are a Democrat running in 2018, you can talk about protecting healthcare for millions of Americans." Citing congressional aides, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/8, Armour, Peterson) reports that

Democratic victories on Tuesday make it more unlikely that Republicans, as part of their tax-reform bill, will attempt to repeal the ACA's individual mandate.

The [New York Times](#) (11/8, Goodnough, Sanger-Katz) reports, "The election results in Maine and Virginia have energized supporters of expanding Medicaid under the" ACA "in several holdout states. After months of battling Republican efforts to repeal the law, they now see political consensus shifting in their direction. Groups in Idaho and Utah are already working through the process of getting Medicaid expansion initiatives on next year's ballots." Meanwhile, "the outlook for legislative approval has brightened in Virginia" in the wake of Tuesday's gains in the House of Delegates. The Times adds, "Advocacy groups are also hoping the decisive victory in Maine, and exit polls suggesting health care was the top issue in Virginia, will add momentum to efforts in Kansas and North Carolina."

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/8) says, "There's a long list of issues on which the Trump administration, and Republicans generally, are out of step with most Americans, yet on few of them is the chasm so broad or so deep as on health care. On Tuesday, voters made that clear in a pair of purple states, Virginia and Maine, while for the past week Americans across the country have been surging to sign up for health-care coverage under the" ACA, "which the White House and congressional Republicans have tried to repeal and, failing that, sabotage."

Media Analyses: White House, Trump Allies Deflecting Blame. [The Hill](#) (11/8, Easley, Fabian) reported, "The White House was in damage control mode on Wednesday as it sought to deflect blame for Tuesday's sweeping electoral losses and reassure Republicans who fear...Trump's unpopularity will cost them at the polls in 2018." The Hill said, "A person familiar with the president's political operation dismissed the notion that an anti-Trump wave is building, arguing that Democrats had merely held on in states they were expected to win" and chalking "up GOP losses to history, noting that the party that controls the White House typically struggles in off-year gubernatorial races. ... 'This is not about the president,' the person said."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/8, Westwood) reports, "White House aides instructed allies on Wednesday to blame" Gillespie's loss on his "lukewarm support for President Trump. 'Gillespie's wavering support for the President resulted in depressed turnout among Republicans, which led to disappointing down-ballot results,' the White House wrote in talking points distributed to allies" on Wednesday. The Examiner adds that "a person familiar with the president's political operation told reporters on Wednesday that 'local dynamics' and 'history' prevented Gillespie and" New Jersey's GOP gubernatorial nominee "from prevailing in Tuesday night's elections."

[Breitbart](#) (11/8, Hayward) reported that during a Wednesday interview with Breitbart News Daily, ex-White House strategist Steve Bannon "said the lesson from...Gillespie's defeat on Tuesday night is that 'if you're going to win, you've got to embrace the entire Trump agenda, and you've got to do it early, and you've got to be dedicated to it.'" Bannon added, "You can't phone it in. You've got to do rallies. You've got to get the president out with you. You've got to go all-in on this. I just think campaigning with people like President Bush and Marco Rubio during these type of economic times sends the wrong signal."

On [Fox News' Hannity](#) (11/8), Bannon denied that Tuesday's election was a referendum on Trump, saying, "What we had is an establishment candidate, Ed Gillespie, won a primary, very hard fought primary, versus Corey Stewart, and then really didn't try to embrace President Trump or really the Trump program until very late, where he just kind of basically talked about some of the issues, which I thought he should try to do more of. He never invited President Trump [to campaign with him]. ... I think there are a lot of things that Gillespie could have done and in hindsight he wishes he had done to generate more enthusiasm out there, more of the Trump faithful to turn out."

The [AP](#) (11/8, Beaumont, Eggert) reports that Trump's "fiercest advocates offered different approaches Wednesday for the Republican Party's way forward after some tough losses Tuesday." Speaking at the Iowa GOP's annual Reagan Dinner in Des Moines, RNC chief Ronna Romney McDaniel and ex-White House press secretary Sean Spicer "called on Republicans to come together." Meanwhile, Bannon – during an appearance in Michigan – "maintained an aggressive tone toward any Republicans who would stand in the president's way." Bannon, for instance, "grouped Gillespie – a lobbyist, former RNC chairman and adviser to former President George W. Bush – with the GOP forces of old, not new outsiders who can help Trump." Spicer, meanwhile, "lamented Republicans in Virginia who decided not to" back "Gillespie because he didn't pass their 'litmus tests.'"

The [Sioux City \(IA\) Journal](#) (11/8, Murphy, Boshart) reports that McDaniel "noted previous special elections this year in Congressional districts that stayed in Republican hands, and said Virginia is a state that has been trending to favor Democrats and that the New Jersey

gubernatorial election was not a surprise given how unpopular Republican Gov. Chris Christie had become there. 'It means that we're at the status quo, and I think it means that we're going to go into a very competitive 2018,' McDaniel said. 'Those races were very state specific. I don't think you can put everything at the president's feet when it comes to these elections.'"

Sean Hannity said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (11/8), "Democrats scored predictable victories that Donald Trump didn't win in 2016. New Jersey, shocker, New York, the Commonwealth of Virginia, Washington State. It was not a rebuke of the White House, not even really surprising." Hannity added, "You want to look at a President that had a tough time? Look at Obama. While he was in the Oval Office, Democrats lost the presidency, 13 US Senate seats, 64 US House seats, 13 governorships, and 33 statehouses. That is an electoral title wave. What happened last night was not. No matter how the left-wing media tries to spin it."

In Seeming Break With Trump, RNC Chief Says Gillespie Embraced President. [Politico](#) (11/8, Lima) reported that RNC chief Ronna Romney McDaniel "said Wednesday she thought...Gillespie sufficiently embraced...Trump while campaigning, despite the president's words to the contrary. After Trump swiped at Gillespie on Twitter Tuesday following his electoral defeat, writing that the candidate 'worked hard but did not embrace me or what I stand for,' the RNC chair was asked to reconcile the president's words with Gillespie's actions." Appearing on Fox News, McDaniel said, "Ed [Gillespie] did work with the president. I absolutely think any candidate should be embracing the president...and I think Ed did."

Democratic, GOP Lawmakers Weigh In On Election Results. Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (11/8), "I think we've seen the limits of how we can drill down on the base. We've got to play addition rather than subtraction and I think that that's the message that we ought to take. ... I do think that we do better with a more inclusive message. So I think that that is something that we can learn from last night." Flake added, "You can rile up the base and win an election here or there, but in the end you've got to...appeal to a broader electorate. ... I don't think we are right now at least not the administration."

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (11/8), "This was a big deal. I talked to [Democratic Virginia Sens.] Tim Kaine and Mark Warner earlier in the evening and I said it's about more than Virginia. This is about our country and it's about the future of issues in Congress. Let me be specific. If Gillespie had prevailed with his message, which really was a negative message, talking about illegal immigrants, talking about Northam supporting pedophiles, talking about restoring and saving Confederate statues, where would we be this morning in terms of our agenda and moving forward? Instead, I hope more Republicans got the message last night that Americans are looking for us to work together and solve problems. That's a good message and a timely one for Congress."

Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX) said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (11/8), "I think it's clear that Donald Trump has been toxic for the Republican party so far. Whatever Midas touch the President had in the 2016 elections didn't carry over to many elected officials or politicians in his party. It's not uncommon. We've seen that in many midterms where a President's party get beaten very badly. But, this looks like a very strong way of getting ready for 2018."

Sen. Ed Markey (D-MA) said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/8) that "the independent swing voters in the United States are open to the Democratic message and gives us a big opportunity in 2018."

Tuesday's Election Results May Bode Ill For GOP Rep. Comstock's Reelection Hopes. The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Portnoy) reports that in her 2018 reelection race, Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-VA) must "figure out how to protect herself from her constituents' disdain for President Trump, borne out by a blue wave across Virginia during Tuesday's elections. The only northern Virginia Republican in Congress," Comstock "could do everything right and still lose at the hands of Democratic voters bent on defeating anyone who shares a party affiliation with Trump." The Comstock camp, however, "points to her 6-point win last year while sharing a ballot with Trump as evidence of her staying power. She also won more votes in 2016 in precincts that overlap with six of her losing House of Delegates colleagues than they did on Tuesday, according to her campaign."

Democratic Rep. Lieu Asks Trump If He'll Endorse His Challenger. [The Hill](#) (11/8, Bowden) reported that in a Wednesday tweet, Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA) "mocked" Trump in the wake of Gillespie's loss. On Twitter, Lieu "noted that the Trump-backed [Gillespie] lost on Tuesday while the Trump-endorsed candidate Sen. Luther Strange (R) also failed to win the GOP Senate primary in Alabama in September. 'Dear failing @realDonaldTrump: Since you have a habit of endorsing losers like Gillespie & Strange, can you also endorse my congressional opponent? Thanks,' Lieu wrote on Twitter."

Democrats Score Big Gains Virginia House Of Delegates. The [Washington Post](#) (11/7, Nirappil) reports, "The Democratic wave in Virginia on Tuesday wiped out the Republican majority in the state House of Delegates, throwing control of the chamber in play for the first time since 2000 and putting Republicans in blue-tinged districts across the country on alert for next year's elections. Democrats snared at least 15 seats in an upset that stunned members of both parties and arrived with national implications." The Post adds, "Four other races were so close that they qualify for a recount, and the outcome will determine control of the chamber. The results marked the most sweeping shift in control of the legislature since Reconstruction."

Virginia's Roem To Become US' First Openly Transgender State Legislator. The [Washington Post](#) (11/7, Olivo) reports, "Virginia's most socially conservative state lawmaker was ousted from office on Tuesday by Danica Roem, a Democrat who is poised to become the nation's first openly transgender state lawmaker." Roem's race against Del. Robert Marshall (R) "focused on traffic and other local issues in suburban Prince William County but also exposed the nation's fault lines over gender identity. It pitted a 33-year-old former journalist, who began her physical gender transition four years ago, against a 13-term incumbent who called himself Virginia's 'chief homophobe' and earlier this year introduced a 'bathroom bill' that died in committee."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/8, story 2, 2:20), Anthony Mason reported, "Across the country" on Tuesday, "the 2017 elections saw big wins for a highly diverse group of candidates." CBS' Chip Reid went on to highlight some of the election winners, including, among others, Roem; Virginia state Del.-elect Chris Hurst (D), who "was a TV news anchor in southwest Virginia two years ago when his reporter girlfriend was fatally shot by a former station employee during an outdoor live broadcast"; Ravinder Bhalla (D), "a Sikh [who] won the race for mayor in Hoboken, New Jersey, despite racist fliers that said, 'Don't let terrorism take over our town,'" and Jenny Durkan (D), who "will be Seattle's first lesbian mayor."

NYTimes Profiles New Jersey Gov-Elect Murphy. Meanwhile, the [New York Times](#) (11/8, Corasaniti) offers a positive profile of Gov.-elect Phil Murphy (D-NJ), who on Tuesday easily defeated Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno (R-NJ) in the race to succeed term-limited Gov. Chris Christie (R-NJ). The Times says Murphy, a former Goldman Sachs executive, has "progressive, working-class roots."

CBO: Repealing Individual Mandate Will Save \$338 Billion Over 10 Years.

The [Washington Times](#) (11/8, Howell) reports that a CBO analysis expected Wednesday says repealing the ACA's individual mandate "would save taxpayers \$338 billion over the coming decade" because "fewer people would seek coverage and draw taxpayer-funded subsidies that defray their premiums." The Times says the CBO analysis "could alter the GOP's push to overhaul the tax code" as President Trump is urging Republicans to repeal the mandate "to get a head start on scrapping the 2010 law and free up money to usher in deeper tax cuts."

Treasury Secretary Mnuchin said on [Bloomberg TV Bloomberg Markets Americas](#) (11/8), "The President would like" to see the elimination of the individual mandate as part of a tax reform bill. He added, "That is something he encouraged them to look at. I was at a press conference yesterday at the Senate. Senator Cruz gave a compelling pitch for that, but we will see. That will be one of the things that is talked about and will be considered."

CBO Says Republican Tax Plan Would Add \$1.7 Trillion To National Debt.

[The Hill](#) (11/8, Elis) reports that a CBO analysis says the Republican tax bill "would add \$1.7 trillion to the national debt over the course of a decade, and increase the country's debt-to-GDP ratio by 5.9 percentage points." Citing The Hill report, the [Washington Times](#) (11/8, Persons) says the CBO "determined that the debt-to-GDP ratio would rise to 97.1 percent." David Muir said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/8, story 6, 0:25) that the \$1.7 trillion figure is "\$200 billion more than Republicans have accounted for."

Amendment Leaves GOP Tax Bill With \$74 Billion Revenue Gap. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/8, Rubin) reports that as a result of an amendment to the Republican tax plan that would cut an excise tax on multinational corporations, the bill now has a \$74 billion revenue gap. According to the Joint Committee on Taxation, the amendment removed 95% of the provision, which left the bill outside its budget target. Republicans have not indicated how they will address the issue.

Senate Tax Bill "Sharply Diverges" From House GOP Plan.

[Politico](#) (11/8, Kim, Dawsey) reports that Senate Republicans' tax plan "sharply diverges from the House GOP's plan, including by not fully repealing the estate tax." Politico cites "two sources" who said Republican leaders brief Republicans on their plan Thursday morning in a session "meant to

walk senators who are not on the tax-writing Finance Committee through the intricacies of the GOP's tax bill before unveiling it to the public." The [New York Times](#) (11/8, Tankersley, Rappeport, Kaplan) says the emerging Senate bill "suggests party leaders are less concerned with the potential fallout of eliminating breaks that benefit upper-middle-class taxpayers in high-tax states such as New York and California."

Sen. Chris Coons was asked on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (11/8) about President Trump's call to Democratic senators about the tax bill. Coons said, "The President said a number of things and I, frankly, just appreciated the opportunity to sit down with some of his chief advisers and that he took the time from his trip to Asia to call in. It was an interesting conversation. He touched on a number of different topics, but if there was one theme from our side, it was we should have been included and consulted earlier. We've got ideas, we want to work across the aisle to strengthen the middle class, to support manufacturing, to make our country more competitive, and the folks on the other side of the table, including the President calling in from Asia said, just wait, you are going to see a different tax bill in the Senate than the House, we're at the beginning of a process, not at the end."

Pruitt: New Climate Report Won't Deter Roll Back Of Clean Power Plan.

[USA Today](#) (11/8, King) reports EPA Administrator Pruitt said in an interview that despite "a newly released government report that lays most of the blame for the rise of global temperatures to human activity," he will continue "to roll back the Obama-era Clean Power Plan, a major rule aimed at combating climate change." Pruitt said, "We're taking the very necessary step to evaluate our authority under the Clean Air Act and we'll take steps that are required to issue a subsequent rule. That's our focus. ... Does this report have any bearing on that? No it doesn't. It doesn't impact the withdrawal and it doesn't impact the replacement." USA Today says that although Pruitt's stance "is not surprising given his steadfast opposition to the Clean Power Plan," in "the wake of what environmentalists see as powerful evidence of human-caused climate change [it] is disappointing to critics of the administration."

Senators Criticize White For Climate Change Writings At Confirmation Hearing.

The [New York Times](#) (11/8, Friedman) reports that Democrat Senators expressed frustration during a Senate hearing for Kathleen Hartnett White and Andrew Wheeler, two of President Trump's nominees for "two top environmental posts," on Wednesday. Senators criticized White, who as been nominated to head "the White House Council on Environmental Quality," for "her past writings on climate change, including articles in which she called carbon dioxide 'the gas of life' and described renewable energy as parasitic." Wheeler, the nominee for the position of "deputy administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency," faced lighter questioning.

The [AP](#) (11/8, Biesecker) reports White "said Wednesday that she is unconvinced by a new U.S. government assessment reaffirming that man-made carbon emissions are the primary cause of climate change." As Democrats pressed White "about the specific evidence linking carbon emissions to global warming, White grew visibly flustered."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/8, Mooney) reports that White said, "I'm not a scientist, but in my personal capacity, I have many questions that remain unanswered by current climate policy...I think we indeed need to have more precise explanations of the human role and the natural role."

Climate Change Advocates Win Key Races Tuesday.

[Reuters](#) (11/8) reports US voters on Tuesday "picked climate change advocates in a handful of gubernatorial and state legislature races" providing "a potential boost to state-level efforts to fight global warming through carbon trading schemes." State and local governments in Democratic states "have already promised to act as a counterweight to the administration of President Donald Trump, which is seeking to unwind climate change regulations it deems too costly, and remove the United States from a global pact to reduce emissions." Democrat Phil Murphy, who won the race to become New Jersey's next governor, "ran on a platform that included a pledge to 'immediately restore New Jersey's place in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI),' a northeast carbon market from which" Gov. Chris Christie withdrew in 2011.

Senators "Grill" Nielsen On Climate Change During Confirmation Hearing.

[USA Today](#) (11/8, Slack) reports that during DHS Secretary nominee Kirstjen Nielsen's confirmation hearing, Senators "grilled her about climate change, port security, deferring deportation for children brought to the country illegally, and combating violent extremism, including by white supremacists." On climate change, Nielsen "declined to say she believes

humans caused it.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/8, Giaritelli) reports, “Two Democratic senators questioned President Trump’s nominee for Department of Homeland Security secretary about the cause of climate change during a Wednesday hearing that otherwise focused on her credentials and views on national security.” Nielsen said, “I do absolutely believe that the climate is changing. I can’t unequivocally state it’s only caused by humans,” later adding, “I believe that climate change exists, I’m not prepared to determine causation.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Want Kids, A Degree Or A Home? The Tax Bill Would Cost You.” A [New York Times](#) (11/8) editorial says that Republicans are “cutting billions of dollars in tax benefits to people trying to raise children, pay for college, buy a home or invest in renewable energy” to “pass their immense tax giveaway to the rich.” As a result, “taxes would go up for about 45 percent of middle-class taxpayers by 2026 under the House bill, according to an analysis by The Times,” while “the people in the top 1 percent of income will get an average tax cut of \$64,720 a year by 2027, according to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy.” The Times says Republicans “should stop pretending that this terrible proposal is a favor to average Americans, when many of them in fact will be left a good deal poorer.”

“Berlusconi On The Horizon Again In Italy.” The [New York Times](#) (11/8) editorializes on Italy’s “four-time former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi,” who “looks on track” to become “Italy’s political comeback kid.” The Times notes “Nello Musumeci, the candidate representing a coalition of parties cobbled together by Mr. Berlusconi, won the most votes on Sunday in regional elections in Sicily,” and if that was “a preview of Italian politics to come, then Italy and the European Union are in for a rough ride.” The Times concludes that “effective politicians have been in short supply” in Italy and the EU.

“Britain Gets Shaken Up As Tory Women Say ‘Me Too.’” The [New York Times](#) (11/8) editorializes with Theresa May’s government already roiled by Brexit, “the sort of sexual harassment accusations that have stirred the media, entertainment industry and politics in the United States have driven one of her ministers from office and rocked her Conservative Party.” In addition to the resignation of defense secretary Michael Fallon after “a series of allegations of sexual misconduct,” a “list of more than 30 lawmakers in Mrs. May’s Conservative Party – with names redacted – has been circulated online with anonymous charges of sexual misconduct.” Already, “the seriousness of the official response is already in doubt,” and “if America’s recent experience is any indication, though, women themselves will keep the issue alive.”

“The Saudi Round Up At The Ritz.” The [New York Times](#) (11/8) editorializes that officials in both Saudi Arabia and the US should counsel Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia to avoid pushing too strongly for a war with Iran. The Times writes that bin Salman’s “wholesale arrests in Saudi Arabia have been seen as fundamentally a power play to cement his internal control over the kingdom. But his aggressive moves to reshape both his country and the Middle East are likely to have wider consequences, further destabilizing a region already in turmoil while increasing the chances of a Saudi war with Iran.” The Times criticizes what they perceive to be Jared Kushner’s tacit approval of the mass arrests, based on his failure to comment on them after spending some time recently in Saudi Arabia.

Washington Post.

“Voters Just Sent A Message: Republicans Are Way Out Of Step On Healthcare.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/8) says, “There’s a long list of issues on which the Trump administration, and Republicans generally, are out of step with most Americans, yet on few of them is the chasm so broad or so deep as on health care. On Tuesday, voters made that clear in a pair of purple states, Virginia and Maine, while for the past week Americans across the country have been surging to sign up for health-care coverage under the” ACA, “which the White House and congressional Republicans have tried to repeal and, failing that, sabotage.”

“Saudi Arabia’s Blockade Could Starve Sick Children In Yemen.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/8) criticizes Saudi Arabia’s reaction of the missile launched toward Riyadh, charging that its aim is “to besiege some of the world’s most desperate people 00 the cholera-stricken and literally famished civilian population of Yemen.” To the Post, “the press of multiple international crises and President Trump’s monopolization of media attention have helped obscure

the severity of the humanitarian emergency in Yemen." Moreover, the Saudis have "offered no proof of the rocket's origin, and experts point out that Yemen is known to have imported Scud missiles from North Korea before the war."

"Many Of Trump's Judicial Nominees May Be Unfit. The Senate Is rushing Them Through Anyway." The [Washington Post](#) (11/8) says in an editorial that the Senate's "rush" to confirm President Trump's judicial nominees risks "giving too little scrutiny to potential judges whom the American Bar Association has rated unqualified for the job." Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley "has promised to hear testimony from ABA representatives next week," and the Post urges members of the panel to "take the opportunity to ask serious questions about the concerns raised over [nominee to the US Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit Leonard Steven] Grasz's temperament," and "slow down and ask more questions about" US District Court nominees Brett Talley and Holly Lou Teeter "before endorsing them for lifetime appointments to the bench."

Wall Street Journal.

"The Anti-Trump Wave." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/8) says that Democrats turned out in scores in opposition to President Trump on Tuesday, and Republican losses were heavy enough to indicate that the GOP may have a difficult time retaining its majorities in Congress in the midterm elections. The Journal says that if the GOP is to avoid bid losses next year, Republicans need to score legislative victories on issues such as tax reform.

"The College Tax Reform Tantrum." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/8) argues that while colleges are unhappy that the Republican tax plan will reduce subsidies to higher education, cutting the subsidies may make students and parents cognizant of costs and force colleges to reduce unnecessary spending.

"New York's Not So Finest." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/8) editorial says the Department of Education is now forcing schools to hire teachers from its Absent Teacher Reserve (ATR), ensuring that bad teachers are back in New York classrooms full-time. At the same time, the United Federation of Teachers, in a bid to prevent competition with public schools from charters are trying to block teacher certification standards for charters that would allow 179 schools to make nontraditional hires, thereby keeping good teachers out of New York's schools.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Regulators Seek Significant Asset Sales In AT&T Deal For Time Warner](#)
[Republicans Take Stock After Election Losses](#)
[Trump's China Trip Brings Admonitions Along With Deals](#)
[Tencent Bulks Up Its Stake In Snap](#)

New York Times:

[Suburbs Rebel Against Trump, Threatening Republicans In Congress](#)
[Senate Republicans Will Diverge From House In Sweeping Tax Rewrite](#)
[After Massacre, A Small Texas Cemetery Strains To Bury So Many Dead](#)
[Endowments Boom As Colleges Bury Earnings Overseas](#)
[Why Relying On China To Stop North Korea May Not Work](#)
[Justice Department Says Not So Fast to AT&T's Time Warner Bid](#)

Washington Post:

[Election Results Set Off A Blame Game In GOP](#)
[Evolution Of Virginia Has Moved Into Overdrive](#)
[With Every Gunshot In Texas Church, A New Horror](#)
[At New Louvre, The Art Of Geopolitics](#)
[Justice Seeks Changes In AT&T-Time Warner Deal](#)

Financial Times:

[Trump Targets US-China Corporate Deals On Beijing Visit](#)
[US Regulators Demand CNN Sale To Approve AT&T-Time Warner Deal](#)

[US Urged To Impose Full Embargo On Venezuelan Oil](#)
[Deutsche Bank Chief Hints At Thousands Of Job Losses](#)

Washington Times:

[Intel Chiefs' Botched Russia Findings Raise Questions Of Motive](#)
[Victims Of Communism Remembered On Centennial Of Bolshevik Revolution](#)
[Democrats See Momentum For Midterms After Stunning Election Victories](#)
[McAuliffe Mum On Rumors About 2020 Presidential Bid](#)
[Republican Leaders Take Heat Over Proposed Elimination Of Adoption Tax Credit](#)
[With Trump In Asia, "Tax Team" Keeps Presidential Priorities On Track On Capitol Hill](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Kevin Spacey Sexual Allegations; Tennessee Escapees Manhunt; Texas Church Shooting; Trump-Asia Tour; Gubernatorial Elections; Tax Reform Plan; Airport Security Concerns; Roy Halladay Dies; UCLA Basketball Player-China Tour Shoplifting; Plane Catching Fire; Marine Veterans.

CBS: Gubernatorial Elections; State Elections-Winners; Kevin Spacey Sexual Allegations; Texas Church Shooting; AT&T And Time Warner Merger; Trump-Asia Tour; Roy Halladay Dies; Airport Security Concerns; Obama-Jury Duty; Trump Presidency-Public Opinion.

NBC: Kevin Spacey Sexual Allegations; Airport Security Concerns; Gubernatorial Elections; Trump-Asia Tour; Roy Halladay Dies; Texas Church Shooting; Yahoo, Equifax Data Breaches; UCLA Basketball Player-China Tour Shoplifting; Health-Breast Cancer; Cold Weather Moving In; Christmas Music; Obama-Jury Duty; College Application Season.

Network TV At A Glance:

Gubernatorial Elections – 9 minutes, 15 seconds
Kevin Spacey Sexual Allegations – 9 minutes, 5 seconds
Trump-Asia Tour – 5 minutes, 45 seconds
Texas Church Shooting – 5 minutes, 10 seconds
Airport Security Concerns – 4 minutes, 40 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Tax Reform Plan; Texas Church Shooting; Trump-Asia Tour; Roy Halladay Dies; Wall Street News.

CBS: Texas Church Shooting; Trump-Asia Tour; Tax Reform Plan; Kevin Spacey Sexual Allegations; CMA Award; Obama-Jury Duty; Wall Street News.

FOX: Trump-Asia Tour; Texas Church Shooting; Tax Reform Plan; Roy Halladay Dies.

NPR: Texas Church Shooting; Gubernatorial Elections; State Elections; Venezuela-Media Law.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in a welcome ceremony with President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China and Madame Peng Liyuan; participates in a restricted bilateral meeting with President Xi; participates in a business event with President Xi; meets with Premier Li Keqiang of the People's Republic of China; participates in an embassy meet and greet; attends a state dinner and view a cultural performance.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Agriculture Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Glen Smith to be a Farm Credit Administration Board member; and Stephen Vaden to be U.S. Department of Agriculture General Counsel Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 328A, Washington, DC <http://agriculture.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Armed Services Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Robert McMahon to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Materiel Readiness; R.D. James to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works; Dr Bruce Jette to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology; and Shon Manasco to be Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm G50, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations of Gregory Katsas to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the

District of Columbia Circuit; Jeffrey Uhlman Beaverstock to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama; Emily Coody Marks and Brett Joseph Talley to be U.S. District Judges for the Middle District of Alabama; Holly Lou Teeter to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Kansas; Bobby Christine to be U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia; and David Freed to be U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania; as well as 'S. 2070, Kevin and Avonte's Law' Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM 'Innovation vs. Maintenance in the Drive Toward 'Hybrid' Infrastructure' panel discussion – 'Innovation vs. Maintenance in the Drive Toward 'Hybrid' Infrastructure' panel discussion, hosted by the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) and the Office of Democratic Sen. Chris Coons, on 'how best to strike a balance between maintenance and innovation in future U.S. infrastructure investments' Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 485, Washington, DC www.itif.org <https://twitter.com/ITIFdc>

10:00 AM U.S. Capitol Police Medal of Honor presented to police involved in the Alexandria, VA, shootings in June – U.S. Capitol Police Chief Matthew Verderosa presents the USCP Medal of Honor – the highest award granted by the department – to the five officers who 'carried out their duties with exceptional courage, risking their lives to save others when an active shooter opened fire on the Republican Congressional baseball team's practice 14 Jun in Alexandria, VA': U.S. Capitol Police Special Agents David Bailey and Crystal Griner and Alexandria Police Department Officers Nicole Battaglia, Alexander Jensen, and Kevin Jobe. Other speakers include House Speaker Paul Ryan, Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, and Majority Whip Steve Scalise (who was shot during the incident) and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Minority Leader Chuck Schumer Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Auditorium, Washington, DC www.uscapitolpolice.gov

10:30 AM Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee votes on DHS secretary nominee – Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations of Kirstjen Nielsen to be Secretary of Homeland Security; Ernest DuBester, Colleen Kiko, and James Abbott to be Federal Labor Relations Authority members; and Jonathan Pittman to be Superior Court of the District of Columbia Associate Judge Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 342, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

11:00 AM Bicameral Dems call for FEC to move forward on disclaimer rules for online political advertisements – Democrats Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Chris Coons and Rep. Derek Kilmer call on the Federal Election Commission to move forward with a rulemaking process establishing disclaimer rules for online political advertisements, via press conference with Indivisible Project Foreign Policy Manager Elizabeth Beavers, Public Citizen Vice President of Legislative Affairs Lisa Gilbert, People For the American Way Senior Director of Outreach and Public Engagement Diallo Brooks, End Citizens United President and Executive Director Tiffany Muller, Common Cause Chief of Strategy and External Affairs Steve Spaulding, and League of Women Voters Senior Director of Elections Jeanette Senecal * Following the event, the groups deliver over 100,000 signatures to the FEC urging them to address the issue of 'secretive sponsorship' of online campaign ads Location: Senate Swamp, Washington, DC www.citizen.org https://twitter.com/public_citizen

US House: 9:00 AM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on DR Congo – Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee hearing on 'Resolving the Political Crisis in the Democratic Republic of the Congo', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Donald Yamamoto; USAID Acting Assistant Administrator for Africa Cheryl Anderson; Johns Hopkins University Professor of African History Mvemba Dizolele; La Lutte pour le Changement representative Fred Bauma; Columbia University Barnard College Professor of Political Science Dr Severine Autesserre; and Human Rights Watch Central Africa Director Ida Sawyer Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

9:00 AM POSTPONED: House Financial Services subcommittee latest hearing on housing finance – POSTPONED: Housing and Insurance Subcommittee hearing on 'Sustainable Housing Finance: The Role of Ginnie Mae in the Housing Finance System' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

9:00 AM House votes on Micro Offering Safe Harbor Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including completion of consideration of 'H.R. 2201 – Micro Offering Safe Harbor Act' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

9:30 AM House Space subcommittee hearing on NASA exploration systems development – Space Subcommittee hearing on 'An Update on NASA Exploration Systems Development', with

testimony from NASA Associate Administrator for Human Exploration and Operations William Gerstenmaier; and American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA) Executive Director Dr Sandra Magnus Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2318, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM U.S. Capitol Police Medal of Honor presented to police involved in the Alexandria, VA, shootings in June – U.S. Capitol Police Chief Matthew Verderosa presents the USCP Medal of Honor – the highest award granted by the department – to the five officers who ‘carried out their duties with exceptional courage, risking their lives to save others when an active shooter opened fire on the Republican Congressional baseball team’s practice 14 Jun in Alexandria, VA’: U.S. Capitol Police Special Agents David Bailey and Crystal Griner and Alexandria Police Department Officers Nicole Battaglia, Alexander Jensen, and Kevin Jobe. Other speakers include House Speaker Paul Ryan, Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, and Majority Whip Steve Scalise (who was shot during the incident) and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Minority Leader Chuck Schumer Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Auditorium, Washington, DC www.uscapitolpolice.gov

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on MMA – Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee hearing on ‘Perspectives on Mixed Martial Arts’, with testimony from Xtreme Couture MMA President Randy Couture; Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Brain Injury Research Center Director Dr Kristen Dams-O’Connor; Ultimate Fighting Championship Senior Vice President of Government and Regulatory Affairs Marc Ratner; and Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission Executive Director Greg Sirb Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:15 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on the Farm Regulatory Certainty Act – Environment Subcommittee hearing on ‘H.R.XXX, Farm Regulatory Certainty Act’, with testimony from bipartisan Reps. Jim Costa and Dan Newhouse; Public Justice Food Project Attorney Jessica Culpepper; Plews Shadley Racher & Braun partner Amy Romig; Kewaunee Citizens Advocating Responsible Environmental Stewardship founder Lynn Utesch; and Washington State Dairy Federation Executive Director Dan Wood Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2322, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:30 AM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on aviation readiness – Readiness Subcommittee hearing on ‘Aviation Readiness: What’s the Flight Plan?’, with testimony from U.S. Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, Headquarters Lt. Gen. Chris Nowland; Naval Air Forces Commander Vice Adm. Mike Shoemaker; U.S. Marine Corps Deputy Commandant for Aviation Lt. Gen. Steven Rudder; and U.S. Army Aviation Center of Excellence Commanding General Major Gen. William Gayler Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2212, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

11:00 AM Bicameral Dems call for FEC to move forward on disclaimer rules for online political advertisements – Democrats Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Chris Coons and Rep. Derek Kilmer call on the Federal Election Commission to move forward with a rulemaking process establishing disclaimer rules for online political advertisements, via press conference with Indivisible Project Foreign Policy Manager Elizabeth Beavers, Public Citizen Vice President of Legislative Affairs Lisa Gilbert, People For the American Way Senior Director of Outreach and Public Engagement Diallo Brooks, End Citizens United President and Executive Director Tiffany Muller, Common Cause Chief of Strategy and External Affairs Steve Spaulding, and League of Women Voters Senior Director of Elections Jeanette Senecal * Following the event, the groups deliver over 100,000 signatures to the FEC urging them to address the issue of ‘secretive sponsorship’ of online campaign ads Location: Senate Swamp, Washington, DC www.citizen.org https://twitter.com/public_citizen

4:30 PM Jubilee USA event on FEMA, aid and debt in Puerto Rico and the USVI after hurricanes – Jubilee USA congressional event on FEMA, aid and debt in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands after Hurricanes Irma and Maria, with speakers including Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico Rep. Jenniffer Gonzalez-Colon, Delegate of the U.S. Virgin Islands Rep. Stacey Plaskett, Jubilee USA Network Executive Director Eric LeCompte, Archbishop of San Juan, Puerto Rico, The Most Reverend Roberto Octavio Gonzalez Nieves, Bishop of Saint Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, The Most Reverend Herbert Armstrong Bevard, and Puerto Rico Bible Society General Secretary Heriberto Martinez Rivera Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2044, Washington, DC www.jubileeusa.org <https://twitter.com/jubileeusa>

Other: 10:30 AM NDN / New Policy Institute discussion on ‘Protecting Our Elections and Politics from Interference’ – NDN / New Policy Institute discussion on ‘Protecting Our Elections and Politics from Interference’, headlined by Democratic Rep. Adam Smith. Speakers also include

former Clinton / Obama administration official Karen Kornbluh who talks about the new information landscape facing modern democracies; Dewey Digital's Tim Chambers who talks about the new information landscape, with a particular focus on tackling the challenge of malicious social media bots; and OSET Institute's Greg Miller who discusses ways to fortify and modernize the elections infrastructure Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2456, Washington, DC www.ndn.org https://twitter.com/NDN_NPI

12:00 PM 'Mounting Challenges to U.S. Naval Power' Hudson Institute discussion – 'Mounting Challenges to U.S. Naval Power' Hudson Institute book discussion with Seth Crospey on his new book, 'Seabindness: How Political Neglect is Choking American Seapower and What to Do About It'. Includes keynote from Republican Rep. Mike Gallagher, with other speakers including former U.S. Pacific Fleet Training Command Commander Rear Adm. (Ret.) James Stark and Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments Senior Fellow Bryan Clark Location: Hudson Institute, 1015 15th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.hudson.org> <https://twitter.com/HudsonInstitute>

UK foreign secretary continues visit to Washington, DC, to pressure politicians over Iran nuclear deal – UK Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson concludes two-day visit to Washington, DC, to meet senior Members of Congress – including House Speaker Paul Ryan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, bipartisan Sens. Bob Corker and Ben Cardin, and bipartisan Reps. Ed Royce and Eliot Engel – and 'underline the importance of the Iran nuclear deal to global security' * Marks his first visit to Washington, DC, since President Donald Trump's announcement that he would not certify Iran's compliance with the agreement. Secretary Johnson has said that it is 'vital that the international community sticks to the deal' and that it is 'not the moment to put that at risk' Location: Washington, DC <https://www.gov.uk/fco> <https://twitter.com/foreignoffice>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Today is the one-year anniversary of Donald Trump becoming President. ... So much has happened over the past year. Not in Congress, nothing has happened there."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Trump gave a major foreign policy speech yesterday in South Korea, during which he described living in North Korea as 'a hell no person deserves' and warned North Korea not to try us. That's right, don't try us. If you do, you're going to like us."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Meanwhile, this is what President Obama is up to. President Obama had jury duty today. He reported for jury duty this morning in Chicago. You see he shook hands with some of the people there, he said hello to the other prospective jurors, then was not selected. He was dismissed. Of course he was dismissed. In order to serve on a jury, you have to be born in the United States, right?"

Stephen Colbert: "So, Democrats have their swagger back. ... They also made major gains in Virginia's House of Delegates, winning at least 15 seats in an upset that stunned members of both parties. Both parties? So, even the Democrats didn't believe they could win. 'What? No, people hate us. I demand a recount!'"

James Corden: "This was a big occasion, ladies and gentlemen. Today was the one-year anniversary of Donald Trump winning the presidency. ... Now, the traditional one-year anniversary gift is paper. So if you want to get Trump something, you can't go wrong with a federal indictment."

James Corden: "Trump said that [Virginia Republican candidate for governor Ed] Gillespie never embraced him. The problem is not that Ed Gillespie never embraced Trump – the problem is that Trump's father never embraced Donald Trump."

Trevor Noah: "What a night for Democrats, or as a wise man once said, so much winning. Yeah, how do you like that, Republicans? You may control the presidency, Congress, and the Supreme Court, but the Democrats got the Virginia House of Delegates, maybe. Yeah!"

Trevor Noah: [Referring to Trump's tweet on Ed Gillespie's defeat] "Trump does not play games with how fast he will abandon you. Like, he quit the guy out of nowhere. One day when the US economy crashes, I bet Trump will be like, 'What a loser economy. I've never even heard of America.'"

Trevor Noah: "Karma was all over America. In Helena, Montana, the mayor who did not want to host refugees in his city lost his re-election bid to a Liberian refugee."

Trevor Noah: "So America now says good-bye to its favorite least favorite governor. Like, if this was 'Fast and the Furious,' this would be the moment when [Gov. Chris] Christie would be in Paul Walker's car driving away into the sunset until he hits a traffic jam that he started to make a point."

Seth Meyers: "Democrats last night won the governorships in Virginia and New Jersey. Or as Fox News reported, are emojis turning kids gay?"

Seth Meyers: "President Trump arrived in China today. 'It's so great to be home,' said his tie."

Conan O'Brien: "Big change for Twitter yesterday. They've officially doubled the maximum length of a tweet to 280 characters. In a related story, President Trump's thumbs have been rushed to intensive care."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



DATE: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2017 6:00 AM EST

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- Twin Falls (ID) Times-News: New Outdoor Advisory Panel Draws Mixed Reviews.
- Newsy: Secretary Zinke Questions His Department's Loyalty (VIDEO).

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Gaming Panel Approves Tribe's Plan For Casino Near Omaha.
- Blackfeet Tribal Members In Federal Court Over Water Rights.
- Leech Lake Band Seeks To Recover 11,000 Acres Of "Allotted Lands" In The Chip.
- Nooksack Can't Get Second Look At Toss Of Funding Suit.
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- Oregon Lawmakers Demand Answers From Interior On Chemawa.

Bureau Of Land Management

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- San Bernardino (CA) Sun: Here's Why Cadiz Company Says It's Taking 'a Little Pause' From Its Desert Water Project.
- KSTU-TV Salt Lake City: BLM Seeking Public Feedback On Proposal To Expand Research Into Cosmic Rays.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Walden Hydro Bill Would Lower Farmers' Power Costs.
- Timeline Moved Up On Irrigation Pipeline Project; Southwest Bend Piping Project To Begin Around The End Of The Year.

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

- BSEE Director Discusses Gulf Of Mexico E&P Opportunities At Deepwater Operations.
- About 75,000 Barrels Per Day Of Gulf Oil Output Still Shut After Shell Fire.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Bozeman (MT) Daily Chronicle: New Medicine Lake Blind Wheelchair Accessible.

National Park Service

- KPAX-TV Missoula (MT): Public Comment Period On Raising Fees At 17 National Parks Closing Soon.
- WSB-TV Atlanta: Why You May Not Have That Lifetime National Parks Pass You Ordered Yet.
- Cronkite News: Backers Hope Route 66 'Historic Trail' Designation Can Drive Tourism.
- Chicago Tribune: U.S. Steel Dumps More Toxic Chromium Near Lake Michigan, Faces Lawsuit.
- Flathead (MT) Beacon: Glacier Park Visitation Up In October.
- Las Vegas Review-Journal: Graffiti In Active Volcano At Death Valley Erased By Park Service.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Houston Chronicle: Wildlife Agencies Meet On Guam To Discuss Brown Tree Snakes.

Office Of Surface Mining

- Omar's Pine Creek 2 Mine Receives Award.

US Geological Survey

- Midland (TX) Reporter-Telegram: USGS: Uranium Has Been Found Near Big Spring.
- Reuters: Aviat Networks Awarded \$3.0 Million Project With USGS.
- Associated Press: Former Oklahoma Seismologist Testifies In Earthquake Lawsuit.

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DOI In The News

U.S. Senate Panel Advances Quest For Oil In Arctic Refuge.

[Reuters](#) (11/15, Gardiner) reports that oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge "moved a step closer to reality on Wednesday after the US Senate energy and natural resources panel voted 13-10 to open part of the reserve coveted by conservationists." Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R), a supporter of the measure and Chair of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which has jurisdiction on the issue, "says drilling in the refuge is needed to provide jobs and boost the country's resource base," adding that drilling on the reserve will be done "the right way."

The [AP](#) (11/15, Daly) reports that "opening the remote refuge to oil and gas drilling is a longtime Republican priority." It quotes Murkowski saying that allowing drilling on the refuge "will help keep energy affordable, saving families and businesses money every time they pay for fuel — essentially an energy tax cut."

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/15, Dlouhy) reports that "the estimated \$1.1 billion in federal revenue it will generate over the next decade offsets proposed tax cuts, binding it to the Republicans' high-priority overhaul effort and setting it up to pass the Senate on a simple majority vote." The [Houston Chronicle](#) (11/15, Dlouhy) reports drilling could provide a new source of oil for the Trans Alaska Pipeline System, helping to sustain its economic viability as production on the North Slope declines. However, it is not clear if energy companies are eager to move into the Arctic. The high cost of operations in the remote region discourage drilling as cheap shale projects in Texas and North Dakota provide a surge of oil. The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (11/15, Herz) reports Alaska would get half the proceeds from the federal leasing program, which the CBO estimates could total \$1.1 billion over the next decade.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/15, Siegel) reports a number of Democratic amendments to the bill failed, as Sen. Maria Cantwell challenged the purpose and process of the legislation. Cantwell said, "It really does turn regular order on its head. ... We are being asked to consider legislation that is different than previous bills [that tried to allow drilling in ANWR], and has not been subject to single hearing. At its core, the [bill] would change current law and turn the refuge into a petroleum reserve." However, Murkowski said, "When [the refuge] was created, it specifically said this area right here [the 1002 area] is recognized for its potential and if Congress authorizes it, the coastal plane can be developed for oil and gas. We don't change the purpose for which ANWR itself was created." The [Huffington Post](#) (11/15, D'Angelo) reports Sen. Bernie Sanders said future generations will look at the hearings and say "what world was the United States Senate living in" as it pushed for fossil fuel development "at a time of devastating damage done by climate change." Sanders said, "You're talking about raising a billion dollars here. ... I'm talking about the United States government spending hundreds of billions of dollars repairing damage, which, to a significant degree, not totally, had to do with climate change. And the scientists tell us the worst is yet to come."

[E&E Publishing](#) (11/15), [E&E Publishing](#) (11/15), [E&E Publishing](#) (11/15), [Natural Gas](#)

[Intelligence](#) (11/15, Passut), [Courthouse News](#) (11/15, Buchman), and [KTUU-TV Anchorage \(AK\)](#) Anchorage, AK (11/15, Polk) also provided coverage.

Trophies From Elephant Hunts In Zimbabwe Were Banned In The U.S. Trump Just Reversed That.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/15, Fears, Eilperin) reports the Trump Administration reversed an import ban on the remains of elephants legally hunted in Zimbabwe and Zambia. The Post adds that African elephants are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. The US Fish and Wildlife Service previously determined that Zimbabwe “had failed to prove that its management of elephants enhanced the population.” In its new statement, the agency “did not specify what had changed in that country.” The move follows Interior Secretary Zinke’s establishment of an International Wildlife Conservation Council to advise him on how to increase Americans’ public awareness of conservation, wildlife enforcement and the “economic benefits that result from U.S. citizens traveling abroad to hunt.”

[The Hill](#) (11/15, Cama) reports that the FWS “said it has determined that hunting African elephants in Zimbabwe and Zambia ‘will enhance the survival of the species in the wild,’ which is the standard by which officials judge whether to allow imports of parts – known as trophies – of the animals.” An FWS spokesman said in a statement late Wednesday, “Legal, well-regulated sport hunting as part of a sound management program can benefit the conservation of certain species by providing incentives to local communities to conserve the species and by putting much-needed revenue back into conservation.”

Also reporting are the [Washington Examiner](#) (11/15, Siciliano), [CNN International](#) (11/15, Wallace), [Newsweek](#) (11/15, Meza), the [Huffington Post](#) (11/15, D’Angelo), [ABC News](#) (11/15, Ebbs), [WIMS-AM South Shore \(IN\)](#) South Shore, IN (11/15), [UPI](#) (11/16, Downs), and [Gizmodo](#) (11/15, McKay).

This Group Thinks Trump Hasn’t Done Enough To Unravel Environmental Rules.

Here’s Its Wish List. The [Washington Post](#) (11/15, Eilperin, Dennis) reports that at a private meeting last week sponsored by the Heartland Institute, activists were “giddy” about “much of what the Trump administration had done to roll back Obama-era environmental regulations,” but also “grumpy” that “it wasn’t nearly enough.” The article notes that while Interior Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt could not “make the meeting in person,” Interior energy policy counselor Vincent DeVito did speak to the gathering. Asked this week why DeVito had chosen to address the group, Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift said in an email, “The summit was an opportunity to communicate the progress the department has made on energy and restoring multiple-use and access to federal lands, as well as share ideas and perspectives on how to achieve energy dominance.” The Post continues that “the institute’s scorecard on energy issues, Swift added, reflected that Interior ‘is making incredible progress on restoring traditional multiple uses and access to public lands and toward cutting costly and job-killing regulations on responsible energy development.’”

New Outdoor Advisory Panel Draws Mixed Reviews.

The [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (11/15, Barker) reports that “representatives of outdoor recreation and conservation groups see both potential and peril” in Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s new “Made in America” recreation advisory committee. For instance, Sandra Mitchell of the Idaho Recreation Council “embraced the idea and said the committee could help ensure all user groups, both motorized and non-motorized, are treated equally.” On the other hand, “Paul Sanford, national director of recreation policy for the Wilderness Society at Washington, D.C., said he doesn’t object to the committee, but doesn’t want it to be overpopulated with people who represent recreational vehicles and motorized recreation.”

Secretary Zinke Questions His Department’s Loyalty (VIDEO).

[Newsy](#) (11/15, Miller) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is “at odds with his own department about loyalty to the Trump administration.” According to the article, “since taking over the department, Zinke has restructured many of the senior positions,” and “a handful of career officials have resigned over these changes.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Gaming Panel Approves Tribe’s Plan For Casino Near Omaha.

The [AP](#) (11/15, Funk, Press) reports that the National Indian Gaming Commission has “again approved the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska’s plan to build a casino near Omaha, but after a decade of court hearings, the project’s future remains uncertain.” The commission’s decision “this week came nearly 10 years after it first approved the proposed casino in Carter Lake, Iowa.” Ponca Tribal Chairman Larry Wright Jr. lauded “the latest decision because building the casino would give the tribe significant new resources to help its members.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (11/16, Duggan, Moring).

Blackfeet Tribal Members In Federal Court Over Water Rights.

[KRTV-TV](#) Great Falls, MT (11/15, DeMarco) reports that “members of the Blackfeet tribe were in federal court in Great Falls on Tuesday requesting legal ownership of tribal natural resources.” In October 2015, “enrolled members of the Blackfeet Tribe filed a complaint against the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior.” Judge John Johnston has “granted an extension in the case so the enrolled members of the Blackfeet Tribe can find a lawyer to help represent them on the complaint.”

Leech Lake Band Seeks To Recover 11,000 Acres Of “Allotted Lands” In The Chip.

The [Walker \(MN\) Pilot-Independent](#) (11/15, DeBoer) reports that “an error by the Bureau of Indian Affairs back in the 1940s or 1950s resulted in about 11,000 acres of ‘allotted lands’ that rightly belonged to the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, being wrongly transferred to the Chippewa National Forest.” For the last “two to three years, the Leech Lake Band has been working to get the allotted acres transferred back to Band ownership through ‘secretarial transfers.’”

Nooksack Can’t Get Second Look At Toss Of Funding Suit.

[Law360](#) (11/15, Westney) reports that “a Washington federal judge rejected a bid Tuesday to reconsider his dismissal of a lawsuit by the Nooksack Indian Tribe’s purported council that claimed the Bureau of Indian Affairs wrongly refused funding to the tribe, saying the dismissal appropriately deferred to the agency’s finding that the council wasn’t allowed to bring the case.”

Enviros Urge 9th Circ. To Revive Wind Farm Challenge.

[Law360](#) (11/15, Westney) reports that “a conservation group has asked the Ninth Circuit to overturn a lower court decision tossing claims that the Bureau of Indian Affairs violated environmental law in approving a lease between a wind farm developer and a California tribe, saying the agency failed to do enough to protect golden eagles and other birds.”

Bureau Of Indian Education

Oregon Lawmakers Demand Answers From Interior On Chemawa.

[KUOW-FM](#) Seattle (11/15, Manning) reports that “the six Democrats in Oregon’s congressional delegation released a letter Wednesday pressing a top official in the Interior Department to answer questions about the Chemawa Indian School in Salem.” The letter “comes in response to a series of stories from OPB that found health, safety and academic problems at the school. Staff have also complained to OPB that administrators would retaliate against anyone who raised concerns about how the school was managed.” The letter specifies four “areas it wants Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs John Tahsuda to look into: student safety and health, academic failings and high enrollment fluctuations, whistleblower protections, and overall transparency in decision making.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Three Years After Nevada Ranch Standoff, Bundy Federal Trial Begins In Las Vegas.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/15, Sottile) reports that “more than three years after Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy and hundreds of militiamen faced off with federal law enforcement officers who had repossessed Bundy’s cattle, the 71-year-old is finally seeing his battle reach a courtroom.” Bundy; “two of his sons, Ryan and Ammon; and militia leader Ryan Payne are facing federal trial here on charges of conspiracy to commit an offense against the United States, conspiracy to impede and injure a federal officer, and extortion, among other charges that, if they result in

convictions, could lead to life sentences." According to the article, "prosecutors argued in opening statements this week that the standoff was an attack on the government; attorneys representing the Bundys say the gathering was an exercise of the family's right to protest."

The [AP](#) (11/15, Ritter) reports that Ryan Bundy "told a federal jury on Wednesday he believes protesters and self-styled militia members saved his life when they arrived in April 2014 after government agents used dogs and stun guns against his family members ahead of a gunpoint showdown that ended a cattle roundup." Bundy, "who is serving as his own lawyer in the trial in Las Vegas, spent more than an hour speaking with a projected image of his wife and eight children on the courtroom screen." Bundy "told his family history, declared his belief in states' rights over limited federal government, and professed his love of family, the land, God, Americans, liberty and freedom."

Also reporting are the [AP](#) (11/15, Ritter), [Reuters](#) (11/15, Smith), and the [Daily Mail](#) (11/15, Miller)/

Here's Why Cadiz Company Says It's Taking 'a Little Pause' From Its Desert Water Project.

The [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (11/15, Steinberg) reports that after recently receiving "the long-sought federal approval for its massive desert water project, Scott Slater, Cadiz president and CEO, said it's time for the project to 'slow down' a bit." Slater explained, "We are going to take a little pause...and double our effort to allow people to understand this project. We believe people should support an innovative project like ours." However, "one environmentalist who has studied and followed the project for years, said pausing at this point strikes an odd note." David Lamfrom, California Desert and National Wildlife Programs director with the National Parks Conservation Association, "said he believes the pause is really because the California Lands Commission has recently surfaced as a possible stumbling block to the project." But "Cadiz downplays that notion."

BLM Seeking Public Feedback On Proposal To Expand Research Into Cosmic Rays.

[KSTU-TV](#) Salt Lake City (11/15, Steinbrecher) reports that the Bureau of Land Management seeks input "from the public on a proposal that would quadruple the size of an international scientific study happening near Delta." According to the article, "using clusters of telescopes and surface detectors on the ground, researchers from the University of Utah and around the world are studying cosmic rays, particularly a phenomenon called the 'Oh-My-God Particle.'" Researchers propose "to quadruple the size of the project to 750,000 acres, which would allow them to place more detectors on the ground." The article says that "many of the detectors would go on BLM land, and the Millard County Commission is concerned that will mean less public land is available for other uses like grazing, recreation or economic development."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Walden Hydro Bill Would Lower Farmers' Power Costs.

The [Ripon Advance](#) (11/15) reports that Rep. Greg Walden "on Friday introduced the Klamath Infrastructure Improvement Act, legislation that would serve Klamath County irrigators needing affordable water rates." H.R. 4329 would "amend the Klamath Basin Water Supply Enhancement Act of 2000 and would bring Klamath Basin hydropower costs in line with those for Bureau of Reclamation projects in other Pacific Northwest areas." Walden said, "We have 1,000 farms in Klamath County. We have 650,000 acres of farmland in the county. Combined crop and livestock sales annually reach approximately \$200 million. Agriculture is essential not only to the lifeblood of Klamath County, and frankly to our entire district."

Timeline Moved Up On Irrigation Pipeline Project; Southwest Bend Piping Project To Begin Around The End Of The Year.

The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (11/16, Hamway) reports that "after talk of major delays last week, a project that would replace a section of canal near the southern edge of Bend with a 3,000-foot irrigation pipeline is back on track to begin around the end of the year." Craig Horrell, general manager of Central Oregon Irrigation District, "said a \$5 million piping project is expected to break ground in December or January, pending the results of a federal environmental analysis." Edna Rey-Vizgirdas, spokeswoman for the Bureau of Reclamation, said, "We're trying to accommodate their timeline."

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

BSEE Director Discusses Gulf Of Mexico E&P Opportunities At Deepwater Operations.

[Offshore Magazine](#) (11/15) reports that at the Deepwater Operations Conference & Exhibition, BSEE director Scott Angelle emphasized the importance of deepwater Gulf of Mexico E&P. During his keynote presentation, Angelle said, "The offshore oil and gas industry has demonstrated that when faced with challenges in deepwater whether market-based or technology, it continues to innovate and accelerate. ... BSEE must work to ensure that the outer continental shelf is attractive for investment and that all operations are conducted safely and are environmentally sustainable." [World Oil](#) (11/15) reports conference director David Paganie said, "Director Angelle's remarks at Deepwater Operations were an encouraging reminder that offshore oil and gas has advocates in Washington that seek to galvanize the industry in this challenging market."

About 75,000 Barrels Per Day Of Gulf Oil Output Still Shut After Shell Fire.

[Reuters](#) (11/15, Sims) reports a combined 75,206 bpd of oil and 215,122 mcf of natural gas production remain offline at four platforms in the Gulf of Mexico in the wake of a fire on Shell's Enchilada platform. The BSEE said production has been shut in for Shell's Enchilada, Salsa and Augers platforms, along with Hess' Baldpate platform and Conger field. Shell said a plan to repair the damage caused by the fire is underway, while Hess is helping the oil major determine when production can resume.

Fish And Wildlife Service

New Medicine Lake Blind Wheelchair Accessible.

The [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (11/14) reports that a new accessible blind was dedicated in Ducks Unlimited volunteer Pat Nolan's honor in Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge. According to the article, "construction of the blind was led by DU volunteer Steve Cunningham, and completed by two sons and five grandsons of Nolan's, with assistance from refuge staff." Sean Lofgren, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service project leader at Medicine Lake, "said the blind will be used for hunting, wildlife observation and wildlife photography."

National Park Service

Public Comment Period On Raising Fees At 17 National Parks Closing Soon.

[KPAX-TV](#) Missoula, MT (11/15, Miller) reports that the comment period for a proposal to raise fees at 17 popular national parks "will be closing in just about a week." Due to concerns that the 30-day comment period is not enough time, Sen. Steve Daines on Wednesday "sent a letter to the acting director of the National Park Service asking for an extension of the public comment period." A spokesman with the National Park Service "says the 30-day comment period isn't unusual."

Why You May Not Have That Lifetime National Parks Pass You Ordered Yet.

[WSB-TV](#) Atlanta (11/15, Johnson) reports that senior citizens can expect their lifetime passes to national parks to be mailed out "sometime in the next 30 days, according to the AARP." The National Park Service had "said that seniors rushing to beat a steep price increase on lifetime passes created a logjam so severe that it delayed the processing of the requests."

Backers Hope Route 66 'Historic Trail' Designation Can Drive Tourism.

[Cronkite News](#) (11/15, Windes) reports that lawmakers are considering "a bill that would put Route 66 on the road to becoming a National Historic Trail." The bill, "heard Wednesday by a House Natural Resources subcommittee, would put the more-than-2,400-mile road under the care of the National Park Service, returning signage to the road and letting it appear on maps as a historic road, among other changes."

U.S. Steel Dumps More Toxic Chromium Near Lake Michigan, Faces Lawsuit.

The [Chicago Tribune](#) (11/14, Hawthorne) reports that "six months after U.S. Steel dumped a plume of toxic metal into a Lake Michigan tributary, the company quietly reported another spill at

the same northwest Indiana plant and asked state environmental regulators to keep it secret, according to newly released documents." According to the article, "the 56.7 pounds of chromium released in late October by the company's Midwest Plant was 89 percent higher than its water pollution permit allows over 24 hours, U.S. Steel revealed in a letter sent to the Indiana Department of Environmental Management."

The [Northwest Indiana Post-Tribune](#) (11/16, Lavalley) reports that officials with the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and Indiana American Water Company said they weren't told about the October leak. Bruce Rowe, public information officer and supervisory ranger in charge at the national lakeshore, said, "Our chief of resource management contacted IDEM (Wednesday) morning to learn more about this, and is going to contact other agencies. We obviously want to protect our resources and our visitors just like that spill six months ago, so we're taking this very seriously and looking into it."

Glacier Park Visitation Up In October.

The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (11/15) reports that "monthly visitation in Glacier National Park grew once again in October after a dip due to wildfires." According to the National Park Service, "an estimated 84,000 people visited the park last month, roughly 9,000 more people than a year ago."

Graffiti In Active Volcano At Death Valley Erased By Park Service.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (11/15, Brea) reports that "National Park Service employees had to roll out about 600 feet of hose to erase the latest graffiti at Death Valley." In late October, unidentified "vandals scratched large letters and symbols into the mud bottom of Ubehebe Crater, at the northern end of the national park about 180 miles northwest of Las Vegas." After receiving "complaints from visitors about the graffiti, the park dispatched a water tanker and team of seven park employees to the crater Nov. 7."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Wildlife Agencies Meet On Guam To Discuss Brown Tree Snakes.

The [AP](#) (11/15) reports that "wildlife agencies are meeting this week on Guam to provide updates on numerous projects targeting the invasive brown tree snake, which has proved detrimental to Guam's native bird population." The meetings will focus on "increased inspections, awareness programs and effective baiting methods." The article notes that "approximately \$2.8 million from the Office of Insular Affairs is anticipated to carry out the brown tree snake eradication and control projects for the fiscal year."

Office Of Surface Mining

Omar's Pine Creek 2 Mine Receives Award.

The [Williamson \(WV\) Daily News](#) (11/15) reports that "Arch Coal's Coal-Mac LLC Pine Creek 2 Surface Mine, located in Omar, received the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement 2017 Excellence in Surface Coal Mining Reclamation Award." The award was presented at the National Mining Association's awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. on Nov. 6. The mine was recognized for "the development and use of multiple techniques to control threats to water quality, such as selenium pollution, total dissolved solids and conductivity."

US Geological Survey

USGS: Uranium Has Been Found Near Big Spring.

The [Midland \(TX\) Reporter-Telegram](#) (11/16, Hawes) reports that the U.S. Geological Survey announced the discovery of uranium in West Texas this week. The USGS "released preliminary information about the discovery northwest of Big Spring." According to the article, "the uranium itself is part of a new mineral called finchite, named after longtime USGS uranium scientist Warren Finch."

Aviat Networks Awarded \$3.0 Million Project With USGS.

[Reuters](#) (11/15) reports that Aviat Networks Inc. has been awarded a \$3.0 million project with the U.S. Geological Survey. The new system is “to be used by earthquake science center to transport geophysical, seismographic data, security video to/from various sites.”

Former Oklahoma Seismologist Testifies In Earthquake Lawsuit.

The [AP](#) (11/15) reports that former Oklahoma seismologist Austin Holland, who said he was “pressured by an official at the University of Oklahoma to not link the state’s surge in earthquakes to oil and gas production” gave sworn testimony in a lawsuit filed by residents against oil companies for a 2011 earthquake. Accord to the lawsuit, the earthquake that affected Kansas, Arkansas, Tennessee allegedly caused the residents to sustain damages. Holland testified that he was reprimanded for assisting in publishing a journal article on how to handle man-made earthquakes.

Opinion Pieces

Has Congress Already Forgotten Our Last Oil Spill Disaster?

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (11/15, Super), David A. Super, a professor of law at Georgetown Law, criticizes the proposed SECURE American Energy Act (H.R. 4239). The legislation “would transfer to states the authority to authorize oil and gas drilling on public lands,” but it would not “provide states with any resources to perform this work, which currently costs the Bureau of Land Management well over \$100 million a year.” Super claims that “the legislation’s only real effect would be to tie the hands of future Congresses that might wish to reassert the balance between extractive, other economic, recreational, and environmental interests that historically has guided our natural resources policy.”

We’re Not Paying Our Fair Share To Visit National Parks.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (11/15, WatkinsOpinion Contributor —), Tate Watkins, a research fellow at the Property and Environment Research Center, defends the Interior Department’s proposal to raise fees at 17 popular national parks. Watkins argues that “if our parks, forests, and wilderness areas are truly national treasures, then outdoor recreationists should have no qualms paying to enjoy — and support — them.” But Watkins also suggests that “managers should have flexibility to set pricing structures that work best for each site—whether that includes peak-season fees, annual passes, day rates, or surcharges for visitors from abroad.”

Additional Reading.

- *Park Fee Increase Prices Out Families.* [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (11/15, Iobst).
- *Fees Just Part Of Park Solution.* [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (11/15).
- *Accessing Our National Parks Should Not Be A Privilege Afforded Only To The Privileged.* [Bend \(OR\) Source](#) (11/15).
- *Wrong Path On National Park Fees.* [Concord \(NH\) Monitor](#) (11/15).
- *Veterans Service & Conservation Corps: Career Pathways Through Continued Service.* [Huffington Post](#) (11/15).
- *We Need Responsible Energy Development On Public Lands.* [Montana Standard](#) (11/15, Nyman, Rogers).
- *Guest Commentary: Trump Administration Shuns Voices Behind Local Groundwork.* [Aspen \(CO\) Times](#) (11/15, Newman).
- *Thomas Mitchell: Constitution Stretched To The Breaking Point.* [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (11/15, Mitchell).
- *A Ray Of Hope For American Shad.* [Narrowsburg \(NY\) River Reporter](#).
- *Progress In The World’s Fight To Save Elephants, Rhinos, Pangolins And Sharks . . . Backsliding In The Fight To End Trophy Hunting By Americans.* [Huffington Post](#) (11/15, Greene).

Top National News

Trump Touts Success Of His Asia Trip, Says It Shows “America Is Back.”

To widespread media skepticism, the President yesterday celebrated his accomplishments in Asia,

claiming credit for crafting a unified front against North Korea and for trade deals worth billions of dollars. Two major network newscasts reported Trump's remarks. In its story about "what he sees as" the trip's "accomplishments," [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/15, story 3, 1:30, Welker) said Trump "took a victory lap," and described him as "clearly frustrated by headlines that suggested he didn't secure any concrete results." The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/15, story 8, 0:45, Mason), meanwhile, quipped that it "appeared for a time" that Trump's "account of his Asia trip...might run as long as the 12-day journey itself." In his speech, [USA Today](#) (11/15, Jackson, Korte) reports, "Trump outlined his efforts in a country-by-country rundown," and "some commentators on Twitter likened" his "methodical recitation to someone showing slides of their summer vacation."

More favorable toward Trump was the [Washington Times](#) (11/15, Miller) account, which quotes him as saying, "My fellow citizens, America is back and the future has never looked brighter. ... I swore that in every decision and with every action I would put the best interest of the American people first. ... That is exactly what I have done." [Politico](#) (11/15, Lima), however, says Trump touted the success of his trip "despite a dearth of marquee victories for the White House," which "seemingly did not draw any major diplomatic concessions from the nations it visited on major issues like North Korea's nuclear efforts, new trade pacts or human rights."

[Townhall](#) (11/15, O'Brien) reported that "trade and commerce" were the issues Trump "spent the most time discussing, clearly enthused by his recent meetings." But [Bloomberg News](#) (11/15, Wayne, Pettypiece) says the trade deals touted by Trump "aren't contracts and might not be fulfilled. And while the president railed against what he regards as systemic flaws in US trade relationships, he neither publicly requested or received specific assurances by foreign leaders to reduce imbalances or address issues such as market access by US companies and intellectual property theft."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/15, Gearan) casts Trump as chafing "at criticism that he did not notch any major accomplishments," and [USA Today](#) (11/15, Jackson, Korte) says he "gave the speech at the White House in the wake of criticism of the trip by some analysts and political foes." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/15, Bennett) similarly indicates Trump's "message was undermined by the lack of significant accomplishments he could point to from the trip," and the [New York Times](#) (11/15, Qiu) runs a "Fact Check" analysis under the headline "Trump's 'Tremendous Success' Abroad Is Overstated."

Another [New York Times](#) (11/15, Shear) story similarly describes the trip as having brought "few concrete achievements," and adds "Trump made no significant announcements in a speech that he had hyped on Twitter as 'a major statement' to be delivered upon his return." The Times goes on to report that "critics say Mr. Trump has abandoned the United States' status as a global superpower by retreating from trade agreements and backing out of the Paris climate accord." Trump's "political rivals accuse him of straining relationships with allies in NATO and elsewhere while embracing despots." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/15, Ballhaus) runs a similar story this morning.

Jonah Goldberg of National Review said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/15), "This was no major announcement. He had teased this as a major announcement – tune in for major announcement. There was no major announcement. At the same time, I'm not sure it matters. The press was mad about it. I'm not sure that matters." Goldberg added that "it sounded like a successful trip. It looked like a successful trip. He came back and talked about it like a successful trip and just because the reporters in the room didn't like it, well, welcome to the era of Trump. Reporters in the room often don't like what he does, but he was reaching out to his audience beyond that and I thought it was probably going to be effective for him."

Trump's Search For Water Bottle Featured Across News Coverage. A significant topic across the coverage of the President's remarks were the two occasions in which he paused to drink water. [The Hill](#) (11/15, Fabian), for example, said "the speech might be remembered for Trump's two awkward-looking water breaks," and the [New York Times](#) (11/15, Qiu) that the President was "deterred only by a struggle to quench his thirst."

While the subject is mentioned in virtually every story on Trump's remarks, the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/15, story 8, 0:45, Mason) devoted all but one sentence of its 45-second report to explain that the President's "mouth got so dry he had to stop and search for a bottle of water to quench his thirst. A few minutes later, it happened again." Added CBS, "You'll recall Mr. Trump, on the campaign trail, mocked then-rival Marco Rubio for taking a water break as he delivered the GOP response to a state of the union address." Rubio weighed in on [Twitter](#), writing, "Needs work on his form. Has to be done in one single motion, and eyes should never leave the camera, but not bad for his first time."

The [AP](#) (11/15, Thomas) also indicates that “during the 2016 campaign, Trump frequently skewered Rubio...for needing to quench his thirst during speeches,” and [USA Today](#) (11/15, Estepa) reports, “Sometimes, you really just need a drink of water. Sen. Marco Rubio knows this.”

Trump: Xi Agrees “Freeze-For-Freeze” Is Unacceptable. The [AP](#) (11/15, Pennington) reports Trump said “the US and China agree that North Korea cannot just freeze its nuclear weapons program in exchange for concessions and that it must eliminate its arsenal.” Trump “was restating a long-standing US position but suggested that China now concurred with Washington that a ‘freeze-for-freeze’ agreement was unacceptable.” Said Trump, “President Xi recognizes that a nuclear North Korea is a grave threat to China, and we agreed that we would not accept a so-called freeze for freeze agreement, like those that have consistently failed in the past.”

Following Trump Visit, China To Send High-Level Envoy To North Korea. The [AP](#) (11/14, Bodeen) reports that “following...Trump’s visit to Beijing, China said Wednesday that it would send a high-level special envoy to North Korea amid an extended chill in relations between the neighbors over Pyongyang’s nuclear weapons and missile programs.” Song Tao, “the head of China’s ruling Communist Party’s International Department, will travel to Pyongyang on Friday to report on outcomes of the party’s national congress held last month, the official Xinhua News Agency said.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/15, Denyer) says “it is not clear whether this trip has anything to do with” Trump’s visit, as “Beijing routinely undertakes such trips to fellow Communist states.”

North Korean Editorial: Trump Should Be Sentenced To Death For Kim Insults. The [Washington Post](#) (11/15, Erickson) reports “the ever-escalating war of words between the United States and North Korea got dialed up to 11 on Wednesday, when an editorial in a state-run newspaper called...Trump a coward who deserved the death penalty.” The Post adds that “Rodong Sinmun, a mouthpiece for Kim’s ruling Workers’ Party of Korea, took aim at Trump,” writing, “The worst crime for which he can never be pardoned is that he dared [to] malignantly hurt the dignity of the supreme leadership. ... He should know that he is just a hideous criminal sentenced to death by the Korean people.”

Murphy: Restraining Trump’s Nuclear Authority Won’t Signal Weakness To North Korea. Sen. Chris Murphy, a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (11/15) that he’s not “alone” in being concerned about President Trump’s ability to pre-emptively launch nuclear weapons at North Korea, arguing that “it’s not a coincidence that the first major hearing that we’ve had on the decision-making process regarding the launch of a nuclear weapon happens at the exact same moment that President Trump is suggesting through his Twitter feed that he might use a nuclear weapon against North Korea without consulting with Congress.” When asked if restraining the President’s nuclear authority signals a “weakness to regimes like North Korea,” Murphy said that’s “nonsense,” adding that no president can engage in a pre-emptive military strike without authorization from Congress. Murphy said he’s “introduced legislation that would clarify that.”

In an editorial headlined “The President’s Power To Launch Nukes,” the [New York Times](#) (11/15) says “Trump and North Korea have prompted Congress to do something it hasn’t done in more than four decades: formally consider changes to the law that gives American presidents the sole authority to launch nuclear weapons.” The US President “is engaged in a dangerous game of chicken with Kim Jong-un,” and while “the Republican-led Congress, which has shown few signs of pushing back against presidential powers, may end up taking no action...there are hard questions to be addressed, especially now that the American people have been alerted to the scope and potential peril of Mr. Trump’s powers.”

Sen. Jeanne Shaheen said on [CNN’s The Lead](#) (11/15), “I thought this was a great opportunity to try and further engage Russia in what’s going on with North Korea. One of the things we need to do with North Korea, which is a rogue nation, is to get the international community in support of further sanctions, of keeping pressure on the North Korean regime and Russia is a key player there and he missed that opportunity to engage Putin on that issue.” Shaheen added, “We need to build an international coalition as President Obama did on Iran to get people united in working and keeping the pressure on North Korea. What we don’t need is inconsistent messages on Twitter that...are open to interpretation by Kim Jong-un, who is a very irrational and radical leader. So I think that’s the kind of consistent, stable diplomacy that we need to continue and I think, unfortunately, this administration has fallen short in that score.”

UCLA Basketball Players Thank Trump For Intervening With China To Win Their Release. [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/15, story 5, 1:50, Holt) reported three UCLA men’s basketball players are back in the US “after being caught up in a legal drama in China which led...Trump to intervene

when they were caught shoplifting and faced up to a decade in prison." Trump was shown saying, "What they did was unfortunate, and you know you're talking about very long prison sentences. They do not play games." The White House says Trump's words with Chinese President Xi Jinping, "along with diplomatic efforts by the State Department, led to a reduction in charges."

On Wednesday morning, Trump [tweeted](#), "Do you think the three UCLA basketball players will say, 'thank you, President Trump' they were headed for ten years in jail." The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/15, story 7, 0:35, Mason) reported the three players apologized on Wednesday for shoplifting, and [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/15, story 8, 1:15, Muir) that the three thanked Trump for his efforts.

[Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/15) showed footage of the players thanking the President and the US government. [USA Today](#) (11/15, Peter), [Reuters](#) (11/15, Carroll), the [Washington Post](#) (11/15, Bontemps), [Politico](#) (11/15, Lima, Nelson) and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/15, Bolch), among other news outlets, also report the story.

In Japan, Bannon Warns Against China's Plans To "Dominate" World Economy. The [Washington Times](#) (11/15, Taylor) reports that Steve Bannon "railed against China's 'hegemonic' ambitions Wednesday, telling a crowd in Tokyo that the West and its Asian allies must wake up to communist Beijing's plan to 'dominate' the world economy." Bannon said "American 'elites' have long believed a 'false premise' that China would become more of a liberal democracy and a free market economy as its economy grew," yet "the exact opposite has happened. ... The Chinese leadership had no intention ever of joining the rules-based international order. They had their own plan, and they executed that plan very rigorously."

Trump Takes To Twitter To Blast "Naïve (Or Dumb)" NYTimes, CNN. The [Washington Times](#) (11/15, Miller) reports that earlier Wednesday, Trump "took to Twitter with a vengeance... to blast his critics in the news media." Trump "[labeled](#) CNN as 'Loser!' and [skewered](#) the 'failing' New York Times for being 'naïve (or dumb)' on foreign policy." Trump said of the Times, "The failing @nytimes hates the fact that I have developed a great relationship with World leaders like Xi Jinping, President of China. ... They should realize that these relationships are a good thing, not a bad thing. The U.S. is being respected again. Watch Trade!"

[Politico](#) (11/15, Lima) says "it was unclear what specific Times article the president was responding to," though "earlier Wednesday Times foreign affairs columnist Thomas Friedman penned a piece criticizing" him "for allowing himself to be manipulated by Xi on trade, an issue the president has made a priority in his overseas diplomatic talks." Under the headline "China Could Sell Trump the Brooklyn Bridge," Friedman writes in the [New York Times](#) (11/14, Friedman) that "Xi has been brilliant at playing Trump, plying him with flattery and short-term trade concessions and deflecting him from the real structural trade imbalances with China."

As House Prepares To Vote On Tax Bill, Johnson Says He Opposes Senate Version.

With the House set to vote on its tax cut plan Thursday, President Trump [tweeted](#) Wednesday evening, "Big vote tomorrow in the House. Tax cuts are getting close!" However, coverage on the network news broadcasts and in print this morning focuses on the Senate bill, suggesting the measure could be in trouble after Sen. Ron Johnson said he will not support it and Sen. Susan Collins said the decision to include a repeal of the ACA's individual mandate was a mistake.

Anthony Mason reported on The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/15, story 2, 2:40, Mason) that House Republicans "are set to pass a massive package of corporate and individual tax cuts" Thursday. Chief congressional correspondent Nancy Cordes added that the House plan would "eliminate the deduction for state and local taxes," which "has angered a handful of GOP House members from high-tax states, but there probably aren't enough of them to prevent passage in the House."

However, much of the media coverage highlights Johnson's opposition to the Senate bill as well as the inclusion of the individual mandate repeal and Collins' criticism of that decision. Johnson told the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/15, Hughes) Wednesday that he opposes the Senate Republican tax bill, arguing that the measure benefits corporations more than other businesses. Johnson told the Journal, "If they can pass it without me, let them. ... I'm not going to vote for this tax package." The [Washington Times](#) (11/15, Sherfinski) reports that in a statement Johnson "said...that it's important to strike a proper competitive balance between larger corporations and smaller 'pass-through' companies that file their taxes as individuals and are often taxed at levels higher than the 35 percent corporate rate." Said Johnson, "These businesses truly are the engines of innovation and job creation throughout our economy, and they should not be left behind. ... Unfortunately, neither the House nor Senate bill provide fair treatment, so I do not support either in their current versions."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/15, Lawler) says Johnson is “the first Republican senator to express opposition to the GOP tax bill,” and the [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (11/15, Glauber) says his opposition “could prove important since Republicans have only 52 seats in the Senate.”

Rove: Differences Between House, Senate Bills Can Be Used To Craft A Better Final Version.

Karl Rove writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/15) that while much has been made of the differences between the House and Senate bills, their goals are similar, and the areas where they differ can be used to craft a better final bill. Rove adds that Republicans, and President Trump in particular, need to persuade Americans that the corporate tax changes will create jobs and raise incomes, which will help the economy grow.

Democrats Introduce Articles Of Impeachment Against Trump.

In what the [AP](#) (11/15, Freking) describes as “a long-shot effort that stands little chance in the Republican-led House,” six House Democrats have introduced articles of impeachment against President Trump, “accusing him of obstruction of justice and other offenses.” The AP adds that “the large majority of Democrats seem intent on having nothing to do with the effort either as lawmakers await the results of special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation,” and “Democratic leaders have argued that the impeachment campaign riles up Trump’s GOP base, a critical bloc in next year’s midterm elections.” The [Washington Times](#) (11/15, Dinan) reports that the Democrats, led by Rep. Steve Cohen, say Trump “has obstructed justice in his dealings with then-FBI Director James Comey, and his businesses are taking money that is illegal under two separate parts of the Constitution.” In addition they say Trump “has undermined the judiciary by using his pardon powers on former Sheriff Joe Arpaio, and that he’s undermined the press corps covering him by berating news outlets or calling them ‘fake.’”

Podesta: Trump Wants To Run The Justice System “Like A Banana Republic.” In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (11/15), John Podesta, who served as chair of Hillary Clinton’s 2016 presidential campaign, writes that reports that “Sessions — in an apparent effort to appease Trump — is considering appointing a special counsel to investigate Clinton’s role in approving the purchase of Uranium One” is proof that Trump “wants to upend 230 years of constitutional history and principle to run the U.S. justice system like a banana republic, or perhaps more aptly like what now passes for the rule of law in the country he aspires to emulate, the Russian Federation.” Podesta argues that “authoritarians and tyrants” use “the instruments of state power, particularly the wrath of the prosecutor, to rain opprobrium down upon citizens with whom they disagree.”

Sessions To Be Interviewed By House Intelligence Committee. [Reuters](#) (11/15) reports a DOJ spokesman said Wednesday that Attorney General Sessions will be interviewed in a closed door session with the House intelligence committee on Nov. 30. The committee is one of several, “along with the Department of Justice’s special counsel Robert Mueller, investigating alleged Russian interference in the 2016 presidential campaign and potential collusion by President Donald Trump’s campaign.”

Firm Mentioned In Trump Dossier Linked To Internet Pirates. [McClatchy](#) (11/15, Hall) reports that the co-called Trump Dossier “got a lot right,” but “the accusation that a company called XBT and its US subsidiary Webzilla hacked the emails of Democratic Party leaders” is “still vexing investigators.” XBT and Webzilla “have long been the targets of lawyers who fight Internet piracy.” McClatchy adds that its review of “more than 1,000 pages of court documents” found that “Webzilla employees were linked through litigation and regulatory filings to two companies accused of large-scale copyright violations involving Hollywood movies and subscription pornography.”

The [Daily Caller](#) (11/15, Ross) cites “a source familiar” with Glenn Simpson’s testimony to the House Intelligence Committee who said the Fusion GPS founder “acknowledged...that he did not verify information in the uncorroborated and salacious dossier before briefing reporters on its contents during the campaign.” [Bloomberg News](#) (11/15, House) reports that “people familiar with his testimony” say Simpson “defended [the dossier’s] credibility” during his testimony.

Judge Calls For Greater Transparency In Legal Fight Over Fusion Bank Records. [Politico](#) (11/15, Gerstein) reports that following “a brief hearing in US District Court in Washington, Judge Richard Leon” told lawyers involved in the legal fight between the House Intelligence Committee and Fusion GPS that the dispute over the committee’s demands for Fusion’s bank records “is of major public significance and needs to be handled with greater transparency.” Leon said, “If there were ever a case where [public access] is in the best interest of all concerned, this is one. ... This is not the kind of case, in my judgment, where there should be much if any time behind the [closed] door, unless it’s necessary. ... I think the arguments can be made in open court on the

nonconfidential, discrete legal questions.”

Schiff: Parts Of Trump Dossier Have Turned Out To Be True. In an interview with the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/15, Tau) Wednesday, Rep. Adam Schiff, the ranking Democrat on the house intelligence Committee rejected attempts by Republicans to discredit the Dossier, arguing that its claims that Russia sought to help elect Trump proved to be true.

Bonn Conference Trying To Make Headway Despite US Stance On Paris Deal.

The [New York Times](#) (11/15, Friedman, Plumer) reports that “few at United Nations climate talks” in Bonn, Germany “are openly showing” any anger they feel at the United States for rejecting the Paris climate change agreement. In private negotiating sessions, career State Department staffers are “making headway on technical issues to strengthen the Paris accord”; many of them “are familiar players in these negotiations and are continuing to pursue longstanding objectives, like greater transparency on emissions cuts from developing countries.” George David Banks, a senior energy adviser to President Trump, said that because the US has “the best negotiating team in the world,” the “other delegations are very supportive of making sure the US delegation is as involved as possible.” However, the State Department official originally leading the talks, Thomas A. Shannon Jr., canceled at the last minute, “leaving the negotiations largely in the hands of lower-ranking colleagues,” and Banks “refers most questions to the State Department.”

In contrast, [Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/15) reported that at the conference, “the US is taking heavy criticism over President Trump’s decision to withdraw from the Paris Climate Accord.” One American energy executive “infuriated participants when he said it’s naïve to suggest poor countries can escape poverty through wind and solar when fossil fuel remains a cheaper...alternative.” That remark came as scientists at the conference say they’re anticipating a 2 percent rise in global CO2 emissions for 2017, with Corinne Le Quere of the University of East Anglia shown saying that the CO2 increase is “driven primarily by what’s happening in China with the renewed use of coal.” Meanwhile, a separate American delegation expressed support for the Accord. Washington Gov. Jay Inslee was shown saying, “Donald Trump cannot stop us. This is the most important thing we wanted the world to know.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Mr. Trump Casts A Shadow Over The AT&T-Time Warner Deal.” The [New York Times](#) (11/15) editorializes that “President Trump’s hostility toward the news media, and CNN in particular, has been so extreme that it is calling into doubt whether his appointees at the Department of Justice can fairly evaluate a merger involving the cable news channel’s parent company, Time Warner, and AT&T.” The Justice Department’s Antitrust Division “has reportedly asked AT&T to sell the Turner Broadcasting division of Time Warner, a unit that includes CNN, or sell its DirecTV unit to gain approval for the deal.” While the Times notes that “on its face, this is not an unreasonable request,” it argues that “given Mr. Trump’s repeated attacks on CNN, there’s ample cause to suspect that the Justice Department scheme is a ploy to force a sale of the news organization to owners that will strip away its editorial independence and turn it into a house organ of the Trump administration.”

“The Senate Questions The President’s Power To Launch Nukes.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (11/15) says President Trump and North Korea “have prompted Congress to do something it hasn’t done in more than four decades: formally consider changes to the law that gives American presidents the sole authority to launch nuclear weapons.” The US President “us engaged in a dangerous game of chicken with Kim Jong-un,” and while “the Republican-led Congress, which has shown few signs of pushing back against presidential powers, may end up taking no action...there are hard questions to be addressed, especially now that the American people have been alerted to the scope and potential peril of Mr. Trump’s powers.”

Washington Post.

“Republicans Turn Their Irresponsible Tax Bill Into Monumentally Unwise Social Policy.” A [Washington Post](#) (11/15) editorial says by including a provision to repeal the ACA’s individual mandate in their tax bill, Senate Republicans “remade their tax bill into an Obamacare repeal bill.” The provision, the Post argues, “turned a fiscally irresponsible tax plan into a monumentally unwise piece of social policy that would do much more than widen the deficit.” The Post argues that if Republicans believe repealing the mandate “is good health-care policy, they

should seek to pass it on its own, with hearings, markups and debate.”

“What Happens In Zimbabwe Without Mugabe In Power?” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/15) writes that the “prospects don’t look good” for Zimbabwe. President Mugabe’s “horrific record” did not inspire the coup and Mnangagwa has “a history of brutal behavior” and could lose a fair vote to the opposition leader. However, the Post warns that “a genuine popular mandate” is needed for reforms to revive the economy. The Post calls on the US and other Western governments to “insist on a prompt restoration of constitutional order and a firm commitment by the military to holding internationally supervised elections next year.” The Post concludes this is “a fragile opportunity to rescue” Zimbabwe, should the situation “not lead to the installation of another strongman.”

“Don’t Be Relieved Only Five People Died In California. Be Enraged.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/15) editorializes that observers should not be comforted by the fact that “only” five people died in Tuesday’s shooting at an elementary school. The Post asserts that “what ought to be foremost is rage at the refusal of lawmakers to take action that might prevent these needless tragedies — and a renewed demand for sensible gun-control regulations, including a ban on assault weapons and comprehensive background checks with better enforcement.”

Wall Street Journal.

“The Appeal Of Mandate Repeal.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/15) editorial praises Senate Republicans’ decision to include a repeal of the ACA’s individual mandate in their tax bill and argues that Democrats should explain, why, if ACA insurance provides quality coverage at affordable prices, do people have to be coerced into buying it.

“Zimbabwe’s Coup By Any Other Name.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/15) warns in an editorial that Zimbabwe’s coup is motivated by a political power struggle within the ruling Zanu-PF party and not the suffering of the country’s people. The Journal predicts the coup will not lead to improvements, which would require a total overhaul of its governance.

“Adios, Richard Cordray.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/15, Journal) expresses pleasure at Consumer Financial Protection Bureau director Richard Cordray’s exit, writing that he overstepped the mandate of CFPB and went after industries unpopular with progressives.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Activist Peltz Narrowly Wins P&G Board Seat, New Count Shows Republican Sen. Ron Johnson Opposes GOP Senate Tax Package](#)
[Zimbabwe Army’s Power Grab Could Mark End Of Mugabe’s Reign](#)
[A Specter Is Haunting Europe’s Recovery: Zombie Companies](#)

New York Times:

[Tax Bill Thrown Into Uncertainty As First GOP Senator Comes Out Against It](#)
[Four More Women Describe Advances By Roy Moore As Campaign Pushes Back With Mugabe’s Era Ending In Zimbabwe. A Warning Echoes In Africa](#)
[A Growing Call To Limit Lawyers’ Donations To Prosecutors](#)
[Deception And Ruses Fill The Toolkit Of Investigators Used By Weinstein](#)
[Leonardo Da Vinci Painting Sells For \\$450.3 Million, Shattering Auction Highs](#)

Washington Post:

[Two More Women Accuse Moore Of Pursuing Them](#)
[Senate Tax Bill Hits New Snags](#)
[Zimbabwe Awaits Fate Of Detained Mugabe](#)
[Crack Of Gunfire Led To School’s Lockdown](#)
[Museum Of The Bible Is Strictly By The Book](#)

Financial Times:

[Zimbabwe Army Seizes Power And Holds Mugabe](#)
[Africa’s Richest Woman Removed As Head Of Angola State Oil Group](#)
[Russia And Venezuela Agree \\$3bn Debt Restructuring](#)

Washington Times:

[Catch-And-Release Of Illegals Restarted In Texas, Border Patrol Agents Say](#)
[Democrats Introduce Articles Of Impeachment Against Trump](#)
[Newest Museum In Nation's Capital Will 'Tell The Biography Of The Bible'](#)
[Zimbabweans Stunned, Uncertain After Military's 'Soft Coup' Of Mugabe](#)
[Liberals Finally Hold Bill Clinton Accountable For Sexual Misconduct](#)
[Kurds Seek More Help From Trump Administration To Keep Peace With Iraq](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Roy Moore Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Tax Reform Plan-Obamacare Repeal; California Shooting; Tampa-Possible Serial Killer; Congress-Sexual Harassment Policy; Weather Forecast; Zimbabwe-Military Coup; US College Basketball Players Return; Loose Mental Patient Captured; Pilot-Carrying Gun On Board; St. Louis-Car Crash; New Planet Discovery; Adopted Sibling Discovery.

CBS: Roy Moore Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Tax Reform Plan-Obamacare Repeal; California Shooting; Texas Church Shooting-Gunman; Loose Mental Patient Captured; Zimbabwe-Military Coup; US College Basketball Players Return; Trump-Asia Tour Wrap Up; Ford-SUV Carbon Monoxide Leak; Wilbert Jones Freed; NBA News; Pope-Lamborghini Donation; Da Vinci Painting Auction.

NBC: Roy Moore Sexual Misconduct Allegations; California Shooting; Trump-Asia Tour Wrap Up; Tax Reform Plan-Obamacare Repeal; US College Basketball Players Return; Tampa-Possible Serial Killer; Schools-Cyber Security; St. Louis-Fire; Amazon-Grocery Business; Treasury Secretary-Dollar Bills Signature; Meteor Sighting; Pope-Lamborghini Donation; Charity Turned Hobby.

Network TV At A Glance:

Roy Moore Sexual Misconduct Allegations – 9 minutes, 30 seconds

California Shooting – 7 minutes

Tax Reform Plan-Obamacare Repeal – 6 minutes, 5 seconds

US College Basketball Players Return – 3 minutes, 40 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Roy Moore Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Trump-Asia Tour Wrap Up; Baltimore Police Officer Shot; California Shooting.

CBS: Roy Moore Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Tax Reform Plan-Obamacare Repeal; Trump-Asia Tour Wrap Up; Loose Mental Patient Captured; US College Basketball Players Return; Da Vinci Painting Auction.

FOX: Roy Moore Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Trump-Asia Tour Wrap Up; Baltimore Police Officer Shot; Charles Manson III.

NPR: Roy Moore Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Obamacare Enrollment Rate; Trump Administration-Immigration Policies; Zimbabwe-Military Coup.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Gives remarks to the House Republican Conference.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee top secret briefing on new counterterrorism guidance – Closed / Top Secret / Sensitive Compartmented Information briefing on 'New Counterterrorism Guidance', given by State Department Coordinator for Counterterrorism Nathan Sales, and Assistant Legal Advisor Steven Fabry; and Joint Staff Deputy Director for Special Operations and Counterterrorism Maj. Gen. Albert Elton II Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC-217, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including the nominations of Leonard Steven Grasz to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit; Terry Doughty to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana; Terry Fitzgerald Moorer to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama; Mark Saalfeld Norris Sr. to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee; Scott Brady to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania; and Andrew Lelling to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Massachusetts; as well as 'S. 2070, Kevin and Avonte's Law' Location:

Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Transportation subcommittee hearing on USCG readiness – Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee hearing on ‘Coast Guard Readiness: How Far Can We Stretch Our Nation’s Only Multi-Mission, Military Force?’, with testimony from U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Paul Zukunft; Etta Kuzakin of King Cove, AK; Michigan Technological University’s Dr Guy Meadows; and Mississippi Emergency Management Agency’s Lee Smithson Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

10:00 AM Senate Armed Services Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers John Rood to be Under Secretary of Defense for Policy; and Randall Schriver to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Affairs Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm G50, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

11:30 AM MomsRising and other groups visit Capitol Hill to talk about how they are ‘thankful for the immigrants in their lives’ – MomsRising, SEIU, Herd on the Hill, Mormon Women for Ethical Governance, UndocuBlack, and allies visit Capitol Hill to ‘tell Members of Congress why they’re thankful for the immigrants in their lives’ and ‘remind them that the diversity of our nation is what makes us strong, innovative and prosperous – and we’re thankful to live in the United States of America together’. MomsRising’s Donna Norton, SEIU’s Jaime Contreras, Mormon Women for Ethical Governance’s Sharlee Glenn, and DACA recipient and UndocuBlack member Cindy Kolade hold press conference with Democratic Sen. Chris Van Hollen, before advocates deliver Thanksgiving-themed cookies shaped like turkeys to dozens of senators and representatives along with petitions signed by 25,000 people in support of the DREAM Act and protecting Temporary Protected Status recipients Location: U.S. Capitol, S-115, Washington, DC momsrising.org <https://twitter.com/MomsRising>

2:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

US House: 9:00 AM House expected to vote on Tax Cuts and Jobs Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of ‘H.R. 1, The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act’ * The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act would reduce the number of different tax bands, increase the standard deduction, eliminate the Alternative Minimum Tax, largely eliminate the State and Local Tax Deduction, convert corporate tax into a flat rate, and increase the estate tax exemption Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on 5G – Communications and Technology Subcommittee hearing on ‘The Race to 5G and its Potential to Revolutionize American Competitiveness’, with testimony from Wireless Infrastructure Association President and CEO Jonathan Adelstein; The Brattle Group Principal Dr Coleman Bazelon; Indiana Biosciences Research Institute CEO David Broecker; 5G Americas President Chris Pearson; and City of San Jose Chief Innovation Officer Shireen Santosham Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

1:30 PM Dem Rep. Earl Blumenauer hosts forum on ‘A Call for Reform: Fix the Farm Bill’ – Democratic Rep. Earl Blumenauer hosts forum on ‘A Call for Reform: Fix the Farm Bill’, focusing on ‘the need to create a more visionary, equitable, and cost-effective Farm Bill’. ‘The Omnivore’s Dilemma’ and ‘In Defense of Food’ author Michael Pollan keynotes, followed by a panel discussion featuring ASPCA Farm Animal Campaign Content Director Suzanne McMillan, Environmental Working Group Vice President of Government Affairs Scott Faber, Food Policy Action Executive Director Monica Mills, Humane Society of the United States CEO and President Wayne Pacelle, Taxpayers for Common Sense President Ryan Alexander, and U.S. PIRG Food and Farming Program Director Bill Wenzel * Ahead of the forum, Rep. Blumenauer holds a press conference with Pollan, Mills, Pacelle, Alexander, Democratic Reps. Don Beyer, Rosa DeLauro, Chellie Pingree, and Peter Welch, and Union of Concerned Scientists Food & Environment Program Director Ricardo Salvador Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC blumenauer.house.gov <https://twitter.com/replblumenauer>

Other:

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: “The President hasn’t weighed in on the biggest story of the week, Roy Moore. Donald Trump’s in a real bind. On one hand, he doesn’t want to support an accused pedophile for

Senate. His other hand is grabbing a woman by the...you know what I'm saying."

James Corden: "Trump said he accomplished a lot of things on his trip, but North Korea seems to have a different opinion, because yesterday, North Korea state media published a scathing review of President Trump's trip to Asia. They said Trump displayed his 'true colors as an old lunatic, mean trickster, and human reject.' Now you listen here, North Korea, we may not like him either, but that is the President of the United States you're accurately describing."

James Corden: "I can't believe Trump and Kim Jong-Un are still going back and forth like this. Like the two of them have literally become the characters in every rom-com you have ever seen. They've written insulting each other so much you just know they'll actually end up together. You know what I mean? They're like, 'You are an old trickster.' 'You a crazy rocket man.' 'Yeah, well you, you're the love of my life.'"

Trevor Noah: [Referring to the military coup in Zimbabwe] "I think the news is being dramatic here, all right. You don't overthrow a 93-year-old man, okay? You just don't wake him up. The generals are probably in the room like, 'We're now in power, we rule.' 'Shhhh!' You know how it's funny how back in the day, Americans would have seen this news and been like, 'Man, I'm glad that doesn't happen here.' And now people are like, 'Man, wish that happened here.'"

Trevor Noah: "Oh, and speaking of African dictators, President Trump is back from Asia."

Trevor Noah: "Let's move on to Congress, because people say that Congress never gets anything done. But yesterday, they got more nothing done than I have ever seen before. First, Attorney General Jeff Sessions flew in from the North Pole to explain to the House Judiciary Committee why his memory is perfect. Except when it comes to remembering Russians, he couldn't remember them at all."

Trevor Noah: "Out of nowhere, it came out that the Senate Republican tax plan will now include repealing Obamacare's individual mandate, which would mean 13 million fewer Americans having health insurance. You've got to admit, this is super sneaky. Like, they couldn't repeal Obamacare outright, so now they're just going to try to Bill Cosby it. You know, they just slip it into something else so America wakes up the next day like, 'Wait, what the hell happened to our healthcare?' 'What healthcare? You don't have a plan, and now you're going to die.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "I read that Congress is debating if President Trump should have the power to order a nuclear strike. I guess right now, it's an even split between 'no' and 'hell no.' ... They have a good plan, though. They're going to replace the red button on his desk with the one that orders office supplies from Staples."

Seth Meyers: "Former White House Communications Director Anthony Scaramucci is reportedly in talks with publishers about a book chronicling his tenure in the White House. A book? You were there for ten days. At best, you could release a fortune cookie."

Seth Meyers: "North Korean state media today called President Trump a coward for canceling his visit to the Demilitarized Zone during his trip to Asia. Listen, President Trump is a lot of things, but a coward is just one of those things."

Seth Meyers: "Republicans are reportedly hoping that President Trump will pressure Alabama senator candidate Roy Moore to drop out of the race. Roy Moore still might not drop out, but at least he'll know what it's like to be pressured by an older man."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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DOI In The News

Pechanga Band Celebrates Execution Of First Water Settlement In The Trump Era.

The [Nation Sun News](#) (11/29) reports that "the first tribal water rights settlement" of the Trump Administration has been executed by the Interior Department. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "signed the agreement with Marc Macarro, the chairman of the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians, in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday afternoon." Zinke said in a press release after the signing ceremony, "The federal government has a critical responsibility to uphold our trust responsibilities, especially tribal water rights. This is why we are continuing to work on Indian water settlements with tribes, states, and all water users to ensure there is certainty for all and an opportunity for economic development in local communities."

Oil Drilling In Alaska Refuge Hits Snag Over Budget Protocol.

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/29, Natter, Wasson) reports the GOP's move to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling faces a potential snag over a budget protocol, which may mean the measure would not be included in the tax overhaul legislation. Senate Democrats say the provision opening the region violates the Byrd Rule, which limits budget procedures to measures that are mainly fiscal in nature. The Senate parliamentarian ruled the ANWR provision, as it is written now, can be subject to a point of order which would require 60 votes to waive. Republicans are now working with the parliamentarian to find a way around the rule.

[Roll Call](#) (11/29, Lesniewski) reports Energy and Natural Resources Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski said changes are being worked out to make the provision compliant with the Byrd rule. She said, "We are finishing up the last of that and expect to have a curative amendment if you will as part of the process going forward. ... I can tell you that with anything when you're working within the reconciliation you've got to have it so that you're either raising revenue or the matters are not extraneous in any way." The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/29, Siegel) reports a Democratic source said the ANWR legislation, as written, must follow the National Environmental Policy Act, which is under the jurisdiction of the Environment and Public Works Committee, rather than the Energy and Natural Resources panel that considered the provision. If that is true, the Interior Department must write its own rules of leases in the region.

The [New York Times](#) (11/29, Friedman) reports the debate over ANWR drilling centers on a single question, "What is more important: the environment or economic development?" Mark Myers, former USGS director, said, "Is this too sacred a ground to be disturbed by oil and gas drilling? It's a question of what we are willing to accept as a society." Even if the measure passes the Senate, the bill would have to be reconciled with the House version that does not currently have the drilling provision. Drilling advocates worry that moderate Republicans could stall the effort.

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico](#) (11/29, Lefebvre).

Arizona Coal Plant To Stay Open Through 2019.

[The Hill](#) (11/29, Cama) reports “the coal-fired Navajo Generating Station has obtained the approval it needs to stay open through 2019.” The Salt River Project “announced Wednesday that the federal Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Indian Affairs had completed their environmental review of the lease extension.” The owners of the plant “lease the plant’s land from the Navajo Nation.” Originally, they had planned “to close it this year, but the Trump administration and the Navajo Nation pushed for a renewal, and the other utilities involved agreed to it.”

The [AP](#) (11/29) reports the Navajo Nation “and most owners of the Navajo Generating Station near Page signed off on it earlier this year,” but the agreement “also needed the OK from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and a former owner in the power plant. Those approvals came ahead of Friday’s deadline.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KJZZ-FM](#) Phoenix (11/29, Stone).

Trump To Announce Reductions To Two National Monuments: Reports.

The [Washington Times](#) (11/29, Morton) cites a [report](#) from the Salt Lake Tribune which said that during a visit to Utah next week, President Trump will “announce his approval of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s recommendation that two national monuments be shrunk.” The Tribune cited “sources familiar with the trip,” who said Trump “will reduce the size of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments.”

Also reporting are the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (11/29, Brean), the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (11/29, Embury-Dennis), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (11/29, Roche).

Mineral Exploration Sector To Host Meeting.

The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (11/29) reports that the American Exploration & Mining Association’s 123rd annual meeting will open Dec. 4 at the Nugget Casino Resort in Sparks. Casey Hammond, deputy assistant secretary for Land & Minerals Management at the Interior Department will speak at the Welcoming Keynote Luncheon.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Connecticut, Tribes Sue Feds Over Stalled Action On Compact.

The [AP](#) (11/29) reports that Connecticut and the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes are “suing the federal government for failing to act on compact changes needed before a new casino can be built to compete with the MGM casino in Springfield, Massachusetts.” Because the Interior Department “did not act on the compact amendments” Gov. Dannel P. Malloy “reached with the tribes within 45 days of their submission, as required, the lawsuit claims the amendments should now be deemed as having been approved.”

Also reporting are the [Connecticut Post](#) (11/29, Lockhart), the [New London \(CT\) Day](#) (11/29, Hallenbeck), the [Torrington \(CT\) Register Citizen](#) (11/30, Lockhart), the [Connecticut Mirror](#) (11/29, Pazniokas), the [Hartford \(CT\) Courant](#) (11/29, Gosselin), and [WWLP-TV Springfield \(MA\)](#) Springfield, MA (11/29, Davis).

Bureau Of Indian Education

Additional Coverage: Woman Settles Suit Against Haskell, US Over Alleged Rape.

Additional coverage that “a woman who sued Haskell Indian Nations University after she said she was raped by two students in a dorm on the Kansas campus has settled her lawsuit” was provided by the [AP](#) (11/29).

Bureau Of Land Management

Ranchers Make ‘Good Arguments’ For Ownership – BLM Dandidate.

[E&E Publishing](#) (11/29, Yachnin) reports that “Wyoming-based attorney Karen Budd-Falen, who is vying to lead the Bureau of Land Management, recently suggested that ranchers who believe

federal grazing permits give them ownership of the land make 'good arguments,' but she stopped short of endorsing the concept pushed by Cliven Bundy and others." Budd-Falen "made the remarks at a recent forum in Hamilton, Mont., that focused on land-use planning in Ravalli County, Mont." Budd-Falen said, "I know that there are scholars that argue that your grazing use on your grazing allotment is private property. I've heard the arguments." The article notes that "Budd-Falen declined to say whether she agrees, however, noting that no federal court has ruled to date on the question of whether grazing permits translate to private property rights."

Ruling Preventing Idaho Horse Herd Sterilization Is Appealed.

The [AP](#) (11/29, Ridler) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is "appealing a federal court ruling preventing the sterilizing of a herd of wild horses in southwestern Idaho that opponents of the plan fear could set a precedent." The notice filed Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Idaho "challenges a ruling in September ordering the BLM to revise its 2015 plan." The plan "calls for sterilizing the herd and replenishing it with wild horses captured elsewhere to maintain a herd of 50 to 200 horses."

US House Delays Vote On Minn. Mining Bill.

The [Bemidji \(MN\) Pioneer](#) (11/29, Myers) reports that "the U.S. House on Wednesday debated legislation that would reopen areas near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in northern Minnesota to copper-nickel exploration and potential mining, but stopped short of taking any vote." Members "hotly debated the bill that would end an Obama-administration ban on exploration and mining near the federal wilderness." However, "a memo from the House whip said a final vote was postponed until Thursday, Nov. 30."

Quagga Mussels Cause Stir Among State, Federal Agencies.

The [Havasu \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (11/30, Messick) reports that "multiple state and federal agencies are expected to meet next Wednesday in Lake Havasu City to address the growing threat posed by" the spread of quagga mussels. According to BLM spokeswoman Stephanie Carman, "the meeting is intended to bring federal, state, tribal and local agencies together with stakeholders to develop and draft a Lower Colorado River strategy to contain invasive mussels." Carman "said she expects a coordinated, area-wide containment effort by all parties, focusing on inspection and decontamination of long-term watercraft including outreach, education and inspection."

BLM Announces Proposed \$6-Per-Vehicle Fee For Guffey Gorge Area And More.

The [Canon City \(CO\) Daily Record](#) (11/29) reports that "to provide much needed infrastructure and services to accommodate current visitation, the Bureau of Land Management is proposing a new \$6-per-vehicle fee for a day-use pass at Guffey Gorge, also known as Paradise Cove, located in Park County." The fee would "specifically go to installing lavatories and a paved parking lot to improve the experience for the increasing number of visitors that are drawn to Guffey Gorge for its scenic value and unique, water-based recreation opportunities." The fee would be implemented "May 15 to Sept. 30 from dawn to dusk."

Montana Official Says Downed Line Might Have Sparked Wildfire.

The [AP](#) (11/30) reports that the Bureau of Land Management "states a fire that burned about 12 acres (5 hectares) of its land along the banks of the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River might have started after high winds downed a power line." BLM spokeswoman Sarah Holm "says the fire was contained as of noon Wednesday, but crews are expected to continue mopping up the fire for a couple of days due to lingering hot spots."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Cape Wind Opponents Appeal Federal Decision Upholding Lease.

The [AP](#) (11/29, Press) reports opponents of the Cape Wind project "are appealing a federal agency's decision to leave in place the long-stalled project's ocean lease." The Alliance to Protect Nantucket Sound has "filed a notice of appeal...with the Department of the Interior's Board of Land Appeals along with the town of Barnstable, the Massachusetts Fishermen's Partnership, the Aquinnah Wampanoag tribe and local other organizations." According to opponents of the project, "federal officials should have taken into consideration that the project is no longer viable. Cape Wind officials didn't immediately comment."

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Italian Oil Company Given Drilling Permit In Alaska.

[UPI](#) (11/29, Graeber) reports in continuing coverage that the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement has approved Eni's application to drill from an artificial island in the Beaufort Sea starting next month. The agency predicts Eni's preliminary effort could lead to 20,000 bpd in production. Mark Fesmire, BSEE director in Alaska, said, "Exploration must be conducted safely and responsibly in relation to the Arctic environment and we will continue to engage Eni as they move forward with drilling its exploratory well." The [Daily Caller](#) (11/29, Bastasch) reports BSEE Director Scott Angelle said, "Responsible resource development in the Arctic is a critical component to achieving American energy dominance. ... BSEE is committed to working with our Alaskan Native and Industry partners by taking a thoughtful and balanced approach to oil and gas exploration, development and production in the Arctic."

[Offshore Energy Today](#) (11/29) also provided coverage.

Fish And Wildlife Service

US Adopts Recovery Plan For Mexican Wolves, Lawsuit Planned.

The [AP](#) (11/29, Bryan) reports that "after decades of legal challenges and political battles that have pitted states against the federal government, U.S. wildlife managers on Wednesday finally adopted a plan to guide the recovery of a wolf that once roamed parts of the American Southwest and northern Mexico." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "considered tens of thousands of public comments — from state lawmakers and business groups to independent scientists and environmentalists — as it worked to meet a court-ordered deadline to craft the recovery plan." Sherry Barrett, the Mexican wolf recovery coordinator, said, "This plan really provides us a roadmap for where we need to go to get this species recovered and delisted and get its management turned back over to the states and tribes."

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (11/29, Hayden) reports that "the target number of wolves required for downlisting the species from 'endangered' to 'threatened' — an average of at least 320 individuals in the U.S. over a four-year period — remains the same, although the threshold for the Mexican population was increased from 170 to 200 individuals." The article notes that "to be delisted entirely, the U.S. population located in New Mexico and Arizona must average at least 320 wolves over an eight-year period."

The [AP](#) (11/29) reports that "environmental groups say they intend to sue the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service over its plan for recovering the endangered Mexican gray wolf in the American Southwest and northern Mexico." The groups claim "the plan contains shortcomings that will hinder recovery of the predator and could threaten to lead to the extinction of the wolves."

Also reporting are [Reuters](#) (11/29, Zuckerman), the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (11/29, Moss), the [Santa Fe \(NM\) Reporter](#) (11/29, Miller), the [Silver City \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (11/29), and [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (11/29).

Grizzly Managers Face Hurdles On Way To Delisting.

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (11/29, Chaney) reports that bear managers met Wednesday "to finish their strategy for moving grizzlies from federal to state control by next summer." According to the article, "that would give the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee the scientific and policy research it needs to propose a delisting rule to the federal government."

[Courthouse News](#) (11/29, Lundquist) reports that "around 70 people crowded into a Missoula conference room to hear Hilary Cooley, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery Coordinator, clarify the three tasks remaining before the agency could remove the Continental Divide grizzly bears from the endangered species list." Cooley said, "We are required to evaluate whether recovery goals are met and also to evaluate the threats. So we've started a process to do just that and it's kind of long."

Meanwhile, the [AP](#) (11/29, Freedman) reports that "in this year when the Greater Yellowstone grizzly was delisted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from federal protection under the Endangered Species Act and their management returned to Wyoming, Montana and Idaho, there have been 13 bear-human conflicts in the demographic monitoring area, injuries to four people and seven bears shot."

National Park Service

National Park Fee Hike Will Hurt Gateway Communities, Study Says.

[Montana Public Radio](#) (11/29) reports that “a proposed national park fee increase from \$30 to \$70 for a seven-day pass likely will negatively affect the gateway communities near the parks, according to a new study by the University of Montana.” The study “says that Yellowstone National Park gateway communities can expect to see an estimated loss of \$3.4 million in spending in Yellowstone’s gateway communities as a result of higher park entrance fees.” UM’s Institute for Tourism and Recreation Research “says it expects reduced tourist revenues in gateway communities for other national parks as well.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (11/29).

The National Christmas Tree Lighting Is Thursday.

Prepare For A Dreadful Commute. The [Washington Post](#) (11/29, Lazo) reports that the annual lighting of the National Christmas Tree will take place Thursday. The event is expected “to disrupt traffic at the height of the afternoon rush.”

GV Expo: Mathew John Shares Four Steps To Creating Low-Budget Video.

[TV Technology](#) (11/29, Balderston) reports that Mathew John, the audiovisual production specialist for the National Park Service addressed the 2017 Government Video Expo crowd about creating “the most-watched video in the history of the National Park Service.” He did this without being given a “budget for the project.” According to the article, “to achieve this, John told the GV Expo audience, he employed four key methods for creating impactful videos: Trust your vision; take it all in; be creative; and give sincere credit.”

Why Cutting Historic Preservation Tax Credits Won’t Be Easy.

The [Huffington Post](#) (11/29) reports that “as Republicans in Congress contemplate scrapping the federal historic preservation tax credit, recent experience in several states shows that it may not be easy.” The article notes that “efforts to roll back similar tax credits in a handful of states have run into opposition from preservation advocates, small town mayors, commercial developers and builders, all of whom depend on the credits to fund the reconstruction and revitalization of historic downtowns and rural buildings — and argue the credits more than cover their costs by generating jobs and tax revenue.” Meanwhile, “supporters of the historic preservation tax credit are gearing up for what they expect to be a struggle to protect it.”

Muir Woods’ Neighbors Question Planned Parking System.

The [Marin \(CA\) Independent Journal](#) (11/29, Prado) reports that the National Park Service held meeting Tuesday night on the Muir Woods parking reservation system. According to the article, “residents who live around Muir Woods are taking a wait-and-see approach to a new parking reservation system that debuts in January, some voicing concern that confused tourists may flood their neighborhoods if they are turned away from the national monument.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/29, Forgione).

Officials Drafting Document To Guide Freedom Riders Monument.

The [Anniston \(AL\) Star](#) (11/29, Gaddy) reports that “more than a dozen local and federal officials met at McClellan on Wednesday to start the process of writing down what makes Anniston’s Freedom Riders National Monument special to the country and how leaders will best care for it.” According to the article, “Park Service staff and local leaders on Wednesday were on the second of a three-day workshop to create the first draft of what the agency calls a foundational document.” Ben West, chief planning officer for the southeast region of the National Park Service, said, “This document and the information we’re working on becomes the foundation for how the park will be managed in the future.”

Officials Plan To Cull At Least 600 Yellowstone Bison.

The [AP](#) (11/29) reports that “bison managers expect between 600 and 900 of the animals at Yellowstone National Park to be culled this winter by hunting or slaughter.” Federal, state and tribal officials met in Montana on Tuesday to discuss “the details for a winter management plan for the bison herds, agreeing the population should be decreased or stabilized.” According to park biologists, “the removal of 600 bison would keep the population relatively stable.”

Conservation Groups Sue Over Fire Island Deer Culling Plan.

[Newsday \(NY\)](#) (11/29, Dowdy) reports that "two environmental conservation organizations have filed a federal lawsuit against the Fire Island National Seashore and National Park Service to block a plan that would allow the hunting of white-tailed deer on Fire Island." According to the article, "Newark-based Wildlife Preserves and Washington-based Animal Welfare Institute filed the suit Wednesday in the U.S. District Court's Eastern District, which includes Long Island." The groups are "protesting provisions of a plan released in December 2015, which seeks to control the deer population, since they have no natural predators on the barrier island."

Gauthier Named Nez Perce National Historical Park Superintendent.

The [Clearwater \(ID\) Tribune](#) (11/29) reports that the National Park Service has named Mike Gauthier to be the next superintendent of Nez Perce National Historical Park. Gauthier succeeds Tami DeGrosky who retired in April.

Ellis Squires House Added To National Register Of Historic Places.

The [East Hampton \(NY\) Press](#) (11/29, Gordon) reports that the Ellis Squires Jr. House has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Office Of Insular Affairs

Bernie Sanders Introduces \$146 Billion Bill To Rebuild And Modernize Infrastructure Of U.S.

Virgin Islands And Puerto Rico. The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (11/28) reports that Sen. Bernie Sanders "on Tuesday introduced a massive bill in the U.S. Senate that would rebuild and modernize the infrastructures of the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, a measure costing \$146 billion." The bill "would transform the territories' energy, housing, education, agriculture, transportation and health care systems." The legislation's "total sum of \$146 billion would be segmented into three main categories: \$62 billion would be granted to the governments of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to address their fiscal challenges; \$51 billion for economic development and \$27 billion for infrastructure projects, according to a summary of the bill, seen here."

US Geological Survey

Culprit In Texas Quakes Likely Wastewater Injection, Say Researchers.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (11/29, Passut) reports that researchers from Southern Methodist University and the U.S. Geological Survey published a report which says "seismic activity within two geologic regions in Texas supports the assertion that a series of earthquakes that has struck the area since 2009 were caused by human activity." The researchers analyzed fault displacements in the Forth Worth Basin and the northern Mississippi Embayment. According to the researchers, the most significant discovery is that seismic reflection data "found no evidence of active faults for the past 300 million years in the" Forth Worth Basin, but the northern Mississippi Embayment "has had active faults for the past 65 million years."

Additional coverage was provided by [Public News Service](#) (11/29).

USGS Issues New Map Of Region.

The [Leadville \(CO\) Herald Democrat](#) (11/29) reports that the U.S. Geological Survey has "released a geologic map and companion pamphlet featuring the Arkansas River Valley region in north-central Colorado." According to the article, "in addition to new field work, the map's authors used the latest technology to create this compilation, including airborne laser technology, to visually display the landscape at a very high resolution. It captures mineral deposits and some previously unknown fault systems." USGS scientist Karl Kellogg, the first author of the map, said, "Hikers and river runners can access the ages and types of rocks they are seeing, including granites and metamorphic rocks over on and a half billion years old and gravels that are still being formed today. This publication will likely be the authoritative source for understanding the geology of the Upper Arkansas Valley for minerals and water resources, as well as landslide and earthquake hazards, for years to come."

Additional Reading.

- *'Buried In Marshes': Sea-level Rise Could Destroy Historic Sites On US East Coast.* [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (11/29, Milman)
- *Deadlier Wildfires Spurred By Warming And New Homes.* [E&E Publishing](#) (11/29, Mulkern)
- *Dewberry Joins The USGS Coalition.* [The American Surveyor](#) (11/29)

Opinion Pieces

Cleaning Up At Interior.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Times](#) (11/29, Bishop), Rep. Rob Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, writes that the Interior Department is facing a "crucial juncture and an opportunity to shed its bloated, antiquated and bureaucratic ways." According to Bishop, "despite the importance of the department's work, its ever-expanding missions have fueled a decline in its ability to provide efficient, effective and transparent service to the American public." Bishop claims that "costly and duplicative bureaucratic policies have slowed resources development, leading to an \$8 billion decline in royalties during the past four years," and "this inefficiency ultimately shortchanges the American taxpayer." Bishop argues that "as Congress and the department consider reforms to address problems within the agency, the first step should be to bring decision-making and leadership back to the communities where Interior's policies and work impacts citizens the most — the western United States." Bishop asserts that "a shift away from the current Washington-centric management system toward a contemporary decentralized model that prioritizes accountability, transparency and service to the American people must occur. A primary responsibility of Congress is to conduct oversight of the executive branch."

Lack Of Transparency In National Monuments Review A Disservice To Americans.

For the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (11/29), Sen. Dick Durbin criticizes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for not making his recommendations on the Interior Department's review of recent national monument designations public. Durbin asserts that the Trump Administration's "effort to shrink our monuments is widely unpopular." He laments that "the lack of transparency throughout this process coupled with strong opposition isn't just frustrating for members of Congress, it's frustrating for every American who believes these public lands deserve protection for future generations."

Bill Would Streamline USBR, BIA Water Projects.

In an op-ed for the [Star of Grand Coulee \(WA\)](#) (11/29, Newhouse), Rep. Dan Newhouse writes that he has introduced H.R. 4419, Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Indian Affairs Water Project Streamlining Act, "to improve the Bureau of Reclamation and the Bureau of Indian Affairs' environmental planning and study process for new water projects." According to Newhouse, "this legislation would simply apply the same efficient processes that are now used by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to other federal agencies that oversee water infrastructure development." He claims that "this bill would speed up federal agencies' feasibility studies and develop a schedule for their completion."

Additional Reading.

- *Let's Not Ruin Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.* [Denver Post](#) (11/29, Miller).
- *Shhh! Don't Tell Democrats About The ANWR Section Of The Tax Bill!* [National Review](#) (11/29, Geraghty) .
- *Alaska's Wish List Getting Shorter.* [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (11/29, Jensen).
- *BLM Pick Is Wrong Direction For Agency.* [Bend \(OR\) Source](#) (11/30).
- *Congress Should Treat Wildfires Like Natural Disasters Florida Fires.* [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (11/29, Morgan).
- *Bryan County News, Bryancountynews.net – News And Sports For Fort Stewart, Richmond Hill And Pembroke.* [Bryan County \(GA\) News](#) (11/29, Hubbard).
- *Guest Opinion: Speak Up Today For Montana Sage-grouse Plan.* [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (11/29, Skorupa).
- *Tingle: Animals Also Need A Voice.* [Voice of OC \(CA\)](#) (11/29, Tingle).

Trump Talks Up GOP Senate Hopeful Hawley In Missouri Speech Touting Tax Plan.

Coverage of President Trump's speech in the St. Louis suburb of St. Charles, Missouri, intended to focus on tax cuts, highlights the President's attacks on Sen. Claire McCaskill and seeming endorsement of one of her potential Republican rivals in 2018. The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (11/29, McDermott) reports that Trump "traveled to Missouri to whip up support for the Republican tax plan," and "in a speech that appeared to be a mix of prepared remarks and ad libs, Trump several times expressed his support Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley in the state's Republican Senate primary next year." Though "at least three other Republicans are seeking the nomination," Trump "called Hawley 'our next senator.'"

The [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (11/29, Hancock, Lowry) reports that Trump contrasted Hawley with McCaskill, saying, "He wants to see a big tax cut. ... Your current senator does not want a tax cut. That's not good." The Star says the comment had "the dual effect of pressuring McCaskill ahead of the vote and effectively functioning as an endorsement of Hawley over the other GOP candidates seeking the nomination."

The [Springfield \(MO\) News-Leader](#) (11/29, Schmitt) reports that in his remarks before the crowd of about 1,000, Trump "said his focus was on helping 'the plumbers and the carpenters, the cops and the teachers, the truck drivers and the pipe fitters.'" He said, "It is not enough for the middle class to keep getting by. We want them to start getting ahead." [Politico](#) (11/29, McCaskill) reports that Trump "said 'the eyes of the world' are now on the Senate, where he said a successful vote 'will bring us one giant step closer to delivering an incredible victory for the American people: massive tax cuts and reform.'"

[KSDK-TV](#) St. Louis (11/29, 5:06 p.m. CST) reported Trump's "message was clear." Trump: "A vote to cut taxes is a vote to put America first again. ... It's time to take care of workers, to protect our communities, to rebuild our great country." KSDK added that the event was "less policy and more campaign-like." [KMOV-TV](#) St. Louis (11/29, 5:06 p.m. CST) reported that Trump was "trying to win over small-business owners who were invited here, as well as his supporters. ... The President plans to cut taxes, especially the corporate tax rate, down to 20% to try and spark economic growth."

The [Washington Times](#) (11/29, Miller) reports Trump "described the tax cut and tax reform legislation, which would reduce individual rates and slash corporate tax rates, as part of his 'America First' agenda." The [New York Times](#) (11/29, Tankersley, Appelbaum) reports that while Trump said the tax cuts will "'be rocket fuel' for the American economy...some economists question whether rocket fuel is needed at this point in the economic recovery and say that too much stimulus could ultimately backfire."

The [AP](#) (11/29) reports the President "appeared to give up on winning Democratic support," as he took aim at McCaskill, "a chief Republican target" in 2018, "and repeatedly boosting her rival." Trump said of McCaskill, "She wants your taxes to go up, she's weak on crime, she's weak on borders, she's weak on illegal immigration and she's weak on the military." [The Hill](#) (11/29, Jagoda) reports that Trump carried Missouri by 18 points in 2016, "and McCaskill's seat is thought to be one of the most vulnerable." Trump "has also given tax speeches in North Dakota, Indiana and Pennsylvania – all states with Democratic senators seeking reelection next year in states Trump carried."

The [New York Times](#) (11/29, Qiu) runs a fact-check piece on the President's Wednesday comments under the headline "Trump Sells Tax Plan With False Claims," writing that Trump "insisted that the tax bill is 'not good for me' or the wealthy." He said, "I keep hearing [Senate Minority Leader] Schumer, 'This is for the wealthy!' If it is, my friends don't know about it." However, the Times writes, "that is not supported by most analyses of the tax plans being considered in Congress." On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/29, story 4, 0:45, Muir), Jonathan Karl said that though the President is "insisting the Republican plan will actually hurt the rich...most independent analysts project the wealthy will benefit most." [KTVI-TV](#) St. Louis (11/29, 6:00 p.m. CST) reported Trump said that "Americans are going to see the largest tax cut in history, which he continues to reiterate even though some Republicans even conclude that that claim is not entirely true."

USA Today Analysis: Trump In Need Of A Win. In an analysis, [USA Today](#) (11/29, Jackson) writes that "for a man who centered his campaign for the White House around the promise of 'winning,' President Trump faces what may be a make-or-break political moment" with the tax bill. Republican political strategist Bruce Haynes said, "His brand was winning, and he needs a

win.”

Hawley GOP Rival Praises Trump And Moore In Video. The [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (11/29, Londberg) reports that one of Hawley’s GOP rivals, ex-congressional aide Courtland Sykes, “released a 40-minute ‘mini-documentary’ Tuesday in which he rails against the Washington Post, which reported sex assault allegations” against Alabama GOP Senate candidate Roy Moore. The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (11/29, McDermott) reports that in the video, Sykes “lionizes” Trump and praises Moore.

Trump Promises New North Korea Sanctions After Latest Missile Test.

[USA Today](#) (11/29, Korte) reports President Trump on Wednesday promised “additional major sanctions” against North Korea in response to the regime’s latest missile test. “Just spoke to President XI JINPING of China concerning the provocative actions of North Korea,” Trump [tweeted](#). “Additional major sanctions will be imposed on North Korea today. This situation will be handled!” Trump also spoke with the leaders of Japan and South Korea, but “didn’t immediately say who would be imposing the sanctions, or what they would entail.” White House deputy press secretary Raj Shah “declined to discuss the specific measures that Trump was talking about.” The [AP](#) (11/29, Pennington, Tong-Hyung), however, reports Secretary of State Tillerson “said the US could target financial institutions doing business with the North.”

The [Washington Times](#) (11/29, Boyer) reports that during the call with Xi, Trump urged the Chinese leader to use “all available levers” to pressure North Korea to halt its “provocations,” the White House said. “President Trump emphasized the need for China to use all available levers to convince North Korea to end its provocations and return to the path of denuclearization,” it added.

According to another [Washington Times](#) (11/29, Taylor) report, “sources close to the White House” say Trump’s “top aides have advised him to tread with ‘extreme caution’ toward” imposing “broad new sanctions against Chinese banks suspected of laundering money” for Kim’s regime. “We’ve got the Goldman Sachs faction that’s still pretty strong around the President, and they say if you start sanctioning Chinese banks, there will be ripple effects and it will damage the global economy,” one source told the Times.

Brian Todd reported on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (11/29) that while Trump has vowed to retaliate with tougher sanctions, “Kim [Jong-un]’s regime is emboldened. A North Korean official telling CNN they are not interested in diplomacy with the US until they have demonstrated their full nuclear capabilities.”

Also yesterday, [USA Today](#) (11/29, Durando) reports Trump “took another dig” at Kim, calling him “a sick puppy.” During an appearance in Missouri to discuss tax reform, he “digressed and took an impromptu shot” at “Little Rocket Man.” Wolf Blitzer reported on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (11/29) that Trump initially responded to North Korea’s latest launch with “restraint” on Twitter, but in Missouri on Wednesday the President “revived his attack” against Kim Jong-un. CNN showed Trump saying, “Little Rocket Man. ... He is a sick puppy.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/29, Tweed) says Trump has “sent mixed signals toward North Korea over the past month, at one point calling for Kim to make a deal and then slapping him for being a state sponsor of terrorism.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/29) editorial says the US and China have yet to impose the toughest sanctions possible against Pyongyang. The Journal concedes that while more pressure may not work in the end, the alternatives are either acquiescence or go to war.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (11/29, story 6, 0:25, Holt), meanwhile, reported that in an emergency UN Security Council meeting Wednesday, Ambassador Haley “said North Korea’s missile launch Tuesday brings the US closer to a war it doesn’t want. But if it comes, Haley warned, the regime will be ‘utterly destroyed.’” Noting that Tillerson “says he still wants to give peace a chance,” [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (11/29) showed Haley saying, “We have never sought war with North Korea and still today we do not seek it. If war does come, it will be because of continued acts of aggression like we witnessed yesterday. And if war comes, make no mistake, the North Korean regime will be utterly destroyed.”

[Reuters](#) (11/29, Nichols, Kim) reports Haley said the US “has asked China to cut off oil supply to North Korea,” and the [Washington Examiner](#) (11/29, Gehrke) reports she “also said that the UN should punish North Korea diplomatically.” Said Haley, “We should continue to treat North Korea as the international pariah it has become by taking its UN rights and privileges away, including its voting powers.”

Greg Palkot reported on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (11/29) that South Korea responded to the North’s test by staging its own missile drill. Fox showed South Korean President Moon Jae-in

saying the latest test “not only increase[s] tension on the Korean peninsula, but gravely endangers the international peace and security.” Palkot added that even “allies of Kim Jong-un showed concern.” Russia “condemn[ed] the launch,” and Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang was shown saying, “China is gravely concerned about and strongly opposed” to the latest test. The [Washington Times](#) (11/29, Taylor) says China “reacted cautiously” Wednesday to the latest North Korean missile test.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/29, story 6, 0:30, Muir) reported that new images released Wednesday night show Kim Jong-un and North Korean military officials “cheering” after the launch of a “new type of rocket, nuclear ready and able to reach anywhere in the mainland United States.”

A [Washington Post](#) (11/29, Taylor) analysis says this week’s missile test “quickly raised a number of questions for the United States and its allies,” but for “many observers – particularly those in East Asia — a more immediate query sprang to mind: Why would Pyongyang test a ballistic missile in the middle of a bitterly cold night?” The Post says “late tests may serve a broader strategy instead – perhaps showing that North Korea can launch a missile at anytime and anywhere with little warning, as they would have to in a real wartime scenario.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/29, Jeong, Cheng), meanwhile, says the latest test appeared to be designed to avoid crossing red lines that could provoke military action by the US, while demonstrating a technical advance.

David E. Sanger writes in the [New York Times](#) (11/29) that when Defense Secretary Mattis declared Tuesday that North Korea now had the missile capability to “threaten everywhere in the world, basically,” he “hinted at a long-running debate inside the United States government: Can the same strategy that worked against the Soviet Union – mutually assured destruction – also work against a far smaller adversary?” Sanger says, “The answer is yes, of course it can, if the problem is defined as keeping Pyongyang from unleashing a surprise attack on the continental United States. Or no, it probably can’t, if the problem of containing North Korea is more complex than simply protecting Los Angeles and Washington.”

A front-page story in the [Washington Post](#) (11/29, A1, Fifield), meanwhile, says that “beyond the bluster and the boasting, some analysts see a tiny glimmer of hope. Counterintuitive as it may seem, could the regime – with its pronouncement that it has completed its missile development – now be more open to talks with the United States?” North Korea’s “claims to have the entire United States in range do appear to be justified, experts said,” but it has “not proved that North Korea has the ability to attach a warhead to the missile and have it survive reentry into Earth’s atmosphere, let alone deliver it to a target.”

The [New York Times](#) (11/29) editorializes similarly says that this week’s test “paradoxically...could signal a chance for a new diplomatic opening.” While acknowledging that there are “many reasons to be skeptical of the North and pessimistic about the prospects for solving the crisis,” the Times says that “with regional tensions and the risk of miscalculation so acute, the United States and others, including China, Russia, South Korea and Japan, need to exhaust all avenues in the search for ways to limit the North Korean program.”

[USA Today Urges Congress To Explore Limiting Trump’s “First-Strike” Authority.](#) A [USA Today](#) (11/29) editorial says Trump’s “bombastic rhetoric, combined with his continuing barrage of seemingly unhinged tweets, has raised considerable angst about the president’s sole authority to unleash the Pentagon’s 1,800 deployed nuclear weapons – a reality that cries out for some kind of reassurance that an impulsive president cannot simply wreak havoc on a whim.” It says a “valuable public debate is unfolding on steps that might be taken to limit first-strike authority,” and argues that “exploring what new protocols might be appropriate, is one of Congress’ most urgent tasks.”

Brian P. McKeon, who served as principal deputy undersecretary of Defense for policy during the Obama Administration, writes in [USA Today](#) (11/29) that while “several senators are understandably concerned that Trump’s mercurial behavior could lead to nuclear war with North Korea...nonetheless, it would be a mistake to alter the system for authorizing nuclear weapons use.”

Trump Roundly Condemned For Retweeting Anti-Muslim Videos.

President Trump’s retweeting of three anti-Muslim videos posted by a leader of a far-right British political party gets wide and universally negative coverage, with reports saying that at least one of the videos has been discredited and several outlets reporting that Trump’s action was lauded by ex-KKK leader David Duke. Newspaper editorials argue that the President is encouraging anti-Muslim extremism, with the [New York Daily News](#) (11/29) directly stating that Trump is “mentally unwell and viciously lashing out.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/29, story 3, 1:50, Muir) reported that Trump retweeted three “inflammatory videos, one proven false, and the White House [is] saying whether the videos are real or not, it doesn’t matter.” ABC’s Jonathan Karl: “The President today avoided questions about the extremist videos he re-tweeted, videos that have provoked an international backlash. ... The White House insists this is about strong borders. [One of the videos](#) claims to show a Muslim migrant in the Netherlands beating a Dutch boy. But tonight, the Embassy of the Netherlands says that’s not true. They say the attacker was actually Dutch, tweeting, ‘Facts do matter.’ Still, the White House says it doesn’t matter if videos the President tweets are accurate.” White House press secretary Sarah Sanders: “Look, again, whether it’s a real video, the threat is real and that is what the President is talking about.” Karl: “Tonight, KKK leader David Duke [tweeted](#), ‘Thank God for Trump. That’s why we love him.’”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/29, story 6, 2:40, Mason) reported that the “re-tweets were widely condemned, even by the President’s political allies, British Prime Minister Theresa May, and television host Piers Morgan, who won Mr. Trump’s ‘Celebrity Apprentice.’” CBS’ Mark Phillips reported that Trump “re-tweeted three old, largely discredited videos.” [One](#) purportedly “shows extremists throwing somebody off a roof. It turned out to be a fight between rival political factions in Egypt, and a crime for which the perpetrators were sentenced to death. [Another](#) showed a jihadist fighter destroying a Christian statue, and a third claimed to show an Islamic immigrant in the Netherlands attacking a Dutch boy on crutches. It turns out both the attacker and victim were born and bred in Holland.” [Politico](#) (11/29, Nelson) reports that Morgan “reacted to Trump’s retweets with shock, [writing](#) on Twitter on Wednesday: ‘What the hell are you doing retweeting a bunch of unverified videos by Britain First, a bunch of disgustingly racist far-right extremists?’”

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/29, story 4, 2:25, Holt), Kristen Welker reported that the “backlash [was] immediate on Capitol Hill.” Sen. Lindsey Graham: “It empowers fringe elements on the right who had been associated with religious bigotry.” Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN): “I think they are also a part of his continuing hatred against Muslims, but what he’s really trying to do is to divide Americans.” Welker: “Former KKK leader David Duke praised the President’s re-tweets. ... Graham firing back, saying anything that makes David Duke happy is probably a bad thing.” Sen. Cory Gardner said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (11/29), “I don’t agree with the President on this.”

[USA Today](#) (11/29, Jackson, Onyanga-Omara) reports that the retweets “earned the president rebukes from the British and Dutch governments, Muslim groups, and some Republican lawmakers.” The [New York Times](#) (11/29, A1, Sullivan, Bilefsky) writes, “It is unusual to see an American president promote this type of content. But the videos are consistent with how Mr. Trump has approached Islam, particularly during the 2016 presidential campaign, when he said, ‘Islam hates us’ and called for a ‘total and complete shutdown’ of Muslims coming to the United States.” The Times also reports that Trump’s “tweets were welcomed” by Duke.

The [AP](#) (11/30, Lucey, Lawless) reports that Sanders “said Trump was simply promoting border security and suggested that verifying the content was not a top concern.” Dana Bash said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (11/29), “Sarah Huckabee Sanders found herself in the very familiar position of having to defend the indefensible today. I don’t know how she does it, but, you know, she did what she needed to do and there wasn’t a whole lot else she could say, I think, except maybe if she wanted to quit.” Michael Gerson of the Washington Post [tweeted](#), “The White House that complains almost daily about ‘fake news’ doesn’t care if these videos are fake news as long they serve real purposes. Sanders just tacitly endorsed the concept of propaganda, and she said it out loud.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/29, Nicholas, Douglas) reports that White House staffers were reportedly caught off guard by the retweets. One official said that Trump was simply scrolling through social media and “just hit the retweet button.” [Roll Call](#) (11/29, Bennett) reports that the President shared the tweets “without comment, and without explaining the context of each video.”

Anderson Cooper said on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (11/29) that by retweeting “hate propaganda from a far-right extremist group,” Trump “embraced the message of racist, bigoted bullies.” Former State Department spokesman John Kirby said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (11/29), “This feeds into the narrative of ISIS. They see this as a clash of cultures between the East and West, between Islam and Christianity and Judaism and this feeds right into it. So it’s going to probably encourage, if not incite, more violence by some of these extremist groups.”

Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX) [tweeted](#), “Our Nation deserves so much more from our leaders than this untruthful, shameful fear-mongering.” Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ) tweeted, “First his

failed #MuslimBan, now retweeting anti-Muslim videos. Trump is showing his true colors." Rep. Hank Johnson (D-GA) [tweeted](#), "Shameful that President Trump uses his position to promote inflammatory attacks on all Muslims by validating propaganda of one extremist organization."

Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA) [tweeted](#), "Spreading hate, lies and disinformation to 44 million followers isn't Presidential, it's dangerous and emboldens violence." Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA) [tweeted](#), "President Trump's tweets this morning are anti-Muslim, anti-human and anti-American." Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) [tweeted](#), "Hate crimes are on the rise, so what does @POTUS do? Spends the morning stoking fear of Muslims with videos from a hate group. America is better than this, even if our President is not."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/29) editorializes, "Another day, another bizarre and irresponsible tweet by the president of the United States. ... But President Trump's retweeting early Wednesday of a series of anti-Muslim videos posted by a far-right figure in Britain is worthy of comment – and condemnation." The retweeting "continues – indeed, escalates – Trump's demonization of Muslims," and Trump "also has given aid and comfort to anti-Muslim bigots."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/29) editorializes, "Trump's promotion of vicious propaganda risks encouraging further violence and emboldening those who seek to drum up hate. That includes figures such as former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke, who crowed over Mr. Trump's refusal to condemn far-right violence in Charlottesville and wrote in response to the president's Wednesday tweets, 'Thank God for Trump!'"

The [New York Daily News](#) (11/29) editorializes, "After his latest spasm of deranged tweets, only those completely under his spell can deny what growing numbers of Americans have long suspected: The President of the United States is profoundly unstable. He is mad. He is, by any honest layman's definition, mentally unwell and viciously lashing out."

Carl Bildt of the Council on Foreign Relations [tweeted](#), "It truly defies belief that the President of the United States of America starts his day by scanning extreme anti-Muslim social media and then retweets them to the entire world."

The [New York Times](#) (11/29, A1, Bilefsky, Castle) profiles Britain First, "a fringe group that insists that white Christian civilization is under threat from Muslims," under the headline "British Far-Right Group Exults Over Attention From Trump." [Bloomberg News](#) (11/29, Hunter, Talev) and [The Hill](#) (11/29, Fabian) also have reports.

Ellison: Trump A "Racist." [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (11/29, Siddiqui) reports that Rep. Ellison said in an interview, "The president is racist. There's no doubt about that in my mind. ... He is a politician who is cynically trying to divide people along racial and religious lines."

AP Fact Check: Dutch Perpetrator Not An Immigrant. In a fact-check piece, the [AP](#) (11/29, Woodward) writes, "Trump's penchant for sharing doctored images and making false statements on Twitter means that content tweeted or retweeted by the president should be viewed skeptically." The [New York Times](#) (11/29, Specia) reports, "The first video was of a teenager attacking another boy, and was presented in the tweet as footage of a 'Muslim migrant' attacking a Dutch boy. But according to local officials, both boys are Dutch, and neither is a migrant." The [Washington Times](#) (11/29, Shepherd) reports, "Shortly before 2:30 p.m. EST, the Dutch embassy's Twitter account responded to Mr. Trump's retweet, [saying](#), 'Facts do matter. The perpetrator of the violent act in this video was born and raised in the Netherlands. He received and completed his sentence under Dutch law.'" But [Breitbart](#) (11/29, Munro) criticizes "progressives who focused on the process, not the message."

Trump Responds To May, Tells Her To Focus On "Radical Islamic Terrorism" In UK. The [Washington Post](#) (11/29, A1, Booth, Adam) reports, "In a sharp personal rebuke, the British government told President Trump he was 'wrong' to retweet" the videos. The [Washington Times](#) (11/29, Boyer) reports that White House spokesman Raj Shah "told reporters that the president 'has the greatest respect for the British people and for Prime Minister May.'" However, [Bloomberg News](#) (11/29, Hunter, Olorunnipa, Talev) reports that Trump "escalated [the] trans-Atlantic spat" by [tweeting](#), ".@Theresa_May, don't focus on me, focus on the destructive Radical Islamic Terrorism that is taking place within the United Kingdom. We are doing just fine!"

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/29), "Remember for a minute that he holds the office that was held by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and that the Prime Minister holds the office that was once held by Winston Churchill. ... And now think of an American President who is retweeting what are probably false, and certainly racist, tweets from a foreign extremist group drawing a rebuke from the UK Prime Minister. The degree to which this relationship and our leadership has been degraded against what we saw in the days of World War II is just really unthinkable and unfathomable."

WPost A1 Analysis: Trump "Acting Emboldened" Despite Regular Condemnation. The

[Washington Post](#) (11/29, A1, Rucker, Parker) writes on its front page, "Trump this week disseminated on social media three inflammatory and unverified anti-Muslim videos, took glee in the firing of a news anchor for sexual harassment allegations despite facing more than a dozen of his own accusers and used a ceremony honoring Navajo war heroes to malign a senator with a derogatory nickname, 'Pocahontas.'" But "despite the now-routine condemnations, the president is acting emboldened." The Post writes that "people close to" the President say that he "has internalized the belief that he can largely operate with impunity."

White House Not Expecting A Government Shutdown.

[Reuters](#) (11/29) reports the White House said Wednesday that while it is not expecting a government shutdown next month, it "has contingency plans in place if the US Congress fails to reach a deal on funding the government by a Dec. 8 deadline." Traveling with the President on Air Force One, White House spokesman Raj Shah told reporters, "We are not anticipating a shutdown. We think that we'll be able to work together. But the developments of the last 24 hours are discouraging. ... There are always contingencies in place. We hope it doesn't get to that."

As Senate Votes To Start Tax Cut Debate, Pence Dines With Wavering Republicans.

[Politico](#) (11/29, Nussbaum) reports that a "senior administration official" said Vice President Pence was to host four Republican senators at his residence for dinner Wednesday. Pence's guests were to include Sens. James Lankford, David Perdue, and Steve Daines, as well as Jeff Flake, "who has clashed fiercely and publicly with President Donald Trump." The meeting comes ahead of an expected Senate vote on "a major tax cut, the administration's top legislative priority." Flake and Lankford "are among a group of Republican senators who have raised concerns about how much the tax cut could add to the national debt."

Meanwhile, the Senate voted 52-48 Wednesday to begin debate on the tax measure. The [Washington Post](#) (11/29, Werner, Paletta, Debonis) says the "party-line vote was an important victory for Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and President Trump," but "it was not a guarantee of ultimate success, as several Republican lawmakers agreed to open debate on the bill so they could pursue amendments and have not yet committed to voting for final passage." [USA Today](#) (11/29, Shesgreen, Collins) says the vote paved the way "for a contentious floor fight even as GOP negotiators were still haggling over major changes behind closed doors." Some Republicans who voted to begin debate "are not yet committed to supporting the final measure." McConnell said on [Fox News' The Ingraham Angle](#) (11/29), "There will be plenty of amendments both on the Republican side and the Democratic side. But what I think we have 100 percent agreement on is that we want to do comprehensive tax reform for the first time since the second Reagan Administration. You know, the dials may twist a little bit as we go along, but the core is middle class tax relief and making our businesses more competitive against other businesses around the world and to keep our jobs here in this country."

Republican leaders "still lack firm commitments from enough of their members to ensure passage later in the week," the [New York Times](#) (11/29, Kaplan, Rappeport) reports. As GOP leaders try to secure sufficient votes to pass the measure, changes under consideration include an idea floated by Sens. Marco Rubio and Mike Lee to "nudge the corporate tax rate from the proposed 20 percent rate to 22 percent," which "would still result in a large cut from the current top rate of 35 percent, but would give lawmakers" additional funds to use for an expanded child tax credit. However, "the White House was not receptive." Rubio said on [Fox News' The Ingraham Angle](#) (11/29), "A lot of people, because they make \$40,000 a year, they don't get to fully benefit from the child tax credit because they don't have a lot of income tax liability but they pay payroll tax. They are the working people in this country that have been ignored and forgotten. They are the people that elected President Trump because they have been not just ignored but disrespected. All this says is you are going to keep more of your own money. That's what the amendment does."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/29, A1, Hughes, Rubin) quotes White House spokesman Raj Shah as saying that President Trump "would not support raising the corporate rate as outlined" in the amendment. Shah added, "We do support the child tax credit. ... We also think it's important to make businesses more competitive." In an editorial the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/29) blasts the Rubio-Lee amendment, saying the proposal to increase the corporate tax rate would be destructive and the plan to make the increase the child tax credit would create a disincentive to work.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/29, Ferrechio) says Senate passage "is not yet assured" as

"several Republicans remain undecided, including Sens. John McCain" and Flake. In addition, Sen. Bob Corker "said he is seeking a language that would raise taxes or impose spending cuts if the tax reductions that are part of the legislation lead to an increase in the deficit," and Sens. Ron Johnson Steve Daines "are seeking an expansion of tax cuts for small businesses in exchange for their support." Sen. Susan Collins "said she has filed a list of amendments, including one that would restore a deduction for state and local property taxes but install a \$10,000 cap."

In his column for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/29), Karl Rove writes that Trump has not made a convincing case for tax cuts. Rove argues that occasional rallies promising "big, beautiful tax cut" will not to win over wavering Republicans, particularly when coupled with Twitter attacks on senators whose votes he needs. [Politico](#) (11/29, Kim) takes a more optimistic view, reporting that "the GOP holdouts...are falling into place for Republican leadership." Lankford "said Wednesday morning that he would support the overhaul, particularly with a backstop measure meant to help guard against a ballooning deficit," and "another wavering GOP senator," Sen. Jerry Moran "said he would back the bill, too." Johnson and Corker, [Politico](#) adds, "voted in favor of the measure in the Senate Budget Committee on Tuesday after threatening to withhold their votes." However, [Politico](#) says McCain and Flake are "still wildcards for the GOP." [The Hill](#) (11/29, Shelbourne) cites an MSNBC reporter who said Sen. Lisa Murkowski "will vote for the tax legislation."

Democratic Sen. Chris Coons said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (11/29), "A number of real fiscal conservatives who continue to be concerned about deficits and debt like Senator Corker, are trying to add into this bill some sort of trigger mechanism that would roll back some of the bigger tax cuts if the growth that's promised doesn't materialize and deficits soar. That might be too little, too late to fix the hole in our annual budget that would be caused by this bill but I at least commend Sen. Corker for trying to slow down this hurtling train and look at it and try to fix it. I'm still struck by the difference between what Donald Trump campaigned on and what this bill is actually delivering, which will be significant cuts that will harm lots of middle class Americans by eliminating all sorts of things on which they rely and giving permanent tax cuts to America's corporations."

The President later [tweeted](#), "Funny to hear the Democrats talking about the National Debt when President Obama doubled it in only 8 years!"

The [New York Times](#) (11/29, Stolberg)says while Senate Republicans "entered the final stages of the health care push earlier this year," with the proposal "clearly on its last legs," on the tax measure, Republicans "are approaching the finish line in a fundamentally different posture: confident, cooperative, even cocky." However, in his column for the [New York Times](#) (11/29, Rosenthal) Andrew Rosenthal questions wavering GOP senators' claim that Trump "assured them over lunch that he's going to fix the bill," arguing that "no one can rely on anything Trump says."

NYTimes: Trump Sought Larger Tax Cut For Rich While Ivanka Wanted Expanded Child Tax Credit. The [New York Times](#) (11/29, Tankersley) reports that Trump in "a suggestion that pitted his priorities against his daughter and Republican senators intent on helping the middle class," urged senators to repeal the ACA's individual mandate "and use the proceeds to slash the top tax rate paid by the richest Americans." Ultimately, he "accepted only a partial victory," getting the repeal of the individual mandate, but giving up on "an income tax rate cut that would have directly benefited him personally. Instead, Ivanka Trump and her allies in the Senate prevailed in their push to include an expanded child tax credit." The Times cites "two White House officials" who disputed that "Ms. Trump had split with her father." According to the officials, "middle-income tax relief was one of the president's priorities and that Ms. Trump worked in lock step with the administration on all aspects of tax reform."

NBC: Tax Bill Could Make College Less Affordable. [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/29, story 5, 2:05, Holt) examined the potential impact of the Republican tax plans on college education, reporting that the House bill "would do away with many deductions that lower and middle class families rely on to make college more afford." NBC (Costello) added that across the country Wednesday, there were "walkouts and protests at Republican plans to target college students." Twelve million Americans would "no longer allowed to deduct student loan interest from their taxes." Tuition waivers for graduate students would be treated "as income, hitting them with a 400 percent tax increase, yet little income to pay for it." NBC added that while "the President insists tax reform is good for the country overall," there is "concern that a plan which cuts taxes on corporations and the rich could make college less affordable for millions of families."

NYTimes Analysis: Johnson, Daines Are Wrong About Taxation Of Pass-Throughs. A [New York Times](#) (11/29, Cohen) analysis says that while Johnson and Daines "say they are withholding

their support to stick up for Main Street” because “big corporations...are being given preferential treatment compared with smaller businesses that are organized differently and known as pass-throughs,” the “David-and-Goliath story” they “are spinning...is wrong.” Pass-throughs bear a lower tax burden than corporations and would continue to under both the House and Senate versions of the bill.

“Trigger” Proposal Draws Criticism. [Reuters](#) (11/29, Morgan, Cornwell) reports that Corker’s “trigger proposal has become a target of growing criticism among conservative Republicans and lobbyists, including interest groups aligned with the billionaire industrialists Charles and David Koch, who say the prospect of tax hikes could undermine future economic growth.” A [Washington Post](#) (11/29) editorial argues that while GOP leaders have been considering a trigger to “mollify” Corker and others, “the trigger ideas floating around the Senate fall short.” While “a good trigger would require tax adjustments large enough to fully offset any revenue shortfall the bill created,” the versions being discussed “reportedly would cover only \$350 billion worth of shortfalls over 10 years.” The Post argues that a “weak trigger provision...would make the tax bill only somewhat less grotesque.”

Simpson, Bowles: Senators Face “Moment Of Truth” For Country’s Fiscal Future. In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (11/29), former Sen. Alan Simpson, and former White House chief of staff Erskine Bowles, who co-chaired the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, write that the GOP tax plan “reads as if it were developed for a country whose debt problems have been solved, when in reality debt is the highest it has ever been other than around World War II.” They argue that lawmakers who care about “our nation’s fiscal future” face a “moment of truth” in which they “can return to the era of deficit denial, or they can stand up for future generations.”

WSJournal Analysis: US Economy Reaches Its Potential Output For First Time In Decade.

The US economy is running at full potential for the first time in over a decade, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/29, Leubsdorf) reports, as actual output of goods and services is equal to the supply of workers and productive inputs. S&P Global Ratings Chief US Economist Beth Ann Bovino said, “It’s the sweet spot. We’d like to be there for some time, but let’s see how long it lasts.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“The Senate Is Rushing To Pass Its Tax Bill Because It Stinks.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (11/29) argues that Senate Republicans’ objective with the tax bill is “speed and bowling over the opposition in hopes of claiming a partisan victory.” The Times adds that the nation should be “dismayed by the way senators...appear to be backing away from their principled objections based on half-measures promised by President Trump and the majority leader, Mitch McConnell, that will not address its big flaws.” The Times lists several provisions that “deserve to be called out,” saying they were “smuggled into the bill to please big Republican donors,” and “would never survive a more transparent process.”

“Is North Korea’s Nuclear Test A Sign Of Hope?” The [New York Times](#) (11/29) editorializes that North Korea’s missile test this week “paradoxically...could signal a chance for a new diplomatic opening.” While acknowledging that there are “many reasons to be skeptical of the North and pessimistic about the prospects for solving the crisis,” the Times says that “with regional tensions and the risk of miscalculation so acute, the United States and others, including China, Russia, South Korea and Japan, need to exhaust all avenues in the search for ways to limit the North Korean program.”

“Justice Long Delayed For Nazi Collaborator.” The [New York Times](#) (11/29) editorializes that 94-year-old Jakiw Palij, a man living in Queens who was a guard at “a Nazi camp that trained men who carried out orders to round up Jews for extermination” in his youth, should not have been allowed into this country at all, and should ideally be deported. The US government has had difficulty deporting Palij for two reasons: first, “he is not subject to American jurisprudence because the crimes were committed abroad and he is no longer a United States citizen;” second, “no country wants him.” The Times notes that it is not yet apparent if Rex Tillerson will take a new request to try to find another destination for Palij to heart.

Washington Post.

“Trump Retweets Hate.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/29) editorializes, “Trump’s promotion of

vicious propaganda risks encouraging further violence and emboldening those who seek to drum up hate. That includes figures such as former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke, who crowed over Mr. Trump's refusal to condemn far-right violence in Charlottesville and wrote in response to the president's Wednesday tweets, 'Thank God for Trump!'"

"Republicans May Add A 'Trigger' To Their Tax Bill. It Won't Work." A [Washington Post](#) (11/29) editorial argues that while GOP leaders have been considering a trigger that would raise taxes if growth doesn't generate as much revenue as expected to "mollify" Sen. Bob Corker and others, "the trigger ideas floating around the Senate fall short." While "a good trigger would require tax adjustments large enough to fully offset any revenue shortfall the bill created," the versions being discussed "reportedly would cover only \$350 billion worth of shortfalls over 10 years." The Post argues that a "weak trigger provision...would make the tax bill only somewhat less grotesque."

"Congress Must Do Right By Victims Of Harassment." The [Washington Post](#) (11/29) editorializes that in order to offer justice to victims of sexual harassment, the Congressional Office of Compliance must release more specific data regarding how harassment cases have been resolved in the past. This is also necessary to inform taxpayers of how much of their money was spent settling harassment complaints. The Post opines that House and Senate leadership must investigate the alleged misconduct of both Rep. John Conyers and Sen. Al Franken, respectively.

Wall Street Journal.

"Maximum Pressure On North Korea." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/29) editorial says the US and China have yet to impose the toughest sanctions possible against Pyongyang. The Journal concedes that while more pressure may not work in the end, the alternatives are either acquiescence or go to war.

"The Law Is What It Says." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/29) editorializes that the Supreme Court Justices' responses to oral arguments in *Digital Realty Trust, Inc. v. Somers* were an encouraging counter to an argument from Somers that would seek to rewrite Dodd-Frank based on a questionable interpretation of Congressional intent. Even the liberal Justices of the Court were able to recognize the clear language of the law that directly contradicted Somers' interpretation of it. The Journal opines that the responses invoked the spirit of Antonin Scalia.

"The Rubio-Schumer Amendment." In an editorial the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/29) blasts an amendment from Sens. Marco Rubio and Mike Lee to increase the Senate tax bill's from the proposed 20 percent rate to 22 percent to pay for an expanded child tax credit, saying the proposal to increase the corporate tax rate would be destructive and the plan to make the increase the child tax credit would create a disincentive to work.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Corporate Tax Rate In Flux As Senate Votes To Open Debate](#)

[Bitcoin Mania: Even Grandma Wants In On The Action](#)

[Matt Lauer's Firing Leaves NBC's \\$500 Million Franchise In Crisis](#)

[American Farm Towns, With Changing Priorities, Reject Industrial Agriculture](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Shares Inflammatory Anti-Muslim Videos, And Britain's Leader Condemns Them](#)

[British Far-Right Group Exults Over Attention From Trump](#)

[It Started As A Tax Cut. Now It Could Change American Life.](#)

[NBC Receives At Least 2 New Complaints About Matt Lauer](#)

[A Failure Of The Network News Star System](#)

[New York City's Ferry Fleet Is Off To A Fast Start](#)

Washington Post:

[When It Comes To Harassment Claims, Politics Is A Different Playing Field](#)

[Trump Rebuked Over Retweets](#)

[President Stirs The Pot Without Feeling Burned](#)

[A New N. Korea Provocation — Or A Window To Diplomacy?](#)

[Matt Lauer Fired: Misconduct Alleged](#)

[Endeavor To Infiltrate The Post Dated Back Months](#)

Financial Times:

[NBC Fires Matt Lauer Over "Inappropriate Sexual Behaviour" Claims](#)

[Siemens' Unit To Be Germany's Largest IPO Since 1996](#)

[Senators Debate Smaller US Corporate Tax Cut](#)

[Trump Causes Uproar By Retweeting Far-Right UK Group](#)

Washington Times:

[House Votes To Require Anti-Harassment Training, Faces Pressure To Cut Off Hush Funds](#)

["Pence Rule7": How Vice President Steers Clear Of Any Sexual Misconduct Scandal](#)

[Trump Urged To Take "Extreme Caution" Before Sanctioning Chinese Banks For North Korea](#)

[Deficit Hawks Propose Economic "Trigger" Linked To Tax Cuts](#)

[Supreme Court Grapples With Cellphone Privacy In Age Of Technology](#)

[Muslim Extremists End Religious Peace In Mali After Appointment Of Cardinal Zerbo](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Matt Lauer Fired; Tampa-Serial Killer; Trump-Muslim Tweet; Tax Reform Plan; John Conyers Sexual Allegations; North Korea-Missile Launch; Florida Teen Runaway; Missing Toddler; American Airline-Computer Error; Flu Season Warning; Christmas Tree Hauling.

CBS: Matt Lauer Fired; WH-Matt Lauer Fired; Minnesota Radio Host Fired; John Conyers Sexual Allegations; USA Gymnastics Sex Abuse Trial; Trump-Muslim Tweet; Tampa-Serial Killer; Justice Dept-Civil Rights Priority; Bosnian War Criminal-Suicide; Dog Treat Recall; US Obesity Statistics; Senior Drivers; Flight Baggage Fees.

NBC: Matt Lauer Fired; John Conyers Sexual Allegations; Minnesota Radio Host Fired; Trump-Muslim Tweet; Tax Reform Plan; North Korea-Missile Launch; Tampa-Serial Killer; Supreme Court-Cellular Privacy; American Airline-Computer Error; Bosnian War Criminal-Suicide; Flight Attendant Retiring.

Network TV At A Glance:

Matt Lauer Fired – 14 minutes, 10 seconds

Trump-Muslim Tweet – 6 minutes, 55 seconds

John Conyers Sexual Allegations – 6 minutes, 25 seconds

Tampa-Serial Killer – 5 minutes, 30 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Tax Reform Plan; Russia Meddling Investigation; Congress-Sexual Allegations; Matt Lauer Fired.

CBS: Matt Lauer Fired; John Conyers Sexual Allegations; North Korea-Missile Launch; Tax Reform Plan; Christmas Tree Lighting.

FOX: North Korea-Missile Launch; Congress-Sexual Allegations; Matt Lauer Fired; John Conyers Sexual Allegations.

NPR: North Korea-Missile Launch; John Conyers Sexual Allegations; Matt Lauer Fired; NOAA Appointment; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with the Crown Prince of Bahrain; takes part in lighting the National Christmas Tree.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a bilateral meeting with His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince of Bahrain; joins the President to participate in a meeting with His Royal Highness Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, the Crown Prince of Bahrain.

US Senate: 8:30 AM Dem Sens. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine host 'Commonwealth Coffee' honoring Virginia vets – Democratic Sens. Mark Warner and Tim Kaine host 'Commonwealth Coffee' honoring Virginia veterans, giving vets, active duty service members, their families, and Virginia's broader military community an opportunity to speak with the senators and members of their staff Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 325, Washington, DC
<http://warner.senate.gov/public/> <https://twitter.com/MarkWarner>

9:30 AM Dem Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse keynotes Hudson Institute report launch – Hudson Institute Kleptocracy Initiative launches new report ‘The United States of Anonymity: How America Became a Financial Secrecy Haven’, by journalist Casey Michel, via event with keynote from Democratic Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 562, Washington, DC <http://www.hudson.org> <https://twitter.com/HudsonInstitute>

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Rear Adm. (Ret.) Kenneth Braithwaite to be U.S. Ambassador to Norway; Carlos Trujillo to be U.S. Permanent Representative to the Organization of American States, with the rank of ambassador; Brock Bierman to be USAID Assistant Administrator; and M. Lee McClenny to be U.S. Ambassador to Paraguay Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of the nominations of Leonard Steven Grasz to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit; James Ho and Don Willett to be U.S. Circuit Judges for the Fifth Circuit; Terry Doughty to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana; Terry Fitzgerald Moorer to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama; Mark Saalfeld Norris Sr. to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee; Claria Horn Boom to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky; John Broomes to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Kansas; Rebecca Grady Jennings to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky; and Robert Earl Wier to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee hearing on ‘The Front Lines of the Opioid Crisis’ – Hearing on ‘The Front Lines of the Opioid Crisis: Perspectives from States, Communities, and Providers’, with testimony from Virginia Commonwealth University School of Dentistry Chair Dr A. Omar Abubaker; Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals Director Rebecca Boss; Wisconsin Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Managing Director Andrea Magermans; and Kentucky Justice and Public Safety Cabinet Secretary John Tilley Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on a future national defense strategy – Hearing with ‘Testimony From Outside Experts on Recommendations for a Future National Defense Strategy’, featuring Center for Strategic Budgetary Assessments President and CEO Dr Thomas Mahnken; RAND Corporation Senior Defense Research Analyst David Ochmanek; Heritage Foundation Center for National Defense Director Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Thomas Spoehr; SAIS Associate Professor of the Practice of Strategic Studies Dr Mara Karlin; and American Enterprise Institute Marilyn Ware Center for Security Studies Resident Fellow Mackenzie Eaglen Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm G50, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

2:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

2:00 PM Helsinki Commission briefing on Ukraine – ‘Ukraine: Report from the Front Lines’ Helsinki Commission briefing, with Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine Principal Deputy Chief Monitor Alexander Hug detailing the humanitarian consequences of the ongoing conflict in Eastern Ukraine, providing an overview of the role of OSCE monitors and the threats they face in carrying out their duties, and offering thoughts on future prospects Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC 215, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

US House: 8:00 AM NO LONGER ON CALENDAR: House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs markup hearing Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

9:30 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on DOI supplemental budget – Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on ‘Supplemental Oversight – Department of the Interior’, with testimony from Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt Location: Rm 2007, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on FEMA supplemental budget – Homeland Security Subcommittee hearing on ‘Supplemental Request – FEMA’, with testimony from Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Brock Long Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2359, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM NIH and FDA heads testify to House Commerce subcommittee on the 21st Century Cures Act – Health Subcommittee hearing on ‘Implementing the 21st Century Cures Act:

An Update from FDA and NIH', with testimony from National Institutes of Health Director Francis Collins; and Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources Committee markup hearing concludes – Markup hearing concludes on 'H.R. 1778, To provide that an order by the Secretary of the Interior imposing a moratorium on Federal coal leasing shall not take effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted, and for other purposes', 'H.R. 2630, La Paz County Land Conveyance Act', 'H.R. 3117, Transparency and Honesty in Energy Regulations Act of 2017', 'H.R. 3607, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish fees for medical services provided in units of the National Park System, and for other purposes', 'H.R. 3979, Keep America's Refuges Operational Act', 'H.R. 4299, To provide for the indefinite duration of certain military land withdrawals, to improve the management of lands currently subject to such withdrawals and to make the management of such lands more transparent, and for other purposes', and 'H.R. 4300, Admiral Lloyd R. 'Joe' Vasey Pacific War Commemorative Display Establishment Act' * Began yesterday Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 4460, The Disaster Recovery Reform Act', 'H.R. 3814, the No Human Trafficking on Our Roads Act', and 'H.R. 3813 – Combating Human Trafficking in Commercial Vehicles Act' Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on the Consolidated Audit Trail – Capital Markets, Securities, and Investment Subcommittee hearing on 'Implementation and Cybersecurity Protocols of the Consolidated Audit Trail', with testimony from Thesys Technologies CEO Mike Beller; Chicago Board of Options Exchange President and COO Chris Concannon; Healthy Markets Association Executive Director Tyler Gellasch; and Pershing CEO Lisa Dolly (on behalf of Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association) Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM Acting DHS Secretary Duke and FBI Director Wray testify to House committee hearing on worldwide security threats – Hearing on 'World Wide Threats: Keeping America Secure in the New Age of Terror', with testimony from Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Elaine Duke; FBI Director Christopher Wray; National Counterterrorism Center Director Nicholas Rasmussen; Knoxville, TN, Chief of Police David Rausch (on behalf of International Association of Chiefs of Police); Simon Wiesenthal Center Associate Dean Rabbi Abraham Cooper; and Southern Poverty Law Center President Richard Cohen * Committee Ranking Member Bennie Thompson has protested to Committee Chairman Michael McCaul after requesting that invitations be sent to the SPLC and National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to testify, only for only the former to be invited Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

10:15 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on ID verification – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Identity Verification in a Post-Breach World', with testimony from Venable Managing Director of Technology Business Strategy Jeremy Grant; Pluralsight Information Security Author and Instructor Troy Hunt; and U.S. PIRG Consumer Program Director Ed Mierzwinski Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2322, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

12:00 PM House expected to vote on Brownfields Enhancement, Economic Redevelopment, and Reauthorization Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of 'H.R. 3017 – Brownfields Enhancement, Economic Redevelopment, and Reauthorization Act of 2017', and consideration of 'H.R. 4182 – Ensuring a Qualified Civil Service Act of 2017' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

1:00 PM House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Business Meeting Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

2:00 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee legislative hearing on 'H.R. 4419, Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Indian Affairs Water Project Streamlining Act', with testimony from Bureau of Reclamation Deputy Commissioner Alan Mikkelsen; Kittitas Reclamation District Manager Urban Eberhart; American Sportfishing Association Vice President for Government Affairs Scott Gudes; and Family Farm Alliance President Pat O'Toole Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington,

DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

2:00 PM Third Congressional Hackathon – Third Congressional Hackathon, bringing together bipartisan Members of Congress, Congressional staff, legislative branch agency staff, open gov and transparency advocates, civic hackers, and developers from digital companies to explore the role of digital platforms in the legislative process. Topics include data transparency, constituent services, public correspondence, social media, committee hearings, and the broader legislative process. Agenda includes remarks from House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy and Minority Whip Steny Hoyer and other bipartisan Members Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Auditorium, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/ <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

2:00 PM Helsinki Commission briefing on Ukraine – ‘Ukraine: Report from the Front Lines’ Helsinki Commission briefing, with Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine Principal Deputy Chief Monitor Alexander Hug detailing the humanitarian consequences of the ongoing conflict in Eastern Ukraine, providing an overview of the role of OSCE monitors and the threats they face in carrying out their duties, and offering thoughts on future prospects Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC 215, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

2:00 PM House Intelligence Committee holds hearing with Blackwater founder Erik Prince – House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence holds hearing with testimony from Blackwater founder Erik Prince, who officials have claimed held a meeting in the Seychelles in January with a Russian official close to President Vladimir Putin, allegedly arranged by the United Arab Emirates after Prince presented himself as an unofficial envoy of then-President-elect Donald Trump * Held as an open hearing in a closed space * Prince is also the brother of Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-304, Washington, DC intelligence.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseIntelComm>

2:00 PM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on effectiveness of U.S. sanctions – Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee hearing on ‘Evaluating the Effectiveness of U.S. Sanctions Programs’, with testimony from Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorist Financing Marshall Billingslea; and Department of the Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control Director John Smith Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

2:00 PM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on combating online sex trafficking – Communications and Technology Subcommittee hearing on ‘Latest Developments in Combating Online Sex Trafficking’, with testimony from Santa Clara University School of Law Professor Eric Goldman; End Slavery Tennessee CEO Derri Smith; National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Senior Vice President and General Counsel Yiota Souras; Republican Rep. Ann Wagner; and Tennessee Bureau of Investigation Assistant Special Agent in Charge Russ Winkler Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

2:00 PM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on nationwide injunctions by district courts – Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet Subcommittee hearing on ‘The Role and Impact of Nationwide Injunctions by District Courts’, with testimony from Notre Dame Law School and UCLA School of Law professor Samuel Bray; American University Washington College of Law Professor Amanda Frost; Barry University Dwayne O. Andreas School of Law Assistant Professor Michael Morley; and Heritage Foundation Institute for Constitutional Government Senior Legal Fellow Hans von Spakovsky Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2141, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

2:30 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee legislative hearing on ‘H.R. 1675, State Mineral Revenue Protection Act’, ‘H.R. 4033, National Geologic Mapping Act Reauthorization Act’, discussion draft of ‘H.R. XXXX, Enhancing Geothermal Production on Federal Lands Act’, and discussion draft of ‘H.R. XXXXX, National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System Act’, with testimony from U.S. Geological Survey Acting Deputy Director for Natural Hazards Dr David Applegate; American Geosciences Institute Executive Director Allyson Anderson Book; U.S. Geothermal Permitting and Lands Manager Scott Nichols; and Alaska State Geologist Steve Masterman (on behalf of Association of American State Geologists) Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

3:00 PM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on FHWA disaster relief – Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on ‘Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration – Disaster Relief’, with testimony from FHWA Deputy Administrator Brandye Hendrickson, and Executive Director Butch Waidelich Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2358-A, Washington, DC

<http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

Other: 8:00 AM Energy and Climate Policy Summit – At the Crossroads IV: Energy and Climate Policy Summit, hosted by Texas Public Policy Foundation and The Heritage Foundation, with speakers including Republican Sens. Jim Inhofe, Mike Lee and Lamar Smith Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.crossroads-summit.com
<https://twitter.com/TPPF>

8:00 AM CSIS discussion on ‘Hydrogen and Green Shipping’ – ‘Hydrogen and Green Shipping: Zero-Emission Fuel in the Maritime Sector’ Center for Strategic and International Studies Energy and National Security Program panel discussion on the ‘development and implementation of hydrogen fuel technology, the important role it could play for shipping in the transition to a low-carbon future, and ongoing U.S.-Norwegian cooperation in the area’. Panelists are Norwegian Ambassador to the U.S. Kare Aas, Sogn og Fjordane Project Leader Elisabet Boe, Brodrene Aa Deputy CEO Lars Endre Gimmestad, Arcadia Alliance CEO Martin Grimnes, and Sandia National Laboratories Mechanical Engineer Joseph Pratt Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org>
<https://twitter.com/CSIS>

10:00 AM Carnegie Endowment conference on ‘Post-War U.S.-Japan Reconciliation: Strategic Benefits of Healing’ – ‘Post-War U.S.-Japan Reconciliation: Strategic Benefits of Healing’ Carnegie Endowment for International Peace conference, with Democratic Rep. Niki Tsongas, Stanford University Hoover Institution Williams-Griffis Fellow in Contemporary Asia Michael Auslin, Dartmouth College Department of Government Associate Professor Jennifer Lind, Keio University Faculty of Policy Management Professor of American Politics and Foreign Policy Toshihiro Nakayama, Stanford University Shorenstein APARC Fellow Michael Armacost, Boston University Pardee School of Global Studies Professor of International Relations Thomas Berger, and Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy Social Sciences Assistant Professor Rohan Mukherjee Location: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1779 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.carnegieendowment.org> <https://twitter.com/CarnegieEndow>

11:00 AM Dem Rep. Keith Ellison speaks on jobs offshored under the Trump administration – Dem Rep. Keith Ellison calls on President Donald Trump to ‘deliver on his promises to stop the offshoring of American jobs’ via press conference with Good Jobs Nation Executive Director Joseph Geevarghese, United Steelworkers Local 1999 immediate Past President Chuck Jones and laid-off Carrier worker Quinton Franklin * Call coincides with the 1st anniversary of then-President-elect Trump’s announcement on behalf of workers at Carrier’s plant in Indianapolis Location: TBD goodjobsnation.org <https://twitter.com/GoodJobsNation>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: [Referring to firing of Matt Lauer for sexual misconduct] “As far as Matt Lauer goes, what happens now? Does he have to do an emotional sit-down interview with himself?”

Jimmy Kimmel: “Meanwhile, North Korea launched another missile yesterday. Apparently, now they can reach every part of the mainland of the United States, which is scary, of course. And I know it sounds terrible, but speaking for those of us who live here on the West Coast, there’s something comforting about the fact that it’s not just us who have to worry about this anymore. Now we’re all in it together. Congratulations.”

Stephen Colbert: “Welcome to the Late Show. I’m your host, Stephen Colbert. I am one of the few men still allowed on television because today, Matt Lauer was let go from NBC’s morning show, the Today show, this morning today. According to the chairman of NBC News, Lauer was fired due to ‘inappropriate sexual behavior in the workplace,’ not to be confused with ‘appropriate’ sexual behavior the workplace. Because that does not exist.”

James Corden: “The Christmas season is upon us, which means this is the first time that Melania Trump gets to decorate the White House for the holidays. Not everyone is loving it. Take a look at one of the hallways she decorated for Christmas. [Corden shows his audience a picture of a shadowy, dimly lit hallway lined with trees casting shadows everywhere.] Look at that. No wonder Pelosi and Schumer didn’t show up for that meeting. Would you walk down that hallway? That hallway doesn’t say ‘Merry Christmas 2017’ as much as it says, ‘Stranger Things: Season

Three.”

Trevor Noah: “First, let’s start our show the same way that the Today show did, by telling you that Matt Lauer got fired.”

Trevor Noah: “Now North Korea has a missile that can hit anywhere in the US, which is really scary. I mean, that means Kim Jong-Un could even hit Toledo, Ohio, America’s favorite and most important city, where America keeps all of the weapons and money and jewels.”

Jimmy Fallon: “There is a big story today. NBC has fired Matt Lauer from the Today show after he was accused of inappropriate sexual behavior. So, if you’re wondering where in the world is Matt Lauer, he’s probably at a bar with Charlie Rose.”

Jimmy Fallon: “President Trump tweeted about Matt Lauer being fired and went on to attack NBC News executives and Joe Scarborough. Then Kim Jong-Un was like, ‘Uh, did you guys not see that missile yesterday or, I mean, I know you’re busy, but I can re-launch it or something. Are you kidding me here?’”

Jimmy Fallon: “Yesterday, Trump left two seats empty at the White House to symbolize Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi skipping their meeting. ... But it backfired when those empty seats reminded him of his inauguration.”

Seth Meyers: “Former President Obama will meet with the leaders of China and India during an upcoming trip abroad, while President Trump will meet with who he thinks are leaders of China and India.”

Seth Meyers: “According to recent analysis, the FCC received more than a million fake comments in favor of repealing net neutrality. It’s the most fake comments ever found outside a high school reunion. ‘Oh, my God, you look great!’”

Seth Meyers: “According to reports, Disney’s Hall of Presidents is scheduled to debut their Donald Trump statue some time before Christmas. Until then, they’re keeping him in the Haunted Mansion.”

Conan O’Brien: “Former Prairie Home Companion host Garrison Keillor has been fired by Minnesota Public Radio over allegations of sexually inappropriate behavior. Keillor issued an apology to his three living fans.”

Conan O’Brien: “Two properties associated with Donald Trump have decided to remove his name from their buildings. Sadly, neither one is the White House.”

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DOI In The News

Interior Secretary Zinke To Visit Florida This Week.

The [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (10/4, Leary) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will travel to Florida on Thursday to "conduct on-the-ground assessments of hurricane damage at National Park Service locations and to receive a briefing on Everglades Restoration," according to a release. On Thursday, Zinke will receive "a briefing on infrastructure upgrades and Everglades restoration at Lake Okeechobee." On Friday, Zinke will assess "hurricane damage and clean-up at Big Cypress National Preserve." And Saturday, Zinke will "hold a media event with Sen. Marco Rubio and members of the congressional delegation."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (10/4, Bennett) and [WJXT-TV](#) Jacksonville, FL (10/4).

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Visits Okefenokee Swamp. The [Florida Times-Union](#) (10/4, Dickson) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke visited Okefenokee National Wildlife and held "closed door talks with the refuge management." The Okefenokee Swamp is "a watery field right now after the persistent late spring and early summer rain that extinguished the enormous West Mims Fire and more recently a dousing from Tropical Storm Irma." Zinke "had said he will concentrate on restoring revenue streams that could meet a lot of shortages in the National Park Service and others."

House GOP Wants To Compare Interior's Ryan Zinke's Travel With Predecessors.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/4, Ferrechio) reports that "House Republicans want to compare the travel records of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke with those of the department heads during President Obama's administration." House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop "asked Zinke to provide records on the use of private, chartered, rented, and government-owned aircraft by secretaries of the interior dating back to Obama's first day in office." Bishop is looking "to compare non-commercial aircraft use by Obama Interior Secretaries Ken Salazar (2009-2013) and Sally Jewell (2013-2017) to that of Zinke, who is under investigation by the department's

inspector general for using chartered and military planes for official travel that was also mixed with political business.”

Also reporting are [Roll Call](#) (10/4), the [AP](#) (10/4), [Politico Morning Energy](#) (10/4, Adragna), and [Law360](#) (10/4, Westney).

Interior Chief Dismisses Criticism Of Travel With Vulgarity. The [AP](#) (10/4, DALY, BYNUM) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Wednesday “strongly defended his use of private charter flights for government business, calling criticism of his taxpayer-financed travel ‘complete and utter bull----’ and driven by politics.” Zinke dismissed “news reports that he took at least three private flights costing taxpayers a total of \$20,000 since taking office in March, saying all his travel is ‘legal, ethical. All the trips went through absolute due diligence.’” Zinke “said that in his job, everything he does ‘goes through absolute legal review.’”

Investigations Opened Into Zinke’s Meeting With Golden Knights Hockey Team. [CNN](#) (10/4, Green) reports that “a summer visit that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke made to the Vegas Golden Knights hockey team is now under two investigations by federal watchdogs.” The Interior Department’s inspector general has “added concerns about Zinke’s meeting with the new NHL team and use of a private jet from Las Vegas to an investigation it opened Friday looking into the secretary’s travel, an IG spokesperson confirmed to CNN Wednesday.” The Office of Special Counsel has “also opened a Hatch Act investigation into Zinke’s meeting with the hockey team.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (10/4, Thomsen).

Interior Secretary Draws Flak For Mixing Politics, Official Travel. [Politico](#) (10/5, Lefebvre, Whieldon) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is drawing scrutiny over his “habit of mixing official government business with political activism.” According to ethics watchdogs, “Zinke is combining politics with his Interior duties so frequently that he risks tripping over the prohibitions against using government resources for partisan activity, even though his appearance at the Virgin Islands event seems to have been legal.” they say Zinke’s attendance at a fundraiser in the U.S. Virgin Islands “during his first month as secretary is not in line with past administrations’ conduct, even if he crossed no legal red lines.”

Expense-ive Error: Would Ryan Zinke Make The Same Mistake Twice? In a piece for the [Missoula \(MT\) Independent](#) (10/5, Brooks), Dan Brooks writes that “to believe Zinke was abusing his travel privileges, you’d have to believe he was making the same mistake twice.” Brooks notes that “in the 1990s, back when he was an officer on SEAL Team 6, Zinke was cited for improperly billing the Navy for travel to Montana.” Brooks asks, “Why would a man whose Navy career was marked by improper billing of travel expenses go on to improperly bill travel expenses as a member of Donald Trump’s cabinet?”

House Democrats Demand More Transparency In National Monument Review.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (10/5, Burr) reports that Democrats in the House on Wednesday “introduced a resolution to require more transparency of the Interior Department’s review of national monuments, a move that could force a vote of the chamber.” The resolution “demands action within 14 legislative days by the House Natural Resources Committee or, under House rules, the Democrats could take their challenge to the House floor.” According to the article, “should the resolution come before the full House, the likely outcome of a vote would be a rejection, given the partisan breakdown of the GOP-controlled Congress.”

Critics Continue Push For Monument Changes. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/4, O’Donoghue) reports that “critics of monument designations in Utah and elsewhere in the country are not letting up with their pressure on the Trump administration to reduce boundaries and right the ‘wrongs’ of past U.S. presidents.” According to the article, “in a joint event Wednesday hosted by Utah’s Sutherland Institute and the Heritage Foundation in Washington, D.C., speakers and panelists also pressed for a drastic overhaul” of the Antiquities Act. The event included remarks by Rep. Rob Bishop and Sen. Mike Lee, “who have been at the forefront of Utah’s political leaders jockeying for key policy changes in the public lands arena.”

The President Is Quietly Taking Aim At Our National Monuments. For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (10/4, Grijalva), Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva claims that the Trump Administration, “urged on by well-funded ideologues and fossil fuel interests, is engaged in an unprecedented effort to destroy our country’s system of public lands.” Grijalva warns that “if President Trump, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and their allies on Capitol Hill have their way, few monuments – whether they protect historic Native American sites, iconic natural wonders or world-class wildlife habitats – will be safe over the long haul.” Grijalva criticizes Zinke’s handling of the review of national monuments, as well as his recommendation to shrink four monuments.

Interior Secretary Poses Danger To Parks, Monuments. In his column for the [Knoxville \(TN\)](#)

[News Sentinel](#) (10/4, Harmon), Mark Harmon, a professor of journalism and electronic media at the University of Tennessee, and a member of the Tennessee Democratic Party Executive Committee, claims that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “conducted a sham ‘review’ of national monuments.” Moreover, he notes that “the Interior Department’s 60-day public comment period yielded more than 2.8 million comments,” and “analysis by the Center for Western Priorities found 98 percent favored maintaining or expanding existing monuments.” But Zinke “nevertheless recommended that President Donald Trump shrink the borders of four national monuments and open six others to mining, drilling, commercial fishing and logging — often endangering Native American cultural artifacts.”

Court Blocks Trump’s ‘Unlawful’ Delay Of Obama Methane Leak Rule.

[The Hill](#) (10/4, Cama) reports that “late Wednesday” Judge Elizabeth Laporte of the District Court for the Northern District of California ruled “that the Trump administration broke the law when it tried this summer to delay an Obama administration rule related to greenhouse gas released through oil and natural gas drilling.” Laporte “said the Interior Department cannot use a provision in the Administrative Procedure Act to delay the rule on methane emissions on federal land, as it tried to do in June.” The judge’s decision “represents another bump in the road on the Trump administration’s deregulatory agenda,” and “it means that for now, the January 2018 compliance date for the rule is in effect.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/4, Halper) reports “the ruling came at the behest of California and other states, which charged the administration’s is required by law to enforce the new rules intended to cut the release of 175,000 tons of the potent greenhouse gas annually, as well as reduce the emission of associated toxic pollutants.” [E&E Publishing](#) (10/4) reports “the court’s decision revives the standards, meaning any oil and gas companies not already in compliance will have to scramble to catch up.”

The [AP](#) (10/4, Daly) also provides coverage.

Interior Moves To Delay Obama-era Rule On Methane Emissions. The [AP](#) (10/4, Daly) reports that the Interior is attempting to delay a regulation that is meant to restrict methane emissions on federal lands coming from oil and gas production. The department hopes to delay the Obama-era rule, which was finalized last November, until January 2019. The AP states “the Interior Department said in a notice to be published Thursday in the Federal Register that an analysis conducted during the Obama administration may have underestimated costs and overestimated benefits.”

[The Hill](#) (10/4, Cama) reports that the Department of the Interior’s notice said “the BLM is currently reviewing the 2016 final rule and wants to avoid imposing temporary or permanent compliance costs on operators for requirements that may be rescinded or significantly revised in the near future.” American Petroleum Institute Director of Upstream Operations Erik Milito said “we welcome BLM’s efforts to get this right and encourage the agency to develop an achievable rule in the months ahead that serves to prevent waste and conserve resources while encouraging energy production on federal lands.”

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (10/4, Passut) reports that Bureau of Land Management Acting Director Michael Nedd said “as we strengthen America’s energy independence, we intend to evaluate regulations to determine if they unnecessarily encumber energy production, constrain economic growth, or prevent job creation.” Nedd also said, “our proposal would give the BLM sufficient time to review the 2016 final rule and consider revising or rescinding its requirements.”

Also reporting are [Reuters](#) (10/4, Gardner), the [Washington Post](#) (10/4, Grandoni), the [Forum of Fargo-Moorhead \(ND\)](#) (10/4), [Wyoming Public Radio](#) (10/4, McKim), the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (10/5, Egelko), [MarketWatch](#) (10/4, Murphy), [CNBC](#) (10/4, DiChristopher), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (10/4, Shelor), and [Law360](#).

Interior Department Whistleblower Resigns, Calling Ryan Zinke’s Leadership A Failure.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/4, Fears) reports that “an Interior Department executive turned whistleblower who claimed the Trump administration retaliated against him for publicly disclosing how climate change affects Native Alaskan communities resigned Wednesday.” [The Hill](#) (10/4, Cama) reports that in a resignation letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Joel Clement “said he objected to his June reassignment out of a climate change role.” Clement “also cited ‘poor leadership’ by Zinke, climate change skepticism and wasted tax money.”

Also reporting are the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/5, Halper), the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (10/4, Woodard) and the [Huffington Post](#) (10/4, D’Angelo).

Ryan Zinke Focuses On Energy Development On Public Lands As New Committee Starts.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/4, Siciliano) reports that the Interior Department held the first meeting for its new Royalty Policy Committee Wednesday. The department's Energy Policy Counselor Vincent DeVito said the committee's creation represents the start of a more heightened prioritization for energy instead of a "sleepy portfolio." DeVito said "this is a business committee, this is our board, our shareholders are the American people."

Wyoming Governor Concerned By Anticipated Sage Grouse Changes.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/4, Richards) reports that Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead expressed concern over the potential federal alterations to sage grouse protections Friday and also restated that Western states should be consulted on potential changes. Gov. Mead said, "I just can't overemphasize how important it is to have that state input." Mead added that "if it was a state-by-state listing decision, that'd be one thing. But the way we are with the law right now, if one state gets listed, we all are going to get listed." Meanwhile, Western Watersheds Project wildlife biologist Erik Molvar argued, "the existing federal sage-grouse protections already are far too weak to sustain sage grouse populations in the face of commercial uses that are being approved on public lands in many areas."

A Rising Tide Of Outdoor Recreation.

The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (10/4, Scott) reports that "in many ways, America is in the midst of an outdoor recreation renaissance, a trend driven by innovation, awareness and sheer growth in the number of people exploring nature." According to the article, "outdoor-rich states such as Colorado, Washington and Utah have also identified outdoor recreation as a tangible industry that deserves its own governmental office, similar to agriculture and manufacturing, devoted to protecting the resources and building on the associated economic benefits."

Work Still Left For Wild And Scenic Rivers.

In an op-ed for the [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (10/4, Palmer, Carlman), author Tim Palmer, and Len Carlman, the executive director of the Snake River Fund, write in support of the National Wild and Scenic River program. They say that "our great expanses of public land and our lifelines of rivers — owned by every citizen — are indispensable and irreplaceable natural features." As they look forward to 2018, when the Wild and Scenic program will celebrate its golden anniversary, they note that "dozens of rivers across the West and in Wyoming still deserve protection from damming, from desiccating withdrawals, from the ravages of fracking and poorly regulated fossil fuel development and from other threats that have rendered all but 2 percent of the nation's waterways unfit for this prestigious initiative, according to the Nationwide Rivers Inventory by the National Park Service."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Spirit Lake Reservation Landowners Get Land Buyback Offers.

The [AP](#) (10/4) reports that "thousands of landowners on the Spirit Lake Indian Reservation have been sent purchase offers through a federal program to return land on reservations to tribal control." The Interior Department "says 5,041 Spirit Lake landowners have been sent offers. They have about two months to consider them."

Duwamish Tribe Keeps Fighting For Federal Recognition.

The [Redmond \(WA\) Reporter](#) (10/4, Kunkler) reports that "despite a lengthy process that has seen the federal government flop on its position, the Duwamish tribe of Puget Sound is continuing its legal challenge to be officially recognized." The Duwamish has "filed an appeal which is working its way through the Interior Board of Indian Appeals." Bart Freedman, an attorney who has represented the tribe in court pro bono in recent years, is "contending that the evaluation criteria the Department of Interior used to make their most recent decision was based on outdated guidelines from 1994, which was updated in 2015."

Bill To Provide Educational Opportunities For Native Students Gets Committee Approval.

[KSWO-TV](#) Lawton, OK (10/4, Poolaw) reports that the Johnson O'Malley Supplemental Indian Education Program Modernization Act would call on the Interior Department "to update its severely outdated count of Native students in a timely manner by using existing public information from the US Census Bureau and the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)

to identify underserved students who are potentially eligible for the program." Sen. James Lankford said, "The Johnson O'Malley Act is a critical program that provides cultural and academic assistance to American Indian students and opens the door to a number of valuable resources. I applaud the Committee's progress today to update decades-old data which will allow American Indian students to have access to quality education. I look forward to a vote on the Senate floor in the days ahead."

Crow Agency Warns Residents To Not Drink Town's Water.

[KULR-TV](#) Billings, MT (10/4, Adams) reports that the Bureau of Indian Affairs is "warning residents in the town of Crow Agency to not drink their water." According to the Crow Reservation, "one of the two water plants on the reservation was vandalized." The BIA has "experts at the plant...to determine the extent of the damage and repairs needed."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (10/4, Kordenbrock).

Bureau Of Land Management

Utahn Brian Steed To Be Deputy Director Of The Bureau Of Land Management.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (10/4, Burr) reports that Brian Steed, who previously served as Rep. Chris Stewart's chief of staff, has been appointed the deputy director of the Bureau of Land Management. Stewart said in a statement, "I always say he's the best chief of staff on the Hill. I consider him a brother and will miss him greatly. He has a huge opportunity to serve the American people at the Bureau of Land and Management and I know he'll have great success."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/4, O'Donoghue) and [Utah Policy](#) (10/4, Schott).

Land Office Swap Of National Monument Land To BLM Back On Track.

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/4) reports that the Interior Department approved an "agreement to initiate" on a land exchange between the Bureau of Land Management and the New Mexico State Land Office. The land exchange will "consolidate holdings within the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument and the Sabinoso Wilderness Area under federal control." Bureau of Land Management acting New Mexico State Director Aden Seidlitz said, "we look forward to working with Commissioner Dunn and the State Land Office on the proposed land exchange, which will benefit both agencies and, most importantly, the public."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (10/4, Lee).

Wild Horses And The Inmates Who 'Gentle' Them.

The [New York Times](#) (10/5, Kurutz) reports that a program the Northern Nevada Correctional Center allows inmates to work with wild horses. The Wild Horse Program at the prison is "one of the ways the Bureau of Land Management is dealing with a population of mustangs and wild burros in the Western states that, after the 2017 foal crop, could be as high as 86,000."

Rep. Emmer Pitches New Pro-mining Legislation.

The [St. Cloud \(MN\) Times](#) (10/4, Hertel) reports that Twin Metals Minnesota "could get its mineral licenses back and resume exploration in the Superior National Forest if a new bill from U.S. Rep. Tom Emmer becomes law." Emmer's proposal would "give Congress the authority to approve mineral withdrawals in Minnesota's national forest land — a task currently under the U.S. Forest Service's purview." The legislation "also gives Congress, rather than the president, authority to designate national monuments on federal forest land in Minnesota."

Cliven Bundy Supporter Wants Las Vegas Trial Postponed.

The [Daily Mail](#) (10/4, Pleasance) reports that "a protester accused of getting into an armed standoff with police while guarding the Bundy ranch has asked for his trial to be postponed after the Vegas shooting." Ryan Payne, "who allegedly helped mobilize an armed militia to defend the ranch of Cliven Bundy from federal agents in a dispute over grazing rights back in 2014, claims it will not be possible to get a fair trial in the current climate." Attorneys Brenda Weksler and Ryan Norwood said the "unprecedented act of violence will prevent the defendants from having a fair trial in this city one week from now."

Thomas Mitchell: Lawsuit Falsely Claims Fracking Will Be Devastating.

In a column for the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (10/4, Mitchell) Thomas Mitchell states that two "self-styled environmental groups," the Center for Biological Diversity and the Sierra Club, "have filed a lawsuit...in an attempt to block oil and gas leases on tracts on Bureau of Land Management public land, claiming hydraulic fracturing...might somehow jeopardize aquifers and all manner of wildlife." The lawsuit references a US Environmental Protection Agency 2016 study, which it says "concluded that fracking can and has resulted in adverse effects on drinking water resources." However, Mitchell writes, "the suit fails to mention the EPA reported that fracking 'can impact drinking water resources under some circumstances,' but 'the scientific evidence is insufficient to support estimates of the frequency of contamination.'"

Editorial: BLM Blocks Disclosure, Again.

In an editorial, the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (10/4) criticizes the Bureau of Land Management for not releasing "crucial information" on "a private home built on public land near Prineville." The Bulletin has "made a Freedom of Information Act request for the public comments about the BLM's possible plans for the property," but "the BLM's responded twice with different answers and again blocked critical information." It concludes: "The Freedom of Information Act is supposed to be the law that keeps citizens in the know about their government. It's not working here."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Federal Judge Dismisses Suit Against BOR For 2001 Water Shutoff.

The [Siskiyou \(CA\) Daily News](#) (10/4, Smith) reports that "despite laying claim to one victory in a years-long battle, Klamath Project irrigators were denied their claims in a ruling filed on Sept. 29." Judge Marian Blank Horn "ultimately concludes that, due to the tribes' senior rights, no compensation is due junior water rights holders, as their water was withheld to protect ESA listed fish and, as such, that action protected the tribes' water rights."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (10/4).

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Tropical Depression Raises Hurricane Threat For U.S. Gulf Coast.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/4, Sullivan, Perez) reports a tropical depression developing off the Nicaraguan coast could grow into a hurricane and is forecast to hit the US Gulf Coast late Sunday, potentially shutting down offshore oil and gas rigs. Eric Blake, a specialist at the National Hurricane Center, said the storm "could affect portions of the northern Gulf Coast as a hurricane this weekend, with direct impacts from wind, storm surge, and heavy rainfall."

Fish And Wildlife Service

25 Species, Including Pacific Walrus, Denied Endangered Protection By Trump Administration.

[USA Today](#) (10/4, Rice) reports that the Trump Administration on Wednesday "declined to list 25 species as endangered, noting that extra protection 'is not warranted at this time.'" USA Today says environmental groups are particularly concerned about the Pacific walrus, but the US Fish and Wildlife Service "reported that it can't say with certainty that the Pacific walrus is likely to become endangered, despite an extensive loss of Arctic Sea ice due to global warming." The decision that was "applauded" by Alaska's Republican congressional delegation.

The [AP](#) (10/4, Joling) reports that the decision on the walrus "likely will be challenged in court, said Shaye Wolf, climate science director for the Center for Biological Diversity, who wrote the listing petition filed in 2008." Wolf "called the decision a misrepresentation of science to reach a predetermined conclusion."

Also reporting are the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/4, Siciliano), the [Washington Times](#) (10/4, Richardson), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (10/4, Milman) and [KTUU-TV Anchorage \(AK\)](#) Anchorage, AK (10/4, Mackintosh).

Federal Agency Denies Protections For Small, Fanged Predator. The [AP](#) (10/4) reports that the Trump Administration "included the Northern Rockies fisher among 25 species that officials said do not merit protection under the Endangered Species Act." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife

Service “last year agreed to consider new protections after wildlife advocates documented at least 66 fishers accidentally killed by trappers in Idaho.” The FWS “says a months-long review found no evidence fisher populations were in decline because of trapping, climate change, logging or other potential threats.”

New England Thrush Species Will Not Be Listed Endangered. The [AP](#) (10/4) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services says the Bicknell’s thrush will not be listed under the Endangered Species Act. The agency said a review suggests populations of the species are likely to “persist for the foreseeable future.”

ANWR Takes Tiny Step Down Rocky Senate Road.

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (10/4, Ruskin) reports that “the effort to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling made a baby step forward in the Senate” yesterday, “with the debut of a Republican budget plan in a committee.” The plan is “a non-binding resolution but it contains the seeds of what could become a law that allows oil development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.”

GUEST COMMENTARY: Time To Say ‘Yes’ To ANWR Drilling. In an op-ed for the [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (10/4, Rexford), Matthew Rexford, the president of Kaktovik Iñupiat Corp., writes in support of opening up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling. According to Rexford, “the wishes of the people who live in and around the refuge’s coastal plain are frequently drowned out by people who live hundreds and even thousands of miles away.” He notes that Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat, “an organization with 21 members from across the Arctic Slope region — including members from Kaktovik located inside ANWR — have voted unanimously to pass a resolution supporting oil and gas development in the 1002 area.”

Uneven Impacts Seen In Oregon Spotted Frog Settlement.

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (10/4, Perkowski) reports that “a legal settlement intended to upgrade conditions for the Oregon spotted frog is having uneven impacts on the threatened species’ habitat, according to federal biologists.” The deal was “struck last year to resolve a lawsuit between environmental groups, irrigation districts and the federal government over the operation of several dams in the region.” According to a recent “biological opinion” from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, “while conditions for the spotted frog improved in portions of the basin during certain seasons, they were degraded in other locations and times under the deal.”

National Park Service

Stonewall Jackson Monument Vandalized At Manassas Park.

The [AP](#) (10/4) reports that the National Park Service “says it is making repairs to a Stonewall Jackson monument that was vandalized at Manassas National Battlefield.” The NPS “says the vandalism at the monument depicting the Confederate general was discovered early Wednesday morning and occurred overnight.” According to the article, “white paint was splashed on the granite base of the monument, and the word ‘Dead!’ was added in gold spray paint.”

Also reporting are the [Washington Post](#) (10/4, Moyer, Olivo), the [Washington Times](#) (10/4, Harper), and the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (10/4).

Dunes National Park Effort Moves Forward.

[Inside INdiana Business](#) (10/4, Brown) reports that “a bill that would designate the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore as a national park is heading to the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.” The House Committee on Natural Resources “unanimously approved the bill which would create the first national park in Indiana.” Rep. Pete Visclosky, who introduced the bill, said, “I thank Chairman Rob Bishop, Ranking Member Raul Grijalva, and all the members of the Natural Resources Committee, for their leadership to bring forward and advance this legislation. I hope that the full House considers this important legislation as soon as possible so that we can quickly begin to harness this national recognition of the Indiana Dunes and attract new visitors and economic activity to our region.”

Enviros Hit FAA With Suit Over Air Tours In National Parks.

[Law360](#) (10/4, Hanson) reports Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility and the Hawaii Island Coalition Malama Pono filed suit against the FAA in DC federal court Wednesday, “seeking to limit air tour operations in national parks, including the Great Smoky Mountains and the Hawaii

Volcanoes, due to noise and disruption from excessive flights." The [AP](#) (10/4, McAvoy) reports the lawsuit "asks the court to order the FAA to draft either air tour plans or voluntary agreements governing air tours for seven parks within two years." According to the AP, "FAA spokesman Ian Gregor said the agency doesn't comment on pending litigation."

Delta State Receives Prestigious National Park Service Award.

The [Mississippi Business Journal](#) (10/4) reports that "the Delta Center for Culture and Learning at Delta State University and the Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area recently received 2016 National Park Service Centennial Awards for creating the Delta Jewels Oral History Partnership." According to the article, "the cultural heritage interpretation project has honored the lives of unsung Mississippi Delta church mothers featured in Alysia Burton Steele's book, 'Delta Jewels: In Search of My Grandmother's Wisdom.'" Chris Abbett, associate regional director of partnerships, interpretation and education at the National Park Service Southeast Regional Office, said, "The Mississippi Delta National Heritage Area and the Delta Center demonstrated exceptional leadership and creativity in organizing 15 community gatherings with Alysia Burton Steele and several of the Delta Jewels featured in the book. The programs throughout Mississippi, as well as the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum in Washington, D.C., connected with and helped to create the next generation of visitors, supporters and advocates for the National Park Service."

Admission Fees Waived At Steamtown National Historic Site.

[WNEP-TV](#) Scranton, PA (10/4, Lange) reports that the National Park Service "decided to waive entrance fees for the Steamtown National Historic Site." According to the article, "until this week, the entrance fee for visitors at Steamtown was \$7 for ages 16 and up." The NPS says it's removing "that fee in hopes of bringing more people to the attraction."

Park Counts Down To Reopening Of Trail Closed By Gatlinburg Wildfire.

The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (10/4, Lakin) reports that "after months of work, the popular Chimney Tops Trail in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park reopens to hikers Friday with some new additions." However, "the whole trail won't be open, even after Friday." According to the article, "the last quarter-mile of the 2-mile trail leading toward the peaks, or Pinnacles as they're known, remains closed due to fallen trees and unstable footing."

Padre Island National Seashore Beaches Close Because Of High Water.

The [Corpus Christi \(TX\) Caller-Times](#) (10/4, Lopez) reports that "both North and South beaches at Padre Island National Seashore have been closed by the National Park Service because of high water." Seashore Public Information Officer Patrick Gamman "said the closure of the beaches is for the public's safety." He said, "At this time the waves are splashing against the dunes, creating a situation where there is no place to drive on the beach. As park rangers, we monitor natural conditions to hopefully close beaches before anyone goes out and finds themselves stuck down island with no way out."

Bandelier Seeks Concession Proposals.

The [Los Alamos \(NM\) Monitor](#) (10/4) reports that the National Park Service "announced Tuesday the release of two prospectuses for the award of two new concession contracts in Bandelier National Monument." The park service is "looking to revitalize the Bandelier National Historical Landmark District in Frijoles Canyon by increasing visitor services through these two concessions."

Oceana Neighborhood Gets Added To National Register Of Historic Places.

[WTKR-TV](#) Norfolk, VA (10/4, Boykin) reports that "the Oceana Neighborhood Historic District was officially placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service on Sept. 18." Additional coverage was provided by the [Southside Daily \(VA\)](#) (10/4, Poulter).

Additional Coverage: National Mall May Permit 45-foot Statue Of A Naked Woman: 'She's Asking For Equal Rights'.

Additional coverage that National Park Service officials are mulling a request to install a 45-foot-tall statue on the National Mall was provided by the [Washington Times](#) (10/4, Ernst).

Office Of Insular Affairs

Administration Appears To Walk Back Trump Comments On Puerto Rico's Debt.

President Trump's claim in an interview that aired Tuesday night on Fox News' Hannity and again Wednesday morning on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) that "we have to look at [Puerto Rico's] whole debt structure. They owe a lot of money to your friends on Wall Street. We will have to wipe that out," sparked concern on Wall Street on Wednesday, sending Puerto Rican bonds lower and seemingly prompting the Administration to walk back the statements.

[Politico](#) (10/4, White, Wilhelm) reports that Wall Street "freaked out" over Trump's comments, "sending Puerto Rican bonds into a tailspin." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/4, Gillers) says Puerto Rico's general obligation bonds were trading at a record low of 30 cents on the dollar Wednesday. The [New York Times](#) (10/4, Walsh) says "investors who hold Puerto Rico's debt and their advisers said they were taken aback and unwilling to comment."

[Politico](#) (10/4, White, Wilhelm) says the White House "move[d] swiftly to clean up Trump's seemingly offhand remarks." The Administration "indicated it has no current plans to take the unprecedented, politically dangerous and probably illegal step of wiping out the owners of Puerto Rico's bonds in the wake of Hurricane Maria's devastation." The [New York Times](#) (10/4, Buerkle) reports in its "DealBook" column that Trump "doesn't even have the authority to abrogate debts, something the budget director, Mick Mulvaney, seemed to recognize Wednesday when he said the president's comments shouldn't be taken literally." Anthony Mason reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/4, story 7, 2:00) that Mulvaney said Wednesday that "there will be no bailout for Puerto Rico after the President suggested there might be."

[Fox News' Special Report](#) (10/4) showed Mulvaney saying, "I think what you saw there was the President focusing on the reality that in order to get its long-term fiscal operation back in order, Puerto Rico is going to have to figure out a way to restructure its debt." [Bloomberg News](#) (10/4, Sink, Epstein) reports that Mulvaney "said Wednesday that the administration is devising an aid package to send to Congress that will deal with rebuilding and repair." Mulvaney said, "We are not going to bail them out. ... We are not going to pay off those debts. We are not going to bail out those bond holders."

Meanwhile, [USA Today](#) (10/4, Bomey) reports in an analysis that while "Trump's proposal to slash all of Puerto Rico's liabilities may not be financially or politically realistic, it's increasingly likely that financiers and individuals who lent money to Puerto Rico will suffer huge losses as political momentum mounts for action."

Cardona: Puerto Rico Visit Was An Exercise In Propping Up Trump's Ego. In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (10/4), Democratic strategist Maria Cardona, a principal at the Dewey Square Group, calls Trump's visit to Puerto Rico "an exercise in shoring up Trump's massive, fragile ego that had been bruised by critics who know what an afterthought in planning and preparation Puerto Rico actually was for this administration." Trump showed "zero humility, empathy, humanity and not one iota of understanding of what his fellow Americans were going through." Cardona adds that if the recovery of Puerto Rico does not happen quickly, "there will be a massive exodus of hundreds of thousands of American citizens who are immediately eligible to register and vote when they settle into states like Texas and Florida," which will not "bode well for Trump or Republicans in 2018 or 2020."

Milbank "Excerpts" Fictional Book Calling Natural Disasters "Inconvenient" For Narcissists. In his [Washington Post](#) (10/4) column, Dana Milbank sarcastically "excerpts" a fictional book titled "The Me-Driven Life: A Narcissist's Guide to Helping Others Understand It Is All About You," by John Barron, which is the name Trump reportedly used when masquerading as his own spokesman. In the "excerpt," Milbank writes that natural disasters "are frustrating, and inconvenient, because they tend to cause those people to think about their own problems," which is "harmful because it distracts them from their more pressing obligation to think about you."

Puerto Rico's Death Toll More Than Doubles To 34.

The [New York Times](#) (10/4, Ferré-sadurní) reports that Puerto Rico's Gov. Ricardo Rosselló said Wednesday that the island's official death toll has "more than doubled from 16 to 34 two weeks after the storm as a result of a full accounting intended to add up the piecemeal reports from around the island." Rosselló said, "We were not able to aggregate this complete set of data before. ... We were getting little bits of certified data, but after yesterday's effort, we have a more complete picture of what has occurred in terms of direct deaths due to the storm and indirect as well." While the new count "may still not be complete...it offers the clearest picture yet of the death toll and how people died during and after Maria, he said." Dr. Jon LaPook said on The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/4, story 7, 2:00) that many of the dead "are from the island's rural

interior, where most people are still without water, without power, and aid is arriving very slowly. Estimates are, it will take months to restore electricity," which is "at odds with the President's upbeat remark about power to a selected crowd in a church." Trump: "Flashlights! You don't need them anymore. You don't need them anymore."

[Reuters](#) (10/4, Brown, Respaut, Resnick-Ault) reports that "less than 10 percent of Puerto Rico's 3.4 million people have seen power restored – and many will wait months." While restoring the grid "would be a monumental task even for a well-run utility," it "will be much harder for the chronically underfunded Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA), which went bankrupt in July amid mounting maintenance problems, years-long battles with creditors, a shrinking workforce and frequent management turnover." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/4, Hernandez) reports that many Puerto Ricans are facing health problems as they still lack access to clean water, medical supplies, and healthcare.

A front-page story in the [Washington Post](#) (10/4, A1, Hernandez) reports that during his visit to Puerto Rico, Trump took a "walking tour of a neighborhood, where high-speed winds had blown out some second-story windows and knocked over a few trees – but where life seemed to be returning to normal, thanks to assistance from the government." Had he "traveled a little deeper into the island, to the communities that sustained some of the heaviest damage, he would have witnessed a very different Puerto Rico." In the city of Caguas, "hills were stripped naked by Maria's malicious winds, leaving the trees without leaves and fruit, their bare branches contorted in painful postures." Houses "were blown off their foundations and destroyed by toppled vegetation," and "twisted metal roofs landed in creeks all over the once-lush region."

Concerns Rise About Drug, Medical Device Shortages. The [New York Times](#) (10/4, A1, Thomas, Kaplan) reports federal officials, as well as manufacturers of pharmaceuticals and medical devices, are concerned about potential shortages following the devastation caused by a hurricane to Puerto Rico, which is a major manufacturer of both types of products. The Times reports that there are over 80 plants in Puerto Rico that manufacture pharmaceuticals or medical devices, but that manufacturers are facing many problems, including unreliable electricity and transportation issues. FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb told Congress this week, "Some of these products are critical to Americans. A loss of access could have significant public health consequences."

Contributions For Maria Victims Small Compared To Harvey, Irma Donations. [USA Today](#) (10/4, Cava) reports that "as contributions soar to homegrown fundraising efforts for victims of Sunday's Las Vegas shooting, those devastated by Maria have seen comparatively small donations especially when compared to money raised for those affected by hurricanes Harvey and Irma, according to groups contacted by USA TODAY." According to fundraisers, "a prime reason for lower Maria numbers has to do with its damage coming after devastating storms hit the US mainland in Texas and Florida, which means donors are more apt to be either financially or even emotionally tapped out." In addition, media attention is "a huge factor in generating contributions, and the supersaturated coverage that greeted Harvey and Irma tapered for Maria."

White House Seeks \$29 Billion For Hurricane Aid.

The White House on Wednesday asked Congress "to approve \$29 billion in additional hurricane relief and debt forgiveness, seeking to help Puerto Rico and other battered areas and to shore up the troubled federal program that provides flood insurance to homes and small businesses," the [New York Times](#) (10/4, Kaplan, Walsh) reports. The request "seeks \$12.8 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to stay current with the nearly \$200 million a day the agency is spending on recovery work." In addition, it asks lawmakers "to wipe out \$16 billion in debt that the National Flood Insurance Program owes to the Treasury and has no immediate way to repay." The White House also seeks "\$577 million in response to wildfires that have been prevalent this year in Western states, and is calling for efforts to limit the cost and devastation of wildfires."

Reporter Describes Recovery Efforts On St Thomas.

In a piece for the [New York Times](#) (10/4), reporter Jeremy W. Peters describes recovery efforts on St. Thomas in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria. Peters writes that the power grid is "mostly flattened, its wires lying across roads or tangled in trees, its poles snapped in half, its transformers sitting in puddles of stagnant floodwater. It will take months to fully restore." This "has knocked out cell towers and internet service, creating a cascade of breakdowns that hampers the most basic daily necessities." Peters adds that doctors say the aftereffects of the hurricanes "are starting to show in people who are hurting themselves while cleaning out what remains of their houses or letting wounds go untreated because they cannot

get to a clinic.”

US Spy Planes Kept Eye On Chinese Scientists During Research Expedition Near Guam.

The [South China Morning Post \(HKG\)](#) (10/4, Chen) reports that “China’s most advanced research vessel recently spent nearly a month operating in the backyard of the largest US military base in Asia-Pacific waters ‘under the nose of US spy planes’, according to a marine scientist leading the expedition.” The researcher said that “the Kexue oceanographic ship had regular low flyovers from US Navy P3-Orion surveillance aircraft while investigating a seamount southeast of Guam between August 5 and September 5.” Xu Kuidong, “a lead researcher with the mission who is affiliated with the Institute of Oceanology, Chinese Academy of Sciences in Qingdao, Shandong, said the scientists on board were ‘well aware’ of the area’s sensitivity.”

Governor Addresses UN Committee.

The [Guam Daily Post](#) (10/3) reports that Gov. Eddie Calvo was scheduled to deliver a “speech to a United Nations committee that hears pleas on decolonization concerns.” Following his speech, Calvo was to set to meet “with permanent missions from various countries, to include the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru and Solomon Islands, according to his office.”

U.S. Virgin Islands Need Help Rebuilding Hospitals ‘from The Ground Up’.

On [Nebraska Public Radio](#) (9/28), U.S. Virgin Islands Governor Kenneth Mapp discussed the recovery effort following two hurricanes. Mapp said, “We have received tremendous provisions and support from the federal partners. We’re now talking about and beginning the process of covering and sheltering folks in homes that lost roofs. We have cleared a good bit of debris out of the road system and we’re working on getting the power distribution system up.”

Additional coverage of the recovery effort was provided by [WIVB-TV](#) Buffalo, NY (9/29).

Office Of Surface Mining

House Approves LaHood Bill To Advance Mine Reclamation Efforts.

The [Ripon Advance](#) (10/4) reports that the House approved legislation on Monday that Rep. Darin LaHood “introduced to empower states to partner with non-governmental organizations (NGO) to reclaim abandoned mines and to address related water pollution issues.” The Community Reclamation Partnerships Act, H.R. 2937 “would advance mine reclamation by allowing states to assume legal and regulatory liability on behalf of NGOs willing to take part in state reclamation programs.” LaHood said on the House floor, “This bill empowers state and local community leaders who want to assist in abandoned mine cleanup efforts so that future development can occur in these areas. No group should be punished for wanting to help out their local community in a responsible way.”

US Geological Survey

Additional Reading.

- *Earthquake Swarm At Yellowstone Supervolcano Now The Longest Ever Recorded.* [Newsweek](#) (10/4, Osborne)
- *‘Statistically, It’s Coming’: California Prepares For The Next Big Earthquake.* [KTLA-TV](#) Los Angeles (10/4)
- *3.5 Magnitude Earthquake Rattles Major County.* [KWTW-TV](#) Oklahoma City (10/4, Nuttle)

Top National News

Trump Lauds Bravery Of First Responders And Victims In Las Vegas.

Coverage of President Trump’s Wednesday visit to Las Vegas is straightforward and respectful, focusing primarily on the President’s remarks to law enforcement personnel, first responders, and victims. Coverage also notes that the President was asked about possible gun control legislation, but declined to comment.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/4, story 3, 2:20, Muir) reported that it was “the first time

he's had to visit the scene of a mass shooting." ABC's Cecilia Vega: "In Las Vegas today, President Trump, in a new role, comforter in chief. With the First Lady by his side. Their first stop: the hospital treating dozens of patients, still fighting for their lives." Trump: "Some were very, very badly wounded, and they were badly wounded because they refused to leave. They wanted to help others because they saw people going down all over. And it's an incredible thing to see. That's tremendous bravery."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/4, story 3, 2:00, Mason), Major Garrett reported, "At University Medical Center, the hospital that received 100 victims, the President thanked doctors and nurses. The President also toured the Las Vegas police command center and hailed the bravery of officers and civilians who faced the terror head on." Trump: "In the depths of horror, we will always find hope in the men and women who risk their lives for ours." [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/4, story 4, 0:35, Holt) ran a 35-second brief item on the visit.

[KVVU-TV](#) Las Vegas (10/4, 6:05 p.m. PDT) reported that Trump was at UMC "longer than he originally planned to be, visiting with doctors and patients." [KSNV-TV](#) Las Vegas (10/4, 6:08 p.m. PDT) reported that Trump's visit "lasted just roughly four hours – four very necessary hours for Las Vegas and for Nevada." [KLAS-TV](#) Las Vegas (10/4, 6:03 p.m. PDT) reported that "Trump visited several victims at the hospital and meeting with doctors and medical staff. The President offered his condolences to the community and the victims' families."

The President later [tweeted](#) a 54-second video about the visit, writing, "On behalf of a GRATEFUL NATION, THANK YOU to all of the First Responders (HEROES) who saved countless lives in Las Vegas on Sunday night," and followed with a [tweet](#) of a two-minute-and-20-second video, writing, "WE LOVE YOU LAS VEGAS!"

Jim Acosta said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/4), "The White House took great pains to keep the President's trip here more subdued and more scripted than other official visits in recent days." Acosta added, "One topic the President is taking on during his visit is gun control. ... The White House is steering clear of the issue."

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (10/4, Erickson) reports that Trump "noted that many of the wounded were heroes themselves, saying 'they were badly wounded because they refused to leave. They wanted to help others because they saw people going down all over.'" The [AP](#) (10/4, Lucey, Colvin) reports that Trump "waved off questions about the availability of firearms – the shooter had a veritable arsenal of weapons – saying this is not the time to discuss the possibility of further restrictions."

[USA Today](#) (10/4, Jackson) reports, "Unlike Tuesday's visit with hurricane victims in Puerto Rico – where he made a joke about the cost of the federal relief efforts and told locals they could be proud that only 16 people had died versus the 'literally thousands' who were killed Hurricane Katrina in 2005 – Trump stayed very much on script in Las Vegas." The President said, "Our souls are stricken with grief. We know your sorrow feels endless. ... We will endure the pain together. We will overcome it together as Americans." [Breitbart](#) (10/4, Spiering) reports that Trump "delivered a somber statement" after meeting with law enforcement officials, and [Townhall](#) (10/4, Pavlich) reports that the President was accompanied by the First Lady "throughout the day and also visited wounded victims in a local hospital."

The [New York Times](#) (10/4, Landler) says that Trump "has been uncharacteristically subdued about the Las Vegas shooting. ... He has tweeted little about it and deflected questions about the killer's motives, in contrast with previous mass shootings, which have drawn quick, furious reactions from him, particularly when the perpetrators were Muslim." For Trump, "the political subtext of Las Vegas has more to do with gun laws, which he campaigned against in 2016." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/4, Nicholas) reports that the White House has indicated that the President has not changed his stance.

The [New York Post](#) (10/4, Fredericks) reports that the President called shooter Stephen Paddock "'a very sick man, a very demented person,' but would not address a possible motive." The [Washington Times](#) (10/4, Miller) reports that Trump said, "He was a very demented person and we haven't seen [a motive] yet but we will know very soon if we find something. We are looking very hard." [Politico](#) (10/4, Nelson) and [The Hill](#) (10/4, Easley) have brief reports on the President's remarks.

Legislators Of Both Parties Seem Open To "Bump Stock" Ban. [USA Today](#) (10/4, Gaudiano, Collins) reports, "Some key Republicans are showing interest in a narrowly written Democratic gun-control bill to ban 'bump stock' rifle attachments that enable rapid firing." Sen. John Thune "said some of his colleagues are 'at least interested' in learning more about 'that narrow issue,'" and Senate Majority Whip Cornyn "told reporters Wednesday that trigger accelerators are 'something that I think bears looking into.'" Cornyn said that he has raised the issue with Senate

Judiciary Chairman Charles Grassley.

The [New York Times](#) (10/4, Stolberg, Hsu) reports that House Freedom Caucus head Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC) "said he would be open to considering a bill," and moderate Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL) "said he was drafting bipartisan legislation" mirroring Sen. Dianne Feinstein's Senate version. Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV) said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/4) that she is co-sponsoring another bill with Rep. David Cicilline (D-RI) to make bump stocks illegal "because they will change a regular gun into an automatic weapon that can fire 400-600 times in a minute. We don't need that for recreation."

Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK) was asked on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (10/4) if lawmakers should consider outlawing the "bump stock" used by the Las Vegas gunman. Cole said, "I think there's no question we ought to look into that. Automatic weapons – when I saw the clips and heard the fire, I just assumed he had an automatic weapon. I did not know that there was technology capable that cheaply of transforming a semi-automatic into an automatic weapon. Yeah, I don't think there's any question we ought to look at that."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/4) says in an editorial that outlawing bump stocks would not halt the practice, since "bumping" can be done with a finger, and also argues that past bans on certain types of rifles have proven ineffective in preventing mass murder. [Politico](#) (10/4, Bresnahan, Kim, Everett) also reports on the bump stock legislation.

Las Vegas Sheriff Believes Paddock Had Help "At Some Point." The [New York Post](#) (10/4, Li) reports that Clark County Sheriff Joseph Lombardo said Wednesday that he "believes Paddock must have had some help along the way." Lombardo said, "You look at the weapon obtaining the different amounts of Tannerite [explosives] available, do you think this was all accomplished on his own? You got to make the assumption he had to have help some help at some point."

FBI Questioning Shooter's Girlfriend In Los Angeles. The [New York Times](#) (10/4) reports that Paddock's girlfriend Marilou Danley, now back in the US from the Philippines, is being questioned at the FBI building in Los Angeles. FBI Deputy Director Andrew McCabe said that the FBI "is trying to reconstruct the actions of the gunman, including finding and interviewing 'everyone and anyone who crossed his path in recent weeks.'" The [Washington Post](#) (10/4) reports that "so far...few clues have emerged to help investigators understand" Paddock or his motives.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/4, story 2, 2:35, Holt) reported that Danley was questioned "for hours" on Wednesday. Her attorney read a statement in which she said that Paddock "never said anything to me or took any action that I was aware of that I understood in any way to be a warning that something horrible like this was going to happen." According to the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/4, lead story, 3:25, Mason), Danley's statement also explained that the "thousands of dollars he wired to her in the Philippines...was meant for her to buy a home there. Danley thought Paddock was planning on breaking up with her." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/4, story 2, 2:30, Muir) reported that one of Danley's sisters said Paddock "sent her away" so he could plan for the attack.

"Senior Jihadist" Claims Paddock Was An ISIS Recruit. [Breitbart](#) (10/4, Klein, Waked) reports in an "exclusive" that Abu Baker al-Maqqdisi, "a senior jihadist associated with the Islamic State (ISIS) in the Gaza Strip, insists his terrorist organization was responsible for the Las Vegas massacre." Al-Maqqdisi told Breitbart Jerusalem that Paddock "was recruited by ISIS when he converted to Islam several months ago. There is no evidence of any such conversion." Al-Maqqdisi said, "Even the weapons he used in this assault were purchased with Islamic State funds." However, Breitbart reports, he offered no proof.

Republicans Hammer Murphy For Fundraising Off Las Vegas Shooting. The [Connecticut Post](#) (10/4, Vigdor) reports that Sen. Chris Murphy "is using his national profile to prime the pump for gun control groups after the Las Vegas massacre" – a move that "is being condemned by Republicans for pairing that effort with a request for re-election campaign contributions." The Murphy camp issued "an email blast Tuesday night to supporters urging them to give money to a trio of gun control groups" aligned with him, or to Murphy's re-election campaign. [The Hill](#) (10/4, Greenwood) reported that small-business owner Matthew Corey, one of the Republicans seeking the GOP nomination to challenge Murphy in 2018, said that Murphy "should donate contributions his campaign received from the email to the victims of the Las Vegas attack."

Tillerson Says He Never Weighed Resigning, Does Not Directly Deny "Moron" Remark.

Coverage of Secretary of State Tillerson's appearance Wednesday to reaffirm his commitment to his job – and to deny an NBC report that he called President Trump a "moron" several months ago – stresses that Tillerson did not actually deny the comment (though a spokesperson did). Reports also state that the public appearance was unusual for Tillerson. There is also speculation

over how long Tillerson, described by multiple sources as frequently at odds with the President, will stay in his post.

Martha Raddatz reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/4, story 5, 2:15, Muir) that Tillerson made "a rare impromptu appearance" on Wednesday to address the "report rocketing around Washington" that Tillerson "had called Trump a 'moron' last July, after a national security team meeting and was then on the verge of resigning." Tillerson: "The Vice President has never had to persuade me to remain as secretary of state, because I have never considered leaving this post." Raddatz: "And that report of calling the President a moron?" Tillerson: "I'm not going to deal with petty stuff like that. I'm just not going to be a part of this effort to divide this Administration." Raddatz: "Not a flat-out denial, but his spokesperson later, more definitive." State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert: "He did not say that." Kaitlin Collins reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/4) that Tillerson "insisted he never threatened to resign, but it's notable he didn't take the opportunity to deny the reports that he called the President of the United States a 'moron.'"

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/4, story 5, 2:10, Mason) reported that Tillerson "made an extraordinary appearance before cameras at the State Department today to refute reports that he had disparaged the President and had to be talked out of quitting." CBS' Margaret Brennan: "The press-averse Secretary of State declared that he never considered quitting his job but did not deny having referred to the President as a 'moron.' ... The President was told Tillerson made the remark after this July meeting at the Pentagon. Days earlier, the President had blown up at Tillerson over sharply differing views on the Iran nuclear deal. Tillerson himself was frustrated. He'd been undermined on other key issues including Venezuela and a Mideast dispute," and the "lifelong Boy Scout was dismayed by Mr. Trump's comments at a Boy Scout gathering."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/4, story 5, 2:30, Holt), Andrea Mitchell also reported that Tillerson "stopp[ed] short of a full denial."

The [AP](#) (10/4, Lee, Klapper) reports that "the normally camera-shy Tillerson sought to rebut" the "widely disseminated" story that Vice President Pence had to talk him out of resigning. The AP says that Trump "has at times appeared to undercut Tillerson's message on some of America's most sensitive national security challenges, including Iran and North Korea. Tillerson also has publicly complained about the White House blocking him from making key appointments."

[USA Today](#) (10/4, Fair) reports that Pence's former press secretary, Marc Lotter, said that Pence did speak to Tillerson, but that the conversation was "about the need to come together and make sure that everyone is moving forward with the message in the framework that is echoing what [Trump] wants to have communicated." On Wednesday, the [New York Times](#) (10/4, Sullivan, Harris) reports, Tillerson "gave a full-throated defense of Mr. Trump's foreign policy."

Jake Sullivan, former director of the State Department's policy planning office, said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (10/4), "The spectacle today was striking with Rex Tillerson feeling the need to come out and basically say he likes the job, he gets along with the President, and he's planning on sticking around. I can't think of a secretary in state in memory who's had to do something like that." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/4, Wilkinson) calls Tillerson's remarks "an unusual statement."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/4, Schwartz) also reports that Tillerson said he has never considered resigning, while [The Hill](#) (10/4, Fabian) refers to "the bombshell report." [Roll Call](#) (10/4, Bennett) headlines its story "Tillerson Doesn't Deny Calling Trump A 'Moron.'" The [New York Post](#) (10/4, Moore, Fredericks) is one of the few sources to report that NBC actually reported that Tillerson had "referred to the president as a 'f---ing moron.'"

Max Boot of [USA Today](#) (10/4) writes, "This is a classic Washington gaffe, defined by journalist Michael Kinsley as what happens 'when a politician tells the truth – some obvious truth he isn't supposed to say.' ... The real scandal isn't that Trump's secretary of State called him a moron. It's that his job performance lends so much credence to that description." Boot [tweeted](#), "Trump's handling of Hurricane Maria lends credence to Tillerson's disparaging assessment of his mental capability." Preet Bharara [tweeted](#), "At the risk of controversy, I disagree with Tillerson. I don't think Trump is a moron. To say he is lets him off the hook way way too much."

Matt Flegenheimer of the [New York Times](#) (10/4) looks at how, in stating that "[in] the places I come from, we don't deal with that kind of petty nonsense," Tillerson joined in the long-standing tradition of political figures attacking Washington. The [Washington Times](#) (10/4, Persons), [BuzzFeed](#) (10/4), and [Politico](#) (10/4, Nelson) also report on Tillerson's remarks.

Trump: NBC Story "Totally Phony," "Made Up," Asks For Apology. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/4, story 5, 2:30, Holt), Mitchell reported, "The President in Las Vegas today labeling the NBC report fake news." President Trump: "It was a totally phony story. Thank you very much. It was

made up. It was made up by NBC. Total confidence in Rex. I have total confidence." The President [tweeted](#), "The @NBCNews story has just been totally refuted by Sec. Tillerson and @VP Pence. It is #FakeNews. They should issue an apology to AMERICA!"

WPost A1 Analysis: Tillerson Expected To Leave Job Relatively Soon. The [Washington Post](#) (10/4, A1, Gearan, Rucker, Parker) writes on its front page that "Tillerson's move on Wednesday to reassure Trump of his convictions may well be too little and too late for the long term, according to the accounts of 19 current and former senior administration officials and Capitol Hill aides." The "already tense relationship between the two headstrong men...has ruptured into what some White House officials call an irreparable breach that will inevitably lead to Tillerson's departure, whether immediately or not." A "former senior official" said, "The White House thinking is unequivocal that he's going to be gone soon, but the assumption is that he's going to quit on his own so Trump can say, 'Thank you for your year of service.'"

New York Times financial columnist Ron Lieber [tweeted](#), "Treated like a trophy. Eye-rolling. Profoundly uncomfortable. Calls the president a moron. Does he last the month?" Politico's Blake Hounshell [tweeted](#), "Post leans into the idea that Tillerson isn't gonna be around too long."

Tillerson, Mattis, And Mnuchin Reportedly Have Resignation "Suicide Pact." The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/4, Quinn) reports that Tillerson, Defense Secretary Mattis, and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin "reportedly have forged a 'suicide pact' in which all three members of President Trump's Cabinet would leave if one of them became a target of the president." USA Today's Jill Lawrence [tweeted](#), "So maybe 'suicide pact' is why Tillerson could say he never considered leaving his post?"

[Politico](#) (10/4, Lima) reports that Senate Foreign Relations Chairman Bob Corker "offered a blunt assessment" of the Trump Administration on Wednesday, saying, "I think Secretary Tillerson, Secretary Mattis and Chief of Staff Kelly are those people that help separate our country from chaos."

Ex-Counselor To UN Ambassador Says Tillerson Is Hurting State Department. Nik Steinberg, a senior adviser to the president of Columbia University and former counselor to then-UN Ambassador Samantha Power, writes in [Politico Magazine](#) (10/4) that Tillerson is leading good veteran staff members to leave the State Department: "None of them have served a president like this before – and that includes the most seasoned hands, who have spent decades in the department." The President is "proposing to slash roughly a third of the State Department's budget, a cut" that Tillerson "has embraced," and "experts on complex issues and regions have repeatedly found themselves left out of policy debates and drafting processes. ... When career public servants are not given a seat at the table, not only are mistakes made and policies worse off, but opportunities are missed." And "as more people leave, fewer are coming in."

House Panel Approves \$10 Billion Payment For Border Wall.

The [Washington Times](#) (10/4, Dinan) reports that in an 18-12 party-line vote Wednesday, the House Homeland Security Committee "gave first approval to the broad scope of President Trump's border wall...clearing a bill that would authorize \$10 billion in new infrastructure spending, new waivers to speed up construction and 10,000 more border agents and officers to patrol the US-Mexico line." Democrats argued that "the wall was a boondoggle and the fact that US taxpayers will fund it violates the president's campaign pledge to make Mexico foot the bill," while Republicans said "it was time to get a handle on the border."

Cruz Challenger O'Rourke's Bill Seeks To Protect Landowners From "Trump Wall." The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/4, Diaz) reports that Rep. Beto O'Rourke, who is mounting a 2018 challenge to Sen. Ted Cruz, on Wednesday introduced a bill aimed at "protect[ing] landowners from 'Trump's wall.'" The issue is likely to become a flashpoint in O'Rourke's bid to unseat Cruz, "an immigration hard-liner who supports President Donald Trump's plan to build a border wall." The Chronicle says, "Two-thirds of the land along the southwest border is private or state-owned. Most of that falls within Texas. The Protecting the Property Rights of Border Landowners Act would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to block the government from using eminent domain to acquire land to build a wall along the US-Mexico border." Said O'Rourke, "We do not need a border wall that raids the land of private citizens, ransacks the businesses and ranches of hard-working Texans, and strips property rights away from Americans."

Administration To Propose Repealing Clean Power Plan.

Citing "a person familiar with the deliberations," [Bloomberg News](#) (10/4, Dlouhy) reports that in a proposal that could be released this week or next, the Administration will propose repealing the Clean Power Plan, "former President Barack Obama's signature plan for combating climate change

by asserting that its expansive approach to addressing carbon emissions exceeds legal limits." In addition, the EPA will "issue a formal request for the public to offer ideas for a replacement to the Clean Power Plan that could be more modest in scope." The [New York Times](#) (10/4, Friedman) cites an internal EPA document, which states, "The agency is issuing a proposal to repeal the rule," but does not explain how it "will justify to the courts the decision to eliminate the regulation."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Donald Trump's Foreign Policy Circus." A [New York Times](#) (10/5) editorial says, "Another day, another embarrassing foreign policy circus in the nation's capital that can only further erode trust in American leadership at home and abroad." The Times argues that the "conflicts are numerous and mounting," and "to say the least, all of this has made matters difficult for Mr. Tillerson, while confusing American foreign policy. Secretaries of state must be seen as having the president's personal trust and the clout to represent him authoritatively all over the world."

"Michael Grimm, New York's Next Zombie Candidate." The [New York Times](#) (10/5, Board) editorializes, "Some New York politicians are in a separate class: They're incapable of blushing. These are people, whether ethically suspect or downright criminal, whose sense of decency has gone haywire." The Times says Michael Grimm, "a former congressman from Staten Island who spent seven months in a federal prison for felony tax fraud" and announced this week that he would try to recapture his seat, is among this class of politicians. It argues that "there's no compelling reason for Mr. Grimm to run," and urges him to "find something other than a taxpayer-financed position to fill his days."

"Would You Buy A Condo From The Trumps?" In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/5, Board) writes, "Until their father's personal lawyer intervened, Ivanka and Donald Trump Jr. were under criminal investigation by Manhattan prosecutors for possibly defrauding buyers of units in the Trump SoHo development, according to an investigation by ProPublica, WNYC and The New Yorker." Chief of Staff Kelly, it adds, "appears to recognize that Mr. Kushner and Ms. Trump are a drag on a White House already plagued by problems. Let's also hope that he can persuade the Trump family members to deal more forthrightly with the American public than they did with their investors."

Washington Post.

"This GOP Tax Reform Proposal Isn't Fair. Here's What Would Be." The [Washington Post](#) (10/4) argues in an editorial that National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn's claim that the Administration is "trying to get rid of all of the loopholes and all of the deductions that mostly wealthy people use," is "not the case." The Post says the plan targets the state and local tax deduction, which "wealthy people in mostly Democratic states use disproportionately," and leaves others, including the deductions for home mortgage interest and for charitable giving, "hardly touched." The Post argues that a "fairer way" would be to "close loopholes without singling out one tax break, one area of the country or one set of wealthy people."

"The Senate's Russia Probe Is Still Far From Over." The [Washington Post](#) (10/4), editorializes that Wednesday's news conference by Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr and ranking Democrat Mark Warner "raised more questions than it answered on the state of the committee's probe into Russian election interference. But it did make one thing clear: The investigation is far from over." The Post asserts, "Importantly, we learned that the committee continues to study whether collusion took place between the Kremlin and the Trump campaign."

"Let The Rohingya Return To Burma – Immediately." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/4) writes that Rohingya who have fled Burma amid attacks from the military must be allowed to return immediately. The Post argues that the UN Security Council "must move beyond mere discussion and forcefully express the world's disgust and support new sanctions," and that the Administration should "impose targeted sanctions on military commanders and others who supported the Rohingya atrocities." The Post concludes, "Failing to respond to their plight and persecution would compound the crime of their expulsion."

Wall Street Journal.

"The Gun Control Mirage." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/4) says in an editorial that outlawing bump stocks would not halt the practice, since "bumping" can be done with a finger, and also

argues that past bans on certain types of rifles have proven ineffective in preventing mass murder.

“Russian Reality Check.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/4) discusses the remarks made by Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr and ranking Democrat Mark Warner at a Wednesday news conference, saying that the lawmakers’ comments boiled down to this: Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election; the threat of future Russian meddling in US elections remains a very serious concern; and there has apparently yet to be any evidence uncovered of collusion between Russia and the Trump camp.

“Brussels On The Amazon.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/4) writes that Wednesday’s ruling by European Union’s antitrust division, which ordered the collection of \$294 million in back taxes from Amazon, serves as a reminder to companies of why they need tax reform in the United States. If implemented, US tax reform would encourage companies such as Amazon to repatriate profits and reinvest them in the US – a more positive model of growth than that pursued by EU officials Wednesday.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Mystery Deepens On Las Vegas Shooter’s Motive](#)
[Russian Spy Tactic: Hack Smartphones Of NATO Soldiers](#)
[Another Thing Amazon Is Disrupting: MBA Recruiting](#)
[Trade’s Test Case: Your Washing Machine](#)

New York Times:

[Hurricane Damage In Puerto Rico Leads To Fears Of Drug Shortages Nationwide](#)
[Las Vegas Gunman Chased Gambling’s Payouts And Perks](#)
[Republicans Open To Banning ‘Bump Stocks’ Used In Massacre](#)
[Inside The Las Vegas Gunman’s Hotel Suite](#)
[Tillerson’s News Conference Only Highlights Strains With Trump](#)
[Brian Bowen’s Path To Louisville: A Federal Case Study](#)

Washington Post:

[Casinos Were A Second Home For A Frequent Gambler](#)
[For Those Returning To Cars, Quiet Belies Still-Fresh Terror](#)
[Tillerson Assures Trump He’s Loyal](#)
[Northam Leads Gillespie By 13 Points, Poll Finds](#)
[What Trump Didn’t See In Puerto Rico](#)
[No Warning, Gunman’s Girlfriend Says](#)

Financial Times:

[Mishaps Mar Theresa May’s Fightback At Tory Conference](#)
[Trump Sends Puerto Rican Bonds Into Tailspin](#)
[Catalonia’s Silent Majority Struggles To Unite Against Secession](#)
[Tillerson Denies He Considered Leaving Trump Administration](#)

Washington Times:

[Kremlin’s Campaign Ads Intended To Create “Chaos” — Not Back Any Candidate, Senators Say](#)
[70 Million People May Have Seen Russian Facebook Ads, Seven Times The Social Media Giant’s Estimate](#)
[US Interests At Risk In Arab Allies’ Bitter Feud](#)
[Qatar Prepares For World Cup Spectacle In Middle Of Dispute With Persian Gulf Powers](#)
[Presidential Front-Runner Lopez Obrador Vows To Drain The Swamp In Mexico](#)
[With Talk Of Ban, Gun Shops Brace For Run On “Bump Stocks”](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: Las Vegas Shooting-Gunman; Las Vegas Shooting-Person Of Interest; Las Vegas Shooting-Trump Visit; Las Vegas Shooting-Survivors; Tillerson-Trump Relations; Tropical Storm Tracking; Anti-Vaccine Mother Jailed; Tennessee Chemical Plant Explosion; NYC Bombing Video Released; Equifax Breach-Senate Hearing; Las Vegas Shooting-Community Response.

CBS: Las Vegas Shooting-Person Of Interest; Las Vegas Shooting-Gunman; Las Vegas Shooting-Trump Visit; Las Vegas Shooting-Medical Teams; Tillerson-Trump Relations; Las Vegas Shooting-Congress; Hurricane Recovery-Puerto Rico; Las Vegas Shooting-First Responders.

NBC: Las Vegas Shooting; Las Vegas Shooting-Person Of Interest; Las Vegas Shooting-Survivors; Las Vegas Shooting-Trump Visit; Tillerson-Trump Relations; Las Vegas Shooting-Congress; Las Vegas Shooting-City Response; Tropical Storm Tracking; Las Vegas Shooting-First Responders.

Network TV At A Glance:

Las Vegas Shooting – 38 minutes, 35 seconds

Tillerson-Trump Relations – 6 minutes, 55 seconds

Las Vegas Shooting-Trump Visit – 4 minutes, 55 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Las Vegas Shooting; Las Vegas Shooting-Trump Visit; Tillerson-Trump Relations.

CBS: Las Vegas Shooting; Russia Meddling Investigation-Dossier; Tillerson-Trump Relations; Nigeria-US Soldier Deaths; Google Pixel 2 Announcement; Equifax Breach-Senate Hearing; NBA News.

FOX: Las Vegas Shooting; Las Vegas Shooting-Gun Control; Nigeria-US Soldier Deaths.

NPR: Las Vegas Shooting-Trump Visit; Las Vegas Shooting-Gun Control; Rep. Tim Murphy Retiring.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with Senator Tom Cotton; meets with the Chairwoman of the Republican National Committee; participates in a briefing with Senior Military leaders; has dinner with Senior Military leaders and spouses.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Hosts the first meeting of the National Space Council; receives a briefing on Hurricane Maria relief and recovery efforts and tours the Disaster Relief Center; delivers remarks to the Puerto Rican community and assists in volunteer efforts distributing goods to Puerto Rico for the relief effort.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Nominations hearing considers Paul Trombino III to be Federal Highway Administration Administrator Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 406, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

9:30 AM Senate Agriculture Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Gregory Ibach to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, and William Northey to be Under Secretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 328A, Washington, DC <http://agriculture.senate.gov/>

9:30 AM Bipartisan senators call for permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund – Republican Sens. Richard Burr, Steve Daines, and Cory Gardner and Democratic Sens. Maria Cantwell and Tom Udall call for the permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, via press conference * Sen. Burr has introduced 'S. 896' – a bill to permanently reauthorize the Fund – while Democratic Rep. Raul Grijalva has introduced a similar bill in the House of Representatives Location: U.S. Capitol, Senate Swamp, Washington, DC burr.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/SenatorBurr>

9:30 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee Business Meeting – TIME CHANGE – Business Meeting, with agenda including 'S. 1118, A bill to reauthorize the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004, and for other purposes', with a substitute amendment, 'S. 832, African Growth and Opportunity Act and Millennium Challenge Act Modernization Act', with a substitute amendment, 'S. Res. 245, A resolution calling on the Government of Iran to release unjustly detained United States citizens and legal permanent resident aliens, and for other purposes', and 'S. Res. 211, A resolution condemning the violence and persecution in Chechnya', with amendments Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations of Amy Coney Barrett to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit; Joan Louise Larsen to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit; William Campbell Jr. to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee; Thomas Lee Robinson

Parker to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee; Annemarie Carney Axon to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama; Michael Lawrence Brown and William Ray II to be U.S. District Judges for the Northern District of Georgia; Thomas Alvin Farr to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina; Eric Dreiband to be Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division; Robert Duncan Jr. to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky; Charles Peeler to be U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Georgia; and Brian Schroder to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Alaska Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM NIH and FDA heads testify to Senate HELP Committee on the opioid crisis – Hearing on 'The Federal Response to the Opioid Crisis', with testimony from National Institutes of Health Director Dr Francis Collins; Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use Dr Elinore McCantantz-Katz; and CDC National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Director Debra Houry Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Finance Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Jeffrey Gerrish to be Deputy U.S. Trade Representative for Asia, Europe, the Middle East, and Industrial Competitiveness, with the rank of Ambassador; Gregory Doud to be Office of the U.S. Trade Representative Chief Agricultural Negotiator, with the rank of Ambassador; and Jason Kearns to be a U.S. International Trade Commission member Location: Rm 215, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://finance.senate.gov>

10:30 AM Congressional-Executive Commission on China leaders discuss release of annual report – Congressional-Executive Commission on China Chair Republican Sen. Marco Rubio and Cochair Republican Rep. Chris Smith hold press conference on the release of the CECC 2017 Annual Report, discussing its findings and recommendations for the administration's China policy, and announcing joint initiatives on Hong Kong and efforts to commemorate the late Nobel Peace Prize laureate and Chinese political prisoner Liu Xiaobo Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC-215, Washington, DC www.cecc.gov <https://twitter.com/CECCgov>

10:30 AM Senate Budget Committee concludes marking up FY'18 Budget Resolution – Markup hearing concludes on the Senate Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2018 * Began yesterday Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC <http://budget.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateBudget>

11:00 AM Sen. Graham, Pro-life Leader introduce Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act – U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham (R-South Carolina); Pro-life leaders formally introduce Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act in the Senate. Contact: Taylor Reidy , taylor_reidy@lgraham.senate.gov (202) 224-5972 or Kevin Bishop, kevin_bishop@lgraham.senate.gov (864) 250-1417 Location: 138 Dirksen Senate Office Building

2:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

2:30 PM Senate Committee on Foreign Relations nominations hearing – TIME CHANGE Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

3:30 PM Helsinki Commission co-hosts briefing on the Arctic – 'A New Ocean in the North: Perils and Possibilities' Helsinki Commission briefing, held in conjunction with the Senate Arctic Caucus, Senate Oceans Caucus, and Congressional Arctic Working Group. State Department Senior Arctic Official Julie Gourley, Embassy of Finland in the United States' Iina Peltonen, 17th Coast Guard District Commander Rear Adm. Michael McAllister, Kawerak President and CEO Melanie Bahnke, and Vitus Energy CEO Mark Smith examine 'the importance of the development of Arctic infrastructure as the OSCE's least-developed region becomes more accessible' and analyze 'the challenges faced by the international community to promote greater cooperation in unlocking the region's potential' Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm G11, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

US House: 9:00 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on U.S. response to Rohingya crisis in Burma – Hearing on 'The Rohingya Crisis: U.S. Response to the Tragedy in Burma', with testimony from Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Southeast Asia W. Patrick Murphy, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population, Refugees, and Migration Mark Storella; and USAID Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance V. Kate Somvongsiri Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

9:00 AM House votes on 'FY' 18 Republican Budget Resolution' – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including completion of consideration of 'H.Con.Res. 71' Fiscal Year 2018 Republican Budget Resolution' Location: Washington, DC

<http://www.house.gov/>

9:15 AM Former Equifax CEO testifies to House Financial Services Committee – Hearing on ‘Examining the Equifax Data Breach’, with testimony from former Equifax CEO and Chairman Richard Smith * Follows data breach that potentially exposed the personal information of 143 million Americans Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC
<http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House GOP speak on threat of wildfires – House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop and fellow Republican Reps. Bruce Westerman, Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Greg Walden, Paul Gosar, Greg Gianforte, Raul Labrador, Doug LaMalfa, Tom McClintock, and Scott Tipton discuss the threats wildfires pose to the western U.S., legislation to improve management of the nation’s federal forests, and ‘the need to reform wildfire suppression funding practices’, via press conference Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC 110, Washington, DC
<http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Small Business subcommittee hearing on agribusiness – Agriculture, Energy, and Trade Subcommittee hearing on ‘High-Tech Agriculture: Small Firms on the Frontier of Agribusiness’, with testimony from American Farm Bureau Federation Director of Rural Development Dr Lisa Benson; IN10T co-founder and COO Kevin Heikes; AgroSpheres Chief Scientific Officer Dr Mark Kester; and Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Agricultural Technology Program Senior Instructor Joe Guthrie Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

10:00 AM House Energy subcommittee hearing on improving the nation’s electricity markets – Energy Subcommittee hearing on ‘Powering America: Consumer-Oriented Perspectives on Improving the Nation’s Electricity Markets’, with testimony from Monitoring Analytics President Dr Joseph Bowring; New Jersey Division of Rate Counsel Director Stefanie Brand; Electricity Consumers Resource Council President and CEO John Hughes; Public Citizen Energy Program Director Tyson Slocum; Consumer Liaison Group Chairman Rebecca Tepper (on behalf of ISO New England); and Walmart Vice President of Energy Mark Vanderhelm Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:30 AM Congressional-Executive Commission on China leaders discuss release of annual report – Congressional-Executive Commission on China Chair Republican Sen. Marco Rubio and Cochair Republican Rep. Chris Smith hold press conference on the release of the CECC 2017 Annual Report, discussing its findings and recommendations for the administration’s China policy, and announcing joint initiatives on Hong Kong and efforts to commemorate the late Nobel Peace Prize laureate and Chinese political prisoner Liu Xiaobo Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC-215, Washington, DC www.cecc.gov <https://twitter.com/CECCgov>

3:30 PM Helsinki Commission co-hosts briefing on the Arctic – ‘A New Ocean in the North: Perils and Possibilities’ Helsinki Commission briefing, held in conjunction with the Senate Arctic Caucus, Senate Oceans Caucus, and Congressional Arctic Working Group. State Department Senior Arctic Official Julie Gourley, Embassy of Finland in the United States’ Iina Peltonen, 17th Coast Guard District Commander Rear Adm. Michael McAllister, Kawerak President and CEO Melanie Bahnke, and Vitus Energy CEO Mark Smith examine ‘the importance of the development of Arctic infrastructure as the OSCE’s least-developed region becomes more accessible’ and analyze ‘the challenges faced by the international community to promote greater cooperation in unlocking the region’s potential’ Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm G11, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

Other: 9:00 AM Heritage Foundation release ‘2018 Index of U.S. Military Strength’ – ‘2018 Index of U.S. Military Strength’ released at the Heritage Foundation, containing the latest assessments of global threats, operating environments, and the status of the U.S. military. Includes keynote from House Armed Services Committee Chairman Mac Thornberry, with other speakers including Index of U.S. Military Strength Editor Dakota Wood, Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy Vice President James Carafano, Heritage Foundation Center for National Defense Director Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Thomas Spoehr, and Heritage Foundation Defense Budgeting Policy Analyst Frederico Bartels Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

9:30 AM Pakistani foreign minister speaks at USIP on Pakistan-U.S. relations – Pakistani Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif speaks at the U.S. Institute of Peace on the new U.S. strategy for Afghanistan and South Asia, Pakistan’s reaction to the announcement, the dynamics between Pakistan and its neighbors, the role of regional players such as China, Iran, and Russia, and the future of U.S.-Pakistan relations Location: U.S. Institute of Peace, 2301 Constitution Ave NW,

Washington, DC www.usip.org/events/pakistans-foreign-minister-relations-us
<https://twitter.com/USIP>

9:30 AM GOP Sen. Thom Tillis keynotes 'A New Approach to American Immigration' forum – 'Leading the Way: A New Approach to American Immigration' forum, hosted by the National Immigration Forum and the Forum Action Fund, to discuss immigration policy solutions that serve the interests of America, especially its workers and their families. Includes keynote from Republican Sen. Thom Tillis Location: JW Marriott Washington, DC, 1331 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.leadingtheway.us <https://twitter.com/NatImmForum>

10:30 AM Afghanistan Ambassador to the U.S. speaks at Wilson Center on 'America's Longest War' – 'Sixteen Years and Counting in Afghanistan: What's Next for America's Longest War?' Wilson Center Asia Program discussion, with opening address from Afghanistan Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Hamdullah Mohib, Center for a New American Security Adjunct Senior Fellow Christopher Kolenda, Heritage Foundation Center for Foreign Policy Director Luke Coffey, and New America Senior South Asia Fellow Shamila Chaudhary Location: Wilson Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/>
<https://twitter.com/TheWilsonCenter>

11:00 AM AG Sessions announces DoJ initiative to reduce violent crime – Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein make 'significant announcement on an initiative designed to reduce violent crime', with remarks (11:00 AM EDT) followed by a roundtable discussion with 'prominent law enforcement leaders' on the implementation of such initiatives (11:50 AM EDT) Location: Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.justice.gov <https://twitter.com/TheJusticeDept>

5:00 PM Former Vice President Joe Biden delivers CSIS Zbigniew Brzezinski Annual Lecture – Center for Strategic and International Studies Zbigniew Brzezinski Annual Prize and Lecture, recognizing and promoting the importance of geostrategic thinking with a transcending moral purpose. This year's prize recipient is former Vice President Joe Biden, who delivers the lecture, with other speakers including former Secretary of Defense William Cohen, and CSIS President and CEO John Hamre Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

6:30 PM World Affairs Council Embassy Series event with Oman Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Hunaina Sultan Ahmed Al-Mughairy Location: Sultan Qaboos Cultural Center, 1100 16th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.worldaffairsc.org> https://twitter.com/wac_dc

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "By the way, if Trump is upset Rex Tillerson called him a moron, wait till he finds out what the rest of the country has been calling him."

Stephen Colbert: "Hold on there, Tillerson! Nobody calls our President a moron except me!"

Stephen Colbert: "Here's the deal. Why would Tillerson say such a vicious, accurate thing about his boss?"

James Corden: "It was reported that Tillerson had called Trump a moron. So I guess Tillerson isn't so much Secretary of State as he is secretary of stating the obvious. "

Trevor Noah: "In addition to North Korea, it turns out Rex Tillerson may now need to negotiate peace between his boss and himself."

Trevor Noah: "So Facebook has fake news. Google has fake news. Twitter has fake news. Who would have thought we would be living in a world where Snapchat is our only legitimate source of news?"

Trevor Noah: "Now, it would already be bad if all the fake news coming out from the inside of the White House was the only thing we had to deal with. But as we've learned, the Russians are also involved. And if there is one guaranteed way to make any situation worse, just sprinkle a little Russia over it."

Jimmy Fallon: "It just came out that Secretary of State Rex Tillerson called President Trump a moron and threatened to quit. You can tell the situation's a mess because Trump started throwing paper towels at it."

Jimmy Fallon: "After it came out that Tillerson called Trump a moron, Tillerson held a press conference and called the President smart. Then he said, 'Do you think the moron bought it?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "It turns out that Trump's son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner had a third private email account that he used for government business. And if you all listen closely, you can hear Hillary backstage laughing."

Seth Meyers: "Former First Lady Michelle Obama yesterday criticized the lack of diversity in Congress. Said Congress, 'Not true. We have white men from 50 different states!'"

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DOI In The News

House Panel Approves Bill To Overhaul Presidential Monuments Power.

[The Hill](#) (10/11, Henry) reports the House Natural Resources Committee approved a bill reforming the Antiquities Act, sending the measure to the floor for consideration. The bill will likely cause a fight over the future of the president's power to declare national monuments. The legislation would set limits on the president's ability to unilaterally preserve federal land and would institute more public input on potential designations. The bill's author, Rep. Bob Bishop, said, "Congress never intended to give one individual the power to unilaterally dictate the manner in which Americans may enjoy enormous swathes of our nation's public lands. ... Overreach in recent administrations have brought us to this point and it's Congress' duty to clarify the law and end the abuse."

The [AP](#) (10/11, Daly) reports that Rep. Raul Grijalva "called Bishop's bill a tacit admission by the GOP that President Donald Trump does not have legal authority to reduce or abolish existing national monuments." Grijalva also claimed that the bill was "thrown together at the last minute with only one special interest group in mind: the oil and gas industry." In addition, "environmental groups and the outdoor recreation industry condemned the GOP bill."

[KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (10/11, 7:13 p.m. PT) reported that "the bill comes after Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke recommended four large national monuments in the West be reduced in size."

Also reporting are the [Washington Times](#) (10/11, Wolfgang), the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/11, Siegel), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (10/11, Burr), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/11, O'Donoghue), the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (10/11, Daly), the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (10/11, Daly), and the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/11, Siciliano, Seigel).

Restore The Antiquities Act's Noble Vision. In an op-ed for the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/11, Bishop), Rep. Rob Bishop writes that the provisions of his bill "ensure consultation with locals and robust scientific evaluation through public processes that would be required by law." He adds that "it strengthens the president's authority to protect actual antiquities without the threat of disenfranchising people." Bishop writes that "if my Democratic colleagues are serious about their calls for accountability, they will support this bill."

California Wildfires Continue To Rage As Death Toll Rises To 21.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/11, lead story, 2:30, Holt) reported that three days have passed with "still no control" of the 22 wildfires burning across California, which have resulted in at least 21 dead and 3,500 businesses and homes destroyed, especially in the wine country north of San Francisco. Winds were "picking up once again" Wednesday night, as new evacuations were underway and 8,000 firefighters battled the fires. Authorities "are dealing with hundreds of missing persons reports, complicated by destroyed cell towers," and officials "are seeing the worst air quality ever recorded in parts of the Bay Area."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/11, lead story, 3:40, Muir) reported that whole neighborhoods have "turned to ashes" as firefighters race to contain the damage. Cal Fire

Director Ken Pimlott described the fires as “literally burning faster than firefighters can run.” As of Wednesday night, fires have burned through 170,000 acres, and new evacuation orders in Sonoma and Napa Counties were declared. At least 73 cell towers have been destroyed, and winds around Santa Rosa were forecast to gust up to 40 miles per hour.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/11, lead story, 2:40, Mason) reported Pimlott called the fires “a serious, critical, catastrophic event.” Cal Fire Battalion Chief Jonathan Cox praised firefighters’ efforts and their “real sense of purpose and mission,” but expressed concern that the fires could be “pushed in other directions.” Nearly 400 people have been reported missing.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/11, Willon) reports that officials “fear that strong winds forecast for Wednesday evening and Thursday morning will spread embers from the deadly Tubbs fire to populated areas of Santa Rosa and Calistoga that have so far been spared the flames.”

The [New York Times](#) (10/11, A1, Fuller, Pérez-Peña, Bromwich) reports that survivors have “told of narrow escapes from walls of flame that seemed to erupt from nowhere on Sunday night and Monday morning, forcing them to run even before text messages and other alerts were sent out by emergency warning systems.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/11, Lazo, Ailworth, Lovett) reports that California Gov. Jerry Brown said Wednesday that the cost of the fires will reach “tens of billions” of dollars, and that the wildfires were “one of the biggest” in the state’s history. More than 60,000 people have fled their homes.

Zinke’s Mix Of Fundraisers, Government Work Raises New Ethics Concerns.

[Rochester \(NY\) Spectrum News](#) (10/11, 4:55 p.m. ET) reported that “a growing number of [President Trump’s] Cabinet members are facing questions about using taxpayer money to take private or government jets instead of commercial flights. ... At least five Cabinet members are now under investigation by their department’s inspectors general: [Energy Secretary Rick] Perry, [Treasury Secretary Steven] Mnuchin, EPA Secretary Scott Pruitt, VA Secretary David Shulkin, and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.”

[KHNL-TV](#) Honolulu (10/11, 6:06 a.m. HT) reported, “The new travel scandal is Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. He attended political events while pretending to travel on official business. Zinke initially did not disclose that a so-called business trip included a \$3,000-per-person skiing trip fundraiser. He also flew on official business to a political fundraiser in St. Croix.”

Additional coverage of the concerns raised over Zinke’s attendance of fundraisers while on government business trips was provided by [USA Today](#) (10/11), [Talking Points Memo](#) (10/11, Macneal), [MSNBC](#) (10/11), and [WCPO-TV Cincinnati](#) Cincinnati (10/11, Pulse, Biek).

Also reporting are [CNN](#) (10/11, Marsh, Wallace), [CNN](#) (10/12), the [Daily Caller](#) (10/11, Pearce), [MSNBC](#) (10/11), and [MSNBC](#) (10/11).

Trump’s Cabinet Can’t Seem To Stop Taking Private Planes. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/11) criticizes Trump Cabinet members for what the Post describes as private travel at “exorbitant expense to taxpayers.” The Post particularly criticizes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for “spending \$12,375 on a charter flight from Las Vegas, where he spoke at the behest of a political patron, to his home state of Montana in June.” The Post adds that Energy Secretary Perry, Veterans Affairs Secretary Shulkin, and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin “are among at least seven Cabinet-level officials who have shunned the plebeian confines of readily available commercial planes in favor of private jets and military flights at public expense, sometimes to smart destinations in Europe and sometimes accompanied by their spouses – all at a total cost of millions of dollars.”

Secretary Of The Interior Visits Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge.

The [Charlton County \(GA\) Herald](#) (10/11) reports that on October 4, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke visited the Okefenokee Wildlife Refuge. During his visit, “Zinke met with refuge and other local leaders from Charlton County.”

[Keys Weekly \(FL\)](#) (10/11, Sanchez) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke also visited Everglades National Park. Pedro Ramos, superintendent of Everglades and Dry Tortugas national parks, said, “Secretary Zinke came to personally assess the damage caused by Hurricane Irma and ensure the well being of his NPS team in South Florida.”

Local TV coverage was provided by [WBBH-TV](#) Fort Myers, FL (10/6), [WINK-TV](#) Fort Myers, FL (10/6), and [WPBF-TV](#) West Palm Beach, FL (10/5).

Scott, Putnam Make Pitch For Federal Aid After Hurricane Irma. The [Sunshine State \(FL\) News](#) (10/11, Nielsen) reports that Florida Gov. Rick Scott and Commissioner of Agriculture Adam Putnam visited Washington, D.C. on Wednesday “to make the case for federal aid in the Sunshine

State after Hurricane Irma swept through the state, causing extensive damage last month." According to the article, "meetings with FEMA agents, Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke [and] U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Rick Perry were all on tap for the governor on Wednesday."

Local TV coverage was provided by [WBBH-TV](#) Fort Myers, FL (10/11, 5:05 p.m. ET).

Zinke Violated Ethics Regs, Watchdog Says.

The [Daily Caller](#) (10/11, Pearce) reports that "a government watchdog group is calling for an ethics investigation into Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke after an endorsement Zinke made as a congressman two years ago was found on a fundraising firm's website." Campaign for Accountability "filed a request for investigation with the Office of Government Ethics Wednesday, claiming Zinke broke federal ethics regulations by using his office as secretary of the Interior to endorse a private business." ForthRight Strategy, "a fundraising firm hired by Zinke during his 2014 congressional race, featured an endorsement from Zinke on the front page of its website, according to CfA." However, the statement predates "when Zinke was nominated to serve as secretary of the Interior."

Bennet Asks Feds To Pay Counties Drilling Royalties.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (10/12, Harmon) reports that "the federal government should move quickly to pay millions of dollars to four northwest Colorado counties, U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., wrote to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke." Bennet wrote to Zinke. "Colorado and its counties have been owed these royalties for far too long and we must resolve this issue. I ask you to take all available steps to ensure that this money, which rightfully belongs to the state of Colorado, is distributed as soon as possible. I also ask that you explore any options to deliver the funds directly to the relevant counties in order to avoid further delays or reductions in the funds."

Op-Ed: Utah Delegation Needs A Clear Message About Our Monuments.

In an op-ed for the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/11, Boling), Josh Boling, a teacher and naturalist, criticizes the review of recently designated national monuments. Boling claims that "this monument review was never about democratic process; if it were, it would have taken more than a few scant months to complete. It wasn't about inclusivity; if it were, Zinke would have at least sat down at a table with the tribes, even if he had no intention of actually doing anything with their information. And it certainly wasn't about transparency, or Zinke would have held at least a press conference to inform the public of what we already knew."

Save The Bird, Save The Herd.

In an op-ed for the [Montana Standard](#) (10/12, Hadley), Kathy Hadley a board member of Montana Wildlife Federation, and board chair of the National Wildlife Federation, urges Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "to support the sage-grouse conservation plans developed by the people who live in the West and know the land." She also urges Zinke "to commit to working with all the governors from the west to implement science-based conservation plans and practices on our public lands that will protect sage-grouse habitats." Hadley argues that "the sage grouse plans are the gold standard when it comes to conservation."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Homeland Hero.

The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (10/11, Scott) reports that "dozens" of "Native American veterans and active-duty members" have petitioned Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to defend the Badger-Two Medicine. Tribal members, "as well as numerous conservation groups, are seeking to furnish the wild and sacred Badger-Two Medicine with permanent protections from oil and gas drilling." Jesse DesRosier's, a Pikuni (or Blackfeet) warrior and veteran of the United States Marines Corps, said, "The Badger-Two Medicine is our Vatican. It's a temple for us, and it remains under attack."

Bureau Of Indian Education

Family Sues Indian Boarding School In Pierre For Wrongful Death.

The [Sioux Falls \(SD\) Argus Leader](#) (10/11, Hult) reports that “the family of a girl who died after a suicide attempt at a federal Indian boarding school has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against the federal government.” Emerson Little Elk claims “the Pierre Indian Learning Center’s staff failed to adequately monitor his granddaughter, who had a history of depression and threats of suicide, and that the center’s staff was slow to respond when they were informed of her suicide attempt in October 2015.” According to the article, “the girl was 14 years old when the incident took place at the Pierre boarding school, which is overseen by the Department of Interior’s Bureau of Indian Education.”

Bureau Of Land Management

US Government Halts Wyoming Wild Horse Roundup Amid Dispute.

The [AP](#) (10/11, Gruver) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has “agreed to halt a Wyoming wild horse roundup amid a legal dispute over whether it should count foals toward the roundup quota.” The BLM and “roundup opponents agreed in a court filing Tuesday the roundup would stop at 1,560 horses of all ages, a number the BLM was set to reach Wednesday.” Meanwhile, U.S. District Judge Nancy Freudenthal in Cheyenne was set to decide “within days whether to allow the roundup to resume while a lawsuit filed by the opponents moves ahead.”

BLM Has Gathered 1,062 Horses & 269 Foals So Far; 12 Deaths.

[SweetwaterNOW \(WY\)](#) (10/11, Glennemeier) reports that “the Bureau of Land Management Rock Springs and Rawlins field offices have been working on gathering wild horses out of the Adobe Town, Salt Wells Creek, and Great Divide Basin areas.” According to the article, “in total so far as of October 10, the project has gathered 1,062 adults horses, 269 foals, and returned 4 animals to the range.” Also, “twelve horses been euthanized, all categorized as having chronic or pre-existing conditions diagnosed with a prognosis of ‘hopeless for recovery’ by a veterinarian.”

Nevada’s Heller, Laxalt Join Sandoval In Supporting Sage Grouse Decision.

[Nevada Appeal](#) (10/11) reports that Sen. Dean Heller and Nevada Attorney General Adam Laxalt have joined Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval in “applauding the BLM decision to cancel withdrawal of federal lands in six western states.” Laxalt said, “I am gratified that the BLM has accepted our basic argument, which is that we can balance conservation of the sage grouse without injuring the economic lifeblood of Nevada’s local communities.”

BLM Crew Clears Graffiti Off Black Cliffs.

[KTVB-TV](#) Boise, ID (10/11, Parris) reports that Bureau of Land Management crews are “working to restore a popular rock climbing spot that was tagged with graffiti earlier this year.” Vandals hit “the Black Cliffs climbing area near Lucky Peak in March, leaving behind purple, red, and white spray paint all over the cliff face.” Workers “used pressure washers and environmentally-friendly chemicals to strip the paint off the rocks Wednesday.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

U.S. Mulls “Astro Act” For Offshore Oil And Gas.

[Maritime Executive](#) (10/11) reports that a House subcommittee met on Wednesday to review a draft bill that aims to ease offshore drilling in federal waters while also steering revenues to certain coastal states, known as the “Accessing Strategic Resources Offshore Act,” or “ASTRO Act.” The legislation “establishes revenue sharing for states in the Mid and Southern Atlantic planning areas, in an attempt to fairly compensate the qualifying producing states, and to ensure disbursement certainty into the future.” In addition, it “adds flexibility to the national oil and gas leasing process by giving the Secretary of the Interior the authority to conduct lease sales in areas excluded from approved 5 Year Plans.” The act “also limits the president’s authority to withdraw OCS areas from leasing and to combine the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE).”

In an op-ed for [Marine Link](#) (10/11, Luthi), National Ocean Industries Association (NOIA) president Randall Luthi supports the ASTRO Act. According to Luthi, “the ASTRO Act provides a path towards the multi-generational American energy dominance that the U.S. and the world needs.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

250 Years After Washington Drained It, Feds Soak A Swamp.

The [AP](#) (10/11, Finley) reports that “the U.S. government is trying to undo the damage from two centuries of logging at the Great Dismal Swamp.” According to the article, “a years-long project is under way to make the swamp wet again” in the refuge, “where ditches dug to reach lumber dried out the peat, releasing climate-changing carbon and making wildfires more frequent.”

Additional coverage was provided by [WCAV-TV](#) Charlottesville, VA (10/11, Finley) and [WUNC-FM](#) Chapel Hill, NC (10/11, Michaels).

The Battle Over Alaska Refuge Oil Reignites Under Trump.

The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (10/11, Worby) reports that “on Oct. 5, the House of Representatives passed a budget resolution that includes a push to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge’s coastal plain to drilling.” Following the House vote, the Senate Budget Committee “passed a similar bill, with a vote expected in the Senate later this month.” Meanwhile, the Trump Administration has “renewed efforts to allow drilling for oil and gas in the Arctic Refuge as part of a larger push for American energy independence.”

GOP’s Hunt For Revenue Revives Longtime Fight Over Arctic Oil Drilling.

[National Journal](#) (10/11, Plautz) reports the GOP’s hunt for new sources of revenue has restarted the partisan debate over oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Both chambers’ budget directed that natural resources committees to produce legislation increasing federal revenue to offset tax reform cuts. However, Democrats and some Republicans have opposed opening the ANWR as a revenue source, citing the potential environmental damage to the region. Franz Matzner, deputy director of the NRDC, said, “The scale is a drop in the bucket of the broader budget and tax-reform process. ... There’s only one excuse to look at our remaining natural resources for development, and that is ideological.”

Gov. Baker Issues Support For Chatham In Monomoy Dispute.

The [Cape Cod \(MA\) News](#) (10/11, Merchant) reports that “the Town of Chatham recently received the support of Governor Charlie Baker in its effort to regain control of about 4,000 acres of submerged lands and waters taken last year by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.” Baker sent a letter to the House Committee on Natural Resources endorsing a bill filed by Rep. William Keating “which would solve the disputed western boundary of the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge.” The governor’s endorsement “comes after he received a petition this summer from the town with more than 1,000 signatures seeking support.”

Another Victim Of Hurricane Maria: Puerto Rico’s Treasured Rainforest.

The [New York Times](#) (10/11, Ferré-sadurní) reports that Hurricane Maria “obliterated” El Yunque National Forest, “the only tropical rain forest in the United States forest system.” The forest “has been an enormous source of pride in Puerto Rico and one of the main drivers of the island’s tourism industry.” Also, “the livelihood of the Puerto Rican parrot, an endangered species living in El Yunque and Río Abajo State Forest, is of special concern.” Marisel López, leader of the Puerto Rican Parrot Recovery Program of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, said, “The Puerto Rican parrot is an iconic species of the island. It’s our legacy.”

Martha Stewart Boasts She ‘Always’ Carries Shawl That May Be Made From Endangered Species When She Travels.

[CNBC](#) (10/11, Mangan) reports that Martha Stewart “boasted in an interview published Wednesday of ‘always’ traveling with ‘a very comfortable shawl’ – a shawl that, if it is what she originally said it is, is illegal for Americans to own or travel with because it is made from the hair of slaughtered endangered Tibetan antelopes.” Stewart included the “shahtoosh” in a New York Times story entitled “What Martha Stewart Can’t Travel Without.” But when told about article, “a top official at the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, said that if, in fact, Stewart owns an shawl that is actually made from shahtoosh: ‘That would be an issue.’” In response to a request for comment, Stewart said, “I should have said shahtoosh-like, which is what I meant.”

Feeding Endangered Key Deer Could Kill Them, Federal Wildlife Managers Say.

The [Miami Herald](#) (10/11, Staletovich) reports that federal wildlife managers in the Florida Keys

are asking residents to refrain from “feeding the endangered deer.” According to the article, “since Irma washed over Cudjoe Key Sept. 10, pushing a storm surge that submerged much of the Lower Keys including the National Key Deer Refuge on Big Pine, residents who have long tended to the deer like beloved pets began putting out water and food, fearful that saltwater contaminated foraging grounds.” Officials are concerned “that putting out dog food or grains not naturally in the deer’s diet could bring more harm and in recent weeks have repeated warnings about feeding them.”

Wildlife Officials Asking Oklahomans To Help Protect Bats From Deadly Disease.

[KFOR-TV](#) Oklahoma City (10/11) reports that “wildlife officials are warning Oklahomans to take precautions and protect bats from a deadly disease.” Earlier this year, scientists with the U.S. Geological Survey “confirmed that a tricolored bat in Delaware County tested positive for white-nose syndrome.” National White-nose Syndrome Coordinator Jeremy Coleman of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said, “It’s troubling that white-nose syndrome continues to push west and threatens the Ozark Plateau, a stronghold for bat conservation. We are focused on finding solutions and helping bats survive. We’re committed to working with Oklahoma and other partners across the country to closely monitor bats and fight this devastating disease.”

National Park Service

Rainbow Flag Flies At US Monument, But Not On Federal Land.

The [AP](#) (10/11) reports that “gay rights activists who worked to get a rainbow flag installed permanently at the newly created Stonewall National Monument are upset the National Park Service says the flag isn’t actually on federal land but on property owned by the city.” To the group that had pushed for the flag to be added to the site, the NPS’ “surprise announcement that the city, not the federal government, would be maintaining the flag and its pole seemed like a betrayal.” The NPS “denied that any slight was intended, but the dispute threatened to dim the mood at the dedication ceremony, in Manhattan’s Greenwich Village.”

Also reporting are the [Washington Post](#) (10/11, Eilperin, Fears), the [New York Daily News](#) (10/11, Blau), and [WCBS-TV New York](#) New York (10/11).

Indiana Awards \$275,000 To Boost 7 Preservation Projects.

The [AP](#) (10/11) reports that Indiana is “awarding more than \$275,000 to give a boost to seven preservation projects around the state.” The state Department of Natural Resources “says the grants from the National Park Service will be matched by \$249,000 in local and private funds.”

Trump’s Pro-Coal Agenda Is A Blow For Clean Air Efforts At Texas’ Big Bend Park.

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (10/11, Dart) reports that environmental advocates are concerned that the Trump Administration’s “pro-coal agenda will derail the prospects” of improving the air quality at Big Bend National Park. The article notes that “Tuesday’s announcement that the EPA plans to abandon the 2015 Clean Power Plan to reduce carbon emissions came less than two weeks after the agency revealed a revised plan to combat regional haze in Texas and Oklahoma that critics say will do little to cut pollution.”

Oldest Buildings In Hartford’s Colt Complex Will Be Donated For Park Visitor Center.

The [Hartford \(CT\) Courant](#) (10/10, Gosselin) reports that “the developers of the former Colt manufacturing complex have reached an agreement that clears the way for donating two brownstone sheds for a visitor center for a new national park in the city.” The agreement with the National Park Service is expected to be signed Wednesday. However, “perhaps as much as a year’s worth of work is still needed before the Coltsville National Historical Park will officially open.”

Residents Talk With RMNP Superintendent During Mayor’s Chat.

The [Estes Park \(CO\) Trail-Gazette](#) (10/11, Clemens) reports that “the monthly mayor’s chat was held at Latitude 105 last Friday morning, where special guest Darla Sidles, Superintendent of Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP) was there to talk with Estes Park residents and answer any questions they had.” Much of the conversation “centered about the growing number of visitors to RMNP each year, with about a 40 percent increase in visits from just a few years ago.” Sidles said, “The Park has done a great job at finding short-term solution. But the overcrowding is our

no. 1 issue, and it is affecting our visitor experience." She added, "We have to set visitor expectations, and continue to get the word out that planning is the best option to have a positive experience."

Yellowstone Visitation Down During Snowy September.

The [AP](#) (10/11) reports that "an early shot of winter weather depressed recreational visits in Yellowstone National Park during the month of September." According to the National Park Service, "just over 640,000 people visited Yellowstone in September." The figure was "down about 8.8 percent from September 2016, when the park recorded more than 700,000 recreational visits." Still, the NPS "says Yellowstone saw its third busiest September on record in the park."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Trump Says He's "Tougher" On North Korea Than Other Officials.

The [Washington Times](#) (10/11, Boyer) reports President Trump said Wednesday that he is taking a "tougher" approach on North Korea than some of his advisers." Perhaps I feel stronger and tougher on that subject than other people," Trump told reporters in the Oval Office. "I listen to everybody, but ultimately my attitude is the one that matters." He added, "Ultimately, I will do what's right for the United States and really what's right for the world," the president said. "That's really a world problem. And it's a problem that has to be solved."

[Reuters](#) (10/11) reports Trump yesterday also "appeared to confirm he had North Korea in mind last week when he described a gathering of military leaders as 'the calm before the storm.'" In an interview with Fox News, Trump was asked what he meant with the cryptic phrase. Trump told [Fox News' Hannity](#) (10/11), "We can't let this go on. We just can't. You can say what you want. That should have been handled 25 years ago, and 10 years ago, and five years ago. It should have been handled by numerous, not just Obama, but certainly President Obama should have taken care of that. Now it's at a point where it's very, very far advanced. Something has to be done. We can't allow this to happen."

North Korea: Trump Has "Lit The Wick Of War." Wolf Blitzer reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/11) that North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho "said President Trump has 'lit the wick of war,'" and that Trump's speech at the UN was "bellicose and insane." Blitzer [added](#) that Ri "said any sanction resolution, any additional sanctions, is equivalent to an act of aggression and war...and they will do what is necessary." Ri, [USA Today](#) (10/11, Durando) reports, also said North Korea's forces have "inexhaustible power that won't leave aggressor state America unpunished."

Sen. Ed Markey said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/11) that Americans "should all be very concerned" as the rhetoric between Trump and North Korea escalates. He argues such talk is "moving us towards a situation where there could be an accidental war that gets triggered, potentially by Kim, who has a paranoia about our desire to...decapitate his regime." Markey said "there is no military option" – "the only option that we have is to impose much tougher trade sanctions" – and "yet the President just seems to have dismissed it. He insults Tillerson" and "anyone else who talks about diplomacy."

Rep. Ted Yoho said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/11), "I don't believe President Trump lit the wick for this." He argued that North Korea has always been the "aggressor," and that dating back to the Clinton Administration, "diplomacy was tried and repeatedly failed." Despite that assessment, Yoho also said the goal "is to put sanctions on North Korea, have the world buy into it...and get that diplomatic end to this."

Rep. Adam Kinzinger, however, said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (10/11), "I think the way [Trump's] handling North Korea is actually really good because you finally have a stick being shown, a stick option to back up the potential for a carrot and get a diplomatic solution to this thing."

US Flies Bombers Over Korean Peninsula. [Reuters](#) (10/11, Kim, Beech) reports the US military flew two strategic bombers over the Korean Peninsula "in a show of force late on Tuesday," as President Trump met top defense officials to discuss "how to respond to any threat from North Korea." The White House said in a statement that Trump was briefed by Defense Secretary Mattis and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph Dunford at a national security team meeting.

Hurricane: Pence Pledges A Bigger, Better US Virgin Islands.

The [St. Kitts & Nevis Observer](#) (10/9, Ehrlich) reports that during his visit to the US Virgin Islands, Vice President Pence said “that the White House is committed to assisting in rebuilding the US territory ‘bigger and better’ in the wake of two devastating hurricanes.” Gov. Kenneth Mapp “welcomed Pence, his wife, Karen, and other Cabinet members, including Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao, to St Croix prior to an official briefing at the Henry E. Rohlsen Airport.” Mapp “said the assistance of the federal government has made it possible for schools to plan reopening and the private sector to begin to get back on its feet just two weeks after Hurricane Maria and 30 days after Hurricane Irma.”

AXA Financial Extends Grace Periods On Policies.

[InsuranceNewsNet](#) (10/9, Tuohy) reports that “four AXA Financial insurers have relaxed the premium payment grace period for life, health and disability policyholders throughout Florida, U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico in the wake of hurricanes Irma and Maria.” According to AXA, “premium payments toward contracts underwritten by AXA Equitable Life, (formerly The Equitable Life Assurance Society of the U.S.), AXA Equitable Life and Annuity Co. (formerly The Equitable of Colorado), MONY Life and U.S. Financial Life are eligible for the grace period.”

16 Graduate From Inaugural Conservation Academy.

The [Guam Daily Post](#) (10/9) reports that “sixteen individuals graduated from the first Guam Community College Regional Marine & Terrestrial Conservation Law Enforcement Academy, trained in ways to protect the environment and combat human trafficking.” The graduates were “recognized for completing the nearly three-month training during a special ceremony on Oct. 6 at the Pacific Star Hotel in Tumon.” The article notes that “funding for this first-of-its-kind academy was obtained from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs, U.S. Forest Service’s PIPTIEM Program, USAID’s Project Ready Program, the FSM Congress and the Raymond James Asia Pacific Group, through the Micronesian Conservation Trust, according to a press release from GCC.”

US Geological Survey

Fire Island Breach Stable 5 Years After Sandy, Study Finds.

The [Long Island \(NY\) Press](#) (10/11, Bolger) reports that “five years after Sandy breached Fire Island, the new channel between the Atlantic and Great South Bay is shifting, but stable and unlikely to increase bay-front storm flooding, a new study found.” The U.S. Geological Survey “made the findings in what the federal agency billed as one of the most detailed scientific studies ever conducted of the early stages in the life of a barrier island breach.” Cheryl Hapke, “a USGS oceanographer, FI erosion expert and lead author of the report released last month,” said, “Storm strikes are the force that drives the geomorphology – the geologic shape and evolution – of barrier islands along the Northeast coast. But until this event, no one ever had the opportunity to watch a breach open and evolve, and to study that process in depth.”

USGS Evaluates Withlacoochee High Water Marks.

The [Hernando \(FL\) Sun](#) (10/11) reports that “eight USGS field crews traveled around the Jacksonville, Tampa and Fort Myers areas last week looking for evidence that tell scientists how high the flood waters and storm surge from Hurricane Irma reached.” One crew was “able to make it to Hernando County to evaluate the Withlacoochee River.” The USGS said, “High water mark data collected from Hurricane Irma will allow FEMA to revise its current maps for the affected areas.”

Additional Reading.

- *Funding For Black Hills Stream Gauges Dies On Fourth Vote Since May.* [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (10/11, Tupper).
- *Texas Tech Researchers Working On Natural Controls For Golden Alga.* [High Plains and Midwest AG \(KS\) Journal](#) (10/11, Perkins).
- *There’s Gold In Them Thar Sewage Pipes, Swiss Researchers Say : The Two-Way :* [NPR](#). [NPR](#) (10/11, Domonoske).
- *What California Needs To Learn From The Mexico Earthquakes.* [Forbes](#) (10/11, Choudhary).

Top National News

Media Analyses: Trump Threatens Free Press With Reaction To NBC Report.

All three broadcast networks covered President Trump's criticism of an NBC [report](#) (10/11, Kube) stating that he called for a tenfold increase in the size of the US nuclear arsenal during a July meeting, and the President's seeming suggestion that media outlets should face the loss of broadcast licenses for such reporting. The latter thread of the story gets the most attention and it is universally negative, with multiple outlets comparing Trump's words to President Nixon's abuse of power against the media, questioning Trump's commitment to the First Amendment, and noting that federal broadcast licenses do not exist.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/11, story 3, 2:40, Holt) reported that Trump made comments "about the size of the US nuclear arsenal...that stunned a top secret meeting shortly before the Secretary of State called him a 'moron.' The President dismissed our reporting, saying it's not true and that our sources are made up. Those sources, however, do exist. In fact, three of them were in the room when the President talked about dramatically increasing the number of US nukes." Trump: "No, I never discussed increasing it. We won't need an increase. But I want modernization, and I want total rehabilitation. It's got to be in tip-top shape." NBC's Kristen Welker: "But three officials present in the room say the [July 20] meeting was at times tense, including when the President was shown a chart of the history of the nuclear arsenal peaking in the late 1960s at more than 32,000 weapons. The President told his team he wanted the US to have that many. The current number stands at 4,000. ... In disputing the NBC News report, the President took the extraordinary step of appearing to attack the First Amendment, [tweeting](#) about NBC and the networks, 'At what point is it appropriate to challenge their license?'" Ten hours after that initial tweet, Trump [tweeted](#), "Network news has become so partisan, distorted and fake that licenses must be challenged and, if appropriate, revoked. Not fair to public!"

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/11, story 6, 2:10, Muir), Jonathan Karl reported that the President's Wednesday comment was "actually a change from December, when he [tweeted](#), 'The United States must greatly strengthen and expand its nuclear capability until such time as the world comes to its senses regarding nukes.' Today, the President didn't just dispute the NBC report, but went so far as to question their right to report it." Trump: "And it's frankly disgusting the way the press is able to write whatever they want to write. And people should look into it." Karl: "And on Twitter, he seemed to make a threat: 'With all of the fake new coming out of NBC and the networks, at what point is it appropriate to challenge their license? Bad for country!'" In a 30-second item, the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/11, story 4, 0:30, Mason) called those comments "a page out of the Nixon playbook, which included license challenges and threats of antitrust suits against the networks."

[USA Today](#) (10/11, Estepa) reports, "Angry over a story that said he wanted to increase the country's nuclear arsenal, President Trump charged on Wednesday that NBC and other news networks should have their licenses challenged." The [Washington Post](#) (10/11, Nakamura) reports that the President "threatened NBC over a news report he called 'pure fiction.'" The President "has previously challenged NBC's reporting on the meeting, including a revelation" that Tillerson "referred to the president as a 'moron' after the meeting and considered resigning from the Cabinet."

The [New York Times](#) (10/11, Baker, Kang) reports that the President "threatened" NBC, drawing "criticism that the president was using his office to undermine First Amendment guarantees of free speech and free press. And, in fact, the networks themselves – and their news departments – do not hold federal licenses, though individual affiliates do." Like CBS, the Times also compared Trump to Nixon, who "told advisers to make it difficult for The Washington Post to renew the F.C.C. license for a Florida television station it owned." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/11, Bierman, Bennett) similarly writes that Trump "has threatened press freedoms before, but on Wednesday, he went a step further: suggesting that television networks lose their federal broadcast licenses for what he considers 'fake news.'" The Times also says the threat "recall[ed] for many the threats of President Richard M. Nixon."

[Politico](#) (10/11, Nelson, McGill) reports, "Trump lashed out at NBC, appearing to make a threat that is not even possible, given that the Federal Communications Commission doesn't directly license networks." The [Daily Caller](#) (10/11, Ross) says that "any attempt to take NBC News or other networks off the air would be nearly impossible," and [Bloomberg News](#) (10/11, Shields) says that Trump can "probably not" do that, "in part because the NBC network he attacked has no licenses (which are issued to TV stations) and in part because the federal

government cannot legally police political speech.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/11, Bender) also reports that Trump denied calling for the massive increase in the nuclear arsenal. [Reuters](#) (10/11), the [Washington Times](#) (10/11, Boyer, Persons), and [The Hill](#) (10/11, Easley) have straightforward accounts of the President’s remarks.

Mattis Calls NBC Report “False” And “Erroneous.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/11, Brown) reports that Defense Secretary Mattis also challenged the report, saying, “Recent reports that the President called for an increase in the US nuclear arsenal are absolutely false. This kind of erroneous reporting is irresponsible.” The [Daily Caller](#) (10/11, Pickrell) and [Townhall](#) (10/11, Brown) also cover Mattis’ statement.

Sasse Asks If Trump Is “Recanting” Oath To Defend First Amendment. The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/11, Correll) reports that Sen. Ben Sasse “is questioning whether President Trump is still committed to preserving the First Amendment after he repeatedly floated retribution against the media for publishing stories he doesn’t like.” In a statement, Sasse said, “Mr. President: Words spoken by the President of the United States matter. Are you tonight recanting of the oath you took on January 20th to preserve, protect, and defend the First Amendment?”

White House Says Trump’s Relations With Tillerson Are Fine. Sara Murray reported on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (10/11) that Trump on Wednesday “downplayed any talk of tension between himself and his Secretary of State as old news, something that happened last week.” Murray continued: “In fact, the White House does say the President had lunch with Secretary Tillerson yesterday.” Kellyanne Conway said on [Fox News’ America’s Newsroom](#) (10/11) that the President “has confidence in his secretary of state and his entire Cabinet. They met yesterday for lunch and they are in touch very closely as you can imagine as any president and secretary of state are.”

NYTimes Says Congress Should Limit Trump’s Ability To Launch Nuclear Attack. The [New York Times](#) (10/11) editorializes, “The broad debate over President Trump’s fitness for the difficult and demanding office he holds has recently been reframed in a more pointed and urgent way: Does he understand, and can he responsibly manage, the most destructive nuclear arsenal on earth?” The Times writes that “Congress has been sufficiently alarmed to consider legislation that would bar the president from launching a first nuclear strike without a declaration of war by Congress,” which is “a sound idea [that] could be made stronger with a requirement that the secretaries of defense and state also approve any such decision.”

Trump Pitches Tax Plan To Truckers In Pennsylvania.

Coverage of President Trump’s stop outside Harrisburg, PA to promote his tax reform plan is heaviest in print and local media, with only one broadcast network airing a brief report. Reports stress the President’s pitch to truck drivers as he tries to portray the plan as beneficial to the middle class – and not a boon for the wealthiest. Some reports also say that Trump chose Pennsylvania hoping to put pressure on Democratic Sen. Bob Casey, who is up for re-election next year in a state Trump carried in 2016.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/11, story 8, 0:50, Muir) reported that the President was in Pennsylvania “talking about his proposed tax plan, and making some new promises about how much middle class families would save under the plan.” ABC’s Cecilia Vega: “President Trump says the typical American family will save \$4,000 – a ‘pay raise,’ he is calling this. He is claiming this will come from cuts to the corporate tax rate. But this is a tax reform plan...with few details right now. Some experts say it’s actually the top one percent of income earners who will earn and win the most out of this plan, and it will add trillions to the federal deficit.”

The [Harrisburg \(PA\) Patriot-News](#) (10/11) reports that after the “tax reform plan initially was skewered by critics as a boon for the wealthy,” the President “took a deliberate blue-collar approach to present his proposed tax cuts in the Harrisburg area.” At an airport stop near Harrisburg, “he invited groups of truckers, staged rigs as a backdrop and presented his framework for an overhaul of the country’s tax code in terms of how it would affect truckers.” Trump said, “Our framework ensures that the benefits of tax reform go to the middle class, not to the highest earners. It’s a middle-class bill.”

The [Allentown \(PA\) Morning Call](#) (10/11, Olson) reports that the President promoted the plan “as a proposal that will benefit Pennsylvania truckers and trucking company officials seeking to pass on their businesses to their children.” He told a crowd of about 1,000, “When your trucks are moving, America is growing.” [Transport Topics](#) (10/11, Lamb) reports that “representatives from trucking companies, many of which are family-owned, expressed enthusiasm at the prospect of ending the estate tax,” saying that would make it easier to keep businesses in their families.

[WPMT-TV](#) Harrisburg, PA (10/11, 10:05 p.m. EDT) reported that Trump “focused on the trucking industry, which he called a critical partner in keeping the American economy running and competing with other countries.” [WHTM-TV](#) Harrisburg, PA (10/11, 11:02 p.m. EDT) reported, “You could say the President was preaching to the choir. a thousand invited guests, mostly pro-business. He was warmly received as he talked taxes, trucks and truckers.” [WGAL-TV](#) Lancaster, PA (10/11, 11:01 p.m. EDT) reported that Trump “rebuffed critics who claim his plan is a big win for the wealthy.”

The [AP](#) (10/11, Lucey, Boak) reports, “Trump has left it up to Congress to fill in many specifics of his plan, which omits details such as the income levels for his new tax brackets. The outreach to truckers in Pennsylvania is an attempt to give a blue-collar appeal to a framework that outside tax analysts say would largely favor the wealthy.” The President told the truckers, “You’re going to make more money. You’re going to do better than ever before. And we truly admire you. You are our heroes, believe me. You are our heroes.” Charles Hurt of the Washington Times said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (10/11), “This is by far the most populist presidency we’ve had in modern times. I don’t ever remember a president campaigning or hosting an event with long-haul truck drivers.”

[Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/11, Whelan) reports that Trump stuck “mostly to the words on a TelePrompter,” and “stayed away from the distractions that have muddled his message in recent days: the fight over NFL players kneeling in protest during the national anthem, for instance; the dispute with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who had called the president a “moron,” over the two men’s respective IQs; and his Twitter-sniping with ESPN.”

The [Washington Post](#) (10/11, Paletta, Wagner) reports that the speech “came just one week before Senate Republicans must decide whether to pave the way for his tax plan.” With Sen. Rand Paul “expected to oppose the budget resolution, as he has traditionally voted against any budget that doesn’t eliminate the deficit,” the Administration will need near-unanimity among other Senate Republicans, or some Democratic support. [The Hill](#) (10/11, Fabian, Jagoda) reports that Sen. Bob Corker has also “pledged not to vote for a tax bill if it adds to the deficit.”

The [Washington Times](#) (10/11, Miller) reports that the Pennsylvania venue was chosen “in part to put pressure” on Casey. [Politico](#) (10/11, Nussbaum) says the speech “did not include any sustained appeal to Democrats,” but the [New York Times](#) (10/11, Baker) headlines its report “In Pennsylvania, Trump Hunts For Democratic Support For Tax Plan,” writing that the President “took his campaign for tax cuts to another key battleground state on Wednesday in search of elusive Democratic votes” as he argued that the plan “would benefit middle-class Americans, like truck drivers, more than it would help his fellow business tycoons.” Casey, however, posted [dozens of tweets](#) Wednesday that were critical of the plan. The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/11, Weaver) reports that Trump touted Rep. Lou Barletta (R-PA), who is challenging Casey, saying, “He’s going to win. You’re going to win big.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/11, Mascaro, Puzanghera) reports that as the President “hit the road Wednesday to promote the plan, Republicans in Congress were quietly discussing scaling back key provisions in an effort to deliver the top White House priority. There’s already talk that the cornerstone of the GOP proposal – a dramatically reduced 20% corporate tax rate that Trump has called a ‘red line’ – may slip to 22% or 23%,” with Republicans reporting “resistance from lawmakers and lobbyists who want to preserve deductions and loopholes that were targeted for elimination” to offset “the massive corporate cut from the current 35% rate.”

House Republicans from Pennsylvania were on hand for the speech. Rep. Patrick Meehan (R-PA) [tweeted](#), “Pleased to be on hand for @POTUS speech on #TaxReform in PA – strong focus on what tax reform means for middle class & small business jobs”. Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R-PA) [tweeted](#), “Great to be in Harrisburg for #taxreform today. @realDonaldTrump is right: make tax code simple, honest, and fair for all Americans.”

[USA Today](#) (10/11, Shannon, Lee, Machcinski, Long, Heisey) reports, “Before the event, a group of about 20 protesters had been parked in a private parking lot just outside the fencing of Harrisburg International Airport.” They “were asked by airport police to move their vehicles to a location about a half-mile from the staging area” and “moved their vehicles peacefully, but only two returned for when President Trump landed at the airport.” [Bloomberg News](#) (10/11, Olorunnipa, Epstein) also reports on the speech.

Trump: “It’s A Massive Tax Cut.” Trump said on [Fox News’ Hannity](#) (10/11), “First of all, it’s a massive tax cut. ... When we first introduced it, for years they talked about tax reform. The problem with the word ‘reform,’ nobody understands what it means. It could mean you raise taxes. This is the largest tax cut in the history of our country.”

CEA Chairman: Trump Tax Cut Could Lift Wages By \$4,000 Per Year. The [Washington Free](#)

[Beacon](#) (10/11, Meyer) reports that Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Kevin Hassett, speaking at a Washington event on tax reform, said “a tax cut like the one President Trump is proposing could potentially lift wages by about \$4,000.” Hassett said, “Over the last eight years the average real income growth was only about 0.6% per year. That’s just not fast enough. ... What President Trump wants the team to do is come up with a plan that fixes that.”

Politico Analysis: Tax Cuts That Do Not Benefit Wealthiest Hard To Craft. [Politico](#) (10/11, Faler) reports that while Trump “has promised that wealthy Americans won’t get a massive tax cut as part of Republicans’ plans to rewrite the tax code,” that is hard to achieve, since “higher earners already shoulder most of the tax burden while average Americans pay a relatively small share of income taxes.” That makes it “increasingly difficult to cut taxes, particularly tax rates, without favoring the rich.”

[Reuters](#) (10/11, Becker, Morgan) reports that “about three-quarters of Americans say they believe the wealthiest people should pay more in taxes, Reuters/Ipsos polling shows.” The survey found that 53% of adults “strongly agree” that the wealthiest Americans should pay higher tax rates,” while another 23% “somewhat agree.”

Cruz, Sanders To Debate Trump Tax Plan On CNN Next Week. [CNN](#) (10/11) reports that Sens. Ted Cruz and Bernie Sanders will debate Trump’s efforts to overhaul the nation’s tax code on CNN on October 18 at 9 pm ET. The debate will be moderated by Dana Bash and Jake Tapper.

Trump Says He’ll Sign Measure Allowing Healthcare Purchases Across State Lines.

[Breitbart](#) (10/11, Poor) report that President Trump “offered a preview of his forthcoming action on health care” during an interview on [Fox News’ Hannity](#) Wednesday. Trump said, “We are going to have great health across state lines. ... It will cost the government nothing. Private insurance – incredible health care. I tell you what, this will take it and I can sign it myself, I don’t need anybody. I would have done it earlier, except I was hoping they were going to put this through and we would have it in the bill. We are signing tomorrow a health care package that will cover – people say 30 percent or 25 percent in some people say 50 percent. It will cover a large percentage of people.”

The [New York Times](#) (10/11, A1, Pear, Abelson) reports that Trump is expected to sign an executive order Thursday “to relax health care standards on small businesses that band together to buy health insurance and may take steps to allow the sale of other health plans that skirt the health law’s requirements.” While he “has been telegraphing his intentions for more than a week, Democrats and some state regulators are now greeting the move with increasing alarm, calling it another attempt to undermine” the ACA. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/11, Radnofsky, Armour, Mathews) says in a front-page story that while it will take months for the changes in the executive order to take effect, it is the biggest change to healthcare since Trump was elected.

Trump: “We Have To Get Something In Return” For DACA Deal.

President Trump said on [Fox News’ Hannity](#) (10/11), “We have 800,000 people. They are not necessarily young. A lot of people think they are children. They average from 16 to 39 or so. A lot of these people are in the military. They have jobs. I fully understand it, but if we are going to do something, we have to get something in return. What I want is tremendous border regulation, I want the wall, and we are going to get other things. We are going to see if we can work something out. Whether or not we do, I don’t know. It would be wonderful to solve the DACA problem.”

Trump Could Have Direct Role In Selecting Border Wall Winner.

The [Washington Times](#) (10/11, Dinan) reports that a spokesman for DHS said Wednesday that the President may have a direct role in selecting the winning border wall prototype from among eight contenders currently being constructed and tested by the Department. Trump “was prohibited by contracting law from being involved in the selection of the eight finalists,” but “he could be involved in picking the final best designs – though it’s not year clear what role he will play, said David Lapan, the spokesman.” [Axios](#) (10/11, Britzky) shows pictures of four border wall prototypes that were tweeted Wednesday by the San Diego division of Customs and Border Protection.

Samuelson: Build Wall To Prevent Deportation Of Dreamers. Robert Samuelson writes in the [Washington Post](#) (10/11) that the wall should be built “and, in doing so, prevent an estimated 690,000 DACA ‘dreamers’ from being deported from the United States.” Samuelson argues that if Trump is to go back on a campaign promise to eliminate the DACA program, “he needs something big in return. This could be the wall.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Mr. Trump Alone Can Order A Nuclear Strike. Congress Can Change That.” The [New York Times](#) (10/11) editorializes, “The broad debate over President Trump’s fitness for the difficult and demanding office he holds has recently been reframed in a more pointed and urgent way: Does he understand, and can he responsibly manage, the most destructive nuclear arsenal on earth?” The Times writes that “Congress has been sufficiently alarmed to consider legislation that would bar the president from launching a first nuclear strike without a declaration of war by Congress,” which is “a sound idea [that] could be made stronger with a requirement that the secretaries of defense and state also approve any such decision.”

“Biggest Loser At New York Mayoral Debate? The Voters.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/11) writes that Tuesday night’s debate among the three candidates for New York mayor offered few policy specifics, was by “loud and obnoxious” spectators and “endless audience shouting,” and resulted in no indisputable winner. The Times concludes that the biggest loser from the debate was the voters of New York.

Washington Post.

“The Culture Of Complicity Protecting Harvey Weinsteins Everywhere.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/11) says that while “the details of Mr. Weinstein’s actions are grotesque enough,” the “fact that his systematic abuse of power seems to have been an open secret” is “just as shocking.” The Post laments the “complicity” that “protects many Harvey Weinsteins in many industries,” and says the stories from Weinstein’s alleged victims “make clear the crucial role that those in positions of responsibility must play by denouncing misconduct when they see it and demanding accountability, rather than remaining quietly complicit.”

“The EPA Rips Up The Clean Power Plan.” In an editorial, [Washington Post](#) (10/11) criticizes EPA Administrator Pruitt’s decision to repeal the Clean Power Plan and argues that the rule’s elimination not only bypasses the fact that many, including the Supreme Court, had viewed the policy as legal, but also likely will lead to much fewer limits on carbon emissions. The Post describes Pruitt’s approach as “anti-scientific,” “ideological,” and “a betrayal of his office.”

“Trump’s Cabinet Can’t Seem To Stop Taking Private Planes.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/11) criticizes Trump Cabinet members for what the Post describes as private travel at “exorbitant expense to taxpayers.” The Post particularly criticizes Interior Secretary Zinke for “spending \$12,375 on a charter flight from Las Vegas, where he spoke at the behest of a political patron, to his home state of Montana in June.” The Post adds that Energy Secretary Perry, Veterans Affairs Secretary Shulkin, and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin “are among at least seven Cabinet-level officials who have shunned the plebeian confines of readily available commercial planes in favor of private jets and military flights at public expense, sometimes to smart destinations in Europe and sometimes accompanied by their spouses – all at a total cost of millions of dollars.”

Wall Street Journal.

“An Air Traffic Winner.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/11) writes that House Republicans’ current plan to convert Federal Aviation Administration air-traffic control into an operation run by airlines, pilots, controllers, and other industry experts would help improve both the economy and travelers’ experience. The Journal argues that Republicans should seize the opportunity to pass the legislation while they have a President who wants reform as part of his infrastructure improvement plan.

“Senate Blue Slip Bluster.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/11) editorial praises Senate Majority Leader McConnell’s decision to move forward on judicial nominees even if home-state Democratic senators don’t return the so-called ‘blue slips’ to the Judiciary Committee, arguing that Minority Leader Schumer is using the “blue slip” process, which is a courtesy, for political purposes.

“The Boy-Girl Scouts Of America.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/11) writes that the Boy Scouts of America’s decision to allow girls to join the organization in the future represented a compromise that prevents total gender integration in the group while addressing growing pressure to allow girls to join and the BSA’s flagging membership. The Journal says the question remains as to if the decision will satisfy the progressive movement’s concerns about gender differences, but concludes by expressing hope that BSA will succeed in its new policy.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[President To Ease Health Insurance Rules](#)
[Beijing Pushes For A Direct Hand In China's Big Tech Firms](#)
[Russia Has Turned Kaspersky Software Into Tool For Spying](#)
[Junk Bond Boom Reaches Far Corners Of The World](#)

New York Times:

[Trump's Tough Talk On NAFTA Suggests Pact's Demise Is Imminent](#)
[Foiled In Congress, Trump Moves On His Own To Undermine Obamacare](#)
[Rohingya Recount Atrocities: "They Threw My Baby Into A Fire"](#)
[Weinstein Company Was Aware Of Payoffs In 2015](#)
[Boy Scouts Will Accept Girls, In Bid To "Shape The Next Generation Of Leaders"](#)
[The Girl In The No. 8 Jersey](#)
[Raining Ash And No Rest: Firefighters Struggle To Contain California Wildfires](#)

Washington Post:

[Boy Scouts, In Historic Move, Will Accept Girls](#)
[Puerto Rico's Misery Drags On](#)
[Trump Amps Up Threats On Press](#)
[President Trump's Loyal Whisperer](#)
[Fears Grow Of Wildfires Merging In California](#)
[Charity Privately Paid Roy Moore](#)

Financial Times:

[Kobe Steel Shares Plunge As Scandal Widens](#)
[Spanish Prime Minister Demands Clarity On Catalan Independence](#)
[Peltz's P&G Loss Unlikely To Stop Activist Investing Tide](#)
[Trump Administration Hits Out At IMF Over Tax Reforms](#)

Washington Times:

[Military Heats Up Battle In Libya As Islamic State Militants Seek Refuge](#)
[D.C. Officials Defend Gun Laws, Look To Further Tighten Concealed-Carry Rules](#)
[Trump Sells Tax Plan In Pennsylvania: "Rocket Fuel For Our Economy"](#)
[As Boy Scouts Welcome Girls, Rival Group Sees Expansion Of "War On Boys"](#)
[California Wildfires Expected To Worsen In Coming Days: State's "Biggest, Most Serious" Event](#)
["Disgusted" Obamas Were Star-Struck By Hollywood Mogul Weinstein's Access, Cash](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: West Coast Wildfires; West Coast Wildfires-Firefighting; West Coast Wildfires-Tracking; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; Trump-US Nuclear Arsenal; Trump-Homeland Security Secretary Pick; Trump-Tax Reform; Louisiana State University-Hazing; Seattle-Gun Fire Exchange; Utah-Nurse Arrest Outcome; Boy Scout-Girl Members; West Coast Wildfires-Aftermath.

CBS: West Coast Wildfires; West Coast Wildfires-Affected Families; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; Trump-US Nuclear Arsenal; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal; Louisiana State University-Hazing; Syria-Raqqa Assault; Boy Scout-Girl Members; Hurricane Season Record; Chicago-Soda Tax Rollback; Utah Foster Family; Retired K-9 Dog.

NBC: West Coast Wildfires; West Coast Wildfires-Affected Families; Trump-US Nuclear Arsenal; Louisiana State University-Hazing; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; Niger-US Casualty Investigation; Trump-Iran Nuclear Deal; Boy Scout-Girl Members; Utah-Nurse Arrest Outcome; Chicago-Soda Tax Rollback; Lost Dog Found; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery.

Network TV At A Glance:

West Coast Wildfires – 15 minutes, 35 seconds
Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal – 7 minutes, 30 seconds
Las Vegas Shooting Investigation – 5 minutes, 40 seconds

Trump-US Nuclear Arsenal – 5 minutes, 20 seconds

Boy Scout-Girl Members – 3 minutes, 40 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; West Coast Wildfires; NAFTA Renegotiation; Boy Scout-Girl Members; Wall Street News.

CBS: West Coast Wildfires; Trump-NFL Kneeling; Niger-US Casualty Investigation; Louisiana State University-Hazing; Falcon 9 Launch.

FOX: West Coast Wildfires; Emergency Aid Budget; Trump-Tax Reform.

NPR: West Coast Wildfires; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery; Trump-US Nuclear Arsenal; Trump-Tax Reform.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Signs an Executive Order to promote healthcare choice and competition; participates in the announcement of the Secretary of Homeland Security nominee.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President as he signs an Executive Order to promote healthcare choice and competition; attends the President's announcement of the Secretary of Homeland Security nominee.

US Senate: On recess until 16 October.

US House: 9:30 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 535, Taiwan Travel Act' and 'H.R. 1698, Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC

<http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

9:30 AM HUD Secretary Carson testifies to House Financial Services Committee – Hearing on 'The Future of Housing in America: Oversight of the Department of Housing and Urban Development', with testimony from Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC

<http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM Energy Secretary Perry testifies to House Commerce subcommittee – Energy Subcommittee hearing on 'Department of Energy Missions and Management Priorities', with testimony from Secretary of Energy Rick Perry Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on first responder communications – Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications Subcommittee hearing on 'Assessing First Responder Communications', with testimony from Department of Homeland Security Office of Emergency Communications Director Rear Adm. (Ret.) Ronald Hewitt; First Responder Network Authority Director of Government Affairs Ed Parkinson; and Government Accountability Office Director of Physical Infrastructure Issues Mark Goldstein Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

10:00 AM Commerce Secretary Ross testifies to House Oversight Committee on the 2020 Census – House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform hearing on the 2020 Census, with testimony from Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross; Government Accountability Office Director of Strategic Issues Robert Goldenkoff, and Director of Information Technology Management Issues David Powner; Department of Commerce Office of the Economic and Statistical Program Assessment Assistant Inspector General Carol Rice; and Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights President and CEO Vanita Gupta Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM House Judiciary Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. X, Congressional Subpoena Compliance and Enforcement Act', 'H.R. 2228, Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act', and 'H.R. X, Protecting Access to the Courts for Taxpayers Act' Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee legislative hearing on 'H.R. 3144, To provide for operations of the Federal Columbia River Power System pursuant to a certain operation plan for a specified period of time,

and for other purposes' and 'H.R. 3916, Federally Integrated Species Health (FISH) Act', with testimony from Republican Reps. Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Ken Calvert; Bureau of Reclamation Acting Commissioner Alan Mikkelsen; PNGC Power President and CEP Beth Looney; Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association Executive Director Liz Hamilton; United Power Trades Organization President Jack Heffling; and Family Farm Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC
<http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Committee on Veterans' Affairs markup hearing Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

10:00 AM House Small Business Committee hearing on fostering women's entrepreneurial success – Hearing on 'Fostering Women's Entrepreneurial Success', with testimony from Strategic Resolution Experts President and CEO Jeannette King; Jancare Private Health Service President and CEO Janice Green; Association of Women's Business Centers President and CEO Antonella Pianalto; and Hester Group President Hester Clark Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

10:15 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on '21st Century Trade Barriers' – Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee hearing on '21st Century Trade Barriers: Protectionist Cross Border Data Flow Policies' Impact on U.S. Jobs', with testimony from American University Washington College of Law Associate Professor Jennifer Daskal; BSA – The Software Alliance President and CEO Victoria Espinel; Information Technology Industry Council President and CEO Dean Garfield; and ACT – The App Association President Morgan Reed Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2322, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:30 AM House Veterans' Affairs Committee legislative hearing – Legislative hearing on draft legislation entitled 'the Asset and Infrastructure Review Act of 2017' and 'H.R. 2773, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to sell Pershing Hall', with testimony from Republican Rep. Mike Coffman; Disabled American Veterans National Legislative Director Joy Ilem; The American Legion Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division Director Louis Celli Jr.; Paralyzed Veterans of America Associate Executive Director of Government Relations Carl Blake; Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States National Legislative Service Director Carlos Fuentes; Government Accountability Office Physical Infrastructure Team Director Dave Wise; Veterans Health Administration Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Policy and Planning Dr Regan Crump; and Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Asset Enterprise Management Director James Sullivan + written statement from Concerned Veterans for America Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

12:00 PM House expected to debate legislation related to disaster supplemental appropriations – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include legislation related to disaster supplemental appropriations Location: Washington, DC
<http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on North Korea – Oversight and Management Efficiency Subcommittee hearing on 'Empty Threat or Serious Danger: Assessing North Korea's Risk to the Homeland', with testimony from George Washington University Center for Cyber and Homeland Security Director Frank Cilluffo; Foundation for Defense of Democracies Senior Fellow Anthony Ruggiero; National Defense University Center for the Study of Weapons of Mass Destruction Senior Research Fellow Patrick Terrell; Symantec Corporation Senior Director of Global Government Affairs and Policy Jeff Greene; and Commission to Assess the Threat to the United States From Electromagnetic Pulse Attack Chief of Staff Dr Peter Vincent Pry Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov
<https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

2:00 PM Speaker's Task Force on Intergovernmental Affairs second hearing – New Speaker's Task Force on Intergovernmental Affairs holds second hearing, 'Are We 'Federalizing' Federalism? A Primer on Federalism, State and Local Government and Interrelations with the Federal Government'. Witnesses include Yale Law School Dean and Professor Heather Gerken, George Mason University Professor of Government Dr Timothy Conlan, and Hillsdale College Associate Vice President and Dean of Educational Programs Dr Matthew Spalding * In May, House Speaker Paul Ryan and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi announced the creation of the bipartisan group of lawmakers focused on balancing the interests between federal and local govts Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <https://robbishop.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/RepRobBishop>

2:00 PM House Small Business subcommittees joint hearing on SBA Microloan Program – Investigations, Oversight, and Regulations Subcommittee and Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access Subcommittee joint hearing on ‘Oversight Improvements Needed: SBA OIG’s Review of the Microloan Program’, with testimony from Small Business Administration Acting Inspector General Mike Ware, and Associate Administrator for Capital Access William Manger Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

House Ethics Committee self-imposed deadline to announce update on GOP Rep. Chris Collins – House Committee on Ethics due to announce its course of action on the matter regarding Republican Rep. Chris Collins – which was referred to the Committee by the Office of Congressional Ethics in July – on or before today * Matter was extended in August, although with the Committee noting that the extension ‘does not itself indicate that any violation has occurred, or reflect any judgment on behalf of the Committee’ * Reasons for investigations are generally kept secret, although reports have previously alleged that Rep. Collins improperly urged people to invest in an Australian biotechnology company in which he is the largest shareholder Location: TBD <http://www.house.gov/ethics/>

Other: 8:00 AM French finance minister speaks at U.S. Chamber of Commerce – U.S. Chamber of Commerce hosts French Economy and Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire for remarks and a moderated conversation on the country’s economic reform agenda under President Emmanuel Macron’s leadership, the future of EU economic policy, and the state of transatlantic economic relations Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H St NW, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com <https://twitter.com/USChamber>

8:00 AM Making Every Vote Count event on ‘The Need for Presidential Selection Reform’ at NPC – Making Every Vote Count host event on ‘The Need for Presidential Selection Reform’ at the National Press Club, with speakers including Democratic Rep. Jamie Raskin Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St, NW, Washington, DC <https://makeeveryvotecount.com/>

8:30 AM U.S. Chamber of Commerce / National Safety Council forum on the opioid epidemic – U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Safety Council hosts ‘Opioid Epidemic: From the Front Lines to the Boardroom, Best Practices & Recommendations’ forum, to emphasize how the private and public sectors can come together to address the opioid crisis. Speakers include National Safety Council President and CEO Debbie Herman, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation President Carolyn Cawley, Democratic Rep. Bill Foster, former Rep. Mary Bono, Office of National Drug Control Policy Acting Director Richard Baum, and Ziegenfelder Company President and CEO Lisa Allen Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H St NW, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com <https://twitter.com/USChamber>

8:45 AM GOP Rep. Paul Ryan speaks on tax reform at the Heritage Foundation – House Speaker Paul Ryan speaks on ‘The Historic Choice on Tax Reform’ at the Heritage Foundation, making the case for reform that he says ‘delivers more jobs, fairer taxes, and bigger paychecks for American families and workers’ Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

9:30 AM CSIS Asian Architecture Conference – Asian Architecture Conference, hosted by Center for Strategic and International Studies Southeast Asia Program, Scholl Chair in International Business, and Simon Chair in Political Economy, to discuss some of the important issues surrounding the upcoming Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum and East Asia Summit, provide an update on CSIS’ Asia Economic Strategy Commission, and discuss the key issues facing leaders in the EAS in the Philippines. Includes opening keynote from APEC Caucus Co-chair Democratic Rep. Rick Larsen, with other speakers including U.S. Ambassador for Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Amb. Matt Matthews, former U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, and former U.S. Ambassador to China, to Indonesia, and to Singapore J. Stapleton Roy Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

10:00 AM Heritage Foundation discussion on the ‘rising inability of Americans to qualify for military service’ – ‘A Looming National Security Crisis – Young Americans Unable to Join the Military’ Heritage Foundation discussion, co-hosted by Mission: Readiness’, on the rise in the inability of Americans to qualify for military service. Panelists include Republican Sen. Don Bacon, U.S. Army Recruiting Command Commanding General Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Snow, and Mission: Readiness Member Lt. Gen. (Ret.) John Bednarek Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

10:00 AM AG Sessions visits Executive Office for Immigration Review and speaks on ‘the crisis facing our asylum system’ – Attorney General Jeff Sessions visits the Executive Office for Immigration Review and delivers remarks on ‘the crisis facing our asylum system’ Location:

Executive Office for Immigration Review, 5107 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA Falls Church
www.justice.gov <https://twitter.com/TheJusticeDept>

3:30 PM G24 Ministers and Governors Meeting – G24 Ministers and Governors Meeting, ahead of the IMF-World Bank Annual Meetings, followed by press conference Location: International Monetary Fund, 700 19th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.g24.org>

6:30 PM U.S. permanent representative to NATO speaks at The Washington Post – The Washington Post hosts U.S. Permanent Representative to NATO Kay Bailey Hutchison for interview with columnist David Ignatius on 'the future of NATO, mounting threats from Russia against Western allies and the ambassador's top priorities for military cooperation, intelligence-gathering and combating terrorism' * Part of the Post's 'Securing Tomorrow' series with leaders in national security, intelligence, and defense Location: The Washington Post Live Center, 1301 K St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.washingtonpost.com/> <https://twitter.com/washingtonpost>

G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies meeting – G20 Finance and Central Bank Deputies meeting ahead of the G20 Meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors and this weekend's IMF / World Bank Annual Meetings Location: Washington, DC www.g20.org

G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting commences with working dinner – G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting commences with a working dinner, ahead of this weekend's Annual Meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund Location: IMF, Washington, DC <http://www.g20.org>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "The big story out of the BET show was Eminem launching a five-minute freestyle attack on Donald Trump. It was very well done. He found a way to rhyme the word 'orange,' which previously had been thought impossible."

Jimmy Kimmel: "According to the story in Vanity Fair, John Kelly is miserable in his job, only staying in it out of a sense of duty to keep Trump from making a disastrous decision. But publicly, they say he's very happy. Sure he is, you can see how happy he is right there. He always looks like he's in one of those 'Wanna Get Away' Southwest Airlines commercials."

Stephen Colbert: "Over the summer, Trump met with top military officials and said he wanted a nearly ten-fold increase in the US nuclear arsenal. A ten-fold increase? Excuse me while I one-fold into the fetal position. He knows we can already end all life on Earth, right? The cockroaches will survive, which is good news for Steve Bannon."

Stephen Colbert: "Speaking of staffing issues, last night, around 9:00, Trump tweeted, 'The fake news is at it again, this time trying to hurt one of the finest people I know, General John Kelly, by saying he will soon be..... fired. This story is totally made up by the dishonest media. The chief is doing a fantastic job for me and, more importantly, for the USA!' Yes, very important you clear up that John Kelly works for the USA, because so much of Trump's staff works for Russia."

James Corden: "An article today revealed that during a national security meeting last summer, Donald Trump said that he wanted to increase the number of America's nuclear weapons by ten fold. Trump would have gone higher than ten fold, but he ran out of fingers to count them on."

James Corden: "Eminem's lyrics were politically charged. He defended the NFL players who have been kneeling during the national anthem, and later Donald Trump responded with his own rap that went, 'Will the NFL players please stand up, please stand up, please stand up.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Trump said it's disgusting that the press is able to write whatever it wants to write. When asked about the First Amendment, he said, 'Is that the one that says not to talk about fight club?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Last night at the BET awards, Eminem did a four-minute freestyle rap criticizing Trump. ... Trump was mad, but he was also a little confused. Today, he told people to boycott the M&M store."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump this morning tweeted, quote, 'With all the fake news coming out of NBC and the networks, at what point is it appropriate to challenge their license?' You're coming after NBC? They didn't take our license after that monkey hospital show, they're not going to take it for you."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump said today, quote, 'It's frankly disgusting the way the press is able to write whatever they want to write, and people should look into it.' Hey man, are you having trouble reading the First Amendment?"

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- Guilty Pleas Entered In Sweeping Indian-Art Fraud Probe.

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- Sacramento (CA) Bee: Colitis Likely Killed 25 Wild Horse Foals At Federal California Facility.
- Montana Standard: Mining Exploration Proposed In The Ruby Mountains.
- Palm Springs (CA) Desert Sun: California Officials Must Maintain Pressure On Cadiz Aquifer Project.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- Oil Company Proposes Arctic Drilling From Artificial Island.
- Louisiana Faces Unexpected Shortfall In Major Source Of Funding For Coastal Protection.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- 400K Award To Help Strengthen Water Flows In The Deschutes.

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

- MHS National Ocean Sciences Bowl Team Takes Victory Trip.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Cape Cod (MA) Chronicle: Officials Push For Permanent Solution To Refuge Boundary Dispute.
- KGMB-TV Honolulu: Analysis: Shearwaters, Hawaiian Petrels Could Be Wiped Out In 30.
- Arizona Daily Star: Endangered Red Squirrel Population Down To 35 After Mount Graham Fire, Authorities Say.
- Huffington Post: Trump Putting A Deadly Squeeze On Endangered Wildlife.

National Park Service

- Los Angeles Daily News: Rim Of The Valley: New Plan Emerges To Add Nearly 191K Acres To Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Area.
- WCBS-TV New York: Activists Hang Pride Flag On Undisputed Federal Land At Stonewall.
- U.S. News & World Report: Memorial Set For US Site Where British Surrendered In 1777.
- Washington (IN) Times-Herald: Indiana Quarter Featuring George Rogers Clark To Be Released In Vincennes Next Month.
- WTLV-TV Jacksonville (FL): 3D Imaging Helps Preserve St. Augustine Historical Sites.
- Marin (CA) Independent Journal: Point Reyes Ranch Plan Options Get Public Airing.
- Fort Collins (CO) Coloradoan: Rocky Mountain National Park's Crater Trail Is A Social Trail.
- U.S. News & World Report: Remains Found In Yosemite Identified As Missing Sailor.
- Tampa Bay (FL) Times: Tampa's Oaklawn Cemetery Placed On National Register Of Historic Places.
- Pensacola (FL) News Journal: National Parks Are Vital To Tourism Industry, Need Support.
- Forum of Fargo-Moorhead (ND): Fredricks: Let's Not Allow A Refinery Near Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Marianas Variety: Interior Transfers Payment Of \$31M To Compact Trust Fund For FSM.
- Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR): USVI Budget Deficit Could Widen To \$325 Million Post-Hurricanes Irma And Maria; Hospitals In Urgent Need Of Funds For Operations.
- Virgin Islands Daily News: Mapp Names Hurricane Recovery Task Force.
- Solomon Star: 'Biosphere Reserve' Status Considered For Bloody Ridge.
- Antigua Observer: World Bank Commits To Concessionary Financing For SIDS.

US Geological Survey

- NBC News: World's Largest Earthquake Drill To Help Millions Practice In Event Of Disaster.
- Philly (PA): 2 Million Americans May Have Arsenic In Their Well Water.
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

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- Washington Times: Trump Meets With Senate Finance Committee Members On Tax Reform.

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 - "Congress, End the Health Care Chaos. You Have 9 Million Kids to Protect."
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DOI In The News

Republicans See New Chance For Oil Drilling In Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/18, Schneider) reports that Republicans are intent on opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil exploration at a time when the U.S. oil production was at a record high, imports are at the lowest level since the mid-1990s and prices are less than half of what they were a decade ago. Rather than arguing there is a need for new oil supplies, the Republican strategy is to "say opening the refuges 1.5 million-acre coastal plain to exploration would generate enough revenue from oil leases and royalties to help reduce America's budget deficit." Meanwhile, Democrats have "vowed to block any bill that contains provisions that threaten the refuge."

Editorial: The White House Sees Only Dollar Signs In The Arctic. In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/18) writes that Interior Secretary Zinke's decisions to relax restrictions on Arctic oil drilling – coupled with the Administration's support for a Senate bill that would open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's oil-rich coastal plain for drilling – show that the White House views the Arctic region in terms of "commercial exploitation." The Times argues that Senate Democrats, with the help of a few Republicans, must stop the Senate's bill, which the Times describes as "a budget scam that puts the wildest place left in America at risk."

Joel Connelly also provides coverage in the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (10/19, Connelly).

States Sue Over Scuttled Royalties Rule.

[E&E Publishing](#) (10/18) reports the attorneys general for California and New Mexico are suing the Trump Administration to keep an Obama-era rule on how royalties are calculated for federal fossil fuels. Xavier Becerra and Hector Balderas are suing after the Interior Department repealed a valuation rule that affected royalties from oil, gas and coal production on public and tribal lands. The lawsuit says the Interior Department violated the Administrative Procedure Act by not offering a reasoning for the change.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Santa Clarita Valley \(CA\) News](#) (10/18, Iovino) and [Law360](#) (10/18, Koenig).

Senators McCain & Flake File Amendment To Fully Fund Wildfire Management.

The [Prescott \(AZ\) E-News](#) (10/18, Tarallo) reports that Sens. John McCain and Jeff Flake have "filed an amendment to the Senate Budget Resolution that would require Congress to fully fund the U.S. Forest Service's cash-strapped wildfire management account as catastrophic wildfires

grow in frequency and intensity." The amendment would "allow senators to invoke a budget point of order against the Interior Appropriations Bill if it fails to provide sufficient funding for wildfire suppression using the federal government's most accurate wildfire budget forecast, called the FLAME Act estimate." McCain said, "Year after year, Congress wrestles over how to fully fund Forest Service wildfire operations. The hard truth is that the Forest Service has become the Fire Service, and we have yet to effectively address fire-borrowing or reduce hazardous fuels in order to lower the cost of fighting wildfires. This amendment would incentivize appropriators and the authorizing committees to compromise on a long-overdue solution to prevent and fight wildfires, which continue to devastate communities in Arizona, California, and across the arid West."

A Mining Proposal Near The North Fork Smith River Could Get New Life.

The [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (10/18, Urness) reports that Rep. Rob Bishop, the House Natural Resources committee chair, "asked in a letter to Agriculture Secretary Sonny Purdue and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for a complete review of 'mineral withdrawals,' or mining bans, from the last eight years." According to the article, "his request could reignite a British mining company's effort to build a nickel mine near the headwaters of the North Fork Smith River, a stream known for recreation, unique habitat and drinking water on the Oregon and California state line."

National Parks For All: That's A Populist Cry We Need.

In a piece for [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (10/18, Tobias), Jimmy Tobias calls for a "populist agenda for our public lands." He argues that such an agenda would "put people to work" and "seek to make our public lands accessible to all." Tobias concludes that "if the parks are America's best idea, then idealism should shape their future."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Native American Leaders Meet In Milwaukee, Push For Climate Action.

[Wisconsin Public Radio](#) (10/18, Quirnbach) reports that "Native American leaders meeting in Milwaukee this week at the convention of the National Congress of American Indians are asking the Trump administration to do more to combat climate change." According to the article, "tribal leaders speaking at the conference say recent wildfires and hurricanes that have destroyed housing and other resources are a sign of rising global temperatures, and that federal action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is needed." Interior Department official John Tahsuda "said federal agencies are still trying to get their hands around the science of climate change." Tahsuda told the audience, "What is the science of it, what's going on, because if we don't understand the science, then we don't know how to address it adequately."

DOI Reaches Land Buyback Deal With Oregon Tribe.

[Law360](#) (10/18, Westney) reports that the Interior Department "said Tuesday that it has reached a deal with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs in Oregon to take part in the \$1.9 billion Cobell land buyback program, the first such agreement under the department's revised buyback policy."

Minnesota Residents Concerned Tribe Will Use Land For Casino.

The [AP](#) (10/18) reports that "a Native American tribe has asked that a large swath of land in eastern Minnesota be placed into a federal trust, saying the land will likely be used for housing." However, "some nearby residents fear it could eventually become a casino." Prairie Island Indian Community leaders "told the St. Paul Pioneer Press there are no specific plans for the property but the tribe's main priority is housing." The tribe is asking the Interior Department "to put the land into the Land Trust Program, which would make development immune to local land use and zoning ordinances." West Lakeland Township officials "say cheaper land could be used for housing and that the area the tribe is seeking is better suited for commercial use."

Guilty Pleas Entered In Sweeping Indian-Art Fraud Probe.

The [AP](#) (10/18, Lee) reports that "a New Mexico art gallery owner and a jewelry supplier have pleaded guilty in federal court to criminal charges in the sale of fake Native American jewelry that was manufactured in the Philippines, representing the first conviction in a sweeping international investigation." Art gallery owner Nael Ali "pleaded guilty Wednesday to misrepresenting fake

Indian-produced goods in violation of the Indian Arts and Craft Act, The U.S. Attorney's Office in Albuquerque confirmed Wednesday." According to the article, "his conviction followed an earlier guilty plea by jewelry supplier Mohammad Manasra on less severe charges under the Indian Arts and Craft Act."

Bureau Of Land Management

Public Meetings Set In Idaho To Amend Sage Grouse Plan.

The [AP](#) (10/18) reports that Bureau of Land Management officials have "announced public meetings in Idaho to amend the 2015 sage grouse conservation plan." The BLM "says meetings are set for Nov. 2 in Twin Falls, Nov. 6 in Idaho Falls, and Nov. 7 in Marsing." BLM State Director Tim Murphy "says Idaho has a large proportion of the nation's sage-steppe rangeland and the public meetings are an opportunity to offer suggestions on how the BLM manages that land for sage grouse."

Additional coverage was provided by [KIFI-TV](#) Idaho Falls, ID (10/18).

Colitis Likely Killed 25 Wild Horse Foals At Federal California Facility.

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/18, Little) reports that "veterinarians investigating the death of 25 wild horse foals held at a federal facility near Susanville believe they suffered from colitis, an inflammation of the colon." The foals, "all born in captivity at Bureau of Land Management corrals in Litchfield, were from mares gathered in September 2016 from the Devil's Garden Wild Horse Territory on the Modoc National Forest, said Jeff Fontana, a BLM spokesman." BLM officials have "taken blood and tissue samples, and have hired an independent veterinarian to conduct additional tests as part of an investigation into the fatalities."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (10/18).

Mining Exploration Proposed In The Ruby Mountains.

The [Montana Standard](#) (10/18) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is "considering a plan for mining exploration in the southwest Ruby Mountains in Beaverhead County." According to BLM Dillon field office manager Cornelia Hudson, "a company called Ruby Graphite, LLC, has applied for the mining exploration activity."

California Officials Must Maintain Pressure On Cadiz Aquifer Project.

The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (10/19) editorializes that the Cadiz Inc. Mojave Desert aquifer project "must be subject to extreme scrutiny." At the very least, the paper asserts, "the State Lands Commission should use any leverage it has to bring about new, independent studies of the aquifer's natural recharge rate and the potential effects of the Cadiz project." The editorial says that "this would go far in easing concerns many have about the future for the nearby, recently created, national monument." In addition, it reiterates "our call to the State Water Resources Control Board that it use all of the power it has under the landmark 2014 groundwater regulatory law to govern this process and ensure that the project, if it proceeds, has strict oversight throughout its lifetime."

Additional coverage of the project was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (10/18, Grandoni) and [Courthouse News](#) (10/18, Renda).

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Oil Company Proposes Arctic Drilling From Artificial Island.

The [AP](#) (10/19, Joling) reports that "federal regulators are taking comments on a draft environmental statement for the Liberty Project, a proposal by a subsidiary of Houston-based Hilcorp to create an artificial gravel island that would hold production wells, a processing facility and the start of an undersea pipeline carrying oil to shore and connections to the trans-Alaska pipeline." The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will "collect comment on its draft environmental review until Nov. 18."

Louisiana Faces Unexpected Shortfall In Major Source Of Funding For Coastal Protection.

The [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (10/18, Hasselle) reports Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority is warning that an unexpected shortfall in the state's offshore royalties may

cause delays or cancellation in restoration projects. Officials said revenue from next year's Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act will be roughly half of what had been expected. Louisiana had anticipated \$175 million, of which \$140 million goes to the coastal restoration authority. Now, the agency is expecting to receive \$60-70 million. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/18, Schleifstein) reports Chip Kline, deputy director of the Governor's Office of Coastal Activities said the lower amount will require fewer coastal restoration and hurricane protections projects in the 2019 fiscal year unless the money is obtained elsewhere.

Bureau Of Reclamation

400K Award To Help Strengthen Water Flows In The Deschutes.

The [Cascade \(OR\) Business News](#) (10/18) reports that "the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation announced that it has awarded a \$400,000 grant to the Central Oregon Irrigation District (COID)." Together with the Deschutes River Conservancy, "the funds will help finance the development of a WaterSMART marketing strategy, an innovative water transactions program that will facilitate the trading of water between irrigation districts and benefit stream flows in the Deschutes River." The article notes that "the \$400,000 award will cover half of the \$800,000 total projected cost."

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

MHS National Ocean Sciences Bowl Team Takes Victory Trip.

The [Hub City Times \(WI\)](#) (10/18) reports that "Marshfield High School students Suhaas Bhat, David Gui, Muhammad Abidi, and Carter Chojnacki, who placed second along with teammate Emma Raasch in the 2017 National Ocean Sciences Bowl (NOSB), and their coach, Paul Herder, took their award trip to coastal New Jersey in August." According to the article, "while hosted by the Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR), the team traveled the Mullica River with scientists collecting measurements with the NERR systemwide monitoring program, toured the Rutgers University Marine Field Station, and visited Wharton State Forest and the birding loop at the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge." Also, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, "a 2017 NOSB sponsor, provided the team with a tour of Ohmsett, the National Oil Spill Response Research and Renewable Energy Test Facility located on a secure Navy base."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Officials Push For Permanent Solution To Refuge Boundary Dispute.

The [Cape Cod \(MA\) Chronicle](#) (10/18, Wood) reports that "hoping to impress upon federal officials the need for a permanent solution to the dispute over the Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge's western boundary, town officials traveled to Washington, D.C. Monday and met U.S. Department of the Interior officials." The article adds that "Selectman Shareen Davis, Natural Resources Director Robert Duncanson and Town Manager Jill Goldsmith also met with staff from the House Natural Resources Committee for an update on the status of legislation that sets the western boundary of the refuge at low water." According to Davis, "the meeting with Aurelia Skipwith, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, and Benjamin Cassidy, Senior Deputy Director for External and Intergovernmental Affairs, both from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's office, was 'very straightforward and productive.'" Davis added that staff members were "extremely interested in the facts of our case."

Analysis: Shearwaters, Hawaiian Petrels Could Be Wiped Out In 30.

[KGMB-TV](#) Honolulu (10/18, Mendoza) reports that "the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released an analysis that estimates 1,800 endangered seabirds on Kauai are killed by collisions with power lines every year." Most of the birds are Newell's Shearwaters. The study "forecasts at the present death rate, Kauai's Shearwater and Hawaiian Petrel populations will be wiped out in about 30 years unless more preventive measures are adopted."

Additional coverage was provided by [KITV-TV](#) Honolulu (10/18, Ako).

Endangered Red Squirrel Population Down To 35 After Mount Graham Fire, Authorities

Say.

The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (10/18, Davis) reports that “the endangered Mount Graham red squirrel’s population is down to an estimated 35 due to a 48,000-acre fire that burned the mountain from top to bottom over the summer, authorities say.” According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, “a census of the squirrels showed a significant decrease from the 252 squirrels that were estimated to live on the mountain in 2016.” The article says that “the squirrel census, conducted in mid-September, found evidence of fire activity in 95 percent of the surveyed locations, with 80 percent of the locations showing at least some habitat loss.”

Trump Putting A Deadly Squeeze On Endangered Wildlife.

In a piece for the [Huffington Post](#) (10/18, Greenwald), Noah Greenwald, Endangered Species Director for the Center for Biological Diversity, criticizes the Trump Administration for recently denying “25 critically imperiled animals protection under the Endangered Species Act.” To Greenwald, that is a clear sign that the Trump Administration “puts corporate profits ahead of protecting endangered species.”

National Park Service

Rim Of The Valley: New Plan Emerges To Add Nearly 191K Acres To Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Area.

The [Los Angeles Daily News](#) (10/18, Scauzillo) reports that Rep. Adam Schiff is reintroducing legislation “that would more than double the size of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area by adding almost 200,000 acres of wild lands, parks and historical sites.” Schiff said the Rim of the Valley Corridor Preservation Act “may find more support in the U.S. Senate this time, with co-author Dianne Feinstein, who will introduce a companion bill on Thursday.” The article says that “despite moves by the Trump Administration to trim recreation areas, specifically national monuments, and open some up to oil and gas exploration, Schiff said he felt optimistic about his bill’s chances this time around.”

Activists Hang Pride Flag On Undisputed Federal Land At Stonewall.

[WCBS-TV](#) New York (10/18) reports that “last week, the National Park Service disowned the flagpole at the Stonewall National Monument, claiming it was city property even though it had been willingly maintaining it and flying its own flag there for a year.” On Tuesday, activist Michael Petrelis “zip tied a second Pride flag on undisputed federal land in the middle of the monument on Tuesday.” Joshua Laird, the National Parks Commissioner for New York, “who sources say was on board with original ceremony, told WCBS 880 that while the agency doesn’t encourage people to do such things, there is no plan to immediately remove the flag.”

Memorial Set For US Site Where British Surrendered In 1777.

The [AP](#) (10/18) reports that “work is expected to begin next year on a memorial to be built on the exact spot where a British general turned over his sword to his American counterpart after the Battles of Saratoga during the American Revolution.” A ceremonial ground breaking was held “just outside the village of Schuylerville on Tuesday, the 240th anniversary of the British surrender on Oct. 17, 1777.” According to the article, “the \$1 million memorial is set for the site where British Gen. John Burgoyne surrendered his sword to American Gen. Horatio Gates following the history-changing battles fought nearby.” The property will “be turned over to the National Park Service and become part of Saratoga National Historical Park, which operates the nearby battlefield and related sites.”

Indiana Quarter Featuring George Rogers Clark To Be Released In Vincennes Next Month.

The [Washington \(IN\) Times-Herald](#) (10/18) reports that George Rogers Clark National Historical Park “in cooperation with the United States Mint will host the release of the Indiana quarter on Nov. 14.” The ceremony will “involve music, representatives from the National Park Service and United States Mint, Lieutenant Governor Suzanne Crouch, and a coin pour which officially welcomes the new currency into circulation.”

3D Imaging Helps Preserve St. Augustine Historical Sites.

[WTLV-TV](#) Jacksonville, FL (10/18, Dryer) reports that “a team from the University of South Florida is working with the National Park Service to use 3D imaging to help protect and preserve

Castillo de San Marcos and Fort Matanzas." Lori Collins, Ph.D., said. Collins is a research associate professor and director at USF Libraries, "said the team used scanners and lasers to create 3D images of the interior and exteriors of the structures." She said, "We will be able to work with the Park Service on how they can protect what is left and how they can better conserve what is here."

Point Reyes Ranch Plan Options Get Public Airing.

The [Marin \(CA\) Independent Journal](#) (10/18, Prado) reports that "offering 20-year leases to ranchers in the Point Reyes National Seashore is among the alternatives National Park Service officials will consider as they look at addressing the future of agriculture in West Marin." According to the article, "a 30-day comment period on the alternatives will run through Nov. 15, with public hearings set for Point Reyes and Sausalito next week."

Rocky Mountain National Park's Crater Trail Is A Social Trail.

The [Fort Collins \(CO\) Coloradoan](#) (10/17, Sylte) reports that Rocky Mountain National Park wants to close the one-mile Crater Trail in Rocky Mountain National Park. The trail "threatens a prehistoric archaeological site and has caused serious concerns for the surrounding landscape." The trail is "what's known as a 'social trail,' something that was created by people over time rather than intentionally by the National Park Service, according to RMNP spokesperson Kyle Patterson."

Remains Found In Yosemite Identified As Missing Sailor.

The [AP](#) (10/18) reports that "human remains found in Yosemite National Park during the summer have been identified as a U.S. Navy sailor who was reported missing while visiting last spring." The National Park Service "says the remains of Alexander Joseph Sevier of Jacksonville, Florida, were identified through DNA."

Tampa's Oaklawn Cemetery Placed On National Register Of Historic Places.

The [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (10/18, Smith) reports that Oaklawn Cemetery, "Tampa's first public graveyard, has been added to the National Register of Historic Places." The National Park Service "listed Oaklawn and the neighboring St. Louis Cemetery, just north of downtown Tampa, on Sept. 25."

National Parks Are Vital To Tourism Industry, Need Support.

In an op-ed for the [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (10/18, Andrade), R. Alex Andrade, the policy chairman of the Greater Pensacola Chamber of Commerce, writes that Gulf Islands National Seashore, which is integral to the local economy, is in need of help. The national park is "still facing repairs from the 2004-2005 hurricane seasons" and "needs more than \$58 million in deferred maintenance." Andrade urges Congress to pass the National Park Service Legacy Act. He says "Congress needs to recognize the role our parks play in our economy as well as our national heritage, and prioritize repairs."

Fredricks: Let's Not Allow A Refinery Near Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

In a piece for the [Forum of Fargo-Moorhead \(ND\)](#) (10/18, Fredricks), Martin Fredricks opposes plans "to build an oil refinery just three miles from the southeast corner" of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park's South Unit. According to Fredricks, the Davis Refinery "and its plume would be painfully visible from the park, where thousands of visitors would otherwise enjoy a clear view of the surrounding Badlands."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Interior Transfers Payment Of \$31M To Compact Trust Fund For FSM.

[Marianas Variety](#) (10/16) reports that Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Doug Domenech has "announced the payment of \$30,819,840 to the Compact Trust Fund for the people of the Federated States of Micronesia." Domenech said, "These funds represent a continuing commitment of the U.S. government to the people of the Federated States of Micronesia now and towards the future under the Compact of Free Association. The funds were transferred as soon as possible in the new fiscal year to ensure timely opportunities for investment and maximum growth."

Additional coverage was provided by [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/16).

USVI Budget Deficit Could Widen To \$325 Million Post-Hurricanes Irma And Maria; Hospitals In Urgent Need Of Funds For Operations.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (10/16) reports that "members of the 32nd Legislature met on Friday with Governor Kenneth Mapp's financial team, as well as officials from the territory's two hospitals, for updates on the USVI government's financial condition, as well as the state of its medical facilities, following the passage of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which wreaked havoc on the entire territory, with Irma devastating the St. Thomas-St. John District, and Maria badly damaging St. Croix." The hurricanes "placed the USVI in a severe hole, according to Office of Management and Budget Director Nellon Bowry." Bowry said, "The indicated \$80.9 million gaps would obviously be widened significantly by the expected revenue loss and additional unreimbursed expenditures resulting from the Hurricanes. The fiscal year 2018 budget gap could widen to as much as \$325 million. Disaster-induced budget gaps will continue into fiscal year 2019 and fiscal year 2020."

Mapp Names Hurricane Recovery Task Force.

The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (10/17, O'CONNOR) reports that Gov. Kenneth Mapp "announced a 18-member hurricane task force at a news conference at WICO on Monday." The panel, "chaired by current WICO CEO and former Sen. Robert Graham, contains a mix of local and federal officials, business and community leaders, and disaster experts." Mapp said, "We're bringing together experts from many disciplines to help the U.S. Virgin Islands build back as fast and smart as possible, to enhance the long-term resiliency of our islands while protecting our island from future storms."

'Biosphere Reserve' Status Considered For Bloody Ridge.

The [Solomon Star](#) (10/19, Kafo) reports that "work to slot Bloody Ridge into the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve status list is currently underway." The Solomon Scouts and Coastwatcher's Trust Board member Dr Martin Hadlow "said they are collaborating with the Chairman of the Solomon Islands National Commission for UNESCO Dr Franco Rodie."

World Bank Commits To Concessionary Financing For SIDS.

The [Antigua Observer](#) (10/16, George) reports that "the President of The World Bank Group, Dr. Jim Yong Kim, on Friday, committed to help Small Island Developing States (SIDS) create a policy for concessional financing." Kim "told world leaders, who were gathered for the World Bank Group-International Monetary Fund (WBG-IMF) Annual Meetings, that the organisation would 'create a window' for some of the countries that have 'graduated from receiving concessionary financing'." According to the article, "his intention is in line with what Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, Gaston Browne has been advocating for months."

US Geological Survey

World's Largest Earthquake Drill To Help Millions Practice In Event Of Disaster.

[NBC News](#) (10/18, Chuck) reports that "the world's largest earthquake drill will take place on Thursday, with millions set to practice what to do if a massive quake hits – a scenario experts say could likely happen in Southern California in the next several decades." The "Great Shakeout" will "happen on Oct. 19 at 10:19 a.m. local time around the world." According to the article, "nearly 20 million people will practice what to do if a quake strikes, with more than 10.2 million of them in just California."

Also reporting are the [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (10/18, Tedford) and the [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (10/18, Shafer).

2 Million Americans May Have Arsenic In Their Well Water.

[Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/18, Mozes) reports that "as many as 2 million Americans may be drinking well water that contains potentially dangerous amounts of arsenic, a new government study warns." The analysis, "conducted by researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, measured arsenic levels in private wells across the United States." Study author Joseph Ayotte, a supervisory hydrologist with USGS at the New England Water Science Center. "described the private well problem as 'widespread.'"

Additional Reading.

- *Bird-Watching Citizens Used In First Golden Eagle Census.* [Courthouse News](#) (10/18, Duffy).
- *Apps Could Help In Predicting, Surviving Disasters;* [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (10/19, Lee).
- *Minnesota To Collar More Than 100 Wild Deer With Tracking Devices To Fine-tune Its Fight Against CWD.* [Winona \(MN\) Daily News](#) (10/18, Kennedy).
- *High Wind, Heavy Rain Approach Western Washington.* [Bellingham \(WA\) Herald](#) (10/18, Mittendorf).
- *Suspension Of Winter Water Savings Opens Door To Recharge.* [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (10/18, O'Connell).
- *Small Earthquake Hits Julian Area For Second Straight Day.* [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (10/18, Robbins).
- *Earthquake: 3.6 Quake Strikes Near Santa Ysabel.* [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/18, Quakebot).
- *Experts: Major Earthquake Hitting Spokane Area Can't Be Ruled Out, But Less Likely.* [KREM-TV](#) Spokane, WA (10/18, Block).

Top National News

White House Rejects Claims That Trump Was Disrespectful To Soldier's Widow.

A Florida congresswoman's claim that President Trump disrespected the widow of Sgt. La David T. Johnson, who was killed in Niger earlier this month, and the President's response that she "totally fabricated what I said," received nearly nine minutes of coverage on the broadcast network newscasts. While the print and TV coverage focuses on the back-and-forth, reports lean toward the Johnson family's side, sounding a decidedly skeptical note on the President's denial and White House accusations of politicization.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/18, story 2, 4:00, Muir) called it "an angry war of words...over one of the most solemn duties of the President." ABC's Cecilia Vega: "Myeshia Johnson was there receive her husband's remains, their six-year-old daughter by her side...just moments before, that phone call from President Trump. Myeshia Johnson answered in the car and listening on speakerphone, her local congresswoman, Democrat Frederica Wilson." Wilson: "I heard him say, 'Well, I guess you know he knew what he was signing up for, but it still hurts.' And I couldn't believe that he said that." Vega: "But today, President Trump disputes that. ... Trump started the firestorm himself with the false claim that past presidents, including President Obama, did not personally call the grieving families of fallen soldiers. ... He said he's called nearly every family, [but] here have been families that have since come forward...who say they have not heard from the White House in any capacity."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/18, story 2, 2:40), Lester Holt said that the "public back-and-forth...has injected politics into something normally seen as deeply personal and solemn." The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/18, story 2, 2:15, Mason) reported, "The President called the families of all four soldiers" killed earlier this month in Niger, and "he is denying accusations he was less than respectful to one of them." CBS' Major Garrett reported that White House press secretary Sarah Sanders "said she did not have a recording of the conversation, but did not specifically deny Congresswoman Wilson's charges. Sanders did question the congresswoman's motives."

The [AP](#) (10/18, Lemire, Woodward) reports that Johnson's mother, Cowanda Jones-Johnson, said that Trump "showed 'disrespect' to the soldier's loved ones." Referring to Wilson's claim that Trump "told the widow that Johnson 'knew what he signed up for,'" Jones-Johnson said, "Yes the statement is true. I was in the car and I heard the full conversation." [USA Today](#) (10/18, Bacon, Ventura) reports that the President "denied" that, [tweeting](#), "Democrat Congresswoman totally fabricated what I said to the wife of a soldier who died in action (and I have proof). Sad!" The [New York Times](#) (10/18, Alcindor, Landler, Sullivan) reports that Trump also said on Wednesday, "I had a very nice conversation with the woman, with the wife, who sounded like a wonderful woman. I didn't say what that congresswoman said. Didn't say it at all, she knows it." Wilson [tweeted](#) in reply, "I still stand by my account of the call b/t @realDonaldTrump and Myeshia Johnson. That is her name, Mr. Trump. Not 'the woman' or 'the wife.'"

The [Washington Post](#) (10/18, Gearan, Phillips) reports that Wilson "said that the Johnson family was 'astonished' by Trump's remarks." During an appearance on MSNBC, Wilson, referring to Johnson's widow, said, "She was crying the whole time, and when she hung up the phone, she

looked at me and said, 'He didn't even remember his name.' That's the hurting part." In an interview with [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (10/18), Wilson said that Trump's tone was "almost like joking" and "matter-of-fact." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/18, Santos) reports that Wilson told CNN that "several other people who were in the car also heard Trump's remark." [Politico](#) (10/18, Nelson) quotes her saying, "I don't know what kind of proof he could be talking about. I'm not the only person that was in the car. And I have proof too. This man is a sick man. He's cold-hearted and he feels no pity or sympathy for anyone."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/18, Ballhaus) reports that the President did not answer a question about what his proof was, replying, "Let her make her statement again." The [New York Post](#) (10/18, Fredericks) reports that the White House said Wednesday that "there were other people present" when Trump made the call, "and that that was the 'proof' that refuted" Wilson's claim. Sanders said, "There were several people in the room from the Administration that were on the call, including Chief of Staff Gen. John Kelly." The [Washington Times](#) (10/18, Miller) reports that Sanders also "said it was a 'disgrace' that [Wilson] and the news media had politicized" the call. Sanders said, "It is appalling what the congresswoman has done in politicizing this issue." The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/18, Quinn) reports that Sanders said that there are no recordings of the call.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/18) editorializes, "Having failed to publicly acknowledge the deaths for 12 days, Mr. Trump on Monday boasted about reaching out to family members of slain military personnel while falsely accusing his predecessors of not doing so." He then "allegedly told one widow her husband 'must have known what he signed up for' – underscored his cluelessness about being commander in chief."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/18) editorializes, "Over the past nine months, the nation has seen evidence accrue that the man it elected president entered office ill-prepared for the job, and whose core personality – vain, venal and vengeful – made him ill-suited for work that requires tact, humility and compassion. What the nation learned this week is that the man it elected president is so unsuited for the job, he can't even get a condolence call right."

Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA) [tweeted](#), "Stating the obvious: Trump has never cared about anyone but himself. No surprise as POTUS, doesn't care about fallen soldiers or widows." ABC News political analyst Matthew Dowd [tweeted](#), "The media's and voters assumption should be if there is a dispute on who is telling the truth between Pres. Trump and anyone, Believe anyone." Harvard's Laurence Tribe [tweeted](#), "I wouldn't put it past Trump to blame the fallen for dying. Recall his comment on John McCain: 'I like people who weren't captured, okay?'"

Joel Pollak of [Breitbart](#) (10/18) writes, "If Trump said anything like what he is being accused of having said – and he and his staff deny it – then it is far more likely that he was expressing admiration for the soldier rather than admonishing his family." Johnson "knew the risks of what he was undertaking, and he faced them bravely in a way that few others would." Amanda Terkel of the Huffington Post [tweeted](#), "Trump tried to look compassionate. Instead, he looked like a jerk."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/18, Phillips) has a feature on Sgt. Johnson's life, while the [Miami Herald](#) (10/18, Daugherty) has a positive piece on Wilson, writing that she has "helped people for years" in her Miami-area district. [Bloomberg News](#) (10/18, Olorunnipa), [The Hill](#) (10/18, Fabian) and the [Daily Caller](#) (10/18, Pfeiffer) also have reports on the back-and-forth between the White House and Wilson. The [New York Times](#) (10/18, Cooper, Blinder, Gibbons-Neff) has a feature on how families of fallen soldiers have handled presidential condolence calls dating back to the Carter Administration, conversations that ranged "from sympathy and sincerity...to awkward distances."

Gold Star Families Offer Differing Accounts Of Trump's Response. On [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (10/18, 8:05 p.m. EDT, lead story), Whitney Hunter, whose husband Sgt. Jonathon Hunter was killed in action in Afghanistan in August, said she did not receive a call from Trump. Hunter said she was told to be prepared for the call, but the call never came, nor did a letter of condolence. Hunter said, "Hearing from the President...I'm kinda neutral on it. It's not going to go either way for me as far as making me feel better. I feel it would be an honor hearing from the President," but "I've had such a phenomenal support system."

However, on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (10/18), Karen Vaughn, mother of fallen US Navy Seal Aaron Vaughn, said Trump was "extremely empathetic" after her son's death. Vaughn said, "I've not only met [Trump] once, I've met him twice. We sat with him as Gold Star families met with him before the election and then he also invited our family to the White House for a Gold Star families dinner and ceremony," which is "a ceremony that he plans to continue, I understand."

Kelly Reportedly Not Aware Trump Would Say That Obama Never Called Him. The [Washington](#)

[Examiner](#) (10/18, Correll) reports that Chief of Staff Kelly “was unaware President Trump would publicly disclose that former President Barack Obama never called him after his son was killed in Afghanistan,” CNN reported on Wednesday. The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (10/18, Rutz) reports White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said, “I think that Gen. Kelly is disgusted by the way that this has been politicized and that the focus has become on the process, and not the fact that American lives were lost, I think he’s disgusted and frustrated by that.”

Trump Sends \$25,000 To Fallen Soldier’s Father Several Months After Promising To Do So. [ABC News](#) (10/18) reports on its website that Trump has sent a \$25,000 check to Chris Baldridge of Zebulon, North Carolina, the father of a 22-year-old Army corporal who was killed in Afghanistan in June, “several months after first making the pledge during a personal phone call with the family.” Baldridge told the Washington Post that “he appreciated the president’s call and was stunned by his generosity,” but said that “the only thing he subsequently received from the White House was a letter of condolence; no check.”

The [Washington Post](#) (10/18, Lamothe, Bever, Rosenberg) reports that White House spokeswoman Lindsay Walters said on Wednesday, “The check has been sent. It’s disgusting that the media is taking something that should be recognized as a generous and sincere gesture, made privately by the President, and using it to advance the media’s biased agenda.”

Appearing on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (10/18, 6:16 p.m. EDT), Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX) called the timing of the \$25,000 check “suspicious,” saying, “It sounds like the President got called out on something and so he had to follow through.” Castro said Trump was “over-promising and under-delivering.” The Washington Post’s Glenn Kessler [tweeted](#), “It took all day to get a comment, which in effect was: ‘The check’s in the mail.’”

Peter Alexander reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/18, story 2, 2:40), “The White House confirms President Trump recently sent a check for \$25,000 to another grieving military father after his son, a soldier, was killed in Syria in June. Officials here say it was a generous gesture made privately by the President. Tonight, that father tells NBC News that he’s yet to receive the payment.”

NSC Staff Drafted Niger Statement For Trump, But It Was Never Issued. [Politico](#) (10/18, Toosi) reports that National Security Council staff members “drafted and circulated a statement of condolence” for Trump to make just one day after the October 4 ambush in Niger, “but Trump never publicly issued the statement.” NSC spokesman Michael Anton “declined to comment,” and “the NSC staffer who apparently wrote the original draft and emailed it out to others at 10:01 a.m. on Oct. 5 hung up on a Politico reporter when called to ask about it.”

Trump Meets With Senate Finance Committee Members On Tax Reform.

The [Washington Times](#) (10/18, Miller) reports, “President Trump looked for Democratic buy-in for tax reform Wednesday at a meeting with bipartisan members of the Senate’s tax-writing committee, three Republican senators said after the meeting.” Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn (R-TX) described the President’s meeting with Senate Finance Committee members saying, “It was enormously productive. The president made clear his preference for a bipartisan bill.”

[The Hill](#) (10/18, Carney) reports Cornyn said that at the meeting, “President Trump floated the idea that senators should start a bipartisan working group on tax reform.” However, “Cornyn appeared skeptical that a separate working group was needed, signaling it would be redundant with the role of the Finance Committee.” Regarding the likelihood of passing a tax reform measure, Cornyn said Monday that lawmakers have “all the tools we need in order to come up with a consensus bill if Democrats will participate.”

[USA Today](#) (10/18, Jackson) quotes Trump as saying before the meeting, “This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity in my opinion. I have had people on both sides, that I promise not to mention...but a lot of people are liking this very much and I think we’ll have tremendous support.” The article also quotes several Senators discussing the bill, highlighting Democrats’ opposition to the tax reform measure’s proposed tax cuts for the wealthy. Senate Minority Leader Schumer said at a news conference Wednesday, “Our Republican friends are trying to hide it, they don’t want to discuss what’s in the bill. You ever hear them talk about cutting Medicare or Medicaid? Ever hear them talk about tax breaks for the wealthiest people in America? They don’t mention it. They don’t want people to know.”

The [Washington Post](#) (10/18, Wagner, Paletta) reports that “after the meeting, the White House released a statement that said, ‘The Administration looks forward to continued opportunities to reach across the aisle in an effort to provide tangible quality of life improvements for the American people.’” The Post says, “Wednesday afternoon’s conciliatory tone contrasted with Trump’s posts on Twitter early Wednesday morning.” Trump had [tweeted](#), “The Democrats

will only vote for Tax Increases. Hopefully, all Senate Republicans will vote for the largest Tax Cuts in US history." Meanwhile, at a briefing on Wednesday afternoon, White House Press Secretary Sarah "Sanders told reporters the strategy is 'pretty simple': to get enough votes to pass a bill." Sanders said, "We don't know why any Democrat would want to be against providing tax relief and tax cuts specifically to middle-class America. I don't know why anybody wouldn't want to get on board with that."

Dionne Accuses Trump Of "Misleading" Claims On Tax Reform Bill. [Washington Post](#) (10/18) columnist E.J. Dionne Jr. warns against "the degradation of politics in the Trump era," alleging President Trump "has thrown our government into chaos and our country into tumult precisely because his disrespect for politics," as Trump "offers a torrent of lies" and "willfully tries to tear the country apart." Dionne cites Trump's Wednesday morning [tweet](#) opposing NFL players kneeling as an example of "his eagerness to polarize." Dionne continues, "Many of Trump's lies are hideously personal," citing "his false charge that President Barack Obama failed to phone or speak to the families of members of the armed services killed in the line of duty." Dionne further argued Trump and the GOP are "offering misleading claims that their" tax reform "bill is designed primarily to help ordinary Americans when in fact its largest benefits will flow to the very wealthy."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"The White House Sees Only Dollar Signs in the Arctic." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/18) writes that Interior Secretary Zinke's decisions to relax restrictions on Arctic oil drilling – coupled with the Administration's support for a Senate bill that would open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge's oil-rich coastal plain for drilling – show that the White House views the Arctic region in terms of "commercial exploitation." The Times argues that Senate Democrats, with the help of a few Republicans, must stop the Senate's bill, which the Times describes as "a budget scam that puts the wildest place left in America at risk."

"Congress, End the Health Care Chaos. You Have 9 Million Kids to Protect." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/18) writes that Congress should end what the Times describes as the "chaos to the American health care system" that was brought by their failure to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program and pass the Alexander-Murray bill. The Times argues that the Alexander-Murray plan "represents real progress" by addressing ACA insurance payments and "also advances two Republican health care ideas: giving states more flexibility to make changes to the A.C.A. and letting more people sign up for high-deductible health care policies."

Washington Post.

"China's President Just Laid Out A Worrying Vision For The World." A [Washington Post](#) (10/18) editorial says Chinese President Xi Jinping's vision laid out in Wednesday's address "ought to concern the world's democratic nations." While the US and other Western nations have urged China to become a global "stakeholder," the Post says the "superpower that Mr. Xi intends to lead doesn't look like the cooperative partner and gradually liberalizing society they imagined." While it is unclear whether Xi "can succeed in making China the world's leading power," the Post says Xi "does have one big advantage. Thanks to the disarray of the US political system and the retreat by two successive presidents from America's global role, an ambitious regime may find a vacuum to fill."

"If Republicans Kill This Health-Care Bill, They'll Prove Their Cowardice." The [Washington Post](#) (10/18) editorializes that "House conservatives attacked" the Alexander-Murray healthcare proposal, and Trump, "who initially sounded a favorable note, soon flip-flopped." Speaker Ryan and Senate Majority Leader McConnell "face a test: Will they cower in the face of this irrational opposition, preventing their chambers even from voting on a plan that, polls indicate, would be broadly popular?" The Post adds that "killing this deal would provide more evidence the GOP has become...the stupid party, simplistic in its policy views, cowardly in its fear of the base, toddler-like in the tantrums it throws when it does not get its way."

"Trump Trivializes The Deaths Of Four Soldiers." The [Washington Post](#) (10/18) editorializes, "Having failed to publicly acknowledge the deaths" of military service members "for 12 days, Mr. Trump on Monday boasted about reaching out to family members of slain military personnel while falsely accusing his predecessors of not doing so." He then "allegedly told one widow her husband 'must have known what he signed up for' – underscor[ing] his cluelessness about being

commander in chief.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Stopping Sue And Settle.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/18) editorializes in favor of a decision by EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to no longer commit the agency to specific policy outcomes in settlements with outside parties, and instead agreeing only to review rules or provisions. The Journal argues that bureaucrats and environmental groups have too often been the beneficiaries of EPA settlements, and applauds Pruitt for his efforts to reform the settlement process.

“Rand Paul’s Alternative Reality.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/18) criticizes Sen. Rand Paul for his opposition to Senate Republicans’ budget resolution, which the Journal describes as essential for tax reform. The Journal argues that Sen. Paul is living in an alternative political reality and is deceiving voters and perhaps himself by saying that limiting defense spending will balance the budget.

“More Freedom For More Money.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/18, Board) strenuously asserts Republicans should not support the Alexander-Murray healthcare proposal, mocking the contention that the bill is bipartisan as it stands. To the Journal, Republicans should push for the inclusion of strong market-oriented reforms before considering support for the measure.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Dow Hits Another Milestone, But Signs Of Caution Loom](#)
[Trump Shifts View, Signals Opposition To Healthcare Deal](#)
[Inside Islamic State’s Other Grisly War, A World Away From Syria](#)
[GE’s New Chief Makes Cuts, Starting With Old Favorites](#)

New York Times:

[Trump’s Condolence Call To Soldier’s Widow Ignites An Imbroglia](#)
[Trump Pulls Back From Senate Deal To Fund Health Subsidies](#)
[With Loss Of Its Caliphate, ISIS May Return To Guerrilla Roots](#)
[In North Carolina, Republicans Stung By Court Rulings Aim To Change The Judges](#)
[A Marine Attacked An Iraqi Restaurant. But Was It A Hate Crime Or PTSD?](#)
[In Italian Schools, Reading, Writing And Recognizing Fake News](#)
[Xi Jinping’s Marathon Speech: Five Takeaways](#)

Washington Post:

[Details Emerge On President’s Calls To Gold Star Families](#)
[White House Wavers On Demilitarized Zone Visit](#)
[The Other, Older Storm Ravaging Puerto Rico](#)
[Northam Owns Stock In Firms With Virginia Ties](#)
[Suspect In Md. Shooting That Left 3 Dead Is Caught](#)

Financial Times:

[Xi Jinping’s Ambitions On Show During Epic Congress Address](#)
[Qatar’s Wealth Fund Brings \\$20bn Home To Ease Impact Of Embargo](#)
[Austria’s Sebastian Kurz Leans Towards Tougher Line On Migrants](#)
[DeepMind Computer Teaches Itself To Become World’s Best Go Player](#)

Washington Times:

[Putin’s Rage Triggered By Obama’s Moves](#)
[Conservatives Fear More Left-Leaning Media With AT&T, Time Warner Merger](#)
[Trump’s Former Aides Caught Up In Russia Election Mess Begin To Fight Back](#)
[Trump Backs Off From Bipartisan Obamacare Deal](#)
[German Far-Right Party Finds A Rocky Road After Electoral Success](#)
[Federal Judge Rules Illegal-Immigrant Minor Has Right To Abortion](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: Maryland Coworker Shooting; Trump-Fallen Soldiers Call; White House-Healthcare Reform; NFL-National Anthem Kneeling; Russia Meddling Investigation; Russia Meddling Investigation-Sessions; US Gymnastics Sexual Harassment; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; Near-Miss Flight Flyby; Disabled Runner.

CBS: Niger US Casualty Investigation; Trump-Fallen Soldiers Call; Maryland Coworker Shooting; NFL-National Anthem Kneeling; Opioid Epidemic; Russia Meddling Investigation; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; California Wildfires; Elderly Treatment Recovery.

NBC: Maryland Coworker Shooting; Trump-Fallen Soldiers Call; White House-Healthcare Reform; US Gymnastics Sexual Harassment; NFL-National Anthem Kneeling; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; Hurricane-Flooded Cars Warning; Wall Street Record Day; Health-HPV Virus; Car Jacking Manhunt; Ford Truck Recall; New Lego Set; Police Siblings.

Network TV At A Glance:

Trump-Fallen Soldiers Call – 8 minutes, 55 seconds
Maryland Coworker Shooting – 6 minutes, 35 seconds
Russia Meddling Investigation – 5 minutes, 25 seconds
NFL-National Anthem Kneeling – 5 minutes, 5 seconds
Las Vegas Shooting Investigation – 4 minutes, 25 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: NFL-National Anthem Kneeling; Trump-Fallen Soldiers Call; Russia Meddling Investigation; Maryland Coworker Shooting; Wall Street News.

CBS: Maryland Coworker Shooting; Russia Meddling Investigation; White House-Healthcare Reform; NFL-National Anthem Kneeling; Wall Street News.

FOX: Maryland Coworker Shooting; Trump-Fallen Soldiers Call; California Wildfires.

NPR: Trump-Fallen Soldiers Call; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; Maryland Coworker Shooting; California Wildfires; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with Governor Ricardo Rossello of Puerto Rico; meets with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson; participates in a gala dinner for UNHCR honoring First Lady Melania Trump.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on defending the nation from cyberattack – Hearing on 'Roles and Responsibilities for Defending the Nation from Cyber Attack', with testimony from White House Cybersecurity Coordinator Rob Joyce (invited); Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Global Security Kenneth Rapuano; FBI Assistant Director for the Cyber Division Scott Smith; and Acting Under Secretary of Homeland Security for National Protection and Programs Christopher Krebs Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm G50, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations including Stephanos Bibas to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit; Allison Eid to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit; Annemarie Carney Axon and Liles Clifton Burke to be U.S. District Judges for the Northern District of Alabama; Michael Lawrence Brown and William Ray II to be U.S. District Judges for the Northern District of Georgia; Thomas Alvin Farr to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina; Walter David Counts III to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Texas; Michael Joseph Juneau to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana; A. Marvin Quattlebaum, Jr. to be U.S. District Judge for the District of South Carolina; Karen Gren Scholer to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Texas; Tilman Eugene Self III to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia; and John Demers to be Assistant Attorney General for the National Security Division Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee hearing on healthy choices – Hearing on 'Examining How Healthy Choices Can Improve Health Outcomes and Reduce Costs', with testimony from Burd Health founder and CEO Steve Burd; The Wellness Institute at the Cleveland Clinic Chief Wellness Officer and Chair Michael Roizen; University of Pennsylvania Center for Health Care Innovation

Executive Director David Asch; and Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law Director of Policy and Legal Advocacy Jennifer Mathis Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:30 AM POSTPONED: Senate Appropriations Committee markup hearing – POSTPONED: Markup hearing on ‘Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018’ and ‘Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2018’ Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 106, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

10:30 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on modernizing the Food for Peace program – Hearing on ‘Modernizing the Food for Peace Program’, with testimony from USAID Office of Food for Peace Acting Director Matthew Nims; Government Accountability Office Director of International Affairs and Trade Thomas Melito; Cornell University Professor and Dean Dr Christopher Barrett; and Catholic Relief Services Vice President for Government Relations and Advocacy Bill O’Keefe Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

12:40 PM Warner, Klobuchar on preventing foreign interference in elections – U.S. Sens. Mark Warner (D-VA), Vice Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Ranking Member of the Senate Rules Committee, will hold a press conference to announce the introduction of bipartisan legislation cosponsored by Sen. John McCain (R-AZ), Chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services, to prevent foreign interference in future elections and improve transparency of online political ads. Contact: Rachel Cohen (Warner) 202 228 6884. Location: U.S. Senate Gallery Studio, Room S-325

US House: 12:00 PM House of Representatives meets for pro forma session

1:00 PM Dem Rep. Frederica Wilson hosts Congressional field hearing in Florida on nursing homes and disasters – Democratic Rep. Frederica Wilson hosts Congressional field hearing in Florida on nursing home preparedness and response to disasters, including testimony from experts and officials on ways to ensure that incidents such as deaths of 14 residents at the Rehabilitation Center at Hollywood Hills, FL, never happen again. Participants include Democratic Reps. Hank Johnson and Lois Frankel, Republican Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Florida State Sen. Lauren Book, Florida International University Professors Dr Kathryn Hyer and Dr Elena Bastida, former Florida State Sen. Eleanor Sobel, Miami-Dade County, FL, Office of Emergency Management Division Director Charles Cyrille, and Miami Jewish Health Systems Director of Engineering George Talledo Location: Miami Dade College, 11380 NW 27th Ave, Miami, FL <http://wilson.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RepWilson>

On recess until 23 October.

Other: 8:30 AM GOP Sen. Bob Corker speaks at AEI on ‘reforming international food aid assistance’ – Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker speaks at the American Enterprise Institute on ‘Reforming international emergency food aid assistance’, discussing increasing the impact and efficiency of U.S. food aid programs. Event includes panel discussion on new AEI report, ‘International Food Aid and Food Assistance Programs and the Next Farm Bill’, with Christopher Barrett (Cornell University) and independent agricultural policy consultant Stephanie Mercier Location: American Enterprise Institute, 1789 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC <http://www.aei.org/> <https://twitter.com/AEI>

8:45 AM GOP Sen. Cory Gardner discusses national security threats and opportunities at Hudson Institute – ‘Dialogues on American Foreign Policy and World Affairs’ Hudson Institute discussion on U.S. national security threats and opportunities with Republican Sen. Cory Gardner Location: Hudson Institute, 1201 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.hudson.org> <https://twitter.com/HudsonInstitute>

9:30 AM Kaiser Family Foundation annual survey on Medicaid coverage released – Kaiser Family Foundation Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured releases annual 50-state Medicaid budget survey, for fiscal years 2017 and 2018, and holds joint briefing with the National Association of Medicaid Directors on trends in enrollment and spending and key policy developments in state programs. KFF also releases three reports based on the KCMU survey – an analysis of national trends in state Medicaid enrollment and spending, three case studies of Medicaid in Nevada, North Carolina and West Virginia, and overall trends and state-specific information about the various policy and program changes in Medicaid programs in all 50 states. Briefing includes presentation by survey co-authors Robin Rudowitz and Kathy Gifford, plus NAMD Board of Directors Vice President and Connecticut Department of Social Sciences Division of Health Services Director Kate McEvoy and Wisconsin Department of Health Sciences Medicaid Director Michael Heifetz Location: Kaiser Family Foundation, 1330 G St NW, Washington, DC www.kff.org <https://twitter.com/KaiserFamFound>

10:30 AM ‘A Celebration of Liu Xiaobo and Liu Xia’ at Washington National Cathedral – ‘A

Celebration of Liu Xiaobo and Liu Xia' memorial service at Washington National Cathedral, commemorating the life and work of 2010 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo and Beijing-based poet, artist, and activist Liu Xia. Includes messages from House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Republican Rep. Chris Smith, and The Dalai Lama, with readings of Liu Xiaobo and Liu Xia's works by Norwegian Nobel Committee Chair Berit Reiss-Andersen, former United Nations Special Rapporteur on Torture Juan Mendez, independent scholar Li Xiaorong, and Initiatives for China President Yang Jianli Location: Washington National Cathedral, 3101 Wisconsin Ave NW, Washington, DC www.nationalcathedral.org <https://twitter.com/wncathedral>

12:00 PM Dem Sen. Cory Booker keynotes Generation Progress event on undocumented students – Generation Progress discussion on 'How Colleges and Universities Can Support DACAmented and Undocumented Students', as part of the Defend Our Dreams campaign to press for passage of the DREAM Act. Includes keynote from Democratic Sen. Cory Booker and panel discussion with Freedom University Executive Director Laura Emiko Soltis, CCCU Vice President of Government Relations and External Affairs Shapri LoMaglio, City University of New York Dreamers founder Monica Sibri, and University Leadership Initiative organizer Juan Belman Location: Center for American Progress, 1333 H St NW, Washington, DC www.americanprogress.org <https://twitter.com/amprog>

3:00 PM 'A Strategy for the Trans-Pacific Century' release at Atlantic Council – 'A Strategy for the Trans-Pacific Century', the final report of the Atlantic Council's Asia-Pacific Strategy Task Force released, an Asia-Pacific strategy that emphasizes the 'critical contributions and roles' of close regional allies while recommending a 'hard-headed engagement approach' with China. Speakers include Ambassador of Singapore Ashok Kumar Mirpuri, Harvard University Future of Diplomacy Project Senior Fellow Paula Dobriansky, and Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security Nonresident Senior Fellow Matthew Kroenig and Senior Fellow Miyeon Oh Location: Atlantic Council, 1030 15th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/> <https://twitter.com/ACScowcroft> #ACStrategy

World's largest earthquake drill – 'Great ShakeOut' earthquake drills – the world's largest, with nearly 20 million people due to take part around the world. Official ShakeOut Regions located across the U.S. – led by California – plus parts of Canada, New Zealand, Italy, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and American Samoa Location: TBD www.shakeout.org

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "It's our third night here in Brooklyn. We've been here twice before. I love Brooklyn, but I want to be honest. The real reason we're here is to get as far out of North Korea's missile range as possible. We don't feel safe in LA anymore."

Trevor Noah: "Why does everything Donald Trump does have to look like a reality show? Just look at this, like all these walls look like contestants. It looks like 'The Apprentice' for walls. Look at the way they placed them. There is a see-through wall, that is the spiky wall. Then there is the wall of – I don't even know what that is. That one is losing."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- The Hill: No Mention Of Climate Change In Interior's Draft Strategic Plan.
- Washington Examiner: Nancy Pelosi Demands Probe Into Montana Firm's 'Highly Suspect' Contract To Repair Puerto Rico.
- Bloomberg News: Interior Department Proposes Doubling The Cost Of Visiting National Parks.
- Los Angeles Times: Interior Department Clarifies, Says It Will Continue To Work On Delta Tunnels

Project.

- KSL-TV Salt Lake City: States Urge Revamp On Sage Grouse Management.
- Alaska Journal of Commerce: Campaigns Continue To Remind Alaskan Ivory Products Are Legal.
- Lafayette (LA) Daily Advertiser: New Attitude, New Hope For Struggling Energy Industry.
- New York Post: Trump Asked About Changing Denali's Name Back To Mt. McKinley.
- Huffington Post: Ryan Zinke's Silly Flag-Flying Ritual Violates Agency Rules.
- U.S. News & World Report: Navajo Nation Lawmaker Implores Trump To Protect Monuments.
- Law360: Enviros Sue DOI For Emails From Oil, Hunting Groups.
- Reuters: U.S. Marine Sanctuary Oil Drilling Report Sent To Trump, Not Public.
- Bloomberg News: This Land Is No Longer Your Land.
- Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel: Release Final Monuments Report Now.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Navajo, Other Tribes Call Land-Use Bill A Step In The Right Direction.
- 10th Circ. Wrongly Put Wind Farm Ruling On Hold, Tribe Says.
- BIA Fatally Shoots Suspect On Standing Rock Reservation.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Loveland (CO) Reporter-Herald: Pawnee National Grassland Looking At Gas Well Plan.
- Denver Post: Conservation Groups Challenge BLM Approval Of Drilling Plan In North Fork Valley.
- Elko (NV) Daily Free Press: NV Geothermal Lease Auctions Total \$78,444.
- Salt Lake (UT) Tribune: Rebuild Planned For Utah's Historic — And Hellish — Hole-in-the-Rock Road.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- Anglers' NY Wind Farm Challenge Is Premature, Agency Says.

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

- Now Leading Offshore Safety Bureau, Angelle Promises To Be Industry 'Partner' On Federal Level.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Kenai (AK) Peninsula Clarion: Fish And Wildlife To Reconsider Kenai Refuge Rules.
- U.S. News & World Report: Reward Offered For Info On Wolf-Killing Poacher In Oregon.
- KTVK-TV Phoenix: Chiricahua Leopard Frogs Released Into The Wild.
- Alaska Public Radio Network: USFWS Designates Tuntutuliak Elder James Charles A "Conservation Hero".
- Washington Times: Head Of Ivory, Rhino Horn Smuggling Scheme Pleads Guilty.
- New York Times: For An Endangered Animal, A Fire Or Hurricane Can Mean The End.

National Park Service

- WLUC-TV Marquette (MI): David Horne Selected As Superintendent Of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.
- Waynesville (NC) Smoky Mountain News: EBCI And Smokies Work Toward Agreement For Plant Gathering In Park Boundaries.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- St. Thomas Source: Two Fed Supplemental Appropriations Are Good News For USVI.
- Caribbean News Now!: Power Restoration Moves Forward In US Virgin Islands.
- Seattle Times: Maryland Governor Sends National Guard To US Virgin Islands.
- Seatrade Cruise News (UK): St. Thomas Expects 25 Cruise Calls In November.
- WKNO-FM Memphis (TN): St. John Could Get Electricity Turned Back On, 6 Weeks After Hurricane Irma.
- Japan Times: Abe And President Of Micronesia Affirm Importance Of Open Pacific.
- Utne Reader: Too Sick To Go Home Too Poor To Get Better.
- Honolulu Civil Beat (HI): The Story Of Micronesians Fighting America's Wars.

US Geological Survey

- Associated Press: Study Offers More Evidence Linking Earthquakes To Wastewater Injection Wells.
- U.S. News & World Report: USGS Reports 3 Small Earthquakes Recorded In Oklahoma.
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- NBC: Trump: Democrats' Role In Russia Dossier Creation "A Disgrace."
- Corpus Christi (TX) Caller-Times: Trump Attends Harvey Recovery Briefing Before Dallas GOP Fundraising Event.
- Fox Business: Trump: Tax Cuts Will Create "So Many Jobs."
- Reuters: Senate Panel Approves EPA Nominees Over Democrats' Objections.
- Wall Street Journal: WSJournal Analysis: Trump Team Seeks To Foster Economic Growth By Removing Regulations.
- Daily Caller: EPA Prepares To Place Two-Year Delay On Methane Regulations.
- E&E Publishing: Clean Power Plan Repeal Includes Plan To Alter Social Cost Of Carbon.
- Reuters: EPA To Review Whether Clean Air, Water Laws Affect Energy Sector Jobs Losses.
- Bloomberg News: EPA Chief Says He's No Ally To Polluters.
- Wall Street Journal: Author Likens Climate Change Debate To Acid Rain Scare Of 1970s-80s.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
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 - "The Last Thing Australia And Our Planet Need."
 - "Scrapping MetroCards Isn't Vital, But Any Subway Fix Will Do."
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DOI In The News

Feds Outline Ways Policy Hampers Energy Development, A Longstanding Gripe In Wyoming.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/25, Richards) reports that in a report released Wednesday, the Interior Department identified "federal policies that impede energy development." Some "key western issues its officers say may need reform" include "sage grouse management, the permitting of oil and gas wells by the BLM and a proposed end or limitation on self-bonding for coal companies from the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement." Kathleen Sgamma of the Western Energy Alliance "said the Interior report was a positive sign of what the agencies are doing to ease bureaucratic hurdles to energy exploration and production."

[KATC-TV](#) Lafayette, LA (10/25) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "Developing our energy resources to grow our economy and protecting the environment are not mutually exclusive. However, while conducting the review outlined in the Executive Order, we found that several costly and burdensome regulations from the past threaten that balance by hampering the production or transmission of our domestic energy. Our public lands are meant to be managed for the benefit of the people. That means a multiple-use approach where appropriate and making sure that multiple-use includes energy development under reasonable regulations. Following President Trump's leadership, Interior is fostering domestic energy production by streamlining permitting and revising and repealing Obama-era job killing regulations – all while doing so in an environmentally responsible way."

Additional coverage was provided by [Law360](#) (10/25, Daniels).

U.S. Offers Record Lease Sale In Alaska Reserve To Oil, Gas Drillers.

[Reuters](#) (10/25, Gardner) reports the Interior Department is planning to hold a lease sale on December 6 for 900 tracts in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/25, DeMarban) reports the tracts contain 10.3 million acres, about half of the total reserve. The BLM said the size of the offering is the largest ever. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "(The) unprecedented sale in Alaska will help achieve our goal of American energy dominance."

Also reporting are the [AP](#) (10/26), the [Alaska Native News](#) (10/25, Ellis-Wouters), the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (10/25, Harball), [KTUU-TV Anchorage \(AK\)](#) Anchorage, AK (10/25, Sullivan), and [KTOO-FM Juneau \(AK\)](#) Juneau, AK (10/25, Harball).

No Mention Of Climate Change In Interior's Draft Strategic Plan.

[The Hill](#) (10/25, Cama) reports a "draft version" of the five-year strategic plan for the Interior Department "does not mention anything about climate change, including whether the agency plans to fight it or how it will adapt." The draft "focuses heavily on plans to produce more fossil fuels and other forms of energy on public lands and the nation's outer continental shelf."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/25, Siciliano, Seigel), the [New York Daily News](#) (10/25, Brennan) and the [Union of Concerned Scientists](#) (10/25).

Nancy Pelosi Demands Probe Into Montana Firm's 'Highly Suspect' Contract To Repair Puerto Rico.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/25, Siegel) reports House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi yesterday "demanded an investigation into how a small Montana-based firm with ties to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke struck a \$300 million deal to repair Puerto Rico's shattered electricity grid." Whitefish Energy agreed to a \$300 million contract with PREPA "to rebuild 100 miles of power infrastructure across the island." In a statement Pelosi said, "All Americans should be concerned about the highly suspect Whitefish contract and the circumstances under which it was negotiated. ... Democrats demand Congress and the appropriate Inspectors General exercise their oversight role to get to the bottom of this suspicious agreement and hold this administration accountable for its dangerous lack of transparency in spending taxpayer money." The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/25, Siciliano) reports the Sierra Club also is "calling for probes of the contract in both the Senate and the House."

The [Daily Caller](#) (10/25, Bastasch) reports "Utah Republican Rep. Rob Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, is heading to Puerto Rico this week to personally survey the desperate situation on the island." Committee spokesman Parish Braden said, "The size and unknown details of this contract raises numerous questions."

[San Juan Mayor Calls To 'Void' Contract Awarded To Tiny Montana Company.](#) [The Hill](#) (10/25, Henry) reports San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulín Cruz said the contract is "alarming." She told Yahoo News, "The contract should be voided right away and a proper process which is clear, transparent, legal, moral and ethical should take place."

Interior Department Proposes Doubling The Cost Of Visiting National Parks.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/25, Traywick) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "wants to more than double the cost of visiting 17 of the most popular U.S. national parks when demand for them is the highest." Under the proposal, "visitors to the Grand Canyon, Zion, Yosemite, and 14 other national parks could be paying \$70 during peak seasons instead of \$30." Zinke "said his plan will raise \$70 million in much-needed revenue for the National Park Service, which already suffers from a multibillion-dollar maintenance backlog." He said in a statement, "The infrastructure of our national parks is aging and in need of renovation and restoration. Targeted fee increases at some of our most-visited parks will help ensure that they are protected and preserved in perpetuity."

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/25, Trimble) reports that the National Park Service "said a park-specific annual pass for any of the 17 parks would be available for \$75, while the cost of the annual yearlong pass, which provides entrance to all federal lands, would remain \$80." However, "motorcycles and per person entrance fees could also see increases."

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (10/25, Alexander) reports that the plan is "meeting resistance from a number of Democrats, conservationists and social-justice advocates." Opponents argue the proposal will "price out visitors and deny many the opportunity to experience the nation's most coveted landmarks, from the Grand Canyon to Mount Denali to Old Faithful." Critics also claimed that "the proposal would hit minority groups particularly hard."

Also reporting are [Fox News](#) (10/25), [CNN](#) (10/25, Park), [NBC News](#) (10/25), [NPR](#) (10/25, Wamsley), [Fortune](#) (10/25, Morris), [USA Today](#) (10/25), [USA Today](#) (10/25), [CNN International](#) (10/25), [Newsweek](#) (10/25, Dupuy), [Money](#) (10/25, Ducharme), [Fortune](#) (10/25), the [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (10/25, Kidston), the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (10/25, Sambides), the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (10/25, Miller), the [Boston Globe](#) (10/25, Fonseca), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (10/25, Press), the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (10/25, York), the [Daily Mail](#) (10/24), and [The Week](#) (10/25, Weber).

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/25, story 12, 0:25, Muir) and [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/25, story 9, 0:30, Holt) also provided reports.

Interior Department Clarifies, Says It Will Continue To Work On Delta Tunnels Project.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/25, Boxall) reports that “after several hours of confusion over the Trump administration’s position on a massive water delivery project, the Interior Department said Wednesday it would continue to work with the state on California WaterFix.” California officials were “scratching their heads over a department statement that the Trump administration does not support the project, which the federal government has helped plan.” Russell Newell, the department’s deputy communications director, told the [AP](#) (10/25, Knickmeyer): “The Trump administration did not fund the project and chose to not move forward with it.” According to the article, “it was initially unclear whether Newell was reiterating the reclamation agency’s previous funding position or making a broader statement that the administration was withdrawing any participation in planning and environmental reviews.” In a statement released Wednesday afternoon, Interior said its position had not changed. The department said, “While the Department of the Interior shares the goals of the state of California to deliver water with more certainty, eliminating risks to the California water supply, and improving the environment, at this time, the Department under the current state proposal does not expect to participate in the construction or funding of the CA WaterFix. The Department and Reclamation will continue to work with the state and stakeholders as the project is further developed.”

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (10/25, Lochhead) reports that Lisa Lien-Mager, a spokeswoman for the tunnel project, said the late-Wednesday statement “confirms what the state and its water project partners already knew; while the federal government does not intend to fund the construction costs of the project they will continue working with the state and stakeholders to facilitate and permit WaterFix.”

Also reporting are the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/25, Kasler), the [Vallejo \(CA\) Times Herald](#) (10/25, Knickmeyer), the [Ventura County \(CA\) Star](#) (10/26, Kasler), and the [Central Valley \(CA\) Business Times](#) (10/25).

States Urge Revamp On Sage Grouse Management.

[KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (10/25, O'Donoghue) reports that “leaders in Western states pressed their case in a congressional hearing Wednesday that management of the greater sage grouse is best carried out without federal interference.” Speakers “testified before the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources, chaired by Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, during an oversight hearing on ‘state-based management solutions’ to protect and restore the birds’ number.”

Scientists Question Proposed Plans To Manage Sage Grouse. The [Idaho Mountain Express](#) (10/25, Moore) reports that “seventeen scientists involved in revisions of federal sage grouse-management plans throughout the West two years ago are warning Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke of potential harm to the species if the BLM follows through on a proposal to change those plans.” In a letter to Zinke, the scientists wrote, “We are concerned that following many of the Reports’ recommendations will lead to an overall loss of sage-grouse habitat quantity and quality which in turn may result in additional population declines. We are concerned that the current focus on amending the [land-use plans] will detract from the critical task of building from those plans to realize enhanced conditions in currently designated priority and general habitats and stabilized or increasing sage-grouse populations.”

Western Voices Are Ignored In Zinke’s Interior Department. In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (10/25, O’Neill), Jayson O’Neill, deputy director of the Western Values Project, warns against “undoing BLM’s sage-grouse plans.” O’Neill writes that “instead of working to appease corporate donors and putting forth solutions that would benefit a few wealthy people, politicians in Washington should instead be working with folks on the ground to implement and build on the success of the 2015 sage-grouse plans.” He says that “Westerners are sick and tired of having Washington meddling in their business.” O’Neill urges Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Rep. Rob Bishop to “support their efforts to make sure the sagebrush landscape works for everyone out West.”

Campaigns Continue To Remind Alaskan Ivory Products Are Legal.

The [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (10/25, Klouda) reports that “fossilized ivory and walrus ivory carvings created by Alaska Natives are the focus of a renewed public relations campaign to stress to other states that there is no ban on legally obtained Alaska ivory artifacts and art pieces.” The article says that “at the Alaska Federation of Natives convention in Anchorage in a recorded message played Oct. 19, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke used part of his address to reassure delegates.” Zinke said, “On the policy side, we are protecting your right to sell walrus ivory. It is different from banned elephant ivory and it’s important to make that distinction.”

New Attitude, New Hope For Struggling Energy Industry.

The [Lafayette \(LA\) Daily Advertiser](#) (10/25, Stickney) reports that Randal Luthi, president of the National Ocean Industries Association, “told a 2017 Louisiana Gulf Coast Oil and Gas Exposition audience Wednesday that the Trump administration has made important appointments and taken decisive, needed steps to reverse the perceived bias in Washington against fossil fuels.” According to Luthi, “Trump appointments like Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Bureau of Safety and Environment Enforcement Director Scott Angelle of Breaux Bridge, who spoke to LAGCOE on Tuesday, are working with the energy industry, not fighting it.” He said, “Personnel is policy.”

Trump Asked About Changing Denali’s Name Back To Mt. McKinley.

The [New York Post](#) (10/25, Fredericks) reports that according to a story in Tuesday’s [Alaska Dispatch News](#), President Trump “was so determined to reverse his predecessor’s legacy that he asked Alaska’s two senators,” Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, “if he should change the name of the US’ largest mountain back to Mt. McKinley from the Native American name it had been called for 10,000 years.” The Obama Administration “had changed the name to Denali – its name in the indigenous Athabaskan language – in recognition of Native Americans’ heritage as the original residents of North America.” Sullivan said he and Murkowski “jumped over the desk, we said, ‘No! No! Don’t want to reverse that.’”

Ryan Zinke’s Silly Flag-Flying Ritual Violates Agency Rules.

The [Huffington Post](#) (10/25, D’Angelo) reports that “a military tradition” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has “revived at Interior Department headquarters in Washington appears to violate the agency’s policy for displaying and flying flags.” The problem, according to the article, is the flag that is flown for deputy secretary David Bernhardt when Zinke isn’t in office. The article notes that “the Interior Department’s manual — specifically Part 310, Chapter 5 — spells out which flags are allowed to be flown outdoors.” That is, “At the Secretary’s direction, [the secretary’s flag] may be flown over DOI-controlled buildings in which the Secretary is present.” The deputy secretary’s ceremonial flag, however, “is for indoor display only, in the immediate office of the Deputy Secretary, and at official functions and ceremonies at which the Deputy Secretary is the principal speaker.”

Navajo Nation Lawmaker Implores Trump To Protect Monuments.

The [AP](#) (10/26) reports that “in a television advertisement airing Thursday, a Navajo Nation lawmaker implores President Donald Trump to protect national monuments.” The 30-second spot “shows Davis Filfred walking in Bears Ears National Monument in southern Utah.” As the ad closes, Filfred says: “Mr. President. Not all monuments divide us. Some bring us together.” Filfred “tells The Associated Press the ad is his way of trying to get attention from officials he says haven’t listened to tribal concerns.”

Enviros Sue DOI For Emails From Oil, Hunting Groups.

[Law360](#) (10/25, Macagnone) reports that “an environmental group has alleged the Interior Department unlawfully held back communications it has had with oil and natural gas lobbying groups, suing the agency Monday to have it release emails and other documents related to its communications with the energy and hunting industries.” The Western Values Project, “which describes itself as advocating balanced energy development on public lands, claims the Interior Department has for months delayed complying with a Freedom of Information Act request for emails.”

U.S. Marine Sanctuary Oil Drilling Report Sent To Trump, Not Public.

[Reuters](#) (10/25, Volcovici) reports Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross sent a report to the White House on Wednesday including recommendations on whether to change the boundaries of 11

marine sanctuaries to allow for more oil and gas drilling. Commerce reviewed the sanctuaries, with more than 425 million acres of coral reefs, habitats and beaches, as part of the Administration's move to open more areas to oil and gas drilling. The report was not made public, and oil industry executives say there is little desire for more drilling in the marine sanctuaries because of costs and public opposition.

This Land Is No Longer Your Land.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/25, Reel) reports that while the fight over national monuments is grabbing the most attention, the "disputed trails leading into the Crazy Mountains represent another front in the escalating battle over control of federal territory, and the fighting here is just as contentious as over the monuments."

Release Final Monuments Report Now.

In an op-ed for the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (10/25, Gangloff), Deborah Gangloff, the president and CEO of Crow Canyon Archaeological Center in Cortez, raises concerns about the future of the national monuments as recommended in Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's report to President Trump. Gangloff argues that "opening these areas up to what the administration refers to as 'traditional uses' (i.e., mining, timbering, and grazing) would actually threaten the long-term economic well-being of surrounding communities." From Gangloff's point of view, "not to protect this rich and valuable connection to our shared American history that doubles as an economic engine is not only selfish and short-sighted, but robs people forever of their heritage."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Navajo, Other Tribes Call Land-Use Bill A Step In The Right Direction.

[Cronkite News](#) (10/25, Windes) reports that "tribal leaders backed a House bill Wednesday that would give tribes the ability to control more of their land, instead of having to get federal approval for virtually any use." The American Indian Empowerment Act would allow "tribes shift federally controlled trust land to 'restricted fee land,' a move that could save millions of dollars that tribes now spend on 'burdensome regulation,' while restoring a level of tribal sovereignty." The article adds that "while they called the bill a step in the right direction, however, witnesses said they are concerned about ambiguities in the thin, three-page bill that 'could allow state or local governments to implement property taxes on tribal land,' among other issues." However, "with slight changes, witnesses said at a hearing of House Natural Resources subcommittee, the bill would greatly benefit Indian Country."

10th Circ. Wrongly Put Wind Farm Ruling On Hold, Tribe Says.

[Law360](#) (10/25, Lidgett) reports that "the Osage Minerals Council told the Tenth Circuit Tuesday that it shouldn't have stayed the mandate of a panel decision that said wind farm developers should have obtained a mineral lease from the Osage Nation and Bureau of Indian Affairs approval before starting surface construction for an Oklahoma wind farm."

BIA Fatally Shoots Suspect On Standing Rock Reservation.

The [AP](#) (10/25) reports that "the FBI says a suspect was shot dead after a confrontation with officers of the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the Standing Rock Indian Reservation." The FBI's Minneapolis Division, "BIA officers assigned to the reservation responded to a call of shots fired at a gas station Monday," and "after a short vehicle chase, BIA officers tried to take the suspect into custody." The article says that "during the incident, the BIA shot and killed the suspect."

Bureau Of Land Management

Pawnee National Grassland Looking At Gas Well Plan.

The [Loveland \(CO\) Reporter-Herald](#) (10/25) reports the Pawnee National Grassland "is analyzing the proposed Wildwood Federal No. 1 Oil and Gas Well Project, located approximately 4.5 miles north of Briggsdale." US Forest Service spokeswoman Reghan Cloudman said in a press release that the public can comment on the proposal to build and maintain an oil and gas well and production facility on Pawnee National Grassland. "The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management are working together to analyze the proposed action," she said.

The [Sterling \(CO\) Journal-Advocate](#) (10/25, Rice) reports that Cloudman said, "We'll be going through the environmental analysis where specialists will look at possible impacts on resources we have out on the grasslands. The BLM is the one to ultimately give permission for the lease to drill."

Conservation Groups Challenge BLM Approval Of Drilling Plan In North Fork Valley.

The [Denver Post](#) (10/25, Svaldi) reports Colorado and national conservation groups "have filed a legal challenge to force the Bureau of Land Management to reconsider an oil and gas development plan approved this month in the North Fork Valley near Paonia." The complaint "seeks to have the BLM reconsider its approval of the Bull Mountain Unit Master Development Plan sought by Houston-based SG Interests." According to the Post, the BLM approval, "issued Oct. 4, allows for the construction of 33 well pads, 146 natural gas wells and four wastewater disposal wells across 19,670 acres of mineral estate."

NV Geothermal Lease Auctions Total \$78,444.

The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (10/25) reports that the Bureau of Land Management "received bids on geothermal leases in Nevada that brought in \$78,444 in total receipts during an online auction held Oct. 23." According to the article, "twenty parcels totaling 38,308.46 acres were offered during the lease sale," and "all parcels sold for \$2 an acre." Marci Todd, Acting BLM Nevada State Director, said, "By providing opportunities for energy development, the BLM is supporting job creation and the economy of local communities."

Rebuild Planned For Utah's Historic — And Hellish — Hole-in-the-Rock Road.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (10/25, Maffly) reports that Utah's Hole in the Rock road is Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument's most traveled road, but "many visitors aren't pleased with the famous road's sorry, channel-like condition that turns the drive from Escalante to Glen Canyon into a three-hour ordeal, on a good day." Now, Garfield County "has the money to rebuild Garfield's 16-mile stretch of the road and is seeking the Bureau of Land Management's permission to proceed." County officials "say they plan to repair past flood damage, narrow the roadway, shore up culverts and make it easier to maintain and drive on."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Anglers' NY Wind Farm Challenge Is Premature, Agency Says.

[Law360](#) (10/25, Goldberg) reports that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management "on Tuesday told a D.C. federal judge that seafood industry groups, companies and several towns can't seek to block a \$42.5 million lease awarded to Statoil Wind for a wind farm off the coast of New York because the company hasn't even proposed a project yet."

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Now Leading Offshore Safety Bureau, Angelle Promises To Be Industry 'Partner' On Federal Level.

[KATC-TV](#) Lafayette, LA (10/25) reports that Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement director Scott Angelle on Tuesday said his agency is "focused on undoing or amending three Obama administration policies." In a keynote address at an industry event in Lafayette, Angelle "said his mandate within the Trump administration is to eliminate 'unnecessary regulatory burdens' that discourage capital investment in the Gulf, while also remaining mindful of safety requirements and environmental safeguards." Angelle also "told industry professionals gathered at the Cajundome for the Louisiana Gulf Coast Oil Exposition they will enjoy warmer relations with the Trump administration than they did with the previous one."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Fish And Wildlife To Reconsider Kenai Refuge Rules.

The [Kenai \(AK\) Peninsula Clarion](#) (10/25, Earl) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is "planning to revise some of the rules on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, including some

controversial hunting restrictions.” The agency “published a notice of intent in the federal register on Oct. 2 to start a process to reconsider rules finalized on the refuge in May 2016.” The rules, “which took more than a year to finalize after a lengthy public process, include provisions about plane, boat and motorized vehicle access, camping, firearm use and personal-use gathering of edible plants and shed antlers as well as a number of hunting provisions.”

Reward Offered For Info On Wolf-Killing Poacher In Oregon.

The [AP](#) (10/25) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and “five conservation groups have teamed up to offer \$15,500 for information about the illegal poaching of a federally protected gray wolf that was shot dead in a national forest in southern Oregon.” The wolf, “known as OR-33, was being tracked by authorities and is one of at least eight that have been poached or died under mysterious circumstances in the state since 2015, the conservation groups said.” The FWS is “offering \$5,000 for information about the poaching and the conservation groups are offering an additional \$10,500 combined.”

Also reporting are [NPR](#) (10/25, Kennedy) and the [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (10/25, Freeman).

Chiricahua Leopard Frogs Released Into The Wild.

[KTVK-TV](#) Phoenix (10/25, Mudge) reports that over 500 Chiricahua leopard frogs were recently released into the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. Partners in the effort “transported egg masses from the leopard frogs to a rearing facility in Las Cruces, New Mexico.” According to the article, “by raising the tadpoles in a controlled environment, scientists were able to raise the survival rate from less than 5% to over 90%.”

USFWS Designates Tuntutuliak Elder James Charles A “Conservation Hero”.

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (10/25, MacArthur) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “recognized Tuntutuliak elder James Charles as a ‘Conservation Hero’ at the 2017 Alaska Federation of Natives Convention for his more than 50 years of partnership with the federal service.” Charles has “served on the Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Council, the Fish and Game Advisory Council, the Kuskokwim River Salmon Management Working Group and the Kuskokwim River Intertribal Fisheries Commission.”

Head Of Ivory, Rhino Horn Smuggling Scheme Pleads Guilty.

The [AP](#) (10/25) reports that “an Australian citizen who masterminded a scheme to smuggle items made of rhinoceros horn, elephant ivory and coral to China pleaded guilty Tuesday in a U.S. court.” According to federal prosecutors, “Guan Zong Chen, who also goes by Graham Chen, and two co-defendants smuggled \$700,000 worth of carvings in violation of federal law and despite the fact that their export was barred under a 1976 international treaty meant to protect endangered species.” Chen “faces 15 years in prison when he’s sentenced.”

For An Endangered Animal, A Fire Or Hurricane Can Mean The End.

The [New York Times](#) (10/25, Ripka) highlights the “more than a dozen rare or threatened species who either perished or suffered habitat loss during recent hurricanes and wildfires across the United States.”

National Park Service

David Horne Selected As Superintendent Of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

[WLUC-TV](#) Marquette, MI (10/25) reports that “David Horne has been selected as the next Superintendent of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore in Michigan. Horne, “a 23-year veteran of the National Park Service, is currently the Chief Ranger for the Southeast Region of the National Park Service. Regional Director Cam Sholly said, “We are very pleased to welcome Dave as the new Superintendent of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. He has a proven track record of successfully managing complex operations, building strong teams, and collaborating closely with communities and partners.” Horne will begin his new assignment in January 2018.

EBCI And Smokies Work Toward Agreement For Plant Gathering In Park Boundaries.

The [Waynesville \(NC\) Smoky Mountain News](#) (10/25) reports that “Cherokee tribal members could be gathering sochan plants from the Great Smoky Mountains National Park as early as next

spring after Tribal Council's vote last week to fund the \$68,100 needed to complete the regulatory process." Clay Jordan, the park's acting superintendent, said, "We appreciate the commitment that Principal Chief Sneed and the tribe are making to help us complete the required environmental assessment to better understand potential effects associated with traditional gathering. Through the assessment, managers will be able to determine whether traditional gathering can be done without significantly impacting the park sochan population."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Two Fed Supplemental Appropriations Are Good News For USVI.

The [St. Thomas Source](#) (10/25, Kossler) reports that "the U.S. Senate overwhelmingly approved a \$36.5 billion supplemental appropriation for disaster relief Tuesday, including potentially hundreds of millions of dollars or more to aid the U.S. Virgin Islands recovery from Hurricanes Irma and Maria." The measure, passed by the U.S. House of Representatives earlier this month, now goes to President Trump to be signed. In addition, "another supplemental appropriation with Medicaid funding that is crucial for the territory is also working its way through Congress, Delegate Stacey Plaskett told the Source Tuesday."

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (10/25) reports that in a statement, Gov. Kenneth Mapp "said the territory would not receive less than \$800 million in low-interest loans from the \$4.9 billion allocated for Puerto Rico and the USVI." Mapp said, "The \$4.9 billion dollars has been set aside for revenue losses for the United States Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. Of that amount, the Virgin Islands will receive not less than \$800 million."

Power Restoration Moves Forward In US Virgin Islands.

[Caribbean News Now!](#) (10/24) reports that "about a third of the power on the island of St Thomas has been restored, US Virgin Islands Governor Kenneth Mapp said on Monday." Mapp told reporters "that the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (WAPA) reports that St Thomas had 32 percent of its power restored while 15 percent of electricity has been restored in St Croix." Mapp "expects Cruz Bay, St John to be energized by Wednesday, which will bring power restoration on that island up to 25 percent."

Maryland Governor Sends National Guard To US Virgin Islands.

The [AP](#) (10/23) reports that Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan is "sending 100 soldiers from the Maryland National Guard to the U.S. Virgin Islands." Hogan "said Monday they will help with ongoing recovery efforts from Hurricane Irma at the request" of U.S. Virgin Islands. Gov. Kenneth Mapp. According to the article, "members of the 200th Military Police Company from Catonsville will be deployed for up to 30 days to help with local law enforcement and to guard infrastructure."

St. Thomas Expects 25 Cruise Calls In November.

[Seatrade Cruise News \(UK\)](#) (10/22) reports that "as hurricane recovery continues in the US Virgin Islands, Gov. Kenneth Mapp on Friday said 25 cruise ship calls are expected at St. Thomas in November." Royal Caribbean International has also recently announced "that it would return on Nov. 10 with Adventure of the Seas, for the first time since September." Mapp added that "St. Croix expects approximately 90 cruise calls this season, an uptick for that island."

St. John Could Get Electricity Turned Back On, 6 Weeks After Hurricane Irma.

[WKNO-FM](#) Memphis, TN (10/20, Chappell) reports that "if all goes well, people on St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands could have power restored next week for the first time since a pair of devastating Category 5 hurricanes struck in September, the local electric utility says." Jean P. Greaux, Jr., communications director for Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority says, "Portions of St. John are scheduled to be restored by the middle of next week."

Abe And President Of Micronesia Affirm Importance Of Open Pacific.

The [Japan Times](#) (10/25) reports that Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Micronesian President Peter Christian "reaffirmed their commitment to a free and open Asia-Pacific region during summit talks Wednesday in Tokyo, Japanese officials said." According to the article, "Japan is keen to cooperate with Pacific island nations in trade and investment and maintain a shared stance on maritime security to counter China's rising influence in the region." The article

adds that “Abe and Christian also affirmed the importance of making sure U.N. sanctions on North Korea are fully enforced, including those that pertain to North Korean-flagged ships at sea, the officials said.”

Too Sick To Go Home Too Poor To Get Better.

The [Utne Reader](#) (10/23, Langlois) reports that many citizens from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, who have emigrated to the American Midwest, “are too sick to return home, and too poor to get better.” The article says that if Marshallese and other Compact of Free Association migrants “were to receive access to Medicaid, it would increase federal spending by about \$200 million over a 10-year-period.” It adds “that’s \$20 million a year—a tenth of the \$183 million that the U.S. Department of Defense spends annually to maintain its military base in the Marshall Islands.”

The Story Of Micronesians Fighting America’s Wars.

In his column for the [Honolulu Civil Beat \(HI\)](#) (10/24, Blair), Chad Blair shines a spotlight on the Micronesians who serve in the U.S. military. He notes that Nathan Fitch, a producer, cinematographer and director, produced a short video, called “Island Soldier,” which “tells the stories of Micronesians serving in the U.S. military, primarily the infantry, as they deploy to Afghanistan in 2013.”

US Geological Survey

Study Offers More Evidence Linking Earthquakes To Wastewater Injection Wells.

The [AP](#) (10/25, Elliott) reports a study published last week by University of Colorado researchers linked the increase of earthquakes on the Colorado-New Mexico border since 2001 to wastewater injection wells, “similar to human-caused quakes in Oklahoma and other states.” The study “concluded that the wastewater caused a big enough increase in underground pressure to make rock formations slip along fault lines.” According to the US Geological Service, earthquakes in the Raton Basin of northern New Mexico and southern California started to increase in 2001, “about two years after large-scale wastewater injection began.” A 2014 paper by the USGS “blamed injection wells for the area’s quakes,” but the new UC study “went further, using computer models and records of wastewater injection to conclude that enough pressure built up to cause the quakes.”

USGS Reports 3 Small Earthquakes Recorded In Oklahoma.

The [AP](#) (10/25) reports that “the U.S Geological Survey reports three small earthquakes in Oklahoma.” The two largest quakes each have a preliminary magnitude of 3.1. The third was a preliminary magnitude 2.5 quake.

Additional Reading.

- *50 Ways The Next Big Earthquake Could Shatter Seattle.* [National Geographic](#) (10/25, Folger).
- *As California’s Population Grows, People Are Moving Into More Fire-Prone Areas.* [WMEA-FM](#) Portland, ME (10/25).
- *Simulated Flood Injected Life Into Thirsty Colorado River Delta, New Data Shows.* [KUNC-FM](#) Greeley, CO (10/25, Runyon).

Top National News

Trump: Democrats’ Role In Russia Dossier Creation “A Disgrace.”

Coverage of the news that elements of the Democratic Party helped to fund the Fusion GPS dossier on then-candidate Donald Trump focuses mainly on negative aspects for the Democrats. The President’s comments on the news get some attention, but much more is given to how much Hillary Clinton and her campaign knew, and who authorized the payments. Also at issue – particularly in conservative media – is the FBI’s role in the affair.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/25, story 3, 2:10, Holt) reported that Trump “[tore] into Democrats and former rival Hillary Clinton over reports that the Clinton campaign and the Democratic National Committee helped fund opposition research that wound up in a dossier, containing salacious and unverified allegations about him.” Trump: “They were embarrassed by

it. I think it's a disgrace. It's just really, it's a very sad, it's a very sad commentary on politics in this country."

The [AP](#) (10/25, Tucker) reports, "Trump and fellow Republicans latched onto revelations tying" the Clinton campaign to the dossier, and [Politico](#) (10/25, Cheney) reports that Republicans "mounted a counterattack this week against the drumbeat from multiple investigations into Moscow's meddling...in a dizzying 24 hours." Trump said on [Fox Business' Lou Dobbs Tonight](#) (10/25), "Don't forget Hillary Clinton totally denied this. She didn't know anything. She knew nothing all of a sudden they found out. What I was amazed at it's almost \$6 million that they paid and it's totally discredited. It's a total phony. I call it fake news. It's disgraceful." The [New York Post](#) (10/25, Moore) reports that the President also [tweeted](#), "'Clinton campaign & DNC paid for research that led to the anti-Trump Fake News Dossier. The victim here is the President.' @FoxNews".

[Politico](#) (10/25, McCaskill) reports that when asked by reporters about which Republican might have initially funded it, Trump said, "If I were to guess, I have one name in mind. It'll probably be revealed. I'd rather not say, but you'll be surprised. You'll be surprised." [Breitbart](#) (10/25, Spiering) also runs that quote from the President in a brief item.

The [Washington Times](#) (10/25, Boyer) reports that Trump also told reporters that "given the revelations about the dossier and fresh investigations into a uranium deal with a Russian firm approved by the Obama administration, the Russia controversy has 'turned around' on the Democrats." Trump said, "This was the Democrats coming up with an excuse for losing an election. They lost it very badly. They didn't know what to say, so they made up the whole Russia hoax. Now it's turning out that the whole hoax is turned around." However, in [Politico Magazine](#) (10/25), Jack Shafer calls that "a valiant stab at magical thinking by Baby Donald, but the dossier is only a slice of the evidentiary pie being thrown at him. As the anti-Trump Republican operative Rick Wilson tweeted, even if the dossier was 'a farrago of utter fantasy,' other US government and foreign intelligence findings point to Trump's Kremlin entanglements."

Rep. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) [tweeted](#), "Crooked Hillary has been behind Russian collusion allegations all along! Shame on her for wasting officials' time!" Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA) [tweeted](#), "Hillary Clinton & the DNC lied to Americans about paying for the development of the false Trump dossier." Rep. Pete Olson (R-TX) [tweeted](#), "The corrupt DNC and Clinton camp paid for a fake Russian dossier about our president! Democrats can't be trusted."

Conservative commentators are weighing in. David French of [National Review](#) (10/25) writes, "We don't know what role the Russia dossier has played or is playing in the Russia investigation. ... But we did learn a bit more last night, and what we learned undermines the dossier, indicts the Clinton campaign, and helps Donald Trump." Mollie Hemingway of [The Federalist](#) (10/25) writes, "Here we have the realization that the Clinton campaign, the DNC, and the FBI all worked wittingly or unwittingly with Russians to affect the results of the 2016 election. ... These efforts perverted our justice system by forcing the attorney general to recuse himself for the crime of having attended meetings with Russian diplomats and spawning a massive, sprawling, limitless probe over Russia." Matt Vespa of [Townhall](#) (10/25) writes, "My, oh my – how the tables have turned."

[The Hill](#) (10/25, Fabian, Easley) also reports on the President's remarks.

Clinton Camp "Largely Silent"; Current DNC Leadership Says It Was Not Involved. On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/25, story 3, 2:20, Muir), Brian Ross reported, "Until now, Hillary Clinton and her campaign team would not admit any connection to the Trump dossier," which "was produced for a Washington-based firm called Fusion GPS, which had actually started digging up dirt on Trump for an unknown Republican during the primaries. After several Republican candidates dropped out, the Clinton campaign and the Democrats secretly paid Fusion GPS to continue their research efforts. ... Former Clinton campaign spokesperson Brian Fallon said the Democrats did nothing wrong." Fallon: "I think it's important to remember that opposition research happens all the time in campaigns."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/25, story 6, 2:00, Mason), Jeff Pagues reported, "The 35-page dossier details some of the most explosive allegations now under investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller. ... Until now, some top Clinton campaign officials have denied knowing who was behind the effort to dig up dirt." Fallon: "I'm sure that there's a small group of folks that were aware of the nature of the decision to hire Fusion back in the spring of 2016. But it was kept for reasons that I understand to a very select group, given the sensitive nature of who they hired."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/25, Hamburger, Helderman) reports that "Clinton and top officials of her presidential campaign were largely silent" on Wednesday "in response to the revelation

that the campaign and the Democratic National Committee had paid for research that resulted" in the dossier. Fallon "said he didn't know about the research at the time but called it 'money well spent' if it provided information useful to the special counsel now investigating Russia's involvement." The [Daily Mail](#) (10/25, Earle) reports that Fallon told CNN that Clinton "'may have' known about her campaign's funding of the infamous dossier." He told CNN, "I haven't spoken to her, no. ... She may have known. The degree of exactly what she knew is beyond my knowledge."

Becket Adams of the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/25) writes that either Clinton "knew nothing about her campaign's role in financing the dossier" and "is guilty of nothing worse than ignorance" but was deceived by her staff, or that she "has known about the dossier this entire time, and she has been misrepresenting what she knows. Any way you cut it, it doesn't reflect well on Clinton or her team."

[The Hill](#) (10/25, Easley) reports that Democratic National Committee representatives said that Chairman Tom Perez, "who only became the Democratic leader in April, had nothing to do with the arrangement," and Rep. Keith Ellison (D-MN), the DNC's deputy chairman, "emphasized that both he and Perez came to the DNC long after the contract with Fusion GPS had ended." Ellison said, "Tom and me, we weren't even there at the time. I know as much about it as you guys who have reported it." A spokesman for Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), who was DNC chair at the time, said, "She was not aware of anything related to this research arrangement." The [Daily Caller](#) (10/25, Hasson) reports that the DNC "released a carefully-worded statement meant to distance current party leader from the dossier." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/25) editorializes that it appears that the Democrats paid for Russian operatives to compile the dossier, which is a form of collusion in itself.

Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD), ranking member on the House Oversight Committee, said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (10/25), "All of this, to me, is unfortunately a distraction from the things that we need to be doing. ... But I think the American people need to understand the whole role that Russia is now playing in our elections and will continue to play and they need to keep in mind that the highest ranking law enforcement person in the country has said basically – and that is Attorney General Sessions – that there is no investigation from his office's standpoint."

The [Washington Times](#) (10/25, Boyer) reports that the Campaign Legal Center has filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission alleging that Clinton's campaign and the DNC violated campaign finance law by failing to disclose payments for the dossier.

FBI's Role Now Under Scrutiny. Byron York of the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/25) writes, "Knowing that the Clinton campaign [and] the DNC...supported the dossier is not the end of the story. The most important next step is the FBI." According to the Washington Post, dossier compiler Christopher Steele "'reached an agreement with the FBI a few weeks before the election for the bureau to pay him to continue his work.' It was an astonishing turn: the nation's top federal law enforcement agency agreeing to fund an ongoing opposition research project being conducted by one of the candidates in the midst of a presidential election."

House Intelligence Chairman Devin Nunes said on [Fox News' Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (10/25), "I think the next focus is going to be on whether or not did the FBI use this dossier to get any warrants, did they use it to open a counter intelligence investigation. And if they did, if they're using unverified information to open up inquiries into American citizens, I think we have a big problem." David Harsanyi of [The Federalist](#) (10/25) asks, "How often did the FBI use the dossier as a pretext for FISA warrants? Seems like a reasonable question."

[Newsday \(NY\)](#) (10/25, Goldschlag) reports that though "the question of who paid for the 'Russia dossier' on Trump is now partly answered, still open is the question of who might pay, in the form of legal jeopardy, if some of its more explosive but unverified contents are found credible" by Mueller.

Max Boot of the Council on Foreign Relations [tweeted](#), "And before that it was paid for by anti-Trump GOPer. So what? Doesn't affect whether it's true. And it's not reason for Mueller probe." ABC political analyst Matthew Dowd [tweeted](#), "Mueller's investigation has little to do with dossier. Much bigger issues." Washington Post conservative blogger Jennifer Rubin [tweeted](#) that the news is "a nothing burger just to give Fox something to cover all day."

Judge Gives Fusion GPS Until Thursday To Answer Congressional Subpoena. [Reuters](#) (10/25, Hosenball) reports that US District Court Judge Tanya Chutkan has given Fusion GPS "until Thursday to reach an agreement with Congress over a subpoena for the firm's bank records." The House Intelligence Committee has "subpoenaed an unidentified bank for the last two years of records of the accounts of Fusion GPS."

Trump: Uranium One Deal Is Modern-Day "Watergate." [The Hill](#) (10/25, Beavers) reports

Senate Judiciary Chairman Charles Grassley [tweeted](#) that he is seeking the appointment of a special counsel “to investigate the Uranium One deal that gave a Russian-owned company partial control of US atomic energy resources in 2010” – a deal that the President compared to Watergate on Wednesday. The [Washington Times](#) (10/25, Boyer) reports that Trump told reporters, “I think the uranium sale to Russia and the way it was done so underhanded, with tremendous amounts of money being passed, I actually think that’s ‘Watergate,’ modern age.”

[USA Today](#) (10/25, Johnson) reports that the DOJ has “lifted a gag order on an FBI informant to provide testimony to Congress” about the Uranium One deal. [The Hill](#) (10/25, Solomon) reports, “Multiple congressional committees have been seeking to interview the informant, whose name has not been released publicly.”

Assange Says He Rejected Help Offer From Cambridge Analytica. The [New York Times](#) (10/25, Confessore) reports that WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange said on Wednesday “that he had rebuffed a request for help last year” from the head of Cambridge Analytica, a data firm that worked for Trump. Assange “did not disclose what kind of help [was] sought, only that he had declined the request.” Assange [tweeted](#), “I can confirm an approach by Cambridge Analytica [prior to November last year] and can confirm that it was rejected by WikiLeaks.”

[The Hill](#) (10/25, Chalfant) reports that the Trump campaign “appeared to distance itself” from Cambridge Analytica on Wednesday after it was reported that CEO Alexander Nix sought contact with Assange over Clinton’s emails. The [Daily Beast](#) (10/25) reports that Assange told Nix “that he didn’t want his help, and preferred to do the work on his own.” In related news, [Politico](#) (10/25, Gerstein) reports that the Trump campaign argued in a court filing that WikiLeaks’ publication of hacked DNC emails “was legal and specifically protected by federal law.”

Rove: Impeachment Push Could Hurt Democrats. Karl Rove writes in his [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/25) column that billionaire Tom Steyer’s injection of \$10 million into a push to impeach the President moves the matter beyond the back benches of the House, but could ultimately hurt the Democratic Party by resulting in a focus on Trump rather than on an electoral strategy.

Trump Attends Harvey Recovery Briefing Before Dallas GOP Fundraising Event.

Coverage of President Trump’s visit to Texas for a briefing on hurricane recovery efforts and a Republican fundraiser is negative, with reports saying that the briefing was added to justify the cost of a political trip, and that Trump praised his own efforts at the briefing. The [Corpus Christi \(TX\) Caller-Times](#) (10/25, Moritz) reports that the President “arrived in Dallas on Wednesday to a cheering welcome, and later by sign-carrying protesters assailing his truthfulness, where he met with Texas Gov. Greg Abbott for an update on the Hurricane Harvey recovery effort as a prelude to an afternoon of politicking.” During remarks at the briefing, Trump “said he looked forward to seeing plans to address flooding in Houston ‘on a more permanent basis.’”

The [Washington Post](#) (10/25, Phillips) reports that Trump also “praise[d]...himself and his government...then suggested that Houston recovery officials take a look at a special kind of sheet rock that could prevent another Harvey.” Trump said, “They use it in bathtubs and showers, and water has no impact on it.” [The Hill](#) (10/25, Greenwood) reports that Trump said that it “is the same material used around bathtubs and other areas exposed to moisture. Greenboard is a water-resistant drywall.”

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (10/25, Gillman) reports that though “adoring fans cheered him at Love Field and 200 well-heeled donors rubbed elbows with him downtown,” if Trump “was hoping for a respite from the venomous atmosphere in Washington, his day trip to Dallas offered little. Catcalls from hundreds of protesters filtered into the swank fund-raiser. ‘Go home Cheeto!’ they yelled, holding signs that read ‘Liar liar’ and ‘shame.’”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/25, Bennett) reports that Trump was in Dallas “for a Republican fundraiser and political reception,” and had “added a brief meeting about hurricane recovery efforts continuing on the Gulf Coast about 250 miles away.” [Newsweek](#) (10/25) reports that the briefing was added in “an apparent effort to have the political visit subsidized by taxpayer dollars.” The event “cost attendees \$2,700 a ticket and an extra \$35,000 to take a photo with Trump.” The [AP](#) (10/25) reports that the event was “expected to raise \$4 million.”

[Politico](#)’s Alex Isenstadt [tweeted](#), “Trump raised \$4.5 mil for 2020 reelection tonight in Dallas. Big donors present included Andy Beale, Harold Hamm, Tom Hicks Sr.” Mark Knoller of CBS News [tweeted](#) that “tickets range[d] from \$2700 to \$100,000 per person.” The [Washington Times](#) (10/25, Boyer) and the [WFAA-TV](#) Dallas (10/25) website also have brief reports.

Trump: Tax Cuts Will Create “So Many Jobs.”

Asked about tax reform on [Fox Business’ Lou Dobbs Tonight](#) (10/25), President Trump said, “I

think we're going to get [tax cuts]. I think the senators are going to come together. I think the House is looking really good." Trump also [said](#) that "we're bringing the corporate rate down to 20 percent from 35 percent. This will be the biggest tax cut in history in the history of our country and that's great and we need it because right now our country is about the highest taxed or certainly one of the highest taxed in the world and we can't have that." Trump added, "We are going to have so many jobs created by what we're doing and you know we're going to have companies that aren't leaving our country any more."

Senate Panel Approves EPA Nominees Over Democrats' Objections.

[Reuters](#) (10/25) reports the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee yesterday "approved four nominees to key posts at the Environmental Protection Agency, including one appointee with ties to the chemical industry who will head the agency's office of chemical safety." Sen. Tom Carper "said two of the nominees were of 'grave concern': Bill Wehrum, nominated for assistant administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation, and Michael Dourson to head up the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention." Carper "called Dourson 'one of the most troubling nominees I have ever considered during my time on this committee.'" The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (10/25, Eaton) indicates "the 11-10 vote to advance Dourson's nomination was approved along party lines." Likewise, says [Automotive News](#) (10/25, Kulisch), "all 10 Democrats opposed Wehrum's nomination because of concern that he is too close to industry and taking a lax approach to regulating emissions while at EPA under the Bush administration."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/25, Siegel) notes the committee also "advanced the nominations of Matthew Leopold, President Trump's nominee to be assistant administrator for the Office of General Counsel; and David Ross, chosen to be assistant administrator for the Office of Water." After the votes, "Democrats gave lengthy speeches denouncing Dourson and Wehrum." Sen. Ed Markey "called the committee's approval of Dourson and Wehrum 'one of the low points of my entire career,'" and Sen. Tammy Duckworth "called Dourson the 'absolute worst person I can think of to be in charge of chemical safety in this country.'"

The [Intercept](#) (10/25, Lerner) reports "powerless Democrats watched in anger as their Republican colleagues...voted along party lines to advance" Dourson's nomination, and [USA Today](#) (10/25, Shesgreen) that Dourson "has sparked intense opposition from Senate Democrats and environmental groups, who have blasted him for engaging in 'fake pseudo-science,' referring to his research funded in part by the chemical industry." Dourson's "findings have generally endorsed high levels of chemicals and pesticides in drinking water and other consumer products." The [AP](#) (10/25, Smith) notes that it "reported last month that Dourson, a toxicologist, has for years accepted payments from chemical companies to write papers pushing back against peer-reviewed studies raising health concerns about his clients' products." The AP adds that "past corporate clients include Dow Chemical Co., Koch Industries Inc. and Chevron Corp."

On the other hand, the [AP](#) (10/25, Biesecker) reports, "committee Chairman John Barrasso called Trump's nominees well-qualified and experienced." The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/25, Siegel) notes that EPA Administrator Pruitt "commended Republicans for advancing the nominations," saying, "These top leaders in their fields will bring positive change to EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment. We look forward to a full Senate vote on these highly-qualified leaders." The [Washington Times](#) (10/25, Wolfgang), among other news outlets, runs a similar report this morning.

WSJournal Analysis: Trump Team Seeks To Foster Economic Growth By Removing Regulations.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/25, Ip) reports the Trump Administration is trying to spur economic growth by removing regulations that stop innovation.

EPA Prepares To Place Two-Year Delay On Methane Regulations.

The [Daily Caller](#) (10/25, White) reports that the EPA is expected to place a two-year delay on Obama-era regulations on methane emissions from oil and gas operations as a means to "buy time for a plan replacing the rule." The oil and gas industry claims the rule is "unnecessary and duplicative of already existing laws," and critics claimed that the rule "was a regulation in search of a problem, pointing to research showing that methane emissions from oil and gas drilling have plummeted, despite a huge increase drilling operations."

Clean Power Plan Repeal Includes Plan To Alter Social Cost Of Carbon.

[E&E Publishing](#) (10/25) reports that the Trump administration's plans to repeal the Clean Power

Plan also includes a proposal to dramatically alter the social cost of carbon used under the Obama administration, which was placed at about \$42 per ton by 2020. The new EPA document “significantly lowers that estimate, placing it between \$1 and \$6 per ton.” The current proposal also “considers only the domestic social cost of carbon, rather than its cost at a global scale.” The controversial shift requires a deep consideration of “our values as a society,” warned Frances Moore, a professor at the University of California, Davis.

EPA To Review Whether Clean Air, Water Laws Affect Energy Sector Jobs Losses.

[Reuters](#) (10/25, Volcovici) reports that the EPA said Wednesday it will examine how “bedrock laws like the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act affect energy industry job losses” as part of President Trump’s executive order to “reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens” on businesses. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, Energy Secretary Rick Perry and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke have all outlined separate lists of measures for review under the order.

[The Hill](#) (10/25, Henry) reports that one of the EPA’s new initiatives will create a task force to review the permitting process for new sources of air pollution under the Clean Air Act, called the New Source Review (NSR.) The EPA argued in a 15-page report on its regulations, “In some circumstances, the NSR process discourages the construction of new facilities or modifications of existing ones that could result in greater environmental improvements.”

DOE Releases Report Highlighting Programs For Repeal, Reform. [E&E Publishing](#) (10/25) reports the Energy Department yesterday “released its long-awaited report” on “policies that are ripe for repeal or reform because they hinder energy production.” Energy Secretary Perry in the report “calls for reviewing National Environmental Policy Act guidelines, streamlining liquefied natural gas exports and reassessing national laboratory policies.” The document “is the first sign of the agency’s response to a high-profile executive order the White House issued earlier this year to scrap red tape and promote ‘energy independence.’”

The [Daily Caller](#) (10/25, Bastasch) reports in a statement on the release of the report, Perry said, “Through our ongoing efforts, we will promote job creation and economic growth, unleash American energy dominance, and advance the energy security of our international trading partners.”

EPA Chief Says He’s No Ally To Polluters.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/25, Dlouhy, Jacobs) reports that EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt dismissed critics who say he has been too cozy with the industries he is in charge of regulation, and vowed to “do enforcement, to go after bad actors and go after polluters.” The watchdog group Environmental Integrity Project reported in August that in the first six months of the Trump administration, “civil penalties paid for environmental violations were 60 percent smaller on average than for comparable periods” in the past three administrations.

Author Likens Climate Change Debate To Acid Rain Scare Of 1970s-80s.

In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/25, Darwall), Rupert Darwall, author of “Green Tyranny: Exposing the Totalitarian Roots of the Climate Industrial Complex,” likens the current debate over climate change to the acid-rain scare of the 1970s and 80s, citing the acid-rain alarm, which was proved to be based on faulty science as evidence that the scientific consensus is not a guarantee that the consensus is correct.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“The Real Reason For Republicans’ Silence On Donald Trump.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/25) says, “It’s less striking that a few Republican congressmen have publicly denounced” President Trump’s “conduct than that most of their colleagues have not. Their fellow legislators have silently accepted his outrages in exchange for policies they’ve always wanted,” such as “transferring power to Wall Street, fossil fuel companies, the chemical industry and other special interests,” while “stoking an anti-populist bonfire to incinerate protections for consumers and workers.”

“The Last Thing Australia And Our Planet Need.” The [New York Times](#) (10/25, Board) editorializes that “while global demand for coal is falling as the nations of the world have committed themselves to slashing carbon emissions,” Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull “wants to help a powerful Indian conglomerate build an enormous system of coal mines in a

remote stretch of Queensland.” The Times argues that “burning the estimated 66 million tons of coal a year that the Adani Group aims to produce” from the mine “can only make it harder for the world to meet its aspirations under the Paris climate agreement.”

“Scrapping MetroCards Isn’t Vital, But Any Subway Fix Will Do.” A [New York Times](#) (10/25) editorial.

Washington Post.

“Finally, A Healthcare Proposal That Actually Pays Off.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/25) argues that in light of a CBO study which found that the Alexander-Murray healthcare bill would reduce federal budget deficits and not impact the number of people without coverage, the measure “now officially falls into the category of ‘so obvious it should pass immediately.’”

“The Catalan Crisis Is All Thanks To Two Inflexible Leaders.” A [Washington Post](#) (10/25) editorial says Spain is facing “its worst political crisis since its return to democracy 40 years ago, thanks to the inflexibility of two key leaders” – Catalan President Carles Puigdemont and Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy. The Post says Puigdemont and his followers “badly overestimated their ability to mobilize support for their separatist cause,” while Rajoy’s “hard-line actions risk driving more voters into the separatist camp. He should refrain from more repression and push for a political solution.”

“Trump Crosses Another Line.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/25) editorializes that President Trump’s “disdain for the integrity of the Justice Department may no longer surprise a weary public,” but “it is nevertheless shocking to learn that Mr. Trump has breached tradition to personally interview two candidates for U.S. attorney – both of whom would have the power to investigate him in the future.” Politico and CNN reported that Trump “met with Geoffrey Berman and Ed McNally, whom the administration is considering for the roles of U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York and the Eastern District of New York, respectively.” The Post argues that “any presidential interview of a U.S. attorney candidate would cross the line,” but “it is particularly concerning that Mr. Trump chose to speak with the men and women who could lead investigations into his business in New York.” The Post concludes that “this threat to the impartial administration of justice cannot go unchallenged.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Democrats, Russians, And The FBI.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/25) editorializes that it appears that the Democrats paid for Russian operatives to compile the dossier on then-candidate Trump, which is a form of collusion in itself.

“McConnell 1, Cordray 0.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/25) editorial calls Tuesday’s Senate vote to overturn the CFPB’s arbitration rule a victory for the economy and the leadership of Senate Majority Leader McConnell.

“Jeff Flake’s Public Service.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/25, Board) says that Sen. Jeff Flake’s decision not to seek reelection improves the GOP’s odds of retaining his seat in 2018. The Journal adds that Flake was correct in charging that a great deal of Trump’s rhetoric lacks dignity and is untrue.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[FCC To Ease Limits On Local Media Ownership](#)

[House Republicans Are Still Considering 401\(k\) Changes in Tax Overhaul](#)

[The Morningstar Mirage](#)

[Abadi Wants US-Iran Rivalry Out Of Iraq](#)

New York Times:

[As G.O.P. Bends Toward Trump, Critics Either Give In Or Give Up](#)

[Interactive Feature: Boko Haram Strapped Suicide Bombs To Them. Somehow These Teenage Girls Survived.](#)

[Tax Cuts Are The Glue Holding A Fractured Republican Party Together](#)

[Pitched As Calming Force, John Kelly Instead Mirrors Boss’s Priorities](#)

[Fats Domino, Early Rock ‘N’ Roller With A Boogie-Woogie Piano, Is Dead At 89](#)

Washington Post:

[Republicans Target Bannon In California, A Developing-World Virus](#)
[First Niger Reports Had Several Missing](#)
[Gillespie's Strategy For His Own Race? Caution.](#)
[Thriving Prison Firm Ties Itself To President](#)

Financial Times:

[Xi Breaks With China Tradition To Cement His Huge Power](#)
[Carlyle Names Executives To Succeed Its Co-Founders](#)
[Putin Steers Clear Of 1917 Revolution Celebrations](#)
[US Expats Given Hope Of Lower Tax Bills](#)

Washington Times:

[Clinton Campaign Accused Of FEC Violation Over Anti-Trump Dossier](#)
[Trump Administration Officially Apologizes For IRS Tea Party Targeting](#)
[Trump's Energized Base Exposes Republican Divisions, Upheaval Of Party Establishment](#)
[Pro-Life Groups Struggle Against Planned Parenthood Funding In Virginia Politics](#)
[Kenya Tries Another Presidential Vote, But Uncertainty And Instability Still Rule](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Trump-GOP Senate; White House-Fallen Soldier Call; Trump-Russian Dossier Investigation; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; Kidnapped US Soldier Trial; US Flights-Tougher Security Check; Louisiana-University Student Murder; California-Mystery Abduction; Africa-Saving Rhinos; Miami Airport-Takedown; Florida-Sheriff Stealing Money; National Park Price Hike; Fats Domino Dies.

CBS: Puerto Rico Recovery-Controversy; Puerto Rico Recovery-Medical Supply Shortage; Trump-GOP Senate; Trump-Public Opinion; Niger-US Casualty Investigation; Trump-Russian Dossier Investigation; Amazon-New Delivery Program; Chinese Wood Flooring Import Fined; New CBS Anchor Named; Fats Domino Dies.

NBC: US Flights-Tougher Security Check; Trump-GOP Senate; Trump-Russian Dossier Investigation; Health-New Vaccine Guideline; Niger-US Casualty Investigation; South Sudan-Demonstration; Florida Juvenile Center-Mismanagement; Amazon-New Delivery Program; National Park Price Hike; Massachusetts-Daylight Savings Policy; Zoo Visiting Couple; Fats Domino Dies.

Network TV At A Glance:

Trump-GOP Senate – 7 minutes, 35 seconds
Trump-Russian Dossier Investigation – 6 minutes, 30 seconds
Niger-US Casualty Investigation – 4 minutes, 10 seconds
Amazon-New Delivery Program – 4 minutes
US Flights-Tougher Security Check – 3 minutes, 30 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: White House-UN Funding; Tax Reform Bill; Kidnapped US Soldier Trial; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation.

CBS: US Flights-Tougher Security Check; JFK Files Release; Obamacare-Executive Order; Baseball World Series; Trump-GOP Senate; Wall Street News.

FOX: Tax Reform Bill; Obamacare-Executive Order; Trump Approval Rating; Trump-Texas Visit.

NPR: Obamacare-Executive Order; Puerto Rico Recovery-Controversy; South Sudan-Political Stability; Brazilian President-Corruption Scandal.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Delivers remarks on combatting drug demand and the opioid crisis; meets with Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency Scott Pruitt.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a phone call with Foreign Minister Sebastian Kurz of Austria; tours Lockheed Martin Waterton Canyon Facility; delivers remarks at a Colorado

Republican Party event.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations including of Kenneth Ian Juster to be U.S. Ambassador to India, Daniel Kritenbrink to be U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam, Richard Duke Buchan III to be U.S. Ambassador to Spain, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as U.S. Ambassador to Andorra, Richard Grenell to be U.S. Ambassador to Germany, Jamie McCourt to be U.S. Ambassador to France, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as U.S. Ambassador to Monaco, Edward McMullen Jr. to be U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as U.S. Ambassador to Liechtenstein, Michael James Dodman to be U.S. Ambassador to Mauritania, Nina Maria Fite to be U.S. Ambassador to Angola, Daniel Foote to be U.S. Ambassador to Zambia, David Dale Reimer to be U.S. Ambassador to Mauritius, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as U.S. Ambassador to the Seychelles, and Eric Whitaker to be U.S. Ambassador to Niger Location: U.S. Capitol, S-116, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

9:45 AM Senate Energy Committee hearing on cyber technology and energy infrastructure – ‘Hearing to Examine Cyber Technology and Energy Infrastructure’, with testimony from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Electricity Market Sector Director Carl Imhoff; Oak Ridge National Laboratory Electrical and Electronics Systems Research Division Director Dr Richard Raines; Idaho National Laboratory Associate Director for National and Homeland Security Zachary Tudor; Qubitekk President and CTO Dr Duncan Earl; and New Context Services CEO Daniel Riedel Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.energy.senate.gov

10:00 AM Senate Governmental Affairs subcommittee hearing on the regulatory process – Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management Subcommittee hearing on ‘Improving Oversight of the Regulatory Process: Lessons from State Legislatures’, with testimony from Idaho House Speaker Scott Bedke; North Dakota House member Joshua Boschee; and Connecticut House member Arthur O’Neill Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 342, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

10:00 AM Senate Urban Affairs Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Brian Montgomery to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Housing (Federal Housing Commissioner), Robert Hunter Kurtz to be Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing, and Suzanne Israel Tufts to be Assistant Secretary for Administration Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations of Allison Eid to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit; Stephanos Bibas to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit; Liles Clifton Burke to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama; Walter David Counts III to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Texas; Michael Joseph Juneau to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana; A. Marvin Quattlebaum, Jr. to be U.S. District Judge for the District of South Carolina; Karen Gren Scholer to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Texas; Tilman Eugene Self III to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Georgia; John Bash to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Texas; Erin Angela Nealy Cox to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Texas; and R. Andrew Murray to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina, as well as ‘S. 807, Criminal Antitrust Anti-Retaliation Act of 2017’ Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee hearing on free speech on college campuses – Hearing on ‘Exploring Free Speech on College Campuses’, with testimony from University of Chicago President Dr Robert Zimmer; New York Law School Professor Nadine Strossen; Southern Poverty Law Center President J. Richard Cohen; and Middlebury College Professor of International Politics and Economics Dr Allison Stanger * White nationalist Richard Spencer last week spoke on the campus of the University of Florida, after it said it had to allow ‘free expression of speech’ as it is a state entity. It paid an estimated \$500,000 in security costs, and made counselors available for students, faculty, and staff Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Armed Services subcommittee closed briefing on Niger – Seapower Subcommittee closed briefing on ‘Niger’, given by Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs Robert Karem; and Joint Staff Deputy Director for Special Operations and Counterterrorism Maj. Gen. Albert Elton II * Four U.S. soldiers were killed in an ambush in Niger earlier this month, with details of their mission there – as part of a joint U.S.-Nigerien team – and of the attack only leaking out over the last few weeks * The deaths have led to controversy after President Donald Trump was accused of offending the widow of one of the four, Sgt. La David Johnson, by allegedly struggling to remember the soldier’s name and of telling her that he had

known what he had signed up for when joining the military. President Trump denied the accusations, attacked Democratic Rep. Frederica Wilson for her account of the president's phone call with the Johnson family, and claimed that previous presidents had not made as much effort to contact the families of fallen service members as he has Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC-217, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

11:00 AM Senate Entrepreneurship Committee hearing on strengthening the 'ecosystem' for women – Hearing on 'Strengthening the Entrepreneurial Ecosystem for Women', with testimony from Great Lakes Women's Business Council Executive Director Michelle Richards; 1843 Capital Founding Partner Tracy Chadwell; and Dell Entrepreneur-in-Residence Elizabeth Gore Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 428A, Washington, DC <http://sbc.senate.gov/>

2:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

2:00 PM Helsinki Commission briefing on countering radicalization – 'Countering Radicalization: International Best Practices and the Role of the OSCE' Helsinki Commission briefing, with Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Chairperson-in-Office's Special Representative on Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism Peter Neumann present the findings from his recent expert report on OSCE activities to prevent violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, plus George Washington University Program on Extremism Deputy Director Seamus Hughes and The Washington Institute Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence Director Matthew Levitt discussing his conclusions and providing their own views on the way ahead for U.S. efforts and international cooperation Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 385, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

US House: 9:00 AM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program – Immigration and Border Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Oversight of the United States Refugee Admissions Program', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees, and Migration Simon Henshaw; U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director L. Francis Cissna; Department of Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement Director Scott Lloyd; and Government and Accountability Office Director of Homeland Security and Justice Rebecca Gambler Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

9:00 AM House votes on Senate-passed FY'18 budget bill – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including completion of consideration of the Senate Amendment to 'H.Con.Res. 71, Establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

9:00 AM House Dems announce introduction of Port Drivers' Bill of Rights Act and Clean Ports Act – Democratic Reps. Grace Napolitano and Jerrold Nadler announce the introduction of the 'Port Drivers' Bill of Rights Act' (to 'begin to address the growing problem of low wages and poor working conditions for the nation's port truckers') and the Clean Ports Act of 2017 (to 'improve the quality of air for an estimated 87 million Americans who live and work in port regions') via press conference with six port truck drivers from the Ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach, and New Jersey, along with International Brotherhood of Teamsters representatives Location: House Triangle, Washington, DC napolitano.house.gov <https://twitter.com/gracenapolitano>

10:00 AM Energy Markup of Subcommittee Vote on H.R. 1733 – To direct the Secretary of Energy to review and update a report on the energy and environmental benefits of the re-refining of used lubricating oil; H.R. 2872 – Promoting Hydropower Development at Existing Nonpowered Dams Act; ; and H.R. 2880 – Promoting Closed-Loop Pumped Storage Hydropower Act. Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM Congressional Women's Working Group on Immigration Reform forum on immigrant women in detention – Congressional Women's Working Group on Immigration Reform hold forum to discuss the experiences of immigrant women in detention under the Trump administration. Speakers include Working Group Co-Chairs Lucille Roybal-Allard and Pramila Jayapal and fellow Democratic Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, with panelists including Casa de Esperanza Senior Director of Public Policy Rosie Hidalgo, Women's Refugee Commission Migrant Rights and Justice Program Senior Program Officer Katharina Obser, Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center Managing Attorney Linda Rivas, former Secretary of Homeland Security's Special Advisor Dora Schriro, and an individual directly impacted by the gov't's immigration detention policies Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC <http://roybal->

allard.house.gov/ <https://twitter.com/RepRoybalAllard>

10:00 AM Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission briefing on the Uighurs – Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission briefing on 'Uyghur Human Rights in China and Abroad', with a panel of Human Rights Watch China Director Sophie Richardson, World Uyghur Congress President Rebiya Kadeer, Radio Free Asia Uyghur Service Director Alim Seytoff, and Foreign Policy contributing writer Bethany Allen-Ebrahimian discussing China's efforts to control the primarily-Muslim ethnic minority group, and offering recommendations on how the U.S. and the international community can responsibly protect Uighur human rights Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2255, Washington, DC <http://tlhrc.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/TLHRCommission>

10:00 AM House Small Business subcommittee hearing on fintech – Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access Subcommittee hearing on 'Financing through Fintech: Online Lending's Role in Improving Small Business Capital Access', with testimony from PayNet President and co-founder William Phelan; Hudson Cook partner Katherine Fisher; and Mirador CEO Trevor Dryer Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2360, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

12:00 PM Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee briefing on data analytics and AI – Advisory Committee to the Congressional Internet Caucus Advisory Committee hosts 'Blending Data Analytics and AI: Policy Implications' educational briefing, featuring Federal Trade Commission Acting Chief Technologist Neil Chilson, Center for Democracy and Technology Vice President for Policy Chris Calabrese, Workday Chief Strategy Officer Leighanne Levensaler, and Information Technology Industry Council President and CEO Dean Garfield Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2237, Washington, DC www.netcaucus.org <https://twitter.com/NetCaucusAC> #BigDataAI

12:30 PM Democratic Members of Congress, Nurses to Call for Additional Puerto Rico Aid – key Democratic Members of Congress will join with nurses who recently returned from volunteering in Puerto Rico to underscore the need for additional federal assistance. Participants: Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA); Rep. Nydia M. Velázquez (D-NY); Rep. José E. Serrano (D-NY); Rep. Rep. Luis V. Gutiérrez (D-IL); Bonnie Castillo, RN, Associate Executive Director, National Nurses United; Cathy Kennedy, RN Vice-President, National Nurses United; Olivia Lynch, RN from Merced California; Christine Grant, RN from Washington DC. Location: HVC-215 pelosi.house.gov

12:30 PM 'Legal Aid's Role in Responding to Domestic Violence' Congressional briefing – 'Legal Aid's Role in Responding to Domestic Violence' Legal Services Corporation briefing, held in cooperation with Access to Civil Legal Services Caucus co-founders bipartisan Reps. Susan Brooks and Joe Kennedy III. Former Neighborhood Legal Services Association client 'Brenda B', Putnam County Sheriff's Office (WV) Corporal Tony Craigo, former Indiana Assistant Attorney General Abigail Kuzma, and Legal Aid of West Virginia Executive Director Adrienne Worthy discuss 'the importance of civil legal aid to survivors' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2226, Washington, DC www.lsc.gov <https://twitter.com/lsctweets>

2:00 PM Helsinki Commission briefing on countering radicalization – 'Countering Radicalization: International Best Practices and the Role of the OSCE' Helsinki Commission briefing, with Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Chairperson-in-Office's Special Representative on Countering Radicalization and Violent Extremism Peter Neumann present the findings from his recent expert report on OSCE activities to prevent violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism, plus George Washington University Program on Extremism Deputy Director Seamus Hughes and The Washington Institute Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence Director Matthew Levitt discussing his conclusions and providing their own views on the way ahead for U.S. efforts and international cooperation Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 385, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

In Defense of Christians annual Summit for Middle East Christians concludes – In Defense of Christians fourth annual Summit for Middle East Christians, entitled 'American Leadership and Securing the Future of Christians in the Middle East'. Final day agenda includes 'Advocacy Day Briefing: Policy and Education on Capitol Hill', with participants including bipartisan Reps. Robert Aderholt and Ro Khanna Location: Washington, DC www.indefenseofchristians.org <https://twitter.com/indefchristians>

Other: 8:00 AM Axios discussion on 'the potential for bipartisan solutions in a hyper-polarized Washington' – Axios hosts 'Party Wars: Is Progress Still Possible?' conversation on the 'potential for bipartisan solutions in a hyper-polarized Washington', with Democrats Sen. Joe Manchin and Rep. Josh Gottheimer, Republican Rep. Carlos Curbelo, and NBC News Capitol Hill Correspondent

Kasie Hunt Location: AJAX, 1011 4th St NW, Washington, DC www.axios.com
<https://twitter.com/axios> #Axios360

8:10 AM Charles Koch Institute Advancing Justice 2017 Summit – Charles Koch Institute Advancing Justice 2017 Summit: An Agenda for Human Dignity and Public Safety, to identify the next set of criminal justice reform priorities. Speakers include Republican Sens. Chuck Grassley and Mike Lee, former Sen. Jim DeMint, Fordham University Professor of Law and Economics John Pfaff, Ohio State University Professor of Law Doug Berman, New York University School of Law Professor of Practice Anne Milgram, former Baltimore Ravens player Eugene Monroe, former Acting Attorney General George Tewilliger III, and criminal justice reform advocate Sharanda Jones Location: Marriott Marquis Washington, DC, 901 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC www.charleskochinstitute.org <https://twitter.com/ckinstitute>

9:30 AM 'North Korea's 'An-jeon'bu' Prison Camps' discussed at NPC news conference – 'The Parallel Gulag: North Korea's 'An-jeon'bu' Prison Camps' NPC News Conference, hosted by The Committee for Human Rights in North Korea (HRNK), with CSIS Korea Chair Victor Cha, author David Hawk, Korea Society Senior Director Stephen Noerper and HRNK's Amanda Mortwedt Oh, Roberta Cohen Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC www.hrnk.org

12:15 PM AG Sessions discusses Constitutional principles and the rule of law at the Heritage Foundation – Attorney General Jeff Sessions delivers remarks on Constitutional principles and the rule of law at the Heritage Foundation Legal Strategy Forum Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.justice.gov <https://twitter.com/TheJusticeDept>

4:00 PM Liberty Korea Party chairman speaks at NPC on redeploying U.S. nuclear weapons to South Korea – 'Redeploying U.S. Nuclear Weapons to South Korea' NPC News Conference, with Liberty Korea Party Chairman Joon-Pyo Hong discussing recent North Korean actions and missile launches, and the 'necessity of necessity of redeploying U.S. nuclear weapons to South Korea as a method to solve the crisis on the Korean peninsula Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC <http://press.org/> <https://twitter.com/PressClubDC>

6:00 PM Oxi Day Foundation Annual Gala – Oxi Day Foundation Annual Gala. This year's keynote is Secretary of Defense James Mattis, with honorees including North Korean human rights activist Ji Seong-ho, activist against Islamic extremism Ayaan Hirsi Ali, and Bruce Mosler Location: U.S. Institute of Peace, 2301 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC www.oxidayfoundation.org

White House Fellows Foundation and Association Annual Leadership Conference – White House Fellows Foundation and Association 52nd Annual Leadership Conference, this year themed Leadership in a Changing World'. Speakers include Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson, and NSC Director Gen. H.R. McMaster (Thursday), and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt (Friday) Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H St NW, Washington, DC www.whff.org <https://twitter.com/WHFellows>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Of course, there's a reason why Jeff Flake and Bob Corker are able to criticize the President so openly, because neither one of them is trying to get re-elected. Like when you and your girlfriend break up, on the way out the door she tells me, 'None of my orgasms were real!'"

Stephen Colbert: "A reporter overheard a member of Trump's Secret Service saying that Trump ate rice and two pieces of cherry pie, took a few sips of his drink, and that, quote, 'He loves rice.' Well, of course he loves rice. It's the same reason he loves Mike Pence – bland and white."

James Corden: "Trump said his meeting with senators was a love fest, to which Mike Pence said, 'That is a sin. Repent.'"

James Corden: "Two slices of cherry pie and rice. Trump managed to show how to eat like a spoiled toddler and a death-row inmate at the same time."

Trevor Noah: "A senator trolling the President of the United States is not normal. It's funny, but it's not normal. It's like Trump is dragging the entire federal government into trash social media."

You know, you realize there going to be emojis in history books now. Like in three years, there won't even be a Capitol Building. Senators will just vote on Instagram stories."

Trevor Noah: "You see, [Steve] Bannon wants all Republicans who go against Trump to quit, so that he can replace them with Trump loyalists. That is really what he wants. Bannon even said he plans to challenge every single Republican politician except Ted Cruz, which is so sad for Ted Cruz. He even gets left out of threats."

Jimmy Fallon: "Trump was tweeting again today. He said that his big meeting with Republican senators was a love fest with multiple standing ovations. Yep, they were mostly people getting up to leave, but still, that counts as standing ovation."

Jimmy Fallon: "Trump sent three tweets about how the senators gave him a standing ovation. It's a big deal for Trump. He hasn't seen 50 people cheering him on since his inauguration."

Seth Meyers: "Housing Secretary Ben Carson said today that rebuilding Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria could take anywhere between one and 100 years. And that's just the kind of precision you expect from a brain surgeon."

Seth Meyers: "A new poll has found that 51 percent of Democrats now have a favorable view of former President George W. Bush, and that makes sense. I'd also have a favorable view of the flu if I suddenly found myself with the plague."

Seth Meyers: "Trump is an old billionaire with a young, beautiful wife who just became President. Why would he ever think, 'I've got to change my ways?' That would be like Larry King going, 'You know what, I'm going to start wearing belts.'"

Conan O'Brien: "Joe Biden made an announcement today. When asked about the 2020 election, Joe Biden said, 'I haven't decided to run, but I've decided I'm not going to decide not to run.'"

Conan O'Brien: "In a late-night vote yesterday, the Senate made it illegal to sue a bank, which is why today Harvey Weinstein petitioned to become a bank."

Conan O'Brien: "In the past week, several prominent men have been fired for sexual harassment. It's called the Harvey effect. Of course, none of them will see any jail time. That's being called the Cosby effect."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Law360: West Palm Beach Sues Federal Gov't Over Road Extension.
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- Kearney (NE) Hub: Cooperation Cuts Costs For Habitat Protection.
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- WTOP-FM Washington: National Christmas Tree Lighting: When You Can Get 2017 Lottery Tickets.
- Washington Post: A Downside To D.C.'s Population Growth? The Growing Number Of Rats.
- ABC News: White House Takes Up 11-year-old On Offer To Mow Rose Garden Lawn.
- Arkansas Democrat Gazette: Little Rock Central High Bill Clears U.S. House; Historic Site's Expansion Heads To Senate After 390-0 Vote.
- U.S. News & World Report: George Washington Carver Bust Back On Display At Monument.
- U.S. News & World Report: Federal Government Looks To Keep \$20K Obtained In Drug Bust.
- Yellowstone Insider: Reamer Map Returns To Yellowstone National Park After Cleanup.
- USA Today: Denali National Park Celebrates Its 100th Anniversary.
- Durango (CO) Herald: Deferred Repairs At Our Nation's Parks And Monuments Put Them All At Risk.

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- Washington Post: North Korea Nuclear Test May Have Been Twice As Strong As First Thought.

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- In Appalachian Coal Country, Trump Administration Puts Coal Industry Profits Before People's Health.

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- Los Angeles Times: Earthquake: 3.4 Quake Strikes Near Yucca Valley.
- Los Angeles Times: Earthquake: 3.5 Quake Strikes Near El Centro.

- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- Reuters: Schumer, Pelosi Say They Have Reached A Deal With Trump On DACA.
- ABC: As He Woos Democrats, Trump Says He's Open To Higher Taxes On Wealthy.
- Bloomberg News: Trump Applauds Latest ACA Repeal Legislation.
- New York Times: Sanders Unveils "Medicare For All" Plan.
- CNN: Mulvaney Says Trump Wants To Depoliticize The Debt Ceiling.
- The Hill: House Votes To Block EPA Methane Rule For Oil, Gas Industry.

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DOI In The News

US West's Wildfires Spark Calls To Thin Tree-Choked Forests.

The [AP](#) (9/13, Selsky) reports that "wildfires that are blackening the American West in one of the nation's worst fire seasons have ignited calls, including from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, to thin forests that have become so choked with trees that they are at 'powder keg levels.'" According to the article, "the destruction has exposed old frictions between environmentalists and those who want to see logging accelerated, and it's triggered a push to reassess how lands should be managed to prevent severe wildfires." Zinke's order "Tuesday for department managers and superintendents to aggressively prevent wildfires was welcomed by Ed Waldron, fire management officer at Crater Lake National Park in Oregon." However, Oregon Wild, "which campaigns for conservation of roadless areas, suspects" logging is "an ulterior motive behind the order from Zinke."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (9/13, Selsky), the [Daily Mail](#) (9/13, Selsky), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (8/31, Selsky), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (9/13, Selsky), the [Washington Times](#) (9/13, Selsky), the [Washington Post](#) (9/13, Andrew Selsky |, Ap), [ABC News](#) (9/13, Selsky), [Fox Business](#) (9/13, Selsky), and [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (9/13, Selsky).

Also reporting are the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (9/13), the [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (9/13, Devlin), [CBS News](#) (9/13), and the [Daily Caller](#) (9/13, Pearce).

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of wildfires was provided by the [New York Times](#) (9/13, Price) and the [AP](#) (9/13).

Here's How The U.S. Dept. Of Interior And Federal Government Have Been Helping USVI Post Irma.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/13) reports that the Interior Department is "expediting all possible support and assistance to the government of the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Federal

Emergency Management Agency (F.E.M.A.) in the wake of destruction from Hurricane Irma, D.O.I. announced Tuesday." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "The Department of the Interior actions in the USVI are part of our responsibility for federal policy related to the U.S. territories. We commend the cooperative actions of the White House, USVI government, FEMA and the whole federal family to provide urgent relief to the Virgin Islands."

Member Of Oklahoma's Kiowa Tribe Named To Interior Post.

The [AP](#) (9/13) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced Wednesday that John Tahsuda III, a member of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma, has been appointed the principal deputy assistant secretary for Indian Affairs. Tahsuda will be "the top assistant and principal adviser to the assistant secretary of Indian Affairs."

Also reporting are the [Oklahoman](#) (9/14, Wingerter), the [Native American Times](#) (9/13) and [Law360](#) (9/13, Rodriguez).

Donald Trump's Administration Denies Climate Change Exists, But Americans Are Concerned.

[Newsweek](#) (9/13, Marcin) reports a poll by Morning Consult/Politico released yesterday "found most Americans are concerned about climate change," a "stark contrast with the public views of many folks who President Donald Trump has selected to lead the country." Roughly "two-thirds of registered voters – 67 percent – expressed some level of concern about climate change," and 41 percent "said they were 'very concerned' about the taboo subject in the Trump-led White House." Newsweek notes that top official in the Trump Administration, "like Energy Secretary Rick Perry, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Vice President Mike Pence," have "expressed at least skepticism about climate change."

On Tap For Thursday.

[The Hill](#) (9/13, Weixel) reports the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will meet on Thursday "to consider a number of President Trump's regulatory nominees, including Joseph Balash for Assistant Secretary of the Interior; Richard Glick and Kevin McIntyre for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; David Jonas for Energy Department general counsel; and Ryan Nelson for Interior Department solicitor."

Additional Coverage: Swain Leaders Travel To D.C. For \$4 Million Payment.

Additional coverage that the Interior Department has made a \$4 million payment to Swain County as part of the North Shore Road settlement agreement was provided by the [Waynesville \(NC\) Smoky Mountain News](#) (9/13, Stone).

Interior Secretary Zinke Is Coming, Raising Fear Of Public Land Loss.

In an op-ed for the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (9/13, Newsom), Gavin Newsom, the lieutenant governor of California, writes that "natural wonders in California – along with others across the state and nation – are under threat" by the review of national monuments. Newsom claims that "the threat posed to these lands' future represents an affront to diverse communities throughout our state and nation." Newsom vows to "stand behind California's efforts to protect our public lands."

Op-ed: National Monuments Debate Isn't New.

In an op-ed for the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/13, Straka), Thomas J. Straka, a professor of forestry and environmental resources at Clemson University, writes that "if the courts allow revision of the national monuments, the public lands remain federal, and Secretary Zinke has indicated he wants them to stay that way." But "there is no assurance the process won't lead to state, or even private, control of the lands." Straka says that "it isn't hard to see the current tale of public lands concluding with the same type of natural resource profiteering that took place in the early 20th century."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Panel Embraces Evidence On Social And Emotional Learning.

[Politico Morning Education](#) (9/13, Hefling) reports that Tony Dearman, the director of the Bureau of Indian Education, was scheduled to testify yesterday before the Senate Committee on Indian

Affairs. According to the article, “committee members want to know what steps the historically troubled agency, which oversees more than 170 schools for Native American children, has made to follow Government Accountability Office recommendations to improve the safety and financial oversight of the schools.”

Justices Asked To Back Toss Of Tribal Casino Challenge.

[Law360](#) (9/13, Lidgett) reports that “the federal government and the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish band of Pottawatomi Indians on Monday urged the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold a D.C. Circuit decision that backed a law that blocked a Michigan man’s challenge to the tribe’s casino project.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Feds Get Just \$15K For Auction Of Controversial Oil And Gas Leases On Sage Grouse Habitat.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/13) reports that “the Bureau of Land Management’s attempt on Tuesday to auction nine parcels in Utah’s West Desert for oil and gas development was a bust, with just three parcels attracting the minimum bid of \$2 an acre, netting the federal agency a grand total of \$14,837.” The auction, “which targeted nearly 15,000 acres west of Nephi, was controversial because the lands are home to Utah’s most imperiled population of greater sage grouse.” The article notes that “four of the parcels overlapped ‘priority habitat management areas’ outlined under the BLM’s sage grouse land-use plans, now under review by the Trump administration.”

20,000+ Fossils Preserved Thanks To BLM, Local Museum Partnership.

[KKCO-TV](#) Grand Junction, CO (9/12, Prechtl) reports that “more than 20,000 fossil specimens and 19,000 historical artifacts found in the valley have been restored thanks to a 40-year-old partnership between the Museums of Western Colorado and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).” Peter Booth, the executive director of the museum, said, “Without this partnership, much of what we have here (Museum of the West) and at Dinosaur Journey most likely would be lost. Parts and stories that are connected with our past and our community’s past would be lost.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

U.S. Starts Working On Offshore Wind Standards.

[Offshore Wind](#) (9/13) reports that “an initiative to create offshore wind standards in the U.S. has been launched by key leaders of the American industry, as the country prepares for the imminent development of large scale offshore wind energy projects.” The effort is “expected to be a three-year process and collaboration between the U.S. Dept. of Energy, the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Business Network for Offshore Wind, and the American Wind Energy Association.” An Offshore Wind Technical Advisory Panel “consisting of industry stakeholders has been formed and will guide the scope of activities for a group of new technical sub-working groups whose end goal is to develop a set of unambiguous national standards and guidelines for offshore wind that is recognised by the American National Standards Institute.”

Additional coverage was provided by [reNews](#) (9/13).

BOEM To Hold New York Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting.

[Offshore Wind](#) (9/13) reports that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will “hold an Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Task Force Meeting on 3 October in Riverhead, New York.” The meeting is “being held to continue stakeholder engagement related to the development of offshore wind resources on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) offshore New York.” BOEM will “update the Task Force and stakeholders on its recent leasing activities on the Outer Continental Shelf, as well as introduce its Request for Feedback and discuss the Path Forward for future leasing activities on the Atlantic.”

Anglers Seek Quick Win In Bid To Block \$43M NY Wind Farm.

[Law360](#) (9/13, Rodriguez) reports that “seafood industry groups, companies and several towns asked a D.C. federal judge Tuesday to block a \$42.5 million lease awarded by the Bureau of

Ocean Energy Management to Statoil Wind for a wind farm off the coast of New York." The site, "13 miles off the coast of Long Island, is an important habitat for a wide range of fish and other marine life, including North Atlantic right whales and sea turtles, the plaintiffs said in a motion for summary judgment."

South Carolina Editorial Roundup.

The [AP](#) (9/13) provides excerpts from recent editorials from South Carolina newspapers, including a piece from the Sun News of Myrtle Beach on offshore drilling. The Sun News says that offshore oil drilling and exploration "is overwhelmingly opposed along the U.S. Atlantic Coast, including off South Carolina, and the opposition has become increasingly bipartisan." SC Gov. Henry McMaster "joined fellow Republican governors of Maryland and New Jersey and Democratic governors of North Carolina and Delaware in opposing the Trump administration's efforts to expand drilling and testing." The Sun News adds, "The American Petroleum Institute claims more production in the Atlantic, eastern Gulf of Mexico and the [Arctic] will strengthen national security, as well as create more domestic energy, jobs and government revenue. The fact is, the nation has more oil and natural gas than was imagined only a few years ago."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Welsh Tourist Fined For Dangerous Hoover Dam Swim.

The [AP](#) (9/13) reports that "authorities say a Welsh tourist was ticketed for swimming across the iconic Hoover Dam near Las Vegas." The Bureau of Reclamation's Regional Special Agent Ian Canaan "says 28-year-old Arron Hughes of Wales was arrested and cited a \$330 fine for the August incident."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Walrus In Alaska May Have Died In Stampede.

The [AP](#) (9/13, Joling) reports that "thousands of Pacific walrus are coming to Alaska's northwest shore again in the absence of summer sea ice and not all are surviving." According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, "a survey Monday of a mile of coastline near the Inupiaq Eskimo village of Point Lay found 64 dead walrus." Agency spokeswoman Andrea Medeiros said that "the cause of death is not known...but stampedes – set off when startled walrus rush to the sea, crushing smaller animals – are a likely suspect."

USFWS Believes Bering Sea Seabirds Died From Starvation.

The [Alaska Native News](#) (9/13) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says "that at least 800 carcasses of seabirds, that include Northern Fulmars, Kittiwakes, Shearwaters, Murres and Auklets have been observed on the beaches throughout The Bering Sea and Bering Straits since early August of this year." According to the article, "although the cause of the starvation is currently unknown, it is suspected that this most recent die-off, like those of previous years, is connected to unusually warmer waters that are encroaching ever-further north."

West Palm Beach Sues Federal Gov't Over Road Extension.

[Law360](#) (9/13, Arluck) reports that "four federal agencies improperly gave the green light to an 8.5-mile Florida road extension project that will harm wildlife in the Everglades and compromise drinking water, the city of West Palm Beach alleged in D.C. federal court on Tuesday." The city "accused the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Federal Highway Administration and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers of improperly vetting an 8.5-mile extension of an existing state road in Palm Beach County."

Whooping Cranes Return To Texas Next Month — So What Did Harvey Leave Them?

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (9/13, Smith, Writer) reports that at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, Hurricane Harvey has "placed the lone wintering ground for one of world's most famous endangered species, the whooping crane, under threat." The [Victoria \(TX\) Advocate](#) (9/13, Priest) reports that Wade Harrell, "who is coordinating the endangered species' recovery for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, got his first look at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge on Wednesday after Category 4 Hurricane Harvey made landfall Aug. 25." According to the article, "the challenge

the service faces in its cleanup effort is the refuge is not contiguous.”

Cooperation Cuts Costs For Habitat Protection.

The [Kearney \(NE\) Hub](#) (9/13, Potter) reports that “meeting habitat needs for threatened and endangered species, primarily in Nebraska’s Central Platte River Valley, with a basinwide program will cost an estimated \$421 million less than without the program.” George Oamek, “an economist on the Platte River Recovery Implementation Program executive director’s staff in Kearney, said Tuesday that complying with the federal Endangered Species Act will cost an estimated \$700 million from 2007-2032 with the program. That compares to possible costs of \$1.1 billion without it.”

Additional Coverage: Fire And Smoke Postpone Annual Bison Range Roundup.

Additional coverage that “the annual roundup at the National Bison Range has been postponed due to tinder dry conditions and weeks of smoke that have pushed back maintenance necessary for the event to be safe” was provided by the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (9/13, Backus).

National Park Service

D.C. Police, National Park Service Prepare For Busy Day Of Protests On National Mall.

[WAMU-FM](#) Washington (9/13, Simons) reports that “around 35 groups supporting different causes will share the nation’s capital this weekend, while members of the Metropolitan Police Department and the National Park Service gear up to work several hours of overtime.” The NPS “said Sept. 16 will be one of its busiest days of the year.” Michael Litterst, Public Affairs Officer for the National Mall and Memorial Parks, said, “This year alone we’re seeing an almost 15 percent increase in First Amendment demonstrations over the same time period as last year.”

National Christmas Tree Lighting: When You Can Get 2017 Lottery Tickets.

[WTOP-FM](#) Washington (9/13, Hensley) reports that the National Park Service is “gearing up for the ticket giveaway for the annual National Christmas Tree Lighting outside the White House.” The NPS announced Wednesday that “the lottery for free tickets to the 2017 event opens Oct. 12 at 10 a.m. EDT.” The lottery winners will be notified Oct. 30, the park service said.

A Downside To D.C.’s Population Growth? The Growing Number Of Rats.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/13, Chason) reports that the rodent problem has “reached record levels in the nation’s capital, driven by a combination of factors.” The article notes that “the rat problem was especially bad in the 23 parks controlled by the National Park Service before it reached an agreement with the city last fall that enabled the D.C. Health Department to inspect and treat the federally controlled parks.”

White House Takes Up 11-year-old On Offer To Mow Rose Garden Lawn.

[ABC News](#) (9/13, Kelsey) reports that “earlier this year, Frank, an 11-year-old from Virginia, wrote to President Donald Trump to tout his burgeoning neighborhood lawn-mowing business and offer to travel to Washington, D.C. to work on the White House grass.” Press secretary Sarah Sanders “revealed Wednesday that Frank will be visiting to work with the White House groundskeeping team and will assist with landscaping work in the Rose Garden.” Sanders said, “The president is committed to keeping the American Dream alive for kids like Frank and we’re all looking forward to having him here.”

Little Rock Central High Bill Clears U.S. House; Historic Site’s Expansion Heads To Senate After 390-0 Vote.

The [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (9/13, Lockwood) reports that “the U.S. House of Representatives voted Tuesday evening to expand the boundaries of the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, pausing for 20 minutes to highlight the significance of the 1957 desegregation struggle.” According to the article, “under the legislation, seven South Park Street houses sitting on roughly 1.5 acres would be placed within the boundaries.” The legislation “would also empower the secretary of the Interior Department to reach ‘cooperative agreements’ with the homeowners to help preserve the site.”

George Washington Carver Bust Back On Display At Monument.

The [AP](#) (9/13) reports that “a bust of agriculture pioneer George Washington” has been reinstalled at the George Washington Carver National Monument. The bust was returned Friday “after undergoing a two-month, \$6,500 restoration.”

Federal Government Looks To Keep \$20K Obtained In Drug Bust.

The [AP](#) (9/13) reports that “the federal government is looking to keep over \$20,000 seized during a drug bust in Yellowstone National Park.” Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephanie Hambrick “filed a civil forfeiture complaint Sept. 6 seeking to obtain the \$20,337 currently in the hands of the Drug Enforcement Administration.”

Reamer Map Returns To Yellowstone National Park After Cleanup.

The [Yellowstone Insider](#) (9/13, Kearney) reports that the large wooden map by architect Robert Reamer “of the lower United States that hangs in the Map Room of the Mammoth Hot Springs Hotel in Yellowstone National Park” has returned. According to the article, “when park officials secured funding two years ago to renovate the hotel in which the map resides, they decided it would be a good time to send the map away—not only to get the Reamer map out of the way of construction dust and mayhem but for it to undergo its own cleanup and conservation.”

Denali National Park Celebrates Its 100th Anniversary.

[USA Today](#) (9/13, Cerbin) reports that Denali National Park and Preserve is celebrating “100 years since it was established.” The park “kicked off its Centennial Summer on June 10 with music, birthday cake, children’s activities and more.”

Deferred Repairs At Our Nation’s Parks And Monuments Put Them All At Risk.

The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (9/13) editorializes that “the National Park Service budget has not been adequate for all its needs for many years, and there is no reason to believe that will change, especially with federal disaster-response needs growing daily.” It adds that “just catching up on deferred maintenance doesn’t move parks forward; it simply prevents them from falling farther behind.” The paper wants to “tackle the problem openly and consider the full range of available solutions for taking care of the public’s most irreplaceable property.”

In an op-ed for the [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (9/13, Horton), Malinda J. Horton, Executive Director Florida Association of Museums, urges support for the National Park Service Legacy Act. The legislation “would provide dedicated annual funding to address deferred maintenance needs.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

Here’s How The U.S. Dept. Of Interior And Federal Government Have Been Helping USVI Post Irma.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/13) reports that the Interior Department is “expediting all possible support and assistance to the government of the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (F.E.M.A.) in the wake of destruction from Hurricane Irma, D.O.I. announced Tuesday.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula “applauded and expressed support for President Donald Trump and his White House for their efforts in ensuring the U.S. Virgin Islanders receive the assistance and support needed to recover from Hurricane Irma.” They have “also personally pledged their support to Governor Kenneth Mapp of the U.S Virgin Islands towards recovery efforts.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/13, Carlton, Mann), [USA Today](#) (9/13, Fox, Brown, Press), and the [ColorLines](#) (9/13, Byrd).

U.S. Virgin Islands Governor Says Trump Will Visit In ‘Next Six Or Seven Days’. The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/12, Giaritelli) reports that President Trump will “travel to the U.S. Virgin Islands ‘within the next six or seven days’ to see the devastation Hurricane Irma left behind, Gov. Kenneth Mapp said during a press conference late Monday.” The White House has “not announced the trip to the Caribbean island, but Mapp said he spoke with Trump earlier in the day, and that Trump told him he will visit the U.S. territory.” Mapp said Trump wants “to see firsthand the damages of the territory, and to get on-ground reports of the federal operation, to ensure that the people of the Virgin Islands are receiving recovery as fast as humanly possible, and that the assets of the federal government were being appropriately deployed.”

Hurricane Irma Turned This Tiny Island Into A Wasteland. The [New York Post](#) (9/13, Eustachewich) reports that St. John is “now a tattered wasteland” after Hurricane Irma hit the

island a week ago. Six days after the storm, St. John “was designated an active disaster zone, with National Guard now patrolling the streets and FEMA shuttling in aid, including food, water, blue tarps and infant and toddler kits.” Virgin Islands Gov. Kenneth Mapp said it could take “months, months, months” until power is restored.

□ [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/13, story 3, 1:10, Holt) reported that a cruise ship “set sail for San Juan, Puerto Rico with yet another group of tourists and evacuees off St. Thomas before heading back to hard-hit St. Maarten to do the same.”

Sen. Bill Nelson said on □ [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/13), “I just got off the phone with the Secretary of Veterans’ Affairs. I thanked him for taking the poor people on St. John and putting them in the VA hospital in Puerto Rico.”

Unprecedented Mobilization Under Way To Help Florida, Caribbean. [Voice of America](#) (9/11, Herman) reports that “an unprecedented rescue and relief response by the United States is under way not only in Florida, but also in the Caribbean following Hurricane Irma, according to the Trump administration.” It is “the largest-ever mobilization of our military in a naval and marine operation,” for relief operations, White House Homeland Security Advisor Thomas Bossert said Monday. Notably, an “amphibious assault ship, the USS Kearsarge, and a dock landing ship, the USS Oak Hill are in the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, moving people and supplies to the islands.”

Official Website To Donate For Hurricane Irma Relief Announced; More Relief Effort Updates Inside. The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/13) reports that “Governor Kenneth Mapp announced at his daily Hurricane Irma press briefing on Tuesday something that many have been calling for: an official portal through which donations for Hurricane Irma relief can be accepted.” The government “teamed up with the Community Foundation of the Virgin Islands, a longstanding nonprofit organization, which will manage the funds.”

Additional Food, Water Distribution Could Open On St. Thomas This Week. The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (9/13, O’CONNOR) reports that “Gov. Kenneth Mapp says he is considering expanding the amount of time that St. Thomas residents have on the streets to accomplish necessary business.” Mapp said, “We do have under consideration a plan, a recommendation to shrink the curfew on St. Thomas further to give folks more time. We’re gonna make a decision about that tomorrow morning, and then regarding that decision, we’ll make an announcement at tomorrow’s briefing.”

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of Irma’s devastation was provided by the [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/13), the [Washington Post](#) (9/12, A1, Faiola), and [WMGT-TV](#) Macon, GA (9/12).

North Korea Nuclear Test May Have Been Twice As Strong As First Thought.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/13, Lee) reports a new analysis by US monitoring think tank 38 North found that North Korea’s Sept. 3 nuclear test “may have been even stronger than first reported,” with a yield of about 250 kilotons. The figure is “much higher than initial estimates from U.S. intelligence sources and allies”: 140 kilotons for the United States intelligence assessment, 160 kilotons by Japan, and 50 kilotons by South Korea. However, a US intelligence official “said the 38 North analysis is consistent with the range of estimates by the intelligence community,” citing the Air Force Technical Applications Center’s early estimate of a range of 70 to 280 kilotons.

North Korea Threatens To Use Nuclear Weapon On Japan. [Bloomberg News](#) (9/13, Sharp) reports North Korea’s state-run news said that Japan “should be sunken into the sea by” a nuclear weapon, “in remarks that further crank up heightened tensions in North Asia.”

CNN Analysis: Pyongyang Defiant Following Latest Sanctions. In Pyongyang, Will Ripley reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) □ (9/13) that North Korean officials are condemning the latest UN sanctions, “using terms like vicious and evil and threatening the United States with unbearable consequences.” New propaganda posters there also “show a pair of hands ripping up” the UN resolution. Ripley said that behind the North’s “defiant message” is their view that the nuclear weapons are “vital to their national survival.” Ripley continued: “In fact, they say, these sanctions are only going to speed up their testing of nuclear weapons. ... So...really, what this means is that [the UN resolution] threatens to escalate an already dangerous situation even further.”

Mnuchin: “Nobody” Off The Table As US Weighs Trade Sanctions. Treasury Secretary Mnuchin said on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) □ (9/13) that he spoke with President Trump on Wednesday about North Korea, adding, “As I have suggested, I worked on an executive order that’s ready if the President wants to use it. We can stop trade with any country that does business with North Korea.” When asked if that included China, Mnuchin replied, “Nobody would be off the table.”

Office Of Surface Mining

Montana Mine Warns Of Layoffs After Judge Blocks Expansion.

The [AP](#) (9/13, Brown) reports that “more than 80 miners could be laid off from a central Montana coal mine in coming months after environmentalists successfully sued to halt its expansion, according to mine owner Signal Peak Energy.” U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy “last month blocked the company’s plans to mine a 176-million-ton federal coal reserve adjacent to the mine.” Signal Peak President Bradley Hanson “said in a court affidavit filed Monday that about 30 employees at the Bull Mountain mine north of Billings could run out of work by the end of October and another 50 workers could run out of work by next March.”

In Appalachian Coal Country, Trump Administration Puts Coal Industry Profits Before People’s Health.

The [Lexington \(KY\) Herald-Leader](#) (9/13) editorializes that “budget concerns” was a the Trump Administration’s “bogus excuse for halting a study into the health effects of surface coal mining in Appalachia.” The paper decries that “protecting coal industry profits almost always gets top priority among the government agencies that are supposed to protect the public from the effects of mining.”

US Geological Survey

Here’s How The U.S. Dept. Of Interior And Federal Government Have Been Helping USVI Post Irma.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/13) reports that the Interior Department is “expediting all possible support and assistance to the government of the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (F.E.M.A.) in the wake of destruction from Hurricane Irma, D.O.I. announced Tuesday.” Notably, the U.S. Geological Survey will be “aiding with collecting high-water marks as soon as staff can get into the field.”

Earthquake: 3.4 Quake Strikes Near Yucca Valley.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/13) reports that “a shallow magnitude 3.4 earthquake was reported Wednesday afternoon near Yucca Valley, Calif., according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The quake occurred at 2:59 p.m. at a depth of 1.2 mile.”

Earthquake: 3.5 Quake Strikes Near El Centro.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/13) reports that “a shallow magnitude 3.5 earthquake was reported Wednesday afternoon five miles from El Centro, Calif., according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The temblor occurred at 3:21 p.m. Pacific time at a depth of 8.7 miles.”

Additional Reading.

- *Hurricane Irma Quirk Averted Worst-case-scenario For Storm Surge.* [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (9/13).
- *Irma Aftermath: Flood Waters Rises In North, Central Florida.* [Miami Herald](#) (9/13, Klas).
- *Irma’s New Threat: Rising Flood Water In North, Central Florida.* [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (9/13, Klas).
- *Conditions Improve Tuesday; Power Outages Remain.* [Hendersonville \(NC\) Times-News](#) (9/12, Lacey).
- *East Idaho Teen Thinks Quakes Caused Sinkhole At Family’s Ranch.* [East Idaho News](#) (9/13, Evensen).
- *Idaho Earthquake Swarm May Not Mean A Big One Is Coming.* [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (9/13, Patten).
- *New Sensors Will Help Monitor Activity As Scientists Say Mauna Loa ‘will Erupt Again’.* [KHON-TV](#) Honolulu (9/13, Boneza).
- *Eagle Rock High Shows Off Earthquake Early-Warning System* « [CBS Los Angeles](#). [KCAL-TV](#) Los Angeles (9/13).
- *Locals React To Earthquake Blast, USGS Official Puts Concerns At Ease.* [Beckley \(WV\) Register-](#)

[Herald](#) (9/13, Nelson).

- *How NASA Might Stop A Supervolcano Eruption In Yellowstone.* [Big Think](#) (9/13).
- *Millennium Tower In San Francisco Is Still Sinking, Leaning.* [Business Insider](#) (9/13, Robinson).

Top National News

Schumer, Pelosi Say They Have Reached A Deal With Trump On DACA.

Following a dinner with President Trump at the White House on Wednesday evening, Senate Minority Leader Schumer and House Minority Leader Pelosi announced that they had reached an agreement with the President to protect so-called DREAMers. However, media reports vary on how firm the agreement is and on what specifically was agreed to. In particular, several reports highlight that while the Democratic leaders stressed that the President's proposed border wall was not part of the agreement, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders tweeted that excluding the wall had not been part of the deal.

[Reuters](#) (9/13, Cowan, Holland) says Trump and Democratic leaders "have agreed to work together on legislation to protect 'Dreamers,'" although "a dispute erupted over exactly what had been agreed," while the [New York Times](#) (9/13, Haberman, Alcindor) reports that Pelosi and Schumer said Wednesday night that they have reached a deal with Trump "to quickly extend protections for young undocumented immigrants and to finalize a border security package that does not include the president's proposed wall." The Democratic leaders said in a joint statement, "We agreed to enshrine the protections of DACA into law quickly, and to work out a package of border security, excluding the wall, that's acceptable to both sides."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/13, Meckler, Peterson) says Schumer and Pelosi said they had reached agreement with the President on the outlines of a deal, while [Politico](#) (9/13, Everett, Dawsey, Bade, Caygle) says Trump and the Democratic leaders "have reached a tentative agreement to beef up border security in exchange for providing a pathway to citizenship" for the DREAMers. The White House "did not immediately confirm Democrats' account of the deal," but the [AP](#) (9/13, Werner, Colvin) cites "a person briefed on the meeting," who "said the deal specifies bipartisan legislation called the DREAM Act that provides eventual citizenship for the young immigrants."

The [New York Times](#) (9/13, Haberman, Alcindor) also says the White House issued a "far more muted" statement, "mentioning DACA as merely one of several issues that were discussed, including tax reform and infrastructure," and calling the meeting "a positive step toward the president's strong commitment to bipartisan solutions." The [Washington Post](#) (9/13, O'Keefe, Nakamura) says the White House statement "described the meeting as 'constructive' and that it focused on 'tax reform, border security, DACA, infrastructure and trade.'" It added, "The Administration looks forward to continuing these conversations with leadership on both sides of the aisle."

[USA Today](#) (9/13, Eversley) says White House press secretary Sarah Sanders posted a [tweet](#) Wednesday night saying, "While DACA and border security were both discussed, excluding the wall was certainly not agreed to." [Bloomberg News](#) (9/13, John, Litvan) reports that another person who attended the dinner "also said that Trump didn't agree to exclude the border wall from the legislation."

The [Washington Times](#) (9/13, Dinan) says that if the deal "comes to fruition," it "would be the second major bargain Mr. Trump has cut directly with the two Democratic leaders, undercutting the negotiating position of his own party's leaders in Congress." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/13, Mascaro, Bierman) takes a more positive view, saying the deal "could provide further momentum to a budding movement toward bipartisanship that began last week when Trump reached a fiscal agreement with Democrats to temporarily keep the government open and pay the nation's debts."

The reaction from conservatives was decidedly negative, however. The [New York Post](#) (9/13, Schultz) says the announcement of the agreement "drew instant criticism from conservatives against the plan." Rep. Steve King [tweeted](#), "If AP is correct, Trump base is blown up, destroyed, irreparable, and disillusioned beyond repair. No promise is credible." [Breitbart](#) (9/13, Binder) also offers a harsh assessment, saying Trump "signaled a full-fledged cave on the issue of giving amnesty to nearly 800,000 illegal aliens." Jonathan Swan writes on [Axios](#) (9/14, Swan) that if the reports are accurate, Trump "is risking a revolt from elements in his base. Many of his most hardcore supporters voted for him based on his hardline immigration policies."

Maddow Skeptical Of Deal. The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/13, Chaitin) reports that MSNBC

host Rachel Maddow was “skeptical,” and suggested “that perhaps Pelosi and Schumer used tricky wording and meant they had agreed among themselves, and not with Trump, ‘in which case that’s not much news.’” While she admitted, “this could potentially be a big deal,” Maddow “cautioned: ‘I am disinclined to believe anything that Donald Trump says about his own future behavior or that anybody else says that Donald Trump has committed to anything about his own future behavior until I actually see the behavior.’”

Cuellar: Trump Not Insisting Border Wall As Part Of DACA Legislation. [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/13) briefly reported that after a meeting at the White House earlier Wednesday, Rep. Henry Cuellar, “said the President did not insist on linking border wall funding to new DACA legislation.” According to Fox’s John Roberts, Cuellar “did say that the President wanted some border security attached but that the wall could be added somewhere else.”

Ryan: Deporting DREAMers Is “Not In Our Nation’s Interest.” In an interview with the [AP](#) (9/13, Colvin) Wednesday, House Speaker Ryan “said deporting hundreds of thousands of young immigrants brought into the country illegally is ‘not in our nation’s interest.’” Ryan said the President “made the right call” in giving Congress six months to determine what to do with DACA for dismantling the program. Ryan said, “I wanted him to give us time. I didn’t want this to be rescinded on Day One and create chaos,” adding that Congress will have time to “come up with the right kind of consensus and compromise to fix this problem.” Ryan was to meet with House Minority Leader Pelosi on Wednesday evening before Pelosi was to meet at the White House with Trump and Senate Minority Leader Schumer to discuss, among other things, DACA. [The Hill](#) (9/13, Bernal) says the meeting was “expected to yield specifics in terms of what border security measures Republicans want in exchange for providing permanent relief for Dreamers, whose title comes from the not-yet-passed DREAM Act.”

Breitbart: Short Previously Worked Alongside “Pro-Mass Immigration” Koch Brothers. [Breitbart](#) (9/13, Binder) reports that White House director of legislative affairs Marc Short, who “insinuated” during a Christian Science Monitor breakfast that the Trump Administration “would not demand any pro-American immigration reforms in exchange for amnesty for nearly 800,000 illegal aliens given temporary protected status,” has “a long history opposing the president and his agenda, as well as working alongside the Koch brothers, two pro-mass immigration billionaires who are major donors to the Republican establishment, as the director of the group Freedom Partners.” Breitbart details Short’s “past efforts to defeat Trump,” before he “waged his way into the president’s White House,” and started “making headlines for his push for DACA amnesty without any cuts to legal immigration or mandatory E-Verify for businesses.”

Kobach Says Tying DACA To Tax Cuts Is “The Ultimate Bad Deal-Making.” Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach told [Breitbart](#) (9/13, Binder) that the Trump Administration plan to “trade amnesty for nearly 800,000 illegal aliens for tax cuts ‘is the ultimate bad deal making.’” Kobach, who Breitbart describes as “an immigration expert who has previously met with Trump on plans to end illegal immigration,” said, “Tying DACA to tax cuts is the ultimate bad deal-making. ... I cannot believe President Trump would ever agree to such an obvious bad deal.” He said the deal would be a “betrayal’ of Trump’s ‘America First’ agenda, which promised to build a border wall while never giving into amnesty for illegal aliens.” Kobach added, “[The deal] also renders the tax cuts less likely to occur because a DACA amnesty passed by Congress is bad policy. ... The American people have spoken against the DREAM Act before.”

King: Rewarding DACA Recipients Will Encourage “More Fraud.” Rep. Steve King said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (9/13) that “to grant amnesty is a pardon. Amnesty is a pardon for immigration lawbreakers and it’s coupled with the reward of the objective of their crime. If they cross the border, that’s a crime and that makes them criminals. If they used false documents to get a job and work illegally, that also makes them criminals. If you reward them with the objective of that crime, that’s amnesty, and for the DACA recipients, they been granted an unconstitutional quasi-legal status in America, however temporary it is, along with a work permit. That’s Barack Obama violating the Constitution, and that’s why Donald Trump promised that he would end the DACA program. If we reward them, then there will be more of them and there will be more fraud.”

McCarthy Blasts Gutierrez Over Comments On Kelly. House Majority Leader McCarthy blasted Rep. Luis Gutierrez on Wednesday “for his personal attack” on White House chief of staff Kelly, [Politico](#) (9/13, Cheney) reports. Gutierrez called Kelly a “disgrace to the uniform he used to wear for standing by while Trump rescinded protections for undocumented immigrants who arrived as minors.” McCarthy said, “What is disgraceful is to attack the character of an honorable man. ... I believe Rep. Gutiérrez owes Gen. Kelly and his family an apology.”

Professor: Schneiderman’s Challenge To Trump’s DACA Action Is Legally Unsound. In an op-

ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/13, Blackman), Josh Blackman, a constitutional law professor at the South Texas College of Law in Houston, and an adjunct scholar at the Cato Institute, writes that New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman is arguing in a legal challenge that President Trump does not have the authority to revoke DACA because of his past statements about Mexicans, which show he is a racist. Blackman argues that Schneiderman's claim is not legally sound and poses a threat to the Constitution's separation of powers.

As He Woos Democrats, Trump Says He's Open To Higher Taxes On Wealthy.

To mostly favorable media reviews, the President yesterday continued his outreach to Democrats on the issue of tax reform, telling reporters he is willing to consider higher taxes for the wealthy. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/13, story 4, 1:50, Bruce) reported "the Republican President sounded a lot like a Democrat," and [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/13, story 6, 1:50, Holt) that he is "reaching across the aisle, inviting congressional Democratic leaders to join him for dinner at the White House" – where GOP leaders are "not getting a spot at the table." Under the headline "Democrats Cautious But Encouraged By Trump's Outreach," meanwhile, the [Washington Post](#) (9/13, Parker, Costa) reports that "Trump's outreach suggested that an unexpected deal he reached last week with Democrats may not have been an aberration," and that Trump could "be signaling the return of a recently bygone era when lawmakers of both parties dining – and working – with the president was hardly abnormal."

[USA Today](#) (9/13, Jackson) casts Trump as "once again trying his hand at bipartisanship – even suggesting on Wednesday that rich people may be taxed higher under a plan he would negotiate with congressional Democrats," [Roll Call](#) (9/13, Bennett) says he "expressed a willingness to raise taxes on the wealthiest Americans," and [Reuters](#) (9/13, Holland, Morgan) that he said "the rich might see a hike in taxes."

[Politico](#) (9/13, McCaskill) notes that "ahead of a meeting with a bipartisan group of House members at the White House," Trump said, "The rich will not be gaining at all with this plan." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/13, story 4, 1:50, Bruce) showed Trump saying of taxes for wealthy Americans, "If they have to go higher, they'll go higher, frankly." [Townhall](#) (9/13, Pavlich) quoted him as saying, "The rich will not be gaining at all with this plan. We are looking for the middle class and we are looking for jobs, jobs being the economy. So we're looking at middle class and we're looking at jobs. ... I think the wealthy will be pretty much where they are, pretty much where they are."

The [Washington Times](#) (9/13, Miller) reports that "if Mr. Trump denies a tax cut to the top 1 percent of earners as part of a bipartisan deal on tax reform, it would be a concession to one of the Democrats' top demands." At any rate, "it was unclear whether Mr. Trump was promising not to lower the tax rate on the very wealthy or to keep their effective tax rate the same by a combination of lowering rates and eliminating deductions." In his comments yesterday, the President also "insisted that conservatives shouldn't be skeptical of his attempt at bipartisan deal-making," saying, "I'm a conservative and I'll tell you, I'm not skeptical."

Sen. Joe Manchin said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (9/13) that during Tuesday's White House dinner, Trump "was adamant from the get go, this is not a tax cut for the rich." Manchin added that "any tax overhaul...has to be geared toward job creation, the economy, competitiveness. ... We have not changed this tax code for many, many, many years. You've to compete in the marketplace and we're in the global market. ... They want to do something that is competitive, that gives a purge to the economy. We have not seen the details. We'll have to wait to see the details, but I made it very clear that I cannot look at my ten babies, my wonderful grandchildren and everyone else's children and say, 'Look at what we left you.'" [Townhall](#) (9/13, O'Brien), meanwhile, reported that Manchin, who "was one of three Democratic senators to attend a dinner meeting with...Trump to discuss tax reform Tuesday evening," also told CBS News yesterday morning that "it was a very 'open' and 'engaging' discussion." Added Manchin, "I think they're very aggressive on this – they want it done. ... They want it in a bipartisan way. I thought it was very good for them to reach out to us."

Rep. Kurt Schrader said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (9/13) that he agrees with the President "the middle class ought to be the beneficiaries." Schrader added that during a White House meeting Wednesday, Trump "did talk about the wealthy not getting anything out of this at the end of the day. We'll see. The devil's always in the details. He's talking about he would be open to an infrastructure link discussion, but definitely tax reform is his laser focus at this point in time. He wants to get the rates down substantially. I think he's going to have a tough time getting him down to the numbers he's been talking about. I made a pitch to him that he's got to have bipartisan support to get any of the numbers down anywhere close to where he wants to be

because it's going to mean a lot of tax breaks and tax deductions for a lot of groups."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/13, Nelson) cautions, however, that "tax hikes on higher-income Americans" are "highly unlikely to pass in the Republican-controlled Congress," and [Bloomberg News](#) (9/13, Wasson, Kapur) that "achieving bipartisan support in the Senate may be difficult," as "earlier this year, 45 of the 48 Democratic senators signed a letter that set three conditions for supporting tax legislation: that it not add to the deficit, that it not increase the burden on the middle class and that it go through the regular order process in Congress." Meanwhile, "on the House side, at least one member's initial response to Wednesday's news was less than enthusiastic." Said Rep. Richard Neal, top Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee, "Unfortunately the Republican tax principles we have seen so far have been largely vacuous, and I fear their updated framework to be released later this month will only be more of the same."

Senate Republican Conference Chairman John Thune said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (9/13), "The President has made it very clear this has to be about middle income taxpayers and that high income earners, although they may get some rate reduction, they are going to lose a lot of deductions and therefore probably net, net come out...without any sort of tax relief, and he indicated that some may end up paying more. I think the point is the President has made very clear the bill he wants to sign into law has to be about cutting taxes for middle income families in this country and giving the American people a break." Asked about Tuesday night's dinner with senators from both parties at the White House, Thune said that "part of the purpose last night was to hearing out these Democrats. What kind of a tax reform bill could they support? ... I think the President realizes that doing big, doing consequential things is better if you have broad bipartisan support." Thune said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (9/13), "I think that most Democrats, when they talk about tax reform, they want to see more revenue, so they can spend it. We're going to find the Democrats who are actually interested in tax reform that generates economic growth. ... The question is are there Democrats out there who would support tax reform that meets those objectives and not tax reform that actually is about generating additional revenue for the government to spend."

Sen. Pat Toomey said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (9/13) that the focus of Tuesday night's dinner "was the need for tax reform, and he talked about having a competitive tax system so that American business can compete. You know, Secretary Mnuchin was there, everyone was pitching in ideas. It was a really good conversation."

Trump Makes Case For 15% Corporate Rate. The [New York Post](#) (9/13, Moore) reports Trump also "signaled that he's willing to stick with his desire to lower the corporate tax rate to 15 percent, even though Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin has been skeptical that it could go that low." The President "said the rate needs to be that low so the US can be competitive," telling reporters, "It would bring us to the level where China and other countries are. And we will be able to compete with anybody – nobody will be able to touch us. So we would like to see 15 percent." The [Washington Post](#) (9/13, Paletta, Snell, Debonis) indicates, however, that "House GOP leaders believe a rate in the low- to mid-20s is more politically viable."

Mnuchin was asked on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/13) about his statement that the 15 percent corporate tax rate may not happen. Mnuchin said, "What I said was it's been the President's objective since the campaign to get to a 15 percent rate and that's ideally where he would like to be. As we go through the budget process, as we go through the process of reconciliation or whether we go through the full Senate, we are going to work on it. But that is the President's objective and as we are striving for." Mnuchin added, "This isn't just about cutting taxes. This is about tax reform. This is about changing the system and going from a worldwide system to a territorial system to make us competitive. That alone is going to create literally tens of thousands of jobs and have trillions of dollars invested here."

White House: Trump's Bipartisan Efforts "In Eight Days" Larger Than Obama's Entire Tenure. The [Washington Post](#) (9/13, Gearan) reports that White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders yesterday "dismissed the notion that the president has found Democrats to be better friends than members of his own party." Said Sanders, "The president is a Republican." Sanders "claimed that Trump's willingness to work across the aisle, as with a short-term deal last week to extend government funding and raise the debt limit, represents nothing more than a desire to get things done." The [Washington Times](#) (9/13, Miller), meanwhile, notes Sanders said "Trump's recent outreach to Democrats is what voters want and why they elected him." Sanders also credited him "with doing more to forge bipartisanship in Washington than President Obama ever did." [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/13, story 6. 1:50, Holt) showed Sanders saying, "This President's done more for bipartisan in the last eight days than Obama did in eight years."

NBC News: Trump Emulating Obama In Seeking Bipartisan Deal. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/13, story 6. 1:50, Holt), Hallie Jackson said "former President Obama did cut several big deals across the aisle, and now it seems the self-styled deal-maker-in-chief wants one of his own."

Trump Says Tax Cuts More Urgent After Irma And Harvey "Devastation." [Business Insider](#) (9/13, Bryan) reports that the Republican plan "to slash corporate and personal income taxes has finally begun moving forward in Congress," and Trump "wants lawmakers to act with haste." In a [tweet](#) Wednesday, Trump urged Republicans to "move fast" on what he said would be a massive tax cut. Trump [wrote](#), "The approval process for the biggest Tax Cut & Tax Reform package in the history of our country will soon begin." Trump also tweeted, "With Irma and Harvey devastation, Tax Cuts and Tax Reform is needed more than ever before." The Insider added that "it's unclear how tax reform would directly impact clean up efforts, but Trump has repeatedly said that tax cuts will lead to greater economic growth which could theoretically boost the long-term recovery."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/13, Gearan, Paletta) says Trump "goaded" Congress on Wednesday to "move fast" on what he called the "biggest Tax Cut & Tax Reform package in the history of our country," a "swipe at Republicans divided over the scope and mechanics of a deal still in the works." [The Hill](#) (9/13, Delk) similarly reports that Trump "pushed Congress to act on tax reform in a tweet Wednesday"

Treasury Secretary Mnuchin was asked on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/13) if the hurricanes make it more difficult to get tax reform without busting the budget. Mnuchin said, "I don't think so. First of all, these two hurricanes, these were back-to-back. This is a horrible situation, and our number one focus is to make sure we get the money to the states to rebuild."

Administration, GOP Leaders To Release Framework Of Their Plan During Week Of Sept. 25. The [New York Times](#) (9/13, Rappeport) reports the Administration "and Republican leaders of Congress will jointly release a detailed framework of their plan to overhaul the tax code during the week of Sept. 25, with legislation ready for congressional committee action in the second half of October, Republican tax writers said Wednesday." Rep. Kevin Brady, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, "briefed House Republicans on the ambitious timeline on Wednesday, offering the most explicit map to enact a tax plan after months of broad principles and missed deadlines." An unnamed source quoted Brady as saying, "The stakes are higher than ever that we deliver this year."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/13, Paletta, Snell, Debonis) says Brady also said Republicans "needed to unify with their GOP colleagues or the effort to cut taxes could fail, according to two people in the room." That comment "was a nod to the GOP's aborted fight to replace parts of the Affordable Care Act earlier this year, during which the House and Senate tried to pass competing health-care bills, splitting the party and culminating in the effort's failure." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/13, Rubin) runs a similar report this morning.

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/13) writes that Congress should abandon budget neutrality rules – or at least extend the budget window – in order to pass tax reform. The Journal argues that the rules mandating revenue neutrality serve to defeat good policy and that well-crafted tax reform legislation would help spur the economic expansion necessary to pay for lost government revenue.

In a [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/13) column, Karl Rove writes that although a big obstacle to Republicans passing tax reform is crafting the right budget resolution in order to use the Senate's reconciliation process, the biggest obstacle to passing tax reform is the House Freedom Caucus, which has threatened to vote with Democrats against the GOP budget resolution unless they approve of each tax reform provision. Rove argues that the Freedom Caucus could delay tax reform until 2018 or upend it entirely.

Ryan Wants Reform Enacted By Year's End, Won't Commit To Plan Being Revenue Neutral. The [AP](#) (9/13, Fram) reports House Speaker Ryan "declined Wednesday to say the evolving Republican tax cut plan won't add to the nation's already mammoth budget deficits," saying in an AP Newsmaker interview that "a chief goal of the effort will be to spark economic growth." Ryan "said the GOP's goal is to enact tax overhaul into law by the end of this year, not simply push it through the heavily Republican House, 'so that we start 2018 in a new tax system.'"

Cruz Releases His Plan, Warns About Making Tax Reform Revenue Neutral. [McClatchy](#) (9/13, Drusch) reports Sen. Ted Cruz yesterday "unveiled a plan to overhaul the nation's tax code that features a single, flat income tax rate and a simpler system for filing taxes." Cruz "offered ideas similar in many respects to the plans he offered during his 2016 presidential race, when he proposed collapsing the current seven income tax rates into a single 10 percent rate." However, "there were important changes," as he "did not offer a specific rate this time, and said that he understood the GOP-controlled Congress could accept a reduction to three tax rates." Said Cruz,

"If we don't have the votes for that...moving from seven brackets to three is a good start."

Cruz said on [CNN](#) (9/13), "I think we need to focus on growth and jobs. A number of pieces that I think are very important. Number one, let's simplify the tax code. Let's let everyone fill out their taxes on a postcard. ... Another big thing I'm urging is what's called immediate expensing. What that means is that businesses, farmers, ranchers, if you spend money on a capital investment, you can immediately expense that and deduct it from what you are paying taxes on." Asked what he would consider a victory, Cruz said, "As a practical matter, it is going to be whatever can get 50 votes in the Senate. We have a very narrow majority."

Cruz said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (9/13), "The President said today he wants a big, big tax cut. There's some Republicans in Congress that are talking about making tax reform revenue neutral. Revenue neutral means they are not cutting taxes. They are just moving money around from one bucket to another. We don't need revenue neutral. We need a big tax cut on you, on families who are struggling, on small businesses. We need a Reaganesque tax cut that unleashes incredible growth."

Hannity Goes After McConnell. In his opening monologue on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (9/13), Sean Hannity said that Senate Majority Leader McConnell "is now saying tax reform may have to wait until the next year. This is pathetic. It is inexcusable. It's unacceptable. Why did we elect you? It's time for an ultimatum. Sen. McConnell, other Republicans, if you don't get the urgency to work for the American people and you don't pass tax reform by the end of this year, you need to resign, go home, play golf, and get out of the way and let's get people in those positions that can serve the American people. I'm tired of the complacency and business as usual."

NFIB President: Cut Taxes For Small Businesses. In a [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/13) op-ed, National Federation of Independent Business President Juanita D. Duggan writes that Congress should cut the top federal income tax rate – a rate that three quarters of American small businesses may be subject to as individual tax filers. She argues such a tax cut would spur economic growth by reducing costs – both in man-hours and lost income – for small businesses, which employ 48 percent of the workforce.

Trump Applauds Latest ACA Repeal Legislation.

President Trump on Wednesday praised, but stopped short of endorsing a last-ditch effort to repeal the ACA by Sens. Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy. [Bloomberg News](#) (9/13, Edney, Litvan) reports that Trump let the senators know "he is rooting for them, without explicitly supporting the legislation." Graham and Cassidy introduced a bill Wednesday to repeal the ACA and "replace it with block grants to states, who would determine how to help people pay for health care." Trump said in a statement, "I applaud the Senate for continuing to work toward a solution to relieve the disastrous Obamacare burden on the American people. ... As I have continued to say, inaction is not an option, and I sincerely hope that Senators Graham and Cassidy have found a way to address the Obamacare crisis." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/13) and [Reuters](#) (9/13) also report on Trump's statement.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/13, Weigel, Goldstein) says Graham and Cassidy along with Sens. Dean Heller and Ron Johnson introduced the legislation Wednesday "with just 17 days left for Republicans to repeal the Affordable Care Act on a party-line vote" Graham described the measure as "conservatives' last shot at reform," saying at a morning new conference, "It should have been our first bill to repeal and replace Obamacare, but it is now our last. ... To those in the Republican Party who feel like we have not fought as hard as we could, you're right." [Politico](#) (9/13, Haberkorn) also says the senators framed the bill "as the last, best hope to fulfill the GOP's promise to undo the health law." Politico adds that the measure "faces long odds" as even some of its GOP supporters "say it would be almost impossible to get a massive rewrite of the health care system through the Senate within 17 days."

[Breitbart](#) (9/13, Moran) reports that in exclusive interviews, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, Utah Gov. Gary Herbert, Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin, and Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds all endorsed the plan. Herbert called the measure a "vast improvement over the Affordable Care Act."

Sanders Unveils "Medicare For All" Plan.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, who made support for universal healthcare coverage a central part of 2016 presidential campaign, on Wednesday unveiled the Medicare for All Act of 2017, his plan to expand the Medicare program to cover all Americans. Media coverage focuses on the number of Democrats – particularly potential 2020 presidential candidates – supporting Sanders' bill and almost universally says the measure has no chance of passage in a Republican Congress.

In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (9/13, A27) makes a case for his proposal, arguing that

the nation must “join the rest of the industrialized world and guarantee comprehensive health care to every person as a human right.” Sanders writes that under his legislation, “every family in America would receive comprehensive coverage, and middle-class families would save thousands of dollars a year by eliminating their private insurance costs as we move to a publicly funded program.” While “there will be huge opposition to this legislation from the powerful special interests that profit from the current wasteful system,” he adds, “they are on the wrong side of history.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/13, Decker) reports that Sanders “cast his measure as a moral and economic issue.” With Democrats “scrambling to support single-payer health insurance,” in recent days, “Democrats as ideologically diverse as liberal Sen. Kamala Harris of California and conservative Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia expressed support” for Sanders’ effort. Most of the potential 2020 Democratic presidential candidates “have now endorsed the single-payer idea, including Sanders, Harris, Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey, Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, New York Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand and Minnesota Sen. Al Franken.” According to the Times, the support reflects “a significant shift within the Democratic party, driven by multiple developments: a belief that the window has closed on Republican efforts to repeal Obamacare; a surge in support for government-run insurance among younger, more activist Democrats; and looming 2018 and 2020 contests that demand clarity on what Democrats support – not just whom they oppose.”

The [Washington Post](#) (9/13, Weigel) says Sanders’ legislation has “a record level of support for an idea that had been relegated to the fringes during the last Democratic presidency,” but it “has no chance of passage in a Republican-run Congress.” [Bloomberg News](#) (9/13, John) puts the number of Democratic senators backing Sanders plan at 16, saying it represents “a shift within the party on what was once viewed as a politically treacherous issue that attracted little support from lawmakers.” In 2013, Sanders “attracted no co-sponsors.” However, Bloomberg also says that the “new support from Democrats for Sanders’s measure...doesn’t mean it stands a chance of passage.” The [New York Times](#) (9/13, Park, Andrews) says that while the bill “has no chance of becoming law anytime soon,” it “could serve as a political manifesto and a possible campaign platform for progressive candidates.” The Times adds that about 60 percent of house Democrats “have endorsed a ‘Medicare for all’ bill” in that chamber.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said Wednesday that President Trump thinks Sanders’ plan is a “horrible idea,” [Politico](#) (9/13, Nelson) reports. Sanders said, “I think that the president as well as the majority of the country knows that the single payer system that the Democrats are proposing is a horrible idea. ... I can’t think of anything worse than having the government be more involved in your health care instead of less involved.”

The [Washington Times](#) (9/13, Howell) says the plan would “cost trillions, forcing Mr. Sanders to explain how he plans to pay for it.” While Sanders “offered few details Wednesday,” he “pledged that higher taxes would be offset by zeroing out what Americans pay private insurers today.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/13, Hackman) reports that Sanders’ bill includes no means to pay for the plan. A Sanders spokesman said a cost estimate was not available but Sanders plans to release a white paper on ways to pay for it.

In an analysis, the [New York Times](#) (9/13, Pear) says the introduction of Sanders’ plan alongside Wednesday’s introduction of a plan from Sens. Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy to repeal the ACA “signaled a resumption of the health care wars on Capitol Hill, as lawmakers tried — for opposite reasons — to move beyond President Barack Obama’s health care law, either building on it or tearing it down.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/13) argues in an editorial that the Republican failure to repeal and replace the ACA assures the law’s continuing decline which creates an opportunity for Democrats to advocate for greater government control, such as the Sanders plan.

A [USA Today](#) (9/13, Gaudiano) analysis focuses on the details of Sanders’ plan, including what would be covered, how much it would cost consumers, how much it would cost taxpayers, whether it has public support, and whether it can pass Congress, which USA Today says it cannot.

Milbank: Support For Socialized Medicine Could Hurt Democrats. Dana Milbank writes in his [Washington Post](#) (9/13, Milbank) column cites Sanders’ introduction of his plan with 16 co-sponsors as evidence that “Democrats have become socialists.” Milbank argues that “this development is a bad thing for Democrats” as “the single-payer issue highlights Democratic divisions and united Republicans.” While the “socialized-medicine bill is popular with the Democratic base” it is “a liability for Democratic candidates in the swing districts and Republican states that Democrats need to win to retake the House and Senate.”

Murphy Says His Plan Would Allow Americans To Buy Into Medicare. Sen. Chris Murphy said

on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (9/13), "I've always said if I were to design the American healthcare system from scratch I would design single-payer system. It makes absolutely no sense logically to tie peoples' health insurance to their employer. I think we are having a really important conversation how we get there." Murphy said that he would "take a hard look" at Sanders' legislation and added that he has "introduced a different concept which is to allow every American to be able to buy into Medicare and essentially allow consumers to decide whether they want private insurance or Medicare. My belief is that given that choice, consumers would choose Medicare and it would allow for a more natural transition into a single-payer system."

Mulvaney Says Trump Wants To Depoliticize The Debt Ceiling.

OMB Director Mulvaney said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (9/13) that the President is "asking me to figure out a way to dial down the temperature, depoliticize the debt ceiling, find a way to deal with it in a business-like fashion and not allow it to be this leverage point that one party or the other can sort of bring things to a precipice in the markets and so forth. We are going to continue to look at that. Looks now like we'll have at least until February to have to raise the debt ceiling again or deal with the debt ceiling. So, here's plenty of time to research that issue, lay out options for the President and see which way he wants to go."

House Votes To Block EPA Methane Rule For Oil, Gas Industry.

[The Hill](#) (9/13, Henry) reports that on Wednesday, the House voted 218-195 to block implementation of an EPA rule meant to limit emissions from new oil and gas drilling sites. At the debate on the rule last week, Rep. Markwayne Mullin (R-Okla.) said it was a "job-killing regulation estimated to cost the U.S. economy \$530 million annually." Meanwhile, Rep. Paul Gosar (R-Ariz.) said "The free market has provided an incentive to reduce methane release on its own. There is no further need for EPA to impose costly bureaucratic hurdles on these sensitive industries."

The [Oklahoman](#) (9/14, Wingerter) reports the US House of Representatives on Wednesday "approved two amendments introduced by U.S. Rep. Markwayne Mullin that would roll back environmental procedures put in place by former President Barack Obama." In a 218-195 vote, the House voted "in favor of an amendment that prohibits funds from being used to enforce the Environmental Protection Agency's methane rule." The House "also voted 225-186 in favor of an amendment that prohibits funds from being used to implement rules based on the social cost of carbon, a metric that calculates the economic effects of carbon pollution."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Women's Voice Remains Faint In Politics." The [New York Times](#) (9/13, Board) says in an editorial that while women "have led New York's City Council — two of them in a row as speaker — for almost 12 years," they "are sliding backward," and members of the Council's women's caucus warned "in a report last month that 'we face a systemic crisis of representation.'"

Follow Kenya's Lead On Plastic Bags. In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/14) urges the rest of the world, and New York state in particular, to follow Kenya and more than 40 other countries that "have taxed, limited or banned plastic bags." The Times notes that such bags are "clogging storm drains, stuffing landfills, killing animals that eat them and contributing to the eight million metric tons of plastic" annually added to the oceans.

Washington Post.

"The Senate Finally Does What It Failed To Do For A Decade And A Half." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/13) hails the Senate vote on a "proposal to withdraw congressional authorization for U.S. military operations abroad," arguing "the Senate did what it had previously failed to do for the past decade and a half: vote on authorizing the use of force against US enemies." While the legislation "failed — as it should have...the debate was an important first step toward the legislative branch's taking responsibility for the nation's wars." The Post concludes that "now that the vote on Mr. Paul's amendment has opened the door for a bipartisan effort to reform the authorization, there is no excuse not to walk through it."

"The Justice Department Goes Out Of Its Way To Side Against A Gay Couple." The [Washington Post](#) (9/13) editorializes that the Supreme Court "will soon hear arguments over the conduct of" a Colorado baker, who claims he has "the right to turn away a gay couple seeking a custom wedding cake if he disapproves of their upcoming marriage." The Justice Department "has made

a point of weighing in on the side of Jack Phillips, the ‘cake artist’ in question. The Post adds that the Justice Department’s “legal brief has – rightly – faced criticism from civil rights groups appalled by the government’s argument that Mr. Phillips’s religious beliefs grant him a constitutional right to discriminate against gay customers, despite a Colorado public-accommodations law prohibiting unequal treatment on the basis of sexual orientation.” The Post calls the brief “a dispiriting signal of Attorney General Jeff Sessions’s priorities,” and notes that the department “has been quiet on any number of other significant cases before the Supreme Court this term.”

“Should Assaulting A Metrobus Driver Be A Felony?” The [Washington Post](#) (9/13) editorializes that “just days after a woman walked out of a D.C. courtroom after being charged with dousing a Metrobus driver with a cup of urine, another driver was spat on by a passenger,” and it notes that “the incidents are among a rising number of assaults on Metrobus operators that have raised questions about whether enough is being done to combat the problem.” According to the Post, “the issue demands attention because an assault on a bus driver puts not only the victim at risk but also everyone else on the bus.” The Post wonders whether stiffer punishment for such incidents might be an effective deterrent.

Wall Street Journal.

“Escaping The Tax-Reform Budget Trap.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/13) writes that Congress should abandon budget neutrality rules – or at least extend the budget window – in order to pass tax reform. The Journal argues that the rules mandating revenue neutrality serve to defeat good policy and that good tax reform legislation would help spur the economic expansion necessary to pay for lost government revenue.

“Bernie’s Socialism Goes Mainstream.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/13) argues in an editorial that the Republican failure to repeal and replace the ACA assures the law’s continuing decline which creates an opportunity for Democrats to advocate for greater government control, such as the “Medicare for all Plan” offered Wednesday by Sen. Bernie Sanders.

“Americans Get Richer.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/13) writes that a new Census report offers the encouraging news that, last year, real media household income rose 3.2 percent – lifting 2.5 million Americans out of poverty across income groups and especially benefiting minorities, with 2015-2016 median income for blacks and Hispanics climbing 5.7 percent and 4.3 percent respectively. The Journal argues that the data offers a rebuke to liberals’ touting of welfare programs, and adds that in order for incomes to continue rising, Congress should pass tax reform to encourage greater business investment and productivity.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Group Including Apple, Dell Moves To Buy Toshiba’s Chip Business](#)
[Saudi Arabia Clamps Down As Prince Consolidates Power](#)
[GOP To Release Tax Overhaul As Trump Says Rich Won’t Benefit](#)
[Curfews, Obligatory Prayers, Whippings: Hard-Line Islam Emerges In Indonesia](#)

New York Times:

[Eight Dead From Sweltering Nursing Home As Florida Struggles After Irma](#)
[Pelosi And Schumer Say They Have Deal With Trump To Replace DACA](#)
[Trump Goes All In On A Tax Overhaul Whose Details Remain Unwritten](#)
[Russia’s War Games With Fake Enemies Cause Real Alarm](#)
[From Prison To PhD: The Redemption And Rejection Of Michelle Jones](#)
[Billionaire Diller’s Plan For Elaborate Pier In The Hudson Is Dead](#)
[The Rohingya In Myanmar: How Years Of Strife Grew Into A Crisis](#)

Washington Post:

[After ISIS, Iraq’s Real Test](#)
[Scurrying. Squealing. Gnawing. Multiplying.](#)
[Kushner’s Role In DC Looms Over NY Project](#)
[Eight Dead At Florida Nursing Home](#)

[DACA Accord Is On The Table](#)

Financial Times:

[Jean-Claude Juncker Urges More EU Integration Ahead Of Brexit](#)

[China-Born New Zealand MP Probed By Spy Agency](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Targets Rich In Tax Reform, Throwing Republicans A Curveball](#)

[Arpaio Political Opponents Challenge Trump's Pardon In Court](#)

[Mugabe Threatens New Round Of Land Seizures From Zimbabwe's White Farmers](#)

[Antifa Violence Splits Left As Another Major Protest Looms At Berkeley](#)

[Tough Resistance From Maute Affiliate Raises Islamic State's Profile In Philippines](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths; Washington State-School Shooting; California-Marine Base Accident; White House-Tax Reform Plan; Treasury Secretary-Government Plane Use; Child Bullying Accident; Hillary Clinton-New Memoir; Prince George-School Intrusion; Michigan Warehouse Fire; Flu Shots-Pregnancy Danger; Hurricanes-Helping Hands.

CBS: Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths; Hurricane Irma-Utility Damages; Hurricane Irma-Relief Missions; Hurricane Irma-Agricultural Damages; Hurricane Harvey-Fallen Officer Memorial; Washington State-School Shooting; Senator Tim Scott-Charlottesville; Russia Meddling Investigation-Facebook; Airplane Smaller Seats-Safety Hazard; Flu Shots-Pregnancy Danger; Hurricane Irma-Baby Birth.

NBC: Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths; Hurricane Irma-Relief Missions; Hurricane Irma-Caribbean; Washington State-School Shooting; Russian Meddling Investigation-Flynn; White House-Tax Reform Plan; Hillary Clinton-New Memoir; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach; Frank Vincent Dies; Seattle-Restaurants Plastic Ban; 2028 Los Angeles Olympics Awarded; Vatican-Relic Discovery.

Network TV At A Glance:

Hurricane Irma – 19 minutes, 55 seconds

Washington State-School Shooting – 5 minutes, 30 seconds

White House-Tax Reform Plan – 3 minutes, 40 seconds

Hillary Clinton-New Memoir – 3 minutes, 15 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: White House-Dem. DACA Deal; Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths; Hurricane Irma-Trump Visit; Maryland Teacher Murdered; Washington State-School Shooting; Wall Street News.

CBS: White House-Dem. DACA Deal; Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths; Washington State-School Shooting; Hillary Clinton-New Memoir; Wall Street News.

FOX: White House-Dem. DACA Deal; Maryland Teacher Murdered; Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths.

NPR: Hurricane Irma-Nursing Home Deaths; Hurricane Irma-Utility Damages; Iraq-Kurdish Independence Movement.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Receives a briefing on Hurricane Irma relief efforts; visits with individuals impacted by Hurricane Irma; hosts the White House Historical Association reception and dinner.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 6:40 AM Republican Sen. James Lankford speaks to State Chamber of Oklahoma during their Washington, DC Fly-In Location: Washington, DC <http://www.lankford.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenatorLankford>

8:30 AM Bipartisan senators at 'Innovations in CO2 Capture and Use' event – 'State of the Art: Innovations in CO2 Capture and Use' Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES) event, with bipartisan Sens. Heidi Heitkamp, Sheldon Whitehouse, Shelley Moore Capito, and John Barrasso joining panels featuring David Greeson (NRG Energy), Al Collins (Occidental Petroleum Corporation), Christopher Romans (Mitsubishi Heavy Industries America), Laura Nereng (3M), Dr Marcius Extavour (NRG COSIA Carbon XPRIZE); Bill Brown (NET Power), and Dr Julio Friedmann

(Energy Futures Initiative) to outline innovations in carbon capture and use technologies and efforts to speed their deployment Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 902, Washington, DC www.c2es.org https://twitter.com/C2ES_org

9:30 AM Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations of Joseph Balash to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management; Richard Glick and Kevin McIntyre to be Federal Energy Regulatory Commission members; David Jonas to be Department of Energy General Counsel; and Ryan Nelson to be Department of the Interior Solicitor Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energy.senate.gov/public/>

9:30 AM Senate Agriculture Committee hearing on nutrition programs and the 2018 Farm Bill – Hearing on 'Nutrition Programs: Perspectives for the 2018 Farm Bill', with testimony from USDA Food and Nutrition Service Administrator for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services Brandon Lipps; U.S. Department of Agriculture Assistant Inspector General for Audit Gil Harden, and Assistant Inspector General of Investigations Ann Coffey; Center for Employment Opportunities CEO and Executive Director Sam Schaeffer; Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma's Bryan Parker; Wright's Markets President Jimmy Wright; Northwestern University Institute for Policy Research Director Dr Diane Schanzenbach; and Dare to Care Food Bank Executive Director Brian Riendeau Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC <http://agriculture.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Finance Committee hearing on individual tax reform – Hearing on 'Individual Tax Reform', with testimony from New York University School of Law Professor of Law and Public Policy Lily Batchelder; American Enterprise Institute Research Fellow Alex Brill, and Visiting Fellow Ramesh Ponnuru; and Pioneer Realty Senior Vice President Iona Harrison Location: Rm 215, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://finance.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations of Ralph Erickson to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit; Donald Coggins Jr. to be U.S. District Judge for the District of South Carolina; Dabney Langhorne Friedrich to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia; Stephen Schwartz to be a U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judge; Brian Allen Benczkowski to be Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division; Robert Higdon Jr. to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina; J. Cody Hiland to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas; Joshua Minkler to be U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana; and Byung Pak to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia, as well as 'S. 1766, SAFER Act of 2017' Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on Venezuela – Hearing on 'U.S. Policy Options to Support Democracy in Venezuela', with testimony from Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorist Financing Marshall Billingslea; and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Michael Fitzpatrick Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 419, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Banking Committee hearing on CFIUS – Hearing on 'Examining the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States', with testimony from former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs Clay Lowery; former Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration Kevin Wolf; and Center for Strategic and International Studies Senior Vice President James Lewis Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Governmental Affairs Committee hearing on the FCC Lifeline program – Hearing on 'FCC's Lifeline Program: A Case Study of Government Waste and Mismanagement', with testimony from Government Accountability Office Forensic Audits and Investigative Service Director of Audit Services Seto Bagdoyan; Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai; and Universal Service Administrative Company Acting CEO and General Counsel Vickie Robinson Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenRonJohnson>

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee hearing on the individual health insurance market for 2018 – Hearing on 'Stabilizing Premiums and Helping Individuals in the Individual Insurance Market for 2018: Health Care Stakeholders', with testimony from Healthy Tennessee President Manny Sethi; Marshfield Clinic Health System CEO Susan Turney; Anthem Individual Market Segment Vice President Robert Ruiz-Moss; Young Invincibles Rocky Mountain Regional Director Christina Postolowski; and South Carolina Department of Insurance Director Raymond Farmer Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

11:00 AM Bicameral Dems discuss support for climate change and public health legislation – Democrats Sen. Ed Markey and Rep. Matt Cartwright hold press conference – ahead of Climate

Week – with public health experts, physicians, climate experts, and clean air advocates in support of bicameral legislation to help improve the nation’s public health response to climate change. Other participants include American Public Health Association Executive Director Dr Georges Benjamin, Sierra Club Climate Policy Director Liz Martin Perera, and Moms Clean Air Force Director of Special Projects Gretchen Dahlkemper Location: U.S. Capitol, S-115, Washington, DC www.markey.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/MarkeyMemo>

12:30 PM Bicameral Dems introduce Child Care for Working Families Act – Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Ranking Member Patty Murray and House Committee on Education and the Workforce Ranking Member Bobby Scott introduce the Child Care for Working Families Act – ‘comprehensive child care and early learning legislation that will ensure that every child has access to high-quality early learning and care that will not break the bank for their parents – via press conference with Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, fellow Democrats Sen. Al Franken and Reps. Jared Polis and David Cicilline, Mount Olive Child Development Program head child care teacher Ingrid Henlon, and teacher and mother Jessica Honzal Location: U.S. Capitol, S-115, Washington, DC murray.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/pattymurray>

US House: 9:00 AM House expected to vote on omnibus govt funding bill and Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of ‘H.R. 3354 – Make America Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act, 2018’ and of ‘H.R. 3697 – Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act’ * Administration has said it supports passage of ‘H.R. 3354’ and strongly supports ‘H.R. 3697’, and that President Donald Trump would likely sign either if they reached his desk * Last week, Congress passed a short-term continuing resolution to extend govt funding through early December Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

9:00 AM Dem Rep. G. K. Butterfield hosts Childhood Cancer Summit – Democratic Rep. G. K. Butterfield hosts annual Childhood Cancer Summit, to discuss advancements in treatments. Attendees include Republican Reps. Michael McCaul and Mike Kelly, and Democratic Rep. Jackie Speier Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2168, Washington, DC Butterfield.house.gov

9:00 AM Congressional Childhood Cancer Caucus Annual Childhood Cancer Summit Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC childhoodcancer-mccaul.house.gov/

9:00 AM POSTPONED: Hearing on ‘Document Production’ Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseIntelComm>

9:30 AM Helsinki Commission hearing on Russian disinformation – Helsinki Commission hearing on ‘The Scourge of Russian Disinformation’, with witnesses Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) CEO and Director John Lansing, Human Rights First Director of Human Rights and Civil Society Programs Melissa Hooper, and Fianna Strategies CEO Molly McKew Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 562, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

10:00 AM House Small Business subcommittee hearing on how SBA entrepreneurial development programs have evolved with technology – Health and Technology Subcommittee hearing on ‘Tech Talks: How SBA Entrepreneurial Development Programs Have Evolved with Technology’, with testimony from Women’s Economic Ventures founder and CEO Marsha Bailey (on behalf of Association of Women’s Business Centers); North Carolina Small Business Technology Development Centers State Director Scott Daugherty (on behalf of America’s SBDC); SCORE Association Vice President of Marketing & Communications Bridget Weston Pollack; and Gulf Coast State College Veterans Business Outreach Center Director Brent Peacock Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on workforce programs Under the Public Health Service Act – Health Subcommittee hearing on ‘Supporting Tomorrow’s Health Providers: Examining Workforce Programs Under the Public Health Service Act’, with testimony from Preventative Care Health Services Chief Medical Officer Dr Adrian Billings, American Association of Teaching Health Centers President Dr Neil Calman, University of North Texas Health Science Center Professor in Geriatrics Dr Janice Knebl, and University of Nebraska Medical Center College of Nursing Dean and Professor Dr Juliann Sebastian Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

11:00 AM Bicameral Dems discuss support for climate change and public health legislation – Democrats Sen. Ed Markey and Rep. Matt Cartwright hold press conference – ahead of Climate Week – with public health experts, physicians, climate experts, and clean air advocates in support of bicameral legislation to help improve the nation’s public health response to climate change. Other participants include American Public Health Association Executive Director Dr Georges

Benjamin, Sierra Club Climate Policy Director Liz Martin Perera, and Moms Clean Air Force Director of Special Projects Gretchen Dahlkemper Location: U.S. Capitol, S-115, Washington, DC www.markey.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/MarkeyMemo>

12:30 PM Bicameral Dems introduce Child Care for Working Families Act – Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Ranking Member Patty Murray and House Committee on Education and the Workforce Ranking Member Bobby Scott introduce the Child Care for Working Families Act – ‘comprehensive child care and early learning legislation that will ensure that every child has access to high-quality early learning and care that will not break the bank for their parents – via press conference with Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, fellow Democrats Sen. Al Franken and Reps. Jared Polis and David Cicilline, Mount Olive Child Development Program head child care teacher Ingrid Henlon, and teacher and mother Jessica Honzal Location: U.S. Capitol, S-115, Washington, DC murray.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/pattymurray>

Other: 7:00 AM Secretaries Ross and Perry at The Latino Coalition summit – The Latino Coalition Capturing the Momentum Summit: The Hispanic Economic Agenda, with participants including Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Energy Rick Perry, U.S. Treasurer Jovita Carranza, UCLA School of Medicine Center for the Study of Latino Health and Culture Director David Hayes Bautista, Mexico Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Geronimo Gutierrez, PG&E Corporation Vice President for Federal Affairs and Policy Melissa Lavinson, Intuit Chief Public Policy Officer and Vice President for Global Corporate Affairs Bernie McKay, Comcast Executive Director for External Affairs Jackie Puente, and U.S. Chamber of Commerce Vice President of Small Business Policy Thomas Sullivan Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.thelatinocoalition.com <https://twitter.com/LatinoCoalition>

10:45 AM Dem Rep. Joaquin Castro at Hispanic Heritage Month of Action launch rally – Hispanic Heritage Month of Action launched at rally in front of the White House, with the goal of defending Latino and immigrant communities across the country, with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, Democratic Rep. Joaquin Castro and National Hispanic Leadership Agenda Chair Hector Sanchez Barba. Includes march from AFL-CIO building, 815 16th St NW, Washington, DC (10:45 AM EDT), before press availability at Lafayette Square, Washington, DC (11:15 AM EDT) Location: Washington, DC nationalhispanicleadership.org <https://twitter.com/NHLAagenda>

2:00 PM CBO releases ‘Federal Subsidies for Health Insurance Coverage for People Under Age 65: 2017 to 2027’ – Congressional Budget Office releases ‘Federal Subsidies for Health Insurance Coverage for People Under Age 65: 2017 to 2027’, including updates – prepared since CBO released its baseline projections for the entire budget in June – to estimates of the federal cost of subsidizing health insurance purchased through the marketplaces, of spending to subsidize insurance provided through the Basic Health Program, and of net spending and revenues associated with stabilizing insurance premiums, as well as to projections of enrollment in the marketplaces and of the number of uninsured people * Previous edition of the report was published in March 2016. Since then, CBO has, at various times, updated certain aspects of the projections, but has not produced a comprehensive set of estimates like this report * Updates could not be released in June because of the time it took the CBO and Joint Committee on Taxation to analyze pending legislation Location: TBD www.cbo.gov/ <https://twitter.com/USCBO>

4:00 PM Dem Sens. Sheldon Whitehouse and Brian Schatz discuss carbon tax – The American Sustainable Business Council hosts ‘The Case for Pricing Carbon & How U.S. Businesses Can Tackle Climate Change’, a live discussion on carbon tax featuring Democratic Sens. Sheldon Whitehouse and Brian Schatz Location: TBD www.asbcouncil.org <https://twitter.com/ASBCouncil>

5:45 PM HUD Secretary Carson at Habitat for Humanity of Washington, DC ‘Women Build: She Nailed It’ event – Habitat for Humanity of Washington, DC holds ‘celebration reception’ for its ‘Women Build: She Nailed It’ campaign, which promotes affordable homeownership for low-income and moderate-income women in need of housing. Participants include Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson Location: National Museum of Women in the Arts, Washington, DC www.dchabitat.org <https://twitter.com/HabitatDC>

Treasury Secretary Mnuchin speaks at Federal Identity Forum & Exposition – Federal Identity Forum & Exposition concludes, including keynote from Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin * Event is focused on Biometric Technologies for Defence, Homeland Security, Identity Management, Border Crossing and Electronic Commerce, and co-located with the Homeland Security Conference Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place NW, Washington, DC <http://www.afcea.org/> <https://twitter.com/AFCEA>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "The Olympics will be in Paris in 2024, L.A. in 2028, which is very exciting. President Kid Rock himself will be here for the opening ceremonies."

Jimmy Kimmel: "The UN Security Council this week approved a new round of sanctions against North Korea, and they're severe. They're taking Kim Jong-Un's iPad away for a week."

Jimmy Kimmel: "But in response to the sanctions, North Korea's threatened to cause the United States 'the greatest pain and suffering it has gone through in its entire history.' I hate to break it to you, we already kind of did that to ourselves back in November."

James Corden: "This morning, Donald Trump tweeted urging Congress to pass his tax reform plan. Here's what he wrote. He wrote, 'With Irma and Harvey devastation, tax cuts and tax reform is needed more than ever before. Go, Congress, go!' They are senators, not Forrest Gump. In another tweet, Trump added, 'Move fast, Congress.' Now, how can you tell Congress to move fast when the Senate majority leader is literally a tortoise?"

Trevor Noah: "I think Hope Hicks will be perfect for this job because who better to communicate a message of nothing than a person who knows nothing herself? A match made in heaven. I love it."

Trevor Noah: "Myanmar is the kind of country – it's not like America – it's the kind of country where the President does not control the military. So [Burmese leader Aung San] Suu Kyi, some people would say, there's nothing she can do about this. But a leader with this kind of moral standing, I think New York Subway rules should apply: If you see something, say something."

Jimmy Fallon: "In her book, Hillary said that she took a nap as the results were coming in on election night. And while she did that, Bill gathered a month's worth of clothes and got the hell out of there. 'This is going to be rough.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that Ted Cruz is launching an investigation to figure out who was responsible for liking a porn video from his Twitter account. He promised to get to the bottom of it, even if it means spending every night in his office on his computer alone."

Seth Meyers: "White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said today that 'President Trump has done more for bipartisanship in the past eight days than President Obama did in eight years.' Catch more of Sarah's comedy in her new Netflix special, 'Chucklebee.'"

Seth Meyers: "Former White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer was named a 'visiting fellow' at Harvard University today, which is pretty much what he was at the White House."

Conan O'Brien: "You know, it's not a good sign for your presidency when the best things that happen to you is two hurricanes."

Conan O'Brien: "A few days after being accused of liking a porn tweet on Twitter, Sen. Ted Cruz dismissed the claim, saying the left is obsessed with sex. Cruz then said, 'If they want to call me, I can recommend some great websites.'"

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Politico Morning Energy: Democrat Raises Concerns Over Accuracy Of Zinke's Report.
- U.S. News & World Report: Memo: Consider Civil Rights Home For National Monument.
- Salt Lake (UT) Tribune: Frustrated Tribal Leaders Wonder If Bears Ears Is A National Monument In Name Only.
- Federal News Radio (DC): VA, Interior Detail Workforce Reductions And Consolidations Under Gov't

Reorganization.

- Federal Computer Week: Agencies Steer Clear Of RIFs In Reorg Plans.
- Deseret (UT) News: Op-ed: The Antiquities Act Is An Antiquity Itself.
- Deseret (UT) News: Jay Evensen: Why A Trump 'Bears Ears' Decision Won't Be The Last Word.
- Eugene (OR) Register-Guard: Monuments In Danger.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- House Panel To Take Up Lumbee Recognition.
- Letter From Indian Gaming Regulators Clouds Future Of East Windsor Casino.
- FBI, BIA Investigating Alleged Lame Deer Assault.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Bloomberg BNA: Climate Change Ruling Could Affect Other Fossil Fuel Projects.
- Wichita Falls (TX) Times Record News: Settlement In The Works To End Red River Land Dispute.
- San Pedro Valley (AZ) News-Sun: SunZia Transmission Project Moves To Pre-construction Phase.
- Aspen Public Radio (CO): Bureau Of Land Management To Build Parking For Sutey Ranch.
- Wyoming Public Radio: Conservation Group Opposes Development In Red Desert.
- Long Island (NY) Press: Long Island Advocates Urge Congress To Spare Wild Horses.
- Klamath Falls (OR) Herald And News: Unadopted Devil's Garden Wild Horses To Return To Territory.
- Helena (MT) Independent Record: BLM Reopens Helena's North Hills To Shooting.
- Jackson Hole (WY) News & Guide: Let's Balance Wilderness And Recreation.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Delta Tunnels Project Imperiled After Westlands Rejection.

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

- Additional Coverage: Forget 'Energy Independent,' US Should Seek 'Dominance'.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Alaska Public Radio Network: Interior Official Says Trump Administration Has The 'Guts' To Allow Oil Exploration In ANWR.
- KVOA-TV Tucson (AZ): Sonoyta Mud Turtle In Danger Of Extinction.
- Las Vegas Review-Journal: Mexico Quakes Rattle Nevada's Endangered Devils Hole Pupfish.
- Kaua'i (HI) Garden Island News: Will There Be Lights?
- Cronkite News: Environmentalists, Ranchers Trade Barbs In Killing Of Mexican Gray Wolf.
- Daily Inter Lake (MT): Hydrological Models Scrutinized In Bottling-plant Hearing.
- Reuters: Tusk-Smuggling Case Ends In Prison For Canadian Ex-Mountie: U.S. Judge.
- U.S. News & World Report: Washington Man Sentenced For Trafficking Whale Tusks.

National Park Service

- Deseret (UT) News: National Parks To Waive Entrance Fees Sept. 30 For National Public Lands Day.
- Washington Post: Police Arrest Man Accused Of Vandalizing The Lincoln Memorial With A Penny.
- Daily Caller: 'Tangled Rat's Nest' To Memorialize Dwight Eisenhower.
- Syracuse (NY) Post-Standard: Whitney Lofts Project In Downtown Syracuse Needs Feds' OK To Uncover Windows.
- Visalia (CA) Times-Delta: Sequoia National Park Wants To Raise Annual Fee.
- St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press: Henry Sibley Band Will March In July 4 Parade In Washington, D.C.
- KTHV-TV Little Rock (AR): National Park Service Working To Restore Historic Homes Near Central High.
- Pittsburgh Tribune-Review: Online 'Walk 93' Registration Deadline Is Friday.
- U.S. News & World Report: Docks, Marinas Get Repaired After Microburst On Lake Powell.
- Salt Lake (UT) Tribune: Infant Who Died In Lake Powell Boat Accident Identified.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- NBC: All Of Puerto Rico Without Power As Hurricane Maria Makes Landfall.
- Associated Press: Japan And South Korea Praise Trump's Korea Remarks, Germany Criticizes Them.

US Geological Survey

- NBC: Los Angeles Officials Prepare For Potential Big Earthquake.
- U.S. News & World Report: Sensors Deployed To Measure Effects Of Jose On New England.

- St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press: Frogs In Minnesota, Across U.S. Dying Of Little-known Disease, Scientists Find.
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- NBC: Sources: Trump "Leaning Against" Re-Certifying Iran Deal.
- ABC: Media Analyses: Mueller's Latest Steps Indicate Trump Himself Under Scrutiny.
- Associated Press: Trump: Graham-Cassidy "At 47 Or 48" Senate Votes Right Now.
- Washington Times: Number Of DACA Denials Has Doubled Under Trump.
- Politico: Politico Analysis: Senate GOP Will Not "Fall In Line Behind" Trump's Tax Plan.
- USA Today: Fed Leaves Rates Unchanged, Says It Will Reduce Its Bond Holdings.

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- New York Times.
 - "Tax Cuts For The Rich By Another Name."
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DOI In The News

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Swims With The Sharks At Wonders Of Wildlife.

The [Springfield \(MO\) News-Leader](#) (9/20, Zhu) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "went scuba diving with sharks Wednesday at Wonders of Wildlife." Zinke also "fielded questions from more than 40 students seated in front of the tank." Zinke encouraged the group of fifth-grade students "to continue learning about and practicing conservation." He said, "I've been to 60 or 70 countries and nobody has the treasures that we have here in the United States. We should be proud."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Springfield \(MO\) News-Leader](#) (9/20, Johnson, Schmitt), the [Springfield \(MO\) News-Leader](#) (9/20), the [Springfield \(MO\) News-Leader](#) (9/20), [KTTS-AM](#) Springfield, MO (9/21, Snider), and [KOLR-TV](#) Springfield, MO (9/20, Lingo).

Western Lawmakers: Wildfire Funding Fix Needs To Be Top Priority.

[KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (9/20) reports that a bipartisan group of Western lawmakers have introduced "an updated version of their bipartisan wildfire funding solution that would protect desperately needed funding for fire prevention and treat wildfires as the natural disasters they are." The Wildfire Disaster Funding Act of 2017 would "end the destructive cycle of borrowing from fire prevention accounts to put out fires and stop the erosion of the Forest Service's budget by reforming the way the federal government funds wildfires." The legislation "would fund wildfires as natural disasters and protect the agencies' fire prevention budgets by putting a freeze on the rising budget costs of the 10-year average." It would also "end 'fire borrowing' by allowing the agencies to fund any fire suppression spending needed above the frozen average through disaster funding just like other agencies can access disaster funding for tornadoes, hurricanes and floods."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Idaho Falls \(ID\) Post Register](#) (9/20, Clark) and

[KMGH-TV](#) Denver (9/20, Miller).

Lawmaker Laments Forest Management In Wake Of Brian Head Fire. The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/20, O'Donoghue) reports that "environmental groups launched legal assaults decades ago to protect forests from timber harvests but instead transformed them into tinderboxes, a group of critics charged Wednesday." In a video that will be presented to U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Purdue, Rep. Mike Noel and "others blasted failed management practices of federal agencies held hostage to lawsuits and protests by environmental groups." The video, which was produced under the direction of Noel, "debuted before the Legislature's Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment Interim Committee, featuring retired foresters."

The American West Is Burning. In a [Washington Post](#) (9/20) op-ed, Sen. Steve Daines writes that environmental lawsuits and excessive regulations "have become barriers to responsible forest management" in the western United States, costing states millions of acres of land lost to forest fires that could have been better contained. Daines argues that forest management reforms should be passed, certain environmental rules should be cut, and the Forest Service budget should be maintained.

Democrat Raises Concerns Over Accuracy Of Zinke's Report.

[Politico Morning Energy](#) (9/20, Adragna) reports that a BLM official said during an Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing Tuesday that "the agency did not fact check Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's report on national monuments before it went to the White House for review." Sen. Martin Heinrich "originally raised questions about 'more than a few simple factual errors included' in Zinke's analysis." John Ruhs, BLM's acting deputy director of operations, "then said his agency was 'not part of the writing of the reports' but 'did answer questions and provide data as necessary.'"

Memo: Consider Civil Rights Home For National Monument.

The [AP](#) (9/20, Pettus) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke suggested in a leaked memo to President Trump that "Mississippi civil rights sites, including the home of slain leader Medgar Evers, should be considered for national monument designation." In February, the National Park Service designated the Evers home a national historic landmark. According to the article, "if the modest ranch-style home becomes a national monument, the federal government will take it over from Tougaloo College, bringing more money for preservation."

Frustrated Tribal Leaders Wonder If Bears Ears Is A National Monument In Name Only.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/20, Maffly) reports that "nine months after President Barack Obama enshrined the 1.3 million acres encircling Utah's Bears Ears Buttes as a protected landscape, federal agencies have done little to manage the lands as outlined in the monument proclamation." The Bureau of Land Management and Manti-La Sal National Forest have "moved to protect high-visibility archaeological sites, but planning efforts remain stuck in limbo while uncertainty surrounding the monument's future persists." The article says that "under pressure from local and state officials, the BLM has suspended all management planning, drawing the ire of tribal governments that sought the monument designation under the Antiquities Act."

VA, Interior Detail Workforce Reductions And Consolidations Under Gov't Reorganization.

[Federal News Radio \(DC\)](#) (9/20, Ogrysko) reports that "lawmakers interested in moving some federal entities out of the Washington, D.C. area may already get their wish — without much heated public debate." The departments of Veterans Affairs and Interior are "already moving some federal employees with customer-facing jobs out of D.C. and to consolidated offices in the field." The article says that "many of the Interior Department's proposed actions for reorganization will require congressional approval, but the agency also sees employee reassignments and relocations as a key aspect of its plan." Interior has "asked the Office of Personnel Management and OMB for a 'very broad' VERA/VSIP authority in effort to shrink the size of its workforce and move more people from their positions in Washington out to field offices."

Agencies Steer Clear Of RIFs In Reorg Plans.

[Federal Computer Week](#) (9/20, Gunter) reports that "agencies say they can meet White House government reorganization principles and fall in line with their fiscal year 2018 budgets by reducing the workforce through attrition and reclassifying employees, rather than layoffs." Raymond Limon, deputy chief human capital officer at the Interior Department, "said his agency

isn't going into the reorganization with the mindset of cutting personnel, 'but we're always going to work to our budget, no doubt about it.'" He said, "Numerically, we don't have necessarily have a target, but it's kind of that expectation that if work can be performed in the field, we should do it."

Op-ed: The Antiquities Act Is An Antiquity Itself.

In an op-ed for the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/20, Lofthouse), Jordan Lofthouse, a Ph.D. fellow at Strata, argues that the Antiquities Act and national monuments, "often serve as political tools for presidents to accomplish their selfish goals, and not as a mechanism to protect and conserve the land." According to Lofthouse, the Trump Administration's "national monument review and the decisions that will come from it are excellent opportunities to evaluate how much power the president has under the Antiquities Act and analyze when and why he uses that power." Lofthouse suggests that "it may be time to retire the Antiquities Act and allow Congress to fulfill its constitutional duty of managing federal lands."

Jay Evensen: Why A Trump 'Bears Ears' Decision Won't Be The Last Word.

In his column for the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/20, Evensen), Jay Evensen writes that the problem with the Antiquities Act is that it "gives one politician, the president, unfettered power." Evensen points out that "whether it's Obama declaring 1.35 million acres or Trump declaring something much less, it is still one man making a declaration." Evensen suggests amending the Antiquities Act "to require Congress to ratify or alter a president's action after a period of time." He believes that "only a compromise, passed by the people's representatives through a deliberative process, can put these land issues to rest for good."

Monuments In Danger.

The [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (9/20) editorializes that "news that the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Southern Oregon is one of four being targeted for reduction by the Trump administration is bad news not just for Oregonians, but for Americans beyond the state's borders." The paper claims that "by proposing major reductions in national monuments across the country," Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "prioritizing the few over the many." The editorial asserts that "national monument status is intended to protect and preserve special places that have value for all Americans." But "removing existing protections for these lands for the financial profit of the few, such as miners and logging companies, is shortsighted."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

House Panel To Take Up Lumbee Recognition.

The [St. Pauls \(NC\) Review](#) (9/20) reports that "the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs has scheduled a Tuesday hearing on Lumbee Recognition Act." The legislation, sponsored by Rep. Robert Pittenger, "would grant the Lumbee Tribe full federal recognition." Pittenger said, "This is the next step in bringing Lumbee recognition up for a vote. The Lumbee Tribe has sought full federal recognition since 1888. We are working closely with the Lumbee Tribe and other leaders to ensure a strong showing next Tuesday."

Also reporting are [Robesonian \(NC\)](#) (9/20, Shiles) and the [Cherokee \(NC\) One Feather](#) (9/20, SCOTT MCKIE B.P.).

Letter From Indian Gaming Regulators Clouds Future Of East Windsor Casino.

The [Hartford \(CT\) Courant](#) (9/19, Gosselin) reports that Bureau of Indian Affairs regulators have "thrown a potential roadblock in front of opening the state's first casino off tribal lands, and questions are being raised about just how quickly expansion might get underway." According to the article, "the state law enacted this year that allows the tribal operators of Foxwoods and Mohegan Sun to jointly open a satellite casino in East Windsor required federal approvals that the revenue-sharing agreements with the state wouldn't be affected by the new casino agreement." Previously, the Mohegan and Mashantucket Pequot tribes had "produced letters of non-binding guidance from the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs throughout a series of legislative hearings on the East Windsor casino." The bureau "indicated it didn't anticipate problems, but when the BIA's letter was issued Friday, it didn't explicitly approve or disapprove."

Additional coverage was provided by the [New London \(CT\) Day](#) (9/20, Hallenbeck).

FBI, BIA Investigating Alleged Lame Deer Assault.

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (9/20) reports that "the FBI and Bureau of Indian Affairs responded Sunday morning to a report of a Lame Deer man who had been assaulted and was unresponsive, according to a press release issued Wednesday by FBI spokesman Travis Burrows."

Bureau Of Land Management

Climate Change Ruling Could Affect Other Fossil Fuel Projects.

[Bloomberg BNA](#) (9/21) reports that energy experts says the decision by an appeals court ordering the federal government to "rethink the climate change impacts of two giant coal mines" establishes "an argument that could be tested nationwide in other courts to challenge any fossil fuel-related project that might have climate change effects." Although the order applied to a pair of Wyoming coal mines, experts say natural gas pipelines, oil sand pipelines, coal railroads, and coal export terminals could all face renewed scrutiny in the future.

Settlement In The Works To End Red River Land Dispute.

The [Wichita Falls \(TX\) Times Record News](#) (9/20, Ingle) reports that "after years of back and forth over who owns what land in a 116-mile stretch of the Red River, it appears a settlement is in the works to end the land dispute roughly a week before a trial was to begin." The article points to an entry in the Public Access to Court Electronic Records, or PACER, system on Wednesday, which notified that "the bench trial of Aderholt et al v. Bureau of Land Management et al has been canceled pending a settlement between the plaintiffs and the defendants."

SunZia Transmission Project Moves To Pre-construction Phase.

The [San Pedro Valley \(AZ\) News-Sun](#) (9/20, Neff) reports that SouthWestern Power Group, which is "planning to build two high voltage transmission lines across southeast Arizona that will end near the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station," has begun "securing right-of-way leases in Cochise, Graham, and Greenlee counties." When complete, the "SunZia Southwest Transmission Project will stretch more than 515 miles, enabling New Mexico wind energy to become electricity in California." The U.S. Bureau of Land Management "recently signed agreements allowing SunZia to be built across 50 miles of federal lands in Arizona and 134 miles in New Mexico."

Bureau Of Land Management To Build Parking For Sutey Ranch.

The [Aspen Public Radio \(CO\)](#) (9/20, Stewart-Severy) reports that "hikers and hunters will soon be able to access public land acquired in a controversial land exchange earlier this year." The Bureau of Land Management is "scheduled to start construction this week of a small parking area at the entrance to Sutey Ranch outside of Carbondale." Sutey Ranch was "part of a land exchange with billionaire Leslie Wexner."

Conservation Group Opposes Development In Red Desert.

[Wyoming Public Radio](#) (9/20, McKim) reports that the Wilderness Society has "designated the northern Red Desert as one of 15 wildland areas most at-risk of energy development on public lands." The Red Desert is "home to several hundred wildlife species and numerous wilderness study areas, and up till now, has avoided significant energy development." However, the Bureau of Land Management is "reconsidering its management plan, which could result in renewed oil and gas drilling." The Wilderness Society is "hoping to prevent that by emphasizing the area's ecological, economic and cultural importance."

Long Island Advocates Urge Congress To Spare Wild Horses.

The [Long Island \(NY\) Press](#) (9/20, Bolger) reports that CANA Foundation, a nonprofit horse rescue group, is "calling on Congressional lawmakers to drop a controversial proposal that would authorize euthanizing thousands of mustangs that were rounded up on federal land in the West." The group "condemned the proposal as inhumane." Rep. Tom Suozzi, speaking at "a news conference Tuesday outside CANA's stable of 12 rescued horses before riding off on one," said "he is exploring how to block the proposal in Congress, where the Republican majority has advanced the measure."

Unadopted Devil's Garden Wild Horses To Return To Territory.

The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (9/20) reports that "one year ago the Modoc National

Forest conducted the first wild horse gather in more than 10 years from the Devil's Garden Plateau Wild Horse Territory." According to the article, "two hundred and twenty one horses were sent to the BLM Litchfield holding facility from tribal and private lands near the territory." The Modoc Mustang Training Program "developed by volunteers, partners and employees in the spring of 2017 has led to 41 adoptions with 19 additional horses still in training." The article says that "horses not yet adopted or otherwise placed for training are scheduled to be returned to the territory after the agreed-upon holding period ends Sept. 25."

BLM Reopens Helena's North Hills To Shooting.

The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (9/20) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is "reopening Helena's North Hills to shooting as fire danger decreases." The BLM had "temporarily closed its public lands in the North Hills to recreational shooting in July due to hot weather conditions and a shooting-related fire that started in the area over the July Fourth holiday." The bureau "lifted the order at 12:01 a.m. on Sept. 19."

Let's Balance Wilderness And Recreation.

In an op-ed for the [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (9/20, Combs), Jesse Combs, president of Advocates for Multi-Use of Public Lands (AMPL), writes that that AMPL was formed, in part, "in response to the Wyoming County Commissioners Association's decision to develop the Wyoming Public Lands Initiative, which seeks to advance federal legislation that will remove some of Wyoming's wilderness study areas from limbo by designating them as wilderness or returning them to regular management by the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management." Combs hopes the Wyoming Public Lands Initiative "can offer our communities an opportunity for input and local control over the fate of recreation on public lands in our area." He sees the Wyoming Public Lands Initiative as "an opportunity for all the stakeholders and community members engaged to leave a legacy of stewardship and an enduring invitation for future generations to connect to the natural wonders that are all around us."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Delta Tunnels Project Imperiled After Westlands Rejection.

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (9/21, Kasler, Sabalow) reports that "shellshocked by an influential farm irrigation district's refusal to help pay for the Delta tunnels, advocates of the \$17.1-billion project were scrambling Wednesday to salvage it or conjure up a Plan B." According to the article, "three possible options were floated by California water policymakers for reviving the proposal." However, "all of them face substantial hurdles of their own."

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (9/20) editorializes that "without some version of the California WaterFix, the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, a rich and vastly re-engineered resource, will continue to decline and diminishing fisheries will dwindle further." It urges California Gov. Jerry Brown to "look for alternatives."

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Additional Coverage: Forget 'Energy Independent,' US Should Seek 'Dominance'.

Additional coverage of Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement director Scott Angelle's remarks to the Louisiana Oil & Gas Association on Tuesday was provided by the [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Business Report](#) (9/20).

Fish And Wildlife Service

Interior Official Says Trump Administration Has The 'Guts' To Allow Oil Exploration In ANWR.

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (9/20, Harball) reports that during a speech in Anchorage yesterday, Vincent DeVito, the Interior Department's Counselor for Energy Policy "said kick-starting oil development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, or ANWR, is a priority for the Trump administration." DeVito told a conference for ocean researchers in Anchorage, "The untapped potential of ANWR is significant. But it is the Trump administration that had the guts to

step up to the plate and facilitate production." DeVito "also talked about increasing oil development in a different swath of federal land in the Arctic — the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, or NPR-A."

Additional coverage was provided by [KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (9/20, Harball).

Sonoyta Mud Turtle In Danger Of Extinction.

[KVOA-TV](#) Tucson, AZ (9/19, Kinney) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has "determined the Sonoyta mud turtle as an endangered species." Steve Spangle, the Service's Arizona Field Supervisor, said, "The Sonoyta mud turtle is clearly in danger of extinction. Protecting it under the Endangered Species Act will marshal increased attention and the resources needed by our U.S. and Mexican conservation partners to improve and expand its dwindling habitat and populations." The listing is set to go into effect October 20, 2017.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arizona Daily Star](#) (9/20, Windes) and [Arizona Public Media](#) (9/20, Paniagua).

Mexico Quakes Rattle Nevada's Endangered Devils Hole Pupfish.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (9/20, Brean) reports that "two deadly earthquakes in Mexico this month also left their mark on a water-filled cavern in Nevada that is home to one of world's most endangered fish." According to the article, "shockwaves from the quakes traveled more than 1,500 miles to churn the water inside the only known habitat of the Devils Hole pupfish." Kevin Wilson, a Death Valley aquatic ecologist for the National Park Service, said that "the pupfish seem to be reacting to the earthquakes the way they have in the past: with an increase in mating and spawning behavior."

Will There Be Lights?

The [Kaua'i \(HI\) Garden Island News](#) (9/20, Else) reports that "stadium lights could once again come to life for a few night football games on Kauai this season, if the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service signs off." On Monday, Kauai County Mayor Bernard Carvalho Jr. "signed a memorandum of understanding between the County of Kauai and USFWS regarding the reinstatement of night football games." However, no names from the FWS "have landed on the dotted lines." FWS spokeswoman Holly Richards said, "The service continues to work with the county to develop a MOU that meets the conservation needs of seabirds while recognizing the importance of football to local communities." Richards cited "due process" for the agency's lack of signatures.

Environmentalists, Ranchers Trade Barbs In Killing Of Mexican Gray Wolf.

[Cronkite News](#) (9/20, Windes) reports that "environmentalists and livestock owners are pointing fingers after government agents killed an endangered Mexican gray wolf last month for preying on cattle, the first wolf killed for depredation in 10 years." According to the article, "a Fish and Wildlife Service memo justifying the 'lethal control' of the wolf found one calf had been 'killed by wolves, one was probably killed by wolves, and a third (cow) died of natural causes' on Aug. 2." The article says that "ranchers welcomed the action, saying Fish and Wildlife 'was finally making a good decision.'" However, "environmentalists say ranchers are at least partly to blame for failing to remove the carcass of the cow that died of natural causes, attracting wolves from the 'Diamond pack' that would otherwise have kept their distance."

Hydrological Models Scrutinized In Bottling-plant Hearing.

The [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (9/20, Reilly) reports that "the Montana Artesian Water Company's water-use permit hearing turned technical in its second day." Lawyers "from both sides spent Wednesday cross-examining scientists from Montana's Water Rights Bureau, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and elsewhere on the hydrology of the region near Creston where Flathead resident Lew Weaver's firm seeks to withdraw groundwater for bottling." According to the article, "the location and spacing of test wells, the underground rock layers' ability to hold and carry water, connections between aquifer and surface, and other hydrological details drew close scrutiny at the hearing in Kalispell."

Tusk-Smuggling Case Ends In Prison For Canadian Ex-Mountie: U.S. Judge.

The [Reuters](#) (9/20, Stempel) reports that "a retired Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer was sentenced on Wednesday by a U.S. judge to five years and two months in prison, after pleading guilty to 10 money laundering charges related to a scheme to smuggle Arctic narwhal tusks." Gregory Logan "had been accused by U.S. prosecutors of smuggling more than 250 tusks from

2000 to 2010 into the United States from Canada, in a scheme to sell tusks to collectors and send proceeds back to Canada." Logan, "who retired as a Canadian mountie in 2003, had been a target of a narwhal tusk-smuggling probe, dubbed 'Operation Longtooth,' by a Canadian government agency now known as Environment and Climate Change Canada."

Also reporting are the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (9/20, Harrison) and [BBC News \(UK\)](#) (9/20).

Washington Man Sentenced For Trafficking Whale Tusks.

The [AP](#) (9/20) reports that "a Brinnon, Washington man was sentenced to six months in prison and fined \$25,000 for trafficking ivory from protected species." U.S. Attorney Annette Hayes "says David L. Boone took part in an operation between 2006 and 2008 that smuggled narwhal tusks from Canada into the U.S." Boone "pleaded guilty to money laundering and was sentenced Wednesday in federal court in Maine to more than five years in prison."

National Park Service

National Parks To Waive Entrance Fees Sept. 30 For National Public Lands Day.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/20) reports that the National Park Service will "offer free admission to parks across the country Saturday, Sept. 30, as part of National Public Lands Day." National Public Lands Day, "held annually on the fourth Saturday in September, is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer event for public lands."

Police Arrest Man Accused Of Vandalizing The Lincoln Memorial With A Penny.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/19, Moyer) reports that "a man was arrested Monday after police say he vandalized the Lincoln Memorial." A U.S. Park Police officer "observed the man about 1 p.m. using a penny to scrawl the letters 'HYPT MAEK' on the fifth pillar on the north side of the memorial, authorities said." The man, "identified as 21-year-old Nurtilek Bakirov, of Kyrgyzstan, was arrested and charged with malicious destruction of property."

Additional coverage was provided by [Fox News](#) (9/21).

'Tangled Rat's Nest' To Memorialize Dwight Eisenhower.

The [Daily Caller](#) (9/20, Phippen) reports that "the latest 'doodle-like sketch' design for a massive tapestry in the proposed Eisenhower Memorial is one step closer to becoming a reality." The U.S. Commission of Fine Arts "hung a small sample of the massive tapestry that will be the focal point of the four-acre memorial park Wednesday, providing a preview of the final product."

Whitney Lofts Project In Downtown Syracuse Needs Feds' OK To Uncover Windows.

The [Syracuse \(NY\) Post-Standard](#) (9/20, Moriarty) reports that Sen. Charles Schumer on Wednesday urged the National Park Service "to quickly approve a development group's plans to turn the upper floors of two historic downtown Syracuse buildings into apartments." Schumer "said the Park Service's approval is needed for the \$4.2 million project to receive federal historic preservation tax credits, worth up to 20 percent of the cost of the renovations."

Sequoia National Park Wants To Raise Annual Fee.

The [Visalia \(CA\) Times-Delta](#) (9/20, Cederlof) reports that Sequoia and Kings Canyon national parks have "proposed an increase of the park-specific annual pass from \$50 to \$60." According to the article, "the \$10 increase would put the park in line with the service-wide pricing guidelines for park-specific annual passes." The article says that "if adopted, the new price would go into effect on Jan. 1."

Henry Sibley Band Will March In July 4 Parade In Washington, D.C.

The [St. Paul \(MN\) Pioneer Press](#) (9/20, Magan) reports that "the marching band from Henry Sibley High School in Mendota Heights has been picked to represent Minnesota in next year's Independence Day parade in Washington, D.C." The invitation from the National Independence Day Committee, the Interior Department, and the National Park Service was announced Wednesday.

National Park Service Working To Restore Historic Homes Near Central High.

[KTHV-TV](#) Little Rock, AR (9/20, Perkins) reports that "as Little Rock prepares to celebrate 60 years of an integrated Central High School, the National Park Service is working to make homes

in front of the school apart of its history." The NPS is "attempting to restore the homes, while also keeping history alive."

Online 'Walk 93' Registration Deadline Is Friday.

The [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#) (9/20, Huba) reports that "the public has until Friday to register for the third annual 'Walk 93,' a noncompetitive walk in honor of the 40 passengers and crew who died on United Flight 93." The article says that "proceeds from the immersive walk, sponsored by the nonprofit Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial, will support the design and construction of the Temporary Memorial Trail in 2018." National Park Service interpretive rangers will lead the walk.

Docks, Marinas Get Repaired After Microburst On Lake Powell.

The [AP](#) (9/20) reports that "authorities say repairs are nearly finished to property in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area that was damaged by last week's microburst along the Arizona-Utah border." According to the article, "a sudden, powerful downward gust of wind swamped or sank dozens of powerboats and jet skis last Thursday on Lake Powell and resulted in damages to the park's docks and marinas." Also, "at the Wahweap Marina, water, power and sewer weren't available and the dock was damaged." National Park Service officials "say most of the pairs and docks have been repaired as of Tuesday and the Wahweap Marina should be reopened soon."

Infant Who Died In Lake Powell Boat Accident Identified.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/19, Mims) reports that "Arizona authorities have identified an infant who died of injuries sustained in a weekend houseboat accident on Lake Powell." The Coconino County Sheriff's Office "said Tuesday that 6-month-old William Garner had passed away Monday, the day after he suffered 'major head trauma' 5:20 p.m. Sunday when the houseboat struck a beach near Navajo Canyon."

Office Of Insular Affairs

All Of Puerto Rico Without Power As Hurricane Maria Makes Landfall.

Hurricane Maria made landfall in Puerto Rico Wednesday causing extensive damage. All three network news broadcasts led with the story Wednesday evening and it garners heavy print coverage this morning. Much of the coverage focuses on the devastation in Puerto Rico, but damage to Dominica and the storm's path towards the Dominican Republic and Turks and Caicos also garner coverage.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/20, lead story, 3:15, Holt) reported in its lead story that in Puerto Rico "hundreds of homes are damaged or destroyed, streets are flooded, and 100 percent of that US island is without power after Hurricane Maria slammed ashore with 155-mile-an-hour winds." In its lead story, the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/20, lead story, 2:25, Mason) reported that Maria made landfall "as a Category 4 and touched off catastrophic flooding. The storm is moving away from Puerto Rico tonight, toward the Dominican Republic, and tomorrow, the Bahamas." CBS (Begnaud) added that "despite the devastation, no deaths or injuries have been reported, so far." Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rossello "is telling people to stay calm, but he's warning that the island is on the verge of losing communication." Rossello "is asking for generators to be shipped from the mainland here to the island to help restore power as a dusk-to-dawn curfew has just gone into effect."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/20, lead story, 2:55, Oquendo) reported in its lead story that Puerto Rico's emergency management director says "the entire island is destroyed." Many homes on the island were "not built to withstand any hurricane, let alone a Category 4." According to officials, "many areas will be uninhabitable for weeks, maybe even months." Rossello said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (9/20), "The damage is very extensive. It is nothing short of a major disaster. We have a lot of flooding, a lot of infrastructure damage. Our tell communications system is partially down. Our energy infrastructure is completely down."

The [New York Times](#) (9/20) reports that while Rossello said "more than 500 shelters had been opened...he could not vouch for the storm-worthiness of all of those structures." In what the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/20, De Córdoba, De Avila) calls an apparent effort to prevent looting, Rossello announced via tweet that he is imposing a 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. curfew from Wednesday to Saturday. Rossello wrote, "I am making a call for calm, understanding and prudence during these difficult days for Puerto Rico."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/20, Hennessy-Fiske, Lee) reports that a statement from the White House said "that President Trump is continuing to monitor the situation and that he and First Lady Melania Trump 'send their thoughts and prayers to all those in harm's way.'" White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (9/20), "FEMA Director Brock Long has been working alongside all the state and local officials really trying to make sure we put as many resources in place as possible. Thanks to technology we have a lot more leeway on the front end of a lot of these storms that are allowing us to preposition resources. The federal government is doing all we can to help people in both, you know, Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Islands and other surrounding islands as these storms are moving in."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/20, Schmidt) says recovery efforts "could be hampered by long-standing financial problems that led the territorial government to file for a form of bankruptcy in May." Puerto Rican Rep. Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon expressed a similar concern on [CNN's The Lead](#) (9/20), saying, "I spoke last night with Vice President Mike Pence and FEMA Director Brock Long and other members of cabinet regarding how are we going to put Puerto Rico back on track considering the financial situation Puerto Rico got in the recent years. And, thank God, Vice President Pence conveyed the message of the President of the United States and the whole government is going to be helping out the island. As a matter of fact, there are more than 400 rescue teams and federal employees from all over the nation waiting until it is safe to go outside and begin the search and rescue already on the island."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/20, Faiola) reports that a "direct hit" by Maria "caused massive damage to homes and buildings, washed out roads, upended water pipelines and left at least seven people dead" in Dominica. According to official estimates, "70 to 80 percent of Dominica's structures sustained storm damage, ranging from ripped-off roofs to near-total destruction." The Post adds that "intact public buildings were being converted into emergency shelters for scores of homeless residents."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/20, story 2, 0:55, Muir) reported that Maria's center is currently about 75 miles east of the Dominican Republic. While it's a category two storm, it "may very well strengthen" as it heads to Turks and Caicos. Al Roker said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/20, story 3, 1:00, Holt) that the Dominican Republic will get "four to six feet of surge, 8 to 16 inches of rain." Turks and Caicos, meanwhile, "may be the next really big devastated area with 125 mph winds, a storm surge of nine to 12 feet and nine to 16 inches."

Japan And South Korea Praise Trump's Korea Remarks, Germany Criticizes Them.

The [AP](#) (9/20, Pennington) reports Japan called for "international unity Wednesday in pressuring North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons, even as another key US ally pushed back" against President Trump's threat to "totally destroy" the rogue nation if it attacked. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe "devoted his entire speech" at the General Assembly to North Korea, warning that the "gravity of this threat is unprecedented." Meanwhile, German Chancellor Angela Merkel told German broadcaster Deutsche Welle that she "clearly" disagrees with Trump's threat to destroy North Korea. Instead, "she offered help in negotiating a solution with North Korea, noting that Germany played a role in talks with Iran to limit its nuclear program."

Greg Palkot reported on [Fox News Special Report](#) (9/20) that South Korea cast Trump's threat as a "firm and concrete stance for peace and safety." In addition, Fox showed Yoshihide Suga, Japan's chief cabinet secretary, saying, "I highly appreciated the position that all options are on the table."

China, Russia Also Critical Of Trump. Palkot also reported on [Fox News Special Report](#) (9/20) that North Korea's other neighbors "were not so pleased." Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang was shown saying, "All Security Council resolutions call on all parties to stay committed to peacefully resolving the Korean Peninsula issue through a political and diplomatic approach." Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov was shown stating, "We don't doubt the United States has the capacity to do something very destructive, but I paid attention to another part of [President Trump's] speech when he said he respects sovereignty and equality in international relations."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/20, story 6, 0:20, Muir), meanwhile, reported North Korea's foreign minister, Ri Yong-ho, described Trump's comments as "the sound of a dog barking," and said "North Korea is not scared."

Experts: North Korea Likely To Fire More Missiles After Trump's Speech. The [Washington Post](#) (9/20, Fifield) reports that Kim Jong-un's regime "tells the North Korean people every day that the United States wants to destroy them and their country. Now, they will hear it from another source: from the president of the United States himself." Trump's words Tuesday, analysts say,

“feed right into that narrative.” Jung H. Pak, chair of Korea studies at the Brookings Institution, warned that Trump’s “demonizing” of Kim personally “would inflame the situation.” The Post notes that previous personal attacks on Kim “have elicited an outsized response from North Korea.”

WPost Analysis: Lack Of US Ambassador In Seoul A “Glaring Omission.” The [Washington Post](#) (9/20, Nakamura) reports that while President Trump and his top aides “say they’re doing everything in their power to pursue a diplomatic and peaceful resolution to the North Korea nuclear threat. But eight months into Trump’s tenure, he has yet to nominate a US ambassador to South Korea, a glaring omission as the White House tries to formulate a coherent policy to confront Pyongyang.” The vacancy, says the Post, has “left President Moon Jae-in’s new government without a prestigious and powerful partner from the Trump administration on the ground in Seoul at a time of escalating anxiety in East Asia – and without someone to help decode the president’s rhetorical bombast.”

Reuters: Russia Supplying North Korea With Fuel. According to [Reuters](#) (9/20, Nikolskaya), “At least eight North Korean ships that left Russia with a cargo of fuel this year headed for their homeland despite declaring other destinations, a ploy that US officials say is often used to undermine sanctions.” Reuters says it “has no evidence of wrongdoing by the vessels,” but US officials “say that changing destination mid-voyage is a hallmark of North Korean state tactics to circumvent” international sanctions. Both the Treasury and State Departments “declined to answer questions about Reuters’ findings.”

Fellow Calls For UN To Expel North Korea. Claudia Rosett, a foreign policy fellow with the Independent Women’s Forum, writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/20) that the UN should expel North Korea. While no nation has ever been expelled, Rosett argues that the UN charter does, however, provide for eviction: “A Member of the United Nations which has persistently violated the Principles in the present Charter may be expelled from the Organization by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.”

US Geological Survey

Los Angeles Officials Prepare For Potential Big Earthquake.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/20, story 6, 2:00, Holt) reported that a study from the US Geological Survey found that the chance of an earthquake magnitude eight or larger near Los Angeles in the next 30 years “has doubled since 2008” – bolstering the city’s concern for and desire to prepare for the next large earthquake. Experts “say a major quake along the San Andreas in Southern California fault could kill 1,800 people, injure 53,000, destroy 1,500 buildings, and damage 300,000 more,” and a serious quake “could also cripple the city’s water supply and take as long as six months to repair.” City officials have spent \$14 billion on seismic upgrades to transportation infrastructure, and Mayor Eric Garcetti has received a new “preparedness plan.”

Sensors Deployed To Measure Effects Of Jose On New England.

The [AP](#) (9/20) reports that “federal scientists have installed 17 storm-tide sensors along the coast of southern New England to measure the effects of Tropical Storm Jose.” The U.S. Geological Survey “said Wednesday that the sensors — seven in Connecticut, seven in Massachusetts and three in Rhode Island — were placed in areas likely to receive large waves and storm surge from Jose.” The agency “says data collected can help quantify wave heights, forces, and speeds, under various storm conditions, topographies, ecologies, and land uses.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Springfield \(MA\) Republican](#) (9/20, Croteau).

Frogs In Minnesota, Across U.S. Dying Of Little-known Disease, Scientists Find.

The [St. Paul \(MN\) Pioneer Press](#) (9/20, Myers) reports that “a previously little-known infectious disease has emerged as a major killer of frogs in Minnesota and nine other states, according to a study by the U.S. Geological Survey recently published in the journal *Nature*.” Researchers “studied 247 frog die-offs in 43 states from 1999 through 2015 and found that severe *Perkinsea* infections, or SPI, caused 21 major mortality events in 10 states total.”

Additional Reading.

- *The United States Needs An Earthquake Warning System Already.* [Wired](#) (9/20, Niiler).
- *California Earthquake Warning System On Shaky Ground.* [KABC-TV](#) Los Angeles (9/20, Hayes).
- *National Weather Service To Discontinue Osage River Monitoring.* [Mason City \(IA\) Globe Gazette](#)

(9/20).

- *Scientists Say Recent Quake Swarm At Rainier Is Not Unusual.* [Seattle Times](#) (9/20, Doughton).
- *The West's Wildfires Are Taking A Toll On Reservoirs.* [Water Deeply](#) (9/20, Bland).

Top National News

Sources: Trump “Leaning Against” Re-Certifying Iran Deal.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/20, story 8, 0:30, Holt) reported, “President Trump says he’s made up his mind about the Iran nuclear deal, but he’s not saying if the US will stay in the agreement.” However, four sources tell NBC News that Trump is “leaning against re-certifying Iran’s compliance with the deal.” On its website, [NBC News](#) (9/20) reports such a move would put “the decision of whether the US will withdraw from the accord in the hands of Congress, according to four sources – including one senior administration official.” NBC says that “such a move would come prior to an Oct. 15 deadline and would trigger a 60-day window for lawmakers to determine whether to reimpose sanctions.” Still, “several of the sources caution the president could change his mind over the next three weeks.”

On Wednesday, the [New York Times](#) (9/20, Baker, Sengupta) reports President Trump said that he has made a decision on the future of the Iran deal, “but declined to tell reporters what it was.” Speaking to reporters, Trump said, “I have decided,” repeating the phrase “three times.” Pressed by reporters, he added: “I’ll let you know. I’ll let you know.” The Times notes that while Trump has already certified Iran’s compliance twice, he “has made clear that he is reluctant to certify compliance a third time, citing destabilizing activities by Iran that are not directly covered by the agreement.”

The [Washington Times](#) (9/20, Boyer) and [Politico](#) (9/20, Nelson) also report briefly on Trump’s remarks, while [USA Today](#) (9/20, Jackson) says Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, in his remarks to the UN General Assembly on Wednesday, “said Trump is the one threatening to violate the agreement – and that the former New York businessman is making unfounded accusations.” Said Rouhani, “It will be a great pity if this agreement were to be destroyed by ‘rogue’ newcomers to the world of politics: the world will have lost a great opportunity.”

Another [USA Today](#) (9/20, Michaels, Dorell) report notes that Rouhani “did not mention Trump by name...but his remarks were clearly directed at the US president,” and the [AP](#) (9/20, Peltz, Lederer) too says the remarks were “clearly directed” at Trump. [Bloomberg News](#) (9/20, Foroohar, Nasser) says the Iranian leader “rejected any US-led effort to alter the 2015 nuclear agreement,” and the [Washington Post](#) (9/20, Morello) reports Rouhani “blasted” Trump for his “ignorant, absurd and hateful” speech before the General Assembly a day earlier.

The [AP](#) (9/20, Lee) says the “jabbing” between Trump and Rouhani “set the stage for a contentious meeting of the nuclear accord’s parties” on Wednesday on the sidelines of the General Assembly, including Secretary of State Tillerson and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif. The AP says that “a year ago, such a get-together would have been considered routine,” but “in the current environment, it is anything but ordinary.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/20, Stokols, Schwartz, Peker) reports Tillerson said late Tuesday that the US would remain a part of the agreement only if it is modified to tighten restrictions on Iran’s nuclear program that loosen after the year 2025 under the deal. [Reuters](#) (9/20, Hafezi, Holland) reports that a “source familiar with the US discussions” said the Administration is “also considering ways to leave the agreement intact, sanction Iran for its missile tests and support for extremist groups, and then seek to strengthen the pact.”

The [Washington Times](#) (9/20, Persons) reports White House press secretary Sarah Sanders “hinted” Wednesday that Trump “might make changes to the Iran nuclear deal soon.” When asked what type of announcement Trump may be planning, Sanders told Fox News that “plans may change” for the current deal, and that Trump will take “actions” to “fix the mistakes of being part of that deal on the front end.” She did not, however, say when an announcement with his plans could be expected.

“Sources” To Free Beacon: Tillerson, Haley “At Odds” Over Deal. In what the [Washington Free Beacon](#) (9/20, Kredo) calls a “sign of the ongoing internal dissent over ending” the agreement, “multiple sources” told the Free Beacon that Tillerson and Ambassador Haley “have been at odds over the deal,” with Haley “privately expressing dismay with Tillerson over his continued efforts to preserve the nuclear agreement.” Tillerson and Haley “held a private powwow Wednesday with international leaders regarding the future of the nuclear deal, a sign of Haley’s vital role” in the issue.

After Wednesday's meeting, the [Washington Examiner](#) (9/20, Morrongiello) reports Tillerson told reporters, "We had a very open and candid exchange with all of the parties to the agreement. We clearly have significant issues with the agreement." He also confirmed that Trump has reached a decision on recertifying Iran's compliance with the agreement, but "declined to disclose the details of it."

Paul Wants US To Stay In Agreement. In an interview with [Politico](#) (9/20, Kim) Wednesday, Sen. Rand Paul, who opposed the nuclear deal with Iran two years ago, said he wants the US to stay in the agreement because he believes evidence shows that Iran has been complying with its terms. "Most of the complaints about Iran don't have anything to do with the agreement. They complain about ballistic missiles and other things, but that's not part of the agreement," Paul told Politico. "I think while the agreement's not perfect, my main concern has always been compliance. But if they're complying with it, I think we should stay in it."

Panetta Defends Deal, Rice Blasts Trump. Former CIA Director Leon Panetta said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/20) the concerns about the Iran nuclear deal are "understandable," but "the fact is we do have an agreement" that has "been effective at preventing Iran from developing a nuclear weapon," and "we have evidence that Iran has abided by that agreement." Panetta said that if Trump withdraws, "he has to think seriously about the fact that at some point down the road he will bear responsibility for Iran getting a nuclear weapon."

The [Daily Caller](#) (9/20) reports former national security advisor Susan Rice "didn't mince words" Wednesday when criticizing Trump's speech at the UN. Rice was "especially unhappy" with Trump's insistence that the Iran nuclear deal is a "one-sided deal" and "an embarrassment" to the US. Said Rice, "We could begin a process of dialogue on what comes next after the deal. But we can't do that when hurling threats, when threatening to walk out, when acting like a spoiled child at the dinner table."

EU Official: Iran Deal "Working." The [AP](#) (9/20) reports EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said Wednesday that all parties to the Iran nuclear deal "agree that the accord is being implemented as planned and US complaints about other Iranian behavior should be discussed outside the context of the agreement." Speaking to reporters in New York, Mogherini said the deal "is working and is delivering for its purpose."

Macron: If US Scraps Deal, World Could Face Another North Korea Crisis. [USA Today](#) (9/20, Ullmann) reports French President Emmanuel Macron urged President Trump Wednesday "to stick with the Iran nuclear deal" because "what else do we have? We would be put in the North Korea situation." Macron told a group of editors and reporters in New York that without the current agreement, Tehran "would be able to rush ahead with a nuclear weapons program the way North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un is, creating a new international crisis."

Media Analyses: Trump's Criticism Of Iran Deal Poses Problems For North Korea Strategy. An [AP](#) (9/20, Pennington) analysis says Trump's threat "to obliterate North Korea left no doubt about his determination to stop the communist country's nuclear weapons buildup," and "his disparagement of the Iran nuclear deal in the same speech offered Pyongyang little hope of a negotiated solution." While Trump said, "It is time for North Korea to realize that the denuclearization is its only acceptable future," the AP says he "offered no path toward making that future a reality."

David Sanger similarly writes in a [New York Times](#) (9/20) analysis that the "dynamics" of the two cases "are entirely different, but they are also oddly interdependent. If Mr. Trump makes good on his threat to pull out of the 2015 nuclear agreement with Iran, how will he then convince the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-un, that America will honor the commitment to integrate North Korea into the world community if only it disarms – the demand Mr. Trump made from the podium of the United Nations."

Security Firm: US Aviation, Energy Companies Targeted By Iranian Hackers. [USA Today](#) (9/20, Weise) reports that a "suspected Iranian hacking group has been targeting aviation and energy companies in the United States, Saudi Arabia and South Korea since 2013," computer security company FireEye said in a report released Wednesday. The group "seems largely to have engaged in stealth spying to give Iranian military and corporate interests information about possible enemies and competition." However, the researchers also found "signs of links to malicious software called SHAPESHIFT capable of destroying data within a company's network." FireEye cautioned that it had "not directly observed the hackers carry out any destructive operations, but the capability appears to be present."

Media Analyses: Mueller's Latest Steps Indicate Trump Himself Under Scrutiny.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/20, story 4, 2:10, Muir) reported on "new steps" by special counsel

Robert Mueller “suggesting President Trump’s own actions are now under scrutiny, including his firing of FBI Director James Comey and the meeting with Russian officials in the Oval Office the very next day.” ABC’s Jonathan Karl: “Tonight, the clearest indication yet [that] Mueller is looking at the actions of President Trump himself.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/20, story 3, 2:20, Mason) reported, “Mueller has been bombarding the White House with requests for documents.”

The [AP](#) (9/20, Tucker) reports that Mueller’s office “has requested a large batch of documents from the White House and is expected to interview at least a half dozen current and former aides in the coming weeks.” A person familiar with the investigation said investigators “want information on, among other topics, a June 2016 meeting at Trump Tower that Donald Trump Jr. attended with a Russian lawyer and the administration’s response to it,” as well as “what White House officials including Trump knew about the Justice Department’s investigation” into ex-National Security Adviser Michael Flynn.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/20, Leonnig, Helderman) reports, “White House lawyers are now working to turn over internal documents that span 13 categories investigators for the special counsel have identified as critical to their probe.” [USA Today](#) (9/20, Jackson, Johnson, Heath) reports that officials speaking under condition of anonymity said that the White House “has been cooperating with Mueller’s requests for the past several weeks, in part to avoid subpoenas for individual testimony. The officials said they were not sure when the White House would finish turning over documents.”

The [New York Times](#) (9/20, Schmidt) says that the “document requests provide the most details to date about the breadth of Mr. Mueller’s investigation, and show that several aspects of his inquiry are focused squarely on Mr. Trump’s behavior in the White House.” However, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/20, Bierman) reports that John Dowd, an attorney for the President, said, “There’s nothing remarkable or unusual about his requests. ... It’s not like something’s about to happen. It’s just a routine inquiry by Bob [Mueller].”

David Gergen said on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (9/20), “As soon as I heard there were 13 different categories in which Mueller was asking for information or demanding information from the White House, you immediately thought this probe has widened way beyond what we or understood and it has clearly deepened.” Gergen added, “I think this deepens the sense that they’re doing everything they can to see what evidence there is of obstruction of justice.”

Grassley: Senate Preparing Subpoenas For Two Top FBI Officials. [CNN](#) (9/20, Herb, Raju) reports on its website that Senate Judiciary Chairman Charles Grassley said Tuesday that the Senate legal counsel “is preparing subpoenas for two senior FBI officials the Justice Department is preventing the committee from interviewing.” Grassley and ranking member Sen. Dianne Feinstein “have repeatedly asked the two senior FBI officials – Carl Ghattas and James Rybicki – to sit down for a transcribed interview to discuss the Comey firing.”

Manafort Offered “Private Briefings” On Campaign To Russian Billionaire. The [Washington Post](#) (9/20, Hamburger, Helderman, Leonnig, Entous) reports that “less than two weeks before Donald Trump accepted the Republican presidential nomination,” then-campaign chairman Paul Manafort “offered to provide briefings on the race” to Oleg Deripaska, “a Russian billionaire closely aligned with the Kremlin.” In a July 7, 2016 email, Manafort wrote, “If he needs private briefings we can accommodate.” The emails “are among tens of thousands of documents that have been turned over” to Mueller and to congressional investigators. The Post says that the documents show no evidence “that Deripaska received Manafort’s offer or that any briefings took place.”

Leon Panetta said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (9/20) that the fact Manafort “would offer a briefing on a political campaign to a Russian billionaire, someone obviously related to an adversary of the United States, raises some serious questions about just how much effort was made to try to get the Russians to participate in this last election campaign.” But on the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/20, story 3, 2:20, Mason), Jeff Pegues reported, “Manafort’s attorney did not deny the authenticity of the email but called the message ‘innocuous,’ and said, ‘It’s no secret Mr. Manafort was owed money by past clients,’ implying it was an attempt to collect.”

Ben Domenech of [The Federalist](#) (9/20) offers “13 Questions About The Wiretapping Of Paul Manafort,” dealing with why Manafort was wiretapped, when the surveillance took place, and if the wiretap covered Trump Tower. Former CIA case officer Phil Giraldi asks at the [Daily Caller](#) (9/20), “Will anyone running for high office in the future want to be confronted by executive power acting secretly through the law enforcement and intelligence services to discredit him or her as well as a large and widening group of family and associates? ... Manafort, who has fully cooperated with the multiple investigations being conducted around Russiagate, is innocent until proven guilty.”

Manafort Used Trump Campaign Email To Contact “Ukrainian Political Operative.” [Politico](#)

(9/20, Dawsey) reports that Manafort “used his presidential campaign email account to correspond with a Ukrainian political operative with suspected Russian ties, according to people familiar with the correspondence.” In emails to Konstantin Kilimnik, Manafort sought “repayment for previous work he did in Ukraine” and proposed discussing “potential new opportunities in the country.”

Clapper: “It’s Possible” That Wiretap Picked Up Trump. The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/20, Chaitin) reports, “Former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper suggested on Wednesday that ‘it’s possible’ that President Trump’s voice was picked up in a wiretap” as he spoke with Manafort. Clapper said on CNN, “It’s certainly conceivable. ... I wouldn’t want to go there, but I will say it’s possible.”

Facebook Facing Increasing Scrutiny Over Russia’s Attempts At Influence. [Bloomberg News](#) (9/20, Litvan) reports that Facebook “is facing growing pressure from Congress over Russia’s use of social media” to influence the 2016 election. In a Wednesday letter to the Federal Election Commission, Sens. Martin Heinrich and Ron Wyden, and Reps. John Conyers (D-MI), Elijah Cummings (D-MD), and John Sarbanes (D-MD) wrote, “We must address the threat posed by foreign citizens, companies, or organizations who aim to interfere with our political process.” Sarbanes is seeking “new rules requiring disclosure for political ads on social media outlets...so they are as transparent as broadcast ads.”

Senate Intelligence Vice Chairman Mark Warner said on [CNN’s The Lead](#) (9/20) that “the level of some of the sophistication on the social media side and the level of targeting really leaves me with a lot of questions we are going to want Facebook to answer in public.”

Media Matters: Drudge Report Has Become “Pipeline For Russian Propaganda.” Matt Gertz of [Media Matters](#) (9/20) writes about “How Matt Drudge Became The Pipeline For Russian Propaganda,” stating that Drudge “has for years used his site as a web traffic pipeline for Russian propaganda sites, directing his massive audience to nearly 400 stories from RT.com and fellow Russian-government-run English-language news sites SputnikNews.com and TASS.com since the beginning of 2012.” The [Daily Caller](#) (9/20) covers the Media Matters piece under the headline “Pro-Clinton Group Tries To Link Drudge Report,” writing, “Despite the...bombastic claims,” the Media Matters study “lacks context about how The Drudge Report operates. ... Drudge typically removes and adds links throughout the day, linking to hundreds of websites on any given day.”

Dershowitz Says It Is Hard To Say If President Can Expect AG’s Loyalty. Alan Dershowitz writes in the [Washington Examiner](#) (9/20) that it is hard to say whether a president can expect loyalty from an attorney general, since under the US system, the AG serves both as “an advisor to the chief executive” and as “chief prosecutor.” Dershowitz says “the system should be changed,” but that there is “no perfect cure for the mistake made by our founders in merging the two incompatible goals of the current attorney general: that of political advisor to the president; and that of independent chief prosecutor.”

Trump: Graham-Cassidy “At 47 Or 48” Senate Votes Right Now.

The [AP](#) (9/20, Werner) reports that President Trump said Wednesday that “the Republicans’ last-resort ‘Obamacare’ repeal effort remains two or three votes short, forecasting days of furious lobbying ahead with a crucial deadline looming next week.” Trump told reporters that “by his reckoning, ‘we’re at 47 or 48 already, senators, and a lot of others are looking at it very positively.’” [Reuters](#) (9/20, Mason) reports that Trump also said, “I thought that when I won, I would go to the Oval Office, sit down at my desk, and there would be a healthcare bill on my desk, to be honest. And it hasn’t worked out that way. And I think a lot of Republicans are embarrassed by it.”

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said on [Fox News’ Fox & Friends](#) (9/20) that “we have to have a program that actually works and we know that that’s not Obamacare. It’s simply not sustainable. It’s collapsing. There’s many markets where they don’t even have providers anymore. We have got to get a system in place that actually works for all Americans.”

The [Washington Times](#) (9/20, Howell) reports that a vote will take place next week, according to a spokesman for Senate Majority Leader McConnell. [Politico](#) (9/20, Everett) reports, “The bill does not yet have the public support of 50 senators, but GOP insiders are growing more confident it will pass.” Sen. John Thune said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (9/20), “We are a handful of votes short of having the 50 that we need. ... I think we’re going to be working very hard over the course of the next few days to try and get to 50 so we can get this across the finish line.” Karl Rove writes in his [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/20) column that the bill could reach 50 votes, making GOP repeal promises a reality.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/20, Peterson, Radnofsky) reports that Trump urged Republicans

to back the measure, [tweeting](#), "I hope Republican Senators will vote for Graham-Cassidy and fulfill their promise to Repeal & Replace ObamaCare. Money direct to States!" He also criticized Sen. Rand Paul, an opponent of the bill, [tweeting](#), "Rand Paul is a friend of mine but he is such a negative force when it comes to fixing healthcare. Graham-Cassidy Bill is GREAT! Ends Ocare!"

Trump also [tweeted](#), "I would not sign Graham-Cassidy if it did not include coverage of pre-existing conditions. It does! A great Bill. Repeal & Replace." However, [Axios](#) (9/20, Owens) reports that the bill "does allow states to waive the ACA's ban on charging people with pre-existing conditions higher premiums than healthy people."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/20, story 4, 2:05, Mason), Nancy Cordes reported, "Republicans Bill Cassidy and Lindsey Graham sprinted from meeting to meeting today...trying to close the sale on the party's last, best shot at replacing Obamacare." The Graham-Cassidy bill "would keep Obamacare's taxes in place, but turn most of the revenues over to the states to come up with their own healthcare systems." The [AP](#) (9/20, Woodward) reports that Graham called the bill he co-authored "a 'historic opportunity' and asserted: 'We're going to vote. Everyone will be held accountable.'" [Roll Call](#) (9/20, McIntire) says the measure "would dramatically restructure the individual health insurance market by giving states block grants to fund health insurance coverage," and would "transition traditional Medicaid, which is an entitlement, to a system that gives states a capped amount of funding based on their Medicaid population."

[Roll Call](#) (9/20, Williams) reports, "Republican senators face the prospect of retreating from their previous public stances in order to support [the] fast-moving legislation." [The Hill](#) (9/20, Carney), the [Washington Examiner](#) (9/20, Weaver), and [Breitbart](#) (9/20, Moran) briefly report on the announcement of the upcoming vote.

Murkowski Again In Spotlight As Vote Approaches. The [Washington Post](#) (9/20, A1, Sullivan) reports that Sen. Lisa Murkowski is again the spotlight as "one of at least four Republicans who remain unsure whether to support" the bill. Murkowski "regularly breaks with her party – yet she is also willing to play ball. 'The problem last time was process and substance,' Murkowski said Tuesday...explaining why she might be willing to support the current measure despite voting against the last one in July. 'Nobody knew what we were really looking to in voting on.'"

Congressional correspondent Phil Mattingly said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/20) that GOP leaders are "gathering information and specific asks from specific senators that will change this bill in an effort to try and get them on board. Most notably though they're targeting Lisa Murkowski." Murkowski met Wednesday with Graham and Cassidy "to figure out exactly what this bill would do to Alaska and what Republican leaders and Administration officials can do to make sure the state is not disproportionately affected by this massive change in the US healthcare system."

Johnson: Bill Would Shift Power To States. Sen. Ron Johnson writes in [USA Today](#) (9/20), "Obamacare was never designed to be patient-friendly. In fact, one of the key tenets of Obamacare is taking power away from patients and local officials. Obamacare gives this decision-making power to the federal government." Graham-Cassidy "would change that by block-granting Obamacare spending to states, empowering those closest to their communities to provide effective solutions."

Lanhee Chen of the Hoover Institution writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/20) that the bill's federalism is its most appealing component. However, Avik Roy of the Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity, a former policy adviser to several GOP presidential candidates, writes in the [Washington Post](#) (9/20), "Cassidy-Graham, in its current form, would put a heavy Washington hand on the federalism steering wheel. The bill would make it relatively easy for blue states to expand the role of single-payer health care, while making it rather difficult for red states to achieve market-oriented reforms."

Schumer, Pelosi Working To Defeat Measure. The [New York Times](#) (9/20, Stolberg) looks at how Senate Minority Leader Schumer and House Minority Leader Pelosi, who "have forged what may be the most surprisingly potent partnership in Mr. Trump's Washington," are now attempting to kill Graham-Cassidy. But both said Trump "was noncommittal."

Christie Opposes Bill. [Politico](#) (9/20, Jennings) reports that Gov. Chris Christie said Wednesday, "I oppose Graham-Cassidy because it is too injurious to the people of New Jersey. I'm certainly not going to support a bill that takes nearly \$4 billion from people in the state."

BCBS Association, AHIP Announce Opposition. The [New York Times](#) (9/20, Pear) reports that "the two major trade groups for insurers," the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association and America's Health Insurance Plans, "came out forcefully" against the bill on Wednesday, "suggesting that its state-by-state block grants could create health care chaos in the short term"

and a Balkanized, uncertain insurance market.”

Avalere Health Analysis: 34 States Would Lose Federal Funding. The [Washington Post](#) (9/20, Goldstein, Eilperin) reports that an analysis by Avalere Health concludes that Graham-Cassidy “would sharply reduce federal spending on health insurance and cause 34 states to lose such funding. ... States with relatively low medical costs, skimpy Medicaid benefits and no program expansion would win out. Texas would gain more than any state – \$35 billion from 2020 through 2026.”

Cassidy Says Kimmel “Does Not Fully Grasp The Bill.” The [New York Times](#) (9/20, Rogers) reports, “Hours after Jimmy Kimmel unleashed a monologue attacking” Graham-Cassidy, the two senators “spent Wednesday morning defending the legislation against the late-night host, who in recent months has become an unlikely – and increasingly impassioned – critic.” Kimmel “delivered an earnest monologue on Tuesday evening,” accusing Cassidy “of failing to deliver on several key issues, including lowering premiums, expanding coverage, banning lifetime caps and not discriminating based on pre-existing conditions.” Cassidy told Fox News that “Kimmel did not fully grasp the bill.” Graham said on the same network, “I understand the emotional nature of having a sick child. ... I bet he looked at some liberal talking point, bought it hook, line and sinker, and went after Bill Cassidy without talking to him.” Cassidy said on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (9/20), “There will be more people covered...than are under status quo and we protect those with pre-existing conditions.” Graham said on [Fox News’ Fox & Friends](#) (9/20), “Our bill requires preexisting illnesses to be covered in the block grant.”

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/20, story 5, 2:05, Muir), Mary Bruce reported, “Cassidy promised he would defend protections for people with preexisting conditions. But now, Kimmel says he’s not living up to his word.” [Politico](#) (9/20, Diamond) writes, “In the war of words between Jimmy Kimmel and Sen. Bill Cassidy, the late-night host has the better grasp of health policy, health care analysts say.” Experts say “that Kimmel’s assessment was basically accurate because of the flexibility the bill gives states to set up their own health care systems.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/20, story 7, 2:10, Holt) and [Bloomberg News](#) (9/20, Dennis, Tracer) also report on Kimmel’s remarks and Cassidy’s response.

Obama: “50th Or 60th” ACA Repeal Effort Is “Aggravating.” [USA Today](#) (9/20, Estepa) reports that former President Obama, addressing the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation on Wednesday, said, “When I see people trying to undo that progress for the 50th or 60th time, with bills that would raise costs or reduce coverage, or rollback protections for older Americans or pre-existing conditions – the cancer survivor, the expecting mom or the child with autism or asthma, for whom coverage would once again be almost unattainable – it is aggravating. And all of this being done without any economic or actuarial or plain common sense rationale.” [The Hill](#) (9/20, Carney) reports that Graham replied, “It’s no surprise President Obama opposes sending money and power back to the states and closer to where the patients live. Obamacare was designed with the exact opposite goal in mind – which is to consolidate healthcare power and decision-making in Washington.”

USA Today: Graham-Cassidy “Would Be Poison.” [USA Today](#) (9/20) runs an editorial headlined “Last-Ditch Obamacare Repeal Would Be Poison,” writing, “This measure would strip tens of millions of people of their health coverage. It would gut Medicaid,” and would “allow insurers in some states to deny coverage based on a previous medical condition. And it would allow insurers to skip coverage of essential services, including maternity care. That’s all bad enough, but the Graham-Cassidy measure adds a new level of cynicism...with states that vote largely Republican faring far better than Democratic ones.”

Number Of DACA Denials Has Doubled Under Trump.

The [Washington Times](#) (9/20, Dinan) reports that numbers released Wednesday show that DHS “has doubled the rate of denials of Dreamers’ amnesty applications,” suggesting that “the administration had been taking a harder line even before President Trump’s announcement this month that he would phase out the DACA program altogether.” From April to June, “32 percent applications for DACA status that were decided...were rejected,” which is “twice the 16 percent rate of the last months of the Obama administration.”

Pelosi: Dreamers’ Parents “Did A Great Thing” For The Country. The [Washington Times](#) (9/20, Dinan) reports that in comments that “strike a dissonant note from many analysts, who while saying the Dreamers are sympathetic since they had no say in the decision, say the parents do deserve blame for creating the problem,” House Minority Leader Pelosi said Wednesday that “parents who brought their children to the US in defiance of the law ‘did a great thing,’ giving the country an infusion of successful young people.”

Politico Analysis: Senate GOP Will Not “Fall In Line Behind” Trump’s Tax Plan.

[Politico](#) (9/20, Faler) reports that while House leaders and Trump Administration officials have worked for months to ensure “a smooth rollout” of tax reform legislation, Senate Republicans “are making it clear they’re not going to fall in line behind” Trump’s plan. Senate Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch “warned” that the “Big Six” proposal “will only be advisory,” and Senate Republicans “are following that up with plans to seek a \$1.5 trillion tax cut, putting them at odds with the House, where Speaker Paul Ryan, another Big Six member, wants permanent changes that don’t add to the deficit.”

WSJournal: Corker-Toomey Deal Creates More Room For Tax Cuts. A [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/20) editorial says the budget deal struck between Sens. Bob Corker and Pat Toomey creates additional space for cutting taxes and calls on Republicans to follow their lead and make good on their promise to pass tax reform.

Fed Leaves Rates Unchanged, Says It Will Reduce Its Bond Holdings.

The Federal Reserve on Wednesday said the US economy is “finally sturdy enough...to withdraw the extraordinary support it has provided it since the depths of the recession and financial crisis,” [USA Today](#) (9/20, Davidson) reports. In a move USA Today said could “nudge consumer borrowing costs higher,” the Fed agreed “to begin gradually shedding much of the roughly \$3.5 trillion in bonds it snapped up during and after the downturn to lower long-term interest rates.” Fed Chair Yellen told a news conference, “We’re working down our balance sheet because we think in some sense it’s no longer needed. ... We feel the US economy is performing well.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/20, Timiraos) says the Fed has been signaling the move for months. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/20) says it supports the Fed’s decision to reduce its bond holdings, but adds that it should have begun sooner and should be happening faster.

The [New York Times](#) (9/20, Appelbaum) says the Fed “left its benchmark interest rate unchanged.” While “most Fed officials predicted in a new round of economic forecasts that the Fed would increase rates later this year,” officials “once again reduced their expectations for future rate hikes.” The median prediction now holds that “the benchmark rate will stabilize at 2.8 percent, down from a median estimate of 3 percent in June.”

Economists Blame “Start-Up Slump” For Slow Economic Expansion. The [New York Times](#) (9/20, Casselman) reports that economists say the “tame” economic expansion since the recession is due, in part, to “a start-up slump – a decline in the creation of new businesses – and a growing understanding of what’s behind it.” According to the Census Bureau, “414,000 businesses were formed in 2015.” While that is “a slight increase from the previous year,” it is “well below the 558,000 companies given birth in 2006, the year before the recession set in.” Many economists attribute the slump to “the rising power of the biggest corporations, which they argue is stifling entrepreneurship by making it easier for incumbent businesses to swat away challengers – or else to swallow them before they become a serious threat.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Tax Cuts For The Rich By Another Name.” The [New York Times](#) (9/21, Board) editorializes that Republicans on the Senate Budget Committee “violated their supposedly sacrosanct principles of fiscal hawkishness this week, by saying that it would be just fine with them to add \$1.5 trillion to the deficit over 10 years in order to cut taxes.” The Times says they “justify this hypocrisy by asserting what has been disproved time and again — that tax cuts spur the economy and compensate for any lost revenue” — while, “in fact, these cuts could hurt the very people they purport to help — small-business owners, middle-class professionals and working-class Americans.”

“Moscow’s Monument To Murder.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/21) writes that “like many a statue in the United States that we have struggled over of late, the towering monument to Mikhail Kalashnikov, unveiled in a highly visible spot in Moscow on Tuesday, seems to have been put up for mostly the wrong reasons. The statue was promoted by the Russian culture minister, Vladimir Medinsky, a nationalist who spends much of his time glorifying Russian military history.” However, the Times says that “shortly before his death” in 2013 Kalashnikov wrote that “if his automatic weapon deprived people of life...was he not ‘guilty of people’s deaths, even enemies?’” The Times says “hopefully” the statue will “lead some viewers past Mr. Putin’s nationalistic intentions and to the painful questions that the inventor of the world’s most

abundant weapon wrestled with.”

Washington Post.

“The White House’s Preposterous Policy Analysis On Refugees.” A [Washington Post](#) (9/20) editorial says that “xenophobes seeking an upper hand in the Trump administration have covered up” a report showing refugees’ revenue contributions to federal, state, and local governments. A report ordered by the President in March “concluded that refugees had delivered \$63 billion more in federal, state and local tax revenue than they had cost in federal benefits through the decade ending in 2014.” However, according to the New York Times, the fact that refugees “pay more in taxes than they draw in benefits...was suppressed by Stephen Miller, Mr. Trump’s nativist senior policy adviser.” The Post argues that “it would be not just callous for Washington to turn its back on” refugees, it would be “an act of national redefinition and an abdication of leadership.”

“The ‘New’ Saudi Arabia Is Still A Dungeon.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/20) writes that despite the “lofty rhetoric” of Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman’s “Vision 2030” declaration, Salman “increasingly resembles an earlier generation of leaders with authoritarian methods.” The Post highlights the Saudi government’s recent “wide-ranging crackdown” on clerics, journalists, and activists – many of whom were jailed with little explanation.

“DC Moves Toward A Safer Strategy For Youth Rehabilitation.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/20) applauds the District of Columbia Council for offering a “comprehensive” and “thoughtful” overhaul of the city’s Youth Rehabilitation Act. The new legislation “preserves the worthwhile goal of rehabilitation for defendants 21 or younger” but also tempers “this leniency with common-sense protections for public safety,” such as making offensive actions like sexual assault ineligible for the act.

Wall Street Journal.

“Tax Reform Progress.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/20) editorial says the budget deal struck between Sens. Bob Corker and Pat Toomey creates additional space for cutting taxes and calls on Republicans to follow their lead and make good on their promise to pass tax reform.

“The Slow And Steady Fed.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/20) says it supports the Fed’s decision to reduce its bond holdings, but adds that it should have begun sooner and should be happening faster.

“Afternoon In Germany.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/20) writes that German Chancellor Angela Merkel is heading toward a comfortable win in Germany’s upcoming election, in what the Journal describes as a campaign built upon a mood of public complacency. The Journal argues that despite her win, Merkel will likely not provide the leadership necessary to launch the reforms the country needs to meet manufacturing competition from China or the challenge of Brexit, and may not have the determination to face threats from Vladimir Putin.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Fed Unveils Plan To Pare Holdings, Hints At Another Rate Rise](#)
[Hackers Entered Equifax Systems In March](#)
[States Need \\$645 Billion To Pay Full Health-Care Costs](#)
[The Secret Of Angela Merkel’s Longevity: Strategic Flip-Flops](#)

New York Times:

[Mueller Seeks White House Documents Related To Trump’s Actions As President](#)
[Hurricane Maria Strikes, And Puerto Rico Goes Dark](#)
[At Mexican School Hit By Quake, Heartbreak And Dwindling Hope](#)
[Trump Pushes To Revisit Iran Nuclear Deal, And Asks Allies To Help](#)
[Insurers Come Out Swinging Against New Republican Health Care Bill](#)
[Confident Fed Sets Stage For December Rate Increase](#)

Washington Post:

[Death Toll In Mexico Rises Amid Search For Missing](#)

[Murkowski Finds Herself In Healthcare Hot Seat Again](#)
[Manafort Email Draws Interest](#)
[Probe Casts Wide Net Toward White House](#)
[No Power In Pummeled Puerto Rico](#)

Financial Times:

[Spanish National Police Raid Catalan Government Headquarters](#)
[Fed Calls Historic End To Quantitative Easing](#)
[Lawmakers Fear Russia's Facebook Meddling Continues](#)
[Toshiba Seals \\$18bn Memory Chip Sale To Bain-Led Group](#)

Washington Times:

[McConnell Pressures Senate Republican Holdouts To Support Last-Ditch Obamacare Repeal Bill](#)
[Iranian President Warns "Ignorant" Trump Not To Withdraw From Nuclear Deal](#)
[Islamic State Changes Battlefield Tactics To Guerrilla Warfare After Losing Territory To Coalition](#)
[Afghanistan Welcomes Trump Plan For Long-Term US Occupation](#)
[DACA Denial Rate Doubles Under Trump Administration](#)
[Clashes Intensify As Spain Tries To Block Catalonia's Secession Referendum](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Hurricane Tracking; Mexico City Earthquake; Russia Meddling Investigation; Congress-Healthcare Reform; North Korea Threats; Myanmar-Rohingya Genocide; Yankee Stadium Foul Ball Injury; Family Struck By Lightning; California-Drug Bust; Jake LaMotta Dies; Bone Marrow Donor.

CBS: Hurricane-Caribbean; Mexico City Earthquake; Russia Meddling Investigation; Congress-Healthcare Reform; Amazon-Bomb Materials; Yankee Stadium Foul Ball Injury; High School Football-Dangers; Jake LaMotta Dies; San Diego-Hepatitis A Outbreak; New York City-Global Citizen Festival.

NBC: Hurricane-Caribbean; Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Hurricane Tracking; Mexico City Earthquake 1; Mexico City Earthquake 2; Los Angeles Earthquake Preparation; Congress-Healthcare Reform; Trump-Iran Nuclear Deal; Jake LaMotta Dies; Airlines-Extra Fees; Mexico City Earthquake 3.

Network TV At A Glance:

Hurricane – 12 minutes, 25 seconds
Mexico City Earthquake – 11 minutes, 55 seconds
Congress-Healthcare Reform – 6 minutes, 20 seconds
Russia Meddling Investigation – 4 minutes, 30 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Mexico City Earthquake; Hurricane-Puerto Rico.

CBS: Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Mexico City Earthquake; Congress-Healthcare Reform; Fed Reserve-Interest Rate; Jake LaMotta Dies.

FOX: Mexico City Earthquake; Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Trump-Iran Nuclear Deal.

NPR: Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Mexico City Earthquake; Congress-Healthcare Reform; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in a meeting with the President of Afghanistan; participates in an expanded meeting with the President of Ukraine; participates in an expanded meeting with the President of the Republic of Korea; participates in an expanded meeting with the Prime Minister of Japan; participates in an expanded meeting with the President of Turkey.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in an interview with CBS This Morning; participates in an interview with Fox and Friends; joins the President to participate in an expanded meeting with the President of Afghanistan; joins the President to participate in an expanded meeting with the President of Ukraine; joins the President to participate in an expanded meeting with the President of the Republic of Korea; joins the President to participate in an expanded meeting with the Prime Minister of Japan.

US Senate: 8:30 AM Senate convenes for pro forma session – Senate convenes for a pro forma

session * No votes scheduled in the chamber today or tomorrow Location: Washington, DC
<http://www.senate.gov/>

No votes scheduled in the Senate.

US House: 11:00 AM House of Representatives convenes for pro forma session Location:
Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

On recess until 25 September.

Other: 10:30 AM Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Legislative Conference – Congressional Black Caucus Foundation 47th Annual Legislative Conference continues, themed 'And Still I Rise'. Agenda today includes the Inaugural Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Braintrust hosted by Democratic Rep. Alma Adams (10:30 AM EDT), and National Association of Real Estate Brokers 'State of Housing in Black America' forum, with Democratic Rep. Gregory Meeks (2:00 PM EDT) Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt Vernon Pl, Washington, DC www.cbcbfinc.org/alc <https://twitter.com/CBCFInc> #CBCFALC17

2:00 PM Rwandan President Kagame speaks at Brookings – 'Flagship reforms for a more effective African Union: A conversation with Rwandan President Paul Kagame' Brookings Institution discussion Location: The Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst> #AUREform

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: " I don't want to turn this into a Kanye and Taylor Swift-type situation, but when Senator Cassidy was on my show in May, he told me that he believed that every American family, regardless of income, should be able to get quality healthcare. And I believed he was sincere. Sadly, the bill he unveiled last week with Senator Lindsey Graham indicates that he was not sincere."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Imagine Donald Trump trying to read a healthcare bill. It's like trying to imagine a dog doing your taxes, it doesn't compute. I don't blame him, I did more homework this week than all my years of college combined. This healthcare bill is confusing, especially for those not experts in the field."

Stephen Colbert: "Republicans are trying to repeal and replace Obamacare, again. This is beyond beating a dead horse. This is getting damn close to bestiality."

Stephen Colbert: "Before the vote, Republicans have set aside 90 seconds of debate. In other words, they're going to kill Obamacare in roughly the amount of time it takes to microwave a frozen burrito. Both will kill you."

Stephen Colbert: "Trump economic adviser Stephen Moore explained what's driving the latest Republican push to repeal Obamacare. 'People want insurance for their own families, not for other people's families.' What a compassionate man. It's all summed up in his new line of greeting cards. 'Happy birthday, grandma. If we weren't related, I'd leave you to die.' Based on a true story."

James Corden: "It was revealed today that Donald Trump is using campaign donations and money from the Republican National Committee to help pay for his legal fees tied to the Russia investigation. ... Trump using the campaign funds is not illegal, but an unprecedented move by a sitting President, and we all know how Trump feels about anything unprecedented. He feels it's hard to spell."

Trevor Noah: "I don't know if you've ever driven from Maryland to Pennsylvania, but it's like, 'Nice road. We're in a new state, we're in a new state, honey.' Now imagine instead of car, that's your kidney. Like seriously, the states are going to control it. What if you live in New Jersey? Now Chris Christie is controlling your access to healthcare, the same guy who wouldn't even give people access to the beach."

Trevor Noah: "What kind of hole puncher thinks maternity care isn't essential? Every human being at some point needed maternity care. We were all born, even Ted Cruz, all of us."

Jimmy Fallon: "Well, today is the third day of the UN General Assembly, or as Trump calls it, boring Epcot. There's no rides. No monorail."

Jimmy Fallon: "During a speech today, Trump mispronounced the African nation of Namibia, and instead called it Nambia. Then Trump corrected himself, and said, 'Sorry, I meant Narnia.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "President Trump also talked about the possibility of peace in the Middle East, and said that stranger things have happened. He said, 'For example, me.'"

Seth Meyers: "During Melania Trump's UN speech today, she spoke out against bullying, and then her husband took the stage to give the rebuttal."

Seth Meyers: "During the same speech, Melania Trump encouraged the next generation to live by the golden rule, which I think she and Donald take literally."

Seth Meyers: "In a new interview, former Secretary of State John Kerry did not rule out running for President in 2020, because who better to lose to our worst President than the guy who lost to our old worst President?"

Conan O'Brien: "Not everyone having a good time right now. Trump had a little misstep in his speech today. ... During a speech to African leaders today, President Trump accidentally made up the Nambia. Even worse, he promised to help Nambia in their war with Narnia."

Conan O'Brien: "Yesterday. Attorney General Jeff Sessions visited Portland, Oregon. After his visit, Sessions said, 'You know, dreadlocks aren't so scary when they're on a white guy.'"

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- Elko (NV) Daily Free Press: Thomas Mitchell: Zinke's National Monument Modifications Too Modest.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Wyoming Public Radio: Obama-Era Fracking Rule May Soon Go Back Into Effect, Or Not.
- CBS News: Senate Bill Could Trigger Mass Slaughter Of Wild Mustang.
- Santa Fe New Mexican: Tribes Ask Feds To Halt Drilling Leases In Chaco Region.
- WOUB-FM Athens (OH): Fracking Protesters: Our Concerns Are Being Ignored.
- Jackson Hole (WY) News & Guide: Game And Fish Open To BLM Land Transfers.
- Las Vegas Review-Journal: Judge Rejects Cliven Bundy's Request To Represent Himself.
- Bend (OR) Bulletin: BLM Needs To Answer Questions.
- Bend (OR) Bulletin: Common Sense Protection For Crooked River Ranch.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- US, Mexico Reach Deal To Conserve Colorado River Water.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Sacramento (CA) Bee: US Fish And Wildlife Service Approved Delta Pumping Increase.
- U.S. News & World Report: US Agency To Decide If Pacific Walrus Is Threatened Species.
- Alaska Public Radio Network: Enviros Sound The Alarm On ANWR.
- Chesterfield (VA) Observer: James River Wildlife Refuge Opens To Public For A Day.
- Los Angeles Times: Man Smuggles Live Corals Inside Pringles Potato Chip Containers At LAX, Authorities Say.
- U.S. News & World Report: Two Florida Men Plead Guilty To Tying Up Endangered Key Deer.

National Park Service

- New York Times: National Parks Struggle With A Mounting Crisis: Too Many Visitors.
- Ste. Genevieve (MO) Herald: U.S. Rep. Smith Confident About National Park Legislation.
- WJLA-TV Washington: Giant Naked Woman Sculpture Planned For National Mall.
- Morristown (NJ) Daily Record: 23 From 13 Countries Took The Oath Of Allegiance In Morristown.
- Carteret County (NC) News-Times: NPS Reopening Cape Lookout Friday.
- Washington Times: Comment Period Extended On Olympics Mountain Goat Plan.
- Pocono (PA) News: Park Service Superintendent Donahue To Retire.
- Washington Post: Ranger: Yosemite Rock Fall Kills 1, Injures Another.
- Allentown (PA) Morning Call: East Stroudsburg Man Convicted Of Striking Park Ranger With Car.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- The Hill: Trump Says He Is "Thinking About" Jones Act Waiver For Puerto Rico.
- New York Times: Storms Amplified USVI's Economic Crisis.
- Marianas Variety: 80 Student Leaders Participate In Youth Summit.
- Marianas Variety: Marshalls Trust Fund Panel Meets In Hawaii.
- Marianas Variety: FSM Trust Fund Panel Meets In Hawaii.
- Additional Reading.

US Geological Survey

- Moab (UT) Sun News: Moab Watershed Study Completed.
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- WISH-TV Indianapolis: Trump Touts Tax Cut Plan In Indianapolis.
- New York Post: Trump To Sign Order Allowing People To Buy Health Insurance Across State Lines.

- Washington Examiner: EPA Program Seeks To Engage Industry To Reduce Regulatory Burden.

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DOI In The News

Three Trump Cabinet Secretaries To Visit Pennsylvania This Week.

The [AP](#) (9/27) reports that "the heads of the Interior, Labor and Energy departments under President Donald Trump are coming to Pennsylvania this week for a trio of unrelated events." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will "visit Valley Forge National Historical Park in King of Prussia on Thursday to learn about the facility and meet staff." Also on Thursday, Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta will "tour Signature Building Systems in Moosic to see the modular home builder while Energy Secretary Rick Perry will tour the Jeddo coal mine in Ebervale."

Zinke, Pruitt Welcome Aggregates Industry To DC.

[Aggregate Research Industries](#) (9/27) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt "welcomed the aggregates industry to Washington, DC during the National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association's Legislative & Policy Forum/Fall Board Meeting." Both officials commented "on the burden of over-regulation facing businesses in the country." Zinke said, "If I didn't think that it could be done, I wouldn't be the Secretary. We have good people and we have great plans and great assets. We need to put them together and allow industry to innovate, think out of the box and get the job done. That's not too much to ask for a great country like ours."

Interior Officials Ready A Big Fashion Statement.

[E&E Publishing](#) (9/27, Doyle) reports that officials at the Interior Department are "now tailoring a lucrative uniform contract to help park rangers and other employees dress for success." According to the article, "the new uniform contract for eight different agencies could button up the business for the next five years and be worth an estimated \$60 million to the winning vendor." Interior Department spokeswoman Heather Swift said, "Getting new uniforms for field personnel is actually a topic that is frequently brought up. The secretary and deputy secretary are both motivated to get this done for the [Interior] team." The article says that "the new uniform issue has become one of the pressing topics repeatedly cited by career employees on Interior's electronic 'ideas box,' established about a month ago (Greenwire, Sept. 25)."

New Mexico Gets \$1.1M For Outdoor Recreation Projects.

The [AP](#) (9/27) reports that the US Department of the Interior announced \$1.1 million in federal grants from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for New Mexico to use on outdoor recreation

and conservation projects. All 50 states are obtaining a portion of the \$93 million set for distribution from the fund. Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM) "said the fund in the past has protected places such as Ute Mountain near New Mexico's northern border and Valles Caldera in the Jemez Mountains."

The [Dickinson County \(IA\) News](#) (9/27) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "recently announced that \$1,231,917 will be distributed to the state of Iowa for outdoor recreation and conservation projects from the Land and Water Conservation Fund."

The [Newark \(OH\) Advocate](#) (9/27, Martin) reports that Zinke also "announced that \$2,782,023 will be distributed to the state of Ohio for outdoor recreation and conservation projects from the Land and Water Conservation Fund."

The [Big Horn Radio Network](#) (9/27) reports that Zinke "announced last week that \$831,216 will be distributed to Wyoming from the Land and Water Conservation Fund."

Zinke Says His Workers Are Disloyal. They Say His Personnel Moves Break The Law.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/27, Fears) reports that according to a spokesperson, Department of the Interior Deputy Inspector General Mary Kendall is attempting to "to determine if the U.S. Department of the Interior followed appropriate guidelines and best practices in the reassignment of Senior Executive Service employees." According to reassigned climate scientist Joel Clement's lawyer Katherine Atkinson, Clements "believes...that the administration targeted him because he was speaking out about the danger [of climate change] to Alaska Native Communities." Atkinson added that "as a result, they labeled him as a climate guy." The Post adds that Clement was moved to a position for which he had no experience.

Four NM Federal Lawmakers Decry Inaccuracies In Zinke Report.

The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (9/27, Soular) reports that "four of five members of New Mexico's congressional delegation sent a letter this week to President Donald Trump's administration, urging officials to reject changes to national monuments as recommended by Interior Department Secretary Ryan Zinke." According to the article, "in particular, the Democrats in the state's delegation have taken aim at what they say are inaccuracies in Zinke's recently leaked report, which reviewed more than two dozen monuments across the country for possible changes." The group "notes, accurately, that Zinke's report recommends changes to monument management plans — formal documents used by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to guide its oversight of the lands in question — that don't exist."

Federal Fire Suppression Memo Gets Mixed Response; Forestry Experts, Managers Praise Intent, Criticize Approach.

The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (9/27, Hamway) reports that "near the peak of one of the most disruptive fire seasons in recent memory across the Western United States, Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke called for more aggressive fire suppression efforts." But "forestry experts and forest managers in Central Oregon said that while the memo had some good ideas, some of its approaches were too broad for the region's complex ecosystem, and limited without being accompanied by funding."

Interior Dept. Sued For Petroleum Institute Meeting Records.

[Law360](#) (9/27, Lidgett) reports in a paywall only article, "A nonprofit government watchdog group on Wednesday hit the U.S. Department of the Interior with a federal lawsuit for allegedly refusing to hand over various records pertaining to a meeting that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke had with the board of directors of the American Petroleum Institute."

Burgum: Goal Of Doubling Oil Production In North Dakota 'May Be Too Low'.

The [Jamestown \(ND\) Sun](#) (9/27, Baumgarten) reports the annual North Dakota Petroleum Council meeting was held on Wednesday. Vincent DeVito, counselor on energy policy for the Interior Department, was among the speakers. DeVito said, "The Department of Interior being a better business partner for investors, those that want to develop on federal land, is the key to our strategy to energy dominance."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Dickinson \(ND\) Press](#) (9/27, Baumgarten).

EPA Chief Flew On Private And Military Aircraft For Official Business: Report.

[The Hill](#) (9/27, Greenwood) reports that Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt "used both private and military aircraft for official travel over the summer." Pruitt flew

from Cincinnati to JFK Airport on an Air Force plane on June 7 before boarding a commercial flight to Italy for the Group of Seven environment summit. An EPA spokesman told CNN that use of the military plane had been necessary "due to logistical obstacles and the need to schedule meetings with the Vatican before the G7 Summit." Both flights were "reportedly cleared by the agency's ethics council."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/27, Dennis, Eilperin) reports that "on July 27, records show, Pruitt and six staff members arranged a flight on a Department of Interior plane from Tulsa to the tiny outpost of Guymon, Okla., at a cost of \$14,434.50."

Trump's Most (and Least) Popular Cabinet Members.

[Politico](#) (9/27) reports that in a poll on the popularity of Cabinet members, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke scored: "22% favorable, 22% unfavorable, 22% have no opinion of him, and 34% haven't heard of him."

Also reporting are [The Hill](#) (9/27, Bowden) and [UPI](#) (9/27, Shayanian).

Yes, Trump Can Revoke National Monuments.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (9/27, Wood), Jonathan Wood, an attorney at Pacific Legal Foundation and an adjunct fellow at the Property and Environment Research Center, argues that "nothing in the Antiquities Act forbids the president from revoking or shrinking a national monument." For support, Wood points to history: "Seven presidents have shrunk national monuments, including President William Howard Taft, who reduced the Navajo National Monument by nearly 90 percent." Furthermore, Wood argues that "there is a reason we allow presidents to undo the actions of their predecessors. A president who could unilaterally set policy forever would have far too much power and be free of political checks and balances."

Experts Assess Interior Secretary Zinke's Proposals.

In a piece for the [Conversation \(UK\)](#) (9/27), four experts analyze Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recommendations on national monuments. Robert B. Keiter, Professor of Law at the University of Utah, writes that if a legal challenge is filed, "the case will likely turn on whether authority to modify national monuments can be inferred from the Antiquities Act's silence." Anthony Moffa, Professor of Law at the University of Maine; and Sarah Schindler Professor of Law at the University of Maine, write that Katahdin Woods and Waters is "already specially regulated to allow hunting and snowmobiling – activities that typically are prohibited in national parks and monuments." They argue that "Zinke's recommendation to add timber harvesting would violate the terms of the agreement and the careful balance between uses that the landowners sought." Syma A. Ebbin, Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Connecticut, writes that closing "monuments to high-impact and industrial fishing practices could help protect or restore the habitats, species and other important environmental features that the monuments were created to safeguard."

Don't Let Fake Narrative Block Monuments Review.

In an op-ed for the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (9/27, Denowh), Chuck Denowh, the policy director of United Property Owners of Montana, writes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has "made an admirable attempt to solicit input from Montanans about how national monuments have affected our state." Denowh is dismayed "that effort has been drowned out by fake advertisements aimed at misleading Montanans and funded by out-of-state environmental groups." Denowh dismisses the claim that the monuments review will "result in the federal government selling federal land to private entities" as "ridiculous."

Op-Ed: We Must Protect Wild Utah.

In an op-ed for the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/27, Abdo), Mike Abdo writes that the Antiquities Act was "rightfully and appropriately invoked in the creation" of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and the Bears Ears National Monument. Abdo calls on citizens to speak out against Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's plan "to eviscerate and exploit our national monuments."

Thomas Mitchell: Zinke's National Monument Modifications Too Modest.

In his column for the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (9/27, Mitchell), Thomas Mitchell calls Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recommendations on national monuments "far too modest." He notes that "Zinke recommended unspecified changes to the Gold Butte boundaries but totally ignored the massive 700,000-acre Basin and Range National Monument that straddles the border between

Nye and Lincoln counties, even though members of the Congressional Western Caucus recommended reducing it to 2,500 acres – ‘the smallest area compatible,’ as the law says, to protect the Indian petroglyphs there.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Obama-Era Fracking Rule May Soon Go Back Into Effect, Or Not.

[Wyoming Public Radio](#) (9/27, McKim) reports that after a federal appellate court vacated a 2015 decision which stopped an Obama Administration Bureau of Land Management (BLM) fracking rule, the March 2015 rule may go into effect.

The [Sublette \(WY\) Examiner](#) (9/27, Ufford) reports that Wyoming, among other states, challenged the March 2015 BLM rule by “arguing the BLM does not have regulatory authority over fracking on public lands and that states’ regulations provide sufficient guidance.” Comments regarding the fracking rule were due to the BLM by Monday, Sept. 25.

Independent Oil, Gas Producers Push For The Withdrawal Of Hydraulic Fracturing Rule.

[DailyEnergyInsider](#) (9/27, Randolph) reports that Monday the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA), and the Western Energy Alliance presented the Bureau of Land Management with comments urging the end of its March 2015 hydraulic fracturing rule on Native American and federal lands. According to the comments, rescinding the rule would allow the industry to save more than \$220 million each year. The comments come after the BLM’s recent proposal to retract the March 2015 rule. The comments also said, “the Associations are grateful that BLM now realizes that the one-size-fits-all solution the agency issued in 2015 was not an appropriate mechanism to address unsubstantiated public concern about hydraulic fracturing.”

Senate Bill Could Trigger Mass Slaughter Of Wild Mustang.

[CBS News](#) (9/27) reports that “the fate of thousands of wild horses hangs in the balance as the Senate considers an amendment to a spending bill that would allow euthanasia of mustangs and burros roaming free on land owned by the federal government.” The amendment would allow the Bureau of Land Management “to sell excess wild horses without an assurance they wouldn’t be slaughtered.” According to the article, “the matter will eventually be settled in negotiations between the Senate and the House.”

It’s A No Brainer: Republicans Should Be Opposed To Horse Slaughter. For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (9/27, Horowitz), author David Horowitz writes that congressional Republicans will “commit political suicide” if they “legalize the slaughter of America’s wild horses.” Horowitz points to polls which “show that 80 percent of men, 90 percent of women and 86 percent of Trump supporters oppose horse slaughter.” He claims that “the push to slaughter wild horses is coming from a narrow – but powerful – special interest lobby in the D.C. swamp made up of millionaire and billionaire cattle ranchers on America’s federal lands.” Horowitz urges Republican leaders in the Senate “to come out forcefully against the House bill.” He also wants President Trump to say “that he will veto any legislation to legalize the slaughter of America’s horses.”

Tribes Ask Feds To Halt Drilling Leases In Chaco Region.

The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (9/28, Moss) reports that “leaders of a dozen New Mexico pueblos are asking the federal government to stop all new oil and gas development near sacred sites surrounding the Chaco Culture National Historical Park, following the recent announcement of a preliminary plan by the Bureau of Land Management to lease thousands of acres in the region in early 2018.” The All Pueblo Council of Governors, “in a resolution signed last week, said it is asking the BLM and Bureau of Indian Affairs to halt any further drilling leases and permits in northwestern New Mexico’s Greater Chaco Region, generally defined as the land lying within at least a 10-mile radius of the national park, as well as other areas holding cultural significance between the tiny Navajo communities of White Rock and Nageezi in San Juan County.” According to the resolution, the moratorium is necessary “to preserve sacred archaeological sites, protect views and maintain the darkness of the night sky at Chaco, deemed a UNESCO World Heritage Site for its vast collection of ancient ruins.”

Fracking Protesters: Our Concerns Are Being Ignored.

[WOUB-FM](#) Athens, OH (9/27, Niemeyer) reports that “environmental activist groups say a federal agency is ignoring their concerns and protests over the leasing of land for oil and gas development in the Wayne National Forest.” Bureau of Land Management officials “held a third

lease auction of the Wayne National Forest on Thursday, leasing another 141 acres to develop 'oil and gas reserves' in Monroe County." Local activist groups "protested in front of the Wayne National Forest's Marietta office on Sept. 9, but many of these protesters feel their efforts are brushed aside."

Game And Fish Open To BLM Land Transfers.

The [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (9/27, Gross) reports that Wyoming Game and Fish is "re-evaluating whether it wants to take on ownership of several riparian parcels scattered along the Snake River in Teton County." More than a decade ago the Bureau of Land Management "announced it wished to dispose of 24 parcels from the Snake's confluence with the Gros Ventre River to South Park."

Judge Rejects Cliven Bundy's Request To Represent Himself.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (9/27, Ferrara) reports that "a judge on Wednesday denied Bunkerville rancher Cliven Bundy's request to represent himself at trial next month on charges related to a 2014 standoff with the Bureau of Land Management." U.S. Magistrate Judge Peggy Leen "asked Bundy a series of questions in order to determine whether he could act as his own lawyer in what is expected to be a lengthy trial with six other defendants." In the end, the judge decided defense attorney Bret Whipple "should remain as the trial attorney."

BLM Needs To Answer Questions.

In an editorial, the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (9/27) questions when the Bureau of Land Management will "start being open about a private home built on 18 acres of public land near Prineville." The paper says that "the BLM needs to answer questions" since it is "the public's land that we are talking about, after all, and the public deserves to know how its disposition is being handled."

Common Sense Protection For Crooked River Ranch.

In an op-ed for the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (9/27, Walden), Rep. Greg Walden writes that in response to the wildfire threat, residents of Crooked River Ranch have "done their part by thinning and trimming junipers to create defensible space around their homes." However, "encumbered by the red tape of a Wilderness Study Area (WSA), the federal government on the adjacent Bureau of Land Management-managed land has not done its part, leaving the community in harm's way." Walden has introduced legislation — the Crooked River Ranch Fire Protection Act — that "makes very targeted, common sense changes to allow for practical management of the fire fuels that surround Crooked River Ranch." According to Walden, "this legislation simply moves the WSA boundary a few hundred yards back to the canyon rim, giving firefighters the defensive space they need to help save the Crooked River Ranch community from the potential of a devastating wildfire."

Bureau Of Reclamation

US, Mexico Reach Deal To Conserve Colorado River Water.

The [AP](#) (9/27, Lee, Elliott) reports that "the United States and Mexico unveiled an agreement Wednesday to preserve the overtaxed Colorado River, including spending millions of dollars on conservation and environmental projects and drawing up plans to deal with any shortages amid drought and climate change." The United States "pledged to invest \$31.5 million in water conservation projects in Mexico, such as lining irrigation ditches with concrete to reduce leaks and upgrading irrigation equipment to use less water." The nine-year agreement is "an amendment to a 1944 treaty that governs how the U.S. and Mexico share and manage the river, which flows through both nations. It expands on a 2012 amendment that expires at the end of this year."

Also reporting are the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/27, Montero), the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (9/27, Brea), the [Arizona Republic](#) (9/27, Loomis), the [Arizona Republic](#) (9/27), and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/27, Montero).

Fish And Wildlife Service

US Fish And Wildlife Service Approved Delta Pumping Increase.

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (9/27, Sabalow) reports that "federal fisheries regulators have

approved a controversial plan opposed by environmental groups that would allow for more pumping from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta this fall." On Wednesday, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "signed off on a proposal championed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and south state California water interests to ramp up Delta pumping starting next week." Paul Souza, the wildlife services regional director in Sacramento, said in a prepared statement, "We believe this modification will help strike a balance between this year's water needs for wildlife, agriculture and municipalities."

US Agency To Decide If Pacific Walrus Is Threatened Species.

The [AP](#) (9/27, Joling) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "faces a deadline this week to decide whether the iconic Pacific walrus will join the polar bear on the threatened species list." The agency "under a court settlement has until Saturday to decide whether the Pacific walrus should be put on the list because of threats to its sea ice habitat due to climate change."

Enviros Sound The Alarm On ANWR.

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (9/27, Ruskin) reports that "environmentalists are warning that the Republican plan to cut taxes could include a move that would open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling." A draft of the Senate budget plan for 2018 is "likely to emerge next week." Although "no one expects the document to mention the Arctic Refuge by name," Lydia Weiss of The Wilderness Society "said she's concerned it will include vague instructions to the Senate Energy Committee to find a billion dollars or more in revenues." Weiss said, "There is no doubt that that is an invitation to Sen. Murkowski to attach an Arctic Refuge drilling rider."

James River Wildlife Refuge Opens To Public For A Day.

The [Chesterfield \(VA\) Observer](#) (9/27, Griset) reports that the Presquile National Wildlife Refuge will "open to the public this Saturday for its fifth annual field day." According to the article, "visitors to the refuge will have the opportunity to traverse the island's boardwalks, interior creeks and 3.5 miles of wildlife observation trails."

Man Smuggles Live Corals Inside Pringles Potato Chip Containers At LAX, Authorities Say.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/27, Service) reports that "two Southern California men and representatives of two local companies are facing federal charges of illegally trading in live corals that are protected by an international treaty but frequently are used to decorate aquariums." Jose Torres is "charged with unlawfully attempting to export to Mexico some 20 varieties of live corals protected by the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora — known as CITES — according to the U.S. attorney's office." In a second indictment, Jorge Vazquez is "charged with unlawfully attempting to export live, CITES-protected corals."

Two Florida Men Plead Guilty To Tying Up Endangered Key Deer.

The [AP](#) (9/27) reports that "two Florida men have pleaded guilty to violating the U.S. Endangered Species Act for tying up three tiny Key deer in the back of a car in July." According to the article, "18-year-old Erik Yosany Damas Acosta of Miami Gardens and 23-year-old Tumani Anthony Younge of Tamara each face up to a year in federal prison after signing plea agreements Monday in Fort Lauderdale federal court." Assistant U.S. Attorney Thomas Watts-Fitzgerald "said prosecutors would ask for leniency at their Oct. 30 sentencing in Key West federal court."

National Park Service

National Parks Struggle With A Mounting Crisis: Too Many Visitors.

The [New York Times](#) (9/27, Turkewitz) reports that the number of national park visitors has "reached an unprecedented level, leaving many tourists frustrated and many environmentalists concerned about the toll of overcrowding." In 2016, the National Park Service "tracked a record 331 million visits, and after a busy summer, the system is likely to surpass that number this year." The article notes that "the crowding problem comes as the system faces the dual threat of a funding shortage and climate change."

U.S. Rep. Smith Confident About National Park Legislation.

The [Ste. Genevieve \(MO\) Herald](#) (9/27) reports that during his Farm Tour visit to Loida Ag, Rep. Jason Smith "expressed confidence that the legislation to establish a National Park Service unit in

Ste. Genevieve, introduced in June, will pass through the House." He said, "I've spoken to the chairman of Natural Resources and got a very good response. He's very open to the idea. I've been working with Senator [Roy] Blunt, and I'm very hopeful." The legislation has "been introduced in both a stand-alone bill and a portion of a bigger energy bill."

Giant Naked Woman Sculpture Planned For National Mall.

[WJLA-TV](#) Washington (9/27, Carter-Conneen) reports that "this fall, National Mall visitors might be surprised to find a giant sculpture of a naked woman near the Washington Monument." For a third year, organizers of Catharsis on the Mall "plan to bring music, art and activism to the National Mall over Veteran's Day weekend." If their "permit is approved, the sculpture would become a temporary fixture, allowed to stand there for four months." National Park Service spokesperson Mike Litterst said, "They do have the requirement of having at least one person with it at all times. You can't abandon structures or property as part of the vigil."

23 From 13 Countries Took The Oath Of Allegiance In Morristown.

The [Morristown \(NJ\) Daily Record](#) (9/27, Wright) reports that 33 people from 13 countries "took the oath of allegiance during a naturalization ceremony in Washington's Headquarters Museum Auditorium within Morristown National Historical Park." The ceremony was hosted by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and the National Park Service. The article notes that "it was the ninth time the National Park Service and USCIS partnered on a naturalization ceremony at a national landmark."

NPS Reopening Cape Lookout Friday.

The [Carteret County \(NC\) News-Times](#) (9/27) reports that the National Park Service "announced Wednesday that Cape Lookout National Seashore will reopen on North Core, South Core, and Shackleford Banks at 8 a.m. Friday." According to the park service, "based on current weather models, Hurricane Maria is down to 75 mph and her forecast track is to begin to move northeast of the park out into the Atlantic Ocean." The park "remains under a storm surge warning, with an estimated 2-4-foot surge continuing to pound southern Outer Banks beaches."

Comment Period Extended On Olympics Mountain Goat Plan.

The [AP](#) (9/27) reports that Olympic National Park officials are "giving people more time to weigh in on their plan to remove non-native mountain goats from the park." The [Peninsula \(WA\) Daily News](#) (9/27, Leach) reports that "the comment period, originally set to end Tuesday, has been extended to Oct. 10."

Park Service Superintendent Donahue To Retire.

The [Pocono \(PA\) News](#) (9/28) reports that Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Superintendent John Donahue will "retire from the National Park Service on December 3, 2017, capping off a 38-year federal career that took him to numerous national park units in several different roles."

Ranger: Yosemite Rock Fall Kills 1, Injures Another.

The [AP](#) (9/27, Press) reports that "a rock fall Wednesday on the granite face of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park killed one person and injured another at the height of climbing season, an official said." The injured person was transported to a hospital near the park. The article says that "officials didn't provide details on the size of the rock fall, but climbers posted pictures on social media from hundreds of feet up the wall showing billowing white dust moments after the crash."

Also reporting are the [New York Times](#) (9/27, Haag), the [Washington Post](#) (9/27, Chason), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/27, Tchekmedyan), the [New York Daily News](#) (9/28, Elizalde), [NPR](#) (9/27, Campbell), the [Huffington Post](#) (9/27, Visser), and [Reuters](#) (9/27, Whitcomb).

East Stroudsburg Man Convicted Of Striking Park Ranger With Car.

The [Allentown \(PA\) Morning Call](#) (9/27, Hall) reports that "a federal jury in Scranton convicted a Monroe County man Tuesday of assault and fleeing law enforcement for striking a ranger with his car in a hit and run at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area last year." Damari Roulhac "faces a maximum of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine when he is sentenced Jan. 30."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Trump Says He Is “Thinking About” Jones Act Waiver For Puerto Rico.

[The Hill](#) (9/27, Bowden) reports that President Trump “said Wednesday that he is ‘thinking about’ lifting the rule barring foreign-flagged vessels from delivering goods between American ports to help hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico.” Trump told reporters, “Well, we’re thinking about [temporarily lifting the Jones Act], but we have a lot of shippers, and a lot of people, and a lot of people who work in the shipping industry that don’t want the Jones Act lifted.”

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/27, story 3, 2:20, Muir), Eva Pilgrim said, “For Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, a waiver of that act was granted. The President says he’s considering the same for Hurricane Maria, but that a lot of shippers and people who work in the shipping industry don’t want it waived. The President is planning to visit Puerto Rico on Tuesday.”

[McClatchy](#) (9/27, Daugherty, Ordoñez) reports that both Republicans and Democrats are telling Trump that Puerto Rico “is now a humanitarian crisis.” But the Administration has not yet waived the Jones Act, even though it “was waived in Texas after Hurricane Harvey and in Florida after Hurricane Irma to allow for more efficient fuel delivery.” Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló said that “he expects the Trump administration to eventually waive the law.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/27, Andrews, Page) reports that Sen. John McCain, who has long sought repeal of the Jones Act, wrote in a letter to DHS, “It is unacceptable to force the people of Puerto Rico to pay at least twice as much for food, clean drinking water, supplies and infrastructure due to Jones Act requirements as they work to recover from this disaster. Now, more than ever, it is time to realize the devastating effect of this policy and implement a full repeal of this archaic and burdensome Act.”

Seven House Democrats also signed a letter calling for a Jones Act suspension, and the [Washington Examiner](#) (9/27, Tritten) reports that a group of 145 House Democrats is urging Trump to send an aircraft carrier to Puerto Rico. In a Wednesday letter, they wrote, “To fulfill DOD’s mission, we believe the aircraft carrier, USS Abraham Lincoln, should be sent to the region, similar to its deployment to Miami following Hurricane Irma.” Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD) said on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (9/27), “I’m saying to President Trump, you need to quadruple your efforts and have a coordinated Department of Defense response to this. It’s estimated we need at least about 50,000 troops there, even after Haiti we had 20,000.”

The [Washington Post](#) (9/27, A1, Hernández, Lamothe, O’Keefe, Achenbach) reports the Administration “is rushing military hardware and personnel to Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands as it becomes increasingly clear” that the federal response so far “has been inadequate and overmatched by the scale of the disaster.” However, the [AP](#) (9/27, Fox, Coto) reports that many on the island are “waiting for help from anyone from the federal or Puerto Rican government. But the scope of the devastation is so broad, and the relief effort so concentrated in San Juan, that many people from outside the capital say they have received little to no help.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/27, Vives, Hennessy-Fiske, Etehad) reports that “for many in Puerto Rico, Hurricane Maria’s aftermath has been even more harrowing than the mighty storm itself.” But FEMA has been stressed by communications issues on the island, as well as by the attention still needed in the aftermath of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

Anthony Mason opened the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/27, lead story, 2:35) by reporting, “One week after Hurricane Maria invaded Puerto Rico, frustration is growing. Relief supplies are arriving on the island, but getting them to the nearly 3.5 million people in desperate need is close to impossible. Power is still out, and the FCC said today more than 91 percent of the cell phone sites are out of service.” On [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/27, lead story, 2:55, Holt), Gabe Gutierrez reported, “Across the island, supplies still aren’t getting where they’re supposed to. ... The agonizing lines for gas begin before dawn, stretching for blocks in the sweltering heat. ... They tell you the federal help is coming, but you haven’t seen it.” Unidentified speaker: “No, we haven’t seen anything.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/27, story 2, 2:10, Mason) had a report on how the island’s lack of electricity is exacerbating the growing health crisis.

Rosselló Praises Trump’s Response To Maria. [Reuters](#) (9/27, Respaut, DiSavino) reports that Rosselló “has strongly praised” Trump’s response, “defending the Republican administration against complaints of being slow to act and showing too little concern.” In an interview with the [New York Times](#) (9/27, Robles), Rosselló said, “I have spoken to him at least five times. ... He has been acting proactively. He issued two pre-landfall emergency declarations for Puerto Rico. That had never been done before. He declared Puerto Rico a disaster area practically while the storm was still hitting Puerto Rico.”

The [New York Times](#) (9/27, Nixon, Stevens) writes that while “some lawmakers have accused President Trump of failing to respond adequately to the crisis in Puerto Rico,” an analysis of his actions “paints a more complicated picture.” Trump “approved major disaster declarations

and ordered federal aid for the states of Texas and Florida, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico equally quickly – in each case, on the day the hurricane made landfall.” But “he was not equally quick to visit each place in the storms’ aftermath.”

Puerto Rico Bondholders Offer \$1 Billion Loan, Cancellation Of Power Company’s Debt. The [New York Times](#) (9/27, Walsh) reports that the “investors holding the island power company’s defaulted bonds...have offered to lend Puerto Rico \$1 billion to pay for urgent repairs and to cancel \$150 million of the power company’s outstanding debt in the process.” The loan “would not be enough to replace the island’s aged electrical system,” but the bondholders say that their offer “would allow Puerto Rico to apply for federal grants for long-term rebuilding that would not have to be repaid.”

Federal Judge Warns That Exodus From Puerto Rico Would Have Lasting Impact. Second Circuit US Court of Appeals Judge José Cabranes, who was born in Puerto Rico, writes in the [Washington Post](#) (9/27), “A vast internal migration of US citizens is likely in the months ahead, as tens of thousands of Puerto Ricans, possibly 1 million or more over time, choose to move to the US mainland.” This would be “an additional, slow-motion disaster inflicted on an island that can ill afford to lose any more of its best and brightest,” and it would “accelerate and deepen the social and economic crisis in Puerto Rico.”

Maria Returns To Hurricane Status, But No Longer Threatens Land. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/27, story 4, 0:20, Muir) and [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/27, story 3, 0:20, Holt) both briefly reported that Maria has returned to Category 1 hurricane status, no longer threatening land but causing dangers along the coast off North Carolina.

Storms Amplified USVI’s Economic Crisis.

The [New York Times](#) (9/27, A1, Peters) reports that “the one-two punch of Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria 14 days later” severely hurt the US Virgin Islands, which even before the storms “had barely enough cash to keep the government funded for three days” and a debt “so large that Wall Street stopped lending it money.” As the islands’ 103,000 residents “wait for doctors, medicine, fuel and manpower to rebuild the flattened communications and power grid, the economic toll from the storms is only starting to come to light.”

80 Student Leaders Participate In Youth Summit.

[Marianas Variety](#) (9/28, Lirio) reports that “policy proposals to address concerns regarding the economy, the budget, health, welfare, education and the environment were presented to lawmakers by 80 high school students who participated in this year’s Close Up Youth Summit held at Saipan World Resort on Sept. 20, 21 and 22.” The event was sponsored by the Close Up Insular Areas Program which is funded by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs.

Marshalls Trust Fund Panel Meets In Hawaii.

[Marianas Variety](#) (9/28) reports that “the Trust Fund Committee of the Trust Fund for the People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands conducted its fiscal year 2017 fourth quarter meetings Aug. 31 in Honolulu, Hawaii.” The article notes that “as of Sept. 30, 2016, assets of the Trust Fund for the People of the Marshall Islands were valued at \$294,545,533.”

FSM Trust Fund Panel Meets In Hawaii.

[Marianas Variety](#) (9/28) reports that “the Trust Fund Committee of the Trust Fund for the People of the Federated States of Micronesia conducted its fiscal year 2017 fourth quarter meetings on Sept. 1 in Honolulu, Hawaii.” The article notes that “as of Sept. 30, 2016, assets of the Trust Fund for the People of the Federated States of Micronesia were valued at \$466,938,730.”

Additional Reading.

- ***Ham Radio Hobbyists Are Connecting The Caribbean After Hurricane Maria.*** [Motherboard](#) (9/26, Emerson).
- ***FEMA Chief: Feds ‘Working Tirelessly Around The Clock’ To Aid In Maria Recovery.*** [The Hill](#) (9/26, Delk).
- ***Food And Water Distribution Pauses Territorywide.*** [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (9/26, O’CONNOR).
- ***Business Leaders In St. Thomas Share ‘Strong, Positive’ Ideas With Mapp At Meeting; Express Optimism About Territory’s Recovery*** [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/27).
- ***Trump To Visit Puerto Rico After Criticism Of Crisis Response.*** [Financial Times](#) (9/26, Weaver,

Platt).

US Geological Survey

Moab Watershed Study Completed.

The [Moab \(UT\) Sun News](#) (9/27, Trenbeath) reports that "findings from a completed U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) watershed study for Moab and Spanish Valley were presented on Thursday, Sept. 21, at the Grand Center to an assembled crowd of about 75 people." The three-year study, commenced in 2014, was "spearheaded by the Utah Division of Water Rights (DWRI), to determine the rate of recharge for the Glen Canyon Group and Valley-Fill aquifers in order to arrive at a water budget for Moab and Spanish Valley." The DWRI "plans to use the study's findings to aid in the development of a groundwater management plan to guide future development in both the Grand and San Juan County portions of the valley."

Additional Reading.

- *Hurricane Irma: Former Holiday Isle Marina In Keys Tells Bat Captains To Stay Away.* [Miami Herald](#) (9/27, Wadlow).
- *Major Quake Disaster In Southern California Could Cause \$300 Billion In Losses.* [CNBC](#) (9/27, Daniels).
- *Timelapse Video Shows Kamokuna Lava Delta Growing, Sinking.* [KVEE-TV](#) Honolulu (9/27).
- *3 Earthquakes Reported In West Texas Wednesday.* [KRBC-TV](#) Abilene, TX (9/27).

Top National News

Trump Touts Tax Cut Plan In Indianapolis.

During a speech in Indianapolis on Wednesday, President Trump pitched the tax cut plan negotiated by the Administration and the Republican leadership in both chambers. Media coverage of the plan is heavy, but noticeably lighter than recent coverage of the President's comments criticizing the NFL. While the coverage almost universally highlights Trump's call for large cuts to individual and corporate tax rates, much of it is negative in tone, saying the plan leaves many questions unanswered and questioning Trump's assertion that the wealthy will not benefit.

[WISH-TV](#) Indianapolis (9/27, 5:01 p.m. EDT) reported that Trump "wasted very little time talking about how his tax plan could benefit the state and the country." Trump: "Americans waste so much money, billions and billions of dollars and many hours each year with our ridiculous tax code. More than 90 percent of Americans use assistance to prepare their taxes. Under our framework, the vast majority of Americans will be able to file their taxes on a single sheet of paper."

[WTHR-TV](#) Indianapolis (9/27, 5:04 p.m. EDT) reported that Trump "called on Americans to support his plan to bring back American jobs, wealth and the American dream." Trump: "If you demand it, the politicians will listen. They will answer, and they will act and, someday, many years from now, our children and our grandchildren will remember this moment in history as the time when ordinary Americans took control of their destiny and chose a future of American patriotism, prosperity and pride." In an exclusive interview, WTHR asked Trump how he squares raising the lowest individual tax and lowering the corporate tax. Trump said, "We're bringing the corporate tax down to a level where the companies that are leaving this country – they're going to be hiring a lot of people. It's all about jobs. So we're lowering the working people's – I call it the working people's tax way down. We're bringing the corporate tax down so that corporations won't leave the country and they'll hire a lot of people."

To the [AP](#) (9/27, Thomas), the President was in "full salesman mode" as he presented the plan, which "seeks to slash the corporate rate from 35 percent to 20 percent and create three individual tax brackets with rates of 12 percent, 25 percent and 35 percent, with a recommended surcharge on the very wealthy." [Townhall](#) (9/27, Pavlich) reports that Trump "urged voters to call their congressmen in support," saying, "Call your congressmen, call your senators, let them know you are watching. Let them know you're waiting. Tell them that today is the day for decision. That now is the time to heal this self-inflicted economic [wound] and that with their action, the future would belong to all of us. ... If you demand it, the politicians will listen. They will answer and they will act."

The [Washington Times](#) (9/27, Miller) reports that Trump “said tax reform hasn’t been a partisan issue in Washington in the past, and it shouldn’t be divisive this time, either.” Trump said, “There is no reason that Democrats and Republicans in Congress should not come together to deliver this giant win for the American people and begin the ‘middle-class miracle’ once again.” Pointing to Democratic Sen. Joe Donnelly, who traveled with him on Air Force One, Trump said, “If Sen. Donnelly doesn’t approve it – you know he’s on the other side – we will come here and campaign against him.” The [Indianapolis Star](#) (9/27) reports that Donnelly has called for “a bipartisan effort that will give working and middle-class families greater economic security.”

Other coverage is more negative in tone. For example, [USA Today](#) (9/27, Groppe) says Trump is “seeking a much-needed win as he recovers from Republicans’ failure to repeal Obamacare and the loss of Luther Strange, Trump’s chosen candidate in the Alabama Senate primary on Tuesday.” USA Today adds that “many details are still to be worked out, including how much the changes would add to the deficit.” Likewise, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/27, Puzanghera, Mascaro) also says the plan leaves “a lot of unanswered questions.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/27, Rubin) also points out the political stakes for the White House and congressional Republicans in the wake of their unsuccessful push to repeal the ACA. Republicans, the Journal says, are anxious to post a legislative victory in advance of the 2018 elections. Similarly, the [New York Times](#) (9/27, Davis, Rappeport) says Trump, who is “smarting from the latest defeat” of his efforts to repeal the ACA, “began a full-throttle push to slash taxes and salvage what is left of his foundering legislative agenda in Congress, proposing a politically challenging array of tax cuts for individuals and businesses that would constitute the most sweeping changes to the federal tax code in decades.” The Times adds that Trump “offered few details about how working people might benefit from a plan that has explicit and substantial rewards for wealthy people and corporations.” In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/27), David Ricks, chairman and CEO of Eli Lilly & Co., praises the plan, arguing that it will help repair the current tax code which puts American companies at a disadvantage on the world market.

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/27, story 4, 2:15), Lester Holt said Trump was “short on specifics on how middle class families would benefit.” Peter Alexander added that “the long-awaited roll-out is lacking key details, leaving many questions unanswered,” and Democrats are “not buying it.” Senate Minority Leader Schumer: “He ain’t walking the walk. This is aimed at the wealthiest people in America. They do far and away the best.” Nancy Cordes said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/27, story 3, 2:30, Mason) that Republicans “made a show of unity today, even as analysts warned the plan could reduce government revenue by \$2 trillion or more over the next 10 years.” [Reuters](#) (9/27, Morgan, Cowan) highlights criticism that the plan “could add trillions of dollars to the deficit,” citing warnings from analysts that “huge tax cuts would balloon the federal deficit and debt if economic growth projected by Republicans to offset the costs fails to materialize amid rising interest rates.”

[The Houston Chronicle](#) (9/27, Diaz) reports that House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady, who will lead the tax reform effort in the House, said the framework is a “starting point for negotiations.” The Chronicle adds that it “immediately came under fire from one of the top Democrats on the tax-writing committee, Lloyd Doggett,” who said, “The superlatives never match the specifics. ... What President Trump and his Republican cohorts say this plan is, it isn’t. The future of this bill depends upon how quickly the truth can catch up with the lie. From what we can already see, it is a blueprint for red ink.”

White House Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Short said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (9/27), “We are confident in this framework. We think it is one that will work. We think it’s best for the American economy. It’s best for the American family providing them significant tax relief but also keeping jobs here in America which is something the last administration suffered through. ... We need to get the economy growing and Congress knows that, the American people know that, and we need tax relief.” Kellyanne Conway said on [Fox News’ Fox & Friends](#) (9/27), “The vision is to make it simpler. Americans spend over six billion man hours a year...just complying with the code. The code currently favors the wealthy and privileged and the connected who can hire attorneys and accountants that can help them navigate and take advantage of these deductions and credits, many of which go away in the Donald Trump legislative plan for tax overhaul.”

House Speaker Ryan said on [Fox News’ Hannity](#) (9/27) that tax reform is “one of the most important things we can do to help people in the country. ... This is about economic growth, about bigger paychecks, more jobs, it’s about a fairness system in our tax code so we’re really excited about this. That’s why we spent all this time working with the President and yes working with the Senate and House to make sure we’re on the same page so we work off the common

framework to go from here to get this done.” Ryan added, “There are a lot of people in this country working paycheck to paycheck. A lot of people in the country because of the slow growth economy never got the raise. A lot of economic anxiety. It’s about them, letting those hard working taxpayers keep more of their own money and giving them a tax break.”

[Roll Call](#) (9/27, McPherson) provides more detail on the policies in the framework released by GOP leaders, many of which “are ones included in the House Republicans’ ‘A Better Way’ plan released last year.” [Politico](#) (9/27, Faler, Bade) says while the plan “is heavy on the GOP’s tax cut desires,” it is “light when it comes to explaining whose taxes will have to go up to help control costs.” Politico adds that the plan’s cost “would run in the trillions,” and GOP leaders “want to at least partially defray the cost with offsetting tax increases. But their plans for doing that, for the most part, are still a secret.” Republicans plan to “delay spelling out who would have to pay more under their plan, in order to give opponents as little opportunity as possible to mount a counteroffensive.”

The [Washington Post](#) (9/27, Paletta, Debonis, Johnson) similarly reports that the framework “left many key questions unanswered,” and adds that Republicans were “careful not to identify numerous tax breaks they might remove, focusing instead on promises to lower rates.” In Indianapolis, [The Hill](#) (9/27, Fabian, Jagoda) says Trump promised that the plan is “‘not good’ for wealthy individuals like himself.” He said that “the ‘wealthy and well-connected’ can beg him all they want for a more favorable tax plan, but that ‘it’s not going to help.’”

However, a [USA Today](#) (9/27, Przybyla) analysis says the plan “would eliminate the individual Alternative Minimum Tax and estate taxes” and “tax so-called ‘pass through’ businesses at 25%,” all of which “could greatly benefit Trump and his family’s business empire.” Likewise, a [New York Times](#) (9/27, Appelbaum) analysis reports that the plan “is a potentially huge windfall for the wealthiest Americans,” citing its call to “sharply reduce taxation of business income,” and eliminate the estate tax, “which affects just a few thousand uber-wealthy families each year, and the alternative minimum tax, a safety net designed to prevent tax avoidance.” A separate [New York Times](#) (9/27, Qiu) analysis says Trump and Republicans offered “several misleading and false claims to bolster their framework for the overhaul.” While Trump said the wealthy will not benefit, Roberton Williams, an analyst at the Tax Policy Center, said they “almost certainly” will as a result of the estate tax and alternative minimum tax repeals. The Times adds that lowering the top marginal income tax rate “would also benefit the wealthy, though the plan does not specify which income levels it would affect.”

In an op-ed for [USA Today](#) (9/27), Senate Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch calls the framework “a major step forward for tax reform” and “a huge win for middle-class families and low-income taxpayers.” Sen. Cory Gardner said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (9/27), “I think there is a lot of merit to this plan. ... I think this is a significant advancement over the complex system we have today. So I like this. I believe I can support something like this. There is a lot of to do in this process yet, a lot of room to continue this debate.”

The [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) (9/27, Mauriello) reports that Sen. Pat Toomey, a member of the Senate Finance Committee who helped develop the framework, told reporters, “The biggest thing people are going to see is a tax deduction for themselves, a simplification in terms of their filing, and I think they’re going to see a very strong economy. They’re going to see more job opportunities, upward pressure on wages, bigger job gains [and] fewer unemployed people.” Toomey “expects a Senate vote on the federal budget in the next two weeks, and that would clear a path for tax reform later this fall.” Toomey “hopes it to be signed into law by year’s end.” However, in the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/27, lead story, 2:35, Muir), Jonathan Karl said that is “an extremely ambitious timeline. This will be a heavy lift even to get done by next year. That said, there is immense pressure on Republicans, both here at the White House and in Capitol Hill, to show that they can deliver on this.”

Thursday’s editorial pages are divided over the plan with traditionally conservative outlets voicing support and traditionally liberal outlets criticizing it. A [Washington Examiner](#) (9/27) editorial laments that it has taken Republicans so long to offer a plan after taking “unified control of the government” 11 months ago, but says it is “a great start” and expresses hope that it “quickly becomes legislation then law, and thus quickly fosters economic growth and new well-paid jobs.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/27) says in an editorial that the plan could jump start the economic expansion and increase wages but Republicans must do a better job of promoting it than they did with their healthcare plan and resist special interests as it make its way through Congress.

A [USA Today](#) (9/27) editorial takes a different view, saying that the plan’s “call to reduce the top corporate tax rate from 35% to 20%...is sound and overdue,” as is “the effort to simplify what President Trump correctly called the ‘ridiculously complex’ individual income tax code,” but,

“a lack of fiscal restraint, plus two unwarranted giveaways to America’s financial elite, make this version unworthy of support.” The [New York Times](#) (9/27) also opposes the plan, arguing in an editorial that it would “greatly increase the federal deficit, would not turbocharge economic growth and could leave many middle-class families worse off by ending deductions they rely on.” Moreover, it “would do little or nothing to improve the lot of the working class, a group President Trump says he is fighting for” and would “instead provide a windfall to hedge fund managers, corporate executives, real estate developers and other members of the 1 percent.”

Home Builders Endorse Plan, Increasing Vulnerability Of The Mortgage-Interest Deduction.

[Politico](#) (9/27, Woellert) reports that while members of the housing industry “typically lock arms to defend the mortgage-interest tax deduction,” the National Association of Home Builders “split with industry allies” to endorse the plan, “increasing the vulnerability” of the deduction “that was once considered untouchable.” Politico adds that while many in the industry “publicly criticized the White House tax plan released Wednesday, many quietly admit they’re playing defense.”

Politico Analysis: Changing Top Rate Has No “Predictable Effect On Economic Growth.”

Reporting that the Tax Foundation “argued in its analysis of Trump’s 2016 campaign proposal that lowering the top income tax rate would lead to increased job opportunities,” a [Politico](#) (9/27) analysis examines “each time the country changed the top income tax rate and the following five years of GDP per capita growth rate” and found that “changing the top income tax rate does not have a predictable effect on economic growth.”

LATimes Analysis: Californians Face A “Big Financial Hit” Under GOP Plan. A [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/27, Puzanghera) analysis says the plan would be a “big financial hit” to many Californians due to its elimination of the federal deduction for state and local taxes, which Sen. Dianne Feinstein cited as “one reason the plan was a ‘non-starter’ for her.” The Times also says the plan’s “new limits on the deduction for home mortgage interest, which would have a greater effect on states with higher housing costs, such as California and New York,” leave “open the possibility of another big hit.”

Trump To Sign Order Allowing People To Buy Health Insurance Across State Lines.

The [New York Post](#) (9/27, Fredericks) reports that President Trump said Wednesday that he will sign a “very major” executive order “allowing people to buy health insurance across state lines – a move that would expand consumers’ options and possibly lower costs.” Trump said he will probably sign the order next week so that “people can go out across state lines, do lots of things, and buy their own healthcare.” Sen. Rand Paul revealed the plan Wednesday morning on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (9/27), saying, “I think there’s going to be big news from the White House in the next week or two, something they can do on their own.” Paul added that Trump “can legalize on his own the ability of individuals to join a group or a health association across state lines and buy insurance.”

The [Washington Post](#) (9/27, Eilperin, Cunningham) says conservatives have “long championed” allowing insurers to offer plans across state lines, arguing it “would lower premiums by fostering greater competition.” The Post adds that Administration officials “are confident that addressing this issue would make Paul more open to backing future health-care legislation.”

EPA Program Seeks To Engage Industry To Reduce Regulatory Burden.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/27, Siciliano) reports that the EPA is launching a new program called “Smart Sectors” to work more closely with the energy industry, with the “primary focus of reducing regulations.” The sectors the EPA will target includes oil and gas, iron and steel, and utilities and power generation. According the EPA, “Sectors were selected based on each sector’s potential to improve the environment and public health.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“A Boondoggle Masquerading As Tax Reform.” The [New York Times](#) (9/27) argues in an editorial that the Republican tax reform plan would “greatly increase the federal deficit, would not turbocharge economic growth and could leave many middle-class families worse off by ending deductions they rely on.” Moreover, it “would do little or nothing to improve the lot of the working class, a group President Trump says he is fighting for” and would “instead provide a windfall to hedge fund managers, corporate executives, real estate developers and other members of the 1 percent.”

“Saudi Women Behind The Wheel.” The [New York Times](#) (9/28, Board) editorializes in favor of Saudi Arabia allowing women to drive, commenting “it is the 21st century in most of the world, after all, and there’s not a single other country with so nonsensical a restriction.”

“The Corruption At The Heart Of March Madness.” The [New York Times](#) (9/28, Board) editorializes about college basketball, saying that it has “made much of its money by sleazy recruitment and exploitation of teenage stars.” It says college basketball “is supposed to be, but hasn’t been for some time, an innocent and amateur sport.”

Washington Post.

“Can’t We Get This One Thing Right?” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/27) writes that Congress should pass legislation that ensures current DACA beneficiaries are safe from deportation. While acknowledging it is “fair to haggle over details of the dreamers’ long-term legal status,” the Post argues that dreamers “are regarded with nearly universal sympathy” and deserve to be granted legal status.

“Saudi Arabia Sheds An Ignoble Distinction.” The [Washington Post](#) (9/27) editorializes in favor of Saudi Arabia’s decision to lift its ban on women driving cars, even though it says it is “a bid to divert the world’s attention from the country’s other human rights abuses and its war in neighboring Yemen.” The Post adds that the change “doesn’t address the other restrictions under guardianship laws” but it “is a step in the right direction.”

“Tom Price Should Pay Taxpayers Back.” The [Washington Post](#) (9/27) editorializes that it is difficult “to think of someone in Washington these days who might rival [HHS Secretary] Price for brazen hypocrisy.” The Post points out, “This is the very same Mr. Price, remember, who, as a congressman from Georgia for the past 12 years, piously condemned the federal government’s ‘reckless spending.’” Now, according to the Post, “it turns out that Mr. Price is as spendthrift a swamp creature as you could find in Washington’s marshy environs.” The Post calls upon Price to “repay American taxpayers the funds...squandered on these jaunts” aboard private airplanes.

Wall Street Journal.

“Tax Reform, If You Can Keep It.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/27) editorial says the Republican tax reform plan could jump start the economic expansion and increase wages but Republicans must do a better job of promoting it than they did with their healthcare plan and resist special interests as it make its way through Congress.

“Who Really Lost Alabama?” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/27) says in an editorial that Alabama Republicans’ frustrations over Senate Majority Leader McConnell’s inability to get ACA repeal through may have tipped the balance in the Senate primary runoff to Roy Moore.

“Jeremy Corbyn On The March.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/27) writes that British Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn is offering an economic program of higher personal and corporate taxes and rent control – a program that has been shown to be unsuccessful in the past and is a recipe for economic decline today. The Journal warns Corbyn is receiving greater political traction because of divisions among conservatives and conservatives’ failure to make the case against Corbyn’s policies.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[GOP Tax Overhaul Aims For Corporate Cuts, Simpler Code](#)
[SEC Probes Departure Of PepsiCo’s Former Top Lawyer](#)
[Retail Stores Made Elmira, NY, An Unlikely Success—Now They’re Gone](#)
[Health Insurers Stay In ACA Despite Fears Of Last-Minute Exits](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Proposes The Most Sweeping Tax Overhaul In Decades](#)
[Trump Tax Plan Benefits Wealthy, Including Trump](#)
[Hugh Hefner, Who Built Playboy Empire And Embodied It, Dies At 91](#)
[Roy Moore’s Alabama Victory Sets Off Talk Of A GOP Insurrection In The Virgin Islands, Hurricane Maria Drowned What Irma Didn’t Destroy](#)
[Catalan Officials Squeezed As Madrid Tries To Stop Independence Vote](#)

[In College Basketball Scandal, Follow The Money ... And The Shoes](#)
[North Korea Skaters Seek Olympic Bid, And Diplomats Cheer](#)

Washington Post:

[GOP Proposes Deep Tax Cuts With Few Details](#)
[Inequality Gaps Persist Despite Widespread Gains](#)
[‘Victory Lap’? Gorsuch’s Critics Cry Foul Over Speeches.](#)
[US Sends Military Assets To Aid In Puerto Rico Recovery](#)
[Ala. Loss Leaves Trump Weakened, Isolated](#)

Financial Times:

[Donald Trump Seeks To Slash US Corporate Tax Rate](#)
[South Africa Trade Union March Demands Zuma Step Down](#)
[US Move Against Bombardier Risks Reprisals](#)
[Wolfgang Schäuble To Step Down As German Finance Minister](#)

Washington Times:

[FBI Pursuing Equal Number Of Domestic Terrorism And Jihadi Threats, Director Says](#)
[‘Revolutionary Change’: Trump Promises Major Tax Relief For American Workers, Businesses](#)
[Lawsuits Aim To Change Winner-Take-All Electoral College System By 2020 Presidential Race](#)
[Both Sides Make Emotional Pleas As Lawmakers Oppose Physician-Assisted Suicide In D.C.](#)
[Bloated Cost, Poor Performance Of U.S.-Made Blimp Result In Rare Rebuke Of Thai Military](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: White House-Tax Reform; Trump Administration-Excessive Spending; Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Hurricane Tracking; Afghanistan-Rocket Attack; Russia Meddling Investigation-Facebook; NCAA Bribery Scandal; Sacramento Police Standoff; Ukraine Military Base Explosion; Killer Clown Murder Case; Highway Standoff; Southwest-Passenger De-Boarded; Delta-On Flight Texting; Adopted Eastern European Orphans.

CBS: Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Hurricane-Puerto Rico Health Crisis; White House-Tax Reform; Alabama GOP Senate Runoff; White House-Agenda Misplays; White House-Border Wall; NCAA Bribery Scandal; White House-Refugee Limit; Trump Administration-Excessive Spending; Switzerland-Longest Suspension Footbridge.

NBC: Hurricane-Puerto Rico 1; Hurricane-Puerto Rico 2; Hurricane Tracking; White House-Tax Reform; Trump Administration-Excessive Spending; NCAA Bribery Scandal; Dead North Korean Prisoner-Parents Interview; Afghanistan-Rocket Attack; Health-Food Allergies; Russia Meddling Investigation-Facebook; Delta-On Flight Texting; Obama-Daughter Goes To College; Disney World-Alligator Attack Aftermath.

Network TV At A Glance:

Hurricane – 12 minutes, 10 seconds
White House-Tax Reform – 7 minutes, 20 seconds
Trump Administration-Excessive Spending – 5 minutes, 10 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning’s Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: White House-Tax Reform; Trump Administration-Excessive Spending; California National Park Accident; Wall Street News.

CBS: White House-Tax Reform; Trump Administration-Excessive Spending; Hurricane-Puerto Rico; New York City-School Stabbing; California National Park Accident.

FOX: White House-Tax Reform; California National Park Accident.

NPR: Hugh Hefner Dies; White House-Tax Reform; Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Japan-Parliament Reelection.

Washington Schedule

Today’s Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Elaine Duke; participates in the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the National Security Council; greets Vice Premier Liu Yandong of the People’s Republic of China.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Meets with business leaders and Michigan families to discuss the need for tax reform; delivers formal remarks regarding tax reform; participates in a tour of Weldall Manufacturing, Inc.; meets with local business leaders, community officials, and Wisconsin families to discuss the need for tax reform; participates in a Republican National Committee reception.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Agriculture Committee hearing on rural development, energy programs, and the Farm Bill – Hearing on 'Rural Development and Energy Programs: Perspectives for the 2018 Farm Bill', with testimony from U.S. Department of Agriculture's Anne Hazlett; USDA Rural Housing Service Acting Administrator Richard Davis; USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service Acting Administrator Chadwick Parker; USDA Rural Utilities Service Acting Administrator Christopher McLean; Kentucky Center for Agriculture and Rural Development Executive Director Aleta Botts; Kansas Rural Water Association General Manager Elmer Ronnebaum; Coweta-Fayette EMC President/CEO Christopher Stephens; Golden West Telecommunications Cooperative CEO Denny Law; Iowa State University NSF Engineering Research Center for Biorenewable Chemicals Director Dr Brent Shanks; and Harvest Energy Solutions President Mark Olinyk Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC <http://agriculture.senate.gov/>

9:30 AM Senate Judiciary Committee Executive Business Meeting – Executive Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations of Amy Coney Barrett and Joan Louise Larsen to be U.S. Circuit Judges for the Sixth Circuit; Brian Allen Benczkowski to be Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division; Eric Dreiband to be Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division; William Campbell Jr. to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee; Thomas Lee Robinson Parker to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee; Halsey Frank to be U.S. Attorney for the District of Maine; D. Michael Hurst Jr. to be U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Mississippi; Jeffrey Jensen to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Missouri; Thomas Kirsch II to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Indiana; and William Powell to be U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of West Virginia, as well as 'S. 1766, SAFER Act of 2017' Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

9:30 AM Senate Banking Committee hearing on North Korea – Hearing on 'Evaluating Sanctions Enforcement and Policy Options on North Korea: Administration Perspective', with testimony from Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Crimes Sigal Mandelker; and Acting Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Susan Thornton * Earlier this week, the Department of the Treasury Office of Foreign Assets Control designated eight North Korean banks and 26 individuals linked to North Korean financial networks in response to the country's 'ongoing development of weapons of mass destruction and continued violations of United Nations Security Council Resolutions' Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Transportation subcommittee hearing on TSA modernization – Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee hearing on 'TSA Modernization: Improvements to Aviation Security', with testimony from Springfield-Branson National Airport Director of Aviation Brian Weiler; Cargo Airline Association President Stephen Alterman; Smiths Group Vice President of Government Relations Sissy Pressnell; and International Air Transport Association's Michael White Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

4:00 PM Senate Indian Affairs roundtable on federal permitting and infrastructure project review – Senate Committee on Indian Affairs roundtable discussion on 'Best Practices in Tribal Consultation and Stakeholder Engagement: Federal Permitting and Infrastructure Project Review in Indian Country' Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 628, Washington, DC <http://indian.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/IndianCommittee>

Senate HELP Committee Executive Session – Executive Session, with agenda including nominations of Patrick Pizzella to be Deputy Secretary of Labor; Janet Dhillon and Dr Daniel Gade to be Equal Employment Opportunity Commission members (with Dhillon to be chair, upon confirmation); and Carlos Muniz to be Department of Education General Counsel Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

US House: 9:00 AM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of 'H.R. 2792 – Control Unlawful Fugitive Felons Act of 2017' and 'H.R. 3823 – Disaster Tax Relief and Airport and Airway Extension Act' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

9:00 AM POSTPONED: Hearing on 'Document Production' Location: U.S. Capitol, HVC-210, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseIntelComm>

9:00 AM Markup hearing on 'H.R. 1159, the United States and Israel Space Cooperation Act'

Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

9:30 AM House Space subcommittees joint hearing on the solar eclipse – Research and Technology Subcommittee and Space Subcommittee joint hearing on ‘The Great American Eclipse: To Totality and Beyond’, with testimony from National Science Foundation Acting Assistant Director for Mathematical & Physical Sciences Dr James Ulvestad; NASA Associate Administrator for the Science Mission Directorate Dr Thomas Zurbuchen; Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy Executive Vice President Dr Heidi Hammel; National Solar Observatory astronomer Dr Matthew Penn; and Adler Planetarium Director of Public Observing Michelle Nichols-Yehling * 21 Aug solar eclipse was the first total solar eclipse to cross the contiguous U.S. since 1918, with a thin path of totality running from Oregon through Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, and North Carolina to South Carolina Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

9:30 AM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on Congressional Review Act compliance – Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law Subcommittee hearing on ‘Rulemakers Must Follow the Rules, Too: Oversight of Agency Compliance with the Congressional Review Act’, with testimony from Pacific Legal Foundation DC Center Executive Director Todd Gaziano; Heritage Foundation Institute for Constitutional Government Senior Legal Research Fellow Paul Larkin Jr.; Virginia Cattlemens Association Executive Director Jason Carter; and University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law Professor Rena Steinzor Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

9:30 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on insurance for nonprofits – Housing and Insurance Subcommittee hearing on ‘Examining Insurance for Nonprofit Organizations’, with testimony from Southeast Nonprofit Insurance Programs President Kevin Cothron; Nonprofits Insurance Alliance Group founder and CEO Pamela Davis; Congressional Research Service Specialist in Financial Economics Baird Webel; and American Insurance Association Vice President for Federal Affairs Tom Santos Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on ‘H. Res. 422, Urging the adherence to the ‘one country, two systems’ policy as prescribed in the Joint Declaration between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and the Government of the People’s Republic of China on the Question of the Hong Kong’, ‘H.R. 425, FTO Passport Revocation Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 1196, Counterterrorism Screening and Assistance Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 1660, Global Health Innovation Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 2658, Venezuela Humanitarian Assistance and Defense of Democratic Governance Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 3320, To direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, and for other purposes’, ‘H.R. 3329, Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 3342, Sanctioning Hizballah’s Illicit Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act’, and ‘H.R. 3445, AGOA and MCA Modernization Act’ Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

10:45 AM Democratic Leader Pelosi weekly presser – Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi will hold her weekly press conference. Location: HVC Studio A (Enter through HVC-117), Capitol Visitor Center. <http://www.democraticleader.gov/> <https://twitter.com/NancyPelosi>

11:00 AM Congressional Task Force on Election Security first public forum – ROOM CHANGE – Congressional Task Force on Election Security holds its first public forum, ‘Securing America’s Elections: Understanding the Threat’, hearing from former Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson and former Under Secretary for National Protection and Programs Suzanne Spaulding * Task Force was created to address ‘the lack of action to protect electoral infrastructure following Russia interfering and attempting to influence the 2016 presidential election’, and is chaired by House Committee on Homeland Security Ranking Member Bennie Thompson and Committee on House Administration Ranking Member Robert Brady Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1302, Washington, DC democrats-homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HomelandDems>

11:30 AM House Speaker Paul Ryan holds weekly press briefing Location: HVC Studio A, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.speaker.gov <https://twitter.com/SpeakerRyan>

3:30 PM POSTPONED: Speaker’s Task Force on Intergovernmental Affairs second hearing – POSTPONED: New Speaker’s Task Force on Intergovernmental Affairs holds second hearing, ‘Are We ‘Federalizing’ Federalism? A Primer on Federalism, State and Local Government and Interrelations with the Federal Government’. Witnesses include Yale Law School Dean and

Professor Heather Gerken, George Mason University Professor of Government Dr Timothy Conlan, and Georgetown University Law Center Professor of Legal Theory Randy Barnett * In May, House Speaker Paul Ryan and Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi announced the creation of the bipartisan group of lawmakers focused on balancing the interests between federal and local govts Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC <https://robbishop.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RepRobBishop>

Other: 9:00 AM Washington Ideas Forum concludes – Washington Ideas Forum, hosted by The Atlantic in partnership with the Aspen Institute, concludes. ‘Leaders from politics and govt to business and culture’ convene to ‘tackle the issues confronting the country and the world, including politics and policy, economics and trade, race and justice, education, global affairs, technology, and beyond’. Speakers today include Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Democratic Sen. Mark Warner, Republican Sen. Jeff Flake, former CIA Director (Gen.) Ret. David Petraeus, Aetna Chairman and CEO Mark Bertolini, Zillow Group CEO Spencer Rascoff, Veritas Genetics Co-founder and CEO Mirza Cifric, former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Washington, DC, Mayor Muriel Bowser, The Washington Post National Political Reporter Robert Costa, The New York Times White House Correspondent Maggie Haberman, NBC News Correspondent Katy Tur, and ABC News Chief White House Correspondent Jonathan Karl Location: Sidney Harman Hall, 610 F St NW, Washington, DC <https://twitter.com/WashingtonIdeas> [WashingtonIdeas.com](https://www.washingtonideas.com) <https://twitter.com/WashingtonIdeas> #WashingtonIdeas

9:00 AM SEC Chairman Clayton speaks at ‘Perspectives on Securities Regulation’ event – ‘Perspectives on Securities Regulation’ Brookings Institution Center on Regulation and Markets event, exploring the opportunities and challenges facing securities markets 10 years after the financial crisis, featuring a conversation with Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Jay Clayton and a panel discussion with SIFMA President and CEO Kenneth Bentsen Jr., Georgetown University Professor of Law Christopher Brummer, Davis Polk & Wardell partner Annette Nazareth, and Nasdaq Executive Vice President for Global Trading & Market Services and CEO Thomas Wittman Location: The Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst> #SecuritiesRegs

9:30 AM GOP Rep. Kevin Brady speaks on tax reform at the Heritage Foundation – House Committee on Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady speaks on ‘Tax Reform for Middle Class Americans’ at the Heritage Foundation, focusing on ‘creating Main Street jobs, growing middle-class paychecks, making taxes fairer, and helping hardworking Americans, not Washington special interests’ * President Donald Trump yesterday discussed new details on the framework for tax reform, during a speech in Indianapolis Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

1:00 PM Halcyon Dialogue VIP Robotics Showcase – Halcyon Dialogue VIP Robotics Showcase, including panel discussions on ‘Emerging Robotics Technology’ and ‘Policy Opportunities in the Robotics Age’, with speakers include Republican Rep. Will Hurd, former White House Chief Technology Officer Megan Smith and robotics entrepreneur Helen Greiner. American Association for the Advancement of Science CEO Dr Rush Holt discusses findings from the ‘Shaping Robotics Policy for the 21st Century’ report * Event also features multiple robotics demonstrations * A public event takes place tomorrow Location: Halcyon House, 3400 Prospect St. NW, Washington, DC halcyonhouse.org <https://twitter.com/HalcyonInspires>

1:30 PM GOP Rep. Kevin Brady speaks on tax reform at U.S. Chamber of Commerce – House Committee on Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady speaks on ‘the path forward for pro-growth tax reform’ at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce * President Donald Trump yesterday discussed new details on the framework for tax reform, via a speech in Indianapolis Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H St NW, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com <https://twitter.com/USChamber>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: “[Donald Trump] is right, no President has ever accomplished what he’s accomplished. After nine short months, we have more nuclear weapons pointed at us than ever before in the history of the United States.”

Stephen Colbert: “Here’s how Roy Moore describes our nation’s racial divide. ... Blacks, whites, reds, and yellows? I hope he’s talking about the Power Rangers.”

James Corden: "Yesterday, Twitter started testing a brand new feature to let some users post tweets with 280-character limits, which is twice the amount that is currently allowed. Yeah, 'cause that was the big problem with Twitter."

James Corden: "On Monday, it came out that Jared Kushner used private emails in his White House job. Today we learn he's registered in New York as a woman. Do you guys realize what this means? Jared Kushner is Hillary Clinton."

Trevor Noah: "Now, I don't know if you see what just happened [in Alabama]. But this is like what happened to Bernie Sanders last year. Remember, he said to his voters, 'Vote for Hillary.' And then a lot of them went, 'No. We're with Bernie.' And he said, 'Yeah, I'm Bernie. I'm telling you to vote for Hillary.' And they were like, 'That's not what Bernie would do. Sit down, old man. We're with Bernie!'"

Jimmy Fallon: "President Trump has finally addressed the situation in Puerto Rico. He said that he'll travel there on Tuesday. Trump said he's bringing lots of supplies in case he gets bored or hungry on the flight over."

Jimmy Fallon: "Trump unveiled his new tax plan, and said that it would actually benefit people who pay the least taxes. Then Americans said, 'So, you?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Paul Ryan actually said that the tax plan will let people file their taxes on a postcard. 'Cause if there's one group you can count on to fix the IRS, it's the Post Office."

Jimmy Fallon: "I read that investigators could start interviewing White House staff as part of the Russia investigation as soon as this week. When Trump heard that, he was like, 'You know what? I better head to Puerto Rico right away.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Twitter is testing a 280-character limit for users. Twitter says that it will revolutionize the way that we start fights with North Korea."

Seth Meyers: "Twitter announced yesterday it will be increasing its character limit from 140 to 280 characters per tweet, on a trial basis. So we're now officially at war with at least 17 more countries."

Seth Meyers: "While discussing the corporate tax rate today, President Trump said that 20 is his ideal number and he is not negotiating that number, which is the same thing he says when he orders chicken McNuggets."

Conan O'Brien: "President Trump introduced his new tax plan today. I know you're all excited about it. That was a really great reaction. That's what happens when like an air mattress deflates."

Conan O'Brien: "President Trump says his new tax plan would greatly simplify the US tax code. It would divide everyone into two brackets: taxpayers and President Trump."

Conan O'Brien: "There are rumors that NFL legend Peyton Manning may run for Senate. Sure. Why not? Experts say there's no way mixing the NFL and politics could possibly go wrong."

Conan O'Brien: "It's been reported that morale is very low among the Taliban. You know things are bad when suicide bombers are too depressed to go to work."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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DOI In The News

Ryan Zinke, Trump's Cowboy Enforcer, Is Ready For His Closeup.

[GQ](#) (7/31, Plott) published a profile on Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who the article calls "a big player in Donald Trump's Washington." According to the piece, "if Zinke's track record is any indication, he has every intention of leveraging his new post on Team Trump into something much bigger." However, Zinke "waved off questions about the White House." He said, "I think the president is going to serve two terms." And "if that does indeed happen, he knows it'll be Pence's turn afterward, and he'll be supporting him."

Trump Cabinet Officials Make Fun Of Rick Perry's Ignorance About Nuclear Arsenal. [Raw Story](#) (7/31, Gettys) reports that "Rick Perry was surprised to learn that his job as secretary of energy would place him in charge of the U.S. nuclear arsenal, and his fellow cabinet members like to tease him about it." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "told GQ that he's become close friends with Perry while serving under President Donald Trump, and he's poked fun at his fellow Cabinet member's reported ignorance." Zinke said, "Secretary Perry is a wonderful guy. I think he thought his department was more about energy than ... science. Mostly, it's science and, of course, they also have responsibility of our nuclear arsenal." Zinke "said Perry apparently confused the Department of Energy with the Department of Interior when accepting the job." Zinke said, "Interior is the one that produces energy. We laugh a lot about it."

Nevada Democrats Fault Interior Chief Over Canceled Meetings.

The [AP](#) (7/31, Ritter) reports that "elected Democrats and an Indian tribal leader in Nevada criticized Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Monday for canceling meetings with advocates after his tour of two national monuments on a list of sites the Trump administration is considering cutting in size." Chris Giunchigliani, a Clark County commissioner, "said during a demonstration at the Las Vegas offices of several political advocacy groups that she felt Nevada had been 'disrespected.'" Also, Rep. Dina Titus "said she believed Zinke never wanted to meet with advocates." However, the Interior Department "fired back with a statement calling the critics' claims 'patently false.'" A statement provided by Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift "said Zinke did all he could after arriving in Nevada from New Mexico over the weekend to tour the monuments and meet with people on Sunday."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [McClatchy](#) (7/31, Ritter), the [U.S. News & World Report](#) (7/31, Ritter), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (7/31, Ritter), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (7/31, Ritter), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/31, Ritter).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (7/31, Rogers), the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Sun](#) (7/31, Gonzalez), and [KLAS-TV Las Vegas \(NV\)](#) Las Vegas (7/31, Walker), [KSNV-TV Las Vegas \(NV\)](#) Las Vegas (7/31, O'Neal), and [KVVU-TV Las Vegas \(NV\)](#) Las Vegas (7/31, Hilt).

Zinke: 'Laughable' To Suggest He Threatened Alaska Senators.

The [AP](#) (7/31) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke responded to reports that he had threatened Sens. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Dan Sullivan (R-AK), saying, "Ah, you know, the moon has been characterized as other things, too. So, I think it's laughable." The article explains that "the Alaska Dispatch News reported last week that Zinke called Murkowski and Sullivan and said Murkowski's vote against proceeding to debate on legislation to overhaul the federal health care law put Alaska's future with the administration in jeopardy."

[The Hill](#) (7/31, Henry) reports Zinke also said, "I talk to Sen. Murkowski and Sen. Sullivan

all the time. A lot's been said about a lot of things. But I talk to them all the time. We get along well."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/31, Siciliano) reports Murkowski later said that Zinke had told her only that President Trump was not pleased with the way she voted.

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [U.S. News & World Report](#) (7/31), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (7/31), the [Wichita \(KS\) Eagle](#) (7/31), the [Charlottesville \(VA\) Daily Progress](#) (7/31), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (7/31), the [Olean \(NY\) Times Herald](#) (7/31), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (7/31), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (7/31), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/31), [Bloomberg News](#) (7/31), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/31, Press), the [Daily Mail](#) (7/31), and [KTVA-TV Anchorage \(AK\)](#) Anchorage, AK (7/31).

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (7/31, Cama, Henry), the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (7/31, Oswald), the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (7/31, Burns), the [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (8/1), [Law360](#) (8/1, Goldberg), and the [Talking Points Memo](#) (7/31, Macneal).

Zinke Applauds Berwind Mine Operation.

[West Virginia MetroNews](#) (7/31, Jenkins) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "released a statement Monday remarking his approval of the "initial construction" of the Berwind coal property." According to the statement, "the site's developers, Ramaco Resources, expect the McDowell County mine to create 50 'good-paying' jobs and employ around 200 coal miners when operations reach the projected production level." The Berwind Mine will "produce 800,000 tons of coal a year and create jobs near the West Virginia-Virginia border." Zinke said, "Under President Trump's leadership, the Department of the Interior is dedicated to being a good partner with local communities. This administration is dedicated to streamlining permitting and approval processes, and empowering local employees to get work done on the front lines. The Berwind Mine is the first of many projects that demonstrate the Trump Administration's commitment to coal country and to good government."

The Interior Secretary Gave A Closed-door Speech To ALEC.

The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (7/31, Smith) reports that "on July 20, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke spoke at a closed-door meeting of conservative state legislators and lobbyists, raising questions about his stated goals of transparency in federal government." Zinke "spoke in Denver at the annual meeting for the American Legislative Exchange Council." However, "because of the group's funding sources and its interest in states holding public lands, conservationists see Zinke's association with the group as problematic."

O&C Commissioners Met With Interior Secretary.

The [Coos Bay \(OR\) World](#) (7/31, Harrell) reports that "while Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was in Oregon earlier last month, he met with O&C county commissioners to discuss the expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and the loss of timber revenue." The Association of O&C counties "spoke out against the expansion, arguing it would further restrict logging on lands that provide revenue for the cash-strapped counties." Tim Freeman, President of the Association of O&C counties, "said he was encouraged that the Trump administration is interested in rural Oregon."

Outdoor Recreation Becomes Top Money Generator For Montana.

The [AP](#) (7/31) reports that "a new report by the Outdoor Industry Association shows that the state's outdoor recreation has become one of its the top economic sectors." According to the association, "consumers spend \$7.1 billion on recreational activities such as camping, fishing, skiing, boating and biking." The article notes "that money not only flows into the state's economy but also provides \$2.2 billion in wages and salaries for 71,000 jobs, and \$286 million in state and local taxes."

Not Protecting Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks Would Be an Irreplaceable Loss.

In an op-ed for the [Morning Consult](#) (7/31, Miller, Loendorf), Myles Miller, a principal investigator for Versar Inc., and Larry Loendorf, president of Sacred Sites Research Inc., find it "most unfortunate and nearly incomprehensible" that the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument "and other national monuments are now under review by the Department of the Interior for possible reduction or even total elimination." They want Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke of their "unequivocal conclusion that the immeasurable worth of the prehistoric and historic archaeological record of the Desert Peaks Complex merits full protection under the Antiquities

Act, that the total parcel of public land protected by the monument is indeed the smallest possible to preserve the significant and irreplaceable cultural resources that tell more than 13,000 years worth of stories.”

Montana Rep: Time To Retire The Ridiculous Designation Of Wilderness Study Areas.

In an op-ed for the [Fairfield \(MT\) Sun Times](#) (7/31, Harris), Montana state Rep. Bill Harris urges Rep. Greg Gianforte and Sens. Steve Daines and Jon Tester to “retire the ridiculous designation of Wilderness Study Areas.” Harris argues that “the designation serves no purpose and has contributed a great deal to” the recent fire in Sandage Coulee. Harris thinks “the most effective way to make the changes needed is to flood Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke with our concerns. and urge a change in federal lands management.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Trump Administration Moves In New Direction With Cobell Buy-back Program.

The [Nation Sun News](#) (7/31) reports that “with just \$540 million left to spend, the Trump administration is changing course when it comes to the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations.” In an announcement on Monday, the Interior Department “dramatically cut back the number of reservations where landowners can expect to receive offers for their fractional interests.” According to the article, “instead of the 70 or so that were on the list toward the end of the Obama administration, only 20 remain on the implementation schedule.” Jim Cason, the Associate Deputy Secretary at Interior, said in the announcement, “The revised strategy announced today maximizes the remaining dollars left for the implementation of the Buy-Back Program and seeks to achieve the greatest reduction of fractional interests, the largest number possible of landowners able to participate, and the most effective use of the department’s resources.”

Connecticut Senate OKs Changes Needed For New Tribal Casino.

The [AP](#) (7/31) reports that “the state Senate has approved amended agreements that could lead to Connecticut’s first casino on nontribal land.” The 27-8 vote in Monday “comes exactly one week after the House of Representatives voted in favor of the amended compacts and memoranda of understanding between the state and the two federally recognized tribes, the Mashantucket Pequot and the Mohegans.” The Bureau of Indian Affairs will now consider the changes.

Cayuga Nation Leadership Struggle Not Over Just Yet.

The [Auburn \(NY\) Citizen](#) (7/31, Craig) reports that “though the federal government upheld a decision to recognize Clint Halftown and his council as leaders of the Cayuga Nation, an opposing faction is challenging the ruling.” Joseph Heath, a lawyer “for a Cayuga Nation group formerly known as the Unity Council, filed a motion on Friday questioning the validity of the Bureau of Indian Affairs’ decision to the Interior Board of Indian Appeals.” Heath claimed “that the latest decision, entered by Acting Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Michael Black, is invalid because Black was removed from that post in June, prior to issuing his decision on July 14.”

NIGC Asks Judge To Rethink Ruling In Tribe’s Gambling Suit.

[Law360](#) (7/31, Westney) reports that the National Indian Gaming Commission on Friday “urged a D.C. federal judge to dismiss several claims from a suit over the government’s rejection of the Fort Sill Apache Tribe’s gambling bid, contending that the judge had wrongly changed course by ruling that an NIGC letter could be challenged in court.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Burning Man Gets Permit, Officially Not Canceled.

[USA Today](#) (8/1, Kane) reports that “Burning Man received its 2017 permit on Sunday from the Bureau of Land Management, the federal agency that oversees the health, safety and security operations at the 68,000-person arts hoopla in the Black Rock Desert just two hours north of Reno.” According to the article, “up until a month ago, the desert playa was partially underwater due to flooding from this winter’s heavy precipitation.” It adds that “about a month ago, the

Burning Man organization checked the playa's water table to ensure that the playa would be dry and firm enough to hold the dozens of large-scale art installations that will make their way to the playa this year."

Judge Hears Arguments In Las Vegas Water Pipeline Fight.

The [AP](#) (7/31, Ritter) reports that "momentum and mitigation were two questions mentioned by a federal judge who has to decide whether environmental studies need to be redone for a massive eastern Nevada water pipeline proposed to serve Las Vegas." U.S. District Judge Andrew Gordon "wondered at the end of arguments in Las Vegas whether he has authority to tell the federal Bureau of Land Management to fix shortcomings if he finds them in environmental reports that took eight years to develop, or if he'd have to tell everyone to start over." Gordon "said Monday it'll be several weeks before he issues a ruling."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (7/31, Brean).

4 Ways Far-Right Groups Are Winning The Social Media Battle.

[NPR](#) (7/31, Siegler) reports that "in the rural West, the jailed rancher Cliven Bundy and his militia followers were early and savvy users of social media." Now, the article says, "as a series of federal trials has begun for the 2014 standoff near the Bundy ranch, his followers are regularly using Facebook Live to do their own reporting on the cases." The article lists "four ways the Bundys and others in his movement are gaining supporters and winning the PR battle on social media."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

State Offers New Momentum For Offshore Wind Power.

The [Cape Cod \(MA\) Times](#) (7/30, Bragg) reports that "one of three companies with plans to build commercial wind farms south of Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard has begun a formal analysis of their lease area." According to the article, "the start of Bay State Wind's site assessment process moves the company a step ahead of its competitors in the federal regulatory permitting process." The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is "currently reviewing the site assessment plans of Vineyard Wind and Deepwater Wind for completeness."

Making An Impactful Public Comment In A Power Player-Dominated Debate.

For the "Pundits" blog of [The Hill](#) (7/31, Davis), John W. Davis II, founder and CEO of N&C Inc., explains how people can "engage in the public notice and comment process" to "directly impact government." However, he says "too few people are aware of how the system works or how to influence it." As an example, he points to the "important questions involving national economic and security issues currently open for public comment on the Department of Interior's Bureau of Ocean Management proposed rule (BOEM-2017-0050-0001)." Davis advises that "if you want to submit an effective comment on an important issue such as drilling in the eastern Gulf, you need to research the facts and come up with a cogent argument." He says that "the mawin lines of debate have been drawn midway through the open comment period — which closes on August 17 — pitting the various major interest groups described above against one another," so to gain "BOEM's attention," commenters might need to "introduce a completely new line of argument to the mix."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Yellowstone Grizzlies Removed From Threatened Species List.

The [AP](#) (7/31, Volz) reports that "for the second time in a decade, the U.S. government has removed grizzly bears in the Yellowstone region from the threatened species list." The decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "to remove federal protections from the approximately 700 bears living across 19,000 square miles in Montana, Idaho and Wyoming took effect Monday." However, "wildlife advocates, conservation groups and Native American tribes have already filed notice that they will sue to reinstate the protections."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (7/31), [ABC News](#) (7/31, Volz), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (7/31, Volz), [Business Insider](#) (7/31, Volz), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (7/31, Volz), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (7/30, Volz), [Philly \(PA\)](#)

(7/31, Volz), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/31, Matt Volz |, Ap), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/31, Volz), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (7/31, Volz), [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (7/31, Volz), and [WTOP-FM Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (7/31).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Cody \(WY\) Enterprise](#) (7/31, Freedman) and the [Daily Caller](#) (7/31, Pearce).

So, Is Trump Gonna Build That Wall Or What?

[Vice](#) (7/30) reports that despite the inclusion of \$1.6 billion in border wall funding in a defense spending package last week, "it remains unclear how the wall is going to be funded, and the battle over the money issue could drive Trump to desperation." Vice recounts that officials last week "finally admitted that, due to disputes over the bidding process, they would not be able to pick contractors or start construction on the prototypes funded by that initial \$20 million afforded them until late October or early November at best." Vice adds that wall funding is "likely to be the center of some brutal fights in the Senate in the near future, and probably back in the House again once the Senate finishes its own process and loops back around." The [Daily Caller](#) (7/30) reports more optimistically by saying construction on the first part of Trump's "promised border wall is set to begin in South Texas in a few months." The Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge in Texas is "expected to be the site of a three mile border wall, managed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)."

Endangered Frog Habitat Sparks California Farm Lawsuit.

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (7/31, KASLER, WILKE, SABALOW) reports that "the California Farm Bureau and two ranchers' associations sued the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Monday, challenging a year-old decision to designate more than 1.8 million acres of rural California as 'critical habitat' for three species of frogs and toads that are protected by the Endangered Species Act." The critical habitat designation subjects farmers "to substantial regulatory burdens that impose, among other things, study costs, risk assessments, mitigation fees, operational changes, permit fees, and consulting expenses," said the lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Washington, D.C. The species at issue are the Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, the mountain yellow-legged frog, and the Yosemite toad.

DuPont To Pay \$42M To Settle South River Mercury Contamination, Does Not Specify Money For Waynesboro Projects.

The [Charlottesville \(VA\) Daily Progress](#) (7/31, Stuart) reports that "a federal judge on Friday approved the settlement for damages from DuPont's mercury contamination of the South River, but did not order any of the \$42 million settlement be used for projects in Waynesboro, including a much-discussed trout grow-out facility." The [Staunton \(VA\) News Leader](#) (7/31, Cavallaro) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "announced the decision Monday, saying they 'look forward to working with interested stakeholders to implement the best projects to benefit the injured natural resources for the future enjoyment of the community.'" Anne Condon, a fish and wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Protect Alaska's Natural Treasures From Oil Drilling And Mining.

In an editorial, the [Seattle Times](#) (7/31) opposes drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the National Petroleum Reserve. The paper argues that "the known environmental hazards of mining are a direct threat to one of Alaska's signature resources:" salmon. According to the editorial, "Alaska's wishful thinking about striking it rich again with oil and minerals from risky places does not diminish the known realities and hazards."

National Park Service

How A Surge In Visitors Is Overwhelming America's National Parks.

[Yale University \(CT\) Environment 360](#) (7/31, Robbins) reports that "the growing crowds at U.S. National Parks have become unmanageable, jeopardizing the natural experience the parks were created to provide." Now, "with attendance this summer continuing to shatter records, officials are considering limiting use of the parks in order to save them."

Historic Site Awaits Its National Park Future.

The [Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (7/31, Hubbard) reports that "representatives from the

National Park Service will update the Gloucester Board of Supervisors Tuesday night on the planned park at the historic Werowocomoco site." The federal government acquired "the 264-acre Werowocomoco property off Ginny Hill Road in June 2016 for \$7.1 million." The Werowocomoco site is "believed to be where Capt. John Smith described how his life was saved by Pocahontas after his capture."

Goose Meat Is Back On The Menu At A DC Food Kitchen.

[WTOP-FM](#) Washington (7/31, Hensley) reports that "meat from more than 100 geese captured in D.C. will help feed people around the area, the National Park Service announced Monday." D.C. Central Kitchen "— which prepares meals for homeless shelters, rehabilitation clinics and after-school programs — received about 100 pounds of breast meat from 116 Canada geese thanks to the efforts from the National Park Service and the D.C. Department of Energy and Environment." The geese were "captured at Anacostia Park and euthanized earlier this month as part of a population-management effort."

Construction Projects Underway At Mount Rainier.

[KIMA-TV](#) Yakima, WA (7/31, Schurk) reports that the National Park Service is "gearing up for various construction projects at Mount Rainier." According to the article, "road projects include road construction, Annex rehabilitation for the Paradise Inn and damage repair to rock walls." Work started "in July and is expected to continue through late September 2017."

Colorado-Based Team Takes You Under The Water In National Parks.

[KUSA-TV](#) Denver (7/31, Powell) reports on the Submerged Resources Center, which "works with any park unit across the country to explore the waters within it." The Lakewood, Colorado-based team "dives underwater to find, identify, study and preserve the pieces of national parks that are below ground – living pieces, like coral or invasive species, and non-living, like ships."

Heights Theater, River Oaks Mansion Added To National Register Of Historic Places.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (7/31, Hlavaty) reports that "two Houston properties, one a popular music venue and the other a mansion in the city's poshest neighborhood, were recently added to the National Register of Historic Places." According to the article, "the newly-restored Heights Theater along 19th Street and The Charles W. and Mary Duncan House on Inverness Drive in River Oaks are now on the lengthy list of historic places worthy of preservation."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Tri Marine Seeks To Remove Fishing Restriction Within Pac Monument.

[Samoa News](#) (7/12, Sagapolutele) reports that "Tri Marine Group has recommended that the federal government begin a rule making process to remove commercial fishing restriction for tuna in certain area of waters around the Pacific Islands Remote Marine National Monument (PIRMNM)." But "there has been strong opposition from conservationists and environmentalist groups as well as others living in the US to any changes to the PIRMNM, which was first established in January 2009 by then President George Bush. With the marine monument designation, commercial fishing is prohibited within boundaries of the monument."

StarKist Co. Addresses Expansion Of Pac Remote Islands Marine Natl Monument.

[Samoa News](#) (7/15, Sagapolutele) reports that "StarKist Co. is willing to work with the Trump Administration to find more effective ways to protect the ocean and US waters, but it must be done in a way 'that is science based and does not unfairly hurt the American Samoan economy and our US fishermen,' according to the company's Seafood Procurement director, Cary Gann in a July 3rd letter." Gann's letter, addressed to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, "was in response to the federal agency's request for public comments following President Trump's executive order earlier this year in May, calling for a review of land and marine monument designations by former US presidents, going back to 1996."

American Tunaboat Association Opposed To Fishing Restrictions.

The [Guam Daily Post](#) (7/20) reports that "U.S.-based American Tunaboat Association (ATA) has argued that the 2014 expansion of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument (PRIMNM) by former President Barack Obama 'had a particularly detrimental impact on the U.S.

fishermen ... and on the economy and prosperity of the American Samoa,' whose economy is 80 percent dependent on the canneries." ATA Executive Director Brian Hallman wrote in a letter last Friday to the Interior Department, "ATA strongly supports removing all fishing restrictions in all Marine National Monuments, thus restoring the conservation and management processes for highly migratory fish stocks established by U.S. law."

DMWR Argues Marine Monument Expansion Not Based On Science.

[Samoa News](#) (7/18, Sagapolutele) reports that "Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) Chief Fisheries Biologist, Domingo Ochavillo has shared concerns with US Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, over the designation of Rose Atoll as a marine monument; and also argues that expansion of the Pacific Remote Islands National Marine Monument was not based on science 'but more on political legacy considerations.'" Ochavillo said, "There is a need to review these national monument designations so that they are based on the best available science, and adequate cultural and economic considerations."

Marshall Islands Tackles Health Problems.

The [Marianas Variety](#) (7/25) reports that "the number one killer of Marshallese is non-communicable diseases or NCDs." According to the article, "thanks to funding from the Marshalls' international partners — U.S. Department of the Interior, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Pacific Community and the World Health Organization — the Marshalls Ministry of Health can update its NCD report." MOH "joined with the Economic Policy Planning and Statistics Office, and the Marshall Islands Epidemiology and Prevention Initiative or MIEPI for the Marshall Islands NCD Hybrid Survey Training that opened Monday last week at the Marshall Islands Resort." The article says that "the one-week training is preparing 30 selected individuals for the survey. MIEPI is the main driver for the training and the six-month survey that is expected to start next week."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Marshall Islands Journal](#) (7/20, Marty).

Top National News

Kelly Becomes New White House Chief Of Staff, Immediately Fires Scaramucci.

Anthony Scaramucci's dismissal from his White House post generated extensive media attention, including the lead stories on all three major network newscasts. The coverage cast Scaramucci's exit as another sign of a White House in deep disarray, though the development is also seen as Chief of Staff John Kelly's first step toward establishing his authority and restoring order. [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/31, lead story, 3:25, Holt), for example, said "Kelly's first order of business" was "apparently fixing what many insiders saw as a big mistake by the President in his hiring of Scaramucci," and the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/31, lead story, 2:50, Mason) led its broadcast reporting that "Kelly reported for duty...and left no doubt that he is in command." Along similar lines, the [Washington Post](#) (7/31, Phillip, Paletta) says "the abrupt decision signals that Kelly is moving quickly to assert control over the West Wing," [Breitbart](#) (7/31, Spiering) that Kelly "wanted to set a new tone after taking his new position, using Scaramucci as an example," and [The Hill](#) (7/31, Fabian) that the ousting is "a sign that Kelly could have more power in the chief of staff role than his predecessor, Reince Priebus, ever did."

Meanwhile, a "senior aide" tells [Politico](#) (7/31, Palmeri) "there was 'no way' Scaramucci could work with Kelly," and that "Kelly is already changing the culture here." Gloria Borger said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/31) that she "was told by a source close to the White House that...Kelly made this decision two to three days ago," and that this "source" indicated that "the days of tolerating BS in this White House are over."

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/31, Olorunnipa, Talev), which reports Kelly faces "the Herculean task of restoring order to a crisis-ridden presidency," believes "he'll have one advantage former chief of staff Reince Priebus never did: the backing of Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner." According to "an administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity," the two "supported Kelly's selection...after losing confidence in Priebus." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/31, lead story, 3:45, Vega), in fact, referred to "a stunning shift in the chain of command," as "everyone, including the President's own daughter and son-in-law" now "report to...Kelly."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/31, Kasperowicz) reports that White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders "confirmed Monday that Kelly is free to run" the White House "as he likes," telling reporters, "Gen. Kelly has the full authority to operate within the White House, and

all staff will report to him." Asked whether "all access to Trump will be controlled through Kelly," she added, "The president's given full authority to Gen. Kelly, and he'll make those determinations." White House correspondent Kaitlin Collins said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (7/31) that Scaramucci's departure "really shows how much weight...Kelly truly does have right now in this White House," and Charles Krauthammer, on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/31), referred to "an obvious signal from the President and Kelly that he is in charge."

Mollie Hemingway of The Federalist, also on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/31), said that "getting rid of Scaramucci" and "having Kelly in should help tamp things down." Hemingway added that with Priebus, "you couldn't get a more establishment Republican-type person. Obviously, things didn't go so well, so Trump wants to change direction and you can hope things will go better with someone who is more to his liking." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/31) praises Kelly's move, which it sees as setting a new tone and clearly establishing that he's in charge.

The new Chief of Staff had officially assumed his new position yesterday morning. Citing "a person close to White House" as its source, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/31, Bennett, Bierman) reports he proceeded to tell "Scaramucci around 9:30 a.m. EDT that he was going to be replaced." [Business Insider](#) (7/31, Smith) notes a [tweet](#) by April Ryan, the White House correspondent for American Urban Radio Networks, who wrote, "A source says @Scaramucci said I don't report to you and the General said your gone and he is." According to "administration officials...under condition of anonymity," [USA Today](#) (7/31, Jackson) reports, "the two men agreed their relationship would not work."

The [New York Times](#) (7/31, Haberman, Shear, Thrush), which broke the story yesterday citing "three people close to the decision," also said Scaramucci "had boasted about reporting directly to the president, not the chief of staff," while the [Washington Examiner](#) (7/31, Lovelace) refers to "reports that Scaramucci was escorted out of the White House on Monday soon after...Kelly told him he was out." At any rate, the [AP](#) (7/31, Lucey) reports, "as the Scaramucci news spread, Kelly was in the East Room smiling and taking pictures with guests who were gathering for a Medal of Honor presentation."

Wall Street Journal reporter Michael Bender, on [Twitter](#), reported that "WH comms team was given 15mins to report to Sanders' office for Mooch news. Also in press sec's office: SEAN SPICER." Those facts are also included in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/31, Ballhaus, Bender) report this morning.

Dana Milbank writes in the [Washington Post](#) (7/31), "It was a fall of biblical proportions. Huge! Like, bigger than Jericho falling to Joshua. ... Much too soon, The Mooch is gone. As the Good Book says: What the &@%\$#? Those &@%\$# can go &@%\$# themselves with a &@%\$#."

[McClatchy](#) (7/31, Irby, Welsh) notes Sanders, meanwhile, "declined to say whether Scaramucci had resigned or was fired." [Reuters](#) (7/31) notes the White House said in a statement, "Mr. Scaramucci felt it was best to give Chief of Staff John Kelly a clean slate and the ability to build his own team." In the afternoon, [NPR](#) (7/31, Bennett) reported, Sanders "told reporters she would not elaborate on whether Scaramucci was fired or willfully resigned, but she said the former Wall Street financier would not retain another role on the White House staff 'at this time.'"

Jim Acosta said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (7/31) that Sanders "did not want to acknowledge there was chaos in the White House. That seems akin to denying that the sky is blue. Obviously, the chaos is here at the White House. She said if you want to see chaos, you can come see how my kids play at the house. My suspicion is perhaps her children behave better than some of the officials do inside this White House when they're engaging in some of the factional bickering we see all the time."

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/31, Jacobs, Talev) reports "Scaramucci's departure raises new questions about his plans to sell his stake in Skybridge to China's HNA Group Co. and little-known investment firm RON Transatlantic." Bloomberg adds that "the proposed transaction is being scrutinized by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, which vets sales of American assets to foreign buyers to protect national security."

Trump Praises Kelly, Dismisses Talk Of White House "Chaos." The [New York Post](#) (7/31, Fredericks) reports "the dramatic move came just hours after Trump crowed on Twitter that there was no chaos in the White House, and days after the man known as the Mooch launched an obscenity-laced rant against then-chief of staff Reince Priebus and Trump adviser Steve Bannon." [Wrote](#) Trump, "Highest Stock Market EVER, best economic numbers in years, unemployment lowest in 17 years, wages raising, border secure, S.C.: No WH chaos!"

After Kelly's wearing-in, [Bloomberg News](#) (7/31, Jacobs, Talev, Olorunnipa) reports, the President lavished praise on his new top aide, saying, "He will do a spectacular job, I have no doubt, as chief of staff." In a Cabinet meeting later Monday, Trump also "said that Kelly's work as Homeland Security secretary – where he vigorously implemented the president's promised crackdown on undocumented immigration – 'is nothing short of miraculous.'" The President took to [Twitter](#) later in the day, writing, "A great day at the White House!"

Eric Trump: Kelly "An Amazing Human Being." Eric Trump said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (7/31) that Kelly "is an amazing human being. ... He will operate that place so incredibly well, and listen, my father has so many great people by his side. The whole Cabinet – he has one of the most impressive cabinets there, but in terms of organization, you can give it to a military guy, I think is going to do an incredible, incredible job for the Trump Administration."

Bossie: "New Sheriff In Town." Former Trump deputy campaign manager David Bossie said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (7/31), "There is a new sheriff in town. I think that Gen. Kelly's first day on the job, he put a stamp on his reign here at the White House, and I think he is someone who is coming in there with a strong position. He is going to be a commander of men and women, has been all of his life, and people follow him and that is what he is expecting from everyone on the White House staff, for them to follow his lead. I think that the days of these clashes between staff are going to be over, and I look forward to it."

"Source Close" To President: Scaramucci Fired Over New Yorker Interview. The [Washington Times](#) (7/31, Boyer) reports that according to "a source close to Mr. Trump," he "fired Mr. Scaramucci because of the profanity-laced tirade in a phone call to a New Yorker magazine writer," which "embarrassed Mr. Trump and his family."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/31, Lovelace) notes Sanders also said the President "found Scaramucci's profanity-laden comments in a New Yorker interview last week were 'inappropriate,' but declined to talk in more detail about whether Scaramucci quit or whether he was fired."

[Breitbart](#) (7/31, Spiering) similarly indicated that "the New Yorker article was fatal to Scaramucci's White House career, as the profane nature of the conversation upset and embarrassed many Trump staffers."

Spicer Upon Encountering Group Of Reporters Yesterday: "Is This A Surprise Party?" The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/31, Bennett, Bierman) reports that "after word spread of Scaramucci's ouster, Spicer, who resigned when Scaramucci took over but was still working in the White House, walked out of his office to a throng of reporters" and asked, "Is this a surprise party?" The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/31, Quinn) notes, at any rate, that "Sanders said she wasn't aware of any changes to Spicer's plans," who "is on track to leave the White House by mid-August."

Scaramucci Reportedly Asking To Return To Ex-Im Bank; CNN Won't Hire Him. John Roberts said on [Fox News Your World](#) (7/31), "One source told me" Scaramucci "asked to go back to the Ex-Im Bank and that the President granted that wish. But at this moment, we're getting conflicting reports about that," with "Sanders saying that he's not a member of this administration in any way, shape or form."

[The Hill](#) (7/31, Concha) reported, meanwhile, that in a [tweet](#) yesterday, BuzzFeed's Steven Perlberg wrote, "A CNN spokesperson tells me that the network will not seek to hire Anthony Scaramucci as a contributor."

Attorney For Scaramucci's Wife: Divorce "Has Nothing To Do With Trump." The [New York Times](#) (7/31, Rogers) reports that "on Friday, whispers began that a third person – President Trump – had come between Mr. Scaramucci and his wife, Deidre Ball, causing her to file for divorce." That report was "published in The New York Post's [Page Six](#) column" and credited "unnamed sources." However, "at least according to Jill Stone, who is representing Ms. Ball in the divorce...the Trump-Scaramucci political union did not cause Ms. Ball to file for divorce." Said Ms. Stone, "It has nothing to do with Trump. ... Honestly, it's a private matter, and she's hoping that it just dies down."

Scaramucci Got Into "Epic Email Clash" With Fake Priebus. The [New York Post](#) (7/31, Tacopino) reports, "Trump's ousted communications director had an epic email clash with someone he thought was archenemy Reince Priebus – but it was just some internet troll." Anthony Scaramucci received [a critical email](#) from reince.priebus@mail.com and "responded with indignation" as well as "a veiled threat to destroy Priebus Shakespearean-style." Scaramucci wrote, "Read Shakespeare. Particularly Othello. You are right there. My family is fine by the way and will thrive. I know what you did. No more replies from me."

Pfeiffer Mocks Length Of Scaramucci's Tenure. The [Hollywood Reporter](#) (7/31, Barr) noted that "Dan Pfeiffer, who served as communications director during President Obama's administration, teased Scaramucci on Twitter after the news broke," [writing](#), "Unfortunately for

the Mooch, the minimum tenure to get invited to the annual WH Comms Directors Reunion is 3 weeks.”

Podesta To Kelly: “Don’t Take The Job.” Former White House Chief of Staff and Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta writes in the [Washington Post](#) (7/31), “As a former White House chief of staff, the best advice I could have given...Kelly has been overtaken by events: Don’t take the job.” Kelly “just signed up for what may truly be an impossible mission” and “walking into a White House that looks more like a cock fight than an episode of ‘The West Wing.’ (See Mooch, you can use that word without being profane.)” Podesta adds, however, that Kelly “does have a strong hand to play” in that “the president needs Kelly more than Kelly needs him. Trump simply cannot afford to have Kelly walk without disastrous consequences.”

Some Democratic lawmakers also weighed in. Sen. Jack Reed said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (7/31), “I think Gen. Kelly will establish more stricter guidelines, he’ll try to control the access to the President, not exclude people but make sure it is an orderly process. But ultimately it’s the President and his attitude and his approach to these issues. That’s the key factor. I think you can bring in new staff, but you have to have the President willing to listen to the staff, willing to change some of his behaviors. Some of the tweets that he puts out are not helpful strategically, and I think that’s going to be the test.”

Rep. Jim Himes said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (7/31) that Kelly, “a Marine, [is] well respected. If anyone can bring order to what has been a chaotic White House operation, I would expect to be a four-star Marine. I think he’s respected around town, around Washington, and I think he’s going to be respected within the White House and hopefully he will tame some of the crazy that has prevailed there in the last couple months.”

Trump Again Threatens Lawmakers’ Health Coverage.

[Roll Call](#) (7/31, Bennett) reports that President Trump “kicked off Monday by again threatening lawmakers’ health insurance.” He [tweeted](#), “If ObamaCare is hurting people, & it is, why shouldn’t it hurt the insurance companies & why should Congress not be paying what public pays?” The [Daily Caller](#) (7/31, Donachie) reports that Trump “threatened members of Congress Saturday, promising lawmakers that if they fail to pass a bill to repeal and replace Obamacare he would quickly put an end to federal funding for Obamacare subsidies.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/31, Mascaro) looks at whether the President can act on those threats, writing that they “are not empty. The administration could simply stop the payments – which are provided to Capitol Hill lawmakers and staff much the way many employers help pay employees’ monthly insurance premiums – by dashing off new federal regulation.”

The [Washington Times](#) (7/31, Dinan, Howell) reports that “several congressional Republicans said they will work on Capitol Hill to change the law and force lawmakers to fully abide” by the ACA. But Sen. Ron Johnson “acknowledged that his plan to cancel the taxpayer subsidy was ‘probably not wildly popular’ among fellow senators.” Rep. Ron DeSantis (R-FL) said on [Fox News’ Fox & Friends](#) (7/31), “I decline the subsidy. It’s not right, and I don’t take it because I don’t think it’s lawful. I think the President would be absolutely within his rights to cancel the Obama rule that conferred this subsidy on Congress.”

[Politico](#) (7/31, Demko) reports that the President could also “at any time could make good on a threat to scrap crucial Obamacare payments to insurers – a decision that could raise Obamacare customers’ costs and potentially leave tens of thousands more without any coverage options next year.” On the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/31, story 2, 2:20, Mason), Nancy Cordes reported, “President Trump went this weekend from saying Obamacare should fail to saying he might give it a shove. ‘If a new HealthCare Bill is not approved quickly,’ [he wrote](#), ‘BAILOUTS for Insurance Companies and BAILOUTS for Members of Congress will end very soon!’ He appeared to be referring to a major Obamacare provision, allocating federal funds to insurers in order to bring down premiums for lower-income relief.” Cordes said, “This is not an abstract debate. Insurance companies have just a few more weeks to finalize their coverage plans and their rates for 2018. If the President does yank that \$7 billion, they will have to move quickly to raise rates, pull out, or sue the Administration.”

Paul: Trump May Take Executive Action On Healthcare. [Breitbart](#) (7/31, Moran) reports that Sen. Rand Paul said he spoke with the President on Monday, and “told reporters that Trump will consider taking executive action to address the many problems with the healthcare system.” Paul “has long advocated for Association Health Plans (AHPs) or plans that would allow small businesses and individuals to group together across state lines through their membership in a trade or professional association to purchase health coverage for their families and employees at a lower costs.”

Cassidy Meets With Price, Other Officials. [Politico](#) (7/31, Everett, Dawsey) reports under the headline “White House Not Letting Go Of Obamacare Repeal” that the White House “is trying to rebuild momentum for Obamacare repeal after it stalled, yet again, in the GOP Senate last week,” with Sen. Bill Cassidy meeting with HHS Secretary Price and other top officials on Monday. [The Hill](#) (7/31, Carney) reports that the Cassidy meeting follows the President’s Friday meeting with Sen. Lindsey Graham. Cassidy, Graham, and Sen. Dean Heller are drafting a proposal “that would transfer decision-making authority back to state governments.” [Townhall](#) (7/31, Benson) reports that White House officials “also met with House Freedom Caucus chairman Mark Meadows (R-NC) to brainstorm how to make the idea palatable to conservatives, according to two sources familiar with the meeting.”

[Townhall](#) (7/31, Pavlich) reports “the White House is reminding the GOP that giving up on the issue isn’t an option and pushing lawmakers to keep working until they fulfill their long stated promise to get rid of the government run legislation.” White House Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Short said on [Fox News’ Fox & Friends](#) (7/31), “Obamacare has crushed the American people. ... The American people are hurting with this. We can’t just let it go. It is a promise Republicans made helped them to claim the House of Representatives in 2010. It helped Republicans win the Senate in 2014. It’s a consistent promise we have made to the voter that we are going to repeal and replace Obamacare. We are one vote short at this point. We are not going to give up on our effort to make sure that this promise is delivered upon.”

[USA Today](#) (7/31, Jackson) reports that the bipartisan House Problem Solvers Caucus, co-chaired by Reps. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ) and Tom Reed (R-NY), has put forth a proposal that “would abandon any pretense of repealing the Affordable Care Act...while boosting spending, repealing one tax, and relaxing regulations.” It would “provide mandatory funding for ‘cost sharing reduction’ payments to insurance companies,” “create a stability fund that states can use to reduce premiums and limit insurer losses,” and “repeal the 2.3% sales tax on medical devices,” among other things. The [Washington Post](#) (7/31) praises the effort in an editorial headlined “Finally, A Real Plan To Fix Obamacare,” writing, “The caucus’s plan is not the only conceivable Obamacare fix, but it is a serious, generally sensible proposal.”

[Politico](#) (7/31, Vielkind) reports that Senate Minority Leader Schumer “said Monday he has heard from 10 of his Republican colleagues in response to his call for a bipartisan approach to health care legislation.” However, the [AP](#) (7/31, Fram) writes that though “Republican, Democratic and even bipartisan plans for reshaping parts of the Obama health care law are proliferating in Congress,” they have “iffy prospects at best, and there were no signs Monday that GOP leaders have chosen a fresh pathway.”

[Reuters](#) (7/31, Cornwell) reports that Senate Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch said in an interview “that senators for now are too divided to keep working on healthcare overhaul legislation and that he and other senior Republicans will take that message to the White House.” The [Washington Post](#) (7/31, Sullivan) reports that other Senate GOP leaders also “signaled Monday that they intend to move on from health care to other legislative priorities.” Sen. John Thune said, “We’ve had our vote, and we’re moving on to tax reform.” Sen. Roy Blunt similarly said, “I think it’s time to move on to something else. Come back to healthcare when we’ve had more time to get beyond the moment we’re in – see if we can’t put some wins on the board.” Thune and Blunt are both part of the leadership.

WTimes Analysis: McCain Now A “Hero” To “Leftists.” The [Washington Times](#) (7/31, Richardson) writes, “Not long ago, Sen. John McCain was reviled by leftists as a war-mongering hothead, but now he’s their hero, thanks to his vote to preserve” the ACA.

LePage Criticized Collins At Weekend Event. The [Washington Times](#) (7/31, Persons) reports that Maine Gov. Paul LePage “rallied against Sen. Susan Collins, a fellow Republican, at a pig roast over the weekend.” LePage said, “If the Republican base – which is the 290,000 people that voted for me [in 2014] tell her, ‘We don’t want you; you’re not winning the primary,’ she’ll back down.” LePage “is term-limited and cannot run in 2018. Ms. Collins has not formally declared her intention to run for governor, but expressed interest in a possible run. She said she’d make a decision this fall.”

Lieberman: Failure To Seek Bipartisan Support Killed 1993 Clinton Healthcare Plan. Ex-Sen. Joe Lieberman argues in a [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/31) op-ed that in 1993, he and Sen. Patrick Moynihan urged President Clinton and Hillary Clinton to take a bipartisan approach on healthcare, but they chose to seek passage with only Democratic support. Lieberman writes that Moynihan proved that big reforms can only happen with bipartisan support.

Short: Trump Will Travel To Make Case For Tax Reform.

[Reuters](#) (7/31, Gibson) reports that President Trump, “who has been criticized for not doing enough to help pass health care legislation, will do more traveling to try to drum up support for tax legislation,” according to White House Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Short. The President “could travel to some Midwest states like Michigan and Wisconsin that he won during the 2016 presidential campaign but are still represented by Democrats in Congress.”

Short said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (7/31), “We need to get this economy going and the principles of our tax reform are three. One is it needs to be simpler and more fair... Two, we need to provide middle class tax relief. ... Third is a corporate section of tax relief. That is that too many companies have left America because the corporate tax rates are too high here. We want to save jobs. We want to keep jobs here in America. ... We need to lower that rate so we can make sure jobs are protected in America.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/31, Mohsin, Sink) reports Short said at an Americans For Prosperity event that the White House has “an aggressive schedule” on tax reform aimed at House passage in October and Senate passage in November. Treasury Secretary Mnuchin said at the event that the Administration and GOP congressional leaders were in a “heavy drive toward tax reform.”

[Politico](#) (7/31, Lorenzo) says that “Short’s ambitious timeline is the most specific laid out by the White House or Congress in recent months. It tracks with a joint statement issued by administration and congressional negotiators last week, which said, ‘Our expectation is for this legislation to move through the committees this fall, under regular order, followed by consideration on the House and Senate floors.’”

The [New York Times](#) (7/31, Peters, Rappeport) says that the event at which Short and Mnuchin spoke was “a show of unity with one of the Republican Party’s biggest financial backers,” writing that Americans For Prosperity is “the political network funded by Charles G. and David H. Koch.”

Short: Bannon’s Proposed Tax Increase Not “On The Table Right Now.” [Bloomberg News](#) (7/31, Epstein) reports Short said that Steve Bannon’s proposed “top income-tax rate of 44 percent for Americans earning more than \$5 million per year isn’t under consideration.” Short told Fox News, “I don’t think that that’s on the table right now, to be honest with you. We don’t believe that raising taxes is the way to encourage growth.”

Hatch: 15 Percent Corporate Tax Rate “Very Unlikely.” [Reuters](#) (7/31, Morgan) reports Senate Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch said in an interview that the Administration will face a challenge in reducing the US corporate income tax rate, even though he supports the effort. Hatch said, “The President said he wants to get it down to 15 percent. That’s very unlikely. In fact, it would be kind of miraculous if we could get it down to 25 percent or less. I’d like to get it down to around 20 percent. I’d love to get it at 15 percent if we could.”

Brady: “Tax Reform Needs To Be Permanent.” House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady said on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (7/31) that “the key is permanence. Whatever we do on tax reform, we really want businesses to make a long-term investment, decisions that drive jobs and drive paychecks in a big way. My view is tax reform needs to be permanent. To do that, it has to balance within the budget.”

WTimes Analysis: EPA Would Face Tough Fight To Reverse Greenhouse Gas Endangerment Finding.

The [Washington Times](#) (7/31, Wolfgang) reports that the Trump Administration’s EPA has not begun “reversing the agency’s 2009 endangerment finding on greenhouse gases,” a task that “would be its toughest fight,” and which “specialists” say would be “an uphill climb” that would “start an unprecedented legal war with environmentalists, states and a host of other litigants.” EPA Administrator Pruitt “hasn’t said one way or the other whether he plans to go after the endangerment finding, which provided the legal underpinning for much of the Obama administration’s agenda inside the EPA.” The Times adds that doing so “could prove a futile exercise” and “sources familiar with the debate inside the EPA say the administrator believes the massive fight to kill the endangerment finding wouldn’t be worth the trouble.”

Klobuchar: Nation Needs Bipartisan Infrastructure Plan.

In an op-ed for [USA Today](#) (7/31), Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) argues that Republican and Democratic lawmakers must work together to pass a national infrastructure investment plan, recalling her own experience of having a bridge near her home collapse for lack of repairs, killing 13 and injuring 145. She also points to the American Society of Civil Engineers’ “D+” grading of American infrastructure and asserts, “If our deteriorating infrastructure goes unaddressed, it will cost our economy nearly \$4 trillion by 2025, leading to the loss of 2.5 million jobs.” She

concludes that an infrastructure plan, such as that offered by Senate Democrats, would offer critical renovations and create millions of jobs.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Police See Through Trump’s Tough Talk.” A [New York Times](#) (7/31) editorial says that the “backlash” from law enforcement against President Trump’s speech in which he “urg[ed] police officers to rough up suspects arrested in their campaign against MS-13,” says “something about how forward-looking police officials think about their responsibilities.” Many have found that “enforcement strategies based in brutality make it difficult to solve crimes – because they alienate communities from the law, making it harder for officers to do their jobs.” Trump, the Times argues, “might bear this in mind the next time he opens his mouth on this subject.”

“Drop The Bluster On North Korea.” A [New York Times](#) (8/1, Board) editorial says President Trump “needs to face the reality that he cannot solve” the North Korean nuclear threat “by proxy, that he must intervene directly and that he should do so soon,” even if China does not participate. The Times says “Trump should drop the bluster and dispatch Secretary of State Rex Tillerson or some other high-level envoy to Pyongyang to explore whether there is any basis for negotiations” without preconditions. The Times concedes whether Pyongyang would even agree to such talks is unclear, but its willingness will never be known “unless someone goes and asks them.”

Washington Post.

“We’re On The Road To A New Cold War.” A [Washington Post](#) (7/31) editorial says the US and Russia have “descended to a new low point in relations, with waves of sanctions and escalating retaliation.” The Post argues that the current tension is “a response to bad choices” taken “deliberately” by President Vladimir Putin, perhaps for his “own reasons of domestic politics and foreign policy.” While it is “important for both Washington and Moscow to keep talking,” the Post says Putin “should not expect the West to suddenly forgive or forget his bad choices.”

“Police Brutality Is No Joke, Mr. President.” The [Washington Post](#) (7/31) argues in an editorial that President Trump’s “remarks encouraging police to use excessive force,” threaten to “do greater damage” than any of the other “irresponsible things” he has said, “and there have been far too many.” The Post says it was “heartening” that “police officials from across the country distance[d] themselves from – with many firmly denouncing – the president’s comments giving a seeming wink and nod to police brutality,” and concludes that Trump’s “paean to gratuitous use of force sends the wrong message to police and to the communities they serve.”

“Finally, A Real Plan To Fix Obamacare.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/31) praises a healthcare proposal from the House Problem Solvers Caucus, writing, “The caucus’s plan is not the only conceivable Obamacare fix, but it is a serious, generally sensible proposal.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Government Opioid Abuse.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/31) editorial faults state and local governments for filing lawsuits against prescription opioid makers alleging fraud and deceptive marketing practices, arguing that the suits are an effort to pad state budgets that have been decimated by skyrocketing labor and pension costs.

“Kelly Sends A Message.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/31) praises new White House Chief of Staff Kelly’s move to oust Communications Director Anthony Scaramucci, which it sees as setting a new tone and clearly establishing that he’s in charge.

“Venezuela’s Mocked Election.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/31) editorial urges the US to sanction Venezuelan oil exports, which it says are crucial to President Nicolás Maduro’s survival.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Scaramucci Removed At Urging Of New Chief Kelly](#)

[Cable Tie-Up Unites Parents Of HGTV And Animal Planet](#)

[Six Hours Of Chaos: A Wild Day Inside India's Overrun Courtrooms](#)
[Late Credit-Card Payments Stoke Fears For Banks](#)

New York Times:

[John Kelly, Asserting Authority, Fires Anthony Scaramucci](#)
[New Dangers Stalk Syrian Children Still Haunted By Horrors Under ISIS](#)
[Prosecutors' Dilemma: Will Conviction Lead To 'Life Sentence Of Deportation'?](#)
[Russia's Military Drills Near NATO Border Raise Fears Of Aggression](#)
[Sam Shepard, Actor And Pulitzer-Winning Playwright, Is Dead At 73](#)
[Ancient Vase Seized From Met Museum On Suspicion It Was Looted](#)

Washington Post:

[Cleaning Up Facebook A Daunting Task](#)
[Kelly Becomes Chief Of Staff; Scaramucci Fired](#)
[Venezuelan Opposition Seeks Way Forward](#)
[Trump Crafted Son's Statement On Russian Contact](#)
[Acclaimed Playwright And Film Actor](#)

Financial Times:

[Kelly Seeks White House Order As Scaramucci Ousted](#)
[Brexit Projected To Push Up Banks' Costs By 4%](#)
[US Sanctions Venezuela's Maduro Over Disputed Vote](#)
[JPMorgan Develops Robot To Execute Trades](#)

Washington Times:

[With Dismissal Of Scaramucci, Kelly Shows Who's In Charge At White House](#)
[EPA May Lack Oxygen To Challenge Obama's Greenhouse-Gas Endangerment Finding](#)
[Arpaio Plans To Appeal Criminal Contempt Conviction Over Detention Of Illegal Immigrants](#)
[Spanish Border Enclaves Under Violent Siege As Increasing Hordes Of African Migrants Storm Barriers](#)
[Conservatives Challenge Trump To Revoke Obamacare Subsidy For Members Of Congress](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: WH-Staff Shakeup; Severe Weather; Tennessee-Police Violence; Indianapolis-Officer Shot; Australia-Terror Plot Foiled; Russia-US Sanctions Retaliation; Arizona-Illegal Immigration Sweep; Sam Shepard Dies; Venezuela-Political Turmoil; Vietnam Veteran-Medal Of Honor; Alabama-Prison Escapees; Los Angeles-2028 Summer Olympics Hosting; United Airlines-Close Call; HBO-Cyber Attack; North Carolina-Islands Power Outages; Hawaii-Seals; Child Singer.

CBS: WH-Staff Shakeup; Healthcare Reform Plan; Severe Weather; North Carolina-Islands Power Outages; North Korea-Missile Test; Venezuela-Political Turmoil; Russia-US Sanctions Retaliation; Arizona-Illegal Immigration Sweep; Airlines Seat Size; Vietnam Veteran-Medal Of Honor; Los Angeles-2028 Summer Olympics Hosting; Swiss Alps-New Bridge Open; Sam Shepard Dies; Chicago Cubs Fan.

NBC: WH-Staff Shakeup; Russia-US Sanctions Retaliation; Venezuela-Political Turmoil; Opioid Epidemics; Opioid Epidemics-Medical Comment; Alabama-Jail Escapees; Severe Weather; Colorado-Treasure Hunt Deaths; HBO-Cyber Attack; Sam Shepard Dies; Chicago Cubs Fan; Los Angeles-2028 Summer Olympics Hosting; Vietnam Veteran-Medal Of Honor.

Network TV At A Glance:

WH-Staff Shakeup – 10 minutes
Vietnam Veteran-Medal Of Honor – 5 minutes, 45 seconds
Russia-US Sanctions Retaliation – 5 minutes, 25 seconds
Severe Weather – 3 minutes
Venezuela-Political Turmoil – 2 minutes, 55 seconds
Los Angeles-2028 Summer Olympics Hosting – 55 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Russia Meddling Investigation; WH-Staff Shakeup; Trump-Law Enforcement Comment; Venezuela-Political Turmoil.

CBS: WH-Staff Shakeup; Russia Meddling Investigation; Los Angeles-2028 Summer Olympics Hosting; Sam Shepard Dies; HBO-Cyber Attack; Wall Street News.

FOX: WH-Staff Shakeup; Russia Meddling Investigation; Los Angeles-2028 Summer Olympics

Hosting.

NPR: WH-Staff Shakeup; Venezuela-Political Turmoil; Los Angeles-2028 Summer Olympics
Hosting; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in an event with small businesses.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a meeting with Georgian Opposition Party leaders; participates in a meeting with Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili of Georgia; visits the Sioni Cathedral of the Dormition; delivers remarks to US and Georgian Noble Partner participants; has dinner with Prime Minister Duško Markovic and President Filip Vujanovic of Montenegro.

US Senate: 10:00 AM Senate Finance Committee hearing on the 'affordable housing crisis' – Hearing on 'America's Affordable Housing Crisis: Challenges and Solutions', with testimony from Government Accountability Office Director of Financial Markets and Community Investment Daniel Garcia-Diaz; National Council of State Housing Agencies President Grant Whitaker; New York University Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service Furman Center for Real Estate and Urban Policy Faculty Director Dr Katherine O'Regan; University of Kansas College of Liberal Arts and Sciences School of Public Policy and Administration Urban Planning Program Professor Dr Kirk McClure; and National Association of Home Builders Chairman of the Board of Directors Granger MacDonald Location: Rm 215, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://finance.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Environment and Public Works subcommittee hearing on EPA Superfund program – Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight Subcommittee hearing on 'Oversight of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Superfund Program', with testimony from Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn Environmental Practice Group partner Steven Nadeau; Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Director of Regional Operations Jeffery Steers; and independent consultant Katherine Probst Location: Rm 406, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Senate Commerce subcommittee hearing on Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization – Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee hearing on 'Reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act: NOAA and Council Perspectives', with testimony from National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service Assistant Administrator Christopher Oliver; and Council Coordination Committee and Northeast Fishery Management Council Chair Dr John Quinn Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov>
<https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

11:00 AM Nominations hearing considers Stephen King to be U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://foreign.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate HELP Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Lance Robertson to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Aging; Dr Brett Giroir to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Health; Dr Robert Kadlec to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Preparedness and Response; Dr Elinore McCance-Katz to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Mental Health and Substance Use; and Dr Jerome Adams to be Surgeon General Location: Rm 430, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

US House: 11:00 AM House of Representatives meeting in pro forma session

On recess until 5 September.

Other: 9:00 AM EPA holds public hearing for proposed RFS for 2018 and Biomass-Based Diesel Volume for 2019 – Environmental Protection Agency holds public hearing for the proposed rule 'Renewable Fuel Standard Program: Standards for 2018 and Biomass-Based Diesel Volume for 2019' * Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds among witnesses Location: Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.epa.gov>
<https://twitter.com/EPAgov>

10:30 AM Fuels America press call from the EPA hearing on Renewable Fuel Standards for 2018 – Fuels America press call from the Environmental Protection Agency public hearing on proposed 2018 targets under the Renewable Fuel Standard, with supporters calling on the EPA to make more ethanol and other biofuels available to consumers in next year's fuel mix. Speakers

include Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds, DuPont Industrial Biosciences Global Business Director for Advanced Biofuels Jan Koninckx, Biotechnology Innovation Organization Industrial & Environmental Section Executive Vice President Brent Erickson, National Corn Growers Association Member Keith Alverson, Advanced Biofuels Business Council Executive Director Brooke Coleman, and Growth Energy Vice President of Regulatory Affairs Chris Bliley Location: TBD www.fuelsamerica.org <https://twitter.com/fuelsamerica>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Since we went away for vacation, Sean Spicer's out, Reince Priebus is out. Trumpcare is dead. And Kim Jong-Un has a missile that can reach New York. And weirdly, I don't feel tired from all the winning yet. I really don't."

Jimmy Kimmel: "The President has been very busy repealing and replacing his staff."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Meanwhile, Donald Trump tweeted about Reince Priebus, who he fired. He wrote, 'We accomplished a lot together, and I am proud of him,' which that's two lies in one sentence."

Stephen Colbert: "Yes, the Mooch is toast. The front-stabber has been back-stabbed. He said he was going to fire everybody, and you got to admit, he delivered."

Stephen Colbert: "According to White House sources, Kelly let the Mooch go because he wanted 'more structure, less of 'Game Of Thrones.'" That's not a fair comparison. With 'Game of Thrones,' you have to wait a whole week for a new beheading."

Stephen Colbert: "At 8:30 a.m. this morning, Trump tweeted that there was no White House chaos. And then, six hours later, Scaramucci was out. Evidently, 'no chaos' wasn't bragging; it was complaining."

Stephen Colbert: "Previous North Korean missiles had the range to reach Hawaii and Alaska, but this new missile has 'the range to hit Chicago.' But I lived in Chicago for years, and I have a hard time believing Chicagoans would be scared by this. For Pete's sake, the Cubs won the World Series, they know the end is near."

Trevor Noah: "Wait, what? Scaramucci out? He just got here! I just bought the Scaramucci 2017 jersey!"

Trevor Noah: "People are fired so quickly that the White House ghost has no idea who to haunt."

Trevor Noah: "Some of the critics of the President are concerned Trump seems to be surrounding himself with generals. General John Kelly, General Mattis, General McMaster and, of course, general anesthesia."

Jimmy Fallon: "Today, President Trump officially removed Anthony Scaramucci as his communications director. And this is a little awkward: When Scaramucci called an Uber to pick him up at the White House, Sean Spicer was driving."

Jimmy Fallon: "And get this, Scaramucci's official start date was supposed to be August 15, or as Trump put it, 'See, we're setting so many records. He's the first person to ever get fired before they start working.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Scaramucci actually missed the birth of his son last week because he was with Trump. So he, this is real, he texted his wife congratulations. Trump was like, 'You don't text your wife after she has your baby. You tweet her.'"

Seth Meyers: "According to the New York Times, Trump removed Scaramucci at the request of incoming Chief of Staff John Kelly. And when he heard that, Reince Priebus laughed for the first

time in 18 months.”

Seth Meyers: “After North Korea tested a new intercontinental ballistic missile on Friday, Kim Jong-Un issued a statement saying the whole US mainland is within his reach. Still not within his reach: the top shelf.”

Seth Meyers: “New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie was caught on video this weekend confronting a Chicago Cubs fan at a baseball game in Milwaukee. I don’t know. If you want to shock me, catch him on video governing in New Jersey.”

Seth Meyers: “A new report found that Montauk is the most expensive beach destination in the country. Though there’s one in Jersey that will cost you your whole career.”

Seth Meyers: “But just think about that. Scaramucci got Priebus fired, and then, he got fired two days later. That’s like telling someone, ‘See you in hell,’ and then literally showing up in hell the next day.”

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Portland (ME) Press Herald: Maine Voices: Protect The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Because It's God's Creation.

National Park Service

- Fox News: Total Solar Eclipse Expected To Send 'Record Crowds' To U.S.
- New York Daily News: National Park Service's Birthday Means A Freebie Gift For Everyone.
- Washington Times: Inside The Beltway: TLC: Iwo Jima Memorial Gets \$5 Million Upgrade.
- Baltimore Sun: Baltimore Mayor Pugh Pledges To Remove Confederate Monuments.
- Harrisburg (PA) Patriot-News: Gettysburg Park Hasn't Received Complaints About Confederate Monuments, Won't Remove Any Statues.
- Yankton (SD) Press & Dakotan: City Hears NPS Idea For Land Donation.
- Washington Times: River Deaths, Millions In Damage During '17 Wyoming Flooding.
- Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel: No Date Set For Release Of Chimney Tops 2 Fire Review.
- U.S. News & World Report: Interns Find Tiny Crustaceans In Arkansas National Park.
- ARLnow (VA): National Park Service Considering Improvements To Roosevelt Island.
- Las Vegas Review-Journal: Public Gets More Time To Comment On Zion Reservation Plan.
- U.S. News & World Report: Bellingham Climber's Body Recovered From Glacier.
- San Francisco Chronicle: 8 Kentucky Sites Added To National Register.
- KTVZ-TV Bend (OR): Downtown Redmond Canal Named To National Historic Register.
- North Jersey (NJ) Media Group: Another Leap For The Great Falls.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Los Angeles Times: North Korea Backs Off Threat To Hit Guam.
- Wall Street Journal: Mattis, Tillerson: US, Allies Are Holding Pyongyang Accountable.
- Marianas Variety: CW Bill Going To White House For Signature.
- Lady Freethinker: Vanuatu Bans Single-Use Plastic Bottles And Bags.
- Seafood Source: Palau Tackles IUU Fishing With Innovative Technologies And Partnerships.
- The Hill: US Sees Puerto Rico As Reservation With Nothing To Reserve.

US Geological Survey

- Los Angeles Daily Breeze: Caltech And Others Get \$4.9 Million For Earthquake Warning System.
- Aspen (CO) Daily News: Pitkin County Issues Highly Detailed Topographic Maps For Public Use.

Top National News

- ABC: Media Analyses: Trump's Monday Comments On Charlottesville Too Little, Too Late.
- CBS: Amid North Korea Tensions, Trump Orders Probe Of China's Trade Practices.
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- USA Today: "Problem Solvers Caucus" Drafting Proposals To Avoid Government Shutdown, Debt Default.

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DOI In The News

Lawmakers Urge Feds To Bar Atlantic, Eastern Gulf Drilling.

[Law360](#) (8/14, Lidgett) reports that "a bipartisan coalition of more than 60 U.S. House of Representatives members told the federal government on Friday to make the Atlantic Ocean and the eastern Gulf of Mexico off-limits for oil and gas leasing." Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. and Rep. Frank A. LoBiondo "led a group of lawmakers in sending a letter to Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke saying that the two areas should not be included in the National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program."

[NJ Spotlight](#) (8/15, Johnson) reports that in a letter, New Jersey's congressional delegation wrote, "The reopening of this process not only endangers New Jersey's coastal economy, but also ignores the will of the local communities that would be most impacted by oil drilling – including over 120 municipalities, 1,200 elected officials, 41,000 businesses, and 500,000 fishing families from up and down the Atlantic coast who have all voiced their opposition to oil and gas activities." The Trump Administration will "close comments on Thursday on the first step to develop a new program for oil and gas exploration on the outer continental shelf along virtually the entire nation's coasts."

Connelly: Savoring America's Public Lands, Appreciating The National Park Service.

In his column for the [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (8/14, Connelly), Joel Connelly writes that "public lands belong to us, and we ought defend them." Connelly criticizes President Trump, who – "unlike visionary predecessors – Republican presidents who designated monuments in Utah that became great national parks --" has "ordered a 'review' of national monuments created by his three predecessors." Connelly concludes that "Trump is threatening to become a Teddy Roosevelt in reverse."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Officials Schedule Closed-Door Meetings For Roadway Disputes.

The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (8/14, Stelnicki) reports that "more closed-door meetings are scheduled this week between Santa Fe County, four pueblos and the U.S. Department of the Interior regarding roadway disputes that threaten to impede funding for a regional water system planned in the Pojoaque Basin." According to the article, "the meetings Wednesday and Thursday at the state Capitol concern county roads said by the Bureau of Indian Affairs to trespass on tribal land." The article notes that "the discussions being closed to the public has drawn criticism, notably from the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government and Brian Egolf, speaker of the state House of Representatives."

Newtok Village Holds Ribbon Cutting At Mertarvik.

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (8/14, Trudeau) reports that a ribbon cutting was held in Mertarvik last Thursday following “a decade-long project to move the village of Newtok.” According to the article, “the new community is safely above the rising water, which threatens village of Newtok.” However, “the biggest uncertainty threatening continued progress at Metarvik is what kind of federal funding will be available.” Lynn Polacca, the Bureau of Indian Affairs Acting Regional Director, “said Newtok is only one of many villages at risk from climate change.” Polacca “said the BIA is able to help fund roads but does not have as much money available for housing.” He said, “Anything tied to transportation, that’s what we fund for BIA, and we’ve got limited funding for housing but you know, we try to help out where we can.”

Federal Government Halts Drilling At North Dakota Well Site.

The [AP](#) (8/14) reports that “the federal government has halted the drilling of oil wells near a North Dakota resort boat ramp at the request of the Three Affiliated Tribes.” Tribal Chairman Mark Fox “says the tribe appealed the federal permit of the drilling site because it violates tribal setback requirements from the lake.” The Interior Board of Land Appeals has “delayed the project in response to the tribe’s appeal last week.”

Wash. Tribal Group Can Offer Gambling, 9th Circ. Told.

[Law360](#) (8/14, Westney) reports that “Frank’s Landing Indian Community has urged the Ninth Circuit to overturn a Washington district judge’s ruling that the tribal group can’t conduct gambling, saying that it has the right to do so under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act even though it’s not fully recognized by the federal government.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Judge’s Rulings Lead To Tense Moments In Bundy Case In Vegas.

The [AP](#) (8/14, Ritter) reports that “restrictions placed by a federal judge on what defendants can say about being at Cliven Bundy’s ranch in April 2014 are leading to tense moments in the Las Vegas retrial of four men accused of wielding assault-style weapons to stop federal agents from rounding up cattle belonging to the anti-government figure.” Chief U.S. District Judge Gloria Navarro “refused Monday to order a mistrial sought by the defense attorney for Eric Parker, a defendant who Navarro ordered off the witness stand last week before telling the jury to disregard his testimony.” According to Las Vegas lawyer Robert Draskovich, “such a dramatic step involving a defendant in the presence of a jury is unusual and might draw scrutiny from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (8/14, Anglen, Thomas) and the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (8/14, Ferrara).

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Greens, Industry Upset About Gulf Exploration Rules.

[E&E Publishing](#) (8/14, Gronewold) reports on the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management’s programmatic environmental impact statement on “geophysical exploration for oil and gas in the Gulf of Mexico.” The agency “generally concluded that allowing more seismic testing in the Gulf poses minimal risk to marine habitats.” It is recommending “some restrictions” and critics say the proposed rules “don’t go far enough in protecting marine life.” Meanwhile, the International Association of Geophysical Contractors said that the rules “are unscientific” and put “energy exploration at risk.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

A Nearly \$17-billion Water Project Is Being Planned For California. What Will It Cost The Southland?

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/14, Boxall) reports that “decision time is approaching for the agencies that will have to pick up the nearly \$17-billion tab for building two massive water tunnels under the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, the heart of the state’s water works.” According to the article, “the board of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California commits to paying roughly a

quarter of the bill could make or break the project." At a Monday meeting, "speakers representing business and labor endorsed the project, saying it was needed to maintain reliable water supplies for the state's most populous region." However, "opponents predicted that MWD would wind up paying far more than the staff estimate, and argued the money would be better spent developing local supplies."

Hydropower Project To Begin.

The [La Junta \(CO\) Tribune-Democrat](#) (8/14, Woodka) reports that "construction of a hydroelectric generation plant at Pueblo Dam will begin in September after an agreement between the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation was signed on Friday." The Lease of Power Privilege "clears the way for the hydropower plant to connect to Pueblo Dam, a federally owned structure." The plant is expected to be online by spring of 2018.

Additional coverage was provided by [Hydroworld](#) (8/13) and [Stars And Stripes](#) (8/14, Swanson).

Fish And Wildlife Service

Oilfield Suppliers Encroaching On Threatened West Texas Lizard.

The [Texas Tribune](#) (8/14) reports that "a voluntary plan the state of Texas crafted to protect a tiny West Texas reptile — and avoid its listing as an endangered species — is facing a significant threat from companies that mine the fine-grain sand oil producers use for hydraulic fracturing," according to a letter Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar's office sent late last week to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "updating the federal agency on the status of the so-called 'Texas Conservation Plan' for the dunes sagebrush lizard." In a letter to the FWS on Thursday, Robert Gulley — the head of the comptroller's Division of Economic Growth and Endangered Species Management — "said that more than a dozen 'frac-sand' companies are planning mining operations in four West Texas counties that are home to prime dune sagebrush lizard habitat." According to the article, "while most of the 15 companies that have begun or are currently planning to mine sand in the area have expressed a willingness to revise operations to help protect the threatened reptile — and four have taken major measures to do so — the letter says that 11 still are planning to excavate in areas where several lizards have been sighted."

75 Years After WWII Internment, St.

George Island Receives Apology From USFWS. [KUCB-FM](#) Unalaska, AK (8/14, Kraegel) reports that "seventy-five years after supervising the Unangan internment during World War II, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has finally apologized to the people of St. George Island." Visiting the island last month, Wes Kuhns said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "is ready to take responsibility for its actions." Kuhns, acting captain of a USFWS research vessel, said, "I'm here to deliver a long overdue apology for the tragedies that befell the Aleut people on our watch."

Maine Voices: Protect The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Because It's God's Creation.

In an op-ed for the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (8/15, Killmer), the Rev. Richard Killmer makes the religious argument for protecting the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from drilling. According to Killmer, "As people of faith, we are called to protect and celebrate God's creation," and "there is perhaps no place where that calling is more important to live out than the Arctic Refuge." He also says that "as people of faith, we are also called to care for God's people — especially the most vulnerable," and "a clear way to manifest our calling to care for our neighbor is to protect the Gwich'in people and their way of life."

National Park Service

Total Solar Eclipse Expected To Send 'Record Crowds' To U.S.

National Parks, Say Officials. [Fox News](#) (8/14) reports that the National Park Service is "expecting hordes of skyward-gazing visitors to descend upon its grounds" for the total solar eclipse on August 21. Brian Carlstrom, Deputy Director of Natural Resources for National Park Service, said, "With all the hype, with all the attention that's being directed towards the Eclipse, we are really anticipating near or at record crowds for the parks across the country." The NPS isn't "exactly

sure how many people are planning to pop by, but they're beefing up security and staff accordingly." Carlstrom said, "We're expecting huge crowds. No idea of exactly how many, but we know they're going to be big."

National Park Service's Birthday Means A Freebie Gift For Everyone.

The [New York Daily News](#) (8/14, Scotti) reports that the National Park Service is "turning 101 years old and is celebrating by offering free admission to each of its gorgeous locations on Friday, Aug. 25." Admission will "also be waived on National Public Lands Day on Sept. 30 and during Veterans Day weekend, Nov. 11 and 12."

Additional coverage was provided by [Tucson News Now \(AZ\)](#) (8/14, Walton).

Inside The Beltway: TLC: Iwo Jima Memorial Gets \$5 Million Upgrade.

The [Washington Times](#) (8/14, Harper) reports that "the revered U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial — often referred to as the Iwo Jima Memorial — will get new gilding on its engravings and pedestal, plus a meticulous cleaning and wax of its five immense 32-foot bronze figures, a 60-foot flagpole and granite base." Also planned are "updated lighting, new landscaping for the surrounding parkland and improved infrastructure, according to the National Park Service." The project was "made possible through a \$5.4 million donation from businessman and philanthropist David M. Rubenstein, a man who believes in what he calls 'patriotic philanthropy.'"

Baltimore Mayor Pugh Pledges To Remove Confederate Monuments.

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (8/14, Broadwater) reports that Baltimore Mayor Catherine Pugh "pledged to Monday take down Confederate-era monuments in Baltimore — and said she has asked contractors for estimates on how much it will cost." Former Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake "appointed a commission of academics and officials to review Baltimore's four Confederate monuments in 2015 after the shooting deaths of nine African-Americans in a historically black South Carolina church by a white man who had posted photographs of himself with the Confederate battle flag." The memorials include the Confederate Soldiers and Sailors Monument, the Confederate Women's Monument, the Roger B. Taney Monument, and the Robert E. Lee and Thomas. J. "Stonewall" Jackson Monument. The commission appointed by Rawlings-Blake "suggested the Lee and Jackson statue be offered to the National Park Service to place in Chancellorsville, Va., where the two Confederate generals last met in 1863."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Baltimore \(MD\) Sun](#) (8/13, Broadwater) and the [Baltimore \(MD\) Sun](#) (8/14, Rodricks).

Gettysburg Park Hasn't Received Complaints About Confederate Monuments, Won't Remove Any Statues.

The [Harrisburg \(PA\) Patriot-News](#) (8/14, Robinson) reports that "in the wake of white supremacist rally and ensuing violence in Charlottesville, Virginia, Gettysburg National Military Park has not received any new complaints about its Confederate monuments at the park, said spokeswoman Katie Lawhon." According to the article, "more than 1,300 monuments, markers and plaques are housed at the park to memorialize the historic battle, including a statue of Confederate General Robert E. Lee and a Confederate flag on display in the museum." The park "maintains that the memorials are important to the cultural landscape and has no plans to remove any monuments or statues."

City Hears NPS Idea For Land Donation.

The [Yankton \(SD\) Press & Dakotan](#) (8/14, Nielsen) reports that "the City of Yankton may be giving a portion of city-owned land to the National Park Service (NPS) for additional access to the Missouri National Recreation River (MNRR)." During a regular meeting of the Yankton City Commission on Monday, "the board discussed a proposal to draft an agreement to transfer 34 acres of land on the Nebraska side of the Missouri River to the NPS." MNRR Superintendent Rick Clark "said that getting the land could be a huge boost to the park's ability to obtain funding for trail improvements."

River Deaths, Millions In Damage During '17 Wyoming Flooding.

The [AP](#) (8/14, Moen) reports that "the high volume of water that poured down Wyoming rivers and streams from a melting record mountain snowpack this year is being blamed for several river deaths and causing tens of millions of dollars in damage to roads, recreation sites and other infrastructure, according to initial estimates." Notably, in Grand Teton National Park, the National

Park Service has “spent about \$600,000 to reopen a paved road that was washed out by the Gros Ventre River, park spokeswoman Denise Germann said.” However, “Germann said visitors coming to the park for the eclipse, which passes right over Grand Teton, shouldn’t be impeded by anything associated with the earlier flooding.”

No Date Set For Release Of Chimney Tops 2 Fire Review.

The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (8/14, Ahillen) reports that “the much awaited Chimney Tops 2 fire review has been seven months in the making and now the National Park Service is not saying when it will be finally released.” Bill Kaage, chief of the NPS’s Division of Fire and Aviation Management, said, “We are aware that there is significant interest in this report and we are just as eager to learn from it as the general public. Given the complexity of the review, we can’t rush it, but we won’t delay either. The report is in the final stages and we plan to release shortly.”

Interns Find Tiny Crustaceans In Arkansas National Park.

The [AP](#) (8/14) reports that interns at Hot Springs National Park have “discovered species of a crustacean that hadn’t before been documented in the park’s waters.” Interns Paul Solis and Meg O’Connor “found new species of Ostracod in the park’s thermal waters.” They “discovered at least five species that hadn’t previously been seen in the park and rediscovered two species.”

National Park Service Considering Improvements To Roosevelt Island.

The [ARLnow \(VA\)](#) (8/14, Teale) reports that the National Park Service is “studying several improvements to Roosevelt Island, including a proposal to combat the invasive emerald ash borer that killed trees at the site earlier this year.” the article notes that “among a number of issues being examined by NPS for the island, located off the George Washington Memorial Parkway near Rosslyn, is a plan for the future of the hundreds of ash trees.” The park service “closed the island in June to remove diseased trees after the ash borer came through, and is now considering if the trees should be replaced with more ash trees or another species.”

Public Gets More Time To Comment On Zion Reservation Plan.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (8/14, Brean) reports that the National Park Service is “giving people a few extra days to comment on a plan to require reservations to get into Zion National Park.” The initial public comment period “for Zion’s conceptual visitor-use plan was set to end Monday, but the park service extended the deadline through Friday because the website for submissions was down for maintenance over the weekend.” The public will have “one more chance to weigh in on efforts to address overcrowding at Zion in the fall of 2018, when the park service is slated to release its completed visitor management plan.”

Bellingham Climber’s Body Recovered From Glacier.

The [AP](#) (8/14) reports that “the body of a 61-year-old Bellingham woman and mountaineer has been recovered from a glacier in North Cascades National Park.” According to North Cascades National Park Service spokeswoman Denise Shultz, “search and rescue personnel from North Cascades and Mount Rainier national parks recovered Susan Bennett’s body Saturday.”

8 Kentucky Sites Added To National Register.

The [AP](#) (8/14) reports that “Kentucky officials say the National Park Service has added eight sites around the state to the National Register of Historic Places.” The sites include “a Jewish cemetery in Middlesboro, a wholesale grocery warehouse in Richmond, a Victorian home school for girls in Louisville, a motel near Cave City, a church in Paducah and homes in Highland heights, Greensburg and Georgetown.”

Downtown Redmond Canal Named To National Historic Register.

[KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (8/14) reports that “the Pilot Butte Canal: Downtown Redmond Segment Historic District is among Oregon’s latest entries in the National Register of Historic Places, state officials said Monday.”

Another Leap For The Great Falls.

The [North Jersey \(NJ\) Media Group](#) (8/14) editorializes that “the next phase of the Great Falls national park – a \$3.2 million project slated to include the creation of an amphitheater on an embankment facing the waterfall – may soon be getting under way.” The paper says that “the greater development of the park is seen by many as an economic driver for the city, which is in

desperate need of ratables." Funding and investments for the park "represent vision and hope for Paterson's future, which, like the past, is linked inextricably with the Great Falls."

Office Of Insular Affairs

North Korea Backs Off Threat To Hit Guam.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/14, Hennigan, Kaiman) reports North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has "decided not to launch missiles toward Guam, Pyongyang's state media reported Tuesday, easing the immediate threat of an attack." The North Korean statement, however, warned that Kim could change his mind "if the Yankees persist in their extremely dangerous reckless actions," in which case the country's artillerymen would "wring the windpipes of the Yankees and point daggers at their necks." The Times says announcement appeared shortly after Defense Secretary Mattis warned that an attack could quickly escalate to war, "although it's unclear if the developments were linked." [Breitbart](#) (8/14, Pollak) calls North Korea's decision to "back down" a "major victory for the United States, as it was achieved – apparently – with no concessions to the regime, and after a sustained 'Twitter war' of words" with Trump. The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/14, Siegel) says the "change in course" by Pyongyang comes after Trump threatened it last week with "fire and fury."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/14, Fifield) reports Kim "appeared to take a step back from the brink of nuclear war," but, "as is often the case with North Korea, the message was mixed: Kim was inspecting the missile unit tasked with preparing to strike near Guam, and photos released by state media showed a large satellite image of Andersen Air Force Base on Guam on the screen beside the leader."

The [AP](#) (8/14) reported hours earlier that North Korea said its military presented leader Kim with plans to launch intermediate-range missiles into waters near Guam. [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/14, story 6, 2:05, Holt) reported that while Kim is said to be "reviewing plans for the missile strike to launch toward...Guam," if North Korea "actually goes through with it, Defense Secretary Mattis promised swift military action." Andrea Mitchell said Mattis "confidently [told] reporters the US would know within moments if a North Korean missile is fired at Guam, and we'll take it out, adding if they fire at the US, it could escalate very quickly." [Reuters](#) (8/14) quotes Mattis as saying, "If they fire at the United States, it could escalate into war very quickly."

The [AP](#) (8/14, Burns) reports that when asked how the US would respond, Mattis "initially declined to say," but when pressed, "he said that if US radars and other detection and tracking systems determine that a missile was going to fall into the sea, short of Guam, then the matter would be taken to President Donald Trump for a decision on how to respond."

Meanwhile, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/14, story 5, 0:40, Muir) reported Gen. Joseph Dunford traveling in the region on Monday warned that US is prepared to use "the full range of its capabilities if North Korea follows through on its threats of force." Dunford told ABC's Martha Raddatz that the US military "is ready in case diplomacy fails." The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/14, story 5, 1:50, Mason) reported Dunford began a tour of Asia, seeking to "reassure South Korea's president, Moon Jae-In. Dunford says the US still prefers diplomacy to force, but that the US is ready to use the full range of its capabilities to respond to any attack." The US staged joint military exercises with Japan on Monday and "will go ahead with exercises in South Korea next week, something both China and North Korea oppose."

The [New York Times](#) (8/14, Choe) reports both Dunford and Moon "said on Monday that they hoped to avoid armed conflict with North Korea, as China vowed to enforce new United Nations penalties." The Times says the developments "suggested that officials of the United States, South Korea and China are seeking to emphasize a message in Asia of lowering tensions after President Trump's apocalyptic threats last week." Also reporting Dunford's remarks, [USA Today](#) (8/14, Onyanga-Omara) notes that both National Security Adviser McMaster and CIA Director Pompeo insisted Sunday that "the US is not on the brink of nuclear war with North Korea, despite President Trump's recent rhetoric."

Charles Krauthammer said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/14), "I happen to believe Kim Jong-un is not irrational. He's reckless, pushing it, extremely ambitious, but extremely smart. ... I find it hard to believe he would actually launch at Guam. But if he does, we are looking at something extremely serious and I would imagine that the US military is quite prepared with plans for a massive attack where that happen."

WSJournal Analysis: Development Follows Chinese Imports Ban Announcement. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/14, Wong, Cheng, Schlesinger) reports North Korea's announcement came

hours after China said it would ban imports of North Korean coal, iron, and seafood, starting Tuesday. The Journal says the move by China followed a phone call over the weekend between President Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Seib: Mattis, Tillerson Engaged In Good-Cop-Bad-Cop Approach. [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/14) columnist Gerald F. Seib writes that while some have accused Defense Secretary Mattis and Secretary of State Tillerson of sending mixed messages on North Korea, they are engaged in a classic good-cop-bad-cop approach. Seib says their joint op-ed in the Journal on Monday was further evidence.

Analysts: US Missile Defense System "Effective But Not Foolproof." [USA Today](#) (8/14, Michaels) reports that if North Korea fires a missile toward Guam, "there is a good chance that the US military or an ally will be able to shoot it down." The US and its allies in the Pacific "have an effective, though not foolproof, defense against a North Korea missile launch in the region, analysts say." Thomas Karako of the Center for Strategic and International Studies said, "We have an important but limited degree of protection. Nobody thinks that this is a perfect shield."

Study Links North Korea Missile Program To Engines From Ukrainian Plant. The [New York Times](#) (8/14, Broad, Sanger) reports North Korea's recent successful intercontinental ballistic missile tests were "made possible by black-market purchases of powerful rocket engines probably from a Ukrainian factory with historical ties to Russia's missile program, according to an expert analysis being published Monday and classified assessments by American intelligence agencies." After a series of failures, North Korea "changed designs and suppliers in the past two years, according to a new study" by Michael Elleman, a missile expert at the International Institute for Strategic Studies. The information, says the Times, "may solve the mystery of how North Korea began succeeding so suddenly after a string of fiery missile failures." According to the Times, Elleman's "detailed analysis is public confirmation of what intelligence officials have been saying privately for some time: The new missiles are based on a technology so complex that it would have been impossible for the North Koreans to have switched gears so quickly themselves."

Mattis, Tillerson: US, Allies Are Holding Pyongyang Accountable.

Defense Secretary Mattis and Secretary of State Tillerson write in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/13) that North Korea's recent ballistic missile and ICBM tests have escalated tensions to levels not experienced since the Korean War. In response, they say, the US and its allies are applying diplomatic and economic pressure on North Korea to achieve denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. North Korea, they argue, now faces a choice: take a new path toward peace or continue further down the path of isolation.

McMaster, Pompeo: War With North Korea Not "Imminent." National Security Adviser McMaster and CIA Director Pompeo appeared on the Sunday morning shows, where they played down the risk of war with North Korea. The [Washington Times](#) (8/13, Boylan) says their remarks "came after a week of significantly heightened rhetoric between Pyongyang and Washington over North Korea's nuclear ambitions." On Sunday, the Times says, McMaster "appeared to take a cooler line of rhetoric." The officials, [USA Today](#) (8/13, Wolf) reports, "sought to assure Americans on Sunday that the nation is not on the brink of nuclear war with North Korea, despite the president's recent threats." McMaster and Pompeo "said an attack by North Korea does not appear imminent, and that the threat of war is no closer today than it was last week."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (8/13, story 5, 2:30, Snow) reported that while Guam "remains on edge," McMaster "said today the US is no closer to war now than it was a week ago." On [ABC's This Week](#) (8/13), McMaster said, "I think we're not closer to war than a week ago, but we are closer to war than we were a decade ago. The danger is much greater and is growing every day...so what we can no longer do is afford to procrastinate." On [CBS' Face The Nation](#) (8/13, Dickerson), Pompeo said he does not believe there is an imminent threat and that "the American people should know that this Administration is doing everything within its power." The [Washington Post](#) (8/13, Wagner) reports McMaster said Trump last week "made clear that the United States will not tolerate our citizens or our allies being threatened by this rogue regime."

The [AP](#) (8/13, Lardner) reports that while the officials said a military confrontation with North Korea's is not imminent, "they cautioned that the possibility of war is greater than it was a decade ago." Still, both McMaster and Pompeo "tried to provide assurances that a conflict is avoidable, while also supporting Trump's tough talk." McMaster stressed that the US is pursuing "a very determined diplomatic effort" led by Secretary of State Tillerson, but at the same time, "the US military is locked and loaded every day." Meanwhile, Pompeo said the US has a "pretty good idea" of North Korea's intentions, but he "declined to provide specifics."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/13, King) reports Pompeo said Trump would consider it

“unacceptable” for North Korea to possess a nuclear-armed ballistic missile capable of striking the United States. Speaking on CBS, Pompeo said Trump had “made very clear that the United States finds it unacceptable for a rogue leader like Kim Jong Un to have the capacity of a ballistic missile with a warhead that is integrated and fully deliverable to the United States and hold America and the world at risk. He’s simply not going to permit it to happen.”

Bossert: Trump Has Not Drawn A “Red Line.” Asked on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (8/13, Tapper) whether Trump had drawn a “red line,” White House Homeland Security Advisor Bossert said, “I think President Trump has wisely not drawn red lines” but that “I think what’s clear is the President wants to match his rhetoric with his actions and be as measured as possible. And also, I can’t stress this enough...any escalation, any conflict that” Kim Jong-un “would try to pick with the United States or its allies would lead to his rapid and immediate defeat.”

WTimes Analysis: Tillerson “Managing Fallout” From Trump’s “Rhetorical Brinkmanship.” The [Washington Times](#) (8/13, Taylor) reports that while President Trump “is in front of the rhetorical brinkmanship with North Korea,” Secretary of State Tillerson has “the tough behind-the-scenes role of managing fallout from the administration’s first genuine international crisis.” The Times calls the standoff a “defining moment” for Tillerson, who has “built a reputation for cool nonchalance under pressure that supporters say is exactly what is needed to provide a foundation of calm behind a president bent on confronting North Korea.”

Lawmakers, Former US Officials Weigh In On Threat. Sen. Lindsey Graham said on [Fox News Sunday](#) (8/13, Wallace), “I don’t think military action is imminent, but we are on a collision course with North Korea.”

Rep. Mac Thornberry cautioned on [Fox News Sunday Morning Futures](#) (8/13, Bartiromo) that at some point we will have to “take what [the North Koreans] say seriously.” He said the “whole government has been surprised at the progress North Korea’s missile program has made” and that as a result of underfunded missile defense “now we’re playing catch-up” to “meet the threat.”

Former DNI James Clapper said on [CNN’s State Of The Union](#) (8/13, Tapper) that North Korea had no incentive to denuclearize and that while he would love to see that happen, he didn’t believe it is “in the cards.”

Former CIA Director Leon Panetta said on [CBS’ Face The Nation](#) (8/13, Dickerson) that he thinks “the entire country is looking to see whether or not this President has the capability to provide strong leadership for our country at a moment of crisis. ... The most important thing right now is to find a way to ensure that we do not get into a war.”

Bloomberg Analysis: Sanctions Ineffective Unless They Target Oil Supply. [Bloomberg News](#) (8/13, Curran, Lee) reports that the latest round of sanctions imposed against North Korea “will cut deep,” but “aren’t likely to deter Kim Jong Un from his ambition of developing an arsenal of nuclear-tipped missiles. That’s because Kim, who’s banking on military power to survive, has a web of illicit channels to skirt sanctions and the new curbs leave out the vital ingredient of oil.” Dennis Wilder, former senior director for Asia at the National Security Council during the George W. Bush Administration, said, “North Korea’s dependency on Chinese fuel is China’s choke hold on Pyongyang. If this goes, the North Korean air force can’t fly jets and their electricity system can’t function.”

Another [Bloomberg News](#) (8/13) report says it is “getting harder for Chinese President Xi Jinping to maintain support” for North Korea. The “prospect of nuclear war has sparked a debate” in Beijing about maintaining support for Kim.

Congressional Aide: North Korea Satellites Could Be Used For “Surprise” EMP Attack. [Breitbart](#) (8/13, Klein) reports that an “expert warned on Sunday that we are ignoring two North Korea satellites currently orbiting the US that could be used to carry out a devastating electromagnetic pulse (EMP) attack.” Dr. Peter Vincent Pry, executive director of the Congressional Task Force on National and Homeland Security and chief of staff of the Congressional EMP Commission, warned, “We should not be tolerating the North Korean satellites that are orbiting over our country. There are two of them. And the intelligence community is still silent about those.”

Palau President Confident US Can Protect Pacific Region. [Marianas Variety](#) (8/14) reports that Palau President Tommy Remengesau “said he had faith that the United States ‘will do all it can to protect everyone in the region with the same commitment they have for the mainland U.S.’” Remengesau said Palau stands “with the people of Guam and the region in our concern for the well-being of everyone.”

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/11, Stiles) and the [Newburgh \(IL\) Gazette](#) (8/11, Boyd).

CW Bill Going To White House For Signature.

[Marianas Variety](#) (8/12) reports that “in a special pro forma session Friday, the U.S. House of Representatives passed U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan’s bill aimed at the problem caused by Chinese construction workers using up CW permits in 2016 and 2017.” The Northern Marianas Economic Expansion Act “now goes to President Trump, who is expected to sign it into law as early as this week.” Sablan said, “Local businesses and the hospital will now be protected from another surge of new, foreign construction workers taking the limited CW permits that are needed for long-term workers in the Marianas. The 1,500 or so construction workers, who have been in the Marianas since before October 2015, and the local companies that employ them will not be affected by my bill. They can still renew their CW permits.”

Vanuatu Bans Single-Use Plastic Bottles And Bags.

The [Lady Freethinker](#) (8/11, Cunningham) reports that “the South Pacific nation of Vanuatu is making a bold push to permanently ban single-use plastic bags and bottles.” According to the article, “joining other Pacific Island countries such as the Northern Marianas, American Samoa, and the Marshall Islands, the ban will cease the import of all single-use plastics to the small island nation.”

Palau Tackles IUU Fishing With Innovative Technologies And Partnerships.

[Seafood Source](#) (8/11, Orlowski) reports that the Pacific island nation of Palau is “on the front lines of the fight against illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing, but the small country has only one patrol boat – with two more on the way – to cover hundreds of thousands of square miles of ocean.” So Palau has “turned to innovative partnerships, including working with groups that track illegal fishing using satellite-based ship location data.” In an interview, Caleb Otto, Palau’s ambassador to the United Nations, talked about “Palau’s efforts to combat IUU fishing and the country’s decision in establishing a marine sanctuary twice the size of Mexico in 2015 that forbids nearly all fishing.”

US Sees Puerto Rico As Reservation With Nothing To Reserve.

Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Law Professor Andrés L. Córdova writes in an op-ed in [The Hill](#) (8/14, Cordova) that, after the Puerto Rico v Sanchez Valle case and implementation of PROMESA and the financial oversight board, the US government has “put to bed the argument that claimed any kind of uniqueness to the political relationship between Puerto Rico and the United States” and that “it is clear that Puerto Rico is a territory under the plenary powers of Congress ...without limitation or reservation.” In the Sanchez Valle case, the Supreme Court noted the similarities between Puerto Rico and Native American nations, “specifically the former’s lack of inherent or original sovereignty.” Córdova proceeds to elaborate on a variety of cases that make clear the limitations of power and self-rule for Native American nations whether living on a reservation or not, and that, despite what many in Puerto Rico hope, “acquisition of territories does not necessarily imply that they are destined to become states, or that they have the full protection of the Constitution.”

US Geological Survey

Caltech And Others Get \$4.9 Million For Earthquake Warning System.

The [Los Angeles Daily Breeze](#) (8/14) reports that “Caltech and six other institutions were awarded a total of \$4.9 million in funds by the U.S. Geological Survey” yesterday “for the development of an earthquake-warning system on the West Coast.” Caltech was “awarded funds along with Central Washington University, UC Berkeley, the universities of Oregon, Washington and Nevada-Reno, and UNAVCO, a geological-science research nonprofit.” The USGS “also announced the purchase of about \$1 million in sensor equipment to be used in the ShakeAlert system, which is designed to give residents several seconds of advance warning of an earthquake, allowing them to quickly seek shelter or take precautionary actions to limit damage.”

Pitkin County Issues Highly Detailed Topographic Maps For Public Use.

The [Aspen \(CO\) Daily News](#) (8/14, Fayhee) reports that Pitkin County government “recently made available a series of topographic maps that boast contours intervals of only two feet — making them about as detailed as those types of maps can be.” According to Mary Lackner, “GIS and application development manager for Pitkin County, the maps, which cover about a third of

the county's total of 973 square miles, are part of a much larger effort spearheaded by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)."

Top National News

Media Analyses: Trump's Monday Comments On Charlottesville Too Little, Too Late.

Coverage of President Trump's response to the weekend violence in Charlottesville, Virginia continues to be negative despite the President's more explicit condemnation of white supremacists on Monday. Trump is being criticized for both the tone and the timing of the statement, with critics saying that it was a measured and unemotional statement that came too late. Some contrast it with Trump's more emotional response to the decision of Merck's CEO to resign from an advisory council, which drew heat from Trump on Twitter. Trump also continues to be accused by several commentators of intentionally maintaining somewhat cordial relations with the so-called "alt-right."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/14, lead story, 4:00, Muir) reported that Trump, "aware of the increasing pressure, for the first time since Saturday condemning hate groups by name." ABC's Cecilia Vega: "Nearly 48 hours after that car plowed into pedestrians on the streets of Charlottesville, President Trump today finally stepping before the cameras to give that hate a name." Trump: "Racism is evil. And those who cause violence in its name are criminals and thugs, including the KKK, neo-Nazis, white supremacists and other hate groups that are repugnant to everything we hold dear as Americans." [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/14, lead story, 3:20, Holt) reported, "After what, to many, came off as a tone deaf response to this weekend's racist-fueled violence in Charlottesville, President Trump today tried to find the right notes as he took to the podium again to address the tragedy." NBC's Hallie Jackson: "In unscheduled remarks, the President explicitly condemning those groups after he didn't on Saturday."

Anthony Mason said in opening the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/14, lead story, 4:00), "Two days after this domestic terror attack, and after meeting with the Attorney General and the FBI Director, the President finally condemned the hate groups by name. ... The President took a lot of heat for failing to call out white supremacists immediately after the attack." CBS' Major Garrett: "The leader of the free world, President Trump, was behind his daughter, attorney general, and vice president in denouncing white supremacists and neo-Nazis by name. On Saturday, the President implied counter-protesters and armed shield-wielding white supremacists were equally to blame."

The [New York Times](#) (8/14, Thrush) reports, "Trump bowed on Monday to overwhelming pressure that he personally condemn white supremacists...yet even Mr. Trump's allies worried that his measured remarks, delivered two days after dozens of public figures issued more forceful denunciations, came too late to reverse the self-inflicted damage on his moral standing as president." The [Washington Post](#) (8/14, Nakamura) says that Trump's "remarks, which were not on his daily public schedule, appeared hastily arranged in a bid to move the White House past the backlash to his performance over the weekend."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/14, Bierman) reports, "Once he came to the lectern with the presidential seal, the president first took some time to extol his administration as he often does for various economic gains. After segueing to roughly two minutes of remarks denouncing the hate groups, Trump pivoted and left." The [AP](#) (8/14, Lemire) reports that the President left "without acknowledging reporters' shouted questions. At an event on trade later in the day, he was asked why it took two days for him to offer an explicit denunciation of the hate groups. 'They have been condemned,' Trump responded before offering a fresh criticism of some media as 'fake news.'"

The [Washington Times](#) (8/14, Boyer) reports, "Some advisers had pressed the president to give a specific condemnation of white nationalist groups, as Vice President Mike Pence had done earlier." [Politico](#) (8/14, Johnson) says Trump "caved to pressure from his senior advisers," and [Townhall](#) (8/14, Pavlich) says the remarks came "after days of harsh criticism." [Breitbart](#) (8/14, Pollak) says the "condemnation did not satisfy the mainstream media, some of whom rushed to criticize Trump for not delivering that explicit condemnation as quickly or as passionately as they believe he ought to have done."

Julie Pace of the [AP](#) (8/14) calls it a "carefully worded statement" of the kind "Americans have come to expect from their presidents after racially charged incidents." [Politico](#) (8/14, Samuelsohn, Nussbaum) writes, "Trump has mastered the art of the swaggering politician, but when tragedy strikes, he has struggled to find his footing."

Congressional Black Caucus Chairman Cedric Richmond said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/14) that Trump's comments Monday afternoon were "a dollar late, and a dollar short. Had this come on Friday, it would have been a pretty strong response, but he still throws words out there to that base, that law-and-order rhetoric that he uses, is that same rhetoric during the campaign that was aimed at minorities and urban communities."

The [New York Post](#) (8/14, Jaeger) reports that the mother of Heather Heyer, who was killed in Charlottesville, "thanked President Trump Monday for finally condemning the violence that led to her daughter's death." She said in a statement, "Thank you, President Trump, for those words of comfort and for denouncing those who promote violence and hatred." But Richard Cohen writes in his [Washington Post](#) (8/14) column that Heyer "may not be the last to be killed by hate. Others may follow because the president of the United States winks at hatred and responds to a hate march with a pudding of a statement." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/14, story 3, 1:55, Muir) and [CBS Evening News](#) (8/14, story 2, 2:55, Mason) had features on some of the victims.

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/14), Jim Acosta called Trump's comments "forceful but scripted." Acosta added that Trump "seemed defensive when asked about the comments here at the White House where he finally condemned white supremacists, something he failed to do by name over the weekend." Sara Murray said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (8/14) that this is "clearly an issue [Trump] is not comfortable talking about. There's a reason that when people look at what he said Saturday, essentially condemning violence on both sides, suggesting both sides are culpable, then you have a lag period and they don't necessarily believe the words coming out of the President's mouth, they're skeptical of it."

Charles Krauthammer said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/14), "What's shocking is that the President of the United States did not have the instinctive, reflexive automatic response you would expect of any American leader. What we saw across the spectrum in American leadership and among the American populace in being utterly revolted by these right-wing white supremacists neo-Nazi groups. If the President did not do what was absolutely natural, that's what makes it a story."

[USA Today](#) (8/14) editorializes, "Denouncing neo-Nazis, the Ku Klux Klan and other hate groups ought to be the easiest task in American politics. ... The inadequacy of the president's initial remarks was widely denounced, and not just by Democrats. Nothing reflected his abdication more than the praise he received on the Daily Stormer, a neo-Nazi website." USA Today calls on Trump to "purge his administration of figures associated with the 'alt-right,' such as aides Steve Bannon and Sebastian Gorka."

The [New York Times](#) (8/14) editorializes, "On Monday, Mr. Trump found his way to something resembling a presidential response. ... His aides reportedly urged him to express that straightforward sentiment on Saturday. Yet even as he now managed to get some of the right words out he could not bring himself to assign blame for Ms. Heyer's death, saying only that she 'was tragically killed.' Contrast that with his eager invocations of Kathryn Steinle...after she 'was gunned down in SF by an illegal immigrant.'"

The [Washington Post](#) (8/14) asks, "What punch do the right words pack when they are so obviously begrudging, belated and bestowed under the weight of overwhelming pressure? Will white supremacists such as Richard Spencer, who gleefully noted that Mr. Trump's initial statement blamed the violence on 'many sides,' while saying nothing about racists, really feel the sting of rebuke? Or will the apostles of intolerance be heartened anew, as they have been by Mr. Trump's ascent over the course of two years?"

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/14) says in an editorial that "Trump – who initially seemed to see no difference between the racists and Nazis who had called the march and the counterdemonstrators opposing them – finally denounced the hard-right for what it is. Unfortunately, the time for that statement was Saturday afternoon when the rest of the civilized world spoke up."

Mary Mitchell of the [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (8/14) writes, "Trump changed his tune on Monday, after being swamped by criticism for giving hate groups a pass for inciting the violence. ... It took Trump's communication advisers two whole days to craft that 'heart-felt' expression for a grieving nation, and it was pure bull." Eugene Robinson writes in his [Washington Post](#) (8/14) column, "No one should have been surprised to see President Trump playing footsie with racists. He's been doing it for years."

The Washington Post's Catherine Rampell [tweeted](#), "Trump's most lasting legacy will be that he's emboldened an entirely new generation of racists and bigots." CNN's Juana Summers [tweeted](#), "@POTUS failed to reject the political support he receives from white supremacists, KKK, neo-Nazis." Kenneth Roth of Human Rights Watch [tweeted](#), "After finally denouncing the white

supremacists, Trump should now abandon the white supremacist policies.”

[Reuters](#) (8/14), [Bloomberg News](#) (8/14, Sink, Talev, John), the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/14, Nicholas, Stokols, Kesling), and [The Hill](#) (8/14, Fabian) also report on the President’s remarks.

Trump: “Bad People” In Media “Will Never Be Satisfied.” Trump [tweeted](#) at 6:29 p.m., “Made additional remarks on Charlottesville and realize once again that the #Fake News Media will never be satisfied...truly bad people!” CNN’s Dylan Byers [tweeted](#) in response, “And I thought it was going to take Trump 3 days to condemn the media...”

Donald Trump Jr. [tweeted](#), “Unfortunately, it will never be enough. That is the sad reality of the game today.” Greg Sargent of the Washington Post [tweeted](#) in response, “To be clear, their actual argument is that Trump is not getting enough credit for belatedly condemning Nazis and white supremacists.”

Manigault-Newman: Trump Statement “Very Clear And Very Decisive.” Assistant to the President Omarosa Manigault-Newman said on [Fox News’ Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (8/14), “When the shooting happened at the Charleston church, President Barack Obama did not come out in his first statement and condemn all white supremacists. In fact, he specifically said I’m going to exercise great caution while the investigation takes place. When the Black Lives Matter officer went and started shooting five police officers...Obama did not come out and condemn Black Lives Matter by name. ... President Trump, he said that he condemned the acts. He knew that they were disgusting and loathsome. But he did not come out until the facts were known about the investigation. And today he made a statement that was very clear and very decisive about where he stood on these acts.”

Fallon: Trump’s Delay In Explicit Denunciation “Shameful.” Jimmy Fallon said on [NBC’s Tonight Show](#) (8/14), “As kids grow up, they need people to look up to, and to show them what’s right and good. They need parents and teachers, and they need leaders who appeal to the best in us. The fact that it took the President two days to come out and clearly denounce racists and white supremacists is shameful. And I think he finally spoke out because people everywhere stood up and said something.”

WPost Analysis: On Twitter, Trump Has Accused Blacks Of Racism Three Times As Often As Whites. The [Washington Post](#) (8/14, Ingraham) reports that in the eight years since he joined Twitter, “Trump has used the word ‘racist’ or ‘racism’ at least 56 times. ... In two-thirds of those Tweets, Trump levied accusations of racism at individuals or groups of people. And those accusations followed a very clear pattern: Trump has directed accusations of racism toward black people three times as often as he has done so against whites.”

Trump Blasts Merck CEO After He Resigns From Manufacturing Council; Two Other CEOs Also Quit. [USA Today](#) (8/14, Yu, Jackson) reports, “Merck’s CEO Ken Frazier quit Monday President Trump’s manufacturing business council, dissatisfied with Trump’s lackluster response” to the Charlottesville violence, prompting “an angry response from Trump on Twitter.” Trump [tweeted](#), “Now that Ken Frazier of Merck Pharma has resigned from President’s Manufacturing Council, he will have more time to LOWER RIPOFF DRUG PRICES!”

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/14, lead story, 4:00, Muir), Cecilia Vega reported, “The President responded to the resignation hours before he called out those racists by name.” Major Garrett said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/14, lead story, 4:00) that Trump “derided Mr. Frazier on Twitter” four hours after he resigned, “a shorter time than he took to denounce white supremacists.” Hallie Jackson of [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/14, lead story, 3:20, Holt) similarly said, “The President attacked Frazier on Twitter within minutes. His response to Charlottesville took longer to evolve.”

The [Washington Post](#) (8/14, McGregor) reports that in a statement, Frazier, “one of the few African American CEOs in the Fortune 500,” said, “I feel a responsibility to take a stand against intolerance and extremism. ... Our country’s strength stems from its diversity and the contributions made by men and women of different faiths, races, sexual orientations and political beliefs.”

The [New York Times](#) (8/14, Gelles, Thomas) reports, “Of the dozens of chief executives who have agreed to advise Mr. Trump, none other than Mr. Frazier criticized the president’s initial response to the ugly episode, and none came to Mr. Frazier’s defense after the president attacked him on Twitter.” Andrew Ross Sorkin of the [New York Times](#) (8/14) writes, “At what point do the C.E.O.s of the largest companies in the United States tell President Trump that enough is enough? Not yet, apparently.” Dan Diamond of [Politico](#) (8/14) writes, “It took three weeks for Merck CEO Kenneth Frazier to go from a ‘business genius’ to a ‘ripoff’ drug executive – at least in the eyes of President Donald Trump.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/14, Loftus) and [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/14, Puzanghera) also

report on Frazier's exit and Trump's tweet, while the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (8/14, Welsh) reports that Under Armour CEO Kevin Plank became the "second CEO to resign from the council on Monday, but did not directly blame" the President for his decision. Plank said, "I joined the American Manufacturing Council because I believed it was important for Under Armour to have an active seat at the table and represent our industry. However, Under Armour engages in innovation and sports, not politics."

[USA Today](#) (8/15, Yu) reports that Intel CEO Brian Krzanich also stepped down late Monday. He said, "I have already made clear my abhorrence at the recent hate-spawned violence in Charlottesville, and earlier today I called on all leaders to condemn the white supremacists and their ilk who marched and committed violence. I resigned because I want to make progress."

Sessions Says Car Attack Meets "Definition Of Domestic Terrorism." The [AP](#) (8/14) reports that Attorney General Sessions said Monday morning that Heyer's death "does meet the definition of domestic terrorism in our statute." Sessions told ABC, "You can be sure we will charge and advance the investigation towards the most serious charges that can be brought, because this is an unequivocally unacceptable and evil attack that cannot be accepted in America."

The [New York Times](#) (8/14, Sullivan) reports, "Sessions appeared on several morning news shows on Monday, condemning the violent demonstrations over the removal of a Confederate monument and defending President Trump's response." The [Washington Post](#) (8/14, Horwitz) reports that Sessions said of Trump's weekend comments, "His initial statement on this roundly and unequivocally condemned hatred and violence and bigotry. He called on our people to work together in community and love and affection and not in hatred and violence."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/14, story 3, 2:05, Mason) reported that suspect James Fields "is being held without bail and is waiting for the court to appoint an attorney to represent him." On [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/14, story 4, 2:15, Holt), Tom Costello reported that during his arraignment, "Fields said he understood the charges against him: second-degree murder, malicious wounding and hit and run." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/14, story 2, 2:40, Muir) also reported on the legal proceedings. The [Washington Post](#) (8/14, Berman) reports that it remains unclear whether Fields will ultimately face federal charges of domestic terrorism, a hate crime, or both, and looks at the legal distinctions.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/14, Gillum, Higdon) reports that Fields "allegedly threatened or assaulted his wheelchair-bound mother so violently as a young teenager that she twice called 911, police records show," while the [Charlottesville \(VA\) Daily Progress](#) (8/14, McKenzie) reports that the attorney assigned to defend Fields "is a former Republican city council candidate and a plaintiff in the lawsuit against the city regarding the removal of Confederate statues."

The [New York Times](#) (8/14, Stack) runs "a list of recent killings that law enforcement officials have linked to suspects with a history of racist and anti-immigrant views or affiliation with white supremacist groups." The [Washington Post](#) (8/14) runs a timeline of how the violence unfurled over the weekend.

Pelosi Says Trump Should Fire "Alt-Right White Supremacist Sympathizer" Bannon. The [Washington Times](#) (8/14, Dinan) reports that House Minority Leader Pelosi said that Steve Bannon should be fired, blaming him "for what she said was President Trump's weak initial response" to the Charlottesville violence. Pelosi said, "The President's statement on Saturday was a direct reflection of the fact that his chief strategist, Steve Bannon, is an alt-right white supremacist sympathizer and a shameless enforcer of those un-American beliefs."

Several other House Democrats agreed. Rep. Yvette Clarke (D-NY) [tweeted](#), "Now, more than ever, we need to get the alt-right & white supremacists out of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. Starting with Bannon." Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA) [tweeted](#), "Actions louder than words, Mr. President. If you believe the words you spoke, purge Bannon & other white supremacist sympathizers from WH." Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI) [tweeted](#), "Now that @realDonaldTrump has called out these groups (2 days late), he needs to remove Gorka and Bannon from the WH."

Scott Calls For Unity, "Swift Justice For A Terrorist." Sen. Tim Scott writes in [USA Today](#) (8/14), "There is nothing 'right' about racism and hate. It's a learned disease, and the best antidote is unity. ... The people of South Carolina know this type of domestic terrorism all too well. Our response to the events in Charlottesville, Va., should mirror our response to the murders at Mother Emanuel Church in Charleston. Condemnation of racism. Swift justice for a terrorist. And unity for the community that grieves."

Cuccinelli Criticized For Telling Commentator To "Shut Up" During CNN Charlottesville Segment. The [Washington Post](#) (8/14, Vozzella) reports that ex-Virginia attorney general Ken Cuccinelli faced online criticism for "telling CNN political commentator Symone Sanders to 'shut up'...during a heated discussion about President Trump's response" to Charlottesville. After Sanders

interrupted Cuccinelli, he said, "Can I finish, Symone? Will you just shut up for a minute and let me finish? God bless America!" She replied, "Pardon me, sir. You don't get to tell me to shut up on national television. ... Under no circumstances do you get to speak to me in that manner. You should exhibit some decorum."

Online Activists "Name And Shame" Charlottesville Marchers. The [Washington Post](#) (8/14, Selk) reports on the "campaign to name and shame people who marched" in Charlottesville, with the Twitter account @YesYoureRacist a focus point for identifying and outing participants. The [New York Times](#) (8/14, Victor) reports that such efforts "sometimes misfire" with a false identification. [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/14, story 5, 1:45, Holt) also reported on such efforts.

White Supremacists Plot Next Steps. The [New York Times](#) (8/14, Feuer) reports under the headline "Far Right Plans Its Next Moves With A New Energy" that following the weekend violence, some of "the white supremacists and right-wing extremists" who participated "were making arrangements to appear at future marches. Some were planning to run for public office."

Daily Caller: "Far-Left Agitators" Planning "Escalation In Tactics." The [Daily Caller](#) (8/14, Hasson) reports, "Far-left agitators are calling for an escalation in tactics following this weekend's violence. ... Many of the same groups that have organized violent demonstrations in Berkeley, California and elsewhere are now calling for an aggressive response to the violence in Charlottesville." In related news, [Townhall](#) (8/14, Vespa) reports that "an anti-racism demonstrator" assaulted a local news reporter who was filming in Richmond, Virginia.

Durham, North Carolina Protesters Tear Down Confederate Memorial Statue. The [Washington Times](#) (8/14, Morton) reports, "Protesters in North Carolina posted a video Monday of their tearing down a Confederate memorial, calling it a response to the weekend violence in Charlottesville, Virginia. The clip shows a group of at least several dozen in Durham pulling down a statue in front of the local government building."

WPost "Wonkblog": "War On Whites" Is A Myth. Christopher Ingraham and Heather Long of the [Washington Post](#) (8/14) "Wonkblog" write, "The 'war on whites' is a core concern of Trump's base, but it isn't true. White people, especially white males, still have a huge advantage in American society." Whites "are far more likely to get hired and are paid more than nonwhites," and "white families on average have 14 times more wealth than black families and nearly 11 times more than Hispanic families."

World Leaders React To Charlottesville Violence. [USA Today](#) (8/14, Jervis) reports on the reaction from world leaders. German Chancellor Angela Merkel said via a spokesperson, "The scenes at the right-wing extremist march were absolutely repulsive – naked racism, antisemitism and hate in their most evil form were on display," while British Prime Minister Theresa May [tweeted](#), "Our thoughts and prayers are with #Charlottesville. The UK stands with the US against racism, hatred and violence." Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau [tweeted](#), "We know Canada isn't immune to racist violence & hate. We condemn it in all its forms & send support to the victims in Charlottesville."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/14, Stanley-Becker, McAuley) reports that "in countries such as Germany and France that have adopted strict codes policing hateful speech, there were also questions about why people carrying guns were allowed to assemble and propagate a message targeting racial and religious minorities," and "a front-page headline in the French daily Libération blared, 'The White House,' suggesting that the center of racial animus was the executive branch of the American government."

Amid North Korea Tensions, Trump Orders Probe Of China's Trade Practices.

Media coverage of President Trump's executive order Monday seeking an investigation of Chinese trade practices casts the move as likely to jeopardize Beijing's cooperation on North Korea. The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/14, story 5, 1:50, Mason) – the only network to cover the story last night – reported that while the US "needs China's help with North Korea," the President "signed an executive memo today that's sure to anger the Chinese" and [USA Today](#) (8/14, Korte) says that with the move, the President "escalat[ed] his trade dispute with China even as he seeks its help in resolving the North Korean crisis." [CNBC](#) (8/14, Novak) reports that "after a weekend filled with a series of conciliatory statements from China, some of them downright surprising, the situation with North Korea seems to be less tense right now, which could be construed as a major win for the Trump team."

In fact, while many media reports cast the President's announcement as likely to put China's cooperation on North Korea at risk, the [South China Morning Post](#) (8/14, Jiangtao) reports China announced "sweeping sanctions" against Pyongyang on Monday, "extending an import ban to iron, iron ore and seafood." The ban, which also covered coal, would take effect

Tuesday. The [Washington Post](#) (8/14, Denyer) reports the move came as Beijing seeks to “implement a package of sanctions put together by the UN Security Council.” But at the same time, Beijing “warned the Trump administration not to split the international coalition over North Korea by provoking a trade war between China and the United States.” Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said, “It is obviously improper to use one thing as a tool to imposing pressure on another thing.”

The [New York Times](#) (8/14, Landler), meanwhile, paints the move as part of a greater effort by the Administration to ease tensions in the region. The Times says that after “days of bellicose threats toward North Korea and jitters about a looming trade war with China,” Trump moved “on several fronts Monday to ease tensions in East Asia, after making the region a flash point for his administration.” As he launched a “long-awaited” trade action against China, Trump used “uncharacteristically restrained language and a multistep bureaucratic process that will likely put off punitive steps against Beijing for months, if ever.” On North Korea, “several of the president’s top advisers tried to tamp down fears of a clash” after his threat to rain “fire and fury” on the regime there.

The [AP](#) (8/14, Lemire, Boak) similarly writes that “even as he seeks Beijing’s help on North Korea...Trump asked his trade office on Monday to consider investigating China for the alleged theft of American technology and intellectual property.” In a phone call Friday, Trump told Chinese President Xi Jinping about the move, according to “two US officials familiar with that conversation.” In an editorial Monday, the China Daily “linked Trump’s trade announcement...to his disappointment over China’s purported failure to rein in North Korea.” The newspaper warned the probe would “poison” US-China relations. [Reuters](#) (8/14, Ernst) quotes the editorial as saying, “Instead of advancing the United States’ interests, politicizing trade will only acerbate the country’s economic woes, and poison the overall China-US relationship.”

The [Washington Post](#) (8/14, Swanson) says the probe “could eventually result in a wide range of penalties,” but “senior White House officials said in a call with reporters Saturday that the investigation could take up to a year to conclude and that it was premature to say whether it would result in tariffs against China, a negotiated settlement or another outcome.” [Reuters](#) (8/14, Wroughton, Mason) similarly says the investigation is “unlikely to prompt near-term change,” but warns it is “likely to cast a shadow over relations with China...just as Trump is asking Beijing to step up pressure against Pyongyang.”

[The Hill](#) (8/14, Fabian) says the move comes as the Administration “is seeking China’s help to pressure North Korea to stop its nuclear weapons program,” but Trump “brushed aside those concerns.” The President, [Breitbart](#) (8/14, Spiering) reports, told reporters at the White House, “For too long, this wealth has been drained from our country while Washington has done nothing. They have never done anything about it. But Washington will turn a blind eye no longer.” He went on to describe his actions “as a fulfillment of his campaign promises to defend the American worker,” Breitbart says. The [New York Post](#) (8/14, Fredericks) reports Trump also “suggested that additional steps would be taken against China,” saying, “This is just the beginning.”

Peter Navarro, director of the White House National Trade Council, writes in [USA Today](#) (8/14) that President Trump is “firmly committed to pursuing trade and investment relationships that are both fair and reciprocal and that promote America’s leading role in global innovation.” The Administration, however, “will not tolerate the forced transfer and theft of America’s IP and technologies.” With his action Monday, Navarro says the President “is signaling to the world that protecting American IP and technologies is one of his highest national priorities.” [Breitbart](#) (8/14, Carney) reprints Navarro’s piece.

[Politico](#) (8/14, Palmer) calls Monday’s executive action “a step toward a potential showdown with China,” while a [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/14) editorial cautions that Trump’s move could backfire by harming US efforts to open markets to American goods. A [New York Times](#) (8/14, Hernández) analysis says Trump announced “the opening salvo in what could become a far-reaching investigation into Chinese trade practices,” but his “demands on Chinese trade practices are likely to be met with deep skepticism in Beijing,” which “takes conflicting positions on intellectual property, ignoring it in some cases while upholding it in others.”

The [AP](#) (8/14) reports China “criticized” Trump’s order, which it said violates international trade agreements, and vowed to “resolutely safeguard” Chinese interests.

The [Washington Times](#) (8/14, Boyer) reports Senate Minority Leader Schumer “said the president’s move was toothless.” Said Schumer, “President Trump’s pattern continues: Tough talk on China, but weaker action than anyone could ever imagine.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/14, Schlesinger) says Monday’s move is part of a complex diplomatic strategy as the Administration seeks to balance the desire for more cooperation on North Korea against its desire to curb the \$347 billion bilateral trade deficit.

Chinese Automaker Reportedly Bids For Fiat Chrysler. [USA Today](#) (8/14, Bomey, Snavely) says a Chinese automaker has “reportedly made a quiet bid to acquire Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, raising the distinct possibility that the traditional member of the Detroit Three that was bailed out by US taxpayers could wind up with Chinese ownership.” According to Automotive News, the Italian-American automaker “recently rejected an acquisition bid by an unidentified Chinese company,” but “multiple Chinese automakers are weighing a similar bid” for the automaker. A Fiat Chrysler spokeswoman declined to comment Monday on the report. The [Detroit News](#) (8/14) also reports the company declined to comment.

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (8/14, Snavely) says Fiat Chrysler, “facing the need to catch up to its rivals on both electric vehicles and self-driving car technology, could turn to a Chinese buyer to solve its problems because it has few other alternatives.”

NYTimes Says World Must Demand That China Respect Hong Kong. The [New York Times](#) (8/15) editorializes that if Hong Kong jails its first political prisoners this week as “looks likely,” the event “will be a watershed in Hong Kong’s modern history and should set off further alarms about China’s intentions for the territory.” Three democracy activists face prison, and “the question is whether the United States, Britain and other nations will back up these young democrats who insist that their hometown maintain its commitments to the rule of law and political freedom.”

Trump To Sign Executive Order On Infrastructure Projects.

The White House said Monday that President Trump on Tuesday will sign an executive order “establishing discipline and accountability in the environmental review and permitting process for infrastructure projects,” [Reuters](#) (8/15) reports. Trump will “participate in a discussion on infrastructure and give a statement on the subject at 3:45 p.m.”

“Problem Solvers Caucus” Drafting Proposals To Avoid Government Shutdown, Debt Default.

[USA Today](#) (8/14, Gaudio) reports that members of the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus are crafting a proposal “to address the most urgent issue facing Congress when it returns in September: how to keep the government open and avoid the first-ever default on the nation’s debt.” Caucus co-chairman Rep. Tom Reed said members of the caucus “are drafting proposals to present to the entire 43-member caucus when Congress returns after Labor Day.” Reed said, “I’m very optimistic that the caucus can come together on a consensus basis to put a proposal out in order to get through the shutdown, debt ceiling debate in a way that keeps the government open and we honor our debts.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“How Mr. Trump Could Face Up To White Supremacists.” The [New York Times](#) (8/14) editorializes, “On Monday, Mr. Trump found his way to something resembling a presidential response. ... His aides reportedly urged him to express that straightforward sentiment on Saturday. Yet even as he now managed to get some of the right words out he could not bring himself to assign blame for Ms. Heyer’s death, saying only that she ‘was tragically killed.’ Contrast that with his eager invocations of Kathryn Steinle...after she ‘was gunned down in SF by an illegal immigrant.’”

“Before You Rip Up That Iran Deal...” The [New York Times](#) (8/14) editorializes that while concerns that the Iran nuclear deal “doesn’t address the nefarious ways in which Iran is expanding its influence and further destabilizing the Middle East” are “valid,” they “are no reason to blow up the agreement, as President Trump is recklessly trying to do.” The deal “was intended to keep Iran from producing a nuclear weapon, a crucial and necessary goal.” And the deal “is working, as the International Atomic Energy Agency, which rigorously monitors Iran’s activities, and even [President] Trump’s own State Department have certified.”

“Three Young Voices Versus A Superpower.” The [New York Times](#) (8/15) editorializes that if Hong Kong jails its first political prisoners this week as “looks likely,” the event “will be a watershed in Hong Kong’s modern history and should set off further alarms about China’s intentions for the territory.” Three democracy activists face prison, and “the question is whether the United States, Britain and other nations will back up these young democrats who insist that their hometown maintain its commitments to the rule of law and political freedom.”

Washington Post.

“The One Thing Americans Should Be Proud Of After Charlottesville.” The [Washington Post](#) (8/14) asks in an editorial, “What punch do the right words pack when they are so obviously begrudging, belated and bestowed under the weight of overwhelming pressure? Will white supremacists such as Richard Spencer, who gleefully noted that Mr. Trump’s initial statement blamed the violence on ‘many sides,’ while saying nothing about racists, really feel the sting of rebuke? Or will the apostles of intolerance be heartened anew, as they have been by Mr. Trump’s ascent over the course of two years?”

“Kenya May Have Had Its Fairest Election Yet. The Winner Shouldn’t Tarnish It.” A [Washington Post](#) (8/14) editorial acknowledges Kenya’s most recent presidential election appears to be “one of the fairest and most transparent” in the nation’s – and continent’s – history, but cautions “Kenya has nevertheless been teetering on the brink of crisis, largely because” re-elected incumbent Uhuru Kenyatta’s defeated rival, Raila Odinga, is refusing “to accept the results or even the established legal process for challenging them.” The Post adds that while Kenyatta’s victory appears legitimate, “he should not tarnish it with repression.” Specifically, the Post says, Kenyatta must address allegations of excessive police force against the media and nongovernmental organizations, and thoroughly investigate and prosecute the killing of an election official.

“A Promising Young Woman’s Life, Suddenly Cut Short.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/14) highlights the story of Jamahri Sydnor, a 17-year-old college-bound graduate of DC’s Woodrow Wilson High School who passed away Saturday after being wounded fatally by a stray bullet from two gunmen in a crossfire incident. The Post concludes, “At this point, it is not known who fired the guns, nor why. But we do know that Ms. Sydnor was a promising young woman on the threshold of a new chapter in life, and that her death is intolerable.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Trump’s China Trade Sally.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/14) editorial cautions that Trump’s plan could backfire by harming US efforts to open markets to American goods.

“A Short-Term ObamaCare Fix.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/14, Board) editorial argues that despite Congress’ failure to repeal and replace the ACA, the Trump Administration is obliged to help Americans faced with increasing premiums and decreased choices. The Journal calls on HHS to rescind an Obama-era regulation on temporary health insurance plans which limits the duration of such policies to 90 days, restore the duration to a year, and permit the plans to meet the coverage mandate.

“Can The VA Fire Anyone?” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/14) writes that Congress’ passage in June of the VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act offers an important reform to veteran healthcare by allowing easier dismissal of bad employees. The Journal argues that the need for such reform is highlighted by the recent case of Brian Hawkins, the former director of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Washington, DC who was dismissed in April after an IG investigation found hospital conditions to be so poor that patients lives were endangered.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Trump Denounces White Supremacist Groups By Name](#)
[North Korea Backs Off Threat To Hit Guam](#)
[Early Peeks At Drug Trials Are Giving Investors Whiplash](#)
[Investors Take On Mortgage Risk From Taxpayers](#)

New York Times:

[New Outcry As Trump Rebukes Charlottesville Racists 2 Days Later](#)
[Far Right Plans Its Next Moves With A New Energy](#)
[Following ‘Fire And Fury,’ Trump Looks To Ease Tensions In Asia](#)
[Bannon In Limbo As Trump Faces Growing Calls For The Strategist’s Ouster](#)
[Seeking Greater Global Power, China Looks To Robots And Microchips](#)
[Scientists To Take Flight For Longer Views Of The Eclipse](#)

Washington Post:

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Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: WH-White Nationalism Clash; White Nationalism Clash-Car Mowing Suspect; White Nationalism Clash-Victims; Oklahoma City-Bombing Attempt; North Korea Threats; School Teacher Violence Lawsuit; Mexico Tourist Spots-Illegal Alcohol; Ohio-Violent Traffic Arrest; Hollywood-Stunt Injuries; France-Suicidal Car Crashing; Tropical Storm Tracking; Solar Eclipse.

CBS: WH-White Nationalism Clash; White Nationalism Clash-Victims; White Nationalism Clash-Car Mowing Suspect; Oklahoma City-Bombing Attempt; North Korea Threats; White Nationalism-Confederate Monuments; Alcohol Drinking-Health Effects; English Rock Band.

NBC: WH-White Nationalism Clash; White Nationalism Clash-Hate Groups; Oklahoma City-Bombing Attempt; White Nationalism Clash-Car Mowing; White Nationalism Clash-Social Media; North Korea Threats; Mexico Tourist Spots-Illegal Alcohol; London-Big Ben Repair; Hollywood-Stunt Injuries; Solar Eclipse.

Network TV At A Glance:

White Nationalism Clash – 15 minutes, 50 seconds
WH-White Nationalism Clash – 11 minutes, 20 seconds
North Korea Threats – 4 minutes, 35 seconds
Oklahoma City-Bombing Attempt – 3 minutes, 50 seconds
Mexico Tourist Spots-Illegal Alcohol – 3 minutes, 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: WH-White Nationalism Clash; White Nationalism Clash; Oklahoma City-Bombing Attempt; North Korea Threats; Hurricane Gert.

CBS: North Korea Threats; China-North Korea UN Sanctions; WH-White Nationalism Clash; White Nationalism Clash; Arizona Sheriff-Pardon; WWE Wrestler; Hurricane Gert.

FOX: North Korea Threats; Vice President Pence-South America Trip; WH-White Nationalism Clash.

NPR: WH-White Nationalism Clash; White Nationalism Clash; White Nationalism-Confederate Monuments; North Korea Threats; Oklahoma City-Bombing Attempt.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in an infrastructure discussion and signs an Executive Order establishing discipline and accountability in the environmental review and permitting process for

infrastructure projects.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a wreath laying ceremony at the Buenos Aires Metropolitan Cathedral; participates in a bilateral meeting with President Mauricio Macri of Argentina; participates in a meeting with Vice President Gabriela Michetti of Argentina; delivers remarks to the Argentine and Latin American business community; meets with US Embassy staff and their families in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

US Senate: 4:30 PM Senate convenes for pro forma session

On recess until 5 September.

US House: 9:30 AM House of Representatives convenes for pro forma session

On recess until 5 September.

Other: 10:30 AM Dem Reps. Rosa DeLauro and Tim Ryan call for NAFTA renegotiation deal 'they can support' – Democratic Reps. Rosa DeLauro and Tim Ryan call on the administration to negotiate a new North American Free Trade Agreement deal 'that they can support', via press call with AFL-CIO Trade Policy Specialist Celeste Drake and Public Citizen Global Trade Watch Director Lori Wallach * Formal talks on the renegotiation of NAFTA begin tomorrow in Washington, DC, between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico Location: TBD https://twitter.com/public_citizen

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "We went into the weekend worrying about Kim Jong-Un starting a war. We came out of it wondering if our President is cutting eye holes out of his bed sheets."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Donald Trump and Kim Jong-Un do not like each other at all, which is a shame because they actually have a lot in common. And not just the terrible haircuts."

Stephen Colbert: "Many sides? Mr. President, this is terrorism, not your order at KFC."

Stephen Colbert: "Some people didn't need their anti-Nazi statements explained later. Like the mayor of Charlottesville, who called the rally a 'cowardly parade of hatred, bigotry, racism, and intolerance,' which coincidentally was also the theme of Steve Bannon's senior prom."

James Corden: "In his statement today, Trump said 'racism is evil,' and then followed it up by saying, 'Now, if you'll excuse me, have to go build a wall to keep out Mexicans.'"

James Corden: "Trump condemned Nazis today the same way my four-year-old son puts his dishes into the dishwasher. 'Fine, I'll do it.'"

James Corden: "This morning, the CEO of the pharmaceutical company Merck resigned from a White House panel because of Trump's slow response. Apparently, after he heard Trump's comments on Saturday, the CEO of the pharmaceutical company experienced nausea, vomiting, dizziness, and crippling embarrassment for America."

Seth Meyers: "Watching Chuck Todd interview Mitch McConnell is like watching Tom Hanks argue with a volleyball."

Conan O'Brien: "President Trump made a speech denouncing KKK, and people were upset because he waited 48 hours to do it. He said, 'I watched Fox News, so I didn't know anything happened.'"

Conan O'Brien: "While on a tour of Latin America, Mike Pence described it as sliding into dictatorship. And Pence said, 'I'm here to learn.'"

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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DOI In The News

Zinke Slated This Week To Advise Trump On Fate Of 21 National Monuments.

The [McClatchy](#) (8/21, Leavenworth) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is expected to advise President Trump this week on plans for potentially shrinking or revoking the status of 21 national monuments, "setting the stage for a years-long legal battle that could pit the White House against Indian tribes, environmentalists and some western states." Supporters say that certain monument designations should be reversed, calling them federal "land grabs," but critics argue that the monuments "help protect important landscapes and objects of history, including Native American antiquities." Zinke's deadline to make final recommendations is August 24.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (8/21, Sambides) and [UPI](#) (8/21, Xu).

New Mexico Delegates Make Plea For 2 National Monuments. The [AP](#) (8/21, Bryan) reports that "Democratic members of New Mexico's congressional delegation on Monday issued a last-ditch plea to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to keep intact two national monuments on a list of sites being reviewed by the Trump administration." In a letter to Zinke, Sens. Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich and Reps. Ben Ray Lujan and Michelle Lujan Grisham said "thousands of New Mexicans support the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument near Las Cruces and the Rio Grande del Norte monument outside of Taos." They wrote, "The voices of New Mexicans could not be clearer — our national monuments are vitally important to our history and are part of the living culture of local tribes and pueblos. Our local communities worked for decades to ensure that permanent protections for our national monuments would be in place for the use and enjoyment of future generations."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (8/21), the [Houston Chronicle](#) (8/21, Bryan, Press), the [Washington Times](#) (8/21, Bryan), the [Bradenton \(FL\) Herald](#) (8/21, Bryan), the [Idaho Statesman](#) (8/21, Bryan), and [KOAT-TV Albuquerque \(NM\) Albuquerque, NM](#) (8/21).

The Antiquities Act Has Become A Tool For Oppressing The West. For the "Pundits" blog of [The Hill](#) (8/21, Anderson, Cooke, Contributors), Matthew Anderson, director of the Coalition for Self-Government in the West, and Amy Oliver Cooke, the executive vice president and director of the Energy and Environmental Policy Center for the Independence Institute, write that "checks and balances are lacking in federal lands policy, and that absence has opened up the West to a host of devastating consequences." They argue that while the intentions of the Antiquities Act in 1906 "were pure, such unchecked, concentrated power has exposed the Act to widespread abuses from presidents of both political parties." The authors assert that "the designation process should include meaningful input and approval from state representatives and Congress." In conclusion, Anderson and Cooke call for the creation of "a transparent process that prevents presidential abuses and respects the original intentions of the Antiquities Act."

We Might Lose Giant Sequoia National Monument This Week. For the "Pundits" blog of [The Hill](#)

(8/21, Moffitt, Contributor), Lena Moffitt, the senior director of the Sierra Club's Our Wild America campaign, claims that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke review of national monuments is "a thinly veiled step towards selling out some of our country's best wild places and historic sites." In Moffitt's view, the notion "that Zinke would even consider giving all this away is a nod to the power of the extractive industry's influence over the Trump administration." She hopes that when Zinke issues his final recommendations, "Zinke will remember that nobody looks back with regret on the decision to protect the Grand Canyon or to save the Giant Sequoias."

'You're Fired' May Be Harder Than Trump Thinks When It Comes To Federal Workers.

In an analysis, the [Washington Post](#) (8/21, Rein) reports that although the Trump Administration has sought to reduce the federal workforce by removing "poor performers" – an initiative that the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security, Commerce, and Interior all have begun – the initiative "is meeting resistance from powerful federal employee unions and finding that maneuvering around long-guaranteed civil service protections is not easy." The Post highlights several examples of such push-back, such as a case at the US Patent and Trademark Office that took three years of investigation to resolve and still is being disputed by the National Treasury Employees Union.

Beautiful Night Sky Viewings On Public Lands.

[USA Today](#) (8/21, Today) reports that the Interior Department "shared some of their favorite photos of beautiful night skies at various national parks and other public lands." The article highlights "some of the most beautiful national Park pictures from the Department of the Interior's Instagram account."

Additional Coverage: Hunters, Anglers May Be Getting More Land Access.

Additional coverage that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "last week proposed expanded access for hunters and anglers on 10 wildlife refuges" was provided by the [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (8/22, Theen).

Interior Secretary Zinke Has Turned His Back On The American West.

For the "Pundits" blog of [The Hill](#) (8/21, Saeger, Contributor), Chris Saeger, the director of Western Values Project, claims that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "silencing the voices of Westerners by attempting to roll back more than a decade of collaborative work with his recent recommended changes to protecting a native bird called the sage-grouse and its sagebrush habitat, which is vitally important to the West." According to Saeger, "Zinke's proposed changes, like forcing states to substitute population targets for conservation targets and prioritizing oil and gas development in areas the conservation plans set aside for sagebrush, undermine the integrity of the plans in place, and their proven success across sagebrush landscape." Going forward Saeger urges Zinke to "make a concerted effort to include stakeholders from across the West in decisions made about sage-grouse conservation — if he does not, the alternative looks bleak for the sage-grouse and Western communities."

The Scheme To Pump Desert Water To L.A. Could Destroy The Mojave. California's Legislature Needs To Block It.

In an op-ed for the [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/21, Feinstein, Friedman), Sen. Dianne Feinstein and Assemblywoman Laura Friedman writes that California's Mojave Desert is threatened by "the Cadiz water extraction project, a scheme that would drain vital aquifers in the Fenner, Bristol and Cadiz valleys — the heart of the Mojave." Cadiz is "proposing to drain 50,000 acre-feet of water every year for 50 years — more than five times the aquifer's natural recharge rate, according to an independent analysis by the U.S. Geological Survey." They urge California's Legislature to pass Assembly Bill 1000, the California Desert Protection Act, which "would help protect the Mojave from projects like Cadiz by bolstering state reviews and requiring the California State Lands Commission, in consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, to ensure that any transfers of desert groundwater do not adversely affect the region's natural or cultural resources."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Standing Rock Tribe Completes Rural Water Supply Pipeline.

The [AP](#) (8/21) reports that the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe has “completed a pipeline connecting the North Dakota and South Dakota portions of a rural water delivery system.” The tribe completed the pipeline with assistance from the Bureau of Reclamation. The pipeline is part of the Standing Rock Rural Water Supply System. Bureau of Reclamation area manager Arden Freitag “says the project will stabilize the water supply for communities on the northern part of the reservation.”

Calif. Tribe’s Challenge Of DOI Casino Approval Tossed.

[Law360](#) (8/21, Hanson) reports that “a California federal court has denied the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians’ suit challenging a U.S. Department of the Interior decision to authorize another tribe to conduct gambling at an off-reservation site and has given the green light to the other tribe’s bid to toss the suit.” Senior U.S. District Judge Anthony W. Ishii “on Thursday signed an order denying the Picayune Tribe’s motion for summary judgment and granted the Interior Department’s summary judgment cross-motion.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Utah State University Hosts Wild Horse Summit, But Excludes Key Advocates And The Public.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/21, Maffly) reports that “critics of a national conference on wild horses, opening this week in Salt Lake City, assert its state organizers have closed the event to the public and excluded key figures in the horse-advocacy community.” Utah State University is “hosting the three-day event starting Tuesday in an effort to provide participants ‘with the best available science, to help them make informed decisions about the issues,’ concerning the management of wild horses on the West’s public lands, according to organizer Terry Messmer, a USU professor of wildland resources.” However, “leading pro-horse advocates counter that Utah officials are using the summit to promote a policy shift toward lethal measures for managing the West’s bands of federally protected, free-roaming horses and burros.” The article notes that “speakers include Utah Gov. Gary Herbert; Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior Aurelia Skipwith; Nevada State Veterinarian J. J. Goicoechea; members of Utah and Nevada’s congressional delegations; Utah Rep. Chris Stewart’s chief of staff, Brian Steed; John Ruhs, the BLM’s Nevada state director; and Utah Department of Natural Resources Executive Director Mike Styler.”

Reporters Sue Feds For Info On FBI’s Bundy Ranch Infiltration With Fake Film Crew.

The [Washington Times](#) (8/21, Noble) reports that the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press “filed a lawsuit Monday against the Justice Department and FBI in an effort to pry loose documents related to the FBI’s prior impersonation of documentary filmmakers.” The FBI has “admitted to sending undercover agents to Nevada in 2014 to act as a film crew and interview supporters of rancher Cliven Bundy amid an armed standoff with the federal government.” According to the article, “the reporter’s committee sought through Freedom of Information Act requests to obtain FBI records regarding the bogus film crew as well as any records on the bureau’s use of the tactic dating back to 2010.”

County OKs Letter Supporting Project.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (8/22, Ashby) reports that “Mesa County commissioners didn’t alter their support Monday for a project to drill 108 oil wells in the Whitewater area, but they do have some conditions.” In a letter of support for the Fram Operating LLC project in the Whitewater Basin, “the commissioners said they have a number of things they’d like to see, not the least of which are assurances that air and groundwater quality will not be adversely impacted.” The letter is “meant to help the Bureau of Land Management, on whose land part of the project would be built, determine in an amended environmental assessment if it violates any health, safety or welfare issues.”

Viewing The Eclipse Through An X-ray? Not Recommended.

The [Arizona Republic](#) (8/21, Altavena) reports that “a tweet from the Bureau of Land Management in Arizona suggested a ‘creative way to view the eclipse,’ with the photo of an employee using what appears to be an X-ray to look up at the sun.” But National Geographic “points out that using X-ray film to view an eclipse is ‘dangerous and should be avoided

completely.” The BLM later tweeted that it was “not a recommended viewing medium.”

Las Cienegas National Conservation Area Complete Opening Post Sawmill Fire.

The [Willcox \(AZ\) Range News](#) (8/21, Lowery) reports that the Bureau of Land Management Gila District is “re-opening all areas within the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (NCA), after a partial and emergency temporary closure due to the Sawmill Fire and related Emergency Stabilization and Rehabilitation efforts.” Las Cienegas Manager Karen Simms said, “The BLM removed a total of 45 dangerous and burned cottonwood trees in Empire Gulch and Cienega Creek that posed a significant safety risk to the public. We are pleased to re-open the area to safe public access for recreational activities and are continuing to work with our permittees affected by the fire.”

Printmaker Gabriella Banegas Named Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks Artist In Residence.

The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (8/21) reports that “the soon-to-be Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument Artist in Residence is a printmaker from The Netherlands.” Gabriella Banegas said, “I’m super excited to return to New Mexico to be the fall Artist in Residence. I have always been very inspired by the Organ Mountains but I have always painted them from my studio on the other side of the world. I am very curious to see what kind of magical transformation will happen to my artwork once I get the chance to work in the New Mexican landscape.” Banegas will be the OMDP Artist in Residence from Sept. 1-30.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Congress Picks Sides On Trump Plan To Expand Offshore Drilling.

[Courthouse News](#) (8/21, Langford) reports that President Trump’s plan to expand offshore drilling prompted separate letters from members of Congress last week, 118 writing a letter saying the plan is critical for US energy security, while 69 others doubt the plan. The Interior received nearly 18,000 letters of public comment, most of them opposing the expansion in drilling.

Atlantic Governors Seek Continued Federal Oil And Gas Leasing Ban.

[Bloomberg BNA](#) (8/21, Ballard) reports that “all governors in the mid-Atlantic region for the Interior Department’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)—a region which along with North Carolina includes Maryland, Virginia and Delaware—have said they oppose Atlantic drilling.” However, Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal (R) and Florida Gov. Rick Scott (R) “have not expressed a position.”

The “Morning Energy” blog of [Politico](#) (8/21, Adragna) reported “four governors on the Outer Continental Shelf Governors Coalition — Maine’s Paul LePage, Mississippi’s Phil Bryant, Alabama’s Kay Ivey and Alaska’s Bill Walker — released a letter Friday urging” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “to include all possible areas as the agency develops its five-year offshore drilling plan.” The governors wrote, “Access to offshore energy resources will allow coastal states and communities to realize great economic opportunities.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

Nevada Water Authority To Fund Conservation Work In Mexico.

The [AP](#) (8/21) reports that the Southern Nevada Water Authority is “making deals with Arizona and Mexico to ensure enough H2O in the years to come for the Las Vegas area.” Member also “approved a sweeping water-sharing agreement the U.S. and Mexico are expected to sign next month.” Under the agreement, “the authority, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and water agencies in Arizona and California would provide \$31.5 million for water efficiency improvements in Mexico through 2026”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Frogs Found Only On Mississippi Coast Could Go To US Supreme Court.

The [Biloxi \(MS\) Sun Herald](#) (8/21, Pagones) reports that the Pacific Legal Foundation “filed a petition last week asking the Supreme Court to review the decision to designate the 1,500 acres

as critical habitat" for the dusky gopher frog. property rights advocates claim "the federal government has overstepped in efforts to save the amphibian, and what's really endangered are the rights of anyone in the United States who owns land." The Fish and Wildlife Service "says a network of shallow ponds makes the 1,500-acre tract the only potential breeding ground outside Mississippi for the dusky gopher frogs."

Enviros Look To Win Bi-State Sage Grouse Protection Battle.

[Law360](#) (8/21, Powell) reports that "four environmental groups pressed a California federal court Friday to rule in their favor by holding that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service flouted the Endangered Species Act by reversing course on a plan to designate the bi-state sage grouse as a threatened species."

National Park Service

'It Was A 10,' Bill Nye Says After Viewing Eclipse At Homestead National Monument.

The [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (8/21, Konnath, Hammel) reports that solar eclipse viewers at Homestead National Monument of America "erupted in cheers" on Monday "as the moon slid in front of the sun." Bill Nye the Science Guy said to the estimated crowd of about 13,000: "Look at that, everybody. You may never see this again in your life."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/21, Kaplan) reports that "after totality has passed," Nye was to "help lead attendees through the National Park Service's new Eclipse Junior Ranger Program."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Beatrice \(NE\) Daily Sun](#) (8/21, Koperski), the [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (8/21), the [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (8/21, Konnath), the [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (8/21, Konnath, Hammel), and the [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (8/21).

Also providing coverage of the eclipse are [CNN](#) (8/21, Jones), the [Oak Ridge \(TN\) Today](#) (8/21, Huotari), and the [Salem \(MA\) News](#) (8/21, MacNeill).

The National Park Service Raises Prices For Seniors.

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (8/21, Brandon) reports that "the price of the senior pass to National Parks will increase from \$10 to \$80 on August 28, 2017." The price hike is "the result of legislation passed by congress on December 16, 2016." The National Park Service "says the price increase will be used to enhance the visitor experience in parks."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/21, Silver) reports that "across the country, park personnel are working hard to keep up with demand." The NPS "says that it has received more than 250,000 requests for passes this year." according to the article, "that's more than seven times its previous record of 33,000 requests."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (8/20, Jespersen), the [Salem \(MA\) News](#) (8/21, Shea), the [Chicago Tribune](#) (8/21), and [Money](#) (8/21, Calfas).

San Francisco Officials To Learn As Early As Tuesday Decision On Right Wing Rally At Crissy Field.

[KGO-TV](#) San Francisco (8/21, Tyler) reports that "San Francisco city officials will find out as early as Tuesday if a planned right wing rally at Crissy Field will go on." The National Park Service and Golden Gate National Recreation Area have "approved a permit for the Patriot Prayer organization, but it has not been issued yet." According to the article, "the city is in daily meetings along with public safety officials and the Park Service to try to come up with restrictions for the rally should that permit be issued."

In an editorial, the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (8/21) says that "it's certainly concerning that the National Park Service appears to have issued a preliminary permit for the rally without first coordinating with local law enforcement about a security plan."

Great Sand Dunes National Park Proposes Entrance Fee Increase.

The [Pagosa \(CO\) Daily Post](#) (8/21) reports that Great Sand Dunes National Park is "proposing a change to its fee rates to align with the new National Park Service rate schedule." The proposal will "increase the cost of per person entry (for visitors bicycling or walking through the Entrance Station); the annual Great Sand Dunes Pass; as well as the cost for per vehicle entry, non-commercial (family) vehicles; and an increase in fees for motorcycles."

Park Looks To Lease Blue Duck.

The [Mount Desert \(ME\) Islander](#) (8/21, Broom) reports that the National Park Service is “looking to lease the historic Blue Duck Ships Store building on Islesford (Little Cranberry Island) to someone who will use it in a way that is ‘compatible with respect to preservation, protection and visitor enjoyment of the park area.’” Acadia Superintendent Kevin Schneider said, “We see this as an opportunity to reopen a building that has been closed for many years and ... to preserve an important historical building on Islesford.” The building will be open on Friday “from 9-11 a.m. for prospective lessees who would like to visit before submitting a proposal.”

Additional Coverage: State, Reservations Receive Federal Historic Preservation Grants.

Additional coverage of the distribution of historic preservation grants was provided by the [Brainerd \(MN\) Daily Dispatch](#) (8/21).

Additional Coverage: Jefferson Memorial Exhibit Update Will Acknowledge Slavery Record.

Additional coverage that “an exhibit alongside the nation’s chief memorial to Thomas Jefferson will receive an update that reflects ‘the complexity’ of his status as a founder of the United States and a slaveholder” was provided by [Fox News](#) (8/21, Gehrke) and [Fox News](#) (8/21, Singman).

Office Of Insular Affairs

Joint US-South Korea Military Drills Spur Fears Of North’s Retaliation.

William La Jeunesse reported on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (8/21) that North Korea is “on edge” over US-South Korean joint military drills. Some Japanese cities are holding evacuation drills in case Kim Jong-un retaliates. La Jeunesse said “history suggests Kim will not stay silent” – last year during the annual drills, the North “fired a submarine missile followed by a nuclear test.” However, “few believe [Kim] will test the US by firing at Guam.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/21, Stiles) similarly says the “large-scale theoretical exercise aimed at protecting democratic South Korea,” dubbed Ulchi-Freedom Guardian, is conducted annually, but North Korea said the exercise launched Monday was “like pouring oil over fire” and “aggravating” already-high tensions on the Korean peninsula. The Times says this year’s drill comes “at a time when Washington and Pyongyang have seemed perhaps on the verge of an actual war over the North Korean government’s rapidly advancing nuclear and missile programs and the bellicose language traded by leaders on both sides.” While China and Russia recently suggested that the US and South Korea halt the exercises “as part of a potential deal to get nuclear concessions from Pyongyang,” the proposal “has been a non-starter in Washington.”

Interior, Census Launch 2018 Enumeration Of Compact Migrants.

[Marianas Variety](#) (8/18) reports that Interior Acting Assistant Secretary Nikolao Pula has “signed a Statement of Work with the U.S. Census Bureau to carry out the next 5-year enumeration of migrants from the Freely Associated States in Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa, as required by the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-188).” The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (8/18) reports that the next census will “occur in fiscal year 2018 and be completed by December 2018.”

NMI To Get \$42K Historic Preservation Grant.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (8/21) reports that the Interior Department, with the National Park Service, “announced Friday that it is awarding \$42,488 in historic preservation grants to the Northern Mariana Islands.” Also, “a total of \$184,478 will be awarded to the Federated States of Micronesia; \$106,914 to Palau; \$172,372 to Hawaii; \$41,139 to Guam; and \$30,959 to American Samoa.”

Over 80 Teachers Resign During 2016-17 School Year; 151 Teaching Vacancies Available.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (8/21) reports that “the Virgin Islands Department of Education suffered a reduction of over \$10 million in its budget between fiscal years 2017-2018, according to testimony given by Sharon McCollum, D.O.E. commissioner, during a budget hearing on Friday.” According to McCollum, “the drop is largely due to the government’s poor financial state, adding that D.O.E. is willing to do its part in burdening cutbacks.”

Office Of Surface Mining

Trump Administration Halts Research On Mountaintop Removal Coal Mining.

[The Hill](#) (8/21, Cama) reports the Trump Administration “has ordered researchers to stop work on an independent evaluation of potential health effects from mountaintop removal coal mining.” Last year, the Interior Department’s Office of Surface Mining, “under then-President Obama, had commissioned the research into the possible connections between certain health risks and living near current or former surface mining sites in Appalachia.” The office “committed \$1 million to the two-year effort after West Virginia officials requested it in 2015.” But on Friday “the agency sent a letter...to the National Academy of Sciences, which it had contracted to do the independent review, asking it to stop its work immediately.” In a statement Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift said, “The Trump administration is dedicated to responsibly using taxpayer dollars and that includes the billions of dollars in grants that are doled out every year by the Department of the Interior.”

The [AP](#) (8/21, Virtanen) reports that “the Interior Department’s Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, which announced last year it was funding the \$1 million study, said in an Aug. 18 letter that the department has begun reviewing grants over \$100,000 largely for budget reasons.” Spokesman William Kearney said, “The National Academies believes this is an important study and we stand ready to resume it as soon as the Department of the Interior review is completed.”

The [Washington Post](#) (8/21, Fears) reports, “President Trump proposed to cut \$1.6 billion at Interior in 2018, including 4,000 staff positions.” The cuts were supported by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke during a Senate hearing, where Zinke said, “This is what a balanced budget looks like.”

The [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (8/21, Friedman, Plumer) reports that Democrats and environmental groups “sharply criticized the Interior Department decision.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (8/21, Siciliano), the [Lexington \(KY\) Herald-Leader](#) (8/21, Estep), and the [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (8/21, Ward).

US Geological Survey

Federal Geologists Launch Efforts To Update Oil Potential In ANWR And NPR-A.

The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (8/21, DeMarban) reports that “spurred by a president who wants oil companies to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, federal geologists have begun poking around the controversial Alaska coastal plain, collecting oil-soaked rocks to help update the area’s petroleum potential.” According to the article, “the recent fieldwork adds to studies already underway by the U.S. Geological Survey.” The USGS has “collected about 40 oil samples from companies that have drilled large sections of the North Slope.”

Top National News

Media Analyses: Trump Reverses Afghanistan Stance In Speech With Few Specifics.

Coverage of President Trump’s Monday evening address announcing an expanded troop commitment in Afghanistan is uniform in stressing the lack of specifics in the speech, as well as the reversal in Trump’s stance since taking office. Some reports say that despite Administration assertions to the contrary, the policy is not recognizably different from those of Presidents Bush and Obama.

The [AP](#) (8/21, Lederman, Burns), for example, reports, “Reversing his past calls for a speedy exit,” Trump renewed the US commitment to the war in Afghanistan, “declaring that US troops must ‘fight to win.’ He pointedly declined to disclose how many more troops might be sent,” and said the US “would shift away from a ‘time-based’ approach, instead linking its assistance to results and to cooperation from the beleaguered Afghan government, Pakistan and others.” But Trump “offered few details about how progress would be measured” and did not “explain how his approach would differ substantively” from that of Presidents Bush and Obama.

[McClatchy](#) (8/21, Ordoñez) reports, “Less than a week after controversial strategist Steve Bannon left the White House, President Donald Trump is already signaling a shift toward a more traditional Republican foreign policy.” [Breitbart](#) (8/21, Spiering) is critical, headlining its report “Donald Trump Echoes Obama ‘Blank Check’ Rhetoric In Afghanistan Speech” and writing that Trump’s speech “specifically echoed his predecessor’s 2009 speech, after acknowledging that the

war had gone on too long." Jenna Johnson of the [Washington Post](#) (8/21, Johnson) also says the strategy "was remarkably similar to that of his predecessor."

[Reuters](#) (8/21, Holland, Walcott) writes that Trump, "who has repeatedly criticized the Afghanistan strategies of his predecessors, now inherits the same challenges." Susan Page of [USA Today](#) (8/21) writes, "In Afghanistan, there are no easy exits." Bush and Obama "discovered that Afghanistan was a conflict they couldn't manage to win but couldn't afford to lose," and now Trump, "who as a candidate called for pulling out US troops, as a president is learning that same hard lesson." Page says it is also "a test of the willingness of his core supporters to follow him from the 'America First' banner of his campaign."

The [New York Times](#) (8/21, Davis, Landler) reports that the "long-awaited strategy" did not "specify either the number of troops that would be committed, or the conditions" by which success would be measured. Trump said, "My original instinct was to pull out, and historically I like following my instincts. But all my life, I've heard that decisions are much different when you sit behind the desk in the Oval Office – in other words, when you're president of the United States. So I studied Afghanistan in great detail and from every conceivable angle."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/21, Nakamura, Phillip) similarly reports that Trump "outlined a revised vision for the US war in Afghanistan" but "provided few specifics about his policy and how much the US military commitment in the region would increase as a result." His decision "reflects a significant shift in his approach to Afghanistan since taking office." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/21, Lubold, Stokols, Nicholas) reports that Trump said, "From now on, victory will have a clear definition." But like other publications, the Journal says few details were included.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/21, Bennett, Bierman) similarly reports, "Trump, reading from a teleprompter in sober tones, did not provide details for increased involvement there, saying he would publicize neither troop levels nor timetables for deployment. But his military advisors are seeking 4,000 more troops, a 50% increase, and stepped-up counter-terrorism operations." Likewise, the [New York Post](#) (8/21, Fredericks) says that "though his speech was billed as an announcement of his updated Afghanistan policy, Trump offered few specifics about what it would entail." The [Washington Times](#) (8/21, Miller, Muñoz) reports that Trump "asked the American people Monday to trust him in sending more troops to Afghanistan."

[Politico](#) (8/21, Nussbaum) reports, "America's longest war is about to get longer." Trump "pledged a new strategy in Afghanistan, while refusing to divulge troop numbers, as he said the office of the president had changed his instincts to pull out of the nearly 16-year-long war." [Townhall](#) (8/21, Pavlich) headlines its report "President Trump Decries Nation Building, Vows America Will Handily Defeat 'Loser' Terrorists."

Prior to the speech, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/21, story 4, 2:45, Mason) reported that the President intended to follow "the advice of his generals, who argue [that] the only way to ultimately beat back the Taliban and ISIS is with more American boots on the ground." The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/21, story 6, 2:20, Mason) reported that Trump "has been pulled in two directions" on the strategy. While the military "has pushed for more special operations fighters...ousted White House Chief Strategist Steve Bannon pushed for a complete US pullout." A third option "was briefly considered: sending private mercenaries to battle insurgents." However, "fearing a battlefield and diplomatic disaster, the Pentagon and State Department shot that idea down." On [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/21, story 4, 2:20, Holt), Kristen Welker reported that the President was not expected to "get specific about troop levels."

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/21, Olorunnipa, Wadhams, Pettypiece), the [Washington Examiner](#) (8/21, Westwood), [The Hill](#) (8/21, Fabian), and [Roll Call](#) (8/21, Bennett) also report on the speech.

WPost, NYTimes Analyses: Trump "Angry" In Run-Up To Decision. A couple of stories on Trump's decision-making process, meanwhile, paint him as angry and frustrated. The [Washington Post](#) (8/21, Rucker, Costa) writes that a "frustrated and fuming" Trump "lashed out at his national security team over the Afghanistan war" last month. His "private deliberations...revealed a president unattached to any particular foreign-policy doctrine, but willing to be persuaded so long as he could be seen as a strong and decisive leader." The [New York Times](#) (8/21, Landler, Haberman) writes under the headline "Angry Trump Grilled His Generals About Troop Increase, Then Gave In" that his "skepticism about America's involvement in Afghanistan was no secret to his staff," but national security officials "were still taken aback" at the July, "when an angry Mr. Trump began ripping apart" their proposal.

Pence: Trump "Has Reversed" Obama Policy. Vice President Pence writes in [USA Today](#) (8/21) op-ed, "America must prevent terrorists from regaining a foothold in Afghanistan. ... Yet the previous administration publicly placed an arbitrary end date on military operations in

Afghanistan." Trump "has reversed that policy. And important, he has ensured that our armed forces will have the resources and authorization they need in order to succeed."

Tillerson Praises New Strategy. The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/21, Giaritelli) reports that Secretary of State Tillerson praised the strategy in a statement, saying, "Our new strategy breaks from previous approaches that set artificial calendar-based deadlines. We are making clear to the Taliban that they will not win on the battlefield. The Taliban has a path to peace and political legitimacy through a negotiated political settlement to end the war."

Ryan: "I'm Pleased With The Decision." House Speaker Ryan said during a [CNN](#) (8/21) town hall, "I'm pleased with the decision. I'm actually pleased with the way he went about making this decision. ... I think it's high time we had a more comprehensive strategy. ... And I think we've learned some good lessons in Mosul, in Syria, lessons that are being applied right now. And I think they're carrying over those lessons learned to Afghanistan."

The [Washington Times](#) (8/21, Dinan) reports that Ryan said Trump's "speech represented a rejection of both the Bush and Obama practice of jumping from one-year strategy to one-year strategy, replacing those with something comprehensive. He also said it was the right move to reject giving a certain end-date for the American commitment."

McCain, Rubio Defend New Strategy. The [AP](#) (8/21) reports that Sen. John McCain "is commending" the strategy, but "says the president needs to start conducting himself as a 'wartime commander in chief,'" while [Townhall](#) (8/21, O'Brien) reports that Sen. Marco Rubio "criticized the press for being so quick to condemn Trump's new Afghanistan strategy before even hearing him out."

Before the speech, Sen. Richard Blumenthal said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/21) said any strategy for Afghanistan "has to be more than just military force, it has to include diplomacy and international aide to reconstruct the economy, to make the Afghanistan government more capable and less corrupt, more stable and secure." Sen. Susan Collins said on [MSNBC Live](#) (8/21, Jackson), "In the past 16 years, our efforts in Afghanistan, which have cost the lives of so many troops, have lacked focus."

WPost Reviews Expensive Failures Of Afghanistan War. The [Washington Post](#) (8/21, Degrandpre, Horton) reviews "six costly failures" from the war, including \$6 million for "the purchase and transport of nine rare Italian goats to breed with those native to Afghanistan" and \$36 million for an unused command center.

Taliban Overruns District Government Headquarters. The [New York Times](#) (8/21, Nordland, Abed) reports that Taliban insurgents overran the government headquarters of Khamab District in northern Afghanistan on Monday, "the latest in a string of losses for Kabul, just hours before President Trump was to unveil his long-delayed strategic plan. ... It was the sixth place in Afghanistan to fall to the Taliban in the past month."

Rocket Strikes Kabul Government Area. [Reuters](#) (8/21) reports, "A rocket struck the heart of Kabul's government and diplomatic area on Monday night, setting off alarms and sirens at foreign embassies, but there were no immediate reports of casualties."

AP Analysis: Trump Returns To Arizona "In Need Of Another Big Moment."

The [AP](#) (8/21, Hoffner) reports that early in his run for president, Donald Trump traveled "to Phoenix for a speech that ended up being a bigger moment in his campaign than most people realized at the time." With Trump returning to Phoenix today "in need of another big moment, he will find a place where his agenda and unconventional leadership style have consumed the political landscape and elevated the state's status in the national fight for control of power in Washington in 2018." The AP says Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) "cast the vote that derailed Trump's effort to repeal the Affordable Care Act, Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) "has become the poster child for Republicans who buck the president's agenda," and Trump "has also revived the immigration debate and infuriated Latinos here with his talk of pardoning former Sheriff Joe Arpaio over his recent conviction for breaking the law with his signature immigration patrols."

In another report, the [AP](#) says, "The nation's political split over...Trump is expected to be on full display Tuesday as hard-core backers of the Republican president flood into the Phoenix Convention Center and police brace for protests from opponents outside." For Trump, adds the AP, the event "will also be a test of the president's support among his base and elected Arizona Republicans, some of whom won't show up because of the possible damage he can do to their own political standing."

Poll: 50% Of Arizonans Oppose Idea Of Trump Pardoning Arpaio. The [Arizona Republic](#) (8/21, Cassidy) reports that in a Phoenix-based OH Predictive Insights poll of 1,065 Arizonans, taken Aug. 18-20, 50% of those surveyed said Trump "should not announce a pardon for...Arpaio at a

Tuesday rally," while 21% "said it would be a good move"; 29% "said they weren't sure or didn't know."

Democratic Rep. Gallego: Trump Would Pardon Arpaio With Eye On Pardoning His Own Family.

The [Washington Times](#) (8/21, McLaughlin) reports that Democrats on Monday blasted the possibility of Trump pardoning Arpaio, "saying it would mark a win for 'white supremacy' and set the stage for the" President "to use his constitutional power to keep his family out of legal trouble." Speaking with reporters, Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ) said, "I would not be surprised if the president does this that it actually has nothing to do with Arpaio, but actually has to do with him setting the standard of pardons, so he can eventually start pardoning his family and all of the people within his campaign that helped collaborate with the Russians." Gallego added, "He is going to want to pardon his sons at one point or another."

DNC CEO: "A Pardon For Joe Arpaio Is A Pardon For White Supremacy." [The Hill](#) (8/21, Kamisar) also reported on the remarks of Gallego, who "joined Democratic National Committee CEO Jess O'Connell and Arizona Democratic Party Chair Alexis Tameron at [a] Monday press conference, which served as a preview of the party response to Trump's rally. During her comments, O'Connell blasted Trump's decision to hold a political rally shortly after the tragedy in Charlottesville," telling reporters, "A pardon for Joe Arpaio is a pardon for white supremacy."

WPost, USA Today Warn Trump Against Pardoning Arpaio. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/21, Board) warns against Trump pardoning Arpaio, saying that doing so "now would throw a bone to the president's partisans on the racist alt-right just days after Mr. Trump fed them a juicy steak by explicitly equating the neo-Nazis, anti-Semites and Ku Klux Klansmen in Charlottesville with those who marched against them. If Mr. Trump wants to further inflame and divide America, there would be few more effective ways to do it than by granting clemency to a man whose political career was based on contempt for Latinos generally and Hispanic undocumented immigrants specifically." The Post adds that giving Arpaio a pardon "would be a travesty of justice that would further discredit a presidency already stained by Mr. Trump's words and conduct."

[USA Today](#) (8/21, Board) similarly advises against Trump pardoning "a man who systematically persecuted people of color. Invoking the presidential pardon power for [Arpaio] at this time would further shred whatever semblance of moral authority the president retains, not to mention Republican hopes of making inroads among Hispanic voters." It "would also have a potentially chilling effect on special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia investigation by signaling targets of that inquiry that the president might let them off the hook, even if they refuse to cooperate."

In Op-Ed, Democratic Phoenix Mayor Rips Trump, Urges Him To Delay Visit. In a [Washington Post](#) (8/21, Stanton) op-ed, Phoenix Mayor Greg Stanton writes that Trump's "response to Charlottesville reminds us that the words and actions of our political leaders in the wake of tragic events matter. America is hurting. And it is hurting largely because Trump has doused racial tensions with gasoline. With his planned visit to Phoenix on Tuesday, I fear the president may be looking to light a match. That's why I asked the president to delay his visit." Stanton adds, "A pardon of Arpaio can be viewed only as a presidential endorsement of the lawlessness and discrimination that terrorized Phoenix's Latino community. Choosing to announce it in Phoenix – especially in the wake of Charlottesville – would add insult to very serious injury and would reveal that the president's true intent is to further divide our nation."

Gov. Ducey To Greet Trump At Airport, Won't Attend Rally. The [AP](#) (8/21) reports that a spokesperson for Gov. Doug Ducey (R-AZ) says the Republican "he will not attend a rally at the Phoenix Convention Center with...Trump." Rather, Ducey is slated to "meet the president when Air Force One lands at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport Tuesday afternoon." The spokesperson says Ducey is "focused on working with law enforcement to ensure a safe event in downtown Phoenix for all involved."

[The Hill](#) (8/21, Manchester) reported that Ducey's "decision to sit out the rally comes amid the president's strained relationship with the state's two Republican senators." The Hill said Flake "condemned Trump in his new book, 'Conscience of a Conservative,' which encourages other Republicans to stand up to the president for the good of the country." Trump, in turn, blasted "Flake last week on Twitter, calling him 'toxic' and promoting his primary" challenger, ex-state Sen. Kelli Ward (R-AZ). McCain, meanwhile, "famously helped kill the Senate's ObamaCare repeal-and-replace bill last month, drawing Trump's fury."

Flake On Trump Criticism: "I Don't Worry About It At All." Meanwhile, [CNN](#) (8/21, Bradner) reported on its website that Flake "was eager to talk about anything but the President on Monday, one day before Trump visits Arizona for a campaign-style rally. After an East Valley

Chambers of Commerce breakfast, Flake deflected reporters' questions about Trump's tweets that he is 'a non-factor in the Senate' and 'toxic!' 'I don't worry about it at all,' he said. Flake also wouldn't directly answer questions about whether Trump is right to seemingly endorse his primary" foe, Ward, telling reporters, "That's not my realm. That's somebody else's. I just – I'm running my own campaign."

Drawing from the CNN story, [The Hill](#) (8/21, Bolton) also reported on Flake's remarks, and added that there is "speculation that Trump may endorse Arizona Treasurer Jeff DeWitt, who served as his Arizona campaign chairman in the 2016 presidential race, to run in the primary against Flake."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/21, Lee) also reports on Flake's Monday remarks, saying his "ability to blithely brush aside further insult may be sorely tested Tuesday, when the president swoops into Phoenix for a political rally that could offer more of Trump's caustic critique." Under the headline "Jeff Flake Draws Trump's Ire, Complicating His Re-Election Bid," the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/21, Hughes) also reports on the Flake-Trump feud, and says that during his Tuesday visit to Phoenix, the President is likely to stir up more negative sentiment about the GOP lawmaker. The Journal adds that Flake's criticism of Trump is already rankling some Arizona Republicans who backed the President in November's election.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/21, Sullivan, O'Keefe) reports that at today's rally, "some expect" Trump "to expand on his support for Ward and searing criticism of Flake – and perhaps even make a formal endorsement. That possibility has unnerved Republicans inside and outside the White House. Some worry about straining" Trump's "already tenuous relations with congressional Republicans at a time when they face several key challenges this fall: raising the debt ceiling, passing a spending bill and tackling their top policy objective of new tax legislation. Others looking ahead to next year's midterm elections think Trump may even be putting the Senate GOP majority at risk."

Politico Analysis: "Loyalty To Trump" Emerges As Key Issue In GOP Senate Primaries. And in a story headlined "The New GOP Primary Litmus Test: Loyalty To Trump," [Politico](#) (8/21, Robillard) reported that "the most potent new litmus test in Republican primaries" is turning out to be "allegiance to...Trump." Politico added, "Loyalty to Trump has quickly become the most potent issue for the Republican base, according to a dozen candidates and strategists immersed in 2018 races. It has already put...Flake and GOP Nevada Sen.] Dean Heller under pressure in their states, sparked bickering between GOP candidates in two of Republicans' top 2018 targets, Indiana and West Virginia, and sunk one candidate running for Alabama's open Senate seat."

Ward On Flake: Arizona Doesn't "Have A Senator Who Supports The President At All." The [Washington Times](#) (8/21, Persons) reports that Ward on Monday said "Arizona doesn't have a senator that supports...Trump. 'We don't have a senator who supports the president at all, and so 2018 is time for a change,' Ms. Ward...said on Fox News."

The [Daily Caller](#) (8/21, Givas) reported that during her appearance on Fox News, Ward blasted Flake as "weak on immigration, wanting 'amnesty' and 'open borders.'" 'He [Jeff Flake] believes in open borders and amnesty and I believe in building the wall and stopping illegal immigration. I think we do need a physical border. I think we do need to mix the mortar to fix the border. And that means a wall,' Ward" said. She added, "Unfortunately for us in Arizona, we don't have a conservative Republican senator. We don't have a senator who supports the president at all. And so 2018, it's time for a change to get someone in office who is going to support that America first agenda, and move this country in the right direction."

Politico Analysis: Trump Already Preparing For 2020 Reelection Race.

[Politico](#) (8/21, Isenstadt) reported that President Trump "is methodically building a 2020 reelection campaign machine, shunting aside doubts about his viability for a second term as controversy consumes the early months of his" presidency. Trump is planning "a fall fundraising tour that is expected to" raise "tens of millions of dollars. His team has tracked dozens of potential Democratic rivals," ranging "from Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren to Facebook co-founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg." Trump also "has received political advice from a top campaign pollster from his 2016 campaign, who has urged the president to keep up his attacks on the mainstream media." Politico added that Team Trump – "rankled by reports that other Republicans are preparing to run in 2020 if the president falters – is proceeding on the assumption" Trump "will seek reelection."

Sen. Collins: "It's Too Difficult To Say" Whether Trump Will Be 2020 GOP Nominee. [The Hill](#) (8/21, Easley) reported that during a Monday interview with MSNBC, Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) "said she's unsure whether...Trump will be the Republican Party's presidential nominee in 2020." Collins, "who wrote in Speaker Paul Ryan's (R-Wis.) name for president in 2016, said it's 'too

early to tell' whether Trump will seek a second term. Asked if she believes Trump will be the party's 2020 nominee, Collins responded: 'It's too difficult to say.'

Freddoso: Trump's Approval Ratings In Rust Belt States Little Changed Since Election Day.

Writing for the [Washington Examiner](#) (8/21, Freddoso), David Freddoso discussed the results of recent NBC/Marist polls in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, saying that the surveys "in Rust Belt states over the weekend had some stark news for President Donald Trump: His job approval was under 40%. Only about a quarter said they were proud of him. Broad majorities said they were embarrassed." However, said Freddoso, Trump's "favorable ratings" remained "basically the same as what they were on Election Day."

BlackRock, State Street Press Companies On Climate, Diversity, But Not Pay.

[Reuters](#) (8/21, Reuters) reports that "even as top U.S. asset managers BlackRock Inc and State Street Corp pressed companies on climate and diversity issues this year, they made few waves on another area of corporate governance: CEO pay." Reuters adds, "Researcher Proxy Insight estimates BlackRock supported management in advisory 'Say on Pay' votes at S&P 500 companies 97 percent of the time during the proxy season ended June 30, one percentage point lower than in the previous year, based on a review of voting tallies by eight outside funds that are voted by BlackRock." Reuters adds that "funds voted by a unit of State Street supported executive pay 94 percent of the time this year, also one percentage point lower than in the previous season, based on a similar review of early tallies." The article states that "the continued strong support helps explain how CEO pay keeps rising, part of a broader debate over inequality, even as large corporations changed their stances on climate and social issues under pressure from investors."

Environmental Group Launches Campaign Against Regulation Reform.

[The Hill](#) (8/21, Cama) reports Clean Air Moms Action has "launched an advertising campaign" in opposition of "a pair of bills meant to make it more difficult for federal agencies to write regulations." The environmental group "is running the digital video ad in five states with closely watched or competitive Senate races next year: Missouri, Indiana, Montana, Florida and Virginia." The "Morning Energy" blog of [Politico](#) (8/21, Adragna) also provided coverage of this story.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Why Is The Fed So Scared Of Inflation?" The [New York Times](#) (8/22) says in an editorial that as the Federal Reserve tries to "make sense of how low unemployment, which should drive up wages and prices, persists side by side with low inflation, most simply assume that inflation will rise by next year as labor demand lifts wages and higher wages lead to rising prices." This has led to two interest rate increases this year. The Times says the Fed "should acknowledge the weakness in the job market and keep rates low until clear signs of wage and price increases emerge."

"Kurds' Risky Dream Of Independence." The [New York Times](#) (8/22) editorializes, "After yearning for independence for generations, Kurds in Iraq are scheduled to take a major step in that direction with a nonbinding referendum" in late September. But "the vote, expected to endorse a separate state, would be a mistake, increasing turmoil in a part of the world roiled by the fight against the Islamic State and further threatening Iraq's territorial integrity. Postponement makes better sense." While "in many ways, independence is a logical next step," he Kurds must "first ensure that Kurdistan's democratic institutions are functioning, the economy is strong and they have support from Iraq and other countries before striking out alone."

Washington Post.

"Navy Ships Keep Getting Into Accidents. Time To Find Out Why." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/21) says that Navy ship collisions "happened twice in two months to the Asia-based 7th Fleet, with the tragic loss of up to 17 lives," suggesting "broader and deeper maladies in the fleet and perhaps in the Navy more generally." The upside of Monday's collision, the Post says, "is that senior commanders appear to recognize the severity of their problem," in part because "the Navy will be more hard-pressed than ever in the Pacific in the coming months with two of the 7th Fleet's destroyers out of action." That fact, the Post concludes, "makes it vital that commanders act quickly to identify and remedy the problems in personnel and operations that

have enabled these tragic accidents."

"This Would Be A Travesty Of Justice." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/21, Board) warns against President Trump pardoning Joe Arpaio, saying that doing so "now would throw a bone to the president's partisans on the racist alt-right just days after Mr. Trump fed them a juicy steak by explicitly equating the neo-Nazis, anti-Semites and Ku Klux Klansmen in Charlottesville with those who marched against them. If Mr. Trump wants to further inflame and divide America, there would be few more effective ways to do it than by granting clemency to a man whose political career was based on contempt for Latinos generally and Hispanic undocumented immigrants specifically." The Post adds that giving Arpaio a pardon "would be a travesty of justice that would further discredit a presidency already stained by Mr. Trump's words and conduct."

"China's Desperate Desire To Keep Its People In The Dark." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/21) writes that despite years of engagement with the West, China "is actively resisting Western influences and pushing back on digital battlefields" through censorship under a "paternalistic state" that determines "what people can know and what they can say." The Post argues that should China follow through on a recent threat to censor a list of articles and book reviews deemed sensitive to the ruling party, "the impact on China's people would be, once again, to keep them in the dark about their own history and their government's policy. This is the real 'China way.'"

Wall Street Journal.

"Lighthizer's Economics Deficit." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/21) writes that US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer's goal in the NAFTA renegotiations to reduce US trade deficits with Mexico and Canada incorrectly assesses NAFTA's impact on US trade and is dangerous to US prosperity. The Journal argues that NAFTA has fostered new American export markets and enhanced competitiveness and that Lighthizer's proposals would in fact hurt US manufacturers.

"(Still) Seeking IRS Accountability." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/21, Board) writes that last week's decision by a federal judge ordering the IRS to answer a series of questions about the agency's role in delaying the approval of conservative nonprofit applications offered an important next step to holding the IRS accountable for its actions and, in the words of American Center for Law and Justice attorney Carly Gammill, means that "the IRS must finally acknowledge its wrongdoing (and the reasons for it) in the context of a judicial proceeding in which the agency may be held legally accountable for its misconduct." The Journal adds that Attorney General Sessions should order government attorneys to comply quickly and fully with the judge's order.

"The Navy's McCain Moment." A [Wall Street Journal](#) editorial supports Chief of Naval Operations Admiral John Richardson's call for a broader review of the US Navy's operations in the Pacific because of the multiple incidents that have occurred his year, and laments the Navy has been conducting operations with fewer ships and less funding. The Journal suggests these reductions have translated into less prepared sailors, less reliable equipment, and tactical challenges that can be lethal during dangerous missions.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Trump Takes New Tack In Afghanistan Fight](#)

[Great Wall Expresses Interest In Fiat Chrysler's Jeep](#)

[European Populists Who Aped Brexit And Trump Rethink Their Approach](#)

[Booming Metals Rally Signals Optimism On Global Growth](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Sets US Strategy But No 'Blank Check' For Afghan War](#)

[Angry Trump Grilled His Generals About Troop Increase, Then Gave In](#)

[Portugal Dominated Angola For Centuries. Now The Roles Are Reversed](#)

[Identity Thieves Hijack Cellphone Accounts To Go After Virtual Currency](#)

[After Dangerous Collisions, Navy Will Pause For Safety Check](#)

[A Total Solar Eclipse Leaves A Nation In Awe](#)

Washington Post:

[Navy Will Review Procedures Fleetwide](#)
[Van Driver In Barcelona Attack Is Shot Dead By Police](#)
[Troop Increase Planned In Afghan War](#)
[Behind The Decision: Debate, Infighting And Stalemate, And Finally A Bow To The Generals](#)
[In Poll, Clear Disapproval Of Trump Response To Charlottesville](#)
[A Block Party, From Coast To Coast](#)

Financial Times:

[Eclipse Mania In US As Moon Blots Out Sun](#)
[Biggest Hedge Fund Manager Turns Defensive On US Political Concerns](#)
[Sound Of Silence Falls On Westminster As Big Ben Rings Out For Four-Year Refurb](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump To Send 4,000 More U.S. Forces To Afghanistan](#)
[Afghanistan Mission Provides Little Return On U.S. Investment Of Money And Troops](#)
[DNC Hack Theories Considered Extreme And Fringe Now Entering Mainstream](#)
[Prescription Drug Referendum In Ohio To Require State Agencies To Pay Same Price As VA](#)
[Catalan Independence Movement Feared To Worsen Divisions In Spain](#)
Layered Approach Stifling Illegal Crossing In Arizona City

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Solar Eclipse; Solar Eclipse-Analysis; Singapore-US Navy Ship Disaster; Trump-Afghanistan; Spain-Terror Suspect Killed; Ohio-Judge Ambushed; Wisconsin-Slender Man Case; Minnesota-American Airlines Incident; Italy-Deadly Earthquake; Florida-Emergency Landing; Johnson & Johnson Lawsuit.

CBS: Solar Eclipse; Solar Eclipse-NASA; Solar Eclipse-Oregon; Solar Eclipse-Tennessee; Solar Eclipse-Bush And Trump Families; Trump-Afghanistan; Afghanistan Mission Analysis; Ohio-Judge Ambushed; Singapore-US Navy Ship Disaster.

NBC: Solar Eclipse; Solar Eclipse-Analysis; Singapore-US Navy Ship Disaster; Trump-Afghanistan; Afghanistan Mission Analysis; Spain-Terror Suspect Killed; Secret Service-Money Issues; Ohio-Judge Ambushed; High Blood Pressure-Children

Network TV At A Glance:

Solar Eclipse – 23 minutes, 30 seconds
Trump-Afghanistan – 10 minutes, 20 seconds
Singapore-US Navy Ship Disaster – 7 minutes, 15 seconds
Ohio-Judge Ambushed – 4 minutes, 20 seconds
Spain-Terror Suspect Killed – 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Trump-Afghanistan; Trump-Phoenix Rally; Solar Eclipse; Singapore-US Navy Disaster; Hawaii-Blackhawk Helicopter Crash.

CBS: Trump-Afghanistan; Trump-Phoenix Rally; Solar Eclipse; Johnson & Johnson Lawsuit; NFL-National Anthem Protests.

FOX: Trump-Afghanistan; Trump-Phoenix Rally; Singapore-US Navy Ship Disaster; Hawaii-Blackhawk Helicopter Crash; Washington DC-Jefferson Memorial Update; Texas-Baby Killed; Southwest Airlines Incident; College Football Poll.

NPR: Trump-Afghanistan; Singapore-US Navy Ship Disaster; Ohio-Judge Ambushed; Spain-Terror Suspect Killed; High Blood Pressure-Children; UK-Big Ben Repairs.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — President Donald Trump holds 'Make America Great Again' rally in Arizona.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public events scheduled

US Senate: 10:00 AM Senate Public Works subcommittee field hearing on USACE Missouri River management – Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight Subcommittee field

hearing on 'Oversight of the Army Corps' Management of the Missouri River'. Location: South Dakota State Capitol, 500 E Capitol Ave, Pierre, SD.

7:00 PM Senate convenes for pro forma session

US House: 9:00 AM House of Representatives convenes for pro forma session.

Other: 9:30 AM CIS panel discussion on the 'immigration court backlog' – Center for Immigration Studies NPC news conference on 'Immigration Court Backlog: Causes and Solutions', with discussion on a recent CIS analysis, 'The Massive Increase in the Immigration Court Backlog, Its Causes, and Solutions'. Speakers include report author, CIS Resident Fellow in Law and Policy and former immigration judge Andrew Arthur, National Association of Immigration Judges Secretary-Treasurer Larry Burman, and Heritage Foundation Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies Senior Legal Fellow Hans von Spakovsky. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW, Washington, DC <http://www.cis.org/> <https://twitter.com/wwwCISorg>.

1:00 PM CBPP press call on higher education funding report – Center on Budget and Policy Priorities discuss report on the 'deep cuts that almost every state has made to funding for public universities and colleges and explains how those cuts hurt students, families, and state economies', via press call with report author CBPP Senior Policy Analyst Michael Mitchell and CBPP Senior Fellow and Counselor Sharon Parrott. Location: TBD www.cbpp.org <https://twitter.com/centeronbudget>.

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Trevor Noah: "First, people all over America gathered to watch the first total solar eclipse in 30 years. I don't know about you, but I went out, had a great time. Everybody in the building enjoyed it. But I think it's safe to say nobody in America enjoyed it more than Fox News' Shep Smith. ... That's the joy of a news anchor that gets to cover a story that doesn't involve Donald Trump."

Trevor Noah: "And today really felt like a special day in America. I don't know if you felt it, but everyone came together. We were all just doing the same thing and we were happy about it. People in the streets. Kids came out of school. They were even watching at the White House. And can I just say, look at Jeff Sessions. He looks so adorable! It's like he's watching Santa ride off into the sky with all the toys he helped make!"

Trevor Noah: "I mean, Donald Trump and Melania were watching together? Which surprised me because, I mean, two minutes of total darkness? That should have been her chance to escape."

Trevor Noah: "And apparently, the President's aides were really worried about him. So they told him not to look directly into the sun. And Donald Trump was, like, 'Don't worry about me. That's my policy, every day. Don't look at the sun. Don't talk to the sun.'"

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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National Park Service

- Beatrice (NE) Daily Sun: Homestead To Welcome Visitor Aiming To See Every National Park.
- Plastics Today: Additional Coverage: Bottled Water Is Back In Our National Parks.
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- Johnstown (PA) Tribune-Democrat: Cash-strapped Park Service Eyes Help From 'Friends'.

Office Of Insular Affairs

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- Washington Times: Trump Stands By Threat To Shut Down Government Over Border Wall.
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- The Hill: EPA Watchdog To Investigate Pruitt's Travel.

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DOI In The News

Trump Ramping Up For Texas Trip As Flooding Ravages Houston.

[Politico](#) (8/28, McCaskill, Nelson) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "said Monday morning that the federal government's response to Harvey's devastating impact on Texas has been 'very much like a military operation,' praising the leadership of White House chief of staff John Kelly." Zinke "said Interior Department resources involved in storm response include emergency response teams from the U.S. Geological Survey, which have monitored flooding and sought to model how it will progress; and swift water rescue teams and assets from national parks and wildlife refuges."

Zinke said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (8/28) that "it's amazing to see the Cabinet under the Chief of Staff Gen. Kelly. This is very much like a military operation by the numbers, making sure the assets are surged forward, making sure we have communication with our assets and make sure all the secretaries are engaged."

Additional coverage was provided by [Fox News](#) (8/28), [Fox News](#) (8/28), and [Newsmax](#) (8/28, Fitzgerald).

US Interior Secretary Urges Mining Ban Near Yellowstone.

The [AP](#) (8/28, Brown) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "wants to speed up a proposal to block new gold mining claims on forested public lands in Montana near Yellowstone National Park and will also consider blocking other types of mining, agency officials said Monday." Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift "said Monday that Zinke wants to move forward as quickly as possible with a proposed 20-year withdrawal of future mining claims in the area north of the park, known as Paradise Valley." The review of "that withdrawal was scheduled to be completed by the U.S. Forest Service and Interior's Bureau of Land Management by November, 2018." Swift said, "He is fully in the corner of protecting the Paradise Valley and is putting forward Interior Department assets to support the U.S. Forest Service in that mission. Some places are too precious to mine...This is very much a final decision."

The [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (8/28, Kidston) reports that Sen. Jon Tester said in a statement Monday, "An administrative withdrawal would be a step in the right direction, but we have no guarantee that the current review will even recommend a withdrawal. And even the best-case scenario means a mine could threaten the doorstep to Yellowstone 20 years from now, sticking our kids with a fight they shouldn't have to fight."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Washington Times](#) (8/28, Brown), the [Houston Chronicle](#) (8/28, Brown, Press), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (8/26, Brown), the [Idaho Statesman](#) (8/28, Brown), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (8/28, Brown), the [Washington Post](#) (8/28, Matthew Brown |, Ap), the [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (8/28, Brown), the [San Gabriel Valley \(CA\) Tribune](#) (8/28, Brown), [ABC News](#) (8/28, Brown), the [Baytown \(TX\) Sun](#) (8/28, Brown), the [Belleville \(IL\) News-Democrat](#) (8/28, Brown), the [Coeur d'Alene \(ID\) Press](#) (8/28, Brown), the [Columbia Basin \(WA\) Herald](#) (8/28, Brown), the [Santa Cruz \(CA\) Sentinel](#) (8/28, Brown), the [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (8/28, Brown), the [St. Joseph \(MO\) News-Press](#) (8/28, Brown), the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (8/28, Brown), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (8/28, Brown), the [Boston Herald](#) (8/28, Brown), the [Daily Mail](#) (8/28, Brown), [Fox Business](#) (8/28, Brown), and [KTAR-FM Glendale \(AZ\)](#) Glendale, AZ (8/28, Brown).

Maine Monument Supporter 'Optimistic' After Chat With Zinke.

The [AP](#) (8/28, Sharp) reports that Lucas St. Clair, who led "the successful effort to get the federal government to protect land near Maine's tallest mountain says he's feeling optimistic after a telephone chat with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke." After receiving a telephone briefing Monday from Zinke, St. Clair "came away from the conversation reassured that Zinke wants the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument to be managed for conservation and recreation by the

National Park Service." St. Clair said, "I'm feeling very optimistic."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (8/28, Sharp), [ABC News](#) (8/28, Sharp), the [Daily Mail](#) (8/28), the [Houston Chronicle](#) (8/28, Sharp, Press), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (8/26, Sharp), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (8/28, Sharp), the [Washington Times](#) (8/28, Sharp), the [Washington Post](#) (8/28, David Sharp |, Ap), the [Idaho Statesman](#) (8/28, Sharp), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/28, Sharp), the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (8/28, Sharp), the [Santa Cruz \(CA\) Sentinel](#) (8/28, Sharp), the [Westport \(CT\) News](#) (8/28, Sharp), [KTAR-FM Glendale \(AZ\)](#) Glendale, AZ (8/28), and [WTOP-FM Washington](#) Washington (8/28).

Changes Coming To Nevada Monuments, Heller Confirms. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (8/28, Lochhead) reports that Sen. Dean Heller "said Monday that 'minor' changes are coming for two of Nevada's national monuments, Gold Butte and Basin and Range." Heller said he was notified "about the changes Friday during a phone call with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke." Heller said, "There will be some adjustments to both of those monuments, but they will be minor. You're not going to see wholesale changes in those monuments."

The President Can Make Monuments – But He Can't Take Them Away. For the "Pundits" blog of [The Hill](#) (8/28, Molvar, Contributor), Erik Molvar, executive director of Western Watersheds Project, claims that Interior Secretary Zinke's recommendation to the White House last week "that national monument lands protected by past presidents be removed from their protected status" is "apparently a scheme to make way for oil and gas drilling and other destructive land uses that threaten the sacred lands, fragile archaeological sites and scientific values for which these national monuments were designated." Molvar calls the move "a breathtaking overreach by an administration that clearly doesn't understand that a president's powers are limited by the Constitution." He notes that "legal scholars correctly point out that the 1906 Antiquities Act, adopted when Theodore Roosevelt was president, gives the White House power to create National Monuments — but only Congress can alter or rescind them." Molvar adds that "in addition to being unlawful, Zinke's recommendations plainly ignore the will of the majority."

Why Trump's Upcoming Decision On Federal Lands Matters. In commentary for the [Daily Signal](#) (8/28, Tubb), Katie Tubb, a policy analyst for the Thomas A. Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation, claims that "reducing the size of a national monument or even rescinding its status does not open up the federal land to be overrun by oil interests or clear cut by the foresting industry." She notes that "federal lands are managed by a web of laws determining who can do what and when." Tubb suggests that "if Congress doesn't like what the Trump administration is doing, it ought to act to clarify" the Antiquities Act. She says that "at the very least, Congress ought to amend the law to give states more say in the matter." Tubb concludes that "shifting more control from Washington to those with direct knowledge of the land in question and a clear stake in the outcome of decisions would be a step in the right direction."

Our View: Bringing Balance To The Antiquities Act. The [Salem \(MA\) News](#) (8/28) editorializes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "unwillingness to be transparent about his review and its results all but guarantees a legal quagmire." With regards to the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine Monument, the paper says that "all sides are already threatening lawsuits, so no matter the outcome, the issue will likely not be settled for years." The paper argues that "if anything, the debate over Canyons and Seamounts shows the need for Congress to update the outdated Antiquities Act, which allows presidential administrations to designate and reshape national monuments with little or no oversight."

Who Deserves Praise And Criticism This Week In Utah? The editorial board of the [Ogden \(UT\) Standard-Examiner](#) (8/28) gives Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke mixed reviews for his recommendation on the Bears Ears National Monument. Zinke receives a "thumbs up" for "keeping Bears Ears' designation as a national monument." But he is also given a "thumbs down" for "not being more transparent about how Bears Ears and other monuments might change."

Under Obama, A Gold Mining Firm Was Fine With A Mojave Desert Monument. Under Trump, An About-face.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/28, Sahagun) reports that gold mining firm Newcastle Gold Ltd. has changed its position on the creation of the Castle Mountains National Monument. The designation was "hailed as a compromise that served the goals of conservationists and the mining industry." So, conservationists said, "they were caught off guard to learn Newcastle's position shifted after the Trump administration moved to roll back federal protections on many of the monuments created by previous administrations." Newcastle and Rep. Paul Cook "have told Zinke the designation was made without adequate public outreach or input from the company." The company "recommended solution: Reduce the size of Castle Mountains National Monument by

50%.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles LAist](#) (8/28, Peleg).

National Park Campgrounds Need Work. Is Zinke’s Privatization Pitch The Answer?

[Colorado Public Radio](#) (8/28, Hood) reports that in the face of a \$11.3 billion backlog in deferred maintenance at national parks, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “thinks private companies could provide campground upgrades.” The Interior Department “doesn’t have a formal proposal,” but Zinke has “mentioned expansion of public-private partnerships for campground management multiple times, including a conference call with reporters and at a Recreational Vehicle Industry Association meeting.” The proposal has the support of Derrick Crandall, counselor for the National Parks Hospitality Association and president of the American Recreation Coalition. He “explained that companies can provide much needed upgrades to park campgrounds while adding amenities like food stores, Wi-Fi, and tent rentals.”

How A Mosquito-Borne Disease May Impact An Imperiled Idaho Species.

[KBSC-FM](#) Boise, ID (8/28, Barnhill) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has identified the West Nile Virus as a threat to the greater sage grouse. During his visit to Boise in June, Zinke “said he wanted to take the mosquito-borne disease into consideration as part of his sage grouse management strategy.” In recommendations since that visit, Zinke “outlined changes to the previous administration’s plan that’s friendlier to mining and oil and gas companies.”

Buttrey Discusses Long Quest For Pending Interior Job.

The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (8/28, Drake) reports that Montana state Sen. Ed Buttrey is up for a job as an assistant secretary with the Interior Department. According to the article, “it was known toward the end of the 2017 legislative session that Buttrey was up for the job.” Buttrey said he and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “have the same vision and that Zinke was looking for people who he could rely on, trust and make the department look great.”

House Natural Resources Chairman Pledges To Retire After Next Term.

[The Hill](#) (8/28, Henry) reports that “House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT) intends to retire after his next term in office, he told constituents last week.” The Hill says that “at a town hall event in Layton, Utah, on Friday, Bishop said he won’t run for reelection to the House in 2020, assuming he wins reelection next year to the House seat he’s held since 2003.” The Hill adds that “Bishop is in his second term as chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, a panel that gives him oversight of the Interior Department, energy and natural resources development, public lands policy, and Puerto Rico.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (8/28).

Additional Coverage: Zinke’s Daughter Slams Trump’s “Inexcusable” Transgender Military Policy.

Additional coverage that Jennifer Detlefsen, the daughter of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, “slammed” President’s Trump’s “policy banning transgender people from serving in any capacity in the military” was provided by [CNN](#) (8/28, Klein) and [E&E Publishing](#) (8/28, Yachnin).

The Rush To Develop Oil And Gas We Don’t Need.

In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (8/28, Lyons), Jim Lyons, a research scholar at Yale, criticizes President Trump for moving forward with oil and gas development on public lands. Lyons argues that Trump’s “misguided move to increase production in a soft energy market is bad for government revenues, not necessary for national security and likely to damage natural resources that millions of Americans use and enjoy.” Lyons suggests that “a better approach would be to develop an overall strategy to guide energy development to places where conflicts with water, wildlife and recreation are fewer.”

Commentary: US And Utah Need To Stop Coddling Domestic Extremists.

In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/29, Summers), Ian Summers, a graduate research fellow in the University of Utah’s Department of Communication and special advisor to Alliance for a Better Utah, draws attention to “a pattern of state and federal officials excusing extremist antigovernment rhetoric that fosters violent zealots against the public servants they are supposed to protect.” Summers adds that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “declined to speak up in defense of his employees when asked about the Bunkerville standoff.” Summers warns that “the longer

Zinke stays silent on this form of domestic terrorism, the more likely a tragic attack will occur – at the expense of the men and women who serve under him.”

Bureau Of Land Management

New Path Sought For High-Voltage Transmission Lines In Idaho.

The [AP](#) (8/28, Ridler) reports that “federal officials on Monday reopened public comments on proposed routes for two high-voltage transmission lines in southwestern Idaho intended to modernize the Pacific Northwest’s energy grid.” The Bureau of Land Management “announced it will take comments through Sept. 27 for two segments of the Gateway West project proposed by Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power.” The BLM in January “approved routes for the two 500-kilovolt transmission lines on public land in Idaho’s Gooding, Elmore, Owyhee, Cassia and Twin Falls counties.” However, “legislation by Idaho Republican Rep. Mike Simpson signed into law in May by President Donald Trump mandates segments not connected to those routes.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (8/28, Ridler), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (8/28, Ridler), the [Washington Times](#) (8/28, Ridler), the [Houston Chronicle](#) (8/28, Ridler, Press), and the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (8/28, Ridler).

Person Who Caused Big Wyoming Wildfire Could Be Told To Pay.

The [AP](#) (8/28) reports that “the person who caused a wildfire that destroyed a home and threatened several others east of Yellowstone National Park could be ordered to pay millions to cover firefighting costs.” Bureau of Land Management spokeswoman Sarah Beckwith said “the federal agency seeks to recoup the cost of wildfires caused by people.” According to Beckwith, “the fire cost the BLM roughly \$1.4 million and several agencies were involved in fighting the fire.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Powell \(WY\) Tribune](#) (8/28, Baker).

Bringing Pot To Burning Man? It’s Still Illegal On US Land.

The [AP](#) (8/28) reports that “Nevada has legalized recreational marijuana, but it’s still not OK for tens of thousands of Burning Man fans to light up this year.” According to the article, “consumption is allowed only in private and even possession remains illegal on federal lands, including the stretch of Black Rock Desert managed by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management where the counter-culture festival began Sunday and continues through the weekend about 100 miles (161 kilometers) north of Reno.” BLM officials “say a pot possession arrest can result in a year in jail and a \$1,000 fine.” However, “federal agents made no arrests for any crimes last year at Burning Man, or the year before.”

Lawmakers Frustrated By BLM, Wyoming Gets EPA Grant For Leaky Petroleum Tanks Ruffatto Sentencing Delayed.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (8/28, Richards) reports that “the Bureau of Land Management’s consideration of viewshed impacts from Native American historic sites has some lawmakers and a number of oil and gas operators frustrated.” The Select Federal Natural Resource Committee meets in Casper next week, “and the viewshed is on the agenda.”

Throwing Away Years Of Public Cooperation In The Arctic Would Be A Mistake.

In an op-ed for the [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (8/28), Debbie S. Miller opposes opening up more of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska to drilling. According to Miller, “given the size of the Reserve, there is plenty of room to protect significant natural values and the subsistence interests of the Inupiat.” She says that the BLM has “created a management plan that, while not perfect, has set aside five areas of exceptional wildlife and subsistence values while still allowing oil development to move forward in the Reserve.”

Euthanizing Wild Horses Is Nice Way To Say Killing: Suzanne Roy.

In an op-ed for the [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (8/28, Roy), Suzanne Roy, executive director of the American Wild Horse Campaign, criticizes “the Trump Administration’s budget request to slaughter tens of thousands of healthy wild horses and burros.” Instead of slaughter, Roy urges Congress to “look where the National Academy of Sciences directed the BLM to go: managing the wild horse population with fertility control.” She argues that “there is still time for Congress to wise up, reject the inhumanity of mass slaughter, and call for publicly-supported, scientifically-

recommended, and long-term solutions for our wild horses.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Study: Seismic Blasting In Gulf Of Mexico Hurts Dolphins, Whales.

The [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (8/28, Pittman) reports, “For the past six months, a battle has raged over a proposal to allow oil and gas companies to perform seismic testing to search for deposits of petroleum off the nation’s Atlantic coast.” The federal government issued 22 permits for seismic tests in the Gulf of Mexico last year, and has so far issued 11 this year. A federal environmental impact study released this month “says the blasts of sound used to detect the presence of oil and gas have likely been harming whales and dolphins” in the Gulf of Mexico. But “an industry spokesman contended that there’s no evidence that any marine life has ever been harmed by its seismic testing.” API’s Erik Millito said, “The oil and natural gas industry has been operating safely and successfully in the Gulf of Mexico for decades without injuries to marine life.”

Carney Launches Effort To Explore Offshore Wind In Delaware.

The [Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#) (8/28, Goss) reports that “Delaware this week took its first major step toward encouraging the development of an offshore wind farm in nearly a decade.” Gov. John Carney on Monday “signed an executive order to create a ‘working group’ that will examine the potential costs and benefits of generating electricity from such a project.” According to the article, “one of the first questions the 17-member working group will need to answer is how to avoid the missteps that caused the undoing of Delaware’s previous attempt to foster an offshore wind project under Carney’s predecessor, former Gov. Jack Markell.”

Also reporting are [North American Windpower](#) (8/28, Lillian).

Bureau Of Reclamation

Boat Ramp To Close After Labor Day Weekend.

The [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (8/29) reports that “American Falls Reservoir’s west-side boat ramp construction will resume after Labor Day weekend, the Bureau of Reclamation announced.” According to the article, “the ramp will close to the public, including all boater and angler traffic, beginning Sept. 5 and will re-open in mid-October following construction.” Upper Snake Field Office manager Ryan Newman said in a release, “Our contractors have a small window of opportunity to access a portion of the ramp. The goal is to remove and replace up to 150 feet of the ramp before the water rises in mid-October.”

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

More Rain And Rescues As Harvey Lashes Texas For Another Day.

The [New York Times](#) (8/28) reports Tropical Storm Harvey continues to unleash rain and flooding in Houston, leading the city’s mayor Sylvester Turner to defend his decision not to evacuate. Turner said an evacuation order would have been chaotic and put more people’s lives in danger.

A second [New York Times](#) (8/28, Dougherty) reports the storm is likely to be one of the nation’s costliest disasters, with tens of billions in economic activity and property damage lost in an area crucial for the energy, chemical and shipping industries. Economists say the region will recover quickly and continue growing, but the storm is forcing businesses to focus on damage assessment and rebuilding. Brett Ryan, senior US economist at Deutsche Bank, said, “Since the Port Arthur refining complex is the largest in the U.S. and the second largest in the world, this will no doubt impact gasoline and chemicals prices.” The storm forced eight refineries in Texas to shut down, sparking concern for increases in gasoline prices. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/28, Zumbun) reports the financial toll will largely depend on the extend of flooding in upcoming days. While refiners outside the region may be able to offset some of the negative effects, Gulf Coast producers still have to evaluate whether the plants and ports sustained major damage from the flood before restarting operations. Moody’s expects the biggest damage will be to insurers and property owners, with an estimated \$30-40 billion in damage from the storm. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/28, Masunaga) reports major ports in Corpus Christi and Houston are closed to vessel traffic, which is expected to delay imports and exports of crude and refined products,

according to S&P Global Platts. Beacon Economics economist Robert Kleinhenz said there is a “good chance” of a “slight but measurable impact” on the US GDP this quarter because of the storm. [USA Today](#) (8/28, Davidson, Bomey) reports the region is responsible for about 2.4 percent of the US’ economy, with a projected gross output of \$441 billion this year. It is a top three center for oil refineries, and is the largest concentration of chemical production. It also contains the second busiest shipping port and two of the country’s busiest airports. Kevin Simmons, an economics professor at Austin College, writes in the [Dallas Morning News](#) (8/28, Simmons) that Harvey could break a record for financial damage by a storm.

Refiner Stocks Rise As Harvey Disrupts Fuel Production. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/28, Sider) reports shares of refiners rallied Monday as investors look to benefit from the plants that are still online and producing. Harvey has knocked out more than 2 million bpd in refining capacity, causing gasoline and diesel prices to spike on concerns that supplies will tighten. However, the reduced demand from refiners has also depressed oil prices. [USA Today](#) (8/28, Bomey) reports that long term damage will be limited, but short term outages at refineries are causing gasoline price spikes. The national average was \$2.36 on Monday, up 4 cents from a week ago and 15.4 cents year-over-year, according to AAA. GasBuddy.com petroleum analyst Patrick DeHaan expects retail increases of 10-25 cents in the Gulf Coast, 10-25 cents in the upper Midwest, 10-20 cents in the Northeast, 5-15 cents in the Plains and 5-15 cents in the Rockies and West. DeHaan said, “I think the worst of the impact is going to start trickling down to the retail level in the next couple of days. ... The storm is going to be dumping rain for days yet, so we don’t necessarily have a full comprehension of the amount of damage that’s taking place.” The [Miami Herald](#) (8/28, Neal) reports DeHaan said, “The impact could linger for several weeks or longer, depending on how long it takes Texas refiners to return to normal operations. In addition, the situation could worsen should more shutdowns or outages happen in the coming week as Harvey continues to drop feet of rain on already flooded Texas.” [Reuters](#) (8/28, Seba) reports US fuel prices surged on Monday as two more Gulf Coast refiners cut output and considered reducing a third, leaving more than 13 percent of the nation’s refining capacity offline. Marathon’s Galveston Bay refinery cut production by half, while Lyondell Basell Industries’ Houston refinery also reduced output by 50 percent to conserve supply. Motiva Enterprises is also considering shutting in its Port Arthur refinery because of high water and plant grounds and running with only essential personnel. Gasoline for immediate delivery in the Gulf Coast hit five-year highs, while US gasoline futures jumped as much as 7 percent. Robert Rapier writes a contributing piece for [Forbes](#) (8/28, Rapier) saying that the US will have a considerable draw on gasoline inventories this week, and for the foreseeable future. The extent of the draws will depend on the damage to the facilities and infrastructure. Rapier expects offshore production to resume quickly, but Eagle Ford operations to take longer to resume.

[Reuters](#) (8/28, Scheyder) reports BP said its offshore oil platforms in the US Gulf of Mexico and its Texas City chemical plant are still online despite Tropical Storm Harvey. BP decided to close its US headquarters in Houston and is asking its 5,000 employees to work remotely. The office will only reopen once conditions approve, according to spokesman Jason Ryan.

[Fox Business](#) (8/28, Rocco) reports some oil production in the Gulf of Mexico started to return on Monday as companies recover from Hurricane Harvey. About 18.9 percent of the Gulf’s 1.75 million bpd capacity was still offline, down from Sunday’s estimate of 22 percent, according to the BSEE. The agency said 98 platforms remain evacuated, while seven resumed operations. Natural gas production also improved from 25.7 percent offline to 18.1 percent.

Gaurav Sharma writes a contributing piece for [Forbes](#) (8/28, Sharma) reports that the storm could move towards Louisiana and cause widespread damage at their refining facilities. In total, “The shutdowns include ExxonMobil Baytown (560,500 bpd), and Valero (293,000 bpd), Citgo (157,500 bpd), Flint Hills (296,470 bpd), Magellan (50,000 bpd), Buckeye (50,000 bpd) – all in Corpus Christi. Shell Deer Park (340,000 bpd), Pasadena (112,229 bpd), Phillips66 Sweeny (247,000 bpd) and Valero Three Rivers (89,000 bpd) facilities have also been temporarily closed.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/28, Spalding, Carroll) reports Harvey has drifted back into the Gulf of Mexico, where it is gaining strength before coming ashore again. It is expected to hit the Texas-Louisiana border.

Harvey’s Lessons For America’s Stretched Energy Infrastructure. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/28, Jakab) reports Hurricane Harvey is providing an important reminder that the infrastructure that processes and delivers oil is vital for the US’ energy security. The US imports 25 percent less oil than a decade ago and exports over a million bpd. The US also relies on fewer facilities, that are now run closer to their physical limits. The storm in the Gulf Coast, where many refineries are concentrated, also affects the pipeline infrastructure that delivers product to customers. The Colonial Pipeline carries over 2.5 million bpd, about half the refined product used along the entire

east coast. In Breakingviews, [Reuters](#) (8/28, Laughlin) says that the storm exposes the flaws in making the US a dominant fuel exporter by promoting coal and opening federal lands for oil drilling. Instead, "Tackling climate change and hardening energy infrastructure should take priority over Trump's pet projects." While oil and gas supplies are plentiful, the resources are little good if the necessary infrastructure is not working.

Fish And Wildlife Service

9th Circuit Rules Against Endangered Status For Sonoran Desert Bald Eagles.

The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (8/28, Fischer) reports that the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals "rebuffed a bid to have the Sonoran Desert area bald eagle listed as endangered, saying, in essence, that if they all are eradicated it wouldn't make a real difference to eagle populations as a whole." The appeals court "agreed Monday with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that while the eagles are different than others, they are not 'ecologically or biologically significant.'" According to the article, "with bald eagles as a whole no longer endangered, the judges said there was no justification for providing that status for this group alone, even if they disappear from the Southwest."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (8/28, Fischer) and [Law360](#) (8/28, Phillis).

Business Leaders Want Mexican Wolves In Grand Canyon Area.

The [AP](#) (8/29) reports that "more than 60 business leaders have urged the federal government to release endangered Mexican gray wolves into the Grand Canyon area in northern Arizona and eastern Utah." The business leaders are "submitting their request in a joint letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." They claim "the wolf-recovery efforts will have economic and environmental benefits."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (8/28, Devoid).

Feds Will Help With Wetlands Restoration At Bailey Point.

The [Elk River \(MN\) Star News](#) (8/28) reports that the US Fish and Wildlife Service is "going to help with wetland restoration at Bailey Point Nature Preserve in Elk River." The Elk River City Council agreed "to enter into a contract with the service Monday night." Under the contract, the federal government will "pay \$2,500 to restore an acre of wetland and 15 acres of prairie and oak savanna in the park." The project will "provide habitat for migratory birds and native pollinators, like bees, and give the city technical expertise, while the city agreed to hire the contract that does the work."

Refuge Occupier Jason Blomgren Sentenced To Probation.

The [AP](#) (8/28, Dubois) reports that "a federal judge sentenced a North Carolina man on Monday to two years on probation for his role in last year's takeover of a national wildlife refuge in Oregon." US District Judge Robert Jones also "ordered Jason Blomgren to pay \$3,000 restitution." Blomgren is also "required to participate in mental health treatment."

This 'Endangered Species' Story Was Government-Sponsored Fake News.

In commentary for the [Daily Signal](#) (8/28, Gordon), Rob Gordon, a senior research fellow at The Heritage Foundation criticizes the federal government for its decision to delist the Johnston's frankenia. According to Gordon, "the species did not recover – it never was endangered in the first place." Gordon also claims that it took the Fish and Wildlife Service "decades to correct this mistake, and when it finally did, it was dishonest."

National Park Service

Homestead To Welcome Visitor Aiming To See Every National Park.

The [Beatrice \(NE\) Daily Sun](#) (8/28) reports that Homestead National Monument of America will be "welcoming Mikah Meyer to the park on Monday, Sept. 4, 2017, from 1-2 p.m. at the Education Center." Meyer is "on a mission to set a world record for national park trips." Meyer will "discuss his epic quest to be the youngest person to stamp his national park passport book in all 417 units of the National Park System."

Additional Coverage: Bottled Water Is Back In Our National Parks.

Additional coverage that the ban on the sale of bottled water in national parks has been overturned was provided by [Plastics Today](#) (8/28, Goldsberry).

Growing Maintenance Backlog Hurting Our National Parks.

In an op-ed for the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (8/28, Beck), Tom Beck, a former legislator from Deer Lodge, writes that the deferred maintenance backlogs at national parks is “a big problem” for the National Park Service, “as it can’t keep up with the roughly \$11.3 billion in maintenance repairs that are needed system-wide.” Beck warns that “the maintenance backlog means that tourism in Montana could take a hit.” Furthermore, he says that “the more we defer park maintenance needs, the more expensive they can become.” Beck supports the National Park Service Legacy Act, “bipartisan congressional legislation that would provide a fiscally sustainable path forward to address deferred maintenance problems in our national parks.”

Cash-strapped Park Service Eyes Help From ‘Friends’.

The [Johnstown \(PA\) Tribune-Democrat](#) (8/29) editorializes that “because federal dollars for national parks are limited, and more than 400 other national historic sites are cash-strapped as well, rangers at the Johnstown Flood National Memorial started looking elsewhere for funds to help pay for improvements.” The rangers “want to adopt a program that has been successful at other national park sites across the country.” The rangers “hope to establish a Friends of the Johnstown Flood National Memorial group.” The paper encourages “anyone interested in preserving the region’s rich heritage and history to lend a hand.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

North Korea Fires Unidentified Projectile, US Says.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/28, Stiles) reports North Korea on Tuesday launched a missile that “apparently traveled hundreds of miles over Sea of Japan and Hokkaido, an island prefecture in northern Japan,” according to Army Col. Rob Manning, a Pentagon spokesman. Manning said military officials are evaluating the launch and will report their findings later. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/28, story 7, 1:10, Llamas) called the ballistic missile launch “another serious escalation,” and noted “President Trump has threatened to confront new signs of aggression from North Korea with, quote, ‘fire and fury.’ No response yet from the White House to today’s launch.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/28, story 8, 0:30, Holt) said the early Tuesday morning launch “was the first time a North Korean projectile crossed over Japan in nearly a decade” and “the second launch from the North in four days. Defiant moves in the face of President Trump’s threats of fire and fury.”

The [New York Times](#) (8/28, Sang-Hun, Sanger) similarly calls the move “a direct challenge to President Trump,” and notes the launch came shortly after Secretary of State Tillerson said he was “pleased to see that the regime in Pyongyang has certainly demonstrated some level of restraint that we have not seen in the past.” While the missile’s flight “landed harmlessly in the sea,” the propaganda value “was considerable,” as public television programs “were interrupted with a rare warning screen announcing the missile’s flight over the country,” bullet train lines halted operations, and the government used “unusually dire terms” to discuss the incident. Said Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, “A missile passing over Japan is an unprecedented, grave and serious threat,” [Bloomberg News](#) (8/28, Nonomiya, Sharp, Keatinge) reports, adding that Abe demanded an emergency United Nations Security Council meeting. Abe told reporters “that he agreed with Trump to increase pressure on North Korea following a 40-minute phone call on Tuesday morning,” and also “urged China and Russia to join in taking action against Kim Jong Un’s regime.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/28, Cheng, Landers) reports the Anderson Air Force Base in Guam announced US authorities detected the launch “in real time,” but determined the missile did not pose a threat to the island. Meanwhile, according to a statement from Seoul’s Blue House, National Security Adviser McMaster and his counterpart from Seoul, Chung Eui-yong discussed an expanded deployment of “strategic assets,” which the Journal says may include nuclear weapons, aircraft carriers, or stealth bombers, to South Korea.

Top National News

Trump To Visit Texas As Rain Continues To Fall And Relief Efforts Continue.

President Trump addressed Tropical Storm Harvey and the continuing rains in Texas on Monday, vowing long-term federal recovery assistance. The President and First Lady plan to visit Texas Tuesday, and may return to the region again this weekend. Coverage portrays the response as running smoothly so far, but with much remaining to be seen amid ongoing rains and a massive number of displaced people. The [Dallas Morning News](#) (8/28, Gillman) reports under the headline "Trump's Texas Flood Tour Will Project Compassion, High-Level Engagement" that the White House has tried to project an image of Trump as "an engaged consoler in chief," but the [Washington Post](#) (8/28, Parker) says the visit "is not without its own possible political peril, especially because rain may still be falling when he heads to Texas."

The story dominated the network newscasts, which devoted more than 46 minutes of combined coverage to Harvey. On the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/28, story 7, 0:30, O'Donnell), Anthony Mason reported, "President Trump will fly to the disaster zone tomorrow, and possibly again next weekend. No decision has been announced on which towns the President will visit." [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/28, story 5, 0:40, Holt) reported, "President Trump is preparing to head here to the storm zone tomorrow to monitor this situation on the ground. This natural disaster [is] a major test for how his Administration will respond." On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/28, story 6, 1:50, Llamas), Jonathan Karl reported, "The President was upbeat about recovery efforts, saying the Texas governor is doing a fantastic job, calling his FEMA administrator 'outstanding in so many ways,' and predicting a swift recovery."

[USA Today](#) (8/28, Korte) reports that Trump said Monday "that he may visit the Gulf Coast two or three times this week – with stops in Texas and possibly Louisiana – to survey the damage caused by Hurricane Harvey." During remarks at the White House after his meeting with President Sauli Niinistö of Finland, the President "expressed amazement at the magnitude of the disaster but promised a swift and long-term federal government response." Trump said, "I've heard the words 'epic,' I've heard 'historic.' That's what it is. It's like Texas. It's really like Texas, if you think about it. But it is a historic amount of water." [Politico](#) (8/28, McCaskill, Nelson) reports that the President and First Lady are "expected to sidestep Houston" on Tuesday "so as not to interrupt evacuations and emergency responses to the devastating flooding in that area."

The [New York Times](#) (8/28, Davis, Thrush) reports that Trump "pledged the federal government's full support to residents of Texas and Louisiana...saying that 'we are 100 percent with you' and promising quick delivery of a multibillion-dollar aid package." Trump said, "Recovery will be a long and difficult road, and the federal government stands ready, willing and able to support that effort." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/28) reports that Trump "cautioned that the extent of the disaster is still unknown."

The [New York Post](#) (8/28, Fredericks) reports that Trump "also praised people who were going out of their way to help out their fellow citizens." The President said, "Tragic times such as these bring out the best in America's character. Strength, charity and resilience are those characters. We see neighbor helping neighbor, friend helping friend and stranger helping stranger." The [Washington Times](#) (8/28, Boyer) reports that he said "the nation is hoping for 'strength and courage' for those affected by epic flooding and other storm damage, with much of the rainfall still coming."

[Politico](#) (8/28, Nussbaum) says the President "has deployed his knack for marketing as Hurricane Harvey has ravaged Texas, calling the storm 'epic,' 'historic' and the 'biggest ever.' ... But Trump's showmanship is about to collide with the devastation on the ground as he heads to Texas on Tuesday, and while natural disasters usually call for a certain presidential demeanor, Trump's response so far has been distinctly his own." Politico writes that "even while he has pledged quick financial assistance from the federal government, he has appeared unable to stop himself from marveling at the strength and size of the storm."

Energy Secretary Perry said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (8/28), "The President's really engaged in this. ... This President is as engaged in a personal way as any president that I had the privilege to work with. He wants to come to Texas." He "wants to be around some people, let them know that the federal government is a partner in this. We recognize, we respect the state's role in this effort that they're leading this, we're assisting them. We're leaning forward as far as we can in this. But the President is very, very engaged, he knows exactly what's going on."

Perry later said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (8/28), "The President has put a Cabinet together that is really focused on this. The President has been leaning into this disaster from before it ever started, clearly giving the authority to the state of Texas to move and move quickly. So I feel confident that both the state and the federal government."

Interior Secretary Zinke said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (8/28) that "it's amazing to see the Cabinet under the Chief of Staff Gen. Kelly. This is very much like a military operation by the numbers, making sure the assets are surged forward, making sure we have communication with our assets and make sure all the secretaries are engaged."

Bill Kristol was asked on [CNN's The Lead](#) (8/28) about the Trump Administration's response. Kristol said, "It's hard to tell, obviously, and we'll know much more later. I do think we want to remember that John Kelly, the very capable chief of staff, was secretary of homeland security. ... So John Kelly knows more about this than the typical White House chief of staff and he was a four-star Marine general and is probably pretty good at getting things organized and happening on time."

Some analyses look at the political ramifications of how the President handles the storm. The [AP](#) (8/28, Pace) writes, "George W. Bush never recovered from his flyover of Hurricane Katrina's devastation. Barack Obama got a bipartisan boost late in his re-election campaign for his handling of Superstorm Sandy." Now Trump "confronts the political risks and potential gains that come with leading the federal government's response to a deadly and destructive natural disaster." The White House "has sought to paint Trump as eagerly engaged in the initial response," and the President's "advisers are well-aware that the hurricane poses a significant test for the White House, which has largely been mired in crises of its own making during Trump's first seven months in office."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/28, Debonis, Paletta) says the storm "will pose an immediate test for the White House and Congress, pressing policymakers to approve billions of dollars in recovery funds even though they haven't agreed on much else this year." Harvey "poses President Trump's first test in emergency assistance, potentially revealing whether he can overcome Congress's deep divisions over spending and the budget to prioritize aid. It will also test whether Trump can suspend his adversarial governing style and even postpone his own agenda...to assemble a major – and costly – package that could be directed to law enforcement, emergency relief, schools, infrastructure, hospitals, food banks and several other entities."

[USA Today](#) (8/28) says in an editorial, "Everything President Trump needs to know about how not to handle Hurricane Harvey's devastation in Texas, he can learn" from handling of Katrina. "Key lessons: No flyovers. No amateurs running the Federal Emergency Management Agency. No premature compliments for disaster relief efforts. And definitely nothing like 'Brownie, you're doing a heck of a job.' ... Trump will ultimately be judged by his leadership, his empathy and the strength of his administration's efforts to support state, local and private relief efforts."

The President did not tweet during the day on Monday, but retweeted four items – just [one of them](#), from Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, about the storm. [Bloomberg News](#) (8/28, Epstein, Jacobs) also reports on the President's Monday remarks.

Pence Says Adequate Funding Exists To Address Crisis. [Roll Call](#) (8/28, Bennett) reports that Vice President Pence said Monday that the federal government "has adequate funding on hand to deal with the historic flooding and damage done by Hurricane Harvey, possibly looking to tamp down concerns that Congress could get into a spending fight over the cost of the storm's aftermath." Pence said, "We truly believe that we have the reserves to address the financial burden of this crisis."

Pence told [KHOU-TV Houston](#) (8/28, Lewis), "We actually anticipate that as many as a half a million people in Texas will be eligible for and applying for financial disaster assistance, and we remain very confident that with the reserves and with the support in the Congress, we'll have the resources that we need. But right now, as you know very well, the focus now is on rescue, on getting people out of harm's way. ... The President and I could not be more grateful for the efforts of state and local officials in Texas. But it's so important that Texans continue to do what people have been doing, and that is listening to local emergency management officials and making sure that they and their families stay safe."

Pence said on [KTRH-AM](#) Houston (8/28), "I think that the what you're going to see is that the national government, and we anticipate the Congress, are going to make the resources of available to see Texas through the rescue operation, through the recovery. But there is simply no question when you look at...the magnitude of the flooding that's taken place in the fourth largest city in the United States that we anticipate it will be years coming back but Houston and Texas are strong. ... We know we will be there to rebuild and the American people are with you."

Pence said on [KTSA-AM](#) San Antonio (8/28) that "when the rain comes down and beats against the house and the flood waters rise and the wind blows, states are in the lead and your local first responders and local emergency managers but the federal government has a vital role in providing support and from even before landfall, President Trump directed the full resources of

the Federal government to support the people of Texas and as of this morning the people of Louisiana in the midst of this storm. As I speak to you we have some eight thousand federal officials working through FEMA on the ground in Texas and Louisiana. We have but dozens of fixed wing and helicopter aircraft with the Coast Guard that are supporting National Guard efforts."

Pence said on the [Rush Limbaugh Show](#) (8/28), "I think the American people can be very proud of the effort the Gov. Abbott in Texas and local first responders are making and I am very proud of the strong leadership President Trump has provided for our entire Administration." Pence added that "once the floodwaters subside, then the real work of recovery will begin in earnest and we're going to be making sure that that upwards to a half a million Americans that may be eligible for disaster assistance know that that we are with them, we support them and we'll see Houston and southeast Texas all the way through this crisis."

Pence was also interviewed on KSEV-AM and KTRK-TV.

Lawmakers Hope To Avoid Fight Over Disaster Aid. [USA Today](#) (8/28, King, Jackson) reports that officials are hoping "to avoid the political squall over disaster aid that followed Superstorm Sandy in 2012. ... Lawmakers from New York and New Jersey took to Twitter to make clear they were ready to support disaster aid for the battered Gulf Coast, even though many of their colleagues from that region opposed the aid package approved after Sandy struck the Northeast nearly five years ago." However, "some conservatives are warning Congress not to fill a relief bill with pork-barrel spending." House Freedom Caucus Chairman Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC) said, "Sadly and far too often, relief packages become a vehicle for all kinds of special interest and pet projects that have nothing to do with the devastation. Narrowly focused relief packages would get conservative support."

The [New York Times](#) (8/28, Kaplan, Martin) says that "the prospect of a disaster aid package is also reviving raw emotions from after Hurricane Sandy, when Northeastern Republicans found themselves pitted against conservative colleagues from other regions – including most of the Texas delegation – who objected to the roughly \$50 billion relief package," and it "will add another pressing issue to an already tense fiscal showdown that faces Congress as lawmakers return next week from a monthlong recess." [Politico](#) (8/28, Scholtes, Wright) reports under the headline "Hurricane Aid Adds To GOP's Dreadful September" that Senate Majority Leader McConnell and House Speaker Ryan "already face a daunting September, with deadlines looming to avoid a government shutdown and debt default," and "now they'll likely have to add a multibillion-dollar aid package" to the mix.

[Politico](#) (8/28, Cheney) reports that Sen. Ted Cruz and other Texas Republicans are now being "accused of hypocrisy on Harvey aid." Gov. Chris Christie, referring to Sandy, told reporters Monday, "The congressional members in Texas are hypocrites, and I said back in 2012 they'd be proven to be hypocrites. It was just a matter of time. We were the disaster that was the longest in waiting in terms of federal aid, and I hope that's not what happens to the folks in Texas." Other northeastern Republicans "also vented their frustration at how Texas Republicans handled Sandy aid – even as they said they wouldn't repeat history in return."

Several Texas lawmakers of both parties weighed in on the storm response. Rep. Al Green (D-TX) said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/28), "I think that we have to prepare ourselves for a circumstance similar to what we had with Katrina. ... We will have a long-term recovery process, and it's going to require funding from the government. Only the Federal government can step in with the resources necessary to take care of the people after this horrific event. My hope is that we will be amenable to working together, I think we will, and making sure we provide the resources for the recovery that will be long term."

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) was asked on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/28) if she is confident Congress will pass an aid package for Texas. Jackson Lee said, "This is a statement about America and whether we will build infrastructure and housing and we'll restore people's lives. I believe the Speaker and certainly my Democratic leadership that has called me already to move an aid package, I think the real question is if the President of the United States has to be part of that leadership with a commitment not to shut this government down."

Rep. Pete Sessions (R-TX) said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (8/28), "Congress is going to have to deal with this appropriately as we have had to do over the last 20 years of big floods and tornadoes. I would offer some bit of advice to the Administration...and to the United States Senate. They need to finish 100 percent of the confirmations. They need to finish doing their work rather than the games that have been going on. We need real live people who will be accountable and responsible for what happens for several years from the Administration across the board, and I encourage the Administration to finish off its business."

AP Analysis: FEMA's Long Brings Experience To Handling Of Storm. The [AP](#) (8/28, Kellman) writes that FEMA Administrator Brock Long, "a veteran of disaster management in government and the private sector," is "facing a new scale of problems to solve in the historic devastation of the nation's fourth-largest city. And if the past is any indication, political storms could loom on the horizon." Long said Monday, "We have not seen an event like this. You could not draw this forecast up." Harvey "is far from Long's first time managing disaster response, but it's shaping up to be one of the nation's most devastating storms."

The [Texas Tribune](#) (8/28, Livingston) reports that Long was in Corpus Christi and San Antonio on Monday. Long said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (8/28), "I was with Gov. Abbott in Corpus Christi today. ... It was good because we were able to sit down with the Mayor and some county judges there to reconfirm any gaps that there may be. I also put eyes on commodities that were moving forward." Long added, "Unfortunately, this is going to call for urban planning, city officials, different things to rethink the way we redesign Houston after this. We already asking for a new normal."

The [New York Times](#) (8/28, Sullivan) reports that FEMA "is calling on Americans to help with the response to Hurricane Harvey through financial donations or by assisting with search and rescue efforts." Acting DHS Secretary Elaine Duke said, "People need help, and we are working to provide it. Harvey is still a dangerous and historic storm."

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (8/28, Osborne, Diaz) reports that for now, FEMA "remains focused on assisting local authorities in rescue efforts and distributing emergency supplies. ... For an agency that many still remember for its struggles to manage Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the bigger test will come in managing the rebuilding efforts, experts say. But so far, the agency is winning early praise."

FEMA: 30,000 Expected To Need Shelter In Texas. [USA Today](#) (8/28, Jervis, Bacon) reports that "more than 5,500" Texans sought refuge in Houston's convention center and other shelters Monday "as local, state and federal officials warned that the human crisis in southeast Texas was just beginning." Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said he expects the number of people seeking shelter "to rise sharply by Tuesday," and Long "said more than 30,000 people ultimately could need shelter." Said Long, "The sheltering mission is going to be a very heavy lift." The [New York Times](#) (8/28, Healy) reports that most of those seeking refuge in shelters "have few clothes, no cars or way home, and are living in a haze of uncertainty, searching for answers from home as to what – and who – survived."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/28, story 2, 3:00, O'Donnell) reported, "FEMA estimates 30,000 evacuees would need shelter within a couple of days. More of Houston's flood survivors left rooftops in a basket today: 20 Coast Guard helicopters have plucked more than 300 Harvey victims to safety. But officials admit there aren't enough helicopters, boats, or high water vehicles to reach everyone. Emergency systems were overwhelmed. By this morning, 75,000 people had called 911, desperate for help." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/28, story 3, 2:10, Llamas) spoke with some of the evacuees. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/28, story 8, 1:50, Llamas) also spoke with some evacuated families whose homes were destroyed.

Michael Brown: Harvey "Worse Than Katrina" In Several Ways. The [Houston Chronicle](#) (8/28, Hlavaty) reports that ex-FEMA Director Michael Brown said in a Monday interview "that the devastation Houston is suffering from Hurricane Harvey was worse in his eyes than what was seen during Katrina." Brown said, "There are several factors that make it worse than Katrina. For one there is the scope of the flooding. ... Also, the amount of damages will continue to grow. There will be mold and structural damages adding up. ... This will be easily the most expensive natural disaster in American history."

Coast Guard Playing "Major Role" In Search And Rescue Operations. The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/28, story 10, 1:40, O'Donnell) reported that the US Coast Guard is playing "a major role in search and rescue operations" in Texas with 150 Guard members "flown in from all over the country and more are on the way." In addition, "15 to 20 aircraft are up in the air at any given time."

Army Corps Of Engineers Releasing Water From Reservoirs To Prevent Additional Flooding. The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/28, story 4, 2:20, O'Donnell) reported that the Army Corps of Engineers has begun releasing water from two reservoirs to prevent additional flooding in downtown Houston, "but that ended up sending flood waters pouring into some neighborhoods." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/28, story 2, 1:35, Llamas) likewise reported that the Corps "released some of water, hoping the keep it under control, but tens of thousands of homes are under threat because of it." ABC's Clayton Sandell reported that residents of Houston's Fleetwood neighborhood were "caught off-guard by rising floods overnight, supercharged when officials say

they were forced to release water from the nearby Addicks and Barker Reservoirs.”

Filing Insurance Claims After Friday Could Cost Texans Due To New Law. The [Texas Tribune](#) (8/28, Rocha) reports that a new Texas law intended “to crack down on frivolous insurance lawsuits” is set to take effect on Friday. The measure “also reduces the penalty interest rate insurance companies face for late payments if the policyholder files a lawsuit,” so for those affected by Harvey, “waiting to submit a claim past Friday could cost them big.”

Gulf Coast Property Damage Could Reach \$40 Billion. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/28, Zumbrun) reports that the Texas Gulf Coast is expected to suffer tens of billions of dollars in property damage. [Reuters](#) (8/28) reports, “Wall Street analysts estimated insured losses of up to \$20 billion, making Harvey one of the costliest storms in history for US insurers.” [USA Today](#) (8/28, Davidson, Bomey) reports that Moody’s Analytics “estimates the storm will result in \$30 billion to \$40 billion in property damage and about \$7 billion in lost economic output.” The region “plays an outsize role in the US economy. Its projected gross output of \$441 billion this year represents about 2.4% of the nation’s economy,” and it is “among the top three hubs for oil refineries.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/28, Page, Baskin) additionally reports that freight companies are working to reroute cargo and set up alternate supply lines in the wake of the storm.

Trump Stands By Threat To Shut Down Government Over Border Wall.

During a White House press conference with Finnish President Sauli Niinisto on Monday, President Trump stood by his threat to shut down the government if congressional Democrats block funds for a wall along the US-Mexico border. The [Washington Times](#) (8/28, Miller) reports that Trump “said he hoped a shutdown wouldn’t be necessary.” [Politico](#) (8/28, Conway) quotes Trump as saying, “I hope that’s not necessary. If it’s necessary, we’ll have to see, but I hope it’s not necessary.”

CNN senior congressional reporter Manu Raju said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (8/28), “I can tell you, almost certainly...funding for the wall will not get approved in the United States Senate. The Democrats are almost universally opposed to this. A lot of Republicans opposed to it so what does the President do? A lot of Republicans think he will back down, but if he doesn’t, then we can have a stand-off, but we’ll see. He may be forced to back down given the situation in Texas.”

Trump Insists Mexico Will Pay For The Wall. [Reuters](#) (8/28) says Trump “also said Mexico may pay for the wall by reimbursement. Mexico has adamantly said it will not pay for the wall.” Said Trump, “One way or the other Mexico is going to pay for the wall.” [USA Today](#) (8/28, Estepa) reports that the comment came after Mexico’s foreign ministry released a statement Sunday saying, “As the Mexican government has always stated, our country will not pay, under any circumstances, for a wall or physical barrier built on U.S. territory along the Mexican border. ... This statement is not part of a Mexican negotiating strategy, but rather a principle of national sovereignty and dignity.”

Trump To Promote Tax Reform In Missouri Wednesday.

The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (8/28, Raasch) reports that the White House announced Monday that President Trump will speak Wednesday at the Loren Cook Company in Springfield, Missouri. During a speech “aimed at promoting tax reform,” Trump “is expected to exhort Congress to move forward on cutting tax rates and simplifying the tax code, a top campaign promise of the president’s when he was elected in 2016.” The Dispatch adds that Trump will make the speech “at the company of a major Republican campaign donor.” According to Federal records, “since 2008, someone identified as Loren Cook or Loren Cook II and affiliated with the company has given more than \$24,000, individually, to GOP candidates, including Trump, who got \$2,800, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.”

EPA Watchdog To Investigate Pruitt’s Travel.

[The Hill](#) (8/28, Cama) reports the Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of the Inspector General “is launching a probe into Administrator Scott Pruitt’s ‘frequent’ travel to his home state of Oklahoma.” Officials with the office “notified agency leadership about the audit Monday, weeks after an environmental group said Pruitt was in Oklahoma or en route there for nearly half of his first three months in office, often using taxpayer funds.” According to the notification “auditors will examine the EPA’s ‘adherence to policies, procedures and oversight controls’ related to Pruitt’s travel.” [E&E Publishing](#) (8/28) reports the auditors wrote, “This assignment is being initiated based on congressional requests and a hotline complaint, all of which expressed

concerns about administrator Pruitt's travel — primarily his frequent travel to and from his home state of Oklahoma at taxpayer expense."

The [Oklahoman](#) (8/28, Wingerter) reports the IG's office "has three objectives for its investigation: determining 'the frequency, cost and extent' of Pruitt's travel to Oklahoma; determining whether EPA travel rules were followed by Pruitt and his staff; and determining whether existing EPA travel policies 'are sufficiently designed to prevent fraud, waste and abuse.'"

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"As Harvey Rains Down Devastation, Houston Stands Together." A [New York Times](#) (8/28) editorial says that "there are lessons to be learned, as there always are after disasters like this. Some of those lessons — like how unchecked urban sprawl and paving over of wetlands and prairies have increased the risk posed by floods in Houston and other cities — were evident long before Harvey and ought to become more urgent in the storm's wake." The Times argues that "when calamity strikes, this country always seems to be looking in the rearview mirror, lamenting its failure to heed long-ago warnings."

"The President Speaks For Himself." A [New York Times](#) (8/29, Board) editorial quotes Secretary of State Tillerson, who on Sunday said President Trump "speaks for himself," and laments, "That disturbing truth was nowhere more evident than in Mr. Trump's pardon, late Friday night, of the former Arizona sheriff Joe Arpaio, which he issued, in his cowardly way, as the nation was riveted to the impending landfall of Hurricane Harvey." The Times argues that the move coincides with "Trump's broader attitude toward law enforcement," and concludes in saying the President's "distorted understanding of justice is cleaving the nation between the majority who support the principles of American democracy and those who support only him."

Washington Post.

"Harvey's Heroes – The Inspiring Response To A Terrible Storm." A [Washington Post](#) (8/28) editorial says that in "all the misfortune and misery of this storm, one positive note stands out: the stories of how first responders, neighbors, strangers and just plain folks threw their all into the rescue effort." The storm, it says, "will also raise questions that deserve answers after such a disaster. One of the most consequential is to what degree superstorms are being made even more frequent and ferocious by global climate change." Superstorms like Harvey, Sandy and Katrina "may be remembered as the wake-up calls of our age," and "they must be heeded."

"The Arpaio Pardon Displays Trumps Disdain For The Rule Of Law." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/28) says that the pardon of former Sheriff Joe Arpaio "is not only a mark of Mr. Trump's inclination to inflame rather than bind up the nation's wounds. It is also a warning of his lack of respect for the independence of the courts and of law enforcement in a country governed by the rule of law – a worrying characteristic in a president facing an ongoing special counsel investigation. But Mr. Trump should take the outraged response to Mr. Arpaio's pardon from across the political spectrum as a warning, too: a sign of the resistance he will encounter if he chooses to issue further pardons, particularly in the Russia affair, on the basis of political concerns rather than those of justice."

"The Purple Line Rises From The Dead." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/28) writes that despite an initial "rolling battery of existential threats," the DC Metro's Purple Line is now much closer to realization, as highlighted by a groundbreaking ceremony on Monday attended by Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan and Transportation Secretary Chao. The Post argues that, should the Purple Line move on past current considering in a federal appeals court, its construction "would be a striking success story, a rare example of broad cooperation across party lines, and among federal, state and local government partners in coordination with the private sector."

Wall Street Journal.

"Our Political Central Bankers." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/28) writes that Federal Reserve officials demonstrated a markedly political tone during their recent Jackson Hole retreat by speaking out in defense of post-2008 financial crisis regulation. The Journal argues that the Fed holds tightly, and foolishly, to the notion that its current regulatory regime can prevent the next crisis while overlooking the costs of intervention, and the Journal concludes that the Federal Reserve needs a less political leader when Janet Yellen's term expires in February.

“Behind The Bedlam In Berkeley.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/28) writes that politically charged street fights prompted by Antifa activists that resulted in 13 arrested in Berkeley on Sunday highlight an increasingly violent element among the radical left that has received far less media coverage and criticism than has the far right violence in Charlottesville. The Journal argues that the mainstream left must denounce Antifa as the right should denounce white nationalists.

“Labour’s Brexit Pains.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/28) writes that the recent proposal by Britain’s Labour Party to support a so-called soft Brexit under which Britain would remain within the single market and customs union after March 2019 has demonstrated that the Labour Party is beginning to reconcile the competing tensions in its ranks and present a potentially effective opposition to Theresa May’s government. The Journal warns that Britain’s Conservatives should take the proposal as a warning that they should craft a Brexit that offers greater free trade and economic reform.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Harvey To Hit Flooded Houston Again](#)
[Freight Companies Scramble To Reroute Goods In Wake Of Harvey](#)
[North Korea Launches Ballistic Missile Over Japan](#)
[Gilead Bets \\$11 Billion On New Cancer Therapy](#)

New York Times:

[Texas Governor Warns Of A Long, Slow Recovery](#)
[Coffee And Cots As Houston Houses Thousands In A Convention Center](#)
[Houston’s Hospitals Treat Storm Victims And Become Victims Themselves](#)
[Trump Associate Boasted That Moscow Business Deal ‘Will Get Donald Elected’](#)
[North Korea Fires Missile Over Japan](#)
[Uber’s CEO Pick, Dara Khosrowshahi, Steps Into Brighter Spotlight](#)

Washington Post:

[How NAFTA Changed Mexico](#)
[N. Korean Missile Flies Over Japan](#)
[Top Trump Aide Sought Russia Help On Project](#)
[At Least 9 Dead Amid Harvey’s Havoc](#)
[Rescue Officials Say There Was No Way To Plan For Deluge’s Ferocity](#)
[Thousands Pile Into Makeshift Shelters Set Up Across Texas](#)

Financial Times:

[Insurers And Energy Companies Count The Cost Of Harvey](#)
[UK Hopes Dashed For Swift Japan Trade Talks](#)
[Kenyans Risk 4 Years In Jail For Selling Or Using Plastic Bags](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Reverses Obama, Reinstates Program Sending Military Surplus To Local Police](#)
[Democrats Hype Up Leftist Base, Remain Silent After Violent Antifa Attack In Berkeley](#)
[Trump, Lawmakers Promise Tens Of Billions Of Federal Dollars For Harvey Recovery](#)
[Dreamer Applications Dwindle As Trump Considers Renewal Of Illegal Immigrant Amnesty Program](#)
[Iraq’s Next Tough Moves: Finishing Off Islamic State And Establishing Political Stability](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: Hurricane Harvey; Hurricane Harvey-Reservoir Release; Hurricane Harvey-Evacuees; Hurricane Harvey-Medical Crisis; Hurricane Harvey-Forecast; Hurricane Harvey-White House; North Korea-Missile Test; Hurricane Harvey-Home Wrecks; Tropical Storm-East Coast; Hurricane Harvey-Gasoline Price; Hurricane Harvey-Volunteers.

CBS: Hurricane Harvey; Hurricane Harvey-Evacuees; Hurricane Harvey-Volunteers; Hurricane Harvey-Reservoir Release; Hurricane Harvey-Forecast; Hurricane Harvey-San Antonio Shelters; Hurricane Harvey-White House; Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Business Ties; North Korea-

Missile Test; Hurricane Harvey-Coast Guard.

NBC: Hurricane Harvey; Hurricane Harvey-Evacuees; Hurricane Harvey-Mandatory Evacuation Order; Hurricane Harvey-Forecast; Hurricane Harvey-White House; Trump-Sheriff Arpaio Pardon; Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump; North Korea-Missile Test; Hurricane Harvey-Gasoline Price; Amazon-Whole Foods Merger; Hurricane Harvey-Volunteers.

Network TV At A Glance:

Hurricane Harvey – 40 minutes, 50 seconds

Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump – 3 minutes, 10 seconds

Hurricane Harvey-White House – 3 minutes

North Korea-Missile Test – 2 minutes, 40 seconds

Hurricane Harvey-Gasoline Price – 2 minutes, 10 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Hurricane Harvey; Hurricane Harvey-White House; New Mexico-Library Shooting; North Korea-Missile Test.

CBS: Hurricane Harvey; Hurricane Harvey-FEMA Budget; Hurricane Harvey-White House; North Korea-Missile Test; New Mexico-Library Shooting; Wall Street News.

FOX: Hurricane Harvey; Hurricane Harvey-White House; North Korea-Missile Test; New Mexico-Library Shooting.

NPR: Hurricane Harvey; Hurricane Harvey-White House; Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Business Ties; Chicago Police Violence Trial; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Speaks with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong of Singapore by telephone; receive a briefing on Hurricane Harvey relief efforts with local leadership and relief organizations; participate in a tour of the Emergency Operations Center; receive a briefing on Hurricane Harvey with State leadership.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Has lunch with Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue.

US Senate: 2:30 PM Senate convenes for pro forma session

On recess until 5 September.

US House: 11:30 AM House Committee on Education and the Workforce Ranking Member Bobby Scott tours the EHS Abrasives plant in Norfolk, VA Location: 3306 Peterson St, Norfolk, VA Norfolk <http://edworkforce.house.gov/>

12:00 PM House of Representatives convenes for pro forma session

On recess until 5 September.

Other: Congressional Budget Office releases report on 'Options for changing the federal retirement system for civilian workers' Location: TBD www.cbo.gov/ <https://twitter.com/USCBO>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Trevor Noah: "Obviously the situation in Texas is still unfolding, so I urge you, please send the people of Texas your thoughts and your prayers. But first send them money. ... Because it goes money, then thoughts, then prayers."

Trevor Noah: "Paul Ryan has never really [stood] up to Trump. Paul Ryan stands up to Trump the same way you stand up to a waiter at a restaurant. You're all confident when he's not there, like, 'This food is horrible.' 'What's that?' 'Oh no, everything's great, thank you.'"

Trevor Noah: "You know, for a guy who's not racist, Donald Trump sure has a lot of racist friends. He's like the straight guy at the gym that all the gay guys hit on."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- KBSC-FM Boise (ID): Interior Department Nomination Hearing Begins Tuesday For Hill Staffer With Idaho Ties.
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Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Tribal Membership, Federal Dollars And A Casino On The Line With Nooksack Election.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Washington Examiner: Congress Fights Over Whether To Allow Interior To Kill Wild Horses.
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- Las Vegas Review-Journal: Judge Releases 4 More Bunkerville Standoff Defendants.

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- New York Times: Hunt Elephants To Save Them? Some Countries See No Other Choice.
- Santa Fe New Mexican: Fish And Wildlife Service Plan Calls For Release Of 12 Newborn Wolf Pups.

National Park Service

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- Alaska Public Radio Network: Research Continues On Elevated Mercury Levels In Some Non-migratory Fish In Southwest Alaska.
- Billings (MT) Gazette: Little Bighorn Plan Would Create New Visitor Center, Make Room For Artifacts Currently In Arizona.
- MLive (MI): Keeler Building Added To National Register, Paves Way For Redevelopment.

US Geological Survey

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DOI In The News

Trump Reduces Size Of Grand Staircase, Bears Ears Monuments.

During a visit To Utah Monday, President Trump announced that he has reduced the size of Bears Ears National Monument by 85% and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument by about half. Media coverage is somewhat mixed, highlighting both the positive response from officials and Utahans who see the move as an economic win for the state as well as the negative reaction from protesters and tribal and environmental groups who have vowed to mount a legal challenge.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (12/4, story 4, 0:25, Holt) reported that Trump is "dramatically scaling back" the sites, and [Breitbart](#) (12/4, Spiering) says he took "the unusual step...despite an outcry from leftist environmental groups." Trump said, "With the action I'm taking today, we will not only give back your voice over the use of this land, we will also restore your access and your enjoyment. ... Public lands will once again be for public use."

The [Washington Post](#) (12/4, Dawsey, Eilperin) reports that Trump said he came to Utah to "reverse federal overreach" and took action "because some people think that the natural resources of Utah should be controlled by a small handful of very distant bureaucrats located in Washington. And guess what? They're wrong." The [Washington Times](#) (12/4, Wolfgang) says Trump "said previous presidents have greatly abused their power under the century-old Antiquities Act, and stretched the law past its limits in cordoning off millions of acres of land and placing them under government control." A brief report on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/4, story 14, 0:20, Muir) said the sites cover "several million acres that contain large amounts of oil, gas and coal."

[Axios](#) (12/4, Pandey) says Trump's move "received mixed reviews, with Utah Sens. Orrin Hatch and Mike Lee cheering alongside the audience at Trump's Salt Lake City rally and protesters opposing the decision in Utah and outside the White House." Similarly, the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/4) says Trump was met by "thousands" of protesters outside the state Capitol, "most decrying the anticipated announcement," while the inside of the Capitol was "packed with Trump supporters who celebrated Trump's declaration as an economic victory for rural Utahans who depend on mineral development and ranching, activities they say were stifled by the sprawling monuments." The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/4, Quinn) reports that protesters shouted, "F--- you, Trump" as his motorcade passed.

The [New York Times](#) (12/4, Turkewitz) reports that the reduction of the Bears Ears Monument "is expected to trigger a legal battle that could alter the course of American land conservation, putting dozens of other monuments at risk and possibly opening millions of preserved public acres to oil and gas extraction, mining, logging and other commercial activities." The [AP](#) (12/5, Lucey, Superville) says tribal and environmental groups opposed to the decision "began filing lawsuits Monday in a bid to stop Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke." They argue the designations "are needed to protect important archaeological and cultural resources." [Reuters](#) (12/4, Volcovici, Rampton) reports leaders representing the Navajo, Hopi, Pueblo of Zuni, Ute Mountain and Ute Indian tribes, which "pushed for the creation of the Bears Ears monument and who now manage it, said they will take the Trump administration to court." Natalie Landreth, attorney for the Native American Rights Fund, said, "We will be fighting back immediately. All five tribes will be standing together united to defend Bears Ears." The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/4) says the Tribes argue that Trump "does not have the legal authority to shrink the designation." Courts have not addressed the issue since the passage of the Antiquities Act 111 years ago. While Presidents are authorized under the law "to unilaterally set aside public lands to protect 'objects of historic and scientific interest,'" a court ruling "would determine the Antiquities Act's future use – whether it allows a president to revoke or modify a monument or just to designate one." The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/4, Siegel) reports that the Administration and congressional Republicans "say previous presidents abused their authority" under the Act, "setting aside larger and larger swaths of public land, limiting development opportunities and stifling local control."

[Ad Age](#) (12/4, Pasquarelli) reports that California-based outdoor retailer Patagonia also plans to sue the Administration. CEO Rose Marcario said in a statement, "Americans have

overwhelmingly spoken out against the Trump Administration's unprecedented attempt to shut down our national monuments. ... We've fought to protect these places since we were founded and now we'll continue that fight in the courts." Jamie Yuccas reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/4, story 11, 2:30, Glor) that "native tribes and environmental groups say it could be years of a legal fight before it is resolved."

Local television reports were largely positive for Trump. For example, on its website, [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (12/4) said Trump's announcement drew "cheers that reverberated throughout the Capitol rotunda Monday." Trump told those gathered that his decision means "public lands will once again be for public use." [KTVX-TV](#) Salt Lake City (12/4, 5:00 p.m. MST) said Trump "made an unprecedented move," announcing "major reductions" to the national monuments. [KUTV-TV](#) Salt Lake City (12/4, 5:02 p.m. MST) reported that Trump "ma[de] good on his promise" to shrink the monuments. KUTV added that Trump announced the decision to "rousing applause."

Also reporting are the [AP](#) (12/5, PRICE, MCCOMBS), the [New York Times](#) (12/4), the [Washington Post](#) (12/5, Andrews), the [Washington Post](#) (12/4, Dawsey, Eilperin), the [Washington Post](#) (12/4), the [Washington Post](#) (12/4), the [Washington Post](#) (12/4), the [Washington Examiner](#) (12/4, Siciliano), [The Hill](#) (12/4, Thomsen), [Politico](#) (12/4, Lefebvre), [Roll Call](#) (12/4, Bennett), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/4, Finnegan), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/4, Schneider), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/4, Maffly), the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (12/4, Turkewitz), the [New York Post](#) (12/4, Fredericks), the [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (12/4, Scauzillo), the [Oregonian](#) (12/4, Theen), the [Denver Post](#) (12/4, Lucey), the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (12/5, Webb), the [Arizona Republic](#) (12/4, Korte), the [Boston Herald](#) (12/4), the [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (12/4, Kidston), [BBC News \(UK\)](#) (12/4), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (12/4, Smardon), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (12/4, Smith, Milman), the [Daily Mail](#) (12/4, Martosko), [RT](#) (12/4), and [Sputnik News](#) (12/4).

Also reporting are [USA Today](#) (12/4), [USA Today](#) (12/4, Demille), [TIME](#) (12/5), [Bloomberg News](#) (12/4, Blumberg), [Bloomberg News](#) (12/4, Dlouhy, Sink), [CNN](#) (12/4, Merica), [CNN](#) (12/4, Weir), [ABC News](#) (12/4, Ebbs, Stracqualursi), [ABC News](#) (12/4, Ebbs, Mallin), [NBC News](#) (12/4, Vitali), [Fox News](#) (12/4, Chakraborty), [CBS News](#) (12/4), [CBS News](#) (12/4, Guild), [CBS News](#) (12/4, Guild), [NPR](#) (12/4), [NPR](#) (12/4, GONZALES, Siegler, DWYER), [NPR](#) (12/4), [PBS NewsHour](#) (12/4, Holmes), [USA Today](#) (12/4, Korte), [USA Today](#) (12/4, Cummings), [TIME](#) (12/4, Lucey, Superville), [TIME](#) (12/4), [TIME](#) (12/5, Steinmetz), [Newsweek](#) (12/4, Pereira), [Fortune](#) (12/4, Detrick), [MarketWatch](#) (12/4, Murphy), the [Huffington Post](#) (12/4, Madani), the [Huffington Post](#) (12/4, D'Angelo), [Slate](#) (12/4, Cummins), [Montana Public Radio](#) (12/4, Kreimer), [Montana Public Radio](#) (12/4, Hegyi), [Moyers & Company](#) (12/4, Miller), [Outside](#) (12/4), [KSTU-TV](#) Salt Lake City (12/4), [KUER-FM Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (12/5, Fabrizio), and [KTLA-TV Los Angeles](#) Los Angeles (12/4).

Bears Ears, Grand Staircase Escalante Decision By Trump Prompts Strong Reaction From Colorado Democrats. The decision also drew criticism from "Colorado's top Democrats," the [Denver Post](#) (12/4, Paul) reports. Gov. John Hickenlooper said in a statement, "Preserving and expanding our national monuments is keeping in the best traditions of our country. ... In Colorado, we value our lands because they are part of our fabric and they strengthen local economies. We hope our leaders can find a way to let monuments remain and return their focus to more pressing issues facing our country." Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO), called Trump's decision a raid of "public lands for private gain," Rep. Ed Perlmutter (D-CO) called it an "unprecedented attack." Sen. Michael Bennet said the decision was "in lock-step with a small number of Washington special interests."

New Mexicans Asking President To Leave State's Monuments Alone. The [Alamogordo \(NM\) Daily News](#) (12/4) reports that following President Trump's decision to shrink Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments, "New Mexicans are reasserting their support for Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks and Río Grande del Norte National Monuments, and imploring President Trump to leave the Land of Enchantment's national monuments alone, according to a New Mexico Wildlife and Las Cruces Green Chamber press release." Alamogordo public lands sportsman Rod Sims stated in the release, "Sportsmen have been on the front lines of conserving wildlife habitat like Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante, Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks and Río Grande del Norte. Hunting and fishing is a time-tested tradition in the United States, and we need vast backcountry to support healthy wildlife populations. Shrinking, breaking apart, or changing the management of national monuments can fragment habitat and harm wildlife migrations and populations."

Oregon Leaders Vow To Fight For Cascade-Siskiyou After Utah Monument Reductions. [KGW-TV](#) Portland, OR (12/4, Roth) reports that after President Trump announced two national monuments

in Utah will “shrink significantly, top Oregon Democrats decried the action amid questions of whether Oregon’s Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument would be next.” Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments were “among four national monuments Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke previously advised Trump to shrink.” The article notes that “also on list was Oregon’s Cascade-Siskiyou, which covers 112,000 acres in southern Oregon.” According to the article, “while Trump has yet to announce whether he will heed Zinke’s recommendation to shrink the Cascade-Siskiyou, Democratic Oregon lawmakers spoke out Monday in support of preserving the biologically diverse land.”

Rockefeller And The Secret Land Deals That Created Grand Teton National Park. The [Washington Post](#) (12/4, Lednicer) reports on “the audacious plan” hatched in the 1920s, whereby John D. Rockefeller Jr. “agreed to surreptitiously acquire thousands of acres of breathtaking scenery around Jackson Hole, Wyo., and donate them to the federal government for a national park.” According to the article, “by 1930, a year after Congress had established Grand Teton National Park, word had gotten out about the purchases, and Wyoming residents were furious.” The paper says that the “controversy surrounding” President Trump’s decision to shrink Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante “shows that the fight over the size of national parks and monuments, which reached its apex in the fight over Jackson Hole, continues to this day.”

Interior Department Nomination Hearing Begins Tuesday For Hill Staffer With Idaho Ties.

[KBSC-FM](#) Boise, ID (12/4, Barnhill) reports that Tuesday morning, a Senate committee will hear the nomination of Tim Petty to be the assistant Interior secretary for water and science. Petty has “worked for the Interior Department before – under then-Secretary and former Idaho governor Dirk Kempthorne.”

Feds’ Move To End Trinity River Watchdog Group Scrutinized.

The [Eureka \(CA\) Times Standard](#) (12/4, Houston) reports that the Interior Department’s Press Secretary Heather Swift told the Times-Standard last week that it disbanded the Trinity River Adaptive Management Working Group “because the group did not submit a short justification memo on why the department should continue funding its \$100,000 annual budget.” However, “the group’s chairman said to the Times-Standard on Monday that he was told on multiple times this year by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials that the paperwork had been filed.” Stokely said, “There is some kind of bureaucratic mixup here. I suggest they give us another chance.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Tribal Membership, Federal Dollars And A Casino On The Line With Nooksack Election.

[KUOW-FM](#) Seattle (12/4, Fox) reports that early results from Saturday’s Nooksack election “show all incumbents won their seats.” Hinging on the results are “tribal membership, tens of millions of federal dollars and a casino.” According to the article, “when the tribe agreed to hold an election a few months ago, interim federal money started flowing back to the tribe and so did operation of its casino,” but “that could all go away again if the Bureau of Indian Affairs does not certify this election by December 23.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Congress Fights Over Whether To Allow Interior To Kill Wild Horses.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/5, Siegel) reports that to manage the overpopulation of wild horses, John Ruhs, the Bureau of Land Management’s director in Nevada, “wants Congress to lift restrictions on his agency to give it more flexibility to euthanize horses — not just when they’re old and sick — and sell more of them for private use, without dictating what the buyer can or cannot do with the animals.” The Senate “introduced a fiscal 2018 Interior-Environmental Protection Agency spending bill last month that includes language prohibiting BLM from selling without restriction tens of thousands of excess horses on federal rangelands and banning the agency from euthanizing animals that have been unsuccessfully offered for adoption more than three times.” However, the House’s fiscal 2018 Interior appropriations legislation “contains a section that would lift restrictions on BLM to sell or, in specific circumstances, euthanize excess wild horses.”

Agency Targets Trash, Lawlessness At Shooting Range.

The [AP](#) (12/4) reports that an area 7 miles outside the Las Vegas Valley “that has been used for target practice for at least the past 20 years” is “littered with broken glass and tens of thousands of spent shotgun shells and bullet casings.” The Bureau of Land Management has “launched a new effort to address the growing trash and safety problem at Southern Nevada’s most popular spot for target shooters.” The BLM has “hosted a pair of volunteer cleanups at the site, one in May with the National Rifle Association and another in early November.” The bureau “also has teamed with the Metropolitan Police Department and the Nevada Highway Patrol to step up patrols in the area.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KNPR-FM](#) Las Vegas (12/4).

Fence Improvement Project Benefits Pronghorn Migration.

The [Cody \(WY\) Enterprise](#) (12/4) reports that the Bureau of Land Management Cody Field Office “recently collaborated with the Wyoming Department of Transportation, Wyoming Game and Fish Department and Friends of a Legacy to modify a stretch of fence east of Cody for the benefit of migrating pronghorn.” They “came together to replace the bottom strand of barbed wire with smooth, wildlife-friendly wire on about three miles of fence along WYO 32 on the eastern edge of the McCullough Peaks Wild Horse Herd Management Area.” According to the article, “the bottom wire was also raised to 16 inches off the ground to allow pronghorn to pass easily under it.” BLM wildlife biologist Destin Harrell, who organized the project, said, “Last year, thousands of pronghorn were stacked up along this fence, unable to cross. Thanks to the commitment of groups like FOAL, WYDOT and G&F to making BLM fences more wildlife-friendly, the migrating Carter Mountain pronghorn herd now has better access to its crucial winter range and an improved chance of surviving harsh winters.”

Judge Releases 4 More Bunkerville Standoff Defendants.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (12/4, Ferrara) reports that “a judge ordered four more Bunkerville standoff defendants freed from federal detention on Monday, less than a week after rancher Cliven Bundy rejected the conditions of his own release.” U.S. Magistrate Judge Peggy Leen ordered the pretrial release of four men, “whom prosecutors have described as ‘mid-tier’ defendants in the April 2014 armed standoff.” They include Bundy’s sons Melvin and David.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Bill Could Make Drilling Off N.C. Coast More Likely.

The [Jacksonville \(NC\) Daily News](#) (12/4, Wagner) reports that the SECURE American Energy Act would make drilling off North Carolina more likely. The measure was passed by the House Committee on Natural Resources, but it has not yet received a vote from the full chamber. The bill would grant Congress the sole power to establish moratoriums on offshore drilling and create National Marine Monuments. Gov. Roy Cooper has opposed offshore exploration, saying it risks the state’s coastal economies.

Company Pulls Plug On Massachusetts’ Cape Wind Offshore Wind Farm.

In continuing coverage the [Washington Examiner](#) (12/4, Siciliano) reports the company the Cape Wind wind farm proposed off the coast of “Massachusetts has officially given up on the nearly two-decade fight to bring it to life, saying it is better off developing other forms of energy elsewhere.” Cape Wind and Energy Management CEO Jim Gordon said in a statement, “During Cape Wind’s development period we successfully developed over a billion dollars of renewable solar and biomass energy projects and, although we were unable to bring Cape Wind to fruition, we are proud of the catalyzing and pioneering effort we devoted to bringing offshore wind to the United States.” The wind project “faced sustained opposition and court challenges orchestrated by wealthy land owners on Nantucket Sound and the fossil energy industry, Gordon said.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

Navajo-Gallup Water Project Gains Pipeline Contract.

The [Southwest Colorado Journal](#) (12/4, Mimiaga) reports that “Navajo and Jicarilla-Apache Nation communities in New Mexico are one step closer to receiving domestic and commercial water

supplies as part of a \$1.13 billion federal construction project." Construction began on the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply project "in 2013 with completion estimated for 2024." The article notes that "it is being built by the Bureau of Reclamation, city of Gallup, Navajo Nation and Indian Health Service."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Hunt Elephants To Save Them? Some Countries See No Other Choice.

In continuing coverage of the controversy over the decision by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service last month "to allow hunters to bring home trophies from elephants killed in Zimbabwe and Zambia," the [New York Times](#) (12/4, Nuwer) reports that "whether the proceeds from big-game hunting should be used to protect threatened and endangered species is a difficult question to answer." The article notes that "in some areas, including in Namibia and Zimbabwe, the strategy has helped revive wildlife populations." However, "in others, including Tanzania, hunting has fed corruption and decimated species."

Vern Buchanan Urges Donald Trump To Ban African Lion Trophies. The [Sunshine State \(FL\) News](#) (12/4, Derby) reports that Rep. Vern Buchanan, co-chairman of the Animal Protection Caucus in Congress, is urging President Trump "to restore the ban on allowing African lion trophies to be brought into the United States." Buchanan said, "Allowing lion heads to be brought into the U.S. as trophies will only encourage the slaughter of these magnificent animals. President Trump should reverse his Interior secretary's decision and keep the ban on African lion trophies."

Fish And Wildlife Service Plan Calls For Release Of 12 Newborn Wolf Pups.

The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (12/4, Moss) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is "proposing to release 12 newborn Mexican wolf pups in New Mexico and Arizona over the coming year as part of its strategy to recover an endangered species that suffers from severe inbreeding and weak genetics." In 2018, "a dozen captive pups will be matched with wild litters that have been born at roughly the same time as the domestic-bred pups, according to a plan released by the service Monday." The plan also "outlines temporarily removing an adult female wolf from the Panther Creek Pack in Arizona, to avoid direct inter-sibling breeding, and allowing her to instead mate with an adult male from captivity."

National Park Service

Park Service Nearing Decision On Isle Royale Wolves.

The [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (12/4, Myers) reports that the National Park Service is "getting closer to announcing its final decision on reintroducing wolves to Isle Royale National Park." According to the article, "wolf researchers for Michigan Technological University say the island may be down to its very last wolf based on analysis of trail camera data gathered over the summer and through September."

Additional coverage was provided by [USA Today](#) (12/4, Matheny) and the [Detroit Free Press](#) (12/4, Matheny).

Research Continues On Elevated Mercury Levels In Some Non-migratory Fish In Southwest Alaska.

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (12/4, Lill) reports that the National Park Service and the United States Geological Survey are "among the agencies that study mercury levels in southwest Alaska's lakes in order to better understand mercury's effect on ecosystems and how it gets there." In 2005, the National Park Service started "monitoring mercury levels in non-migratory lake fish in Katmai National Park and Preserve and the Lake Clark National Park Preserve." Krista Bartz, an aquatic ecologist with the NPS' Southwest Alaska Network inventory and monitoring program, said, "Since then we've collected around 400 fish samples, representing nine species from 20 lakes. We've found that filets from long-lived predator species, like lake trout and northern pike, can have elevated concentrations of mercury and they tend to increase with fish age." Bartz "anticipates that the NPS will publish results from the past three years of study on resident lake fish in Katmai and Lake Clark in 2018."

Additional coverage was provided by [KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (12/4, Lill).

Little Bighorn Plan Would Create New Visitor Center, Make Room For Artifacts Currently In Arizona.

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (12/4, Ferguson) reports that “a plan for the future of the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument includes the National Park Service’s preference for building a new 10,600-square-foot visitor center on the footprint of the current center and bringing back some if not all of the tens of thousands of battlefield artifacts now being stored for safekeeping in Tucson, Arizona.” Park officials are accepting input on the Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument General Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment through Jan. 4, 2018. Wayne Challoner, superintendent at the Little Bighorn Battlefield monument, said, “Right now we are in the information-gathering stage. We want to hear anything we may or may not be aware of. We are trying to see if we can go in and rebuild in the same footprint with a new and better-designed facility. Getting those artifacts back has always been the goal.”

Keeler Building Added To National Register, Paves Way For Redevelopment.

[MLive \(MI\)](#) (12/4, Harger) reports that “the 106-year-old Keeler Building has been added to the National Register of Historic Places, a key step towards redevelopment of a downtown landmark that has been mostly vacant for more than 20 years.” The article notes that “the designation by the National Parks Service last month means the West Michigan Housing Alliance qualifies for about \$20 million in state tax credits needed to get a \$42.5 million affordable housing project underway, according to Jeff Dombrowski, the alliance’s founder.”

US Geological Survey

Underwater Volcano Eruptions Sound Like Gunshots And Can Travel 10,000 Miles Through The Ocean.

[Newsweek](#) (12/4, Hignett) reports that “using hydrophones – special microphones designed for use underwater—scientists from the Alaska Volcano Observatory (AVO) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) recorded the sounds of two volcanos erupting.” According to the article, “presenting their findings at the 174th Meeting of the Acoustical Society of America in New Orleans, the team, led by Gabrielle Tepp, from the AVO, show how different eruptions sound drastically different – while some explosions lasted hours, others ripped through the sea like gunshots.” Researchers “recorded vastly different sounds from the Ayhi eruption and from the 2015 and 2016 eruptions of Bogoslof, a volcano near Alaska.”

USGS Proposes \$260,400 Plan To Study White River Algae Problem.

The [Rio Blanco \(CO\) Herald Times](#) (12/4, Turner) reports that “the White River Algae Task Force heard a proposal to study and identify the recurring algal bloom in the White River from United States Geological Survey (USGS) hydrologist Mike Stevens and western Colorado office chief Ken Leib on Wednesday, Nov. 22.” The purposes of the study are “to determine what conditions on the river are contributing to the algae bloom that has caused problems with aesthetics and recreational use of the river.” The USGS “plans to compile historical data on the river’s streamflow, nutrient levels, sediment and more.”

USGS Posts New Annotated Map Of Pu’u O’o Crater.

The [Big Island \(HI\) Video News](#) (12/4) reports that the USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory posted a new map of the Pu’u O’o Crater on November 22, “with labels of the crater’s main features.” According to scientists, “no significant changes are evident at Pu’u O’o.” However, the article adds, “there have been enough changes over the last few years at the vent to warrant a new annotated map of the active crater on Kilauea Volcano’s East Rift Zone.”

Opinion Pieces

President Trump, Don’t Decimate The Bears Ears National Monument.

In an op-ed for [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (12/4, Jewell), former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell writes that the action to establish the Bears Ears national monument “built upon decades of local efforts.” But President Trump’s move will “ignore the 2.8 million Americans who have spoken out in defense of these public lands, and will undercut the jobs and revenues they bring to local economies from outdoor recreation and tourism.” More fundamentally, Jewell writes, “it will break

the promise to these tribes – and to the American people – that, once established, national monuments are protected in perpetuity.”

National Park Lovers Should Applaud Trump’s Monument Decision.

In an op-ed on the [Fox News](#) (12/4) website, ex-Rep. Jason Chaffetz praises President Trump’s decision to reduce the size of the Bears Ears and Staircase-Escalante National Monuments as “an example of his policies that will benefit every American who enjoys national parks and monuments.” Chaffetz argues that national monument designations “have strained land management budgets and limited public access to beautiful places.”

Trump Eviscerates Two National Monuments In The Name Of Political Back-scratching.

In an editorial, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/4) says President Trump “eviscerated” the Bears Ears and Staircase-Escalante National Monuments, “proving once again that, to this president, the federal government’s promises to its own people mean nothing.” His decision, the Times adds, “senselessly imperils stunningly beautiful natural areas and geological masterworks, as well as tens of thousands of Native American sacred sites and key wildlife habitats.”

Additional Reading.

- *Trump Shrinks National Monuments — And With It, Obama’s Legacy.* [Washington Times](#) (12/4, Chumley).
- *President Trump’s National Monument Rollback Is Illegal And Likely To Be Reversed In Court.* [The Conversation \(US\)](#) (12/4, Hecht).
- *Trump’s Proclamation Shrinking Bears Ears Will Hurt All Of Us.* [NBC News](#) (12/4, Ward-Lev, Gaffney, Swanson).
- *Trump’s Rollback Of Monuments Ignores Public, Economic Interests.* [Huffington Post](#) (12/4, Arce).
- *President Trump’s Bears Ears Order Is An Illegal Attack On Tribal Sovereignty.* [Huffington Post](#) (12/4, Echohawk).
- *Don’t Count On A Utah Shale Boom.* [Huffington Post](#) (12/4, Cunningham).
- *Veterans Decry Trump’s Reduction Of National Monuments.* [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (12/4).
- *Elephants In Africa Need To Be Protected, And Believe It Or Not, Hunting Does This Better Than A Ban.* [Fox News](#) (12/4, Cox).
- *Listen To The 99 Percent: Keep Public Lands Public.* [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (12/4, White).
- *Americans Shouldn’t Be Priced Out Of Visiting.* [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#).
- *National Parks Should Remain Open For All.* [Ottawa \(KS\) Herald](#) (12/4, Doll).
- *Our View: Right The Wrong Done To Twin Metals.* [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (12/4).
- *Ryan Zinke Is Trump’s Attack Dog On The Environment.* [Outside](#) (12/4, Woods).

Top National News

Trump Says He Feels “Badly” For Flynn As Lawyer Says A President Cannot Obstruct Justice.

President Trump’s remarks Monday that he feels “badly” for former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn and stating that Hillary Clinton “lied many times to the FBI” without consequences led two broadcast network newscasts. In addition to ongoing coverage of whether the President’s weekend tweets might indicate obstruction of justice, several sources also point out that the FBI never suggested that Clinton was not truthful when she was interviewed during the investigation of her email server. Reports also look at a Trump attorney’s claim that a president cannot obstruct justice, expressing skepticism.

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/4, lead story, 3:20, Muir), Jonathan Karl reported, “At the White House today, the President offered words of sympathy” for Flynn. Trump: “Well, I feel badly for Gen. Flynn. I feel very badly. He’s led a very strong life.” Karl: “Flynn’s plea bargain is a big red flag for the White House.” Sen. Dianne Feinstein: “I think what we’re beginning to see is the putting together of a case of obstruction of justice.” Karl: “The President seems determined to undermine that case, by slamming the FBI, tweeting that its reputation is ‘in tatters, worst in

history.” Trump: “I will say this, Hillary Clinton lied many times to the FBI. Nothing happened to her. Flynn lied and they destroyed his life. I think it’s a shame.”

The [AP](#) (12/4, Thomas) reports that the President “tried to contrast Flynn’s treatment with that of...Clinton, who he said ‘lied many times to the FBI and nothing happened.’” But the FBI “didn’t conclude that Clinton lied to agents.” [USA Today](#) (12/4, Jackson) reports that the DOJ “did not bring charges against Clinton over her use of a private email server while she was secretary of State, and law enforcement officials have said they do not believe Clinton misled investigators.” [Reuters](#) (12/4) also writes that “there was never any indication from the FBI that Clinton did not tell the truth.” The [New York Times](#) (12/4, Sullivan) reports that the President “did not cite specifically what Mrs. Clinton said that he considered a lie.” The [Washington Post](#) (12/4, Rucker) reports that Trump “told reporters Monday morning that Flynn’s undoing was ‘a shame’ and ‘very unfair.’” [Bloomberg News](#) (12/4, Sink) and the [Washington Times](#) (12/4, Persons) also cover the President’s remarks.

Meanwhile, the [AP](#) (12/5, Lemire, Tucker) reports that Trump’s weekend tweets “revived questions about whether the president may have obstructed [the] ongoing investigation.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/4, lead story, 2:50, Holt) asked, “Has President Trump tweeted himself into legal trouble? That question had Washington abuzz today. ... In a tweet over the weekend, the President for the first time publicly said he fired Flynn in part because he lied to the feds. If that’s true, it frames an intriguing new timeline that some tonight argue puts Mr. Trump in some legal jeopardy of his own.” NBC’s Hallie Jackson: “Setting aside that James Comey testified [that] Hillary Clinton didn’t lie to the FBI, the focus now, did President Trump obstruct justice? And could this tweet be used against him? ‘I had to fire General Flynn because he lied to the Vice President and the FBI.’ The problem: If the President knew Flynn lied to the FBI and if he did later ask Comey to lay off Flynn – like Comey says but which the President denies – he could open himself up to accusations of obstruction of justice.” On the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/4, story 5, 1:45, Glor), Major Garrett similarly reported that “the tweet sparked new questions about whether the President has obstructed justice.”

The [Washington Post](#) (12/4, Horwitz, Rucker) reports that Trump lawyer John Dowd offered a “brazen assertion” on Monday: “that a president cannot be found guilty of obstruction of justice.” Dowd “sought to excuse the president’s tweet in part by telling Axios and NBC News Monday that the ‘president cannot obstruct justice because he is the chief law enforcement officer under [the Constitution’s Article II] and has every right to express his view of any case.’”

[Axios](#) (12/4, Allen) calls it “a new and highly controversial defense/theory,” and [Politico](#) (12/4, Cheney) reminds readers that “more than 40 current GOP members of Congress voted for the impeachment or removal” of President Clinton “from office for obstruction of justice. ... In all, 17 sitting senators supported the obstruction of justice charge against Clinton in 1998 and 1999.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/4, Megerian, Tanfani) also reports on Dowd’s argument.

Sen. Joe Manchin was asked on [CNN’s The Lead](#) (12/4) about Dowd’s claim that the President cannot obstruct justice. Manchin said, “I don’t agree. I just think the rule of law means the rule of law. It means we’re all held accountable and there are not two systems for two different types of people.” Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), ranking member on the House Intelligence Committee, said on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (12/4), “Yes, I believe the President is no more above the law than any other American. It would be an absurd result to say that the President could interfere with investigations involving himself or others potentially and that he is immune from any repercussion.”

The [New York Times](#) (12/4) says in an editorial, “You know you have a problem when you’ve been president for less than 11 months and you’re already relying on Richard Nixon’s definition of what’s legal. ... Trump’s tireless spinners and sophists are working to convince the American public that it’s all no big deal. This is an embarrassing and unpersuasive argument, but it’s not surprising. At this point, they have nothing else to work with.”

Eugene Robinson writes in his [Washington Post](#) (12/4) column, “We know that Trump has apparently obstructed justice to try to halt investigation into what happened. What we don’t know is whether Congress, in the end, will do its sworn duty to protect the Constitution. ... But let’s not lose sight of the big picture. ... If nothing wrong happened with Russia during the campaign, why is Trump so desperate to cover it up?”

Dana Milbank writes in the [Washington Post](#) (12/4), “As details of campaign contacts with Russia piled up, Trump and his officials instead said there had been ‘no collusion,’” then “retreated to another line of defense: Trump himself didn’t collude. ... Now, with four Trump campaign officials indicted and two of them, including Trump’s former national security adviser, pleading guilty, even that distinction no longer seems safe.”

John Yoo of the American Enterprise Institute and Saikrishna Prakash of the University of Virginia write in the [New York Times](#) (12/4), "Even if the facts rose to the level of obstruction, most legal scholars agree that prosecutors cannot bring charges against a sitting president." But "the House and Senate can make their own judgments – political as well as legal. ... Congress should not wait on a special counsel to perform its most fundamental constitutional duty of investigating and, if necessary, removing a corrupt president."

Daniel Hemel and Eric Posner of the University of Chicago Law School write in the [New York Times](#) (12/4) that Flynn's admissions "leave little doubt that he also violated a federal criminal statute known as the Logan Act," which prohibits individuals from attempting to influence foreign policy "in a dispute with the United States or 'to defeat the measures of the United States.'" And "if Mr. Flynn violated the Logan Act, then so did the 'very senior' official who directed his actions." However, James Robbins writes in his [USA Today](#) (12/4) column, "Flynn was fully in his rights making the call to Kislyak. Despite the best efforts of the anti-Trumpers, it is still not illegal to talk to Russians."

Those In Pence's Circle Say He Was Out Of The Loop. [Politico](#) (12/4, Nussbaum) reports that "people close to" Vice President Pence "are trying to make clear" that Pence "knew nothing at all." Pence's aides "have maintained for months that their man was out of the loop, blissfully ignorant to contacts between the Trump campaign and various foreign actors." But while "their story has been consistent," it has "left outside observers wondering how Trump's running mate and transition head could have known so little."

McFarland Email Appears To Contradict Testimony. The [New York Times](#) (12/4, Schmidt, Lafraniere) reports that an email sent during the transition period by K.T. McFarland, who would briefly become Trump's deputy national security adviser, "appears to contradict testimony she gave to Congress over the summer about contacts between the Russian ambassador" and Flynn. In a December 29 email, McFarland "told another transition official that Mr. Flynn would be talking to the Russian ambassador that evening."

Russians Say Flynn Did Not Influence Kremlin Policy. The [New York Times](#) (12/4, Nechepurenko) reports that Kremlin spokesman Dmitri Peskov "said on Monday that it was 'absurd' to suggest that President Vladimir V. Putin was influenced in any way by a request from the Trump transition last December to refrain from retaliating against sanctions" imposed by President Obama. Peskov said, "The President makes his own decisions, guided solely by Russia's national interests." The [Washington Post](#) (12/4, Roth) reports that Peskov also said that "the Kremlin does not know anything about the talks with Flynn because they were conducted by the Foreign Ministry."

Russian Ambassador to the US Anatoly Antonov told the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/4, story 6, 2:05, Glor), "It's very difficult to try to find a black cat in a dark room where there is not any cat at all." CBS' Margaret Brennan: "You're saying there is no story there?" Antonov: "There is not any proof regarding Russian interference into your election."

Wray Defends FBI In Message To Agents And Staff. The [New York Times](#) (12/4, Goldman, Savage) reports that FBI Director Wray "defended his work force in an email on Monday, a day after President Trump said on Twitter that the agency's standing was the 'worst in History' and its reputation was in 'Tatters.'" In a message to 35,000 agents and support staff, Wray "said that he was 'inspired by example after example of professionalism and dedication to justice demonstrated around the bureau. It is truly an honor to represent you.'" He did not mention the President by name.

Trump Jr., Ex-Trump Business Associate To Appear Before House Intelligence Committee. [Reuters](#) (12/4) reports that Donald Trump Jr. and Felix Sater, a "former business associate of the president," will appear before the House Intelligence Committee later this week. Both sessions will be closed to the public.

Mueller's Office Says Manafort Drafted Op-Ed With Colleague With Russian Ties. The [AP](#) (12/4, Day, Tucker) reports, "While facing several felony charges, Donald Trump's former campaign chairman Paul Manafort has been working on an op-ed essay with a longtime colleague 'assessed to have ties' to a Russian intelligence service," according to court papers filed by prosecutors working for Special Counsel Robert Mueller.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/4, Megerian) reports that Mueller's office "said Manafort helped draft the editorial in recent days, working with a Russian who has ties to that country's intelligence services. That writing violated a Nov. 8 court order 'prohibiting such out-of-court statements in order to protect the fairness of the upcoming trial,' the court filing said."

[Reuters](#) (12/4, Lynch) has a similar report. Sen. Chris Coons said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (12/4), "Clearly he's not listening to his lawyers, or he's more afraid of the Russians than he is

of federal prosecution in the United States. ... That's an enormous risk for him to take and will almost certainly lead to the re-imposition of a different arrangement for his freedom in advance of his facing trial."

FBI Agent Pulled From Probe Had Role In Drafting Comey's Clinton Announcement. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/4, story 3, 0:40, Muir) reported on the "veteran FBI agent who was removed from the Russia investigation. ... Mueller removed Peter Strzok back in August after learning he had sent potentially anti-Trump text messages." Strzok "played a key role in how then FBI Director James Comey announced the results of the Hillary Clinton email investigation, recommending that Comey describe Clinton's actions as 'extremely careless' rather than 'grossly negligent.' The significance is that it's a felony to mishandle classified information in a grossly negligent way."

[CNN](#) (12/4, Jarrett, Perez) reports on its website that "the drafting process was a team effort, CNN is told, with a handful of people reviewing the language as edits were made, according to another US official familiar with the matter." The [New York Post](#) (12/4, Fredericks) reports that Senate Judiciary Chairman Charles Grassley "questioned the change last month, but the name of the agent who made the change was not known until now."

Kellyanne Conway said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (12/4), "It's so disturbing and troubling because...he was at the heart of the investigation into Hillary Clinton. We know that she lied numerous times. We know that she...deleted 33,000 e-mails. ... This is what frustrates people, and now this revelation that a decidedly, definitively anti-Trump FBI investigator was involved in the Hillary Clinton interviews, as the President says is now starting to make a lot of sense."

Rep. Trey Gowdy (R-SC) said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (12/4), "I think from a perception standpoint, it's incredibly serious. He was one of the agents [on] Secretary Clinton's investigation. ... He is anti-Trump, perhaps pro-Clinton texts. People have the right to assume the people that are investigating them are objective and have not already made up their mind."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/4) says in an editorial that while no Trump/Russia collusion has been proven, the Strzok case suggests a political motive behind the investigation. Hugh Hewitt writes in the [Washington Post](#) (12/4), "This is a blockbuster revelation, carrying the possibility of shattering public confidence."

Mueller's Office To Soon Release Expenditure Report. The [Washington Times](#) (12/4, Noble) reports that Mueller's office "is preparing to release a statement of expenditures in the coming days providing a first look at what the probe is costing taxpayers – and depending on how funds have been spent, the disclosures could open up the controversial probe to additional criticism."

Papadopoulos' July Arrest Recounted. [Politico](#) (12/4, Gerstein) recounts ex-Trump campaign foreign policy adviser George Papadopoulos' arrest and long interview with the FBI last July.

Supreme Court Allows Third Version Of Travel Ban To Take Effect While Challenges Proceed.

Coverage of the Supreme Court's order permitting the third iteration of the Trump Administration's travel ban to be in force while challenges to it move forward is primarily straightforward, though most sources agree that the decision is a rare victory for the White House, even if it is not a total one. The version of the ban in questions deals with Chad, Iran, Libya, North Korea, Syria, Somalia, Venezuela, and Yemen.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (12/4, story 3, 0:50, Holt) called it "a victory at the Supreme Court for the Trump White House." NBC's Pete Williams: "This means that overseas family members of people in the US who were exempt from the travel ban are now subject to it. ... Lower courts said it could not be applied against people who have family members here, but tonight the Court has lifted that exemption." Only Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor dissented, "so this could be a sign that the latest version of the travel ban will survive a Supreme Court challenge when it gets here early next year." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/4, story 6, 0:25, Muir) said the decision "clear[s] the way for President Trump's travel ban, even as it is being challenged in federal courts."

The [AP](#) (12/4, Sherman) similarly writes that though "this is not a final ruling on the travel ban...the action indicates that the high court might eventually approve the latest version of the ban." Critics "of this and previous versions of the ban say they show a bias against Muslims." Omar Jadwat of the American Civil Liberties Union said, "President Trump's anti-Muslim prejudice is no secret. He has repeatedly confirmed it, including just last week on Twitter. It's unfortunate that the full ban can move forward for now, but this order does not address the merits of our claims."

The [New York Times](#) (12/4, Liptak) calls the decision “a victory for the administration after its mixed success before the court over the summer, when justices considered and eventually dismissed disputes over the second version.” [USA Today](#) (12/4, Wolf) reports that the “unsigned orders issued Monday urge two federal appeals courts with oral arguments scheduled later this week to render decisions ‘with appropriate dispatch.’” The [Washington Post](#) (12/4, Barnes) reports that “judges in two judicial circuits – the US Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit in Richmond and the US Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit in San Francisco – had cast doubt on Trump’s third executive order banning almost all travel from certain countries. Oral arguments are scheduled for soon” in both courts.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/4, Savage) calls it “a significant victory” for the President. Attorney General Sessions “called the court’s decision a ‘substantial victory for the safety and security of the American people.’” ([Breitbart](#) (12/4, Mason) quotes Sessions at greater length.) In its front-page report, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/4, Kendall) quotes White House spokesman Hogan Gidley saying, “We are not surprised by today’s Supreme Court decision permitting immediate enforcement of the President’s proclamation limiting travel from countries presenting heightened risks of terrorism. The proclamation is lawful and essential to protecting our homeland. We look forward to presenting a fuller defense.”

The [Washington Times](#) (12/4, Noble) says the court “doled out a victory for the Trump administration.” Eamon Javers similarly said on [CNBC’s Closing Bell](#) (12/4) that the ruling “will be viewed as a win for the Trump Administration and some welcome news at the White House.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/4) editorializes in favor of the ruling, calling the court’s action an important moment for the rule of law, arguing that although it disagrees with the ban as policy, opposition to policy is no justification for courts to ignore the law. [Reuters](#) (12/4, Hurley), [Bloomberg News](#) (12/4, Stohr), and [Politico](#) (12/4, Gerstein) also report the court’s ruling.

Trump, Congressional Leaders To Hold Budget Talks Thursday.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/4, O’Keefe, Debonis, Werner) report that with a Dec. 8 deadline looming, President Trump and congressional leaders will meet Thursday “to discuss enacting a year-end spending agreement in hopes of averting a government shutdown.” The Post says the meeting the night before government funding is set run out “puts significant pressure on GOP leaders to shore up support in their own ranks ahead of a vote on a plan to keep the government operating two more weeks as talks continue.” [Bloomberg News](#) (12/4, Wasson) says Trump and congressional leaders are “set to discuss a potential deal to raise defense and non-defense budget caps” as well as “other year-end matters, including protection” for so-called “Dreamers.” [Politico](#) (12/4, Ferris, Scholtes, Kim) reports that while funding is set to run out Friday at midnight, “Republican leaders believe they have the votes to push back that deadline until just before Christmas.”

[Reuters](#) (12/4, Cornwell) reports that Democratic leaders have accepted an invitation to meet with the President and GOP leaders for “talks to avert a government shutdown this week.” Senate Minority Leader Schumer and House Minority Leader Pelosi “said Monday they hoped the president would remain open-minded about reaching a deal with Democrats.” The [Washington Times](#) (12/4, Howell) says that while the Democrats “refused to show up to a White House meeting on Nov. 28, after Mr. Trump said that given Democrats’ demands, there wasn’t a path to agreement,” on Monday they “said they would give it another try, though they will bring a list of demands” including funding for “rural infrastructure, provid[ing] more hurricane relief to Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico and renew[ing] the Children’s Health Insurance Program, among other things.”

GOP Leaders “Confident” Differences In Tax Bills Can Be Overcome.

While there are “significant differences” between the house and Senate tax bills, the [AP](#) (12/4, Ohlemacher, Gordon) reports that “Republican leaders are confident none is insurmountable.” The AP goes on to explain “the differences and how each issue is likely to play out.” David Muir said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/4, story 5, 3:05, Muir) that while there is “no pressing deadline,” Republicans “are furiously working to get this done before Christmas, as the President has asked.”

House Majority Leader McCarthy was asked on [Fox News’ Fox & Friends](#) (12/4) about the House bill’s 39% top rate versus the Senate’s top rate of 38%. McCarthy said, “I would actually like to go lower on a personal basis. I don’t think you should punish people for being successful. But they have seven rates. We have four. We’ll work that out. I would always go to a lower rate.” Asked about the alternative minimum tax, McCarthy said, “In the House, you eliminate it. ... If

you're in California or if you're in New York, that's a real punishment as you go forward. ... I think that has to be repealed out of it. But the Senate also put it in when it came to corporations. That would also eliminate if you kept it in there the research and development benefit that you're getting on the tax credit going forward. So I think the AMT has to be eliminated all together."

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/4) says President Trump on Saturday "introduced uncertainty over a provision that could mean a difference of about \$200 billion over 10 years," telling reporters that the corporate tax rate, which both the House and Senate bills reduce to 20%, "could be 22" in the final bill. Bloomberg News says those comments "imposed an air of unpredictability over congressional negotiations."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/4, Davidson, Jamerson) examines last-minute changes inserted by Senate Republicans that benefit oil and gas companies, cruise-ship operators, auto dealers, universities and mortgage bankers. The Journal says the question is whether the changes will survive the House-Senate conference. Nancy Cordes said in the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/4, lead story, 2:30, Glor) that Republican leaders "predict it will take them about a week to iron out key differences between the two bills."

Kasie Hunt reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/4, story 6, 2:15, Holt) that "most American families will see their individual tax rate go down" under the bill, but "whether your family wins or loses depends on your circumstances." Among those who could do better are "families with children, wealthy Americans who will avoid the estate tax if the House has its way." On the other hand, "those who could lose out," are "Americans in high tax states who will likely lose their state and local income tax deduction, graduate students who could owe the IRS thousands more, and Americans who could see their health insurance premiums go up if the Senate's repeal of the individual mandate stays in the final bill." CBS News business analyst Jill Schlesinger said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/4, story 2, 1:35, Glor) that "88% of people would see a tax reduction, 10% would see an increase, and the rest would actually stay the same."

The [Washington Post](#) (12/4) argues in an editorial that while neither the House nor the Senate bill "is an improvement over the status quo," there are ways to craft "a less-bad agreement." The Post says lawmakers should remove "extraneous provisions tacked onto one bill or the other in order to pay off a particular lawmaker or to satisfy narrow ideological preoccupations." In addition, they "should reduce the impact on the debt by scaling back the most unjustifiable giveaways to the wealthy," and "take up President Trump on his willingness to drop the 35 percent corporate tax rate to 22 percent," rather than 20%. Also, "instead of chopping away at the deduction for state and local taxes," they "should reduce tax breaks in a fairer way, perhaps by further limiting the home mortgage deduction."

Pelosi Says Tax Bill Is Worst On Congressional History. [The Hill](#) (12/4, Marcos) reports that House Minority Leader Pelosi argued on the House floor Monday that the Republican tax bill is "the worst bill in the history of the United States Congress." Pelosi said, "Now, how can I make that claim? Well, because it involves more money, hurts more people, increases the deficit by so much more, and just because everything is bigger in our country, the consequences of this bill, a multi-trillion dollar economy being addressed by a bill that had no hearings, no expert testimony."

Republicans Sought To Discredit JCT Ahead Of Senate Vote. The [New York Times](#) (12/4, Tankersley) reports that a change to congressional budget rules implemented by Republicans in 2015 which requires that "Congress consider the full cost of major legislation threatened to derail the party's \$1.5 trillion tax rewrite last week," so "lawmakers went on the offensive to discredit" the Joint Committee on Taxation, which performed the analysis. Hours before last week's Senate vote, Senate Republicans "opened an assault" on the JCT and its analysis, "which showed the Senate plan would not, as lawmakers contended, pay for itself but would add \$1 trillion to the federal budget deficit." The Times cites "public statements and messaging documents" which "show a concerted push by Republican lawmakers to discredit a nonpartisan agency they had long praised." The Times says the "swift backlash helped defuse concerns about the deficit impact long enough for the bill to pass by a vote of 51 to 49."

Companies Lobby To Eliminate Corporate AMT. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/4, Francis, Rubin) reports in a front-page story that the Senate's last-minute decision to keep a corporate alternative minimum tax took CEOs and business groups by surprise and on Monday, they launched a lobbying effort to eliminate or alter the provision. Citing the provision, the [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (12/4, Levitz) says Republicans "accidentally nullified all of their corporate donors' favorite deductions." With their "blunder" Republicans accomplished "the unthinkable: They've written a giant corporate tax cut that many of their corporate donors do not like."

CEO Says Senate Bill Will Raise Murray Energy's Taxes \$60 Million. Murray Energy CEO Robert

Murray said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (12/4), "The Senate's legislation, in fact, is a huge tax increase on capital intensive, highly leveraged businesses. The result comes from leaving the alternative minimum tax in their plan, and then deleting the deduction for net interest expense as a cost of business." Murray added that "for Murray energy, alone, this will raise our taxes \$60 million a year notwithstanding the other so-called benefits that the Senate has proposed."

Democratic Governors Vow To Fight Tax Bill. [Politico](#) (12/4, Vielkind) reports that three Democratic governors – California Gov. Jerry Brown, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, and New Jersey Gov.-elect Phil Murphy – vowed Monday "to do everything they can to stop the emerging federal tax overhaul – even sue." During a conference call with reporters, the Governors "denounced the bill" as "dangerous," "fraudulent," "nefarious," "a scam" and "trickle down on steroids." They take issue in particular with "the bill's curtailment of the federal deduction for state and local taxes."

A front-page analysis in the [New York Times](#) (12/4, Casselman, McGeehan) calls the bill "an economic dagger aimed at high-tax, high-cost and generally Democratic-leaning areas – most notably New York City and its neighbors." According to the Times, the bill "could send home prices tumbling 10 percent or more in parts of the New York area, according to one economic analysis." In addition, it could "increase the regional tax burden, complicating companies' efforts to attract skilled workers," and "make it harder for state and local governments to pay for upgrades to the transit system and other infrastructure." Moreover, "it could force cuts in federal programs that help immigrants, the elderly and other low-income residents afford the region's high cost of living."

WSJournal: Conference Should Adopt House Bill Provision On Attorney Contingency Fees. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/4) says Sen. Lindsey Graham removed a provision from the Senate tax bill to eliminate a contingency-fee carve-out for California plaintiff attorneys. The Journal adds that a provision in the House bill would create equality across the country and urges the conference committee to adopt it.

North Korea: US-South Korea Air Drills Put Peninsula At "Brink Of Nuclear War."

All three networks reported on the size and scope of joint US-South Korean war drills currently taking place in the Korean Peninsula. Outlets said the drills, which follow North Korea's recent ICBM test, have escalated tensions. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/4, story 10, 0:20, Muir) reported the US and South Korea are conducting simulated war drills involving hundreds of aircraft in a "massive show of force" days after North Korea launched its "most powerful missile yet." Pyongyang argues the air drills are bringing the peninsula "to the brink of nuclear war."

The [New York Times](#) (12/4, Mullany) reports that "such drills have drawn vigorous criticism from North Korea, whose state news media said Sunday" that Pyongyang would "seriously consider" countermeasures against the drill and warned the US and Seoul would "pay dearly for their provocations." North Korea, the [Washington Post](#) (12/4, Fifield) reports, denounced the exercises as dangerous "when insane President Trump is running wild," while "analysts warned that they sharply increase the chances of miscalculation and accidental conflict."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (12/4, story 8, 2:50, Holt) said the US "is making a major show of force to North Korea with hundreds of planes, including two dozen radar-evading stealth jets, taking part in war games with South Korea." The [CBS Evening News](#) (12/4, story 3, 2:20, Glor), which called the drills "one of the largest combined Air Force exercises in history," showed Air Force Col. Scott Jobe, commander at the Misawa Air Base in Japan, saying "We want diplomacy to take its course. We want that to be the primary mechanism, but if needed and if called on, we're ready to go, and we're ready to go right now, 100%."

New US Weapon Could Stop North Korean Missiles. US government officials tell [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/4, story 8, 2:50, Holt) "that White House officials have been informed about a sophisticated weapon advocates believe could stop North Korean missiles." Sen. Martin Heinrich described the technology: "Think about like when you put something in your microwave that actually has some metal on it. You know how badly that can go. Imagine directing those microwaves at someone's electronics." Mary Lou Robinson, the chief of high-powered electromagnetics at the Air Force research laboratory in New Mexico who supervised a series of tests, said "this technology absolutely works." Proponents of the technology point out that it doesn't harm humans. They "say while it is not currently operational, it could be quickly. Tonight, no official comment from the White House."

Senior UN Official To Visit North Korea This Week. [Reuters](#) (12/4, Nichols) reports UN political affairs chief will visit North Korea this week, "making the highest-level visit by a UN official in more than six years." Jeffrey Feltman, a former senior State Department official, will visit from

Tuesday to Friday and meet with officials to discuss “issues of mutual interest and concern,” the UN said. Spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Feltman will meet with North Korea Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho and Vice Minister Pak Myong Guk during the visit. The [Washington Post](#) (12/4, Taylor) reports Feltman’s trip was arranged “after the United Nations received an invitation from North Korea.”

Civilian Airline Saw Latest North Korean Missile Re-Entry. Brian Todd reported on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (12/4) that officials at a Hong Kong-based airline say the crew of one of their passenger planes “spotted the attempted re-entry of that North Korean long-range missile last week.” The flight was “far away” from the missile, “but if that missile broke up on re-entry and there was debris flying around, that flight could have conceivably been in danger.” The [Washington Post](#) (12/4, Selk) reports Cathay Pacific said in a statement that the San Francisco-to-Hong Kong flight was “far from the event location” and that the airline “does not plan to change its flight routes, even as North Korea seems intent on testing ever more technologically advanced missiles.”

US Mayors Set To Sign Climate Agreement In Chicago.

[USA Today](#) (12/4, Madhani) reports that “dozens of U.S. mayors are set to sign their own climate accord vowing to do their part in cutting the nation’s greenhouse emissions.” The agreement is called the “Chicago Charter” and is expected to be signed by representatives of at least 36 US cities on “Tuesday at the North American Climate Summit in Chicago.” The charter “lays out the framework for how some of the country’s municipalities plan to reach goals to reduce greenhouse emission and monitor each others progress — objectives similar to what the Paris international climate pact strives to achieve.”

The [Chicago Tribune](#) (12/4, Byrne, Ruthhart) reports former President Barack Obama will address the summit. Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel said, “President Obama helped lead the fight against climate change with bold and decisive action, and we are honored he will be joining the North American Climate Summit where local leaders from around the world will make meaningful commitments to climate solutions.”

The [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (12/4, Frago) reports St. Petersburg, Florida Mayor Rick Kriseman will be at the summit “to trade ideas with more than 40 other mayors from around the world, including Buenos Aires, Dar Es Salaam, Copenhagen and Paris.” The Times adds “the three days of panels and break-out discussions should give mayors plenty of time to compare and contrast their cities’ challenges, the mayor said.”

The [AP](#) (12/4) also provides brief coverage.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Yes, The President Can Obstruct Justice.” The [New York Times](#) (12/4) says in an editorial, “You know you have a problem when you’ve been president for less than 11 months and you’re already relying on Richard Nixon’s definition of what’s legal. ... Trump’s tireless spinners and sophists are working to convince the American public that it’s all no big deal. This is an embarrassing and unpersuasive argument, but it’s not surprising. At this point, they have nothing else to work with.”

“With Death Of Ali Abdullah Saleh, Need for Yemen Peace Grows.” A [New York Times](#) (12/4) editorial says the “best hope for Yemen lies in a cease-fire, an end to the Saudi blockade, a negotiated withdrawal of the Houthis from the capital and another attempt at national dialogue, this time on a more realistic basis.” The absence of former Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh, who was killed Monday, “could make that easier as well.”

Washington Post.

“Is A Senate Seat Really Worth This?” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (12/4) says that while Alabama Republican Senate candidate Roy Moore has denied the allegations of sexual misconduct, “he does not outright deny dating teenage girls as an older man. Many other women allege that he preyed on them as teenagers. None of them have reason now to lie. This is the man Mr. Trump has decided he needs in the Senate. Alabama voters must decide if they agree. Is it so important to have a senator who will vote the president’s way on tax cuts or judicial appointments that they are willing to be represented by a person who would do such abhorrent things to young girls?”

“How To Move The Tax Bill From Worse To Bad.” The [Washington Post](#) (12/4) argues in an editorial that while the neither the House nor the Senate tax bill “is an improvement over the status quo,” there are ways to craft “a less-bad agreement.” The Post says lawmakers should remove “extraneous provisions tacked onto one bill or the other in order to pay off a particular lawmaker or to satisfy narrow ideological preoccupations.” In addition, they “should reduce the impact on the debt by scaling back the most unjustifiable giveaways to the wealthy,” and “take up President Trump on his willingness to drop the 35 percent corporate tax rate to 22 percent,” rather than 20%. Also, “instead of chopping away at the deduction for state and local taxes,” they “should reduce tax breaks in a fairer way, perhaps by further limiting the home mortgage deduction.”

“The District Has A Chance To Address Homelessness With Reason, Not Emotion.” The [Washington Post](#) (12/4) editorializes that the District of Columbia Council should give its final approval to an overhaul of the District’s “law governing homeless services in the city.” The Post opines that money that used to be spent on housing families in motels on cold nights “would be better spent on increasing affordable housing or helping families become more stable.” The Post also indicates that the changes already appear to have resulted in “a decrease in the number of families requiring shelter.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Mueller’s Credibility Problem.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/4) says in an editorial that while no Trump/Russia collusion has been proven, the Peter Strzok case suggests a political motive behind the investigation.

“Supreme Rebuke For The Judiciary.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/4) editorializes in favor of the ruling by the Supreme Court on Monday allowing the Trump Administration’s travel ban to take effect. The 7-2 order (with Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor dissenting) granted the Administration’s request to block the stay of the ban issued by federal judges in Hawaii and Maryland. The Journal calls the court’s action an important moment for the rule of law, arguing that although it disagrees with the ban as policy, opposition to policy is no justification for courts to ignore the law.

“The Trial Bar’s Tax Break.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/4) says Sen. Lindsey Graham removed a provision from the Senate tax bill to eliminate a contingency-fee carve-out for California plaintiff attorneys. The Journal adds that a provision in the House bill would create equality across the country and urges the conference committee to adopt it.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Supreme Court Lets Trump Travel Ban Take Effect For Now](#)
[Businesses Push To Repeal Corporate AMT](#)
[Rebels Kill Yemen’s Ex-Leader, Opening New Phase In War](#)
[How Dollar General Became Rural America’s Store Of Choice](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Slashes Size Of Bears Ears And Grand Staircase Monuments](#)
[How New Yorkers Would Lose Under The Republican Tax Bill](#)
[Trump Travel Ban To Take Effect After Supreme Court Ruling](#)
[Roy Moore Gets Trump Endorsement And RNC Funding For Senate Race](#)
[In Sex Abuse Cases, An Expiration Date Is Often Attached](#)
[New Facebook App For Children Ignites Debate Among Families](#)
[Yemen’s Ex-President Killed As Mayhem Convulses Capital](#)

Washington Post:

[Trump Shrinks National Monuments](#)
[Woman Shares New Evidence Of Dating Roy Moore At Age 17](#)
[Travel Ban Can Be Fully Enforced, Justices Say](#)
[Lawyer For Trump Posits Legal Immunity](#)
[I-66 Rush-Hour Crowd Sees Tolls Hit \\$34.50 On First Day](#)

Financial Times:

[Brexit Deal Falls Through Over Irish Border Dispute](#)
[China Hit By Gas Shortages As It Moves Away From Coal](#)
[Wall Street Sets New Records On Tax Breakthrough](#)

Washington Times:

[Supreme Court Allows Full Enforcement Of Trump Travel Ban](#)
[Supreme Court Questions Federal Law Banning State-Sponsored Sports Betting](#)
[NFL's Hail Mary: Deal Would Dole Out Millions To Soros-Linked Social-Justice Groups](#)
[Mueller To Invite Criticism By Revealing Taxpayers' Tab For Russia Investigation](#)
[Amazon Effect: Aetna-CVS Deal A Symptom Of Retail Giant's Penchant For Disrupting Entire Industries](#)
[Trump's 'America First' Policy Hits Argentine Biodiesel Producers, 'Good Friend' Macri](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Russia Meddling Investigation; Russia Meddling Investigation-Expert Comment; Russia Meddling Investigation-FBI Agent Removed; Roy Moore Campaign; Tax Reform Plan; SCOTUS-Travel Restriction; Florida Teen Runaway Found; CVS-Aetna Merger; Weather Forecast; North Korea Threats; Minnesota-Dental Surgery Accident; Toddler Murder; Shark Attack Video; Trump-Utah National Monuments; Silver Dome Demolition; Christmas Lights.

CBS: Tax Reform Plan; Tax Reform Plan-Expert Comment; North Korea Threats; Florida-Mass Shooting Foiled; Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump; Russia Meddling Investigation-Russian Ambassador; Trump-Access Hollywood Video; Roy Moore Campaign; John Anderson Dies; Super Moon; Trump-Utah National Monuments; TIME-Person Of The Year List; Text Message History; Space Pizza Delivery; Animal Dentist.

NBC: Russia Meddling Investigation; Roy Moore Campaign; SCOTUS-Travel Restriction; Trump-Utah National Monuments; CVS-Aetna Merger; Tax Reform Plan; Weather Forecast; North Korea Threats; Uterus Transplant Birth; Weight Loss Program; Silver Dome Demolition; Las Vegas Charity.

Network TV At A Glance:

Russia Meddling Investigation – 12 minutes, 10 seconds
Tax Reform Plan – 9 minutes, 25 seconds
North Korea Threats – 5 minutes, 30 seconds
Roy Moore Campaign – 4 minutes, 30 seconds
Trump-Utah National Monuments – 3 minutes, 15 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Oklahoma Earthquake; California Wildfire; SCOTUS-Travel Restriction; Tax Reform Plan; Wall Street News.

CBS: SCOTUS-Travel Restriction; Federal Budget; Trump-Utah National Monuments; Russia Meddling Investigation; San Francisco Shooting Trial.

FOX: SCOTUS-Travel Restriction; Russia Meddling Investigation; Trump-Utah National Monuments; Florida-Mass Shooting Foiled; Opioid Epidemic.

NPR: Federal Budget; Trump-Utah National Monuments; Russia Meddling Investigation; Opioid Epidemic.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Has lunch with Republican Members of the Senate; leads a discussion with American business owners and their families; hosts the Congressional Ball.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in the Senate Republican Policy Lunch; attends the Congressional Ball.

US Senate: 10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Kenneth Marcus to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Civil Rights; Johnny Collett to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services; Scott Mugno to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration; and Dr William Beach to be Commissioner of Labor Statistics Location: Dirksen Senate Office

Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Dr Timothy Petty to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science; and Dr Linda Capuano to be Energy Information Administration Administrator Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.energy.senate.gov

10:00 AM Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on addressing the opioid crisis – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on 'Addressing the Opioid Crisis in America: Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery', with testimony from President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis member (and former Rep.) Patrick Kennedy; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use Dr Elinore McCance-Katz; National Institutes of Health Director Dr Francis Collins; and CDC National Center for Injury Prevention and Control Director Dr Debra Houry Location: Rm 124, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

10:00 AM Senate Banking Committee votes on Fed governor nominee – Executive Session, with agenda including the nomination of Jerome Powell to be Federal Reserve System Chairman of the Board of Governors, as well as 'S. 2155, the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief and Consumer Protection Act' * President Donald Trump announced Powell's nomination at the beginning of last month, and, if confirmed, he will replace Janet Yellen in February after she has served just one term Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 538, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Foreign Relations Committee Business Meeting, hearing on international accords – Business Meeting, with agenda including legislation including 'S.1118, North Korean Human Rights Reauthorization Act of 2017', 'S.447, Justice for Uncompensated Survivors Today Act of 2017', 'S. Res. 150, A resolution recognizing threats to freedom of the press and expression around the world and reaffirming freedom of the press as a priority in efforts of the United States Government to promote democracy and good governance', 'S. Res 139, A resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights', and the nominations of Eric Ueland to be Under Secretary of State for Management, and James Randolph Evans to be U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg * Immediately followed by hearing on 'The President, Congress, and Shared Authority Over International Accords', with testimony from Duke University School of Law Professor Curtis Bradley; and former Principal Deputy National Security Advisor Avril Haines Location: U.S. Capitol, S-116, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Energy and Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Energy Subcommittee legislative hearing on 'S. 1336, Reliable Investment in Vital Energy Reauthorization Act', 'S. 1455, Energy Storage Goals and Demonstration Projects Act', 'S. 1563, Rare Earth Element Advanced Coal Technologies Act', 'S. 1851, Advancing Grid Storage Act', 'S. 1876, Reducing the Cost of Energy Storage Act', 'S. 1981, Small Scale LNG Access Act', and 'S. 2030, Ceiling Fan Energy Conservation Harmonization Act', with testimony from Republican Sen. Thom Tillis; and Under Secretary of Energy Mark Menezes Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.energy.senate.gov

3:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

US House: 11:00 AM GOP Reps. Rob Bishop, Chris Stewart, and John Curtis host Pen & Pad on President Trump's Utah visit – House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop and Republican members Chris Stewart and John Curtis host Pen & Pad to discuss President Donald Trump's visit to Utah yesterday and the introduction of related legislation Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

11:00 AM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/ <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

12:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including consideration of 'H.R. 3731 – Secret Service Recruitment and Retention Act of 2017', as amended, 'H.R. 3317 – SAFE Act', 'H.Res. 259 – Expressing concern and condemnation over the political, economic, social, and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela', as amended, 'H.R. 2658 – Venezuela Humanitarian Assistance and Defense of Democratic Governance Act of 2017', as amended, 'H.Con.Res. 90 – Condemning ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya and calling for an end to the attacks in and an immediate restoration of humanitarian access to the state of Rakhine in Burma', as amended, and 'S. 1266 – Enhancing Veteran Care Act' under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on ‘H.R. 38 – Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017’ and, as an emergency measure, ‘H.J. Res. XXXX – Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018’ Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC
<http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

Other: 8:00 AM International Religious Freedom conference – Order of St. Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate International Religious Freedom conference, with U.S. officials, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, and other Christian groups addressing the persecution of Christians in the Middle East and North Africa. Day two agenda includes Capitol Hill Lunch with Democratic Sen. Ben Cardin, session on ‘Persecution of Christians and Possible Solutions’ with Republican Sen. James Lankford and Rep. Gus Bilirakis, and banquet with former White House of Chief of Staff Reince Priebus Location: Trump International Hotel Washington, D.C., 1100 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC conference.archons.org
<https://twitter.com/OrderStAndrew>

8:00 AM POLITICO Women Rule Summit – POLITICO Women Rule Summit, to discuss how women can continue to make strides in achieving leadership positions across all sectors, with speakers include Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, Democrats Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand and Rep. Cheri Bustos, Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, Rolls-Royce North America Chairman, President, and CEO Marion Bovino, ‘Me Too’ movement founder Tarana Burke, Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, International Refugee Assistance Program Director Becca Heller, Invariant founder and CEO Heather Podesta, Wethos CEO and Creative Director Rachel Renock, former Customs and Immigration Enforcement Director Sarah Saldana, Women in Federal Law Enforcement Foundation President Catherine Sanz, The Cook Political Report National Editor Amy Walter, and SoulCycle CEO Melanie Whelan Location: Four Seasons Hotel Washington, DC, 2800 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.politico.com <https://twitter.com/POLITICOEvents>

9:00 AM Pakistan Ambassador to the U.S. speaks at Carnegie Endowment – Pakistan Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry speaks at Carnegie Endowment for International Peace on ‘Peace and Stability in South Asia’, discussing the changes taking place in the region Location: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 1779 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.carnegieendowment.org> <https://twitter.com/CarnegieEndow>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Stephen Colbert: “Well, it feels like Christmas is here, courtesy of Robert Mueller coming down the White House chimney with a sack full of subpoenas.”

Stephen Colbert: “So they’re saying Trump’s lawyer wrote a tweet in the voice of his client, without the client’s permission or knowledge, a tweet in which the client indicts himself for obstruction of justice. That is malpractice. I certainly hope John Dowd has a lawyer that’s way better than John Dowd.”

James Corden: “Donald Trump spent the entire weekend furiously lashing out at the FBI on Twitter over the Russia investigation. Don’t worry, I’m sure he still got to play golf, too, but that was mostly what he was doing.”

James Corden: “When reporters questioned the story, Trump took his usual approach, blaming Hillary. He said, quote, ‘Hillary Clinton lied many times to the FBI, and nothing happened to her.’ Nothing happened to her? She lost a presidential election to Donald Trump. ... She wrote an entire book called ‘What Happened.’”

James Corden: “According to Donald Trump’s former campaign manager, Trump’s usual McDonald’s order, and this is just for one meal, is two Big Macs, two Filet-O-Fish and a chocolate milkshake. Yeah, that’s not a meal order – that is an assassination attempt.”

Trevor Noah: “First on Friday at 2 a.m. while you were on the dance floor, Republicans were on the Senate floor really burning down the house. And we’re going to get into that later in the show. But before that, it turns out we may all be saying ‘Merry Christmas’ again because Robert Mueller bought America a gift.”

Trevor Noah: "Normally, you don't think of Congress getting a lot done on Friday night, or Friday afternoon, or any time on Friday, or really any other day of the week. But this past Friday was different because Republicans finally had a chance to pass a sweeping tax bill that would make all those clenched smiles next to Trump totally worth it."

Jimmy Fallon: "What a crazy weekend in Washington. First, former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn cut a plea deal with Robert Mueller and then the Senate passed the GOP tax bill. I tried to follow it on the news, but all the anchors have been fired for sexual harassment, so I didn't see anything."

Jimmy Fallon: "Michael Flynn agreed to a plea deal with Robert Mueller, and it came out that the FBI is investigating everyone in the White House, all the way to the top. Trump was like, 'Oh my God, they're investigating Putin?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "The [Senate tax] bill's drawn lots of criticism. Experts say it will ruin healthcare, cause problems for the elderly, and add over \$1 trillion to the deficit. Trump's cabinet was like, 'Phew, thank God we're going to jail. I mean, could you imagine if we had to live in this world?'"

Seth Meyers: "The Senate passed a Republican tax bill just before 2:00 a.m. on Saturday, and if you're wondering if that's a good thing, try to remember the last time anything good happened to you at 2:00 a.m. on a Saturday."

Seth Meyers: "A new poll has found that 48 percent of Roy Moore's supporters plan to vote for him because he's the best person for the job. What's the job? Male stripper for nursing homes?"

Seth Meyers: "Former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn on Friday pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI about contacts with the Russian ambassador. And if that's what he pleaded to, you know whatever he did was worse. It's like if OJ had pleaded guilty to changing lanes without signaling."

Conan O'Brien: "This morning, President Trump endorsed Republican Senate candidate Roy Moore, despite the fact that Moore has been accused of molesting minors. When asked why he endorsed Moore, Trump said, 'Us gross guys got to stick together.'"

Conan O'Brien: "Time magazine has published short list of nominees for person of the year, and it includes Colin Kaepernick, Donald Trump and Robert Mueller. And if it's a three-way tie, that's going to be one awkward photo shoot."

Jordan Klepper: "Obstruction of justice because of a tweet? If anything on Twitter mattered, we'd have already started a hashtag war with North Korea."

Jordan Klepper: "So why would we cover the President's potential crimes when we haven't even investigated a failed candidate's potential crimes yet? We need to focus on the real criminal: a private citizen who isn't in power! Trump gets it!"

Jordan Klepper: "As the deadline drew near, [GOP senators] filled the margins [of the tax bill] with handwritten notes, a personal touch the ungrateful Democrats failed to appreciate."

Jordan Klepper: "Republicans love this bill. Even Santa loves this bill, and why wouldn't he? He lives in a red state and runs a global corporation fueled by cheap labor."

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- Scranton (PA) Times Tribune: Steamtown Stamp Featured In 2018 Edition Of National Park Collectors' Series.
- Rapid City (SD) Journal: Upgrades To Devils Tower Will Improve Visitor Experience, Park Officials Say.
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- St. George (UT) News: Bighorn Sheep Captured By Helicopter In Zion To Be Moved Out Of The Park.
- Helena (MT) Independent Record: Yellowstone Bighorns Disfigured By Virus.
- Associated Press: Leader Named For Knife River Indian Villages Historic Site.
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- Virgin Islands Daily News: Governor, Senate Remain On Collision Course Over Burning Debris.
- Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR): Employee Health Insurance Cost-Share To Remain Unchanged At 35 Percent, But Premiums Will Increase.
- Marianas Variety: New Military Office Reaches Out To Community.
- Fiji Times: \$4 Million ADB Grant.
- Peace Corps: Peace Corps To Phase Out Of The Federated States Of Micronesia And The Republic Of Palau.
- Egypt Today: Egypt-sponsored UN Resolutions Deny Israeli Ties To Jerusalem.
- ACN Newswire: BSCC And NEC Announce The Completion Of A New Submarine Cable Linking The Republic Of Palau.

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DOI In The News

Zinke, House GOP Escalate Feud With Patagonia Over Monuments.

The [AP](#) (12/11, Daly) reports that Interior Secretary Zinke and House Republicans have stepped up their feud with outdoor retailer Patagonia after the company told Americans that President Trump "stole your land" by shrinking two national monuments in Utah. The House Natural Resources Committee said in a tweet that Patagonia is "lying" and seeking "to sell more products to wealthy elitist urban dwellers from New York to San Francisco." The committee also sent an email with the subject line, "Patagonia: don't buy it." According to a spokesman, the email "was not urging a boycott of Patagonia, but rather was telling consumers, 'Don't buy the lies' about Trump's plan." Zinke said the company is lying about Trump's action and "re-tweeted the committee post on his official account." Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ), a member of the committee, "said Republicans were spending taxpayer money to attack a private company that criticized Trump."

The [Huffington Post](#) (12/11, Kaufman, D'Angelo) reports that Patagonia dismissed "Zinke's efforts to knock the company as 'Patagonia made in China' on Monday, saying the Trump administration is trying to deflect from its unpopular decision to open up huge chunks of protected land to potential industrial development, including uranium mining." Patagonia encourages "anyone who is interested in how our clothing is sourced to visit our website, where we thoroughly demonstrate our ethical standards," Patagonia spokeswoman Corley Kenna said.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (12/11, Grandoni).

Tribes: Monument Co-Management Proposal Is Slap In The Face.

The [AP](#) (12/11, Fonseca) reports that President Trump's decision to shrink Bears Ears National Monument "wasn't the only blow Native American tribes say they were dealt last week." The proclamation "also contained a little-known plan that changes the makeup of a tribal advisory commission for the remote monument filled with canyons, plateaus, rivers and rust-colored rock formations." According to the article, "it adds a county commissioner who is among the minority of Navajos to support Republicans in peeling back protections for the land."

By Renaming New Utah Monument Shash Jaa, Is Trump Trying To Divide Native American Tribes?

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/11, Maffly) reports that while reducing the Bears Ears National Monument, President Trump also renamed it "with the Navajo-language term for Bears Ears, a gesture that could be courting trouble with many Native Americans." Trump Administration officials "say renaming one of two new smaller monuments Shash Jaa reflects tribal spiritual and ancestral ties to that part of southern Utah's San Juan County, where Bears Ears Buttes rise over the landscape like twin beacons." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "Looking at the historical relevance, we thought that choosing a tribal name was important, and it's local. We consulted with Navajo that live in Utah and they asked for it. Certainly, I don't think anyone would object to having a native name rather than Bears Ears as the name of the monument." However, "according to Navajo Nation Attorney General Ethel Branch, who is leading the multiple tribe-backed lawsuit to halt the action, the Interior did not consult Navajo tribal officers about any aspect of Trump's proclamation establishing a diminished and renamed monument."

Week Ahead: House Jumps Into National Monuments Fight.

[The Hill](#) (12/11, Henry) reports that the House Natural Resources Committee will hold a hearing on Thursday to consider Rep. Chris Stewart's bill to turn the Grand-Staircase Escalante National Monument into a national park. Stewart's legislation "would turn part of the monument, which Trump formally shrank last Monday, into the Escalante Canyons Park and Preserve." The bill has the support of Rep. Rob Bishop, who chairs the Natural Resources Committee.

On Tap For Tuesday.

[The Hill](#) (12/11, Elis) reports that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will hold a hearing Tuesday "on the permitting process at the Interior Department and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for energy and resource infrastructure projects."

A Sudden Change In Ryan Zinke's Travel Plans Cost Taxpayers Nearly \$2,000, Documents Show.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/11, Eilperin) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "decision in April to change his travel plans for a fact-finding trip to Channel Islands National Park in California added nearly \$2,000 in costs when he left from Santa Barbara, Calif., where his wife owns a second home, according to emails sent among Interior Department officials." The emails, "obtained by the advocacy group Western Values Project under the Freedom of Information Act, show the extent to which National Park Service staff had to rearrange transportation to accommodate Zinke." In an interview Monday, Western Values Project Executive Director Chris Saeger "said the fact that government employees had to go to such lengths and that taxpayers incurred a higher bill suggests a broader problem at Interior." Saeger said, "This pattern of behavior is not just a problem for the people who are making the schedule changes. The influence they're exerting over leadership decisions at Interior is sloppy and ethically deficient."

California Wildfires Continue To Threaten Homes.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (12/11, story 5, 0:20, Glor) reported that "18,000 homes are threatened by the Thomas fire in Ventura County," California, as over 230,000 acres have already burned. [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/11, story 3, 2:15, Holt) reported that flames are "getting closer to million dollar mansions" owned by celebrities such as Ellen DeGeneres and Oprah. Helicopters

are flying a constant rotation to drop water on the flames. Some firefighters said that Monday was the first day that they felt like they made some progress.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/11, story 7, 1:45, Muir) reported that the area threatened by the Thomas fire hasn't had significant rainfall in more than 250 days, making lots of shrub in the area highly flammable. The fire has burned "more than 350 square miles in seven days." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/11, Carlton, Lazo) reports that the Santa Ana wind conditions are projected to end on or before Friday, which could aid firefighting efforts.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/11, Tchekmedyian, Wilkens) reports that evacuation orders for large parts of Fallbrook and Bonsall were lifted by Sunday night as containment of the Lilac fire hit 75%. "Turning a corner would be a good way to put it," said Capt. Jon Heggie of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. "It didn't grow at all today." Additionally, "all residents displaced by the Skirball fire...were allowed to return home."

Sage Grouse Leaders Say Debate Over The Bird Is Improving.

The [AP](#) (12/11) reports that Wyoming sage grouse leaders say discussions with the Interior Department are "improving after the announced review of the bird's protections caused dissonance." At a meeting last week, members of the state's Sage Grouse Implementation Team "say the discord is giving way to a collaborative approach." Team Chairman Bob Budd "says the federal plans can be improved, and the resulting hysteria was overblown."

A Look At Ryan Zinke's First Year As Interior Secretary.

In a review of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's first year in the Cabinet, the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (12/11, Lutey) highlights notable stories.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Meeting Focuses On Navajo Nation's Economic Future.

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (12/11, Smith) reports that "a public meeting on Tuesday will focus on economic development strategies for communities dependent on coal production on the Navajo Nation." According to the article, "changes include the future closure of the Navajo Generating Station in Page, Ariz., and the reduction in coal production at Navajo Mine." Comments "about the strategies will be collected to help improve the strategies and recommendations for possible implementation, meeting organizers say."

Bureau Of Land Management

U.S. Judge Warns Of Mistrial In Nevada Rancher Bundy's Trial.

[Reuters](#) (12/11) reports that on Monday, U.S. District Judge Gloria Navarro "warned that prosecutors' failure to produce documents that could support defense arguments may lead to a mistrial" in the "criminal conspiracy trial of Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy and three other men." Navarro "read a lengthy list of documents previously undisclosed by prosecutors that could be used to impeach government witnesses or otherwise bolster defense attorneys' arguments that their clients felt surrounded by government snipers prior to the standoff. Navarro then sent jurors home until Dec. 20 while the evidence issues are addressed." Navarro pointed out that "some of the prosecution's documents were produced so late they violated the federal evidence discovery rules...and as a result could lead her to strike witness testimony, call for a continuance or order a mistrial."

Also reporting are the [Washington Times](#) (12/11, Richardson), the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (12/11, Ferrara), and [KLAS-TV Las Vegas](#) Las Vegas (12/11, Murphy).

Two Dems Join Bill To Move BLM To West.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (12/12, Harmon) reports that Reps. Ed Perlmutter and Jared Polis have "thrown support behind legislation that would move the headquarters of the Bureau of Land Management to a Western state — and ultimately in Grand Junction." The lawmakers "signed on as cosponsors of the bill by Rep. Scott Tipton, a Cortez Republican, that would require the BLM to move its offices to one of the states in which it manages vast swaths of land." Perlmutter said, "Relocating BLM headquarters to the West would be a natural fit with the agency's mission and purview, and allow agency officials to be closer to the land and minerals

they oversee. I believe Colorado is well-positioned to house the BLM headquarters as Coloradans value our public lands and outdoor recreation.”

Officials Dedicate 2 Large Solar Electric Generating Plants.

The [AP](#) (12/11) reports that “two large solar-powered generating plants built near Las Vegas to power the operations of commercial data company Switch in northern and southern Nevada were dedicated Monday by elected, company and business officials.” Former Sen. Harry Reid was “among officials marking the occasion along with federal land managers, local elected officials, plant owner EDF Renewable Energy and builder First Solar Inc.” John Ruhs, director of the Bureau of Land Management in Nevada, noted that “the plants are the first utility-scale solar power plants to be built” in a BLM “Solar Energy Zone.”

Feds OK West Elk Coal Lease Expansion.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (12/12, Webb) reports that “the U.S. Forest Service has consented to two federal coal lease expansions that would let Arch Coal mine beneath about 1,700 acres in the Sunset Roadless Area in the upper North Fork Valley.” The decision, released Monday, “opens the door for the Bureau of Land Management to decide whether to modify the leases.” The bureau also is “evaluating whether to permit exploration on the leases if they are issued.”

Nevada’s Ash Springs Remains Closed As BLM Ponders Its Fate.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (12/11, Brean) reports that four years since shutting down the Ash Springs Recreation Site, the Bureau of Land Management still hasn’t decided on its fate. The BLM “cited concerns about public safety and environmental damage when it shut down the spring-fed swimming hole,” and “since then, public meetings have been held and plans have been floated to reopen the Ash Springs Recreation Site, but no one has been allowed back into the water.” Shirley Johnson, an assistant field manager for the bureau’s Caliente field office, “said the BLM is nearly finished with a draft environmental assessment for the site, though she declined to predict when the document might be released for public review.” According to the article, “the latest hang-up involves a privately owned parcel between the recreation site and U.S. 93.” Johnson “said the parcel turned out to be larger than the BLM initially thought, complicating the agency’s plan to build a new access road from the highway to the federally owned portion of the spring area.”

Mining Rights Group Fights BLM Road Closure In California.

The [Canada Free Press](#) (12/11, Jones) reports on the “fight for mineral rights on public lands in the western Mojave Desert.” The article notes, “Mineral development is an important land use within the BLM’s multiple-use mandate. In communities across the country, mining provides jobs, economic activity and important commodities that are essential to maintain a high quality of life.” According to the article, “In an alleged attempt to illegally block small-scale gold miners from accessing their mining claims, the Bureau of Land Management has erected ‘ROUTE CLOSED’ signs near Barstow, Calif.” Over the last several year, the BLM “has been under court order to re-evaluate route closures on public lands in the WEMO planning area,” or the West Mojave Plan, which is a “BLM Travel and Transportation Management plan covering 9.24 million acres in the West Mojave area of the California desert, of which 3.1 million acres are public lands managed by the BLM.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Trump To Open The Door For Oil Drilling Off U.S.’s East Coast.

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/11, Dlouhy) cites “people familiar with the plan” who said that the Administration “is preparing to unveil as soon as this week an expansive offshore oil plan that would open the door to selling new drilling rights in Atlantic waters.” President Trump ordered the Interior Department “to write the new blueprint with the aim of auctioning oil and gas drilling rights off the U.S. East Coast.” The “coming draft proposal...dovetails with the oil industry’s push for new places to drill, said the people, who asked not to be identified before a formal announcement.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

Progress On New Binational Drought Plan In Colorado Basin Slow Going.

[Cronkite News](#) (12/11, Windes) reports that “states, federal and Mexican officials hailed a binational agreement this fall that they said could lead to a radical shift in how the region prepares for and responds to drought.” However, “three months later, they appear no closer to a drought contingency plan, as negotiations have pitted states and water districts against one another, as the U.S. tries to hammer out details of the plan.” According to the article, “disagreements between states, namely Arizona and California over who would take cuts, as well as conflicts within the states have stalled any draft from moving forward.”

Negotiations Begin For ‘Water Exchange’ Key To The Lake Powell Pipeline.

[KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (12/11, Kessler) reports that “negotiations between state and federal officials began Monday at the Dixie Center St. George looking to give Utah access to water from Lake Powell in exchange for some of its existing access to Colorado River water via the Green River in Wyoming.” Representatives of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Utah Division of Water Resources and Washington County Water Conservancy District “gathered at the Dixie Center for the first of a series of meetings focused on hashing out what they called a water exchange contract.” The objective of “the exchange is to allow Utah the ability to draw water directly from Lake Powell for the Lake Powell Pipeline rather than drawing it from the Green River below the Flaming Gorge Dam.”

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Scott Angelle Outlines Path To Oil Industry Recovery.

The [Houma \(LA\) Courier](#) (12/11, Boudreaux) reports that Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement director Scott Angelle spoke Monday “in Gray about what the Trump administration is doing to jump start Gulf of Mexico drilling.” At a joint meeting of the Bayou Industrial Group and the South Central Industrial Association, “Angelle described the administration’s ‘six-step path’ to revitalizing the nation’s offshore oil industry through a mix of streamlining regulations and creating a partnership between the federal government and the industry.” He said, “We’ve gone from an era of scarcity to an era of abundance pretty quick like for any generation of Americans. We have to move from the 1980s goal of energy independence to the 2017 goal and beyond of something called energy dominance. ... We’ve gotta follow the path toward that goal.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

FWS Seeks Input On Montana Grizzly Bear Habitat.

The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (12/11, Puckett) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Monday “published draft habitat criteria for the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem (NCDE) grizzly bear.” The FWS is “seeking information from state, tribal, and federal partners, the scientific community, non-governmental organizations and members of the public on the proposed habitat criteria to ensure that the agency is using the best available science to recover the NCDE grizzly bear, the agency announced.” The public has until Jan. 26 to comment.

Controlled Burn To Be Conducted Tuesday In Refuge Near Lacombe.

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (12/11, Chatelain) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Tuesday will “conduct a controlled burn of about 60 acres of the Big Branch National Wildlife Refuge near Lacombe to remove invasive plants and help restore native marsh grass.” The area to be burned is located on the east end of Lake Road.

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (12/12) and [WGNO-TV](#) New Orleans (12/11).

Trees Could Die At Higher Rates In West As World Warms.

The [New York Times](#) (12/11, Robbins) reports that new projections indicate that “ponderosa pine and pinyon forests in the American West will die at an increasing rate as the world grows warmer, becoming less and less resilient when they are weakened by higher temperatures.” “Long droughts are what it takes to kill trees,” said Dr. Henry Adams, a plant biologist at Oklahoma State University. “As you crank up the heat though, the time it takes to kill trees is less and less.”

Reward Boosted To \$20K In Search For Killer Of Two Washington Wolves.

The [San Juan \(WA\) Islander](#) (12/11) reports that the Center for Biological Diversity and Cascadia Wildlands on Monday "increased a reward to \$20,000 for information leading to conviction in the killing of two wolves last month in northeast Washington." The groups also called on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "to step up its law enforcement efforts to investigate poaching incidents in both Washington and Oregon."

National Park Service

Schumer Backs Historic Status For East Side Redevelopment.

The [Buffalo \(NY\) News](#) (12/11, Zremski) reports that Sen. Charles E. Schumer on Monday called on the National Park Service "to approve the former Niagara Machine and Tool Works Factory on Buffalo's East Side as a historic property so that the Northland Corridor Redevelopment Project can cash in on a key tax break before it is curtailed or rescinded." Pacing the factory on the National Register of Historic Places "would qualify it for \$16 million in historic preservation tax credits, which, Schumer said, would spur the property's redevelopment into a job training center." Schumer also "noted that the tax credit may be eliminated in the pending tax reform bill, meaning the National Park Service would have to approve new historic designations by the end of the year for them to qualify for the tax credit."

Tax Breaks Sought For Whitney Lofts Project In Syracuse.

The [Syracuse \(NY\) Post-Standard](#) (12/11, Moriarty) reports that "developers are seeking tax breaks for a \$4.3 million transformation of two downtown Syracuse buildings into apartments and a 'speakeasy'-style bar." Both buildings were "built in 1855 as part of a group of five buildings known as the Washington Stores and were added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2009." With the support of Sen. Charles Schumer, the developers are "seeking permission from the National Park Service to return the exterior facade of 321 S. Salina St. to its 1930s' look, which included large front windows on the upper three floors."

2017 Eclipse Showered Wyoming With Visitors And Money.

The [AP](#) (12/11, Moen) reports that "nearly 192,000 people traveled to Wyoming to view last summer's total solar eclipse, boosting the state's economy by an estimated \$63.5 million, according to an analysis released Monday by the state Tourism Office." Grand Teton National Park spokeswoman Denise Germann noted that "the eclipse was a record-breaking event" for the park, "where the weekend preceding the Aug. 21 eclipse and the day of the eclipse resulted in the 'busiest weekend in the history of the park.'"

Additional coverage was provided by [Skift](#) (12/11, Moen).

Flagler College To Lead Study Of Little-known Chapter In Castillo's History.

The [St. Augustine \(FL\) Record](#) (12/12, Jones) reports that the National Park Service, "in cooperation with Flagler College, has been allotted \$50,000 to study the tribal heritage of the Castillo." According to a news release from the Interior Department, the park service, along with Flagler College professors and students, will conduct "much needed research on tribal perspectives of the imprisonments, develop collaborative interpretive and scholarly programs for the general public, and develop opportunities to use Native American art as a way to present these tribal perspectives."

Steamtown Stamp Featured In 2018 Edition Of National Park Collectors' Series.

The [Scranton \(PA\) Times Tribune](#) (12/11, Bolus) reports that "for the first time in the Steamtown National Historic Site's 32 years, the park will appear on collectors' stamps sold across the National Park System." The Passport To Your National Parks 2018 Regional Stamp Set "now features Steamtown as its 2018 Mid-Atlantic Regional Stamp." Steamtown Superintendent Debbie Conway said, "It brings more awareness. There are a lot of people who definitely have their national park passport wherever they go."

Upgrades To Devils Tower Will Improve Visitor Experience, Park Officials Say.

The [Rapid City \(SD\) Journal](#) (12/11, Nesbitt) reports that the National Park Service "announced last week that it is planning a number of upgrades to Devils Tower National Monument that will improve accessibility and visitor experience." The article notes that "the most significant is a new

accessible approach to the 1.3-mile-long Tower Trail, which winds around the base of the tower." Additional improvements "include new interpretive exhibits along the Tower Trail, an interpretive plaza and accessible walkways to the trailhead and visitor center."

Asphalt Removal Project Cleans Up Gulf Islands National Seashore.

The [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (12/11, Gabriel) reports that workers on Monday cleaned up asphalt debris from the sands at Gulf Islands National Seashore. According to the article, a 37-worker crew is "tasked with clearing miles of weathered road and parking lot debris from the national park." The article notes that "the multi-year project is being funded with \$10.85 million in environmental restitution money paid by oil giant BP in the aftermath of the 2010 Gulf Coast oil spill."

Bighorn Sheep Captured By Helicopter In Zion To Be Moved Out Of The Park.

The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (12/11, Witham) reports that "in November, 17 bighorn sheep were captured and GPS-collared in Zion National Park to monitor population density." It was part of "an effort to reduce the risk of a catastrophic pneumonia outbreak." According to the article, "a number of sheep from the herd in Zion will be captured beginning Tuesday and transplanted to the San Juan County area to bolster the sheep herd there, while also reducing density of the Zion herd and promoting genetic diversity of animals throughout the state."

Yellowstone Bighorns Disfigured By Virus.

The [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (12/11) reports that "some bighorn sheep in Yellowstone National Park may be frightening visitors with their freakishly scabbed lips blamed on an outbreak of sore mouth disease, but wildlife biologists aren't too worried." According to the article, "also known as contagious ecthyma, the outbreak is caused by the parapoxvirus." The virus is "transmittable to humans who have direct contact with infected sheep, so the National Park Service is reminding people not to approach or touch any wildlife."

Leader Named For Knife River Indian Villages Historic Site.

The [AP](#) (12/11) reports that the National Park Service has named Brenda Todd as the new superintendent for the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. Todd, a 10-year veteran of the park service, is currently the program manager at the Public Lands History Center at Colorado State University. She starts her new duties Feb. 4.

Buffalo National River Superintendent Kevin Cheri Announces Retirement.

The [Harrison \(AR\) Daily Times](#) (12/11) reports that Buffalo National River Superintendent Kevin Cheri is "being recognized for exceptional leadership in the National Park Service and will be presented with the Regional Director's Award for Outstanding Service." The NPS will hold a ceremony at the Durand Center on Tuesday, Dec. 12.

Office Of Insular Affairs

Interior Gives Bikini Leaders Powers Over Resettlement Trust Fund.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (12/4) reports that Interior assistant secretary for Insular Areas Doug Domenech has "authorized full decision-making powers for the mayor and Council of the Kili-Bikini-Ejit local government in the Republic of the Marshall Islands over the annual budget of the Bikini Resettlement Trust Fund for and on behalf of the people of Kili, Bikini, and Ejit atolls." Domenech said, "One of Interior Secretary Zinke's priorities is to restore trust and ensure that sovereignty means something. Today, we recognize the leadership role and responsibility for which the people of Bikini have elected the mayor and council leaders and henceforth, will defer to them to fully assume a decision-making role over the Resettlement Trust Fund. It is appropriate that decision-making for the well-being of the people of Bikini be transferred to people of Bikini, rather than be dependent upon policy makers in Washington, D.C. However, our decision today in no way precludes any future consultations between our offices, as partners, for the benefit of the people of Bikini."

[Marianas Variety](#) (12/5, Johnson) reports that in a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Sen. Lisa Murkowski "rebuked Interior for the unilateral decision to wash its hands of trust fund management that she said she learned of 'via a press release.'" According to the article, Murkowski has "already drafted legislation that she said will be introduced into the U.S. Senate in

January to 'provide a reasonable limit on withdrawals from the Fund each year.'" Murkowski told Zinke she was concerned "that the department will not meet its legal and fiduciary obligations with respect to the expenditure of U.S. taxpayer dollars from the Fund for the rehabilitation and resettlement of Bikini Atoll for the benefit of its people."

Earthquake Strikes Near Micronesia And US Guam: Massive Quake Rocks Ring Of Fire.

The [Daily Express \(UK\)](#) (12/7, Stinson) reports that "a massive 6.6 magnitude earthquake has struck near the coast of the US territory of Guam, along the Pacific's Ring Fire, according to the US Geological Survey (USGS)." The quake "occurred near the Yap Trench between the Philippines and the US' Mariana Islands with a depth of 45km at 12.22am GMT." No damage or casualties were reported.

Pallone Holds Roundtable After Trip To Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands.

[My Central Jersey](#) (12/4) reports that Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. "met with local advocates and leaders Monday in the city to discuss his Energy and Commerce Committee Delegation weekend trip to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands." Pallone also sought comments "from the advocates on the ongoing post-Hurricane Maria recovery." According to the article, "Pallone's concerns include access to clean drinking water, the restoration of reliable power and the rebuilding of the electric grid, access to healthcare, and ensuring proper use of government funds."

Mapp: Virgin Islanders Deserve Same Aid As Other Americans.

The [St. Thomas Source](#) (12/5, Leonard) reports that Gov. Kenneth Mapp "said Monday that he urged visiting members of the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce to treat residents of the U.S. Virgin Islands and other U.S. territories the same as all other American citizens." Mapp said "the visit will motivate Congress to increase the \$20 million per fiscal year cap placed on the emergency fund allocated to the territories of Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the U.S. Virgin Islands cumulatively."

Governor, Senate Remain On Collision Course Over Burning Debris.

The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (12/7, O'Connor) reports that "elected officials remain at odds over how to dispose of thousands of cubic yards of trees, plants, shrubs, and other detritus strewn about by the 2017 hurricanes." Gov. Kenneth Mapp "issued a statement Wednesday afternoon saying he would stay the course for burning some of what officials have labeled vegetative debris, echoing statements made at his Monday press conference." Meanwhile, "senators voted 10-2 on Friday to ban the burning of vegetative debris in the territory."

Employee Health Insurance Cost-Share To Remain Unchanged At 35 Percent, But Premiums Will Increase.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (12/11) reports that "the percentage of employee contributions to the V.I. government's health insurance contract with Cigna will remain the same at 65/35 cost-share, thanks to Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which forestalled contract negotiations, Senator Kurt Vialet said during a Committee on Finance hearing on Wednesday, where the committee received testimony from Cigna officials." Governor Kenneth Mapp's "2018 budget had called for a 60/40 split." But Vialet said, "As a result of the hurricanes and a rollover budget, the cost-share has remained the same."

New Military Office Reaches Out To Community.

[Marianas Variety](#) (12/6, Lirio) reports that "Northern Marianas College students were introduced last week to the CNMI Joint Region Marianas Coordination Office or CJCO headed by Randel Sablan." He told students, "The CNMI area is in the Mariana Islands Range Complex which means training activities happen here. So it is important that we coordinate with the local government and the local community."

\$4 Million ADB Grant.

The [Fiji Times](#) (12/9) reports that "the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is providing a \$US2 million (\$F4m) grant to help reduce the Marshall Islands' consumption of fossil fuels and increase renewable electricity generation in the country." The Majuro Power Network Strengthening Project will be "financed by an ADB-supported Pacific Renewable Energy Investment Facility approved in June."

Peace Corps To Phase Out Of The Federated States Of Micronesia And The Republic Of Palau.

The [Peace Corps](#) (12/11) "announced it is officially phasing out of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and Republic of Palau after many years of partnership." The phase out is "due to operational and infrastructure challenges in areas ranging from vast geographic distances, medical care and transportation, and recurring staff vacancies."

Egypt-sponsored UN Resolutions Deny Israeli Ties To Jerusalem.

[Egypt Today](#) (12/6, Maguid) reports that "the United Nations General Assembly voted overwhelmingly in favor of two Egyptian draft resolutions submitted to the UN Security Council, declaring Israel's actions in the Syrian Golan and East Jerusalem 'null and void.'" The article notes that "the Assembly issued the resolution with 151 votes in favor, while six members, including Canada, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Nauru, United States, and Israel itself rejected it." Meanwhile, "nine member states abstained, including Australia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Honduras, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, South Sudan and Togo."

BSCC And NEC Announce The Completion Of A New Submarine Cable Linking The Republic Of Palau.

On [ACN Newswire](#) (12/8), Belau Submarine Cable Corporation and NEC Corporation announced "that the construction of a new submarine cable linking the Republic of Palau has been completed and is now ready for commercial service." The Palau Spur "interconnects with the existing SEA-US submarine cable (which connects the Philippines and Indonesia to the west coast of the United States via Guam and Hawaii) from a branching unit located between the Philippines and Guam."

The Palau Pledge: Pacific Island Forces Visitors To Sign Eco-promise.

The [South China Morning Post \(HKG\)](#) (12/8) reports that visitors to Palau are "being made to sign a promise to respect the environment, in an innovative move that authorities hope will curb ecological damage caused by the booming number of tourists." The "Palau Pledge" is "stamped onto visitors' passports and must be signed upon arrival in the country."

President Moon Calls For Enhanced Ties With Pacific Island Nations.

The [Korea Herald](#) (12/5) reports that South Korean President Moon Jae-in "called for efforts to expand his country's cooperation with Pacific island countries Tuesday to jointly tackle climate change and other various global issues." Moon "had a brief meeting with foreign ministers from 13 Pacific island countries, including Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu, Nauru and Vanuatu, at the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae." Moon also "called for increased high-level dialogue between South Korea and the countries."

Office Of Surface Mining

Trump's Chosen Regulator An Unabashed Coal Booster.

[E&E Publishing](#) (12/11, Brown) reports that "Kentucky mining engineer Steven Gardner, who holds strong pro-coal views, has been nominated to lead the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement." Gardner "believes mountaintop mining is good because it creates flat land," and "he questions humans' role in climate change and has said there is 'no such thing as renewable energy.'" Gardner likely will be confirmed, "but environmentalists are fighting what they call a 'fox to guard the henhouse' with other Trump picks like U.S. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt."

US Geological Survey

Federal Geologists To Reevaluate North Dakota Oil Potential.

The [AP](#) (12/11, MacPherson) reports that, according to Sen. John Hoeven, federal geologists with the US Geological Survey agreed on Monday to reevaluate the volumes of recoverable crude oil within the state of North Dakota. Hoeven and officials in the industry "requested the new assessment...saying it would likely attract investment by showing stronger production potential." The aim for Hoeven and the industry officials is for "the USGS to take into account 17 other

formations in western North Dakota's oil patch that could be exploited using technology developed for the Bakken and the Three Forks directly beneath it."

The [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (12/11, Holdman) reports that the USGS "will conduct a new resource estimate for the Williston Basin." Acting USGS Director William Werkheiser traveled to Bismarck in August, which is when Hoeven pushed for the reevaluation. Meanwhile, the "USGS is operating with funding under a continuing resolution from Congress" and "Walter Guidroz, program coordinator for the USGS Energy Resources Program, said the timeline for the re-assessment is" unclear.

Additional Reading.

- ***U.S. House Committee To Hold Hearing On Grand Canyon Uranium Mining Ban.*** [KNAU-FM Flagstaff, AZ](#) (12/11, Heinsius).
- ***Assemblyman Ra Attends Hearing Regarding Water Quality Infrastructure Act Of 2017.*** [Long Island \(NY\)](#) (12/11).

Opinion Pieces

Trump Is Being Sued To Stop Him From Shrinking Bears Ears National Monument By 85 Percent.

Who Will Win? In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (12/11, Curry, Reid), Todd A. Curry, an assistant professor of political science at University of Texas at El Paso, and Rebecca A. Reid, an assistant professor of political science at the University of Texas at El Paso, analyze the lawsuit filed by five tribes over the reduction in Bears Ears National Monument. The authors point out that "legal studies show that when two parties face off in court, the one with the most financial resources and experience is more likely to win." By using "text analysis software to identify all judicial cases involving indigenous people in state supreme courts between 1995 and 2010," they found that "in the 16 that dealt with environmental issues, the tribes prevailed about 50 percent of the time." The authors note that "tribes vary in their likelihood of prevailing in court based on what kind of opponents they faced — and what kind of resources those opponents had." According to the authors, "indigenous groups fared well against individuals and businesses, with relatively little disparity in resources between the parties." However, "when they faced government parties, indigenous peoples lost the majority of the time."

Trump's Destruction Of National Monuments Is Unethical And Short-Sighted.

In an op-ed for the [Huffington Post](#) (12/11, Cohen), Steven Cohen, Executive Director of Columbia University's Earth Institute, believes that "in the long run, many of the Trump Administration's policies will be reversed since they do not reflect mainstream America's culture and values." However, Cohen warns that "Trump's effort to open up lands preserved as national monuments, on the other hand, may well be irreversible." While "Trump and his allies" only value "money, the economy, and jobs," Cohen asserts that "preservation of these lands is a moral issue, not a political, legal or economic issue."

Additional Reading.

- ***President Gives Away Public Lands To Special Interests.*** [Wichita Falls \(TX\) Times Record News](#) (12/11, Morrill).
- ***Trump Needs To Stick To His Commitment To Honor The Legacy Of Theodore Roosevelt.*** [Harrisburg \(PA\) Patriot-News](#) (12/11, Thornton).
- ***It's About Time To Allow Multiple Use Of Federal Land.*** [Montana Standard](#) (12/11, Krizan).
- ***Chris Morrill: Public Lands Shouldn't Feed Private Interests.*** [La Crosse \(WI\) Tribune](#) (12/12, Morrill).
- ***Connolly: Cantwell Calls For Probe On Interior Secretary Zinke's \$14K In Helicopter Flights.*** [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (12/11, Connolly).
- ***Editorial: The Timeless Significance Of Constitution Hall.*** [Topeka \(KS\) Capital-Journal](#) (12/11).
- ***National Park Service Plan To Kill Bison In Grand Canyon Unneeded, Unwarranted.*** [Wisconsin Gazette](#) (12/11, Pacelle).
- ***Refuge Notebook: Alaska Wild Sheep And Goats Threatened By 'Movi'.*** [Kenai \(AK\) Peninsula Clarion](#) (12/11, Watts).

What Trump's Supreme Court Pick Holds For Indian Country. [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (12/11, Smith).

- *Burning Vegetative Debris Is Foolish.* [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (12/12, Parten).

Top National News

White House Says Stricter Immigration Policies Would Lessen Odds Of Domestic Attacks.

The White House linked the immigration reform debate to the failed Monday morning suicide bombing in Manhattan, arguing that the restrictions that President Trump has championed would reduce the chances of such attacks. [Fox News Special Report](#) (12/11) reported that suspect Akayed Ullah came to the US from Bangladesh in 2011 on a family visa and "benefited from the extended family chain migration program...a practice the Trump Administration has been critical of." [USA Today](#) (12/11, Jackson) reports that the White House "called for tighter restrictions on immigration." Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said, "We must protect our borders, we must ensure that individuals entering our country are not coming to do harm to people, and we must move to a merit-based immigration system."

The [AP](#) (12/12, Hajela) reports that the President later said in a statement, "America must fix its lax immigration system, which allows far too many dangerous, inadequately vetted people to access our country. Today's terror suspect entered our country through extended-family chain migration, which is incompatible with national security." Ullah came from Bangladesh in February 2011 with an F-43 family immigrant visa and is now a legal permanent resident. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/11, Bennett, Bierman) reports that the President called the F-43 policy "incompatible with national security."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/11, Quinn) reports that Attorney General Sessions also weighed in, saying, "The President is exactly correct about the changes we need to our immigration system. We have now seen two terrorist attacks in New York City in less than two months carried out by people who came here as a result of our failed immigration policies that do not serve the national interest – the diversity lottery and chain migration."

House Homeland Security Chairman Mike McCaul said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (12/11) that the attack "makes us realize" that while "we defeated ISIS in Iraq and Afghanistan...they have lived elsewhere." But Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MS), the ranking Democrat on the House Homeland Security Committee, said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (12/11) that the US already has a "robust immigration system." He also addressed chain migration, saying that "part of that...is family unification. ... We are trying to keep families together, not separate" them.

The [Washington Times](#) (12/11, Dinan) reports, "It's the second attack on New York in recent weeks involving someone who entered under an immigration program the president and some Republicans have proposed trimming. The man accused of running down eight people on a bicycle path in October was admitted under the Diversity Visa Lottery." [Reuters](#) (12/11), [Bloomberg News](#) (12/11, Epstein), [Politico](#) (12/11, McCaskill), and [The Hill](#) (12/11, Easley) also report on the statements by Trump and Sanders.

Attacker Says He Was Inspired By ISIS. All three broadcast networks opened their newscasts with the attack. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/11, lead story, 4:00, Muir) reported that Ullah struck "a Times Square subway tunnel at the height of the commute," leading to "a massive police and fire response shutting down Times Square." ABC's Gio Benitez: "The attack striking the heart of New York City in the middle of this morning's rush hour. A law enforcement source tells ABC News the suspect had been on the train for some time, the bomb strapped to him the whole time from Brooklyn to Manhattan." The [CBS Evening News](#) (12/11, lead story, 3:15, Glor) reported, "Police say that a bomb strapped to a would-be suicide bomber blew up in a pedestrian walkway at the biggest transit hub in the city." CBS' DeMarco Morgan: "Authorities say at 7:20 a.m., the terror suspect, 27-year-old Akayed Ullah, set off the bomb in an underground pedestrian tunnel just two blocks from New York's Times Square." NYPD Commissioner James O'Neill: "A preliminary investigation at the scene of the case indicates, this male was wearing an improvised, low-tech explosive device attached to his body. He intentionally detonated that device." On [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/11, lead story, 2:45, Holt), Stephanie Gosk reported, "Moments after the blast, the would-be suicide bomber could be seen on the ground, burns to his body. Commuters scattered for cover between Times Square and the bustling Port Authority bus station."

The [New York Times](#) (12/11, Bromwich, Rosenthal) reports, "Soon after the explosion was

reported, New Yorkers' work day exploded into chaos. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority reported that 1, 2, 3, A, C, E, N, Q, R, W and 7 trains were skipping 42nd Street." The [AP](#) (12/11, Long) reports that "in the end, the only serious wounds were to" Ullah, though "three people suffered headaches and ringing ears from the first bomb blast in the subway in more than two decades." Mayor Bill de Blasio said, "This was an attempted terrorist attack. Thank God the perpetrator did not achieve his ultimate goals." The [Washington Post](#) (12/11, Berman, Bever, Wang, Barrett) reports that Ullah "sustained burns and lacerations to his hands and abdomen, authorities said. Police said he was taken to Bellevue Hospital for treatment and then taken into custody."

[USA Today](#) (12/11, Johnson, Bacon, McCoy) reports that according to "a law enforcement official," Ullah "told investigators that he specifically timed the assault to coincide with the Christmas season for the greatest possible impact – lashing out in the name of" ISIS. The [New York Post](#) (12/11) reports that Ullah "told authorities he was trying to exact vengeance for decades of violence against Muslims in Gaza, Syria and Iraq. ... He told cops he was inspired by ISIS, but police don't believe he had any direct contact with the group." The [New York Daily News](#) (12/11) reports that Ullah "told police he detonated the bomb after seeing a Christmas poster."

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/11, story 2, 1:50, Muir), Linsey Davis reported that Ullah "did not say specifically why he chose Times Square but indicated to authorities he had consumed ISIS and Al Qaeda propaganda, which mentioned Times Square as a possible venue for attack. ISIS releasing this chilling image just a few weeks ago. A picture of Santa standing next to a box of dynamite in Times Square, and a threat: 'We meet at Christmas in New York soon.'" On the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/11, story 2, 1:45, Glor), Jeff Pegues reported that "investigators are trying to determine who else might have known about Ullah's plan to detonate a bomb this morning."

The [New York Times](#) (12/11, Feuer) reports, "On the surface, Akayed Ullah seemed to be an ordinary member of a Bangladeshi enclave in Brooklyn," and his actions left behind "a trail of mystery that baffled those who knew him." Mohammad Yousuf, who prayed at the same mosque as Ullah, said, "He was a good guy. I can't believe he would do anything like this."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/11, Kanno-Youngs, West, Berger) headlines its report "Botched Suicide Bombing Jolts New York Rush Hour, Injures Four." [Reuters](#) (12/11) and [Bloomberg News](#) (12/11, Goldman, Holman) also report on the attack.

Ullah's Family Criticizes Law Enforcement Tactics. The [New York Post](#) (12/11) reports that Ullah's family "said they were 'heartbroken' by the attack on Monday and blasted law enforcement agencies for what they claimed were heavy-handed tactics by investigators." In a statement, the family said, "We are heartbroken by the violence that was targeted at our city today and by the allegations being made against a member of our family. But we're also outraged by the behavior of the law enforcement officials who held children as small as 4 years old out in the cold and who pulled a teenager out of high school classes to interrogate him without lawyer, without his parents."

New York Has Largely Been Spared Successful "Lone Wolf" Attacks. [USA Today](#) (12/11, Tate) reports that "though authorities have become more adept at identifying and preventing potential terrorist attacks in the years since 2001, lone individuals continue to be one of the most vexing security threats." The story notes that "in other cities around the world, terrorists have successfully detonated explosive devices in subways, train stations and on buses. At least so far, no terrorist attack on the scale of Madrid in 2004 or London in 2005 has been accomplished in New York since 2001." But "just six weeks ago...a 29-year-old Uzbek national drove a rented truck at high speed down a recreational path in lower Manhattan, killing eight people," and in May, "a man drove a car into a crowd of people in Times Square, killing one person."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/11) says in an editorial that New York has simply been lucky that none of these attacks have been worse, and that surveillance must be expanded. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/11, story 2, 1:50, Holt), ex-NYPD Commissioner Bill Bratton said, "Being quite honest with you, I'm surprised we don't have more of those lone wolf types of attacks."

New Yorkers Carried On With Day As Usual. On its front page, the [New York Times](#) (12/11, A1, Dwyer) looks at how the city carried on with its usual business on Monday morning, and the [New York Times](#) (12/11) says in an editorial that "the city barely blinked after the morning rush-hour blast. ... No doubt, the communal reaction would have been more frantic had the toll been higher. But the normal rhythms of the city paused only briefly. New Yorkers have become quite adept at keeping their composure."

Three Women Who Have Accused Trump Of Sexual Misconduct Make Joint Appearances.

All three broadcast networks reported on the first joint public appearance of several of the women who have accused President Trump of sexual harassment and assault in the years before his election. The [AP](#) (12/11, Miller) and [Reuters](#) (12/11) report that the three appeared in [a lengthy segment](#) on NBC's Megyn Kelly Today before appearing at a news conference. The networks showed clips of their allegations in detail. While the White House calls the allegations "false" and says they have already been addressed, five senators are now calling on Trump to resign.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/11, story 4, 3:30, Muir) reported that "amid the national conversation about sexual misconduct, President Trump's accusers are now demanding that Congress act, arguing that the President should not be immune." ABC's Cecilia Vega: "They say no one cared the first time. So today, three women accusing President Trump of sexual misconduct went public once again, hoping, this time, Congress will investigate. Rachel Crooks was a Trump Tower receptionist when she says, 12 years ago, she introduced herself to the billionaire businessman and he began kissing her." Crooks: "Mr. Trump repeatedly kissed my cheeks, and ultimately my lips in an encounter that has since impacted my life well beyond the initial occurrence." Vega: "Jessica Leeds says she was on a first class flight to New York back in the 1980s when he groped her. ... And Samantha Holvey says Donald Trump inappropriately inspected Miss USA contestants before a 2006 pageant." Holvey: "These dreams never included a man coming into the backstage, hair and makeup area, while I sat naked under a robe, as he walked around, looking at us like we were his property." Vega: "And she points to his own words to Howard Stern." Trump in 2005: "I tell you, the funniest is that I'll go backstage before a show, and everyone's getting dressed and ready and everything else, and, you know, no men are anywhere, and I'm allowed to go in, because I'm the owner of the pageant, and therefore, I'm inspecting it, 'Is everybody okay?' And you see these incredible-looking women, and so I sort of get away with things like that."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/11, story 9, 2:00, Glor), Jim Axelrod reported, "They have all told their stories before. ... But hoping to find more traction in the #Me Too moment...they're telling them again in a new documentary '16 Women And Donald Trump.' What's the consequence you would like to see?" Crooks: "I believe that they would find enough proof to show that he had had this misconduct, and he's not fit for office, quite frankly." However, [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/11, story 4, 2:10, Holt) reported that "the White House says it's all political theater." White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders: "Look, the President has addressed these accusations directly and denied all of these allegations. And this took place long before he was elected to be president, and the people of this country had a decisive election, supported President Trump." Crooks: "I don't understand that. Does that mean they're admitting, yeah, he might have done it, but it doesn't matter because the voters decided?"

The [New York Times](#) (12/11, Shear) reports that their effort "to attract new attention to the allegations comes amid rapidly shifting attitudes in American society about the need to hold men accountable for their treatment of women, even for acts perpetrated long ago." [USA Today](#) (12/11, Przybyla) writes that "in the immediate aftermath" of Sen. Al Franken's announcement that he would resign, "Democrats began to draw a contrast with the GOP and Trump in particular. Republicans may also soon be welcoming to their conference Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore, who is accused by nine women of inappropriate touching or misconduct."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/11, Ballhaus) reports that the White House responded in a statement, saying, "These false claims, totally disputed in most cases by eyewitness accounts, were addressed at length during last year's campaign, and the American people voiced their judgment by delivering a decisive victory. The timing and absurdity of these false claims speaks volumes, and the publicity tour that has begun only further confirms the political motives behind them." The [Huffington Post](#) (12/11, Frej, Vagianos, Miller) reports that Crooks "called the statement 'laughable.'" [Politico](#) (12/11, Nelson, Lima) also covers the White House statement.

Jonathan Lemire of the [AP](#) (12/11) writes, "With each day seeming to bring new headlines that force men from positions of power, the movement to expose sexual harassment has forced an unwelcome conversation on the White House." To the President's "accusers, the rising #MeToo movement is an occasion to ensure he is at last held accountable." The [Washington Post](#) (12/11, Parker, Berman, Sellers) reports that "some outside Republicans close to the president said they are increasingly uneasy about his ability to withstand a revived spotlight on his behavior toward women," and "a number of Trump associates are also wary of the potential political costs if the president goes on a sustained attack against his accusers."

Matt Viser of the Boston Globe [tweeted](#), "President Trump has great empathy for any female accusers. Unless those accusers are the more than a dozen accusing him. In which case they are liars."

Trump Reportedly "Infuriated" By Haley Statement. [Axios](#) (12/11, Lawler) reports that according to the [AP](#), Trump "was 'infuriated' by UN Ambassador Nikki Haley's remark Sunday that the women accusing him of sexual assault and harassment 'should be heard'...White House advisers were 'stunned' by Haley's statement."

Gillibrand Becomes Fifth Senator To Call On Trump To Resign. [Politico](#) (12/11, Lima) reports that Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand became the fifth senator to call for Trump's resignation, telling CNN on Monday, "President Trump should resign. These allegations are credible; they are numerous. I've heard these women's testimony, and many of them are heartbreaking." Sens. Cory Booker, Jeff Merkley, Bernie Sanders, and Ron Wyden have also called for Trump's resignation. [The Hill](#) (12/11, Beavers) reports that 56 female Democratic female lawmakers are also "calling on the House Oversight Committee to open an investigation" into the allegations.

Gillibrand [tweeted](#), "President Trump should resign. But, of course, he won't hold himself accountable. Therefore, Congress should investigate the multiple sexual harassment and assault allegations against him."

Merkley said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (12/11), "You have more than 40 senators who have called on Al Franken to step down. And when you think about that and compare his conduct with the President, the President has grabbed women's butts, he has grabbed their breasts, he has grabbed them on their genitals, he has bragged about doing so, he has pushed them up against walls, he walked in on multiple women when they were in various states of undress. And you combine these multiple stories that now I think there are more than 18 such stories, these are very, very consistent."

Trump To Pitch Tax Plan In Speech Wednesday.

[Reuters](#) (12/11) reports that the White House said Monday that President will deliver a speech Wednesday on the tax plan. Deputy Press Secretary Lindsay Walters said, "As we work with Congress to achieve historic tax cuts, the President plans to speak Wednesday to the American people on how tax reform will lead to a brighter future for them and their families." The [AP](#) (12/11, Gordon) says Trump "will try to sell the American people" on the "unpopular" plan.

Trump's planned speech comes as a Reuters/Ipsos poll released Monday found that "nearly half of Americans" still oppose the plan, [Reuters](#) (12/11) reports. According to the poll, 49% of adults who are aware of the plan "said they were opposed to it, a sentiment that has not changed much in the past few weeks." Meanwhile, "31 percent said they supported it and 20 percent said they 'don't know,' according to the online opinion poll of 1,499 adults conducted Dec. 3 to 7, with 1,138 adults saying they were aware of the tax legislation."

Bloomberg Analysis: Administration Overstates Its Record On Deregulation.

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/11, Levin, Hamilton) reports in an analysis that White House officials are "touting cuts to regulations as one of their top achievements." Bloomberg says "only a handful of regulations have actually been taken off the books," due to "laws that keep government policies from wildly swinging back and forth every time moving trucks show up at the White House." The Administration's claim is "based almost entirely on stopping proposed rules that haven't yet made their way through the machinery of government," but "a Bloomberg News review has found even those claims are exaggerated," as "hundreds of the pending regulations had been effectively shelved before Trump took office." Others "are actually still being developed by federal agencies," and some "were moot because the actions sought in a pending rule were already in effect." Bloomberg says the "findings undercut one of the signature assertions of an administration that has struggled to show progress on its major campaign promises."

Appeals Court Judges Skeptical Of Request To Dismiss Children's Climate Lawsuit.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/11, Dennis) reports that a three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals on Monday "expressed skepticism over the Trump administration's request to halt a high-profile climate change lawsuit brought by 21 children, which had been scheduled to begin early next year." An attorney for the federal government asked the judges "to effectively dismiss the lawsuit, claiming that the discovery requests in the case were 'burdensome' and that litigating the case could distract the executive branch from carrying out 'its constitutional duties.'" According to the Post, "the landmark lawsuit, initially filed in 2015 against the Obama administration, argues that the government's failure to act more aggressively to combat the effects of global warming amounts to a violation of the young plaintiffs' constitutional right to a clean environment."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Mr. Mnuchin’s Magical Math On Taxes.” Citing a Treasury Department analysis which says the GOP tax plan would pay for itself, the [New York Times](#) (12/11) says in an editorial that the “analytical support for a \$1.5 trillion, nearly 500-page piece of legislation is a 400-word note that boils down to ‘trust us.’”

“New Yorkers Don’t Scare Easily.” The [New York Times](#) (12/11) says in an editorial that “the city barely blinked” after Monday’s failed terror attack. The Times adds, “No doubt, the communal reaction would have been more frantic had the toll been higher. But the normal rhythms of the city paused only briefly. New Yorkers have become quite adept at keeping their composure.”

Washington Post.

“Susan Collins Is Wrong About The Tax Bill And Obamacare.” A [Washington Post](#) (12/11, Board) editorial calls the votes of Sens. Susan Collins, John McCain, and Lisa Murkowski for the tax bill “puzzling” since they “killed an Obamacare repeal bill last summer because it was hastily drafted and poorly designed.” Nonetheless, they “endorsed a tax bill that contains a hastily drafted and poorly designed repeal of a key piece of Obamacare.” Collins on Sunday “insisted that repealing the mandate would not damage health-care markets, in large part because she received assurances from congressional leaders and the White House that two bipartisan fix-Obamacare bills would come up next.” But the Post says she “is wrong in her certainty that these bills, if passed, would fill the gap that repealing the individual mandate would leave.”

“Poland’s Autocratic Counterrevolution Draws Nearer.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (12/11) raises concerns that over the last couple days as Poland’s “right-wing nationalist government has struck major blows against judicial independence and independent media,” it increasingly appears “neither the European Union nor the United States has the means or will to hold it accountable.” The Post warned that as long as President Trump remains silent on the matter, Poland’s participation in “a counterrevolution that would dismantle the core institutions of a free society” will continue unabated.

“A Mexican Journalist’s Life Hangs In The Balance.” The [Washington Post](#) (12/11) editorializes about the bid for asylum in the US by Emilio Gutierrez, a Mexican journalist “who, with his then-teenage son, crossed into the United States in 2008 after writing critical stories about abuses committed against civilians by the Mexican army in prosecuting its war on drugs in Chihuahua, then Mexico’s most violent state.” Gutierrez’s “hurried departure was prompted by the news” that “a military officer had ordered him killed.” According to the Post, “after years of pleadings and postponements, this past summer a federal immigration judge denied his asylum claim; an appeal was rejected in November.” Last week, “he seemed on the verge of deportation when an 11th-hour stay was issued by the Board of Immigration Appeals.” The Post argues that “it seems cavalier to dismiss the threat Mr. Gutierrez faces should he be deported to Mexico. He should be granted asylum.”

Wall Street Journal.

“The GOP’s Capital Gains Tax Hike.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/11) criticizes a provision in the Senate tax bill that would require investors who sell stock to sell their oldest shares first. The Journal argues the provision amounts to a capital gains tax increase and calls on Republicans to eliminate it.

“Macron’s Polling Revival.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/11) says the latest rise in approval ratings for French President Emmanuel Macron from their lows in late summer reflected a rare political opening that Macron should use to call for reforms to rejuvenate the French economy.

“New York Gets Lucky Again.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/11) says in an editorial that New York has simply been lucky that none of these attacks have been worse, and that surveillance must be expanded.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Small Investors Face Steeper Tax Bill Under Senate Proposal](#)
[Botched Suicide Bombing Jolts New York, Injures 4](#)
[The Future Is Bumpy: High-Tech Hedge Fund Hits Limits Of Robot Stock Picking](#)
[US Shoppers Wield Smartphones To Keep A Lid On Consumer Prices](#)

New York Times:

[Bomber Strikes Near Times Square, Disrupting City But Killing None](#)
[In A Bombing's Aftermath, Doubling Down On The Everyday](#)
[Alabama Senate Race, Unlikely Nail-Biter, Races To Finish Line](#)
[Tawdry Tales Depict A Texas Congressman's Frat House On The Hill](#)
[A Nasty, Nafta-Related Surprise: Mexico's Soaring Obesity](#)
[Campaign To Drive Out Migrants Slams Beijing's Best And Brightest](#)

Washington Post:

[Shared-Parenting Bills May Reshape Custody Battles](#)
[Bomb Targets Subway In NYC](#)
[National Figures Focus On Ala. Race](#)
[3 Women Reassert Sexual Harassment Allegations Against Trump](#)
[For Kashmiri Teen Hit In The Eye By A Police Pellet, "Life Is Over"](#)

Financial Times:

[Europeans Issue Warning To Trump On Tax Overhaul](#)
[Man In Custody After Terror Attack On New York Transport Hub](#)
[Germany Argues Over Dividing Spoils Of Long Economic Boom](#)

Washington Times:

[New York Terror Attempt Renews Trump Calls Against Visa Lottery, Chain Migration](#)
[Religious Leaders Reach Deep Into Teachings To Preach Against Republican Tax Plans](#)
[Congress Ignores Trump's Deadline On Iran Nuclear Deal](#)
[California's 'New Normal' Of Winter Wildfires Doused By Climate Scientists](#)
[Trump And Moore Wins Push Chris McDaniel Toward Another Run For Senate In Mississippi](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: NYC Terror Attack; NYC Terror Attack-Bomber; NYC Terror Attack-Investigation; WH-Sexual Allegations; Roy Moore Campaign; Severe Winter Weather; California Wildfires; Detroit-Highway Shooter; Houston-Police Standoff; Celebrity Chef-Sexual Allegations; New Asteroid Sighted; Sixth Grader Charity.

CBS: NYC Terror Attack; NYC Terror Attack-Bomber; Emmanuel Macron Interview; Roy Moore Campaign; California Wildfires; Severe Winter Weather; Celebrity Chef-Sexual Allegations; Air Force Academy-Sexual Misconduct Cases; WH-Sexual Allegations; Philadelphia Community Activist.

NBC: NYC Terror Attack; NYC Terror Attack-Bomber; California Wildfires; WH-Sexual Allegations; Roy Moore Campaign; Armed Services-Transgender; Children-Mental Health; Celebrity Chef-Sexual Allegations; Golden Globes; Dallas Marathon; Police Christmas Charity.

Network TV At A Glance:

NYC Terror Attack – 16 minutes, 5 seconds
WH-Sexual Allegations – 7 minutes, 40 seconds
Roy Moore Campaign – 6 minutes, 5 seconds
California Wildfires – 4 minutes, 20 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: NYC Terror Attack; WH-Immigration Policy; Roy Moore Campaign; California Wildfires.

CBS: Roy Moore Campaign; Armed Services-Transgender; NYC Terror Attack; California Wildfires; Wall Street News.

FOX: NYC Terror Attack; Roy Moore Campaign; Charlottesville-White Nationalism.

NPR: Roy Moore Campaign; NYC Terror Attack; WH-Immigration Policy; Israel-Jerusalem Announcement; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Signs H.R. 2810, National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018; meets with Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan and United States Ambassador to Japan William Hagerty.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 10:00 AM Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Business Meeting, hearing on DOI and FERC permitting processes – Business Meeting, to consider the nominations of Dr Timothy Petty to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science; and Dr Linda Capuano to be Energy Information Administration Administrator * Immediately followed by hearing to examine the permitting processes at DOI and FERC for energy and resource infrastructure projects, with testimony from Associate Deputy Secretary of the Interior Jim Cason; Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council Acting Executive Director Janet Pflieger; Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Office of Energy Projects Director Terry Turpin; Washington Department of Ecology Water Quality Management Unit Supervisor Chad Brown; Transwest Express Vice President and General Counsel Roxane Perruso; and Hecla Mining Company Vice President for External Affairs Luke Russell Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.energy.senate.gov

10:00 AM Senate Science subcommittee hearing on machine learning and AI – Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet Subcommittee hearing on 'Digital Decision-Making: The Building Blocks of Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence', with testimony from Mississippi State University Department of Computer Science and Engineering Associate Professor Dr Cindy Bethel; Information Technology and Innovation Foundation Vice President Daniel Castro; The Software Alliance CEO Victoria Espinel; Princeton University Professor of Computer Science and Public Affairs Dr Edward Felten; and IBM Vice President for IBM Research AI and IBM Q Dr Dario Gil Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee hearing on the cost of prescription drugs – Hearing on 'The Cost of Prescription Drugs: An Examination of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Report 'Making Medicines Affordable: A National Imperative'', with testimony from National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine Committee on Ensuring Patient Access to Affordable Drug Therapies Chair Norm Augustine; Patients for Affordable Drugs President and founder David Mitchell; and Manhattan Institute for Policy Research Fellow Dr Tom Coburn Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act – Hearing on 'Oversight of the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act', with testimony from Drug Enforcement Administration Acting Assistant Administrator for Diversion Control Demetra Ashley; National Fibromyalgia & Chronic Pain Association President Jan Favero Chambers; Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh; National Association of Boards of Pharmacy Executive Director Dr Carmen Catizone; and Healthcare Distribution Alliance President and CEO John Gray Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee hearing on European energy security – Europe and Regional Security Cooperation Subcommittee hearing on 'European Energy Security: U.S. Interests and Coercive Russian Diplomacy', with testimony from Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs A. Wess Mitchell, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Resources John McCarrick Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 419, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Helsinki Commission / Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission briefing on justice in the Western Balkans – Helsinki Commission and Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission joint briefing on 'The International Tribunal and Beyond: Pursuing Justice for Atrocities in the Western Balkans', with panelists – International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) Chief Prosecutor Serge Brammertz, Humanitarian Law Fund's Nemanja Stjepanovic, (live via video from Serbia), and American University Washington College of Law Professor Diane Orentlicher – discuss ways the U.S., Europe, and the international community as a whole can encourage the further pursuit of justice in the Western Balkans following the conclusion of work by the ICTY Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2255, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov>

2:00 PM Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee hearing on Zimbabwe – Africa and Global Health Policy Subcommittee hearing on 'The Future of Zimbabwe', with testimony from Principal

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Stephanie Sullivan; author and journalist Peter Godwin; and former Zimbabwean Finance Minister and opposition leader Tendai Biti
Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 419, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Commerce, Science, & Transportation subcommittee hearing on national ocean policy – Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee hearing on ‘National Ocean Policy: Stakeholder Perspectives’, with testimony from Long Island Commercial Fishing Association Executive Director Bonnie Brady; U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Energy Institute Senior Vice President Christopher Guith; Family Farm Alliance Executive Director Dan Keppen; and Chamber of Shipping of America President and CEO Kathy Metcalf
Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov>
<https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

2:30 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters
Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

2:30 PM Helsinki Commission briefing on refugees and migrants in the Mediterranean – Helsinki Commission briefing on ‘Sea Rescues: Saving Refugees and Migrants on the Mediterranean’, with panelists International Organization for Migration Deputy Director General Laura Thompson, International Chamber of Shipping Marine Director John Murray, European Union Delegation to the U.S. Political and Military Counsellor Ludwig Blaurock, and Embassy of Greece to the U.S. First Secretary and Consul Michalis Stamatis
Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 188, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov>

US House: 10:00 AM House Energy Committee hearing on CAFE and greenhouse gas emissions standards for motor vehicles – Hearing on ‘Update on the Corporate Average Fuel Economy Program (CAFE) and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards for Motor Vehicles’, with testimony from Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers President and CEO Mitch Bainwol; Global Automakers President and CEO John Bozzella; Union of Concerned Scientists Clean Vehicles Program Senior Vehicles Analyst Dr Dave Cooke; and McConnell Honda & Acura President Forrest McConnell III (on behalf of The National Automobile Dealers Association)
Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Financial Services Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on legislation including ‘HR 435, the Credit Access and Inclusion Act of 2017’, ‘HR 1457, the Making Online Banking Initiation Legal and Easy Act of 2017’, ‘HR 2219, the End Banking for Human Traffickers Act of 2017’, ‘HR 2319, the Consumer Financial Choice and Capital Markets Protection Act of 2017’, ‘HR 3179, the Transparency and Accountability for Business Standards Act’, ‘HR 3864, the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Reauthorization Act of 2017’, ‘HR 4464, the Common Sense Credit Union Capital Relief Act of 2017’, ‘HR 4529, the Accelerating Access to Capital Act of 2017’, ‘HR 4537, the International Insurance Standards Act of 2017’, ‘HR 4545, the Financial Institutions Examination Fairness and Reform Act’, ‘HR 4546, the National Securities Exchange Regulatory Parity Act’, ‘HR 4560, the GSE Jumpstart Reauthorization Act of 2017’, and ‘HR 4566, the Alleviating Stress Test Burdens to Help Investors Act’
Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC
<http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Infrastructure subcommittee hearing on the opioid epidemic and economic development in Appalachia – Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management Subcommittee hearing on ‘The Opioid Epidemic in Appalachia: Addressing Hurdles to Economic Development in the Region’, with testimony from Republican Rep. Harold Rogers; Appalachian Regional Commission Federal Co-Chair Earl Gohl; Center for Rural Pennsylvania Director Barry Denk; Operation UNITE President and CEO Nancy Hale; and former Drug Enforcement Administration attorney Jonathan Novak
Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM House Education Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on ‘H.R. 4508, Promoting Real Opportunity, Success, and Prosperity through Education Reform (PROSPER) Act’
Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2175, Washington, DC
<http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:00 AM House Judiciary Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on ‘H.R. 1865, Allow States and Victims to Fight Online Sex Trafficking Act’ and ‘H.R. 2595, Strengthening the Department of Homeland Security Secure Mail Initiative Act’
Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2141, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM Helsinki Commission / Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission briefing on justice in the Western Balkans – Helsinki Commission and Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission joint

briefing on 'The International Tribunal and Beyond: Pursuing Justice for Atrocities in the Western Balkans', with panelists – International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) Chief Prosecutor Serge Brammertz, Humanitarian Law Fund's Nemanja Stjepanovic, (live via video from Serbia), and American University Washington College of Law Professor Diane Orentlicher – discuss ways the U.S., Europe, and the international community as a whole can encourage the further pursuit of justice in the Western Balkans following the conclusion of work by the ICTY Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2255, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov>

10:15 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on concerns of patient brokering and addiction treatment fraud – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining Concerns of Patient Brokering and Addiction Treatment Fraud', with testimony from 15th Judicial Circuit State Attorney Dave Aronberg, and Chief Assistant State Attorney Alan Johnson; Massachusetts Assistant Attorney General for the Health Care Division Eric Gold; California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals CEO Pete Nielsen; and Caron Treatment Centers President and CEO Douglas Tieman Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2322, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:30 AM IFES briefing on Mexico's July 2018 general elections – International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) host briefing on 'Tackling Emerging Global Challenges in Mexico's 2018 Elections: Cybersecurity, Disillusionment and Disinformation'. Panelists include Democratic Rep. Norma Torres, George Mason University Professor Thomas Flores, IFES Senior Legal Specialist Katherine Ellena, and Mexican Superior Chamber of the Electoral Tribunal of the Federal Judicial Branch Justice Jose Luis Vargas Valdez Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2456, Washington, DC www.ifes.org <https://twitter.com/IFES1987>

11:00 AM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/ <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

2:00 PM House debates Community Institution Mortgage Relief Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including 'H.R. 3971 – Community Institution Mortgage Relief Act of 2017', as well as consideration of 'H.R. 2872 – Promoting Hydropower Development at Existing Nonpowered Dams Act', as amended, 'H.R. 1733 – To direct the Secretary of Energy to review and update a report on the energy and environmental benefits of the re-refining of used lubricating oil', six U.S. Postal Service facility naming bills, 'H.Res. 407 – Condemning the persecution of Christians around the world', as amended, 'H.Res. 357 – Reaffirming the strategic partnership between the United States and Canada, recognizing bilateral cooperation that advances United States national interests, and urging increased bilateral cooperation on security, economic issues, and energy, and for other purposes', as amended, and 'H.Res. 336 – Reaffirming a strong commitment to the United States-Mexico partnership' under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee oversight hearing on the Harry W. Colmery Educational Assistance Act – Economic Opportunity Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'An Update on the Implementation of the Forever GI Bill, the Harry W. Colmery Educational Assistance Act of 2017' Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

2:00 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee hearing on the nation's 'growing dependence on foreign minerals' – Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'Examining Consequences of America's Growing Dependence on Foreign Minerals' Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on NAFTA – Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade Subcommittee hearing on 'The Future of the North American Free Trade Agreement', with testimony from Council of the Americas Vice President Eric Farnsworth; ARC Specialties President Daniel Allford; former Deputy Secretary of State / former Director of National Intelligence John Negroponte; and American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations Trade and Globalization Policy Specialist Celeste Drake Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on North Korean refugees – Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee hearing on 'Protecting North Korean Refugees', with testimony from Worldwide Coalition to Stop Genocide in North Korea Co-chairperson / North Korean defector Hyeona Ji; Free North Korea Radio announcer and sound engineer / North Korean defector 'Han Ga Hee'; Committee for Human Rights in North Korea Executive Director Greg Scarlatou; former U.S. Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights Issues Robert King; and North Korea Freedom Coalition Chairwoman

Suzanne Scholte Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2200, Washington, DC
<http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on Cambodia – Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee hearing on ‘Cambodia’s Descent: Policies to Support Democracy and Human Rights’, with testimony from Heritage Foundation Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy Asian Studies Center Policy Analyst Olivia Enos; Cambodia National Rescue Party Deputy Director-General of Public Affairs Monovithya Kem – daughter of imprisoned Cambodia National Rescue Party President Kem Sokha; and National Democratic Institute President Kenneth Wollack Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2255, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

2:30 PM Helsinki Commission briefing on refugees and migrants in the Mediterranean – Helsinki Commission briefing on ‘Sea Rescues: Saving Refugees and Migrants on the Mediterranean’, with panelists International Organization for Migration Deputy Director General Laura Thompson, International Chamber of Shipping Marine Director John Murray, European Union Delegation to the U.S. Political and Military Counsellor Ludwig Blaurock, and Embassy of Greece to the U.S. First Secretary and Consul Michalis Stamatidis Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 188, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov>

3:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on ‘H.R. 1638, the Iranian Leadership Asset Transparency Act’, ‘H.R. 2396, the Privacy Notification Technical Clarification Act’, ‘H.R. 4015, the Corporate Governance Reform and Transparency Act of 2017’, and ‘H.R. 4324, the Strengthening Oversight of Iran’s Access to Finance Act’ Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

5:00 PM House Natural Resources Committee markup hearing begins – Markup hearing begins on legislation including ‘H.R. 200, Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act’, ‘H.R. 1349, To amend the Wilderness Act to ensure that the use of bicycles, wheelchairs, strollers, and game carts is not prohibited in Wilderness Areas, and for other purposes’, ‘H.R. 1675, National Landslide Preparedness Act’, ‘H.R. 3400, Recreation Not Red-Tape Act’, ‘H.R. 3588, RED SNAPPER Act’, ‘H.R. 4033, National Geologic Mapping Act Reauthorization Act’, ‘H.R. 4264, Hyde Park Land Conveyance Act’, ‘H.R. 4266, Acadia National Park Boundary Clarification Act’, ‘H.R. 4465, Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Extension Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 4475, National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System Act’, ‘H.R. 4568, Enhancing Geothermal Production on Federal Lands Act’, ‘S. 825, Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium Land Transfer Act of 2017’, and ‘S. 1285, Oregon Tribal Economic Development Act’ * Concludes tomorrow Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

Other: 8:00 AM Policy Exchange ‘U.S.-UK Relations in a Changing World’ discussion with NSA McMaster – Policy Exchange hosts ‘U.S.-UK Relations in a Changing World’ discussion, to mark the launch of their new Anglo-American project, with speakers including National Security Advisor Gen. H.R. McMaster, Republican Sen. Dan Sullivan, UK Prime Minister’s National Security Advisor Mark Sedwill, former SAS Regiment Colonel Commandant Gen. (Ret.) Graeme Lamb, former UK Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Sir John Jenkins, Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Tamara Cofman Wittes, Hoover Institution Professor Niall Ferguson, Heritage Foundation Margaret Thatcher Centre for Freedom’s Dr Ted Bromund, and Center for a New American Security Senior Fellow Robert Kaplan Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, Washington, DC www.policyexchange.org.uk/ https://twitter.com/Policy_Exchange

9:00 AM ‘Fostering Worker Mobility and Apprenticeships for a Skilled Technical Workforce’ National Academies discussion – ‘Fostering Worker Mobility and Apprenticeships for a Skilled Technical Workforce’ National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine discussion, featuring Germany Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Peter Wittig and former Sen. Jeff Bingaman Location: National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC www.nas.edu/ <https://twitter.com/NASciences>

12:00 PM U.S. Chamber of Commerce releases 2017 Global Business Rule of Law Dashboard – U.S. Chamber of Commerce Coalition for the Rule of Law in Global Markets hosts event featuring the release of its 2017 Global Business Rule of Law Dashboard – a tool measuring socioeconomic development and growth across 72 countries worldwide. Speakers include UPS President of Global Public Affairs Laura Lane, Peru Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Carlos Pareja, and World Justice Project Chief Research Officer Dr Alejandro Ponce Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H St NW, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com <https://twitter.com/USChamber>

12:30 PM Agriculture Secretary Perdue speaks at NPC – NPC Headliners Luncheon with Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, who shares insights from his recent ‘Back to our Roots’

tour, his priorities for opening up markets for American agricultural products, including the renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and the department's efforts to encourage and inspire the next generation of farmers and agricultural leaders through a partnership with the National FFA Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC <http://press.org/> <https://twitter.com/PressClubDC>

2:00 PM GOP Sen. Johnny Isakson speaks on PEPFAR at BPC – 'PEPFAR 4.0: Reauthorization & Beyond' Bipartisan Policy Center discussion – on the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), a global health initiative established by President George W. Bush in 2003 – focusing on 'the impact of PEPFAR, the importance of continuing U.S. investments in global health, and how these investments can be one of the country's most effective diplomatic tools'. Republican Sen. Johnny Isakson keynotes, with other panelists including USAID Chief of Staff William Steiger, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and U.S. Special Representative for Global Health Diplomacy Deborah Birk, Gilead Sciences Access Operations and Emerging Markets Senior Vice President Clifford Samuel, and BPC co-founder Tom Daschle and Chief Medical Advisor Dr Anand Parekh Location: Bipartisan Policy Center, 1225 I St NW, Washington, DC www.bipartisanpolicy.org https://twitter.com/BPC_Bipartisan

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: [Referring to the special Senate election in Alabama] "President Trump is supporting the alleged child molester in this race because, of course he is. Although he wasn't President Trump's first choice for senator of Alabama. Then he found out Jared from Subway was still in jail."

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to the NYC bombing attempt] "The suspect, who was Bangladeshi, is 27 and lives in Brooklyn, so he used only locally sourced handmade artisan bomb parts."

Stephen Colbert: "But I've got something to say to this guy. Seriously? You tried to terrorize New York subway commuters? Nice try. ... And the MTA does that just fine without your help."

James Corden: "I don't want to say Trump watches too much TV, but he just asked Congress for a \$10 million budget increase for the NCIS team."

James Corden: "Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has announced that, for the first time in 35 years, they will allow their citizens to go to movie theaters. ... The last time you could see a movie in Saudi Arabia, they were showing things like 'Superman,' 'Batman,' 'Blade Runner,' 'Star Wars.' Okay, yeah, they haven't missed anything."

Trevor Noah: "Can I tell you I love living in New York? Yeah, because in New York City, it's even hard to make it as a terrorist."

Jimmy Fallon: "The New York Times says each day, President Trump watches eight hours of TV and drinks 12 diet cokes. Sounds less like the President, more like a college kid who just got home for winter break."

Seth Meyers: "The Alabama special election for Senate is tomorrow between Doug Jones of the Democratic Party, and Roy Moore, who is not allowed at parties."

Seth Meyers: "According to the New York Times, President Trump sometimes watches MSNBC's Morning Joe because it fires him up for the day. It's the same reason he watches Dora."

Seth Meyers: "According to a Gallup poll, 80 percent of Russians approve of Vladimir Putin's leadership, while the other 20 percent are missing."

Conan O'Brien: "In this new article on President Trump, it says he views each work day like an episode of a TV show. Yes! Like a TV show. And in a way, Trump's right. Because with his low ratings, people are wondering why he hasn't been canceled yet."

Jordan Klepper: "This morning, there was a terror attack at US Port Authority bus terminal. Thankfully, there were no major injuries. New York is strong. Clearly this man has never been to the Port Authority. It's already a lawless dungeon."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Bloomberg News: Trump: Washington Train Derailment Highlights Need For Infrastructure Plan.
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Big Picture

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DOI In The News

Interior To Revise ESA Listing Rules.

[E&E Publishing](#) (12/18, Doyle) reports that the Interior Department is working on proposed changes to the Endangered Species Act regulations, "in a move that alarms environmentalists but could gratify Westerners and others unhappy with the current law." The article says that "while the details and timing remain under wraps, Interior officials made public their general intentions as part of the Trump administration's Unified Agenda issued Thursday." The department also announced "that it will 'clarify and improve' the so-called Section 7 consultations with other federal agencies when endangered species are involved."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Report: Lame Deer Jail Regularly At Over-Capacity.

The [AP](#) (12/18) reports that a recent report says the Lame Deer jail has "been overcrowded since 1999." The Lame Deer jail was "built to hold just 19 inmates, but a recent Bureau of Justice Statistics' annual report found that it regularly houses 45 inmates."

Bureau Of Indian Education

Federal Investigation Finds Only Westerhuses Responsible For Fraud.

[KELO-TV](#) Sioux Falls, SD (12/18, Kennecke) reports that the Interior Department's Inspector General has "issued a report involving Bureau of Indian Education Schools and fraud regarding federal monies." The watchdog "finds that the American Indian Institute for Innovation billed more than \$100,000 for office space to get BIA funding, even though the tribal school provided the space for free." However, "the inspector general finds that only Scott and Nicole Westerhuis were responsible for the fraudulent over billing." According to the report, the IG ended its investigation "because the responsible subjects are deceased and we did not identify additional subjects."

Bureau Of Land Management

Ammon Bundy: Not Surprised Prosecutors Under Fire In Nevada Standoff Case.

The [Oregonian](#) (12/18, Bernstein) reports that Ammon Bundy said Monday he is "now at peace as he awaits a judge's ruling on whether the stalled federal conspiracy trial against him, his father, older brother and a friend will proceed." Bundy "said he was buoyed by a new memo from a U.S. Bureau of Land Management whistleblower that alleged misdeeds by federal agents during the investigation" of the 2014 Bunkerville standoff. He added that "the government made a mistake by locking up his family for so long because it gave them a lot of uninterrupted time to pore over evidence and learn about the law." Bundy said, "We've been locked away for the last two years with discovery that's been sealed. We've done our due diligence going through every file, trying to understand every video, trying to understand every body cam, every dash cam. We have understood that this has been coming on, but we haven't been able to tell the public. So the fact

that it has come out doesn't surprise us at all."

10th Circ. Lets Enviros Into Oil Group's BLM Auction Suit.

[Law360](#) (12/18, Phillis) reports that "a split Tenth Circuit panel overturned a lower court Monday and said environmental groups had the right to intervene in Western Energy Alliance's suit alleging the Bureau of Land Management wasn't conducting enough lease sales, ruling the Trump administration's policy shifts showed it wouldn't necessarily represent environmentalists' views."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Florence Civic Center Holds 2017 South Carolina Energy Forum.

[WBTW-TV](#) Florence-Myrtle Beach, SC (12/18) reports that the Consumer Energy Alliance met in Florence on Monday "to discuss federal efforts to develop offshore leasing program and its impact to the Carolina's." Acting assistant Interior secretary for land and minerals Kate MacGregor and "other public policy leaders and members of the business community discussed how the program can impact South Carolina's economy, jobs and energy security."

The [Florence \(SC\) Morning News](#) (12/18, Lloyd) reports that McGregor said, "This is critical to put the nation on a strong and lasting path toward a promising energy future that keeps prices affordable and stable for families and businesses so we can further grow our economy."

Florida Commission Proposes Constitutional Ban On Offshore Drilling.

[WGCU-FM](#) Fort Myers, FL (12/15, Hatter) reports that Florida's Constitution Revision Commission approved a proposal to ban oil drilling off Florida's coasts last week. If voters approve the proposal, it would add language banning offshore drilling into the state constitution, going above and beyond the offshore drilling moratorium already in place. Florida Petroleum Council's Executive Director David Mica "argue[d] the proposed ban would hurt the oil and natural gas industry, and Mica points out that's where the gas to power cars and heat buildings come from."

After 16 Years, Hopes For Cape Cod Wind Farm Float Away.

The [New York Times](#) (12/19, Seelye) reports on the demise of the Cape Wind offshore wind project. But while Cape Wind has been terminated, "the offshore wind industry in this country looks more promising than ever." According to the article "with concerns about climate change intensifying, states like Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island and Virginia are all looking to offshore wind to meet renewable energy goals."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Delta Tunnels Bonds Challenged By Valley Farmers.

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (12/18, Kasler, Sabalow) reports that "already short of funding, Gov. Jerry Brown's Delta tunnels project is being challenged in court by a bloc of San Joaquin Valley farmers insisting they shouldn't be forced to help foot the \$17.1-billion price tag." The farmers, "located mainly in Kern and Kings counties, voiced their objections in a Sacramento court filing opposing the Brown administration's plan to issue bonds to pay for the tunnels." The article explains that "in general, farmers who grow high-value tree crops such as almonds and pistachios are more inclined to support WaterFix," but "row-crop farmers, whose revenues aren't as high, are resisting."

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Oil And Gas Plumes Found At Site Of 13-Year-Old Leak In Gulf.

The [AP](#) (12/18, Kunzelman) reports that new evidence has been found evidencing an "ongoing oil release" in the Gulf of Mexico where there are constant sheens of oil stretching miles along the coast of Louisiana. Lawyers with the Department of Justice filed documents on Friday, which "said recent scientific surveys revealed two plumes of oil and gas flowing from where an underwater mudslide during Hurricane Ivan in 2004 toppled an offshore platform and buried the cluster of wells owned by Taylor Energy Corp." The company has maintained that there is no evidence revealing that oil is leaking from the seafloor's unplugged wells.

Oil Workers Sue Shell Over Gulf Of Mexico Platform Fire.

[Reuters](#) (12/18, McWilliams) reports in continuing coverage that the three workers injured during the fire on Shell's Enchilada platform have filed a lawsuit against the oil major and Enbridge, looking for \$1 million in damages for the injuries received. A Shell spokesman declined to comment, citing the lawsuit and ongoing investigation into the fire by the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement.

Fish And Wildlife Service

Week Ahead: Arctic Drilling Measure Nears Finish Line.

[The Hill](#) (12/18, Cama) reports Congress is expected to vote in the coming week on the GOP tax reform bill, which would also open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling. Since the bill is being considered under budget reconciliation rules, it requires only 51 votes to pass. While some House Republicans expressed concern about ANWR drilling, many have said its inclusion in the final bill will not prompt a no vote. The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (12/18, Byrd) reports Rep. Mark Sanford said he will vote for the tax plan despite his opposition to ANWR drilling. Sanford said, "I'm disappointed. ... It's a classic case of buying votes at the end of one of these, you know, countdowns." He called the provision a bartering tool for the GOP, to "trade this marble for that marble, to pick up a vote."

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/18, Kapur) reports GOP incumbents will use the ANWR drilling provision as a point of emphasis in the 2018 midterm elections. However, Democrats will also seek to capitalize on public opinion polls showing how unpopular the legislative push has been.

Imperiled Glacier Stone Fly Found In Wyoming.

[Wyoming Public Radio](#) (12/18, Edwards) reports that scientists at the University of Wyoming have discovered the glacier stonefly, which was "thought to be extinct in the region in four streams in the Tetons." According to UW Invertebrate Zoologist Lusha Tronstad, "the discovery has put the decision-making process on hold over whether to list the species." Tronstad said "This was a large range extension. And so they extended their time to make the decision so they could investigate what does this mean because the species is known 500 miles away from where we previously thought it was restricted to." As a result of the discovery, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has extended the comment period for listing the glacier stonefly.

National Park Service

Statue Of Liberty's Light To Be A Little Dim This Week.

The [AP](#) (12/18) reports that the National Park Service says the Statue of Liberty's "exterior lights will be turned off from Monday evening through Thursday." [NJ News](#) (12/18, Villanova) reports that "the lights on the statue's torch, crown, and pedestal colonnade will remain illuminated, drawing power from a small emergency back-up generator located within the monument, the NPS said in a statement." The outages are necessary for work to Liberty Island's electrical system.

The Price Of A National Park Fee Hike (Who Should Pay For Public Lands?).

The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (12/14, Langlois), reports that the proposal "to dramatically raise entrance fees at 17 popular national parks" is raising concerns with conservationists who "see it as simply another example of a dangerous trend: federal lands run less like a public resource and more like a commercial enterprise." On the other hand, other argue that "only Americans who actually use these lands should pay for them, and that public lands would be more efficient if they were managed like private businesses."

To Build A Bridge For Mountain Lions, Wildlife Activists Need \$60 Million.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/18, Sahagun) reports that "a dozen conservationists and fundraisers gathered this week" in Los Angeles to plan an overpass over a busy freeway for mountain lions. Scientists say the bridge "would provide safe crossing for wildlife, helping diversify the gene pool among the small, isolated populations of mountain lions remaining in the Santa Monica Mountains south of the freeway as well as in the Simi Hills and Santa Susana Mountains to the north." Advocacy groups "admit it will require one of the most ambitious fundraising campaigns ever held on behalf of local wildlife — a total of \$60 million by 2020."

You're Gonna Pay A Lot More To Get Into Cabrillo National Monument Come Jan.

1. The [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (12/18) reports that "the cost to enter Cabrillo National Monument will increase by as much as 50 percent beginning Jan. 1." The article notes that "eighty percent of the entrance fees collected at Cabrillo stay at the park, according to the NPS, which uses the funds for natural resource preservation, improvement of visitor facilities and educational programming." Projects in the pipeline "include 38 new wayside exhibits, repair of the damaged Bayside Trail, production of a film, improved accessibility to park structures and resources and an upgrade of informational displays about the war bunkers on the site."

Ideas Offered To Improve Three Denham Springs Parks.

The [Livingston Parish News \(LA\)](#) (12/18, Fambrough) reports that "a host of ideas on how to improve city parks are under review by the National Park Service, according to Jeanette Clark, community recovery coordinator for Denham Strong." Russell Clark, an official with the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program "attended a public meeting hosted by Denham Strong to get suggestions from the public." Clark is "tasked with compiling the ideas offered, and then reporting back to Denham Strong on what are feasible projects."

Art Deco-style Tenney Building Added To National Register Of Historic Places.

The [Wisconsin State Journal](#) (12/18, Novak) reports that Madison's Tenney Building has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Office Of Insular Affairs

Compact Agreement For Palau Approved By Congress.

The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (12/14, Sablan) reports that "the Palau Compact Review Agreement was approved by Congress as part of the fiscal 2018 National Defense Authorization Act," Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced in a release. Zinke thanked President Trump, and "commended the U.S. Congress for including the provision in the bill, which authorizes the strategic agreement signed between Palau and the U.S. in 2010, the release states." Zinke said in the release, "The U.S. Insular Areas are on the front lines of North Korean aggression and are an important part of the strategic defense for our nation. Authorizing full funding for the agreement is an important element of the Pacific national security strategy to maintain stability in the Western Pacific Region and we look forward to continuing our work with Congress to get this job done. President Trump's strong support for the agreement, the Department's budget request, and Congress' support for it all point to the strategic importance of our U.S. Territories and the Freely Associated States. I have served with a number of warriors from the islands and I look forward to visiting the people of Palau in my role as Secretary."

Additional coverage was provided by [Radio New Zealand](#) (12/17).

NMBAC Member On HR 339: 'We Feel Misled'.

[Marianas Variety](#) (12/19) reports that "on the third day of Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp.'s trip to Washington, D.C., Gov. Ralph D.L.G. Torres and the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp.'s officers and board members met with senior officials from the Department of Homeland Security and USCIS." Torres and Alex Sablan "presented a very detailed report to the officials and provided up to date information on the immediate impacts of the 3,000 reduction in CW1 visas for FY 2018." According to the article, "every member of the NMBAC spoke about the hardships the denials were having on the economy, federal funded infrastructure projects, and families." Although the officials from USCIS "continually expressed their understanding of our plight," they "stated they were bound by the laws passed by Congress." NMBAC member Perry Inos Jr. stated after the meeting "Clearly we were shocked that our argument about the original intent as presented to us was completely wrong. We feel misled."

UN General Assembly Votes For Palestinians.

[Global Research](#) (12/10, Gerald) reports that on December 6, President Trump "declared Jerusalem the capital of Israel and announced the U.S. intention to move its embassy to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv." Following Trump's announcement the UN's General Assembly on December 7th "passed nine draft resolutions assuring some protection to the lives and rights of Palestinians, and with such large majorities in favour of Palestine that the world's nations have

indicated an overwhelming opposition to the U.S. president's decision." When voting on resolutions, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, and Palau, sided with the US on reaffirming "the right of displaced persons to go back to their homes and former residences."

Operation Christmas Drop Volunteers Pack Bundles.

[Stars And Stripes](#) (12/11, Torres) reports that "hundreds of volunteers gathered to fill nearly 140 supply bundles for the start of the 66th Operation Christmas Drop, Dec. 9, 2017, at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam." Boxes were filled with "critical supplies that mean so much to the islanders throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Federated State of Micronesia, and Republic of Palau." According to the article, "the teamwork demonstrated during the bundle build is a representation of how Airmen and the community from across the region come together to lend a helping hand to our partners and allies in the Pacific."

US Geological Survey

New NPR-A Assessment To Spark Debate Over Expanded Drilling.

[E&E Publishing](#) (12/18) reports the U.S. Geological Survey is set to release a new assessment on how much oil and gas is in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. The new report, set to come out this week, will be based on three recent oil discoveries, suggesting the region could hold more than the USGS predicted seven years ago. The 2010 report found that there were 900 million barrels of technically recoverable oil in the reserve, but Armstrong Energy, Caelus Energy and ConocoPhillips have each announced new oil discoveries in or near the NPR-A. When combined, the plays contain at least 3.5 billion barrels of recoverable oil.

Oregon Earthquake Punctuates Need For Early Warning System.

[Government Technology](#) (12/18, Williams) reports that an early warning earthquake system along the West Coast is "still in development," according to the U.S. Geological Survey, "but has already detected two earthquakes that caused damage." According to the USGS, "the system will need significant investment from government agencies on local, state and federal levels as well as from private companies and the public before it comes fully operational." The USGS "estimated it will cost more than \$38 million to finish the early-detection system and create a public alert." Also, "annual operations and maintenance cost for the detection system could exceed \$16 million."

Additional Coverage.

- *Report Blames Quarry For Sevierville Sinkholes, But Quarry Owner Disagrees.* [WBIR-TV](#) Knoxville, TN (12/18, Crowe).
- *Earthquake: 3.0 Quake Strikes Near Avalon.* [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/18).

Opinion Pieces

Interior Department's Return To The 'Robber Baron' Years (Interior's Return To The 'Crazy Years').

In a piece for the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (12/8, Thompson), Jonathan Thompson writes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "likes to compare himself" to President Theodore Roosevelt, but "he far more closely resembles" former Interior Secretary Albert Bacon Fall, who once said, "All natural resources should be made as easy of access as possible to the present generation." According to Thompson, "Fall's easy-access creed is reflected in Zinke's systematic evisceration of environmental protections, a crusade clearly laid out in the Interior Department's recently leaked four-year strategic plan, and in its 'review' of department actions that allegedly 'burden domestic energy.'" But Thompson points out that "what Zinke has failed to realize is that every 'burden' removed from industry ends up falling on the backs of the country's land, air, water, wildlife — and people."

Politics And The Profits Of One Sector Cannot Be Allowed To Trump Science.

In an editorial, the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (12/18) criticizes the Interior Department for postponing implementation of the second portion of the Bureau of Land Management's methane rule for

another year. According to the paper, “the methane hot spot looming over the Four Corners – the continent’s largest – is the result of the activities the rule is designed to prevent,” and “atmospheric methane is a significant contributor to climate change, with the potential to trap far more heat than carbon dioxide traps.” The editorial urges the Trump Administration to “look more carefully at all sides of this issue and consider factors beyond the short-term profit of one economic sector.”

Fight Damaging Wildfires With Your Support: Palma.

In an op-ed for the [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (12/18, Palma), Juan Palma, the state director for The Nature Conservancy in Nevada, writes that “as fire suppression takes up more funds, agencies are borrowing money from programs that support recreation and restoration to make up budget shortfalls.” He notes that “this means they’re also delaying and terminating planned projects, such as restoring forests and removing hazardous fuels, that would have improved forest health and helped reduce the risk of fire in the first place.” Palma supports legislation in Congress that “would address the fire funding issue.” He also notes that The Nature Conservancy is “committed to tackling the underlying challenge of thinning our overgrown forests, which will help prevent extraordinarily costly fires from happening — and save money in the long run.”

Column: Congress Must Pass Funding Solution For Fighting Wildfires.

In an op-ed for the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (12/18, Whelan), Will Whelan, the director of government relations for the Idaho chapter of The Nature Conservancy, warns that “the cost of fighting fires continues to grow.” However, “there is no dedicated source of funding to fight these fires.” He urges Congress to pass legislation that “would allow the public lands agencies to access disaster funding in the most severe fire seasons and help protect their land stewardship budgets from the ever-escalating cost of fire suppression.”

Additional Reading.

- *Reducing Antiquities Act Land Grabs.* [Heartland Institute](#) (12/18, Driessen).
- *Why Cutting Up Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Is A Bad Idea.* [In These Times](#) (12/18, Bullington).
- *The Value Of Bears Ears Is Cultural.* [Crosscut \(WA\)](#) (12/17, Keeler).
- *Editorial: Involve Indians In Park Debate.* [Plattsburgh \(NY\) Press Republican](#) (12/19).
- *Mojave Trails National Monument Remains In Limbo.* [Victorville \(CA\) Daily Press](#) (12/18, Segura).
- *Stepping Up To Protect Our Majestic Landscapes.* [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (12/17, Gorrell).
- *In America And Beyond, The Spirit Behind Public Lands Is At Risk.* [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (12/19, Wyss).
- *Local View: We Can Preserve ‘Local’ And Also Protect What Is Truly All Of Ours.* [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (12/18, Kershaw).
- *Rolly: Americans Should Be Frightened To Have Hatch Heading The Senate Finance Committee.* [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/18, Rolly).
- *Rep. Tipton, Do You Remember Home?* [Southwest Colorado Journal](#) (12/18, Childs).
- *Addressing Deferred Maintenance In National Parks Without Raising Taxes.* [Fox And Hounds Daily](#) (12/18, Cavecche).
- *Bold Moves At 50.* [Huffington Post](#) (12/18, Shafroth).
- *Historic Tax Credits Are A Michigan Success Story.* [Crain's Detroit Business](#) (12/18, Knibbe).

Top National News

Trump Lays Out “America First” National Security Strategy.

Media reports of President Trump’s unveiling Monday of his nation security strategy nearly universally cast it as a reflection of his “America First” policy. Analyses of the strategy say the President links economic prosperity and national security. Also widely noted are the strategy’s labeling of China and Russia as “revisionist powers” and the lack of reference by the President to Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election.

The President’s speech was mentioned only briefly by the networks last night. The [CBS](#)

[Evening News](#) (12/18, story 4, 2:20, Glor) said the strategy “emphasizes peace through strength” and [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/18, story 7, 0:40, Muir) called it an “America First approach” that “focused on two global rivals” – Russia and China. To [Politico](#) (12/18, Samuelsohn, Crowley), it “reflects the most inward-focused vision of American foreign policy in recent memory,” and the [AP](#) (12/18, Lemire, Yen) says it “echo[es]” the “America First” message of Trump’s 2016 campaign. The President “faulted previous US leaders for failing to look out for the nation’s citizens,” and vowed the US “will stand up for ourselves and we will stand up for our country like we have never stood up before.” The AP warns that the strategy “could sharply alter US international relationships if fully implemented.” Trump, the [Washington Post](#) (12/18, Gearan) reports, “cast his election as a pivot from failed economic policies and shortsighted negotiating strategies.” The Post similarly says Trump “used the rollout to reiterate his commitment to an ‘America First’ doctrine.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/18, Bennett) reports the President himself “described his approach to national security as one that ‘puts America first’ and relies on a ‘clear-eyed’ assessment of US interests, reflecting that he sees the United States locked in a global competition in which America’s economic prosperity and national security are closely linked.” The Times says the strategy is based on “four pillars: Protecting the homeland by restricting immigration, pressuring trading partners, building up the military and otherwise increasing US influence globally.” Also noting the four pillars, [USA Today](#) (12/18, Korte) says the “result is a doctrine that attempts to balance competing objectives: Emphasizing political and economic competition with countries like Russia and China while also enlisting their help with security challenges like North Korea’s nuclear program.”

[Reuters](#) (12/18) reports Trump said Washington had “no choice” but to deal with the challenge posed by North Korea, and [Townhall](#) (12/18, Pavlich) says he “touted tough talk and sanctions as successful, but noted more has to be done to denuclearize the regime.” Said the President, “This situation should have been taken care of long before I got into office, when it was much easier to handle. But it will be taken care of. We have no choice.” The [New York Post](#) (12/18, Fredericks) says Trump “excoriated past administrations for failing to successfully deal with North Korea.”

[Breitbart](#) (12/18, Hayward) reports that “senior administration officials” who spoke to reporters ahead of Trump’s speech described the strategy as a statement of “principled realism” that takes “a clear-eyed view of the threats that we face and the fact that we live in an ever-competitive world” in which “the global balance of power has shifted in unfavorable manners to American interests.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/18, Bender) reports Trump, citing a year of stock-market gains and declines in unemployment, suggested his predecessors prioritized nation building over domestic economic growth. The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/18, McIntyre) reports the President also claimed in his speech that he “has already re-established US leadership in the world and renewed confidence in American at home and abroad.” Said Trump, “I am proud to report that the entire world has heard the news and has already seen the signs. America is coming back and America is coming back strong.”

The [New York Times](#) (12/18, Sanger, Landler) says the strategy “envisions a world in which the United States confronts two ‘revisionist’ powers – China and Russia – that are seeking to change the global status quo, often to the detriment of America’s interests.” The Times notes that while the strategy “outlines a detailed plan to push back against China’s global economic ambitions, it says little about dealing with the kind of cyber and information warfare techniques” used by Russia to try to influence the 2016 presidential election. [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/18, story 7, 2:20, Holt) similarly reported that “notably, the strategy says little about securing the country from the type of cyber tactics Russia used to meddle in the 2016 election.” According to [Reuters](#) (12/18), the strategy said “Russia interferes in the domestic political affairs of countries globally.” However, it “stopped short of accusing Moscow of meddling in the 2016 US election.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/18, story 7, 0:40, Muir) briefly noted that the President didn’t mention Russian interference during his speech. Likewise, Jim Acosta reported on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (12/18) that in Trump’s 30-minute speech, “there was no mention of Russia’s meddling in the 2016 election, that’s despite the fact that there is a reference to Moscow’s interference included in the written version of the White House strategy.”

During an interview with NSC spokesman Michael Anton on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (12/18), Wolf Blitzer asked: “Can you say flatly right now, speaking on behalf of the President, that he believes Russian trolls...were engaged in trying to influence the outcome of the US presidential election?” Anton responded, “Yes, he has said that. ... He’s also affirming a fact that

the cyber problem is not simply a Russian problem.”

The [Washington Times](#) (12/18, Boyer) also notes that “despite the plan’s heavy emphasis on...tougher immigration policies and more robust border security, the document makes no mention of the wall that the president plans to build along the US-Mexico border.”

[The Hill](#) (12/18, Williams, Fabian) reports that Trump’s rhetoric Monday “diverged from the document’s tougher talk on Russia and China at times, raising questions about how significantly the strategy will reshape administration policy.” [Bloomberg News](#) (12/18, Mayeda, Mohsin) says the “new rhetoric” on China “contrasts with the more collaborative approach of former President Barack Obama, who courted China as an economic partner.”

Former NATO Supreme Allied Commander James Stavridis writes for [Bloomberg View](#) (12/18) that the strategy “is a pleasantly centrist document – essentially a well-written amalgam of mainstream foreign policy principles that could as easily have emerged from a Hillary Clinton White House.” He adds that the “four pillars” of the document “reflect traditional ideas of international relations and are hard to argue with: protect the homeland, promote American prosperity, preserve peace through strength, and advance US influence.”

Jerry Hendrix of the Center for a New American Security writes for the [National Review](#) (12/18) that Trump is “exceeding the expectations of the national-security community by producing a remarkably coherent NSS within his first twelve months in office.” President Obama, it notes, “took 16 months to present his vision, and President George W. Bush, dealing with the disturbance of 9/11 to his strategic considerations, took 20 months.”

Peter Hasson, writing for the [Daily Caller](#) (12/18), says Trump’s strategy is “a stark contrast” from Obama’s most recent strategy released in 2015. For example, he says Trump “places an emphasis on stopping Islamist terrorism and calls it out by name,” while Obama “prioritized climate change as a national security threat.”

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich writes in an online piece for [Fox News](#) (12/18, Gingrich) that “four presidencies – Bush, Clinton, Bush, and Obama – built their strategic efforts around a system of global multilateralism defined by lawyers, diplomats, and elite media,” but those efforts failed, as “disasters in Venezuela, Libya, Crimea, Syria, and elsewhere have demonstrated. ... President Trump has now moved to replace the failed doctrine of the past.”

Also offering a positive assessment of the President’s strategy, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/18) editorializes that it rightly recognizes that the world is becoming a more dangerous place – a departure from what it says were upbeat assessments under President Obama.

NSC Spokesman Downplays Omission Of Term “Radical Islamic Terrorism.” NSC spokesman Michael Anton was asked on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (12/18) about why Trump in his speech used the phrase “radical Islamic terrorism” when the strategy document makes no reference to that phrase, instead using “jihadist terrorists.” Anton replied, “This is a distinction without a difference. ... It is a violent movement inspired by a radical ideology that its adherents believe is inspired by religion.” According to the [Daily Caller](#) (12/18, Enjeti), National Security Adviser McMaster “has reportedly opposed usage of the phrase ‘radical Islamic’ by Trump in the past,” reportedly telling staffers “during his first weeks on the job that the phrase ‘radical Islamic’ is not helpful to US counter-terrorism partnerships with Muslim majority nations.”

NYTimes Analysis: Trump Inaccurately Claims Record Defense Spending. The [New York Times](#) (12/18, Qiu) reports that during Monday’s speech, Trump “sought to distinguish himself as a commander in chief who is breaking records and setting precedents.” Referring to the National Defense Authorization Act, Trump said, “We are once again investing in our defense – almost \$700 billion – a record this coming year.” The Times, however, says “one does not need to look far for authorization bills that have been larger. President Barack Obama signed a defense authorization bill of \$725 billion for the 2011 fiscal year.”

French FM: Trump’s Foreign Policy “Smacks Of Isolationism And Retreat.” [USA Today](#) (12/18, Dorell) reports French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian “issued a blunt critique” of President Trump’s foreign policy Monday, “saying it smacks of isolationism and retreat.” In an interview with “a small group of reporters” during his first visit to Washington as foreign minister, Le Drian “referred to Trump’s repudiation of the Paris climate agreement, UNESCO, trade deals, the Iran nuclear deal and the broad international consensus that Jerusalem should not be recognized as Israel’s capital until its status is resolved by Israelis and Palestinians.” This, he said, “forces President Trump to have a position of retreat on most topics rather than making proposals.”

Trump: Washington Train Derailment Highlights Need For Infrastructure Plan.

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/18, Gallu) reports President Trump said an Amtrak passenger train derailment that killed at least six people in Washington state Monday “bolstered his case for

investing in the nation's crumbling infrastructure." Trump [tweeted](#), "The train accident that just occurred in DuPont, WA shows more than ever why our soon to be submitted infrastructure plan must be approved quickly. Seven trillion dollars spent in the Middle East while our roads, bridges, tunnels, railways (and more) crumble! Not for long!" Bloomberg notes that the President has said he will introduce a \$1 trillion infrastructure proposal.

[Reuters](#) (12/18) and [Breitbart](#) (12/18, Hanchett) briefly report the tweet and [Politico](#) (12/18, Nelson, Wolfe) says that while Trump "immediately seized on a deadly train derailment in Washington state to stump for his long-promised package of infrastructure investments...it's not immediately clear his plan would have prevented the crash." Local news coverage said the train "may have struck something before derailing," but the President "wasted little time connecting Monday's accident to the \$1 trillion infrastructure plan that the White House plans to roll out in January."

According to the [Washington Times](#) (12/18, Miller), "initial reports indicated that aging infrastructure may not have played a role" in Monday's accident because the "high-speed train was making its first run on newly constructed tracks." The National Transportation Safety Administration has launched an investigation.

An [AP](#) (12/18, Woodward) "Fact Check" says Trump "isn't waiting for the facts to emerge" from Monday's deadly derailment "before using the accident to plug his infrastructure plan." The AP writes that "from what's known, it's not at all clear his coming infrastructure plan is relevant. The accident did not happen on a crumbling railway but rather on a section of track that had just been upgraded as part of a \$181 million project," and the train was "making its first run on newly constructed tracks when it derailed."

All three networks led their broadcasts Monday night with the accident and dedicated a total of just over 14 minutes to the story. None of them, however, mentioned the President's response. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/18, lead story, 2:55, Holt), Gadi Schwartz reported "the \$180 million project had been the target of critics, raising concerns about safety that are now part of the investigation." Clayton Sandell reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/18, lead story, 3:25, Muir) that "long before today's crash, a local mayor in this area said he was concerned about high speed trains in this area, saying that he thought a potential fatal accident was almost inevitable." On the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/18, lead story, 2:40, Glor), John Blackstone said "investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board are now on the scene of this accident looking for an answer to that all important question: what caused this [accident] on a newly built set of tracks?"

In a second [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/18, story 2, 1:30, Holt) report, Tom Costello said investigators are looking into whether the train "was going way too fast when it approached the curve where it derailed," and the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/18, story 2, 1:20, Glor) examined whether something called "a positive train control system...might have made a difference." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/18, story 2, 2:20, Muir) spoke with a passenger on the train, Scott Claggett, who described the accident.

[Reuters](#) (12/18) writes that the effort promised by President Trump "to revitalize everything from airports to schools to toll roads keeps being pushed back," and it "will still be up in the air in 2018." Trump's infrastructure plan "was overtaken in 2017 by efforts to repeal his predecessor's healthcare law and cut taxes for companies," and with the tax reform "seemingly on track, Republicans are now looking to squeeze spending on welfare and healthcare rather than lay out more on transportation and the like."

Newsweek Analysis: Trump Sought Cuts To Amtrak. [Newsweek](#) (12/18, Goodkind), meanwhile, reports that while Trump "claims his infrastructure bill could have prevented Monday's deadly Amtrak incident," his Administration "sought to cut funding to the nation's rail system earlier this year." The Administration's transportation budget released in May "dramatically slashed federal aid to Amtrak by 13 percent."

Tax Reform Bill Set To Pass After Collins Announces Support.

Media reports suggest that passage of the Republican tax bill is now all but assured after Sen. Susan Collins offered her support for the measure on Monday. [Bloomberg News](#) (12/18, Edgerton, Litvan), for example, says that "with Collins's backing, the GOP has all but clinched the votes necessary to pass the legislation." Collins, it notes, "had said previously she wanted to review the final legislation before deciding."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/18, story 5, 2:05, Glor), Nancy Cordes said, "There are now few obstacles standing between the \$1.46 trillion tax plan and final passage." A "pair of GOP hold-outs declared their support today" after an independent analysis by the Tax Policy Center

“found the bill could drive up taxes for only five percent of taxpayers next year, an improvement from previous versions” of the bill.

The [Washington Times](#) (12/18, Sherfinski) reports Collins’ support “now marks another ‘yes’ vote for increasingly confident Republican leaders as they look to pass the plan this week,” and [Reuters](#) (12/18) too says Congress “appeared all but certain to pass sweeping tax legislation this week” after Collins and Utah Sen. Mike Lee – two Senate Republican holdouts – backed the bill. Announcing her support on the Senate floor, Collins said, “The first major overhaul of our tax code since 1986, this legislation will provide tax relief to working families, encourage the creation of jobs right here in America and spur economic growth that will benefit all Americans.” Lee [tweeted](#) earlier Monday that he would “proudly” vote for the bill.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/18, Hughes, Rubin) reports the House is now scheduled to vote Tuesday on the bill, and the Senate is expected to take up the measure later Tuesday or Wednesday. The House is expected to easily pass the bill, but the vote will be tighter in the Senate. The [New York Times](#) (12/18, Rappoport) reports that the bill’s “expected passage along party lines had Democrats scrambling over the weekend to try to pressure a late supporter of the legislation,” Sen. Bob Corker, to vote against the bill.

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/18, Talev) reports that Vice President Pence has postponed his trip to the Middle East until January in case he is needed to cast a tie-breaking vote in the Senate. The [Washington Post](#) (12/18, Johnson) quotes Pence press secretary Alyssa Farah as saying, “The largest tax cut in American history is a landmark accomplishment for President Trump and a relief to millions of hardworking Americans. The Vice President is committed to seeing the tax cut through to the finish line.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (12/18, story 6, 1:50, Holt) reported that Republicans, however, “say they have the votes they need to pass the bill, even without Sen. John McCain, who is recovering in Arizona from complications from cancer treatments.” [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/18, story 6, 3:00, Muir) said, “President Trump on the verge of victory” and “hopes to sign this bill into law before the end of the week.”

On [Fox News’ Fox & Friends](#) (12/18), Ivanka Trump said, “We’re going to deliver historic tax reforms, and it’s going to happen before Christmas. It is going to be the fulfillment of an enormous campaign promise, and it’s going to be something that’s tremendously important for the American people. We feel it. This is something the people of this country want. They want simplification. They want a tax code that they can understand. They want lower corporate taxes and understand the benefit if the companies they work for can invest in their workforces and invest in new equipment and ultimately lead to wage growth.”

House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, asked on [Fox News’ Fox & Friends](#) (12/18) about Democrat claims that “the middle class is getting hosed” under the GOP bill, said, “If the median family of four makes \$73,000, they’re going to save more than \$2,000. The Tax Foundation just came out and scored this. The after tax of family is going to actually increase their income by 1.8 percent. This is a tax cut. If you’re a family of four making \$55,000, you pay zero in federal tax. This is an advantage for all of America to get stronger and more competitive.”

Bossert: North Korea Behind WannaCry Cyberattack.

Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Thomas P. Bossert writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/18) that the US blames the massive “WannaCry” cyberattack in May on North Korea. North Korea, he says, is increasingly using cyberattacks to fund its reckless behavior and cause disruption across the world.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/18, Nakashima) reports that with Bossert’s op-ed, the US government is “publicly acknowledging that North Korea was behind the WannaCry computer worm that affected more than 230,000 computers in over 150 countries earlier this year.” As a result, the Administration will be calling on “all responsible states” to counter North Korea’s ability to conduct cyberattacks and to implement all “relevant” UN Security Council sanctions, “according to a US official familiar with the matter.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“*Tax Bill Lets Trump And Republicans Feather Their Own Nests.*” A [New York Times](#) (12/18) editorial is critical of the Republican tax bill, which it says “would benefit President Trump and other property tycoons.” The says a provision in the bill would allow people – like Sen. Bob

Corker – “who make money from real estate to take a 20 percent deduction on income they earn through limited liability companies, partnerships and other so-called pass-through entities that do not pay the corporate tax.” The Times laments that “this bill is bad enough. No less revolting is the dishonest and sneaky way it was written.”

“Thought Control, Trump Style.” The [New York Times](#) (12/18) editorializes that the CDC instruction no to use certain terms in budget documents and efforts by EPA contractors to perform “opposition research for the Republican Party” are “two recent examples of this administration’s continuing effort to mute, censor and spy on employees in federal agencies whose words or views don’t sync with President Trump’s agenda.” The Times describes several more examples of what it considers to be efforts by the Administration to mislead Americans, including deleting two critical retweets from the Department of Interior’s Twitter feed and the EPA’s efforts to target “by name journalists whose coverage is critical of the agency.”

Washington Post.

“Seven Dirty Words, According To The Trump Administration.” The [Washington Post](#) (12/18) editorializes that that the CDC’s instruction “to avoid using certain words or phrases in official documents being drafted for next year’s budget...sounds like thought police at work.” The Post compares the instruction to what happens in China, where the government “routinely censors articles containing politically sensitive words such as ‘Taiwan,’ ‘Tibet’ and ‘cultural revolution’ from publications because it does not want its people to think about them.” The Post concludes by opining that “someone should tell the foolish thought police at HHS to stand down.”

“Bob Corker’s Suspicious Yes On The Tax Bill.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (12/18) says the controversy surrounding Corker’s announcement that he will support the Republican tax bill after a provision was included that would benefit him personally “underscores the unseemly way legislation of such consequence has been cobbled together behind closed doors and with Democrats completely shut out.” The Post says it is “hard to be sympathetic” to claims from GOP leaders “that Democratic partisanship is behind the questions about Mr. Corker’s vote switch. They are the ones who turned their backs on regular order, making a charade of lawmaking and thus inviting suspicion.”

“Yet Another Baseless Attack On Mueller’s Team.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (12/18) decries the “feigned outrage” from President Trump and his transition team over Mueller obtaining transition emails, calling it “just one more attempt by Mr. Trump’s allies to kick up dust around Mr. Mueller’s investigation.” The Post argues that transition lawyers could challenge Mueller in court if he “seeks to use privileged materials in legal proceedings,” or “they could act now by bringing the matter before the federal judge overseeing Mr. Mueller’s grand jury.” The fact they have “chosen instead to air its grievances before two congressional committees with no jurisdiction over Mr. Mueller suggests this letter is little more than a political stunt.”

Wall Street Journal.

“The Trump Doctrine, In Theory.” Also offering a positive assessment of the President’s national security strategy, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/18) editorializes that it rightly recognizes that the world is becoming a more dangerous place — a departure from it says where upbeat assessments under President Obama.

“Edward Rowny.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/18) editorial.

“Kicking Bob Corker.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/18) argues in an editorial that the claims that the inclusion in the tax bill of a provision that would benefit Sen. Bob Corker personally was an attempt to bribe him is an attempt to get him to vote no, or in the alternative, call into question his principles.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[This One Weird Tax Trick Could Raise GDP, Shrink The Trade Deficit](#)

[Three Are Killed As Amtrak Train Derails In Washington State](#)

[ESPN Chief’s Sudden Exit Comes At Crucial Juncture For Disney](#)

New York Times:

[Amtrak Derailment Leaves At Least 3 Dead In Washington State, Officials Say](#)
[Trump Delivers A Mixed Message On His National Security Approach](#)
[Have You Ever Felt Sorry For The IRS? Now Might Be The Time](#)
[Puerto Rico Orders Review And Recount Of Hurricane Deaths](#)
[Poor Vetting Sinks Trump's Nominees For Federal Judge](#)
[On Trip To Bangladesh, Subway Bomb Suspect Reached Out To Refugees](#)
[Corker Says He Faced 'Tough' Decision In Supporting Republican Tax Bill](#)

Washington Post:

[Kozinski Retires Amid Misconduct Allegations](#)
[Trump Team To Press Mueller](#)
[Train Derails In Wash.: At Least 3 Dead](#)
[Trump Talked Of Rescinding Gorsuch Nomination](#)
[ESPN President Skipper Announces Resignation](#)

Financial Times:

[Trump Labels China A Strategic 'Competitor'](#)
[Cyril Ramaphosa Wins ANC Leadership Race Dealing Blow To Zuma](#)
[Uber Driver Detained In Killing Of British Embassy Worker](#)

Washington Times:

[Senate Republicans Deny Buying Votes, Gain Confidence In Delivering Tax Reform](#)
[With Count Complete, Feds Can Start Eliminating Billions Of Dollars In Wasted Property](#)
[The Good Old Days: Watergate Nostalgia In Vogue As Left Seeks To Link Trump To Nixon](#)
[Catalonia's Elections To Determine Spanish Unity, Put EU On Edge With Independence Drive](#)
[Smaller Majority Of Americans Believe In The Miracle Of Christmas](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Seattle Train Derailed; Seattle Train Derailed-Passenger Interview; Atlanta Airport Power Outage; Weather Forecast; California Wildfires; Tax Reform Plan; WH-National Security Strategy; WH-Russia Meddling Investigation; Christmas Package Delivery; Billionaire Murder Mystery; Indianapolis-Building Fire; Cell Phone Health Warning; American Made Christmas Gifts.

CBS: Seattle Train Derailed; Seattle Train Derailed-Investigation; Atlanta Airport Power Outage; WH-Russia Meddling Investigation; Tax Reform Plan; CDC-Censored Words; NFL News; McCain Health; Dementia-No Prevention Possible; Coast Guard-Icebreaker Budget; Christmas Donations; Pentagon-UFO Project.

NBC: Seattle Train Derailed; Seattle Train Derailed-Investigation; Atlanta Airport Power Outage; California Wildfires; Dustin Hoffman Sexual Allegations; Tax Reform Plan; WH-Russia Meddling Investigation; FDA-Alternative Medicine Warning; NFL News; Justice Nominee Withdraws; UK Royal Family-Christmas Greeting; Christmas Charity.

Network TV At A Glance:

Seattle Train Derailed – 14 minutes, 10 seconds
Atlanta Airport Power Outage – 7 minutes, 10 seconds
Tax Reform Plan – 6 minutes, 55 seconds
WH-Russia Meddling Investigation – 6 minutes, 35 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Seattle Train Derailed; Tax Reform Plan; California Wildfires; US-North Korea Relations.

CBS: Seattle Train Derailed; Tax Reform Plan; McCain Health; WH-North Korea Cyber Attack; Atlanta Airport Power Outage; Wall Street News.

FOX: Seattle Train Derailed; Tax Reform Plan; Hollywood Sexual Allegations.

NPR: Seattle Train Derailed; UN-Jerusalem Vote; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with Secretary of Defense James Mattis.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in the Senate Republican Policy Lunch; participates in a

series of meetings with lawmakers.

US Senate: 10:00 AM POSTPONED: Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on U.S. strategy for Syria after the Islamic State group – POSTPONED: Hearing on 'U.S. Strategy For Syria After ISIS', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Amb. David Satterfield Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 419, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Banking Committee Executive Session – Executive Session, to consider the nominations of Scott Garrett to be Export-Import Bank of the United States President, Kimberly Reed to be First Vice President, Spencer Bachus III (reappointment), Claudia Slacik (reappointment), and Judith Delzoppo Pryor to be Board of Directors members, and Mark Greenblatt to be Inspector General Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

2:00 PM Senate Foreign Relations Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Peter Hendrick Vrooman to be U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda; and Joel Danies to be U.S. Ambassador to Gabon, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as U.S. Ambassador to Sao Tome and Principe Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Rules and Administration Committee hearing, Business Meeting – Hearing on 'A resolution to improve procedures for the consideration of nominations in the Senate', with testimony from Republican Sen. James Lankford * Immediately followed by Business Meeting, to consider 'S. Res. 355 – Improving procedures for the consideration of nominations in the Senate' Location: Rm 301, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://rules.senate.gov>

US House: 10:00 AM House debates tax reform plan – House of Representatives convenes for legislative business, with agenda expected to include Conference Report to Accompany 'H.R. 1 – Tax Cuts & Jobs Act', 'H.R. 3312 – Systemic Risk Designation Improvement Act of 2017', and consideration of legislation – likely to include 'S. 1393 – Jobs for Our Heroes Act', 'S. 1536 – Combating Human Trafficking in Commercial Vehicles Act', and 'S. 1532 – No Human Trafficking on Our Roads Act' – under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

10:00 AM Markup hearing for 'H.R. 4242, the VA Care in the Community Act' Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

11:00 AM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/ <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

12:15 PM House Administration Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on regulations implementing 'H.Res. 630: Requiring each Member, officer, and employee of the House of Representatives to complete a program of training in workplace rights and responsibilities each session of each Congress, and for other purposes' Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1310, Washington, DC <http://cha.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAdmnGOP>

3:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on Senate Amendment to 'H.R. 1370' – the legislative vehicle for the continuing resolution Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

Other: 8:30 AM Education Secretary DeVos hosts Rethink School Summit – Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos hosts the second of two Rethink School Summits, focusing on K-12 education and bringing together education leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs from around the country who are demonstrating student-centric models can improve student achievement. Sessions include 'Attaining Each Child's Unique Potential', 'Shifting the Paradigm' and 'Customizing Learning' Location: U.S. Department of Education, Barnard Auditorium, 400 Maryland Ave, S.W., Washington, DC <http://www.ed.gov/index.jhtml> <https://twitter.com/usedgov> #RethinkSchool

1:00 PM EESI hosts briefing on the latest global climate talks – Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) hosts 'What Came Out of the Latest Global Climate Talks?' briefing, on the takeaways from the latest talks, in Germany, which concluded 18 Nov. Speakers are Fiji Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Solo Mara, Embassy of Germany First Secretary for Climate, Environmental and Urban Affairs Anton Hufnagl, Washington, DC, Office of Washington Governor Jay Inslee Director of Federal and Inter-State Affairs Sam Ricketts, and Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE) President Lisa Jacobson Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 562, Washington, DC www.eesi.org/ <https://twitter.com/eesionline> #eesitalk

2:00 PM 'Security Challenges in the Balkans: Quo Vadis' Potomac Institute discussion – Potomac Institute Inter-University Center for Terrorism Studies discussion on 'Security Challenges

in the Balkans: Quo Vadis', with Croatia Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Pjer Simunovic, Greece Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Haris Lalacos, Macedonia Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Vasko Naumovski, and former CIS senior analyst Professor David Kanin Location: International Law Institute, 1055 Thomas Jefferson St, NW, Washington, DC www.potomacinstitute.org
<https://twitter.com/PotomacInst>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Trevor Noah: "The Republicans can't fix Obamacare because they named it Obamacare because, if they fix it, then Obamacare works, and they can't have Obamacare work. But it's not really Obamacare. It's the Affordable Care Act, but they named it Obamacare because they knew when they said it, their voters would hear, 'black medicine,' and they wouldn't want that."

Trevor Noah: "Obamacare is a genius, genius name to give it because it doesn't sound like a national healthcare plan. Obamacare sounds like you're gonna hurt your knee, and Barack is gonna walk in the room and kiss it better."

Jimmy Fallon: "Today, President Trump gave a big speech on national security. He focused on the three biggest threats to our country: Russia, North Korea, and Omarosa."

Jimmy Fallon: "It was revealed that the Pentagon had a top secret program to investigate UFOs and aliens, which is why Trump announced plans to build a dome over the earth and make ET pay for it."

Seth Meyers: "Sen. Bob Corker said this weekend that he would support the Republican tax plan despite not reading it. 'Same,' said Trump about the Constitution."

Seth Meyers: "The Trump Administration has banned the CDC from using seven words in official documents for next year's budget. The seven words are 'Hillary Clinton actually won the popular vote.'"

Seth Meyers: "According to the New York Times, the Pentagon had a secret program that investigated reports of UFO sightings at the request of former Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. I'm guessing because he had suspicions about his colleagues."

Seth Meyers: "Donald Trump Jr. shared a picture on Instagram this weekend of him and Sen. Ted Cruz holding a cookie with President Obama's face on it. Still, not as disturbing as a body with Ted Cruz's face on it."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Fox News: Trump Accuses Comey Of Illegally Leaking Classified Information.
- ABC: Trump Calls For "Beautiful" Healthcare Bill As Senate GOP Struggles For Consensus Measure.

- Breitbart: Meadows: Conservatives Will Block Any Spending Bill That Excludes Border Wall Funding.
- Bloomberg News: Short Says Tax Overhaul Plan To Come Before Recess, Contradicting Mnuchin.
- NBC News: Europe Forging Ahead On Climate Agenda Without US.
- BBC News (UK): Climate Change Affecting All Industries.

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DOI In The News

Public Comment Period Over For Review Of Katahdin, Monuments.

The [AP](#) (7/11) reports that the public comment period ended on Monday "for a federal review of more than two dozen national monuments." [The Hill](#) (7/10, Henry) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's report to President Trump is due in late August.

Additional coverage was provided by the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (7/10, Benson) and [WMTW-TV](#) Portland, ME (7/10).

New Mexico AG Urges Feds To Protect National Monuments. The [AP](#) (7/10) reports that New Mexico Attorney General Hector Balderas on Monday sent a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, "outlining his support for Rio Grande del Norte National Monument and the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument." Balderas says any effort to rescind the designation of the national monuments "would be short-sighted and reckless." Balderas adds "that in a state with high poverty and joblessness, the monuments help make up one bright spot in the economy."

Congressmen Favor Eliminating 4 Arizona National Monuments. The [AP](#) (7/10) reports that three Republican congressmen have sent a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke asking for the elimination of four Arizona national monuments. The letter signed by Rep. Trent Franks, Rep. Andy Biggs and Rep. Paul Gosar "targets the Grand Canyon-Parashant, Ironwood Forest, Sonoran Desert and Vermilion Cliffs national monuments." The letter states that the Antiquities Act has become a "tyrannical tool that presidents have manipulated to exercise unfettered land grabs to the detriment of state and local interests."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the review of national monuments was provided by the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (7/10, Ketcham), the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (7/10, White), the [Redlands \(CA\) Daily Facts](#) (7/10, Ramos), and [KVIA-TV El Paso \(TX\)](#) El Paso, TX (7/10, Bieri).

Former Texas Comptroller Susan Combs Nominated By Trump For Assistant Interior Secretary.

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (7/10, Kelly, Correspondent) reports that President Trump has nominated former Texas state comptroller Susan Combs to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior

for Policy, Management and Budget. The [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (7/10, Tilove) reports that “the nomination of Combs – subject to U.S. Senate confirmation – was announced by the White House Monday evening.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Texas Tribune](#) (7/10, Svitek).

Trump’s Environmental Rollbacks Hitting Major Roadblocks.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/11, Halper) reports that “as President Trump flouts international calls to act on climate change, his administration is finding the pressure at home tougher to ignore.” Plans by the White House “to scrap restrictions on the release of a potent greenhouse gas are getting stymied by the courts, by forceful public opposition and even by Republicans in Congress.” Meanwhile, “about 2.5 million Americans have submitted comments as Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke prepares to announce which public lands would lose protections.”

FBI Investigating After Marine Corps Plane Crashes In Mississippi, 16 Fatalities Confirmed.

[ABC News](#) (7/11, Allen, Martinez, Mclaughlin) reports that on Monday, a Marine Corps KC-130 crashed in Mississippi, “killing at least 16 people aboard.” [CNN](#) (7/10, Leblanc) reports that the plane went down in Leflore County, a “largely rural area in the western part of the state.” Interior Secretary and Navy SEAL Ryan Zinke tweeted his condolences saying: “Please join me in praying for or sending good thoughts to the families and unit of the Marines we lost tonight in the C 130 crash.”

Who Will Ensure, As Public Landowners, That We Have Access To Our Own Public Lands?

In an op-ed for the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (7/10, QannaYahu), Kathryn QannaYahu, the founder of Enhancing Montana’s Wildlife & Habitat, warns about “the machinations that were already under way to increase privatization of the Crazy Mountains and other public lands.” She writes that Sen. Steve Daines and Rep. Pete Sessions are “spearheading an effort to gain greater control of our federally managed public lands by cutting off access.” According to QannaYahu, if certain “directives were adopted” by the Interior and Agriculture Secretaries, “not only would the public have historical access cut off across the country, but this would also hamstring our federal agencies from the same historical public access, to properly manage our public lands.”

With Friends Like Ryan Zinke, Who Needs Enemies?

In a piece for [Hatch Magazine](#) (7/10, Williams), Ted Williams writes that “hunters and anglers are too easily seduced by candidates who blaviate about the Second Amendment or flounce around at photo ops with borrowed fly rods and shotguns.” He urges sportsmen “to pay more attention to what those candidates do and less attention to what they say.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Report: No Evidence Of Money Theft On Wyoming Reservation.

The [AP](#) (7/10) reports that “the U.S. Inspector General’s office says it found no evidence of theft of federal funds on Wyoming’s Wind River Indian Reservation.” But “the office noted in a report released last week that poorly maintained accounting records and long-time commingling of various federal program funds made it impossible to determine if any money had been stolen.” As a result, investigators were not able “to determine the status or disposition of various federal and tribal funds.”

Federal Agency Approves Swinomish Amendment Vote.

The [Skagit Valley \(WA\) Herald](#) (7/10, Stone) reports that the Bureau of Indian Affairs “approved the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community’s constitutional amendment vote and addressed the uncertainty some have felt regarding the tribe’s borders.” The tribe views “the amendments as a move toward self-determination, removing extensive oversight by the BIA over day-to-day activities.” In a letter to the tribe dated July 7, BIA Northwest Regional Director Stanley Speaks “said the approval should in no way be read as approving an expansion of the tribe’s reservation, something that local governments were concerned about.”

Feds Urge Justices To Reject Petition Over Oneida Land.

[Law360](#) (7/10, Westney) reports that “the federal government has urged the U.S. Supreme Court not to review a Second Circuit decision that the U.S. Department of the Interior properly took

land surrounding New York's Turning Stone Resort and Casino into trust for the Oneida Indian Nation, saying the law authorizing the land acquisition isn't unconstitutional."

Bureau Of Land Management

Trump Administration Sued For Delaying Obama-Era Greenhouse Gas Rule.

The [Huffington Post](#) (7/10, D'angelo) reports environmental organizations filed a lawsuit against the Trump Administration for delaying a regulation on the release of methane from drilling operations on federal and tribal land. Earthjustice said delaying compliance is harming the public by allowing excessive air pollution and reducing royalty payments states, tribes and local governments should be receiving. Earthjustice attorney Robin Cooley said, "Trump and his administration cannot blatantly ignore the law just to benefit polluters at the expense of everyone else. ... Compliance with public health rules cannot be indefinitely delayed while the Trump Administration and bad actors within the industry try to undo them." Earthjustice is joined by the Sierra Club, Fort Berthold Protectors of Water & Earth Rights, Natural Resource Defense Council and The Wilderness Society in challenging the Interior Department's delay.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (7/10, Holdman).

Retrial Begins For Four Bundy Supporters From 2014 Armed Standoff.

[Fox News](#) (7/10, Craft) reports that "jury selection began Monday for a retrial of four men accused of conspiring against the government when they joined an armed protest with Cliven Bundy on his Nevada ranch in 2014." Eric Parker, Scott Drexler, Steven Stewart and Ricky Lovelien "were present during a tense confrontation in Bunkerville between Bureau of Land Management agents who were trying to seize cattle from Bundy." According to Fox News, "the case centers around constitutional issues including free speech and land and gun rights." The retrial "follows a mistrial that occurred this past April when jurors couldn't decide on the first group of defendants in a three-tier case."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/10, Richardson), the [AP](#) (7/10), and the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (7/10, Wilson).

The Sale Of A Bankrupt Company's Gas Wells Finds Federal Opposition.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (7/10, Richards) reports that "Storm Cat, a coal bed methane company that went bankrupt in 2008 and again in 2016, is seeking to sell its viable wells to Summit Gas Resources." However, in a filing with the bankruptcy court on July 3, the Bureau of Land Management "objected to the sale unless assurances were made that Summit would pick up the unpaid royalties and penalties Storm Cat was leaving behind." Storm Cat and Summit are "due in a Denver bankruptcy court Thursday and are likely to come before state commissioners again in its August hearing."

End Wild Horse Roundups In West.

In an op-ed for the [Muncie \(IN\) Star Press](#) (7/10, Vogelbacher), Jutta Vogelbacher urges "the public to call on their senators and representatives to act against cruelty of a national treasure and symbol — the American Mustang." Vogelbacher claims that "the proposed budget for the BLM's Wild Horse and Burro Program opens the door for captive wild horses to be sold for slaughter." Vogelbacher calls on the public "to put a halt to an insane system, to educate yourself and to fight for humane policies for managing these irreplaceable wild symbols of the West."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Dominion Energy To Build 2 Wind Turbines Off Virginia Coast.

The [AP](#) (7/10) reports Dominion Energy Virginia on Monday announced that it will partner with DONG Energy to build two wind turbines approximately 27 miles off the coast of Virginia Beach. Engineering and development work is expected to begin immediately with a targeted installation date of 2020. Dominion Energy spokeswoman Le-Ha Anderson said the project will cost an estimated \$300 million, while previous bids went as high as \$400 million and were open ended.

The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (7/10, Zullo) reports the project was announced by Dominion Energy Chairman, President, and CEO Thomas F. Farrell II during a ceremony on Monday at the Portsmouth Marine Terminal. Farrell said, "We have been working on this for a

long time and it has been far from easy," referring to the complexities and economics of offshore wind technology. The [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (7/10, Mayfield) further quotes Farrell as saying, "Virginia is now positioned to be a leader in developing more renewable energy thanks to the Commonwealth's committed leadership and DONG's unrivaled expertise in building offshore wind farms ... While we have faced many technological challenges and even more doubters as we advanced this project, we have been steadfast in our commitment to our customers and the communities we serve." The article mentions that Dominion Energy has previously taken steps towards offshore wind, but in May 2016 lost a Department of Energy grant for a test offshore wind development. At that time, Dominion Energy spokesman David Botkins said, "The wind is not out of the sails." Meanwhile, the [Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (7/10, Ress) reports Farrell said the project could be a precursor to a 2,000-megawatt project.

The [Southside Daily \(VA\)](#) (7/10, Poulter) reports Gov. Terry McAuliffe said, "Today marks the first step in what I expect to be the deployment of hundreds of wind turbines off Virginia's coast that will further diversify our energy production portfolio, create thousands of jobs, and reduce carbon emissions in the Commonwealth."

Additional coverage is provided in a brief by [Reuters](#) (7/10), [The Hill](#) (7/10, Henry), an "Overnight Energy" piece for [The Hill](#) (7/10, Cama, Henry), [Electric Light & Power](#) (7/10), [Virginia Business Magazine](#) (7/10, Squires), [Engineering360](#) (7/10, Wagman), [PennEnergy](#) (7/10), [Windpower Engineering & Development](#) (7/10, Froese), [North American Windpower](#) (7/10, Lillian), [WTOP-FM](#) Washington (7/10, Clabaugh), [WAVY-TV](#) Norfolk, VA (7/10, Alvarez), and [WTKR-TV](#) Norfolk, VA (7/10, Ponton).

The AP article is also provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/10, Rankin), [ABC News](#) (7/10, Rankin), [Fox Business](#) (7/10), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (7/10), the [Fredericksburg \(VA\) Free Lance-Star](#) (7/10, Rankin), the [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (7/10), the [Lynchburg \(VA\) News & Advance](#) (7/10), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (7/10), [Federal News Radio \(DC\)](#) (7/10), [WVEC-TV](#) Hampton Roads, VA (7/10), [WWBT-TV](#) Richmond, VA (7/10), [WSET-TV](#) Lynchburg, VA (7/10), and [WVBT-TV](#) Virginia Beach, VA (7/10).

R.I. Council: Block Island Wind Farm Not To Blame For Whale Death.

[North American Windpower](#) (7/10, Lillian) reports that "in response to the whale carcass recently discovered on a beach in Jamestown, R.I., and the suggestion by local newspapers that the death of the creature may have been caused by the Block Island Wind Farm, the state's Coastal Resources Management Council (CRMC) is claiming there is no scientific evidence to prove the theory." The CRMC "cites information from the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM), which says there has been no scientific evidence collected to date of any whales being injured or stranded due to offshore wind activities." According to the council, "BOEM reportedly plans to continue to monitor and assess potential impacts related to the construction and operation of wind farms on marine life, specifically whales, through the Environmental Studies Program and data collected from lessees and state and federal partners."

Additional Coverage: BOEM Suggests Lower Shallow Water Royalties, Eyes Price-Based Rates.

Additional coverage that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management is "proposing to reduce the royalty rate for Gulf of Mexico (GOM) oil and natural gas leases sold during the August federal sale to 12.5% from 18.75%" was provided by [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (7/10, Davis).

Bureau Of Reclamation

This Week: Crunch Time For Senate's ObamaCare Repeal Bill.

In its "Floor Action" blog, [The Hill](#) (7/10, Marcos, Carney) reports that the House is "slated to consider legislation this week to streamline the approval process for new dams to help alleviate water shortages in California." The bill, "endorsed by other GOP members of the California delegation, is authored by Rep. David Valadao (R-Calif.), one of the most vulnerable House Republicans heading into 2018." The article notes that "among other provisions, Valadao's bill imposes deadlines for the completion of feasibility studies for water storage projects and establishes the Bureau of Reclamation as the lead agency to coordinate permitting reviews and federal approvals for storage facilities."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Fort Morgan \(CO\) Times](#) (7/10, Grubbs).

Employers Lined Up For Veterans Jobs Fair In North Las Vegas.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (7/10, Rogers) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation will be among the employers to attend a jobs fair for military veterans Thursday in North Las Vegas.

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Angelle: Post Deepwater Horizon Rules In Review.

The [St. Mary Now \(LA\)](#) (7/10, Kirgan) reports that "a review of offshore oil and gas drilling regulations imposed during the Obama administration is to be completed by the end of year," according to Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement director Scott Angelle. He said, "I don't think this administration has a high level of appreciation for bureaucracy. We've already begun to start trying to map out a way to review it in a transparent way and at the same time not let it slip away."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Search Turns Up No Additional Asian Carp In Chicago Waterway.

The [AP](#) (7/10, Flesher) reports that "officials say no additional Asian carp have turned up in the Chicago waterway where the recent discovery of an adult male carp triggered an intensive search." Federal and state authorities "hired commercial crews to comb the area after a fisherman landed the fish on Chicago's south side on June 22, about 9 miles from Lake Michigan." The Asian Carp Regional Coordinating Committee "said Monday that a two-week search came up empty."

Sea Lamprey Control Planned In Local Creeks.

The [Escanaba \(MI\) Daily Press](#) (7/10) reports that "U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada personnel will apply lampricides to Valentine and Squaw creeks in Delta County to kill sea lamprey larvae burrowed in the stream bottom."

It's Too Soon To Strip Grizzlies Of Federal Protection.

In an op-ed for the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (7/10, Santarsiere), Andrea Santarsiere, a lawyer with the Center for Biological Diversity, criticizes the decision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to strip Yellowstone grizzlies from "federal endangered species protections, turning over management to state governments eager to declare open season on these American icons." According to Santarsiere, "grizzlies have regained barely a foothold in the lower 48 states, so any delisting is premature and could undermine 40 years of complex work to recover the species."

National Park Service

Mariners' Museum, Watermen's Museum And Nauticus Foundation Receive \$163,350 In Grants.

The [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (7/10, Williams) reports that Virginia organizations received more than \$163,000 in National Maritime Heritage Program grants awarded by the National Park Service, including the Mariners' Museum, Watermen's Museum and Nauticus Foundation.

The Ohio Sea Grant and Stone Laboratory similarly received a National Maritime Heritage Program Grant award, the [Willoughby \(OH\) News-Herald](#) (7/10) reports, while the [Mainebiz](#) (7/10) says the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath and Atlantic Challenge Foundation in Rockland are among the 27 organizations receiving grants from the National Park Service.

Congress To Consider Addition To Fort Scott National Historic Site.

The [Lawrence \(KS\) Journal World](#) (7/10, Hancock) reports that "the U.S. House is expected to vote Tuesday night on a bill that would authorize the Fort Scott National Historic Site to officially acquire a Civil War-era blockhouse that has been in private hands since the end of that war." The structure is "known as the Lunette Blair or, more familiarly, the western blockhouse." According to park superintendent, Betty Boyko, "when the old fort was designated as a National Historic Site in 1978, the enacting legislation specifically prohibited the National Park Service from acquiring it."

Advocates Shoot For Moon In Fight To Make Paoli Battlefield National Landmark.

[Philly \(PA\)](#) (7/10, Bond) reports that “supporters have uncovered fresh evidence to buttress their case for making the Main Line site of a Revolutionary War battle a national landmark, but ironically, a major victory they won two decades ago might have slowed progress.” According to the article, “to spare the land from bulldozers, in 1999 the Paoli Battlefield Preservation Fund purchased the 40-acre tract, where British forces killed at least 53 Americans and wounded more than 150 in 1777, and secured a place on the National Register of Historic Places as a site of ‘local’ significance.” The article says that “with development pressures building, pursuing that designation saved valuable time as opposed to the more-prolonged process of proving ‘national’ significance.” However, “after advocates applied two years ago to make the battlefield a National Historic Landmark, they found they had to overcome the federal government’s skepticism about so knighting Paoli when two decades before supporters had argued for its ‘local’ importance.”

52 More Acres Of Shepherdstown Battlefield Land Preserved.

The [Hagerstown \(MD\) Herald-Mail Media](#) (7/10, Umstead) reports that “advocates of preserving a Civil War battlefield near Shepherdstown now have protected about 52 acres from development.” The Jefferson County (W.Va.) Historic Landmarks Commission “announced last week that it took title to 26 more acres of battlefield land through the assistance of the Civil War Trust, a nonprofit battlefield-preservation group.” Sens. Joe Manchin and Shelley Moore Capito “announced Friday that an award of \$44,525.95 in federal funding will help preserving more than 14 of the 26 acres.” The senators “voiced strong support for preservation of the Shepherdstown battlefield in their joint announcement.”

Rome And Other Communities Awarded Federal Historic Preservation Grants.

The [Coosa Valley \(GA\) News](#) (7/10) reports that “seven Georgia municipalities will receive federal subgrants totaling more than \$90,000 to support historic preservation activities in their respective communities, the Georgia Historic Preservation Division announced Monday.” The 2017 Historic Preservation Fund grants “facilitate historic preservation planning initiatives and projects such as historic resource surveys, outreach efforts, and bricks-and-mortar projects throughout the state.”

Glacier Park To Allow Some Private Motor Boats Back On Lakes.

The [AP](#) (7/10) reports that Glacier National Park is “allowing some private, motorized boats to be launched on park lakes, after closing all waters last November when aquatic mussels were detected in Tiber Reservoir, about 100 miles (160 kilometers) east of the park.” The park “gradually re-opened its waters to hand-propelled boats in March and then to concession rented and operated motorized boats.” Park officials “said Monday that within the next few weeks they’ll announce procedures for the inspection and 30-day quarantine required for private boats.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (7/10, Scott).

Glacier National Park Sets June Visitation Record.

The [AP](#) (7/10) reports that Glacier National Park “saw a record of nearly 621,000 visitors in June, an increase of 28 percent over last year’s record for the same month.” The article adds that “June visitor numbers are up 82 percent over the 341,000 visitors in June 2007.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (7/10, Tabish).

National Monument To Use Public Water.

The [Franklin \(VA\) News Post](#) (7/10) reports that Booker T. Washington National Monument is “hooking up to the Western Virginia Water Authority’s public water system.” Work started June 6 “to integrate the park water system into the public system that will one day allow the installation of a fire prevention sprinkler system at the park’s visitor center.”

Road Work To Delay Zion National Park Visitors In Late July.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (7/10, Hershkovitz) reports that “visitors to Zion National Park can expect delays along Kolob Terrace Road due to road work beginning later this month, the National Park Service said.” According to the NPS, “the maintenance project begins its final phase July 25.” The project is “scheduled for completion Aug. 1, the park service said.”

Teton Park Officials To Meet On Roundabout.

The [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (7/10, Koshmrl) reports that “a sometimes-sketchy intersection on Highway 26/89/191 north of Jackson in Grand Teton National Park is about to become the site of one of the Equality State’s few traffic roundabouts.” According to the article “construction on the structure, located at the highway’s intersection with Gros Ventre Road and Sagebrush Drive, is set to begin this spring.” Park managers are “presenting the plans to the public and have scheduled an open house-style meeting from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the National Museum of Wildlife Art.”

Highline Trail Opens In Glacier National Park.

The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (7/10) reports that the National Park Service opened the Highline Trail in Glacier National Park last week.

Scary Video Leads To Arrest After Cyclist Hit On Bike Route.

[WTVR-TV](#) Richmond, VA (7/10, Wise) reports that “a Tennessee cyclist suffered cuts and bruises when he was struck by a SUV while he was riding on Natchez Trace Parkway on Saturday.” The article says that “the driver, 58-year-old Marshall Grant Neely III, was later arrested and charged with leaving the scene of an accident, failure to immediately notify of an accident, reckless endangerment, and failure to render aid.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/10, Bever), the [Tennessean](#) (7/10, West, Meyer), the [Tennessean](#) (7/10, Buie, Balakit), and [WBIR-TV Knoxville \(TN\)](#) Knoxville, TN (7/10).

Landmark Status Appears Likely For Alms House In Kingston, Enabling Housing Agency To Secure Tax Credits.

The [Kingston \(NY\) Daily Freeman](#) (7/10, Kirby) reports that “RUPCO is a step closer to securing historic landmark status for the former Alms House property on Flatbush Avenue.” A document from the National Park Service “says it’s likely the 1870s building will be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.”

Q&A With National Park Service Photographer Jarob Ortiz.

The [Denver Post](#) (7/10, Lyons) reports that “in 2016, the National Park Service hired photographer Jarob J. Ortiz to document parks and historic sites across the United States as part of their Heritage Documentation Programs.” The article presents “a sample of his work and questions and answers about his ongoing projects.”

25 Most-visited National Park Service Sites In 2016.

[USA Today](#) (7/10) highlights the 25 most popular National Park Service sites in 2016.

Office Of Insular Affairs

Mapp, Potter, Out Of Territory; Finance Commissioner Serving As Acting Governor.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (7/10) reports that Governor Kenneth Mapp “departed the territory on Sunday to meet with federal officials and congressional leaders in Washington, D.C. and to attend the National Governors Association’s Summer Meeting in Providence, Rhode Island, Government House has announced.” Mapp’s schedule includes meetings with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos.

US Geological Survey

USGS To Conduct Dye Test To Track Sandusky River Flow.

The [Fremont \(OH\) News-Messenger](#) (7/10) reports that the U.S. Geological Survey “plans to conduct a dye study Tuesday on the Sandusky River.” The USGS will “inject Rhodamine WT dye, a nontoxic water tracer, into the Sandusky River to track its travel downstream to Muddy Creek Bay.”

Top National News

Lawmakers Want To Question Donald Trump Jr. About Meeting With Russian Lawyer.

Donald Trump Jr.'s June 2016 meeting with Russian lawyer Natalia Veselnitskaya is the subject of extensive media coverage, most of which is negative for the Administration, questioning whether the encounter is evidence the Trump campaign sought to work with Russia to damage Hillary Clinton's campaign. That question was underscored by a front-page [New York Times](#) (7/10, A1, Apuzzo, Becker, Goldman, Haberman) story which says Trump Jr. was informed by email before he arranged the meeting that the information Veselnitskaya would provide was part of an effort by the Russian government to aid the Trump campaign. The AP also says the email, from music publicist Rob Goldstone, "is likely to be of keen interest to the Justice Department and congressional investigators, who are examining whether any of President Trump's associates colluded with the Russian government to disrupt last year's election."

Many reports focus on comments from lawmakers of both parties who are calling for Trump Jr. to testify about the meeting, while others portray Trump Jr. and the White House as being on defense as they sought to downplay the significance of the story. Other reports question whether Trump Jr. could now be in legal jeopardy, and highlight that he has retained a criminal defense lawyer. The [Washington Post](#) (7/10, Helderman, Hamburger) reports that Goldstone confirmed Monday that he requested the meeting "at the request of Emin Agalarov, a Russian pop star" he represents. Agalarov's "Kremlin-connected family has done business with President Trump in the past." The Post adds that the involvement of the Agalarovs "brings the meeting closer to both Trump's past business interests and to the Kremlin." A separate story in the [New York Times](#) (7/10, Eder, Twohey) says that the Agalarovs "appear to have a good relationship with [Russian President Vladimir] Putin."

Kevin Corke said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/10) that the story is "either the most direct suggestion between the Trump campaign and Russian officials, or its simply a matter of a meeting that was set up under false pretenses that had nothing to do with the campaign itself." Regardless, said [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/10), the meeting is "certainly raising fresh questions whether Trump's associates actively tried to work with Russians to hurt Clinton's campaign."

The [Washington Times](#) (7/10, Boylan) reports that members from both sides of the aisle are "clamoring" for Trump Jr.'s testimony, while [USA Today](#) (7/10, Johnson) says that "congressional leaders on Monday vowed to question" him about the meeting. Sen. Mark Warner, ranking Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee said the committee "absolutely" wants to speak with Trump Jr. about the meeting. Warner, who described the meeting as "very troubling," said, "This was the first time the public has seen direct evidence that Trump campaign officials reached out...to agents of a foreign government to try to get damaging information on Hillary Clinton. ... Rest assured that Donald Trump Jr. will be somebody we want to talk to."

[The Hill](#) (7/10, Easley) says Warner "vented frustration...with what he described as a 'pattern of convenient forgetfulness' by Trump campaign officials over undisclosed meetings with Russians." Warner told reporters, "What continues to bother me is this pattern, and I think we're up to 20-plus examples, of senior-level officials, and even you could argue the president himself, continues to deny they've had any contacts with Russians until the proof comes out that there were contacts, multiple contacts. ... And then senior officials recant or amend their filings...a rational person would ask, why didn't they remember these meetings? I think these meetings were pretty important." Mara Liasson made a similar argument on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/10), saying, "I don't understand why so many people in the Trump Administration keep on forgetting they met with the Russians. ... They all seem to forget that they met with the Russians or they don't disclose it when they are required to." Charles Krauthammer agreed, saying on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/10), "There is a sort of epidemic of amnesia having to do with Russians, which is remarkable. There were three people in the meeting and not one of them remembered until being reminded now."

Sen. Amy Klobuchar said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (7/10) that "three top people surrounding the President at that time, his campaign chairman, his son, his son-in-law, went to a meeting with someone whose purpose was to give them dirt on Hillary Clinton. And so what concerns me is that this has reached the highest levels now, and that is why we have a special prosecutor." Klobuchar added that "we are getting very close to a serious, serious matter."

Sen. Chris Coons said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (7/10), "For a group of folks that have nothing to hide about their interactions with Russia, they certainly seem to have been hiding a lot. The idea that these three individuals, the President's son, the President's son-in-law, and the President's campaign manager organized a meeting in order to get the fruits of cyber hacking into their opponent's campaign is strongly suggestive of potentially criminal activity and the idea that they failed to previously report this despite being required to do so suggests that there may well

be some inappropriate action, some conspiracy, or some obstruction." Coons said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/10) said the revelations about Trump Jr.'s meeting are "part of a disturbing pattern where the Trump Administration – and I'll remind you this includes Attorney General Jeff Sessions, former National Security Adviser Mike Flynn, and now the president's own son, son-in-law, and campaign manager all conveniently forgot meetings with senior Russian officials, or in this case, a representative claiming that could mean a lot to seek information about the Trump campaign."

Sen. Ben Cardin said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (7/10), "The meeting with this lawyer, at the time that they met in June just about when the nomination of Mr. Trump was being locked up, is extremely concerning."

Such expressions of concern were not limited to Democrats, however. Sen. Susan Collins called for the Intelligence Committee to interview Trump Jr. and others who participated in the meeting, [Politico](#) (7/10, Wright) reports. Sen. Pat Toomey was asked on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (7/10) if it is "appropriate for a presidential campaign to solicit or accept negative information about arrival from a Russian national." Toomey said, "No, that doesn't strike me as appropriate.... It encourages countries to come in and undermine our democratic process. And these countries have great capabilities to do that sort of thing. I don't think we want to have that happen." Asked about Trump Jr.'s meeting, Toomey said, "This is breaking news. I think this came out over the weekend. How many people were in this meeting? I think we're going to find out what happened in this meeting. We're going to learn a lot more about it and we should."

By contrast, Rep. Ted Yoho said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/10) said he thinks he "probably would have done the same thing" as Trump Jr., adding, "I mean, it's opposition research. Anybody that's been in an election, you're always looking to get the upper hand."

Jonathan Karl said in the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/10, lead story, 3:10, Muir) that it is "commonplace for a campaign official to meet with somebody offering negative information about an opponent," but it is "highly unusual for that meeting to be with somebody lobbying on behalf of Russian interest." On the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/10, story 3, 3:40, Mason), Major Garrett said the reason the meeting is different from opposition research on political opponents is that "most of that is done inside the United States, not from a foreign agent or someone who might be representing a foreign government." In addition, "shortly after this June 9 meeting with Don, Jr. and others, hacked [DNC] emails began to appear, first from Guccifer 2.0 and then WikiLeaks, all adding speculation to what that meeting was about and what it might have led to."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/10) reported that Trump Jr.'s story "has shifted over time." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/10, Cloud, Memoli) says the "shifting stories about Russia contacts have frustrated the president's attempts to move beyond questions about Russia and the election" and these "latest disclosures...provide potential new avenues" for special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation. [Politico](#) (7/10, Nussbaum, Dawsey) cites "White House veterans" who "warn that such shifting statements could dangerously erode the White House's already diminished credibility."

The [AP](#) (7/10, Day, Moody) reports that while Trump Jr. "acknowledged Monday he made time for the meeting hoping to get information about Democrat Hillary Clinton," he also "tried to brush off the significance of the meeting, [tweeting](#) sarcastically, 'Obviously I'm the first person on a campaign to ever take a meeting to hear info about an opponent ... went nowhere but had to listen.'" Later Monday, attorney Alan Futerfas "said he had been retained to represent" Trump Jr., who "[said](#) on Twitter he was willing to work with the Senate intelligence committee, one of the panels probing possible campaign collusion, 'to pass on what I know.'" The [New York Post](#) (7/10, Fredericks) describes Futerfas as "a high-powered white collar crime criminal defense lawyer," and quotes the website SuperLawyer.com as saying he "regularly defends white-collar professionals including corporate officers, directors and hedge fund principals, often in highly charged investigative settings." [Politico](#) (7/10, McCaskill) reports that Futerfas said Monday that Trump Jr. "did nothing wrong" by taking the meeting, and "dismissed the report as 'much ado about nothing.'"

In its lead story, [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/10, lead story, 2:50, Welker) said Trump Jr. is "the fourth person in the President's inner circle to seek legal representation as investigators probe possible connections with Russia," while the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/10, story 2, 3:20, Pegues) said he is "the fourth Trump campaign associate to admit with previously undisclosed contacts with Russian nationals."

[Politico](#) (7/10, Samuelsohn) says Trump Jr. "is in a legal danger zone," adding that "his statements put him potentially in legal crosshairs for violating federal criminal statutes prohibiting

solicitation or acceptance of anything of value from a foreign national, as well as a conspiracy to defraud the United States." Politico cites "legal experts of both political parties" who said Trump Jr.'s "explanations may not fly if he's questioned under oath by Congress or Robert Mueller." In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (7/10), Randall D. Eliason, who teaches white-collar criminal law at George Washington University Law School, writes that prosecutors in Mueller's office "are no doubt extremely interested in what happened" in the meeting. Eliason adds that while Trump campaign officials' willingness "to entertain the idea of accepting help from Russian nationals in a US presidential election," is "far from proof of a criminal conspiracy." For "prosecutors trying to build that wall of circumstantial evidence, it provides a pretty solid foundation."

However, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/10, Gershman, Hong) cites election law experts who say it is unclear whether Trump Jr.'s meeting was in violation of the law. While election law bars foreign nations and foreign governments from contributing or donating money or "anything of value," and prohibits a campaign or members of a campaign from knowingly and willfully soliciting, accepting or receiving a donation or "thing of value" from a foreign national, prosecutions under the law have generally deal with cash donations and experts say it could be difficult to assign a value to a promise to provide damaging information about Clinton.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/10) argues in an editorial that while federal prosecutors will "determine whether federal conspiracy laws or election laws barring campaigns from soliciting help from foreigners have been implicated," the "plausibility of the Trump camp's narrative, in which any underhanded Russian assistance came without the campaign's witting participation, is eroding." Trump associates, the Post adds, "must now explain interactions with Russians that they previously insisted never took place." Eugene Robinson writes in his [Washington Post](#) (7/10) column in March, Trump Jr. said "that he had had no meetings with Russians 'that were set up...and certainly none that I was representing the campaign in any way, shape or form.'" Robinson asks, "Do you find it remotely believable that he somehow forgot a meeting that he set up, between a party-line Russian lawyer and the campaign? Neither do I."

On [CNN's The Lead](#) (7/10), Jeff Zeleny described the White House as being "on the defensive...insisting President Trump didn't know about the session in Trump Tower that came only two weeks after he clinched the nomination." [CNN](#) (7/10, Merica) reported on its website that deputy press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said that the President only learned of the meeting "in the last couple of days." [Reuters](#) (7/10) reports the White House argued that "there was nothing inappropriate" about the meeting, "adding it was short and produced 'absolutely no follow-up.'" The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/10, Radnofsky, Ballhaus) says Sanders argued that the only thing inappropriate about the meeting was the fact that it was leaked that the meeting took place.

Conway Derides Claims Of Collusion As "Wishful Thinking." Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (7/10), "He goes into the meeting. He says it was vague. It was ambiguous. It was very obvious almost immediately that there was no helpful or meaningful information and that the meeting quickly turned over to the matter of Russian adoption, which is probably the pretext for the entire meeting from the very beginning." Conway added, "I think what's important here is that we're at day 200 or so of no evidence of Russian collusion. People think they want to convert wishful thinking into hard evidence."

[Politico](#) (7/10, McCaskill) says Conway "toured the morning shows Monday to defend Trump Jr.," including an appearance on ABC's "Good Morning America," and "an often combative [interview](#) with CNN's Chris Cuomo," in which she "accused the host of trying to convince his viewers that the meeting 'was imbued with some type of seriousness' because three principals were involved." Said Conway, "That just simply is not true. This was standard operating procedure for the campaign. ... Let's focus on what did not happen in that meeting. No information provided that was meaningful. No action taken. Nothing." Becket Adams writes in the [Washington Examiner](#) (7/10) that the "showdown" between Conway and Cuomo produced "no winners," as both Cuomo and Conway "were interested only in feeding red meat to their respective bases. Put more plainly, the interview was embarrassing for both parties. They didn't even try to give the appearance of wanting to have an honest and truthful discussion on some of the White House's more nagging problems."

[The Hill](#) (7/10, Easley, Fabian, Williams) says that "current and former White House advisers" said privately that "they're not remotely unnerved by the development, even as they cast Trump Jr. as a clumsy political operative prone to stumbling into controversy." Under a headline declaring the story "A Giant Red Herring," [Breitbart](#) (7/10, Pollak) says it is sufficient for the left "that a member of the Trump family met with someone from Russia. That is enough to revive the failing Russia conspiracy theory, lighting up social media and setting the mainstream

news agenda for the week." Arguing that there is "still no evidence of any collusion between the Trump campaign and the Russian government," Breitbart says the story "is a giant red herring – one that will ultimately hurt the media's credibility and the Democrats' prospects."

Brit Hume said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/10), "When you step back a little bit and look at it, it looks kind of like a farcical episode in which...Donald Trump, Jr. was conned into holding a meeting with this Russian lawyer who had a cause to promote. ... To get him to have such a meeting, she hinted or indicated that she had some information on Hillary Clinton, possibly involving Hillary Clinton campaign connections to the Russians that she wanted to spill. They get in the meeting and she didn't have any information. ... The whole thing has the element of a farce." Hume added, "This meeting seems to be eminently forgettable, almost laughable."

Veselnitskaya Lobbied Against Magnitsky Act. The [Washington Times](#) (7/10, Noble) reports that Veselnitskaya "has drawn the attention of US investigators before – after she lobbied against a US law despised by Vladimir Putin and made a questionable reimbursement request to federal prosecutors." Veselnitskaya, a Moscow-based lawyer, "has represented state-owned Russian businesses and the son of a senior Russian rail official, whose company was among those accused by the Justice Department of laundering \$230 million in fraudulently obtained tax refunds from the Russian government." In addition, she "has played a significant role in a Russian public relations offensive against the Magnitsky Act, named for Sergei Magnitsky, a lawyer who was arrested and died in a Russian prison after he discovered massive fraud by corrupt Russian officials." The law "lets US officials withhold visas and freeze financial assets of Russians suspected of human rights abuses."

The [New York Times](#) (7/10, Taub) reports that while Trump Jr. "initially defended" the meeting "by saying that it was primarily about adoption — a seemingly innocent humanitarian issue," whether he "and his associates knew it at the time or not, the issues of adoptions and sanctions are so inextricably linked as to be practically synonymous." The connection between the two issues "comes down to one word: leverage." Revoking the Magnitsky Act "became an important foreign policy priority for Mr. Putin's government" and Putin "identified adoptions as an area that seemed to offer a way to force the issue" because in the year before its passage, "about 1,000 Russian children were adopted by American families," and many more "were still pending, some for American parents who had already met the children they expected to take home. An adoption freeze would be a grievous loss for those families."

White House Criticizes Russia Sanctions Bill Now Stalled In The House.

The [AP](#) (7/10, Lardner) reports that new economic sanctions on Russia and Iran "are missing from the list of bills the House is scheduled to vote on this week," and Democrats and Republicans are blaming each other "for stalling passage of the popular measure." The AP notes that "it's been nearly a month since the Senate overwhelmingly backed the bill 98-2 and swift passage in the House had seemed likely." [Reuters](#) (7/10) reports Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker said Monday that if the House does not pass the bill, "it is because members do not want to impose new sanctions, not because of a procedural issue." Wolf Blitzer reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/10) that Corker also "said the White House does not understand this bill if that's what they contend." Corker added that "the White House almost certainly will be overridden if...the President does veto this bill."

Another [AP](#) (7/10, Lardner) report says the White House on Monday said the bill "unacceptably constrains the President's authority." White House legislative director Marc Short told reporters that the Administration "backs the new sanctions on Russia and Iran," but "appeared to object to a key part of the legislation that would give Capitol Hill a much stronger hand in determining Russia sanctions policy." Said Short, "Our concern is that the legislation, we believe, sets an unusual precedent of delegating foreign policy to 535 members of Congress by not including certain national security waivers that have always been consistently part of sanctions bills in the past."

Rep. Ted Yoho said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/10) that he "absolutely" supports the latest Russia sanctions bill. He said that if the legislation is in place, "I think it's a safeguard for our country's national security."

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/10) editorial says the Senate bill contains a provision that expands restrictions on how US energy firms can interact with Russian counterparts, and calls on the House to fix it.

White House: Trump Did Discuss Sanctions With Putin. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/10, Memoli) reports that the White House on Monday said President Trump's conversation with Russian President Vladimir Putin last week "did include discussion of sanctions applied by the Obama

administration in response to the election meddling." Deputy White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders' statement, however, "seemed to contradict the President's own assertion on Twitter a day earlier." A "White House official," however, "insisted the two statements were not in conflict because Trump did not raise separate sanctions related to Russia's incursions into Ukraine."

[USA Today](#) (7/10, Jackson) similarly says that while the President "says he didn't talk about sanctions" during his meeting with Putin, "at least two administration officials have since contradicted him." Asked about the contradictions, Sanders said her understanding is that "the president's tweet was referencing sanctions regarding Ukraine and Syria."

Sen. Pat Toomey said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (7/10) that the President's meeting with Putin "was a big disappointment. ... The biggest concern is Vladimir Putin needed to come away from that meeting understanding that he's going to have to pay a price for his aggression in Crimea, for his aggression in Ukraine, for his aggression in the American elections and that there is a President who let him know squarely, you're going to pay a price. ... And until your behavior changes, these things don't get reversed. That should have been the message."

Sen. Amy Klobuchar said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (7/10), "We have always believed that you have to continue to meet with Russia and talk to Russia. That's not the issue. The issue here is that Vladimir Putin listens to power. And when the President comes in with mixed signals saying he wasn't sure, other countries have also done this, that's not the kind of message that we want to send to someone like Vladimir Putin."

Asked on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/10) about Trump's claim that he "strongly pressed" Putin on Russia's meddling during their meeting, Coons said "the Trump camp has a longstanding reputation of not standing up to President Putin," and Trump "would have been far more forceful" if Trump had signed into law the Russia sanctions bill that passed in the Senate 98-2 and then presented it to Putin at the meeting. Coons said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (7/10), "Trump stepped up to the plate and whiffed. The idea that we're going to simply agree to disagree and move on, I think, steps aside from confronting the very real challenge, which is that Vladimir Putin and his Russian intelligence agencies fully intend to interfere in our next election in 2018 and 2020." Coons added, "Imagine how much stronger that confrontation would have been if President Trump had presented Putin with a signed law that imposed tougher sanctions on Russia for their inappropriate and unacceptable interference in our election."

Siemens Says Russian Partner Violated Crimea Sanctions. The [New York Times](#) (7/10, Ewing, Kramer) reports Munich-based Siemens said Monday that it had become "an unwilling pawn in a scheme to evade sanctions against Russia and break a de facto blockade of electricity to the annexed territory Crimea." Siemens "said a Russian customer had illegally shipped two power plant turbines to Crimea instead of their intended destination in southern Russia." The Times says the incident "threatens to strain relations between the countries."

Trump Accuses Comey Of Illegally Leaking Classified Information.

Coverage and commentary on a Monday [tweet](#) from the President, in which he accused former FBI Director Comey of leaking classified information, is largely unfavorable toward Trump. The President wrote, "James Comey leaked CLASSIFIED INFORMATION to the media. That is so illegal!" Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway argued on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (7/10), "This is just a stunning story that really should be the news of the day so thanks for covering it." Under oath, Comey "said that these were his personal recollections. He said as a private citizen he really had to get this information out. So the Boy Scout choir boy defense doesn't hold up here. Because if it contains classified information, he is apparently violating at the very least what all members of the FBI sign." However, a number of reports – including several from left-leaning outlets – say Trump based the accusation on a [story](#) from Fox News' "Fox & Friends" which in turn mischaracterized a [report](#) in The Hill that said Comey's private memos about his meetings with Trump contained classified information.

The [New York Daily News](#) (7/10, Joseph) reports Trump's tweet accusing Comey followed an [earlier](#) one in which he "retweet[ed] his favorite morning echo chamber, Fox & Friends, which in turn was discussing (and misrepresenting)" The Hill report. While the Fox & Friends tweet claimed, "Report accuses material James Comey leaked to a friend contained top secret information," that "wasn't what The Hill's report said. Rather, it said that some of Comey's memos of his private meetings with Trump contained classified information – not that the one he leaked to a friend did."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/10, Shepherd) reports that Columbia University professor Daniel Richman, on whom Comey relied "to leak his memos to the press just after he was fired is

disputing" The Hill report, calling it "a non-story." Richman told Fox News, "No memos were given to the press, and no memos were classified at the time I received them." [NBC News](#) (7/10, Dilanian) report on its website that according to Richman, "three of the memos were classified from the beginning, and were never shared with" him. Of the four remaining memos, "a small portion — much less than half — has been retroactively deemed classified, said a Congressional source familiar with the matter." Richman told NBC "that to his knowledge, nothing in the one memo that he described to reporters was or has been deemed classified."

Steve Benen, producer of The Rachel Maddow Show, writes on the [MSNBC](#) (7/10) website that Trump "took his contempt for Comey in a new direction," accusing him "of breaking the law by leaking classified information to the news media," but according to Richman, "that isn't true." According to The Hill, "some of the memos Comey wrote about his interactions included classified information. And while it's true that Comey ultimately shared one of his memos with his friend, Daniel Richman, that memo wasn't one of the classified ones." In a piece for [National Review](#) (7/10), Andrew C. McCarthy calls Trump's tweet "intemperate." The Hill report, he adds, "is based on leaks (which, I'd note, the president is not complaining about this time). The government has not taken a formal public position on the memos yet." Moreover, "if we assume the report is accurate (as I am inclined to do), it indicates that at least four of the seven memos contain classified information — not that all of them do."

[Roll Call](#) (7/10, Bennett) says that while The Hill's story "does not allege that the leaked document contained classified information," it "does suggest the former FBI chief broke his agency's own rules by not seeking permission before releasing information about ongoing investigations, as well as by telling lawmakers he considered his memos personal property." Eric Levitz writes in the [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (7/10) that if the account in The Hill is true, "it would be fair to say that Comey was bizarrely sloppy in how he chose to go public." However, it is "difficult to see how the former FBI director's flouting of bureaucratic protocol is anywhere near as concerning as the president's concerted efforts to compromise the independence of federal law enforcement."

Under the headline, "Trump Accuses James Comey Of Breaking The Law – Based On A Misleading Fox News Report," Philip Bump writes in the [Washington Post](#) (7/10) that it is "obvious why Trump's team embraced this idea that Comey had leaked classified information to his friend: It reinforces the president's prior arguments that the man he fired was the real villain in their interactions." Bump argues that that this "is not the first time that Trump has seen a misleading bit of information on 'Fox and Friends' and made the problem worse," adding that it "appears that the opportunity to hammer his political opponents is often too urgent in his mind to ensure that he's doing so accurately." In a blog post for the [Washington Post](#) (7/10), Erik Wemple writes that Trump's "already well established" reliance on Fox & Friends "took on a bit more menace" with the Comey tweet. Wemple argues, "We've already seen the damage that can be done by Fox News in the Trump era. ... Left to its own devices, 'Fox & Friends' could do far more damage, unless it's killed."

[Vanity Fair](#) (7/10, Tracy) says Fox & Friends "mischaracterized" The Hill report, "leading Trump" to post the tweet. Vanity Fair adds that Benjamin Wittes, the editor of Lawfare "and a longtime friend of the former FBI. director, suggested that Trump may have defamed Comey," writing in a series of tweets, "If the tweet is false, it is also libelous. [Trump] usually stops short of libeling named individuals in his tweets. Not this time." However, Wittes also "not[ed] that Trump could claim immunity." Jarrett: Mueller Unlikely To Investigate, Prosecute Comey. In an op-ed on the [Fox News](#) (7/10) website, Fox News anchor Gregg Jarrett questions whether Comey will "escape prosecution, courtesy of his good friend, Robert Mueller." Jarrett argues that if Comey kept the four memos that, according to The Hill, "have been determined to contain classified information," in his personal possession, "it would appear that he committed multiple felonies under the Espionage Act." However, Jarrett adds that it is "doubtful" that Mueller will "investigate and, if warranted, prosecute his protégé."

Sanders Highlights DNC Coordination With Ukrainian Embassy. The [Washington Times](#) (7/10, Miller) reports that the White House argued Monday that "the real collusion with a foreign power during the campaign was between the Democratic National Committee and Ukraine." Deputy press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters, "If you are looking for an example of a campaign coordinating with foreign country or a foreign source, look no further than the DNC which actually coordinated opposition research with the Ukrainian embassy." Citing "DNC operatives [work] with officials at the Ukraine embassy in an effort to spread dirt on Donald Trump during the campaign," Sanders said, "This is not an accusation. That is an on-the-record action that they took. ... No one in this room to my knowledge really had a problem with that."

Klobuchar Repeats Incorrect Claim 17 Agencies Have Agreed About Russian Meddling. The

[Washington Times](#) (7/10, Persons) reports that in an appearance on MSNBC Monday, Sen. Amy Klobuchar “reiterated the incorrect statistic...that 17 intelligence agencies all agreed Russia was the sole actor in hacking the 2016 elections.” Klobuchar said, “You’re saying 17 intelligence agencies have firmly established that Russia has been trying to hack us. We know they’ve been hacking on the private side as well. That’s why Congress, on a vote of 97-2 in the US senate, we put forward stronger sanctions.” The New York Times last week “issued a correction regarding the statistic saying Mr. Trump was correct that only four offices have determined Russia interfered, including the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Security Agency, the FBI and the Director of National Intelligence Office.”

WSJournal Analysis: Bipartisan Reports On Russia Investigation Will Be Difficult. A [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/10, Tau) analysis says that while the Republican and Democratic leaders of the House and Senate Intelligence Committees have promised to produce one final report – rather than separate ones from Republican and Democratic members – on the findings of their investigation in to Russian interference in the 2-16 election, recent history indicates that a bipartisan conclusion will be difficult to reach. Nonetheless, lawmakers argue that interference by a foreign nation in US elections requires a unified response to ensure continued public faith in the democratic system.

Trump Calls For “Beautiful” Healthcare Bill As Senate GOP Struggles For Consensus Measure.

Coverage of the internal Republican healthcare debate contrasts President Trump’s call for a new bill before the August recess with the difficulties the Senate leadership is having in assembling a measure acceptable to at least 50 senators. On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/10, story 2, 2:20), David Muir said that Senate Republicans “can only afford to lose two Republicans,” and “the list is growing.” ABC’s Mary Bruce: “Senate Republicans today received a bruising welcome back to Capitol Hill: protesters taking over offices, blocking hallways, then hauled off and arrested. ... The GOP bill is on life support. ... At least 10 Republican senators are now a ‘no.’” Lester Holt said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/10, story 2, 2:20) that Republicans “remain sharply divided,” with “moderates and conservatives still fighting over how far to go in repealing and replacing” the Affordable Care Act. President Trump “tried to turn up the heat” on Monday. The [CBS Evening News](#) (7/10, story 4, 0:20, Mason) ran a brief 20-second update on the GOP efforts.

[Politico](#) (7/10, Tamborrino) reports that the President [tweeted](#) Monday morning, “I cannot imagine that Congress would dare to leave Washington without a beautiful new HealthCare bill fully approved and ready to go!” The [New York Post](#) (7/10, Morrongiello) reports that Senate Majority Whip Cornyn said a new bill will be unveiled this week. [USA Today](#) (7/10, Collins) reports that Cornyn is “bullish on the chances of a vote next week,” even though the leadership is “nowhere near having enough votes” to pass a measure. [Reuters](#) (7/10, Becker) says the Senate “remained sharply divided over how to keep down the costs” of the measure while still preventing “millions from losing coverage.”

The [AP](#) (7/10, Werner, Fram) reports, “Republican divisions over health care multiplied” Monday as the President “pressured GOP senators to act quickly,” and Vice President Pence “suggested they might have to revert to a straightforward ‘Obamacare’ repeal if they can’t agree on an alternative.” Pence said on Rush Limbaugh’s radio show, “The President’s made it very clear. We believe if they can’t pass this carefully crafted repeal and replace bill, do those two things simultaneously, we ought to just repeal only.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/10, Litvan) reports that Senate Majority Leader McConnell “has made little progress on winning over his party’s holdouts,” and he “has little time to make a deal. Republican leaders have said they need to move on to other issues, including a tax-code overhaul and next year’s spending bills, if they can’t agree on a health bill before a month-long August break.” Sen. Bill Cassidy said on [Fox News’ Fox & Friends](#) (7/10), “The bill that was in draft form that Mitch McConnell first presented, 10 senators have come out against. He is trying to rework to get something that works that will pass, but the original version, 10 folks opposing, it’s not going to pass.”

Margot Sanger-Katz writes in the [New York Times](#) (7/10) “The Upshot” that Republicans “really do need to decide in the next few weeks whether their legislative effort will succeed or go back on the shelf,” both for political reasons and because the use of the reconciliation process impedes action on other priorities. [Breitbart](#) (7/10, Boyle) reports that Republican National Committee Chairwoman Ronna Romney McDaniel said in a statement that the recess should be cancelled if healthcare cannot be dealt with by the end of July.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/10, Sullivan, Eilperin, Snell) more optimistically writes that “while

the prospect of a compromise between the two parties on overhauling the Affordable Care Act may prove daunting...the ongoing conversations among a handful of senators suggests some lawmakers are seeking a new path forward should the current bill collapse." Sen. Thomas Carper said that he called "'a couple dozen' Republican and Democratic senators and governors over the recess to say 'this is a good time for us to hit the pause button in the Senate, and step back and have some good heart-to-heart conversations'" about how to revise the ACA.

Flake Backs Cruz Amendment. The [Arizona Republic](#) (7/11, Nowicki) reports that Sen. Jeff Flake, "under intense pressure to oppose" the healthcare bill, has "signaled a right turn, saying he supports the more conservative 'Consumer Freedom Option' proposed by Sen. Ted Cruz." Politico reporter Seung Min Kim [tweeted](#) that Flake said he backed the Cruz amendment, and Flake's spokesman confirmed the exchange "but otherwise did not elaborate on Flake's position or thinking." [The Hill](#) (7/10, Sullivan) reports that the Cruz proposal is currently being analyzed by the Congressional Budget Office, and Sen. John Thune, who is third in the leadership, said the CBO score will determine whether the leadership will back the plan.

Toomey, Lawrence: GOP Bill Protects Medicaid. Sen. Pat Toomey and economist Lawrence Lindsey write in a [USA Today](#) (7/10) op-ed that the current Senate bill protects Medicaid but brings its cost – now "10% of the federal budget and growing" – in check. They write, "Under current policy, mathematical disaster is inevitable." With the Senate's "modest change, Medicaid can be available for future generations. Without it, it cannot be."

Kaine: Bill Would Undermine Medicaid. The [Washington Post](#) (7/10, Olivo) reports that Sen. Tim Kaine criticized the GOP bill's impact on Medicaid in a speech at Northern Virginia Community College on Monday. The 2016 Democratic vice presidential nominee said, "It's important that we share stories about what Medicaid really does. For many, Medicaid is about enabling them to live more independently, enabling them to be more successful in school."

NYTimes Analysis: GOP Secrecy Tops That Of Democrats In 2009. The [New York Times](#) (7/10, Carlsen, Park) contrasts GOP secrecy in crafting the current measure with how Democrats crafted the ACA in 2009, writing that while McConnell said then "that the Affordable Care Act was 'being written behind closed doors, without input from anyone,'" the GOP has had "just nine days of public activity on the repeal bill, compared with 43 for the Affordable Care Act during the same six-month period." McConnell also crafted the GOP bill mostly on his own, with even members of his working group saying they did not see the bill before its release.

Meadows: Conservatives Will Block Any Spending Bill That Excludes Border Wall Funding.

[Breitbart](#) (7/10, Boyle) reports that House Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows (R-NC) told Breitbart News in a phone interview on Monday morning that "without a doubt" House conservatives will stop any spending bill that does not include border wall funding and that "there is nothing more critical that has to be funded." Meadows said the President could veto a spending bill that doesn't include the funding and added, "My conversations with the president have led me to believe that there is nothing less than a full and total commitment on his part to only sign into law a funding bill that actually allows for us to start construction of a border wall on our southern border." Breitbart reports that current government funding expires at the end of September and that Meadows suggests a government shutdown is possible should border wall funding fail to pass.

Brooks Says "Moderate Republican Big Business" Obstructing Trump's Border Wall. [The Hill](#) (7/10, Shelbourne) reported that Rep. Mo Brooks (R-AL), who is running in the Senate special election for the seat currently held by appointed Sen. Luther Strange (R-AL), on Monday "blamed entrenched Washington special interests" for delaying "the construction of President Trump's promised wall on the border with Mexico. In a fundraising email, Brooks said that moderate Democrats and 'Republican big business' interests" are attempting to wait out "Trump's time in office with an eye towards passing immigration amnesty in the future. 'The Wall is being held up because of a tacit deal that has existed for years between moderate Republican big business and Democratic Party,'" Brooks wrote. "The businesses, according to Brooks, get cheap labor out of the deal."

Short Says Tax Overhaul Plan To Come Before Recess, Contradicting Mnuchin.

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/10, Kapur) reports that White House legislative director Marc Short said Monday that Administration officials "hope to have a unified plan for overhauling the US tax code in place before Congress leaves Washington in August for a month-long recess," which "seemed to accelerate a schedule laid out" by other officials including Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, who said Sunday that the goal was to release the plan "'in the beginning of September' and pass it

'before the end of this year.'

Europe Forging Ahead On Climate Agenda Without US.

[NBC News](#) (7/10) reports Europe is pressing ahead on efforts to combat climate change without the aid of the US after President Trump withdrew from the Paris Climate Accords. The US was the only G20 country not to reaffirm support for the agreement, instead French President Emmanuel Macron took the lead, announcing plans for an international climate summit in December.

Germany To Hold Talks With Turkey On Paris Climate Accord. The [AP](#) (7/10) reports the German government is planning to hold talks with Turkey next month on the ratification of the Paris Climate Accord. While President Erdogan reaffirmed commitment to the agreement, he said Ankara would not ratify it "as long as promises that were made to us aren't kept." Erdogan said former French President Francois Hollande promised Turkey would not be treated as an industrialized country. German Environment Ministry spokesman Stephan Gabriel Haufe said Turkey will try to secure funds from the Green Climate Funds, which helps developing countries reduce emissions and adapt to climate change.

Climate Change Affecting All Industries.

As part of its "Future Now" coverage, [BBC News \(UK\)](#) (7/5, Ruggeri) reports on how climate change is "shaking up everything from finance to health." It is difficult to estimate how dramatic the effects of climate change will be, but "climate-related disasters like droughts and hurricanes, for example, are hitting pocketbooks and insurance premiums." Daniel Kreeger, executive director of the nonprofit Association of Climate Change Officers, warns that few companies are training employees "in incorporating climate patterns in their planning for the future." Kreeger says, for example, civil engineers have not been trained to deal with "monster inundations of rain, and then drought for six months." According to job listings search engine Indeed, there has a notable increase in job postings in the UK's renewable energy sector in the past few years, eventually eclipsing 50 percent of all energy sector job postings this year.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"The Culture Of Dishonesty." The [New York Times](#) (7/11, Board) says President Trump's "shifty statements" about Donald Trump Jr.'s meeting "with Natalia Veselnitskaya, a Kremlin-connected Russian lawyer who promised to share political dirt on Hillary Clinton," indicate "how freely" the President "and the people around the president contort the truth." The Times accuses Trump of having "compiled a record of dishonesty – ranging from casual misstatements to flat-out lies – without precedent in the modern presidency," and adds, "Equally disheartening is his team's willingness to share in his mendacity." The Times posits, "If a culture of dishonesty takes root in an administration, how can Americans believe anything its officials say?"

"Hong Kong's Future In Doubt." A [New York Times](#) (7/11, Board) editorial says "after 20 years as a semiautonomous Chinese city, there are more reasons than ever to worry whether" Hong Kong will "retain the special character that has been central to its" economic and democratic successes. The Times outlines how Chinese President Xi Jinping has worsened the situation for Hong Kong, resulting in "a cruel fate for a city with a storied past, especially since Britain and the United States guaranteed that its freedoms would be preserved." Because Britain and the US "have not made Hong Kong enough of a priority in recent years," the Times argues, China has "grown more economically and militarily powerful, more committed to repressive ways and less tolerant of places like Hong Kong that aim to set their own path."

"Spyware That Governments Can't Resist." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (7/11, Board) says "the shocking addendum that an international team charged with investigating the disappearance of 43 students in Mexico was also being watched" by Mexico's government through smartphone software raises questions about the government's abuse of "highly sophisticated and expensive cyberwarfare technology," and "whether commercial vendors of mass surveillance tools, however well intentioned, can really control what they are used for." The Times says the incident reveals that the "temptation for governments to misuse" potentially dangerous technologies "is intense, and the proscriptions of manufacturers like the NSO Group are obviously insufficient."

Washington Post.

“The Trump Campaign’s Attempted Collusion.” The [Washington Post](#) (7/10) argues in an editorial that while federal prosecutors will “determine whether federal conspiracy laws or election laws barring campaigns from soliciting help from foreigners have been implicated,” by Donald Trump Jr.’s meeting with a Russian lawyer, the “plausibility of the Trump camp’s narrative, in which any underhanded Russian assistance came without the campaign’s witting participation, is eroding.” Trump associates, the Post adds, “must now explain interactions with Russians that they previously insisted never took place.”

“Tillerson’s Betrayal Of Democratic Ideals.” A [Washington Post](#) (7/10) editorial says Secretary of State Tillerson’s comment Sunday praising the “brave men and women” of Turkey who “stood up against coup plotters and defended their democracy” during a failed coup attempt last July was “particularly disappointing given that the State Department had rebuked Turkey last week for its most recent round of arbitrary arrests. Such statements carry more weight when delivered in person — but Mr. Tillerson, at least publicly, opted not to make the delivery.” While Tillerson said he hopes to “mend” US-Turkish relations, the Post says “it can and should be accomplished without betraying democratic ideals and the people who are fighting on their behalf.”

“A New Report Shows Just How Far DC Has Come In Fighting HIV/AIDS.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/10) writes that DC health officials’ Annual Epidemiology and Surveillance Report showed the number of newly diagnosed HIV cases “decreasing to 347 in 2016,” down from 720 cases in 2011 and 1,333 cases in 2007. Currently, 12,964 DC residents live with HIV, representing 1.9 percent of the population and “a dramatic improvement over the 3 percent of the population that was reported for 2008.” Although local leaders such as Mayor Muriel Bowser emphasize that more still needs to be done to combat the city’s HIV problem – according to the CDC “an American has a 1-in-99 chance of being diagnosed with HIV at some point in his or her life, but in the District the odds are 1 in 13” – the Post calls the new numbers “encouraging signs that the city is serious when it says it aims to end the HIV epidemic by 2020.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Running The Schumer Blockade.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/10) writes that Republican Senators need to change Senate rules to allow them to bypass what it calls a near total Democrat obstruction of the Trump Administration’s nominees, of whom only 46 out of 178 nominated appointees had been confirmed by the Senate as of June 28. The Journal argues that Senate Democrats have used several Senate rules to their advantage, such as pressing for cloture filings for every nominee, meaning a two-day waiting period and then another 30 hours of debate for each nominee, and that Senate Republicans should unilaterally alter Senate rules to their favor, such as limiting post-cloture debate to eight hours, a move that has been proposed by Sen. James Lankford.

“A Russia Sanctions Trap.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/10) editorial says the Senate Russia sanctions bill contains a provision that expands restrictions on how US energy firms can interact with Russian counterparts, and calls on the House to fix it.

“Venezuela’s Symbol Of Hope.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/10) editorial calls the release of Venezuelan opposition leader Leopoldo López to house arrest a victory and symbol of hope for the nation’s protesting opposition activists. The Journal concedes the international attention that Lopez’s case attained contributed in part to his release, but adds that the US and other Latin American nations can still do more to pressure President Nicolás Maduro and prevent the nation from sliding deeper into its crisis.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[US Prepares To Act Alone Against North Korea](#)

[Trump To Appoint Randal Quarles As Fed Bank Regulator](#)

[Wanda’s Disney Dreams Are Frozen As It Retreats From Theme Parks](#)

[How Energy-Rich Australia Exported Its Way Into An Energy Crisis](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Jr. Was Told In Email Of Russian Effort To Aid Campaign](#)

[Iraq's Moment Of Celebration Is One Of Deeper Risk, Too](#)
[Trump Aides Recruited Businessmen To Devise Options For Afghanistan](#)
[Foes Of Obama-Era Rule Work To Undo Birth Control Mandate](#)
[US Agency Moves To Allow Class-Action Lawsuits Against Financial Firms](#)
[For Women In Blue, A Grim Measure Of Their Growing Role And Risks](#)

Washington Post:

[N. Korea's Unlikely Safety Net: Africa](#)
[White House Defends Trump Jr.](#)
[Democrats Turn To GOP Governors](#)
[Search For New FBI Building Is Canceled](#)
[Federal Probe Of Land Deal Led By Jane Sanders Intensifies](#)
[Spotlight Falls On A Son Always Ready To Fight](#)

Financial Times:

[French PM Eyes Tax Cuts For The Wealthy In 2018](#)
[Who Is The Russian Lawyer Who Met Donald Trump Jr?](#)
[Cosco Expansion Affirms China's Trade Ambitions](#)
[UK Concedes Transitional Role For ECJ After Brexit](#)

Washington Times:

[Democrats' Blockade Of Trump Imperils National Security, Congressional Recess](#)
[Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg Travels 'Listening Tour' Path Of Presidential Candidates](#)
[Republican Senator Tries To Force More Foreign Guest-Workers By Putting Hold On Trump Nominee](#)
[Russian Lawyer Who Contacted Trump's Son Earlier Lobbied Against U.S. Law Despised By Putin](#)
[Texas Triggers Plan To 'Open The Floodgates' For States To Defund Planned Parenthood](#)
Beijing Networks In U.S. Maneuver Up To 25,000 Spies

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Russian Meddling Investigation-Trump Jr; Healthcare Reform Bill; Philadelphia Men Missing; Penn State Frat Death Trial; Heat Waves-Wildfires; Hawaii Army Man-Terror Charge; Mosul Victory; New Jersey Gov-Radio Criticism; Bear Attack Survivor; Amazon Prime Day; New York State Police Murdered; Construction Worker Accident; California Current Rescue; Coffee-Health Benefits; Town Billboard.

CBS: Hawaii Army Man-Terror Charge; Russian Meddling Investigation-Trump Jr; Russian Meddling Investigation-Trump Family; Healthcare Reform Bill; Heat Waves-Wildfires; Penn State Frat Death Trial; Mosul Victory; Delta-Hail Emergency Landing; San Francisco Airport Close Call; Coffee-Health Benefits; Concert Participation.

NBC: Russian Meddling Investigation-Trump Jr; Healthcare Reform Bill; Mosul Victory; Hawaii Army Man-Terror Charge; Penn State Frat Death Trial; Heat Waves-Wildfires; Amazon Prime Day; Coffee-Health Benefits; Water Sprout Video; Cyclists Ramming Accident; Scratcher Winner; Veterans Camping.

Network TV At A Glance:

Russian Meddling Investigation – 13 minutes
Heat Waves-Wildfires – 5 minutes, 10 seconds
Healthcare Reform Bill – 5 minutes
Mosul Victory – 4 minutes
Coffee-Health Benefits – 3 minutes, 40 seconds
Amazon Prime Day – 3 minutes
Hawaii Army Man-Terror Charge – 1 minute, 50 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Russian Meddling Investigation-Trump Jr; Hawaii Army Man-Terror Charge; Marine Plane Crash; Healthcare Reform Bill; Wall Street News.

CBS: Marine Plane Crash; Russian Meddling Investigation-Trump Jr; Hawaii Army Man-Terror Charge; Heat Waves-Wildfires; Wall Street News.

FOX: Marine Plane Crash; Hawaii Army Man-Terror Charge; Russian Meddling Investigation-Trump Jr.

NPR: Russian Meddling Investigation-Trump Jr; Hawaii Army Man-Terror Charge; Mosul Victory; Heat Waves-Wildfires.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin, Secretary of Defense James Mattis, and National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President for a meeting with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin, Secretary of Defense James Mattis, and National Security Advisor H.R. McMaster.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Congressional Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency EXPO and Policy Forum – 20th Annual Congressional Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency EXPO + Policy Forum, hosted by Sustainable Energy Coalition in cooperation with members of the House and Senate Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency Caucuses, bringing together businesses, trade associations, and govt agencies to showcase renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies. Speakers/participants include Democratic Sen. Ed Markey and bipartisan Reps. Paul Tonko and Ryan Costello, as well as representatives of Sandia National Laboratories, U.S. Geological Survey, Sustainable Energy Coalition, Business Council for Sustainable Energy, National Electrical Manufacturers Association, International District Energy Association, Xcel Energy, Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), American Wind Energy Association, Canadian Hydropower Association, National Hydropower Association, Solar Energy Industries Association, Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, National Biodiesel Board, Novozymes, and Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) Location: Rm 2103 and Rm 2168, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.sustainableenergycoalition.org/> #DCEnergyExpo

9:30 AM Nominations hearing considers Richard Spencer to be Secretary of the Navy Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Business Meeting, nominations hearing – Business Meeting, to consider nominations of Claire Grady to be Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Management, and Henry Kerner to be Office of Special Counsel Special Counsel * Immediately followed by nominations hearing, to consider David Glawe to be Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence & Analysis, and David Pekoske to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for the Transportation Security Administration Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers David Steele Bohigian to be Overseas Private Investment Corporation Executive Vice President; and Jay Patrick Murray to be Alternate U.S. Representative for Special Political Affairs in the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador and to be an Alternate U.S. Representative to the Sessions of the U.N. General Assembly Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

2:15 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC http://intelligence.senate.gov

2:30 PM Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearing on concurrent Congressional and criminal investigations – Crime and Terrorism Subcommittee hearing on 'Concurrent Congressional and Criminal Investigations: Lessons from History', with testimony from Wayne State University Levin Center at Wayne Law Chair Carl Levin; Project on Government Oversight Executive Director Danielle Brian; Mayer Brown partner Andrew Frey; and University of Baltimore School of Law Professor Charles Tiefer Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee legislative hearing – Legislative hearing, with testimony from Veterans Health Administration Deputy Under Secretary for Community Care Baligh Yehia, and Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Health Clinical Operations Dr Tom Lynch; Veterans Benefits Administration Senior Advisor for Compensation Services Brad Flohr; Human Resources and Administration Assistant Deputy Assistant Secretary for Human Resources Policy and Planning Carin Otero; The American Legion National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division Director Louis Celli; AMVETS National Legislative Policy Advisor Amy Webb; Disabled American Veterans Deputy National Legislative Director Adrian Atizado; and Paralyzed Veterans of America Legislative Counsel Gabriel Stultz Location: Rm 418, Russell Senate Office Bldg,

Washington, DC <http://veterans.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/VACHair>

US House: 12:00 PM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/ <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

2:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including consideration of legislation including ‘H.R. 1492 – Medical Controlled Substances Transportation Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 702 – Federal Employee Antidiscrimination Act’, as amended, ‘H.R. 1988 – To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1730 18th Street in Bakersfield, California, as the Merle Haggard Post Office Building’, ‘H.R. 1397 – To authorize, direct, facilitate, and expedite the transfer of administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal land, and for other purposes’, ‘H.R. 1404 – Pascua Yaqui Tribe Land Conveyance Act’, ‘H.R. 1719 – John Muir National Historic Site Expansion Act’, ‘H.R. 1913 – Clear Creek National Recreation Area and Conservation Act’, ‘H.R. 1306 – Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act’, ‘H.R. 2156 – Saint Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Act’, ‘H.R. 597 – Lytton Rancheria Homelands Act of 2017’ under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

5:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on ‘H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018’ (general debate) and ‘H.R. 23, the Gaining Responsibility on Water Act of 2017’ Location: H-313, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

7:00 PM House Appropriations subcommittee markup hearing – Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee markup hearing on FY 2018 Appropriations Bill Location: Rm 2358-A, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

Dem Rep.-elect Jimmy Gomez sworn in to the 115th Congress – Democratic Rep.-elect Jimmy Gomez sworn in as a member of the 115th Congress, on the House of Representatives floor * Gomez is the first Democrat to win a House election since President Donald Trump took office, having defeated fellow Democrat Robert Lee Ahn in a special runoff election last month in California’s 34th Congressional District to fill the seat vacated by now-California Attorney General Xavier Becerra Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC jimmygomezforcongress.com <https://twitter.com/JimmyGomezCA>

Other: 10:00 AM ‘Policy Opportunities to Advance Innovative Pediatric Research Capitol Hill Briefing’ – ‘Policy Opportunities to Advance Innovative Pediatric Research Capitol Hill Briefing’, hosted by Nemours Children’s Health System and Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, with speakers/participants include bipartisan Sens. Chris Coons and Marco Rubio, Piper’s Kidney Beans Foundation Co-Executive Directors Christopher and Erin Lee, Nemours Operational Vice President for Research Dr Vicky Funanage, and Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia Research Institute Children’s Oncology Group Chair Peter Adamson Location: SVC 201-200, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.nemours.org <https://twitter.com/Nemours>

11:00 AM GOP Sen. John McCain and Tunisian PM Chahed speak on ‘U.S.-Tunisia Strategic Partnership’ at Heritage Foundation – ‘The U.S.-Tunisia Strategic Partnership and Its Importance to Regional Stability’ discussion at the Heritage Foundation, with Republican Sen. John McCain and Tunisian Prime Minister Youssef Chahed Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

6:00 PM CIA Director Pompeo speaks at INSA Leadership Dinner – Intelligence and National Security Alliance Leadership Dinner, featuring CIA Director Michael Pompeo discussing ‘his vision for the CIA under his leadership, his assessment of threats to U.S. national security, and his views on the value of public-private collaboration’ Location: The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner, McLean, VA <http://www.insaonline.org/> <https://twitter.com/INSAlliance>

6:00 PM ‘President Trump’s Withdrawal from the Paris Agreement’ WFPG event – Women’s Foreign Policy Group Embassy Series event on ‘President Trump’s Withdrawal from the Paris Agreement: What it Means at Home and Abroad’, with The New York Times Energy and Environment Correspondent Coral Davenport. Hosted by Embassy of Croatia Location: Embassy of Croatia, 2343 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC www.wfpg.org <https://twitter.com/wfpg>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: “At one point, Ivanka stepped in for Donald Trump [at the G20 meeting]. ... and of course Twitter went nuts. Of course, that’s the only thing he reads, so he got very defensive, and he wrote this morning, ‘If Chelsea Clinton held the seat for her mother, the fake news would

say "Chelsea for prez,"" which is stupid because if Hillary Clinton was President, she wouldn't let anyone sit in that seat."

Jimmy Kimmel: "The bigly event this weekend, Donald Trump finally met his BFF, Russian President Vladimir Putin. They never met before and couldn't take their beautiful blue eyes off each other."

Jimmy Kimmel: "During the chat, Trump and Putin talked about teaming up for security units to stop hacking in future elections. It's a great idea. They already know our passwords, so why not? It's like hiring the guy who stole your car stereo to put it back in. It makes sense."

Jimmy Kimmel: "So Donald Trump Jr. recruited his brother-in-law and chairman of the campaign to meet with a complete stranger to get damaging information on Hillary Clinton. He said, instead, he got information about Russian adoptions. That makes sense. That's like telling the judge, 'I tried to rob the bank, but then I forgot they weren't open on Sunday, so I didn't rob the bank.' It's all very fishy."

Stephen Colbert: "I did not watch a lot of news over the Fourth of July week because I like to celebrate my love for this country by not watching what's happening to it."

Stephen Colbert: "The meeting took place at Trump Tower and included Jared Kushner, and then-Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort. And proves that at least some in the campaign were willing to accept Russian help. So it's not a smoking gun, but it is a gun meeting with a Russian bullet about their mutual desire to smoke."

Stephen Colbert: "Don Jr. has a good explanation. 'It was a short introductory meeting. I asked Jared and Paul to stop by. We primarily discussed a program about the adoption of Russian children.' Yes, I think they were talking about the adoption of little Timmy Kislyak."

Stephen Colbert: "Now, remember, Don Jr. was there to receive damaging information about Hillary Clinton, but he was disappointed by Natalia Veselnitskaya, saying her statements were vague, ambiguous, and made no sense. So, obviously, she was hired as a Trump speechwriter."

Stephen Colbert: "In fact, the White House was so unprepared [for the G20 summit] they waited too long to book accommodations, leaving him with no hotel room for the G20. Oh, Mr. Hotel-man without a hotel! How ironic! Just go to Airbnb! Almost like Mr. Billionaire repeatedly declaring bankruptcy. The city of Hamburg stepped up and graciously let Trump stay in its senate guesthouse because, unlike Trump, Germany is sympathetic to foreigners without a place to stay."

Stephen Colbert: "Of course, the most anticipated moment was President Trump's face-to-face meeting with Vladimir Putin. I think it was Trump's six-month performance review."

Stephen Colbert: "They hit it off. Evidently, [Trump and Putin] got along like a house on fire because it was supposed to be a half-hour meeting and turned into two hours and 15 minutes. It's like a date you expect to be awkward, then discover you have so much in common. 'Wait, you wanted me to be President, too? That's incredible!'"

Trevor Noah: "Yes, on his first talk in Europe, Donald Trump flawlessly delivered Steve Bannon's ideas, urging the West to band together defending itself against the invasion of the values of the people who don't really need the sunscreen. You know who I'm talking about."

Trevor Noah: "You know what Donald Trump did here was basically like someone going, 'Hey, guys, this is Joey. Joey stole my wallet and phone last week, so we're teaming up to stop muggings in the neighborhood. Isn't that right, Joey?' 'Whatever, man.' 'Yea, team!'"

Trevor Noah: "Now, back in Washington, President Trump immediately took a lot of heat from members of both parties for how easygoing he was with his BFF Putin, which is probably why Trump backed away from the cyber security proposal later that day. But you can understand why Trump was looking for a friend at the G20 because he sure didn't have any others there."

Trevor Noah: "The G20 voted 19-1 against the United States to keep fighting climate change. So I guess, in a way, Donald Trump got his answer because remember at the top of the trip, Donald Trump asked if the West has the will to survive, and they said, 'Yes, we do, which is why we're joining the rest of the world and standing up to you.'"

Conan O'Brien: "At this weekend's G20 summit, President Trump and Vladimir Putin had a private 2.5-hour meeting. Probably not a good sign that it ended with Putin handing Trump a single red rose."

Conan O'Brien: "On Saturday, President Trump had back-to-back meetings with the leaders of China and then Japan. There was an awkward moment when Trump asked the leader of Japan, 'Hey, didn't I just meet with you?'"

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DOI In The News

Made In America: Promoting The All-American Outdoor Experience.

In an op-ed for [Fox News](#) (7/17, Zinke), Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke writes that for "Made in America Week," the Interior Department is "taking this opportunity to promote and strengthen America's tradition of outdoor recreation on public lands." Zinke says that "to highlight and expand on Made in America partnerships and products, this week Interior is hosting a roundtable with outdoor recreation industry leaders to brainstorm innovative ideas for how we can work together to build upon the outdoor experience on public lands." Zinke argues that "expanding partnerships will allow parks and public lands to deliver better services to more visitors, while allowing our rangers to focus on things like the health of the ecosystem, guided tours, educational services, and land management."

Secretary Zinke Hosts Outdoor Industry Event. [Power Sports Business](#) (7/17) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, "members of Congress and senior members of the outdoor recreation industry will meet at the U.S. Department of the Interior July 18 for a discussion about using public-private partnerships to improve visitor experiences on public lands and waters and help reduce the Department's maintenance backlog." Following the meeting, Zinke will "lead the group outside to a showcase of American-made outdoor recreation equipment including boats, RVs, off-road vehicles and more."

Interior Secretary Ponders Fate Of Nat'l Monument In Oregon.

The [AP](#) (7/17, Selsky) reports that "after touring the 'unique' Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Oregon and speaking to ranchers, loggers and environmentalists, U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke must next make a recommendation on whether it should be abolished or resized." According to the article, "it's going to require a lot of study, Zinke indicated, given that the monument was created – and expanded by former President Barack Obama – to protect biodiversity in an area where three mountain ranges converge, creating diverse habitats for

species that would normally be living apart.” Zinke “said he wants to find out how the boundaries of the 112,000-acre (45,730-hectare) monument were made, explaining that it relates to the language of the Antiquities Act of 1906.” He “said he also wants to protect local traditions and ‘make sure the monument doesn’t have unintended consequences.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (7/17, Selsky), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/17, Selsky), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (7/17, Selsky), and [KATU-TV Portland \(OR\)](#) Portland, OR (7/17, Selsky).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Oregonian](#) (7/17), [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (7/17, Moriarty), [Natural Resource Report](#) (7/17), and [KAJO-AM Grants Pass \(OR\)](#) Grants Pass, OR (7/17, Marsh).

Klamath Tribes Meet With Interior’s Zinke. The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (7/18, Dillemath) reports that “Klamath Tribes Chairman Don Gentry and a Klamath Tribes delegation voiced support for the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument expansion – among other topics – during their first meeting with U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke in Medford Sunday.” According to the article, “during an hour-long meeting at Medford’s Bureau of Land Management office, Gentry also invited Zinke to visit the Tribes homeland in the Klamath Basin, and requested action on the termination of Upper Klamath Basin Comprehensive Agreement.” Discussions “continued Monday with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s Deputy Commissioner Alan Mikkelsen, who met with Gentry and other local officials.”

Congress Should Be Part Of National Monument Selection. The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (7/17) editorializes that the debate over national monuments “could have been avoided if creating, or in this case, expanding, national monuments were not the sole prerogative of the president but had to be approved by Congress.” According to the paper, the legislative process would “serve to assure that public policy is not jerked from one extreme to the other. And it works to build consensus on what should be done with public lands, something that’s sorely missing in the case of the Cascade-Siskiyou.”

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the review of national monuments was provided by the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (7/18, Langford), the [Arizona Republic](#) (7/17, Montini), the [Napa Valley \(CA\) Register](#) (7/17, Eberling), [New Mexico Political Report](#) (7/17, Brown), and [KJCT-TV Grand Junction \(CO\)](#) Grand Junction, CO (7/17, Prechtl).

Week Ahead: House Panel Taking Up EPA, Interior Spending Bill.

[The Hill](#) (7/17, Henry) reports that “lawmakers will mark up the \$31.4 billion spending bill for the Interior Department and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) next week, the bill’s next step on its way to the House floor.” The House bill “cuts Interior Department spending by about 7 percent, lower than the 10.9 percent cut for which Trump was aiming.” Republicans are “likely to support the funding bill when it goes before the full Appropriations Committee on Tuesday.” However, Democrats “have indicated their opposition to the package, with Rep. Betty McCollum (D-Minn.), the ranking member on the Interior, EPA subpanel, saying the bill’s funding levels are ‘too low’ and ‘a step in the wrong direction.’”

[E&E Publishing](#) (7/17) reports that “for Interior, the bill would provide \$11.9 billion.” The article notes that “that’s slightly more than the \$11.7 billion the White House requested but less than the \$12.3 billion Congress appropriated in the fiscal 2017 omnibus.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Law360](#).

Senate Moves Closer To Confirming Interior Deputy.

[The Hill](#) (7/17, Cama) reports that the Senate is “one step closer to a vote to confirm David Bernhardt to be deputy secretary of the Interior.” Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell “filed cloture on the nomination on Monday, putting the chamber on a path toward a likely procedural vote on Wednesday, followed by up to 30 hours of debate before a final vote.”

Interest Group Wrote Bears Ears Resolution, Says Green Group.

[KUER-FM](#) Salt Lake City (7/17, Fahys) reports that “an environmental group is raising new concerns about efforts to get the Bears Ears National Monument scrapped.” The Western Values Project “says it’s ‘cynical’ and ‘insincere’ the way state lawmakers developed their pitch asking President Trump to rescind the new national monument.” Chris Saeger, the group’s executive director, “says state records show that lawmakers relied on a resolution that was drafted by a conservative think tank, the Sutherland Institute, and not Utahns.” He says, “It shows the Department of Interior that this is not a sincere, ground up effort, that it is a pretty cynical political play that’s being carried out in concert with special interests.”

Can The Isolated Alaska Peninsula Town Of King Cove Get Its Road Under The Trump Administration?

The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (7/17, Herz) reports that the fight over the King Cove road in Alaska is “taking a new turn under” the Trump Administration, “with emotions running so hot that...even supporters are fighting with each other over strategy.” The article points to a letter by Steve Wackowski, senior adviser for Alaska affairs at the Department of the Interior, “chastising Alaska Gov. Bill Walker’s communications director for sending a press release that revealed new plans to advance” the project. According to the article, “in the six months since Trump appointed former Montana Rep. Ryan Zinke as his interior secretary, the two sides have been quietly preparing for their next skirmish – with the message from Wackowski, Zinke’s Alaska adviser, showing how carefully the road’s backers are trying to avoid tipping their hand. ”

Mercyhurst University Graduate Student Receives Federal Honor For Heroism.

The [Erie \(PA\) Times-News](#) (7/17, Flowers) reports that Bryan Eisenberg, who was “one of several people who risked their own lives to help others after a tour helicopter crashed at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, on Feb. 18, 2016,” was awarded a gold medal of valor from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke during a July 4 ceremony. According to the article, “at the time of the crash, Eisenberg was working as a federal police officer for the National Park Service in Hawaii.” Eisenberg said in a telephone interview Monday night, “It’s an honor to receive the award, but it’s bittersweet because one child didn’t make it. It was a big team effort. We did the best we could do that day.”

Former Montana U.S. Senator Conrad Burns Laid To Rest At Arlington National Cemetery.

[KBZK-TV](#) Butte, MT (7/17, Goare) reports that the late Sen. Conrad Burns was “laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery on Monday.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “called Burns a ‘great Montanan’ and said he was proud to have him as a mentor and friend.” Zinke said in a prepared statement, “His example as a Marine and advocate for our state continues to inspire me every day to serve our nation with dedication. Like any good Marine, Conrad spoke his mind, stood for his beliefs, and served the American people. He was the very first person to call me the night I was elected to Congress. His advice was short and to the point, in his iconic style. Fair winds and following seas, Marine.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KTVO-TV Billings \(MT\)](#) Billings, MT (7/17, Goare) and [KTVH-TV Helena \(MT\)](#) Helena, MT (7/17, Goare).

Bill Frist To Congress: Stand Up For Nature. Don’t Starve EPA And Conservation Programs.

In an op-ed for [USA Today](#) (7/18, Frist), former Senate majority leader Bill Frist touts “the well-established connection between the physical, mental and emotional health of people and their natural environment.” However, he worries “about the health of our people, our natural resources and our government institutions.” Frist urges Congress and the Trump Administration “to fully support our diverse public lands and investments in our natural resources through effective conservation and science programs.”

Human Noise Pollution Is Disrupting Parks And Wild Places.

In a piece for the [Conversation \(UK\)](#) (7/17, Buxton), Rachel Buxton, a postdoctoral research fellow at Colorado State University, writes that in a recent study, her team “used millions of hours of acoustic recordings and sophisticated models to measure human-caused noise in protected areas.” They found that “noise pollution doubled sound energy in many U.S. protected areas, and that noise was encroaching into the furthest reaches of remote areas.” Buxton writes that their “approach can help protected area managers enhance recreation opportunities for visitors to enjoy natural sounds and protect sensitive species.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Federal Executive Dismisses Appeal Against Proposed EG Casino.

The [Elk Grove \(CA\) Citizen](#) (7/17, Armstrong) reports that the Wilton Rancheria’s chairman on July 17 “announced that a Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) executive dismissed an appeal that attempted to block the casino site’s land from being placed into a federal trust.” Michael S. Black, acting assistant secretary for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, “found that then-Acting Assistant Secretary Lawrence Roberts’ Jan. 19 record of decision for the tribe had been properly delegated

and exercised with authority.”

Our View: Tribe Should Not Be Denied Land In Trust.

The [New Bedford \(MA\) Standard-Times](#) (7/18) editorializes that “the Department of the Interior has suggested a path for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe to work toward developing a casino on land in East Taunton across Route 140 from the Silver City Galleria, where a couple dozen residents stand in vehement opposition to the proposal.” The paper says that “if Congress is able to provide a prescription for the incongruities of the reorganization act, we would be pleased to see the Mashpee’s land-into-trust affirmed.” It concludes that “despite our opinion that casino gambling’s promises are far from a sure thing, we support the Mashpee Wampanoag right to use their land as they choose.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Lawyers Give Opening Statements In Bunkerville Standoff Retrial.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (7/17, Wilson) reports that “prosecutors and defense attorneys gave opening statements Monday in the retrial against four Bunkerville standoff defendants.” The arguments focused on whether “the 2014 armed standoff in Bunkerville” was “the result of a coordinated assault or a mass protest.” Defendants Eric Parker, Steven Stewart, Scott Drexler and Ricky Lovellen are being retried.

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (7/17).

A Colorado Ranch Widow Is Battling A ConocoPhillips Subsidiary Over Land Rights.

The [Denver Post](#) (7/17, Mitchell) reports that “ranch widow Susan Robinson is battling a ConocoPhillips subsidiary over rights to land her family has grazed for 100 years.” According to the article, “for 14 years, the Robinsons paid for a grazing permit from the Bureau of Land Management.” However, “in 1986, The Oil Shale Corp. of Midland, Texas (TOSCO), a ConocoPhillips subsidiary, acquired the 2,535 acres along with thousands of other acres of land.” Robinson said “that in the 31 years TOSCO claimed the land, she had never seen oilmen” and she refused to sign the lease and called an attorney”. Later, Robinson said, “she learned that TOSCO had acquired the land from the BLM through a controversial 1800s mining law for \$2.50 an acre.” BLM spokesman Steven Hall “said he couldn’t confirm that the TOSCO land was acquired in 1986 along with tens of thousands of acres through the 1872 federal mining law, but added that it is ‘certainly likely.’”

Environmental Groups Challenge Silverton Heli-skiing Land Swap.

The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (7/17, Romeo) reports that “several groups are challenging a controversial expansion of helicopter skiing terrain near Silverton, calling the deal ‘veiled and illegal.’” Jimbo Buickerood of San Juan Citizens Alliance said in a prepared statement, “The Bureau of Land Management is legally responsible to serve the public interest, but in this process they discarded public input in order to reach what seems to be a predetermined outcome benefiting one commercial interest to the detriment of a diverse array of winter recreationists.” In May, the BLM’s Gunnison Office “approved a request from Silverton Guides, an arm of Silverton Mountain, to swap 5,556 acres for 16,250 acres for its heli-ski operation.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

DOI Can’t Dodge Challenge To Calif.

Offshore Fracking OK. [Law360](#) (7/17, Lidgett) reports that “a California federal judge on Friday refused to toss consolidated challenges to an environmental assessment by two U.S. Department of the Interior divisions that would allow acid well stimulation and fracking off Southern California’s coastline, determining that the findings constituted final agency actions that could be reviewed.” U.S. District Judge Philip S. Gutierrez “denied a bid from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, the DOI and intervenor defendant the American Petroleum Institute to dismiss challenges to a May decision.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

Drones And Dams: A Better Way To Monitor And Update National Critical Infrastructure.

[Commercial UAV News](#) (7/17, Karpowicz) reports that nowadays, the Bureau of Reclamation is “not focused on building dams, but instead on maintaining them” and “tools like Revit and drones are changing the way things are done for the better.” The article says that “an ambitious project that is underway to create a 3D digital model of Glen Canyon Dam, one of the world’s largest concrete dams, are providing officials with the information they need to continue to manage facilities like this for the American public today and far into the future.” David Winslow, CAD manager and GIS coordinator in Reclamation’s Upper Colorado Regional Office in Salt Lake City, said, “Because the tools are so much more efficient, they’ve given us the ability to do more ‘what if?’ type scenarios. In the past, our tasks were as simple as ‘design this road’. Drawings were done with pen and ink by hand, and in a lot of ways that constrained what you could do. Today, with the different forms of CAD that we can use, we can take that same road and play around with moving something 20 feet to the left so that you bypass something that’s in the space. Now we can do our job more effectively because we can look at many more options.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Trump Administration Is Looking At A Wildlife Refuge In Rio Grande Valley For Its First Portion Of Border Wall.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/17, Jarvie, Bennett) reports that federal officials plan to build the first section of President Trump’s border wall in Texas’ Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, in a controversial move that has spurred opposition by environmentalists. Last week, the US Army Corps of Engineers “used a drilling rig to extract soil samples at the Rio Grande Valley refuge to prepare for the possibility of constructing three miles of concrete levee wall and fence,” according to a DHS official. The official said that the drilling was done in expectation that Congress will approve funding for the wall for the 2018 budget year.

States Get Grants As Disease Ravages Bat Populations.

The [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (7/18, Myers) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Monday “announced more than \$1 million in grants to keep fighting white-nose syndrome.” The grants are awarded “wildlife agencies in 37 states and the District of Columbia to help find ways to slow or prevent the spread of white-nose syndrome that has killed an estimated 7 million bats across the eastern U.S. and Canada.”

Report: Wolf And Livestock Deaths Hit Record High In Wyoming.

The [AP](#) (7/17, Moen) reports that “gray wolves killed a record number of livestock in Wyoming last year, and wildlife managers responded by killing a record number of wolves that were responsible, according to a new federal report.” The report released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “found that wolves killed 243 livestock, including 154 cattle, 88 sheep and one horse, in 2016.” As a result, wildlife managers “killed 113 wolves that were confirmed to be attacking livestock.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (7/17, Landers).

Waiver Allows Canal Diversion To Resume.

The [Columbus \(NE\) Telegram](#) (7/17, Ellyson) reports that “water began flowing into the Loup Power Canal again after Loup Public Power District received a waiver from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.” A press release issued by Loup Power says the FWS “requested a suspension of certain conditions in the new license order on Wednesday, but FERC did not approve the waiver until Monday.” The FWS is “concerned about the effects the water diversion has on protected species such as the piping plover, pallid sturgeon and least tern.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Columbus News Team \(NE\)](#) (7/17, Otten), the [Columbus News Team \(NE\)](#) (7/17, Otten), and the [Columbus \(NE\) Telegram](#) (7/17).

‘Salmon Of The Southwest’ Shows Signs Of Recovery.

The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (7/17, Grover) reports that “a fish that federal officials say was once widely known as the ‘salmon of the southwest’ shows signs of recovering its diminished population in the San Juan River basin, according to data collected last year.” Scientists say “they have found evidence that the Colorado pikeminnow is reproducing in the San Juan River, and the

offspring are surviving." Their finding is "based on data gathered last year following the spring peak release from Navajo Dam."

Wyoming Landowners Lead Effort To Support Local Economies And At-risk Wildlife In The Thunder Basin.

The [Wyoming Business Report](#) (7/17) reports that Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead and "representatives of conservation partners gathered last week to recognize the individuals who have spent over 15 years working to finalize one of the largest voluntary agreements in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service history." A recently finalized Conservation Strategy will "support continued economic growth through proactive habitat conservation across public and private lands."

National Park Service

Facebook Founder Tours Glacier Park, Blackfeet Reservation.

The [AP](#) (7/17) reports that "Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg toured Glacier National Park and the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Montana over the weekend as part of his personal challenge to visit every state this year." Zuckerberg "noted the beauty of Glacier park while taking a ride on a red jammer bus on Saturday and visited the 'bark ranger' Gracie, a border collie who helps herd wildlife away from people at poplar areas, such as Logan Pass." Zuckerberg also "noted the park's dwindling numbers of glaciers."

[Mic](#) (7/17) reports that "a climate change expert at the United States Geological Survey was set to join" Zuckerberg "to discuss the impact of global warming at Glacier National Park, but two sources with knowledge of the matter say the scientist was pulled from the visit by the U.S. Department of Interior just days before the event." The action has "provoked suspicion from inside the USGS that the scientist's appearance was canceled to minimize attention to the issue of climate change, according to one source." The article says that "Daniel Fagre, a research ecologist at the USGS Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center and a specialist on the impact of climate change on mountain climates, and Facebook CEO Zuckerberg were expected to meet Saturday to discuss the negative toll climate change is having on the park's glaciers, both sources said."

Proposed WWI Memorial In D.C. Advances, Despite Questions On Its Design.

The [Architects Newspaper](#) (7/17, Gunts) reports that "the Nation's Capital came a step closer to gaining a World War I Memorial this month when a key federal panel approved a conceptual design for the project—even though panel members and others expressed concerns about the latest plan and its potential impact on the selected site." The National Capital Planning Commission "voted unanimously on July 13 to accept its executive director's recommendations for adding a memorial to Pershing Park, on Pennsylvania Avenue near the White House." The action "means the design team and its clients, the World War I Centennial Commission and the National Park Service, can now move to a second, more detailed stage of design work on the project, which is expected to cost \$30 million to \$32 million."

Public Forums Planned For Reconstruction Monument.

The [Bluffton \(SC\) Today](#) (7/17) reports that the National Park Service has "planned three public forums to begin establishing a framework to manage the planned Reconstruction Era National Monument in Beaufort County." Open house sessions are set "for July 24, 25 and 27 on St. Helena Island and in Port Royal and Beaufort." Monument superintendent Melissa English-Rias said, "The foundation document will be critical to helping the National Park Service map out management plans and priorities for the new park. We are inviting the public to play a role in shaping the park's future operations."

Zion National Park Considers Reservation System For Entry.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (7/17, Brea) reports that the National Park Service is "considering a year-round online reservation system for access" to Zion National Park's "most popular trails and attractions in response to a massive surge in visitation at the park." The article says that "under one of two 'preliminary alternative concepts' unveiled by park officials late last week, visitors would be required to get advance reservations to enter the park." The second, "more restrictive alternative also would require reservations to access specific trails and sites within the park."

Additional coverage was provided by the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (7/17, DeMille).

Gridlock In Great Falls.

The [Springfield \(VA\) Connection](#) (7/17, Forbush) reports that "park popularity has been identified as the culprit behind congestion and gridlock issues in a rural area of Great Falls." According to the article, "the source of the problem is the entrance of the Great Falls Park that is located at the end of Old Dominion Drive, which can become backed up with traffic." At Great Falls Citizens Association Transportation Committee meetings held on June 6 and July 12, "local residents and staff from Supervisor John Foust's office met with representatives from the National Park Service and the U.S. Park Police to discuss the ongoing problem."

Local Education A World Away.

The [Scottsbluff \(NE\) Star-Herald](#) (7/17, North) reports that "Dan Morford, superintendent at the Scotts Bluff National Monument and Lesley Gaunt, lead interpreter and park ranger, and Justin Cawiezel, chief ranger, were at the Scotts Bluff National Monument at 5 a.m. Sunday, July 16 to meet students in Afghanistan via the internet." The event was "scheduled so early because of the time difference and park rangers meeting some cultural considerations in Afghanistan." According to the article, "more than 60 students from schools in Kabul, Jalalabad and Bamiyan asked questions about the National Park Service what it does and how it works." The article says that "the distance learning opportunity began about four months ago when the State Department requested a connection be made."

Tractor Used By The Nation's Last Homesteader Will Become Centerpiece Exhibit At Homestead Monument's Heritage Center.

The [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (7/17, Hende) reports that on Monday, "the tractor used by the last person to receive free land under the federal Homestead Act of 1862 was briefly shown off in a shed at Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice before it undergoes cleaning and a bit of restoration for permanent display later this year." Mark Engler, the monument's superintendent, said, "We think this tractor ... is going to be an excellent addition to the museum collection." The 1945 Allis-Chalmers Model C was "recovered from the wilderness of western interior Alaska in mid-June by a National Park Service team financed by the Friends of Homestead National Monument."

Teen Bugles Taps At Cemetery, Part Of 100 Nights Of Taps'.

The [AP](#) (7/17, Keller) reports that volunteers have agreed to participate in "One Hundred Nights of Taps." According to the article, "since Memorial Day, buglers and trumpeters have performed taps nightly at the Soldiers' National Cemetery at 7 p.m. sharp." The program is sponsored by the National Park Service, Lincoln Fellowship of Pennsylvania, and Taps for Veterans.

Lake Water Coming Up Clear As Park Tests For Toxic Chemical.

The [Times of Northwest Indiana](#) (7/17, Reese) reports that the National Park Service has "collected water samples each week since just before Memorial Day to be tested for hexavalent chromium and total chromium" at Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. According to Charles Morris, environmental protection specialist at the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, "none of the samples taken this year has had a concentration of hexavalent chromium above the minimum detection level of 0.03 milligrams per liter." The article says that "the chromium sampling program will continue until the Wednesday before Labor Day."

Kayaker Drowns In River At Dinosaur National Monument.

The [AP](#) (7/17) reports that "a 66-year-old Colorado man has died kayaking on a river in Dinosaur National Monument." According to National Park Service spokeswoman Sonya Popelka, "the man drowned on Saturday after hitting a rock in the TePee Rapid of Yampa River."

Additional Coverage: AIS 'Retraction' Stirs Confusion.

Additional coverage of Glacier National Park's reversal on changes to boating restrictions was provided by the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (7/17, Scott).

Additional Coverage: You May Still Have A Chance Of Buying This National Park Pass Before The Price Increases By 700 Percent.

Additional coverage that the National Park Service \$10 senior lifetime pass is increasing to \$80

was provided by [CNBC](#) (7/17, Cao) and the [News Center \(WV\)](#) (7/17, Steffen).

Office Of Insular Affairs

Interior Provides \$4M To Help Island Territories Eradicate Invasive Species.

[Marianas Variety](#) (7/17) reports that Interior Acting Assistant Secretary Nikolao Pula has "made available approximately \$4 million for several invasive species prevention and control initiatives in the U.S. insular areas." Pula said, "Invasive species, of which the brown tree snake is the most widely known in the Pacific region, have had damaging effects on the fragile ecosystems in the islands. It is critical to protect, build resilience, and restore natural resources that provide the foundation for people's livelihood and stability in these islands."

In Landmark Move, GOP Congress Calls Climate Change 'Direct Threat' To Security.

[Foreign Policy](#) (7/14, Allen-Ebrahimian) reports that many U.S. military installations are "threatened by climate change around the world." The Pentagon has "been aware for years of the looming danger represented by climate change," but "partisan infighting in Congress, budget sequestration, and the toxic nature of the climate debate have hamstrung the Defense Dept. from taking steps to protect key assets — or even identifying which facilities face the most serious threats." However, the House has now "retained an amendment to the 2018 defense funding bill affirming that 'climate change is a direct threat to the national security of the United States.'" The legislation "orders defense officials to draw up a report laying out which facilities would be most affected."

US, Marshalls Concerned By Rise In Illegal Adoptions.

[Marianas Variety](#) (7/17, Johnson) reports that "the United States government has flagged as a 'concern' an apparent increase in illegal adoptions of Marshall Islands babies in the U.S." The Marshall Islands government also raised worries "about offshore adoptions that are not going through established legal processes in the Marshall Islands."

\$3.08m Trade Support.

The [Fiji Times](#) (7/18, Naigulevu) reports that the People's Republic of China "continued its support to the region through the China-Pacific Islands Forum Cooperation Fund with a \$US1.05 million (\$F3.08m) handover." The article notes that "one of the key initiatives under the fund is support to the Pacific Trade and Invest (PTI China) which works closely with Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) country embassies in Beijing to develop and strengthen networks between Pacific businesses and Chinese markets." The contribution was "officially handed over to the Forum's secretary-general Dame Meg Taylor by China's Ambassador to Fiji Zhang Ping."

Lawmaker, Governor Ask US To Allow Re-entry Of CW Nurses.

[Marianas Variety](#) (7/14, Villahermosa) reports that Representative Jose Itibus, chairman of the House Committee on Health, has "introduced a resolution urging the U.S. Embassy in Manila to permit the re-entry of six CW-1 nurses from the Philippines who have been granted a 240-day extension to stay in the CNMI during the processing of their renewals by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services." Gov. Ralph D.L.G. Torres also "wrote a letter stating that the nurses should be allowed re-entry to the CNMI based on USCIS rules." Itibus introduced House Resolution 20-12 last week, "and it is expected to be adopted in the next session." The resolution "states that the six nurses are undergoing CW petition processing right now for fiscal year 2018."

Congresswoman's DC Office Responds To Medicaid Criticism.

The [Talanei \(ASM\)](#) (7/12) reports that Congresswoman Aumua Amata Radewagen's office "refutes charges by American Samoa's Medicaid chief that Radewagen to effectively fight for more Medicaid funding for the territory, and is compromised by GOP efforts to cut Medicaid funding." The Congresswoman's office "stresses, Radewagen's positions has 'ALWAYS' been to get Medicaid funding for American Samoa on par with that of the states."

Current Revenue Shortfall Is At Least \$2.3M Per Month For Government.

[Samoa News](#) (7/11, Sagapolutele) reports that "a presentation last Thursday by the ASG Revenue Task Force to Fono leaders and several lawmakers revealed that the government is currently faced with a shortfall of at least \$2.3 million to \$2.5 million a month, to cover monthly

expenditures." The issue was "reiterated during the governor's address at yesterday's joint session of the Fono." According to the article, "in his address, the governor said the shortfall will have to come from payroll cuts — referring to the reduction of working hours — 80 hours to 70 hours — for ASG employee's whose salaries are funded by local revenues."

The Same Pacific Island, 23 Years Apart.

The [Conversation \(UK\)](#) (7/17, Lavers, Bond) reports on Henderson Island, the "South Pacific island of rubbish". According to the article, it is "a place littered with plastic garbage, washed there by ocean currents." The change began relatively recently. In a span of 23 years, the island went "from pristine South Pacific gem to the final resting place for enormous quantities of the world's waste."

Top National News

White House Touts Efforts To Encourage US Manufacturing.

Monday's White House event featuring products from all 50 states and President Trump's declaration of this week as "Made in America" week receives relatively light, and mostly unfavorable, media coverage. Most — although not all — reports highlight the fact that while the Administration is showcasing products manufactured in the United States, products carrying the Trump name are manufactured overseas, a point critics were quick to emphasize. For example, [CNN](#) (7/17, Klein) reports on its website that as it kicked off the week, "it didn't take long for the administration to come under fire for criticism that products made by President Donald Trump and Ivanka Trump's eponymous brands are made elsewhere." Juliana Goldman said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/17, story 5, 2:10, Mason) that Trump-branded items were "notably absent" from the event as Trump and his daughter "have outsourced manufacturing of their products to countries around the world where labor is cheaper and there are fewer regulations."

Hallie Jackson said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/17, story 4, 2:20, Holt) that Trump critics "argue he didn't put his money where his mouth is in his own business." Kristin Fisher reported on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/17) that Trump's effort to promote American-made products "is being met by claims of hypocrisy from his critics," and [USA Today](#) (7/17, Jackson) says Democrats "derided the event as the height of hypocrisy."

[Politico](#) (7/17, McCaskill) similarly says the event "brought renewed emphasis to the president and first daughter's respective businesses, which manufacture products abroad, accentuating a disconnect between the messenger and the message," while the [Washington Times](#) (7/17, Boyer) says the White House is "trying to fend off criticism that Trump-branded products, including merchandise from the line of presidential daughter Ivanka Trump, are typically made overseas." Citing that criticism, Ryan Lizza of The New Yorker said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/17) that this is "one of those events where they are taking a little bit of a political risk in putting this forward because it is a reminder of his own lack of consistency on this issue."

The [New York Post](#) (7/17, Schultz, Fredericks) says the White House "struggled to explain why so many Trump-branded products were manufactured overseas." Another [Washington Times](#) (7/17, Boyer) story reports that White House press secretary Sean Spicer said, "I think he actually understands in a very unique way the challenges that our regulatory system and our tax system put on businesses that want to hire here, want to grow here." The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/17, Westwood) reports that Spicer told reporters, "With respect to his own companies, obviously it's inappropriate to discuss how anything would affect their own companies," but he "said in certain cases 'supply chains or scalability' necessary to the operation of companies like Trump's might not be available in the US."

John Harwood said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (7/17) that Spicer's argument is "exactly what Ford and Carrier and Walmart and every other American company that has supply chains overseas...argues about their products." Similarly, on immigrant labor, companies argue that "there aren't Americans willing to do that work, and the response from the Trump White House has been, 'Well, raise wages enough and people will be willing to do that work.'" Spicer, Harwood added, "is justifying practices" for the Administration that the Administration "does not accept from other multi-national companies." Jonathan Karl said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/17, story 3, 0:40, Muir) that Spicer "did not say...if there would be more commitment from the Trump companies to buy more American-made goods."

The [Washington Post](#) (7/17, Gold, Harwell), meanwhile, reports that while the White House

is “champion[ing] a ‘hire American’ agenda, the administration wants to slash funding” for the Bureau of International Labor Affairs, which “many US companies say they rely on to stay ahead of foreign rivals.” According to the Post, the Administration “is seeking to nearly gut funding” for the Labor Department bureau, which is “unpopular among some conservatives, who criticize its backing for groups that support labor unions.”

In a story that was the lead on the Drudge Report early Monday evening, [Reuters](#) (7/17, Rampton) reports that Trump promised “he would take more legal and regulatory steps during the next six months to protect American manufacturers, lashing out against trade deals and trade practices he said have hurt US companies.” While the President “did not give details about what his administration would do to protect manufacturers,” he “railed against tariffs charged by other countries and unfair trade practices.” [Townhall](#) (7/17, Pavlich) reports that Trump “made brief remarks about the importance of deregulation and tax reform in order to allow business to grow and manufacture in the United States,” saying, “We’re gonna stand up for our companies and maybe most importantly for our workers. ... American workers, farmers and innovators are really the best in the world. ... Every member of my administration shares the same goal, to provide a level playing field for American workers.”

Several local reports highlight businesses whose products were featured at the event. For example, the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (7/17) reports that “Paul Swenson, president of Sandy-based Colonial Flag, showed off flags made at his Utah business along with pictures and videos of fields of red, white and blue and large-scale US flags.” [WWJ-TV](#) Detroit (7/17) reported on its website that military parts manufacturer Milton Manufacturing of Detroit was “celebrated,” and on its website, [KWQC-TV](#) Davenport, IA (7/17) said that “Iowa’s own RMA Armament [was] one of the businesses being honored.”

Company Featured At White House Event Is Under Federal Investigation. The [Daily Beast](#) (7/17) reports that construction and farming equipment manufacturer Caterpillar, which was also showcased at Monday’s event, “recently laid off thousands of US workers and is under Trump administration investigation over alleged tax-dodging.” The company “stores its replacement parts in Peoria, IL, where the company is headquartered, but its parts business is owned by a Swiss subsidiary, and profits derived from that business are not subject to US taxes,” which has “led to allegations of tax-dodging, and triggered federal investigation into the company.” There was no response from the White House press office “to questions about those allegations and how they squared with the message of what the White House is calling Made in America Week.”

NYTimes A1, WPost Analyses: Trump Wrong In Claiming He’s Signed More Bills Than Any President. The [New York Times](#) reports on its front page that Trump “repeatedly boasts of the bills he has signed” into law since entering the White House – “42 as of this week.” The Times says that Trump – speaking on Monday during “a ‘Made in America’ event at the White House” – stated, “We’ve signed more bills – and I’m talking about through the legislature – than any president, ever.” However, the Times says that “Trump is slightly behind the lawmaking pace for the past six presidents, who as a group signed an average of 43 bills during the same period. And an analysis of the bills Mr. Trump signed shows that about half were minor and inconsequential, passed by Congress with little debate. Among recent presidents, both the total number of bills he signed and the legislation’s substance make Mr. Trump about average.”

Under the headline “No, President Trump, You Haven’t Signed More Bills Than Any Other President,” [Washington Post](#) (7/17) fact-checker Glenn Kessler similarly debunks Trump’s claim, saying “he’s way off the mark and actually falling behind in legislative output.”

Administration Lays Out Objectives For NAFTA Renegotiation.

The Office of the US Trade Representative on Monday released a report laying out the Administration’s objectives for renegotiating NAFTA. Coverage is generally positive, although several reports highlight criticism from Democrats who argued that the President’s goals do not go far enough. The [AP](#) (7/17, Boak) says the new objectives “contain the first specifics for a Trump administration that has made bold promises on trade,” but the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/17, Mauldin) say the plan moves away from Trump’s passionate campaign rhetoric concerning trade with Mexico and Canada as the Administration is seeking a deal that can win congressional approval. The [Washington Post](#) (7/17, Swanson) points out that “many of the goals were described in general language, highlighting the challenge Trump faces in transforming his criticism of current trade deals into concrete policy proposals that live up to his promises.”

[Reuters](#) (7/17, Wroughton, Lawder) says the US “outlined a tough negotiating strategy,” and “for the first time in a US trade deal said it would seek to deter currency manipulation by trading partners.” USTR Lighthizer said in the “much-anticipated document” that the Administration “aimed to reduce the US trade deficit by improving access for US goods exported

to Canada and Mexico." [USA Today](#) (7/17, Yu) highlights other "key demands" from the summary, including "updat[ing] the rules of origin"; increasing "opportunities for US firms to sell US products and services into the NAFTA countries" by "establishing fair and transparent rules in government"; maintaining "the ability of the US to enforce its trade laws, including antidumping laws"; and "commitments not to impose customs duties on digital software, music and video."

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/17, Martin) says the summary "turns into policy a pledge that Trump made repeatedly during the campaign, when he complained about unfair trade practices by America's rivals and vowed to tear up trade deals that weren't in the country's interests." The [Detroit Free Press](#) (7/17, Spangler) reports that while the summary "avoided threats such as those made by Trump to put in place steep tariffs against American auto companies moving or expanding operations in other North American countries," it "still made the case for renegotiating the agreement, saying, 'The America that existed when NAFTA was signed is not the America that we see today.'" The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/17, Lee) says it "contained none of the harsh language or threats to pull out of NAFTA that marked Trump's rhetoric during the campaign and into his presidency," and many of the objectives "are vaguely stated, likely reflecting the administration's reluctance to make commitments that at this stage could make things more difficult politically and at the bargaining table."

The [New York Times](#) (7/17, Rappeport) reports that while the Administration claimed it wants a "much better deal for all Americans," some Democrats expressed disappointment "in the list of objectives and felt that the Trump administration was not going far enough." [Politico](#) (7/17, Palmer, Behsudi, Cassella) says House Democrats, "blasted the objectives as overly vague and said they made it seem as if the administration 'is only seeking to bevel the edges of a trade pact in need of an overhaul.'"

The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (7/17) reports that Sen. Sherrod Brown, "a vocal critic of NAFTA, said he wants to see more details of the proposal and looks forward to discussing them with Lighthizer." Said Brown, "The real test will be whether President Trump puts American workers over corporate profits once negotiations begin. ... I will continue pressing the Administration to secure the best deal for Ohio workers." Rep. Marcy Kaptur said, "The President spoke a lot about trade issues on the campaign trail in Ohio and throughout the Midwest, and he promised a good deal for the American people. ... Our job in Congress is to make sure he follows through."

Media Analyses: Trump's "That's Politics!" Defense Of Son's Meeting Hurts White House.

President Trump's Monday morning tweet defending Donald Trump Jr.'s meeting with Russian figures during the presidential campaign is portrayed in coverage as both undermining the White House's efforts to move past the issue and as an unconvincing defense that is contrary to expert opinion. White House press secretary Sean Spicer's explanation of the meeting is also criticized as contrary to what emails released by Trump Jr. himself have shown to be the case.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/17, story 2, 2:30, Muir) reported that the President "had major plans today to turn the page from the Russia investigation to 'Made in America.' But then he tweeted" about Trump Jr. "and that Russian meeting." ABC's Jonathan Karl: "Even as the President's aides try to shift the focus to American manufacturing, the President himself turned the subject right back to Russia, tweeting about his son's meeting with a Kremlin-connected Russian lawyer during the campaign." The [CBS Evening News](#) (7/17, story 4, 1:15, Mason) reported that the President "again defended the meeting his son, son-in-law, and campaign chairman had last year with a Russian attorney offering political dirt on Hillary Clinton."

The [New York Times](#) (7/17, Haberman) reports, "He ran on a promise to end politics as usual. But on Monday morning, President Trump posted a defense on Twitter of his son's meeting...was simply politics as usual." The President [tweeted](#), "Most politicians would have gone to a meeting like the one Don jr attended in order to get info on an opponent. That's politics!" However, [Politico](#) (7/17, Conway) reports that "opposition researchers from both parties have contested Trump's claim that such activity is common or accepted practice." While campaigns "regularly seek out unflattering or compromising news stories about their opponents...experts said last week that accepting help from an adversarial foreign government is rare and a cause for concern."

Dana Bash said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/17), "It's not politics. ... He is obviously fixated on putting this narrative out there that this is just business as usual. ... It is not business as usual." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/17) notes that "though Trump lauded his son's transparency, Trump Jr. only tweeted the emails after learning they would be published by the New York Times."

The [Washington Times](#) (7/17, Miller) briefly covers the tweet as well, while Rep. Will Hurd

(R-TX) said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (7/17), "I wouldn't have attended the meeting. ... The little bit of information that I have seen out in the press, I think they did believe that they were meeting with officials of the Russian government. But I'm going to withhold judgment." In a [USA Today](#) (7/17) op-ed, ACLU senior fellow Ellis Cose writes that while the President has insisted "on the presumption of innocence" for himself and his family, he "has rarely given that presumption to others."

Meanwhile, [Bloomberg News](#) (7/17, Olorunnipa) reports that Spicer said the meeting was about adoption policy for Russian children. Spicer told reporters, "There was nothing, as far as we know, that would lead anyone to believe that there was anything except for a discussion about adoption, the Magnitsky Act." [Politico](#) (7/17, Nussbaum) says that Spicer offered a "convoluted" defense, given that "emails released by Trump Jr. show that the meeting was planned with the intention of obtaining damaging information about Clinton." [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (7/17) said Spicer's explanation was "flat out false." Sen. Ron Wyden said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (7/17) that "it's hard to see how Spicer could say that with a straight face, because the subject line...makes it clear that it's private, that it's Russian, that it's confidential. That is not adoptions."

In the [Washington Post](#) (7/17) "The Fix," Aaron Blake looks at six defenses of the meeting, "each more dubious than the last," including the suggestion that 39-year-old Trump Jr. is "just a kid who should be given a pass," that it is not important because "it didn't yield any useful information," that "it's not collusion unless it's extensive or planned," and that the Secret Service did not stop the meeting from taking place. [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/17) reported that the Secret Service said Sunday that it was not protecting Trump Jr. at the time, so it had no say. Sen. Chris Murphy said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/17) that "blam[ing] the Secret Service for not vetting those people who went to that meeting" was an "act of desperation."

Christie On Meeting Story: "None Of It's Positive." [USA Today](#) (7/17, Racioppi) reports that during a 45-minute public appearance on Monday, Gov. Chris Christie said of the Trump Jr. story "that 'none of it's positive.'" However, he said that he "has been bothered by the quick conclusions people have drawn...when no formal determinations have been made in the ongoing investigation."

AP Analysis: Key Players' Attorneys Protecting Divergent Interests. The [AP](#) (7/17, Pace, Bykowicz) looks at the competing interests of attorneys hired by the President and other players in the Russia story, writing that "the interests of those lawyers – and their clients – don't always align, adding a new layer of drama and suspicion in a White House already rife with internal rivalries." With the President, Trump Jr., Jared Kushner, and others having retained counsel, "the result is a crowded group of high-priced attorneys bent on defending their own clients, even if it means elbowing those clients' colleagues."

WSJournal Says Trump's New Lawyer Should Release Everything On Russia. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/17) says in an editorial that one of the reasons President Trump defeated Clinton was because of the Clintons' history of scandal and obfuscation – and writes that the Trump White House risks following the same path. The Journal urges Trump's new lawyer Ty Cobb to release everything on Russia to the public before it can – and will – be leaked.

Elizabeth Drew Says Trump Scandals Could Be Worse Than Watergate. [Politico Magazine](#) (7/17) runs a piece by Susan Glasser headlined "Don't Compare Trump To Nixon. It's Unfair To Nixon." Glasser talks with reporter Elizabeth Drew, who documented President Nixon's downfall in her "Washington Journal." Drew said of President Trump, "I think we already have an obstruction of justice, certainly as an impeachable offense. ... [Trump] is a running crisis. The crisis is the President and his presidency." But she says Nixon "was smarter" than Trump, and "read books and cared about policy." She also "has come to believe that the Trump investigation could yield even more serious abuse of power or failure to execute the office than the years' worth of Nixon probes."

WPost Analysis: Mueller May Examine Kushner's "Evolving Disclosure Of Foreign Contacts." The [Washington Post](#) (7/17, Zapotosky) reports that special counsel Robert Mueller "is likely to be interested" in Kushner's "evolving disclosure of foreign contacts during the security clearance process, legal analysts said, and it is possible that the president's son-in-law could be in legal jeopardy for not fully detailing the interactions from the start." Kushner "has filed three updates to his national security questionnaire since submitting it in mid-January, according to people familiar with the matter. That is significant because the document...warns that those who submit false information could be charged with a federal crime and face up to five years in prison."

Sen. Chris Murphy said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/17) that Kushner's security clearance should be "revoked immediately." Murphy argued that Kushner was either "holding information

from his father-in-law, from every spokesman in the White House about being present in that meeting, or they knew about it and they were all lying." Sen. Richard Blumenthal told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/17) he also thinks Kushner's clearance should be revoked, saying, "What we have here is a signal at the highest levels of the Trump campaign, including Jared Kushner, that they were open to a compromising relationship, potentially in violation of federal criminal law. If it were anyone but Jared Kushner, the son-in-law of the President, he would be fired."

Flynn Has Returned To Childhood Hometown, Plans Legal Defense Fund. The [AP](#) (7/17, Smith, McDermott) reports that former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn has retreated to Middletown, Rhode Island, "the beach town where he grew up surfing and skateboarding." He has "spent recent weeks here surfing and figuring out his path forward, according to friends and family members." [Bloomberg News](#) (7/17, Pettypiece) reports that Flynn "plans to set up a fund to raise money to pay his legal bills stemming from multiple investigations into possible Trump campaign ties to Russia," according to a person close to him.

Manhattan DA Seeks Bank's Records On Loans To Manafort. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/17, Rothfeld) reports that the Manhattan district attorney's office has subpoenaed Federal Savings Bank regarding up to \$16 million in loans made to ex-Trump campaign chair Paul Manafort. Neither the bank nor a Manafort spokesperson chose to comment.

Breitbart: Meeting Translator Worked For State Department While Clinton Was Secretary. [Breitbart](#) (7/17, Klein) reports that on Friday, the New York Times reported that "an individual named Anatoli Samachornov...was present at the meeting," but "did not provide any background on Samachornov beyond reporting his name and that he was a 'translator.'" However, according to his LinkedIn profile, he worked at a nonprofit group that worked with the State Department while Clinton was secretary of state. He "was listed as the program administrator for the State Department's International Visitor Leadership Program."

Rice Testimony Before House Intelligence Committee Postponed. [Fox News](#) (7/17) reports on its website that former National Security Adviser Susan Rice "is no longer expected to visit Capitol Hill on Tuesday for a meeting with the House committee probing allegations she 'unmasked' President Trump associates in Russian meddling probes." Rice was expected to appear before a closed-door session of the House Intelligence Committee, "but that session has apparently been postponed." [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/17) reported that lawmakers are still likely to eventually question Rice.

McConnell Plans Clean ACA Repeal Vote After Defections Kill Latest GOP Bill.

In fast-moving events on Monday evening, Sens. Mike Lee and Jerry Moran announced their opposition to Senate Majority Leader McConnell's revised bill to replace the Affordable Care Act, and McConnell later said that the Senate will instead vote to repeal the ACA without a replacement – a strategy endorsed by President Trump. The [AP](#) (7/17) reports that McConnell said, "Regretfully, it is now apparent that the effort to repeal and immediately replace the failure of Obamacare will not be successful." He said the Senate will consider repealing the ACA after a two-year delay, but "is not saying when the vote will occur." The [New York Post](#) (7/17, Tacopino) reports that McConnell said the "delay would 'provide for a stable transition period to a patient-centered healthcare system.'"

David Nather of [Axios](#) (7/18) writes that a clean repeal is "highly unlikely to succeed, but conservative groups won't consider the GOP's health care promises to be fulfilled until Republicans have at least tried a straight repeal vote." [Townhall](#) (7/17, O'Brien) reports that "angry conservatives are letting the majority leader have it on Twitter" over the two-year delay. However, the [Washington Post](#) (7/17, A1, Sullivan, Bernstein) writes that the GOP "may be forced to grapple with the law's shift from a perennial GOP target to an accepted, even popular, provider of services and funding in many states, which could make further repeal revivals difficult."

At 10:17 p.m., after the two senators announced their opposition before McConnell's statement, the President [tweeted](#), "Republicans should just REPEAL failing ObamaCare now & work on a new Healthcare Plan that will start from a clean slate. Dems will join in!" The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/17, Siegel) writes that his "call for Republicans to pursue a repeal before a replacement echoes a similar statement he made" on June 30, when he tweeted, "If Republican Senators are unable to pass what they are working on now, they should immediately REPEAL and then REPLACE at a later date." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/17, Mascaro, Levey) reports that a White House spokesperson said, "Inaction is not an option. We look forward to Congress continuing to work toward a bill the President can sign to end the Obamacare nightmare and restore quality care at affordable prices."

[Politico](#) (7/18, Dawsey) reports that the President "had no idea the statements [from Lee

and Moran] were coming," according to White House and congressional officials, and "his top aides were taken aback." But Trump "is fine" with a clean repeal, "said one White House aide – as 'long as something gets done.' To Trump, the Obamacare fight has always been about scoring a win. He doesn't care nearly as much about the specifics, people close to him say, and hasn't understood why legislators just won't make deals and bring something, anything, to his desk." The President "has privately wondered why legislators don't seem to listen to him, and the blow from Moran and Lee illustrated the limits of the president's capacity to master the art of the Washington deal."

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/17, Litvan, Dennis) reports that Moran "criticized the way the healthcare bill was written through a 'closed-door process' and said the Senate must 'start fresh' with open hearings and debate." [Breitbart](#) (7/17, Moran) reports that Lee said of the bill, "In addition to not repealing all of the Obamacare taxes, it doesn't go far enough in lowering premiums for middle class families; nor does it create enough free space from the most costly Obamacare regulations."

Sahil Kapur of Bloomberg News [tweeted](#), "Mike Lee and Jerry Moran came out against BCRA at the exact same time. Sly move. Nobody wants to be #3 who sunk it." Nate Silver [tweeted](#), "Gotta wonder if Lee & Moran took the plunge because: 1 – 10 or 12 senators hated the BCRA; 2 – They faced the *least* electoral risk of the 12." Dave Weigel of the Washington Post [tweeted](#) a GIF from the musical "Hamilton" with the lyric, "You don't have the votes."

[Reuters](#) (7/17, Holland, Cowan) reports that Sens. Susan Collins and Rand Paul had already announced their opposition, leaving McConnell short of 50 votes. The [New York Times](#) (7/17, A1, Kaplan) says the defections have the effect of "killing, for now, a seven-year-old promise to overturn" the ACA. The [AP](#) (7/17, Fram, Werner) reports that the opposition of Lee and Moran left the bill "fatally wounded."

[USA Today](#) (7/18, Singer) reports that Senate Minority Leader Schumer said, "This second failure of Trumpcare is proof positive that the core of this bill is unworkable. Rather than repeating the same failed, partisan process yet again, Republicans should start from scratch and work with Democrats on a bill that lowers premiums, provides long-term stability to the markets and improves our health care system."

Sen. Cory Booker [tweeted](#), "Make no mistake – the failure of #Trumpcare is because so many of you spoke out against this cruel bill." Sen. Patty Murray [tweeted](#), "#Trumpcare has been a failure since the start & it's now clearer than ever that writing a mean bill in secret is no way to get things done."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/17, Peterson, Armour), [McClatchy](#) (7/17, Welsh), the [Washington Times](#) (7/17, Howell), the [Washington Examiner](#) (7/17, Siegel), and [Politico](#) (7/17, Everett, Haberkorn) also report on the collapse of the bill.

Before Collapse Of Bill, McCain's Return Was Key GOP Concern. All of these developments occurred well after the broadcast networks aired their newscasts. Their coverage focused on the health of Sen. John McCain, whose vote had been seen as crucial. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/17, story 4, 1:50, Muir) reported that McConnell had delayed a vote because of McCain's absence as he recovers from surgery to remove a blood clot. The [CBS Evening News](#) (7/17, story 8, 2:25, Mason) reported that McCain could be absent from Washington for at least a week. [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/17, story 3, 2:15, Holt) reported that Republicans feared an extended delay would give repeal opponents further time to organize. All three networks showed a clip of President Trump's remark about McCain: "We miss him. He's a crusty voice in Washington. Plus we need his vote." CBS' Anthony Mason said, "'A crusty voice.' That may be the nicest thing the President has said about John McCain."

[USA Today](#) (7/17, Estepa) reports that Diana Orrock, a Republican National Committee member from Nevada, favorably [retweeted](#) a [Medium article](#) that "called for the death" of McCain. Orrock later deleted the retweet.

Threatening Note Left At Heller Office In Nevada. [Reuters](#) (7/17, Simpson) reports that a threatening note was left at the Las Vegas office of Sen. Dean Heller over the weekend. [Townhall](#) (7/17, O'Brien) reports that the note "was from someone asserting that he would lose his health care if the key senator voted no and that he would die if that happened and would take Heller with him, a law enforcement source said."

Democrats Unified In Opposing Repeal, But Divided Over Single-Payer. The [Washington Post](#) (7/17, Weigel, Stein) reports that activists have been gearing up for continued action against repeal efforts. But [McClatchy](#) (7/17, Clark) reports that while Democrats "are showing uncommon unity" in fighting repeal, the party is divided over whether to back a single-payer system or to stick to more modest reforms.

WSJournal Analysis: Tax Reform Could Unite GOP Factions Divided By Healthcare Fight.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/17, Seib) reports in an analysis that while the healthcare debate is dividing the three philosophical camps inside the Republican Party – which it identifies as the populists/nationalists, the movement conservatives and the Wall Street/establishment conservatives – tax reform could serve to unite those factions.

House Budget Panel To Mark Up Fiscal 2018 Budget Resolution Wednesday.

[Roll Call](#) (7/17, Staff) reports House Majority Leader McCarthy confirmed last week that the House Budget Committee “has scheduled its markup of the fiscal 2018 budget resolution for Wednesday at 10 a.m.”

NYTimes Analysis: Democrats “Perfect Art Of Delay” Over Trump Nominees.

The [New York Times](#) (7/17, Hulse) reports that when Senate Democrats in 2013 “drastically weakened the ability to filibuster presidential nominees,” a “new kind of delaying tactic was born, one meant not to block a particular nominee but to snarl the Senate and limit the number of people who can get confirmation votes.” The barrier, “as employed by both parties, is at the heart of an escalating fight over the pace of confirmations” for Trump appointees. The Times says that “because of their 2013 change, Democrats cannot indefinitely block nominees,” but they can “prolong the process to an excruciating degree.” In fact, Republicans “calculate that at the current rate, it would take 11 years and four months to fill all possible Trump administration spots.” Citing the same statistic, the [Washington Examiner](#) (7/17, Ferrechio) reports that “many of the nominees delayed by Democrats passed easily and with bipartisan support, calling into question the motive behind the delays.”

A separate [New York Times](#) (7/17, Yourish, Aisch) piece, however, says President Trump “has filled far fewer top jobs in cabinet or cabinet-level agencies than President Barack Obama had at this point in his presidency” because Trump has been “exceptionally slow in nominating people to serve in leadership positions below the secretary level.” According to a New York Times analysis, Trump has announced “36 percent of these positions, compared with 78 percent for Mr. Obama over the same period.”

NYTimes Analysis: America’s Decaying Infrastructure Problem Extends To Antarctica.

The [New York Times](#) (7/17, Gillis, Corum) reports that McMurdo Station, America’s research station on Antarctica, is “one of the glories of American science” as the “main hub for the most ambitious Antarctic research program run by any nation.” However, it faces material challenges in that the National Science Foundation has decided the inefficient, aging buildings must be replaced, and there is only one 40-year-old ice-breaking vessel in the US Coast Guard able to deliver supplies. When the boat soon goes in for repairs, the station will operate with a “skeleton” crew for more than a year. The Times says that the predicament “can be seen as an extension of the national infrastructure crisis that President Trump ran for office vowing to fix.” The Times also reports on the history, personnel, and layout of McMurdo.

Former Trump Adviser: Administration Is Bringing Reform To EPA Science Boards.

In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/17), former Trump EPA transition team adviser Steve Milloy writes that the Administration’s decision in June not to renew the appointments of 38 additional EPA advisers did not demonstrate a so-called war on science but instead served as a much-needed conflict-of-interest reform for the agency’s advisory boards. Milloy argues that the Obama Administration filled the EPA’s two most prominent boards of outside advisers, the Science Advisory Board and the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, with individuals from consulting firms and activist groups, many of whom are now agency grantees and favor more stringent environmental regulation, while appointing very few individuals with industry background. Milloy concludes that EPA Administrator Pruitt and the Administration, by not renewing certain EPA adviser appointments, are reaffirming the independence of the agency’s science advisory committees.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“A Brighter Future For Electric Cars And The Planet.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (7/18, Board) calls the “slew of recent” electric car technology advancements “heartening” and a

sign of "real promise." The Times says that the "potential environmental benefits of electric vehicles are huge," and adds that despite facing some challenges, the technology has "caught on much faster than was thought likely just a few years ago." The Times laments the fossil fuel industry in the US "will no doubt try to sabotage the electric car revolution," and "President Trump and Republican leaders in Congress" have "made clear that they do not see climate change as a major threat." Nonetheless, the Times concludes, opponents of the technology should know "that the most they can do is slow down the process" because electric vehicles have "already left the garage."

"In Congress, Obstructionists Are Obstructing Themselves." A [New York Times](#) (7/18, Board) editorial says Republican legislative leaders "appear to have failed for now in their goal of destroying the Affordable Care Act," but "their eagerness to shower tax breaks on the wealthy at the expense of health coverage for millions of Americans has cramped their ability to pass other fiscal legislation." The Times says "it is a stunning demonstration of incompetence that, with control of the House, the Senate and the White House for six months, Republicans have not only failed to enact any major bills but have also created a legislative logjam that is bound to get worse" in September, when "lawmakers will have less than a month to pass budget bills before the 2018 fiscal year begins on Oct. 1" or "risk a government shutdown." The Times says at least this time Republicans are "obstructing themselves, a good thing since it may limit their ability to do harm."

Washington Post.

"More Than 20 Million People Are At Risk Of Starving To Death. Will The World Step Up?" In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/17) argues that the international community and the United States need to offer more humanitarian aid to assist the 20 million people that are at risk of starvation from famine in Somalia, Yemen, Nigeria, and South Sudan in the coming months. The Post says that, although the US has responded "relatively generously" to UN appeals, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs reported that only 43 percent of the \$6.27 billion needed has been raised. The Post also contends that public awareness is "still lagging" and accuses the Defense Department of "helping to exacerbate the crisis" by backing "a misguided military intervention led by Saudi Arabia that has choked imports of food and medicine."

"The Latest Nativist Trump Proposals Would Actually Hurt American Institutions." The [Washington Post](#) (7/17) in an editorial says the decision to increase the number of H-2B visas, mentioning that President Trump has used them "at his golf resorts in Florida and other properties," is, "in an administration that has led the chant to 'Hire American'...a welcome sign that reality can trump sloganeering." But, says the Post, the Administration is also considering "proposals to reassess procedures for foreign students already studying at U.S. colleges and universities and for visa-seekers overseas who would visit, work or seek refuge here." The Post says these are a result of "fear, nativism and the use of national security as a pretext for indulging xenophobia."

"With Her Shelter Plan, Bowser Is Succeeding Where Other DC Mayors Have Failed." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/17) expresses support for DC Mayor Muriel E. Bowser's decision to replace the "decrepit" housing facility in the former DC General Hospital with six family homeless shelters, the first of which is now under construction. The Post also praises Mayor Bower for overcoming "opposition, personal attacks and other obstacles" to building the housing centers and for keeping her campaign promise to seek to close DC General.

Wall Street Journal.

"The Trumps And The Truth." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/17) argues in an editorial that with special counsel Robert Mueller and the House and Senate intelligence committees investigating the Russia matter, any material that is potentially damaging to the Trumps will come out. The Journal calls on lawyer Ty Cobb, who is managing Trump's Russia defense, to release everything before it is inevitably leaked.

"Lula And Brazil's Progress." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/17) argues that the ongoing anti-corruption campaign in Brazil that has resulted in the impeachment of previous President Dilma Rousseff, the indictment of current President Michael Temer, and the conviction last week of former President and current presidential candidate Lula da Silva indicates a positive trend of reform, The Journal adds, however, that Lula's conviction may present Brazil's rule of law its biggest challenge and contends that, should Lula win re-election in 2018, the sentence and legal appeal would be suspended until the end of his four-year term, truncating the gains made

against corruption by Brazil's rising independent judiciary.

"America's Summer Labor Shortage." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/17) in an editorial says that the number of H-2B visas being added is insufficient given the tighter labor markets and low unemployment in many states. The Journal says the jobs generally have good pay but are seasonal and that causes few Americans to seek them. It also says teens who used to fill such jobs are now more likely to spend summers volunteering or studying.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Two More GOP Senators Oppose Healthcare Bill](#)
[US Companies Have A New 401\(k\) Fix: Spend More](#)
[Unable To Buy US Military Drones, Allies Place Orders With China](#)
[Netflix Surprises With Big Subscriber Gains, Shares Soar](#)

New York Times:

[Healthcare Overhaul Collapses As Two Republican Senators Defect](#)
[The Cost Of A Hot Economy In California: A Severe Housing Crisis](#)
[South Korea Proposes Military Talks With North At Their Border](#)
[Trump Says He Has Signed More Bills Than Any President, Ever, He Hasn't.](#)
[As Paperwork Goes Missing, Private Student Loan Debts May Be Wiped Away](#)

Washington Post:

[Treasury Chief Hurtles Toward Fiasco](#)
[US To Let In 15,000 Foreign Workers](#)
[Some District High Schools Didn't Record Suspensions](#)
[An Eclipse Chaser's Total Commitment](#)
[Defections May End Health Overhaul](#)

Financial Times:

[Davis Returns From Brexit Talks After Lightning Trip](#)
[KKR Positions Successors To Kravis And Roberts](#)
[China GDP Growth Points To 2017 Rebound](#)
[China's Railway Diplomacy Hits The Buffers](#)

Washington Times:

[Russia Election Meddling Controversy Swinging Past Voters In Swing States](#)
[Trump's Approval Ratings Break Traditional Ties To Economy, Policy Vs. Personality Trend](#)
[GOP Health Care Bill Dies In Senate After More Republicans Announce Opposition](#)
[Cousins, Redskins Miss Deadline For Long-Term Deal](#)
[Zero-Calorie Sugar Substitutes Linked To Weight Gain, Health Problems](#)
[To Undercut Iran, Russians Pressure Assad To Cut Syria's Longtime Ties To Hezbollah](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Minneapolis-Police Violence; Trump-Russia Meddling; WH-Made In America Week; Healthcare Reform Bill-McCain; Arizona Flash Flood; Weather Forecast; London Child-US Treatment; OJ Simpson Parole Hearing; US Visa Changes; Indiana-Murder Mystery; Dallas Police Violence Trial; Tampa-Sinkhole; Artificial Sweeteners-Weight; Martin Landau Dies; Dog Saves Deer.

CBS: Arizona Flash Flood; Dallas Police Violence Trial; Minneapolis-Police Violence; Trump-Russia Meddling; WH-Made In America Week; US Visa Changes; Afghanistan-US Deployment; Healthcare Reform Bill-McCain; Martin Landau Dies; Afghan Teens-US Robot Competition.

NBC: Minneapolis-Police Violence; Arizona Flash Flood; Healthcare Reform Bill-McCain; WH-Made In America Week; OJ Simpson Parole Hearing; Indiana-Murder Mystery; Amazon-Meal Delivery Service; Martin Landau Dies; British Royals Visit Poland; Dog Saves Deer; Adopted Ballerina.

Network TV At A Glance:

Minneapolis-Police Violence – 7 minutes, 10 seconds
Healthcare Reform Bill-McCain – 6 minutes, 30 seconds

Arizona Flash Flood – 6 minutes, 30 seconds
WH-Made In America Week – 5 minutes, 10 seconds
Trump-Russia Meddling – 3 minutes, 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Healthcare Reform Bill; Minneapolis-Police Violence; Atlanta-Restaurant Roof Collapse; Gasoline Price.

CBS: Healthcare Reform Bill; Iran Nuclear Deal; Iran-American Captive; Minneapolis-Police Violence; Bering Sea Earthquake; Wall Street News.

FOX: Healthcare Reform Bill; Iran Nuclear Deal-Trump; Minneapolis-Police Violence.

NPR: Healthcare Reform Bill; Iran Nuclear Deal; China-Political Shake Off; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Speaks with Sultan Qaboos bin Said al Said of Oman by telephone.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Delivers the keynote address at the National Retail Federation's annual Retail Advocates Summit; participates in a life insurers roundtable.

US Senate: 9:00 AM Senate Finance Committee hearing on tax reform – Hearing on 'Comprehensive Tax Reform: Prospects and Challenges', with testimony from former Assistant Secretaries of the Treasury for Tax Policy Mark Mazur, Pamela Olson, Eric Solomon, and Jonathan Talisman Location: Rm 215, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://finance.senate.gov>

9:30 AM Senate Armed Services Committee considers reappointing Joint Chiefs vice chairman – Nominations hearing considers Gen. Paul Selva for reappointment to the grade of general and reappointment to be Joint Chiefs of Staff Vice Chairman Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Callista Gingrich to be U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See; Nathan Alexander Sales to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large; George Edward Glass to be U.S. Ambassador to Portugal; and Carl Risch to be Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers J. Paul Compton, Jr. to be Department of Housing and Urban Development General Counsel; Anna Farias to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity; Neal Rackleff to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Community Planning and Development; Richard Ashooh to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration; Elizabeth Erin Walsh to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets and United States and Foreign Commercial Service Director General; and Christopher Campbell to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Financial Institutions Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://banking.senate.gov/>

10:30 AM Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing on U.S. and North American energy and resource security – Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources hearing to examine the status and outlook for U.S. and North American energy and resource security, with testimony from International Energy Agency Executive Director Dr Fatih Birol; American Security Project CEO Brig. Gen. Stephen Cheney; American Nuclear Society President Robert Coward; Carmot Strategic Group Principal Dan McGroarty; Manhattan Institute Senior Fellow Mark Mills; and Boston Consulting Group Center for Energy Impact Senior Director Jamie Webster Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://energy.senate.gov/public/>

10:30 AM Senate Appropriations subcommittee markup hearing – Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee markup hearing on Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations bill Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 124, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

11:00 AM Nominations hearing considers David Kautter to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Tax Policy Location: Rm 215, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://finance.senate.gov>

2:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

2:30 PM Energy and Water Development Subcommittee markup hearing on Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations bill Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 138, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

2:30 PM Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee hearing on 'The Four Famines' – Multilateral International Development, Multilateral Institutions, and International Economic, Energy, and Environmental Policy Subcommittee hearing on 'The Four Famines': Root Causes and a Multilateral Action Plan', with testimony from USAID Office of Food for Peace Acting Director Matthew Nims; World Food Programme Executive Director David Beasley; United Nations Children's Fund Deputy Executive Director for Partnerships Justin Forsyth; International Committee of the Red Cross Director of Operations Dominik Stillhart; Mercy Corps South Sudan Director Dr Deepmala Mahla; and Refugees International President Eric Schwartz Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Armed Services Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers John Gibson II to be Department of Defense Deputy Chief Management Officer; Ellen Lord to be Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics; Lucian Niemeyer to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Energy, Installations and Environment; and Matthew Donovan to be Under Secretary of the Air Force Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

4:00 PM Senate Armed Services subcommittee hearing on a 355-ship U.S. Navy – Seapower Subcommittee hearing on 'Options and Considerations for Achieving a 355-ship Navy from Former Reagan Administration Officials', with testimony from former Secretary of the Navy John Lehman, Jr.; former Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Shipbuilding and Logistics Everett Pyatt; and former Office of Management and Budget Associate Director for National Security and International Affairs William Schneider, Jr. Location: Rm 222, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

US House: 10:00 AM Hearing on 'The Next Farm Bill: Pathways to Success for SNAP Households' Location: Rm 1300, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://agriculture.house.gov/>

10:00 AM Trade Subcommittee hearing on 'Modernization of the North American Free Trade Agreement' Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

10:00 AM House Transportation subcommittee hearing on FAST Act implementation – Highways and Transit Subcommittee hearing on 'FAST Act Implementation: Improving the Safety of the Nation's Roads', with testimony from Federal Highway Administration Acting Deputy Administrator Walter Waidelich, Jr.; Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Deputy Administrator Daphne Jefferson; National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Acting Deputy Administrator Jack Danielson; and National Transportation Safety Board member T. Bella Dinh-Zarr Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM House Space subcommittee hearing on Mars Rover 2020 and Europa Clipper planetary missions – Space Subcommittee hearing on 'Planetary Flagship Missions: Mars Rover 2020 and Europa Clipper', with testimony from NASA Science Mission Directorate Planetary Science Division Director Dr Jim Green; Mars Rover 2020 Project Scientist Dr Kenneth Farley (California Institute of Technology); Europa Clipper Project Scientist Dr Robert Pappalardo (California Institute of Technology); NASA Psyche Mission Principal Investigator Dr Linda Elkins-Tanton (Arizona State University); and National Academy of Sciences Committee on Astrobiology and Planetary Science Co-Chair Dr William McKinnon Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee latest oversight hearing on 'federal natural resources laws gone astray' – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'Examining Impacts of Federal Natural Resources Laws Gone Astray, Part II', with testimony from Portland, OR, resident Patty Brandt; American University Washington College of Law Professor Amanda Leiter; Atchley Hardin Lane's Dr Amos Loveday; and International Association of Geophysical Contractors President Nikki Martin Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on 'the cost of being a public company' – Capital Markets, Securities, and Investment Subcommittee hearing on 'The Cost of Being a Public Company in Light of Sarbanes-Oxley and the Federalization of Corporate Governance', with testimony from NYSE Group President Thomas Farley; aTyr Pharma Senior Vice

President of Finance John Blake; U.S. Chamber of Commerce Center for Capital Market Competitiveness Executive Vice President Thomas Quaadman; University of Denver Sturm College of Law Corporate and Commercial Law Program Director J. Robert Brown, Jr.; and Competitive Enterprise Institute Senior Fellow John Berlau Location: Rm 2128, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Education Committee hearing on ESSA implementation – Hearing on ‘ESSA Implementation: Exploring State and Local Reform Efforts’, with testimony from Government Accountability Office Director of K-12 Education Jacqueline Nowicki; Dysart Unified School District (AZ) Superintendent Dr Gail Pletnick; Alliance for Excellent Education Vice President of Policy Development and Government Relations Phillip Lovell; and Mississippi Department of Education State Superintendent Dr Carey Wright Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:00 AM House Energy subcommittee hearing on the state of the electric industry – Energy Subcommittee hearing on ‘Powering America: Examining the State of the Electric Industry through Market Participant Perspectives’, with testimony from Duke Energy Corporation Senior Vice President of State and Federal Regulatory Legal Support Alex Glenn; NextEra Energy Executive Vice President for Federal Regulatory Affairs Joseph Kelliher; Public Service Enterprise Group Executive Vice President and General Counsel Tamara Linde; American Municipal Power Senior Vice President and General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs Lisa McAlister; Old Dominion Electric Cooperative President and CEO Jackson Reasor; EnerNOC Vice President of Regulatory and Government Affairs Ken Schisler; and Calpine Corporation Senior Vice President of Government and Regulatory Affairs Steven Schleimer Location: Rm 2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:15 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on HRSA oversight of the 340B Drug Pricing Program – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on ‘Examining HRSA’s Oversight of the 340B Drug Pricing Program’, with testimony from Department of Health and Human Services Assistant Inspector General for Evaluation and Inspections Erin Bliss; Government Accountability Office Director of Health Care Debbie Draper; and Health Resources and Services Administration Office of Pharmacy Affairs Director Capt. Krista Pedley Location: Rm 2322, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:30 AM Markup hearing on ‘FY2018 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill’ and ‘FY2018 Interior Appropriations Bill’ Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2359, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:30 AM House Administration Committee latest hearing on the Government Publishing Office – Hearing on ‘Transforming GPO for the 21st Century and Beyond: Part 2’, with testimony from Government Publishing Office Director Davita Vance-Cooks Location: Rm 1310, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://cha.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAdmnGOP>

12:00 PM House debates Ozone Standards Implementation Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including ‘H.R. 806 – Ozone Standards Implementation Act of 2017’, plus consideration of ‘H.R. 2786 – To amend the Federal Power Act with respect to the criteria and process to qualify as a qualifying conduit hydropower facility’, ‘H.R. 2828 – To extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project’, and ‘H.R. 3050 – Enhancing State Energy Security Planning and Emergency Preparedness Act of 2017’ under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM House Workforce Committee members host panel discussion on hiring opportunity youth – House Education & the Workforce Committee members host bipartisan panel discussion with business leaders, advocates, and youth on the return on investing in opportunity youth, barriers to hiring opportunity youth, and employer-led solutions to youth unemployment. Participants include Opportunity Nation Executive Director Monique Rizer, Gap Executive Director of Community Leadership Gail Gershon, former Opportunity Youth and YearUp alumnus Taj Jackson, FSG Impact Hiring Initiative Executive Director Nicole Trimble, and Starbucks Global Social Impact Opportunity Youth Director Lt. Col. (Ret.) David Oclander Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2261, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on the Global Food Security Act – Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee hearing on ‘Implementing the Global Food Security Act’, with testimony from Acting U.S. Special Representative for Global Food Security Theodore Lyng; USAID Bureau for Food Security Administrator’s Assistant Dr Beth Dunford; and U.S. African Development Foundation President

and CEO C.D. Glin Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

2:00 PM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on terrorism, remittances, and money transfers – Terrorism and Illicit Finance Subcommittee hearing on ‘Managing Terrorism Financing Risk in Remittances and Money Transfers’, with testimony from Western Union Senior Vice President and Global Head of Financial Crimes Compliance Duncan DeVillie; Remitly President and CEO Matthew Oppenheimer; Foundation for the Defense of Democracies Center on Sanctions and Illicit Finance Board of Advisors member John Cassara; and Oxfam America Chief Humanitarian Policy Advisor Scott Paul Location: Rm 2128, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

2:00 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee oversight hearing on onshore oil and gas development in Alaska – Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee oversight hearing on ‘Promoting Onshore Oil and Gas Development in Alaska’, with testimony from International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 959 Alaska Vice President Gary Dixon; Arctic Slope Regional Corporation Executive Vice President for Lands & Natural Resources Richard Glenn; and ConocoPhillips Alaska Vice President for External Affairs & Transportation Scott Jepsen Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

3:00 PM House Dems host forum on voting rights and privacy under the Presidential Commission on Election Integrity – Congressional Black Caucus and House Committee on the Judiciary Democrats host forum on voting rights and privacy concerns related to recent requests made by Presidential Commission on Election Integrity Co-chair Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, held ahead of the Commission’s first meeting tomorrow. Participants include CBC Chair Democratic Rep. Cedric Richmond, House Committee on the Judiciary Ranking Member John Conyers, and other Members of Congress, while panel features Kentucky Secretary of State Alison Lundergan-Grimes, Connecticut Secretary of State Denise Merrill, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights’ Wade Henderson, Electronic Privacy Information Center’ Marc Rotenberg, Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law’s Kristen Clarke, and NAACP Legal Defense Fund Associate Director Counsel Janai Nelson Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2247, Washington, DC <https://cbc.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/OfficialCBC>

3:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on ‘H.R. 218, the King Cove Road Land Exchange Act’, ‘H.R. 2910, the Promoting Interagency Coordination for Review of Natural Gas Pipelines Act’, and ‘H.R. 2883, the Promoting Cross-Border Energy Infrastructure Act’ Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

Other: 8:00 AM Christians United for Israel Summit continues – Christians United for Israel Annual Washington Summit continues, with day two agenda including ‘View from the Hill’, with Republicans Sens. Joni Ernst and John Cornyn and Reps. Trent Franks, Louie Gohmert and Doug Lamborn, and the Donor Appreciation Banquet, with President’s Deputy Assistant Sebastian Gorka and Israeli Knesset Member Avi Dichter Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Place NW, Washington, DC www.cufi.org/site/PageServer?pagename=2017Summit_Register <https://twitter.com/CUFI>

8:00 AM ISS R&D Conference continues – Annual International Space Station Research and Development Conference continues, with speakers today Democratic Sen. Gary Peters, Republican Rep. Brian Babin and NASA Astronaut Kate Rubins Location: Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.astronautical.org/> <https://twitter.com/astrosociety>

8:20 AM The Hill hosts discussion on mental health policy at the federal, state, and local level – The Hill hosts ‘The State of Mental Health Care: Challenges and Solutions’ discussion, with Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe and Republican Rep. Leonard Lance speaking on mental health policy at the federal, state, and local level, and the impact on patients and caregivers. Other speakers include Janssen Pharmaceuticals Central Nervous System President Michelle Wang Goodridge, McClendon Center Executive Director Dennis Hobb, Council of State Governments Justice Center Health Services and Systems Policy Director Fred Osher, mental health advocate Teresa Pasquini, National Council for Behavioral Health President and CEO Linda Rosenberg, Treatment Advocacy Center Executive Director John Snook, and American Psychiatric Association President-elect Dr Altha Stewart Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC thehill.com <https://twitter.com/TheHillEvents> #StateofMH

9:00 AM Justice Action Network’s ‘Women Unshackled’ forum – The Justice Action Network hosts the ‘Women Unshackled’ forum, focusing on the ‘exploding number of women entering the criminal justice system’. Speakers include Democratic Sens. Kamala Harris and Cory Booker, Republican Rep. Mia Love, and Oklahoma Governor Mary Fallin Location: Newseum, 555

Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest, Washington, DC www.justiceactionnetwork.org
<https://twitter.com/usjusticeaction>

9:00 AM Energy Secretary Perry and IEA head hold joint press conference – Secretary of Energy Rick Perry and International Energy Agency Executive Director Dr Fatih Birol hold joint press conference, discussing topics including ‘the critical role the U.S. plays in international energy’, ‘how the American shale revolution will provide energy security for not only the U.S. but also its trading partners and allies’, and ‘the centrality of the U.S. when it comes to global energy markets and energy security’ Location: The National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC www.energy.gov <https://twitter.com/ENERGY>

11:30 AM GOP Rep. Thomas Massie speaks at Heritage Foundation on modernizing the aviation system – Republican Rep. Thomas Massie speaks at the Heritage Foundation on ‘Cleared for Takeoff – How Pro-Market Reforms Can Modernize Our Aviation System’, followed by discussion with Right Turn Strategies President Chris Barron, Cato Institute Tax Policy Studies Director Chris Edwards, and Airlines for America Legislative and Regulatory Policy Vice President Jarrod Thompson Location: The Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

7:30 PM Embassy of Afghanistan honors all-girl robotics team at reception – Embassy of Afghanistan hosts reception to honor Afghanistan’s all-girl robotics team, after the closing ceremonies of the FIRST Global International Robotics Competition. Event features a videotaped message from Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, and Amb. Hamdullah Mohib presenting awards to the girls Location: Embassy of Afghanistan, 2341 Wyoming Ave NW, Washington, DC www.embassyofafghanistan.org

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: “ I don’t know if you heard the White House kicked off Made in America Week, dedicated to products made in the USA, which is funny that almost none of the products the Trump family sells are made in the USA. Donald Trump’s wife is not even made in the USA.”

Jimmy Kimmel: “Polls say President Trump’s approval rating is the lowest since 1947. Thirty-six percent still seems high to me. Some say they don’t care what he does. He would have to eat Kentucky fried bald eagle and wipe his face on a Confederate flag to go below 36 percent.”

Trevor Noah: “So last Thursday, the new healthcare bill came out, and much like last night’s ‘Game of Thrones.’ We were all anxiously awaiting to see how many people it would kill off and also if it would include Ed Sheeran for no good reason. And spoiler alert, healthcare winter is coming.”

Trevor Noah: “Basically, the Republicans created a bizarre lottery where everybody is waiting to find out how much they will lose.”

Trevor Noah: “Up to this plan, insurers have been pretty quiet about the Trump healthcare plan, but as soon as Ted Cruz chimed in, they were all, like, ‘This is the worst possible idea! We didn’t read it, but when we read his name, had to speak up.’”

Jimmy Fallon: “Did you see that last week, Trump’s son Don Jr. tweeted screenshots from the Russia lawyer who offered sensitive info to his dad’s campaign? When he heard that his son tweeted about an ongoing investigation, Trump was like, ‘The student has become the master.’”

Seth Meyers: “President Trump attended the US Women’s Open Golf Tournament this weekend, so just to be safe, the golfers got changed in their cars.”

Seth Meyers: “Meanwhile, the Russia scandal’s engulfed the White House after last week’s bombshell revelation that Trump’s son, Donald Trump Jr., met with a woman described as a Russian government attorney... One Trump ally called it a ‘category five hurricane,’ and White House officials said, ‘This is “Sum of all Fears” stuff. What we’ve all been dreading.’ Maybe you’ve been dreading it, but the rest of us have been waiting for it like the new season of ‘Game of Thrones.’”

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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DOI In The News

Senate Approves Nominee For No. 2 At Interior.

The [AP](#) (7/24) reports that the Senate in a vote of 53-43 on Monday confirmed David Bernhardt, a lawyer and former Interior Department official, as deputy Interior secretary. Democrats criticized Bernhardt "saying he continued to advise a California water district even after he withdrew his formal registration as a lobbyist last year." But Republicans "called Bernhardt a capable lawyer with vast experience in issues important to the West, including endangered species, water use and development of public lands."

[The Hill](#) (7/24, Henry) reports that "Bernhardt has defended his recusal standard, saying it's in line with the terms established for other officials." At his confirmation hearing in May, Bernhardt said, "If I get a whiff of something coming ... that involves a former client or my firm, I will make that item go straight to the ethics office and whatever they decide, that will be it for me." He said, "I have signed the exact same agreements my predecessors have, and I will stand by that."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/24, Boxall) reports that in a statement Monday, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said: "Finally, after months of waiting for confirmation in the Senate, I'm excited to welcome David Bernhardt back to the department." Zinke said, "David's extensive experience serving under previous Interior secretaries, his esteemed legal career, and down-right love of our land and resources is exactly what is needed to help streamline government and make the Interior and our public lands work for the American economy."

Additional coverage was provided by [Bloomberg BNA](#) (7/24), [CNN](#) (7/24, Hauck), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/24, Fears), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (7/24, Paul), and the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (7/25, Webb).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Beloit \(WI\) Daily News](#) (7/24), the [Scottsbluff \(NE\) Star-Herald](#) (7/24), the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (7/24), the [Daily Mail](#) (7/24), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (7/24), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/24, Press), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (7/24), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/24), the [New Canaan \(CT\) News](#) (7/24, Daly), the [Fort Wayne \(IN\) Journal-Gazette](#) (7/24, Daly), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (7/24, Daly), the [Maysville \(KY\) Ledger Independent](#) (7/24, Daly), the [Seattle \(WA\) Post-Intelligencer](#) (7/24, Daly), and [U.S. News & World Report](#) (7/24, Daly).

Trump's Interior Dept To Chop Months Off How Long It Takes To Get An Oil Drilling Permit.

The [Daily Caller](#) (7/24, Bastasch) reports that the Interior Department "plans on cutting wait times for oil and natural gas drilling permits on public lands to just 30 days, according to a senior agency official." Vincent DeVito, energy policy adviser to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, said, "We do want to shrink it down to 30 days and to make all the processes as short as possible, but at the same time, making sure our environmental stewardship is not breached, all of which is completely doable." DeVito said, "We intend to be a better business partner by harmonizing the environmental review process across the board, the one-stop-shopping type of model."

Senate Democrats Call For An Investigation Of Climate Scientist Whistleblower Complaint.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/24, Eilperin) reports that "eight Democrats on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee asked the Interior Department's deputy inspector general on Monday to investigate Secretary Ryan Zinke's decision to reassign roughly 50 senior career officials last month, on the grounds that it could constitute an 'abuse of authority.'" In the letter to Interior deputy IG Mary Kendall, which was "signed by all but three of the panel's Democrats, the senators note that one of the reassigned Senior Executive Service officials – Joel Clement, the

department's top climate change official – has alleged he was punished for his work on the issue." The senators wrote, "Any suggestion that the Department is reassigning SES employees to force them to resign, silence their voices, or to punish them for the conscientious performance of their public duties is extremely troubling and calls for the closest examination." Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift "said in an email that the secretary makes no apologies for his decision to place a slew of experienced career officials in different posts." Swift said, "The president signed an executive order to reorganize the federal government for the future and the secretary has been absolutely out front on that issue. Senior executives are the highest paid employees in the federal government and signed up for the SES knowing that they could be called upon to work in different positions at any time. Congress meant for the SES to be a mobile force that are capable of taking on different assignments to meet the needs of the agency." In an email, Interior IG spokeswoman Nancy K. DiPaolo said that the office "just received the letter and will promptly access resources and methods to meet the request. We currently do not have any related work."

Marathon Markup To Tackle 21 Land, Renewable Energy Bills.

[E&E Daily](#) (7/24) reports that the House Natural Resources Committee will begin consideration of 21 bills on Tuesday, "including bipartisan legislation to promote renewable energy development on public lands and a measure that would develop a central database for federal land properties." Among the bills highlighted by the article is the "Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act of 2017" (H.R. 825), which "requires the Interior Department to identify 'priority areas' for wind and geothermal power development on federal lands." The panel will "also take up H.R. 2199, sponsored by Rep. Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.), which requires the Interior secretary to develop 'a single, uniform database' listing all 'federal real property.'"

Alaskans Want Feds To Stop Micromanaging Alaska Wildlife By Protecting Predators.

The [Daily Caller](#) (7/24, Pearce) reports that the Trump Administration is "considering loosening federal protections on predators like bears and wolves living on federal lands in Alaska, according to Alaska Dispatch News." The Interior Department "decided to review rules against aggressive predator control after, 'widespread criticism and concern from Alaskans about the previous administration micromanaging Alaska wildlife,' DOI press secretary Heather Swift wrote in an email to the Alaska Dispatch News."

Additional coverage was provided by [KTOO-FM](#) Juneau, AK (7/24, Bross).

Industry Lawyers Track Trump Admin's Evolving Policy Changes.

[E&E Publishing](#) (7/24) reports legal and regulatory certainty for the energy industry continues to be elusive, even as President Trump works to boost domestic production. Almost 900 lawyers gathered at the Rocky Mountain Mineral Law Institute to discuss the legal developments this year and to try to find a path to negotiate the changes. Industry lawyers continue to look for broad reforms, including expedited environmental reviews and permitting, but the present concern is on the deregulatory efforts that are moving forward in federal agencies and courts.

Most Presidents Rely On Expertise. Trump Treats Experts Like The Enemy.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/24, Rocco) features commentary from political science Professor Philip Rocco concerning President Trump's efforts to deregulate and defund portions of the federal government that give experts a foothold in federal policy, including the suspension of advisory panels by the Interior Department. Rocco reports the Trump Administration has also reassigned policy experts and fired members of advisory panels in manners that he believes make it easier for the federal government to operate without expert input. According to Rocco, "American presidents doubt, or look to sideline inconvenient experts all the time. Yet Trump is going considerably further, by politicizing even very basic truth claims, and looking to use his opponents' reliance on expertise against them."

Every Kid Outdoors.

In an editorial, the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (7/24) praises Rep. Scott Tipton for his support of the Every Kid Outdoors Act. The legislation, "introduced by a bipartisan group of lawmakers, asks the Department of the Interior to maintain a program that provides fourth-grade students, along with their families, free access to federally managed lands, waters and historic sites." The paper says that "we never know what will pique a student's interest, but among our forests, parks and monuments, there is something to interest every child." It argues that "a park pass is an invitation to explore and experience; It is an invaluable partnership with parents and teachers."

Give The Public Access To Public Land.

In an op-ed for [NMPolitics \(NM\)](#) (7/24, VeneKlasen), Garrett VeneKlasen, executive director of the New Mexico Wildlife Federation, writes in support of allowing hunters access to the Sabinoso Wilderness. He argues that “outfitters, guides and other local businesses in San Miguel County would get a boost from increased hunting activity in the area, and increased sales of licenses and tags would mean more resources for Game & Fish to devote to habitat and wildlife management statewide.” In coming weeks, the Interior Department will “decide whether to allow a private landowner to open up the Sabinoso.” According to VeneKlasen, “the land is now held in trust by a nonprofit, and all that is required to permanently integrate it into the Sabinoso is Secretary Zinke’s signature.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

House Approves Changes To Casino Gambling Compact.

The [AP](#) (7/24) reports that the House of Representatives has “approved amended agreements that could lead to Connecticut’s first casino on nontribal land.” Legislators “voted 118-32 on Monday in favor of amended compacts and memoranda of understanding between the state and the two federally recognized tribes, the Mashantucket Pequot and the Mohegans.” The Senate and Bureau of Indian Affairs also need to approve the agreements.

10th Circ. Stays Firm On DOI Tribal Gambling Reg Ruling.

[Law360](#) (7/24, Powell) reports that “the Tenth Circuit declined on Monday to revisit its recent conclusion that the head of the U.S. Department of the Interior lacks the authority to approve procedures allowing the Pueblo of Pojoaque to continue its casino operations in New Mexico in the absence of a state gambling compact.”

Gov’t Insists It’s Immune From Cherokees’ Trust Suit.

[Law360](#) (7/24, Westney) reports that “the federal government on Friday continued to urge an Oklahoma federal court to toss a lawsuit by the Cherokee Nation claiming the government hasn’t properly managed the tribe’s trust assets, saying the tribe hasn’t pointed to a federal statute that backs its claims or shown the government waived its sovereign immunity.”

Ute Tribe Pulls Out Of Summit, Citing Issues About Treatment.

The [AP](#) (7/24) reports that “leaders of the Ute tribe pulled out of the annual Native American Summit in Utah, saying they want state government to treat the tribe as a sovereign nation.” According to tribe councilman Shaun Chapoose, “even at the summit designed to foster cooperation between tribes and the state, the opening speech by Gov. Gary Herbert referred to working with the federal government on oil and gas development on tribal lands.” He said that the tribe “has its own relationship with the federal government and doesn’t need the state acting on its behalf.”

Zuckerberg Meets Native American Poverty.

For the “Pundits” blog of [The Hill](#) (7/24, Anderson, Contributor), Terry L. Anderson, a senior fellow at the Stanford University Hoover Institution, writes that “Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg visited the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in Montana last weekend, and took to Facebook to shed light on how federal policies have failed Native Americans with the current state of reservation economies.” According to Anderson, “Indian reservations are locked into colonialism with their land held in trust by the federal government on the grounds that Indians are ‘incompetent’ to manage their own resources.” Anderson agrees with Zuckerberg’s conclusion “that problems on the Blackfeet Reservation ‘comes back to the basic idea of freedom. If people have the freedom to do what they want — whether that’s taking a chance on a new idea or building their community — the inherent creativity and goodness in people will help different parts of society flourish.’”

Bureau Of Land Management

Interior Department Announces Plan To Gut Federal Fracking Regulations.

[The Hill](#) (7/24, Cama) reports the Trump administration seeks “to completely repeal Obama-era

standards governing hydraulic fracturing on federal land." The Bureau of Land Management's proposal is expected to be published today in the Federal Register. The Obama-era rules "set standards in areas such as disclosure of fracking chemicals and integrity of well casing." The 2015 regulation "was the Obama administration's attempt to update decades-old regulations to account for the explosive growth in fracking for oil and natural gas in recent years." The Hill adds "the repeal is the latest in a long string of environmental regulations from Obama that Trump is working to undo."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/24, Siciliano) reports according to a pre-publication copy of the notice, "The BLM is now proposing to rescind the 2015 final rule because we believe it is unnecessarily duplicative of state and some tribal regulations and imposes burdensome reporting requirements and other unjustified costs on the oil and gas industry. ... This proposed rule would return the affected sections of the Code of Federal Regulations to the language that existed immediately before the published effective date of the 2015 final rule."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Times](#) (7/24, Richardson), the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (7/24, Siciliano), the [Daily Caller](#) (7/24, Pearce), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (7/24, Passut), and the [Central Valley \(CA\) Business Times](#) (7/24).

Helium Legislation Supported By Air Products Takes First Step Forward.

The [Allentown \(PA\) Morning Call](#) (7/20, Wagaman) reports that Rep. Paul Cook "last week introduced a bill that encourages domestic helium production by companies such as Air Products in anticipation of a decision to shut down the federal helium reserve." The Helium Extraction Act of 2017 "would add two dozen words to the Mineral Leasing Act so the U.S. Bureau of Land Management can lease federal land for the purpose of helium production under the same lease terms as oil and gas." Cook "introduced the bill Tuesday — a day before the penultimate BLM auction of crude helium from its 91-year-old stockpile, which holds enough helium to account for roughly 40 percent of domestic demand but is scheduled to close in September 2021."

Range Hosts Mining Hearing Tuesday.

The [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (7/24) reports that "after boycotting a hearing last week in St. Paul, supporters of copper-mining projects near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness are planning to show up in force for another hearing on the issue Tuesday in Virginia." According to the article, "with one side refusing to attend, last week's hearing was dominated by dozens of speakers outlining their opposition to mining near the BWCAW, and raising concerns about the potential for pollution from a copper mine." The U.S. Forest Service is "holding the hearings to take public input on its plan for a two-year moratorium on mining near the BWCAW and a generic environmental review of potential copper-mining impacts on the regional watershed."

Deadline Extended On Kirkland Mine.

The [Prescott \(AZ\) Daily Courier](#) (7/24) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is "extending the public comment period for the initial scoping process for the Kirkland Mining Company Pozzolan Mine Environmental Analysis an additional 30 days." According to the article, "due to public interest, the comment period, originally set to end July 25, will remain open until Aug. 25." BLM Phoenix District Manager Leon Thomas said, "We are wanting to be responsive to the community, since we received feedback from people in the community that they desired more time to provide input."

Keep Oil And Gas Away From Dinosaur National Monument.

In an op-ed for the [Denver Post](#) (7/24, Preston-Townsend), Charlie Preston-Townsend, the president of Friends of the Yampa, asks the Bureau of Land Management and Interior Secretary Zinke "to side with conservation by preserving and protecting Dinosaur National Monument." Currently, Preston-Townsend writes, the BLM is "proposing to lease lands for oil and gas drilling that are right next to the monument's visitor center and entrance road; these leases would significantly impair the renowned scenery, pristine night skies and natural quiet that makes the monument such a special place." Preston-Townsend asserts that "development on the doorstep of our national monuments should never be considered."

Additional coverage was provided by the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (7/24, Shogren).

Fish And Wildlife Service

Some Local Reservations In Wildlife Refuge's Plans For Expansion.

The [Keene \(NH\) Sentinel](#) (7/24, DeWitt) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is looking to expand the Silvio O. Conte Wildlife Refuge. According to the agency's report, "the increased additions — hoped to be carried out through a combination of acquisitions and easements — are meant to protect intact ecosystems and allow wildlife corridors, habitat management and increased recreational use of land within the Connecticut River watershed." However, "some locals are pushing back, accusing the federal department of encroaching on the ability for townspeople along the river to fully enjoy the land for hunting and fishing." New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu has also "added to the criticism, expressing his opposition to continued federal purchases in New Hampshire in a May letter to Jim Kurth, the acting director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service."

Search On For Jumping Mouse As Some Seek To End Protections.

The [AP](#) (7/23) reports that "biologists are surveying the foothills of Colorado's Rocky Mountains for a threatened species of mouse that's emerged as a source of frustration for ranchers and the real estate industry." According to the article, "a recent search turned up no Preble's meadow jumping mice at the Rocky Flats National Wildlife Refuge outside of Denver." The article says that "similar efforts will continue through the summer."

Protest Tomorrow In Lewiston Over Use Of "Cyanide Bombs" To Eradicate Wild Animals.

The [Lewis-Clark Valley DailyFLY \(WA\)](#) (7/24, Carlson) reports that "a protest against the US Fish and Wildlife Service's reported use of 'cyanide bombs'" to control wildlife such as coyotes will be held Tuesday at the Lewiston Community Center. The article adds that "other such meetings are set for Wednesday and Thursday in Boise and Pocatello."

Sturgeon Bay Man Honored By Great Lakes Fishery.

The [Green Bay \(WI\) Press-Gazette](#) (7/24) reports that the Great Lakes Fishery Commission "honored Mark Holey of Sturgeon Bay with the Buzz Besadny Award for his work bringing people together in support of fishery management." According to a news release from the commission, "during Holey's 37-year career with the state Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, he has provided leadership on sea lamprey control, sturgeon restoration, deep-water cisco restoration, tribal issues and Astroturf spawning reefs for lake trout." The award was presented by Commissioner Tom Melius, Midwest Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

National Park Service

Report: Florida Park Official Inappropriately Touched Worker.

The [AP](#) (7/24) reports that "a government report says a manager at a national park along Florida's Gulf Coast behaved inappropriately toward an employee, misused his position and created potential conflicts of interest." The report by the Interior Department's Office of Inspector General "documents allegations made in 2015 against a manager of De Soto National Memorial in Bradenton, Florida." The report, "the male manager touched a female worker inappropriately, made inappropriate comments and invaded her personal space." In the report, "the manager denies harassing the worker, saying he only touched her while hugging." He also "denied invading her personal space."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (7/24), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/24, Press), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/24), the [Bradenton \(FL\) Herald](#) (7/24), the [Columbus \(IN\) Republic](#) (7/24), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (7/24), and the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (7/24), the [Daily Mail](#) (7/24).

Gillibrand Eyes Study To Establish Finger Lakes As National Heritage Area.

The [Auburn \(NY\) Citizen](#) (7/24, Harding) reports that Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand has "launched a legislative effort aiming to designate the Finger Lakes region as a national heritage area." Gillibrand "visited Lakeside Park in Watkins Glen Monday to announce her bill that would require the National Park Service to study whether the Finger Lakes should become a national heritage area." Gillibrand said, "Thousands of tourists come from around the world to visit the Finger Lakes region to experience the beautiful landscape, rich history and culture and enjoy all that our local businesses have to offer. Designating the region as a national heritage area would help boost local tourism while conserving and protecting the region's precious natural, historic and

cultural resources.”

Olympic National Park Targeting Mountain Goats For Removal.

[NPR](#) (7/24, Held) reports that on Monday, the National Park Service released a mountain goat management plan for Olympic National Park, “laying out three methods of dealing with the population, which park officials say not only is damaging the environment but is dangerous to people.” The preferred plan is a combination of two others: “killing the animals with shotguns or high-powered rifles” and “relocating them.” The preferred plan “would likely take years, said Louise Johnson, the park’s chief of resources management.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) and [KUOW-FM](#) Seattle (7/24, Banse).

Part Of Beach Drive Will Reopen Next Month With New Road And Trail.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/24, Lazo) reports that “the stretch of Beach Drive that closed for improvements in September will reopen to vehicular traffic next month, officials said Monday.” However, “after the section between Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway NW and Tilden Street reopens, work will move to the next two miles of Beach Drive, in what will be another year of closures between Tilden Street and Military Road.” Officials with the National Park Service “say crews are also on track to finish the entire three-year project in the fall of 2019.”

Additional coverage was provided by [WTOP-FM](#) Washington (7/24, Domen) and

Proposed Rule Aims To Ban Unleashed Dogs In Parts Of Bay Area.

[KGO-TV](#) San Francisco (7/24, Larsen) reports that “the fight over leash laws at Bay Area national parks is heating up again as a petition circulates to persuade federal officials to lay off the leashes.” According to the article, “more than 40,000 people signed the petition urging Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke to stop a dog management plan that would severely restrict access to dogs at Golden Gate National Recreation Areas in San Francisco, Marin, and San Mateo counties.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KPIX-TV](#) San Francisco (7/24),

Loaner Life Vest Program In The Poconos.

[WNEP-TV](#) Scranton, PA (7/24, Mataloni) reports that “life jacket loaner racks can be found at all three beaches within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.” It is “part of a new National Park Service safety initiative called the ‘Life Jacket Loaner Program.’” The program, which started “earlier this month” offers free vests to “children who come to the beach.”

National Park Service Hosts Public Forums On Reconstruction-era National Monument.

[WJCL-TV](#) Savannah, GA (7/24, Simkovic) reports that the National Park Service is holding public forums on Beaufort’s Reconstruction-era National Monument this week. Project Manager Justin Henderson said, “A lot of the questions revolve around learning more about the resources here in the community and why they’re historically significant and the stories the community would like to share with the American people.” he said, “It’s an opportunity for the community to provide their feedback and really help inform the overall planning process.”

Mesa Verde National Park Visitors Are Stealing Charcoal.

The [Daily Mail](#) (7/24, Collman) reports that Mesa Verde National Park is “dealing with an increase in vandalism, littering and graffiti.” According to the article, “in a recent Facebook post, park officials shared photos of the damage done to the park, which features some of the best preserved Ancestral Puebloan dwellings.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

Mapp Seeks Assistance From Washington.

The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (7/25, Austin) reports that Gov. Kenneth Mapp “said Monday he is asking authorities in Washington to help provide funding for two new hospitals in the territory to replace the large and aging facilities on St. Croix and St. Thomas.” Mapp, “speaking during a press conference at Government House on St. Thomas, said he broached the subject with Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke on a recent trip to Washington.” Mapp said, “We’ve asked the secretary to prioritize new construction of small hospitals on both St. Croix and St. Thomas. The 250-bed units are too large, given how medicine is practiced today, and that is having a direct impact on our ability to operate those facilities in a cost-efficient manner, in addition to the

problem that they're falling apart and we're putting millions of dollars in them to try to keep them functional and sustainable and certified."

DPNR Gets Federal Funds To Study Red Algae.

The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (7/24, Austin) reports that the Interior Department has "allocated \$103,000 to address the emerging threat of red algae, known by its genus *Ramicrosta*." The money will also "let DPNR market and advertise the Reef Responsible Sustainable Seafood Initiative to promote preservation, moderation and conservation of certain critical seafood stock in the territory, and to build capacity of local natural resource management and support partnerships and information sharing through forums such as the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force."

Top National News

Trump: GOP Must Fulfill "Solemn Promise" To Repeal And Replace ACA.

President Trump, at a White House event and later while addressing the annual Boy Scout jamboree, warned Republican senators that they must fulfill their longstanding promise to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. Most of the coverage of the President's White House remarks focuses on his tone, while reporting on his comments at the scouting event focuses on how unusual it was for a blunt political speech to be given in such a setting. Other coverage focuses on the challenges Senate Majority Leader McConnell will have in getting 50 votes to proceed, a task that may be made easier by Sen. John McCain's decision to return to Washington for the vote.

Anthony Mason opened the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/24, lead story, 2:35) by reporting that the President "is trying to resuscitate the biggest item on his domestic agenda: repealing and replacing Obamacare. The Senate votes [Tuesday] on whether to bring a bill to the floor for debate, and the President urged Republicans today to keep their campaign promises and his and, as he put it, 'do the right thing.'" Trump: "We as party must fulfill that solemn promise to the voters of this country, to repeal and replace, what they have been saying for the last seven years." CBS' Major Garrett: "But a repeal bill is stuck in legislative limbo. After failing to move the bill to the Senate floor last week, a divided Republican conference will try again tomorrow."

Lester Holt asked on [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/24, story 2, 2:30), "The Senate is headed for a key vote tomorrow, but what will they be voting to advance? At this hour, it's a mystery even to most senators." NBC's Hallie Jackson: "President Trump using the power of his presidential bully pulpit against the backdrop of the Blue Room and the faces of what the White House calls 'the victims of Obamacare.' ... With doom and gloom declarations, the President railed against the law of the land, not surprisingly swiping at Democrats." Trump: "They run out, they say death, death, death – well, Obamacare is death." Jackson: "But he saved a punch for his own party, too." Trump: "So far, Senate Republicans have not done their job in ending the Obamacare nightmare." Jackson: "The President's message meant for Capitol Hill, where Senate leaders say they will vote tomorrow to start debate on a bill. It's just not clear what that bill will look like."

The [Washington Post](#) (7/24, Wagner, Johnson) reports that Trump "made a late-hour appeal to senators – targeting members of his own party" – as he "implored fellow Republicans to make good on a promise to repeal" the ACA. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/24, A1, Radnofsky) reports that the President called Democratic promises about what the ACA would deliver "a big, fat, ugly lie." Regarding his own party's senators, he said, "They now have a chance. This is their chance to keep their promise." The [Washington Times](#) (7/24, Miller) reports, "Trump's dismay with congressional Republicans burst into public view Monday...as he searches for an elusive first major legislative win." But "the man who made his reputation as a deal-maker" has "struggled to sell his agenda even to his own party on Capitol Hill."

In a brief item, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/24, story 7, 0:45, Muir) reported on the President's remarks and said that McConnell is "trying to sway Republican holdouts, hoping to have enough votes to move forward," with "many senators tonight admitting they are unsure which healthcare version they are about to vote on." The [AP](#) (7/24, Fram) reports that the upcoming vote "seemed likely to go badly for the GOP." McConnell's decision not to "describe precisely what version of the GOP legislation senators would be voting on" has "caused confusion and frustration among some Republican senators." [Reuters](#) (7/24, Rascoe, Becker) also says that "it remained unclear" which version of the bill the senators would be voting on.

[Bloomberg News](#) (7/24, Litvan, Epstein) reports, "Republicans are struggling for a way to fulfill years of promises by party leaders to get rid of" the ACA, and Senate Majority Whip Cornyn

said Monday "that the GOP won't give up" if Tuesday's vote fails. Cornyn said, "If for some reason we aren't able to muster the votes tomorrow, which I'm increasingly optimistic we will, it's not the end of it," he said.

[McClatchy](#) (7/24, Pugh) reports that opponents and supporters of the ACA "played to the cameras" on Monday "in an 11th-hour attempt to swing public opinion their way." While the President "was flanked by 'victims of Obamacare'" at the White House, ACA supporters "staged a Trumpcare 'Die-In'" at the Capitol. McClatchy says that the "not-so-subtle messaging on both sides was meant to ratchet up the already-intense pressure on Senate Republicans."

[TIME](#) (7/24) reports on its website that the President "seemed to have an endless supply of insults" for the ACA, and "labeled Democrats 'obstructionists.'" But the [Huffington Post](#) (7/24, Lavender) reports that he "spoke in vague terms about the GOP's health care plan, likely because it's not clear what that plan is." [USA Today](#) (7/24, Cummings) reports that during his Blue Room remarks, the President "made a Trumpian slip Monday, accidentally saying, 'For the past 17 years, Obamacare has wreaked havoc on the lives of innocent, hard-working Americans,'" adding a decade to the life of the law.

[The Hill](#) (7/24, Easley) reports under the headline "Trump Pressures GOP Ahead Of Healthcare Vote" that Trump "urged Senate Republicans to 'do the right thing' and vote this week to repeal and replace ObamaCare, even as the GOP effort appears hopelessly stalled." [Roll Call](#) (7/24, Bennett) headlines its report "Trump Turns Bully Pulpit On Senate Republicans." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/24, Mascaro, Levey) reports that the President "warned in [a tweet](#) that 'the repercussions will be far greater than any of them understand!' – hinting of political fallout for senators who vote against the measure." He later [tweeted](#), "Any senator who votes against starting debate is telling America that you are fine w/ the #OCareNightmare!"

Trump Jokingly Threatens To Fire Price If Vote Fails. The [AP](#) (7/24, Bykowicz) reports that the President, addressing Boy Scouts at the 2017 National Scout Jamboree, "jokingly threatened to fire his health secretary if a crucial vote to repeal 'Obamacare' fails." Referring to HHS Secretary Price, who was by his side, Trump said, "Hopefully he's going to get the votes tomorrow to start our path toward killing this horrible thing known as Obamacare. By the way, you gonna get the votes? He better get 'em. Otherwise, I'll say: 'Tom, you're fired.'" The AP reports that the comment "drew laughs from the crowd and Trump gave Price a friendly pat on the shoulder, suggesting he'd been joking." The [Huffington Post](#) (7/24, Reilly), in its top Monday night story, reported on Trump's joking threat, while NBC's Chuck Todd [tweeted](#), "Please @POTUS don't put the Boy Scouts in this situation. Keep politics out of the Jamboree. What a mess. Totally unfair to these kids."

[USA Today](#) (7/24, Jackson) reports that though the President "first told a huge crowd of Boy Scouts at a national jamboree Monday that he didn't want to talk politics...he couldn't help himself." The [Washington Times](#) (7/24, Miller) says that Trump took "jabs at errant Republican lawmakers, the news media and President Obama," and said of GOP senators, "After seven years of trying to repeal and replace and Obamacare, they better do it." [The Hill](#) (7/24, Easley) reports, "Media reports put the crowd size at 35,000, while Trump estimated about 45,000 were on hand."

As for Price, [The Hill](#) (7/24, Shelbourne) reports that he "praised President Trump's 'unprecedented' involvement in the process to repeal and replace" the ACA. Price told reporters, "This is the greatest amount of involvement by any president that I have ever witnessed with members of Congress one-on-one. We've had a number of conversations, obviously, over the weekend, and we're looking forward to a positive vote tomorrow in the Senate." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/24, Armour, Hackman) reports that Democrats have been critical of Price and HHS for publicly criticizing the existing law, calling it an improper use of federal resources.

Collins Says Trump Has Not Tried To Reach Her. [Reuters](#) (7/24, Cornwell) reports that though Trump "exhorted every Republican to vote yes" on repealing the ACA this week, Sen. Susan Collins, "one of his party's most vocal opponents of the bill...said he had made no effort to reach her." Collins told Reuters, "I've had conversations with Vice President Pence, and [CMS Administrator] Seema Verma, and Reince Priebus has called me a few times, to discuss the bill, but the President understandably I think is focusing on others."

Senate Expected To Proceed To Vote Tuesday Afternoon. [USA Today](#) (7/24, Collins) reports that a spokesman said McConnell "will move forward with a plan to hold a vote on repealing Obamacare 'early this week.'" The Senate may vote on the Better Care Reconciliation Act, which four Republicans are on record as opposing; or may vote on an ACA repeal that would take effect at a future deadline, which three Republicans have said they oppose. McConnell cannot lose more than two GOP votes, given united Democratic opposition. [Reuters](#) (7/24, Cowan, Becker) reports that Cornyn said that various options would be discussed before the first procedural vote.

McConnell [tweeted](#), “Tomorrow, the #Senate will vote to start robust debate on how to fix America’s #healthcare problem, and move away from #Obamacare’s failures.”

[Politico](#) (7/24, Everett, Kim, Haberkorn) reports, “McConnell and his leadership team are urging the GOP caucus to cough up the 50 votes needed to begin debate.” Collins and Sen. Lisa Murkowski “are being treated as lost causes in informal whip counts.” The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (7/24, Martin) reports that Sen. Dean Heller, who was “part of a group of moderate senators who opposed a previous version” of the GOP bill, is being closely watched.

The [New York Times](#) (7/24, A1, Kaplan, Davis) reports that if a procedural vote is approved, the Senate would begin debating the BCRA, its repeal-and-replace measure. However, the Times writes, “nobody expects that measure to reach a final vote.” But if McConnell “can muster 50 votes to begin debate on the House bill, he could quickly move to replace it with an entirely new bill to repeal the Affordable Care Act without a replacement.” While that would also be expected to fail, it would allow McConnell “to replace the bill that was passed in the House with a health bill that has been worked out in closed-door negotiations between Republican senators.” [Roll Call](#) (7/24, Dick) reports that passage of a motion to proceed “would kick off the so-called voterama after 20 hours of debate, a process under which virtually unlimited amendments could be offered from either party.”

Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC), who chairs the House Freedom Caucus, said on [Fox News’ Fox & Friends](#) (7/24), “I fully expect in the next 48 hours that [the Senate] will do what they call a motion to proceed. Have enough votes to say that at least they need to take it up, debate it in the Senate. And hopefully get this finally resolved before we go home in August.” Meadows added that “no one has worked harder than the President to try to get this done.”

The [Washington Post](#) (7/24) editorializes, “McConnell announced Monday afternoon that the chamber would vote Tuesday on... well, on something. The scrambling reflected a basic fact: Every major Republican proposal put forward so far would mean millions of Americans would lose access” to healthcare. The proposals under consideration “run the gamut from bad to horrendous, and the rushed process for proceeding to the floor has made a mockery of the ‘world’s greatest deliberative body.’”

By contrast, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/24) says in an editorial that McConnell is right to demand that senators go on the record with their support for, or opposition to, ACA repeal. The Journal says that it has become clear that some GOP senators would prefer to avoid any vote, but that voters have the right to know where they stand.

In a [USA Today](#) (7/24) op-ed, ex-Sen. David Durenberger, a Republican who represented Minnesota from 1978-1995, says that members of his party should not vote for a bill without knowing what is in it, “because there are no do-overs. The vote for the Motion To Proceed is likely a vote for final passage, and the House clearly stands ready to pass the Senate bill unchanged.”

The [Huffington Post](#) (7/24, Young) headlines its report “Senate Republicans Don’t Know What Health Care Bill They’re About To Vote For. That’s Nuts,” while a [Washington Times](#) (7/24, Howell) report is headlined “Mitch McConnell Begs GOP To Begin Debate On Health Care.” [US News & World Report](#) (7/24, Levy) also has a report.

McCain To Return To Washington For Healthcare Vote. [USA Today](#) (7/25, Hansen) reports that McCain said Monday that he will return to Washington for the vote. His presence “could bring the party closer to the 50 needed votes.” The [New York Times](#) (7/24, Kaplan) reports in a brief item that McCain’s office “said the senator ‘looks forward to returning’ to work on several legislative priorities, including defense spending and sanctions against Russia, Iran and North Korea – as well as health care.” McCain’s office [tweeted](#) a similar statement.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/24, Sullivan, Snell, Wagner) reports that “while it was unclear if McCain’s return would improve the chances” of the motion to proceed passing, “some Republicans were privately abuzz with speculation that leaders might be close to securing the votes they needed to at least keep alive a months-long effort that all but died last week.”

MSNBC’s Chris Hayes [tweeted](#), “Last week McCain called for hearings and regular order but if he votes yes on the [motion to proceed] he didn’t actually mean it.”

Schumer Says Democrats’ Top Priority Is Healthcare, Not Russia. [CNN](#) (7/24, Watkins) reports on its website that Senate Minority Leader Schumer “denied Monday that his party is overly fixated on Russia as Democrats rolled out a new campaign focused on economics.” He told CNN’s Jake Tapper that “the party’s primary concerns are health care and ‘the economic well-being of the working family’ – not the various investigations into Russian meddling in the 2016 election.”

Farenthold Faults “Female Senators,” Says He Might Have Challenged Man To A Duel. The [Dallas Morning News](#) (7/24, Kelly) reports that during a Friday interview with a Corpus Christi, Texas radio station, Rep. Blake Farenthold (R-TX) “expressed frustration with female senators over the stalling of the Senate health care bill and suggested he would handle the situation with a

duel, if they were men." In a clip aired by both the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/24, lead story, 2:35) and [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/24, story 2, 2:30), Farenthold said, "The fact that the Senate does not have courage to do some of the things that every Republican in the Senate promised to do is just absolutely repugnant to me. Some of the people that are opposed to this – there are some female senators from the Northeast. If it was a guy from South Texas, I might ask him to step outside and settle this Aaron Burr-style." [CNN](#) (7/24, Grieve) has a brief online report.

Kushner Meets With Senate Intel Panel, Says There Was No Collusion With Russia.

During a closed-door meeting Monday, President Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner answered questions from the staff of the Senate Intelligence Committee who are investigating Russian meddling in the 2016 election. Kushner's testimony, and his comments to reporters at the White House following the meeting, receive heavy media coverage which universally highlights that he denied any collusion took place.

The [AP](#) (7/24, Jalonick) reports that Kushner is "the first member of the president's inner circle to face questions from congressional investigators as they probe Russian meddling in the 2016 election and possible links to the Trump campaign." Kushner denied colluding with Russians during Trump's campaign and "declared he has 'nothing to hide.'" Kushner "made a brief public statement back at the White House," in which he said, "Let me be very clear. ... I did not collude with Russia nor do I know of anyone else in the campaign who did so." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/24, Ballhaus) reports that Kushner told reporters his actions "were proper and occurred in the normal course of events in a very unique campaign." In the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/24, lead story, 4:20, Muir), Jonathan Karl said that Kushner "insisted that whatever happened with Russia, it had nothing to do with his father-in-law's victory." Kushner: "Donald Trump had a better message and ran a smarter campaign, and that is why he won. Suggesting otherwise ridicules those who voted for him."

The [Washington Post](#) (7/24, Rucker, Demirjian) says Kushner and the White House "used the grilling to offer their most detailed refutation – in the form of an 11-page written statement – of the idea that anyone in the campaign sought to coordinate with people acting on behalf of the Russian government." In the statement, Kushner "detailed four meetings he had with Russian officials or nationals during the 2016 campaign and transition period," describing them "as brief and unremarkable contacts in his role as the Trump campaign's liaison to foreign governments." The [AP](#) (7/24, Tucker) provides details of the four meetings.

[McClatchy](#) (7/24, Schofield) says Kushner's statement "addresses a broad range of reported allegations regarding Kushner that have surfaced in the last months." In it, Kushner said, "I did not collude, nor know of anyone else in the campaign who colluded, with any foreign government. I had no improper contacts." [Reuters](#) (7/24, Mason, Zengerle) says Kushner "portrayed himself as new to politics when he became a top adviser to Trump's campaign."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/24, Cloud) says that while Kushner denied collusion, he "confirmed several damaging details, including that he sought to set up a communications line at the Russian embassy in December to speak directly with Kremlin authorities outside normal US channels. The Russian ambassador refused." However, Nancy Cordes said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/24, story 2, 2:20, Mason) that Kushner denied "reports that he tried to set up a secret back channel with Russia during the transition, but said he did ask the Russian ambassador if there was an existing communications channel at his embassy he could use to discuss the Syrian crisis. The ambassador said that would not be possible, so nothing else occurred."

The [New York Times](#) (7/24, A1, Apuzzo, Haberman) reports that "Kushner said he had been unaware that a June 2016 meeting he attended at Trump Tower was set up in the hope that a Russian lawyer would provide the Trump campaign with damaging information about Mrs. Clinton." He "said he went to the meeting at the request of the president's eldest son, Donald J. Trump Jr." and "did not read an email forwarded by the younger Mr. Trump saying that the Russian government was providing dirt about Mrs. Clinton as part of its effort to help the Trump campaign." The Times adds that he "flatly denied any collusion." [Bloomberg News](#) (7/24, Talev, Pettypiece) quotes Kushner's statement as saying, "I have not relied on Russian funds to finance my business activities in the private sector," an assurance which Sen. Ron Wyden questioned, saying, "His description of his financial relationships with individuals and businesses tied to Russia appears incomplete, at best. ... Notably, the comment 'I have not relied on Russian funds to finance my business activities in the private sector,' is clearly the work of a clever lawyer trying to protect his client."

Dana Bash said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/24) that Kushner is using the "aw shucks defense. 'I'm new at this, we didn't have this establishment or the people around us who maybe

we should have or could have had we been a more traditional campaign.' I think it's the best that he can do, and I'm sure it also has a lot of threads of truth to it." Charles Krauthammer said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/24) that Kushner's "defense essentially is that 'I was naive, inexperienced, careless at times, clueless at times, rookie' and all of this. To me it rings true. ... There are a few phrases in there that are very lawyerly," but "overall, I thought it was a good statement and it looks like he's clean."

Dana Milbank takes a different view, writing in his [Washington Post](#) (7/24) column that Kushner "explained his repeated lapses – he had to amend one disclosure form three times – by saying, essentially, that he was new to politics and so terribly busy that he couldn't keep up with everything. And he used the hoariest excuse of all: He blamed his assistant." Kushner, Milbank adds, is "essentially arguing that he isn't corrupt – he's just in over his head. ... Coming from the man charged with handling everything from Middle East peace to opioids, this isn't reassuring."

Lester Holt said in the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/24, lead story, 3:15) that while Kushner "stated flatly today there was no collusion," it "has not stopped the questions." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/24) argues in an editorial that while Kushner is unlikely to have settled the matter given the level of media attention being given to the collusion issue, his statement detailing his contacts with Russians during the campaign is an example of disclosure the President and other campaign officials should follow.

Rep. Gregory Meeks said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/24) said Kushner gave a public statement on his meetings "because he knows the facts will come out." He said it follows a pattern of Trump associates, including Kushner, Donald Trump Jr., Attorney General Sessions, and former campaign chairman Paul Manafort, "all...previously claim[ing] that they had nothing to do with Russia," and "as investigations continue, then it is revealed that, in fact, they did." By contrast, Brit Hume said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/24) that Kushner has "one of the sharpest criminal defense lawyers" in Washington, so Kushner would not have voluntarily issued a statement – exposing himself to the potential risk of perjury in his testimony – unless his defense team was "convinced" he is telling the truth.

[USA Today](#) (7/24, Jackson) reports that Kushner will "face investigators in another private session on Tuesday, when members of the House Intelligence Committee will interview him." CNN senior congressional reporter Manu Raju said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (7/24) that Rep. Adam Schiff, the ranking Democrat on the House panel, "is telling our colleague...that [Tuesday's] session will not be enough, because there are a lot of members who have a lot of questions" and "the time frame allotted, a couple of hours, just will not be enough to get through all of the areas they want to talk about."

Sanders: Kushner Showed Russia Investigation Is A "Witch Hunt" And A "Hoax." The [Washington Times](#) (7/24, Miller) reports that the White House said the President was "very proud" of Kushner for giving the voluntary testimony. White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters in Air Force One, "He thought Jared did a great job and was very glad that he was able to go through that process and lay everything out," adding that Kushner showed "the members of that committee as well as everybody else what a witch hunt and hoax this whole thing really is." In a [USA Today](#) (7/24) op-ed, Tomi Lahren, senior adviser for Great America Alliance, takes a similar view, writing that Democrats' "hypocrisy about the 'independent' Russian probe is ridiculous." Special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation, Lahren argues, is "purely partisan," and it is "a shame Americans must turn on cable news to hear the same tired Russia story ad nauseam for hours, days and months on end. That's not news, that's a witch hunt."

However, an opposing [USA Today](#) (7/24) editorial says that to believe such assertions from the White House "is to be like the White Queen in Alice Through the Looking Glass: You'd have to believe as many as six impossible things before breakfast." USA Today argues that "a president with nothing to hide would welcome an investigation that would find him faultless," and that "the public should ask itself this: If stories about Russian interference are really 'fake news,' then why are the president and many of his men acting so guilty?"

Rampell: Seize Assets Kushner Forgoes To Disclose. Catherine Rampell writes in the [Washington Post](#) (7/24) that Kushner has, "for the 39th time...revised his financial disclosure forms," disclosing "77 additional assets, collectively worth millions of dollars." According to a document released by the White House, the items "were 'inadvertently omitted' from previous versions of his federal forms." Rampell argues for a "banana republic rule" under which any assets valued at more than \$ 1 million "that are 'forgotten' on federal disclosures can be seized by Uncle Sam."

Senate Judiciary Committee Reaches Deal With Trump Jr., Manafort. [CNN's Situation Room](#)

(7/24) reported the Senate Judiciary Committee has made a deal with former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort and Donald Trump Jr. "to have a private interview before any public session" and to "get records" from them ahead of the private interview. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, the ranking member of the committee, is "saying there will absolutely be a public hearing with those two men," something she expects after the recess.

Blumenthal: Trump Does Not Have The Power To Pardon Himself. Sen. Richard Blumenthal said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (7/24), "Any of us who have dealt with the Constitution generally know there are few powers if any that are absolute. There's never been a court case on the pardon power as it applies to the president himself, and there's nothing in the Constitution that specifically and explicitly deals with it. My feeling is the better argument is on the side that he lacks that power, to pardon himself. And, in fact, if he pardons assistants, it could well be regarded as an obstruction of justice, if done for improper reasons. I feel he lacks the power to pardon himself. You know, he could be pardoning himself for all kinds of crimes that do not even relate to his official duties, and I think there are some limits on the pardon power."

Ryan Defends Mueller. [Breitbart](#) (7/24, Key) reports that in a radio interview Monday, House Speaker Ryan "defended special counsel Robert Mueller and his investigation." In response to a listener who asked "why Republicans in Congress are not doing more to defend Trump against 'what is becoming an obvious witch-hunt,'" Ryan said, "Remember, Bob Mueller is a Republican, who was appointed by a Republican, who served in the Republican administration, and crossed over – I mean and stayed on until his term ended. ... I don't think many people are saying Bob Mueller is a person who is a biased partisan. He's really, sort of, anything but."

Blumenthal: Firing Mueller Would Trigger A "Firestorm." Blumenthal also said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (7/24) that if Trump were to fire Mueller, "there would be an absolute firestorm, cataclysmic reaction on both sides of the aisle, and I would help to lead efforts to establish legislation that put in place a special prosecutor, much as happened in Watergate, with very likely a three-judge panel picking the special prosecutor. Nothing novel or unprecedented about it. That would have very strong bipartisan support. One thing for sure is this investigation will not end if it the President fires Bob Mueller. It will continue."

William McGurn argues in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/24) that while lawmakers should not seek to undermine Mueller's investigation, they should not allow him to undermine theirs. Congress, he writes, has a range of tools at its disposal to delve into the Russia matter and hold people accountable if it chooses to do so.

Trump Reportedly Considering Replacements For "Beleaguered" Sessions.

A [tweet](#) from President Trump Monday in which he referred to Attorney General Sessions as "beleaguered" and questioned why the Justice Department isn't investigating Hillary Clinton's connections to Russia is the subject of heavy media coverage, much of which casts it as the latest in a series of criticisms of the Attorney General and speculates about whether Trump is trying to prompt Sessions' resignation. Meanwhile, several reports say Trump and his advisers have discussed replacing Sessions and that Sen. Ted Cruz and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani have been mentioned as possible replacements.

The [Washington Times](#) (7/24, Noble) sees the tweet as part of "what appears to be new line of attack against the attorney general for not going after Mr. Trump's former Democratic opponent," while the [AP](#) (7/24, Lemire, Colvin) describes the tweet as "a remarkable new swipe at his own attorney general." Trump, the AP adds, "has speculated aloud to allies in recent days about the potential consequences of firing Sessions," according to "three people who have recently spoken to the president and demanded anonymity to discuss private conversations."

Kristen Welker reported in the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/24, lead story, 3:15) that Trump "has repeatedly lashed out at Sessions for recusing himself in the Russia matter," and [USA Today](#) (7/24, Estepa) reports that the tweet is the "latest in a string of high-profile criticism Trump has leveled at Sessions in recent days."

While the [Washington Post](#) (7/24, Johnson) says Trump "has been attacking" Sessions "for his decision months ago to recuse himself from the investigations into possible connections between Trump's campaign and Russia," the [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/24, Tanfani) calls the tweet "a fresh public slap" of Sessions, who is facing "increasing questions about his future." To the [New York Times](#) (7/24, Sullivan), the tweet is "remarkable because if the attorney general...is beleaguered of late it is largely because of Mr. Trump himself."

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said that Trump is "very disappointed" by Sessions' decision to recuse himself from the Russia matter, [The Hill](#) (7/24, Easley) reports. Speaking to reporters on Air Force One, Sanders said, "I think the president has

been extremely clear about his position, I know I've answered this question a number of times over the last week. ... He's very disappointed that attorney general Sessions chose to recuse himself and there's not much more to add." [Reuters](#) (7/24, Rampton) reports that Sanders said that Sessions was at the White House on Monday but did not meet with the President. Sara Murray said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (7/24) that White House communications director Anthony Scaramucci "said the President is disappointed with Sessions. He said they have to sit down face to face and either have a reconciliation or decide what the future is going to be for Sessions. So leaving it open-ended and, frankly, a little ominous for the future of the Attorney General."

Chris Cilizza said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/24), "I think Trump either doesn't want to or is concerned about what it would look like if he fired Jeff Sessions but is at the point where he's making it so uncomfortable for Jeff Sessions to hold the job that he hopes Jeff Sessions resigns." Charles Krauthammer said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/24), "The only reason possibly for Trump to refer to the AG the way he did is that he wants his resignation and it seems to me he will get it fairly soon." However, Jeff Pegues reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/24, story 3, 1:50, Mason) the Justice Department "insists that Sessions is not preparing to resign, despite the apparent rift with the President, and new reports of an alleged conversation with Russian ambassador Sergey Kislyak during the 2016 election campaign at a previously undisclosed meeting between the two."

Trump tweet comes as he and his advisers are, according to another story in the [Washington Post](#) (7/24, Horwitz, Zapotosky, Costa), "privately discussing" replacing Sessions, "and some confidants are floating prospects who could take his place were he to resign or be fired." The Post cites "people familiar with the conversations" who say Cruz and Giuliani are "among the names being floated as possible Sessions replacements." The Post says "some Trump associates" see replacing Sessions as "part of a strategy to fire special counsel Robert S. Mueller III and end his investigation." The [AP](#) (7/24, Lemire, Colvin) also reports that Trump "has spoken with advisers about firing" Sessions, but adds that he "often talks about making staff changes without following through, so those who have spoken with the president cautioned that a change may not be imminent or happen at all." The [New York Post](#) (7/24, Tacopino) and [The Hill](#) (7/24, Thomsen) also report on the speculation, citing the Post story.

[Axios](#) (7/24, Allen) says Giuliani "would have a tough time" getting the 50 Senate votes he would need for confirmation, because he was "such an early and ardent Trump backer that he wouldn't be seen as an independent guardian of the department in these tumultuous times." On its website, [CNN](#) (7/24, Diamond, Treyz) reports that Giuliani "swatted away" the Axios report, saying there is no truth to it. Giuliani also "said Sessions made the right decision to recuse himself from the Russia investigation."

Trump To Reporter: "Quiet." The [AP](#) (7/24) reports that as Trump posed for photographs with interns on Monday, he "rolled his eyes" when a White House reporter asked if Sessions should resign. The reporter then "asked the president if he had a message on health care," to which Trump said "quiet" and "then told the interns that the reporter 'was not supposed to do that' and was 'breaking a code.'" Philip Bump writes in an analysis for the [Washington Post](#) (7/24) that this is "precisely" what the press is "supposed to do – ask questions about the White House in service to the American people." Bump adds, "At some point Trump needs to come to terms with the fact that providing honest information to the media will work out better for him than obfuscating and misleading."

WPost Analysis: Buffeted By Controversies, Trump And GOP Point To Hillary Clinton. Under the headline "Trump And The Republicans Just Can't Stop Running Against Hillary Clinton," the [Washington Post](#) (7/24, Wagner) reports, "The national political debate is consumed with allegations of collusion with a foreign government, playing dirty in the election and giving preferential treatment to family and friends. Familiar charges, no doubt, but there is a twist: In each of these cases, President Trump and his allies are making the accusations, and their target is Hillary Clinton." The Post adds, "For many Republicans, the 2016 election is" serving as "a go-to counterargument as Trump's agenda bogs down and questions around the Russia scandal multiply. The latest example came Monday in a tweet from Trump, in which he asked why investigators and his 'beleaguered' Attorney General Jeff Sessions aren't 'looking into Crooked Hillarys crimes & Russia relations?'"

NYTimes Analysis: Trump Has "Moved The Bar For Outrage." A [New York Times](#) (7/24, Baker) analysis says that while no "president in modern times [has] sought to prosecute the candidate he beat at the ballot box," when Trump "publicly declared last weekend that his Justice Department should investigate Hillary Clinton, his exhortation generated relatively little reaction." The Times says Trump "has crossed so many lines, discarded so many conventions, said and

done so many things that other presidents would not have, that he has radically shifted the understanding of what is standard in the White House." Trump "has moved the bar for outrage" and "now, it takes more to shock."

Scarborough: Trump Sounds "Beleaguered And Frightened." [The Hill](#) (7/24, Savransky) reported that in the wake of Trump's "beleaguered" tweet targeting Sessions, MSNBC's Joe Scarborough tweeted, "Our president sounds beleaguered and frightened this morning. You can sense his fear in every terrified tweet. Justice must be closing in."

USAToday Analysis: Border Wall Will Take Time, Be Expensive.

In an analysis of the Administration and Congress' ongoing attempts to build a US-Mexico border wall, [USA Today](#) (7/24, Hansen) reports that Congress is currently attempting to secure \$1.6 billion in funding and that the President said this month that "the nearly 2,000-mile border with Mexico could be secured with as little as 700 miles of wall." USA Today largely highlights the different factors contributing to the project's widely differing cost estimates, which range from \$10 billion to \$60 billion, such as environment, barrier type, political and social aspects, and bidding from contractors, some of whom are now creating 18-to-30-foot wall prototypes for the Department of Homeland Security.

Fed Likely To Discuss Low Inflation, But Rate Increase Unlikely.

The [AP](#) (7/24, Crutsinger) reports that the Federal Reserve will "likely" discuss low inflation during their Wednesday policy meeting but that "no one expects" the meeting to result in another interest rate increase in the immediate future, reflecting some analyst predictions that there will be "no further rate increase this year." Other analysts believe there will be another rate increase this year, such as DS Economics Chief Economist Diane Swonk who says an increase is probable but only if inflation rebounds, and Moody's Analytics Chief Economist Mark Zandi, who argues that the Fed will act before the end of the year "in part because of concerns that stock prices and other asset prices have been lifted too high by investors who have become too optimistic about how long the Fed will delay its tightening of credit."

NYTimes Analysis: Continuing Low Inflation Doesn't Benefit Economy. In an analysis, the [New York Times](#) (7/24, Appelbaum) writes that a recent drop in US inflation "may be a sign of fresh economic weakness and is perplexing to Federal Reserve officials who are now wrapping up the central bank's stimulus campaign," marking the sixth straight year of inflation failing to meet the Fed's 2 percent target. The Times asserts that some inflation provides important economic benefits, spurring people to engage in the economy in ways that increase growth, and highlights expert opinion concerning low inflation's persistence since 2012. The Times also reports that analysts "expect the Fed to announce in September that it will start to reduce its holdings of Treasuries and mortgage bonds" and "to leave its benchmark interest rate unchanged at least until December."

Trump Infrastructure Panel Will Focus On Energy Projects.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/24, Siciliano) reports that President Trump announced the formation of a council of infrastructure advisers last Thursday. The advisory panel's charter will be made official on Tuesday. The council will be responsible for responding to specific questions drafted by the Commerce Department focused on "federal government funding, support, and delivery of infrastructure projects in several sectors," particularly "renewable energy generation, electricity transmission, and pipelines."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"The Democrats' Agenda, And The Art Of The Possible." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (7/24) says the Democrats' agenda "actually shares some ideas – job training, lowering drug prices, help for working families – with the Republicans' stated but so far unrealized priorities. But the minority Democrats won't accomplish much, if anything, on this list without Republican assistance." The Times adds, "If Democrats believe their ideas will provide middle-class people with better jobs, wages and futures, they should do everything possible to move them through Congress, and worry later about who gets credit."

"Poland Pulls Back From The Brink, For Now." A [New York Times](#) (7/25, Board) editorial calls Polish President Andrzej Duda's veto of "two bills that would have ended the judiciary's

independence and crippled the rule of law” a “heartening” move, “but not the end of the problem.” Poland’s ruling Law and Justice party and Jaroslaw Kaczynski “will not relent in their efforts to eliminate any opposition, and they still have strong popular support,” the Times explains, and adds that President Trump’s visit earlier this month only served to encourage “their antidemocratic, nationalist, anti-immigrant push.” If the Polish government renews “its offensive against the rule of law,” the Times concludes, then the European Union must respond with a “credible threat of invoking Article 7.”

“A Terrorism Trial In The Federal Courts.” The [New York Times](#) (7/25, Board) editorializes that Attorney General Sessions most likely agreed “to try Ali Charaf Damache in a federal court in Philadelphia” not because the Administration has “come to see the value of federal trials for terrorism suspects,” but because it “most likely had no choice.” The Times argues “Spain, like many other countries, sees Guantánamo as the moral catastrophe and legal black hole that it is, and would have refused to hand Mr. Damache over without a guarantee that he would not be sent there to face a military commission.” Nonetheless, the decision “was the right move,” says the Times, which expresses hope that Damache’s trial will show President Trump “that the federal court system is far better equipped to handle such prosecutions than military commissions at Guantánamo Bay will ever be.”

Washington Post.

“Congress’s Drastic – But Necessary – Rebuke To Trump.” A [Washington Post](#) (7/24) editorial says if Congress passes the Russia sanctions legislation, “it will be a major rebuke to the president,” but “is nevertheless essential” because “it has become all too evident that Mr. Trump cannot be trusted to protect vital US interests against persistent Russian aggression.”

“Are Democrats Offering ‘A Better Deal?’ Not So Fast.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/24) says of the Democrats’ new agenda, “The question is whether their ‘A Better Deal’ offers an alternative to Trumpism that is both clear and well-calculated to cure what really ails the American economy.” The Post adds that “the Democratic response, as sketched so far, is less than compelling: Its declared premise, that the economy is ‘rigged’ against middle-class people” appears “better calculated to placate the party’s ascendant left wing than to start a serious policy conversation. American capitalism needs reform, not delegitimization.” The Democrats, adds the Post, largely “rehash ideas that Mr. Trump himself has embraced at least rhetorically (massive new infrastructure spending; tougher negotiations between Medicare and the pharmaceutical companies) or play small ball (a tax credit for business to do job training).”

“Every Republican Healthcare Plan So Far Would Cause Great Harm To The Nation.” The [Washington Post](#) (7/24) editorializes, Senate Majority Leader McConnell “announced Monday afternoon that the chamber would vote Tuesday on... well, on something. The scrambling reflected a basic fact: Every major Republican proposal put forward so far would mean millions of Americans would lose access” to healthcare. The proposals under consideration “run the gamut from bad to horrendous, and the rushed process for proceeding to the floor has made a mockery of the ‘world’s greatest deliberative body.’”

Wall Street Journal.

“Can Republicans Govern?” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/24) says in an editorial that Senate Majority Leader McConnell is right to demand that senators go on the record with their support for, or opposition to, ACA repeal. The Journal says that it has become clear that some GOP senators would prefer to avoid any vote, but that voters have the right to know where they stand.

“Farewell, Charlie Gard.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/24) laments British medical and legal officials, by challenging Charlie Gard’s parents, effectively conveyed their condemnation of the family’s desire to seek out a second medical opinion. The Journal cautions that the justice system’s delay and its elevation of a judge’s opinion over that of Gard’s parents should not come as a surprise because any system – in this case, Britain’s – that is responsible for healthcare spending will inevitably assume responsibility for life-and-death decisions as well.

“The Kushner Statement.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/24) editorial argues in an editorial that while Jared Kushner is unlikely to have settled the Russia collusion issue given the level of media attention it is getting, his statement detailing his contacts with Russians during the campaign is an example of disclosure the President and other campaign officials should follow.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Trump Urges GOP Senators To Overturn Affordable Care Act](#)
[China Prepares For A Crisis Along North Korea Border](#)
[Google Parent Posts Strong Ad Growth, But Earns Less For Each Click](#)
[We Won't See You In Court: The Era Of Tort Lawsuits Is Waning](#)

New York Times:

["I Did Not Collude," Kushner Says After Meeting Senate Investigators](#)
[Senate Braces For Health Showdown With McCain On Hand But A Plan Unclear](#)
[Democrats Try To Find Economic Message After Railing Against Trump](#)
[The Company Behind Many Surprise Emergency Room Bills](#)
[Poland's President Vetoes 2 Proposed Laws Limiting Courts' Independence](#)
[Economy Needs Workers, But Drug Tests Take A Toll](#)
[In San Antonio Smuggling Case, A Fatal Journey In A Packed And Sweltering Truck](#)

Washington Post:

["I Did Not Collude," Kushner Asserts](#)
[Trump Team Weighs Options For Replacing Sessions](#)
[Russia Help Is Key To US Plan For Syria](#)
[In Congress, New Fears After Baseball Shooting](#)
[Migrants Relive Horrific Trip As Driver Is Charged](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Implores Republicans For Legislative Victory](#)
[Defiant Kushner: Russia Charges Devised To Ridicule Trump Backers](#)
[Democrats Vow 'Better Deal' For Voters In Working Class](#)
[British Courts, Not Parents, Decided Fate Of Ailing Baby](#)
[Supreme Court Protestors Jailed For Repeated Cases Of Disruption](#)
[Rebels Fear Only Assad Benefits In Trump-Putin Truce](#)

Financial Times:

[Polish President To Veto New Laws On Judges](#)
[Jared Kushner Says He Has "Nothing To Hide"](#)
[Sweden Grapples With Leak Of Private Information](#)
[China's HNA Reveals Ownership Details After Stake Transfer](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Russia Meddling Investigation-Kushner; Texas-Immigrant Deaths; Jordan-US Casualties; California-Live Stream Traffic Accident; US-China Planes Close Call; Raqqa Assault; Healthcare Reform Plan; Terminally Ill London Baby; Kayaking-Fiancée Murder; St. Louis-Carjacker Standoff; United Airline-Woman Restrained; Princess Diana Passing Anniversary; Marine-New Marriage.

CBS: Healthcare Reform Plan; Russia Meddling Investigation-Kushner; Trump-Sessions Comment; Texas-Immigrant Deaths; Kentucky-Abortion Clinic; California-Live Stream Traffic Accident; Terminally Ill London Baby; Princess Diana Passing Anniversary; Severe Weather; USS Constitution Restoration; All-Natural Materiel Property.

NBC: Russia Meddling Investigation-Kushner; Healthcare Reform Plan; Texas-Immigrant Deaths; Terminally Ill London Baby; Severe Weather; Vatican-Italy Drought; California-Live Stream Traffic Accident; Implanted Employee Card; Princess Diana Passing Anniversary; Community Pub.

Network TV At A Glance:

Russia Meddling Investigation-Kushner – 9 minutes, 55 seconds
Texas-Immigrant Deaths – 7 minutes, 5 seconds
Healthcare Reform Plan – 5 minutes, 50 seconds
Terminally Ill London Baby – 5 minutes, 20 seconds
Princess Diana Passing Anniversary – 4 minutes, 40 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: McCain-Health Condition; Healthcare Reform Plan; Russia Meddling Investigation-Kushner;

Texas-Immigrant Deaths.

CBS: McCain-Health Condition; Healthcare Reform Plan; Trump-Sessions Comment; Russia Meddling Investigation-Kushner; Texas-Immigrant Deaths; Wall Street News.

FOX: McCain-Health Condition; Healthcare Reform Plan; Russia Meddling Investigation-Kushner.

NPR: Healthcare Reform Plan; Russia Meddling Investigation-Kushner; Israel-Jordan Feud.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Hariri of Lebanon; participate in a salute to American heroes; participate in a Make America Great Again Rally.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a Great America Committee event.

US Senate: 8:30 AM Senate Agriculture Committee hearing on the 2018 Farm Bill – Hearing on 'Commodities, Credit, and Crop Insurance: Perspectives on Risk Management Tools and Trends for the 2018 Farm Bill', with testimony from witnesses including farmers Bruce Rohwer, and David Schemm; Evergreen Stock Farm owner and operator Kevin Scott; McMichen Farms owner and operator Nick McMichen; H & J Land Company owner and operator Jennifer James; Family Farm Partners owner and operator Meredith Rogers; Robert Rynning Farms owner and operator Robert Rynning; Schlemmer Farms owner and operator Ervin Schlemmer; Nobis Dairy Farm owner and operator Ken Nobis; Atkisson Land & Cattle owner and operator Dan Atkisson; Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation President Mark Haney; National Farmers Union President Roger Johnson; National Young Farmers Coalition co-founder and Executive Director Lindsey Lusher Shute; Crop Insurance Professionals Association Chairman William Cole; and Royal Bank Loan Officer and Crop Insurance Manager Brenda Kluesner Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 106, Washington, DC <http://agriculture.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee Executive Session – Executive Session, to consider nominations of J. Paul Compton, Jr. to be Department of Housing and Urban Development General Counsel; Anna Farias to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity; Neal Rackleff to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Community Planning and Development; Richard Ashooh to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration; Elizabeth Erin Walsh to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Global Markets and United States and Foreign Commercial Service Director General; and Christopher Campbell to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Financial Institutions Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Commerce subcommittee hearing on marine debris – Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee hearing on 'Efforts on Marine Debris in the Oceans and Great Lakes', with testimony from Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and Fisheries David Balton; and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Marine Debris Program Director Nancy Wallace * Rescheduled from 22 Jun Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov>
<https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Ralph Erickson to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit; Dabney Langhorne Friedrich to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia; Stephen Schwartz to be a U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judge; and Brian Allen Benczkowski to be Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 226, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Environment & Public Works subcommittee hearing on clean energy technologies – Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee hearing on 'Developing and Deploying Advanced Clean Energy Technologies', with testimony from Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander; West Virginia University Energy Institute Director Brian Anderson; Wyoming Infrastructure Authority Executive Director Jason Begger; Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Global Security E-Program Manager Steve Bohlen; Oak Ridge National Lab Associate Director for Energy and Environmental Sciences Moe Khaleel; and Idaho National Laboratory Nuclear Science & Technology Directorate Associate Director Kemal Pasamehmetoglu Location: Rm 406, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

11:00 AM Senate Appropriations subcommittee markup hearing – Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee markup hearing on Fiscal Year

2018 appropriations bill Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 192, Washington, DC
<http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

2:00 PM 'Forced to Flee Burma: Stories of Rohingya in Bangladesh' Congressional briefing – 'Forced to Flee Burma: Stories of Rohingya in Bangladesh' briefing, co-hosted by the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission and the Senate Human Rights Caucus, featuring a panel of Refugees International Senior Advocate for Human Rights Daniel Sullivan, Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide program manager Andrea Gittleman, and Human Rights Watch Fellow Richard Weir Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 385, Washington, DC

<http://tlhrc.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/TLHRCommission>

2:30 PM Senate Intelligence CLOSED hearing. –

<https://www.intelligence.senate.gov/hearings/closed-briefing-intelligence-matters-175> Location: 219 Hart Senate Office Building <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

2:30 PM Senate Appropriations subcommittee markup hearing – Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee markup hearing on Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations bill Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 192, Washington, DC

<http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

2:30 PM Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee hearing on North Korea – East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Subcommittee hearing on 'Assessing the Maximum Pressure and Engagement Policy Toward North Korea', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Susan Thornton; Heritage Foundation Senior Research Fellow for Northeast Asia Bruce Klingner; and Social Science Research Council Northeast Asia Cooperative Security Project Director Leon Sigal Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Armed Services subcommittee hearing on a 355-ship U.S. Navy – Seapower Subcommittee hearing on 'Options and Considerations for Achieving a 355-ship Navy from Naval Analysts', with testimony from Congressional Budget Office Senior Analyst for Naval Forces and Weapons Dr Eric Labs; Congressional Research Service Specialist in Naval Affairs Ronald O'Rourke; Center for a New American Security Defense Strategies and Assessments Program Director Dr Jerry Hendrix; and Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments Senior Fellow Bryan Clark Location: Rm 222, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

Senate expected to hold procedural vote on healthcare reform, although may lack support – Senate expected to hold procedural vote in an attempt to begin debate on a bill on healthcare reform, although both the 'Better Care Reconciliation Act' (Senate Republicans' legislation to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act) and the 'Obamacare Repeal Reconciliation Act' (House of Representatives-passed legislation to gradually repeal 'Obamacare' without a replacement) are thought to be likely to lack the necessary 50-vote support for a motion to pass – Republican senators including Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski, Rand Paul, Mike Lee, Jerry Moran, and Rob Portman have previously announced their opposition to one or both plans, plus John McCain has been diagnosed with brain cancer and no Democrats support either bill * President Donald Trump has been urging Congressional Republicans to pass a bill, tweeting over the weekend that they must 'Repeal and Replace the disastrous ObamaCare' Location: Washington, DC
<http://www.senate.gov/>

US House: 9:30 AM House Grid Innovation Expo – Grid Innovation Expo, hosted by the Edison Electric Institute, GridWise Alliance, and National Electrical Manufacturers Association, in conjunction with the House Grid Innovation Caucus. Features technologies and projects that are 'transforming the energy grid', with exhibitors including ABB, American Electric Power, CenterPoint Energy, Florida Power & Light Co., G&W Electric, General Electric, Innovari, Itron, Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Rappahannock Electric Cooperative, S&C Electric Company, Siemens, Southern California Edison, Tesla, Vermont Electric Power Company, and Xcel Energy Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rayburn Foyer, Washington, DC <http://www.eei.org> https://twitter.com/Edison_Electric

10:00 AM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on technology and border security – Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Deter, Detect and Interdict: Technology's Role in Securing the Border' Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee oversight hearing on LBJ Tropical Medical Center in American Samoa – Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'Assessing Current Conditions and Challenges at the Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medical Center in American Samoa', with testimony from Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs Director of Budget Thomas Bussanich; LBJ Tropical Medical Center CEO-Director

Taufete'e John Faumuina, and Chief of Internal Medicine Dr Reese Tuato'o; American Samoa Medicaid Agency Director Sandra King Young; and Pago Pago, American Samoa, Department of Public Health Director Motusa Tuileama Nua Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Financial Services Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H. Res. 442, Of inquiry directing the Secretary of the Treasury to provide certain documents in the Secretary's possession to the House of Representatives relating to President Trump's financial connections to Russia, certain illegal financial schemes, and related information', 'H.R. 1624, the Municipal Finance Support Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2864, the Improving Access to Capital Act', 'H.R. 3110, the Financial Stability Oversight Council Insurance Member Continuity Act', 'H.R. 3321, the National Strategy for Combating Terrorist, Underground, and Other Illicit Financing Act', and 'H.R. 3326, the World Bank Accountability Act of 2017' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on AUMF and current terrorist threats – Hearing on 'Authorization for the Use of Military Force and Current Terrorist Threats', with testimony from former Attorney General Michael Mukasey; former Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman's Legal Counsel Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Richard Gross; and former National Counterterrorism Center Director Matthew Olsen Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

10:00 AM House Transportation subcommittee latest hearing on USCG capabilities – Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee hearing on 'Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Coast Guard Sea, Land, and Air Capabilities, Part II', with testimony from U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Paul Zukunft, and Assistant Commandant for Acquisition and Chief Acquisition Officer Rear Adm. Michael Haycock; Government Accountability Office Director of Acquisition and Sourcing Management Marie Mak; National Academy of Sciences Committee on Polar Icebreaker Assessment Chair Rear Adm. (Ret.) Richard West; and Congressional Research Service Specialist in Naval Affairs Ronald O'Rourke Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM Oversight Subcommittee hearing on 'IRS Electronic Record Retention Policies: Improving Compliance' Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

10:00 AM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on the No Regulation Without Representation Act – Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law Subcommittee hearing on 'No Regulation Without Representation: H.R. 2887 and the Growing Problem of States Regulating Beyond Their Borders', with testimony from National Pork Producers Council CEO Neil Dierks; Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo associate Chad DeVeaux; National Taxpayers Union Interstate Commerce Initiative Director Andrew Moylan; and National Conference of State Legislatures President-elect Deb Peters Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM Communications and Technology Subcommittee hearing on 'Oversight and Reauthorization of the Federal Communications Commission' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Science subcommittees joint hearing on biofuels – Environment Subcommittee and Energy Subcommittee joint hearing on 'Examining Advancements in Biofuels: Balancing Federal Research and Market Innovation', with testimony from Oak Ridge National Laboratory BioEnergy Science Center (BESC) Director and Deputy-Division Director of Biosciences Dr Paul Gilna; University of Michigan Energy Institute (UMEI) Research Professor Dr John DeCicco; Growth Energy CEO Emily Skor; and Heritage Foundation Research Fellow in Energy and Environmental Policy Nick Loris Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM House Oversight subcommittees latest joint hearing on 'Sue and Settle' agreements – Interior, Energy, and Environment Subcommittee and Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee joint hearing on 'Examining Sue and Settle Agreements: Part II' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:30 AM House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee hearing on VA service for vets with PTSD – Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee hearing on 'PTSD Claims: Assessing Whether VBA is Effectively Serving Veterans' Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

11:15 AM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/ <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

11:30 AM House Homeland Security Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on ‘H.Res. 447, Directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to Transmit Certain Documents to the House of Representatives Relating to Department of Homeland Security Policies and Activities Relating to Businesses Owned or Controlled by President Donald J. Trump’, ‘H.R. 2626, Strong Visa Integrity Secures America Act’, ‘H.R. 2805, To Permanently Authorize the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Card Program’, ‘H.R. 3202, Cyber Vulnerability Disclosure Reporting Act’, ‘H.R. 3284, Joint Counterterrorism Awareness Workshop Series Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 3328, Cuban Airport Security Act of 2017’, and ‘H.R. XXX, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency Act of 2017’ Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

12:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including ‘H.J.Res. 111 – Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to ‘Arbitration Agreements’, plus consideration of ‘H.R. 3178 – Medicare Part B Improvement Act of 2017’, as amended, ‘H.R. 2182 – Plum Island Preservation Act’, and ‘H.R. XX – Russia, Iran, and North Korea Sanctions Act’ under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

1:00 PM House Democrats Steering & Policy Committee Hearing on healthcare – The Steering and Policy Committee will hold a hearing on ideas to update and improve the Affordable Care Act. Witnesses will discuss ways to lower healthcare costs for American families by stabilizing the marketplaces and ensuring coverage options for people everywhere in the U.S. Participants: Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi; Congresswoman Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), Co-Chair, Democratic Steering & Policy Committee; Congressman Eric Swalwell (D-CA), Co-Chair, Democratic Steering & Policy Committee; Members of the House Democratic Caucus; Gary Cohen, Former Deputy Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services; Douglas Elmendorf, Dean, John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University; Teresa Miller, Pennsylvania Insurance Commissioner. Location: Gabe Zimmerman Room, HVC-215 Capitol Hill

1:00 PM Bicameral Dems call on Congress to raise the minimum wage – House Committee on Education and the Workforce Ranking Member Bobby Scott, Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Ranking Member Patty Murray, Senate Budget Committee Ranking Member Bernie Sanders, and Congressional Progressive Caucus Vice Chair Democratic Rep. Keith Ellison discuss the Raise the Wage Act of 2017, via press conference also featuring Fight for \$15 workers, Good Jobs Nation workers, and Restaurant Opportunities Center United (ROC) workers Location: House Triangle, Washington, DC democrats-edworkforce.house.gov <https://twitter.com/edworkforcedems> #RaiseTheWage

2:00 PM ‘Forced to Flee Burma: Stories of Rohingya in Bangladesh’ Congressional briefing – ‘Forced to Flee Burma: Stories of Rohingya in Bangladesh’ briefing, co-hosted by the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission and the Senate Human Rights Caucus, featuring a panel of Refugees International Senior Advocate for Human Rights Daniel Sullivan, Simon-Skjoldt Center for the Prevention of Genocide program manager Andrea Gittleman, and Human Rights Watch Fellow Richard Weir Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 385, Washington, DC <http://tlhrc.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/TLHRCCommission>

2:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on ‘H.R. 3219, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2018’ (aka ‘Make America Secure Appropriations Act, 2018’) (meeting II) Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

2:00 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on DoD equipment and uniform procurement in Iraq and Afghanistan – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on ‘Evaluating DOD Equipment and Uniform Procurement in Iraq and Afghanistan’, with testimony from Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction John Sopko; Department of Defense Assistant Inspector General Michael Roark; Government Accountability Office Director of International Affairs and Trade Jessica Farb; and Office of the Secretary of Defense for Policy Iraq Country Director Col. David Navratil, and Afghanistan (Resources and Transition) Director Peter Velz Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2212, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

2:00 PM Transportation and Protective Security Subcommittee hearing on ‘Securing Air Cargo: Industry Perspectives’ Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

2:00 PM Iranian hostage Robert Levinson’s son testifies to House Foreign Affairs

subcommittee – Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee hearing on ‘Held for Ransom: The Families of Iran’s Hostages Speak Out’, with testimony from Douglas Levinson – son of Robert Levinson; Babak Namazi – son of Baquer Namazi and brother of Simak Namazi; and Omar Zakka – son of Nizar Zakka * Over the weekend, the FBI issued a statement in response to media reports citing an anonymous official who said ‘many U.S. Govt officials believe Levinson is no longer alive’, saying that was ‘not accurate’ and that the U.S. Govt was continuing to call on the Iranian Govt to ‘locate him and return him home to his family’ Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on FY’18 budget request for Europe and Eurasia – Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats Subcommittee hearing on ‘Examining the President’s FY 2018 Budget Proposal for Europe and Eurasia’, with testimony from Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs John Heffern, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Central Asia Daniel Rosenblum; and USAID Acting Senior Deputy Assistant Administrator for Asia Ann Marie Yastishock, and Bureau for Europe and Eurasia Administrator’s Acting Assistant Margot Ellis Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2200, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

4:00 PM House Natural Resources Committee markup hearing begins – Markup hearing begins on legislation including ‘H.R. 825, Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act’, ‘H.R. 873, Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act’, ‘H.R. 1418, To amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Alexander Creek, Alaska, is and shall be recognized as an eligible Native village under that Act, and for other purposes’, ‘H.R. 1491, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Land Affirmation Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 2083, Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act’, ‘H.R. 2199, Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 2316, Cooperative Management of Mineral Rights Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 2371, Western Area Power Administration Transparency Act’, ‘H.R. 2582, Confirming State Land Grants for Education Act’, ‘H.R. 2611, Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site Boundary Modification Act’, ‘H.R. 3279, Helium Extraction Act of 2017’, and ‘H.R. 3281, Reclamation Title Transfer and Non-Federal Infrastructure Incentivization Act’ * Concludes tomorrow Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

6:00 PM Oceana host Capitol Hill event to celebrate shark conservation during ‘Shark Week’ – Oceana, in cooperation with Republican Rep. Ed Royce, hosts reception on Capitol Hill – during Discovery Channel’s ‘Shark Week’ – to celebrate sharks and discuss the future of shark conservation in the U.S., with guests able to experience virtual reality technology that ‘puts them in the water with sharks’ and view a new PSA starring actress and ocean advocate Nina Dobrev. Participants include Oceana Campaign Director Lora Snyder and mascot ‘Dusky the Shark’, Rep. Royce, Republican Rep. Blake Farenthold, Independent Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, and other Members of Congress and special guests Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC www.oceana.org <https://twitter.com/Oceana>

President Trump’s son-in-law interviewed by House Intelligence Committee after meeting with Russian lawyer – House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence holds closed interview with White House Senior Advisor (and President Donald Trump’s son-in-law) Jared Kushner * Follows a meeting involving Kushner, President Trump’s son Donald Trump, Jr., former Donald J. Trump for President campaign manager Paul Manafort, and Russian attorney Natalia Veselnitskaya in June 2016 which emails released by Trump, Jr. have shown was supposedly for Russia to pass on information to ‘incriminate’ Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC intelligence.house.gov
<https://twitter.com/HouseIntelComm>

Other: 10:30 AM GOP Rep. Phil Roe discusses ‘free speech on campus’ at the Heritage Foundation – Republican Rep. Phil Roe speaks at the Heritage Foundation on ‘Doublespeak 101 – ‘Free Speech Zones’ and the Threat to Free Speech on Campus’, followed by panel discussion with Ethics and Public Policy Center Senior Fellow Stanley Kurtz, Goldwater Institute Vice President for Litigation Tim Sandefur, and Heritage Foundation Center for Education Policy Analyst Mary Clare Amselem Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

12:25 PM Commerce Secretary Ross speaks at Economic Club of Washington – Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross speaks at the Economic Club of Washington, DC, on topics including his efforts on behalf of the Trump Administration to update and restructure NAFTA and resolve outstanding economic issues between the U.S. and China Location: The Ritz-Carlton, Washington, DC Hotel, 1150 22nd St NW, Washington, DC www.economicclub.org
<https://twitter.com/TheEconomicClub>

Post-Brexit U.S. free trade deal talks continue – Talks between U.S. and UK negotiators to 'prepare the ground' for a post-Brexit trade deal, featuring U.S. Trade Representative Amb. Robert Lighthizer and UK International Trade Secretary Liam Fox, continue into a second day * Secretary Fox's announcement of the talks earlier this month came in spite of rules in Brussels that ban deals being made between EU countries and others while a member state of the 28-nation bloc. He has maintained that there is nothing to stop the UK Govt 'scoping out' how a future relationship with the U.S. might look before Brexit takes effect in 2019 Location: Washington, DC www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-trade <https://twitter.com/tradegovuk> #Brexit

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Stephen Colbert: "On Friday, [Sean] Spicer resigned as White House press secretary. He wanted to spend more time not answering his family's questions."

Stephen Colbert: "Other White House staffers refer to [Anthony] Scaramucci as a 'joke' and as a Trump-world 'hanger-on' who isn't qualified for the job. Wait. Have you seen the Trump Administration?"

James Corden: "Before appearing in front of the committee, [Jared] Kushner released an 11-page statement denying that he colluded with the Russians. Now look, I'm not an intelligence expert, but if you need 11 pages to explain yourself, you so colluded."

Trevor Noah: "Meet Anthony Scaramucci, or as his friends call him 'the Mooch.' He grew up in a blue-collar family on Long Island, a three-foot putt away from Donald Trump's birthplace. The Mooch graduated from Harvard, started a successful hedge fund, and, like everyone else working in the Trump Administration, Scaramucci also spent seven years working at Goldman Sachs, which makes him think maybe Trump's plan to crack down on Wall Street is just to move Wall Street into the White House."

Trevor Noah: "I love this White House so much. Most presidents would try to get their team all on the same page, but Trump has his team try every page."

Jimmy Fallon: "That's right, Spicer stepped down, which means now we have to pretend like he hasn't had his resume ready for five months."

Jimmy Fallon: "You guys hear this over the weekend? New Communications Director Anthony Scaramucci deleted a bunch of old tweets that were critical of Trump's platform. Trump was shocked. He said, 'You can delete tweets?'"

Seth Meyers: "After months of 'will he or will he' speculation, Sean Spicer has finally stepped down as press secretary. I'm guessing so he can spend more time with the bushes outside the White House."

Seth Meyers: "Man, working for Trump is like doing crack cocaine. At first, it must be an amazing high. But eventually, your life falls apart and you start stealing appliances."

Seth Meyers: "There's no doubt Scaramucci is an experienced schmoozer with a much slicker style than Spicer. In fact, at the end of his marathon press conference where he talked about the President's karma and the love he has for the American people, Scaramucci bid goodbye to the press corps with an air kiss. So in summary, the Mooch gave us a smooch after Spicy screwed the pooch."

Seth Meyers: "We're six months into his presidency, and he's already talking about pardoning himself. At this rate, Trump is going to get impeached and resign in time to be on the next season of Dancing With the Stars."

Content is drawn from thousands of newspapers, national magazines, national and local television programs, radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's [terms of use](#). Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to [Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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DOI In The News

Interior Report Recommends That Trump Downsize Bears Ears Monument.

[USA Today](#) (6/12, Korte) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "recommended Monday that President Trump vastly reduce the size of the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah, and seek congressional authorization to turn over the remaining landmarks to be co-managed with Native American tribes." Zinke's plan "would be the largest reversal of public land protections in the 111-year history of the Antiquities Act." The [AP](#) (6/12, Daly) reports "Zinke did not specify how much of the 1.3 million acres should be trimmed, but said he has no doubt the monument must be 'right-sized' significantly."

[CNN](#) (6/12, Merica) reports that Zinke informed "Trump on Monday that he was delaying his final decision on the controversial Bears Ears National Monument, putting off the final recommendation until later in 2017." In a memo to Trump, "Zinke says he has produced a '45-day interim report' on the national monument – as is requested in the executive order Trump signed in April – and will issue a 'more detailed final report' later this year." [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (6/12, O'Donoghue) reports that "in the interim, the public comment period on the Bears Ears designation in southern Utah was extended" until July 10 "to coincide with input on 26 other monument designations up for review."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/12, Fears, Eilperin) reports that "speaking with reporters on Monday, Zinke emphasized that 'the recommendations were not made in a bubble in Washington, DC' but determined after 'we traveled by air, by car, by foot and by horseback.'" Zinke "said the current boundaries do not accord with the 1906 law's provision that any designation be confined to 'the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.'" Added Zinke, "If you look at the Bears Ears as a whole, there's a lot more drop-dead

gorgeous land than there are historic, prehistoric objects," which "can be identified, segregated and reasonably separated."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/12, Wolfgang) notes "the announcement immediately drew threats of lawsuits from environmental and conservation groups who said Mr. Zinke's plan will ruin some of the nation's most beautiful land by opening it up to energy exploration, and that the recommendations are a slap in the face to the tribal leaders who have been defending the monument." Randi Spivak, public lands program director with the Center for Biological Diversity, called the plan "a slap in the face to the tribes that sought protection for Bears Ears and any American who values our incredible public lands," as well as "yet another corrupt process from the Trump administration that ignores public sentiment and rewards polluting industries that view our public lands as simply another source of profit."

The [AP](#) (6/12, McCOMBS, DALY) reports that Zinke's recommendation was "applauded by the state's top Republican leaders but marked a stinging setback for a coalition of Western tribes that pushed for protection of lands they consider sacred." Several tribal leaders said "they weren't briefed on the plan and consider the idea to be an attempt to temper their criticism." The article says that "they joined environmental groups in vowing to file lawsuits if President Donald Trump accepts the recommendation and shrinks the monument."

Additional coverage was provided by the [New York Times](#) (6/12, Turkewitz, Davenport), the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/12, Carlton), the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (6/12, Siciliano), [The Hill](#) (6/12, Cama, Henry), [Reuters](#) (6/12, Gardner), [CBS News](#) (6/12), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (6/12, Maffly), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (6/12, MAFFLY, BURR), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (6/12, O'Donoghue), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (6/12, O'Donoghue), [TIME](#) (6/12, Daly), [NPR](#) (6/12, Siegler), [Fronteras](#) (6/12, Morales), [Huffington Post](#) (6/12, D'angelo), the [Arizona Republic](#) (6/12, DeMille), the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (6/12, Gardner), the [St. George & Southern Utah Independent](#) (6/12), [Southern California Public Radio](#) (6/12, Siegler), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (6/12, Milman), the [Daily Caller](#) (6/12, Pearce), [BuzzFeed](#) (6/12, Dalrymple), [Native News Online](#) (6/12, Rickert), [Utah Policy](#) (6/12), the [Highland \(CA\) Community News](#) (6/12), [Outside](#) (6/12, Solomon), [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (6/12, O'Donoghue), [KGVO-FM Missoula \(MT\)](#) Missoula, MT (6/12, Christian), [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (6/12, O'Donoghue), [KSTU-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (6/12, Winslow), [KUTV-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (6/12, Weber), [KTVX-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (6/12, Dotson), [KTVX-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (6/12, Mills), and [KPBS-TV San Diego \(CA\)](#) San Diego (6/12, Siegler).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [U.S. News & World Report](#) (6/12), the [New York \(NY\) Times](#) (6/12, Turkewitz, Davenport), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (6/12, Daly), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (6/12, Daly), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (6/12), the [Daily Mail](#) (6/12), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/12, Daly), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/12, Daly), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/12, Matthew Daly |, Ap), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/12, Daly), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (6/12, Fears, Eilperin), [ABC News](#) (6/12, Daly), the [Business Insider](#) (6/12, Daly), [CNBC](#) (6/12), the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (6/12, Daly), the [Economic Times \(IND\)](#) (6/12), [Fox News](#) (6/12), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (6/12, Daly), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (6/12, Daly), the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (6/12, DeMille), the [Ventura County \(CA\) Star](#) (6/12, DeMille), and the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (6/12, Daly).

Additional coverage of the review of national monuments was provided by the [AP](#) (6/12, McCombs), the [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (6/12, Freeman), the [Chico \(CA\) Enterprise-Record](#) (6/12, Smith), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (6/12, O'Donoghue), the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (6/12, Sambides), and [KFBB-TV Great Falls \(MT\)](#) Great Falls, MT (6/12, Crowspreadingwings)

Sununu Meeting With Members Of Trump Administration.

The [AP](#) (6/12) reports that on Tuesday, New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu is scheduled to meet with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. The [Bedford \(NH\) Bulletin](#) (6/12, Landrigan) reports that Zinke is "coming to Bass Pro Shops on Tuesday to formally announce the release of \$1 billion from two federal trust funds that support fish and wildlife preservation across the country." Sununu is "expected to be at the event along with New Hampshire legislative leaders, the president of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and fish and hunting regulators from Arizona and other states."

Additional coverage was provided by [New Hampshire Public Radio](#) (6/12, Greene).

Maine AG Vows To Challenge Any Attempt To Undo Katahdin-Area Monument.

The [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (6/12, Miller) reports that Maine Attorney General Janet Mills called the Trump Administration's "review of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument

'fundamentally flawed' and vowed Monday to 'challenge any unlawful executive branch action' regarding the monument's designation." The article notes that "the Democratic attorney general's statements supporting the 87,500-acre monument also puts her squarely at odds with Republican Gov. Paul LePage." Mills wrote in comments submitted to the Interior Department as part of the review: "We are prepared to challenge any unlawful executive branch action that purports to abolish or reduce the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. DOI should instead terminate its review of Katahdin Woods and Waters and reaffirm the agency's commitment to making the monument work well for all people, particularly the residents of the Katahdin region who are now counting on it for their economic future."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (6/13) and the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (6/12, Harrison).

Zinke Needs To Know This When He Visits Maine's Monument. In an op-ed for the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (6/12, LeVasseur), Rick LeVasseur, owner of 5 Lakes Lodge, writes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "needs to understand that any claim of insufficient public outreach is, to be frank, ridiculous, as anyone who has lived in Maine for the past five or 10 years knows." He argues that "the monument and the park service offer huge economic and cultural assets for our communities." LeVasseur hopes Zinke will "listen to the overwhelming majority of Mainers, U.S. Sens. Angus King and Susan Collins and U.S. Rep. Chellie Pingree, all of whom oppose efforts to tamper with the monument."

What Zinke Should Learn From His Visit To The Katahdin Woods And Waters National Monument. In his column for the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (6/12, Dutson), Lance Dutson writes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "about to learn why Maine's outdoor heritage has captured the imagination of visitors since the days of Henry David Thoreau." Dutson argues that "the creation of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument is...a positive development." He hopes Zinke's experience is "profound, and that he sees for himself that this land is a treasure that deserves to be preserved and shared with our entire nation."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (6/13, Sambides).

What Trump's Cabinet Has Been Up To.

[CNN](#) (6/12, Payson-Denney, Wallace) reports that President Trump on Monday gathered his full cabinet and gave them the opportunity to speak about what they have been working on. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, the piece says, is "currently reviewing public lands designated under several recent presidents, setting the stage for a potential shrinking of federal holdings – possibly including the controversial Bears Ears National Monument designated by President Obama." When he spoke, Zinke said, "I am committed and optimistic that we can be both great stewards and be the world's largest producer of energy."

Town Removes Barriers Blocking Disabled Access At Tobay Beach.

[Newsday \(NY\)](#) (6/12, Olson) reports that "the Town of Oyster Bay has removed a turnstile and gate from an entrance to Tobay Beach that were at the center of a discrimination complaint alleging that they made access to an adjoining restroom difficult for people with disabilities." Andrew Hager "filed a complaint with the federal government against the town in July 2015."

[12-TV](#) Long Island, NY (6/12) reports that "federal officials found merit in Hawkins' complaint, and told the town in letter last April to come up with a plan to comply with the law." In April, "the town agreed to have a staff member open and close the gate during beach hours and leave it unlocked at other times." Then, "over the weekend, the town took its agreement of compliance one step further by taking down the turnstile and gate all together."

New Threats To Public Lands Endanger America's Unique Wildlife Corridors.

[The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (6/12, Milman) reports that "the nascent movement to safeguard wildlife corridors – vital for animals as diverse as wolves, bears, elk, tortoises and ground-dwelling birds – is now at risk." According to the article, "in recent years congressional Republicans have pushed for federal land in the western states to be handed over for development," and "with Donald Trump now in the White House, these ambitions could come to fruition." Conservationists are "increasingly turning their attention to private landowners to help promote and secure wildlife corridors."

Additional Coverage: Interior Department's Plan To Stop Drones From Blocking Firefighters.

Additional coverage that the Interior Department is building "Current Wildland Fires" database was provided by [NextGov](#) (6/12, Ravindranath) and the [Porterville \(CA\) Recorder](#) (6/12).

America's Energy And Economic Destiny Will Be Up To The U.S., Not The U.N.

In an op-ed for the [Des Moines \(IA\) Register](#) (6/12, Zinke), Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke defends President Trump's decision "to pull the United States out of the poorly negotiated Paris Accord." Zinke argues that "developing American energy and achieving American energy dominance has three major benefits to the environment, economy, and national security." Zinke acknowledges that "people may be concerned about any environmental impact that development may have," but he argues that "good stewardship of our lands and waters and responsible use of our natural resources are not mutually exclusive." Zinke concludes that "working with industry partners and local governments," he is "confident that advancements in technology and smart regulations will allow the United States to continue responsible energy development and production and also continue to lower emissions."

Zinke Betrays His Montana Roots.

In his column for the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (6/12, Ochenski), George Ochenski criticizes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for defending President Trump's budget proposal. According to Ochenski, "especially hard hit will be Montana, Zinke's home state that he professed to love and promised to protect." Ochenski urges Zinke "to take a good look in the mirror and remind yourself that you are a Montanan, where telling the truth and keeping your word are the traits by which you will be judged."

Leave The Grand Staircase-Escalante Monument Alone.

For the "Pundits" blog of [The Hill](#) (6/12, Hedden, Contributor), Bill Hedden, the executive director of the Grand Canyon Trust, argues that "if President Trump and Utah's leaders are truly interested in solving problems rather than creating them, they should leave the Grand Staircase monument alone and, instead of attacking Bears Ears, take the opportunity to negotiate a similar land exchange for the state lands enclosed in that monument."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Tribes Lash Out At Trump Administration For Lapses In Consultation.

The [Nation Sun News](#) (6/13) reports that the Trump Administration is "coming under heavy fire as the new leader of the Department of the Interior makes a highly-anticipated appearance before the nation's largest inter-tribal organization." The mid-year session of the National Congress of American Indians "doesn't officially start until Tuesday but tribes were out in full force for a pair of listening sessions hosted by Interior on Monday." According to the article, "one by one, they slammed the department for moving forward with a reorganization without providing guidance to the sovereign governments most affected."

Interior Department Scrubs Climate Change From Agency Website. Again.

The [Huffington Post](#) (6/13, Visser) reports that the Interior Department has "removed almost all mentions of climate change from an agency website documenting efforts to address the phenomenon within government programs for Native Americans." A webpage for the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Tribal Climate Resilience Program, "originally tasked with 'mainstreaming climate change considerations into all Bureau of Indian Affairs activities,' was changed sometime over the past month." The program is "now called simply the Tribal Resilience Program and has a mission statement noticeably less science-forward."

Additional coverage was provided by [BuzzFeed](#) (6/12, Subbaraman).

Choctaw Nation Citizen Lands Senior Job At Bureau Of Indian Affairs.

The [Nation Sun News](#) (6/12) reports that Gavin Clarkson, "a citizen of the Choctaw Nation, will be serving as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy and Economic Development at the BIA." Clarkson is "the first senior political hire at the agency since Secretary Ryan Zinke, the new leader of the Department of the Interior, came on board in March."

Donald Trump's Budget Threatens To Disrupt Indian Country.

In a piece for the [Nation Sun News](#) (6/12, Trahant), Mark Trahant criticizes President Trump's

budget proposal as “a destructive document that would result in great hardship across the nation and Indian Country.” He thinks “it’s not too strong to say that this plan would mean an early death for too many people.” Trahant urges Congress to “do something better” or they will “face the consequences from voters in the 2018 elections.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Former Officials Slam Trump Admin’s ‘Cynical’ Legal Position.

[E&E Publishing](#) (6/12) reports that “a bipartisan group of former Interior Department officials is urging a federal court to continue weighing a legal dispute over the federal government’s hydraulic fracturing authority.” In a brief, “officials from the Obama, Clinton and both Bush administrations argue that the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals should hear oral arguments over Interior’s fracking rule and reverse a lower court’s conclusion that the government has no authority to regulate the oil and gas extraction process, which is used on 90 percent of wells on public lands.” The former officials said in the brief, “The district court’s erroneous ruling is also almost surely having a negative effect right now on BLM’s rulemaking processes and day-to-day supervision of public lands, and will continue to do so as long as it is allowed to stand.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Law360](#) (6/12).

Public Comment Opens For Future Of King II Coal Mine.

The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (6/12, Romeo) reports that “La Plata County’s only operating coal mine is set to run out of reserves in about two years, prompting the company to ask for an expansion of 950 acres of underground workings about 20 miles west of Durango.” On Friday, the Bureau of Land Management “announced a 30-day public comment period on the proposal, which will end July 9.” According to the BLM, “if GCC Energy LLC – operators of the King II coal mine near Hesperus since 2007 – is not granted an expansion, the company could go out of business.” A public meeting will be held on June 20.

BLM-Utah Announces Ahmed Mohsen As The New Color Country District Manager.

The [Emery County \(UT\) Progress](#) (6/12) reports that Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Utah State Director Edwin Roberson “announced the selection of Ahmed Mohsen as the new Color Country District Manager.” Mohsen, “who previously served as the field manager for the Price Field Office, will report to his new position on July 9.” Roberson said, “I am proud to announce Ahmed Mohsen will serve as the new Color Country District Manager. Ahmed has a strong track record of working with local and state agencies, industry, and citizens in the management of our public lands and natural resources. I have great confidence in the experience and professionalism Ahmed brings into this vital role.”

Bureau Of Land Management Finishes Horse Gather Near Boone Springs.

[KKOH-AM](#) Reno, NV (6/12) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has “finished a wild horse gather they were conducting for the last month near Boone Springs, approximately 40 miles southwest of Wendover.” According to the article, “96 horses in the Antelope Valley Herd Management Area were rounded up from private land, and 94 were sent to the Indian Lakes Off-Range Corral in Fallon, where they will be adopted out.” BLM officials “say 46 studs, 35 mares, and 15 foals were collected, but one stud was returned to the range, and one 13 year old mare died during the gather.”

Hundreds Of Unused Oil And Gas Wells Dot Alaska. The State Wants Many Closed.

[Alaska Dispatch News](#) (6/12, DeMarban) reports Cathy Foerster, chairwoman of the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, said that state inspectors are starting to require companies to properly close hundreds of unused wells that stopped producing a long time ago, some dating back to the 1960s. Foerster said that the agency has paid insufficient attention to properly closing wells, but the state is launching a two part initiative that should lead to a permanent shutdown for many wells, while ensuring there are sufficient surety bonds to protect the state if wells are not properly plugged. Companies in the state have struggled to plug wells amid market difficulties, and many have entered bankruptcy in recent years. The “state effort is separate from the federal Bureau of Land Management’s ongoing work to clean up ‘legacy’ wells dotting the 23-million-acre National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

The Ocean Threat You've Never Heard Of, But Trump Made Easier.

For the "Pundits" blog of [The Hill](#) (6/12, Nelsen), Chad Nelsen, CEO of the Surfrider Foundation, warns that "our oceans are in grave danger." He notes that the Trump Administration "wants to expand seismic blasting and offshore drilling, wreaking havoc on our seas and jeopardizing coastal economies." Nelsen urges the US to harness "the resources and technologies to transition to clean energy now, before it's too late for our oceans."

Offshore Energy Exploration Is Safe, Has Been Going On For 81 Years.

In an op-ed for the [Sunshine State \(FL\) News](#) (6/12, Bishop), Barney Bishop III, president & CEO, Barney Bishop Consulting, writes that "the first step to exploring future offshore development opportunities is information gathering, which allows scientists to pinpoint our energy resources." He argues that "one safe way to do so is through seismic testing, a proven and efficient means to determine energy potential in the ocean." Bishop notes that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has "stated there is no documented scientific evidence that seismic testing causes harm to marine animals, since its inception 80 years ago." Bishop encourages the voting public "to support opportunities to explore our offshore energy resources."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Investigators: EPA Had No Rules For Working At Risky Mines.

The [AP](#) (6/12, Elliott) reports that "the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had no rules for working around old mines when the agency inadvertently triggered a massive spill from a Colorado mine that polluted rivers in three states, government investigators said Monday." Investigators from the EPA's Office of Inspector General said that "the agency started work on safety standards after the spill and expects to finish them Friday." The article notes that "the inspector general's report disputed one key element in a previous review of the Gold King spill, by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which was assigned to conduct an independent, outside assessment of what went wrong." The Bureau of Reclamation "said the EPA-led crew was attempting to insert a drain pipe through a debris pile blocking the entrance of the mine, and that the on-scene coordinator had pushed that work ahead despite the reservations of the other on-scene coordinator, who was not present that day." However, "the EPA inspector general said the crew was excavating loose rock around the mine entrance to see if the underlying rock was solid, not trying to insert a drain pipe."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (6/12, Finley), the [Denverite \(CO\)](#) (6/12), and the [Daily Caller](#) (6/12, Barton).

Feds Ask For Dismissal Of Challenge To Fish-Saving Efforts.

[Law360](#) (6/12, Lidgett) reports that "the federal government asked a California federal judge on Friday to toss the remaining claims brought against it by a pair of California water districts over a decision to release extra water into a river to help preserve fish for Native Americans, saying the districts lack standing."

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Additional Coverage: BSEE Extends Time For Operators To Retain Offshore Federal Leases.

Additional coverage that the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement "last Friday doubled the amount of time that oil and natural gas operators have to coordinate operations and retain their leases in federal waters of the Outer Continental Shelf" was provided by [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (6/12, Passut).

Fish And Wildlife Service

Vast Georgia Wildfire Almost Out After Days Of Soaking Rain.

The [AP](#) (6/12, Bynum) reports that “a wildfire that burned vast acreage and at one point threatened hundreds of homes near the Georgia-Florida state line has been nearly extinguished after steady rains soaked the Okefenokee Swamp over the past week.” According to Susan Heisey, supervisory ranger for the Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, “the team fighting the blaze now considers it 90-percent contained and the flames that burned nearly 240 square miles (620 sq. kilometers) since April have been reduced to scattered piles of smoldering debris from trees cut down in the fire area’s southeast corner.” Heisey, a spokeswoman for the firefighting team, said Monday, “The water levels in the swamp are still below average, but the rains are really saturating the uplands.”

Additional coverage was provided by [WJAX-TV](#) Jacksonville, FL (6/12, Brown).

Prime Hook Beach Restoration Among Top Projects In U.S.

The [Cape \(DE\) Gazette](#) (6/12, MacArthur) reports that Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge beach has been “named one of the five best restored beaches in the nation for 2017 by the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association.” The project was “one of the largest marsh restoration projects ever attempted on the East Coast.” Annabella Larsen, wildlife biologist at the refuge, said, “This is becoming a huge, great success story.”

To Save Salamander, Feds To Protect 400,000 Acres In California.

The [Central Valley \(CA\) Business Times](#) (6/12) reports that “some 400,000 acres of breeding ponds and adjacent uplands in California – much of it in the Central Valley – need protection from development, according to a final recovery plan for the threatened central California population of the California tiger salamander released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.” The article notes that “the recovery plan — which comes more than a decade after the amphibian received Endangered Species Act protection — is in accordance with a legal settlement between the agency and the Center for Biological Diversity.” The plan “focuses primarily on alleviating the threat of habitat loss and fragmentation by permanently protecting breeding ponds and adjacent uplands throughout the salamander’s range.”

US Fish & Wildlife OKs Scotts Valley Middle School Rebuild.

The [Santa Cruz \(CA\) Sentinel](#) (6/12, Gumz) reports that “with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service permit in hand for the \$33 million Scotts Valley Middle School rebuilding project, Overaa Construction is moving full steam ahead.” On Monday, “about 25 workers were at the site, excavating and demolishing, said Juan Garcia, foreman for Overaa Construction, the contractor rebuilding the 75-year-old school.” Four days earlier, “the federal permit was granted for a habitat plan for the federally protected Mount Hermon June beetles on the school site.”

NC Biologist Recognized For Work To Recover Endangered Species.

The [Asheville \(NC\) Citizen-Times](#) (6/12, Chávez) reports that The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recognized Rachael Hoch, a biologist with the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission, “last week with its Recovery Champion award, in honor of her significant contribution to the recovery of federally threatened or endangered animals.” According to the article, “for the past five years, Hoch has coordinated the state’s Conservation Aquaculture Center at the Marion Fish Hatchery, where she oversees the propagation and rearing of some of the rarest fish and mussels in the state.” Jason Mays, aquatic biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said, “When a plant or animal is placed on the endangered species list, the goal is to recover it so it no longer needs that protection. Rachael’s work, along with the work of many wildlife commission staff, is key to that effort. The work done in Marion is really foundational to getting some of these animals off the endangered species list.”

National Park Service

NPS Eliminates Free Parking On National Mall.

[WJLA-TV](#) Washington (6/12, Carter) reports that “free parking on the National Mall came to an end Monday with 90 new pay stations activated.” According to the article, “meters will cost \$2 for a 3-hour time limit every day except for December 25 (the only day of the year that the National Mall is officially closed).” The National Park Service “says the reason for the change is to help eliminate congestion on the Mall that comes with offering free parking and encourage the use of public transportation.”

Additional coverage was provided by [WRC-TV](#) Washington (6/12).

St. Anthony Falls, Birthplace Of A City, Could Deliver New Visions Of An Urban River.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (6/12, Marcotty) reports that the Upper and Lower St. Anthony locks were closed to two years "to protect Minnesota's northern lakes and rivers from the spread of Asian carp." Now, the Army Corps of Engineers is "undertaking a major review of what it will do with it and two others just downstream." This summer, "it will be open for tours conducted by the National Park Service."

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (6/12) reports that the National Park Service is "drawing up ambitious plans to restore the Mississippi River and its waterfront above and below St. Anthony Falls now that Lock & Dam #1 has been turned into a visitor center."

Construction Begins On 17-Mile Iowa Bike Trail.

The [AP](#) (6/12) reports that "construction has begun on a 17-mile long bike trail that will link three southeast Iowa communities." Work started Saturday on the first segment of the Railroad Highway Multi-Use Trail. Brian Leaders, with the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, "said more than \$4 million has been raised for the trail, which will be part of a larger network of trails that will cover about 100 miles."

Rivers In US West Turn Dangerous As Days Warm, Snow Thaws.

The [AP](#) (6/12) reports that "massive waterfalls in Yosemite National Park and rivers raging in mountains throughout the western United States are thundering with greater force than they have for years — and proving deadly as warm weather melts the deepest mountain snowpack in recent memory." According to the article, "record snowfall on towering Western peaks this winter virtually eliminated California's five-year drought and it is now melting rapidly." However, "it has contributed to at least 14 river deaths and prompted officials to close sections of rivers popular with swimmers, rafters and fishing enthusiasts."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Interior Department Releases \$7.8M To Help American Samoa.

The [Honolulu Star-Advertiser](#) (6/12) reports that the Interior Department has "released the remaining \$7.8 million in operational funds to support the daily operations of the American Samoa government, the LBJ Tropical Medical Center, the American Samoa Community College and the High Court of American Samoa." The Interior Department "said the money is what remained of \$22.75 million released by the Office of Insular Affairs in the current fiscal year." Interior Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula said in a statement, "These funds are critical for government operations in the territory of American Samoa. We are pleased to transmit the remaining funds on behalf of the administration."

Office Of Surface Mining

Coal Industry Could Be In Store For A 'Rare Earth' Reboot.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/12, Siciliano) reports the future of the coal industry "may have much more to do with building smartphones, wind turbines and missile defense radar than billowing smoke stacks and environmental finger pointing, say federal coal advisers and experts." The "direction" the industry is headed in "is aimed at harvesting what are known as 'rare earth elements,' for which the U.S. industry depends on China." The elements "are key ingredients in building complex electronics used in smartphones, jets, defense applications, advanced wind turbines and renewable energy, not to mention light-emitting diodes." The "bottom line" is that the United States "needs to diversify its supply of the minerals, and the coal industry is the nation's best ticket to do that." The Examiner adds that "the National Coal Council, a top federal advisory board to Energy Secretary Rick Perry," views "creating a new rare earth market as a necessary part in helping the coal industry recover."

US Geological Survey

Mapping Project Tracks Challenges Coming To Colorado Plateau.

The [AP](#) (6/12) reports that “researchers are working on a mapping project that will chronicle climate change, population growth, oil drilling and other factors in an area that stretches across Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah.” According to the article, “the research team from Northern Arizona University and the U.S. Geological Survey found that Flagstaff is among several areas considered a hotspot in the Colorado Plateau where high intensity land use overlaps with some of these factors.”

Top National News

Trump Friend Says He’s “Considering” Firing Mueller, Sparking Media Storm.

Following Newsmax editor-in-chief Christopher Ruddy’s appearance on [PBS’ NewsHour](#) (6/12), his statement that President Trump is considering firing Special Counsel Robert Mueller stirred a media storm – which apparently began to abate early this morning after reports indicating Ruddy based his observations on statements by a Trump attorney on ABC’s “This Week.” By then, however, lawmakers from both parties had expressed outrage about the possible firing, and media commentators had warned of an impending Watergate-level crisis. Jim Acosta, for example, said on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/12) that if the story were true, “this is akin to events we saw during the Watergate era,” and that he knew “from a White House source that Trump is being counseled from all sides not to do this.”

Ruddy, described across the coverage as a close friend of the President’s, told [PBS NewsHour](#) (6/12, Hendry), “I think [Trump is] considering perhaps terminating the special counsel. I think he’s weighing that option. I think it’s pretty clear by what one of his lawyers said on television recently. I personally think it would be a very significant mistake, even though I don’t think there’s a justification...for a special counsel in this case.” Ruddy also said, “I think there’s a conflict there. ... He comes from a law firm that represents members of the Trump family,” and “the President...was looking at him potentially to become the next FBI director. ... And I think it would be strange that he would have a confidential conversation and then a few days later become the prosecutor of the person he may be investigating.”

[Axios](#) (6/13, Swan) reported last night that despite the “media storm,” Ruddy “never actually spoke to Trump about firing Mueller, a source close to Ruddy” said. Rather, he “was reading between the lines of what others had said,” referring to “comments from Jay Sekulow, one of Trump’s lawyers, who didn’t rule out that Trump might fire Mueller in an appearance Sunday on ABC’s ‘This Week.’” White House press secretary Sean Spicer “confirmed Trump hadn’t discussed the matter with Ruddy,” telling Axios, “Mr. Ruddy never spoke to the President regarding this issue.” The [Daily Caller](#) (6/12, Collins) also said the White House “refuted the idea that...Trump is considering dismissing...Mueller,” with a “senior administration official” saying in an email, “Chris speaks for himself. ... He did not meet or speak with POTUS today.”

The [New York Times](#) (6/12, A1, Shear, Haberman) also reports that Ruddy “was at the White House on Monday,” and the Times quotes spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders as saying that “Chris speaks for himself” but she declined “to comment further.” The Times adds that “allies of the president cast doubt on the idea that Mr. Trump would take such a drastic step, and White House officials said Mr. Ruddy had not met directly with the president while he was there.” Anderson Cooper said earlier on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/12), meanwhile, that Ruddy “came out of a meeting at the White House...and went on PBS Newshour and” made his statement.

Albert R. Hunt, in a piece for [Bloomberg View](#) (6/13), cited Ruddy’s comments and declared that “it’s pretty crazy in Washington these days. Soon it could get even crazier.” Jonathan Chait’s story in the [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (6/12) was headlined “Trump Is Not Too Crazy To Fire The Special Prosecutor.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/12, Bierman) also weighed in, indicating that “whether Trump has the legal authority to fire Mueller is untested,” as “Justice Department regulations say that a special counsel can be fired by the attorney general ‘for cause.’”

The [New York Post](#) (6/12, Tacopino) reports that “the ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee, Democrat Adam Schiff, responded forcefully by saying Mueller would be brought back ‘immediately.’” Said Schiff, “If President fired Bob Mueller, Congress would immediately re-establish independent counsel and appoint Bob Mueller. Don’t waste our time.” [Politico](#) (6/12, Wright, Cheney), meanwhile, reports GOP “lawmakers have a warning for...Trump: Don’t mess with...Mueller.” Said Sen. Lindsey Graham, “It would be a disaster. ... There’s no reason to fire Mueller. What’s he done to be fired?” Politico adds, however, that “Mueller’s

investigation is widely considered the most threatening to Trump's presidency."

Under the headline "Trump Cheerleaders Turn On Special Counsel Mueller," the [AP](#) (6/13) reports that "Peter Carr, a spokesman for Mueller, declined to comment on Ruddy's remarks."

Reportedly giving credence to the story were comments by Trump allies. [The Hill](#) (6/12, Stange) reported that "prominent conservatives, including former Speaker Newt Gingrich, fired off salvos at...Mueller on Monday, insisting that the man leading the probe into allegations of links between the Trump campaign and Russia is out to damage the president." The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/12, Yilek) reports that Gingrich "has grown critical of...Mueller's ability to conduct a fair investigation into Russia's meddling in the 2016 special election," and tweeted yesterday, "Republicans are delusional if they think the special counsel is going to be fair. Look who he is hiring. check fec reports. Time to rethink."

Under the headline "Trump Surrogates Go After Mueller," [Politico](#) (6/12, Samuelsohn) reports "hardball complaints are coming at Mueller from several directions," and that a "wave of freelance attacks, which gathered steam over the weekend following Comey's dramatic testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee, echoes tactics used by Democrats in the 1990s to undercut special prosecutor Kenneth Starr's investigation into the Clinton White House." Said Dick Morris, "I think the idea of having an enemy when you're the object of a special prosecutor is a very important one. ... Clinton only survived a special prosecutor because he made Ken Starr the enemy."

[Breitbart](#) (6/12, Mason), meanwhile, reported "Mueller...had a shadow cast on his impartiality when Comey, a one-time mentee of Mueller's who succeeded him at the Bureau, revealed under oath that he deliberately leaked a potentially privileged memo to the press specifically to ensure the appointment of a special counsel."

Earlier Monday evening, Brit Hume said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/12), "I think Bob Mueller, broadly speaking, has earned his reputation, which is a very good reputation. However, there is no question he and James Comey were close friends." Hume adds that "the role of his friend Comey and his credibility now have come into play and are probably going to be a piece of the investigation. It's a fair question to ask, whether Bob Mueller should be that guy leading the investigation into at least that piece of it."

Four Members Of Mueller's Team Have Donated To Democrats. [The Hill](#) (6/12, Beavers) reports that according to FEC filings, four members of Mueller's team "have donated to Democratic presidential campaigns and organizations." Michael Dreeben, who, according to the Washington Post, is "working on a part-time basis for Mueller," donated "\$1,000 dollars to Hillary Clinton's Senate political action committee (PAC), Friends of Hillary, while she ran for public office in New York." Jeannie Rhee "donated \$5,400 to Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign PAC Hillary for America." Andrew Weissmann "donated six times to political action committees for Obama in 2008 for a total of \$4,700," and James Quarles "has donated to over a dozen Democratic PACs since the late 1980s."

Sessions Expected To Face Questions About Comey Firing, Meeting With Russian Envoy.

Monday's announcement from Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Richard Burr and Vice Chairman Mark Warner that Attorney General Sessions will testify publicly Tuesday before their committee garners substantial media coverage with reports almost universally predicting that Sessions will face tough questioning over his contacts with the Russian ambassador during the 2016 campaign – and what role he played in the firing of former FBI Director Comey.

The [AP](#) (6/12, Tucker, Riechmann) reports that while there had been "some question as to whether the hearing would be open to the public," the Justice Department said Monday that Sessions requested it be public because he "believes it is important for the American people to hear the truth directly from him." The AP anticipates "sharp questioning for Sessions" and "some uncomfortable moments from the Trump administration." [Reuters](#) (6/11, Chiacu, Lynch) predicts "another potentially dramatic hearing," as Sessions "will likely face tough questions" over his dealings with Russian officials and what role, if any, he had in Comey's firing.

The [New York Times](#) (6/12, Huetteman) says Sessions "will face lingering questions about his meetings last year with Sergey I. Kislyak, the Russian ambassador, which were revealed after he denied meeting with anyone from the Russian government during his confirmation hearing." The [Washington Times](#) (6/12, Noble) reports that Sessions may also "use the public spotlight to refute another allegation made by the former FBI director – that the attorney general was silent and said nothing when Mr. Comey asked that he intervene and not allow Mr. Trump to interact privately with him."

[Politico](#) (6/12, Kim, Cheney) reports that the "increased scrutiny" of Sessions follows Comey's testimony last week "that he knew details about Sessions before his recusal from the

Russia probe that would make his involvement in the investigation 'problematic.'" [USA Today](#) (6/12, Jackson) says Democrats say Sessions "needs to resolve conflicting evidence about contacts with Russians, and to explain if and why he recommended Comey's dismissal by Trump, an action that could be a violation of his recusal."

The [New York Times](#) (6/12, Hulse) reports that during his confirmation hearing, Sessions "seemed to escape" his former colleagues' "questioning relatively unscathed" but he "should expect no such senatorial courtesy" today. Democrats believe Sessions "repaid their earlier hospitality by lying to them — and the Senate — about his contacts with Russian officials, and they are now determined to extract clear answers." Peter Alexander similarly predicted on [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/12, story 2, 2:25, Holt) that Sessions will "face bruising questions," and, the [Washington Post](#) (6/12, Horwitz), which describes the hearing as a "high-stakes test" for Sessions, similarly predicts he "will face tough questions from his former colleagues on a number of fronts that he has never had to publicly address in detail." The Post adds that while Democrats "are skeptical that Sessions will divulge any explosive new details," they "hope the hearing offers a chance to at least get Sessions on the record as either answering or dodging questions about pivotal events related to Comey and the FBI's investigation." Brit Hume said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/12), "I expect him to be an effective witness. He is seasoned at this. He was a prosecutor and a district attorney before he was a senator, so he knows the ways, he knows how to handle himself in these settings. I think he has probably got a story to tell and my guess is he will be an effective witness."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/12, Dennis) cites "a person familiar with Sessions's plan" who said the Attorney General "has told the committee he will refuse to discuss his conversations with the president," which, Bloomberg says, "could infuriate lawmakers." Cecilia Vega said in the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/12, lead story, 3:15, Muir) "would not say whether Sessions would limit his testimony and invoke executive privilege." The [AP](#) (6/12, Tucker, Riechmann) reports that White House press secretary Sean Spicer said, "It depends on the scope of the questions. To get into a hypothetical at this point would be premature."

Sen. Rand Paul was asked on [CNN's The Lead](#) (6/12) if it would be a mistake for Sessions to invoke executive privilege during his testimony. Paul said, "I guess it depends on the questions. I don't really know what that will be about necessarily. I still think that, you know, we've got a special counsel. Let's let them do their job. The rest is all for show. This is political theater and those committees aren't getting anywhere. If there's anything done wrong it will come out of the special counsel, and my suspicion is very little, if anything, will come out of there."

Rep. Kathleen Rice said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/12), "I worked in the Department of Justice as a federal prosecutor and I can tell you that the credibility of the agency itself is only as good as the person who's leading it. And right now it seems very clear to me that Jeff Sessions has no credibility when it comes to...running the agency."

[Roll Call](#) (6/12, Lesniewski) reports that Sessions was originally scheduled to appear before House and Senate appropriators this week "to defend the Justice Department's fiscal 2018 budget request" but "told the committees in a letter late Friday that he would instead meet with Senate Intelligence." According to Roll Call, "appropriators and members of the Judiciary Committee are not pleased with the decision." Meanwhile, [USA Today](#) (6/12, Kelly) reports that the House and Senate committees are considering "issuing more subpoenas for key witnesses and expanding the scope of their probes." USA Today cites Burr's comment following Comey's testimony that "This is nowhere near the end of our investigation," and says Sessions' testimony Tuesday is the "most immediate evidence of that." Moreover, Intelligence Committee member Sen. Dianne Feinstein, who is also the ranking Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, "is calling on the Judiciary panel to expand its probe to investigate all matters related to possible obstruction of justice."

Rogers Has Closed-Door Meeting With Senate Intel Panel. [Newsmax](#) (6/12) reports that NSA Director Rogers met in a closed session with the Senate Intelligence Committee Monday night. Senators "want Rogers to answer questions about any possible interference by Trump in the FBI's investigation into Russia's role in the 2016 election" after he and DNI Coats, who did not attend Monday's meeting, "refused to answer those questions last week in a public hearing."

Secret Service Says It Has No Recordings From Trump White House. Nancy Cordes said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/12, story 2, 2:15, Pelley) that Sessions may be "asked if the President really does have a recording system in the Oval Office, as Mr. Trump suggested in a tweet last month but refused to confirm again today." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/12, Radnofsky) reports that in response to a FOIA request, the Secret Service said Monday that it has no audio or transcripts of any recordings made inside the Trump White House. However, the Journal notes

that the Secret Service response does not rule out the possibility that another entity created recordings. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/12, story 2, 2:25, Holt), Alexander said Trump's suggestion that he has such tapes is "still hanging over the White House," adding that "despite bipartisan calls he come clean, no timetable for an answer."

To the [AP](#) (6/12, Thomas), the President "has been coy" about the existence of recordings of his conversations with Comey. Last week, he told reporters "that he would discuss their potential existence 'in the very near future.'" On Monday, Spicer said there would be an announcement "when the president is ready to make it." The [New York Post](#) (6/12, Moore) quotes Spicer as saying, "The president made clear in the Rose Garden last week that he would have an announcement shortly."

Sen. Rand Paul was asked on [CNN's The Lead](#) (6/12) if he agrees with Sen. Susan Collins that if tapes of White House conversations exist, Trump should turn them over to the Senate Intelligence Committee and the special counsel. Paul said, "I personally am not a big fan of recording private information, private calls between people who don't know they are being recorded, and so many states have rules against this. The White House is in an unusual situation though where basically they call it a unitary executive. The President is in charge and whether he ought to do something is one thing and whether he has to do something is another. I don't think it was an appropriate thing to threaten Comey on it, but I think the interesting thing that is lost by some people about Comey's testimony is I think it completely vindicated everything the President had said."

Sen. Ben Cardin said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/12) it's "not right" that the President is leaving unanswered the question of whether there are tapes of his conversations with Comey. Cardin continued, "This is not a matter that you have to investigate to see whether there are tapes or not. They know whether there are tapes or not. If there are tapes, the President needs to acknowledge it and make it available to the investigators. If there's no tapes, he has an explanation as to why he raised this particular issue."

Ryan Lizza of the New Yorker said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/12), "There are no tapes. This White House can barely put together a senior staff. And everything leaks out of this White House. If there were tapes we would know about it."

Spicer: Trump's Offer To Speak Under Oath Applied Specifically To Mueller Probe. The [New York Post](#) (6/12, Schultz) reports that White House press secretary Sean Spicer also reiterated that Trump "would agree to speak under oath about Russia – but not necessarily to Congress." According to Spicer, Trump's claim Friday "that he'd be '100 percent' willing to answer questions about the ongoing Russia investigation applied specifically to Special Counsel Robert Mueller." Spicer "declined to say" when he was asked if Trump "would appear before a congressional committee also investigating Russia." Vega said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/12, story 2, 1:05, Muir) that Spicer "said he's not had further discussions with the President about this potential testimony. A very different answer from the White House today than the very adamant President Trump we heard from a couple of days ago."

In an op-ed for the [Washington Examiner](#) (6/12), Justin Haskins, an executive editor at The Heartland Institute, argues that if Trump is going to "successfully fight off the allegations," Haskins adds, "he must do so by being humble and beyond reproach." First, he should go "directly to the people in a national address or through a massive commercial buy" and "apologize – to the people and, at least on some issues, to Comey – and own up to the mistakes he's made while firmly and respectfully denying the accusations of collusion made against him." However, Richard Cohen writes in his [Washington Post](#) (6/12, Cohen) column that while Republicans "await the messiah-like return of a splendidly presidential Trump," their "excuses are laughable and its defenses self-serving." Cohen argues that Republican lawmakers "demean politics with their silence. They are precisely what Trump thinks they are — swamp creatures who slink from taking a stand."

Ivanka: Trump "Felt Vindicated" By Comey's Testimony. Ivanka Trump said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (6/12), "My father felt very vindicated" by Comey's testimony "in all the statements that he has been making and feels incredibly optimistic. You know, at the White House and throughout the Administration, we were incredibly focused on the reason we all went to Washington and what we are fighting for. So last week, while it didn't get the level of headlines, it will ultimately have more impact, was infrastructure week. ... This coming week is about workforce development. So with all the noise with all the intensity of the media coverage and obviously what makes headlines, ultimately, we are really focused on why the American people elected Donald Trump as their President."

Presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (6/12), "Let's

talk about the things that we didn't learn the other day, that we didn't hear. ... We heard that Donald Trump is not under investigation, never was. All the media who said he was and that he misunderstood Jim Comey are yet to apologize. It was one little retraction that there is no evidence of obstruction of justice or collusion."

Sen. Rand Paul said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (6/12), "I think from Comey's testimony there were some pretty important things. Comey said that the President was not, you know, the point of any investigation, and the President responded petulantly probably and said, 'Tell everybody I'm not the object of your investigation,' and you can see where there are would be annoyance, but even by Comey's testimony, he's saying he told me he hoped I would finish it. Certainly doesn't sound like obstructing any kind of justice when you tell somebody that they hope they will finish their job."

In his [Washington Post](#) (6/12) column, Dana Milbank lists those Trump has accused of lying in addition to Comey, and argues that accusations of lying are "a bit rich coming from the man who has done more than any other to turn public discourse into a parallel universe of alternative facts." Milbank questions whether Trump, "who has established himself as one of history's most prodigious prevaricators," can "convince the country that the former FBI director, celebrated for his integrity, is just another lying liar."

Sherman Drafts Article Of Impeachment Against Trump. Rep. Brad Sherman has drafted an article of impeachment against President Trump arguing that he "obstructed justice by using his authority as president to hinder or terminate a criminal investigation into his former national security advisor Michael Flynn," [Roll Call](#) (6/12, McPherson) reports. The article cites Trump's requesting Comey "to curtail the bureau's investigation into Flynn and then later terminating Comey and admitting that his main reason for doing so was related to the Russia investigation." [Politico](#) (6/12, Caygle) reports that Sherman said that if the House Judiciary Committee does not consider his resolution, he will "bring it up as a privileged motion on the House floor." In a letter to his colleagues, Sherman wrote, "At that point, I expect there will be a motion to table, thus triggering our first impeachment-related vote." Such a move, Politico adds, "would fly in the face of efforts by House Democratic leaders to quell impeachment talk coming from the rank-and-file."

The [New York Times](#) (6/12, Chilkoti) describe Sherman's effort as "a long-shot attempt to oust President Trump," adding that it has "virtually no chance of succeeding given the strong majority Republicans hold in the House, where impeachment proceedings must begin."

Sherman's resolution comes as a [poll](#) released Monday by Democratic polling firm Public Policy Polling "shows that 47 percent of voters support Trump being impeached, while 43 percent oppose it," [The Hill](#) (6/12, Carter) reports. According to the poll, 51 percent "said Comey was the more trustworthy of the two men, while just 39 percent said Trump was."

Satter: Putin Sought To Undermine US Political System. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/12, Satter), David Satter, who is "affiliated with the Hudson Institute and Johns Hopkins University," argues that Russian President Vladimir Putin's aim was not to boost Trump over Clinton but to undermine the US political system.

Hearings Spotlight "Breakout" Democratic Stars. [Politico](#) (6/12, Debenedetti) says "the Democratic Party loves a breakout star" and "as a result of the high-profile nomination hearings and the nationally televised Trump-Russia inquisitions last week," the "hyper-attentive party base [is] seemingly elevating — and celebrating — a new standard-bearer every week." Among them: Sens. Kamala Harris, Al Franken, Mark Warner, and Amy Klobuchar, as well as Rep. Adam Schiff.

Federalist's Hemingway Questions Comey's Judgment On Obstruction Cases. In an piece for [The Federalist](#) (6/12), Mollie Hemingway takes issue with the media's portrayal of Comey as "a man of rectitude," a "boy scout who is very honest, and good at laying out obstruction of justice cases." Hemingway goes on to examine some of those obstruction cases "and whether they say anything about his current judgment," and concludes that "the idea that Comey should be trusted to lay out an impartial case for obstruction is going to be hard to swallow." Dershowitz Warns Criminalizing Political Opposition Is Dangerous. [Townhall](#) (6/12, Benson) reports that Harvard law "liberal Democrat" Alan Dershowitz, a Harvard law professor who is "by no means a supporter, or even an admirer, of the president," has been "making the rounds, in print and on air, explaining why hyperventilation about impeachable offenses and 'obstruction of justice' is at best premature, based on the available evidence." In a string of tweets Sunday evening, Dershowitz "went further, arguing that a fixation with criminalizing one's political opposition is dangerous for the republic."

Conway Denies Leaking Confidential Information At Party. Presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway was asked on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (6/12) about a report that she leaked information from the White House by discussing it at a party. Conway said, "Well, if I were a

great leaker I would get much better press, don't you think? Part of why I don't is because I won't divulge confidential information. ... The other thing is I never divulge what the President tells me. I never would. The President has said publicly that we'll all find out. We have to wait and see if there are tapes. I repeated that and said I convert it to no comment. I said that publicly. There is no confidential information there."

Republicans Pressing Grassley To Call Lynch Before Senate Judiciary Committee. The [New York Post](#) (6/12, Morrongiello, Schultz) reports that Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chick Grassley is under pressure from members of his committee "to ask former Attorney General Loretta Lynch to testify before the panel on whether she interfered with the Justice Department's investigation of Hillary Clinton's email server." According to an aide, Sen. Ted Cruz "wants Lynch to respond under oath to bipartisan concerns that she attempted to influence the Clinton probe." Two other members of the panel, Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Lindsey Graham, have also "publicly urged Grassley (R-Iowa) to summon Lynch."

Presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (6/12), "What really caught my ear [Sunday] was Senator Dianne Feinstein, of course, a Democrat, saying that she would like to investigate further the fact that Jim Comey admitted under oath that he ceded to the wishes of Attorney General Loretta Lynch to lessen the description of what was surely a full blown investigation to a quote 'matter.' Taking something from an investigation, calling it a matter is no small thing and it's not a semantics difference." Conway added, "I really like the fact that we're talking about both attorneys general right now. Because I think the untold story from last week's testimony it reflected very poorly on members of the Obama Administration as well."

Another Appeals Court Rules Against Travel Ban, Cites Trump Tweet.

As the battle heads to the Supreme Court, media reports are casting yesterday's court ruling on the President's travel ban as yet another legal defeat for the Administration. [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/12, story 4, 0:15, Holt) reported that "soon the Supreme Court will decide whether it will take the case, and whether the government can begin enforcing the travel ban while it's on appeal." Reports also indicate that, in contrast to the ruling by the 4th Circuit, the 9th did not base its findings on Trump's public comments. Instead, notes the [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/12, Dolan), the judges "said Trump's revised executive order failed to justify a need for the ban" – or, as the [Washington Post](#) (6/12, Zapotosky) puts it, "lacked a sufficient national security or other justification that would make it legal." [Politico](#) (6/12, Gerstein) reports, meanwhile, that "as they marshaled evidence for their conclusion, judges turned to a notable source: a tweet Trump sent just a week ago," in which he wrote, "That's right, we need a TRAVEL BAN for certain DANGEROUS countries, not some politically correct term that won't help us protect our people!" Wrote the judges, "Indeed, the President recently confirmed his assessment that it is the 'countries' that are inherently dangerous, rather than the 180 million individual nationals of those countries."

[McClatchy](#) (6/12, Welsh) notes that the court said in its ruling, "Immigration, even for the president is not a one-person show." To [Breitbart](#) (6/12, Munro), however, the ruling came "even though prior presidents have raised and lowered the annual inflow of refugees without interference from the judges." [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/12, Stohr) reports that White House press secretary Sean Spicer said that the Administration continues "to be confident the president's executive order to protect the country is fully lawful and will be upheld" by the Supreme Court. The [Washington Times](#) (6/12, Noble, Dinan) quotes Spicer as saying, "These are very dangerous times and we need every available tool."

[USA Today](#) (6/12, Gomez, Wolf) notes all three judges – Judges Michael Daly Hawkins, Ronald Gould, and Richard Paez – were "appointed by President Bill Clinton," and that their ruling amounted to "another in a string of legal setbacks" for Trump. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/12, story 10, 0:20, Muir) referred to "another setback" for Trump, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/12, Dolan) to "the latest in a string of legal defeats" for the White House, the [New York Times](#) (6/12, Liptak) to "the latest in a string of court rulings rejecting the administration's efforts," and the [Washington Post](#) (6/12, Zapotosky) to "another blow to Trump." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/12, Kendall), among other media outlets, runs a similar report on the ruling, which was very briefly noted last night on the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/12, story 5, 0:20, Pelley).

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/12, Stohr) reports that "separately Monday, two groups of challengers to Trump's stalled ban urged the Supreme Court to maintain the halt on the plan." Hawaii "said the court should leave in force the order from the judge in that state, saying Trump's executive order 'denigrates Muslims and effects a policy of religious intolerance in all its applications.'" A group "represented by the American Civil Liberties Union," meanwhile, "told the high court it

shouldn't review the earlier appeals court decision." Said ACLU lawyers, "The blank check the government seeks in this case is not consistent with our Constitution." The [AP](#) (6/12, Sherman) and [USA Today](#) (6/12, Gomez, Wolf), among other news outlets, also note the filings to the Supreme Court by the ban's opponents.

Senate Foreign Relations Committee ranking member Ben Cardin said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/12), "Every court decision is holding that the President exceeded his authority, that this was a veiled effort to impose a travel ban based upon religion, based upon being Muslim, that it was not in keeping with the values of America or the powers the President has, and he hasn't made a case that America will be safer as a result of the travel ban. So I think in all those cases, the President has lost in the courts. I don't see why we would expect a different decision from the Supreme Court."

Court Gives Trump "Olive Branch," Allows Vetting Review. [USA Today](#) (6/12, Gomez, Wolf) reports that the court "handed the Trump administration an olive branch that could do more harm than good: It overturned one part of a federal district court judge's ruling that the government claimed had blocked a 90-day review of current vetting procedures." USA Today adds that "that starts the clock on a process which could render the overall case moot in three months, if the Supreme Court has not ruled by then."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/12, Stohr) also notes that the court "did side with Trump in one respect. It said the Honolulu judge who blocked the travel ban was wrong to prohibit the Trump administration from doing internal reviews of immigration-vetting procedures." [The Hill](#) (6/12, Wheeler) reports the court also "called the government's argument that the District Court erred in issuing an injunction that runs against the president himself 'well taken.'" Wrote the judges, "Generally, we lack jurisdiction of a bill to enjoin the President in the performance of his official duties." The Hill added that "they vacated that part of the District Court's injunction to the extent the order runs against the president, but said it still applies to the remaining defendants and all their respective officers, agents, servants, employees and attorneys, and people in active concert or participation with them."

[Politico](#) (6/12, Gerstein) reports that "experts said tweaks the 9th Circuit made to the injunction it considered makes it more likely the justices will leave the lower court orders in place." The Supreme Court "usually accepts federal government requests to take up broad-based injunctions, but may do so at a slower pace given the appeals court ruling Monday." The [New York Times](#) (6/12, Liptak) similarly observes that "that may turn out to be important as the Supreme Court considers how to address the cases."

DC, Maryland AGs Sue Trump, Accuse Him Of Violating Emoluments Clause.

A lawsuit filed yesterday against President Trump by the attorneys general for Washington, DC and Maryland generated coverage on all three major network newscasts, as well as on major print media. The [Washington Post](#) (6/12, Davis) reports the suit by DC's Karl A. Racine and Maryland's Brian E. Frosh, both Democrats, alleges that "payments by foreign governments" to Trump's "global business empire violate anti-corruption provisions in the Constitution." According to the filing, "Trump's decision to retain ownership in his businesses 'calls into question the rule of law and the integrity of the country's political system.'" Speaking to reporters, the two "said Trump is 'flagrantly violating' the Constitution's emoluments clause, which prohibit US officeholders from taking anything of value from foreign leaders."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/12, story 8, 2:30, Ross) said the "landmark suit claims" Trump "is using his official position to market his business enterprises with the focus on the Trump Hotel in Washington, which pitches foreign governments and their supporters to hold their big events here." [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/12, story 3, 2:05, Williams) said the "two Democratic attorney generals says Mr. Trump markets his property as President and benefits from payments by foreign countries for space in Trump Tower and for holding events and staying at his...hotel to seek his favor," and that is "too much of a conflict." NBC added that "legal experts say even if" the "lawsuit doesn't ultimately succeed, it could force the President to turn over revealing financial records." The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/12, story 3, 2:30, Brennan) similarly reported that "Trump has declined to follow the tradition of publicly releasing his tax returns," but "the attorneys general will ask the court to demand their release in order to show the extent of his business interests, including any loans."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/12) showed Racine saying, "We know that foreign governments are spending money there in order to curry favor with the President of the United States. Just one example. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, whose government has important business and policy before the President of the United States, has already spent hundreds of thousands of dollars at

the Trump International Hotel.”

[USA Today](#) (6/12, Schouten) notes “Trump’s lawyers and the Department of Justice maintain that market-rate payments for goods and services at Trump’s hotels, golf courses and the other businesses he owns are not ‘emoluments’ as defined by the Constitution,” and “Lindsay Jancek of the Republican National Committee called the lawsuit ‘absurd,’” as well as “the kind of partisan grandstanding voters across the country have come to despise.” White House press secretary Sean Spicer, meanwhile, “said the Trump administration would ask the court to throw out the lawsuit.” Spicer, the [New York Post](#) (6/12, Moore) reports, “referred to a similar suit filed in January by Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington, a DC-based watchdog group, and said ‘it’s not hard to conclude that partisan politics is behind this suit.’”

The [Washington Times](#) (6/12, Noble, Miller) quotes Spicer as saying, “It’s not hard to conclude that partisan politics may be one of the motivations behind the suit. ... We’ll move to dismiss this case in the normal course of business.”

Along those lines, Jeffrey Toobin said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (6/12), “I’m extremely skeptical that this will lead to anything serious in terms of an impact on...Trump. The Emoluments Clause has never been applied at least in the modern world and I just think this is a political attempt to interfere and damage the presidency.”

The [Washington Times](#) (6/12, Noble), however, reports in a separate story that though “both...Frosh and Mr. Racine are Democrats, they said the lawsuit was not a partisan action.” Said Frosh, “We do not sue the president of the United States casually. ... It’s unprecedented that the American people must question day after day if actions are taken to benefit the United States or to benefit Donald Trump.”

The [New York Times](#) (6/12, Lafranieri) notes DOJ “had no immediate response,” but “in a brief filed last week in response to the New York case, the department argued that the earlier lawsuit should be dismissed because the emoluments clauses were never intended to prohibit a president from owning a business while in office.” DOJ also “argued that the plaintiffs had shown no financial harm.”

To [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/12, Van Voris), meanwhile the suit is “the first constitutional claim to be filed by a state government over Trump’s alleged business conflicts, ratcheting up pressure on the billionaire president.” According to “legal experts...Maryland and the District of Columbia have a better chance of having their claims considered by a court than non-government organizations.” [Reuters](#) (6/12, Levine) also says the latest suit “could stand a better chance in court as the first government action over allegations that Trump...violated the constitution’s so-called emoluments clause.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/12, Savage) notes “CREW’s lawyers are part of the suit filed Monday, and they argued that Maryland and DC are suffering real injuries because some of their hotels and meeting areas are losing business to Trump’s properties.” Said the lawyers, “The district and Maryland have the authority and right to vindicate their interest in providing and preserving a level playing field in the hospitality industry.”

Rep. Kathleen Rice said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (6/12), “This goes to the very core...of the public’s right to have faith that their commander in chief, the President of the United States, is beholden to only one master, and that is to the American people. If you are accepting money through your businesses from foreign entities, whether they are friend or foe, that gives the impression that any decision that the President makes could be influenced by that money, by that business, and I think a first grader can understand that.”

ABC News, CBS News Analyses: “Questions” About Pledge To Donate Foreign Profits To US Treasury. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/12, story 8, 2:30, Ross) reported that “Trump’s attorney has promised that all profits earned from foreign government will be donate to the US Treasury, but there are questions about how this is happening,” because “Trump’s sons say it’s not practical to keep track of the precise numbers, so they said they’ll make a rough estimate of the profits. But they have not said whether they will report those figures to the public or keep them secret.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/12, story 4, 2:25, Pelley) reported that “anyone can book an event at a Trump golf club or hotel, with the profits going to...Trump through his trust,” and added (Goldman) added that “Turkish Airlines, half owned by the Turkish government, paid for its annual tournament at the President’s Miami golf course in April,” and that “a member of the ruling family of the United Arab Emirates and Turkish Airlines were among the sponsors last month of this Turkish-American conference at Trump International Hotel.” Sheri Dillon, attorney for the President, was shown saying, “He is going to voluntarily donate all profits from foreign government payments made to his hotels to the United States Treasury.” CBS added that “the

Trump Organization created this glossy handout to guide its finance team, but some legal experts say the guidance is riddled with loopholes." For example, "it says banking, defense, energy, healthcare, and other sectors may not be reasonably identifiable as foreign government entities, and therefore may not be included."

Free Beacon Report: Suit Follows Strategy Outlined By Brock At Activists' Conference. The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (6/12, Shoffstall) reports "members of a group linked to liberal operative and Hillary Clinton loyalist David Brock are involved in" the lawsuit, as CREW was "once led by...Brock." The Free Beacon recounts that "earlier this year...Brock held a conference with more than 100 liberal donors at the posh Turnberry Isle Resort in Aventura, Fla., mapping out how Democrats would 'kick Donald Trump's ass,'" and adds that it "obtained a copy of a private and confidential Brock memo detailing the liberal operative's plans to attack Trump using CREW, Media Matters, Shareblue, and American Bridge."

White House Pushes Jobs Agenda.

[Townhall](#) (6/12, Pavlich) reports that the White House is "pushing forward a major jobs agenda that includes filling positions that do not require four year college degrees." In appearance on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) Monday morning, White House special advisor Ivanka Trump "laid out the Trump administration's goals to fill six million job vacancies in states across the country." She said, "There are six million available American jobs. So we're constantly hearing from CEOs that they have job openings but they don't have workers with the skill set they need to fill those jobs. ... With all the intensity of the media coverage and obviously what makes headlines, ultimately we're really focused on why the American people elected Donald Trump as their president and implementing that plan." Also Monday, Labor Secretary Acosta told reporters, "We're looking to push apprenticeships across the board. All people and industries. This is an opportunity for everyone. ... Apprentices hit the ground running when they start a job and tend to be more loyal to the employer."

Acosta: Trump To Announce Apprenticeship Initiative Wednesday. [Breitbart](#) (6/12, Wong) reports that Labor Secretary Acosta said Monday that President Trump will "announce an apprenticeship initiative on Wednesday that will aim to fill a gap between six million jobs currently available and American workers who can fill them." According to Acosta, "despite there being six million job openings in the US, there are not enough Americans workers with specialized skills to fill them." Speaking at a White House briefing, Acosta said, "Americans want to work. American companies want to hire. ... The issue is a mismatch between available jobs and prospective employee jobs skills."

Despite CEOs' Professed Confidence, Merger Activity Remains Low. The [New York Times](#) (6/12, Sorkin) reports that while the CEOs of the nation's largest companies have repeatedly expressed optimism about the economy, "there is a remarkable divergence between what chief executives have been saying aloud and what they are actually doing in practice." According to the Times, "merger and acquisition activity" remains "the ultimate truth serum when it comes to reflecting C.E.O. confidence," and "so far this year, the number of deals and their size are at the lowest level since 2013." The Times adds, however, that while CEOs "probably do" feel more optimistic, "that optimism has yet to manifest itself in its most visible form: big acquisitions."

Trump Administration To Release This Week Plan To Reduce Manufacturing Regulations.

[Reuters](#) (6/12) reports that "the Trump administration intends to unveil this week a plan to trim regulations it believes constrain U.S. manufacturing growth, potentially affecting environmental permits, worker safety and labor rules." Reuters adds, "The U.S. Commerce Department's regulations 'hit list' recommendations follow more than three months of study and consultation with industry on ways to streamline regulations and ease burdens on manufacturing firms." Public comments that the department received revealed priorities, "with numerous industry groups and firms complaining that EPA air quality permit rules for new facilities are often redundant." Reuters reports that the "National Association of Manufacturers said the EPA's review requirements for new sources of emissions such as factories can add \$100,000 in costs for modeling air quality to a new facility and delay factory expansions by 18 months." Reuters adds, "Manufacturing groups including auto parts makers have also targeted labor rules that make it easier for unions to organize workers, expand the number of employees eligible for overtime and govern the reporting of workplace injuries."

US Budget Deficit Widened Through First 8 Months Of Fiscal Year.

[Fox Business](#) (6/12, Sparshott, Davidson) reports that "the U.S. budget deficit widened through

the first eight months of the fiscal year, highlighting challenges for the Trump administration as it looks to cut taxes and rebalance spending priorities." Fox Business adds, "Government spending outpaced revenues by \$433 billion from October through May, the Treasury Department said Monday, up from \$405 billion during the same period a year earlier." The article also states that "earlier this year, the Congressional Budget Office forecast a 3% rise in receipts this year," and, "most of that revenue shortfall reflects smaller-than-anticipated tax payments from individuals and corporations, though the cause remains unclear."

Fed Expected To Raise Federal Funds Rate Wednesday.

[MarketWatch](#) (6/12, Morici) reports that "the Fed's policy making committee is expected to increase the target for the federal funds rate to 1% to 1.25% on Wednesday." MarketWatch adds, "Before Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin announced that Congress would have to raise the debt ceiling before its summer recess, the Fed was expected to push the policy rate another 25 basis points in September and to start gradually winding down its holdings of mortgage-backed-securities and Treasuries in December." The article also states that "now the September rate increase may be delayed until Congress and the administration sort out the debt-ceiling issue and agree on funding for the government past the end of the fiscal year," but adds, "the pause will be temporary, and the process of tightening will likely continue until the fed funds rate is in the range of 3%."

Fed's Monetary Tightening Failing To Produce Intended Effects On Markets.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/11, A1, Harrison) reports that the Fed is expected to raise short-term interest rates for the fourth time since December 2015 at a meeting this week, but recent tightening policy efforts have yet to impact financial markets, where stocks have hit records this year and bond yields have fallen. Accommodative financial conditions – currently on par with those at the peak of Fed stimulus in early 2015 – put the market at risk for overheating and then snapping back.

Fed Expected To Update Guidelines On Unwinding Balance Sheet. [Bloomberg News](#) (6/12, Smialek) reports that the Fed wants to clearly communicate its strategy for unwinding its balance sheet, "and the next step in that process is releasing a fresh version of its 'Policy Normalization Principles.'" Minutes from the FOMC's May meeting "both foreshadowed an update to the principles and provided details on how the unwinding might proceed by describing a staff plan to slow the reinvestment of maturing securities via gradually rising caps."

McClatchy Analysis: Climate Change-Stoked Wildfires Draining Forest Service Budget.

[McClatchy](#) (6/12, Siripurapu) reports, "Climate change appears to be fueling more wildfires as forest service officials are increasingly concerned they don't have the funds to effectively handle another devastating season." In 1995, "16 percent of the Forest Service was dedicated to fire. ... Now, it's more than half." Chief Tom Tidwell said that the Forest Service "predicts that fire programs will be 67 percent of the budget by 2025."

US Opts Out Of G-7 Pledge Committing To Paris Climate Agreement.

The [Washington Times](#) (6/12, Wolfgang) reports the US yesterday "took its first concrete step toward" withdrawing from the Paris climate accord, "by formally rejecting the agreement on the world stage." G-7 environmental ministers "released a lengthy communique on climate change, including detailed commitments from each nation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as part of their promises under the Paris deal." While the document was signed by the US, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt "included an addendum that makes clear America will not participate in the Paris pact." In the addendum, "the administration formally rejected both the Paris climate deal itself and the concept of Multilateral Development Banks." [Politico](#) (6/12, Stefanini) reports the footnote by the US said, "We the United States do not join those sections of the communiqué on climate and [multilateral development banks], reflecting our recent announcement to withdraw and immediately cease implementation of the Paris agreement and associated financial commitments."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/12, Shankleman) reports President Trump's "plans to renegotiate a more favorable deal for the U.S. have been rebuffed by the leaders of Germany, France and Italy." On Monday, Canadian Environment Minister Catherine McKenna "echoed" the leaders of those countries and "pledged to move ahead with U.S. governors, mayors and executives who still support the accord." She told reporters, "It was very sad to see that the United States was relegated to a footnote on climate action. ... Let's be clear – the U.S. is bigger than one

administration and we're going to be moving forward, as is the rest of the world, with the states, cities and businesses in the United States that are committed to serious climate action and committed to the Paris Agreement." [Reuters](#) (6/12, Jewkes) reports Pruitt "only attended the first day" of the environmental ministers meeting in Italy on Sunday, "held as an early summer heatwave settled over Italy, before flying back to Washington." In a statement on Monday, Pruitt said, "We are resetting the dialogue to say Paris is not the only way forward to making progress."

The [AP](#) (6/12, Santalucia, Winfield) reports Italy's environment minister Gian Luca Galletti said the Paris accord was "irreversible, non-negotiable and the only instrument possible to combat climate change." Galletti "said the other G-7 countries hoped to continue "constructive dialogue" with the U.S., but insisted on the Paris parameters." He stated, "Everything else for us is excluded."

[Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/12, Albanese) reports that according to German Environment Minister Barbara Hendricks, Pruitt "blamed former President Barack Obama for forging a bad Paris climate deal, leaving the U.S. with the job of extricating itself." Hendricks added that Pruitt's "line of argument was purely domestic." [The Hill](#) (6/12, Henry) reports the move "to not join the G7 commitment to climate change comes nearly two weeks after President Trump said he would pull the United States out of the Paris climate deal."

Kerry: US Can Still Meet Climate Goals Despite Trump Paris Withdrawal. [Reuters](#) (6/12) reports former Secretary of State John Kerry on Monday predicted the US "will achieve goals to limit climate change set by the Obama administration despite President Donald Trump's decision to quit a 2015 global pact." Kerry "said during a visit to Oslo that many U.S. companies, states and cities were pushing ahead with restrictions on greenhouse gas emissions despite Trump's pro-coal policies." Kerry said at a news conference, "We will meet the Paris standards, I believe, in the United States. ... So I want people not to be dismayed."

Rhode Island Governor Signs Order Committing State To Paris Accord. The [AP](#) (6/12) reports Gov. Gina Raimondo of Rhode Island "has signed an executive order" committing her state "to the goals of the Paris climate change accord." The Democratic governor "had already announced this month that Rhode Island will join the U.S. Climate Alliance, a bipartisan coalition of states committed to meeting the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement."

Trump Administration Begins Efforts To Rollback Clean Power Plan.

[Bloomberg BNA](#) (6/13, Childers) reports that the Environmental Protection Agency's rollback of Obama-era limits on carbon dioxide pollution from power plants will "kick off an inevitable battle with environmental groups over whether the EPA can simply rescind the carbon dioxide standards without issuing an adequate replacement." Moreover, it is possible that EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt could seek to reverse the endangerment finding that determined greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles should be regulated in an effort to halt power plant regulation, which would "slow down any attempt to replace the Clean Power Plan."

United States Enter New Period Of Climate Policy Isolation.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/12, Mooney) reports that after deciding to withdraw from the Paris climate deal, the US is "increasingly isolated as other nations reiterate their commitment to climate action in group statements" while the United States "says it isn't part of all that." At the G7 meeting of environmental ministers in Bologna, Italy, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt declined to "join" large sections of the communique. Moreover, the US also abstained from endorsing the "relatively uncontroversial Kigali amendment to the Montreal Protocol," which aims to reduce the use of hydrofluorocarbons, as well as efforts by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to cut emissions from the global aircraft fleet.

EPA Delays Implementation Of Chemical Safety Rules.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/12, Siciliano) reports that the EPA is delaying implementation of major Obama administration chemical safety regulations by nearly two years, making the new effective date for the rule Feb. 19, 2019.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"The Senate Hides Its Trumpcare Bill Behind Closed Doors." A [New York Times](#) (6/13, Board) editorial says that a "coterie of Republicans is planning to have the Senate vote before

July 4 on a bill that could take health insurance away from up to 23 million people and make changes to the coverage of millions of others. And they are coming up with the legislation behind closed doors without holding hearings, without consulting lawmakers who disagree with them and without engaging in any meaningful public debate." While Republican leaders "seem to think they will gain a tactical legislative advantage if they can negotiate a deal behind the scenes and then suddenly spring it on the full Senate," the Times says "those gains will quickly evaporate when voters learn what they have done."

"Emmanuel Macron's Unfettered Powers." The [New York Times](#) (6/12) says in an editorial that French President Emmanuel Macron's "grip on political power seems unshakable after the first round of France's legislative voting on Sunday." The Times argues that "with the political opposition in tatters, and many political novices owing their seats to the president, Mr. Macron could face temptations to abuse executive power." The Times says Macron has drafted a bill to "permanently legalize much of the state of emergency declared by President François Hollande shortly after the terrorist attacks in Paris in November 2015," and calls on France's Constitutional Council not to "allow what was meant to have been an extraordinary, temporary suspension of citizens' rights to become permanent" lest "the promise of Mr. Macron's fresh start for France...result in a more repressive republic and set the stage for other abuses of executive power beyond his mandate."

"Remember The Promise Of Good Jobs?" The [New York Times](#) (6/13, Board) editorializes that the "prospect of good jobs at good pay has faded of late, and the government is only threatening to make things worse." The Times argues that "cutting taxes on the wealthy, especially by rescinding health insurance for millions, and deregulating Wall Street — the centerpieces of the Trump agenda — help those who need no help while depriving the government of resources that could help create well-paying jobs and bolster people's incomes. Such trickle-down economics encourages business policies that make the work force less secure."

Washington Post.

"Children Continue To Be Traumatized By Shootings. When Will America Act?" In an editorial encouraging the passage of common-sense gun-control legislation, the [Washington Post](#) (6/12) tells the story of an elementary school shooting in South Carolina last September that received limited national media coverage in "a sad sign of how accustomed the country has become to these shootings, especially when 'only' one child dies." In addition to the tragic death of a six-year-old boy, the Post says the incident left surviving students with "scars and struggles." The Post concludes by encouraging grassroots efforts to combat the gun lobby "because far too many children already have died — or been traumatized — by gun violence."

"Radical Centrism Dominates In France." The [Washington Post](#) (6/12) editorializes that in no other Western nation has the rise of populism "been more sweeping than" in France. "The most remarkable fact about" French President Emmanuel Macron's politics is his call for so-called "radical centrism," which the Post describes as "a pragmatic approach to tackling the structural problems that have held back France for decades, along with a similar commitment to unstuck the floundering European Union." If Macron succeeds in his domestic and EU reforms, his radical centrism "could revitalize European global leadership at a time when the United States under Mr. Trump looks erratic and unreliable." If German Chancellor Angela Merkel rejects Macron's "bold steps" and radical centrism fails, however, "it is likely to be supplanted by radical populism."

"The FDA Takes A Stand Against An Opioid That Fueled An Epidemic." The [Washington Post](#) (6/12) editorializes, "Opioids continue to ruin lives, and end them, in Maryland. ... Therefore it was welcome news" that the FDA "has told Endo Pharmaceuticals to remove its opioid Opana ER from the market. The agency concluded that 'the benefits of the drug may no longer outweigh the risks,' consistent with the judgment reached earlier by an FDA advisory panel." FDA Administrator Scott Gottlieb "acknowledged at his confirmation hearings in April that the FDA had been 'complicit, even if unwittingly,' in the opioid epidemic," and the Post says the "recommendation that Endo stop selling Opana ER is a sign that he intends" to change things.

Wall Street Journal.

"Cleaning Up the Superfund Mess." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/12) praises EPA Administrator Pruitt's efforts to speed up the clean up of toxic waste sites via the so-called Superfund program, which was established in 1980, rather than focusing on gestures to combat climate change. Obama-era agency staff have criticized the Administration for its planned cuts to the Superfund program, but the Journal says that even as the Obama-era EPA increased funds for the program, data on the completion of site cleanups showed a downward trend. Instead of

cash flow, the main obstacle to project completion is bureaucratic inertia and legal and political disputes regarding payment responsibilities, according to the Journal.

“Trump’s New Sugar High.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/12) condemns the results of recent negotiations with Mexico on sugar prices that the Administration has framed as a major victory. The Journal says that while both Mexican and American sugar producers will benefit, millions of consumers will be hit with artificially higher prices. If the deal reflects President Trump’s planned approach to trade policy, the Journal says consumers can expect the government to enforce cartels that protect politically powerful producers at the expense of consumers.

“South Korea’s Defense Blunder.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/12) editorial page is critical of the decision by newly-elected South Korean President Moon Jae-in to suspend the Thaad anti-missile system, and calls on him to reinstate it before he meets President Trump in Washington later this month.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Immelt Successor To Take Broad Review Of GE’s Businesses](#)
[Trump Team Proposes Broad Rethink Of Financial Rulebook](#)
[Can A Single Injection Conquer PTSD? The Army Wants To Find Out](#)
[The Snowballing Power Of The VIX, Wall Street’s Fear Index](#)

New York Times:

[Across Russia, Protesters Heed Navalny’s Anti-Kremlin Rallying Cry](#)
[Friend Says Trump Is Considering Firing Mueller As Special Counsel](#)
[Trump’s Cabinet, With A Prod, Extols The “Blessing” Of Serving Him](#)
[“No Such Thing As Justice” In Fight Over Chemical Pollution In China](#)
[A Stagnant General Electric Will Replace CEO Jeff Immelt](#)
[Why ‘Julius Caesar’ Speaks To Politics Today](#)

Washington Post:

[Senate Hearing Poses Test For Embattled Sessions](#)
[Protests Erupt Across Russia](#)
[Uber, Once Cruising, In Corporate Crisis Mode](#)
[State-Level AGs Step Up The Fight Against Trump](#)
[No Room For Dessert? Try No Room For Diners.](#)

Financial Times:

[Russian Opposition Leader Navalny Detained](#)
[Immelt To Step Down As GE Chief In Shake-Up](#)
[US Tech Stocks Extend Losses Despite Late Recovery](#)
[No Time To Waste In Brexit Talks, Barnier Warns UK](#)

Washington Times:

[Bears Ears Recommended For Land Cuts As Trump Starts Rollbacks Of Obama’s Designated Monuments](#)
[Court Finds No Proven Terrorist Link To 6 Countries, Uses Trump’s Words Against Him On Travel Ban](#)
[Persistent Putin Foe Alexei Navalny Is Arrested After Whipping Up Nationwide Protests On Russia Day](#)
[Last Stand For Islamic State Likely To Be Miles Away From Raqqa](#)
[Virginia Republicans See Governor’s Race As Last Chance To Keep Their State Purple](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: Russia Meddling Investigation-Sessions; Russia Meddling Investigation-WH; Bill Cosby Trial; Penn State Frat Death Trial; Severe Weather; Australia-Midair Emergency; Afghanistan-US Soldiers Murdered; Trump-Foreign Payments Lawsuit; Russia-Anti Putin Protest; Immigration Order-Legal Challenge; Oklahoma-Jail Escape Manhunt; Ohio-Family Murder; Georgia-Highway Crash; Uber Shake Up; Orlando Nightclub Shooting-Anniversary; Broadway Tony Award.

CBS: Bill Cosby Trial; Russia Meddling Investigation-Sessions; Trump-Foreign Payments Lawsuit; Trump-Business Ties; Immigration Order-Legal Challenge; Russia-Anti Putin Protest; Orlando Nightclub Shooting-Anniversary; Obesity Crisis; New York Theater-Trump; Montana-Reporter Attack Sentence; Weather; Afghanistan-US Soldiers Murdered.

NBC: Bill Cosby Trial; Russia Meddling Investigation-Sessions; Trump-Foreign Payments Lawsuit; Immigration Order-Legal Challenge; Russia-Anti Putin Protest; Penn State Frat Death Trial; Montana-Reporter Attack Sentence; Weather; Orlando Nightclub Shooting-Anniversary; Arthritis Treatment; Obesity Crisis; WH-Family Move In; Jimmy Carter-Public Appearance.

Network TV At A Glance:

Trump-Foreign Payments Lawsuit – 9 minutes, 30 seconds
Russia Meddling Investigation-Sessions – 7 minutes, 55 seconds
Bill Cosby Trial – 7 minutes, 10 seconds
Russia-Anti Putin Protest – 4 minutes, 35 seconds
Obesity Crisis – 2 minutes, 45 seconds
Weather – 1 minutes, 35 seconds
Afghanistan-US Soldiers Murdered – 1 minutes, 30 seconds
Immigration Order-Legal Challenge – 55 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Trump-Special Counsel; Trump-Foreign Payments Lawsuit; Bill Cosby Trial; Arkansas-Police Shot; Wall Street News.

CBS: Russia Meddling Investigation-Sessions; Russia Meddling Investigation-WH; Trump-Special Counsel; Bill Cosby Trial; NBA Finals; Obesity Crisis; Wall Street News.

FOX: NBA Finals; Arkansas-Police Shot; Immigration Order-Legal Challenge; Pentagon-Defense Budget.

NPR: Immigration Order-Legal Challenge; Trump-Foreign Payments Lawsuit; Arizona fires; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Has lunch with members of Congress; makes a statement on healthcare; tours Waukesha County Technical College; leads a workforce development roundtable discussion; gives remarks at a Friends of Governor Scott Walker reception.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Delivers remarks regarding health care; joins the President for lunch with members of Congress.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Defense Secretary Mattis testifies to Senate Armed Services Committee on budget posture – Hearing on 'Department of Defense Budget Posture', with testimony from Secretary of Defense James Mattis; and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford, Jr. Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Environment and Public Works Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Kristine Svinicki (reappointment), Annie Caputo, and David Wright to be Nuclear Regulatory Commission members; and Susan Bodine to be Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Location: Rm 406, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee hearing on the cost of prescription drugs – Hearing on 'The Cost of Prescription Drugs: How the Drug Delivery System Affects What Patients Pay', with testimony from Avalere Health President Dan Mendelson; Pew Charitable Trusts Senior Director of Health Programs Allan Coukell; Manhattan Institute Director of Health Policy Dr Paul Howard; and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine Professor Gerard Anderson Location: Rm 430, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Hearing on 'Review of the FY 2018 State Department Budget Request', with testimony from Secretary of State Rex Tillerson Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM CANCELED: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources 'Hearing to examine the federal and state permitting processes' Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.energy.senate.gov

10:00 AM Hearing on 'President's FY 18 Budget and Revenue Proposals', with testimony from Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin Location: Rm 608, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://budget.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateBudget>

10:00 AM Deputy AG Rosenstein testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on DoJ FY'18 budget – Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on 'Review of the FY2018 Budget Request for the U.S. Department of Justice', with testimony from Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein * Deputy AG Rosenstein replaces Attorney General Jeff Sessions at the hearing, with the latter appearing instead in front of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Location: Rm 192, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

10:00 AM Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee Executive Session – Executive Session, with agenda including nominations of Kevin Allen Hassett to be Council of Economic Advisers Chairman; and Pamela Hughes Patenaude to be Deputy Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

10:30 AM Agriculture Secretary Perdue testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on FY'18 budget – Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing 'To Review the FY2018 USDA Budget Request', with testimony from Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue; and U.S. Department of Agriculture Chief Economist Dr Robert Johansson, and Budget Officer Michael Young Location: Rm 124, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

12:00 PM 'Fighting for a High Wage America: Reinvesting in Innovation and the Industrial Heartland' The Century Foundation event – 'Fighting for a High Wage America: Reinvesting in Innovation and the Industrial Heartland' event sponsored by The Century Foundation, with speakers Democrats Sen. Bob Casey and Reps. Tim Ryan (invited) and Marcy Kaptur, University of California-Davis Professor of Sociology Fred Block, Heartland Capital Strategies Managing Director Tom Croft, The Washington Post journalist Amy Goldstein, Jobs to Move America Executive Director Madeline Janis, and TCF Senior Fellow Andrew Stettner and Bernard L. Schwartz Rediscovering Government Initiative Director Jeff Madrick Location: SVC 209-208, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.tcf.org <https://twitter.com/tcfdotorg>

2:30 PM Transportation Secretary Chao testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on FY'18 budget – Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on 'Review of the FY2018 Budget Request for the U.S. Dept. of Transportation', with testimony from Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao Location: Rm 138, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

2:30 PM Senate Indian Affairs Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, to consider 'S. 772, a bill to amend the PROTECT Act to make Indian tribes eligible for AMBER Alert grants' and 'S. 825, a bill to provide for the conveyance of certain property to the Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium located in Sitka, Alaska, and for other purposes' Location: Rm 628, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://indian.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/IndianCommittee>

2:30 PM AG Sessions testifies to Senate Intelligence Committee to respond to fired FBI Director James Comey – Senate Select Committee on Intelligence hearing with testimony from Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who addresses matters raised by former FBI Director James Comey's testimony at a hearing on 'Russian Federation Efforts to Interfere in the 2016 U.S. Elections' last week * Comey – who was controversially fired by President Donald Trump last month – told the committee that President Trump was lying when he said that FBI agents had lost faith in him, repeated his claims that President Trump had said he hoped then-Director Comey could end his investigation into former National Security Advisor Mike Flynn, and detailed President Trump's requests for loyalty and his noncommittal responses Location: Rm 216, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

2:30 PM Senate Armed Services subcommittee hearing on U.S. Navy and Marine Corps aviation programs – Seapower Subcommittee hearing on 'Navy and Marine Corps Aviation Programs', with testimony from U.S. Marine Corps Deputy Commandant for Aviation Lt. Gen. Jon Davis; Naval Air Systems Commander Vice Adm. Paul Grosklags; and Department of the Navy Director of Air Warfare (OPNAV N98) Rear Adm. DeWolfe Miller III Location: Rm 222, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee hearing on 'state-sponsored cyberspace threats' – East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Subcommittee hearing on 'State-Sponsored Cyberspace Threats: Recent Incidents and U.S. Policy Response', with testimony from

Foundation for Defense of Democracies Senior Advisor Dr Samantha Ravich; and Harvard University Belfer Center For Science And International Affairs Co-Director Eric Rosenbach Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Secretary of State Tillerson testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on FY'18 budget – State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee hearing 'To Review the FY2018 Budget for the U.S. Department of State', with testimony from Secretary of State Rex Tillerson Location: Rm 192, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

2:30 PM Senate Indian Affairs Committee legislative hearing – Legislative hearing on 'S. 1250, A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to improve the recruitment and retention of employees in the Indian Health Service, restore accountability in the Indian Health Service, improve health services, and for other purposes', 'S. 1275, A bill to improve the housing conditions and promote useful land uses within tribal communities, and for other purposes', and 'S. XXXX, HUD/VA Veterans Affairs Supporting Housing, and for other purposes' Location: Rm 628, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://indian.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/IndianCommittee>

Annual Hawaii on the Hill event, partly organized by Democratic Sen. Mazie Hirono Location: Washington, DC <http://www.hirono.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/maziehirono>

US House: 10:00 AM House Republican Conference post-conference media availability with House Speaker Paul Ryan and other GOP leaders Location: RNC Lobby, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.GOP.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseGOP>

10:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on ICE and CBP budget – Homeland Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Immigration and Customs Enforcement & Customs and Border Protection FY18 Budget Request', with testimony from ICE Acting Director Thomas Homan; CBP Deputy Executive Assistant Commissioner John Wagner; and U.S. Border Patrol Acting Chief Carla Provost Location: Rm 2008, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Agriculture subcommittee hearing on 'small watershed infrastructure' – Conservation and Forestry Subcommittee hearing on 'Small Watershed Infrastructure: Continuing the Mission, Building upon Success' Location: Rm 1300, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://agriculture.house.gov/>

10:00 AM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on SCOTUS 'TC Heartland v. Kraft Foods Group Brands' decision – Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining the Supreme Court's TC Heartland Decision', with testimony from Culver Franchising System Vice President and General Counsel Steven Anderson; Santa Clara University School of Law Professor Colleen Chien; George Mason University Antonin Scalia Law School Professor Adam Mossoff; and Kellogg, Hansen, Todd, Figel & Frederick's John Thorne * U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 'TC Heartland v. Kraft Foods Group Brands' last month that Title 28 Section 1400(b) of the United States Code is the sole and exclusive provision governing venue in patent infringement actions Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM Communications and Technology Subcommittee hearing on 'Promoting Security in Wireless Technology' Location: Rm 2322, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on the U.S.-Saudi relationship – Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee hearing on 'Challenges and Opportunities for the U.S.-Saudi Relationship', with testimony from University of Pennsylvania Joseph H. Lauder Institute of Management and International Studies Senior Global Fellow (and former U.S. Ambassador to Saudi Arabia) Joseph Westphal; Middle East Institute Director for Gulf Affairs (and former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs) Gerald Feierstein; Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs Senior Fellow Karen Elliott House; and former Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor Tom Malinowski * Saudi Arabia was among countries that cut ties with Qatar last week, having accused it of destabilizing the region by supporting Islamist groups, including ending traffic to the country and expelling diplomats. President Donald Trump subsequently sent tweets appearing to take credit for the blockade, although there are 10,000 U.S. troops based in Qatar Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

10:30 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on the Internet of Things – Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee hearing on 'Disrupter Series: Update on IOT Opportunities and Challenges' Location: Rm 2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

11:00 AM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/ <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

12:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including ‘H.R. 2581 – Verify First Act’ and ‘S. 1094 – Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017’ Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

12:00 PM ‘Fighting for a High Wage America: Reinvesting in Innovation and the Industrial Heartland’ The Century Foundation event – ‘Fighting for a High Wage America: Reinvesting in Innovation and the Industrial Heartland’ event sponsored by The Century Foundation, with speakers Democrats Sen. Bob Casey and Reps. Tim Ryan (invited) and Marcy Kaptur, University of California-Davis Professor of Sociology Fred Block, Heartland Capital Strategies Managing Director Tom Croft, The Washington Post journalist Amy Goldstein, Jobs to Move America Executive Director Madeline Janis, and TCF Senior Fellow Andrew Stettner and Bernard L. Schwartz Rediscovering Government Initiative Director Jeff Madrick Location: SVC 209-208, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.tcf.org <https://twitter.com/tcfdotorg>

1:30 PM House Armed Services Committee staff brief on NDAA markups – House Armed Services Committee majority and minority communications offices host off-the-record session for credentialed media to discuss logistics for the FY18 NDAA markups, covering both subcommittee and full committee markups, release of legislation, and distribution of other materials Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

2:00 PM Deputy AG Rosenstein testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on budget – Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee ‘Department of Justice Budget Hearing’, with testimony from Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein * Deputy AG Rosenstein replaces Attorney General Jeff Sessions at the hearing, with the latter appearing instead in front of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Location: Rm 2359, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

2:00 PM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on ‘lawsuit abuse and the Telephone Consumer Protection Act’ – Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law Subcommittee hearing on ‘Lawsuit Abuse and the Telephone Consumer Protection Act’ Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

2:00 PM House Oversight subcommittees joint hearing on the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act – Government Operations Subcommittee and Information Technology Subcommittee joint hearing on ‘The Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA) Scorecard 4.0’ Location: Rm 2154, Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

3:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on ‘H.R. 1215 – Protecting Access to Care Act of 2017’ Location: H-313, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

5:00 PM House Republicans to Hold Press Conference on VA Accountability – (Time approx) Republican Members of the U.S. House of Representatives will hold a press conference on the Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act – bipartisan reforms that allow the Secretary to dismiss “poorly-performing employees and those who engage in misconduct while ensuring appropriate due process protections for whistleblowers”. Participants include: Carl Blake, Paralyzed Veterans of America; Dan Caldwell, Concerned Veterans for America; House Republican Leadership; House Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Phil Roe (R-TN); Republican Members of the U.S. House of Representatives; American Legion, Fleet Reserve Association, Military Order of the Purple Heart, the United States Army Warrant Officers Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA), and other Veterans Service Organizations. Location: Rayburn Room, the Capitol

Other: 3:30 AM International Summit on Borders – 2017 International Summit on Borders. Day one speakers include Secretary of Education John Kelly, on ‘Global Border Issues: How Cooperation Can and Is Enhancing Security and Facilitation’, along with Customs and Border Protection Acting Commissioner Kevin McAleenan, former CBO Commissioner Gil Kerlikowske, Singaporean Immigration & Checkpoints Authority Commissioner Clarence Yeo, and Australian Deputy Secretary of Immigration and Border Protection for Intelligence and Capability Maria Fernandez Location: The Army And Navy Club, 901 17th Street Northwest, Washington, DC <http://www.internationalsummitonborders.com>

7:45 AM Prudential Bank Regulation Conference – Prudential Bank Regulation Conference, co-hosted by SIFMA and The Clearing House, featuring Republican Sen. Mike Crapo as keynote speaker Location: Covington, One City Center, Washington, DC <http://www.sifma.org/> <https://twitter.com/SIFMA>

7:45 AM The Hill Events discussion on the impacts of outcomes-based care – The Hill Events hosts 'Prioritizing Patients: A Discussion on Outcomes-Based Care' discussion, with headline speakers Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy and Democratic Rep. Doris Matsui, and panelists Johnson & Johnson Global Health Policy Vice President Liz Fowler, GuideWell and Florida Blue CEO Patrick Geraghty, The University of Virginia Medical Center CEO Pamela Sutton-Wallace, and National Multiple Sclerosis Society President and CEO Cynthia Zagieboylo Location: Second Floor Conference Center, 1777 F St., Washington, DC thehill.com <https://twitter.com/TheHillEvents> #ValueforPatients

9:00 AM Dem Rep. Adam Smith speaks on Russia at AEI – 'Countering Putin's Russia' American Enterprise Institute discussion on the 'dangers posed by Putin's Russia and what the U.S. and its allies, partners, and others can do to deter and counter Moscow'. Speakers include Democratic Rep. Adam Smith Location: AEI, 1789 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.aei.org/> <https://twitter.com/AEI>

10:00 AM Dem Reps. DeLauro, Jayapal, Lee, and Yarmuth speak on 'the Trump and Congressional GOP Budgets' – Democratic Reps. Rosa DeLauro, Pramila Jayapal, Barbara Lee, and John Yarmuth speak on 'The Human Consequences of the Trump and Congressional GOP Budgets' at Center for American Progress Action Fund, discussing the proposed cuts, what's at stake for everyday Americans, and how to 'champion an agenda that works for everybody instead of just the 1%'. CAP Action Fund Poverty to Prosperity Program Managing Director Rebecca Vallas delivers opening remarks Location: CAP Action Fund, 1333 H St NW, Washington, DC www.americanprogressaction.org <https://twitter.com/CAPaction>

11:00 AM USGLC State Leaders Summit – U.S. Global Leadership Coalition State Leaders Summit. Speakers include Democrats Sens. Tim Kaine and Amy Klobuchar and Reps. Pramila Jayapal and Derek Kilmer, Republican Reps. Tom Emmer, Adam Kinzinger, and Ted Yoho, U.S. Trade and Development Agency Acting Director Enoch Ebong, MCC Acting CEO Jonathan Nash, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and U.S. Special Representative for Global Health Diplomacy Amb. Deborah Birx, former Secretary of the Treasury Jack Lew, USAID Administrator's Assistant Beth Dunford, former U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Ryan Crocker, former U.S. Ambassador to NATO Nick Burns, former U.S. Army Chief of Staff Raymond Odierno, ABC News Chief Global Affairs Correspondent Martha Raddatz, 'PBS NewsHour's' Judy Woodruff, The Washington Post Associate Editor David Ignatius, and The Atlantic Washington Editor at Large Steve Clemons Location: Marriott Marquis Washington, DC, 901 Massachusetts Avenue Northwest, Washington, DC summit.usglc.org <https://twitter.com/usglc>

4:30 PM DE Gov. Carney speaks at U.S. Service Academy Reception – Delaware Governor John Carney delivers remarks at the U.S. Service Academy Reception, with attendees including Democratic Sens. Tom Carper and Chris Coons, and Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester Location: Rm 202-203, U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Washington, DC www.delaware.gov https://twitter.com/delaware_gov

5:00 PM American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Allies in Action Awards – American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Allies in Action Awards, honoring Members of Congress, federal agencies, mental health organizations, and state representatives who have done 'exemplary work in preventing this leading cause of death'. Awardees are Democratic Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, Harvard School of Public Health Injury Control Research Center Means Matter Campaign Director Catherine Barber, Sen. Chris Murphy's Senior Policy Advisor Joe Dunn, Sen. Bill Cassidy's Senior Public Health Advisor Brenda Destro, Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson Senior Legislative Assistant Carrie Palmer Swope, Missouri State Sen. Jill Schupp, Alaska State Sen. Lyman Hoffman, and Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services Suicide Prevention Coordinator Karl Rosston Location: Washington Court Hotel, 525 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.afsp.org/>

6:00 PM CASA Annual Justice Awards Night – CASA Annual Justice Awards Night, recognizing 'the achievements and struggles of community members as well as elected officials who have stood up for the rights of people in their communities'. Honorees include Democratic Rep. Elijah Cummings, Center for Community Change President Deepak Bhargava, immigrant Liliana Cruz Mendez, the Flower Branch Tenants Association, and the Iron Workers International Union. Includes keynote from former Rep. Donna Edwards Location: North Hall at Eastern Market, 225 Seventh St. SE, Washington, DC <http://wearecasa.org/> https://twitter.com/Somos_CASA

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Stephen Colbert: "I'm going to guess things are really going poorly inside the White House right now because today [President Trump] had his first full cabinet meeting. They usually have them earlier than this, but it was hard to schedule around all their meetings with the Russian ambassador. But they got that ironed out."

Stephen Colbert: "Trump says Comey's a coward. 'You want to attack somebody? Do it like a man, tweet it from the toilet.'"

James Corden: "It looks like President Donald Trump may be canceling a planned visit to the UK due to his lack of support there. He says he doesn't want to go somewhere where he is extremely unpopular. You know, like 48 out of the 50 states in America."

James Corden: "In other Trump news, First Lady Melania Trump was officially moved into the White House after five months living apart from her husband. Rumors say Melania was unhappy about moving into the White House but felt more reassured when Trump told her, 'Don't worry, I'm usually at Mar-a-Lago.'"

Trevor Noah: "Trump's presidency is basically like global warming. Every week is the worst week on record, and Republicans are trying to hard to deny it."

Trevor Noah: "Donald Trump gets away with saying things no other human being can say. 'I didn't say that, but if I did, it would be fine.' Can you imagine if Bill Clinton pulled that? 'I didn't have sexual relations with that woman, but if I did, hot damn. Hot damn, if I did, but I didn't.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that over the weekend, Melania Trump finally moved into the White House. This is a bad sign: She only brought a week's worth of clothes."

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that yesterday, Puerto Rico voted to become America's 51st state. That's when you know things can't be in good Puerto Rico, when they see what's going on here and they're like, 'We're going to take our chances.'"

Seth Meyers: "First Lady Melania Trump and son, Barron, officially moved into the White House yesterday. Unfortunately, during the move, someone left the gate open and Sean Spicer ran away."

Seth Meyers: "According to a new poll, Americans find former FBI Director James Comey more trustworthy than President Trump. Also, more Americans prefer Pepsi to the bottle marked 'rat poison.'"

Seth Meyers: "President Trump on Friday accused former FBI Director James Comey of lying under oath during his testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee, as opposed to Eric Trump, who only lies under children's beds at night."

Conan O'Brien: "President Trump held a cabinet meeting today in which each cabinet member took turns praising the President. After hearing this, Kim Jong-Un said, 'Man, even I'm not that insecure.'"

Conan O'Brien: "It's been reported that President Trump is so worried about protests that he is postponing his upcoming trip to England. Trump is also worried he doesn't have time to learn the language. That's something he's working on."

Conan O'Brien: "First Lady Melania Trump has officially, as of today, moved into the White House. In a related story, Donald Trump just moved from the Lincoln bedroom to the Lincoln couch."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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DOI In The News

Paving The Path To U.S. Energy Dominance.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Times](#) (6/26, Perry, Zinke, Pruitt), Rick Perry, secretary of the Energy Department, Ryan Zinke, secretary of the Interior Department, and Scott Pruitt, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, write that "this week, the Trump administration is hosting 'Energy Week' to discuss with state, tribal, business and labor leaders how we can pave the path forward toward U.S. energy dominance." According to the officials, "Trump wants America to utilize our abundant domestic energy resources and technological innovations for good, both at home and abroad." They argue that "an energy-dominant America means a self-reliant and secure nation, free from the geopolitical turmoil of other nations that seek to use energy as an economic weapon."

Trump Administration Marks 'Energy Week'. [The Hill](#) (6/26, Cama) reports "this week" has been designated by the Trump Administration as "Energy Week" in an effort "to promote the president's energy agenda." President Trump and members of his Administration at events throughout the week "will push their quest for 'energy dominance,' a term officials are using for their goal to become the world's energy superpower." On Monday, a White House spokeswoman said, "President Trump is committed to utilizing our abundant domestic energy resources both to create jobs and a growing, prosperous economy at home and to strengthen America's global influence and leadership abroad." An event on Thursday will "feature Trump, Energy Secretary Rick Perry, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt in an 'American Energy Dominance Panel,' followed by a speech by Trump on 'energy dominance.'" The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/26, Siciliano) reports that according to the spokeswoman "the week will be marked by a number of announcements...noting events and speeches by Trump and his Cabinet leading up to the July 4 holiday." Trump on Wednesday will "host governors and tribal leaders for a discussion about local and state energy, she said."

[The Hill](#) (6/26, Cama, Henry) also reports, "Energy Week is one of numerous designations that the White House has made in recent weeks to try to focus on particular pieces of Trump's agenda, such as infrastructure and technology." During those weeks, "other policy news dominated national headlines, including healthcare reform and the investigations into Russian involvement in last year's election." The "Energy 202" blog of the [Washington Post](#), (6/26, Grandoni) the "Morning Energy" blog of [Politico](#) (6/26, Wolff) and the [AP](#) (6/26) also provides coverage. also previewed the week.

For A Guy Who Doesn't 'Pick Winners,' Ryan Zinke Sure Loves Fossil Fuels. The [Huffington Post](#) (6/26, D'angelo) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has "repeatedly stressed that when it comes to powering America, President Donald Trump's administration doesn't play favorites." But "Zinke's schedule and social media presence since assuming his new post hardly

suggest he's giving everyone a fair shake." According to the article, "he's met privately with a slew of oil and gas executives, as well as spoken at industry conferences and a trade group's board meeting." On Twitter, Zinke has "posted often about fossil fuels."

Feds To Pay Local Governments \$465 Million For 2017 Land Use.

The [AP](#) (6/26) reports that the Interior Department will "pay nearly \$465 million this year to local governments primarily in rural areas that have come to rely on the funds because they cannot levy taxes on federal lands." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced the figure in Nevada on Monday. The article notes that "the \$13 million increase this year is slightly less than the average annual growth of \$22 million over the last decade."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Daily Mail](#) (6/26), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/26), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/26), and the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/26, Press).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/26, Carlton), the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (6/27, Drake) and the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (6/26).

The U.S. Interior Department Has Granted Alaska Permission To Survey Wilderness Within A National Wildlife Refuge For A Possible Road.

The [AP](#) (6/26, Joling) reports that Alaska Gov. Bill Walker "announced Monday that the Interior Department has granted Alaska permission to survey wilderness within Izembek National Wildlife Refuge for a possible road between two rural communities, King Cove and Cold Bay." Walker said in the announcement, "For far too long, King Cove residents suffering from medical emergencies have had to brave harsh elements just to get health care. They travel by boat or helicopter – often in inclement weather – to access the Cold Bay airport in order to be medevaced out. Our fellow Alaskans deserve better than that." However "environmental groups say the rural community has other, better alternatives, such as boats, and for decades have fought an intrusion into the refuge." Nicole Whittington-Evans of The Wilderness Society said, "Under previous administrations, the Interior Department has twice conducted exhaustive, science-based studies of the proposed road and determined it to not be in the public interest."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/26, Joling), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/26, Joling), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (6/26, Joling), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (6/26, Joling), the [Daily Mail](#) (6/26), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/26, Dan Joling |, Ap), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/26, Joling).

Additional coverage was provided by [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (6/26, Grove) and [KYUR-TV Anchorage \(AK\)](#) Anchorage, AK (6/26).

Interior Secretary Zinke Says He'll Tour Nevada National Monuments In July.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (6/26, Brean) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "didn't stop at any national monuments during his first official visit to Nevada, but he promised to return for a tour of Gold Butte and Basin and Range before the end of July." During an event in Pahrump on Monday, Zinke "said he wants to see the two Nevada monuments from the ground and talk to stakeholders before he decides whether the designations should be reduced or rescinded." Zinke "said he doesn't have any 'preconceived ideas' about Gold Butte or Basin and Range, though he indicated that his recent recommendations on Bears Ears National Monument in Utah provide a blueprint for what might happen here."

Additional coverage was provided by [KTVN-TV](#) Reno, NV (6/25, Jay).

Zinke Announces Initiative To Combat Invasive Species.

[KTVH-TV](#) Helena, MT (6/26, Garrison) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "announced Monday an initiative to protect area from threats posed by invasive mussels." Praising "the initiative, which is collaboration with western governors and federal, state and Tribal agencies," Zinke said, "Stopping the spread of invasive mussels and increasing our Federal-State-Tribal coordination are both critical priorities in order to ensure that we maintain hydropower as a clean, reliable, cost-effective source of energy for the West and protect our outdoor tourism economies. Protecting our waterways and ecosystems is not a partisan issue and I'm glad to work with governors as the states, tribes and federal government combat the spread of invasive species. By working as an integrated team to prevent, contain and control invasive mussels, Americans will be able to experience the full benefits of hydropower and enjoy their rivers, lakes and streams for recreation for years to come."

Western Governor's Association Meets In Whitefish.

[KPAX-TV](#) Missoula, MT (6/26, Miller) reports, "Governors from across the Western United States are gathering in Northwest Montana for a few days of discussion ranging from trade to infrastructure and natural resource development." Over the next couple of days, Gov. Steve Bullock will be hosting a series of roundtables including one with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "in the wake of President Donald Trump's proposed drastic budget-cuts to the Department of the Interior."

Additional coverage was provided by [KPAX-TV](#) Missoula, MT (6/26) and [KMMS-AM](#) Bozeman, MT (6/26, Brascia).

Trump's Review Of Marine Monuments And Sanctuaries Is Now Open For Your Comments.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/26, Fears) reports that the Trump Administration's "effort to weaken environmental protections continued Monday as the Commerce Department solicited public comment for a review that could lead to the reduction in size of 11 marine sanctuaries and monuments." Commerce "quietly published" a notice in the Federal Register as part of President Trump's America-First Offshore Energy Strategy, an executive order signed in April. Comments must be submitted by July 26. The Post notes that four of the monuments and sanctuaries were "designated or expanded" during the Bush Administration, while the rest were protected by the Obama Administration.

Additional coverage of the review of national monuments was provided by [Courthouse News](#) (6/26, Reynolds), the [Vallejo \(CA\) Times Herald](#) (6/26, Raskin-Zrihen), and [KTNV-TV Las Vegas \(NV\)](#) Las Vegas (6/26).

Commentary on the review appears in the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (6/26, Datko, Epstein, Fugere) and the [Aspen \(CO\) Daily News](#) (6/26, Wade).

Trump Administration May Struggle To Fulfill Requirement For Agencies To Update Strategic Vision.

[Greenwire](#) (6/26) reports the lack of appointees throughout the Trump Administration will risk violating a 2011 law requiring agencies to update long-term strategies by early next year. Currently, the EPA's 2014-18 strategic plan still says, "Climate change poses risks to human health, the environment, cultural resources, the economy and quality of life," while the Energy Department touts "international efforts to achieve significant global greenhouse gas emission reductions." The 2011 Government Performance and Results Modernization Act is designed to ensure that long term strategic visions are more stable through election cycles. However, with Trump's lack of administrative staff, agencies may have a hard time complying with the seven specific practices for effective strategic reviews laid out by the Government Accountability Office.

Obscure 2011 Law Creates Hurdle For Undermanned Trump Team.

[E&E Publishing](#) (6/26, Reilly) reports that lack of appointees throughout the Trump Administration will risk violating a 2011 law requiring agencies to update long-term strategies by early next year. The 2011 Government Performance and Results Modernization Act is designed to ensure that long term strategic visions are more stable through election cycles. However, with Trump's lack of administrative staff, agencies may have a hard time complying with the seven specific practices for effective strategic reviews laid out by the Government Accountability Office.

Week Ahead: EPA Chief Faces More Questions Over Trump Budget.

[The Hill](#) (6/26, Cama) reports that the House Natural Resources Committee's subpanel on oversight will "meet Wednesday to discuss the impacts of 'excessive' litigation against the Interior Department." On Thursday, "the energy and mineral resources subcommittee will hold a hearing on access to oil and natural gas development on federal lands."

Grand Canyon Is Our Home.

Uranium Mining Has No Place Here. In an op-ed for [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (6/26, Tilousi), Carletta Tilousi, a member of the Havasupai tribal council, writes that their "lives and water are being threatened by international uranium mining companies because the US government and its 1872 mining law permit uranium mining on federal lands that surround the Grand Canyon." She writes that "the Havasupai people and citizens throughout the region have been gathering at Red Butte over the past two days to conduct prayer ceremonies and workshops, and to gain support and bring awareness to the poisonous legacy of uranium all around the Grand Canyon." Tilousi calls for support "to put an end to mining uranium in our home, which has always been the Grand Canyon."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Arapaho Suffer Setback In Ruling That Says Feds Can Put Conditions On Tribal Funding Deals.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (6/26, Rosenfeld) reports that "the federal government may jointly administer some services to the two tribes sharing Wyoming's Wind River Reservation, a U.S. District Court judge ruled last week." The holding "gives legal force to a long-running but disputed practice and could set a crucial precedent for the government's obligations to the Northern Arapaho and Eastern Shoshone tribes, two distinct governments given jurisdiction over the same reservation." Judge Brian Morris held that the Bureau of Indian Affairs "may take practical impact and financial cost into account when deciding whether to allow each tribe to operate federally funded services independently."

BIA Looking To Replace Four Bridges.

The [Parker \(AZ\) Pioneer](#) (6/26, Gutekunst) reports that the Bureau of Indian Affairs is "looking a replacing four bridges on the Colorado River Indian Reservation." A public meeting on the proposal was held June 22 at the BIA Colorado River Agency office near Parker. According to the article, "two engineering firms working on the project discussed the scope of the project and the environmental impact assessment."

Bureau Of Land Management

Oil Company Cited For Improper Drilling In Colorado.

The [AP](#) (6/26) reports that on Sunday, Bureau of Land Management officials ordered SG Interests to halt drilling and clean up spilled foam chemicals, hitting the company with three federal "non-compliance" notices for improper drilling. BLM spokesman Steven Hall said that SG Interests' permit required the company to capture all waste. Hall added that less than 2,100 gallons of waste spilled, but none spread beyond the immediate drilling area.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Glenwood Springs \(CO\) Post Independent](#) (6/26, Finley).

Study: Wyoming Deer Avoid Oil And Gas Wells.

The [AP](#) (6/26) reports a new study found that mule deer in southwest Wyoming are not adapting to oil and gas wells on their winter range and that there is a 36 percent decline in deer populations exposed to energy development. The study, which took 17 years, found that deer perceive energy infrastructure as risky, so they keep their distance, subsequently reducing their habitat. Hall Sawyer, a researcher on the project, said, "Twenty years ago we didn't really have a good idea of what was going to happen, if deer would avoid these areas or it would change anything or not. ... As development progressed, it became clear quickly that deer avoided well pads. It also became clear that mule deer numbers began to drop off."

Oil And Gas Lease Sale In Wyoming Nets \$2.6 Million.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (6/26, Richards) reports that bidders in a "relatively small auction Thursday paid a total of \$2.6 million for Wyoming land, with about half of the proceeds going to the federal government." The Bureau of Land Management "offered 26 parcels in five southern counties, or about 32,000 acres."

Drones Cause Problems For Arizona Wildfire Crews.

The [AP](#) (6/26) reports that "civilian drones are forcing firefighters to ground their aircraft, slowing their ability to fight Arizona wildfires." According to the article, "another unauthorized drone was spotted Sunday, temporarily halting aerial efforts to put out a fire northwest of Flagstaff." Public Information Officer with the Bureau of Land Management Dennis Godfrey "says it's the second drone that has been observed at the fire."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Week Ahead: Alaska Senator Has Dual Clout On Environment, Energy.

[Bloomberg BNA](#) (6/26, McCutcheon) reports that the Senate Appropriations' Energy and Water Development Subcommittee will "hold a Wednesday hearing to discuss the budget requests for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Interior Department's Bureau of Reclamation." The White House budget proposal "calls for a 16 percent cut in corps funding and a 13 percent reduction for Reclamation."

Additional coverage was provided by [E&E Publishing](#) (6/26).

State Sides With Helena Hemp Farmer Who Was Denied Federal Water.

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (6/26, Neuman) reports that the Montana Department of Agriculture on Monday "refuted a federal decision to deny irrigation water to a Helena Valley hemp farmer, department officials said." Kim Phillips, "the hemp farmer, is in full compliance with state and federal regulations on industrial hemp, and is not in violation of the Controlled Substances Act of 1970, according to Cort Jensen, attorney for the state agriculture department." Phillips was "denied access to water by the Helena Valley Irrigation District and Bureau of Reclamation on Thursday because her hemp seedlings are allegedly ineligible for federally controlled water."

Our View: Mead's Bathtub Ring, Not Projections, Should Guide River Plans.

The [Havasup \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (6/26) editorializes that the Bureau of Reclamation "recently released new river water projections" for the Colorado River. The paper argues that "more concrete than any projections is the so-called bathtub ring around Lake Mead that shows a water level about thirty feet lower than it used to be." It says that "the calcium ring should guide public policy and household policy as much as bureau projections."

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Much Of The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Has Disappeared Because Of Bacteria.

[CNBC](#) (6/26, Ferris) reports researchers are saying that a naturally occurring underwater bacteria has significantly contributed to the decline in the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. A new paper found that the chemical dispersants broke up the oil into small droplets, making them unable to float to the surface. The microbes were then able to attack a larger surface area of oil, making it easier to degrade the portions of pollution that did float to the surface or spread out on the ocean floor.

Fish And Wildlife Service

Federal Agencies Greenlight Proposed Delta Tunnel Project.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/26, Boxall) reports that "federal fishery agencies Monday pushed forward a controversial water project that would change the way Northern California supplies are sent to the Southland." The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (6/26, Lochhead) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service "determined that the tunnel project, officially known as California Water Fix, would harm several endangered fish in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, but that an extra 1,800 acres of habitat restoration, on top of the 30,000 acres the project calls for, would offset the damage."

The [AP](#) (6/26, Knickmeyer, Smith) reports that "Monday's decision moves Brown's project ahead to a decision by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation." David Murillo, the bureau's regional director, "indicated to reporters Monday that decision was months or more away." The article says that "among the issues Murillo said had yet to be resolved: concerns voiced earlier this month from a large group of Northern and Central California water agencies that wouldn't get water from the tunnels and don't want any part of the project."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [ABC News](#) (6/26, Knickmeyer, Smith), [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (6/26, Knickmeyer, Smith), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/26, Knickmeyer, Smith), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (6/26, Knickmeyer, Smith), [CNBC](#) (6/26), [CBS News](#) (6/26), the [Annapolis \(MD\) Capital Gazette](#) (6/26, Knickmeyer, Smith), the [Provo \(UT\) Daily Herald](#) (6/26, Knickmeyer, Smith), and [KQVR-TV Sacramento \(CA\)](#) Sacramento, CA (6/26).

Senators Introduce Legislation To Fix Coastal Barrier Resources Map.

The [Sussex \(DE\) Countian](#) (6/26) reports that Sens. Tom Carper and Chris Coons "introduced legislation to adjust the boundary of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act map unit for North Bethany Beach." The legislation would "implement a recommendation made by the U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service after its discovery during the recent digital mapping pilot project that a portion of the North Bethany Beach unit, which encompasses the South Shore Marina development, was included by mistake when the map was created in 1990.”

Partnership To Preserve Portion Of US Military Supply Route.

The [AP](#) (6/26) reports that “a remnant of U.S. military supply route linking Ohio and Michigan during the War of 1812 will be preserved under a new public-private partnership.” The cooperative management agreement “involves silica and sand company U.S. Silica, the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.”

Conservation Group, Interns And Others Join To Protect Water From Invasive Species In Westfield.

[WWLP-TV](#) Springfield, MA (6/26, Desrochers) reports that “a group from Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge, including several student interns, worked together to try and protect some of the city’s natural water habitat.” Interns from the Student Conservation Association, “who were guided by the Silvio O. Conte National Fish and Wildlife Refuge—a part of the US Fish and Wildlife Service—and the Westfield Conservation Commission, worked to clear Brickyard Ponds off Root Road of water chestnut.” According to the article, “the plant is an invasive species and conservation groups have been working to rid bodies of water of the plant before it ruins their ecosystems.”

Trump Unleashes Triple Whammy On Montana.

In his column for the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (6/26, Ochenski), George Ochenski criticizes the decision to remove Yellowstone area grizzlies from the endangered species list. Ochenski argues that “global warming is wiping out whitebark pines – and the nutritious seeds the bears rely on – which will lead to grizzlies changing to a more meat-based diet.” And “that, in turn, will likely lead to more human and livestock conflicts that will result in more dead grizzly bears.”

National Park Service

Park Service Behaved Appropriately Regarding Trump Crowd Reports, Watchdog Finds.

[Politico](#) (6/26, Nussbaum) reported, “The feud between the National Park Service and the Trump White House appeared to ease on Monday after a watchdog found that NPS officials did not alter inauguration crowd size estimates and that public affairs officials did not leak information about a phone call between President Donald Trump and the agency’s acting director.” The “report from the Department of the Interior Inspector General released on Monday found that NPS employees did not alter crowd size records and the NPS public affairs officials did not leak information to the press about the phone call. The report does not make clear who requested the investigation, which was initiated in February.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (6/26, Shelbourne), [Roll Call](#), and [BuzzFeed](#) (6/26, Koerner).

Fire May Be The Only Remedy For A Plague Killing Deer And Elk.

The [New York Times](#) (6/26, Zimmer) reports that researchers on “developing plans to burn plots of National Park Service land in Arkansas and Colorado.” They are hoping to “spare some elk and deer a gruesome death” from chronic wasting disease. The researchers will test their hypothesis “by seeing if the prevalence of chronic wasting disease drops after they set their fires.”

Historic Grand Canyon Cemetery Closing To New Burials.

The [AP](#) (6/27) reports that National Park Service officials “say a historic cemetery at the Grand Canyon is closed to new burials because of a lack of space.” The park service says the Grand Canyon Pioneer Cemetery is “an important part of the national park’s history and will be protected and preserved.”

Remember The Removal Ride Wins \$25K Grant.

The [Talequah \(OK\) Daily Press](#) (6/24) reports that “the 2017 Remember the Removal Bike Ride on the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail is among 21 national parks selected to receive a 2017 Active Trails grant from the National Park Foundation.” The \$25,000 grant will “help cover costs of the tribe’s annual bicycle ride, which includes 13 Cherokee Nation cyclists riding 1,000 miles

across seven states, retracing the northern route of the Trail of Tears that their ancestors were forced to make on foot more than 175 years ago."

Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument HQ Is Vandalized.

The [AP](#) (6/26) reports that National Park Service officials "say several juveniles vandalized the Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument headquarters in Mountainair." According to officials, "the youths damaged the statue of Saint Francis de Assisi, threw vegetation into the fountain along with cigarette butts and trash, pulled lights and branches off trees and broke pieces from artwork that adorns a sitting area." They "say the vandalism cost the park and taxpayers about \$2,000."

National Park Investigating Vandalism In Great Smoky Mountains.

[WATE-TV](#) Knoxville, TN (6/26) reports that the National Park Service is investigating vandalism in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Over the weekend, the park "said photos were taken along the Gatlinburg Trail that shows a man carving bark off of a tree."

Office Of Insular Affairs

A Remote Pacific Island Faces Up To China.

The [Diplomat](#) (6/26, Morris) reports that "in the traditional societies of Micronesia, customs hold strong," but it is a challenge for a "tiny" Pacific island like Yap "to retain its traditional culture and make its way peacefully in the world." With "new challenges on the horizon," many "fear the new, uncertain world to come in the next decade." The article notes that "in 2023, the substantial subsidies under FSM's Compact of Free Association with the United States comes to an end and if new assistance is not negotiated FSM will lose about half of its GDP overnight." Meanwhile, "the rise of China, just four hours' flight to the north, is beginning to draw attention."

NOAA Program Seeks 7 Fellows.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (6/27, Bautista) reports that the National Coral Reef Management Fellowship Program is "seeking seven men and women to complete a two-year fellowship program that seeks to build new leaders and capacity for effective coral reef management." Nova Southeastern University will "oversee the fellowship program, which is a partnership between NSU, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Coral Reef Conservation Program, the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, and the U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee."

Top National News

Media Analyses: High Court Hands Trump "Partial" Win On Travel Ban.

Media analyses, including stories on all three major network newscasts, generally cast yesterday's Supreme Court ruling as a win for the Administration. Reports, however, dispute the President's characterization of the ruling as "a clear win for our national security," and tend to describe his legal victory as nuanced or "partial." Meanwhile, a small subset of stories – generally stemming from progressive outlets – dismissed the notion that the court's decision was in any way a victory for Trump. At any rate, the [AP](#) (6/26, Sherman) reports, following the court ruling "State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said the ban would be implemented starting...Thursday morning."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/26, Dinan) notes that DHS "said it will soon provide more details about how it will carry out the new ruling," telling reporters yesterday that it would do so "after consultation with the Departments of Justice and State." Another [Washington Times](#) (6/26, Noble) story quotes Attorney General Sessions praising the court's "unanimous decision to revive the president's travel ban, saying it's an 'important step towards restoring the separation of powers between the branches of the federal government.'" Sessions also said, "The court's decision recognizes that the executive has the responsibility to protect the safety and security of the American people under the Constitution of the United States and its laws."

[USA Today](#) (6/26, Jackson) reports that the President called the decision "a clear victory for our national security," and cautions that "while the Trump administration said initially that the measure would only [be] temporary, Trump did not address that in his victory statement." Said

Trump, "As President, I cannot allow people into our country who want to do us harm. ... I want people who can love the United States and all of its citizens, and who will be hardworking and productive." [Townhall](#) (6/26, Roussele) described Trump as "quite pleased." The President later took to [Twitter](#), where he wrote, "Great day for America's future Security and Safety, courtesy of the US Supreme Court. I will keep fighting for the American people, & WIN!"

[Reuters](#) (6/26, Hurley, Chung) reports the court "handed a victory to...Trump by reviving parts of his travel ban...and agreeing to decide its legality later this year." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/26, story 2, 3:20, Llamas) referred to "one of the biggest victories for...Trump's young presidency," and the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/26, lead story, 2:40, Crawford) reported that "the justices handed the President his first victory in the legal appeals over his travel ban." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/26, Savage) said the court "handed...Trump a victory," [The Hill](#) (6/26, Wheeler) that it was "a win" for the White House, and the [New York Daily News](#) (6/26, Brennan) that the ruling "will affect tens of thousands of potential travelers to the US." [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/26, story 3, 2:35, Holt), [USA Today](#) (6/26, Wolf, Gomez), [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/26, Kendall) and [Politico](#) (6/26, Gerstein), among other news outlets, referred to a "partial" victory for Trump, and [The Atlantic](#) (6/26, Epps) to a "very partial victory." Jake Novak, in a column for [CNBC](#) (6/26), warns his readers, "Don't let the qualified headlines or lead paragraphs in most of the news media fool you. Monday's decision...is a very significant victory" for the President.

Doug McKelway said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/26) that the Supreme Court delivered a "stinging blow" to lower courts and "handed the Trump Administration a big victory." Jessica Schneider reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/26) that while the lower courts "wrote extensively about" Trump's tweets and statements on his executive order, the Supreme Court did not weigh in on them. Schneider added, "We'll see if that's something they factor in when they hear the arguments this fall."

On that topic, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/26) runs an editorial titled "A Unanimous Rebuke To Judges On The Travel Ban," which casts the decision as the start of a major rebuke of ideologically motivated courts rulings. To the Journal, the legal merits of the case are crystal clear in the Administration's favor, and adverse rulings were fueled merely by political reasons. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/26), meanwhile, headlines its editorial "Trump's Travel Ban Is Back, But It's Still As Bad A Policy As Ever," and goes on to call the ruling "disappointing."

[Slate](#) (6/26, Lithwick, Stern), on the other hand, termed the ruling "confusing and ambiguous," and added that "the only thing that's clear about" it "is that there is nothing clear about it." Along those lines, [USA Today](#) (6/26) writes in an editorial that "Americans hoping for some guidance from the high court on whether Trump's action was in reality a Muslim ban, something he promised voters he would deliver once elected, were left scratching their heads." [Mother Jones](#) (6/26, Levy) said "the Supreme Court may have found a way to appease both sides without handing a full victory to either," and the [Huffington Post](#) (6/26, Rotner) that "there is no clear winner or loser in" the decision. Sen. Richard Blumenthal concurred on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/26), saying, "I think there is less victory than meets the eye," because the "travel ban" remains "blocked for every one of the individuals who went to court to block it, and every other individual who has...a bona fide relationship with a person or an entity" in the US.

In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/26) writes that Trump "was predictably quick to sound off in triumph," but "in reality, 'victory' for anyone in this case is far from clear." The [Washington Post](#) (6/26) similarly editorializes that "predictably, Mr. Trump hailed the court's interim decision as a famous victory; it isn't." Adds the Post, "Until the court issues a final ruling, later this year or next, the very constitutionality of the administration's action remains in doubt."

Brit Hume said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/26) that the justices "are going to hear the case in full in the fall, so it's conceivable that the ruling could go a different way from the way it was pointed today, but unlikely. In order to lift most of the restrictions, lift the injunction, to basically reinstate most of the travel ban, the Court had to find that the Administration was likely to prevail on the merits when the case is fully argued. That means the Administration starts out with a leg up in the fall and the Court is likely to go in that direction." [CNN](#) (6/26, Cillizza), meanwhile, said "some legal observers suggested that the Court's initial ruling on the ban suggests that the nine justices will likely uphold the full ban come the fall," but "predicting what the Court will do is rarely a good gamble."

Trump attorney Jay Sekulow said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (6/26) that the Court said "that the executive order as written was not, as the lower courts have said, unconstitutional. They did not find religious animus or religious ... They put in place a stay on the lower court injunctions that were issued. Basically 95 percent of the executive order was upheld...as constitutional. I suspect...when the entire case is argued, fully briefed, argued on the merits, it will be a 100

percent victory for the President."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/26, Barnes) reports "the action means that the administration may impose a 90-day ban on travelers from Libya, Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen and a 120-day ban on all refugees entering the United States, with the exceptions noted by the court." The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (6/26, Egelko) indicates that "the main subject of uncertainty was a statement by six of the nine justices that said, while Trump's executive order is in effect, officials can exclude residents of the targeted nations or refugees who lack 'a bona fide relationship with a person or entity in the United States.'" The Chronicle adds that "some advocates for immigrants and refugees said virtually all would-be entrants have established relationships with family members or organizations in the US and would be exempt from the ban." [Wired](#) (6/26, Lapowsky) similarly reported that "the travel ban is back on in theory, but in practice it will block only a small sliver of the people who seek to come to the US." Likewise, a [Washington Post](#) (6/26, Zapotosky) analysis says the ruling is "a win for the administration, but the impact will be far less severe than...Trump's initial version of the measure."

The [National Review](#) (6/26, French) disagreed, reporting that "the lower courts' injunctions remain only in the narrowest of categories," and that "the court's guidelines were strict" on what constitutes a "bona fide relationship," stating that "for individuals" it would be "a close familial relationship," and "for entities, the relationship must be formal, documented, and formed in the ordinary course."

The [New York Times](#) (6/26, Liptak) notes, however, that "Justice Clarence Thomas, joined by Justices Samuel A. Alito Jr. and Neil M. Gorsuch, dissented from" that "part of the court's opinion," saying "they would have revived the travel ban in its entirety while the court considered the case." Wrote Thomas, "I fear that the court's remedy will prove unworkable. ... Today's compromise will burden executive officials with the task of deciding – on peril of contempt – whether individuals from the six affected nations who wish to enter the United States have a sufficient connection to a person or entity in this country."

[USA Today](#) (6/26, Gomez) reports that in effect, "the ruling means officials at the Department of Homeland Security and State will have to begin sorting through each application submitted by travelers from the six targeted countries to determine if they have enough of a link to the US to enter." Along those lines, [Bloomberg News](#) (6/26, Larson, Mehrotra) quotes Cornell University Law School professor Stephen Yale-Loehr as saying, "I predict chaos at the border and new lawsuits as foreign nationals and refugees argue that they are entitled to enter the United States." According to [Reuters](#) (6/26, Chung, Torbati), Jeffrey Gorsky, "a former legal adviser to the State Department's Visa Office," warned "there's no precedent for something like this that I'm aware of," and the [Seattle Times](#) (6/26, Bush) notes that Jorge Barón, the executive director of the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, said "it's going to be a little messy for the next few months."

Jonah Goldberg of National Review said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/26), "This was politically a win and a vindication for...Trump and the travel ban. It was also a win for the plain letter of the law. Part of the reason why this was such a clear win for the White House is that the White House was just on the right side of a constitutional legal argument."

Gloria Borger said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/26), "I think it's significant for the President because he can claim a victory, a partial victory. I mean, what the Supreme Court said is they are going to consider this in the next term. But for now, the President does have a partial victory because certain people will be prohibited from coming into this country unless they have a specific reason or a person they want to visit, et cetera, et cetera."

Jeffrey Toobin said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (6/26), "I was a little surprised, because the Court obviously did a little more than just decide to review the case. They modified the stay that had been in effect, in, I think, a rather clever way." Toobin added that "it is certainly a better result for the Trump Administration than it's had from any of the court of appeals so far, so certainly this is a better day for the Trump Administration in the Supreme Court than they've had."

But Neal Katyal, who represented Hawaii in its challenge of the travel ban, said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/26), "I was really surprised to hear...Trump declare a unanimous victory today, because in reality, he lost 6-3. The Supreme Court let stand the District Court's injunction blocking major sections of both his travel ban and his refugee ban."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/26, Svrluga) reports Mary Sue Coleman, the president of the Association of American Universities, said in a statement Monday afternoon, "While we are still reviewing the Court's decision, the Court has rightly recognized that students, faculty, and lecturers from the designated countries have a bona fide relationship with an American entity and should not be barred from entering the United States." She added, "This should make clear to the

world that the United States continues to welcome the most talented individuals from all countries to study, teach, and carry out research and scholarship at our universities." [Scientific American](#) (6/26, Reardon) headlines its report "Scientists In Limbo As US Supreme Court Allows Modified Travel Ban," and says "universities have played a key role in fighting both versions of the travel ban."

Jim Acosta reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/26) that one of the "ramifications" of Trump not taking questions about the court's ruling today in the Rose Garden during a joint appearance with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is that "we did not get a chance to ask" Modi "what he thinks about this travel ban. After all, there are more than 100 million Muslims living in India."

Cardin, Pelosi: Ban "A Recruitment Tool" For Terrorists. Sen. Ben Cardin said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/26) that by singling out "Muslim states, I think it's a recruitment tool for extremists." When asked if the Administration should "carve out an exception for Syrian refugees who are still under siege," Cardin replied, "Absolutely. The United States should continue to be a world leader in dealing with the refugee crisis." Doug McKelway said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/26) that House Minority Leader Pelosi said the "blatant discrimination of the Muslim and refugee bans is unjust and dangerous, handing terrorists a powerful recruiting tool."

Rep. Eric Swalwell said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (6/26), "I disagree respectfully with the ruling. I still believe it is a Muslim ban, and I look forward to it getting a full hearing in front of the full court in the fall, and hopefully a resolution very soon." Swalwell added, "Let me just say [the ban] makes us less safe and it makes it less us. Less safe because countries who we need cooperation from to fight terrorism are going to be affected. It perpetuates the myth that the United States is not welcoming to Muslims, and less us just because we're a country that opens arms to refugees, and we're turning away from that if we continue to allow a policy like this to go forward."

WPost Analyses: Statute Behind Trump's Order Meant To Exclude "Jews And Communists." Under the headline "Trump's Travel Ban Is Built On A Law Meant To 'Protect' The US From Jews And Communists," the [Washington Post](#) (6/22, Friman) reports "Trump's order claims authority from the 1952 Immigration and Nationality Act's (INA) Section 212 (f), which says the president can temporarily suspend alien entry." The Post adds that "the original intent behind the statute was to give the president broad discretion over alien entry, including targeted discrimination," and that its sponsors had "particular concerns about the threats posed by Jews and communists." In fact, "President Harry S. Truman reluctantly signed the refugee legislation, observing that it 'discriminates in callous fashion against displaced persons of the Jewish faith.'"

Trump Warns Assad He Would Pay "Heavy Price" For Another Chemical Attack.

The [New York Times](#) (6/26, Shear, Cooper, Schmitt) reports the White House issued a statement late Monday saying Syrian President Bashar al-Assad appears to be preparing another chemical weapons attack, and warned that he would "pay a heavy price" if one took place. In the statement, President Trump indicated that Assad's preparations "appeared similar to the ones that Western intelligence officials believe were made by the Syrian government before chemical attacks in April that killed dozens of Syrians, including children." [Bloomberg News](#) (6/26, Olorunnipa) quotes the statement as adding, "If, however, Mr. Assad conducts another mass murder attack using chemical weapons, he and his military will pay a heavy price."

The [AP](#) (6/26, Colvin) reports the White House "issued a stern warning" to Assad in "an ominous statement issued with no supporting evidence or further explanation," and the [Washington Times](#) (6/26, Muñoz) says White House officials "declined to provide specifics on the intelligence...nor what a US response would entail." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/26, Schwartz) notes that since the US strike in April, Administration officials have signaled that the US would be willing to take more military action in response to further chemical-weapons use.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/26, Phillip, Lamothe) reports that following the White House statement, Ambassador Haley "said Assad and its allies would be squarely blamed if such an attack occurred." [Reuters](#) (6/26) reports Haley said on [Twitter](#): "Any further attacks done to the people of Syria will be blamed on Assad, but also on Russia and Iran who support him killing his own people." The [New York Post](#) (6/26, Tacopino) and [Politico](#) (6/26, Morin) report similarly on the White House statement.

Trump: Obama "Did Nothing About Russia," Collusion And Obstruction Did Not Happen.

In [four tweets](#) posted between 8:37 a.m. and 9:05 a.m. on Monday, President Trump wrote, "The reason that President Obama did NOTHING about Russia after being notified by the CIA of

meddling is that he expected Clinton would win and did not want to 'rock the boat.' He didn't 'choke,' he colluded or obstructed, and it did the Dems and Crooked Hillary no good. The real story is that President Obama did NOTHING after being informed in August about Russian meddling. With 4 months looking at Russia under a magnifying glass, they have zero 'tapes' of T people colluding. There is no collusion & no obstruction. I should be given apology!" The tweets were covered by both ABC and NBC as well as several national newspapers. Most focus on Trump's assertion that his predecessor was at fault, but the [Washington Times](#) (6/26, Boyer) says Trump seemed to concede that Russia did aid in his campaign, while the [New York Times](#) (6/26, Qiu) says Trump's tweets contradict his own past statements.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/26, story 3, 2:10, Llamas) reported, "President Trump going on the offense about Russia's meddling in the election, turning against his predecessor – blaming President Obama, saying he did nothing about it, accusing Obama of collusion and obstruction for political reasons." ABC's Jonathan Karl: "In a barrage of tweets beginning this weekend, the President hit his predecessor over Russia's meddling in the election." [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/26, story 4, 1:55, Holt) reported that the President "raised eyebrows by leveling explosive new allegations against his predecessor. While Mr. Trump acknowledged Russia's meddling in the US election, he placed blame on Mr. Obama, accusing him of purposefully doing nothing about it." NBC's Kristen Welker: "President Trump unleashing a new tactic on the Russia controversy, pointing the finger at President Obama." Trump: "If he had the information, why didn't he do something about it?" Welker: "While never formally acknowledging that Russia meddled in the race, now the President can't stop talking about it." [Fox News Special Report](#) (6/26) reported that Trump "for the fifth day in a row...blasted his predecessor."

[Reuters](#) (6/26) reports that the President "stepped up his criticism" of Obama's handling of the alleged Russian interference, "accusing his predecessor of collusion and demanding an apology from investigators." [USA Today](#) (6/26, Jackson) reports that in his tweets, "Trump criticized Obama for allegedly doing 'nothing' to stop the Russians from hacking Democrats close to candidate Hillary Clinton, while also defending himself against allegations that Trump campaign associates had links with Russia."

The [New York Times](#) (6/26, Thrush) reports that Trump, "who has taken to referring to himself as 'T' on Twitter, demanded on Monday that his critics give him 'an apology' for any suggestion that 'T people' have colluded with Russia or obstructed justice." However, the [Washington Times](#) (6/26, Boyer) reports that Trump "appeared to concede...hat Russia tried to help him win the 2016 election." [Politico](#) (6/26, Nelson) also covers Trump's tweets.

Trump attorney Jay Sekulow said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (6/26), "We now know that the Obama Administration had the intelligence and the information regarding Russia's engagement in hacking other activities in the previous election. They knew it over a year ago. They had the information. They took no action of significance on the information because of the election, convinced that Hillary Clinton was going to win. Instead, Donald Trump becomes the President of the United States."

Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA), asked on [CNN's The Lead](#) (6/26) about Trump's claim that the Obama Administration did not respond to Russian meddling because of expectations that Clinton would win, said, "At least President Obama tried to do something, and we have a president right now who is either being deceitful or in denial about what Russia did."

In a fact check piece headlined "By Criticizing Obama, Trump Contradicts His Own Comments On Russian Meddling," the [New York Times](#) (6/26, Qiu) writes that Trump "has accused his predecessor of 'doing nothing' in response to Russia's interference in the 2016 election – a misleading statement that contradicts his previous comments." Trump "has consistently refused to acknowledge Russia's involvement, and his assertions about Mr. Obama and his own ignorance are highly misleading." Comments made since last summer indicate that both Trump and Obama "were aware of the malfeasance."

However, Richard Cohen writes in his [Washington Post](#) (6/26) column that for a "rare moment, the president was absolutely right. The Obama administration's response to Russian meddling was ineffective and oddly torpid. It was also secretive." But even though "some of the tougher penalties Obama ordered up but never used are on Trump's desk," Trump "continued to dismiss the unanimous finding of the entire US intelligence community that Russia meddled in the election."

Three Journalists Leave CNN Over Retracted Scaramucci Report. The [New York Times](#) (6/26, Grynbaum) reports, "Three prominent journalists at CNN resigned on Monday after the cable news network was forced to retract and apologize for a story on its website involving a close ally of President Trump." The article linked "Trump confidant" Anthony Scaramucci, a hedge fund

manager, “to a Russian investment fund supposedly being investigated by the Senate.” CNN pulled the story from its website “after the network decided it could not fully stand by its reporting.” [Politico](#) (6/26, Gold) reports that “Pulitzer-prize nominee Thomas Frank, assistant managing editor Eric Lichtblau (who recently joined from the New York Times) and Lex Haris, the executive editor in charge of investigations, are all out.”

[Breitbart](#) (6/26, Boyle) quotes CNN's Brian Stelter as reporting that “an internal investigation by CNN management found that some standard editorial processes were not followed when the article was published,” according to those briefed on the results of the investigation. [CNN Money](#) (6/26, Stelter) reports, “This breakdown in editorial workflow disturbed the CNN executives who learned about it.” In a Monday staff meeting, “investigative unit members were told that the retraction did not mean the facts of the story were necessarily wrong. Rather, it meant that ‘the story wasn’t solid enough to publish as-is,’ one of the people briefed on the investigation said.”

Donald Trump Jr. told [Breitbart](#) (6/26, Boyle) on Monday, “The hypocrisy at CNN is astounding. Facing the biggest fake news scandal in the network’s history after an embarrassing retraction, nobody from the network is answering questions – even to their own reporters – and they have the audacity to demand on-camera press briefings from the White House to boost their ratings and make their personalities famous? Maybe Jeff Zucker should do an on-camera press briefing about CNN’s fake news scandal before the White House does any more of them.”

However, the [Washington Examiner](#) (6/26, Adams) reports, “The wronged party in this case responded well to the retraction. ‘[CNN] did the right thing. Classy move,’ Scaramucci said Saturday on social media. ‘Apology accepted. Everyone makes mistakes. Moving on.’” [USA Today](#) (6/27, James) says that “Scaramucci seemed appeased, and lauded CNN’s retraction.” The [AP](#) (6/26, Bauder) and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/26, Battaglio) also report on the resignations.

FBI Questioned Page Five Times In March. The [Washington Post](#) (6/26, Barrett) reports, “FBI agents have repeatedly questioned former Trump campaign adviser Carter Page about his contacts with Russians and his interactions with the Trump campaign, according to people familiar with the investigation.” Page “repeatedly denied wrongdoing” during five March meetings that totaled “about 10 hours of questioning,” according to “a person familiar with Page’s account.” Page “confirmed Monday that the interviews occurred, calling them ‘extensive discussions.’” He did not say if he has spoken to investigators since that time.

[Politico](#) (6/26, Wright) reports that Page said Monday, “During my extensive discussions with the FBI agents just weeks before [then-Director James] Comey’s departure, they acknowledged that I’m a loyal American veteran but indicated that their ‘management’ was concerned that I did not believe the conclusions of the fake January 6 intelligence report. ... Our frank and open conversations gave me confidence that there are still logical, honest individuals at the Bureau who respect civil rights and the Constitution, despite the recent devastating impact on our democracy by self-centered politicians at the top of the Clinton-Obama-Comey regime.”

Kushner Adds Lowell To Legal Team. [Politico](#) (6/26, Dawsey) reports that Jared Kushner “has hired Abbe Lowell, one of the country’s leading criminal defense lawyers, to represent him in the special counsel’s probe,” but will also “keep Jamie Gorelick, his current lawyer and a WilmerHale partner, on his legal team.” The [New York Times](#) (6/26, Apuzzo) reports that Lowell’s clients have included Jack Abramoff and John Edward, and he is currently defending Sen. Robert Menendez against federal corruption charges.

Photo Shows McCaskill Attended Reception At Kislyak’s Home. On its website, [CNN](#) (6/26, Raju) reported that in a tweet earlier this year, Sen. Claire McCaskill – “one of the most vulnerable Democrats up for reelection” in 2018 – “said she never once met with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak in her 10 years serving on the Senate Armed Services Committee.” But not long “after that tweet, it was revealed she did interact with the Russian ambassador.” CNN has learned that McCaskill attended “a black-tie reception at the ambassador’s Washington residence in November 2015” honoring a former Missouri congressman.

Kislyak Recalled To Russia. In its report on Trump’s criticism of Obama, [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/26, story 4, 1:55, Holt) briefly reported that Kislyak is “returning to Russia. US officials say it’s a long-planned move that now predates his highly scrutinized conversations with Trump aides.”

Media Analyses: CBO Score Hurts Senate Healthcare Bill’s Chances For Passage.

The CBO’s analysis of the Senate Republican healthcare bill, which was released late Monday afternoon, receives heavy media coverage, including more than 10 minutes of combined reporting on the three network news broadcasts – two of which led with the story. Generally,

coverage casts the Senate bill in a negative light, focusing primarily on the agency's finding that it would leave 22 million people without coverage by 2026 and increase costs for millions of poor and sick people. Almost universally, reports say that with five Republicans already opposing the bill, the CBO report will make efforts by Senate Majority Leader McConnell to muster the 50 votes he needs to proceed even more difficult.

[The Hill](#) (6/26, Fabian) reports that the White House released a statement Monday evening in which it "slammed" the CBO, saying, "The CBO has consistently proven it cannot accurately predict how healthcare legislation will impact insurance coverage. ... This history of inaccuracy, as demonstrated by its flawed report on coverage, premiums, and predicted deficit arising out of Obamacare, reminds us that its analysis must not be trusted blindly." The Hill casts the statement as an effort to question the CBO's credibility "in order to stanch the political fallout from the score." [USA Today](#) (6/26, Collins) says the RNC also "attempted to counter-program minutes after the score was released with an email that said 'CBO's Long History Of Being Way Off.'" The email listed "a series of times that the CBO had not accurately modeled, including an incorrect estimate of the number of people that would enroll in the Obamacare exchanges."

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (6/26, Meyer) reports that the CBO estimated that the bill would "reduce the deficit by \$321 billion from 2017 to 2026." During that period, the CBO "also projects that spending will be reduced by \$1 trillion and government revenues will be reduced by \$701 billion."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/26, Howell) describes the CBO score as "only slightly less daunting" than its analysis of the House bill, adding that it "could spook centrists Republicans who aren't sure if they can back the draft plan" released last week. [Politico](#) (6/26, Cancryn) also says the estimates "may alarm Republican moderates," and adds that with Democrats "solidly lined up against the repeal bill, Republican leaders can only afford to lose support from two of their members." Similarly, [Reuters](#) (6/26, Abutaleb) reports that the CBO "assessment...will likely make it more difficult for the already-fraught legislation to win support for speedy passage," and the [AP](#) (6/26, Fram) says the estimates "pose yet another problem for" McConnell, who, as of Friday afternoon, "was facing public statements of opposition from five GOP senators – three more defections than he can afford and still win approval for the legislation over united Democratic opposition."

[The Hill](#) (6/26, Sullivan) calls the analysis "a hurdle for Republicans," while [Roll Call](#) (6/26) says it "will exacerbate McConnell's hurdles in gaining unity among his fractured GOP conference." However, Roll Call adds that "\$202 billion in savings above the House plan could give McConnell and other supporters substantial flexibility to make deals and win the support of more moderate members of the conference," although those lawmakers "might insist on updated CBO scoring before voting for the motion to proceed."

[McClatchy](#) (6/26, Pugh, Clark) calls the CBO numbers "disappointing" and says that with their release, "the road to passage for the Senate Republican health care bill got a little steeper." On a more positive note, McClatchy adds that "the CBO's finding that the nation's individual insurance markets would remain largely stable under the bill could help shore up support for the legislation." The [New York Post](#) (6/26, Morrongiello, Fredericks) and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/26, A1, Armour, Peterson, Radnofsky) also report on the CBO analysis.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/26, Levey) says the CBO report, which "outlines how the GOP plan would cause a widespread erosion in basic health protections," increases "the political challenge for Senate Republican leaders, who are scrambling to lock down votes" this week before Congress' July 4 recess. The Times adds that a "key moment" could occur Wednesday "with a procedural vote allowing the Senate to begin debate on the bill." It is unclear if McConnell has the 50 votes he needs to win that vote, and [Bloomberg News](#) (6/26, Tracer, Edney, Dennis) reports that McConnell's efforts to secure them "may be complicated not only by the CBO's projection that millions of people will lose insurance, but also by estimates that many Americans will face out-of-pocket costs and insurance premiums far higher than they are now." Bloomberg adds that after the CBO score was released, there were "signs of GOP discontent...from both the conservative and moderate side of the party."

Tom Llamas said in the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/26, lead story, 3:05) that the Senate bill "fac[es] an uphill climb." Mary Bruce added that while Republicans "can afford to lose just two votes," five GOP senators have said "they cannot support their own party's bill. Five more have voiced serious concerns." To [Politico](#) (6/26, Everett, Haberkorn), the bill is "on track to blow up before it even gets started." Even "overcoming the procedural hurdle is becoming a massive headache for Republicans leaders, and the Senate GOP seems more divided than ever after release of the Congressional Budget Office's analysis."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/26, A1, Goldstein) says the report "seemed to worsen the bill's

prospects" as "no new senators immediately" said they would support it, and the [Washington Examiner](#) (6/26, King) says GOP leaders do not have the votes to move the bill as Sens. Rand Paul, Susan Collins, and Dean Heller "announced they would not support a procedural motion to advance" it. Collins, according to the [Washington Times](#) (6/26, Howell) announced that she will vote against the procedural motion in a trio of tweets ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#)) Monday. Her opposition, the Times adds, "could stall the repeal effort." Dana Bash said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/26) that she asked Sen. Ron Johnson "if and when the Senate Republican leadership moved to this bill this week, if he, too, would vote against a motion to proceed and he said he would also vote against it."

However, chief congressional correspondent Nancy Cordes reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/26, story 2, 2:20, Mason) Sen. James Inhofe "predicts GOP hold-outs will come around." Inhofe: "The choice, is you want to go back home and say, well, I supported Obamacare over the Republican plan? And I don't think they do." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/26) editorial addresses the Republican holdouts, arguing that this may be the best opportunity to improve the country's healthcare system and they will be held accountable if it fails.

Meanwhile, [Politico](#) (6/26, Cheney, Schor) reports that Heller's "harsh critique" of the Senate bill has caused a divide among Democrats "between those who want to unseat him and those who prefer to lock in his 'no' vote." Heller on Friday "issued a stinging analysis" of the bill and indicated he may vote against it only to receive "vicious reviews from Democrats who sense a chance to defeat him in 2018." However, the attacks are not "sitting well with some of the party's staunchest Obamacare defenders," to whom "attacking one of the few Republicans likely to break ranks feels disturbingly off-key."

John Fund writes in a piece for [National Review](#) (6/25) that "many Republicans believe that survey data show voters will punish anyone who doesn't substantially alter Obamacare, making passage of some reform imperative." Fund adds that some polling does indicate that "a failure to vote for at least an overhaul and partial repeal of Obamacare is politically riskier than voting for it." Republicans, he adds, "find themselves in a tight corner" as they retook "control of Congress in large part due to their opposition to Obamacare," and "if a few of GOP senators block even the imperfect bill before them, the entire party will be blamed and will suffer at the polls for falsely advertising they would act on health-care reform."

However, Kasie Hunt reported in the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/26, lead story, 2:50, Holt) that for senators "deciding how to vote," the CBO analysis showed "millions more uninsured than many had hoped." CNN political director David Chalian argued on [CNN's The Lead](#) (6/26) that "the biggest problem for Republicans besides just the bad headline of 22 million fewer with insurance, is that, again, the people, according to CBO in this report, most dramatically impacted are older people, lower income, 50 to 64-year-olds with lower income. We're talking about Trump voters here. ... I think that's a political problem." In a piece posted on its "The Health 202" blog before the CBO score was released, the [Washington Post](#) (6/26, Cunningham) reported that the Senate bill may "suffer from the same crippling unpopularity as the House version," pointing out that the CBO's analysis of the House measure, which "estimated that it would leave 23 million people uninsured...fed a major backlash against that bill."

Media Analyses: CBO Numbers Feed Democrats' Claims That GOP Bill Is Cruel. The [New York Times](#) (6/26, A1, Kaplan, Pear) says the CBO findings "will give fodder to Democrats who were already assailing the bill as cruel." That was evident Monday as Sen. Ben Cardin told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/26) that "22 million people losing their coverage" is "unacceptable. You're going to be increasing dramatically the number of people who are uninsured that use the system and don't have the ability to pay for it. Secondly, there are going to be a lot of people who get caught with inadequate coverage. ... You're creating a system where a lot of people are going to be hurt." Sen. Richard Blumenthal said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/26), "The Republicans have gone from total secrecy to total chaos, and now they have no way to square reality with what their promises have been."

[Politico](#) (6/26, Kim) reports that Democrats "launched yet another night of floor speeches on Monday night castigating the GOP's plan." The "talk-a-thon" was led by Sens. Patty Murray Mazie Hirono of Hawaii and "ran several hours after the Senate's 5:30 p.m. votes." Meanwhile, on the Capitol steps, Sen. Cory Booker and Rep. John Lewis streamed "their talk blasting the GOP's efforts to dismantle the seven-year-old health care law." Booker's "vigil on the steps attracted more and more senators, including Minority Leader Chuck Schumer of New York and Dick Durbin, the No. 2 Democrat, joined in." Other Democrats "including Sens. Chris Murphy of Connecticut, Brian Schatz of Hawaii, Kirsten Gillibrand of New York, Bob Casey of Pennsylvania and Jeff Merkley of Oregon — joined in for large chunks of the impromptu demonstration that attracted

hundreds.”

A [Washington Post](#) (6/26) editorial echoes Democrats’ concerns, calling the CBO numbers “grim,” and arguing that each of the 22 million who would lose coverage “is gratuitous.” The Post also highlights what it says is the CBO’s “damning” conclusion that “none of this disruption is needed.” The ACA, the Post argues, “requires fixes, not a destabilizing ‘rescue.’” Eugene Robinson writes in his column for the [Washington Post](#) (6/26) “concerned citizens must make it known that the politics of this atrocious legislation are every bit as hazardous for the Republican Party as the underlying policies would be for the health of the nation.” While Republicans “worry about having spent seven years promising to ‘repeal and replace’ the ACA and then failing to follow through,” but “Democrats competing in the 2018 midterms will be able to turn that slogan around with a clarion call to ‘repeal and replace’ the American Health Care Act, or whatever the final legislation ends up being called.”

Meadows Sees Growing Conservative Support For Deficit-Increasing Tax Cuts.

Jonathan Swan writes in a piece for [Axios](#) (6/26) that House Freedom Caucus Chairman Rep, Mark Meadows told him there is “a growing acceptance among conservatives to expand the budget window to 20 years that would allow for more robust tax cuts.” A “non-traditional idea that’s gaining momentum in conservative circles” would “change budget rules so that tax cuts that add to the deficit can last for 20 years or longer, rather than expiring after 10 years.” This would enable Republicans “to cut taxes dramatically without worrying about raising new revenue to ‘pay for’ the cuts for at least two decades,” at which time, they believe, “the economy will be roaring from a streak of economic growth, and politicians will likely do another round of tax reform.”

WPost Analysis: Democrats “More Divided Than Ever” Over Wall Street Regulations.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/26) reports that Democrats, “who competed during the campaign to stake out the most aggressive stance toward policing” Wall Street, “now look hopelessly divided over which direction to head.” For example, when House Republicans brought their proposal for “gutting Dodd-Frank to the floor earlier this month, Democrats disarmed.” There has been “no talk at all about cranking the regulatory dial in the other direction — of tightening rules.” Instead, the Democratic position “was simply to defend the status quo.”

Poll: Voters Want US To Seek New Climate Agreement.

[The Hill](#) (6/26, Cama) reports over two thirds of voters “want the United States to work up a new international climate change pact to replace the Paris agreement.” On Monday, a new survey released by the “Harvard-Harris Poll provided to The Hill found that 72 percent of voters would prefer renegotiation over opting out of the climate pact process altogether.” Earlier this month, President Trump announced “that he would withdraw the U.S. from the 2015 pact and its nonbinding carbon dioxide emissions reductions, but he said he would be open to negotiating a new international agreement that better protects U.S. interests.” The online survey “found that 53 percent disagree with Trump’s decision to pull out of the Paris accord, while 47 percent support the president’s choice.”

Mayors Urge Federal Government To Rejoin Paris Climate Pact.

The [New York Times](#) (6/26, Alvarez) reports that during its annual meeting Monday, the United States Conference of Mayors approved resolutions to urge the federal government to rejoin the Paris climate agreement and to “redouble their own efforts to combat climate change and commit to renewable energy.” New Orleans Mayor and president of the conference, Mitch Landrieu, said, “If the federal government doesn’t act, it doesn’t mean we don’t have a national policy; the federal government doesn’t occupy the only place on this. Mayors have to respond to circumstances. We have to keep moving no matter what.” While Republican and Democratic mayors “came together to push their agendas on improving infrastructure, responding to gun violence and curbing opioid abuse,” the Times says “it was the climate change debate that provided the sharpest contrast” between the mayors’ priorities and “the skepticism of the Trump administration on the issue.”

Researchers: Carbon In Atmosphere Rising, Even As Emissions Stabilize. The [New York Times](#) (6/26, A1, Gillis) reports on its front page that climate researchers around the world are warning that carbon dioxide emissions “rose at the highest rate on record in 2015 and 2016,” and “a slightly slower but still unusual rate of increase has continued into 2017.” Scientists are concerned about the “cause of the rapid rises because,” because the “amount of carbon dioxide

that people are pumping into the air seems to have stabilized in recent years, at least judging from the data that countries compile on their own emissions." Many scientists suspect an El Niño climate pattern that spanned those two years, "one of the strongest on record, may have caused the faster-than-usual rise in carbon dioxide, by drying out large parts of the tropics." However, they are "not entirely certain."

Experts Hope US Budget Cuts To Scientific Research Don't Block Climate Data.

[Bloomberg News](#) (6/26) reports that President Trump's proposed budget cuts for federally-funded science research has spurred research institutes and universities in Europe to informally pursue policies aimed recruiting American scientists. More consequential than a potential "brain drain" would be the impact of budget cuts on US climate data, particularly that generated by NASA's Earth-science research and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration research office. Satellite data, for example, is a "key area of U.S. leadership," according to Michael Oppenheimer, professor at Princeton University.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"The Travel Ban At The Supreme Court." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/26) writes that President Trump "was predictably quick to sound off in triumph" following the Supreme Court's decision on his travel ban, but "in reality, 'victory' for anyone in this case is far from clear."

"Tweeting, Not Leading, The Response To Russian Hacking." A [New York Times](#) (6/27, Board) editorial claims President Trump "has had unfettered access to intelligence on" Russia's efforts to influence the 2016 election, but he "has been not just cautious but also remarkably indifferent to what should have been a critical nonpartisan national security concern from his first day in office." The Times warns "Russia's meddling in global democracies is a deepening threat that requires a united response," but instead of protecting "the nation against threats from foreign adversaries," Trump "tweets from the sidelines."

"A Children's Health Crisis Officials Overlook: Shootings." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/27) notes Congress enacted a budget amendment two decades ago prohibiting Federal funds to be used "to advocate or promote gun control," and cites various studies on pediatric firearm injuries and deaths that stress the impact of firearm violence on public health. "It's as if lawmakers fear that knowledge and the Second Amendment are somehow incompatible," the Times asserts, and adds that the Republican-led Congress seemingly believes "that the less we know about gun violence, the better off we will be."

Washington Post.

"Want To Know The Worst Thing About The GOP's Healthcare Bill?" A [Washington Post](#) (6/26) editorial echoes Democrats' concerns about the Senate GOP's healthcare bill, calling the CBO score of the measure "grim," and arguing that each of the 22 million who would lose coverage "is gratuitous." The Post also highlights what it says is the CBO's "damning" conclusion that "none of this disruption is needed." The ACA, the Post argues, "requires fixes, not a destabilizing 'rescue.'"

"The Supreme Court Splits The Baby On Trump's Travel Ban – For Now." The [Washington Post](#) (6/26) editorializes that "predictably, Mr. Trump hailed the court's interim decision" on his travel ban "as a famous victory; it isn't." Adds the Post, "Until the court issues a final ruling, later this year or next, the very constitutionality of the administration's action remains in doubt."

"The Seal Of Bilingualism Is A Distinction Worth Celebrating." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/26) writes that the "seal of bilingualism," which honors high school graduates who've demonstrated proficiency in English and another language, is "worth celebrating." The Post says the rest of America would "do well" to join in the movement, begun in California and now including DC and 26 states, as bilingualism and biliteracy "make individual students more competitive in the college application process and job market." Being immersed in a bilingual environment also help students become better learners and thinkers and can help shrink the achievement gap for native and non-native English speakers.

Wall Street Journal.

"The Senate's Healthcare Hour." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/26) editorial addresses the

Republican holdouts on the Senate healthcare bill, arguing that this may be the best opportunity to improve the country's healthcare system and they will be held accountable if it fails.

"A Unanimous Rebuke To Judges On The Travel Ban." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/26) editorial casts the Supreme Court's decision on President Trump's travel ban as the start of a major rebuke of ideologically motivated judges. To the Journal, the legal merits of the case are crystal clear in the Administration's favor, and adverse rulings were fueled merely by political reasons.

"Religious Liberty Lives." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/26) editorial welcomes Monday's Supreme Court ruling that the state of Missouri could not deny a playground resurfacing grant to a church as a victory for religious freedom, but warns that the Justices are likely to see new challenges in this area.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Senate Health Bill Raises Uninsured By 22 Million, The CBO Says](#)
[Anxious Investors Try To Hedge Against A Big Selloff, Even As Good Times Roll](#)
[China's All-Seeing Surveillance State Is Reading Its Citizens' Faces](#)

New York Times:

[Senate Health Bill Reels As CBO Predicts 22 Million More Uninsured](#)
[Supreme Court Takes Up Travel Ban Case, And Allows Parts To Go Ahead](#)
[Justices To Hear Case On Religious Objections To Same-Sex Marriage](#)
[Carbon In Atmosphere Is Rising, Even As Emissions Stabilize](#)
[Products At Center Of London Fire Faced Tougher Rules In US](#)

Washington Post:

[High Court Allows Limited Version Of Travel Ban](#)
[CBO: Bill Would Take 22 Million Off Rolls](#)
[Failure Rate In British Fire-safety Tests: 100% In Britain, All Edifices Tested For Fire Failed](#)
[O Say Can You Sing?](#)

Financial Times:

[Drug Price Gouger Shkreli Goes On Trial For Fraud](#)
[Berlin Leads Backlash Against Italian Bank Rescue](#)
[Activist Fund Aims To Spur Action At 'Staid' Nestlé](#)
[Supreme Court Gives Trump Partial Travel Ban Win](#)

Washington Times:

[Supreme Court Revives Trump Travel Ban: 'A Clear Victory For Our National Security,' President Says](#)
[Justice Gorsuch Immediately Asserts Himself On Right Of Supreme Court](#)
[CBO Says Senate Republican Health Care Plan Lowers Premiums But Cuts Coverage By 22 Million](#)
[Next Presidential Election, Economic Uptick Give Confidence To Brazilians After Years Of Crisis](#)
[Former Sheriff Arpaio Back In Court, This Time Accused Of Disobeying Order On Immigrants](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Healthcare Reform Bill; Immigration Order-Supreme Court Ruling; Russia Meddling Investigation; Heat Wave-Wildfires; US Destroyer Collision Investigation; Columbia-Tour Boat Sunk; AirAsia Mid-Air Scare; New Orleans-Tourist Attack; Minnesota Police Violence Trial; Six Flags Accident; Salvador Dali Remains; Teen Inventor.

CBS: Immigration Order-Supreme Court Ruling; Healthcare Reform Bill; Mosul Assault; North Carolina-Water Contamination; Meningitis Outbreak Trial; Minnesota Police Violence Trial; Heat Wave-Wildfires; Takata Airbag-Bankrupt; Madoff Ponzi Scheme; Airport Security-Lobster; Harry Potter Anniversary.

NBC: Healthcare Reform Bill; Healthcare Reform Bill-Impact; Immigration Order-Supreme Court Ruling; Russia Meddling Investigation; AirAsia Mid-Air Scare; Heat Wave-Wildfires; Columbia-Tour Boat Sunk; Health-Probiotics; Engagement Proposals.

Network TV At A Glance:

Healthcare Reform Bill – 10 minutes, 5 seconds
Immigration Order-Supreme Court Ruling – 8 minutes, 35 seconds
Heat Wave-Wildfires – 5 minutes, 45 seconds
Russia Meddling Investigation – 4 minutes, 5 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Healthcare Reform Bill; Immigration Order-Supreme Court Ruling; Salvador Dali Remains.

CBS: Syria-Chemical Attack; Immigration Order-Supreme Court Ruling; Iraqi Refugee Deportation Trial; Healthcare Reform Bill; Takata Airbag-Bankrupt.

FOX: Healthcare Reform Bill; Immigration Order-Supreme Court Ruling; Syria-Chemical Attack.

NPR: Immigration Order-Supreme Court Ruling; Syria-Chemical Attack; Healthcare Reform Bill; Meningitis Outbreak Trial.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Speaks with President Emmanuel Macron of France; speaks with Prime Minister Leo Varadkar of Ireland.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Delivers the keynote address at the US-India Business Council's 42nd Annual Leadership Summit.

US Senate: 6:30 AM Senate Armed Services subcommittee marks up National Defense Authorization Act – Emerging Threats Subcommittee closed markup hearing on 'National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018' * Conducted at the secret level Location: Rm 232A, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

7:00 AM Senate Armed Services subcommittee marks up National Defense Authorization Act – Personnel Subcommittee closed markup hearing on 'National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018' * Conducted at the secret level Location: Rm 232A, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

7:30 AM Senate Armed Services Committee marks up National Defense Authorization Act – Closed markup hearing on 'National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018' * Conducted at the secret level Location: Rm 222, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

9:30 AM EPA Administrator Pruitt testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on budget – Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing 'To review the FY2018 budget request for the Environmental Protection Agency', with testimony from EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, and Administrator's Senior Advisor Holly Greaves Location: Rm 124, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

9:30 AM Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the FISA Amendments Act – Hearing on 'The FISA Amendments Act: Reauthorizing America's Vital National Security Authority and Protecting Privacy and Civil Liberties', with testimony from Deputy Assistant Attorney General for Intelligence Stuart Evans; FBI National Security Branch Executive Assistant Director Carl Ghattas; Office of the Director of National Intelligence Acting General Counsel Bradley Brooker; National Security Agency Deputy General Counsel for Operations Paul Morris; IronNet Cybersecurity President of Business Development and Strategy Matthew Olsen; Center for a New American Security Senior Fellow Adam Klein; Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law Liberty & National Security Program Co-Director Elizabeth Goitein; and Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board Member Elisebeth Collins Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

9:30 AM Senate Commerce subcommittee hearing on marine sanctuaries – Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee hearing on 'Marine Sanctuaries: Fisheries, Access, the Environment, and Maritime Heritage', with testimony from Circle H Outfitters owner Scott Hickman; former Morro Bay Commercial Fishermen's Association President Jeremiah O'Brien; and Aleutians East Borough, AK, Natural Resources Director Ernest Weiss Location: Rm 253, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC http://commerce.senate.gov
<https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

10:00 AM Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on FY'18 SEC and CFTC budgets – Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee hearing on 'Review of the FY2018 Budget Requests for the SEC & CFTC', with testimony from Securities and Exchange Commission

Chairman Jay Clayton; and Commodity Futures Trading Commission Acting Chairman J. Christopher Giancarlo Location: Rm 138, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

10:30 AM Labor Secretary Acosta testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on FY'18 budget – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on 'Review of the FY2018 Budget Request for the U.S. Department of Labor', with testimony from Alexander Acosta Location: Rm 192, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

2:30 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

2:45 PM POSTPONED: Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee hearing on 'Developing and Deploying Advanced Clean Energy Technologies' Location: Rm 406, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

5:30 PM GOP Sen. Orrin Hatch hosts 'True Iran: The Coming Jihad' forum and documentary screening – Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch hosts 'True Iran: The Coming Jihad' forum and documentary screening, featuring a panel of Iranian Revolution founder Moshen Sazegara, covert operations operative Lt. Col. (Ret.) Bill Cowan, former National Security Council director Michael Doran, former CIA specialist Reuel Marc Gerecht, author Dr Emanuele Ottolenghi, U.S. Navy veteran Cmdr. (Ret.) Christopher Harmer, and Syria Institute Executive Director Valerie Szybala Location: South Orientation Theater, U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Washington, DC

Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of nomination of Mark Andrew Green to be USAID Administrator Location: S-216, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC
<http://foreign.senate.gov/>

US House: 9:00 AM Trans-Caspian East-West Trade and Transit Corridor Forum continues – Trans-Caspian East-West Trade and Transit Corridor Forum continues, with day two keynote from Republican Rep. Pete Sessions * Afternoon session takes place at the World Bank Main Complex Location: Rm 2203, Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC www.transcaspianforum.org
<https://twitter.com/AAChamberofcomm>

10:00 AM Markup hearing on 'H.R. 2997, 21st Century Aviation Innovation, Reform, and Reauthorization Act' Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM Hearing on 'Clearing the Next Crisis: Resilience, Recovery and Resolution of Derivative Clearinghouses' Location: Rm 1300, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://agriculture.house.gov/>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources Committee markup hearing reconvenes – Markup hearing reconvenes on legislation including 'H.R. 218, King Cove Road Land Exchange Act', 'H.R. 289, Guides and Outfitters Act', 'H.R. 597, Lytton Rancheria Homelands Act of 2017', 'H.R. 1107, Pershing County Economic Development and Conservation Act', 'H.R. 1306, Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act', 'H.R. 1399, American Soda Ash Competitiveness Act', 'H.R. 1719, John Muir National Historic Site Expansion Act', 'H.R. 1731, Revitalizing the Economy of Coal Communities by Leveraging Local Activities and Investing More Act of 2017', 'H.R. 1927, African American Civil Rights Network Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2053, Mining School Enhancement Act', 'H.R. 2156, Saint Francis Dam Disaster National Memorial Act', 'H.R. 2370, Escambia County Land Conveyance Act', 'H.R. 2425, Public Lands Telecommunications Act', 'H.R. 2936, Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2937, Community Reclamation Partnerships Act', and 'H.R. 2939, Water Rights Protection Act of 2017' * Began 22 Jun Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Financial Services subcommittee first hearing on U.S. equity market structure – Capital Markets, Securities, and Investment Subcommittee hearing on 'U.S. Equity Market Structure Part I: A Review of the Evolution of Today's Equity Market Structure and How We Got Here', with testimony from The Capital Group Senior Vice President and Global Trading Manager Matt Lyons; Themis Trading partner Joseph Saluzzi; Global Trading Systems CEO Ari Rubenstein; Charles Schwab Senior Vice President for Legislative and Regulatory Affairs Jeff Brown; New York Stock Exchange President Thomas Farley; The Investors Exchange CEO Brad Katsuyama; Chicago Board of Options Exchange President and COO Chris Concannon; Instinet Head of Global Trading Research John Comerford; and NASDAQ Executive Vice President and Global Head of Equities Tom Wittman Location: Rm 2128, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee hearing on 'Self-Driving Vehicle Legislation' Location: Rm 2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on U.N. and international organizations budget – State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee ‘United Nations and International Organizations – Budget Hearing’, with testimony from U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Amb. Nikki Haley Location: Rm 2359, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM Department of Defense Intelligence and Overhead Architecture Subcommittee closed hearing on ‘Ongoing Intelligence Activities’ Location: HVC-304, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseIntelComm>

11:00 AM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/ <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

12:00 PM House expected to begin debate on Protecting Access to Care Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include beginning consideration of ‘H.R. 1215 – Protecting Access to Care Act of 2017’, as well as consideration of legislation under suspension of the rules (with agenda for the week including ‘H.R. 497 – Santa Ana River Wash Plan Land Exchange Act’, ‘H.R. 220 – To authorize the expansion of an existing hydroelectric project, and for other purposes’, ‘H.R. 1135 – To reauthorize the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Historic Preservation program’, ‘H.R. 1500 – Robert Emmet Park Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 1967 – Bureau of Reclamation Pumped Storage Hydropower Development Act’, ‘H.Res. 351 – Condemning the violence and persecution in Chechnya’, as amended, and ‘H.Res. 397 – Solemnly reaffirming the commitment of the United States to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s principle of collective defense as enumerated in Article 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty’) Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

12:00 PM ITIF ‘@Work’ event series continues, with keynotes from Reps. John Delaney and Randy Hultgren – ‘The Real State of Technological Disruption in the U.S. Labor Market and What Policymakers Should Do About It’ event – the latest in the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation ‘@Work’ series – discussing the interaction between automation, technology, and jobs, and exploring how policymakers can best help workers transition between jobs and occupations. Democratic Rep. John Delaney and Republican Rep. Randy Hultgren keynote, with panel featuring Council on Foreign Relations Senior Fellow Edward Alden, Urban Institute Income and Benefits Policy Center Senior Research Associate Lauren Eyster, University of Maryland Professor of History of Technology & Science Robert Friedel, and Mercatus Center at George Mason University Senior Research Fellow Adam Thierer Location: Rm 2325, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.itif.org [#ITIFworkseries](https://twitter.com/ITIFdc)

2:00 PM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on the Stop the Importation and Trafficking of Synthetic Analogues Act – Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on ‘H.R. 2851, Stop the Importation and Trafficking of Synthetic Analogues Act of 2017’ Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittees joint hearing on ‘the terrorist threat to Europe’ – Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade Subcommittee and Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats Subcommittee joint hearing on ‘Allies Under Attack: The Terrorist Threat to Europe’, with testimony from George Washington University Program on Extremism Deputy Director Seamus Hughes; Heritage Foundation Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy Fellow Robin Simcox; National Defense University Center for Complex Operations Senior Research Fellow for Counterterrorism Dr R. Kim Cragin; and U.S. Institute of Peace Countering Violent Extremism Director Georgia Holmer Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

2:30 PM Bipartisan Heroin Task Force discusses release of its legislative agenda – Bipartisan Heroin Task Force, led by Reps. Annie Kuster, Tom MacArthur, Brian Fitzpatrick, and Donald Norcross, hosts press conference on the release of its legislative agenda for the 115th Congress – ‘a compilation of bipartisan, commonsense legislation aimed at addressing the opioid epidemic from a health and law enforcement perspective’ Location: House Triangle, Washington, DC kuster.house.gov <https://twitter.com/RepAnnieKuster>

3:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on ‘H.R. 3003 – No Sanctuary for Criminals Act’ and ‘H.R. 3004 – Kate’s Law’ Location: H-313, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

Other: 9:00 AM Dem Sen. Tom Udall and GOP Rep. John Shimkus keynote event on TSCA reform – ‘TSCA Reform: One Year Later’ discussion, exploring the federal government’s implementation of the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act, which ‘significantly amended’ TSCA. Keynotes from Democratic Sen. Tom Udall and Republican Rep. John Shimkus * Co-Sponsored by the Environmental Law Institute, Bergeson & Campbell, P.C., Environmental

Defense Fund, and George Washington University Milken Institute School of Public Health
Location: Milken Institute School of Public Health, GW, 950 New Hampshire Ave., NW,
Washington, DC www2.eli.org <https://twitter.com/ELIORG>

10:00 AM Dem Rep. John Lewis speaks at launch of initiative marking Memphis sanitation strike 50th anniversary – The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees and the Church of God In Christ launch 18-month initiative to honor the 1968 Memphis sanitation strike – when workers went on strike over fair wages and safe working conditions and were joined in solidarity by Dr Martin Luther King, who delivered his ‘I Have Been to the Mountaintop’ speech at the Mason temple, a day before he was assassinated. Speakers include civil rights activist Democratic Rep. John Lewis, AFSCME President Lee Saunders, COGIC Presiding Bishop Charles Edward Blake, and The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights President and CEO Vanita Gupta Location: AFSCME, AFL-CIO, 1625 L St. NW, Washington, DC
<http://www.afscme.org/> <https://twitter.com/AFSCME>

10:30 AM Gov. Kasich to join Gov. Hickenlooper to discuss the Senate’s national health care reform bill – Colorado Governor John W. Hickenlooper and Ohio Governor John R. Kasich meet tomorrow at the National Press Club to discuss the Senate’s version of the national health care reform bill. Reporters need to RSVP to jacque.montgomery@state.co.us as the National Press Club will need advance notice of those who will be in attendance. Location: National Press Club, Fourth Estate Room, 529 14th St., NW.

1:00 PM GOP Rep. Adam Kinzinger keynotes USIP / Heritage Foundation event on ‘The Future of Mosul and Iraq’ – ‘After the ISIS Flag Falls: The Future of Mosul and Iraq’ United States Institute of Peace / Heritage Foundation discussion, with keynote from Republican Rep. Adam Kinzinger. Other speakers include USIP Board of Directors Chairman Stephen Hadley, USIP President Nancy Lindborg, The Heritage Foundation Middle Eastern Affairs Senior Research Fellow James Phillips, USIP Middle East Programs Director Sarhang Hamasaeed, and former U.S. Army forces at Mahmoudiya, Iraq, Commander Col. Michael Kershaw Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave., Washington, DC www.usip.org <https://twitter.com/USIP>

1:00 PM GOP Rep. Steve King attends AVIAC launch at NPC – Advocates for Victims of Illegal Alien Crime launch at NPC news conference, with Republican Rep. Steve King attending * The group is aiming ‘to stop illegal alien crime’, which they say ‘can only happen with the deportation of all people in the country illegally’ Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St., NW, Washington, DC AVIAC.us <https://twitter.com/AVIACUSA>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Stephen Colbert: “According to the Washington Post, Barack Obama knew about the plot last August, and that it was based on Putin’s specific instructions to defeat or at least damage the Democratic nominee, Hillary Clinton, and help elect her opponent, Donald Trump. And Putin was successful. The only person who did more damage to Hillary Clinton’s campaign was Hillary Clinton.”

Stephen Colbert: “Now reportedly, Obama agonized over what to do. He even authorized the planting of cyber weapons, the digital equivalent of bombs, I think, I’m not sure. I think that means they were playing minesweeper.”

Stephen Colbert: “That’s right, there was no Russian hacking, period, fake news. Wait, it was Obama’s fault. Russia stole our election and Obama let it happen. Thanks, Obama. No, seriously, thanks Obama, I’m President now, thanks.”

Stephen Colbert: “But with cameras banned from the briefing, CNN sent a courtroom sketch artist to cover Spicer’s briefing. Yeah, something tells me it won’t be the last member of the Trump Administration we see in a courtroom sketch.”

Jimmy Fallon: “President Trump said that Obama copied him by calling the Republican healthcare bill ‘mean.’ And then Obama said Trump copied him by spending the last six months doing nothing.”

Jimmy Fallon: “In a new interview, Ivanka Trump said that she would give her dad an ‘A’ as

President. And Ivanka said, "'A' as in 'a series of unfortunate events.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that this weekend, Mike Pence officiated the wedding of Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin. Yep. Pence said, 'You may now kiss the bride.' Then he was like, 'Not you, Mr. President.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "The TSA is testing a new policy that makes passengers take out their books at airport security. The policy has already affected the three Americans who still read books."

Seth Meyers: "Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin got married this weekend for the third time. And the wedding was officiated by Vice President Mike Pence because if there's one thing Mike Pence stands for, it's the sanctity of a third marriage."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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DOI In The News

States Make Legal Plea As Fracking Rule Revival Looms.

[E&E Publishing](#) (11/6, Waldman) reports that in a filing made Friday, "Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and North Dakota asked the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to reconsider" a ruling that could "revive an Obama-era hydraulic fracturing rule" even as the Trump administration works to rescind it. The states' requests "may prompt the court to hold off on issuing that mandate and save the oil and gas industry from having to comply with the rule."

Calif., NM Warn BLM Over Suspending Methane Waste Rule. [Law360](#) (11/6, Koenig) reports that "after convincing a federal judge last month to reactivate Obama-era regulations limiting methane gas emissions on public lands, the attorneys general of California and New Mexico on Monday warned the Bureau of Land Management that a formal suspension of those rules would similarly not hold up in court." California Attorney General Xavier Becerra and New Mexico Attorney General Hector Balderas "submitted public comments to the BLM arguing that the agency's plan to delay and suspend the Waste Prevention Rule lacks legal justification."

County Urges BLM To Delay Methane Rule. The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (11/7, Harmon) reports that "the Mesa County Commission on Monday endorsed a proposed rule that would reverse an Obama-era regulation governing flaring and venting of natural gas on federal and tribal lands." The commission "approved a letter to the Bureau of Land Management asking the agency to delay 'the most onerous and duplicative measures' of the rules governing venting and flaring of natural gas, or methane, as part of the recovery and treating process."

BLM's Methane Rule Draws Supporters In Durango. The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (11/6, Romeo) reports that "nearly 100 people gathered at Durango's Buckley Park on Monday to show support for a new rule aimed at reducing the wasteful leaking of methane at oil and gas sites, which faces revocation under the Trump administration." Recently, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "proposed a one-year delay of the rules, though it's unclear if he intends to rewrite the regulations or scrap them." A public comment period on the matter ended Monday.

Farmington BLM Hears Citizen Support For Methane Rule. The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (11/7, Petersen) reports that "more than a half dozen people voiced concerns about a federal rule to curb methane gas emissions today at Farmington's Bureau of Land Management field office."

It's Time For The Gas Majors To Tackle Methane. We Mean Business writes a contributing piece for the [Huffington Post](#) (11/6) saying the oil and gas sector needs to address methane emissions as natural gas becomes a more significant piece in the global energy mix. The latest World Energy Outlook from the IEA found 40-50 percent of current emissions from the fossil fuels industry could be avoided with no net costs. The IEA says it is possible to avoid 75 percent of total emissions, leading to a cash positive situation as companies sell captured methane. The Oil and Gas Climate Initiative, which includes Shell, announced its goal to work towards net zero methane emissions from the gas value chain.

Secretary Ryan Zinke Commits To Sperry Chalet Rebuild In Glacier National Park After Season Of Wildfires.

The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (11/6, Dettmer) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke met with Glacier National Park Superintendent Jeff Mow on Saturday to talk about "the effects of the Sprague Fire and what the future holds for Sperry Chalet." After the meeting, Zinke tweeted: "We're going to rebuild @GlacierNPS Sperry Chalet better to last the next 100 years." Heather Swift, press secretary for the Interior, "elaborated in an email saying Zinke reviewed footage and photos of Sperry Chalet before and after the fire and discussed stabilization, rebuild and funding options."

Rob Bishop Calls For Tougher Oversight Over Puerto Rico's 'Weird' Whitefish Contract Ahead Of Major Hearing.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/6, Siegel) reports that House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop has called for "tougher oversight" of what he described as the "weird" contract between Puerto Rico and Whitefish Energy. Bishop, whose panel is preparing "to question the island's power utility and oversight board at an upcoming hearing," called for "an independent financial oversight board created by Congress to work with the island's government and other stakeholders to ensure a similar situation never occurs again." Bishop told reporters, "There has to be some kind of oversight, there has to be some kind of transparency, so a situation like Whitefish does not occur again."

Bureau Of Land Management

U.S. Department Of Interior Likely To Rescind Plan For Region's Oil, Gas.

The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (11/6, Mimiaga) reports that a new directive by the Interior Department "jeopardizes a pending master-leasing plan in Southwest Colorado that would scrutinize oil and gas development near Mesa Verde National Park." In March, the Bureau of Land Management "approved development of a master leasing plan for 71,000 acres in Montezuma and La Plata counties." However, "in a report on energy policy released Oct. 24, the Department of Interior included master leasing plans as one of many regulatory 'burdens' to oil and gas development." The article says that "the agency is expected to rescind the policy authorizing them."

Environment Groups Challenge Pinyon-Juniper Removal Plans.

The [AP](#) (11/6) reports that "two environmental groups are challenging projects by the Bureau of Land Management which would remove pinyon-juniper in Hamblin Valley in southwest Utah." The BLM projects seek "to improve the rangeland health for sage grouse, wild horse and burros." The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance and the Wild Utah Project are "critical of the BLM's plan to remove the trees by chaining or using a mastication machine that uproots and mulches trees, which they say will have an impact on the area."

BLM Is Moving Forward On Proposed Ambler Road Project.

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (11/6, Bross) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is "taking the lead on an environmental review of the state proposed Ambler Road." The project "would punch an industrial access road from the Dalton Highway west to the Ambler Mining district." According to the article, "the proposed 211-mile road already faces substantial opposition from many area residents."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (11/7).

Federal Trial Begins For The Nevada Rancher Cliven Bundy.

The [New York Times](#) (11/6, Turkewitz) reports from Las Vegas that "when Cliven Bundy refused to hand over his trespassing cattle to officials in 2014, he inspired an armed standoff that highlighted sharp divisions over the power of the federal government and the ways Americans use public lands." Bundy "is finally getting his day in court," as "his federal trial in Las Vegas begins" today, and "it is being watched closely because it could set the tone for how 640 million acres of public land owned by the federal government, including America's national parks, wildlife refuges and conservation areas, are managed." According to the Times, "a guilty verdict for Mr. Bundy could reinforce Washington's control of these acres, while an acquittal could embolden those who ignore federal rules."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) Reno, NV (11/6) and the [Arizona Republic](#) (11/6, Anglen).

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Committee To Advance Onshore-Offshore Energy Bill .

[E&E Daily](#) (11/6, Lunney) reports that the House Natural Resources Committee will consider legislation Tuesday aimed at boosting "onshore and offshore oil and gas drilling as well as wind energy development by reducing federal regulations, streamlining the permitting process and

creating a revenue-sharing partnership with coastal states.”

U.S. East Coast Readies To Boost Offshore Wind.

[Maritime Executive](#) (11/7) reports that “the U.S. states of Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island have released reports indicating that the Northeast has the potential for offshore wind deployment of between 4,000 to 8,000 megawatts by 2030 and the creation of up to 36,000 jobs.” The Northeast Offshore Wind Regional Market Characterization report “identifies the opportunities and challenges that will shape the offshore wind market.” Meanwhile, “the Carolinas are also exploring the potential of offshore wind power.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

California May Press Ahead With Scaled-back Delta Tunnels.

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (11/6, Kasler) reports that “a coalition of environmental groups has endorsed a lone-tunnel approach” for California WaterFix but “scaling back the \$17.1 billion twin tunnels plan” would “create complications of its own – and might not win over most of the opposition.” The article says that “the one-tunnel alternative has been floated for years but didn’t start to become a serious option until Westlands Water District, which serves farmers in a major swath of the San Joaquin Valley, rejected” Gov. Jerry Brown’s project in September. Meanwhile, “the Brown administration and its allies say they haven’t abandoned the twin-tunnels plan, which is designed to keep Delta fish from getting killed in the powerful pumps that ship water south while improving the reliability of those shipments.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Leave It Better Than You Found It Approach May Not Apply Much Longer For Sage Grouse Habitat.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (11/6, Richards) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “announced Tuesday that it was accepting public comment on revising or removing” the approach known as “net conservation gain,” from its mitigation policies. According to experts, “the immediate consequences of removing it are unclear.” The FWS is accepting public input until Jan. 5.

Texas Researchers Hope Grants Will Stop Spread Of Disease Threatening State’s Bats.

The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (11/7, Stuckey) reports that “about \$600,000 in grants by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation could help researchers stop” the spread of white-nose syndrome in Texas. That figure is “part of \$1.36 million being handed out in the U.S. and Canada for six projects.”

Environmental Group Secures Land For Panthers, River Crossing.

The [Fort Myers \(FL\) News-Press](#) (11/6, Gillis) reports that “an environmental group secured the development rights to a key piece of land in the LaBelle area, a 460-acre tract that’s expected to move the Florida panther recovery forward by giving the cats easier access to lands to the north.” The Nature Conservancy “paid nearly \$2 million to keep the land in an eternal state of farming and preservation, and these are lands panther managers and advocates hope will give the cats a secure location to cross the Caloosahatchee River.” Wendy Matthew, The Nature Conservancy’s project manager, said, “It is real critical to have a protected corridor and we’re hopeful that we can work with the landowners to the east and west to shore up this northern bank of the Caloosahatchee. And then they have a lot of ranch lands to the north that they can move into with lots of prey, lots of hogs and deer there.”

Third Federally Protected Gray Wolf Killed In Oregon.

The [AP](#) (11/6) reports that “another gray wolf has been found dead in Oregon, marking the third such death of a federally protected wolf in the past year, state and federal wildlife officials said.” The wolf, known to biologists as OR-25, was “found dead Oct. 29 in Klamath County on state forest land.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is “offering a \$5,000 reward for information on the killing, authorities said Monday.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (11/6, Urness).

National Park Service

Park Releases Plan To Deal With Harmful Plants.

The [Ventura County \(CA\) Star](#) (11/6, Carlson) reports that the National Park Service “recently released an environmental assessment for a proposed Invasive Plant Management Plan in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area.” The NPS “identified about two dozen plants to target in the Santa Monica Mountains, from Spanish broom shrubs to harding grass.” Public comments will be accepted until Dec. 1.

Yellowstone Closes Most Roads, Entrances For Winter.

The [AP](#) (11/6) reports that most roads in Yellowstone National Park “as well as the west, south and east entrances closed Monday for the winter to regular motor vehicle traffic.” On Dec. 15, the article says, “the park will be open to snowmobiles and snowcoaches, which are vehicles with treads that carry multiple passengers.”

Scotty’s Castle Flood Recovery Tours Being Offered.

[KLAS-TV](#) Las Vegas (11/6, Bleakley) reports that “after being closed for more than two years due to damage left by a massive flood, Scotty’s Castle will reopen for tours.” Now, the tours will “focus on the flood recovery efforts.” According to the article, “the ranger-led walking tours will give visitors a chance to see closed areas and see how the work is progressing and the National Park Service rebuilds and renovates the site.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (11/6, Brean).

Portland’s Peacock Lane Earns National Historic District Status.

The [Oregonian](#) (11/6, Njus) reports that “Peacock Lane, the Southeast Portland street best known for its elaborate Christmas lights display, has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.”

Additional Coverage: National Park Service Refuses To Honor Black Panthers After Police Union Complains.

Additional coverage that the National Park Service has decided to not move forward with funding a project on the influence of the Black Panther Party was provided by [Newsweek](#) (11/6, Nazaryan).

US Geological Survey

Agencies Release Data Modeling Framework For Selenium In Kooconusa.

The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (11/6, Scott) reports that “leading researchers tracking the influx of mining contaminants in Lake Kooconusa have developed a modeling framework designed to guide water quality standards on the sprawling trans-boundary reservoir, which is increasingly threatened by Canadian coalmines.” Scientists with the U.S. Geological Survey “this week released a modeling framework for scientific collection and analysis of selenium data in Lake Kooconusa in Northwest Montana and British Columbia — essentially an ecologic flowchart showing how and at what levels the contaminant affects waters and fish species.” According to the article, “the modeling framework, funded by the state Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), is designed to accommodate existing and future data to support a site-specific standard for selenium in the Lake Kooconusa reservoir.”

Opinion Pieces

Trump Attacks Teddy Roosevelt’s Grand Legacy.

A [New York Times](#) (11/6) editorial says that as he seeks to “expung[e] the legacy of Barack Obama,” President Trump “is on the verge of undermining the priceless conservation vision of Theodore Roosevelt as well.” Trump “is reported to have decided to greatly shrink two monuments covering millions of acres in Utah, weakening strict federal protections and reopening vast areas to possible commercial use.” The Times says the move “will result in a major legal counterattack by Native American tribal leaders and environmentalists that, in turn, will test the

scope of the president's authority to abolish or significantly modify monument designations under the Antiquities Act of 1906," one of Roosevelt's "major conservation achievements."

What Happened To Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Since Joining Trump Cabinet?

In an op-ed for [U.S. News & World Report](#) (11/6, Rotherham), Andrew Rotherham, a cofounder and partner at Bellwether Education Partners, writes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's actions since taking office has disappointed conservationists who supported him during the confirmation process. According to Rotherham, "Zinke finds himself in political trouble that ranges from just plain odd to possibly illegal," "and, in the crucible, he hasn't turned out to be the defender of public lands many hoped for." In conclusion, Rotherham asks: "Is it Zinke the sportsman, who cares about clean air and water and preserving wild country, or Zinke the hunter and fisherman, skilled at the art of concealment and deception in the pursuit of game?"

Congress Should Pass A Narrow Bill To End Fire Borrowing.

In an editorial, the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (11/6) urges Congress to pass a narrow bill to end fire borrowing. The paper acknowledges that the Resilient Federal Forests Act "does get at fire borrowing," but notes that "it also aims to speed up management practices such as thinning and salvage logging." As a result, the bill did not receive bipartisan support from Oregon lawmakers. The paper urges the Oregon delegation, Democrats and Republican, to "agree to work for legislation that at least just ends fire borrowing this session."

Additional Reading.

- *Protecting Our Public Lands To Protect Our Economy.* [Sierra Star \(CA\)](#) (11/6, Adest).
- *Commentary: Higher Park Fees Create A Barrier To Recovery From War.* [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/7, Bricker).
- *Paving Over Yosemite And Other Great Ideas.* [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (11/7, Garchik).

Top National News

Trump Urges Japan To Buy US Equipment To Shoot Missiles "Out Of The Sky."

[Reuters](#) (11/6, Holland, Lies) reports that President Trump, speaking after his meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, said that Japan "would shoot North Korean missiles 'out of the sky' if it bought the US weaponry needed for doing so." Trump "also pressed Japan to lower its trade deficit with the United States and buy more US military hardware." [USA Today](#) (11/6, Maresca) writes that "while Trump's comment might have been taken as part of his trademark bluster, the question of Japan's military role remains a crucial issue both in Japan and around the region, especially with provocations from North Korea and China's increasing assertiveness."

To the [AP](#) (11/6, Colvin, Lemire), the President "struck a hard line against North Korea's nuclear weapons program Monday and urged Japan to do the same," and the [Washington Times](#) (11/6, Boyer) quotes him as saying of the North's regime, "The regime continues development of its unlawful weapons programs, including its illegal nuclear tests and outrageous launches of ballistic missiles directly over Japanese territory. ... We will not stand for that." The [New York Post](#) (11/6, Moore) notes that Trump also reiterated that "the 'era of strategic patience' was over."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/6, story 8, 1:50, Brennan) reported Trump "reassured...Abe that the commitment to Japan is ironclad, and he defended his tough talk on North Korea." Trump was shown saying, "Some people said that my rhetoric is very strong, but look what's happened with very weak rhetoric over the last 25 years." CBS added that "the President and First Lady also met with the families of Japanese citizens kidnapped by North Korea. Mr. Trump seemed to extend an offer to dictator Kim Jong-un." Said Trump, "If he would send them back, that would be the start of something I think would be just something very special. If they would do that."

The [New York Times](#) (11/6, Landler, Davis) indicates that Trump, "drawing an explicit link between trade and security," said, "He will shoot them out of the sky when he completes the purchase of lots of additional military equipment from the United States. The prime minister of Japan is going to be purchasing massive amounts of military equipment, as he should. It's a lot of jobs for us and a lot of safety for Japan." Writing for [The Diplomat](#) (11/6) under the headline "Trump Wonders Why Japan Didn't Shoot Down North Korea's IRBM Launches," Ankit Panda says, "I'll keep it short and simple in this post: the reason Japan does not shoot down North Korean

ballistic missiles like the Hwasong-12 is because it cannot shoot down these missiles. The two systems that Japan has procured since the late-1990s for ballistic missile defense...are Patriot batteries capable of intercepting short- and medium-range ballistic missiles at low altitudes."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/6, Bennett) reports that Trump "pointedly teased Abe over the trade deficit between the two countries, and seemed to advocate a military buildup as a way to close the gap." [Bloomberg News](#) (11/6, Reynolds, Sink, Gordon) writes that "for all the apparent chumminess" between Trump and Abe, "it hasn't resulted in much concrete action to address Trump's main complaint: fixing what he sees as an unfair trade relationship with Japan. ... Throughout Trump's two-day visit, Abe publicly ducked any talk of major trade concessions even though Trump kept bringing it up."

The [AP](#) (11/6) reports the President has "has arrived in South Korea amid escalating tensions with North Korea." Trump and First Lady Melania Trump will "head to Seoul, where they'll participate in an arrival ceremony at the Blue House before Trump sits down for meetings with President Moon Jae-In." [CNN](#) (11/6, Berlinger) notes Jean Lee, "a global fellow at the Wilson Center and former Pyongyang bureau chief for The Associated Press," said yesterday, "It's crucial for Trump to show that he's willing to defend and protect South Korea because there's a lot of questions and concerns on the part of South Koreans about his commitment to that alliance, and that has fed fears here in South Korea that they may be abandoned." Along those lines, [USA Today](#) (11/6, Strother, World) interviews average South Koreans, who "cope with this anxiety through dark humor," and who "because of the recent uptick in rhetoric between North Korea's Kim Jong Un and...Trump...are talking more about war and they're getting worried."

Kellyanne Conway said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (11/6), "Part of what the President is doing on this historic trip is building on the successes thus far in his Administration. It's not like this is the first time he is interfacing with South Korea or with China for that matter. He has been developing these relationships over the course of really last year since he was elected and certainly since he took up job and residence here. So he is building on that. One of the five major goals of this trip for the President is denuclearizing North Korea. And that happens with China and South Korea's help. Also, he has trade very much on his mind. He wants to have a very pro-commitment to Asia, obviously, into the Pacific, but he is really building on his successes so far."

Abe Expresses Desire To Strengthen US-Japan Alliance. Through a translator, Prime Minister Abe said in an interview with [Fox News Special Report](#) (11/6), "The Japan and US alliance is the cornerstone for peace and stability here in the Asia-Pacific region. ... For that to have purpose in the last year after President Trump has won the election, I went to New York in November to meet with him and I was able to have good communication with him. Ever since then, for six times I have met with him, and this time as well I have enjoyed playing golf and as well as having had dinner with him. ... With President Trump's visit to Japan this time, I very much hope we will further solidify the US-Japan alliance. I hope to take time to discuss with President Trump on international challenges including North Korea."

On its front page, the [Washington Post](#) (11/6, Nakamura) says that Abe is "play[ing] the role of Trump's loyal sidekick," writing, "Since Trump took office, Abe has been his most consistent suitor, courting him with luxurious gifts...and constant attention." But as Abe "has lavished attention on Trump, their relationship has retained a subtext" in which Trump "insists on asserting his dominance in a passive-aggressive manner."

Veteran Democratic Lawmakers, Kerry Criticize Trump's Rhetoric On North Korea. [The Hill](#) (11/6, Mitchell) reports "a group of military veteran lawmakers is urging...Trump to back off from provocative statements and moves against North Korea following a Pentagon report on what a war with the isolated nation would entail." Said the lawmakers, "The President needs to stop making provocative statements that hinder diplomatic options and put American troops further at risk." The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/6, Quinn), meanwhile, reports that former Secretary of State John Kerry told CNN that "Trump has 'stepped over the line' with his rhetoric on North Korea, and is giving Pyongyang a reason to develop a nuclear weapon."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (11/6, story 5, 1:10, Holt) interviewed South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-Wha, who said of Trump, "I think every US administration wants to find the right phrasing for how it positions itself in the global scheme of things, and this is certainly Mr. Trump's phrase. But I don't think it's entirely new. I think it's just one way of underscoring America's interest in this. But it's not America alone, alone. It's America working with other countries."

White House Asks For Additional Funds To Counter North Korea. [Politico](#) (11/6, Ferris, O'Brien) reports "Trump has requested another \$4 billion for the Pentagon to counter North Korean threats in a new budget amendment sent to Congress today." The White House "is asking for a total of an additional \$5.9 billion, including \$1.2 billion to support growing troop levels in

Afghanistan." Politico, which has "obtained" the request, adds that it "includes another \$700 million to repair damages to the Navy destroyers USS Fitzgerald and John McCain after the destroyers were involved in separate collisions in the Pacific that killed 17 sailors." [USA Today](#) (11/6, Korte, Jackson) and the [Washington Times](#) (11/6, Miller) also report the story.

Admiral: "Only Way" To Completely Destroy North Korean Nukes Is With Ground Invasion.

[Breitbart](#) (11/6, Kew) reports that "in response to a question from Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA) about the escalating conflict," Admiral Michael Dumont wrote on behalf of the Pentagon Chiefs of Staff, "The only way to 'locate and destroy – with complete certainty – all components of North Korea's nuclear weapons programs' is through a ground invasion." Dumont "added that a ground invasion would increase the risk of a nuclear counter-attack as forces attempted to locate, and consequently disable, its 'deeply buried, underground facilities.'"

Trump Critics Pounce On Visit To Koi Fish. The [Daily Caller](#) (11/6, Phippen) reports "a number of journalists on Twitter lambasted...Trump for pouring an entire box of food into a pond of precious Japanese koi, some even suspecting that amount of food could damage the fish. ... Some even suggested that Trump's behavior at the koi pond could launch a 'diplomatic incident.'" The [AP](#) (11/6) says Trump's "visit to Japan briefly took a turn from formal to fishy," and adds that "as photos circulated, Trump's critics quickly seized on it as an example of his impatient style. But a closer look at the video of the moment shows that both leaders started gently spooning feed into the pond and then Abe lightly tossed the rest of his box in. After that, Trump more dramatically tipped his over."

NYTimes Analysis: Trump May Aid Xi's Aspirations In Raising China's Global Status. The [New York Times](#) (11/6, Perlez) writes that while Chinese leaders "have long sought to present themselves as equals to American presidents," Xi Jinping "has wanted something more: a special relationship that sets China apart, as the other great power in an emerging bipolar world." The Obama Administration "declined to play along, worried that it implied an American retreat from Asia." But Xi "may find a more willing partner in President Trump." Trump "has often cast China as an unfair trade rival," but he "has also spoken of China in almost reverential terms and elevated Beijing as a critical player to resolving the North Korean nuclear standoff. And there are signs of mutual admiration between the two leaders...both of whom see themselves as destined to restore their nations to greatness."

In his [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/6) column, meanwhile, Gerald F. Seib urges Trump to use his trip to Asia to pressure Russia and China to step up their involvement to diffuse the North Korean crisis.

Conway Mocks Expected Media Reaction To Trump-Putin Meeting. Conway was asked on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (11/6) what can be expected from the President's meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Conway said, "You can expect a lot of guessing and hand-wringing by the media, I am sure because, as you recall, in one of his last trips, he and President Putin sat down for three or four times the length that quote, was expected. I don't know who is expecting. They keep expecting things out of Trump out that are conventional and truly disappointed. I think they will continue the conversation. Obviously...Trump has said for a very long time that if there are big issues on which he can work with Russia, particularly keeping ISIS in full-on retreat if not defeat, then he will do that. But it's very important to discuss and engage each other. I'm very happy that that was able to be added to the agenda for this 13-day trip."

Trump Says Texas Shooting Caused By Mental Illness, Praises Person Who Fought Back.

[Reuters](#) (11/6) reports from Tokyo that President Trump said yesterday that "said the mass shooting in a Texas church that left at least 26 people dead was due to a 'mental health problem' and wasn't 'a guns situation.'" Said Trump, "We have a lot of mental health problems in our country, as do other countries. But this isn't a guns situation. ... Fortunately somebody else had a gun that was shooting in the opposite direction." [USA Today](#) (11/6, Jackson) notes Trump also described the shooter as "a 'deranged' man who should have received treatment."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/6, story 7, 2:10, Cordes) pointed out that "there is no evidence yet that the suspect was ever diagnosed with a mental health disorder, which may explain why he was able to obtain a Ruger AR-556 rifle within days of it being named the NRA's gun of the week. And while US levels of mental illness are comparable to those in other western countries, our rate of firearm homicides is six to 16 times greater."

The [New York Times](#) (11/6, Baker) similarly reports that "Trump's answer to the fifth-deadliest mass shooting in modern American history was much the same as his answer to the deadliest mass shooting in modern American history barely a month ago in Las Vegas." The Times adds that "for gun-rights supporters, the focus on mental health has become the standard

response to shooting massacres, just as more gun control has been the standard response from the other side of the ideological divide." Under the headline "Yes, President Trump, It's A Guns Situation," the [Washington Post](#) (11/6) editorializes, "No doubt the angry young man who stormed the church in a ballistic vest was, as the president said, 'deranged,'" but "imagine what would have happened if he had been deranged – and armed with only a knife? What if, at least, he had had to stop and reload?"

[The Hill](#) (11/6, Fabian) indicates that "later at the news conference, Trump declared that 'it's a little bit soon' to discuss the issue of guns and suggested that more people would have been killed if another armed person had not opened fire on" the shooter. Said [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/6, story 5, 2:30, Vega), "'Too soon.' He said the same thing in the wake of last month's Las Vegas massacre, despite his immediate call for changes in immigration policy in the wake of last week's truck rampage in New York City."

Along similar lines, [USA Today](#) (11/6, Godlasky) reports that "the FBI said Monday that it is not investigating the Sutherland Springs, Texas, church shooting as terrorism after more than two dozen were killed Sunday." Yet "the New York City truck attack that killed eight people just a few days earlier was called an act of terror almost immediately. Why the difference?" To USA Today, "it was yet another example of how "terrorism" is no longer simply a legal definition, but an increasingly politicized one." Trump, "for instance, proposed changes to immigrant vetting and visas within hours of the New York attack but hasn't suggested any government response to the Las Vegas shooting that killed 58."

Also in [USA Today](#) (11/6), Kurt Bardella, a political commentator who is a former spokesman for Breitbart News, accuses Trump of a "double standard" on the issue: "Why is it acceptable to start talking about changing policy in the immediate aftermath of an attack that killed eight people but it's considered 'premature,' as White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders put it, to have a policy conversation after an attack that killed 58 people? Why the double standard?"

As part of its lead story, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/6, lead story, 4:35, Gutman) reported that a local resident outside the church, Stephen Willeford, used his gun to hit Kelley as he got away, and "then got more help from another citizen, Johnnie Langendorf." The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/6, lead story, 3:20, Glor) showed Willeford saying, "I'm no hero. ... Every time I heard a shot, I knew that probably represented a life. I was scared to death." [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/6, story 4, 2:20, Jackson) reported that "Second Amendment advocates argue that is why the government shouldn't add more regulations, like on the kinds of semiautomatic weapons used in Aurora, Orlando, Las Vegas and Sandy Hook. Children died in them, too, 20 of them." [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/6, lead story, 3:35, Holt) had previously remarked on Texas "victims ranging in age from 18 months to 77 years," and noted "at least a dozen...were children."

[Politico](#) (11/6, Lima) reports that Kellyanne Conway on Monday "criticized Democrats for 'pointing fingers' and calling for increased gun control measures in response to the deadly Texas shooting over the weekend, saying the quick reaction is 'disrespectful to the dead.'" Conway said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (11/6), "It's just like I said in Las Vegas over a month ago, you had families literally still looking for their loved ones through the rubble and remains in Las Vegas...and yet, people are taking to Twitter in the comfort of their very luxurious lives pointing fingers and as far as can I tell never really helped in between the tweet storms."

[USA Today](#) (11/6) writes in an editorial that "Americans may someday look back in shame at a time when their country was awash in guns, when every few weeks people were slaughtered en masse and when society repeatedly mourned its dead, even as it facilitated their murder with easy access to powerful weapons." Adds USA, "In one sense, Trump is absolutely right that 'this is a mental health problem at the highest level.' For the nation's top leaders to watch innocent people mowed down, and refuse to do anything to stop it, is indeed absolutely crazy." In an accompanying op-ed, Alan M. Gottlieb, founder of the Second Amendment Foundation and chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, writes in [USA Today](#) (11/6) that "Trump's suggestion that the tragedy in Texas is a mental health issue rather than a gun issue deserves more than an arrogant dismissal by gun control proponents. ... The president is right; this is a mental health issue that we have neglected and must address."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/6, Phillips, Bailey) reports that Carl Chinn, "who runs an extensive database on violence at places of worship," says "the shooting is likely the deadliest mass killing at a house of worship in modern US history." Chinn estimates "this shooting is the 14th mass murder (considered the killing of three or more people) at a house of worship in recent decades." Another [Washington Post](#) (11/6, Bailey) piece indicates "several prominent Southern Baptist pastors have...Trump's ear as members of his unofficial evangelical advisory council," but "it

would be very surprising if Southern Baptists pushed for changes in gun policy, because it hasn't been a priority for the denomination in decades." The Post adds that "most conservative evangelicals don't believe specific gun policies are spelled out in the Bible," and "many of them don't believe gun-control measures are constitutional and can solve the problem of mass shootings, said Russell Moore, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's policy arm."

Texas AG, WSJournal Also Praise Armed People Outside Church. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (11/6) that "people like this, who are willing to violate laws against murder and shooting people are unlikely to follow other gun laws. I don't have a problem with preventing people like this from attempting to get these. But, my guess is that he will find a way – this guy is evil. He will find a way around it." Paxton said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (11/6) that "what ultimately may have saved some lives is two people that were outside the church that actually had guns that may have slowed this guy down and actually pursued him. So, I would rather arm law-abiding citizen and make sure they can prevent this from happening as opposed to trying to pass laws that would prevent law-abiding citizen from having guns."

In an editorial, meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/6) praises Willeford, the local plumber who happened to be outside the church and used his rifle to engage the shooter.

Man Who Shot, Chased Gunman A Former NRA Instructor. The [Washington Times](#) (11/6, Richardson) reports that Willeford, "hailed as a hero," is "a former National Rifle Association instructor." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/6, Pearce) also notes Willeford is a former NRA instructor, and adds that "what happened next was a scenario nearly unheard of in mass shootings, but one often suggested by those in favor of a well-armed citizenry: An armed bystander got in a shootout with a mass killer and chased him out of town."

ABC News: Trump Rolled Back Rules Making It Harder For Mentally Ill To Buy Guns. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/6, story 5, 2:30, Vega) reported that "shortly after the President took office, he signed a measure, rolling back a regulation that made it harder for some people with mental illnesses to purchase guns." ABC added that "critics said the rule, which affected about 75,000 people, violated the Second Amendment."

Pence To Meet With Victims In Texas. The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/6, Morrongiello) reports "Vice President Mike Pence and second lady Karen Pence will travel to Texas on Wednesday to speak with victims of the mass shooting at First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs." Pence tweeted yesterday, "Karen and I will travel to Sutherland Springs on Wednesday to meet with families of the fallen, injured and law enforcement. We are with you Texas."

In his [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/6) column, William McGurn criticizes Democrats for ridiculing Republicans who offered "thoughts and prayers" to the Texas victims. To McGurn, the issue illustrates the disconnect between progressives and a large segment of the US population. In a column titled "The Blood Of Innocents Is On Our Hands," Eugene Robinson writes in the [Washington Post](#) (11/6), "'Thoughts and prayers' are fine. Locking arms 'through the tears and the sadness,' as...Trump prescribed, is all well and good. But none of this does a damn thing to stop, or even slow, the carnage."

Shooter Threatened Mother-In-Law Before Shooting, Broke Son's Skull In 2012. The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (11/6, Sabawi) reports that gunman Devin Kelley "had a 'domestic situation' going on with his wife's family," according to "Freeman Martin, the DPS commander in Region 6." Kelley "allegedly sent the woman's mother threatening text messages prior to the shooting." The woman, according to the [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/6, Jarvie, Pearce), "sometimes attended the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs." The [Washington Post](#) (11/6, Moravec, Berman) further reports that "authorities...emphasized that the shooting did not appear to be fueled by racial or religious issues, as has been the case during other rampages at houses of worship." The [New York Times](#) (11/6, Montgomery, Delreal) quotes Martin as saying, "This was not racially motivated, it wasn't over religious beliefs, it was a domestic situation going on." Under the headline "Texas Church Shooter Was A Militant Atheist," however, the [New York Post](#) (11/6, Jaeger) reports "Kelley was a 'creepy' atheist 'outcast' who never fit in and berated religious believers on social media, according to former friends and classmates."

The [Washington Times](#) (11/6, Persons) and [Daily Caller](#) (11/6, Pickrell), among other news outlets, run similar reports this morning. Moreover, says [USA Today](#) (11/6, Bacon, Dearman, Network), "Kelley was court-martialed in 2012 for assaulting his spouse and their child, receiving a bad conduct discharge from the Air Force and 12 months of confinement." In fact, the [New York Times](#) (11/6, Philipps, Oppel) reports that Kelley was specifically "convicted of assaulting his wife and breaking his infant stepson's skull," and the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/6, story 2, 1:45, Martin) pointed out that "five other counts of domestic violence, including pointing a loaded gun

at his wife, were withdrawn as part of his guilty plea." The [Washington Post](#) (11/6, Hawkins, Tate) also notes Kelley's past criminal actions, and the [AP](#) (11/6) that he "had been arrested for animal cruelty in Colorado in 2014."

The [AP](#) (11/6, Vertuno) notes that "based on evidence at the scene, investigators believe...Kelley died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound after he was chased by armed bystanders and crashed his car." The [Houston Chronicle](#) (11/6, Wallace) reports an autopsy "has confirmed" Kelley "suffered three gunshot wounds, including a self-inflicted blow to the head."

Air Force Mistake Allowed Kelley To Buy Guns. The [Washington Times](#) (11/6, Richardson) reports, "It turns out Holloman Air Force Base officials failed to enter...Kelley's 2012 court-martial and conviction on two counts of domestic assault into the federal database." The Air Force "announced Monday it had launched an investigation into its handling of criminal records in the aftermath of Sunday's mass shooting." The [Washington Post](#) (11/6, Horton) quotes Air Force spokeswoman Ann Stefanek as saying in a statement, "Initial information indicates that Kelley's domestic violence offense was not entered into the National Criminal Information Center database." The [New York Times](#) (11/6, Montgomery, Delreal) notes "the statement said Heather Wilson, the Air Force secretary, and Gen. David Goldfein, the Air Force chief of staff, had ordered the Air Force inspector general to 'conduct a complete review of the Kelley case.'" The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/6, Zupkus), among other news outlets, also reports the story.

The [New York Times](#) (11/6, Stolberg) reports that "in 1996, after a concerted push from Senator Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey, Congress made it illegal for anyone convicted of domestic abuse – even a misdemeanor – to buy a firearm." However, "in the two decades since, a large percentage of the perpetrators of mass shootings and other violent crimes have had run-ins with the law over spousal abuse – and have had little problem acquiring deadly arsenals." The Times adds that "Kelley's apparent breach of the background check system may show once again that the computerized program is only as good as the data that is put into it."

The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (11/6, Sabawi, Fechter) reports that Kelley "purchased two weapons from Academy Sports and Outdoors stores in San Antonio" in 2016 and 2017, and "in both cases were approved through the National Instant Criminal Background Check system, a store representative said in a statement. The store is cooperating with authorities in their investigation." These "legal purchases were made despite Kelley's bad conduct discharge from the Air Force in 2012, which followed a domestic violence conviction." He "went on to use one of those weapons to shoot and kill 26 people."

House Speaker Ryan said on [Fox News' Ingraham Angle](#) (11/6) that the Texas gunman "was not supposed to get a gun in the first place because we have laws on the books that prevent people like that from getting guns. That's what is frustrating about this is the laws are on the books but you have got to execute the law, you have got follow through the law, you have got to apply the law. ... The law is on the books to prevent a person like this from getting a gun and that didn't happen and we have got to get to the bottom of why that didn't happen. There are a lot of questions the Air Force has to answer."

Cornyn: Congress May Look Into Possible Gaps In Background Check System. [Bloomberg News](#) (11/6, Litvan, Dennis) reports that Senate Majority Whip Cornyn "said the massacre at a Texas church may prompt Congress to look into whether there are gaps in the firearms background-check system that allowed the gunman to get the weapon used to kill 26 men, women and children." Said Cornyn, "There's enough confusion here, but it looks like he shouldn't have been legally able to get and possess a firearm. ... I don't know if this is a failure of the current system to actually work or whether there are gaps in the way it's structured and the various parts aren't talking to each other."

Administration Has Prepared Executive Order To Weaken ACA's Individual Mandate.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/6, Eilperin) cites "people briefed on the matter" who say White House officials "have prepared an executive order that would weaken the Affordable Care Act's requirement that taxpayers demonstrate proof of insurance." These people suggest that President Trump will issue the order "if congressional Republicans cannot achieve the same goal through the tax reform process." Trump supports abolishing the individual mandate, but "cannot eliminate it unilaterally because it is enshrined in law." The draft order would expand the "hardship exemption" which was "established for those who face extraordinary circumstances, according to people familiar with the matter."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/6, Leonard) reports that Sen. Tom Cotton said the Administration has put the order on hold "to see whether repealing the penalties for going uninsured might be included in the Republican tax bill instead." While Cotton "had told the

Washington Examiner that an executive order was sitting with the Office of Management and Budget waiting for approval...an official from the agency denied it." Cotton, however, "stood by the assertion that the executive order was ready, and said the administration might be being vague in its responses to maintain negotiating flexibility."

House Ways And Means Panel Takes Up GOP Tax Bill.

The [Washington Times](#) (11/6, Sherfinski) reports that the House Ways and Means Committee began debate Monday on the Republican tax reform legislation. Chairman Kevin Brady said, "Today, we stand on the doorstep of delivering the most sweeping tax overhaul in more than 30 years. ... Our committee has dedicated a substantial amount of time, energy, and work to the pursuit of one landmark goal – delivering comprehensive tax reform to the American people." Brady is hoping to pass the bill out his committee this week so a vote by the full House can occur before Thanksgiving. An [AP](#) (11/6, Gordon, Werner) story posted Monday night reports that following a day of "partisan bickering," the committee "approved late changes," which "restored the tax exemption for employees receiving child care benefits from their companies, but also put new requirements on a tax credit used by working people of modest means." The panel voted "24-16 along party lines to adopt" the amendment from Brady, capping "a rancorous marathon session in which Republicans and Democrats argued heatedly over the nearly \$6 trillion plan."

The [New York Times](#) (11/6, Rappeport, Kaplan, Tankersley) says the "most significant changes" include "a provision that would aim to close the so-called carried interest loophole, which has been a source of ire among Democrats and some Republicans, who argue it is an unwarranted tax break for the wealthiest Americans." Earlier Monday, Brady told [CNBC's Squawk Box](#) (11/6) the intent was to "make sure it really is focused on those long-term, traditional real estate partnerships." [Reuters](#) (11/6, Becker) says the change "was one of many revisions that are expected as the House Ways and Means Committee amends the tax bill." Brady promised members "that they would have a chance to propose their own changes," telling the panel, "Let me assure you this is the beginning of the tax reform process."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/6, Debonis) reports that Brady's amendment did not make any "more costly changes to business taxation or repeal the Affordable Care Act's insurance mandate." While he did not "specifically rule out" repealing the mandate, he said that "we are not including various health-tax related measures as part of our tax reform efforts." The Post notes that the President "personally pushed Brady to include the mandate repeal."

Tax Policy Center Retracts Assessment Of Bill. The [Washington Post](#) (11/6, Long) reports that the Tax Policy Center retracted an assessment of the House GOP tax bill that had "showed that the bulk of the House GOP bill's benefits would go to the wealthy and that many working class households earning under \$48,000 would see their tax bills rise in upcoming years." However, "someone familiar with the error who was not authorized to speak publicly said the revised report would likely come to a similar conclusion overall," just with different numbers on how many Americans are helped and hurt. TPC said there was "an error in the preliminary distributional analysis" that "involved the additional child tax credit component of the proposed legislation." [Bloomberg News](#) (11/6, Browning) and [The Hill](#) (11/6, Staff) also cover this story.

Analyses: Plan Benefits Some Millionaires, Hurts Others. The [New York Times](#) (11/6, Tankersley) reports that while Trump said last week, "The Democrats will say our tax bill is for the rich...but they know it's not," early analyses "do not support that claim." Several analyses found that "America's highest earners would, as a group, receive at least twice the tax cut that middle-class workers would get from the bill, as a percentage of their income." However, it "does not treat all top 1 percenters equally. An analysis using the economic modeling software TaxBrain suggests that a quarter of tax filers earning \$1 million or more would see their taxes go up next year if the bill becomes law."

GOP Poll Finds Strong Support For Tax Plan. The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/6, Drucker) reports that a [poll](#) commissioned by the Republican group American Action Network, which is aligned with House Speaker Ryan, found that American voters support the GOP tax plan. Among the poll's key findings: "57 percent of likely voters said their taxes are too high; 84 percent favor reforming the federal tax code; and 81 percent said doing so should be an 'important priority,' if not the top priority."

Dana Milbank blasts the plan in his [Washington Post](#) (11/6) column, writing that "perhaps never before have corporations wielded their power as openly as they have" before the House Ways and Means Committee this week as "a trillion dollars of tax breaks for corporations are being passed by lawmakers who work for these very corporations." As "the corporate welfare is doled out," in the GOP tax bill, the legislation also "widens the gap between the rich and

everybody else.”

Official: US Will Continue To Participate In Climate Discussions.

The [AP](#) (11/6) reports that Trigg Talley, the U.S. deputy special envoy for climate change, said in an address to delegates at the opening of the U.N. climate talks, that the US “will continue to participate in international climate change negotiations and meetings, including ongoing negotiations related to guidance for implementing the Paris agreement.” Talley added, “We look forward to working with colleagues and partners to advance the work here over these two weeks and beyond.” The AP notes that the two-week UN climate meeting that began Monday is the first key climate summit “since President Donald Trump said that the U.S. will pull out of the Paris accord unless his administration can secure a better deal.”

Fiji PM, Opening Climate Change Conference, Calls For Urgency. The [AP](#) (11/6, Moulson, Thiesing) reports that Fiji Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama “called for a sense of urgency in the fight against global warming Monday, telling negotiators ‘we must not fail our people,’ as he opened two weeks of talks on implementing the Paris accord on combating climate change.” Bainimarama, who is chairing the Bonn conference, “offered greetings ‘from one of the most climate-vulnerable regions on earth,’ underlining ‘our collective plea for the world to maintain the course we set in Paris.’” He added, “The need for urgency is obvious. Our world is in distress from the extreme weather events caused by climate change.”

G-7 Health Ministers Issue Statement Saying Climatic Factors Affect Health. The [AP](#) (11/6) reports that during the climate summit on Monday, health ministers from the G-7 nations “issued a joint statement that says climatic factors impact on human health.” The AP notes, “Italian Health Minister Beatrice Lorenzin told reporters on Monday that the ministers were able to work out wording acceptable to the United States during their ministerial meeting in Milan, while also recognizing the differences in opinion in light of the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris accords.”

UN Report Warns 2017 To Be Among Hottest Years On Record. [Reuters](#) (11/6, Doyle) reports that in a report issued by the UN’s World Meteorological Association on Monday, 2017 is set to be one of the three hottest years on record, with temperatures even with 2015 and slightly cooler than 2016. WMO head Petteri Talaas said of 2017, “We have witnessed extraordinary weather.” UN climate chief Patricia Espinosa “said ‘the very fabric of life on Earth is under threat’ from rising temperatures.” She added, “The message cannot get any clearer. We must act right here, right now.”

Despite Signing Paris Accord, World Far From Climate Goals.

The [New York Times](#) (11/6, Plumer, Popovich) reports, “Two years after countries signed a landmark climate agreement in Paris, the world remains far off course from preventing drastic global warming in the decades ahead.” So far, none of the major industrialized nations who signed the accord is “on track to fulfill its pledge” to curb greenhouse emissions by 2030. Furthermore, “even if governments do take further steps to meet their individual pledges, the world will still be on pace to warm well in excess of 2 degrees Celsius over preindustrial levels (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), the threshold that world leaders vowed to avoid in Paris because they deemed it unacceptably risky.” UN Environment Program head Erik Solheim warned, “One year after the Paris Agreement entered into force, we still find ourselves in a situation where we are not doing nearly enough to save hundreds of millions of people from a miserable future.”

Scientists Who Worked On Latest US Report Warn Of Climate Change Risks.

In an op-ed in the [New York Times](#) (11/6, Horton, Hayhoe, Kopp, Doherty) climate scientists Radley Horton, Katharine Hayhoe, Robert Kopp, and Sarah Doherty, each of whom was involved in writing the US Global Change Research Program report issued Friday, argue that “this report confirms and strengthens what the vast majority of climate scientists have known for decades: that climate is changing and humans are primarily responsible.” They also point to the “growing reasons for concern” in the report, such as a faster rate of ocean acidification. However, they also point to “reason for optimism,” and conclude that ultimately, “all Americans need to understand the risks we face, and the impact our choices will have on our future.”

Environmental Group, Children Sue DOE, EPA Heads Over Efforts To Repeal Clean Power Plan.

[Reuters](#) (11/6, Flitter) reports that environmental group the Clean Air Council is supporting two children in their suit against President Trump, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, and Energy Secretary Rick Perry. The suit seeks to prevent the White House and federal agencies from

repealing the Clean Power Plan. The plaintiffs, ages 7 and 11, are alleging that they are suffering the effects of global warming, and that no regulations should be allowed to be repealed that would “increase the frequency and/or intensity of life-threatening effects of climate change.” [The Hill](#) (11/6, Henry) also covers the story.

Trump Ceding Political, Economic Power To China Through Climate Actions.

[Vice](#) (11/7, Dembicki) reports President Trump is willingly surrendering political and economic power to China with his actions on climate change. Trump has appointed climate deniers in senior government positions, tried to prop up the coal industry despite the surge in renewable jobs, and left the Paris Climate accords. Meanwhile, China has plans to invest \$361 billion in renewable energy sources by 2020, an effort its National Energy Administration says will create over 13 million jobs. China also spent \$32 billion in 2016 outside its own borders to invest in clean energy, according to the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Trump Attacks Teddy Roosevelt’s Grand Legacy.” A [New York Times](#) (11/6) editorial says that as he seeks to “expung[e] the legacy of Barack Obama,” President Trump “is on the verge of undermining the priceless conservation vision of Theodore Roosevelt as well.” Trump “is reported to have decided to greatly shrink two monuments covering millions of acres in Utah, weakening strict federal protections and reopening vast areas to possible commercial use.” The Times says the move “will result in a major legal counterattack by Native American tribal leaders and environmentalists that, in turn, will test the scope of the president’s authority to abolish or significantly modify monument designations under the Antiquities Act of 1906,” one of Roosevelt’s “major conservation achievements.”

“Ballot Proposals, Mayor, And New Jersey Governor: How To Vote.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (11/6) reiterates its endorsements of Phil Murphy in the New Jersey governor’s race and of New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio in his bid for reelection.

“Mass Shootings Don’t Have To Be Inevitable.” The [New York Times](#) (11/6, Board) editorializes, “In the aftermath of the Texas horror, politicians led by President Trump are trying to steer away from the obvious issue of what to do about the gun industry’s wanton sale of military-style rifles and pistols on the domestic market.” The Times accuses “the National Rifle Association, which warmly endorsed candidate Trump,” of driving “the diversionary talking point that we must first control for mental illness.” The Times concludes in saying that the current “level of pro-gun argument being offered by Republican leaders and some Democrats” is “made in service to the N.R.A. and the gun industry, not the American public.”

Washington Post.

“Yes, President Trump, It’s A Guns Situation.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/6) editorializes, “No doubt the angry young man who stormed the church in a ballistic vest was, as the president said, ‘deranged,’” but “imagine what would have happened if he had been deranged – and armed with only a knife? What if, at least, he had had to stop and reload?”

“Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Is Getting Reckless.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/6) writes that Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman’s “Western supporters imagine that Prince Salman is concentrating power so as to lead his deeply conservative, oil-producing country on a forced march to modernity.” However, his “resort to heavy-handed tactics and ill-judged adventures could easily undermine hopes for progressive reform and destabilize the kingdom.”

“So, What Would Trump Pay?” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/6) questions how the GOP tax plan “would personally benefit President Trump,” adding that determining that “would be easy for anyone following the tax-cut debate – if, that is, the public had access to the president’s tax returns.” However, since Trump “has broken with decades of bipartisan tradition and refuses to release his tax forms,” Americans “can only guess about the nature and size of his personal stake in the GOP tax plan.” The Post adds that while the House Ways and Means Committee has begun “several days of formal discussion on the GOP tax-cut plan,” that debate “should not have even started without some basic clarity about the president’s conflicts of interest.”

Wall Street Journal.

“The Sorry State Of New Jersey.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/6) says that during his eight years as governor, Chris Christie had a little success in making good on vows to take on public unions and improve New Jersey’s economy. However, says the Journal New Jersey is again moving toward policies on taxes and spending that have long hurt the state’s economy and are likely to accelerate under Murphy, who’s expected to win Tuesday’s election.

“A Plumber With A Rifle.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/6) praises Stephen Willeford, a local plumber who happened to be outside the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs, Texas, and used his rifle to engage the shooter.

“Bad Marks For A Good Military.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/6) editorial criticizes a military judge’s recommendation that Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl be dishonorably discharged, demoted, and forfeit \$10,000 in pay, saying that after members of unit were killed in the search for him, the sentence is demoralizing soldiers who do their duty. The Journal also says a Navy report which found that collisions of the USS Fitzgerald and USS John S. McCain with civilian vessels were “avoidable,” indicates insufficient training by the Navy.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Broadcom Bid Marks Upheaval In Chip Industry](#)

[Texas Gunman Had A Violent Past](#)

[Disney Approached 21st Century Fox To Buy Entertainment Assets](#)

[Amazon’s Roy Price Left Alleged Trail Of Sexual Harassment](#)

New York Times:

[Air Force Error Allowed Texas Gunman To Buy Weapons](#)

[One Minute They Were A Family Praying In Church. The Next, Eight Of Them Were Dead.](#)

[From Utah, Secretive Help For A Russian Oligarch And His Jet](#)

[After A Tax Crackdown, Apple Found A New Shelter For Its Profits](#)

[The ‘Click’ Moment: How The Weinstein Scandal Unleashed A Tsunami](#)

[Wooing Trump, Xi Jinping Seeks Great Power Status For China](#)

Washington Post:

[Texas Shooter Was In Domestic Dispute](#)

[Trump Likes To Remind Sidekick Abe Who’s The Alpha Male](#)

[For Hollywood’s Image Defenders, Harassment Furor Shreds The Script](#)

[Okla. Democrats Do Something Unusual: Win](#)

[United In Faith, Families Now Joined By Tragedy](#)

[US To End Protected Status For Nicaraguans](#)

Financial Times:

[Hostilities Loom As Qualcomm Set To Snub Broadcom’s \\$130bn](#)

[‘Paradise Papers’ Spark Political Backlash Over Offshore Finance](#)

[Oil Climbs Above \\$64 A Barrel After Saudi Crackdown](#)

Washington Times:

[FBI Originally Deemed Clinton ‘Grossly Negligent’ In Handling Of Secret Emails](#)

[Air Force Launches Review After Failing To Enter Texas Shooter’s Criminal History In FBI Database](#)

[Ivanka Trump Highlights Working Families In Sales Pitch For Republican Tax Plan](#)

[DHS To Cancel Special Immigration Status For 5,000 Nicaraguans, Delays On 86,000 Hondurans](#)

[Shrewd FARC Leader Seeks Colombian Presidency, Turns Rebel Group Into Influential Political Power](#)

[On Eve Of Virginia Elections, Gillespie And Trump Are Worlds Apart](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: Texas Church Shooting; Texas Church Shooting-Eyewitnesses; Texas Church Shooting-Video; Texas Church Shooting-Gunman; Texas Church Shooting-Trump; Severe Weather; Sen. Rand Paul Assaulted; California-Escapees Manhunt; Florida-University Hazing; Burning Car Rescue; Texas Church Shooting-Recap.

CBS: Texas Church Shooting; Texas Church Shooting-Gunman Background; Texas Church Shooting-Gunman; Texas Church Shooting-Victims; Texas Church Shooting-Neighbor; Texas Church Shooting-Town; Texas Church Shooting-Congress; Trump-Asia Tour; Saudi Arabia Princes Jailed-Trump; Russia Meddling Investigation; Sen. Rand Paul Assaulted; Florida-University Hazing; Texas Church Shooting-Recap.

NBC: Texas Church Shooting; Texas Church Shooting-Eyewitnesses; Texas Church Shooting-Gunman; Texas Church Shooting-Trump; South Korea Foreign Minister Interview; Russia Meddling Investigation; Sen. Rand Paul Assaulted; Florida-University Hazing; New York City Marathon Winner; Texas Church Shooting-Recap.

Network TV At A Glance:

Texas Church Shooting – 39 minutes, 50 seconds
Sen. Rand Paul Assaulted – 3 minutes, 15 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Texas Church Shooting; Colorado Walmart Shooting; Trump-Asia Tour; Florida-University Hazing; Wall Street News.

CBS: Texas Church Shooting; Trump-Asia Tour; Severe Weather; Wall Street News.

FOX: Texas Church Shooting; Trump-Asia Tour; Tax Reform Plan.

NPR: Texas Church Shooting; Tax Reform Plan; Trump-Asia Tour; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Has lunch with troops from the United States and the Republic of Korea; receives an operational briefing; participates in a bilateral meeting with President Moon Jae-In of the Republic of Korea; participates in a friendship walk with President Moon; participates in a joint press conference with President Moon; attends a state dinner.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a phone call with President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan; participates in a series of meetings with lawmakers.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Governmental Affairs Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Ernest DuBester, Colleen Kiko, and James Abbott to be Federal Labor Relations Authority members Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

10:00 AM Senate Commerce subcommittee hearing on the Internet of Things in rural America – Communications, Technology, Innovation, and the Internet Subcommittee hearing on 'Advancing the Internet of Things in Rural America', with testimony from University of Mississippi Medical Center Telehealth Center Executive Director Michael Adcock; Cartasite founder and CEO David Armitage; Lindsay Corporation President and CEO Timothy Hassinger; and Zebra Technologies Chief Administrative Officer Michael Terzich Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

10:00 AM Executive Session, to consider 'S. 1591, the Banking Restrictions Involving North Korea (BRINK) Act of 2017' Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Armed Services Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Robert Behler to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation; Dr Dean Winslow to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs; Thomas Modly to be Under Secretary of the Navy; and James Geurts to be Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm G50, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Helsinki Commission briefing on the Roma – 'The Situation of Roma: MEP Soraya Post Discusses Europe's Largest Ethnic Minority' Helsinki Commission briefing, with Member of the European Parliament for Sweden Soraya Post – one of only two Roma in the EU's legislative body – in conversation Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC-215, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

10:00 AM GOP Sen. Joni Ernst discusses visit to Naval Station Norfolk – Republican Sen. Joni Ernst discusses her visit to Naval Station Norfolk via pen-and-pad and media conference call * Sen. Ernst's visits was to observe operations and discuss her provision in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) to require the Secretary of the Navy to provide quarterly updates on

the progress of the Navy's Physiological Episode Team and their efforts to combat physiological episodes in jets Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 111, Washington, DC
www.ernst.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/senjoniernst>

2:30 PM Fed Chair Yellen presented with Paul H. Douglas Award for Ethics in Government – Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin and University of Illinois President Timothy Killeen host presentation of the Paul H. Douglas Award for Ethics in Government to outgoing Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen and former Fed Chair Ben Bernanke * President Donald Trump last week announced his choice of Jerome Powell as Yellen's replacement when her term ends next year Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm G50, Washington, DC [illinois.edu https://twitter.com/Illinois_Alma](https://twitter.com/Illinois_Alma)

2:30 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

2:30 PM Senate Foreign Relations Committee top secret briefing on North Korea's cyber capabilities – Closed / Top Secret / Sensitive Compartmented Information briefing on 'North Korea's Cyber Capabilities and U.S. Policy Response', given by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Cyber and International Communications and Information Policy Robert Strayer; and a CIA representative Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC-217, Washington, DC
<http://foreign.senate.gov/>

US House: 9:30 AM Congressional Black Caucus 'Blue Collar STEM – The Future of the U.S. Workforce' staff briefing – Congressional Black Caucus 'Blue Collar STEM – The Future of the U.S. Workforce' staff briefing, presented by the co-chairs of the CBC Technology and Infrastructure Development Task Force and Education and Labor Task Force – Democratic Reps. Eddie Bernice Johnson, Val Butler Demings, Danny Davis, Frederica Wilson, and Bonnie Watson Coleman. Presenters are Morgan State University Vice President Dr Victor McCrary, The Learning Partnership President Dr Steve McGee, and Code.org Chief Academic Officer Pat Yongpradit Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Meeting Room North, Washington, DC
<https://cbc.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/OfficialCBC>

10:00 AM Helsinki Commission briefing on the Roma – 'The Situation of Roma: MEP Soraya Post Discusses Europe's Largest Ethnic Minority' Helsinki Commission briefing, with Member of the European Parliament for Sweden Soraya Post – one of only two Roma in the EU's legislative body – in conversation Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC-215, Washington, DC
<http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

10:00 AM House Judiciary Committee hearing on anti-Semitism on college campuses – Hearing on 'Examining Anti-Semitism on College Campuses', with testimony from American Jewish Committee Director of International Jewish Affairs Rabbi Andrew Baker; American University Association for Jewish Studies President Dr Pamela Nadell; Simon Wiesenthal Center Associate Dean Rabbi Abraham Cooper; Wake Forest University Jewish Studies Program Director Dr Barry Trachtenberg; Kirkland & Ellis partner Paul Clement; Christians United for Israel Action Fund Chairwoman Sandra Hagee Parker; Anti-Defamation League CEO and National Director Jonathan Greenblatt; PEN America Executive Director Suzanne Nossel; and Justus & Karin Rosenberg Foundation Executive Director Ken Stern Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2141, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM San Juan mayor testifies to House Natural Resources Committee oversight hearing on Puerto Rico recovery – Oversight hearing on 'Examining Challenges in Puerto Rico's Recovery and the Role of the Financial Oversight and Management Board', with testimony from San Juan, Puerto Rico, Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz Soto; Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico Executive Director Natalie Jaresko, and Revitalization Coordinator Noel Zamot; Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority Executive Director Ricardo Ramos; and Guaynabo, Puerto Rico, Mayor Angel Perez Otero Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Small Business subcommittee hearing on the SBIC Program – Agriculture, Energy, and Trade Subcommittee hearing on 'Investing in Small Businesses: The SBIC Program', with testimony from Small Business Investor Alliance President Brett Palmer; Aavin Private Equity partner Thies Kolln; Plexus Capital Managing Partner Michael Painter; and Ruxton Ventures Managing Director Mark Walsh Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2360, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

10:00 AM House Energy subcommittee legislative hearing – Energy Subcommittee legislative hearing on a discussion draft of 'Energy Star Reform Act of 2017' and 'H.R. 3477, the Ceiling Fan Energy Conservation Harmonization Act', with testimony from Alliance to Save Energy President Kateri Callahan; Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute Chairman Christopher Drew; Consumer Technology Association Vice President for Technology Policy Douglas Johnson; Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers President and CEO Joseph McGuire; and

Cree Vice President for Marketing and Public Affairs Greg Merritt Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Financial Services subcommittee latest hearing on housing finance reform – Housing and Insurance Subcommittee hearing on ‘Sustainable Housing Finance, Part III’, with testimony from AEI Senior Fellow and Fellow in Financial Policy Studies Peter Wallison; Moody’s Analytics Chief Economist Dr Mark Zandi; Cardiff Consulting Services’ Dr Michael Lea; Urban Institute Housing Finance Policy Center Co-director Alanna McCargo; and Milken Institute Center for Financial Markets Senior Fellow Ted Tozer Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on the DHS Science and Technology Directorate – Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications Subcommittee hearing on ‘How Effective is the Science and Technology Directorate?: Stakeholder Perspectives’, with testimony from City of New York Fire Department Weapons of Mass Destruction Branch Coordinator Timothy Rice; Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences Associate Dean for Global One Health Dr Gerald Parker Jr.; Security Industry Association Director of Government Relations Jake Parker Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC <http://homeland.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on the Middle East and North Africa – Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee hearing on ‘Democracy and Governance in the Middle East and North Africa’, with testimony from International Republican Institute Vice President for Programs Scott Mastic; National Democratic Institute Senior Associate and Regional Director for Middle East and North Africa Programs Leslie Campbell; International Foundation for Electoral Systems Regional Director for Middle East and North Africa Zeinab Abdelkarim; and Freedom House Vice President for International Programs and Vice President for Emergency Assistance Programs and Multilateral Initiatives Dr Robert Herman Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

11:00 AM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/ <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

12:00 PM Bipartisan lawmakers discuss legislation to modernize the sugar program – Bipartisan Reps. Virginia Foxx, Diane Black, Bob Goodlatte, Jeb Hensarling, Steve Chabot, Phil Roe, Bill Shuster, Susan Brooks, Charlie Dent, Earl Blumenauer, Danny Davis, and Jackie Speier and industry supporters discuss ‘upcoming legislation that will finish the reforms of the last Farm Bill by modernizing the gov’t’s last supply-management system – the sugar program’ via press conference Location: House Triangle, Washington, DC <https://foxx.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/virginiafoxx>

12:00 PM House debates Save Local Business Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including ‘H.R. 3441 – Save Local Business Act’, and consideration of ‘H.R. 3911 – Risk-Based Credit Examination Act’, ‘H.R. 2148 – Clarifying Commercial Real Estate Loans’, as amended, ‘H.R. 918 – Veteran Urgent Access to Mental Healthcare Act’, as amended, ‘H.R. 1133 – Veterans Transplant Coverage Act of 2017’, as amended, ‘H.R. 1900 – National Veterans Memorial and Museum Act’, ‘H.R. 2601 – VICTOR Act of 2017’, as amended, ‘H.R. 3634 – SERVE Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 3705 – Veterans Fair Debt Notice Act of 2017’, as amended, ‘H.R. 3949 – VALOR Act’, as amended, ‘H.R. 4173 – Veterans Crisis Line Study Act of 2017’, as amended, and ‘H.R. 2123 – VETS Act of 2017’ under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on sovereign immunity and the IP system – Courts, Intellectual Property and the Internet Subcommittee hearing on ‘Sovereign Immunity and the Intellectual Property System’, with testimony from Loyola Law School Professor Karl Manheim; Goodwin Procter partner and Co-Chair of Appellate Litigation William Jay; Johnson-IP Strategy & Policy Consulting Principal Philip Johnson; and Software and Information Industry Association Vice President for Intellectual Property and General Counsel Christopher Mohr Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2141, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittees joint hearing on Russia – Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade Subcommittee and Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats Subcommittee joint hearing on ‘Russia: Counterterrorism Partner or Fanning the Flames?’, with testimony from RAND Corporation Political Scientist Dr Colin Clarke; American Foreign Policy Council Central Asia-Caucasus Institute Director Dr Svante Cornell; Harvard Kennedy School

Russia Matters Project Director Simon Saradzhyan; and Atlantic Council Dinu Patriciu Eurasia Center Nonresident Senior Fellow / University of Pennsylvania Biden Center for Diplomacy and Global Engagement Senior Director Dr Michael Carpenter Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

2:00 PM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on Fed reform – Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee hearing on ‘Examining Federal Reserve Reform Proposals’, with testimony from Center on Budget and Policy Priorities Senior Fellow Dr Jered Bernstein; Berenberg Capital Markets Managing Director and Chief Economist Dr Mickey Levy; Hoover Institution Visiting Fellow Dr Charles Plosser; and Dartmouth College Professor of Economics Dr Andrew Levin Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC
<http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

2:00 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee legislative hearing on a discussion draft of ‘H.R. XXXX, To distribute revenues from oil and gas leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf to certain coastal States, to require sale of approved and scheduled offshore oil and gas leases, to establish offshore wind lease sale requirements, and to empower States to manage the development and production of oil and gas on available Federal land, and for other purposes’, with testimony from Argonne National Laboratory Environmental Specialist Ray Brady; North Dakota Industrial Commission Department of Mineral Resources Director Lynn Helms; Consumer Energy Alliance President David Holt; and Tulane Energy Institute A. B. Freeman School of Business Associate Director Eric Smith Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC
<http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

3:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on ‘H.R. 2201 – Micro Offering Safe Harbor Act’ Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

3:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on ‘H.R. 2874 – 21st Century Flood Reform Act’ Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

5:00 PM House Natural Resources Committee markup hearing begins – Markup hearing begins on ‘H.R. 995, 21st Century Respect Act’, ‘H.R. 1532, Poarch Band of Creek Indians Land Reaffirmation Act’, ‘H.R. 1800, To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer certain Federal land to facilitate scientific research supporting Federal space and defense programs’, ‘H.R. 2504, To ensure fair treatment in licensing requirements for the export of certain echinoderms’, ‘H.R. 2907, Planning for American Energy Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 3469, To designate the bridge located in Blount County, Tennessee, on the Foothills Parkway (commonly known as ‘Bridge 2’) as the ‘Dean Stone Bridge’, ‘H.R. 3905, Minnesota’s Economic Rights in the Superior National Forest Act’, ‘H.R. 4239, Strengthening the Economy with Critical Untapped Resources to Expand American Energy Act’ (‘SECURE American Energy Act’), and ‘S. 140, To amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify the use of amounts in the WMAT Settlement Fund’ * Concludes tomorrow Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

Other: 8:00 AM CyberSat Summit – CyberSat Summit, dedicated to assessing the ever-evolving threat of cyberattacks in the satellite and aerospace landscape. Speakers include Republican Rep. Brian Babin, Homeland Security Advanced Research Projects Agency Cyber Security Division Program Manager Robert Hickey, Gen. John Raymond, and FBI Cyber Division Senior Intelligence Analyst Kristen Lane Location: Tysons Corner Marriott, 8028 Leesburg Pike, Tysons, VA Tysons’s Corner <http://www.cybersatsummit.com>

8:00 AM FDA Commissioner Gottlieb and Dem Sen. Jeanne Shaheen speak at The Hill event on ‘America’s Opioid Epidemic’ – The Hill hosts ‘America’s Opioid Epidemic: Strategies for Prevention’, to highlight ‘solutions to America’s urgent drug overdose crisis’ with policymakers, public health officials, medical experts and patient advocates, with The Hill Editor-In-Chief Bob Cusack and healthcare reporter Rachel Roubain leading discussions on steps that can be taken at both a local and national levels. Headline conversations feature Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Dr Scott Gottlieb and Democratic Sen. Jeanne Shaheen. Other speakers include The Johns Hopkins Center for Opioid Research and Education Director Marty Makary, National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors Executive Director Rob Morrison, Addiction Policy Forum President and CEO Jessica Hulsey Nickel, and Chronic Pain Research Alliance co-founder and Director Christin Veasley Location: 1777 F St NW, Washington, DC <https://twitter.com/TheHillEvents> #Strategies4Prevention

10:30 AM UK lawmaker speaks on Brexit at The Heritage Foundation – ‘Brexit and the

Opportunities for a Deeper Anglo-American Alliance' Heritage Foundation discussion, with Member of the European Parliament for the UK Daniel Hannan Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.heritage.org [#Brexit](https://twitter.com/Heritage)

11:00 AM Dedication of 150 maple trees gifted to the U.S. by Canadian PM Trudeau – Dedication of 150 maple trees gifted to the people of the U.S. by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau during his March 2016 official visit to the U.S., in honor of Canada's 150th anniversary. Canada Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. David MacNaughton and National Park Service National Capital Regional Director Bob Vogel attend Location: West Potomac Park, intersection of Ohio Dr SW and W Basin Dr SW, Washington, DC www.nps.gov <https://twitter.com/NatlParkService>

11:00 AM Iraqi VP Al-Nujaifi speaks at USIP on the country's future – Iraqi Vice President Osama Al-Nujaifi speaks at the U.S. Institute of Peace on the future of Iraq's democracy post Islamic State group, and the federalist system adopted after the fall of Saddam Hussein Location: U.S. Institute of Peace, 2301 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC www.usip.org [#NujaifiUSIP](https://twitter.com/USIP)

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: [Referring to President Trump's Visit to Asia] "This is a 12-day trip, the longest Asia trip by a President since George H.W. Bush back in 1991. Basically, the Republicans are trying to get this tax plan passed, and they're like, 'You know what, Mr. President? Go to Asia, eat steak, try not to start a war.'"

Stephen Colbert: "Donald Trump is on a 13-day trip through Asia. Fox and Friends has one less viewer."

Stephen Colbert: "No one has summed up the mood of the country better than a cyclist who went viral last week for giving the President's motorcade the finger. Long may she wave. Her name is Juli Briskman, and she just got fired for flipping off Trump's motorcade. But if you can't give people the finger in traffic, then what's the point of driving? That's how we say 'hello' in New York."

James Corden: "President Donald Trump arrived in Japan over the weekend to kick off a 13-day trip through Asia. Following the President's trip, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson will then kick off his own 13-day trip to apologize for everything Donald Trump has done."

Trevor Noah: "Yesterday was the New York City Marathon, and if you are an American, finally some good news. Congratulations to Shalane Flanagan, who just became the first American woman in 40 years to win the New York City Marathon. Congratulations. And I understand why people were loving this moment, an American woman ran a race in November and won. Wow. Yeah. Doesn't that feel good?"

Trevor Noah: [Referring to President Trump's visit to Asia] "Poor Japan, man. Once again they have to deal with an out-of-control monster with tiny hands."

Seth Meyers: "A Twitter customer support employee briefly shut down President Trump's profile on Friday on his last day at the company. Sadly, that employee has since died of high-fives."

Seth Meyers: "Trump's trip got off to a rough start on Friday when he flew to Hawaii, which is of course the state where former President Obama was born. And Trump's motorcade was greeted by protesters lining the streets reminding him of his past as a birther with signs like this one that read, 'Aloha POTUS, welcome to Kenya.'"

Conan O'Brien: "This morning, a woman was fired from her job because she was photographed flipping off President Trump. Yeah. True story. When asked for comment, Melania Trump said, 'I didn't like being first lady anyway. So it worked out.'"

radio broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Data from and access to third party social media platforms, including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and others, is subject to the respective platform's terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's [terms of use](#). Services including embedded Tweets are also subject to [Twitter for Website's information and privacy policies](#). The Department of the Interior News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Roll Call: Trump Urges Lawmakers To Cut Top Tax Rate, Eliminate Individual Mandate In Tax Bill.
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DOI In The News

After Trump Shrinks Bears Ears, It Will Still Be Larger Than Zion And Bryce Combined, Says Interior Secretary.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/13, Burr) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "says he believes President Donald Trump will trim Utah's Bears Ears National Monument as he recommended but it will still be larger than Zion and Bryce national parks combined." Doing so "could mean a dramatic reduction from the current 1.35 million acres to somewhere north of 180,000 acres," since "Zion covers 147,000 acres and Bryce nearly 36,000 acres." State officials "had asked Trump to cut Bears Ears down to 120,000 acres." Zinke "noted that he believes Trump will follow his recommendations, which in the case of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase, would return hundreds of thousands of acres back to land managed by the Bureau of Land Management or the Forest Service and open access for oil and gas exploration and other uses that are blocked by the monument status."

Interior Decorator: Zinke's Push To Redesign Flags And Accessorize With Dead Animals.

The [Huffington Post](#) (11/13, D'Angelo) reports that "a week after taking over the Department of the Interior, Ryan Zinke inquired about redesigning the agency's flag, according to internal emails HuffPost has obtained." The emails also "shine more light on Zinke's revival of an obscure military flag-flying tradition." According to the article, "the flag inquiries by the former Montana congressman and Navy SEAL were part of a broader revamping at Interior that included outfitting his office with a slew of taxidermied creatures and a bronze bust of his hero Teddy Roosevelt."

With 17 Existing Working Capital Funds, Some CIOs Excited About Added Flexibilities Of MGT Act.

[Federal News Radio \(DC\)](#) (11/13, Miller) reports that the Modernizing Government Technology (MGT) Act changes the "flexibility and specific requirements for using the money in the working capital fund." The article notes that "according to the White House budget request for fiscal 2017, 17 agencies currently have working capital funds," including the Interior Department. While the Interior Department "funds its CIO's office through a working capital fund and its no-year funding, the CIO is limited to how they can use the money." Sylvia Burns, Interior's CIO, said at

the Partnership for Public Service event before the MGT Act passed, "the bill would give her office the ability to target funds to the most pressing areas." She said, "I think the potential change to the working capital fund that we have now, which we have to have much more conversations about, it could offer that capability of taking savings in IT, parking the money in a modernization fund, then we could have some sort of process, potentially similar to the process that OMB outlined in that legislation, about having a board with the proposals coming in and selections, monitoring and putting the resources to make it successful. That's potentially how we could do stuff in the future, but again, much more to talk about inside the department."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Tribal Loan Program Needs More Oversight, Watchdog Says.

[Law360](#) (11/13, Crosby) reports that "a federal program meant to help tribes and individual Native Americans secure otherwise impossible-to-get financing has approved risky, oversized loans without first requiring proof that the money would benefit Native American communities, actions that unnecessarily put taxpayers on the hook, a federal watchdog said in a scathing report released Monday." The report by the Interior Department's Office for Inspector General "said that federal authorities inconsistently applied federal law governing the loan program."

Feds Fine Indiana County Over Native American Gravesite Dig.

The [AP](#) (11/13) reports that the Interior Department is "fining a central Indiana county for violating a federal law aimed at protecting Native American gravesites." According to the article, "the fine of about \$6,500 against the Hamilton County Parks Department concerns work by archaeologists from Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne at Strawtown Koteewi Park near Noblesville." The [Indianapolis Star](#) (11/13, Sikich) reports that "more than 90,000 artifacts associated with human remains and 200 human bone and teeth samples" were uncovered between 2001 and 2011.

Coastal Village Moving To Higher Ground To Escape Tsunami, Flooding Threat.

[Northwest Public Radio](#) (11/13, Banse) reports that the Quileute Tribe has started "logging and road building to relocate its coastal village out of the tsunami and flood zone, starting with the Quileute Tribal School." Project manager Susan Devine "said the tribe's priorities are to get children out of harm's way first by moving the school, then the elders by relocating the senior center, and then government offices and housing." Devine "said only the relocation of the tribal school is financed, thanks mostly to money from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs that the Quileutes secured through a highly-competitive grant application."

Bureau Of Indian Education

Former Chemawa Staff Say Concerns Were Met With Retaliation, Bullying.

Continuing its series on problems at the Chemawa Indian School, [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (11/13, Schick, Manning) reports that 20 staff members since 2010 have "said they experienced retaliation or hostility from campus leadership." According to the article, "any dysfunction at Chemawa is, in part, the product of dysfunction within the Bureau of Indian Education, an agency with a history of documented problems involving oversight of academics, facilities and finances at its 183 schools across the country." The article says that "with a rotating cast at the top and a firewall between teachers and the federal bureaucracy, disgruntled staff members have directed most of their criticism toward several veteran administrators: academic principal Amanda Ward, business manager Rachenda Reynosa and Ryan Cox, the assistant principal for federal programs."

Bureau Of Land Management

BLM Hosts Sage Grouse Meetings In Utah Tues, Wed, Thurs.

The [AP](#) (11/13) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is "hosting three public meetings in Utah this week to gather input on Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's plans to reassess sage grouse management policies adopted under the Obama administration." The meetings are "scheduled

Tuesday in Vernal, Wednesday in Cedar City and Thursday in Snowville.”

Land Policies To Be Tested In Bundy Standoff Trial In Vegas.

The [AP](#) (11/14, Ritter) reports that the trial is set to start Tuesday of “cattlemen Cliven Bundy, two of his sons and a co-defendant accused of leading a 2014 armed standoff against government agents.” The trial, which is “expected to be contentious,” “sets up as a test of public land policies in Western U.S. states such as Nevada, where the federal government controls about 85 percent of the land and juries have twice balked at full convictions of men who had guns during the tense April 2014 confrontation.”

Montezuma County, BLM May Team Up For Sand Canyon Solution.

The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (11/13, Mimiaga) reports that “a combined effort by Canyons of the Ancients Monument and Montezuma County could boost parking at the Sand Canyon trailhead from the current 20 spots to up to 60.” The monument and the Bureau of Land Management have “proposed a new parking lot and trailhead a quarter-mile east of the current one on County Road G.” However, “because of limited space pinched by cultural resources such as ancient ruins, the lot has enough room for only nine passenger vehicles and three oversize vehicles.” To make it bigger, “the county proposes using its wide right of way along County Road G to accommodate up to 30 more passenger cars, with space designed for oversize vehicles.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

Fort Lewis College Professor Uses Robots To Go Where No Man Has Gone Before.

The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (11/13, Rupani) reports that Ryan Smith, professor of physics and engineering at Fort Lewis College, is “the winner of the 2017-18 Fort Lewis College Featured Scholar award for his work to monitor water quality across the region.” The Bureau of Reclamation “recently contacted Smith to gain insight on sending robots into abandoned mine corridors to create 3-D reconstructions.” According to the article, “Smith’s students are studying which types of robots could explore mines, what sensors they would need, and what the risk/reward ratio is.”

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Agency May Decline To Enact Whistleblower Protections Aftkjer Deepwater Horizon Tragedy.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (11/13, Blum) reports a federal agency may decide Tuesday “to withdraw its recommendations to extend whistleblower protections for offshore oil workers made in the aftermath of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon tragedy in the Gulf of Mexico.” The US Interior Department’s offshore bureau “is refusing to enact the protections, arguing that they’re not a priority and possibly outside of the bureau’s authority.” The recommending agency, the US Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, “is considering canceling some of the 2016 proposals entirely.” BSEE Offshore Regulatory Program Chief Douglas Morris “told the CSB that it should instead work with industry groups like the American Petroleum Institute and the International Association of Drilling Contractors to develop voluntary worker participation and whistleblower guidelines for companies.”

Some Gulf Of Mexico Operations Shut In After Fire.

[UPI](#) (11/13, Graeber) reports that Hess Corp. said that Gulf of Mexico operations have been shut down following a recent platform fire. Meanwhile, there is “no immediate indication of a restart.” The company is working with Shell on “the Enchilada platform on the Garden Banks reservoir in the Gulf of Mexico,” which suffered a fire last week that injured two people. Shell said that although “the structure is visibly sound, crews will continue to determine the integrity of the platform and formulate a plan for damage repair.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Senate Panel To Mark Up ANWR Proposal This Week.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (11/13, Passut) reports that “a Senate panel plans to meet this week to mark up a proposal to open a portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil and gas development, which may require the Department of Interior (DOI) to hold at least two lease sales for the region over the next decade.” The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has “scheduled a meeting Wednesday to consider reconciliation legislation attached to a \$4 trillion federal budget bill for fiscal year 2018, which the Senate passed along mostly partisan lines on Oct. 19.” The measure “includes language to open 2,000 acres of the 1.5-million acre coastal plain portion of ANWR, a region also known as the 1002 Area, to energy development. ANWR covers 19 million acres in total.”

[The Hill](#) (11/13, Henry) reports while supporters say the plan is necessary to raise revenue, opponents say the region is too environmentally sensitive to risk drilling. [E&E Publishing](#) (11/13, Lunney) reports that opponents to drilling activities in the ANWR are hoping “to convince their colleagues over the next few weeks that energy development there threatens America’s entire wildlife refuge system, primarily for the sake of alleviating Alaska’s fiscal crisis.” During a press conference, top Democrat in the Energy and Natural Resources Committee and opponent to ANWR drilling Sen. Maria Cantwell (WA) asked what other wildlife refuge the country would be mandated for drilling. Cantwell also said that she thinks her “colleagues are understanding how that budget deficit [in Alaska] is part of the motivation.”

Also reporting are [Al Jazeera English](#) (11/13, Kestler-D’Amours) and the [Arctic \(AK\) Sounder](#) (11/10, Martinson).

Bill Would Block Wisconsin Law Enforcement From Prosecuting Illegal Wolf Killings.

The [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (11/13, Kremer) reports that “a group of Republican lawmakers from northern Wisconsin are pushing a bill that would block game wardens and police from investigating illegal wolf killings in the state.” According to the article, “in an email calling for co-sponsors for the measure, the authors said it’s an attempt to put pressure on Congress to pass pending federal legislation that would remove the gray wolf from the endangered species list.”

Cattle Raisers Bring Tick Problem To Trump Administration.

The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (11/13, Brezosky) reports that “Texas lawmakers appealed on behalf of the state’s ranchers to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for help containing” the cattle fever tick “in a Nov. 1 letter that sought assistance from the Trump administration, saying the Obama administration had not taken adequate steps against the spread of infestation.” They claim that environmental protections for wildlife at the Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge are also safeguarding the pest.

Groups Battle Over Threatened Jumping Mouse Status.

[Wyoming Public Radio](#) (11/13, McKim) reports that two conservation groups have filed a petition with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to continue protections of the Preble’s Meadow Jumping Mouse under the Endangered Species Act.” The petition by the Center for Biological Diversity and Rocky Mountain Wild “comes in response to another petition from a property rights group called the Pacific Legal Foundation, which “sought to delist the species in March, arguing the mouse isn’t truly threatened and that the critter’s protections have had significant negative economic impacts on property owners.”

Great Lakes Piping Plovers Had Record Year.

The [Bemidji \(MN\) Pioneer](#) (11/13, Myers) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said on Monday “that a modern record 76 breeding pairs” of piping plovers were “counted on Great Lakes beaches this summer.” The article also notes that “it was the first summer that piping plovers nested on all five Great Lakes since 1955, a benchmark the Fish and Wildlife Service called ‘a remarkable development for the recovery program.’”

National Park Service

How Climate Change Is Wiping Out This National Park.

For [NBC News](#) (11/12) reporter Anne Thompson visited “the Grinnell Glacier in Montana’s Glacier National Park, where our warming climate is on full display as one of nature’s masterpieces is disappearing before our eyes.”

Federal Court Rules In Favor Of National Park Service.

The [AP](#) (11/13) reports that “the U.S. Court of Appeals decided that the National Park Service does not need to substantively assess the elk hunt every year to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act.” The court held “last week that a decade-old plan, a 2007 environmental impact statement, was adequate.” The [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (11/13, Koshmrl) reports that appeals court concluded: “An agency is not required to make a new assessment under NEPA every time it takes a step that implements a previously studied action. The 2007 EIS was clearly sufficient to cover elk hunting during the ensuing fifteen years under the 2007 plan, absent a material change causing unforeseen environmental consequences.”

Proposal Would Protect Clam, Worm Harvest Around Acadia.

The [AP](#) (11/12) reports that Maine’s congressional delegation “says legislation is necessary to ensure clam and worm harvesters are allowed to keep plying their trade near Acadia National Park.” Sens. Angus King and Susan Collins are introducing the bill. They say “say clam and worm harvesters have raised concerns that they wouldn’t be able to continue their work due to enforcement from the National Park Service.” Reps. Bruce Poliquin and Chellie Pingree, have introduced a companion bill in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Body Recovered At Grand Canyon; May Be Missing Utah Man.

The [AP](#) (11/13) reports that “authorities say they’ve recovered a body within the Grand Canyon National Park and it’s believed to be that of a Utah man missing since late last month.” NPS officials “announced Monday that a man’s body was recovered below the South Rim between Pipe Creek and Mather Point.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

Child Nutrition Crisis In Marshall Islands Sparks Intervention Plan.

[Radio New Zealand](#) (11/9, Johnson) reports that the President Hilda Heine and the Marshall Islands government has launched “a major effort to improve early childhood nutrition and health status.” The article notes that “a recently conducted national survey of young children in the Marshall Islands confirmed that poor nutrition has caused growth stunting in 35 percent of those surveyed, said officials in Majuro.” Heine said, “We need to focus on our people by providing earlier intervention. The first 1,000 days of a child’s life are critical and can impact their entire lives, both their physical and cognitive development.”

Governor Says Our Veterans “Represent The Very Best Of America, Our Micronesian Region And Our Island.”

The [Pacific News Center](#) (11/10, Ridgell) reports that in a special address in honor of Veteran’s Day, Governor Eddie Calvo “spoke about the importance of Veteran’s Day to remember the sacrifice made for the country by so many brave men and women.” Calvo said that veterans “represent the very best of America, our Micronesian region and our island.” He said, “From World War II to battles in Iraq, our people understand the price of war. We are intimately familiar with the price that had to be paid for the peace we have enjoyed for decades. You give us hope. You are freedom’s heroes, the defenders of justice, and promoters of peace.”

Complicated U.S. Relations Leave Veterans Without Full Health Benefits.

In a story on [Hawaii Public Radio](#) (11/9, Hiraishi) reporter Ku’uwehi Hiraishi “shares the story” of veterans from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau. The article notes that “serving in the U.S. military does not automatically qualify veterans for full health benefits.” Emi Chutaro, Executive Director of the Pacific Islands Health Officers Association or PIHOA, explained, “The three U.S. territories – Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands because they’re U.S. territories, they are fully eligible for VA services cause they are U.S. citizens. It’s a different situation to the veterans that are coming from the freely associated states because they aren’t U.S. citizens.”

Underwood: FSM Did Well With Compact Of Free Association.

[KUAM-TV](#) Dededo, GUM (11/9, Licanto) reports that “thirty years after the signing of the Compact of Free Association,” Former congressman and current University of Guam president Dr. Robert

Underwood believes “the Federated States of Micronesia did well in its landmark deal with the United States.” Underwood “says he believes the US will strike a new deal with the FSM before the Compact expires in a few years” because “China is already making overtures, and building relationships with the federated states that the US cannot ignore.”

Taiwan President Visits U.S. Territory Of Guam Despite Chinese Ire.

[Reuters](#) (11/3, Maratita) reports that “Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen arrived on the U.S. Pacific island of Guam on Friday on her way back from visiting diplomatic allies in the Pacific – a trip that caused strong objections from China, which claims Taiwan as its own.” Beijing had “urged the United States not to allow Tsai to transit its territory on her trip, which included two days in Hawaii before she headed on to Tuvalu, the Solomon Islands and the Marshall Islands.”

Pope Addresses Pacific Islands Forum Leaders.

[Vatican Radio](#) (11/11) reports that “Pope Francis on Saturday shared the concerns of island, coastal and fishing communities, and called for global cooperation, solidarity and strategies to address issues such as the deterioration of the environment and the health of oceans.” According to the article, “meeting some 46 members of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in the Vatican, the Pope shared the concerns of those exposed to frequent extreme environmental and climate events, and the impact of rising sea levels and the continuous deterioration of the barrier reef.”

FEMA Approves VI Government’s Application For Community Disaster Loan; DSNAP Sees 7,400 Applicants In Three Days.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (11/9, Gilbert) reports that “the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has approved the territory’s request for a community disaster loan, which makes available \$500 million to the government over the course three fiscal years.” The money is “part of a \$36.5 billion disaster relief measure Congress approved last month.”

No Electricity, Homes In Ruins: A Reporter Goes Home And Finds Misery, Hope And Resilience In The U.S.

Virgin Islands. [WBIR-TV](#) Knoxville, TN (11/9, Schouten) reports on the damage that Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria wrought on the U.S. Virgin Islands. Electricity “has not been restored to most the islands’ 105,000 residents,” while “telephone and Internet service remain spotty.” Meanwhile, “thousands of islanders, some seizing on free “mercy” flights and cruises in the storms’ immediate aftermath, have left — perhaps never to return.”

Chinese-made Aircraft Delivered To Pacific Island Nation.

[Xinhua News Agency \(CHN\)](#) (11/10) reports that “a Chinese-made Y-12E aircraft was delivered to the Federated States of Micronesia, an island nation on the Western Pacific, on Friday.”

Naturalization Ceremony Welcomes New Americans.

[KUAM-TV](#) Dededo, GUM (11/9, Paco) reports that 41 new citizens were “naturalized as U.S. citizens on Guam soil” on Thursday “during a special Veterans Day naturalization ceremony at the District Court of Guam.” They came from “Canada, El Salvador, the Federated States of Micronesia, Mexico, Palau, the People’s Republic of China, Peru, the Republic of the Philippines, South Korea, the United Kingdom, and the Vietnam.”

Office Of Surface Mining

A Year After Trump’s Election, Coal’s Future Remains Bleak.

A [Reuters](#) (11/13, Gardner) review of mining data shows the coal industry “has seen only modest gains in jobs and production this year – much of it from a temporary uptick in foreign demand for U.S. coal rather than presidential policy changes.” US utilities “are shutting coal-fired power plants at a rapid pace and shifting to cheap natural gas, along with wind and solar power. And domestic demand makes up about 90 percent of the market for U.S. coal.” The situation “highlights the limitations of presidential policy on major industries and global economic trends. As some energy experts have said all along, the forces that will make or break mining are well beyond the powers of the Oval Office.”

Opinion Pieces

Trump's Proposed Fee Hike Will Create Class System At National Parks.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (11/13, Peterman), Audrey Peterman, a member of the Next 100 Coalition, criticizes the proposal to raise entrance fees at popular national parks. She warns that by hiking fees, the Trump Administration will "make it harder for modest-income families to visit these parks at 'peak season,' meaning around summer, when people have vacation time to visit, as well as comfortable weather." Peterman claims that "tiered entrance fees could create a class system in our national parks" and "could actively discourage the less affluent from visiting at all." She emphasizes that "the most vital reason of all is that the future of the park system completely depends upon the support of the American electorate, which is increasingly racially diverse." Peterman argues that "as more nonwhite representatives are elected to Congress, the chance of them voting to fund national parks when faced with pressing needs such as health care and education becomes increasingly slim."

Let The People Play!

The Park Service Plan To Ban Sports From The Mall Is All Wrong. In a piece for the [Washington Post](#) (11/13, Dvorak), Petula Dvorak opposes a proposal by the National Park Service to ban "all sports from the grounds surrounding the Washington Monument." Dvorak dismisses the reasoning by officials that crowds are keeping "the grounds from looking luxurious and rich." According to Dvorak, "if the Mall displays the achievements and grandeur of the American Dream, nothing embodies that more than watching everyday Americans play among the monuments and white marble."

DOI Is 'Streamlining' Regulations, Straight Past Local Input.

In an editorial, the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (11/13) raises concerns after the Interior Department released a report last month titled "Review of the Department of the Interior Actions that Potentially Burden Domestic Energy." The paper says "that's a fair topic to review, especially if corresponding reviews exist of actions that potentially burden other uses on public lands that are managed for multiple use." However, it argues "that is not the agenda of the Trump administration, which wants to streamline – read: slash – regulations on gas and oil development." The editorial claims that "this administration is short-sighted in its singularly-focused effort to pay for tax cuts on the backs of our public lands, while ignoring local public input about all desired uses."

Additional Reading.

- *We Just Discovered These Places (National Parks;) Now You Want To Take Them From Us?'* [Huffington Post](#) (11/13, Peterman).
- *Community Voices: National Parks On Public Lands Facing Relentless Attacks In Washington.* [Bakersfield \(CA\) Californian](#) (11/13, León, González, Arce).
- *Readers Agree, Proposed Fee Hike For Parks Is Stinky.* [Kitsap \(WA\) Sun](#) (11/12, Blair).
- *Tax Cuts For The Rich Are Threatening America's Sacred Places.* [Sky Valley \(WA\) Chronicle](#) (11/13, Demientieff).
- *First The Red River, Now The Rio Grande – The Battle For Private Land.* [McAllen \(TX\) Monitor](#) (11/13, Sanchez).
- *Editorial: Study Of Surface Mining, Health Issues Should Resume.* [Huntington \(WV\) Herald-Dispatch](#) (11/14).
- *Reject Seismic Testing Off S.C. Coast2.* [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (11/14).
- *Opinion: Lease Sales Critical To Energy Dominance.* [Houma \(LA\) Courier](#) (11/13, Weinstein).

Top National News

Sessions Considering Special Counsel To Investigate Clinton.

The news late Monday that Attorney General Sessions is considering the appointment of a special counsel to investigate allegations surrounding Hillary Clinton garners heavy media coverage. The tone of much of the coverage is negative, highlighting President Trump's calls for Sessions to investigate Clinton and the Democrats and questioning whether Trump is using the Justice Department to investigate his political rivals or distract attention from special counsel Robert

Mueller's investigation of Russian meddling in the 2016 election.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/13, Tanfani) reports that in a letter to House Judiciary Committee Chairman Robert Goodlatte, Assistant Attorney General Stephen Boyd said that senior prosecutors are examining whether a special counsel should investigate "the Clinton Foundation, Clinton's use of a private email server while secretary of State, former FBI Director James B. Comey's decision not to prosecute Clinton, and a 2010 decision by the Obama administration regarding sales of uranium to a Russian company." Boyd wrote that prosecutors will "evaluate certain issues" surrounding the foundation and recommend possible investigative steps – "including the appointment of a special counsel." The [Washington Times](#) (11/13, Dinan) reports that Sessions said the review will help him and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein determine "whether any matters merit the appointment of a special counsel."

[Axios](#) (11/13, Swan) quotes a "senior administration official" as saying, "This Justice Department under this Attorney General is not going to play the James Comey game and confirm, or even deny, the existence of criminal investigations – but this letter makes it clear that Sessions is taking the Uranium One issue very seriously."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/13, Zapotosky) reports that the consideration comes in response to an inquiry from Goodlatte, "who in July and again in September called for Sessions to appoint a second special counsel to investigate concerns he had related to the 2016 election and its aftermath." [The Hill](#) (11/13, Beavers, Solomon) reports that Goodlatte "had particularly taken aim at Comey after revelations surfaced earlier this year that he had drafted a statement ending the agency's investigation into Clinton's email server before over a dozen key witnesses, including herself, had been interviewed about the issue." The [New York Post](#) (11/13, Li) also reports on the story, citing the Washington Post report.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/13, Correll) says that President Trump "has criticized Sessions for not looking into the allegations against Clinton, and publicly told reporters earlier this month the Justice Department 'should be looking at the Democrats.'" However, the [AP](#) (11/13) says that the appointment of a new special counsel, "particularly in response to calls from members of Congress or from President Donald Trump, is likely to lead to Democratic complaints about an undue political influence on the department's decision-making."

Similarly, the [New York Times](#) (11/13, Schmidt, Haberman) says Sessions' decision "raises questions about whether Mr. Trump is trying to use the Justice Department to investigate his political rivals and distract from the special counsel's investigation into his presidential campaign." [Reuters](#) (11/13) likewise reports that Democrats have "accused Republicans of launching a spurious investigation of Clinton, the 2016 Democratic presidential candidate, to divert attention from Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into alleged links between President Donald Trump's presidential campaign and Russia."

[Politico](#) (11/13, Gerstein) says the [letter](#) "was sent one day before Sessions is scheduled to make his first-ever appearance before the House Judiciary Committee." The move "could assuage not only the concerns of Republican lawmakers, but also those of President Donald Trump, who has repeatedly taken to Twitter with urgent calls for the Justice Department to delve into the alleged illegality." [Business Insider](#) (11/13, Sheth) says Trump "has repeatedly called Sessions a 'weak' attorney general and pushed him to investigate Clinton and the Democrats as the FBI investigates Trump and his campaign for possible collusion with Moscow during the 2016 election."

Word that Sessions is considering a special counsel comes as Reps. Jim Jordan and Matt Gaetz on Monday "delivered an ultimatum" telling Sessions to "either to name a special counsel to investigate FBI Director James Comey's handling of last year's election, or else resign to clear the way for someone who will," the [Washington Times](#) (11/13, Dinan) reports. The lawmakers said that there are mounting questions over "the way Mr. Comey conducted the investigation of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's secret emails and the FBI's treatment of an anti-Trump dossier." In a [piece](#) for FoxNews.com, they wrote, "It's time for Jeff Sessions to name a Special Counsel and get answers for the American people. If not, he should step down."

Browder Says Fusion GPS Assisted Kremlin Efforts To Have Him Killed. The [Daily Caller](#) (11/13, Ross) reports that London-based banker Bill Browder, who "spearheaded the Magnitsky Act," was "the target of a Fusion GPS opposition research investigation" and is accusing the firm "of assisting the Kremlin in its effort to have him 'imprisoned and killed.'" Browder's allegation comes "in response to the recent revelation that Fusion GPS and its founder Glenn Simpson compiled what he says is false information about him that was given to Yuri Chaika, Russia's prosecutor general, and to Donald Trump Jr. during the infamous June 2016 Trump Tower meeting." Browder said, "If it is true that Glenn Simpson was supplying information about me to the Russian government, it's far more serious than smear campaigning or Foreign Agents

Registration Act violations. ... It would mean that Simpson was assisting the Putin regime in their plot to get me back to Russia to have me imprisoned and killed."

Lawmakers Interested In Fusion GPS' Funders. The [Washington Times](#) (11/13, Boylan) reports that when Fusion co-founder Glenn Simpson is interviewed by the House Intelligence Committee on Tuesday, "the firm's tangled web of funders is likely to be a main topic of interest." Committee investigators have "pushed for an explanation of who supported the hiring of ex-British intelligence officer Christopher Steele to compile" the so-called Trump dossier.

House Panel To Grill Sessions Over Papadopoulos' Claims. [USA Today](#) (11/13, Johnson, Kelly) reports that after Attorney General Sessions told a Senate panel last month "that he had no knowledge of Trump campaign contacts with Russia," Democratic and Republican members of the House Judiciary Committee "are preparing a strong challenge to Sessions' assertions at a hearing Tuesday, based largely on the guilty plea of George Papadopoulos," who "admitted to the FBI he attended a national security meeting in March 2016 with then-candidate Donald Trump, Sessions and other advisers." Tuesday's hearing "represents yet another crucial test for an attorney general seeking to bolster his standing with three separate and important constituencies: Congress, President Trump, and special counsel Robert Mueller." [McClatchy](#) (11/13, Irby) says Democratic leaders are "unlikely" to call for Sessions' resignation as doing so "could give Trump the opportunity to appoint a new attorney general who is not recused, and therefore could impede the investigation."

WikiLeaks, Trump Jr. Were In Contact During Campaign.

[The Atlantic](#) (11/13, Ioffe) reports on "a long – and largely one-sided – correspondence between Wikileaks and Donald Trump Jr. that began in Sept. 2016 and "continued until at least July 2017." The Atlantic says the messages show Wikileaks "actively soliciting Trump Jr.'s cooperation. Wikileaks made a series of increasingly bold requests." While Trump Jr. largely "ignored the frequent messages from Wikileaks, he at times appears to have acted on its requests." On the day he "received the first message from Wikileaks, he emailed other senior officials with the Trump campaign, including Steve Bannon, Kellyanne Conway, Brad Parscale, and Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner, telling them Wikileaks had made contact" and "forwarded the email to campaign communications staffer Hope Hicks. At no point during the 10-month correspondence does Trump, Jr. rebuff Wikileaks."

David Muir reported on the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/13, lead story, 3:10) that ABC News has confirmed The Atlantic story which found that Trump Jr.'s communications with Wikileaks "began during the campaign and continued well after his father was in the White House." Mary Bruce described the messages between Trump Jr. and Wikileaks as "shocking," as "the President's son communicat[ed] with Wikileaks, a group the intelligence community believes was used by Russia to spread information about Hillary Clinton and influence the election."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/13, Ballhaus) says this is the first evidence of any direct contact between senior Trump campaign officials and Wikileaks, and on [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/13, story 3, 2:15, Holt), Kristen Welker described "stunning new revelations of months of correspondence during the campaign between" Trump Jr. and Wikileaks. This, as the Trump Administration "has consistently denied any coordination with Wikileaks." Vice President Pence: "I think all of us have, you know, have had concerns about Wikileaks over the years. And it's just a, it's just a reality of America, life today, and of life in the wider world." Jeff Pegues reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/13, story 3, 1:55, Mason) that during the campaign, then-candidate Trump "frequently praised the controversial website Wikileaks for releasing hacked emails and damaging information about Hillary Clinton and her campaign." Pegues added, "A lawyer for Trump Jr. did not respond to a request for comment, but in a statement to the Atlantic, he said, 'We have no concerns about these documents.'"

The [Daily Caller](#) (11/13, Rodgers) reports that in the wake of The Atlantic report, Trump Jr. "released all of his messages with Wikileaks Monday night." [Politico](#) (11/13, Griffiths) reports that Trump Jr. posted his chain of messages with Wikileaks in a series of tweets ([1](#), [2](#), [3](#)) Monday, writing, "Here is the entire chain of messages with @wikileaks (with my whopping 3 responses) which one of the congressional committees has chosen to selectively leak. How ironic!" [USA Today](#) (11/13, Cummings) also reports on Trump Jr.'s contacts with Wikileaks citing The Atlantic report.

Pence Denies Knowledge Of Trump Jr.'s Contacts With Wikileaks. [Politico](#) (11/13, Nussbaum) reports that Vice President Pence's office said in a statement Monday that Pence was not aware of communications between Trump Jr. and Wikileaks during the campaign. Pence's press secretary,

Alyssa Farah, said in a statement, "The Vice President was never aware of anyone associated with the campaign being in contact with Wikileaks. ... He first learned of this news from a published report earlier tonight." In October 2016, Pence was asked if the Trump campaign was "in cahoots" with WikiLeaks, to which he replied, "Nothing could be further from the truth." Politico also points out that Monday's statement is "just the most recent time Pence has claimed to be out of the loop on critical information related to Trump associate's communications that could be linked to the Russia probe."

Media Analyses Cast Skeptical Eye On Trump Comments On Russian Meddling. Two of the three networks continued coverage of President Trump's clarifying remarks regarding his views of Russian interference in the 2016 election.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/13, story 4, 2:00, Mason) reported that in Vietnam, Trump "made nice with Russian President Vladimir Putin, who denied interfering in the US election despite the opposite conclusion from the US intelligence community." Trump: "I believe that President Putin really feels, and he feels strongly, that he did not meddle in our election. What he believes is what he believes. What I believe is that we have to get to work." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/13, story 5, 2:10, Muir) reported, "President Trump said he's made real progress on trade and North Korea. But the final weekend of his trip to Asia was overshadowed by a familiar topic. Russia." Like CBS, ABC reported on Trump's remarks on his meeting with Putin. When asked to clarify whether he believes "the US intelligence community, which says Putin ordered the meddling, or Putin, who denies it," Trump responded: "I think he believes that Russia did not meddle in the election. As to whether I believe it or not, I'm with our agencies, especially as currently constituted with their leadership." John Roberts reported on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/13) that while Trump "didn't definitively say he thinks President Putin is not telling the truth...it certainly appears to be...as close as he's ever come to saying that."

By contrast, when [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/13) reported on Trump's same clarifying comment, Trump was cast as "waver[ing] again" on whether Russia interfered. CNN also reported that Trump cast former CIA Director John Brennan, former FBI Director James Comey, and former DNI James Clapper as "political hacks." Clapper and Brennan responded on CNN's "State of the Union." Brennan said he thinks Trump is "giving Putin a pass, and I think it demonstrates to Mr. Putin that Donald Trump can be played by foreign leaders who are going to appeal to his ego and try to play upon his insecurities." Clapper added that Putin "is committed to undermining our system, our democracy, and our whole process. And to try to paint it in any other way is, I think, astounding, and in fact poses a peril to this country."

Dana Milbank writes in the [Washington Post](#) (11/13) that President Trump's defense of Putin "against the unanimous view of the FBI and US intelligence agencies that Russia meddled in the U.S. elections," leads to the "obvious conclusion" that Trump "knows full well that Russia meddled, but he's worried the special counsel's investigation, which has already ensnared Trump campaign aides, will implicate him," or he is "incredibly credulous."

Sen. Chris Coons said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/13), "This was Veterans Day weekend, and it was striking to me to hear our president on foreign soil taking the word of a former KGB colonel Vladimir Putin," who is "the leader of a country that really does not share our interest." Coons added that publicly disrespecting former DNI James Clapper and former FBI Director James Comey "was uncalled for, unprecedented, and something that puts our national security at risk."

Coons Has "Real Concerns" Trump Won't Implement New Russia Sanctions. During an interview with Sen. Chris Coons on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/13), Wolf Blitzer noted that the Administration missed the deadline to impose new sanctions on Russia in response to its election meddling, and that Trump on Sunday "questioned whether new sanctions were even necessary." Coons said he has "real concerns" Trump won't enforce the law he signed on Aug. 2, even though it "was passed by an overwhelming vote here in the Senate, 98-2." Coons said that if Trump does refuse to carry out the law, Congress can respond by "refusing to move forward on confirmations, [or] taking steps in terms of budget."

Drudge Fires Back At WPost Over Story Linking Him To Russia. [Breitbart](#) (11/13, Wong) reports that Drudge Report creator Matt Drudge on Monday "fired back" at the Washington Post over "a story he said accused him of acting as a Russian operative." Drudge [tweeted](#), "I've linked to @washingtonpost over 10,000X in 25 years of doing DRUDGEREPORT. I currently give them 37% of their referral traffic, according to <http://similarweb.com>. It's a brutal business. Not even a thank you. Instead: YOU'RE A RUSSIAN OPERATIVE!" The tweet came in response to a Post [story](#) last week which was headlined, "One of the busiest websites in the US in 2016 regularly linked to Russia propaganda." According to the story, "over the course of the election, Drudge

was 'not shy' about linking directly to RT and Sputnik News – 'content-sharing arms of the Russian government.'"

RT Moves To Register As A Foreign Agent. The [Washington Post](#) (11/13, Barrett) reports that T&R Productions LLC, the company which operates the Moscow-headquartered RT website and television channel, "has filed paperwork registering with the Justice Department as a foreign agent – a step it had said it would be forced to take in order to keep operating in the United States." The move "follows an acrimonious back-and-forth between RT," which the US accuses of being a propaganda arm of the Kremlin, "and the Justice Department about whether they should have to file paperwork under the Foreign Agents Registration Act, known as FARA."

Former CIA Officers Say Administration Is Ignoring Threat Posed By Russian Aggression. In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (11/13), Cindy Otis, who worked for the CIA for 10 years as a military analyst; Ned Price, who was a CIA analyst from 2006 to 2017 and served as a special assistant to President Barack Obama; and John Sipher, a former chief of station for the CIA with 27 years' experience in Russia, Europe and Asia; lament "the troubling state of our country's leadership and the dangerous implications for our national security." Russian aggression, they argue, "is a real and present threat, the denial of which for political gain will only invite additional Russian interference. Our country is at risk every day the administration chooses to ignore this threat."

Trump Touts Accomplishments Of "Fruitful" Trip To Asia.

The [AP](#) (11/13, Lemire, Colvin) reports President Trump is "winding down his lengthy Asia trip with an international summit and a series of meetings with Pacific Rim allies." Trump jointly met Monday with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Trump also "raved about his accomplishments on his five-nation journey, including on trade and North Korea, but said he would wait until his return to Washington" Wednesday to elaborate with a "major statement." Said the President, "We've made some very big steps with regard to trade – far bigger than anything you know." [Reuters](#) (11/13) likewise says Trump claimed "he had made significant progress on trade issues" during the trip he called "fruitful" that saw governments welcome him lavishly. "It was red carpet like nobody, I think, has probably ever seen," he said.

The [AP](#) (11/13, Lemire, Colvin) reports Trump also touted his stamina during the "grueling" five-nation trip. "A lot of people said it's almost physically impossible for someone to go through 12 days," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One. He added, "Anybody that took the bet, pick up your money, OK?"

The [Washington Times](#) (11/13, Boyer, Taylor) reports that while Trump's visit to China "was viewed as the marquee stop of his five-nation tour," his speech to South Korea's national assembly "was arguably the biggest moment of the trip." Analysts said Trump "succeeded in lowering tensions while showing firm resolve in his demand to denuclearize North Korea." According to [CNN](#) (11/13, Griffiths), Trump's trip "went off without major incident and generally met critics' relatively low expectations." If the "primary purpose...was to shore up relations" with the countries he visited "and their leaders, the trip can be judged a success, even though actual policy wins were in scant supply."

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/13, story 5, 2:10, Muir), Jonathan Karl reported, "Trump said he's made real progress on trade and North Korea, but the final weekend of his trip to Asia was overshadowed by a familiar topic: Russia."

Hudson Institute fellow Walter Russell Mead writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/13, Mead) that Americans, regardless of party, should wish the President success on his trip, because the consequences of failure could be extreme.

Trump Touts "Great Relationship" With Duterte. Media coverage of President Trump's meeting Monday in Manila with Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte focuses on his praise of their "great relationship," as well as on the apparently contrasting claims by the Administration and Manila about the role human rights played in their discussions. [Reuters](#) (11/13, Holland), for example, reports Trump said Monday he had a "great relationship" with Duterte, "while a White House official said human rights got only a brief mention when the two met on the sidelines of an Asian summit." A Duterte spokesman, however, "said there was no mention at all of human rights or extrajudicial killings during their conversation." The spokesman, Harry Roque, told reporters Duterte "had explained his antidrug policy at length to Trump," who he said "seemed to be appreciative of his efforts." Roque added, "There was no mention of human rights, no mention of extrajudicial killings."

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/13, story 5, 2:10, Muir), Jonathan Karl said the President "struck up an incredibly warm relationship" with Duterte, and the [CBS Evening News](#)

(11/13, story 4, 2:00, Mason) said Trump “appeared to give [Duterte] a pass on human rights,” and “did not shy away from praising” the “controversial” leader.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/13, Bierman) says Trump “ignored reporters’ questions about human rights.” Press secretary Sarah Sanders “said Trump briefly discussed human rights with Duterte,” but Roque “denied that human rights came up at all.” [USA Today](#) (11/13, Jackson, Maresca) quotes Sanders as saying, “Human rights briefly came up in the context of the Philippines’ fight against illegal drugs.” After the meeting, the US and Philippines released a joint statement saying both sides “underscored that human rights and the dignity of human life are essential, and agreed to continue mainstreaming the human rights agenda in their national programs to promote the welfare of all sectors, including the most vulnerable groups.”

The [New York Times](#) (11/13, Davis) reports the two leaders “declined to answer questions during brief remarks to reporters,” but “as they sat side by side,” Trump and Duterte “projected a friendly dynamic, ribbing members of the news media as they prepared to speak privately.” As journalists shouted questions about whether Trump would press Duterte on human rights, “the Philippine president quickly silenced them.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/13, Nakamura, Rauhala) similarly says that “on two occasions,” Trump “declined to answer shouted questions from reporters about whether he had pressed Duterte on human rights.” The Post says that as Trump “pivoted to talking about the nice weather in Manila, Duterte cut off the American reporters who tried to press Trump on human rights,” saying, “Whoa, whoa. This is not a press statement. This is the bilateral meeting.”

[Breitbart](#) (11/13, Martel) reports the “two did not take questions from reporters,” who Duterte “dismissed” as “spies.” Jim Acosta reported on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (11/13) that Trump “laughed” when Duterte referred to the media as “spies.” Sen. John McCain responded by [tweeting](#) (11/13), “Human rights obviously not a priority. ... Sad.” Acosta said the stop in Manila “was another example...of Mr. Trump taking a pass on standing up for American principles.” On [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (11/13), John Roberts cast the meeting with Duterte as “the most controversial of the many meetings [Trump has] had in the past 11 days.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/13, Calonzo, Jacobs) reports the two leaders “bonded” over their “common dislike for Barack Obama,” but the White House “didn’t immediately respond to a question on whether the leaders discussed Obama.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/13, Watts) similarly says the two leaders found common ground, but avoided difficult issues, like human rights and tensions in the South China Sea. The [AP](#) (11/13, Lemire, Colvin) reports that with his Asia trip “down to its final days,” Trump “opted Monday to keep his public focus on top priorities such as trade and combating terrorism rather than human rights, declining to shine a spotlight on the violent drug war” overseen by Duterte.

A [Washington Post](#) (11/13, Nakamura, Rauhala) analysis says that as the trip “neared its end Monday, President Trump had yet to utter a word about the vicious military campaign against the Rohingya Muslim ethnic minority in Burma.” During stops in Vietnam and Manila, “human rights issues were barely discussed – if at all.” Instead, the Post says, Trump focused his trip “primarily on tough talk about trade, terrorism and North Korea’s nuclear program, while saying little about chronic human rights abuses in a region that is home to some of world’s most brutal authoritarian regimes.”

A [New York Times](#) (11/13) editorial says “authoritarian leaders exercise a strange and powerful attraction for President Trump. As his trip to Asia reminds us, a man who loves to bully people turns to mush – fawning smiles, effusive rhetoric – in the company of strongmen.” The Times says Trump’s “obsessive investment in personal relations may work for a real estate dealmaker,” but the “degree to which he has chosen to curry favor with some of the world’s most unsavory leaders, while lavishing far less attention on America’s democratic allies, hurts America’s credibility and, in the long run, may have dangerous repercussions.”

After Trump Visit, US Ambassador Visits Okinawa. The [Washington Post](#) (11/13, Fifield) reports that the new US Ambassador to Japan, William Hagerty, “embarked on a careful visit to Okinawa Monday, meeting with the governor who wants the American military presence on the southern island prefecture sharply reduced.” American bases on Okinawa are “the most sensitive part in the two countries’ security alliance, which President Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe celebrated during their meetings in Tokyo last week.” Okinawa Gov. Takeshi Onaga, who “has been campaigning against the relocation of the huge Marine Corps air station at Futenma,” used the opportunity “to make his case to Hagerty.”

Sources: Trump Personally Asked Xi To Help Resolve Case Of UCLA Players. The [Washington Post](#) (11/13, Nakamura) reports President Trump “personally asked” Chinese President Xi Jinping to help resolve the case of three UCLA men’s basketball players who were arrested for shoplifting

while in Hangzhou for a tournament last week, "people familiar with the situation" said Monday. Trump raised the arrests during his visit to Beijing, arriving a day after the players were arrested. After Trump raised the matter, Xi "promised to look into the case and ensure that the players are treated fairly and expeditiously, said a US official." Chief of Staff Kelly has also "been in touch with the families of the players and has spoken with UCLA coach Steve Alford, and Kelly remains in contact with Chinese authorities, the official added." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/13, Bennett) also reports the story, citing the Post.

Susan Rice: "Trump Is Making China Great Again." Former National Security Adviser Susan E. Rice writes in the [New York Times](#) (11/13) that President Trump's trip to Asia "had the potential to advance important American security and economic interests," but "instead, it left the United States more isolated and in retreat, handing leadership of the newly christened 'Indo-Pacific' to China on a silver platter." Rice says the trip "began with solid performances in Japan and Korea," but in China, "the wheels began to come off his diplomatic bus" as the Chinese leadership "played President Trump like a fiddle, catering to his insatiable ego and substituting pomp and circumstance for substance." Trump's "lighthearted embrace of a self-proclaimed killer," Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, "was the nadir of a high-stakes trip that set back American leadership in Asia. But it was, perhaps, the perfect if unintended coda to the president's 'Make China Great Again' tour."

Trump Urges Lawmakers To Cut Top Tax Rate, Eliminate Individual Mandate In Tax Bill.

President Trump on Monday urged lawmakers to cut the top tax rate and eliminate the ACA's individual mandate, [tweeting](#), "I am proud of the Rep. House & Senate for working so hard on cutting taxes {& reform.} We're getting close! Now, how about ending the unfair & highly unpopular Indiv Mandate in OCare & reducing taxes even further? Cut top rate to 35% w/all of the rest going to middle income cuts?"

[Roll Call](#) (11/13, Bennett) says that with the tweet, Trump "laid down a marker for House and Senate Republicans as they continue work on their separate bills." However, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders "said the president would prefer the provision be included, but it is not necessary to garner his signature on the tax bill," and White House Director of Legislative Affairs Marc Short "said the White House expects to deal with the mandate when it tries again on a health care overall bill."

The [Washington Times](#) (11/13, Persons) reports that some say Trump's call to reduce the top rate "contradicts his claims that the tax cuts will be entirely focused on the middle class," while [Reuters](#) (11/13, Becker, Cornwell) reports that the prospects for the provisions Trump advocated "were uncertain." The Senate bill "calls for keeping seven tax brackets but cutting rates, including the top tax rate for the highest earning taxpayers, to 38.5 percent from 39.6 percent," while the House "wants to reduce the number of brackets, but leave the 39.6 percent top rate alone." In addition, "Republican aides and lobbyists have said it would be difficult to include" a repeal of the individual mandate "in a tax effort complicated by intraparty differences and intense business lobbying."

The [New York Times](#) (11/13, Rappoport) says that as Republicans "worked toward a delicate compromise," Trump "threw himself back into the discussion" with his tweet. The Times adds that his "wishes, often expressed on social media, have at times steered the internal deliberations over the bill off course." Similarly, [Politico](#) (11/13, McCaskill) says Trump's tweet "potentially throw[s] up new hurdles for legislation moving in Congress," and [Breitbart](#) (11/13, Carney) says Trump "Added new complications to tax reform efforts."

Trump To Meet With House Republicans Thursday On Capitol Hill. Ylan Mui said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (11/13), "NBC News confirmed President Trump will be coming to Capitol Hill on Thursday. He'll be speaking to House Republicans ahead of the planned floor vote on the tax reform bill." According to [The Hill](#) (11/13, Fabian), the President "will speak to members of the House Republican Conference at a meeting 11:30 Thursday morning."

Mnuchin, Ivanka Trump Pitch Tax Reform. [Politico](#) (11/13, Jennings) reports that at an event in New Jersey Monday, Treasury Secretary Mnuchin and Ivanka Trump pitched tax reform, casting the effort as "bringing relief to the middle class and stimulating business growth and competition by cutting corporate tax rates." Mnuchin said that the effort was "very, very close. ... There are some specific differences, but generally the two bills are very close and, more important, the objectives are the same, which is middle income tax cuts and making business competitive." Trump said, "We believe that cutting the rate of taxes on corporations, medium-sized and small businesses is going to accomplish the goal of putting more money back in the pockets of America workers."

USA Today Analysis: History Shows Tax Cuts Don't Make Presidents More Popular. A [USA Today](#) (11/13, Przybyla) analysis says that while President Trump "is betting that a major tax cut will help his anemic approval ratings and bolster his party ahead of the 2018 midterm elections," history "shows that tax cuts do not actually make presidents more popular." The "historical link between tax cuts and political benefits for the party championing them is weak. A review of presidential approval ratings following some of the biggest tax cuts in modern history – in 1981 and 2003 – shows they did little to correct or prevent declining approval ratings for Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush."

Senate Republicans Call On Moore To Exit Senate Race.

The campaign of Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore on Monday continued to be buffeted by allegations of sexual misconduct. Senate Majority Leader McConnell said he believes Moore's accusers and that the GOP nominee should step aside in the race; National Republican Senatorial Campaign Committee chief Sen. Cory Gardner said Moore should be expelled from the Senate, if elected; several other Republicans said Moore should withdraw from the race. Meanwhile, another accuser came forward charging that Moore groped her when she was 16 years old.

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/13, story 2, 2:00, Holt), Kasie Hunt reported that Washington's GOP "leaders are saying no to Roy Moore." McConnell was shown saying, "I believe the women, yes." Hunt added, "The Senate Majority Leader with a forceful denunciation, opening the floodgates. Republican Senators Orrin Hatch and Susan Collins, tweeting that Moore should drop out. And Colorado Sen. Cory Gardner, who is in charge of electing Republicans to the Senate went even further, saying in a statement, 'If Moore refuses to withdraw and wins, the Senate should vote to expel him. Because he does not meet the ethical and moral requirements of the United States Senate.'"

The [Louisville \(KY\) Courier-Journal](#) (11/13, Sayers) reports that McConnell, speaking with reporters in Kentucky, said "he believes the women who accused...Moore of pursuing romantic relationships with them when they were teenagers" and "also urged Moore to bow out of" the contest, "the second time he's made that call since the allegations were reported last week. 'I believe the women, yes,' McConnell" told reporters after being asked about the allegations.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/13, Sullivan, Viebeck) reports that McConnell said Moore should withdraw from the race, "following allegations that he initiated a sexual encounter with a 14-year-old girl when he was 32. 'I think he should step aside,' McConnell said. His comments marked the most definitive position he has taken on Moore's candidacy since The Washington Post reported the allegations on Thursday."

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/13, Litvan) reports, "Last week, McConnell and most other Republicans said that if the allegations were true, Moore should step aside." Yesterday, however, McConnell "dropped that qualification and said a write-in campaign is a possibility to oppose Moore in the Dec. 12 election. 'That's an option we're looking at, whether or not there is someone who could mount a write-in campaign successfully,' McConnell said."

The [Washington Times](#) (11/13, Dinan) reports that McConnell "had been an opponent of Mr. Moore's throughout the race, backing" appointed Sen. Luther Strange (R) "in the GOP primary earlier this year." The [Huffington Post](#) (11/13, Reilly) reported, "When asked if Republicans are encouraging a write-in campaign for another GOP candidate, McConnell said it's 'an option we're looking at, whether or not there is someone who could mount a write-in campaign successfully.'" McConnell, however, "declined to say if that someone would be...Strange."

[Roll Call](#) (11/13, Garcia) reported that Strange "is reportedly considering mounting a write-in effort." However, [The Hill](#) (11/13, Thomsen) reported that Strange on Monday "said it is 'highly unlikely' that he will stage a write-in campaign...according to multiple media reports." In another report, [The Hill](#) (11/13, Carney, Savransky) said, "Even if Moore withdraws from the Senate race – something he has said he will not do – Republicans are stuck with his name remaining on the ballot. The deadline for the party to remove Moore's name from the ballot passed in October, though Republicans could mount a write-in challenge."

The [Montgomery \(AL\) Advertiser](#) (11/13, Brown) reports that NRSC chief Cory Gardner on Monday "said the Senate should vote to expel...Moore should he refuse to withdraw from the race and wins on Dec. 12. 'I believe the individuals speaking out against Roy Moore spoke with courage and truth, proving he is unfit to serve in the United States Senate and he should not run for office. If he refuses to withdraw and wins, the Senate should vote to expel him, because he does not meet the ethical and moral requirements of the United States Senate,' Gardner said in a statement released on the NRSC website."

The [Washington Times](#) (11/13, Dinan) reports that Gardner's statement is "the furthest any Republican has gone in rejecting Mr. Moore." The Times adds, "Expelling a senator is a striking

move, and the last ones to be successfully ousted came during the Civil War, when southerners were expelled for rebelling against the US." [USA Today](#) (11/13, Berry) reports that if Moore wins the election, "McConnell and his colleagues could push him out." University of Louisiana at Lafayette political scientist Pearson Cross told USA Today that "under the Constitution the Senate has 'total control' over who sits as members. 'It's based on the will of the body,' he said." He added, "If they don't want to seat him they don't have to."

[The Hill](#) (11/13, Carney) reported that "the move, assuming every Democrat voted to expel Moore, would require the support of at least 19 Republican senators to reach the two-thirds threshold – considerably more than were willing to publicly back the option on Monday. More than a dozen GOP senators either stopped short or refused to comment on questions about if the Senate should expel Moore if he wins."

However, in an online "analysis" for [CNN](#) (11/13, Cillizza), Chris Cillizza wrote that "it's hard to see how Moore ever actually holds a Senate seat. Gardner's pledge to vote to expel him if he wins means that such a motion would almost certainly pass. What senator – Democrat or Republican – could or would vote against expelling Moore at this point?"

The [Washington Times](#) (11/13, McLaughlin) reports, "Republicans in Washington went to war Monday with...Moore," citing the remarks of McConnell and Gardner. Moore, meanwhile "says he is sticking out the election. ... It's a frustrating scenario for a party that fears losing a rock-solid Republican seat – particularly after a series of other races have slipped away in recent years." [The Hill](#) (11/13, Bolton, Carney) reported that the comments of McConnell and Gardner "pointed to an emerging strategy: oppose Moore's candidacy, but find a way to keep the Senate seat in the Republican column."

The [AP](#) (11/13, Taylor) reports, "Senate Republicans are confronted with a limited, unappealing set of options in responding to...Moore," who "can't be removed from the ballot, even if the Alabama Republican Party wanted to." One possibility, "albeit difficult, for Republicans to retain the seat would be to mount a successful write-in candidacy." If Moore wins, adds the AP, "the Senate could immediately move to expel him, though the chamber hasn't taken such a step since the Civil War."

[Politico](#) (11/13, Kim) reported on the remarks of McConnell and Gardner, and added that Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-UT) on Monday said "said he sides with McConnell," and Senate Majority Whip John Cornyn (R-TX) "also announced he was withdrawing his endorsement of Moore, adding that the best course of action is 'to leave the final judgment in the hands of Alabama voters.'" Even so, said Politico, "there are no signs the pressure from Washington will sway Moore." Indeed, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/13, Hook) reports that in the wake of McConnell's comments, the Moore camp said on Twitter, "The person who should step aside is @SenateMajLdr Mitch McConnell. He has failed conservatives and must be replaced. #DrainTheSwamp."

[The Hill](#) (11/13, Smilowitz) reported that Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) on Monday "withdrew his support from...Moore, saying allegations of sexual misconduct should be looked at by prosecutors." Speaking with reporters, Cruz said, "As it stands, I can't urge the people of Alabama to support a campaign in the face of these charges without serious, persuasive demonstration that the charges are not true. Both last week and this week, there are serious charges of criminal conduct that if true, not only make him unfit to serve in the Senate but merit criminal prosecution."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/13, Lim) further quoted Cruz as saying, "The people of Alabama deserve to have the option of voting for a strong conservative who has not committed criminal conduct. If these allegations are not true, then Judge Moore needs to come forward with a strong, persuasive rebuttal demonstrating that they are untrue." Cruz added, "Grown men don't typically sign high school girls' yearbooks. As the father of two young daughters, this is a disquieting allegation, but let me repeat Judge Moore is entitled to present a defense."

[Reuters](#) (11/13, Whitesides) reports that Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME) "joined McConnell in calling for Moore to drop out, saying she was not convinced by his denials." The [Washington Times](#) (11/13) reports that Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA) on Monday "joined the growing list of Senate Republicans withdrawing endorsements...Moore." In a tweet, Cassidy said, "Based on the allegations against Roy Moore, his response and what is known, I withdraw support."

[The Hill](#) (11/13, Beavers) reported that Sen. Todd Young (R-IN) on Monday "called on his colleagues to 'protect the integrity' of the upper chamber if...Moore does not step aside." Young said in a pair of tweets, "After giving Roy Moore ample time to unequivocally deny the disturbing allegations against him, those allegations remain far more persuasive than the denials. Roy Moore should immediately drop out of the race. The appearance of grossly reprehensible behavior disqualifies him from service in the United States Senate. If he does not step aside, we need to act to protect the integrity of the Senate."

The [New York Post](#) (11/13, Schulz) reports that Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) on Monday said “he would rather see a Democrat win Alabama’s open Senate seat than accused teen groper Roy Moore – and compared the GOP candidate to former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke.” Flake is quoted as saying, “If the choice is between Roy Moore and a Democrat, if I were in Alabama I’d vote for the Democrat. There was a time when Republican senators would go and campaign for a Democrat rather than seat a Republican who would be so repugnant to the party and would diminish the party’s chances in the future. That happened in the ‘90s in Louisiana with David Duke.”

Under the headline “More Than 20 Republicans Have Called For Roy Moore To Step Aside,” [CNN](#) (11/13, Schwarz) reported on its website, “Since the most recent accuser came forward Monday, the number of Republicans calling for Moore to drop out of the race has grown.” CNN offered a look at “some of their responses,” and listed Sens. John McCain (R-AZ), Lindsey Graham (R-SC), and Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Reps. Barbara Comstock (R-VA) and Tom Cole (R-OK) as among those “who say Moore should step aside or be removed from office if he is elected.”

[Axios](#) (11/13, Lawler) reports that HUD spokesman Raphael Williams, responding to questions about HUD Secretary Ben Carson’s “past support for...Moore,” said in a written statement, “The Secretary believes any man that assaults any woman is unfit for public office.” Carson “was the only member of President Trump’s cabinet to voice support for Moore during the Alabama Republican primary.”

The [Washington Times](#) (11/13, Sands) reports that during a Monday appearance on CNBC, Jeb Bush said Moore should withdraw from the race. Said Bush, “I think we have to acknowledge dating teenagers when you are a 32-year-old assistant district attorney is just wrong.”

Sean Hannity said on [Fox News’ Hannity](#) (11/13), “The allegations against...Moore are very serious. We need truth. They need to be investigated. The voters in Alabama deserved the truth before they decide who to cast their ballots for. And as I said Friday, if that means moving back the election, then so be it. Whatever it takes. And if these allegations are true, Judge Moore needs to step aside.”

Sen. Chris Coons (D-DE) said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (11/13), “I respect the fact that the Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and the head of the Republican campaign committee have both called for Roy Moore to step down. ... I believe the women who have come forward and provided detailed testimony about his heinous acts while he was a young prosecutor, but in his 30s, and attempting to date very young women, women who were teenagers or even 14 or 15 years old. I do think that it’s important for the standards of the Senate of the United States that a person who has been accused credibly of this kind of horrible behavior not be seated in the United States Senate.”

WPost Lauds McConnell Remarks, Blasts Conway, Mnuchin. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/13) contrasts McConnell’s Monday remarks with those of White House Counselor Kellyanne Conway, “who said Sunday that she takes ‘very seriously allegations like this, particularly when they involve somebody who happened to be one of my daughters’ ages’ and that she has ‘tried to be a very loud voice for a very long time against sexual impropriety’ – but that Mr. Moore should not ‘just be cast aside as guilty.’ Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin was similarly perplexed: ‘If these allegations are true, then absolutely, this is incredibly inappropriate behavior.’ These non-condemnation condemnations serve as much to cast doubt on Mr. Moore’s accusers as they do to denounce Mr. Moore’s alleged behavior.” The Post says McConnell “deserves credit for treating these accusations with seriousness and the accusers with respect.”

In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (11/13) also praises McConnell’s Monday remarks and adds, “Let’s acknowledge the Republicans who affirm the honesty of Mr. Moore’s accusers, and reject him, even if it means victory for his Democratic opponent. ... And let’s hope, against the odds, that the acceptance of these women’s stories sets an example for how such accusations can be dealt with for all women.”

New Accuser Claims Moore Sexually Assaulted Her In 1977. Meanwhile, on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/13, story 2, 4:15, Muir), Tom Llamas reported that Moore is “refusing to drop out even as a new woman comes forward, accusing him of sexually assaulting her when she was just 16.” Llamas added that Beverly Nelson “says she met Moore when he was an assistant district attorney and she was a high school student, working part-time as a waitress. ... Nelson says Moore offered to give her a ride home after work. ... But instead, Nelson said Moore drove her around back.” Nelson was shown saying at a news conference, “It was dark, and it was deserted. I was alarmed, and I immediately asked him what he was doing. And instead of answering my questions, Mr. Moore reached over and began groping me.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/13, lead story, 2:30, Mason) broadcast a clip of Nelson saying, "Mr. Moore reached over and began groping me, putting his hands on my breasts. Instead of stopping, he began squeezing my neck, attempting to force my head on to his crotch." CBS' Manuel Bojorquez added, "Nelson is the fifth woman to accuse Moore of pursuing teenage girls when he was in his 30s. One says he groped her when she was 14. Moore has denied any wrongdoing and calls it all a witch-hunt."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (11/13, lead story, 2:45) broadcast a clip of Nelson saying of Moore, "I tried to open my car door to leave, but he reached over, and he locked it so I could not get out. I tried fighting him off, while yelling at him to stop. But instead of stopping, he began squeezing my neck." NBC's Lester Holt added, "All this proving too much for a growing number of prominent Republicans tonight who are insisting Moore must drop out of the race despite his sizable support still among many voters."

The [Montgomery \(AL\) Advertiser](#) (11/13, Lyman) reports that Nelson on Monday said that "Moore, then 30, groped and assaulted her in an attempt to have sex with her when she was 16." Speaking at a press conference in New York, Nelson – "sitting next to attorney Gloria Allred" – said "that Moore, then a Gadsden assistant district attorney, was a regular patron of a diner where she worked in 1977 and offered her a ride home one evening. 'He stopped his car,' Nelson said," and "began grabbing her breasts, then locked the car door when she tried to get out. Nelson said Moore then squeezed her neck and 'attempted to force my head into his crotch.'"

The [New York Times](#) (11/13, Stolberg, Martin) reports that Nelson is the "fifth woman" to accuse Moore "of making sexual or romantic advances toward her when she was a teenager." Nelson "said Mr. Moore warned her that 'no one will believe you' if she told anyone about the encounter in his car." [Politico](#) (11/13, Debenedetti) reported that Nelson "said her neck was 'black and blue and purple' for the following days. 'I did not tell anyone about what would happen – I was scared,' she said. 'I felt that if I told anyone, Mr. Moore would do something to me or my family.' Allred, who said Nelson approached her, called for the Senate Judiciary Committee to subpoena Moore and hold a hearing with him within the next two weeks. She said Nelson would volunteer to testify."

[Breitbart](#) (11/13, Mason) quoted Nelson as saying of Moore, "I thought he was going to rape me. At some point, he gave up." Breitbart added that Nelson "produced a high school yearbook which she says is signed by Moore. 'To a sweeter, more beautiful girl I could not say 'merry Christmas,' the inscription reads. The note is signed 'Roy Moore, D.A.,' and includes the date and venue of their purported interaction." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/13, Agrawal) reports, "This is the first time Nelson is disclosing the allegations publicly, though she said she had previously told her sister, mother and husband about her encounter with Moore."

The [AP](#) (11/13, Fram, Schreiner) reports that Moore "abruptly called a news conference in Gallant, Alabama, after a tearful...Nelson's detailed the new allegations to reporters in New York. 'I can tell you without hesitation this is absolutely false. I never did what she said I did. I don't even know the woman,' Moore said. He signaled he has no intention of ending his candidacy, calling the latest charges a 'political maneuver' and launching a fundraising appeal to 'God-fearing conservatives' to counter his abandonment by Washington Republicans." [The Hill](#) (11/13, Beavers) reported that Moore also "denied knowing where the Olde Hickory House restaurant in Gadsden, Ala., 'is or was,' the diner Nelson named as the place where the incident took place."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/13, Quinn) quoted Moore's campaign as saying in a statement, "Gloria Allred is a sensationalist leading a witch hunt, and she is only around to create a spectacle. Allred was the attorney who claims credit for giving us Roe v. Wade which has resulted in the murder of tens of millions of unborn babies."

[USA Today](#) (11/13, Hafner) reports, "With a new sexual assault accusation against...Moore, waves of women on Twitter aim to underscore the allegations against the former judge with the hashtag #MeAt14. ... 'Not old enough to drive. Not old enough to work without a permit. Not old enough to see an R-rated movie,' user Mary Ann Campbell tweeted Sunday along with a photo of a young girl with a cat on her shoulders. 'Not old enough to consent.'"

New Yorker: Local Sources Say "They Had Heard" Moore Was Banned From Gadsden Mall.

Writing for the [New Yorker](#) (11/13, Bethea), Charles Bethea says, "This past weekend, I spoke or messaged with more than a dozen people – including a major political figure in the state – who told me that they had heard, over the years, that Moore had been banned from the [Gadsden Mall] because he repeatedly badgered teen-age girls. Some say that they heard this at the time, others in the years since. These people include five members of the local legal community, two cops who worked in the town, several people who hung out at the mall in the early eighties, and a number of former mall employees. ... The stories that they say they've heard for years have

been swirling online in the days since the Post published its report."

Under the headline "Gadsden Locals Say Moore's Predatory Behavior At Mall, Restaurants Not A Secret," [Alabama Live](#) (11/13, Vollers) reports that Moore's "penchant for flirting with teen girls was 'common knowledge' and 'not a big secret' around Gadsden, according to some area residents. ... 'These stories have been going around this town for 30 years,' said Blake Usry, who grew up in the area and lives in Gadsden. ... 'It's not a big secret in this town about Roy Moore,' he said. 'That's why it's sort of frustrating to watch' the public disbelieve the women who have come forward, he said." Under the headline "Report: Alabama Mall Banned Roy Moore In The '80s For Pursuing Teens," the [Daily Beast](#) (11/13) reported on the New Yorker piece and the story by Alabama Live.

Despite Allegations, Poll Shows Moore Leading Jones 55%-45%. [The Hill](#) (11/13, Savransky) reported that an Emerson College poll of 600 Alabama voter, taken Nov. 9-11, "after The Washington Post published its report in which a woman accused Moore of initiating sexual contact with her in 1979, when she was 14 and he was 32," shows Moore leading ex-US Attorney Doug Jones (D) 55%-45%. The Hill added, "The poll does show improvement for Jones from the last survey conducted in September. That survey gave Moore a 22-point advantage."

National Democrats Taking Cautious Approach. Writing for [US News & World Report](#) (11/13), David Catanese reported, "As national Republicans continue to disavow...Moore," Democrat "are taking a more strategically nuanced approach in order to avoid overplaying their hand in a reliably conservative state. On a day when the leader of the Republican Senate campaign committee made the extraordinary call for the expulsion of Moore from the Senate if he" wins, Senate Minority Leader Schumer "downplayed the role of the national party in the newly competitive contest." Schumer told reporters, "It's an Alabama race and they're running it. If they ask us for things, we're going to try to help them, but it's an Alabama race and the Jones campaign is running it on its own."

[Roll Call](#) (11/13, McPherson) also reported on Schumer's remarks, and added, "National Democrats have noted the uphill battle for winning a traditionally Republican state like Alabama. Asked twice last week if the party would devote more resources to the" race, DNC chief Tom Perez "declined to directly answer the questions. He instead pointed to resources sent to every state party last month as part of an effort to boost organizing efforts on the ground. That was, however, before the Post story broke."

Will: Democrat Jones Deserving Of Senate Seat. In his [Washington Post](#) (11/13) column, George Will praises the background of Jones and criticizes the candidacy of Moore, who "campaigns almost entirely about social issues – National Football League protests, the transgender menace – and the wild liberalism of Jones, a law-and-order prosecutor and deer and turkey hunter who says he has 'a safe full of guns.'" Will says that Jones is deserving of the Senate seat.

Some "Smashing" Their Keurigs In Protest Of Company Pulling Ads From "Hannity" Show. The [Indianapolis Star](#) (11/13, Mack, Star) reports, "Some conservatives are destroying their Keurig coffee machines in protest of the company pulling ads from Sean Hannity's show over his coverage of the sexual misconduct allegations levied at...Moore." The Star adds, "On social media, many used the hashtag #BoycottKeurig to slam the company for pulling its ads. Some posted videos of themselves smashing their Keurig machines and others vowed never to use the coffee maker again. Hannity tweeted that he was 'humbled and speechless,' by the videos and the calls to boycott Keurig." [Bloomberg News](#) (11/13, Kaplan) reports, "Hannity and Moore loyalists posted photos of themselves smashing the company's single-serve coffee brewers. Hannity himself tweeted that he is purchasing 500 coffee makers to give away."

Bill Clinton-Accuser Broadrick Blasts Chelsea Handler Over Moore Tweet. The [Daily Caller](#) (11/13, Randall) reported that Juanita Broadrick on Sunday blasted comedian Chelsea Handler "over a tweet the comedian made imagining what it must be like for an alleged rapist to be elected to a seat of power. Handler's tweet referenced the allegations against...Moore and asked what message young girls might receive if a man can molest a young girl and then get elected to the US Senate. She told her followers to imagine that scenario." In response, Broadrick tweeted, "Yeah, @chelseahandler I can imagine. I was raped by the Arkansas AG who then becomes Governor & President and NBC held my interview explaining the rape until after his impeachment hearing. But I'm sure you don't want to go there." Broadrick "alleged years ago that former President Bill Clinton raped her while he was the Arkansas attorney general."

NYTimes' Michelle Goldberg: "I Believe Juanita." Under the heading "I Believe Juanita," Michelle Goldberg writes in her [New York Times](#) (11/13) column, "In this #MeToo moment, when we're reassessing decades of male misbehavior and turning open secrets into exposes, we should

look clearly at the credible evidence that...Broaddrick told the truth when she accused Clinton of raping her." Goldberg adds, "Five witnesses said she confided in them about the assault right after it happened. It's true that she denied the rape in an affidavit to Paula Jones's lawyers, before changing her story when talking to federal investigators. But her explanation, that she didn't want to go public but couldn't lie to the FBI, makes sense. Put simply, I believe her."

North Korea Says US Carriers Raise Threat Of Nuclear War.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/13, story 5, 2:00, Mason) reported the US has deployed three aircraft carrier strike groups just off the Korean Peninsula in "the largest display of US naval strength in the western Pacific in a decade." The [AP](#) (11/13) reports North Korea said Monday that the "unprecedented" deployment "taking up a strike posture" around the peninsula is "making it impossible to predict when nuclear war will break out." North Korea's UN Ambassador, Ja Song Nam, said in a letter to Secretary-General Antonio Guterres that the joint military exercises are creating "the worst ever situation" around the peninsula. He also complained that the US has reactivated round-the-clock sorties with nuclear-capable B-52 strategic bombers "which existed during the Cold War times." [Reuters](#) (11/13, Nichols) reports Ja described current conditions as "the worst ever situation," and said the US "was to blame for escalating tensions."

Senate To Hold Hearing On Trump's Ability To Authorize Nuclear Strike. The [New York Post](#) (11/13) reports the Senate will hold a hearing Tuesday on the President's ability to authorize a nuclear strike. "This discussion is long overdue," Sen. Bob Corker said in a statement announcing the hearing, which is being held by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The [AP](#) (11/13, Burns) reports on a "question rarely raised before Donald Trump ran for the White House" – if the President ordered a pre-emptive nuclear strike, could anyone stop him? The answer, it says, is no. Bruce Blair, a former nuclear missile launch officer and expert on nuclear command and control, says, "The protocol for ordering the use of nuclear weapons endows every president with civilization-ending power."

North Korean Officials Want To Know If Trump Is Crazy. Brian Todd reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/13) that North Korean officials have been secretly meeting with American experts in an effort to "figure out how to read President Trump." CNN played audio of Suzanne DiMaggio, one of the experts on the team meeting with the North Koreans, saying, "They really want to know what is [Trump's] end game. They want to know if he's crazy or if this is just an act" – if he's doing "a good cop/bad cop routine that he's doing with [Secretary of State] Tillerson." [Politico Magazine](#) (11/13, Glasser) also reports on the remarks by DiMaggio, who said, "They follow the news very closely; they watch CNN 24/7; they read his tweets and other things."

American Detained Trying To Enter North Korea; North Korean Soldier Defects To South. The [Washington Post](#) (11/13, Fifield) reports that the Demilitarized Zone "saw an unusual amount of action Monday, with an American man unsuccessfully attempting to cross into the North and a North Korean soldier successfully defecting to the South." A 58-year-old man from Louisiana was arrested by South Korean forces Monday for crossing the Civilian Control Line, just outside the DMZ, as part of an attempt to get into North Korea "for political purposes," authorities said. The US Embassy in Seoul said it was aware of the report and was looking into it. In a separate incident, a North Korean soldier "manning a guard post on northern side of the Joint Security Area" defected to the South. The [New York Times](#) (11/13, Choe) reports the soldier was shot as he tried to escape, but succeeded in reaching the South. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/13, Stiles) reports the American detained at the border was not identified.

Protesters Disrupt White House Coal Presentation At UN Climate Talks.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/13, story 6, 2:30, Mason) reported, "At a UN climate conference in Germany today, the Trump Administration talked up fossil fuels, including coal," putting the US "at odds with 194 other nations." [Politico](#) (11/13, Holden) reports protesters "repeatedly interrupted" a White House-sponsored panel Monday at the talks "as US officials tried to promote fossil fuels and nuclear power." An estimated "100 people launched into a song accusing the US speakers" of greed that's "killing across the world for that coal money," sung the tune of "God Bless the USA." [Bloomberg News](#) (11/13, Shankleman, Dlouhy) reports that after singing, the protesters eventually walked out of the room.

[The Hill](#) (11/13, Henry) reports the White House and energy industry officials on Monday "defended the Trump administration's support for fossil fuels and nuclear power at a United Nations (U.N.) climate change conference." A group of officials led by Trump's chief energy and environment assistant "told attendees at the Bonn, Germany, conference that nuclear power and fossil fuel technologies designed to capture carbon emissions are essential to the global energy

sector, even as it pushes to tackle climate change.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/13, Siegel) reports the protesters also “stood up and faced away from a seated panel of Trump Administration officials,” including George David Banks, President Trump’s special assistant on energy and environment. The [New York Times](#) (11/13, Friedman, Plumer) quotes Banks as saying, “Without question, fossil fuels will continue to be used, and we would argue that it’s in the global interest to make sure when fossil fuels are used that they be as clean and efficient as possible. This panel is controversial only if we chose to bury our heads in the sand.”

In what the [Washington Times](#) (11/13, Hill) calls “a sign of the tensions brought on by President Trump’s June decision to pull out of the Paris Climate Accord, UN security officials watched helplessly as nearly half the audience in the lecture hall stood, sang and waved their arms to interrupt the presentation.”

Another [Washington Times](#) (11/13, Wolfgang) story, meanwhile, reports that California Gov. Jerry Brown is “one of the most prominent American officials” at the conference “in lieu of representatives from the Trump Administration.” The Democratic state leaders, joined by former Vice President Al Gore and “numerous Democratic lawmakers, are trying to push the notion that state and local governments will stand by the global Paris climate treaty.”

Report Shows Carbon Emissions Rise As Climate Talks Enter 2nd Week. The [AP](#) (11/13, Jordans) reports that as a new report showed the world “backsliding on curbing carbon emissions, observers at global climate talks said Monday it might fall to ministers to break a deadlock over issues such as compensation for countries hardest-hit by global warming.” The talks in Bonn, Germany, now in their second week, “are intended to hammer out some of the nitty-gritty details for implementing the 2015 Paris climate accord,” including “what emissions-cutting measures are necessary before 2020.”

The [Washington Times](#) (11/13, Wolfgang) reports the Paris climate pact is “off to a rocky start due to a huge increase in Chinese pollution this year, researchers said Monday in a report that finds US emissions are still dropping despite President Trump’s decision to pull the nation from the global agreement.” Several studies released by the Global Carbon Project and presented Monday at the talks in Bonn “say that worldwide carbon emissions are projected to rise about 2 percent in 2017 after they’d been flat for three years,” due to “a massive uptick in pollution” from China.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/13, Kaplan), meanwhile, reports that in late 1992, “1,700 scientists from around the world issued a dire ‘warning to humanity.’” To mark the letter’s 25th anniversary, researchers have issued “a bracing follow-up.” In a communique published Monday in the journal *BioScience*, “more than 15,000 scientists from 184 countries assess the world’s latest responses to various environmental threats,” and “once again, they find us sorely wanting.”

Nations Attempt To Firm Up “Vague” Paris Commitments In Bonn This Week. The [New York Times](#) (11/13, Ellis) reports negotiators from nearly 200 countries are meeting this week for the Bonn climate conference. On the agenda is filling in the details of pledges from the Paris climate conference. “They are voluntary, vague, and not easily verifiable. The diplomats in Bonn hope to firm up the countries’ commitments and make it easier to measure progress.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Mitch McConnell Believes The Women. Good For Him.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (11/13) praises Senate Majority Leader McConnell’s Monday remarks about Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore and adds, “Let’s acknowledge the Republicans who affirm the honesty of Mr. Moore’s accusers, and reject him, even if it means victory for his Democratic opponent. ... And let’s hope, against the odds, that the acceptance of these women’s stories sets an example for how such accusations can be dealt with for all women.”

“President Trump’s Thing For Thugs.” A [New York Times](#) (11/13) editorial says “authoritarian leaders exercise a strange and powerful attraction for President Trump. As his trip to Asia reminds us, a man who loves to bully people turns to mush — fawning smiles, effusive rhetoric — in the company of strongmen.” The Times says Trump’s “obsessive investment in personal relations may work for a real estate dealmaker,” but the “degree to which he has chosen to curry favor with some of the world’s most unsavory leaders, while lavishing far less attention on America’s democratic allies, hurts America’s credibility and, in the long run, may have dangerous repercussions.”

Washington Post.

“Mitch McConnell Believes The Women. Kellyanne Conway Doesn’t.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/13) contrasts Senate Majority Leader McConnell’s Monday remarks about Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore with those of White House Counselor Kellyanne Conway, “who said Sunday that she takes ‘very seriously allegations like this, particularly when they involve somebody who happened to be one of my daughters’ ages’ and that she has ‘tried to be a very loud voice for a very long time against sexual impropriety’ – but that Mr. Moore should not ‘just be cast aside as guilty.’ Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin was similarly perplexed: ‘If these allegations are true, then absolutely, this is incredibly inappropriate behavior.’ These non-condemnation condemnations serve as much to cast doubt on Mr. Moore’s accusers as they do to denounce Mr. Moore’s alleged behavior.” The Post says McConnell “deserves credit for treating these accusations with seriousness and the accusers with respect.”

“A New Deal With Russia Sounds Too Good To Be True. It Probably Is.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/13) writes that a new deal with Russia requiring the withdrawal of Iranian forces from Syria and internationally supervised elections, “like the multiple accords about Syria” former Secretary of State Kerry made with Russia, “sounds too good to be true,” and, “most likely, like all those previous deals, it is.” The Post warns that Russian leader Vladimir Putin “consistently disregards the deals he strikes” and instead works “to block U.S. objectives and demoralize and divide Western democracies.” The Post concludes that Secretary “Tillerson ought to avoid the foolish error of Mr. Trump: assuming that Mr. Putin, in offering improbable assurances, ‘means it.’”

“Trump’s Comments Create A Lose-Lose Position For Justice.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/13) writes that while the Justice Department may have a legitimate antitrust reason for reportedly pushing Time Warner to sell CNN as a condition of a corporate merger, President Trump’s “disdain” for the network “raises the specter of political retaliation, which in turn increases the need for transparency in the antitrust decision-making process.” The Post calls for a Senate subcommittee on antitrust, competition policy and consumer rights hearing on the matter, which will either inform the public of “improper” White House “influence over the Justice Department in the interest of punishing a political enemy” or dispel suspicions of such. The Post concludes, “The White House has put itself in a position where the nation may reasonably presume bad faith” and not must earn the public’s trust.

Wall Street Journal.

“The Great Progressive Tax Escape.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/13) writes that the wealthy are leaving high-tax states, showing how seeking revenue from them to finance the entitlements and government programs ends up hurting citizens of all levels.

“Oh, No, A Pharma Exec.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/13) argues in an editorial that while President Trump’s choice to head HHS, Alex Azar, drew criticism for raising drug prices as a pharma executive, he was paid by shareholders to make money, which in turn fosters innovation and leaders to better treatments. The Journal adds that while Senate Democrats will scour his record, it is possible that his knowledge of the industry makes Azar the right person to regulate it.

“The Menu Label Cops Win.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/13) criticizes draft Food and Drug Administration guidance on calorie boards at chain restaurants, calling the rules crazy and for Congress to intervene.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Number Of Systemically Important Banks To Decline Under Senate Deal](#)
[GE Cuts Dividend, Slashes Profit Goals Amid Restructuring](#)
[Hobby Lobby Scion Spent Millions On Biblical Relics—Then Came A Reckoning](#)
[IPOs Roar Back World-wide, With Asia Driving The Boom](#)

New York Times:

[Justice Dept. To Weigh Inquiry Into Clinton Foundation](#)
[Fifth Woman Accuses Senate Candidate Roy Moore Of Sexual Misconduct](#)

[She Took On Colombia's Soda Industry. Then She Was Silenced.](#)
[Navy SEALs Investigated In Green Beret's Death Also Under Scrutiny In Theft](#)
[Under New Guidelines, Millions More Americans Will Need To Lower Blood Pressure](#)
[Debilitated Players Accuse NFL Of Stalling On Settlement Payments](#)
[Iran-Iraq Earthquake Kills More Than 450](#)

Washington Post:

[Mexican Traffickers Making NYC A Fentanyl Hub](#)
[GOP Leaders Press Moore To Leave Race](#)
[Debating Suitability Of Cellphone Use In Lower Grades](#)
[Gaddafi's Cousin Sees Opening, Plots Comeback](#)
[Sessions Considering A Second Special Counsel](#)

Financial Times:

[Earthquake On Iran-Iraq Border Kills More Than 400](#)
[GE Boss Unveils Dividend Cut And \\$20bn Asset Sales](#)
[Broadcom Qualcomm Deal Moves Closer To Open Hostility](#)
[China Recovery Pushes Greenhouse Emissions To Global Record](#)

Washington Times:

[Senate Republicans Denounce Roy Moore In Dilemma Posed By Alabama Nominee](#)
[Paris Deal Failing? Global Emissions Up 2% Despite U.S. Drop; Chinese Pollution Skyrockets](#)
[Trump Promises Major Announcements On Trade, North Korea After 'Fruitful' 12 Days In Asia](#)
[Trump Team's Tax Cut Message Falls Flat Among Middle Class](#)
['Happy News' From Doctors: Sex Is No Risk Factor For Sudden Heart Attack](#)
[Berlusconi Returns To Italian Politics — This Time As Likely Kingmaker](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Jr.; Roy Moore Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Penn State Univ-Hazing; Middle East Earthquake; Trump-Asia Tour; Orlando Airport-Battery Explosion; High Blood Pressure-New Guideline; Walmart-Online Price Disparity; Weather Forecast; Indiana-House Explosion; Cancer Survivor-Go Fund Me.

CBS: Roy Moore Sexual Misconduct Allegations; High Blood Pressure-New Guideline; Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Jr.; Trump-Asia Tour; US-North Korea; UN Climate Conference; Penn State Univ-Hazing; Middle East Earthquake; Golden Girls-Friendship.

NBC: Roy Moore Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Roy Moore Sexual Misconduct Allegations-GOP; Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Jr.; Mali-Navy SEAL Murder Investigation; Penn State Univ-Hazing; Middle East Earthquake; NSA-Cyber Security; Biden-Possible Presidential Bid; High Blood Pressure-New Guideline; India-Extreme Air Pollution; Post Hurricane Reunion; Police-Friendship.

Network TV At A Glance:

Roy Moore Sexual Misconduct Allegations – 11 minutes, 30 seconds
Russia Meddling Investigation- 7 minutes, 20 seconds
High Blood Pressure-New Guideline- 5 minutes, 20 seconds
Middle East Earthquake- 2 minutes, 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Roy Moore Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Russia Meddling Investigation; Trump-Asia Tour; Health Secretary Pick.

CBS: High Blood Pressure-New Guideline; Roy Moore Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Tax Reform Plan; Baseball News; Amazon-Lord Of The Rings.

FOX: Roy Moore Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Menendez Trial-Jury Deadlock.

NPR: Roy Moore Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Middle East Earthquake; BitCoin Surge; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in the 12th East Asia Summit Head of State and Government Luncheon; participates in the 12th East Asia Summit plenary session; returns to Washington,

D.C.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Meets with U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley, Director of the Office of Management and Budget Mick Mulvaney, and United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Administrator Mark Green; delivers remarks at the Wall Street Journal's 10th Annual CEO Council Meeting.

US Senate: 8:30 AM 'The Positive Economic Impact of Historically Black Colleges and Universities' study unveiled – UNCF (United Negro College Fund) hosts forum to unveil new study 'HBCUs Make America Strong: The Positive Economic Impact of Historically Black Colleges and Universities', which examines the economic impact of the nation's HBCUs by looking at the spending and employment impacts of the nation's HBCUs in total – and for 100 HBCUs individually – on their local and regional economies, as well as the lifetime earnings of the 2014 class of HBCU graduates. Speakers include UNCF President and CEO Dr Michael Lomax, Vice President for Research and Member Engagement Dr Brian Bridges, and Senior Vice President for Public Policy and Government Affairs Cheryl Smith, Members of Congress, and HBCU presidents Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 902, Washington, DC <http://www.uncf.org/> [#HBCUStrong](https://twitter.com/UNCF)

9:30 AM Business Meeting, with agenda including nomination of Kirstjen Nielsen to be Secretary of Homeland Security Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 342, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

9:30 AM U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico governors testify to Senate committee on hurricane recovery – Hearing on 'Hurricane Recovery Efforts in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands', with testimony from U.S. Virgin Islands Governor Kenneth Mapp; Puerto Rico Governor Ricardo Rossello; Assistant Secretary of Energy for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability Bruce Walker; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations Maj. Gen. Donald Jackson Jr.; Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority Executive Director Ricardo Ramos; Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority Executive Director and CEO Julio Rhymer Sr.; and Comision de Energia de Puerto Rico Comisionado Asociado-Presidente Interino Jose Roman Morales; and Oversight & Management Board for Puerto Rico Revitalization Coordinator Noel Zamot Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.energy.senate.gov

10:00 AM Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works legislative hearing – Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works legislative hearing on 'S. 1857, a bill to establish a compliance deadline of May 15, 2023, for Step 2 emissions standards for new residential wood heaters, new residential hydronic heaters, and forced-air furnaces', 'S. 203, the Recognizing the Protection of Motorsports (RPM) Act of 2017', 'S. 839, the Blocking Regulatory Interference from Closing Kilns Act of 2017', and 'S. 1934, the Alaska Remote Generator Reliability and Protection Act', with testimony from United States Stove Company Business Intelligence Vice President Paul Williams; Specialty Equipment Market Association President and CEO Christopher Kersting; Henry Brick Company President Davis Henry; George Washington University Law School Professor of Law Emily Hammond; and Natural Resources Defense Council Clean Air Director John Walke Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 406, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee hearing on gene editing – Hearing on 'Gene Editing Technology: Innovation and Impact', with testimony from Stanford University Associate Professor of Pediatrics Dr Matthew Porteus; Editas Medicine CEO and President Katrine Bosley; and Johns Hopkins Berman Institute of Bioethics Director Dr Jeffrey Kahn Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee Business Meeting, hearing on authority to order the use of nuclear weapons – Business Meeting, with agenda including 'S. 1928, Multilateral Aid Review Act of 2017' and the nomination of Eric Ueland to be Under Secretary of State for Management * Immediately followed by hearing on 'Authority to Order the Use of Nuclear Weapons', with testimony from former U.S. Strategic Command Commander Gen. (Ret.) C. Robert Kehler; Duke University Professor of Political Science and Public Policy Dr Peter Feaver; and former Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Brian McKeon Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Armed Services Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Anthony Kurta to be Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness; James McPherson to be Department of the Army General Counsel; and Gregory Maggs to be a U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces Judge Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm G50, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Helsinki Commission briefing on intercountry adoptions – 'Working Together to Reverse the Decline in Intercountry Adoptions' Helsinki Commission briefing, exploring reasons

for the decline in intercountry adoptions, Congressional intent behind the Intercountry Adoption Universal Accreditation Act of 2012, the impact of the initial implementation of the Act by the State Department, and legislative and other solutions to ensure that the maximum number of children in need are connected with families in the U.S. offering permanent homes. Panelists are John Carver – a father of six children adopted from the OSCE region, Nightlight Christian Adoptions Executive Director Ron Stoddart, and Kathleen Strottman – former Legislative Director for then-Sen. Mary Landrieu Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC-215, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

1:00 PM Helsinki Commission briefing on the internet freedom – ‘Internet Freedom in the OSCE Region: Trends and Challenges’ Helsinki Commission briefing, examining declining internet freedom globally and in the OSCE region and its impact on broader democracy and human rights, growing cyberattacks against human rights defenders in Russia and the former Soviet sphere, and govt use of social media to manipulate discussions and attack critics. Panelists are Freedom House Freedom on the Net Director Sanja Kelly, Mohyla School of Journalism (Ukraine) Senior Lecturer Dariya Orlova, McCain Institute Human Rights Defenders Program Coordinator Berivan Orucoglu, and Global Network Initiative Policy Director Jason Pielemeier Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC-215, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

2:30 PM CLOSED Senate Intelligence hearing. – <https://www.intelligence.senate.gov/hearings/closed-briefing-intelligence-matters-190> Location: 219 Hart Senate Office Building. <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

2:30 PM Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee fourth hearing on U.S. leadership in the Asia-Pacific – East Asia, The Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy Subcommittee hearing on ‘American Leadership in the Asia-Pacific, Part 4: View from Beijing’, with testimony from Hudson Institute Center for Chinese Strategy Director Michael Pillsbury; Harvard Kennedy School Professor of Government Dr Graham Allison; and former U.S. Ambassador to China Max Baucus Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Commerce subcommittee hearing on agritech – Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, & Data Security Subcommittee hearing on ‘Technology in Agriculture: Data-Driven Farming’, with testimony from Oklahoma State University Associate Professor Dr Shannon Ferrell; University of Florida Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering Chair Dr Dorota Haman; Janzen Agricultural Law President Todd Janzen; Kansas Association of Wheat Growers Vice President Justin Knopf; and Farmobile co-founder and CEO Jason Tatge Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

US House: 10:00 AM House Financial Services Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on legislation including ‘HR 1153, the Mortgage Choice Act of 2017’, ‘HR 1638, the Iranian Leadership Asset Transparency Act’, ‘HR 3093, the Investor Clarity and Bank Parity Act’, ‘HR 3221, the Securing Access to Affordable Mortgages Act’, ‘HR 3299, the Protecting Consumers’ Access to Credit Act of 2017’, ‘HR 3978, the TRID Improvement Act of 2017’, ‘HR 4015, the Corporate Governance Reform and Transparency Act of 2017’, ‘HR 4247, the Restoring Financial Market Freedom Act of 2017’, ‘HR 4258, the Family Self-Sufficiency Act’, ‘HR 4267, the Small Business Credit Availability Act’, ‘HR 4270, the Monetary Policy Transparency and Accountability Act of 2017’, ‘HR 4278, the Independence from Credit Policy Act of 2017’, ‘HR 4279, the Expanding Investment Opportunities Act’, ‘HR 4281, the Expanding Access to Capital for Rural Job Creators Act’, ‘HR 4292, the Financial Institution Living Will Improvement Act of 2017’, ‘HR 4293, the Stress Test Improvement Act of 2017’ Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM Environment Subcommittee hearing on ‘Response and Recovery to Environmental Concerns from the 2017 Hurricane Season’ Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Technology subcommittee hearing on govt cybersecurity – Oversight Subcommittee hearing on ‘Bolstering the Government’s Cybersecurity: A Survey of Compliance with the DHS Directive’, with testimony from Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Cybersecurity and Communications Jeanette Manfra; NASA CIO Renee Wynn; Department of Defense Deputy CIO for Cybersecurity Essye Miller; and Georgetown University Edmund Walsh School of Foreign Service Associate Teaching Professor Dr Mark Jacobson Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2318, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM House Government Reform subcommittees latest joint hearing on Regulatory Reform Task Forces – Health Care, Benefits, and Administrative Rules Subcommittee and Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee joint hearing on ‘Regulatory Reform Task Forces Check-

In: Part II', with testimony from Office of the Secretary of Agriculture Senior Advisor Rebeckah Adcock; Office of the Secretary of Education Senior Counselor Robert Eitel; and Associate Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services Charles Keckler Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM Helsinki Commission briefing on intercountry adoptions – 'Working Together to Reverse the Decline in Intercountry Adoptions' Helsinki Commission briefing, exploring reasons for the decline in intercountry adoptions, Congressional intent behind the Intercountry Adoption Universal Accreditation Act of 2012, the impact of the initial implementation of the Act by the State Department, and legislative and other solutions to ensure that the maximum number of children in need are connected with families in the U.S. offering permanent homes. Panelists are John Carver – a father of six children adopted from the OSCE region, Nightlight Christian Adoptions Executive Director Ron Stoddart, and Kathleen Strottman – former Legislative Director for then-Sen. Mary Landrieu Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC-215, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

10:00 AM Ways & Means Dems, Pelosi, MomsRising on GOP Tax – House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Ways & Means Committee members Suzan DelBene (D-WA), and Judy Chu (D-CA) and Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL), will join with MomsRising families to highlight real examples of the Republican tax legislations "disastrous" impacts on Americans across the nation. Contact: Brett Abrams, 516-841-1105, brett@unbendablemedia.com Location: 234 Cannon Office Building.

10:00 AM House Administration Committee hearing on chamber's sexual harassment policies and mechanisms – Hearing on 'Preventing Sexual Harassment in the Congressional Workplace', with testimony from bipartisan Reps. Jackie Speier and Bradley Byrne; and House of Representatives Office of House Employment Counsel Gloria Lett, and Office of Compliance Chair of the Board of Directors Barbara Childs Wallace Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1310, Washington, DC <http://cha.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseAdmnGOP>

10:00 AM Hearing on 'Oversight of the Department of Justice', with testimony from Attorney General Jeff Sessions Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2141, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on 'the current threat at the U.S.-Canada border' – Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Looking North: Assessing the Current Threat at the U.S.-Canada Border', with testimony from Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Border, Immigration, and Trade Policy Michael Dougherty; U.S. Border Patrol Acting Deputy Chief Scott Luck; Immigration and Customs Enforcement Special Agent in Charge Kevin Kelly; and National Congress of American Indians Colville Business Council Chairman Dr Michael Marchand Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

11:00 AM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/ <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

11:00 AM 'Community Schools: An Evidence-Based Strategy for ESSA School Improvement' briefing on Capitol Hill – 'Community Schools: An Evidence-Based Strategy for ESSA School Improvement' briefing, hosted by the Coalition for Community Schools and sponsored by House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer. Panel – including Learning Policy Institute Research and Policy Associate Anna Maier, AFT National Vice President Zeph Capo, Forest Park High School (Baltimore) Community School Director Shanelle England and 12th grade student Camilla Gavin, and Coalition for Community Schools Director Jose Munoz and Director of Public Policy Mary Kingston Roche – discuss 'the ways in which community schools improve student learning while also providing health and social supports, developing authentic family and community engagement, and supporting collaborative leadership and practices' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2045, Washington, DC www.communityschools.org
<https://twitter.com/CommSchools>

12:00 PM House debates 21st Century Flood Reform Act and FY'18 NDAA – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including 'H.R. 2874 ' 21st Century Flood Reform Act' and the Conference Report to Accompany 'H.R. 2810 – National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018', as well as consideration of 'H.R. 1207 – To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 River Street in Tilden, Texas, as the 'Tilden Veterans Post Office', 'H.R. 3109 – To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1114 North 2nd Street in Chillicothe, Illinois, as the 'Sr. Chief Ryan Owens Post Office Building', and 'H.R. 3893 – To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Mathe Avenue in Interlachen, Florida, as the 'Robert H. Jenkins Post Office' under

suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

1:00 PM Helsinki Commission briefing on the internet freedom – ‘Internet Freedom in the OSCE Region: Trends and Challenges’ Helsinki Commission briefing, examining declining internet freedom globally and in the OSCE region and its impact on broader democracy and human rights, growing cyberattacks against human rights defenders in Russia and the former Soviet sphere, and govt use of social media to manipulate discussions and attack critics. Panelists are Freedom House Freedom on the Net Director Sanja Kelly, Mohyla School of Journalism (Ukraine) Senior Lecturer Dariya Orlova, McCain Institute Human Rights Defenders Program Coordinator Berivan Orucoglu, and Global Network Initiative Policy Director Jason Pielemeier Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC-215, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

2:00 PM Oversight hearing on ‘The Need for Transparent Financial Accountability in Territories’ Disaster Recovery Efforts’ Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

2:00 PM POSTPONED – House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on Brexit – Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats Subcommittee hearing on ‘Brexit: A Negotiation Update’, with testimony from Heritage Foundation Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom Director Dr Nile Gardiner; U.S. Chamber of Commerce Vice President for European Affairs and U.S.-U.K. Business Council Executive Director Marjorie Chorlins; and Financial Times Washington Columnist and commentator Edward Luce Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

3:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – This measure has been postponed subject to the call of the Chair. The Committee will not meet tomorrow. – Hearing on ‘H.R. 4243 – VA Asset and Infrastructure Review Act of 2017’ Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

7:15 PM Bipartisan lawmakers discuss the War in Afghanistan at viewing of ‘War Machine’ – Democratic Reps. Walter Jones and John Garamendi host a viewing of ‘War Machine’, followed by a panel discussion on the ‘need for Congressional debate on the War in Afghanistan’ and the ‘poignant problems with the current strategy in Afghanistan’. Speakers include Democratic Reps. Jackie Speier, and Rick Nolan, Republican Rep. Thomas Massie, film director David Michod, and producers Jeremy Kleiner and Dede Gardner Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC 215, Washington, DC <https://twitter.com/repwalterjones>

Other: 8:00 AM The Hill forum on ‘Digitalizing Infrastructure’ with GOP Sen. Shelley Moore Capito – The Hill hosts ‘Digitalizing Infrastructure: Building a Smart Future’ forum, on how advancements in smart technology are changing the way investors view infrastructure. Speakers include Republican Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, delegate to the House of Representatives from the U.S. Virgin Islands Democratic Rep. Stacey Plaskett, Oracle Public Sector North America Strategic Government Programs Director Franco Amalfi, Kansas City, MO, Chief Innovation Officer Bob Bennett, American Society of Civil Engineers Government Relations and Infrastructure Initiatives Managing Director Brian Pallasch, Bechtel Chief Innovation Officer David Wilson, and ABB Chief Digital Officer Guido Jouret Location: 1777 F St NW, Washington, DC thehill.com <https://twitter.com/TheHillEvents>

9:00 AM Transatlantic Apprenticeship Exchange Forum – Transatlantic Apprenticeship Exchange Forum, ‘Reaching for the Moon: Can America Deliver 5 Million Additional Apprenticeships?’, hosted by Urban Institute and Franklin Apprenticeships, to address the idea of the ‘moonshot’ to create five million apprenticeships in the U.S. Speakers include Democratic Sen. Michael Bennet, Transatlantic Apprenticeship Exchange Forum President Tom Bewick, MAXIMUS Vice President Michael Bolton, Opportunity America President and CEO Tamar Jacoby, Kentucky Secretary of Labor Derrick Ramsey, Franklin Apprenticeships CEO Kimberly Nichols, and National Skills Foundation CEO Andy Van Kleunen Location: Urban Institute, 2100 M St NW, Washington, DC www.urban.org <https://twitter.com/urbaninstitute> #LiveAtUrban

9:00 AM Dem Sen. Michael Bennet speaks on school choice at Brookings – ‘Outcomes and challenges in US cities with public school choice’ Brookings Institution Brown Center on Education Policy and CRPE panel discussion on the current state of urban school choice. Speakers include Democratic Sen. Michael Bennet, Center on Reinventing Public Education Director Robin Lake, Tennessee Charter School Center CEO Maya Bugg, and DC Public Schools Chancellor Antwan Wilson Location: The Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst> #SchoolChoice

9:00 AM CANCELED: GOP Rep. Jeff Duncan speaks on Venezuela’s oil industry at Atlantic Council – CANCELED: ‘Venezuela’s Oil Industry: How Can It Survive?’ Atlantic Council Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center and Global Energy Center discussion on ‘Venezuela’s declining oil industry, the increasing presence of Russia and China in the country, and what lies ahead’.

Speakers include Republican Rep. Jeff Duncan, and Atlantic Council Energy Advisory Group Chair and Atlantic Council Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center Nonresident Senior Energy Fellow David Goldwyn Location: Atlantic Council, 1030 15th St NW, Washington, DC
<http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/> [#ACVenezuela](https://twitter.com/ACLatAm)

9:30 AM NAACP, Clean Air Task Force and NMA report on impact of oil and gas pollution on African-American communities – NAACP, Clean Air Task Force and the National Medical Association release 'Fumes Across the Fence-Line' report at NPC news conference, on the growing threats to the health of African American communities across the country from airborne oil and gas pollution, and quantifying the health risks, including cancer and respiratory illnesses, which are caused by emissions from the natural gas supply chain. Speakers include Democratic Rep. Al Green, report co-authors Marcus Franklin (NAACP Environmental & Climate Justice Program) and Lesley Fleischman (Clean Air Task Force), and National Medical Association President Doris Browne Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.naacp.org> <https://twitter.com/NAACP>

9:30 AM Former Rep. Ronald Dellums speaks at GW – George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs Institute for African Studies hosts conversation with former Rep. Ronald Dellums, who discusses 'the role Elliott School students and fellow universities can play in promoting meaningful change on a global scale' Location: George Washington University Elliott School, 1957 E St NW, Washington, DC elliott.gwu.edu <https://twitter.com/elliottschoolgw>

12:15 PM Dem Sen. Elizabeth Warren speaks on tax reform and small business at CAP Action Fund – 'Small Businesses and America Can't Afford the Republican Tax Deal' Center for American Progress Action Fund and Main Street Alliance Action Fund panel discussion on tax reform and small business. Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren keynotes, with panelists including Main Street Alliance Executive Committee members David Borris, ReShonda Young, and Deborah Field Location: Center for American Progress, 1333 H St NW, Washington, DC
www.americanprogressaction.org <https://twitter.com/CAPaction>

3:30 PM Alliance for American Manufacturing 10th Anniversary Celebration – Alliance for American Manufacturing 10th Anniversary Celebration, hosted by CNN Chief Political Correspondent Dana Bash, with speakers including United Steelworkers President Leo Gerard, Shinola President Jacques Panis, Marble King CEO Berl Fox, Green Endeavor President Chandra Brown, United Steelworkers Allegheny County District 10 Council Representative DeWitt Walton, ArcelorMittal Burns Harbor Maintenance Technician Electrical William Hill, and Alliance for American Manufacturing President Scott Paul. Guests include Democratic Sens. Sherrod Brown and Chris Murphy and Rep. Tim Ryan Location: National Union Building, 918 F St NW, Washington, DC www.americanmanufacturing.org <https://twitter.com/keepitmadeusa>

6:00 PM Washington Diplomat Ambassador Insider series event with Panama Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Emanuel Gonzalez-Revilla Location: The Darcy Hotel, 1515 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.washdiplomat.com/> <https://twitter.com/diplomatnews>

6:30 PM GOP Sen. John McCain honored at 'Salute from the Chief' – Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley hosts 'Salute from the Chief', honoring Republican Sen. John McCain for his 63 years of service to the nation and the U.S. Navy Location: Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Commy Hall, VA <http://mdwhome.mdw.army.mil/> https://twitter.com/MDW_USARMY

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Stephen Colbert: "Last week, allegations surfaced that, when [Roy] Moore was an assistant district attorney in the 1970s, he had sexual contact with a 14-year-old, which would be appropriate only if he were a 14-year-old assistant district attorney."

Stephen Colbert: "According to a recent poll, Alabama evangelicals are more likely to support Roy Moore after sexual assault allegations. Oh, I see. So 'Alabama evangelical' is like 'Long Island iced tea.' It isn't what it says it is, and it makes me want to puke."

Stephen Colbert: "This afternoon, a new Roy Moore accuser claimed he violently assaulted her when she was 16. And this latest accuser has proof that Moore knew exactly how old she was because he signed her yearbook. 'To A sweeter more beautiful girl I could not say Merry Christmas. Christmas 1977. Love, Roy Moore, DA.' So very disturbing. But it could still play well with evangelicals 'cause he didn't say 'Happy Holidays.'"

Stephen Colbert: "At the meeting, Trump got to the bottom of Russian interference in the 2016 election by using his most powerful investigative tool: asking Putin if he did it. 'He said he didn't meddle. Every time he sees me, he says I didn't do that.' Yeah, you can always trust a guy who repeatedly denies allegations. Look at Weinstein, Cosby, Ailes, O'Reilly, Louis C.K., Brett Rattner, Bill Clinton, future-Senator Roy Moore."

James Corden: [Referring to the war of words between President Trump and Kim Jung-Un] "Right now, we are this close to Kim Jong-Un and Trump doing 'yo momma' jokes on Twitter. 'Yo momma so stupid she couldn't get into Trump University.'"

Trevor Noah: [Referring to Roy Moore's sexual assault allegations] "So Roy Moore defines himself completely by the Bible, except for the part about 'thou shall not be gross.'"

Trevor Noah: "If anything, this Roy Moore story has made it crystal clear that there is a group of Christians who only use religion when it suits them. Gays, burn in hell. Roy Moore, forgive him, Father. Hillary, lock her up. Roy Moore, send him up to Washington. Turn the other cheek, but not like a gay cheek, the other cheek."

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that President Trump is wrapping up his two-week trip to Asia. Yep. Trump said he couldn't wait to get home, put on his pajamas, and tweet in his own bed."

Jimmy Fallon: "Get this, Trump said that he asked Putin if he meddled in our election, and Putin denied it. Is Trump the guy who should be leading that investigation? It's like telling Kevin Spacey to keep an eye on Roy Moore."

Seth Meyers: [Referring to the growing nationwide sexual harassment allegations] "Researchers believe that women are less likely to receive CPR in public than men because people are reluctant to touch a stranger's breast. 'Touch a stranger's breast? I'll do it,' said these men."

Jordan Klepper: "And now that 'liberal Democrat accuser,' who just happens to be a Republican Trump voter, has thrown the election into chaos. Now gutless establishment Republicans are, of course, calling for Moore to step aside. Even Mitch McConnell is now saying that he 'believes the women.' Believing five women over one man? That's just not Republican math."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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DOI In The News

'Finally!' Secretary Zinke Welcomes Confirmation Of Reclamation Nominee Brenda Burman.

The [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (11/20) reports that the U.S. Senate last Friday confirmed Brenda Burman as the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation. Burman is "the first woman to ever lead the Bureau." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "Finally! After more than 142 days, I'm excited to welcome Brenda Burman to lead the Bureau of Reclamation. Brenda is a veteran of the Bureau and her extensive experience on water projects across the country will be an incredible asset for the Department. After senseless and unprecedented hold-ups in the Senate, we can finally move forward with key water projects across the country."

[Arizona Public Media](#) (11/20, Maxedon) reports that Burman said, "The men and women of Reclamation have helped the West work through our most difficult water issues for more than 100 years. I look forward to working with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (11/20, Dillemath) and [Federal News Radio \(DC\)](#) (11/20, Wing).

'UGH!': Zinke's Wife's Travel Caused Headaches For Interior Staff.

[Politico](#) (11/20, Lefebvre) reports new records – which the "liberal watchdog group" The Western Values Project says "uncover the potential misuse of government resources" – show that Lola Zinke, wife of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, "has frustrated department staffers by saddling them with extra work when she traveled with him on official business." The records last-minute show requests by Mrs. Zinke "to join high-level dinners and additions to the guest list for a conservative group's event near the couple's home in Southern California earlier this year." Politico adds that "the documents shed new light on the outsize profile Lola Zinke has established compared with the typical Cabinet secretary's spouse."

The [AP](#) (11/19) reports that the Interior Department "denied any wrongdoing." The department said Mrs. Zinke "pays her own way when she accompanies her husband on trips, and the travel is approved by ethics officials in advance."

Also reporting are the [Washington Post](#) (11/20, Eilperin), the [Washington Examiner](#) (11/20, Siegel), and [Raw Story](#) (11/20, AL-SIBAI).

Ryan Zinke Extends Comment Deadline.

The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (11/20, Roth) reports that the Trump Administration has "given the public an extra month to comment on its proposal" to raise fees popular national parks. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "originally set a comment deadline of Thanksgiving Day, November 23, giving the public just one month to weigh in." However, "as of Monday evening, the public comment page on the National Park Service's website had been updated to show a deadline of December 22 at 11:59 p.m."

Cantwell: Upping National Park Admission Fee To \$70 Is 'Unconscionable'. The [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (11/20, Connelly) reports that a proposal to raise fees at popular national parks was panned by Sen. Maria Cantwell on Monday. Cantwell said, "The outdoor economy has been an unbelievable juggernaut as it has reached 201,000 jobs in the state of Washington, \$7.6 billion in wages, \$28 billion in consumer spending, and \$2.3 billion in state and local tax revenue." She added, "To me, this price increase is unconscionable."

Additional Coverage. Also reporting on the proposal are the [Bellingham \(MA\) Bulletin](#) (11/20, Johnson) and [WVLA-TV Baton Rouge \(LA\)](#) Baton Rouge, LA (11/20, Scheidt).

The Energy 202: New 'Acting Director' At Interior Office Worries Public Lands Advocates.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/20, Grandoni) reports that the Interior Department's pick to temporarily run the Bureau of Land Management has "raised eyebrows among public land advocates." Last week, Interior named Brian Steed to be interim BLM director. The article notes that "before that appointment, Steed was chief of staff for Rep. Chris Stewart (R-Utah), an advocate for land transfer who co-founded a congressional caucus called the Federal Land Action Group, intent on crafting legislation to put federal holdings under local control." But "in an email, an Interior Department spokeswoman, Heather Swift, said Zinke has not wavered in his stance on public lands." Swift wrote, "The Secretary's position is unchanged."

What Does Kane County Want In A Redrawn Grand Staircase-Escalante Monument?

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/20, Maffly) reports that it obtained a version of a map "indicating roughly 200,000 acres that county officials believe are worthy of monument status" for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument presented by Kane County staff to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. Officials had "refused to release it, arguing it's an incomplete draft that could mislead the public." According to the article, "the map offers a glimpse into how Zinke may have arrived at his recommendations, which remain shrouded in secrecy, to the frustration of local businesses and pro-monument groups."

Navy SEALs Remember Christian Lambertsen, Humble Beginnings Of Swimmer-commandos.

The [Washington Times](#) (11/20, Boylan) reports that "prominent former SEALs," including Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, last week gathered at the Omni Shoreham Hotel above Rock Creek Park to mark the 75th anniversary of a "top-secret World War II-era experiment" that was "the critical opening chapter in the evolving history of the U.S. Navy SEALs."

US Forest Service Internal Review Finds 34 Cases Of Sexual Harassment.

The [Daily Caller](#) (11/20, Volpe) reports that "after decades of denying it, the US Forest Service has finally acknowledged it has systemic problems with sexual harassment." The agency said, "Since implementing an updated anti-harassment policy in September 2016, the agency has carefully reviewed and resolved over 400 cases of alleged harassment." The agency added that of the 400 cases, 83 have been substantiated.

Is This Ryan Zinke Posing With A Dead Elephant?

[Snopes](#) (11/20, Evon) examines whether a photograph purportedly showing Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke posing with a dead elephant is true. The website concludes that "image is genuine," but it does not show Zinke. Rather, the man is identified as Ian Evans.

Additional Coverage: Mille Lacs Band Rallies For Police.

Additional coverage of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's visit to the Mille Lacs Indian Reservation last Friday was provided by the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (11/19, Smith), the [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (11/20, Davis), and the [Worthington \(MN\) Daily Globe](#) (11/20, Davis).

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

DOI Still Seeking Cobell Claimants As Deal Deadline Looms.

[Law360](#) (11/20, Lidgett) reports that "with a looming deadline for Native American tribal members to make a claim for a bite of the landmark Cobell settlement over the alleged mismanagement of tribal trust funds, the federal government said on Friday it is still looking to identify thousands of possible claimants." The Interior Department "said in an announcement that

it is in the final stages of identifying where about 17,000 Native American individuals who could make claims for settlement compensation are before a court-imposed Nov. 27 deadline."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (11/21, Smith) and the [Pierre \(SD\) Capital Journal](#) (11/21).

Bureau Of Indian Education

Chemawa Staff, Students Question Hiring Practices And Non-Native Administration.

Continuing its series on problems at the Chemawa Indian School, [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (11/20, Schick, Manning) reports that "in interviews, emails and court documents, Chemawa staff members said they have observed nepotism and favoritism over the past several years within the Bureau of Indian Education that formed a roadblock to accountability." They claim "it also raised doubts about whether the federal government's hiring processes are truly designed to ensure the most qualified staff are in place to serve the students who arrive at Chemawa." Meanwhile, "as Chemawa retained a largely non-Native administration, students have questioned why a school for Native youth has so few examples of Native people in positions of leadership."

Bureau Of Land Management

BLM Tells 10th Circ. No Need To Revisit Frack Rule Decision.

[Law360](#) (11/20, Rodriguez) reports that the Bureau of Land Management on Monday "urged the Tenth Circuit not to grant four states' request that it revisit its rejection of their challenge to an Obama-era hydraulic fracturing rule for federal and Native American lands."

Burning Man, BLM To Study Festivals Impact On Black Rock Desert.

[KNPR-FM](#) Las Vegas (11/20) reports that "the organizers of Burning Man will assist the federal Bureau of Land Management in conducting an environmental impact study of the event's impact on the Black Rock Desert." The study is "part of the process of applying for a new ten-year permit to continue holding the event." The new analysis will "evaluate the potential impact on Black Rock of possible changes in the size of Burning Man."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Panel's Approval Of Offshore Drilling Bill Could Threaten Ban Off Florida.

The [Fort Myers \(FL\) News-Press](#) (11/20, King) reports that Florida Republican Rep. Francis Rooney said he's concerned about a new House proposal to open offshore drilling along Florida's Gulf Coast. Rep. Rooney is hoping to rally support among fellow lawmakers in Florida to back an amendment making the moratorium on drilling within 125 miles of Florida's coast permanent, saying, "We cannot have drilling in the Eastern Gulf. It will destroy our tourist economy." Meanwhile, American Petroleum Institute President and CEO Jack Gerard said, "The eastern Gulf is in close proximity to existing production and infrastructure, and opening it would most quickly spur investment and economic activity, which could create thousands of jobs and provide billions of dollars in government revenue."

The [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (11/20, King) also carried the story.

Fish And Wildlife Service

Greens Sue Trump Over Elephant Trophy Decision.

[The Hill](#) (11/20, Cama) reports that the Center for Biological Diversity and Natural Resources Defense Council on Monday filed a lawsuit against the Trump Administration "over its decision to allow hunters to import trophies from hunting African elephants and lions in Zimbabwe." The lawsuit claims that the Fish and Wildlife Service "violated the Endangered Species Act when it reversed Obama administration policies banning hunters from bringing into the U.S. heads or other body parts from elephants and lions they killed in the southern African country."

Also reporting are [Reuters](#) (11/20, Simpson), [Reuters](#) (11/20, Simpson), [Politico](#) (11/20, Gerstein), the [Washington Examiner](#) (11/20, Siegel), the [New York Post](#) (11/20, Musumeci), and

[Courthouse News](#) (11/20, Solis).

Additional coverage of the controversy was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (11/20, Fears), the [Washington Post](#) (11/20, Medina), the [Washington Post](#) (11/20, Ingraham), [Bloomberg News](#) (11/20, Wallbank), the [Sunshine State \(FL\) News](#) (11/20, Derby), and [The Hill](#) (11/20, Samuels).

Before Elephants, US Loosened Limits On Lion Trophies.

The [AP](#) (11/20, Biesecker) reports that “one month before the Trump administration sparked outrage by reversing a ban on trophies from threatened African elephants, federal officials quietly loosened restrictions on the importation of heads and hides of lions shot for sport.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “began issuing permits Oct. 20 for lions killed in Zimbabwe and Zambia between 2016 and 2018.” The FWS is “also currently studying whether to add three additional countries to the list – Mozambique, Namibia and Tanzania.”

Docks To Be Expanded At Green Pond Landing Before Bassmaster Classic.

The [Anderson \(SC\) Independent-Mail](#) (11/20, Brown) reports that “Anderson County officials announced Monday that they have received \$650,000 in federal money for improvements at Green Pond Landing and Event Center, which will host the Bassmaster Classic next year.” The Sports Fish Restoration Act funding from the Fish and Wildlife Service will “cover the bulk of the \$866,000 cost for expanding courtesy docks at the Lake Hartwell venue.” The rest of the funds “for the dock expansion will come from accommodations tax revenues, according to a statement issued by the county Monday.”

National Park Service

Sevier County Wildfires: Lessons Learned.

[WATE-TV](#) Knoxville, TN (11/20) reports that “an extensive after-action review completed by the Interior Department found that, while no wrongdoing was found by Great Smoky Mountains National Park crews, there were ‘weaknesses in the park’s response.’” The park is “now embarking on a \$2.5 million effort to replace park communications to allow officials to not only more effectively communicate within the park, but also speak to emergency responders outside of park boundaries.” Cassius Cash, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park superintendent, said, “We did assign some of our ground folks to ride around together and make decisions, but that’s not the most effective way you do that under these kind of dark conditions.”

‘A Great Gift To America’: After Long Journey, Tractor Belonging To Last Homesteader Is On Display In Nebraska.

The [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (11/20, Hendee) reports that “homesteader Ken Deardorff’s 1945 Allis Chalmers Model C tractor joined the collections of Americana preserved by the National Park Service when it went on permanent exhibit Monday at Homestead National Monument of America near Beatrice.” A crowd of about 160 people witnessed “the unveiling of America’s most famous tractor at its balcony perch overlooking the museum.” A National Park Service team “financed by the Friends of Homestead National Monument recovered the tractor from the western interior of Alaska in mid-June.”

Giant Sequoias: Trees Suffered In California Drought.

The [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (11/20, Calix) reports that a “study shows California’s Giant Sequoia trees may not survive severe droughts and warming temperatures much longer.” The article says that “while the historically resilient trees managed to largely withstand the die-off that was prevalent in California forests, they did so at a price: depleting their underground water storage, according to a study conducted by the U.S. National Park Service, the Sierra Nevada Research Institute at UC Merced and the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Sun Yat-sen University.” Koren Nydick, a coauthor of the study and the science coordinator at Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, said, “Giant Sequoias have this mystique, that once they reach maturity, they are practically immune to the forces that kill other trees. But during and just after the recent severe drought, we’ve seen a small number of sequoias die, at least in part to the dry conditions. It’s an important wake-up call.”

Vancouver Barracks Renovation Underway.

The [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (11/20, Vogt) reports that five historic buildings at Vancouver Barracks are undergoing renovation. Alex Patterson, facility manager at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, explained that means “a nice, tight roof and exterior” for the structures. The total contract cost is \$485,820.

GV Expo: Staying Within The Budget When Creating Video.

The [Government Video](#) (11/20, Scutt) reports that Mathew John, “an audiovisual production specialist with the National Park Service, will address Government Video Expo attendees at 10:15 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 29.” His session “National Park Service Centennial — Thinking Outside the Box With a Low or No Budget” will “take a look at how he created the signature video to celebrate last year’s NPS Centennial on a very tight budget and share strategies for other institutions to do the same.” In an interview, John talked “about his work with the National Park Service.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

Small Island Nations Losing Faith In Global Efforts Against Climate Change.

The [New York Times](#) (11/17, Plumer, Friedman) reported that small island nations “are among the smallest contributors to climate change, producing less than 1 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions,” but they “are among the most vulnerable nations to global warming.” Leaders of small islands say the industrialized world “owes some recompense for the disasters these vulnerable nations will suffer in the years ahead,” but as the United Nations climate talks “on bolstering the Paris agreement draw to a close, island leaders say” the island décor in the conference hall “seems a cruel taunt.” Hopes among island nation leaders that they “will see a major increase in financial support to help address the consequences of climate change” also are waning, as are efforts “to expand ways for nations to adapt to future disasters.” As a result, some island officials, including those in Seychelles, “frustrated by the slowness of the United Nations process, have decided to take matters into their own hands.”

Tourists Are Returning To The U.S. Virgin Islands As Recovery Is Still Happening.

[NPR](#) (11/17) reports the U.S. Virgin Islands “welcomed back the first cruise ships since Hurricanes Irma and Maria tore through.” The article says that “tourists are coming back, but there are other parts where recovery efforts are still moving slowly.” In an interview, Gov. Kenneth Mapp discussed the recovery efforts.

Mapp Makes Case For \$7.5 Billion To Senate Committee.

The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (11/16, O’CONNOR) reports that Gov. Kenneth Mapp “worked to dispel criticism of past WAPA actions and bring senators around to supporting disaster funding for the territory at a U.S. Senate hearing on Tuesday.” Appearing before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Mapp and Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló “made the case for not just repairing the infrastructure of both territories to where it was pre-storm – as mandated by the Stafford Act, the central disaster recovery law of the United States – but also improving it.” Mapp said, “We cannot squander this opportunity to rebuild a better and stronger and more resilient Virgin Islands to simply rebuild it quickly. If we do, we will only compound the suffering that so many of our citizens have endured. With your support, that won’t happen.”

Medical Evacuees And Their Caretakers Say They’ve Been Neglected By Mapp Administration.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (11/17) reports that “over two months following Hurricanes Irma and Maria, and medical evacuees from the U.S. Virgin Islands keep pouring into the state of Georgia at various facilities, including hotels, for medical care.” However, “medical evacuees and their caretakers, a number of whom recently made contact with The Consortium, continue to complain about the lack of communication from the Mapp administration relative to their wellbeing and, importantly, a timeline on when they will be returning home.”

CW-1 Cap Delay 2nd-Longest In Program’s History.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (11/17, Encinares) reports that the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has “yet to release a numerical limit on the CNMI’s foreign workforce fiscal year 2018.” The article notes “that makes it the second-longest delay in the program’s history since 2013.”

According to a previous statement from the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, "the delay is possibly due to the White House's investigation on the CNMI economy."

Wildlife Agencies Meet On Guam To Discuss Brown Tree Snakes.

The [AP](#) (11/15) reported that wildlife agencies were meeting last week on Guam "to provide updates on numerous projects targeting the invasive brown tree snake, which has proved detrimental to Guam's native bird population." Among the main topics of discussion were "increased inspections, awareness programs and effective baiting methods."

Spend A Day With The Longest Serving Ambassador To The U.S. He's From Palau.

A video posted by the [Washington Post](#) (11/16), highlighted the service of Palauan Ambassador Hersey Kyota, who has been "representing his island nation for two decades."

US Geological Survey

The Case For Flowing Water On Mars Is Drying Up.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/20, Kaplan) reports that "in 2015, NASA announced that it had 'the best evidence yet' for water flowing on the surface of Mars: Dark, apparently damp streaks spotted on the Red Planet contained salts associated with liquid water." However, "in a study published Monday in the journal *Nature Geoscience*," U.S. Geological Survey scientists says "that those promising streaks are merely marks made by flowing sand or dust." Lead author Colin Dundas said, "This new understanding . . . supports other evidence that shows that Mars today is very dry."

Also reporting are [CNN](#) (11/21, Strickland), [CNET News](#) (11/20, Kooser), [Stuff \(NZL\)](#) (11/21, Kaplan), the [Australian Broadcasting Corporation](#) (11/21, Smith), [ABC Radio Australia](#) (11/21, Smith), and [SlashGear](#) (11/20, Roston).

Additional Reading.

- *Finding Fault(s): Geologists Keep Finding More Nearby Earthquake Makers.* [KUOW-FM](#) Seattle (11/20, Banse).
- *Magnitude 6 Earthquake Strikes Off Samoa, American Samoa.* [AP](#) (11/20).
- *Will The World Shake With More Large Earthquakes In 2018? Time Will Tell.* [Popular Science](#) (11/20, Griggs).

Opinion Pieces

Tribune Editorial: Bring The Government To The People?

In an editorial, the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/20) argues that a proposal to relocate the agencies in the Interior Department to the West should receive serious consideration. The paper points out "with modern communication technology, there is not the need there was 200 years ago to have all the executive agencies in close physical proximity to one another and to Congress." The editorial also acknowledges that "the risk" is that "even with the latest in online teleconferencing, we might reach an out-of-sight-out-of-mind situation where Congress — and the national press — would begin to neglect their oversight responsibilities." In conclusion, the paper think the idea is "reasonable" and the pros and cons should be carefully weighed.

Kudos To Air Force, Donors For Operation Christmas Drop: Our View.

In an editorial, the [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (11/17) lauds Operation Christmas Drop, "the Department of Defense's longest-running humanitarian airlift operation." The paper notes that "air drops are made to more than 50 islands in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Federated States of Micronesia and Republic of Palau." It commends "the Air Force for its continued commitment to Operation Christmas Drop for the past 65 years, and hope to see it continue for many years to come."

Additional Reading.

- *Why Trump's Right On Banning Elephant Trophies.* [New York Post](#) (11/20, Lowry).
- *Editorial: A Welcome Retreat On Elephant Trophies.* [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (11/20).

- *Trump's Best Decision So Far: Doubling Down On Banning Elephant Trophies.* [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/20, Hall).
- *Donald Trump & Trophy-Hunting Ban – Trump Is Right To Keep The Ban.* [National Review](#) (11/21, Lowry).
- *Don't Hunt Elephants, Hunt These 5 Animals In America Instead.* [Washington Examiner](#) (11/20, Rogan).

Top National News

Trump Names North Korea A State Sponsor Of Terrorism.

Media reports cast President Trump's announcement Monday that he will designate North Korea a state sponsor of terrorism as symbolic, but still likely to further increase tensions with Pyongyang. [Bloomberg News](#) (11/20, Sink), for example, says the move "at least symbolically ratchets up the roiling standoff between the US and North Korea," and [USA Today](#) (11/20, Jackson, Shesgreen) says it comes as the President "seeks to ratchet up the pressure on North Korea over its nuclear weapons program." Speaking during a Cabinet meeting, Trump said, "In addition to threatening the world by nuclear devastation, North Korea has repeatedly supported acts of international terrorism including assassinations on foreign soil." He also said the designation "should have happened a long time ago."

All three networks reportedly briefly on the move. [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/20, story 4, 1:10, Holt) called it "a major reversal in US policy," but Kristen Welker noted that former President George W. Bush "lifted the terror designation to foster diplomatic talks over its nuclear program. That effort failed. So will this attempt work, or is it purely a symbolic move?" On the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/20, story 5, 1:05, Mason), Margaret Warner said the action "has no direct link to North Korea's nuclear program."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/20, Nakamura) reports Trump called it "a very critical step" that "should've happened a long time ago," and vowed Pyongyang will face further sanctions that will amount to the "highest level of sanctions by the time it's finished." According to the [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/20, Bierman, Wilkinson), Trump said the designation would include "a very large" new sanction on Tuesday and "increase in intensity over the next two weeks." The [New York Times](#) (11/20, Shear), however, says that it is still "unclear whether the terror designation will provide the president with new and powerful leverage to force nuclear negotiations or will simply deepen the rhetorical war of words" between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un.

In the lead story for [Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/20), Kristin Fisher reported the designation is "accompanied by a sweeping set of sanctions," but North Korea is "already so heavily penalized by the United States" that Secretary of State Tillerson "acknowledged this new designation can only do so much." The [AP](#) (11/20, Pennington, Miller) reports Tillerson said the designation was a "very symbolic move" with limited practical effects, although it could close a "few loopholes" in existing sanctions. The AP says the move is also "likely to exacerbate sour relations between Washington and Pyongyang." [Reuters](#) (11/20, Mason, Brunstrom) reports that "experts say the designation will be largely symbolic...a reality that...Tillerson seemed to acknowledge." Said Tillerson, "The practical effects may be limited but hopefully we're closing off a few loopholes with this."

In the lead story for [CNN's Situation Room](#)'s (11/20) first hour, Jeff Zeleny said that Tillerson called the move a "peaceful pressure campaign," and [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/20, story 7, 0:20, Muir) reported briefly that he also said the "two-month pause since North Korea's last missile test shows there is still hope for diplomacy."

[Politico](#) (11/20) too says the move "could exacerbate tensions among North Korea, its neighbors and the US amid escalating concern about the isolated nation's nuclear ambitions."

The [Washington Times](#) (11/20, Miller) reports that in making the announcement, Trump referenced the regime's assassination of leader Kim's half brother and the death of American Otto Warmbier, who was held in North Korea for 17 months and died after suffering severe brain damage. House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce "applauded the President's move."

[The Hill](#) (11/20, Fabian) quotes Royce as saying, "Over the past year alone, Kim Jong Un and his regime brazenly assassinated his brother with a chemical weapon and brutally tortured Otto Warmbier, leading directly to his tragic death. These aren't isolated incidents, but are examples of a consistent pattern of terror." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/20, Schwartz, Cheng) reports the move was welcomed by Republican lawmakers, including Royce.

The [Daily Caller](#) (11/20, Pickrell) notes the President "mull[ing] relisting" North Korea as a

state sponsor of terror during his recent trip to Asia, and had announced he would make a decision upon his return. The [Washington Post](#) (11/20, Taylor), meanwhile, notes that "this isn't North Korea's first time on the list. The country was designated a state sponsor of terrorism in 1988 and stayed on the list until it was removed in 2008."

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/20, Board) editorial also welcomes the move by the Administration, which it says rights a wrong made by the Bush Administration when it removed North Korea from the list in 2008.

Steve Hayes of the Weekly Standard said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/20), "It is a significant action and it's long overdue in my view. President Bush was wrong what he said in June of 2008 about North Korea's actions." Hayes added, "If you look at North Korea's activities since they been taken off the list," it is "not a country that's behaved as if it wants to stay off the terror list."

Mara Liasson of NPR said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/20), "What's interesting about the move today, I think it is symbolic. That's what Rex Tillerson said on a rare visit to the White House briefing room. He also said that as a practical matter, it might not make that much difference since North Korea already is the subject of so much tough sanctions, but it does send a signal that the US is going to be tough about this and it's just one more punishment that we can put on North Korea."

North Korean Nuclear Tests Pose Radiation Threats. [Deutsche Welle](#) (11/20, Kretschmer) reports North Korea has conducted six nuclear tests since 2006 in Punggye-ri. The latest test in September "marked a significant upgrade of the nation's nuclear program" and has sparked concerns about nuclear contamination. Suh Kyun-ryul, professor of nuclear engineering at Seoul National University, warns, "If the North Koreans continue to test similarly heavy nuclear bombs on the same site, sooner or later they will lead to a premature collapse, where radioactive material could reach and contaminate both the groundwater and the surface of the earth."

Kim Disciplines Top Military Organization. The [New York Times](#) (11/20, Choe) reports North Korean leader Kim Jong-un is "disciplining the leadership of his country's most powerful military organization, the latest sign of his efforts to tighten his grip on party elites and the armed forces," South Korea's intelligence agency said Monday. During a closed-door parliamentary briefing Monday, South Korea's National Intelligence Service told lawmakers that the North's General Political Bureau was being "audited" by the country's leadership for the first time in 20 years, and that the organization's director, Vice Marshal Hwang Pyong-so, and his deputies were "punished." South Korean intelligence officials said the organization was being audited for "impure attitude."

Trump Promises Tax Reform By Christmas.

The [AP](#) (11/20, Superville) reports that in remarks for a Cabinet meeting Monday, President Trump "promised a tax overhaul by Christmas," saying, "We're going to give the American people a huge tax cut for Christmas – hopefully that will be a great big, beautiful Christmas present." His comments came "a day after the White House signaled its willingness to strike" a repeal of the ACA's individual mandate from the legislation if it hinders passing it. The repeal "has emerged as a major sticking point for Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, whose vote the White House needs." However, removing the provision "would blow a big hole in the senators' tax cut plan, leaving them \$338 billion short of their revenue goal over the next 10 years."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (11/20, story 5, 1:05, Welker) reported that tax reform was "front and center at the cabinet meeting," but Kristen Welker added that "with a razor-thin majority in the Senate, the President could be imperiling the tax bill by waging wars with his fellow Republicans on Twitter." At least five Republicans "have expressed skepticism about the tax plan," and they "can only afford to lose two votes to pass the legislation. A senior official says the President will work the phones to try to win over votes." The [Washington Times](#) (11/20, Miller) says Trump on Monday "scolded Democratic lawmakers for their lockstep opposition to the GOP tax reform plans," saying, "With the Democrats giving us no votes on tax cuts for purely political reasons – obstructionism – it will be up to the Republicans to come through for America. ... I think they will, I hope they will, it's up to the Senate."

Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (11/20), "We feel very confident, but it is up to those legislators who for years, if not decades, have been promising their constituents they are going to get meaningful tax cuts and tax overhaul. And we are very happy that the House and Senate have come up with what I call Trump speed, not swamp speed, in getting their bills to the floor fairly quickly. We feel really great that both bills adhere to the President's four core principles for tax cuts and tax relief: repatriation,

simplification, middle-class tax cut, and reducing that corporate cut tax rate so that we're below the average for developed countries instead of the highest in the entire OECD."

Attention Turns To Group Of Undecided GOP Senators. The [New York Times](#) (11/20, Kaplan) reports that Republican tax reform efforts rest "in the hands of a small number of fence-sitting senators with disparate concerns, like how small businesses are taxed and whether health insurance costs will spike after the repeal of the Affordable Care Act's requirement to have coverage or pay a penalty." If Democrats are unified against the bill, Senate Majority Leader McConnell "can afford only two defections." Currently, undecided Republicans include Sens. Jeff Flake, Ron Johnson, Susan Collins, and Lisa Murkowski.

Trump: Healthcare, Infrastructure, Welfare Reform Will Follow Tax Overhaul. [Reuters](#) (11/20, Mason) reports that Trump "said he plans to take up healthcare, infrastructure and welfare reform issues soon after Republicans' tax overhaul is finalized, which the party has pledged to complete by the end of the year." He said, "We'll be submitting plans on healthcare, plans on infrastructure and plans on welfare reform, which is desperately needed in this country, soon after taxes." White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said Monday that the Administration will provide details of its welfare reform plan in the first weeks of 2018, [Reuters](#) (11/20, Oliphant) reports. Sanders said, "This is something that the president has a great deal of interest in and I think you can count on probably the first part of next year seeing more specifics and details come out on that."

Yellen To Resign From Federal Reserve Board.

The [AP](#) (11/19, Crutsinger) reports that "Janet Yellen submitted her resignation from the Federal Reserve board to President Donald Trump on Monday, announcing that she will leave when her successor is sworn in as Fed chairman." The move "gives Trump in his first year in office the chance to fill five positions on the Fed's seven-member board, in addition to picking Powell to be the next Fed chairman." Yellen called serving in the Fed system for more than three decades a "great privilege and honor."

Nebraska PSC Approves Alternative Keystone XL Route.

The [AP](#) (11/20) reports that on Monday the Nebraska Public Service Commission voted and approve a route for TransCanada's Keystone XL oil pipeline. Although a route was approved, it is "five miles longer" than the company's preferred path and also requires another pumping station. In a statement, TransCanada CEO Russ Girling said the company will be studying "how the decision would impact the cost and schedule of the project." The 3-2 PSC decision will likely face a legal challenge and may also require another route analysis performed for federal approval. The only Democrat in the PSC, Crystal Rhoades said that the company did not show how the project was in the public interest. Rhoades also expressed concerns over the alternative route that was approved as it relates to landowners. Meanwhile, TransCanada will now be able "to gain access to the land of holdout landowners through eminent domain proceedings."

[Reuters](#) (11/20, O'Hanlon, Lou) reports that the Nebraska PSC has lifted "the last big regulatory obstacle for the long-delayed project that U.S. President Donald Trump wants built." Nebraska Democratic Party Chair and Bold Alliance President Jane Kleeb said "we are going to fight like hell to make sure this pipeline never gets built." The PSC's decision leaves it "unclear whether the alternative route lacks any state or federal permits that the preferred route had already obtained, a situation that could drag out the regulatory process." In response to the PSC decision, Alberta Premier Rachel Notley said the project "will mean greater energy security for all North Americans."

The [AP](#) (11/20) also reports that, following the Nebraska PSC decision, Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Tribal Chairman Dave Flute "said Monday his tribe will stand with other tribal nations to oppose pipelines." Keystone XL opponents say that approving the alternative route provides more legal "actions that could indefinitely block the project." The attorney for environmental groups Ken Winston said the vote "opens up a whole new bag of issues that" can be raised. The [AP](#) (11/20) reports that South Dakota's Republican Gov. Dennis Daugaard said he hopes those choosing to exercise their First Amendment rights following the Nebraska PSC decision should do so peacefully. Daugaard said he is planning to support the project so "long as it can be built and operated safely." Meanwhile, the Republican US Sen. Mike Rounds of South Dakota said that he is concerned about last week's 210,000 gallon oil spill although he still supports Keystone XL and other pipelines.

[CNN](#) (11/20, Hackney, Yan) reports that Kleeb said "TransCanada did not get their preferred route which means years of new review and legal challenges are now on the table." The proposed

project would start in Hardisty, Alberta and reach to Steele City, Nebraska.

[CNBC](#) (11/20, DiChristopher) reports that groups opposing the project are able to “appeal the commission’s decision in state district court.” In a statement, Oil Change International Executive Director Stephen Kretzmann said that “today the Nebraska PSC chose to stand with Trump, climate denial, and Big Oil.” Kretzmann added “good luck with that.” Also in a statement, Association of Oil Pipe Lines CEO and President Andy Black said that “Nebraska recognizes the Keystone XL pipeline is in the public interest bringing good paying jobs and more affordable energy for U.S. consumers.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/20, Harris, Vamburkar, Orland) reports that the alternative route “could throw more uncertainty into the mix for the long-delayed” pipeline. Moody Investors Service VP Gavin MacFarlane said that “while today’s Keystone XL pipeline approval is an important milestone, it does not provide certainty that the project will ultimately be built and begin operating.” MacFarlane added that “pipeline construction would negatively affect TransCanada’s business risk profile through increased project execution risk, and would likely put pressure on financial metrics.” [Bloomberg News](#) (11/20) website posts a video of Bloomberg anchor David Weston’s discussion with NextGen Climate founder Tom Steyer on the Keystone XL pipeline project approval. Steyer said the decision is a “tragic mistake.” Steyer added that “this kind of decision, where it will lead to the old fashioned kind of pollution, is also incredibly short sighted and just plain dumb.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/20, Vamburkar, Harris) reports that a lawyer for landowners opposing TransCanada Brian Jorde said the Nebraska PSC decision was actually “an incredible victory” and said that “they won nothing.” Jorde also said the approved route is one that TransCanada said is an inferior path. Meanwhile, the landowners who are now affected by the alternative route could argue due process “before the state commission, said Katie Bays, an analyst at Height Securities LLC in Washington.” Bay added that “by making this a due process issue, you can involve a federal court” where there is a chance for a more favorable panel. Bold Alliance issued a statement that said they might petition for a rehearing before the PSC within 10 days or file an appeal in Nebraska within 30 days.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/20, Schneider) reports that during a conference call this month, Girling discussed the Keystone XL pipeline and said that “production of Canadian heavy oil continues to grow, and the need for new pipeline transportation capacity remains high.” Meanwhile, some analysts are projecting “that even with the Nebraska go-ahead, the pipeline will not be built.” Regarding the financial feasibility of the project, Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis Director of Finance Tom Sanzillo said “there is no economic rationale, no validity to the investment calculation, no positive bottom line.” Sanzillo added, “our view is that TransCanada is unlikely to build it.”

The [Washington Times](#) (11/20, Wolfgang) reports that American Petroleum Institute President and CEO Jack Gerard reacted to the Nebraska PSC decision and said the commission “set an example for how to carefully evaluate critical energy infrastructure projects, even in the face of strongly held views and opinions.”

[UPI](#) (11/20, Graeber) reports that the decision from the Nebraska PSC said that “after careful evaluation and consideration of all the evidence adduced, and the careful weighing of all the issues, factors and aspects of the proposed routes of the Keystone XL pipeline, we find that the alternative mainline route is in the public interest and shall be approved.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/20, Mufson) reports that in the dissenting opinion by Commissioner Rhoades, she said “all human-made infrastructure degrades and fails over time.” Rhoades also wrote that “no infrastructure ever designed has lasted for eternity and there is no reason to believe this pipeline will be an exception.”

The [Canadian Press](#) (11/20) reports that project opponents “say the pipeline would pass through the Sandhills, an ecologically fragile region in Nebraska of grass-covered sand dunes, and would cross the land of farmers and ranchers who don’t want it.”

[Politico](#) (11/20, Lefebvre) reports that Kleeb said a legal challenge will be raised and also said “we will challenge a foreign corporation being given eminent domain in the county courts, with every intent to bring it to the Supreme Court if needed.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/20, Matthews, Monga), [E&E Publishing](#) (11/20, Gilmer), [BBC News \(UK\)](#) (11/20), [NPR](#) (11/20, Dwyer), the [Daily Caller](#) (11/20, White), [Vox](#) (11/20, Irfan), the [Washington Examiner](#) (11/20, Siegel), the [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (11/20, Hammel), [Voice of America](#) (11/20), the [York \(NE\) News-Times](#) (11/20, Wilkinson), the [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (11/20, Hart), [WOWT-TV Omaha, NE](#) (11/20), [Columbus News Team \(NE\)](#) (11/20, Jordan) also report.

State Department May Need To Reapprove Keystone XL Pipeline. The [Washington Examiner](#)

(11/20, Siegel) reports that “the State Department is considering whether it needs to reapprove the Keystone XL pipeline” following Monday’s decision. State Department spokesperson Vincent Campos said, “we won’t know about any impacts until we learn precisely the extent of any changes, something we are currently engaged in.” [The Hill](#) (11/20, Henry) reports that as the Nebraska PSC decided to approve the Keystone XL pipeline’s alternative route, “the State Department is reviewing its cross-border permit” for the project. Meanwhile, two federal agencies must “still...approve permits for” the Keystone XL project.

Rogan: Celebrate Nebraska PSC Decision. In a column for the [Washington Examiner](#) (11/20, Rogan), Tom Rogan suggests that “you should celebrate the Nebraska Public Service Commission’s decision Monday to approve the Keystone XL pipeline.” Rogan argues that although the PSC did not approve the preferred route, it “was the last major regulatory hurdle standing in the way of the oil pipeline’s construction.” While liberals suggest “that conservative energy policies are bad for the environment,” they “ignore the fact that technologies like fracking offer far more sustainable (I.E. not economy destroying) carbon-reduction potential than the Paris accord Ponzi schemes endorsed by China and Germany.”

Withering Supplies From Venezuela, Mexico Strengthens Argument For Keystone XL.

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/20, Nussbaum) reports that one of the strongest arguments to support the building of the Keystone XL pipeline is the “withering supplies of heavy crude from Venezuela and Mexico” that is “making U.S. Gulf Coast refineries more dependent on the thick, sticky bitumen that Keystone XL would” provide from Canada’s oil sands. Refineries have been built to process the thicker grades “and adapting them to the light grades that are pumped from American shale fields requires costly revamping work.” According to Bloomberg’s compiled data, “since the start of the decade, U.S. imports of heavy crude have fallen by more than a third from Venezuela, and by almost half out of Mexico.”

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (11/20, Osborne) reports that Wood Mackenzie Refining and Oil Markets Research Analyst Zachary Rogers said that “the pipeline’s commercial viability is strengthened as declining heavy oil production in Mexico and ongoing Venezuelan risk has recently tightened the heavy-crude market in the Gulf Coast.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Justice At Last For The Youngest Inmates?” The [New York Times](#) (11/20) editorializes that the Supreme Court should categorically ban sentences of life-without-parole for juveniles when it considers the matter on Tuesday. The Times approves of the recently “developing awareness that young people are ‘constitutionally different’ from adults — less in control of their emotions and more able to change over time — and should be punished differently.” The Times warns that if the Court does not act, prosecutors in a few states will still adhere to the older view of those types of sentences and ignore the so-called “mitigating qualities of youth.”

“Only Morons Pay The Estate Tax.” A [New York Times](#) (11/20) editorial argues against repealing the estate tax, saying it “would provide a tax windfall of more than \$3 million apiece for the top 0.2 percent of earners, and more than \$20 million for the wealthiest Americans,” but would offer “nothing for middle-class people, except more evidence of Mr. Trump’s and Republicans’ bad faith.”

Washington Post.

“Children Are Starving In Yemen. This White House Should Intercede.” A [Washington Post](#) (11/20) editorial urges the Administration to “act immediately” and compel Saudi Arabia to end its land, sea, and air blockade on Yemen. The Post concedes Yemen was already “suffering from the world’s worst humanitarian crisis” when the blockade was imposed, but cautions that the situation is rapidly deteriorating, “and yet the Saudis persist with their siege.” The Post notes the State Department “has objected to the ongoing blockade and called for ‘unimpeded access’ for humanitarian supplies,” but adds that “many in Yemen suspect, with some reason, that the White House is tolerating, if not encouraging, the crime.” The Post argues that “the White House has the leverage to put a stop” to its indulgence of the Saudi leadership, and if it does not, “it will be complicit in a crime against humanity.”

“Time For Republicans To Denounce This Tax Nonsense.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/20) says OMB Director Mulvaney on Sunday said that Republicans “are trying to ‘game the system’ by pretending that expensive tax cuts will expire in several years, arguing that the

pretense is necessary to 'shoehorn the bill into the rules' of the Senate." The Post calls this "a gut-check moment for any senator who has ever claimed to care about the debt," and calls on senators "from whom the public should expect more – such as Susan Collins (R-Maine), Bob Corker (R-Tenn.), Jeff Flake (R-Ariz.), John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)" to "finally denounce this nonsense."

"A Judge Makes The Right Call On Trump's Would-Be Transgender Ban." The [Washington Post](#) (11/20) editorializes that a recent federal court ruling against President Trump's proposed ban on transgender people in the US military "is a welcome blow to this pointless and cruel policy." The Post applauds the US District Court for the District of Columbia's ruling's assertion that "there's little evidence to support Mr. Trump's declaration that the 'medical costs and disruption' of transgender service necessitated the ban." The Post concludes by opining that if James Mattis' review of the policy "is fair, he will conclude that there is no reason these men and women should not continue to serve."

Wall Street Journal.

"Have They Got A Bond For You." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/20) editorializes that investors who invest in Chicago's sales-tax bonds, set to be issued next month, or Connecticut's new bonds secured by state income taxes shouldn't be surprised if the investments don't pay off later. The Journal points out that Chicago might be authorized to declare bankruptcy at some point, and Connecticut may seek to renegotiate some of its debt, making both bonds risky in the editorial board's opinion.

"North Korea, Terror Sponsor." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/20, Board) editorial welcomes the Administration's designation of North Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism, which it says rights a wrong made by the Bush Administration when it removed North Korea from the list in 2008.

"Angela Merkel's Failing Center." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/20) editorializes that the collapse of German Chancellor Angela Merkel's talks to form a coalition government is a good thing, in part because the parties involved in the negotiations are starkly divided on a number of issues. The Journal says that German voters had hoped for more political competition in September's election, and the establishment of a tenuous coalition is not the preferred way to assuage those voters and meet their desires.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[US Files Lawsuit Challenging AT&T-Time Warner Deal](#)

[US To Label North Korea As 'State Sponsor Of Terrorism'](#)

[Takeovers Roar To Life As Companies Hear Footsteps From Tech Giants](#)

[Germany's Political Impasse Will Stymie Further European Change](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Returns North Korea To List Of State Sponsors Of Terrorism](#)

[Germany Plunged Into Political Crisis After Coalition Talks Fail](#)

[US Sues To Block AT&T-Time Warner Merger](#)

[After Late Help For Elephants, A Question: Why?](#)

[Trump Administration Ends Temporary Protection For Haitians](#)

[Charles Manson Dies At 83: Wild-Eyed Leader Of A Murderous Crew](#)

Washington Post:

[8 Women: Charlie Rose Harassed Us](#)

[US Sues Over AT&T's Bid For Time Warner](#)

[Trump Relists N. Korea As A Terrorism Sponsor](#)

[US Ending 60,000 Haitians' Provisional Residency Status](#)

[597 Days. And Still Waiting.](#)

Financial Times:

[Merkel Refuses To Resign Despite Breakdown Of Coalition Talks](#)

[Robot Army Is Transforming The Global Workplace](#)

[Uber To Buy 24,000 Volvo Cars For Driverless Fleet](#)

Washington Times:

[Higher Cable Bills, Less Innovation: Justice Department Says AT&T Decision Not Trump's](#)
[Haitians Get Notice Of End To Protected Status, Must Go Back Home By July 2019](#)
[Navy SEALs Remember Christian Lambertsen, Humble Beginnings Of Swimmer-Commandos](#)
[Merkel's Failure To Form German Government Puts Chancellorship In Serious Doubt](#)
[Nebraska's Approval Of Keystone XL Route Is No Guarantee Of Pipeline's Completion](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Roy Moore Campaign; Al Franken Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Charlie Rose Sexual Misconduct Allegations; NYC-Factory Explosion; US Border Patrol Ambushed; Argentine Submarine Missing; Trump-North Korea; AT&T-Time Warner Merger Blocked; Freed Taliban Hostage Family Mother; Charles Manson Dies; Black Friday Shopping; Weather Forecast; Pesticide Company Ruling; Della Reese Dies; Georgia Dome-Demolition; Girls-Charity Race.

CBS: US Border Patrol Ambushed; Charlie Rose Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Roy Moore Campaign; Russia Meddling Investigation; Trump-North Korea; AT&T-Time Warner Merger Blocked; Argentine Submarine Missing; Charles Manson Dies; Uber-Driverless Car; Della Reese Dies; Georgia Dome-Demolition; British Queen-Anniversary.

NBC: Charlie Rose Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Roy Moore Campaign; Al Franken Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Trump-North Korea; WH-Tax Reform Plan; Argentine Submarine Missing; Charles Manson Dies; NYC-Factory Explosion; US-Afghanistan Deployment; Black Friday Shopping; Della Reese Dies; Georgia Dome-Demolition; WH-Turkey Pardon; Thanksgiving Charity.

Network TV At A Glance:

Roy Moore Campaign – 8 minutes, 15 seconds
Charlie Rose Sexual Misconduct Allegations – 6 minutes, 35 seconds
Charles Manson Dies – 5 minutes, 50 seconds
Argentine Submarine Missing – 4 minutes, 5 seconds
Trump-North Korea – 2 minutes, 35 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Trump-North Korea; Sanctuary Cities-California Court; Immigration Policy-Protected Status; Roy Moore Campaign; Charlie Rose Sexual Misconduct Allegations.

CBS: Al Franken Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Charlie Rose Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Roy Moore Campaign; Trump-North Korea; Russia Meddling Investigation; Della Reese Dies.

FOX: Las Vega Shooting-Hotel Lawsuit; Trump-North Korea; Charlie Rose Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Al Franken Sexual Misconduct Allegations.

NPR: Trump-North Korea; Immigration Policy-Protected Status; AT&T-Time Warner Merger Blocked; Charlie Rose Sexual Misconduct Allegations.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with the President of the National Turkey Federation; participates in the National Thanksgiving Turkey Pardoning Ceremony.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a phone call with EU High Representative and Vice President Federica Mogherini.

US Senate: 11:00 AM Senate convenes for a pro forma session

1:15 PM Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee field hearing on VA services in Ohio – Field hearing on 'The State of VA Services in Ohio', with testimony from Ohio Department of Veterans Services Director Chip Tansill; Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander-in-Chief Keith Harman; Benjamin Fitzgerald of Westlake, OH; James Powers of Massillon, OH; Melissa Twine of Batavia, OH; Veterans Benefits Administration Assistant Deputy Under Secretary for Field Operations Ronald Burke, and Education Service Director Robert Worley; and Veterans Health Administration Deputy Executive Director of Provider Relations and Services Dr Kameron Matthews, and Veterans Integrated Service Network 10 Director Robert McDivitt Location: Columbus Metropolitan Library, 96 S Grant Ave, Columbus, OH Columbus <http://veterans.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/VACHair>

Senate on recess until 27 November.

US House: 11:00 AM House of Representatives meets for a pro forma session

House on recess until 27 November.

Other: 11:00 AM New Afghanistan and Iraq engravings on the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial shown via press conference – Press conference held to give a first look at the newly-carved engravings of the Afghanistan and Iraq campaigns on the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial – the first campaigns to be added since 1996. Participants include Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, U.S. Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert Neller, The Carlyle Group co-CEO David Rubenstein, National Park Service Acting Director Michael Reynolds, National Park Foundation President and CEO Will Shafroth, and George Washington Memorial Parkway Superintendent Alex Romero
Location: U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, (Iwo Jima), Arlington, VA Arlington www.nps.gov
<https://twitter.com/NatIParkService>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Stephen Colbert: “You might remember that while [President Trump] was in China, Trump asked China’s President Xi Jinping to release three UCLA players who had been arrested for shoplifting from a Chinese mall? Easily, the most scandalous thing to happen in a mall that didn’t involve Roy Moore.”

Stephen Colbert: “[President Trump] tweeting, ‘Now that the three basketball players are out of China and saved from years in jail, Lavar Ball, the father of LiAngelo, is unaccepting of what I did for his son and that shoplifting is no big deal. I should have left them in jail!’ Mr. Trump, maybe now’s not the best time to be implying that someone’s kid should go to jail for what their dad did.”

Stephen Colbert: “[Sen. Jeff] Flake was caught on camera dissing his own party. ‘If we become the party of Roy Moore and Donald Trump, we are toast.’ Senator Flake, that’s a little too hard on toast. May I remind you, sir, toast doesn’t cruise the mall looking for dough that hasn’t risen yet.”

James Corden: “This weekend, President Trump lashed out at NFL running back Marshawn Lynch after photos showed Lynch at a game in Mexico where he was standing during the Mexican national anthem, but sitting during the US national anthem. By the way, ‘Marshawn Lync stood for the Mexican anthem’ is also the sentence that will start 70 percent of your Thanksgiving fights this year. No question. I mean, I’m surprised Donald Trump could even see Marshawn sitting down in Mexico, through that big border wall he built. Oh wait, that’s right, it doesn’t exist.”

James Corden: “Trump, of course, shot back [at Sen. Jeff Flake] on Twitter, saying, ‘Sen. Jeff Flake(y), who is unelectable in the great state of Arizona, was caught (purposely) on ‘mike saying bad things about your favorite President.’ Favorite President? Jeff Flake said bad things about Rutherford B. Hayes?”

James Corden: “Trump also attacked a man named Lavar Ball, the father of one of the UCLA basketball players arrested for shop lifting in China, after Ball failed to recognize Trump’s role in his son’s release. Trump tweeted he ‘is unaccepting of what I did for his son. I should have left them in jail!’ And there he is. America’s favorite President, ladies and gentlemen. ‘I should have left them I jail!’ At which point, Paul Manafort and the rest of Trump’s campaign staff were like, ‘Haha, okay, let’s not talk about leaving people in jail.’”

Jimmy Fallon: “It came out that national security adviser H.R. McMaster called President Trump an idiot, and said he had the intelligence of a kindergartner. And Trump said, ‘Oh, yeah? Then why am I reading at a first-grade level?’”

Jimmy Fallon: “This weekend, Trump sent a tweet where he criticized Senator Jeff flake for saying bad things about ‘Your favorite President.’ People were like, ‘He said bad things about Obama?’”

Jimmy Fallon: “Meanwhile, [Sen.] Al Franken said that he isn’t resigning, but will spend the next

few days reflecting. Reflecting is a political term meaning, 'Hoping someone else gets busted and this whole thing blows over.'"

Seth Meyers: "The White House has announced that President Trump will pardon two turkeys at a ceremony tomorrow, despite the fact that both turkeys lied under oath about meeting with Russian officials."

Seth Meyers: "The flagship location of Macy's in New York this year will require children to schedule an appointment to sit on Santa's lap. 'No line to sit on this lap,' said a man running for Senate."

Seth Meyers: "Today, a second woman came forward to accuse Franken of inappropriately touching her, telling CNN that he grabbed her buttocks while taking a photo at the Minnesota state fair. She said, 'You just feel gross like, ew, I wanna wash that off me.' And you know it's bad when you're the grossest thing at a state fair. That's where they deep fry Twinkies."

Seth Meyers: "Today, White House counselor Kellyanne Conway went on Fox to slam Moore's Democratic opponent, Doug Jones. And while she didn't explicitly say it, she seemed to be urging people to vote for Moore. ... So according to Kellyanne Conway, there's now a lower bar of entry for the Senate than a mall in Alabama. 'Hey, creep we told you. You're not welcome in this mall.' 'Well, then I guess I'll be off to Washington, DC, where people aren't so picky.'"

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DOI In The News

'We've Gotten So Bureaucratic': Secretary Zinke Plans To Use His Military Experience As A Blueprint For Reorganizing His Department.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/25, Burr) reports that Interior Department Secretary Ryan Zinke "plans to use his military experience as a blueprint for reorganizing the department to better serve the public and manage the lands and resources it oversees." One of the changes to tackle bureaucratic inefficiencies "could include moving agency headquarters out of Washington and into the interior." The Interior Department could also be form "joint teams to work across agencies to streamline decisions among the Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Reclamation."

Former Zinke Backers Dismayed By Department's Direction.

[E&E Publishing](#) (11/27) reports that "nine months into the job, many of those who initially supported" Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "say they are surprised by his actions in office." Lawmakers, environmentalists, and sportsmen "express dismay over Zinke's review of national monuments, his decision to reopen debate over Obama-era greater sage grouse conservation plans, and the targeting of dozens of policies as 'burdensome' to oil and gas development." Also, "some Senate Democrats who voted for Zinke expressed regret."

Interior Department Mired In Investigations (Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Faces Investigations).

The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (11/27, Gilpin) reports that "after only eight months in office," Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "taxpayer-funded travel, meetings with political donors and other actions have led to several official probes." The article notes that "though the investigations are serious, watchdog agencies and legal experts say they're unlikely to result in criminal charges or impede Zinke's plans to remake Interior." However, "the barrage of charges and countercharges further erodes trust in the federal government."

Lawmakers Study Rule-Killing Panels At EPA, Interior And DOE.

[E&E Daily](#) (11/27) reports that "House lawmakers this week will extend their probe of rule-cutting efforts across the federal government to the three agencies responsible for issuing the bulk of environmental regulations: U.S. EPA, the Interior Department and the Department of Energy." Two House Oversight and Government Reform subcommittees will "hold a hearing Wednesday on the regulatory reform task forces at those agencies." Among those testifying will be Interior Department deputy secretary David Bernhardt.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

BIA Prevails In Spat With Calif. Group Seeking Tribe Status.

[Law360](#) (11/27, Westney) reports that "a California federal judge Monday tossed a suit against

the Bureau of Indian Affairs by members of the proposed Ukiah Valley Pomo Indian Tribe, saying the agency reasonably found that the group was only a part of the federally recognized Pinoleville Pomo Nation and therefore couldn't vote to organize as a separate tribe."

Justices Pass On Challenge To Oneida Casino Land Grant.

[Law360](#) (11/27, Lidgett) reports that "the U.S. Supreme Court on Monday said it won't hear bids from a New York town and a nonprofit to review a Second Circuit decision approving the federal government's decision to take land into trust for the Oneida Indian Nation — a decision that Justice Clarence Thomas said he disagreed with."

Tribe Wants Building In 'Trust' Status.

The [Gillette \(WY\) News Record](#) (11/27, Bendtsen) reports that the Northern Arapaho Tribe has requested the Bureau of Indian Affairs "to take a Riverton property it owns into trust status." However, "in a letter to the local BIA superintendent, Wyoming senior assistant attorney general Erik Petersen asked the BIA to deny the request, noting that the parcels are 'located outside the boundaries of the Wind River Indian Reservation.'" Fremont County Commission chairman Travis Becker "also protested the tribe's request in a letter to the BIA, saying the tribe 'has failed to demonstrate adequate need for additional land.'"

Bureau Of Land Management

A Flat-Earther's Plan To Launch Himself In A Homemade Rocket Has Been Postponed — Again.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/27, Wang, Selk) reports that "a variety of roadblocks have forced" a man to postpone his plan to launch himself "in his homemade scrap-metal rocket" to prove that the Earth is flat. The Bureau of Land Management told Mike Hughes "he couldn't launch his rocket on public land, even though Hughes insisted that the federal agency had given him verbal permission more than a year ago." A BLM spokeswoman "said its local field office had no record of speaking with Hughes and that he had not applied for the necessary special recreation permit to hold an event on public land." BLM spokeswoman Samantha Storms said, "Someone from our local office reached out to him after seeing some of these news articles [about the launch], because that was news to them." Hughes said he was moving the experiment "to private property, albeit still in Amboy, and that it would take place sometime in the coming week."

Nevada Uprising Leader Vowed 'Whatever It Takes' To Stop Government: Recording.

[Reuters](#) (11/27, Smith) reports that "weeks before Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy led an armed standoff of militia supporters against federal agents in 2014, his son vowed to do 'whatever it takes' to keep the family's cattle out of government hands, according to a recording played in court by prosecutors on Monday." The conversation between Ryan Bundy and Bureau of Land Management agents "occurred on March 27, 2014, ahead of a confrontation that galvanized right-wing militia groups challenging federal authority over vast tracts of public land in the American West." During testimony on Monday, Bureau of Land Management agent Robert Shilaikis "said he concluded from the call that 'Mr. Bundy was going to stop this at all costs.'"

Rancher, BLM Collaborate On Grazing Research.

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (11/27, O'Connell) reports that the Bureau of Land Management and "a local ranching family have completed the first three-year cycle of a planned nine-year collaborative study using management-intensive grazing to restore native perennial plants to landscapes where they've been choked out by invasive weeds." The land "along Interstate 84 from Twin Falls to Mountain Home is covered by invasive annual cheatgrass and medusahead, which overwhelm native plants and burn readily." BLM Ecologist Joe Sirotnak "said the partners in the project have scheduled a meeting for Dec. 6 to evaluate data from the first full three-year rotation of the Rattlesnake project." Sirotnak said, "I think ultimately cooperating with ranchers is the best way to do this (research). I think it would be really wise to expand this type of thing to different habitats."

BLM To Repair Access Road To Picacho Peak Recreation Area.

The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (11/27) reports that the Bureau of Land Management Las Cruces District staff will start "repairing the access road to Picacho Peak Recreation Area" on Tuesday,

Nov. 28. According to the BLM, "the road was damaged from this year's monsoon rains."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Proposed Law Could Mean More Drilling Off Calif Coast.

The [Los Angeles Daily Breeze](#) (11/24, Williams) reported that "lawmakers representing California are clashing with federal regulators over proposed legislation known as the Strengthening the Economy with Critical Untapped Resources to Expand American Energy Act," or SECURE ACT. Proponents say offshore drilling has huge potential profit opportunity, with some estimates claiming there is at least one billion barrels of oil untapped in the shelf off of Southern California. Opponents note the significant capital investments and technical upgrades needed to modernize California's offshore oil rigs, as well as the environmental risks.

Jerry Brown Has Meeting In Norway About California's Offshore Wind Potential.

The [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (11/24, Nikolewski) reported that Gov. Brown met with Statoil executives earlier this month to "discuss the possibilities of developing the first offshore wind project in California." Statoil developed the first floating wind farm in the world earlier this year. Due to the geography of the coast of California, floating wind turbines could capture an estimated terrawatt of electricity, "13 times more capacity than all the land-based wind farms across the country."

Bureau Of Reclamation

VIDEO: Reclamation's Testing Capabilities For Structural Concrete.

[Hydroworld](#) (11/27) reports that as a component of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Technical Service Center "located in Denver, Colorado, USA, the Engineering and Laboratory Services Division, utilizes the Concrete, Geotech and Structural Laboratory to test aspects of concrete." In a video, Erika Focht, administrative assistant for two TSC groups, "gives a brief explanation of the structural testing capabilities of Reclamation's five-million-pound universal testing machine."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Senate Committee Wants To End NC Wolf Recovery Program.

The [Charlotte \(NC\) Observer](#) (11/27, Henderson) reports that the Senate Appropriations Committee has asked the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "to end a 30-year effort in North Carolina to save endangered red wolves from extinction." It was part of the committee's \$32 billion spending bill for the Department of Interior and environmental agencies, released last week. Sen. Thom Tillis, "who had previously recommended the program be ended, wrote the provision and submitted it to the committee for inclusion in the bill, his staff said."

The Grizzlies Are Coming.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/27, Brulliard) reports that "since 1975, when this icon of the American West was listed as an endangered species, grizzlies in the Yellowstone National Park ecosystem to the south have more than quadrupled their range and population." In the north, "grizzlies in the Glacier National Park region also are spreading out." They are "now migrating so far that they are viewed as the vanguard of a possible union between the two populations, a connection that could help ensure the bears' health and genetic diversity."

National Park Service

Coltsville Crawls Toward Formal National Park Status.

The [Hartford \(CT\) Business Journal](#) (11/27, Radelat) reports that "while the creation of the Coltsville National Historical Park has been at a snail's pace, the National Park Service hopes to take some major steps soon, including the hiring of a permanent, full-time park ranger and the establishment of a temporary visitors center at the park that honors the innovative entrepreneurship of Sam and Elizabeth Colt." Rep. John Larson, "who championed the idea of

turning Coltsville into a national park and sponsored the legislation that would do so, said he plans to meet with park Superintendent James Woolsey next month to determine if there is anything that could speed things up." Larson " said most of the slowdown can be attributed to the need to obtain agreements between the National Park Service, and the city of Hartford, the state and Colt Gateway, the owner of much of the Colt complex who has turned former factory buildings and worker housing into apartments and commercial office space."

Valley Forge Rejects Deer Birth Control, So Hunting Continues.

[Philly \(PA\)](#) (11/27, Bond) reports that "at Valley Forge National Historical Park, U.S. Department of Agriculture sharpshooters have killed more than 2,000 deer since the culling program started seven years ago, and about 170 deer are estimated to remain there." For the second year, park officials have "met their goal of 31 to 35 deer per square mile." Park officials "maintain they will limit their hunting when an 'acceptable' reproductive-control method emerges that meets their criteria."

Muir Woods Parking Comes Into Focus At Community Meeting.

The [Marin \(CA\) Independent Journal](#) (11/27, Prado) reports that "a soon-to-be-launched parking reservation system at the Muir Woods National Monument and environmental impacts at the park will be the subject a public hearing Tuesday." Carey Feierabend, deputy superintendent with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, said, "Making a parking and shuttle reservation will be fast and easy. The new system will improve the overall visitor experience by allowing visitors to plan their trip in advance while enhancing the protection and preservation of the surrounding natural resources."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Breaking Down Migration Data.

The [Marshall Islands Journal](#) (11/24) reported that "a newly published survey of Marshall Islands migration to the United States estimates there are close to 27,000 Marshallese living in the US." According to the article, "the new statistical profile shows that 23,444 people identified themselves as 'Marshallese' in the 2010 US census and in later follow up counts known as the American Community Survey (ACS) through 2015." However, "the number goes up to 26,856 when people who identified themselves as 'Marshallese' are added to those choosing 'Marshallsese' in combination with other groups."

A Poison In Our Island.

The [Australian Broadcasting Corporation](#) (11/27, Willacy) reports that "rising seas caused by climate change are seeping inside a United States nuclear waste dump on a remote and low-lying Pacific atoll, flushing out radioactive substances left behind from some of the world's largest atomic weapons tests." Buried on Enewetak Atoll is "85,000 cubic metres of radioactive waste — a toxic legacy from the dawning of the thermonuclear age." A report commissioned by the US Department of Energy in 2013 "found that radioactive materials were leeching out, threatening the already tenuous existence of Enewetak locals."

U.S. Senate's \$1.5 Trillion Tax Cut Bill Includes Reductions For Rum Industry, Exposing VI Bonds To Volatility.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (11/26) reports that "in the U.S. Senate's version of the Republicans' \$1.5 trillion tax cut bill, lawmakers have proposed excise tax reductions for liquor, wine and beer." According to the article, "while it is unclear how much the USVI would lose if the law were to pass with the Senate line item, it puts on unstable ground the USVI's most dependable source of income to pay bondholders."

Palau Registry Sails Into Top Spot In Terms Of Pace Of Annual Growth.

[Hellenic Shipping News Worldwide \(GRE\)](#) (11/23) reports that Palau International Ship Registry has "become the fastest growing flag in the shipping world with an impressive 43.2% growth in the number of vessels joining the registry since 2013 according to Fairplay magazine."

Northwest Arkansas' Marshallese Work To Send More Of Their Own To College.

The [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (11/23, Holtmeyer) reports that the Marshallese community in

Arkansas is “working to send more of its people into higher education.” Several families participated “in a financial literacy course Wednesday, the first of many to be offered through a new program providing up to \$200 each for college savings accounts for up to 200 of the community’s children.”

Why The Vatican Is Now “Off Limits” For Chinese Tourists.

[World Crunch](#) (11/24, Lin) reports that “Chinese tourist agencies will be severely punished for organizing tour groups to St. Peter’s Square and the Sistine Chapel (as well as the tiny Pacific island of Palau).” The new directive by China’s National Tourism Administration is “regarded as a way for China to put pressure on the Vatican to sever its official ties with Taiwan.”

Time For Australia To Forge Free Compact Agreements In The Pacific.

In a piece for the [Lowy Institute](#) (11/25, Colton), Greg Colton urges Australia to forge free compact state agreements with Pacific island nations. According to Colton, “if Australia were to incorporate Nauru, Tuvalu and Kiribati into a compact of free association, it would deny China the ability to become the dominant external influence in these three countries.” And “this would in effect extend and deepen the second island chain formed by the US Free Compact States and enhance Australia’s alliance with the US.”

‘Island Soldier’ Review.

The [Hollywood Reporter](#) (11/22, Linden) reviewed the documentary *Island Soldier*, which explores how Micronesia “has become a ‘recruiter’s paradise’ for the American military.” The film “examines the ways geopolitics shapes lives in Micronesia, a former U.S. territory that’s still deeply tied to this country, and whose citizens can serve in the American armed forces.”

New Zealand Proposes Special “Climate Refugee” Visas For Pacific Islanders Forced From Homes By Rising Seas.

[CleanTechnica](#) (11/21, Ayre) reports that “the creation of special ‘climate refugee’ visas for Pacific Islanders forced from their homes by rising sea levels were proposed by New Zealand, the country’s new climate change minister has revealed, as the UN climate talks in Bonn, Germany, concluded.” James Shaw, the climate minister of New Zealand, stated: “We want to get ahead of this before it turns into a real problem ... we want to start a dialogue with the Pacific Island countries about this notion of migrating with dignity, if things get to that point.”

Opinion Pieces

Where Hunters And Anglers (Still) Stand On Public Lands.

For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (11/27, Fosburgh), Whit Fosburgh, the president and CEO of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, criticizes “efforts to eliminate or seriously undermine America’s 640 million acres of public lands, places that one-third of all American hunters depend on for their access.” Put simply, Fosburgh writes that America’s hunters and anglers “want to keep public land public and well-managed.” He argues that “Congress cannot keep starving the federal agencies of the funding they need to manage our public lands and expect better management, especially as the costs of managing our public lands continue to increase.”

Preserve National Parks.

This Land Is Your Land, Florida. In an op-ed for the [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (11/27, Richard G. “Dick”, Ring), Richard G. “Dick” Ring, the former Superintendent of the Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Park, and a member of the Coalition to Protect America’s National Parks, raises concerns “about federal efforts that would undermine efforts to establish and protect new national parks and monuments.” He hopes members of Congress will stand “up to these attacks” and protect the Antiquities Act. According to Ring, “it shows real leadership to look beyond the partisanship consuming Congress to ensure that future generations can access our great outdoors.”

Endangered Species Act Bureaucrats Are Playing Word Games That Cost Billions Of Dollars.

In an op-ed for the [Daily Caller](#) (11/27, Schiff), Damien Schiff, a senior attorney with Pacific Legal

Foundation, writes that “in the 44 years since the Endangered Species Act became law, federal officials have applied it to cover more than 2,000 plants and animals, spent billions of dollars in administering it and imposed tens of billions in economic costs by forcing vast areas of land out of productive use in the name of habitat protection.” Schiff claims that the “decision-making” has not been “careful and scientifically rigorous.” In fact, “Endangered Species Act regulators have never even bothered to provide official definitions for their key criteria in adding plants and animals to the protected list.” Schiff asserts that “the government’s environmental scientists must start behaving more like real scientists and less like politicized bureaucrats.” He concludes that “we all need to know—we all deserve to know — what they mean by the words they use.”

Additional Reading.

- *War On Fossil Fuels Needs To Be Ended.* [Washington Times](#) (11/27, Dayaratna).
- *Connelly: \$70 Proposed National Park Fee Is Part Of ‘Push For Privatization’.* [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (11/27, Connelly).
- *Why America Doesn’t — But Should — Spend More Time Remembering Reconstruction.* [Clarksburg \(WV\) Exponent-Telegram](#) (11/27, Harvey).
- *Fruit-ful Force For Presevation.* [Gettysburg \(PA\) Times](#) (11/27, Small).
- *A Letter From The National Park Service.* [Skagway \(AK\) News](#) (11/27, Tranel).
- *Guest Column: New Partnership Commits To Improving Lobo Gardens.* [New Mexico Daily Lobo](#) (11/26, Motsinger).
- *Five Ways Congress Can Make The Endangered Species Act Better.* [Idaho Statesman](#) (11/25, Barker).
- *OPINION – Guest Writer: Wise Investment.* [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (11/27, Blick).

Top National News

Trump Derides Warren As “Pocahontas” At Event Honoring Native Americans.

Media reports on President Trump’s revival of the nickname “Pocahontas” to describe Sen. Elizabeth Warren during an Oval Office event honoring Navajo code talkers from World War II are generally negative toward the President, casting it as a racially insensitive comment delivered at an inappropriate time.

After calling the Native American veterans “incredible” and “very special people,” the [AP](#) (11/27) reports, Trump added, “We have a representative in Congress who they say was here a long time ago. They call her Pocahontas. But you know what, I like you.” To [Reuters](#) (11/27), Trump’s use of the name “Pocahontas” was “an apparent derogatory reference” to Warren. [Politico](#) (11/27, McCaskill) says Trump “spoke in front of a portrait of Andrew Jackson, the former president who signed the Indian Removal Act,” as he “mocked” Warren.

The [New York Post](#) (11/27, Fredericks) says Trump’s comment “was met with silence,” and the [Washington Times](#) (11/27, Boyer) cites a reporter who attended the event who said that “there was an ‘awkward silence’ among the Navajo members after Mr. Trump made the remark.” [Bloomberg News](#) (11/27, Epstein, Jacobs) says while some in the audience laughed, “the Navajo veterans didn’t react.”

Warren was quick to denounce the comments, telling [MSNBC](#) (11/27), “This was supposed to be an event to honor heroes, people who put it all on the line for our country, who, because of their incredible work, saved the lives of countless Americans and our allies. ... It is deeply unfortunate that the president of the United States cannot even make it through a ceremony honoring these heroes without having to throw out a racial slur.”

To Jonathan Karl on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/27, story 2, 1:55, Muir), the President “issued a racially charged insult.” Lester Holt said in the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/27, lead story, 2:25) that while Trump often uses the “derogatory nickname” to attack Warren, “the place and moment has the White House tonight defending the President from accusations of racial insensitivity.” Likewise, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/27, Bierman) says while Trump “has used the insult, which many Native Americans find offensive, before, tweeting or retweeting the name 12 times,” using it “at a White House event honoring Native American service to the country crosses a new threshold for the president.”

The [New York Times](#) (11/27, Davis) says Trump’s use of the term “has drawn objections in the past from a number of Native Americans, many of whom regard his mention of the historical figure as offensive and divisive.” Similarly, the [Boston Globe](#) (11/27, Kellman, Lucey) reports

Trump's past attacks on Warren have been called "offensive and distasteful" by Native American leaders. [Boston Magazine](#) (11/27, Buell) reports that John Norwood, of the Alliance of Colonial Era Tribes, "condemned Trump's use of 'Pocahontas,'" saying it is "insulting to all American Indians" and "smacks of racism."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/27, Nicholas) reports that Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye, who was in the Oval Office for the ceremony, said in a statement, "In this day and age, all tribal nations still battle insensitive references to our people. The prejudice that Native American people face is an unfortunate historical legacy." Nancy Cordes said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/27, story 3, 1:50, Mason) that "the National Congress of American Indians called it a slur that overshadowed the Native American war heroes the President was there to honor."

[The Hill](#) (11/27, Fabian) says White House press secretary Sarah Sanders "defended his comment, saying 'Pocahontas' is not a racial slur." [USA Today](#) (11/27, Estepa) reports that Sanders "said she didn't think it was appropriate for the president or anyone to make racial slurs, but noted that was not the intent of the president's 'Pocahontas' comment." Sanders added that "what's offensive" here is "Sen. Warren's lying about her heritage to advance her career." The [Daily Caller](#) (11/27, Johnson) says Sanders "declared...forcefully" that Warren "was the offensive one," arguing, "Senator Warren was very offensive when she lied about some things specifically to advance her career and I don't understand why no one's asking about that question and why that isn't constantly covered."

Mollie Hemingway of the Federalist said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/27) that Warren "claimed she had Native American heritage that she actually didn't have, and at Harvard and other schools she was at proudly said that she had that. She's never given a good answer for how she came to be doing this falsely." The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (11/27, Pereira) says Warren "has maintained that she is of Native American heritage, but critics are divided as whether or not that claim has actually advanced her career. In any case, Warren has stated that she believes the term is a 'slur.'"

Warren said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (11/27), "I never used it to get ahead, I never used it to get into school, I never used it to get a job. Look, this is just a way for Donald Trump to be able to try to get somebody talking about something other than what he's doing, which is advancing a terrible tax plan, trying to gut the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau."

Axios' Kight: Trump Family Hid German Heritage After WWII. Stef W. Kight writes on [Axios](#) (11/27) that after World War II, the President's brother Fred "claimed their family was Swedish, hiding their German heritage to avoid any problems selling apartments to Jewish customers, the Boston Globe reported last year." As late as 1987, Donald Trump "was still claiming Swedish heritage," writing in the "Art of the Deal," that "his grandfather came to the US from Sweden." This is significant because Sanders on Monday defended the President, saying, "I think what most people find offensive is Elizabeth Warren lying about her heritage to advance her career."

More Criticism Of Trump. In an analysis on [CNN's](#) (11/27) website, Chris Cillizza writes that Trump "insulted his way to the White House." Trump's path to the Republican nomination "was defined by his bullying of rivals – from 'Low Energy' Jeb Bush to 'Lyn' ' Ted Cruz," and he "spent the general election doing much of the same with 'Crooked' Hillary Clinton." Cillizza adds that "despite pledges to be so presidential we would all be bored, Trump has turned from an insult-driven candidate to an insult-driven president." Cillizza made similar comments on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/27), saying, "It's a combination of bad optics, but also just a president who I think conflates...not being politically correct with civility. He seems to think, 'Well, I'm just saying it how it is and people will laugh at this,' and people will laugh at it, some. That doesn't make it right. That doesn't make it a way in which a president I think should act. And I think it will have lasting consequences well beyond the four or eight years that Donald Trump is President – how he is willing to mainstream incivility, insult and bullying."

In his [Washington Post](#) (11/27) column, Richard Cohen does not address the "Pocahontas" controversy, but describes Trump as "a mess of a man but brimming with self-regard," who "probably already sees himself up there with Washington, Jefferson, Teddy Roosevelt and Lincoln," but who "will be lucky if he can get his face on a mug in the gift shop." Cohen adds that in 1962, historian Arthur M. Schlesinger Sr. "surveyed 75 of his fellow historians on the subject of presidential greatness. They came up with eight categories," and Trump "whiffs every one, the last being the requirement that he 'possessed a profound sense of history.'"

Mulvaney Begins Work At CFPB As English Challenges His Appointment.

OMB Director Mulvaney showed up Monday for his first day as acting Director of CFPB amid a continuing controversy over whether he or Leandra English, who former director Richard Cordray

said would temporarily replace him after his resignation last week, legitimately holds the title. Coverage focuses on Mulvaney's actions, including his directive that staff ignore orders from English and his 30-day freeze on regulations and hiring. Reports also note English's meetings with Democrats on Capitol Hill and her lawsuit seeking a restraining order to block Mulvaney from taking the position.

[USA Today](#) (11/27, Estepa) reports that English and Mulvaney both "showed up to work, each trying to assume the title of acting director." While the [Washington Post](#) (11/27, Merle) says "Mulvaney's arrival represented a new escalation of tensions over who ultimately will lead the agency," [Politico](#) (11/27, Lima) reports that White House press secretary Sarah Sanders told reporters, "Director Mulvaney has taken charge of that agency and he has the full cooperation of the staff and appeared there this morning and things went very well."

The [Washington Times](#) (11/27, Boyer) says Mulvaney "showed up for work at the CFPB's office...determined to show he's in charge of the agency." He issued a memo telling CFPB staff "to ignore orders from a rival bureaucrat who also is claiming to lead the agency." The memo read, "Please disregard any instructions you receive from Ms. [Leandra] English in her presumed capacity as Acting Director. ... If you receive additional communications from her today...please inform the General Counsel." Mulvaney's memo came after English, "who claims to have taken over for former director Richard Cordray, welcomed back staff Monday morning in an email she signed 'acting director.'"

The [New York Post](#) (11/27, Moore) says Mulvaney was asked during a news conference Monday what the President wants him to accomplish. Said Mulvaney, "He wants me to fix it and wants me to get it back to the point where it can protect people without trampling on capitalism, without choking off financial services. ... We both share the belief that under the previous administration this bureau had gone too far to strangle access to capital." [Bloomberg News](#) (11/27, Mott) reports that Mulvaney, who once called the CFPB the "worst kind" of government entity, promised "to keep the agency operating as its acting director while making changes that protect people without choking off capitalism." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/27, Puzanghera) says that despite English's lawsuit "challenging his legitimacy," Mulvaney "moved swiftly...to order a 30-day halt of new regulations issued by the federal watchdog agency." Mulvaney also "said he was instituting a 30-day hiring freeze."

Saying that "elections have consequences at every agency, and that includes CFPB," Mulvaney, the [Washington Examiner](#) (11/27, Morrongiello) reports, "said Monday he plans to overhaul the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau as much possible while he is at its helm." Juliana Goldman said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/27, story 2, 2:05, Mason) that President Trump "has consistently criticized the bureau," which has "been a punching bag for Republicans who say it saddles banks with unnecessary regulations." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/27, Hayashi, Clozel) says the Administration is ultimately expected to nominate a new director who will face Senate confirmation.

Meanwhile, the [New York Times](#) (11/27, Rogers) reports that amid the confusion at the CFPB, English "headed to Capitol Hill to meet with at least four lawmakers about her plans. Among those lawmakers: Senator Chuck Schumer, the Democratic leader, and Senator Elizabeth Warren, the Democrat of Massachusetts who proposed the bureau and helped set it up, according to a spokeswoman for Ms. Warren." Warren said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (11/27), "As I understand it, since [English] is the new director, acting director, of the agency. She's done exactly as she should, and that is she's come to Capitol Hill to talk about her plans as director of the agency. She reached out to both Republicans and Democrats, and Republicans, so far as I know, have not agreed to meet with her, but the Democrats have because we want to hear about her plans."

The [AP](#) (11/27, Sweet, Lucey) reports that English's lawsuit seeks "a temporary restraining order to block Mulvaney from taking over the bureau." Judge Timothy Kelly, who was appointed by President Trump and confirmed recently by the Senate, "heard arguments on the case late Monday afternoon but didn't immediately rule." The [Washington Post](#) (11/27, Hsu) says Kelly asked English's attorney, Deepak Gupta, "why the court should undertake the 'extraordinary remedy' of enjoining the president from exercising the power of his office." Gupta said, "I don't deny it's extraordinary. This is an extraordinary case." Gupta "argued that English properly took over under an explicit plan of succession set out by the Dodd-Frank law when it created the CFPB, providing for a deputy to serve as acting director until a successor is confirmed." However, Brett Shumate, deputy assistant attorney general for federal programs, argued "that the Federal Vacancies Act, enacted in 1988, gave the president the authority to appoint Mulvaney, citing a Friday memorandum by the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel, and a memo distributed Monday by the bureau's current general counsel."

[Reuters](#) (11/27, Rucker, Cowan) reports that Kelly "said the issues raised were 'extremely important and complicated.'" He and the two sides "said they hoped to see the case decided within the next few days." Pete Williams said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/27, story 4, 2:10, Holt) that Kelly "says he'll rule quickly, so for now, Mulvaney remains in charge." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/27, story 7, 0:35, Muir) reported briefly on the conflict, saying both sides believe "the law is on their side," while William McGurn argues in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/27, McGurn) that from a legal standpoint, the Administration has the stronger case.

However, in an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (11/27), Peter H. Schuck, an emeritus law professor at Yale, takes a different view, arguing that "while the president normally has control over appointments in the executive branch, in this case, Ms. English is right." Congress "intentionally gave" the bureau "an unusual degree of autonomy." While limiting the bureau director's power "to appoint his own interim successor will be a core goal of any Republican effort to reform the agency," Congress "has to take that step, through legislation – not the president, through fiat."

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/26) editorial likens English to George Costanza in the "Seinfeld" episode in which he refused to leave his job after he was discovered to be faking a disability. The Journal argues that Trump is on solid legal ground in appointing an acting director and English's refusal to accept the decision is justification for her dismissal. Mollie Hemingway of the Federalist said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/27), "Republicans have long claimed that this bureau is corrupt and unaccountable and unconstitutional. This response we are seeing from that bureaucracy and Democrats on the Hill seems to be saying that's exactly how we want it and that's how he designed it to be."

CFPB General Counsel Backs Trump's Authority To Appoint Acting Director. The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (11/27, Harrington) reports that CFPB general counsel Mary McLeod, who Cordray praised as having a "wealth of experience" and "tested judgment" when he hired her in December 2015, "sent a memo agreeing the White House has full legal authority to appoint Mick Mulvaney as acting director, bypassing Cordray's plan to pick his own replacement." McLeod wrote, "I advise all Bureau personnel to act consistently with the understanding that Director Mulvaney is the acting director of the CFPB," adding that the "statutory language, legislative history, precedent from the Office of Legal Counsel at the Department of Justice, and case law all point to the conclusion that the president may use the Vacancies Reform Act to designate an acting official, even when there is a succession statute under which another official may serve as acting."

WTimes Analysis: Current Fight Is Third Constitutional Battle Involving CFPB. A [Washington Times](#) (11/27, Dinan) reports that the current fight over "competing claims to be the acting director," is "the third major constitutional battle to break out over the board, which was created only seven years ago but has been continuously mired in controversy." The "unprecedented independence of the bureau and its director...has landed the agency in legal hot water time and again." The first was in 2012 when President Obama "used recess appointment powers to name Mr. Cordray the director." Another battle continues "in the US Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, where a three-judge panel has ruled the structure of the CFPB to be unconstitutional."

Robinson: Trump Dislikes CFPB Because It Was Established By Obama. Eugene Robinson writes in his [Washington Post](#) (11/27) column that the Administration is not implementing a "systematic move toward small government that conservatives have long sought" but "a lurch toward bad government, inadequate government, incompetent government." Robinson argues that the likely reason for Trump's criticism of the CFPB "is that it was established while Barack Obama was president. Trump has been unable to establish a proper legacy of his own, so he is intent on erasing his predecessor's."

NYTimes Analysis Sees "Banker-Friendly" Approach Prevailing Since Trump Took Office. A [New York Times](#) (11/27, Goldstein, Cowley) analysis casts the battle over who will serve as CFPB director as "the most recent example of the banker-friendly approach that has gripped Washington." It comes amid "subtle but steady efforts at the White House, in federal agencies and on Capitol Hill to lessen the regulatory burden on banks and financial firms since President Trump took office." The Times attributes the changes to "a combination of forces: business-friendly appointments by the president, a lack of financial and personnel resources at many federal agencies, minute changes in rules imposed by regulators and a relaxation in how bank examiners supervise large institutions," as well as "a dramatic change in tone from the White House."

Trump Meets With Senators As GOP Leaders Seek To Line Up Tax Bill Votes.

[USA Today](#) (11/27, Jackson, Jackson) reports that President Trump “met Monday with Republican members of the Senate Finance Committee. He heads to Capitol Hill on Tuesday for lunch with the full Senate Republican Conference.” The [Washington Times](#) (11/27, Miller) reports that Senate Republicans emerged from the meeting “sounding optimistic, or at least hopeful, that the tax cut bill will get finished before the end of the year.” Sen. Pat Toomey said, “There is growing momentum for this and I’m confident we will get it done soon.”

The [New York Times](#) (11/27, A1, Tankersley) reports that “with several Republican senators not yet committed to supporting the \$1.5 trillion tax plan, the week is expected to be punctuated by behind-the-scenes arm twisting and deal-making as Republican leaders work to find enough votes to pass the bill along party lines.” [Reuters](#) (11/27, Morgan) reports that Senate Majority Whip Cornyn said a vote is expected this week, though the [Washington Examiner](#) (11/27, Ferrechio, Lawler) reports that “Republicans are not done negotiating the details of the bill.” Sens. Steve Daines and Ron Johnson “said they can’t vote to pass the bill unless small business tax breaks are expanded,” and [The Tennessean](#) (11/27, Jackson, Jackson) reports that Sen. Bob Corker “is among a handful of Senate Republicans still on the fence about the bill.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/27, A1, Rubin, Hughes) reports that Sens. Susan Collins, Jeff Flake, James Lankford, John McCain, Jerry Moran, Lisa Murkowski, and Marco Rubio have also expressed concerns about parts of the bill. The [Washington Times](#) (11/27, Sherfinski) reports, “Leaders did get a boost Monday when Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky – the lone Republican senator who voted against the 2018 budget plan last month – announced that he supports the tax package as it stands now.”

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/27, story 3, 0:35, Muir), Jon Karl reported that with unanimous Democratic opposition, GOP leaders “can only afford to lose two Republican votes in the Senate.” Jonathan Swan of Axios said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (11/27), “Tomorrow, there’s a budget vote which is kind of a proxy for this. They will be watching Corker and Johnson. They are not there yet, and they are worried. ... The fact is they don’t have the votes and they are concerned.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/27, story 2, 0:35, Welker) and the [New York Post](#) (11/27, Fredericks) also had similar items on the hunt for votes.

WPost: Bill Would Increase Deficit, Cost Americans Health Coverage. The [Washington Post](#) (11/27) says in an editorial that the Congressional Budget Office “has once again delivered a message Republicans do not want to hear but should seriously consider: Their latest tax bill would balloon the deficit while significantly reducing the number of Americans with access to health care. ... Passing this bill would be more of a confirmation that Republicans are incapable of governing than passing no bill at all.”

Krugman: Bill Is “Biggest Tax Scam In History.” Paul Krugman writes in the [New York Times](#) (11/27) that “the bill Republican leaders are trying to ram through this week without hearings, without time for even a basic analysis of its likely economic impact, is the biggest tax scam in history. ... One way or another, the bill would hurt most Americans. The only big winners would be the wealthy” through “a huge redistribution of income from lower- and middle-income families to corporations and business owners.”

Merck CEO: Senate Tax Bill Eliminates US Companies’ Disadvantage. In a [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/27) op-ed, Merck Chairman/CEO Kenneth Frazier writes that the Senate GOP tax bill would be good for US business by creating a so-called “territorial” tax system that does not tax profits earned abroad. Frazier writes that this is how foreign competitors tax their companies, and that the current US system puts American companies at a disadvantage.

Hawaii To Begin Testing Nuclear Attack Sirens.

[USA Today](#) (11/27, Bacon) reports Hawaii on Friday will begin testing “a warning siren to prepare for the possibility of nuclear attack, state officials say.” Vern Miyagi, administrator for the state’s emergency management agency, said the sirens would notify the public to “get inside, stay inside and stay tuned” for more information. The first test will take place Friday and will take place “the first business day of each month after that.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/27, Lyte, Wootson) says officials in Hawaii are “walking a delicate line — planning for a catastrophe while assuring residents and tourists alike that they can keep sipping beverages from coconuts without alarm.” The tests, says the Post, “will be an audible example of the growing strife with North Korea.”

Russia Encouraged By Lull In North Korean Weapon Tests. The [Washington Post](#) (11/27, Taylor) reports that during a visit to South Korea Monday, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov “warned that the situation on the Korean Peninsula could become ‘apocalyptic’ but added that he had one key reason to be hopeful: North Korea had not tested any weapons in

more than two months." Said Morgulov, "We greatly value that North Korea preserves the regime of silence for two months already, and Russia actively works to make sure that the current regime continues as long as possible." The Post says his comments reflect "a rare burst of optimism in the ongoing standoff over North Korea's weapons program," but cautions that North Korea's "break in weapons testing may be seasonal, rather than strategic."

South Korea's Loudspeakers Blast Word Of Defecting Soldier's Ill Health. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/27, Stiles) reports that South Korea's latest announcement on its "high-decibel loudspeakers" on the border with North Korea says that a soldier "defected two weeks ago in a daring afternoon escape." The messages proclaim that the soldier — who was shot at least four times as he escaped and has been treated at a hospital near Seoul — "is expected to recover from his injuries, according to South Korean military officials." The messages "also say the soldier suffered from life-threatening malnutrition." The Times says word of the soldier's ill health "could be an especially demoralizing message to North Korea's front-line troops and others within earshot of the speakers."

Japan Suspects "Ghost Ship" Washed Ashore Was Occupied By North Korean Defectors. The [Washington Post](#) (11/27, Wootson) reports that a "ghost ship" washed ashore recently on the coast of Japan, and investigators suspect the bodies of those aboard may have been trying to defect from North Korea. It is unclear, however, "how long those who were aboard had been there or when they died." According to Sky News, "more than 40 boats full of dead people have washed up this year" in Japan.

Sen. Schumer Opposes Federal Gas Tax Increase To Fund Trump Administration Infrastructure Plan.

The [Daily Caller](#) (11/27, White) reports that Sen. Charles Schumer, a Democrat from New York, opposes efforts led by Republicans "to raise the federal gas tax...to help finance the Trump administration's effort to resuscitate the country's highways." In discussing the push to increase the gas tax, Schumer said "the bottom line is that we don't want to raise taxes on working people right now." Schumer added, "as it stands now that is where we are at. Income distribution is so bad, I would rather pay for infrastructure by taking the money that comes from overseas [repatriation] and putting it into infrastructure." Meanwhile, Republicans in California are leading the charge against a gas tax increase championed by California's Democratic Gov. Jerry Brown.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"What Congressmen Are Hiding." A [New York Times](#) (11/27) editorial says that "decades of hushed-up complaints show sexual misconduct is as terrible an open secret in Congress as in Hollywood. Legislators have a chance to correct their poor handling of a national problem. They should seize it."

Washington Post.

"A Hug That Says Volumes About The Situation In Syria." The [Washington Post](#) (11/27) editorializes that, regarding efforts to resolve the civil war in Syria, "Russia has supplanted the United States as the convening power of the...conflict." The Post criticizes President Trump's endorsement of Vladimir Putin's plans that "nominally entail new negotiations between the Assad regime and opposition groups over a new constitution," but could also advance Putin's goals of "sustaining the regime in power indefinitely, providing a new platform for Russia in the Middle East and marginalizing the United States." The Post labels Trump's stance, following President Obama's poor record on Syria, "an acceleration of the collapse of U.S. global leadership."

"The GOP Tax Bill Just Keeps Looking Worse." The [Washington Post](#) (11/27) says in an editorial that the Congressional Budget Office "has once again delivered a message Republicans do not want to hear but should seriously consider: Their latest tax bill would balloon the deficit while significantly reducing the number of Americans with access to health care. ... Passing this bill would be more of a confirmation that Republicans are incapable of governing than passing no bill at all."

Wall Street Journal.

"Leandra Costanza." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/26) editorial likens Leandra English, who claims she is the legitimate acting director of CFPB, to George Costanza in the "Seinfeld" episode in

which he refused to leave his job after he was discovered to be faking a disability. The Journal argues that Trump is on solid legal ground in appointing an acting director and English's refusal to accept the decision is justification for her dismissal.

"America's New Energy Diplomacy." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/27) editorial welcomes a five-year deal signed last week by Poland, which wants to reduce its reliance on Russian energy, to buy American liquefied natural gas. The agreement, it says, highlights how the US energy boom from the fracking can serve the nation's interests overseas.

"An Income Tax By Any Other Name." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/27) editorializes that a King County Superior Court ruling against a 2.25% tax imposed against wealthy residents of Seattle was a pleasant development. Judge John Ruhl of the Superior Court only ruled on the statutory case against the law, not the constitutionality of it. The Journal calls the decision a win for the rule of law.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Senators Seek Changes To Tax Bill As Busy Week Kicks Off](#)
[Trump Appointee Asserts Control Over CFPB For Now](#)
[Wells Fargo Bankers, Chasing Bonuses, Overcharged Clients](#)
[Produce Or Else: Wal-Mart And Kroger Get Tough With Food Suppliers On Delays](#)

New York Times:

[Senators Scramble To Advance Tax Bill That Increasingly Rewards Wealthy](#)
[2 Bosses Show Up To Lead The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau](#)
[How A Radio Shack Robbery Could Spur A New Era In Digital Privacy](#)
[Prince Harry Casts Aside Ghosts Of Royal Marriages Past](#)
[What's In That Can Of Chock Full O'Nuts? 'No Nuts,' Can Promises](#)

Washington Post:

[Standoff Over The Control Of CFPB](#)
[Post Was Approached With False Claim About Moore](#)
[American Says Yes To Harry, And To A New World](#)
[Critics Seek More Light On Hill Harassment](#)
[Justice Dept. Portrays HBO As A Juggernaut, But Is It?](#)

Financial Times:

[Bitcoin Stirs Volatility Fears As It Heads For \\$10,000](#)
[New York Trial Threatens To Aggravate Turkey-US Relations](#)
[Meredith Looking To Dismantle Time Inc After \\$2.8bn Takeover](#)

Washington Times:

[Fight Over CFPB A Constitution Clash As Trump's Pick, Liberal Fight In Court](#)
[With Powers Over Biggest U.S. Corporations, CFPB A Magnet For Constitutional Clashes](#)
[Grijalva's Secret Deal With Ex-Staffer Exposes Capitol Hill 'Hush Fund' To Cover Up Bad Behavior](#)
[Anti-Semitism Panel Featuring Palestinian Activist Linda Sarsour Stokes Left's Split On Israel](#)
[GI Bill Students Caught In Bureaucratic Battle Over For-Profit Ashford University](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Prince Harry Engagement 1; White House-Code Talkers; White House-Tax Reform; Al Franken Sexual Allegations; John Conyers Sexual Allegations; Roy Moore Campaign; CFPB Appointment; Russia Meddling Investigation; Indonesia-Volcano Eruption; Pope-Myanmar Visit; Holiday Shopping; Texas-Mall Shooting; Florida-Freight Train Derailing; White House-Christmas Tree; Prince Harry Engagement 2.

CBS: Prince Harry Engagement 1; CFPB Appointment; White House-Code Talkers; Al Franken Sexual Allegations; Massage Chain Sexual Allegations; Saudi Arabia-Gender Equality; Anti-Smoking TV Ads; Holiday Shopping; Indonesia-Volcano Eruption; Dictionary. Com Word Of The Year; Prince Harry Engagement 2.

NBC: White House-Code Talkers; White House-Tax Reform; Prince Harry Engagement; CFPB Appointment; Al Franken Sexual Allegations; John Conyers Sexual Allegations; Roy Moore

Campaign; Holiday Shopping; Indonesia-Volcano Eruption; Florida-Freight Train Derailing; Massage Chain Sexual Allegations; Golden Globe Award Host; White House-Christmas Tree; Meteor Sighting; Teen School Charity.

Network TV At A Glance:

Prince Harry Engagement – 12 minutes, 45 seconds
White House-Code Talkers – 6 minutes, 10 seconds
CFPB Appointment – 4 minutes, 50 seconds
Indonesia-Volcano Eruption – 3 minutes
AI Franken Sexual Allegations – 2 minutes, 35 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Russia Meddling Investigation; White House-Code Talkers; White House-Tax Reform Plan; Supreme Court-Maryland Gun Ruling.

CBS: White House-Tax Reform Plan; White House-Code Talkers; Walter Scott Shooting Trial; Prince Harry Engagement; Navy Recruitment Requirement.

FOX: Congress-Sexual Harassment; AI Franken Sexual Allegations; CFPB Appointment.

NPR: AI Franken Sexual Allegations; Roy Moore Campaign; Pope-Myanmar Visit.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Speaks with the Republican Senate Caucus; meets with congressional leadership.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Delivers keynote remarks at Israel's Mission to the United Nations event celebrating the 70th anniversary of the UN's vote calling for the establishment of a Jewish State in the Land of Israel; delivers remarks at the Hudson Institute's 2017 Herman Kahn Award Dinner.

US Senate: 9:45 AM Senate Banking Committee considers Fed governor nominee – Nominations hearing considers Jerome Powell to be Federal Reserve System Chairman of the Board of Governors * President Donald Trump announced Powell's nomination at the beginning of the month, and, if confirmed, he will replace Janet Yellen in February after she has served just one term * Nominations hearing immediately follows Executive Session, with agenda including nominations of Brian Montgomery to be Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development for Housing and Federal Housing Commissioner, Robert Hunter Kurtz to be Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing, and Suzanne Israel Tufts to be Assistant Secretary for Administration Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee hearing on Higher Education Act reauthorization – Hearing on 'Reauthorizing the Higher Education Act: Examining Proposals to Simplify the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)', with testimony from National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators President Justin Draeger; Colorado Community College System President Dr Nancy McCallin; Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center Senior Fellow Dr Kim Rueben; Columbia University Teachers College Associate Professor of Economics and Education Dr Judith Scott-Clayton; and YWCA of Richmond Shelter Diversion Specialist Elaine Williams Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Hearing on 'S.1241: Modernizing AML Laws to Combat Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing' Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 226, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Public Works subcommittee considers TVA nominees – Clean Air and Nuclear Safety Subcommittee nominations hearing considers Kenneth Allen, A.D. Frazier, Jeffrey Smith, and James Thompson III to be Tennessee Valley Authority Board of Directors members Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 406, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Christopher Ashley Ford to be Assistant Secretary of State for International Security and Non-Proliferation; and Yleem Poblete to be Assistant Secretary of State for Verification and Compliance Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

1:00 PM President Trump attends Senate Republican policy lunch – President Donald Trump addresses Republican senators at their weekly policy lunch, discussing tax reform legislation and

the fall legislative agenda Location: U.S. Capitol, Mansfield Rm, Washington, DC
<http://src.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateGOP>

2:30 PM Senate Budget Committee considers FY'18 budget resolution legislation – Business Meeting, to consider 'S. XX, To provide for reconciliation pursuant to title II of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2018' Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 608, Washington, DC <http://budget.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateBudget>

2:30 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

US House: 10:00 AM House Homeland Security subcommittee field hearing on securing public areas of transportation systems – Transportation and Protective Security Subcommittee field hearing on 'Securing Public Areas of Transportation Systems: Stakeholder Perspectives', with testimony from Delaware River Port Authority Public Safety Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Charles Cunningham; Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) Transit Police Chief Thomas Nestel III; New Jersey State Police Special Operations Section Lieutenant Douglas Lemanowicz; and New Jersey Transit Police Chief Christopher Trucillo Location: Trenton City Hall, 319 E State St, Trenton, NJ [Trenton homeland.house.gov](http://homeland.house.gov) <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

11:00 AM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/ <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

12:30 PM House Oversight Committee field hearing on combating the opioid crisis – Field hearing on 'Combating the Opioid Crisis', with testimony from President's Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis Chairman (and outgoing New Jersey Governor) Chris Christie; Office of National Drug Control Policy Acting Director Richard Baum; Baltimore City Health Commissioner Dr Leana Wen; and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health's Dr Caleb Alexander Location: The Johns Hopkins Hospital, 1800 Orleans St, Baltimore, MD <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

2:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including consideration of 'H.R. 2768 – Fowler and Boskoff Peaks Designation Act', 'H.R. 1491 – Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Land Affirmation Act of 2017', as amended, 'H.R. 3115 – Superior National Forest Land Exchange Act of 2017', as amended, 'H.R. 995 – 21st Century Respect Act', as amended, 'H.R. 2228 – Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act of 2017', as amended, and 'H.R. 2615 – Gulf Islands National Seashore Land Exchange Act of 2017' under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

5:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 3017, the Brownfields Enhancement, Economic Redevelopment, and Reauthorization Act of 2017' and 'H.R. 3905, the Minnesota's Economic Rights in the Superior National Forest Act' Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

7:15 PM House Democratic Caucus holds informal holiday reception with media – House Democratic Caucus Chairman Joe Crowley and Vice Chair Linda Sanchez host informal, off-the-record 'Reporters & Representatives holiday reception', giving Democratic members an opportunity to socialize with the Capitol Hill press corps Location: U.S. Capitol, , HVC-201, Washington, DC <http://www.dems.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseDemocrats>

Other: 8:00 AM CyberCon – CyberCon 2017: Beyond Cybersecurity – 'forum for dialogue on strategy and innovation to secure federal and defense networks, as well as private sector networks that hold their sensitive data'. Speakers include Democratic Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, Republican Rep. Elise Stefanik, State Department Policy, Liaison, and Training Office Director Deborah Pierre-Louis, GSA Federal Systems Integration and Management Center (FEDSIM) Homeland Sector Director Jim Piche, Cisco Technical Solutions Architect Joey Muniz, and Federal Times and Fifth Domain Editor Aaron Boyd Location: The Ritz-Carlton, Pentagon City, 1250 S Hayes St, Arlington, VA <http://cybercon.federaltimes.com/> <https://twitter.com/FederalTimes>

8:30 AM GOP Rep. Kevin Brady speaks on tax reform at AEI – 'Opportunities for tax reform' American Enterprise Institute discussion with House Committee on Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady, who speaks on 'the prospects for, opportunities of, and challenges posed by fundamental tax reform' Location: American Enterprise Institute, 1789 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC www.aei.org <https://twitter.com/AEI>

2:00 PM Dem Rep. John Larson speaks on carbon tax at Brookings – 'Can tax reform include a carbon tax?' Brookings Institution Tax Policy Center and Cross Brookings Initiative on Energy and Climate panel discussion on the prospects for tax reform and the potential to include a carbon tax in a broader bipartisan bill. Speakers include keynote Democratic Rep. John Larson, and Brookings Institution Economic Studies Senior Fellow Adam Looney, and The Niskanen Center

President Jerry Taylor Location: The Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst> #CarbonTax

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Trevor Noah: "Today, President Trump met with Native American World War II heroes and met with them to apologize for America's history and the way it has treated...no, just messing with you. He made it worse."

Trevor Noah: "Now as a Democrat, you would be loving this, because going after Trump for siding with a sex offender is like shooting fish in a barrel. The only problem is that Democrats are in a barrel of their own. ... Now, Michigan Rep. John Conyers, the longest-serving member on Capitol Hill, he voted for the original Voting Rights Act. While he was making history, he was doing it all without pants."

Trevor Noah: "Turns out even congressional icons have gone to the school of Weinstein. What makes it weirder in this story is [Rep. John Conyers is] not wearing pants, but he's still wearing his shirt, like a civil rights Winnie the Pooh."

Jimmy Fallon: "The other day, President Trump tweeted that he turned down an offer to be Time magazine Person of the Year. That's not all. Today, he said that he turned down the chance to marry Prince Harry. ... But as I mentioned, Trump's still saying Time magazine called to offer him Person of the Year, and he turned it down. I'm not sure if the call is genuine, because if you listen, you can hear Hillary laughing on the other end."

Jimmy Fallon: "The White House Christmas tree arrived the other day. And it will stay there for about six weeks, which will make it the longest-serving member of the Trump Administration."

Jimmy Fallon: "You guys, today is Cyber Monday. It's the day millions of Americans go online and enter their credit card info. Or as Russia calls it, 'It's the most wonderful time of the year.'"

Seth Meyers: "According to Vanity Fair, during their visit to the Vatican in May, Pope Francis was very warm and kind to First Lady Melania Trump, but not to others in the family. Though, as a rule, the Pope is always kind to people who swing open the cathedral door and scream 'Sanctuary!'"

Seth Meyers: "The FBI received over 200,000 requests for instant gun background checks on Black Friday, setting a new record for the most ever in a single day. So whatever you do on Christmas morning, don't shake your presents."

Conan O'Brien: "At 93 years, 167 days old, President George W.H. Bush is now the longest-living President in history. ... After hearing this, Melania Trump said, 'Please, God, don't tell me they all live that long.'"

Conan O'Brien: "Time magazine has been bought by the billionaire right-wing Koch brothers. Critics say buying Time magazine could give the Koches unparalleled political influence over America in 1986."

Jordan Klepper: "The terminally ill New York Times is reporting that Donald Trump has been telling people since January that the famous Access Hollywood tape is not authentic. ... And also, Trump said it was locker room talk, in this conversation that allegedly happened on a bus. A locker room that's also a bus? What is it, 'The Jetsons'?"

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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DOI In The News

Zinke Under Investigation For Taxpayer-Funded Flights.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/2, Halpe) reports that the Interior Department's Office of Inspector General has launched an investigation into whether Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "taxpayer-funded flights on private planes...were a legitimate government expense." The investigation comes in the wake of "news reports late last week that revealed a \$12,375 flight Zinke chartered from Las Vegas to an airport near his home in Montana, where he spent the night." The [AP](#) (10/2) says the investigation came at the request of Rep. Raul Grijalva, the senior Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, and Rep. Donald McEachin, the "top Democrat on the panel's subcommittee on oversight and investigations." [Politico](#) (10/2, Lefebvre) quotes Nancy K. DiPaolo, spokeswoman for Interior's Office of the Inspector General, as saying the IG has "received numerous complaints."

In a speech to the Heritage Foundation on Friday, Zinke "denied any inappropriate travel" and "said his travels were approved by 'career employees,'" [Reuters](#) (10/2) reports. Zinke "called reports about his recent use of chartered private flights 'a little B.S.'"

Also reporting are the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/2, Siciliano), the [Washington Post](#) (10/2, Rein), [CNN](#) (10/2, Marsh), the [Huffington Post](#) (10/2, D'Angelo), [MarketWatch](#) (10/2, Schroeder), the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (10/2), the [New York Post](#) (10/2, Fredericks), [Federal Computer Week](#) (10/2, Gunter), [Vice](#) (10/2), the [Daily Beast](#) (10/2), and the [Daily Beast](#) (10/2, Markay).

Zinke Champions Oil And Gas During Clean Energy Week.

[E&E Publishing](#) (10/2, King) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke opened and closed the National Clean Energy Week with a promotion for developing fossil fuels on public lands. Secretary Zinke "touted oil and gas operators' progress on hydraulic fracturing." Secretary Zinke noted that "progress is being made" in renewable energy sources, yet without a breakthrough on storing the energy with batteries, the US must rely on traditional energy sources.

How Interior, NGA, DHS Provided A Common Picture For Hurricane First Responders.

[Federal News Radio \(DC\)](#) (10/2, Miller) reports that at the request of FEMA, an interagency team – made up of officials from DHS, the NGA, and the Department of Interior – launched the Homeland Infrastructure Foundation Level Data (HIFLD) to serve "as a hub to aggregate and disseminate open data to support the mapping activities for hurricane response and recovery." Tod Dabolt, the geospatial information officer in the Office of the CIO at Interior, "said this geospatial effort is making information sharing easier, better and faster than ever before." He added that while the initial platform was for first responders and others with knowledge of geospatial information, Interior and its agency partners hope to see how HIFLD, as it matures, "can use search and other forms of technology to improve the navigation for non-GIS users."

Secretary Of Agriculture Wants Firefighting Funding Restructured.

The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (10/2, Ahillen) reports that Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue "spent the weekend in the East Tennessee area, visiting the several departments at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville on Saturday then heading to the Tellico Plains area Sunday for a round table with U.S. Forest Service personnel and local forest partners in the morning before touring the Quarry Creek fire site just south of Tellico Plains in the afternoon." The U.S. Forest Service has "spent more than \$2 billion on fire suppression this year, and that is a situation that doesn't please Perdue." The article notes that "during a visit to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in August, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke advocated a campaign to clear away undergrowth in national forests and parks as a way to prevent massive wildfires." Perdue

said Sunday, "I agree wholeheartedly. We are doing a better job in the southeast with undergrowth and prescribed burning than we are doing out west. That is one of the real challenges we have."

Statoil Loses Challenge To DOI Royalty Reports Penalty.

[Law360](#) (10/2, Lidgett) reports that "a Texas federal judge tossed as premature Friday a Statoil unit's claims that by issuing the harshest penalties for inadvertent reporting errors, the U.S. Department of the Interior subverted the congressionally approved civil penalty structure for companies that fail their federal oil and gas royalty obligations." U.S. District Judge Vanessa D. Gilmore "granted the DOI summary judgment against Statoil USA E&P Inc."

The Inside Story Of How Palmer Luckey Scored A Meeting With The Interior Secretary.

The [Daily Beast](#) (10/2, Resnick) reports that obtained from a Freedom of Information Act request detail how technology entrepreneur Palmer Luckey was able to set up a meeting with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in April. The article says that "cash was indeed a factor...but the extent of it is not clear." The meeting was "officially labelled as a discussion of 'border wall building plans.'"

With His National Monument Proposal, Zinke Proves He Is No Teddy Roosevelt.

In a piece for [Forbes](#) (10/2, Burke), Monte Burke writes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke can't call himself "a Teddy Roosevelt guy" after his recommendation to "shrink four National Monuments and modify at least six others." Burke argues that "this potential action by the Trump administration should be seen for what it is: An effort to undermine existing National Monument protections, and a favor to the oil and gas industries that comes at the expense of the American public, in general, and American sportsmen, in specific." Burke says that if Zinke "really is a Teddy Roosevelt guy, he should start" listening to sportsmen "now before it's too late."

Disloyalty Slur Latest In Series Showing Trump Administration's Mistrust Of Feds.

In his column for the [Washington Post](#) (10/2, Davidson), Joe Davidson writes that "while Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's accusation about the loyalty of his workforce is the Trump administration's most outrageous statement about federal employees, it fits a deplorable pattern of verbal aggression against them." Davidson says that "Zinke's declaration that 'I got 30 percent of the crew that's not loyal to the flag' is an escalation that demands denunciation." According to Davidson, "Zinke's comments leaves his staff dismayed, on edge and offended."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Auditors Say Montana Tribe Can't Account For \$3.5 Million.

The [AP](#) (10/2, Brown) reports that a Montana Indian tribe and the Bureau of Indian Affairs "can't fully account for \$3.5 million primarily in federal funds, including money for a corruption-plagued water project that's resulted in numerous convictions, according to government audits and federal officials." The audits by the Office of Inspector General of the Interior Department "examined \$3.7 million for Chippewa Cree Tribe transportation programs and a \$2 million contract for repairs and maintenance of the tribal water system." According to the article, "in both cases, tribal leaders were unable to fully document how they spent the money or provided inadequate records to justify the spending, federal officials said. "

Bureau Of Land Management

BLM Backs Out Of Sage-Grouse Pact, Possibly Prompting Litigation And Lost Revenue.

The [Daily Yonder](#) (10/2, Oates) reports that as the Bureau of Land Management decided to back out of a sage-grouse habitat agreement in September, the federal Treasury added another \$15,000 in public-land leases. However, the government may now have to spend much more in legal fees over legal actions relating to the agreement's dissolution. According to Department of the Interior officials, other sage grouse habitats may be leased across the West.

Wyoming Governor Concerned By Anticipated Sage Grouse Changes. The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/2, Richards) reports that Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead expressed his concerns Friday regarding the potential sage grouse management plan changes. Gov. Mead reiterated that the western states of the US should be consulted regarding any changes. Gov. Mead commented on

the topic "after the New York Times leaked information Thursday about the Trump Administration's plans to make significant changes to sage grouse management in the coming days."

New Mexico Oil Producers Concerned About Permit Backlog.

The [AP](#) (10/2, Bryan) reports that oil producers in New Mexico are concerned about the US Bureau of Land Management's permit processing backlog. Oil and gas fees have recently increased for operations on public and tribal land, yet permitting delays have cost both the federal government and New Mexico money in the form of taxes and royalties. The New Mexico Oil and Gas Association "estimates nearly \$1.5 million in federal royalties and another \$831,000 in state severance taxes are deferred daily due to administrative issues."

BLM Recommends Including Minerals Near Theodore Roosevelt National Park In Lease Sale.

The [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (10/2, Dalrymple) reports that the Bureau of Land Management "recommends including a 120-acre parcel in McKenzie County bordering the North Unit" of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park "in a lease sale scheduled for March 2018." The BLM has "published an environmental assessment of leasing the federal minerals and is accepting public comments through Oct. 30." The BLM "said in a news release its recommendation of including the parcel in the lease sale is consistent with the 'administration's goals of promoting America's energy independence' and also follows approved resources management plans."

Anti-Frackers Go For Broke Against Trump.

The [Daily Caller](#) (10/2, White) reports that an environmental group said Monday protests are planned for later in the year against the Trump Administration's move in allowing hydraulic fracking on public lands in Utah. The group will protest against "the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) failure to address how fracking will worsen pollution and public health in a sparsely populated portion of Utah." Center for Biological Diversity Senior Attorney Diana Dascalu-Joffe said, "this leasing plan disregards grave risks to public health and endangered species in favor of short-term profits for fossil fuel companies."

Proposed Hovenweep Drilling Criticized For Harm To Views, Night Sky.

The [Southwest Colorado Journal](#) (10/2, Mimiaga) reports that the Utah office of the Bureau of Land Management released an environmental analysis on a proposal "to lease 51,400 acres of federal minerals in southeastern Utah for possible oil and gas development." The proposal includes "Parcels 50 and 51, totaling 2,665 acres, located on the eastern Utah border, north and west of Hovenweep National Monument archaeological sites in Colorado and Utah." Environmental groups have criticized the lease sale proposal.

Supreme Court Won't Weigh In On Cliven Bundy Lawyer Issue.

The [AP](#) (10/2) reports that the Supreme Court is "declining to weigh in on conservative activist Larry Klayman's efforts to represent state's rights figure Cliven Bundy during a trial over the 2014 standoff near Bundy's Nevada ranch." The high court "said Monday that it won't address a dispute in which Klayman claims he was improperly prevented from joining Bundy's defense team. Bundy, two sons and four other defendants are scheduled to go on trial Oct. 10."

Meanwhile, the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (10/2) reports that Roger Stone, "an on-and-off adviser of President Donald Trump, has become a public supporter of Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy and his co-defendants, who are currently awaiting federal trial." Stone "made public appearances in July in Nevada to urge Trump to officially pardon the Bundys, and name-dropped them at a conservative leadership conference in Las Vegas in mid-September." The article says that "Stone is an odd bedfellow for the Bundys, since he is a longtime Washington, D.C., insider with no obvious connection to ranching or public-lands issues."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Drillers Decline Trump's Marine Sanctuary Offer.

[Oil Price](#) (10/3, Slav) reports that the Trump administration has begun a review that could culminate in the opening of 11 marine sanctuaries for oil and gas drilling. While the American Petroleum Institute has "only had praise for the new administration's initiatives so far, this time

reactions are more lukewarm." Oil Price reasons that "it's not too difficult for Big Oil to imagine the public and shareholder backlash against any oil company bold enough to drill in a previously protected offshore area," as well as the "public relations nightmare that would undoubtedly ensue."

New York To BOEM: Here's Where We Can Build Offshore Wind.

[North American Windpower](#) (10/2, Lillian) reports that "New York State has asked the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to consider identifying and leasing at least four new Wind Energy Areas off New York's Atlantic Coast." The proposal asks "that BOEM use the Area of Consideration for an Area Identification process, through which BOEM would delineate specific Wind Energy Areas for future leasing through engagement with stakeholders and local communities, as well as the completion of federal and state regulatory reviews."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Delta Tunnels Money Fight Wrapped Up In Water History.

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/2, Kasler, Sabalow) reports that a deal made in 1939 that "paved the way for much of the Central Valley Project" has "formed the basis, nearly 80 years later, of a major funding impasse that threatens to unravel California WaterFix." The article says that "the issue came to a head when the board of Westlands Water District, the largest of all the water agencies served by the Central Valley Project, voted Sept. 19 against paying for its share of the expected \$17.1 billion cost of the tunnels." Westlands' decision was "rooted in a cost-allocation formula imposed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation – a formula that has its origins in the 1939 deal and serves as a reminder of the convoluted nature of water distribution in California."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Gillibrand Proposes Bill To Combat Invasive Beetle.

The [Plattsburgh \(NY\) Press Republican](#) (10/2, Raymo) reports that Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand is "introducing legislation to add the emerald ash borer to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's list of injurious wildlife so importers bringing the invasive species into the United States can be held accountable." Her legislation "would strengthen federal regulations that have not been updated in 117 years." Gillibrand said, "We need to pass this law to keep species like the emerald ash borer from coming here in the first place."

Savannah Wildlife Refuge Closed 3 Weeks After Irma. Here's Why.

The [Hilton Head Island \(SC\) Packet](#) (10/2, Wilson) reports that "most of the Savannah National Wildlife Refuge remains closed three weeks after Tropical Storm Irma swept across the Lowcountry." Citing "a news release posted on the website of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and information posted on the refuge's Facebook page," the article says that "the storm surge paired with high 'king tides' topped the levees at the refuge in Jasper County by nearly 2 feet, making roads unstable and breaching dikes."

Tests Verify Western Washington Has A Wolf.

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (10/2, Jenkins) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has "confirmed that an animal in eastern Skagit County is not a hybrid and is Western Washington's first known gray wolf in decades." The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (10/2, Landers) reports that the FWS "says a GPS collar placed on the wolf captured in June shows the 100-pound black male has remained in Skagit County." According to FWS spokeswoman Ann Froschauer, "it's not clear where the gray wolf came from because DNA samples don't find a connection with known wolf packs in Eastern Washington, Idaho or British Columbia."

Margolis: Scott Appeals To His Base With Conte Refuge Stance.

In his column for [VTDigger \(VT\)](#) (10/2, Margolis), Jon Margolis analyzes Gov. Phil Scott's stance on the proposal to expand the Silvio O. Conte Wildlife Refuge. To Margolis, it seems Scott is trying to cater to both conservationists and loggers. That is why "the governor of Vermont feels he has to write a letter addressed to the secretary of the Interior but also aimed at Vermont loggers and foresters, letting them know he appreciates them," while also saying that he's not

"against expanding the Conte refuge."

National Park Service

Court Backs Hovercraft Ban In Alaska's National Preserves.

The [AP](#) (10/2, Joling) reports that "the National Park Service can ban hovercraft operating on Alaska rivers that flow through national preserves, a federal Appeals Court ruled Monday, in a case that has implications for who will manage state waterways." A three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals "concluded said the Park Service has regulatory authority over a river in a preserve even as Alaska since statehood has owned the riverbed." The panel wrote, "On remand from the Supreme Court, we again conclude that the federal government properly exercised its authority to regulate hovercraft use on the rivers within conservation system units in Alaska."

Nude Sculpture Four Stories Tall Planned For National Mall.

The [New York Times](#) (10/2, Caron) reports that "activists are working to bring a steel sculpture of a 45-foot-tall nude woman to Washington, where she will temporarily face the White House from a perch on the National Mall." The sculpture was "created for the Burning Man festival in 2015 but is being repurposed for Catharsis on the Mall, a gathering in Washington that seeks to bring about social change." Catharsis on the Mall is "scheduled for Veterans Day weekend, Nov. 10-12, but the sculpture would remain in place for up to four months to raise awareness about the Equal Rights Amendment, organizers said." The National Park Service is "still reviewing the group's proposal, Russell Newell, a spokesman for the Department of the Interior, said in an email."

County, State Miss Out On Revenue From Park.

In the first part of a two-part series about taxes in Yellowstone National Park, the [Cody \(WY\) Enterprise](#) (10/2, Miller) reports that "a jurisdictional peculiarity linked to Yellowstone's founding allows outside concessionaires to sidestep paying state and local taxes when they make multi-million dollar improvements to private property within the Park's confines." According to the article, "like his predecessor Douglas Brandt, under whom he served as a deputy, Park County assessor Pat Meyer said he believes concessionaires in Yellowstone aren't paying their fair share in taxes." Yellowstone is one of the only national parks to be granted "exclusive federal jurisdiction." According to public information officer Jonathan Shafer, "Yellowstone owes its special tax status partially to the fact that it was created prior to Wyoming statehood."

Proposed Fence Faces Opposition At Former Tule Lake Internment Camp.

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/2, Magagnini) reports that "a three-mile, 8-foot-high barbed-wire fence planned around a rural airport on the site of the old Tule Lake War Relocation Center has spawned a national protest by hundreds of Japanese Americans who say it would taint the place where many of their families were locked up during World War II." Barbara Takei, CFO of the Tule Lake Committee, which is leading the protest, said, "The fence is a desecration of a site we feel is spiritual, a site where people go to mourn, a site that is for remembrance. With the fence, we will be shut out from where our families lived and permanently reminded of the racism and hostility that put us there in the first place." However, "both the county and airport operator Nick Macy say the fence – which would be partially paid for with federal funds after an environmental impact report is completed – is needed to keep animals off the single runway."

Yellowstone National Park Bison Numbers Down From Last Year.

The [AP](#) (10/2) reports that Yellowstone National Park biologists "say bison numbers are down from last year after its largest cull in nearly a decade." According to parks spokesman Jonathan Shafer, "biologists' surveys counted about 4,800 bison that live in the park, 700 less than last year." State, federal and tribal government agencies are "working to lower to the bison population at the park down to 3,000."

100 Sea Turtles Hatch At Assateague, Head Out To Sea.

The [Delmarva \(MD\) Daily Times](#) (10/2) reports that "nearly 100 tiny sea turtle hatchlings from one nest at Assateague Island National Seashore successfully made their way out to sea, the National Park Service announced." the agency "said a loggerhead sea turtle nest successfully hatched at the National Seashore with about 100 hatchlings emerging from one nest site in the

Maryland Over Sand Vehicle zone." According to the NPS, "although multiple sea turtle nesting attempts have been documented within the National Seashore in past years, this is the first confirmed hatch and the largest number of hatchlings ever recorded."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (10/3).

On Mountain Goats And Burros.

In his column for the [Idaho State Journal](#) (10/2, Carlson), Chris Carlson writes that the National Park Service's plan to address the overpopulation of mountain goats in Olympic National Park by "shooting them" is likely to bring negative public scrutiny. Carlson wouldn't be surprised if the Fund for Animals, "founded by Cleveland Amory in the early 1970s, doesn't file suit and seek a temporary restraining order (TRO) that will suspend the program pending a hearing and possible trial."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Trump To Visit Puerto Rico Tuesday.

While the mass shooting in Las Vegas prompted speculation that President Trump might cancel his scheduled visit to Puerto Rico on Tuesday, Trump has confirmed that "he still plans to visit and defend his administration's efforts to supply Puerto Rico with sufficient power, food, and potable water," [USA Today](#) (10/2, Jackson) reports. USA Today adds that "the visit may prove a critical test of Trump's leadership," in the wake of criticism of the Administration response to Hurricane Maria. John Roberts reported on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (10/2) that while he is in Puerto Rico, the President is expected to meet with San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz, who he "accused...on Twitter of 'poor leadership,' lumped her in with 'politically motivated ingrates' and claimed she has 'now been told the Democrats you must be nasty to Trump.'" Cruz said she would be happy to meet with the President and seemed to have shifted her opinion of the federal response." Cruz: "I have been quite complimentary of the people from HHS and FEMA. Their heart is in the right place, but we have to cut the red tape."

[Business Insider](#) (10/2, Lockie) reports that Homeland Security Adviser Bossert sent a memo to the White House that "urged a cheery media narrative that starkly clashed with Trump's own comments on the situation." Bossert "laid out a plan to 'pivot hopefully to a theme of stabilizing' the situation with temporary housing and increasing the reach of power and commodities on Monday and Tuesday and then to 'start a theme of recovery planning for the bright future that lies ahead for Puerto Rico.'" However, "While Bossert's memo reflects a carefully coordinated and genial recovery effort with Puerto Rico, Trump used Twitter to attack" Cruz.

Alex Perez reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/2, story 15, 2:10, Muir) that FEMA Administrator Long was in Puerto Rico Monday "telling reporters he didn't see anyone in a life-threatening situation. This, after President Trump slammed the recovery response by local officials in a series of tweets this weekend, writing, 'They want everything to be done for them when it should be a community effort.'"

According to [Bloomberg News](#) (10/2, Litvan), Bossert said only 45 percent of Puerto Ricans have access to drinkable water, and the [New York Post](#) (10/2, Golding) reports that on the eve of the President's visit, "nearly all of Puerto Rico remained blacked out" and "the US Energy Department offered a grim forecast for the restoration of electricity." According to officials, "little more than 5 percent of electrical customers had service on the storm-ravaged island" and the head of its power utility said "that number would rise to just 15 percent over the next two weeks."

The [New York Times](#) (10/2, Fausset) reports on recovery efforts in Puerto Rico, saying, "the response to the storm has reminded them of the strength of their culture, and its grace notes of solidarity, neighborliness and pride." Meanwhile, many "are wondering just how much stress the island can take, given the social problems it was saddled with before the storm, including a 45 percent poverty rate, 10 percent unemployment and the second worst murder rate in the nation in 2016, behind Washington, D.C."

In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/2), Tevi Troy, a former deputy secretary of health and human services, writes that presidential leadership is about consistent efforts in the face of continuing challenges, and while the Administration received well-deserved good reviews for its response to the hurricanes in Texas and Florida, it will be remembered for the one in which it faltered.

US Geological Survey

Can Scientists Predict Yosemite Rock Falls?

The [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (10/2, Krieger) reports that “as the giant granite El Capitan briefly slumbers, scientists are racing to identify any areas of dangerous new instability on a popular but restless climbing route that last week released enough rubble to fill 750 dump trucks.” U.S. Geological Survey civil engineer Brian Collins is currently in Yosemite with U.S. Park Service geologist Greg Stock studying the rockfalls. According to the article, “in addition to computer analyses, Collins and Stock have measured the influence of temperature swings by roping up, climbing a slab of unstable rock and installing a long thin wire that measures strain.”

Study: Chemicals Affecting Fish In Great Lakes Rivers.

[KSJR-FM](#) Collegetown, MN (10/2, Marohn) reports that “chemical compounds from human activity are affecting fish in rivers that feed into the Great Lakes, a new study shows.” According to the article, “these compounds, known as contaminants of emerging concern, come from a variety of sources including pharmaceuticals, personal care products, flame retardants and pesticides.” The study was a joint project with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Geological Survey and the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

Top National News

Media Analyses: “Somber” Trump Delivers “Measured” Remarks On Las Vegas Shooting.

The mass shooting on the Las Vegas Strip early Monday morning, which is now the deadliest such incident in modern US history, dominates all forms of media. While the bulk of the coverage deals with the attack itself and emerging information about the shooter, President Trump’s comments, as well as the White House’s assertion that the moment is not right for a discussion of gun policy, are also covered. Reports call the President’s statement “measured” and “somber,” and some of the more critical assessments contrast it with Trump’s remarks following past shootings.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/2, story 7, 1:25, Muir) reported that “a somber President Trump...call[ed] the massacre in Las Vegas ‘an act of pure evil.’” ABC’s Cecilia Vega: “He never said the gunman’s name, instead focusing on the victims and survivors. ... But was this terrorism? The White House won’t say. Does the President believe that what happened amounts to an act of domestic terrorism?” White House press secretary Sarah Sanders: “We are still in a fact-finding mission. It would be premature to weigh in on something like that before we have any more facts.” [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/2, story 10, 3:05, Muir) reported, “At this White House this afternoon, a moment of silence. The White House staff all there for the solemn ritual. The President will travel here to Las Vegas on Wednesday.”

The [New York Times](#) (10/2, Landler, Sullivan) says that Trump delivered “a rigorously muted performance,” in contrast with his performance as a presidential candidate, when he “sometimes seized on mass shootings to warn of the threat of ‘radical Islamic terrorism’ and to justify banning people from predominantly Muslim countries. ... But Sunday’s shooting was fundamentally different from those in Orlando and San Bernardino: The assailant was an older white man, not a Muslim immigrant.” [McClatchy](#) (10/2, Irby) reports that Trump’s response to the killing of 49 in Orlando as president-elect “was widely criticized, by Democrats and Republicans alike.”

The [Washington Post](#) (10/2, Scherer, Rucker) writes, “Trump appeared Monday at something of a loss for words.” He “somberly followed the practiced script of past presidents in times of crisis,” but “identified no clear villain. He issued no call to action. A president typically quick to make black-and-white declarations spoke instead in shades of gray.” The Post says that the “emerging facts prevented Trump from following his typical playbook – to rally his supporters against Islamic extremism while speaking and tweeting in a combative, even belligerent tone to try to project strength and resolve. Rather, Trump uttered just 574 words on Monday and tried to play the role of uniter.” His sole [tweet](#) of the day read, “My warmest condolences and sympathies to the victims and families of the terrible Las Vegas shooting. God bless you!”

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/2, story 7, 2:05, Mason), Major Garrett reported, “President Trump spoke somberly of sadness and faith.” Trump: “Scripture teaches us the Lord is close to the broken-hearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Garrett: “The President also spoke of togetherness...and the struggle to comprehend madness.” [NBC Nightly News](#)

(10/2, story 6, 0:20, Holt) reported, "In honor of the victims, President Trump led a moment of silence at the White House this afternoon. He also condemned this attack as 'an act of pure evil' and ordered flags to fly at half-staff." [Breitbart](#) (10/2, Spiering) reports that the President and First Lady led the moment of silence on the White House front lawn along with Vice President Pence and Karen Pence.

The [AP](#) (10/2, Lemire, Lucey) reports, "Speaking slowly and somberly from the White House, Trump declared that the nation would rally together in the face of the latest act of senseless violence." The AP says Trump delivered a "measured statement." [USA Today](#) (10/2, Przybyla, Jackson) reports that Trump "called for national unity in the wake of the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history," and "the first mass killing under Trump's watch." [USA Today](#) (10/2, Przybyla) writes in a second piece that Trump "made no mention of an epidemic of gun violence making the US unique among advanced industrial nations. While Trump once supported a ban on assault weapons, his views have changed significantly over the past decade, and it's unlikely he'd support stricter US gun laws now."

[Politico](#) (10/2, Karni) reports that Trump's "somber statement from the Diplomatic Room, a moment of silence on the South Lawn, and a dormant-for-a-day Twitter feed didn't make a tragic situation worse." His "words and actions, Democrats and Republicans said, were in line with what any other National Rifle Association-backed president would do." But Trump will soon "be forced to navigate a thorny political situation as he reacts to the first mass shooting to unfold on his watch."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/2, story 16, 2:15, Mason), Jim Axelrod said, "The President condemned the shooting...but he didn't call it terrorism." As the nation "absorbs the worst mass shooting in US history." Richard Cohen, Southern Poverty Law Center: "The label does matter and it's important that we get it right, because it tells us what type of response we as a country need to have in order to address these incidents." Axelrod: "Strictly speaking, there is narrow legal definition for terrorism: 'violence designed to intimidate a civilian population or influence the policy of a government.'"

The [Washington Times](#) (10/2, Boyer), the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/2, Westwood), [The Hill](#) (10/2, Fabian), and [Roll Call](#) (10/2, Bennett) also cover the President's remarks.

Sanders: Now Is Not Time For Gun Policy Debate. The [Washington Times](#) (10/2, Miller) reports, "President Trump is not reopening a political debate on gun control in the immediate aftermath of the shooting massacre in Las Vegas, the White House said Monday." Sanders said, "There is a time and place for a political debate but now is the time to unite as a country." [Politico](#) (10/2, Lima) reports that Sanders also "warned against drafting 'laws that won't create or stop these type of [shootings] from happening.'" Jeff Zeleny said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/2) that Sanders "did leave the door open to the possibility of some kind of discussion in the future bipartisan legislation."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/2, story 12, 2:00, Holt) reported, "As the shock of yet another mass shooting reverberates across the country, in Washington, the debate over gun control is raging once again. Some saying the immediate aftermath of a tragedy like this, there's no time for this sort of debate, while others say it's precisely the appropriate time." The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/2, story 14, 2:25, Glor) reported, "Supporters of tighter gun control laws were quick to push for new laws. Hillary Clinton tweeted, 'Our grief isn't enough. We can and must put politics aside to stand up to the [National Rifle Association], and try to stop this from happening again.'" CBS' Nancy Cordes: "Until 13 years ago, the federal assault weapons ban would likely have outlawed so some of the firearms and high-capacity magazines used by the Las Vegas gunman, but the ban lapsed in 2004, and attempts to reinstate it or pass other restrictions have failed."

[USA Today](#) (10/2) editorializes, "In America, the Second Amendment protects gun ownership, but it allows for reasonable regulation. After every mass shooting, the refrain from the gun lobby is the same: Whatever measures are proposed would not have stopped that particular shooting. ... But solutions don't have to match a particular shooting. They simply need to limit future carnage while balancing constitutional rights."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/2) editorializes, "Opponents of gun control say there is no easy fix. True. They say no law will stop every person who is intent on doing harm. True again. But America has no monopoly on evil or sick people, yet it loses far more people to gun violence." Other countries "have demonstrated the possibility of bans on assault weapons and other common-sense restrictions. What makes America unique is the absence of political will and leadership."

In its editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/2) focuses on the first responders and others

who were selfless and courageous in getting people to safety.

Democrats Press For Action On Gun Control. Kayla Tausche said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (10/2), "Democrats in Congress are already calling for action. Congressman Seth Moulton of Massachusetts boycotted the moment of silence on Capitol Hill today because he said he wants real action to actually come out of this." The [Washington Times](#) (10/2, Chasmar) reports that Moulton, who "made a similar move last summer after the deadly terror attack at Pulse nightclub in Orlando," said in a statement, "I will not be standing with my colleagues in a moment of silence that just becomes an excuse for inaction in the House of Representatives today. I will work to do something about this problem so that it doesn't happen again."

[USA Today](#) (10/2, Theobald) reports that Sen. Chris Murphy "castigated his congressional colleagues for failing to challenge the gun industry." He said in a statement, "It is positively infuriating that my colleagues in Congress are so afraid of the gun industry that they pretend there aren't public policy responses to this epidemic." Murphy "has been vocal on gun control after the 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School, in his home state, which claimed the lives of 20 children and six faculty and staff." The [Washington Times](#) (10/2, Dinan) reports that House Minority Leader Pelosi "called for a new special select congressional committee to combat gun violence."

Rep. Steve Israel (D-NY) writes in the [New York Times](#) (10/2), "In the wake of one the deadliest mass shooting in our nation's history, perhaps the most asked question by Americans is, 'Will anything change?' The simple answer is no. The more vital question is, 'Why not?'" The NRA, "once a supporter of sensible gun-safety measures, is now forced to oppose them because of competing organizations. More moderation means less market share." And congressional redistricting "has pulled Republicans so far to the right that anything less than total subservience to the gun lobby is viewed as supporting gun confiscation."

Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA) said on [Fox News' Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (10/2), "I think when you watch so many people who are helpless and running you think that our lawmakers under the Capitol dome, we are not helpless. Before the trigger is squeezed you are actually able to do something. Whether it's universal background checks, whether its ammunition restrictions, whether its making sure we don't have silencers or of course making sure that a weapon of war is only in the hand of a warrior." Swalwell [tweeted](#), "#ThoughtsAndPrayers aren't enough. #LasVegas is about all of us. It's long past time to act."

Rep. Suzan DelBene (D-WA) [tweeted](#), "This morning's news from #LasVegas is shocking and a devastating tragedy. We must stand united against this senseless loss of life." Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA) [tweeted](#), "This is a time for mourning & for action – Congress can offer thoughts, prayers, AND policy to prevent gun violence." Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA) [tweeted](#), "The US cannot tolerate slaughter on this scale or with this frequency. Violence has many causes but we MUST address free availability of the most powerful weapons." Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA) [tweeted](#), "Congress must work together to pass common-sense gun laws. We cannot continue to stand by as Americans are killed." Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY) [tweeted](#), "Let us honor the innocent lives lost in #LasVegas by complementing our words with action. We need a Select Committee on Gun Violence."

Pence Still Scheduled For Arizona Fundraiser On Tuesday. CNBC's Christina Wilkie [tweeted](#), "Pence will travel to Phoenix to headline a GOP fundraiser tomorrow, per WH. Optics just a day after #LasVegas could be dicey."

Budget Proposal Under Increased Critical Scrutiny Following Shooting. [CNN](#) (10/2, Kopan) reports on its website that an Administration proposal to sharply cut funding for programs which "seek to prevent domestic terrorism and prepare localities to respond...has come under increased scrutiny by critics in the wake of the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history." Among other things, the proposal would eliminate FEMA budget funding for two grant programs, Countering Violent Extremism and Complex Coordinated Terrorist Attacks, although Administration "budget documents say the program goals can be achieved" by awarding grants through the State Homeland Security Program and the Urban Area Security Initiative Program. Administration officials, however, have proposed large budget reductions for both programs.

At Least 59 Dead; Shooter's Motive Not Yet Known. Extended broadcast network newscasts and heavy reporting in national newspapers detailed the shooting and profiled the emerging facts about the perpetrator. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/2, lead story, 4:40, Muir) opened from "the scene of the worst mass shooting in American history – a lone gunman from a 32nd floor hotel window, shooting at thousands of helpless concert-goers below. ... At least 59 now killed, more than 500 injured." The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/2, lead story, 4:15, Mason) reported, "Police say the gunman, 64-year-old Stephen Paddock, of Mesquite, Nevada killed himself before

they arrived. They have not determined a motive, but they say they have found no links to terrorism." Lester Holt said in opening [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/2, lead story, 4:00), "The hearts of our nation ache tonight with a sickening familiarity: another mass murder, another taking of innocent lives on an unimaginable scale."

The [AP](#) (10/2, Ho, Cano) reports, "Country music star Jason Aldean was performing at the Route 91 Harvest Festival when the gunman apparently used a hammer-like device to smash out windows in his room and opened fire. ... The crowd, funneled tightly into a wide-open space, had little cover and no easy way to escape." The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/2, story 3, 1:35, Mason) and [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/2, story 3, 2:40, Holt) carried some eyewitness accounts, while the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/2, story 6, 2:10, Mason) also reported on how members of the crowd helped one another.

The [Las Vegas Sun](#) (10/1) reports that Clark County Sheriff Joseph Lombardo "said police believed the shooting was a 'lone wolf' attack but were looking for a roommate of Paddock for questioning. Police subsequently said they had located the woman, 62-year-old Marilou Danley, and did not believe she was involved in the incident." The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (10/2, Hill) reports that a law enforcement source said that Danley "has been out of the country for the past two weeks. Investigators were trying to arrange for her to come to Las Vegas so they can talk to her further."

[USA Today](#) (10/2, Onyanga-Omara) reports that Lombardo "described Paddock, the son of a 1960s bank robber who was on the FBI's most-wanted list after escaping from prison, as 'a distraught person intent on causing mass casualties.'" The [New York Times](#) (10/2, Times) reports, "At least 23 firearms, including a handgun, were found in Mr. Paddock's hotel suite," according to Las Vegas police, and a federal law enforcement official "said there were at least 20 rifles in the suite, along with hundreds of rounds of ammunition, including two rifles outfitted with scopes and set up on tripods in front of two big windows. Another official said that among the weapons were AR-15-style assault rifles."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/2, Bui, Zapotosky, Barrett, Berman) reports, "Gun purchase records indicate Paddock legally bought more than two dozen firearms across a period of years, according to a person close to the investigation." The [Washington Post](#) (10/2, Rosenwald, Barrett, Horton) further reports, "One of the weapons Paddock apparently used...was an AK-47-type rifle, with a stand to steady it for firing," and "video from the attack suggests Paddock may have used at least one fully automatic rifle, marking the first time such a weapon has been wielded by a public mass shooter in the United States."

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/2, story 6, 2:00, Muir), Pierre Thomas said, "The shooting from the 32nd floor coming from at least one rifle functioning like an automatic machine gun." [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/2, story 7, 2:10, Holt) also reported that "law enforcement sources" say that Paddock "may have been using semiautomatic weapons converted to fire in a full automatic mode." The [Washington Times](#) (10/2, Boyer, Persons) writes that "fully automatic weapons cannot be obtained in the US as easily as other firearms, and none of the major US mass shootings in recent decades involved one."

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/2, story 3, 3:00, Muir), Brian Ross reported that Paddock's motive "remains a mystery. ... His family remembers him as a man who grew up without convictions...and the FBI says no connection either to any overseas terror group. ... Adding to the mystery, federal officials tell ABC News, Paddock sent tens of thousands of dollars in the last few weeks to the Philippines. Paddock's only real passion appears to have been gambling. His brother Eric says Paddock recently won a \$40,000 jackpot, and was a multimillionaire." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/2, story 8, 3:20, Muir) showed a clip of Eric Paddock saying, "There's absolutely no way I can even conceive that my brother would shoot a bunch of people. ... He doesn't even have parking tickets. He has no criminal record, he has no record of any affiliations, he has nothing." On the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/2, story 4, 2:20, Mason), Jeff Pegues reported, "Until last night's mass shooting, Stephen Paddock's only run-in with law enforcement was this 2009 parking ticket."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/2, story 9, 2:30, Muir) reported that Paddock's niece Nicole Paddock wrote on Facebook, "I want to express my deepest sympathies to everyone affected by this massacre. I'm as shocked and appalled as anyone. I cannot speak to what would motivate someone to do something like this, nor what his specific motivations may have been. He never came across as religious or political. My family and I are still in shock by this news, and my heart goes out to all of those who lost or had loved ones injured in this tragedy."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/2) reports that Eric Paddock "knew his brother owned a couple of handguns but was shocked at the rapid-fire weapon apparently used." [ABC World News Tonight](#)

(10/2, story 4, 2:20, Muir) and [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/2, story 4, 2:35, Holt) profiled some of the victims. [Reuters](#) (10/2, Kumar, Sage) and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/2, Tchekmedyan, Pearce, Branson-Potts) also have reports.

Terror Experts Puzzled By ISIS Claim Of Responsibility. [The Hill](#) (10/2, Williams) reports that ISIS took credit for the mass shooting in “a statement that puzzled terror experts. ... So far, there is no evidence that ISIS was involved beyond the group’s own assurance that Paddock was ‘a soldier of the Caliphate.’” ISIS has traditionally “not been arbitrary in the attacks it claims have been carried out by its supporters. Experts who track the group closely say that when it comes to attacks in the West, if ISIS is claiming responsibility, there typically was some kind of connection between the perpetrator and the group.”

Las Vegas Hospital Trauma Center Faced “Controlled Chaos.” The [New York Times](#) (10/2, Fink) reports on the “controlled chaos” at University Medical Center in Las Vegas, “the only level-one trauma center in Nevada and one of only a few free-standing trauma units in the nation. ... But even with 11 trauma bays, three operating rooms, a CT scanner, a trauma intensive care unit and a pediatric intensive care unit all under one roof, the trauma center had never faced a torrent like this.”

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/2, story 2, 2:35, Mason), Carter Evans reported, “More than 100 gunshot victims poured into University Medical Center.” Trauma surgeon Jay Coates: “With so many people coming in so fast, we did damage control, which is stopping the process of dying.” Evans: “Move on to the next one?” Coates: “Get next one in. We did that all night.”

NRA Delays Virginia Campaign Ad Buy. [Politico](#) (10/2, Robillard) reports that the NRA “has delayed a week’s worth of television advertising in Virginia’s 2017 elections” that were set to begin airing on Tuesday. The NRA “has endorsed the entire statewide Republican ticket in Virginia,” as well as candidates for the state legislature. The ads will now begin on October 10.

Gunmaker Shares Climbed On Monday. [USA Today](#) (10/2, Shell) reports, “Shares of gunmakers jumped more than 3% Monday after a deadly mass shooting in Las Vegas.” Sturm Ruger shares were up 3.5% and American Outdoor Brands shares were up 3.2%. USA Today says that it is “not uncommon for shares of gunmakers to rise after high-profile shootings, and oftentimes the initial price moves are sparked by computer-driven trades that buy on the news.”

CBS Legal Executive Fired Over Facebook Comment About Victims. The [Daily Caller](#) (10/2) reports that Hayley Geftman-Gold, “a top legal executive at CBS,” was fired after writing on Facebook, “If they wouldn’t do anything when children were murdered I have no hope that Repugs will ever do the right thing. I’m actually not even sympathetic [because] country music fans often are Republican gun toters.” The [Washington Times](#) (10/2, Richardson) reports that CBS said in a statement, “This individual, who was with us for approximately one year, violated the standards of our company and is no longer an employee of CBS. Her views as expressed on social media are deeply unacceptable to all of us at CBS. Our hearts go out to the victims in Las Vegas and their families.” [Townhall](#) (10/2, Vespa) has a brief report.

Las Vegas Native Kimmel Addresses Gun Control In Monologue. The [Daily Beast](#) (10/3, Wilstein) reports, “Jimmy Kimmel thought he might finally get to be silly again this week,” but the Las Vegas native’s “eyes were already welling up with tears by the time he opened his mouth to speak on Monday.” Kimmel said, “Of course there’s something we can do about it. There are a lot of things we could do about it. But we don’t. Which is interesting, because when someone with a beard attacks us, we tap phones, we invoke travel bans, we build walls, we take every possible precaution to make sure it doesn’t happen again. But when an American buys a gun and kills other Americans, then there’s nothing we can do about that.” The full segment on [ABC’s Jimmy Kimmel Live](#) (10/2) ran 10 minutes.

“Top Officials”: GOP Can’t Rule Out Tax Increase For Some Middle Class Taxpayers.

The [New York Times](#) (10/2, Tankersley) reports that while the President and GOP leaders have pushed their tax plan as “a way to cut taxes on the middle class,” some “top officials are now saying the plan may not benefit everyone in that income group,” an acknowledgment that “could complicate the administration’s ability to sell the tax plan.” An analysis last week by the Tax Policy Center “found that nearly 30 percent of those in the middle class could see their taxes increase as a result of changes to the deductions and exemptions many middle-class Americans rely on to lower their tax bills.” The Times adds that “top officials acknowledged this weekend that a tax cut for everyone in the middle class may not be achievable.”

Trump Considers Executive Order On Welfare.

[Politico](#) (10/2, Restuccia) cites “two administration officials” who say the Administration is

considering “an executive order that would instruct federal agencies to review low-income assistance programs, part of a coming effort to make sweeping changes to the country’s welfare system.” The White House has begun circulating a draft order to federal agencies, which according to one official, “calls on agencies to review existing regulations and propose new rules that conform to a set of broad welfare principles, including tighter work requirements that encourage recipients to shift back into the labor force.” In addition, the order “calls for streamlining or eliminating duplicative services and establishing metrics for holding agencies accountable for program performance.” While one officials said supporters within the Administration hope the President will sign the order before Thanksgiving, another “cautioned that the conversations about the order are ‘very preliminary at this stage,’ adding that the final outcome is uncertain.”

Poll Finds Most Americans Want Federal Government To Address Climate Change.

[The Hill](#) (10/2, Cama) reports that a poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center and the Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago has found “more than 6 in 10 Americans believe that climate change is a problem that the federal government needs to address.” The poll “found a large majority of Americans in both major parties believe that climate change is happening.” However, it is “less clear” what Americans believe should be done to address it. Around “51 percent of respondents were willing to pay \$1 a month to combat global warming, a figure that dropped to 18 percent when the prospective monthly fee increased to \$100.” The Hill adds that “opinions were not entirely clear on hot-button climate policy issues, either.” Just “17 percent of respondents said they support” hydraulic fracturing, but “if the pollster said it would save the respondent significantly on natural gas bill, support averaged 41 percent.” The [AP](#) (10/2, Borenstein, Swanson) reports that “forty-two percent of those surveyed said they oppose getting out of” the Paris climate pact, “while 28 percent favored the withdrawal and 28 percent had no strong opinion.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Chaos In Catalonia.” The [New York Times](#) (10/2) says in an editorial that the actions of Spanish police during the Catalanian independence referendum “succeeded mostly in deepening a political crisis.” Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy “had the law largely on his side,” but Barcelona “now has the television images and the solidarity and sympathy they generate, leaving the prime minister looking like an intransigent bully and rendering any possible political resolution of the conflict more remote.” The Times argues that while “political solutions, probably involving greater autonomy for Catalonia,” exist, “so long as Mr. Rajoy and Mr. Puigdemont remain intransigent, these will remain out of reach.”

Washington Post.

“Catalonia Held A Referendum. Russia Won.” A [Washington Post](#) (10/2, Board) editorial says that “the Catalan nationalists’ only backers are separatist-ruled Scotland, the pariah government of Venezuela and Russia’s intelligence and propaganda apparatus,” which “evidently perceives the Catalan movement as another vehicle for dividing and weakening the democratic West.” The Post calls for “negotiations between Barcelona and Madrid,” and says “the two sides could agree on a legal means for Catalonia to hold a fair, free and legitimate vote.”

“Trump Could Help Refugees. Instead He Shrugs.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/2) writes that despite the “staggering scale” of the world’s refugee crisis, the ability of the United States to admit refugee such refugees, and the positive signal such admission would send to the world about US leadership, the Administration is failing to address the crisis. The Post argues that the message the US is sending to the world by failing to admit more refugees is dangerous and that “there is no suppressing the fact that the United States is turning its back on the world, and the world’s neediest, under the Trump administration.”

“The Worst Kind Of American Exceptionalism.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/2) editorializes, “Opponents of gun control say there is no easy fix. True. They say no law will stop every person who is intent on doing harm. True again. But America has no monopoly on evil or sick people, yet it loses far more people to gun violence.” Other countries “have demonstrated the possibility of bans on assault weapons and other common-sense restrictions. What makes America unique is the absence of political will and leadership.”

Wall Street Journal.

“An Act Of Pure Evil.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/2) focuses on the first responders and others who were selfless and courageous in getting people to safety during the Las Vegas shooting.

“Of Judges And Gerrymanders.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/2) editorializes about the case of Whitford v. Gill, scheduled for arguments before the Supreme Court today, which highlights a challenge to partisan gerrymandering in Wisconsin. After examining prior rulings on similar challenges, the Journal argues that the court should not intercede too much in partisan disputes, and should avoid making itself the arbiter of political redistricting efforts by states.

“Fruit Flies And Your Insomnia.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/2, Board) editorial.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Las Vegas Shooting Leaves At Least 59 Dead, More Than 520 Injured](#)
[In Las Vegas, Concertgoers Faced Barrage Of Bullets, Confusion](#)
[Goldman Sachs Weighs Trading Cryptocurrencies](#)
[China, With Methodical Discipline, Conjures A Market For Electric Cars](#)

New York Times:

[A Burst Of Gunfire, A Pause, Then Carnage In Las Vegas That Would Not Stop](#)
[Stephen Paddock, Las Vegas Suspect, Was A Gambler Who Drew Little Attention](#)
[Gunman’s Vantage Point And Preparations Opened The Way For Mass Slaughter](#)
[GM And Ford Lay Out Plans To Expand Electric Models](#)

Washington Post:

[Russia Exploited Ad Tool Tailored For Corporate America](#)
[Confusion, Then A Tumble Into Chaos At Concert](#)
[Arsenal And High Perch Made This Attack So Lethal](#)
[Retiree With Money To Burn Was A Gambler And Always On The Move](#)

Financial Times:

[Weapons Cache Found At Vegas Shooting Suspect’s Home](#)
[Brussels Wants Airbus-Style Consortium To Lead Battery Revolution](#)
[US Scientists Win Nobel Medicine Prize For Body Clock Research](#)

Washington Times:

[FBI Says No Terror Ties In Las Vegas Shooting Despite ISIS Claim: At Least 59 Dead, 527 Wounded](#)
[Authorities Fear Las Vegas Shooter Used Fully Automatic Machine Gun](#)
[Las Vegas Hospitals Shift Into Full Gear For Unprecedented Medical Crisis](#)
[As Abu Khattala Trial Opens, Agent Testifies About Losing Stevens And Smith In Benghazi Fire](#)
[Adversaries Challenge America’s Drone Dominance](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: Las Vegas Shooting; Las Vegas Shooting-Enforcement Response; Las Vegas Shooting-Suspect; Las Vegas Shooting-Victims; Las Vegas Shooting-Medical Response; Las Vegas Shooting-Weapons; Las Vegas Shooting-White House Response; Las Vegas Shooting-Suspect Details; Las Vegas Shooting-Eyewitness Accounts; Las Vegas Shooting-Trump Visit; Las Vegas Shooting-NYC Security; Las Vegas Shooting-US Mass Shootings; Las Vegas Shooting-Congressman Comment; Las Vegas Shooting-Survival Comments; Hurricane Recovery-Trump Puerto Rico Visit; Navy Plane Crash; Cuba-US Embassy Sonic Attacks; Russia Meddling Investigation-Facebook; Tom Petty Hospitalized; Las Vegas Shooting-Citizen Response.

CBS: Las Vegas Shooting; Las Vegas Shooting-Victims 1; Las Vegas Shooting-Eyewitness Accounts 1; Las Vegas Shooting-Suspect; Las Vegas Shooting-Suspect’s Neighbors; Las Vegas Shooting-Citizen Response; Las Vegas Shooting-White House Response; Las Vegas Shooting-Eyewitness Accounts 2; Las Vegas Shooting-Responses; Las Vegas Shooting-Recap 1; Las Vegas Shooting-Enforcement Response; Las Vegas Shooting-Victims 2; Las Vegas Shooting-Suspect’s

Family; Las Vegas Shooting-Congress Response; Las Vegas Shooting-Expert Comments; Las Vegas Shooting-Terrorism Label; Hurricane Recovery-Trump Puerto Rico Visit; Tom Petty Hospitalized; Las Vegas Shooting-Recap 2.

NBC: Las Vegas Shooting; Las Vegas Shooting-Suspect; Las Vegas Shooting-Eyewitness Accounts; Las Vegas Shooting-Victims; Las Vegas Shooting-Medical Response; Las Vegas Shooting-Weapons; Las Vegas Shooting-US Mass Shootings; Las Vegas Shooting-Recap; Las Vegas Shooting-Suspect Details; Las Vegas Shooting-Eyewitness Accounts 2; Las Vegas Shooting-Gun Control Debate; Las Vegas Shooting-Expert Comments; Las Vegas Shooting-Artist On Stage; Las Vegas Shooting-City; Las Vegas Shooting-Medical Response 2; Las Vegas Shooting-Recap 2.

Network TV At A Glance:

Las Vegas Shooting – 100 minutes, 40 seconds

Las Vegas Shooting-White House Response – 6 minutes, 55 seconds

Hurricane Recovery-Trump Puerto Rico Visit – 3 minutes, 15 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Las Vegas Shooting; Las Vegas Shooting-Suspect; Las Vegas Shooting-White House Response; Hurricane Recovery-Trump Puerto Rico Visit; Russia Meddling Investigation-Facebook.

CBS: Las Vegas Shooting; Las Vegas Shooting-Responses; Las Vegas Shooting-Trump Visit; Cuba-US Embassy Sonic Attacks; New Orleans Flooding; Mexico Earthquake Casualty; Wall Street News.

FOX: Las Vegas Shooting; Las Vegas Shooting-Responses; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach.

NPR: Las Vegas Shooting; Las Vegas Shooting-Responses; Las Vegas Shooting-Gun Control Debate.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Receives a briefing on Hurricane Maria relief efforts; receives a briefing on Hurricane Maria relief efforts; visits Cavalry Chapel; meets with the Governor Kenneth Mapp of the US Virgin Islands; participates in a briefing with senior military personnel, Governor Ricardo Rosselló of Puerto Rico, and Governor Kenneth Mapp of the US Virgin Islands; participates in a greeting with the Navy and Marine Corps.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Meets with local businesses, community leaders, and Arizona families to discuss the need for tax reform; participates in a Republican National Committee reception.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Nominations hearing considers John Mitnick to be Department of Homeland Security General Counsel Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 342, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

10:00 AM Joint Economic Committee hearing on tax reform and entrepreneurship – Hearing on 'The Startup Slump: Can Tax Reform Help Revive Entrepreneurship?', with testimony from Center for American Entrepreneurship founder and President John Dearie; VentureOhio CEO Falon Donohue; Tax Foundation President Scott Hodge; and Small Business Majority CEO and founder John Arensmeyer Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1100, Washington, DC www.jec.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/JointEconCmte>

10:00 AM Senate Finance Committee hearing on international tax reform – Hearing on 'International Tax Reform', with testimony from University of Houston Law Center Professor Bret Wells; Reed College Professor of Economics Dr Kimberly Clausing; Harvard University Law School Senior Lecturer Stephen Shay; and Georgetown University Law Center Professor Itai Grinberg Location: Rm 215, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://finance.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on administration decision to end DACA – Hearing on 'Oversight of the Administration's Decision to End Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals', with testimony from Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Division Chad Readler; Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Border Immigration and Trade Policy Michael Dougherty; and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Acting Director James McCament Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee hearing on ESSA – Hearing on 'The Every Student Succeeds Act: Unleashing State Innovation', with testimony from Tennessee Department of

Education Commissioner Dr Candice McQueen; Louisiana State Superintendent of Education John White; New Mexico Secretary of Education Christopher Ruszkowski; and Johns Hopkins Institute for Education Policy Executive Director Dr David Steiner Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Nominations hearing considers Kenneth Ian Juster to be U.S. Ambassador to India Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Hearing on 'Wells Fargo: One Year Later', with testimony from Wells Fargo & Company CEO and President Timothy Sloan Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 538, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Defense Secretary Mattis briefs Senate Armed Services Committee on Afghanistan – Hearing on 'Political and Security Situation in Afghanistan', with testimony from Secretary of Defense James Mattis; and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford, Jr. Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, SD-G50, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:15 AM Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Business Meeting – Business meeting to consider nominations of Bruce Walker to be Assistant Secretary of the Department of Energy for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability; and Steven Winberg to be Assistant Secretary of the Department of Energy for Fossil Energy Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energy.senate.gov/public/>

10:30 AM Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources hearing on energy storage technologies – Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources hearing to examine energy storage technologies, with testimony from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Electrochemical Materials & Systems Group Technical Group Manager Dr Vincent Sprenkle; AES Energy Storage Vice President Praveen Kathpal; Benchmark Mineral Intelligence Managing Director Simon Moores; and Voith Director of Engineering John Seifarth Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energy.senate.gov/public/>

11:30 AM Bicameral, bipartisan legislators announce legislation on retired miners' pensions – United Mine Workers of America press conference with Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin and Rep. Peter Welch, and Republican Sen. Shelley Moore and Rep. David McKinley, who announce new legislation to address retired miners' pensions. UMWA International President Cecil Roberts and retired miners also speak Location: U.S. Capitol, Rm S-120, East Capitol St, NE & First St SE, Washington, DC <http://www.umwa.org/>

2:00 PM Senate Foreign Relations Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Peter Henry Barlerin to be U.S. Ambassador to Cameroon; Eric Whitaker to be U.S. Ambassador to Niger; Michael James Dodman to be U.S. Ambassador to Mauritania; Nina Maria Fite to be U.S. Ambassador to Angola; Daniel Foote to be U.S. Ambassador to Zambia; and David Dale Reimer to be U.S. Ambassador to Mauritius, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as U.S. Ambassador to the Seychelles Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

2:00 PM Female Dem senators speak at rally in support of the DREAM Act – Democratic Sens. Kamala Harris, Mazie Hirono, Tammy Duckworth and Amy Klobuchar speak at rally in support of the DREAM Act, focusing on women, families and the LGBTQ community. Other speakers include United We Dream Executive Director and Co-Founder Cristina Jimenez, Center for American Progress Action Fund Executive Vice President for External Affairs Winne Stachelberg, Human Rights Campaign Government Affairs Director David Stacy, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health Executive Director Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, and MomsRising Vice President Monifa Bandle Location: Capitol Lawn, Washington, DC www.americanprogressaction.org <https://twitter.com/CAPaction>

2:30 PM Helsinki Commission hearing on combating kleptocracy – Helsinki Commission hearing on 'Combating Kleptocracy with Incorporation Transparency', with witnesses – Hudson Institute Kleptocracy Initiative Executive Director Charles Davidson, Delegation of the European Union to the U.S. Deputy Head Caroline Vicini, and FACT Coalition Executive Director Gary Kalman – examining the development of the EU's beneficial ownership transparency provisions and the success of their implementation as relates to corruption as a vector for authoritarian influence in Europe, and addressing transparency and anti-money laundering policies in the U.S. as they relate to U.S. foreign policy Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 562, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

2:30 PM Senate Energy subcommittee legislative hearing – Energy Subcommittee legislative hearing on 'S. 186, Fair Ratepayer Accountability, Transparency, and Efficiency Standards Act', 'S. 1059, Responsible Disposal Reauthorization Act', 'S. 1337, Capitalizing on American Storage Potential', 'S. 1457, Advanced Nuclear Technologies Act', 'S. 1799, Energy Technology Maturation

Act', 'S. 1860, Parity Across Reviews Act', and 'H.R. 1109, To amend section 203 of the Federal Power Act', with testimony from Federal Energy Regulatory Commission General Counsel James Danly; and Department of Energy Deputy General Counsel for Energy Policy Bernard McNamee Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energy.senate.gov/public/>
2:30 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

3:15 PM VeteransAgainstAlzheimer's Network launched at Congressional Reception – VeteransAgainstAlzheimer's Network launched at Congressional Reception with Republican Sens. Shelley Moore Capito, Susan Collins, Thom Tillis, Pat Toomey and ROger Wicker, Democratic Sens. Ed Markey, Kirsten Gillibrand (invited) and Mark Warner (invited), and Veterans of Foreign Wars National Veterans Service Director Ryan Gallucci Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 106, Washington, DC www.usagainstalzhaimers.org <https://twitter.com/usagainstalz>

Senate HELP Committee Executive Session – Executive Session, with agenda including nominations of Patrick Pizzella to be Deputy Secretary of Labor; Janet Dhillon and Dr Daniel Gade to be Equal Employment Opportunity Commission members (with Dhillon to be chair, upon confirmation); and Carlos Muniz to be Department of Education General Counsel Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

US House: 10:00 AM Natural Resources subcommittee hearing on 'H.R. 3400, Recreation Not Red-Tape Act' – Federal Lands Subcommittee legislative hearing on 'H.R. 3400, Recreation Not Red-Tape Act', with testimony from former Congressman Nick Joe Rahall; Outdoor Alliance Policy Director Louis Geltman, Western River Expeditions President Brian Merrill, and Southwest Conservation Corps Associate Director Kevin Heiner Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on the DHS's cybersecurity mission – Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining DHS's Cybersecurity Mission', with testimony from Department of Homeland Security National Protection and Programs Directorate Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Under Secretary Christopher Krebs; DHS National Protection and Programs Directorate Assistant Secretary for Cybersecurity and Communications Jeanette Manfra; and Department of Energy Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability Acting Assistant Secretary Patricia Hoffman Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

10:00 AM Joint Economic Committee hearing on tax reform and entrepreneurship – Hearing on 'The Startup Slump: Can Tax Reform Help Revive Entrepreneurship?', with testimony from Center for American Entrepreneurship founder and President John Dearie; VentureOhio CEO Falon Donohue; Tax Foundation President Scott Hodge; and Small Business Majority CEO and founder John Arensmeyer Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1100, Washington, DC www.jec.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/JointEconCmte>

10:00 AM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on online sex trafficking and the Communications Decency Act – Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Online Sex Trafficking and the Communications Decency Act', with testimony from U.S. Naval Academy Assistant Professor Jeff Kosseff; Catholic University Columbus School of Law Professor of Law Mary Leary; and Engine Executive Director Evan Engstrom Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM FHFA Director Watt testifies to House Financial Services Committee – Hearing on 'Sustainable Housing Finance: An Update from the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency', with testimony from FHFA Director Mel Watt Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Technology Committee hearing on electric grid resiliency – Hearing on 'Resiliency: The Electric Grid's Only Hope', with testimony from University of Illinois Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering head Dr William Sanders; Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Electricity Market Sector manager Carl Imhoff; Houston Advanced Research Center Clean Energy Policy Program director Dr Gavin Dillingham; and Texas Public Power Association executive director Walt Baum Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM House Infrastructure subcommittee hearing on USCG stakeholders' perspectives – Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee hearing on 'Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Coast Guard Stakeholders' Perspectives and Jones Act Fleet Capabilities', with testimony from U.S. Coast Guard Assistant Commandant for Human Resources Rear Adm. William Kelly; Assistant Commandant for Engineering and Logistics Rear Adm. Melvin

Bouboulis; American Maritime Partnership Chairman Thomas Allegretti; Seafarers International Union Executive Vice President Augustin Tellez; Tote President and CEO Anthony Chiarello; Crowley Senior Vice President Michael Roberts; and Shipbuilders Council of America President Matthew Paxton Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM Former Equifax CEO testifies to House Commerce subcommittee – Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee hearing on 'Oversight of the Equifax Data Breach: Answers for Consumers', with testimony from former Equifax CEO Richard Smith, who retired with immediate effect between the announcement of the hearing and today * Follows Equifax data breach that potentially exposed the personal information of 143 million Americans Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC
<http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:15 AM House Democratic Leaders to Hold Post-Caucus Press Conference – Participants: Linda Sánchez (D-California), Vice Chair of the Democratic Caucus; Mike Thompson (D-California), Chair of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force; Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-New Mexico), Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. Location: HVC Studio A — Capitol Visitor Center

10:15 AM House Energy and Commerce subcommittee hearing on patient access to investigational drugs – Health Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining Patient Access to Investigational Drugs', with testimony from Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Dr Scott Gottlieb; Republican Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick; Goldwater Institute Healthcare Policy Director Naomi Lopez-Bauman; Cognition Therapeutics President and CEO Kenneth Moch; and Friends of Cancer Research Chairperson and Founder Dr Ellen Sigal Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2322, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

11:00 AM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/ <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

11:00 AM GOP Rep. Walter Jones announces FOIA lawsuit regarding 2000 V-22 crash – Republican Rep. Walter Jones announces the filing of a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit seeking all records pertaining to the 2000 V-22 Osprey crash in Marana, AZ, that claimed the lives of 19 Marines. Rep. Jones is joined by attorney Mark Zaid and the widows and family of Marines Brooks Gruber and John Brow in his call for the release of documents 'that may explain why they were unfairly and incorrectly blamed' for the crash Location: U.S. Capitol, House Triangle, East Capitol St NE & First St SE, Washington, DC jones.house.gov
<https://twitter.com/repwalterjones>

11:30 AM Bicameral, bipartisan legislators announce legislation on retired miners' pensions – United Mine Workers of America press conference with Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin and Rep. Peter Welch, and Republican Sen. Shelley Moore and Rep. David McKinley, who announce new legislation to address retired miners' pensions. UMWA International President Cecil Roberts and retired miners also speak Location: U.S. Capitol, Rm S-120, East Capitol St, NE & First St SE, Washington, DC <http://www.umwa.org/>

12:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on Iraq and Syria – Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee hearing on 'Iraq and Syria Genocide Emergency Relief and Accountability', with testimony from former Rep. Frank Wolf; Yazidi survivor of the Islamic State group enslavement 'Shireen'; and Chaldean Catholic Archdiocese of Erbil Director of Internationally Displaced Persons Assistance Stephen Rasche Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

12:00 PM House of Representatives meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including 'S. 652 – Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2408 – Protecting Girls' Access to Education in Vulnerable Settings Act', 'H.R. 1918 – Nicaraguan Investment Conditionality Act (NICA) of 2017', 'H.R. 1624 – Municipal Finance Support Act of 2017', and 'H.R. 36 – Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

12:00 PM 45th March for Life theme announced at Capitol Hill briefing – March for Life Education and Defense Fund announce the theme for the 45th annual March for Life (19 Jan), via Capitol Hill briefing hosted by Republican Rep. Diane Black and panel discussion with March for Life Education and Defense Fund President Jeanne Mancini, Northwest Center Executive Director Susan Gallucci, Charlotte Lozier Institute President Chuck Donovan, and Alliance Defending Freedom Director of Alliance Relations Alison Howard Centofante Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-201, First St NE, Washington, DC www.marchforlife.org
https://twitter.com/March_for_Life

1:00 PM House Armed Services Committee hearing on defense strategy in South Asia – House Armed Services Committee hearing on ‘U.S. Defense Strategy in South Asia’, with testimony from Secretary of Defense James Mattis and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2118, Washington, DC armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

2:00 PM House Energy subcommittee latest hearing on ‘Defining Reliability in a Transforming Electricity Industry’ – Energy Subcommittee hearing on ‘Part II: Powering America: Defining Reliability in a Transforming Electricity Industry’, with testimony from American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity CEO Paul Bailey; American Petroleum Institute Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer Marty Durbin; American Wind Energy Association CEO Tom Kiernan; Nuclear Energy Institute CEO Maria Korsnick; Natural Resources Defense Council Energy & Transportation Program Sustainable FERC Project Director John Moore; Solar Energy Industries Association President and CEO Abigail Ross Hopper; Energy Storage Association CEO Kelly Speakes-Backman; and Chelan County PUD General Manager Steve Wright (on behalf of National Hydropower Association) Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

2:00 PM House Oversight and Government Reform / Armed Services subcommittees joint hearing on use of canines in security – House Homeland Security Committee Subcommittee on Transportation and Protective and House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee hold joint hearing on ‘Innovations in Security: Examining the Use of Canines’, with testimony from American Kennel Club Vice President of Government Relations Sheila Goffe; Orlando Police Department Lt. Scott Smith; and University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine Penn Vet Working Dog Center Director Cynthia Otto Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

2:00 PM House Oversight subcommittee hearing on ‘Cybersecurity of the Internet of Things’ – Information Technology Subcommittee hearing on ‘Cybersecurity of the Internet of Things’, with testimony from U.S. Chamber of Commerce Cybersecurity Policy Executive Director Matthew Eggers; Atlantic Council Cyber Statecraft Initiative Director Josh Corman; The Software Alliance Senior Director of Policy Tommy Ross; and VMware Chief Technology Officer Ray O’Farrell Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2247, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

2:30 PM Helsinki Commission hearing on combating kleptocracy – Helsinki Commission hearing on ‘Combating Kleptocracy with Incorporation Transparency’, with witnesses – Hudson Institute Kleptocracy Initiative Executive Director Charles Davidson, Delegation of the European Union to the U.S. Deputy Head Caroline Vicini, and FACT Coalition Executive Director Gary Kalman – examining the development of the EU’s beneficial ownership transparency provisions and the success of their implementation as relates to corruption as a vector for authoritarian influence in Europe, and addressing transparency and anti-money laundering policies in the U.S. as they relate to U.S. foreign policy Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 562, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

3:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on ‘H. Con. Res. 71 – Establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027’ Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

3:30 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on ‘securing the peace’ after the fall of the Islamic State group – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on ‘Securing the Peace After the Fall of ISIL’, with testimony from Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Stability and Humanitarian Affairs Mark Swayne; Joint Staff J-5 Middle East Division Director USMC Brig. Gen. James Bierman; State Department Deputy Assistant Secretary for Iraq Joseph Pennington; State Department Global Coalition to Defeat ISIS Director Pamela Quanrud; former U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker; American Enterprise Institute Resident Scholar Dr Kenneth Pollack; and George Washington University Professor of Political Science Dr Marc Lynch Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2212, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

4:00 PM House Natural Resources Committee markup hearing begins – Markup hearing begins on ‘H.R. 210, Native American Energy Act’, ‘H.R. 424, Gray Wolf State Management Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 717, Listing Reform Act’, ‘H.R. 1274, State, Tribal and Local Species Transparency Act and Recovery Act’, ‘H.R. 1488, The Indiana Dunes National Park Act’, ‘H.R. 2600, To provide for the conveyance to the State of Iowa of the reversionary interest held by the United States in certain land in Pottawattamie County, Iowa, and for other purposes’, ‘H.R. 2603, Saving

America's Endangered Species Act' ('SAVES Act'), 'H.R. 2897, To authorize the Mayor of the District of Columbia and the Director of the National Park Service to enter into cooperative management agreements for the operation, maintenance, and management of units of the National Park System in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes', and 'H.R. 3131, Endangered Species Litigation Reasonableness Act' * Concludes tomorrow Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/NatResources>

5:30 PM 'Syria's Disappeared: The Case Against Assad' TLHRC screening and panel discussion – Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hosts 'Syria's Disappeared: The Case Against Assad' film screening and panel discussion, with opening remarks from TLHRC Co-Chair Rep. James McGovern and panelists former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues Stephen Rapp and Syrian survivor of torture Mazen Alhumada. The film tells the story of tens of thousands of men, women and children who disappeared at the hands of the Assad regime into a network of clandestine detention centers Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1539, Washington, DC <http://tlhrc.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/TLHRCCommission>

Other: 8:45 AM Bipartisan Reps. Ed Royce and Eliot Engel at 'Hezbollah's Role in Iran's Global Illicit Networks' event – 'Hezbollah's Role in Iran's Global Illicit Networks' breakfast event, hosted by the Foundation for Defense of Democracies and its Center on Sanctions and Illicit Finance. Speakers include House Committee on Foreign Affairs Chairman Ed Royce and Ranking Member Eliot Engel, former Drug Enforcement Administration Special Operations Division Special Agent in Charge Derek Maltz, and FDD Senior Vice President Jonathan Schanzer and Center on Sanctions and Illicit Finance Director of Analysis Yaya Fanusie Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2200, Washington, DC www.defenddemocracy.org <https://twitter.com/FollowFDD>

9:00 AM Washington Post Live Cybersecurity Summit – Washington Post Live Cybersecurity Summit, convening govt leaders, business executives and security experts to discuss and debate top issues in cybersecurity. Speakers include Republican Rep. Will Hurd, former Special Adviser to the President on Cyber Security Richard Clarke, former National Security Agency Director and CIA Director Gen. (Ret.) Michael Hayden, White House Cybersecurity Coordinator Rob Joyce, Ridge Global President Christopher Furlow, Center for Democracy and Technology's Freedom, Security, and Technology Project Deputy Director Michelle Richardson, and national security journalist Marcy Wheeler Location: The Washington Post, 1301 K St NW, Washington, DC
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/> <https://twitter.com/washingtonpost>

10:00 AM 'Gill v. Whitford' Rally – Schwarzenegger – Rally outside the Supreme Court to oppose partisan gerrymandering. Participants: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Actor, athlete, former Republican Governor of California; Gerry Hebert, Gill v. Whitford litigator, Senior Director, Voting Rights and Redistricting, Campaign Legal Center; Wendy Sue Johnson, Gill v. Whitford plaintiff, Wisconsin resident; Karen Hobert Flynn, President, Common Cause, filed amicus brief in the case; Rachel Brewer, Represent. Us, the nation's largest grassroots anti-corruption campaign which filed amicus brief on the case; David Jolly, Republican former U.S. Representative for Florida's 13th Congressional District; John C. Yang, Executive Director, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, signed on to civil rights' groups amicus brief in support of fair maps; Wylecia Wiggs Harris, CEO, League of Women Voters; Will Fischer, VoteVets; Michele Jawando, Center for American Progress Action; Sachin Chheda, Fair Elections Project (Wisconsin), helped organize and launch the case; Kristen CI Location: In front of the United States Supreme Court Building 1 First Street, NE.

12:00 PM Media Conference Call on Needed Safety Fixes to Senate AV Bil – Coalition of leading safety and consumer advocates, and families of victims of deadly vehicle defects, will call on the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation to include "much needed changes" to a bill on autonomous vehicles (AV) which allows "hundreds of thousands of self-driving cars to get exemptions from federal motor vehicle safety standards". Participants: U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Member of the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation; Senator Ed Markey (D-MA), Member of the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation; Laura Christian, mother of Amber Marie Rose, who was killed in a GM ignition switch defect crash in 2005; Angelina Sujata, victim of defective Takata airbag; Joan Claybrook, Former Administrator, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration; Steve Hargarten, emergency physician and Medical College of Wisconsin professor; Jackie Gillan, President, Advocates for Highway and Auto Safety; Jack Gillis, Director of Public Affairs, C Location: TBD

2:30 PM House Republican Study Committee members speak at Heritage Foundation on tax relief – Heritage Foundation hosts 'Tax Relief for the American People' conversation with members of the House Republican Study Committee, including Chairman Rep. Mark Walker and fellow GOP Reps. Jim Banks, Andy Barr, and Jeff Duncan Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

Bureau of Industry and Security annual Update Conference – Update 2017: Department of Commerce Bureau of Industry and Security 30th Annual Conference on Export Controls and Policy, this year themed 'Protecting American Technology – Growing American Industry'. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross keynotes, with other speakers including Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisitions, Technology and Logistics Ellen Lord Location: Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.commerce.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/CommerceGov>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "There are a lot of things we can do about it. But we don't, which is interesting because when someone with a beard attacks us, we tap phones, we invoke travel bans, we build walls to take every possible precaution to make sure it doesn't happen again. But when an American buys a gun and kills other Americans, then there's nothing we can do about it. The Second Amendment, I guess, our forefathers wanted us to have AK-47s is the argument."

Jimmy Kimmel: "The White House Press Secretary Sara Sanderson said this morning it was not the time for political debate. I don't know. We have 59 innocent people dead. It wasn't their time either."

Stephen Colbert: "Last week, Rep. Steve Scalise returned to the floor and was greeted with a bipartisan, hero's welcome. It was the kind of moment that gives hope that Congress might work together for the common good. And the bar is so low that Congress can be heroes by doing literally anything."

Stephen Colbert: "You know you work for the Trump administration when one of the worst disasters in history seems like a good news story to you."

Trevor Noah: "Every time there is a shooting, you got to look at something else. Is it Muslims? Is it their religion, is that what it is? Is it blacks? It is a black-on-black crime, it is mentally ill people, is it white nationalists? Every time, it's a different question. And now, now after this incident in Las Vegas, we're asking a new question. Is it hotels?"

Trevor Noah: "Just to give you an idea of how far away America is from actual gun control, this week Congress is going to vote on deregulating gun silencers. Because I guess Congress is thinking gun violence is out of control, they were like, 'How can we make it quieter?'"

Trevor Noah: "Earlier this week, the Secretary of State revealed that he has a direct line of communication with North Korea, which is a big deal considering North Korea is threatening to launch a nuclear weapon at the US. Unfortunately for the rest of us, President Trump has a direct line of communication with Twitter."

Trevor Noah: "Wow, really? The hurricane-ravaged people of Puerto Rico are lazy. This coming from a man who spent 71 days of his presidency at a golf course, really? A sport where you are so lazy you need an assistant."

Seth Meyers: "In a new interview, House Speaker Paul Ryan said he thinks President Trump's heart is in the right place on race relations. Oh, sorry, I misread that, his heart is in the white place."

Seth Meyers: "A new media study has found that only one in ten stories offered a positive assessment of the Trump Administration, while the other nine were true."

Seth Meyers: "Former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger will speak at a rally tomorrow against gerrymandering. Admission is free, but I would still pay \$1,000 just to hear him say 'gerrymandering.'"

Seth Meyers: "After President Trump tweeted yesterday that Secretary of State Rex Tillerson is

wasting his time trying to negotiate with North Korea, Politico published an article titled, 'Should Rex Tillerson Resign?' Replied Tillerson, 'I resigned months ago, has nobody noticed?'"

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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DOI In The News

Nate Batters Weary Southeast With Heavy Rains, Flooding.

[USA Today](#) (10/8, Bacon, Stanglin) reported that Hurricane Nate "blasted onto the Gulf Coast and lashed much of the Southeast with heavy rains and winds Sunday, fading to a tropical depression but still knocking out power to more than 100,000 people and driving rivers of water through the streets of many communities." Crews "were plucked off drilling rigs in the Gulf of Mexico and other rigs were moved out of the storm's path before Nate hit, the Interior Department said."

[CBS News](#) (10/9) reports that "more than 40 percent of manned oil- and gas-producing platforms in the Gulf of Mexico have been evacuated, according to an update from the Interior Department."

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/8, Doan) says a government report says that "'no damages have been reported.' If that holds true, Monday's report may show a jump in oil and natural gas production in the Gulf of Mexico." Chevron Corp. and Enbridge Inc. "were already returning workers to offshore platforms Sunday, and the U.S. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement said in Sunday's report that it expected facilities to be 'brought back on line immediately' after operators had done the standard checks."

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (10/6) reported that the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement's New Orleans office "said in a news release that as of midday Thursday, six production platforms, out of the 737 manned platforms in the Gulf, had been evacuated. No drilling rigs were evacuated, but one moveable rig was taken out of the storm's path."

Additional coverage is provided by the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (10/7, Press), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/6), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/6), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/8, Parraga, Seba), the [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (10/6, Galeano), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/6), and the [Boston \(MA\) Globe](#) (10/7, Amy).

About 85 Percent Of U.S. Gulf Oil Output Offline Due To Nate: Agency. [Reuters](#) (10/9) reports that about 85 percent of US Gulf of Mexico oil production "is offline in the aftermath of Hurricane Nate, the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) said on Monday." That amounts to "about 1.49 million barrels per day in production that is offline, according to BSEE," who also said that about 65 percent of Gulf natural gas production remains offline.

[Reuters](#) (10/8, Parraga, Seba) reported Nate "forced the closure of more than triple the volume of Gulf offshore crude production than Hurricane Harvey did from late August to early September, according to the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement."

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (10/9, Davis) reports, "Nate, which traversed a rich natural gas and oil production area of the GOM before coming ashore, through midday Monday still was

forcing the shut-in of 64.78%, or 2.086 Bcf/d of natural gas, based on operator reports submitted to the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement."

Ahead of Nate, [Reuters](#) (10/6) reported, that "about 71 percent" of US Gulf of Mexico oil production was offline, according to the BSEE, while "about 53.2 percent" of Gulf natural gas production remained offline.

Hurricane Nate Shuts In 92 Pct Of U.S. Gulf Of Mexico Oil Output. [Reuters](#) (10/7) reports that by Saturday, Hurricane Nate had "shut in 92 percent of oil output and 77 percent of natural gas production in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico on Saturday, according to the latest U.S. government estimate." The storm had "halted offshore production amounting to 1.61 million barrels per day of oil and 2.48 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement said on Saturday."

The [Daily Mail](#) (10/7) reports, [U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/7)

Oil Prices Stable As OPEC Says Market Is Rebalancing. [Reuters](#) (10/10) reports that oil prices "were steady on Tuesday as OPEC said there were clear signs the market was rebalancing and as U.S. production remained offline following Hurricane Nate." US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures "were trading at \$49.66 per barrel at 0442 GMT, up 8 cents, or 0.2 percent, from their last close." Brent crude futures "were up 7 cents, or 0.1 percent, at \$55.86 a barrel." Reuters adds that short-term price support "was also coming from the United States, where 85 percent of U.S. Gulf of Mexico oil production, or 1.49 million barrels a day, was offline following Hurricane Nate, according to the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement late on Monday."

House Preps Bill Curbing Presidential Power To Create Monuments.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/9, Siegel, Ferrechio) reports that House lawmakers on Wednesday will vote "to advance legislation that would limit the power of the president to designate public land as national monuments." The National Monument Creation and Protection Act "'standardizes and limits the president's power to reshape monuments,' according to the House Natural Resources Committee, which introduced the bill Monday and has scheduled a panel markup for Oct. 11." The article notes that President Trump "ordered the Interior Department to undertake a review of 27 national monuments shortly after his inauguration. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke issued a report to Trump in August, but the White House has not yet acted on the review."

[The Hill](#) (10/9, Henry) reports the legislation "comes as the Interior Department recommends President Trump shrink a handful of large monument designations made since the 1990s." The Natural Resources Committee on Wednesday "will also consider ranking Democrat Raúl Grijalva's (Ariz.) resolution requiring Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke share with Congress more information related to his national monuments review."

Zinke Says No Monuments To Be Removed From Federal Land.

[Breitbart](#) (10/8) reports that in an exclusive interview with Breitbart's Amanda House, Interior Secretary Zinke "ruled out bowing to activist pressure to tear down historical monuments" at federal lands and parks. When asked to weigh in on calls to remove monuments to George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, or even Christopher Columbus, Zinke said, "No monuments are going to be removed from federal land. ... I think we should never hide from our history or erase our history. I think we should embrace the history and understand the faults and learn from it. But when you try to erase history, what happens is you also erase how it happened and why it happened and the ability to learn from it."

Decarlo: Attacks On Columbus In Fact May Threaten Values Of Western Civilization. In a [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/8) op-ed, former Chicago Tribune reporter Angela Rocco Decarlo writes that Christopher Columbus was a pioneering individual whose accomplishments helped usher in the Renaissance and provided a key point in the development of Western civilization. Decarlo argues that those seeking to delegitimize Columbus' legacy in fact may be targeting the values and achievements of Western civilization he helped progress.

Interior Secretary Zinke: Trump Committed To Everglades Projects.

As part of a trip to Florida to "assess hurricane damage and Everglades restoration projects," the [AP](#) (10/6), Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "said President Donald Trump was committed to fast-tracking costly and long-delayed Everglades restoration projects. He said the administration would remove bureaucratic obstacles to restoring natural freshwater flows through the wetlands." Preserve employees "applauded Zinke's announcement that new park service uniforms better suited to the humid, mosquito-infested climate were being designed."

[WFOR-TV](#) Miami (10/7) reports, "More work is still needed to repair damage done by Hurricane Irma to the Florida Everglades and on Saturday, Senator Marco Rubio and U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke got a first-hand look." Zinke is quoted saying, "We all understand how important our parks are, not only for stewardship and protection of American lands, but also for the local communities. ... Our park employees have been devastated, too."

Additional coverage is provided by the [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (10/6), the [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (10/6), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#). (10/6, Kay)

Oil Exploration In Everglades To Resume. The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (10/9, Flesher) reports that Burnett Oil Co., after gaining approval from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, is set to resume testing for the presence of oil. The company is planning to test a 110-square-mile region with steel plates, within the Big Cypress National Preserve in the Everglades. Environmental groups objected to the testing argue it could harm wildlife habitats.

Obama Interior Secretaries Spent Over \$971,000 On Non-commercial Air Travel.

[CNN](#) (10/9, Marsh) reports, "Just over \$971,000 was spent on non-commercial travel for interior secretaries in the Obama administration during a seven-year period, according to records obtained by CNN." That includes "travel on both chartered planes as well as on Interior Department aircraft." The Interior Department "submitted records detailing the non-commercial travel of former secretaries Ken Salazar and Sally Jewell to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, saying \$971,634 was spent on 81 trips." The non-commercial travel for current Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "has so far cost \$72,849 on six trips since he took office in March."

Additional coverage is provided by the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/9, Siciliano), [WPIX-TV New York \(NY\)](#) New York (10/9), and [Newsmax](#) (10/9, Morrison).

Trump's White House Wrestles With Cabinet Costs. The [Boston Globe](#) (10/9, Harwell) reports the Trump Administration, "one of the wealthiest in modern US history, is facing widening criticism over travel expenditures among some of the billionaires, budget hawks, and business executives who head federal agencies." Inspectors general "have opened at least five investigations into charter or military flights by Cabinet officials amounting to millions in federal spending." Zinke, "a former Montana congressman and Navy SEAL commander, flew for official business but spoke in Las Vegas to a campaign donor's hockey team, spent a few weekends near his homes out West, and attended political fund-raisers from Montana to the Virgin Islands. His wife, Lola, often accompanied him on the trips." An Interior spokesman "said the department 'has always and will always work to ensure all officials follow appropriate rules and regulations when traveling.'"

Additional coverage is provided by the [Montana Standard](#) (10/9), [Business Insider](#) (10/10), [Bloomberg View](#) (10/8, Hunt), the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (10/8, Pearson), the [Boston Globe](#) (10/9, Harwell), [MSNBC](#) (10/6), [CNN International](#) (10/6, Marsh, Wallace, CNN), [Reuters](#) (10/6, Reuters), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/6, Bump), [Reuters](#) (10/6, Volcovici), [Yahoo! News](#) (10/6, Editoreditor), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/6, Dennis), the [Financial Times](#) (10/6, Lynch), and [NBC News](#) (10/6).

Zinke's Private Flight Could Hurt His Political Aspirations In Montana. The [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (10/6) editorialized that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "dismissal of a private charter flight on the U.S. taxpayers' dime as 'a little BS over travel' smacks of the kind of arrogance that infests the 'swamp' the Trump administration has vowed to drain." However, "Zinke is reminded that if he has a political future after the Trump administration, it will most likely lie in the hands of Montana voters. And if he comes back home to run for office, the kind of baggage that comes with dismissing the needless spending of \$12,000 in taxpayer money as 'a little BS' is not going to sit well with those voters."

Interior Secretary Zinke Invokes Teddy Roosevelt As Model, But His Public Land Policies Don't.

Boise State University Professor and Andrus Center for Public Policy Executive Director John Freemuth writes in the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (10/6, George Danby |, BDN) that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "recommendations to shrink four national monuments and allow fossil fuel development activities on others is just the latest sign that this administration sees natural resource use and extraction as the highest priority for public lands." Freemuth says that while Zinke has invoked Teddy Roosevelt as a model, some say that so far he is "all Roosevelt hat and no Roosevelt action."

Watchdog Group Requests Hatch Act Probe Of Zinke's Appearance At Virgin Islands.

[Politico](#) (10/6, Juliano, Lefebvre, Whieldon) reported that a watchdog group “is asking the Justice Department’s Office of Special Counsel to open a Hatch Act investigation into Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke after POLITICO reported he had appeared at a political fundraiser in the U.S. Virgin Islands while on an official trip less than a month after being confirmed.” Politico adds that “donors who gave the Virgin Islands Republican Party between \$1,500 and \$5,000 per couple were invited to get their photos taken with Zinke at the March 30 event, according to a copy of the invitation seen by POLITICO and Zinke’s official schedule.” The nonprofit Campaign Legal Center “says that activity may have run afoul of the federal law prohibiting federal officials from using government resources to engage in partisan political activity.”

The Energy 202: Here’s How Trump’s Sage Grouse Fix Could Backfire.

In continuing coverage, Dino Grandoni writes in the [Washington Post](#) (10/6) saying, “Another day, another regulatory rollback from the Trump administration: This week, the Interior Department took another step toward reopening a conservation controversy over the sage grouse.” However, “unlike most other regulatory changes undertaken by the Trump administration, this one doesn’t have the full endorsement of local Republican politicians representing states with energy interests.” And with good reason: “It could backfire, impose even more stringent regulations on Western states and energy companies operating in them and reshape the region’s economy in way those governors never asked for.”

Additional coverage is provided by the [Southwest Colorado Journal](#) (10/6), the [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (10/6), [KMGH-TV Denver \(CO\)](#) Denver (10/6), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (10/9).

Nevada Gov. Sandoval Backs BLM Decision To End Sage Grouse Lands Withdrawal.

The [Sierra \(CA\) Sun](#) (10/7) reports that Gov. Brian Sandoval “says he supports the decision by the Bureau of Land Management to cancel the withdrawal of western lands in six states from mining and exploration activities.” Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke “signed an order Thursday, Oct. 5, loosening the restrictions on energy development and mining activities in sage grouse habitat areas. The new ruled also offer states more flexibility in managing the grouse population.”

[Nevada Appeal](#) (10/6) reports that Sandoval said in a statement, “Mining has not been identified as a widespread, significant threat to the sage grouse and I appreciate the Department of Interior recognizing the overreach of this action, which had such significant economic impact on our state mining and exploration industries.”

Storm Brews Over New England’s National Monument Offshore.

The [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (10/8) reports that “ever since President Trump announced he would review his predecessor’s creation of national monuments, Mainers have been focused on the future of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in northern Maine.” But a second New England monument “also fell under the review conducted by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, one that scientists and conservationists say is essential for understanding the rapid changes going on in the Gulf of Maine and northeast Atlantic.” The article says that Zinke “has recommended that the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument...be opened to commercial fishing, a move proponents say would defeat its purpose.”

National Parks Need Investment From Private Companies To Thrive.

Frank Hugelmeyer writes in the [Denver Post](#) (10/6, Hugelmeyer) that as “millions of Americans will head to America’s iconic public lands and waters to soak up what’s left of warmer weather and get a glimpse of fall’s renowned foliage,” it’s “time our national parks, waterways and other public outdoor spaces get the attention they deserve.” Improvements to “our outdated recreation infrastructure have gone largely unaddressed by both political parties for decades, no matter who lives in the White House or is in the majority on Capitol Hill,” and it is “time for that to change.” The good news “is Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is trying something different. He has laid out a course of action that addresses the nearly \$20 billion maintenance backlog crippling many of our outdoor spaces and emphasizes the need to modernize services, lodging, marinas and campgrounds. His proposal invites Americans to fully utilize their public outdoor spaces and leverage proven public-private partnerships.”

Interior Department Worked Behind The Scenes With Energy Industry To Reverse Royalties Rule.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, Eilperin) reports that top Interior Department officials “worked privately with energy industry representatives during the first weeks of the Trump administration to suspend a new accounting system that would have forced companies to pay millions of dollars more in royalties to the government, documents show.” The push to suspend the Obama-era rule, “which is the subject of three federal lawsuits in Wyoming, took on a sense of urgency after an attorney for the coal company Cloud Peak Energy first suggested the move in late January.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council Votes To Oust President.

The [AP](#) (10/9) reports a Montana Indian tribe “has voted to oust its president for reportedly neglecting his duties and violating tribal bylaws. But President Jace Killsback said he plans to stay in office after a tribal court ruled last week that the complaint against him was not sworn under oath and not specific enough.” It was “not clear Friday if the Bureau of Indian Affairs would recognize the council’s vote. Spokeswoman Nedra Darling did not return phone calls seeking comment. The BIA office was closed for a federal holiday on Monday.”

The article was also picked up by the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (10/9), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/9), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/9), and the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (10/6).

U.S. Attorney Declined To Step Into Fort Peck Civil Rights Case, BIA Says.

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (10/8) reports the US Attorney’s Office in Montana “declined to pursue a civil rights case before an investigation into the so-called ‘wino roundup’ was completed on the Fort Peck Reservation, according to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.” In addition to launching an Internal Affairs investigation, the BIA “alerted the FBI and the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Montana, according to a BIA spokeswoman. While the investigation was still ongoing, federal prosecutors declined to take action.”

Review Of Dakota Access Oil Pipeline To Extend Into Spring.

The [AP](#) (10/9, Nicholson) reports it “probably will take until next spring for the Army Corps of Engineers to finish court-ordered additional environmental study of the Dakota Access oil pipeline, agency attorneys said in court documents filed Friday.” The Corps “had anticipated completing the task by the end of the year, but Justice Department attorney Matthew Marinelli said it will take longer than expected to get needed information including spill modeling from Texas-based pipeline developer Energy Transfer Partners and possibly from at least one unspecified American Indian tribe.”

Native Community To Honor Indigenous People’s Day.

The [AP](#) (10/9, Press) reports Native American organizers “are spending Columbus Day spreading awareness of a campaign to support legislation in Baltimore to change the name of the holiday to Indigenous People’s Day.” The event “will take place on Monday at the Baltimore American Indian Center, where leaders from the Baltimore Native American community will share information about the campaign.”

The [AP](#) (10/9) reports a central Kentucky community “is planning a ceremony and other festivities to recognize Native American heritage.” A statement from the Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission “says the city of Stanford will celebrate its first Indigenous Peoples’ Day at the Lincoln County Courthouse on Monday.”

Federal Court Recommends Dismissal Of Homeless Claims.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (10/8) reports that a federal court “is recommending dismissal of a civil complaint filed on behalf of more than two dozen homeless residents of the Fort Peck Indian Reservation who were jailed to prevent them from panhandling during a rodeo weekend in Wolf Point in 2013.” US Magistrate Judge John Johnston “granted attorney Daniel Flaherty’s motion to withdraw on Sept. 19 after he reported being unable to contact lead plaintiff Reba Demarrais.” A 2014 Bureau of Indian Affairs investigation “concluded that four tribal law enforcement officers illegally arrested and detained 29 people in violation of their civil and Constitutional rights.”

Economic Development Surging In New Mexico Tribal Community.

The [AP](#) (10/7) reported that “an entire neighborhood dating back to the mid-1900s is being

remodeled. ... There's a building boom going on throughout Zuni Pueblo, signs that economic development has found its way to the western New Mexico tribal community." While the pueblo "has been traditionally against developing casinos on the reservation, the previous administration sought a gaming compact with New Mexico in 2014 and the Bureau of Indian Affairs approved it in August 2015."

The article was also picked up by the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/7), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/7), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/7).

Bureau Of Land Management

Utah Rep. Smith's Chief Of Staff Named BLM Deputy Director.

The [AP](#) (10/6) reports that Utah Rep. Chris Stewart's chief of staff Brian Steed "has been named a deputy director at the U.S. Bureau of Land Management." The [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (10/6) reported the appointment "signals an increased Utah influence at the federal agency just as it takes on key issues such as Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recommendation that President Donald Trump reduce the size of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments."

Nevada Trial Of Cliven Bundy Postponed After Las Vegas Massacre.

[Reuters](#) (10/7, Coffman) reports a federal judge in Nevada "postponed the trial of rancher Cliven Bundy for his role in an armed standoff with U.S. government agents, after defense lawyers argued that the Las Vegas mass shooting could influence jurors, his attorney said on Friday."

The [AP](#) (10/7) reported that defense attorneys "argued that the attack would cast a shadow over the trial, which was set to start Tuesday in Las Vegas. On Friday, the judge rescheduled it for Oct. 30."

Additional coverage is provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/6, Sottile) and [NPR](#) (10/6).

BLM Approves Master Plan For Drilling In North Fork Valley.

The [AP](#) (10/6) reported the Bureau of Land Management "has approved a plan for oil and gas development in the works for nearly a decade in Colorado's North Fork Valley." Citing the Daily Sentinel, the AP said the master plan "calls for eventually building 146 wells about 30 miles (48 kilometers) northeast of Paonia (pay-OWN'-yuh) to the south of McClure Pass." However, the BLM "has only granted permission for one well to be built so far in the nearly 20,000 acre (8093.9 hectare) Bull Mountain project."

Wyoming Oil And Gas Operators Pleased By Federal Walk Back On Methane Rule.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/8) reports the Bureau of Land Management's methane waste reduction rule "has been causing confusion." But "two decisions that impact the future of the controversial rule came within hours of each other on Thursday. The Interior announced its intention to try to delay the rule again, this time according to the federal process. Hours later, a federal court in California sided with environmental advocates that the Interior had unlawfully delayed the rule the first go round, and decided that the rule would be in effect immediately."

Montana Pipeline Proposed To Transport CO2 For Oil Recovery.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/8) reports that an energy company "is seeking federal approval to build a pipeline in eastern Montana that would transport the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide for use in oil production along the North Dakota border." The \$150 million pipeline "would begin near the Wyoming border and stretch 110 miles to the Cedar Creek Anticline, an aging oil field near Baker, Montana, Denbury Resources spokesman John Mayer said." The US Bureau of Land Management "is seeking public comment on the Montana proposal through Nov. 3." Bureau of Land Management spokesman David Abrahams "said further details on the company's application would not be released except under a freedom of information request."

[WDAZ-TV](#) Grand Forks, ND (10/8) also reports.

BLM Plans Prescribed Burnings In Parker Area.

The [Parker \(AZ\) Pioneer](#) (10/9) reports the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Lake Havasu Field Office "is planning to conduct prescribed burning on the Parker Strip, October 9 through April 1, 2018, as weather conditions allow. The burn area is located seven miles northeast of

Parker, Ariz., and half a mile west of Parker Dam Road near Crossroads, on the California side of the Colorado River.”

BLM Broke Law In Plan To Sterilize Herd Of Wild Horses.

The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (10/8) reports the Bureau of Land Management “violated environmental law in its plan to sterilize a herd of wild horses in southwestern Idaho, according to a recent ruling from a federal judge.” US District Judge Edward Lodge “ruled Friday the BLM failed to analyze consequences of the action and ordered the agency to reconsider its decision.” Lodge wrote, “The BLM’s decision in this case is arbitrary and capricious because it did not consider the significant impacts its decision may have on the free-roaming nature of the herd nor explain why its decision is appropriate despite those impacts.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

Victims Of 2013 Colorado Floods Claim U.S. Government Opened Dam Without Warning, Destroying Homes.

[KMGH-TV](#) Denver (10/9) reports that three victims of the 2013 flooding in Colorado “have filed a lawsuit blaming the U.S. Government for opening floodgates that they say washed away homes downstream from the Olympus Dam.” According to the lawsuit, “the Department of Interior’s Bureau of Reclamation, which operates the dam, made the call to release a massive amount of water from the dam to protect its integrity, as it overflowed with floodwater from a heavy storm that continued to dump water on Sept. 12, 2013.” The plaintiffs in the suit “say had they been warned of the massive release, they would have been able to move some of their property, but instead they were surprised to find homes literally washed away.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Trump Quietly Stalls Safeguards For Dozens Of Endangered Species.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/6, Levin) reported the Trump administration “has quietly withdrawn dozens of pending actions to protect endangered species ranging from the green sea turtle to plants in the Florida Everglades, something conservationists say may violate federal law requiring the government to act.” The US Fish and Wildlife Service “withdrew a total of at least 42 pending regulatory actions pertaining to endangered species, many of which detailed how to protect animals or plants already deemed to be in peril, according to Office of Management and Budget data compiled by Bloomberg.”

[The Hill](#) (10/7, Manchester) reports that the US Fish and Wildlife Service “has moved to remove Endangered Species Act protections from Pacific Walruses, citing their ability to adapt and persist during changes in their climate and environment.” The USFWS said, “The Pacific walrus population has persisted through past climate change events however, the ability of the Pacific walrus population to adapt to or cope with increasing stress in the future is uncertain.” The agency “goes on to say there is not enough evidence to suggest that the animals need to be listed as ‘threatened’ or ‘endangered.’” However, “environmentalists have spoken out against the move, equating it to a death sentence for the animals.”

The [AP](#) (10/9, Joling) reports that US Fish and Wildlife Service officials “said they cannot determine with certainty that walruses are likely to become endangered ‘in the foreseeable future,’ which the agency defines as the year 2060.”

The [Aspen \(CO\) Times](#) (10/6, Fixler) reported that “the eastern boreal toad population in the high elevations of Colorado and other Rocky Mountain states may be in decline, but it will not be granted protected status under the national Endangered Species Act.” The US Fish and Wildlife Service announced Thursday “its rejection of 25 species from threatened or endangered listing, including the subalpine amphibian. Within the federal agency’s Mountain-Prairie Region, the Great Sand Dunes tiger beetle and Northern Rocky Mountain fisher were under review for protection as well, but were also left unlisted.”

Celebrate National Wildlife Refuge Week Oct. 8 To 14.

The [High Plains and Midwest AG \(KS\) Journal](#) (10/7, Poetry, Kreger) reported on the National Wildlife Refuge System, which is being celebrated this week. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke “kicked off Refuge Week early today while visiting with staff and touring Okefenokee National

Wildlife Refuge.” Zinke is quoted saying, “Americans are fortunate to have access to an unparalleled network of national wildlife refuges close to where they live. ... Whether you are hunting, fishing or just enjoying the great outdoors, I encourage everyone to get out and visit a refuge near you. One of my top priorities is to open up access wherever possible for the public to enjoy these lands so that more families have the opportunity to pass down that heritage as I have with my children.”

Michigan Forests Vital To Threatened Species.

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (10/9) reports that the future of the Karner blue butterfly – “now a federally threatened species in the Great Lakes State – lies with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources intentionally setting fires known as ‘prescribed burns’ to restore the oak savannas that once dominated these landscapes.” The DNR, US Fish and Wildlife Service and US Forest Service “work together with conservation groups and private landowners to manage habitats that are more conducive to the blue, nickel-sized butterfly.”

Mussel, Once Feared Extinct, Brought Back To Ohio River.

The [AP](#) (10/7) reported that a mussel “as rare as its name is colorful, the purple cat’s paw pearly mussel once could be found throughout the lower Ohio River and many of its larger tributaries, including the Muskingum River in Ohio, the Green River in Kentucky and the Middle Cumberland River in Tennessee.” Patricia Morrison, biologist for the Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, is quoted saying, “Museum collections show that the purple cat’s paw was once found in the Ohio River from here to Cincinnati.” A century ago, the mussel “was also once found in streams as distant as Illinois, Indiana and Alabama, according to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service fact sheet.” The mussel is now being brought back to the Ohio River.

National Park Service

Designed Wisely, Express Lanes Can Reduce Travel Time, Bring Revenue.

Discussing Gov. Larry Hogan plans to “add hundreds of miles of express toll lanes on the Capital Beltway, Interstate 270 between Washington and Frederick, and the Baltimore-Washington Parkway to decrease congestion and collect more money,” the [Baltimore Sun](#) (10/4, Campbell) reports that Hogan’s plan for the Baltimore-Washington Parkway “is contingent upon the National Park Service turning ownership of the road over to Maryland. The Department of the Interior, which oversees the parks service, did not respond to a request for comment.”

Colorado River Rafting Contract Awarded To Different Company.

The [AP](#) (10/8) reported the National Park Service “has awarded a rafting contract for the Colorado River to a subsidiary of concessionaire giant Aramark — and took the deal away from an Arizona company that has long offered rafting.” Colorado River Discovery “has led rafting trips from the Glen Canyon Dam to Lees Ferry in northern Arizona since the park service awarded it the concession contract in 2006, the Arizona Daily Sun reported.” The decision announced last week “was a surprise to company officials who said the rafting trips make up the majority of services they offer.”

Texas Company Seeks To Renew Permit To Look For Big Cypress Oil.

The [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (10/7, Staats) reports a Texas company has asked state environmental regulators “to allow crews to resume their hunt for oil beneath Big Cypress National Preserve despite deep muddy ruts and damaged trees left behind by the company’s earlier work in the spring.” Several groups have “asked the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to not renew the Burnett Oil Co.’s state permit.” Burnett spokeswoman Alia Faraj-Johnson is quoted saying, “These groups are recycling the same kinds of claims that have been rejected by the National Park Service and the federal court.” DEP spokeswoman Dee Ann Miller “said the agency’s deadline for making a decision on the company’s permit renewal is Oct. 24.” The DEP “plans to send inspectors along with the National Park Service when work to repair the damaged wet prairies is underway, but that won’t happen until the landscape flooded by Hurricane Irma dries out, Miller said.”

Puerto Rico Slum Transformed By ‘Despacito’ Seeks To Revive.

The [AP](#) (10/9, Coto) reports that La Perla, “a seaside slum” in Puerto Rico that had been

transformed by the song "Despacito" is seeking revival after being hit hard by Hurricane Maria. The AP adds, "With tourism to Puerto Rico as a whole abruptly halted, the only visitors to La Perla since the Sept. 20 storm have been people like the U.S. National Park Service workers who came to distribute bottles of water."

New App Brings History To Life In The New River Gorge Region.

The [Beckley \(WV\) Register-Herald](#) (10/9, Cobbs) reports highlights a new app that travelers can download that "brings history to life in the New River Gorge region." The app, when downloaded, "gives users an overall map of the 17 sites, as well as directions between sites." Lizzie Watts, the superintendent of the New River Gorge National River, is quoted saying, "History only becomes history if you remember to tell it and we remember to share it." According to Dave Bieri, "also with the park service, project partners met and chose individual topics and then matched sites accordingly."

Donald Trump's Lewd 'Access Hollywood' Tape Played On Repeat Near White House.

The [Washington Times](#) (10/6, Chasmar) reported that the women's advocacy group UltraViolet "played President Trump's infamous 'Access Hollywood' footage on repeat for 12 hours straight near the White House on Friday." The [Washington Post](#) (10/6, Stein) reported the National Park Service "issued permits for the group to bring the equipment to the Mall and play the video, said Mike Litterst, a spokesman for the agency. In its permit, UltraViolet described the video display as a First Amendment demonstration 'against Trump being a sexual predator.'"

Office Of Insular Affairs

House Committee Discusses Situation In Puerto Rico And US Virgin Islands After Irma And María.

[Pasquines \(PRI\)](#) (10/6) reported that United States House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop (R) of Utah "organized an informal roundtable yesterday for the members of the committee to discuss the situation in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands after hurricanes Irma and María." USVI Delegate Stacey Plaskett was quoted saying, "The Office of Insular Affairs will play a prominent role in our recovery efforts."

Office Of Surface Mining

Montana Coal Mine Appeals Ruling That Could Trigger Layoffs.

The [AP](#) (10/6, Brown) reported, "The 'clock is running' on layoffs at one of the largest underground coal mines in the United States, its owners said Friday, as they asked a federal appeals court to reverse a judge's order that could bring some work at the mine to a halt later this month." Signal Peak Energy "says as many as 30 workers from the Bull Mountain Mine could run out of work by the end of October and 50 more workers by March under an August ruling from U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy." Molloy "sided with environmentalists who said that in approving the expansion, the Department of Interior's Office of Surface Mining had not adequately considered how burning the mine's coal would contribute to climate change."

US Geological Survey

Magnitude 4.1 Earthquake Shakes Bay Area.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/9, Grad) reports a magnitude 4.1 earthquake "struck Monday near San Jose." According to the US Geological Survey, "it was felt over a large swath of Silicon Valley and the Bay Area. No damage was reported."

Earthquake: 3.2 Quake Strikes Near Bryn Mawr.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/8, Quakebot) reports that a "shallow magnitude 3.2 earthquake was reported Sunday evening near Bryn Mawr, Calif., according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The temblor occurred at 11:39 p.m. PDT at a depth of 10.6 miles."

Top National News

Pruitt Announces Repeal Of Clean Power Plan.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/9, story 7, 0:20, Muir) reported EPA Administrator Pruitt said Monday he would repeal the 2015 Clean Power Plan – President Obama’s “signature climate policy” – starting Tuesday. Before the repeal of the plan, which aimed to cut carbon emissions by 30 percent, there will be a public comment period.

The [New York Times](#) (10/9, Friedman, Plumer) reports that at an event in eastern Kentucky, Pruitt “said that his predecessors had departed from regulatory norms in crafting the Clean Power Plan.” He added, “The war on coal is over.” The repeal proposal, set to be filed in the Federal Register Tuesday, “fulfills a promise President Trump made to eradicate his predecessor’s environmental legacy” and “makes it less likely the United States can fulfill its promise as part of the Paris climate agreement to ratchet down emissions.”

[USA Today](#) (10/9, King) reports that according to climate change expert David Doniger, the repeal of the Clean Power Plan will not be a rapid process. In a Monday blog post, Doniger wrote, “Today’s proposed repeal of the Clean Power Plan just begins the battle. ... Pruitt’s EPA must hold hearings and take public comment, and issue a final repeal – with or without a possible replacement. He must respond to all legal, scientific, and economic objections raised, including the issues we lay out here.”

[Reuters](#) (10/9) reports that the National Association of Manufacturers and other trade organizations “praised” Pruitt’s announcement. Environmental groups, however, “criticized Monday’s announcement and praised” the Clean Power Plan. Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune said, “No matter who is in the White House, the EPA is legally required to limit dangerous carbon pollution, and the Clean Power Plan is an achievable, affordable way to do that.”

The [AP](#) (10/9, Biesecker, Beam) reports that a “coalition of left-leaning states and environmental groups” are promising to fight the Administration’s plans to end the Clean Power Plan. New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman – among those who have said they will sue – said, “The Trump Administration’s persistent and indefensible denial of climate change – and their continued assault on actions essential to stemming its increasing devastation – is reprehensible, and I will use every available legal tool to fight their dangerous agenda.”

Pruitt Calls For End Of Tax Credits To Wind Industry. [Bloomberg News](#) (10/9, Natter) reports Pruitt on Monday also called for the elimination of tax credits to the wind industry. Responding to a question about the effectiveness of renewable energy, Pruitt said he would let wind energy companies “stand on their own and compete against coal and natural gas and other sources.”

China Invests In Solar. The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/9, story 4, 2:05, Quijano) reported that as Pruitt announced Monday that the US would repeal Obama-era limits on carbon emissions from power plants, China “is doing the opposite.” China recently launched the world’s largest floating solar installation, built on top of a lake, “created by an abandoned coal mine” – a project, like many others, that has helped China double its solar capacity in the past year. According to Panda Green Energy Executive President Maggie Qiu, 28 solar power plants now operate in China. Additionally, the government is “spending hundreds of billions of dollars to subsidize renewable energy as China tries to wean itself off coal, still its dominant power source and the reason for its notoriously toxic air.”

Wildfires Burn Across California, Killing At Least 10.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/9, lead story, 2:40, Holt) reported that at least 15 wildfires burned in California on Monday, “destroying homes and sending people fleeing for their lives along smoke-obscured highways, all fueled by unrelenting winds” as gusts topped 50 miles per hour. Gov. Jerry Brown has declared a state of emergency, “mobilizing the National Guard joining the thousands of firefighters already on the front lines.” In northern California’s wine country, more than a thousand homes have been destroyed. Across the region, one person has died, and at least 1,500 homes and businesses now are destroyed.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/9, lead story, 3:00, Muir) reported that the fires “only ignited late last night and exploded to over 80,000 acres in just 18 hours.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/9, lead story, 2:40, Quijano) reported that 20 major fires are burning, with 15 alone started in the past 24 hours. 20,000 people have been forced to evacuate. The worst hit is Northern California’s wine country. The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (10/9, Tucker) reports that “neighborhood after neighborhood is gone” in Santa Rosa, with nearby stores and restaurants destroyed as well.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/9, A1, Kerr) reports the wildfires have killed “at least 10 people” and have injured “numerous others.” In a news conference during which he declared a state of emergency in three counties, Gov. Jerry Brown said, “This is really serious; it’s moving fast. ... The heat, the lack of humidity and the winds are all driving a very dangerous situation and making it worse. It’s not under control by any means. But we’re on it in the best way we know how.” The [New York Times](#) (10/9, A1, Fuller, Bromwich, Victor) reports Gov. Brown “issued emergency proclamations for Butte, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Sonoma and Yuba Counties, saying the fires had damaged critical infrastructure and threatened thousands of homes.” Brown “also asked President Trump to declare a major disaster.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/9, story 3, 0:45, Muir) reported the “simple answer” behind the wildfires’ spread is wind. Some gusts have been “upwards of 70-miles-per-hour.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/9, story 2, 1:55, Muir) reported mandatory evacuations were declared in Anaheim Monday night, as home after home burned to the ground. Massive amounts of smoke were “seen today at nearby Angels Stadium and hovering over Disneyland.” The first evacuation orders “were issued within 15 minutes of when this fire was first reported.” At least one firefighter has been injured.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/9, story 2, 1:00, Holt) reported the wind is “so strong” in parts of Anaheim that fires are “traveling from house to house, neighborhood to neighborhood at lightning speed.”

Northeast Sees Wind, Rain From Remnants Of Hurricane Nate.

The [AP](#) (10/9) reports that the Northeast US saw wind and rain Monday from the remnants of Hurricane Nate. The tropical depression’s center was “near the eastern shore of Lake Erie,” and “forecasters said parts of Pennsylvania and New York could receive 2 inches (5 centimeters) of rain or more.” In the Southeast US, “utilities said crews had restored electrical service to all but a few thousand of the more than 100,000 homes and businesses that lost power because of Nate in Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and Florida.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“On Immigration, Mr. Trump Shows Congress It’s On Its Own.” A [New York Times](#) (10/9) editorial calls the White House immigration proposals “the latest flip-flop for the administration and a demoralizing turn for what seemed like a possible bipartisan deal on an emotional issue.” The Times says a White House official told reporters “that the list of draconian proposals would be a fulfillment of Mr. Trump’s campaign promises, implying that this is what Americans want.” The Times points out, however, that Trump, “in case he forgot, lost the popular vote by millions, and his approval ratings are sputtering in the mid- to high-30s,” while “Americans overwhelmingly support letting Dreamers stay in this country.”

“A Peace Prize That Honors The Quest.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/9) notes that the Norwegian Nobel Committee awarded the Peace Prize on Friday “to a group that worked on an international treaty to ban nuclear weapons, while acknowledging that the treaty would not in itself eliminate a single nuclear weapon.” The winner, the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), promoted UN talks that resulted in a treaty banning the development, ownership or use of all nuclear weapons, but “the nations that actually possess such weapons, including the United States, boycotted the effort.” The Times reports, “We are realistic...we do not expect that this award will eliminate nuclear weapons. But...that is all the more reason to encourage those who seek a world with no nuclear weapons.”

“Want To Vote Next Year, New York? Act Now!” A [New York Times](#) (10/10, Board) editorial says the turnout in New York City’s “2013 mayoral election was 26 percent of registered voters, and that was stellar compared with the abysmal 14 percent in last month’s primaries.” Thus, “There’s every reason to assume that on Election Day, Nov. 7, New Yorkers will not exercise the franchise any more aerobically than they did four years ago.” The Times argues that “New York State effectively suppresses the turnout by making it harder to vote than is the practice in other jurisdictions” because it does not allow early voting or Election Day voter registration, and “New York lawmakers have resisted efforts to bring their rules more in line with practices elsewhere.”

Washington Post.

“What To Do With An Unfit President.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/9) writes in an editorial that

“one avenue open to Congress would be to remove the president from office,” though “Congress is not ready to consider such an option – nor, in our view, should it be. Impeachment is an extreme measure that would roil the nation and should be embarked upon only with clear justification.” Congress should instead “seize the initiative on issues where it knows Mr. Trump is wrong” and “offer a contrast to what [Sen. Bob] Corker described as the ‘adult day care center’ at the White House simply by presiding over their branch with institutional dignity and respect for tradition.”

“Trump’s Cruel Sabotage Of The Dreamers.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/9) says in an editorial that President Trump’s “shape-shifting on the dreamers, as on so many other issues, is a symptom of his indifference to policy and absent moral compass.” The Post calls on Congress to “step in and resolve the plight of these nearly 700,000 young immigrants.”

“Trump’s NFL Bullying Is Filtering Down To America’s Schools.” A [Washington Post](#) (10/9) editorial blasts President Trump for what it describes as his “multi-week effort to shore up political support from his base by attacking the political expression of NFL players protesting police violence.” The Post says it is “unfortunate that the president has chosen to distort the moral authority of his office into a bully’s demand that others adhere to his preferred view of the world.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Immigration Bait And Switch.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/9, Board) editorial says the White House’s demands may make it impossible to reach an agreement with Congress on Dreamers.

“Ireland Falls For A Lousy T-Shirt.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/9) denounces the Irish post office’s release of a stamp commemorating the 50th anniversary of the death of Ernesto “Che” Guevara Lynch. The Journal explains the Irish independence movement centered on political self-determination, property rights, and equality – issues completely unrelated to Guevara and his socialist cause.

“The Truth About Trump And Corker.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/9) writes in an editorial that Sen. Bob Corker was intending to be helpful with his earlier criticisms of the Administration, trying to tell Trump things he did not want to hear. Trump has chosen to react in anger.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[GE Gives Activist Trian A Seat On The Board](#)
[Battered Dollar Roars Back, Catching Investors By Surprise](#)
[As Its Namesake Founder Becomes A Liability, Weinstein Co. Weighs Name Change](#)
[America’s Retailers Have A New Target Customer: The 26-Year-Old Millennial](#)

New York Times:

[EPA Announces Repeal Of Major Obama-Era Carbon Emissions Rule](#)
[How Russia Harvested American Rage To Reshape US Politics](#)
[Stephen Miller, The Powerful Survivor On The President’s Right Flank](#)
[Liberia’s Women Warn Male Presidential Candidates: Keep The Peace](#)
[Politicians With Puerto Rican Roots Challenge Trump In Push For Aid](#)
[China Hastens The World Toward An Electric-Car Future](#)
[Multimedia Feature: Digging Up The Dead: Probing The Ruins Of Mosul](#)
[Wildfires In Northern California Kill At Least 10 And Destroy 1,500 Buildings](#)

Washington Post:

[Trump Lashes Out At Allies, Putting Agenda At Risk](#)
[US Tensions With Turkey Boil Over In Wake Of Arrest](#)
[An Intruder, A Brutal Killing, Then The Fitbit Told Its Story.](#)
[Philippine Police Chief Resists The Call To Kill Drug Suspects](#)
[Google Finds Links To Russian Disinformation In Its Services](#)
[Deadly Wildfires Ravage Calif. Wine Country](#)

Financial Times:

[Turkish Lira And Istanbul Bourse Fall After US Suspends Visas](#)

[Ikea Turns To Ecommerce Sites In Online Sales Push](#)

[Richard Thaler Wins Nobel Prize In Economics](#)

Washington Times:

[Gillespie Pressures Northam On Sanctuary Cities In Virginia's Final Debate Of Governor's Race 'It's The Job Of Congress': Lawmakers Dismiss Trump's Strict Immigration Plan](#)

[Pentagon Budget Divides Republican Defense And Deficit Hawks, Giving Democrat 'Parity' An Edge](#)

[Through Presidential Crises, Stock Market Soars With Businessman In White House](#)

[Puerto Rico Hurricane Damage Threatens Medication Supplies On U.S. Mainland](#)

[Can A Middle Kingdom Nobleman Named Userhat Help Save Egypt's Tourism Industry?](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: West Coast Wildfires; West Coast Wildfires-Southern California; West Coast Wildfires-Tracking; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; Trump-Corker Relations; Vice President Pence-NFL Walkout; EPA-War On Coal Over; Weinstein Sexual Scandal; White House-First Lady; NFL-Coach Using Drug Caught; American Air-Flight Cancellation; Nobel Prize In Economics Winner; Grand Father Volunteer.

CBS: West Coast Wildfires; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; Trump-Corker Relations; China-Coal Alternatives; Vice President Pence-NFL Walkout; Syria-Raqqa Assault; Weinstein Sexual Scandal; White House-First Lady; Inspiring Rapper.

NBC: West Coast Wildfires; West Coast Wildfires-Southern California; Trump-Corker Relations; White House-First Lady; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery; Opioid Epidemic; Weinstein Sexual Scandal; Walmart-Easier Store Return; ESPN Anchor Suspended; American Air Flight Cancellation; Las Vegas Shooting-Tribute.

Network TV At A Glance:

West Coast Wildfires – 12 minutes

Trump-Corker Relations – 6 minutes, 35 seconds

Las Vegas Shooting – 5 minutes, 55 seconds

White House-First Lady – 4 minutes, 40 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Texas Tech-Officer Shot; West Coast Wildfires; EPA-Clean Power Plan Rollback; Wall Street News.

CBS: West Coast Wildfires; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; EPA-Clean Power Plan Rollback; Baseball News.

FOX: West Coast Wildfires; Texas Tech-Officer Shot; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation.

NPR: West Coast Wildfires; Texas Tech-Officer Shot; Tillerson-Lavrov Phone Call; Holiday Shopping-Retail Expectations; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with Dr. Henry Kissinger; has lunch with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Secretary of Defense James Mattis; greets the Stanley Cup Champions: The Pittsburgh Penguins; welcomes The Pittsburgh Penguins to the White House.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a political reception in Bakersfield, CA; participates in a briefing on Mojave Air and Space Port; tours the Virgin Orbit/Virgin Galactic/The Spaceship Company hangar; tours the Stratolaunch Systems carrier plane.

US Senate: 11:00 AM Dem Sen. Chris Coons speaks on Iran nuclear deal – Democratic Sen. Chris Coons speaks on the Iran nuclear deal, via media conference call, amid reports that President Donald Trump is set to decertify Iranian compliance with the agreement * President Trump faces a 15 Oct deadline to issue his latest certification to Congress that Iran remains in compliance with its obligations under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on its nuclear program – signed by Tehran and six major world powers in 2015 Location: TBD
coons.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/SenCoonsOffice>

2:00 PM Helsinki Commission briefing on the refugee crisis in Europe and Turkey – 'Refugee Crisis in Europe and Turkey: Current Challenges and Responses' Helsinki Commission briefing,

bringing together international experts and NGO representatives to assess the current humanitarian situation facing these refugees and the root causes of their flight. Speakers – United Nations High Commission for Refugees Regional Representative for the U.S. and the Caribbean Matthew Reynolds, International Organization for Migration (Washington, DC, office) Chief of Mission Luca Dall'Oglio, A21 Campaign Executive Director Philip Hyltdgaard, and Catholic Relief Services Senior Policy and Legislative Specialist Jill Marie Gerschutz-Bell – address the response of international organizations, receiving national govts, and civil society, and contribute their recommendations for action from domestic and international actors at all levels, including the U.S. Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 188, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

On recess until 16 October.

US House: 2:00 PM Helsinki Commission briefing on the refugee crisis in Europe and Turkey – 'Refugee Crisis in Europe and Turkey: Current Challenges and Responses' Helsinki Commission briefing, bringing together international experts and NGO representatives to assess the current humanitarian situation facing these refugees and the root causes of their flight. Speakers – United Nations High Commission for Refugees Regional Representative for the U.S. and the Caribbean Matthew Reynolds, International Organization for Migration (Washington, DC, office) Chief of Mission Luca Dall'Oglio, A21 Campaign Executive Director Philip Hyltdgaard, and Catholic Relief Services Senior Policy and Legislative Specialist Jill Marie Gerschutz-Bell – address the response of international organizations, receiving national govts, and civil society, and contribute their recommendations for action from domestic and international actors at all levels, including the U.S. Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 188, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

2:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including consideration of six U.S. Postal Service facility naming bills and one U.S. Border Patrol checkpoint naming bill under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

5:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'S. 585 – Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017' Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

Other: 10:00 AM Brookings Institution discussion on 'The path forward for dealing with North Korea' – 'The path forward for dealing with North Korea' Brookings Institution Center for East Asia Policy Studies and John L. Thornton China Center discussion, with keynote from former Deputy National Security Advisor Avril Haines. Other speakers include Wilson Center Global Fellow Jean Lee, Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr partner David Cohen, author Michael Dobbs, Atlantic Council President and CEO Frederick Kempe, Yale Law School Visiting Lecturer Jake Sullivan, and Brookings Chair in Korea Studies Jung Pak, Thornton Center Nonresident Fellow Evan Osnos, and Center for East Asia Policy Studies Senior Fellow Jonathan Pollack Location: The Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst>

5:00 PM National Security Advisor Lt. Gen. McMaster speaks at CSIS on the future of the NSC – National Security Advisor Lt. Gen. H. R. McMaster speaks at The Center for Strategic and International Studies on 'The National Security Council at 70: Charting the Future of America's Security', with other speakers including former National Security Advisors Gen. (Ret.) James Jones Jr, Stephen Hadley and Henry Kissinger Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "What's the difference between Harvey Weinstein and the Pillsbury Dough Boy? When the Pillsbury Boy offers you a roll, he doesn't ask you to take a shower for it."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Trump wrote, 'I asked Vice President Pence to leave stadium if any players kneeled, disrespecting our country. I am proud of him and Second Lady Karen.' He can't let Mike Pence have credit for anything. 'I am so proud of Mike Pence for doing the awesome thing I told him to do.'"

Stephen Colbert: "Ultimately, Trump reflected on the suffering of the hurricane victims and

acknowledged that from his position of privilege, he couldn't even comprehend what they're going through. Just kidding. He kept the focus on the real victim, himself."

James Corden: [Referring to Sen. Bob Corker's tweet against President Trump that White House is an adult daycare center] "[Sen. Bob] Corker's tweet is funny, but it is not entirely accurate. A daycare center would imply that someone there is actually in charge."

James Corden: "Yesterday, Vice President Mike Pence attended the Indianapolis Colts game for about 15 minutes. Pence left at the beginning of the game in protest to football players kneeling during the national anthem. Now let's be honest, Pence would have left anyway as soon as he saw an unmarried couple on the kiss-cam. Actually, the real reason Pence left the game early was because he found the mascot's outfit far too revealing."

James Corden: "Some shocking news out of Hollywood after new allegations emerge that he had engaged in decades of sexual harassment, Harvey Weinstein was fired from his firm the Weinstein Co. for violating the company's very strict '27 strikes and your are out' rule. ... The fact is, his behavior left room for only two options, fire him from the Weinstein Company or elect him President of the United States."

Jimmy Fallon: "Vice President Mike Pence left the Colts game yesterday after some of the 49ers kneeled during the national anthem. Also because he heard the phrase 'man on man' and got really uncomfortable."

Jimmy Fallon: "Get this. In his speech today, Trump called Christopher Columbus a skilled navigator. Then, at his Comic-Con speech, he called Darth Vader a good dad."

Seth Meyers: "Before walking into the football game yesterday, Vice President Pence reportedly told his press pool to wait outside of the stadium in anticipation of a potential early departure. Coincidentally, 'early departure' is the only form of birth control Mike Pence approves of."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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DOI In The News

DOI Secretary Names Director Of Bureau Of Indian Affairs.

The [Native American Times](#) (10/16) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Monday "announced the selection of Bryan Rice, a veteran federal administrator and citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, as the new Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs." Zinke said, "Bryan has a wealth of management expertise and experience that will well serve Indian Country as the BIA works to enhance the quality of life, promote economic opportunity, and carry out the federal responsibility to protect and improve the trust assets of American Indians, Indian tribes and Alaska Natives. I have full confidence that Bryan is the right person at this pivotal time as we work to renew the department's focus on self-determination and self-governance, give power back to the tribes, and provide real meaning to the concept of tribal sovereignty."

[KOTV-TV](#) Tulsa, OK (10/16) reports that Rice, who began his new position Monday, "was most recently serving as the head of the Interior's Office of Wildland Fire." The article notes that "his federal government career has spanned nearly 20 years, beginning with service on the Helena Interagency Hotshot Crew for the U.S. Forest Service in Montana."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (10/17, Wingerter), [Law360](#) (10/16, Lidgett), [KTVH-TV](#) Helena, MT (10/16), and [KTVQ-TV](#) Billings, MT (10/17).

Alaska Native Corporate Leader Tapped By Trump For Top Indian Affairs Job.

The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/16, Demer) reports that Tara Sweeney, executive vice president of external affairs for Arctic Slope Regional Corp., is being nominated by President Trump to oversee Indian Affairs for the Interior Department. The Alaska congressional delegation, AFN leaders and Gov. Bill Walker all had "strong praise" for the nomination. The pick by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke was a good one, Sen. Lisa Murkowski said in a written statement with Sen. Dan Sullivan and Rep. Don Young. Murkowski said, "She is an expert on energy, infrastructure, broadband, economic development, Native self-determination, and a wide range of policy issues that will come before her. Secretary Zinke could not have chosen a better leader to help him fulfill the federal government's trust responsibility, and I know Tara has the heart and drive to excel in this position."

Colorado Official Hopeful Changes On Grouse Will Help Oil & Gas .

The [AP](#) (10/16) reports that as the Interior Department is considering changes to mining, drilling, and grazing regulations meant to protect the sage grouse bird habitat, Moffat County Commissioner Don Cook said the issue has implications for roughly 40 percent of Moffat County. The AP states that "Luke Schafer with Conservation Colorado says the changes announced by Interior could throw out years of work on sage grouse." Cook said that not much input from the local community was considered when the sage grouse regulations were adopted when President Obama was in office.

Trump Touts Federal Response To California Wildfires.

[McClatchy](#) (10/16, Kumar) reports President Trump said his Administration is “doing a good job” responding to the California wildfires “that have killed more than 40 people dead and displaced tens of thousands of people.” Trump also said he had spoken to California Gov. Jerry Brown, FEMA, the military, and first responders were on the ground in the Northern California.

Firefighters Hopeful On Wildfire Containment. [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/16, story 5, 2:10, Holt) reported, “Crews are hopeful they’ve finally gotten a handle on the flames” in California’s wildfires. NBC (Fryer) added that firefighters “hope that some of these fires will be fully contained by week’s end.” Meanwhile, “officials say it will be days if not weeks before some in the hardest-hit neighborhoods are able to return home for good.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/16, story 4, 2:10, Mason) reported, “A driver delivering water to the fire lines was killed when his truck flipped.” [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/16, story 3, 2:20, Muir) also covered this story.

Cleanup From California Fires Poses Environmental And Health Risks. The [New York Times](#) (10/16, Johnson) reports public health officials and environmental cleanup experts are beginning to consider “the huge amount of debris and ash that will be left behind” once the California wildfires are gone. The clean is likely to have “its own thorny set of issues, in the costs, timetables and liability questions” with the large number of properties affected compounding the issues. Workers, responders, and the public may be exposed to all the chemicals and pollutants typically in a home, concentrated in the ash left behind. It isn’t year clear which local or state agencies will take leadership roles on the issue, and both the severity of the issue and costs of remediation are as yet undetermined. FEMA spokesman David Passey said, “There are more questions than answers.”

US House Considers Moving Federal Onshore Oil, Gas Oversight To States.

[PennEnergy](#) (10/16, Snow) reports that the House Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee is considering an initiative to allow the Department of the Interior to delegate regulation authority for oil and gas operations within federally managed lands to the states. Democrats have taken an opposition stance, while Republicans believe the initiative is overdue. Under the plan, the Secretary of Interior “also would delegate regulation of hydraulic fracturing to states and Indian tribes after each submitted its requirements to BLM for consideration.”

Congressional Attack On National Monuments Ignores America’s Conservation History.

For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (10/16, Hecht, Ruple), Sean B. Hecht, a professor at UCLA School of Law, and John Ruple, a professor at the University of Utah’s SJ Quinney College of Law, call the “National Monument Creation and Protection Act,” an “assault on our public land heritage.” They note that the Supreme Court has “twice unanimously confirmed that presidents may create national monuments, including landscape-scale monuments, to protect scenic areas and the geologic formations, plants, and animals they contain.” The authors conclude that H.R. 3990 “will neither create nor protect national monuments, but will only undermine them.”

In an editorial, the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (10/16) criticizes “the legislative subterfuge that makes the bill read like it will accomplish the opposite of what its real intention implies.” As the bill moves through the legislative process, the paper challenges Rep. Rob Bishop, who introduced the bill, “to seek and consider public input from a wide range of stakeholders.”

Zinke’s Silence On The Monument Creates Uncertainty For Northern Maine.

In an op-ed for the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (10/16, Dill), Maine state Senator Jim Dill writes that the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument has “created new demands and business opportunities in Millinocket, Medway and other communities near the monument.” However, “that promising start is jeopardized by a needless uncertainty that has hung over the monument since President Donald Trump was elected.” Dill writes that the people of Maine “deserve to know what the Trump Administration’s “plans are for this public land, and how those plans will benefit future generations of Mainers.”

Do No Harm To Our National Monuments.

In an op-ed for the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (10/16, Allison), Mark Allison, executive director of the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, claims that when Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “paid a visit to Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks in July, he chose to spend most of his time meeting with the few opponents of the monument behind closed doors.” Allison also criticizes Zinke’s recommendations in his report on national monument designation, calling it “cynical, disingenuous and Orwellian.” He calls on President Trump “to side with voters rather than the radical proposals of U.S. Rep. Steve Pearce, R-N.M., D.C. lobbyists and special interests.”

Trump's Cabinet Is The Absolute Best Of All Time. Ever.

Dana Milbank mockingly writes in his [Washington Post](#) (10/16) column, "I'm very proud of Trump for recognizing the greatness of his Cabinet" during a meeting with them Monday, "but he is being modest. This isn't just 'one of the finest' Cabinets. There has never been a Cabinet like this before – and there probably will ever be one like it in the furniture." Milbank continues, "Never has a Cabinet incurred so many probes and reprimands in so little time. ... Never has a presidential team endured more humiliation with more aplomb."

Huh? Employee Engagement Scores Went Up?

In a piece for [Federal News Radio \(DC\)](#) (10/16, Temin), Tom Temin writes that federal employee engagement scores "rose to a six-year high," according to a survey distributed in May. Notably, engagement scores rose at "the low-ranking Interior Department, with its highly visible senior executive reassignments."

Bureau Of Land Management

Trump Administration Green-lights Company's Desert Water Project.

The [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (10/16, James) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has "approved a company's plan to build a water pipeline to carry billions of gallons from the Mojave Desert to California cities." The BLM "told Cadiz Inc. in a letter released Monday that the company won't need a permit to build the pipeline alongside a railroad." The bureau "rescinded a 2015 decision by President Barack Obama's administration that had blocked the project." Cadiz "said with no federal permit needed, it now plans to move ahead with designing and building the 43-mile pipeline from its property to the Colorado River Aqueduct."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/16, Boxall) and the [Highland \(CA\) Community News](#) (10/16).

BLM To Offer 208 Parcels In Oil And Gas Lease Sale.

The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (10/16) reports that the Bureau of Land Management will "offer 208 parcels in Nye County totaling approximately 388,959.402 acres in the Ely District at its December quarterly oil and gas lease sale." Bidding will start Dec. 11.

Wyoming Wild Horse Roundup Continues Amid Counting Dispute.

The [AP](#) (10/16, Gruver) reports that "a roundup of wild horses continued Monday in the desert of southwestern Wyoming after a judge declined to stop it during a lawsuit over how the animals are counted." According to the article, "as of Sunday, U.S. Bureau of Land Management contract workers had rounded up 1,367 adult horses and 350 foals." The BLM "could reach its goal of capturing 1,560 adults plus the foals of captured mares this week, bureau spokeswoman Kristen Lenhardt said."

Soil Recovery Project Aimed At Preventing Flooding In Wake Of Huge Fire Near Tiny Montana Town.

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (10/16, Kordenbrock) reports that "earlier this month, a helicopter took flight again over the site of the July fire in the Little Rocky Mountains, this time dropping mulch instead of water." In total, the Bureau of Land Management "covered 61 acres of burned soil on a northeastern slope of Sugar Loaf Butte with nearly 80,000 pounds of the mulch in order to mitigate the dangers flooding and erosion could pose to the town of Landusky below, where around 40 people live." According to Tom Darrington, field manager for the BLM's Malta Field Office, "the burn area emergency stabilization project, which also included the installation of lines made up of 75 straw wattles along the slope in August, cost \$800,000."

Nearly Complete Fossilized Dinosaur Remains Flown To Museum.

The [AP](#) (10/16) reports that "the nearly complete fossilized remains of a tyrannosaurus found two years ago in southern Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument were airlifted to the Natural History Museum of Utah in Salt Lake City on Sunday." According to the article, "the 75 million-year-old Teratophoneus was covered in plaster and flown by helicopter in pieces Sunday to the Salt Lake City museum, where paleontologists will spend several years removing rock from the fossil."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

BOEM, Avangrid Finalize North Carolina Offshore Wind Lease.

[North American Windpower](#) (10/16, Lillian) reports that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has "finalized a lease with Avangrid Renewables for a 122,405-acre wind area offshore North Carolina." In March, Avangrid submitted "a winning bid of \$9,066,650 for the Kitty Hawk Wind Energy Area after 17 rounds of BOEM's competitive lease sale." BOEM "says it signed the lease on Oct. 10, and it goes into effect on Nov. 1."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Windpower Engineering & Development](#) (10/16, Froese) and the [Triangle \(NC\) Business Journal](#) (10/16, Ohnesorge).

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Gulf Of Mexico Oil Spill May Be Largest Since BP Disaster.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/16, Grant) reports that, according to US Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement data, last week's oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico could be the largest since the 2010 BP Deepwater Horizon rig blowout. LLOG Exploration Co.'s Delta House production facility spilled between 7,950 and 9,350 barrels of oil last week. The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/16, Schleifstein) reports the BSEE is convening a panel of inspectors, engineers and accident investigators to review the spill. Lars Herbst, director of the BSEE Gulf of Mexico region, said, "BSEE places great emphasis on making certain all oil and gas operations on America's Outer Continental Shelf are safe. ... This panel investigation is a critical step in ensuring BSEE determines the cause, or causes, of the incident and develops recommendations to prevent similar events from occurring in the future."

[Oil, Gas & Petrochem Equipment](#) (10/16) also provided coverage.

Fish And Wildlife Service

Yukon Chief Seeks Trudeau's Help To Stop U.S. Oil Drilling In Caribou Habitat.

The [Canadian Press](#) (10/16) reports Yukon First Nation Chief Bruce Charlie is asking Prime Minister Justin Trudeau to get the White House to stop its push for drilling in the Arctic caribou habitat. The Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation chief is looking to halt drilling plans in the ANWR, and would like Trudeau to address the issue in a November meeting with President Trump.

Wyoming Wildlife Managers To Hold Grizzly Management Circuit.

The [AP](#) (10/16) reports that "Wyoming wildlife managers are hosting a circuit of meetings around the state to talk about management of grizzly bears." The article says that "the meetings aren't designed to set policies, such as hunting regulations. They'll simply be for members of the public to share their feelings on the state's grizzly management."

Additional coverage was provided by [Montana Public Radio](#) (10/16, O'Brien).

Grizzlies Saved This Vietnam Vet's Life. Now He's Fighting To Return The Favor. The [Huffington Post](#) (10/16, D'Angelo) reports that a Vietnam veteran is a plaintiff in a lawsuit to restore federal protections for Yellowstone grizzly bears. According to Doug Peacock, "with the impacts of climate change becoming undeniable, it is a critical time for the Yellowstone grizzly." His "most immediate concern is hunting."

Rare Hawaiian Crows Released Into Native Forests Of Hawai'i Isla.

[KITV-TV](#) Honolulu (10/16, Ako) reports that "five young 'alala, two females and three males, were released into Pu'u Maka'ala Natural Area Reserve (NAR) on the Island of Hawai'i on Wednesday, October 11." The group of birds "joins a previous group that had been released into the forest at the end of September." Michelle Bogardus, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Geographic team leader for Maui Nui and the Hawai'i Islands, said, "Our efforts to bring this species back from the brink of extinction have been tremendously bolstered by our ability to protect a small population of 'alala in a conservation breeding program in Hawai'i. Now that we built up the population to more than 125 birds at the Hawaiian Bird Center we can begin the long road to recovering this incredible species in its native habitat."

National Park Service

Gettysburg National Military Park Names New Superintendent.

The [Hanover \(PA\) Evening Sun](#) (10/16, Levy) reports that Charles "Chuck" Hunt will serve as acting superintendent for Gettysburg National Military Park from Oct. 17 until January 2018. Hunt said in a news release, "I am very honored to have the opportunity to serve as acting superintendent for Gettysburg National Military Park and Eisenhower National Historic Site for the next few months. The stories, landscapes and resources of these two parks have inspired generations." According to a National Park Service official, "the former superintendent, Ed Clark, was reassigned in May in the best interest of regional and park needs." Clark is "on detail as the acting chief for the northeast regional office's park planning and special studies division."

Stabilization Work Completed On Glacier's Sperry, Fundraising Goals Exceeded.

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (10/16, Backus) reports that "the race to shore up the charred rock walls, chimneys and gables of Sperry Chalet's dormitory before winter is done." According to the article, "a 10-person national park crew faced freezing temperatures, rain and snow over a two-week stint to brace the walls, sandwich the gables with plywood, and surround the chimney with collars of wood in an effort to protect the more than century-old structure from wind and snow." The article notes that "the stabilization work that was completed on the structure may not have been possible without the financial help of more than 700 donors from nearly every state and from countries as far away as Australia and the Ukraine." The fundraising effort to stabilize the chalet was spearheaded by the Glacier National Park Conservancy. Glacier National Parks spokesperson Lauren Alley said, "The conservancy was ready to help from day one. We were up against winter and we needed to be able to put people up there quickly. The generous donors helped make that happen."

Theodore Roosevelt National Park Holds Bison Roundup In South Unit.

The [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (10/16, Dalrymple) reports that Theodore Roosevelt National Park is reducing the size of its bison herd this week. According to the article, "staff at the South Unit of the park are conducting a bison roundup to cull the size of the herd from 500 to about 380 animals." The article says that "a majority of the animals will go to supplement herds of various tribes through the InterTribal Buffalo Council, which represents about 60 tribes across 19 states, according to Patrick Toomey, range technician for the Rapid City, S.D.-based organization."

Isle Royale National Park Reintroduction?.

The [Marquette \(MI\) Mining Journal](#) (10/16, Freedman) reports that a new study suggests that Canada lynx could "return to Isle Royale and survive there." According to a research team from the National Park Service and the University of Minnesota Duluth, "there is a high potential for a successful lynx reintroduction to Isle Royale if the animals are appropriately monitored and managed." The study said, "Isle Royale could continue its long and storied tradition as a site that leads to a better understanding of wildlife ecology and conservation."

Wyoming Asking Yellowstone Workers To Register Vehicles.

The [AP](#) (10/16) reports that "the Wyoming Department of Transportation, at the request of Gov. Matt Mead and members of Wyoming's congressional delegation, is pushing to get more Yellowstone residents and workers to follow state law and purchase Wyoming registrations and driver's licenses." The article says that "state and federal officials say they don't know how many of the about 550 permanent and more than 3,000 seasonal employees working for the National Park Service and Yellowstone's concessionaire, Xanterra Parks & Resorts need to get Wyoming plates." However, "with an average vehicle registration costing a couple hundred dollars, the state could theoretically be losing out on hundreds of thousands of dollars in fees each year, the Powell Tribune reported."

Man Believes Bodies In California Desert Are Son, Girlfriend.

The [AP](#) (10/16) reports that "the father of a missing California man said he believes the bodies of his son and his son's girlfriend have been found in Joshua Tree National Park, near the area where they vanished while hiking three months ago." However, "officials did not immediately confirm the identities of the two adults discovered Sunday in rugged terrain near a popular trail in the desert park." Gilbert Orbeso, "who was with searchers when the discovery was made, told

KESQ-TV they are his son, Joseph Orbeso, 21, of Lakewood and his girlfriend, Rachel Nguyen, 20, of Westminster.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

CNN Poll: Trump’s Approval Rating For Handling Hurricanes Drops 20 Points.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/16, Correll) reports President Trump’s approval rating for overseeing the federal government’s response to several recent hurricanes has “dipped by 20 points in the past month,” according to a new CNN [poll](#). Trump reached “a 64 percent approval rating for responding to Hurricane’s Harvey and Irma in mid-September, but now only 44 percent of Americans approve of his response to hurricanes, as Puerto Rico attempts to recover from Hurricane Maria.” The CNN Poll was conducted by SSRS from Oct.12-15 by telephone using a random sample of 1,010 adults.

Democrats Seek Tax Relief For Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands.

The [AP](#) (10/16, Gordon) reports that a group of Democratic lawmakers are asking for tax relief for hurricane-stricken Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, “saying people and businesses in the two US territories don’t enjoy the same benefits as those in the mainland.” The lawmakers are asking Rep. Kevin Brady, head of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, “to work on legislation that would, for example, extend the earned income tax credit for low- to moderate-income workers to Puerto Rico and increase the amounts paid under the low-income housing tax credit.”

Interior Pays Out \$56M For FSM, Marshalls.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (10/13) reports that “a total of \$30,819,840 from the U.S. Department of the Interior has been remitted to the Compact trust fund for the Federated States of Micronesia, according to assistant secretary for Insular Areas Doug Domenech.” Also, “a total of \$16,854,600 has been paid out to the compact trust fund for the Republic of the Marshall Islands.” And “an additional partial payment of \$9,070,200 was also provided separately to the Marshall Islands for ongoing use of the Kwajalein Atoll, a missile defense test site.”

Interior, Census Launch 2018 Enumeration Of Compact Migrants In Hawaii, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands And American Samoa.

The [Kaselehlie Press \(FSM\)](#) (9/1) reported that Interior Acting Assistant Secretary Nikolao Pula has “signed a Statement of Work with the U.S. Census Bureau to carry out the next 5-year enumeration of migrants from the Freely Associated States in Hawaii, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and American Samoa, as required by the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-188).” Pula said, “The law requires that we work with the Census Bureau to conduct this enumeration every five years as the basis for the distribution of Compact Impact funds. I have reached out to Governors of Guam, Hawaii, the CNMI and American Samoa asking for their cooperation to ensure the enumeration is successful. We have also reached out to members of Congress.”

Governor Mapp Asks Congress For \$5.5 Billion To Help Rebuild USVI.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (10/12) reports that “the cost to rebuild the U.S. Virgin Islands’ infrastructure after last month’s devastating Category 5 hurricanes is estimated at \$5.5 billion dollars, Governor Kenneth Mapp said Thursday.” In a letter forwarded to congressional leaders, Mapp wrote, “On behalf of the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands, we are grateful for your concern and dedication to our recovery. After a comprehensive and thoughtful examination of our damages and recovery requirements, we believe that disaster assistance and support of approximately \$5.5 billion would enable the territory to address the most essential needs of American citizens residing in the U.S. Virgin Islands.”

Mapp Announces ‘VI Hurricane And Resiliency Advisory Group’, Created To Guide Recovery Of USVI.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (10/16) reports that Gov. Kenneth Mapp on Monday “announced the creation of an expert advisory committee to help guide reconstruction and resiliency efforts in the U.S. Virgin Islands in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria.” The VI Hurricane and Resiliency Advisory Group, “under the Office of the Governor, includes local

officials and community members, as well as business and environmental experts, and thought leaders from around the United States." Members of the group will "determine, among other things, how the over \$1.4 million collected through USVI recovery to aid with relief efforts, will be spent."

Taiwan President To Visit Marshall Islands, Tuvalu And The Solomon Islands.

[Taiwan News](#) (10/13, Strong) reports that Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen will "start on a journey to three allies in the Pacific – the Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and the Solomon Islands – later this month, the Presidential Office announced Friday." According to Deputy Foreign Minister Francois Wu, "Tsai will leave Taiwan on October 28 and return on November 4." The article notes that "due to pressure from China, Taiwan now only has 20 official diplomatic allies, mostly small or impoverished nations in Africa, the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean."

US Pacific Delegates Highlight Plight Of Military Veterans.

[Radio New Zealand](#) (10/12) reports that "the United States Congressional members from the three Pacific territories have called for an oversight hearing on American veterans living in the US insular areas as well as Samoa." The request was made to the US House Committee on Veterans Affairs in a joint letter from American Samoa's Congresswoman, Aumua Amata; Guam's Madeleine Bordallo; and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Gregorio Kilili Sablan. The letter "requests a hearing to look at the challenges facing those American veterans that reside in American Samoa, CNMI, Guam, Samoa, and the Freely Associated States."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Guam Daily Post](#) (10/13).

On An Island Halfway Around The World, Locals Enlist To Fight And Die For America.

The [Task & Purpose](#) (10/12, Leffler) reports that how the residents of the Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, and Palau "came to be a wellspring for U.S. military recruiters is the subject of *Island Soldier*," a new film. The documentary "takes a hard look at the reasons why islanders are signing up to fight — and in some cases die — for a country that isn't theirs." *Island Soldier* "also explores the impact their service has on their homeland and the people they leave behind, raising serious ethical questions about offering the uniform to a population from a distant and remote land."

Perman Primes Pohnpei Municipal Speakers To Consider Diminishing Compact Returns.

The [Kaselehlie Press \(FSM\)](#) (8/28) reports that Congressman Ferny Perman was a guest speaker "at the Officers of the Municipal Council Association (OMCA) meeting at the Sokehs Municipal Council Chamber on Friday, August 4." Perman "discussed the issue of the financial provisions of the Compact of the Free Association that will end in five years' time." Perman "said that US President Donald Trump and his new administration are not currently considering the possibility of renegotiating the Compact."

US Geological Survey

Study: Preliminary Data Show Cattle, Sage Grouse Can Coexist.

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (10/16, O'Connell) reports that "spring cattle grazing doesn't appear to adversely affect sage grouse nesting success on public lands, according to initial findings of an ongoing, exhaustive research project involving ranchers throughout Idaho." The study, which has "concluded its fourth year," is "led by University of Idaho professor Courtney Conway, who also serves as director of the U.S. Geological Survey Idaho Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit — a partnership of UI, the U.S. Department of Interior and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game." Conway "described the study as 'the most rigorous and thorough of its kind in an unprecedented way' and said it should provide a more scientific basis for future Bureau of Land Management grazing policies in sage grouse habitat."

Additional Reading.

- *Crews Search Air, Water For Missing Worker After Blast.* [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (10/16).
- *3.6-magnitude Earthquake Rattles Part Of Arkansas.* [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (10/16).
- *Earthquake Hits Rural Clatsop County.* [Oregonian](#) (10/16).
- *Earthquakes Pose A Serious Risk To Internet, Cellular Infrastructure.* [Government Technology](#)

(10/16, Lee).

- *BBC – Future – The Great Thaw Of America’s North Is Coming.* [BBC News \(UK\)](#) (10/16, Goudarzi).

Top National News

Media Analyses: Trump And McConnell Present United Front At News Conference.

Coverage of what many news outlets call President Trump’s “impromptu” Monday news conference focuses on efforts by Trump and Senate Majority Leader McConnell to portray their relationship as friendly – and their interests as aligned. Several reports mention that the President had criticized Capitol Hill Republicans just an hour and a half earlier, and that he had repeatedly attacked McConnell on Twitter over the past two months. While McConnell focused mainly on the GOP agenda, stories highlight the President’s efforts to praise both McConnell and former chief strategist Steve Bannon, who has declared “war” on the party establishment.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/16, lead story, 4:10, Muir) reported, “The President started the week with an impromptu press conference, summoning reporters to the Rose Garden today with little notice.” ABC’s Jonathan Karl: “After repeatedly lashing out at him, President Trump held a hastily arranged press conference with Mitch McConnell in the Rose Garden today to declare their relationship outstanding.” Trump: “We have been friends for a long time. We are probably now, despite what we read, we’re probably now, I think, at least as far as I’m concerned, closer than ever before.” Karl: “You’re okay with Bannon campaigning against Republicans running for re-election?” Trump: “I know how he feels, depends on who you are talking about. There are some Republicans frankly that should be ashamed of themselves. I can understand fully how Steve Bannon feels. ... Steve is doing what Steve thinks is the right thing. Some of the people he may be looking at, I’m going to see if we can talk him out of that because frankly, they’re great people.”

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/16, lead story, 2:35, Holt), Peter Alexander reported that Trump tried “to present a united front” with McConnell, “who he’s repeatedly trashed.” McConnell: “Contrary to what some of you may have reported, we’re together totally on this agenda to move America forward.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/16, story 3, 2:10, Mason) reported, “The President called reporters into the Rose Garden today to watch him mend a fence.” CBS’ Major Garrett reported that Trump and McConnell “strolled to the Rose Garden to bury the hatchet.” McConnell: “We have the same agenda. We’ve been friends and acquaintances for a long time.” Garrett: “It was a change in tone from just 90 minutes earlier, when Mr. Trump told his Cabinet [that] do-nothing Republicans were to blame for his stalled legislative agenda...in part echoing” Bannon, “who this weekend declared McConnell an enemy of grassroots conservatives.”

The [New York Times](#) (10/16, Shear, Stolberg) reports that during the “impromptu 45-minute Rose Garden news conference,” Trump and McConnell “both put on a display of bonhomie, waving aside reports of a disintegrating relationship that had included the president’s repeated use of tweets to publicly disparage Mr. McConnell’s legislative leadership.” [Reuters](#) (10/16) reports that both men “tried to move past the tensions that followed the collapse of the healthcare reform effort on Monday with a show of unity that focused on tax reform and other items on the Republican agenda.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/16, Stokols) writes that the two effusively praised each other after months of tension, and the [New York Post](#) (10/16, Fredericks) reports that Trump and McConnell “made a show of telling the media what great pals they were.” [Roll Call](#) (10/16, Bennett) headlines its report “Trump, McConnell All Smiles, All The Time.”

However, the [Washington Post](#) (10/16, Sullivan) reports that “one uncomfortable element of the dynamic between McConnell and Trump continued to loom over the two men”: Bannon’s “effort to unseat Republican senators loyal to the majority leader in the midterms by backing insurgent primary challengers.” [McClatchy](#) (10/16, Clark) says that Trump “threw a life raft to the most unpopular Republican in Congress, publicly expressing his support for Mitch McConnell and pledging to ask his anti-establishment friends to leave the Senate leader and his friends alone.”

[Breitbart](#) (10/16, Spiering) reports that McConnell said of Bannon’s strategy, “You have to nominate people who can actually win because winners make policy and losers go home.” He listed “anti-establishment Senate candidates like Christine O’Donnell, Sharron Angle, Todd Akin, and Richard Mourdock” who lost winnable seats due to the perceived extremity of their views. The [Washington Times](#) (10/16, Persons) reports that White House Legislative Director Marc Short echoed McConnell in an interview with Fox News, saying, “We know that frustration is there, but

in many cases a more productive path would be to partner to help make sure Republicans get the job done. And we think they're going to get the job done in 2018 before they face a midterm election."

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/16, Sink) reports that Trump "had launched Twitter attacks on McConnell as recently as August. And, earlier in the day, before a private lunch with McConnell, he said Republicans in Congress aren't getting the job done." The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/16, Morrongiello) reports that Trump "dodged a question on Monday about his criticism of McConnell, promising that the GOP leader 'is going to get [healthcare reform] done and get it done long before anyone else,'" and [Politico](#) (10/16, Lima) reports that Trump praised Bannon for his efforts.

[USA Today](#) (10/16, Jackson, Przybyla) writes that during the "free-form," "rambling" news conference, Trump "hurriedly grazed through a buffet of topics, including hurricane relief in Puerto Rico, condolence calls to the families of dead soldiers, the chances for a tax reform bill, and the alleged obstruction of the Democratic minority in Congress," but said "little" about each. [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/16, lead story, 2:35, Holt) reported, "Trump had plenty to share, from his frustration with the Russia investigation, to whether his predecessors reached out to families of the fallen, to his wish to see Hillary Clinton back in the political arena." NBC's Peter Alexander reported that among the other topics Trump addressed was whether he had "called the families of the four soldiers killed in Niger," leading Trump to launch "an unfounded attack at his predecessors," saying incorrectly that they did not make such calls. The [Washington Times](#) (10/16, Boyer) and [The Hill](#) (10/16, Fabian) also have brief reports on the news conference.

In Cabinet Meeting, Trump Faults Democrats And "Some Republicans" For Difficulties. The [New York Times](#) (10/16, Shear) reports that before his meeting with McConnell, Trump convened his Cabinet "in the hopes of kick-starting his stalled domestic policy agenda and complained that Democrats in Congress are obstructing his efforts on tax reform, health care and the confirmation of judicial nominees." Trump said, "The Democrats have terrible policy. They are very good at, really, obstruction." He also "lashed out – without naming them – at 'some Republicans' in the Senate, members he accused of refusing to go along with their party."

Cochran's Continued Absence Narrows GOP Senate Majority To One. The [New York Times](#) (10/16, Fandos) reports that Sen. Thad Cochran's continued absence from Capitol Hill as he recovers from a urological issue at home in Mississippi means that Senate GOP leaders "are down to a single-vote majority, 51, as they barrel toward a crucial late-week vote on a budget blueprint that would allow Congress to overhaul the tax code." Cochran's office did not say when the 79-year-old Appropriations Committee chairman might return.

Trump: "Total Termination" Of Iran Deal Possible.

The [AP](#) (10/16, Lee) reports President Trump on Monday "renewed his threat to fully withdraw" the US from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, "while holding out the possibility that fixes to the accord may prevent an American pullout. Justifying his decision last week to decertify" the accord under US law, Trump said the US "had been taken advantage of in negotiations the Obama Administration conducted and that he was tired of it," which is "why he refused to confirm to Congress that the deal is in America's national security interest." Trump told reporters at the White House, "I feel strongly about what I did. I'm tired of being taken advantage of as a nation. This nation has been taken advantage of for many, many years, for many decades, frankly, and I'm tired of watching it. But the Iran deal was something that I felt had to be done."

[Politico](#) (10/16, Nelson) reports Trump said Monday that he is waiting for "phase two" of the deal, "one that will either improve it or prompt him to withdraw the US entirely." Of the latter option, the President said, "some would say that's a greater possibility."

YJ Fischer, who served as the assistant coordinator for Iran nuclear implementation at the State Department during the Obama Administration, writes in [USA Today](#) (10/16), "It was my job in the Obama administration to work with Iran and our allies on implementing the nuclear agreement. Based on everything I saw, President Trump is right that now is the time to be seeking new concessions. That's why it's confounding that Trump decided to decertify the 2015 nuclear agreement absent any evidence of Iranian violations, instead of building on a deal that's working and going back to the negotiating table for a broader follow-up agreement."

EU Reaffirms Support For Deal, Appeals To Congress. [Reuters](#) (10/16, Emmott, Baczynska) reports that the EU Monday "reaffirmed its support" for the 2015 accord and "urged US lawmakers not to reimpose sanctions on Tehran." EU foreign ministers meeting in Luxembourg said a failure to uphold an international agreement backed by the UN Security Council "could have serious consequences for regional peace, and also undermine efforts to check North Korea's

nuclear ambitions." German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel told reporters, "As Europeans together, we are very worried that the decision of the US president could lead us back into military confrontation with Iran."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/14, DeYoung) says differences over the Iran deal reveals "a widening chasm of mutual disdain between the United States and its traditional allies. Trump sees them as self-interested freeloaders who must be reminded of US power. They see him as an erratic force who must be managed as he squanders American leadership."

Iranian Lawmaker: Iran Should "Follow North Korea" After Trump Decertifies Deal. The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (10/16, Kredo) reports Alaeddin Boroujerdi, chair of the Iranian parliament's national security and foreign policy commission, "lashed out" at President Trump on Monday, "saying that Iran and other countries will have no choice but to 'follow North Korea' as a result of the decertification effort." Boroujerdi was quoted by state-run media as saying, "The US president showed by his remarks again that the US government is not trustworthy and the US behavior towards the nuclear deal persuades views of countries like North Korea."

Israeli Ambassador: Trump "Has It Exactly Right." Israeli Ambassador to the US Ron Dermer said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (10/16) that President Trump's approach to the Iran nuclear deal is correct. "We believe the President took the right course. If he can fix it, that would be great. If not, he's prepared to walk away. I think the President has it exactly right."

North Korean Official Rules Out Diplomacy With US.

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/16) reported that a "top" North Korean official "says Kim Jong-un is ruling out any diplomacy with the United States while his regime works on its nuclear and missile programs." The North will wait "until it tests a nuclear bomb above ground and has a ballistic missile capable of reaching the east coast of the US," the official said, adding that further missile tests or an above ground nuclear bomb test could happen "soon."

The [AP](#) (10/16) reports that North Korea's Deputy UN Ambassador, Kim In Ryong, also warned Monday that the situation on the Korean Peninsula "has reached the touch-and-go point and a nuclear war may break out any moment." Kim told the UN General Assembly's disarmament committee that North Korea is the only country that has been subjected to "such an extreme and direct nuclear threat" from the US, and argued that his country has the right to possess nuclear weapons in self-defense.

LATimes Analysis: Unclear Whether North Korean Missiles Can Hit Continental US. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/16, Rañoa, Quintero) reports that although recent missile tests indicate North Korea has made advancements in missile technology, "it's unknown whether its missiles can deliver an atomic weapon to the continental United States." The Times says "missile trajectory and payload make a big difference," and in "most of its longer-range tests, North Korea has flown missiles on near-vertical trajectories with lighter than standard payloads."

Seib: International Community Slow To Crack Down On North Korea. [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/16) columnist Gerald F. Seib writes that nations have been slow to exert economic pressure on North Korea. While President Trump has been criticized for his rhetoric on North Korea, Seib says he deserves credit for leading the economic crackdown on Pyongyang.

Blumenthal: Trump Should Visit DMZ During Trip To South Korea. Sen. Richard Blumenthal was asked on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/16) whether Trump should visit US troops along the DMZ when he visits South Korea next month, as Trump said he may do during a press conference on Monday. Blumenthal said Trump should, explaining, "I think that our US troops, which so ably serve and sacrifice for our country, should be visited by the President wherever they are, and no one should be intimidated, least of all the President."

White House Economic Advisers Report: Corporate Tax Cuts Would Boost Wages.

The [New York Times](#) (10/16, Tankersley) reports, "Highlighting a primary argument the administration will make in drafting and selling its tax plan," a report by the White House Council of Economic Advisers argues that Republicans' plan for corporate tax cuts "would increase a typical household's income by \$3,000 to \$7,000 a year." However, other research, including studies by the Treasury Department and Congressional Research Service, "cast doubt on the theory" that businesses would use tax savings to increase workers' wages. The Times adds that the report's "focus underlines how central a corporate tax cut is to the administration's overall plan."

Economist Supports GOP Tax Plan, Suggests Improvements. Edward Lazear, chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers from 2006-09, in an op-ed in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/16) praises GOP plans for cutting tax rates and allowing immediate expensing of capital

investments, arguing that economic growth will cover most of the costs and that it will help the middle class. Lazear argues the plan can be improved by permanently raising the expensing cap for non-C-corp business instead of cutting the pass-through tax rate. Such a move would cost less and concentrate tax cuts on small and midsize businesses while not providing benefits for the very wealthy, who receive much of the pass-through income.

EPA To Restrict Settlements With Environmental Groups.

[The Hill](#) (10/16, Cama) reports the Environmental Protection Agency is vowing “to crack down on settlements with environmental groups that sue the EPA.” In a statement EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said, “The days of regulation through litigation are over. ... We will no longer go behind closed doors and use consent decrees and settlement agreements to resolve lawsuits filed against the agency by special interest groups where doing so would circumvent the regulatory process set forth by Congress.” Under the new directive from Pruitt, “the agency will post all lawsuits online, reach out to affected states and industries and seek their input on any potential settlements.”

[Reuters](#) (10/16, Gardner) reports Pruitt “sued the agency he now runs more than a dozen times in his former job as attorney general of oil producing Oklahoma.” The EPA “under former President Barack Obama quietly settled lawsuits from environmental groups with little input from regulated entities, such as power plants, and state governments, he argues.” [Bloomberg News](#) (10/16, Dlouhy) reports the directive “takes aim at a practice conservatives have long criticized as empowering environmental groups to force federal agencies to issue regulations and commit to timelines for imposing them.”

The [Washington Post](#) (10/16, Eilperin) reports that Pruitt “said he was taking action to ensure that consent decrees ‘are not used in an abusive fashion to subvert due process’ and to exclude the public from weighing in.” The Post observes that ending the so-called “sue and settle” practice “has long been a top priority for conservatives and business groups.” The [Washington Times](#) (10/16, Wolfgang) reports Pruitt said in a statement, “The days of regulation through litigation are over.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Under Mr. Trump, America Surrenders.” The [New York Times](#) (10/16) editorializes that while Americans have “long struggled with the question of whether this country should be more involved in world affairs, or less.” Since the end of World War II, “every president has chosen engagement rather than retreat,” but President Trump “is now taking a sledgehammer to that system. His argument, if that term can apply to such an inchoate position, is that America for too long has been ‘losing,’ a situation he has set out to correct with nonnegotiable demands and gratuitous confrontations. He promises both to achieve more and to retrench. He promises to put ‘America first’ while at the same time condemning it to a secondary role in global deliberations.”

Washington Post.

“Drug Dealers In Lab Coats.” A [Washington Post](#) (10/16) editorial calls the bill’s passage “disgraceful conduct,” and argues that Congress “must put teeth back in DEA enforcement. President Trump suggested Monday he will reexamine Mr. Marino’s nomination as drug czar. He should withdraw it, and Mr. Marino instead should be held to account for kneecapping the DEA’s opioid enforcement effort.”

“Starting From Scratch On The Travel Ban.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/16) editorializes that the Supreme Court last week “dismissed a suit against the second iteration of President Trump’s ban on travel, which targeted six majority-Muslim countries,” and that ruling “signals a quiet end to a potentially explosive case – for now,” but “the legal fight against the travel ban grinds on, with multiple challenges to the newest version of this nonsensical policy working their way through the courts.” The Post argues that “the latest version may be less obviously discriminatory against Muslims, but that doesn’t mean that limiting travel from a jumble of countries...will have any benefit to Americans’ safety.” The Post concludes that “on the third round of this legal battle, the lower courts have a chance to consider the president’s policy with cooler heads,” but “whether the Trump administration can successfully defend the revised travel ban in court is a separate question from whether the ban is good policy. That much is clear: It isn’t.”

“One Fight Ends But Another Flares.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/16) writes that

the Iraqi government operation against Kirkuk “threatens to touch off a wider sectarian war” and that much now will depend on whether Iraqi forces, and the Shiite militias under Iranian command, “press their advantage or pause to negotiate.” The Post concludes that the seizure of Kirkuk and the potential future conflict are the result of Iraqi leaders and the US-led coalition under both the Obama and Trump Administrations ignoring the problems of ethnic cleavages in the country.

Wall Street Journal.

“Assault On The Kurds.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/16) writes that Iraqi forces’ seizure of Kirkuk from US-allied Kurds – an operation aided by Iranian forces – offers a victory for Iran in northern Iraq. The Journal argues that abandoning the Kurds would damage US credibility and President Trump’s ability to enlist allies against Iranian expansion in the Middle East.

“Austria’s Not So Scary Right Turn.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/16) says Sunday’s election victory by Sebastian Kurz of the center-right Austrian People’s Party (ÖVP) confirms that voters care about results, and an electorate supporting a fringe party, like the far-right Freedom Party which governed from 2000-05, out of frustration won’t follow it into an abyss.

“Liberals Embrace ‘Dark Money.’” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/16) says that despite Democratic railing against so-called “dark money” in politics, Fusion GPS cited its First Amendment rights by using the same arguments that have been used to defend dark money. The Journal says the company has no constitutional right to avoid the Russia probe.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[US Seeks To Stay Neutral In Iraq Conflict](#)

[Trump And McConnell Declare They Have A Common Agenda](#)

[Nordstrom Family Suspends Effort To Go Private](#)

[China’s Xi Approaches A New Term With A Souring Taste For Markets](#)

New York Times:

[Iraqi Forces Sweep Into Kirkuk, Checking Kurdish Independence Drive](#)

[Trump And McConnell Strive For Comity Amid Rising Tensions](#)

[As US Confronts Internet’s Disruptions, China Feels Vindicated](#)

[Deep In Trump Country, A Big Stake In Healthcare](#)

[Harvey Weinstein’s Fall Opens The Floodgates In Hollywood](#)

[LIGO Detects Fierce Collision Of Neutron Stars For The First Time](#)

[Stranded By Maria, Puerto Ricans Get Creative To Survive](#)

Washington Post:

[Jesus Keeps A Low Profile At High-Tech Bible Museum](#)

[Stars Collide, Bringing Forth A New Era Of Astrophysics](#)

[Baghdad Retakes Oil City Amid Dispute With Kurds](#)

[Backlash Over Drug Czar Pick](#)

[‘Impenetrable’? Mexicans Doubt It.](#)

[In NAFTA talks, Division Is Growing On The Vine](#)

Financial Times:

[Credit Suisse Targeted For Break-Up By Activist Hedge Fund](#)

[Neutron Star Smash Sets The Universe Quivering](#)

[IMF Crunches The Numbers For Possible Venezuela Rescue](#)

[Iraqi Forces Seize Control Of Kirkuk From Kurdish Fighters](#)

Washington Times:

[Iraqi Forces Retake Oil-Rich Kirkuk From Kurdish Control After Independence Referendum](#)

[After Revolt Against Establishment Republicans, Trump Stands By ‘Friend’ McConnell](#)

[From Press Leaks To Tweetstorms: Trump Changes Flow Of White House Information](#)

[Trump Dismantles Obama's 'Imperial' Presidency, Rescinds Dubious Orders](#)
[Bill Clinton Caught Up In Fallout From Harvey Weinstein Sexual-Assault Scandal](#)
[Egypt Moves Palestinians Toward Reconciliation, Pressuring Israel On Broader Peace Deal](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: White House-Impromptu Press Conference; Louisiana-Oil Rig Explosion; California Wildfires; New York City Bombing Trial; Kidnapped US Soldier Trial; Somalia Bombing; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal; Kaepernick NFL Accusation; Hurricane Ophelia; Air Asia Flight Malfunction; Missouri-Escaped Inmates; New York City Traffic Accident; Missing Couple Bodies Found; Neutron Stars Collision; Soldier's Family.

CBS: Opioid Epidemic-White House; Opioid Epidemic-Congress; White House-Impromptu Press Conference; California Wildfires; Kidnapped US Soldier Trial; Syria-Raqa Assault; Somalia Bombing; Las Vegas Shooting-Gun Control; Air Asia Flight Malfunction; Hurricane Ophelia; Kaepernick NFL Accusation; Sexual Harassment Victims.

NBC: White House-Impromptu Press Conference; Opioid Epidemic-White House; Kidnapped US Soldier Trial; Louisiana-Oil Rig Explosion; California Wildfires; Kaepernick NFL Accusation; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal; Health Insurance Tips; Air Asia Flight Malfunction; New York City Bombing Trial; Hurricane Ophelia; Neutron Stars Collision; Disabled Child-Prosthetic.

Network TV At A Glance:

White House-Impromptu Press Conference – 9 minutes, 35 seconds
Opioid Epidemic – 8 minutes, 5 seconds
California Wildfires – 6 minutes, 40 seconds
Kidnapped US Soldier Trial – 4 minutes, 40 seconds
Kaepernick NFL Accusation – 3 minutes, 25 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: White House-Private Email Scandal; White House-Impromptu Press Conference; Louisiana-Oil Rig Explosion; Mercedes Benz Recall; Wall Street News.

CBS: White House-Impromptu Press Conference; Sen. McCain-Liberty Medal; California Wildfires; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal; Kidnapped US Soldier Trial.

FOX: California Wildfires; Louisiana-Oil Rig Explosion; Sen. McCain-Liberty Medal.

NPR: California Wildfires; White House-Impromptu Press Conference; Kidnapped US Soldier Trial; Louisiana-Oil Rig Explosion.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with Secretary of Defense James Mattis; meets with Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras of Greece; participates in a Diwali ceremonial lighting of the Diya; gives remarks to the Heritage Foundation's President's Club Meeting.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — participates in a political reception in Buffalo, NY.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee markup hearing on Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations bill Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 124, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee latest hearing on the cost of prescription drugs – Hearing on 'The Cost of Prescription Drugs: How the Drug Delivery System Affects What Patients Pay, Part II', with testimony from Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America Executive Vice President for Policy, Research & Membership Lori Reilly; Association for Accessible Medicines President and CEO Chip Davis Jr.; Healthcare Distribution Alliance Senior Vice President for Government Affairs and General Counsel Elizabeth Gallenagh; Pharmaceutical Care Management Association President and CEO Mark Merritt; and American Pharmacists Association Executive Director and CEO Thomas Menighan Location: Rm 430, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Gregory Katsas to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit; Jeffrey Uhlman Beaverstock to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama; Emily Coody Marks and Brett Joseph Talley to be U.S. District Judges for the Middle District of Alabama; and Holly Lou Teeter to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Kansas Location: Dirksen Senate

Office Building, Rm 226, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Banking Committee hearing on consumer credit data security – Hearing on ‘Consumer Data Security and the Credit Bureaus’, with testimony from Covington & Burling partner Andrew Smith (on behalf of Consumer Data Industry Association); Electronic Privacy Information Center President Marc Rotenberg; and Congressional Research Service Analyst in Cybersecurity Policy Chris Jaikaran Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

11:15 AM Senate Dems speak on removing Arctic National Wildlife Refuge drilling from GOP budget legislation – Democratic Sens. Ed Markey, Michael Bennet, Al Franken, and Jeff Merkley call for the removal of any language in the Fiscal Year 2018 Republican budget resolution that would allow for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, via press conference with environmental, wildlife, and natural resources organizations including the League of Conservation Voters (LCV), Alaska Wilderness League, and Gwich’in Tribal Council Location: U.S. Capitol, Senate Swamp, Washington, DC www.markey.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/MarkeyMemo>

2:30 PM Nominations hearing considers Christopher Sharpley to be CIA Inspector General Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

3:00 PM Homeland Security Subcommittee markup hearing on Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations bill Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 138, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

US House: 10:00 AM Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission briefing on Qatar – Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission briefing on ‘Human Rights in Qatar’, with a panel of Project on Middle East Democracy Advocacy Officer Todd Ruffner, Human Rights Watch Middle East and North Africa Division Executive Director Sarah Leah Whitson, and Amnesty International USA Advocacy Director for Middle East and North Africa Raed Jarrar discussing the regional context, reviewing ongoing human rights concerns, examining the human rights impact of the measures imposed by the Gulf Cooperation Council, and offering recommendations for the U.S. Govt Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2456, Washington, DC <http://tlhrc.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/TLHRCommission>

12:30 PM Dem Rep. Jamie Raskin at ‘Teach-In’ Against Hate Crimes – ‘Teach-In’ Against Hate Crimes, presented by the Greater Washington Muslim-Jewish Forum and Interfaith Action For Human Rights, with Democratic Rep. Jamie Raskin, rabbis, imams, interfaith leaders, and organizations focused on fighting bigotry convening to ‘discuss the growing peril hate crimes pose to Muslims, Jews, and Americans of diverse backgrounds’ and ‘call on the leadership of the House of Representatives to pass bipartisan hate crimes legislation introduced months ago and shamefully allowed to languish’ * Part of the 4th Annual Spread Hummus Not Hate daylong bus tour Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2168, Washington, DC www.facebook.com/gwmjf/

On recess until 23 October.

Other: 9:00 AM European Commission VP Katainen speaks on multilateral trade at the Atlantic Council – European Commission Vice-President for Jobs, Growth, Industry and Competitiveness Jyrki Katainen speaks at the Atlantic Council on ‘Why Multilateral Trade Matters’ Location: Atlantic Council, 1030 15th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/> <https://twitter.com/AtlanticCouncil>

9:30 AM Italian Army chief of staff lays wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier – Italian Army Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Danilo Errico participates in Army Full Honor Arrival ceremony at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, hosted by U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley (9:30 AM EDT) and lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, hosted by Joint Force Headquarters-National Capital Region and the U.S. Army Military District of Washington Commanding General Maj. Gen. Michael Howard, Arlington, VA (10:00 AM EDT) Location: TBD <http://mdwhome.mdw.army.mil/> https://twitter.com/MDW_USARMY

12:30 PM GW discussion on ‘Latest developments in the war in Ukraine and the Minsk process’ – ‘Latest developments in the war in Ukraine and the Minsk process’ George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs discussion on current developments in the Russia-Ukraine conflict and future prospects for a diplomatic resolution. Speakers include Ukrainian Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Valeriy Chaly, Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Political Director Paul Teesalu, Deputy Head of the European Union Delegation in the U.S. Caroline Vicini, and former U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine Amb. John Herbst Location: Cloyd Heck Marvin Center, 800 21st St, NW, Washington, DC elliott.gwu.edu <https://twitter.com/elliottschoolgw>

World Trade Credit and Risk Summit – World Trade Credit and Risk Summit, with speakers including former Treasurer of Australia Joe Hockey, Embassy of Canada Minister-Counsellor Colin Bird, Washington International Trade Association Executive Director Ken Levinson, American

Security Project CEO Stephen Cheny, Bretton Woods II initiative at New America Director Tomica Tilleman, RAND Corp Center for Global Risk & Security Director Andrew Parailiti, CSIS Director Scott Kennedy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Center for Global Regulatory Cooperation Senior Manager Kara Sutton, and Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Scott Melzer Location: Ronald Reagan Building and ITC, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC
tradecreditrisks Summit.com

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Trevor Noah: "According to the President, Chicago is basically Syria but with different pizza."

Trevor Noah: "Does Chicago have the most murders? Yes, but it's also the third-biggest city. If you want to talk about cities that are the most dangerous, you have to look at murders per capita, the amount of violent crime relative to the size of the city. Think of it this way: Would you rather be in a big city with five Pennywise the Clowns, or in an Uber Pool with just one?"

Trevor Noah: "It's weird because there are other cities with higher murder rates. You know, like St. Louis, Baltimore, Cleveland. People aren't like, 'Don't go to Cleveland.' Well, they do, but not because of murder."

Trevor Noah: "Oh, now I get it. When there's shootings, Obama's from Chicago. All the other times, he's from Kenya. Now it makes sense."

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DOI In The News

Deputy Takes Bigger Role While Department Awaits Nominee.

[Greenwire](#) (10/23, Brown, Yachnin) reports Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift indicated that "Casey Hammond, the current deputy assistant secretary for fish and wildlife and parks, will temporarily help Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management Katharine MacGregor oversee various Interior agencies." Greenwire says Hammond will be "pulling double duty as the Senate has yet to confirm a permanent assistant secretary for land and minerals management." By "signing secretarial order No. 3357 on Tuesday, Deputy Interior Secretary David Bernhardt declared 'an immediate need for additional executive-level supervision and direction with respect to'" the BLM, BOEM, BSEE, and the OSMRE. Swift said, "The Senate minority is dragging its feet on getting qualified nominees like Joe Balash in leadership roles here at Interior. Rather than let that slow our progress, we are utilizing team members across the bureaus to move the ball forward for the American people."

The [Politico Morning Energy](#) (10/23, Adragna) briefing adds that "in related news, Virginia Johnson, an Interior beachhead staffer and princip[al] deputy secretary for fish wildlife and parks in July left for a job at the USO, according to her LinkedIn profile, and Interior earlier this month

announced Jason Larrabee has been assigned that role. He is listed as acting assistant secretary on his LinkedIn profile." Politico notes that the US Senate is considering the confirmation of Joe Balash as secretary for land and minerals management.

Trump Offered To Change Denali Back; "We Said, 'No!'"

The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/23, Martinson) reports that in a speech at the Alaska Federation of Natives' annual conference Saturday, Alaska Sen. Dan Sullivan (R) "offered up...previously unknown...information about a March meeting between him, Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R), Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and" President Trump. According to Sullivan, "One by one, regarding Obama administration executive actions for the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska, the Arctic Ocean, a road out of King Cove, Trump would turn to Zinke and ask, 'well can we change that to help Alaska?'" ADN adds that to each question, Zinke replied, "Yes, sir." Sullivan said Trump "looked at [him] and said, 'I heard that [Mount McKinley] also had – also its name was changed by executive action. Do you want us to reverse that?'" To this, Sullivan said he and Murkowski "jumped over the desk" and "said, 'no! No. Don't want to reverse that.'" Sullivan "told the president that Denali was the name given to the mountain by the Athabaskan people more than 10,000 years ago." Sullivan said, "So he's like, 'all right, we won't do that.'"

In its "Energy 202" news rundown, the [Washington Post](#) (10/23, Grandoni) cites the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/21, Demer) in reporting on Sullivan's comments on the hour-long meeting. Sullivan said, "We had maps and we were talking all about Alaska issues. So many issues. Our fisheries. Whaling, the culture of whaling in Alaska. The economy. The military." In response, The Hill editor Timothy Cama tweeted, "So pretty much everything Obama did, Trump wants to undo." [Newsweek](#) (10/23, Saul) also covers the ADN report.

GAO: Climate Change Already Costing US Billions.

The [AP](#) (10/23, Biesecker) reports that a GAO "report released Monday said the federal government has spent more than \$350 billion over the last decade on disaster assistance programs and losses from flood and crop insurance," not including the sizable costs from this year's hurricanes and wildfires. The GAO report "says the fiscal impacts of climate change are likely to vary widely by region." The study said, "The federal government has not undertaken strategic government-wide planning to manage climate risks by using information on the potential economic effects of climate change to identify significant risks and craft appropriate federal responses." The AP adds that President "Trump has called climate change a hoax," and "has also appointed officials such as EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, Energy Secretary Rick Perry and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, all of whom question the scientific consensus that carbon released into the atmosphere from burning fossil fuels is the primary driver of global warming."

The [New York Times](#) (10/23, Friedman) says the GAO study warns that "fires, floods and hurricanes are already costing the federal government tens of billions of dollars a year and climate change will drive those costs ever higher in coming years." The report "urges the Trump administration to take climate change risks seriously and begin formulating a response." Sens. Maria Cantwell and Susan Collins, who requested the report, "asserted that the study should help move Congress and the administration past partisan fights over the science of global warming and toward a search for solutions – something they said could be problematic given that the Trump administration is rolling back many of former President Barack Obama's climate change initiatives."

Zinke Boosted Fortunes Of 'Scam PAC' Operators.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "has directed millions of dollars in political contributions since 2014 to" Washington-area political operative Scott Mackenzie, organizer of Virgin Islands GOP PAC "VIGOP," which "hosted the secretary at a St. Croix fundraiser in March," according to a 2,300-word [Politico](#) (10/24, Lefebvre, Juliano) analysis of FEC filings as well as interviews with campaign finance lawyers and people familiar with VIGOP. Critics of Mackenzie "say he operates 'scam PACs' that raise small-dollar donations from conservative voters but then spend the bulk of the money on consultants and overhead." However, "none of the records indicate that Zinke violated the law or received any direct compensation from his association with Mackenzie, the Virgin Islands PAC or its consultants."

Rep. Gowdy Accuses DOE, Interior Of Failing To Comply With Email Requests.

[E&E Daily](#) (10/23) reports that House Oversight and Government Reform Chairman Trey Gowdy (R-S.C.) sent letters last week to four federal agencies saying they were not compliant with his

panel's request for documents on private email use. He sent his letters to the Energy Department, Interior Department, Department of Veterans Affairs, NASA, and also followed up with the EPA.

Interior's Bad-Faith Plan For Wildlife Refuge Puts Future Reform At Risk.

Georgetown Law professor David A. Super writes a column for [The Hill](#) (10/23, Super) about last week's release "of internal Interior Department communications showing both an intent to disregard the law in building a road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge on the Alaska Peninsula and a concerted effort to conceal these plans from Congress and the public." Super asserts, "The supposed rationale for this road – to facilitate medical evacuations from the small village of King Cove – does not bear serious examination." Rather, Super argues, "the true purpose of this road is hauling fish for a company in King Cove." Super concludes, "When the administration abuses...the discretion it already possesses to do covert, cynical favors for industry under false humanitarian pretenses, the only lesson that people who take environmental protection seriously will draw is that all flexibility must be systematically removed from statutes."

Birth Control For Wild Horses Is The Obvious Alternative To Mass Killing.

Former US congressman Bill Richardson and Center for Animals Director Allen Rutberg write in [The Hill](#) (10/23, Richardson, Rutberg) to oppose the House Appropriations Committee's authorization of "killing healthy wild horses and burros," which they say it did "with the full support of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke." They assert that while the BLM "scheme for managing protected wild horses and burros has never worked well, and has collapsed completely in the last 15 years," "the killing strategy is no more sustainable than the roundup and adopt strategy." Richardson and Rutberg predict public outrage against the committee's decision, and argue "the BLM must develop and put into practice locally tailored long-term plans to manage wild horses and burros with fertility control."

Time Is Ripe To Reconsider Historical Markers And Names, Historians And Natives Say.

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (10/23, French) highlights opinions that the removal of confederate monuments should be reconsidered. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke reportedly "told Breitbart News that he will not remove any monuments from federal lands." Zinke said, "Where do you start and where do you stop? It's a slippery slope. If you're a native Indian, I can tell you, you're not very happy about the history of General Sherman or perhaps President Grant." Indian Country Today editor Simon Moya-Smith responded, "This is a perfect example of how divorced Secretary Zinke is from the Native community. Were he intimately familiar with Natives he'd already know that for decades we've called for the eradication of monuments to Native murderers like Andrew Jackson, Christopher Columbus, etc. ... Sec. Zinke should stop using Natives as an excuse to keep racist monuments erected."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Tribes Seek Reparations Over Oregon Site Destroyed For Highway Expansion.

The [AP](#) (10/23) reports that Justice Department attorneys "asked a federal judge Monday to dismiss a lawsuit filed by tribal elders who say a sacred site was destroyed to expand a highway near Oregon's Mount Hood." Justice Department attorney Ben Schiffman "said in a telephone hearing that the elders were not substantially burdened by the expansion of U.S. 26 and lacked standing to sue." According to the AP, "the elders from Yakama Nation and the Confederated Tribes of Grande Ronde claim the Federal Highway Administration violated the Religious Freedom Restoration Act," and "their attorney Stephanie Barclay said the government in 2008 could have widened the road without bulldozing a site that included a stone altar and medicinal plants." The AP notes that "rather than money, the Native Americans are asking for a historical marker, a rebuilt altar and for the planting of new trees and plants."

[Courthouse News](#) (10/23, Brown) reports that US Magistrate Judge Youlee Yim You "seemed skeptical Monday about the government's argument that it was within its rights to destroy burial grounds and a ceremonial site sacred to members of the Klickitat and Cascade Native American tribes to widen a highway." CN adds that tribal members said "they repeatedly pleaded with the government not to disturb the stone memorial and sacred grove of trees," but "the government filed a motion to dismiss the case, claiming that it is legally allowed to do whatever it wants on land it owns. 'Many cases show that the federal government's use of its own property, as a legal

matter, cannot constitute a substantial burden,' U.S. Attorney Reuben Schifman told" Judge You.

Native American Marine Vet Considered A Homeland Hero.

The [AP](#) (10/22, Scott) profiled Native American and US Marine Corps veteran Jesse DesRosier, highlighting his efforts to defend Blackfeet lands and culture. The AP said, "Today, Native Americans serve in the U.S. military at the highest rate per capita of any ethnic or cultural population, and Montana is home to more than 6,000 tribal veterans, many of them Blackfeet." The article mentioned that DesRosier "and dozens of other Native American veterans and active-duty members have petitioned U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to defend a sacred ancestral homeland known as the Badger-Two Medicine, a 130,000-acre area named for the two rivers that define it," seeking "permanent protections from oil and gas drilling."

Smithsonian Museum To Display Post From Dakota Access Pipeline Protests.

The [AP](#) (10/23, Nicholson) reports that the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington DC will be displaying a 12-foot-tall mile-maker post, which was built by Dakota Access pipeline protesters to show how far people traveled to protest the project. Hickory Edwards donated the post to the museum, which he erected in September of 2016.

Tribe Asks 10th Circ. To Revive Landowner's Drill Permit Suit.

[Law360](#) (10/23, Lidgett) reports that on Friday, the federal Tenth Circuit granted a bid from the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma to file an amicus brief in support of Oklahoma landowner Merrill Chance's appeal of a ruling in favor of the BIA. Chance had claimed "the Bureau of Indian Affairs granted an energy exploration company permission to drill on his land without first conducting a required environmental review."

Oklahoma's Kickapoo Tribe Gets More Than \$282K From EPA.

The [AP](#) (10/23) reports that the EPA "awarded the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma more than \$282,000 to curb water pollution." The "tribe will use the grant to control surface and groundwater pollution and establish protection programs that address indoor air, underground storage tanks and solid and hazardous waste management."

Lander Man Sets Out To Document Wind River Wildland Fire Crews Before They Disappear.

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (10/22, Schmelzer) reported that former BIA employee Robin Whiteplume has been documenting the firefighting efforts of Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribe members. Whiteplume said he "wanted to write down the group's history before the men and women are gone, taking their memories with them."

Water, Stone And History In Navajo Land.

[Voice of America](#) (10/23, Taboh) contributor Julie Taboh praises the beautiful views at the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, managed by the NPS, which borders Navajo Indian territory. Mikah Meyer described his tour of the area and said, "It was a privilege to be able to experience these sacred Native American sites and I'm thankful that the National Park Service preserves them in a way that allows myself and so many people to experience them."

Bureau Of Land Management

BLM Seeks Public Comment On Greater Sage-Grouse.

The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (10/23) reports that the BLM "announced opportunities for the public to comment and share issues on the agency's consideration of potential amendments to its Nevada and California land use plans, specifically elements of land use plans that address greater sage-grouse conservation." The BLM announced meetings in "Northern Nevada, including one slated for Elko on Nov. 8."

House Committee To Hear How States Manage Sage Grouse Habitat.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (10/23, Passut) reports, "The House Committee on Natural Resources is to hear from western state officials on Wednesday in an oversight hearing regarding management solutions for the greater sage grouse." The article notes that the BLM has "issued notices stating it intends to reconsider land use plans from 2014 and 2015 designed to protect habitat; withdraw

protections from 10 million acres of habitat on federal land; and cancel an associated environmental impact statement (EIS)."

Plan Will Keep Most Of Arizona National Monument Open To Shooters.

[KTAR-FM](#) Glendale, AZ (10/23) reports online that the BLM "last week recommended closing 53,300 acres of the Sonoran Desert National Monument to recreational shooting, but keeping the remaining 443,000 open to shooters." The latest plan, published "Friday in the Federal Register, calls for making 11 percent of the monument's land off-limits to shooting," although "hunting is not affected by any of the proposals considered by the bureau, and would be allowed anywhere in the monument with the proper permits." BLM Arizona spokesman Adam Eggers said, "This is by no means the end of the process. ... Nothing has been finalized." He is paraphrased as indicating "Friday started a 30-day protest period for the public to voice concerns or support for the proposal, as well as a 60-day legal review by the governor."

Two Bundy Ranch Standoff Defendants Reach Plea Deals.

The [Arizona Republic](#) (10/23, Anglen) reports that "a legal saga that included two hung juries, two trials and months of testimony in Las Vegas ended Monday for two defendants in the Bundy Ranch standoff case with a misdemeanor plea deal." Eric Parker and O. Scott Drexler "pleaded guilty to obstructing a court order and will not serve additional time in prison, getting credit for time served." Parker and Drexler "initially were charged with conspiracy, extortion, carrying weapons during crimes of violence, assaulting and threatening federal officers, and interference with interstate commerce for their roles in taking up arms against the federal government." The Republic notes that Parker and Drexler, both of Idaho, "were among the first of six defendants to go to trial over the 2014 standoff, which pitted armed ranchers and militia members against Bureau of Land Management agents."

The [AP](#) (10/23, Gorman) reports similarly.

Wyoming Mineral Rights Owners Look To Governor To Help Bring More Gas To Market.

[Utah Public Radio](#) (10/23, Bringham) reports online that "some mineral-rights owners are looking to state governments to help save royalty earnings from natural-gas reserves" after the "Interior Department began the process of reversing Obama-era rules limiting the waste of methane – the primary component of natural gas – on public lands, arguing the regulations were an overreach of authority and cost jobs." Maggie McKenzie, a land and mineral-rights owner in southeastern Wyoming, said that "just because the feds say it's OK to waste millions of dollars in natural gas through leaks, venting and flaring, that doesn't mean Wyoming has to stand by and watch critical revenues vanish into thin air."

Court Rejects Appeal Of Utah ATV Protest Ride Convictions.

The [AP](#) (10/23, Whitehurst) reports that on Monday, the federal Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals in Salt Lake City rejected arguments that Utah county commissioner "Phil Lyman's trial was tainted by the judge's friendship with a conservation group lawyer." The AP notes, "Lyman and blogger Monte Wells were convicted of federal misdemeanor charges for their roles in an ATV protest ride through parts of southern Utah's Recapture Canyon, which was closed to motor vehicles to protect ruins that are nearly 2,000 years old." Wells "said he's disappointed in the ruling in the case that he calls emblematic of frustrations over federal management of public land."

Murder Trial Starts For Man Who Stoked US Immigration Debate.

The [AP](#) (10/23, Elias) reports that alleged murderer "Garcia Zarate's trial began Monday with Deputy District Attorney Diana Garcia showing jurors the handgun that is accused of firing and said a ballistics expert will testify that the only way to fire it is to pull the trigger." The AP notes that the handgun belonged to a BLM "ranger who reported that it had been stolen from his parked car in San Francisco a week before Steinle was shot." The AP says the "shooting touched off a political furor during last year's presidential race, with President Donald Trump citing the killing of 32-year-old Kate Steinle as a reason to toughen U.S. immigration policies."

Some Analysts Say Trump Policies Could Accelerate Decline Of Coal.

The [Washington Times](#) (10/23, Wolfgang) reports on its front page that while President Trump "has dismantled much of his predecessor's environmental agenda and rolled back the regulatory war on coal," according to "analysts," "coal's long-term future is bleak and that the administration's friendly policies toward natural gas could speed up the decline." Analysts "say

Mr. Trump and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt, despite their best efforts, simply cannot ward off market forces that have been building for years." Moreover, "research shows the administration's fossil fuel-centric energy policy – which is focused not just on coal but also on revving up oil and gas production on federal lands and loosening restrictions on private land exploration – could have adverse effects on coal."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Signed, Sealed, Delivered.

The [Politico Morning Energy](#) (10/23, Adragna) briefing reports that BOEM "approved a key step of Deepwater Wind's 144-megawatt Revolution Wind project that will enable the company to collect the biological and wind performance data it needs to file a construction plan." The briefing adds, "Massachusetts is slated to pick the winning contracts in July, and Deepwater Wind has said it could bring the project online by the end of 2023."

Offshore Oil Drilling May Be Coming To A Coastline Near You.

In [EcoWatch](#) (10/23, Stauffer), Surfrider Foundation Environmental Director Pete Stauffer predicted the expansion of offshore oil drilling in the US. Stauffer cites how "following an executive order earlier this year, Interior Sec. Ryan Zinke announced plans to revise the nation's Five-Year Offshore Drilling Plan, threatening the Atlantic, Pacific, Gulf of Mexico and Arctic Ocean with the prospect of new offshore oil rigs." Stauffer attacks these plans, writing, "The drilling, rigs and transportation tankers required for offshore drilling release a brew of toxic chemicals and leaked oil." Stauffer urges readers to "submit comments to the Department of the Interior and boldly voice their opposition to offshore drilling."

A Floating Wind Farm Could Generate Electricity Off Hawaii's Shores By 2025.

Behind a paywall, [Pacific Business News \(HI\)](#) (10/23, Mai) reports, "Hawaiian Electric, the state's largest utility, said in its power supply improvement plan it plans to utilize 200 megawatts of offshore wind power by 2030 and 800MW by 2045." The article mentions the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

Bureau Of Reclamation

As Dams Burst, Trump Seeks To Gut Key Safety Regime.

A 2,300-word [Greenwire](#) (10/23, Jacobs) analysis says American dams "are crumbling," citing failures at the Oroville Dam in California last year, two dams destroyed by Hurricane Harvey in Houston, and the spillway failure at the Guajataca Dam in Puerto Rico due to Hurricane Maria. Yet, "President Trump wants to zero out the Reclamation program's budget. Seemingly because it grew out of the Obama administration's climate change adaptation strategy." Greenwire praises the Reclamation program as "a natural fit for the bureau," saying that "for 40 years, Reclamation and the Army Corps of Engineers...have been the country's leaders in developing dam safety protocols that are passed along to industry and state regulators responsible for the vast majority of the country's dams."

Lawsuits Mount Against Feds Over Dam Water Release During Hurricane Harvey.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/23, Randazzo) reports that a number of lawyers are pursuing dozens of lawsuits against the federal government – lawsuits seeking compensation for the damage Houston homeowners argue resulted from the US Army Corps of Engineers' decision to release water from two Houston-area reservoirs in the days following Hurricane Harvey's impact. With the estimated 10,000 homes affected by the reservoirs, the litigation potentially could result in billions of dollars in compensation, but the lawyers' arguments, based upon a small area of eminent domain law, likely will face challenges in court.

D.C. Tackles Emissions With Bikes. Choose Your Color.

Behind a paywall, [ClimateWire](#) (10/23, Jacobs) says, "It's morning rush hour in the nation's capital, and bicyclists crowd their lane six deep at an intersection. Clad in spandex and business suits, a few ride the bright green, orange, red or yellow bikes that signal a new phase of city cycling." The article mentions the Bureau of Reclamation.

If We Can't Build Two Tunnels To Bring Sacramento Delta Water To SoCal, Will One Suffice?

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/23, Board) editorializes in support of the two-tunnel plan for the Los Angeles WaterFix program, which aims to bring Sacramento water into Southern California. Yet, the Times opines, "the already-crippled delta needs more [water]. Whether it's to be one tunnel or two, the rest of us will have to learn to make do with less." The editorial adds, "It's now up to" California Gov. Jerry Brown (D), "with his unparalleled political capital, but entering the final year of his uniquely long tenure as California's leader – to decide how much less is still enough."

Colorado AG Asks Court To Dismiss Lawsuit That Wants "Person" Status For Colorado River.

The [Denver Post](#) (10/23) reports that the Colorado Attorney General's Office wrote to the US District Court in Denver, asking them to dismiss a lawsuit filed by environmental group Deep Green Resistance, which petitioned "to declare the Colorado River ecosystem a 'person' and represent its interest in court." The attorney general's office "said the questions of 'whether the ecosystem should have the same rights as people, and who should be allowed to assert those rights in federal courts, are matters reserved to Congress by the Constitution.'"

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

LAGCOE 2017 Kicks Off This Week In Acadiana; Oct.

24-26. [KLFY-TV](#) Lafayette, LA (10/23) reports online that the Louisiana Gulf Coast Oil Exposition (LAGCOE) starts this week in Lafayette, Louisiana. This year's keynote speakers are BSEE Director Scott Angelle and BP project general manager Ryan Malone. KLFY explains, "LAGCOE is an event industry leaders said is a way to introduce the oil and gas industry to Acadiana."

McKibben: Citizens Climate Lobby Can Help Block ANWR Drilling.

Bill McKibben, founder of 350.org, writes in the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/23, McKibben) arguing against drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. McKibben is hoping the members of the Citizens Climate Lobby will sway the vote to prevent oil and gas drilling in the refuge. Arguing against the measure, McKibben says a new analysis found the government will generate \$37.5 million by opening drilling, much less than the \$1.8 billion proponents claim. Further, burning the fossil fuels present in the region will only exacerbate damage by carbon.

Fish And Wildlife Service

Ten More Bison Released On The Wind River Reservation.

[KCWY-TV](#) Casper, WY (10/23, Ford) reports online, "The restoration of bison in Fremont County, Wyoming "continues as more of them have been released into the Wind River Reservation." KCWY describes how "members from the Shoshone Tribe along with people in the community joined last week to release 10 more bison on the Wind River Reservation." FWS Project Leader Pat Hnilicka said, "Just returning those bison to their rightful place on the landscape and how there's so much meaning, again not just towards the animals themselves but to the human element to the tribes that are here. That's new to them, it's inter-woven in their culture for all these centuries it's just a very wonderful complete feeling."

GOP Senators Propose Wildfire Management Bill.

[The Hill](#) (10/23, Cama) reports that draft legislation unveiled Monday by Republican "Sens. John Barrasso (Wyo.), Orrin Hatch (Utah), John Thune (S.D.) and Steve Daines (Mont.)" is "aimed at preventing and mitigating wildfires by making it easier to cut down and remove trees and brush." The Hill says that "Republicans have long complained that when land management agencies like the Forest Service have to go through the arduous process of consulting with the Fish and Wildlife Service to allow logging in areas where endangered species live or are nearby, it delays the process of removing wood and brush that contributes to fires." The Hill adds that "provisions of the bill would reduce the obligations of the Forest Service to consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service," and "direct the Forest Service and Interior Department to create certain exclusions from environmental review for wood and brush removal."

King Salmon Reign Becomes More Precarious On Changing Great Lakes.

[USA Today](#) (10/23, Matheny) reports that the declining population of the alewife, a silvery herring, is threatening the population of chinook, or king salmon, which “almost exclusive[ly]” feed on the alewife. The article says the FWS’ Great Lakes Mass Marking Program aims to figure out where caught salmon come from. FWS Mass Marking Program fish biologist Matthew Kornis said, “Our biotechnicians on Lake Michigan are handling about 20,000 fish a year. It gives us the sample size we need.” A joint USGS-Michigan State University study “found that chinook stocking could be cut by an additional 50% with little resulting difference in overall salmon numbers.”

Orphaned Baby Manatees Explore New Home At Cincinnati Zoo.

[WXIX-TV](#) Cincinnati (10/23) reports online, “Orphaned manatees from SeaWorld Orlando have been sent to the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden to receive care before they’re eventually released into the wild.” WXIX notes that the “zoo is part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Manatee Rescue and Rehabilitation Partnership.” Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden Director Thane Maynard said, “We are extremely proud to be part of this conservation program and excited to welcome Pippen, Miles and Mathew to their new home in Cincinnati. There’s nothing better than being able to work with these amazing creatures and ultimately see them return to the wild.”

State On The Lookout For A Miniature But Devastating Foe.

The [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (10/22, Reilly) reported on Montana’s efforts to keep out “quagga mussels that have crashed fisheries and clogged pipes across America.” The FWS “says an infestation could cost the region’s hydroelectric industry alone \$300 million annually.”

Smithfield Man Gets House Arrest For Shooting Bald Eagle, Fatally Running Over It With ATV.

The [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (10/23, Daugherty) reports that Allen H. Thacker of Smithfield, Virginia “was sentenced Monday morning to one month of house arrest on charges that he shot a bald eagle and then ran over it multiple times with an all-terrain vehicle.” In an interview with the FWS, Thacker reportedly confessed “to shooting the eagle, arguing it was a menace.”

Not So Cold Duck? Man Keeps Looking For Bird Thought Extinct.

The [AP](#) (10/23, Borenstein) reports on British writer Richard Thorns’ search for a colorful duck, as he aims to prove they are not extinct. Thorns “is backed by the Global Wildlife Conservation group, which launched a hunt for ‘lost species’ – 25 quirky and elusive plants and animals beginning with the duck.”

National Park Service

Yellowstone’s Bison Dynamics Raise Questions.

A 1,500-word [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/23, French) analysis says that “when Yellowstone National Park did its summer count of bison this year, it was somewhat surprising to see that although the animals suffered their second highest culling and killing since 2000... was the untargeted central herd that shrank substantially and not the northern herd, which is the main target of the bison removals.” As a result, the NPS has “asked, as it has in the past, that tribal and sport hunters limit their harvest outside Yellowstone’s western boundary, which is all central herd bison.” In addition, Park officials are “recommending that no more than 1,250 bison be killed by hunters or shipped to slaughter this winter.”

Spending The President’s Money.

[Greenwire](#) (10/23, Hotakainen) reports that maintenance mechanic “Kenny Klipp appreciates that President Trump donated his first-quarter salary to the National Park Service,” and hopes it will enable him “to join the team of construction workers that will restore the historic Newcomer House at the Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg using the president’s donation of \$78,333 to pay for part of the project.” NPS Historic Preservation Training Center Superintendent Moss Rudley “said the renovation project originally set for 2019 has moved to a faster track, with work scheduled to begin next spring and some windows getting removed as early as February.” The article outlines the history of the Newcomer House.

Climbers Set Speed Record On Yosemite's Nose Of El Capitan.

The [AP](#) (10/23) reports, "Two climbers have set a new speed record for ascending the Nose route of El Capitan in Yosemite National Park, one of the world's most technical and dangerous verticals." Brad Gobright "and climbing partner Jim Reynolds raced up the nearly 90-degree, 2,900-foot (884-meter) precipice in 2 hours and 19 minutes." The AP notes, "More than two dozen people have been killed on El Capitan since 1905."

National Park Service To Host Community Meeting On Climbing.

The [Fayette \(WV\) Tribune](#) (10/23) says, "The National Park Service invites members of the public who have an interest in rock climbing at New River Gorge National River and Gauley River National Recreation Area to a public meeting on Nov. 4 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Canyon Rim Visitor Center." The Tribune says the event will kick off "with a brief presentation, and then focus on how the park, climbing community, neighbors, government entities and others can work together to address issues that have impacts on the park and communities."

Missing Hikers Found Dead Of Gunshot Wounds, And Locked In An Embrace.

The [New York Times](#) (10/23, Caron) reports the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department said Friday that "the bodies of the hikers, Rachel Nguyen, 20, and Joseph Orbeso, 22, who had been missing since late July, were found embracing each other under a tree in Joshua Tree National Park. ... They had no water and seemed to have been rationing their food." The couple "died of gunshot wounds...in what appeared to be a murder-suicide."

Longtime Fla. Park Ranger Tells Tales Of History, Natural Beauty.

The [Lakeland \(FL\) Ledger](#) (10/22, Soergel) featured an interview with Fort Caroline National Memorial lead ranger Craig Morris, who told stories about odd events that happened at the park. The Ledger said, "Fort Caroline is a historical site, and Morris sees his main job as keeping that history alive – telling the stories of the Timucuan Indians who lived there for thousands of years, the French settlers who tried to make a go of it there in the 1560s, and the Spanish who quickly came along to wipe out the impudent French."

US Geological Survey

New Simulations Show Best & Worst Places To Be If Major Earthquake Hits Pacific Northwest.

[KOMO-TV](#) Seattle (10/23, Markovich) reports online, "Researchers with the University of Washington have released new simulations revealing the best and worst places to be when a possible 9.0 earthquake hits." The researchers said "the epicenter of the potentially catastrophic quake will be off the west coast between California and British Columbia, in an area known as the Cascadia Subduction Zone." USGS researcher Dr. Erin Wirth said, "What we've done differently in this research is we've run 50 computer simulations of what a magnitude 9 earthquake on the Cascadia mega thrust could look like." Wirth "will present her findings at the Geological Society of America's annual meeting in Seattle" today.

Routes Out Of Isolation For Yellowstone Grizzlies.

[Phys \(UK\)](#) (10/23) reports that the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team projected paths that "future bears might take to pass through (or bypass) human occupied territory around Helena, Butte, and Bozeman, hopping between islands of wildlands in developed farm and rangeland." Their results will be published in an article "next week in the Ecological Society of America's open access journal *Ecosphere*." Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team leader and USGS ecologist Frank van Manen said, "We let the male bears tell us where they would be most likely to go, by looking at their movement characteristics. We had the luxury of huge datasets of location data from both populations. We could be very picky about our data selection."

UT Geologists Extract Potential Natural Gas Source From The Ocean Floor.

[Texas Monthly](#) (10/23, Hlavinka) reports, "In May, a group of scientists from the UTJSG, Ohio State, Columbia University, and the" USGS "embarked on a mission sponsored by the Department of Energy to extract" methane hydrate, "an icy, flammable substance, from the floor of the Gulf of Mexico." UT postdoctoral fellow Stephen "Phillips said scientists are interested in

learning how methane hydrate plays into the carbon cycle in order to better understand its effects on climate change as well as its role in natural hazards, such as how it relates to submarine landslides." According to the article, the substance "could provide power to future generations."

Low-Pitched, Rumbling Rocks Could Help Predict When Earthquakes Strike: Research Says.

[Reuters](#) (10/23, Hares) reports that a study published Monday in *Geophysical Research Letters*, a journal published by the American Geophysical Union, found that "rocks under increasing pressure before earthquakes strike send out low-pitched rumbling sounds that the human ear cannot detect but could be used to predict when a tremor will strike." For the study, "researchers recreated powerful earthquake forces in a laboratory and used high-tech algorithms to pick out the acoustic clues amid all the other noise of a pending quake."

New Monitoring Available For Earthquakes.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/23, Wethe) reports that TexNet now has "22 permanent" earthquake "monitoring stations and another 40 that are portable." According to the University of Texas, TexNet is the country's most advanced seismic monitoring system run by a state. University of Texas at Austin's Bureau of Economic Geology Director Scott Tinker said "small earthquake events have become more common in Texas recently." Tinker added that "we are now positioned to learn more about them and, hopefully, to understand how to mitigate their impacts in the future."

Top National News

EPA Criticized For Pulling Scientists From Climate Change Panel Discussion.

The EPA's decision to pull its scientists from a panel discussion at a Rhode Island conference highlighting the impact of climate change on the Narragansett Bay is drawing criticism, [USA Today](#) (10/23, King) reports. The move "has sparked fresh criticism about EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt's skepticism toward the broad scientific community's conclusion that human-caused global warming is a proven fact and a growing concern." Rhode Island Sens. Jack Reed and Sheldon Whitehouse "criticized the EPA's decision during an appearance Monday at the conference in Providence, R.I." Whitehouse said, "This has traditionally been a bipartisan issue. ... So there is no reason for it to have to be this way. And it should not take away from the terrific scientific work that is being done, because at the heart of all this is not the politics, it's the knowledge." Reed "said he was 'disheartened and disappointed' that the EPA scientists were not allowed to publicly present their findings." The [Washington Post](#) (10/23, Dennis, Eilperin) says the Administration decision "gave the event a suddenly high profile, with protesters outside, media inside and angry lawmakers and academics criticizing the move."

The [Washington Times](#) (10/23, Wolfgang) reports the three scientists – "Autumn Oczkowski and Rose Martin, both of whom work at an EPA research laboratory in Rhode Island, and Emily Shumchenia, an agency consultant – are co-authors of a report on climate change and its effects on the estuary."

[Reuters](#) (10/22, Scott) reports Tom Borden, Narragansett Bay Estuary Program Director, said the agency gave "no specific reason" as to why the researchers weren't permitted to speak. The [AP](#) (10/23, Smith) reports that in a statement yesterday, EPA spokeswoman Nancy Grantham said, "EPA scientists are attending, they simply are not presenting; it is not an EPA conference."

[Newsweek](#) (10/23, Frankel), the [Daily Caller](#) (10/23, White) and [CNN International](#) (10/23, Vazquez, Marsh) also provide coverage of this story.

EPA Seeks To Repeal Obama-Era Emission Standards For Truck Components.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/23, Eilperin) reports that the EPA is seeking to repeal a rule adopted in the last months of the Obama Administration imposing tighter emissions standards on truck components. The OMB "posted a notice saying that on Saturday it received the proposal to rescind the rule," which "applies the standards now used for heavy-duty trucks to new truck components called gliders and trailers." The rule, the Post adds, "has been widely embraced by the trucking industry."

Senate Panel To Take Another Crack At Vote For NRC, EPA Nominees.

[E&E Daily](#) (10/23, Bogardus) reports that the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee is “taking a second shot at moving through a slate of President Trump’s nominees, including some controversial picks for U.S. EPA.” The committee “will also vote on Jeff Baran, up for another term at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.” The EPW committee was scheduled to vote on the nominees last week, “but Chairman John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) put off the [meeting] amid controversy over EPA’s plans for the renewable fuel standard.” Sen. Joni Ernst (R-IA) “raised concerns about Wehrum over his answers to her questions regarding the RFS.” The markup is “Wednesday, Oct. 25, at 10 a.m. in 406 Dirksen.”

Nicaragua To Join Paris Climate Agreement, Leaving US And Syria As Only Non-Members.

[Reuters](#) (10/23, Pretel) reports that Nicaragua is set to join the Paris climate agreement, leaving the United States and Syria as the only nations who are not members of the global pact. The next round of U.N. climate talks will take place from Nov. 6-17 in Bonn, Germany, as government environment ministers work to create a set of international guidelines for the agreement.

Puerto Rico Still Dealing With Widespread Outages.

[USA Today](#) (10/23, Dorell) reports that more than a month after Hurricane Maria battered Puerto Rico “with 155-mph winds, three-quarters of the residents are still without power, lining up at banks for cash and gathering at shopping malls, hotels or government buildings just to charge their cellphones.” Gov. Ricardo Rosselló acknowledges “that his pledge to restore 95% of power by mid-December is ‘aggressive.’” The article adds, “Col. Jeff Lloyd of the Army Corps of Engineers in Puerto Rico, which the federal government is relying on to help the U.S. territory restore power, would not commit to Rosselló’s mid-December timeline. The Corps has ordered \$130 million worth of supplies, including 62,000 telephone poles from the U.S. mainland.”

The [AP](#) (10/23, Shinkman) reports Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Buchanan, commander of U.S. Army North, “remains defiant in the face of critics who say the response has been too slow or too small, echoing President Donald Trump’s defenses of the relief effort thus far.” Buchanan said, “It’s hard to mass resources when you’re dependent on searift and airlift to get anything here. You can’t just drive down the road like what happened in Florida and Irma.”

Billionaire Richard Branson and Amory B. Lovins of the Rocky Mountain Institute, in a piece for the [New York Times](#) (10/23, Branson, Lovins), urge grid modernization as a way to prevent sustained outages following a severe weather event.

Small Montana Company Secures \$300 Million Contract To Restore Puerto Rico’s Electrical Grid.

In a front-page story, the [Washington Post](#) (10/23, A1, Mufson, Gillum, Davis, Hernández) reports that as part of the effort to restore Puerto Rico’s electrical grid following Hurricane Maria’s damage, a small Montana company called Whitefish Energy has secured a \$300 million contract with the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority “to repair and reconstruct large portions of the island’s electrical infrastructure” – the “biggest” contract yet issued in the effort. Whitefish announced Monday it had 280 workers on the island and “said it was close to completing infrastructure work that will energize some of the key industrial facilities that are critical to restarting the local economy.”

IRENA Says Solar Costs Will Fall Further, Powering Global Demand.

[Reuters](#) (10/23, Tan) reports the International Renewable Energy Agency said yesterday that costs for solar power will decrease “by another 60 percent over the next decade giving an already booming market another boost.” Solar power is in the middle of a “boom because of sharp drops in costs and efficiency improvements, pushing global capacity from virtually zero at the start of the century to 300 gigawatt (GW) by the end of 2016, a figure expected to rise again by 2020.”

Lawmakers Ask Justice Department If Terrorism Law Covers Pipeline Activists.

[Reuters](#) (10/23, Gardner) reports a bipartisan group of US representatives yesterday asked the Department of Justice “whether the domestic terrorism law would cover actions by protesters that shut oil pipelines last year, a move that could potentially increase political rhetoric against climate change activists.” Rep. Ken Buck “said in a letter to Attorney General Jeff Sessions, that damaging pipeline infrastructure poses risks to humans and the environment.” The letter said “operation of pipeline facilities by unqualified personnel could result in a rupture – the consequences of which would be devastating.” The letter “was signed by 84 representatives, including at least two Democrats, Gene Green and Henry Cuellar, both of Texas.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/23, Siciliano) reports “the letter raises security concerns based on an incident last year in which a group of environmental activists attempted to disable pipelines that crossed the border between the U.S. and Canada in multiple states.”

Trump Says Tax Plan Will Include “No Change” To 401(k) Plans.

Amid reports that Republicans were considering reducing the amount workers can contribute to their 401(k) without paying taxes from \$18,000 to \$2,400, President Trump [tweeted](#) Monday, “There will be NO change to your 401(k). This has always been a great and popular middle class tax break that works, and it stays!” While media reports cast Trump’s stance as positive for people saving for retirement, several reports and analyses say the tweet further complicates Republicans’ already difficult task of finding agreement on a tax bill.

The [Washington Times](#) (10/23, Boyer) reports that Trump “said Monday he won’t allow Congress to reduce tax-exempt contributions to popular 401(k) savings plans,” and Ylan Mui said on [CNBC’s Closing Bell](#) (10/23) that Trump’s tweet “may have put the nail in the coffin” for the idea. Pete Alexander reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/23, story 2, 1:10, Holt) that in the wake of Trump’s tweet, Republicans “are scrambling for other ways to try to pay for sweeping tax cuts without ballooning the deficit.”

A front-page story in the [Washington Post](#) (10/23, A1, Paletta, Debonis) says that for GOP tax writers, “Trump’s numerous tax promises are proving difficult to keep.” Charles Lane of the Washington Post said on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (10/23), “I have had Republicans on Capitol Hill emphatically tell me over and over again, ‘We are doing this. We are getting it done. We have no choice. It is political death if we don’t.’ Having said all that, they have a problem which is unless you want to really, really, really blow up the deficit, you have to pay for at least some of this and it’s hard to do it without attacking some big, sacred cow in the tax code.”

[Politico](#) (10/23, Lima) reports that at a town hall on tax reform with Ivanka Trump in Pennsylvania on Monday, “US Treasurer Jovita Carranza reiterated the administration’s intent to retain current 401(k) rules.” Carranza said that although the plan is “always going to be under review, just like it is for corporate America, just like it is for all of the pensions in every state pension,” the Administration does not currently project an overhaul, despite House Republicans’ reported considerations. Carranza said, “That will be continued to be reviewed, but at this point I can say that the latest is that the 401(k) plan is going to stay as is.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/23, Rubin) reports that the Save Our Savings Coalition, which includes the AARP, American International Group Inc. and Northern Trust Corp., said it was “thrilled” by Trump’s tweet. [USA Today](#) (10/23, Shell) calls Trump’s tweet “good news for savers and taxpayers,” and [Reuters](#) (10/23, Heavey) says making changes to 401(k) plans “would risk alienating tens of millions of workers as well as Wall Street, which generates fees from managing the plans.” Moreover, it would “provide ammunition to Democrats, who have painted Trump’s plan, with its \$6 trillion in tax cuts, as a gift to the rich and corporate America that would balloon the federal deficit.”

The [New York Times](#) (10/23, Sullivan, Tankersley) says Trump’s “shutdown of the proposal is the first of what many Republicans privately fear could be a presidential pattern that disrupts their efforts to pass a sweeping overhaul of the tax code.” Similarly, [Roll Call](#) (10/23, Bennett) says Trump’s tweet “further complicated Republicans’ quest to find agreement on a package of tax rate cuts and code changes.” Roll Call adds that GOP aides “have long worried that Trump’s tendency to post erratically on social media could undermine the tax effort and drive a wedge into negotiations between Congress and the White House.”

A [New York Times](#) (10/23) analysis says that while tax reform “was never going to be easy given that it requires targeting lucrative and politically popular tax breaks to mitigate the magnitude of cuts Republicans are envisioning,” supporters of the effort have said “publicly and privately” that Trump “is making a hard task even harder.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/22, Rucker, Sullivan, Kane) reports that “after nine months of struggling to broker agreements, lawmakers in both parties increasingly consider [Trump] an untrustworthy, chronically inconsistent and easily distracted negotiator.” Some Republicans “are openly questioning his negotiating abilities and devising strategies to keep him from changing his mind.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/23, Puzzaghera) reports that Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch “said on Monday that his panel ‘will not change the 401(k) retirement savings system in a manner that does not achieve the goals outlined in the unified framework; namely, to maintain or raise retirement plan participation for workers and the resources available for retirement.’” However, the [AP](#) (10/23, Gordon) reports that House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Brady “indicated that changes to the 401(k) structure may still be on the

table." Brady said, "I don't want to get ahead of the committee. That will all be part of the tax reform bill." Asked whether Trump's tweet "changes in any way what the panel was planning to do," Brady said, "No."

Conway: Trump's Priorities Are Middle-Class Tax Cut, Reducing Corporate Rate. Presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (10/23), "The President made clear his two major priorities are to make sure that this tax cut benefits the middle class and secondly to reduce that corporate tax rate because those are the job creators. The President wanted 15 percent. It's now at 20 percent, but it will no longer be 35 percent." Conway added, "The other thing to note here is that there aren't just three tax brackets, there are actually four when you count the zero percent. We'll have more Americans paying zero percent in taxes than currently do."

Reardon: Cut Rates For Pass-Through Corporations. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/23), Brian Reardon, a former White House official at the National Economic Council from 2003-2005, advocates for tax rate cuts for pass-through corporations, arguing that they employ the majority of US workers and are the basis of many local economies.

WSJournal: Left Attacks Hasset For Showing Corporate Rate Cut Will Raise Wages. A [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/23, Board) editorial assails economists on the left over their attacks on White House Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Kevin Hassett for presenting evidence that a cut in the corporate tax rate will benefit workers. The Journal suggests that the economists' criticisms may be due to the fact that their own policies to increase wages were unsuccessful.

Ivanka Trump Pitches Tax Reform In Pennsylvania. [Politico](#) (10/23, Lima) reports that Ivanka Trump pitched the Republican tax reform plan during a town hall in Bucks County, Pennsylvania on Monday, saying, "For me this tax plan really couples two things that are really core values as a country, which is work and supporting the American family." Trump called tax reform "long overdue" and "argued that working families cannot continue to bear their current tax burden without relief from the government." She said, "We have to support the American worker, we have to create jobs, we have to create growth, but we also have to support that American worker's family." In addition, she "stressed the importance of expanding the child tax credit – one of her biggest priorities since moving to Washington – but it's still unclear whether the proposal will win over fiscal conservatives in Congress."

Ivanka Trump said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (10/23), "I think tax reform is so core to our goal of fueling the economic growth in this country. We need to be competitive. We need the tax code that's reflective with the modern reality of what our workforce looks like, including supporting our working families, the majority of which are now dual-income, which is why I am really excited about the realization of a large part of the Administration's working-family agenda through tax reform, the expansion of the child tax credit, doubling the standard deduction, eliminating the marriage penalty. There's so many critical elements that support our dual values of work and family. But we need to be competitive and, ultimately, we need growth, and that is going to come by ensuring that this is the country that everyone wants to grow their businesses in."

RSC Chairman Open To Leaving Top Tax Rate Intact. In what [Bloomberg News](#) (10/23, Wasson) describes as "a boost" for House tax writers, Republican Study Committee Chairman Mark Walker said Monday that "he is open to tentative plans for keeping the current top individual tax rate for the highest earners as part of a tax code overhaul set to be released as soon as next week." In an interview, Walker "said he could live with taxing the highest earners at the current top rate of 39.6 percent if that's needed to get a tax bill enacted." he said, "A key thing is making sure this benefits the middle- and lower-income individuals."

House To Vote On Senate Budget Resolution Thursday.

[Politico](#) (10/23, Ferris) reports that the House is expected to vote Thursday to "back the Senate's budget resolution, fast-tracking the GOP's effort to advance a tax overhaul with a simple majority in the Senate." While the Senate version "is not as fiscally conservative" as the House plan, House Republicans "are expected to easily clear" it, which will "unlock the powerful legislative tool known as reconciliation, which replaces the Senate's 60-vote threshold with a simple majority in some circumstances."

Chao Says Infrastructure Plan Will Be Unveiled After Tax Reform.

[Transport Topics](#) (10/23, Mulero) reports that Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao said at the American Trucking Associations' annual conference that the Trump Administration will unveil its infrastructure funding proposal after Congress reforms the tax code. Chao said, "Originally we

anticipated the administration's infrastructure proposal by late fall 2017, but the Affordable Health Care Act was delayed" and lawmakers are currently working on tax reform. In her speech, Chao touted the benefits of public-private partnerships, suggesting it "better protects the taxpayers by identifying and mitigating risk." She also praised the Trump Administration's efforts in streamlining environmental regulations.

[Fleet Owner](#) (10/23, Abt) reports that Chao "said 16 federal agencies were involved in crafting the [infrastructure funding] proposal, and that she had met numerous times with trucking industry officials." Chao also said she is working with FMCSA to address the driver shortage. In her speech, Chao also shared her experiences with the hurricane damage in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Honor The Truth John Kelly." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/23) writes that a video of a 2015 dedication of an FBI building in Florida "showed that [Rep. Frederica] Wilson had made none of the string of boasts that [White House chief of staff] Kelly put in her mouth. ... In the days since, he and the White House have added to his mistakes by refusing to correct them. All evidence to the contrary, they have continued to insist on Mr. Kelly's false version, compounding the grief of the Johnson family."

"The Little Guys Win One On Payday Loans." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/23, New York (NY), Times) writes that a new Consumer Financial Protection Bureau rule that limits how often and how much customers can borrow using so-called payday loans offers a victory for those who face financial difficulties. The Times adds, however, that the payday industry is lobbying Congress to overturn the rule, and that the Administration also "could undermine the regulations after the bureau's director, Richard Cordray, leaves office or when his term expires next summer." The Times concludes that consumer advocates "need to remain vigilant" against such possibilities.

Washington Post.

"The Government's Grotesque Abuse Of Power Over A 17-Year-Old Seeking An Abortion." The [Washington Post](#) (10/23) editorializes about the case of the pregnant 17-year-old immigrant living in a Texas shelter for undocumented minors who is seeking an abortion, which the federal government refuses to allow. According to the Post, "under the directorship of E. Scott Lloyd, an antiabortion activist appointed by President Trump to lead the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement, ORR began preventing federally funded shelters from 'facilitat[ing]' access to abortion services unless Mr. Lloyd approved." The girl "received a Texas judge's approval to receive an abortion," but "the government is preventing her from leaving the shelter to receive the procedure." The Post argues that "Lloyd's behavior toward" the girl is "a grotesque abuse of government power over a vulnerable young woman far from her home," and it contends the ORR "should allow her access to the medical care to which she is legally entitled, immediately."

"Kenya's Election Rerun Could Be A Major Setback For African Democracy." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/23) cautions Kenya is "in danger of violent implosion," and if President Uhuru Kenyatta insists on moving forward with a presidential election rerun on Thursday, "mass protests and bloodshed" could result. The Post says the Kenyan Supreme Court's decision to annul the initial election result "could have strengthened Kenya's institutions," had Kenyatta and his primary opponent, Raila Odinga, "not both played a spoiling role." The Post explains Kenyatta's "insistence on going forward with the vote on Thursday, instead of delaying it and encouraging reforms by the election commission," is "self-defeating," and his assured defeat of Odinga would only leave him "with a weakened domestic mandate and a lack of international credibility."

"Doug Jones For Senator In Alabama." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/23) endorses former US Attorney Doug Jones in the Alabama Senate race to replace Attorney General Sessions, calling him "a well-qualified, even-tempered former prosecutor" and condemns Moore as "one of the most divisive, counterproductive figures in US politics."

Wall Street Journal.

"The Wages Of Corporate Taxes." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/23, Board) editorial assails

economists on the left over their attacks on White House Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Kevin Hassett for presenting evidence that a cut in the corporate tax rate will benefit workers. The Journal suggests that the economists' criticisms may be due to the fact that their own policies to increase wages were unsuccessful.

"Rule And Law In Catalonia." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/23) editorial argues that Spanish Prime Minister Rajoy has little choice but to suspend Catalonia's regional authority and call elections. A new election, it says, offers Catalans a path out of the current crisis.

"Japan's Election Warning To China." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/23) editorializes that Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling coalition performed better than expected in Sunday's election due in large part to the threat from North Korea. The Journal argues that without the threat, Abe would have lost his supermajority, and possibly the election.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Amazon Says 238 Places Want to Host Its New Headquarters](#)
[U.S. Revises Timeline on Niger Battle](#)
[Supersized Family Farms Are Gobbling Up American Agriculture](#)
[Ill-Timed Uber Investment Roils a Giant Saudi Fund](#)

New York Times:

[Cutting Taxes Is Hard. Trump Is Making It Harder.](#)
[What It Could Mean If China's Leader Won't Name An Heir](#)
[Russia's Favored Outlet Is An Online News Giant. YouTube Helped.](#)
[New York To Replace MetroCard With Modern Way To Pay Transit Fares](#)

Washington Post:

[Army Widow Says Call From Trump 'Made Me Cry'](#)
[Team In Niger Ambush Waited An Hour For Jets](#)
[Trump's Promises Narrow GOP's Tax Bill Options](#)
[Biggest Maria Relief Contract Goes To A Small Montana Firm](#)
[How Princeton Became Less Preppy](#)

Financial Times:

[Deripaska Heads For Russia's First London IPO Since 2014](#)
[Harvey Weinstein: How Lawyers Kept A Lid On Sexual Harassment Claims](#)
[Mexico's Former First Lady Offers Break From Corrupt Rule](#)
[Merkel's CDU Party Says €100bn Wishlist Poses Budget Threat](#)

Washington Times:

[Studies Reveal Power Of Liberal Bias Among Politically Active Internet Giants](#)
[With Islamic State Out Of Iraq, U.S. Loses Remarkably Unified Coalition](#)
[Illegal Immigrant Who Paved Way For Massachusetts' 'Sanctuary' Policy Arrested In Stunning Robbery](#)
[Trump Energy Policies Push Market Forces To Crush Coal Industry](#)
[New Jersey Governor Candidate Embraces Trump's Stance Against Sanctuary Cities](#)
[FBI Informant's Testimony Sought As Clinton-Russia Uranium Case Re-Emerges](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Niger-US Casualty Investigation; White House-Niger US Casualty; Sen. McCain Interview; Tampa-Serial Killer Manhunt; Severe Weather; Miami-Foiled Terror Attack; Bill O'Reilly-Sexual Harassment Settlement; Cleveland-Kidnapper Manhunt; College Football Hazing; Philadelphia-Officers Injured; Breast Cancer Genes; Medal Of Honor Recipient.
CBS: Niger-US Casualty Investigation; White House-Niger US Casualty; Kidnapped US Soldier Trial; Bill O'Reilly-Sexual Harassment Settlement; Tampa-Serial Killer Manhunt; Medal Of Honor Recipient; California Fire-Marijuana Farms; Boston College Scholarship; Loretta Lynn Public Appearance; Former Presidents Public Appearance; JFK Files Declassification.
NBC: Niger-US Casualty Investigation; Tax Reform Plan-Impact; Bill O'Reilly-Sexual Harassment Settlement; Severe Weather; Border Wall Designs; Fire Fighters-Health Risks; Kidnapped US

Soldier Trial; JFK Files Declassification; LA-Baseball World Series; French Government Meeting-Dog Peeing; Texas High School Baseball; Medal Of Honor Recipient.

Network TV At A Glance:

Niger-US Casualty Investigation – 10 minutes
Bill O'Reilly-Sexual Harassment Settlement – 7 minutes, 40 seconds
Medal Of Honor Recipient – 6 minutes, 10 seconds
White House-Niger US Casualty – 5 minutes, 10 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Niger-US Casualty Investigation; Tax Reform Bill; Vegetable Recall.
CBS: Niger-US Casualty Investigation; Kidnapped US Soldier Trial; Tax Reform Bill; Tampa-Serial Killer Manhunt.
FOX: Niger-US Casualty Investigation; Failed Detroit Terrorist Lawsuit; Relief Budget; Medal Of Honor Recipient.
NPR: Niger-US Casualty Investigation; LA-Baseball World Series; Japan-North Korea Warning; Trump-Asia Tour; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in the minority enterprise development week White House awards ceremony; participates in a swearing-in ceremony for Callista Gingrich as U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See; participates in a Senate Republican policy lunch.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Delivers remarks to the American Enterprise Institute; joins the President to participate in a swearing-in ceremony for Callista Gingrich as U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See.

US Senate: 10:00 AM Senate Intelligence Committee holds hearing with President Trump's personal attorney invited to testify – Senate Select Committee on Intelligence holds hearing with Michael Cohen – personal attorney to President Donald Trump – having been invited to appear * Cohen was originally scheduled to speak with the committee in a closed interview, but defied committee requests to refrain from public comment and released a public statement, leading the committee to postpone the interview and reschedule his appearance in an open session Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Business Meeting, legislative hearing – Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations of Michael Dourson, William Wehrum, Matthew Leopold, and David Ross to be Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrators; Paul Trombino III to be Federal Highway Administration Administrator; and Jeffery Baran to be a Nuclear Regulatory Commission member (reappointment) * Immediately followed by legislative hearing on 'S. XXXXXX, the Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Act of 2017' Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 406, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Hearing on 'The Economic Outlook with CEA Chairman Kevin Hassett' Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.jec.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/JointEconCmte>

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee top secret briefing on Nigeria – Africa and Global Health Policy Subcommittee closed / top secret briefing on 'Nigeria Security Update', given by Acting Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Donald Yamamoto; and State Department Regional and Arms Transfers Office Director Mike Miller Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC-217, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee hearing on the commercial satellite industry – Hearing on 'The Commercial Satellite Industry: What's Up and What's on the Horizon', with testimony from SpaceX Vice President of Satellite Government Affairs Patricia Cooper; ViaSat CEO Mark Dankberg; Intelsat CEO Stephen Spengler; and OneWeb founder and Executive Chairman Greg Wyler Location: Rm 253, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

10:30 AM Senate Governmental Affairs Committee votes on nominees for OPM and GSA heads – Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of nominations of Jeff Pon to be Office of Personnel Management Director, and Michael Rigas to be Deputy Director; and Emily Murphy to be General Services Administration Administrator Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 342, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

11:00 AM Congressional Gold Medal presented to Filipino WWII vets – House of Representatives and Senate leadership present a Congressional Gold Medal in honor of Filipino veterans of World War II, for their service and sacrifice during the war. Event participants include House Speaker Paul Ryan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, and House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi * Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian honor Congress can bestow. A single medal has been struck to honor all the vets
Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Emancipation Hall, Washington, DC
<http://speaker.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SpeakerRyan>

2:30 PM Senate Aging Committee hearing on working and aging with disabilities – Hearing on 'Working and Aging with Disabilities: From School to Retirement', with testimony from Indiana University Professor Emeritus Dr David Michael Mank; University of Illinois-Chicago Professor Dr Tamar Heller; Jeff Smith; and Spurwink President and CEO Eric Meyer Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 562, Washington, DC <http://aging.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Indian Affairs Committee legislative hearing – Legislative hearing on 'S. 1870, the Securing Urgent Resources Vital to Indian Victim Empowerment Act 2017', 'S. 1953, the Reauthorization of the Tribal and Law Order Act of 2010', and 'S. 1942, a bill to direct the AG to review, revise and develop law enforcement and justice protocols appropriate to address missing and murdered Indians' Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 628, Washington, DC <http://indian.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/IndianCommittee>

US House: 9:30 AM POSTPONED: House Natural Resources Committee oversight hearing on Puerto Rico recovery – POSTPONED: Oversight hearing on 'Examining Challenges in Puerto Rico's Recovery and the Role of the Financial Oversight and Management Board' Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Science, Space, and Technology subcommittees joint hearing on quantum technology – Energy Subcommittee and Research and Technology Subcommittee joint hearing on 'American Leadership in Quantum Technology', with testimony from National Institute of Standards and Technology Physical Measurement Laboratory Acting Director Dr Carl Williams; National Science Foundation Assistant Director of Computer and Information Science and Engineering Dr Jim Kurose; Department of Energy Acting Director of Science Dr John Stephen Binkley; IBM Systems Group Vice President and CTO for Quantum Computing Dr Scott Crowder; University of Maryland Department of Physics Professor Dr Christopher Monroe; and Argonne National Laboratory Nanoscience and Technology Division Director Dr Supratik Guha Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2318, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM POSTPONED: House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on cybersecurity – POSTPONED: Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Cybersecurity and the Law: Protecting Consumers in the Digital Age' Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on the federal gov't's role in the insurance industry – Housing and Insurance Subcommittee hearing on 'The Federal Government's Role in the Insurance Industry', with testimony from Germania Insurance President Paul Ehlhert; University of Minnesota Law School Professor Daniel Shwarcz; Shelter Insurance Companies President and CEO Rick Means; and Connecticut Insurance Department Commissioner Katharine Wade (on behalf of National Association of Insurance Commissioners) Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on HHS response to the 2017 hurricane season – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining HHS's Public Health Preparedness for and Response to the 2017 Hurricane Season', with testimony from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Principal Deputy Administrator for Operations Kimberly Brandt; Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Scott Gottlieb; Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Preparedness and Response Robert Kadlec; and CDC Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response Director Rear Adm. Stephen Redd Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee oversight hearing on supporting NIH-funded research – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'The Role of Facilities and Administrative Costs in Supporting NIH-Funded Research', with testimony from University of Oklahoma Vice President for Research Dr Kelvin

Droegemeier; Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center President and Director Dr Gary Gilliland; University of Connecticut School of Medicine Dean Dr Bruce Liang; and University of California-San Francisco Vice Chancellor for Science Policy and Strategy Dr Keith Yamamoto Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2358-C, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Government Reform subcommittees joint hearing on Regulatory Reform Task Forces – Health Care, Benefits, and Administrative Rules Subcommittee and Government Operations Subcommittee joint hearing on 'Regulatory Reform Task Forces Check-In' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM Democratic Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton hosts roundtable discussion on near-term and long-term risks of flooding in Washington, DC Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2253, Washington, DC www.norton.house.gov <https://twitter.com/EleanorNorton>

10:00 AM Markup hearing on 'H.R. X, Agricultural Guestworker Act' and 'H.R. 3711, Legal Workforce Act' Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM Democratic Rep. Nydia Velazquez hosts reception having proposed WWII rabbi for Congressional Gold Medal – Democratic Rep. Nydia Velazquez hosts reception to better acquaint her Congressional colleagues with the activities of Rabbi Michoel Ber Weissmandl, having co-sponsored a bill to posthumously award him the 2017 Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of his acts of valor during World War II in attempting to save Eastern European Jews during the Holocaust. Amud Aish Memorial Museum representatives and other advocates also attend, with artifacts and documents on display Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2360, Washington, DC www.house.gov/velazquez <https://twitter.com/NydiaVelazquez>

10:00 AM House Veterans' Affairs Committee legislative hearing – Legislative hearing, on 'draft legislation related to the Veterans Choice Program', 'draft legislation to modify VA's authority to enter into agreements with state homes to provide nursing home care to veterans, to direct the Secretary to carry out a program to increase the number of graduate medical education residency positions, and for other purposes', 'draft legislation to direct VA to conduct a study of the Veterans Crisis Line', 'draft legislation to direct VA to furnish mental health care to veterans at community or non-profit mental health providers participating in the Veterans Choice Program', 'The Department of Veterans Affairs' legislative proposal – the Veteran Coordinated Access and Rewarding Experiences (CARE) Act', 'H.R. 1133: Veterans Transplant Coverage Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2123: VETS Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2601: VICTOR Act of 2017', and 'H.R. 3642: Military SAVE Act' Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

11:00 AM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/ <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

12:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including 'H.R. 732 – Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act of 2017', and consideration of 'H.R. 3101 – Strengthening Cybersecurity Information Sharing and Coordination in Our Ports Act of 2017', as amended, 'H.R. 3972 – Family Office Technical Correction Act of 2017', as amended, and 'H.R. 3898 – Impeding North Korea's Access to Finance Act of 2017', as amended under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

12:00 PM Congressional Task Force on Election Security second public forum – Congressional Task Force on Election Security holds its second public forum, 'Securing America's Elections: Preparing for 2018 and Beyond', hearing from Rhode Island Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea, Virginia Department of Elections Commissioner Edgardo Cortes, and Election Assistance Commission Commissioner and Vice-Chair Thomas Hicks on steps states are taking to secure their elections and what the federal govt can do to do assist * Task Force was created to address 'the lack of action to protect electoral infrastructure following Russia interfering and attempting to influence the 2016 presidential election', and is chaired by House Committee on Homeland Security Ranking Member Bennie Thompson and Committee on House Administration Ranking Member Robert Brady Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1310, Washington, DC democrats-homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HomelandDems>

12:00 PM Dem Rep. Adriano Espaillat domestic violence awareness press conference – Democratic Rep. Adriano Espaillat holds domestic violence awareness press conference, to address initiatives to help support victims of domestic violence in communities around the nation. New York Latinas Against Domestic Violence participate as part of their annual 'Brides' vigil in honor of murdered New York bride-to-be Gladys Ricart, a victim of domestic violence who lost her

life on her wedding day Location: House Triangle, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC
espaillat.house.gov <https://twitter.com/espaillatny>

1:00 PM Dem Rep. Don Beyer hosts Half-Earth Day celebration – Democratic Rep. Don Beyer hosts celebration of Half-Earth Day, including a conversation on saving the nation's biodiversity with biologist Edward Wilson, and discussion on how wildlife corridors and other policies can protect the nation's wild creatures and places with Democratic Reps. Tom Udall, Raul Grijalva, and Alan Lowenthal and former National Park Service Director Robert Stanton Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Auditorium and Atrium, Washington, DC
beyer.house.gov/ <https://twitter.com/RepDonBeyer>

2:00 PM House Education and the Workforce / Homeland Security subcommittees joint hearing on educating a cyber workforce – House Committee on Education and the Workforce Higher Education and Workforce Development Subcommittee and House Committee on Homeland Security Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee joint hearing on 'Public-Private Solutions to Educating a Cyber Workforce' Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

2:00 PM House Oversight subcommittee hearing on political advertisement laws – Information Technology Subcommittee hearing on 'Oversight of Federal Political Advertisement Laws and Regulations', with testimony from Center for Competitive Politics Legal Director Allen Dickerson; News Media Alliance President and CEO David Chavern; Law Offices of Jack N. Goodman owner Jack Goodman; Interactive Advertising Bureau President and CEO Randall Rothenberg; and Brennan Center for Justice Democracy Program Senior Counsel Ian Vandewalker Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

3:00 PM House Rules Committee emergency hearing – Emergency hearing on Senate Amendment to 'H. Con. Res. 71 – Concurrent resolution establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2018 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2019 through 2027' Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC
<http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

3:00 PM Dem Reps. Don Beyer and Carolyn Maloney hold Gender Parity Forum – Democratic Reps. Don Beyer and Carolyn Maloney hold Forum on Gender Parity in Corporate Leadership, with Paradigm for Parity Founding Member Candace Duncan, Serena Fong (Catalyst), Kiersten Barnett (30 Percent Club), and Kymberlee Dwinell (Northrop Grumman) Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1539, Washington, DC beyer.house.gov/
<https://twitter.com/RepDonBeyer>

4:00 PM Office of the House Majority Whip holds its latest members-only briefing on tax reform, on corporate/international taxation Location: U.S. Capitol, HC-5, Washington, DC
<http://majoritywhip.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SteveScalise>

6:30 PM Lifetime hosts Capitol Hill screening of new TV movie about the Flint, MI, water crisis – Lifetime and Democratic Rep. Dan Kildee host viewing of new TV movie 'Flint' followed by panel discussion, attended by actress Betsy Brandt, Flint activists Melissa Mays and Nayyirah Shariff, executive producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron, Rep. Kildee, and Democratic Rep. Keith Ellison * Movie was inspired by the Time magazine cover story 'The Toxic Tap', and follows the true story of three women from Flint, MI, who sought justice following the wrongdoing committed against the residents of the city who were unknowingly drinking and using lead-laden water Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, CVC Congressional Auditorium, Washington, DC Flint
<http://www.mylifetime.com/> <https://twitter.com/lifetimetv>

Other: 8:00 AM Bill Clinton keynotes SAP NS2 Solutions Summit – SAP NS2 Solutions Summit, themed 'Discover Real-Time Context, for Real-World Security Decisions', examining 'how emerging technology like machine learning can add unprecedented depth and context to data, turning information into understanding and providing us with the picture needed to decide and act in the moment of truth'. Keynote speaker is former President Bill Clinton Location: Falls Church Marriott Fairview Park, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church, VA summit17.sapns2.com
<https://twitter.com/SAPNS2>

8:00 AM Bipartisan Reps. Katherine Clark and Markwayne Mullin speak at The Hill event on 'America's Opioid Epidemic' – The Hill hosts 'America's Opioid Epidemic: Aging & Addiction', to discuss the impact of opioid abuse in older adults. Headline conversations feature Democratic Rep. Katherine Clark and Republican Rep. Markwayne Mullin who review strategies 'to fight the opioid epidemic and deliver effective care for America's seniors.' Other speakers include Health and Human Services Deputy Inspector General for Investigations Gary Cantrell and Assistant Inspector General for Evaluations Ann Maxwell Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest, Washington, DC thehill.com <https://twitter.com/TheHillEvents> #Genes4Medicine

10:30 AM GOP Sen. David Perdue speaks on tax reform at Heritage Foundation – ‘The Business Perspective and Cost of Doing Nothing on Tax Reform’ Heritage Foundation panel discussion, on corporate tax reform proposals and the ‘significant benefits they will have on American workers and the economy’. Speakers include Republican Sen. David Perdue, and Business Roundtable President and CEO Joshua Bolten Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

12:00 PM Dem Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse speaks on climate change at New America – ‘As the Waters Come, Will Our Politics Rise to the Challenge?’ Future Tense book discussion, on Jeff Goodell’s book, ‘The Water Will Come: Rising Seas, Sinking Cities, and the Remaking of the Civilized World’. Event also features discussion on what Congress can do to ‘bridge the political divide to take action to guard the future against climate change’. Speakers include Democratic Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, and Rolling Stone Contributing Editor and author Jeff Goodell Location: New America, 740 15th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.newamerica.org/> <https://twitter.com/NewAmerica>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: “President Trump is planning to release a treasure trove, thousands of classified documents connected to the assassination of John F. Kennedy. And he said, ‘Will you release me too?’ ... This is a bombshell. The real killer is not Lee Harvey Oswald. It was a 16-year-old Hillary Clinton. Isn’t that something? The White House released a statement saying the President believes the documents should be made available in the interest of full transparency. And his tax returns, however, will remain secret forever, no matter what.”

Stephen Colbert: “This weekend, five former Presidents teamed up at a benefit to raise money for hurricane relief. ... President Trump couldn’t be there to help the victims of flooding because, and this is true, he was working on his own water hazards.”

Stephen Colbert: “Of course, Trump’s tweet that he would release the JFK files came right during the whole Gold Star family controversy. People say it might have been for a distraction or something like that. So now when Trump feels cornered, he’ll just declassify America’s biggest secrets. ‘Robert Muller is presenting the findings of the Russia investigation on Tuesday ... the same day I am giving away an alien plasma cannon from Area 51! Tenth caller wins!’”

James Corden: “Sen. John McCain appeared to take a swipe at Donald Trump’s lack of military service. He said that during the Vietnam War, a lot of rich people got out of the draft by claiming they had bone spurs. Now, as you may know, Donald Trump famously got out of service in Vietnam due to bone spurs. If you don’t know what bone spurs are, don’t worry, Donald Trump doesn’t know either. But seriously, bone spurs can make walking very difficult, unless you carry a bag of golf clubs, apparently. Then it’s fine.”

James Corden: “Did you guys see this conspiracy theory that was going around the internet last week? People claim that Melania Trump had a body double impersonate her during an appearance with her husband. And if you think that is weird, Donald Trump has been impersonating a President for almost a year.”

Trevor Noah: “What do you think Bush said to Obama that made him laugh so hard? I have been thinking about this the whole day. If he said one thing, what if he just leaned in, he was like, ‘Guess what, I did 9/11.’ And then Obama is like, ‘Well, I was born in Kenya.’”

Trevor Noah: “I am blown away by the fact that Bill O’Reilly had to pay one woman \$32 million, one woman. And by the way, this is from his own money. Now I understand why he cranks out so many books – ‘Killing Kennedy,’ ‘Killing Jesus,’ ‘Killing Patton.’ He needed the extra cash. I should have known something was wrong when he published ‘Killing Big Bird.’”

Seth Meyers: “All five living former Presidents attended a benefit concert in Texas on Saturday to help raise money for hurricane victims. The only way it could have been better is if there had been six former Presidents.”

Seth Meyers: "First Lady Melania Trump visited a middle school in Detroit today where she began her anti-bullying campaign by speaking to the students and joining them for lunch. Meanwhile, Donald Trump had lunch in the White House cafeteria and clapped when someone dropped their tray."

Conan O'Brien: "President Trump is going to Japan to meet with the prime minister and may play a round of golf. Or as Trump put it, he's going to Japan to play a round of golf and he may meet with the prime minister. He's got priorities."

Conan O'Brien: "Trump announced over the weekend that he will release over 3,000 classified files relating to the Kennedy assassination. Spoiler alert: Apparently Hillary did it."

Conan O'Brien: "The latest rumor in Washington is that Trump is looking for a replacement for Secretary of State Rex Tillerson. After hearing the job entails constant trips out of the country, Melania volunteered."

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- Wall Street Journal: FBI Is Probing Puerto Rico Power Contract.
- Augusta (VA) Free Press: Kaine, Colleagues Urge Trump To Rescind Proposed National Park Fee Increase.
- Bloomberg News: Sportsmen Oppose Trump's Plan to Rescind Monuments: Fosburgh.
- New York Times: Loss Of Federal Protections May Imperil Pacific Reefs, Scientists Warn.
- The Hill: GOP In Uncharted Territory Rolling Back Rules Through Resolutions.
- Palm Beach (FL) Post: Gov. Scott Proposes Additional \$50 Million For Lake O Dike.

Bureau Of Indian Education

- Life And Death At Chemawa Indian School.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Associated Press: Judge In Vegas Says 4 Month Trial Expected In Bundy Standoff.
- E&E Publishing: Industry Asks Court To Block BLM Methane Rule Enforcement.
- Albuquerque (NM) Journal: National Organization Calls For Protecting Chaco Area.

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

- Longtime Ally Of Offshore Drillers Oversees Safety Agency.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Bloomberg News: Arctic Refuge Oil Bonanza More Likely To Be Bust For GOP Budget.
- U.S. News & World Report: Louisiana Could Be Key To Bat Survival Of White-Nose Fungus.
- Outer Banks (NC) Voice: Burr Tunes In To Problems At Mattamuskeet, Surrounding Hyde.
- Natural Gas Intelligence: FERC Gives Millennium Permission To Begin Constructing Valley Lateral Project.
- Natural Gas Intelligence: Atlantic Coast Pipeline To Have All State Permits By Mid-December, Dominion Says.
- Eastern Arizona Courier: Leopard Frog Population Bolstered In ASNF.
- Stockton (CA) Record: Fish Out Of (Normal) Water: Rare Sturgeon Seen In Stanislaus River.
- U.S. News & World Report: US Officials: Man Fined For Mailing Live Snakes To China.

National Park Service

- Associated Press: Trump, First Lady Welcome Ghosts, Goblins On Halloween Eve.
- U.S. News & World Report: Park Service Drops Funding For Black Panther Party Project.
- Marquette (MI) Mining Journal: Horne Selected As Superintendent Of Pictured Rocks.
- Hagerstown (MD) Herald-Mail Media: Antietam National Battlefield Sees Record Crowds This Year.
- Madison (WI) Capital Times: Conservation Group Appeals Federal Ruling In Sauk Prairie Recreation Area Lawsuit.
- WTKR-TV Norfolk (VA): Cape Hatteras Fishing Pier To Be Removed In December.
- U.S. News & World Report: Century-Old Edgemont Home Listed In National Register.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Virgin Islands Daily News: Mapp Applauds Federal Relief Efforts, Defends Funding Request.
- Caribbean News Now!: US Senator Calls For Federal Assistance To Rebuild A More Resilient Puerto Rico And USVI.
- Guam Daily Post: Congress To Hold Hearing On Veterans' Health Care Issues.
- Marianas Variety: Trump Administration Looking Into CW Issue.
- Focus Taiwan: President Arrives In Marshall Islands As Part Of Pacific Trip.
- Focus Taiwan: Taiwan, Marshall Islands Sign Health Care Agreement.
- Radio New Zealand: Taiwanese Vessel Seized In Pacific Fisheries Surveillance Op.

US Geological Survey

- Missoulian (MT): Grizzly Roadmap: Studies Show Grizzlies Finding Their Way Around People.
- The Next Web: US Geological Survey Portal Is Like Google Maps For Rock Lovers.
- Additional Reading.

Dept. Of Interior Op/Eds & Editorials

- Trump's Energy Deregulation Head-Fake.
- In The Midst Of A Natural Paradise, A Deserted Federal School Fails Children.
- Finding A Method To The Methane Madness.
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- ABC: Media Analyses: Papadopoulos Plea, First Indictments Signal Wide-Ranging Probe By Mueller.
- Reuters: Trump, Abe Agree To Work Together On North Korea.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "Is The White House Scared Yet?"
- Washington Post.
 - "These Republicans Used To Pretend To Care About Debt. Not Anymore."
 - "Uzbekistan's New President Tiptoes Toward Liberalization."
 - "What A Presidential President Would Have Said About Mueller's Indictments."
- Wall Street Journal.
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 - "Europe Beats America."
 - "About That ObamaCare 'Sabotage.'"

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DOI In The News

Watchdog Urges Probe Of Whether Zinke Campaign Benefited Friend, Family.

[Politico](#) (10/30, Whieldon) reports that the Campaign Legal Center, a watchdog group, has called for an FEC investigation into expenditures by "Ryan Zinke's congressional campaign committee." The group alleges that Zinke's committee "bought an RV from his wife then sold it to a friend a year later at a steep discount" in an effort "to convert political donations into personal cash." The group's complaint theorizes that the transaction may have violated federal law forbidding "using political donations for personal benefit in one of two ways:" The campaign may have overpaid for the RV when it was purchased from his wife in April 2016 for \$59,100, or it may have accepted below-market payment from Zinke's friend when he purchased the RV for \$25,000 in June 2017.

The [AP](#) (10/30, Brown) reports that "Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift – who was also Zinke's spokeswoman during the 2016 campaign – said the department cannot weigh in on political matters and declined further comment."

Also reporting are the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/30, Siegel) and [Newsmax](#) (10/30, Crowe).

FBI Is Probing Puerto Rico Power Contract.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/30, Scurria) reports that the FBI is investigating PREPA's decision to award the contract to Whitefish Energy. Citing the Wall Street Journal report, the [New York Times](#) (10/30, Robles, Cumming-Bruce) says the FBI's San Juan field office is "looking into circumstances surrounding the disaster-recovery deal." In addition, a House committee is investigating and Rossello "has asked the island's comptroller and the inspector general of the Department of Homeland Security to also review the deal." [USA Today](#) (10/30, Gomez, Jervis) also mentions the FBI investigation, citing the Wall Street Journal report. On its website, [CNN](#) (10/30, Marsh, Wallace) cites "a source with knowledge of the inquiry" who said the FBI has opened a preliminary inquiry into the contract.

Also reporting are [Reuters](#) (10/30, Paul), the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/30, Siciliano), and [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (10/30, Milman).

Whitefish Energy Hires Lobbyist Amid Puerto Rico Scrutiny. [The Hill](#) (10/30, Cama) reports Whitefish Energy has hired former Democratic congressman Dennis Cardoza, who is currently a federal lobbyist, "to represent it amid growing scrutiny of its hurricane recovery contract with Puerto Rico's electric utility." Cardoza, "works for the law and lobbying firm Foley & Lardner." In a statement of Whitefish spokesman Ken Luce said, "Right now the effort by Foley is being done so that Whitefish has representation in DC. ... Whitefish Energy has a reputation to uphold and we felt that Foley would help us in being able to have those conversations in a productive manner."

[Politico](#) (10/30, Lefebvre) reports "the law firm has advised Whitefish Energy on contract issues in the past, Cardoza said, but declined to say exactly when that business relationship began."

Kaine, Colleagues Urge Trump To Rescind Proposed National Park Fee Increase.

The [Augusta \(VA\) Free Press](#) (10/30) reports that Sen. Tim Kaine joined Sen. Maria Cantwell “and nine other colleagues in a letter to Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke requesting he withdraw his proposal to dramatically increase national park entrance fees at 17 national parks pending further review.” The senators wrote, “The National Park Service describes the fee increases ‘as part of its commitment to improve the visitor experience...’ We are unable to see how doubling or tripling a park entrance fee is anything other than an effort to exclude many Americans from enjoying their national parks. This proposal seems directly contrary to your often-stated goal of improving public access to our public lands.” They concluded, “We request that you provide us with the analysis and justification used to establish the proposed park entrance fees to allow Congress to assess the rationale and need for any fee increase. Pending this review, we ask you to withdraw the proposed park fee increases and work to support a strong National Park Service budget that will ensure that all Americans have affordable access to their parks.”

Additional coverage of the proposal was provided by the [New York Times](#) (10/31, Clarke).

Sportsmen Oppose Trump’s Plan to Rescind Monuments: Fosburgh.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/30) published an interview with Whit Fosburgh, president and CEO of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. Fosburgh talked about the moves by the Interior Department “to open up national lands and monuments for commercial development.”

In an article titled “Conservative Hunters & Fishers May Help Determine The Fate Of National Monuments,” the [Scientific American](#) (10/30, Sneed) reports that “hunting and fishing groups have become increasingly politically active in recent years—an important development, since many of their members make up a significant part of the Republican base.” And “now that Republicans control Congress and the White House, hunting and fishing enthusiasts’ ideas about conservation may start to shape environmental policy more than in the past.”

Loss Of Federal Protections May Imperil Pacific Reefs, Scientists Warn.

The [New York Times](#) (10/30, Pala) reports the opinion of scientists studying “underwater mountains called seamounts in the middle of the Pacific Ocean” that the Trump Administration should not allow fishing in the remaining seamounts that are still under federal protection, as it has been considering doing. Dr. Daniel Pauly, a “fisheries scientist at the University of British Columbia,” said that “the only thing standing between these fleets and global depletion are these big no-take reserves, so this is the time to create more, not to open up the existing ones to fishing.” Paul Achitoff, “managing attorney for Earthjustice’s mid-Pacific office in Honolulu,” said that if “any of the protections to the Pacific marine monuments are lifted, we will be filing lawsuits, and we expect to win,” based on the theory that the Antiquities Act does not let presidents remove “protections from a previously designated monument.”

GOP In Uncharted Territory Rolling Back Rules Through Resolutions.

[The Hill](#) (10/29, Wheeler) reports that Republicans “are hoping to slam the door on future regulatory actions in an unprecedented campaign against federal regulations that could have an impact for years to come.” The use of the Congressional Review Act “is uncharted territory,” and some analysts believe that even the Republicans using the law are unclear about what it actually sets out to do. “What’s interesting is that regulatory experts say the CRA could extend to regulatory guidance in addition to rules.”

Gov. Scott Proposes Additional \$50 Million For Lake O Dike.

The [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (10/30, Miller) reports that Florida Gov. Rick Scott is “proposing an additional \$50 million to expedite repairs to the Herbert Hoover Dike that surrounds Lake Okeechobee.” Scott “said the \$50 million is part of his 2018-2019 recommended budget and is on top of the \$50 million approved in the current year’s budget to kick-start repairs.” Last week, President Trump “pledged to speed up repairs to the dike.”

Bureau Of Indian Education

Life And Death At Chemawa Indian School.

In the first part of a series on problems at Chemawa Indian School, [KUOW-FM](#) Seattle (10/30) reports that “based on dozens of interviews with former staff, students, tribal advisors and parents, Chemawa is breaking its promise to support and educate Native students.” According to

the article, "for years, teachers complained about students being expelled for questionable causes, jeopardizing their education or sending them to unstable situations when they were safer on campus." Meanwhile, the article says, "others who remained at the school fell into cracks in the system as their physical and mental health deteriorated."

Bureau Of Land Management

Judge In Vegas Says 4 Month Trial Expected In Bundy Standoff.

The [AP](#) (10/30, Ritter) reports that Chief U.S. District Judge Gloria Navarro said the "trial could take four months for Nevada rancher and states' rights figure Cliven Bundy, his two sons and one other co-defendant accused of leading a self-styled militia to prevent federal agents from removing Bundy cattle from public rangeland." Navarro said "jury selection alone could take several days." The AP also reports that "court proceedings began with security exceptionally tight inside the federal courthouse in Las Vegas, and in the courtroom where observers are banned from having electronic devices including cellphones."

The [Oregonian](#) (10/30, Bernstein) reports from Las Vegas that the federal trial "began Monday with prosecutors and defense lawyers questioning potential jurors about their beliefs on guns, protests, the government, ranching and the impact of the Oct. 1 mass shooting." Ryan Bundy, "representing himself, had his leg shackles removed and then posed his own questions from a podium before a group of nearly 50 potential jurors." The Oregonian points out that "prosecutors waited almost two years before indicting the men in the Bunkerville standoff. The charges followed the Jan. 26, 2016, arrests of Ammon Bundy and Ryan Bundy in Oregon as organizers of the armed occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge." The Oregonian notes that last year, Ammon and Ryan Bundy and five others "were found not guilty of a federal conspiracy in the refuge takeover, a remarkable blow to the federal government."

Also reporting are the [Washington Times](#) (10/30, Richardson), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/30, Montero), [Reuters](#) (10/30, Smith), [NPR](#) (10/30, Siegler), [NPR](#) (10/30, Siegler), and [KSNV-TV Las Vegas](#) Las Vegas (10/30, Rosch).

Industry Asks Court To Block BLM Methane Rule Enforcement.

[E&E Publishing](#) (10/30, Gilmer) reports that Independent Petroleum Association of America and Western Energy Alliance requested that a US District Court to grant a preliminary injunction blocking the Bureau of Land Management from applying and enforcing the Methane and Waste Prevention Rule on Friday. The effort is the most recent among other attempts to right the Obama-era methane rule. E&E Publishing adds that "Judge Scott Skavdahl rejected their request, finding that the groups had not shown they would face imminent irreparable harm because restrictions were phased in over time."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/30, Richards).

National Organization Calls For Protecting Chaco Area.

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/30, Smith) reports that "citing the need to preserve cultural properties and sacred sites from oil and gas drilling, the National Congress of American Indians has called for a moratorium on leasing and permitting in the greater Chaco area." The organization "issued its stance due to the significance of the area to tribes and pueblos, in addition to protecting the region's night skies, soundscapes and views." The organization is also urging the Interior Department "and its agencies to cooperate on the management of a protection zone and conduct government-to-government consultation with tribes and pueblos."

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Longtime Ally Of Offshore Drillers Oversees Safety Agency.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/30, B1, Mann) reports that Scott Angelle, the new head of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, is a longtime ally of the oil industry who wants to make rehabilitating relations with drillers part of his new duties. Angelle wants to reverse parts of the well-control rule, a regulatory change BSEE made to respond to Deepwater Horizon. Angelle's new approach to leading the Bureau has garnered support from oil industry representatives.

Fish And Wildlife Service

Arctic Refuge Oil Bonanza More Likely To Be Bust For GOP Budget.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/31, Nussbaum) reports that “Congressional Republicans counting on a \$1 billion windfall from selling oil-drilling rights in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to help pay for tax cuts may be in for a disappointment.” According to the article, “data from previous Arctic oil lease sales suggest the U.S. is likely to collect less than a fifth of that billion-dollar goal over the next decade-- about \$145.5 million – from auctioning off territory in the sprawling northeast Alaska refuge where caribou calves and polar bears roam.” Oil firms may be driven “away by the controversies and costs of drilling in that remote and fragile terrain,” and “even if they aren’t, crude prices would have to be some \$15 more per barrel than they are today to make the effort pay off at all.”

Louisiana Could Be Key To Bat Survival Of White-Nose Fungus.

The [AP](#) (10/30, Hardy) reports that white nose syndrome has “ravaged populations” of bats “across the eastern half of North America, but Louisiana could hold the key to keeping species alive.” According to the article, “Louisiana’s warm climate and lack of rock caves is giving scientists hope that the state’s particular ecosystem could shelter species that are dying out elsewhere.” Jeremy Coleman, the national white nose coordinator for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said in a written statement, “We are disappointed to find white-nose syndrome in another species, but hopeful that the southeastern bat may fare better than many of its more northern cousins based on how long it took to be diagnosed with the disease.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Popular Science](#).

Burr Tunes In To Problems At Mattamuskeet, Surrounding Hyde.

The [Outer Banks \(NC\) Voice](#) (10/30, Kozak) reports that Sen. Richard Burr recently heard Hyde County’s “concerns about federal support for flood mitigation, hurricane recovery and restoration of Lake Mattamuskeet’s watershed and lodge.” According to the article “the state’s largest natural lake has drawn concern, with duck hunters and other users accusing the refuge of mismanaging water levels to the detriment of waterfowl populations.” Meanwhile, “the refuge has struggled to restore water quality and seagrasses suffering from pollution.”

FERC Gives Millennium Permission To Begin Constructing Valley Lateral Project.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (10/30, Passut) reports that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission granted Millennium Pipeline Co. LLC the permission to start the Valley Lateral Project construction despite the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation’s (DEC) objections to the project. The DEC expressed concern over the project as it relates to impacts on the bog turtle. However, the FERC order said that Millennium submitted bog turtle survey reports to the DEC and have not gotten a response.

Atlantic Coast Pipeline To Have All State Permits By Mid-December, Dominion Says.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (10/30, Shelor) reports Dominion Energy said Monday that it expects to have “all necessary state approvals” for the Atlantic Coast Pipeline by mid-December following the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s recent approval of the project, “despite pushback from project opponents.” Dominion Energy President, Chairman, and CEO Thomas F. Farrell II said, “We need permits in West Virginia and North Carolina and Virginia. We expect all those by the middle part of December as we’re going through the process.” Farrell also said that Dominion Energy Cove Point has “entered the final phase of start-up” for its LNG export terminal. Farrell said, “We will begin generating LNG next month, then conclude commissioning in December, and we expect to be in service by the end of the year.”

Leopard Frog Population Bolstered In ASNF.

The [Eastern Arizona Courier](#) (10/30) reports that “Chiricahua leopard frogs received extra help getting the hop on avoiding extinction after 454 of the threatened species were recently released into restored habitat on the Clifton Ranger District on the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest.” The frogs were “released under a partnership of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona Center for Nature Conservation-Phoenix Zoo, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management New Mexico, U.S. Forest Service, USDA Agricultural Research Service Jornada Experimental Range, Turner Endangered Species Fund and the New Mexico Game and Fish Department.” Game and Fish biologist Audrey Owens said, “This project is a huge success toward safeguarding this species for future generations. The Chiricahua leopard frog nearly vanished

from eastern Arizona due to habitat degradation, but these dedicated agencies and local ranchers each worked collaboratively to help restore wetland habitats in 2016. This important work has given this animal a true fighting chance.”

Fish Out Of (Normal) Water: Rare Sturgeon Seen In Stanislaus River.

The [Stockton \(CA\) Record](#) (10/30, Breitler) reports that “biologists have confirmed the presence of a green sturgeon – a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act – in the Stanislaus River near Knights Ferry.” The fish are “known to migrate and spawn in the Sacramento and Feather rivers, but this is the first time one of the bony, pointy-nosed bottom-dwellers has been confirmed in the more polluted and heavily diverted San Joaquin River region upstream of Stockton.” Laura Heironimus, a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Lodi, said, “We’ve never seen a green sturgeon (in that area), and it’s not like we don’t try. This is really exciting.”

US Officials: Man Fined For Mailing Live Snakes To China.

The [AP](#) (10/30) reports that “federal prosecutors in western New York say a 28-year-old man has been fined \$5,000 for mailing live snakes to China.” According to the U.S. attorney’s office in Buffalo, “Chaoyi Le, of Shanghai, China, sent seven ball pythons from Amherst, New York to China in 2014 using a fake name and labeling the package ‘belts, candy and chocolate.’” The package was intercepted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

National Park Service

Trump, First Lady Welcome Ghosts, Goblins On Halloween Eve.

The [AP](#) (10/30, Superville) reports the President and First Lady “greeted some of the 6,000 children and adults who were invited for trick-or-treating at the White House on Halloween eve.” The Trumps chatted with the trick-or-treaters while President Trump sometimes went in for high-fives or posed for pictures. White House press secretary Sarah Sanders made an appearance with her family, and several Cabinet members, including Education Secretary DeVos and VA Secretary Shulkin, appeared in costume. Additional coverage is provided by the [New York Post](#) (10/30, Fredericks).

Park Service Drops Funding For Black Panther Party Project.

The [AP](#) (10/30, Daly) reports that the National Park Service has “withdrawn plans to pay nearly \$100,000 for a project honoring the legacy of the Black Panther Party after police groups complained to President Donald Trump.” The NPS “had pledged \$98,000 to the University of California, Berkeley for a two-year research project on the black power group, which was founded in Oakland in 1966.” The Fraternal Order of Police “sent a letter to Trump expressing ‘outrage and shock’ that the park service would pay to honor a group associated with killing a park ranger.” NPS spokesman Jeremy Barnum “said Monday that a ‘cooperative agreement’ to fund the project was not finalized, and the agency withdrew funding ‘after an additional review of the project.’”

Horne Selected As Superintendent Of Pictured Rocks.

The [Marquette \(MI\) Mining Journal](#) (10/30) reports that David Horne will be the next superintendent of Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore. Horne is “a 23-year veteran of the National Park Service and currently the chief ranger for the Southeast Region of the National Park Service.” He will begin his new post in January.

Antietam National Battlefield Sees Record Crowds This Year.

The [Hagerstown \(MD\) Herald-Mail Media](#) (10/30, Greenfield) reports that “as the 155th anniversary of the Battle of Antietam winds down this year, visits to the Sharpsburg battlefield are up 5 to 10 percent in 2017 over 2016.” The Antietam Battlefield Advisory Committee “reported that not only are more people visiting the park, but the 26 volunteer tour guides have led more than 900 tours this year.” According to Battlefield Superintendent Susan Trail, “that number will likely jump to 1,000 by the end of the year.” She said, “We’re on target to break that record.”

Conservation Group Appeals Federal Ruling In Sauk Prairie Recreation Area Lawsuit.

The [Madison \(WI\) Capital Times](#) (10/30, Prinsen) reports that “a local conservation group is

appealing a federal judge's decision to allow 'high-impact' recreation at the Sauk Prairie Recreation Area while its lawsuits challenging state and federal agencies' management of the property are pending." Sauk Prairie Conservation Alliance lawyers will "argue before the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals in Chicago on Nov. 9 that off-road motorcycle racing, dog training with firearms, and Army helicopter training exercises could cause irreparable harm to the state-owned property." The group will "ask the three-judge panel to restrict such activities until its lawsuits challenging state and federal agencies' management of the site are settled next spring."

Cape Hatteras Fishing Pier To Be Removed In December.

[WTKR-TV](#) Norfolk, VA (10/30) reports that "a project to remove the Cape Hatteras Fishing Pier, also known as Frisco Pier, will begin in December 2017, according to the National Park Service." The NPS said, "Structural failures continue as debris, including large timbers containing rusted lag bolts and nails, regularly falls off the structure and creates public safety hazards."

Century-Old Edgemont Home Listed In National Register.

The [AP](#) (10/30) reports that "an Edgemont home that was built around 1900 has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places." According to the article, "the Arthur and Ellen Colgan House in Edgemont was listed for its architectural significance."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Mapp Applauds Federal Relief Efforts, Defends Funding Request.

The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (10/26, O'CONNOR) reports that Gov. Kenneth Mapp "praised a financial aid package expected to head to President Donald Trump's desk for a signature next week, as well as other federal efforts in the territory." In an interview, "Mapp said his government could draw up to \$1 billion from the \$4.9 billion portion of the federal package, and the money would not only be destined for the central government — which has been twice rebuffed by capital markets within the last year — but also to government entities like the Water and Power Authority, local hospitals, and the Waste Management Authority. Mapp is out of the territory on personal leave time for a health issue." Mapp "said the goal is to eschew a one-time infusion of capital in favor of more gradual infusions."

US Senator Calls For Federal Assistance To Rebuild A More Resilient Puerto Rico And USVI.

[Caribbean News Now!](#) (10/27) reports that Sen. Lisa Murkowski has "called on leaders of the Senate to embrace long-term resilience in the rebuilding of the hurricane-impacted infrastructure in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands." In a letter addressed to Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Minority Leader Charles Schumer, Murkowski "requested federal assistance to allow communities to build more resilient and sustainable infrastructure that is less vulnerable to extreme weather." According to the article, "Murkowski told her colleagues that, while immediate assistance ought to focus on essential supplies to protect the safety of individuals, 'over the long-term we should help rebuild infrastructure — like the electric grid with modern technologies that are stronger and more resilient against extreme weather events.'"

Congress To Hold Hearing On Veterans' Health Care Issues.

The [Guam Daily Post](#) (10/29) reports that "veterans living on Guam, the Northern Marianas, American Samoa, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and the Independent State of Samoa will be heard on the longstanding issues related to inadequate Veterans Administration health care on the islands." The chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, Dr. David P. Roe, agreed "to a joint request from Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo, Northern Marianas Delegate Gregorio 'Kilili' Sablan and American Samoa Delegate Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen for a congressional oversight hearing." Roe acknowledged "that veterans living on the islands 'face a number of barriers to timely, accessible VA benefits.'"

Additional coverage was provided by the [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (10/30).

Trump Administration Looking Into CW Issue.

[Marianas Variety](#) (10/27, Villahermosa) reports that Press Secretary Kevin Bautista on Thursday "said the governor was informed in early October that due to the language of H.R. 339 and the

'rhetoric regarding outdated unemployment figures from the congressional office,' U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services proposed a substantial reduction in the CW permits for fiscal year 2018." Bautista "said Gov. Ralph Torres spoke directly with the White House through the deputy chief of staff of the president and the White House Intergovernmental Affairs Office to request their assistance on behalf of the CNMI." Bautista "said the Trump administration 'is looking at the CNMI's position' so it can base policy 'on accurate and up-to-date information about our economy and the needs of the CNMI.'"

President Arrives In Marshall Islands As Part Of Pacific Trip.

[Focus Taiwan](#) (10/30, Hsin-hui, Kao) reports that Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen "on Monday was greeted by Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine at the airport on arriving in the Pacific country." Tsai "expressed her belief that Taiwan and the Marshall Islands can develop closer ties." According to the article, "in return, noting the two countries share core values such as freedom, democracy, equity and justice, Heine said that the New Southbound Policy proposed by Tsai has helped Taiwan strengthen exchanges with 18 countries in the Asia Pacific region in the fields of culture, education, new energy and new technology."

Additional coverage was provided by [Radio New Zealand](#) (10/29).

Taiwan, Marshall Islands Sign Health Care Agreement.

[Focus Taiwan](#) (10/30, Hsin-hui, Liu) reports that "Taiwan's Taipei Medical University Shuang Ho Hospital signed an agreement with the Marshall Islands' Ministry of Health and Human Services on Monday to continue a medical internship program as well as establish a Hospital Information System (HIS) to enhance the quality of health care in the Pacific island country." Under the agreement, Shuang Ho Hospital will "help with the running of a clinical internship program for medical interns in the Marshall Islands as well as set up a HIS at Majuro Hospital, which is located in the country's capital city Majuro, to digitize patient records and other medical information."

Taiwanese Vessel Seized In Pacific Fisheries Surveillance Op.

[Radio New Zealand](#) (10/27) reports that "a Taiwan purse seining vessel suspected of illegal fishing was seized this month in the Federated States of Micronesia." The vessel was "boarded and inspected by one of FSM's three Patrol boats during the ten-day Operation Kurukuru 2017 earlier this month." According to the article, "an investigation is underway into whether the Taiwanese vessel's activity in Micronesia breached license conditions."

US Geological Survey

Grizzly Roadmap: Studies Show Grizzlies Finding Their Way Around People.

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (10/30, Chaney) reports that "evidence has grown that grizzlies have almost bridged the gap between the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem north of Missoula and the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem south of Bozeman." The article notes that "Montana researchers Cecily Costello of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and Frank van Manen of the U.S. Geological Survey published a report on possible grizzly pathways out of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem in the journal *Ecosphere*." Their research "lends hope that the genetically isolated population around Yellowstone National Park may soon get a breeding boost as northern bears shake their family tree."

US Geological Survey Portal Is Like Google Maps For Rock Lovers.

The [Next Web](#) (10/30, Kaser) reports that the US Geological Survey offers a tool called the Coastal and Marine Video and Photograph Portal, "through which you can view some remote and scientifically fascinating regions of the country as easily as you would a street in Google Maps." According to the article, "it's like a Google Earth, complete with Street View, for the nation's rich geography regions."

Additional Reading.

- *Magnitude 7.0 Undersea Quake Hits Near New Caledonia, No Tsunami.* [Reuters](#) (10/30, Maler).

Dept. Of Interior Op/Eds & Editorials

Trump's Energy Deregulation Head-Fake.

In a piece for the [Huffington Post](#) (10/30, Hayes), David J. Hayes, Executive Director of the State Energy & Environmental Impact Center at the NYU School of Law, claims that the Interior Department and the Environmental Protection Agency are "using different, but equally effective, pseudo-deregulatory tools to benefit conventional energy providers over clean energy competitors." He argues that "rather than providing outright financial and market support like the Energy Department, Interior and EPA are taking a back door approach by selectively targeting fiscal and environmental responsibilities for elimination." But Hayes is encouraged by "progressive state attorneys general" who are "exposing the Trump Administration's false deregulatory narrative."

In The Midst Of A Natural Paradise, A Deserted Federal School Fails Children.

In commentary for the [Daily Signal](#) (10/30, Boccia, Burke), Romina Boccia, the national debt deputy director of Thomas A. Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies, and Lindsey M. Burke, the Will Skillman fellow in education policy at The Heritage Foundation, write that Havasupai Elementary School is "closed much of the time," and "even when it is open, some parents don't like to send their children to it." The authors add that students "don't learn much, and they are far behind their grade level in reading, math, and other important subjects." The authors argue that "education savings accounts are particularly suitable to remote areas like Havasu Canyon." They conclude that "it's time to unlock educational opportunity for these children and students assigned to Bureau of Indian Education schools across the country, and empower families with education savings accounts."

Finding A Method To The Methane Madness.

[Axios](#) (10/30, Harder) contributor Amy Harder writes that as the "Trump administration is fumbling its attempts to repeal President Obama's methane emissions limits," the oil and gas industry is responding to the resulting regulatory vacuum. The American Petroleum Institute is reportedly "working to create a voluntary program aimed at addressing the issue, according to multiple executives in the oil industry whose companies are members of the group." According to API vice president for Regulatory and Economic Policy, Kyle Isakower, the group believes methane emissions can be lowered as a byproduct of an existing EPA regulation which limits other types of air pollution at oil and gas wells, thus direct regulation on methane emissions are unnecessary.

Additional Reading.

- *Yosemite Fee Hike Woefully Inadequate As It Is Proposed.* [Manteca \(CA\) Bulletin](#) (10/30, Wyatt).
- *Huge Fee Hike Wrong Answer To National Parks' Ailments.* [Toledo \(OH\) Blade](#) (10/30, Markey).
- *Trump's Park Fee Hike Is Suspect, But Should Spark Needed Debate.* [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (10/30, Conti).
- *Our View: Higher Entry Fees Are Not The Fix For Our National Parks.* [Moscow-Pullman \(ID\) Daily News](#) (10/31, Malott).
- *Guest Column: Don't Let Public's Voice Get Cut Out Of Public Lands Conversation.* [Aspen \(CO\) Times](#) (10/29, Zeringue).
- *Don't Jump To Conclusions About Sage Grouse-cattle Study.* [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (10/30, Wuerthner).
- *Help California Rebuild By Managing Our Forests.* [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (10/30, Zybach).

Top National News

Media Analyses: Papadopoulos Plea, First Indictments Signal Wide-Ranging Probe By Mueller.

The first indictments in Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into possible Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election receives saturation coverage, with a combined 33 minutes of coverage on the three broadcast networks, and multiple reports, analyses, and commentary pieces in major newspapers. While the indictments of Paul Manafort and Rick Gates led the headlines, many analyses focus on the unexpected revelation that George Papadopoulos,

a foreign policy adviser to Trump's campaign, has made a plea deal. Analysts say that Papadopoulos – who had contact with Russians claiming to have “dirt” on Hillary Clinton – is a much greater danger to the White House than the two better-known figures. In addition, analyses and comments from former prosecutors indicate that Mueller's Monday actions strongly suggest that he is engaging in a broad-ranging investigation, with much more to come.

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/30, story 3, 3:20), David Muir called it “the day the White House has been bracing for. President Trump today trying to shift the focus of the probe onto Hillary Clinton and the Democrats. At the same time, the White House attempting to downplay the roles of these men in the Trump campaign.” ABC's Jonathan Karl: “The White House was blindsided by today's news. Sources tell ABC News [that] the President had no advance notice from the Special Counsel. ... There is nothing about collusion, or the campaign, in the Manafort indictment. What the President didn't know there was another shoe to drop: Special Counsel Mueller later revealing his plea deal with George Papadopoulos, the campaign foreign policy adviser who, in fact, was talking with Russians about getting dirt on Hillary Clinton.” On [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/30, story 2, 2:10, Holt), Hallie Jackson reported, “The White House strategy now: distance and deflect. President Trump [tweeting](#) today, ‘Sorry, but this is years ago, before Paul Manafort was part of the Trump campaign. But why aren't crooked Hillary and the Dems the focus?’”

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/30, story 3, 2:20, Mason), Major Garrett reported, “The White House strategy to downplay connections to the three men ran into immediate factual problems. Press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders insisted George Papadopoulos had little impact on candidate Trump's campaign.” Sanders: “He was a volunteer on, again, a council that met once.” Garrett: “So his activities were entirely of his invention? No one asked him to do any of these things? Is that what you're telling the American public?” Sanders: “All I can tell you is, he asked to do things. He was, basically, pushed back or not responded to in any way. So any actions he took would have been on his own.” Garrett: “But the Papadopoulos plea agreement states he was not rebuffed by the campaign, quite the opposite. A Trump campaign supervisor told Papadopoulos, ‘I would encourage you to pursue contact with Russians,’ and that he had done ‘great work.’”

The [AP](#) (10/30, Superville, Miller) reports that the President “moved quickly Monday to distance himself and the White House” from the indictments, and “Sanders told reporters that the indictments have ‘nothing to do with the president,’ because ‘most’ of the alleged crimes occurred before they worked Trump.” [USA Today](#) (10/30, Korte) reports that the indictment “makes no mention of the Trump campaign or even of Trump himself.”

The [New York Times](#) (10/30, Shear) reports, “Trump and his representatives on Monday dismissed the charges. ... Jay Sekulow, a private attorney for Mr. Trump, said the president and his legal team were not worried about the indictments.” Sekulow told CNN, “No, not concerned. I'm completely convinced as I was from the outset that not only was there no Russian collusion, there was no obstruction.”

White House Chief of Staff Kelly said on [Fox News' The Ingraham Angle](#) (10/30), “All of the activities, as I understand it they were indicted for, [were] long before they ever met Donald Trump or had any association with the campaign. But I think the reaction of the Administration is let the legal justice system work, everyone is presumed innocent and we will see where it goes.” [Reuters](#) (10/30) reports that Kelly also said that a special counsel “should be appointed to investigate Democrats over a uranium deal during the Obama administration and a dossier compiled on Donald Trump” during the campaign.

In an interview with [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (10/30) before the indictments were announced, Kellyanne Conway said, “As the President has said, everybody is fully cooperating. ... But the President has also made clear as recently as this weekend that he considers it a hoax and people should be looking into in any coordination if not collusion between the Clinton campaign, the DNC, this Russian dossier.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/30, Decker) reports that with “his presidency facing fresh peril...Trump and his loyalists have adopted a twofold strategy to protect him against the indictment of two senior campaign aides and a guilty plea to the part of a third, more junior aide: distancing Trump from alleged wrongdoers and leveling new attacks” on Clinton. The [Washington Times](#) (10/30, Miller, Persons) reports, “The White House on Monday distanced itself [from Manafort]...and insisted any collusion with Russia was committed by the Clinton campaign.” Dana Milbank writes in his [Washington Post](#) (10/30) column, “Trump's standard line of defense in the Russia probe – we did not collude – suffered a bit of a blow Monday. ... But Trump's deficit of honesty is offset by a surplus of dexterity. Though not abandoning the there-is-no-collusion

defense, the White House is already elevating a secondary position – the okay-maybe-we-colluded-but-Clinton-colluded-more defense.”

[Fox News](#) (10/30, Singman) reports on its website that Trump “fired back on Monday in an attempt to distance his White House from the grand jury indictments.” [Townhall](#) (10/30, Pavlich) reports that the “[31-page Manafort indictment](#) unsealed Monday morning does not reference his work as a chairman of the Trump campaign. Instead, it focuses on his business dealings.”

In a fact-check piece headlined “Trump Counters Indictments With Inaccurate Claims,” the [New York Times](#) (10/30, Qiu) writes, “While the charges do not mention the 2016 election, some of the alleged actions that spurred them do cover the time during which Mr. Manafort served as Mr. Trump’s campaign chairman.” As for Papadopolous, he “was named as a foreign policy adviser to the Trump campaign in March 2016 (he previously advised Ben Carson’s campaign) and was described by Mr. Trump in an interview with The Washington Post as an ‘excellent guy.’” [Bloomberg News](#) (10/30, Strohm) writes that while the Manafort indictment “captured the top headlines,” the Papadopoulos [plea agreement](#) “may have revealed more about the direction of [Mueller’s] secretive investigation.”

In addition, the [AP](#) (10/30) writes, “Trump claimed that the indictment against Manafort deals with activities ‘years ago,’ before Trump was running for president. Actually, some of the criminal behavior alleged in the charges is as recent as the early days of his presidency.” In its Monday lead story, the [Huffington Post](#) (10/30) writes that Trump and the White House “reverted to form Monday, falsely claiming that the alleged criminal actions were completely unrelated to him. ... Republican media relations professionals were baffled by the approach,” with Tim Miller, who ran communications for Jeb Bush’s 2016 campaign saying, “The White House’s strategy is shameless, bald-faced, indefensible lies. Lie about everything, admit nothing.” Rick Tyler, who worked for Sen. Ted Cruz’s 2016 campaign, said, “It’s really amazing the degree to which they think everybody else is an idiot.”

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/30) considers “what a presidential president might have said” about the indictments, concluding, “Leaders in a democracy must work to earn the public’s trust anew every day. I hope my efforts to support the special counsel in his work will reassure all Americans of my commitment to our nation’s founding principles, no matter the circumstances of my election. I am humbled both by the great responsibility you have given me and by the knowledge that in a democracy, nobody is above the law – not even the president.”

“Seething” Trump Reportedly Reacted To Indictments “With Exasperation And Disgust.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/30, Costa, Rucker, Parker) reports that the President “woke before dawn on Monday and burrowed in at the White House residence to wait for the Russia bombshell he knew was coming,” and “digested the news of the first indictments...with exasperation and disgust,” according to sources. While “initially, Trump felt vindicated,” the unsealing of the Papadopoulos documents then “provide[d] the clearest evidence yet of links between Trump’s campaign and Russian officials.” [CNN](#) (10/30, Zeleny, Liptak) reports on its website, “Watching the developments unfold on the large television screens installed in his private residence, Trump was ‘seething,’ according to a Republican close to the White House.”

Jonathan Swan of [Axios](#) (10/30) writes, “I’ve had dozens of conversations about this subject with administration officials over the past months, and while nobody I’ve spoken to genuinely thinks collusion with Russia happened on the campaign, plenty worry about what Bob Mueller’s crack team of financial investigators will turn up on Trump and his allies.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/30, A1, Palazzolo, Gershman) reports that former prosecutors and legal experts said that Monday’s news indicates that Mueller is looking beyond the Trump campaign alone into a much wider range of possible criminal activity.

Democrats Call For Action On Bill To Prevent Mueller Firing. The [Washington Times](#) (10/30, Persons, Dinan) reports that Senate Intelligence Vice Chairman Mark Warner and other Democrats “demanded Monday that Congress approve a bill preventing the special counsel from being fired.” Warner said in a statement, “Members of Congress, Republican and Democrat, must also make clear to the President that issuing pardons to any of his associates or to himself would be unacceptable, and result in immediate, bipartisan action by Congress.”

In an analysis, the [New York Times](#) (10/30, A1, Baker) writes that the indictments “raise the stakes in the special counsel investigation...and could prompt Mr. Trump to consider actions intended to short-circuit the probe before it threatens him or others close to him.” [Politico](#) (10/30, Schor, Cheney) reports, “Senators have introduced two bipartisan bills designed to protect Mueller should Trump attempt to fire him, although Republican leaders are unlikely to move such legislation to vote without a clear, new threat to the special counsel’s job from the White House.” However, [The Hill](#) (10/30, Fabian) reports that the White House on Monday said the President “had no plans to dismiss” Mueller. Sanders said, “There is no intention or plan to make any

changes in regards to the special counsel.”

WPost A1 Analysis: Indictments Indicate That More Is To Come. In a front-page analysis, the [Washington Post](#) (10/30, A1, Barrett, Horwitz, Nakashima) writes that the first indictments are “designed to send a powerful message to everyone else caught up in the probe: the prosecutors aren’t bluffing.” Former federal prosecutor Patrick Cotter said, “This is the way you kick off a big case. ... They couldn’t have sent a message any clearer if they’d rented a revolving neon sign in Times Square. And the message isn’t just about Manafort. It’s a message to the next five guys they talk to. And the message is: ‘We are coming, and we are not playing, and we are not bluffing.’”

Randall Eliason of George Washington University writes in the [Washington Post](#) (10/30), “Mueller’s investigation continues to proceed aggressively, methodically and relatively rapidly. These charges likely are simply the first salvo. Their echoes will reverberate loudly through the corridors of Washington in the days ahead.”

Manafort, Gates Under House Arrest Following Not Guilty Pleas. The indictments themselves led all three broadcast network newscasts. The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/30, lead story, 3:15, Mason) reported, “The criminal investigation of Russian interference in the US election moved into a new phase today. The special council announced a plea deal with a former Trump campaign adviser who has agreed to cooperate. And a former campaign chairman and his deputy were indicted on charges that include money laundering.” [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/30, lead story, 4:20, Muir) reported that “two former members of the Trump campaign [are] under house arrest,” and “a third man, an adviser to the campaign...pleading guilty, and now, cooperating with the FBI.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/30, lead story, 3:50, Holt) reported, “At the end of the day, it may be the separate plea bargain deal made public today between the feds and a former campaign adviser that gets us closer to the heart of the Russia influence question.”

The [Washington Post](#) (10/30, Helderman, Zapotosky) reports that Mueller revealed charges Manafort, Gates, and Papadopoulos, “marking the first criminal allegations to come from probes into possible Russian influence in US political affairs.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/30, Viswanatha, Wilber) reports that the actions were the most public steps taken by Mueller since he was appointed nearly six months ago. [USA Today](#) (10/30, Johnson, Heath) reports that “while Mueller stopped short of alleging that Trump’s campaign colluded with Moscow during the election, the filings are first allegation by prosecutors that Trump’s campaign aides directly coordinated with people they believed were tied to the Russian government.”

The [New York Times](#) (10/30, Apuzzo) reports that Manafort and Gates surrendered to federal authorities on Monday morning, and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/30, Tanfani) reports, “In a court hearing Monday afternoon, Manafort and Gates both pleaded not guilty to the charges. Manafort was released on \$10-million bail and Gates was released on \$5-million bail.” [Bloomberg News](#) (10/30, Harris) reports that both men “were put under house arrest because they’re seen as a flight risk.”

The [Washington Times](#) (10/30, Persons) reports that Manafort’s attorney Kevin Downing “said there was ‘no evidence’ of collusion by Mr. Manafort or anyone in the Trump campaign, adding that Mr. Manafort’s activities in Ukraine were to ‘further democracy.’” The [Washington Post](#) (10/30) runs a question-and-answer feature about Manafort, while the [New York Times](#) (10/30, Sullivan) has a profile of Gates. [Bloomberg News](#) (10/30, Schatzker) reports that Gates has been fired by real estate company Colony NorthStar Inc.

[McClatchy](#) (10/30, Wieder, Hall) reports that Bade LLC, “listed in the indictment among 17 domestic entities that Manafort and Gates are alleged to have used to hide foreign earnings,” received funds from the Republican National Committee for work done in coordination with the Trump campaign. The firm was paid a total of \$70,000.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/30) editorializes that Manafort does face serious charges, but that they do not relate to the Trump campaign. The Journal also sees no indication that Manafort and Gates have information about collusion with Russia. But [USA Today](#) (10/30) editorializes, “If the charges are true, the two not only allegedly violated laws for personal profit but also undermined vital US national security interests. In essence, they abetted President Vladimir Putin’s efforts to make Ukraine a Russian puppet state, part of an overall plan to expand his autocratic presence.”

Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), ranking member on the House Intelligence Committee, said on [CNN’s The Lead](#) (10/30), “I think the Manafort and Gates indictments are significant. This is not a peripheral player here. We’re talking about the campaign manager. ... He’s reaching out to the Russians at the same time that the Russians are reaching out to him and other campaign people at that Trump Tower meeting. So if he decides to cooperate down the road, we could learn a lot

about these interactions.”

Nicholas Kristof writes in his [New York Times](#) (10/30) column, “The first thing to acknowledge is that the indictment of Paul Manafort doesn’t prove collusion by President Trump with Russia to undermine American democracy. But the second thing to say is: It may get us closer. ... If Manafort pursues his self-interest, my bet is that he’ll sing. That then can become a cascade: He testifies against others, who in turn are pressured to testify against still others. And all this makes it more difficult to protect the man at the center if indeed he has violated the law.” Doyle McManus writes in his [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/30) column, “In addition to criminal charges, the federal government can move to seize their assets. That’s a strong incentive to cooperate with the prosecutor.”

Media Analyses: Papadopoulos Plea May Be More Significant Than Indictments. Several reports and analyses indicate that the Papadopoulos plea deal may be far more significant than the Manafort and Gates indictments. [Politico](#) (10/30, Nussbaum, Samuelsohn, Gerstein) reports, “The more revealing details came in a 14-page document” showing that Papadopoulos “cut a secret plea deal earlier this month for lying to the FBI about the campaign’s outreach to Russia-related officials.” [Reuters](#) (10/30, Lynch, Freifeld) reports that the Papadopoulos revelation “was a sharp escalation” of Mueller’s investigation.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/30, Helderman, Leonnig) reports that Papadopoulos became an adviser to the Trump campaign in March 2016, and met with “an unnamed overseas professor” that month. In April 2016, “the professor told him the Russian government had ‘dirt’” on Clinton. The [New York Times](#) (10/30, Apuzzo, Schmidt) reports that Papadopoulos “was quietly arrested at Washington Dulles Airport on July 27 and has since been cooperating” with Mueller. Documents released on Monday “said that several senior campaign officials knew about some of Mr. Papadopoulos’s interactions with the Russians. The documents do not say whether he mentioned the Clinton emails to anyone.”

The [New York Times](#) (10/30, Savage) reports, “The filing says Mr. Papadopoulos falsely played down the significance of those conversations and falsely said he had not yet joined the campaign when they reached out to him.” Lying to federal investigators “is a felony that can carry a sentence of up to five years in prison, giving Mr. Papadopoulos an incentive to cooperate in exchange for leniency.”

[Politico](#) (10/30, Dawsey) reports that “while the White House had been girding for a Manafort indictment, senior officials were caught off guard” by the “unsettling” Papadopoulos news. And “more problems are likely to come. At the plea hearing for Papadopoulos earlier this month, Mueller’s team said his plea was only a small part in a ‘large-scale’ investigation.”

The [New York Times](#) (10/30, Shane) reports that the Papadopoulos plea “shifted the narrative,” revealed “that Russian officials alerted the [Trump] campaign, through an intermediary in April 2016, that they possessed thousands of Democratic emails and other ‘dirt’” on Clinton, “two months before the Russian hacking of the Democratic National Committee was publicly revealed and the stolen emails began to appear online.” The Times calls it “the first clear evidence that Trump campaign aides had early knowledge that Russia had stolen confidential documents” on Clinton and the DNC. [Politico](#) (10/30, Griffiths) reports that former Trump campaign foreign policy adviser Carter Page told MSNBC that he “might have exchanged emails about Russia” with Papadopoulos.

[CNN](#) (10/30, Raju, Herb) reports on its website that neither the Senate Intelligence Committee nor the House Intelligence Committee has interviewed Papadopoulos. Senate Intelligence Chairman Richard Burr “told CNN he didn’t think that the guilty plea from Papadopoulos or the 12-count indictment” of Manafort and Rick Gates “would change the course of his committee’s probe.” Burr said, “We certainly know a lot about Papadopoulos’ role in the campaign, as we do Manafort and Gates.”

Sen. Edward Markey, a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (10/30) that the new information on Papadopoulos “is evidence that collusion was being attempted.”

Chris Cillizza writes on the [CNN](#) (10/30) website, “So, Papadopoulos copped to lying to the FBI about the timing of his contacts with Russians. In his initial interview in January 2017, Papadopoulos was insistent that he had reached out to his foreign contact ‘The Professor’ (amazing!) before he had formally joined the Trump presidential campaign. ... Most importantly the ‘Professor’ only showed interest in Papadopoulos after it became known that he was employed by the Trump campaign.”

In an editorial headlined “Is The White House Scared Yet?” the [New York Times](#) (10/30) writes that Papadopoulos’ “guilty plea is the most direct evidence connecting the campaign to the Russian efforts to help elect Mr. Trump.” His arrest indicates “a carrot-and-stick strategy that Mr.

Mueller is most likely to keep using to try to turn other Trump associates.”

John Dickerson said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/30, story 7, 1:25, Mason), “The Papadopolous source was offering negative material on Hillary Clinton, which matches that different meeting that took place with a person claiming to represent the Russian government, who met with the President’s son, son-in-law, and campaign chairman Manafort. It’s important to remember there was a time when the President’s team said there had been no contact with the Russians at all by the campaign.”

Legal analyst Dan Abrams said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/30, story 4, 1:05, Muir), “I don’t think there’s any way to look at that plea agreement with Papadopoulos and think this is going to end soon. The reason why they made that deal, when you read through the agreement, it is clear they cut that deal so they could investigate others. So this could be part of a broader investigation.”

Jeffrey Toobin said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (10/30) that court papers suggest that “Papadopoulos between July and October was wearing a wire. ... If he was wearing a wire, this summer and fall, think about that, just weeks ago, that is a whole new chapter of possibilities in this investigation and potentially a very, very big deal.” However, Brit Hume said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (10/30), “It does appear from what’s in the charges and what else has been reported about Papadopoulos and his attempts to establish communications between the Trump campaign and rational officials is that they didn’t really go anywhere.”

Hill Republicans Mostly Quiet. The [Washington Post](#) (10/30, Demirjian, Sullivan) reports that “the Republican leaders of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the Senate and House intelligence committees were silent Monday about the significance of major developments in Mueller’s probe.” On the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/30, story 5, 2:10, Mason), Nancy Cordes reported, “Republicans gave the special council a wide berth today.” [Bloomberg News](#) (10/30, Litvan) reports that Sen. Susan Collins, an Intelligence Committee member, said the panel’s probe into possible collusion “is all but certain to push into the 2018 election year.”

Michael Gerson writes in his [Washington Post](#) (10/30) column, “To what circle of hell are Republican officials about to consign themselves? It would be useful for members of Congress to declare that they will never enter the fourth circle – the demolition of the integrity and independence of the FBI – if only to deter Trump from forcing a constitutional crisis. ... But it is hard to imagine such courage written broadly in today’s GOP – and even harder to imagine such courage exhibited preemptively. ... Do Republicans and conservatives really want to be remembered as a bodyguard of enablers” for Trump?

Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ) writes in [USA Today](#) (10/30), “When Manafort’s ties with a Russia-friendly Ukrainian politician became clear in August 2016, Trump immediately fired him. Then, the FBI raided Manafort’s house over the summer and warned him then that he had a pending indictment.” The indictment “does not even mention the Trump campaign.”

Podesta Steps Down From His Lobbying Firm. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/30, story 5, 0:20, Muir) reported in a brief item that “powerful Democratic lobbyist” Tony Podesta is “stepping down from his own lobbying group.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/30, Hamburger, Leonnig) reports that though the Podesta Group “is not named in the newly released indictments...the company is one of two indirectly referenced in the charges. Podesta and another lobbying firm, Mercury Public Affairs, were working with” Manafort and Gates “from 2012-2014 in lobbying to improve the image of the Ukrainian government.” [Politico](#) (10/30, Palmer) also reports on Podesta’s exit.

Fox News Focused Morning Coverage On Clinton And Unrelated Stories. While CNN and MSNBC covered the indictments in detail, several outlets report that Fox News largely avoided it or focused on Trump’s charges against Clinton. The [Huffington Post](#) (10/30, Strachan) reports that Fox News “dedicated substantial time to asking why Hillary Clinton wasn’t being investigated instead,” and aired features on Halloween costumes and Google’s new cheeseburger emoji. [CNN](#) (10/30, Kludt) reports on its website that Fox’s morning anchors “dutifully shared a variety of other headlines unrelated to the investigation into the Trump campaign’s ties to Russia.” [The Week](#) (10/30, Weber) has some contrasting screen shots of the three cable news networks at various points in the day.

Facebook Says Russian-Backed Content Reached 126 Million Americans. [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/30, story 3, 1:30, Holt) reported on “new revelations about how the Russians used Facebook at the height of the presidential election, reaching 126 million Americans, an eye-popping number.” NBC’s Jo Ling Kent reported that Facebook is “revealing that 80,000 posts from Russian-backed Facebook accounts reached potentially a third of all Americans between 2015 and 2017. Facebook saying that approximately 126 million people may have been served one of their stories at some point during the two-year period.”

The [New York Times](#) (10/30, Isaac, Wakabayashi) reports, "Russian agents disseminated inflammatory posts that reached 126 million users on Facebook while uploading more than 1,000 videos to Google's YouTube service. ... The new information goes far beyond what Facebook and Google have revealed in the past and illustrate how Facebook, in particular, was used by agents linked to Russia."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/30, story 6, 0:20, Mason) and [Washington Post](#) (10/30, Timberg, Dvoskin) also report on the numbers, while the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/30, Seetharaman) reports that those behind Russian-linked Facebook accounts helped to organize or finance events before and after the 2016 election on both sides of controversial issues.

Suzanne Spaulding of the Center for Strategic and International Studies writes in the [Washington Post](#) (10/30), "We are reminded almost daily of Russia's broad use of social media to foment discord in our country. But such campaigns have significant potential to fuel a lack of confidence in the legal system as well." False stories and leaks "could be exploited" to heighten "polarization over issues in the courts."

Trump, Abe Agree To Work Together On North Korea.

[Reuters](#) (10/30) reports President Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe agreed Monday to "work together on steps to counter North Korea's nuclear and missile development," ahead of the President's visit to Asia later this week, the Japanese government said. During a 20-minute phone call, Trump and Abe discussed the schedule of the president's coming visit and agreed to remain in close contact over North Korea, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasutoshi Nishimura told reporters.

Kelly: US Hopes North Korea Will Denuclearize. White House Chief of Staff Kelly said on [Fox News' The Ingraham Angle](#) (10/30), "What we really hope, or what I should say what the President really hopes...is that the leadership, such as it is in North Korea, comes to their senses and, with the help of countries like China, decide to denuclearize, give up their atomic weapons. There is no reason for them. They serve no purpose for that country." Kelly added, "I don't think we can have a country like North Korea have a ICBM that can deliver a thermonuclear device on the mainland of the United States. They already have the capability to at least reach with missiles to the great American citizens that live in Guam."

Seoul Warns Of Radioactive Fallout From North Korea Nuclear Tests. The [New York Times](#) (10/30, Choe) reports the head of South Korea's weather agency warned Monday that "another powerful blast at North Korea's underground nuclear test site could destabilize the area and send radioactive material into the atmosphere." The Times says "fears that the repeated nuclear explosions might be destabilizing the mountain have spread since the North's latest and most powerful nuclear test on Sept. 3." In fact, a day after the Sept. 3 test, the South China Morning Post "quoted a senior Chinese nuclear scientist who warned that a future test could blow the top off Mount Mantop, causing radioactive contamination of the atmosphere."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Is The White House Scared Yet?" In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (10/30) says Trump campaign adviser George Papadopoulos' guilty plea "is the most direct evidence connecting the campaign to the Russian efforts to help elect Mr. Trump." The Times also says Trump's former campaign manager Paul Manafort "embodies the sort of amoral, self-dealing denizen of the swamp that Mr. Trump pledged to drain when he got to Washington."

Washington Post.

"These Republicans Used To Pretend To Care About Debt. Not Anymore." A [Washington Post](#) (10/30) editorial says the Republican tax plan is "premised on the fanciful idea that slashing taxes by \$1.5 trillion over 10 years will somehow leave the federal budget better off." Citing a report from the Tax Policy Center which "found that the plan would wallop the federal budget, even when effects on economic growth are considered," the Post argues that the "warning should...shake Republicans who claimed to be deficit hawks when Barack Obama was president. Tax reform could be worthwhile, but only if it is paid for."

"Uzbekistan's New President Tiptoes Toward Liberalization." A [Washington Post](#) (10/30) editorial says "it is encouraging to hear" Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, who took office last year, "may be changing direction" from the "iron-fisted 27-year-rule" of his

predecessor, Islam Karimov. The Post says Mirziyoyev “quietly and gingerly began a modest liberalization” that some have even called “an Uzbek spring, or thaw.” The Post stresses that “Mirziyoyev clearly needs foreign investment and may well want to put behind him the awful legacy of his predecessor,” but ultimately what matters is his “intended destination for Uzbekistan.” The Post cautions, “He might be eyeing China or Russia as a model – personal authoritarianism welded onto state capitalism – in which case the latest opening should be greeted with caution.”

“What A Presidential President Would Have Said About Mueller’s Indictments.” A [Washington Post](#) (10/30) editorial highlights President Trump’s tweeted reaction to news that “special counsel Robert S. Mueller III has brought charges against Mr. Trump’s former campaign chairman Paul Manafort, Mr. Manafort’s deputy and a foreign policy aide on Mr. Trump’s campaign,” and presents a statement that “a presidential president might have” issued.

Wall Street Journal.

“The Manafort Indictment.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/30) editorial says the charges against President Trump’s former campaign manager Paul Manafort do not involve the 2016 and campaign and the main charge against Trump is his poor judgment for hiring Manafort.

“Europe Beats America.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/30) cites tax reform efforts in France and the Netherlands to argue that unless the US enacts its own reforms, Europe’s economy could prove more appealing to investors.

“About That ObamaCare ‘Sabotage.’” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/30) editorial argues that while Democrats argue that by cutting off subsidies to insurers, Administration is sabotaging the ACA, Obama-appointed federal judge Vince Chhabria last week rejected an effort by 18 states to keep the White House from stopping the payments. The Journal says cutting off the payments is unlikely to cause immediate or severe harm to consumers and Republicans negotiating with Democrats over the payments should push for a deal that includes easing the employer and individual mandates and expanding health-savings accounts.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Mueller Probe Kicks Into Next Gear](#)
[Mueller’s Moves Signal Broad Scope](#)
[Google’s Dominance In Washington Faces A Reckoning](#)
[SoftBank To Drop Effort To Merge Sprint, T-Mobile](#)

New York Times:

[Former Trump Aides Charged As Prosecutors Reveal New Campaign Ties With Russia](#)
[Mueller’s First Indictments Send A Message To Trump](#)
[Trump Campaign Got Early Word Russia Had Democrats’ Emails](#)
[Judge Blocks Trump’s Ban On Transgender Troops In Military](#)
[Trump Is Expected To Name Jerome Powell As Next Fed Chairman](#)
[France, Land Of Croissants, Finds Butter Vanishing From Shelves](#)

Washington Post:

[3 Trump Campaign Officials Charged](#)
[Reach Of Russian Content Far Wider Than First Reported](#)
[Federal Judge Blocks Part Of Transgender Ban In Military](#)
[In Front Of TV, President Fumes With Frustration](#)
[Both Sides Of The Aisle Brace For The Next Jolt](#)
[The Message To Other Targets: We Are Not Playing](#)

Financial Times:

[Three Former Trump Aides Charged In Russia Probe](#)
[Chinese Universities Race To Embrace Xi Jinping’s Theories](#)
[Madrid Moves To Reassert Its Control Over Catalonia](#)

Washington Times:

[Mueller's Bombshells: Manafort, Gates Indictments, Papadopoulos Guilty Plea](#)
[White House: Nothing To See Here; Go Find Clinton](#)
[Vicious Attack Ads Mark Final Days Of Virginia Governor's Race](#)
[U.S. Ramps Up Air War Against Islamic State In Yemen As Fight Subsides In Iraq And Syria](#)
[High Stakes For Federal Prosecutors As Bundy Trial Starts In Nevada](#)
[Skyrocketing Benchmark Premiums, Slim Choices Await Obamacare Customers](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Russia Meddling Investigation-First Indictments; Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Adviser; Russia Meddling Investigation-WH Response; Russia Meddling Investigation-Expert Comment; Russia Meddling Investigation-Democratic Lobbyist; Severe Weather; Kevin Spacey Sexual Harassment Scandal; Puerto Rico Recovery-Controversy; Former NFL Player Dies; AI-Cancer Detection; World Series.

CBS: Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Adviser; Russia Meddling Investigation-First Indictments; Russia Meddling Investigation-WH Response; Russia Meddling Investigation-Forecast; Russia Meddling Investigation-Congress; Russia Meddling Investigation-Social Media; Russia Meddling Investigation-Expert Comment; Benghazi Suspect Captured; Navy SEALs Murder Investigation; Kevin Spacey Sexual Harassment Scandal; Bergdahl Trial; World Series.

NBC: Russia Meddling Investigation-First Indictments; Russia Meddling Investigation-WH Response; Russia Meddling Investigation-Social Media; Military Transgender Ban-Legal Challenge; Kevin Spacey Sexual Harassment Scandal; Bergdahl Trial; Navy SEALs Murder Investigation; Severe Weather; Puerto Rico Recovery-Controversy; Soy Milk Benefits; Selena Gomez Kidney Transplant; World Series; Halloween Business.

Network TV At A Glance:

Russia Meddling Investigation – 33 minutes, 10 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Russia Meddling Investigation; NFL News; Utah-University Shooting.

CBS: Russia Meddling Investigation; Kevin Spacey Sexual Harassment Scandal; Bergdahl Trial; NFL News.

FOX: Russia Meddling Investigation; Russia Meddling Investigation-Democratic Lobbyist; Niger US Casualty Investigation.

NPR: Russia Meddling Investigation; Congress-WH Military Authorization; Climate Change.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in a tax reform industry meeting; participates in a legislative foreign policy lunch; meets with House Speaker oRyan.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Nominations hearing considers John Demers to be Assistant Attorney General for the National Security Division Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 106, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Armed Services CLOSED hearing on Navy Collisions at Sea – CLOSED: Recent United States Navy Collisions at Sea. Witnesses: Admiral John M. Richardson, USN, Chief of Naval Operations; Admiral Philip S. Davidson, USN, Commander, United States Fleet Forces Command. <https://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/17-10-31-recent-united-states-navy-collisions-at-sea> Location: Room SVC-217 <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM FEMA chief testifies to Senate Governmental Affairs Committee on federal response to the 2017 hurricane season – Hearing on '2017 Hurricane Season: Oversight of the Federal Response', with testimony from Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Brock Long; U.S. Northern Command Commander Gen. Lori Robinson; Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense Integration and Defense Support of Civil Authorities Robert Salesses; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations Maj. Gen. Donald Jackson; and Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Preparedness and Response Robert Kadlec Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 342, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

10:00 AM National Academies discussion on Manufacturing USA – 'Securing Advanced

Manufacturing in the United States: The Role of Manufacturing USA' National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine discussion, on the highlights of a workshop held in May. Speakers include Democratic Sen. Chris Coons, Massachusetts Institute of Technology's William Bonvillian, NIST Office of Advanced Manufacturing's Michael Molnar, and GLOBALFOUNDRIES' Mike Russo Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC 209-208, Washington, DC www.nas.edu/ <https://twitter.com/NASciences>

10:00 AM Senate Energy Committee hearing on building management and control systems – 'Hearing to Examine Opportunities for Efficiency in Building Management and Control Systems', with testimony from Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's Daniel Simmons; Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Associate Director for Energy and Environment Dr Jud Virden; Cold Climate Housing Research Center Chief Programs Officer Bruno Grunau; Southern Company Services Director of End-use, Power Delivery and Fleet R&D Tracy Hawkins West; and Emerson Commercial and Residential Solutions Innovation Director John Wallace Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.energy.senate.gov

10:00 AM Senate Transportation Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Leon Westmoreland to be an Amtrak Director; Diana Furchtgott-Roth to be Assistant Secretary of Transportation for Research and Technology; Bruce Landsberg to be a National Transportation Safety Board member; and Raymond Martinez to be Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Administrator Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

2:30 PM Senate Commerce subcommittee hearing on Native American subsistence rights and international treaties – Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee hearing on 'Exploring Native American Subsistence Rights and International Treaties', with testimony from North Slope Borough, AK, Mayor Harry Brower, and Senior Wildlife Biologist Dr Robert Suydam; Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission Chairman John Hopson Jr.; and Keweenaw Bay Indian Community President Chris Swartz Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

2:30 PM Senate HELP Committee hearing on 21st Century Cures Act implementation – Hearing on 'Implementation of the 21st Century Cures Act: Achieving the Promise of Health Information Technology', with testimony from Deputy National Coordinator for Health Information Technology Jon White; Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services Center for Clinical Standards and Quality Director Kate Goodrich; and Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General Senior Counselor for Health Information Technology James Cannatti III Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Commerce Secretary Ross testifies to Senate Governmental Affairs Committee on the 2020 Census – Hearing on '2020 Census: Examining Cost Overruns, Information Security, and Accuracy', with testimony from Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross; U.S. Census Bureau Acting Director Dr Ron Jarmin; and U.S. Comptroller General Eugene Dodaro Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 342, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

2:30 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

2:30 PM Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearing on tech solutions to extremist content and Russian disinformation online – Crime and Terrorism Subcommittee hearing on 'Extremist Content and Russian Disinformation Online: Working with Tech to Find Solutions', with testimony from Facebook General Counsel Colin Stretch; Twitter Acting General Counsel Sean Edgett; Google Director of Law Enforcement and Information Security Richard Salgado; Foreign Policy Research Institute Fellow Clint Watts; and terrorism analyst Michael Smith II Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

US House: 11:00 AM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/ <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

2:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including consideration of 'H.R. 2921 – National Forest System Vegetation Management Pilot Program Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2941 – Kisatchie National Forest Land Conveyance Act', 'H.R. 3567 – To authorize the purchase of a small parcel of Natural Resources Conservation Service property in Riverside, CA, by the Riverside Corona Resource Conservation District, and for other purposes', 'H.R. 2521 – South Carolina Peanut Parity Act of 2017' under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

5:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 2936, the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017' Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

Other: 9:00 AM U.S. Chamber of Commerce hosts discussion on the future of NAFTA – U.S. Chamber of Commerce hosts discussion on the future of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the stakes for U.S. agriculture and business, featuring Republican Sens. Ted Cruz and Pat Roberts, and USCC President and CEO Thomas Donohue Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H St NW, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com
<https://twitter.com/USChamber>

12:00 PM 'Report of the Working Group on the Himalayan Region' released at Hudson Institute – 'An Integrated Approach to the Himalayas: Report of the Working Group on the Himalayan Region' launch event at the Hudson Institute, laying out a plan for the U.S. to pursue an integrated approach with friendly states and peoples in the Himalayas to address strategic and population security issues, regional connectivity, water usage and climate change, and cultural preservation, including the protection of women and minorities. Speakers include Democratic Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, Hudson Institute Senior Fellow Eric Brown, Wilson Center Asia Program Deputy Director Michael Kugelman, German Marshall Fund Asia program Senior Transatlantic Fellow Andrew Small, Heritage Foundation South Asia Research Fellow Jeff Smith, Hudson Institute Senior Fellow Husain Haqqani, and Hudson Institute Initiative on the Future of India and South Asia Research Fellow Aparna Pande Location: Hudson Institute, 1201 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC <http://www.hudson.org> <https://twitter.com/HudsonInstitute>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Stephen Colbert: "I know it's almost Halloween, but it really feels more like Christmas. Paul Manafort, Paul Manafort, you're just the first of many."

Stephen Colbert: "Remember how the Trump campaign swore over and over they never knew of any attempt to coordinate with Russia? Well, how do I put this? Fake news."

James Corden: "Now there's talk that Manafort didn't really get it when the FBI showed up at his door. He handed out candy and was like, 'And who are you supposed to be?'"

James Corden: [Referring to President Trump's tweet against Hillary Clinton] "You can't get investigators off your case by simply telling them to investigate someone else. That would be like if I got arrested for murder, and my entire defense was, 'Hey, you know who else you should look at? OJ Simpson.'"

James Corden: "It was recently announced that former President Barack Obama has been summoned for jury duty next month in Illinois, and he plans to serve. Yeah. So it looks like two Presidents will be spending some time in a courtroom real soon."

Trevor Noah: "Because Trump's Halloween weekend wasn't all fun and harassing children. He also probably spent the weekend stressed, eating a lot of that candy. Because on Friday night, Trump received the spookiest news of all: Special Counsel Robert Mueller was going to drop his first indictments."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump's former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, was charged today with 12 counts, including acting as an unregistered agent of a foreign principle, money laundering, and conspiracy against the United States. Now, I wouldn't want to judge a book by its cover, but if the book is called 'This Book Is Full of Crime,' I don't need to open it."

Seth Meyers: "The Trump Administration is turning into a game of 'Clue,' but since it's Trump, 'Clueless.'"

Conan O'Brien: "Big story – today, President Trump's former campaign manager, Paul Manafort, was charged with conspiracy against the United States. Yeah, apparently his conspiracy against the United States was suggesting to Donald Trump that he run for President."

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- Marianas Variety: B-1 Bombers From Guam Join Display Of Airpower.

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DOI In The News

Zinke Met With Locals Before Drafting Monument Recommendations.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/4, Carlton) reports on Interior Secretary Zinke's campaign to meet with ranchers and others affected by federal monument designations. Zinke spent much of the summer traveling and holding such meetings before presenting his recommendations on whether to reduce some monuments to President Trump late last month. **Zinke** told the Journal, "The President directed me to give America a voice [and] a lot of the anger has been that they haven't had a voice."

New Mexico Wildlife Federation Director of Community Relations & Education Andrew Black, New Mexico Wildlife Federation Executive Director Garrett Vene Klasen, JACO Outfitters owner John Olivas, and Southwest Consolidated Sportsmen Co-Chairman Jim Bates argued in an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (9/1, Black, Klasen, Olivas, Bates), "As local sportsmen who have spent generations hunting and fishing we find it necessary to set the record straight" about recent arguments that "rolling back public lands might be good for the sportsmen community and wildlife." The writers added, "The proclamation specifically reaffirms the state's right to manage fish and wildlife," and, in fact, will enhance hunting opportunities.

In a guest editorial for the [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (8/30), the Florida Times-Union Editorial Board wrote, "President Donald Trump may eliminate protections previously granted to some of the nation's monuments." The article states that the Washington Post "reported that...Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante monuments in Utah, and the Cascade-Siskiyou monument in Northern California and Oregon" will be targets in the downsizing efforts. The editorial states, "We should be concerned because this land represents not only the future for Americans, it illuminates remarkable portraits of the past."

NativesOutdoors owner Len Necefer and Sierra Club organizing representative Kimberley Pope argued in an op-ed for the [Boulder \(CO\) Daily Camera](#) (9/1) that Zinke's "less-than-two-page report" carries a clear message: "when your only concern is the short-term profits of the fossil fuel industry, you'll mortgage the opportunities of your grandchildren provided by public lands. The story not told in this report is the impact that it will have on rural communities,

indigenous peoples and public lands that support a sustainable economy.”

Mark Austin of Escalante, Utah calls in a letter to the editors of the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/4, Austin) for Zinke to ensure a “scientific review of the monuments [is] conducted from within the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or by objective and credible outside sources.”

Commentary is available also from sources including The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (9/3), [KAJO-AM Grants Pass \(OR\)](#) Grants Pass, OR (9/3, Ray), The [Wichita Falls \(TX\) Times Record News](#) (9/1), The [West Salem \(WI\) Coulee News](#) (9/2, Skoloda), The [Ventura County \(CA\) Star](#) (9/2, Capps), The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (9/2, Hamblen), The [Taos \(NM\) News](#) (9/1, Hooks), The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (9/1, Thompson), The [Kitsap \(WA\) Sun](#) (9/4, Blair), The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (9/3, Meyer), The [Summit \(CO\) Daily](#) (9/1, Calvert), The [Baltimore Sun](#) (8/31), The [Traverse City \(MI\) Record-Eagle](#) (9/3), The [Joplin \(MO\) Globe](#) (9/1), [Keys Weekly \(FL\)](#) (9/1), [Workers World](#) (9/1, Mezgar), The [Detroit Free Press](#) (9/3), [Ashland \(OR\) Jefferson Public Radio](#) (9/4, Profita), The [Huffington Post](#) (9/4, Peterman, Contributor), and The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (9/2).

Former Interior Secretary Babbitt Blasts Asarco For Land Request. The [AP](#) (9/3) reports Former Interior Secretary and Arizona Governor Bruce Babbitt blasted copper mining company Asarco for “its effort to push the government to reduce the size of the Ironwood Forest National Monument near Tucson as it plans an expansion in the area.” Babbitt claims the company is attempting to, in the AP’s words, “take advantage of a favorable political climate during President Donald Trump’s administration” by “framing its request to make a case for its elimination, though its formal request was to modify the monument’s boundaries.”

Alaska Files Motion To Join Trump In Lawsuit Over Arctic Drilling.

[Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/1, DeMarban) reported the state of Alaska filed a motion in federal court Thursday “to intervene alongside President Donald Trump in a lawsuit brought by conservation groups seeking to prevent drilling in the U.S. Arctic Ocean.” Governor Bill Walker said, “In filing this motion, our objective is to make sure that the state of Alaska has future development opportunities in the Arctic (federal waters).”

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (9/1, Passut) reported the motion seeks “to intervene in support of an executive order (EO) Trump signed last April,” which “directed the Department of Interior (DOI) to consider allowing oil and gas leasing in several Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) areas, including the Atlantic and Arctic oceans, the Beaufort and Chukchi seas, Alaska’s Cook Inlet and the Gulf of Mexico (GOM).”

Blog: Interior Spokeswoman’s Comment On Robert E. Lee Statue Justified.

Erik Wemple wrote in a blog for [Washington Post](#) (9/1, Wemple) that “Interior Department spokeswoman Heather Swift had a point when she was quoted in a Post article this week” saying, “Absolutely ridiculous.” President Trump recently “announced the donation of his first-quarter presidential salary to the National Park Service, which would decide on its own how to spend the money,” which NPS later said it would use to restore the “historic Newcomer House on the Antietam battlefield, as well as “underwrite” replacement of rail fencing along Hagerstown Turnpike.” A piece by Justin Wm. Moyer headlined, “Trump donation will help restore historic home near Confederate statue,” attempted to connect Trump’s donation to the Charlottesville violence, alleging the donation would “benefit” a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee. Wemple added that Swift “said funds used to benefit the historic home adjacent to the statue should not be interpreted as a provocation of those who criticize Confederate imagery, calling any attempt to connect them ‘absolutely ridiculous.’”

Zinke Appoints Members To Royalty Policy Committee.

The [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (9/4, Clark) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “announced the appointment of 20 primary and 18 alternate members to the Department of the Interior’s Royalty Policy Committee,” which is scheduled to hold its first meeting on October 4. “Working closely with the Committee, we will come up with solutions for modernizing the management of public and American Indian assets, while building greater trust and transparency in how we value our nation’s public mineral resources. It’s important that the taxpayers and tribes get the full and fair value of traditional and renewable energy produced on public lands and offshore areas,” Zinke said.

[The Hill](#) (9/1, Henry) reported the Interior Department has announced “officials for ConocoPhillips Co., Anadarko Petroleum Corp. and Cloud Peak Energy” as well as “three academics, and representatives from four tribes and six states” will serve on a new committee

“designed to assess federal royalty policies for energy development on public land.” In a statement, Interior Secretary Zinke said, “Working closely with the committee, we will come up with solutions for modernizing the management of public and American Indian assets, while building greater trust and transparency in how we value our nation’s public mineral resources.” Zinke added, “It’s important that the taxpayers and tribes get the full and fair value of traditional and renewable energy produced on public lands and offshore areas.”

Additional coverage is available from [OILMAN Magazine](#) (9/4, Ciarlone), [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (9/1), and The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (9/4, Richards).

EPA Now Requires Political Aide’s Sign-off For Agency Awards, Grant Applications.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/4, A1, Eilperin) reports on its front page that the EPA “has taken the unusual step” of putting “political operative” John Konkus “in charge of vetting the hundreds of millions of dollars in grants the EPA distributes annually.” Konkus, “who officially works in the EPA’s public affairs office,” is a “former Trump campaign aide with little environmental policy experience.” He has so far “canceled close to \$2 million competitively awarded to universities and nonprofit organizations” – many of them affecting Alaska, whose Sen. Lisa Murkowski irritated President Trump with her vote against the Senate GOP healthcare bill. The Post reports that EPA veterans from the Bush and Obama administrations say no one from Konkus’ office had such authority then. The Post mentions that the Interior Department, “which is conducting a review of its grants, last month canceled a \$100,000 National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine study aimed at evaluating the impact of surface mining on nearby communities.”

Legal Scholars Support Reassigned Climate Scientist: NPR.

[NPR](#) (9/4, Johnson) offers a transcript of an interview with climate change scientist Joel Clement, “who says he was reassigned in retaliation for his views.” According to NPR, “Clement used to work on policy analysis at the Interior Department. Now he reports to an office that handles accounting issues.” NPR reports Clement is among “about 50 senior executives reassigned by the Interior Department this year,” noting that a spokesperson for the department “says the moves will help taxpayers and streamline department operations.” However, Clement said, “I don’t think they were hiding their cards any when they moved the climate adaptation guy to the fossil fuel royalty collection office.”

Counties Bet On Zinke For Millions.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (9/2, Harmon) reported local government officials, who are “gambling that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke might find a way to direct money to northwest Colorado counties from oil shale research,” have asked Federal lawmakers “legislators to keep the matter out of a must-pass defense measure.” According to the piece, the Associated Governments of Northwest Colorado asked Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO) “to refrain from seeking an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act that would direct the money from an Interior Department account to Colorado. The money, possibly as much as \$76 million, has been an issue for years dating back to before the completion of work cleaning up the Anvil Points oil shale research facility west of Rifle.”

World’s Largest General Science Organisation Slams Trump’s Lack Of ‘Scientific Thinking.’

The [Independent \(UK\)](#) (9/2, Johnston) reported American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) chief executive Dr Rush Holt “has accused the Trump administration of paying ‘scant attention’ to research and lacking understanding of scientific thinking.” Holt, “speaking amid controversy over the US Department of Interior’s decision to halt a \$1m study into the effects of ‘mountain-top’ coal mining on the health of people living nearby,” cited Trump’s “‘great slowness’ in appointing people with a scientific background to senior positions.”

Men Of Sleet: The Snowflakes Behind Trump’s Macho-man Act.

Alan Pyke commented for [Think Progress](#) (9/1) that President Trump’s rise has been powered by “many ingredients, but they are all funneled through the same engine: TV and internet chatter.” He alleged that “the web-shouting creche that nurtured Trump’s white-grievance politics into a wave strong enough to sweep him to 300 Electoral College votes last November has a few signature traits,” including a tendency to label one’s opponents as “oversensitive little babies.” Pyke also alleged “Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke may be a Navy SEAL, but he’s packed on some snowflake pounds since leaving the service.” Pyke commented, “If Zinke popping his top at a

taxpayer asking him a straightforward question doesn't move you, consider instead his team's reported intervention in the Senate debate over Trumpcare. With the Republican party's long-suffering war against the Affordable Care Act just a few votes shy of triumph in July, the administration knew who it had to convince. Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) wasn't ready to go along with leadership's plan. Rather than engage her disagreements and persuade her on the merits, Zinke – whose agency doesn't run health care policy but does wield huge power over gigantic wilderness-heavy states like Alaska – jumped in with threats. Vote with Trump, the secretary's office warned, or Zinke would close the federal faucet."

Mountaintop Removal Mining Study Singled Out For Interior Cease-work Order.

The [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (9/2, Ward) reported that, although "researchers from around the country are continuing to use Interior Department funding to examine the effects and efficiency of chemical dispersants in cleaning up oil spills" and various other projects, "a panel that is trying to understand why dozens of studies show mountaintop removal mining appears to be making coalfield residents sick has gotten orders from the Trump administration to 'cease' its work." Although "Interior Department officials have downplayed the move" as "part of a review of all Interior grants and partnerships that exceed \$100,000," the Gazette-Mail pointed out that the "mountaintop removal study is the only one of eight current Interior-funded National Academies projects that has been put on even a temporary hold." The article linked the move with President Trump's promise to "bring back coal jobs."

Hundreds Suing Federal Government For Gatlinburg Wildfires.

[WSMV-TV](#) Nashville, TN (9/2, Burch) reported Knoxville attorney Sidney Gilreath claims to be representing about "200 people who plan to file lawsuits against the U.S. Department of the Interior in connection to the November 2016 Sevier County wildfires." The people, who are seeking "compensation for losing their property" or loved ones, "feel like that the federal government is responsible for letting the fire get out of hand and not managing it properly," said Gilreath. He alleged, "They knew, and we can prove this, that there were extreme drought conditions at the time. They knew that they were short on personnel and equipment because they put in a funding request in for extra personnel in November before this fire."

Also covering the proposed lawsuit were [WBIR-TV Knoxville \(TN\)](#) Knoxville, TN (9/1) and [WATE-TV Knoxville \(TN\)](#) Knoxville, TN (9/1), while The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (9/3), The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (9/1, Lakin, Ahillen), and The [Asheville \(NC\) Citizen-Times](#) (8/31) offered continuing coverage of the NPS report outlining the causes of the Gatlinburg fire.

Interior Secretary Zinke Gets It. He Knows That America's Hunters And Anglers Are The Backbone Of Successful Fish And Wildlife Management.

NRA Institute for Legislative Action executive director Chris W. Cox argued for [Fox News](#) (9/1, Cox) that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's appointment "was celebrated by America's hunting community and those who care about our wildlife resources" because he's "cut from the Roosevelt mold." According to Cox, "A lifelong advocate of hunting and fishing, Zinke's public service career has been focused on protecting our natural resources while recognizing that hunting and fishing are critical to our ongoing success. He clearly understands that without sportsmen at the center of the equation, fish and wildlife are at risk. That's why he prioritized hunting and fishing access from day one at the Interior Department and his comprehensive review of national monument designations was so critically important to America's sportsmen."

Bureau Of Land Management

BLM Considering Oil, Gas Lease Sale Locations.

The [AP](#) (9/1) reported, "The Bureau of Land Management announced plans to offer drilling rights on about 145 square miles (380 square kilometers) in a December online auction," citing President Trump's goal of increasing energy production in the US. The AP states the locations include publicly owned "oil and gas near Dinosaur National Monument in northeastern Utah." Officials indicated in a press released that steps will be taken to protect the air and water. Utah Republican Gov. Gary Herbert spokeswoman Kirsten Rapple said, "It appears the BLM did a thorough job in balancing out the feedback that the governor shared."

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (9/1) also ran the Associated Press story.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/1, Ramseth) reported that "Federal land managers are

moving forward with a proposed sale of controversial oil and gas leases in Utah's San Rafael Swell and on the doorstep of Dinosaur National Monument, the agency announced Friday." Uintah County and officials from the National Park Service fear that the leases will draw away from the Dinosaur's scenic charisma. Utah Governor Gary Herbert has asked the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to "re-evaluate" three leases, which are adjacent to Utah's half the Dinosaur monument. In response, BLM is deferring two of the leases while the third is set for auction on Dec. 11.

BLM Considers Theodore Roosevelt National Park For Oil, Gas Lease Sale. The [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (9/1, Dalrymple) reported that The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) "is considering including a parcel bordering Theodore Roosevelt National Park in a federal oil and gas lease sale." Conservationists have urged the agency to protect a 120-acre plot of land bordering the park's North Unit by not including the parcel in the lease. Former Theodore Roosevelt National Park superintendent and current National Parks Conservation Association consultant Valerie Naylor said, "This small parcel is not going to make or break the lease sale, but it could make or break the park as it relates to the visitor experience."

US Allows Oil, Gas Drilling On Utah Monument Land. The [AP](#) (9/1) reported that "federal land managers said Friday they will allow drilling for publicly owned oil and gas near Dinosaur National Monument in northeastern Utah." The article stated that "the Bureau of Land Management announced plans to offer drilling rights on about 145 square miles (380 square kilometers) in a December online auction." While the plan addresses "President Donald Trump's goal of increasing domestic energy production," some officials, including Utah Gov. Gary Herbert (R), are concerned about disruption to the park. The AP added that Bureau of Land Management officials "said energy companies would be required to take steps to protect air and water quality."

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Gulf Oil Production Down 5.5 Percent.

[Reuters](#) (9/3) reported about 5.5 percent of the Gulf's oil production, about 96,000 bpd, remained shut on Sunday. Total lost oil production from the Gulf since offshore platforms started shutting is equal to about 2.97 million barrels. The BSEE said, "Since the storm has passed, operators have begun inspecting facilities and resuming production. To date, no damage reports have been received." The [Houston Chronicle](#) (9/2, Blunt) reported oil and gas operators started reboarding platforms and drilling rigs to assess the damage from Harvey. The BSEE said personnel have returned to all five rigs evacuated during the storm. Companies have also started reopening shut in wells.

BSEE Expects Gulf To Resume Full Production Mid-Next Week.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (9/1, Osborne) reported Lars Herbst, regional director for the BSEE, said offshore production in the Gulf of Mexico should be back and running close to full capacity by the middle of next week. He said, "There's been no substantial damage reported so far. ... By the middle part of next week we anticipate substantially all of the production to be back online." Regulators also have no reported offshore oil spills because of Harvey. [Platts](#) (9/1) reported offshore production has resumed quicker than onshore output in the Eagle Ford shale. Williams spokesman Christopher Stockton said, "We are starting to see some offshore production starting to come back online. ... We expect to see that number continue to improve this weekend." Raymond James analyst Marshall Adkins said soggy conditions will continue to hamper onshore production, as fracking crews are expected to struggle through muddy conditions to return to drilling sites.

Fish And Wildlife Service

Kaine To Seek Funding For Eroding Tangier Island.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/2, Portnoy) reported Sen. Tim Kaine this month will push for federal funding to protect Tangier Island from the effects of climate change. The island "has lost two-thirds of its land since the first accurate map was made in 1850," and "could be uninhabitable in 25 to 50 years." However, residents "blame the land loss on waves and storms...not climate change brought on by man-made activities." Still, Kaine hopes that the town will win "a spot in an infrastructure bill that the Trump administration is planning." The Post mentioned that Kaine "was

also encouraged to hear officials from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had planned to visit.”

After Generations, Salmon Back In Lake Champlain Tributaries.

The [AP](#) (9/3, Ring) reported landlocked Atlantic salmon have been spotted in some Lake Champlain tributaries in Vermont and New York, where they spawn, “for the first time in about 150 years.” According to senior Fish and Wildlife Service fish biologist Bill Ardren, “Salmon are a great indicator species for looking at how well we are doing. So when you start to see salmon reproducing naturally, and the juveniles surviving, that is starting to show that we are making progress in restoring that aquatic ecosystem.”

Drake: Can Energy Industry Survive Zinke’s Help?

Kerry Drake argued for the [Wyoming Tribune Eagle](#) (9/1, Drake) that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s “new wrecking crew” has been working fast, slamming “the brakes on a plan to protect the greater sage grouse that was years in the making.” Drake argued, “Is the public supposed to be happy that Interior spent a whole 60 days reviewing nearly 100 federal land-use plans in 10 states, behind closed doors, before they hurried to the unfounded conclusion that Zinke knows best? The new plan could allow more drilling in sage grouse habitat, reduce protections in high-priority focal areas for sage grouse and abolish the requirement for Interior to act if catastrophic losses of sage grouse numbers or habitat occurs. ‘Inferior’ would be a better name for this department since the Trump administration took over.”

Retired management consultant Earl DeGroot argued similarly for the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (9/3) that recent changes to United States Fish and Wildlife Service protections for the sage grouse should be alarming to sportsmen and Wyoming residents alike.

River Herring, Hurt By Dams And Climate, Might Be Endangered.

The [AP](#) (9/4, Whittle) reports the National Marine Fisheries Service is “reviewing the status of a pair of river herring species to see if the little fish should be listed under the Endangered Species Act because of factors including dams and climate change.” The agency is considering “the health of the alewife and blueback herring populations,” which “live in rivers from Maine to Florida,” because “conservationists have long made the case that their declining populations pose a major problem for the health of ecosystems along the East Coast.”

Denver Airport In Talks To Allow Bison To Roam On 200 Acres.

The [AP](#) (9/3) reported authorities are considering a plan “to allow bison from the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge to roam on 200 acres belonging to the Denver International Airport, airport officials said.” The AP added, “Word of the potential deal comes after federal wildlife officials doubled the fenced space for the refuge’s herd, which now numbers 122 bison after 18 calves were born this year.”

Scientists Still Scratching Their Heads Over Big Darby Mussel Die Off.

The [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (9/4, Renault) reports scientists are still confused about “the massive die-off that stretched along almost 60 miles of Big Darby” last year. The Dispatch mentions that US Fish and Wildlife Service biologist and contaminants specialist Deborah Millsap said “officials have ‘pretty much exhausted all potential pathways’” in their search for the cause of the die-off.

NPR Interviews “Bumblebee Hunter” Robbin Thorp.

[NPR](#) (9/3, Burns) interviewed “octogenarian entomologist” Robbin Thorp about his work with the Franklin bumblebee, briefly mentioning that Jeff Dillon with the US Fish and Wildlife Service organized the search for the elusive species this year.

Sea Otters May Be Victims Of Toxin That Crippled Crab Industry.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (9/1, Fimrite) reports two California sea otters undergoing treatment at Marine Mammal Center in the Marin Headlands are suffering “brain lesions apparently caused by the same neurotoxin that closed down the Dungeness crab fishery two years ago and killed hundreds of other sea creatures, officials said.” The Chronicle cites statistics from the US Fish and Wildlife Service stating that California sea otters “also known as southern sea otters, haven’t been spotted in the bay since the early 1800s, and there have been fewer than 20 confirmed sightings in the Bay Area since 1979, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.”

National Park Service

California, Washington State Governors Declare States Of Emergency As Wildfires Spread.

[Reuters](#) (9/2, Coffman) reported California Gov. Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency as the Ponderosa Fire spread across northern Butte County, prompting evacuations of around 500 homes and burning 3,715 acres. Meanwhile, a second wildfire, the La Tuna fire, broke out Friday near Los Angeles.

Meanwhile, the [AP](#) (9/2) reported that Washington Gov. Jay Inslee has declared a state of emergency for all of Washington State as firefighters battle “multiple fires east of the Cascades, including the Jolly Mountain Fire in Kittitas County.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/4, story 7, 0:30, Muir) reported, “Firefighters still fighting the largest fire in the history of Los Angeles. Officials say rain and cooler temperatures are now helping firefighters battle the La Tuna Fire, now 30 percent contained after destroying four homes and forcing a state of emergency. In Oregon tonight, more than 150 hikers stranded by this fire, now rescued, and the evacuations are mounting. Authorities believe that blaze was caused by illegal fireworks. More than 75 large wildfires now burning in the West.”

According to [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/4, story 5, 1:50, Alexander), “Nearly 60 major fires are raging across the region, forcing thousands to evacuate and destroying dozens of homes so far. Record-setting Labor Day weekend heat only helping fuel those flames, We get more now on that from NBC’s Steve Patterson.” NBC (**Patterson**) added, “In Los Angeles, state of emergency. The so-called La Tuna Canyon Fire scorching 7,000 acres and forcing 1,400 people to evacuate, destroying four homes. Today, a break in the weather. Firefighters getting the upper hand. Evacuation orders lifted, but the homecoming heartbreaking.” According to NBC, one “Southern California blaze is one of 58 un-contained wildfires sweeping across the West, from Nevada to Washington state. In Northern California, 32 homes destroyed by a fire nearly six square miles, more than 1,600 firefighters on the front lines. In Montana, multiple wildfires scorching bone-dry land. Hot shot fire crews taking on the massive Low Peak Fire. In Oregon, close call. More than 150 hikers stranded Saturday, trapped between two out of control wildfires. The National Guard rescued them, airlifting some to safety. There was relief, hugs and smiles when they reunited. A happy ending this Labor Day weekend, but with more hot weather in the forecast, fire season is just reaching its peak.”

Sources offering coverage of various wildfires across the US include The [AP](#) (9/4, Volz, Thanawala), The [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (9/4), The [AP](#) (9/1, Volz), The [AP](#) (9/3), The [AP](#) (9/1), The [AP](#) (9/1), The [Telegraph \(UK\)](#) (9/2, Millward), and The [Independent \(UK\)](#) (9/3, Weber, Angeles).

National Parks In Michigan See Increase In Tourism.

The [AP](#) (9/3) reports data from the National Park Service shows “tourism is up more than 5 percent” at Michigan’s national parks through July. National Park Service Midwest Region special assistant Lauren Blacik explained, “[Michigan has] even more visitors at this point in 2017 than we had in 2016, and 2016 was a record-breaking year.” Blacik added, “Nationally, we saw a huge increase in enthusiasm and support for our national parks around the National Park Service centennial last year in 2016, and that seems to have just continued this year in 2017 with more people wanting to explore their national parks, discovering those parks they might not even have known are in their backyards and planning vacations to national parks.”

Statue Of Liberty Tour Boat Crew Members Help Rescue Swimmer.

The [AP](#) (9/2) reported National Park Service police officers and Statue of Liberty tour boat crew members “rescued a man who jumped into the water at the southern tip of Manhattan” over the weekend. According to the AP, “a Park Police officer swam out to the man, grabbed him and swam to shore with him. Fellow officers and statue cruise personnel helped pull both men out of the water.”

Slow Progress On Park Service Harassment (National Park Service Staffers Confront Harassment).

The [High Country \(CO\) News](#): (9/4, Gilpin) Lyndsey Gilpin reports Yellowstone National Park Superintendent Dan Wenk, who “spent the last year investigating allegations of sexual harassment and gender discrimination in his park,” is now “carrying out up to 12 ‘disciplinary actions’ – which could range from letters of reprimand to firings – and is working to improve

training and reporting processes for Yellowstone employees." Gilpin argues that, "although Wenk's response is a step in the right direction for Yellowstone, the agency as a whole still hasn't delivered on many of its promises."

Army Couple Visits Every National Park In Under 5 Years.

[Military](#) (9/2, Bushatz) reports married Army Capts. Kendall and John Gomber planned to "check off their 59th and final national park this Labor Day weekend with a visit to Acadia National Park in Maine." The couple began exploring the National Parks with "a quiet weekend trip to Arches National Park, Utah, in early 2012."

Rappahannock Regional Library, Park Service Team Up For Lecture Series On Reconstruction.

The [Fredericksburg \(VA\) Free Lance-Star](#) (9/4, Freehling) reports the National Park Service and the Central Rappahannock Regional Library are offering "a series of programs focused on the complex and difficult years that followed the Civil War in the Fredericksburg region."

Gillibrand, Katko Pledge To Continue National Park Push For Safe Haven Museum, Fort Ontario.

[WRVO-FM](#) Oswego, NY (9/4, Horning) reports Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) and central New York Rep. John Katko (R-Camillus) recently "toured the Safe Haven Holocaust Refugee Museum in Oswego" in an effort to "renew interest and support for making the historic site part of the National Park Service (NPS)."

Denali Park Road Plan Allows Deterioration Of Final Miles.

The [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (9/3, Friedman) reported the National Park Service intends to "focus repair money on the first miles of the Denali Park Road while allowing some deterioration at the end of the road in the face of anticipated funding shortages."

Goodbye, Yosemite.

In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (9/2, Duane), author Daniel Duane argued a recent contract dispute forcing the renaming of several hotels in California offers "an opportunity for the National Park Service to dump dozens of place names that are the linguistic equivalents of Confederate statues."

Odd Inheritance: 1889 Landmark Courthouse With Clock Tower.

The [AP](#) (9/3, Collins) reported the state of Connecticut has abandoned use of a 19th-century courthouse and returned the property to George Beckwith, whose ancestors allowed the state to lease the property with the stipulation that it be returned to their decedents if no longer in use. The AP stated that the "courthouse is the most prominent landmark in the Litchfield Historic District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places."

2 Bodies, Believed To Be Missing Thai Students, Recovered From Kings River Rapids.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/1, Panzar, Hamilton) reported authorities on Friday pulled two bodies – "believed to be those of students from Thailand who went missing" – from a vehicle that had remained "trapped for weeks in the middle of a treacherous Kings River gorge in Central California." The pair – believed to be University of South Florida exchange students Pakapol Chairatnathrongporn, 28, and Thiwadee Saengsuriyarit, 24 – was "visiting Kings Canyon National Park when the manager of the motel they were staying in reported them missing."

Campfires Banned In Northwestern Washington Starting Friday.

The [AP](#) (9/1) reported the Washington State Department of Natural Resources initiated a "burn ban" beginning last Friday "for northwest Washington because of continued hot, dry weather and extreme fire danger." The ban reportedly "applies to all outdoor burning including recreation fires on state forests, state parks and forestlands under DNR fire protection within Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, Island and San Juan counties" and "includes all National Park Service lands and campgrounds along State Route 20 as well as Hozomeen and the entire Stehekin Valley."

When Your \$10.4 Million Mansion Comes With An Iconic Lighthouse.

[Bloomberg News](#) (9/1, Gross) reported the Saybrook Breakwater Lighthouse – "a Connecticut icon" – is now owned by construction magnate Frank Sciamè. The article detailed the complicated

process by which “the National Park Service began trying to transfer control of 12 ‘excess’ lighthouses away from the federal government and, ideally, to nonprofit, educational, or cultural agencies. For various reasons – logistical, bureaucratic, political – this didn’t happen,” according to Bloomberg. But “by 2015, Sciame had the chance to acquire it through a General Services Administration auction.”

Man Dies While Rappelling Near Zion National Park In Utah.

The [AP](#) (9/4) reports an unnamed New Hampshire man, 38, was killed “while rappelling near Zion National Park in southern Utah.” He was reportedly “hiking with four siblings east of the national park when the incident occurred Sunday,” and the group says “they were rappelling down about 300 feet for an unknown reason the deceased fell the final 80 feet into a rocky canyon.”

Exploring America’s Newest National Park: Pinnacles In Central California.

[Huffington Post](#) (9/1, Payne, Contributor) Contributor Stefanie Payne shared her experiences at “Pinnacles in California – America’s newest national park.” She said the park closed out her 52 week road trip with Jonathan Irish to every US national park in celebration of “the centennial anniversary year of the Park Service.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

OIA Awards CNMI More Than \$1M TAP And MAP Grants.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (9/1) carries a press release announcing the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands was awarded upwards of “\$1 million in funding through the Office of Insular Affairs’ Technical Assistance Program and the Maintenance Assistance Program for key community projects and public services.”

Saipan Middle School Completes Renovation.

[Marianas Variety](#) (9/5) reports Hopwood Middle School has finished its renovation, “with the help of Insular ABC and the Public School System through the Capital Improvement Project office.” According to Marianas Variety, “The Assessment of Buildings and Classrooms or ABCs is a partnership between the U.S. Department of the Interior’s Office of Insular Affairs and the CNMI.”

North: Three Grim Items At The Intersection Of Immigration And Education.

David North, formerly of the Interior Department’s Office of Insular Affairs, argued for The [Center For Immigration Studies](#) (8/31, North) that “three bits of information – all unrelated to each other and all grim in nature – popped up this week in the arena where education and immigration mingle” – “A Chinese college student was deported for hiring someone else to take her pre-admission English test; a Midwest school is offering F-1 visas and work opportunities to alien graduate students who need to be on the campus only *two out of 56 days*; and one of the U.S. territories, finding that the H-1B program for teachers does not allow sufficient exploitation of its foreign teachers, is moving toward a different and more employer-friendly foreign worker program, the J-1.”

Schneider Official: Hospital Services In Jeopardy.

The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (8/31, Blackburn) reported Schneider Regional Medical Center officials “pleaded with senators for more money for Fiscal Year 2018” but lawmakers “pushed back, pointing out that the entire government needs cash and the hospital may need to operate more efficiently.”

USVI And U.S. Dept Of Veterans Affairs To Collaborate On Veterans’ Health Issues.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (8/31) reported “Governor Kenneth Mapp and officials of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs agreed to collaborate more closely to expand and to improve services to veterans in the territory, Government House has announced.”

B-1 Bombers From Guam Join Display Of Airpower.

[Marianas Variety](#) (9/5) reports the US displayed its “newest and most advanced fighter jet, the Marine Corps’ F-35B Lightning II,” in a “show of force meant as a signal to North Korea.” The jets “joined Air Force B-1B Lancers from Guam for the first time in a sequenced mission with Japan and South Korea, Wednesday.”

Office Of Surface Mining

Trump Nominates Zatezalo To Oversee MSHA.

[The Hill](#) (9/2, Thomsen) reports President Trump on Friday nominated David Zatezalo, the former chairman of Rhino Resources, a company that "clashed with federal officials over mining safety rules under President Obama," as an assistant secretary of Labor overseeing the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA).

US Geological Survey

Magnitude 5.3 Earthquake Hits Southeastern Idaho: USGS.

[Reuters](#) (9/2, Dunham, Coffman) reports Idaho experienced a magnitude 5.3 earthquake "on Saturday about 63 miles (101 km) from the city of Pocatello, the U.S. Geological Survey reported."

Top National News

Haley: North Korean Leader "Begging For War."

Monday's emergency session at the UN Security Council is garnering heavy media coverage, with remarks by Ambassador Haley widely reported. All three networks reported Monday night on Monday's meeting. In its lead story, the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/4, lead story, 2:25, Quijano) said Haley "warned there are limits to America's patience" and "pressed the Security Council for more sanctions against the rogue nation."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/4, Demick) reports Haley said North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is "begging for war," and "called for members to exhaust all possible diplomatic measures and impose urgent economic sanctions to prevent it." From the US to Japan, the Times says ambassadors "spoke in increasingly shrill tones, expressing fear and anger" after Sunday's test of a nuclear bomb. Said Haley, "His abusive use of missiles and his nuclear threats shows that he is begging for war."

In the lead story for [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/4), Sara Murray said the Administration is "now...making clear its patience is running thin," and in the lead story for [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/4), Kevin Corke reported that Haley issued a "scathing rebuke of Pyongyang's latest nuclear test." Haley was shown stating: "To the members of the Security Council, I must say enough is enough." The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/4, story 2, 2:50, Quijano) showed Haley saying, "The time for half measures in the Security Council is over. The time has come to exhaust all of our diplomatic means before it is too late."

The [New York Times](#) (9/4, Chan, Ramzy, Choe) reports Haley "did not threaten unilateral military action by Washington or repeat President Trump's statement on Twitter" Sunday that South Korea's call for more diplomacy was a form of "appeasement." Instead, Haley said "the time has come for us to exhaust all of our diplomatic means before it's too late." [Bloomberg News](#) (9/4, Kang, Kim, Wasson) too says Haley "reinforced Trump's threat on Twitter to cut off trade with nations that trade with North Korea," saying the US "will look at every country that does business with North Korea as a country that gives aid to their reckless intentions."

Haley, the [AP](#) (9/4, Peltz, Sanminiatielli) reports, "said the US would look at countries doing business with the North and planned to circulate a resolution this week with the goal of getting it approved Sept. 11." But the AP says the US resolution "faces an uncertain future. Russia and China have both proposed a two-pronged approach: North Korea would suspend its nuclear and missile development, and the United States and South Korea would suspend their joint military exercises."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/4, Siegel) reports Haley "criticized proposals for both North Korea and South Korea to each stop military activities," calling suggestions that the US end its activities in the region "insulting." [Townhall](#) (9/4, O'Brien) reports Haley also criticized the Security Council, which she said has often been "too slow and too weak" to respond to North Korea's missile tests.

At the White House on Monday, [Reuters](#) (9/4, Kim) reports President Trump "held calls with foreign leaders, including South Korean President Moon Jae-in and German Chancellor Angela

Merkel," and the White House declared that "all options to address the North Korean threat are on the table." [Politico](#) (9/4, Lacy) reports that according to a White House statement, Trump and Moon discussed North Korea's latest nuclear test and pledged to "strengthen military capabilities" – including "initial approval for South Korea to beef up its missile payload capabilities and 'conceptual approval' for the purchase of billions of dollars worth of weapons and equipment from the US." The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/4, story 3, 1:50, Quijano) said South Korea is now allowing the US to install four more THAAD rocket launchers.

The [AP](#) (9/4) reports both leaders also agreed that the latest test was "unprecedented." The [Washington Times](#) (9/4, Boyer) also reports similarly on Trump's call with Moon. A [New York Times](#) (9/4, Choe) analysis writes that for the last seven decades, the US and South Korea "have been the closest of allies," but Trump "issued a blast of antagonistic comments in the last few days that have made South Koreans doubt that they can take the alliance for granted any longer." The tone of Trump's statements "stunned" South Korean officials and "underscored what unlikely partners he and Mr. Moon are."

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/4, Board) editorial says Trump's threats Sunday to withdraw from the US-South Korea trade pact has caused unease in South Korea. The Journal argues that if the US were to withdraw from the pact, Kim Jong Un would benefit.

Meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/4, Nations, Cheng, Davidson) reports that also on Monday, South Korea warned that North Korea appears to be preparing to test another intercontinental ballistic missile. Maj. Gen. Jang Kyung-soo, acting deputy minister for national defense policy, didn't say what signs of activity were detected, nor did he give a time frame for a possible launch.

South Korea Defense Minister Song Young-moo, the [Washington Post](#) (9/4, Fifield) reports, on Monday "said it was worth reviewing the redeployment of American tactical nuclear weapons to the Korean Peninsula to guard against the North, a step that analysts warn would sharply increase the risk of an accidental conflict." Song said he asked Defense Secretary Mattis during talks at the Pentagon last week "for strategic assets like US aircraft carriers, nuclear submarines and B-52 bombers to be sent to South Korea more regularly."

An [AP](#) (9/4, Lederman) analysis says the Administration's options "are going from bad to worse as Kim Jong Un's military marches ever closer to being able to strike the US mainland with nuclear weapons." The AP says that as President Trump "seeks to show global resolve after the North's most powerful nuclear test, his leverage is limited even further by new tensions he's stoked with South Korea, plus continued opposition from China and Russia."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/4) editorializes that the US and allies have never utilized all of their options to prevent North Korea from becoming a nuclear power, and warns that time is running out to prevent Kim Jong Un from becoming a nuclear menace.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/4, lead story, 2:25, Quijano) said that while the North will need more tests to know if its warhead can survive reentering the atmosphere after an intercontinental flight, "it seems like only matter of time." Stephen Ganyard similarly said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/4, story 4, 1:10, Muir), "Theoretically, [Kim Jong Un] has the ability to hit most of the United States with a thermonuclear weapon, but more concerning is no matter what the US seems to do, he doesn't slow down. In short, Kim is winning, and the rest of the world is losing."

Richard Engel reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/4, story 2, 3:20, Alexander), "Multiple US officials tell NBC News, North Korea crossed a big line on Sunday, detonating what it claimed was a thermonuclear bomb." However, Engel added: "I'm hearing that at least the military members of Trump's Administration don't want this to become a military conflict. They want a diplomatic solution through China, but they say the window for diplomacy, if it doesn't work, is somewhat limited, and it is closing because at some stage, North Korea will have enough missiles, enough nuclear weapons to pose an irreversible threat to the United States."

The [New York Post](#) (9/4, Fredericks) reports Switzerland on Monday "offered to act as a mediator to help resolve the North Korea nuclear crisis, offering to host negotiations to avoid a military confrontation." Swiss President Doris Leuthard said her nation is "ready to offer our role for good services as a mediator." She added, "I think that's our role to look at what kind of possibilities we find. Because, well, Twitter won't be an adequate instrument. This must be very discreet."

Sen. Ed Markey said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/4) that there "is no military solution to this problem," because it would result in the North retaliating against South Korea, creating what "would be the most catastrophic event on this planet since WWII." He said the agenda must be getting the Chinese, the Russians, and others to "impose crippling sanctions" on Pyongyang, "and then we try to negotiate quickly."

Sen. Ben Cardin likewise said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/4) that a military option "could be catastrophic" in terms of "loss of life" and it therefore "has to be a last resort."

Rep. Mike McCarthy said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/4) that President Trump "has been strong," but "we need to speak with one voice. ... We have to bring more allies together. I think pressuring China to do more is the responsible thing to do."

[Wall Street Journal](#) (9/4) columnist Gerald F. Seib writes that the most urgent need is for the international community to negotiate an end to North Korea's missile and weapons tests.

Mara Liasson said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/4), "There have been a lot of mixed messages. The President has been on a lot of different sides of this. At some point, he has talked about talking to North Korea. At other times he has tweeted that the time for talking is over."

Tom Rogan of the Washington Examiner said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/4), "Ultimately, the Administration would be willing to accept North Korea now as a nuclear weapons power. What they would not be willing to accept...is the idea that North Korea could put those weapons onto intercontinental ballistic missiles. That's something that alters the game."

China: Trump's Trade Threat Over North Korea "Unacceptable." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/4, story 3, 2:50, Muir) reported that after President Trump declared on Twitter that "he is considering launching an economic attack, 'stopping all trade with any country doing business with North Korea.'" That would presumably include China. The Chinese Foreign Ministry is "firing back." The [AP](#) (9/4) reports China on Monday criticized Trump's threat Sunday to "cut off US trade with countries that deal with North Korea and rejected pressure to do more to halt the North's nuclear development." Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said, "What is definitely unacceptable to us is that on the one hand we work so hard to peacefully resolve this issue and on the other hand our interests are subject to sanctions and jeopardized. This is unfair."

A [New York Times](#) (9/4, Mozur) analysis writes that Trump's threat to stop all trade with countries doing business in North Korea "would mean economic disaster for the United States as well." The North's biggest partner by far is China, which is also the largest trading partner of the United States, and "that makes cutting off all United States trade with China a nonstarter, experts say." [Breitbart](#) (9/4, Carney) reports former Bush Administration Treasury spokesman Taylor Griffin warned that if the US cuts off trade with China, the consequences would be "apocalyptic."

Japan Planning For Possible Evacuation Of Its Citizens In South Korea. [Nikkei Asian Review](#) (9/5) reports that as tensions with North Korea "reach new heights," Japan is planning for "a possible mass evacuation of the nearly 60,000 Japanese citizens currently living in or visiting South Korea." Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Monday, "There is a possibility of further provocations. We need to remain extremely vigilant and do everything we can to ensure the safety of our people."

Hudson Institute fellow Walter Russell Mead writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/4, Mead) that North Korea's nuclear buildup is pushing Japan towards developing its own nuclear weapons. In the event Japan decides to pursue nuclear weapons, Mead says it is likely that South Korea and Taiwan would soon follow.

US Officials Monitoring Ties Between North Korea, Iran. The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (9/4, Kredon) reports US officials are "closely monitoring an ongoing meeting between senior North Korean and Iranian officials that comes on the heels of a nuclear test by Pyongyang, according to senior Trump administration officials and other sources who expressed concern that North Korea is helping to put the Islamic Republic back on the pathway to a functional nuclear weapon." Sources told the Free Beacon that Pyongyang "continues to stockpile illicit nuclear material on Iran's behalf in order to help the Islamic Republic skirt restrictions implemented under the landmark nuclear deal."

Gas Prices Come Down On Monday.

[Reuters](#) (9/4, George) reports US gasoline prices fell on Monday as port operations, pipelines and refineries bring services back online. AAA said benchmark US gasoline futures dropped by 3 percent, while retail prices only climbed one cent on Monday. [Reuters](#) (9/3, George) reported that prices continued to be boosted by the limitations of refineries and pipelines as they begin to restart. Texas ports also have restricted operations that limits the ability to load large vessels. The [Financial Times](#) (9/4, Raval) reports GasBuddy analyst Patrick DeHaan said all 50 states had higher average prices in the last week. However, any respite may be short-lived as attention shifts to Hurricane Irma.

Gasoline Spiked During Weekend. [Reuters](#) (9/1, Seba, Kumar) reported that retail gasoline

prices “surged to two-year highs on Friday and global shipping routes were scrambled, even as some of the nation’s oil refineries began restarting in the wake of Hurricane Harvey.” The national retail average rose “to \$2.519 a gallon, the highest since August 2015.” [Bloomberg News](#) (9/1, Grant) reported prices saw “the largest one-day gasoline price jump in more than a decade on Thursday.” In total, “gasoline prices have risen by 17 cents a gallon since...Harvey first made landfall,” and prices are expected to continue their increase. According to [AP](#) (9/1, Lauer, Martin), “prices rose at least 15 cents in 24 hours in several metropolitan areas,” and “at least .10 cents in eight states since Thursday: South Carolina, Ohio, Delaware, Maryland, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia and Texas.” The [Financial Times](#) (9/2, Crooks) reported in continuing coverage that gas prices reached \$2.59 per gallon on Saturday, hitting a two-year high.

The [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (9/1) reported Virginia gas prices jumped 11 cents a gallon after the hurricane, and the [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (9/1, Ohm) reported “Tennessee is among states that have seen the largest gas price increases since one week ago,” with jump of 22 cents per gallon. The [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (9/2, Kempner) reported Atlanta gas prices “increased another 2 cents on average Saturday morning,” after a “sharp spike” of 12 cents on Friday. Similarly, the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (9/1, Chanen) reported Minnesota gas prices are expected to climb another 10 cents per gallon this weekend, and the [AP](#) (9/2) reported New Jersey prices are up “up 18 cents from last week.”

Also reporting are [Bloomberg News](#) (8/31, Sharples), The [Washington Post](#) (9/1, David Koenig |, Ap), The [New York Post](#) (9/1, Musumeci), [Reuters](#) (9/1, Flitter, Parraga) and [Barron's](#) (9/1, Stone)

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/1, Yang) reported gas prices eased slightly on Friday, as some refineries announced plans to resume operating over the next few days. [Bloomberg News](#) (9/1, Katakey) reported Friday’s drop was the first “in almost two weeks.” The [Pittsburgh \(PA\) Business Times](#) (9/1, Lott) added that Bevi Powell, Senior Vice President, AAA East Central, believes prices may increase over the next week, but said that “high inventory levels have the potential to offset gas price surges similar to what we have seen with past hurricanes.”

Abbott: Texas Has Enough Gasoline To Meet Demand. [Reuters](#) (9/1, Scheyder) reported Texas Gov. Greg Abbott at a news conference “said on Friday that the state will not run out of gasoline after Tropical Storm Harvey flooded much of the Gulf Coast and shut down a quarter of U.S. refining capacity.” Abbott asserted, “There’s plenty of gasoline in the state of Texas. ... Don’t worry. We will not run out.” The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (9/1, Brezosky) reported Texas Department of Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller said the state-wide gas panic was “short term” as the start started to reverse the flow of pipelines from Gulf Coast refineries, bring in fuel by barge, and shut down pumps spilling gas contaminated by the storm. Miller said, “We have plenty of fuel. ... We have a pipeline that goes from our refineries up to Oklahoma and we’ve reversed that pipeline. Now we have fuel coming back into Texas instead of leaving.” Chris Tomlinson wrote in his column for the [Houston Chronicle](#) (9/1, Tomlinson) that Texas’ gas panic is self-induced, and not a result of Hurricane Harvey. Tomlinson said that when consumers started hearing that prices of gasoline would increase because 25 percent of the nation’s refining capacity was shut in, they went “nuts” to fill their tanks at a good price. Railroad commissioner Ryan Sitton said, “It’s just like a run on a bank, it’s a run on gas stations. ... Right now almost every Texan is refueling their car, and not only are they fueling up their car, they are filling up gas cans.” Texas consumers typically use 1 million bpd, but the panic buying caused demand to surge to 3 million bpd on Wednesday.

Gas Prices Threaten Trump’s Economy. [The Hill](#) (9/4, Henry) reports the higher gas prices threaten the bright economic picture that President Trump has lauded during his time in office. Even a short-term surge in gas prices has the potential to have a lingering impact on the American economy, particularly when combined with the other economic damage from Harvey. Heritage Foundation fellow Stephen Moore said, “The negative effect will be not pretty. We’re talking about maybe knocking half a percent, or one percent, off GDP for a quarter or two, higher gas prices for sure, because Houston is the energy capital of the country. ... So all those things are negative.” [USA Today](#) (9/1, Davidson) reported Barclays expects the economic growth for the third quarter to be between 1-1.5 percent, down from its initial estimate of 2.5 percent, according to chief US economist Michael Gapen. He said the impact is a result of “the high value-added nature of the energy sector to the U.S. economy. It’s a significant disruption to oil, natural gas and chemical production.” Moody’s expects Harvey to take an overall economic toll between \$86-108 billion, with up to \$11 billion in lost economic output.

Hurricane Irma Expected To Strengthen As It Heads Toward Caribbean.



The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/4, story 4, 0:25, Quijano) reported the category four Hurricane Irma is expected to grow stronger by Tuesday night “as it approaches the eastern Caribbean, including Antigua and St. Maarten.” [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/4, lead story, 2:20, Muir) reported Irma is “sweeping toward the Caribbean” at 130 mph and is “expected to strengthen even more.” The hurricane is expected to move north of Haiti and Cuba, with South Florida in its track. [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/4, lead story, 1:50, Alexander) reported Irma “has the potential to not only devastate the Caribbean but also the eastern seaboard.” Florida Gov. Rick Scott has already announced a state of emergency.

The [Tallahassee \(FL\) Democrat](#) (9/4, Attelbury) reports that Scott “issued the executive order” for all 67 Florida counties “to give local governments time, resources and flexibility to prepare for Irma.” The [Miami Herald](#) (9/4, Dixon, Neal, Wooldridge) reports that “most forecasts call for the storm, which was traveling at 13 mph, to turn to the west-northwest by the end of the day Tuesday — putting Florida in its path,” and “many South Floridians took advantage of the Labor Day holiday to hit grocery and hardware stores.”

Linzie Janis reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/4, story 2, 2:15, Muir) that with the storm expected to hit Puerto Rico Wednesday, “the National Guard has been activated, schools have been closed, and workers ordered to cut their day short tomorrow, so they can get ready.” FEMA has “400 people on stand-by. Giant crates of supplies delivered to the US Virgin Islands, where Irma could hit as early as tomorrow night.”

The [Washington Post](#) (9/4, Lamothe, Achenbach, Contrera, Larimer) reports that the Coast Guard has begun “moving a number of helicopters out of Texas and into Puerto Rico, Florida and Georgia, in anticipation” of Irma’s landfall. With many model forecasts showing storm “striking the US East Coast as early as Saturday or Sunday, with tropical storm winds arriving in Florida as soon as Friday,” FEMA “is also deploying its resources eastward in advance of Irma, FEMA Administrator William ‘Brock’ Long said Sunday on CBS News’ ‘Face the Nation.’” [USA Today](#) (9/4, Graham) says forecasters are warning East and Gulf Coast residents to “start preparing now.” According to weather officials, Irma “is currently a Category 4 storm — Harvey level,” and “is currently moving at a speed of about 14 mph, according to the Weather Channel.”

Tainted Water Well Leads PA Resident To Seek Buyout From Cabot.

The [AP](#) (9/2, Rubinkam) reported that Ken Morcom and Kim Grosso want Cabot Oil & Gas Corp. to purchase their home since they “doubt they could sell a house with tainted water.” The AP states that, “state regulators found that Cabot...had contaminated 18 residential wells with methane,” which led to an ongoing controversy. Morcom and Grosso’s home sits in the Dimock County, PA in an area roughly 150 miles north of Philadelphia. The AP added that Cabot has taken the position that the water wells were contained with methane prior to the company’s drilling activities, however, 2012 Environmental Protection Agency testing showed that “well water” for 64 homes “didn’t pose a health hazard.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Nicole Malliotakis, A Gutsy G.O.P. Challenger.” A [New York Times](#) (9/5, Board) editorial profiles Nicole Malliotakis, “the daughter of a father from Crete (and of a Cuban-born mother)” and “young Republican member of the State Assembly from Staten Island’s eastern shore whose district extends into southern Brooklyn.” Malliotakis is the latest Republican mayoral candidate, and the Times says “she has guts” to campaign against incumbent Bill de Blasio. Malliotakis believes “Blasio has presided over a deteriorated quality of life, a mass transit system in shambles and an unacceptable municipal policy that protects undocumented immigrants convicted of serious crimes.” Regardless of whether Malliotakis “will raise enough money to qualify for city matching funds and for a place in a debate,” the Times encourages de Blasio “to debate her anyway. The city would be the better for it.”

Washington Post.

“Congress’s Most Important Assignment After Summer Vacation.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/4) says Treasury Secretary Mnuchin’s call to include the debt ceiling increase in the hurricane relief bill “could be a risky maneuver, given the inevitable resistance from the GOP right; it’s also somewhat illogical, since the government would not be borrowing to enable new spending, but to pay for that which Congress has already approved.” The Post points out

that President Trump, House Speaker Ryan, and Senate Majority Leader McConnell “have repeatedly insisted that they intend to raise the debt limit,” and argues that they “should make a ‘clean’ bill Job One,” as “preserving the United States’ basic financial credibility must take precedence.”

“The Last Big Piece Of Unfinished Business From The Great Recession.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/4) writes that the Federal National Mortgage Association and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corp – Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac – should begin transitioning the current federal holdings of roughly half of all US residential mortgages to a new system in which the private sector “takes the lead” in mortgage finance and under which government, at most, provides “a guarantee against a catastrophic meltdown.”

“In Azerbaijan, Some Journalists Get Free Apartments. Others Get Jail Cells.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/4) writes that despite Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev’s recent award of hundreds of apartments to journalists while proclaiming the importance of freedom of speech, his presidency has waged “a sustained and punishing campaign...against dissenting scholars, human rights defenders and journalists.” The Post calls for the release of imprisoned journalists in Azerbaijan, and concludes that no one “should be fooled by the president’s fancy words about a free press nor by his corrosive practice of buying off journalists.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Options For Removing Kim Jong Un.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/4) editorializes that the US and allies have never utilized all of their options to prevent North Korea from becoming a nuclear power, and warns that time is running out to prevent Kim Jong Un from becoming a nuclear menace.

“Trump’s Korean Trade Folly.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/4, Board) editorial says President Trump’s threats Sunday to withdraw from the US-South Korea trade pact has caused unease in South Korea. The Journal argues that if the US were to withdraw from the pact, Kim Jong Un would benefit.

“The Free Speech Battles Of Berkeley.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/4) writes that despite University of California, Berkeley chancellor Carol T. Christ’s efforts to ensure that events featuring conservative speakers continue on campus, Berkeley Mayor Jesse Arreguin has asked the university to cancel upcoming controversial speakers. The Journal argues that Ms. Christ correctly understands the importance of the First Amendment and that despite the security difficulty of hosting controversial speakers, the mayor has a responsibility to ensure public safety.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Returning Lawmakers Face A Tough Agenda With Little Margin For Error](#)
[US Urges Strong Response As North Korea Prepares New Launch](#)
[United Technologies To Buy Rockwell Collins For \\$23 Billion](#)
[P&G Proxy Fight Pits Former Finance Chief Against Longtime Protégé](#)
[Battle Shapes Up In Congress Over Fate Of Immigration Program](#)

New York Times:

[US Urges Fuel Cutoff For North Korea, Saying It’s ‘Begging For War’](#)
[On DACA, President Trump Has No Easy Path](#)
[Trump Faces Deal-Making Challenges As Congress Returns](#)
[Traces Of Crime: How New York’s DNA Techniques Became Tainted](#)
[In Texas, Distrust Of Washington Collides With Need For Federal Aid](#)
[‘Brexit’ Threatens Subsidies For UK’s Landed Gentry, And Queen](#)

Washington Post:

[Cold Political Truth Emerges In Arctic](#)
[Hill Is Facing DACA Battle](#)
[Pastors Try An Appeal To Trump’s Heart](#)
[Return Of US Arms Discussed In Seoul](#)
[‘If They Deport All Of Us, Who Will Rebuild?’](#)

[Political Aide Now Vets EPA's Grants](#)

Financial Times:

[North Korea Is 'Begging For War' Says US Ambassador To UN](#)

[Reddit Caught Between User Highs And 'Edgier' Lows](#)

[Hollywood Licks Its Wounds After Dismal Summer](#)

Washington Times:

[Iran Fears No International Intervention Into Alarming Treatment Of Imprisoned Dissidents](#)

[How Sarah Huckabee Sanders Remains Calm Amid White House Press Storms](#)

[Patriot Prayer Urges Supporters To Let The Antifa Beat Them Up In Oregon](#)

[Menendez Corruption Case Puts Other Democrats At Legal Risk, Sidelines Senator For Trial](#)

[Armed With New Data, Committees Ready To Ratchet Up Investigations Into Trump's Ties With Russia](#)

[Terrorist Attacks In Spain Reveal EU Security Weaknesses, Radical Islamic Strengths](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Hurricane Irma-Forecast; Hurricane Irma-Preparation; North Korea Nuclear Test; North Korea Nuclear Test-Bomb Strength; White House-DACA Repeal Plan; Hurricane Harvey-Tolls; West Coast-Wildfires; Utah-Hospital Police Violence; Philadelphia-Car Break Failure; Temple University Student Murdered; British Royal Family-Pregnancy; Hurricane Harvey-Neighbors.

CBS: North Korea Nuclear Test; North Korea Nuclear Test-White House; North Korea Nuclear Test-South Korean Response; Hurricane Irma; Hurricane Harvey-Environmental Impact; Hurricane Harvey-Health Risk; White House-DACA Repeal Plan; West Coast-Wildfires; Gasoline Price Hike; British Royal Family-Pregnancy; Hurricane Harvey-Drone Operators.

NBC: Hurricane Irma-Forecast; North Korea Nuclear Test; White House-DACA Repeal Plan; Hurricane Harvey-Recovery Effort; West Coast-Wildfires; Utah-Hospital Police Violence; British Royal Family-Pregnancy; College Football Season; Hurricane Harvey-Katrina Survivors Help.

Network TV At A Glance:

North Korea Nuclear Test – 14 minutes, 25 seconds

Hurricane Harvey – 13 minutes, 35 seconds

White House-DACA Repeal Plan – 7 minutes, 50 seconds

Hurricane Irma – 6 minutes, 50 seconds

West Coast-Wildfires – 4 minutes

British Royal Family-Pregnancy – 2 minutes, 15 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: White House-DACA Repeal Plan; Hurricane Irma; North Korea Nuclear Test.

CBS: North Korea Nuclear Test; Hurricane Irma; Hurricane Harvey; White House-DACA Repeal Plan; Utah-Hospital Police Violence.

FOX: White House-DACA Repeal Plan; Hurricane Irma; Hurricane Harvey.

NPR: White House-DACA Repeal Plan; Hurricane Harvey; North Korea Nuclear Test; Chicago Newspapers Merger.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with the National Economic Council; meets with key members of Congress and his Administration regarding tax reform; speaks with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull of Australia by telephone.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a swearing-in ceremony for President and Chief Executive Officer of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) Ray Washburne; participates in a swearing-in ceremony for US Surgeon General Dr. Jerome Adams.

US Senate: 1:15 PM Dem Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto participates in press call on DACA – Democratic Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto participates in a press conference call to discuss the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and 'call on President Donald Trump to protect DACA'. Sen. Cortez Masto is joined by DACA-recipient Astrid Silva Location: TBD
<https://www.cortezmastosenate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenCortezMasto>

3:00 PM Senate votes on U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia nominee – Senate

convenes and proceeds to executive session to consider the nomination of Timothy Kelly to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia, followed by a vote on the nomination Location: Washington, DC <http://www.senate.gov/>

US House: 2:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including consideration of 'H.R. 1843 – Clyde-Hirsch-Sowers RESPECT Act', 'H.R. 3110 – Financial Stability Oversight Council Insurance Member Continuity Act', 'H.R. 2864 – Improving Access to Capital Act', as amended, and 'S. 1616 – Bob Dole Congressional Gold Medal Act' under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

4:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 3354' – the legislative vehicle for the remaining appropriations bills Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

Other: 11:00 AM U.S. ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley in conversation at AEI – American Enterprise Institute hosts conversation with U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Amb. Nikki Haley Location: American Enterprise Institute, 1789 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.aei.org/> <https://twitter.com/AEI>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

The late night shows did not air or were re-runs.

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



DATE: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2017 7:00 AM EDT

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- Elko (NV) Daily Free Press: Convention Highlights Mining Success Stories.
- Wired: The Science Of Fighting Wildfires Gets A Satellite Boost.
- Natural Gas Intelligence: Additional Coverage: House GOP Tacks Amendments Targeting Obama-Era Rules To Appropriations Bill.

- Forbes: Land Of Many Uses Or No Uses?
- Bangor (ME) Daily News: Logging Is Necessary For Katahdin Woods And Waters' Future Sustainability.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Judge Orders Cayuga Nation Properties In Seneca Falls To Be Vacated.
- MGM Won't Get Rehearing In Challenge Of 3rd-casino Law Enacted In 2015.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Las Vegas Review-Journal: Environmental Groups' Lawsuit Challenges Sale Of Oil And Gas Leases.
- Casper (WY) Star-Tribune: Cheney Votes Against Ban On Wild Horse Slaughter As Wyoming Herds Grow.
- Carlsbad (NM) Current-Argus: BLM Gets \$34 Million In Revenue From Eddy County Lease Sales.
- Horse: BLM Releases Decision For Red Desert Wild Horse Gather.
- St. George (UT) News: Wild Horse Adoption Event To Feature Utah's Own Cedar Mountain And Sulphur Horses.
- Santa Fe New Mexican: Control Of Fugitive Methane Essential To Health.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- Cooper Confirms State's Opposition To Coastal Drilling.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- US Officials Celebrate Desalination Plant In New Mexico.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Vermont Public Radio: Old Tensions Simmer Anew As Feds Plan Expansion Of Silvio O. Conte Wildlife Refuge.
- U.S. News & World Report: Some New Mexico Lawmakers Concerned With Wolf Recovery Plan.
- Reuters: Endangered Florida Deer Spotted After Irma Raised Fears For Species.
- Kenosha (WI) News: Prairie Restoration Begins At KD Park.
- St. George & Southern Utah Independent: The Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan Is A Sham.
- Arizona Daily Star: Phoebe Drew Moore: We Must Protect The Arctic Refuge.

National Park Service

- Tri-City Herald (WA): National Park Manager For Hanford Manhattan Project Park Unit Named.
- Minneapolis Star Tribune: Trump Administration Halts Pollution Controls At Utah Plants.
- U.S. News & World Report: Wanted: Volunteer Shooters To Thin Grand Canyon Bison Herd.
- Courthouse News: Court Weighs Annual Review For Elk Hunting In Grand Teton.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Fox News: Secretary Ryan Zinke Talks Hurricane Irma, 9/11.
- ABC: US Military Evacuating Americans, Delivering Relief Supplies In Caribbean.
- Fox News: UN Security Council Approves New Sanctions Against North Korea.
- Marianas Variety: US, Marshall Islands Hold Annual Compact Funding Meeting.
- Washington Post: Guam Delegate May Have Violated Emoluments Clause With Lease, Ethics Office Says.
- Marianas Variety: HANMI Occupancy 97% In August.
- Marianas Variety: NMI Customs Aims For International Standards.

US Geological Survey

- Arizona Public Media: USGS: Wildfire-Caused Erosion Endangers Western Watersheds.
- Water Deeply: Study: Rivers Recover Faster Than Expected After Dam Removal.
- East Idaho News: USGS Says 260 Earthquakes Have Struck Eastern Idaho Since Sept. 2.
- San Francisco Chronicle: Additional Coverage: Nevada's Jeff Davis Peak Might Be Renamed For Escaped Slave.
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- Washington Post: Trump On 9/11: US Committed To "Destroying The Enemies Of All Civilized People."
- The Hill: White House: Trump May Ask Congress For More Disaster Funding.

- Politico: Courting Democrats, Trump To Hold Dinner On Tax Reform.
- Washington Examiner: National Debt Passes \$20 Trillion For First Time.

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 - "Democratic Primary Choices."
- Washington Post.
 - "It Was Best To Prepare For The Worst."
 - "How Politics Should Be."
 - "An Authoritarian In The White House."
- Wall Street Journal.
 - "The Ninth Circuit 'Resistance.'"
 - "Trump, Taxes And The Democrats."
 - "The Better IRS Reform."

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DOI In The News

Pence: Flight 93 Passengers Might Have Saved My Life On 9/11.

The [AP](#) (9/11, Mandak) reports that Vice President Pence addressed relatives and friends of the victims of United Flight 93 at Shanksville, Pennsylvania's Flight 93 National Memorial in a memorial service Monday morning. In a solemn and at times emotional speech before about 1,000 spectators, Pence praised the Flight 93 passengers' heroism and said that their actions "might well have saved his life." Pence "said he was in Washington as a member of Congress on 9/11, and learned that the Capitol was a possible target of the hijacked plane, which was only 12 minutes away." "It was the longest 12 minutes of my life," Pence said.

[USA Today](#) (9/11, Groppe) reports that Pence continued, saying, "But it turned to 13 minutes, then 14, and then we were informed that the plane had gone down in a field in Pennsylvania." He "called the efforts by the 40 crew members and passengers who revolted against the terrorist hijackers 'a debt I don't think I'll ever be able to repay.'" [WJAC-TV](#) Johnstown, PA (9/11, Stanish, Hartmann) reports online that Pence "ended his speech by saying the memory of the loved ones on Flight 93 will never die."

Additionally, the [Johnstown \(PA\) Tribune-Democrat](#) (9/11, Pesto) reports that earlier in the ceremony, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "echoed several of the same themes as he introduced Pence to the crowd, saying: 'The heroism and courage of the 40 passengers and crew is special because it was their actions that protected our nation.'" Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolfe also spoke, describing the bravery of regular people on Flight 93 "who did not know that they would become a powerful symbol of what patriotism truly means." Also attending were Reps. Bill Shuster and Keith Rothfus, and acting National Park Service Director Mike Reynolds.

Additional coverage is provided by [Business Insider](#) (9/11, Smith), the [Harrisburg \(PA\) Patriot-News](#) (9/11, Wardle), the [Westmoreland \(PA\)](#) (9/11), the [Westmoreland \(PA\)](#) (9/11, Huba), the [State College \(PA\) Centre Daily Times](#) (9/11, Pesto), and [WTAJ-TV](#) Johnstown, PA (9/11, Valentine).

Fox News Host Asks Ryan Zinke If 9/11 Memorials Will Be Taken Down Next. The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/11, Yilek) reports that "Fox & Friends" host Brian Kilmeade asked Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Monday "whether 9/11 memorials would be taken down some day, after cities have started removing Confederate monuments in response to the violence in Charlottesville, Va., last month." Kilmeade asked Zinke "if he was concerned about the Flight 93 National Monument in Pennsylvania being taken down in the future." Kilmeade asked Zinke, "Do you worry 100 years from now someone is going to try to take that memorial down like they're trying to

remake our memorials today?"

The [Washington Times](#) (9/11, Persons) reports that Zinke "said Monday that monuments should be learning opportunities and should not be destroyed." Zinke said, "I'm one that believes that we should learn from history, and I think our monuments are part of our country's history. We can learn from history. Since we don't put up statutes of Jesus, everyone is going to fall morally short. I think reflecting on our history, both good and bad, is a powerful statement and part of our DNA."

Also reporting are [CNN](#) (9/11, Kludt), the [Washington Post](#) (9/11, Phillips), the [New York Daily News](#) (9/11, Brennan), the [Harrisburg \(PA\) Patriot-News](#) (9/11, Vendel), the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (9/11, Boucher), the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (9/11, Dc), [The Week](#) (9/11, Stanek), the [Daily Caller](#) (9/11, Pearce), the [Huffington Post](#) (9/11, Wanshel), the [Daily Beast](#) (9/11, Kirell), [Talking Points Memo](#) (9/11, Lafond), [GQ](#) (9/11, Willis), and [The Blaze](#) (9/11, Taylor).

Zinke On Irma: 'Leave No Neighborhood Behind'

[The Hill](#) (9/11, Savransky) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Monday "said it's important no neighborhood is forgotten in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma." On Fox News, Zinke discussed the "devastation" in the territories, highlighting the damage in the Virgin Islands. Zinke said, "But certainly, the president's focus is leave no neighborhood behind."

Additional coverage was provided by [Newsmax](#) (9/11, Fitzgerald).

Trump Has 22,000 Non-FEMA Employees Helping With Irma Response. The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/11, Giaritelli) reports, "Federal agencies have deployed nearly 22,000 employees to Florida and surrounding states to help with the response efforts following Hurricane Irma, the Federal Emergency Management Agency announced Monday afternoon." The Bureau of Indian Affairs "deployed some personnel to work with the Miccosukee and Seminole tribes, both of whom have lost power." The U.S. Geological Survey "continues to carry out field measurements and planting storm-tide sensors on the coasts of Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina."

Irma Batters Florida With Massive Flooding, Electric Outages. [Politico Morning Energy](#) (9/11, Adragna) reports that Hurricane Irma "prompted House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy to scrap votes scheduled for today, but lawmakers will vote on lingering EPA and Interior amendments to an eight-title spending package H.R. 3354 (115) this week."

Wonders Of Wildlife Announces Grand Opening Events Schedule Celebrating Conservation.

The [Webster County \(MO\) Citizen](#) (9/11) reports that Wonders of Wildlife National Museum & Aquarium on Monday "announced details for its grand opening celebrations including a historic event welcoming the most significant gathering of prominent North American conservation leaders and influencers ever assembled in our nation's history." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will be among the "featured guests" at the grand opening celebrations which kick off Wednesday, September 20.

Also reporting are [KOLR-TV Springfield \(MO\)](#) Springfield, MO (9/11, Wheeler), [KYTV-TV Springfield \(MO\)](#) Springfield, MO (9/11), and [KTTS-AM Springfield \(MO\)](#) Springfield, MO (9/11, Snider).

Convention Highlights Mining Success Stories.

The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (9/11, Featherston) reports that "telling the success stories of the mining industry became a theme of the 2017 Nevada Mining Association Convention's last day Saturday, Sept. 9, at Harrah's Lake Tahoe in Stateline." According to the article, "mining companies' economic impact, community support, environmental reclamation and concern for safety were among the positive stories speakers had to share during the event, held Sept. 6-9." Katharine MacGregor, acting assistant secretary for lands and minerals management at Interior Department, "said the federal government under the presidential administration recognizes the state's contributions to the national economy and wants to foster the development of mineral resources."

The Science Of Fighting Wildfires Gets A Satellite Boost.

[Wired](#) (9/11, Molteni) reports that "last month, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke traveled to his home state of Montana for an on-site briefing on the Lolo Peak fire, burning just south of Missoula and turning the valley's air into toxic nublulae." Joined by Agricultural Secretary Sonny Perdue and members of Montana's Republican delegation, Zinke "pointed the finger not at drought or climate change, but on mismanagement resulting from lawsuits by 'environmental extremists'"

According to the article, "Zinke's comments are reigniting some old debates about the best way for people to manage forests that have been turned into tinderboxes by decades of overgrazing, fire suppression, and extended droughts."

Additional Coverage: House GOP Tacks Amendments Targeting Obama-Era Rules To Appropriations Bill.

Additional coverage of the amendments to the Interior-Environment spending bill was provided by [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (9/11, Passut) and [Roll Call](#) (9/11).

Land Of Many Uses Or No Uses?

In a piece for [Forbes](#) (9/11, Flows), Terry Anderson, a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and at the Property and Environment Research Center in Bozeman, MT, writes that "instead of letting professionals manage our lands and our wildlife, environmental groups want to create de facto wilderness areas where backpackers displace loggers, ranchers, and miners." Anderson urges Congress to "go to work reforming legislation in ways that return land management to federal and state professionals." He suggests that "a starting point would be to require approval by state congressional delegations of any national monument designated in their state."

Logging Is Necessary For Katahdin Woods And Waters' Future Sustainability.

In an op-ed for the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (9/11, Doran), Dana Doran, executive director of the Professional Logging Contractors of Maine, writes that "as debate continues over the future of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, the myth that active timber harvesting within its boundaries would be a bad thing is being repeated too often for professionals in the logging industry to ignore." Doran asserts that "logging is not only necessary for the monument, but is just what it requires to achieve long-term sustainability." Doran argues that "a forest that is not managed with responsible timber harvesting eventually becomes overgrown and ultimately succumbs to insects, disease and quite often fire."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Judge Orders Cayuga Nation Properties In Seneca Falls To Be Vacated.

The [Auburn \(NY\) Citizen](#) (9/11, Craig) reports that "a state Supreme Court justice has ordered members of the Cayuga Nation to vacate five properties in Seneca Falls, including the gas station and convenience store, so they can be turned over to Clint Halftown and his new federally recognized Cayuga Nation Council." The Bureau of Indian Affairs "formally recognized Halftown, Tim Twoguns and others as the new leaders of the nation earlier this year, despite an objection by an opposing group formerly known as the Unity Council." With the BIA ruling, state Supreme Court Justice Dennis F. Bender held "Friday that he did have the authority to make a decision in this case and grant an injunction in favor of Halftown."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Syracuse \(NY\) Post-Standard](#) (9/11, Dowty).

MGM Won't Get Rehearing In Challenge Of 3rd-casino Law Enacted In 2015.

The [New London \(CT\) Day](#) (9/11, Hallenbeck) reports that "a federal appeals court has denied MGM Resorts International's bid for a rehearing in its attempt to overturn the 2015 state law that enabled the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribes to solicit casino site proposals." According to the article, "in an order filed late last week in Manhattan, the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals denied a petition MGM Resorts filed in July and amended last month."

Bureau Of Land Management

Environmental Groups' Lawsuit Challenges Sale Of Oil And Gas Leases.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (9/11, Whaley) reports that "two environmental groups on Monday filed a lawsuit challenging the Bureau of Land Management's June sale of oil and gas leases in Northern Nevada." On June 14, the BLM "offered nearly 200,000 acres of public lands in Nevada's Battle Mountain district for fossil fuel development, including hydraulic fracturing." The lawsuit filed by the Center for Biological Diversity and the Sierra Club "argues the BLM failed to consider the potential consequences of oil drilling in the area, from contamination of critical desert water sources to emission of climate-altering greenhouse gases."

Cheney Votes Against Ban On Wild Horse Slaughter As Wyoming Herds Grow.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (9/11, Rosenfeld) reports that Rep. Liz Cheney is “backing the Trump administration’s request to allow the slaughtering of wild horses for meat in order to control growing herds.” Cheney “voted against a measure last week that would have barred the Bureau of Land Management from killing healthy horses or selling them to be slaughtered.” Cheney said in a statement, “The BLM has failed for many years to effectively manage these horses. Their population has exploded causing extension ecological damage to Wyoming land and resources, threatening our livestock and resulting in unsustainable conditions for the horses.”

BLM Gets \$34 Million In Revenue From Eddy County Lease Sales.

The [Carlsbad \(NM\) Current-Argus](#) (9/11) reports that “more than 4,000 acres of federal land in Eddy County were leased in a quarterly sale that netted the Bureau of Land Management over \$34 million.” In all, “over 15,000 acres — or 62 parcels — in six New Mexico counties were leased in the Sept. 7 sale.” The sale “brought in a total of \$130 million, that federal and state officials said is further proof of the promise of the Permian Basin.”

BLM Releases Decision For Red Desert Wild Horse Gather.

The [Horse](#) (9/11) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has “issued its decision on a proposed wild horse gather in Wyoming’s Red Desert Wild Horse Herd Management Area Complex.” The BLM Rawlins and Lander field offices will “gather and remove wild horses at a future date that has yet to be determined.”

Wild Horse Adoption Event To Feature Utah’s Own Cedar Mountain And Sulphur Horses.

The [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (9/11) reports that “the Bureau of Land Management and the Delta Wild Horse and Burro Facility will host an open house adoption Sept. 23 featuring wild horses gathered from the Cedar Mountain and Sulphur herd management areas in western Utah.” According to the article, “approximately 180 horses, featuring Cedar Mountain weanlings and Sulphur yearling horses, will be available for adoption from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.”

Control Of Fugitive Methane Essential To Health.

In an op-ed for the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (9/11, McNall), Shirley McNall writes that “it is hard to understand how the Environmental Protection Agency and the Bureau of Land Management can justify staying their methane rules.” McNall writes that “exposure to these leaking pollutants endangers the health and welfare of the people who must ‘exist’ near an oil or gas facility.” She asserts that “our health is too precious to sacrifice for energy production.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Cooper Confirms State’s Opposition To Coastal Drilling.

The [Palmetto \(SC\) Business Daily](#) (9/11) reports North Carolina Gov. Roy Cooper has confirmed the state’s opposition to offshore drilling. In August, Cooper and the Department of Environmental Quality sent a letter to the US BOEM saying, “Because offshore drilling threatens North Carolina’s critical coastal industries and unique coastal environment with limited benefits for our citizens, it is a bad deal for North Carolina. Accordingly, I ask that you respect the wishes of our state and maintain in the new OCS Leasing Plan the current prohibition of oil and gas drilling off North Carolina’s coast.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

US Officials Celebrate Desalination Plant In New Mexico.

The [AP](#) (9/12) reports that “federal water managers are in New Mexico this week to celebrate the 10th anniversary of a research center dedicated to pursuing technology that can turn brackish groundwater into usable water.” Bureau of Reclamation officials “will be in Alamogordo on Tuesday and Wednesday to mark the anniversary of the national desalination research facility.” The center is “the only major research facility in the United States dedicated solely to the desalination of brackish and impaired groundwater.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Old Tensions Simmer Anew As Feds Plan Expansion Of Silvio O. Conte Wildlife Refuge.

[Vermont Public Radio](#) (9/11, Hirschfeld) reports that "a proposal to expand a U.S. Fish and Wildlife refuge in northeast Vermont has stirred up long-running tensions between conservationists and the Vermont timber industry." Andrew French, "the project leader for the national Silvio O. Conte Fish and Wildlife Refuge, concedes that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a different objective, when it comes to land management practices, than people who make a living off timber harvests." As the FWS "revises and refines its management plans for the refuge, French says there will be numerous chances for all constituencies to register their concerns." He says, "There's so much common ground ... What we try to do is through this document, we try to provide a forum and foundation for communication between the different stakeholders."

Meanwhile, [Seven Days Vermont](#) (9/11, Hallenbeck) reports that "supporters of an expansion to the Silvio O. Conte National Fish & Wildlife Refuge were surprised and disappointed to learn Gov. Phil Scott has concerns about the long-planned project." In a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "dated September 1, Scott said he was 'very apprehensive' about the federal government's plan." However, Heather Furman, director of the Nature Conservancy's Vermont chapter, said "she thought the state's concerns had been addressed, especially after a January decision by the federal government to go ahead with the expansion."

Some New Mexico Lawmakers Concerned With Wolf Recovery Plan.

The [AP](#) (9/12) reports that "some state lawmakers in New Mexico say a plan for recovering endangered Mexican gray wolves in the American Southwest is flawed and politically driven." Twenty-one Democrats "outlined their concerns in a letter sent recently to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." The lawmakers "say federal officials should specify a target for wolf releases as well as a benchmark for genetic diversity among the population in New Mexico and Arizona."

Endangered Florida Deer Spotted After Irma Raised Fears For Species.

[Reuters](#) (9/11, Cherelus) reports that "several endangered deer found only in the lower Florida keys were sighted on Monday, easing fears about the fate of the tiny species after Hurricane Irma swamped their vulnerable archipelago ecosystem." According to experts, "it was too early to tell how the overall population of up to one thousand Key deer had fared." However, "those who were anxious about their survival rejoiced on social media when a short video was posted on Twitter showing several cavorting by a roadside on Big Pine Key."

Prairie Restoration Begins At KD Park.

The [Kenosha \(WI\) News](#) (9/11) reports that "an \$8,000 grant award from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will help launch the first phase of a prairie restoration plan at KD Park. Kenosha County Executive Jim Kreuser announced Monday." The project "began late last week, with the spraying of herbicides to eradicate non-native grasses within the restoration area." The next part of "the park's master plan calls for the restoration of a 27-acre mesic prairie in the eastern section of the park, with the project to be split into two phases."

The Mexican Wolf Recovery Plan Is A Sham.

In an op-ed for the [St. George & Southern Utah Independent](#) (9/11, Robinson), Kirk Robinson, executive director of the Western Wildlife Conservancy, writes that "with its recent Draft Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Plan, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service seeks to devolve its statutory authority and responsibility for recovery of a highly endangered species onto the states of Arizona and New Mexico." He claims that "this will not only undermine the prospect for recovery of this and other endangered species, but will undermine the Endangered Species Act itself." Robinson concludes that "the Draft Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Plan is a shameful sham and should be rejected."

Phoebe Drew Moore: We Must Protect The Arctic Refuge.

In an op-ed for the [Arizona Daily Star](#) (9/12, Moore), Phoebe Drew Moore, an 8th-grader at The Gregory School and a member of Tucson Audubon Society, calls for protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Moore is concerned that "President Trump wants to let oil and gas companies drill on the delicate coastal plain of the refuge where millions of birds raise their young, where giant herds of caribou migrate for the critical summer calving season and where

polar bears make dens to raise their cubs." She urges senators and representatives "to stand up for the Arctic refuge, its wildlife and the birds that travel to Arizona and every other state."

National Park Service

National Park Manager For Hanford Manhattan Project Park Unit Named.

The [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (9/11, Cary) reports, "The Hanford portion of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park should have its first park service manager on site this fall." Becky Burghart has been "named site manager for the Hanford portion of the park and could be in the Tri-Cities as soon as Sept. 24." Burghart has some familiarity with Hanford as the current chief of interpretation at White Sands National Monument in New Mexico. Burghart said the new position provides her "with a unique opportunity to draw on my interpretive background and community collaboration experience in the early development of one of the newest units of the National Park Service." Kris Kirby, superintendent of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, said. "Becky comes to the (project) with a breadth of experience facilitating complicated dialogue and interpreting complex histories."

Trump Administration Halts Pollution Controls At Utah Plants.

The [AP](#) (9/7, McCOMBS) reports that "an appeals court granted a request Monday from President Donald Trump's administration to halt a plan for new pollution controls at Utah's oldest coal-fired power plants aimed at reducing haze near national parks." The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals "approved EPA administrator Scott Pruitt's request to halt that lawsuit while his agency revises a plan that called for new equipment to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions at two coal plants in Emery County." According to the article, "environmental and clean air groups expressed dismay over the decision Monday that they say rejects EPA's own research that showed the plan would have cut down haze near eastern Utah's Arches and Canyonlands national parks, in addition to other conservation and wilderness areas."

Wanted: Volunteer Shooters To Thin Grand Canyon Bison Herd.

The [AP](#) (9/11, Fonseca) reports that the National Park Service "plans to thin a herd of bison in the Grand Canyon through roundups and by seeking volunteers who are physically fit and proficient with a gun to kill the animals that increasingly are damaging park resources." According to the article, "about 600 of the animals now live in the region, and biologists say the bison numbers could hit 1,500 within 10 years if left uncontrolled." The NPS "gave final approval to the bison reduction plan this month."

Court Weighs Annual Review For Elk Hunting In Grand Teton.

[Courthouse News](#) (9/11, Eakin) reports that "the D.C. Circuit heard oral arguments Monday about whether a new environmental review must be conducted each year when elk hunting in Wyoming's Grand Teton National Park is reauthorized." Wildlife photographers Timothy Mayo and Kent Nelson "originally sued the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Parks Service in 2014." On Monday during oral arguments in the D.C. Circuit, they "repeated their stance that a 2007 bison and elk management plan – which calls for a reduction in the Jackson elk herd in Grand Teton National Park – requires the agencies to submit annual discretionary decisions about whether to authorize elk hunting, and under what conditions, for review under the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Secretary Ryan Zinke Talks Hurricane Irma, 9/11.

On [Fox News](#) (9/11), Interior Secretary joined 'Fox & Friends' from Shanksville, Pennsylvania to talk about rebuilding efforts following Hurricane Irma. Zinke also discussed 9/11 and the Flight 93 memorial.

Also reporting are the [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/11), the [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/11), the [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/11), the [St. Thomas Source](#) (9/10, Roberts), the [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/10), the [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/10), [WCBS-TV New York](#) New York (9/10), the [St. Croix Source](#) (9/9), the [St. Thomas Source](#) (9/11), and the [St. Thomas Source](#) (9/10).

US Military Evacuating Americans, Delivering Relief Supplies In Caribbean.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/11, story 8, 1:30, Muir) reported that the US military is “scrambling to get stranded American tourists out of storm-ravaged St. Martin, as teams move into the US Virgin Islands to help keep law and order.” On the “devastated islands” there is “no power, few supplies, and many are growing increasingly desperate.” The US Coast Guard is delivering supplies to St. Thomas, “bringing everything from generators to food, water, clothing and law enforcement personnel to help with the security situation.” Royal Caribbean is also “sending ships loaded with supplies to evacuate more people over the next week.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/11, story 4, 2:00, Holt) also reported that cruise ships are arriving to take home stranded tourists, while San Juan, Puerto Rico is “playing a key role tonight in the recovery efforts in the Virgin Islands. ... Supplies are being flown in, then ferried on a daily basis by the US Coast Guard and others.”

The [New York Times](#) (9/11, Ferré-Sadurní) reports that “to most Americans nervously watching the path of Hurricane Irma,” the US Virgin Islands were “little more than marks on a map as the storm churned its way to the mainland. But on Monday...it became clear that the country had a humanitarian crisis on its hands in one of its tropical paradises.” Residents on St. John, “estimated that 80 percent of its structures had been extensively damaged.” White House Homeland Security Adviser Bossert told reporters on Monday that the US military deployed an aircraft carrier off St. Croix to deliver aid to nearby islands.

The [AP](#) (9/11, Rodriguez, Boylan) reports the US government “said it was sending a flight Monday to evacuate its citizens from St. Martin, one of the hardest-hit islands,” and a Royal Caribbean Cruise Line ship was “expected to dock near St. Martin to help.”

Stranded Passengers On Cruise Ship Describe “Awful” Conditions. The [New York Post](#) (9/11, Li, Fears) reports that “about 4,000 people were stuck aboard a Miami-based cruise ship off the coast of Mexico on Monday.” The ship, which is operated by Norwegian Cruise Line, returned to Miami ahead of the storm, “two days early, to unload. But many people couldn’t find hotel rooms or flights out of Florida, so when offered a chance to stay aboard for free, they took it.” The ship was scheduled to head back toward Miami on Monday night in the hopes that Port Miami would be open on Tuesday.

UN Security Council Approves New Sanctions Against North Korea.

[Fox News’ Special Report](#) (9/11) reported the UN Security Council on Monday unanimously approved new sanctions to be imposed against North Korea unless it halts its nuclear program. The new sanctions block the export of all textiles and restrict the amount of oil and crude that UN member states can sell to North Korea. Fox News notes that prior to the vote, North Korea’s Foreign Ministry lashed “out at the US for sponsoring the latest resolution,” warning it will “make absolutely sure that the US pays a due price.”

The [Washington Post](#) (9/11, Lee, Rauhala) says the sanctions “are potentially far-reaching in their ability to shave as much as \$1.3 billion from North Korea’s revenue.” Additionally, textiles accounted for \$726 million last year, “representing more than a quarter of North Korea’s export income.” The [New York Times](#) (9/11, Sengupta) reports Ambassador Haley “cast the resolution as a victory in her Security Council remarks,” crediting “what she called President Trump’s relationship with his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, in achieving the toughened sanctions – the second raft of United Nations penalties against North Korea since August.” Following the vote, Haley told the council, “We don’t take pleasure in further strengthening sanctions today. We are not looking for war,” according to [Reuters](#) (9/11, Nichols). “The North Korean regime has not yet passed the point of no return,” Haley continued. She added, “If it agrees to stop its nuclear program, it can reclaim its future ... if North Korea continues its dangerous path, we will continue with further pressure.”

“The resolution is a watered-down version of what the US initially proposed,” [USA Today](#) (9/11, Hjelmgaard) reports, and “a compromise resolution apparently was worked out in negotiations with Russia and China, which favor a political solution and have said that additional sanctions would have a limited impact.” Specifically, the agreed-upon resolution “did not include an oil import ban favored by the United States.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/11, Cheng) reports that ahead of the council’s decision, South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha reiterated the importance of targeting North Korea’s oil imports to ensure the resolution “is adopted by consensus hopefully will have significant consequences in terms of greater economic pressure on North Korea.” Both China and Russia opposed the ban, however, and after “late-night negotiations Sunday with China,” the US ultimately “backed down, agreeing to gradually reduce, instead of ban, oil exports to Pyongyang,” reports the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/11, Wilkinson). A

proposed freeze of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's "assets abroad was dropped altogether." A US official explained that it was unlikely Kim has assets hidden overseas vulnerable to seizure. The Times says the "broadly weakened" resolution signals "the continued division among major world powers as they grapple with a government that has repeatedly defied U.N. resolutions."

Pompeo Discusses North Korean Threat. CIA Director Pompeo said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/11) that North Korea has a history of "sharing their knowledge, technology, capacities around the world. As they continue to improve its ability to do longer-range missiles and put nuclear weapons on those missiles, it's very unlikely that if they get the capability they wouldn't share it with lots of folks, and Iran would be someone willing to pay them."

When [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/11) asked Pompeo if he has a "good window into the capabilities and intent of North Korea," Pompeo confirmed that he does, adding, "We think Kim Jong-un wants these weapons for protecting his regime and ultimately the reunification of the peninsula." Pompeo said China has been doing more to rein in the North, but "I believe the Chinese know they can do more and I hope they will come alongside us."

Russian Exports To North Korea Reportedly On The Rise. "Official documents and interviews point to a rise in tanker traffic this spring between North Korean ports and Vladivostok, the far-eastern Russian city near the small land border shared by" North Korea and Russia, reports the [Washington Post](#) (9/11, Warrick), adding that the "spike in Russian exports is occurring as China – by far North Korea's biggest trading partner – is beginning to dramatically ratchet up the economic pressure on its troublesome neighbor in the face of provocative behavior such as last week's test of a powerful nuclear bomb." As UN sanctions increasingly constrain international trade with North Korea, "Russian entrepreneurs are seizing opportunities to make a quick profit, setting up a maze of front companies to conceal transactions and launder payments, according to US law enforcement officials who monitor sanction-busting activity." That trade, the Post says, "could provide a lifeline to North Korea" as it grows increasingly isolated politically and economically.

US, Marshall Islands Hold Annual Compact Funding Meeting.

[Marianas Variety](#) (9/12) reports that "the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the United States bilateral Joint Economic Management and Financial Accountability Committee or JEMFAC annual meeting took place Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2016, in Honolulu, Hawaii." The committee members "jointly approved \$28 million in the sectors of health, education, environment, and public infrastructure as identified under the Compact of Free Association, as amended, for the benefit of the people of the RMI." JEMFAC Chairman and acting Interior Assistant Secretary Nik Pula said, "I am encouraged by the JEMFAC meetings and discussions we held regarding the Marshall Islands. The Marshall Islands continues to make progress on all fronts with respect to Compact funding."

Guam Delegate May Have Violated Emoluments Clause With Lease, Ethics Office Says.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/11, Viebeck) reports that "an independent ethics monitor" has found "substantial reason to believe Guam's delegate to Congress broke federal law by leasing a four-bedroom home to the government of Japan, a possible violation of the emoluments clause of the US Constitution." Del. Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D), who is the subject of the investigation by the Office of Congressional Ethics, "also likely violated House rules when she allegedly accepted more than 600 nights of free lodging at a beachfront hotel in Guam and paid for a handful of stays by apparently transferring her bill to congressional aides to settle with official funds." The House Ethics Committee released the OCE's findings late Monday, saying "it would review the allegations." Through a spokesman, Bordallo "denied wrongdoing and said she would cooperate with the Ethics Committee's review."

HANMI Occupancy 97% In August.

[Marianas Variety](#) (9/12) reports that "the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands posted another record breaking month in August, reporting a 97.35 percent average occupancy rate among 11 member hotels for the month." The number "reflects a 4 percent increase compared to August 2016 and breaks the August 2013 record of 94.01 percent average occupancy."

NMI Customs Aims For International Standards.

[Marianas Variety](#) (9/12, Todiño) reports that "CNMI Customs will modernize its operations and adhere to international standards, division director Jose Mafnas said at the start of a five-day workshop on the Trade Facilitation Agreement and the Revised Kyoto Convention." According to

Mafnas, "the workshop was attended by 32 participants including Customs personnel and supervisors from Saipan, Tinian and Rota, as well as enforcement officers from the Division of Revenue and Taxation."

US Geological Survey

USGS: Wildfire-Caused Erosion Endangers Western Watersheds.

[Arizona Public Media](#) (9/11, Ziegler) reports that "U.S. Geological Survey research found that 82 percent of watersheds in western America will see significant sediment increase by 2050." According to researchers, "the increase in sediment is due to the growth in acres burned by wildfire in the west each year."

Additional coverage was provided by [KBSC-FM](#) Boise, ID (9/11, Dawson).

Study: Rivers Recover Faster Than Expected After Dam Removal.

[Water Deeply](#) (9/11, Weiser) reports that "a new study by the U.S. Geological Survey looks at more than 200 dam removals and finds that fish species and habitat can change rapidly, although examples from very large dams are rare." According to the article, "in a new study overseen by the U.S. Geological Survey John Wesley Powell Center for Analysis and Synthesis in Fort Collins, Colorado, a team of 22 scientists reviewed more than 200 studies on dam removals around the country." Their findings "show that changes can occur much faster after dam removal than anticipated."

USGS Says 260 Earthquakes Have Struck Eastern Idaho Since Sept. 2.

[East Idaho News](#) (9/11) reports that the U.S. Geological Survey says "the earthquake swarm that's been shaking southeast Idaho since Sept. 2 is measuring above previously reported numbers." As of Sunday evening, the agency was "reporting that there had been 260 quakes during the swarm, including 37 on Sunday."

Also reporting are [KBSC-FM Boise \(ID\)](#) Boise, ID (9/11, Guilhem), and [KSL-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (9/11).

Additional Coverage: Nevada's Jeff Davis Peak Might Be Renamed For Escaped Slave.

Additional coverage that a proposal to change the name of Jeff Davis Peak in Great Basin National Park is under consideration by the U.S. Geological Survey's Board on Geographic Names was provided by the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (9/11, Moffitt).

Additional Reading.

- *How To Really Help Disaster Victims.* [Idaho Statesman](#) (9/11, Peter).
- *Trump Should Eliminate Fake Science.* [Daily Caller](#) (9/11, Lewis).
- *Earthquake Conference Held In The Coachella Valley.* [KESQ-TV](#). Palm Springs, CA (9/11, Moreno)
- *NASA Shares 9/11 Images Taken From Space On Attack Anniversary.* [International Business Times](#). (9/11, Goenka)

Top National News

Trump On 9/11: US Committed To "Destroying The Enemies Of All Civilized People."

Media coverage of the 9/11 commemorations yesterday highlighted the somber nature of yesterday's ceremonies and largely eschewed broader political debates. Along those same lines, reports indicate the President and other senior officials issued calls for national unity and avoided the use of the term "radical Islamic terrorism," an omission that generated some media attention. The [Washington Post](#) (9/11, Gearan) reports "military and diplomatic leaders, among others, have discouraged such language as inflammatory and unhelpful," and notes that Breitbart "took the president to task" for not using it. As the Post indicates, a piece on [Breitbart](#) bemoaned the fact that "instead of naming the enemy, Trump seemingly went out of his way to use other descriptors in his speech, including 'terrorists who attacked us,' 'barbaric forces of evil and destruction,' 'horrible, horrible enemies,' 'enemies of all civilized people,' and 'enemies like we've never seen before.'" Another [Washington Post](#) (9/11, Gearan) story indicates Trump "also did not

mention his proposed temporary ban on immigration from several Muslim-majority nations, which he has said is needed to keep the United States safe from terrorism."

All three network newscasts covered the 9/11 anniversary. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/11, story 11, 0:50, Muir) said the country paused "to remember," and noted that the President and First Lady were "at the Pentagon." The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/11, story 9, 1:50, Mason) also mentioned that the First Couple participated in the Pentagon ceremony, and [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/11, story 6, 1:35, Gosk) showed Trump saying of the 9/11 attacks, "The living, breathing soul of America wept with grief for every life taken on that day."

To the [Washington Post](#) (9/11, Gearan), whereas as a candidate "Trump ventured far beyond the norms of political behavior when it came to 9/11 terrorist attacks," yesterday he "struck relatively traditional notes of resolve and patriotism." [USA Today](#) (9/11, Jackson) similarly reports that "Trump has injected politics into previous ceremonial occasions – such as a Boy Scouts Jamboree in July in which the president eschewed tradition to jab the media and political opponents," but "he kept a somber tone to commemorate the anniversary of 9/11."

The [AP](#) (9/11, Superville, Lemire) says Trump "used the anniversary to warn terrorists that 'America cannot be intimidated,'" telling his Pentagon audience that "those who try are destined to join 'the long list of vanquished enemies who dared to test our mettle.'" In fact, notes the [Washington Free Beacon](#) (9/11, Rutz), "Trump said the sorrow felt over the lives lost that day had been turned into 'an unstoppable resolve to achieve justice in their name.'"

The [Washington Times](#) (9/11, Miller) reports the President "vowed that the US would never relent in its fight against the radical Islamic ideology behind the attacks" – though Trump did not actually use the phrase – and the [Washington Examiner](#) (9/11, Morrongiello) that he "combined his solemn remarks with a promise to protect Americans from future domestic terror attacks." The [New York Times](#) (9/11, Thrush) notes Trump "said the country was committed to 'destroying the enemies of all civilized people,'" and remarked, "We are making plain to these savage killers that there is no dark corner beyond our reach, no sanctuary beyond our grasp, and nowhere to hide anywhere on this very large earth." [The Hill](#) (9/11, Fabian) referred to "a stern warning" by Trump "to extremist groups threatening the US," and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/11, Bierman, Hennigan) quotes him as saying, "Terrorists tried to break our resolve. ... It's not going to happen. But where they left a mark in rubble, Americans bravely raised the stars and stripes."

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (9/11, Dupree) indicates, however, that "the focus of the President's remarks were looking back 16 years ago, to the horrible morning of carnage, which set in motion years of US military actions in what was labeled, the 'War on Terror.'" Said the President, "America does not bend, we do not waver." [US News & World Report](#) (9/11, Levy) reported that Trump "recalled the way the nation came together in the wake of the attacks," saying, "In that hour of darkness, we also came together with renewed purpose. ... Our differences never looked so small, our common bonds never felt so strong." [Breitbart](#) (9/11, Spiering) also noted that "Trump recalled that Americans came together on September 11, despite their differences, to send a message to the world," and the [Daily Caller](#) (9/11, Pfeiffer) that he "spoke about the sacrifice first responders made on 9/11 and the sacrifice of Americans who enlisted to fight following the attacks."

[Townhall](#) (9/11, Pavlich) quoted him as remembering "Pentagon Police Officer Isaac Ho'opi'i and, a special person" who "was one of many heroes whose love for his fellow Americans knew no bounds. He was a mile away when he got the call over his radio that a plane had crashed into the Pentagon. He sped to the scene and raced into smoke and fire. Few people would have done it. He ducked under live electrical wires and trudged through puddles of jet fuel only steps away from sparks and from vicious flame. ... One by one, he carried people out of the burning rubble" and "saved as many as 20 people who had followed his voice; he carried eight himself."

Unsurprisingly, more negative toward Trump was the report on the [Huffington Post](#) (9/11, Fang), which said that "his measured remarks on Monday notwithstanding, Trump has a history of making insensitive and false comments about the Sept. 11 tragedy," and that the attacks "were the subject of one of Trump's most egregious lies during his presidential campaign." The HuffPost added that "in November 2015, he claimed, without evidence, that 'thousands and thousands' of Muslims in New Jersey had celebrated the news of the attacks." Along similar lines, [Vanity Fair](#) (9/10, Harwood) said "the day's ceremonies appeared to be controversy free, with the president sticking to his script" in what "may be the first instance of him publicly speaking about 9/11 without raising eyebrows."

[Fox News](#) (9/11, Singman) reported that also present at the Pentagon were Defense Secretary Mattis and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph Dunford. Mattis said in his remarks, "We never asked for this fight but we are steadfastly committed to seeing it through. ...

We Americans are not made of cotton candy. We're not seaweed drifting in the current. We are not intimidated by our enemies. ... Mr. President, your military does not scare." The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/11, Quinn) runs a similar story highlighting Mattis' comments, as does [Breitbart](#) (9/11, Wong) – which notes Mattis called the attackers “maniacs disguised in false religious garb.”

Before heading to the Pentagon, the [AP](#) (9/11, Superville, Lemire) reports, “Trump and first lady Melania Trump observed a moment of silence at the White House...at the exact moment that a hijacked airplane was slammed into the World Trade Center.” The Trumps “bowed their heads and placed their hands over their hearts as ‘Taps’ rang out across the South Lawn.” [Politico](#) (9/11, Nelson) says the Trumps “were joined by his daughter Ivanka Trump and her husband, Jared Kushner, both of whom serve as advisers to the president,” as well as by “chief of staff John Kelly, press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, counselor to the president Kellyanne Conway, national security adviser H.R. McMaster, economic adviser Gary Cohn, White House counsel Don McGahn, deputy national security adviser Dina Powell, communications director Hope Hicks and Nick Ayers, chief of staff to Vice President Mike Pence.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/11, Macmillan, Kanno-Youngs), meanwhile, reports on the Twin Towers site remembrance of the attacks, organized by the National September 11 Memorial and Museum. Among those present were Senate Minority Leader Schumer, Rep. Peter King, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

Pence Says US In Midst Of “War Between Good And Evil.” The [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#) (9/11, Huba) reports that “on the 16th anniversary of 9/11,” the Vice President Pence “credited the ‘heroes’ of Flight 93 with saving lives, possibly even his own, and sparking a national ‘rededication to our most sacred ideal of freedom.’” Pence “used Monday’s keynote address at the Flight 93 National Memorial near Shanksville, Somerset County, to take stock of the ‘global war on terror’ and to reminisce on where he was on 9/11.” Said Pence, “We are in the midst of a war between good and evil. The first battle in that war took place in the skies above us and ended in this grassy meadow.”

[USA Today](#) (9/11, Groppe) recounts that “as the vice president on Monday addressed those who lost loved ones on the 9/11 plane that crashed into rural Pennsylvania instead of hitting its intended target in Washington, DC, he got choked up.” Said Pence, “I will always believe that I, and many others in our nation’s capital, were able to go home that day to hug our families because of the courage and selflessness of the heroes of Flight 93.” The [AP](#) (9/11, Mandak, Peltz, Matthews) also reports Pence’s remarks.

Pompeo: Al Qaeda Weaker, But Terror Threat Remains. In an exclusive interview with [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (9/11), CIA Director Pompeo said the threat from al Qaeda is “weaker” today than it was on 9/11, but “whether it’s ISIS or any of the other couple dozen groups out to do harm, the threat remains, and we must remain ever vigilant so something like what happened 16 years ago today can never happen again.”

Obama: “No Act Of Terror Will Ever Change Who We Are.” [The Hill](#) (9/11, Thomsen) reported that former President Obama yesterday took to [Twitter](#) to remember 9/11, writing, “We remember everyone we lost on 9/11 and honor all who defend our country and our ideals. No act of terror will ever change who we are.”

White House: Trump May Ask Congress For More Disaster Funding.

[The Hill](#) (9/11, Fabian) reports that the White House is “prepared to ask Congress for more money to fund disaster relief efforts” in response to Hurricane Irma. Homeland Security Adviser Bossert told reporters Monday that President Trump might seek more funding, but added “right now, we have plenty of resources to get through this.” Bossert added, “The president and [OMB Director] Mulvaney and others have started the process of a bipartisan discussion on this point. We’ll ask for a third, perhaps fourth supplemental for the purpose of rebuilding. We will do it smartly.” Bossert, however, “declined to say how much money the administration may ask for, saying it will depend on the eventual amount of damage.”

When asked about the amount of aid the Congress may allocate for hurricane relief, Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway said on [Fox News’ Fox & Friends](#) (9/11), “right now we’re not talking about money. We’re talking about lives. We’re worried about people, in other words.”

Interior Secretary Zinke said on [Fox News’ Fox & Friends](#) (9/11) that in the wake of Hurricane Irma “the President’s focus is leave no neighborhood behind.” He mentioned that the “Virgin Islands got especially hit” and “let’s not forget about the forest fires out West.”

Florida Sen. Bill Nelson said on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (9/11), “Fortunately, we got the

\$15 billion past, but that's only going to last a few weeks and then we're going to have to do another emergency supplemental appropriations. And that's only going to last so long. So this kind of costly cleanup and tending to the storm in the aftermath, that's going to go on for months."

Rep. Michael McCaul, chairman of the House Homeland Committee, said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (9/11) that the aid for the two storms is "an enormous financial strain. As you know, we appropriated \$15.5 billion for the disaster relief fund. Just to keep it solvent." He added, "We will have another supplemental. That was just a down payment to keep the disaster relief fund afloat. And these community development block grants we will help rebuild."

Florida Rep. Charlie Crist said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (9/11), "Needless to say there's a lot of recovery for all of Florida as a result of this." He added, "It has occurred to me that it's probably not a bad idea, especially after what happened in Texas, maybe the Florida and the Texas delegations maybe get together and see how we can talk about appropriations going forward, to make sure that all of the great people of our state and of Texas, get what they need, going forward. After two just horrendous hurricanes."

Florida Rep. Al Lawson said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/11), "I hear from the colleagues across the country, you know, they are ready to get back in and vote for the emergency assistance."

WPost Analysis: NFIP Reauthorization A Bigger Issue After Storms. The [Washington Post](#) (9/11), meanwhile, reports that in the wake of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, many homeowners will be relying on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which "runs on five-year authorizations from Congress; the current one expires September 30."

Lawmakers Consider Loosening 401(k) Rules For Storm Victims. [USA Today](#) (9/11, Yu) reports that lawmakers are considering a proposal to allow victims of Irma and Harvey to withdraw money from their retirement accounts "to rebuild their homes and lives without incurring penalties." Rep. Kevin Brady (R-TX) is "one of several lawmakers reportedly considering introducing a bill that would tweak the current tax code to aid victims."

USA Today Criticizes Proposed Budget Cuts To Weather Agency. A [USA Today](#) (9/11, Board) editorial says the US fared better than nations in the Caribbean in large part because of better weather forecasting. The two major models, known as the American and the European, "adequately forecast Irma's right turn toward Florida. But, as was the case with Superstorm Sandy and other high-profile events, the European model — backed by superior computer power, resources and resolution — performed better overall." While "upgrades to the American model have been in the works," but President Trump's budget calls for "a 17% cut to the nation's top weather and climate agency. If you want to make America great again, you might try making the US forecast model better than the one based in England."

Hannity: In Wake Of Storms, Congress Should Cut Corporate Taxes, Build Border Wall, Repeal ACA. Sean Hannity said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (9/11), "As Americans come to terms with the hurricane damage, we're reminded of the 16th anniversary of 9/11, 2001" in that "we see the very best in the midst of that and sometimes the very worst this people in this country." In the wake of the hurricanes, "government, state, local, federal officials are actually on their game" and Americans are helping their fellows, but some are looting or price gouging. Calling on the memories of 9/11, Hannity calls on Congress to "start doing your job" by providing the federal assistance needed to rebuild and "start passing the agenda you all promised the American people when you ran for office," including cutting corporate tax rates and allowing repatriation of foreign profits, building a border wall, and repealing the ACA.

Courting Democrats, Trump To Hold Dinner On Tax Reform.

[Politico](#) (9/11, Everett) reports President Trump, continuing to court Democrats, "will host a dinner on Tuesday with moderate Democrats and Republican senators focused on tax reform." Sens. Joe Manchin of West Virginia, Heidi Heitkamp of North Dakota, and Joe Donnelly of Indiana, "moderate Democrats ... up for reelection next year in states Trump won handily in 2016," are expected to attend. The [Washington Post](#) (9/11, Parker, O'Keefe) also covers this story.

Mnuchin, Cohn To Meet With McConnell, GOP Senators On Budget, Tax Reform. [Politico](#) (9/11, Everett, White) reports that, "demonstrat[ing] how quickly Republicans are hoping to pivot to tax reform" following the failed attempt to repeal the ACA and the President's deal with Democrats on the debt ceiling and spending issues, Treasury Secretary Mnuchin and Trump economic adviser Gary Cohn will meet with Senate Majority Leader McConnell and members of the Senate Budget Committee. According to two people familiar with the meeting, they will discuss passing a budget "through committee and the narrowly divided Senate," which needs to occur "to use reconciliation

for tax reform.”

WSJournal: Trump Needs GOP Votes To Pass Tax Reform. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/11) writes that despite President Trump’s recent deal with Democrats, he will have difficulty getting a Republican Congress to pass anything from a Democratic agenda. The Journal suggests Trump bargained poorly with Democrats and that they will not compromise on issues Trump seeks to advance, especially tax reform. The Journal argues Democrats will only support Trump’s tax reform to eliminate it as a campaign issue, which means the President will need to show he has the Republican votes to pass it in the Senate.

National Debt Passes \$20 Trillion For First Time.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/11, Kasperowicz) reports the national debt reached \$20.162 trillion as of Friday, exceeding \$20 trillion for the first time. Jennifer Harper, in a column in the [Washington Times](#) (9/11), wrote that a year ago the national debt was \$19,484,660,626,765, ten years ago it was \$9,011,447,836,964, and 20 years ago it was \$5,415,082,668,733.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Want To Make A Deal, Mr. Trump?” The [New York Times](#) (9/12, Board) editorializes that the legislation President Trump signed into law “on Friday provides \$15 billion for hurricane and flooding victims and includes measures to keep the government funded until Dec. 8, instead of Sept. 30, and to extend the nation’s borrowing authority.” The Times says Trump secured the “bargain under the disapproving noses of his party’s own leaders,” House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, in a “meeting with his new pals ‘Chuck and Nancy’: the Senate minority leader, Chuck Schumer, and the House minority leader, Nancy Pelosi.” The Times says “we have no real reason to expect his bipartisan impulse to harden into practice,” but “it’s tempting nevertheless to imagine what Mr. Trump might achieve if he could see beyond momentary, tactical wins.”

“Democratic Primary Choices.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/12, Board) sets forth its “recommendations in some of Tuesday’s Democratic primary races in New York City.” Among its recommendations are incumbent New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio, who the Times says “has effectively governed a difficult city, with crime continuing its remarkable decline, municipal finances remaining sound and innovations like universal prekindergarten put in place.” The Times also endorses Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzales for standing “out in a strong field, having ably pursued criminal justice reforms since being suddenly put in charge of an office that can be a model for prosecutorial practices nationwide.”

Washington Post.

“It Was Best To Prepare For The Worst.” While the storm was not as bad as initially feared, the [Washington Post](#) (9/11) editorializes that “it is already clear that things would have been worse if not” for Florida’s “careful preparation.” The Post argues that “any criticism of Florida officials for taking the storm seriously and planning for all contingencies is misplaced.”

“How Politics Should Be.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/11) applauds “the civility of” Gillespie and Northam, saying, “So far, at least, in pinch-me-I-may-be-dreaming contrast to so many recent state and congressional campaigns around the country, the race, featuring a pair of understated moderates, has been partisan but not personal, and determinedly non-incendiary. The violence last month in Charlottesville was a litmus test of sorts, which both candidates passed,” with Gillespie and Northam denouncing “the racists and neo-Nazis who had paraded through the streets.”

“An Authoritarian In The White House.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/11) writes that President Trump set “a new low” in his “habit of embracing authoritarian rulers he regards as friendly, without regard for their subversion of democratic norms or gross human rights violations” by meeting at the White House with Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, who “is a subject of the largest foreign kleptocracy investigation ever launched by the U.S. Justice Department.” Trump gave Najib “with what the regime will portray as a tacit pre-election endorsement,” with US apparently not receiving anything in return “for that huge political favor,” despite Najib’s regime being “a relative friend to North Korea.” The Post warns that “Najib’s corruption and disregard for democratic norms mean” he always will prefer Beijing’s “values-free patronage” and argues that supporting those in Malaysia who support liberal democratic values is

“the best way for the United States to build a stronger alliance with” the country and increased its independence from China.

Wall Street Journal.

“The Ninth Circuit ‘Resistance.’” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/11) casts Kennedy’s order as chastising the Ninth Circuit and federal judges in general for defying President Trump. The Journal argues that if the Court had intended for its bona fide relationship standard to include refugees, it would have specified it.

“Trump, Taxes And The Democrats.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/11) writes that despite President Trump’s recent deal with Democrats, he will have difficulty getting a Republican Congress to pass anything from a Democratic agenda. The Journal suggests Trump bargained poorly with Democrats and that they will not compromise on issues Trump seeks to advance, especially tax reform. The Journal argues Democrats will only support Trump’s tax reform to eliminate it as a campaign issue, which means the President will need to show he has the Republican votes to pass it in the Senate.

“The Better IRS Reform.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/11) writes that House Republicans, in response to the Justice Department’s stance on the Lois Lerner case, should offer a reform that forces the IRS out of the political arena by limiting its role to the most basic administrative job of providing initial approval to nonprofits. Under this reform, the FEC would decide whether a nonprofit is abiding by existing rules governing political spending.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Bitcoin Exchanges Shut Down By Chinese Authorities](#)
[Florida Turns To Recovery After Irma](#)
[Some Trump Lawyers Wanted Kushner Out](#)
[Google Plots To Conquer Self-Driving Cars—By Making Peace With Detroit](#)

New York Time:

[Damp, Dark And Disarrayed, Florida Starts Coping With Irma’s Aftermath](#)
[In Florida, A Storm’s Fright Gives Way To A Blackout’s Troubles](#)
[Florida Keys Battered But Still Standing After Irma’s Rampage](#)
[After US Compromise, Security Council Strengthens North Korea Sanctions](#)
[Decades After Alcohol Ban, Iran Admits It Has A Problem](#)
[Chief Executive Of Social Finance, An Online Lending Start-Up, To Step Down](#)
[Trump Commemorates Sept. 11 Attacks With Vow To Conquer ‘Evil’](#)

Washington Post:

[In Irma’s Wake, Pain And Relief](#)
[Russian Smuggling Helps Keep Kim Afloat](#)
[Israel Courts Syrians With Humanitarian Aid On Border](#)
[Something’s Missing At Federal Offices](#)
[Unexpected Joy, Misery As Storm Changed Course](#)

Financial Times:

[Relief Rally For Insurance Stocks As Worst Irma Fears Avoided](#)
[Saudi Arabia To Launch Global PR Offensive To Counter Negative Press](#)
[Renminbi Slides After China Relaxes Currency Controls](#)

Washington Times:

[As He Remembers Victims Of 9/11, Trump Takes More Aggressive Tone For War On Terror](#)
[Detailed Stories Of Fraud And Weaknesses In Election System Are Sent To Voter Integrity Commission](#)
[Judge Orders Maryland Bar To Investigate Lawyers Who Helped Clinton Delete Emails](#)
[Calls To Punish Skeptics Rise With Links To Climate Change, Hurricanes](#)
[Not Sitting Pretty: Study Links Workers’ Prolonged Chair Time To Early Death](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Hurricane Irma-Jacksonville; Hurricane Irma-Florida Keys; Hurricane Irma-Naples, Florida; Hurricane Irma-Marco Island; Hurricane Irma-Forecast; Hurricane Irma-Power Outages; Hurricane Irma-Travel Interruptions; Hurricane Irma-Caribbean; Texas-Mass Shooting; Indiana-Home Explosion; 9/11 Memorial; Hurricane Irma-Memorable Moments.

CBS: Hurricane Irma-Florida Keys; Hurricane Irma-Jacksonville; Hurricane Irma-Naples, Florida; Hurricane Irma-Miami; Hurricane Irma-Orlando Area; Hurricane Irma-Aerial View; Steve Bannon Interview-Comey Firing, Cohn; Steve Bannon Interview-GOP Establishment; 9/11 Memorial; Hurricane Irma-Key West.

NBC: Hurricane Irma-Jacksonville; Hurricane Irma-Florida Keys; Hurricane Irma-Travel Interruptions; Hurricane Irma-Caribbean; Steve Bannon Interview; 9/11 Memorial; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach; Hurricane Irma-Less Damaged Locations; Hurricane Irma-Safe Homeowners.

Network TV At A Glance:

Hurricane Irma – 33 minutes, 20 seconds

Steve Bannon Interview – 5 minutes, 35 seconds

9/11 Memorial – 4 minutes, 15 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Hurricane Irma; UN-North Korea Sanctions; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach; Kentucky-Child Murder.

CBS: Hurricane Irma; UN-North Korea Sanctions; Travel Restriction-Legal Challenge; Wall Street News.

FOX: Hurricane Irma; UN-North Korea Sanctions; Navy-Bribery Scandal.

NPR: Hurricane Irma; Mexico-Dreamer Support; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in an expanded bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak of Malaysia; has dinner with bipartisan Senators.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President to participate in an expanded bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak of Malaysia; participates in a meeting with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer; joins the President for a bipartisan Senators dinner.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Eric Ueland to be Under Secretary of State for Management; John Bass to be U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan; Justin Hicks Siberell to be U.S. Ambassador to Bahrain; and J. Steven Dowd to be African Development Bank U.S. Director Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 419, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Banking Committee hearing on fintech – Hearing on 'Examining the Fintech Landscape', with testimony from Government Accountability Office Director of Financial Markets Lawrence Evans; S&P Global Market Intelligence Research Analyst Eric Turner; and University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law Professor Frank Pasquale Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee hearing on the individual health insurance market for 2018 – Hearing on 'Stabilizing Premiums and Helping Individuals in the Individual Insurance Market for 2018: State Flexibility', with testimony from former Secretary of Health and Human Services Michael Leavitt; MNSure CEO Allison Leigh O'Toole; Foundation for Government Accountability CEO Tarren Bragdon; Kaiser Foundation Hospitals and Health Plan President and CEO Bernard Tyson; and Oliver Wyman Actuarial Consulting Senior Principal and Consulting Actuary Tammy Tomczyk Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Finance Committee hearing on health care cost and coverage – Hearing on 'Health Care: Issues Impacting Cost and Coverage', with testimony from Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity co-founder and President Avik Roy; Heritage Foundation Senior Research Fellow Edmund Haislmaier; former Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Acting Administrator Andrew Slavitt; and Center on Budget and Policy Priorities Senior Fellow and Senior Counselor Aviva Aron-Dine Location: Rm 215, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://finance.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Joint Economic Committee hearing on free digital trade – Hearing on ‘The Dynamic Gains from Free Digital Trade for the U.S. Economy’, with testimony from Mercatus Center at George Mason University Program on the American Economy and Globalization Co-Director Daniel Griswold; U.S. Chamber of Commerce Center for Global Regulatory Cooperation Vice President Sean Heather; Ecommerce Division of Relay Networks General Manager Nick Quade; and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State and U.S. Coordinator for Communications and Information Policy Daniel Alejandro Sepulveda Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1100, Washington, DC www.jec.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/JointEconCmte>

10:15 AM Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Daniel Kaniewski to be Federal Emergency Management Agency Deputy Administrator for Protection and National Preparedness; and Jonathan Pittman to be Superior Court of the District of Columbia Associate Judge Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

12:00 PM CAPAC and Asian-American DREAMers urge passage of the DREAM Act – Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus members – including Chair Democratic Rep. Judy Chu, Immigration Task Force Chair Democratic Rep. Pramila Jayapal, and Democratic Sen. Mazie Hirono – urge the passage of the bipartisan, bicameral DREAM Act (which would allow certain immigrant youth, including tens of thousands of Asian American and Pacific Islander DREAMers, to gain lawful permanent residence and U.S. citizenship), via press conference with Asian-American DREAMers Location: House Triangle, Washington, DC <http://capac-chu.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/CAPAC>

2:30 PM Senate Commerce subcommittee hearing on Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization – Oceans, Atmosphere, Fisheries, and Coast Guard Subcommittee hearing on ‘Reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act: Oversight of Fisheries Management Successes and Challenges’, with testimony from Nautic Star Boats President Phil Faulkner; Recreational Fishing Alliance Executive Director Jim Donofrio; Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation Senior Director Chris Horton; West Coast Seafood Processors Association Executive Director Lori Steele; National Association of Charterboat Operators President Robert Zales II; and Garden State Seafood Association Executive Director Greg DiDomenico Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

2:30 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

2:30 PM Senate Energy subcommittee oversight hearing on innovation and the National Labs – Energy Subcommittee oversight hearing on ‘Fostering Innovation: Contributions of the Department of Energy’s National Laboratories’, with testimony from West Virginia University Energy Institute Director Dr Brian Anderson; Argonne National Laboratory Interim Director Dr Paul Kearns; Duke Energy Director of Emerging Technology Strategy Anuja Ratnayake; and National Renewable Energy Laboratory Associate Director of Materials and Chemical Science and Technology Dr Bill Tumas Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energy.senate.gov/public/>

US House: 10:00 AM POSTPONED: DHS Secretary Duke and FBI Director Wray testify to House Homeland Security Committee hearing on worldwide threats – POSTPONED: Hearing on ‘World Wide Threats: Keeping America Secure in the New Age of Terror’, with testimony from Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Elaine Duke; FBI Director Christopher Wray; National Counterterrorism Center Director Nicholas Rasmussen; Anti-Defamation League Center on Extremism Director Oren Segal; Knoxville, TN, Chief of Police David Rausch (on behalf of International Association of Chiefs of Police); and Southern Poverty Law Center President Richard Cohen * Committee Chairman Michael McCaul announced the hearing in response to a letter from Committee Ranking Member Bennie Thompson calling for a hearing on domestic terrorism in the wake of last month’s incident in Charlottesville, VA, in which a car plowed into a group of counterprotesters opposing a white nationalist rally, killing one and injuring 19 more. However, Rep. Thompson has said the hearing is held annually and was scheduled before the events in Charlottesville Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

10:00 AM POSTPONED – House Infrastructure subcommittee hearing on USCG stakeholders’ perspectives – Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee hearing on ‘Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Coast Guard Stakeholders’ Perspectives’, with testimony from U.S. Coast Guard Assistant Commandant for Human Resources Rear Adm. William Kelly, and Assistant Commandant for Engineering and Logistics Rear Adm. Melvin Bouboulis Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/>

<https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM POSTPONED: House Technology Committee hearing on electric grid resiliency – POSTPONED: Hearing on ‘Resiliency: The Electric Grid’s Only Hope’, with testimony from University of Illinois Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering head Dr William Sanders; Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Electricity Market Sector manager Carl Imhoff; Houston Advanced Research Center Clean Energy Policy Program director Dr Gavin Dillingham; and Texas Public Power Association executive director Walt Baum Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM POSTPONED: House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on the housing market – POSTPONED: Housing and Insurance Subcommittee hearing on ‘An Overview of the Housing Market: The Role of Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Home Loan Banks’ Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM CANCELED – House Energy subcommittee hearing on ‘Defining Reliability in a Transforming Electricity Industry’ – Energy Subcommittee hearing on ‘Powering America: Defining Reliability in a Transforming Electricity Industry’, with testimony from American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity President and CEO Paul Bailey; North American Electric Reliability Corporation President and CEO Gerry Cauley; Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Neil Chatterjee; Enel Green Power North America Regulatory Affairs Manager Kyle Davis (on behalf of Solar Energy Industries Association); American Petroleum Institute Executive Vice President and Chief Strategy Officer Marty Durbin; Acting Under Secretary of Energy for Science Patricia Hoffman; American Wind Energy Association CEO Tom Kiernan; Nuclear Energy Institute President and CEO Maria Korsnick; Energy Storage Association CEO Kelly Speakes-Backman; Analysis Group Senior Advisor Dr Susan Tierney; and Chelan Public Utility District General Manager Steve Wright (on behalf of National Hydropower Association) Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on North Korea – Hearing on ‘Sanctions, Diplomacy, and Information: Pressuring North Korea’, with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Susan Thornton; and Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Marshall Billingslea * Over the last two months, North Korea has conducted its latest nuclear weapons test and a series of intercontinental ballistic missile tests (sending one over mainland Japan into the Pacific Ocean), and has also threatened to fire missiles towards the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Federal Lands Subcommittee legislative hearing on ‘H.R. 3668, Sportsmen’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act’ (or ‘SHARE Act’), with testimony from Americans for Responsible Solutions Senior Policy Advisor David Chipman; attorney Dr Stephen Halbrook; Safari Club International Director of Government Affairs Anna Seidman; and Hope for the Warriors COO Christopher Sharon Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM Joint Economic Committee hearing on free digital trade – Hearing on ‘The Dynamic Gains from Free Digital Trade for the U.S. Economy’, with testimony from Mercatus Center at George Mason University Program on the American Economy and Globalization Co-Director Daniel Griswold; U.S. Chamber of Commerce Center for Global Regulatory Cooperation Vice President Sean Heather; Ecommerce Division of Relay Networks General Manager Nick Quade; and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State and U.S. Coordinator for Communications and Information Policy Daniel Alejandro Sepulveda Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1100, Washington, DC www.jec.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/JointEconCmte>

10:00 AM House Government Reform Committee hearing on Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking recommendations – Hearing on ‘Recommendations of the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking’, with testimony from Commission Chair Dr Katharine Abraham, Co-Chair Dr Ron Haskins, and Commissioners Robert Shea and Dr Latanya Sweeney * Commission released its’ final report – ‘The Promise of Evidence-Based Policymaking’ – last week, focused on how to increase the availability and use of data in order to build evidence about govt programs while protecting privacy and confidentiality Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2157, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:15 AM CANCELED – House Commerce subcommittee hearing on ‘21st Century Trade Barriers’ – Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee hearing on ‘21st Century

Trade Barriers: Protectionist Cross Border Data Flow Policies Impact on U.S. Jobs', with testimony from American University Washington College of Law Associate Professor Jennifer Daskal; BSA – The Software Alliance President and CEO Victoria Espinel; Information Technology Industry Council President and CEO Dean Garfield; and ACT – The App Association President Morgan Reed Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2322, Washington, DC
<http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:30 AM POSTPONED: Dem Rep. Adriano Espaillat holds domestic violence awareness press conference in Washington, DC – POSTPONED: Democratic Rep. Adriano Espaillat holds press conference to raise awareness of domestic violence and address initiatives to help support victims of domestic violence in communities around the nation. New York Latinas Against Domestic Violence participate in the event as part of their annual 'Brides' vigil in honor of Gladys Ricart, a victim of domestic violence who was killed on her wedding day Location: House Triangle, Washington, DC espaillat.house.gov <https://twitter.com/espaillatny>

10:30 AM Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'VA Mail Management: The Case of the \$11,257 Package' Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

11:00 AM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/ <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

12:00 PM CAPAC and Asian-American DREAMers urge passage of the DREAM Act – Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus members – including Chair Democratic Rep. Judy Chu, Immigration Task Force Chair Democratic Rep. Pramila Jayapal, and Democratic Sen. Mazie Hirono – urge the passage of the bipartisan, bicameral DREAM Act (which would allow certain immigrant youth, including tens of thousands of Asian American and Pacific Islander DREAMers, to gain lawful permanent residence and U.S. citizenship), via press conference with Asian-American DREAMers Location: House Triangle, Washington, DC <http://capac-chu.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/CAPAC>

12:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda for the week including completion of consideration of 'H.R. 3354 – Make America Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act, 2018', and consideration of 'H.R. 3697 – Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act' * Administration has said it supports passage of 'H.R. 3354' and that President Donald Trump would sign it if it reached his desk * Last week, Congress passed a short-term continuing resolution to extend govt funding through early December Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM CANCELED – House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on 'securing the peace' after the fall of the Islamic State group – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Securing the Peace After the Fall of ISIL', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs Kathryn Wheelbarger; D-ISIS Task Force Director Christopher Maier; Joint Staff (J-5) Middle East Division Director Brig. Gen. James Bierman; former U.S. Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker; American Enterprise Institute Resident Scholar Dr Kenneth Pollack; and George Washington University Professor of Political Science Dr Marc Lynch Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2212, Washington, DC
www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

2:00 PM House Financial Services subcommittees joint hearing on regulation and monetary policy at the Fed – Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee and Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee joint hearing on 'Examining the Relationship Between Prudential Regulation and Monetary Policy at the Federal Reserve', with testimony from Columbia University Business School Professor of Financial Institutions Dr Charles Calomiris; Brandeis University International Business School Chair in International Finance Dr Stephen Cecchetti; and Barnett Sivon & Natter partner Jim Sivon (on behalf of Financial Services Roundtable) Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

2:30 PM POSTPONED – House Infrastructure subcommittee hearing on rail stakeholders' perspectives – Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee hearing on 'Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Rail Stakeholders' Perspectives', with testimony from Association of American Railroads President and CEO Edward Hamberger; American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association President Linda Darr; Amtrak Executive Vice President for Planning, Technology, and Public Affairs Stephen Gardner; Loram Maintenance of Way Senior Advisor of Industry Relations Tom DeJoseph; and AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department President Larry Willis Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

3:00 PM TIME CHANGE – House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on occupational licensing –

Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law Subcommittee hearing on 'Occupational Licensing: Regulation and Competition', with testimony from Federal Trade Commission Acting Chairman Maureen Ohlhausen; Institute for Justice attorney Robert Johnson; Virginia Senior Assistant Attorney General Sarah Allen; and Vanderbilt Law School Professor Rebecca Allensworth. Time changed from 2p to 3p. Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

4:00 PM House Natural Resources Committee markup hearing begins – Markup hearing begins on 'H.R. 210, Native American Energy Act', 'H.R. 424, Gray Wolf State Management Act of 2017', 'H.R. 717, Listing Reform Act', 'H.R. 1274, State, Tribal and Local Species Transparency and Recovery Act', 'H.R. 2603, Saving America's Endangered Species Act' ('SAVES Act'), 'H.R. 3131, Endangered Species Litigation Reasonableness Act', and 'H.R. 3668, Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act' ('SHARE Act') * Concludes tomorrow Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

5:00 PM TIME CHANGE – House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 3697 – Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act' Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

Other: 8:00 AM Bipartisan Reps. Suzan DelBene and Patrick Meehan speak at The Hill event on 'Turning Genes into Medicine' – The Hill hosts 'Turning Genes into Medicine: Reimagining Our Health Care System', to discuss recent scientific advances in the field of gene therapy that have raised the prospect of a new approach to treating rare, chronic and inherited diseases, and the impact of medical breakthroughs on the American health ecosystem and patients. Headline speakers are Democratic Rep. Suzan DelBene and Republican Rep. Patrick Meehan, with other speakers including Hemophilia patient advocate Paul Brayshaw, Duke-Margolis Center for Health Policy Deputy Director Gregory Daniel, Biotechnology Innovation Organization Advocacy, Law & Public Policy Division President Tom DiLenge, Spark Therapeutics CEO Jeff Marrazzo and Express Scripts Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer Steve Miller Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest, Washington, DC thehill.com [#Genes4Medicine](https://twitter.com/TheHillEvents)

8:20 AM CNBC TO BROADCAST INTERVIEW WITH TREASURY SECRETARY STEVEN MNUCHIN – In a CNBC EXCLUSIVE, "Squawk Box" Co-Anchors Joe Kernan, Becky Quick and Andrew Ross Sorkin will interview Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin live from the CNBC Institutional Investor Delivering Alpha conference in New York City on Tuesday, September 12th at 8:20AM ET. Jennifer Dauble CNBC. Contact: 201.735.4721; 201.615.2787; jennifer.dauble@nbcuni.com Location: TBD www.cnbc.com <https://twitter.com/CNBC>

8:30 AM Commerce Secretary Ross at U.S.-India Business Council Global Entrepreneurship Conclave – U.S.-India Business Council Global Entrepreneurship Conclave, serving as the kick-off to the 'Road to Global Entrepreneurship Summit Series', discussing fostering innovation in sectors including digital economy, financial technology, energy, infrastructure, media & entertainment, and life sciences. Participants include Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross, India Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Navtej Sarna, Israel Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Ron Dermer, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Affairs Amb. Alice Wells, and Democratic Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H St NW, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com <https://twitter.com/USChamber>

9:00 AM GOP Sen. Rob Portman speaks on NAFTA renegotiation at CSIS – 'NAFTA Renegotiation: Strengthening North American Prosperity and Competitiveness' Center for Strategic and International Studies and George W. Bush Presidential Center discussion, on the future of the North American Free Trade Agreement. Speakers include Republican Sen. Rob Portman, Business Council of Canada Vice President Andrea van Vugt, IQOM Director General Sergio Gomez Lora, and George W. Bush Presidential Center Economic Growth Director Matthew Rooney Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

10:00 AM Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control hearing on U.S. counternarcotics efforts in Colombia – Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control hearing on 'Adapting U.S. Counternarcotics Efforts in Colombia' – focusing on efforts including interdiction and eradication, given the increased availability of cocaine in the U.S. following years of decline – with panelists Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Amb. William Brownfield, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict Principal Director for Counternarcotics and Global Threats Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Joseph McMenamin, U.S. Coast Guard Deputy Commandant for Operations Vice Adm. Charles Ray, Drug Enforcement Administration Assistant Administrator Anthony Williams, National

Defense University Center for Complex Operations Senior Visiting Fellow Douglas Farah, and American Enterprise Institute Visiting Fellow Roger Noriega Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 226, Washington, DC <http://drugcaucus.senate.gov>

10:30 AM Dem Reps. Ro Khanna and Jamie Raskin on press call on single-payer health care – Lawmakers, health experts, and ‘others who need and want single-payer health care’ participate in press call on the merits of single-payer health care, held ahead of Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders’ introduction of ‘Medicare-for-All’ legislation. Participants – including Democratic Reps. Ro Khanna and Jamie Raskin, Health Care for the Homeless’ Dan Hendricks, National Health Care for the Homeless Council’s Barbara DiPietro, American Sustainable Business Council’s David Levine, Badger Balm’s Rebecca Hamilton, Cambridge Health Alliance’s Dr Adam Gaffney, National Nurses United’s Michael Lighty, and Public Citizen’s Robert Weissman – outline ‘what a guaranteed universal coverage system could accomplish, how it would impact the health care industry, and how it would reach people at all levels of need’ Location: TBD www.citizen.org https://twitter.com/public_citizen

3:00 PM OMB Director Mulvaney at ‘Building a Comprehensive Growth Plan for the U.S.’ discussion – ‘Building a Comprehensive Growth Plan for the U.S.’ special roundtable discussion hosted by the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, with panelists including Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney, former OMB Director Leon Panetta, and economic experts and policymakers Location: Hyatt Regency, 400 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, DC crfb.org <https://twitter.com/BudgetHawks>

5:30 PM Dem Reps. Judy Chu, Ted Lieu, and Maxine Waters attend #CounterACTHate rally as part of CAPACD Convention – National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (CAPACD) and South Asians Americans Leading Together hold #CounterACTHate rally, as part of the National CAPACD Annual Convention, to ‘stand together against racism, Islamophobia, and hate, and call for a safe America for all of us’. Attendees include Democratic Reps. Judy Chu, Ted Lieu, and Maxine Waters Location: U.S. Capitol, steps, Washington, DC <http://nationalcapacd.org/> [#CounterACTHate](https://twitter.com/capacd)

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: “In other words, if you shoot at a hurricane, it will shoot you back. Always try to negotiate with a hurricane first.”

James Corden: “During the interview, [Steve] Bannon said that he thought Donald Trump’s firing of former FBI Director James Comey was the biggest mistake in modern political history, but that’s not true. Everybody knows electing Donald Trump was the biggest mistake in modern political history.”

Trevor Noah: “The big story this week, Hurricane Irma left damage in the Caribbean and 60 percent of the state of Florida without power. Luckily, most people evacuated except for Marco Rubio, who stayed and said, ‘Water! Finally, water! So thirsty!’”

Trevor Noah: “Man, that’s loyalty. Even after Trump fired Bannon, he’s still going to fight for him from outside the White House. If Donald Trump ever killed someone, Bannon will be the guy driving the white supremacist Bronco.”

Jimmy Fallon: “Meanwhile, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos is going on a back-to-school tour this week and will visit Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, and Indiana. Betsy says she’s excited because she’s never been out of the country before.”

Jimmy Fallon: “Steve Bannon was on ‘60 Minutes,’ and he said that Trump firing James Comey was the biggest mistake in modern political history, except maybe electing the host of ‘The Apprentice’ the President of the United States.”

Seth Meyers: “After President Trump struck a deal with Democrats to increase the debt ceiling, he tweeted on Friday, quote, ‘Republican sorry, but I have been hearing about repeal and replace for seven years, didn’t happen.’ Wow, that’s shocking. Donald Trump said sorry.”

Seth Meyers: "Thousands of students in Houston returned to school today after a two-week delay caused by Hurricane Harvey. But don't worry, kids, no matter how much school you miss, you can still be Secretary of Education some day."

Seth Meyers: "People leave the White House so often they are reusing the same good-bye cake."

Seth Meyers: "The evidence shows that the effects of climate change, including warmer waters and sea level rise, are making these kinds of extreme weather events worse. And yet, the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, Scott Pruitt, says now is not the time to talk about it. ... That's like crashing your car into a telephone pole and telling the cops, 'This is not the time to talk about my drinking problem.'"

Conan O'Brien: "When asked about Hurricane Irma, President Trump said, 'This is some big monster.' In other words, Trump's plan to combat Hurricane Irma is fat-shaming it."

Conan O'Brien: "Pope Francis in Latin America over the weekend and he called it a moral responsibility for everyone to fight climate change. Pretty cool. That's what he said. Or, as Fox News reported it, 'Hispanic guy in dress wants to take away your SUV.'"

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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DOI In The News

Trump May Strip Protections From 10 National Monuments.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/18, Halper) reports that the Trump Administration's plan to reduce "protections at America's national monuments appears far more expansive than previously reported, targeting 10 of the nation's most ecologically sensitive landscapes and marine preserves for diminished protection." The plan submitted last month by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "would shrink the borders at half a dozen monuments and ocean preserves and open four others up for uses such as commercial fishing, logging and coal mining, according to a copy of the blueprint obtained by the Wall Street Journal and Washington Post." The Times says the plan, if enacted, would have a "dramatic" impact on the West.

The [New York Times](#) (9/18, Turkewitz, Popovich, McCann) lists the 10 monuments "designated for changes under Mr. Zinke's proposal." They are: Bears Ears, Utah; Gold Butte, Nevada; Grand Staircase-Escalante, Utah; Cascade-Siskiyou, Oregon and California; Pacific Remote Islands, Pacific Ocean; Rose Atoll, Pacific Ocean; Katahdin Woods and Waters, Maine; Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks, New Mexico; Rio Grande del Norte, New Mexico; and Northeast Canyons and Seamounts, Atlantic Ocean.

David Muir said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/18, story 11, 0:20) that President Trump has suggested "that former presidents wrongly seized the property." [USA Today](#) (9/18, Sullivan) writes that the draft report quotes Zinke saying adherence to the 1906 Antiquities Act definitions "were either arbitrary or likely politically motivated or boundaries could not be supported by science or reasons of practical resource management."

[Reuters](#) (9/18, Harvey, Volcovici, Gardner) reports that "Zinke also called for relaxing current restrictions within some of the monuments' boundaries for activities such as grazing, logging, coal mining and commercial fishing." The [AP](#) (9/18, Daly) says that the draft report recommendations "cap an unprecedented four-month review based on Trump's claim that 1906 Antiquities Act has been misused by recent presidents to create oversized monuments that hinder energy development, grazing and other uses."

[BBC News \(UK\)](#) (9/18) reports that Zinke also "suggests exploring the possibility of recognising three new national monuments: Kentucky's Camp Nelson, an 1863 Union Army outpost where African American regiments trained; the Mississippi home of murdered civil rights leader Medgar Evers; and the Badger-Two Medicine area in Montana, which is sacred ground for the Blackfeet Nation."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/18, Eilperin) reports that "environmental and outdoor recreation groups threatened Monday to sue if President Trump adopts Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's leaked proposal to alter nearly a dozen national monuments, while grazing, fishing and other groups welcomed the recommendations." Meanwhile, "former Interior secretary Sally Jewell, who oversaw several of the monument designations Zinke is proposing to alter, said in an interview Monday that 'the protections that are written into the proclamations are in many cases what he's trying to undo, in his recommendations to President Trump.'" She added, "It's a monument in name only if all the activities that are identified by Secretary Zinke are allowed to occur."

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/18, O'Donoghue) reports that Rep. Rob Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, "criticized the monument leak." Bishop said in a statement, "The fact this was leaked is troubling and merits an immediate and thorough investigation. The president should have the time to evaluate the secretary's review and develop actions without the encumbrance of incomplete information being leaked to the press."

Also reporting are the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/18, Halper), the [Monterey County \(CA\) Herald](#)

(9/18, Rogers), the [Riverside \(CA\) Press Enterprise](#) (9/18), the [Ventura County \(CA\) Star](#) (9/18, Roth), the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (9/18, DeMille), the [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (9/18), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (9/18, Coleman), the [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (9/18, Hart), [Newsweek](#) (9/18, Paton), [TIME](#) (9/18), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (9/18, Milman), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (9/18, Milman), [BBC News \(UK\)](#) (9/18), [The Week](#) (9/18, Weber), [The Verge](#) (9/18, Becker), [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (9/18), [KFVE-TV Honolulu](#) Honolulu (9/18), and [KTLA-TV Los Angeles](#) Los Angeles (9/18).

4 US Monuments To Be Scaled Back Hold Artifacts, Key Habitat. The [AP](#) (9/18, McCOMBS) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "recommendation to shrink four sprawling national monuments in the U.S. West jeopardizes protections for ancient cliff dwellings, scenic canyons and habitat for endangered fish and threatened Mojave desert tortoises." The affected monuments include Utah's Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante, along with Nevada's Gold Butte and Oregon's Cascade-Siskiyou.

Leaked Memo: Zinke Wants Smaller Monuments, But How Small? The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/19, Maffly) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "clearly has his sights on trimming national monuments in southern Utah, but his official report to President Donald Trump is so short on specifics it remains unclear where any 'revised' boundaries to Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante would fall." Zinke's "call for a smaller Bears Ears is not sitting well with the Navajo Nation, one of five tribes that proposed the monument." According to Navajo Nation Attorney General Ethel Branch, "that recommendation – along with Zinke's request that Congress make other conservation designations – contradict all the input provided by the tribe."

Also reporting are [KSL-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (9/18, O'Donoghue), [KSTU-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (9/18, Edwards), and [KTVX-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (9/18).

Applause, Criticism Greet Leak Of Zinke's Monument Recommendations. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (9/18, Martin, Brea) reports that the Gold Butte recommendation was "applauded by Republicans and denounced by Democrats." Sen. Dean Heller, said the designation is "an example of extreme overreach and the failed Washington-knows-best mentality." Rep. Dina Titus said: "Secretary Zinke leaked a memo in the middle of the night because he knows his plan to hack away at monuments like Gold Butte is an overreach opposed by the majority of Americans."

The [AP](#) (9/18, Ritter) reports that the leaked memo brought "a measured cheer from the head of a southern Nevada water district with springs in the area." Kevin Brown, general manager of the Virgin Valley Water District, "said Monday that the boundary change his agency sought from Zinke covers about 25 square miles (65 square kilometers) in the Virgin Mountains."

Also reporting are the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (9/18, Thomas), [KSNV-TV Las Vegas](#) Las Vegas (9/18, Rosch), and [KTNV-TV Las Vegas](#) Las Vegas (9/18).

Zinke Recommendation To Cut Cascade-Siskiyou Questioned. The [AP](#) (9/18, Selsky) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's proposal "recommending downsizing the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument has several errors, one of the people who was behind the creation of the monument said Monday." A memo "justifying his recommendation that the boundaries of the monument, which lies mostly in Oregon and crosses over into California, be 'revised' says motor vehicles aren't allowed in it." Dave Willis, the chairman of the Soda Mountain Wilderness Council, asked, "There are hundreds of roads inside this monument. I live on private land inside the monument. Do we walk or ride horses?"

Also reporting are the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (9/18, Theen), the [Redding \(CA\) Record-Searchlight](#) (9/18, Daly), and [KGW-TV Portland \(OR\)](#) Portland, OR (9/18, Roth).

No Boundary Changes For New Mexico's 2 National Monuments. The [AP](#) (9/18, Bryan) reports that the recommendations for the Rio Grande del Norte monument and the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks monument "would remain unchanged under recommendations made by U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, providing some relief to the groups that had come out in support of the designations." The recommendations "do call for making public access a priority as well as the pursuit of congressional authority to enable Native American tribes to help manage cultural areas within the boundaries."

The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (9/18, Soular) reports that the memo was "met Monday with wide-ranging reactions from Doña Ana County residents and New Mexico's federal lawmakers."

Also reporting are [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (9/18, Oxford), the [Silver City \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (9/17, Peerman), the [Silver City \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (9/18, Soular), the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (9/18), the [Santa Fe \(NM\) Reporter](#) (9/18, Grubs), and [Albuquerque \(NM\) Business First](#) (9/18, Ortiz).

Zinke Would Allow Trees To Be Cut At Katahdin Woods & Waters. The [AP](#) (9/18, Sharp)

reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “wants to allow trees to be cut on parts of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and to ensure that ‘traditional uses’ like snowmobiling and hunting are taken into account in a management plan that’s being drawn up.” According to the article, “it was unclear what Zinke meant when he recommended ‘active timber management’ to promote a healthy forest on the 87,500-acre (35,410-hectare) property.” However, “an environmental group said commercial logging would ‘almost certainly’ trigger a lawsuit.” Lisa Pohlmann of the Natural Resources Council of Maine said, “Commercial logging could cause substantial harm to the natural resources protected by the monument and to the economic and recreation benefits already emerging at Katahdin Woods and Waters.”

In an editorial, the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (9/19) says “that uncertainty is the biggest danger of the destructive and unnecessary process that has been unleashed on the region by the Trump administration and its allies here in Maine.” According to the paper, “even people who initially opposed the idea of a federally managed park in the Maine woods were ready to give it a try.” However, “with constant political interference, it won’t have much of a chance.”

Also reporting are the [Boston Globe](#) (9/19, Abel), the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (9/18, Miller), and the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (9/18, Sambides).

Zinke: Open Up First Atlantic Monument To Commercial Fishing. The [AP](#) (9/18, Whittle) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke recommended opening up the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument to commercial fishing. Zinke’s memo “states that instead of prohibiting commercial fishing, the government should allow it in the area under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, which is the primary law governing the U.S.’s marine fisheries and meant to prevent overfishing and guarantee a safe source of seafood.” His memo says “that the monument was established ‘to protect geologic features, natural resources, and species,’ but regulators have charged that it disrupts their ability ‘to manage species to balance protection with commercial fishing.’”

Tribune Editorial: Zinke’s Report Leaves A Monumental Mess. In an editorial, the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/19) criticizes the draft report for making the “future of those monuments, especially Utah’s Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante...even more muddled than it was before.” According to the paper, “Zinke’s report is so maddeningly vague that it provides the White House with little guidance on just what it should do, and what legal rationale it should offer for doing it.” The paper expects that “the path forward now is more confusion, more litigation, more bad blood among neighbors, between Native American Nations and county governments, less time devoted to working up a specific management plan for Bears Ears that might, if everyone approached it in good faith, work out a lot better for everyone than some of us think.”

Mormons Are Among The Few Who Want Less Federally Protected Land. Their History Explains Why. In a piece for the [Washington Post](#) (9/18, Colbert), Christine Colbert examines why Mormons are some of the those who are most “opposed to government control of Western lands.” According to Colbert, it boils down to “distrust of the federal government” and “distrust of the outside world.” She concludes that “until Mormon leaders declare their support for such stewardship and call for the preservation of our nation’s greatest treasures, Utah politicians will continue to bend Trump’s ear toward privatization and resource development, reflecting their culture’s historical distrust and proprietary notions regarding the very lands that really belong to all of us, not just a few.”

Trump’s Western Firefighters.

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/18) applauds Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for issuing a memorandum last week instructing land managers and park superintendents to exercise the “full authority” of their bureaus to clear dying trees and brush in federal lands in order to “proactively work to prevent forest fires.” The Journal adds that Congress can help the Administration’s efforts to promote better forest management with legislation that reduces litigation against such efforts against fire damage.

Salary Suspicions.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Times](#) (9/18, Feulner), Ed Feulner, president of The Heritage Foundation, praises President Trump for his donation of his salary to National Park Service that will go toward preserving Antietam National Battlefield. Feulner goes on to criticize those who are cynical about Trump’s generosity. Feulner concludes: “Instead of huffing that the president is breaking with precedent, how about we pause the partisan rancor for five minutes and thank him for setting a good example?”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Relationship Between Trump Admin, Some Montana Tribes Not Yet Defined.

[KPAX-TV](#) Missoula, MT (9/18, Luetzen) reports that more than 200 days after Ryan Zinke was sworn as Secretary of the Department of Interior, "the relationship between some Native Americans and the new administration is not quite yet defined." Monte Mills, Co-director of Margery Hunter Brown Indian Law Clinic "said the major concerns are the federal trust responsibilities, engagement with tribes across the country, social justice concerns and natural resource issues." Also, "the transfer of management of the National Bison Range to Bureau of Indian Affairs and the protection of Badger Two Medicine for the Blackfeet tribe are just two important issues for local tribes."

Appeals Court Reverses Judge's Decision Allowing Wind Developers To Dig On Osage Land.

The [Tulsa \(OK\) World](#) (9/18, Hinchey) reports that "a U.S. appellate court sided with the Osage Nation in a years-long dispute regarding whether the development of a wind farm on tribal land violated federal mineral regulations." The 10th District Court of Appeals "issued an order Monday reversing a 2015 court ruling that protected the Osage Wind project, which includes 84 turbines spread across about 8,400 acres in Osage County." The Osage Nation has "long opposed the development, arguing that wind farming spoils the prairie's natural beauty and could destroy historic burial sites." The Interior Department "administers the tribe's mineral estate and filed a lawsuit in 2014 to halt extraction work, arguing the act of digging large pits for turbine foundations is considering mining."

MGM Pitches Bridgeport Casino As Feds Delay Tribes' Expansion.

The [Connecticut Mirror](#) (9/18, Pazniokas) reports that MGM Resorts International "launched a glitzy new campaign Monday to expand into Connecticut, an effort that curiously coincides with the Trump administration, at least temporarily, halting the state's two federally recognized tribes' from building a casino in East Windsor to compete with a new MGM resort in Springfield, Mass." MGM, "after telling legislators for two years they would be foolish to approve the tribes' plan without an open competition, now is seeking legislation in special session granting it exclusive rights to build a waterfront casino resort in Bridgeport, a gateway to the lucrative New York City gambling market."

Bureau Of Indian Education

At Havasupai School In Grand Canyon, A Teacher Finds A Failing School.

The [Arizona Republic](#) (9/18) reports on the problems at Havasupai Elementary School that led "nine Havasupai students and their parents to sue the federal government: A school that has failed generations of Havasupai students has resisted reform, refused to offer services for special education or mental health and punished employees who push for change." The federal government has "twice asked a judge to dismiss parts of that lawsuit." U.S. District Judge Steven P. Logan will hear oral arguments in Phoenix on October 24.

Bureau Of Land Management

Lawsuit Aims To Block Oil Drilling On US Land In Nevada.

The [AP](#) (9/18, Sonner) reports environmentalists have sued the BLM "to try to stop it from allowing oil and gas drilling on a vast stretch of federal land in Nevada, where the government is reversing protections put in place nine months ago under the Obama administration." The Sierra Club and Center for Biological Diversity say the BLM "illegally failed to consider potential consequences of hydraulic fracturing, known as fracking, ranging from harm to the greater sage grouse to contamination of fragile desert water sources and emission of climate-altering greenhouse gases."

18 Wild Horses, Burro Tamed At Wyoming Honor Farm Adopted.

The [AP](#) (9/18) reports that "seventeen wild horses and one wild burro have found new homes

after being gentled by inmate trainers at the Wyoming Honor Farm in Riverton." The adoption "continues the effort by the Bureau of Land Management and Honor Farm to place excess wild horses and burros into private care in order to maintain healthy animals on healthy public rangelands."

Officials Examine Boundaries, Public Road Access In American Fork Canyon.

The [Provo \(UT\) Daily Herald](#) (9/18, England) reports that "maps of American Fork Canyon from differing agencies including the U.S. Forest Service, Utah County and the Bureau of Land Management have some accuracy issues" that Mark Allen, founder of Protect and Preserve American Fork Canyon, "would like addressed." Allen was "instrumental in gathering multiple officials from all of those entities on Monday to take a four-wheeling field trip into American Fork Canyon to discuss the boundary concerns, and how government entities can work together to address them."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Stop Seismic Testing Off NC Coast.

In an editorial, the [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (9/18) opposes seismic testing in the Atlantic Ocean. It raises concerns that "the testing, and the drilling should exploration proceed, could put coastal marine life in danger." It also points out that "the truly ludicrous thing about the argument for exploration" is that "oil prices are depressed (excluding the post-hurricane situation) and there are plenty of reserves."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Will The Southland Wind Up Holding Much Of The \$17-billion Bill For The Delta Water Tunnels?

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/18, Boxall) reports that some of California's "biggest water districts" are "expected to decide if they want to sign on to California WaterFix — a long-planned proposal to construct two massive tunnels that would change the way water supplies move through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta." Supporters have "long have operated under the assumption that the cost, now estimated at nearly \$17 billion, would be split among customers of the big government water projects according to the size of their contracts for delta supplies." According to the article, "under that scenario, the largely urban agencies supplied by the State Water Project would pick up 55% of the tunnel tab, and the largely agricultural districts supplied by the federal Central Valley Project would pay for 45%." However, "as the votes approach, there are growing doubts that agriculture will agree to pay that much."

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (9/18, Kasler, Sabalow) reports that "some Sacramento-area water agencies would end up paying for a small share of the Delta tunnels under a last-minute alternative funding plan pitched by one of the state's largest farming groups." Westlands Water District, "whose board of directors is scheduled to vote Tuesday on whether to help pay for the tunnels, says it needs to spread the costs among a greater number of water districts, both north and south of the Delta, to make the project affordable to the Fresno and Kings county farmers who get water from Westlands."

Outreach Planned For Upper Deschutes Basin Study.

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (9/18, Perkowski) reports that "federal authorities will soon be sharing preliminary findings of a water study of Oregon's Upper Deschutes Basin with landowners and other affected parties." The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and "regional partners will use the input to complete their analysis of water management in the basin, whose water supply demands are eventually expected to exceed supplies by 230,000 acre-feet a year."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Upper Deschutes River Flooding Continues To Be A Problem.

The [AP](#) (9/18) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and "other groups are working with the irrigation districts to develop plans that will help them stay in business while still finding a

way to address the Upper Deschutes River's flooding issues." The FWS' habitat conversation plan "should be finalized by 2019, said Bridget Moran, the head of department's Bend field office."

County In Illinois To Use Grant To Aid Endangered Bumblebee.

The [AP](#) (9/18) reports that "a northern Illinois county will use a \$5,500 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to restore a habitat for an endangered bumble bee." The rusty patched bumblebee is "one of 10 bumblebee species found in Winnebago County." The Forest Preserves of Winnebago County will "use the grant to create an ideal habitat for the bumblebee by restoring 15 acres of Kieselburg Forest Preserve in Machesney Park with prairie grass and wildflowers."

Flock Of Endangered Birds Grows Again.

The [Victoria \(TX\) Advocate](#) (9/18, Priest) reports that "an estimated 431 endangered whooping cranes spent last winter on the Texas coast." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists "released the much anticipated total on Monday after analyzing aerial surveys done over about 153,950 acres." The article notes that "this is the fifth year in a row that the only naturally occurring flock of whooping cranes has increased in size."

Additional Coverage: Seismic Work In ANWR: Can They Do That?

Additional coverage that the Interior Department is "trying to let industry into the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, to conduct seismic exploration on the coastal plain" was provided by the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (9/18, Ruskin) and the [Washington Post](#) (9/18).

Protection For Endangered Species Is Under Attack In Congress.

In an op-ed for the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (9/18, Thompson), Sam Thompson, who formerly worked on nuclear arms control and nuclear power issues at the Energy and State Departments, warns that the Endangered Species Act, "our nation's most important and successful wildlife conservation law," is "under attack in Congress." Thompson says that "the beauty" of the act, "in addition to being based on science, is that it creates strong partnerships between the states and federal government." He adds that "it would be a huge mistake to weaken the Endangered Species Act, especially at a time when its importance is actually increasing because of the growing threat from climate change."

National Park Service

Rep. Speier's Amendment Takes Bite At GGNRA Dog-walking Rules.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (9/18, Johnson) reports that "nine months after the Golden Gate National Recreation Area approved final rules restricting off-leash dog walking on much of its turf, the policy has been thrown for another loop." An amendment proposed by Rep. Jackie Speier would prevent the National Park Service "from restricting canine access to its parklands by prohibiting some funding from being used to 'finalize, implement, administer or enforce' the dog management plan." It passed the House last week with bipartisan support.

New Apartments Cater To Bryce Canyon National Park Workforce.

The [AP](#) (9/18) reports that "a new employee housing building for workers in the Bryce Canyon National Park area has opened after years of struggling to find a place to stay during their seasonal jobs." The new Bryce Rim Apartments were constructed by Ruby's Inn, "a historic hotel near the national park that employs 600 workers during the peak season." According to the article, "the apartment offers 24 single employee dorms rooms and two- and three-bedroom units for families."

Grizzly Bear Research Trapping Begins Tomorrow In Grand Teton Park.

[East Idaho News](#) (9/18) reports that "biologists with the Interagency Grizzly Bear Study Team will conduct grizzly bear research and trapping operations within Grand Teton National Park Tuesday, September 19 through November 15." The research is "part of on-going efforts required under the 2016 Conservation Strategy for the Grizzly Bear in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem to monitor the population of grizzly bears."

Students Volunteers Help Maintain Carlsbad Cavern Trails.

The [Carlsbad \(NM\) Current-Argus](#) (9/18) reports that Carlsbad Caverns National Park will "host a

group of five college students who are volunteering their time with the Student Conservation Association (SCA)." The students will "help to improve several park trails over the next three months." The group will "work on Yucca and Juniper Ridge trails as well as park trails in Rattlesnake and Slaughter Canyons."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (9/19).

Utah Baby Dies From Head Injury In Arizona Boating Accident.

The [AP](#) (9/18) reports that "authorities say a Utah child has died from a head injury after a boating accident near Navajo Canyon." Glen Canyon National Recreation Area officials "say the accident occurred Sunday evening when a houseboat was trying to dock on a beach about 12 miles from Antelope Point Marina."

Additional Coverage: Legislation Introduced To Remove Robert E. Lee Statue From Antietam National Battlefield.

Additional coverage that legislation has been introduced "to have a statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee removed from Antietam National Battlefield" was provided by the [Hagerstown \(MD\) Herald-Mail Media](#) (9/18, Dearth) and [Stars And Stripes](#) (9/17, REID).

Additional Coverage: Magnificent Many Glacier.

Additional coverage that Glacier National Park has completed the renovation of historic Many Glacier Hotel was provided by the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (9/18, Franz).

Additional Coverage: Aggressive Bear Euthanized In YNP.

Additional coverage that National Park Service officials "captured and killed a nuisance bear recently in Yellowstone National Park because of its continuing bad habits of intruding on and threatening to interfere with people" was provided by the [Cody \(WY\) Enterprise](#) (9/18, Freedman).

Office Of Insular Affairs

Domenech Confirmed As Assistant Secretary For Insular Areas.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (9/18) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has "applauded the Senate's confirmation of Interior Department veteran Douglas William Domenech as assistant secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas." Domenech was confirmed by the Senate last Friday. Zinke said, "Doug's confirmation could not come soon enough for the people of the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico who are rebuilding in the wake of Hurricane Irma. I'm excited to put him to work for them and all our brothers and sisters across the insular areas."

Irma Recovery Suspended As Maria Menaces Territory.

The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (9/18, O'CONNOR) reports that Gov. Kenneth Mapp has "suspended Hurricane Irma recovery efforts with the grim expectation that Hurricane Maria could strike the V.I. on Tuesday." In a radio address from St. Croix Government House on Sunday, Mapp said, "The government has ceased recover operations and we are in hunker down and take shelter mode."

Hurricane Maria Forecast To Strike Puerto Rico Wednesday.

In its lead story, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/18, lead story, 2:15, Muir) reported Hurricane Maria strengthened to a Category 4 on Monday as it "bear[s] down on some of the [Caribbean] islands, just now recovering from Irma." In its lead story, [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/18, lead story, 2:45, Holt) reported Maria is "making a beeline towards some of the same Caribbean islands decimated less than two weeks ago by Irma, lashing the Caribbean island of Martinique, [and] barreling towards Puerto Rico."

The [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (9/18, Mangrum) says that according to an advisory from the National Hurricane Center, "additional strengthening is forecast during the next 24 to 36 hours, and Maria is expected to be an extremely dangerous major hurricane during the next couple of days." The [New York Times](#) (9/18, Ahmed, Semple) says the National Hurricane Center called Maria "a potentially catastrophic Category 5 hurricane." Some islands in the storm's path, "still reeling from the impact of Hurricane Irma were bracing late Monday for Round 2, closing schools, stores and just about everything else before the storm made landfall."

Al Roker said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/18, story 2, 1:05, Holt) that Maria will “come through Antilles, then the Virgin Islands” before it hits Puerto Rico and “continu[es] on into the Turks and Caicos with more strong storms, Category 4, 130-mile-per-hour winds, a devastating storm surge.” In its lead story, the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/18, lead story, 1:45, Mason) reported that “preparations should be under way for a very destructive storm in Puerto Rico, as well as parts of the Virgin Islands. After that, we track it through the Bahamas and off the eastern seaboard by Sunday.” [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/18, story 3, 2:00, Muir) reported residents in the Caribbean are in a “desperate race to prepare” by clearing the debris “left behind by Irma.”

[McClatchy](#) (9/18, Whitefield, Charles) says the current forecast track takes Maria “into the Leeward Islands Monday, over the extreme northeastern Caribbean Tuesday,” and [Bloomberg News](#) (9/18, Sullivan) reports that on its current track, Maria will “strike Puerto Rico’s southern coast Wednesday with winds as high as 150 mph and a storm surge that could reach nine feet.” David Begnaud reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/18, story 2, 1:50, Mason) if Maria “makes a direct hit” on Puerto Rico, “it could cut power to this island for weeks. Already tonight, officials have ordered food rationing of basic items like water, milk, baby formula, even flashlights and batteries.” The [Miami Herald](#) (9/18, Charles, Staletovich) says it is currently unclear “what threat Maria poses to Florida or the US coast, although a landfall looks unlikely.”

White House: Trump, Xi Agree To Step Up Pressure On North Korea.

The [Washington Times](#) (9/18, Miller) reports the White House said President Trump spoke with Chinese President Xi Jinping in a phone call on Monday. In a statement, the White House said Trump and Xi “committed to maximizing pressure on North Korea through vigorous enforcement of United Nations Security Council resolutions.” China’s Xinhua News Agency reported the two leaders also discussed Trump’s upcoming visit to the nation, which [Reuters](#) (9/18) says will likely take place in November, when Trump travels to the Philippines for the ASEAN summit and Vietnam for the APEC summit. Xinhua added, “Xi said China and the United States share extensive common interests and have seen sound momentum of exchanges and cooperation in various areas at present,” and that Xi “said he is happy to maintain communications with the U.S. leader on a regular basis over topics of mutual concern.”

Mattis Discusses Possible Responses To North Korean Nuclear Threat. The [Washington Post](#) (9/18, Lamothe) reports Defense Secretary Mattis told reporters at the Pentagon on Monday that he and South Korean Defense Minister Song Young-moo “discussed the option” of reintroducing tactical nuclear weapons in South Korea. Mattis did not indicate whether he will support the proposal, but Song has backed the move as an “alternative worth a full review.” The Post says that if the US and South Korea move forward with the option, it “could take tensions with North Korea to a new high.”

The [AP](#) (9/18, Burns) reports Mattis also told reporters that the US does not believe that North Korean missiles that are test-fired in Japan’s direction need to be shot down. Mattis explained that Pyongyang is “intentionally doing provocations that seem to press against the envelope for just how far can they push without going over some kind of a line, in their minds, that would make them vulnerable,” so they are aiming “for the middle of the Pacific Ocean.” Mattis stressed, however, that if the missiles were deemed a threat to either the US or Japan, then they “would elicit a different response from us.”

The [New York Times](#) (9/18, Cooper) reports Mattis “also said he believed that the United States had found military options to handle the nuclear crisis on the Korean Peninsula that would not put the South Korean capital, Seoul, at grave risk, though he refused to elaborate on what those might be.” Military experts suggested that potential options against North Korea “that might not prompt immediate retaliation against Seoul could include cyberwarfare or even an assassination attempt on Mr. Kim – though such an attempt would have to be successful.” The Times adds that signs of possible US military action in North Korea, such as the “repositioning of military assets or an evacuation of American citizens in the region,” have thus far “not appeared.”

US, South Korean Militaries Conduct Joint Exercises In “Show Of Force” To North Korea. The [Washington Post](#) (9/18, Lamothe) reports that on Sunday, the Pentagon dispatched “a formation of 14 bombers and fighters over the Korean Peninsula on Sunday that also included South Korean and Japanese aircraft, the latest show of force in response to North Korea’s missile launches and nuclear tests.” The Post says that the show of military force “came as President Trump prepared to deliver remarks for the first time this week at the United Nations General Assembly” amid escalating tensions over the North Korean crisis. In a Sunday appearance on CNN, Ambassador Haley told CNN, “If North Korea keeps on with this reckless behavior, if the United States has to defend itself or defend its allies in any way, North Korea will be destroyed,” although “none of us

want that.”

In response to Haley’s remarks, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang stressed that all parties must enforce the latest round of UN resolutions on North Korea instead of “deliberately complicating the issue,” [Reuters](#) (9/18, Blanchard, Shin) reports. Lu added that military threats are “not beneficial to a final resolution to the peninsula nuclear issue.” On Monday, North Korea’s foreign ministry called the latest UN resolution “the most vicious, unethical and inhumane act of hostility to physically exterminate” its citizens, government, and system. It warned that the “increased moves” by the US and its allies “to impose sanctions and pressure... will only increase our pace toward the ultimate completion of the state nuclear force.” Reuters notes that as the US and its allies conducted staged bombing drills, China and Russia launched naval military exercises off Russia’s far eastern port of Vladivostok, located near the Russia-North Korea border.

Spain Orders Expulsion Of North Korean Ambassador. The [Washington Post](#) (9/18, Fifield) reports the Spanish Foreign Ministry announced that it has ordered North Korea’s ambassador to Madrid, Kim Hyok Chol, to leave the country by the end of the month. Mexico, Peru, and Kuwait have ordered similar expulsions. The Post says that Spain’s expulsion of Kim “will please Trump administration officials, who have been asking countries with diplomatic relations with North Korea to scale them back as a way to further isolate Kim Jong Un’s regime.”

US Geological Survey

USGS May Look At The Entire Williston Basin For A New Oil Estimate.

The [Prairie Public News \(ND\)](#) (9/18, Thompson) reports that Sen. John Hoeven and others recently asked US Geological Survey for an updated assessment of the oil in the Bakken and Three Forks formations. State mineral resources director Lynn Helms “said USGS is now talking about a full Williston Basin-wide assessment in a few years.” But “there’s been no official word from USGS.”

Additoinal Reading.

- **Conservatives And Conservationists Find Common Ground On Chesapeake Shores.** [Christian Science Monitor](#) (9/18, Hinckley).
- **A 50-year Effort To Raise Endangered Whooping Cranes Comes To An End.** [Washington Post](#) (9/18, Brulliard).
- **U.S. And Canadian Tribes Gather In Yellowstone To Advocate Name Changes.** [Montana Public Radio](#) (9/18, Hegyi).
- **Tribes Want Some Name Changes In Yellowstone National Park.** [KRTV-TV](#) Great Falls, MT (9/18, Davies).

Top National News

Trump Pledges To Support UN, But Calls For Reforms.

Reports on President Trump’s call for reforms at the UN on Monday highlight his history of criticism of the world body. Media outlets, however, say his tone Monday was more restrained than his rhetoric on the campaign trail. Several reports also make note that his remarks lasted just four minutes. All three networks covered the President’s address, dedicating a total of just under six minutes of combined airtime. In the briefest of the three reports, the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/18, story 4, 0:30, Mason) called Monday’s speech “something of a warm-up” to his address before the General Assembly on Tuesday. On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/18, story 4, 2:45, Muir), Jonathan Karl said Trump “made his UN debut today, declaring he wants to make the United Nations great,” but “not long ago, he was one of the UN’s harshest critics.”

John Roberts reported on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (9/18) that Trump was “less strident in his language, but no less forceful in his call to change the culture at the UN.” Jeff Zeleny too said on [CNN’s The Lead](#) (9/18) that Trump’s “words today [were] far more measured than the campaign trail,” and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/18, Wilkinson, Bierman) says he was “acting more the statesman than the flamethrower.”

Mara Liasson said on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (9/18), “This was a real contrast. Remember during the campaign he said the United Nations was an enemy of freedom and an enemy of democracy? Now he’s saying more or less what a lot of American presidents have said

is that it is a good thing to reform the bureaucracy there and talking about not having the US pay a disproportionate share, which is something that other presidents have said. This was a pretty typical first day for an American president so far."

Mollie Hemingway of The Federalist said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/18), "The tone is markedly different from how it was during the campaign. It kind of actually a disappointing change in rhetoric. He said today that the UN does a good job feeding the hungry and taking care of disaster. That's actually not true. It's a bloated organization."

However, in his opening monologue on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (9/18), Sean Hannity said Trump "wasted little time in calling out the organization's many, many failures." Hannity added that it was "really refreshing for an American President to call out the UN because for years, we've seen the organization repeatedly attack Israel and push their radical leftist, globalist agenda that does not respect the sovereignty of individual countries, including the US."

The [AP](#) (9/18, Lemire, Superville) says Trump "used his United Nations debut on Monday to prod the international organization to cut its bloated bureaucracy and sharpen its ill-defined mission." At the same time, Trump also "pledged US support for the world body he had excoriated as a candidate, and his criticisms were more restrained than in years past." The AP says that even as Trump "chastised" the UN, he pledged that the US would be "be partners in your work" to make the organization more effective. The [New York Daily News](#) (9/18, Silverstein) likewise says the President "gave no indication that he will weaken the US support" for the world body.

[USA Today](#) (9/18, Jackson) reports that a Monday's special forum, Trump, "a long-time critic of the UN," said the body has not reached its full potential "because of bureaucracy and mismanagement." USA Today says that "as he did on the campaign trail," Trump stressed that "no member state shoulders a disproportionate share of the burden."

The [New York Times](#) (9/18, Baker, Sengupta) says Trump opened his visit to the UN "with a polite but firm call" for the world body "to overhaul itself, as world leaders waited to see how he would reconcile his 'America first' vision with an institution devoted to collective action and global goals." The Times notes that his address "lasted only four minutes and included none of the bombast he had directed at foreign institutions in the past."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/18, story 3, 2:30, Holt) said the President put "a new twist on his old campaign slogan." Trump was shown saying: "I think the main message is make the United Nations great. Not again. Make the United Nations great." The [Washington Post](#) (9/18, Nakamura) similarly says that Trump, "speaking briefly with reporters...riffed off of his campaign slogan, Make America Great Again." The [Washington Times](#) (9/18, Boyer) quotes the President as saying in his address, "The United Nations was founded on truly noble goals. Yet in recent years the United Nations has not reached its full potential because of bureaucracy and mismanagement."

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (9/18, Heretik) reports Trump "praised many of the organization's goals and past actions, but said institutional change is needed," and [CNN](#) (9/18, Diamond) reports on its website that he called for the UN to take steps to "protect whistleblowers," despite his "frequent heavy-handed criticism of the leaks that have beset his administration."

[Newsday](#) (9/18, Dowdy) says the President "delivered a short speech," and [Reuters](#) (9/18, Holland) reports that "in a building where long statements are commonplace, Trump spoke for just four minutes" to the forum, which "more than 120 countries were invited to attend" after signing on to "a US-drafted 10-point political declaration" backing UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' reform efforts.

[Politico](#) (9/18, Toosi) says the issue of UN reform is "likely to please his domestic political base," and while Trump is "hardly the first US president to call for shaking up" the UN, he is "fortunate in that the still-new" Guterres has made reform "a top priority, raising the odds that some genuine changes are on the way."

[Newsweek](#) (9/18, Lanktree) examines Trump's remarks in the past criticizing the world body, writing that "from 2011 onward, he started making the creed that has become his most frequent: calling for the organization to have its funding cut."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/18, story 4, 2:45, Muir) reported that "amid a flurry of meetings" on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly on Monday, the President "no public mention...of the biggest issue on the agenda this week: North Korea." However, ABC said there is "no doubt" North Korea will come up in Trump's speech on Tuesday. ABC's Jonathan Karl said, "You are going to hear a very tough line from the President on North Korea."

Greg Palkot reported on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/18) that the need to reign in the

North will be at the top of Trump's agenda this week. Trump, South Korean President Moon Jae-In, and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will meet Thursday.

Media Analyses: "National Sovereignty" To Be Theme Of Trump's UNGA Address. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/18, Fassihi, Stokols) reports that during his address to the General Assembly Tuesday, President Trump will lay out a foreign policy rooted in his view of national sovereignty and anchored by "America First" principles, according to a senior Administration official. "It will be a foreign policy that is driven by outcomes, not by ideologies," the senior Administration official told reporters. "What the president is doing is explaining how the principle of America First is not only consistent with the goal of international cooperation, but a rational basis for every country to engage in cooperation."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/18, Nakamura, Gearan) says the President's "nationalist agenda has led to widespread anxiety among the US allies and partners who have gathered" at the UN this week. Amid "mounting global challenges, foreign leaders are carefully watching Trump's moment on the world stage for signals about his willingness to maintain the United States' traditional leadership role."

Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway, asked on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (9/18) what the President's message will be, said, "President Trump will be promoting peace. He'll be promoting prosperity and sovereignty and accountability."

A [Washington Examiner](#) (9/18) editorial writes that "national sovereignty" is "not a popular notion among those American and European elites who hang out at the United Nations," but "will be a theme of President Trump's address to the UN General Assembly on Tuesday." The Examiner says that "by emphasizing sovereignty in a setting where it is more commonly eroded, Trump is doing what he does best; bluntly repudiating the most fashionable idea of the people around him," and he "is right to do so."

Trump Also Expected To Emphasize North Korean Threat. A "senior White House official" told the [Washington Times](#) (9/18, Boyer, Miller) that Trump, in "his first address to the United Nations General Assembly" on Tuesday, "will turn up the heat on North Korea and call out countries that coddle the rogue regime." On condition of anonymity, the official said the President "will speak in extremely tough terms about the North Korean menace, and the threat it poses to our security and the security of all the nations in that room." He will also "talk about as well the enablement of the North Korean regime and what that means, too." The Times says that Trump's "remarks will be aimed directly at China and Russia, the biggest sponsors and protectors of Kim Jong-un's hermit kingdom, although those two nations won't have representatives at the gathering in New York."

Citing a White House aide, [USA Today](#) (9/19, Jackson) reports Trump is also expected to "argue nations can find opportunities to work together on shared threats, in particular, those from North Korea" as well as Iran. Nonetheless, Trump is also expected to "promote the idea that each country should respond to its own needs – and the needs of its citizens – above all others," a position dubbed "principled realism." The aide added that Trump favors fostering global stability over nation-building or spreading democracy, which the aide said is "accomplished through countries that are more secure, countries that are more prosperous, and countries that are more sovereign."

Gerald F. Seib, in his column for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/18, Seib), examines potential diplomatic strategies that the international community can employ to dissuade North Korea from pursuing its goal of nuclear weapons and missile programs, and says the success of these approaches may hinge on what Kim Jong-un ultimately wants to achieve. Seib adds that a long-term strategy of containment remains an option if diplomatic approaches fail to reverse North Korea's nuclear program; while expensive and frightening, he says, such an approach is still preferable to the threat of war on the Korean Peninsula.

Media Analyses: As Graham-Cassidy Gains Momentum, Democrats Look To Run Out The Clock.

Reports say that Affordable Care Act repeal-and-replace legislation proposed by Sens. Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy gained momentum on Monday as Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey said he backs the bill – an important endorsement, since Sen. John McCain, who cast the deciding vote against the last GOP attempt at ACA repeal, has said that Ducey's position would be important in his determining how he would vote. But in order for the measure to advance with 51 votes (or 50 and a tie-breaker by Vice President Pence) under the reconciliation process, the bill must pass by September 30, so as [Politico](#) (9/18, Caygle) reports, Democratic leaders are pressing for a full Congressional Budget Office analysis of the bill, which would take time. [USA Today](#) (9/18, Collins)

reports that a spokesman for Senate Majority Leader McConnell said that the CBO has been asked "to produce an expedited analysis" of the bill – though [The Hill](#) (9/18, Carney) reports that Democrats have other "delaying tactics at their disposal."

The [New York Times](#) (9/18, A1, Pear) reports that "a last-ditch push to obliterate" the ACA "could be nearing a showdown vote in the Senate, and a handful of Republicans insist they are closing in on the votes." Graham and Cassidy "say their drive is gaining momentum." The Times says the bill is "still a long shot," though most other sources disagree. [Politico](#) (9/18, Everett, Haberkorn) reports under the headline "Momentum Builds For Obamacare Repeal" that the "last-gasp Obamacare repeal effort is gaining steam," and Perry Bacon Jr. of [FiveThirtyEight](#) (9/18) writes that 41 senators are "almost certain to vote yes," and five more are "likely" to back the legislation. Bacon says the bill could pass, since McCain is an "extremely close friend" of Graham's. Bacon writes, "I have some doubt that McCain would vote down a bill that Graham has advocated so strongly for." And Ducey's backing "could also move the Arizona senator towards supporting it."

[The Hill](#) (9/18, Sullivan) calls Ducey's support "a crucial boost for [the bill's] chances." Ducey said Monday, "Congress has 12 days to say 'yes' to Graham-Cassidy. It's time for them to get the job done." McCain "has said that Ducey's position would be an important factor in how he votes." The [Washington Times](#) (9/18, Howell) reports that Graham "took Mr. Ducey's support and ran with it," saying, "With Gov. Ducey's support, we are gaining the momentum we need to repeal and replace Obamacare. Gov. Ducey rightly believes he can do a better job delivering healthcare to Arizonans than some nameless, faceless bureaucrat in Washington." In response to Ducey's announcement, Graham [tweeted](#), "Great day for federalism, bad day for Obamacare."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/18, Cunningham) says that the "political prospects for the bill...seemed to be improving by the hour Monday." In addition to Ducey's backing, "some moderate senators whose votes are crucial have either signed onto the bill or at least haven't ruled it out yet." However, [McClatchy](#) (9/18, Dumain) reports that Gov. Henry McMaster of Graham's home state of South Carolina has yet to sign on.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/18, Levey) says the "last-ditch Republican push...appeared to pick up momentum" with Ducey's support. Graham-Cassidy "would go far beyond repealing key parts of President Obama's signature healthcare law. It would fundamentally change how states and the federal government divide the cost of providing healthcare." It would "give states broad new authority to completely overhaul their healthcare systems," and "redistribute tens of billions in federal aid." The [New York Times](#) (9/18) says the bill "would also make permanent, structural changes to the Medicaid program for beneficiaries who qualified before the expansion, converting it from an open-ended federal health care program to one that caps federal spending on each beneficiary."

Johnson Says Homeland Security And Governmental Affairs Committee Will Hold Hearing. The [Washington Post](#) (9/18, Weigel) reports that though the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee would be the most likely venue for a hearing on the bill, Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Chairman Ron Johnson plans to hold a hearing in his committee. The Post writes that though "it's not unusual for this committee to hold hearings on government spending and best practices," it is "not, nor has it ever been, one of the committees that health insurance legislation has had to move through." The hearing "strikes opponents of the legislation as an attempt to check a box and say the bill has been vetted," and McCain has said that the Senate HELP Committee should be the venue. The [Washington Times](#) (9/18, Howell) says Johnson's move is "viewed as a table-setter for a potential vote on the last-gasp Obamacare repeal bill."

Meadows Says House Would Pass Bill; Tea Party Patriots Lends Support. [Politico](#) (9/18, Bade) reports that Rep. Mark Meadows (R-NC), who leads the House Freedom Caucus, "predicted Monday that the House would pass a last-ditch effort to repeal Obamacare if it clears the Senate, with conservatives getting on board." [Breitbart](#) (9/18, Moran) reports, "The Tea Party Patriots joined the Family Research Council and the Susan B. Anthony List to endorse" the measure, but said that once passed, the House could improve the measure by repealing "regulations such as community ratings and essential benefits."

Conway Says Trump Would Sign "Meaningful Repeal And Replace Legislation." Kellyanne Conway said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (9/18) that another healthcare vote "could happen" before the end of September. Conway added that "the Graham-Cassidy bill is gaining in support and steam. Many of the governors like it. I'm told we're close to 50 votes or so in the Senate. ... [President Trump] is ready. You put meaningful repeal and replace legislation on his desk and he will sign it." [Politico](#) (9/18, Nelson) reports on Conway's remarks.

Paul Says He Will Oppose "Fake Repeal" Graham-Cassidy. Sen. Rand Paul writes on the [Fox](#)

[News](#) (9/18, Paul) website, "I must add to the list of ObamaCare Lite plans to oppose the new Graham/Cassidy bill that was introduced last week in the Senate. ... In no way is it repeal the way we promised. I will oppose this bill as I did the other fake repeal bills, and I urge those who want repeal to do so, as well."

House Democrats Tweet Opposition. As was the case when previous Senate GOP repeal-and-replace bills were under consideration, many House Democrats took to Twitter to express their opposition, while their GOP colleagues did not weigh in. Rep. Nanette Barragán (D-CA) [tweeted](#), "#GrahamCassidy is just another terrible #TrumpCare bill that deprives Americans of healthcare." Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-PA) [tweeted](#), "We can't let up and must defeat #GrahamCassidy or millions will suffer." Rep. Joe Crowley (D-NY) [tweeted](#), "Democrats aren't going to stand by as Republicans attempt to sabotage America's health care system." Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO) [tweeted](#), "Don't be fooled – #GrahamCassidy is not a kinder, gentler repeal of #ACA. It will still rip coverage from at least 15 million Americans." Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ) [tweeted](#), "Don't let @SenateGOP fool you... #GrahamCassidy is every bit as ruthless as previous versions of #TrumpCare." Rep. Joe Kennedy III (D-MA) [tweeted](#), "Old enough to remember when @SenateGOP promised they wouldn't take health care away from a sick child."

Rep. Ruben Kihuen (D-NV) [tweeted](#), "Nevadans desperately need common-sense solutions that will expand access, keep healthcare costs low & stabilize markets. NOT #GrahamCassidy." Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY) [tweeted](#), "#GrahamCassidy bill is just the latest version of #Trumpcare. Still just as bad & endangers care. We must still fight to #ProtectOurCare." Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ) [tweeted](#), "#GrahamCassidy= #Trumpcare. Will cost NJ more \$ & leave more uninsured." Rep. Kathleen Rice (D-NY) [tweeted](#), "Tired of 'repeal & replace?' GOP is back at it again. Speak up & help defeat it – again." Rep. Tim Walz (D-MN) [tweeted](#), "I implore @SenateMajLdr & @SenateGOP to heed calls from within their own party for regular order and bipartisanship. Abandon #GrahamCassidy." Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY) [tweeted](#), "The GOP can't seem to get the message. New #TrumpCare called #GrahamCassidy is another heartless attempt to take away care from millions."

Obama-Era CMS Chief: GOP "Putting All Eggs In Graham Cassidy." Former Acting Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Andy Slavitt [tweeted](#), "Republican leadership now putting all eggs in Graham Cassidy. Word is no bipartisan deal and no waivers. Strong arm calls tonight."

Blumstein: Clarification Legislation Could Lead SCOTUS To Kill ACA. James Blumstein of the Vanderbilt University Health Policy Center writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/18) that Republicans could kill the ACA by passing legislation stating that Congress did not intend to use its taxation power to enforce the individual mandate. Since Chief Justice Roberts' deciding vote in upholding the ACA in 2012 was based on congressional taxation authority, Blumstein asserts, such a clarification could lead the Supreme Court to rule the ACA unconstitutional.

Republicans Eye Mortgage Interest, State And Local Tax Deductions To Pay For Tax Cuts.

The [AP](#) (9/18, Gordon) reports that as Republicans search for "about \$1 trillion to finance sweeping tax cuts," they are focusing on "two popular deductions that are woven into the nation's fiscal fabric – the mortgage interest deduction that millions of homeowners prize and the deduction for state and local taxes popular in Democratic strongholds." According to "congressional aides and strong hints from some lawmakers," those deductions "are in the cross-hairs as Republicans look to slash the corporate and individual tax rates."

WPost Gives Ryan's Tax Reform Claims "Two Pinocchios." An analysis in the [Washington Post's](#) (9/18, Lewis) "Fact Checker" column reports that as he tries to build support "for a major overhaul of what he calls the United States' 'terrible tax system," House Speaker Ryan "sat down with the Associated Press to [discuss](#) his agenda." Ryan, the Post adds, "is very adept at citing what appear to be authoritative facts and figures." However, "Ryan's facts sometimes require careful scrutiny." The Post goes on to analyze Ryan's arguments and gives his claims "Two Pinocchios."

Cato Analysts Call For Elimination Of Low Income Housing Tax Credit. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/18), Chris Edwards, director of tax policy studies at the Cato Institute, and Vanessa Brown Calder, a housing policy analyst at Cato, make a case for the elimination of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit, arguing that while it purports to be an antipoverty program, developers, investors, and the financial industry are its main beneficiaries.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“The Republican Health Care Zombie Is Back.” A [New York Times](#) (9/19, Board) editorial outlines ways that Republican lawmakers’ proposed Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill “would in many ways be worse than bills that came before.” The Times urges the Senate to “show a little patience,” as Sens. Lamar Alexander and Patty Murray are working on “a better, more humane option.”

“A Solution To New York City’s Gridlock.” The [New York Times](#) (9/19, Board) editorializes that the severe traffic generated by the United Nations General Assembly in New York City serves as a reminder “of the need to reduce traffic in the business heart of the city through a redesigned system of tolls known as congestion pricing.” While Gov. Andrew Cuomo “has yet to flesh out details of what his plan would look like,” the Times says he “correctly sees it as a way to raise gobs of cash for the city’s ailing mass-transit network.” More importantly, “the true goal of this pricing mechanism is embodied in its name: decongesting streets for the benefit of drivers and pedestrians – and their lungs.” The Times concludes in stating that “there’s nothing regressive about plowing toll revenue into improvements for mass transit, which is how most low- and middle-income New Yorkers get around.”

“The Lingering Damage Of Ferguson’s Racism.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/19, Board) says Ferguson, Missouri “agreed to a consent decree requiring it to root out the racist and unconstitutional practices that Justice officials documented in a hair-raising report two years ago” following the fatal shooting of “an African-American teenager named Michael Brown” by a white police officer. The Times stresses that Ferguson now “has a further obligation: a moral duty to compensate victims of abusive policing.” The Times points to the case of “Fred Watson, an African-American father of two who lost his home, career and peace of mind after he was unjustly arrested five years ago, with the city prosecutor pursuing the charges until dropping them last week.” The Times reiterates that Ferguson must not only financially compensate the Watson “family and apologize for this tragedy,” but also “consider whether it could truly be complying with the consent order if it continued to hound Mr. Watson for five years.”

Washington Post.

“Twenty-Three Children Are Shot Everyday In America.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/18) writes that 23 children were shot each day in the United States in 2015, according to a Post analysis of data from the CDC and the US Consumer Product Safety Commission – a number that “represents a crisis, a serious public-health problem that demands attention.” The Post argues that Congress must act to prevent to prevent such violence and reject the national gun lobby.

“The Night One Russian Military Officer May Have Saved The World.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/18) says, “On the night of Sept. 26, 1983, in a period of Cold War tension, Stanislav Petrov, a lieutenant colonel on duty at a missile attack early-warning center south of Moscow, was jolted by an alarm of a U.S. intercontinental ballistic missile attack on the Soviet Union,” and he responded by telling “his superiors...that it was a false alarm.” The Post says that by doing so, Petrov effectively “prevented a chain of reactions by higher-level officials that could have led to catastrophe,” a move that gained him the reputation as “the man who saved the world.” The Post posits that Petrov’s story “may sound like ancient history,” but is worth remembering today because “nuclear-armed missiles in the United States and Russia are still on launch-ready alert.” The Post cautions that today’s “world, led by the United States and Russia, should find a way to back away from this danger.”

“Trump’s Immigration Crackdown Hits A Speed Bump.” The [Washington Post](#) (9/18) editorializes against San Francisco’s opposition to “handing over undocumented immigrants convicted of...violent and serious crimes.” The Post attacks liberal localities for turning a “blind eye to undocumented residents who have committed major crimes, imperil public safety and should be removed.” However, the Post says the California Values Act signed by Gov. Brown that declares California a sanctuary state “reflects the challenge[s]” that police “face in cultivating strong relations with immigrant communities, without which neither victims nor witnesses will cooperate with them,” and the Post urges the Trump Administration to “take note” of this.

Wall Street Journal.

“The Fed’s Long March To Normal.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/18) editorializes in favor of the Fed’s unwinding of its bond portfolio, saying it could boost the Fed’s credibility to return to a modest view of central banking. The Journal praises Fed Chair Janet Yellen for avoiding roiling the markets with anticipation of the move. The editorial highlights concern that as the Fed unloads

long-term bonds, investors may sell riskier assets, adversely impacting some asset classes. However, the Journal also emphasizes market uncertainty over the impact of the wind-down.

“Pelosi Faces Her Constituents.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/18) editorializes that House Minority Leader Pelosi should be commended by immigrants’ rights supporters for her role in garnering President Trump’s support for Congressional action on DACA. The Journal decries the young protesters for lacking an understanding of US legislative processes.

“Trump’s Western Firefighters.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/18) applauds Interior Secretary Zinke for issuing a memorandum last week instructing land managers and park superintendents to exercise the “full authority” of their bureaus to clear dying trees and brush in federal lands in order to “proactively work to prevent forest fires.” The Journal adds that Congress can help the Administration’s efforts to promote better forest management with legislation that reduces litigation against such efforts against fire damage.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Trump To Push Nationalist Policy At UN](#)

[The Fed, A Decade After The Crisis, Is About To Embark On The Great Unwinding](#)

[Northrop Grumman Move To Acquire Rocket Maker Reflects Military Space Race](#)

[Equifax Work For Government Shows Company’s Broad Reach](#)

New York Times:

[With A Picked Lock And A Threatened Indictment, Mueller’s Inquiry Sets A Tone](#)

[Obamacare Repeal, Thought Dead In July, May Be Revived In Senate](#)

[Trump Soft-Soaps The UN. Of Course, It Was Only Day 1](#)

[Despite Rising Seas And Bigger Storms, Florida’s Land Rush Endures](#)

Washington Post:

[ACA Repeal Effort Is Revived](#)

[Facebook’s Openness Questioned On The Hill](#)

[Trump Plans Pragmatic UN Speech](#)

[London Mayor Eyes Tax On Swanky ‘Zombie Flats’](#)

[New Head Winds For Texas Students Post-Harvey](#)

Financial Times:

[Vladimir Putin Takes A Close Look At War Games](#)

[Theresa May Moves To Tighten Grip On Brexit Process](#)

[Portuguese Bonds In Biggest Post-crisis Rally After S&P Upgrade](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump To Rail Against North Korea At U.N., Seek United Front Against Nuclear And Missile Programs](#)

[Religious Extremists In Russia Try To Shut Down Movie About Romance Of Czar Nicholas II](#)

[Graham-Cassidy Block-Grant Bill Sets Off Clashes In Senate As Obamacare Repeal Clock Ticks](#)

[Debate Will Offer Northam, Gillespie A Chance For Breakout In Tight Virginia Governor’s Race](#)

[Crown Prince’s Quick Rise Seen In Purge Of Saudi Clerics](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: Hurricane Tracking; Hurricane Jose-East Coast; Hurricanes-Caribbean; White House-Trump UN Address; St. Louis Protest; Louisiana-Racial Murders; London Terror Attack-Investigation; New York-Tour Bus Crash; Baltimore-Chemical Scare; France-American Students Attacked; National Monuments-Protected Area Reduction; Sean Spicer-Emmy Appearance; Disabled Hiker.

CBS: Hurricane Tracking; Hurricanes-Caribbean; London Terror Attack-Investigation; White House-Trump UN Address; Russia Military Training; Russia Meddling Investigation-Sputnik; San Francisco-Pelosi Protest; Los Angeles-Lead Soil Contamination; Georgia Tech Student Shooting; Tattoo-Possible Risks; Cold War-Averted Nuclear War.

NBC: Hurricanes-Caribbean; Hurricane Tracking; White House-Trump UN Address; Crippled State Department; San Francisco-Pelosi Protest; St. Louis Protest; France-American Students Attacked; London Terror Attack-Investigation; Louisiana State University-Fraternity Hazing Death; New

York-Tour Bus Crash; Toys R Us Bankruptcy; Emmy Awards; Boston Marathon Bombing Survivor.

Network TV At A Glance:

Hurricanes – 13 minutes, 10 seconds

White House-Trump UN Address – 5 minutes, 45 seconds

London Terror Attack-Investigation – 3 minutes, 55 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Georgia Tech Student Shooting; Hurricane Tracking; Wisconsin-Foxconn Incentives; Wall Street News.

CBS: Hurricane Tracking; Russia Meddling Investigation-Manafort; White House-Trump UN Address; St. Louis Protest; Georgia Tech Student Shooting.

FOX: Hurricane Tracking; Georgia Tech Student Shooting; St. Louis Protest; White House-Trump UN Address.

NPR: White House-Trump UN Address; US Military Spending Increase; National Monuments-Protected Area Reduction; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Gives an address to the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly; participates in an expanded meeting with the Amir of Qatar; participates in a photo opportunity with leaders of the United Nations Member State; gives remarks at a diplomatic reception.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a meeting with High Representative of the European Union Federica Mogherini; participates in a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi of Pakistan; participates in a diplomatic reception hosted by the President.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Business Meeting, hearing on vegetation and electricity assets – Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations of Joseph Balash to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management; Richard Glick and Kevin McIntyre to be Federal Energy Regulatory Commission members; David Jonas to be Department of Energy General Counsel; and Ryan Nelson to be Department of the Interior Solicitor * Immediately followed by hearing to examine the vegetation management requirements for electricity assets located on federal lands, Section 2310 of 'S. 1460, the Energy and Natural Resources Act of 2017', and 'H.R. 1873, the Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act', with testimony from National Forest System Associate Deputy Chief Glenn Casamassa; Bureau of Land Management Acting Deputy Director of Operations John Ruhs; Missoula Electric Cooperative General Manager Mark Hayden; The Wilderness Society Senior Regional Director – Southwest Region Scott Miller; and Arizona Public Service Forestry and Special Programs Manager Andrew Rable Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energy.senate.gov/public/>

9:30 AM Senate Agriculture Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Stephen Censky to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture; and Ted McKinney to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC <http://agriculture.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Finance Committee hearing on business tax reform – Hearing on 'Business Tax Reform', with testimony from Tax Foundation President Scott Hodge; Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center Fellow Dr Donald Marron; former American Institute of CPAs Tax Executive Committee Chair Troy Lewis; and The Real Estate Roundtable President and CEO Jeffrey DeBoer Location: Rm 215, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://finance.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Carlos Muniz to be Department of Education General Counsel; and Janet Dhillon and Dr Daniel Gade to be Equal Employment Opportunity Commission members (with Dhillon to be chair, upon confirmation) Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, with agenda including legislation including 'H.R. 390, Iraq and Syria Genocide Emergency Relief and Accountability Act of 2017', with an amendment; and 'S. XXXX, Trafficking Victims Protection

Reauthorization Act of 2017'; and the nominations of Barbara Lee and Christopher Smith to be U.S. Representatives to the United Nations General Assembly Seventy-second Session; Steven Mnuchin to be U.S. Governor of the International Monetary Fund, of the African Development Bank, of the Inter-American Development Bank, of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, of the African Development Fund, and of the Asian Development Bank; Doug Manchester to be U.S. Ambassador to the Bahamas; Kathleen Troia McFarland to be U.S. Ambassador to Singapore; and Stephen King to be U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic * Immediately followed by nominations hearing Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 419, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Jon Huntsman to be U.S. Ambassador to Russia; and A. Wess Mitchell to be Assistant Secretary of State for European And Eurasian Affairs * Immediately follows Business Meeting Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Armed Services Committee hearing on recent U.S. Navy incidents at sea (Time Change) – Hearing on 'Recent United States Navy Incidents at Sea', with testimony from Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer; Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson; and Government Accountability Office Director of Defense Force Structure and Readiness Issues John Pendleton * USS Fitzgerald collided with a container ship near Japan in June, killing seven of its sailors, while the USS John S. McCain hit an oil tanker near Singapore last month, leaving 10 of its sailors dead. Time changed from 9:30a to 10 a. Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm G50, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:30 AM Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders speaks at Good Jobs Nation 'Midwest Pick Up' Tour closing event – Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders calls on President Donald Trump to keep his campaign promise to 'stop the offshoring of good jobs', on the final stop of Good Jobs Nation's 2017 Midwest Pick Tour. Sen. Sanders is joined by Communications Workers of America President Chris Shelton, UE President Peter Knowlton, retired Steelworkers Local 1999 President Chuck Jones, Good Jobs Nation Director Joseph Geevarghese, and Our Revolution * Sen. Sanders attended the 21 Aug tour kick off rally in Indiana Location: 608 Dirksen. (NEW LOCATION) [goodjobsnation.org https://twitter.com/GoodJobsNation](https://twitter.com/GoodJobsNation)

10:30 AM Senate Commerce Committee legislative hearing – Legislative hearing on 'S.1693, The Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act of 2017', with testimony from California Attorney General Xavier Becerra; Santa Clara University School of Law Professor Eric Goldman; Internet Association General Counsel Abigail Slater; and National Center for Missing & Exploited Children Senior Vice President and General Counsel Yiota Souras Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

2:30 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

3:00 PM Senate Dems hold hearing on ways to protect and strengthen the right to vote – Democratic Policy and Communications Committee holds hearing on 'Voting Rights Under Fire: Democratic Ideas to Protect and Strengthen Americans' Constitutional Right to Vote', chaired by DPCC Chair Debbie Stabenow and fellow Democratic Sen. Amy Klobuchar. Witnesses include NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund President and Director-Counsel Sherrilyn Ifill, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights President Vanita Gupta, NAACP Detroit Branch President Rev. Dr Wendell Anthony, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund President and General Counsel Thomas Saenz, and Brennan Center Voting Rights and Election Project Manager of State Advocacy (and former West Virginia Secretary of State) Natalie Tennant Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC 212-210, Washington, DC dpcc.senate.gov

3:00 PM 'Addressing America's Opioid Problem: The Need for Evidence-Based Strategies' PCORI / Anthem briefing – 'Addressing America's Opioid Problem: The Need for Evidence-Based Strategies' briefing co-hosted by Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute and Anthem, on 'the importance and need for comparative effectiveness research to support evidence-based practices to address the opioid epidemic'. Speakers include Republican Sen. Shelley Moore Capito, Department of Veterans Affairs Health Services Research and Development Service Center for the Study of Healthcare Innovation, Implementation & Policy Associate Director Dr Stephanie Taylor, Women Veterans Comprehensive Health Center Medical Director Erin Krebs, Chronic Pain Research Alliance Director and co-founder Christin Veasley, PCORI Executive Director Joe Selby, and Anthem Vice President of Behavioral Health and Clinical Programs Sherry Dubester Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC www.pcori.org <https://twitter.com/PCORI>

US House: On recess until 25 September.

Other: 1:00 PM Romanian defense minister lays wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier – Romanian Defense Minister Mihai Fifor lays a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, as part of his official visit to the U.S., with ceremony hosted by Joint Force Headquarters-National Capital Region and the U.S. Army Military District of Washington Commanding General Maj. Gen. Michael Howard Location: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA <http://mdwhome.mdw.army.mil/> https://twitter.com/MDW_USARMY

4:00 PM Transport Secretary Chao participates in jobs discussion with Joe Biden – ‘Choosing a Future of Quality Jobs’ University of Delaware Biden Institute holds roundtable discussion hosted by former Vice President Joseph Biden, addressing the opportunities and challenges posed by transformations in the U.S. economy and how quality jobs can be created to support a growing middle class. Panelists include Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao, former Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Senior Executive Vice President Suzanne Clark, Service Employees International Union President Mary Kay Henry, MGM Resorts International Chairman and CEO Jim Murren, and Opportunity@Work President and co-founder Byron Auguste Location: Mitchell Hall, Newark, DE www.udel.edu <https://twitter.com/UDelaware>

7:45 PM Atlantic Council Global Citizen Awards Dinner – Atlantic Council Global Citizen Awards Dinner, honoring Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, South Korean President Moon Jae-in, and pianist and philanthropist Lang Lang for their ‘unique contributions toward improving the state of the world’. PM Trudeau’s award is presented by Queen Rania Al Abdullah of Jordan Location: New York, NY New York City <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org> [#ACAwards](https://twitter.com/AtlanticCouncil)

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

James Corden: “In a speech to the United Nations General Assembly this morning, Donald Trump told world leaders that the UN needs to reform itself because it’s ineffective due to bureaucracy and mismanagement. And for the first time, every nation on Earth had a reason to come together to roll their eyes at Donald Trump.”

James Corden: “President Trump told the United Nations to reform itself, citing mismanagement. Then the United Nations told President Trump to reform himself, citing mismanagement.”

James Corden: “Now he’s calling Kim Jung-Un ‘Rocket Man.’ President Trump, you’ve already ruined enough, don’t ruin Elton John lyrics for us.”

James Corden: “Last night here in Los Angeles was the prime-time Emmy Awards. ...[Former White House Press Secretary Sean] Spicer won best actor in a comedy for his role in Donald Trump’s Administration.”

Trevor Noah: “It’s United Nations week, which means New York is going to be full of people from hundreds of different nations who can’t get convicted of crimes.”

Trevor Noah: “Every year, the leaders from around the world meet in New York at the UN to discuss major global issues, basically Comic-Con for diplomats.”

Trevor Noah: “Meet Steve Mnuchin, a man who got into politics the same way Trump did – by knowing nothing about politics.”

Jimmy Fallon: “The UN General Assembly kicked off today, and I read that 193 countries will be attending. They’re all committed to one goal, making New York City traffic a total nightmare.”

Jimmy Fallon: “One expert said that because of all the quick meetings, the General Assembly is like speed dating from hell.”

Jimmy Fallon: “After meeting with officials at the UN today, President Trump says there’s a good chance of peace in the Middle East. Then he was like, ‘The bad news is, I accidentally started a war with Greenland.’”

Conan O'Brien: "A lot of people are angry about Sean Spicer's cameo on last night's Emmys. People are mad about that. They're also not thrilled to hear that Attorney General Jeff Sessions will be hosting the Latin Grammys. Not happy about that."

Conan O'Brien: "Today in New York, President Trump spoke before the United Nations General Assembly. There was an awkward moment when Trump looked into the audience and said, 'How the hell did you people get into this country?'"

Conan O'Brien: "California Governor Jerry Brown is working on a plan to build two tunnels to bring water to southern California. Now, it's California, so one tunnel's for flat water. The other is sparkling with lime."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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DOI In The News

Zinke: One-Third Of Interior Employees Not Loyal To Trump.

The [AP](#) (9/25, Daly) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said Monday in a speech to the National Petroleum Council "that nearly one-third of employees at his department are not loyal to him and President Donald Trump, adding that he is working to change the department's regulatory culture to be more business friendly." To address this, Zinke "said he is pursuing a major reorganization that would push much of the agency's decision-making outside Washington and move several agencies, including the Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Land Management, to undetermined Western states." In addition to "moving employees, Zinke said he wants to speed up permits for oil drilling, logging and other energy development that now can take years."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/25, Siciliano) reports that Zinke "also said the Endangered Species Act has been 'abused' by environmental groups and bureaucrats alike, which has stalled development." Zinke said that "the designation of animal species granted protections under the law must be less arbitrary."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/25, Siciliano) reports that in his remarks, Zinke "referred to the oil drilling method known as hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, as proof of divine love, as well as humor." He said, "Fracking is proof that God's got a good sense of humor and he loves us." However, the article says that "the statement had no context and it was unclear what Zinke was trying to say exactly."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Washington Post](#) (9/25, Matthew Daly |, Ap), the [Washington Post](#) (9/25, Matthew Daly |, Ap), the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (9/25, Daly), [ABC News](#) (9/25, Daly), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (9/25, Daly), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (9/24, Daly), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (9/25, Daly), the [Washington Times](#) (9/25, Daly), [WFMZ-TV Allentown \(PA\)](#) Allentown, PA (9/25, Daly), and [WRC-TV Washington](#) Washington (9/25, Daly).

Industry Rolls Out Clean Energy Week.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/25, Siciliano, Seigel) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Energy Secretary Rick Perry will address a gathering on Capitol Hill today to open up Clean Energy Week "on the administration and congressional side at an all-day event." The "steering committee" for the week includes: "American Wind Energy Association, Nuclear Energy Institute, American Gas Association, National Hydropower Association, Center for Liquefied Natural Gas, the Solar Energy Industries Association, and others."

Interior Boss Blasts Fired Utah BLM Law Enforcement Agent.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/25, Maffly) reports that Deputy Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt has "singled out the recent firing of a controversial Bureau of Land Management agent over Utah to illustrate a renewed commitment to hold accountable senior employees who misuse their official positions and to protect those who report such abuse." In a memo circulated Friday, Bernhardt "also mentioned another supervisory lawman recently fired in the wake of another OIG probe:" Edwin Correa, who "engaged in sexual harassment while serving as chief ranger at Canaveral National Seashore." Bernhardt wrote, "We will hold people accountable when we are informed that they have failed in their duties and obligations. Although the law in large part prevents dissemination of the details of actions taken, I am sharing these examples because you need to know that the Department has taken concrete disciplinary action in cases of serious misconduct, including those involving senior officials."

The U.S. Department Of The Interior Promises It Really Does Feel Like Fall.

[WLWT-TV Cincinnati](#) (9/25, Lucarelli) reports that on Sunday, the Interior Department “shared a few photos of Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska, which is currently bathed in beautiful gold, orange and red leaves.” According to the article, “the Facebook post shared some additional information about how quickly fall’s colors come and go, and even mentioned that snow is already taking over the landscape.”

Rambo Would Like This D.C. Office – Interior Secretary Zinke’s.

In his column for the [Washington Examiner](#) (9/25, Bedard), Paul Bedard writes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s office evokes the “Hollywood set” of a “Rambo” movie. The office contains “a scary grizzly bear and Montana bobcat picked” by Zinke “to show off the state he represented in Congress and some tools of his trade while a Navy SEAL for 23 years.” In a drawer, Zinke “keeps his SEAL knife collection showing that over two decades of design changes, the final knife he received was practically a copy of his first, proof of bureaucratic bungling.”

Federal Wildlife Regulations – Greater Sage Grouse Is Not Helped By Them.

In an op-ed for the [National Review](#) (9/26, Seasholes, Gaziano), Brian Seasholes of the Property and Environment Research Center and Todd Gaziano of the Pacific Legal Foundation write that “even with the best of intentions, federal, one-size-fits-all regulation that interferes with more-effective state and private wildlife conservation efforts can cause real harm.” They claim that “federal sage-grouse plans issued in 2015 both hurt the sage grouse and threaten thousands of productive jobs tied to almost 73 million acres of federal land in the West.” The authors assert that “killing those federal rules will help the grouse.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Representatives Urging Action On Beloit Casino.

The [Beloit \(WI\) Daily News](#) (9/25, Montgomery) reports that group of Wisconsin congressional representatives sent a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke urging action on the Ho-Chunk Nation Beloit casino plan. Sen. Tammy Baldwin and Reps. Mark Pocan, Ron Kind, and Gwen Moore wrote, “We write today to urge full, fair and prompt consideration of the Ho-Chunk Nation’s application to acquire land for gaming purposes in Beloit, Wisconsin. The Beloit community and the Ho-Chunk Nation have eagerly awaited progress for years at the federal level on the casino plan. This proposed gaming facility will provide significant economic benefits for the City of Beloit and Rock County, the State of Wisconsin and the Ho-Chunk Nation. The project will support additional business development and infrastructure improvements in the region. It will allow the tribe to expand educational, housing and health care services for its members.”

BIA Takes Over Jail On Fort Belknap Reservation.

The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (9/25, Larson) reports that “after 20 years, the Bureau of Indian Affairs last week reassumed control over the jail on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation at the request of tribal officials.” Fort Belknap Tribal President Mark Azure “said tribal officials decided last week to return control of the detention facility to the Bureau of Indian Affairs.” The cost of operating the facility was cited for the decision.

Bureau Of Land Management

Feds Move Ahead With Oil And Gas Leases On Southern Utah Lands Rich In Ancient Puebloan Ruins.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/25, Maffly) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is planning to continue with a proposed oil and gas lease of 43 parcels in the Ancestral Puebloan habitation area of southeastern Utah. Wilderness Society Senior Counsel said, “BLM is rushing to give Utah’s wild public lands to the oil and gas industry, over the objections of the American public who value these lands for recreation and our shared history.” The public can submit comments on the environmental assessment until Oct. 23.

Groups Riled Over Proposed Oil And Gas Leases.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/25, O’Donoghue) reports that “industry-nominated federal land for

potential oil and gas development in southeastern Utah is stoking a roar of criticism among environmental groups that say the acreage should be off-limits." The Bureau of Land Management is "proposing a March lease sale of minerals on 51,400 acres, including land near the San Juan River, Hovenweep National Monument and areas that include more than 1,000 documented archaeological resources." Michael Saul, with the Center for Biological Diversity, also "said the proposal risks natural and cultural treasures in the area near the newly created Bears Ears National Monument."

County To BLM: Get Rid Of Obama's Fracking Regs.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (9/26, Harmon) reports that on Monday, the Mesa County Commission voted to send a letter to the Bureau of Land Management urging it to drop its Obama-era rule regulating hydraulic fracturing on federal lands. The commission wrote that the rule "unnecessarily burdens industry with compliance costs and information requirements that are duplicative of regulatory programs of many states and some tribes" and that the state rules are "sufficient to deal with the development of oil and gas" on federal lands.

County Approves Red River Land Dispute Settlement.

The [Wichita Falls \(TX\) Times Record News](#) (9/25, Kowalick) reports that Wichita County Commissioners "approved a draft of a settlement Monday concerning the Red River land dispute." The commissioners "said the settlement had to be approved by all the parties involved and they were not sure when the agreement would be finalized."

BLM Conceals Information About Home On BLM Land.

The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (9/25) editorializes that the Bureau of Land Management in Prineville has "shown contempt for the public's right to know what's going on regarding a private home built on BLM land outside of Prineville." The paper accuses of the BLM of "redaction and refusal" as a way to "hide what it's doing." The paper asserts that "the public is entitled to know how well or how poorly public land is being managed to keep government accountable." However, it concludes that "the BLM has gone out of its way to block understanding of this home and the property on which it sits."

Bureau Of Reclamation

U.S., Mexico On Verge Of New Colorado River Water Pact.

[Bloomberg BNA](#) (9/25, Baltz) reports that "an agreement amending the longstanding treaty between the U.S. and Mexico on management of the Colorado River will continue the practice of water shortage sharing, but also fund new conservation and environmental programs, and aim to reduce the risk of ruinous drought." The two countries are "tentatively scheduled to execute the agreement—Minute 323, an amendment to a 1944 water treaty—on Sept. 26 in Mexico's Ciudad Juarez." Minute 323 will "govern water flows in the Colorado River and other water management issues by extending an existing binational agreement, Minute 319, which was set to expire at the end of 2017."

Unique Fish Tunnel Closer To Reality At Lake Cle Elum.

The [Yakima \(WA\) Herald-Republic](#) (9/23, Regimbal) reports that "if all goes well over the next three years, thousands of fish will be able to leave Lake Cle Elum to head to the sea for the first time in eight decades." According to the article, "plans for the construction of a first-of-its kind tunnel allowing the fish to escape have made a huge step forward with the awarding of a \$15.2 million contract." Richard Visser, a project manager with the federal Bureau of Reclamation's Yakima field office, said, "If we're able to reintroduce those fish, we'll see recreational benefits and a lot of ecological benefits to the system as well."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Enviros Fight Environmental Protections.

The [Daily Caller](#) (9/24, Pearce) reports that "environmentalists are suing the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for suspending environmental regulations in order to construct a border wall along the U.S. boundary with Mexico, despite evidence of 'significant' environmental damage

caused by illegal immigration." The Center for Biological Diversity Rep. Raúl Grijalva, "who sits on CBD's advisory board, are calling the DHS waivers 'unconstitutional' acts that represent 'dangerous disregard for our environment.'" A May CBD report on the border wall states: "Trump's border wall will be a deathblow to already endangered animals on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border. A wall will block movement of many wildlife species, precluding genetic exchange, population rescue and movement of species in response to climate change."

Also reporting on the wall is the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (9/25, Kapoor).

Tucson Lawsuit Seeks To Protect Jaguars From Rosemont Mine.

The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (9/25, Prendergast) reports that "a Tucson environmental group sued two federal agencies Monday in an effort to protect the habitat of jaguars in Southern Arizona from the proposed Rosemont Mine." The Center for Biological Diversity "asked a federal judge to rule the U.S. Forest Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service violated federal law in their analysis of the environmental impacts of the proposed copper mine in the Santa Rita Mountains." The group claims the FWS "violated the Endangered Species Act and the Administrative Procedure Act by issuing new regulations defining damage to habitat and by revising the critical habitat designation for the jaguar, according to the lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Tucson."

Also reporting are the [Tucson \(AZ\) Sentinel](#) (9/25, Ingram) and [Law360](#) (9/25, Rodriguez).

Mississippi River Islands Added To Great Rivers National Wildlife Refuge.

[KWMU-FM](#) St. Louis (9/25, Chen) reports that the Great Rivers National Wildlife Refuge is "acquiring two islands on the Mississippi River to protect wildlife and provide more areas for outdoor recreation." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has "given \$677,500 to the refuge in northeast Missouri, a portion of \$21.9 million the U.S. Department of the Interior dedicated to conserving public lands in 16 states." According to the article, "a family near the river used to farm on the 702-acre property, called Slim and Haps Islands, but stopped as flooding increased along the Mississippi River."

Concerns Surface At Water Bottling Hearing.

The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (9/25, Scott) reports that "a divisive plan to build a water bottling plant near the Flathead River has drawn intense scrutiny since an initial permitting application revealed the full scope of the proposal in January 2016, and emotions have run high ever since." According to the article, "last week, dozens of neighbors continued their efforts to halt the proposed development in an administrative setting, during a hearing before the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, one of the state agencies charged with approving or denying plans by the Montana Artesian Water Company." Over "the course of the three-day hearing in Kalispell, attorneys representing around 40 objectors laid out their case against the plant, arguing that the state erred when it issued a preliminary water rights permit after determining it would cause 'no adverse impacts' to other water rights owners in the area."

Report: Sand Miners Disturbing West Texas Lizard's Habitat.

The [Texas Tribune](#) (9/25, Najmabadi) reports that "sand mining operations in oil-rich West Texas have disturbed at least 292 acres of a threatened lizard's habitat this year — and could impact up to 23,000 acres, according to an advocacy group's analysis published Monday." Defenders of Wildlife has "identified nine sand-mining operations that broke ground earlier this year and disturbed almost 300 acres" of the dunes sagebrush lizard's habitat and "surrounding buffer areas between February and August." The group also "used the nine sand mines' lease information to predict that over 23,000 acres, or 9.5 percent, of the lizard's habitat and buffer zones could eventually be disturbed or destroyed."

Also reporting are and the [Texas Observer](#) (9/25, Sadasivam).

Minnesota Wolf Population Appears To Rise 25 Percent.

The [AP](#) (9/25, Karnowski) reports that "Minnesota's gray wolf population appears to have grown by 25 percent thanks to more deer, the Department of Natural Resources said Monday." The article notes that "Minnesota's wolf population remains well above both the state's minimum goal of at least 1,600 and the federal minimum goal range of 1,251 to 1,400." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has "long contended that wolves in Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan are no longer threatened, so hunting and trapping can be allowed under state control."

National Park Service

Park Service Report: Obama Water Bottle Sales Ban Had ‘Significant’ Benefits.

[The Hill](#) (9/25, Cama) reports that “an internal National Park Service (NPS) staff report concluded that an Obama administration effort to ban sales of bottled water at some parks had ‘significant environmental benefits.’” The report was “released publicly in response to a Freedom of Information Act request, more than a month after the NPS rescinded the policy, which had been opposed by the bottled water industry and some Republicans.” In the report prepared in May, park service “staff estimated that on an annual basis, at least 1.32 million disposable plastic water bottles, and up to 2.01 million, were not purchased due to the 2011 policy. That saved up to 111,743 pounds of plastic, 141 million tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent greenhouse gases and 3.4 billion British thermal units of energy, the NPS report estimated, based on the 23 Park Service units that submitted data.” The results demonstrate “the program has significant positive environmental benefits that encompass the entire life cycle” of disposable bottles, and that officials at the parks themselves support the program, the report said.

The [Sierra \(CA\) Sun Times](#) (9/25) reports that Rep. Mike Quigley cited the report to call for the NPS to reinstate the water bottle ban. Quigley said, “The Trump Administration’s rationale for reversing the ban on water bottle sales in National Parks is nonsensical and nonexistent, especially given the fact they actively ignored the Park Service’s own findings on the issue. This newly released report makes it clear as day that the Trump Administration will continue to deny science, research, and facts in its efforts to prioritize big corporations at the expense of our wildlife and environment. We know that this is an issue where a simple and reasonable solution would have a profound impact as we work to preserve our pristine natural places. I will continue fighting for the end of water bottle sales in National Parks, and I hope this eye-opening report will push others in the same direction.”

What Happens When A Superstorm Hits D.C.?

[Rolling Stone](#) (9/21, Nobel) reports that Washington, D.C.’s “defense” against hurricanes “begins with a little-known levee system,” called the Potomac Park Levee System, which is operated by the National Park Service. One of the NPS’ responsibilities is deploying a “removable flood wall.” However, the workers of the agency’s Division of Facility Management have “practiced setting up the barrier on just three occasions, though never at night, in the rain, or in the face of an actual hurricane or flood.” Disaster experts say “the list of things that could go wrong is long.”

Photographer Captures Last Photos Of Sperry Chalet Still Standing.

[KBZK-TV](#) Butte, MT (9/25, Miller) reports that a Flathead Valley photographer “may have taken the last pictures of the Sperry Chalet standing.” Landscape photographer Brett Bouda has “been capturing Glacier National Park since 2004, but this year he says the rich amount of blooming Beargrass is what captured him.” Bouda “spent hours shooting the rustic lodge from every angle enshrouded in Beargrass – not knowing that just weeks later the historical treasure would burn in the Sprague Fire.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KRTV-TV Great Falls \(MT\)](#) Great Falls, MT (9/25, Miller).

OBX Beachgoers Discover 2 Unexploded Ordnance Along NC Coastline Monday.

The [Raleigh \(NC\) News & Observer](#) (9/25, Petiford) reports that “two possible mines were discovered in separate areas along the North Carolina coast on Monday.” One was discovered on Whale Head Beach in Corolla, and “a second washed up on a beach near Cape Hatteras National Seashore.” According to the article, “explosive ordnance disposal units are investigating both devices.” Also reporting is [WXII-TV Winston-Salem \(NC\)](#) Winston-Salem, NC (9/25).

The National Park Service Allows Boats To Land At Santa Barbara Island.

The [Ventura County \(CA\) Star](#) (9/25, Carlson) reports that “a small remote island that is part of the Channel Islands National Park has reopened to the public.” However, “its dock, damaged in last winter’s storms, will stay closed.” The National Park Service will “allow public access to those landing at a rocky ledge adjacent to the dock.”

Sandy Hook Lighthouse Closes For Restoration Work.

The [Red Bank-Shrewsbury \(NJ\) Patch](#) (9/25, Wall) reports that “the historic Sandy Hook Lighthouse, the oldest lighthouse in the nation, is closing to tours for repairs and restoration work, the National Park Service announced.” The NPS “announced the closure on the Sandy Hook

Gateway National Park website late last week." According to the NPS, "the closure began Monday and is expected to last until May 2018."

Office Of Insular Affairs

North Korea Says Trump "Declared War," Warns It Could Shoot Down US Bombers.

All three networks Monday night reported on remarks by North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho that President Trump's tweet that Kim Jong-un "won't be around much longer" constituted "a declaration of war" against his country – a claim the Administration quickly rejected.

[Reuters](#) (9/25, Nichols, Kim) reports speaking to reporters at New York, Ri said, "The whole world should clearly remember it was the US who first declared war on our country. Since the United States declared war on our country, we will have every right to make countermeasures, including the right to shoot down United States strategic bombers even when they are not inside the airspace border of our country."

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/25, story 6, 1:20, Muir), Martha Raddatz said North Korea is "calling the escalating public threats from President Trump a 'declaration of war.'" While US bombers are "pushing...the farthest north they've been in nearly two decades, North Korea [is] now threatening to shoot those bombers down." Richard Engel said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/25, story 5, 2:20, Guthrie), "On the same day North Korea said the US has declared war, it released a computer simulation showing how it would destroy American aircraft and set a carrier ablaze. Its propaganda, but experts say there is now a real risk of an exchange of fire with nuclear-armed North Korea or worse."

David Martin said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/25, story 3, 2:25, Mason) that North Korea "has intercepted American aircraft before. In 2003, this North Korean MIG surprised a US reconnaissance plane conducting a patrol off the coast. But its planes are a decade older now and its air force has been allowed to languish while Kim Jong-un pours all his country's resources into ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons."

The [AP](#) (9/25, Lederer) notes that Ri's remarks do not mark "the first time North Korea has spoken about a declaration of war between the two countries." In July 2016, Pyongyang said US sanctions imposed on Kim were "a declaration of war."

The [New York Times](#) (9/25, Gladstone, Sanger) reports that "within hours, the Trump administration pushed back on Mr. Ri's assertions," with White House press secretary Sarah Sanders telling reporters: "We have not declared war on North Korea." [Reuters](#) (9/25) reports Sanders called the notion "absurd."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/25, Demick) reports that the White House "quickly scoffed at the comments," and National Security Adviser McMaster said it would be "a suicide mission" if North Korea decided to attack the US. The [Washington Times](#) (9/25, Muñoz) reports McMaster "laid bare the dire situation the Trump administration has now found itself in regarding the threat posed by North Korea," saying, "What we hope to do is avoid war, but we cannot completely discount that possibility." [Bloomberg News](#) (9/25, Talev) reports he also said the North "must accept inspections of its nuclear facilities and declare it's willing to give up its atomic weapons before the US will negotiate with its government."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/25, Morello) reports that the State Department also "rejected Ri's characterization that the two countries are in a state of open war." Spokeswoman Katina Adams said, "The United States has not 'declared war' on North Korea. We continue to seek a peaceful denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. No nation has the right to fire on other nations' aircraft or ships in international airspace or waters."

[USA Today](#) (9/25, Onyanga-Omara, Bacon) reports Pentagon spokesman Col. Robert Manning "quickly responded" that "If North Korea does not stop their provocative actions, you know, we will make sure that we provide options to the president to deal with North Korea." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/25, Fassihi) quotes Manning as saying, "We are prepared to defend ourselves and our allies from an attack and are prepared to use the full range of capabilities at our disposal against the threat from North Korea."

The [AP](#) (9/25, Pennington) reports that while the Administration "said Monday it's not seeking to overthrow North Korea's government," the "fiery rhetoric carrying over from a week of threatening exchanges at the UN General Assembly only further fueled fears the adversaries might stumble back into open military conflict."

Yonhap: North Korea Moving Airplanes, Boosting Defenses. [Reuters](#) (9/25, Kim) reports North Korea "has been moving airplanes and boosting defenses on its east coast after the United

States dispatched B-1B bombers to the Korean peninsula over the weekend, South Korea's Yonhap News Agency reported on Tuesday, citing the country's spy agency." South Korea's National Intelligence Service "was unable to confirm the report."

Trump Says Puerto Rico "In Deep Trouble" As Administration Officials Assess Hurricane Damage.

President Trump wrote in a [tweet](#) Monday evening, "Texas & Florida are doing great but Puerto Rico, which was already suffering from broken infrastructure & massive debt, is in deep trouble." In a subsequent [pair of tweets](#), Trump wrote, "It's old electrical grid, which was in terrible shape, was devastated. Much of the Island was destroyed, with billions of dollars...owed to Wall Street and the banks which, sadly, must be dealt with. Food, water and medical are top priorities – and doing well. #FEMA." The tweets came as the Administration is seeking to "blunt criticism that its response to Hurricane Maria has fallen short of its efforts in Texas and Florida after the recent hurricanes there," the [AP](#) (9/26, Biesecker, Taylor) reports.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/25, Achenbach, Lamothe, Horton) reports in a front-page story that the Administration "is under pressure to speed up recovery efforts." While the Administration said Monday "that its response has been robust," officials "leading the response and recovery admit they're facing serious logistical challenges, starting with damage to the ports and airports." A separate story in the [Washington Post](#) (9/25, Wagner) says Trump is "facing mounting questions about his commitment to Puerto Rico's recovery."

Also Monday, FEMA Director Long and Homeland Security Adviser Bossert traveled to the island "to assess the widespread damage caused by Hurricane Maria," [The Hill](#) (9/25, Fabian) reports. The trip is part of what White House press secretary Sarah Sanders called an "'unprecedented movement' planned by the administration to respond to the hurricane, which left much of the island without electricity and water." It comes as Gov. Ricardo Rosselló and others "say federal aid has not come fast enough." David Begnaud said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/25, story 4, Mason) that Rosselló "says he has pleaded for more money from FEMA. So far \$1 billion has been earmarked for recovery, but it's not apparent here yet."

The [New York Times](#) (9/25, Robles, Alvarez, Fandos) reports that Rosselló "said the island was on the brink of a 'humanitarian crisis' and it was up to Congress to prevent a deepening disaster." Rosselló "did not mince words about the potential impact on the mainland, where Puerto Ricans are expected to arrive in droves to escape the post-Maria hardships they will face on the island, including a shortage of already hard-to-find jobs."

Eva Pilgrim said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/25, story 4, 2:25, Muir) that "many days removed from Hurricane Maria making landfall...there are still several neighborhoods that are flooded." Gabe Gutierrez said in the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/25, lead story, 2:55, Holt) that while "the massive cleanup effort is under way," there is "still a desperate need to communicate. No power and no end in sight." In a separate story, [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/25, story 2, 2:25, Holt) reported on Air National Guard operation being run out of Savannah International Airport in Georgia to provide humanitarian aid to the island.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/25, Friedman) reports that the catastrophe modeling firm AIR Worldwide said Monday that Maria caused \$40 billion to \$80 billion in insured losses, 85 percent of which is in Puerto Rico. The [Miami Herald](#) (9/25, Daugherty) reports that while a FEMA spokesperson said the agency "has just over \$5 billion in uncommitted disaster relief money as of Monday morning," those funds "won't last long," and Congress "will likely need to pass additional funding bills to manage long-term recovery efforts in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico before the end of the year." The Herald sites "a Republican staffer with knowledge of the appropriations process," who said that "federal funding for hurricane relief will be 'fine until mid-October' and that Congress will likely vote on an additional funding bill in the next three weeks."

Lawmakers Criticize Administration Response. Sen. Chris Murphy said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/25), "The Administration's response to the crisis in Puerto Rico has been wholly insufficient and inadequate. ... This is a country right now that is in massive humanitarian crisis and the President instead of focusing on saving lives in Puerto Rico has been tweeting about NFL football players. I want a president who is going to be in the business of saving lives. Right now that means spending as much time as necessary to try to rescue Puerto Ricans from this nightmare that they are living through. And right now we clearly have an administration that is very much distracted."

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) was asked on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/25, 5:17 p.m. EST, Blitzer) about the Administration response to Hurricane Maria. Jeffries said, "The only question is whether the Trump White House and the federal government should get a F for disaster or an F

for failure. It has been woefully inadequate. It's not clear to me and to many others throughout this nation whether the President and the White House realize that the individuals who are suffering down in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands are American citizens."

Pelosi: Trump Should Deploy Military To Puerto Rico. House Minority Leader Pelosi on Monday called on the President to deploy the military to aid with the humanitarian crisis, the [AP](#) (9/25, Taylor) reports. Pelosi "says Pentagon resources are needed for search-and-rescue operations, maintaining order, and help with transportation." She "said that the people of Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands 'deserve to know that their government will be there for them, without question or hesitation.'"

Most Of Puerto Rico Remains Without Power. The [AP](#) (9/25, Koenig, Choe) reports that most of the island "has been without lights or air conditioning for five nights and is looking at many, many more." [The Hill](#) (9/25, Beavers) says some "3.4 million residents in the American territory are living without electricity after the storm knocked out the power on Wednesday, with officials warning that it could be months before the lights flicker back on."

San Juan Airport Struggles The [Washington Post](#) (9/25, Lazo) says hundreds of people remained stranded Monday at Luis Muñoz Marín International, which is "struggling to return to normal" after Maria. On Monday, "only 20 commercial flights were scheduled...in San Juan, twice as many as there were Sunday." Speaking during an afternoon news conference, Long said that "significant damage to the air traffic control system is complicating resources getting in." Long also "said the hurricane also left significant damage to much of the infrastructure, from communications to the fuel systems."

The [Miami Herald](#) (9/25, Garvin) quotes an FAA spokesman as saying, "We are bringing in additional equipment on a daily basis, and our people are working like crazy. ... But we still have a radar system down, and we need more ability to communicate. Everything is being hampered by the lack of power – we're working with electricity supplied by emergency generators, not regular commercial power lines." The Herald adds that even with infrastructure improvements, "commercial airliners would still be operating on a much-reduced schedule," as FEMA "has reserved the vast majority of the airport's greatly curtailed service for military and civilian relief flights."

Rosselló Says Many Living Near Crumbling Dam Have Evacuated. [Reuters](#) (9/25, Graham, Repsaut) reports that Rosselló said Monday that many people living near the crumbling Guajataca Dam have evacuated. Cracks were seen in the dam on Friday, and Rosselló "said he was working on the assumption that the 120-foot (35-meter) dam would collapse."

East Coast Of US Under Tropical Storm Warnings. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/25, story 5, 0:50, Muir) reported that as Maria moves north, "tropical storm warnings are up along parts of the East Coast of the US tonight" and there are "mandatory evacuations for parts of North Carolina." Chief meteorologist Ginger Zee added that "the rip currents and the high surf could be possible from Florida to Massachusetts." [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/25, story 3, 0:25, Holt) reported that while the storm is "not a threat to make landfall in the US, tropical storm force winds are expected on the outer banks of North Carolina."

Office Of Surface Mining

Judge Orders Agency To Inspect Mine.

The [Coalfield \(VA\) Progress](#) (9/26, Lester) reports that "a federal judge has ruled that the federal Department of the Interior improperly denied a citizens' request for inspection of a local strip mine." James Jones, "judge for Virginia's Western District federal court, ruled last Wednesday that the Interior Department's denial of an inspection of selenium levels at Red River Coal Co.'s Greater Wise No. 1 mine was arbitrary and capricious."

US Geological Survey

Earthquake Early-Warning System Is Coming To The West Coast.

[NBC News](#) (9/25, Lant) reports that "early-warning systems for earthquakes like the one that saved lives recently in Mexico City are highly effective, but the USGS ShakeAlert program is in jeopardy thanks to disputes over funding." According to the article, "the ShakeAlert system and everyone relying on it are at risk, as the USGS has been targeted for funding reductions by the current administration." the article says that "the proposed \$137.8 million reduction would have

ended the program.” But “for now, the USGS budget was set at \$1 billion for 2018 by Congress, a cut of only \$46 million, which will keep ShakeAlert alive for at least another year.”

Additional Reading.

- *The Big One At San Andreas Fault: A Huge Earthquake Will Hit California—It’s Just A Matter Of When.* [Newsweek](#) (9/25, Lowe).
- *Audio: More Wildfires Mean More Dirt Flowing Into Your Drinking Water Supply.* [Southern California Public Radio](#) (9/25, Guerin).
- *Bird Nesting Boxes Installed At Myers Park.* [Racine \(WI\) Journal Times](#) (9/25, Burke).
- *Carp, Clams And Crested Floating-hearts: Louisiana On Alert For Invasive Species.* [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (9/25, Sneath).
- *Civic Tech Strengthens Cities On National Day Of Civic Hacking.* [Huffington Post](#) (9/25, Ardalan, Contributor).
- *Puerto Rico’s Hilly Terrain Worsened Hurricane Maria’s Damage.* [LiveScience](#) (9/25, Thompson).
- *Sea Otter Researchers Hoping To See Positive Population Trends Continue.* [KSBW-TV](#) Monterey, CA (9/25, Conrad).
- *Magnitude 6.0 Earthquake Strikes Off Papua New Guinea: USGS.* [Reuters](#) (9/25).

Top National News

Media Analyses: Graham-Cassidy Appears To Be Dead As Collins Announces Opposition.

Various sources say that the revised legislation from Sens. Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act is essentially dead after Sen. Susan Collins became the third Republican senator to announce her opposition. Collins’ announcement late Monday eclipsed coverage of a raucous Senate hearing on the bill earlier in the day, during which many protesters were forcibly removed. For his part, President Trump was expressing pessimism Monday even before Collins’ announcement.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/25, story 3, 2:50, Muir) reported, “Republicans could only afford to lose one more vote, and tonight, it appears they’ve lost it.” ABC’s Mary Bruce: “With protests mounting tonight, the Republican healthcare bill appears doomed to fail.” Collins “says she is a no, making her the third senator to come out against the bill. ... The dramatic move comes after opposition to the Republican healthcare bill came roaring through the halls of Capitol Hill, [with] anger and frustration boiling over” as “protester after protester [was] hauled off and arrested, many in wheelchairs.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/25, story 4, 2:25, Guthrie) similarly reported that Collins made her announcement “hours after protests erupted inside the Capitol, [with] some demonstrators in wheelchairs dragged from the hearing.”

The [AP](#) (9/25, Fram) reports, “The last-gasp Republican drive to tear down” the ACA “essentially died Monday” as Collins “joined a small but decisive cluster of GOP senators in opposing the push.” Collins “said the legislation is ‘deeply flawed,’ despite several changes its sponsors have made in an effort to round up support.” The [New York Times](#) (9/25, A1, Kaplan) reports under the headline “Health Bill Appears Dead As Pivotal G.O.P. Senator Declares Opposition” that in addition to Collins, Sens. John McCain and Rand Paul had also come out in opposition, and Sen. Ted Cruz “said on Sunday that he had not yet been won over.” The [Washington Post](#) (9/25, A1, Sullivan, Cunningham, Phillip) reports that the “latest Republican effort to unwind [the ACA] collapsed” due to Collins’ opposition. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/25, Armour, Peterson) also reports that Graham-Cassidy appeared to be dead.

[USA Today](#) (9/25, Collins) reports that Collins’ announcement “came just after the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office released a limited analysis estimating ‘the number of people with comprehensive health insurance that covers high-cost medical events would be reduced by millions’ under the legislation over the next decade.” Collins said in a statement, “The CBO’s analysis on the earlier version of the bill, incomplete though it is due to time constraints, confirms that this bill will have a substantially negative impact on the number of people covered by insurance.”

[Politico](#) (9/25, Everett) reports, “Republicans in the Senate and White House are now resigned to defeat in their final bid to repeal Obamacare this week. ... Trump seemed far more pessimistic on Monday morning than he had been last week, telling the ‘Rick & Bubba’ radio show that he expected crippling opposition, calling it ‘disgusting’ that party leaders can’t pass a bill to repeal and replace the 2010 health law.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/25, Mascaró, Levey) reports

that "even before Collins' announcement," Trump "sounded increasingly doubtful about the bill's chances," saying on the Rick and Bubba Show, broadcast on several Alabama stations, "We're going to lose two or three votes, and that's the end of that."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/25, story 5, Mason) reported, "In our new CBS News poll, only 29 percent of Americans approve of President Trump's handling of healthcare," and CBS' Nancy Cordes reported that Trump "vented about his party's healthcare woes on an Alabama radio show." Trump: "It's disgusting. ... They pander and they grandstand. You look at McCain, what McCain has done, is a tremendous slap in the face of the Republican Party." Cordes: "But a new CBS News poll finds most Americans share McCain's view: Only 20 percent approve of Graham-Cassidy."

Sen. Chris Murphy said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/25), "Of course Susan Collins is voting no on this legislation. Any rational human being would vote against this monstrosity. It's got a 20 percent approval rating in the American public because it essentially is the equivalent of healthcare arson." Ryan Grim of The Intercept [tweeted](#), "Collins says that while she's the third public no there were many other Republicans against or leaving strongly against."

[Roll Call](#) (9/25, Lesniewski) reports that Collins "delivered the likely final blow to the GOP's latest effort to repeal and replace" the ACA. [Reuters](#) (9/25, Cornwell, Cowan) reports that the "last ditch Republican effort...appeared doomed." [Bloomberg News](#) (9/25, Tracer, Litvan, Edney), the [Washington Times](#) (9/25, Howell), the [Washington Examiner](#) (9/25, King), and the [Huffington Post](#) (9/25, Cohn) also report on Collins' decision.

Dana Milbank writes in his [Washington Post](#) (9/25) column, "Now this sorry process is heading to a sorry end. Obamacare repeal failed in the Senate. Then 'skinny repeal' failed. And now, 'last-ditch' Cassidy-Graham is foundering." Catherine Rampell writes in her [Washington Post](#) (9/25) column, "Trump may be a toddler, we keep telling ourselves, but at least some (comparative) grown-ups on Capitol Hill are thinking things through." Milbank calls Cassidy-Graham a "flaming turd," adding, "What's been threatening the health-care coverage of tens of millions of Americans isn't Trump. It's the entire Republican Party."

Trump Faults McCain For Bill's Demise. The [Washington Post](#) (9/25, Wagner) reports that Trump "focused his ire Monday night" on McCain, "distributing a video that showed the Arizona Republican on board with the mission in the past." Trump [tweeted](#), "A few of the many clips of John McCain talking about Repealing & Replacing O'Care. My oh my has he changed-complete turn from years of talk!" [Politico](#) (9/25, McCaskill) reports that Trump had earlier told the Rick & Bubba radio show, "That's the only reason we don't have it, because of John McCain." However, [The Hill](#) (9/25) reports that during a CNN debate on the bill, "Graham said McCain has earned the right to 'do whatever the damn hell he wants to.'"

Graham And Cassidy Debate Sanders And Klobuchar. Graham said during the [CNN](#) debate, "I want to provide high-quality healthcare for every American, including my family and yours, but we've got to find way to make it so without bankrupting the country. ... I'm here tonight because Obamacare is failing." Cassidy said during the [CNN](#) debate, "It's a decision about you versus the federal government. We side with you."

Sen. Bernie Sanders, opposing the bill, said during the [CNN](#) debate, "Every major health organization in this country, whether it is the American Medical Association, the American Hospital Association, the American Cancer Society, the Alzheimer's Society, every single major medical organization in this country thinks that their proposal is a disaster." Sen. Amy Klobuchar, also in opposition, said on [CNN](#), "I believe politics is about making people's lives better, but this bill, it doesn't do that."

The [New York Times](#) (9/25, Pear) reports that Graham has defended his healthcare legislation by comparing the block-grant model to the 1996 welfare overhaul, saying "we block granted money for welfare reform, and it worked like a charm." However, the Times says, after the welfare law passed, the number of welfare recipients dropped more than 50 percent in five years and states adjusted to less and less federal money over time. The Times concludes, "An equivalent drop in the number of people with health insurance or insurance subsidies would probably not be viewed as a great success."

USA Today Argues Against Sanders' Medicare For All Proposal. In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (9/25, Board) writes, "The Senate might vote this week on the Graham-Cassidy plan, the Republicans' latest cruel and cynical repeal-and-replace effort to deny tens of millions of Americans...their health insurance. ... Might we suggest that saving the ACA (also known as Obamacare), and pursuing bipartisan fixes, should be a much higher priority at this moment than pursuing political pipe dreams about Medicare for all?" While "there is something to be said for the single-payer approach employed in Sanders' plan...whatever good that would come from the

new pricing power in Sanders' proposal would be offset by the soak-the-rich, make-health-care-free philosophy that underpins it."

Sanders writes in response in [USA Today](#) (9/25, Sanders), "My Medicare for All Act of 2017, with 16 co-sponsors, improves and expands Medicare and, over a four-year transition period, provides health care to every man, woman and child in our country. In doing that, the US will finally join the ranks of every other major country on Earth in recognizing that health care is a right, not a privilege."

Supreme Court Cancels Travel Ban Oral Arguments, Seeking New Briefs From Both Sides.

On the [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/25, story 7, 1:15, Guthrie), Hallie Jackson briefly reported that President Trump's "original travel ban, long in legal limbo, is catching a break from the Supreme Court. The justices, set to hear arguments in two weeks, are instead postponing that, a sign the court thinks the legal battle over the old ban is moot because of the new version just unveiled." The [AP](#) (9/25, Sherman) reports that the court "canceled the scheduled Oct. 10 argument in the case and asked both sides to explain whether the matter has been overtaken by events, or in legal parlance, is moot."

[USA Today](#) (9/25, Wolf) reports, "In the wake of Trump's unveiling of Travel Ban 3.0 Sunday is that the current Supreme Court case has been altered, perhaps fatally. What's left is for the justices to get new briefs from both sides by Oct. 5 before deciding its ultimate fate." The [New York Times](#) (9/25, Liptak) reports, "By canceling the arguments for now, the court signaled that it may never decide the case."

[Reuters](#) (9/25, Chung, Rosenberg), [Bloomberg News](#) (9/25, Stohr), and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/25, Meckler, Kendall) also report on the court's order, while other sources consider the revised list of eight countries. Philip Bump of the [Washington Post](#) (9/25) writes that Chad, North Korea, and Venezuela, just added to the list, have not "seen much terrorism recently," even though "Trump has regularly asserted that the prohibitions were necessary to protect Americans from terrorist attacks." Non-listed nations including Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, and Turkey have a higher rate of terrorism.

[Reuters](#) (9/25, Ellsworth) reports that Venezuela accused Trump "of conducting 'political terrorism.'" [Bloomberg News](#) (9/25, Rosati, Rodrigues) reports that Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jorge Arreaza told the UN General Assembly that the US is "the world's 'major human rights violator'" and said that Trump "acted 'as if he were the world's emperor.'" The [New York Times](#) (9/25) reports that the addition of Chad to the list "took the Chadian government by surprise and bewildered analysts of Central Africa," while the [Washington Post](#) (9/25, Rauhala) reports experts said the inclusion of North Korea "is mostly symbolic and will have little to no effect on Kim Jong Un's regime," since very few North Koreans travel to the US.

In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/25) calls it "A Trump Travel Ban We've Seen Before," writing, "The central question to ask about President Trump's latest travel ban, which he issued on Sunday, is: Will it make Americans safer? The answer, as best as anyone can tell based on publicly available information, is no." The Times adds, "When the president has freely spouted his own longstanding animus toward adherents of the world's major religions, his actions...must be evaluated against that backdrop."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/25) says in an editorial that Trump's latest order "may be the result of a more considered process than were the first two versions. But the end product is still lacking in sense. Travel to the United States from North Korea is practically nonexistent – so why ban it? Likewise, the order indicates that Venezuelan officials will be barred as a punitive measure given their failure to cooperate – but what does this have to do with national security, the ban's ostensible purpose?" The Post concludes, "We have little reason to presume the addition of Venezuela and North Korea to be anything more than a fig leaf to disguise a would-be 'Muslim ban.'"

White House, GOP Plan To Slash Corporate Tax Rate.

The [AP](#) (9/25, Gordon, Thomas) reports that congressional Republicans and the White House are finalizing a tax plan that would slash the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to "around 20 percent" and cut the income tax rate "for the wealthiest Americans" from 39.6 percent to 35 percent, according to people familiar with the plan. The plan, set to be unveiled Wednesday, "also is expected to eliminate or reduce some tax breaks and deductions."

Bloomberg News: Trump Plan Reduces Taxes For The Rich, Hits "Democratic-Leaning States."

[Bloomberg News](#) (9/25, Kapur) reported that President Trump and GOP "leaders inched closer to releasing their tax framework this week, as details leaked to lobbyists suggested it would

dramatically cut taxes for corporations and the wealthy," offer some "middle-class tax relief and punish some households in Democratic-leaning states like New York and New Jersey. The White House said Trump will travel to Indiana Wednesday for a late-afternoon speech that will focus on the tax-overhaul effort." Bloomberg News added that Trump on Monday morning "[tweeted](#) that he has "important meetings taking place today. Big tax cuts & reform.'" Bloomberg News added that details of the plan that are "circulating among Washington lobbyists breaks from the president's recent rhetoric against tax cuts for the rich," setting "the stage for a battle with Democrats."

WSJournal A1 Analysis: Washington Newcomer Mnuchin Takes On The Tax Code. In a front-page analysis, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/25, A1, Rubin, Davidson) reports that Treasury Secretary Mnuchin for months has sought to working with Congress and the White House to craft a tax reform plan – a task Mnuchin takes on as someone with less political experience than any other recent treasury secretary. The Journal highlights Mnuchin's role during the tax negotiations as a number cruncher and White House liaison as he has worked to help create a plan that answers the Republican Party's promise of a simpler tax code with lower rates.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"A Trump Travel Ban We've Seen Before." The [New York Times](#) (9/25) says in an editorial, "The central question to ask about President Trump's latest travel ban, which he issued on Sunday, is: Will it make Americans safer? The answer, as best as anyone can tell based on publicly available information, is no." The Times adds, "When the president has freely spouted his own longstanding animus toward adherents of the world's major religions, his actions...must be evaluated against that backdrop."

"The Wreckage Of Anthony Weiner." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/25) savages ex-Rep. Anthony Weiner, saying, "His narcissism was profound and undisguised," and he "proved to be a pathetic jerk. But few jerks do as much damage as he did in his recklessness." Citing then-FBI Director James Comey's probe of Hillary Clinton's emails, the Times says Weiner "may even be responsible for Donald Trump being president."

Washington Post.

"Trump's New Travel Ban Still Has No Justification." The [Washington Post](#) (9/25) says in an editorial that President Trump's latest order "may be the result of a more considered process than were the first two versions. But the end product is still lacking in sense. Travel to the United States from North Korea is practically nonexistent – so why ban it? Likewise, the order indicates that Venezuelan officials will be barred as a punitive measure given their failure to cooperate – but what does this have to do with national security, the ban's ostensible purpose?" The Post concludes, "We have little reason to presume the addition of Venezuela and North Korea to be anything more than a fig leaf to disguise a would-be 'Muslim ban.'"

"The Kremlin Creeps Into Germany." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/25) says that while Russia did not blatantly interfere in Germany's national election, "it did its best to support the" far-right Alternative for Germany, or AfD, party. As a result, Chancellor Angela Merkel will be forced "to negotiate with two smaller parties to form a governing coalition, effectively narrowing her political options," a "weakened position" that the Post says "reflects a fragmenting political environment in Europe, providing an opening for the AfD and other illiberal parties." Meanwhile, Vladimir Putin "has wasted no time exploiting this," but still President Trump has not led "a discussion in the West about how to combat Russian interference in Western democracies." The Post warns that now is the time "to raise the alarm now that gravediggers are coming for democracy, before they begin to sink their shovels into the earth."

"Hogan Shoves Transportation To The Top Of The Regional Agenda." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/25) writes that Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan's decision to push "big-ticket" suburban transportation proposals to the top of the regional agenda is a "good starting point" to addressing problems in the region's transportation system, which, without help, "will remain stuck in its current state of alarming inadequacy."

Wall Street Journal.

"The Michigan Comeback Story." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/25) in an editorial on tax reform holds up Michigan as an example of how tax reform can boost the economy. It praises Gov. Rick

Snyder for having adopted pro-growth tax reforms leading to Michigan having the strongest economic growth in the Great Lakes region. It argues that while some blamed Michigan's previously sluggish economy on competition from China and free-trade agreements, tax and regulatory policy played a bigger role.

"Cuba's Sonic Attacks." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/25, Board) in an editorial suggests the US should expel an equal number of Cubans from the Cuban embassy in Washington to the personnel at the US embassy in Havana, explaining that the diplomats could return to the US as soon as Cuba explains the harms done to the US personnel in Havana. The State Department has identified the harms as "mild traumatic brain injury and permanent hearing loss," as well as "loss of balance, severe headaches, cognitive disruption and brain swelling." It has suggested that sonic causes are behind the harms. The Journal says the US must respond in a way likely to be effective.

"Japan's Snap Elections." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/25) editorial likens Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's call for snap elections to British Prime Minister Theresa May's failed attempt in June, and says the outcome of May's effort to consolidate power shows how that strategy can backfire. For Abe, the Journal says, the move signals not the premier's strength, but rather his weakness, and Japanese voters have no clear reason to support him.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Sen. Collins Opposes Health Bill, Dealing Blow To ACA Repeal](#)
[SEC Chairman Says Agency Didn't Do Enough To Size Up 2016 Hack](#)
[Steven Mnuchin, A Washington Newcomer, Tilts At Its Hardest Target: The Tax Code](#)
[Target To Boost Minimum Wages In Battle For Workers](#)

New York Times:

[Health Bill Appears Dead As Pivotal GOP, Senator Declares Opposition](#)
[North Korea Says It Has the Right To Shoot Down US Warplanes](#)
[At Least 6 White House Advisers Used Private Email Accounts](#)
[Syrian War Drags On, But Assad's Future Looks As Secure As Ever](#)
[Was It A One-Day Revolt In The NFL, Or Something More?](#)
[Anthony Weiner Gets 21 Months In Prison For Sexting With Teenager](#)
[In Battered Puerto Rico, Governor Warns Of A Humanitarian Crisis](#)

Washington Post:

[Trump's Instinct To Provoke May Now Be Tripping Him Up](#)
[N. Korea Suggests Downing US Jets](#)
[Russians Exploited Social Wedges](#)
[Merkel's Shaky Election Sends Tremors Through EU](#)
[White House Feels The Heat Over Maria Response](#)
[GOP Faces Another Health-Care Defeat](#)

Financial Times:

[Merkel Admits She Has "Polarised" Germany As Grip On Power Weakens](#)
[Shinzo Abe Calls Snap Japan General Election](#)
[Lyft Looks Toward London As Uber Reels From Ban](#)

Washington Times:

[North Korean Hackers Suspected Of Using Bitcoin To Undermine U.S. Sanctions](#)
[Collins' Rejection Dooms Latest Republican Attempt To Repeal Obamacare](#)
[Democrat-Appointed Judges Uphold Texas Law Against Sanctuary Cities](#)
[White House Says Respect For Nation, Not Racism, Motivated Trump To Criticize Athlete Protesters](#)
[Determined Kurds Elated To Hold Independence Vote, But International Community Wary](#)
[Smithsonian Gives Clarence Thomas A Spot In Year-Old African American History Museum](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: White House-NFL Anthem Protests; NFL Protests-Pro Sports Response; Congress-

Healthcare Reform; Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Hurricane Tracking; North Korea Threats; Tennessee-Church Shooting; New Mexico-Deadly Police Crash; Airlines Flight-Smoke In Cabin; Aspirin-Heart Disease; Marines-First Female Infantry Officer.

CBS: White House-NFL Protests; NFL Protests-Reaction; North Korea Threats; Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Congress-Healthcare Reform; Equifax-Identify Theft Victims; Tennessee-Church Shooting; Anthony Weiner-Prison Sentence; Civil Rights-Little Rock School Desegregation Anniversary.

NBC: Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Puerto Rico-Relief Operation; Hurricane Tracking; Congress-Healthcare Reform; North Korea Threats; White House-NFL Protests; Supreme Court-Travel Ban; Kushner-Private Email Use; Anthony Weiner-Prison Sentence; Tennessee-Church Shooting; Mexico-Earthquake.

Network TV At A Glance:

NFL Anthem Protests – 15 minutes, 52 seconds

Hurricane-Puerto Rico – 9 minutes, 39 seconds

Congress-Healthcare Reform – 7 minutes, 31 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Congress-Healthcare Reform; North Korea Threats; NFL Anthem Protests; Wall Street Stocks; United Nations-Drone Incident.

CBS: Congress-Healthcare Reform; North Korea Threats; Israel-West Bank Attack; North Carolina-Hurricane Maria; Anthony Weiner-Prison Sentence; NFL Anthem Protests.

FOX: Congress-Healthcare Reform; Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Congress-SEC Hack; NFL Anthem Protests; North Korea Threats; Texas-Sanctuary City Laws; Supreme Court-Travel Ban.

NPR: Hurricane-Puerto Rico; NFL Anthem Protests; Ivanka Trump-Private Email Use; Congress-Healthcare Reform Plan; Fishing Magnate-Prison Sentence; Newspaper Merger.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets Spanish PM Rajoy at the White House – President Donald Trump welcomes Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy to the White House, with agenda including a press conference.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public events scheduled.

US Senate: 10:00 AM Senate Energy Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Bruce Walker to be Assistant Secretary of Energy for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, and Steven Winberg to be Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy. Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energy.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on 'Special Counsels and the Separation of Powers' – Hearing on 'Special Counsels and the Separation of Powers' * Hearing includes discussion of legislation which would allow judicial review if a special counsel is removed, and is held amid concerns that President Donald Trump may fire Special Counsel Robert Mueller, who is investigating 'any links and/or coordination between the Russian Govt and individuals associated with the campaign of President Trump.' Location: Senate Swamp, Washington, DC <http://casey.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on 'Special Counsels and the Separation of Powers' – Hearing on 'Special Counsels and the Separation of Powers' * Hearing includes discussion of legislation which would allow judicial review if a special counsel is removed, and is held amid concerns that President Donald Trump may fire Special Counsel Robert Mueller, who is investigating 'any links and/or coordination between the Russian Govt and individuals associated with the campaign of President Trump.' Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 226, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Hearing on 'Oversight of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission', with testimony from SEC Chairman Jay Clayton. Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 538, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Armed Services Committee considers reappointment of Joint Chiefs Chairman Dunford – Nominations hearing considers Gen. Joseph Dunford for reappointment to the grade of general and reappointment to be Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman. Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:30 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee Business Meeting, hearing on 'managing

security assistance to support foreign policy' – Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Business Meeting * Immediately followed by hearing on 'Managing Security Assistance to Support Foreign Policy', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs Tina Kaidanow; Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Strategy, Plans, and Capabilities Thomas Harvey III; and Defense Security Cooperation Agency Director Lt. Gen. Charles Hooper. Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

11:30 AM Senate Democrats call for Republicans to reject 'Graham-Cassidy bill' – Democratic Sens. Bob Casey, Ron Wyden, Debbie Stabenow, Cory Booker, Chris Van Hollen, Tammy Duckworth, and Maggie Hassan call on Republicans to reverse course and reject the 'Graham-Cassidy bill' – Senate Republicans' latest measure to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, spearheaded by Republican Sens. Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy – via press conference with disability advocates and those affected. Location: Senate Swamp, Washington, DC <http://casey.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenBobCasey>

2:00 PM Helsinki Commission briefing on cyber diplomacy – Helsinki Commission briefing on 'Building Cyber Confidence Between Adversaries: Can the OSCE Help Establish Rules of the Road?', with experts – Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Cyber Policy Initiative Co-Director Tim Maurer, National Defense University Center for Strategic Research Senior Research Fellow Alex Crowther, and Council on Foreign Relations Senior Fellow (and former National Security Council director for cybersecurity policy) Robert Knake – describing the state-based cyber threats that OSCE discussions seek to address, evaluating the development of these confidence-building measures, and assessing the present value and future potential of these diplomatic discussions. Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 385, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

2:30 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters. Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

2:30 PM Senate Commerce subcommittee hearing on 'FTC stakeholder perspectives' – Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security Subcommittee hearing on 'FTC Stakeholder Perspectives: Reform Proposals to Improve Fairness, Innovation, and Consumer Welfare', with testimony from Kelley Drye partner William MacLeod; Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati partner Lydia Parnes; Consumers Union Vice President for Policy and Modernization Jessica Rich; and TechFreedom President Berin Szoka. Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

US House: 10:00 AM Democratic Reps. Pocan and Bonamici release results of 'critical conversations' with education stakeholders – Democratic Reps. Mark Pocan and Suzanne Bonamici and NAACP and American Federation of Teachers leaders join the #WeChoose Campaign to release results of 'critical conversations' – held in dozens of cities nationwide to 'give those most directly affected (students, parents, teachers, and community members) a voice in education policy' – via news conference. #WeChoose organizers also preview their ongoing assessments of school curriculums nationally. Speakers include Reps. Pocan and Bonamici, NAACP Interim President and CEO Derrick Johnson, AFT President Randi Weingarten, Advancement Project Staff Attorney Sabrina Khan, Camden Students Union student Isaiah Rivera, and Journey for Justice Alliance National Director Jitu Brown. Location: House Triangle, Washington, DC www.jrjalliance.com/wechoose [#WECHOOSE](http://twitter.com/J4J_USA)

10:00 AM House Government Reform Committee hearing on Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking recommendations – Hearing on 'Recommendations of the Commission on Evidence-Based Policymaking', with testimony from Commission Chair Dr Katharine Abraham, Co-Chair Dr Ron Haskins, and Commissioners Robert Shea and Dr Latanya Sweeney * Commission released its' final report – 'The Promise of Evidence-Based Policymaking' – earlier this month, focused on how to increase the availability and use of data in order to build evidence about gov't programs while protecting privacy and confidentiality * Rescheduled from 12 Sep. Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2157, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM VA Secretary Shulkin testifies to House subcommittee legislative hearing – Health Subcommittee legislative hearing, on legislation including 'a draft bill to make certain improvements in VA's Health Professionals Educational Assistance Program', with testimony from Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin; bipartisan Reps. Debbie Dingell, Beto O'Rourke, Derek Kilmer, Steve King, Lloyd Smucker, Mike Coffman, Steve Stivers, Ron DeSantis, and John Rutherford; a The American Legion representative; a Vietnam Veterans of America representative; and an AMVETS representative + written testimony from Blinded Veterans of America; Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States; Disabled American Veterans; Paralyzed Veterans of America; and Justice For Vets. Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334,

Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee legislative hearing on ‘H.R. 200, To amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide flexibility for fishery managers and stability for fishermen, and for other purposes’, ‘H.R. 2023, Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 3588, RED SNAPPER Act’, and a discussion draft of ‘H.R. XXXX, To amend and reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and for other purposes’, with testimony from New Bedford, MA, Mayor Jonathan Mitchell; Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership Center for Marine Fisheries Director Chris Macaluso; Reel Surprise Charter Fishing co-owner Susan Boggs; Maine Coast Fisherman’s Association Executive Director Ben Martens; Southeastern Fisheries Association’s Mike Merrifield; and Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Commissioner Chris Blankenship * Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross was invited to testify, but is traveling. Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Energy subcommittee hearing on ‘Powering America: Technology’s Role in Empowering Consumers’ – Energy Subcommittee hearing on ‘Powering America: Technology’s Role in Empowering Consumers’, with testimony from Stem Chief Commercial Officer Karen Butterfield; Advanced Energy Economy Vice President for Federal Policy Arvin Ganesan; Holy Cross Energy President and CEO Dr Bryan Hannegan; ComEd Senior Vice President for Customer Operations Val Jensen; LO3 Energy Director of Regulated Markets Monica Lamb; and Direct Energy Senior Vice President for North America Distributed Energy and Power Todd Sandford. Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on the State Department redesign – Hearing on ‘The Department of State Redesign’, with testimony from Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan * President Donald Trump’s ‘Executive Order on a Comprehensive Plan for Reorganizing the Executive Branch’ was issued in March and called for the entire branch to propose plans to reorganize governmental functions and eliminate unnecessary agencies, components of agencies, and agency programs. Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

10:00 AM House Infrastructure subcommittee hearing on water stakeholders’ perspectives – Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee hearing on ‘Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Water Stakeholders’ Perspectives’, with testimony from Hallandale Beach, FL, Mayor Joy Cooper (on behalf of U.S. Conference of Mayors); McWane Senior Vice President and General Counsel James Proctor II; Las Virgenes Municipal Water District General Manager David Pedersen (on behalf of Association of California Water Agencies, and California Association of Sanitation Agencies); Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago Executive Director David St. Pierre (on behalf of National Association of Clean Water Agencies); El Paso Water Utilities Government Affairs Manager Hector Gonzalez (on behalf of Association of Regional Water Organizations); Aqua America President and CEO Christopher Franklin (on behalf of National Association of Water Companies); and Natural Resources Defense Council Senior Attorney Lawrence Levine. Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>.

10:00 AM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on DHS efforts to improve aviation security – Transportation and Protective Security Subcommittee hearing on ‘Raising the Standard: DHS’s Efforts to Improve Aviation Security Around the Globe’, with testimony from Transportation Security Administration Office of Global Strategies Director of Global Compliance Craig Lynes; Customs and Border Protection Office of Field Operations Executive Assistant Commissioner Todd Owen; and Government Accountability Office Director of Homeland Security and Justice Jennifer Grover. Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

10:15 AM House Administration Committee latest hearing on the Government Publishing Office – Hearing on ‘Transforming GPO for the 21st Century and Beyond: Part 3 – Federal Depository Library Program’, with testimony from Government Publishing Office Acting Superintendent of Documents Laurie Hall; HathiTrust Digital Library Executive Director Mike Furlough; University of Maryland Government Documents & Criminology Librarian Celina McDonald; Stanford Law School Library Director Beth Williams; and Mississippi State Librarian Stephen Parks. Location: Rm 1310, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://cha.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAdmnGOP>

11:00 AM House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer regular pen-and-pad briefing Location: H-144, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.democraticwhip.gov/ <https://twitter.com/WhipHoyer>

12:00 PM House debates Increasing Opportunity and Success for Children and Parents through Evidence-Based Home Visiting Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including ‘H.R. 2824 – Increasing Opportunity and Success for Children and Parents through Evidence-Based Home Visiting Act’ Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

Sep. 26 12:30 PM GOP Reps. Mark Walker and Kevin Brady ‘call on Republicans to keep our promises to the American people’ – Republican Study Committee Chairman Rep. Mark Walker, Steering Committee members, and other members, plus House Committee on Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady, ‘call on Republicans to keep our promises to the American people’, via press conference. Location: House Triangle, Washington, DC rsc-walker.house.gov <https://twitter.com/RepublicanStudy>

2:00 PM House Oversight subcommittee hearing on nuclear waste management and storage – Interior, Energy, and Environment Subcommittee hearing on ‘Examining America’s Nuclear Waste Management and Storage’, with testimony from Maryland Public Service Commission Commissioner Anthony O’Donnell; Aiken County, SC, Councilmember Chuck Smith (on behalf of Energy Communities Alliance); UC-San Diego School of Global Policy & Strategy Professor David Victor; and Heritage Foundation Institute for Economic Freedom Policy Analyst Katie Tubb. Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

2:00 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee legislative hearing on ‘H.R. 3535, Ruffey Rancheria Restoration Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 3650, Lumbee Recognition Act’, and ‘H.R. 3744, Tribal Recognition Act of 2017’, with testimony from Republican Rep. Robert Pittenger; Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs John Tahsuda; Ruffey Rancheria of California Chairman Tahj Gomes; and Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina Chairman Harvey Godwin. Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

2:00 PM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on modernization of DHS financial systems – Oversight and Management Efficiency Subcommittee hearing on ‘DHS Financial Systems: Will Modernization Ever Be Achieved’, with testimony from Deputy Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Management Chip Fulghum; Department of the Interior Business Center Director Michele Singer; General Services Administration Office of Government-wide Policy Unified Shared Services Management Executive Director Elizabeth Angerman; and Government Accountability Office Director of Financial Management and Assurance Asif Khan. Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

Other: 7:30 AM Washington Ideas Forum commences – Washington Ideas Forum, hosted by The Atlantic in partnership with the Aspen Institute, commences. ‘Leaders from politics and govt to business and culture’ convene to ‘tackle the issues confronting the country and the world, including politics and policy, economics and trade, race and justice, education, global affairs, technology, and beyond’. Speakers today include Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin, VotoLatino President Maria Teresa Kumar, Millennial Week Founder Natalie Moss, Vital Voices Global Partnership President and CEO Alyse Nelson, Running Start Founder Susannah Wellford, LinkedIn Head of U.S. Public Policy Nicole Isaac, and Pace University President Marvin Krislov

8:00 AM POLITICO Live discussion on the doctor-patient-govt relationship – ‘The Doctor-Patient (and Government) Relationship’ POLITICO Live discussion, on how doctors, patients, caregivers, and advocates can navigate complex decision-making, and addressing what policy changes can help make sure that doctors and their patients can decide the best course and get access to innovative and cost-effective therapies. Speakers include Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy, Democrats Sen. Jeanne Shaheen and Rep. Ami Bera, National Quality Forum President and CEO Shantanu Agrawai, National Patient Advocate Foundation CEO Alan Balch, American Medical Association President David Barbe, Advance Care Planning Decisions co-founder and Executive Director Aretha Davis, and Georgetown University School of Medicine Evidence Based Medicine Co-director Yalda Jabbarpour. Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.politico.com [#POLITICOHealth](https://twitter.com/POLITICOEvents)

8:15 AM Dem Rep. Ted Deutch hosts Washington Summit for South Florida business and community leaders – Democratic Rep. Ted Deutch hosts Washington Summit for South Florida business and community leaders, to cover issues including boating safety regulations, customs and border protection, immigration policy, tax reform, Pell Grants, Port Everglades improvement projects, climate change resiliency plans, and other local and national topics. Day one speakers include FBI Deputy Assistant Director James Burrell. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th

Street NW, Washington, DC teddeutch.house.gov <https://twitter.com/repteddeutch>

8:30 AM Brookings co-hosts conference on 'The Medicare Physician Fee Schedule and Alternative Payment Models' – 'The Medicare Physician Fee Schedule and Alternative Payment Models' Urban Institute, USC-Brookings Schaeffer Initiative for Health Policy, and Actuarial Research Corporation conference on 'the evolution and state of the PFS, and the movement to new payment models'. Speakers include Commonwealth Fund Policy and Research Senior Vice President Eric Schneider, Federation of American Hospitals President and CEO Chip Kahn, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Health Policy and Advocacy Vice President Barbara Levy, and Medicare Payment Advisory Committee Executive Director Mark Miller. Location: The Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst> #MedicarePayments

9:00 AM National Academies committee workshop on the health and performance of DHS law enforcement – National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine ad hoc committee organizes 'Strategies, Interventions and Policies for Health Promotion, High Risk Behavior Prevention and Increased Performance of the DHS Law Enforcement Workforce: A Workshop', exploring the impact of operational stressors on the health and performance of the Department of Homeland Security law enforcement workforce and opportunities for the DHS Office of Health Affairs Workforce Health and Medical Support Division, Office of Chief of Human Capital Officer, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, and other component agencies and operational units to identify and incorporate best practices, strategies, interventions, and policies from other similarly-situated organizations. Location: House of Sweden, 2900 K St NW, Washington, DC www.nas.edu/ <https://twitter.com/NASciences> #RealWorldEvidence

11:15 AM Mexico Embassy Vigil for Earthquake victims and the disappeared student teachers – The American Federation of Teachers and other social justice groups will hold a vigil at the Mexican Embassy in Washington, D.C. to show support for the victims of the recent massive earthquakes and to mark the third anniversary of the still-unresolved "disappearance" of 43 Mexican student-teachers. Contact: Janet Bass, 202-879-4554, jbass@aft.org, www.aft.org Location: Embassy of Mexico, 1911 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W.

12:00 PM AG Sessions delivers remarks on free speech on college campuses – Attorney General Jeff Sessions delivers remarks at the Georgetown Center for the Constitution at Georgetown Law on free speech on college campuses, then participates in a conversation with Center Director Randy Barnett * Comes just days after President Donald Trump said NFL team owners should fire any players who kneel or otherwise protest during the national anthem, despite critics pointing out that the First Amendment gives them the freedom of speech to do so. Location: Georgetown University Law Center, 600 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, DC www.justice.gov <https://twitter.com/TheJusticeDept>

1:00 PM Bipartisan Reps. Marcy Kaptur and Walter Jones speak Our Revolution 'Glass-Steagall' webinar – Our Revolution discuss 'the pressing need for Glass-Steagall reinstatement' and to add more sponsors to 'The Modern Say Glass-Steagall Act' and 'The Prudent Banking Act of 2017', via national webinar with introductory remarks from Democratic Rep. Marcy Kaptur and Republican Rep. Walter Jones, and panel discussion with Marcus Stanley (Americans for Financial Reform), Heather Corzo (AFL-CIO), and financial author Nomi Prins. Location: TBD www.ourrevolution.com <https://twitter.com/ourrevolution>

3:00 PM The Atlantic 'Future of Work Forum' with Dem Sen. Joe Manchin – The Atlantic 'Future of Work Forum', held to 'debate the biggest factors driving the transformation of work' and 'discuss what it means to continue to lean toward automation, what's needed to thrive in the new work economy, and which industries and careers will come out on top in the decades to come'. Speakers include Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin, former Carrier employee Kipp Glenn, Square co-founder and Director Jim McKelvey, LinkedIn Head of U.S. Public Policy Nicole Isaac, Snagajob COO Jocelyn Mangan, Pipeline Fellowship founder and CEO Natalia Oberti Noguera, National League of Cities Senior Executive Director Brooks Rainwater, and WeWork Global Head of Public Affairs Jennifer Skyler. Location: WeWork Wonder Bread Factory, Washington, DC <http://www.theatlantic.com/> <https://twitter.com/TheAtlantic>

7:00 PM 'Press vs. Politicians' Spelling Bee at the National Press Club – National Press Club 'Press vs. Politicians' Spelling Bee, with participants including Republican Rep. Virginia Foxx and Democratic Reps. Don Beyer, Scott Peters, Suzanne Bonamici, Ted Deutch, and Jamie Raskin (Politicians Team), and Art Swift (Gallup), Alexandra Petri (The Washington Post), Molly Ball (The Atlantic), Ben Jacobs (The Guardian) and Seung Min Kim (POLITICO) representing the press. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW, Washington, DC www.press.org/spelling-bee <https://twitter.com/PressClubDC>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "The truth is John McCain probably saved the Republican party by doing this. Because if you think Graham/Cassidy is unpopular now, wait until people have to live with it, or not live with it. Then who gets blamed? The Republican party. This is one of the rare moments when we actually needed Congress to do nothing. Which is what they're really good at, by the way."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Thank you, Senator Collins. Maine needs affordable health care more than almost any other state. The sewers up there are filled with child-eating clowns."

Stephen Colbert: "For the last year, some players have been kneeling during the national anthem to protest institutional racism. It started with then-49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick. It was a controversial protest. After all, the singing of the national anthem is a sacred time when red-blooded Americans stand up, and run to the bathroom because that's when the line is shortest."

Stephen Colbert: "And today, Donald Trump was still tweeting. 'The issue of kneeling has nothing to do with race.' Wrong. Kneeling during the national anthem has everything to do with race. Just like your presidency."

Stephen Colbert: "Those players are protesting racial injustice. They're not protesting the American flag. Saying that kneeling is a protest against the flag is like saying Gandhi's hunger strikes were a protest against midday snacks."

Stephen Colbert: "It's official. Donald Trump is now going to get fewer visits from basketball players than Kim Jong-Un."

Jimmy Fallon: "Well, we had a bunch of big football matchups yesterday. You had the Eagles against the Giants, you had the Patriots against the Texans, and you had the President against everyone."

Jimmy Fallon: "Yesterday, Trump tweeted that players standing with locked arms for the national anthem is okay. Incidentally, people standing with locked arms is also the plan for his border wall. Red rover, red rover, don't let anyone come over."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump yesterday called for a boycott of the NFL as players refused to stand for the national anthem. Dude, you're going after the NFL? That's the most conservative league in sports. The owners – their owners donated millions to your campaign. That'd be like trying to fire your attorney general, even though he's the most conservative guy in the world, who was your first supporter in the Senate – and oh, my God, you did that too."

James Corden: "The American territory of Puerto Rico is in dire need of humanitarian aid. Tensions with North Korea have never been higher. So of course, President Trump spent this weekend tackling the biggest issue of all: football players."

James Corden: "Trump feels that the taking a knee during the national anthem shows disrespect to the American flag. Trump thinks people should treat the flag with more respect, you know, like on his official website where you can spend \$8 on a Trump American flag beer cozy. "

James Corden: "Trump also criticized the league for making efforts to prevent concussions, saying they are ruining the game. Right. I don't think Trump realizes how dangerous the symptoms of these concussions are – headache, emotional instability, impulsive behavior. Basically, they turn you into Donald Trump."

James Corden: "Trump's withdrawn his invitation to the Golden State Warriors, making this the first time in history Donald Trump has ever shown a dislike for anything golden."

Trevor Noah: "Jared Kushner admitted he was using a private email account to communicate

with other White House officials. Ahhh! Private email? Kushner says what he did is nothing like what Hillary Clinton did and he'll explain the whole thing in his new book 'What Took Place.'"

Trevor Noah: "And also, who is Donald Trump to say that football is too soft? Really? You play golf, a sport where the biggest danger is when you aren't even playing."

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- Missouri Valley (IA) Times: Missouri Valley Native Receives Valor Award.
- Southwest Colorado Journal: Dolores BLM Staffers Recognized For Lifesaving Actions.
- Daily Caller: Trump's Interior Secretary May Be The Key To Opening Yucca Mountain.
- High Country (CO) News: Amid Monument Review, A Pro-energy Interior Emerges.
- Washington Times: The Antiquities Act Of 1906: No President Is Licensed To Revoke National

Monuments.

- Washington Examiner: Obama Wasn't King, And His Laws Aren't Set In Stone.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- DOI Narrows Scope Of Tribal Land Buyback Program.
- DOI Fights Damages After Navajo's Judiciary Funding Win.
- Retired Oil Lease Funds Donated To Environmental, Health Causes.

Bureau Of Land Management

- U.S. News & World Report: Burning Man Receives Permit, Flooded Venue Dries Up.
- Alaska Public Radio Network: Feds Look To Relinquish Mineral Rich Interior Lands To The State.
- KTVZ-TV Bend (OR): BLM, Rancher, County Work Out Teaters Road Access Hours.
- The Hill: Why Won't Congress Fight Against Slaughtering Wild Horses?
- Minneapolis Star Tribune: U.S .Rep. Tom Emmer: Why I'm Pushing To Preserve Mining In Northern Minnesota.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Fishing Event Serves Special Needs Kids.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Washington Post: Gray Wolves Just Won Another Battle To Stay On The Endangered Species List.
- New York Times: Homeland Security To Bypass Environmental Laws In Border Wall Work.
- Daily Caller: Ranchers Sue Feds After 1.8M Acre Grab.

National Park Service

- Newport News (VA) Daily Press: Opening National Park In Gloucester Will Take Years.
- Bluffton (SC) Today: Residents Share Ideas For Reconstruction Monument.
- Westerly (RI) Sun: Sabino, A National Historic Landmark Vessel, Is Ready To Steam Down Mystic River Again.
- Cape Cod (MA) News: Cape Symphony To Return To Cape Cod National Seashore.
- Daily Astorian (OR): A Plant-friendly Flyover.
- NPR: Hikers Missing In Joshua Tree Park Amid Soaring Temperatures.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Honolulu Civil Beat (HI): Feds Offer An Additional \$3 Million To Help Ease Impact Of Micronesian Migration.

US Geological Survey

- Reuters: Scientists Turn To Big Data In Hunt For Minerals, Oil And Gas.

Top National Ne Ws

- White House Defends Trump's Role In Crafting Son's Statement On Meeting With Russian Lawyer.
- Senate Confirms Wray As FBI Director In 92-5 Vote.
- WPost A1: Congress May Not Be Able To Act On Trump Tax Cuts This Year.
- McConnell Says GOP Will Use Reconciliation For Tax Code Overhaul.
- Mnuchin's Debt Ceiling Talks With McConnell And Schumer Make No Progress.

Editorial Wrap-Up

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 - "Cubs Fan Gets A Ring, And Forgiveness."
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 - "Time For The Trump Administration To Speak With One voice On The Debt Limit."
 - "How America Can Honor A Chinese Dissident – And Help Protect His Widow."
 - "Sobering News For \$15 Minimum-Wage Boosters."
- Wall Street Journal.
 - "ObamaCare For Congress."
 - "A Trump Card In Ukraine."
 - "The Body Count At The Border."

Big Picture

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Washington Schedule

- Today's Events In Washington.

Last Laughs

- Late Night Political Humor.

DOI In The News

David Bernhardt Is Sworn Into Post As Deputy Interior Secretary.

The [Denver Post](#) (8/1, Paul) reports that David Bernhardt was "sworn in to office Tuesday morning as deputy secretary of the Interior Department following his contentious nomination to the position." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke tweeted in a picture showing Bernhardt being sworn in: "Exciting day! Dave is a seasoned Interior veteran and will be a huge asset."

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico Morning Energy](#) (8/1, GUILLÉN).

Trump Names Ex-DOJ, Sidley Austin Attorney As DOI Solicitor.

[Law360](#) (8/1, Phillis) reports that President Trump "said on Monday he intended to nominate a former associate at Sidley Austin LLP with experience working in all three branches of government who currently serves as general counsel to a major wellness shopping company to be solicitor at the Department of the Interior." Ryan Douglas Nelson, "who is based in Idaho Falls, Idaho, currently serves as general counsel for Melaleuca Inc., where he oversees the company's consumer and policy departments managing compliance and litigation issues, among other tasks."

The [East Idaho News](#) (8/1) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "Ryan Nelson is coming to the Department of the Interior with a strong background in natural resources policy and law, stretching many years in both the public and private sector. Having a seasoned legal expert like Ryan, who is also a son of the West, will benefit the entire Department. I look forward to his speedy confirmation by the Senate."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (8/1, Brown), the [Idaho Statesman](#) (8/1, Brown), and [Federal News Radio \(DC\)](#) (8/1, White).

Is Susan Combs' Path To Washington Delayed By Politics?

The [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (8/1, Recio) reports that former Texas Comptroller Susan Combs, "nominated to be an assistant secretary at the Interior Department, was up for a vote by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee last Thursday when the meeting was abruptly canceled less than 24 hours before it was to be held." The postponement occurred in the midst of "a high-stakes battle over health care." Sen. Lisa Murkowski "denied that the postponement was payback and told CNN that there was a 'blip' in the nominations and that it would be cleared up." However, "a Republican staffer familiar with Murkowski told the Statesman that the hearing cancellation was a power move in response to threats against her state." Also, a Democratic staffer said, "It seems pretty clear that the interior secretary threatening the chairman did not end well for him."

Missouri Valley Native Receives Valor Award.

The [Missouri Valley \(IA\) Times](#) (8/1) reports that "Kane Seitz, Supervisory Law Enforcement Park Ranger at Chickasaw National Recreation Area in Sulphur, Okla., received the Valor Award on July 4 in a ceremony at the Interior Building in Washington DC." On June 18, 2015, during a flooding event at Chickasaw National Recreation Area, National Park Service Chief Ranger Aaron W. Shandor, "along with Supervisory Park Ranger Kane I. Seitz, put the safety of others ahead of their own and voluntarily put themselves in danger by deploying a rescue operation that successfully rescued a local family from certain peril." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke presented awards to Seitz and Shando for their actions.

Dolores BLM Staffers Recognized For Lifesaving Actions.

The [Southwest Colorado Journal](#) (8/1, Mimiaga) reports that "three staff members of the Bureau of Land Management's Tres Rios office in Dolores received a Valor Award for their efforts to save

a co-workers' life last year." In August 2016, BLM geologist Jamie Blair "collapsed at his desk and went into cardiac arrest." David Sanders, Derrick Baldwin, and Robert Garrigues "quickly administered lifesaving actions to revive Blair, who has since made a full recovery and is back at work." The Valor Award was "presented to the staff members by Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke at a July 4 ceremony in Washington, D.C."

Trump's Interior Secretary May Be The Key To Opening Yucca Mountain.

The [Daily Caller](#) (8/1, Follett) reports that a decision by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "to shrink two Nevada national monuments could remove a significant hurdle to storing nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain, experts say." Some nuclear energy experts believe "one reason former President Barack Obama designated" the Basin and Range National Monument "in 2015 was to block any chance of Yucca Mountain being used to store spent nuclear fuel."

Amid Monument Review, A Pro-energy Interior Emerges.

The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (8/1, Wiles) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's review of national monuments "comes as he continues to fill his department with pro-industry officials and amid a broader push at the Interior Department for increased energy development on public lands—something monument designations can work against." According to the article, "a new report released Tuesday describes an Interior Department now mainly led by employees from extractive-industry backgrounds, marking clear priorities for Zinke that do not bode well for greater public land protections." The report, issued by the Western Values Project, "a progressive organization, shows close ties between high-ranking staffers and industry."

The Antiquities Act Of 1906: No President Is Licensed To Revoke National Monuments.

In his column for the [Washington Times](#) (8/1, Fein), Bruce Fein writes that "the text, spirit, and 111-year history of the Antiquities Act of 1906 militate against presidential power to revoke a national monument proclamation made by a predecessor president." For a president to unilaterally revoke by a proclamation would "require new revocation legislation passed by Congress and signed by the new president," Fein argues. He also asserts that "interpreting the Antiquities Act according to its plain language to prohibit presidential revocations of national monument designations of predecessors raises no separation of powers concerns."

Obama Wasn't King, And His Laws Aren't Set In Stone.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Examiner](#) (8/1, Pendley), William Perry Pendley, president of the Mountain States Legal Foundation, writes that "although no president has ever revoked a national monument designation, the power to diminish or even revoke a national monument is inherent in the powers granted by the Antiquities Act; in fact, many presidents have diminished the size of national monuments established by their predecessors." He argues that "each branch of the federal government can undo its earlier decisions; the executive branch is no different." Pendley says that "just as no Congress can bind a future Congress, so can no president bind the nation in perpetuity."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

DOI Narrows Scope Of Tribal Land Buyback Program.

[Law360](#) (8/1, Westney) reports that the Interior Department "plans to target a smaller number of tribes to take part in a massive land buyback program as the department looks to spend the \$540 million remaining for the program under the landmark Cobell settlement, according to a DOI statement Monday." The [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (8/1) reports that Associate Deputy Secretary James Cason said, "The revised strategy announced today maximizes the remaining dollars left for the implementation of the Buy-Back Program and seeks to achieve the greatest reduction of fractional interests, the largest number possible of landowners able to participate, and the most effective use of the Department's resources. However, while the Department is doing what it can to improve the Program, it is clear Congress has a role as well. We continue to look to congressional leaders for long-term solutions to address the problem of fractionated lands."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (8/1).

DOI Fights Damages After Navajo's Judiciary Funding Win.

[Law360](#) (8/1, Powell) reports that the Interior Department “conceded defeat Monday after the D.C. Circuit held that the Navajo Nation’s judiciary funding request had to be approved because the agency missed a deadline to respond to it, but argued against awarding the tribe “unreasonable” damages.” In a memorandum, the Interior Department “said the Navajo Nation should be granted summary judgment in light of a recent D.C. Circuit ruling that the tribe’s funding proposal for the operation of the Navajo Nation Judicial Branch for 2014 was automatically approved.”

Retired Oil Lease Funds Donated To Environmental, Health Causes.

The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (8/1, Puckett) reports that Devon Energy is “using refunds it received from the government for cancelling oil and gas leases in the Badger-Two Medicine area of Montana to support land conservation and tribal efforts in Oklahoma.” The energy company signed the agreement with the Interior Department “Interior last year to cancel 15 undeveloped leases covering 130,000 acres.” On Monday, the firm “announced it donated \$100,000 of the rebates for retiring the leases to The Nature Conservancy, \$40,000 to the Oklahoma City Indian Clinic and \$25,000 to the American Indian College Fund.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Burning Man Receives Permit, Flooded Venue Dries Up.

The [AP](#) (8/1) reports that “the annual Burning Man event is still on for 2017 despite concern about its traditional homeland being flooded.” The Bureau of Land Management “issued Burning Man its permit to operate on Sunday.” According to the article, “the desert playa where the event takes place was partially underwater due to flooding from this winter’s heavy precipitation, but has dried out in recent weeks.”

Feds Look To Relinquish Mineral Rich Interior Lands To The State.

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (8/1, Bross) reports that “a tract of potentially mineral rich land northeast of Fairbanks is recommended for transfer from federal to state hands.” According to the article, “the 709-acre parcel near Fox and the Ft. Knox Gold Mine is being relinquished by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, near where the agency operates a satellite downlink facility.” The Bureau of Land Management “recently completed an environmental assessment of impacts of relinquishing the property.” The BLM’s Valerie Baxter said, “We have found no potential for significant impacts from the relinquishment and transfer to the state.”

BLM, Rancher, County Work Out Teaters Road Access Hours.

[KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (8/1) reports that “saying they wish to be ‘a good neighbor in the communities we serve,’ the Prineville District Bureau of Land Management said Tuesday it has responded to a request from Waibel Ranches, LLC and Crook County to modify the existing agreement that would have opened Teaters Road to public travel on Tuesday.” BLM officials “said the change was based on public safety due to construction vehicles on the road, and the need for an emergency access route to the Ochoco National Forest during the period around the solar eclipse.” Starting Tuesday, Teaters Road “will be open Mondays through Thursdays, from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. to allow evening and early morning public access during road construction.”

Why Won’t Congress Fight Against Slaughtering Wild Horses?

For the “Pundits” blog of [The Hill](#) (8/1, Roy, Contributor), Suzanne Roy, executive director of the American Wild Horse Campaign, questions why the government “keep pursuing efforts to eradicate” wild horses in face of widespread public support for the protection of wild horses. Roy writes that “the latest death threat against these icons of the American West came earlier this year from the U.S. Department of the Interior, which has proposed budget language that would undo a ban on killing wild horses or shipping them to foreign slaughterhouses — all in the name of providing federal wildlife managers ‘more flexibility’ in managing horse numbers on the range.” Roy argues that “rather than implement a one-size-kills-all solution,” the Interior Department “should scientifically study how many wild horses and burros should roam the range, firmly keeping in mind that the American public wants them on public lands.” She also urges Congress to “call on the department and bureau to make increased use of fertility control to manage horses humanely on the range.”

U.S .Rep. Tom Emmer: Why I'm Pushing To Preserve Mining In Northern Minnesota.

In an op-ed for the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (8/1, Emmer), Rep. Tom Emmer, writes that "last December, after the election and before the new administration took office, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management unexpectedly refused to renew Minnesota's mineral leases and started the process of withdrawing more than 400,000 acres from resource exploration." But "thankfully," Emmer writes, "my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives and the Trump administration are committed to reversing this haphazard, overly expansive ban on development." Emmer asserts that his "actions on this issue will not only protect the potential of thousands of jobs as well as the local economies of many small towns on the Iron Range, but also will leave intact an extensive environmental process that will protect and preserve our beloved Boundary Waters."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Fishing Event Serves Special Needs Kids.

The [Wenatchee \(WA\) World](#) (8/1, Francis) reports that "the Bureau of Reclamation's Ephrata Field Office will host its annual C.A.S.T. for Kids event from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday at Potholes Reservoir." The article adds that "the morning fishing event will be followed by a picnic lunch."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Gray Wolves Just Won Another Battle To Stay On The Endangered Species List.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/1, Fears) reports that the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit on Tuesday ruled against the Interior Department's decision "to strip protections" from regional populations of gray wolves and to "allow states to openly hunt them," instead upholding a lower court's decision that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has the authority to group Great Lakes region gray wolves but not to remove them from the endangered species list "without considering the move's impact on the entire species of gray wolves in their range."

The [AP](#) (8/1, Flesher) reports that the court "upheld a district judge's 2014 ruling that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had acted prematurely by removing federal protections from wolves in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin." The court "said the government hadn't reasonably considered factors including loss of the wolf's historical range."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (8/1, Flesher), the [Milwaukee \(WI\) Journal Sentinel](#) (8/1), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (8/1, Flesher), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (8/1, Flesher), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (8/1, Flesher), [Business Insider](#) (8/1, Flesher), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (8/1, Flesher), the [Daily Mail](#) (8/1, Flesher), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (8/1, Flesher), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (8/1, Flesher), the [Wisconsin State Journal](#) (8/1, Flesher), [WWJ-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (8/1, Flesher), and [WXYZ-TV Detroit \(MI\)](#) Detroit (8/1).

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (8/1, Henry), the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (8/1, Siciliano), the [Huffington Post](#) (8/1, D'angelo), [NBC News](#) (8/1, Rainey), [CBS News](#) (8/1), [NPR](#) (8/1, Held), the [Brainerd \(MN\) Daily Dispatch](#) (8/1, Myers), the [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (8/1, Myers), [UPI](#) (8/1, Pestano), [Wisconsin Public Radio](#) (8/1, Kaeding), [OutdoorHub](#) (8/1), and [WDAY-TV Fargo \(ND\)](#) Fargo, ND (8/1, Myers).

Homeland Security To Bypass Environmental Laws In Border Wall Work.

The [New York Times](#) (8/1, Nixon) reports that DHS said Tuesday "that it would use its authority to exempt the agency from having to comply with environmental and other laws in its efforts to build border walls and access roads in the San Diego area." DHS spokesman David Lapan "said the waiver would also apply to replacement fencing and roads the agency plans to build in the San Diego area." [Breitbart](#) (8/1, Price) reports that DHS said it "has the authority to waive these requirements under laws passed by Congress to enable securing the border with Mexico." The [Washington Times](#) (8/1, Dinan) reports that the Bush Administration "repeatedly used the waivers during the last major round of fence-building from 2005 to 2008."

[CNN](#) (8/1, Kopan, Marsh, Wallace) reports DHS's decision "clears an important hurdle to construction of the wall, and signals an approach the administration could take in the future when it seeks to build additional sections of wall or fence." CNN adds that the "15-mile stretch identified in the waiver also includes 14 miles of replacement secondary fencing, for which Customs and Border Protection has requested funding from Congress." Despite issues a waiver to

some environmental laws and regulations, DHS said it “remains committed to environmental stewardship with respect to these projects.” Similar coverage is provided by [NPR](#) (8/1), [Fox News](#) (8/1, Pappas), the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/1, Carlton), [The Hill](#) (8/1, Cama), and the [Daily Caller](#) (8/1).

In a column for the [Daily Beast](#) (8/2, Navarrette), Ruben Navarrette Jr. argues DHS “exempt[ing] itself from having to comply with environmental and other laws” is “par for the course for this administration.” Navarrette opines that the wall construction will “almost surely be reduced to a mixture of fencing and ‘virtual wall’ electronic sensors.” He concludes that it is “time to call the Trump Wall what it is, and always has been: the president’s top domestic policy distraction.”

Ranchers Sue Feds After 1.8M Acre Grab.

The [Daily Caller](#) (8/1, Pearce) reports that “three state agriculture associations filed a lawsuit Monday against the federal government for not considering how listing almost two million acres in California as ‘critical habitat’ could affect small business, agriculture, and local government, according to a Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF) press release.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “declared 1.8 million acres in central and northern California as ‘critical habitat’ in 2016 to protect two species of frog and one species of toad listed under the Endangered Species Act.”

National Park Service

Opening National Park In Gloucester Will Take Years.

The [Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (8/1) reports that “it will take years before the planned park at the historic Werowocomoco site will open for visitors, according to the National Park Service.” In a presentations to the Gloucester Board of Supervisors on Tuesday night, Chuck Hunt, park service superintendent, said, “It takes a while for parks to come online. We need more knowledge about the site so we know what we can and cannot do there.” Hunt, “along with Bob Campbell, chief of planning and development, and Gloucester Parks and Recreation Director Carol Steele, presented a progress report on the master planning for the park.”

Residents Share Ideas For Reconstruction Monument.

The [Bluffton \(SC\) Today](#) (8/1, Murdaugh) reports that “to ensure they have a solid foundation document for the planned Reconstruction Era National Monument in Beaufort County, National Park Service officials received feedback from the public last week.” The park service held three public meetings last week in northern Beaufort County. The agency’s Ben West “said the park service will put together a foundation document over the next 12 months.”

Sabino, A National Historic Landmark Vessel, Is Ready To Steam Down Mystic River Again.

The [Westerly \(RI\) Sun](#) (8/1, Hewitt) reports that “the historic steamboat Sabino is back on the water and ready for public cruises on the Mystic River” Tuesday. The boat has “been under restoration for more than two years in Mystic Seaport’s Henry B. duPont Preservation Shipyard.” The article notes that “financial support for the project was provided by a combination of private philanthropy and public grants, including \$172,125 from the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, \$149,318 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and a National Maritime Heritage Grant of \$199,806 administered by the National Park Service in partnership with the U.S. Maritime Administration.”

Cape Symphony To Return To Cape Cod National Seashore.

The [Cape Cod \(MA\) News](#) (8/1) reports that “the Cape Symphony will perform for the second straight summer at the Cape Cod National Seashore.” According to the article, “a free multimedia performance will feature the Symphony’s principal musicians and a community choral group, along with special guests.” The concert will “celebrate the nature, history and sense of community of the Outer Cape on August 25 at the Salt Pond Visitor Center Amphitheater in Eastham at 6:30 p.m.”

A Plant-friendly Flyover.

The [Daily Astorian \(OR\)](#) (8/1, Heffernan) reports that “researchers with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration spent much of last week operating two drones in an effort to map out plant species” at Lewis and Clark National Historical Park’s Colewort Creek. The drones were

"mounted with a hyperspectral scanner, which uses the electromagnetic spectrum to identify plant species," which "helped researchers monitor the progress of an area that has undergone numerous restoration projects since 2007." Natural Resources Program Manager Carla Cole said, "Our extensive plant community and elevational data from our ongoing monitoring efforts will assist the NOAA researchers in ground-truthing their data for this study. We expect the results of this study to have useful and immediate management implications and to also be transferable to our partners throughout the Lower Columbia estuary."

Hikers Missing In Joshua Tree Park Amid Soaring Temperatures.

[NPR](#) (8/1, Held) reports that rescuers are searching for two hikers reported missing Friday in Joshua Tree National Park. According to Joshua Tree National Park Public Information Officer George Land, "Rachel Nguyen, 20, of Westminster, Calif., and Joseph Orbeso, 21, of Lakewood, Calif., set out for a hike on Thursday." The article says that "two airplanes, two helicopters, six canine tracking teams and up to 100 ground searchers are all being used to try to locate the couple."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Feds Offer An Additional \$3 Million To Help Ease Impact Of Micronesian Migration.

[Honolulu Civil Beat \(HI\)](#) (8/1, Blair) reports that the Interior Department "announced Tuesday that it will provide more money to places like Hawaii that have growing Micronesian populations, on top of the \$30 million already allotted annually." However, "the additional \$3 million in what's known as "compact impact" aid is a fraction of the funding the state and other islands say they need to provide educational, health care and social service support to the recent arrivals." Acting Interior Assistant Secretary Nikolao Pula said, "The governors of the affected jurisdictions have reported that the federal government is not providing sufficient funds to cover the costs they bear for the impact of migrants from the freely associated states on social services. Both Guam and Hawaii have each reported costs exceeding \$100 million a year."

US Geological Survey

Scientists Turn To Big Data In Hunt For Minerals, Oil And Gas.

[Reuters](#) (8/1, Doyle) reports that "scientists searching for everything from oil and gas to copper and gold are adopting techniques used by companies such as Netflix or Amazon to sift through vast amounts of data, a study showed on Tuesday." In the journal *American Mineralogist*, they wrote that "the method has already helped to discover 10 carbon-bearing minerals and could be widely applied to exploration." Gilpin Robinson, of the U.S. Geological Survey, "who was not involved in the study, said the USGS had started to collaborate with the big data project." He said, "The use of large data sets and analytical tools is very important in our studies of mineral and energy resources."

Top National Ne Ws

White House Defends Trump's Role In Crafting Son's Statement On Meeting With Russian Lawyer.

In the wake of a Washington Post [report](#) that said President Trump "dictated" his son's statement regarding his meeting with a Russian lawyer during the 2016 campaign, the White House is described in media reports as defending the President's role in crafting the statement. The tone of the coverage, which includes seven-and-a-half minutes of reporting on Tuesday's network news broadcasts – two of which led with the story – is generally negative, indicating that White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders' claim that the President "weighed in" on the statement contradicts Trump attorney Jay Sekulow's denial that Trump was involved at all. Reports also described her claim that Donald Trump's Jr.'s statement included "no inaccuracy" as misleading.

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/1, Pettypiece), for example, reports that Sanders provided "an account that conflicts with assertions made by the president's own lawyer two weeks ago." Asked about a report that Trump "dictated" the statement, Sanders said that Trump "weighed in, as any father would, based on the limited information that he had. ... He certainly didn't dictate. But, you

know, he – like I said, he weighed in, offered a suggestion.” Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway made a similar argument on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (8/1), saying, “The President said he weighed in the way any father would on the statement. He wasn’t part of the email chain. He wasn’t part of the meeting, certainly.”

However, the [Washington Post](#) (8/1, Phillip) reports that Sanders’ comments “seem to confirm that Trump participated in the drafting of the statement on Air Force One and contradict past statements from Trump’s attorneys denying that he had any involvement.” Sekulow told [NBC’s Meet the Press](#) (7/16) on July 16, “The president was not — did not — draft the response. ... The response came from Donald Trump Jr. and — I’m sure — in consultation with his lawyer.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/1, Bierman) says Sanders’ “acknowledgment” appeared to “confirm the gist” of the Washington Post story, and “in effect refuted” Sekulow’s comments.

Hallie Jackson said in the lead story for [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/1, lead story, 2:40, Holt) that there are “new questions of credibility and contradictions” as Sekulow “sounded definitive” three weeks ago but the White House said Tuesday that Trump “actually was involved.” Jackson added that “the conflicting comments are raising questions about why the President got involved at all, what the special counsel will make of this, and whether the President’s push to control the message is hurting him with his party.” Cecilia Vega said on the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/1, lead story, 2:40, Muir) that Trump’s “legal team went on the offensive, saying he had nothing to do with Don Jr.’s original statement,” but Tuesday “we learn[ed] that’s not true” and Trump is “now facing tough questions about whether he intentionally misled the American public.”

[USA Today](#) (8/1, Jackson, Johnson) says that although Trump Jr. “released email correspondence showing that he arranged the meeting in the hopes of obtaining potentially damaging information about Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton – even after he was told it would be provided by the Russian government,” Sanders “said ‘the statement that Don Jr. issued is true, there’s no inaccuracy in the statement’ – even though it omitted those facts.”

Reacting to Sanders’ claim that Trump Jr.’s statement was true and contained no inaccuracy, Jake Tapper said on [CNN’s The Lead](#) (8/1), “As a citizen, you should expect a much higher standard of truth than the one that the White House press secretary just enunciated. If a meeting takes place so campaign officials can get dirt on a political rival from the Russian government, describing that meeting as being about adoption and not mentioning the purpose of the meeting, it’s not true. It’s inaccurate. It’s so misleading as to be a lie.” Anderson Cooper said on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (8/1), “To say Donald Trump, Jr.’s statement was true is just not true. If I said ‘Jaws’ is a movie about going to the beach on the Fourth of July weekend – I guess that is in the movie somewhere, but is that an accurate statement of what ‘Jaws’ is actually about? It has a big gaping hole where the main point is supposed to be. It doesn’t tell the whole story.”

CNN political director David Chalian said on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (8/1), “Team Trump took a credibility hit today in the face of Jay Sekulow, and it came from the White House podium. Sarah Huckabee Sanders went out today and basically conceded that the Trump team and his lawyer didn’t have the truth in the initial telling of this.” Gloria Borger said on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (8/1), “I think the President has a problem here. I think the statement was misleading at the very best. ... I think there are questions now that will be raised about whether what the President knew and when he knew it to use an old phrase. And did the President lie to his lawyer?”

The [Washington Times](#) (8/1, Noble) cites analysts who point to the report that Trump dictated the statement as evidence of his “inclination to take matters into his own hands...causing him unnecessary legal headaches.” The Times says “legal experts” who said that while Trump’s actions, “if true, wouldn’t constitute a crime, they add fuel to the fire of the ongoing special counsel investigation...and give him room to interview additional White House officials about possible coordination between the Trump campaign and Russian efforts to interfere in the presidential election.” Abby Phillip of the Washington Post said on [CNN’s The Lead](#) (8/1), “I would suggest that Trump was the person who wanted to pull back from full transparency. You know, our reporting basically states that there were other lawyers and advisers involved who knew that more information would come out that would make a less than fulsome statement seem invasive and like an effort to cover something up. So they wanted to put it out there. The President was the one who overruled them.”

Jonah Goldberg of National Review said on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (8/1) that although “it is not against the law to lie to the press,” it “undermines the credibility of the Administration and it probably wets the whistle of the [special counsel Robert] Mueller investigation in new and

interesting ways in part because it shows or it may show a certain state of mind of the President at that time."

Jeff Pegues said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/1, story 3, 2:15, Mason) that former federal prosecutor Bill Mateja "says the President's involvement in crafting the statement may raise a red flag" for Mueller. Likewise, CNN Justice correspondent Pamela Brown said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/1), "It certainly could be problematic," for Trump "because as we previously reported," Mueller "is looking at the obstruction of justice angle of this. Of course, if the President was involved in potentially crafting a misleading statement, what Robert Mueller would want to find out is, was this a cover-up? Was this an obstruction of justice aspect of the investigation?"

[Politico](#) (8/1, Dawsey, Gold) publishes the full transcript of President Trump's July 26 Oval Office interview with the Wall Street Journal, during which he "engag[ed] in a familiar back and forth" with editor-in-chief Gerard Baker, who "according to the transcript, asked many of the questions" and who "took the lead byline on the main piece about the interview as well, an unusual step for the editor in chief of a paper with a large White House reporting staff."

Both, the [Washington Post](#) (8/1, Phillip) and the [New York Post](#) (8/1, Moore) say the White House "defended" Trump, while the [AP](#) (8/1, Thomas) describes the White House as "pushing back" on the Washington Post report that the President "dictated" the statement. [Reuters](#) (8/1), meanwhile, says the White House said Trump "had a role" in crafting the statement.

Sanders: Media Should Examine Clintons' Ties To Russia. The [Washington Times](#) (8/1, Boyer) says Sanders "also blasted the media for being 'obsessed' with the Russia story while ignoring the Clintons' connections to Russia." [Breitbart](#) (8/1, Moons) says Sanders "slammed media questions aimed at showing that there were any 'misleading' actions by the Trump campaign or Trump Administration with regards to Russia," saying, "The thing I see misleading is a year's worth of stories that have been fueling a false narrative about this Russia collusion. And a phony scandal based on anonymous sources." She argued, "Look no further than the Clintons," for a ties to Russia, and cited "the \$500,000 former President Bill Clinton accepted to give a speech to a Russian bank," as well as "the one-fifth of United States' uranium that then Secretary of State Hillary Clinton allowed to be sold to a Russian firm," whose "investors included Clinton Foundation donors."

Graham, Flake Express Concern About Trump's Role In Crafting Statement. Asked on [NBC's Today Show](#) (8/1) about Trump's reported role in crafting the statement, Sen. Lindsey Graham said, "It bothers me a lot. He put his son in jeopardy. Now, we have to wonder about what Don Jr.'s team will tell you about what he actually did. If he didn't know about the e-mail, the statement may have fooled you. If you know about the e-mail with Don Jr. it's a misleading statement." Asked if it appears that "the President himself tried to cover up the truth about that meeting," Graham said, "If that's true, that was a bad decision by the President that will make us ask more questions. If you get caught in a lie, in one thing, it makes it hard to let other stuff go." Sen. Jeff Flake said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (8/1), "I would agree with Lindsey in that regard. It's tough to tell people not to look elsewhere if they don't believe that you're giving the full story. But we'll leave it to the committees of jurisdiction."

Correspondent Ryan Nobles said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/1) that Senate Intelligence Committee ranking Democrat Mark Warner told him that "if the President played any role in crafting a statement that turned out to be purposely misleading, it is a serious problem." Sen. Chris Murphy said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/1) that it is "hard to keep track of this ever-widening web of lies," adding that the White House "for a very long time" has gone to "great lengths to try to cover...up" contacts between "the highest levels of the [Trump] campaign and the Russian government."

Sen. Jim Risch was more reserved in his comments, repeatedly saying on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/1) that he wants to let the investigations play out before he makes any judgment.

Kushner: Trump Campaign Too Dysfunctional, Disorganized To Collude With Russia. The [AP](#) (8/1, Lardner) reports that in remarks to a group of congressional interns Monday, Jared Kushner said that "the Trump campaign couldn't have colluded with Russia because the team was too dysfunctional and disorganized to coordinate with a foreign government." According to ForeignPolicy.com, in response to a question about the Mueller investigation, Kushner said, "They thought we colluded, but we couldn't even collude with our local offices."

Conway also [argued](#) (8/1) that "if she needed harmful information about...Clinton, she would turn to Clinton rather than Russia," [The Hill](#) (8/1, Shelbourne) reports. Conway said, "Look, I was the campaign manager for the winning part of the campaign and if I needed negative information about Hillary Clinton, I look no further than Hillary Clinton. ... You certainly didn't need to go to Moscow. You could just see what she was saying everyday. No optimistic economic

message for America.”

Citing Friendship With Comey, Franks Says Mueller Must Resign. Rep. Trent Franks, a member of the House Judiciary Committee, called Tuesday for Mueller to resign, citing his friendship with former FBI Director Comey, the [Washington Times](#) (7/31, Noble) reports. Franks argued that the friendship should make Mueller ineligible to lead the investigation, saying in a statement, “Those who worked under them have attested he and Jim Comey possess a close friendship, and they have delivered on-the-record statements effusing praise of one another.” The [Daily Caller](#) (8/1) reports that Franks’ statement said that Mueller is “in ‘clear violation’ of federal law prohibiting a special counsel from having a conflict of interest.” Franks said, “No one knows Mr. Mueller’s true intentions, but neither can anyone dispute that he now clearly appears to be a partisan arbiter of justice. Accordingly, the law is also explicitly clear: he must step down based on this conflict of interest.”

The [Washington Post](#) (8/1, Demirjian) says Franks’ comments follow a similar call from freshman Rep. Andy Biggs. The Post adds that the lawmakers’ arguments are “largely an echo of complaints Trump himself has made about Mueller as he also downplays the seriousness or merit of the Russia probe.”

Congressional Probe Of Wasserman Schultz Aides Advancing. The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (8/1, Kredo) reports that a congressional investigation “into a growing scandal surrounding IT staffers working for Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D., Fla.), who are accused of stealing sensitive computer equipment from House lawmakers’ offices,” is moving forward, “according to senior congressional sources who told the Washington Free Beacon the Democratic leader’s refusal to answer questions could ‘merit resignation.’” Congressional leaders have “requested a formal briefing by Capitol Police into its investigation of several Pakistani House IT staffers,” one of whom, Imran Awan, “was arrested this week when trying to travel to Pakistan and charged with bank fraud after a months-long investigation that found he wired nearly \$300,000 to that country.” The Free Beacon cites “multiple sources” who said the “leading members of Congress are growing frustrated with the pace of the criminal investigation and have moved to conduct their own independent probe into the scandal.”

Citing the Free Beacon story, the [Daily Caller](#) (8/1, Hasson) reports that Rep. Ron Desantis called the “growing IT scandal” one of “the all-time congressional scandals in the last 30 years.” Desantis, who chairs the national security subcommittee of the House Oversight Committee, said, “I’m pushing very hard to get a full briefing from Capitol Police as soon as possible. ... There’s clearly criminal elements to this and I think there will be more going on. There’s probably going to be ethics issues on why these [taxpayer] funds were spent that [Wasserman Schultz] and others will have to deal with.”

Lawsuit Claims White House Role In Fox News Story On Murdered DNC Aide. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/1, story 7, 3:35, Muir) reported that a new lawsuit makes a “bombshell accusation” that “the White House worked with Fox News to spread a false story about a Democratic staffer who was murdered.” The [AP](#) (8/1, Bauder, Colvin) says that the lawsuit filed Tuesday by investigator Rod Wheeler, “lays out an explosive tale of Trump allies, the White House and Fox News Channel conspiring to push a false story about Democratic leaks and an unsolved killing in order to distract attention from the Russia investigation that has been swirling around the president.” Wheeler, “who had been looking into the killing of Seth Rich, a former Democratic National Committee staff member killed in 2016 in what police say was a botched robbery,” alleges in the suit that “Fox quoted him as saying things he never said and was willing to show President Donald Trump its story before it was posted online.”

The [Washington Post](#) (8/1, Bump) cites an NPR report which said that Wheeler’s suit “makes a remarkable claim: The Trump White House — or President Trump personally — may have been aware of or involved” in the now-discredited Fox News story. The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/1, story 4, 2:25, Mason) reports that the lawsuit says Trump’s goal “was to help lift the cloud of the Russia investigation.” The [New York Times](#) (8/1, Steel) reports that according to Wheeler’s suit, “the network fabricated quotations from him in an article about Mr. Rich on FoxNews.com.” He “states that the network was aware that he had not said the statements yet it published them ‘with reckless disregard for their truth.’” Wheeler “asserts that he was a pawn in a broader plan by the White House, a Trump supporter named Ed Butowsky and Fox News to ‘shift the blame from Russia and help put to bed speculation that President Trump colluded with Russia in an attempt to influence the outcome of the presidential election.’”

[Politico](#) (8/1, Conway) reports that White House press secretary Sarah Sanders denied the allegations, telling reporters, “The president had no knowledge of the story, and it’s completely untrue that he or the White House [had] involvement in the story. ... Beyond that, this is ongoing

litigation, and I would refer you to the actual parties involved, which aren't the White House." [USA Today](#) (8/1, Snider) reports that Fox News president Jay Wallace said in a statement, "The accusation that FoxNews.com published Malia Zimmerman's story to help detract from coverage of the Russia collusion issue is completely erroneous. The retraction of this story is still being investigated internally and we have no evidence that Rod Wheeler was misquoted by Zimmerman."

Margaret Sullivan writes in her [Washington Post](#) (8/1) column that due to "Wheeler's mutating role throughout this ugly saga, he cannot be considered a reliable narrator," and "you can't believe everything his suit says." But "some of it is now undeniable: An outrageously bogus news story was known about, and apparently not discouraged, within the West Wing well before it was published. And once it was published, it become endless fodder for the president's staunchest defenders." Sullivan argues that the White House may have "cheered on" one of "the ugliest falsehoods of the current political era," and "at the very least" it gave "tacit approval. And that's bad enough."

North Korean Hackers Sought To Breach Hillary Clinton's Campaign. [CyberScoop](#) (8/1) reports that North Korean hackers, as part of a cyber-espionage campaign against Hillary Clinton's campaign, "compromised email accounts belonging to individuals involved with an East Asia-focused foreign policy advisory group." According to "multiple people familiar with the incident told CyberScoop," the North Koreans were seeking "policy documents and other relevant information that may have affected the regime if Clinton were to become president." They "were able to break into the email accounts of employees of at least one prominent D.C.-based think tank." Some of these individuals were sometimes in communication with the Hillary for America campaign, and the hackers "used their access to apparently draft convincing spearphishing emails that were then sent to other associates of the campaign." CyberScoop adds that no internal Clinton campaign email accounts "were breached as part of this specific North Korean phishing activity, according to multiple people familiar with the matter."

Senate Confirms Wray As FBI Director In 92-5 Vote.

The Senate voted 92-5 Tuesday to confirm Christopher Wray as FBI Director. Coverage of Wray's confirmation is generally similar across media outlets, describing the vote as overwhelming, and highlighting that Wray said during his confirmation that he does not regard special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation as a "witch hunt" and that he would resign if the President were to ask him to do anything unethical or illegal.

Lester Holt said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/1, story 4, 0:25) that Wray "takes over the bureau following President Trump's abrupt firing of James Comey, who was leading the investigation into possible connections between the Trump campaign and Russia during the 2016 election." Similarly, Anthony Mason said in a brief report on the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/1, story 2, 0:15) that Wray succeeds Comey, "who was fired by President Trump because of the Russia investigation."

The [New York Times](#) (8/1, Goldman), [Politico](#) (8/1, Kim), and the [AP](#) (8/1, Cassata) say the Senate "overwhelmingly" confirmed Wray, while the [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/1, Mascaro) calls the vote "a reflection of the Senate's confidence in Wray's credentials as a Yale-educated former Justice Department official and as a top cop who vowed to maintain the bureau's independence, resisting interference even from the president."

[USA Today](#) (8/1, Kelly) reports that senators from both sides of the aisle "said they were impressed that Wray testified that he did not consider Mueller's investigation to be 'a witch hunt,' as Trump has described it." Cecilia Vega reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/1, story 2, 0:35, Muir) that during his confirmation hearing, Wray testified that "he would resign if he was ever asked by President Trump to do any unethical or illegal." [Reuters](#) (8/1, Ainsley), the [Washington Times](#) (8/1, Noble), the [New York Post](#) (8/1, Fredericks), the [Washington Post](#) (8/1, Demirjian), [The Hill](#) (8/1, Carney), the [Washington Examiner](#) (8/1, Cohen), and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/1, Viswanatha, Wilber) also report on Wray's confirmation.

WPost A1: Congress May Not Be Able To Act On Trump Tax Cuts This Year.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/1, A1, Paletta, Snell) reports on its front page, "The White House's push to quickly pass a major package of tax cuts through Congress is facing a fall calendar full of legislative land mines, potentially delaying a key part of President Trump's agenda into at least 2018." The President touted the proposal Tuesday, but congressional GOP leaders face deadlines on the budget and debt ceiling that must take precedence.

Trump Seeks Corporate Tax Cut, Touts Corporate Profits. [Reuters](#) (8/1, Morgan) reports that

President Trump in Tuesday issued “a Twitter message bragging about corporate America’s high profits under his presidency,” leading “critics to say he was undercutting Republican arguments in favor of a tax cut for corporations.” Trump is quoted as [tweeting](#), “Corporations have NEVER made as much money as they are making now.” Reuters adds that Trump’s “tweet ‘takes the edge of urgency off the plea to reduce the burden on corporations,’ said William Galston, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution think tank.” And in response to Trump’s tweet, Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI) said on Twitter, “This is a weird way to launch their proposal to cut corporate taxes.”

McConnell Says GOP Will Use Reconciliation For Tax Code Overhaul.

[Politico](#) (8/1, Schor) reports, “Senate Republicans are sticking to their plans to pass a tax bill with 50 Republican votes, despite Democratic pleas not to be sidelined as they were” on healthcare reform. On Tuesday, Senate Majority Leader McConnell “reaffirmed the GOP’s long-standing intention to shield any tax overhaul from a likely Democratic filibuster” by using the reconciliation process.

The [Washington Times](#) (8/1, Sherfinski) reports that McConnell told reporters, “We will need to use reconciliation, because we have been informed by a majority of the Democrats in a letter I just received today that most of the principles that would get the country growing again – they’re not interested in addressing. So I don’t think this is going to be 1986, when you had a bipartisan effort to scrub the code.”

Democrats Seek Bipartisan Talks. The [Washington Post](#) (8/1, Snell, Paletta) reports that 45 of the 48 members of the Democratic caucus signed a letter calling for bipartisan talks “amid growing pressure from the White House for Republicans to implement aggressive tax cuts before year’s end.” The three who did not sign – Sens. Joe Donnelly, Heidi Heitkamp, and Joe Manchin – are centrists facing “difficult reelection prospects” in states that President Trump won by large margins.

The [New York Times](#) (8/1, Rappeport) says bipartisanship “will not come easy.” Democrats “are insisting that changes to tax laws not increase the tax burden on the middle class and that the wealthiest 1 percent of taxpayers not see their tax bills shrink,” and also insist that the GOP return to regular order and not use reconciliation.

“Conservative And Business-Aligned” Groups To Press For Tax Reform. [Politico](#) (8/1, Cook) reports that “conservative and business-aligned advocacy groups” including the American Action Network, Americans For Prosperity, and the Business Roundtable “plan to spend millions of dollars boosting tax reform in August, part of a coordinated effort with the White House and lawmakers to avoid the mistakes made during the bruising attempt to repeal” the Affordable Care Act. Advertising “will focus on how tax reform will hit consumers’ pocketbooks, boost American jobs and help economic growth broadly, not on the benefits for the big businesses helping to fund the campaign.”

Mnuchin’s Debt Ceiling Talks With McConnell And Schumer Make No Progress.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/1, Paletta) reports that debt ceiling talks between Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, Senate Majority Leader McConnell, and Senate Minority Leader Schumer “broke up Tuesday with no progress.” [USA Today](#) (8/1, Kelly) reports that Mnuchin “has warned congressional leaders that the government will run out of money to pay its bills by Sept. 29 unless lawmakers vote to raise the debt limit.” The House and Senate are scheduled for just 12 working days between now and then. [Reuters](#) (8/1) reports that McConnell said senators “‘are looking for a way forward’ to pass a debt limit increase sometime in the next month or so.”

[Politico](#) (8/1, Bresnahan, Kim) reports that Mnuchin is seeking a clean debt ceiling increase, but “conservative Republicans frequently tried to use the debt ceiling increase during the Obama era to push for other spending cuts,” and “a number of House Democrats are uneasy on voting to increase the debt ceiling at the same time that Republicans will be trying to push through a tax cut package.”

The [Washington Post](#) (8/1) says in an editorial that while Mnuchin has been “sensible” about the debt ceiling, he “is getting no help” from OMB Director Mulvaney, “who hails from the wing of the GOP that believes in playing political games with this issue.” The Post calls on Chief of Staff Kelly to bring “everyone in the administration into line, starting with the man at the top, behind Mr. Mnuchin’s position.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Whose Message To Believe On Russia?" The [New York Times](#) (8/2, Board) says in an editorial that Vice President Pence "has been delivering a remarkably consistent message on a trip to Eastern Europe this week," but his sentiments have not been "eagerly embraced and celebrated by" President Trump. The Times says Pence's "blunt analysis of the problem and robust alliance commitments reflect fairly traditional American thinking on Russia," and most Administration security officials similarly "view Russia as a leading adversary." For the US "to have any real hope of managing this complex and delicate relationship" with Russia, the Times concludes, the President "will have to put together a firm, consistent and credible approach that can persuade Mr. Putin, the allies and Americans that he knows what he is doing and that his team is on the same page."

"Cubs Fan Gets A Ring, And Forgiveness." A [New York Times](#) (8/1, Board) editorial discusses the "reconciliation between the Chicago Cubs and Steve Bartman," a fan who may have prevented the team from breaking its World Series losing streak when he "reached for a foul ball at Wrigley Field and thus possibly prevented his team's left fielder from catching it for a crucial out."

Washington Post.

"Time For The Trump Administration To Speak With One voice On The Debt Limit." The [Washington Post](#) (8/1) says in an editorial that while Treasury Secretary Mnuchin has been "sensible" about the debt ceiling, he "is getting no help" from OMS Director Mulvaney, "who hails from the wing of the GOP that believes in playing political games with this issue." The Post calls on Chief of Staff Kelly to bring "everyone in the administration into line, starting with the man at the top, behind Mr. Mnuchin's position."

"How America Can Honor A Chinese Dissident – And Help Protect His Widow." A [Washington Post](#) (8/1) editorial commends Sen. Ted Cruz for introducing "a bill to rename the street in front of the Chinese Embassy 'Liu Xiaobo Plaza'" in honor of the late dissident. The Post argues that the move "would not only be a tribute to his life and achievements but also tell Beijing that its crackdown on human rights has not gone unnoticed," specifically in the case of Liu Xia, Liu's widow, who "has been kept under house arrest by the Chinese government though she has never been charged with a crime."

"Sobering News For \$15 Minimum-Wage Boosters." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/1) writes that the results of Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett's request for an objective economic study to be conducted on the consequences of raising the county's minimum wage to \$15 show the importance of evidence-based policymaking, as opposed to legislation based upon popular approval. The Post argues that the study, which showed that the minimum wage hike would cost 47,000 jobs, should give minimum wage supporters pause, and concludes that "\$15-an-hour advocates owe the new report...a respectful response."

Wall Street Journal.

"ObamaCare For Congress." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/1) says in an editorial that getting rid of the ACA's dispensation for members of Congress and congressional staff would force legislators to live under the same law as everyone else, which might make them more willing to fix it.

"A Trump Card In Ukraine." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/1) editorial urges the President to approve a plan from the Pentagon and State Department to supply Ukraine with arms, arguing that it would send a message to Russian President Vladimir Putin that he wants to negotiate from a position of strength. The Journal argues that it could also help the US position in Syria, where Russia is seeking to gain a foothold.

"The Body Count At The Border." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/1) highlights the rising death rate along the US-Mexico border even as the number of apprehensions of attempted illegal crossers declines. The number of deaths rose by about 80 percent between 1999 and 2012, while apprehensions were down by more than 75 percent during the same period. The Journal says this will continue until the US reforms its immigration system.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Some Insurers Seek ACA Premium Increases Of 30% And Higher](#)
[Inside Goldman's Struggle To Climb Out Of Last Place In Trading](#)
[VW's CEO Knows The Future Is Electric—His Company Isn't So Sure](#)
[Apple Sales Rise On Revived iPad, Mac Sales](#)

New York Times:

[Justice Dept. To Take On Affirmative Action In College Admissions](#)
[Trump Loyalist Mixes Businesses And Access At 'Advisory' Firm](#)
[Republicans In Congress Bypass Trump To Shore Up Health Law](#)
[Jailings Raise Fears Of Dictatorship In Venezuela](#)
[Decades Of Questions Get Chilling Answer: He Was John Wayne Gacy's Victim](#)

Washington Post:

[In Libya, Fear That The Worst Is Yet To Come](#)
[GOP Tax Package May Be Delayed](#)
[Opposition Leaders Seized In Venezuela](#)
[Low Supplies, Price Spikes Limit Cost Savings Of Generic Drugs](#)
[In Minn., A Different Police Shooting](#)
[Senate GOP's Frustrations With Trump Bubbling Up](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Seeks Credit As Stock Market Soars, Economy Strengthens](#)
[As Homeland Security Secretary, Kelly Waived Dozens Of Laws To Allow For Trump's Border Wall](#)
[Retired Generals, Admirals Thank Trump For Announcing Ban On Transgender Troops](#)
[Republican Incumbents In Swing Districts Try To Find Right Distance From Trump](#)
[Atheists In Muslim World: Silent, Resentful And Growing In Number](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Trump-Don Jr Russia Meeting; New FBI Director; California-Officers Shot; Baltimore-Police Bodycam; North Korea-Missile Test; New Russia Sanctions; WH-False Democratic Staffer Story; Princess Diana-Personal Video; Wall Street-New High; Maryland-Mystery Vacationer Death; Lightning Struck Man; Severe Weather; Joshua Tree National Park-Missing Couple; Sleep-Health; Teacher's Wedding.

CBS: Wall Street-New High; New FBI Director; Trump-Don Jr Russia Meeting; WH-False Democratic Staffer Story; Missouri-Jim Crow Bill; North Korea-Missile Test; Venezuela-Political Turmoil; Teen Drivers-Risks; Cyber Bullying; Severe Weather; Shark Week; Apollo Mission Control Preservation.

NBC: Trump-Don Jr Russia Meeting; New Russia Sanctions; Trump-Police Violence Comment; New FBI Director; Tillerson-State Dept Briefing; Hot Car-Child Deaths; Cyber Bullying; Venezuela-Political Turmoil; Wall Street-New High; Implanted Employee ID; Sleep-Health; Police-Community Outreach; Board Game Sales Increase; Airplane Passenger Kindness.

Network TV At A Glance:

Trump-Don Jr Russia Meeting – 7 minutes, 35 seconds
WH-False Democratic Staffer Story – 6 minutes
Wall Street-New High – 3 minutes
North Korea-Missile Test – 2 minutes, 20 seconds
Venezuela-Political Turmoil – 2 minutes, 15 seconds
Severe Weather – 1 minute, 55 seconds
New FBI Director – 1 minutes, 15 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: New Russia Sanctions; Trump-Don Jr Russia Meeting; California Bus Crash Trial; Aircraft Passenger Jumps Out; Wall Street News.

CBS: Tax Reform Plan; New FBI Director; Wall Street-New High; North Carolina Islands Outages; Severe Weather.

FOX: New FBI Director; Congressman-Special Counsel Resign Call; Sessions-Gov Leaks; Tax Reform Plan.

NPR: New FBI Director; Gov Housing Program-Accountability; WH-False Democratic Staffer Story; New Russia Sanctions.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Makes an announcement with Senator Tom Cotton and Senator David Perdue; meets with Senator Rob Portman.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a meeting with Prime Minister Duško Markovic of Montenegro; delivers remarks at the Adriatic Charter Summit; participates in formal greetings with leaders from across the Western Balkans at the Adriatic Charter Summit.

US Senate: 10:00 AM Senate Public Works Committee on FBI HQ consolidation project – Hearing on 'FBI Headquarters Consolidation Project – What Happened and What's Next', with testimony from General Services Administration Public Buildings Service Acting Commissioner Michael Gelber; FBI Finance Division Assistant Director/CFO Richard Haley II; and Government Accountability Office Physical Infrastructure Team Director David Wise * GSA was originally looking to exchange the J. Edgar Hoover Building in Washington, DC, for a new facility that could accommodate FBI headquarters operations and allow it to consolidate into one location. However, last month, the GSA and FBI canceled the procurement, citing 'an \$882 million funding gap' while saying the cancelation 'does not lessen the need for a new FBI headquarters' and that they would 'continue to work together to address the space requirements of the FBI' Location: Rm 406, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Senate Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee Executive Session – Executive Session, to consider legislation including 'S. 374, Concrete Masonry Products Research, Education, and Promotion Act of 2017', 'S. 1322, American Fisheries Advisory Committee Act', 'S. 1536, Combating Human Trafficking in Commercial Vehicles Act', and nominations of Ajit Varadaraj Pai (reappointment), Jessica Rosenworcel (reappointment), and Brendan Carr to be Federal Communications Commission members, David Redl to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, Peter Davidson to be Department of Commerce General Counsel, Karen Dunn Kelley to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs, Elizabeth Erin Walsh to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce and U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service Director General, Steven Gill Bradbury to be Department of Transportation General Counsel, Mark Buzby to be Maritime Administration Administrator, Ronald Batory to be Federal Railroad Administration Administrator, and Robert Sumwalt III to be National Transportation Safety Board Chairman Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on U.S.-Colombia relations, nominations hearing – Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues Subcommittee hearing on 'Assessing the Colombia Peace Process: The Way Forward in U.S.-Colombia Relations', with testimony from Assistant Secretary of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs William Brownfield, and Acting Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs Francisco Palmieri; former USAID Acting Assistant Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean Jose Cardenas; and The Cohen Group Associate Vice President Juan Gonzalez * Immediately followed by nominations hearing, considering Doug Manchester to be U.S. Ambassador to the Bahamas Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 419, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Natural Resources subcommittee hearing on water security and drought preparedness – Water and Power Subcommittee hearing on increasing water security and drought preparedness through infrastructure, management, and innovation, with testimony from Arizona Department of Water Resources Director Tom Buschatzke; GE Power – Water & Process Technologies President and CEO Heiner Markhoff; Poseidon Water President and CEO Carlos Riva; University of Southern Maine New England Environmental Finance Center Director Martha Sheils; and Sonoma County Water Agency Chairwoman of the Board Shirlee Zane Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 366, Washington, DC www.energy.senate.gov

2:00 PM Secretaries Tillerson and Mattis brief Senate Foreign Relations Committee on AUMF – Closed / Top Secret briefing on 'The Authorizations for the Use of Military Force: Administration Perspective', given by Secretary of State Rex Tillerson; and Secretary of Defense James Mattis Location: U.S. Capitol, SVC-217, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, to consider 'S. 154, Small Business Relief from Disease Induced Economic Hardship Act', 'S. 650, Support Small Business R&D Act of 2017', 'S. 690, HUBZone Investment Protection Act', 'S. 929, Invest in Rural Small Business Act of 2017', 'S. 1038, A bill to require the Administrator

of the Small Business Administration to submit to Congress a report on the utilization of small businesses with respect to certain Federal contracts', and 'S. 1428, Small Business Cyber Training Act of 2017' Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://sbc.senate.gov/>

Senate HELP Committee Executive Session – Executive Session, to consider nominations of Dr Jerome Adams to be Surgeon General; Dr Brett Giroir to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Health; Dr Robert Kadlec to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Preparedness and Response; Dr Elinore McCance-Katz to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Mental Health and Substance Use; Lance Robertson to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Aging; Patrick Pizzella to be Deputy Secretary of Labor; and Heather MacDougall and James Sullivan to be OSHRC members Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

US House: On recess until 5 September.

Other: 8:30 AM Department of the Treasury quarterly refunding announcement – Department of the Treasury makes quarterly refunding announcement, outlining its funding needs for the next two quarters, including which securities will be offered and the dates of their announcement, auction, and settlement Location: TBD <http://www.treasury.gov/resource-center/data-chart-center/quarterly-refunding/Pages/default.aspx> <https://twitter.com/USTreasury>

10:00 AM Democratic Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton hosts annual Job Fair Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon PI NW, Washington, DC www.norton.house.gov <https://twitter.com/EleanorNorton>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "We have the Olympics in 2028. Only 11 more years, and then volleyball. I feel like between climate change and Kim Jong-Un, it's optimistic to think we'll still have a Los Angeles in 2028. But if we do, game's on."

Stephen Colbert: "For Donald Trump, it's been a rough couple of, his entire presidency."

Stephen Colbert: "Last night, we found out that President Trump dictated his son's misleading statement. He dictated it. It's official, Donald Trump is a dictator."

Trevor Noah: "Fun fact for you, the last time the Olympics were held in LA was in 1984. That was at the height of the Cold War, and Russia boycotted those games. Good news, it may happen again."

Trevor Noah: "Not only did the sanctions pass the Senate by 98 to 2, in the House the vote was 419 to 3. That is insane. Everyone in Congress went up against Russia like it was Ted Cruz."

Jimmy Fallon: "Well, yesterday was White House Chief of Staff John Kelly's first day on the job. It got awkward when he showed up and said, 'Why are you writing my name on the door in dry erase marker?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "As of today, 12 top government or White House officials have been fired or resigned since Trump took office. And Trump was like, 'Just five more eliminations until I announce the winner.'"

Seth Meyers: "After President Trump removed White House Communications Director Anthony Scaramucci yesterday, he tweeted, 'Great day at the White House.' Coincidentally, a great day at the White House is the average length of employment there."

Seth Meyers: "Former White House Communications Director Anthony Scaramucci was reportedly seen yesterday, eating dinner at the Trump Hotel after being removed from his position. And apparently he was very rude to the waiter."

Seth Meyers: "According to Foreign Policy Magazine, President Trump's son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner told a group of congressional interns that Trump's campaign was too disorganized to collude with Russia. Said the interns, 'We're a tour group.'"

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DOI In The News

Uncertainty As National Monument Review Deadline Nears.

The [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (8/8, DeMille) reports that "two weeks ahead of a Trump administration deadline to complete a review of 27 national monuments, including Utah's Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante, the status remains uncertain for most of them." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has "already issued a preliminary recommendation to shrink the Bears Ears monument, and over the course of the past several weeks he has said that five others should remain monuments and go untouched." However, "the details behind what might happen at Bears Ears and the fate of the 21 other monuments remain a question mark."

Public-Lands Group Targets Zinke With \$1.4M Ad Buy Urging Monument Protection. [KXLH-TV](#) Helena, MT (8/8, Dennison) reports that "p public lands group has launched a \$1.4 million ad campaign in Montana, targeting U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, urging him to recommend no changes in two dozen national monuments." According to the article, "the sizable TV, radio and online ad campaign from Missoula-based Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, launched last week, is solely in Montana – home to the Interior secretary and former Montana congressman." The group's conservation director, John Gale, said, "We felt it was pretty important to put a bunch of resources specifically into this campaign, in order to try to influence a beneficial outcome for national monuments. It's our hope that this ad campaign ... yields having these wonderful wild places left alone, as they are."

Additional coverage was provided by [KPAX-TV](#) Missoula, MT (8/8, Dennison) and [KTVH-TV](#) Helena, MT (8/8, Dennison).

Businesses Plan Discussions On National Monuments. The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (8/8) reports that "business owners from California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah and Montana will host discussions in Great Falls and Helena on Wednesday on the Interior Department review of national monuments." The discussions to be "held in Helena and Great Falls will feature an overview of the Western outdoor economy and a panel discussion from regional business leaders." The purpose is "to highlight impacts western businesses say they would face if national monument protections are changed, said Business for Montana's Outdoors and the Colorado Outdoor Business Alliance, which are hosting the talks."

Mesquite Water Official Airs Concern Over Gold Butte Springs. The [AP](#) (8/8) reports that "a water official in the Nevada community of Mesquite says he expressed concerns to U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke about municipal springs now within the boundaries of Gold Butte National Monument." Virgin Valley Water District Kevin Brown said "he expressed the concern during a 10-minute meeting with Zinke on July 30."

San Bernardino Rep Asks Trump To Shrink San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, Citing Ski Resort And Mining. The [San Gabriel Valley \(CA\) Tribune](#) (8/8, Scauzillo) reports that Rep. Paul Cook is calling on the Trump Administration "to shrink the boundaries of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument, causing anxiety among some of the monument's ardent supporters." Cook wants "to remove 4,873-acre portion jutting into the San Bernardino National Forest." In a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on June 8, Cook wrote, "The inclusion of 4,873 acres of non-wilderness Forest Service land was widely opposed by local residents due to its encroachment on local communities and economic activity."

Sage Grouse Conservation Changes Praised, Provoke Alarm.

The [AP](#) (8/8, Gruver, Brown) reports that the Trump Administration has "opened the door to industry-friendly changes to a sweeping plan imposed by his predecessor to protect a ground-dwelling bird across vast areas of the West." Representatives of the ranching and energy industries lauded "the policy shift as needed to give states flexibility." However, wildlife advocates

are concerned “that the proposed changes would undercut a hard-won struggle to protect the greater sage grouse.”

In an editorial, the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (8/9) notes that the “objections” from environmental groups “seem more focused on resource development than the actual fate of the sage grouse.” According to the paper, “that’s because the chicken-like bird is in fact a proxy through which green extremists hope to advance their quest to fence off vast swaths of the West’s public lands.” The editorial praises Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s announcement for “providing a modicum of regulatory relief while giving Nevada and other states a bit more flexibility to develop their own approaches to sage grouse management.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [USA Today](#) (8/8, Ap), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (8/8, GRUVER, BROWN), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (8/9, Gruver, Brown), the [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (8/8), the [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (8/8, Gruver, Brown), [Fox Business](#) (8/8, Gruver, Brown), the [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (8/8, Gruver, Brown), the [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (8/8, Gruver, Brown), the [Belleville \(IL\) News-Democrat](#) (8/8, Gruver, Brown), the [Scottsbluff \(NE\) Star-Herald](#) (8/8, Gruver, Brown), [KTAR-FM Glendale \(AZ\)](#) Glendale, AZ (8/8), and [KTVH-TV Helena \(MT\)](#) Helena, MT (8/8, Gruver, Brown).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Caller](#) (8/8, Pearce), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (8/8, Gruver, Brown), the [Portland \(OR\) Business Journal](#) (8/8, Danko), [CBS News](#) (8/9), [Fox Business](#) (8/8, Daly), [My Central Oregon](#) (8/8), [Yahoo! News](#) (8/8), [KHOU-TV Houston \(TX\)](#) Houston (8/8), and [KKOH-AM Reno \(NV\)](#) Reno, NV (8/8).

Scientist Claims Administration Punishing Him For Speaking Out About Climate Change.

Chip Reid of the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/8, story 5, 2:30, Mason) reported on an interview with US Interior Department scientist Joel Clement about “what happens to a government scientist who speaks up about” climate change. For the past seven years, Clement has been working in Alaskan villages that “are literally melting into the Arctic Ocean.” Clement addressed the issue last month at the UN, and six days later, “he was one of about 50 department employees who were assigned to new jobs.” Clement has filed a whistleblower complaint, saying, “I believe that the Trump Administration is retaliating against me for disclosing these risks to these Alaskan native villages.”

Additional coverage was provided by [CBS News](#) (8/8).

County Opposes Bringing Grizzlies Into North Cascades.

The [Skagit Valley \(WA\) Herald](#) (8/8, Stone) reports that the Board of Skagit County Commissioners “agreed Monday to recommend against reintroducing grizzly bears into the North Cascades, citing public safety concerns.” A letter, sent jointly by Chelan, Okanogan and Skagit counties to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, “reiterates concerns that bringing 200 bears into the 6-million-acre region would harm the safety and welfare of residents.” However, “many of the commenters at Monday’s crowded public meeting disagreed, saying their experience with nature doesn’t mesh with the way the bears have been portrayed by the county and the American Stewards of Liberty.”

Additional Coverage: Trump Administration Repeals Obama-Era Coal Royalty Reform.

Additional coverage that the Trump Administration is “repealing an Obama-era rule that forced energy companies to pay more royalties on fossil fuels” was provided by [Montana Public Radio](#) (8/8, Hegyi), the [Alaska Native News](#) (8/8), the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (8/8, Richards), and [KAML-FM Gillette \(WY\)](#) Gillette, WY (8/8).

Additional Coverage: Officials Applaud Mine Proposal To Create Jobs In WV.

Additional coverage that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “last week applauded the initial construction of the Berwind Mine located on the border of West Virginia and Virginia” was provided by the [Williamson \(WV\) Daily News](#) (8/9).

Don’t Do It, Donald Trump.

In her column for the [Washington Times](#) (8/8, Simmons), Deborah Simmons opposes giving “the D.C. government control of RFK Stadium land and the D.C. Armory land,” as well as the adjacent park land. She argues that “federal park land shouldn’t simply be plopped into the hands of the D.C. government.” Simmons urges the Trump Administration to “not view the proposed land swaps and transfers through lenses that block the periphery.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Tribes Want Dakota Pipeline Shut, But Offer Fallback Plan.

The [AP](#) (8/8, Nicholson) reports that tribes looking to shut down the Dakota Access oil pipeline “presented a fallback plan should the judge disagree.” The fallback plan “includes increased public reporting of pipeline issues such as repairs, and implementation of a spill response plan – including equipment staging – at the Lake Oahe reservoir on the Missouri River, from which the tribe draws its water.” The article mentions that the judge’s ruling is not expected until September.

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (8/8, Cama).

BIA And Oconaluftee Job Corps Strengthen Partnership.

The [Cherokee \(NC\) One Feather](#) (8/8) reports that “the Bureau of Indian Affairs and Oconaluftee Job Corps Civilian Conservation Center (JCCCC) signed an agreement to increase fire and non-fire training and work-based learning opportunities for students on Tuesday, Aug. 1.” The partnership “provides additional avenues for JCCCC students to gain employability skills and experience as they assist the U.S. Forest Service in sustaining our nation’s forests and grasslands and delivering needed benefits to the public.” JCCCC Director Jimmy Copeland said, “We are elated to formalize this partnership with BIA to not only support natural resource training and development, but to also create pipelines and platforms of Eastern Band of Cherokee youth to achieve career enhancement opportunities. This agreement signifies a relevant partnership with BIA focused on youth training to include supporting Eastern Band of Cherokee Indian needs on tribal lands which also may provide avenues for timber, fire and fuels support.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Commentary: Slaughtering Wild Horses Would Be Simplistic And Cruel.

In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (8/9, Hammer), Rob Hammer, the proprietor of Wild Horse Tourist, opposes an amendment to the Interior Department’s 2018 spending bill introduced by Rep. Chris Stewart “that would send thousands of America’s wild horses to slaughterhouses.” Hammer argues that the “proposal to simply slaughter these cherished symbols of our national heritage amounts to greed-driven cruelty and should be stripped from the Appropriations Bill before final Congressional approval.” Instead, Hammer supports “comprehensive approaches that generally include some combination of administering long-acting birth control, retiring grazing leases, increasing lease fees, reapportioning AUM allotments, protecting large predators, returning herd areas to their original acreage and repopulating zeroed areas.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

North Carolina Residents Can Let The Government Know How They Feel About Drilling In The Atlantic Ocean.

[McClatchy](#) (8/8, Murphy) reports that “about 175 people attended and 45 people spoke at a N.C. Department of Environmental Quality public event in Wilmington on Monday night” about Atlantic offshore drilling, according to Bridget Munger with the state’s DEQ. The DEQ will host a second hearing Wednesday in Morehead City and a final one Thursday in Manteo. DEQ is accepting public comments through Aug. 15.

Fish And Wildlife Service

Fed Probe Of Shark-dragging Suspect Closed Last Year.

The [Miami Herald](#) (8/8, Staletovich) reports that “federal wildlife agents who last year investigated a group of Gulf coast anglers linked to a brutal shark-dragging video were foiled by uncooperative witnesses and an inability to confirm when the illegal acts occurred.” The federal investigation, “which focused on possible violations to the Migratory Bird Act, ultimately ended without charges after investigators were unable to determine when the pictures were taken.” According to the article, “when asked Tuesday why the case was transferred or why agents didn’t

follow up with attorneys, U.S. Fish and Wildlife law enforcement officials declined to comment, saying the case is closed."

Pipeline Won't Impact Animals.

The [Niagara \(NY\) Gazette](#) (8/8) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has "issued a report expressing the agency's contentment that National Fuel's Northern Access Pipeline project will not adversely affect the animal population along the work zone." National Fuel is "currently challenging a DEC ruling issued in April that denied water quality certificates needed for the project which would have resulted in the construction of a 97-mile pipeline capable of carrying natural gas from Pennsylvania through Western New York." In a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, dated Aug. 7, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service stated, "No further coordination or consultation under the ESA is required with the service at this time."

Meeting On South River Projects From DuPont Deal Scheduled In Verona.

The [Staunton \(VA\) News Leader](#) (8/8, Cavallaro) reports that "a preliminary meeting on how to submit South River project proposals for funds from the DuPont settlement has been scheduled in Verona, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced Tuesday." The meeting will be held "on Aug. 25 at 1 p.m. at the Augusta County Government Center in the south boardroom." The goal is "to review the restoration goals for the South River and go over the process for submitting project proposals."

Environmentalists Are Urging The USDA To Reject This Genetically Engineered Eucalyptus Tree.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/8, Harvey) reports that "a genetically engineered, freeze-tolerant eucalyptus tree is moving closer to receiving approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, amid concerns about the tree's possible negative effects on the environment." The USDA has "proposed lifting restrictions on commercial production of the trees, based on a draft environmental impact statement that concluded the trees pose few significant environmental risks." The USDA is "considering public comments and it still needs to confer with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the tree's potential impact on wildlife."

A Smart Reprieve For Great Lakes Wolves.

In an editorial, the [Chicago Tribune](#) (8/8, Board) supports the August 1 ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit keeping protections for gray wolves on the endangered list. The editorial believes "that most people in the Upper Midwest, as well as the rest of the country, think America would be a better place if wolves were able to expand their numbers and territory." Now, after the court's ruling, "the wolves will have that chance."

Our View: An Old Debate Rekindled.

In an editorial, the [Santa Maria \(CA\) Times](#) (8/8) says that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "seeks public comment on an environmental analysis of further local oil and gas operations." The federal agency is seeking input "to help formulate rules to guide the oil industry's development plans, while at the same time offering protection to two animal and one plant species named on the federal endangered species list." The paper says that "the feds' objective is noble — to protect plants and animals on the endangered species list — but past experience tell us there is no viable compromise when it comes to dealing with the Endangered Species Act, which was signed into law by former President Nixon in 1973, an era in which there seemed to be more of a consensus about the need to protect the planet and its living things." Although the Trump Administration "seems less interested in species' survival, and more focused on pumping new life into America's relatively sluggish economy," the paper hopes it will be possible "to find a middle ground, if both sides are willing to give some, or at least listen to what the other side is saying, which has not happened in the past."

The piece also appears at the [Lompoc \(CA\) Record](#) (8/8).

National Park Service

Free Entry To National Parks For Fourth Graders Kicks Off In September.

[KPTV-TV](#) Portland, OR (8/8) reports that "starting Sept. 1 each year, kids in the fourth grade have access to their own 'Every Kid in a Park' pass." The article notes that "with the pass, all

children under 16 and up to three adults can be admitted into a park for free.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (8/8, Chambers) and [KIRO-TV Seattle \(WA\)](#) Seattle (8/8, Chambers).

Chickamauga And Chattanooga National Military Park Receives Centennial Challenge Funds From Friends Of Moccasin Bend.

The [Chattanooga \(TN\)](#) (8/8) reports that on July 22, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “announced that the National Park Service is teaming up with partners across the nation to distribute more than \$50 million in high priority maintenance and infrastructure projects at 42 parks in 29 states, including \$143,733 at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park to construct an orientation plaza and park trails at Moccasin Bend National Archeological District.” The money for Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park will be “matched with \$287,546 from the Friends of Moccasin Bend.”

Parkway Receives \$750K For Deferred Maintenance Projects.

The [Roanoke \(VA\) Times](#) (8/8, Berrier) reports that the Blue Ridge Parkway is receiving “about \$750,000 in federal money and matching private grants to complete maintenance work at several locations along the scenic road.” The funds come from the Centennial Challenge. The parkway will “get \$366,012 in federal money, plus an additional \$384,940 in matching grants from the National Park Service, the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation and the National Park Foundation.”

Cumberland Island To Get America The Beautiful Quarter In August 2018.

The [Florida Times-Union](#) (8/8, Dickson) reports that Cumberland Island National Seashore will be “recognized on a 25-cent piece next year in the U.S. Mint’s America the Beautiful Quarters Program.” The mint will issue “the coin Aug. 27, 2018, as the 44th overall in the initiative to honor 56 National Park Service sites in each state, Washington D.C., and five U.S. territories, the park service said in a written statement.” Gary Ingram, superintendent of Cumberland Island and Fort Frederica National Monument, said, “This coin recognizes Cumberland as the treasure it is, and commemorates the efforts of those who worked to preserve it for future generations.”

Acadia National Park To Create Road Checkpoints To Reduce Impaired Driving.

The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (8/8, Sarnacki) reports that “in an effort to crack down on drivers under the influence of alcohol, drugs and marijuana, Acadia National Park rangers plan to enhance traffic enforcement and establish safety checkpoints on park roads beginning on Aug. 10 and continuing through the fall,” according to a press release issued by the National Park Service. This shift in “park management is in cooperation with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration as part of a national traffic safety campaign to reduce impaired driving on roads.” Superintendent Kevin Schneider stated in the press release, “The National Park Service is working to ensure that visitors to Acadia National Park have a safe and enjoyable trip. We appreciate the patience and cooperation of those visitors who may encounter a safety checkpoint in the park.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

After Trump Warning Of “Fire And Fury,” North Korea Threatens Strike On Guam.

President Trump’s warning to North Korea, which was followed by Pyongyang threat to strike Guam, are garnering heavy media attention, including the lead reports on all three networks newscasts. [Reuters](#) (8/8, Oliphant, Blanchard) reports, warned North Korea it would be met with “fire and fury like the world has never seen.” Stephen Ganyard said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/8, story 2, 1:15, Muir) that “to hear this language out of a US president, it’s something we have never heard before, and it certainly puts the world on notice.” Media reports cast the developments as presenting Trump with his greatest challenge yet of his presidency, with analysts and commentators taking a decidedly dim view of his rhetoric. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/8, Hennigan, Cloud, Bierman), for example, reports that the President’s “dramatic threat of annihilation raised fresh fears of a confrontation with North Korea,” and “in many ways mirrors his North Korean counterpart’s,” the [New York Times](#) (8/8, Baker, Sang-Hun) refers to “chilling language that evoked the horror of a nuclear exchange,” and a [Washington Post](#) (8/8) editorial criticizes the President’s “unsettling threat,” which it calls “reckless and unnecessary. In its bombast, it resembled nothing so much as Kim Jong Un’s regular denunciations of the United States, frantic and hyperbolic.” Dealing with the threat posed by the North, the Post argues, “will

require patient pressure and skilled diplomacy, perhaps for years. Instead, Mr. Trump has strut into the arena with a jarring rhetorical grenade."

Anthony Mason opened the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/8, lead story, 2:45) reporting that "Trump drew a line today for North Korean dictator Kim Jong-Un and warned what would happen if he crosses it," and [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/8, lead story, 3:05, Holt) said opened its broadcast saying the crisis with North Korea reached "an unsettling new level" as Trump issued his "most provocative statement yet." Former deputy director of the CIA's counterterrorism center Phil Mudd said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/8) that Trump is "making one of the most fundamental mistakes in foreign policy. ... The hotter it gets in the kitchen, the cooler the cook has to be. And the President is getting hotter."

At any rate, "just hours" after Trump issued his warning, [Reuters](#) (8/8, Oliphant, Blanchard) reports, North Korea said it is considering plans for a missile strike on Guam. A Korean People's Army spokesman said in a statement carried by state-run KCNA news agency that Pyongyang is "carefully examining" a plan to strike Guam, and "would be put into practice at any moment once leader Kim Jong Un makes a decision."

Sean Hannity argued in his opening monologue on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (8/8) that "the world needs to take a stand tonight. We must confront this evil in our time before it's too late," but the [AP](#) (8/8, Klug, Pennington) reports that "despite regular North Korean threats against Guam...it is extremely unlikely that Pyongyang would risk the assured annihilation of its revered leadership with a pre-emptive attack on US citizens." Still, the "competing threats and Trump's use of North Korea-style rhetoric...raise the already high animosity and heighten worries that a miscalculation might spark conflict." Nevertheless, the [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (8/8) reports Guam residents "expressed concern Wednesday." The offices of Guam Homeland Security and Civil Defense issued a statement Wednesday saying they were working with military officials to "continue to monitor the recent events surrounding North Korean and their threatening actions." The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/8, Chaitin) reports the US representative from Guam, Madeleine Bordallo said "top figures in the Pentagon have 'recently' assured her that the US military will keep Guam safe."

[Politico](#) (8/8, Dove) reports that in a pre-taped interview released Tuesday, Alaska Gov. Bill Walker said he was "concerned" about a North Korean missile hitting his state, which he said is "in the trajectory zone from North Korea."

Peter Alexander said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/8, story 2, 2:15, Holt) that Trump is "locked in an escalating standoff with a rogue regime and its erratic dictator," and on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/8, lead story, 3:20, Muir), Martha Raddatz called the President's remarks "the most fiery, overtly military threat" he "has ever launched at North Korea." She added that North Korea is "without question, the greatest challenge President Trump now faces." [The Hill](#) (8/8, Fabian, Kheel) similarly says North Korea is "posing an increasingly serious problem" for Trump.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/8, Wagner) says Trump's warning "further raises the stakes for the US president and other world leaders, who face limited options in dealing with North Korea's aggression," and [Politico](#) (8/8, Bender, Klimas) says they "sparked new fears that the standoff...could devolve into a shooting war."

A [New York Times](#) (8/8, Davis) analysis says Trump's warning "was a remarkable escalation of military rhetoric with little precedent in the modern era, historians and analysts said." While Trump's "menacing remarks echoed the tone and cadence" of President Harry Truman – who, in a 1945 address announcing that the US had dropped a nuclear bomb on Hiroshima, urged the Japanese to surrender, warning that if they did not, "they may expect a rain of ruin from the air, the like of which has never been seen on this earth" – the Times says it is "not clear whether Mr. Trump intended the historical parallel." But the [AP](#) (8/8, Pennington, Lucey) says his remarks "appeared scripted, with Trump glancing at a paper in front of him."

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/8, Sink, Syeed, Foroohar) says the statement came as Secretary of State Tillerson "continues visiting allies in Southeast Asia, rallying support for tougher measures against Pyongyang and holding out an olive branch to the reclusive regime as well." But Major Garrett said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/8, story 2, 2:15, Mason) that "the President's words contrasted sharply with...Tillerson's declaration just last week that the US was open to negotiations."

In a front-page story, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/8, A1, Sonne, Harris, Cheng) says Trump's comments reflect deep concern in the Administration about the progress North Korea has made in recent months on its nuclear-weapons program.

Also reporting on the President's remarks are the [New York Post](#) (8/8, Moore), [Washington Examiner](#) (8/8, Morrongiello), and [Townhall](#) (8/8, Pavlich). [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/8, lead story,

3:05, Holt) said "some lawmakers are slamming the President's comments: Dianne Feinstein calling them bombastic and recommending diplomacy. Republican John McCain said he can't think of any other President who would have used that kind of rhetoric." Major Garrett also reported their responses on the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/8, story 2, 2:15, Mason), and [The Hill](#) (8/8, Bowden) likewise says McCain "took exception" to Trump's remarks, and the [Washington Examiner](#) (8/8, Siegel) reports Feinstein said Trump's "bombastic" threats are not "helping" to defuse the situation. Rep. Eliot Engel also criticized Trump, charging that the President has drawn an "absurd red line."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/8, Mayfield) reports White House counselor Kellyanne Conway "jumped to the president's defense," saying, "I think the president's comments were very strong and obvious, and all of you covered them live."

Poll: Americans "Uneasy" About North Korea. [Politico](#) (8/8, Siu) reports that a CBS News poll out Tuesdays shows Americans are "uneasy" about a possible conflict with North Korea, while "many Democrats are also not confident" in Donald Trump's capacity to handle a nuclear crisis. Responses, however, "were largely split along party lines — 76 percent of Republican respondents said they are confident in Trump's ability to handle the North Korea nuclear situation, while only 10 percent of Democrats and 31 percent of independents said they are." Regardless of party alignment, "72 percent of the 1,111 people surveyed reported unease about a possible conflict, and only 26 percent" said they are "confident things will be resolved."

DIA Report: North Korea Has Miniaturized Nuclear Warhead. The [Washington Post](#) (8/8, Warrick, Nakashima, Fifield) reports North Korea has successfully produced a miniaturized nuclear warhead that can fit inside its missiles, "crossing a key threshold on the path to becoming a full-fledged nuclear power," according to a new analysis completed last month by the Defense Intelligence Agency. It is not known, however, whether it has "successfully tested the smaller design, although North Korea officially last year claimed to have done so." The DIA's findings, the Post says, "are likely to deepen concerns about an evolving North Korean military threat that appears to be advancing far more rapidly than many experts had predicted." The DIA and ODNI "declined to comment."

Drawing from the Post's report, [USA Today](#) (8/8, Bacon) says the DIA "completed the confidential analysis in July, shortly after another intelligence assessment that sharply raises the official estimate for the total number" of nuclear weapons in the country's arsenal to 60. The DIA "did not immediately respond" to a request for comment on the report. [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/8, lead story, 3:05, Holt) called the development "a major line crossed," while the [Washington Times](#) (8/8, Miller) says the Post's report "was based on anonymous sources and has not been independently verified."

Rep. Darrell Issa said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (8/8) that if it is true that North Korea has miniaturized a nuclear warhead, "it represents the greatest crisis...undoubtedly since the Cuban missile crisis." A [Chicago Tribune](#) (8/8) editorial says that the "new information about the North's weaponry, and this week's bellicose exchange, should alarm China, Russia and other governments. We hope that leads to the talks that reverse these escalating tensions."

Trump Touts UN Sanctions; Tillerson Presses Asian Allies For Action. Earlier in the day, the [AP](#) (8/8) reports, Trump said the latest UN sanctions against North Korea are necessary to try to curb the reclusive nation's nuclear program. Trump [tweeted](#), "After many years of failure, countries are coming together to finally address the dangers posed by North Korea. We must be tough & decisive!" However, Ambassador Haley said during on [NBC's Today Show](#) that "she isn't sure whether the sanctions will work."

[Reuters](#) (8/8, Lefevre) reports Secretary of State Tillerson on Tuesday pressed Thai leaders for more action on North Korea during a visit to Bangkok. Tillerson's "top priority," Reuters says, "has been urging Southeast Asian countries to do more to cut funding streams for North Korea." Before meeting Tillerson, Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said Thailand would "support a UN resolution on new sanctions on Pyongyang," but "made no mention of specific action." Thai Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai, the [AP](#) (8/8, Ng, Kaewjinda) reports, "indicated to reporters that he and Tillerson had discussed Washington's efforts to ensure that pressure was maintained on North Korea to drop its nuclear weapons program." He said Thailand, as a UN member, "adhered to its sanctions on Pyongyang, which resulted in a 94 percent decline in trade with North Korea from January to June this year compared to the same period last year."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/8, Watts, Otto) reports Acting Assistant Secretary of State Susan Thornton said Tillerson wanted to persuade Thailand's ruling military junta to take the lead in Southeast Asia on isolating North Korea. A US official said that North Korea would also be on the agenda for Tillerson's talks with Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak during his next stop in

Kuala Lumpur. Experts say cooperation from Asian countries, especially in Southeast Asia, is essential to the success of new UN sanctions.

Trump Advocated Negotiations In 1999 Interview. The [New York Post](#) (8/8, Perez) reports President Trump once said that he would “negotiate like crazy” with North Korea — rather than go to war — should it develop a nuclear weapon that could fit on a missile. “First, I’d negotiate,” Trump said during a 1999 interview on NBC’s “Meet the Press.” He added, “I would negotiate like crazy and I’d make sure that we tried to get the best deal possible. If a man walks up to you in the street...and puts a gun to your head and says, ‘Give me your money,’ wouldn’t you rather know where he’s coming from before he had the gun in his hand?”

NYTimes Analysis: North Korean Advances Could Lead To Regional Arms Race. The [New York Times](#) (8/8, Soble, Choe) reports that North Korea’s rapidly advancing nuclear program “has prompted politicians in Japan and South Korea to push for the deployment of more powerful weapons, in what could lead to a regional arms race.” According to the Times, “some of the new capabilities under consideration in Tokyo and Seoul...are politically contentious,” and adopting them “would break with decades of precedent.”

Ignatius: North Korea Threat A “Hinge” Moment For US, China. [Washington Post](#) (8/8) columnist David Ignatius writes that the North Korean nuclear threat is a “hinge” moment for the US and China. If Washington and Beijing “manage to stay together in dealing with Pyongyang,” he says, the “door opens on a new era in which China will play a larger and more responsible role in global affairs, commensurate with its economic power. If the great powers can’t cooperate, the door will slam shut — possibly triggering a catastrophic military conflict on the Korean Peninsula.”

Interior Grants Funds To Micronesian Resource Center.

The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (8/8, Raymundo) reports that “a set of Department of Interior grants worth more than \$280,000 have been directed to organizations and programs on Guam that work to provide resources and job training for regional migrants from the Freely Associated States.” Acting Interior Assistant Secretary Nikolao Pula “provided \$217,095 to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guam to continue running the Micronesian Resource Center One Stop Shop, the U.S. Department of Interior announced this past weekend.” The federal agency will “also provide \$250,000 to Hawaii’s Partners in Development Foundation so it can continue mentorship of the We Are Oceania Halau Ola One Stop Center.”

Trump Visits FEMA For Briefing On Hurricane Preparations.

[The Hill](#) (8/4, Fabian) reports President Trump traveled to FEMA headquarters on Friday for a briefing on the government’s hurricane preparation efforts. Trump, who toured FEMA’s National Response Coordination Center, said “we’re very strong in respect to FEMA.” He added, “We’ve already taken care of many of the situations that really needed emergency funds. We do it quickly, we do it effectively, we have an amazing team.”

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (8/6) reports the Virgin Islands’ Kenneth Mapp “was among governors who participated” in a FEMA-related teleconference event on Friday. Mapp stated, “FEMA has done a lot to help the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico to prepare for a hurricane.”

Governor: Guam Not Falling Off Financial Cliff.

The [Guam Daily Post](#) (8/8, Roberto) reports that Gov. Eddie Calvo “said Guam can afford to borrow money, and isn’t in the same financial situation as financially distressed Puerto Rico or the U.S. Virgin Islands.” Calvo told members of the Rotary Club of Tumon Bay, “We’re not falling off the cliff like places such as Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands or Illinois.” Calvo also “talked to Rotarians about the \$125 million proposed borrowing for Guam Memorial Hospital’s equipment and facilities upgrade.”

Top National News

Media Analyses: Trump Offers No Specifics On Tackling Opioid Addiction Crisis.

Coverage of President Trump’s Tuesday briefing on the opioid addiction crisis is limited and fairly critical, with most reports saying that the President neither fully embraced the recommendations of his own commission on the matter nor offered solutions of his own. [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/8, story 3, 2:05, Holt) reported that the President vowed “to win the battle against the deadly opioid epidemic in this country, though he stopped short of taking his commission’s recommendation to

declare a national emergency over it." The [AP](#) (8/8, Lucey) reports that the President held a briefing on the issue at his Bedminster golf course. He "did not announce any new policy, but vowed to work with health professionals and law enforcement on the crisis. He said federal drug prosecutions have dropped but promised he would 'be bringing them up rapidly.'"

The [New York Times](#) (8/8, Baker, Shear) reports that the President "promised again on Tuesday to tackle the growing epidemic of opioid abuse...after blaming his predecessor for not doing more to stem the surge of drug overdoses. But he offered no specific ideas for how he would do so." The [Washington Post](#) (8/8, Johnson, Wagner) reports that the President "said the 'best way to prevent drug addiction and overdose is to prevent people from abusing drugs in the first place.' ... More than 200 days into his presidency, activists say the president has done little to help."

[USA Today](#) (8/8, Korte) reports that HHS Secretary Price, who was on hand for the briefing along with Kellyanne Conway and Jared Kushner, said, "The President certainly believes we should treat it as an emergency, and it is an emergency. Look, when you have the capacity of Yankee Stadium or Dodger Stadium dying every single year in this nation, that's a crisis that had to be given incredible attention, and the president is giving it that attention." But Price said the powers granted by a "formal declaration of a public health emergency...are intended more for shorter-term, more localized public health crises." The [New York Post](#) (8/8, Brown) reports that Conway "stressed the fix would take time." Conway said, "We didn't get here overnight, so we can't deal with this overnight."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/8, Radnofsky, Campo-Flores) reports that a White House commission on the opioid crisis led by Gov. Chris Christie recommended last week that the President declare a national emergency. [CBS News](#) (8/8, Tillett) reports on its website that Christie did not attend the briefing.

White House correspondent Tamara Keith said on [NPR's All Things Considered](#) (8/8, Shapiro), "What's interesting here is that in his remarks – and these were sort of off-the-cuff remarks before the briefing – [the President] really put an emphasis on enforcement, on prosecutions. This is different from the tone that he struck during the campaign and earlier in his administration when he talked more about treatment and reducing stigma."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/8, Bierman, Levey) says the President met with Price to discuss the opioid crisis since he is "eager to convey a sense that he is working during his two-week stay at his golf club in New Jersey." [Bloomberg News](#) (8/8, Edney) headlines its report "Trump Calls Opioids 'No Good,' Urges People Not To Abuse Them." [Reuters](#) (8/8, Oliphant), [Politico](#) (8/8, Ehley), and [The Hill](#) (8/8, Rouben) also have reports.

First Lady Joins President For Meeting With Price. The [New York Daily News](#) (8/8, Scotti) reports, "The First Lady said she would make cyberbullying her pet cause – but it looks like she's already moved on to the opioid epidemic." She joined the President for his meeting with Price, and [tweeted](#), "Opioids are destroying our youth/people. Mtg w @Potus & @SecPriceMD today to give my support to #STOPDRUGADDICTION". The Daily News writes, "It's unclear why the First Lady has pivoted away from cyberbullying – though she had done nothing on that cause in public, private or even on social media since the inauguration in January."

Overdose Deaths Surged Last Year. The [Washington Post](#) (8/8, A1, Bernstein) reports on its front page that drug overdose deaths "rose sharply in the first nine months of 2016," according to the National Center for Health Statistics, confirming "the widely held belief that the opioid epidemic worsened last year despite stepped-up efforts by public health authorities." Overdose deaths "reached a record 19.9 per 100,000 population in the third quarter, a big increase over the 16.7 recorded for the same three months in 2015. Similarly, the first two quarters of last year showed death rates of 18.9 and 19.3, far greater than the corresponding periods for 2015."

New Hampshire Files Lawsuit Against Purdue Pharma Over OxyContin Marketing. The [AP](#) (8/8, Ramer) reports that New Hampshire has filed a lawsuit against Purdue Pharma, claiming the company "has continued its deceptive marketing of OxyContin" in the state. The lawsuit claims the company misrepresented the drug's effectiveness and the risk of addiction. [Reuters](#) (8/8, Raymond) reports the lawsuit claims that the company's marketing practices "opened the floodgates" to opioids being abused in the state.

White House Blasts NYTimes For Publishing Leaked Climate Change Report.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/8, story 6, 0:40, Muir) reported the New York Times has published a late draft [report](#) on climate science that was leaked by scientists out of "fear that the Administration will suppress its findings." The draft report, written by scientists from 13 US agencies, finds "that human activity is the primary driver of recent global temperature rise." The

report also “links extreme weather to climate change.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/8, story 4, 2:00, Holt) reported the draft “blames man-made greenhouse gases. ‘There are no alternative explanations,’ the scientists write, ‘and no natural cycles that can explain the changes in the climate.’”

The [AP](#) (8/8, Biesecker, Borenstein) describes the report as “directly contradicting” the President, who has “expressed public doubts that the warming is being primarily driven by man-made carbon pollution and will have serious consequences for Americans.” The [Washington Times](#) (8/8, Wolfgang) says “environmental resistance inside the Trump administration hit new heights” as the scientists “push[ed] the study out into the bloodstream before their superiors had the chance to alter or approve it.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/8, Siegel) reports that while the White House on Tuesday “attacked the New York Times” for [publishing](#) the report. White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said in a statement, “It’s very disappointing, yet entirely predictable to learn the New York Times would write off a draft report without first verifying its contents with the White House or any of the federal agencies directly involved with climate and environmental policy. ... As others have pointed out – and the New York Times should have noticed – drafts of this report have been published and made widely available online months ago during the public comment period. The White House will withhold comment on any draft report before its scheduled release date.”

The [New York Times](#) (8/8, Shear, Plumer) says the report will force Trump “to choose between accepting the conclusions of his administration’s scientists and the demands of his conservative supporters, who remain deeply unconvinced that humans are the cause of the planet’s warming.” [Politico](#) (8/8, Holden) cites “several sources involved in producing” the report who “say they have seen no indication that the White House might suppress the scientific research that offers the clearest indication yet that human activity is altering the planet’s temperature.” These sources “said they don’t expect the Trump administration to stall a scheduled late-November deadline or try to make revisions.”

A [Washington Post](#) (8/8) editorial says the Administration “must decide whether to approve or suppress” the report. While “scientists have signed off on its findings,” Trump and EPA Administrator Pruitt “have indicated they simply do not believe the experts.” Noting that “the latest research suggests it is neither unrealistic nor pointless to aim for the low end of the range of possible climate outcomes, even over 2 degrees, to at least limit the damage to the planet’s habitability,” the Post argues that this approach “requires leaders to admit there is a problem.”

Scientist Claims Administration Punishing Him For Speaking Out About Climate Change. Chip Reid of the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/8, story 5, 2:30, Mason) reported on an interview with US Interior Department scientist Joel Clement about “what happens to a government scientist who speaks up about” climate change. For the past seven years, Clement has been working in Alaskan villages that “are literally melting into the Arctic Ocean.” Clement addressed the issue last month at the UN, and six days later, “he was one of about 50 department employees who were assigned to new jobs.” Clement has filed a whistleblower complaint, saying, “I believe that the Trump Administration is retaliating against me for disclosing these risks to these Alaskan native villages.”

Court Rejects Trump Administration Defense Of Obama-Era Climate Rule. [Bloomberg News](#) (8/8, Natter) reports that the US Court of Appeals in Washington on Tuesday rejected the Trump Administration’s “attempt to defend one aspect of Barack Obama’s climate agenda failed,” ruling in a 2-1 decision that the EPA “overstepped its authority in prohibiting the use of certain refrigerants that are potent greenhouse gases.” Judge Brett Kavanaugh wrote that the EPA’s 2015 regulation “relied on a statute that regulated use of ozone-depleting substances, but the refrigerants – called hydrofluorocarbons – don’t damage the ozone layer.”

Professor Warns Of Dogs, Cats’ Contribution To Global Warming. The [Washington Times](#) (8/8, Richardson) reports that UCLA professor Gregory S. Okin, “who recommended replacing dogs and cats with more climate-friendly pets in the name of global warming,” is receiving “a lukewarm reception even from some environmentalists who also happen to love dogs.” Okin “found that meat-eating dogs and cats create the equivalent of 64 million tons of carbon dioxide per year based on the energy consumption required to produce their food, or the same impact as driving 13.6 million cars.”

US Job Openings Reached Record Level In June.

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/8, Chandra) reports that according to the Labor Department’s “JOLTS report,” a “June surge in US job openings to a record indicates demand for workers remained

strong at the end of the second quarter.” Bloomberg says the increase in openings highlights “the need for workers in an economy that’s continuing to expand.” Meanwhile, “the pool of qualified Americans is shrinking and making some positions tougher to fill, one reason economists expect the monthly pace of hiring will eventually cool.” [Breitbart](#) (8/8, Rodriguez) says the increase in open positions “can be attributed to an expanding economy as competition for open positions is decreasing, making some positions harder to fill because there are less qualified applicants vying for the same position.”

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/8) editorial says the report is additional evidence of a tightening labor market, which usually means wages will increase. However, the Journal adds that the tighter labor market could be a harbinger of slower economic growth. Meanwhile, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/8, Hannon) reports that leading indicators released Tuesday by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development show that the US is poised for steady economic growth. The leading US indicator remained at 99.7 for the third consecutive month, suggesting a steady growth outlook.

WSJournal Analysis: Gig-Economy Firms Having Trouble Attracting, Keeping Workers. A [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/8, Gee) analysis reports on the impact the job market is having on gig-economy companies like Uber, saying such firms are having difficulty attracting and retaining workers and have begun offering better perks and benefits in an effort to enlist and keep workers..

Walker “Willing To Share” Credit For Wisconsin’s Economy With Trump. Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker was asked on [CNBC’s Closing Bell](#) (8/8) how much of his state’s economic recovery is due to his policies versus “DC and what’s happening in Congress.” Walker said, “A lot of it started obviously before any of the changes. Certainly we appreciate the changes that the President’s Administration has made in terms of regulations. The last six months the Cabinet has been outstanding, but we started this years ago.” Asked if the White House is taking credit, Walker said, “Ronald Reagan once said it’s amazing what you can get done if you don’t care who gets credit for it. We are willing to share it.”

WPost A1: Let Down By Trump, Struggling Florida City Seeks To Boost Its Economy. In a front-page story headlined “The Help Trump Promised Hasn’t Come. So This ‘Dying City’ Is Determined To Save Itself,” the [Washington Post](#) (8/8, A1, Samuels) reports on the plight of Palatka, Florida, “a city of 10,400 swaddled by potato farms and a paper mill that employs a small fraction of the workers it once did” and “is desperate for an economy to call its own.” The Post says the city’s leaders are hoping to draw tourists and businesses by touting the environmental attractions of the nearby St. Johns River. The Post adds, “Abandoned by retailers that have moved out of their city, and disappointed that President Trump hasn’t yet delivered on his promise to restore economic opportunity to small communities,” Palatka residents “say they don’t have much choice.”

Cole, Walker Voice Opposition To “Clean” Debt Ceiling Increase.

[Reuters](#) (8/8) reports that Rep. Tom Cole, who sits on the House Appropriations and Budget Committees, told [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (8/8) Tuesday that the House is “unlikely to raise the country’s debt ceiling without conditions to rein in spending.” The Trump Administration has asked Congress to pass a “clean” debt ceiling bill with no other provisions. Asked if the House would do so, Cole said, “probably not clean,” and added, “Most Republicans want to do something to lower the trajectory of the debt.”

House Republican Study Committee Chairman Rep. Mark Walker also argued against a clean debt ceiling increase, “saying it would be a betrayal of piled-up promises to voters to finally get a handle on the federal budget,” the [Washington Times](#) (8/8, Dinan) reports. In an [op-ed](#) in the [Washington Examiner](#), Walker “said the GOP must flex its muscle from controlling both chambers of Congress and the White House and insist that any debt hike be coupled with some new controls to convince voters the problem is being taken seriously,” and he “warned GOP leaders against turning to Democrats to pass a debt increase by loading it up ‘with even more increased spending.’”

Tax Overhaul Debate Focused On Who Bears Greatest Burden From Corporate Taxes.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/8, Rubin) reports that a debate over whether the burden of corporate taxes falls more on workers or investors is underscoring tax overhaul efforts. If investors bear the greater burden, high-income households would benefit most from corporate tax cuts, but if workers carry the greater load, cutting corporate taxes could be a way of increasing middle-class incomes through higher wages and job opportunities.

Deloitte Survey: Only 5.3 Percent Anticipate 15 Percent Corporate Tax Rate. [Reuters](#) (8/8)

reports that a Deloitte Tax survey released Tuesday shows that “only a small number of U.S. tax, finance and business professionals expect President Donald Trump’s 15-percent corporate tax rate to become reality as part of tax reform.” Just under half of the 3,100 people surveyed “viewed a lower corporate rate as being the main economic driver of tax reform, but nearly 40 percent predicted the rate would end up at 25 percent, due to the political and budgetary challenges facing tax reform.” Thirty-one percent “expected a corporate tax rate of 20 percent,” and “5.3 percent believed Trump’s 15 percent rate would become law.” Moreover, “about 74 percent of those surveyed were doubtful or not at all confident that a comprehensive tax reform bill would be enacted in 2017.”

Study: Trump’s Regulation Reductions Have Saved Businesses Billions.

A new study from the conservative group American Action Forum, says President Trump’s efforts to cut regulations “has saved businesses nearly \$4 billion per year compared with President Barack Obama’s pace of imposing regulations,” the [Washington Times](#) (8/8, Boyer) reports. According to the study, “final rule costs during Mr. Trump’s first six months in office will cost US businesses about \$378 million per year, compared with \$4.2 billion for the same period” during the Obama Administration. The study found that compared to the Obama Administration, Trump “has imposed 5 percent of the lifetime costs on businesses, 9 percent of the annual costs and 12.5 percent of the employee hours required for paperwork.”

EPA Report: Environmental Regulations Do Not Stifle Economic Growth.

[USA Today](#) (8/8, King) reports that a new report from the EPA “undercut[s]” the Trump Administration argument that environmental regulations “are stifling US economic growth.” According to the report, “since Congress passed the Clean Air Act in 1970, the economy has more than tripled and the number of vehicle miles traveled every year has nearly doubled — all while the nation’s population and annual energy consumption has surged.” Meanwhile, “the levels of six key air pollutants...have declined dramatically,” and the “number of unhealthy air quality days annually in 35 of America’s largest cities has fallen significantly while the visibility at national parks across the country once shrouded in haze has improved substantially.” Environmentalists cite the report “as evidence that efforts by President Donald Trump and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt to roll back a slew of Obama-era rules designed to protect air, water and public health are grounded in flawed logic and should stop.”

Government Spending On Transportation, Infrastructure “In Decline.”

The [New York Times](#) (8/8, Appelbaum) reports that government spending on transportation and infrastructure is “in decline,” equaling 1.4 percent of US economic output in the second quarter of this year, “the lowest level on record, according to Census Bureau data.” The article notes that President Trump has encouraged a large infrastructure plan, both as part of his campaign and during his first year in office. Moreover, “the deterioration of the nation’s infrastructure has raised widespread concerns about safety, quality of life and the impact on economic growth,” and “politicians in both parties have declared the issue a priority.” In the meantime, however, “in 34 states, spending on government construction projects was lower last year than in 2007, adjusting for inflation,” and “public construction spending in June was 9.5 percent lower than during the same month last year.” The Times summarizes the state of Republican and Democratic efforts on the issue.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Needed: Proposals To Fix New York’s Crumbling Subways.” The [New York Times](#) (8/9, Board) says in an editorial that New York “Gov. Andrew Cuomo, Mayor Bill de Blasio and Albany lawmakers are at last talking about how to pay for vital improvements to the city’s crumbling subways.” State and city officials discussed “various half-measures” at a meeting Monday, including “de Blasio’s millionaire’s tax,” which state lawmakers will likely resist. Nonetheless, the Times says, “The mayor has made an opening bid, flawed as it is,” and now Cuomo, state Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan, “and others need to step up.”

“Frustration Over A War And Its Crimes.” A [New York Times](#) (8/9, Board) editorial acknowledges the frustration expressed by Carla del Ponte, who quit “the United Nations panel investigating atrocities in Syria in disgust.” Yet, the Times says, “the Security Council’s inaction

has not been for lack of trying," but rather "because Russia, often joined by China, has obstinately propped up President Bashar al-Assad of Syria, using its veto eight times in the Council so far to block measures against him." While "deeply frustrating for victims of atrocities and for investigators," the Times argues, "international organizations and international justice are inherently dependent on the political will of those involved, and the Syrian conflict is an infernal tangle of political goals, ideologies and actors." Ultimately, the Times concludes, only a diplomatic solution can end "the carnage" and hold responsible parties, including Assad, accountable.

Washington Post.

"This Is How Bad Things Could Get If Trump Denies The Reality Of Climate Change." A [Washington Post](#) (8/8) editorial says the Administration "must decide whether to approve or suppress a major federal climate change report." While "scientists have signed off on its findings," Trump and EPA Administrator Pruitt "have indicated they simply do not believe the experts." Noting that "the latest research suggests it is neither unrealistic nor pointless to aim for the low end of the range of possible climate outcomes, even over 2 degrees, to at least limit the damage to the planet's habitability," the Post argues that this approach "requires leaders to admit there is a problem."

"Trump's 'Fire And Fury' Threat Is A Rhetorical Grenade." A [Washington Post](#) (8/8) editorial says President Trump's "unsettling threat" to North Korea was "reckless and unnecessary. In its bombast, it resembled nothing so much as Kim Jong Un's regular denunciations of the United States, frantic and hyperbolic." Dealing with the threat posed by the North, the Post argues, "will require patient pressure and skilled diplomacy, perhaps for years. Instead, Mr. Trump has strut into the arena with a jarring rhetorical grenade."

"Maryland Is Mired In A Medical Marijuana Morass." The [Washington Post](#) (8/8), in an editorial, says that Maryland has been "so sluggish" in developing its "medical marijuana program" that it appears to be being "conducted under the influence." The Post adds that in addition to "the listless pace" at which the state has been working, there have been "signs of self-dealing and shady connections" giving it all "a scent of mismanagement and corruption." It cites recent reporting in the Post in alleging that "some bidders for potentially lucrative cannabis licenses" were connected to "the evaluators who were hired to assess their applications." In one case, an evaluator's husband applied for a license. The Post concludes by hoping that Gov. Larry Hogan's (R) move "to clean house at the state Cannabis Commission," by naming 10 new members will resolve the matter.

Wall Street Journal.

"Google's Diversity Problems." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/8) writes that Google's dismissal of James Damore raises questions about the environment of ideological conformity in the corporate world. The Journal argues that Google CEO Sundar Pichai's statement regarding the firing sounds like legal cover and incorrectly views Damore's obligations as an employee as if he were in a union, and the Journal concludes that the dismissal underscores what many critics fear is a monolithic progressive political culture that censors free speech in corporate America.

"McMaster And The Commander." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/8) decries the alt-right media for its attacks on National Security Adviser McMaster, who, it notes, is a policy opponent of White House aide Steve Bannon. The Journal attributes much of the dysfunction inside the White House to Bannon.

"Would You Like A Job?" A [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/8) editorial says the Labor Department's JOLTS report's finding of 461,000 additional openings in June is additional evidence of a tightening labor market, which usually means wages will increase. However, the Journal adds that the tighter labor market could be a harbinger of slower economic growth.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[North Korea Threat Comes After Trump Vows 'Fire And Fury'](#)
[Disney Unveils New Streaming Services](#)
[Memo Sparks Firestorm At Google](#)

[Bill Ford Thinks His Company Lacks Vision—And That He Can Fix It](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Threatens 'Fire And Fury' Against North Korea If It Endangers US As Investigations Intensify, Israel Imagines Life After Netanyahu](#)
[As Maduro's Venezuela Rips Apart, So Does His Military](#)
[The Culture Wars Have Come To Silicon Valley](#)
[At Walmart Academy, Training Better Managers. But With A Better Future?](#)
[Glen Campbell, Whose Hit Songs Bridged Country And Pop, Dies At 81](#)

Washington Post:

[US: North Korea Has Missile-ready Nuclear Weapon](#)
[In Switch, Justice Dept. Backs Ohio Voter Purge](#)
[97-Year-Old's Slaying A Sign Of Baltimore's Deep Distress](#)
[Feeling Snubbed But Pushing Forward](#)
[Data Shows An Unabated Opioid Crisis](#)

Financial Times:

[Kenyatta Takes Lead As Results Emerge In Kenya Election](#)
[US Blue-Chips' Double-Digit Earnings Set To Continue](#)
[Japan Upgrades North Korea Threat Level](#)
[Google Engineer Sacked Over Controversial Gender Memo](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Threatens To Rain 'Fire And Fury Like The World Has Never Seen' On North Korea](#)
[Federal Scientists Leak Sweeping Climate Change Draft In Clash With Trump Administration](#)
[Illegal Immigration Statistics Show Trump's Resolve To Keep Campaign Promise](#)
[Straying Too Far? Professor Says Dogs And Cats Harm Climate, Advises Hamsters Instead](#)
[Refugee Integration Makes Slow Progress, But German Political Divisions Stand Firm](#)
['Polar Row' Exploration Team Smashes World Records In Icy North](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: North Korea Threats; North Korea Threats-Expert Comment; Missouri-Officer Shot; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Federal Climate Change Report; Car Heat-Child Death; Glen Campbell Dies; California-Threatening Police; Boston-Innocent Prisoner Freed; London-Jogger Pushes Woman; Cancer Rate-Young People; Lottery Drawing; Young Climber.

CBS: North Korea Threats; WH-North Korea threats; Severe Weather; Europe-Heat Wave; Federal Climate Change Report; Sleep Disorder-Traffic Accidents; Ford Explorer-Carbon Monoxide Leaks; Google Controversial Memo; David Letterman Comeback; Glen Campbell Dies.

NBC: North Korea Threats; WH-North Korea Threats; Opioid Epidemic; Federal Climate Change Report; Severe Weather; Philippines-ISIS Front; Cancer Rate-Young People; Barbara Cook Dies; San Francisco-Street Sold; First Day Of School Picture; Glen Campbell Dies.

Network TV At A Glance:

North Korea Threats – 14 minutes, 55 seconds
Federal Climate Change Report – 5 minutes, 10 seconds
Weather – 4 minutes, 20 seconds
Cancer Rate-Young People – 2 minutes, 25 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: North Korea Threats; Russia Meddling Investigation; Missouri-Officer Shot; Glen Campbell Dies.

CBS: North Korea Threats; Glen Campbell Dies; Barbara Cook Dies; Google Controversial Memo; China-Sichuan Earthquake; Wall Street News.

FOX: Missouri-Officer Shot; North Korea Threats; Wall Street News.

NPR: North Korea Threats; China-Sichuan Earthquake; Kenya-Presidential Election.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — No public events scheduled.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public events scheduled.

US Senate: On recess until 5 September.

US House: On recess until 5 September.

Other: 12:00 PM Democratic Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton continues her Senior Legislative Tour – Democratic Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton continues her Senior Legislative Tour, to discuss 'how the proposed Republican bill to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act would harm seniors' Location: Bernice Elizabeth Fontenau Senior Wellness Center, 3531 Georgia Ave, Washington, DC www.norton.house.gov <https://twitter.com/EleanorNorton>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Fire and fury and, listen. We're sorry we made fun of you. Go back to golfing before you kill all of us."

Jimmy Kimmel: "US intelligence, by the way, assessed that North Korea has successfully produced a miniaturized nuclear warhead that could potentially reach California, Oregon, and Washington – three states that didn't vote for guess-who, by the way."

Stephen Colbert: "You know Kim Jong-Un's crazy, right? He's a loose cannon like Mel Gibson in 'Lethal Weapon.' Also, that one time he got pulled over."

James Corden: "This morning, Donald Trump re-tweeted a Fox News story about the North Korean military. And get this, the story contained leaked, highly classified information. This is unbelievable. Not only is this the first time a sitting President has declassified information through Twitter, it's the first time Donald Trump has ever tweeted something that was true."

James Corden: "If we really want Donald Trump to stop leaking classified information, then we should stop calling it 'classified information' and start calling it 'tax returns.'"

James Corden: "What is it with Trump? Nuclear missiles, the FBI director, the cast of 'the Apprentice,' this guy's always got to be firing something."

James Corden: "The agencies told Trump that rising tides could invade our coastal cities. He said, 'That's fine as long as the tides speak English and aren't from any Muslim countries.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "I read that the West Wing is currently undergoing \$3.4 million in renovations. It sounds like a lot, but you got to remember, they're child-proofing the whole house."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump this afternoon addressed the North Korean missile program and said if they continue to threaten the United States, quote, 'they will be met with a fire and fury like the world has never seen.' Yeah, that ought to cool things down. God forbid Trump's ever put in charge of a hostage situation. 'Kill a hostage, you don't have the balls.'"

Conan O'Brien: "Today, President Trump warned that if North Korea does not stop escalating its nuclear program, they'll be met with 'fire and fury like the world has never seen.' Then Melania said, 'Don't worry, he says that to me every night and nothing ever happens.'"

Conan O'Brien: "This week, President Trump plans to travel to New York. He's going to go to New York. Plans to eat some pizza, then deport the Statue of Liberty."

Conan O'Brien: "There's a new online quiz that tells you if you would be allowed to enter the US under President Trump's immigration policies. Consists of a single question: Are you a swimsuit model?"

Conan O'Brien: "McDonald's plans to nearly double its restaurants in China. In other words, China is getting rid of its one-child policy and its one-chin policy."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- San Francisco Chronicle: Traffic Jams Choking Yosemite.
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- U.S. News & World Report: Public Comment Period Extended For Zion National Park Plans.

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- ABC: US Opens Door To Diplomacy As North Korea Backs Down From Guam Threat.
- Marianas Variety: Palau President Confident US Can Protect Pacific Region.
- Newburgh (IL) Gazette: CNMI Governor Backs Trump's Stance On North Korea.
- YouTube: President Trump To Governor Calvo On North Korea Threats: "We Are With You 1000%".
- YouTube: A Special Message to the People of Guam from Governor Calvo.
- National Geographic: Yap Islands Seek Sustainable Tourism Development While Balancing China, U.S. Influence.
- Marianas Variety: Guam Hopes For Real Pause In North Korea Threats.
- Marianas Variety: Nothing On The Table Yet For Tinian Divert Facility, Officials Say.
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- Marianas Variety: NMI Remits Annual \$30M Settlement Fund Obligation In Full.
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- Fox News: Trump, Nunes: Obama Administration Ignored Warnings On Russia.
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DOI In The News

Mille Lacs Band Gets Federal Grant To Study Walleye Habitat.

The [St. Cloud \(MN\) Times](#) (8/15) reports that the Interior Department "announced Tuesday that it allocated \$993,310 to Minnesota state wildlife agencies" through the Tribal Wildlife Grant and State Wildlife Grants programs. It is among \$48 million being distributed the Interior Department announced Tuesday. Among the grants is a Tribal Wildlife Grant of \$199,07 to "help the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe identify walleye habitat in Mille Lacs Lake."

[WLUC-TV](#) Marquette, MI (8/15) reports that the Interior Department announced "\$196,321 in funding to Michigan Native tribes and more than \$1.3 million to Michigan state wildlife agencies through the Tribal Wildlife Grant (TWG) program and the State Wildlife Grants (SWG) program." In announcing the funding, Interior Deputy Secretary David Bernhardt said, "The work of Michigan Native American tribes and state wildlife agencies is absolutely critical to wildlife conservation in the United States. We're thrilled to be able to collaborate with them, their local communities, and other partners to ensure important fish, wildlife, habitat and cultural needs are met. Tribal and state wildlife grants are foundational to protecting our nation's wildlife legacy, including game and non-game species."

The [Hartford \(CT\) Courant](#) (8/15, Hladky) reports that "Connecticut is getting \$500,727 in federal grants to support wildlife conservation projects designed to preserve "imperiled species and habitats," U.S. Department of the Interior officials announced Tuesday." Bernhardt said that, "The Trump Administration is working hard with states and local communities to find solutions that are driven at the local level, rather than in Washington, D.C."

With Wildlife And Scenic Views, Interior Department Attracts Large Social Media Following.

The [Washington Times](#) (8/15, Wolfgang) report that the Interior Department's "massive online following" has "remained constant...driven primarily by daily posts featuring wildlife, scenic landscapes and breathtaking views of the nation's national parks." The Department's "following on Twitter, Instagram, Tumblr and other platforms is rivaled only by NASA, the Pentagon and President Trump." The Times adds that Interior "views its accounts in a fundamentally different way. A key aspect is offering Americans an easy way to see gorgeous sites from across the

country that they never have viewed in person and, in some cases, may have never even heard of." According to the Times, the Interior Department has 3.95 million Twitter followers, compared with the Energy Department's 753,000 and the Justice Department's 1.45 million.

Public Lands Group Launches Ad Campaign Targeting Zinke.

The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (8/15, Scott) reports that "with less than 10 days remaining before Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's deadline to determine whether some national monuments should be scaled back, a local conservation group has launched a high-ticket ad campaign calling on the Whitefish native to protect public lands." In addition to the \$500,000 ad purchase, the Western Values Project "released a new poll claiming support is slipping for Zinke in his home state of Montana." According to the poll, "Zinke's job approval fell after voters heard about efforts to privatize public lands and dropped further after voters heard about potential plans to privatize public campgrounds." Interior Spokesperson Heather Swift said, "It is based in fiction and intentionally misleads respondents. The pollster falsely states there is a proposal to privatize and decrease public lands. This could not be farther from the truth. No such proposals exist because the Secretary is ardently against such proposals."

Missouri Congressman Clay: We Must Protect Historic Sites Connected To The Civil Rights Movement.

The [Missourinet](#) (8/15, Hauswirth) reports that the House has approved Rep. William Lacy Clay's "bipartisan bill to authorize the National Park Service to establish a program to protect places that were significant in the 20th century civil rights struggle." Clay's bill "directs Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to identify and create a national network of historic sites, stories and educational programs connected to the modern civil rights movement." The legislation is called the African American Civil Rights Network Act of 2017.

More Closed-Door Meetings For Planned Regional Water System.

The [AP](#) (8/15) reports that "Santa Fe County, four pueblos and the U.S. Department of the Interior have scheduled more closed-door meetings this week about roadway disputes that threaten to impede funding for a planned regional water system in the Pojoaque Basin." The Bureau of Indian Affairs "says some county roads trespass on tribal land." According to the article, "the meetings suggest an intensified emphasis on reaching a resolution to the disputes as the Bureau of Reclamation prepares to begin construction on the water system next summer."

Trump, Don't Take Our National Parks Away From Veterans.

For the "Pundits" blog of [The Hill](#) (8/15, Eaton, Contributor), Major General Paul D. Eaton, US Army (Ret.), managing director of Vet Voice Foundation, writes that veterans "value our nation's public lands – places that we as service members fought to protect, and that we seek out for healing and renewal after coming home from war." For this reason, Eaton feels veterans "must speak out about the Trump administration's troubling approach to public lands stewardship." He claims that "although they have only been in office for a short time, the president and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke have already threatened the great strides on conservation and responsible energy development that have taken place under the last few presidential administrations." Eaton concludes that "if President Trump and his administration really care about veterans, they would do well to remember how critical our national parks and public lands are to us, and to all Americans, and stop taking steps to diminish them by doing favors for their friends in the fossil fuel industry."

Under New Interior Department Plan, Sage Grouse Will Suffer.

In a piece for the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (8/15, Lyons), James Lyons, a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and lecturer and research scholar at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, wants Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "to recognize that the greatest threat to economic development in sage grouse territory is not the existing sage grouse conservation plans, but the threat of losing the 'regulatory certainty' that they provide." He warns, "lose the predictability necessary to encourage investment in the sagebrush landscape, and its communities are likely to become endangered along with the Greater sage grouse." According to Lyons, "the Zinke directive, announced in conjunction with the sage grouse review, risks snatching defeat from the jaws of victory, particularly as it emphasizes that sage grouse conservation must not impede President Donald Trump's efforts to achieve American energy dominance."

Additional commentary appeared in the [Powell \(WY\) Tribune](#) (8/15, Olson).

Zinke Has Only One Legal Option For Katahdin Woods And Waters: Retain Its Monument Status.

In an op-ed for the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (8/15, Moffa, Schindler), Anthony Moffa, a visiting professor of law, and Sarah Schindler, a professor of law and Glassman Faculty Research Scholar at the University of Maine School of Law in Portland, argue that the only recommendation that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke can make regarding the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument that is “legally and equitably permissible” is that “the monument status must be retained.” The authors argue that the other options of revocation and diminishment would “overstep the president’s authority.” According to the authors only the option of retaining the designation “complies with the Antiquities Act, upholds the agreement between the former landowners and the government, and respects the investment that people of this state have already made in and around the monument.”

Congress, Keep The West Wild — Or At Least What’s Left Of It.

For the “Pundits” blog of [The Hill](#) (8/15, Super, Contributor), David A. Super, a professor of law at Georgetown Law, urges Congress to reject the proposed Historic Routes Preservation Act, S. 468 and H.R. 3270. According to Super, “far from ‘preserving’ anything, this legislation would likely ruin what little we still have of the wild West, from open landscapes to rugged communities to truly wild animals.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

North Dakota Awarded \$10 Million From Feds For DAPL Protest Costs.

The [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (8/15, Hageman) reports that the Justice Department “awarded North Dakota \$10 million to help cover the costs associated with the Dakota Access Pipeline protests, the state’s senators said Tuesday.” According to the Tribune, “the \$10 million represents only a portion of the \$38 million the state and Morton County have incurred from the monthslong protests, during which some 1,400 law enforcement officers assisted. “Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND) “previously said the state shouldn’t expect the federal government to cover the entire bill, and Gov. Doug Burgum’s request to President Donald Trump for a major disaster declaration was denied earlier this year.” The Tribune adds that “the state applied for almost \$14 million through the DOJ’s Emergency Federal Law Enforcement Assistance program in late June.”

The [Washington Times](#) (8/15, Richardson) reports that “North Dakota has wrangled with federal authorities over the \$38 million bill since the last holdouts were cleared from the Army Corps of Engineers-managed floodplain in February as part of the \$1.1 million cleanup effort.” The Times adds that “the Obama administration had resisted calls for federal law-enforcement assistance during the protest, which kicked into high gear in August 2016 as activists tried to block construction on the final piece of the 1,172-mile, four-state project.” According to the Times, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) “rejected a request for a major disaster declaration in May, which was seen as a long shot, given that the incident was human-caused.” [KXMC-TV](#) Minot, ND (8/15, Kelly) and [FYR-TV](#) Bismarck, ND (8/15, Evans) also report on their websites.

Tribes Grapple With Contaminated Water, Federal Bureaucracy.

The [Oregonian](#) (8/15, Kaljur, Beheler) reports on the “numerous forces” working “against tribes and their quest to provide safe water to their members.” According to the article, “tribal members must cope with extensive mining and farming activities on or near their land, whether approved by the tribe or not.” Also, “the federal government carved reservations in remote and confined pockets of land, making it difficult to provide reliable infrastructure” and “they often lack the money to improve their water systems themselves, which means they have to navigate a complicated puzzle of government agencies to shore up funding.”

Bureau Of Indian Education

Investing In Native Youth And Their Communities.

In a piece for the [Huffington Post](#) (8/15, Villanueva, Contributor), Edgar Villanueva, Vice

President of Programs and Advocacy at the Schott Foundation for Public Education, writes that “due to historical trauma, chronically underfunded programs, and broken promises on the part of the U.S. government, youth from Native American communities experience many educational, health, and economic disparities compared with their peers in the general population.” He says that “to raise awareness and challenge the philanthropic community to better resource movements to support healthy living and learning for Native children and youth, the Schott Foundation and Nike’s N7 Fund, in partnership with Native Americans in Philanthropy, convened a group of Native education, health care, and human services experts along with several foundations in Washington, DC, in late June.” Native American offices from the Bureau of Indian Education were among the presenters.

Bureau Of Land Management

Jurors Begin Deliberating In Trial Of Four Bundy Supporters In Nevada.

[Reuters](#) (8/16, Smith) reports that “jurors at a federal court in Nevada began deliberations on Tuesday in the retrial of four men accused of numerous charges for acting as gunmen in the 2014 standoff led by renegade rancher Cliven Bundy against federal authorities.” Assistant U.S. Attorney Nadia Ahmed “said in closing arguments that the defendants acted in concert with other militia members to threaten and intimidate U.S. Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service officers.” According to the article, “if convicted, the defendants face a minimum of 57 years in prison.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (8/15, Ferrara) and the [Arizona Republic](#) (8/15, Anglen).

Large West Texas Wastewater Spill In Delaware River Diluted By Rain, BLM Says.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (8/15, Eaton) reports that “heavy rain may have softened the environmental blow of a large wastewater spill in the Delaware River near West Texas oil fields earlier this month, officials say.” The wastewater spill was “several times larger than the typical 200-to-300 barrel spills in the region.” However, “a rain storm lifted water levels in the Delaware 3 feet higher than normal, diluting the effect of the wastewater spill.” The Bureau of Land Management and “other agencies including the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department will continue to monitor the impact to hundreds of river-dwelling species, including threatened species such as the Texas hornshell mussel.” James Amos, a supervisory petroleum engineering tech at the BLM’s field office in Carlsbad, New Mexico, said, “It didn’t do as much damage as it could have. Chances are very good the dilution may have saved the species.”

Lawson Exploration Gets OK To Drill During Tribal Row.

[Law360](#) (8/15, Powell) reports that “a federal judge gave Slawson Exploration Co. Inc. the green light Tuesday to continue drilling operations in North Dakota while the Interior Board of Land Appeals hears a challenge by the Mandan, Hidatsa & Arikara Nation.” U.S. District Judge Daniel L. Hovland “granted Slawson’s motion for a temporary restraining order setting aside an IBLA decision that stayed eight drilling permits the Bureau of Land Management gave to the company.”

Grizzly Peak Trail System Open Again.

The [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (8/15, Pfeil) reports that the Bureau of Land Management “reopened the Grizzly Peak Trail system Tuesday afternoon, saying that the five fires that closed the trails last week have been fully contained.” The trail was “closed Aug. 11 following a series of lightning-sparked fires in the area, according to BLM and previous reports.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Editorial: Oppose Oil Drilling Off Florida Coast.

In an editorial, the [Sarasota \(FL\) Herald-Tribune](#) (8/15) urges “Floridians who want to oppose expanded oil drilling off the Florida coasts” to “express their views — by Thursday,” the deadline for the public comment period “on an initial but important phase of the Trump administration’s ‘full consideration’ of a new plan to significantly increase offshore drilling.” The paper says that “the mere consideration of dramatic expansion into the eastern Gulf — as a new plan might allow — is bad for several basic reasons.” It argues that “the oil trapped in those reserves is not

necessary to fuel the American economy," and also points to environmental and national security reasons.

Bureau Of Reclamation

US: 'Zero' Chance Of Colorado River Water Shortage In 2018.

The [AP](#) (8/15, RITTER, ELLIOTT) reports that "U.S. water managers said Tuesday there will be no water cutbacks in 2018 for millions of residents and farmers served by the Lake Mead reservoir on the Colorado River that lies behind the Hoover Dam." Rose Davis, spokeswoman for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, said, "The projection indicates there is no chance of shortage in 2018. Zero." According to a 24-month projection by the BOR, "January water levels are expected to be 8 feet (2.5 meters) above the point that triggers a drought-shortage declaration on the lake."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Wichita \(KS\) Eagle](#) (8/15, RITTER, ELLIOTT), the [Chicago Tribune](#) (8/15, Ritter, Elliott), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (8/15, Ritter, Elliott), the [Daily Mail](#) (8/15), the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (8/15, Ritter, Elliott), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (8/15, Ritter, Elliott), the [New York Daily News](#) (8/15), the [Olean \(NY\) Times Herald](#) (8/15, Ritter), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (8/15, Ritter, Elliott), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (8/15, Ritter, Elliott), the [Sayre \(PA\) Morning Times](#) (8/15, Ritter), the [Washington Times](#) (8/15, Ritter, Elliott), the [Boston Herald](#) (8/15), the [Washington Post](#) (8/15, Ritter Dan Elliott |, Ap), [WDEF-TV Chattanooga \(TN\)](#) Chattanooga, TN (8/15), [KSL-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (8/15, Ritter, Elliott), and [KTNV-TV Las Vegas](#) Las Vegas (8/15).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (8/15, Brean) and the [Arizona Republic](#) (8/15, Loomis).

Fish And Wildlife Service

Projected Duck Numbers: What They Mean, Ducks Unlimited Gives Context.

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (8/15, Bowman) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Tuesday "released its report on 2017 Trends in Duck Breeding Populations, based on surveys conducted in May and early June by FWS and the Canadian Wildlife Service." According to the article, "total populations were estimated at 47.3 million breeding ducks in the traditional survey area, which is similar to last year's estimate of 48.4 million and is 34 percent above the 1955-2016 long-term average."

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (8/15, Masson) reports that Tom Moorman, Ducks Unlimited's chief scientist, "said the report is mostly positive for duck hunters." Moorman said, "The survey indicates that wetland conditions and populations of most frequently harvested ducks remain above the long-term average, and for most species, populations were at or above those from last year," he said. "This is great news for waterfowlers who can now turn their attention to preparing habitat, tuning up dogs and relentlessly watching the weather forecasts for the onset of fall and winter weather that will push the birds on their annual southward migration."

Progress Seen In Mexican Gray Wolf Recovery Efforts.

In an op-ed for the [White Mountain \(AZ\) Independent](#) (8/15, Ammons), Jim Ammons, chairman of the Arizona Game and Fish Department, sees "great progress" in the "long hard struggle to recover the Mexican wolf in Arizona." Ammons points to the recent release of a draft wolf recovery plan revision by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently issued "that the Arizona Game and Fish Commission has been requesting for years." In the piece, Ammons refutes "the false information from certain organizations that object to elements of the plan without recognizing that recovery actions are based on new scientific information."

Additional coverage of the plans was provided by the [Santa Fe \(NM\) Reporter](#) (8/16, Miller).

National Park Service

Lincoln Memorial Vandalized With Spray Paint.

In its "Blog Briefing Room" blog [The Hill](#) (8/15, Beavers) reports "the Lincoln Memorial in Washington was vandalized with red spray paint." According to the National Park Service, "the graffiti found on a pillar at the monument appeared to say 'f--- law.'" The NPS said that "a

preservation crew is already working to remove the graffiti, which was discovered early Tuesday morning.”

Also reporting are [Reuters](#) (8/15, Simpson), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (8/15, Trimble), [Fox News](#) (8/15), [CNN International](#) (8/15, Green), the [Washington Post](#) (8/15, Moyer), the [Washington Times](#) (8/15, Ernst), [ABC News](#) (8/15, Talwar, Shankar), [TIME](#) (8/15, Segarra), the [New York Post](#) (8/15, Lapin), the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (8/15, Nortunen), [BBC News \(UK\)](#) (8/15), the [Australian Broadcasting Corporation](#) (8/16), [ABC Radio Australia](#) (8/16), [Sputnik News](#) (8/15), [The Wrap](#) (8/15, Boucher), [WIMS-AM South Shore \(IN\)](#) South Shore, IN (8/15), [WUSA-TV Washington](#) Washington (8/15), [WRC-TV Washington](#) Washington (8/15), [WTTG-TV Washington](#) Washington (8/15), and [WTVR-TV Richmond \(VA\)](#) Richmond, VA (8/15).

Fearing Violence, California Lawmakers Ask National Park Service To Rescind Permit For San Francisco ‘Alt-right’ Rally.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/15, McGreevy) reports that “citing concern over violent clashes at a Charlottesville rally of white nationalists last weekend, a group of California lawmakers called Tuesday for the National Park Service to rescind a permit issued for a pro-Trump rally scheduled for Aug. 26 in San Francisco.” The conservative Patriot Prayer, organized by blogger Joey Gibson, is “scheduled at Crissy Field, a park popular with families and tourists, wrote three San Francisco Democrats, state Sen. Scott Wiener and Assemblymen Phil Ting, and David Chiu in a letter to the service.” The three wrote, “Allowing a likely violent rally of White Supremacists so close to all of this is of deep concern to us. While we believe in the right to free speech and free assembly, we believe the National Park Service does not have the capacity to safely control this situation and therefore should not be issuing a permit for this rally at Crissy Field.”

The [AP](#) (8/15, GECKER, ELIAS) reports that the National Park Service “gave the organization permission last week to hold a three-hour rally in a federal park along the bay within San Francisco.”

Also reporting are [Politico](#) (8/15, Cheney, Bade), the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (8/15, Matier, Ross), and [Fox News](#) (8/15).

Gettysburg Park Officials: Confederate Monuments Here To Stay.

[USA Today](#) (8/15, Levy) reports that “despite national discourse on the appropriateness of Confederate monuments, the ones in Gettysburg are not going anywhere, according to park officials.” The Gettysburg National Military Park, “which memorializes soldiers who fought and died during the Battle of Gettysburg, including men who served in the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, has not received any complaints or requests related to the monuments, said Katie Lawhon, park spokeswoman.” Lawhon said, “These memorials, erected predominantly in the early and mid-20th century, are an important part of the cultural landscape.”

Additional coverage was provided by [WGAL-TV](#) Lancaster, PA (8/15, Weinstock) and [WUSA-TV](#) Washington (8/15, Levy).

Mayor, D.C. Councilmembers Want Statue Of Confederate General On Federal Land Removed.

[DCist](#) (8/15, Sadon) reports that “the mayor, more than half of the D.C. Council, and the D.C. attorney general have joined activists in calling for the removal of a statue of a Confederate general from federal land in Judiciary Square.” In letter to the acting director of the National Park Service calling for a statue of Pike to be taken down, At-large Councilmember David Grosso, said, “Albert Pike was a strong proponent of slavery and fought to try to preserve that in this country. Regardless of what he did in other parts of his life, it’s inappropriate to honor him.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Huffington Post](#) (8/15, Subberwal).

Traffic Jams Choking Yosemite.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (8/15, Sahagun) reports that “despite promises of a ‘far less cluttered and confused Yosemite’ made in a 2013 management plan — an effort to address the congestion without limiting the number of tourists — more vehicles than ever, up to 8,200 on a summer day, are clogging the valley known for its granite cliffs and waterfalls.” Chip Jenkins, acting superintendent of Yosemite National Park, said, “Very significant traffic congestion is a truly hard dilemma we’re faced with. Getting stuck in a line of cars for two to three hours after entering the gate is not the kind of quality experience we want people to have.” Yosemite is “one of a growing number of national parks experimenting with transportation strategies to reduce crowding.”

Wildfire In Yosemite National Park Swells To 1,600 Acres Near Wawona, Historic Hotel.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/15, Rocha) reports that “a wildfire in Yosemite National Park continued to grow Tuesday near the community of Wawona, home of the historic Big Trees Lodge, the park said.” As the blaze “inched closer to homes, the National Park Service asked to residents to be prepared to evacuate.” According to park spokesman Scott Gediman, “the hotel, formerly known as the Wawona Hotel, was not under immediate threat.”

Glacier Park Fire Grows As More Hot, Dry Weather Arrives.

The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (8/15, Franz) reports that “a fire burning in the mountains east of Lake McDonald in Glacier National Park has grown to 100 acres and National Park Service officials say it is possible the nearby Sperry Chalet may not reopen this year.” According to the article, “the lightning-caused Sprague Fire is burning above Crystal Ford on the Gunsight Pass Trail, the primary route from the Lake McDonald Lodge to Sperry Chalet.” Spokesperson Lauren Alley “said the fire is not immediately threatening the historic chalet – built by the Great Northern Railway in 1913 – but firefighters are preparing to implement structural protection measures if necessary.”

Public Comment Period Extended For Zion National Park Plans.

The [AP](#) (8/15) reports that Zion National Park officials “announced they will extend the public comment period on a plan to require reservations to get into Zion National Park.” The National Park Service has “extended the deadline from Monday to Friday because the website for submissions was down for maintenance this past weekend.” The NPS is “considering a year-round online reservation system for access to Zion and its most popular trails and attractions in response to a massive surge in visitation at the park.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

US Opens Door To Diplomacy As North Korea Backs Down From Guam Threat.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/15, story 4, 1:15, Muir) reported that after trading threats with President Trump, there is a “new message” from North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, who said his nation “will watch stupid American behavior a bit longer and warning against extremely dangerous reckless actions on the Korean Peninsula.” ABC’s Martha Raddatz added, “It does appear Kim Jong-Un blinked and backed away in what could have resulted in a major military conflict, but this does not in any way end the threat from this volatile dictator.”

[Reuters](#) (8/15, Kim, Torbati) reports asked by reporters on Tuesday about the North Korean delay, Secretary of State Tillerson said, “We continue to be interested in finding a way to get to dialogue but that’s up to him.” State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert also said North Korea’s decision to hold off on plans to attack Guam was not enough and Pyongyang would have to show it was “intent on denuclearizing the Korean peninsula.” The [New York Post](#) (8/15, Fredericks) reports that when asked about Kim’s decision to put a planned launch of missiles toward Guam on hold, Tillerson replied, “I have no response to his decisions at all at this time.”

The [AP](#) (8/15, Klug, Tong-Hyung) reports both Koreas and the US on Tuesday also “signaled their willingness to avert a deepening crisis, with each suggesting a path toward negotiations.” The “tentative interest” in diplomacy follows “unusually combative threats” between President Trump and North Korea. The AP also cautions that next week’s start of US-South Korean military exercises “that enrage the North each year could make diplomacy even more difficult.”

The [Washington Post](#) (8/15, Lamothe) says that with next week’s drills, the US “faces a dangerous balancing act: How do you reassure allies in the region that you are ready for a war with North Korea without provoking an actual conflict in the process?” North Korea denounced the exercise on Monday, but it has also “drawn scrutiny” from Russia and China, which have “suggested cancelling the operation to alleviate tensions.”

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/15, story 4, 1:15, Muir), Martha Raddatz said Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford “told me military options must remain on the table.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/15, Cheng, Page), meanwhile, reports North Korea’s reversal on Guam was typical rhetoric from Pyongyang. The Journal also says that China most likely sent back-channel messages to the North Koreans in recent days warning them against firing missiles toward Guam.

Asked on [Fox News: Fox & Friends](#) (8/15) about North Korea’s decision not to fire missiles at Guam, former Trump campaign manager Corey Lewandowski said, “I’m not surprised by this at all. What we have seen from previous administrations for 30 years is trying to coddle North Korea, trying to work with them. What this President said was, ‘You don’t want to mess with me.’”

He is a man of business. He and Gen. Mattis, the Secretary of Defense was very clear. If North Korea launches a missile at us, Gen. Mattis said it will be a declaration of war. And we are the world's greatest super power. The President of the United States was very clear that if North Korea tries to do something against the United States, he will react swiftly decisively and it will be complete annihilation and I don't think they are ready for that."

David E. Sanger writes in the [New York Times](#) (8/15, Sanger) that "during his rise to power, President Trump proved he has a finely honed sense of what threats, intimidation and bluster can accomplish." But in recent days, he has "received reminders...that geopolitics operates with a different set of rules than real estate or political campaigns." South Korean President Moon Jae-in, for example, was so alarmed by Trump's threat to bring "fire and fury" to the North "that he warned on national television on Tuesday that he would never tolerate a unilateral strike against Pyongyang's nuclear and missile sites because he fears the price his country would pay in lives and property." Sanger writes that the US is "always an outsize player abroad," and its statements "often carrying more effect in foreign lands than at home. But Mr. Trump's use of bald threats and warnings of military intervention have accelerated the laws of unintended consequences."

Mark Helprin, a senior fellow of the Claremont Institute, writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/15) that the North Korean crisis can be defused peacefully and to the US' advantage if it decides to carry a bigger stick and speak more softly.

Ellison: Kim Jong-un More Responsible Than Trump. [Townhall](#) (8/15, Pavlich) reports Rep. Keith Ellison over the weekend "made the argument that President Donald Trump is worse than North Korea's Kim Jong Un." Ellison is quoted as saying, "You have this guy making bellicose threats against somebody else who has very little to lose over there. Kim Jong Un, the world always thought he was not a responsible leader. Well he is acting more responsibly than this guy is."

Palau President Confident US Can Protect Pacific Region.

[Marianas Variety](#) (8/14) reports that Palau President Tommy Remengesau "said he had faith that the United States 'will do all it can to protect everyone in the region with the same commitment they have for the mainland U.S.'" Remengesau said Palau stands "with the people of Guam and the region in our concern for the well-being of everyone."

CNMI Governor Backs Trump's Stance On North Korea.

The [Newburgh \(IL\) Gazette](#) (8/11, Boyd) reports that "nuclear-armed North Korea mocked President Donald Trump as 'bereft of reason' on Thursday, raising the stakes in their standoff with an unusually detailed plan to send a salvo of missiles towards the U.S. territory of Guam." Homeland Security spokeswoman Jenna Gaminde has "previously told the media that Guam residents would be immediately alarmed by sirens from the All-Hazards Alert Warning System located across the small Pacific island in case North Korea delivers its promise to strike Guam 'within two weeks'."

President Trump To Governor Calvo On North Korea Threats: "We Are With You 1000%".

[YouTube](#) (8/11) hosted a video of a conversation between President Trump and Gov. Eddie Calvo.

A Special Message to the People of Guam from Governor Calvo.

[YouTube](#) (8/11) hosted a video of a message from Gov. Eddie Calvo regarding North Korea threats, to the people of Guam.

Yap Islands Seek Sustainable Tourism Development While Balancing China, U.S. Influence.

The [National Geographic](#) (8/15, Lin) reports that the Yap Islands are involved in a power play between the US and China.

Guam Hopes For Real Pause In North Korea Threats.

[Marianas Variety](#) (8/16, Cagurangan, Villahermosa, Todiño) reports that "while Guam was bracing for the much-ballyhooed Aug. 15 crack of doom, government officials heaved a sigh of relief when North Korea's state-run newspaper reported that the 'Supreme Leader' had delayed a decision on firing missiles toward the island." Lt. Gov. Ray Tenorio said at a press conference in Adelup, "Guam has been receiving information that the rhetoric has calmed down, especially from the leader of North Korea, and we are happy that he has taken a look at their plans and will be holding off on — or at least it appears — the imminent threat to Guam at this point," Tenorio said "there doesn't appear to be any indication that, based on what we are hearing, there will be any

missiles fired at us in the near future or in the distant future.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Marianas Variety](#) (8/16).

Nothing On The Table Yet For Tinian Divert Facility, Officials Say.

[Marianas Variety](#) (8/16, Villahermosa) reports that “there is still nothing to discuss with respect to the lease of property that is to be used for the construction of a divert airfield on Tinian, according to CNMI officials interviewed by this reporter.” The U.S. Air Force “needs to lease some 200 acres of land at West Field on Tinian for the construction of a divert-airfield facility.”

However, “in a phone interview on Tuesday, Commonwealth Ports Authority board member Pete P. Reyes said nothing has been discussed yet about the matter.”

Killili: Choice Providers Triple For Marianas Vets.

[Marianas Variety](#) (8/16) reports that “after wrapping up a series of workshops on the Veterans Choice Program for veterans and dozens of local health-care providers on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan last week, U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kili Camacho Sablan announced that the number of community-care providers available to island veterans is now three times what it was a month ago.” Sablan said, “As of this week, we have nearly 70 health-care providers in the Marianas who are enrolled in the Choice network and are ready and able to serve our veterans — up from a little over 20 just a few weeks ago.”

NMI Remits Annual \$30M Settlement Fund Obligation In Full.

[Marianas Variety](#) (8/16) reports that “the CNMI government, through the Department of Finance, continues to meet its obligation to the retirees of the CNMI, as it has remitted the full \$30 million to the Settlement Fund as part of its annual obligation.” According to Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, “as of fiscal year 2017, the Department of Finance has met its obligation by remitting a total of \$33 million in the 3rd Quarter and paid the amount required by the Settlement Agreement and Budget Laws for FY 2017.” Larson said, “In the previous year, we fulfilled our obligation on time. This year, that goal has not changed as we continue to meet our obligations to the retirees. We want to ensure that our retirees receive their pensions in a timely manner.”

CW Bill ‘Will Not Have Significant Impact’.

[Marianas Variety](#) (8/16, Villahermosa) reports that Rep. Angel Demapan, vice chair of the House Committee on Federal, Foreign Affairs, “and who took part in the 902 talks with the U.S., said although H.R. 339 is now with the president and is likely to become law, it is still an extremely short-term fix that will not have a significant impact on the commonwealth.” Demapan said, “We are within 45 days of the end of fiscal year 2017. Legislation to give the hospital only a fraction of the CW slots needed to have adequate nurses on duty does nothing but short-change our people and our healthcare capacity. 350 additional slots do nothing more than show us that the U.S. Congress clearly does not recognize that a labor shortage exists here.”

Office Of Surface Mining

Judge Blocks 176 Million Ton Coal Mine Expansion In Montana.

The [AP](#) (8/15, Brown) reports that “a judge has blocked a proposed 176 million-ton (159 million-metric ton) expansion of an underground coal mine in central Montana because federal officials did not consider its climate change impacts.” The article adds that “U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy said that officials inflated the economic benefits of the 11-square mile (28-square kilometer) expansion of Signal Peak Energy’s Bull Mountain coal mine while ignoring its environmental impacts.” The AP also writes that the judge’s order bans the company in question, Signal Peak, from pursuing the expansion “pending further studies.”

Also reporting are the [Washington Times](#) (8/15, Brown), [ABC News](#) (8/15, Brown), [Fox Business](#) (8/15, Brown), the [New Haven \(CT\) Register](#) (8/15, Brown), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#), the [Daily Mail](#) (8/15, Brown), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (8/15, Brown), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (8/15, Brown), and the [Washington Post](#) (8/15, Matthew Brown |, Ap).

US Geological Survey

Feds Award Money To Boost Warnings For West Coast Quakes.

The [AP](#) (8/15) reports that the U.S. Geological Survey has “awarded \$4.9 million to six universities and a nonprofit to help advance an early warning system for earthquakes along the West Coast.” The USGS “says the ShakeAlert system could give people seconds or up to a minute of warning before strong shaking begins.” Congress allocated “\$10.2 million in money to the USGS earthquake hazards program earlier this year.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Puget Sound \(WA\) Business Journal](#) (8/15, Lamm).

Top National News

Trump Receives Near-Universal Criticism For Latest Remarks On Charlottesville.

President Trump’s news conference at Trump Tower on Tuesday, in which the President returned to his Saturday assertion that both white supremacists and counter-protesters were responsible for the weekend’s violence in Charlottesville, dominates all media. CBS spent the entirety of its Tuesday evening newscast on related stories, while ABC and NBC each spent between 18 and 19 minutes on Trump’s words and on Charlottesville. Many Capitol Hill Republicans were quick to distance themselves from the remarks, though rarely mentioning Trump by name, while Democrats crowded Twitter with tweets calling Trump’s words “sick,” and calling the President a “racist” and unfit for office.

Coverage is harshly critical of the President, with even commentators on Fox News expressing displeasure. As the [New York Times](#) (8/15, Grynbaum) reports, “For a few visceral minutes on Tuesday, television’s partisan lines dissolved as dumbfounded anchors reacted on-air... to Mr. Trump’s fiery remarks.” A “visibly stunned” Chuck Todd said on MSNBC, “What I just saw gave me the wrong kind of chills.” On Fox News, Kat Timpf, “unable to disguise her disgust,” said, “I have too much eye makeup on to start crying right now.” On that network, “normally a redoubt of Trump support, the 5 p.m. co-hosts of ‘The Specialists’ shook their heads.” CNN’s Jake Tapper said in closing his show, “To anybody out there watching today who is confused and thinks, ‘I thought that the Klan and neo-Nazis and white supremacists, I thought there was no debate about this thing among civilized people’ – there isn’t a debate about it.”

Anthony Mason opened the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/15, lead story, 7:20) by saying, “There was no script this time, no prepared statement. President Trump said today what he really believes happened in Charlottesville. Flashing anger at times, the President said both sides, the white supremacists and the counter-protesters, are to blame for the violence that left one person dead and 35 injured. We have never seen a presidential news conference quite like this one at Trump Tower this afternoon.” CBS’ Margaret Brennan said Trump “doubled down on his assertion from Saturday that both sides were to blame for the violence.”

Lester Holt said in opening [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/15, lead story, 4:40), “If President Trump’s words yesterday of unity and his condemnation of hate groups helped cool the embers of outrage following the Charlottesville, Virginia tragedy, this afternoon it took only minutes for him to reignite them with a verbal flamethrower.” NBC’s Hallie Jackson: “Tonight, a defining moment in Donald Trump’s presidency.” Trump: “You look at both sides, I think there’s blame on both sides. And I have no doubt it, and you don’t have any doubt about it either.” Jackson: “The President unfiltered and defiant.”

David Muir said in the lead story on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/15, lead story, 6:35) that the President is “facing outrage after taking 48 hours to condemn racism and to call out groups by name – much of that from leaders of his own party.” ABC’s Mary Bruce: “President Trump today defiant and doubling down, defending his decision to wait 48 hours after the hate-fueled violence in Charlottesville, to call out the white supremacists by name. ... Three days after white supremacists marched in the streets, the President is now back to square one, again blaming all sides. The President now labeling the counter-protesters the ‘alt-left’ and saying they deserve blame too.”

Chuck Todd said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/15, story 4, 1:20, Holt), “What his performance today made everything that happened yesterday, there was suspicion that it was a forced denouncement that he put out yesterday. But I think everybody was hoping that the President needs to speak for all of America, and he spoke for all of America yesterday. And then he didn’t. ... He’s lost the moral authority, as far as speaking for the country, and now he’s probably lost the moral authority for the Republican Party. Watch out for this. This is so bad that I think John Kelly tonight, the chief of staff, is going to have more than one phone call, trying to talk staffers or Administration officials from resigning.”

John Dickerson said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/15, story 3, 1:55, Mason), “He seemed

more interested in assigning blame in his remarks to those on the left and ensuring that there was this equivalent understanding of what took place than he was interested in showing moral disgust that a president should show towards neo-Nazi protesters who represent beliefs that are entirely at odds with the United States, the country that he is the leader of."

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/15), Wolf Blitzer described "a stunning display" in which the President "fanned the flames of the Charlottesville violence." Anderson Cooper said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (8/15) that with his comments, Trump "revealed so clearly who and what he really is." Charles Krauthammer said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (8/15), "What Trump did today was a moral disgrace."

The [AP](#) (8/15, Lemire, Pace) reports that the President "declared anew Tuesday 'there is blame on both sides' for the deadly violence...appearing to once again equate the actions of white supremacist groups and those protesting them." His remarks "were welcomed by former Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke, who tweeted: 'Thank you President Trump for your honesty & courage to tell the truth.'" [USA Today](#) (8/15, Jackson) reports, "While Trump has been especially quick to denounce previous terrorist attacks, he was notably reticent to pinpoint the blame for one on Saturday that involved white supremacists." The [New York Times](#) (8/15, Shear, Haberman) reports that Trump "insisted that he did nothing wrong on Saturday when he declined to specifically condemn Nazi and white supremacist groups."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/15, Nicholas) reports that Trump said, "You had a group on one side that was bad and you had a group on the other side that was also very violent and nobody wants to say that but I'll say it right now. You had a group on the other side that came charging in without a permit. They were very violent." The [Washington Post](#) (8/15, Nakamura) reports that Trump said counter-protesters "acted violently and should share the blame for the mayhem that left a woman dead and many injured." He called the driver of the car that killed Heather Heyer "and injured 19 a 'disgrace to himself, his family and the country,' but he stopped short of declaring the action a case of 'domestic terrorism.'" The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/15, Bierman) says Trump "all but erased any credit he got on Monday for condemning white supremacists."

The [New York Post](#) (8/15, Fredericks) says a "defiant" Trump "angrily condemned 'the alt left' for what he said was their role in the weekend unrest." The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/15, Chaitin) reports that Trump said, "What about the alt-left that came charging at, as you say, at the alt-right? Do they have any assemblage of guilt?" The [Washington Times](#) (8/15, Boyer) reports that while Trump "has been roundly criticized for failing to blame white nationalists on Saturday," he "suggested he was right the first time." Trump said, "When I make a statement, I like to be correct. This event just happened. Before I make a statement, I like to know the facts. I don't want to rush into a statement."

[Breitbart](#) (8/15, Spiering) reports that Trump "grew combative after a throng of reporters started shouting questions about why he 'waited' to specifically condemn neo-Nazis and white nationalists." [Townhall](#) (8/15, Pavlich) reports that he "was heavily criticized over the weekend for failing to initially and specifically call out white supremacy as responsible for Saturday's violence." [Bloomberg News](#) (8/15, Olorunnipa, Epstein, Sink), [Reuters](#) (8/15, Malone, Mason), [McClatchy](#) (8/15, Welsh), [Politico](#) (8/15, McCaskill), [The Hill](#) (8/15, Easley), [Roll Call](#) (8/15, Bennett), and the [Daily Caller](#) (8/15) also report on the President's remarks.

Gregory Korte of [USA Today](#) (8/15) writes, "Combative, loud and defensive," Trump "delivered a stunning defense of right-wing white nationalists." The [New York Times](#) (8/15, Thrush, Haberman) writes that Trump "buoyed the white nationalist movement on Tuesday as no president has done in generations – equating activists protesting racism with the neo-Nazis and white supremacists. ... Never has he gone as far in defending their actions as he did during a wild, street-corner shouting-match of a news conference in the gilded lobby of Trump Tower."

Marc Fisher of the [Washington Post](#) (8/15) writes, "Trump said Tuesday that Saturday's confrontation 'was a horrible day'...but then the president turned to one of his favorite rhetorical tools, using casual language to strip away any definite blame, any clear moral stand, and instead send the message that nothing is certain, that everything is negotiable, that ethics are always situational."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/15, story 2, 1:50, Mason) reported, "The President said there was blame and violence on both sides. We wanted to get a fact check on what happened in Charlottesville." CBS' Paula Reid: "Pretty much every white supremacist demonstrator that I saw had some sort of weapon, either a helmet, a shield, a firearm, a baton. As for the counter-protesters, I would say most of them were unarmed. Many of them were members of the clergy, or they were students." [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/15, story 2, 2:45, Holt) had a similar report, while the [New York Times](#) (8/15, Qiu) examined the counter-protesters, writing that they

"certainly used clubs and dyed liquids against the white supremacists...but there is one stark difference between the violence on the two sides: The police said that James Alex Fields Jr. of Ohio drove his car into a crowd" and killed Heyer.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/15) editorializes, "Tuesday was a great day for David Duke and racists everywhere. The president of the United States all but declared that he has their backs. ... The nation can only weep." Dana Milbank writes in his [Washington Post](#) (8/15) column, "It looks more and more like the White Nationalist House. Trump, who this week retweeted an 'alt-right' conspiracy theorist and ally of white supremacists, continues to employ in his White House not just [Steve] Bannon and Stephen Miller, two darlings of the alt-right, but also Sebastian Gorka, who uses the platform to defend the embattled white man."

[Washington Post](#) (8/15, Rubin) conservative blogger Jennifer Rubin writes, "Trump apologists have run out of excuses and credibility. He was at the time plainly the more objectionable of the two main party candidates; in refusing to recognize that they did the country great harm. They can make amends by denouncing him and withdrawing all support. In short, Trump's embrace and verbal defense of neo-Nazis and white nationalists should be disqualifying from public service. All true patriots must do their utmost to get him out of the Oval Office as fast as possible."

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (8/15) editorializes, "Fellow Americans, do you share our sense of shame? ... If we had any doubt where Trump's true sentiments lie, he was right back at it. ... The haters who marched in Charlottesville carried photos of Trump. A better president – a better man – would have cried at the sight. This is how Donald Trump will go down in American history, as our bigot in chief."

Former Guantanamo chief prosecutor Col. Morris Davis [tweeted](#), "Sad day in America when the president calls domestic terrorists who believe in racism and nazism 'very fine people.'"

Mitt Romney [tweeted](#), "No, not the same. One side is racist, bigoted, Nazi. The other opposes racism and bigotry. Morally different universes." George W. Bush Administration ethics lawyer Richard Painter [tweeted](#), "Until Bannon and all other Alt Right are fired, consumers should boycott companies whose CEO's won't quit Trump's manufacturing council." Ana Navarro [tweeted](#), "I'm so disgusted and appalled by Trump, I've run out of words to describe him. I repeat, UNFIT to be President of the US. UNFIT to be human." Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Brandon McCarthy [tweeted](#), "On one hand you had the Nazis who were violent & on the other the allied soldiers were very violent. So it's a draw. Many sides you see."

[Wall Street Journal](#) (8/15) columnist Jason Riley compares Trump's remarks to those of President Obama when five police officers were slain in Dallas last year.

Trump Blasts "Grandstanding" Of CEOs Who Have Quit Manufacturing Council. The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/15, story 6, 2:05, Mason) reported, "Six executives have now resigned in protest from the President's 28-member manufacturing council. The President lashed out at them." CBS' Julianna Goldman: "It was the third attack since the weekend on CEOs the President had handpicked as outside economic advisers like Intel CEO Brian Krzanich, who stood next to President Trump in February and praised his tax policies. After the President's response to the violence in Charlottesville, Krzanich and the leaders of Under Armour, Merck, and the Alliance for American Manufacturing stepped down. Mr. Trump lashed out in a tweet, 'For every CEO that drops out of the manufacturing council, I have many to take their place. Grandstanders should not have gone on.'" The [New York Times](#) (8/15, Gelles, Kelly) reports that Trump "suggested they had stepped down from his manufacturing advisory council because they were making products overseas." Trump said, "They're leaving out of embarrassment, because they make their products outside."

[USA Today](#) (8/15, Korte) reports that "a fourth member of the manufacturing council announced he would step down" on Tuesday. Alliance for American Manufacturing President Scott Paul said, "I'm resigning from the Manufacturing Jobs Initiative because it's the right thing for me to do." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/15, Ma) reports that US Steel's Mario Longhi also announced that he was resigning, but had no further comment. The [Washington Post](#) (8/15, Paquette) reports that AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka also resigned, "saying he refused to accept any tolerance of 'bigotry and domestic terrorism.'" Trumka said, "President Trump's remarks today repudiate his forced remarks yesterday about the KKK and neo-Nazis. We must resign on behalf of America's working people, who reject all notions of legitimacy of these bigoted groups."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/15) says in an editorial that the exits show that corporate leaders are under pressure to distance themselves from Trump, and if he loses the support of the business community, his agenda will be imperiled. [Politico](#) (8/15, McCaskill) also reports.

Some Democrats Call Trump "Racist," Others Call For His Impeachment. [McClatchy](#) (8/15, Roarty) reports, "Democratic leaders say Donald Trump's inflammatory press conference Tuesday

makes the choice clear: The president either sympathizes with Nazis, or he views them as part of his political base." Senate Minority Leader Schumer [tweeted](#), "By saying he is not taking sides, Donald Trump clearly is. When David Duke and white supremacists cheer, you're doing it very, very wrong." The [Huffington Post](#) (8/15, Bobic) reports that Sen. Brian Schatz, "a frequent critic" of Trump, offered a "rebuke of the president that was strong even for him." Schatz [tweeted](#), "As a Jew, as an American, as a human, words cannot express my disgust and disappointment. This is not my President."

Sen. Richard Blumenthal said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/15), "What it revealed to me...is stunning abdication of moral leadership by the President of the United States." Sen. Mark Warner said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (8/15), "I'm shocked. I'm disappointed. I tried to give the President the benefit of the doubt on Monday. ... For him to come out today – it just seems like he can't help himself – and reopen this, and then equate and somehow moral equivalency on both sides... I guess at this point, I shouldn't be surprised anymore by the actions of this president, but he continues to surprise and, frankly, shock me."

Sen. Tammy Duckworth [tweeted](#), "The terrorists who struck fear in the hearts of patriots around this country over the weekend are not 'fine people.'" Sen. Patrick Leahy [tweeted](#), "Mr. President – Heather Heyer was not murdered by 'both sides.'" Sen. Al Franken [tweeted](#), "When someone shows you who they are, you believe them. Trump is again letting white supremacists off the hook for #Charlottesville violence."

Rep. Lou Correa (D-CA) [tweeted](#), "@POTUS shows that he fails to comprehend the #danger posed by #WhiteNationalist domestic #terrorism. #Nazis aren't good people." Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI) [tweeted](#), "'Both sides' did not carry Nazi flags, drive a vehicle into innocent people or bring hatred to the streets of VA. There is no 'both sides.'" Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA) [tweeted](#), "I know some 'very fine' white supremacists said no one ever. Wait. Did the President say that? @realDonaldTrump is unfit to be President."

Rep. Kathleen Rice (D-NY) [tweeted](#), "President Trump is a racist. Period. He's gone out of his way to make that clear, so let's not tip-toe around it. He's a racist." Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) [tweeted](#), "In a statement only the KKK could (and did) applaud, @POTUS again defends white supremacists. I would ask why but afraid the answer is clear." Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA) [tweeted](#), "Without a teleprompter Trump just showed us his true colors – we should believe him."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/15, Siegel) reported, "Some House Democrats renewed calls for Congress to impeach...Trump on Tuesday after he resorted to blaming 'both sides' for" the violence in Charlottesville. The Examiner quoted Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA) as tweeting, "POTUS is showing signs of erratic behavior and mental instability that place the country in grave danger. Time to invoke the 25th Amendment." And Rep. Gwen Moore (D-WI) "also called on Republicans to initiate impeachment proceedings against Trump." The Examiner added that Rep. Brad Sherman (D-CA) "earlier this summer introduced an article of impeachment accusing Trump of obstruction of justice and alleging he interfered with the ongoing federal investigation into Russia's meddling in the 2016 election."

The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (8/15, Glauber) reports, "In a press release that Moore [tweeted](#) out, she said: 'My Republican friends, I implore you to work with us within our capacity as elected officials to remove this man as our commander-in-chief and help us move forward from this dark period in our nation's history.'"

Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN) [tweeted](#), "@realDonaldTrump's defense of the KKK & neo-Nazis is disgusting. I reject this vile comment & all Americans should." Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA) [tweeted](#), "This is sick. @realDonaldTrump is defending neo-Nazis and white supremacists – again. Let that sink in."

ABC's Vega: "Complete Sense Of Surprise" Inside White House. On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/15, story 2, 1:50) Muir asked correspondent Cecilia Vega, "Did the White House know this was coming today? The White House Chief of Staff John Kelly was off to the side during the news conference in Trump Tower, [photographed](#) by the New York Times. ... Were they ready for this today?" Vega: "Not at all. The people I'm talking to, among them, there's a complete sense of surprise inside this White House. Surprise that the President even took questions today. That wasn't supposed to happen." Mark Berman of the Washington Post [tweeted](#), "Trump's astonishing presser today stunned staffers because he publicly expressed opinions he'd long shared privately."

The [New York Times](#) (8/15) editorializes, "Trump's behavior has become distressingly unsurprising. His default position is retaliation; when threatened, he succumbs to bombast. Washington politicians had hoped" that Kelly's appointment "would instill some discipline in his chaotic administration. With similar hopes, others are trying to get Mr. Trump to fire his resident

provocateur, Stephen Bannon. But the root of the problem is not the personnel; it is the man at the top."

RNC Backs Trump, But GOP Lawmakers Quick To Criticize His Remarks. [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/15, story 3, 2:10, Holt) reported, "The President's remarks today triggered an instant backlash, not only among his critics, but within the very Republican party that he leads." NBC's Kasie Hunt: "Even before his stunning press conference ended, the fiery reaction beginning – swift condemnation from so many corners of American life, including members of the President's own party. Republicans upset he doubled down, blaming both sides again for the violence." [The Hill](#) (8/15, Easley) reports, "Frustrated Republicans lashed out" at Trump. Rep. Will Hurd (R-TX) said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/15), "I don't think anybody should be looking at getting props from a grand dragon of the KKK as any kind of sign of success."

House Speaker Ryan [tweeted](#), "We must be clear. White supremacy is repulsive. This bigotry is counter to all this country stands for. There can be no moral ambiguity." Republican commentator Rick Wilson [tweeted](#) in response, "Say his name, Mr. Speaker. History will remember." House Majority Whip Scalise [tweeted](#), "I was clear about this bigotry & violence over the weekend and I'll repeat it today: We must defeat white supremacy and all forms of hatred."

Sen. Susan Collins [tweeted](#), "The violence in Charlottesville was caused by racists & hate groups. We must unite against them." Sen. Dean Heller [tweeted](#), "There is no defense or justification for evil in the form of white supremacists and Nazis. None." Sen. James Lankford [tweeted](#), "Our words must not create confusion. The supremacy of any race is abhorrent, unAmerican & should be condemned by everyone. Full stop." Sen. John McCain [tweeted](#), "There's no moral equivalency between racists & Americans standing up to defy hate & bigotry. The President of the United States should say so."

Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL) [tweeted](#), "@POTUS just doesn't get it. There is no moral equivalence between manifestations for or against #whitesupremacy. He's got to stop." Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA) [tweeted](#), "@POTUS must stop the moral equivalency! AGAIN, white supremacists were to blame for the violence in #Charlottesville." Rep. Leonard Lance (R-NJ) [tweeted](#), "Mr. President, there is only one side: AGAINST white supremacists, neo-Nazis, anti-Semites & the KKK. They have no place in America or GOP."

Rep. Steve Stivers (R-OH) [tweeted](#), "I don't understand what's so hard about this. White supremacists and Neo-Nazis are evil and shouldn't be defended." Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA) [tweeted](#), "The President needs to clearly and categorically reject white supremacists. No excuses. No ambiguity." Rep. Pat Tiberi (R-OH) [tweeted](#), "POTUS deflected from the fact that a young woman was killed & others were injured by a bigoted follower of the white supremacist movement."

However, [McClatchy](#) (8/14, Glueck, Clark) reports that "the Republican base is fiercely defending" Trump's response, and [The Hill](#) (8/15, Greenwood) reports that Republican National Committee spokeswoman Kayleigh McEnany "wrote in a tweet that the party supports what she called the president's 'message of love and inclusiveness,' insisting Trump's remarks on Tuesday marked a strong rebuke of hate."

Trump Administration Canceled Grant To Group Combating White Supremacism. The [New York Times](#) (8/15, Nixon, Sullivan) reports, "Days before leaving office in January, the Obama administration announced that it had awarded \$400,000" to Life After Hate, "a Chicago-based organization dedicated to combating right-wing domestic extremists." But the new Trump Administration canceled the grant. Christian Piccolini, "a former skinhead who founded the group," said, "We never got an explanation for why our grant was rescinded." The Times reports, "Organizations that received funding from the Trump administration...work almost exclusively on programs to deal with terrorist threats from Islamic extremists, even as research shows that white supremacist groups have been linked to most domestic terrorist attacks in recent years." The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/15, story 5, 2:10, Mason) spoke with Piccolini about his organization.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (8/15, Atran), Scott Atran, co-founder of Artis International, argues that "ethno-nationalist violent extremism" is "the dark side of globalization." Radicalization occurs, Atran writes, when individuals seek "identity in an increasingly flattened world. We have replaced vertical lines of communication between generations with horizontal peer-to-peer attachments that can span the globe, but paradoxically within ever-narrower channels for information." Atran calls for "a strategy to redirect radicalized youth by engaging with their passions, rather than simply ignoring or fearing or satisfying ourselves by denouncing them."

Fox News, Daily Caller Remove Video Of "Cars Plowing Through Protesters." [CNN Money](#) (8/15, Kludt) reports on its website that the Fox News website and the Daily Caller have removed

a video posted in January that “carried an unsubtle headline: ‘Here’s A Reel Of Cars Plowing Through Protesters Trying To Block The Road.’ Embedded in the article was a minute-and-a-half long video showing one vehicle after another driving through demonstrations.”

Davidson: US Government Should Remove Confederate Symbols. Joe Davidson, in his column for the [Washington Post](#) (8/15), highlights what he says is “Uncle Sam’s curious comforting of treasonous Confederates.” Although some cities and states “have taken action against proslavery and Confederate statues, 10 US military bases continue to honor the rebels by carrying names of their leaders.” Davidson also decries the “state flags that include Confederate symbols” which “decorate congressional hallways,” and the “shameful...statues of confederates that disgrace the Capitol complex.”

Lee Memorial In Brooklyn To Be Removed. The [New York Post](#) (8/15, Perez) reports that the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island announced Tuesday that a plaque honoring Robert E. Lee, which has been affixed to a maple tree outside St. John’s Episcopal Church in Brooklyn for more than 100 years, will be removed. Bishop Lawrence Provenzano said, “I think it is the responsible thing for us to do. ... People for whom the Civil War is such a critical moment – and particularly the descendants of former slaves – shouldn’t walk past what they believe is a church building and see a monument to a Confederate general.” The church “has been closed since 2014 – but the maple tree has remained.” The Diocese “owns the sanctuary and is reportedly selling it.”

In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (8/15), former MSNBC host Karen Finney, who was a senior spokesperson for Hillary Clinton’s 2016 presidential campaign, writes that she is a biracial descendant of Robert E. Lee, “and as far as I’m concerned, his statues can’t come down soon enough.” Finney argues that “to move forward as Americans, we have to have an honest dialogue about our shared history. A first step is acknowledging that Robert E. Lee, and his legacy, don’t deserve to be honored or defended.”

Black Conservative Student Says He Was Assaulted By Antifa At Vigil For Charlottesville Victims. The [Washington Times](#) (8/15, Richardson) reports that Ithaca College Republicans President Caleb Slater, an African American, “says he was assaulted over the weekend at a vigil for the victims of the Charlottesville protests because of his conservative beliefs.” The Times says Slater “was wearing a Young America’s Foundation hat at a Sunday evening vigil for Heather Heyer...who was killed when a suspected white nationalist drove his car into a crowd of protesters in Charlottesville.” Sunday’s “vigil was organized by the Syracuse, New York, chapter of Black Lives Matter. When masked members of the militant-left group Antifa saw Mr. Slater, they approached him, asked him about his hat, told him to leave and attacked him.” The Times adds that Slater “said he wore the YAF hat to the memorial ‘to show that conservatives and progressives can both agree that the alt-right pose a threat to the Western world.’”

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (8/15, Frommer) reported that Slater, “who is the half-Dominican, half-black grandson of a civil rights activist, said, ‘I came to this event in peace, I came to this event to stand beside my fellow Americans to disavow bigotry and instead I became the victim of bigotry, an intellectual bigotry. I was not attacked for my words, nor my actions. I was attacked for being a conservative.’ Vigil organizers apologized,” according to Slater, “but they also made ‘an excuse for the attackers and claimed that I should not be wearing apparel from an organization that many ‘interpret to be radical.’”

Breitbart Highlights Yahoo News Reporter’s “Gushing Paean” To Antifa. Writing for [Breitbart](#) (8/15), Ian Mason said, “Yahoo! News followed up the weekend’s violent clashes in Charlottesville, Virginia, with an uncritical portrayal of one of the groups most deeply involved: violent left-wing ‘anti-fascist’ street gangs, collectively known as Antifa. Yahoo! reporter Caitlin Dickson penned a [gushing paean](#) Monday for the ‘secretive movement of combative leftists’ who ‘seek to destroy’ ‘authoritarian movements’ with ‘direct action.’ The piece even included a photo of a large group of smiling happy warriors, unarmed and fists raised in righteous indignation at the ‘white supremacists’ they would confront.”

CNN’s Sidner “Defends Antifa Violence.” Under the headline “CNN Correspondent Defends Antifa Violence,” the [Daily Caller](#) (8/15, Athey) reported that CNN correspondent Sara Sidner on Tuesday “defended the violence of Antifa groups in Charlottesville, VA, arguing that they ‘wouldn’t have been there’ if it hadn’t been for the white supremacists.” Sidner’s remarks came after “Jake Tapper pointed out on CNN Tuesday that some of the violence from the weekend protests, did, in fact, come from members of Antifa, as...Trump claimed during his Tuesday press conference.” The Daily Caller quoted Sidner as “angrily” saying, “There’s a group of anti-fascist called the black bloc, which do tend to get violent. Their idea is, ‘look, non-violence hasn’t worked, we are going to try to stop this.’ But, they wouldn’t have been there, they wouldn’t have been anywhere near there had it not been for the fact that white supremacists and neo-Nazis were out there scaring the living daylight out of most of the people in that town.”

Daily Caller Highlights NYTimes Story On Professor Being Misidentified At Charlottesville Rally.

Drawing from a New York Times [story](#) that was covered in yesterday's edition of the White House News Summary, the [Daily Caller](#) (8/15, Krayden) said that University of Arkansas professor Kyle Quinn "was over 1,000 miles away in Bentonville, Arkansas Friday night...but left-wing zealots claimed he marched with a white supremacist in Charlottesville at the time. On Saturday, Quinn woke up to discover that internet activists were naming him as one of the neo-Nazis at the Charlottesville riot. They had incorrectly identified his picture from video footage and posted it all over social media with his name."

David French: Media Exaggerates Right As Domestic Terror Threat, Downplays Jihadists.

Writing for [National Review](#) (8/15), David French said, "When there's an act of Islamic terror, some in the media will take great pains to minimize the threat. When there's an act of white-supremacist terror, many of the same folks will overhype the threat from the right, often making it out to be greater than the threat of jihadist terror. In either case, all too few will look past the political spin to recognize the truth: Violence is a problem at both extremes of the political spectrum, and jihadists are the most dangerous extremists of all."

Holder Tweet On Charlottesville Draws Responses About Fort Hood "Workplace Violence." The [Washington Times](#) (8/14, Ernst) reports that ex-US Attorney General Eric Holder's "foray into a debate on Saturday's violence in Charlottesville, Va., quickly elicited reminders of his early stance on convicted Fort Hood shooter Nidal Hasan." The Times says that in the wake of James Alex Fields allegedly driving into a crowd of protesters on Saturday, Holder tweeted, "If ISIS rammed a car into a crowd this would be labeled quickly & logically. Charlottesville – call it what it is, domestic terrorism." The Times adds, "Jay Caruso of The Dallas Morning News, among many others, rhetorically fired back," tweeting, "Seriously. It's not like some guy shot up a military base and people tried to call it 'workplace violence.' Oh, wait.' ... 'Kind of like you calling the Ft. Hood shooting 'work place violence'? Take a seat, you're dismissed,' added another."

Vandals Deface Lincoln Memorial. The [New York Post](#) (8/15, Lapin) reports, "Vandals defaced the Lincoln Memorial on Tuesday – scrawling 'F-k law' in red paint on a pillar at the monument, according to the National Park Service. ... A preservation crew is working to remove the graffiti without damaging the stone on the historic memorial, officials said."

European Far Right Struggles To Respond To Charlottesville Violence. The [Washington Post](#) (8/15, Stanley-Becker, McAuley, Noack) reports that the European far right "struggled to respond to a show of force by white nationalists over the weekend that descended into deadly chaos." Far-right parties in Europe "were mostly silent about the spectacle of racial fury in Charlottesville," as "far-right leaders, while in many countries divided, have worked to distance themselves from the Nazi ideology."

Singletary: Racism Has Robbed Generations Of Economic Mobility. Michelle Singletary writes in the [Washington Post](#) (8/15) that one of the costs of racism to American society "has been the lost economic mobility of generations of minorities." Singletary recounts that she "nearly did not go to college because my grandmother was afraid" to complete the financial aid forms to obtain a Pell grant for fear of losing the assets she had accumulated. Singletary adds that "the ugliness on the streets of Charlottesville...was as real for me as it is for so many minorities. We have to fight against the psychological effects of decades of degradation and racist economic suppression."

Trump Signs Executive Order Streamlining Approval Process For Infrastructure Projects.

President Trump on Tuesday signed an executive order aimed at streamlining the process for constructing roads, bridges and other infrastructure projects. Coverage of the signing, largely overshadowed by media coverage of Trump's comments on last weekend's violence in Charlottesville, is light and somewhat negative, as it casts the order as an effort to draw attention to Trump's \$1 trillion infrastructure proposal – which is described as "languishing."

[Reuters](#) (8/15, Mason) reports that the order is "part of his proposal to spend \$1 trillion to fix aging US infrastructure." According to [Bloomberg News](#) (8/15, Niquette, Flavelle), it establishes "'one federal decision' for major projects and set[s] an average two-year goal for permitting." The order "will rescind a previous decree signed by former President Barack Obama that required federal agencies to account for flood risk and climate change when paying for roads, bridges or other structures." In addition it allows OMB "to establish goals for environmental reviews and permitting of infrastructure projects and then track their progress – with automatic elevation to senior agency officials when deadlines are missed or extended, according to the order." The [Washington Post](#) (8/15, Fears, Mufson) says Trump's order eliminates "a planning step related to climate change and flood dangers."

[Politico](#) (8/15, Gardner) calls the order "the latest in a string of efforts to call attention to

his languishing proposal for a \$1 trillion initiative to rebuild the nation's roads, tunnels and bridges," and adds that the announcement "did little to flesh out exactly how his administration plans to boost public and private investment in those projects." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/15, Mann) notes that the move is one of a limited number of non-legislative means Trump has at his disposal to advance his infrastructure agenda.

[USA Today](#) (8/15, Jackson, Jackson) reports that "advocates said repealing an Obama-era rule – which required spending on public works to take into account the flood risk from climate change – would end up wasting public dollars by rebuilding schools, hospitals and roads that would be damaged in the future." Steve Ellis, vice president of Taxpayers for Common Sense, said repealing the rule is "fiscal mismanagement and wasteful," adding, "Taxpayers cannot afford to subsidize high-risk construction and then be asked to rebuild that same development when the inevitable disaster strikes."

At Press Conference, Reporter "Badgered" Chao About "Nazi Support" For Trump. The [Daily Caller](#) (8/15, Hasson, Picket) reports that during a press conference Tuesday about infrastructure, "a male reporter" whose name is not known, "repeatedly badgered Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao" about "her skin color, which the reporter tried to tie to this past weekend's violence between far-left Antifa activists and far-right alt-right members." The reporter first asked, "Secretary Chao, as a woman of color...what do you think about the Nazi support for President Trump?" He then "kept pressing on whether it bothered Chao 'to see Nazis supporting this administration.'"

Trump, Nunes: Obama Administration Ignored Warnings On Russia.

On Monday, a Politico [report](#) said the Obama Administration was warned as early as 2014 about Russian plans to disrupt US elections. Catherine Herridge reported on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/15) that on Tuesday, President Trump [tweeted](#), "According to report just out, President Obama knew about Russian interference 3 years ago but he didn't want to anger Russia!" House Intelligence Committee Chairman Devin Nunes on Tuesday told Fox he stands by a statement he made in March, in which he said committee members' "repeated and forceful pleas for stronger action against Russian belligerents," were "routinely ignored" because the Obama Administration "was committed to the notion against all evidence that we could reset relations with Putin." Herridge said Ned Price, an NSC spokesman under Obama, countered by saying the Obama Administration "was nothing but proactive. ... The measures we spoke to publicly did not constitute the sum total of our retaliation in the face of Moscow's multi-pronged aggression." Herridge noted it's "not clear how widely the intelligence about Russia was shared in 2014 and whether it reached a policy level."

Judge Rejects Trump Dossier Author's Effort To Avoid Deposition. [Politico](#) (8/15, Gerstein) reports in its "Under The Radar" blog that US District Court Judge Ursula Ungaro has rejected former British spy Christopher Steele's "attempt to avoid being questioned under oath about his role in producing a dossier of often salacious and unverified intelligence reports about President Donald Trump's activities in Russia." Russian businessman Aleksey Gubarev wants to force Steele to testify in his libel suit against BuzzFeed "over its publication of the dossier, which suggests Gubarev has corrupt ties to Russian President Vladimir Putin."

Meanwhile, the [Washington Times](#) (8/15, Boylan) says congressional investigators' efforts to contact Steele "appear to be bearing fruit with the news that two House intelligence committee staffers recently traveled to England to try and meet with Mr. Steele at his office in London." The Times says the investigators' trip "reflects a battle for control of the Russian meddling probe that has long divided the House intelligence committee," and notes that Rep. Adam Schiff, the committee's ranking Democrat, "expressed frustration over what some claimed was an independent effort to broker a deal for Mr. Steele's testimony."

Trump To Roll Back Obama-Era Flood Risk Building Standards.

[Reuters](#) (8/15, Volcovici, Mason) reports President Donald Trump signed an executive order Tuesday rolling "back rules regarding environmental reviews and restrictions on government-funded building projects in flood-prone areas" as part of his \$1 trillion infrastructure plan, which "would speed approvals of permits for highways, bridges, pipelines and other major building efforts." The plan also calls for revoking "an Obama-era executive order aimed at reducing exposure to flooding, sea level rise and other consequences of climate change." Trump said, "It's going to be quick. It's going to be a very streamlined process. And by the way, if it doesn't meet environmental safeguards, we're not going to approve it – very simple." Reuters reports business groups "praised the streamlining of regulations," but "environmental groups and others criticized

the order" for potentially leading to "riskier projects," wasting tax dollars, and resulting in a possible "climate catastrophe." The American Petroleum Institute "said in a statement that the order reflects recommendations the oil industry lobby group submitted to the Commerce Department in March," but "environmental group Oil Change International said the order would silence local communities that have safety and environmental concerns about major projects like pipelines." [The Hill](#) (8/15, Henry) says a White House official said the order was part of the Administration's efforts to streamline permitting processes for infrastructure projects. According to the Hill, the official called the move "a 'small part' of Trump's order, which will not block states from expanding their own building standards for infrastructure projects."

The [New York Times](#) (8/15, Friedman) characterizes the move as "the latest effort by the Trump administration to unravel former President Barack Obama's climate change agenda" after "building trade groups and Republican lawmakers...criticized the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard" as too "costly and overly burdensome." However, the Times says "environmental activists, floodplain managers and some conservatives" previously "urged the Trump administration to preserve the rule," which they argued "protected critical infrastructure and taxpayer dollars by ensuring new projects in areas prone to flooding were safeguarded." The Times explains that the rule allowed "federal agencies three options to flood-proof new infrastructure projects" – using "the best available climate change science," requiring "that standard projects like roads and railways be built two feet above the national 100-year flood elevation standard and critical buildings like hospitals be built three feet higher," or requiring that "infrastructure be built to at least the 500-year floodplain" – but did not apply to private development. When the Obama Administration announced the rules, it "cited a National Climate Assessment finding that more than \$1 trillion worth of property and structures in the United States are at risk of inundation if sea levels rise two feet above current levels, something that scientists believe could happen by 2050."

According to the [Washington Post](#) (8/15, Fears, Mufson), Trump said the approval process "was 'badly broken' and that the nation's infrastructure was a 'massive self-inflicted wound on our country,'" adding that there will "no longer" be "one job-killing delay after another" for new projects. However, the Post says Trump failed to "provide any proposal on how his much-promised infrastructure program would be financed or what it would include," though he did promise "'one Federal decision' for major infrastructure projects and setting a two-year goal for completion of permitting processes." The order comes as Congress prepares to "reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program that pays insurance claims" – a "beleaguered program" facing "nearly \$25 billion in debt" – in September.

The [AP](#) (8/15, Lowy, Biesecker) and the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (8/15, Siciliano) offer similar coverage.

Pruitt Plans To Rewrite Obama-Era Limits On Coal Wastewater Pollution.

The [AP](#) (8/15, Biesecker) reports the Environmental Protection Agency is planning to "scrap an Obama-era measure limiting water pollution from coal-fired power plants," according to a letter from EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt "released Monday as part of a legal appeal." Pruitt allegedly "moved in April to delay implementation" of new "guidelines mandating increased treatment for wastewater from steam electric power-generating plants" at "the behest of electric utilities who opposed the stricter standards." According to the AP, wastewater from coal-fired plants containing "traces of highly toxic heavy metals such as...lead, arsenic, mercury and selenium" is flushed into waterways. Pruitt's letter was filed with the 5th US Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans on Monday as part of legal challenges to the wastewater rule – though "with Mr. Pruitt now moving to rewrite the standards, EPA has asked to court to freeze the legal fight."

[The Hill](#) (8/15, Henry) offers similar coverage, reporting the EPA "estimates the rule would reduce toxic metals and other discharged pollutants by 1.4 billion pounds. If implemented, the rule would cost about \$480 million per year and its potential benefits are worth \$451 million to \$566 million, the agency says."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Mr. Trump Makes A Spectacle Of Himself." The [New York Times](#) (8/15) editorializes, "Trump's behavior has become distressingly unsurprising. His default position is retaliation; when threatened, he succumbs to bombast. Washington politicians had hoped" that Kelly's appointment "would instill some discipline in his chaotic administration. With similar hopes, others are trying to

get Mr. Trump to fire his resident provocateur, Stephen Bannon. But the root of the problem is not the personnel; it is the man at the top.”

“Let Prisoners Learn While They Serve.” A [New York Times](#) (8/16, Board) editorial cites studies suggesting “prisons with education programs have fewer violent incidents, making it easier for officials to keep order, and that the children of people who complete college are more likely to do so themselves, disrupting the typical pattern of poverty and incarceration.” Nonetheless, the Times says, New York state Republican legislators “have steadfastly resisted Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s common-sense proposal for making a modest investment in prison education programs that have already proved highly successful on a small scale in New York’s prisons.” The Times says “these programs have more than proved their value,” and “New York lawmakers who continue to block funding for them are putting ideology ahead of the public interest.”

Washington Post.

“Trump Asked China To Rein In Its Unreasonable Trade Practices. It Should.” A [Washington Post](#) (8/15) editorial says that “for all his talk during the 2016 campaign about taking on China for ‘stealing’ American jobs, President Trump has hardly launched the trade war against Beijing that many feared.” Rather than trade, Trump’s “approach to China has emphasized enlisting President Xi Jinping’s help in defusing the crisis over North Korea’s nuclear weapons.” Given that, the Post says Trump’s announcement Monday — that he is ordering his special trade representative to investigate Chinese trade practices — “strikes us as a variation on a theme, not necessarily a portent of dangerous new trade tensions.” The Post says Trump’s order gives China “plenty of time to head off” any penalties by meeting the US’ “reasonable concerns in negotiations,” and argues that “it would be in China’s best interest to do so.”

“Maryland Needs To Go On A Prison Guard Hiring Spree.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/15) writes that the Maryland state corrections system – which after a 2015 reform requiring all guards to undergo polygraphs now has a shortage of 600 unfilled positions among roughly 1,000 vacancies – must work with the union representing corrections officers and raise salaries. The Post concludes that “safety at Maryland prisons is impaired” by the failure to address the shortage, and that Maryland Gov. Hogan “will need to step up.”

“The Nation Can Only Weep.” The [Washington Post](#) (8/15) editorializes, “Tuesday was a great day for David Duke and racists everywhere. The president of the United States all but declared that he has their backs. ... The nation can only weep.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Trump And The CEOs.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/15) says in an editorial that the exits from President Trump’s manufacturing advisory council show that corporate leaders are under pressure to distance themselves from Trump, and if he loses the support of the business community, his agenda will be imperiled.

“The Wage Paradox Explained.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/15) writes that a new analysis from the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco shows that the so-called wage paradox – that wage growth remains slow despite the current tightened job market – is partly explained by the fact that wages have been growing at a faster rate but that many new full-time workers who are typically paid less than the retirees they are replacing are lowering the average wage. The Journal concludes that the report indicates that workers will continue to see wage growth if expansion continues, bolstered by tax reform that encourages more capital investment and increasing productivity.

“Medicaid’s Opioid Fix.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/15) writes that a recent Department of Health and Human Services analysis requested by Sen. Ron Johnson found that opioid overdose deaths per million residents rose twice as quickly in the 29 states that underwent Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act – something Sen. Johnson says suggests the expansion created a perverse incentive for people to use more opioids. The Journal concludes that as policymakers consider how to address the nation’s opioid epidemic, a key priority of any reform must also address abuse within the Medicaid system.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Trump Says 'Both Sides' To Blame In Charlottesville Violence](#)
[CEOs Rethink Ties With White House](#)
[Consumer Spending Gives Some Retailers A Lift, But Risks Abound](#)
[The New Innovator's Dilemma: When Customers Won't Pay For Better](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Defends Initial Remarks On Charlottesville: Again Blames 'Both Sides'](#)
[Walmart Chief Joins CEO Protests](#)
[Trump Gives White Supremacists An Unequivocal Boost](#)
[Trump Threat To Obamacare Would Send Premiums And Deficits Higher](#)
[One Us Factory Goes Global, While Trump Shrinks The World](#)
[Squeezed By An India-China Standoff, Bhutan Holds Its Breath](#)

Washington Post:

[Trump Again Blames 'Both Sides'](#)
['It's Manufactured Death'](#)
[Rhetorical Pivot Reveals A President Unleashed](#)
[Fleeting United In A State Of Darkness](#)
[Factory Workers Quitting In Droves](#)

Financial Times:

[India's Partition Holds A Lesson For Today's Leaders](#)
[Central Banks Holding A Fifth Of Their Governments' Debt](#)
[Vacuums That Pick Up Data As Well As Dirt Renew Privacy Concerns](#)
[IMF Warns China Over 'Dangerous' Levels Of Debt](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Says 'Alt-Left' Also To Blame For Charlottesville Violence, Warns Against Eradicating Statues](#)
[Black Activists Want Confederate Statues Preserved To Serve As Reminders Of Dark History With Wildlife And Scenic Views, Interior Department Attracts Large Social Media Following](#)
[Health Care Premiums Will Jump 20% Next Year If Trump Cuts Obamacare Reimbursements, CBO Predicts](#)
[McCain, Taliban, Blackwater Offer Own Afghanistan War Plans While Waiting For Trump](#)
[Ousted President's Legal Fate Looms Large For Thailand's Future](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Trump-White Nationalism Clash Comment; WH-White Nationalism Clash; White Nationalism Clash; North Korea Threats; New Jersey-Carbon Monoxide Poisoning; Central Park-Tree Collapse; Hurricane Gert Tracking; South Carolina-Police Violence; Hollywood Stuntwoman Death; Nebraska-Home Explosion; Costco-Diamond Branding Lawsuit; Baseball Pitcher-Cancer Fight.
CBS: Trump-White Nationalism Clash Comment; White Nationalism Clash; White Nationalism Clash-Expert Comment 1; White Nationalism Clash-Expert Comment 2; White Nationalism Clash-Hate Groups; White Nationalism Clash-Corporate Responses; White Nationalism Clash-US Cities; African American Art-Confederate Flag.
NBC: Trump-White Nationalism Clash Comment; White Nationalism Clash; White Nationalism Clash-Congress; White Nationalism Clash-Expert Comment; White Nationalism-Confederate Monuments; Hurricane Gert Tracking; School Violence-Autistic Student; Antidepressant Use; Costco-Diamond Branding Lawsuit; iTunes Music Chart; WW2 Veteran Returns Japanese Flag.

Network TV At A Glance:

White Nationalism Clash – 24 minutes, 30 seconds
Trump-White Nationalism Clash Comment – 18 minutes, 35 seconds
Hurricane Gert Tracking – 1 minute, 5 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Trump-White Nationalism Clash Comment; North Korea Threats; Obamacare Insurance Premium; Wall Street News.
CBS: Trump-White Nationalism Clash Comment; White Nationalism Clash-Corporate Responses; Obamacare-Insurance Premium.
FOX: Trump-White Nationalism Clash Comment; White Nationalism Clash; Elvis Presley-40th

Anniversary; Alabama-Senate Special Election Primary.

NPR: Trump-White Nationalism Clash Comment; White Nationalism Clash; White Nationalism-Confederate Monuments; North Korea Threats.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Signs HR 3218, The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a bilateral meeting with President Michelle Bachelet of Chile; meet with US Embassy staff and their families in Chile; delivers keynote remarks at a dinner on Advancing Prosperity & Economic Growth Throughout the Western Hemisphere honoring AACCLA's 50th Anniversary & AmCham Chile's 100th Anniversary.

US Senate: On recess until 5 September.

US House: On recess until 5 September.

Other: 2:30 PM Japanese defense and foreign ministers lay wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier – Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono and Defense Minister Isunori Onodera lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, as part of their official visit to the U.S. Special Assistant to the Director of the Army staff Maj. Gen. Scott Berrier hosts the ceremony Location: Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA <http://mdwhome.mdw.army.mil/> https://twitter.com/MDW_USARMY

NAFTA renegotiations begin – Formal talks on renegotiation of the North American Free Trade Agreement begin in Washington, DC, between the U.S., Canada, and Mexico, with the Trump administration 'seeking a much better agreement that reduces the U.S. trade deficit and is fair for all Americans by improving market access in Canada and Mexico for U.S. manufacturing, agriculture, and services' Location: Washington, DC www.ustr.gov <https://twitter.com/USTradeRep>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "It was supposed to be a press conference about infrastructure, and it ended with our President making an angry and passionate defense of white supremacists. It was like if your book club meeting turned into a cock fight."

Jimmy Kimmel: "I think we might need an alt-President right now."

Stephen Colbert: "Even though many criticized how long it took, the President knew the right thing was to make the statement Monday, be clear about who was to blame, and then move on to the people's business. I'm just kidding. He held a press conference today in, I believe, the seventh circle of hell."

Stephen Colbert: "'Okay, I need the facts, okay. Just ask the millions of illegal voters who refused to look for Obama's birth certificate, during my record-breaking inauguration. Okay? It's all on the Obama wiretaps. It's all there.'"

James Corden: "Trump's the guy that walks out of Star Wars thinking they didn't have to blow up the Death Star. There was blame on both sides. "

James Corden: "Apparently, Trump went off script and improvised all of these remarks during a press conference about infrastructure, which is terrible because I'm pretty sure the first rule of infrastructure is whatever you do, don't burn bridges."

Jimmy Fallon: "Today, the CEO of Walmart wrote a strongly worded letter criticizing Trump. CEO of Target wrote one too, and people thought it was just a little bit classier."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump last night made his first visit to Manhattan since his inauguration."

Meanwhile, Hillary Clinton visited three Manhattans and a Bud Light.”

Conan O'Brien: “In an impromptu press conference just a couple of hours ago, President Trump said the hate and the division must stop. That’s what he said. It’s a good statement. For a minute, the crowd got excited because they thought Trump was resigning.”

Conan O'Brien: “In the press conference, President Trump said that Steve Bannon was a good friend and not a racist. Then he said, ‘Oops, a meant to say a good racist and not a friend.’”

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- Kingman (AZ) Daily Miner: Fish And Wildlife Service Offers Reasonable Changes.
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National Park Service

- Minneapolis Star Tribune: Celeb Ambassadors Help National Parks Mark 101st Birthday.
- Columbus News Team (NE): Homestead National Monument Of America, Estimates 30,000 Attended Eclipse Events.
- Daily Caller: Conservatives: Nix Group Altering Statues.
- Fox News: Agency Blames Hackers Over 'F--- Trump' Road Sign In DC Park.
- Ste. Genevieve (MO) Herald: Blunt Staffer Tours Historic Areas, Expresses Optimism For Legislation.
- U.S. News & World Report: Vermont To Recognize Historic LGBTQ Sites.
- Curbed Washington: Historic 1830s Potomac Lockhouse To Undergo Rehabilitation.
- Hot Springs (AR) Sentinel-Record: McCabes, NPS To Sign Hale Lease On Friday.
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Office Of Insular Affairs

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- Washington Times: Brady: Revenues From Tax Reform Should Not Necessarily Go To Infrastructure.

- Bloomberg News: GOP Considers Tax Proposal Allowing \$450 Billion Of Cuts Without Offsets.
- Wall Street Journal: Businesses Lobbying For Corporate Tax Cut.

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DOI In The News

Zinke To Complete Review Of National Monuments This Week.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/22, Eilperin, Levine) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke this week will conclude his review of 27 national monuments as directed by an executive order signed by President Trump this spring targeting "designations of at least 100,000 acres that were made by former presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama under the 1906 Antiquities Act." Zinke has announced that "he would recommend no changes for six of the monuments on the list." Fifteen of the remaining sites "are considered the most vulnerable to revision, reduction or even reversal."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (8/23), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (8/22, Landers), the [Bakersfield \(CA\) Californian](#) (8/22, Mayer), and the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (8/22, DeMille).

Groups Make Last-Minute Push To Save National Monument Areas. The [AP](#) (8/23, McCOMBS) reports that "conservation groups are airing TV ads, planning rallies and creating parody websites in a last-minute blitz to stop Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke from downsizing or eliminating national monument areas that cover large swaths of land and water from Maine to California." Meanwhile, "groups that want to see the areas reduced have been less vociferous, pleading their cases on social media and working behind the scenes to lobby federal officials."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [Philly \(PA\)](#) (8/22, McCOMBS), the [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (8/22, McCOMBS), the [Washington Post](#) (8/23, McCombs), [ABC News](#) (8/23, McCOMBS), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (8/23, McCOMBS), and the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (8/22, McCOMBS).

Trump Wants To Turn National Monuments Into 'Industry Playthings'. The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/22, Siciliano) reports Raul Grijalva, the ranking Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, released a report saying the Trump Administration's review of 27 national monuments is being guided by the energy industry, rather than the public interest. The executive summary of the report said, "This report demonstrates that the justification provided for the review – a desire for robust public input – is a diversion meant to obscure the review's true aim: the development by private companies of fossil fuel resources currently off-limits due to monument designations."

100 Supporters, Four Local Members Of Congress Blast Trump's Review Of National Monuments. The [Pasadena \(CA\) Star-News](#) (8/22, Scauzillo) reports that "four local members of Congress blasted" the President Trump's order to review national monuments, "calling the president's

action a nod to corporate greed.” Democratic Reps. Judy Chu, Jimmy Gomez, Brad Sherman, and Adam Schiff “condemned the White House review, saying the process was part of secret dealings between the administration and oil, gas and mining firms seeking permission to recover additional natural resources from federal lands marked for preservation by previous presidents.” Addressing “a friendly crowd of about 100 supporters at the Los Angeles Historic Park near Chinatown, the local representatives spoke in blunt terms, even threatening to block an attempt at monument trimming with legal action.”

Also reporting are the [Inland Valley \(CA\) Daily Bulletin](#) (8/22, Scauzillo), the [Pasadena \(CA\) Star-News](#) (8/22, Scauzillo), [Redlands \(CA\) Daily Facts](#) (8/22, Scauzillo), the [San Gabriel Valley \(CA\) Tribune](#) (8/22, Scauzillo), the [Whittier \(CA\) Daily News](#) (8/22, Scauzillo) and [KABC-TV Los Angeles](#) Los Angeles (8/22, Cota-Robles).

Support Rally For Giant Sequoia National Monument Today. [KERO-TV](#) Bakersfield, CA (8/22) reports that the Giant Sequoia National Monument Coalition was scheduled to host a rally Tuesday in support of the monument. Also reporting are [KITV-TV Honolulu](#) Honolulu (8/22), and [WENY-TV Elmira \(NY\)](#) Elmira, NY (8/22).

National Monuments, Sanctuaries At Risk, Huffman Hosts Ocean Forum In Sausalito. The [Mill Valley \(CA\) Patch](#) (8/22, McGuire) reports that on Wednesday, Rep. Jared Huffman will “host a forum on protecting national marine sanctuaries and monuments.” The forum will “highlight the benefits of these federal designations for ocean health and coastal economies, including fishing, outdoor recreation, and tourism, and examine the threat of President Trump’s Executive Order 13795, which reviews all designations and expansions of National Marine Sanctuaries and Marine National Monuments since 2007.”

Roosevelt IV: Interior Secretary Must Defend Public Lands. In an op-ed for the [Houston Chronicle](#) (8/22, IV) [8/22, Check Author], Theodore Roosevelt IV, the great-grandson of the 26th U.S. president, writes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has “both administrative power and a bully pulpit to encourage sound policy for a huge portion of our nation’s public lands.” Roosevelt notes that Zinke “often professes his commitment to public land conservation, and he frequently evokes the legacy of TR.” However, he argues that Zinke’s “conservation actions have failed to match his rhetoric, so far.” Roosevelt concludes: “To be a faithful steward of our public lands during the Trump administration will require courage and discipline, attributes that Secretary Zinke values. If he aspires to live up to the Roosevelt legacy, he will need to stand up to special interests and protect America’s public lands.”

Why Donald Trump Is Going After Our Parks. In a piece for the [Huffington Post](#) (8/22, Pope, Contributor), Carl Pope, Principal Advisor at Inside Straight Strategies, writes “the nature” of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s “process may best be illustrated by the fact that during a six month review process, he visited only 8 of 27 monuments – and while the process has been very opaque, the most important consideration being mentioned is whether local Republican politicians favored retaining or stripping protection from the area – the American people, who have filed millions of comments opposing this process, simply don’t seem to be a factor in the deliberations.” Pope says that Zinke is “acting in spite of the fact that a new major player – native American tribes – are weighing in strongly against opening these lands to mining and abuse because many of the areas at risk, like Bears Ears, were created to protect parts of their heritage, culture and religion.” Pope asserts that “it’s one of Trump’s more revealing policy misadventures.”

North Face President: Never Stop Fighting For Our Public Lands. In an op-ed for [USA Today](#) (8/22, Arens), The North Face president Arne Arens writes that “there is a profound value to America’s national parks, forests, monuments and other public lands.” As Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke completes his review, “we might soon be left with fewer protected places and an uncertain future for our shared lands.” Arens adds that his company “has joined with over 350 outdoor companies in a letter to request that Secretary Zinke recognize the benefits that these national monuments provide to sustain jobs and support healthy communities.” Arens concludes, “There is a lot on the line: our common ground, the strength of a sustainable economy, and the opportunity to leave a legacy greater than what we are today. Without a doubt, this is worth protecting.”

National Monuments In Grave Danger From Trump. In an op-ed for the [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (8/22, Pfund), Nancy Pfund, a co-chair of the Conservation for Economic Growth Coalition, argues that new policies from President Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke are “putting our nation’s parks, public lands and national monuments at risk, and our economy along with them.” According to Pfund, “rescinding or modifying California National Monuments on the basis of a single 120-day review ending Thursday, and without public hearings and transparent public

debate, would create precisely the kind of uncertainty that our businesses abhor." Pfund asserts that "it also would not follow the law regarding national monuments." She says that "the only way for Secretary Zinke to change a monument is to make recommendations for Congress to act, not the President." Pfund argues that "any proposed recommendations should get the proper procedural and public scrutiny that they deserve, with bills drafted, studied, heard before the appropriate committees, and voted on by those committees and both houses of Congress."

It's Only Been A Year, But The Monument Is Already Benefiting The Katahdin Region. In an op-ed for the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (8/22, Schmidt), Richard Schmidt III, celebrates the anniversary of the designation of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument by noting "all the benefits the monument is already bringing to Maine and its people, even those few but vocal people who opposed the monument during the years of public discussion prior to its establishment." he says that "traffic is up, both foot and car, on main streets throughout the Katahdin region" and "local businesses are investing, expanding and making improvements to their storefronts and infrastructure to accommodate new visitors and their interests." Schmidt says that "the most compelling indicator of success is the real estate market." Schmidt concludes that "as Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke prepares his recommendations for Katahdin Woods and Waters, we need leaders like Sens. Susan Collins and Angus King, who see and understand the distinct and obvious benefits, to send a clear message to Zinke and the White House."

Community Voices: Sequoia Monument A Treasure Worth Protecting. In an op-ed for the [Bakersfield \(CA\) Californian](#) (8/22, Sheehey), Alison Sheehey, programs director of Sequoia ForestKeeper, argues that Giant Sequoia National Monument is "not large enough to protect many of the unique biological, geological, and historical resources that exist within its parent government land Sequoia National Forest." According to Sheehey, Giant Sequoia National Monument "protects giant sequoias not just at the boundary of the canopies of sequoias, but throughout their expansive root system which includes the aquifer that supports these most massive living things on earth." For this reason, Sheehey argues, "the Monument should be expanded, not shrunk."

Additional Commentary. Additional commentary appeared in the [Pasadena \(CA\) Star-News](#) (8/22, Wilson) and the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (8/22, Salazar).

Trump Administration's Reported Threats To Alaska Senators Investigated.

The [Huffington Post](#) (8/23, Shapiro) reports that the Interior Department "confirmed it launched a preliminary investigation into reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke attempted to pressure Republican Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan of Alaska following their votes on health care last month." In a letter to Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. and Rep. Raul Grijalva, sent Deputy Inspector General Mary L. Kendall "wrote that her office was undertaking a preliminary investigation into Zinke's phone calls to the Alaska senators in which the secretary reportedly said Murkowski's votes opposing the GOP's proposed health care plans had put some of Alaska's state-specific projects in jeopardy, particularly those pertaining to energy."

Judge Delays Ruling On Trump's Fossil-Fuel Favors, Fearing Mootness.

[Courthouse News](#) (8/22, Iovino) reports that "a federal judge said Tuesday that the Trump administration improperly delayed a rule to boost state royalties for oil, gas and coal extracted on public lands, but she declined to issue a ruling because an impending repeal might moot the case." California and New Mexico sued the Interior Department "this past April, arguing it unlawfully postponed the new royalties rule on Feb. 22 – six days before the first payments were due and after the rule was set to take effect on Jan. 1." The Interior Department "published a proposed rule to roll back the increased royalty valuations on April 4, with a public comment period ending May 4," and "it's set to take effect on Sept. 6."

Watchdog Group Calls Foul On Leaked Oil And Gas Memo On Sage Grouse.

[Public News Service](#) (8/23) reports that "a document obtained by a watchdog group suggests that the U.S. Department of the Interior could be taking orders from the oil and gas industry." Jayson O'Neill, deputy director of the Western Values Project, "said his group has filed a Freedom of Information Act request for correspondence between energy-industry representatives and staff who worked on Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's sage-grouse review." According to O'Neill, "a memo from the Western Energy Alliance bears a striking resemblance to the federal agency's plan of action." O'Neill said, "Secretary Zinke and the review team took the recommendations of the oil and gas industry, pretty much universally, over other users – which include the hunting community, ranching community, our agricultural communities,."

Outdoor Recreation Creates Economic Infrastructure For Montana.

[KWYB-TV](#) Butte, MT (8/22, Siu) reports that Sen. John Tester on Tuesday announced the creation of the Outdoor Economy Act. The legislation would create a committee at the Interior Department “to advise the presidential administration on ways to increase public access to public lands.” Tester said, “Montana hunters, anglers, business owners and outdoor enthusiasts know how important our public lands are. By bringing these folks to the table in Washington, we can ensure that future generations will be able to access the treasured places that are driving our economy and creating jobs.”

Military Leaders Consolidate Power In Trump Administration.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/22, A1, Costa, Rucker) reports on its front page that “high-ranking military officials” are “repeatedly winning arguments inside the West Wing, publicly contradicting the president and even balking at implementing one of his most controversial policies.” The “military leaders are rapidly consolidating power...as they counsel a volatile president,” in “a striking departure for a country that for generations has positioned civilian leaders above and apart from the military.” The article notes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is among the “military figures serving at high levels in the Trump administration.”

Electric Grid Weathers Total Eclipse Of The Sun.

[Politico Morning Energy](#) (8/22, Adragna) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke tweeted he had a “pretty cool view” of the solar eclipse “from his agency’s rooftop.”

Is Trump Making The Political Environment For Top Civil Servants Worse?

In his [Washington Post](#) (8/22, Davidson) column, Joe Davidson writes that a recent Office of Personnel Management survey shows that “work environment issues are ‘the highest contributing factors’ in the decision of federal senior executives to leave government” and suggests that the political environment in the workplace – which tops workplace environment issues – “has become particularly toxic since President Trump took office.” Davidson argues that the Administration has especially placed pressure on agencies dealing with the environment, pointing to statements by federal agency scientists and others claiming that Administration direction and the President’s rhetoric have “damaged the political environment for senior executives and federal employees generally.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

DOI Hit With Suit Over Tribal Leadership Dispute.

[Law360](#) (8/22, Lidgett) reports that “the Alturas Indian Rancheria hit the U.S. Department of the Interior with a lawsuit on Monday accusing it of improperly recognizing Philip Del Rosa as the chairman of the tribe even though the tribe’s General Council barred him from holding office.”

Bureau Of Indian Education

Keep The Federal Government Out Of School Choice.

In a [Washington Post](#) (8/22, Burke) op-ed, Heritage education policy director Lindsey Burke, Cato education policy director Neal McCluskey, and Independent Institute research fellow Vicki Alger write that although school choice offers many benefits – granting families more academic freedom, increasing educator accountability, improving academic outcomes – the federal government should not create a nationwide school choice program because “federal control could ultimately impose the same regulations on once-independent schools that have stifled public institutions.” They also suggest that the Trump Administration could “propose expanding choice to military families and children attending Bureau of Indian Education schools – the latter deemed the worst-performing schools in the United States.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Jury Refuses To Convict 4 In Nevada Ranch Standoff Retrial.

The [AP](#) (8/22, Ritter) reports that on Tuesday, a federal jury in Las Vegas “refused...to convict

four defendants who were retried on accusations that they threatened and assaulted federal agents by wielding assault weapons in a 2014 confrontation to stop a cattle roundup near the Nevada ranch of states' rights figure Cliven Bundy." The AP calls the verdict "a stunning setback to federal prosecutors planning to try the Bundy family patriarch and two adult sons later this year." The jury "acquitted Ricky Lovelien and Steven Stewart of all 10 charges, and delivered not-guilty findings on most charges against Scott Drexler and Eric Parker." The AP notes that "a first trial earlier this year lasted two months and ended in April with a different jury finding two defendants – Gregory Burleson of Phoenix and Todd Engel of Idaho – guilty of some charges but failing to reach verdicts against Drexler, Parker, Lovelien and Stewart."

According to the [New York Daily News](#) (8/22, Brennan), "It was not immediately clear if prosecutors will push for a third trial against Drexler and Parker. Cliven, Ammon and Ryan Bundy and two other defendants are expected to face their own trials in the Nevada standoff later this year."

Also reporting are the [New York Times](#) (8/22, Turkewitz), [USA Today](#) (8/22, Anglen), the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/22, Carlton), [Reuters](#) (8/22), and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/22, Etehad, Montero).

Critics Maintain Utah Mustang Meeting A 'Slaughter Summit'.

The [AP](#) (8/23, PRICE, SONNER) reports that "federal scientists and mostly rural interests are gathering at a wild horse conference in Utah that mustang-protection advocates maintain is a thinly veiled effort to promote increased roundups and eventual slaughter of tens of thousands of animals from California to Colorado without public input." The National Horse and Burro Summit kicks off Wednesday in Salt Lake City, "a week after congressional auditors identified countless hurdles but no solutions to the growing number of U.S.-protected wild horses roaming 10 western states." Critics claim "the invitation-only gathering hosted by Utah State University amounts to a 'slaughter summit.'"

Red Rock Canyon Could Raise Entry Fees To \$15 Next Year.

[KTNV-TV](#) Las Vegas (8/22, Jarvis) reports that "a proposed fee increase could raise entry to Red Rock National Conservation Area to \$15 by next year and \$20 by 2023." The Bureau of Land Management is seeking public comments on the proposed increase.

Walter Mondale: We Can't Afford To Get The Mining-vs.-land-protection Equation Wrong.

In an op-ed for the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (8/22, Mondale), Walter F. Mondale, a former vice president of the United States and former U.S. senator from Minnesota, writes about the importance of protecting the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness from mining. He lauds the Trump administration for "wisely" choosing "to let our professional land managers perform their job and continue the study." According to Mondale, "this is crucial to the well-being of the Boundary Waters and to the sustainable economy of wilderness-edge communities."

Current Petroleum Reserve Plan Is Solid; Don't Fall For Land-Rush Mentality.

In an op-ed for the [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (8/22, Pourchot), Pat Pourchot, who has "served as a senator and representative in the Alaska State Legislature, commissioner of the Alaska State Department of Natural Resources and special assistant to the secretary of the interior for Alaska affairs," writes that the current land use plan for the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska was "only just completed in 2013 and has allowed significant on-going oil and gas leasing and development." Pourchot asserts that "the base information and the formulation of the current plan are scientifically sound, in accord with law, and strike a fair and reasonable balance in the treatment of the natural resources owned by all the citizens of this country." He argues that "any changes to the plan should take the deliberative time and effort that went into its original construction."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Delaware Governor Opposes Offshore Drilling.

The [AP](#) (8/22) reports that "Gov. John Carney (D) says he's opposed to drilling for oil and gas in federal waters off the coast of Delaware, or elsewhere along the Atlantic coast." Carney sent a letter last week to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in which he defended the "economic importance of Delaware's coastal areas and coastal activities." The AP adds that "Carney says more than

60,000 jobs support the fishing, tourism and recreation industries in Delaware, and that coast-related activities contribute almost \$7 billion in economic production to the state." The article also points out that "Carney's letter was in response to a request for comments regarding the Trump administration's proposal for a new five-year national offshore oil and gas leasing program."

Also reporting are the [Dover \(DE\) Post](#) (8/22) and the [Wilmington \(DE\) News Journal](#) (8/22, Goss).

International Association Of Drilling Contractors Requests Expanded Access To Outer Continental Shelf.

[DailyEnergyInsider](#) (8/22) reports that "the International Association of Drilling Contractors (IADC) recently submitted comments in response to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) request for information and comments on the 2019-2024 Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program." The IADC "noted that the U.S. oil and natural gas industry supported more than 10.3 million U.S. jobs and accounted for over 7.5 percent of gross domestic product in 2015." IADC President Jason McFarland said, "It is with these numbers in mind that IADC, along with our industry association counterparts, supports the expansion of available drilling areas in the 5-year leasing plan. We urge Interior Secretary [Ryan] Zinke to expand access to available resources of the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) in order to further solidify energy security for the U.S. and future job creation and revenue generation."

Offshore Drilling Committee Weighs In On Oil, Beaches.

The [Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (8/22, Fretwell) reports that "the politically sensitive question of whether to support oil drilling off the South Carolina coast sparked plenty of talk Tuesday as lawmakers wrestled with an issue that has divided the state." According to the article, "legislators serving on a special study committee steered clear of endorsing drilling, despite testimony from a university professor and an industry advocate that lucrative oil and gas deposits might lie off the state's coast." Some legislators "openly questioned the need for offshore drilling."

Continuing Coverage: Draft EIS Released For Liberty Offshore Project.

The [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (8/22, Brehmer) reports in continuing coverage that the BOEM released the draft EIS for Hilcorp's proposed Liberty Offshore project. Hilcorp, along with its partners BP and Arctic Slope Regional Corp, are planning to build a gravel island in the Beaufort Sea, allowing the companies access to up to 330 million barrels of light crude in place.

Additional Coverage: More Oil And Gas Leases Sold In The Gulf.

Additional coverage that the Interior Department "leased 90 oil and gas tracts covering more than 508,000 acres in federal waters in the central and western Gulf of Mexico last week" was provided by [WGCU-FM](#) Fort Myers, FL (8/22).

Oil Drilling In The Atlantic Threatens Our Economy.

In an op-ed for the [Myrtle Beach \(SC\) Online](#) (8/22, Knapp), Frank Knapp Jr., president and CEO of the South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce, warns that offshore oil drilling threatens the commercial fishing and coastal recreation industries of South Carolina. Knapp writes that "the bottom line is that allowing offshore drilling in the Atlantic equals oil washing ashore and fowling our pristine beaches and coastlines." Knapp warns that "the Atlantic Ocean, its marine animals and our coastal economies will never be the same if drilling is ever allowed."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Guilty Defendants In Oregon Standoff Agree To Pay Back \$78,000.

[Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (8/22, Wilson) reports that "defendants guilty of occupying the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge have agreed to pay a total of \$78,000 in restitution, according to a motion filed in federal court Monday." The deal is "between the U.S. Department of Justice and 13 defendants who were either found guilty or pleaded guilty to conspiracy to impede federal officers who worked at the refuge from doing their jobs — a felony." U.S. District Court Judge Anna Brown "must sign off on restitution agreement before it's official. She has wide latitude to make changes to the proposal."

Arctic Researchers To Study Wind Effects On Marine Life.

The [AP](#) (8/22, Joling) reports that “a federal research vessel will launch on a cruise this week to study how Beaufort Sea wind affects plant and animal life in a changing Arctic Ocean.” The Sikuliaq, “owned by the National Science Foundation and operated by the University of Alaska Fairbanks, will depart Friday from Nome for the trip through the Bering Strait to waters on and off the continental shelf in the Beaufort.” The article notes that “researchers from the University of Washington, the University of Rhode Island and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will be on board.”

Officials Tour Blackwater Marsh Restoration Project.

[My Eastern Shore MD](#) (8/22, Holt) reports that “federal and state officials visited Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in Dorchester County Sunday, Aug. 20, to tour the Chesapeake Marshlands project.” According to the article, “the \$2.1 million project, though the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Conservation Fund and the National Audubon Society, began in 2016 by spreading more than 26,000 cubic feet of sediment taken from the Blackwater River over 40 acres to elevate the marsh surface near Maple Dam Road.” U.S. Fish and Wildlife Chesapeake Marshlands Complex Project Leader Marcia Pradines “said the restoration efforts will benefit the wetland ecology by allowing oxygen to reach plants’ roots and improving the health and resilience of marsh.” Pradines said, “If we lose these marshes, we lose the unique wildlife that call the salt marsh home, thousands of acres of nursery habitat for juvenile fish and a buffer for local communities against storm surges during hurricanes.”

Feds Shouldn’t Change Florida Panther Protections.

In an editorial, the [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (8/22) “opposes potentially weakening protections for the Florida panther.” The paper argues that “instead of making things easier for big land owners, state and federal officials should boost efforts to protect open spaces and save Florida’s big cats.” The paper concludes that is “more important than ever to bolster, not diminish, protections for Florida’s remaining panthers.”

Fish And Wildlife Service Offers Reasonable Changes.

The [Kingman \(AZ\) Daily Miner](#) (8/22) editorializes that that “last year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) proposed a lot of major changes on the management of the Colorado River, including the Topock Marsh, which is within the boundaries of the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge.” Now, “with a new refuge manager at the helm, the USF&WS is once more soliciting comments from the general public on some management changes they want to make regarding the Colorado River and Topock Marsh.” According to the paper, “this time it looks like the changes are way more reasonable and the call for heads to roll within that agency like it did last time may not happen.”

America’s Beloved Grizzly Bears Are In Trouble, And So Is The Nation’s Moral Compass.

In an op-ed for the [Denver Post](#) (8/22, Mattson), David Mattson, a senior visiting scientist at the Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies, criticizes “the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s final ruling to remove Endangered Species Act protections for Yellowstone’s 600 to 700 grizzly bears.” He notes that “the last three years have seen record-breaking bear mortality, far exceeding any we might expect from numbers of bears in the population.” Mattson laments that Fish and Wildlife has “shown remarkable disregard for this and other concerns.”

KEN MIDKIFF: Ozark Hellbender’s Fate Doesn’t Bode Well For Water Quality.

In an op-ed for the [Columbia \(MO\) Missourian](#) (8/22, Midkiff), Ken Midkiff, a member of the city’s Environment and Energy Commission and serves on the board of directors of the Great Rivers Environmental Law Center, writes that “like most endangered species, the Ozark hellbender is not a victim of rampant hunting, rather it is a victim of loss of hospitable habitat.” However, “for reasons that apparently have to do with preferred foods, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuses to designate the streams a ‘critical habitat,’ which imposes special protections around the areas where endangered species are found.” According to Midkiff, the salamander is important because “it is the ‘canary in the coal mine’ when it comes to water quality.”

National Park Service

Celeb Ambassadors Help National Parks Mark 101st Birthday.

The [AP](#) (8/22, HARPAZ) reports that the National Park Service “marks its 101st birthday Friday amid a ‘Parks 101’ campaign enlisting celebrities as ambassadors for the park system’s hidden gems.” According to the article, “this year’s effort highlights lesser known treasures that even locals might not know about.” Also, “Parks 101 activities and digital content will offer introductions to topics like kayaking 101, battlefields 101 and shipwrecks 101.”

In addition, the [Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (8/22, Reyes) reports that “to celebrate its birthday Friday, the National Park Service is offering free admission to its parks across the country.”

Homestead National Monument Of America, Estimates 30,000 Attended Eclipse Events.

The [Columbus News Team \(NE\)](#) (8/22, Kennedy) reports that Homestead National Monument of America officials have “announced attendance figures for the full solar eclipse.” According to Superintendent Mark Engler, “an estimated 13,000 to 15,000 people attended the eclipse events, on Monday.”

Solar Celebration: Hundreds Gather To Watch Historic Eclipse. The [Salem \(MA\) News](#) (8/21, MacNeill) reports that about 300 people gathered at the Salem Maritime National Historic Site on Monday afternoon for the solar eclipse. The park handed out “250 pairs of viewing glasses — 50 for Junior Rangers and another 200 for the public.”

Conservatives: Nix Group Altering Statues.

The [Daily Caller](#) (8/22, Pearce) reports that a conservative group is calling for the Interior Department “to cut ties with a non-profit organization currently raising funds for a National Park Service (NPS) overhaul of the Jefferson Memorial.” The Trust for the National Mall “raises private funds for NPS projects on the National Mall, which gives the nonprofit some influence over how the monuments are managed.” The conservative group Americans for Limited Government “took issue with some of the most recent renovations scheduled for the memorial — particularly updates to an exhibit on Jefferson’s history.”

Agency Blames Hackers Over ‘F--- Trump’ Road Sign In DC Park.

[Fox News](#) (8/22) reports that “authorities are looking into the apparent hack of a road sign in Washington’s scenic Rock Creek Park that was emblazoned with a profane message Monday morning about President Trump.” According to the article, “the electronic sign was supposed to inform drivers that a local road was closed for sewer work,” but “instead, all it said was: ‘F--- Trump.’” According to Chief of External Affairs at D.C. Water John Lisle, “the U.S. Park Police may be investigating, as the sign was inside Rock Creek Park – the sprawling 1,754-acre park overseen by the National Park Service.”

Blunt Staffer Tours Historic Areas, Expresses Optimism For Legislation.

The [Ste. Genevieve \(MO\) Herald](#) (8/22) reports that “Ste. Genevieve tourism leaders pulled out all stops in showing two of U.S. Senator Roy Blunt’s top staffers the town’s full array of heritage tourism options on August 15.” Trey McKenzie, “Blunt’s legislative assistant in Washington, D.C., has moved into position to be involved with the bill to create a National Park Service (NPS) unit in Ste. Genevieve.” McKenzie was “joined by Darren Lingle, manager of Blunt’s Cape Girardeau office, as they were taken on a tour on the Ste. Genevieve Trolley, visiting the Bauvais-Amoureux House, the Green Tree Tavern and the Bequette-Ribault House on St. Mary’s Road, all of which would be within the boundaries of the proposed park.”

Vermont To Recognize Historic LGBTQ Sites.

The [AP](#) (8/23) reports that “Vermont officials are working to recognize historic LGBTQ sites within the state through a National Park Service grant program.” Vermont was “invited to participate in the National Park Service’s grant program for underrepresented communities on the National Register of Historic Places.” State officials will “focus on highlighting significant LGBTQ sites involved in the equal rights movement.”

Historic 1830s Potomac Lockhouse To Undergo Rehabilitation.

[Curbed Washington](#) (8/22, Goldchain) reports that over the past few years, Maryland’s Swains Lockhouse, “otherwise known as Lockhouse 21, has fallen into disrepair and suffered from run-ins with vandals, according to the C&O Canal Trust.” The National Park Service Centennial Challenge Program has “provided a \$100,000 grant to support the rehabilitation of the property.” The grant is “also matched by \$108,160, which was raised by the C&O Canal Trust, the Friends of Historic

Great Falls Tavern, and the C&O Canal Association and also supported by Maryland Senators Ben Cardin and Chris Van Hollen. \$75,000 of those funds were raised by individual donors and a grant from the France-Merrick Foundation.”

McCabes, NPS To Sign Hale Lease On Friday.

The [Hot Springs \(AR\) Sentinel-Record](#) (8/22) reports that “after more than three years of lease negotiations, Hot Springs Mayor Pat McCabe and his wife, Ellen, will sign a lease with the National Park Service on Friday to reopen the Hale Bath House as the first, and only, boutique hotel in Hot Springs National Park.” The NPS “said in a news release it will sign the lease with Zest Enterprise LLC at 2 p.m. Friday.” According to the NPS, “a public open house of the building will follow the signing event to provide the public with an opportunity to see the building prior to its transformation.”

‘Every Kid In A Park’ Coming To Cascades Falls Park For 435 Kids.

[MLive \(MI\)](#) (8/22, Weidmayer) reports that “Cascades Falls Park and the Jackson Civil War Muster will host 435 fourth-graders from Jackson Public Schools as part of an ‘Every Kid in a Park’ event.’ The event on Friday, Aug. 25, is “designed to encourage children to visit and support parks, according to a press release.”

Missouri Man Fatally Shot By Arkansas National Park Ranger.

The [AP](#) (8/22) reports that the National Park Service “says a Missouri man was fatally shot by a park ranger in northern Arkansas when he refused to drop a weapon he was carrying.” The NPS “says in a news release that 46-year-old Jonathan Bolger of Branson was killed in the shooting early Sunday at Buffalo River National Park.” According to the release, “Bolger was carrying a handgun when he was encountered by rangers and that he was shot when he refused to comply with orders to drop the gun.”

Teen Missing For 11 Days Found OK In Tennessee National Park.

The [AP](#) (8/22) reports that “a teenager who had not been seen for 11 days has emerged on his own from Tennessee’s Great Smoky Mountains National Park.” Austin Bohanan, 18, “walked out of a remote area in Blount County, about 40 miles south of Knoxville.” National Park Service spokeswoman Jamie Sanders “says Bohanan was walking and alert and appeared to be in good condition.”

Additional Coverage: Trump Ends Obama’s ‘Water Bottle Ban’.

Additional coverage that the Trump Administration is “ending a policy implemented by former president Barack Obama that attempted to ban water bottles at national parks” was provided by [Fox News](#) (8/22, Harrington) and the [Daily Meal](#) (8/22, Rock).

Office Of Insular Affairs

Tillerson Notes Signs Of ‘Restraint’ In North Korea And Hints At Dialogue.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/22, Wilkinson) reports Secretary of State Tillerson “on Tuesday voiced a rare note of optimism in the North Korea nuclear crisis, saying ruler Kim Jong Un may be showing signs of restraint that could lead to dialogue.” In a State Department press briefing, Tillerson “noted that North Korea had not launched a ballistic missile nor done other ‘provocative acts’ since the United Nations Security Council voted unanimously on Aug. 5 to impose blistering economic sanctions on Pyongyang.” Said Tillerson, “I’m pleased to see that the regime in Pyongyang has certainly demonstrated some level of restraint that we’ve not seen in the past.” Tillerson also “expressed hope that such restraint was ‘the beginning of this signal that we’ve been looking for,’” and added, “Perhaps we are seeing our pathway to some time in the near future to having some dialogue.” [Reuters](#) (8/22, Brunnstrom, Torbati) reports Tillerson also said, “We need to see more on their part, but I want to acknowledge the steps they’ve taken thus far.” To [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/22, story 2, 1:45, Holt), meanwhile, Tillerson “offer[ed] an olive branch to Kim Jong-un.”

The [Washington Post](#) (8/22, Fifield) reports, however, reports that “on the second day of the Ulchi Freedom Guardian drills” in South Korea, “which mainly involve computer simulations, North Korea’s state media issued another sharp warning to the United States,” saying, “The US will be wholly held accountable for the catastrophic consequences to be entailed by such reckless

aggressive war maneuvers." Moreover, [Townhall](#) (8/22, Barkoukis) reported that "North Korea may have called off its plan to attack Guam for now, but it's not backing down from its threatening rhetoric about the US territory." Townhall added that a "recent propaganda video released by the rogue regime shows...Trump looking out over a field of crosses in a graveyard in Guam," and "pictures Vice President Mike Pence engulfed in flames."

[Politico](#) (8/22, Conway) says Tillerson "played a major role in trying to cool tensions earlier this month, after President Donald Trump lashed out after provocations from North Korea, warning that the country would experience 'fire and fury' if it didn't back down." But "despite his efforts, Trump continued making aggressive statements toward Pyongyang."

Office Of Surface Mining

Additional Coverage: Interior Dept.

Halts Study Into Appalachian Mining Technique's Likely Health Hazards. Additional coverage that the Trump Administration has halted a study of the health effects of mountaintop removal mining was provided by [CNN](#) (8/22, Wallace, Marsh, Lamotte), [MSNBC](#) (8/22, Benen), the [Daily Mail](#) (8/22, Kekatos), and the [Sierra \(CA\) Sun Times](#) (8/22).

US Geological Survey

A Second Wind For The North Slope?

[Rigzone](#) (8/22) reports that "following an executive order from U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is in the process of generating updated assessments of the oil and gas resources on Alaska's North Slope in what could be the precursor to an exploration and development boom on federal lands that have mostly been off-limits to the industry." Zinke's executive order has "renewed a sense of hope for opening currently off-limit areas of the National Petroleum Reserve – Alaska (NPRA), and opening the 1002 Area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), which has been tightly closed to the industry since the 1980s, to exploration." Meanwhile, "with a Republican-controlled House and Senate and a president whose no-holds-barred approach to the industry has unleashed a wave of optimism among operators, many believe that Alaska can brightly shine on the industry's maps once again."

Top National News

President Attacks Media, Strongly Hints At Arpaio Pardon In Phoenix Speech.

Immediate coverage of President Trump's Tuesday evening rally in Phoenix paints it as a typically free-wheeling affair, with the President spending about 20 minutes blasting the media, then strongly hinting at a coming pardon for ex-Maricopa County, Arizona sheriff Joe Arpaio before a crowd of firm supporters. Media commentators generally took a dim view of the President's words, and some on CNN went so far as to question his mental health.

Don Lemon said on [CNN Tonight](#) (8/22), "What we have witnessed was a total eclipse of the facts. Someone who came out on stage and lied directly to the American people and left things out that he said in an attempt to rewrite history, especially when it comes to Charlottesville. He's unhinged. ... His speech was without thought. It was without reason. It was devoid of facts. It was devoid of wisdom."

CNN political director David Chalian, also on [CNN Tonight](#) (8/22), said, "That was a president totally unhinged. There's little doubt about that for anyone watching. ... This is the evidence that backs up Bob Corker questioning his stability for office. This is the evidence as to why Susan Collins...isn't so sure he may be around to run for re-election in 2020. This is evidence as to why the Republican leader in the United States Senate...is telling people and associates...that he's not sure this presidency is going to fill out the duration of the term."

Republican strategist Rick Wilson said on [CNN Tonight](#) (8/22), "This was a Castro-esque speech in length...by a man who obviously is mentally unstable. ... This is a man who is not well. This is a man who is not qualified or mentally or morally fit to be the President of the United States, and tonight was one more proof of it."

Political commentator Bakari Sellers said on [CNN Tonight](#) (8/22), "We're going to have

discussions about the 25th Amendment, no doubt. I think the President is unfit. I think the President is unhinged. But many of us have known that for 18 months, 19 months, and we're still here now."

The [AP](#) (8/22, Bykowicz) reports that the President "is blaming the media for the widespread condemnation of his response to a Charlottesville, Virginia, protest organized by white supremacists that led to the killing of a counter-protester." He opened his rally in Phoenix "with a call for unity," but "quickly trained his ire on the media, shouting that he 'openly called for healing unity and love' in the immediate aftermath of Charlottesville and claiming the media had misrepresented him. He read from his three responses to the violence – getting more animated with each one."

[KPNX-TV](#) Phoenix (8/23, 10:12 p.m. MST) reported that Trump was "unplugged" as he delivered "a 25-minute tantrum against the media." Trump "spent one-third of his 75-minute speech ripping the 'crooked media' over its coverage of his three statements after the violence in Charlottesville two weeks ago." [KNXV-TV](#) Phoenix (8/23, 10:06 p.m. MST) reported that Trump "wast[ed] no time going after the protests happening outside." Trump "quickly moving on to what happened in Charlottesville."

The AP says Trump also "teased a pardon" for Arpaio, "asking the crowd what they thought of him." Trump then said, "So was Sheriff Joe convicted for doing his job? I'll make a prediction: I think he's going to be just fine." The [Arizona Republic](#) (8/22, Cassidy) reports that last week, Trump "whipped up speculation that he would pardon his political ally at Tuesday's rally." The [Phoenix Business Journal](#) (8/22, Sunnucks) reports that Trump "pretty much assured" Arpaio of a pardon, telling "the populist crowd Arpaio was convicted by a federal judge of contempt of court 'for doing his job.'"

The [New York Times](#) (8/22, Landler, Haberman) also says Trump "all but promised to pardon...the hard-line former sheriff of Maricopa County" who "became a national symbol of the campaign against undocumented immigrants, and whose round-'em-up raids have landed him in legal trouble." [Breitbart](#) (8/22, Mason) runs a brief report under the headline "Trump Hints At Pardon: 'Sheriff Joe Can Feel Good!'"

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/22, Ballhaus, Mann, Lovett) focuses its coverage of Trump's lengthy attack on the media, which he accused of "giving a platform to hate groups" and "fomenting divisions." The [Washington Post](#) (8/22, Wagner, Johnson, Paquette) reports that in his "extended diatribe," Trump "selectively recount[ed] the series of statements he made" after Charlottesville, claiming that the media, "whom he called 'sick people' – refused to report it properly."

The [New York Post](#) (8/23, Jaeger) reports, "Trump spent 20 minutes during [the] raucous rally...reframing his response to the violence in Charlottesville by attacking the media." He "never repeated his controversial 'many sides' remark," and "apologized to the crowd for dedicating such an outsize chunk of his nearly 80-minute speech to defending himself." David Nakamura of the Washington Post [tweeted](#) the crowd "seemed increasingly bored during Trump's media bashing." David Catanese of US News [tweeted](#), "Moving over the hour mark now, lots of Trump folks are trickling out of the Phoenix Convention Center. Speech is too long for them." Catanese also [tweeted a photo](#) of a sparse crowd.

The [Washington Times](#) (8/22, Boyer, Miller) reports that Trump said, "It's time to expose the crooked media deceptions and to challenge the media for their role in fomenting division. And yes, by the way, they are trying to take away our history and our heritage. You see that." That line came in for some criticism on social media. Charles Blow of the New York Times [tweeted](#), "There it is, the racist dog whistle: They're trying to take away our heritage and our history." Actor and activist George Takei, who has 2.6 million followers, [tweeted](#), "Trump in Phoenix: 'They are trying to take away our history and our heritage.' We all know the code he's speaking. Disgraceful." Sahil Kapur of Bloomberg News [tweeted](#), "Paul Ryan said Trump was wrong last Saturday, right on Monday, messed up Tuesday and great yesterday. How does he feel about today?"

[McClatchy](#) (8/22, Ordoñez) writes, "Trump found in Arizona what he is denied in Washington – an adoring crowd that encourages his bluster. And that's exactly what he wanted." McClatchy say the speech was "tailor-made for his voting base." The President "sent an overt political warning to a Republican Congress that has failed to deliver on almost all of the president's legislative goals: you owe the voters some progress." He said, "I have a message for Congress tonight. Your job is to represent American families, American people, American workers. That's your job."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/22, Westwood) says Trump "delivered a fiery performance to his base," while [Politico](#) (8/22, Nussbaum) says the President "was back in his natural element"

and “seemed to be reveling in the crowd’s love from the moment he entered.” John Bresnahan of Politico [tweeted](#), “These rallies are the only time Trump really looks like he’s enjoying being president.”

Immediate social media reaction was negative. Rep. Nanette Barragán (D-CA) [tweeted](#), “#PhoenixRally takeaway: @realDonaldTrump would rather divide Americans than keep the government working.” Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD) [tweeted](#), “Trump’s self-pitying, obsessional and delusional speech hits a new low in mendacity.” USA Today’s Eliza Collins [tweeted](#), “Text from conservative [congressional] aide on feelings on Trump speech: ‘Strikingly uncomfortable, on a number of levels.’”

BuzzFeed senior national correspondent John Stanton [tweeted](#), “The craziest part is that Donald Trump totally think he’s nailed it.” Washington Post conservative blogger Jennifer Rubin [tweeted](#), “It would be nice if a couple of [Republicans] stepped forward to say this was horrifying, dishonest and raises issue of mental stability.”

Dan Rather [wrote on Facebook](#), “Blame the press. Blame President Obama. Insist down is up and up is down. Create an alternate reality. Gaslight. Gaslight. Gaslight. Misquote yourself. Leave out the words that outraged a majority of a nation. ... This was Trump as candidate, uncaged, unscripted, unabashed, and frankly unhinged.” University of Tennessee historian Bob Hutton [tweeted](#), “Kinda wondering if the 1933 Nuremberg rally was this rambling and tacky before Leni Riefenstahl edited it for mass consumption.”

[The Hill](#) (8/22, Greenwood) headlines its report “Trump Rips Media, Defends Charlottesville Statements At Campaign-Style Rally.” [Reuters](#) (8/22, Mason, Coffman) and the [CNN](#) (8/22, Bradner) website also have reports.

ABC and NBC both opened their Tuesday evening newscasts with previews of the rally. On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/22, lead story, 3:05, Muir), Tom Llamas reported, “In Phoenix, the red-hat-wearing faithful are lining up here to see President Trump, who ignored a plea from the city’s mayor to postpone tonight’s rally because emotions were still too raw after Charlottesville.” On [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/22, lead story, 2:50, Holt), Kristen Welker reported, “This is President Trump’s eighth campaign-style rally since taking office, and it comes as he’s been openly feuding with the state’s two Republican senators.”

Trump Criticizes McCain, But Not By Name. The [Washington Times](#) (8/22, Boyer, Miller) reports, “Trump taunted Sen. John McCain on his home turf Tuesday, repeatedly telling a boisterous rally that they were just one vote away from repealing Obamacare.” He did not mention McCain by name, “but the hometown crowd knew exactly who the president was talking about.” Trump said, “One vote. Speak to your senator. Please. speak to your senator.” [KSAZ-TV](#) (8/23, 10:11 p.m. MST) reported that Trump “criticized both Arizona senators without mentioning them by name.” Ben Jacobs of The Guardian [tweeted](#), “Pretty sure Trump has been nicer to Kim Jong Un than John McCain tonight.”

Protests Outside Event Generally Peaceful. The [AP](#) (8/22, Billeaud, Silber) reports that “minor scuffles and shouting matches erupted” outside the event. The scene “was noisy, but largely peaceful as Phoenix police kept most members of the two opposing groups behind barricades and apart on separate sides of the street.” The [New York Times](#) (8/22, Romero) reports that “thousands of supporters and opponents...shouted at one another, chanted slogans, hoisted placards and complained about the 108-degree heat.” Politico’s Blake Hounshell [tweeted](#), “Thankfully, Phoenix seems to have been peaceful. Many were expecting some spasm of violence.”

[Breitbart](#) (8/22, Spiering) reports that one protester tried to interrupt the President’s speech. After the individual was removed, the President said, “You know, they show up in the helmets and the black masks and they’ve got clubs, they’ve got everything. Antifa! ... All week they’re talking about the massive crowds that are going to be outside. Where are they? Where are they? Well, it’s hot out.”

Carson Appearance Did Not Violate Hatch Act. The [Arizona Republic](#) (8/22, Harris) reports that HUD Secretary Carson’s appearance at the rally “created buzz on social media among those questioning whether the Hatch Act was violated. The short answer: no.” While the Hatch Act “prohibits federal executive-branch employees from engaging in partisan political events – like Tuesday’s rally” – it “does not apply to the president, vice president or employees appointed by the president with the advice and consent of the US Senate.” Carson, Franklin Graham Jr., and Alveolar King were the main speakers before the President took the stage.

Photo Claiming To Show Huge Crowd Tweeted, Then Deleted. The [Arizona Republic](#) (8/22, Hwang, Mitchell) reports that a Twitter account that claims to be an “unofficial account for Republicans in Tennessee” tweeted a photo purporting to show a large crowd arriving for the

rally. The photo was “actually an aerial shot from the 2016 Cleveland Cavaliers parade.” The tweet was deleted, but not before being retweeted “more than 800 times and liked more than 1,000 times.” The @TEN_GOP account “is not affiliated with the Tennessee Republican Party.”

Trump Also Made Stop At US-Mexico Border. The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/22, story 3, 1:55, Mason) reported that before the Phoenix event, “President Trump paid a visit to the border he vowed to secure.” CBS’ Chip Reid: “In Yuma, Arizona today, President Trump toured an operations center on the Mexican border, where immigration officials showed off state-of-the-art equipment, including a Predator drone. Building a wall on the border was the President’s top promise during the campaign. ... But so far, Mr. Trump has failed to convince the Republican Congress to pay for it.”

The [Arizona Republic](#) (8/22, Carranza) reports that the President “spent less than two hours near the US-Mexico border on Tuesday, but the intent of his brief visit was clear: Walls work, and it’s time to build one along the Southwest border.” Trump “never said those words, at least not publicly,” during the brief stop, “but his administration was eager to get the word out.” The [Washington Times](#) (8/22, Dinan, Boyer) reports that border security officials “said they still need more fencing to help funnel the illegal traffic, and promised to keep pressing enforcement inside the US to convince people they’re likely to be deported even if they do breach the border.”

The [Yuma \(AZ\) Sun](#) (8/22, Neyoy) reports that local officials “would have welcomed the chance to meet with President Trump...but they missed out on that opportunity.” San Luis City Councilman Matias Rosales said, “We weren’t invited. In fact, I found out about the visit on Facebook. But I would like to think that he at least flew over the border and saw what the ports of entry are like.”

Brady: Revenues From Tax Reform Should Not Necessarily Go To Infrastructure.

The [Washington Times](#) (8/22, Sherfinski) reports that House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady said Tuesday he is examining the idea of using some of the \$2.5 trillion in would-be revenues from corporate tax reform “to pay for lowering rates elsewhere,” rather than using the money for infrastructure investments. Brady “said he’s listening and working with the White House, and that the two subjects may intersect at some point.”

GOP Considers Tax Proposal Allowing \$450 Billion Of Cuts Without Offsets.

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/22, Kapur) reports that a “growing” number of Republicans in Congress are considering a “controversial” proposal “that would allow for about \$450 billion of tax cuts without offsets,” according to four congressional aides. Under the measure, Republicans “would not account for things like expiring tax breaks when gauging the budgetary impact of tax legislation – giving tax writers more room for cuts.”

Businesses Lobbying For Corporate Tax Cut.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/22, Rubin) reports that large US companies are lobbying senior lawmakers to rally broader support for corporate tax cuts by inviting congressmen to their facilities and pressing employees to contact their representatives. Businesses and Republicans in Congress argue that the cuts would help workers by encouraging investments that lead to long-term wage growth, but unions and some companies say lower rates would be paid by workers in decreased services.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Trump On Afghanistan: More Of The Same; No End In Sight.” The [New York Times](#) (8/22) editorializes, “If there is a compelling case to be made for deepening the United States military involvement in Afghanistan...Trump did not make it in his speech Monday night.” President Trump’s plan “amounted to a jumble of ideas that lacked detail and coherence and were often contradictory. Having spent years criticizing America’s involvement in Afghanistan, he now appears inclined toward an open-ended commitment, but with no real ways to measure success and no hint of a timetable for withdrawal.” The Times concludes that “Trump and his administration need to provide many more answers.”

“Mr. Trump Sides With Wall Street; You Lose.” A [New York Times](#) (8/23, Board) editorial accuses the Administration of persisting “in its efforts to derail the fiduciary rule” regardless of “how arbitrary, capricious and harmful that would be.” The Times calls this goal “obstruction,

pure and simple,” and suggests the motivation “is fear on Wall Street that consumers and regulators might someday demand similar, customer-first standards for all financial advisers, not just those handling retirement accounts.” Regardless of the outcome, the Times concludes, “this much is clear: Mr. Trump has taken sides, and he has chosen Wall Street.”

Washington Post.

“Trump’s Welcome Self-Correction.” The [Washington Post](#) (8/22) editorializes that President Trump’s speech amounted to “a rare but welcome story of self-correction,” and that the President “deserves credit for changing his position in a way that is likely to displease some of his political supporters.” adds the Post, “The US mission in Afghanistan will continue – not because a quick victory is on the horizon; it’s not, as Mr. Trump seems to understand. It will continue, because as Mr. Trump also came to understand, the alternative – a quick defeat – would be so much worse.”

“The Hard Work Of School Reform Is Paying Off In The District.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/22) writes that a decade of investment in DC Public Schools have yielded encouraging results – “underscored with last week’s release of scores on the national Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers” that showed significant gains “across almost all grades and subjects, with all groups of students showing improvements.” The Post acknowledges that a “significant achievement gap persists” for minority and low-income students, but applauds the scores overall, which show that the District “remains committed to reform of a public education system that has failed generations of Washingtonians.”

“On Gun Violence Research, California Sets An Example For The Nation.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/22) applauds California’s recent decision “to advance the science of gun-violence prevention with the establishment of the country’s first publicly funded research center.” The Firearm Violence Research Center “aims to find effective ways to prevent firearm violence through scientific investigation and understanding.” California’s decision “to be at the forefront of research on gun violence as a public-health issue stands in contrast to the dismal abdication of the federal government.” Legislation passed by Congress in 1996 “barring the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from spending any funds ‘to advocate or promote gun control’ made the agency skittish about conducting research.” The Post argues that “scientific investigation has been key in devising lifesaving solutions to other public-health issues,” so “the dearth of research into firearms, a leading cause of death for Americans under the age of 65, is intolerable.”

California’s State-Funded Research Center To Scientifically Study Firearm Violence.

Wall Street Journal.

“Trump’s Afghan Commitment.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/22, Board) argues that opponents of President Trump’s new Afghanistan strategy lack an alternative – other than accepting a US defeat.

“Right-To-Work Sore Losers.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/22) writes that the AFL-CIO and its allies on Friday submitted 310,000 signatures to halt new right-to-work legislation in Missouri – despite already having spent more than \$12 million on the previous gubernatorial election on a candidate opposed to right-to-work who lost. The Journal argues that unions in the state will continue to embrace political coercion to collect their dues.

“New York Attacks Success.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/22) writes that Joseph Belluck, the new chair of the committee that approves New York City’s charter schools, is hurting successful education in the city by indicating he would not approve new Success Academy schools as long as Daniel Loeb, who recently made what the Journal calls racially insensitive comments, remains on the committee. The Journal acknowledges Loeb’s controversial remarks but argues that Success Academy schools have vastly improved education for New York’s minorities and that Belluck and New York’s authorities have misplaced education priorities to care more about a controversial statement than improving the education of thousands.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Chevron CEO’s Exit Reflects A Changing Of The Guard For Big Oil](#)

[US Readies New Steps To Pressure Pakistan](#)

[Trains In Vain: Epic CSX Traffic Jam Snarls Deliveries, From Coal To Fries](#)

[Think Interest Rates Are Going Up? Banks Don't](#)

New York Times:

[McConnell, In Private, Doubts If Trump Can Save Presidency](#)
[What An Afghanistan Victory Looks Like Under The Trump Plan](#)
[At Rally, Trump Blames Media For Country's Deepening Divisions](#)
[For Help In America's Longest War, Trump Tilts Political Balance Toward India Over Pakistan](#)
[Commander Of Naval Fleet To Be Relieved Of Duty Following Collisions](#)
[It's A Diverse City, But Most Big Museum Boards Are Strikingly White](#)

Washington Post:

[US Sets New Sanctions Related To North Korea](#)
[Military Leaders Gain Influence In Executive Branch](#)
['It's Like Everyone Forgot'](#)
[In NJ Suburbs, Football Is Facing An Uphill Struggle](#)
[Trump Implies Pardon Of Arpaio Is Coming](#)

Financial Times:

[Merkel Under Fire For Failing To Defy Trump](#)
[US Sanctions Raise Pressure On China And Russia Over N Korea](#)
[Impact On Farmers Prompts EU Probe Into Bayer's \\$66bn Bid For Monsanto](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Visits Arizona In Push For Wall Funding, More Border Agents](#)
[Gun Rights Groups Concerned Over Protestors Carrying Firearms At Rallies](#)
[Trump Hits Four Countries With Visa Sanctions](#)
[Adult Sex Toy Industry Sends Sale Proceeds To Planned Parenthood](#)
[Trump Eyes Taliban Talks, Puts Pakistan On Notice In Afghan War Plan](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Trump-Arizona Rally; Trump-Afghanistan Strategy; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; USS John S. McCain-Collision, Search; Barcelona Attacks-New Details; Mnuchin, Linton-Instagram Controversy; Verizon-New Data Plans; Philadelphia-Train Crash; Oklahoma-Escaped Inmates.

CBS: Rob Joyce Interview-US Cybersecurity; Severe Weather; Trump-Arizona Rally; Border Patrol-Job Recruitment; USS John S. McCain-Collision, Search; Trump-Afghanistan Strategy; Afghanistan Strategy-Analysis; NFL-Kaepernick Controversy; Italian Island-Earthquake; Mnuchin, Linton-Instagram Controversy.

NBC: Trump-Arizona Rally; Trump-Afghanistan Strategy; USS John S. McCain-Collision, Search; Severe Weather; Health-Salmonella Outbreaks; Health-Sudden Cardiac Arrest; North Korea, China Sanctions-Analysis; Nautilus Submarine-Reporter Presumed Dead; Italian Island-Earthquake; Transportation-Airline Ticket Prices.

Network TV At A Glance:

Trump-Arizona Rally – 7 minutes, 50 seconds
USS John S. McCain-Collision, Search – 5 minutes, 35 seconds
Trump-Afghanistan Strategy – 5 minutes, 15 seconds
Severe Weather – 3 minutes, 35 seconds
Mnuchin, Linton-Instagram Controversy – 2 minutes, 35 seconds
Italian Island-Earthquake – 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Trump-Arizona Rally; US Navy-7th Fleet Commander Relieved; Tillerson-Pakistan Warnings.

CBS: Trump-Arizona Rally; US Navy-7th Fleet Commander Relieved; North Korea-New Rocket Engine Production Orders; Cosby Trial.

FOX: Trump-Arizona Rally; US Navy-7th Fleet Commander Relieved; ESPN Announcer Robert Lee-Reassigned Over UVA Statue Controversy; Louisiana-Kidnapping Incident; Wall Street; Highest Paid Actors 2017; Texas-Tropic Storm Harvey Remnants.

NPR: Trump-Arizona Rally; Senate Russia Investigation-Trump Dossier Firm; USS John S. McCain-Collision, Search; Barcelona Attacks-Suspects; British Columbia-Plateau Fire; Wall Street.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Departs Phoenix, Arizona en route to Reno, Nevada; gives remarks to the National Convention of the American Legion; signs the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act; departs Reno, Nevada en route to Washington, DC; arrives at the White House.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Visits Doral, Florida, to meet members of the Venezuelan exile community, recent Venezuelan migrants, other local leaders, and officials to discuss 'the continuing devastation and unrest in Venezuela.'

US Senate: 1:00 PM Senate Commerce Committee field hearing on Magnuson-Stevens Act reauthorization – Field hearing on 'Reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act: Oversight of Fisheries Management Successes and Challenges', with testimony from witnesses including North Pacific Fishery Management Council Chair Dan Hull; Alaska Department of Fish and Game Commissioner Sam Cotten; Alaska Board of Fisheries member Reed Morisky; Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division Director Spud Woodward; Pacific Seafood Processors Association President Glenn Reed; Yamaha Marine Group President Ben Speciale; Halibut Coalition President Linda Behnken; Yukon Delta Fisheries Development Association Executive Director Ragnar Alstrom; Alaska Marine Conservation Council Deputy Director Shannon Carroll; Alaska Groundfish Data Bank Executive Director Julie Bonney; Marine Conservation Alliance Executive Director Lori Swanson; Gulf of Alaska Coastal Communities Coalition's Duncan Fields; and American Sportfishing Association Keep America Fishing Director Liz Ogilvie. Location: Kenai Peninsula College, 156 College Rd, Soldotna, AK <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>. Contacts: Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation press 1 202 224 4546.

US House: 11:00 AM Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission briefing on DR Congo – Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission briefing on 'Democratic Republic of the Congo: An Update', with a panel of US Institute of Peace Senior Program Officer for Middle East & Africa Steve Hege, Search for Common Ground Africa Programs Manager Mike Jobbins, Amnesty International Africa Advocacy Director Adotei Akwei, and Stimson Center Protecting Civilians in Conflict Program Director Aditi Gorur providing an update on the various dimensions of the crisis in DR Congo and offering options for Congress to pursue in response. Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2255, Washington, DC <http://tlhrc.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/TLHRCommission>. Contacts: Kimberly Stanton Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission Kimberly. Stanton@mail.house.gov 1 202 225 3599. This briefing is open to Members of Congress, congressional staff, the interested public, and the media.

Other: 8:30 AM NAPA forum on the GAO's 2017 High Risk List – National Academy of Public Administration forum on the Government Accounting Office 2017 High Risk List, and how federal agencies can successfully resolve GAO's concerns, with keynote from US Comptroller General Gene Dodaro, and panelists including Deputy Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Health for Organizational Excellence Dr Carolyn Clancy, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Material Readiness Kristen French, Office of Personnel Management Principal Deputy Associate Director. Location: George Washington University, 800 21st St. NW, Washington, DC <http://www.napawash.org/> <https://twitter.com/napawash>. Contacts: Betsy Holahan Great Point Strategies bholahan@greatpointstrategies.com. registration begins at 8:00 a.m.

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Trevor Noah: [Referencing Trump's new Afghanistan strategy] "I know that he's been President for seven months, but seeing Donald Trump making military decisions is still weird for me. I mean, he must be the first human being in history who gets to command an army after starring in a Pizza Hut commercial."

Trevor Noah: [Referencing Trump's new Afghanistan strategy] "The only problem is, while we know Trump decided to send more troops to Afghanistan, that's pretty much all we know. His actual strategy is like his position on Nazis – unclear."

Trevor Noah: [Referencing Trump's new Afghanistan strategy] "Trump is a problem solver the same way Godzilla is a city planner. ... The only way Donald Trump could consider himself a problem solver is if he stops creating problems. 'You guys are so lucky, I was about to do something, but I stopped myself. Problem pre-solved.'"

Conan O'Brien: "In his speech on Afghanistan last night, President Trump said, 'Attack, we will.' Then Trump introduced his new military strategist, Gen. Mad Dog Yoda. 'Attack, we will. Destroy, we must.'"

Conan O'Brien: "Before announcing his decision on Afghanistan, President Trump was said to have made a rigorous review of the issue. Yes. Trump said, 'I must have read at least four tweets about it, then I was ready to go.'"

Conan O'Brien: "A lot of protesters at a rally today in Phoenix attended by President Trump and Vice President Pence. A lot of protesters there. Things got awkward when it turned out that the 'Impeach Trump' chants were being led by Mike Pence."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Officials Taking Steps To Prevent Invasive Mussels Spread.

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

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- Santa Fe New Mexican: Thousands Weigh In On Wolf Recovery Plan.
- Columbus (NE) Telegram: Face-to-face Meeting 'A Positive Step' On Loup Canal Rules.
- Independent (UK): Brown Bears Choosing A Vegetarian Diet Over Salmon Due To Climate Change.
- Courthouse News: Additional Coverage: Ninth Circuit Offers No Help To Sonoran Bald Eagle.
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National Park Service

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- Cherokee (NC) One Feather: Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation And National Park Service Announce New Centennial Challenge Projects.
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- Paris (AR) Express: Hale Bathhouse To Be Boutique Hotel.
- U.S. News & World Report: 2 Climbers Rescued By Grand Teton Rangers In Recent Days.
- Johnstown (PA) Tribune-Democrat: Additional Coverage: Park Service Restores Burial Site On Flight 93 Land.
- St. George (UT) Spectrum: Here's Your Chance To Shape Zion's Future.

Office Of Insular Affairs

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US Geological Survey

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Top National News

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DOI In The News

Democrats, Environmental Groups Ready For Battle Over National Monuments.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (8/29, Review) reports that "Democrats are charging the Trump administration of using a politically driven process to undermine protections to public lands as environmental groups gird for a legal battle to stop the shrinking of national monuments under review – including two in Nevada." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "submitted his report last Thursday, but the White House and Interior Department have not publicly released Zinke's recommendations, prompting frustration by Democrats and environmental groups that support the designations." Green groups are "waiting to see whether the president sends the recommendations to Congress, or whether Trump decides to alter existing national monument boundaries through an executive order."

St. Clair Hopeful About Maine's National Monument After Interior Secretary Briefing. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (8/29, Sambides) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "telephoned the leader of the effort to create Maine's national monument after recommending to President Donald Trump that the land remain under federal control." Speaking with Lucas St. Clair, "Zinke shared few details about the recommendations he gave Trump last week regarding Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and 26 other national monuments." St. Clair said Tuesday that "Zinke did say that 'he is confident the outcome will be something I will be happy about.'" St. Clair added, "He mentioned that the White House will review it but that he is going to ensure that the conservational and recreational qualities of the monument will not be jeopardized. All and all I am really enthusiastic."

Monument Review Is Still Hidden From Public, But It Appears To Be Good News For Maine. In an editorial, the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (8/29) is hopeful that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has concluded that the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument "should remain largely as it is." According to the paper, "this is a logical conclusion given the years of planning and changes based on local concerns that went into creating the 87,500-acre monument." The editorial wants "the full details" of Zinke's review to "be made public as soon as possible" because "the certainty will allow local businesses to make decisions about investments, allow monument staff to plan improvements, including directional highway signs that the Maine Department of Transportation now must install, and let visitors know they should plan a trip to the Katahdin region."

Op-ed: Trump Has A Historic Opportunity To Place A Check On The Trend Of Expansive National Monuments. In an op-ed for the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (8/29, Anderson), Matthew Anderson, the director of the Coalition for Self-Government in the West, argues that "large national monuments are inconsistent with the original intent of the Antiquities Act." He claims that. "the designation process – instead of focusing on protecting and preserving historic sites and scientific objects as outlined in the Antiquities Act – is driven by political gamesmanship, climate change, presidential legacies, corporate interests and outdoor recreation." Anderson calls on the Trump Administration "to place a check on the trend of expansive national monuments and to 'right-size' the egregious misuses of the Antiquities Act."

Op-ed: The Southern Utah Economy Should Not Be Dependent On Coastal Elites. The [Deseret](#)

[\(UT\) News](#) (8/29, Darby), Robert Darby, who worked for the U.S. Air Force for 28 years at Hill Air Force Base, criticizes an advertisement by Patagonia “promoting that public lands be kept in their pristine state for the benefit of generations to come.” According to Darby, “the argument is put forth that tourism is the perfect industry.” But he doesn’t see it as “too clever of a plan to have a community’s economic development depend on the vacation plans of the East and West Coast elites.”

PD Editorial: Preserve National Monuments And Marine Sanctuaries. In an editorial, the [Santa Rosa \(CA\) Press Democrat](#) (8/30) notes that “almost a week has passed since Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke presented the White House with his recommendations regarding the future of 27 national monuments.” However, “neither the president nor the secretary has shared the recommendations with the public – the people who own the land in question.” The paper says that “the refusal to share the report, coupled with news accounts saying that Zinke recommended scaling back at least four monuments, reinforces fears that the president already has decided to open millions of acres of protected public land predominantly in Western states to mining, grazing and fossil-fuel development.”

As Agencies Respond To Storm, Some Face Cuts Under Trump Budget Proposal.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/29, Rein) reports that although President Trump “effusively praised his administration’s Hurricane Harvey response,” his proposed budget includes “cuts to some of the federal government’s most consequential efforts to prepare states and local communities and help them recover” from such “catastrophic events,” including cuts to FEMA, HUD, the National Weather Service, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Joe Davidson writes in his [Washington Post](#) (8/29, Davidson) column that “government workers at all levels, including more than 8,600 federal employees as of Tuesday morning, are directly involved with the disaster. About two dozen federal offices have responded,” including the U.S. Geological Survey and the National Park Service.

House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Urges Interior To Resume NAS Study On Mountaintop Removal Mining, Question False Budgetary Rationale.

The [Sierra \(CA\) Sun Times](#) (8/29) reports that House Natural Resources Committee Ranking Member Raúl M. Grijalva and House Energy and Commerce Committee Ranking Member Frank Pallone, Jr. “have sent a letter with several colleagues to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke urging him to allow the National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NAS) to resume an ongoing study of the health impacts of mountaintop removal mining.” They “urge Zinke to reinstate the study immediately and state that its cancellation ‘shows that the administration values the public image of the coal mining industry more than the public health of the people of Appalachia.’”

Florida Panther Should Remain Endangered, Nelson Tells Zinke.

The [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (8/29, Webb) reports that “the Florida panther should remain classified as an endangered species under the Endangered Species Act,” Sen. Bill Nelson said in a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Tuesday. The letter “follows the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s announcement in late June that it is reviewing the status of the panther, along with 21 other endangered species and one threatened species in the Southeast.” Nelson “said in his letter to Zinke that changing the panther’s status as endangered could hinder the ‘good progress’ made since the species was federally classified as endangered in the 1960s.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Florida Politics](#) (8/29, Gancarski).

Park Service Group To Feds: ‘Pendulum Is Swinging Too Far To The Side Of Development.’

The [New Mexico Political Report](#) (8/29, Paskus) reports that retired National Park Service employees on Tuesday spoke out about “the impacts of oil and gas development on some national parks – particularly from adjacent lands overseen by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM).” The Coalition to Protect America’s Parks sent a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, “expressing concern over the ‘alarming’ number of oil and gas proposals near parks and what they see as overall efforts by the department to reduce protections for national parks in order to encourage oil and gas drilling.” The former NPS employees wrote, “As former land managers, we understand the need to balance competing priorities. But we fear the pendulum is swinging too far to the side of development.”

Additional Coverage: Secretary Zinke Embraces View That Some Areas Are ‘Too Precious’

For Development.

Additional coverage that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke supports “a withdrawal of future gold mining claims on federal land” in Paradise Valley near Yellowstone National Park was provided by the [Nation Sun News](#) (8/29).

Can The Energy Industry Survive Zinke’s Help?

In a piece for the [WyoFile](#) (8/29, Drake), Kerry Drake criticizes the Interior Department’s decision “to slam the brakes on a plan to protect the greater sage grouse that was years in the making.” Drake acknowledges that “the current plan isn’t perfect,” but as “a compromise,” it was “responsible for keeping the sage grouse from being listed as an endangered species, which was the overall goal.” Drake raises concerns that “the Trump administration’s rush to boost production and enrich energy company executives results in a listing that would decimate the industry.”

Ludington: Hunters Should Care About Sage Grouse, Zinke.

In an op-ed for the [Wyoming Tribune Eagle](#) (8/29, Ludington), Max Ludington, the board chairman of the Wyoming Hunters and Anglers Alliance, writes that “politicians in Washington, D.C., are making moves that threaten sage grouse habitat – and, by proxy, the habitat of Wyoming’s most important big game species.” According to Ludington, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is “trying to throw Gov. Mead’s work out the window and replace that original plan with one that focuses on breeding sage grouse in captivity to artificially inflate their numbers while removing protections for sage grouse habitat.” He claims that “in the process, Zinke’s plan would remove protections for mule deer, pronghorn and elk habitat in Wyoming that our herds critically need.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Tribe Looks To Resume Case Over Share Of \$940M DOI Deal.

[Law360](#) (8/29, Powell) reports that “the Cayuga Nation’s leadership asked a New Mexico federal court Monday to unpause a case concerning the distribution of funds designated to the tribe under a \$940 million settlement of allegations that the U.S. Department of the Interior failed to pay administrative expenses to run federal programs.”

DOI Didn’t Follow Law In Allowing Tribal Casino, Group Says.

[Law360](#) (8/29, Phillis) reports that “advocacy group Stand Up for California on Monday asked a California federal court for a quick win in its bid to stop a tribe’s off-reservation casino, saying that the U.S. Department of the Interior’s authorization for gambling didn’t follow the law.”

Former BIA Officer Accused Of Coercing A Woman Into Having Sex And Then Lying About It.

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (8/29, Johnson) reports that “a former Bureau of Indian Affairs law enforcement officer is facing federal charges accusing him of coercing a woman into having sex and then lying about it to investigators.” During an arraignment on Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Billings, Dana Michael Bullcoming “pleaded not guilty to an indictment charging him with deprivation of rights and two counts of false statements to a federal officer.” Federal prosecutor Jeffrey Starnes “alleged in the indictment that on Oct. 31, 2015, at Lame Deer, Bullcoming, while acting under color of law, coerced a person identified as L.B. into sexual intercourse with him under threat of arrest if she refused.”

North Dakota Tribe Levies Higher Tax On Oil Drillers.

The [AP](#) (8/29, MacPherson) reports “an American Indian tribe whose reservation accounts for a fifth of North Dakota’s oil production has imposed a higher tax rate for drillers,” a move Gov. Doug Burgum “and the state tax commissioner believes is improper and industry officials fear may slash production.” This month, the Three Affiliated Tribes “notified the more than 30 companies drilling on the Fort Berthold Reservation that it is seeking the tax rate that tribal Chairman Mark Fox says it needs to pay for additional law enforcement, road repairs and other consequences of oil development on the reservation.” The land is “home to the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara tribes.”

Tribes Say Dakota Access Pipeline Overstates Shutdown Impact.

The [AP](#) (8/29, Nicholson) reports American Indian tribes aiming “to persuade a federal judge to turn off the Dakota Access oil pipeline maintain in last-minute court filings that the project’s developer has overstated the potential impacts of a shutdown.” Attorneys for the Standing Rock Sioux and Cheyenne River Sioux “also argue that Texas-based Energy Transfer Partners brought potential problems on itself by forging ahead with construction despite the uncertainty of final federal approval.” The attorneys wrote ETP “made reckless choices, and it must accept the consequences.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Groups Question Oil, Gas Leases In BLM ‘Solar Areas’.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (8/30, Webb) reports that “some conservation groups fear proposed oil and gas leasing north of Mack could eclipse, as it were, the possibility for solar energy development in an area the Bureau of Land Management has identified as having good potential for the latter.” The Wilderness Society, Conservation Colorado and Western Colorado Congress “say oil and gas leasing there would preclude the ability of the area to be used for producing clean, renewable energy – a point disputed by the BLM and David Ludlam, executive director of the West Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Association.” The conservation groups “raised their solar-energy concern with the BLM in a letter submitted to the agency in June.” They wrote that “the proposed leases almost entirely cover the Solar Emphasis Area, meaning that BLM would be essentially unable to encourage or authorize solar energy development in this Solar Emphasis Area at all, completely contravening the management direction that BLM adopted for this area as recently as 2015.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

Hydroelectric Project Awarded \$965,000 Grant.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (8/30, Harmon) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation on Tuesday awarded a \$965,000 grant to the Orchard Mesa Irrigation District and Grand Valley Water Users Association. The grant is “one of 43 WaterSmart grants made to agencies around the country and will help fund a \$5.2 million project to replace and upgrade the turbines” at the hydroelectric plant on the Colorado River near Palisade. Acting Commissioner Alan Mikkelsen said in announcing the grants, “Conserving water through improving water and energy efficiency is important to help communities stretch limited water supplies. Through the projects announced today, Reclamation is helping local water managers with another tool in the toolkit to meet the ever-growing water demands.”

Whistleblowers Hope Trump Will Revisit Klamath Water Officials Who Misspent \$32 Million.

The [McClatchy](#) (8/29, Leavenworth) reports that “investigators have confirmed that a federal water agency misspent \$32 million in funds meant to protect fish and wildlife in the Klamath basin of California and Oregon, a finding that Obama-era officials attempted to sideline after whistleblowers first alerted them to it.” According to a report from the U.S. Office of Special Counsel, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation “for eight years effectively handed the money to a Klamath water project controlled by private irrigators, with few or no controls on how the funds were spent.” The bureau “shut down the water bank in 2016 after two whistleblowers alleged it was transferring money to irrigators that was intended for environmental purposes.” However, “agency leaders have continued to dispute any wrongdoing and have apparently taken no administrative action against those responsible.”

Officials Taking Steps To Prevent Invasive Mussels Spread.

The [AP](#) (8/29) reports that “Colorado Parks and Wildlife officials are implementing aggressive decontamination policies in response to recently discovered invasive quagga mussel larvae in the Green Mountain Reservoir in central Colorado.” Specialists from the Bureau of Reclamation “located the larvae earlier this month through a microscopic examinations and DNA testing.” Officials will “delist the reservoir if three years of biweekly tests of the reservoir show no presence of quagga mussel larvae.”

Also reporting are the [Denver Post](#) (8/29, Blevins), the [Summit \(CO\) Daily](#) (8/29, Fixler),

and the [Summit \(CO\) Daily](#) (8/29, Blevins).

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Crude Dips, Gasoline Spikes As Floods Knock Out One-fifth Of U.S. Refineries.

[Reuters](#) (8/30, Gloystein) reports oil prices fell on Wednesday, but gasoline spiked to hits highest level since July 2015 because of flooding and storm damage shuttering 20 percent of US oil refineries. Jeffrey Halley, senior market analyst at OANDA, said, "With fully 20 percent of the U.S. refining capacity offline, attention has been focused on potential shortages in refined products, with gasoline futures rocketing another four percent higher overnight." Meanwhile, ANZ said, "Severe flooding due to tropical storm Harvey is affecting refinery capacity and therefore crude demand." The [Houston Chronicle](#) (8/29, Osborne) reports prices for gasoline on the NYME rose more than 2 percent Monday morning after reports that Port Arthur would be closing as the storm moves eastward. Sandy Fielden, director of oil and products research at Morningstar, said, "It's expected gas prices are going to go up around the country. I've heard anything from 10 cents a gallon here in Texas to 20-30 cents a gallon in other parts of the country. ... The longer the refineries are closed the bigger the impact will be." [USA Today](#) (8/29, Bomey) reports GasBuddy.com petroleum analyst Patrick DeHaan increased his estimate for the average increase of gasoline prices to 10-20 cents per gallon from 5-15 cents a gallon. DeHaan said at least two dozen Houston-area fuel stations do not have gasoline, and some of them are likely underwater or sustained damage. API energy editor Mark Green said, "The availability of supplies will depend on damage that may have occurred because of the storm. ... At the same time, the United States' natural gas and oil infrastructure is large, geographically diverse and integrated into the larger global market. While typical supply patterns may be disrupted, alternate paths may be available."

More Than 18 Percent Of U.S. Gulf Output Shut In By Harvey: BSEE. [Reuters](#) (8/29, Gaffen) reports that the BSEE said more than 18 percent of oil production in the Gulf of Mexico was still shut in on Tuesday because of Harvey. The amount shut in decreased to 319,523 bpd, down from 331,000 barrels on Monday. The agency said 19.1 percent of natural gas production in the region also remains shuttered. The [AP](#) (8/29) reports dozens of offshore platforms remain evacuated as Harvey continues to affect the region. The BSEE said in a statement Tuesday that workers were evacuated from 102 production platforms and 5 drilling rigs.

Fish And Wildlife Service

Family Faces \$34M Regs To Protect A Frog.

The [Daily Caller](#) (8/29, Pearce) reports that "a Louisiana family is facing \$34 million worth of regulations if they continue developing a plot of land after federal officials declared it 'critical habitat' for the dusky gopher frog." Federal regulators are "attempting to use the Endangered Species Act to stop commercial logging on the 1,650 acre piece of private land to create a sanctuary that might support the frog." However, the dusky gopher frog has "not been reported on the land or even in the wild areas of the state for 50 years."

Thousands Weigh In On Wolf Recovery Plan.

The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (8/30) reports that "just hours before the Tuesday night deadline approached for the public to weigh in on a proposed federal management plan for the endangered Mexican gray wolf, more than 9,000 comments had been posted online." Meanwhile, "thousands more had been submitted to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by mail – most opposing a wolf recovery plan that many criticized as too restrictive to allow the species to thrive." The article notes that "many comments submitted online, echoing comments made by dozens of wolf supporters at a July hearing in Albuquerque, urged the Fish and Wildlife Service not to give the states too much control over the program and pleaded with the agency to lift a cap on the number of wolves that can roam the wild and to expand the animal's range land."

Face-to-face Meeting 'A Positive Step' On Loup Canal Rules.

The [Columbus \(NE\) Telegram](#) (8/29, Lieffring) reports that "representatives from Loup Public Power District and the Wood River office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service had a face-to-face meeting Monday to discuss the district's hydroelectric license." According to the article, "of particular interest to the local utility is a provision in the updated license that requires the district

to stop diverting water from the Loup River into the Loup Power Canal when the Platte River water temperature reaches 93 degrees at the Louisville gauge." Eliza Hines with the FWS "said her office received a lot of feedback from people who fish in the canal, as well as LPPD customers and farmers who use water from the canal to irrigate their fields."

Brown Bears Choosing A Vegetarian Diet Over Salmon Due To Climate Change.

The [Independent \(UK\)](#) (8/29, Correspondent) reports that "brown bears on Alaska's Kodiak Island are switching to a vegetarian diet of elderberries in preference to salmon because the warmer temperatures are ripening the fruit earlier in the year." The researchers, "from Oregon State University, Montana University, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and other institutions, said that climate change was 'altering the seasonal timing of life cycle events in organisms across the planet'."

Additional Coverage: Ninth Circuit Offers No Help To Sonoran Bald Eagle.

Additional coverage that "the Ninth Circuit backed a determination Monday that the Sonoran Desert bald eagle is not eligible for Endangered Species Act protection" was provided by [Courthouse News](#) (8/29, Christophi) and the [Verde \(AZ\) Independent](#) (8/29, Fischer).

The HSUS Goes To Federal Court On Behalf Of Yellowstone's Grizzly Bears.

In his blog at the [Wisconsin Gazette](#) (8/29, Pacelle), Wayne Pacelle, president and CEO of The Humane Society of the United States, writes that his group has filed a complaint in the federal court for the District of Montana in Missoula to contest the decision to "strip federal protections from grizzly bears in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem." Pacelle argues that "while the decision to strip protections for Yellowstone grizzly bears is rickety as a matter of law and science, it's also wrong on economics and the values of America's great majority of citizens."

National Park Service

Mayor Ed Lee May 'Send A Bill' To Feds For Saturday Protests.

The [SFist](#) (8/29, Barmann) reports that San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee is "saying he may look to the National Park Service to foot some of the bill for all the preparations and police overtime that went into dealing with the planned but canceled Patriot Prayer rally on Saturday, which the federal agency granted a permit for despite the protestations of local politicians." Lee said Monday "I'm prepared to send a bill to the National Park Service." According to the article, "that bill would cover overtime as well as the cost to put up fences, around Crissy Field, only to then have to take them down and put up different fences around Alamo Square when organizer Joey Gibson announced a last-minute 'news conference' there."

Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation And National Park Service Announce New Centennial Challenge Projects.

The [Cherokee \(NC\) One Feather](#) (8/29) reports that the Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation and National Park Service are joining together for the 2017 Centennial Challenge program "to address high priority needs at sites along the Blue Ridge Parkway: Humpback Rocks Farm (milepost 5.8), Sharp Top Shelter (milepost 86), Mabry Mill and Groundhog Mountain (mileposts 176 & 188), and Moses H. Cone Memorial Park (milepost 294)." The Blue Ridge Parkway Foundation is "raising \$287,358 to be matched with Centennial Challenge Grants for a total impact of \$747,000 toward critical projects."

2 New Cougar Kittens Found In Santa Monica Mountains.

The [AP](#) (8/29) reports that "two new mountain lion kittens have been discovered by researchers studying the wild cats living in the Santa Monica Mountains, where fragmentation of wilderness by the sprawl of metropolitan Los Angeles and its freeways threatens the species." The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area said Tuesday "that the kittens, which are male and female siblings, were found earlier this month by biologists with the National Park Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife." The kittens "have been added to the ongoing study as P-59 and P-60." According to researchers, "they are the first litter for a lion known as P-53."

Also reporting are the [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/29, Serna) and the [Los Angeles Daily News](#) (8/29, Abram).

Jones Hole Creek In Dinosaur National Monument Reopened.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (8/29) reports that “recreational access at Jones Hole Creek within Dinosaur National Monument has reopened after officials found no noticeable contamination of the stream due to a septic line break at the Jones Hole Fish Hatchery.” According to a statement from the National Park Service, “water samples were taken in several locations along the creek downstream from the hatchery, which is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and located just outside the monument.” The test results found “that E. coli level was extremely low and well within acceptable levels for recreational access such as swimming and fishing.”

GWC National Monument Hosts B.A.R.K Program.

The [Neosho \(MO\) Daily News](#) (8/29, Hively) reports that “about 15 dogs and their owners participated in the first-ever B.A.R.K. in the Park program held” Aug. 25 at the George Washington Carver Monument. According to the article, “the purpose of the program is to get dogs and their owners to visit the monument, to give both pets and their masters outdoor exercise in a safe environment, and to teach good dog-walking manners.”

Hale Bathhouse To Be Boutique Hotel.

The [Paris \(AR\) Express](#) (8/29) reports that the National Park Service “signed a lease with Zest Enterprise LLC last Friday.” The agreement will “allow the historic Hale Bathhouse building to be reopened as the first and only boutique hotel in Hot Springs National Park.” The article says that “a public open house of the building will follow the signing event to provide people an opportunity to see the building as it is before its transformation.” Park superintendent Josie Fernandez said, “We are thrilled that another one of these beautiful buildings will be re-opening to serve visitors and offer a new experience in the park.”

2 Climbers Rescued By Grand Teton Rangers In Recent Days.

The [AP](#) (8/29) reports that “National Park Service rangers have rescued two injured climbers in separate incidents in Grand Teton National Park in northwest Wyoming over a three-day period.”

Additional Coverage: Park Service Restores Burial Site On Flight 93 Land.

Additional coverage that the National Park Service restored a burial site on Flight 93 land was provided by the [Johnstown \(PA\) Tribune-Democrat](#) (8/29, Hurst) and the [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#) (8/29, Signorini).

Here’s Your Chance To Shape Zion’s Future.

In an op-ed for the [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (8/29, Last), Utah state legislator Brad Last urges the public to provide input on “a new visitor use management” proposal for Zion National Park. According to Last, Zion National Park has “evolved from being the secret playground of Utahns to a huge driver of tourism and economic development for Washington and Iron counties.” He believes that with public participation, “we can find new, balanced ways to manage Zion National Park so it isn’t over-run or over-managed.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

Trump Says ‘All Options On The Table’ After North Korea Fires Missile Over Japan.

Coverage of North Korea’s early Tuesday morning ballistic missile test that flew over the Japanese island of Hokkaido focused on the Administration’s condemnation, possible responses from the US and the international community, and the potential ramifications that Japan’s response may have on international efforts to address the North Korean threat.

[Reuters](#) (8/29, Mallard, Kim) reports President Trump said that the international community received Pyongyang’s message “loud and clear,” and that the “regime has signaled its contempt for its neighbors, for all members of the United Nations, and for minimum standards of acceptable international behavior.” He continued, “Threatening and destabilizing actions only increase the North Korean regime’s isolation in the region and among all nations of the world. All options are on the table.” The [AP](#) (8/29, Pennington) calls Trump’s “terse, written” response “surprisingly subdued” in that he pulled “back from his administration’s recent suggestions of a dialogue with the communist country” but simultaneously avoided “a repeat of his bombastic warnings earlier this month of a potential military confrontation.” A senior US official told the AP that “the restrained nature” was deliberate, “reflecting an effort by new White House chief of staff

John Kelly to prevent a repeat of the rhetorical escalation that occurred earlier this month." The "more cautious approach" also "reflects an effort to preserve modest signs of progress with North Korea that had led Trump and his top diplomat to hint at the possibility of direct talks, said the official."

Meanwhile, the [CBS Evening News](#) (8/29, story 8, 2:00, Mason) reported, North Korea's state media "just released a new statement" calling yesterday's launch "muscle flexing" in response to ongoing joint military exercises the US and South Korea are conducting on the Korean peninsula. Correspondent Ben Tracy noted that the North fired the latest missile near Pyongyang, "likely from a mobile launchpad. That complicates any potential preemptive strike by the US because it places North Korea's missiles in unpredictable and potentially highly populated areas."

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/29), Will Ripley reported from Pyongyang, saying that North Korea "within the last hour" confirmed the missile they tested was the same one they "said they would use to launch toward the US territory of Guam." According to Ripley, North Korean officials in Pyongyang told CNN yesterday's launch "was essentially a prelude for future military options aimed at 'containing Guam,' in their words, and they also said they expect to conduct more launches of this particular kind of missile."

[USA Today](#) (8/29, Michaels, James) reports that on Wednesday, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un pledged to move forward with "more ballistic missile rocket launching drills," which he argued are "'necessary' to modernize his military's strategic capabilities." Kim added that Pyongyang will continue monitoring "US demeanors" before committing to any further actions. According to analysts, "Kim, who has continuously defied world opinion in pursuit of his country's nuclear weapons program, has managed to walk up to a red line without crossing it."

International condemnation was "swift," Benjamin Hall reported on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/29). South Korea released a video of its fighter jets conducting bombing drills, "a rehearsal for taking out the rogue state's artillery." Japan's military similarly carried out a drill of its own ballistic missile system. However, Hall said Kim "seems unafraid or unaffected" by the condemnation, and "his latest test, like the others, seems likely to go unpunished. Once again, the US and international community seem uncertain about how to respond. Sanctions just aren't working and short of military action, there are very few other options."

The [New York Times](#) (8/29, Sang-Hun) notes "Japan said it did not try to shoot the missile down because it did not detect a threat to its territory," but analysts cautioned "the test nevertheless underscored some uncomfortable questions about the possibility of defending against such missiles." For example, "analyst noted that Japan could have been caught off guard entirely had the destroyers been elsewhere – for example, if Japan had ordered them south in response to North Korea's threat to fire missiles into the waters around Guam." Furthermore, the launch came during the culmination of a joint US-Japanese "demonstration of the PAC-3 missile-defense system," but defense analyst Kim Dong-yub "noted that the missile flew too high for the PAC-3 to reach."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (8/29, story 5, 2:20, Holt) reported the North has released images of Kim "happily overseeing" the launch, a provocation that Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe reportedly called an "unprecedented threat," and which "prompt[ed] an emergency meeting of the UN Security Council." Said Ambassador Haley, "I think enough is enough." Kellyanne Conway, counselor to President Trump, was asked on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (8/29) what Haley meant when she said "enough is enough." Conway responded in part, "I think the President will do what he's always promised to do, which is consult with his larger security team and not broadcast ahead of time what he'll do."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/29, story 6, 1:50, Llamas) broadcast Haley stating, "No country should have missiles flying over them like those 130 million people in Japan. So I think something serious has to happen." Trump has spoken to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, and while they "agreed they need to increase pressure on North Korea," it's "unclear what kind of pressure, and impossible to predict what Kim will do." After correspondent Tom Llamas noted that Trump last week "said he believed the North Korean leader was starting to respect us," correspondent Martha Raddatz said, "That statement about respect was clearly premature." Barbara Starr reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (8/29) that it doesn't appear a US military response is any more likely today after the North's launch, adding that "the reaction by the State Department and the Pentagon are diplomatic options. That said, [diplomacy] doesn't seem to be moving the ball here."

CNN correspondent Will Ripley said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (8/29) that from where the missile was launched "is significant. It was launched from near the Pyongyang airport. ... By North Korea

launching a missile from near their capital, they're really sending a message to the United States that they can launch a missile from anywhere, including highly populated areas, which would make a preemptive strike very difficult because of the grave humanitarian consequences."

Sen. Chris Murphy said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (8/29) that Trump is "a President who has zero diplomatic experience, who hired a Secretary of State who has zero diplomatic experience, who hired a Deputy Secretary of State who has no diplomatic experience. This is about as complicated a dance you get, trying to show toughness, making it clear to the North Koreans that if they do attack the US or our allies, there will be a disproportionate response that will wipe out the regime and put together a serious diplomatic effort that can unwind this crisis without military hostilities. The Trump Administration is excited about the tough talk but they don't have anybody in place at the state department or White House who can chart that second path."

[Bloomberg View](#) (8/29) says in the face of North Korea's missile test on Tuesday, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe "needs to make the case for the fast development of" its missile defense system, "and be clear about the circumstances under which it would be used." Bloomberg explains Japan's pacifist constitution only "allows offensive action under certain circumstances," and the nation is "conflicted about such big changes to their constitution," so "Abe owes them an open debate in which all sides get a full hearing." According to Bloomberg, this "would also help ease opposition outside Japan, most notably in South Korea, which has long been sensitive to any suggestion that its former colonial overlord might rearm," and China, which may feel more compelled to pressure Pyongyang if threatened by a "more heavily armed Japan."

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/29) says a treaty guarantee with the US has long served as Japan's ultimate security, but the logic of deterrence only works if the adversary is a rational actor, which North Korea may not be. If Japan no longer views the US as a reliable ally in a crisis, it may no longer resist building a nuclear arsenal of its own, which the Journal says could lead to nuclear proliferation throughout East Asia – underscoring the dangers of acquiescing to Pyongyang over its nuclear missiles.

U.S. Proposes U.N. Statement Condemning North Korea Missile Launch. The US on Tuesday proposed to the UN Security Council a draft statement, seen by [Reuters](#) (8/29, Nichols), that calls on the 15-member council to collectively condemn North Korea "for its outrageous actions and threats against another" member state, and demand that Pyongyang "immediately cease all such actions." The draft also demands that North Korea "abandon all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner"; refrain from "any further nuclear tests or any further provocation; and abandon any other existing weapons of mass destruction." Reuters notes the draft "does not, however, threaten new Security Council sanctions against North Korea." The [AP](#) (8/29) reports the Security Council ultimately "approved the statement after an emergency meeting Tuesday on the missile test, calling North Korea's actions 'outrageous.'"

Japan Wakes To A Text Message: Missile Approaching. The [New York Times](#) (8/29, Rich) reports Japanese residents "living beneath the missile's flight path received a beeping alert on their cellphones" just four minutes after the launch. At the same time, "the public broadcaster NHK cut into its early morning newscast with a black screen warning citizens that a missile was approaching and they should take cover." Tokyo Station alerted commuters on platform loudspeakers to the "dangerous" missile, and advised them to "seek cover inside a train or in a waiting room."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/29, Fifield) says the launch "enabled the North to send a strong political signal and to glean valuable technical data on its rapidly advancing missile program, without overtly crossing a 'red line' and spurring the United States into action, analysts said." It also appeared "designed to drive a wedge between North Korea's neighbors" – namely, Japan, South Korea, and China.

Noting that the launch was the first sent over a major population center in a foreign country, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/29, Cheng, Gale) outlines how Japan along with South Korea have started bolstering efforts to upgrade missile defenses. Those moves threaten to interfere with a coordinated international response to the North Korean threat because China and Russia, which both hold veto power on the United Nations Security Council, will likely oppose such efforts.

Because of the "sense of mild panic" that ensued in Japan, the launch may have helped Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's push "to remove pacifist constraints on the military" imposed by the constitution – an effort that has already showed signs of changing "the public's devotion to pacifism," says the [New York Times](#) (8/29, Rich). Nonetheless, "Most experts say that it would be politically difficult to change the Constitution, but that a debate needs to move from mainly political and academic circles to include the wider public," including liberals opposed to a military

buildup and younger people, who some analysts say “don’t understand the dangerous stakes of tilting toward militarism.”

US Geological Survey

Alaskan Oil Returns With A Vengeance.

In a piece for [Oil Price](#) (8/29, Zaremba), Haley Zaremba writes that after an executive order from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, the U.S. Geological Survey is “updating their assessments of oil and gas on Alaska’s North Slope.” The USGS is “looking into areas that have been protected from drilling since the 1980s, and reevaluating whether they should be opened anew for petroleum exploration.” She says that “for the first time in a long time, Alaska is now facing the very real potential of a major energy industry comeback.”

Top National News

Media Analyses: Trump Brings Optimistic Message To Texas.

Coverage of President Trump’s visit to Texas focused on the President’s upbeat demeanor and optimistic words, and on the enthusiastic reception he was given. Some analysts criticize Trump for creating a rally-like atmosphere, though others say the Administration took careful steps to avoid the mistakes of Hurricane Katrina and to not get in the way of responders.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (8/29, story 3, 2:30, Llamas) reported, “President Trump traveling to Texas...saying he wants this natural disaster to be managed better than any other. He visited with officials in Corpus Christi and Austin, and took time to greet regular people who showed up to see him, waving the Texas flag.” ABC’s Cecilia Vega: “The catastrophe [is] still unfolding, but the President’s tone was upbeat.” Trump: “This is historic. It’s epic, what happened, but you know what? It happened in Texas, and Texas can handle anything.” Jeff Zeleny said on [CNN’s The Lead](#) (8/29) that “this is the biggest test yet for President Trump, certainly of a natural disaster of this making. He used a variety of adjectives today when he was in south Texas earlier this afternoon. He called it ‘epic.’ He called it ‘historic.’ He called the response ‘terrific.’” Zeleny said on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (8/29), “I talked to people who spent the day with him...who said that he walked away feeling the impact from this and they believe that will be helpful as he moves into the real test of this recovery.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (8/29, story 5, 1:55, O’Donnell) reported, “Even with evacuation shelters overcrowded and ill equipped, today President Trump defended federal and Texas emergency management officials during a visit to the storm zone.” CBS’ Jamie Yuccas said Trump “was optimistic about the response to Hurricane Harvey. ... The President pledged to work with Congress to send federal dollars.” Trump: “Probably there’s never been anything so expensive in our country’s history.” On [NBC Nightly News](#) (8/29, lead story, 4:10, Holt), Gabe Gutierrez reported, “Waving a Texas flag, President Trump toured Corpus Christi near where Harvey made a landfall on Friday.”

The [AP](#) (8/29, Thomas, Superville) reports, “With flag-waving optimism,” the President “answered Harvey’s wrath Tuesday by offering in-person assurances to those in the storm zone that his administration will work tirelessly to help the region recover from the massive flooding and storm-inflicted destruction.” However, “for all of his eagerness to get the federal disaster response right,” Trump “missed clear opportunities to strike a sympathetic note for multitudes who are suffering.” He “did not mention those who died in the storm or those forced from their homes by its floodwaters. And he basked in the attention of cheering supporters outside the fire station where officials briefed him on the recovery.”

[KXAN-TV](#) Austin, TX (8/29, 5:05 p.m. CDT) reported the Trump visited “the Lone Star state to meet with state and local officials about the damage left behind by Hurricane Harvey.” Trump “was briefed on the latest response plans. While some say it is good for President Trump to see the destruction, others say the trip is a distraction unless he can do something to help people affected here.” [KIAH-TV](#) Houston (8/29, 4:54 p.m. CDT) reported that Trump “called Texas a special state and thanked Gov. [Greg] Abbott and his team for the work they have done but refrained from saying congratulations until the job is complete.” [KHOU-TV](#) Houston (8/29, 4:58 p.m. CDT) showed video of Trump’s meeting at the state command center in Austin and reported that he applauded “everyone for their work, talking about what has yet to be done.”

The [Corpus Christi \(TX\) Caller-Times](#) (8/29, Ramirez) reports that the President, speaking at

the Annville Volunteer Fire Department, "noted that his federal team had worked closely with state leaders to coordinate a response to Harvey." [USA Today](#) (8/29, Korte) reports, "Trump mounted the front bumper of a fire truck...waving a Texas flag and telling the gathered crowd, 'We love you. You are special. We are here to take care of you.'" The "windbreaker-wearing White House delegation" included the First Lady, HUD Secretary Carson, HHS Secretary Price, and Small Business Administrator McMahon. The [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (8/29, Tilove) reports that it was Trump's first visit to Texas since becoming president, and "he brought Cabinet members in tow as a token of his commitment to post-Harvey recovery and rebuilding."

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (8/29, Torres) reports that Trump "remarked on the size of the crowd as if he were at a rally," saying, "What a crowd, what a turnout." The [Washington Times](#) (8/29, Boyer) reports that the President "waved a Texas flag to cheering hurricane survivors Tuesday as he proclaimed 'Texas can handle anything!'" [Breitbart](#) (8/29, Spiering) reports, "American flags and a yellow Gadsden flag were spotted in the cheering crowd as well as signs from a couple of protesters."

The [Texas Tribune](#) (8/29, Svitek) reports that Trump "marveled at the storm's massive impact while bracing members of Congress for a costly response." He said of Harvey, "It sounds like such an innocent name. But it's not. It's not innocent." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/29, Bender) reports that Trump told FEMA Administrator Brock Long that he has become "very famous on television." The President said of FEMA, "You have been just outstanding. And I can tell you that my folks are telling me how great your representatives have been in working together. It's a real team."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (8/29, Branson-Potts, Bierman) says that Trump "did not shy from raising expectations. After telling residents on Monday that he would bring swift financial help to the region, he promised on Tuesday that the long and expensive recovery would serve as a model." He said, "We want to do it better than ever before. We want to be looked at in five years, in 10 years from now as, this is the way to do it."

The [Washington Post](#) (8/29, Johnson) writes under the headline "Even In Visiting Hurricane-Ravaged Texas, Trump Keeps The Focus On Himself" that Trump "managed to turn attention on himself. ... He has talked favorably about the higher television ratings that come with hurricane coverage, predicted that he will soon be congratulating himself and used 16 exclamation points in 22 often breathless tweets about the storm. But as of late Tuesday afternoon, the president had yet to mention those killed, call on other Americans to help or directly encourage donations to relief organizations."

Kellyanne Conway said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (8/29), "The President was really struck today by two major things. One is just the sheer coordination, the efforts being put forth by our local, state, and federal governments. ... I think the second part is really just the best of the US in action. People helping other people and making sure folks are getting the information they need. We want to thank the media for connecting people with the information they need."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/29, Quinn) reports that Trump "offered praise to Texas Gov. Greg Abbott," but "stopped short of offering congratulations." Trump said, "We won't say congratulations. We don't want to do that. We'll congratulate each other when it's all finished. But you have been terrific and you've been my friend for a long time." Abbott said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (8/29), "I've been in daily contact with the President in the White House, and they are ensuring that we will have all the manpower that is needed. And so that is the difference between this and Katrina. We have the full force of the federal government on the ground already. And believe me, there will be no question about whether or not we have adequate manpower."

Abbott later said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (8/29), "The coordination between Texas and the federal government has been seamless. In fact, I've never seen it work as well." Abbott said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (8/29), "The coordination at the federal, state, and local level has been as good as in any tragedy that we've ever seen in the United States. ... This has been done because the President took action swiftly, early, coordinated with the state of Texas in a way far superior than I have ever seen in a hurricane tragedy."

[The Hill](#) (8/29, Easley) reports that Senate Majority Whip Cornyn, Sen. Ted Cruz, and Rep. Blake Farenthold (R-TX) were on hand for the visit. [McClatchy](#) (8/29, Drusch) reports that prior to the visit, Cruz told CBS This Morning, "The state is hurting right now. We're still in an active crisis situation." The [New York Post](#) (8/29, Schultz) reports that both Cornyn and Cruz "have opposed disaster funding in the past for Hurricane Sandy over cost concerns."

The [New York Times](#) (8/29, Thrush) writes that aides say Trump "is eager to avoid the mistakes made" by President Bush in 2005, and though Vice President Pence and DHS officials

“have taken the lead on negotiating many of the details of the response, Mr. Trump has taken pains to emphasize his personal involvement in the crisis.” [Politico](#) (8/29, McCaskill) reports that Trump “sidestepped a repeat of Bush’s gaffe in which he declared that then-FEMA administrator Michael Brown was doing a ‘heck of a job.’” Bush Administration HHS official Tevi Troy writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/29) that Trump has surrounded himself with leaders with experience in such situations, including Chief of Staff Kelly and homeland security adviser Tom Bossert.

The [Washington Post](#) (8/29, Blake) writes that Harvey provided Trump “a chance to be ‘presidential’ and to unite the country in a way he never has before (and hasn’t really even seemed to want to).” However, Glenn Thrush of the [New York Times](#) (8/29) writes, “Hurricane Harvey was the rarest of disasters to strike during the Trump presidency – a maelstrom not of Mr. Trump’s making, and one that offers him an opportunity to recapture some of the unifying power of his office he has squandered in recent weeks.” Thrush says the President “is behaving like a man whose future depends on getting this right.”

Kaitlin Collins said on [CNN’s The Lead](#) (8/29), “I think the Administration realizes this a big chance for them to get this right. They’ve really tried to be on top of this ever since when it was just barreling toward Texas on Thursday and Friday. We’ve seen that because these things can be career-defining for a presidency. Just as we saw 12 summers ago with George W. Bush and the way they handled Hurricane Katrina. I think the Trump Administration has realized that and that they’re going to be judged off the way they handle this recovery and the response to this hurricane.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (8/29, Olorunnipa, Epstein), [Reuters](#) (8/29, Scheyder, Henderson), and the [Fort Worth \(TX\) Star-Telegram](#) (8/29) also cover the presidential visit. The [New York Post](#) (8/29, Fredericks) and [Townhall](#) (8/29, Pavlich) also have brief reports.

First Lady’s Stiletto Heels Draw Criticism. Maria Puente of [USA Today](#) (8/29) writes, “No, first lady Melania Trump did not tour Hurricane Harvey-flooded south Texas in spike heels. Get real, Twitter.” The First Lady “left the White House earlier Tuesday wearing her usual shoe choice – pumps with sky-high heels – plus black cropped pants and a military-style green bomber jacket, with her hair loose and aviator sunglasses on her nose,” and “some on Twitter were incredulous and mocking, wrongly assuming this was her wardrobe choice for a flood zone.” By the time of arrival, “she had changed into white tennis shoes, a white shirt and a black cap with FLOTUS emblazoned on it, and her hair pulled up and off her face.”

Annie Karni of [Politico](#) (8/29) has a different take, writing that the First Lady “appeared to put the wrong foot forward when she boarded Marine One, en route to visit emergency responders in hurricane-ravaged Texas, wearing towering black snakeskin stilettos.” On board Air Force One, “as the picture of the delicate heels ricocheted across the Internet, Melania Trump changed into a pair of bright, white sneakers, which looked fresh out of the box.”

The [New York Times](#) (8/29, Friedman) writes, “When is a shoe not just a shoe? ... To dismiss all this as merely much ado about heels, or an example of the pettiness of our divided electorate, is to ignore the reality of the current conversation” around President Trump, to “pretend not to notice how sensitized everyone has become to his unpredictable reactions to major events, and to deny the power of the telling detail to invite applause, condemnation or misinterpretation.”

[Breitbart](#) (8/29, Starr) notes some of the critical online commentary, adding that Breitbart Senior Editor at Large Joel Pollak tweeted, “The First Lady is wearing sneakers. I hope the haters feel good about themselves.” Britt McHenry of [The Federalist](#) (8/29) writes, “Instead of focusing on our first lady choosing to accompany her husband to a state dealing with utter wreckage, cynics chose to fixate on her choice of fashion because ‘optics.’ ... If you align with a public perception that’s more concerned with a woman’s shoes instead of the hundreds of thousands who are forced to abandon their flooded homes, then you’re part of the problem.”

First Lady Issued Statement Following Visit. The [Dallas Morning News](#) (8/29, Benning) reports that the First Lady “spoke little” in Corpus Christi, “but in a statement from the White House, is now praising the people of Texas affected by the storm.” She said, “What I found to be the most profound during the visit was not only the strength and resilience of the people of Texas, but the compassion and sense of community that has taken over the state. I want to be able to offer my help and support in the most productive way possible, not through just words, but also action.”

Sanders: “Probably” Too Soon For Trump To Be In Texas. The [Washington Times](#) (8/29, Sherfinski) reports that Sen. Bernie Sanders said on Tuesday’s CBS This Morning that “it’s probably too early for President Trump to be visiting Texas in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, but said the main focus right now should be on recovery efforts.” Sanders said, “Too soon for the President to be there? Probably it is, but let’s not get into that. The focus right now has got to be

on doing everything we can to address the terrible, terrible pain that is taking place in that city.”

HuffPost: Trump Has Worn Campaign Merchandise During Several Harvey-Related Events. The [Huffington Post](#) (8/29, Feldman) reports under the headline “Donald Trump Keeps Plugging His Own Merchandise During Hurricane Harvey” that the President “arrived in Corpus Christi wearing the white ‘45/USA’ hat that’s available for \$40 on his own website,” marking “the third time in four days that the president has worn on-sale campaign merchandise during events related to Harvey.”

Sarah Sanders Wears “Make America Texas” Hat. The [Washington Examiner](#) (8/29, Chaitin) reports that White House press secretary Sarah Sanders “was spotted wearing a hat...with the words ‘Make America Texas’ emblazoned over an outline of Texas, as shown in [a photo](#) shared by Politico’s Josh Dawsey.”

Trump Campaign Committee Asks Supporters To Donate To Relief Efforts. The [AP](#) (8/29) reports that President Trump’s re-election campaign committee “is encouraging supporters to donate to disaster relief efforts for Hurricane Harvey. A note Tuesday to the more than 10 million email addresses the campaign has collected links to the Red Cross, Salvation Army, United Way and local animal rescue operations. The email encourages people to ‘help our fellow Americans in need.’”

Trump To Launch Push For Tax Reform With Missouri Speech.

[Politico](#) (8/29, White, Palmeri) reports that President Trump visit Missouri Wednesday to “launch a major push for a sweeping tax overhaul” with a speech “aimed at convincing his base – and the rest of the nation – that he has a fresh vision for ‘unrigging’ the American economy and isn’t just repackaging the trickle-down economics of past Republican presidents.” Trump’s speech “is expected to frame the issue around wiping out some deductions that benefit mostly higher-income taxpayers, making the US corporate system more globally competitive and simplifying the individual system.” While he “is expected to discuss lower rates for middle-income taxpayers as an instant pay raise for everyday Americans,” and argue that “lowering the corporate tax rate would make it easy for companies to expand – improving Americans’ quality of life,” he is not expected to provide “much detail about deductions and loopholes.”

The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (8/29, McDermott) reports that pro- and anti-Trump protesters will demonstrate outside the manufacturing facility where Trump will deliver his speech Wednesday. Both sides “are urging followers to refrain from violence.”

Trump Says Job Vacancies Part Of Effort To “Reduce Size Of Government.”

[Politico](#) (8/29, Nelson) reported that President Trump on Tuesday said “that the understaffing of the executive branch under his administration has been a conscious choice as part of a larger effort to shrink government, pushing back against conservative commentator Laura Ingraham, who told Fox News that the federal government is short on manpower.” Appearing on “Fox & Friends,” Ingraham said of hurricane-ravaged Texas, “We can all look at these horrific pictures, and we can conclude that a federal government does need staff. We see it acutely in need of staff in a situation like this” and in other areas of government. Politico added that Trump, “known to be a regular ‘Fox & Friends’ viewer, [responded](#) to Ingraham on Twitter, writing that ‘we are not looking to fill all of those positions. Don’t need many of them – reduce size of government.’”

Media Analyses Examine Possible Links Between Harvey And Climate Change.

[USA Today](#) (8/29, Rice) reports climate change “remains a polarizing issue in our already divided country. And whenever a huge weather event like Harvey occurs, a debate rages in the meteorological community about whether it is appropriate to discuss potential links between climate change and that specific event.” USA Today notes that a 2016 study “said there is no evidence that the number of tropical cyclones...have increased in recent decades as the planet has warmed,” but there has been “marginally significant increases in the frequency of category 4 and 5 storms.”

The [Washington Times](#) (8/29, Richardson) reports, meanwhile, that before Harvey, “it had been a record 12 years since a major hurricane made landfall in the United States, but that hasn’t stopped the climate change movement from blaming the Category 4 storm on global warming.”

The [AP](#) (8/29, Borenstein) reports that “in general,...climate scientists agree that future storms will dump much more rain than the same size storms did in the past.”

Vernon Loeb, managing editor of the Houston Chronicle, writes in the [Washington Post](#) (8/29, Loeb) that the planet “is getting warmer, ocean temperatures are rising, the polar ice caps are melting, and all of the incontrovertible science of climate change is that more extreme-

weather events are an inevitable consequence. ... There's really no other way to make sense of what's happening in Houston." Loeb writes that while "it's clearly too late to stop the Category 4 hurricane that led to the millennial flooding in Houston," it "may not be too late to save the planet if we heed Harvey's hard lesson here in Texas." Meanwhile, [Politico Magazine](#) (8/28, Holthaus) says, "climate scientist Kevin Trenberth thinks that as much as 30 percent of the rainfall from Harvey is attributable to human-caused global warming."

[The Hill](#) (8/29, Cama) reports that the question of whether a particular weather event is caused by climate change as "taken on a new meaning in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, thanks in large part to President Trump's doubts about climate change science and his efforts to roll back nearly every Obama administration policy meant to combat climate change." Most recently, President Trump rescinding an Obama-era initiative "that called for federally funded infrastructure to be built to withstand the expected effects of climate change."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Making Sure Your Help Gets To Hurricane Harvey's Victims." A [New York Times](#) (8/30, Board) editorial urges Americans who want to donate to victims of Hurricane Harvey "to be as discerning with their money as they are philanthropic, avoiding scams and asking for greater accountability from trusted charities like the American Red Cross." The Times outlines various instances in which the Red Cross failed to account for the donations it received, or diverted funds toward public relations expenditures. The Times concludes, "Groups like the Red Cross are stewards not only of enormous budgets, but of a more precious commodity: Americans' willingness to give."

"Last Hope For Peace At Brooklyn's Big Party." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (8/30, Board) says Monday's J'ouvert, "an annual celebration of Caribbean culture, a kaleidoscope of costumes and rhythm bands that draws a quarter-million people or more," has "been deadly in New York, more widely known for bullets than for ballyhoo in the last few years." This year, "Mayor Bill de Blasio and his police force will try a new tactic: no more pre-dawn J'ouvert with the cover of darkness for gun toters and knife wielders." Security measures will also be enhanced. The Times says it hopes de Blasio's "latest changes will end the bloodshed," but stresses that if "bullets fly again, the mayor and other officials will need to summon the courage to announce – however dolefully, given the festival's popularity – that J'ouvert costs too many lives and must be shut down."

Washington Post.

"Houston Is Paying The Price For Public Officials' Ignorance." A [Washington Post](#) (8/29) editorial says Houston "is an example of what happens when public officials ignore experts and refuse to take natural risks seriously. As the country's fourth-largest city expanded, replacing prairie with impermeable surfaces such as pavement and concrete, the land was rendered less and less capable of absorbing floodwater." A ProPublica and Texas Tribune investigation found last year "that those who have overseen Houston's flooding issues discounted scientists' warnings as 'anti-development.' In the coming months and years, the city may pay a high price for such shortsightedness."

"'Antifa' Groups Only Help The Hateful Forces They Claim To Oppose." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (8/29) says that while Antifa is not to be equated with "the menace of violent, ultra-right white-supremacist groups, which are enjoying an ugly renaissance bred, in part, by the succor President Trump has given to racial and religious intolerance," its "true danger is twofold: First, its violence does obvious and unjustifiable harm, both to free speech and to people and property; second, it tends to discredit, through association, the far broader peaceful movement against racism and hate." While Trump's "equation of white supremacists in Charlottesville with those who rallied against them was false and repugnant," the actions of Antifa activists "hardly promote the moral clarity necessary to isolate right-wing hate groups."

"Congress Must Block Trump's Ban On Transgender People In The Military." The [Washington Post](#) (8/29) calls the President's ban on transgender people serving in the military, "discriminatory treatment of transgender people" that has "the potential to do great harm and must not be allowed to stand." The Post adds that the courts or Congress may be the best opportunity to end "this discriminatory policy," and calls on Republican lawmakers who spoke in opposition to the policy change when Trump first tweeted about it in July, including Sens. John

McCain and Orrin Hatch, to “give meaning to their words and support” legislation being developed by Sens. Kirsten Gillibrand and Sen. Cory Booker to “block the ban.”

Wall Street Journal.

“The Hurricane Learning Curve.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/29, Board) editorial says the federal government, local officials and charities are applying the lessons learned in the wake of Hurricane Katrina in Texas. FEMA, it notes, was on the ground in Texas nearly 48 hours before Hurricane Harvey made landfall, while Texas Gov. Greg Abbott quickly activated the entire Texas National Guard. Though the storm isn’t over yet, the Journal says there are already signs that officials have learned from previous failures.

“Nixing The \$520,000 ‘Footlong.’” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/29) editorializes about a ruling by the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals that dismissed a class-action lawsuit settlement involving sandwich size on the grounds that the only beneficiaries were attorneys in the case. In 2013, an Australian teen posted a photo on Facebook of a Subway Footlong sandwich next to a tape-measure that showed the sandwich to be 11 inches long. Nine class-action suits were filed, which were later consolidated into one. In 2016 a lower court approved a settlement under which Subway promised to ensure more uniformity in its bread size, and attorneys in the case were to collect \$520,000 in fees.

“Nuclear Missiles Over Tokyo.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (8/29) says a treaty guarantee with the US has long served as Japan’s ultimate security, but the logic of deterrence only works if the adversary is a rational actor, which North Korea may not be. If Japan no longer views the US as a reliable ally in a crisis, it may no longer resist building a nuclear arsenal of its own, which the Journal says could lead to nuclear proliferation throughout East Asia – underscoring the dangers of acquiescing to Pyongyang over its nuclear missiles.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Harvey Forces Thousands To Seek Shelter](#)

[Harvey’s Test: Businesses Struggle With Flawed Insurance As Floods Multiply](#)

[Investors Scoop Up Gold, Treasuries But Snub Dollar](#)

[As New Uber CEO Accepts The Job, Fresh Challenges Emerge](#)

New York Times:

[Stalled Over Gulf, Harvey Deepens Texans’ Soggy Misery](#)

[On Roads Turned Waterways, Volunteers Improve To Save The Trapped And Desperate](#)

[An Uneasy Time For Immigrants In Texas. Then The Rains Came.](#)

[A Pacifist Japan Starts To Embrace The Military](#)

[They Have A Say Over The Subways, From Hundreds Of Miles Away](#)

Washington Post:

[In Launch, N. Korea Rejects US Threat](#)

[Weed Killer Meant To Help Farmers Is Out Of Control](#)

[Houston Struggles To Determine Extent Of Harvey Flooding Devastation As Trump Visits Texas](#)

[How ‘wild West’ Growth May Have Contributed To Flood In Houston](#)

[Built For Safety, A Reservoir Spills Over Its Banks In A Historical Haven](#)

[Death Toll Rises To 22 As Officials Brace For More Bad News](#)

Financial Times:

[Texans Face Further Battering As Harvey Refuses To Let Up](#)

[United Technologies Nears \\$30bn Deal For Rockwell Collins](#)

[Merkel Backs Macron’s Vision For Eurozone Reform](#)

Washington Times:

[Harvey Blamed On Climate Change Despite Drought From Hurricane Strikes](#)

[Harvey Breaks Rainfall Records, Spreads More Disaster](#)

[Conservative Candidates Across Nation Trumpet Trump In Campaign Strategies](#)

[North Korea Responds To Trump’s Bravado With Missile Test Over Japan](#)

With Congress In Stalemate, States Take Lead In Planned Parenthood Defunding

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Hurricane Harvey; Hurricane Harvey-Rescue Missions; Hurricane Harvey-Trump Visit; Louisiana Storm Preparation; Hurricane Harvey-Forecast; North Korea-Missile Test; Hurricane Harvey-Church Under Criticism; Hurricane Harvey-Industry Damage; Hurricane Harvey-Family Recovery.

CBS: Hurricane Harvey-Evacuees; Hurricane Harvey-Houston City Government; Hurricane Harvey-Police Casualty; Hurricane Harvey-Reservoir Overflow; Hurricane Harvey-Trump Visit; Hurricane Harvey-Forecast; Louisiana Storm Preparation; North Korea-Missile Test; Hurricane Harvey-Church Under Criticism; Hurricane Harvey-Animal Casualties.

NBC: Hurricane Harvey; Hurricane Harvey-Evacuees; Hurricane Harvey-Casualties; Hurricane Harvey-Forecast; North Korea-Missile Test; Hurricane Harvey-Financial Cost; Hurricane Harvey-Rescue Missions; Hurricane Harvey-Animal Casualties.

Network TV At A Glance:

Hurricane Harvey – 44 minutes, 15 seconds

North Korea-Missile Test – 6 minutes, 10 seconds

Hurricane Harvey-Forecast – 4 minutes, 5 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Hurricane Harvey; Hurricane Harvey-Trump Visit; Wall Street News.

CBS: Hurricane Harvey; Hurricane Harvey-Trump Visit; Armed Services-Transgender Ban; North Korea-Missile Test; US Home Sales; Wall Street News.

FOX: Hurricane Harvey; Hurricane Harvey-Trump Visit; North Korea-Missile Test.

NPR: Hurricane Harvey; Hurricane Harvey-Trump Visit; Louisiana Storm Preparation; North Korea-Missile Test.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer; participates in a tax reform kickoff event.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Delivers keynote remarks to the 2017 Annual Meeting and Business Summit of the West Virginia Chamber of Commerce.

US Senate: On recess until 5 September.

US House: 8:30 AM Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee field hearing on 'VA Home Telehealth: Looking Behind the Numbers' Location: Garfield Charter Township, 3848 Veterans Dr, Traverse City, MI Traverse City <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

On recess until 5 September.

Other: No notable event scheduled.

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Trevor Noah: "I know some people are like, 'Trevor, it's not about that. It's about sensitivity. You don't wear things like that to a disaster zone.' And I understand that, but in Melania's defense, she lives in a permanent disaster zone, and that's what she always wears."

Trevor Noah: "For our main story, we turn now to America's capital, Moscow."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



DATE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2017 6:00 AM EST

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- Deseret (UT) News: Utah Rep. Chris Stewart Proposes National Park In Grand Staircase-Escalante.
- The Hill: Navajo Nation Sues Trump Over Utah Monument Reduction.
- Salt Lake (UT) Tribune: Former President Bill Clinton Says Shrinking Utah National Monuments Is 'Wrong Economic Decision' And 'Wrong Environmental Decision'.
- Washington Post: Pilfered Artifacts, Three Suicides And The Struggle Over Federal Land In Utah.

- Reuters: While U.S. Senate Pushes Alaska Wildlife Refuge Drilling, Industry Looks Elsewhere.
- NBC: Wildfires Ravage Southern California.

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- Incumbents Lead Nooksack Election Results Amid Allegations Of Fraud.
- Omaha Tribe Mismanaged \$13.9 Million In Federal Flood-assistance Grants, Audit Finds.
- 9th Circ. Gives Navajo Partial Win In Waters Rights Suit.
- Wis. Tribe Seeks Quick Win In Gambling Compact Spat.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Houston Chronicle: Oil Companies Clamping Down On Methane Leaks.
- E&E Publishing: Trump Admin Takes BLM Methane Fight To Appeals Court.
- WyoFile: Budd-Falen: Provocateur Or Protector?
- Associated Press: Critics Sue Over Mine Exploration Near Alaska Eagle Preserve.
- Salem (OR) Capital Press: Grazing Slowly Returns To Land Scorched By 2015 Soda Fire.
- KRTV-TV Great Falls (MT): BLM Expands Brewery Flats Outdoor Lab For Junior-high School Students.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Columbia River Wild Salmon Runs Face Regulatory Hurdles, Political Indifference.
- Idaho Ancient Bison Fossils Now Available In 3-D At ISU.

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- Remembering The BP Oil Spill, A Disaster Of Historic Proportions.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- McClatchy: House Moderates Opposes Allowing Arctic Oil Drilling In Tax Bill.
- Associated Press: Wildlife Officials Say White-Tailed Prairie Dog In No Danger.
- Associated Press: 2018 Plan For Mexican Wolves Calls For Fostering Of Pups.
- Miami Herald: Federal Wildlife Managers Clear Way For Walmart In Vanishing South Florida Forest.

National Park Service

- USA Today: Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 2017: What Happened On That Fateful Day 76 Years Ago?
- Ste. Genevieve (MO) Herald: NPS Predicts Annual Budget Around \$1 Million For Ste. Genevieve Proposal.
- Associated Press: Work Begins At Carlsbad Caverns To Replace Elevators.
- Fountain Valley (CA) Patch: Ioniq Hybrids Donated To National Park Service, Hyundai Says.
- Next-Gen Transportation: Yosemite National Park To Deploy Proterra Electric Buses.
- Salt Lake (UT) Tribune: Arches National Park Celebrates End Of Massive Road Project With Free Entry This Weekend.
- MLive (MI): Plans To Rehab Old Negro League Baseball Park Taking Shape.
- MarketWatch: When 'Star Wars' Came To California: Documents Reveal History Behind Original Film.
- Bismarck (ND) Tribune: Public Comment Sought On Refinery Proposed Near Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

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- Pacific News Center: Interior Releases \$14.9 M In Guam Compact Aid.
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- Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR): Congressional Delegation Tours St. Croix To Assess Hurricane Damage.
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- Saipan (MNP) Tribune: House OKs CW-1 Resolution.
- DAWN (PAK): UN Votes To Nullify Israeli Jurisdiction Over Jerusalem.
- Korea Herald: President Moon Calls For Enhanced Ties With Pacific Island Nations.
- Saipan (MNP) Tribune: Okeanos Marianas To Represent NMI At Yap Summit.
- Papua New Guinea Today: Air Niugini To Upgrade Services To Cairns, Chuuk And Pohnpei.
- Interpreter (AUS): Australia's Coal-fired Diplomacy Burns Pacific Friends.
- teleSUR (VEN): Additional Coverage: U.S. 'Dome' Of Nuclear Waste In Enewetak Atoll Wreaking Havoc

On Indigenous People.

Office Of Surface Mining

- Interior Won't Say What It's Doing With Coal Health Study.

US Geological Survey

- Charleston (WV) Gazette-Mail: Agencies Working On Flood Warning Improvements In WV.
- Additional Reading.

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- Wall Street Journal: Trump Wants Republicans To Address Welfare Reform After Tax Bill.
- Reuters: UN Official's Visit To North Korea Sparks Hope Of Mediation.

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DOI In The News

After Bears Ears, Trump Administration Ponders More Changes To National Monuments.

In the wake of President Trump's proclamations reducing the size of the Bears Ears and GrandStaircase-Escalante national monuments, [USA Today](#) (12/5, Korte) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is recommending he "scale back four more national monuments...and make modifications to at least four more, continuing an unprecedented blitz of presidential action to ease restriction on public lands." Zinke "is recommending that Trump reduce the size of Cascade-Siskiyou in Oregon and California, Gold Butte in Nevada," and "boundary changes to two marine national monuments: the Pacific Remote Islands and the Rose Atoll." Zinke also recommended modifications to Katahdin Woods and Waters in Maine, Northeast Canyons and Seamounts in Massachusetts, and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks and Rio Grande Del Norte, both in New Mexico.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/5, Eilperin) reports that Zinke "said he was 'fairly confident' Trump would accept all of his recommendations, and he intends to brief him 'multiple times' in

coming weeks to get his sign-off."

Also reporting are the [New York Times](#) (12/6, Nash), [Reuters](#) (12/5, Volcovici), the [Washington Examiner](#) (12/5, Siegel), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/5, Schneider), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (12/5, Staff, Agencies), the [Huffington Post](#) (12/5, D'Angelo), [BuzzFeed](#) (12/5, Dalrymple), and [KXLY-TV Spokane \(WA\)](#) Spokane, WA (12/5, Gardner).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (12/5, Roth), [KPVI-TV Idaho Falls \(ID\)](#) Idaho Falls, ID (12/5), and [KIFI-TV Idaho Falls \(ID\)](#) Idaho Falls, ID (12/5).

Zinke Defends Monument Reductions, Supports Badger-Two Medicine. The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (12/5, Chaney) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in a call with reporters on Tuesday "repeated an earlier proposal to create a new, 130,000-acre monument in Montana protecting the Badger-Two Medicine region surrounded by the Blackfeet Indian Reservation, Glacier National Park and the Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex." Zinke said, "I think there's a really great opportunity for the Badger-Two Medicine as the number of crowds and visitors continue to break records in Glacier (National Park). Here's a virtually untapped area and a chance to do it right. There's the possibility of revenue from tourism and an untapped culture. I think it's deserving of monument status."

Also reporting are [KRTV-TV Great Falls \(MT\)](#) Great Falls, MT (12/5) and [KTVH-TV Helena \(MT\)](#) Helena, MT (12/5, Jochim).

Jessamine County Site At Camp Nelson Could Be Kentucky's First National Monument. The [Lexington \(KY\) Herald-Leader](#) (12/5, Kocher) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "formally recommended Tuesday that Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park should be one of three new national monuments in the country." Zinke said in a statement, "Camp Nelson is one of the places where our nation was made stronger and history was made. As a key depot, training center and hospital, Camp Nelson recruited and trained thousands of African-American war heroes who helped restore the Union." Rep. Andy Barr said in a statement that he "can think of no site more deserving of the distinction than the Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park where thousands of African American slaves found freedom. ...I strongly encourage President Trump to follow through" on Zinke's recommendation.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Lane Report](#) (12/5).

Zinke Questions Legality, Offers Few Specifics About Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument's Fate. The [Oregonian](#) (12/5, Theen) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "offered few additional details Tuesday about the administration's plans for Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument in Southern Oregon." Zinke said, "We have not set down in specifics on what an adjusted boundary would look like." The article notes that "Zinke's final recommendations included some of the same language from the September draft plan, saying the Oregon boundary should be revised to 'address impacts on private lands' and commercial timber harvest."

Also reporting are [AP](#) (12/5), the [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (12/5, Perkowski), the [Redding \(CA\) Record-Searchlight](#) (12/5, Arthur), the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (12/5, Urness), [KLCC-FM Eugene \(OR\)](#) Eugene, OR (12/5, Burns), and [KOB-TV Medford \(OR\)](#) Medford, OR (12/5).

Zinke Recommends Shrinking Nevada Monument. The [AP](#) (12/5) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is recommending reducing the size of the Gold Butte National Monument. Zinke "said Tuesday he would focus changes on the site's water districts." He "declined to specify how much land he wants to remove from monument status in Nevada."

Also reporting are the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (12/5, Saunders, Brean) and [KSNV-TV Las Vegas](#) Las Vegas (12/5, O'Neal).

New Mexico National Monuments To Remain Intact. The [AP](#) (12/5) reports that "the boundaries of New Mexico's two national monuments that were under review will remain intact, but Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke says modifications will be made to protect the long-standing culture of grazing and to ensure hunters and anglers don't lose access." Zinke on Tuesday said "his decision to keep Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks and the Rio Grande Del Norte national monuments the same size followed discussions with the governor, the state's congressional delegation, ranchers and conservationists." He "said the administration was comfortable with the New Mexico monuments and wanted to ensure they could be actively managed in perpetuity."

Also reporting are [Albuquerque \(NM\) Business First](#) (12/5, Ortiz), [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (12/5), and [KRWG-FM Las Cruces \(NM\)](#) Las Cruces, NM (12/5).

Interior Secretary Wants To Maintain Katahdin Woods Monument. The [AP](#) (12/5) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Tuesday "reiterated his support for a 'made in Maine' solution that keeps intact the boundaries of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument." Zinke "recommended that timbering should be permitted on the property and that infrastructure

upgrades and public access for 'traditional uses' like snowmobiling and hunting should be prioritized in a management plan." Rep. Bruce Poliquin said Zinke's recommendation "strikes the right balance." He called Zinke's recommendation "a smart compromise that will help ensure traditional uses of the land and sustainable forest management are safeguarded, along with the jobs they support in the area."

Also reporting are the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (12/5, Miller), the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (12/5, Sambides), the [Boston Globe](#) (12/5), and [WAGM-TV Presque Isle \(ME\)](#) Presque Isle, ME (12/5).

Newhouse Praises Interior Decision To Maintain Hanford Reach National Monument. [KNDU-TV](#) Yakima, WA (12/5) reports that Rep. Dan Newhouse in a statement praised the decision to not change the Hanford Reach National Monument. Newhouse said, "In June, I shared my concerns with Secretary Zinke and the administration that no modifications should be made to the Hanford Reach National Monument. I am pleased that after today's report by the Interior Department, this national treasure will continue to be open to public access for future generations to enjoy."

Patagonia, REI And Other Outdoor Retailers Protest Trump's Decision To Shrink Utah Monuments.

Meanwhile, Patagonia and other outdoor clothing and equipment retailers are speaking out against Trump's plan to reduce the size of the Utah monuments, the [New York Times](#) (12/5, Hauser) reports. In a pop-up message on its website, Patagonia said, "The president stole your land. ... In an illegal move, the president just reduced the size of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. This is the largest elimination of protected land in American history." The company's general counsel, Hilary Dessouky, said through a spokeswoman Tuesday "that the company planned to file a lawsuit on Wednesday challenging the president's shrinking of the national monument." The Times also highlights criticism of the move from other outdoor retailers.

The [AP](#) (12/5, Daly) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Tuesday accused Patagonia "of lying when it said that President Donald Trump 'stole your land' by shrinking two national monuments in Utah by some 2 million acres." According to the article, "an angry Zinke called the claim – made in large type on the company's home page – 'nefarious, false and a lie.'" Zinke "told reporters the land targeted by Trump remains protected because it is still under federal control."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (12/6, DALY, McCOMBS), [The Hill](#) (12/5, DeIk), [Fox Business](#) (12/5), [Bloomberg News](#) (12/5, Natter), the [Missoula Current \(MT\)](#) (12/5, Kidston), and [Fortune](#) (12/5, Abramson).

Also reporting are [AP](#) (12/6, DALY, McCOMBS), the [U.S. News & World Report](#) (12/5, Trimble), the [Washington Post](#) (12/5, Bhattarai), the [New York Post](#) (12/5, Steinbuch), [Bloomberg News](#) (12/5, Rupp), [CBS News](#) (12/5, Layne), [Fox News](#) (12/5, Bartiromo), the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (12/5, Oppenheim), the [Independent \(UK\)](#) (12/5, York), the [Drum \(UK\)](#) (12/5, O'Brien), [KTUU-TV Anchorage \(AK\)](#) Anchorage, AK (12/5, Polk), and [KWYB-TV Butte \(MT\)](#) Butte, MT (12/5).

Obama's Action On Public Land A 'Blatant Misuse Of Power'. [Newsmax](#) (12/5, Fitzgerald) reports that "the Obama administration's decision to lock away several million acres to protect them for environmental purposes was a 'blatant misuse of power,'" Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said Tuesday, "while explaining the decision to return large tracts to the people of Utah." On Fox News' "Fox & Friends" program, Zinke said, "We're giving a voice back to Utah, a voice back to the local communities that live and work there. It was a blatant misuse of power."

AP FACT CHECK: Trump's Curious Case For Shrinking Monuments. The [AP](#) (12/5, Woodward, McCombs) fact checks President Trump's statement on reducing the two Utah monuments. While Trump said the Antiquities Act "requires that only the smallest necessary area be set aside for special protection as national monuments," the AP says the law "doesn't demand that such land be kept to a minimum. Such protected land 'shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects to be protected,' it says." Trump also claimed that "this tragic federal overreach prevents many Native Americans from having their rightful voice over the sacred land where they practice their most important ancestral and religious traditions" and that "we have seen harmful and unnecessary restrictions on hunting, ranching and responsible economic development." The AP says that "native rights are generally enshrined on national monument lands, not terminated. So are other public uses of the land," and "the notion that rural families can't enjoy the beauty of a national monument is unsupported."

Utah Rep. Chris Stewart Proposes National Park In Grand Staircase-Escalante.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (12/5, Romboy) reports that Rep. Chris Stewart “plans to introduce legislation to create a new national park in a piece of the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.” The proposed Escalante Canyons National Park “comes on the heels of President Donald Trump dramatically downsizing the 1.9 million-acre monument.” Stewart said, “We feel that’s a win-win. You love tourism? So do I. People will come for a national park, but many of them won’t come for a monument.”

Also, the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/5, Burr) reports that Rep. John Curtis “unveiled a measure to add law enforcement to the two remaining swaths of Bears Ears National Monument, forbid oil and gas drilling and mining in the region and give tribes a role in managing the lands.” However, state Sen. Jim Dabakis “said in a statement that Stewart’s plan to create a national park is just a ploy to distract from the fact he and other Utah GOP officials want to open up large chunks of land in southern Utah to mineral extraction.” In addition, “the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance said Stewart and Curtis’ efforts to create a park and turn Trump’s actions into congressionally approved law were just a way to distract from actions to destroy the monuments.”

Navajo Nation Sues Trump Over Utah Monument Reduction.

[The Hill](#) (12/5, Cama) reports that “the Navajo Nation and four other American Indian tribes said Tuesday they had sued President Trump to undo his action reducing the Bears Ears National Monument in southern Utah.” The lawsuit, “which the tribes had long promised, argues that Trump did not have the legal authority to remove more than 80 percent of the land protections that former President Barack Obama had established in 2016.” The tribes wrote in a statement, “Through the Antiquities Act, Congress delegated to the president the limited authority to designate national monuments and retained to itself the power to revoke or modify national monuments.” They continued, “The proclamation signed by President Trump today is so extreme that it revokes and replaces Bears Ears and thereby violates the Antiquities Act and seizes authority that the Constitution vests solely in Congress.”

Also reporting are the [AP](#) (12/5), [USA Today](#) (12/4), the [Huffington Post](#) (12/5, Visser), and the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (12/5, Grover).

Former President Bill Clinton Says Shrinking Utah National Monuments Is ‘Wrong Economic Decision’ And ‘Wrong Environmental Decision’.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/6, Harkins) reports that “former President Bill Clinton denounced President Donald Trump’s decision to shrink Utah’s Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears national monuments, saying it was a bad move in multiple ways.” According to the article, “Clinton prefaced his remarks by recalling his contentious choice to protect Grand Staircase-Escalante during his presidency – and the positive feedback he got for it five years after – and said he was “mystified and heartbroken” about the recent cuts.” Clinton said, “I think this is the wrong economic decision. I know it’s the wrong environmental decision. I think it’s the wrong cultural decision. I mean, this is supposed to be a time in which he honor the native-born over immigrants. The only true native-born Americans are the tribal people who live in the area protected, who all oppose this”

Pilfered Artifacts, Three Suicides And The Struggle Over Federal Land In Utah.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/5, Swenson) reports on a raid carried out on June 10, 2009 in Blanding, Utah that “would prove to be the match igniting long-simmering tensions across the region.” For Native American groups, Operation Cerberus was “the first step in a much-needed crackdown on looting in a unique archaeologically-rich region.” However, “for others the handling of the operation became yet another example of federal overreach – one that continues to impact the region today and now is reflected in the Trump Administration’s policies.”

While U.S. Senate Pushes Alaska Wildlife Refuge Drilling, Industry Looks Elsewhere.

[Reuters](#) (12/5, Rosen) reports that while the Senate moves to allow oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the energy industry is more interested in the BLM’s auction for 10 million acres in the National Petroleum Reserve. Industry supporters say NPR-A development could yield barrels much more quickly than drilling in the Alaska’s remote frontiers. Executive director of the Alaska Oil and Gas Association Kara Moriarty said, “NPR-A has the potential to fulfill short-term oil and gas needs for the state. ... It’s right next to currently producing fields.” She said that even if the ANWR is opened to drilling, it would take 10-15 years before any oil is produced.

Wildfires Ravage Southern California.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (12/5, lead story, 2:45, Holt) reported that 30,000 residents have evacuated areas throughout Southern California as wildfires have rampaged through the region. Winds that have fed the flames “are expected to peak Thursday morning at some 70 miles an hour.” Hundreds of buildings are feared to have been destroyed.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/5, lead story, 3:05, Muir) reported that the fires have destroyed over 45,000 acres. The largest fire is threatening Ventura County, home to 100,000 residents. Additionally, firefighters have “had to let some homes burn because they didn’t have enough water pressure in some of the hydrants.” [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/5, story 3, 1:05, Muir) also reported that wind gusts of up to 40 miles per hour could hit Los Angeles and San Diego on Thursday morning, exacerbating the already dangerous conditions. Finally, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/5, story 2, 2:00, Muir) reported that three fires are currently burning simultaneously in Southern California: the Santa Ana fire, the Ventura County fire, and the Thomas Fire.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (12/5, lead story, 2:15, Glor) reported that the extreme conditions are projected to last “through at least Friday morning” in Ventura County. The [CBS Evening News](#) (12/5, story 2, 1:45, Evans) also reported that the Sylmar Fire in the Los Angeles area stretches 11,000 acres and is still growing. Winds on Tuesday night were expected to decrease to 20-30 miles per hour with up to 50 miles per hour gusts.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/5, Vives, Nelson, Parvini, Hamilton, Kohli) reports that “at least 150 structures – including at least one large apartment complex and the Vista Del Mar Hospital, a psychiatric facility – were consumed by flames.” As of 5 p.m. Tuesday, the Thomas fire was moving west and was 0% contained. “The burn area is pretty much all the mountains between Ventura and Ojai and extending east to Santa Paula,” said Ventura County Sheriff’s Sgt. Kevin Donoghue of the Ventura fire. “It’s a challenge because of the enormity of it, and it’s a challenge because it’s pretty rugged terrain.”

The [New York Times](#) (12/5, A1, Medina, Stack, Bromwich) reports that the Thomas Fire spread to 10,000 acres between the time the sheriff’s office received initial reports at 6:24 p.m. on Monday and midnight. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti “said the weather stoking the fire in Los Angeles County would probably continue for the next five days.” “We have lost structures; we have not lost lives,” said Garcetti. “Do not wait. Leave your homes.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Incumbents Lead Nooksack Election Results Amid Allegations Of Fraud.

The [Seattle Times](#) (12/5, Shapiro) reports that “allegations of fraud and irregularities already cloud the outcome of a long-awaited Nooksack tribal-council election.” Preliminary results “show victory for four incumbents in favor of kicking out hundreds of members.” On Monday, Seattle attorney Gabriel Galanda, “who has long represented those facing disenrollment,” filed a challenge to the results with the tribal election board. Galanda “said he also plans to lodge a protest with the Bureau of Indian Affairs.”

Meanwhile, the [Seattle Times](#) (12/5, Shapiro) reports that “even before the feds sign off on election results for the Nooksack tribe, the chairman said he will move ahead with a renewed attempt to kick out some 300 people he says are not rightfully tribal members.” Nooksack tribal chairman Bob Kelly “said he plans to start a new round of disenrollment hearings this week.”

Omaha Tribe Mismanaged \$13.9 Million In Federal Flood-assistance Grants, Audit Finds.

The [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (12/5, Hammel) reports that “a recent audit slammed the Omaha Tribe for mismanaging \$13.9 million in federal flood-assistance grants, and for ‘contracting with itself’ to generate ‘artificial profits’ that covered its required matching funds.” The Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Inspector General “said that the tribe’s accounting and record-keeping were so ‘unreliable and in such disarray’ that it should receive no further funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency until it can show that repair work was done, and done at a reasonable price.” The inspector general’s report added that “the tribe’s poor record-keeping has been a long-running problem that resulted in sanctions by the Bureau of Indian Affairs from 2011 to 2013.”

9th Circ. Gives Navajo Partial Win In Waters Rights Suit.

[Law360](#) (12/5, Lidgett) reports that “a Ninth Circuit panel on Monday gave the Navajo Nation a partial win in its water rights suit against the U.S. Department of the Interior, ruling that a district court’s dismissal of its breach of trust claim was not warranted, and sent the claim back to the lower court to consider it on its merits.”

Wis. Tribe Seeks Quick Win In Gambling Compact Spat.

[Law360](#) (12/5, Posses) reports that “the Forest County Potawatomi Community on Monday asked a D.C. federal judge to vacate a Bureau of Indian Affairs decision rejecting an amendment to the tribe’s state gambling compact, arguing that the ruling was based largely on the incorrect conclusion that the proposal imposed payment obligations on a rival tribe.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Oil Companies Clamping Down On Methane Leaks.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (12/5, Osborne) reports the American Petroleum Institute announced a voluntary program to reduce methane emissions “even as the Trump administration takes steps to roll back existing environmental regulations targeting those emissions.” Starting next year 26 companies will implement standards that include “employing advanced leak detection technology and replacing older equipment prone to leaks across their U.S. operations.” However, “the announcement did little to assuage criticism of the oil and gas industry for its longstanding fights against climate change regulation, which included fighting the Obama administration’s methane efforts.”

[Reuters](#) (12/5, Gardner) reports the API launched a voluntary program to cut methane emissions from oil and gas operations. Twenty-six companies agreed to the initiative, including Shell, XTO Energy and Pioneer Natural Resources. The firms will look to reduce emissions by plugging leaks, reducing venting at aging wells, and replacing or retrofitting pneumatic controllers. [Bloomberg News](#) (12/5, Dlouhy) reports program participants will provide information on their efforts to the API annually, and then the trade group will release a yearly report containing aggregated information.

Also reporting are [The Hill](#) (12/5, Henry), [Axios](#) (12/5, Harder), [Breaking Energy](#) (12/5, Ratner, Nelson), [Reuters](#) (12/5, Gardner), [PennEnergy](#) (12/5, Snow), and [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (12/5, Bradley).

Trump Admin Takes BLM Methane Fight To Appeals Court.

[E&E Publishing](#) (12/5, Gilmer) reports that the Trump Administration is appealing a federal district court’s ruling in October regarding the Obama-era methane emissions oil and gas industry standards. The legal dispute will have large “implications for both wonky administrative law issues and oil and gas operations across the United States’ public and tribal lands.” The dispute centers around whether the Department of the Interior breached the scope of its authority in using a Administrative Procedure Act measure “to postpone parts of the Bureau of Land Management’s methane venting and flaring rule.”

[The Hill](#) (12/5, Cama) reports that Judge Laporte ruled that agencies can delay a regulation’s “effective date” but cannot delay its “compliance date.” The Department of Justice attorneys that are representing the Department of the Interior “filed a brief notice in the District Court for the Northern District of California late Monday, saying they are asking the Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit to review and overturn the ruling.”

Budd-Falen: Provocateur Or Protector?

The [WyoFile](#) (12/5, Thuermer) reports that “the prospect of Karen Budd-Falen’s appointment to lead the Bureau of Land Management elicits strong reactions across the political spectrum.” Conservationists and environmentalists are concerned that Budd-Falen “would bring a long career of anti-regulatory antagonism to the agency headquarters.” On the other hand, “the ranching community, rural western politicians and multiple-use advocates...view Budd-Falen as a fearless legal champion who’s spent a career fighting for the common man, struggling under the heel of a distant and oppressive federal government.” Meanwhile, “a third view holds that Budd-Falen, who specializes in western land-use conflicts, zealously represents her clients but is tarred with too broad a brush.”

Critics Sue Over Mine Exploration Near Alaska Eagle Preserve.

The [AP](#) (12/5, Joling) reports that “an Alaska Native tribe and three environmental groups sued the U.S. government, claiming an agency granted mineral exploration permits without considering how a mine could affect a major salmon river and bald eagle preserve.” According to the article, “the lawsuit filed Monday by the Chilkat Indian village of Klukwan calls for revocation of the permits granted to Constantine Metal Resources Ltd. upstream of the Chilkat River near the port of Haines in southeast Alaska.” The lawsuit claims the Bureau of Land Management “issued permits after considering the effects of exploration but not of a mine.”

Also reporting are [KTOO-FM Juneau \(AK\)](#) Juneau, AK (12/5, Collins) and [Law360](#) (12/5, Posses).

Grazing Slowly Returns To Land Scorched By 2015 Soda Fire.

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (12/5, Ellis) reports that “Idaho and Oregon ranchers have just recently started to resume grazing their cattle on some of the 279,000 acres of prime range land scorched two years ago by the Soda Fire.” The article notes that “as part of BLM’s post-fire restoration plan, ranchers were not allowed to graze their animals on those allotments for at least two growing seasons following the blaze.” According to Peter Torma, BLM’s Soda Fire project manager, “grazing has resumed this fall on 48 affected pastures and BLM officials expect to make decisions on the remaining 36 pastures by the end of December.”

BLM Expands Brewery Flats Outdoor Lab For Junior-high School Students.

[KRTV-TV](#) Great Falls, MT (12/5) reports that the Bureau of Land Management in partnership with Lewistown Junior High School has expanded the use Brewery Flats as an outdoor classroom. BLM Lewistown Field Manager Pete McFadden said, “By partnering with the BLM, the Lewistown Public Schools continue to expand the learning opportunities afforded their students, and the BLM continues to support the local community by helping educate the next generation of public land users and managers. Connecting kids to public lands connects them to America’s natural and cultural heritage.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

Columbia River Wild Salmon Runs Face Regulatory Hurdles, Political Indifference.

[Forbes](#) (12/6, Holden) reports that the Trump Administration is being urged to approve a management plan for Columbia River wild salmon. However, “it may be a tough sell at a time when the Trump administration seems intent on cutting back its support for public resources, from fish to National Parks.” The article notes that “the situation on the Columbia River is perilous: the salmon--which provided a steady diet for Native American tribes for centuries--have fallen victim to a string of mammoth hydroelectric dams.” Moreover, “The fate of the remaining Columbia River salmon is complicated by tensions between recreational fishermen, commercial gill-netters, and Native American tribes (whose treaty rights to half the fish was reaffirmed by a federal judge in 1974).”

Idaho Ancient Bison Fossils Now Available In 3-D At ISU.

The [Idaho State Journal](#) (12/5) reports that “the Bureau of Reclamation and the Idaho Museum of Natural History (IMNH), which is located on the Idaho State University campus in Pocatello, have partnered to make fossils more available to the public.” Beginning Tuesday, “the 3-D scan models of Bison latifrons specimens are available online to view, download, and print in 3-D.” Jenny Huang, an archaeologist with Reclamation’s Snake River Area Office, said, “The 3-D scanning of the objects is fantastic in and of itself, but by placing the 3-D scans onto an interactive website and making those scan files downloadable, we can get them out to the broader public. We are proud to be able to take our museum property management to the next level by making the collection available to everyone.”

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Remembering The BP Oil Spill, A Disaster Of Historic Proportions.

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (12/5, Pope) reports that a survey of scientists performed by the Associated Press shows that “the Gulf was less healthy than it was before” Transocean’s Deepwater Horizon “calamity, but scientists were mixed on the spill’s long-term impacts on the

Gulf's ecosystem." The spill has spurred changes to drilling operations as "spill cams" are now being used on the ocean's seabed.

Fish And Wildlife Service

House Moderates Opposes Allowing Arctic Oil Drilling In Tax Bill.

[McClatchy](#) (12/5, Daugherty) reports that some moderate House of Representative Republicans sent "a letter to Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell urging the upper chamber to pass a tax bill without oil-drilling concessions in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge." The letter stated that "for decades, Congress has voted to prohibit oil and gas development in the Refuge, with the overwhelming support of the American public." The letter added, "support for this protection remains strong today. After years of debate, the Arctic Refuge stands as a symbol of our nation's strong and enduring natural legacy." The letter was not successful as the plan was passed by the Senate.

The [Adirondack \(NY\) Daily Enterprise](#) (12/5, Cerbone) reports that "Northern New York Congresswoman Elise Stefanik publicly opposed drilling for oil and gas in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge on Friday after advertisements from the Wilderness Society targeted her and 12 other Republican congresspeople, asking them to vote against the Senate's GOP tax bill including a rider for Arctic drilling."

Wildlife Officials Say White-Tailed Prairie Dog In No Danger.

The [AP](#) (12/5) reports that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials "say the white-tailed prairie dog does not need special protections under the Endangered Species Act because it's in no danger of extinction across the U.S. West." Tuesday's announcement "culminates a lengthy review of the squirrel-sized rodent's legal status." [Reuters](#) (12/5, Zuckerman) reports that "the decision was a victory for energy companies and ranchers who could have seen increased restrictions on lands that are open to oil and gas development and livestock grazing."

2018 Plan For Mexican Wolves Calls For Fostering Of Pups.

The [AP](#) (12/5, Bryan) reports that "U.S. wildlife officials have a plan for fostering as many as a dozen captive Mexican gray wolf pups with wild packs in Arizona and New Mexico in 2018." The aim of the proposal released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is to boost genetic diversity among the endangered species." The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (12/5, Hayden) adds that "the plan also provides for the translocation of wolves who stray outside the experimental range or which may be at risk of mating with closely-related wolves in the area."

Federal Wildlife Managers Clear Way For Walmart In Vanishing South Florida Forest.

The [Miami Herald](#) (12/5, Staletovich) reports that "federal wildlife managers on Tuesday cleared the way for a Walmart-anchored strip mall in one of the world's rarest forests, a tract of vanishing pine rockland inhabited by butterflies, bats, snakes and fragile wildflowers found no place else." According to the article, "in approving a conservation plan, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials said they do not expect the sprawling box store and mall, a parking lot or 900 apartments to threaten the survival of more than 20 endangered plants and animals — including the Miami tiger beetle — that live in the pineland." The plan "divides what was once about 90 acres of forest scattered across 138 acres near Zoo Miami into two 20-plus acre preserves connected by a pathway, with the mall and apartments at the center." The article notes that "the plan differs little from the proposal submitted by a Palm Beach County developer two years ago, despite more than 3,000 comments filed by critics with the agency during the review."

National Park Service

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day 2017: What Happened On That Fateful Day 76 Years Ago?

[USA Today](#) (12/5, Diebel) reports that on Thursday, a ceremony will be held at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument to mark the 76th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. According to the article, "in attendance will be Pearl Harbor survivors, World War II veterans, family members and dignitaries."

NPS Predicts Annual Budget Around \$1 Million For Ste. Genevieve Proposal.

The [Ste. Genevieve \(MO\) Herald](#) (12/6) reports that the National Park Service “still anticipates having six to 12 full-time employees on site of a national historical park proposed for Ste. Genevieve with operating costs of between \$800,000 and \$1.2 million per year, according to written testimony provided this month to the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands by Sue Masica, acting deputy director of the NPS in the U.S. Department of the Interior.” According to the article, “Masica made brief comments about the four bills that were on the agenda for the November 15 subcommittee hearing but a longer written statement was submitted to Congress.” Rep. Jason Smith, the bill’s sponsor in the House, “and city of Ste. Genevieve Mayor Paul Hassler spoke in support of the bill, H.R. 2888, to establish a national historical park in Ste. Genevieve.”

Work Begins At Carlsbad Caverns To Replace Elevators.

The [AP](#) (12/6) reports that “the primary elevators that take visitors below ground at Carlsbad Caverns National Park are being modernized as part of a project that began this week at the southern New Mexico tourist destination.” The National Park Service “announced the start of work Tuesday, saying it will include installing new motors and elevator cars as well as repairing and installing guide rails.” The work is “expected to be done by the end of May 2018 at a cost of about \$4.7 million.”

Ioniq Hybrids Donated To National Park Service, Hyundai Says.

The [Fountain Valley \(CA\) Patch](#) (12/5, Ludwig) reports that “six Ioniq Hybrids by Hyundai were donated to the National Parks Service, it was announced on Tuesday by the Fountain Valley, CA automobile manufacturer.” According to the article, “two Ioniqs were given to each park—Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia and North Carolina, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area in California, and National Capital Parks (East) in Washington, D.C.” Reginald Chapple, division chief, Partnerships & Philanthropy, National Park Service, said, “The National Park Service is grateful to Hyundai for this donation, which reflects the long-standing tradition of private sector support for national parks and the National Park Service.”

Yosemite National Park To Deploy Proterra Electric Buses.

[Next-Gen Transportation](#) (12/5, Bebon) reports that “electric bus maker Proterra has announced that Yosemite National Park will add two Proterra Catalyst buses to its fleet.” Yosemite is the first national park to “permanently add zero-emission buses to its shuttle fleet, offering its visitors a modern, ecologically friendly transportation option, according to Proterra.”

Arches National Park Celebrates End Of Massive Road Project With Free Entry This Weekend.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/5, Wharton) reports that Arches National Park will “waive entrance fees Saturday and Sunday to celebrate the recent completion of a monthslong road project that inconvenienced visitors and caused closures much of 2017.” The project took nine months to complete and “replaced roads that were built in the late 1950s and early 1960s.” According to the article, “the \$16 million worth of road work included the resurfacing, restoration and rehabilitation of approximately 23 miles of roads and pullouts, including those along the entrance (U.S. 191) and main roads, in the campground and other spurs and loops.”

Plans To Rehab Old Negro League Baseball Park Taking Shape.

[MLive \(MI\)](#) (12/5, Burns) reports that “officials are making moves toward a plan to renovate the historic Hamtramck Stadium, a still-standing relic from a past when sports were segregated by race.” Hamtramck “hired Smith Group JJR for \$76,900-plus to create a pre-development plan as a precursor to any construction, city planners announced Monday.” Hamtramck “received a \$50,000 National Parks Service African American Civil Rights grant to offset the bulk of the cost.”

When ‘Star Wars’ Came To California: Documents Reveal History Behind Original Film.

[MarketWatch](#) (12/5, Cherney) reports that through the Freedom of Information Act, Marketwarch was able to “discover a bit about what the U.S. government knew about the original ‘Star Wars’ trilogy.” Director George Lucas received approval from the National Park Service to film in Death Valley National Park. Documents “include several photographs from production, as well as permit applications, a pamphlet that offers parkgoers a guided tour of the filming locations and a letter to the California Highway Patrol outlining how the production planned to film one of the scenes.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (12/5, Pereira).

Public Comment Sought On Refinery Proposed Near Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

The [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (12/5, Dalrymple) reports that on Tuesday the North Dakota Department of Health said it will be accepting public comments over a proposed refinery near the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The comments period starts Friday and a public hearing will be held in January. Meridian Energy Group has proposed the project and is likely to meet with the North Dakota PSC on the project's plans on December 19.

Office Of Insular Affairs

Interior Releases \$14.9 M In Guam Compact Aid.

The [Pacific News Center](#) (12/6, Kaye) reports that the Office of Insular Affairs has "released close to 15-million in Guam Compact Aid, a bit more than mandatory funding last year for FAS migrant costs on Guam, but still not what Guam officials argue they're spending." According to the article, "the \$14.9 million in mandatory Compact Impact funding will be split between GovGuam general operations and the Guam Department of Education School Leaseback Program."

US Senator Plans Legislation To Limit Trust Fund Spending.

[Marianas Variety](#) (12/5, Johnson) reports that "in response to appeals from Bikini Atoll leaders, the U.S. Interior Department disengaged from oversight of a dwindling U.S.-provided trust fund last month." On Friday, "just days after the Interior Department policy change," Sen. Lisa Murkowski "weighed in, saying spending from the trust fund must be controlled to ensure its longevity." In a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Murkowski "rebuked Interior for the unilateral decision to wash its hands of trust fund management that she said she learned of 'via a press release.'"

Congressional Delegation Tours St. Croix To Assess Hurricane Damage.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (12/4) reports that "with more congresspeople visiting the USVI in an effort to determine the kind of aid that should be given the territory following Hurricanes Irma and Maria, Governor Kenneth Mapp continues to push for help, telling a U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce who visited St. Croix on Sunday that the territory requires the help of Congress in order to rebuild a stronger and more resilient infrastructure." Mapp "told the congressional leaders that more resources are required than provided for under current laws." He said, "If there is one thing I ask, it's that you seriously consider amending the Stafford Act. We don't just need to rebuild, we need more mitigation and to rebuild for the future."

Pallone Holds Roundtable After Trip To Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands. [My Central Jersey](#) (12/4) reports that Rep. Frank Pallone Jr. "met with local advocates and leaders Monday in the city to discuss his Energy and Commerce Committee Delegation weekend trip to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands." Pallone sought comments "from the advocates on the ongoing post-Hurricane Maria recovery." According to the article, "Pallone's concerns include access to clean drinking water, the restoration of reliable power and the rebuilding of the electric grid, access to healthcare, and ensuring proper use of government funds."

Mapp Plans To Incinerate 35 Percent Of Debris. The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (12/5) reports that "in his hurricane recovery briefing Monday night, Gov. Kenneth Mapp said he is telling the Army Corps of Engineers to begin burning vegetation debris." Mapp said he is following "the advice of his debris management team — Agriculture Commissioner Carlos Robles; Waste Management Authority Director Roger Merritt; Planning and Natural Resources Commissioner Dawn Henry; and Public Works Acting Commissioner Nelson Petty." Mapp "said the first permit for incineration will be issued this week and he expects a second permit to be given by the end of the week."

House Panel: Proposal To 'gGet Back' American Memorial Park Requires Legal Review.

[Marianas Variety](#) (11/29, Villahermosa) reports that "the chairman of the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs said the proposal that the CNMI should acquire the American Memorial Park will require a thorough legal review as it involves the islands' Covenant with the U.S." According to Rep. Gregorio Sablan Jr., chairman of the House committee, "there is a current agreement between the U.S. Department of the Interior and the CNMI government to lease the property to the federal government so it will be managed by the U.S. National Park Service." In a Tuesday meeting, "the committee decided not to take action on the resolution."

House OKs CW-1 Resolution.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (12/5, Sablan) reports that the House of Representatives has unanimously passed "a joint resolution that seeks to have the CW-1 program extended past its 2019 expiration." House Joint Resolution 20-07 now heads to the Senate for consideration.

UN Votes To Nullify Israeli Jurisdiction Over Jerusalem.

[DAWN \(PAK\)](#) (12/3, Haider) reports that "the United Nations General Assembly voted on Thursday to adopt the draft resolution 'Jerusalem' entailing 'that any actions by Israel, the occupying power, to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration on the holy city of Jerusalem were illegal and therefore null and void'." The action "came after reports that the Trump administration was actively considering relocating its embassy to Jerusalem." The article notes that "an overwhelming 151 states voted in favour of adopting the resolution, while six states — Canada, Federated States of Micronesia, Israel, Marshall Islands, Nauru, the United States — voted against the resolution."

Additional coverage was provided by [Egypt Today](#) (12/6, Maguid).

President Moon Calls For Enhanced Ties With Pacific Island Nations.

The [Korea Herald](#) (12/5) reports that South Korean President Moon Jae-in "called for efforts to expand his country's cooperation with Pacific island countries Tuesday to jointly tackle climate change and other various global issues." Moon "had a brief meeting with foreign ministers from 13 Pacific island countries, including Papua New Guinea, Tuvalu, Nauru and Vanuatu, at the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae." The diplomats visiting "for the third South Korea-Pacific Islands Forum foreign ministers' dialogue."

Okeanos Marianas To Represent NMI At Yap Summit.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (12/1, Bautista) reports that "for the first time in eight years, the CNMI will be represented at the annual Yap Canoe Festival at the Yap Living History Museum in Colonia." According to Okeanos Sustainable Sea Transport LTD. managing director Emma Perez, "the Okeanos Marianas will represent the Commonwealth in this year's event."

Air Niugini To Upgrade Services To Cairns, Chuuk And Pohnpei.

[Papua New Guinea Today](#) (12/5) reports that "Papua New Guinea's Airline, Air Niugini will be upgrading its services to Cairns, Australia and Chuuk and Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to cater for demand during the peak period." According to Air Niugini Chief Executive Officer Simon Foo, "ANG will be operating Boeing 737-800 series aircraft instead of the scheduled Fokker 100 and F70 aircraft." Foo explained, "This is to cater for passenger demand during the peak period as there are more seats on the B737, combined with an extra leg room for passenger convenience. There will also be upgraded business class seats on offer for passengers who wish to take those seats."

Australia's Coal-fired Diplomacy Burns Pacific Friends.

In a piece for the [Interpreter \(AUS\)](#) (11/25, Morgan), Wesley Morgan writes that Australia's "promotion of coal exports directly undermines the security of Pacific island countries." A new Foreign Policy White Paper "acknowledges climate change presents a serious threat to small island states and the coming decade will see an increased need for international disaster relief for Pacific island countries." However, "the paper also suggests Australia's economic interests remain tied to coal, the world's dirtiest fossil fuel and a chief driver of climate change."

Additional Coverage: U.S. 'Dome' Of Nuclear Waste In Enewetak Atoll Wreaking Havoc On Indigenous People.

Additional coverage of the threat posed by a nuclear waste site located in Enewetak Atoll, west of the Marshall Islands, was provided by [teleSUR \(VEN\)](#) (12/3).

Office Of Surface Mining

Interior Won't Say What It's Doing With Coal Health Study.

[Bloomberg BNA](#) (12/5, Lee) reports that the Trump Administration isn't "sharing any details about its review of a coal mining study it halted three months ago." According to the article, "Democrats

and environmentalists are becoming increasingly concerned about why the Interior Department remains silent about the National Academy of Sciences study, initiated under President Barack Obama to look into the potential link between coal mining in Appalachia and the health of people living nearby." Critics "castigated Interior's ongoing silence as a notable example of poor government."

US Geological Survey

Agencies Working On Flood Warning Improvements In WV.

The [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (12/5, Ward) reports that "state and federal agencies are working on a proposal they hope will lead West Virginia lawmakers to better fund a network of stream gauges that are important links in the state's flood warning system, lawmakers were told Tuesday." According to the article, "officials from the state Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the West Virginia Conservation Agency told a legislative interim committee that they would have a proposal prepared in time for the committee's next monthly meeting in January, just before the state of the 2018 regular session." The article notes that "the current year's cost of the stream gauge network is about \$1.8 million, with more than three-quarters of that coming from the U.S. Geological Survey and other federal agencies."

Additional Reading.

- *Researchers Trying To Determine How Much Hampton Roads Is Sinking.* [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot](#) (12/5, Adhikusuma).
- *ESPA Groundwater Users Face Flow Meter Deadline.* [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (12/5, O'Connell).

Opinion Pieces

The Right Move On Monuments.

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/5) welcoming President Trump's decision to reduce two national monuments in Utah. The Journal says the move brings an end to federal overreach and restores power to local citizens.,

Time For Trump To Follow Through On Coal Promises In Arizona.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (12/5, Bearson), Darren Bearson, the president of Compass Point Strategies, supports keeping the Navajo Generating Station "open long into the future." Bearson argues that "in Arizona and around the nation, a diverse power grid is essential to energy reliability." Bearson points to an analysis released early last month by Quanta as "perhaps the most sobering perspective yet of the potential impact of closure." According to Bearson, "becoming overly reliant upon a fuel like natural gas weakens the grid because it removes the most reliable and available resource of all from the pool and opens the door to conditions like those outlined in the Quanta study: blackouts, brownouts and looming questions about the stability of the grid."

Additional Reading.

- *Monuments Executive Order: Not The First Time.* [National Review](#) (12/5, Regan).
- *America's Worst Idea: Donald Trump's Dismantling Of Our Natural Heritage.* [Huffington Post](#) (12/5, Sierra).
- *Trump Admin Makes An Odd Argument While Giving Away Federal Land.* [MSNBC](#) (12/5, Benen).
- *Commentary: Trump's Action To Cut Bears Ears Is A Historic Injustice.* [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/6, Bowekaty, Filfred).
- *Editorial: Our Shrinking National Monuments.* [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (12/6).
- *Trump Gives Away Public Lands To Special Interests.* [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (12/5, Morrill).
- *A Monumental Mistake.* [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (12/6).
- *This Land Is Your Land* [Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (12/5).
- *Don't Count On A Utah Shale Oil Boom Despite President Trump Actions.* [USA Today](#).
- *Selling This Cherished Arctic Landscape To The Highest Bidder Is A Grievous Mistake.* [The](#)

[Guardian \(UK\)](#) (12/5, Van Noppen).

- *Upgrading The Indiana Dunes To A National Park Is A Horrible Idea.* [Chicago Tribune](#) (12/6, Nagle).
- *Trump's Criticism Of Big-Game Trophy Hunting Could Help Bring Real Change.* [U.S. News & World Report](#) (12/5, Pacelle).
- *Congress: Use Disaster Relief To Stop Megafires.* [Newton \(IA\) Daily News](#) (11/30, Moats).
- *Michelle Carr & Robert Littiken: Battling Megafires Across Our Country Takes A Toll Here In Illinois.* [Southern Illinoisan](#) (12/6, Carr, Littiken).
- *Connelly: A Settlement Signals Coal's Last Legs In Northwest.* [Seattle Post-Intelligencer](#) (12/6, Connelly).

Top National News

Trump To Recognize Jerusalem As Israel's Capital.

Reports that President Trump is expected to announce Wednesday that the US will recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel cast the move as a major shift in US policy. Outlets also cast the President's decision as being made despite warnings by leaders in the region.

The [New York Times](#) (12/5, A1, Landler, Halbfinger) says the "symbolically fraught move... would upend decades of American policy and upset efforts to broker peace between Israel and the Palestinians." Palestinian officials said Trump told President Mahmoud Abbas that the US would move the embassy to Jerusalem, but American officials "said such a move could not occur immediately for logistical reasons." As a result, Trump is expected to sign a waiver that "would authorize the Administration to keep it in Tel Aviv for an additional six months."

Saying "many fear to inflame tensions in Middle East," [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/5, story 2, 2:20, Holt) reported the President told the leaders of Israel, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the Palestinians on Tuesday he will recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Andrea Mitchell said the move will pit the US and Israel "against most world leaders," and was made "despite warnings from Turkey, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and all NATO allies that this could kill hopes for peace in the Middle East."

[Reuters](#) (12/5) reports Abbas, Jordan's King Abdullah, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Saudi King Salman, "who all received phone calls from Trump, joined a mounting chorus of voices warning that unilateral US steps on Jerusalem would derail a fledgling US-led peace effort and unleash turmoil in the region." Israel, however, welcomed Trump's decision.

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/5, Jacobs) reports that while "many details about what Trump may announce remain vague," both Abbas and Abdullah warned Trump against it, with Abdullah saying it would "have serious implications for security and stability in the Middle East" and will "fuel the feelings of Muslims and Christians." Saudi Arabia's foreign ministry expressed its "deep concerns" about the potential move, while Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan threatened to cut off ties with Israel if Trump goes forward with the move.

The [Jerusalem Post](#) (12/5) reports Palestinian officials described Trump's move as a "death knell" to a two-state solution and "to any US role in its future diplomatic engagement with Israel." [Reuters](#) (12/5) reports state-run media quoted the Saudi king as saying "such a dangerous step is likely to inflame the passions of Muslims around the world."

Bret Baier began [Fox News Special Report](#) (12/5) by saying Trump is preparing to "pull the trigger on a move that allies warn could inflame an already volatile Middle East," and Wolf Blitzer said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (12/5) that once Trump officially announces his decision on Jerusalem, there will be a "very real threat of potentially widespread violence."

The [AP](#) (12/5, Lee, Federman) reports Trump "forged ahead Tuesday with plans to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital despite intense Arab, Muslim and European opposition to a move that would upend decades of US policy and risk potentially violent protests." Administration officials Tuesday, however, were "still debating the particulars of the president's expected speech as they fielded a flood of warnings from allied governments." On the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/5, story 4, 2:25, Glor), Seth Doane said "officials in the Trump Administration have said some of these moves could jump start peace," but "it's unclear when this might happen, if at all."

Calling the move "a momentum shift in US foreign policy," [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/5, story 4, 2:20, Muir) said "some world leaders are very concerned about this move and potential flare-up." Martha Raddatz said as President Trump called Arab leaders, "one after another prompting new alarm. ... Egypt's president saying a move could undermine peace

opportunities. Jordan's king saying it will provoke Muslims and Christians alike, and the Palestinian President calling it unacceptable with various Palestinian factions calling for three days of rage." White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said the five leaders Trump spoke with Tuesday are "hardly indicative of everybody across the globe," but Raddatz noted that "there is no other country in the world that has its embassy in Jerusalem." The [Washington Post](#) (12/5, Morris, Eglash) likewise notes that "no other countries have their embassies in Jerusalem, with a long-standing international consensus that the city's status should be decided in a peace deal between Israelis and Palestinians."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/5, Zavis, Bennett, King) reports that asked later in the day "whether Trump had made up his mind," Sanders said, "The President, I would say, is pretty solid in his thinking at this point." She declined, however, "to say what he had decided, but said the president would make a statement on the policy Wednesday." [Politico](#) (12/5, Restuccia, Toosi) says it is "unclear precisely when Trump intends to move the US Embassy," but "White House aides said the president is determined to eventually move" it.

[USA Today](#) (12/6, Korte) reports Administration officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of Trump's official announcement, said the President would portray the move "as an acknowledgment of a historical and political fact: That Jerusalem has always been Israel's capital city and seat of government." [CNN](#) (12/5, Diamond, Gaouette) likewise reports on its website that the Administration cast the move as a "recognition of reality" that Jerusalem has long been the seat of the Israeli government. The [Washington Times](#) (12/5, Boyer) quotes an Administration official as saying, "It doesn't change the status quo with respect to the holy sites. We are leaving space for the peace process to move forward."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/5, Schwartz, Nissenbaum, Jones) says that by declaring Jerusalem the capital now, Trump can delay the embassy relocation while still fulfilling part of his campaign pledge. Barak Ravid Of Israel's Channel 10 News writes for [Axios](#) (12/5) that "White House officials think Trump's decision to follow through on his campaign promise – even if only partially – strengthens his credibility around the world as a someone who stands by his word, isn't intimidated by threats, and doesn't cave to international pressure."

The [Washington Post](#) (12/5, Morris, Eglash), however, reports European leaders also have urged Trump "not to make any radical changes" regarding the Jerusalem's status. French President Emmanuel Macron "told him in a telephone call that the city's status needed to be decided in peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians," and German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel said in an address that such a decision would have "far-reaching consequences" and could prove "counterproductive."

In addition to world leaders, [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/5, story 2, 2:20, Holt) said the Secretaries of State and Defense also cautioned Trump against the move. Asked if Secretary of State Tillerson is "on board" with the decision, spokeswoman Heather Nauert said, "He has made his position clear to the White House, and the Department of Defense has as well. But it's ultimately the President's decision to make. He's in the charge." NBC said "multiple sources [indicate] that the Vice President and UN Ambassador Nikki Haley both support the decision."

Sen. Richard Blumenthal said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (12/5), "Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, and I've long supported acknowledging that simple fact. So has Congress. ... But there have to be meaningful negotiations to advance the progress of peace." He added that "this issue is very fraught in the Middle East. ... I'm deeply concerned about the threat of terrorist reaction and more fundamentally the reaction on the street, the reaction of the people who compose the population of our allies. I think we need to be on the alert, both here and abroad."

On [CNN's Situation Room](#) (12/5), Rep. Denny Heck (D-WA) said, "I think it's going to both literally and figuratively blow up the peace process in the Middle East. We know it's a bad idea, because every ally and friend we have is telling us it's a bad idea. But it's specifically a bad idea for two reasons. Number one, it's going to engender violence in the short-term. ... But the second, and more important reason, why this is a terrifically bad idea is it is tantamount to the idea of the United States getting up from the bargaining table and walking away."

Kimberly Strassel of the Wall Street Journal said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (12/5), "One of the sticking points always when you get to an Israeli-Palestinian negotiation is this question of Jerusalem. What this does, in moving the capital and actually taking the step, it is an acknowledgment that that is something that the Israelis are never going to budge on and that the United States backs them in. It's also a way of highlighting that the Palestinian focus on this has been an obstruction to moving ahead in negotiations. So, there is an argument to be made that if you get it done and get it over with, you lay the groundwork to then move forward."

Mara Liasson of NPR said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (12/5), "The President will be

fulfilling a campaign promise. He will be making his base very happy, conservative Christians, members of the Jewish community, but I don't know exactly how this increases the momentum for Middle East peace deal."

A [New York Times](#) (12/5) editorial says that while Trump insists he is committed to achieving the "ultimate" Middle East peace agreement, his decision "to tip the scales toward Israel on this critical matter...almost certainly will make an agreement harder to reach by inflaming doubts about America's honesty and fairness as a broker in negotiations, raising new tension in the region and perhaps inciting violence." Though "some optimists think that Mr. Trump could lessen the harm of a decision on Jerusalem by making clear he will not prejudge the future of East Jerusalem or other core questions like the borders of a Palestinian state," the Times says his "track record so far gives little evidence that he has the temperament or skill to navigate such a nuanced position."

Eliora Katz, a former Robert L. Bartley Fellow at the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/5), writes that the symbolism of recognizing Jerusalem as the capital is not worth the instability it will likely cause in the region.

State Department Warns Embassies Of Violence. [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/5, story 2, 2:20, Holt) reported that the State Department is "warning embassies around the world to be alert for violence" in wake of the announcement, and the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/5, story 4, 2:25, Glor) said the State Department is "warning US diplomats and their families to avoid Jerusalem's Old City." amid "fears of violence." The [CBS News](#) (12/5, Shabad) website reports they are also banned from traveling to the West Bank, including Bethlehem and Jericho. The [AP](#) (12/5, Lee, Federman) says the "mere consideration of Trump changing the status quo sparked a renewed US security warning on Tuesday." [Reuters](#) (12/5) also reports the warning.

The [Jerusalem Post](#) (12/5) reports Israeli police and the military are "bracing for possible violence as a result of the developments."

Trump Expects Tax Bill Out Of Conference "Pretty Quickly."

[Reuters](#) (12/5, Rampton) reports in a brief item that President Trump said Tuesday that he "expected the conference committee hammering out tax legislation in Congress will work well and get the job done fast." Before meeting with a group of Senate Republicans, Trump told reporters, "I think something's going to be coming out of conference pretty quickly." The [Washington Times](#) (12/5, Boyer) reports that Trump also "referred to his lunch guests, who included frequent Trump critic Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona, as 'this wonderful group of Republican senators.'" [Politico](#) (12/5, Cook, Lorenzo) reports that Trump told the senators that he would "like the final deal on tax reform to move even faster than the Dec. 22 goal they've set, according to White House officials."

Despite Trump's Claims, Polls Show That GOP Tax Bill Is Unpopular. [CNBC](#) (12/5, Pramuk) reports on its website that though Trump again said on Tuesday that the GOP tax bill is becoming "more popular," polls show little support for the measure. New polls from Gallup and Quinnipiac show just 29% of US adults in support of the bill; Gallup had 56% disapproving, while Quinnipiac had 53% disapproving. [CNN](#) (12/5, Lang) reports on the Quinnipiac poll.

White House Says A Government Shutdown Is Still Possible.

[Reuters](#) (12/5) reports that the White House on Tuesday left open the possibility that a government shutdown could still occur. White House press secretary Sarah Sanders told reporters, "It is always a possibility but it's certainly not what we hope for." The [AP](#) (12/5, Fram, Taylor) says Republican leaders along Senate Minority Leader Schumer and House Minority Leader Pelosi will meet with President Trump at the White House Thursday. Sanders said, "The President hopes to be able to have conversations with them to make sure that doesn't happen." Meanwhile, the AP reports that GOP leaders sought to address divisions within their party "over the budget and a partisan immigration clash simmered in the background." In a move that "underscored the clout conservatives wield within the House GOP," a planned House vote on the temporary spending measure was postponed from Wednesday to Thursday, "buying time to iron out disputes with conservatives seeking tighter budget curbs."

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/5, Wasson) describes "a rebellion" in the GOP over the stopgap measure that would expire Dec. 22, as the House Freedom Caucus threatened Monday "to block progress on President Donald Trump's tax bill unless the group gets support to extend the spending measure to Dec. 30" According to caucus member Jim Jordan, "doing so would give conservatives more leverage over senators who want to add legislation to the stopgap bill." [The Hill](#) (12/5, Marcos) says members of the Freedom Caucus "worry the Dec. 22 deadline would increase the possibility that lawmakers would accept a spending package with extraneous

measures, such as immigration and ObamaCare, to end work and return home for the holidays." [Reuters](#) (12/5, Morgan) reports that House Speaker Ryan said the end date of the continuing resolution "would become known when it reaches the House floor." However, House Rules Chairman Pete Sessions "told reporters his panel would consider a continuing resolution that expires on Dec. 22." Other Republicans "said members were still debating whether the funding would expire on Dec. 22 or on Dec. 30, after the Dec. 25 Christmas holiday."

The [AP](#) (12/5, Taylor) reports that in a bid "to get the attention of House leaders," Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows and several members of the caucus "held back their support" during a "vote to send the all-important tax bill to a House-Senate conference committee." The [Washington Post](#) (12/5, Kane) says that as the Freedom Caucus was "looking for a hostage to grab and knew that this one would get everyone's attention." The "rebellion," the Post says, "was meant to remind...Ryan's leadership team how little faith the conservative wing has in it to negotiate a good deal."

The [Washington Post](#) (12/5, O'Keefe, Debonis) says that while Democrats "vowed to assert maximum leverage over talks to keep the federal government open," they "may not be in sync about what they're fighting for." While liberals in "urban districts and coastal states are vowing to withhold support for a must-pass spending bill if Republicans don't resolve the legal status of young immigrants," moderates "facing reelection in states President Trump won last year are more focused on boosting funding for children's health programs, government-backed pensions and programs to combat opioid abuse." While "Republicans control Congress and the White House," they "need Democrats to keep the government operating." However, "with different midterm election priorities in the House and Senate, Democrats are struggling to fight Republicans on a united front."

Schumer Downplays Possibility Of A Government Shutdown Over DACA. Schumer on Tuesday "batted down suggestions that a fight over" DACA would result in a government shutdown, [The Hill](#) (12/5, Carney) reports. Asked by reporters if Democrats will support the year-end spending bill, Schumer said, "We don't think we're going to get to that. There are good negotiations occurring between Democrats and Republicans to come up with a good DACA program, as well as some good border security."

House Republicans Debating Duration Of Continuing Resolution.

[Reuters](#) (12/5, Morgan) reports that on Tuesday, House Republicans discussed how long a continuing resolution to fund the government should last. The House Freedom Caucus "has pressed Republican leaders to consider a spending measure that expires on Dec. 30, eight days later than the Dec. 22 deadline that House and Senate Republicans have been discussing up to now."

Trump Wants Republicans To Address Welfare Reform After Tax Bill.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/5, Radnofsky) reports that with Republicans about to complete work on tax reform legislation, President Trump wants them to tackle welfare reform next. Trump mentioned the issue during a speech in Missouri last week. While he didn't delve into specifics, the Journal says congressional Republicans have proposed work more stringent work requirements for food stamps and cash assistance.

UN Official's Visit To North Korea Sparks Hope Of Mediation.

[Reuters](#) (12/5, Nichols, Brunnstrom) reports UN political affairs chief Jeffrey Feltman arrived in North Korea Tuesday "for a rare visit that some analysts and diplomats hope could spark a UN-led effort to defuse rising tensions over Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programs." During his four-day visit, Feltman is due to meet Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho to discuss "issues of mutual interest and concern." UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said, "This is broadly a policy dialogue with (North Korea). I think we have to wait and see what comes out." Another [Reuters](#) (12/5) report says Feltman "is not carrying any message from the US government...the State Department said on Tuesday." Spokeswoman Heather Nauert told reporters, "He's not traveling on behalf of the US government and he's not traveling – I want to make this clear – with any kind of message from the US government."

David Ignatius writes in his [Washington Post](#) (12/5) column that the confrontation with North Korea is "nearing another tense inflection point, with North Korea signaling that it could be ready for negotiations with Washington soon, even as it moves toward becoming a full nuclear-weapons power." Pyongyang, he says, "seemingly wants negotiations with the United States, but on its own terms. Analysts speculate that to justify keeping its existing stockpile of several dozen

nuclear weapons, North Korea might promise not to share its nuclear technology with others and not to attack the United States." Washington, he argues, should be "wary of such assurances, given Pyongyang's history of broken promises and proliferation."

B-1B Bombers To Join Exercise In South Korea. [Bloomberg News](#) (12/5, Sharp) reports the US will deploy B-1B Lancer bombers to the Korean Peninsula Wednesday as part of a joint exercise with South Korea, Yonhap News said, "citing an unidentified source." The US Pacific Air Forces spokeswoman Lori Hodge issued a statement "saying it wouldn't discuss future missions for operational security reasons."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Does President Trump Want To Negotiate Middle East Peace?" A [New York Times](#) (12/5) editorial says that while President Trump insists he is committed to achieving the "ultimate" Middle East peace agreement, his decision "to tip the scales toward Israel" by recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and moving the US embassy there "almost certainly will make an agreement harder to reach by inflaming doubts about America's honesty and fairness as a broker in negotiations, raising new tension in the region and perhaps inciting violence." Though "some optimists think that Mr. Trump could lessen the harm of a decision on Jerusalem by making clear he will not prejudge the future of East Jerusalem or other core questions like the borders of a Palestinian state," the Times says his "track record so far gives little evidence that he has the temperament or skill to navigate such a nuanced position."

"Going National With Concealed Guns." The [New York Times](#) (12/5) criticizes a proposed House bill that "would require each state to recognize the 'concealed carry' gun permits of all other states." The Times opines that the bill "fits well with the fantasies of vigilante justice peddled by President Trump in last year's campaign and enthusiastically embraced by the N.R.A." The Times concludes by labeling the legislation as a "dangerous attempt to nationalize concealed-carry against the wishes of safety-minded states."

Washington Post.

"What A Presidential President Would Have Said About The FBI." The [Washington Post](#) (12/5) says in an editorial that "a more presidential president...might have said" that he has "greatest respect for the men and women of the FBI and the Justice Department." Such a president might have added, "Because I am a subject of [Special Counsel Robert Mueller]'s investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election, it would be improper for me to comment on the specifics of the special counsel's work. But in this heated political environment, I feel it's important to emphasize my faith in the honesty and integrity of federal law enforcement."

"Democrats Take A Hard Line On Harassment In Congress. Republicans, Not So Much." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (12/5) says, "Some credit for" Rep. John Conyers' retirement "goes to the Democratic Party, which worked to force" him "out of office after determining" the sexual harassment allegations against him "had merit." The Post says that Democratic leaders have been similarly tough in their handling of claims of sexual harassment against Rep. Ruben Kihuen and Sen. Al Franken. However, says the Post, "Republicans, sad to say, are sending a very different message" with their reaction to the news that Rep. Blake Farenthold "used \$84,000 in taxpayer money to settle a sexual harassment claim against him from his former spokeswoman. ... Where's the outrage? We gather it's in the same place Republicans parked their principles when they decided that helping elect an accused child sex predator to the Senate – or giving a pass to a president who boasted about assaulting women – was okay because it served their political purposes."

"Two Troubling Elections Threaten The Health Of Latin American Democracies." A [Washington Post](#) (12/5) editorial discusses the absence of a US ambassador in Honduras and lack of a State Department assistant secretary for Latin America as its president continues to erode state institutions by trying to claim victory in last week's elections, despite indications his opponent had won. The article also mentions Bolivian Supreme Court's ruling that President Evo Morales could run for a fourth term "despite a constitutional limitation of two terms that was upheld in a referendum last year." The Post writes that "State was quick to criticize the power grab by the leftist Mr. Morales, but on Honduras it has been circumspect, leading some to suspect the administration is content to see Mr. Hernández retain power by any means. That would only

encourage the destabilization of Honduras, along with more attempts to subvert democracy in the Western hemisphere.”

Wall Street Journal.

“No Alternative, No Tax Problem.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/5) backs a repeal of the AMT, which it calls inefficient and punitive.

“The Right Move On Monuments.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/5) editorial welcomes President Trump’s decision to reduce the size of two national monuments in Utah, saying it brings an end to federal overreach and restores power to local citizens.

“Judging Roy Moore.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/5) urges Alabama voters not to elect Republican Senate candidate Roy Moore, arguing that if he wins, Moore will be an albatross to GOP candidates running in the 2018 midterms. The Journal also maintains that a Moore loss would be a positive, in that it would serve as a discrediting blow to ex-White House chief strategist Steve Bannon, who is backing that candidate and has vowed to target most every GOP Senate incumbent in 2018.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[In Wedding-Cake Case, Justices Weigh Clash Between Gay Rights And Religion](#)
[Mueller Subpoenas Deutsche Bank Records Related To Trump](#)
[Russia Barred From 2018 Winter Olympics Due To Doping](#)
[Behind The Murdochs’ Sale Talks: Scale, Price And Family Dynamics](#)

New York Times:

[US To Recognize Jerusalem As Israel’s Capital, Trump Says, Alarming Middle East Leaders](#)
[Trump’s Endorsement Of Roy Moore Points Up A GOP Problem: Chaos](#)
[Russia Banned From Winter Olympics By IOC](#)
[Weinstein’s Complicity Machine](#)
[Justices Sharply Divided In Gay Rights Case](#)
[The CHIP Program Is Beloved. Why Is Its Funding In Danger?](#)
[Tens Of Thousands Evacuate As Southern California Fires Spread](#)

Washington Post:

[Border Arrests Drop To Historic Low, DHS Says](#)
[“Very Dangerous” Fires Explode In Southern Calif.](#)
[Trump’s Support For Moore Breaks Another Party Norm](#)
[Besieged Conyers Ends His Long Tenure](#)
[Russia Is Banned From Winter Olympics For Doping Program](#)
[Trump To Order Move Of Embassy To Jerusalem](#)

Financial Times:

[Saakashvili Freed From Ukraine Police Van Hours After Arrest](#)
[James Murdoch Tipped For Disney Role In Fox Deal](#)
[Abbas And Abdullah Warn Trump Against Moving Embassy To Jerusalem](#)
[Deutsche Bank Sends Trump Financial Details To Mueller Investigation](#)

Washington Times:

[Team Obama Attempted ‘Stealth Coup’ By Undermining Trump](#)
[Severe Flu Season Expected With Less-Effective Vaccine Nearly A Century After Deadliest Pandemic](#)
[How Trump Turned Tide Of Illegal Immigration In First Year: Border Crossing Hits 45-Year Low](#)
[Iran Nears Completion Of ‘Shiite Crescent’ Across Middle East: Land Bridge To Pose U.S. Challenges](#)
[Justice Kennedy Sees Merits From Both Sides, Likely To Swing Ruling In Case Of Same-Sex Wedding Cake](#)
[Roy Moore Gets Praise From Bannon After Endorsements From Trump, RNC](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: California Wildfires; Trump-Israel; Russia Meddling Investigation; Roy Moore Campaign; Conyers Resigns; IOC-Russia; JFK Airport Close Call; Weather Forecast; SCOTUS-Same-Sex Marriage; Baltimore Home Explosion; Jimmy Kimmel's Son; Police Rescue.

CBS: California Wildfires; JFK Airport Close Call; Trump-Israel; IOC-Russia; Conyers Resigns; SCOTUS-Same-Sex Marriage; Roy Moore Campaign; FBI Agent-Hillary Email Statement; Undocumented Immigrants Arrests; BitCoin Investment; Olaf Short Movie; Mars-Round Rocks; Photographer Historian.

NBC: California Wildfires; Trump-Israel; IOC-Russia; Russia Meddling Investigation; Conyers Resigns; Roy Moore Campaign; SCOTUS-Same-Sex Marriage; Holiday Toy Shopping; Weather Forecast; Baltimore Home Explosion; Space Pizza Delivery; Christmas Celebration.

Network TV At A Glance:

California Wildfires – 12 minutes, 55 seconds

Trump-Israel – 7 minutes, 5 seconds

Conyers Resigns – 5 minutes, 15 seconds

Russia Meddling Investigation – 4 minutes, 55 seconds

SCOTUS-Same-Sex Marriage – 4 minutes, 20 seconds

Roy Moore Campaign – 3 minutes, 30 seconds

IOC-Russia – 3 minutes, 20 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Trump-Israel; Russia Meddling Investigation; California Wildfires; Tax Reform Plan.

CBS: Trump-Israel; California Wildfires; Roy Moore Campaign; SCOTUS-Same-Sex Marriage; IOC-Russia; Obama-Climate Change.

FOX: Trump-Israel; UK-Attack Foiled; Roy Moore Campaign; IOC-Russia.

NPR: California Wildfires; Trump-Israel; Honduras Presidential Election; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Holds a Cabinet Meeting; gives a statement on Jerusalem.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Aging Committee hearing on the nation's aging workforce – Hearing on 'America's Aging Workforce: Opportunities and Challenges', with testimony from AARP Foundation Litigation Senior Attorney Laurie McCann; retrained manufacturing employee Ralph Jellison; and retrained human resources employee Lisa Motta Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 562, Washington, DC <http://aging.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on firearms and the National Instant Criminal Background Check System – Hearing on 'Firearm Accessory Regulation and Enforcing Federal and State Reporting to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS)' * Follows Las Vegas mass shooter Stephen Paddock's use of a 'bump stock' (which allows semi-automatic weapons to conduct automatic gunfire), and the U.S. Air Force's failure to report Sutherland Springs, TX, mass shooter Devin Kelley's 'bad conduct' discharge to the FBI Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Homeland Security Committee hearing on 'defending the homeland against the evolving international terrorist threat' – Hearing on 'Adapting to Defend the Homeland Against the Evolving International Terrorist Threat', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations/Low-Intensity Conflict Mark Mitchell; National Counterterrorism Center Acting Director for Intelligence Lora Shiao; FBI Deputy Assistant Director for Counterterrorism Nikki Floris; and Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence and Analysis Robin Taylor Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 342, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

10:00 AM Nominations hearing considers R.D. James to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 406, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

1:00 PM Bicameral Dems and families of gun violence victims speak out against 'Arm Anyone' concealed-carry legislation – Democrats Sens. Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy, along with Reps. Elizabeth Esty, Jerrold Nadler, Mike Thompson, and Sheila Lee join family

members of gun violence victims from 20 states, and gun violence prevention advocates to speak out against the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017, legislation that 'would allow more dangerous criminals and untrained individuals to carry loaded, hidden guns in public places by forcing states with strong concealed carry laws to honor permits from states with weak or non-existent standards'. Other attendees include Newtown Action Alliance Chair Po Murray, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America founder Shannon Watts, States United to Prevent Gun Violence National Director Victoria Coy, and Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence President Kris Brown * Press conference is held ahead of the Fifth Annual National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Washington, DC Location: House Triangle, Washington, DC <http://www.blumenthal.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenBlumenthal>

1:00 PM ITIF releases 'A Policymaker's Guide to Developing a National Competitiveness Strategy' – Information Technology and Innovation Foundation releases 'A Policymaker's Guide to Developing a National Competitiveness Strategy' at a Capitol Hill event, with speakers – Democratic Sen. Chris Coons, Brookings Institution Metropolitan Policy Program Policy Director Mark Muro, McKinsey Global Institute partner Sree Ramaswamy, and George Washington University Research Professor Andrew Reamer – examining the issue of competitiveness, explaining how conventional economic advice leads policymakers astray, and offering specific steps for the federal govt to stem the recent decline in U.S. economic competitiveness Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC-209, Washington, DC www.itif.org [#ITIFcompetitiveness](https://twitter.com/ITIFdc)

2:30 PM Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee hearing on countering terrorism in North Africa – Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism Subcommittee hearing on 'Beyond ISIS: Countering Terrorism, Radicalization, and Promoting Stability in North Africa', with testimony from State Department Ambassador-At-Large and Coordinator for Counterterrorism Amb. Nathan Sales; and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Joan Polaschik Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 419, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Business Meeting, to consider 'S. 1870, the Securing Urgent Resources Vital to Indian Victim Empowerment (SURVIVE) Act' Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 628, Washington, DC <http://indian.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/IndianCommittee>

2:30 PM Senate Environment and Public Works subcommittee hearing on cleanup following natural disasters – Superfund, Waste Management, and Regulatory Oversight Subcommittee hearing on 'Challenges Facing Superfund and Waste Cleanup Efforts Following Natural Disasters', with testimony from Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Chairman Bryan Shaw; University of Houston Law Center Professor Tracy Hester; and California Environmental Protection Agency Secretary Matthew Rodriguez Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 406, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

2:30 PM Senate Indian Affairs Committee legislative hearing – Legislative hearing on 'S. 664 Navajo Utah Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017' and 'S. 1770 Hualapai Tribe Water Rights Settlement Act of 2017' Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 628, Washington, DC <http://indian.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/IndianCommittee>

4:00 PM Annual Taste of Delaware celebration on Capitol Hill – Delaware State Chamber of Commerce Annual Taste of Delaware celebration (aka Delaware's 'Party on the Hill'), honorary co-hosted by Democratic Sen. Chris Coons, with 24 hospitality businesses (restaurants, bakeries, breweries, and wineries) from around the state slated to showcase their produce Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Kennedy Caucus Rm, Washington, DC www.dsc.com <https://twitter.com/destatechamber>

5:00 PM U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree lighting ceremony – 2017 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree lit by House Speaker Paul Ryan * The Capitol Christmas Tree has been a tradition since 1964, and this year's tree was chosen from Kootenai National Forest in Montana Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.aoc.gov/> <https://twitter.com/uscapitol>

US House: 10:00 AM House Energy and Commerce Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 453, Relief from New Source Performance Standards Act of 2017', 'H.R. 350, Recognizing the Protection of Motorsports Act of 2017', 'H.R. 1119, Satisfying Energy Needs and Saving the Environment (SENSE) Act', 'H.R. 1733, To direct the Secretary of Energy to review and update a report on the energy and environmental benefits of the re-refining of used lubricating oil', 'H.R. 1917, Blocking Regulatory Interference from Closing Kilns (BRICK) Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2872, Promoting Hydropower Development at Existing Nonpowered Dams Act', 'H.R. 2880, Promoting Closed-Loop Pumped Storage Hydropower Act', and a resolution regarding subcommittee membership Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Science subcommittee hearing on NSF Innovation Corps – Research and Technology Subcommittee hearing on ‘From Lab to Market: A Review of NSF Innovation Corps’, with testimony from National Science Foundation Assistant Director for Engineering Dr Dawn Tilbury; Stanford University Adjunct Professor of Management Science and Engineering Steve Blank; University of Maryland Associate Vice President for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Dr Dean Chang; and University of California-Santa Cruz Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurial Development Director Dr Sue Carter Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2318, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee legislative hearing on ‘H.R. 4465, Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Extension Act of 2017’, with testimony from Republican Rep. John Curtis; Utah Department of Natural Resources Director of Recovery Programs Henry Maddux; The Nature Conservancy Senior Water Policy Advisor Jimmy Hague; and Colorado Springs Utilities Government and Corporate Affairs Manager Andrew Colosimo Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Financial Services subcommittee latest hearing on housing finance reform – Housing and Insurance Subcommittee hearing on ‘Sustainable Housing Finance: Private Sector Perspectives on Housing Finance Reform, Part IV’, with testimony from Alliance Bernstein Director of US Multi-Sector and Securitized Assets Michael Canter; University of Pennsylvania Wharton School Professor of Real Estate and Finance Dr Susan Wachter; Guy Carpenter & Company Managing Director Jeffrey Krohn; Arch Capital Group Global Mortgage Group CEO Andrew Rippert; and Mortgage Guaranty Insurance Corporation CEO Patrick Sinks (on behalf of U.S. Mortgage Insurers) Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Workforce subcommittee hearing on workplace leave policies – Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee hearing on ‘Workplace Leave Policies: Opportunities and Challenges for Employers and Working Families’, with testimony from IBM Corporation Vice President for Human Resources and Business Development Barbara Brickmeier (on behalf of U.S. Chamber of Commerce); Independent Women’s Forum President Carrie Lukas; Montgomery County Council (MD) Vice President Hans Riemer; and Safety National Vice President of Human Resources Angela Schaefer (on behalf of Society for Human Resource Management) Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2175, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on advancing human rights to combat extremism – Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee hearing on ‘Advancing Human Rights to Combat Extremism’, with testimony from Georgetown University Religious Freedom Research Project Director Dr Thomas Farr; The Institute of World Politics founder and President Dr John Lenczowski; and Islamic Society of North America Office of Interfaith and Community Alliances Senior Advisor Dr Sayyid Syeed Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

12:00 PM House expected to debate short-term govt funding extension – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include ‘H.J.Res. 123 – Continuing Appropriations Act, 2018’ and ‘H.R. 38 – Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017’ Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

1:00 PM Bicameral Dems and families of gun violence victims speak out against ‘Arm Anyone’ concealed-carry legislation – Democrats Sens. Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy, along with Reps. Elizabeth Esty, Jerrold Nadler, Mike Thompson, and Sheila Lee join family members of gun violence victims from 20 states, and gun violence prevention advocates to speak out against the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017, legislation that ‘would allow more dangerous criminals and untrained individuals to carry loaded, hidden guns in public places by forcing states with strong concealed carry laws to honor permits from states with weak or non-existent standards’. Other attendees include Newtown Action Alliance Chair Po Murray, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America founder Shannon Watts, States United to Prevent Gun Violence National Director Victoria Coy, and Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence President Kris Brown * Press conference is held ahead of the Fifth Annual National Vigil for All Victims of Gun Violence at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in Washington, DC Location: House Triangle, Washington, DC <http://www.blumenthal.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenBlumenthal>

2:00 PM Richard Gere testifies to House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on Tibet – Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee hearing on ‘U.S. Policy Toward Tibet: Access, Religious Freedom, and Human Rights’, with testimony from International Campaign for Tibet Chair of the

Board of Directors Richard Gere; Radio Free Asia Tibetan Service Director Tenzin Tethong; and National Endowment for Democracy President Carl Gershman Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on Brexit – Europe, Eurasia, and Emerging Threats Subcommittee hearing on 'Brexit: A Negotiation Update', with testimony from Heritage Foundation Margaret Thatcher Center for Freedom Director Dr Nile Gardiner; U.S. Chamber of Commerce Vice President for European Affairs and U.S.-U.K. Business Council Executive Director Marjorie Chorlins; and Brookings Institution Center on the United States and Europe Director Dr Thomas Wright Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2200, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

2:00 PM House Space subcommittee hearing on NASA's next four large telescopes – Space Subcommittee hearing on 'NASA's Next Four Large Telescopes', with testimony from NASA Associate Administrator for the Science Mission Directorate Dr Thomas Zurbuchen; Government Accountability Office Director of Acquisition and Sourcing Management Cristina Chaplain; former NASA Goddard Space Flight Center Director / former Martin Marietta Corporation President and COO A. Thomas Young; Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy President Dr Matt Mountain; and University of California-Berkeley Professor Emeritus of Astronomy Dr Chris McKee (on behalf of National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine) Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2318, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

2:30 PM Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on Egypt – Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on 'Egypt: Human Rights Seven Years After the Revolution', with witnesses – Project on Middle East Democracy Deputy Director for Research Amy Hawthorne, Coptic Solidarity President George Gurguis, former Human Rights Watch Middle East and North Africa Division Deputy Director Joe Stork, and Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Middle East Program Director Michele Dunne – presenting testimony addressing the different aspects of the human rights situation in Egypt, and offering recommendations on how the U.S. Govt can more effectively engage the Egyptian Govt on the issues Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2255, Washington, DC <http://tlhrc.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/TLHRCommission>

3:00 PM Congressional Black Caucus presents 'Black Business Owners in the Green Economy' roundtable – Congressional Black Caucus presents 'Black Business Owners in the Green Economy' roundtable discussion, with participants including Democratic Rep. Donald McEachin, U.S. Black Chambers President and CEO Ron Busby, Volt Energy co-founder Gilbert Campbell, Windjammer Environmental CEO Damien Hammond, NspireGreen co-founder and partner Chancee Lundy, Aldelano Corporation COO Nicole Smith, and Bithenergy CEO Robert Wallace Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1539, Washington, DC <https://cbc.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/OfficialCBC>

3:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 477, the Small Business Mergers, Acquisitions, Sales, and Brokerage Simplification Act of 2017' and 'H.R. 3971, the Community Institution Mortgage Relief Act of 2017' Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

3:00 PM Dem Rep. Nancy Pelosi's annual Holiday Reception for the Capitol Press Corps – House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi's annual Holiday Reception for the Capitol Press Corps * Invite only Location: U.S. Capitol, H-207, Washington, DC <http://www.democraticleader.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/NancyPelosi>

5:00 PM U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree lighting ceremony – 2017 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree lit by House Speaker Paul Ryan * The Capitol Christmas Tree has been a tradition since 1964, and this year's tree was chosen from Kootenai National Forest in Montana Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.aoc.gov/> <https://twitter.com/uscapitol>

Other: 8:00 AM International Religious Freedom conference continues – Order of St. Andrew, Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate International Religious Freedom conference continues, with U.S. officials, Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, and other Christian groups addressing the persecution of Christians in the Middle East and North Africa. Day three speakers including former White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus and Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, before Farewell Dinner with remarks from Republican Rep. Ed Royce Location: Trump International Hotel Washington, D.C., 1100 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC conference.archons.org
<https://twitter.com/OrderStAndrew>

8:15 AM GOP Sen. Thom Tillis keynotes CFR symposium on 'hacked elections' and the 'threat to democracy' – 'Hacked Elections, Online Influence Operations, and the Threat to

Democracy' Council on Foreign Relations Symposium, with speakers discussing the problems facing election cybersecurity, recommendations to protect the integrity of elections from cyber threats, how the U.S. and the tech community can respond to foreign actors' use of online platforms to propagate disinformation and amplify specific viewpoints, and what foreign policy responses are at the U.S. disposal to respond to Russia's interference in the 2016 U.S. election. Includes keynote from Republican Sen. Thom Tillis Location: Council on Foreign Relations, 1777 F St NW, Washington, DC www.cfr.org https://twitter.com/CFR_org #CFRLive

9:00 AM Feminist Majority 'Women Money Power' summit and luncheon – Feminist Majority / Feminist Majority Foundation 'Women Money Power' summit and 30th anniversary luncheon, honoring Democrats Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Mazie Hirono and Reps. Niki Tsongas and Maxine Waters Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC www.feministmajority.org <https://twitter.com/FemMajority>

2:00 PM Bicameral Dems call on FCC to 'rescind plan to eviscerate net neutrality' – Democrats Sen. Ed Markey and Rep. Anna Eshoo call on Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai to 'rescind his proposal to eviscerate the net neutrality protections before the Commission's vote on 14 Dec', via press conference with former FCC General Counsel Jon Sallet Location: TBD www.markey.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/MarkeyMemo>

3:00 PM Global Forum on Asset Recovery Closing Session – Global Forum on Asset Recovery Closing Session and press conference, hosted by the U.S. and the UK with support from the Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative. Participants during event include Attorney General Jeff Sessions, UK Minister for Countering Extremism Baroness Williams of Trafford, Nigerian Attorney General and Minister of Justice Abubakar Malami, Sri Lankan Attorney General Jayantha Jayasuriya, Tunisian Minister of State Domains and Land Affairs Mabrouk Korchid, and Ukrainian Prosecutor General Yuriy Vitaliyovych Lutsenko Location: World Bank IFC, 2121 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC star.worldbank.org/star/about-us/global-forum-asset-recovery-gfar <https://twitter.com/returningassets> #GFAR2017

6:00 PM International LGBTQ Leaders Conference opening reception – International LGBTQ Leaders Conference opening reception, with speakers including Democratic Reps. Jared Polis and Maxine Waters, Florida State Rep. Carlos Guillermo Smith, and Victory Fund and Institute President and CEO Aisha Moodie-Mills Location: AJAX, 1011 4th St NW, Washington, DC www.lgbtleaders.org <https://twitter.com/VictoryFund>

First Lady Melania Trump and Second Lady Karen Pence to Visit Texas for Continued Hurricane Relief – First Lady Melania Trump and Second Lady Karen Pence to Visit Texas for Continued Hurricane Relief. Upon arrival to Corpus Christi, the two will participate in a meet-and-greet with first responders who are part of the Hurricane Harvey recovery effort. They will then travel to Rockport, Texas to meet with a family whose home was destroyed in the hurricane, and tour the home's remains; see the family's new Manufactured Housing Unit, provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which will serve as the family's temporary residence until they can move into a new, rebuilt home; and then visit a local elementary school, touring classrooms and speaking with faculty and students about the hurricane. The two women will conclude their day in Texas with a stop at a local food bank to meet with volunteers and help sort boxes of donations. Location: TBDc

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Stephen Colbert: "But not every Republican is throwing their support behind Moore. GOP Senator Jeff Flake just tweeted out a photo of a check for \$100 to Roy Moore's opponent, Doug Jones, with a memo line that reads, 'Country over party.' Wow! I can't believe that someone still uses checks. Remind me not to get behind Jeff Flake at the grocery store."

Stephen Colbert: "Of course, it hasn't been all defending pedophiles for Donald Trump. He's also been assaulting Mother Nature. Yesterday, he signed an order slashing the size of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments. It's reasonable that he doesn't care about them. They're just national monuments. They're not Confederate monuments. ... But on the bright side, 'Escalante' is the first time he's ever spoken Spanish."

Stephen Colbert: "Several Native American tribes are suing, in part because it's estimated that Bears Ears alone holds more than 100,000 native American cultural and archaeological sites. You know, if Trump goes ahead with this plan, I'm worried that Native Americans will stop trusting the

federal government.”

James Corden: “Russia has been banned from the upcoming Winter Olympics for the use of performance-enhancing drugs. And this is nice. Russia was also banned from participating in the next presidential election.”

James Corden: “In other news, yesterday, Donald Trump went to Utah and signed proclamations to reduce the size of two protected areas, which are basically like national parks. How dare Donald Trump steal this land from the American people, after they rightfully stole it from the Native American people!”

James Corden: “Trump lost out on Twitter’s list of the year’s most popular re-tweets. But today, he claimed he still won in the re-tweet electoral college.”

Jimmy Fallon: “Russia was banned from the Olympics. But Russia doesn’t mind – they said they’ll just invade some other teams.”

Seth Meyers: “Following multiple allegations of sexual harassment, Representative John Conyers announced today that he would not seek re-election, and endorsed his son to replace him in Congress, while President Trump has endorsed his son to replace him in the Russia investigation.”

Conan O’Brien: “Russia has been banned from the Winter Olympics. Yeah. But don’t feel bad, Russia, even though you won’t win any gold medals, you did win the US presidential election.”

Conan O’Brien: “A new report says that Mike Pence’s wife thinks that Donald Trump is totally vile. Yeah. Coincidentally, Donald Trump’s wife thinks Donald Trump is totally vile.”

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



DATE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2017 6:00 AM EST

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DOI In The News

- Associated Press: Protesters Call National Park Plan For Utah Monument A Ploy.
- Arizona Republic: Court Upholds Obama-Era Ban On Uranium Mining Near Grand Canyon.
- Houston Chronicle: Trump Delays Offshore Drilling Announcement.
- E&E Publishing: Questions Hover Over Zinke's Defense Of Helicopter Trip .
- Huffington Post: Top Interior Official Stayed At Montana Resort That Secretary Zinke's Billionaire Friend And Donor Owns.
- Washington Post: Patagonia Is Suing The President – And Drawing Ire From Republicans In Congress.
- Bangor (ME) Daily News: Maine Has A Stake In Another National Monument Due For Big Changes

Under Zinke.

- Bloomberg News: Acting Trump Brass Who've Stuck Around Too Long May Draw Rebuke.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Pueblos, County, Feds Agree On Rights Of Way.

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- Law360: Calif., NM Urge Judge To Nix Challenges To BLM Flaring Rule.
- Las Vegas Sun: 2 New Solar Plants Boost Switch Operations, State's Clean Energy Outlook.
- Associated Press: Agency Consents To Coal Lease Expansions In Western Colorado.
- KOLO-TV Reno (NV): BLM Approves Sun Valley School Campus Project.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Reclamation To Lower Lake Moovalya In January 2018 For Annual Maintenance Activities.

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

- Angelle Touts Trump's Six-Step Approach For Jump-Starting Gulf Of Mexico Oil Drilling.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- The Hill: Butterfly Group Sues Trump Administration Over Border Wall.
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- KPAX-TV Missoula (MT): Grizzly Bear Management Meeting Held In Missoula.
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- New York Times: St. Louis Reconnects With The Gateway Arch And Its Pioneer Spirit.
- KUTV-TV Salt Lake City: Intense Bighorn Operation Underway In Zion To Replenish Utah Herds.
- Baton Rouge (LA) Advocate: 'Dream Big': Denham Springs Residents Weigh In On What They'd Like City Parks To Provide.
- Associated Press: Camping Fee At Chiricahua National Monument Rising.
- Asheville (NC) Citizen-Times: Great Smoky Mountains National Park Cabins Damaged By Arson.
- Salem (MA) Gazette: Salem Custom House Gets \$130K Facelift.
- Pensacola (FL) News Journal: Escambia Likely To OK \$1.6M Bid For Dock.
- New Jersey Herald: Acting Superintendent Named For Water Gap Park Recreation Area.
- Associated Press: Wells County Village Of Manfred Recognized For Its History.

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- Trump's Mining Regulator Nominee Was Once Dropped By The Agency For Doing "Junk" Work.

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- KNOX-FM Thompson (ND): ND Oil Assessment.
- Vice: 2 Million Snakes Have Taken Over The Island Of Guam.
- Additional Reading.

Opinion Pieces

- Rep. Andy Barr: Trump Should Follow Through On Camp Nelson Designation.
- In Our Opinion: A New Utah National Park Leaves Too Many Questions Unanswered.
- Protect Antiquities, But Stop Government Overreach: Paher And Cobb.
- Say No To Seismic Blasting And Drilling In The Atlantic.
- EDITORIAL: The Bureau Of Land Management Should Stop Dragging Its Feet On Ash Springs.
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- The Hill: Media Analyses: Jones' Win A Rebuke To Trump, Bannon.
- Washington Times: White House: Must Have Mind "In The Gutter" To See Sexism In Trump Tweet.

- New York Times: FBI Agent In Russia Probe Called Trump An "Idiot," Told Colleague Clinton "Just Has To Win."
- Associated Press: Tax Reform Negotiators Closing In On Agreement.
- Reuters: Tillerson Offers To Begin Talks With North Korea Without Pre-Conditions.
- Wall Street Journal: WSJournal A1: Investigation Reveals Thousands Of Fake Comments On Regulations.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "Roy Moore Loses, Sanity Reins."
 - "Who Bought That \$50 Million Leonardo After All?"
 - "Fox News v. Robert Mueller."
- Washington Post.
 - "Vote On The 'Dreamers.' Now."
 - "There's A Deadly New Threat From North Korea."
 - "At The Supreme Court, The Cake Baker's Reasoning Falls Flat."
- Wall Street Journal.
 - "A Google vs. Amazon Antitrust Lesson."
 - "Canada's Healthcare Queues."
 - "Illinois Drives People Away."

Big Picture

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Washington Schedule

- Today's Events In Washington.

Last Laughs

- Late Night Political Humor.

DOI In The News

Protesters Call National Park Plan For Utah Monument A Ploy.

The [AP](#) (12/12, McCOMBS) reports that environmental organizations on Tuesday slammed a legislative proposal by Rep. Chris Stewart "that would create a small national park within the recently downsized Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, calling it nothing more than a ruse to try to appease conservationists and open more land for mining and grazing." David Nimkin of the National Parks Conservation Association, said, "This proposal is really an insidious, cynical ploy to undo the protections that we feel are critical." However, Stewart "scoffed at the notion that his proposal is a ploy and said he doesn't understand how anyone would object to creating a sixth national park in Utah."

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/13, Maffly) reports that environmentalists are opposing Stewart's "Grand Staircase Escalante Enhancement Act" because "it seeks to write into law President Donald Trump's recent proclamation slicing the former national monument by half — and puts Kane and Garfield county commissioners in charge of what's left."

Additional coverage was provided by [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (12/12, Romboy).

Court Upholds Obama-Era Ban On Uranium Mining Near Grand Canyon.

The [Arizona Republic](#) (12/12, Bowling) reports that the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals on Tuesday "upheld a 20-year ban on new uranium mining on public land near the Grand Canyon, while also striking down a challenge to an existing uranium mine south of Grand Canyon National Park." The court "ruled that the ban, imposed in 2012 under former president Obama, lines up with the Constitution and federal environmental laws." The Republic notes, however, that the court "ruled that a mine 6 miles south of the national park had a right to operate. 'We upheld the decision of the secretary of the Interior to withdraw, for 20 years, more than 1 million acres of public lands around Grand Canyon National Park from new mining claims,' the opinion states." The ban "was put in place by the U.S. Department of the Interior under former secretary Ken Salazar," and "it came as mining operations were renewing their interest in uranium deposits near the canyon."

The [AP](#) (12/12, Fonseca) reports that the National Mining Association, "among those

challenging the ban, said it was disappointed with the ruling and is exploring its options." Meanwhile, "conservationists say the ban is crucial for protecting water and the Grand Canyon, a national park visited by more than 5 million people a year."

Also reporting are the [Washington Post](#) (12/12, Eilperin), the [Casa Grande \(AZ\) Dispatch](#) (12/12, Fischer), [Courthouse News](#) (12/12, Ross), [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (12/12, Walters), and [KNAU-FM Flagstaff \(AZ\)](#) Flagstaff, AZ (12/12, Heinsius).

Mining Officials Urge Congress To Open Federal Lands. The [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (12/13, Myers) reports that "U.S. mining industry officials testified in House and Senate committees in Washington Tuesday, telling lawmakers that withdrawing federal land from mining is bad domestic policy." The article notes that "the testimony comes after the U.S. House last week passed a bill that would undo an Obama administration dictate that closed 234,000 acres of the Superior National Forest to mining activities because of the potential negative impact to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness." It also "came just as the 9th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals announced its decision upholding a federal withdrawal of nearly 1 million acres from uranium mining near Grand Canyon National Park."

Trump Delays Offshore Drilling Announcement.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (12/12, Osborne) reports the release of the Trump Administration's five year offshore drilling plan will be rescheduled to a future date due to unspecified reasons. The plan, which was scheduled to be released today, is expected to allow for drilling in the Atlantic Ocean.

Nelson Pushes Legislation Blocking Drilling In Atlantic. [USA Today](#) (12/12, King) reports Florida Sen. Bill Nelson is pushing legislation to block oil drilling off the East Coast through 2020 despite suggestions the Trump Administration is looking to open the Atlantic to drilling as early as 2019. Nelson said, "Why is the Department of Interior in such a rush. ... The answer is because the oil industry wants to start drilling in these areas now, and the Trump administration is going to let them do it."

Questions Hover Over Zinke's Defense Of Helicopter Trip .

[E&E Publishing](#) (12/12, Doyle) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Saturday defended his use of government helicopters for travel, writing on Twitter that his helicopter usage included "an aerial survey of power line project which was under scrutiny for possible compensation mitigation corruption from the previous administration." The trip and tweet in question relate to Dominion Energy's Surry-Skiffes Creek transmission line. Dominion Energy spokeswoman Bonita Billingsley Harris said, "We received all the permits and have begun building this urgently needed transmission project in the best interest of bringing cleaner, more reliable energy to the Peninsula and the people who depend on it." Billingsley Harris added, "We were informed about Secretary Zinke's helicopter tour over the Surry-Skiffes Creek transmission line project as a courtesy, but we were not involved in coordinating the visit."

Top Interior Official Stayed At Montana Resort That Secretary Zinke's Billionaire Friend And Donor Owns.

The [Huffington Post](#) (12/12, Vardi) reports that acting director of the Bureau of Land Management Michael Nedd in June attended a Western Governors' Association in Whitefish, Montana and stayed at the Whitefish Mountain Resort, which is owned by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "friend and donor William Foley." A BLM spokesperson has "confirmed that Nedd paid out of pocket the difference between the government authorized per diem expense and the actual resort rate." According to the article, "asked about arrangements for the lodging and why staff stayed at a resort owned by Zinke's friend and donor, a spokesperson for the Interior Department referred HuffPost to BLM, adding that Zinke did not stay at the Whitefish Mountain Resort on that trip."

Patagonia Is Suing The President – And Drawing Ire From Republicans In Congress.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/12, Bhattarai) reports that "a group of House Republicans took to social media last week to attack the outdoor goods retailer Patagonia in what amounted to a public rebuke for the company's decision to speak out against President Trump's policies." The attacks, "from a congressional committee's official Twitter and email accounts, triggered complaints that the elected officials were improperly using government resources to squelch free speech." Ethics experts and attorneys "said the tweets and email appeared to walk a fine line."

Also reporting is the [Washington Free Beacon](#) (12/13, Harrington).

Maine Has A Stake In Another National Monument Due For Big Changes Under Zinke.

The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (12/13, Trotter) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “may have decided Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument in northern Maine should be left as it is, but he’s proposing major changes” to the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument. Zinke has recommended that commercial fishing activity resume in there and two other marine monuments in the Pacific. Zinke said the New England Fishery Management Council should be allowed “to make fishery-management decisions as authorized by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Mount Desert \(ME\) Islander](#) (12/12, Rappaport).

Acting Trump Brass Who’ve Stuck Around Too Long May Draw Rebuke.

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/12, Eidelson) reports that President Trump’s “slow pace of hiring for key government jobs has left stand-ins occupying positions for so long that it may violate time limits on acting appointments, potentially resulting in decisions being overturned in court.” Enforcement actions, “as well as policy decisions on a variety of topics,” could be challenged in court “on the grounds that they were enacted by officials who had been in acting roles too long or were improperly delegated authority.” Under the 1998 Federal Vacancies Reform Act, a position vacated by a presidential transition “cannot be filled by acting officials for more than 300 days unless a permanent nominee has been named and is awaiting Senate confirmation.” Bloomberg notes that Trump “has yet to name permanent appointees for about 250 of the roughly 620 key government positions that require Senate confirmation.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Pueblos, County, Feds Agree On Rights Of Way.

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (12/13, Last) reports that “agreements in principle have been reached between the federal government, Santa Fe County, and the pueblos of Nambé, Pojoaque, Tesuque and San Ildefonso over rights of way for roads near the pueblos, which would not only resolve access issues for non-tribal people living within the ‘exterior boundaries’ of the pueblos, but also help close the book on the long-running Aamodt water rights case.” According to the article, “there will be separate agreements with all four pueblos, but in general the roads in question will legally become public roads and neither the pueblos nor the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs will be able to close the roads, except temporarily for ‘cultural purposes.’” The article says that “while there will be four separate agreements, the agreements with Pojoaque and Tesuque will be similar in that the pueblos consent, and the BIA will grant, the county right of way for county-maintained roads.” Additionally, “the agreements with Nambé and San Ildefonso are similar, granting the BIA rights of way on county-maintained roads that will be placed in the Tribal Transportation Program.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Calif., NM Urge Judge To Nix Challenges To BLM Flaring Rule.

[Law360](#) (12/12, Rodriguez) reports that “California and New Mexico on Monday urged a Wyoming federal judge to deny a bid by several other states and industry groups to undo the U.S. Bureau of Land Management’s rule aimed at limiting the release of methane from drilling operations on federal and Native American lands.”

2 New Solar Plants Boost Switch Operations, State’s Clean Energy Outlook.

The [Las Vegas Sun](#) (12/12, Akers) reports that “Switch Stations 1 and 2, at the Apex industrial park north of Las Vegas, were dedicated” Monday by “a group that included former U.S. Sen. Harry Reid, Clark County Commissioner Steve Sisolak, the Bureau of Land Management’s Nevada director, John Ruhs, and others in a ceremony.” The two facilities are “the first to be built in a BLM-owned solar energy zone, which recognizes areas that are prime for solar development.” Ruhs said, “This is a great example of the federal government and private industry collaborating on improving our nation’s energy independence and infrastructure. You can’t begin to emphasize the importance of that partnership.”

Agency Consents To Coal Lease Expansions In Western Colorado.

The [AP](#) (12/12) reports that the U.S. Forest Service has “given consent to expansions of two federal coal leases that would allow a mine to access land beneath the Sunset Roadless Area in western Colorado.” The Bureau of Land Management is “now considering whether to allow modification of the leases following the Monday decision.” The BLM “would then consider allowing coal exploration on the leases following approval.”

BLM Approves Sun Valley School Campus Project.

[KOLO-TV](#) Reno, NV (12/12) reports that the Bureau of Land Management, Carson City District has approved the Washoe County School District Sun Valley School Campus Project. The school district “plans to build a middle school and other future school facilities within an 80-acre parcel in Sun Valley.” Sierra Front Field Manager Bryant Smith said, “The decision to approve the project supports administration priorities of facilitating opportunities for development on public lands that create jobs and help local economies grow and being a good neighbor to the communities we serve.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

Reclamation To Lower Lake Moovalya In January 2018 For Annual Maintenance Activities.

The [Parker \(AZ\) Pioneer](#) (12/12) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation announced Tuesday that “it will lower the level of Lake Moovalya by approximately one-foot in elevation for about two weeks beginning in early January 2018.” The BOR is “coordinating this activity with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to allow the Colorado River Indian Tribes a window of opportunity to perform annual maintenance on their canals.”

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Angelle Touts Trump’s Six-Step Approach For Jump-Starting Gulf Of Mexico Oil Drilling.

The [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Business Report](#) (12/12) reports that Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Director Scott Angelle was “back in his native Louisiana on Monday touting the Trump administration’s six-step approach for revitalizing the nation’s offshore oil industry in the Gulf of Mexico.” Addressing a joint meeting of the Bayou Industrial Group and the South Central Industrial Association, Angelle “described the administration’s ‘six-step path’ to revitalizing the nation’s offshore oil industry through a mix of streamlining regulations and creating a partnership between the federal government and the industry.” Angelle said, “We’ve gone from an era of scarcity to an era of abundance pretty quick like for any generation of Americans. We have to move from the 1980s goal of energy independence to the 2017 goal and beyond of something called energy dominance. We’ve got to follow the path toward that goal.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Butterfly Group Sues Trump Administration Over Border Wall.

[The Hill](#) (12/12, Wheeler) reports the North American Butterfly Association (NABA) filed a lawsuit against the Trump Administration “over its plans to build a border wall through its Butterfly Center in South Texas.” The wildlife center “abuts the Rio Grande and is part of the Fish and Wildlife Service’s Lower Rio Grande Valley Wildlife Corridor.” In its complaint, NABA “said construction of the proposed wall along the southern border would cut off two-thirds of its property, effectively destroying the Butterfly Center and leaving behind a 70-acre no man’s land between the proposed border wall and the Rio Grande.” The group accused DHS and its agencies of “flouting the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act and the 5th Amendment by threatening to take NABA’s property without just compensation.” [Courthouse News](#) (12/12, Eakin) reports the complaint “says Homeland Security officials have already damaged and destroyed part of the property for purposes unrelated to patrolling the border.” [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (12/12, Carpenter) reports on some of the potential effects on wildlife from border wall construction.

Enviros Waiting On DOJ To OK Bison Range Agreement.

[Law360](#) (12/12, Phillis) reports that the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility and “a

group of retired federal employees filed a joint status report on Monday with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service saying that a tentative agreement in a suit over the management of the National Bison Range still needs to be approved by government staff."

Grizzly Bear Management Meeting Held In Missoula.

[KPAX-TV](#) Missoula, MT (12/12, Bragg) reports that "with a growing number of bears, and a growing discussion over eventually not treating grizzlies as a 'threatened species', managers from local, state and federal agencies will meet in Missoula this week to discuss the next steps in grizzly bear management." The discussion will center on the possibility of "reducing federal protection for grizzlies on the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem."

Meanwhile, the [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (12/12, Reilly) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking comments on "draft criteria for the eventual recovery of the Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem grizzly bear." Spokeswoman Roya Mogadam explained, "The proposed objective and measurable habitat-based recovery criteria, once finalized, will help inform our recovery efforts as well as any future evaluations regarding the status of these bears under the ESA."

Prescribed Burn Starts In Marsh North Of New Orleans.

The [AP](#) (12/12) reports that federal crews are conducting a prescribed burn in Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge to kill invasive plants. The burn will allow native marsh grasses to return. [WGNO-TV](#) New Orleans (12/12) reports that 75 acres were burned on Tuesday.

National Park Service

National Parks In The U.S. Will Sharply Drop The Number Of Days They Allow Visitors To Get In For Free.

The [AP](#) (12/12, Gruver) reports that national parks will "sharply drop the number of days they allow visitors to get in for free, a move that was criticized by opponents of the parks' plan to raise entrance costs at other times of the year." After having 16 free-access days in 2016 and 10 days in 2017, the National Park Service announced Tuesday that "it will have four no-cost days next year. They will be Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan. 15), the first day of National Park Week (April 21), National Public Lands Day (Sept. 22) and Veterans Day (Nov. 11)."

Also reporting are the [Denver Post](#) (12/12, Blevins), the [Sonora \(CA\) Union Democrat](#) (12/12, McCarthy), the [New Baltimore \(MI\) Voice News](#) (12/12, Kessler), [KTVX-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (12/12, Francis), [KXLY-TV Spokane \(WA\)](#) Spokane, WA (12/12, Gardner), and [KNXV-TV Phoenix](#) Phoenix (12/12, Frigerio).

St. Louis Reconnects With The Gateway Arch And Its Pioneer Spirit.

The [New York Times](#) (12/12, Schneider) reports that "a \$380 million project to expand the grounds and visitor center at the Gateway Arch" is bringing the people of St. Louis together. According to the article, "the project to beautify the arch grounds, redesign entrances and enlarge the underground visitor center drew such robust public support here that voters approved a 2013 local ballot proposition to finance the restoration with \$85 million in sales tax revenue." The Gateway Arch Park Foundation "led the capital campaign, producing the largest amount in private gifts for a National Park Service unit in history."

Intense Bighorn Operation Underway In Zion To Replenish Utah Herds.

[KUTV-TV](#) Salt Lake City (12/12, Bolerjack) reports that a three-day "intense, complex operation that will hopefully replenish the desert bighorn sheep species in the southern Utah region" commenced on Tuesday. [KSL-TV](#) Salt Lake City (12/12, Witham) reports, The sheep will be "transplanted to the San Juan County area to bolster the sheep herd there, while also reducing density of the Zion herd and promoting genetic diversity of animals throughout the state."

'Dream Big': Denham Springs Residents Weigh In On What They'd Like City Parks To Provide.

The [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (12/12, Couvillion) reports that "about 20 residents met with representatives of the National Park Service at City Hall on Tuesday to discuss their visions of what the city's parks could look like." The NPS has "been invited by the city to study its parks and ascertain from residents any improvements they'd like to see." Russell Clark, the park service's

Rivers, Trails and Conservation assistance programmer, encouraged residents to “dream large. ... There are no bad ideas. We will not talk about costs tonight. I didn’t come here with a check book. However, once you decide what you want in your parks, we can later make suggestions on how to fund the improvements to your parks.”

Camping Fee At Chiricahua National Monument Rising.

The [AP](#) (12/13) reports that the National Park Service says it will hike camping fees at the Chiricahua National Monument “from \$12 a day to \$20 per day starting Jan. 1.” Park superintendent Allen Etheridge said “in a statement Tuesday that the increase was needed to fund maintenance and improvements at the park.” The Chiricahua National Monument southeast conducted “community outreach and accepted public comments,” and “it received no opposition to the boost in campsite fees.”

Great Smoky Mountains National Park Cabins Damaged By Arson.

The [Asheville \(NC\) Citizen-Times](#) (12/12, Chávez) reports that the National Park Service Investigative Services Branch is “seeking witnesses who may have information regarding a recent human-caused fire that caused damage to cabins in the Elkmont Historic District.” National Park Rangers responded to an initial report of the fire Nov. 29. According to the article, “the damaged cabins are in the area known as Daisy Town, on the Tennessee side of the park, southwest of Gatlinburg.” Rangers were “able to keep damages to the structures to a minimum.”

Salem Custom House Gets \$130K Facelift.

The [Salem \(MA\) Gazette](#) (12/12, Giardina) reports that “the Salem Maritime National Historic Site facelift to Derby Street’s iconic and historical Custom House is nearly finished.” The repairs, which began in the beginning of November, are expected to be completed after the start of 2018.

Escambia Likely To OK \$1.6M Bid For Dock.

The [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (12/12, Little) reports that the Escambia County Commission will “likely approve a \$1.6 million bid Thursday to build a dock at Quietwater Beach for the Pensacola Bay Ferry.” Gulf Islands National Seashore “plans to bring ferry service for Pensacola Bay in the spring, and on Tuesday, the County Commission heard an update on its portion of the project at the Committee of the Whole meeting.”

Acting Superintendent Named For Water Gap Park Recreation Area.

The [New Jersey Herald](#) (12/13, Scruton) reports that Kirsten Talken-Spaulling, currently superintendent at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park, will “become the acting superintendent of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area later this month, filling the position until a permanent replacement is named later next year.” Talken-Spaulling said, “I am really looking forward to learning more about Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and helping with the transition to a new superintendent. There are a lot of exciting projects going on in the park right now, and I want to maintain that positive momentum moving forward.”

Wells County Village Of Manfred Recognized For Its History.

The [AP](#) (12/12) reports that the village of Manfred in Wells County has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Office Of Insular Affairs

World-Class Training For Robotics Students In Yap.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (12/13) reports that Yap students have “been receiving high tech training in the design and construction of robots as the five high schools of the Yap Robo League work toward their goal of a statewide robotics competition next spring.” A technical assistance program grant from the Office of Insular Affairs is helping with the initiative.

Office Of Surface Mining

Trump’s Mining Regulator Nominee Was Once Dropped By The Agency For Doing “Junk” Work.

[ProPublica](#) (12/12, MacDougall) reports that President Trump's pick to head the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, "like more than one of his nominees, is a vocal critic of the very agency he's being asked to lead." Notably, Steven Gardner "runs an engineering firm that produced a report as part of the process of preparing" the stream protection rule, "and the agency deemed it so shoddy that it cut ties with Gardner's company." Gardner said in an emailed statement, "It has been said that one of my biggest challenges will be winning the support of OSM staff I will oversee due to the past controversies. While there may be some in OSM that differed with my opinions, many others sent me messages of support noting they did not agree with OSM management during that controversial period."

US Geological Survey

ND Oil Assessment.

[KNOX-FM](#) Thompson, ND (12/12, Barrett) reports that the U.S. Geological Survey announced it will reevaluate the amount of recoverable crude oil North Dakota. Sen. John Hoeven and industry officials had been pushing for a new assessment that takes into account 17 other formations in western North Dakota's oil path "that could be exploited using technology developed for the Bakken and Three Forks directly beneath it." North Dakota Petroleum Council President Ron Ness says the new assessment should "provide a much clearer picture of the resources we have in North Dakota."

The [Williston \(ND\) Herald](#) (12/13, Jean) reports that Bakken oil wells are producing nearly double of what was produced in 2011, which is a "strong indicator that a new estimate will be much higher than the 2013 estimate" of 7.38 billion barrels of technically recoverable oil and gas in the Bakken and Three Forks shale layers.

2 Million Snakes Have Taken Over The Island Of Guam.

[Vice](#) (12/12) reports that "brown tree snakes are taking over Guam – in fact, they outnumber humans on the island 10 to 1, and they've taken a major toll on its ecosystem." The U.S. Geological Survey has deployed "groups of researchers to monitor traps and catch the snakes by hand." According to the article, "catching them is a tedious process, but it's crucial that the snakes be studied, and tracked, in order to develop effective control methods."

Additional Reading.

- *Google Earth Engine Is A Time-lapse Tool That Shows World Changes.* [Business Insider](#) (12/12, Dangerfield).
- *Wildfire Season 2017 Has Been Terrible. Is Climate Change To Blame?* [Vox](#) (12/12, Irfan).

Opinion Pieces

Rep. Andy Barr: Trump Should Follow Through On Camp Nelson Designation.

In an op-ed for the [State Journal \(KY\)](#) (12/12, Barr), Rep. Andy Barr urges President Trump to follow Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recommendation that Camp Nelson Civil War Heritage Park receive a National Monument designation. Barr advocates for bringing attention to "a site that has the ability to unite the community and inspire a greater understanding and appreciation for this period in our nation's history." He also expresses appreciation for "the consideration Secretary Zinke and the Department of Interior have given this request and the process they have undertaken to ensure that sites given this designation have national historic significance and local support, unlike the abuses of this designation undertaken by the previous administration."

In Our Opinion: A New Utah National Park Leaves Too Many Questions Unanswered.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (12/12) editorializes that a proposal by Rep. Chris Stewart to create a new national park within the newly designated Escalante Canyons Monument leaves "too many questions" unanswered. The paper says that "the largest of these concerns is funding," noting the Park Service's \$12 billion maintenance backlog. The editorial board also believes the issues surrounding national monuments has "become so politicized we doubt such congressional action would bring an end to the controversies or the protests."

Protect Antiquities, But Stop Government Overreach: Paher And Cobb.

In an op-ed for the [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (12/12, Paher, Cobb), Stanley Paher, a field researcher for Benchmark Maps, and Dr. Tyrus W. Cobb, who served as special assistant to President Reagan for National Security Affairs, support Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recommendation to reduce national monuments in Utah and Nevada. They acknowledge that "there are pockets of antiquities in these three designations that deserve protection," but "maintain that setting aside areas of this magnitude and prohibiting any mineral exploitation there represents serious government overreach." The authors conclude that they are advocates "for responsible and reasonable designations for protection, not for oversized 'monuments' whose boundaries extend well beyond the valuable sites."

Say No To Seismic Blasting And Drilling In The Atlantic.

For the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (12/12, Savitz, Colley), Jacqueline Savitz, senior vice president of Oceana, and Ann Colley, executive director and vice president of The Moore Charitable Foundation and its North Carolina Affiliate, the Orton Foundation, warn that under the Trump Administration's "plan to rollback existing protections against offshore drilling in the Atlantic," seismic airgun blasting could begin. The authors argue that "seismic airguns harm marine life and are the precursor to an industry that could devastate our environment and coastal economies." They urge political leaders to "say no to any proposals for blasting and drilling in the Atlantic to protect our vibrant coastal industries and jobs that rely on a healthy ocean."

EDITORIAL: The Bureau Of Land Management Should Stop Dragging Its Feet On Ash Springs.

In an editorial, the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (12/13) urges the Bureau of Land Management to act on Ash Springs. It notes that Ash Springs has remained closed for over four years, "and locals are growing impatient as the issue becomes a symbol for bureaucratic indifference and inertia." The paper concludes that "if the agency hopes to quash such skepticism, it will stop the foot dragging and get on with the business of reopening Ash Springs."

Additional Reading.

- *After Bears Ears, No One's Public Lands Are Safe.* [Crosscut \(WA\)](#) (12/11, Martini).
- *Drastic Cuts To National Monuments.* [Steamboat \(CO\) Magazine](#) (12/12, Damerville).
- *Trump's Monumental Mistake In The Pacific.* [Honolulu Civil Beat \(HI\)](#) (12/13, Wegmann).
- *Nancy Working: Help Fight A Monumental Mistake.* [Steamboat \(CO\) Pilot & Today](#) (12/12, Working).
- *Outdoors: The Wilderness Is Worth Protecting.* [Gloucester \(MA\) Times](#) (12/12, Sartwell).
- *How State Should Shift Fire Prevention Strategy.* [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (12/12, Clendaniel).
- *Guest Column: It's Official: NGS Will Continue To Operate Until The End Of 2019.* [Navajo-Hopi Observer \(AZ\)](#) (12/12, Frazier).
- *Lee Orr: Capito Should Defend Public Lands, Hunting Heritage.* [Williamson \(WV\) Daily News](#) (12/13, Orr).
- *Treat Wildfires Like Disasters.* [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (12/13, Rosenquist).
- *Guest Opinion: The Nature Fix.* [Utah Policy](#) (12/12, Livermore).
- *'Civil War Was For States Rights' Debunked At Antietam Battlefield National Park.* [Huffington Post](#) (12/12, Peterman).
- *Wayne Pacelle: National Park Service Plan To Kill Bison In Grand Canyon Unneeded, Unwarranted.* [YubaNet \(CA\)](#) (12/12, Pacelle).
- *Loyal Mehrhoff: Protect The Endangered Species Act.* [Topeka \(KS\) Capital-Journal](#) (12/12, Mehrhoff).
- *John Colson: Trumping The BLM For Colorado Oil And Gas.* [Aspen \(CO\) Times](#) (12/12, Colson).
- *COLUMN: Overcooked Steak With Ketchup.* [Anchorage \(AK\) Press](#) (12/12, Fields).

Top National News

Media Analyses: Jones' Win A Rebuke To Trump, Bannon.

Doug Jones on Tuesday [defeated](#) Roy Moore in Alabama's closely watched Senate special

election. Coverage casts Jones' win as a rebuke of President Trump, who backed Moore in the contest, despite the ex-state Supreme Court justice facing allegations of sexual misconduct with teenagers while in his 30s. Coverage also frames the outcome as a blow to former White House strategist Steve Bannon, who supported and stumped for Moore during the GOP primary and general election. In addition, reports and analyses indicate that Democrats are likely to use Trump's support of Moore as a cudgel to hammer GOP candidates in the 2018 midterm elections, and that the election outcome complicates congressional Republicans' efforts to implement Trump's legislative agenda.

[The Hill](#) (12/12, Smilowitz) reported that in a Tuesday night [tweet](#), Trump offered congratulations to Jones. Said Trump, "Congratulations to Doug Jones on a hard fought victory. The write-in votes played a very big factor, but a win is a win. The people of Alabama are great, and the Republicans will have another shot at this seat in a very short period of time. It never ends!"

Under the headline "Democrat Doug Jones Wins Stunning Upset Over Roy Moore In Alabama Senate Race," the [Montgomery \(AL\) Advertiser](#) (12/12, Lyman) reports that Jones' win "isn't good news for Trump, whose favored candidates have now twice lost in Alabama. Trump initially endorsed Sen. Luther Strange, who was appointed in February to fill the seat left vacant when Sessions became Trump's attorney general but then lost to Moore in the summer's primaries. Trump's former chief strategist Steve Bannon had backed Moore from the beginning, and urged Trump to do the same." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/12, Barabak) reports that Jones win "sliced the GOP's already thin Senate majority to a bare 51-49."

The [Washington Post](#) (12/12, Debonis) reports that Jones' win "scrambles President Trump's legislative agenda for the coming year, threatens to heighten Republican infighting and sounds an alarm for the GOP's prospects in November's midterm elections." The [New York Times](#) (12/12, Burns, Martin) reports that Jones' win "could have drastic consequences on the national level, snarling Republicans' legislative agenda in Washington and opening, for the first time, a realistic but still difficult path for Democrats to capture the Senate next year. It amounted to a stinging snub of...Trump, who broke with much of his party and fully embraced Mr. Moore's candidacy, seeking to rally support for him in the closing days of the campaign."

The [AP](#) (12/12, Chandler, Peoples) reports that in scoring his "stunning victory," Jones beat "back history," the "embattled" Moore "and President Donald Trump, who urgently endorsed" the Republican candidate "despite a litany of sexual misconduct allegations." The AP adds that Moore's win "imperils already-uncertain Republican tax, budget and health proposals and injects tremendous energy into the Democratic Party's early push to reclaim House and Senate majorities in 2018." Even so, "many Washington Republicans viewed the defeat of Moore as perhaps the best outcome for the party nationally despite the short-term sting."

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/12, John) reports that with Trump and Bannon having backed Moore, Tuesday's outcome "is sure to lead to finger-pointing among Republicans," as Senate Majority Leader McConnell of Kentucky and other GOP lawmakers "opposed" the GOP nominee. Even so, "Moore's defeat means the party won't be tagged with his reputation" during the 2018 midterms. In addition, "McConnell will have a slightly easier time running the Senate, given that Moore had promised to try to oust him from his leadership position."

[Reuters](#) (12/12, Sullivan) reports that Jones' "stunning upset" win dealt "a political blow to...Trump," who "endorsed Moore even as other party leaders in Washington walked away from him." The [Washington Times](#) (12/12, McLaughlin) reports that Jones' victory "is a major blow both politically and policy-wise for...Trump, who went all-in for Mr. Moore, saying his agenda was on the line in the race." The Times adds, "Washington Republicans had deemed Mr. Moore a flawed candidate from the start and had tried to derail" his bid, "but GOP voters in Alabama, prodded by...Bannon, made Mr. Moore their nominee."

Ahead of Tuesday's results, John Dickerson reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/12, story 3, 1:55, Glor), "When the RNC...and the President supported Roy Moore, a number of Republican office holders felt that went too far – that the party was just supporting someone because they had an 'R' next to their name and there were no other standards. So how does that get argued after the results come in?"

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/12, Hook, Jamerson) reports that Jones' win came in a contest that divided the GOP provided Democrats with momentum heading into next year's elections. Ahead of Tuesday's election results, Lester Holt reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/12, lead story, 2:45, Holt) that the contest "has divided Republicans, tested moral convictions, and painted Moore to his supporters as a martyr against a liberal assault."

Under the heading "Roy Moore Loses, Sanity Reigns," the [New York Times](#) (12/12) editorializes, "That Alabama's voters" elected Jones "is cause for celebration. A triumph for

decency and common sense in a state that seemed for a time at risk of abandoning both," his "win narrows the Republicans' Senate majority and delivers a deeply deserved rebuke to...Trump."

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/12) blasts Bannon for having helped boost Moore to his primary win and for having backed him in the general election, saying Tuesday's outcome demonstrates that Bannon cares more about a king-maker role than he does about scoring wins on conservative policies.

[McClatchy](#) (12/12, Clark) reports that Jones' victory "complicates – and could all but doom – Republican efforts to score any big wins for...Trump. The narrowing of the Senate Republicans' already-slim majority represents a huge loss to the GOP, which failed this year to deliver on a campaign promise to repeal Obamacare and has struggled to pass spending legislation." Democrat Doug Jones's Win In Alabama Senate Likely Won't Affect GOP Tax Overhaul. However, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/12, Hook, Peterson) reports that Jones' win is unlikely to have any impact on the GOP's push for tax reform, because Republican congressional leaders are working to complete the legislation before the Democrat is sworn in.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/12, Sullivan) reports that in the case of Jones, "he was in the right place at the right time – a candidate who was lifted to victory in large measure by a series of twists and turns on the GOP side." The Post says that after Moore defeated GOP establishment-backed Sen. Luther Strange (R) in the primary, Moore "came up against accusations first reported by The Washington Post in November that he made unwanted sexual advances to teenage girls as young as 14 when he was in his 30s." Jones, adds the Post, now "will become perhaps the most unexpected member of the Senate in recent history."

The [Washington Post](#) (12/11, Sullivan, Weigel, Scherer) reports that Jones' win "followed a pattern set earlier this year in Virginia's gubernatorial election: a wave of enthusiasm among the Democratic party's traditional base, which was aided by a swing from Republicans to Democrats among well-educated suburban voters."

Under the headline "Many GOP Blunders Put Seat At Risk, Even Before Scandal," the [New York Times](#) (12/12, Burns) examines what it describes as "the improbable – and improbably ill-fated – decisions Republican leaders made" that led to Moore winning the GOP nomination and continuing his bid, even in the wake of allegations of sexual misconduct.

Writing for [Vox](#) (12/12, Matthews), Dylan Matthews says that Jones "could not have won without overwhelming support from Alabama's black community, and his victory suggests that Democratic coalitions in Southern states where the nonwhite share of the population is rising can be tenable, if enough white voters can be persuaded to defect from the Republicans."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/12, Finnegan) reports, "In 2020, when Jones will be up for reelection, he will probably be challenged by a Republican more viable than the politically wounded Moore, so he will face pressure in the Senate to resist his party's most liberal impulses. Jones has promised to seek common ground with Republicans." The Times adds, "Analysts expect Jones to fit the mold of Sen. Joe Manchin III of West Virginia, another Democrat who was elected to the Senate in a deep-red state and votes accordingly."

In a profile piece the [New York Times](#) (12/12, Burns, Robertson) reports, "Before the special election on Tuesday, the largest of Mr. Jones's historical moments, and perhaps still the most consequential, were the successful prosecutions of two of the Klansmen involved in the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, nearly 40 years after the crime. Mr. Jones served as lead prosecutor."

Moore Declines To Concede, Suggests Possibility Of Recount. The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/12, Correll) reports that Moore on Tuesday "declined to concede the" election, despite Jones having been "declared the victor in a close contest. 'When the vote is this close, it is not over,' Moore said at his election night rally." Moore campaign chair Bill Armistead "came on stage ahead of Moore and announced that his candidate is not conceding the election and floated a possible recount. Moore echoed the possibility of a recount."

Media Analyses: Jones Win Boosts Democrats' Odds Of Retaking Senate In 2018. Writing for [Vox](#) (12/12, Prokop), Andrew Prokop says that Jones' "shocking upset" win provides Democrats with "their first realistic chance of retaking the US Senate in 2018. And if they manage to pull that off, the consequences for the future of Donald Trump's presidency will be enormous." Prokop says that with Jones' victory having narrowed the GOP's Senate majority from to just 51-49, "defending all their incumbents plus winning just Nevada and Arizona [in 2018] would give Democrats a 51-49 majority in the Senate."

[McClatchy](#) (12/12, Glueck, Roarty) reports that the "most immediate impact" of Jones' "stunning" victory "is on the simple arithmetic of next year's midterm election: Democrats now need to gain only two – instead of three – Senate seats to win a majority. That's a huge change,

especially in an election where the party might only have a chance at two other Republican-held seats. And suddenly, a Democratic Party that less than a year ago just wanted to keep its losses to a minimum in 2018 can make a run at a much bigger prize – all thanks to a once-inconceivable victory in one of the country's most conservative states." Ahead of Tuesday's election results, NBC's Steve Kornacki said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/12, story 2, 1:00, Holt) reported, "Alabama's a state Democrats are never in a million years supposed to win. If they pick it off tonight, the math next year for winning back the Senate becomes potentially doable for them."

NRSC Chief Says He Hopes Jones Will Vote With Republicans. [The Hill](#) (12/12, Samuels) reported that National Republican Senate Committee chief Sen. Cory Gardner on Tuesday said "that Alabama voters determined Roy Moore is 'unfit to serve,' adding that he hopes Democrat Doug Jones will vote with Republicans. 'I hope Senator-elect Doug Jones will do the right thing and truly represent AL by choosing to vote with the Senate Repub Majority,' Gardner said in a statement." The Hill added that Gardner "had called for Moore's expulsion if he won."

Exit Polls Show Voters Were Divided On Moore Accusations. Ahead of Tuesday's election results, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/12, lead story, 3:50, Muir) reported that "preliminary exit polls" showed "voters are almost evenly split on the allegations against Roy Moore. Forty-nine percent called them definitely or probably true, 45 percent definitely or probably false. Did it factor into their decision? Forty percent say they were one of several factors in their decision. Fifty-five percent say they were minor or no factor at all. And when asked which candidate shares voters values, 49 percent say Doug Jones shares share values. Forty-six percent say Roy Moore." ABC's Tom Llamas added that Trump on Tuesday morning [tweeted](#), "The people of Alabama will do the right thing. Vote Roy Moore."

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/12, story 2, 2:15, Glor), Manuel Bojorquez similarly reported, "Exit polls out tonight show voters here are largely split on whether they believe the allegations against Roy Moore are true. Less than half said they believe the allegations. Forty-five percent called them false." David Muir reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/12, story 2, 0:45) that "in these preliminary exit polls tonight, for some voters, President Trump's opinion on this did make a difference." ABC's Tom Llamas added, "That's right, David. The President looms large in Alabama. This was one of his biggest victories last November, and according to our exit polls, nearly 30 percent of voters said one of the reasons they came out to vote today was to support President Trump. That's great news for Roy Moore. And today, I asked Roy Moore what he thought of the President and what his message was to President Trump for standing by his side? He told me, 'Thank you.'"

WPost Thanks Alabama Voters For Not Electing "An Accused Child Molester." Under the heading "Thank You, Alabama," the [Washington Post](#) (12/12) offers thanks to Alabama for choosing "to spare the nation the indignity of seating an accused child molester in the US Senate." The Post adds, "If Americans should feel grateful to Alabama voters, so should the" GOP, "much of which debased itself by following...Trump into the gutter of support for Mr. Moore. Its majority in the Senate will be slightly narrower, but the dignity of the Senate GOP caucus will be at least partially salvaged."

White House: Must Have Mind "In The Gutter" To See Sexism In Trump Tweet.

A day after Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand called for President Trump's resignation, citing allegations of sexual misconduct, President Trump fired back on Twitter with a post media reports and Democrats are casting as "sexually suggestive." Trump [tweeted](#), "Lightweight Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, a total flunky for Chuck Schumer and someone who would come to my office 'begging' for campaign contributions not so long ago (and would do anything for them), is now in the ring fighting against Trump. Very disloyal to Bill & Crooked-USED!" While the tweet was almost immediately condemned by Democrats, including Gillibrand herself, White House press secretary Sarah Sanders defended it, arguing it was not sexist and only someone whose mind is "in the gutter" would interpret it that way.

The [Washington Times](#) (12/12, Boyer) reports that Sanders said, "There's no way that this is sexist at all. ... Only if your mind is in the gutter would you have read it that way. He's obviously talking about political partisan games." [Politico](#) (12/12, Nelson) quotes Sanders as saying, "This is simply talking about a system that we have that is broken in which special interests control our government. ... And I don't think that there's probably many people that are more controlled by political contributions than the senator that the president referenced." [Politico](#) (12/12, Karni), meanwhile, says White House aides "went on the defensive...sifting through vintage Trump tweets, looking for similar attacks on male politicians like New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, to prove that Trump's attack of Gillibrand was not sexist." Sanders

said Democrats were misinterpreting the comments. The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/12, Morrongiello) says Sanders "said the president did not owe Gillibrand an apology for his critical words."

To the [New York Post](#) (12/12, Jaeger, Fredericks), however, Trump's tweet was "sexually suggestive," and a [Washington Post](#) (12/12, Parker) headline calls it "sexually suggestive and demeaning." The Post reports that the "backlash and criticism was near instantaneous." [The Hill](#) (12/12, Fabian) says the tweet "triggered controversy in Washington, with many Democratic lawmakers rushing to Gillibrand's defense," while the [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/12, Bennett) says, "Social media and cable television talk shows quickly ignited with bipartisan outrage."

The [New York Times](#) (12/12, Tackett, Sullivan) says Trump "forcefully entered the national debate about sexual harassment on Tuesday, again dismissing his own accusers as fabricating their stories and saying that a prominent Democratic senator, a woman, 'would do anything' for campaign contributions." Trump "also blamed Democrats for the resurgence of accusations against him from women in the past." The Times adds that Trump's comments "ensured that calls for revived scrutiny over the women's allegations would gain new energy and prominence." Trump's "broadside against Gillibrand," [The Hill](#) (12/12, Shelbourne) reports, came a day after she said that the accusations of sexual misconduct against him are "credible," and told CNN that he should resign.

Nancy Cordes reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/12, lead story, 2:55, Glor) that Gillibrand "was attending a bipartisan Bible study" when Trump "sent his suggestive tweet." [USA Today](#) (12/12, Jackson) says she called Trump's tweet a "sexist smear attempting to silence my voice." [Bloomberg News](#) (12/12, Olorunnipa) reports that Gillibrand [tweeted](#), "You cannot silence me or the millions of women who have gotten off the sidelines to speak out about the unfitness and shame you have brought to the Oval Office."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/12, story 3, 2:25, Holt), Kristen Welker said there is "increasing speculation" that Gillibrand "is eyeing her own bid for the White House in 2020." Highlighting the potential political benefits Gillibrand could reap from Trump's comments, the [Washington Post](#) (12/12, O'Keefe) reports that she "has been notably persistent on issues of equal rights – for gay men and lesbians, transgender people and women." Trump's "sexually suggestive attack...plays right into her portfolio." With "no serious GOP opponent" coming forward to challenge her next year and "speculation that she will renege on her vow not to run for president in 2020, the attack may do more political good than harm." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/12, Ballhaus) reports that Gillibrand sent a fundraising email a half-hour after Trump's tweet, saying, "Kirsten's always believed that if she's not standing up for what she believes in and fighting for her principles, she shouldn't be in public service."

[Politico](#) (12/12, Karni) says Democrats, "who had left Gillibrand in the wilderness after" she said that former President Bill Clinton should have resigned over his affair with Monica Lewinsky "rushed to her defense." [Reuters](#) (12/12, Brice) says Democrats "rallied behind Gillibrand," and the [AP](#) (12/12, Lucey) reports that they called Trump's comments "crude and worse."

[USA Today](#) (12/12, Przybyla) says "a number of her female Senate colleagues took to Twitter to lambaste the president." Sen. Mazie Hirono [tweeted](#) that Trump is a "misogynist, compulsive liar, and admitted sexual predator," and Sen. Elizabeth Warren [tweeted](#), "Are you really trying to bully, intimidate and slut-shame @SenGillibrand? Do you know who you're picking a fight with? Good luck with that." [Breitbart](#) (12/12, Nash) says Warren "faced criticism" for the tweet as "numerous users point[ed] out how she had insinuated that Gillibrand is a 'slut.'" The [Breitbart](#) piece includes several examples of the critical tweets.

The [Washington Times](#) (12/12, Dinan) reports that Senate Minority Leader Schumer called Trump's tweet "nasty" and "unbecoming of a president." However, while "dozens of congressional Democrats" have called for an investigation into the harassment allegations against the President, Schumer declined to join those calls, "saying he didn't want to weigh in right now." Schumer "said he respected the rights of other Democrats to demand a probe, but said he wouldn't delve into the matter at his press conference Tuesday."

[Roll Call](#) (12/12, Bennett) reports that Rep. Eric Swalwell told [CNN](#), "That was an ugly and suggestive tweet, and we all know what he was trying to say there, and it is beneath the office of the presidency." Senior White House correspondent Cecilia Vega reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/12, story 3, 2:50, Muir) that Tuesday, "the number of Democratic senators calling for his resignation grew to six, and in the House, more than 50 Democratic congresswomen came forward to call for a congressional investigation." Rep. Jackie Speier: "What took place this morning when the President tweeted about our colleague Senator Kirsten Gillibrand is grotesque. It took my breath away." Vega added that "more than 100 Democratic representatives, including

men, all sign[ed] on to a letter saying, 'We cannot ignore the multitude of women who have come forward with accusations against Mr. Trump.'" Vega also said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/12, story 4, 0:25, Muir) that Rep. Trey Gowdy "says his House Oversight Committee will not investigate these claims against the President, but he said he will refer this request for investigation to the Justice Department, which...is controlled by the President's Attorney General Jeff Sessions." Cordes said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/12, lead story, 2:55, Glor) that "the party that controls Congress...does not want to touch the issue." GOP leaders, Cordes added, "have been reluctant to even acknowledge the allegations against President Trump."

In an op-ed for [USA Today](#) (12/12, McDaniel), RNC Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel calls the responses from Gillibrand and Warren "laughable and ironic, considering they benefited from their previous relationships – until they became politically inconvenient." Citing Trump's efforts on coal exports, healthcare for veterans, immigration, and tax cuts, McDaniel says Trump "is delivering on exactly what matters" and "the rest is noise."

Other commentary is decidedly negative for the President. A [USA Today](#) (12/12) editorial argues that with this tweet, Trump "has shown he is not fit for office." USA Today says Trump is "uniquely awful," and calls his "sickening behavior...corrosive to the enterprise of a shared governance based on common values and the consent of the governed." USA Today opines, "A president who would all but call Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand a whore is not fit to clean the toilets in the Barack Obama Presidential Library or to shine the shoes of George W. Bush."

Mary Katherine Ham of The Federalist said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (12/12), "If you're going to play ball this way, just own that you're playing ball that way. That's what he's doing. I think it's pretty clear in the tweet. He is a guy who has a reputation for equal opportunity for meanness regardless of race or gender, that is true. But he often does include an extra sexist flourish for women and I think that is clearly what happened here." Kirsten Powers of USA Today said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (12/12) that "it's like what a 14-year-old does. You know, say something kind of inappropriate and then act like, 'What, I don't know what you're talking about,' and everybody knows what he's talking about."

NHL Hall Of Famer's Wife Tweets That Trump Was "Aggressive" In Elevator. [USA Today](#) (12/12, Schad) reports that Stacia Robitaille, wife of NHL Hall of Famer and Los Angeles Kings president Luc Robitaille [tweeted](#) Monday, "I was once on a elevator alone with @realDonaldTrump (& a man w/him) at Madison Square Gardens. He was aggressive & told me I was coming home with him. I laughed, stating I was married to a Ranger. He guaranteed me my husband didn't make as much money as him. #ThisIsOurPresident." In a second [tweet](#), she wrote, "I'm not a liberal lefty and I'm not looking for attention. Just felt bad keeping it to myself."

People Magazine Tweets Photo Of Trump Meeting Accuser. The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/12, Mayfield) reports that in a [tweet](#) Tuesday, People magazine published "a photo of President Trump meeting one of the women accusing him of sexual misconduct." People photographer Natasha Stoyoff "was at Mar-a-Lago in late 2005 for an interview and photo shoot with Trump and his wife, Melania." The photo tweeted by People "featur[es] President Trump, Melania, Natasha Stoyoff, and the People staffers." People's tweet followed a claim by the President on Twitter decrying "the false accusations and fabricated stories of women who I don't know and/or have never met. FAKE NEWS!" Sanders responded to People's tweet, saying Trump was referring to the three Trump accusers who held a press conference on Monday.

FBI Agent In Russia Probe Called Trump An "Idiot," Told Colleague Clinton "Just Has To Win."

Coverage of the various investigations into Russian interference in the 2016 election focuses on the release of text messages sent by FBI officials who investigated both Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton. The [New York Times](#) (12/12, Schmidt, Apuzzo, Goldman) reports, "Senior F.B.I. officials who helped investigate" Trump's 2016 campaign told a colleague that Clinton "just has to win" and described a potential Trump victory as 'terrifying,'" according to text messages that have been turned over to Congress. Counterintelligence agent Peter Strzok exchanged the messages with FBI attorney Lisa Page. While "some messages criticized Mrs. Clinton's team," the Obama Administration, and other Democrats, "the two appeared appalled at some of Mr. Trump's comments during the campaign and feared that he would politicize the F.B.I."

The [New York Post](#) (12/12, Tacopino) reports that Strzok called Trump "an 'idiot' and an 'enormous douche'" in his messages, which are also briefly covered by [Politico](#) (12/12, Gerstein). The [Washington Post](#) (12/12, Barrett) reports, "Strzok and Page were key players in the investigation into Clinton's use of a private email server to do government work as secretary of state, as well as the probe into possible coordination between the Trump campaign and Russia in

the 2016 election.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/12, Westwood) reports that White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said on Tuesday that Trump “has ‘great concern’ about allegations of bias that face several current or former members” of special counsel Robert Mueller’s team. Sanders said, “If we’re going to continue to investigate things, let’s look at it when there’s some real evidence and some real proof of wrongdoing.” [ABC World News](#) (12/12, story 5, 1:45, Muir) reported that Trump’s “team is now pushing the Attorney General to appoint a second special counsel to investigate the FBI agents who are working on the Russia probe.” Unidentified speaker: “Would [the President] support the appointment of a special prosecutor to look into this?” Sanders: “I haven’t asked him that directly, but I know he has great concern about some of the conduct that’s taken place, and something that we certainly would like to see looked at.”

[USA Today](#) (12/12, Jackson, Johnson) reports that Trump attorney Jay Sekulow “called for a new special counsel to investigate any links between the Justice Department” and Fusion GPS, the “private firm that commissioned its own investigation of Trump’s ties to Russia.” However, Sekulow said on [Fox News’ Hannity](#) (12/12) that he “never said a word” about a special counsel to investigate Mueller’s probe.

[Politico](#) (12/12, Cheney) reports that freshman Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-FL), “who has said that the country is at risk of a ‘coup d’etat’” by Mueller, says that he warned Trump “personally last week that Mueller’s Russia investigation is ‘infected with bias’ against the president.” Gaetz said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (12/12), “I would say there’s a heck of a lot of evidence of collusion between the Democrats and Russia. ... The question is whether or not this entire narrative about President Trump and Russia was made up to cover up the collusion between Democrats and Russia.”

The [New York Times](#) (12/12) editorializes, “If only we could dismiss Sean Hannity, Jeanine Pirro, Laura Ingraham and the other well-paid propagandists at Fox News as though they were harmless drunks at the end of the bar, ticking off their conspiracy theories to anyone who will listen.” But “the guy sitting on the next stool” is Trump, “and he’s all ears. ... In Fox’s alternate universe, the investigation is ‘illegitimate and corrupt,’ or so says Gregg Jarrett, a legal analyst who appears regularly on [Sean] Hannity’s nightly exercise in presidential ego-stroking.” The Times writes, “The primary purpose of Mr. Mueller’s investigation is not to take down Mr. Trump. It’s to protect America’s national security and the integrity of its elections. ... When the propagandists say, ‘Get rid of Mueller,’ it’s not the truth they’re trying to protect; it’s Mr. Trump himself.”

Cobb Says Mueller Has Completed Interviews He Requested. [Politico](#) (12/12, Samuelsohn) reports that White House attorney Ty Cobb said on Tuesday that Mueller has “completed interviews with the last in a slate of about two dozen current and former White House witnesses he’s initially requested” as part of his investigation. Mueller’s office declined to comment.

Brit Hume said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (12/12), “There are a couple ways to look at that. One is that it is self-serving of the Administration to say this is all now coming to an end. ... The problem is of course that these are the people that are actually in touch more than anybody with the special counsel’s office, setting up interviews and the rest of it. So, they may indeed have a better sense of how far along this investigation is than anybody else.”

Trump Jr. Seeks House Intelligence Committee Leak Probe. The [New York Times](#) (12/12, Haberman, Fandos) reports that Donald Trump Jr. “has asked the House Intelligence Committee to open an investigation into leaked information related to his closed interview with the committee last week.” The [New York Post](#) (12/12, Fredericks) reports that his attorney Alan Futerfas sent a letter to Rep. Mike Conaway (R-TX), “who is heading up the committee’s probe of Russian interference in the election and possible collusion by the Trump campaign.” The letter “states that Trump Jr. and his lawyers were told that the interview would be ‘kept strictly confidential and not discussed publicly unless and until the full committee voted to release the transcript.’”

[Politico](#) (12/12, Watkins) reports that Trump Jr. “will meet behind closed doors with Senate Intelligence Committee investigators on Wednesday morning as part of their investigation.”

Chutkan Recuses Herself From A Second Fusion GPS Case. The [Daily Caller](#) (12/12, Ross) reports that US District Court Judge Tanya S. Chutkan “has recused herself from a second case involving Trump dossier firm Fusion GPS.” Russian technology executive Aleksey Gubarev “has sought to subpoena Fusion GPS records and to depose its employees to find out more about the research firm’s work on the dossier” as part of his defamation suit against BuzzFeed, which published the dossier. Chutkan last month recused herself last month from another case involving Fusion GPS.

Flynn Faced "Emotional Toll" Of Pressure In Days Before Plea. The [AP](#) (12/12, Tucker, McDermott, Smith) writes that "in the days before he pleaded guilty to lying to the FBI," Michael Flynn "was reveling in the pleasures of a new grandchild" but "also was lamenting the emotional toll of the criminal investigation he was facing. ... People close to Flynn" described the pressures as Mueller's investigators "not only zeroed in on him but also intensely examined the dealings of one of his sons, Michael G. Flynn."

[Reuters](#) (12/12, Lynch) reports that US District Court Judge Emmet Sullivan has ordered Mueller "to turn over any potential evidence that could be material for when he sentences" Flynn.

Trump Lawyer Dowd Famously Investigated Pete Rose. The [Washington Post](#) (12/12, Hendrix, Jackman) looks at the 1989 "crusade" that attorney John Dowd, now "President Trump's chief defense lawyer," pursued against "baseball pariah Pete Rose." It was Dowd "who investigated allegations that the Cincinnati Reds superstar had routinely gambled on baseball games."

Trump Signs Legislation Banning Federal Use Of Kaspersky Lab Software. [Reuters](#) (12/12, Volz) reports that Trump has signed legislation "that bans the use of Kaspersky Lab within the US government, capping a months-long effort to purge the Moscow-based antivirus firm from federal agencies amid concerns it was vulnerable to Kremlin influence." Sen. Jeanne Shaheen said, "The case against Kaspersky is well-documented and deeply concerning. This law is long overdue."

Tax Reform Negotiators Closing In On Agreement.

The [AP](#) (12/12, Ohlemacher, Gordon) reports, "Congressional Republicans on Tuesday rushed toward a deal on a massive tax package" that would reduce the top tax rate to 37% "and slash the corporate rate to a level slightly higher than what businesses and conservatives wanted." The AP adds that in a "flurry of last-minute changes that could profoundly affect the pocketbooks of millions of Americans, House and Senate negotiators agreed to expand a deduction for state and local taxes to allow individuals to deduct income taxes as well as property taxes."

Ylan Mui said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (12/12), "Two people who have been briefed on this plan tell me that [the] details include a 21% corporate rate." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/12, Francis) writes that though both versions have a 20% corporate tax rate, a slightly higher percentage has been floated in order to find money for a variety of interests and alterations. CNBC's Mui continued, "The mortgage interest deduction would now go up to loans worth \$750,000, and the pass-through deduction would go to 20%." The [New York Times](#) (12/12, Rappeport, Kaplan) reports that the House version has a \$500,000 cap on the amount of deductible mortgage debt, which currently stands at \$1 million. [Politico](#) (12/12, Kim, Becker) has a brief item on the mortgage debt compromise.

[The Hill](#) (12/12, Carney) reports that Senate Majority Whip Cornyn told reporters that negotiators "are still ironing out the details but are 'getting closer' to an agreement," and the [Washington Post](#) (12/12, Werner, Paletta) reports that House Ways and Means Chairman Kevin Brady "said numerous details remained in play." Brady said, "In the House we feel very strongly about fully repealing the estate tax. We're having those discussions with the Senate that took a different approach."

Trump To Lunch With Negotiators Before Speech. [Reuters](#) (12/12, Holland) reports that President Trump "will host congressional negotiators for lunch to discuss their progress" today, and then deliver what the [Washington Times](#) (12/12, Miller) calls "a major speech...to close the deal on tax cuts" from the White House at 3:00 p.m.

Ignatius: Tax Legislation The Result Of "Political Desperation." In his [Washington Post](#) (12/12) column, David Ignatius writes, "Of all the follies of 2017, the most tawdry may be the GOP's headlong rush to pass a tax bill that even its proponents don't understand. What's especially sad is that otherwise sensible Republicans seem to be capitulating to the tax-cut frenzy." Ignatius says the legislation is the result of "political desperation" after the Trump Administration "has failed in its first year to enact legislation that deals with major problems, such as health care and immigration."

Economist: Tax Bills Would Hurt Public Schools. In a [New York Times](#) (12/12) op-ed, economist Nora Gordon writes that the tax bills "would significantly cut the deduction of state and local taxes," which would hurt schools because the deduction makes taxpayers "more likely to support higher spending on programs funded by those taxes, including public schools."

Tillerson Offers To Begin Talks With North Korea Without Pre-Conditions.

[Reuters](#) (12/12, Spetalnick, Brunnstrom) reports Secretary of State Tillerson offered Tuesday to begin talks with North Korea "without pre-conditions, appearing to back away from US demands that Pyongyang must first accept that any negotiations would have to be based on North Korean

nuclear disarmament." In an address to the Atlantic Council, Tillerson said, "Let's just meet." While "reiterating Washington's long-standing position that it cannot tolerate a nuclear-armed North Korea," Tillerson said the US was "ready to talk any time they're ready to talk," but stressed that Pyongyang must come to the table willing to change its course. "We can begin to lay out a map, a road map, of what we might be willing to work toward," Tillerson said, "suggesting that any initial contacts would be about setting the ground rules for formal negotiations." The [AP](#) (12/12, Pennington) says Tillerson's remarks represent a "soften[ing]" of the US' position on holding talks. Tillerson, it reports, called it "unrealistic" for the US to demand that North Korea come to the negotiating table ready to give up its nuclear program as they have "too much invested in it."

White House Says Trump Views Unchanged. The [Washington Times](#) (12/12, Miller), however, says the White House "walked back...Tillerson's comment," and [Politico](#) (12/12, Lima) reports the White House said later Tuesday that President Trump's position on North Korea remains unchanged. "The President's views on North Korea have not changed. North Korea is acting in an unsafe way not only toward Japan, China, and South Korea, but the entire world," White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said in a statement. "North Korea's actions are not good for anyone and certainly not good for North Korea."

Study: North Korea Business Transactions Evade Sanctions. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/12, O'Keefe, Talley) reports that US and South Korean researchers have identified business transactions that they say show North Korea is still able to evade international sanctions. The Journal says their findings are expected to be cited by advocates for toughening sanctions.

WPost: Biological Weapons Development One More Reason Kim Should Be Deposed. The [Washington Post](#) (12/12) editorializes that new reports that North Korea "has been acquiring the essential machinery and seeking the know-how to produce large amounts of germ-warfare agents rather quickly." The Post argues that "if Mr. Kim is creating the foundations for a biological weapons program, it should serve as one more warning of the escalating threat he poses. ... Through sanctions, diplomatic pressure and other means, the burden of Mr. Kim's despotic and reckless reign must be brought to an end."

WSJournal A1: Investigation Reveals Thousands Of Fake Comments On Regulations.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/12, A1, Grimaldi, Overberg) reports in a front-page story that an investigation revealed that thousands of comments on federal agencies' regulatory dockets are fraudulent. The comments use apparently stolen identities and are posted by computers that are programmed to flood the dockets with comments. Fake comments have been posted on both sides of several hot-button issues, such as payday lending and net neutrality.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Roy Moore Loses, Sanity Reins." The [New York Times](#) (12/12) editorializes, "That Alabama's voters" elected Doug Jones "is cause for celebration. A triumph for decency and common sense in a state that seemed for a time at risk of abandoning both," his "win narrows the Republicans' Senate majority and delivers a deeply deserved rebuke to...Trump."

"Who Bought That \$50 Million Leonardo After All?" The [New York Times](#) (12/12) editorializes, "The big news in the art world the other day – and it was big – was the disclosure that [Saudi] Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman...was the mysterious buyer who paid a fortune for a distinctly non-Islamic Leonardo at an auction at Christie's in New York City last month." Doubts, however, "have now arisen as to whether the crown prince was the true buyer." The Times questions "why would the Saudis move so quickly to say the crown prince was not the moneyman?"

"Fox News v. Robert Mueller." The [New York Times](#) (12/12) editorializes, "If only we could dismiss Sean Hannity, Jeanine Pirro, Laura Ingraham and the other well-paid propagandists at Fox News as though they were harmless drunks at the end of the bar, ticking off their conspiracy theories to anyone who will listen." But "the guy sitting on the next stool" is President Trump, "and he's all ears. ... In Fox's alternate universe, the investigation is 'illegitimate and corrupt,' or so says Gregg Jarrett, a legal analyst who appears regularly on Mr. Hannity's nightly exercise in presidential ego-stroking." The Times writes, "The primary purpose of [special counsel Robert] Mueller's investigation is not to take down Mr. Trump. It's to protect America's national security and the integrity of its elections. ... When the propagandists say, 'Get rid of Mueller,' it's not the

truth they're trying to protect; it's Mr. Trump himself."

Washington Post.

"Vote On The 'Dreamers.' Now." A [Washington Post](#) (12/12) editorial calls on Congress to "act now" on a measure permitting Dreamers to stay in the US, pointing to bipartisan support.

"There's A Deadly New Threat From North Korea." The [Washington Post](#) (12/12) editorializes that new reports that North Korea "has been acquiring the essential machinery and seeking the know-how to produce large amounts of germ-warfare agents rather quickly." The Post argues that "if Mr. Kim is creating the foundations for a biological weapons program, it should serve as one more warning of the escalating threat he poses. ... Through sanctions, diplomatic pressure and other means, the burden of Mr. Kim's despotic and reckless reign must be brought to an end."

"At The Supreme Court, The Cake Baker's Reasoning Falls Flat." The [Washington Post](#) (12/12) editorializes that the Supreme Court should reject the proposition that cakebaker Jack C. Phillips "had a constitutional right" under the First Amendment "to refuse the request" of a gay couple "who entered his bakery." The Post says "by all accounts, the happy couple did not ask Mr. Phillips for a cake bearing a message with which the baker might disagree. ... Instead, the would-be customers stated only that they were seeking a wedding cake before Mr. Phillips said he could not serve them." Because the laws of Colorado, where Mr. Phillips' bakery is based, "prohibit public accommodations — such as bakeries — from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation," when a bakery opens it "commits to serving all customers equally."

Wall Street Journal.

"A Google vs. Amazon Antitrust Lesson." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/12) editorial argues that Google's tit-for-tat with Amazon, as each blocks the other's products from its online services, is evidence that the Justice Department's antitrust lawsuit to block AT&T's merger with Time Warner is unjustified. The Journal says the playing field between Google and Amazon is level, and increased competition in content production and distribution is making it harder for either company to win the battle. Thus, AT&T's acquisition of Time Warner would help resolve their dispute, rather than allow Time Warner to withhold content, as the Justice Department claims.

"Canada's Healthcare Queues." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/12) argues that the Canada's single-payer model is not a solution for the US healthcare system, citing a [report](#) from the Vancouver-based Fraser Institute, which found that Canadian patients face long waits to see specialists.

"Illinois Drives People Away." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/12) editorial attributes an acceleration in out-migration from Illinois to excessive property and business taxes that have hindered economic growth.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Democrat Doug Jones Wins Alabama Senate Seat With Alabama Loss, Trump, GOP Face Political Reckoning](#)
[Millions Of People Post Comments On Federal Regulations. Many Are Fake](#)
[Mall Operator Westfield Agrees To Takeover Bid Valued At \\$16 Billion](#)
[Oil Prices Hit High, Before Sliding, Amid Disrupted Supply](#)

New York Times:

[Once A Long Shot, Democrat Doug Jones Wins Alabama Senate Race](#)
[Trump's Combative Denials Again Draw Him Into The Sexual Harassment Debate](#)
[Republicans, Closing In On Final Tax Bill, Aim For A Vote Next Week](#)
[Ken Friedman, Power Restaurateur, Is Accused Of Sexual Harassment](#)
[Quakes And Fires? It's The Cost Of Living That Californians Can't Stomach](#)
["Fake News," Trump's Obsession, Is Now A Cudgel For Strongmen](#)

Washington Post:

[Jubilant Democrats Freshly Confident About Midterms](#)

[GOP Nears Deal To Cut Top Tax Rate For Wealthy](#)
[Trump Attacks Gillibrand In Tweet](#)
[Jones Wins In Democratic Upset](#)
[Results Scrambles GOP Legislative Agenda, Security In Senate](#)
[A Lousy Night For Republicans And A Big Defeat For Trump](#)

Financial Times:

[Disney Poised To Shake Up Media Industry With \\$60bn Deal For Fox](#)
[Bitcoin Surge Prompts Legal Bid To Remove Mt Gox From Bankruptcy](#)

Washington Times:

[Half Of Americans Approve Of Banning Nazi Speech On Campus, With Definition Of 'Nazi' Expanding](#)
[Democratic Women Raise Voices For Trump Sex Misconduct Investigation After Tweet About Gillibrand](#)
[Republicans Scoff At One Of Economy's Fastest-Growing Sectors: Renewable energy](#)
[Iraqi Shiite Militia Leader Carries Iran's Proxy Battle To Israel's Border](#)
[Pregnant Ugandan Women Abandoned By Chinese Expatriates They Love](#)
[Acclaimed Film Of Boy-Man Love Raises Hackles In Hollywood](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Alabama Senate Race; Alabama Senate Race-Trump; WH-Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Sexual Misconduct Allegations-Gowdy; Russia Investigation; NYC Terror Attack; Iowa-School Bus Fire; Weather Forecast; California Wildfires; Holiday Delivery Delays; San Francisco Mayor Dies; NFL Network-Sexual Misconduct; UK Royal Family-Star Wars Premier.

CBS: WH-Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Alabama Senate Race; Alabama Senate Race-Analysis; Paris-One Planet Summit; Arizona-2016 Police Shooting; NYC Terror Attack; San Francisco Mayor Dies; California Wildfires; Facebook's Influence On Teens; Holiday Delivery Delays-UPS; AAA-Premium Gas; Health-3D Printed Robotic Hands.

NBC: Alabama Senate Race; Alabama Senate Race-Analysis; WH-Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Healthcare-Jimmy Kimmel; NYC Terror Attack; California Wildfires; Weather Forecast; Teens-Mental Health; Transportation-Dynamic Pricing; San Francisco Mayor Dies; Flu Season-Men; UK Royal Family-Star Wars Premier.

Network TV At A Glance:

Alabama Senate Race – 12 minutes, 30 seconds
WH-Sexual Misconduct Allegations – 6 minutes, 10 seconds
NYC Terror Attack – 4 minutes, 50 seconds
Holiday Delivery Delays – 1 minute, 35 seconds
California Wildfires – 1 minute, 10 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Alabama Senate Race-Jones Wins; Alabama Senate Race-Analysis; NYC Terror Attack; Russia Investigation.

CBS: Alabama Senate Race-Jones Wins; Russia Investigation; NYC Terror Attack; San Francisco Mayor Dies; Minnesota-Al Franken Successor Named.

FOX: Alabama Senate Race-Jones Wins; Alabama Senate Race-Trump; WH-Sexual Misconduct Allegations; NYC Terror Attack; California Wildfires; LAPD-Roman Polanski Investigation.

NPR: Alabama Senate Race-Jones Wins; Alabama Senate Race-Analysis; WH-Sexual Misconduct Allegations; California Wildfires; NYC Terror Attack; Trump Israel Decision-Netanyahu Comments; Wall Street.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Delivers remarks on tax reform, to an audience featuring young people and middle-class families.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public events scheduled

FIRST LADY MELANIA TRUMP — Visits Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling to deliver brief remarks and help sort and box toys for the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Campaign.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on use of force – Hearing on ‘Using Force: Strategic, Political, and Legal Considerations’, with testimony from former President’s Assistant Stephen Hadley; former Under Secretary of Defense for Policy Christine Wormuth; and former National Security Council Legal Advisor John Bellinger III.

9:30 AM Senate Agriculture Committee hearing on ‘Safeguarding American Agriculture in a Globalized World’ – Hearing on ‘Safeguarding American Agriculture in a Globalized World’, with testimony from Blue Ribbon Study on Biodefense Co-Chair Joseph Lieberman; Kansas State University President Gen. (Ret.) Richard Myers; Michigan State University Professor of Plant, Soil and Microbial Sciences Dr Raymond Hammerschmidt; and North Carolina State Veterinarian Dr R.D. Meckes.

9:50 AM Senate Public Works Committee Business Meeting, hearing on NRC oversight – Business Meeting, to consider the nomination of R.D. James to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works * Immediately followed by hearing on ‘Oversight of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’, with testimony from NRC Chairman Kristine Svinicki and Commissioners Jeffery Baran and Stephen Burns.

10:00 AM Senate Armed Services CLOSED hearing – CLOSED: Department of Defense Global Counterterrorism Operations with Mark E. Mitchell, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations / Low-Intensity Conflict; Major General Albert M. Elton III, USAF, Deputy Director for Special Operations and Counterterrorism, Joint Staff. <https://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/17-12-13-department-of-defense-global-counterterrorism-operations>.

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee hearing on 21st Century Cures Act implementation – Hearing on ‘Implementation of the 21st Century Cures Act: Responding to Mental Health Needs’, with testimony from Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use Dr Elinore McCance-Katz.

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Elizabeth Branch to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit; R. Stan Baker to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Georgia; Charles Barnes Goodwin to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Oklahoma; Matthew Kacsmayk to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Texas; Matthew Spencer Petersen to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Columbia; and Eli Jeremy Richardson to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee.

10:00 AM Senate Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee Executive Session – Executive Session, to consider ‘S. 2202, National Transportation Safety Board Reauthorization Act’, ‘S. 2200, National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act of 2018’, ‘S. 1768, National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program Reauthorization Act of 2017’, the nomination of Barry Lee Myers to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, and Coast Guard promotions.

11:00 AM Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders and Dem Reps. Rosa DeLauro and Keith Ellison at NAFTA Day of Action press event – Press event as part of NAFTA Day of Action, held amid renegotiation talks in Washington, DC. Speakers include Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders, Democratic Reps. Rosa DeLauro and Keith Ellison, American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten, NETWORK Lobby Executive Director Sister Simon Campbell, and National Farmers Union President Roger Johnson * Day of Action includes Americans nationwide calling and tweeting at Congress to demand a successful renegotiation of NAFTA to eliminate its outsourcing incentives and add strong labor and environmental terms.

1:15 PM Senators, Patients on Children’s Health Insurance and Community Health Centers – U.S. Senators Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Bob Casey (D-PA), and Mazie Hirono (D-HI) will urge Congress to immediately act and extend funding for the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which serves nine million children across the country, and funding for community health centers, which serve 26 million patients. Federal funding for both of these programs ran out on September 30th. Participants: Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI); Senator Bob Casey (D-PA); Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI); Connie Cavara, MomsRising member and nurse from Pittsburgh, PA, whose children receive medical care through CHIP; Kymberly Renee Grafton, veteran who receives health care at DC-based community health center.

2:00 PM Rally, civil disobedience, and sit-ins at Congressional offices in opposition to GOP tax bill – Center for Popular Democracy, Housing Works, Women’s March, Hedge Clippers, People for Bernie, and Strong Economy for All Coalition lead rally, civil disobedience, and sit-ins at Congressional offices in opposition to the Republican tax bill. Rally, on the Capitol Lawn, headlined by Ady Barkan – an activist who became famous last week for confronting Republican Sen. Jeff Flake mid-flight over his vote on the bill.

2:00 PM 'Tax Cuts and Jobs Act' House-Senate Conference meeting – 'H.R. 1, Tax Cuts and Jobs Act' House-Senate Conference meeting * Conferees include Republicans Reps. Kevin Brady, Devin Nunes, Peter Roskam, Diane Black, Kristi Noem, Rob Bishop, Don Young, Fred Upton, and John Shimkus and Sens. Orrin Hatch, John Cornyn, John Thune, Rob Portman, Tim Scott, Pat Toomey, Mike Enzi, and Lisa Murkowski and Democrats Reps. Richard Neal, Sander Levin, Lloyd Doggett, Raul Grijalva, and Kathy Castor and Sens. Ron Wyden, Debbie Stabenow, Robert Menendez, Tom Carper, Bernie Sanders, Patty Murray, and Maria Cantwell.

2:30 PM Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearing on consumer welfare and antitrust – Antitrust, Competition and Consumer Rights Subcommittee hearing on 'The Consumer Welfare Standard in Antitrust: Outdated or a Harbor in a Sea of Doubt?', with testimony from former Federal Trade Commission Bureau of Competition Acting Director Tad Lipsky; Open Markets Institute Executive Director Barry Lynn; American Antitrust Institute President Dr Diana Moss; former Deputy Assistant Attorney General Carl Shapiro; and Global Antitrust Institute Executive Director (and former FTC Commissioner) Joshua Wright.

2:30 PM Senate Foreign Relations Committee treaties hearing – Treaties hearing on 'Extradition Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Kosovo', 'Extradition Treaty between the United States of America and the Republic of Serbia', 'The Treaty between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Kiribati on the Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries', and 'The United Nations Convention on the Assignment of Receivables in International Trade', with testimony from State Department Acting Legal Adviser Richard Visek; and Deputy Assistant Attorney General Bruce Swartz.

3:00 PM Helsinki Commission briefing on the Global Magnitsky Act – Helsinki Commission briefing on 'Combating Kleptocracy with the Global Magnitsky Act', seeking to provide an overview of 'the scourge of corruption in the OSCE region and how the Global Magnitsky Act can be employed to combat it', including discussion of 'the types of individuals and groups that should come under consideration for placement on the sanctions list and the ramifications of any such placement'. Panelists include Open Society Policy Center Senior Policy Advisor for Europe and Eurasia Alex Johnson, Hudson Institute Kleptocracy Initiative Executive Director Charles Davidson, and Human Rights First Senior Vice President Rob Berschinski.

Senate HELP Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Kenneth Marcus to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Civil Rights; Johnny Collett to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services; Scott Mugno to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health; and Dr William Beach to be Commissioner of Labor Statistics.

US House: 9:30 AM House Homeland Security Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 1486, the Securing American Non-Profit Organizations Against Terrorism Act of 2017', 'H.R. 4433, the Securing Department of Homeland Security Firearms Act of 2017', 'H.R. 4553, the Terrorist Screening and Targeting Review Act of 2017', 'H.R. 4555, the DHS Interagency Counterterrorism Task Force Act of 2017', 'H.R. 4559, the Global Aviation System Security Reform Act of 2017', 'H.R. 4561, the Security Assessment Feasibility for Equipment Testing and Evaluation of Capabilities for our Homeland Act', 'H.R. 4564, the Post-Caliphate Threat Assessment Act of 2017', 'H.R. 4567, the DHS Overseas Personnel Enhancement Act of 2017', 'H.R. 4569, the Counterterrorism Information Sharing Improvement Act of 2017', 'H.R. 4577, the Domestic Explosives Detection Canine Capacity Building Act of 2017', 'H.R. 4578, the Counter Terrorist Network Act', and 'H.R. 4581, the Screening and Vetting Passenger Exchange Act of 2017'.

10:00 AM House Committee on the Judiciary oversight hearing with Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein.

10:00 AM House Natural Resources Committee markup hearing concludes – Markup hearing concludes on legislation including 'H.R. 200, Strengthening Fishing Communities and Increasing Flexibility in Fisheries Management Act', 'H.R. 1349, To amend the Wilderness Act to ensure that the use of bicycles, wheelchairs, strollers, and game carts is not prohibited in Wilderness Areas, and for other purposes', 'H.R. 1675, National Landslide Preparedness Act', 'H.R. 2888, Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park Establishment Act', 'H.R. 3588, RED SNAPPER Act', 'H.R. 4033, National Geologic Mapping Act Reauthorization Act', 'H.R. 4264, Hyde Park Land Conveyance Act', 'H.R. 4266, Acadia National Park Boundary Clarification Act', 'H.R. 4465, Endangered Fish Recovery Programs Extension Act of 2017', 'H.R. 4475, National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System Act', 'H.R. 4568, Enhancing Geothermal Production on Federal Lands Act', 'S. 825, Southeast Alaska Regional Health Consortium Land Transfer Act of 2017', and 'S. 1285, Oregon Tribal Economic Development Act' * Began yesterday.

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on the drug supply chain – Health Subcommittee hearing on ‘Examining the Drug Supply Chain’, with testimony from Association for Accessible Medicines President and CEO Chip Davis; Biotechnology Innovation Organization President of Advocacy, Law, and Public Policy Tom DiLenge; America’s Health Insurance Plans Senior Executive Vice President and COO for Policy and Regulatory Affairs Matt Eyles; Healthcare Distribution Alliance Senior Vice President for Government Affairs and General Counsel Elizabeth Gallenagh; American Medical Association Chair of the Board of Trustees Gerald Harmon; National Community Pharmacists Association CEO B. Douglas Hoey; Pharmaceutical Care Management Association President and CEO Mark Merritt; Patients for Affordable Drugs founder and President David Mitchell; American Hospital Association Executive Vice President for Government Relations and Public Policy Tom Nickels; and Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America Executive Vice President for Policy, Research and Membership Lori Reilly.

10:00 AM House Science subcommittee hearing on preventing head trauma – Research and Technology Subcommittee hearing on ‘Head Health Challenge: Preventing Head Trauma from Football Field to Shop Floor to Battlefield’, with testimony from NIST Material Measurement Lab Acting Director Dr Michael Fasolka; Dynamic Research Vice President and Technical Director Scott Keschull; Conservation X Labs CEO and founder Dr Alex Dehgan; and Windpact CEO Shawn Springs.

10:00 AM House Oversight Committee hearing on the Bureau of Prisons and inmate reentry – Hearing on ‘Oversight of the Bureau of Prisons and Inmate Reentry’, with testimony from Federal Bureau of Prisons Director Mark Inch; Department of Justice Inspector General Michael Horowitz; Government Accountability Office Director of Homeland Security and Justice Diana Maurer; and University of Virginia Justice Tech Lab Director Jennifer Doleac.

10:00 AM House Veterans’ Affairs subcommittee oversight hearing on pre-discharge claims programs – Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee oversight hearing on ‘Pre-Discharge Claims Programs: Are VA and DOD Effectively Serving Separating Military Personnel?’

10:00 AM Oversight Subcommittee hearing on ‘IRS Reform: The Taxpayer Experience’.

10:15 AM House Energy subcommittee hearing on North American energy trade – Energy Subcommittee hearing on ‘The Impacts and Future of North American Energy Trade’, with testimony from ABB Global Head of Strategic Projects Allen Burchett (on behalf of The National Association of Manufacturers); U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Energy Institute President and CEO Karen Harbert; Resources for the Future Senior Fellow Dr Alan Krupnick; and American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers President and CEO Chet Thompson.

11:00 AM Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders and Dem Reps. Rosa DeLauro and Keith Ellison at NAFTA Day of Action press event – Press event as part of NAFTA Day of Action, held amid renegotiation talks in Washington, DC. Speakers include Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders, Democratic Reps. Rosa DeLauro and Keith Ellison, American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten, NETWORK Lobby Executive Director Sister Simon Campbell, and National Farmers Union President Roger Johnson * Day of Action includes Americans nationwide calling and tweeting at Congress to demand a successful renegotiation of NAFTA to eliminate its outsourcing incentives and add strong labor and environmental terms.

11:30 AM House Administration Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on ‘H.R. 4009: Smithsonian National Zoological Park Central Parking Facility Authorization Act’ and ‘Committee Resolution. XXX: Updating the Advertisement Regulations found in the Members’ Congressional Handbook’.

12:00 PM House Democrats hold forum on the GOP tax bill – House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and House Ways and Means Committee hold forum on Republican tax legislation and the potential impacts of the proposals on middle-class families and the U.S. economy. Participants include: Moody’s Analytics Chief Economist Mark Zandi, former Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Jason Furman, University of Pennsylvania PhD Candidate Brenda Salantes, and Union Veterans Council Executive Director Will Attig. Original press advisory indicated that U.S. Treasury Secretary Mnuchin was “invited”.

12:00 PM ‘The Many Faces of Copyright’ event – ‘The Many Faces of Copyright’ event, hosted by the Copyright Alliance and SIIA in conjunction with the Creative Rights Caucus, discussing ‘the importance of copyright to technical, software, and publishing industries’, featuring a panel of Kiplinger Washington Editors Senior Vice President and COO Denise Elliott, RELX Group’s Karen Marangi, and SAS Institute Patents Director Timothy Wilson.

12:00 PM House debates bills on Iran – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including ‘H.R. 1638 – Iranian Leadership Asset Transparency Act’ and ‘H.R. 4324 – Strengthening Oversight of Iran’s Access to Finance Act’.

2:00 PM Rally, civil disobedience, and sit-ins at Congressional offices in opposition to GOP

tax bill – Center for Popular Democracy, Housing Works, Women's March, Hedge Clippers, People for Bernie, and Strong Economy for All Coalition lead rally, civil disobedience, and sit-ins at Congressional offices in opposition to the Republican tax bill. Rally, on the Capitol Lawn, headlined by Ady Barkan – an activist who became famous last week for confronting Republican Sen. Jeff Flake mid-flight over his vote on the bill.

2:00 PM 'Tax Cuts and Jobs Act' House-Senate Conference meeting – 'H.R. 1, Tax Cuts and Jobs Act' House-Senate Conference meeting * Conferees include Republicans Reps. Kevin Brady, Devin Nunes, Peter Roskam, Diane Black, Kristi Noem, Rob Bishop, Don Young, Fred Upton, and John Shimkus and Sens. Orrin Hatch, John Cornyn, John Thune, Rob Portman, Tim Scott, Pat Toomey, Mike Enzi, and Lisa Murkowski and Democrats Reps. Richard Neal, Sander Levin, Lloyd Doggett, Raul Grijalva, and Kathy Castor and Sens. Ron Wyden, Debbie Stabenow, Robert Menendez, Tom Carper, Bernie Sanders, Patty Murray, and Maria Cantwell.

2:00 PM House Technology subcommittee hearing on solar energy – Energy Subcommittee hearing on 'Advancing Solar Energy Technology: Research Trumps Deployment', with testimony from Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Energy for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Daniel Simmons; National Renewable Energy Laboratory Director Dr Martin Keller; Stanford University Computer Science Executive Director of Strategic Research Initiatives Dr Steve Eglash; and Institute for Energy Research Director of Policy Kenny Stein

3:00 PM Helsinki Commission briefing on the Global Magnitsky Act – Helsinki Commission briefing on 'Combating Kleptocracy with the Global Magnitsky Act', seeking to provide an overview of 'the scourge of corruption in the OSCE region and how the Global Magnitsky Act can be employed to combat it', including discussion of 'the types of individuals and groups that should come under consideration for placement on the sanctions list and the ramifications of any such placement'. Panelists include Open Society Policy Center Senior Policy Advisor for Europe and Eurasia Alex Johnson, Hudson Institute Kleptocracy Initiative Executive Director Charles Davidson, and Human Rights First Senior Vice President Rob Berschinski.

3:30 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on physiological episodes in aircraft – Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee hearing on 'Addressing Physiological Episodes in Fighter, Attack, and Training Aircraft', with testimony from NASA Engineering and Safety Center Principal Engineer Clinton Cragg; U.S. Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations Lt. Gen. Mark Nowland; Naval Air Systems Command Commander Vice Adm. Paul Grosklags; and U.S. Navy Physiological Events Action Team Lead Rear Adm. Sara Joyner.

Other: 8:30 AM DC Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting – DC Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Chairman's Inaugural Breakfast, with speakers including U.S. Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Thomas Donohue, Washington, DC, Mayor Muriel Bowser, and DC Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Vincent Orange. Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon PI NW, Washington, DC www.dcchamber.org
<https://twitter.com/dcchamber>.

8:55 AM Jamestown Foundation Annual Terrorism Conference – Jamestown Foundation Eleventh Annual Terrorism Conference, including keynote from National Security Advisor Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster, and other speakers including former CIA Director / former National Security Agency Director Gen. (Ret.) Michael Hayden, Georgetown University Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service Center for Security Studies and Security Studies Program Director Bruce Hoffman, and former Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Defense Intelligence Enterprise CEO Dr Michael Vickers. Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC www.jamestown.org [#JTFterror](https://twitter.com/JamestownTweets).

9:00 AM HHS Innovation Day – HHS Innovation Day, hosted by the Department of Health and Human Services, featuring 'stellar employees at HHS who are working to improve how their office or agency delivers on their mission – and who perform #HHSInnovation'. Speakers include HHS CTO Bruce Greenstein, University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Chief Innovation Officer Dr Rasu Shrestha, and Defense Innovation Board Executive Director Joshua Marcuse. Location: Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Washington, DC www.hhs.gov
[#HHSInnovation](https://twitter.com/HHSgov).

11:00 AM Washington FPC media roundtable on the latest 'To Walk the Earth in Safety' report – Washington Foreign Press Center On-The-Record Media Roundtable with State Department Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, Weapons Removal and Abatement Office Director Stanley Brown discussing yesterday's release of the 16th edition of 'To Walk the Earth in Safety (TWEIS)' – a report on the U.S. Govt's conventional weapons destruction programs. Location: National Press Building, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC www.fpc.state.gov
<https://twitter.com/ForeignPressCtr>.

1:30 PM Dem Sen. Maria Cantwell speaks at BPC on 'Low-Income Housing Tax Credit and

Health' – 'Building the Case: Low-Income Housing Tax Credit and Health' Bipartisan Policy Center discussion, exploring ways to leverage LIHTC policy to improve health, research on the linkages between affordable housing and health, critical research gaps, and the implications for federal policy moving forward. Speakers include Democratic Sen. Maria Cantwell, UnitedHealthcare Senior Vice President for Policy and Strategy Catherine Anderson, Georgia Health Policy Center Policy Impact Specialist Michelle Rushing, and Enterprise Community Partners Knowledge, Impact & Strategy Senior Director Stephany De Scisciolo. Location: Bipartisan Policy Center, 1225 I St NW, Washington, DC www.bipartisanpolicy.org https://twitter.com/BPC_Bipartisan #BPCLive.

1:45 PM DHS Deputy Secretary Elaine Duke speaks at Hudson Institute on combating terrorism and WMDs – Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security Elaine Duke speaks at the Hudson Institute on 'The Future of Combating Terrorism and Countering the Use of WMD', including discussion on the creation of the Department's new Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction. Followed by panel discussion with Deputy Secretary Duke and Acting Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Jim McDonnell. Location: Hudson Institute, 1201 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC <http://www.hudson.org> <https://twitter.com/HudsonInstitute>.

5:30 PM INSA Leadership Dinner – INSA Leadership Dinner, with honored guest and keynote speaker U.S. Special Operations Command Commander General Raymond Thomas III. Location: Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Dr, McLean, VA <http://www.insaonline.org/> <https://twitter.com/INSAAlliance>.

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "The state of Alabama had a special election to decide whether or not an alleged sexual predator of young girls would be their senator. Remember when we used to find out senators were dirtbags after we elected them?"

Jimmy Kimmel: "I don't know the results yet. The polls just closed. I do know that Roy Moore, he shouldn't even be in. I'm not talking about the Senate race. I mean the human race."

Jimmy Kimmel: "There's been plenty of opposition to Roy Moore even within his own party. The other Republican senator from Alabama spoke out against him and said he did not vote for him. President Trump's daughter Ivanka spoke out against him. She said there's a special place in hell for people who prey on children. And their dad was like, 'Yes, but before that, there's a special place for him in the Senate, by me.'"

Jimmy Kimmel: "So there are rumblings – if he wins, Republican leaders might not even put Roy Moore on any committees. ... Roy Moore could become the first person to be banned from the Senate Budget Committee and the mall."

Harry Styles: "Yesterday, President Trump announced that he wants to send astronauts back to the moon for the first time in 45 years. And then the President was startled when Melania yelled, 'I'll go!'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Today was the big Alabama Senate election, and as promised, Roy Moore rode his horse to the polls. It got weird when people said, 'Can we vote for the horse?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Listen to this, guys. I read that Vladimir Putin gets daily reports of Trump's tweets. Every day Putin reads them and goes, 'My God, what have I done?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Speaking of tweets, Trump got in a Twitter fight with Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand over his sexual assault allegations. Just this week, he insulted a senator, endorsed Roy Moore, and called 20 women liars. It's like he saw his approval rating was 32 and said, 'I bet I can get it under 30 by the weekend.'"

Seth Meyers: "Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore rode on horseback today to his polling place to vote in the special election. Look at that. What a majestic picture of two animals not allowed in the mall."

Seth Meyers: "That's right, Roy Moore rode his horse to vote in the special election. Because when Roy Moore is choosing a mode of transportation, he always asks himself, 'What do 14-year-old girls like?'"

Seth Meyers: "Former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon said at a campaign rally yesterday that there was a special place in hell for Republicans who didn't support Roy Moore. A special place? Is it the exit?"

Seth Meyers: "President Trump signed a \$700 billion defense bill today, and said, quote, 'We need our military. It's got to be perfect.' Of course, it's hard to be perfect when the guy in charge is suspecto."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump is reportedly furious with UN Ambassador Nikki Haley after she recently said the women who have accused Trump of sexual misconduct have a right to be heard. He's so mad his face turned red 20 years ago."

Seth Meyers: "Former White House press secretary Sean Spicer announced yesterday that he is writing a book about his time at the White House, called 'The Briefing,' not to be confused with Anthony Scaramucci's book about his time at the White House, called 'The Briefest'."

Seth Meyers: "Ivanka Trump tweeted photos yesterday with the caption 'Happy Holidays.' Even weirder, Eric Trump tweeted, 'Happy Fourth of July.'"

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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DOI In The News

U.S. Sees Foreign Reliance For ‘Critical’ Minerals As Security Concern.

[Reuters](#) (12/19, Volcovici) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said Tuesday that America “needs to encourage domestic production of a handful of minerals critical for the technology and defense industries, and stem reliance on China.” Zinke spoke at the unveiling of a report by the US Geological Survey “which detailed the extent to which the United States is dependent upon foreign competitors for its supply of certain minerals.” It identified “23 out of 88 minerals that are priorities for US national defense and the economy because they are components in products ranging from batteries to military equipment,” and, it “found that the United States was 100 percent net import reliant on 20 mineral commodities in 2016, including manganese, niobium, tantalum and others.” Zinke said, “We have the minerals here and likely we have enough to provide our needs and be a world trader in them, but we have to go forward and identify where they are at.” Reuters adds that this survey “is the first update of a 1973 USGS report that catalogued the production of minerals worldwide.”

The [Washington Post](#) (12/19, Eilperin) reports that “Zinke did not launch a specific new policy initiative, but Heather Swift, his spokeswoman, said the secretary had discussed the issue with the president, and the administration would act on the matter in the coming months.”

The [AP](#) (12/19, Daly) reports that Lawrence Meinert, deputy associate director of the USGS, “said the U.S. has ‘deposits of every element in the periodic table’ but faces economic and regulatory hurdles to production.” Sen. Lisa Murkowski, chairs of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, “called development of critical minerals crucial to U.S. national security.” She said, “We have to pay greater attention to this threat, and we have to take steps to resolve it now.”

Also reporting are [ResourceClips](#) (12/19, Klein) and [The Hill](#) (12/19, Wheeler).

Patagonia Founder Rejects ‘Disingenuous’ Invitation To Testify.

[The Hill](#) (12/19, Thomsen) reports that Patagonia founder Yvon Chouinard on Tuesday rejected an invitation to testify from House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop. Chouinard had been invited to testify “about the Antiquities Act, after Patagonia criticized President Trump’s decision to shrink the size of two national monuments in Utah.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/19, Siegel) reports that, in a letter to the Bishop, Chouinard

“called the invite ‘disingenuous’ and pointless and accused the Natural Resources Committee of acting in cahoots with an ‘Orwellian government’ at the behest of the energy industry.” He added, “It is clear the House Committee on Natural Resources, like many committees in this Orwellian government, is shackled to special interests of oil, gas, and mining, and will seek to sell off our public lands at every turn and continue to weaken or denigrate Theodore Roosevelt’s Antiquities Act, which has preserved our treasured public lands for over 100 years.”

Also reporting are [GrindTV](#) (12/19, Brower) and the [Gear Junkie](#) (12/19, Ruggiero).

NY Times Sues DOI Over Utah Monument Doc Request.

[Law360](#) (12/19, Posses) reports that “the New York Times Co. hit the U.S. Department of the Interior with a Freedom of Information Act suit Monday in New York federal court, alleging that the agency has failed to fork over documents related to a national monument in Utah that the federal government plans to shrink dramatically.” The complaint claims “that the agency has yet to respond to Times reporter Julie Turkewitz’s request for information” related to President Trump’s decision.

Official: North Cascades Grizzly Bear Recovery Work Halted.

The [AP](#) (12/19) reports that North Cascades National Park Superintendent Karen Taylor-Goodrich “says work to restore grizzly bears to the North Cascades Ecosystem has been stopped by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s office.” Taylor-Goodrich last week told the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee “that her staff had been asked to halt work on its environmental review.” Zinke spokeswoman Heather Swift told the AP on Tuesday “that Zinke did not direct a stop work order on the environmental impact statement but she didn’t provide details.”

Colorado Gets \$92 Million In Federal Disbursements.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Business Times](#) (12/19) reports that “Colorado received a total of more than \$92 million in federal energy and mineral production disbursements, according to figures from the Interior Department for the 2017 fiscal year.” The number “constitutes an increase of more than \$8 million from the previous fiscal year.” In all, Office of Natural Resources Revenue disbursements “totaled \$7.11 billion, an increase of nearly \$1 billion from the previous year.”

Texas Company To Pay \$2.25 Million In Gas Royalties Dispute.

The [AP](#) (12/19) reports Colorado US Attorney Bob Troyer says that Citation Oil & Gas Corp. “will pay \$2.25 million to settle allegations that it underpaid royalties for natural gas produced on federal land in Wyoming.” The company has been “accused of breaking federal law requiring companies to make royalty payments for natural gas produced on leased federal lands.” The company “was accused of deducting the cost of making natural gas into a marketable product from its royalties, which isn’t permitted.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Ho-Chunk Nation Committed To Off-Reservation Casino Despite Uncertainty In Trump Era.

The [Nation Sun News](#) (12/19) reports that “the Ho-Chunk Nation remains committed to an off-reservation casino in Wisconsin despite uncertainty created by the Trump administration.” Tribal leaders will provide “an ‘update’ on the long-sought project in Beloit on Thursday.” The tribe “officially sought approval for the casino more five years ago.” However, “there’s been little movement on the federal level – the Bureau of Indian Affairs failed to meet its self-imposed schedule years ago and never issued a draft environmental impact statement, the first major step in the process.”

Oneida Nation Eyes More Green Bay Land.

The [Green Bay \(WI\) Press-Gazette](#) (12/19, Anderson) reports that the Oneida Nation is “seeking to transfer more than \$2 million of land on Green Bay’s west side into a tax-exempt federal trust, an action that is drawing opposition from City Hall.” The move would “help the tribe further its goal of reclaiming its original 65,400-acre reservation.” However, “it also would exempt the tribal-owned properties from municipal ordinances and taxes, meaning other taxpayers would have to pay more to cover the lost revenue, according to Green Bay Mayor Jim Schmitt.” Schmitt wrote to the Bureau of Indian Affairs “twice this year objecting to the tribe’s applications to put 17 properties into federal trust, newly released documents show.”

Ex-BIA Police Officer In Montana Pleads Guilty In Sex Case.

The [AP](#) (12/19) reports that a former law enforcement officer for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Montana has “pleaded guilty in a case in which he was accused of coercing a woman into having sex.” Dana Michael Bullcoming, 43, “pleaded guilty in Billings to deprivation of rights under color of law during a hearing Tuesday before U.S. Magistrate Judge Timothy Cavan.” [KTVH-TV](#) Helena, MT (12/19) reports that “two counts of making a false statement to a federal officer were dismissed as part of a plea agreement.”

Bureau Of Indian Education

Document Reveals Federal Government Paid \$13K To Settle Haskell Student’s Lawsuit.

The [Lawrence \(KS\) Journal World](#) (12/19, Shepherd) reports that the federal government “paid a former Haskell Indian Nations University student \$13,000 to drop what remained of her lawsuit against the school and the federal government, according to a settlement agreement obtained by the Journal-World.” The settlement “stipulated that, after receiving the money, the woman must dismiss her suit with prejudice.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Green Groups Sue Trump Administration Over Delay Of Methane Rule.

[Reuters](#) (12/19, Gardner) reports that on Tuesday, a collection of almost “20 environmental and Native American tribal groups sued the Trump administration...challenging its delay of a rule limiting emissions of the powerful greenhouse gas methane from oil and gas drilling operations on federal lands.” This month, the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Land Management suspended the rule’s effective date for one year. However, some expect the Administration “to announce a new draft rule in coming weeks, in line with its policy of maximizing output of oil, gas and coal and dismantling regulations it says prevent job growth.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/19, Siegel) reports that the BLM “announced a two-year delay in implementing the Obama administration’s rule.” Attorney with Wilderness Society Bruce Pendery said, “no matter how many special interests the Trump administration has on its side in its mindless pursuit of energy dominance, it cannot avoid the Interior Department’s legal obligations to protect taxpayers and the planet.”

Also reporting are the [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (12/19, Alexander), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (12/19, Hart), the [New Mexico Political Report](#) (12/19, Paskus), the [Grand Forks \(ND\) Herald](#) (12/19), the [Brainerd \(MN\) Daily Dispatch](#) (12/19), [RT](#) (12/20), [Greenwire](#) (12/19), and [Law360](#) (12/19, Phillis).

California, New Mexico AGs File Lawsuit Over Delayed BLM Methane Regulations.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (12/19, Alexander) reports that on Tuesday, California Attorney General Xavier Becerra sued the Trump administration for suspending the Bureau of Land Management’s methane regulations for the oil and gas industry on federal and tribal lands. Becerra’s lawsuit, filed along with New Mexico Attorney General Hector Balderas, claims the delay was “arbitrary” and “capricious.” Administration officials, on the other hand, claimed the rule was unnecessarily burdensome and costly, and that the rule’s implementation should be halted until it could be amended.

Prosecutors In NV Standoff Case Urge Judge To Limit Defense Theories.

The [Oregonian](#) (12/19, Bernstein) reports that “prosecutors have asked the judge in the Nevada ranch standoff case to limit defense theories and not allow Cliven Bundy, his two sons and Ryan Payne to claim federal officers provoked the armed confrontation in April 2014.” In a motion filed late Monday, Acting U.S. Attorney Steven Myhre said the defendants are relying on “theories of defenses that are not legally cognizable.” Myhre argued that “they shouldn’t be able to argue that they were entrapped or acted in self-defense when federal officers tried to impound the Bundy cattle.”

BLM Launches Roundup Of Problem Wild Burros North Of Pahrump.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (12/19, Brean) reports that the Bureau of Land Management “launched a roundup Tuesday of burros causing problems at the northern edge of Pahrump,

about 70 miles west of Las Vegas." Over the course of several weeks, the BLM "hopes to capture and remove about 75 burros from the area by luring the animals into corrals set up on private land and baited with food and water." According to the bureau, "burros from the Johnnie herd management area north of Pahrump have been roaming into town, damaging fences, water lines and vegetation on private property and causing a safety hazard on state Route 160."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (12/20).

Thrill-Seeker Gets OK To Try For Land-Speed Record In Nevada.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (12/19, Brean) reports that "a 76-year-old thrill-seeker is headed to Nevada next year in hopes of breaking the world land-speed record – and the sound barrier – in a car built from the husk of an old fighter jet." On Monday, the Bureau of Land Management granted Ed Shadle and "his Parkland, Washington-based team permission to set up a temporary, 16-mile-long test track on Diamond Valley Playa, a dry lake bed in Eureka County, about 350 miles north of Las Vegas." According to the article, "to set the record, Shadle's jet-powered North American Eagle will need to top 763 mph and maintain that speed for at least one mile."

WATCH: BLM Pulls Large Appliances From Oregon River After Truck Crash.

[KTVB-TV](#) Boise, ID (12/19) reports that "workers for the Bureau of Land Management have been patrolling a section of the Deschutes River in Central Oregon looking for large household appliances deposited into the river during a truck crash last month." The bureau "says a delivery truck crashed Nov. 21 at Sherars Bridge, northwest of the town of Maupin, and plummeted more than 20 feet into the river." According to the article, "the driver and passenger survived, but the contents of the truck, including at least two refrigerators and a large amount of packaging material, were sent floating downstream."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Prize Competition Seeks To Eradicate Mussels In U.S. Waters.

[Hydroworld](#) (12/19, Ingram) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation has "launched a prize competition seeking 'innovative solutions for the 100-percent eradication of invasive quagga and zebra mussels from large reservoirs, lakes and rivers in a cost-effective and environmentally sound manner.'" The bureau "says invasive mussel infestations pose significant logistical challenges for local communities, recreationists and water managers by potentially disrupting water deliveries, increasing facility maintenance cost, and impacting the local ecology." According to the article, "the \$100,000 prize purse will be divided among a maximum of five winners."

Washington Delegation Meets With White House About Columbia Basin Project.

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (12/19, Weaver) reports that "a delegation of officials, farmers and lawmakers from Washington state met with White House and Department of Interior officials last week to educate them about the need for funding to replace shrinking groundwater supplies in the Odessa subarea with Columbia River water." The Washington delegation is "seeking \$5 million to \$10 million in federal funding for 10 to 15 years, and for the project to be included in the president's infrastructure package."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Tax Bill Opens Arctic Refuge For Oil, But Years Of Delay May Follow.

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/19, Dlouhy) reports Congress is close to lifting the ban on energy development in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, but drilling may take years as companies face lengthy environmental reviews and probable lawsuits. It could take more than 10 years before any well is drilled, as companies have to face environmental scrutiny and permit reviews. Senior fellow at the Center for American Progress Matt Lee-Ashley said, "It's still an open question about whether drilling will ever happen there. ... It's hard to image that drilling will occur in the next 10 years – or ever." However, consultant Robert Dillon said, "You need to be looking 10, 20, 30 years out to know where your supply is going to come from for the future of the country."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/19, Siciliano) reports Sen. Lisa Murkowski said the GOP will claim a victory in their "multigenerational fight" to open the ANWR to drilling. She said the

provision in the tax reform bill is the “single most important step” for energy independence and wealth creation in the US.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Huffington Post](#) (12/19, D'Angelo), [Vox](#) (11/28, Irfan), and [National Geographic](#) (12/19, Bourne, Jr.).

Feds Propose Modifications To Prairie Dog Management In Utah.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (12/19, O'Donoghue) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is “proposing some modifications on how it oversees the management of the imperiled Utah prairie dog, seeking to institute a 10-year plan that governs when the animals may be ‘taken’ if they are interfering with property development.” The FWS “released a draft conservation plan Tuesday saying it will issue permits to property owners, developers or government entities such as counties in a streamlined process to mitigate impacts to the animals while allowing for economic development.” Under the plan, “industry and private individuals can apply for permits for a limited amount of ‘incidental take’ if they demonstrate they are taking appropriate steps.”

Alabama Snail, Bat A Step Closer To Endangered Species Protection.

[Alabama Live](#) (12/19, Pillion) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “announced Tuesday the agency has determined further study and research is warranted to decide whether the oblong rocksnail and tricolored bat should be listed as threatened or endangered species and afforded federal protections” under the Endangered Species Act. The “90-day finding” by the FWS “kicks off a one-year scientific status review for the tricolored bat, oblong rocksnail and the Venus fly-trap, a carnivorous plant found in the Carolinas, which the FWS also found warrants more study.”

\$4.5 Million Settlement Reached In Sheboygan River Pollution Case.

The [Sheboygan \(WI\) Press](#) (12/19, Bock) reports that “three companies will pay more than \$4.5 million in settlement payments to resolve claims they polluted the Sheboygan River.” Tecumseh Products Co., Thomas Industries, Inc. and Wisconsin Public Service Corp “agreed to the settlements long after a multi-million dredging and cleanup effort of the Sheboygan River has finished.” Charlie Wooley, deputy midwest regional director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said, “The Sheboygan River and its wetlands provide important habitats for migratory birds and fish, and support hunting and fishing activities for local residents. (The) settlement means we can help natural resources affected by PCBs and other contaminants, and at the same time, benefit local communities.”

Update: Utah Man Denies Plans To Hunt Elephants, Claims He Sought Permit To Import African Trophies For A Filmmaking Project.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/19, Maffly) reports that “a Utah hunter appears to have been caught up in a contentious debate over whether trophy hunting of elephants and other endangered wildlife improves species’ chances of survival, or instead ushers them toward extinction.” Cliff Graham was “among 16 U.S. hunters awarded permits by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) this year to import elephant trophies from the African county of Zimbabwe – even though there was a short-lived ban on such imports in place at the time, according to recently filed court papers.” In response to a Salt Lake Tribune query, Graham “said Tuesday he is not planning to hunt an elephant.” Rather, “he said he instead sought the permit as part of film project about trophy hunting.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KUTV-TV](#) Salt Lake City (12/19).

National Park Service

Rock Creek National Park? Norton Wants A New Name For Nation’s Oldest Urban Park.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/19, Chason) reports that D.C. Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton is asking Congress to rename Rock Creek Park to “Rock Creek National Park.” Norton claims that “redesignating and renaming the park would make its historical significance clear to visitors and members of Congress,” and “that might help her when she lobbies for funding to maintain the park, which has a nearly \$53 million maintenance backlog.” Norton “said she is ‘not naive’ and does not believe the name change and new designation will automatically come with increased funding.” However, “she said increased recognition of the significance of Rock Creek will help her make her case to Congress.”

Section Of Beach Drive Set To Reopen In January.

[WTOP-FM](#) Washington (12/19, Basch) reports that "a section of Beach Drive that closed in August is scheduled to reopen in January." Jenny Anzelmo-Sarles with the National Park Service, said, "Weather dependent, we're expecting the road to reopen between Tilden (Street) and Blagden (Avenue) on or about Jan. 8." As the second of a four part rehabilitation project on Beach Drive, the "work included completely rebuilding the roadway from the ground up, planting 30 new native trees along the road and totally retrofitting the storm drainage system," according to Anzelmo-Sarles.

Company Denies Skirting Law With Refinery Near National Park.

The [AP](#) (12/19, Nicholson) reports that on Tuesday, Meridian Energy Group told the North Dakota Public Service Commission that it was not skirting the state's permitting laws for the company's proposed oil refinery close to the Theodore Roosevelt National Park. The PSC sought answers from company officials over why "the Davis Refinery is listed at 49,500 barrels per day," which is "just under the 50,000-barrel threshold that triggers a PSC siting review." Some argue that Meridian listed 49,500 barrels to avoid a PSC review since it could impact the project or cost time and money.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Forum of Fargo-Moorhead \(ND\)](#) (12/19, Hageman).

Commission Urges Refinery Developers To Apply For Siting Permit. The [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (12/19, Dalrymple) reports that the North Dakota PSC strongly suggested Meridian to "apply for a siting permit Wednesday, cautioning that proceeding without one could delay construction if someone files a legal challenge." North Dakota law requires a refinery producing more than 50,000 barrels of oil each day to apply for the permit. The company originally "promoted the Davis Refinery as expanding up to 55,000 barrels per day, but recently changed the figure on its website to 49,500 barrels."

Late Notice Cost Time, Lives In Gatlinburg Wildfire.

The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (12/19, Lakin) reports that "poor communication by Great Smoky Mountains National Park rangers with Gatlinburg authorities undermined the initial response to last year's deadly wildfire and cost lives, a report released Tuesday found." The review by outside consultants concluded, "Insufficient warning by (the park) contributed to a dramatically reduced time frame to conduct needed evacuations." The review by ABS Consulting, "conducted for about \$100,000, examined the response by Gatlinburg and Sevier County agencies to the Nov. 28, 2016, wildfire after the flames left the park, where the fire had begun five days earlier."

NPS: Fire Island Breach Made By Sandy In Mother Nature's Hands.

[Newsday \(NY\)](#) (12/19, Dooley) reports that "the fate of the breach that Superstorm Sandy cut through a remote stretch of Fire Island National Seashore will likely be left to Mother Nature, under a draft plan by the National Park Service." According to the document published Tuesday, "should the breach close on its own, the Park Service will not seek to open it back up, despite evidence it has improved water quality in parts of the Great South Bay." Kaetlyn Jackson, a park planner for the National Seashore, explained, "The National Park Service wants these areas to evolve as naturally as possible."

Rat Poison Found In Body Of California Mountain Lion.

The [AP](#) (12/19) reports that "authorities say a mountain lion that managed to cross a Southern California freeway and make its home in the mountains north of Los Angeles had rat poison in his system when he was found dead." The lion known as P-41 was "found in October after a wildfire burned part of his range." The Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area "announced Tuesday that P-41 had six compounds of a rodenticide in his system," but "it's unclear if that caused his death."

Also reporting are the [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/19, Serna) and [KTLA-TV Los Angeles](#) Los Angeles (12/19).

Elk Herd To Be Thinned In Wind Cave National Park.

The [AP](#) (12/19) reports that the National Park Service and the South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department are "seeking skilled volunteers to help thin out the elk herd in Wind Cave National Park." According to the article, "eight volunteer shooters will be selected through a

lottery system, to help park staff reduce the herd in February." The hope is that "the effort will reduce the rate of chronic wasting disease among the herd."

Glacier Superintendent On Temporary Detail In Denver.

The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (12/19, Scott) reports that Glacier National Park Superintendent Jeff Mow has "taken a 120-day detail assignment as the National Park Service's acting Intermountain regional director in Denver, according to Glacier Park Spokesperson Lauren Alley." Deputy Superintendent Eric Smith is acting as Glacier's superintendent during Mow's absence. Alley explained that "the need for Mow at the National Park Service's regional office stems from vacancies at a number of administrative positions higher up the pecking order, which has created a domino effect."

Study Shows Isle Royale Moose Shrinking While Their Population Booms.

[KSJR-FM](#) Collegeville, MN (12/19, Kraker) reports that after examining "the skulls of 662 moose killed by wolves over the past four decades at Isle Royale National Park," scientists discovered that "the size of those skulls had shrunk by 16 percent, even as the moose population on the Lake Superior island flourished, tripling in the past decade to about 1,600 this year." According to the article, "the biggest reason researchers attributed to the decline in moose size is the increasing density of moose on the island, as the wolf population has collapsed." The findings by scientists at Michigan Tech University, "published recently in the journal *Global Change Biology*, are part of a long-running study on the predator-prey dynamics between moose and wolves on the remote island."

Topeka Sites Surveyed For Potential United Nations Designations.

[WIBW-TV](#) Topeka, KS (12/19, Wheat) reports that "a group of surveyors with ties to the United Nations toured Topeka's historic Brown vs Board of Education sites over the past two days." According to the article, "their visit was just the first step for UNESCO, the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization, surveyors to possibly include Topeka in what they call a batch nomination to the U.N."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Interior Provides \$6.3M For Water Infrastructure In FSM.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (12/20) reports that Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Doug Domenech "provided a \$6.3 million Compact of Free Association grant to support the Federated States of Micronesia's (FSM) Sekere Water Project on the island of Pohnpei." According to the article, "funding for this project will assist the Pohnpei Utilities Corporation in expanding its island-wide water distribution system and connecting to water wells drilled by the United States Navy in 2007 under a Compact-funded humanitarian assistance project." Domenech said, "Infrastructure projects such as the Sekere Water Project align with the goals of the Compact of Free Association to help increase the FSM's self-reliance. I look forward to supporting the FSM as it continues to develop its infrastructure management program and begins to take full advantage of infrastructure assistance provided through the Compact."

Feds Celebrate Groundbreaking For U.S. Courthouse In Saipan.

[Correctional News](#) (12/18, Howell) reports that a new U.S. Courthouse broke ground in Saipan this week. According to the article, "the 35,696-square-foot, three-story courthouse will accommodate the U.S. District Court of the Northern Mariana Islands, a U.S. Probation Office, the U.S. Marshals Service and the U.S. Attorney's Office as well as the Federal Protective Service." U.S. General Services Administration Acting Pacific Rim Regional Administrator Dan Brown in a statement, "We are very excited to see construction beginning for this new courthouse. Today's event is a major step forward in fulfilling the judiciary's requirement for a new courthouse in Saipan. The new facility will address long-standing security and space needs on the island. Through a lease arrangement, the Marianas Management Corporation is providing a modern facility with functional space and innovative technology to meet the operational requirements of the U.S. District Court in the Northern Mariana Islands."

U.S. Secretary Of Labor Visits Puerto Rico And U.S. Virgin Islands.

[Military Technologies \(POL\)](#) (12/18, Donimirski) reports that Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta

“visited Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands this past weekend to meet with senior officials managing the recovery efforts and to inspect Job Corps centers damaged during hurricanes Irma and Maria.” Acosta said, “My visit to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands allowed me to see firsthand the resilience of our fellow Americans who are recovering from the devastation of this year’s hurricanes. We will continue to support the workforce as local communities continue to rebuild.”

Recovering What Was Lost In The U.S. Virgin Islands, One Boat At A Time.

The [New York Times](#) (12/18, Pérez-Peña) reports that “the hurricanes that raged through the United States Virgin Islands in September damaged or destroyed not only thousands of buildings, but also hundreds of boats, from tiny sailboats to 50-foot luxury yachts.” Three months after the Category 5 Hurricanes Irma and Maria hit the islands, “among the many arduous tasks that remain in their early stages are identifying the owners of lost boats, recovering the vessels, salvaging those that can be fixed and disposing of the rest.” The Coast Guard has “identified 459 boats in the United States Virgin Islands, population 106,000, that were left derelict by the storms – more than in nearby Puerto Rico, which has more than 30 times as many residents.”

Defense Department To Investigate Chinese Aid To Micronesia.

The [Hawaii Free Press](#) (12/17) reports that “the \$700 billion 2018 National Defense Authorization Act, signed by President Trump in mid December, calls on the Department of Defense (DOD) to investigate the growing role of China in former US territories in the Pacific.” According to the article, “that is a recognition both of the islands’ importance to US global strategy, as well as the latest indicator that America’s decades long relationship with its former dependencies is a partnership under stress.” Neil Mellen, founder of Habele, a US educational nonprofit operating across Micronesia, said, “Congress and the Administration are to be commended. America is best served when her allies’ support comes from a position of strength, sovereignty, and real partnership, rather than mere dependency. Careful examination of our nation’s track record in the post-war Pacific, as well as the increasingly caustic role played by others, is long overdue.”

US Geological Survey

Four Earthquakes Hit Oklahoma Tuesday.

The [AP](#) (12/19) reports that a four earthquakes struck northern and western Oklahoma on Tuesday. The US Geological Survey said the earthquakes hit Garfield, Woodward, and Grady counties. One of the earthquakes registered a magnitude of 4.0 and was “at a depth of 2 miles.” In recent years, thousands of earthquakes in Oklahoma have been attributed to oil and gas production operations and underground wastewater injection.

Opinion Pieces

You’re Not Allowed To Talk Climate Change In Zinke’s Interior Department.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (12/19, Curtis), Kevin S. Curtis, executive director of the Natural Resources Defense Council Action Fund, criticizes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s “apparent mandate to stop talking about the impacts of climate change on our national parks” as “an outright abdication of his duty to protect and manage the irreplaceable public lands and historical sites in his care – places that belong to all of us.” Curtis writes that “Zinke’s silly Twitter restrictions won’t be able to hide the fact that climate change is a threat to our national parks.” He concludes, however, that “they will highlight that he has thrown his lot in with the science-deniers and oil lobbyists who are working against common-sense efforts to fight for our future, and that he is out of step with most Montanans and the rest of the country.”

Stop Trying To Militarize Interior, Ryan Zinke.

In an op-ed for the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (12/19, Grijalva), Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva urges Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to reconsider his plan to reorganize the Interior Department “along the lines of a ‘military command.’” According to Grijalva, “Zinke insists on seeing our nation’s conservation and wildlife management agencies as military branches, which sometimes combine forces on particular missions, and himself as a general leading the fight.” But Grijalva writes that “the fundamental difference in structures, purposes and operating cultures between Interior,

which manages our national parks and natural resources, and the Pentagon, which fights terrorism and conducts military operations overseas, is lost on him.”

NM Keeping A Close Eye On Trump’s Pick For New BLM Boss.

In an op-ed for the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (12/20, Smith, Martinez, Jones), ranchers Wayne Smith, Erminio Martinez, and David Jones, write about the importance of the Bureau of Land Management “for all users of public lands in New Mexico.” As President Trump considers the next leader for the BLM, they urge him to pick someone who is “committed to preserving the balanced policies that all New Mexicans count on.” The ranchers write that “the BLM needs a director who will support its staff in the field, make sure they have the resources they need to be good land stewards and adhere to our public land laws.”

It’s Five Minutes To Midnight: The Wild Horse And Burro Tragedy.

In an op-ed for the [Daily Caller](#) (12/19, Perryman), Barry L. Perryman, Ph.D., a professor of rangeland ecology at the University of Nevada, Reno, urges Congress to act on the issue of wild horses. He writes that “despite some efficacy of contraception, at current population levels, horse and burro numbers can only be managed effectively through the gather process.” Perryman argues that “anything that inhibits the application of horse and burro management tools authorized by law jeopardizes the habitats that support a myriad of different wildlife species and land uses in the Intermountain West.”

Additional Reading.

- *5 Ways Energy Dominance Can Bolster Trump’s National Security Strategy.* [Daily Signal](#) (12/19, Loris).
- *Public Lands Rollback Bad For Veterans.* [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (12/19, Evans, Door, Gence, Person).
- *Our National Parks Belong To Us All.* [Seattle Times](#) (12/19, Zacarias).
- *National Parks Belong To Americans. They Should Remain Accessible To All.* [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (12/19, MacKenzie).
- *I Found Out Why Our National Parks Are Quiet.* [Huffington Post](#) (12/19, Peterman).
- *Op-ed: On The Contrary, Monuments Are Examples Of Multiple-use Lands.* [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (12/19, Jones, Robinson).
- *Trump’s Reversal Jeopardizes U.S. National Monuments.* [Albany \(NY\) Times Union](#) (12/19, Corbin).
- *Protect Cascade-Siskiyou With Park Designation.* [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (12/19, Wuerthner).
- *Resistance Isn’t Just For The Young. Just Ask These Self-described ‘old Broads’ Who Are Suing Trump.* [Seattle Times](#) (12/19, Westneat).
- *A Better Future For The Holidays.* [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (12/19, Phillips).
- *John Berrey: Politico Got It Wrong On Tar Creek.* [Joplin \(MO\) Globe](#) (12/19, Berrey).
- *To Deregulate America, Send D.C. Bureaucrats To The Heartland.* [Investor’s Business Daily](#) (12/20, McCaughey).
- *To Deregulate America, Dump DC Bureaucrats.* [Townhall](#) (12/20, McCaughey).

Top National News

Congress Expected To Pass Tax Reform Bill Wednesday After “Procedural Hiccup.”

Media reports cast a delay Tuesday in the passage of the tax bill as a “procedural hiccup” unlikely to impact the measure’s passage, which is now expected on Wednesday after the Senate approved it after midnight. As the [New York Times](#) (12/19, Kaplan, Rappeport) reports, the Senate voted 51 to 48, “with no Republican defections and no Democratic support.”

All three networks reported on the development last night. [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/19, lead story, 2:35, Holt) opened its broadcast reporting, “Just as it appeared that Republicans were on track to deliver a tax bill to President as early as this evening, a procedural hiccup in the rush to passage has forced a delay, requiring the House to hold a redo vote tomorrow.” NBC’s Casey Hunt called it “an embarrassing stumbling block,” but said the bill “is still on track to become

law." On the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/19, story 4, 2:25, Glor), Nancy Cordes likewise said the delay is "essentially a formality and shouldn't prevent the President from signing his first major legislative accomplishment into law tomorrow, if he wishes."

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/19, lead story, 4:50, Muir), Mary Bruce said House Speaker Ryan "excitedly gavelled in the first major legislative win of the Trump Administration. ... But tonight, a procedural snag will force them to vote again tomorrow." The [Washington Times](#) (12/19, Sherfinski) reports that despite the revote, "Republicans said they had finally scored a legacy-defining bill under Mr. Trump." [Reuters](#) (12/19), meanwhile, reports White House Legislative Affairs Director Marc Short, commenting on the need for a House revote, said: "I don't think it's that uncommon for a big piece of legislation like this."

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/19) reports House Majority Leader McCarthy said the House will "have to take another vote on the tax bill Wednesday morning, after the Senate removes or changes relatively minor provisions that don't comply with the chamber's budget rules." Bloomberg calls the issue "a procedural hiccup, rather than anything that could jeopardize the legislation's passage."

The [Washington Post](#) (12/19, A1, Stein), meanwhile, says the plan "hit a snag," and the [New York Times](#) (12/19, Kaplan, Rappeport) observes that "the day was not without hiccups." The [AP](#) (12/19, Ohlemacher, Gordon) similarly refers to "one last hiccup." After Ryan "gleefully pounded the gavel on the final House vote," Democrats "noted that three provisions violated Senate rules. So the massive bill will be hauled back across the Capitol for the House to re-vote on Wednesday." Calling it a "last-minute snag," [Reuters](#) (12/19) reports the plan was for the Senate "to delete the three offending provisions and vote on the bill."

The [Washington Times](#) (12/19, Sherfinski) reports Sens. Bernie Sanders and Ron Wyden "said the provisions in question deal with the title of the bill, the use of savings accounts for home-school expenses, and the criteria under which private universities could be subjected to a new excise tax." [Breitbart](#) (12/19, Carney) calls the provisions "minor," and says they are "not expected to put the tax overhaul in peril."

[Politico](#) (12/19, Faler) reports that earlier Tuesday, the House passed the bill in a 227-203 vote, and passage "appears assured in the Senate, though the absence of Sen. John McCain – who is battling brain cancer – will only give Republicans a single vote to spare." The [New York Post](#) (12/19, Fredericks) reports that after the House vote, Ryan "hailed the GOP tax package," saying, "Today, we give the people of this country their money back." Writing in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/19), Ryan says the bill will provide real relief to middle-income families, create jobs, and drive up wages.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (12/19) that passage of the tax bill is "a huge deal. But not just for the White House. It's a huge deal for America. This is something that we've seen just talking about it has been a major boost to our economy. Consumer confidence is at an all-time high. We're breaking stock market record after stock market record. And I think a lot of it has to do with the deregulation process that this President has put in place. And then the second part of that is the fact that we've been pushing this tax cut package, this tax reform package. And you're really seeing that reflected in our economy, the booming economy."

Senate Majority Leader McConnell said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (12/19), "The theme behind this bill is to get middle-class tax relief for most people in the middle class, demonstrably the case. ... And then couple that with making American business more competitive. We have had eight years in a row of stagnant growth. The country is significantly under-performing. We think a combination of the regulatory changes that the President has already made plus this tax reform gives us a chance to get growing again."

House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (12/19), "It's about growing paychecks for middle class families. It's about growing jobs in America. And about our jobs stopping leaving the United States and that's why there's so much support in Congress for this."

Rep. Tom Cole, asked on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (12/19) if he is comfortable with the fact that the tax bill will add to the national debt, said, "I'm not comfortable with adding to the national debt ever. ... Eventually it pays for itself. Under every estimate, it varies which one you read, it speeds up growth." Cole added, "The debt – forget the tax bill for a minute – is going up regardless unless you deal with entitlement reform."

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/19) editorial welcomes the bill's expected passage, which it says will fulfill a major Republican campaign promise, but will also lead to economic growth and higher wages.

Several Democrats, meanwhile, spoke out against the bill. Sen. Chris Coons said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (12/19), "This did not have to be a one-party-only bill. I worked hard across the aisle to propose alternative paths that would have led us to a significant middle class tax cut, the sort of thing the President ran on, but that is not what this bill is. This is a huge giveaway to the very wealthiest Americans and the most profitable corporations. I think there's no doubt that it specifically benefits real estate investors and those who earn their income from real estate. And in many cases, the modest tax cuts for the middle class are temporary and the big tax cuts for shareholders of corporations and for the wealthiest families, those will go on long-term."

Sen. Brian Schatz said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (12/19), "They didn't even consult with the Senate. They didn't consult with the parliamentarian to make sure it complies with the rules they're using to avoid working with Democrats. They're doing something called reconciliation, which allows them to do this on a party-line vote, but they're in such a rush that they made several mistakes, and so we're actually going to have to excise those offending provisions and then they are going to have to take a re-vote. But to me, it's emblematic of what happens when you take major legislation, conceive of it in the dark, and rush it through. Lots of things are going to come out, not just over the next several days, but months and years, we are going to learn how awful this tax bill is."

House Minority Whip Steny Hoyer said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (12/19), "It is a bad bill for our country. It's going to create great debt. And it's perverse in the sense that it gives some 83 percent of the tax cuts to the wealthiest in America. Sen. McConnell said substantial tax cuts. Obviously, 17 percent of \$1.5 trillion is a substantial sum of money. But when you see that the wealthiest in America get a huge tax cut and the middle class not only doesn't get a huge tax cut, they get a minimal tax cut that it is phased out in about eight years."

[USA Today](#) (12/19, Shesgreen) reports that Republicans have "dismissed questions about whether the bill was skewed toward the wealthy," and Speaker Ryan told reporters Tuesday that "he had 'no concerns whatsoever' that the tax bill would turn into a political liability for the GOP as they head into the 2018 elections." The [Washington Times](#) (12/19, Sherfinski) notes Republicans "say they anticipate that future Congresses will simply extend the individual cuts."

A [New York Times](#) (12/19, Tankersley, Rappeport) analysis writes that "in many ways, the bill represents a political and economic gamble for Republicans. A majority of Americans oppose it, and relatively few believe they will benefit personally from it, polls show." In addition, economic analyses "predict it will add more than \$1 trillion to budget deficits over the next decade, an amount that would betray the party's longstanding messaging that mounting federal debt will sap economic growth." Republicans, however, have "spurned those concerns, rallying around what has been the animating ideology of their party since the Reagan era: that tax cuts will drive faster growth and national prosperity."

A [Washington Post](#) (12/19, Long) analysis says that while the President and Republicans in Congress are "celebrating the \$1.5 trillion legislation as a big tax cut for workers and businesses," the "short-term gains come with a cost: the legislation also makes the country's debt problem even worse, in all likelihood forcing policymakers in coming years to make difficult decisions about spending cuts, tax increases or both."

Trump May Not Be Able To Sign Bill Until New Year. On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/19, lead story, 4:50, Muir), Mary Bruce said the White House "is now suggesting that the President may not sign this until the New Year, saying that the process to get the paperwork to the President's desk may actually take some time. The President has promised Americans tax reform for Christmas, and now they're suggesting that might not happen." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/19, A1, Rubin) reports that while the White House is planning for the President to mark the bill's passage, no date has been set for its signing.

In a second segment on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/19, story 2, 2:25, Muir), Cecilia Vega said the President "recently promised a tax code so simple you could file on a postcard," but "that postcard is not happening either. The 503-page tax bill still means a lot of paperwork for taxpayers." And while the President insisted, "time and time again, he's going to pay" under the plan, that "also, not true. ... Income taxes for the ultra rich will drop. Business owners, including those in commercial real estate like the Trumps, get a big break from what's known as a pass-through deduction. And his family stands to save millions on inheritance taxes."

The [Washington Post](#) (12/19, Paletta, Rucker), meanwhile, reports that Trump is "poised to achieve what has eluded him throughout his tumultuous first year in office – a major legislative victory." With Wednesday's expected passage of "a tax-code overhaul that also dismantles part of the Affordable Care Act, Trump hopes to shed the label of legislative loser." However, the Post says that "whether the probable win could help him pass other agenda items in 2018 and catapult

him onto firmer political ground ahead of the midterm election is an open question.”

Cabinet To Discuss Next Priority Following Tax Reform. Citing “two Administration officials,” [Bloomberg News](#) (12/19, Jacobs) reports the President is scheduled to meet with his Cabinet Wednesday. One official indicated the Cabinet is “likely to discuss the President’s priorities following the tax overhaul,” including “an overhaul of federal welfare programs and a \$1 trillion infrastructure initiative.”

Corker Denies Involvement In Provision Expected To Benefit Him. Sen. Bob Corker, asked on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (12/19) about criticism that he decided to support the tax bill because of a provision that will benefit him personally, said, “First of all, I knew nothing about the provision. I’ve had no involvement. It actually came out of the House. It was part of their House bill. When they did the reconciliation, it was merged in and altered slightly to make it conform.” Corker added, “I’ve had someone check into it, it has a very nominal impact on anything that would be involving me. ... When I decided to vote for the bill, I had gone through a two-page summary that noted the changes between the Senate bill and the House bill. It was a summary and that wasn’t even mentioned. I didn’t even know it was a part of the changes that took place. So absolutely false.”

Collins Decries “Unbelievably Sexist” Coverage Of Her Tax Bill Support. [Politico](#) (12/19, Cancryn) reports Sen. Susan Collins on Tuesday “blasted” media coverage of her support for the GOP tax bill as “extremely discouraging” and “unbelievably sexist.” The Maine Republican, “a key swing vote on the tax package, accused reporters of ignoring her influence” over the legislation and “unfairly criticizing her efforts to pass a pair of Obamacare stabilization bills.” Speaking to reporters, Collins said, “I believe that the coverage has been unbelievably sexist, and I cannot believe that the press would have treated another senator with 20 years of experience as they have treated me. They’ve ignored everything that I’ve gotten and written story after story about how I’m duped.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/19, Dennis) says Collins also “criticized a reporter, whom she didn’t identify, who covered her meeting with people suffering from serious health conditions.” Said the Senator, “The reporter actually wrote that I didn’t cry.” The same group met with Sen. Jeff Flake, Collins said, but there was no mention of his lack of tears. “I can’t imagine a reporter writing that about a male senator,” she said.

WSJournal/NBC News Poll: 41% Say GOP Tax Plan Is A Bad Idea. [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/19, lead story, 2:35, Holt) reported that a new NBC News/WSJ poll “taken before the vote shows 41 percent of Americans say” the Republican tax bill “is a bad idea while just 24 percent support it.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/19, Hook) reports that the poll found that 17% of those surveyed said their family’s taxes will be lower under the Republican tax bill, while 32% said they will be higher. The poll also found that the bill has become more unpopular in the two months it has been working through Congress. According to the poll, 41% said the plan it a bad idea, which is an increase from 35% in October.

WPost Calculator Provides Estimate Of GOP Bill’s Impact On Taxes. A calculator on the [Washington Post](#) (12/18) website provides “a simple estimate of your tax cut or hike.” The Post says many of the cuts “are not permanent” and the GOP bill “would adjust how inflation is calculated in the tax code, which would cause many taxpayers getting a cut now to get a hike after 2025.”

Bill’s Impacts On Home Owners Examined. On the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/19, story 5, 1:35, Glor), business analyst Jill Schlesinger said, “Under the old law, you can deduct mortgage interest up to \$1 million. That amount is going down next year to \$750,000.” However, “existing loans...will be grandfathered in.” CBS said “there are other impacts on homeowners” as well: interest on home equity lines and home equity loans can no longer be deducted.

WSJournal Analysis: History Shows Tax Cuts Do Not Guarantee Growth. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/19, Timiraos, Davidson) reports that while President Trump and Republicans believe their tax plan will provide a boost to the economy, history suggests that tax cuts will not guarantee faster growth.

Changes To Deductibility Of Interest Payments Could Impact Profits Of Some Businesses. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/19, Lahart) reports that the Republican tax bill’s changes to the rules on the deductibility of interest payments could impact the profits of some businesses.

AP Analysis: Tea Party Shelved Deficit Reduction In Favor Of Tax Cuts. An [AP](#) (12/19, Taylor) analysis says that while members of “the tea party class of 2010 vowed to usher in a new era for the Republican Party, one where conservatives clamoring for fiscal discipline would roll back government spending to rein in trillion-plus budget deficits,” deficit concerns “have been shelved as Republicans controlling Washington focus instead on delivering tax breaks along with spending

increases for the military." Although House Speaker Ryan "has raised the prospect of tackling runaway benefit programs," congressional Republicans "haven't made a serious run at cutting spending since a failed 2011 budget deal delivered automatic cuts known as sequestration to Washington. Those too have unraveled."

Milbank: Tax Bill Is Republicans' Obamacare. Dana Milbank writes in the [Washington Post](#) (12/19) that with the tax bill, Republicans have their "own Obamacare." Milbank describes "eerie" parallels between the two measures, writing that in 2010, "lawmakers who drafted the legislation were confident it would be transformational," and "as now, the legislation passed on an entirely partisan basis, with the opposition complaining about a hurried process and side deals." Milbank adds that Republicans "now have claimed ownership of health care," since their tax bill "kills the individual mandate that underpinned Obamacare, which will leave 13 million additional people without coverage."

Democrats Back Away From Pledge To Block Spending Bill Over Dreamers.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/19, O'Keefe) reports that while dozens of Democrats "had vowed to withhold support" for spending legislation if Republicans did not allow a vote on the Dream Act to address "the fate of thousands of undocumented immigrants brought to this country as children," with the midnight Friday deadline to pass the spending bill approaching, they are "backing away" from the pledge, "angering activists but likely averting the threat of a government shutdown." According to the Post, "a group of vulnerable Democratic senators facing reelection in conservative states next year aren't willing to go that far – meaning the party is unlikely to muster the votes to block the spending bill." This "reluctance to enact legislation protecting 'Dreamers' has exposed a rift among Democrats, with immigration advocates staging protests this week and accusing some Democrats of taking the party's Latino supporters for granted."

[Axios](#) (12/19, Pandey) reports that Senate Majority Leader McConnell told [Fox News' Special Report](#) that Democrats will not force a government shutdown over DACA legislation. McConnell said, "Senator Schumer and I have discussed it. No, we'll not be doing DACA. ... That's a matter to be discussed next year. The president has given us until March to address that issue."

[Politico](#) (12/19, Kim, Caygle, Schor) says "top senators and White House officials are laying the groundwork for a major immigration deal in January" to settle the fate of the Dreamers. During a meeting Tuesday with "nearly a dozen senators," White House chief of staff John Kelly "pledged that the administration will soon present a list of border security and other policy changes it wants as part of a broader deal on so-called Dreamers, according to people who attended the meeting. The plan could come in a matter of days, senators said."

Push To Pass Spending Bill Complicated By Infighting On Other Issues. [Reuters](#) (12/19) says the push to pass a spending bill by the deadline is being complicated by "infighting over defense spending, healthcare and other matters." While Republicans "showed little appetite for a government shutdown at week's end," they "sounded resigned to having to navigate through at least some drama over a package that includes so many disparate components, which could make for a messy process until the end." Reuters adds that "leading Republicans" in both chambers were optimistic that a bill "ultimately would pass by Friday's deadline," some "were predicting that lawmakers will bump right up against the cutoff."

Ryan, McConnell About To Square Off Over ACA. [Politico](#) (12/19, Bade, Haberkorn) reports that House Speaker Ryan and Senate Majority Leader McConnell are headed toward a clash over the ACA "that needs to be resolved by Friday to avert a government shutdown." To push the GOP tax bill across the finish line in the Senate, McConnell "promised moderate GOP Sen. Susan Collins of Maine that he would prop up President Barack Obama's signature health law in a must-pass, year-end spending bill," but "Ryan's more conservative conference is flatly rejecting that idea and urging the Wisconsin Republican to stand firm against his Senate counterpart." Politico describes an "awkward dynamic" in which "the two most powerful men in Congress," after working "side by side for months on the biggest rewrite of the tax code in three decades," will be "squaring off over whether to fund Obamacare subsidies."

House Republicans Propose \$81 Billion Disaster Funding Measure.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/19, Debonis) reports that House Republicans have proposed an \$81 billion disaster funding package in response to this year's hurricanes and wildfires. House Appropriations Committee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen has proposed a measure that "includes \$28 billion for the Federal Emergency Management Agency programs, \$26 billion in disaster recovery block grants and \$12 billion for infrastructure repairs, as well as billions of dollars in funding for agriculture, education and small-business loans." The measure, if passed,

"would be the third installment of federal disaster aid aimed at victims of hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria and more recent wildfires in California and other western states," and would be "the single largest emergency spending bill since 2009."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"There Is Common Ground On Guns." The [New York Times](#) (12/19) editorializes that the Lautenberg Amendment, a law that prohibits "those convicted in the assault of a spouse or a child or under a permanent protective order from owning or buying firearms," should be strengthened in order to stop the increasing prevalence of mass shootings in America. The Times opines that the law's protections should be expanded "to include dating partners and family members beyond spouses and children, as well as those under a temporary protective order." Additionally, "the range of criminals barred from gun purchases should include anyone convicted of the crime of stalking." Lastly, "the police ought to be able to seize firearms when they know they're likely to be turned on loved ones."

"Austria's Welcome To A Party With A Nazi Past." The [New York Times](#) (12/20, Board) editorializes that the new chancellor of Austria, Sebastian Kurz, "dashed hopes that he and his conservative People's Party would reject an alliance with the extremist Freedom Party" by granting the "anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim party founded by ex-Nazis key posts in his coalition government" in "a generous political bargain." The Times says the "alarming" move could "help define a new normal in Europe," particularly because Poland, Hungary, and several other European Union nations "are already governed by anti-migrant, right-wing governments." The Times warns German Chancellor Angela Merkel, along with "everyone else committed to human rights and democracy, should be wary," because this "return of the far right into Austria's government is a sign of Europe's vulnerability to xenophobia and authoritarianism after having failed to address citizens' concerns about security and economic fairness."

"A Tentative Move Toward South African Reform." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (12/20, Board) says Cyril Ramaphosa's electoral win Monday as the leader of South Africa's ruling African National Congress leader almost certainly positions him as the nation's next president. While Ramaphosa "was distinctly the better of the two available choices," the Times says, "whether he can live up to the hopes of his late mentor," Nelson Mandela, "is a far different question." The Times says Ramaphosa's selection was effectively "a rejection of President Jacob Zuma," but the ANC "must be held equally responsible for the culture of corruption, cynicism and patronage." As long as ANC is South Africa's "dominant political force," the Times concludes, "Ramaphosa represents the best chance of cleaning up the party and the government," although "South Africans will be keen to see whether he is worthy of the hopes his mentor placed in him."

Washington Post.

"A Blueprint For Saving Metro – At Last." The [Washington Post](#) (12/19) editorializes that Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe's proposed funding formula for Washington's Metro is "an adequate, sustainable and realistic means of assuring a healthy future for the transit system," and leaders in Maryland and the District should "offer similarly serious plans of their own." The Post asserts that McAuliffe "did not pretend that raiding other transportation and transit projects for the next few years, on its own, was a sufficient strategy for rescuing Metro, as did Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan," nor did he "try to shift the burden of cost-sharing, as District officials have in proposing a regional sales tax that would reduce the city's contribution but nearly double Northern Virginia's." The publication opines that McAuliffe's plan of "a limited menu of new taxes on Northern Virginia, coupled with substantial cost-shifting from other regional transportation priorities...recognizes that without a no-nonsense rescue plan, the consequences for Metro, and for the national capital region, are dire."

"Ousting Peru's President Would Do More Harm Than Good." The [Washington Post](#) (12/19) argues that the recent corruption charges in Peru have caused the most damage of all corruption scandals "spreading across Latin America" in recent years. The Post argues that populist leader Keiko Fujimori is attempting to push out her rival, President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski, from power over his misleading of the public, rather than actual wrongdoing. This would be damaging to Peru's fragile democracy because, "having been fairly elected, [Kuczynski] would be ousted at the initiative of his defeated opponent on vague grounds after a week-long process."

"Trump's National Security Strategy Isn't Much Of A Strategy At All." The [Washington Post](#)

(12/19) editorializes that the Trump Administration's "new National Security Strategy is less a coherent policy framework than a strained justification of some of the president's prejudices and an attempt to wish away others." The Post mentions differences between the strategy and those of the Obama and Bush Administrations, including the absence of a mention of threats from climate change and "no impetus to seek the reduction, much less the elimination, of nuclear weapons," as well as the threat it sees from international trade. In terms of contradictions, the Post asserts that the document "calls the growing national debt a 'grave threat' to national security, even as Mr. Trump prepares to sign a tax bill that will add at least \$1 trillion to that debt." It also argues that while "the document portrays China and Russia as dangerous rivals. ... Mr. Trump so far has done little but heap praise on autocratic rulers Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin."

Wall Street Journal.

"The Tax Reform Promise." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/19) editorial welcomes the Republican tax bill's expected passage, which it says will fulfill a major Republican campaign promise, but will also lead to economic growth and higher wages.

"A Win For Crony Capitalism." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/19) editorializes that the Senate Banking Committee's rejection of Scott Garrett, President Trump's nominee to lead the Export-Import Bank, represented a victory for special interests over taxpayers. The Journal asserts that the Ex-Im is fundamentally based on crony capitalism, and that companies such as General Electric and Boeing have benefited from this reality while conducting major operations in Sen. Tim Scott's home state of South Carolina. The Journal opines that Sens. Richard Shelby's and Pat Toomey's threat to block confirmations of other nominees who have been labeled as more favorable to the bank is reasonable.

"Closing The Sanctions Net On North Korea." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/19) editorializes that the US cannot afford not to harshly punish countries which permit violations of the UN sanctions on North Korea if it expects that country to be forced to the negotiating table. The Journal cites examples of such violations occurring among US allies, including Australia, Germany, France, and Japan. Countries which are not close allies will take longer to implement sanctions, the Journal writes, including China. The piece cites US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley's mention in a recent speech of "reports of the regime continuing to smuggle coal into neighboring Asian countries using deceptive tactics to mask the coal's origins," and says secondary sanctions imposed by Treasury last month on four Chinese companies represents an important, if belated, step.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Congress On Brink Of Tax Overhaul](#)

[Tax Cuts To Test GOP's Economic Pledges](#)

[FDA Blesses Blindness Treatment That Could Cost \\$1 Million](#)

New York Times:

[How Republicans Rallied Together To Deliver A Tax Cut](#)

[How Tough Is It To Change A Culture Of Harassment? Ask Women At Ford](#)

[Amtrak Inquiry Will Focus On Driver Distraction And Excessive Speed](#)

[Espionage Bills In Australia Stir Fears Of Anti-Chinese Backlash](#)

[Bernard Law, Powerful Cardinal Disgraced By Priest Abuse Scandal, Dies At 86](#)

['Porch Pirates' Steal Holiday Packages As They Pile Up At Homes](#)

Washington Post:

[Tax Overhaul All But Done Despite Hitch](#)

[Even With A Legislative Victory Nearing In Present, Trump's Future Still In Flux](#)

[The GOP Tax Bill Was The Easy Part. The Next Debate Could Be Much Uglier.](#)

[Democrats Are Unlikely To Force Vote On DACA](#)

[Rare Setbacks In President's Effort To Alter The Judiciary](#)

[One Vote Shifts Power In The Virginia Legislature](#)

Financial Times:

[Blue Chips Drive Borrowing Binge To Record \\$6.8tn In 2017](#)
[US Tax Bill Heads To Senate Vote Tonight Despite House Hitch](#)
[Brussels Signals Tough Stance On UK Bank Bonuses After Brexit](#)

Washington Times:

[Greenpeace Accepts Bitcoin Payments Despite 'Mining' Cost From Fossil Fuels With Single Bill, Republicans Get Wins On Taxes, Obamacare Mandate, Oil Drilling](#)
[Ryan, McConnell Lead Congress To Finish Line Of Legacy-Defining Tax Bill For Trump](#)
[Global Warming? Record Snow On Alaska Mountain Peak Linked To Climate Change](#)
[32 Planned Parenthood Centers Shut Down In 2017](#)
[As 'Star Wars' Fans Cheer, Conservative Film Critics Point Out Problems With 'Last Jedi'](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: House Tax Reform Vote; Tax Reform-Trump; Mexico-Bus Crash; Seattle Train Crash; Weather Forecast; Weinstein Sexual Allegations; Holiday Shopping Deals; Florida Escapees Manhunt; Small Plane Crash; Frozen Embryo Birth; 2017 Eclipse Recap; Christmas Gift.

CBS: Mexico-Bus Crash; Seattle Train Crash; Seattle Train Crash-Safety Device; House Tax Reform Vote; Tax Reform-Analysis; WH-North Korea Cyber Attacks; Atlanta Airport Power Outage; Blindness Treatment; Common Passwords; Spam Robo-Calls; Disney World-Trump Robot; Christmas Trees; LA Art Scene.

NBC: House Tax Reform Vote; Seattle Train Crash; Seattle Train Crash-Safety Device; Mexico-Bus Crash; NK Hacking-South Korean President Interview; Prescription Drug Shopping Tips; Amazon Key-Concerns; Flu Vaccine; Volcano Formation; Gift Thief Captured.

Network TV At A Glance:

House Tax Reform Vote – 13 minutes, 50 seconds
Seattle-Train Crash – 11 minutes, 30 seconds
Mexico-Bus Crash – 4 minutes, 40 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Tax Reform Bill; Seattle-Train Crash; California Wildfires; Mexico-Bus Crash.

CBS: Tax Reform Bill; Seattle-Train Crash; Mexico-Bus Crash; Catholic Priests Abuse.

FOX: Tax Reform Bill; Seattle-Train Crash; California Wildfires.

NPR: Tax Reform Bill; Seattle-Train Crash; UN-Syria Negotiation; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.**White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Holds a Cabinet Meeting.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 10:30 AM Senate Public Works Committee subcommittee oversight hearing on freight movement – Transportation & Infrastructure Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'Freight Movement: Assessing Where We Are Now And Where We Need To Go', with testimony from Parker Towing Company Chairman Tim Parker Jr.; American Trucking Associations President and CEO Chris Spear; Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments CEO Mark Policinski; and Maryland Department of Transportation Deputy Executive Director of Logistics and Port Operations David Thomas Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 406, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

US House: 2:00 PM Education Secretary DeVos testifies to House Education and Workforce Committee – Hearing on 'Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Education', with testimony from Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2175, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

House expected to debate short-term govt funding bill – House of Representatives convenes for legislative business, with agenda expected to include House Amendment to Senate Amendment to 'H.R. 1370' – the legislative vehicle for the continuing resolution Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

Other: No relevant event scheduled.

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Fallon: "Disney finally added a Donald Trump robot to the Hall of Presidents. Yeah, he's really making an impact at Disney. Today he deported Aladdin and gave Scrooge McDuck a tax break."

Jimmy Fallon: "[Disney] added Trump to the Hall of Presidents. You can tell it's Trump's robot, because Putin's backstage controlling it."

Jimmy Fallon: [Referring to the Republican tax bill] "I read that a majority of Americans would end up paying more in taxes by the year 2027. Trump said it's payback for the majority of Americans who voted for Hillary Clinton."

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that Russia's presidential election just began with Putin ahead in the polls. Supporters were chanting 'four more years, four more years,' while his opponents were chanting, 'let me out of trunk, let me out of trunk. Untie me!'"

Seth Meyers: "Tonight was the eighth night of Hanukkah. 'It's a miracle,' said Jared Kushner, about not being indicted yet."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



DATE: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2017 6:00 AM EST

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- Bloomberg News: Even With Trump Minerals Order, U.S. Miners Face Uphill Battle With China.
- FEDweek: Retaliation, Not Just Harassment, A Problem At Interior, Group Says.
- Eureka (CA) Times Standard: Feds Decline To Provide Info On Decision To Disband Trinity River Restoration Watchdog Group.
- Associated Press: US Senate Approves New Mexico Wilderness Proposal.
- Wyoming Public Radio: Barrasso Calls On Zinke To View Wyoming As Leader On Sage Grouse Management.
- CBS: California's Thomas Fire Now 86 Percent Contained.
- Politico: Where Is Trump's Cabinet? It's Anybody's Guess.
- The Hill: 5 Ways The Trump Administration Is Celebrating Christmas.
- Politico: Former Zinke PAC Blames Software For \$200,000 Accounting Discrepancy.
- Washington Post: Most Federal Employees In D.C.-Baltimore Area To Receive 2.3 Percent Raise In January.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Senate Approves Restoring Land To Cow Creek Band Of Umpqua Tribe Of Indians.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Associated Press: Western Colorado Eyes Potential BLM Move.
- Associated Press: US Launches Ambitious Plan To Battle Rangeland Wildfires.
- Associated Press: Bundy Mistrial Draws Sessions Probe, Calls For Broad Review.
- Washington Times: Wild Horse Population Control Methods Divide Lawmakers, Advocates.
- Associated Press: Appeal Seeking Idaho Horse Herd Sterilization Is Dismissed.
- KBSC-FM Boise (ID): BLM Cancels Challis Herd Roundup Following Lawsuit.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- Winds Of Worry: US Fishermen Fear Forests Of Power Turbines.
- Cape Wind Opponent Plans To Refocus On Original Mission.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Project Reopens Sacramento River Habitat For Young Salmon.

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

- Former Louisiana Political Warrior Scott Angelle Now Shaping U.S. Energy Policy.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Dallas Morning News: Other Sports: Bill Would Redirect 1.3 Billion In Funds To Wildlife Conservation.
- Associated Press: Biologists: Counts Of Florida Grasshopper Sparrows Are Low.
- Baltimore Sun: Bird-tracking Study Reveals Some Migration Paths Cross Areas Slated For Offshore Wind Farms.
- Florence (AL) Courier Journal: Carp Species Potential Threats To Alabama Waterways.

National Park Service

- Associated Press: City Sends Resolve To Congress Over Park Maintenance Backlog.
- Motherboard: The National Park Service Promises To Reinstate 92 Climate Change Documents Removed From Website.
- Atlanta Journal-Constitution: Senate Passes John Lewis Bid To Make MLK Site A National Historic Park.
- CBS News: Part Of Jackson Magnolia On South Lawn Coming Down, White House Says.
- Associated Press: Alaska Man Again To Appeal Hovercraft Ban To Supreme Court.
- Associated Press: Last Native American Village In Yosemite Being Rebuilt.
- Associated Press: National Park Service Looking For 5 Death Valley Trespassers.
- Associated Press: Officials Add 127 Homes To Historic Moscow Neighborhood.
- Missoulian (MT): Glacier National Park Boats Placed On National Register Of Historic Places.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Saipan (MNP) Tribune: Interior Funds Health Program For Four RMI Communities.
- Guam Daily Post: DOI Awards \$1.5M For New Playgrounds At Island Schools.

US Geological Survey

- Washington Post: Government Scientists Blocked From The Biggest Meeting In Their Field.
- Brunswick (GA) News: USGS And JWSC Looking For Ways To Counter Saltwater Intrusion Into Groundwater.
- Additional Reading.

Opinion Pieces

- The Great Rules Rollback.
- Recalling The Monumental Tradition.
- Sizing Them Up: Utah Rep, Not Trump Or Obama, Meets Navajo Needs On Bears Ears.
- The Hard Truth About The West's Wild Horse Problem.
- Why Not Move The BLM Headquarters West?
- Bundy Mistrial Highlights Federal Failures To Bring Criminals To Justice.
- EDITORIAL: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Seeks To Rebuild Public Trust In The Rural West.
- California's Political Fires.
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- ABC News: Trump Blasts Russia Dossier As A "Crooked Hillary Pile Of Garbage."
- Associated Press: Trump Celebrates Christmas With Family, Honored Troops On Christmas Eve.
- New York Times: Trump Signs "Tremendous" Tax Reform Legislation, Short-Term Spending Bill.
- Washington Post: Trump Suggests Willingness To Work With Democrats On Infrastructure Bill.

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DOI In The News

Zinke Undaunted After Busy, Divisive 2017.

In an interview with the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (12/24, Coleman), Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke discussed "the issues that dominated his first year leading the department." Zinke explained the reasoning behind "his contentious and controversial review of 27 national monuments for possible downsizing or other changes" and the proposal "to double entrance fees at some national parks during peak visitation times." Zinke also talked about his "positions on climate change" and energy development.

New Interior Survey Shows Huge Increase In Alaska Onshore, Offshore Reserves.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (12/26, Passut) reports that between the onshore and offshore, Alaska collectively holds roughly "17.6 billion bbl of oil and more than 50 Tcf of natural gas, according to an updated assessment conducted by Department of Interior (DOI) agencies, which also reported

a nearly six-fold increase in onshore oil resources.” The leader of the offshore survey was the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management as the Bureau of Land Management contributed data. In regards to the offshore, the “BOEM revised the estimated mean of undiscovered, technically recoverable resources in the Beaufort Sea Outer Continental Shelf Planning Area to 8.9 billion bbl of oil and 27.7 Tcf of natural gas.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, “new discoveries have changed our geologic knowledge of the area...and these assessments show that the North Slope will remain an important energy hub for decades to come in order to meet the energy needs of our nation.”

Also reporting are the [Westerner](#) (12/26, DuBois), [SteelGuru](#) (12/26), the [World Oil](#) (12/25), [Science Daily](#) (12/23), and [KTOO-FM Juneau \(AK\)](#) Juneau, AK (12/22, Ruskin).

Feds Keep Proposed Minnesota Copper Mine Plan Alive.

The [AP](#) (12/22) reports that the Trump Administration has “resurrected an effort to build a proposed copper-nickel mine near the Boundary Waters Canoe Wilderness Area in northeastern Minnesota.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/22, Grimaldi, Maremont) reports Daniel Jorjani, the principal deputy solicitor of the Department of Interior, announced Friday that the Administration will renew copper and nickel mining leases for a company controlled by the family of Andrés Luksic, a Chilean billionaire who is renting a mansion in Washington, DC to Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner. Jorjani also said that the Obama Administration acted improperly to block the Minnesota mining leases. However, the Journal adds the White House denied Ivanka Trump or Jared Kushner were aware of the announcement and stated that neither had ever met Luksic.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (12/23, Eilperin), [Reuters](#) (12/23, Sherwood), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (12/23, Marcotty), the [Cook-Orr \(MN\) Timberjay](#) (12/22, Helmberger), the [Minneapolis-St. Paul \(MN\) Business Journal](#) (12/26, Rehkamp), and [BusinessNorth \(MN\)](#) (12/23).

Regulators Propose Rollbacks To Offshore Drilling Safety Measures.

In a front-page article, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/25, A1, Mann) reports that the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement is proposing to roll back some offshore drilling safety measures imposed following the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in order to save the industry more than \$900 million over the next decade. The Journal adds that the proposed policy change fits with the promise of Interior Secretary Zinke and BSEE Director Scott Angelle to reverse overly burdensome regulations.

Also reporting are [The Hill](#) (12/26, Anapol), [CBS News](#) (12/26), [Reuters](#) (12/25, Brettell), [Newsweek](#) (12/25, Kwong), [MarketWatch](#) (12/26, Mann), [Marine Link](#) (12/26, Keefe), [Axios](#) (12/25, Britzky), [Newsmax](#) (12/26, Bunker), and [The Week](#) (12/26, Weber).

Trump Administration Reverses Obama-Era Policy On Accidental Bird Deaths.

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/22, Dlouhy) reports the Interior Department on Friday “said it won’t prosecute oil drillers, wind-farm developers and others who accidentally kill migratory birds,” a reversal from the Obama Administration’s interpretation “of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which makes it illegal to ‘pursue, hunt, take, capture’ or kill any migratory bird except with a valid permit.” In announcing the new policy, the Interior Department’s solicitor “asserts that intent matters – and accidental migratory bird deaths don’t violate the law.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (12/26, Eilperin), [Reuters](#) (12/23, Zuckerman), the [Huffington Post](#) (12/22, D’Angelo), the [Wisconsin Gazette](#) (12/23, Neff), and the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (12/22, Richards).

US Approves 60 Million Ton Expansion Of Montana Coal Mine.

The [AP](#) (12/22, Brown) reported “U.S. officials have approved a 60-million ton expansion of a southeastern Montana coal mine that serves one of the largest power plants in the western United States,” according to the office of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. The approval “will extend the life of Westmoreland Coal Company’s Rosebud Mine by 19 years and adds 10.5 square miles (27 square kilometers) to the 40-square-mile (104-square kilometer) strip mine, Zinke spokeswoman Heather Swift said.” The news comes as the company “has seen its stock price plummet over the past year, prompting speculation the Englewood, Colorado-based company could be headed for bankruptcy.”

Also reporting is [Bloomberg News](#) (12/26, Loh).

Obama Fast-Track Elephant Trophy Ban Without Following Rules.

The [Daily Caller](#) (12/22, White) reports a federal appeals court ruled Friday that the Obama Administration "did not follow proper rule-making procedures when he banned the transport of elephant trophies from Zimbabwe to the U.S." The Daily Caller calls the decision "ironic," given that President Trump initially approved the Fish and Wildlife Service's decision to put an end to the ban "but flinched following backlash from several conservationist groups. He has not addressed the topic since." However, the Daily Caller says, "If Trump does decide to roll back the ban, then he will have to follow, in lock step, the process Obama should have taken before initiating the ban."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (12/22, Cama).

US Asks To Combine Lawsuits Over Cuts To National Monuments.

The [AP](#) (12/22) reports that "the federal government wants to combine legal challenges to President Donald Trump's decision to drastically shrink two national monuments in Utah." The U.S. Department of Justice "filed court documents Friday in five lawsuits whose plaintiffs included the outdoor retailer Patagonia, several environmental groups and a coalition of Native American tribes." The federal lawyers "say lawsuits filed over each monument should be heard together because they deal with the same legal questions."

Congress Must Cement Trump's Public Lands Agenda Into Law In an interview with the [Washington Examiner](#) (12/26, Siegel), Rep. Rob Bishop "said Congress needs to work quickly to make sure President Trump's decisions to roll back national monument designations are locked into place, so a future president can't reverse those moves." He said, "What they are doing has go to be put into some type of statutory language to actually give some finality to it. Otherwise, everything Trump is doing now can be changed by the next president." Bishop "said the issue is a challenge, however, because he argues that environmentalists and other opponents are misrepresenting the intent of the monument reforms, and the broader Trump public lands agenda."

The Daughter Of An Ex-Coal Executive Helped Lead Trump's National Monuments Review. The [Huffington Post](#) (12/23, D'Angelo) reports that the review of recently designated national monuments was "overseen by the daughter of Frederick Palmer, the former executive of coal giant Peabody Energy and a current senior fellow at the conservative Heartland Institute." Downey Magallanes "serves as Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's deputy chief of staff for policy." The article notes that "her personal calendar shows she had several one-on-one meetings with Zinke to discuss the review in the days before Aug. 24, when Zinke submitted his draft report to the White House."

Will Giving The State Control Of Historic Hole In The Rock Road Pave The Way For Crowds And Development? The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/23, Alberty) reports that "a proposal in Congress to transfer Hole in the Rock Road to the state of Utah has ignited both hopes and worries that development and tributes to the area's Mormon heritage could one day draw crowds to this remote and historic tract of land, which lost protections when President Donald Trump dismantled Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument earlier this month." The article notes that "one day after Trump's proclamation on Dec. 4, Utah Republican Rep. Chris Stewart introduced a bill that would create Escalante Canyons National Park," and "one of its provisions would transfer Hole in the Rock Road to the state of Utah." However, "it's not yet clear what being excluded from the new monuments will mean for the road."

Trump's Energy Agenda Hits Its Stride in 2018, But Pitfalls Lurk.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/25, Siciliano, Siegel) reported that the Trump administration's "energy dominance agenda and overthrow of the Obama administration's environmental regulations" will gain momentum in 2018 with new efforts by Interior and Energy departments to rollback regulations. The article highlights efforts to relax National Environmental Policy Act rules to make it harder for the public to protest oil and natural gas leases; the push to expand offshore drilling in the Gulf Mexico, Atlantic Ocean and Arctic; proposed revisions for rules that cover the blowout preventer device on deepwater oil rigs; the repeal of the Obama administration's hydraulic fracturing rule on federal and tribal lands; and support for new overseas markets for U.S. energy exports.

Additional coverage was provided by [Forbes](#) (12/24, Silverstein).

Even With Trump Minerals Order, U.S. Miners Face Uphill Battle With China.

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/22, Barton) reports President Trump "signed an executive order this week to identify new U.S. sources of minerals deemed critical to the country and to streamline the

leasing and permitting process to expedite their domestic production, according to Bloomberg Intelligence." While the move is expected to strengthen the US mining industry, "domestic companies would still struggle to compete with low-cost Chinese competitors." Said Bloomberg Intelligence senior analyst Richard Bourke, "Without further details on how the U.S. can actually compete with China on a cost basis, the current cost structure for someone in the U.S. is so much higher that the economics don't work." He added, "The U.S. is not a low-cost producer, so companies need better pricing to be profitable." Still, Bloomberg says, "miners were positive about Trump's executive order."

Retaliation, Not Just Harassment, A Problem At Interior, Group Says.

[FEDweek](#) (12/22) reports that "in calling attention to harassment in its ranks, the Interior Department failed to emphasize what happens to employees who complain about it, an advocacy group has said, saying that in many cases the result is either no action or retaliation against the victim." The Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility "stressed" that a recent survey "found that when employees complained, no action was taken in 64 percent of the cases and an official career action was taken against the persons responsible in only 5 percent." Moreover, "38 percent of complaining employees 'were encouraged to drop the issue' and nearly as many, 32 percent, were discouraged from filing a formal complaint or report." In addition, "29 percent of employees 'indicated leadership punished them for bringing the experience up' with 15 percent saying they were threatened with loss of employment."

Feds Decline To Provide Info On Decision To Disband Trinity River Restoration Watchdog Group.

The [Eureka \(CA\) Times Standard](#) (12/22, Houston) reports that the Trump Administration "as of Friday has refused to provide more information behind its decision to disband a public watchdog group tasked with overseeing a multi-million dollar, publicly funded Trinity River restoration program." The group's chairman Tom Stokely said, "I sent a letter to the [Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke's] office and I haven't heard anything back. I don't expect to ... I really don't think they care." Also, in a letter to the Interior Department, Rep. Congressman Jared Huffman "requested similar information to be provided to his office by Friday," but "Huffman said Friday that he has not received a response."

US Senate Approves New Mexico Wilderness Proposal.

The [AP](#) (12/25) reports that "a measure that would further protect thousands of acres within the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument in northern New Mexico has won approval from the U.S. Senate." The Cerro del Yuta and Rio San Antonio Wilderness Act passed the Senate "late last week with unanimous support." The legislation "now heads to the House for consideration."

Also reporting are the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (12/22, Coleman) and the [Taos \(NM\) News](#) (12/22, Hooks).

Barrasso Calls On Zinke To View Wyoming As Leader On Sage Grouse Management.

[Wyoming Public Radio](#) (12/22, Kudelska) reports that Sen. John Barrasso is advising the Interior Department "to focus on Wyoming as a prime example for sage grouse management." In a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Barrasso noted "that Wyoming is a leader in sage grouse management." Barrasso "said Wyoming showcases the best management of sage grouse by exploring novel and creative approaches."

California's Thomas Fire Now 86 Percent Contained.

"There is no Christmas break for crews battling the Thomas Fire in Southern California," which the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/25, story 5, 2:15, Duthiers) reported has grown to become the largest wildfire on record in the state history. The fire "is 86 percent contained," but correspondent Jamie Yuccas said the nearly 1,600 firefighters "could still be here for New Year's" as the flames are "not expected to be put out until first week of January."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/23, story 5, 0:25, Llamas) reported the Thomas Fire, which continues to rage northwest of Los Angeles, has become "the largest blaze ever recorded in the state, burning for close to three weeks now." While the fire is now 65 percent contained, so far two people have been killed, 700 homes have been lost, and 437 square miles are "scorched. That's bigger than the area of New York City, San Francisco, and Washington, DC combined." According to the [CBS Weekend News](#) (12/23, story 9, 0:25, Ninan), the fire has "destroyed more than 1,000 structures." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/22, Panzar, Livingston) reports that "the

fire eclipsed the 2003 Cedar fire in San Diego County, which burned 273,246 acres," and "reaffirmed 2017 as the most destructive fire season ever in the state."

Where Is Trump's Cabinet? It's Anybody's Guess.

[Politico](#) (12/26, Holden) reports that President Trump's Cabinet members are "often shielding their schedules from public view, keeping their travels under wraps and refusing to identify the people and groups they're meeting." The piece discusses the practices of 17 Cabinet heads, including Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. The article says, "While the Interior Department readily provides calendars after the fact for Secretary Ryan Zinke, it doesn't publish his schedule ahead of time for events."

5 Ways The Trump Administration Is Celebrating Christmas.

In its "In The Know" blog, [The Hill](#) (12/24, Cohn) highlighted the ways the Trump Administration celebrated Christmas. The article said that the Interior Department is "reindeer spotting in the national parks." The department tweeted a picture of a reindeer: "Reindeer warm up: Looks like this one is getting ready for tonight's big ride! @BeringLandNPS #Alaska pic.twitter.com/JPZagphBlv— US Department of the Interior (@Interior) December 24, 2017."

Former Zinke PAC Blames Software For \$200,000 Accounting Discrepancy.

[Politico](#) (12/22, Lefebvre) reports that "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's former PAC blamed a technical glitch for a nearly \$200,000 discrepancy in its campaign finance reports and said it is working to fix problems identified by the FEC." SEAL PAC "told the FEC on Friday that faulty software led it to report having more cash on hand at the beginning of 2017 than at the beginning of last year." According to the article, "Zinke launched the leadership PAC when he was elected to the House as a Republican from Montana and stepped away from the group after joining President Donald Trump's Cabinet in March."

Most Federal Employees In D.C.-Baltimore Area To Receive 2.3 Percent Raise In January.

"Most federal employees in the Washington area will receive a raise just shy of 2.3 percent in early January, under an order President Trump issued Friday," the [Washington Post](#) (12/23, Yoder) reports, although the raise "was expected because Trump in August said if Congress did not act by the end of the year, he would allow the General Schedule's default raise to go through. The GS is the pay system for most white-collar employees below the senior levels." However, the Post warns the President "may stand in the way of future pay raises," according to documents released by Sen. Claire McCaskill, which "indicate that the Trump administration plans to recommend no federal employee pay raise for 2019."

Federal Workers Poised To Overtake Salaries Of Senators, DC Gets Highest Pay Raise. The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/26, Bedard) reports that the cap on top pay for most General Service bureaucrats will rise to \$164,000 next year, while the maximum pay for senior executive employees will rise to \$189,600. Federal workers in the Washington area will see the biggest raise; "there, the increase for General Service workers will be 2.29 percent." Top salaries for federal workers will rival "the \$174,000 salaries of America's 535 House and Senate members."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Senate Approves Restoring Land To Cow Creek Band Of Umpqua Tribe Of Indians.

The [Roseburg \(OR\) News-Review](#) (12/22, Cegavske) reports that "the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians will have 17,519 acres of land returned to them if President Donald Trump signs a bill that passed the U.S. Senate Thursday night." The Western Oregon Tribal Fairness Act, H.R. 2791, "would place land currently managed by the Bureau of Land Management into a trust for the Cow Creek Tribe."

[KOBI-TV](#) Medford, OR (12/22) adds that "over 14,700 acres would be put into trust for the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians." Also, "the legislation would amend the Coquille Restoration Act to require the Interior Department to manage Coquille Indian Tribes' forest lands in the same manner as other tribal forests."

Bureau Of Land Management

Western Colorado Eyes Potential BLM Move.

The [AP](#) (12/25) reports that Mesa County officials in Colorado “say they have the perfect place if the federal Bureau of Land Management decides to move its Washington, D.C. headquarters closer to the vast lands it administers.” The article notes that “some 45 percent of Mesa County is managed by the federal agency.”

US Launches Ambitious Plan To Battle Rangeland Wildfires.

The [AP](#) (12/22, Ridler) reports that “federal officials have launched a two-pronged plan to stop a vicious cycle of rangeland wildfires in a wide swath of sagebrush country in the West that supports cattle ranching, recreation and is home to an imperiled bird.” The Bureau of Land Management on Friday “said it will create an Environmental Impact Statement concerning fuel breaks and another on fuels reduction and restoration for Idaho, Oregon, Nevada, California, Utah, and Washington.” The BLM “said the documents when finished will help speed the process for future landscape-scale projects in the Great Basin by providing a blanket approval for similar areas that will likely just need minor additional environmental reviews to proceed.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (12/26).

Bundy Mistrial Draws Sessions Probe, Calls For Broad Review.

The [AP](#) (12/22, Ritter) reports that “a mistrial in the federal prosecution of a family of ranchers who led an armed standoff against government agents prompted Attorney General Jeff Sessions to launch an investigation into the case and renewed calls for a broad review of U.S. attorneys in Las Vegas.” The article notes that “Nevada has been without a top federal prosecutor since March, when Sessions, President Donald Trump’s appointee, sought the resignations of 46 U.S. attorneys remaining from Barack Obama’s administration.” The case has “local defense lawyers urging a review of the U.S. attorney’s office in Nevada.”

Wild Horse Population Control Methods Divide Lawmakers, Advocates.

The [Washington Times](#) (12/26, Sherfinski) reports that “after a years-long battle over an effective ban on horse slaughter in the U.S., advocates on both sides are grappling with how the federal government should handle the tens of thousands of excess wild horses, largely on western lands.” According to the article, “some, including top voices on Capitol Hill and in the Trump administration, say the most humane thing to do is for Congress to pass a law clearing the way for excess horses to be sold or euthanized.” However, “others are urging the Interior Department to look to alternative measures of population control, such as experimentation with birth control methods.”

Appeal Seeking Idaho Horse Herd Sterilization Is Dismissed.

The [AP](#) (12/26, Ridler) reports that “a federal appeals court has dismissed an effort to allow the sterilization of a herd of wild horses in Idaho.” The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals “earlier this month granted a request by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to stop the effort.”

BLM Cancels Challis Herd Roundup Following Lawsuit.

[KBSC-FM](#) Boise, ID (12/22, Dawson) reports that the Bureau of Land Management will “cancel a plan to round up more than 100 wild horses near Challis after a lawsuit filed by an animal rights group.” The Friends of Animals “filed suit against BLM in November, alleging they took no public comment for their plan to remove dozens of wild horses and give some of the mares birth control.” The group “dropped its suit after BLM recently withdrew its plan.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Winds Of Worry: US Fishermen Fear Forests Of Power Turbines.

The [AP](#) (12/26, Marcelo) reports fishermen on the East Coast “are turning a wary eye toward an emerging upstart: the offshore wind industry.” Fishermen in New Bedford, Massachusetts “dread the possibility of navigating a forest of turbines as they make their way to the fishing grounds that have made it the nation’s most lucrative fishing port for 17 years running. The state envisions hundreds of wind turbines spinning off the city’s shores in about a decade, enough to power more than 1 million homes.” Off the coast of Long Island, “an organization representing East Coast scallopers has sued the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to try to halt a proposal for a nearly 200-turbine wind farm.” In addition, “commercial fishermen in Maryland’s Ocean City

and North Carolina's Outer Banks have...sounded the alarm about losing access to fishing grounds." Offshore wind supporters "say they have learned from Europe's long experience with it...as evidence the actual impact to U.S. fishermen will be less than feared."

Cape Wind Opponent Plans To Refocus On Original Mission.

The [Cape Cod \(MA\) Times](#) (12/26, Bragg) reports that the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management "still needs to approve Cape Wind's Nov. 29 request to relinquish its lease of 46 square miles of federal waters." BOEM is "reviewing Cape Wind's request for completeness and proper filing protocol, bureau spokesman Stephen Boutwell said."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Project Reopens Sacramento River Habitat For Young Salmon.

The [Chico \(CA\) Enterprise-Record](#) (12/22, Thompson) reports that "young salmon in the Sacramento River have a new place to grow strong before heading to sea, thanks to a project completed this week to reopen a clogged side channel near Lake California in Tehama County." According to Rob Irwin of the Sacramento River Forum, "the channel, which had become blocked naturally over the years, will provide rearing habitat for juvenile salmon and is expected to improve the fishery." The objective of the project, implemented by the Interior Department as part of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, is "to replenish spawning and resting areas lost due to construction of dams." The article notes that "the roughly \$300,000 project was a combined effort of multiple state and federal agencies, local water districts and conservation groups and paid for through a grant from the Bureau of Reclamation tied to the Central Valley Project."

Additional coverage was provided by [KHSL-TV](#) Chico, CA (12/22, Rene).

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Former Louisiana Political Warrior Scott Angelle Now Shaping U.S. Energy Policy.

In an interview with the [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (12/24, Ballard), Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement director Scott Angelle talked about how he is helping President Trump to push American "energy dominance." Angelle said, "We've gone from an era of scarcity to an era of abundance pretty quickly. We have to move from the 1980s goal of energy independence to the 2017 goal of energy dominance." In furtherance of that goal, Angelle and the Trump Administration "want to provide access to more reserves offshore and to work with the industry."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Other Sports: Bill Would Redirect 1.3 Billion In Funds To Wildlife Conservation.

The [Dallas Morning News](#) (12/23, Sasser) reports that a recently introduced Congressional bill would "redirect \$1.3 billion per year in existing royalties from energy and mineral development of federal lands and waters and invest the money in fish and wildlife conservation." H.R. 4647, the "Recovering America's Wildlife Act," is "a bipartisan bill introduced by Representatives Jeff Fortenberry, a Nebraska Republican, and Debbie Dingell, a Michigan Democrat."

Biologists: Counts Of Florida Grasshopper Sparrows Are Low.

The [AP](#) (12/25) reports that "biologists say surveys of endangered Florida grasshopper sparrows in the wild have been discouraging." According to the article, "40 females and 74 males were counted last year," but this year, "only 22 females and 53 males were counted." U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials "say the bird could disappear from its native habitat within two years, despite conservation efforts."

Bird-tracking Study Reveals Some Migration Paths Cross Areas Slated For Offshore Wind Farms.

The [Baltimore Sun](#) (12/22, Dance) reported that according to a study that tracks birds, "if wind farms are built off Maryland's coast, turbines will be spinning in areas where many seabirds cross

– but few linger – during annual migrations.” Researchers have “spent the past five years tagging more than 400 birds with tiny transmitters and watching their movements.” The maps “will inform decisions on whether and where to permit construction of wind turbines from North Carolina to New York.”

Carp Species Potential Threats To Alabama Waterways.

In a contribution to the [Florence \(AL\) Courier Journal](#) (12/22, Rainer), David Rainer from the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources discusses the state’s efforts to halt the spread of invasive Asian carp. Rainer mentioned that Alabama is a member of the “Mississippi Interstate Cooperative Resources Association,” a coalition which includes “the 28 states in the Mississippi basin” and federal agencies.

National Park Service

City Sends Resolve To Congress Over Park Maintenance Backlog.

The [AP](#) (12/26) reports that “officials in a Maine city are asking the federal government to solve the National Park System’s \$11.33 billion maintenance backlog.” The Ellsworth City Council “approved issuing a resolve to Congress this week asking for an income and payment plan.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has proposed new fees for visitors at several national parks, “which he says could raise \$70 million in revenue.”

Additional coverage of fee hikes was provided by the [Peninsula \(WA\) Daily News](#) (12/25), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (12/22, Maffly), the [Southwest Colorado Journal](#) (12/25, Langlois), the [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (12/26, Gabriel), the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (12/24, Sambides), the [Denver Post](#) (12/22, Worthington), the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (12/25, Vogt), and the [Pagosa \(CO\) Daily Post](#) (12/26, Faz).

The National Park Service Promises To Reinstate 92 Climate Change Documents Removed From Website.

[Motherboard](#) (12/22, Emerson) reports that the National Park Service has “removed 92 documents on climate change from its website.” according to the Environmental Data and Governance Initiative, an investigative journalism nonprofit, “PDFs describing the agency’s ‘Climate Friendly Parks Program’ were taken down this month.” A spokesperson for the National Park Service explained: “Under Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the National Park Service, like all federal agencies, has a January 18, 2018, deadline to make electronic information and technology accessible to people with disabilities. As part of that process we are updating PDF documents on NPS.gov that are not yet accessible to all, including climate action plans for nearly 100 parks that were listed on a nps.gov webpage. Those non-compliant PDF documents are temporarily unavailable for download while we work to make them compliant with the revised accessibility standards. In the meantime the PDF documents will be provided by email upon request.”

Also reporting are the [New Republic](#) (12/21, Zhang) and [Mashable](#) (12/22, Kaufman).

Senate Passes John Lewis Bid To Make MLK Site A National Historic Park.

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (12/22, Godwin) reports that the Senate on Thursday passed Rep. John Lewis’ bill that “would create Georgia’s first national historic park at the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site in downtown Atlanta.” The bill, now headed to President Trump, “would also add the Prince Hall Masonic Building to the campus that houses King’s birth home, the Ebenezer Baptist Church and a visitor center.” The article adds that “another bill passed by the Senate Thursday would establish a U.S. Civil Rights Network within the National Park Service.”

Part Of Jackson Magnolia On South Lawn Coming Down, White House Says.

[CBS News](#) (12/26, Tillett) reports that “a ‘large portion’ of the Jackson Magnolia, a tree that has been a South Lawn fixture since the 1800s, is being removed, the White House says” because of safety reasons. According to the article, “a substantial portion of the Jackson Magnolia will be removed Wednesday morning, including one tree limb which will be conducted by the National Park Service.” The NPS “assessed that the tree was decaying and a potential safety hazard.”

Also reporting are the [Washington Post](#) (12/26, Kaplan) and [Newsweek](#) (12/26, Pereira).

Alaska Man Again To Appeal Hovercraft Ban To Supreme Court.

The [AP](#) (12/24) reports that “an Anchorage moose hunter plans to put his lawsuit about federal authority on the state’s rivers before the U.S. Supreme Court again.” John Sturgeon “said Friday in Fairbanks he plans to file a petition pushing the Supreme Court to review his case for a second time.” According to the article, “Sturgeon says he feels more confident the court will take his case than when he filed his first petition to the court in 2015.”

Last Native American Village In Yosemite Being Rebuilt.

The [AP](#) (12/23) reports that “the last Native American village in Yosemite Valley, destroyed 40 years ago, is being rebuilt in the same spot so that Miwuk Indian youths can learn about their culture.” According to the article, “reconstruction of the village started in 2009 and so far a roundhouse foundation has been built.” The project was “halted in 2011 because of safety concerns but construction resumed last year after the native community proved the traditional roundhouse met building codes.”

National Park Service Looking For 5 Death Valley Trespassers.

The [AP](#) (12/22) reports that “authorities are looking for five people who entered a closed area at Death Valley National Park and damaged government property.” The National Park Service on Friday “said surveillance video shows the people trespassing the area known as Devils Hole on the evening of Nov. 5.”

Officials Add 127 Homes To Historic Moscow Neighborhood.

The [AP](#) (12/26) reports that “the boundaries marking a historic neighborhood in a northern Idaho town were changed, adding more than double the number of prewar homes to the historic district.” The National Register of Historic Places has “expanded the boundaries of the Fort Russell neighborhood in Moscow, pushing the number of historic sites in the district to 243.”

Glacier National Park Boats Placed On National Register Of Historic Places.

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (12/24, Backus) reports that “for the second time in two years, historic boats operated by the Glacier Park Boat Company have been added to the National Park Service’s National Register of Historic Places.” Last year, “the 1920s-era tour boat originally named the Rising Wolf was added to the national register.” In December, “its sisters, the 45-foot-long Little Chief and the 56-foot DeSmet, were accepted.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

Interior Funds Health Program For Four RMI Communities.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (12/27) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has “directed the Office of Insular Affairs to authorize a partial funding amount of \$721,320, to the Ministry of Health in the Republic of the Marshall Islands for the Four Atoll Health Care Program for the people of Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, and Utrok. Zinke is concerned about the threat to the continuity of services under this program.” Zinke said, “The Marshall Islands played an important role in American and world history, and remains a key component of our military readiness in the Pacific. Looking after the health and wellness of our extended American family is a key component of upholding commitments to one another.” Assistant Secretary Douglas Domenech said, “We look to Congress to help us meet these important commitments on behalf of the U.S. government for the people of Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, and Utrok.”

DOI Awards \$1.5M For New Playgrounds At Island Schools.

The [Guam Daily Post](#) (12/25) reports that “thousands of the island’s elementary and middle school students received a Christmas gift from the Department of Interior as the Calvo administration announced securing a \$1.5 million grant.” The money will be “used to purchase new playground and gym equipment and improve multipurpose courts and fields.” According to the article, “roughly \$1.3 million will go to fund elementary school playground upgrades, while \$200,000 will go to middle schools for field improvements and equipment.”

US Geological Survey

Government Scientists Blocked From The Biggest Meeting In Their Field.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/22, Kaplan) reports "some 450 researchers" from the US Geological Survey typically attend the American Geophysical Union's annual conference, "the largest gathering of Earth, space and climate scientists in the world," but in advance of the summit, "the Interior Department – which oversees the USGS – issued a new cap on attendance: No more than 199 employees across the department could travel to the meeting, and expenditures could not exceed \$399,000." According to the Post, "as a result, just 178 USGS researchers were present at the AGU conference in New Orleans last week – a 60 percent drop from last year." A USGS spokeswoman said the agency "was not given a rationale for the policy shift," although an Interior Department spokeswoman "said the decision to limit the number of employees saved hundreds of thousands of tax dollars."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (12/22, Greenwood).

USGS And JWSC Looking For Ways To Counter Saltwater Intrusion Into Groundwater.

The [Brunswick \(GA\) News](#) (12/26, Cooper) reports that "a plume of saltwater intrusion into Glynn County's groundwater, first discovered in the 1950s, has been spreading under Brunswick and is beginning to push saltwater under multiple wells close to the point where salt can be tasted." The article says that "Hercules chemical resin plant opened in the early part of the 20th century and the Georgia-Pacific pulp mill opened in 1937." According to Greg Cherry, a hydrologist with the United States Geological Survey, "the pair sucked a lot of water out of the Floridan aquifer, peaking at more than 80 million gallons per day in 1980." But "Cherry said it would likely be best for them to continue pumping the same amount they have been." He explained, "The problem is there because they over-pump the upper Floridan (aquifer), but now they're keeping it in place. One of the things controlling the plume is the hydraulic gradient."

Additional Reading.

- *What Is Snake Fungal Disease? Understanding The Potentially Devastating Fungus That Could Be A Global Threat.* [Newsweek](#) (12/22, Hugo).
- *Why Americans Are Using A Lot Less Water.* [Christian Science Monitor](#) (12/26, Hinckley).

Opinion Pieces

The Great Rules Rollback.

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/25) hails the Trump Administration for reducing overly burdensome regulations, which the Journal says ranks third among President Trump's top achievements of the year, following his judicial confirmations and tax reform.

Recalling The Monumental Tradition.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Times](#) (12/24, Walcher), Greg Walcher, president of the Natural Resources Group, defends the move to change the borders of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments. He argues that "Native American artifacts and other objects of historic or scientific interest will remain protected, while in the 2 million acres released from the monuments, traditional uses and public access will be restored." Walcher also points out that "not one acre is being sold, privatized, transferred to states, or 'stolen' by anyone." Rather, it is "a change in the management structure, nothing more."

Sizing Them Up: Utah Rep, Not Trump Or Obama, Meets Navajo Needs On Bears Ears.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (12/26, Ben), Alfred Ben, vice president of Aneth Chapter, notes that "when President Obama designated more than 1.3 million acres in San Juan County as Bears Ears National Monument in December 2016, my chapter of the Navajo Nation, Aneth Chapter, closest to Bears Ears, passed resolutions requesting that the president reverse his designation." He points out that "there already are 11 wilderness areas protecting this area; therefore, a monument designation doesn't come with anything more than the paper it was written on." Also, "the idea was sold to the public as though it was a 'celebrated,' tribally-managed monument, with decision-making at the offices of each tribal chairman/president," but "the committee status of the Bears Ears Commission so far has not included much, if any, input from Native Americans."

The Hard Truth About The West's Wild Horse Problem.

In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (12/25, Stewart), Rep. Chris Stewart calls attention to the “broken” Wild Horse and Burro Program. Stewart writes that “although the finger is routinely pointed at the B.L.M. for mismanagement, the bulk of the blame lies with shortsighted decision-making by misinformed but well-meaning members of Congress.” He urges Congress to support his “proposal to remove language from the Interior Department’s budget that bars the B.L.M. from euthanizing captured healthy horses it is holding.”

Why Not Move The BLM Headquarters West?

In an editorial, the [Denver Post](#) (12/25) argues that the proposal to move the Bureau of Land Management headquarters to the West deserves consideration. The paper is “eager to see if it makes sense to move the rest of those employees closer to the lands and natural resources they manage.” It concludes that “if careful examination of the BLM leads to a bigger vision of taking bureaucracy out of Washington, D.C., and bringing it closer to the people it serves, the whole nation could benefit.”

Bundy Mistrial Highlights Federal Failures To Bring Criminals To Justice.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (12/26, Molvar), Erik Molvar, executive director of Western Watersheds Project, calls the mistrial in the Cliven Bundy case an “outrage.” Molvar argues that “federal agencies have been patient and cautious to a fault in their prosecution of the Bundys and their accomplices.” In conclusion, he hopes that “prosecutorial missteps won’t get in the way of justice.”

Additional commentary on the case appeared in the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (12/24, Saunders), the [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (12/26), the [Everett \(WA\) Herald](#) (12/26, Saunders), [Townhall](#) (12/27, Barr), and the [St. George \(UT\) News](#) (12/25, Hyde).

EDITORIAL: Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Seeks To Rebuild Public Trust In The Rural West.

In an editorial, the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (12/24) lauds Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for pledging that “Ash Springs will again be open for use” and rebuking the BLM “for taking so long to resolve the issue.” The paper sees this as reflecting Zinke’s “mission of mending fences with rural residents throughout the West, many of whom have long regarded federal land managers as arrogant and dismissive of their concerns.”

California’s Political Fires.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/22) editorializes that while California officials are using the wildfires burning across the state to promote their policies on fighting climate change, they should instead prioritize fire prevention.

Additional Reading.

- *Under Cover Of Tax Bill, Congress Gives Away The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge — To Drillers.* [Los Angeles Times](#) (12/22).
- *A Phony Green ‘Watchdog’ Group Is Attacking Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.* [Washington Examiner](#) (12/22, Mooney).
- *Tribal Sovereignty: Good For Indian Country’s Economy, Good For America’s Economy.* [The Hill](#) (12/22).
- *Is The Trump Administration Making Oil Drilling Less ‘Safe’?.* [Newsweek](#) (12/25, Kwong) .
- *Secretary Zinke: Time To Withdraw Proposal To Raise Fees In Parks.* [Huffington Post](#) (12/22, Ostfeld).
- *Trump’s Offshore Oil Rush A Disaster For Oceans And Climate.* [Huffington Post](#) (12/25, Steiner).
- *U.S. Mining Reforms Are Crucial To Energy Security.* [Forbes](#) (12/25, Clemente).
- *Alaskan Oil Zombie Roams The Capitol.* [Forbes](#) (12/26, Lovins).
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- *I'm Worried: We're Devaluing Innovation In Government.* [Huffington Post](#) (12/26, Gross).
- *Schools Need To Bring Back Physical Education: Our View.* [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (12/26)
- *Cutler: Tell Your Congressman To Back These Four Nature Bills.* [Roanoke \(VA\) Times](#) (12/27, Cutler).
- *Governor's Washington Post Op-ed On Public Land Is Misleading.* [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (12/25, Jones).

Top National News

Trump Blasts Russia Dossier As A "Crooked Hillary Pile Of Garbage."

President Trump blasted the Russia dossier Tuesday, writing in a [tweet](#), "WOW, @foxandfrinds 'Dossier is bogus. Clinton Campaign, DNC funded Dossier. FBI CANNOT (after all of this time) VERIFY CLAIMS IN DOSSIER OF RUSSIA/TRUMP COLLUSION. FBI TAINTED.' And they used this Crooked Hillary pile of garbage as the basis for going after the Trump Campaign!" The coverage, while somewhat limited, is negative, casting Tuesday's tweet as the latest in an escalating series of attacks on the FBI by the President and congressional Republicans in an effort to discredit special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation.

[ABC News](#) (12/26) reports on its website that Trump was referring to comments made Tuesday on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) "by both a Fox News reporter who was hosting the morning show, Todd Piro, and former congressman and current Fox News contributor Jason Chaffetz." Piro asked, "Why would you brief members of the FBI before verifying the existence of collusion and really taint the entire FBI in the process," to which Chaffetz "responded at length," saying at one point that "the dossier, we have long known, is bogus."

[USA Today](#) (12/26, Jackson) describes a "loud denunciation" of the dossier from Trump and says the issue of Russian interference in the 2016 election, along with healthcare, is "likely to dominate his second year in office." The [Washington Times](#) (12/26, Miller) cites its own [reporting](#) which said that while the FBI "has declined to repudiate" the dossier, it "has conceded the document's major core charges of election collusion remain unsubstantiated." [WND](#) (12/26, Unruh) also cites the Times' report, which said that according to sources familiar with House and Senate investigations, "during a closed hearing of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence last week, Deputy FBI Director Andrew McCabe declined to criticize the dossier's 35 pages of charges against Trump and his aides while admitting the document remains largely

unverified.”

[The Hill](#) (12/26, Delk) reported in its “Blog Briefing Room” blog that the dossier “included several incendiary claims against Trump and his campaign that have loomed over his presidency,” and citing the tweet, [Breitbart](#) (12/26, Spiering) describes Trump as “amazed that the dossier was used to accuse his campaign of colluding with Russia.”

[Newsweek](#) (12/26, Price) says on its website that Trump’s tweet came “after he spent the holiday weekend lobbing similar accusations about corruption at the FBI and the Clinton team.”

[Politico](#) (12/26, Morin) says Trump’s weekend tweets “bash[ed] the FBI and its leadership.”

Kenneth Moton said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/26, story 3, 2:40, Llamas) that Trump “has been attacking the FBI” for weeks, and over the weekend, he targeted McCabe, “accusing him of bias during the Hillary Clinton email investigation, after an ally of Clinton’s donated to McCabe’s wife’s political campaign.” In a [tweet](#), Trump asked, how McCabe could be “given \$700,000 for wife’s campaign by Clinton Puppets.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/26, Cohen) reports that Trump’s “attacks on the FBI have intensified in recent months, questioning bias in its leadership and if it let Clinton off easily in its investigation into her private email server.” The [Washington Post](#) (12/26, Lee) says Trump and some Republicans in Congress “are ramping up their criticism of the FBI, in an apparent effort to discredit special counsel Robert S. Mueller III and his investigation.”

In his column for the [Washington Post](#) (12/26), Dana Milbank writes that President Trump is either “trying to undermine democracy,” or “irredeemably vain.” Milbank cites Trump’s commemorative “Challenge Coin,” on which his name appears four times and the national motto, “E pluribus unum,” is replaced with Trump’s campaign motto, “Make America Great Again.” Milbank adds that Trump “managed to find division” in his Christmas message, highlighting “the belief that the Old Testament prophet Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would be the Messiah. Jews dispute that interpretation.” The next morning, Milbank adds, Trump “resumed attacks on Obamacare and a ‘Crooked Hillary pile of garbage.’”

Flynn’s Brother Calls On Trump To Pardon Him. The [New York Post](#) (12/26, Tacopino) reports that former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn’s brother, Joseph, called on President Trump “in a tweet he sent to the president and deleted minutes later.” In response to Trump’s tweet criticizing the FBI investigation, Joseph Flynn, tweeted, “About time you pardoned General Flynn who has taken the biggest fall for all of you given the illegitimacy of this confessed crime in the wake of all this corruption.”

Joseph Flynn told [Newsweek](#) (12/26, Kutner) “that he found Trump’s tweet interesting and so,” and responded. He added, “I said it, and maybe he’s listening.” In a tweet to Newsweek hours later, he wrote, “I stand by my tweet. This is all my personal opinion and I stand by it.” Moments later, in another tweet to Trump, he wrote, “Mr. President, I personally believe that a pardon is due to General Flynn, given the apparent and obvious illegitimacy of the manner in which the so called ‘crimes’ he plead (sic) guilty to were extracted from him. ... I ask for quick action on this. Thank you and keep up the good work!”

Mueller Could Indict Manafort, Gates Again. The [Daily Beast](#) (12/26) reports that there is a “broad expectation” that Mueller will file a superseding indictment against former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort and his business partner Rick Gates. Mueller’s team hinted in the initial indictment that more charges could be coming.

House, Senate Panels Question Businessman About Trump Tower Meeting. [Reuters](#) (12/26) cites “four sources familiar with the matter” who said that congressional investigators have questioned Irakly Kaveladze, “a Georgian-American businessman who met then-Miss Universe pageant owner Donald Trump in 2013,” about “whether he helped organize a meeting between Russians and Trump’s eldest son during the 2016 election campaign” The Senate and House intelligence committees “knew Kaveladze was at the June 9, 2016 meeting but became more interested in him after learning he also attended a private dinner in Las Vegas in 2013 with Trump and [Azerbaijani oligarch Aras] Agalarov as they celebrated an agreement to hold that year’s Miss Universe pageant in Moscow, the sources said.” Members of the panels “want to know more about the extent of Kaveladze’s contacts with the Trump family and whether he had a bigger role than previously believed in setting up the Trump Tower meeting when Trump was a Republican candidate for president.”

GOP Lawmakers Criticize Mueller, “Deep State.” Rep. Louie Gohmert said on [Fox News’ Fox & Friends](#) (12/26) that Mueller is “bad news. He is out for a scalp. He would love to get Trump’s scalp. He would love to be the hero of the left to take out Donald Trump. He will do everything he can to do that. Mueller is not going to be deterred by these people falling around him. He wants a scalp and he would love to get POTUS. If he can not get the President he will , like we’ve seen, he

will take a mike Flynn and it was kind of sad the way that all happened." Gohmert added that "since the day Mueller went in, he has not been the upstanding, fair guy that people painted him as being. He did more destruction to the FBI, he weakened the FBI more so than J. Edgar Hoover or anybody ever did."

[USA Today](#) (12/26, King) reports that Rep. Francis Rooney told [MSNBC Live](#) Tuesday that "he wants leaders at the Department of Justice and the FBI to 'purge' officials he says are politically biased against President Trump." Rooney said, "People need a good, clean government." Rooney "mentioned FBI agent Peter Strzok, whom Mueller removed from the Russia investigation after learning about texts he sent disparaging Trump," and "raised concern about Justice Department official Bruce Ohr, who was reportedly demoted for hiding ties to Fusion GPS." Rooney said, "I would like to see the directors of these agencies purge it and say 'look, we have a lot of great agents, a lot of great lawyers here.' ... Those are the people that I want the American people to see and know the good work being done, not these people that are kind of the deep state." The [Washington Times](#) (12/26, Persons) also reports on Rooney's comments.

In an op-ed for [USA Today](#) (12/26), Rep. Andy Biggs writes that Mueller's investigation "is clearly careening far beyond the scope of his original charge." Biggs argues that Mueller has shown that he is "incapable of leading a focused, unbiased review of his initial assignment," and if he "truly cared for justice, he would voluntarily step aside from his post."

In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (12/26) contrasts the current criticism of Mueller with early May, when he "was universally praised as the perfect choice" to oversee the Russia investigation. As the investigation "gathered steam with charges brought against four former Trump campaign officials in recent months, a coterie of Republican congressmen, joined by commentators on Fox News and other Trump-friendly media outlets, have started calling for Mueller's head." USA Today adds that the critics "are laying the groundwork for either undermining Mueller's conclusions or firing him," and to pre-empt that, "Congress should promptly pass bipartisan legislation to provide greater protections for the special counsel."

Kristol: Trump "Fears" Russia Investigation And Is Trying To "Shut It Down." The [Daily Caller](#) (12/26, Givas) reports that in an appearance on [MSNBC's Andrea Mitchell Reports](#), Weekly Standard Editor-at-Large Bill Kristol accused Trump of trying to "shut down" the Russia investigation. Kristol said, "The president hates the investigation. He fears it, and he wants to shut it down or curb it as much as he can. ... It may be that he intends to fire Mueller. ... Trump is trying systematically to discredit the FBI...and he's doing so by attacking individuals, by attacking the whole organization, by saying the whole thing is a witch hunt. I think he fears it and wants to end it as much as he can." Of Republicans who defend the President on the issue, Kristol said, "They're being used by the president. ... They're playing into the president's hands. They're being allies to the president in something that I think will do a lot of damage to the country. ... I think the president knows he has something to worry about and is doing his best to fight back."

Stone: Members Of Trump's Cabinet Are Plotting To Remove Him. The [Washington Times](#) (12/26, Blake) reports that former Trump campaign adviser Roger Stone said in a recent interview aired on C-SPAN that members of the President's cabinet "have discussed plans to remove him from the White House." Stone said he has heard that members of the Administration have considered whether they can invoke the 25th Amendment to remove Trump from office. Said Stone, "I have sources, and I work my sources, and yes, I believe there are some who have had this discussion. This is both outside the Cabinet and in. I think it's the fallback plan for the establishment. That's why I'm trying to sound the clarion call. ... I cannot reveal those sources, and I'm not prepared to do so, but this is not a conspiracy theory. ... There are members of the Cabinet who have had this discussion. Let me just leave it at that."

Trump Celebrates Christmas With Family, Honored Troops On Christmas Eve.

President Trump spent Christmas Day with his family at his Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach, Florida and released a video with First Lady Melania Trump wishing "America and the entire world a very Merry Christmas." On Christmas Eve, the President called US troops to express his gratitude for their service. He and the first lady also spoke with children as part of NORAD's annual efforts to track Santa Claus before attending a midnight church service at the Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-sea. While limited, media coverage was mostly positive of the Trumps' Christmas events.

The [AP](#) (12/25, Superville) reports the President celebrated Christmas how "millions of Americans do: surrounded by family," although "unlike most Americans, he released a brief [video](#) in which his wife, Melania, joined him to 'wish America and the entire world a very Merry Christmas.'" The AP adds that "the day was not without work. White House press secretary Sarah

Huckabee Sanders said the president had been briefed on Monday's suicide bombing in Kabul, Afghanistan. The Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the attack, which killed at least six people."

[Breitbart](#) (12/25, Spiering) reports that in his Christmas message to Americans, the President said he and the First Lady "are delighted to wish America and the rest of the world a very Merry Christmas." Melania Trump added Christmas is the time to "see the best of America and the soul of the American people," and Breitbart states that they also "paid tribute to the Armed Forces." The [Daily Caller](#) (12/25, Enjeti) reports they "highlighted the sacrifice of U.S. service-members deployed abroad for Christmas and recited bible verse Isaiah 9:6."

The [CBS Weekend News](#) (12/24, story 2, 2:00, Morgan) reported that on Sunday, the President "praised the American servicemen and women stationed around the world." [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/24, story 4, 2:25, Alexander) said Trump "connected with service members from each branch around the world" and [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/24, story 4, 2:40, Llamas) reported that Trump "kept busy on Christmas eve, thanking troops." Trump: "We're grateful for each of you, who spend this Christmas away from your families."

The [Washington Post](#) (12/24, Lee) reported "Trump appeared in a cheerful mood as he greeted troops located in Kuwait, Qatar and Guantanamo Bay." The Post added that the President "thanked service members from each of the five branches of the military and their 'always underappreciated military families, the greatest people on earth.'" The [AP](#) (12/24, Superville) said Trump "seemed to reserve the most praise for the Coast Guard, which impressed the president with its rescue operations during a devastating hurricane season in Florida, Texas, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands."

The [Daily Caller](#) (12/24, Johnson) reported the President also "complimented the military on 'winning' the fight against terrorism, noting that many on the call were active participants in the ongoing fight against ISIS and the Taliban." [USA Today](#) (12/24, Daprile) reported Trump "lavished the troops with praise on 'how well we're doing' in the fight against terrorism and declared, 'We're winning.'" [The Hill](#) (12/24, Samuels) reported that Trump's call came days after Vice President Pence made a surprise visit to Afghanistan to meet US troops and Afghan leaders. Pence told soldiers that "victory is closer than ever before."

Meanwhile, [Politico](#) (12/24, Griffiths, Goldberg) reports that the President and First Lady "also participated in NORAD's annual efforts to track Santa Claus." [Reuters](#) (12/25, Rampton) reports they "took calls from children, asking them what they wanted most from Santa, and revealing what was on his own wish list." According to Reuters, "One boy wanted building blocks. Another wished for his grandma to get out of the hospital. And as for Trump – who has sent a series of combative tweets since arriving at his Florida vacation home – he said he wants 'peace for the country.'" [Bloomberg News](#) (12/24, Epstein) states that the President "made classically big, Trumpian promises to the kids, telling one 'you'll wake up and have the greatest gifts.' To another, Trump said: 'I'll make sure that Santa is going to treat you well. Really well. The best he's ever treated you.'"

[The Hill](#) (12/24, Anapol) "Briefing Room" blog reports "the president took six calls and the first lady took nine, according to the first lady's office." The [AP](#) (12/24) reported the Trumps joined hundreds of volunteers speaking with "eager children" as part of the joint US-Canadian North American Aerospace Defense Command's "wildly popular program." [Politico](#) (12/24, Bender) describes "interactive NORAD Tracks Santa" program as "the largest single public outreach program for the Defense Department. It's also, you might say, the Pentagon's most elaborate propaganda operation."

In addition, [The Hill](#) (12/24, Beavers) reported the President and First Lady later attended midnight mass at the Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea in Palm Beach on Sunday, "arriving after the service had already started, according to a White House pool report." The Hill noted that the Trumps "attended the church's midnight services last year, about a month before Trump took office. The church is where the couple had their wedding."

The [Washington Times](#) (12/25, Boyer) reports "the Rev. James Harlan, the church's rector, gave a homily focused on themes of the power of words and God's light. He began by quoting Nelson Mandela, whom he noted rebelled against his government for its systemic oppression." [Breitbart](#) (12/25, Spiering) reports "a crowd of about 100 people stood on the street to watch the motorcade – even a protester who held an "impeach" sign on Christmas Eve."

[The Hill](#) (12/24, Beavers) reported the President on Sunday evening also "touted that people are saying 'Merry Christmas again,' asserting that he stood up to an 'assault' on Christmas hours before the holiday." He [tweeted](#), "People are proud to be saying Merry Christmas again. I am proud to have led the charge against the assault of our cherished and beautiful phrase."

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!!!"

The [Daily Caller](#) (12/25, White) reports that according to a new [Axios](#) poll, "a strong majority of President Donald Trump's supporters and detractors are united on one thing: they both want to be greeted with 'Merry Christmas' over 'Happy Holidays.'" The Daily Caller says the new poll finds that "nearly 65 percent of Americans want to be greeted with 'Merry Christmas,' while a much smaller 28 percent prefer 'Happy Holidays,'" which "give[s] conservatives a big victory in their longstanding promise to end the so-called 'War on Christmas.'" The poll also finds 86 percent of the President's supporters "want store greeters to say 'Merry Christmas,' while only 11 percent prefer the alternative," and even his "haters prefer it, albeit by a narrower margin."

However, while Trump's "meaning is unmistakable when he declares, as he has done since long before the holiday season, that's he making it OK to talk about Christmas again," whereas former President Obama "did not," an [AP](#) (12/25, Woodward, Rugaber) fact check asserts "that's not what the record shows." According to the AP, "the White House holidays under the Obamas had plenty of Christmas trappings and cheer. Obama offered a more general holiday message on the official greeting card, but wished 'Merry Christmas' at the National Tree lighting, on his Twitter account and in his weekly address." On the [CBS Evening News](#) (12/25, story 3, 2:00, Duthiers), Chip Reid similarly reported "all recent Presidents used the phrase frequently." Reid added Trump is scheduled to remain in Florida until early January for what White House labeled "a working vacation, but if the President's recent history here is any guide, there will also be a lot of golf."

First Lady Tweets Christmas Greeting With Santa Selfie. [USA Today](#) (12/25, Levin) reports First Lady Melania Trump on Monday "cheekily tweeted a selfie taken with a Santa filter as @FLOTUS wished all a Merry Christmas." [Breitbart](#) (12/25, Pollak) says the "sultry Santa Selfie" shows the first lady "wearing a Santa hat and blowing a kiss to the camera as golden reindeer dance in the foreground." According to the [Daily Caller](#) (12/25, Caruso), her Snapchat selfie "will make your Christmas complete."

Security "Ramped Up" Across The Country For Christmas. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (12/24, story 3, 2:00, Llamas) reported law enforcement authorities are "on edge after recent terror attacks." Homeland Security officials are "urging vigilance as Christmas eve celebrations get under way," and security is "ramped up across the country at soft targets like churches including the National Cathedral."

WPost A1 Profiles Pro-Trump Tennessee Town Backing His "Merry Christmas" Campaign. In a front-page profile of the "rural Trump-supporting town" of Linden, Tennessee, the [Washington Post](#) (12/24, A1, Johnson) reported "the word 'holiday' doesn't seem to exist" while "Merry Christmas" is everywhere. The Post added that "in Tennessee's Perry County, where Trump won 76 percent of the vote, many locals said they don't consider the president one of them but they are glad he's speaking up for them." According to the Post, "It's difficult to tell if the president's campaign for Christmas has changed the national culture; here in Linden, everyone has always said 'Merry Christmas.'"

WSJournal A1: Retailers Record Strong Holiday Shopping. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/25, A1, Kapner) in a front-page article reports Mastercard SpendingPulse data reveals US retail sales, excluding automobiles, from Nov. 1 through Christmas Eve rose by 4.9 percent, up from 3.7 percent last year and their strongest performance since 2011.

Christmas Storms Disrupt Travel Across Northeast, Midwest. "The good news for many in the Northeast and Midwest was that it has been a white Christmas," the [AP](#) (12/25) reports, but "the bad news was that a blizzard swept into parts of New England and bitter cold enveloped much of the Midwest." The AP adds "even the usually rainy Pacific Northwest got the white stuff." The lead [CBS Evening News](#) (12/25, lead story, 1:35, Duthiers) broadcast said the storm delayed more than 8,000 flights and led to the cancellation of over 260 others. Anna Werner also reported "areas from Maine to Massachusetts still could receive up to a foot of snow."

Trump Signs "Tremendous" Tax Reform Legislation, Short-Term Spending Bill.

President Trump on Friday signed tax reform legislation that he hailed would be "a tremendous thing for the American people" and "fantastic for the economy" as well as a stopgap spending bill that passed on Thursday to avert a government shutdown. The network newscasts allocated just under four and a half minutes combined to the signing of the legislation, but coverage was more extensive in print and online. While conceding the President delivered on his promise to sign the tax cuts into law before Christmas, reporting highlighted that Trump declined to clarify how he intends to improve the perception of the first major legislative achievement of his Administration to the American people.

The [New York Times](#) (12/22, Sullivan, Tackett) reports the President "signed the most consequential tax legislation in three decades on Friday, even as he complained that he has not been given credit for his administration's accomplishments during a turbulent first year." The Times says Trump "decided against doing a formal signing ceremony early next year" after watching television coverage that morning "and hastily called his staff to say that the legislation needed to be signed 'now,' prompting a last-minute Oval Office ceremony for the president's greatest achievement in his first year in office." The Times adds that the event "marked another improvisational moment in a presidency already known for abandoning the norms of the office."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/22, Radnofsky) reports the President explained, "We were going to wait until Jan. 7 or 8 and do a big formal ceremony, but every one of the [TV] networks was saying, 'Will he keep his promise? Will he sign it for Christmas – before Christmas?' And so I immediately called [staff], I said, 'Let's get it ready.'" Trump added, "I said that the [tax] bill would be on my desk before Christmas, and you are holding me literally to that, so we did a rush job today. ... It's not fancy, but it's the Oval Office. It's the great Oval Office."

Meanwhile, the [Washington Post](#) (12/22, Wagner) reports Trump "walked through various provisions of the bill, which he touted as 'a bill for the middle class and a bill for jobs,' adding that 'corporations are literally going wild.'" He also hailed the legislation as "a tremendous thing for the American people" and asserted, "It's going to be fantastic for the economy." [The Hill](#) (12/22, Jagoda) similarly reports that the President "spoke at length during the signing, thanking Republicans in Congress for getting the legislation to his desk and predicting it would help the economy." The Hill says Trump "touted various aspects of the plan, including the larger standard deduction, the increase in the amount exempt from the estate tax and the repatriation of earnings that companies currently have held overseas."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/22, A1, Radnofsky, Peterson) reports in a front-page article that Trump also hailed Republican lawmakers for coming together to support the bill. The President called his new friendships with numerous lawmakers "a huge factor" behind the legislation's passage. He added, "I can call anybody now." [ABC World News Tonight](#)'s (12/22, story 5, 2:25, Llamas) David Wright reported that Trump at the ceremony acted "like someone who can't wait to open his Christmas present."

[USA Today](#) (12/22, Przybyla) similarly reports that the President "was enthusiastic about the prospects of more legislative victories next year" and he "challenged Democrats to work with him to secure infrastructure funding next year." Trump said, "The Democrats very much regret [opposing the bill]. They wanted to be a part of it. ... But I really do believe we're going to have a lot of bipartisan work done. ... I really believe infrastructure can be bipartisan." The [CBS Evening News](#) (12/22, story 3, 0:30, Glor) in a brief report noted the tax reform bill "was passed with no Democratic support."

In addition, [Reuters](#) (12/22, Heavey, Lambert) reports Trump "praised several companies that have announced employee bonuses in the wake of the bill's passage, naming AT&T, Boeing, Wells Fargo, Comcast and Sinclair Broadcast Group." [Politico](#) (12/22, Nelson) reports the President "said he had received a call from New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft, who Trump said told him he planned to purchase and build a 'tremendous paper mill or paper products plant' in North Carolina because of the tax cut legislation." Trump added that he had "had many calls such as that" and asserted, "A lot of things are going to be happening in the USA. We're going to bring back our companies. They've already started coming back. I think they had certain confidence in me. They figured we were going to get this done. They have already started." He continued, "Corporations are literally going wild over this, I think even beyond my expectations, so far beyond my expectations."

The [Washington Times](#) (12/22, Boyer) reports Trump additionally signed "a temporary funding bill to keep the government open and a \$4 billion missile defense bill." [Townhall](#) (12/22, Pavlich) says Trump, who "delivered his promise of tax cuts for working class Americans by Christmas and signed The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act into law," also signed other bills "on a number of issues, including defense authorization and the continuing resolution to keep the government open." [NBC Nightly News](#) (12/22, story 5, 1:30, Alexander) Hallie Jackson said the Administration is facing "a real spending fight in January, which is not the only big battle coming up." Jackson added "Congress will need to cut a deal on immigration" and "eventually the White House wants to tackle welfare reform but before that infrastructure."

However, the [AP](#) (12/22, Kellman, Lemire) reports "none of the members of Congress who muscled through the biggest tax overhaul in 30 years were in the Oval Office on Friday as Trump signed the measure into law" due to how "spur-of-the-moment" the signing event was, so "with no legislators on hand, he offered to distribute pens from his signing event to reporters

assembled in the Oval Office." The AP adds that although Trump "loves to decry 'fake news,'" the President was "clearly feeling some end-of-year cheer," as he also "gave reporters and camera crews credit for 'working very hard' and said, 'We really appreciate that.'"

According to [Breitbart](#) (12/22, Spiering), the President "spent most of the morning praising the tax bill and his year-end accomplishments but appeared frustrated that the media was not giving him enough credit." He [tweeted](#), "With all my Administration has done on Legislative Approvals (broke Harry Truman's Record), Regulation Cutting, Judicial Appointments, Building Military, VA, TAX CUTS & REFORM, Record Economy/Stock Market and so much more, I am sure great credit will be given by mainstream news?" Breitbart reports Trump announced the signing ceremony in a tweet. Trump [said](#), "Will be signing the biggest ever Tax Cut and Reform Bill in 30 minutes in Oval Office. Will also be signing a much needed 4 billion dollar missile defense bill." The [Washington Examiner](#) (12/22, Correll) says Trump [tweeted](#), "Our big and very popular Tax Cut and Reform Bill has taken on an unexpected new source of 'love' – that is big companies and corporations showering their workers with bonuses. This is a phenomenon that nobody even thought of, and now it is the rage. Merry Christmas!"

Nonetheless, [Bloomberg News](#) (12/22, Pettypiece) concedes "the legislation hasn't scored well in national polls, in part because of concerns about its benefits for corporations and top earners" Bloomberg adds "the legislation – and public perceptions of it – are expected to play a major role in 2018 elections that will determine whether Republicans retain control of Congress." While hailing Trump for signing the "massive tax relief into law," the [Daily Caller](#) (12/22, Donachie) acknowledges "one caveat is that the Republican plan barely touches a loophole in the tax code that exclusively benefits billionaire investors" and the bill "is expected to raise the federal deficit roughly \$1.46 trillion over the next decade, a figure that has caused a great deal of backlash from Democrats and the public." The Daily Caller adds that "another feature of the legislation that is drawing flack from Democrats is the repeal of Obamacare's individual mandate," which "is one of the least popular features of the Affordable Care Act and nearly every Republican push to repeal and replace Obamacare in 2017 included a full repeal."

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/22, Rubin) analysis speculates Democrats will likely oppose efforts to fix the law in the future if problems emerge. The Journal suggests Democrats may adopt similar tactics to those that Republicans employed in opposition to the Affordable Care Act

More Companies Announce Bonuses, Hiring As Tax Bill Signed. The [Boston Globe](#) (12/22, Chesto) reports the President's "long friendship with New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft paid off with a choice talking point for the new federal tax legislation the president signed Friday" because "Trump said Kraft called him Thursday night to tell him the tax bill would pay immediate dividends." The President stated that Kraft "said based on this tax bill, he just wanted to let me know that he's going to buy a big plant in the great state of North Carolina and he's going to build a tremendous paper mill there or paper products plant."

[The Hill](#) (12/22, Carter) reports Sinclair Broadcast Group also "announced Friday it would pay a \$1,000 bonus to almost 9,000 of its full-time and part-time employees after the recent passage of the GOP tax bill." In a statement, Sinclair President and CEO Chris Ripley said that the company is "grateful" for the passage of the bill. The Hill notes Sinclair "is awaiting approval from the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for its proposed \$3.9 billion purchase of Tribune Media."

In addition, [Bloomberg News](#) (12/22, Carmiel) reports New York developer Steven Witkoff announced that "he's plowing ahead with his plan to develop the stalled Fontainebleau resort in Las Vegas." In an interview, Witkoff said, "Now, we're not going to be patient. ... We've basically pressed the 'go' button to do everything necessary to finish design on the project and take down a construction loan."

Meanwhile, [Reuters](#) (12/22, Sheahan) reports Daimler "said on Friday the U.S. tax reform would result in an income tax benefit of around 1.7 billion euros (\$2.01 billion) in its 2017 results."

In another article, [Reuters](#) (12/22, Somerville) reports startups also "came away with a significant victory in the U.S. tax overhaul – a chance to defer the often-onerous tax bill that is attached to company stock options." According to Reuters, by requiring companies to provide stock options to at least 80 percent of their workforce in order to access the benefit, the law "could prompt startups to spread the option wealth more widely."

However, [Bloomberg News](#) (12/22, Kochkodin) acknowledges "the most immediate effect of the new law could be a one-time accounting headache." Bloomberg says that within hours of Trump signing the bill, a number of companies announced "spectacular" losses, with Amgen Inc. predicting "a \$6 billion to \$6.5 billion charge," Bank of America Corp. forecasting "a \$3 billion hit," and Credit Suisse Group AG expecting "a writedown of 2.3 billion Swiss francs (\$2.32

billion)."

Mnuchin's Support Helped Lobbyists Preserve Carried Interest Deduction, Sources Say. The [New York Times](#) (12/22, Rappeport) reports that despite achieving "his most important legislative achievement to date," Trump broke "a signature promise that helped propel his populist presidential campaign" because the legislation "fail[ed] to close the so-called carried interest 'loophole' that benefits wealthy hedge fund managers and private equity executives." The Times states that "despite Mr. Trump's vows to eliminate" the rule, the President "in this case was no match for the powerful lobbyists protecting the status quo." [Bloomberg News](#) (12/22, Kapur, Jacobs, Mohsin) reports sources say White House National Economic Council Director Cohn "wanted to end the carried interest break, while Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin successfully urged keeping it with new limits." According to Bloomberg, "Mnuchin's support proved helpful for lobbyists seeking to preserve the preferential rate," and congressional tax writers ended up leaving the break "in place, but limited it to gains on assets held for at least three years." However, the sources said that the "disagreement between Cohn and Mnuchin...wasn't a pitched battle. ... It was merely a disagreement that went Mnuchin's way."

Accountants, Analysts Scramble To Break Down Tax Changes. The [New York Times](#) (12/22, Hsu, Creswell) reports the signing of the tax reform legislation came "just as the accounting industry would normally be shifting into holiday mode," leaving accountants and analysts in "a frantic hyperdrive" as they attempt to "dissect" the law's new provisions. Meanwhile, [Bloomberg News](#) (12/22, Kapur) reports "inconsistent dates" in the bill have also "stirred debate over whether some people might be able to get an extra break on their state and local income taxes by filing early." Bloomberg adds that "the debate illustrates the confusion that could result over potential drafting errors in the bill – which Congress passed into law roughly seven weeks after releasing the first legislative text."

[Bloomberg News](#) (12/22, Steverman) says the law "will be anything but simple for many affluent Americans, who are now inundating their accountants for advice." Bloomberg reports wealthy Americans have already begun "asking how to exploit the changes, according to certified public accountants, lawyers and financial advisers." Bloomberg adds that "tax experts are scrambling to understand the full implications of the 500-page law" upon business owners.

NYTimes Analysis: Trump Would Save Over \$11 Million Under Tax Plan. "President Trump would save about \$11 million on his taxes, if the new Republican tax overhaul were applied to his 2005 tax return," according to a [New York Times](#) (12/22, Drucker, Carlsen) analysis that projected "the savings would be a roughly 30 percent cut. He would also save another \$4.4 million on his eventual estate tax bill." The Times says its findings contrast with claims by White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, who on Tuesday predicted the President "will likely take a big hit," and Trump, who last month "said he would be a 'big loser' under the tax bill."

JCT: Tax Cuts Will Cost \$1 Trillion Over 10 Years After Considering Growth. [Bloomberg News](#) (12/22, Voskuhl) reports the tax cuts newly signed into law "will reduce federal revenue by more than \$1 trillion over the next decade, even after accounting for their beneficial effects on the U.S. economy," according to the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation, which "runs counter to arguments advanced by the Trump administration and by congressional Republicans, who've argued that their package of tax cuts would stimulate enough economic growth to pay for itself." Bloomberg adds that "the estimate is roughly in line with previous findings from independent analysts."

Experts Warn Expanded Child Tax Credit Will "Provide Little Relief" For Lowest-Income Families. The [AP](#) (12/22, Sell) reports that although "the expansion of a child tax credit helped seal Congress' approval of the Republican tax overhaul," experts "say the expanded child credit will actually provide little relief for some of the lowest-income families." The AP says Chye-Ching Huang of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities "expects about 10 million children among the lowest-income working families to receive a token increase of up to \$75 per family – or no increase at all" because "the refundable portion of the credit doesn't kick in until a family has income of \$2,500. For each additional dollar earned, a family receives a refundable credit worth 15 cents until it reaches its maximum credit of \$1,400. But some families won't come close to that threshold, Huang said."

Experts Warn Tax Changes May Depress US Home Sales Next Year. [Reuters](#) (12/22, Banerjee) reports, "U.S. home sales will likely take a hit next year as middle-class Americans receive fewer perks under an overhaul of U.S. taxes and face rising home prices and interest rates, industry experts said." Reuters adds the bill "slashes the amount of mortgage interest that home buyers can deduct to \$750,000 from \$1 million, potentially hurting buyers in California and other costly

markets." According to Reuters, the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) is forecasting sales of new single-family homes will "rise 5 percent in 2018 – only about half the growth estimated for 2017 and the slowest pace since 2014."

Private Universities "Reeling" As Reality Of 1.4 Percent Endowment Tax Sets In. [Politico](#) (12/22, Stratford, Wermund) reports "the most well-to-do private universities" now have to "pay a 1.4 percent tax on earnings from their endowments, which are largely built on donations from prosperous alumni and enhanced by investments," and "the reality of the new tax has left higher-education leaders reeling." Politico adds that the "colleges and universities in the GOP line of sight are hurrying to make sense of exactly how the new tax code would hit their campuses beginning just weeks from now."

US Tax Reform Expected To Prompt Global Cuts, Exacerbate Trade Tensions. The [New York Times](#) (12/22, Stevenson, Ewing) reports that "to the rest of the world," the tax reform law "has the potential to challenge the global economic order, creating an uneven playing field and setting off a race among countries to cut corporate taxes." According to the Times, "The overhaul is already threatening economic relations, adding to concerns that Mr. Trump is advancing a nationalistic agenda at the expense of other countries."

"Mexico's finance ministry will evaluate whether to make fiscal changes in response to the U.S. tax reform, according to a document seen by" [Reuters](#) (12/22, Angulo), which reports "the ministry said Mexico would not make changes that left it with a higher public sector deficit."

Stephens: "Hysteria" Over Tax Bill Benefits GOP. In his [New York Times](#) (12/22, Stephens) column, Bret Stephens contends the Democratic "hysteria" over the passage of the Republican tax bill is likely to benefit GOP candidates in 2018. He says that while "there are things genuinely to dislike in the tax bill," there are "two things to know: Slashing corporate rates – the bill's central achievement --is good economics. And wailing against the bill as an American Armageddon is dumb politics, at least for Democrats." Stephens concludes "for now, the G.O.P.'s legislative triumph is only being sweetened by the wildly overblown reaction to it."

Trump Suggests Willingness To Work With Democrats On Infrastructure Bill.

The [Washington Post](#) (12/22, Wagner) reports that "still celebrating passage of a tax bill with only Republican votes, President Trump on Friday took to Twitter to" say he is willing to work with Democrats to develop legislation on infrastructure. He [tweeted](#), "At some point, and for the good of the country, I predict we will start working with the Democrats in a Bipartisan fashion. Infrastructure would be a perfect place to start. After having foolishly spent \$7 trillion in the Middle East, it is time to start rebuilding our country!" According to the Post, the President was "referring to an initiative the White House is preparing to unveil as early as mid-January that is designed to spur \$1 trillion in new spending over the coming decade on the nation's ailing roads, bridges, airports and waterways."

Short: Administration To Begin 2018 With Focus On Infrastructure. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/24, Gordon) reported Marc Short, the White House director of legislative affairs, on Fox News Sunday said the Administration plans to begin 2018 with a focus on infrastructure spending. Short said, "There's no doubt there's a pathway forward on this." Short added, "I'm very confident. We've had conversations with Democrats. I think there's a willingness on the policy to get there. The question remains will politics prevent it." Short also said President Trump has invited Senate Majority Leader McConnell and House Speaker Ryan to Camp David in January "to make sure we're all on the same page about where our priorities are for 2018."

NYTimes: Deficient Infrastructure Partly To Blame For Amtrak Derailment. The [New York Times](#) (12/24, A20) editorialized that last week's Amtrak derailment near Tacoma, Washington may in part have been due to excessive speed on a turn, but, "It was also...yet another demonstration of this country's collective, continuing failure to invest in infrastructure." The train could have been slowed automatically by a positive train control system, but train was one of many nationwide that lacks this system, despite Congress mandating in 2008 that all railroads install one by the end of 2015. The Times blames the delays on the railroad industry, but also "federal and state governments, which have not only failed to push the industry harder but have never appropriated enough money to allow public transit agencies to upgrade their systems." Furthermore, President Trump has shown little willingness to act on his promises to make major investments in infrastructure, the Times added.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

The New York Times did not publish editorials on Wednesday.

Washington Post.

“Putin May Be In More Trouble Than We Know.” A [Washington Post](#) (12/26) editorial says Vladimir Putin “boasts of popularity ratings...85 percent and above since Russia’s invasion and annexation of Crimea in 2014. Yet Mr. Putin remains unwilling to test those numbers against real competition” after the state election commission banned opposition leader Alexei Navalny from running in March’s presidential election. The Post argues that “it may be that Mr. Putin has more reason to fear Mr. Navalny than the poll numbers suggest.”

“America’s Opioid Epidemic Saps Life Expectancy While The White House Sleepwalks.” The [Washington Post](#) (12/26) editorializes that the US, “in the grip of an escalating opioid addiction and overdose crisis, has now recorded its second straight year of declining life expectancy, a nearly unheard-of event for a rich Western nation and its first such downturn in nearly 60 years.” The Post says it “should be a wake-up call for the Trump administration, which has talked a fine game about the opioid epidemic but done too little to address it.” It argues that a “far greater sense of urgency is needed to address what has become one of the gravest public-health threats to the United States in living memory.”

“Is Prince Georges Getting Serious About Questionable Graduations?” The [Washington Post](#) (12/26) editorializes that “revelations of irregularities in high school grading practices in” Prince George’s County, MD public schools “have shaken the county,” and “the controversy has cast a cloud over the jump in graduation rates, a source of pride for county officials who cite the increase from 74.1 percent in 2013 to 81.4 percent in 2016 as a sign of an improving school system.” The Post adds that “more troubling is that some students might have graduated without the skills or knowledge needed to succeed.” The Post lauds county school officials for “taking the matter seriously with plans to tighten procedures and improve accountability.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Stopping A Student Loan Scam.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/26, Journal) editorializes that the Obama Administration had sought to reduce the government’s \$1.3 trillion student loan portfolio by allowing borrowers to discharge their debt, but earlier this year, Education Secretary DeVos ended this practice, suspending claim approvals while the department’s Inspector General reviewed departmental procedures for discharged debt. According to the Journal, a new directive from DeVos scales student loan relief based on college employment data. Borrowers who enrolled in programs whose graduates earn less than the average of peer institutions will receive 100% debt relief, while those who attended programs with higher earnings will only be able to discharge some debt. The Journal praises the Administration for restoring due process and protecting taxpayers.

“Democracy, Putin-Style.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/26) criticizes opposition leader Alexei Navalny’s ban from running Russia’s upcoming presidential election, and says Moscow’s moves against him signal that Putin fears Navalny could pose a serious threat if he were permitted to run.

“Why The Haitians Should Stay.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (12/26) is critical of a decision last month by the Administration announced to rescind the visas of almost 59,000 Haitians who are legally documented under the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) program. The Journal argues that Haiti is far from recovered from the 2010 earthquake or recurring outbreaks of cholera, so they should be allowed to stay.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Homeowners Rush To Prepay 2018 Property-Tax Bills](#)

[Latest Entrants Into Electric Car Race: Makers Of Post-Its, Paint](#)

[Can Central Banks Keep Control Of Interest Rates?](#)

[China Snares Innocent And Guilty Alike to Build World’s Biggest DNA Database](#)

New York Times:

[Years Of Attack Leave Obamacare A More Government-Focused Health Law](#)

[Homeland Security Increasingly Means Putting Agents Outside The Homeland](#)
[Thousands Once Spoke His Language In The Amazon. Now, He's The Only One.](#)
[Barred From Running, Barred From Boycotting: A Russian Candidate's Quandary](#)
[Your Uber Car Creates Congestion. Should You Pay A Fee To Ride?](#)
[Patch Of Bamboo Creates New Legal Thicket For Connecticut City](#)

Washington Post:

[Justice Roiled By Improper Behavior](#)
[N. Korea's Leader Has Had A Very Good Year](#)
[Bitcoin Boom Is A Boon For Far-Right Extremists](#)
[How U-Md. Sifts Through 30,000-Plus Applications](#)
[An Obstacle To Hope Blocked From Seeking Treatment](#)

Financial Times:

[Philippines Fears Typhoon Toll Set To Rise](#)
[Traditional US Retailers Gain On Holiday Sales Hopes](#)
[Kremlin Warns Alexei Navalny Against Russian Election Protest](#)

Washington Times:

[Law Enforcement Leaders Say Trump's Strong Support For Police Saves Lives](#)
[Trump Having Trouble Appointing Swamp-Drainers](#)
[Military Refuses To Speculate On Islamic State Leader's Fate](#)
[Electoral Wins Give Perez A Foothold In Struggle To Rebuild Democratic Party](#)
[Threat Of 'Blood Diamonds' Returns As Exports Flow From Central African Republic](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Winter Weather; Weather Forecast; Trump-Tweet Attacks; WH-UN Budget; Holiday Shopping Surge; DoD Gun Control Failure; Family Suicide; Virginia Double Murder; Falcon-9 Rocket Launch; Flu Season Warning; Toy Recall; Fireworks Gone Wrong; Lost Brothers Reunited; Serenade On Flight; Police Mediation Usage.

CBS: Winter Weather; DoD Gun Control Failure; Trump-Obamacare; Flu Season Warning; Texas-Hurricane Recovery; Holiday Retail Sales; Vitamin D Benefits Disputed; Newspaper Criticizes Orrin Hatch; FDA-Food Recalls; Ballet For Elderly.

NBC: Winter Weather; Weather Forecast; Holiday Shopping>Returns; Highway Overpass Prank Murder; Tax Reform Law-Tips; Russia-North Korea Threats; White House Tree; Cannabis Legalization Careers; Disney World Security Policy Change; Gaming Disorder; Marriage Proposal Gone Wrong; Father Son Relations.

Network TV At A Glance:

Winter Weather – 10 minutes, 30 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Cleveland-Power Outages; Winter Weather; Flu Season Warning; Trump-Obamacare; Virginia-House Election Tie.

CBS: Winter Weather; Holiday Shopping Surge; Flu Season Warning; Police-Saving Drowning Boy.

FOX: Virginia-House Election Tie; FIFA Corruption Scandal; Washington-Suspicious Box Scare.

NPR: WH-UN Budget; DoD Gun Control Failure; Holiday Shopping Surge; Romania-Corruption Law Change.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — No public events scheduled.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 10:00 AM Senate convenes in a pro forma session Location: TBD

<http://www.senate.gov/>

On recess until 3 January.

US House: No scheduled events

Other: No relevant events scheduled.

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

All late-night talk shows were re-runs.

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- Flathead (MT) Beacon: The Voice Of Rural America.
- Law360: Zinke And Indian Country: The First 4 Months.
- The Hill: The Hill's 12:30 Report.
- KGMB-TV Honolulu: Additional Coverage: Man Who Jumped To Rescue In Pearl Harbor Helicopter Crash

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- High Country (CO) News: Wild Spaces Define Who We Are As Americans.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Red Lake, Other Tribes Alarmed By Trump's Proposed Cuts To BIA Programs.
- 9th Circ. Urged To Halt Off-Reservation Casino Plans.

Bureau Of Land Management

- U.S. News & World Report: Drone Pilot Could Face Charges For Flying Near Wildfire.
- Elko (NV) Daily Free Press: BLM Seeks Comments On Geothermal Land.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- U.S. Senate Bill Includes Klamath Measures.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- NPR: Restoring The Great Dismal Swamp Comes After Centuries Of Draining It.
- Casper (WY) Star-Tribune: Barrasso Backs Bipartisan Bill To Solidify Gray Wolf Delisting, Promote Hunting And Fishing.
- Kingman (AZ) Daily Miner: Feds Post Plan For Endangered Cactus, But Recovery Still A Long Way Off.
- U.S. News & World Report: Oregon Silverspot Butterflies Get New Places To Grow.
- Tacoma (WA) News Tribune: Free Nisqually Lecture Series Kicks Off Amid Fears Of Refuge Budget Cuts.
- Topeka (KS) Capital-Journal: Aerial Surveys Reveal 'Stable' Population Trend For Lesser Prairie Chicken.
- South Florida Sun Sentinel: South Florida Men In Key West Jail After Taking Endangered Key Deer, Authorities Say.
- Daily Caller: Additional Coverage: Environmentalists Say Grizzly Population Isn't Recovered, Sue For Re-Listing.
- Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner: King Cove Road About Fish, Not Patients.
- East Bay (CA) Times: Must Stop Brown's Twin-tunnels Water Boondoggle.

National Park Service

- WTTG-TV Washington: Security Measures For The Capitol Fourth.
- Minneapolis Star Tribune: US-Cuba Sea Mission Finds Healthy Reefs, Invasive Lionfish.
- U.S. News & World Report: Acadia Carriage Paths Are Getting Upgraded.
- U.S. News & World Report: June Climbing Up Despite Voluntary Ban At Devils Tower.
- Sacramento (CA) Bee: Bear Encounters Double At Yosemite Over 2016.
- U.S. News & World Report: Restored Flag Returns To Gettysburg 154 Years After Battle.
- St. Paul (MN) Pioneer Press: Paddle Share Expands To St. Paul: Kayaking The Mississippi Is Getting Really Easy.
- Albuquerque (NM) Journal: Caverns' Bat Flight Program Attracts 1,000 Visitors.
- WMAR-TV Baltimore: Additional Coverage: Lawsuit Dropped After Grand Canyon Allows Creationist To Collect Rocks.
- Philly (PA): Independence Hall Is Not Falling Down, But It Needs Our Support.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Hawaii Free Press: US Officials Lift Suspension On Compact Public Infrastructure Grant Funding.
- Radio New Zealand: Tuvaluans And I-Kiribati Promised A Home In Fiji.
- Radio New Zealand: Marshall Islands, FSM, Seek Answers After Citizens Shot By US Police.
- Guam Daily Post: Maternity Tourism Rates Consistent For Korean Visitors.
- DVIDS Hub: Seabees Build Relationships In Micronesia With A School Renovation.
- Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR): Seven Coral Reef Management Fellowships Available To Virgin Islanders.
- Pacific (GUM) Daily News: OPA's Hernandez Completes Executive Program.

Top National News

- Reuters: White House: Trump To Hold Bilateral Meeting With Putin Friday.
- ABC: Media Analyses: North Korean ICBM Launch Poses Test To Trump.
- Washington Post: Appeals Court Rules EPA Cannot Delay Enforcement Of Rule On Oil And Gas

Emissions.

Editorial Wrap-Up

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 - "The Way Forward On North Korea."
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DOI In The News

Presidents Have Changed National Monuments 18 Times Before Bears Ears Controversy.

A [Washington Times](#) (7/4, Wolfgang) analysis says that while environmentalists and congressional Democrats are casting the Interior Department proposal to resize the Bears Ears National Monument in Utah as "a first-of-its-kind expansion of executive power," an "effort to break up and shrink a national monument has been done at least 18 times before, with presidents of both parties exercising power to significantly reduce the size of US landmarks established by their predecessors."

EDITORIAL: Donald Trump And The Antiquities Act. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (7/5) editorializes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will be "in Nevada later this month to tour two new national monuments, Gold Butte and Basin and Range." The paper says that's "a welcome departure from the previous administration, which simply waved a magic wand from 2,400 miles away to restrict land use across wide swaths of the state." Arguing in "for repealing the Antiquities Act," the paper asserts that "major decisions about federal land designations should be in the hands of legislative branch, not the purview of an imperial president or the bureaucracy."

Maine's New Monument Offers Chance For Rustic Adventures. The [AP](#) (7/3, Whittle) reports that "Maine's new Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument is now welcoming guests for its first full summer as a monument." The article provides "a guide to what awaits at Katahdin Woods and Waters, and what the future might have in store."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [ABC News](#) (7/3, Whittle), the [Annapolis \(MD\) Capital Gazette](#) (7/3, Whittle), [Boston \(MA\)](#) (7/3, Whittle), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (7/3, Whittle), the [Red Bluff \(CA\) Daily News](#) (7/3, Whittle), the [Daily Mail](#) (7/3), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (7/3, Whittle), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/3, Whittle), and the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/3, Whittle).

Instead Of A Monument, How About A North Woods National Park. In an op-ed for the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (7/4, Watkins), Tate Watkins, a research fellow at the Property and Environment Research Center, suggests that "a more creative framework could be used to protect Katahdin Woods and Waters without a full-fledged federal takeover – and in a way that avoids more acrimony." Watkins argues that if Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "thinks the area warrants national park status," then Zinke "should insist that it be done with a stipulation: St. Clair and his family's nonprofit agree to run it as a park franchise — and with no appropriations from taxpayer coffers." Watkins notes that "during his confirmation hearing, Zinke said he recognizes 'that there is distrust, anger, and even hatred against some federal management policies.'" Watkins

concludes that if Zinke “wants an innovative, ‘made-in-Maine’ solution that could foster collaboration instead of ill will, a national park franchise for Katahdin Woods and Waters just might fit the bill.”

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage of the review of national monuments was provided by the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (7/4, Busse), the [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (7/4, Busse), the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (7/3, Byrne, Downey), the [Montana Standard](#) (7/3, Byrne, Downey), [Courthouse News](#) (7/3, Reese), the [Tucson \(AZ\) Sentinel](#) (7/4, Smith), the [San Juan \(UT\) Record](#) (7/4, Laws), the [Cape Cod \(MA\) News](#) (7/3), the [Visalia \(CA\) Times-Delta](#) (7/4, Merriman), [KCBX-FM San Luis Obispo \(CA\)](#) San Luis Obispo, CA (7/3, Zender), and [KFOX-TV El Paso \(TX\)](#) El Paso, TX (7/4, Purvis).

Interior Opens Public Review Of Offshore Drilling Plan.

[The Hill](#) (7/3, Henry) reports that the Interior Department on Monday “began accepting public comments on a new five-year offshore drilling plan, an early step toward rewriting the blueprint for drilling in federal waters.” According to the article, “the 45-day comment period is the first step in the lengthy, years-long process of rewriting the program.”

Additional coverage was provided by [NPR](#) (7/3, Phillips).

Trump’s Risky Offshore Oil Strategy. In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (7/5, Graham, Reilly), Bob Graham and William K. Reilly, co-chairmen of the National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling, write that they “investigated the causes of the disaster and examined the offshore drilling industry to identify ways to reduce the risks it poses to workers, the public and the environment.” The Interior Department “adopted many of them after extensive input from industry, government and the public.” However, “President Trump’s April 28 executive order on offshore energy threatens to abolish these safety improvements,” and Trump “took a further step last week to expand oil and gas extraction in the environmentally sensitive outer continental shelf.” The commission members are “unanimous in their view that the actions proposed in the president’s executive order are unwise.” According to the authors, Trump’s executive order “fails to account for the vulnerabilities of the ocean’s frontier regions, a lack of adequate federal investment in safety measures for Arctic conditions, or the danger to coastal economies.” They conclude that “it will put workers’ lives as well as ecologically rich and economically important waters and coastlines at needless additional risk.”

BLM Reopens Public Input On Rule-making.

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (7/3, Chaney) reports that “after interrupting its ‘Planning 2.0’ process just as it was getting started, the U.S. Bureau of Land Management has announced a new round of public ideas to shape its decision-making system.” Acting BLM Director Michael Nedd wrote in a press release on Monday, “Our goal is to identify inefficiencies and redundancies that should be eliminated from our land use planning and NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) processes, while ensuring that we fulfill our legal and resource stewardship responsibilities.” He continued, “By doing this, we will be able to dedicate more time and resources to completing the important on-the-ground work on our public lands.” Nedd specifically asked for ideas on “how we can make the BLM’s planning procedures and environmental reviews timelier and less costly, as well as responsive to local needs.” The 21-day comment period ends July 24.

The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (7/4) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, “The decisions made in land use plans and environmental reviews are fundamental to how public lands and resources are used for the benefit of all Americans. The Trump Administration and the Department of the Interior are committed to working with state and local governments, communities, Indian tribes, and other stakeholders as true partners to determine the best ways to accomplish this, now and into the future.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (7/3, O’Donoghue).

The Voice Of Rural America.

The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (7/4, Scott) reports that “speaking before a cadre of Western governors in his hometown of Whitefish, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke described his approach to overseeing the nation’s sprawling tracts of public land in terms of centuries, a visionary planning strategy he likened to Teddy Roosevelt’s ‘passion for protection into perpetuity.’” Zinke’s “plan to build revenue and make up for a staggering shortfall stemming from the National Park Service’s maintenance backlog includes privatizing campgrounds and removing roadblocks that hinder development, while restoring trust between government agencies and the nation’s Western citizens stands as a top priority.” Zinke said, “It’s time to look at what the Department of the

Interior should be 100 years from now.”

Struggling U.S. National Parks Flooded With Visitors. [Environment News Service](#) (7/3) reports that national parks are “experiencing some of the heaviest traffic of the year this Independence Day weekend, as millions of visitors stream into the country’s 59 parks to explore the 52.2 million acres they cover.” However, President Trump’s budget request to Congress “would cut \$378 million from the National Park Service and eliminate some 1,200 park employees, without addressing the \$12.5 billion maintenance backlog.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “defends these cuts and plans to privatize the National Park campgrounds.” But “conservation groups worry that his plan is to sell off public lands to the highest bidder, despite his declaration to Congress at his confirmation hearing that he is ‘absolutely against transfer or sale of public land.’”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Sharon \(PA\) Herald](#) (7/4, Murakami), the [Daily Caller](#) (7/3, Pearce), and the [Woodward \(OK\) News](#) (7/3, Murakami).

Zinke And Indian Country: The First 4 Months.

[Law360](#) (7/3, Westney) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has “recently built on his largely positive record with Native American tribes by touting tribal energy projects, but he has also defended the Trump administration’s proposed budget cuts and called for the reduction of a national monument on sacred tribal land.” Law360 takes a look “at Zinke’s first four months at the Department of the Interior and the impact he’s having on tribes.”

The Hill’s 12:30 Report.

[The Hill](#) (7/3, Martel) noted that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke tweeted a photo of himself in his running attire.

Additional Coverage: Man Who Jumped To Rescue In Pearl Harbor Helicopter Crash To Be.

Additional coverage that National Park Ranger Bryan Eisenberg, “who helped rescue a family from a helicopter crash last year at Pearl Harbor,” will be awarded a Gold Medal of Valor in Washington, D.C. was provided by [KGMB-TV](#) Honolulu (7/4, Mumphrey).

Wild Spaces Define Who We Are As Americans.

In a piece for the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (7/3, Vessels), Rob Vessels, program manager for the Sierra Club’s Military Outdoors Program and an Army veteran, writes that “peace is at risk as President Donald Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke advance an agenda that puts drilling and development before places, people and wildlife.” According to Vessels, “wilderness offers some of the most transformative and healing opportunities anyone can experience.” Vessels sees the Arctic Refuge and other public lands as “a physical representation of the democracy I fought to protect.” Vessels writes that “these unique spaces are the land we defend, and their protection ensures that all people can explore and enjoy the beauty of our shared lands.” He calls on Secretary Zinke “to stand up for our public lands, not just in word but in deed. We need to ensure that they remain places for healing and for hope.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Red Lake, Other Tribes Alarmed By Trump’s Proposed Cuts To BIA Programs.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (7/3, Rao) reports that leaders of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians credit efforts part of the Tiwahe Initiative “for a 16-month stretch with no suicides among its youth, bucking a persistent crisis that has plagued Indian reservations across the country.” The initiative has “provided Red Lake and three other tribes, including Spirit Lake Nation in North Dakota, with more financial support to combat domestic violence, promote child welfare, reduce recidivism and create alternatives to incarceration.” However, the federal pilot program “faces elimination under President Donald Trump’s proposed cuts to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).”

9th Circ. Urged To Halt Off-Reservation Casino Plans.

[Law360](#) (7/3, Sieniuc) reports that “a group of citizens has asked the Ninth Circuit to reverse a lower court victory for the federal government that greenlighted a tribe’s proposed casino hotel in Yuba County, California, saying the U.S. Department of the Interior has no concrete plans to mitigate the environmental impacts of the project.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Drone Pilot Could Face Charges For Flying Near Wildfire.

The [AP](#) (7/4) reports that “a drone flying illegally created a problem for crews fighting a wildfire south of Twin Falls, Idaho.” Bureau of Land Management Twin Falls District spokeswoman Kelsey Brizendine “says they had a drone intrusion on the fire, and it was a huge concern.” Brizendine “says that person could receive a citation for interfering with firefighting efforts.”

BLM Seeks Comments On Geothermal Land.

The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (7/3) reports that the Bureau of Land Management’s Elko District is “seeking public review of an Environmental Assessment for parcels of public land nominated this year for a competitive geothermal lease sale.” According to the bureau, “these parcels have the potential for future geothermal exploration and development.” The [Northern Nevada Business Weekly](#) (7/3) reports that “the 15-day public review period concludes July 15.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

U.S. Senate Bill Includes Klamath Measures.

The [Klamath Falls \(OR\) Herald And News](#) (7/4, Dillemoth) reports that “a U.S. Senate bill introduced Sunday in Washington, D.C. includes an amendment with a number of measures pushed by Klamath Water Users Association (KWUA) that are designed to assist Klamath Project irrigators.” The article notes that “key elements of an amendment to the bill include direction provided to the U.S. Department of the Interior to develop a plan and then make actions to reduce power costs for irrigators in the Klamath Project.” The amendment also “includes eliminating contracts or permits for conveyance of non-Klamath Project groundwater, a designation of C-Flume Emergency and Extraordinary Operation and Maintenance (EEOM) that could save millions of dollars for project irrigators, and clear and permanent authorization for locally supported water bank activities.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Restoring The Great Dismal Swamp Comes After Centuries Of Draining It.

[NPR](#) (7/3, Mccammon) reports that the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge has been “dramatically altered over the past few centuries by human development, creating an environment more vulnerable to both floods and wildfires.” Now, “a federal project is trying to restore some of the swamp’s natural habitat and other characteristics through a \$3 million effort that aims to reverse some of that damage.” Refuge Manager Chris Lowie said, “The ultimate goal for us is to slow the drainage of the swamp. These ditches — 150 miles of ditches — have been dug throughout the swamp for the specific purpose of draining it.”

Barrasso Backs Bipartisan Bill To Solidify Gray Wolf Delisting, Promote Hunting And Fishing.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (7/4, Rosenfeld) reports that a bipartisan bill sponsored by Sen. John Barrasso “would solidify the delisting of gray wolves in the state and expand protections for sportsmen while also reauthorizing several environmental protection acts.” Barrasso said in a statement last week, “The HELP Wildlife Act promotes conservation based on sound science and provides needed protections for America’s sportsmen.” However, the Center for Biological Diversity “harshly criticized the legislation, suggesting that the Democratic senators had effectively traded symbolic support for the wildlife acts for damaging changes to environmental protections.”

Feds Post Plan For Endangered Cactus, But Recovery Still A Long Way Off.

The [Kingman \(AZ\) Daily Miner](#) (7/4, Fish) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “this week released a draft recovery plan for the Pima pineapple cactus that has been on the endangered species list since 1993.” However, “even as they welcomed the announcement, conservation advocates said there is ‘a lot of work still to be done’ to save the plant.” The draft recovery plan released Monday is “broken into three parts: a threat-based objective to reduce or mitigate habitat loss and degradation; a habitat-based objective to conserve, restore, and properly manage the quantity and quality of habitat; and a population-based objective to

conserve, protect and restore existing and newly discovered Pima pineapple cacti.”

Oregon Silverspot Butterflies Get New Places To Grow.

The [AP](#) (7/3, Frankowicz) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “recently announced it will release hundreds” of Oregon silverspot butterfly caterpillars “at two new sites this summer and next: the Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge in southern Tillamook County and the Saddle Mountain area in central Clatsop County.” According to the article, “the small reddish-orange butterflies with their distinctive silver spots were once found on coastal grasslands from Northern California to southern Washington, but development, changes to the forest and invasive weeds and grasses reduced the silverspots’ preferred habitat.” The FWS says that “the decline is linked primarily to a lack of early blue violets, normally the only plant on which the Oregon silverspot can successfully feed and develop as larva.”

Free Nisqually Lecture Series Kicks Off Amid Fears Of Refuge Budget Cuts.

The [Tacoma \(WA\) News Tribune](#) (7/3, Saylor) reports that summer visitors to the Nisqually National Wildlife refuge for the last 30 years have been able to attend the annual Summer Lecture Series, “free weekly lectures by prominent guest speakers on a wide range of environmental topics.” However, “this summer, the excitement about the well-loved lecture series is undercut by a sense of worry across the Department of the Interior, which faces an approximately 13 percent cut under President Donald Trump’s proposed 2018 budget.” The article says that “if the proposed budget is realized, the refuge would assess its priorities to determine which of its programs needed to be cut back.”

Aerial Surveys Reveal ‘Stable’ Population Trend For Lesser Prairie Chicken.

The [Topeka \(KS\) Capital-Journal](#) (7/4, Carpenter) reports that “the latest aerial surveys point to stability in the breeding population of lesser prairie chickens at a time when numbers of the expressive birds concentrated in parts of five U.S. states expanded most notably in northwest Kansas’ short-grass prairie region.” The sixth year of annual assessments by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies “estimated the breeding population in Kansas, Oklahoma, Colorado, Texas and New Mexico climbed to 33,200 birds this year.” Roger Wolfe, the association’s lesser prairie chicken program manager, said, “The survey results indicate a 32 percent increase in the number of birds over last year, but we don’t read too much into short-term population fluctuations. The bottom line is that the population trend over the last six years indicates a stable population.”

South Florida Men In Key West Jail After Taking Endangered Key Deer, Authorities Say.

The [South Florida Sun Sentinel](#) (7/3, Trischitta) reports that “two South Florida men are jailed in Key West and the three endangered Key deer they are accused of taking and injuring were released back to the wild, authorities said.” According to state investigators, “Tumani Anthony Younge, 23, with ties to Tamarac and Port St. Lucie, and Erik Yosmany Damas Acosta, 18, of Miami Gardens, were on their way to camp in the Florida Keys on Sunday and wanted to take pictures with the creatures, which were found tied, bleeding and distressed in the trunk and back seat of a Hyundai Sonata.” The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (7/3) reports that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officers “came for backup and safely untied the animals.”

Additional coverage was provided by [WGHP-TV](#) Greensboro, NC (7/3).

Additional Coverage: Environmentalists Say Grizzly Population Isn’t Recovered, Sue For Re-Listing.

Additional coverage that several environmental groups have filed a lawsuit against the Fish and Wildlife Service over “the agency’s decision to remove the grizzly bear from the Endangered Species List” was provide by the [Daily Caller](#) (7/3, Pearce), the [Cody \(WY\) Enterprise](#) (7/3, Freedman), and [Wyoming Public Radio](#) (7/3).

King Cove Road About Fish, Not Patients.

The [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (7/4, Raskin), David Raskin, the president of Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges, argues that the claim is that the proposed King Cove-Izembek road is “the only way to reach Cold Bay’s all-weather airport for emergency medical evacuations, but a long paper trail reveals that the proposed Izembek road has always been to haul fish and cannery workers:” Raskin further argues that “this environmentally destructive road would waste our tax dollars and transfer \$10 million of state highway funds from a long-needed, approved project in

your own city of Fairbanks." Raskin concludes that "the state of Alaska, politicians and others should abandon their misleading campaign for an ill-conceived, unnecessary and destructive road and, in doing so, ensure that our precious resources are utilized for wise investments that meet legitimate state needs, including the long-awaited Fairbanks road project."

Additional coverage of the road was provided by [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (7/3, Ruskin).

Must Stop Brown's Twin-tunnels Water Boondoggle.

The [East Bay \(CA\) Times](#) (7/4) editorializes that that "two federal agencies' decision last week to green-light construction of Gov. Jerry Brown's Delta twin-tunnels plan is an unwelcome setback for opponents of the project." However, the paper says that "it's not the huge milestone that proponents claim" because the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service opinion "merely said that building the tunnels 'doesn't deepen any harm' to several endangered species." According to the paper, "in effect, they're saying that the impact of taking too much water out of the Delta in recent years has been so detrimental that building the tunnels won't make much difference." The paper asserts that "the tunnels must not be built at the expense of the health of the Delta."

National Park Service

Security Measures For The Capitol Fourth.

[WTTG-TV](#) Washington (7/4, Hemphil) reports that "to ensure the safety of revelers taking part in Capitol Fourth festivities, officials are taking additional security measures." National Park Service spokesperson Mike Litterest said, "We are continuing to monitor the situation and tweak our plans. There are no credible threats against this event, but the United States Park Police and their law enforcement partners continue to monitor throughout the day and beyond."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/4, Chason, Silverman, Hui).

US-Cuba Sea Mission Finds Healthy Reefs, Invasive Lionfish.

The [AP](#) (7/4, Rodriguez) reports that "a joint U.S.-Cuban expedition to explore the island's coral reefs uncovered a surprisingly healthy ecosystem and large schools of mackerel with significant commercial value, scientists involved in the mission said Tuesday." Scientists said "the mission was made possible by the restoration of diplomatic relations between Havana and Washington two years ago under then-President Barack Obama and his Cuban counterpart, Raul Castro." The article notes that "it was a result of an agreement signed in 2015 between the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. National Park Service and Cuba's Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment."

Acadia Carriage Paths Are Getting Upgraded.

The [AP](#) (7/4) reports that the National Park Service "says it's completed the resurfacing of 13 miles of carriage roads in time for the Fourth of July holiday." According to officials, "the completed sections include carriage roads in the vicinity of Jordan Pond, Wildwood Stables and Bubble Pond." The NPS has "allotted \$400,000 for the work this summer."

June Climbing Up Despite Voluntary Ban At Devils Tower.

The [AP](#) (7/3) reports that "the number of people who climb an unusual rock formation in northeast Wyoming during June is on the rise despite the concerns of American Indian tribes who hold the place sacred." The number of people reached 373 in June 2016. According to monument superintendent Tim Reid said, "a steady increase in June climbing over the past five years isn't tied to the growing number of people visiting Devils Tower." Reid said, "It's safe to say that largely, the bulk of June climbing is done by relatively local or regional climbers who for whatever reasons find it personally acceptable to climb in June."

Bear Encounters Double At Yosemite Over 2016.

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (7/3, Sweeney) reports that "encounters with bears rose 100 percent at Yosemite National Park in early June compared to the same period in 2016, and a trail has been closed to overnight camping as a result." Yosemite National Park rangers have "recorded 16 incidents involving bears so far in 2017, compared to 38 in all of 2016." But park rangers "note in the official Yosemite Bear Facts blog that 2016 was a record low year for bear encounters." Also,

"incidents involving bears in the park are down 96 percent from a record high in 1998."

Restored Flag Returns To Gettysburg 154 Years After Battle.

The [AP](#) (7/3, Bock) reports that "the battle flag carried by Company M of the 62nd Infantry Regiment of the Pennsylvania Volunteers during the Civil War" was "returned Sunday to the Gettysburg battlefield where it was carried into the chaos of the Wheatfield 154 years ago." At a dedication ceremony, Sam Dunkle, Commander of American Legion Post 516, told the crowd, "We have completed the mission, the flag is yours." The article says that "it was the second ceremony of the day, with the first taking place Sunday morning on the Gettysburg battlefield, at the Wheatfield, where the flag was carried by the men from Company M before its return to Hollidaysburg for the 4 p.m. rededication ceremony."

Paddle Share Expands To St. Paul: Kayaking The Mississippi Is Getting Really Easy.

The [St. Paul \(MN\) Pioneer Press](#) (7/4, Orrick) reports that Paddle Share, "a National Park Service-led kayak-rental operation that opened last summer in Minneapolis, will expand into St. Paul in late July or early August." Susan Overson, project manager for Paddle Share for the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, said, "We're trying to connect people to the river, even without a car."

Caverns' Bat Flight Program Attracts 1,000 Visitors.

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/5, Booth) reports that "the bat flight program at Carlsbad Caverns National Park attracts about 1,000 people during its peak summer season." Park spokeswoman Valerie Gohlke said, "People want to see the bats, and lots of visitors come here because of the bats."

Additional Coverage: Lawsuit Dropped After Grand Canyon Allows Creationist To Collect Rocks.

Additional coverage that a geologist has dropped his lawsuit that the Grand Canyon denied him a permit to collect rocks because of his religious beliefs was provided by [WMAR-TV](#) Baltimore (7/3, Weston, Stephenson), [The Atlantic](#) (7/4, Zhang), [Forbes](#) (7/3, Nace), and [Laboratory Equipment](#) (7/3, Augenstein).

Independence Hall Is Not Falling Down, But It Needs Our Support.

In an op-ed for [Philly \(PA\)](#) (7/4, Steinke, Smith), Paul Steinke, executive director of the Preservation Alliance, and John F. Smith III, board chair of the Global Philadelphia Association, writes that Independence National Historical Park has "accumulated a \$49 million backlog of deferred maintenance items spanning the park's 55 acres on some 20 city blocks." The "good news" is that , the National Park Service Legacy Act of 2017 was "introduced in the House and Senate." According to the authors, "these companion bills would create a dedicated fund that would direct needed resources toward the maintenance backlog at our national parks over the next 30 years, including INHP."

Office Of Insular Affairs

US Officials Lift Suspension On Compact Public Infrastructure Grant Funding.

The [Hawaii Free Press](#) (7/4) reports that "delegations representing the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the United States of America (U.S.) reached an agreement that enables \$150 million of public infrastructure assistance to be used for projects across the four FSM states of Chuuk, Pohnpei, Yap, and Kosrae, as provided for under U.S. Public Law 108-188 or the Compact of Free Association, as amended." Interior Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula said, "It is fair to say that both the FSM and the U.S. delegates are eager to see the FSM move forward and utilize this funding. As Compact grant funding was intended to provide a very real and tangible benefit for the people of the Federated States of Micronesia, we don't want to see any further delay."

Additional coverage was provided by [Marianas Variety](#) (7/3).

Tuvaluans And I-Kiribati Promised A Home In Fiji.

[Radio New Zealand](#) (7/2) reports that "Fiji's prime minister Frank Bainimarama says people who leave Tuvalu and Kiribati because of climate change will be allowed to settle permanently in Fiji."

In a speech at climate action talks in Suva, Bainimarama "said he expected the United States to do the same for Marshall Islanders because of their historical ties." Bainimarama "said the i-Kiribati and Tuvaluans 'will not be refugees' and he promised that Fijians would take them into their homes and hearts." He added, "And we ask other countries to offer the same hospitality to anyone who is displaced by climate change. Because ultimately, we are one world, one people."

Marshall Islands, FSM, Seek Answers After Citizens Shot By US Police.

[Radio New Zealand](#) (7/1, Johnson) reports that "ambassadors from the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands are seeking information about their citizens who were shot by police officers in the United States in recent weeks." The FSM's ambassador in Washington, Akillino Susaia, has "asked the US State Department for help in accessing information on the shooting deaths of two Micronesians in Tulsa, Oklahoma in early June, while Marshall Islands Ambassador Gerald Zackios is seeking information from the family of Marshall Islander Isaiah Obet, who was shot and killed by police in Auburn, Washington on 17 June." According to the article, "to follow up the 2 June shooting deaths of Micronesians Naway Willy, 18, and Rabson Robert, 36, Mr Susaia sent a diplomatic note to the State Department last week requesting the federal government's aid to obtain information from local law enforcement about the incidents."

Maternity Tourism Rates Consistent For Korean Visitors.

The [Guam Daily Post](#) (7/1, Cruz) reports that Guam's public hospital "delivers a steady number of non-resident newborns, recently collected data reveals." According to the article, "a majority of the babies are born to South Korean visitors." The article notes that "last fiscal year, Guam Memorial Hospital delivered 116 babies to non-U.S. mothers, 77 of whom were from South Korea," and "so far in fiscal 2017, the number of infants born to non-U.S. mothers is 77, of whom 54 were born to travelers from Korea." James Gillan, director of the Department of Public Health and Social Services, said, "I think typically what you'll find is that mothers coming from Korea give birth here and obtain a Social Security number and a passport for their child — and then return to Korea. They're thinking that 20 or 30 years later, their child can return to the U.S. and go to school, or what have you."

Seabees Build Relationships In Micronesia With A School Renovation.

[DVIDS Hub](#) (6/29, Trafton) reports that "in February, Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) 1 began renovation of the facility that was condemned in 2016 because of a collapsing roof." The article says that "upon completion, the renovation will allow 210 students to return to a more conducive learning environment while reducing overcrowding in another school on the island."

Seven Coral Reef Management Fellowships Available To Virgin Islanders.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (7/1) reports that "Virgin Islanders are eligible to apply for fellowships with Nova Southeastern University's National Coral Reef Management Fellowship Program. The program aims to build excellent next generation leaders with the capacity to effectively manage local coral reef ecosystems." The program is "a partnership between Nova Southeastern University (NSU), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Coral Reef Conservation Program, the Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs and the U.S. All Islands Coral Reef Committee."

OPA's Hernandez Completes Executive Program.

The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (7/4) reports that Executive Leadership Development Program "graduation ceremonies were held on June 9, 2017 at the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii." The article notes that "since the program's inception in 2008, 103 participants from across the Pacific have completed the ELDP." The ELDP is funded by the Office of Insular Affairs and administered by the Graduate School USA's Pacific Islands Training Initiative.

Top National News

White House: Trump To Hold Bilateral Meeting With Putin Friday.

Media reports, including stories on all three network newscasts, cast the President's meeting Friday with Russia's Vladimir Putin as one fraught with political pressure due to the ongoing election-meddling investigation. [Reuters](#) (7/4, Rampton) reports that "as Trump heads to his first face-to-face meeting as president with Putin...he is under pressure at home to take a tough line

with the Kremlin" amid allegations stemming from last year's US elections. Likewise, the [Washington Post](#) (7/4, Phillip, Morello) reports that the President will find himself "severely constrained and facing few good options that would leave him politically unscathed." If Trump attempts to loosen sanctions against Russia, Congress "could defy him by pursuing even stronger penalties. And if he offers platitudes for Putin without addressing Russia's election meddling, it will renew questions about whether Trump accepts the findings of his own intelligence officials that Russia intended to disrupt the democratic process on his behalf."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (7/4, story 2, 2:25, Alexander) reported their first meeting is "being billed as an official event, instead of an informal meeting, sending a signal the White House wants warmer relations despite revelations Russia meddled in the 2016 US election." Along similar lines, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/4, Bennett) notes White House spokeswoman Lindsay Walters said in a statement that the encounter will be a "normal bilateral meeting," which "implies," for example, "a longer and more formal meeting than the brief conversation with German Chancellor Angela Merkel that Trump also has on his schedule." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/4, Nicholas, Hodge) too says the "bilateral" meeting will be more formal than impromptu encounters that sometimes take place at world summits, and [RT](#) (7/4) notes that Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov "specified" the meeting "will not merely be a brief contact on the sidelines."

[ABC World News Tonight](#)'s (7/4, story 3, 2:30, Llamas) Gloria Riviera, however, said last night, "For more than a year, Trump has sung Putin's praises. ... But with just days to go, the White House is downplaying the meeting, calling it a 'normal' bilateral discussion and saying little else. In contrast, Russia is billing it as a 'full-fledged,' 'seated' meeting."

[ABC News](#) (7/4, Faulders) reported on its website that the meeting will be "the most crucial diplomatic test" of Trump's presidency, and it "couldn't come at a more politically or diplomatically sensitive moment for both leaders." The [CBS Evening News](#) (7/4, story 4, 0:20, Quijano) said the two leaders will discuss North Korea and Syria, but there "is no indication that Russian meddling in the 2016 US election will be discussed." Saying the meeting "will be brimming with global intrigue," meanwhile, the [AP](#) (7/4, Lederman, Lee) reports that Trump, "who prefers to have neatly packaged achievements to pair with high-profile meetings, may be looking for some concessions from Russia to show he's delivering progress and helping restore a productive relationship."

[Newsmax](#) (7/4, Fitzgerald) reports former Ambassador John Bolton "said he'd be happy if they just use the meeting to 'take each others' measure.'" Bolton told Fox News on Tuesday, "I think the most important from the US perspective is for Trump and Putin just to have a conversation where they exchange views across the whole ranges of differences that we have with Russia."

[Washington Post](#) (7/4) columnist David Ignatius writes that what Trump and Putin "should discuss...is whether" a "recent agreement on the separation line is a model for wider US-Russian cooperation in Syria. This broader effort would seek to defeat the Islamic State; stabilize a battered, fragmented Syria; and, eventually, discuss a political future." But Ignatius warns that Russian-American cooperation on Syria "would legitimize a Russian regime that invaded Ukraine and meddled in US and European elections, in addition to its intervention in Syria." He argues that "there's only one positive argument: Working with Russia may be the only way to reduce the level of violence in Syria and to create a foundation for a calmer, more decentralized nation that can eventually recover from its tragic war."

The [Washington Times](#) (7/4, Boyer) reports that on his trip this week, the President will also visit Poland, where he will deliver "a major foreign policy speech in Warsaw's Krasinski Square." The Times says Trump's decision to visit Poland "gives him opportunities to promote US business and to poke a symbolic finger in the eyes of Russia and Germany, traditional European powers and historic tormentors of Warsaw on its eastern and western flanks." He is also expected to "praise...Poland's status as a rising power in Europe" and "applaud Poland's strong support of NATO." Kristin Fisher reported on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/4) that in Poland, Trump "will find an audience that's open to his brand of politics." However, Fisher said the Polish government will want Trump "to take a very hard line" when he meets Putin on Friday.

Democratic Lawmakers Concerned About Trump-Putin Meeting. [Breitbart](#) (7/4, Key) reports Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-NY) said Tuesday on CNN when asked about Trump's meeting with Putin that he had "real concerns" about Trump's "lack of seriousness." Said Meeks, "I think President Trump needs to confront him about Russia's involvement in our democratic process. ... There's got to be a confrontation. ... He cannot kowtow to him."

Rep. Adam Smith was asked on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/4) about reports that Trump has asked his staff to give him "options that he can have at his disposal when he goes into this

meeting, and part of that is possible concessions." Smith said that would send a "very bad" message, because "Putin takes advantage of weakness, and it's very ironic that for someone with as much bluster as Donald Trump throws around every day. Certainly...I wish he treated Vladimir Putin more like he treats CNN."

Rep. Gerald Connolly said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (7/4), "This long-range bromance puzzles all of us. I think it's highly irresponsible for the President of the United States, who takes an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States, to not defend the electoral process of the United States that allows that Constitution to continue with lead hacker who did interfere with our election and attempted to influence its outcome. Of course, Trump was the beneficiary. Maybe that's why."

Former Federal Prosecutor Joins Mueller's Team. The [Washington Times](#) (7/4, Noble) reports former federal prosecutor Andrew Weissmann, who convicted members of the Genovese crime family and later headed the Justice Department's Enron task force, has joined "the all-star team that former FBI Director Robert Mueller has put together as the special counsel." Ten of the 12 lawyers on Mueller's team have been revealed, and "analysts say the team is full of legal stars...who have the skills and experience to handle the investigation fairly — wherever it leads."

The [AP](#) (7/4, Tucker) reports that "it's not clear how much the probe by...Mueller will center on the criminal underbelly of Moscow, but he's already picked some lawyers with experience fighting organized crime." The AP says that as the team "looks for any financial entanglements of Trump associates and relationships with Russian officials, its focus could land again on the intertwining of Russia's criminal operatives and its intelligence services."

Clinton Attorney: Firing Mueller Would Be Difficult. David E. Kendall, an attorney who represents former President Bill Clinton and former secretary of state Hillary Clinton, writes in the [Washington Post](#) (7/4) that if President Trump "decides he wants to get rid" of Mueller, "Justice Department regulations will make it difficult, legally as well as politically, to abruptly short-circuit the pending investigation." Kendall argues, "It boils down to this: When you're the target or subject of an investigation, even if you're the president of the United States, you don't get to call the balls and strikes as to whether there has been criminal conduct or the investigation is necessary."

Media Analyses: North Korean ICBM Launch Poses Test To Trump.

North Korea's latest missile test is generating significant media coverage, including over 16 minutes of network airtime. In its lead story, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/4, lead story, 3:00, Llamas) called the test North Korea's "most dangerous yet," and [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/4, lead story, 2:30, Alexander) likewise warned of "an escalating showdown with North Korea" after it crossed "a dangerous threshold for the first time." [Reuters](#) (7/4, Kim, Kim) reports North Korea said Wednesday it had conducted a test of a newly developed intercontinental ballistic missile "that can carry a large and heavy nuclear warhead, triggering a call by Washington for global action to hold Pyongyang accountable for its pursuit of nuclear weapons." A Pentagon spokeswoman confirmed that Tuesday's launch was in fact an ICBM. The [Washington Post](#) (7/4, Warrick) warns North Korea's "apparent accomplishment puts it well ahead of schedule in its years-long quest to develop a true ICBM."

The [AP](#) (7/4, Lucey, Lederman) reports as the US confirmed the latest launch was indeed an ICBM, Secretary of State Tillerson called it a "new escalation of the threat" to the US. In a statement, Tillerson said, "Global action is required to stop a global threat. Any country that hosts North Korean guest workers, provides any economic or military benefits, or fails to fully implement UN Security Council resolutions is aiding and abetting a dangerous regime." The AP notes Tillerson's statement "notably did not mention China." [USA Today](#) (7/4, Bacon) also reports Tillerson "vowed to bring additional international pressure on the regime," as does the [Washington Examiner](#) (7/4, Tritten).

Media reports universally say the latest launch poses a test to the Administration. The [Washington Post](#) (7/4, Gearan, Rauhala), for example, says Tuesday's launch "marks a direct challenge to President Trump" just before he "will see key Asian leaders and Russian President Vladimir Putin later this week." While North Korea was "already expected to be a main subject" during meetings on the sidelines of the G20 summit, the test "adds urgency."

In its lead story, the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/4, lead story, 2:50, Quijano) also called the launch Trump's "greatest foreign policy test to date," and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/4, Cheng, Gale) too says the launch escalates tensions and presents Trump with his biggest foreign-policy challenge yet. A front-page story in the [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/4, A1, Stiles, Kaiman) says the development "means an already intractable problem posed by Pyongyang's advancing nuclear

and missile programs just became more difficult for the United States and its regional allies.”

A [USA Today](#) (7/4, Hughes) analysis says Tuesday’s launch “ratchets up the pressure on President Trump and other world leaders to resolve a growing nuclear crisis with no easy solution.” Coming just days ahead of the G20, the “timing is almost certainly not coincidental,” and USA Today notes that North Korea “uses such occasions to call attention to its provocative acts – and its test elevates the urgency with which Trump and US allies may feel compelled to respond.”

In an analysis, the [New York Times](#) (7/4, Sanger) says Kim Jong-un’s “repeated tests show that a more definitive demonstration that he can reach the American mainland cannot be far away, even if it may be a few years before he can fit a nuclear warhead onto his increasingly powerful missiles.” For Trump and his national security team, the Times says “Tuesday’s technical milestone simply underscores tomorrow’s strategic dilemma.”

[NBC Nightly News](#)’s (7/4, lead story, 2:30, Alexander) Hans Nichols reported “Pentagon officials say that a functioning ICBM is only one-half of the nuclear threat. The other is a miniaturized nuclear warhead that can survive re-entry. But they have long said that by the time North Korea has achieved both, it may be too late.” On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/4, story 2, 1:20, Llamas), military analyst Stephen Ganyard said Kim Jong-un “is on a deliberate course to develop a nuclear weapon that can hit the continental United States, and today’s launch shows that the plan remains on track.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (7/4, story 2, 2:25, Alexander) said “the White House is weighing options, including more sanctions,” and the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/4, lead story, 2:50, Quijano) reported that the Pentagon “has prepared options which involve military shows of force, such as long-range nuclear bomber flights over the Korean Peninsula and test firings of US missiles based in South Korea.” In what the [AP](#) (7/4, Lucey, Lederman) calls “a show of force directly responding to North Korea’s provocation,” US and South Korean soldiers fired “deep strike” precision missiles into South Korean territorial waters on Tuesday, US military officials in Seoul said. [USA Today](#) (7/5, Hughes) likewise reports Tuesday’s launch by North Korea “drew a swift reaction from the US Army and South Korean military, which in turn launched at least two surface-to-surface missiles as a demonstration of their attack capability.” The [Washington Post](#) (7/4, Lamothe) says it was “unclear how Pyongyang might react to the exercise.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/4, lead story, 3:00, Llamas) reported that with “the pressure mounting...the Trump Administration is requesting an emergency meeting” at the UN Security Council on Wednesday “to address the North Korean threat.” The [AP](#) (7/4) reports the US Mission said Ambassador Haley requested the meeting on Tuesday afternoon.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (7/4, story 2, 1:45, Quijano) reported China “urged restraint...but in an apparent reference to the United States, said all relevant sides should bring things back to the track of peaceful settlement via dialogue.” [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (7/4) reports Tillerson said the White House is “continuing to assess the situation in close coordination with our allies and partners,” but [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (7/4) reported Russian President Vladimir Putin and Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday announced after talks in Moscow that “they will work together to freeze the North Korean program, but demand[ed] the stop to US-South Korean military exercises and an end to the THAAD defense deployment to South Korea, both non-starters for the US.”

Former State Department spokesman John Kirby said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (7/4) that he doesn’t think the joint statement from Russia and China “means anything in effect. I think this is a chance for Russia and China sitting down together to find a way to sort of tweak everybody.” Charles Krauthammer said on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (7/4), “China and Russia together want to see an end to the US-South Korean alliance. They want to use the issue as a kind of exchange in order to do that.”

Former Ambassador Bill Richardson said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/4, story 3, 2:35, Quijano) that “the President should be very careful. The first thing you should do is not tweet out his foreign policy. I think so far he’s been restrained, but, at the same time, going it alone...that’s not going to work. ... I think eventually we have to make a deal, but we need China, and China’s not stepping up.”

[Politico](#) (7/4, Karni) reports lawmakers on both sides of the aisle on Tuesday called on the President to “increase pressure on North Korea and China.” Politico says Trump’s tweets Tuesday “didn’t cut it for lawmakers of both parties...who on Tuesday demanded a more fulsome reaction from the White House.” Sen. Edward Markey said, “Instead of vague Twitter bluster, President Trump should answer North Korea’s dangerous test with a coherent strategy.”

Rep. Gerald Connolly said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (7/4), "I think Donald Trump's modus operandi of threats and tweets is backfiring. If you're Kim Jong-un and North Korea, you're going to accelerate your nuclear program because this guy is threatening you, and there's no stepping down to impeding that capability. Whatever the intentions of the Trump Administration, the results are counterproductive."

Rep. Tom Suozzi said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/4) that "we've seen more and more tests every single week. The President has always told us that his philosophy is that he doesn't want to share his strategy and he's going to be tough. We need to know what the strategy is as to how we're going to deal with this, not only as the United States but in the community of nations."

Meanwhile, South Korean President Moon Jae-in, the [New York Post](#) (7/4, Moore) reports, called a national security council meeting and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe "said he would ask China and Russia to intervene to curb North Korea's weapons program."

[Townhall](#) (7/4, Barkoukis) reports that "if the US decides the threat posed by North Korea is too great, the nation has options," noting that "for the first time since the 1990s," two US aircraft carrier strike groups are positioned off the Korean Peninsula.

WSJournal Urges Regime Change; NYTimes Calls For Talks. A [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/4) editorial says only a strategy aimed at toppling the Kim regime has a chance of eliminating a threat posed by North Korea. On its editorial page, the [New York Times](#) (7/4) says Trump "hasn't grasped...that a solution will eventually require direct dialogue with the North." The Times notes that "some of America's most experienced nuclear experts, like George Shultz, former secretary of state; William Perry, former defense secretary; and Siegfried Hecker, former director of Los Alamos National Laboratory, recently wrote to Mr. Trump urging him to begin talks as the 'only realistic option' to prevent North Korea's potential use of nuclear weapons." The Times argues that "there is no indication that Mr. Trump has a better strategy."

Appeals Court Rules EPA Cannot Delay Enforcement Of Rule On Oil And Gas Emissions.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/3, Eilperin, Mufson) reports a three-judge panel of the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in a 2-1 decision, ruled that the Environmental Protection Agency's "two-year suspension of new emission standards on oil and gas wells," is "tantamount to amending or revoking a rule." The court ruled that the EPA may "reconsider" the rule developed under the Obama Administration, but may not delay the rule for two years while it does so. EPA spokeswoman Amy Graham said that the agency is "reviewing the opinion." The [New York Times](#) (7/3, Friedman) calls the ruling "another legal blow to the Trump administration" and "the first major legal setback for" EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. The court found that the delay was "unreasonable," "arbitrary" and "capricious" and that changing the rule would require "a new rule-making process."

The [AP](#) (7/3, Biesecker) reports the court "ordered the EPA to move forward" with the rule as is. The [Washington Times](#) (7/3, Wolfgang) reports the decision "dealt a blow to President Trump." The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/3, Siciliano) reports it "slammed the brakes" on the Administration's "attempt to kill the Environmental Protection Agency's methane regulations on oil and gas frackers instituted under former President Barack Obama." Pruitt had argued the Obama Administration did not allow for adequate industry comment on the, but the court "disagreed."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Turkey's 250-Mile Protest." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (7/4) says Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan "has used emergency powers to purge and arrest tens of thousands of leftists, liberals, Kurds and others," and now "thousands of protesters...are trudging through the heat on blistered feet from Ankara to Istanbul on a March for Justice" that is "expected to reach Istanbul on Sunday." Erdogan has so far "not tried to block the marchers, but he has accused the main opposition party, the Republican People's Party, better known as the C.H.P. and the prime organizer of the march, of abusing the concept of justice and serving as the mouthpiece of traitors." The Times adds that while the marchers "expect that many thousands more will join them for the entry into Istanbul," it is "not likely to stop Mr. Erdogan." However, "it is certain to unite ever more Turks in the fight to save their democracy."

"Who Can Reform The Chicago Police?" The [New York Times](#) (7/4) writes in an editorial that

the more than two-year Chicago police scandal “that has dogged Mayor Rahm Emanuel...heated up last week when three veteran officers were indicted on charges that they lied about the circumstances in which a white officer fatally shot a black teenager named Laquan McDonald on a South Side street in the fall of 2014.” The Times says the case “lends considerable weight to a new lawsuit filed by civil rights groups arguing that Chicago is incapable of bringing constitutional policing to the city unless the process is overseen by the federal courts.” The Times says “whole phalanx of officials disagrees” with Emanuel’s renunciation of support for federal court oversight since President Trump took office in favor of a “less stringent” arrangement featuring an independent monitor.

“The Way Forward On North Korea.” The [New York Times](#) (7/4) says President Trump “hasn’t grasped...that a solution will eventually require direct dialogue with” North Korea. The Times notes that “some of America’s most experienced nuclear experts, like George Shultz, former secretary of state; William Perry, former defense secretary; and Siegfried Hecker, former director of Los Alamos National Laboratory, recently wrote to Mr. Trump urging him to begin talks as the ‘only realistic option’ to prevent North Korea’s potential use of nuclear weapons.” The Times argues that “there is no indication that Mr. Trump has a better strategy.”

Washington Post.

“If Trump Takes A Protectionist Approach On Steel, It Could Backfire.” The [Washington Post](#) (7/4) argues in an editorial that with the results of a review ordered by President Trump of “how steel imports affect American national security” due “any day now,” US trading partners “are right to fret about where it might lead,” but “Americans should be nervous, too.” To the Post, “a unilateral American invocation of the president’s rarely used power to create national security exceptions to normal trade law” is “probably not” the “right way to deal with this situation.” It is “intellectually dishonest” to assert that “steel imports pose a threat to US national security” and it “could be internationally destabilizing” as “other countries will be tempted to follow suit, potentially setting off spiraling global protectionism.”

“The Supreme Court’s Modest Decision On A Controversial Church-State Question.” The [Washington Post](#) (7/4) editorializes that the Supreme Court’s decision last week that Mississippi couldn’t deny state funds to a church-run preschool for playground updates purely because it was religiously affiliated could have wide-reaching implications, for instance on the issue of school choice. Some would say the “broad language...suggests a wide new legal avenue has opened for religious groups to demand a share of taxpayer money.” However, the Post insists that “the court sent no such clear signal,” so “the threat to the separation of church and state will remain relatively contained so long as the justices live up to some limits embedded in their reasoning.” The Post encourages courts in future cases to follow the line of reasoning that “the government cannot deny churches public funding merely because they are churches, but the government may deny them funding if they would use it for religious endeavors.”

“The Washington Football Team’s Legal Victory Isn’t A Win Worth Celebrating.” The [Washington Post](#) (7/4) editorializes that while Washington Redskins NFL team owner Daniel Snyder has won the right to retain patent protection for the team’s name, he “would do well to reflect on what exactly it is that he has ‘won,’” because the name “is still as hurtful and offensive as ever, and the controversy it stirs will likely only intensify, not go away.” The Post says the Supreme Court “was right to affirm the bedrock principle of the First Amendment” in a June 19 ruling that precipitated Snyder’s win. However, Snyder’s having the right to use a “racial slur” as a team name doesn’t mean he should use it. As such the legal victory isn’t worth celebrating.

Wall Street Journal.

“Blue State Budget Breakdowns.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/4) argues that the budget impasse-induced government shutdowns over the weekend in Connecticut, Illinois, and New Jersey reflect heightened political dysfunction in blue states. Under progressive governance, the government eventually runs out of other people’s money. In Illinois, the Journal says Democratic lawmakers likely will override GOP Gov. Bruce Rauner’s veto of a budget plan that raises taxes but ultimately fails to address a deficit, unpaid bills, and a \$130 billion unfunded pension liability. Meanwhile, Connecticut already has raised income taxes and property taxes, but pension liabilities still have risen as revenue and economic growth have dropped and wealthy residents have fled to other states. Finally, the Journal warns that the deal New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie brokered with a Democrat-controlled legislature portends further tax hikes for the wealthy and property owners in the future.

“The North Korean Missile Crisis.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/4) editorial says only a strategy

aimed at toppling the Kim Jong-un regime has a chance of eliminating a threat posed by North Korea.

"The Tory Policy Retreat." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/4) editorial says British Prime Minister Theresa May successfully obstructed the opposition Labour Party's call to end the one percent annual public-pay cap last week, but she will not as easily resist pressure to lift the cap from her Conservative party and cabinet members. The Journal says if May gives in to this demand, she will go against not only voters' wishes because it will cost \$8.18 billion annually – to be financed by either tax raises or more borrowing – but also her party's reputation as one of economic growth.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[North Korea Missile Launch Threatens US Strategy In Asia](#)
[JP Morgan Returns To Dealmaking With Approach For Worldpay](#)
[Ill-Funded Police Pensions Put Cities In A Bind](#)
[Disney's Channels: Children Are Tuning Out](#)

New York Times:

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[After Backing Trump, Christians Who Fled Iraq Fall Into His Dragnet](#)
[Senate Republicans Lay Low On The Fourth, Or Face Single-Minded Pressure](#)
[After Years Of Growth, Automakers Are Cutting US Jobs](#)
[What \\$1.2 Billion Buys In Miami: For Baseball, A Major Distraction](#)
[Bronx-Lebanon, Site Of Shooting, Is More Than A Hospital To Neighbors](#)
[New Jersey Beaches Reopen, But Christie Catches More Heat](#)

Washington Post:

[N. Korea Launch Challenges Trump](#)
[Political Backlash Looms Ahead Of Putin Meeting](#)
[Dam May Muddy Plan To Clean Up Chesapeake](#)
[Amid Parades, Healthcare Queries](#)
['Out Of Our Comfort Zone'](#)

Financial Times:

[China And Russia Strike \\$11bn Funding Deal](#)
[US Urges Global Action After North Korea Missile Launch](#)
[Qatar Open To Talks With Rivals As Deadline Passes](#)
[JPMorgan And Vantiv Make Moves On Worldpay](#)

Washington Times:

[North Korea's Surprise Launch Of ICBM Has Power To Reach Alaska, Upset East Asia Power Balance](#)
[Presidents Have Reduced National Monuments 18 Times Before Bears Ears Controversy](#)
[Immigration Agency Won't Commit To Giving Noncitizen Data To Voter Fraud Commission](#)
[Mueller's All-Star Legal Team In Russia Probe Signals Direction Of Investigation](#)
[Fantasy Meets Reality As FTC Puts DraftKings, FanDuel Sports Merger On Ice](#)
[Evangelical Christians, Catholics Increasingly Rely On Federal Courts To Protect Religious Liberties](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: North Korea ICBM Test; North Korea ICBM Test-Expert Opinion; Trump-Putin Meeting; Raqqa Assault; Voter Fraud Investigation; Fireworks Danger; Weather Forecast; Fourth Of July-Security; New Jersey-Budget Settled; Michigan Airport Attack-Officer Recovered; Fourth Of July-Shopping; Philadelphia Highway Accident; San Francisco Airport Accident Video; Friendly Police; Fourth Of July Celebration.

CBS: North Korea ICBM Test; North Korea ICBM Test-China; North Korea ICBM Test-Expert Opinion; Trump-Putin Meeting; New Jersey-Budget Settled; Google-Air Pollution Research; Deported Undocumented Parents; Grizzly Bear Product Testing; Tour De France; Fireworks Danger; New York-Eating Contest; Founding Fathers-Descendants.

NBC: North Korea ICBM Test; North Korea ICBM Test-WH; Fourth Of July-Security; New Jersey-Budget Settled; Missouri-Home Explosion; Drone Dangers; British Baby-US Treatment; Cruise-Sexual Assaults; Zika Virus Warning; New York-Eating Contest; Veteran-Warrior Games.

Network TV At A Glance:

North Korea ICBM Test – 16 minutes, 25 seconds
Fourth Of July-Security – 3 minutes, 20 seconds
Trump-Putin Meeting – 2 minutes, 50 seconds
New Jersey-Budget Settled – 1 minute, 10 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: North Korea ICBM Test; Trump-Putin Meeting; WH-Fourth Of July Celebration.
CBS: North Korea ICBM Test; Fourth Of July Celebration; Heat Wave-Wildfires; Microsoft-Layoffs.

FOX: North Korea ICBM Test; Fourth Of July Celebration.

NPR: North Korea ICBM Test; Montana Wildfire; WH-Fourth Of July Celebration; Trump-G20 Visit.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Arrives in Warsaw, Poland.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a phone call with President Ashraf Ghani of Afghanistan; participates in a phone call with EU High Representative and Vice President Federica Mogherini.

US Senate: On recess until 10 July.

US House: On recess until 10 July.

Other: No notable public event scheduled.

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

All late-night talk shows were in re-runs or did not run.

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



DATE: WEDNESDAY, JULY 12, 2017 7:00 AM EDT

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- U.S. News & World Report: The Latest: Zinke Says Glacier Boat Restrictions To Continue.
- American Farm Bureau: Pruitt, Zinke Visit State Farm Bureau Presidents.
- KRCR-TV Redding (CA): Congressman LaMalfa Asks Interior Secretary To Stop Marijuana Grows.
- Miami Herald: Official Who Cut Everglades From UN List Gets Trump Job.
- Durango (CO) Herald: Real-Time Wild Fire Location Data Seeks To Reduce Drone Disruptions.
- Washington Post: Trump Administration Wants To Boost Value Of Federal Employee Buyouts.

- Santa Fe New Mexican: Closed County Commission Meetings On Road Disputes Draw Criticism.
- Dallas Morning News: Additional Coverage: Former Texas Comptroller Susan Combs Nominated By Trump For Assistant Interior Secretary.
- Deseret (UT) News: Op-Ed: Shrinking Bears Ears Is Shortsighted And Wrong.
- Albuquerque (NM) Journal: Editorial: Feds Are Right To Require BLM Permit Efficiencies.
- U.S. News & World Report: The U.S. Is Too Dependent On Foreign Mineral Imports.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- High-Profile Attorneys Join Wyoming Boundary Dispute.
- Lake Superior Tribes Return Lands To Reservations Through Federal Programs.
- Arizona Irrigation District Sues Feds, Claiming Inflated Fees.
- NM Says 10th Circ. Needn't Revisit Tribal Gaming Ruling.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Reno (NV) Gazette-Journal: Trump Budget Sets Up Wild Horse Showdown.
- U.S. News & World Report: BLM: Fire In Little Rockies Suspected To Be Human Caused.
- Natural Gas Intelligence: Additional Coverage: Environmental, Tribal Groups Sue Over BLM's Stay Of NatGas Venting/Flaring Rules.
- Wyoming Business Report: Additional Coverage: BLM Releases Plan For Massive Nat Gas Development.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- Air Force Backs Continued Oil Drilling Moratorium.
- Seafloor Survey Done For Potential Offshore Renewable Energy Projects.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Millerton Lake To Be Kept Filled For A Week.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- U.S. News & World Report: Monk Seal Bites, Injures US Wildlife Staffer On Midway Atoll.
- Citrus County (FL) Chronicle: Crystal River, USFWS Work Toward Refuge Agreement.
- ABC News: Virginia Man Pleads Guilty To Killing A Bald Eagle By Shooting, Running It Over With An ATV.
- USA Today: King Cobras, Lizards Seized In Express Mail Package At JFK Airport.

National Park Service

- Farmington (NM) Daily Times: Lifetime Public Lands Passes For Seniors Will Increase In Cost.
- Southern California Public Radio: How Offshore Oil Could Fuel Urban Parks If A New Bill Passes.
- Beaufort (SC) Gazette: Want To Help Shape Beaufort County's National Monument Sites? Here's How.
- Bangor (ME) Daily News: Dirt Roads To Maine's Monument Intended For Loggers, Not Visitors.
- DCist: Roosevelt Island Reopens After NPS Removed Infected Ash Trees: DCist.
- U.S. News & World Report: Park Service Says California Man Died At Hawaii Volcano.
- U.S. News & World Report: Alaska Hiker Recovering After Bison Attack In North Dakota.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Saipan (MNP) Tribune: Interior Provides Nearly \$ 1M Grant To CNMI.
- Marianas Variety: Official: Regional Group Aims To Improve Fisheries Observer Safety.
- Honolulu Civil Beat (HI): Sen. Glenn Wakai Talks About His Outreach To Micronesia.
- Loop Pacific: People's Republic Of China Continues To Support The Pacific Islands Forum.

US Geological Survey

- Los Angeles Times: Defying Trump, House Panel Is Expected To Propose Restoring Funding For Earthquake Early Warning System.

Top National News

- CBS: Media Analyses: Trump Jr. Emails May Be "Smoking Gun" In Russia Investigation.
- Associated Press: Lavrov Threatens "Counter Actions" Against US Over Seized Compounds.
- Washington Post: McConnell Delays Senate Recess To Work On Healthcare, Other GOP Agenda Items.
- Associated Press: House Committee Unveils Plan To Build Border Wall.
- New York Times: NYTimes A1 Analysis: Trump Deregulation Teams Have "Deep Industry Ties And

Potential Conflicts.”

- Reuters: Pruitt Proposes Televised Climate Science Debate.

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- New York Times.
 - “Donald Trump Jr., Makes The Russian Connection.”
 - “The Challenges After Mosul.”
- Washington Post.
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DOI In The News

U.S. Interior Department Receives Over 2 Million Comments On Monument Review.

[Reuters](#) (7/11, Volcovici) reports that the public comment period for the review of national monuments and marine sanctuaries “drew more than 2 million public comments ahead of a report to be issued by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to President Donald Trump next month.” Zinke said on Tuesday “that more than 1.2 million comments were received on the Regulations.gov website and thousands more were received via traditional mail.” Zinke said in a statement, “After hearing some feedback, I’d like to remind and reassure folks that even if a monument is modified, the land will remain under federal ownership.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Emery County \(UT\) Progress](#) (7/11), the [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (7/11), and the [Santa Clarita Valley \(CA\) Signal](#) (7/11, Ender).

Senators To Trump: Hands Off America’s National Monuments. The [Huffington Post](#) (7/11, D’angelo) reports that “six Democratic senators joined conservation and public lands advocates outside the U.S. Capitol on Tuesday to warn the Trump administration against stripping protections for America’s national monuments.” Sen. Maria Cantwell “said it’s clear President Donald Trump is ‘trying a sneak attack’ on national monuments with executive orders for reviews of certain sites.” She said Trump is plotting to take important recreational, spiritual and economic areas from the public in order to exploit them for oil, gas and other natural resources. Also participating in the event were Sens. Brian Schatz, Martin Heinrich, Michael Bennet, Catherine Cortez Masto, and Tom Udall. The event, “hosted by the League of Conservation Voters, drew approximately 100 people.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Las Vegas \(NV\) Review-Journal](#) (7/11, Martin) and the [Highland \(CA\) Community News](#) (7/11).

Public Overwhelmingly Supports Keeping Monuments Intact. [Courthouse News](#) (7/11, Renda) reports that “environmental organizations say the public overwhelmingly opposes any reductions or eliminations of the protected areas.” The League of Conservation Voters “said 2.7 million Americans submitted comments in support of public lands during the 60-day comment period.” The league’s president Gene Karpinski said, “It’s no wonder communities across the country mobilized to submit over 2.7 million comments so quickly when people overwhelmingly disapprove of the Trump administration’s extreme anti-environmental policies.”

Thousands Comment On Nevada’s Gold Butte National Monument. The [AP](#) (7/11) reports that the Interior Department has “received thousands comments about whether President Donald Trump should keep the scenic, ecologically fragile and artifact-rich Gold Butte area in southern

Nevada protected as a national monument." According to the article, "at least 35,000 comments mention Gold Butte but some only mention it as a monument under review."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/11), the [San Luis Obispo \(CA\) Tribune](#) (7/11), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (7/11), and [KTNV-TV Las Vegas \(NV\)](#) Las Vegas (7/11).

More Than 400,000 Comments On Utah's Bears Ears Monument. The [AP](#) (7/11) reports that "hundreds of thousands of people have weighed in on whether Utah's new Bears Ears National Monument should be preserved, downsized or rescinded." According to the article, "about 430,000 comments on the Interior Department's website mention Bears Ears, including submissions compiled by conservation groups that include thousands of individual comments in one submission."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/11) and the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (7/11).

Thousands Comment On Upper Missouri River Breaks For National Monument Review. The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (7/11, Lutey) reports that "Montanans submitted thousands of letters" to the Interior Department concerning the Upper Missouri Breaks National Monument. According to the article, "most comments submitted supported preserving the monument."

Overwhelming Support For Craters. The [Idaho Falls \(ID\) Post Register](#) (7/11, Clark) reports that "nearly 38,000 public comments sent in electronic form to the Department of the Interior make mention of Craters of the Moon National Monument and Preserve." The article says that "a review of a sample of those comments finds no evidence of public support for changing the boundaries of Craters."

Additional Coverage. Additional coverage was provided by the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (7/11) and the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (7/11, Landers).

House Bill Would Cut EPA Funding By \$528M.

[The Hill](#) (7/11, Henry) reports that House appropriators released a spending bill Tuesday that includes funding for the Interior Department, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Forest Service and related agencies. According to the article, "it's a \$31.4 billion bill, which is \$824 million less than current levels and \$4.3 billion higher than Trump's budget." The article says that "appropriators aim to pass on small cuts to the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the U.S. Geological Survey." Also, the Land and Water Conservation Fund would "absorb a \$125 million cut from its current \$400 million budget."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (7/11, Myers) and [MLive \(MI\)](#) (7/11, Ellison).

The Latest: Zinke Says Glacier Boat Restrictions To Continue.

The [AP](#) (7/11) reports that "a spokeswoman says Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has canceled plans by Glacier National Park to ease restrictions on the use of motorized boats from outside the park." Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift "said Tuesday that the park had mistakenly moved to ease restrictions for all boats after Zinke urged lifting them for the boats of private landowners within the park's boundaries." After Swift spoke, Glacier "issued a press release retracting its Monday announcement that restrictions would be eased on all boats in coming weeks."

Additional coverage was provided by [KPAX-TV Missoula \(MT\)](#) Missoula, MT (7/11) and [KTVH-TV Helena \(MT\)](#) Helena, MT (7/11).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [U.S. News & World Report](#) (7/11), the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (7/11), the [Chippewa \(WI\) Herald](#) (7/11), the [Hilton Head Island \(SC\) Packet](#) (7/11), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (7/11), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (7/11), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/11).

Pruitt, Zinke Visit State Farm Bureau Presidents.

The [American Farm Bureau](#) (7/11, Thornton) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt "made guest appearances Tuesday morning in Washington during the American Farm Bureau Federation's Council of Presidents meeting." During his remarks, "Zinke outlined the importance of supporting multiple uses of the nation's public lands." He also "spoke briefly about the challenges presented by wild horse overpopulation on public lands."

Congressman LaMalfa Asks Interior Secretary To Stop Marijuana Grows.

[KRCR-TV](#) Redding, CA (7/11, Gardner) reports that Rep. Doug LaMalfa "wrote letters to the

Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Department of Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue asking them to prevent marijuana grows on public lands." In the letters LaMalfa wrote, "Drug cartels have created large-scale operations on federal lands which illegally divert stream water, dump tons of illegal toxicants and pollutants, and harm the local wildlife. These sites are often protected by heavily armed cartel members which pose a serious safety risk to those who utilize our public lands for hunting, fishing, and recreational activities – as well as the Forest Service and BLM staff who patrol the forests. It is imperative that the federal government address this problem in order to make our forests safe again for the public to enjoy."

Official Who Cut Everglades From UN List Gets Trump Job.

The [Miami Herald](#) (7/11, Daugherty) reports that the Interior Department "announced last week that Todd Willens, a longtime Washington-based lobbyist and congressional staffer, will take an assistant deputy secretary job under Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke." The article notes that in 2007, Willens "urged the United Nations World Heritage Committee to remove Everglades National Park from the list of endangered natural and cultural sites over the objections of the committee's scientific advisory group." Sen. Bill Nelson said, "Is this the same guy coming back to the Department of Interior? He might try to take it off the list again. Anybody who has a disregard for the importance of the Everglades like this fella has indicated...shouldn't be in the Department of Interior in a high and influential position." During the presidential campaign, then-candidate Donald Trump "pledged to protect the Everglades while campaigning in South Florida."

Real-Time Wild Fire Location Data Seeks To Reduce Drone Disruptions.

The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (7/11, Romeo) reports that "in an effort to prevent drones from interfering with firefighting activity," the Interior Department "recently enhanced a service that provides access to near real-time wildfire locations in select areas around the country." Mark Bathrick, Director of Interior's Office of Aviation Services, said in a prepared statement, "As the 2017 wildland fire season gets underway, this improved service should greatly reduce the incidents of drone incursions on wildfires and enhance the safety of our firefighters and the communities they work so hard to protect."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Alamosa \(CO\) Valley Courier](#) (7/11).

Trump Administration Wants To Boost Value Of Federal Employee Buyouts.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/11, Yoder) reports, "The carrot half of the carrot-and-stick formula for cutting federal jobs would be sweetened under a proposal the Trump administration has sent to Congress, seeking to increase the maximum value of buyout payments from \$25,000 to \$40,000 government-wide." Employee buyouts have been \$25,000 since agencies began offering the packages during the Clinton Administration. The piece says that "relatively few buyouts — about 2,000 to 3,000 a year — have been paid in recent years, but interest in them has increased as the Trump administration has pushed several initiatives to downsize the federal workforce, starting with imposing a general hiring freeze soon after taking office." The Interior Department "has said it would 'rely on a combination of attrition, reassignments, and separation incentives' to carry out its plan to shed some 4,000 jobs, about 8 percent of its workforce."

[Government Executive](#) (7/11, Wagner) reports the story as well.

Closed County Commission Meetings On Road Disputes Draw Criticism.

The [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (7/12, Stelnicki) reports that Santa Fe County commissioners will "meet with federal, state and tribal representatives this week at the Capitol to discuss road disputes with four pueblos, but the meetings will not be open to the public, a move criticized Tuesday by an open-government advocate and a top state legislator." The president of the New Mexico Foundation for Open Government claimed "barring the public from the meetings will violate the state Open Meetings Act, which requires meetings of government bodies like the Santa Fe County Commission be open except under limited circumstances." According to the article, "in excluding the public from the meetings, the County Commission is citing state statutes that authorize closed-door meetings to discuss litigation or threatened litigation, as well as acquisition or disposal of water rights or other property."

Additional Coverage: Former Texas Comptroller Susan Combs Nominated By Trump For Assistant Interior Secretary.

Additional coverage that "former Texas state comptroller Susan Combs has been nominated as Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Policy, Management and Budget by President Donald

Trump” was provided by the [Dallas \(TX\) Morning News](#) (7/11, Kelly, Correspondent), the [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (7/11, Tilove), the [San Antonio \(TX\) Express-News](#) (7/11, Diaz), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (7/11, Diaz), [Houston \(TX\) Public Media](#) (7/11, Svitek), and the [Texas Observer](#) (7/11).

Op-Ed: Shrinking Bears Ears Is Shortsighted And Wrong.

In an op-ed for the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (7/11, Yarnold), David Yarnold, president and CEO of the National Audubon Society, raises concerns after Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has “indicated he will recommend that the government dramatically shrink” the Bears Ears National Monument, “which could open the landscape to oil and gas drilling and other potentially damaging activities.” Yarnold blasts the decision as “shortsighted and just plain wrong.” In response, the National Audubon Society is “bringing together 400 leaders from across its state and chapter network this weekend in Park City to support the protection of Bears Ears.”

Editorial: Feds Are Right To Require BLM Permit Efficiencies.

In an editorial, the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/12) argues that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s order last week to accelerate the permitting process has “everything to do with efficient government and nothing to do with being pro-extractive industries/anti-environment.” According to the paper, “because his vow to follow federal law and process oil and gas drilling permits within the 30-day window is not about where you drill or how you drill or whether or not you drill or how much you will get from consumers if you drill – it is about expecting the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to comply with the law.” The paper asserts that “the secretary is right to expect BLM to follow federal law.”

The U.S. Is Too Dependent On Foreign Mineral Imports.

In an op-ed for [U.S. News & World Report](#) (7/11), Ned Mamula, an associate fellow with the R Street Institute, and Catrina Rorke, a senior fellow with the R Street Institute, write that the Trump Administration is “driving a massive pivot on public-lands policy” and it’s “a firm step toward righting the ship on our national approach to mineral resources on federal lands” They note that “earlier this year, the U.S. Geological Survey reported that, of 88 important minerals they track, the United States is more than 25 percent import-dependent for 62 of them.” The authors warn that “the risk to the United States comes not just from its import-dependency, but its dependency on imports from countries known to use domestic resource wealth as a diplomatic and trade weapon.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

High-Profile Attorneys Join Wyoming Boundary Dispute.

The [AP](#) (7/11) reports that “a lawsuit over the boundaries of the Wind River Reservation in central Wyoming is attracting some high-profile attorneys, including former U.S. Interior Secretary Ken Salazar.” Salazar, who served in the Obama Administration, is “among several high-profile attorneys brought in by the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho tribes in their lawsuit against the state of Wyoming.” Salazar is “representing the Shoshone along with former Solicitor General Seth Waxman, who served under President Bill Clinton, and the Arapaho also have hired Paul Clement, who was a solicitor general under President George W. Bush.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (7/11, Rosenfeld).

Lake Superior Tribes Return Lands To Reservations Through Federal Programs.

[Wisconsin Public Radio](#) (7/11, Kaeding) reports that “Northern Wisconsin tribes on Lake Superior have purchased land that will be added to their reservations using money from federal programs.” In the past year, the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa has “restored 3,492 acres on the reservation to tribal ownership.” The tribe has “secured primary ownership in the land by making purchase offers to individual landowners using money through the Land Buy-Back Program.”

Arizona Irrigation District Sues Feds, Claiming Inflated Fees.

[KJZZ-FM](#) Phoenix (7/11, Kuhn) reports that “an irrigation district that helps supply water to Pinal County landowners outside of the Gila River Indian Reservation is suing the federal government for what it says are unfair rates and filed this month.” The San Carlos Irrigation and Drainage

District “filed a complaint accusing the Bureau of Indian Affairs of charging unfairly high operation and maintenance rates to landowners the district manages.” The district is seeking “about \$2 million in damages.”

NM Says 10th Circ. Needn't Revisit Tribal Gaming Ruling.

[Law360](#) (7/11, Powell) reports that “New Mexico pressed the Tenth Circuit on Monday to stay firm on its recent conclusion that the head of the U.S. Department of the Interior lacks the authority to approve procedures allowing the Pueblo of Pojoaque to continue its casino operations there in the absence of a state gaming compact.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Trump Budget Sets Up Wild Horse Showdown.

The [Reno \(NV\) Gazette-Journal](#) (7/11, Spillma) reports that wild horses “could be killed in greater numbers under a budget proposal from President Donald Trump.” The article notes that “the changes are included in Trump’s proposed budget for the Bureau of Land Management, which seeks an 11 percent cut to the agency’s \$1.1 billion budget.” Moreover, “in addition to the overall cut the agency’s budget justification document proposes cutting \$10 million and 29 jobs from the Wild Horse and Burro management program, a reduction of 12 percent.”

BLM: Fire In Little Rockies Suspected To Be Human Caused.

The [AP](#) (7/11) reports that “Bureau of Land Management law enforcement officers are investigating the July fire burning south of Fort Belknap Indian Reservation as a suspected human-caused fire.” According to Fire Information officer Hailey Graf, “the fire, which started on July 3, is 60 percent contained after burning 17 square miles (45 square kilometers) and a small cabin in the Little Rocky Mountains.” The National Interagency Coordination Center “says it has cost \$3.2 million to fight so far.”

Additional Coverage: Environmental, Tribal Groups Sue Over BLM’s Stay Of NatGas Venting/Flaring Rules.

Additional coverage that “a coalition of environmental and tribal organizations filed a lawsuit Monday over the Trump administration’s decision to indefinitely postpone an Obama-era rule governing associated natural gas flaring and venting on public and tribal lands” was provided by [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (7/11, Passut) and [Law360](#) (7/11, Westney).

Additional Coverage: BLM Releases Plan For Massive Nat Gas Development.

Additional coverage that the Bureau of Land Management “released an environmental impact study along with supporting documents and maps” for a project proposed by developer Jonah Energy that “could unlock 5.25 trillion cubic feet of natural gas” was provided by the [Wyoming Business Report](#) (7/11, Clark) and the [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (7/11, Richards).

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Air Force Backs Continued Oil Drilling Moratorium.

The [Tampa Bay \(FL\) Times](#) (7/11, Pittman) reports in its Buzz Florida Politics blog that the US Air Force agreed with a bipartisan group of Florida politicians that the existing moratorium on offshore drilling in the eastern Gulf of Mexico should be extended. General David L. Goldfein, the Air Force chief of staff, wrote to Sen. Bill Nelson saying the Air Force “needs the certainty of the proposed extension” to ensure that it can continue testing and training flights in the area.

Seafloor Survey Done For Potential Offshore Renewable Energy Projects.

The [Coos Bay \(OR\) World](#) (7/11, Harrell) reports that “a recently- published research paper based off of a study conducted by Oregon State University researchers on sediment and animals on the ocean floor in the Pacific Northwest could aid future renewable energy projects off the coast.” The study “found that relationships between the sediment and the animal life was consistent across several sample sites along the coast.” The research was funded by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and the Oregon Wave Energy Trust.

Bureau Of Reclamation

Millerton Lake To Be Kept Filled For A Week.

The [Fresno \(CA\) Bee](#) (7/11, Rodriguez-Delgado) reports that “melting snow from the Sierra is sending more water into the Millerton Lake reservoir than it can handle, but officials say the lake will be kept filled to capacity for at least a week to make the most use of the water.” Duane Stroup, deputy area manager for the south-central California area of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, “said about 30 cubic feet per second of water is spilling over the gates of Friant Dam as about 2,000 cubic feet per second of water is being released down the spillway into the San Joaquin River.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KGPE-TV](#) Fresno, CA (7/11, Mendes).

Fish And Wildlife Service

Monk Seal Bites, Injures US Wildlife Staffer On Midway Atoll.

The [AP](#) (7/11, Jones) reports that “a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employee has been bitten by an endangered Hawaiian monk seal while swimming at Midway Atoll in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.” FWS spokeswoman Megan Nagel “said Tuesday that the incident happened on July 6 on Midway’s North Beach in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.” The article says that “staff access to all beaches has been closed until the end of the pupping season in response to the attack.”

Crystal River, USFWS Work Toward Refuge Agreement.

The [Citrus County \(FL\) Chronicle](#) (7/11, Thompson) reports that Crystal River officials on Monday considered the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s “proposed alternatives for the Three Sisters Springs property.” City council members discussed the federal agency’s draft environment assessment, “which was released in June and proposes two options for public comment on how to develop the 57-acre refuge in the city.”

Virginia Man Pleads Guilty To Killing A Bald Eagle By Shooting, Running It Over With An ATV.

[ABC News](#) (7/11, Jacobo, Beni) reports that “a Virginia man faces up to a year in prison and a \$100,000 fine after he pleaded guilty to killing a bald eagle today, first by shooting the bird of prey and then running it over with an all-terrain vehicle, the U.S. Department of Justice said in a statement.” The Justice Department “said the 62-year-old Smithfield resident Allen H. Thacker shot the eagle, according to a statement of facts filed with his plea agreement, because ‘he was upset it had been hunting and taking fish from a pond located on his property.’”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/11, Weiner), the [Richmond \(VA\) Times-Dispatch](#) (7/11, Lukitsch), the [Daily Caller](#) (7/11, Lieberman), and [WHAS-TV Louisville \(KY\)](#) Louisville, KY (7/11).

King Cobras, Lizards Seized In Express Mail Package At JFK Airport.

[USA Today](#) (7/12, Alvarado) reports that “live King Cobras and lizards shipped express from Hong Kong were intercepted at John F. Kennedy Airport by customs agents.” According to the article, “the five slithering juvenile cobras, which are poisonous, and three geckos were found in a Styrofoam package that was labelled as containing a ‘plastic tray,’ by U.S. Customs and Border Protection workers doing a mail inspection.” CBP officers, “working in the airport’s International Mail Facility, seized the package and turned it over to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for further investigation, according to the statement.”

National Park Service

Lifetime Public Lands Passes For Seniors Will Increase In Cost.

The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (7/12) reports that “people 62 years old or older who want to purchase lifetime public lands access passes will have to pay more starting in late August, according to a press release from the National Park Service.” The passes currently “cost \$10, but changes in legislation required the National Park Service to increase the price to \$80, which is the

same price people pay for an Interagency Annual Pass." The \$10 passes will be sold through Aug. 28.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Atlanta \(GA\) Journal-Constitution](#) (7/11, Brasch) and [WCAV-TV Charlottesville \(VA\)](#) Charlottesville, VA (7/11).

How Offshore Oil Could Fuel Urban Parks If A New Bill Passes.

[Southern California Public Radio](#) (7/11, Beggin) reports that "a proposal to use funds drawn from offshore oil and gas leases to help build urban parks is the first bill introduced" by Rep. Nanette Diaz Barragán. The Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program Act, "introduced late last month, aims to increase the number of green spaces in cities in order to 'improve the lives overall of the community, primarily in underserved communities,' Barragán said during a press conference Monday." The proposed legislation "would legally secure funding for a National Park Service program that was originally funded by Congress in 2014."

Want To Help Shape Beaufort County's National Monument Sites? Here's How.

The [Beaufort \(SC\) Gazette](#) (7/11, Fastenau) reports that "planning is underway for the Reconstruction Era National Monument at sites in Beaufort, Port Royal and St. Helena Island." A series of meetings will be held this month to allow "residents to offer thoughts on how the sites should be set up and operated as National Park Service officials craft what they call the monument's foundation document." Reconstruction Era National Monument superintendent Melissa English-Rias said in a statement, "The foundation document will be critical to helping the National Park Service map out management plans and priorities for the new park. We are inviting the public to play a role in shaping the park's future operations."

Dirt Roads To Maine's Monument Intended For Loggers, Not Visitors.

The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (7/11, Sambides) reports that "the seven private roads on the National Park Service map of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument" were "never meant for tourists." The article says that "a dozen representatives of the loggers, landowners, truckers and National Park Service officials are working to prevent crashes on the roads that lead to the 87,562-acre Katahdin Woods, which critics say are unfit for tourist traffic." According to the article, "the loggers plan to install more right of way signs and work at times when tourist traffic is minimal, while the park service plans to spot-grade the road leading to the monument's main entrance."

Roosevelt Island Reopens After NPS Removed Infected Ash Trees: DCist.

[DCist](#) (7/11) reports that Theodore Roosevelt Island reopened Tuesday "after closing at the end of June for diseased tree removal," the National Park Service said yesterday. According NPS spokesperson Aaron LaRocca, "a recent survey of the island park found extensive damage to some trees caused by an invasive beetle known as the emerald ash borer." The article says that "about 200 diseased trees, most of which were ashes, were removed."

Park Service Says California Man Died At Hawaii Volcano.

The [AP](#) (7/11) reports that "authorities have released the name of the 38-year-old man who was found dead in Volcanos National Park on Hawaii's Big Island." The NPS "identified the man found on the Kilauea Volcano caldera floor as Gregory Michael Ure, also known as Leo Michael Adonis." Officials "also say a note was found in Ure's backpack, but they said they won't discuss details of the note or the death until after an investigation has been completed."

Alaska Hiker Recovering After Bison Attack In North Dakota.

The [AP](#) (7/11) reports that "an Alaska man is recovering after being attacked by a bison while hiking in western North Dakota's Theodore Roosevelt National Park." According to park official Eileen Andes, "the 65-year-old hiker encountered the large animal on a trail after taking photos of a sunset."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Interior Provides Nearly \$ 1M Grant To CNMI.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (7/10) reports that Acting Interior assistant secretary Nikolao Pula "made available last week \$994,711 to the CNMI to improve water distribution, waste

management, and hospital billing services." Another grant was "provided for a joint government/non-profit partnership to improve efforts in addressing and prosecuting sexual violence cases." Pula said, "Requests submitted to the Office of Insular Affairs for grant assistance always outweigh the available resources. We are pleased that we can support some of the worthy projects prioritized by Gov. Ralph [DLG] Torres as they will have a direct impact toward improving lives for our fellow Americans living in the CNMI."

Official: Regional Group Aims To Improve Fisheries Observer Safety.

[Marianas Variety](#) (7/10, Johnson) reports that "the recent loss of a fisheries observer from a purse seine vessel in Nauru waters is a tragic development that confirms the importance of action taken by the Parties to the Nauru Agreement or PNA to protect observers, said its CEO."

According to the article, "although Nauru police said review of video from the Chinese flagged Feng Xiang 818 did not suggest foul play in the death of fisheries observer James Junior Numbaru of Papua New Guinea, PNA CEO Ludwig Kumoru said in Majuro PNA has been stepping up action to improve the safety of these independent observers who monitor fish catches on all 300 purse seiners operating in PNA waters."

Sen. Glenn Wakai Talks About His Outreach To Micronesia.

The [Honolulu Civil Beat \(HI\)](#) (7/10, Estrellon) reports that Glenn Wakai joined Pod Squad host Chad Blair "to talk about his special relationship with the Republic of Palau, how he views the ongoing assimilation of Micronesian immigrants in Hawaii and a special event coming up July 23 in connection with the Friends of the Library of Hawaii annual book sale at McKinley High School."

People's Republic Of China Continues To Support The Pacific Islands Forum.

The [Loop Pacific](#) (7/10, Prasad) reports that "the People's Republic of China has handed over USD\$1.05 million to Pacific Islands Forum through its Pacific Islands Forum Cooperation Fund. "The money was given to Forum's Secretary General, Dame Meg Taylor last week. According to the article, "during the handover, the SG thanked China for their ongoing support through the fund and strong relationship between China and Pacific."

US Geological Survey

Defying Trump, House Panel Is Expected To Propose Restoring Funding For Earthquake Early Warning System.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/11, Lin) reports that "members of Congress on Wednesday are expected to approve a new budget plan that would maintain funding for a West Coast earthquake early warning system that President Trump's budget sought to slash." A House of Representatives subcommittee is "proposing that \$10.2 million be allocated to the early warning system — the same amount as the network received in the last budget." Rep. Ken Calvert, chairman of the subcommittee, said, "We have made too much progress on the earthquake warning system to stop now. I don't think there is any appetite, at least from the House in Congress, to remove it."

Top National News

Media Analyses: Trump Jr. Emails May Be "Smoking Gun" In Russia Investigation.

Donald Trump Jr.'s [Twitter release](#) of a [series of emails](#) from June 2016 about setting up a Trump Tower meeting with Russian attorney Natalia Veselnitskaya dominated all media on Tuesday, with the three broadcast networks offering more than 31 minutes of coverage combined, blanket coverage and analysis on cable, front-page stories and analyses in all major newspapers, and heavy volume of commentary on social media. While the surprise 11:00 a.m. release was intended to get ahead of the New York Times' expected publication of the emails, coverage is excruciatingly negative toward the Trumps and the Administration, with analysts saying Trump Jr. may have provided evidence of criminal activity and a "smoking gun" that had so far been absent from inquiries into Russian election meddling.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (7/11, lead story, 3:15, Mason) reported that the Russia investigation that the President "calls fake" has "just become a very real problem for his son." CBS' Jeff Pegues: "The first email on June 3 [2016] was blunt: Music publicist Rob Goldstone wrote Donald Trump Jr. that a Russian official had offered to provide the Trump campaign with

some official documents and information that would incriminate Hillary and her dealings with Russia. 2013. ... Four days after the initial email, Goldstone sent another message. This one said a Russian government attorney was flying over from Moscow." Pegues noted that "less than a week after the meeting, the Democratic National Committee accused Russia of hacking into its computer servers. The following month, WikiLeaks began releasing stolen DNC emails." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/11, lead story, 4:40, Muir) noted Trump Jr. said he released the emails to be "totally transparent." However, "the New York Times says Trump only released the emails after they told him they were about to publish them."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (7/11, lead story, 3:25, Holt) reported the emails make it "clear that the Russian government was supporting Trump," and that "within a week" of the Trump Tower meeting, "the first in a flood of leaks believed to be the result of Russian hackers," although there's "no evidence the information Trump Jr. was promised was connected to that."

Major Garrett reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/11, story 2, 2:50, Mason) that "no one knows what Mr. Trump meant" when he said during the campaign, "We're going to be discussing all of the things that have taken place with the Clintons. I think you're going to find it very informative and very, very interesting." However, Garrett continued, "what followed was a steady diet of denials about contacts or cooperation with Russians."

The [AP](#) (7/11, Day, Tucker) reports that Trump Jr. "defended his actions in an interview with Fox News, blaming the decision to take the meeting on the 'million miles per hour' pace of a presidential campaign and his suspicion that the lawyer might have information about 'underreported' scandals involving [Hillary] Clinton." Trump Jr. said in his interview on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (7/11), "My take away when all this was going on was that someone has information on our opponent. ... I've heard about all these things but maybe this is something, I should hear him out." Trump Jr. added, "This is pre-Russia fever. The is pre-Russia mania. ... I don't even think my sirens went up...because of it because it wasn't the issue that is has been made out to be over the last nine months, 10 months. ... I think there is an element of context to that. At the time, it wasn't this big news story."

[Politico](#) (7/11, Lima) reports that Trump Jr. also told "outspoken Trump supporter...Hannity" that he "'probably would have done things a little differently' regarding his controversial meeting." He said, "I didn't know if there was any credibility, I didn't know if there was anything behind it, I can't vouch for the information. ... It was literally just a wasted 20 minutes, which was a shame." [Breitbart](#) (7/11, Hanchett) reports that Trump Jr. also said he would turned over any "information that he felt was illegal or compromising...to the authorities." [USA Today](#) (7/11, Jackson) reports that "the younger Trump said he saw the offer only as 'opposition research.'"

Jake Tapper said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (7/11), "This is clear evidence that the highest level members of the Trump campaign were willing to sit with individuals who had been billed, at the very least, as representing the Russian government in order to get damaging information about Hillary Clinton." Gloria Borger said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/11) that the emails are "very damaging." They make it "very clear" that "the Russian government tried to aid Donald Trump's campaign, period, end of sentence." Ron Brownstein said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/11) that in the email, Trump Jr., "seems very nonplussed by the idea that the Russian government wants to support his father in the campaign. It doesn't seem in the email that this is the first time that notion crossed his desk."

The [AP](#) (7/11, Pace) writes, "The president's son connected the dots. Until Tuesday, the questions about whether Donald Trump's campaign colluded with Russia have largely centered on revelations from secret sources and suspicious connections that may ultimately be just eyebrow-raising coincidences. There's been plenty of smoke, but no fire." But "the type of coordination with Russia that Trump has long denied, the emails seem to show, was being embraced by his namesake." The AP calls it a "stunning email exchange." [Reuters](#) (7/11, Chiacu, Mohammed) says the emails "could provide ammunition for investigators who are probing whether there was collusion between the Kremlin and Trump's presidential campaign."

[USA Today](#) (7/11, Korte) reports that the emails show that Trump Jr. "knew the damaging information he was seeking about Hillary Clinton was being peddled by the highest levels of the Russian government." While he "said he was releasing the emails via Twitter 'in order to be totally transparent,'" they "appear to back up the most damning revelation" the New York Times has reported that the President's top associates "and family members actively sought out information they knew was part of a high-level Russian government effort to support Trump's campaign."

The [New York Times](#) (7/11, Becker, Goldman, Apuzzo) reports under the headline "Russian Dirt On Clinton? 'I Love It,' Donald Trump Jr. Said" that "if the future president's eldest son was

surprised or disturbed by the provenance of the promised material – or the notion that it was part of a continuing effort by the Russian government to aid his father's campaign – he gave no indication." The [Washington Post](#) (7/11, Helderman, Wagner) reports that the email exchange "showed clearly that Trump Jr. understood he was taking the meeting as a way of channeling information directly from the government of a nation hostile to the United States to his father's campaign." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/11, Savage) reports that the emails "may offer the clearest sign to date of possible criminal violations arising from Russia's meddling" in the election, with "several campaign funding experts" saying that the emails "strongly suggest" that Trump Jr. violated federal election laws.

The [New York Post](#) (7/11, Marsh) reports that Trump Jr.'s attorney Alan Futerfas said in an interview, "I think it appeared pretty clear to us that one or more news organizations had them and basically what they were doing, it was kind of like a drip, drip, drip, a death by a thousand cuts. We were like, you know what, it's silly. We're going to be totally transparent. We'll get it all out there."

[USA Today](#) (7/11) editorializes, "Americans have seen through the smoke surrounding Russian interference in the 2016 election and there is fire, leaping flames that President Trump and his minions can no longer extinguish with their denials." The email chain "provides evidence that the Russian government wanted to sway the election to Trump and that some in Trump's inner circle were willing to accept that help. We do not yet know what the president knew about their efforts," but "we do, however, have a perfectly clear picture of Trump family priorities: Winning – at business and politics – beats patriotism every time."

The [Washington Post](#) (7/11) similarly writes, "There can now be no doubt: The Russia meddling story is not just smoke but fire. ... How long can the rest of the Republican Party prioritize partisanship and agenda over decency and patriotism?" Are Senate Majority Leader McConnell and House Speaker Ryan "really prepared to debase themselves in defense of a president whose closest advisers may have welcomed underhanded interference in America's election from a hostile foreign power?"

The [New York Times](#) (7/11) editorializes, "In language so blunt and obvious it would make a Hollywood screenwriter blush, the emails confirm what the president, his son and others have denied repeatedly for more than a year." The President "was uncharacteristically subdued on social media," but praised his son's transparency. However, "transparency is one of the many things, along with credibility, that this administration lacks. So when Donald Trump Jr. claims that he's released the 'full email chain,' the question has to be, what else are you hiding?"

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/11) says in an editorial that the emails show farcical ineptitude, but that the main effect of the Russian hacking so far has been to hurt the Trump presidency. But the [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/11) says in an editorial that "no one can pretend that the various investigations into possible contacts between Russia and the Trump campaign are frivolous or politically motivated. That includes President Trump, who should take a belated vow of silence on this subject and let the investigations take their course."

David French of the [National Review](#) (7/11) writes, "There now exists evidence that senior members of the Trump campaign tried unsuccessfully to facilitate Russian government efforts to defeat Hillary Clinton. ... At long last we can now put to bed the notion that the Russia investigation is little more than frivolous partisan harassment." The Russian investigation "isn't a witch hunt anymore, if it ever was. It's a national necessity."

Kathleen Parker writes in the [Washington Post](#) (7/11), "More shock waves are doubtless coming. ... It's hard to say the Trump campaign had nothing to do with Russia. For now: Collusion." Dana Milbank writes in his [Washington Post](#) (7/11) column that "rookie mistake" is "the all-purpose defense of the Trump White House," but these "aren't rookie mistakes. This is a team that never should have taken the field." However, Holman Jenkins Jr. writes in his [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/11) column that the main thing exposed by the emails is that the President ran a chaotic and inept, but not an intentionally corrupt, campaign – much as he has run his Administration.

Steve Hayes of the Weekly Standard said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (7/11), "The story here is not President Obama. It's not the 'deep state.' It's not the media. It's not the Democrats. It's Donald Trump, Jr. and these emails. This doesn't require interpretation. This isn't coming through the filter of the New York Times. The emails say what they say. ... Are we really having a debate in this country in Washington about the propriety of the son of a presidential candidate, a leading presidential candidate, meeting with representatives who he thought were of a hostile foreign power for the purposes of winning the election, and we have to have a debate about whether that's proper or not? That's an incredible moment in our history that we are having this debate."

Nicholas Kristof [tweeted](#), "Remember, this astonishing email outlines a meeting that the Trump campaign denied at least eight times had ever happened." Ezra Klein [tweeted](#), "Oh my god. This literally says the meeting is part of 'is part of Russia and its government's support for Mr. Trump.'" Politico's Ali Watkins [tweeted](#), "For as many lawyers as this White House has hired it sure doesn't look like they're using them."

Stuart Rothenberg [tweeted](#), "So, one day into Donald, Jr., we still have Manafort, Jared and other family members to go. Just at the beginning. Don't forget that." MSNBC justice analyst Matthew Miller [tweeted](#), "I for one completely underestimated the Trump campaign's stupidity. I actually never thought they would have done something this brazen."

Brendan Nyhan of the New York Times "The Upshot" [tweeted](#), "We've veered back from Veep into Homeland – unbelievable. How can this be real? Reads like villain's exposition of his plan in a bad movie." Noah Rothman of Commentary [tweeted](#), "Anyone still think Trump's campaign manger, first born son, and son-in-law kept him in the dark about this meeting?"

The [New York Times](#) (7/11, Becker) has an online timeline of how it "unraveled the story of Donald Trump Jr.'s decision to meet with a Russian lawyer who supposedly had compromising information on Hillary Clinton," starting with a March 27 report on Kushner's meeting with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak, and leading up to Tuesday's revelations.

WPost, Politico, NYTimes Analyses: White House "In Chaos," Top Aides "Feel Blindsided." The [Washington Post](#) (7/11, A1, Rucker, Parker) reports on its front page that "the White House has been thrust into chaos after days of ever-worsening revelations." The President, "who has been hidden from public view since returning last weekend from a divisive international summit, is enraged that the Russia cloud still hangs over his presidency and is exasperated that his oldest son and namesake has become engulfed by it," according to "people who have spoken with him this week," and "even Vice President Pence sought to distance himself from the controversy, with his spokesman noting that Trump Jr.'s meeting occurred before Pence joined the ticket."

[Politico](#) (7/11, Palmeri, Dawsey) reports, "White House aides feel blindsided by the bombshell revelations...while the president is using his relatively light schedule to watch TV and fume about the latest scandal, according to interviews with half a dozen White House officials and advisers." Top aides "are exasperated by their limited ability to steer the damage control and the risk that more damaging news has yet to emerge." One adviser said that "many of the White House aides had previously dismissed the Russia stories as 'conspiracy bull[----],' this person said, but that this development was not being dismissed as that."

The [New York Times](#) (7/11, A1, Baker, Haberman) writes on its front page, "The Russia story has become the brier patch from which the president seemingly cannot escape. It dominated his trip to Europe last week and, after he leaves on Wednesday night for a couple of days in France, it may dominate that trip as well. Every time Mr. Trump tries to put the furor behind him, more disclosures thrust it back onto the Washington agenda."

Prosecutors Say Emails May Be "Smoking Gun" For Mueller. [Politico](#) (7/11, Samuelsohn) reports that Trump Jr. may have given special counsel Robert Mueller "'smoking gun' evidence...according to veteran prosecutors and white-collar defense attorneys experienced in Washington scandals." [CNN](#) (7/11, Prokupecz, Perez, Brown) reports on its website that Mueller's investigators plan to examine the meeting and email exchanges, according to "a US official briefed on the matter."

Savanna Guthrie said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/11, story 3, 1:50, Holt), "The special counsel who's looking into this now has an incredibly compelling piece of evidence." Manu Raju reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/11) reported that Mueller plans to examine the meeting, and "it should be noted that the FBI has in the past year taken a look at Don Jr.'s finances, his associations, as part of the broader look at whether or not there was any collusion or whether or not there was any ties to Russia that crossed over into criminal territory."

Randall Eliason, who "teaches white-collar criminal law" at George Washington University Law School, writes in a [Washington Post](#) (7/11) op-ed that "the emails establish that the entire purpose of the meeting was to share potentially compromising information about Clinton." Prosecutors are "building a wall of evidence, brick by brick, to establish proof beyond a reasonable doubt of a possible conspiracy. With these emails, Donald Trump Jr. just delivered a wheelbarrow full of bricks to the special counsel's office."

[Breitbart](#) (7/11, Hayward) writes under the headline "Bob Mueller Is Assembling A Team Of Ambitious Democratic Hit Men Against Trump" that according to LawNewz contributor Robert Barnes, "Mueller has 'hired people that do very politicized cases, that have had a history of ethics allegations being raised against them, constitutional violations being raised against them.'"

Assange Says He Suggested Trump Jr. Release Emails. [USA Today](#) (7/11, Estepa) reports,

"WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange on Tuesday claimed that Donald Trump Jr. releasing his own emails was the result of a conversation they had." Assange [said via Twitter](#) that he contacted Trump Jr. "to make the case that he should release the emails" through WikiLeaks, but "two hours later, Trump Jr. did it himself, Assange said."

Republicans Seek Answers, But Generally Avoid Comment. [USA Today](#) (7/11, Collins, Shesgreen) reports, "Lawmakers in both parties called on President Trump's son and other Trump campaign officials to testify about Russian meddling" in the election in the wake of the email release. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/11, Sonne, Ballhaus) reports that Senate Majority Whip Cornyn said Tuesday that Trump Jr. should testify before the Senate Intelligence Committee.

The [New York Times](#) (7/11, Flegenheimer, Huetteman) reports that Senate Republicans, questioned about the emails, "generally retreated to form." Sen. Bob Corker, "typically more willing than most Republicans to tweak the administration," said, "Talk to others about politics," while Sen. Orrin Hatch said of Trump Jr., "He's a very nice young man." The [Washington Post](#) (7/11, Phillips) reports that Senate Intelligence Chairman Richard Burr "walked straight through a wall of reporters, stone-faced, and refused to answer questions."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/11, Tau) reports that some Republicans deferred to investigators. McConnell said, "What I have a lot of confidence in is the Intelligence Committee handling this whole investigation." Sen. John Kennedy said, "The President fired the FBI director, he didn't fire the FBI. He didn't fire the Senate Intelligence Committee. The FBI's going to get to the bottom of all of this."

However, [McClatchy](#) (7/11, Douglas, Murphy) reports under the headline "Outraged Republicans Want Answers From Trump Jr." that GOP senators are "demand[ing] more answers, and fast." Sen. John McCain said, "Other shoes will drop before this thing is over." The [Washington Post](#) (7/11, Helderman, Wagner) reports that Sen. Lindsey Graham told reporters, "Anytime you're in a campaign and you get an offer from a foreign government to help your campaign, the answer is 'no.' ... That email was disturbing. On its face, this is very problematic."

Rep. Lee Zeldin (R-NY) [tweeted](#), "I voted for @POTUS last Nov. & want him & USA to succeed, but that meeting, given that email chain just released, is a big no-no."

Democrats Invoke "Treason" And "Collusion." Nancy Cordes reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/11, story 3, 2:00, Mason) that Democrats "describe the email chain today as a game-changer." Senate Minority Leader Schumer: "The emails are the end of the idea pushed by the Administration and the President that there is absolutely no evidence of intent to coordinate or collude." Likewise, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/11, story 4, 2:20, Muir) reported, "A growing chorus of Democrats saying there is no question, this is a game-changer." Sen. Chris Murphy: "Donald Trump Jr. was openly salivating about the prospect of getting damaging information from the Russians. It is certainly evidence of collusion." Sen. Ron Wyden: "This was an attempt at collusion." Wolf Blitzer said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/11), "Hillary Clinton's former running mate, Sen. Tim Kaine, said Trump Jr. may have even committed treason." [Fox News Special Report](#) (7/11) showed Kaine saying, "This is moving into perjury, false statements, and even potentially treason."

Sen. Mark Warner, ranking member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/11, story 5, 2:55, Mason) that the revelations serve as "evidence that Trump officials actually were willing to accept information that was part of a Russian government effort to hurt Hillary Clinton and promote Donald Trump." Sen. Richard Blumenthal, a member of the Intelligence Committee, said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/11) that "as a former prosecutor, my reaction was these emails are a textbook example and evidence of criminal intent." Blumenthal says Trump's actions "potentially" constitute "treason."

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/11), "Going in, they knew that this was Russian information, that a Russian attorney was flying over to deliver it, that it was intended for political purposes, that the campaign was going to be involved. They even talked about the timing of it, that it would be better to come out later in the summer." So, he continued, this "shows clearly an intent by the leadership of the Trump campaign to try to collude with Russians." Sen. Joe Manchin said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (7/11), "I have been thinking a lot about how could you ever do something, or how could you even think that that was a proper meeting to have?"

The [Washington Times](#) (7/11, Boyer) reports, "Democrats quickly seized on" the emails. Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY), ranking member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said, "[Trump Jr.] has made clear that his father's campaign was willing to work with an adversary of the United States in order to defeat Hillary Clinton. He also revealed that the Trump Administration's numerous and vehement denials of contact between the campaign and Russia weren't truthful."

Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD), ranking member of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, similarly said, "The email chain confirms that the President's son was both aware of and supported the Russian government's efforts to help the President get elected. ... We must investigate. And we must act on our findings."

[Politico](#) (7/11, Wright) reports that House Intelligence Committee ranking member Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) said, "The most serious risk to the country, I think, is that the Russians possess compromising information, which they call kompromat, that can influence this President's conduct of American policy. ... If there are other meetings that the Russians know about, if there are other interactions with the Trump campaign that the Russian are aware of, that is something they can hold over the head of the President of the United States."

Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA) said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (7/11), "This is what working with Russians look like. It's being offered information damaging to your opponent by the Russian government for a meeting at trump tower with senior officials, the President's son right at the peak of the interference campaign.. ... It fits the pattern with what we've seen as far as the personal, political, and financial ties that the President has had with Russia." The [Boston Globe](#) (7/11, Reiss) reports that Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA) "[implied](#) that Trump Jr.'s responses [to the emails] were 'treasonous,'" while Rep. Joe Kennedy III (D-MA) "[tweeted](#) out the definition of 'collusion.'"

The [Washington Examiner](#) (7/11, Antle) reports that some Democrats called on Kushner "to surrender his security clearance and resign." Rep. Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH) [tweeted](#), "Back in May we urged WH to revoke Jared Kushner's security clearance because of Russia meetings." Rep. Jamie Raskin (D-MD) [tweeted](#), "Kushner's security clearance should have been revoked long ago, as we urged."

Veselnitskaya Denies Connection To Kremlin. The [Washington Post](#) (7/11, Filipov) reports that Russian attorney Natalia Veselnitskaya told the Post Tuesday "that no one assigned her to talk with" Trump Jr., Kushner, and Manafort. The Post says that while "she has been identified by some American news organizations as 'Kremlin-connected,'" she "does not work for the Russian government." Veselnitskaya said, "I'm just an ordinary person. A regional prosecutor is not the Kremlin. ... I did not have an assignment from the Kremlin, there were no orders from the government."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/11, story 2, 2:15, Muir) reported that Veselnitskaya is "well connected to the Kremlin, and a familiar figure in Washington, lobbying against Russian sanctions." But speaking to [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/11, story 2, 2:35, Holt), Veselnitskaya denied she works for the Russian government, saying, "I'm certainly flattered by being called as a government attorney. But I've never worked for the government in the first place."

In an interview that aired on [NBC's Today Show](#) (7/11), Veselnitskaya said through a translator, "I never knew who else would be attending the meeting. All I knew was that Mr. Donald Trump Jr. was willing to meet with me. I could recognize the young gentleman who was only present in the meeting for only the first seven to 10 minutes. And then, he stood up and left the room. It was Mr. Jared Kushner. And he never came back, by the way."

The [New York Times](#) (7/11, Macfarquhar, Kramer) describes Veselnitskaya on its front page as a "fearsome Moscow insider" who "earned her status as the go-to lawyer for the Moscow regional government." The [Washington Post](#) (7/11, Kranish, Hamburger, Filipov, Helderman) reports, "Veselnitskaya, while familiar to those who follow the issue of US sanctions against Russia, was otherwise little known until revelations this week that she played a pivotal role at the Trump Tower meeting."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/11, Stokols, Douglas) profiles Rob Goldstone, the publicist and music promoter who arranged the meeting between Trump Jr. and Veselnitskaya.

Agalarov Selling New Jersey Mansion. The [New York Post](#) (7/11, Keil) reports that Aras Agalarov, the Russian billionaire whose pop star son asked Goldstone to set up the meeting, is selling his New Jersey mansion.

Trump Jr.'s Attorney Previously Represented Russian Hacker. The [Washington Times](#) (7/11, Blake) reports that Fufefas previously "represented Russian hacker Nikita Kuzmin in a high-stake cybercrime case centered around the Gozi virus, a malicious computer program that caused millions of dollars in damages by siphoning banking credentials from computers across the globe." Kuzmin was arrested while visiting the US in 2010 and "was sentenced in 2016 to three years' time served and ordered to pay nearly \$7 million in restitution."

NYPost: Trump Jr. "An Idiot." The [New York Post](#) (7/11) editorializes, "We see one truly solid takeaway from the story of the day: Donald Trump Jr. is an idiot. ... Democrats and the media are frothing to find something criminal in it all, with the most unhinged talking treason."

What it clearly was, was criminally stupid.”

McCain Alleged To Have Had Copy Of Russian Dossier. [McClatchy](#) (7/11, Hall) reports that a court document in a British lawsuit regarding “the now-infamous dossier that alleged Donald Trump’s campaign had connections to Russian operatives” alleges that McCain was one of the “handful of people known to have had copies of the full document before it circulated among journalists and was published by BuzzFeed.” A McCain spokesperson declined to comment.

DeSantis Seeks Formal DOJ Investigation Of Comey. The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (7/11, Kredo) reports that Rep. Ron DeSantis (R-FL), who chairs the House Oversight Committee’s National Security subcommittee, is calling on the Justice Department to launch a formal investigation into ex-FBI Director James Comey’s alleged leak of classified information. DeSantis “also called on the Trump administration to purge all former Obama administration officials still working in the government,” claiming that they are responsible for leaks.

Lavrov Threatens “Counter Actions” Against US Over Seized Compounds.

The [AP](#) (7/11) reports Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Tuesday threatened “counter actions” against the US over a dispute centering on a pair of Russian diplomatic compounds seized last year. President Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed the issue at the G20 summit last week, and Lavrov said Moscow was “still hopeful that the US, as a proponent of the rule of law, will finally respect the international obligations.” However, he warned that “if this is not the case, if Washington decides not to solve this issue, we will have to take counter actions.” He did not elaborate.

[Reuters](#) (7/11, Solovyov, Macdonald) says Russia “toughened its rhetoric,” quoting Lavrov as saying, “The situation is outrageous. I believe that for such a great country like the United States of America, this advocate of international law, it’s just shameful to leave the situation in mid-air.”

US, Russian Envoys To Meet In Washington Next Week. [Reuters](#) (7/11) reports Undersecretary of State Thomas Shannon will meet with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov in Washington on Monday, State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said Tuesday. The [AP](#) (7/11, Lederman, Casert) notes that Russia “abruptly canceled the last scheduled meeting” between Shannon and Ryabkov in response to new sanctions imposed by the Administration announced last month. “Shannon has been hard at work as we have been trying to find areas that we could deal with some of these so-called irritants,” Nauert said. “And that meeting is set to happen here in Washington on Monday.” The [Washington Post](#) (7/11, DeYoung) reports the “high-level” meeting will be to discuss “so-called irritants” in the relationship, a term that “has been used in the past to describe diplomatic differences and sanctions.”

Antonov Expected To Become Next Russian Ambassador To US. [Bloomberg News](#) (7/11, Meyer, Arkhipov, Pismennaya) reports that Russia is planning to send Anatoly Antonov, “a veteran diplomat who’s blacklisted by the European Union over the Ukrainian crisis,” to be its new US ambassador, replacing Sergey Kislyak, according to “three officials familiar with the planning.”

House, Senate Democrats Exchange Blame Over Stalled Sanctions Bill. [Politico](#) (7/11, Schor, Caygle) reports Democrats “veered into internal sniping” on Tuesday over a stalled Russia sanctions bill. As House leaders “continued bipartisan talks over how to resolve concerns that are holding up the popular Senate-passed sanctions bill,” Democrats from both chambers “pointed fingers at each other over how they managed to miss an alteration that limited the power of the House minority to tie Trump’s hands on relations with Russia.”

McConnell Delays Senate Recess To Work On Healthcare, Other GOP Agenda Items.

Senate Majority Leader McConnell said Monday that he will cut the Senate’s August recess in half, delaying its start until the third week of August to give Republicans more time to pursue their legislative agenda, particularly healthcare. Coverage of McConnell’s decision is fairly pessimistic, however, with many reports highlighting the difficulty GOP leaders are having winning votes from the moderate and conservative wings of the caucus – and casting doubt on whether the GOP plan can ultimately pass.

The [Washington Post](#) (7/11, Snell, Sullivan, Eilperin) reports that while McConnell said Republicans need “more time to achieve its legislative goals given the protracted negotiations over health-care legislation and continued opposition from Democrats on several fronts,” the Post says work on the healthcare bill “remained uncertain Tuesday.” [USA Today](#) (7/11, Berry) says the Senate “has been under pressure to cancel recess to do more work.”

The [Washington Times](#) (7/11, Sherfinski) calls the cancellation “a seismic shift for lawmakers who treasure their time away from Washington,” adding that the decision came “after

rank-and-file Republicans said they would be embarrassed to return home and face constituents without having made a bigger dent in their agenda." [Roll Call](#) (7/11, Lesniewski) reports that McConnell "criticized Democrats for slow-walking the pace of nominations and other legislative business." He said that "the fiscal 2018 defense authorization bill will be on the floor agenda after finishing up work on efforts to roll back the 2010 health care law. He also pointed to nomination votes."

The [New York Post](#) (7/11, Morrongiello) says the move, which "quickly drew praise from conservatives who had urged the GOP leader to delay the break until Republicans fulfill their promise to repeal and replace ObamaCare." Praise for the move was not universal among Republicans, however. [Bloomberg News](#) (7/11, Dennis, Litvan) reports that Sen. Lisa Murkowski "expressed frustration, though, saying she needs the time at home to meet with constituents and learn their priorities."

[Reuters](#) (7/11, Abutaleb, Cornwell) reports that McConnell said Tuesday "he would unveil a revised version" of the healthcare bill on Thursday, and "said he hoped to have a fresh analysis of the bill from the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office at the start of the week." McConnell "did not disclose any of the changes to legislation that some Republican moderates and hard-line conservatives have opposed."

[The Hill](#) (7/11, Sullivan) reports that senators "said the Medicaid sections of the bill would remain largely unchanged from the initial draft, a blow to moderates who had pushed for easing cuts to Medicaid." The Hill adds that while revisions to the Senate bill "are aimed at winning over additional support...it remains deeply in doubt whether the bill can get 50 votes."

The [AP](#) (7/11, Fram) reports that Senate Majority Whip Cornyn said Tuesday that the revised bill "will likely retain a pair of tax" increases – "one on investment income and another on the payroll tax that helps finance" Medicare – that former President Obama "imposed on wealthier Americans that have helped finance his law's expansion of coverage." Cornyn told reporters that preserving those taxes "seems to be where we're headed." [Bloomberg News](#) (7/11, Litvan, Dennis) says the two tax increases "generate nearly \$231 billion in revenue over a decade, according to the Joint Committee on Taxation," and keeping them "could create a way to cover the costs of expanded Medicaid coverage for the poor or other programs demanded by holdout moderate Republicans." Bloomberg adds that the "reversal on tax cuts [is] aimed at winning over moderate holdouts," while the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/11, A1, Peterson, Rubin) says that Republicans currently need at least eight more votes and are having difficulty winning over conservative and moderate members, whose concerns extend well beyond the tax cuts.

According to the [New York Times](#) (7/11, Kaplan, Pear), Republicans "appeared to be well short of the support needed to pass the legislation." To the Times, "a sense of pessimism was apparent among Senate Republicans after their return from break," and "deep divisions in their ranks...still posed a big obstacle to finding the votes to pass a revised bill." On [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (7/11), Sen. Bill Cassidy described "a continued divide," and added, "Hopefully the new bill will bridge that divide, If not, there may be another solution yet."

A [New York Times](#) (7/11, Singhvi, Parlapiano) analysis lays out "several major issues in the current draft" about which "at least a dozen senators have expressed concerns," while the [Washington Post](#) (7/11, Kane) says that "Republican after Republican outlines the reasons that they stand opposed to the legislation, as currently written, with almost no one taking up the mantle of defending a proposal that was unpopular from day one." Part of their "hesitation to directly promote their own health proposal is its uncertain fate, its unpopularity in repeated public polling and the sense that it might die on the Senate floor in what will be a politically embarrassing defeat for a party that promised to repeal the ACA the moment that Democrats approved it seven years ago." An [AP](#) (7/11, Werner) analysis says Republicans are in "a no-win situation" as success on healthcare legislation "could alienate a majority of the population," and "failure could anger the crucial group of GOP base voters the party relies on to build election victories."

[Politico](#) (7/11, Everett, Haberkorn) meanwhile, sees "a renewed sense of pessimism creeping into the Senate GOP's efforts to repeal Obamacare," as "tensions are rising" between McConnell's leadership team and the "ideological factions" of the GOP caucus. According to Politico, an amendment from Sens. Ted Cruz and Mike Lee "to allow the sale of cheap, deregulated insurance plans" is "fracturing the conference, with the measure taking center stage at the party's first caucus lunch in nearly two weeks on Tuesday." Kasie Hunt said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/11, story 5, 2:05, Holt) that "negotiations to get 50 GOP votes are still at a fever pitch." Republicans "can only lose two votes and the Cruz amendment is quickly splintering the party, alienating the moderates who worry it could drive up prices for sicker Americans."

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Discussing the Senate efforts on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (7/11), House Majority Leader McCarthy said, "I have high hopes that they get it done, send it over to this House, and let's solve this problem once and for all. Because every day that goes by, we have a new story. Just in the short amount of time since the House passed the bill, one more of those co-ops have collapsed. Nineteen out of 23 co-ops that were given \$2 billion under Obamacare have now collapsed."

Pence Endorses Cruz's Amendment. [Breitbart](#) (7/10, Moran) reported that in an interview with radio host Rush Limbaugh, Vice President Pence "endorsed" the Cruz amendment. Pence said, "We're talking about people being able to go to a marketplace and to say, 'Look, if I want all the benefits that are listed here, some of which are certified by the state or even the federal government, I'll pay for that. If I don't want all of those benefits, I ought to be able to buy that as well.' That's ultimately a free market principle." Pence also "said that if the Senate cannot pass their healthcare bill, Republicans should push for a straight repeal and replace bill."

Graham Working On Alternative Healthcare Plan. The [New York Post](#) (7/11, Morrongiello) says that in a "stunning announcement," Sen. Lindsey Graham discussed "a parallel push by some Republicans to introduce a separate ObamaCare replacement bill with bipartisan appeal." Graham said details of the plan would likely be released in the "next 24 to 48 hours," which, the Post notes is "around the same time McConnell is set to unveil his own bill." Hunt said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/11, story 5, 2:05, Holt) that Graham is "talking about cracking a deal with Democrats."

Lee "Impressed" By Trump's Knowledge Of Healthcare. [The Hill](#) (7/11, Beavers) reports that on Tuesday, Sen. Mike Lee said during an interview that "he felt 'fairly impressed' by President Trump's knowledge of healthcare." Lee stated, "I was actually fairly impressed with how many details he did know." According to The Hill, Lee is opposed to the Senate's ACA repeal bill, and said "it is still not 'sufficiently conservative' to get his support."

House Committee Unveils Plan To Build Border Wall.

The [AP](#) (7/11, Taylor) reports that in a move that "again puts the Trump administration and its allies on Capitol Hill on a collision course with Democrats," the House Appropriations Committee on Tuesday "unveiled legislation to begin building President Donald Trump's long-promised wall along the US-Mexico border." But, Mexico "will not be footing the bill" and "the \$1.6 billion down payment...will be added to the government's almost \$20 trillion debt." The funding "is embedded in a \$44 billion homeland security funding bill" released by the panel on Tuesday. An Appropriations subcommittee is expected to approve the measure Wednesday and "GOP leaders hope to pass [it] before adjourning for the August break."

The [Washington Times](#) (7/11, Dinan) reports that Democrats "have vowed to block any wall funding – even if it means sending the government into a partial shutdown." [Politico](#) (7/11, Bade, Kim) says that while Democrats "successfully pressured Republicans to keep out wall money from a funding bill earlier this year." Trump and OMB Director Mulvaney "have said they won't cave so readily this time – even if it means shutting down the government." Politico adds that "conservatives in the House are urging the administration to embrace the hardball strategy."

NYTimes A1 Analysis: Trump Deregulation Teams Have "Deep Industry Ties And Potential Conflicts."

A front-page analysis in the [New York Times](#) (7/11, A1, Ivory, Faturechi) reports that while President Trump "ordered his administration to assemble teams to aggressively scale back government regulations" within weeks of taking office, "the effort...is being conducted in large part out of public view and often by political appointees with deep industry ties and potential conflicts." The Times "and ProPublica identified 71 appointees, including 28 with potential conflicts, through interviews, public records and documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act." Appointees "include lawyers who have represented businesses in cases against government regulators, staff members of political dark money groups, employees of industry-funded organizations opposed to environmental rules and at least three people who were registered to lobby the agencies they now work for."

Pruitt Proposes Televised Climate Science Debate.

EPA Administrator Pruitt told [Reuters](#) (7/11, Volcovici) Monday in an interview that he would like to see climate scientists hold a televised debate, saying Americans would be "very interested in" it and that they "deserve" a "robust discussion." While acknowledging that the planet is warming, Pruitt said, "It is a question about how much we contribute to it," how to precisely measure it,

whether humans are on an unsustainable path, and whether it is causing an existential threat. Regarding the US withdrawal from the Paris climate accord, Pruitt called it “a decision of courage and fortitude” that “truly represented an America First strategy.”

Coalition Of Cities And States Pledge To Uphold Paris Climate Agreement. The [New York Times](#) (7/11, Tabuchi, Friedman) reports that a coalition of 227 cities and counties, nine states, and 1,650 businesses and investors led by California Gov. Jerry Brown and former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg has pledged “to move forward collectively” to uphold the United States’ commitments to reduce the nation’s greenhouse gas emissions by 26 to 28 percent by 2025 under the 2015 Paris climate accord. The group, which “plans to work with outside experts to measure the effects of their pledges, and to announce an early tally at a United Nations climate conference this year,” is scheduled to outline further steps Wednesday. White House spokeswoman Kelly Love said the Administration “believes in cooperative federalism and therefore are supportive of states and cities making their own choices within their respective borders on climate change policy.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Donald Trump Jr., Makes The Russian Connection.” The [New York Times](#) (7/11) editorializes, “In language so blunt and obvious it would make a Hollywood screenwriter blush, the emails confirm what the president, his son and others have denied repeatedly for more than a year.” The President “was uncharacteristically subdued on social media,” but praised his son’s transparency. However, “transparency is one of the many things, along with credibility, that this administration lacks. So when Donald Trump Jr. claims that he’s released the ‘full email chain,’ the question has to be, what else are you hiding?”

“The Challenges After Mosul.” A [New York Times](#) (7/12, Board) editorial says Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and Iraqi security forces deserve “to celebrate after re-establishing control over Mosul,” but the “celebration should be brief” because stabilizing “Iraq and Syria while also working to counter ISIS’ insidious ideology” still demands “plenty of urgent work.” The Administration has not yet “put forward a comprehensive strategy to deal with postwar reconstruction in Mosul and other challenges,” in part because the White House is reportedly still “debating whether to get involved in Iraq’s long-term recovery,” and President Trump’s “proposal to greatly reduce the State Department aid budget would limit what America could do.” Ultimately, “Iraqis bear the primary responsibility for stabilizing their country,” the Times says, and it has already “squandered one opportunity to remake itself into a stable and pluralistic country.” Thus, the Times concludes, Iraq “should seize this second chance.”

Washington Post.

“The Russia Meddling Story Is No Longer Just Smoke. It’s Fire.” The [Washington Post](#) (7/11) editorializes, “There can now be no doubt: The Russia meddling story is not just smoke but fire. ... How long can the rest of the Republican Party prioritize partisanship and agenda over decency and patriotism?” Are Senate Majority Leader McConnell and House Speaker Ryan “really prepared to debase themselves in defense of a president whose closest advisers may have welcomed underhanded interference in America’s election from a hostile foreign power?”

“The Cancellation Of A New FBI Headquarters Is Illogical And Embarrassing.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/11) writes that the federal government’s decision Tuesday to cancel the project of a new FBI headquarters was “inexplicable, illogical and irresponsible” and “a colossal embarrassment for the United States to waste so much time, effort and money.” The Post argues that canceling the new headquarters merely postpones a necessary project that will only become more expensive. The Post concludes, “Blame Congress for playing games on appropriating funds for the project, rescinding \$200 million in funding last month after having already appropriated less than half the agency’s 2017 budget request of \$1.4 billion for the project. Blame the GSA for acting with next to no consultation with Congress, and with unconvincing explanations. ... And blame President Trump ... for heaping contempt on the agency, fueling suspicion of its motives and undercutting its political and public support.”

“The Pentagon Sends A Dispiriting Message To Its Transgender Troops.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/11, Board) writes that Defense Secretary Jim Mattis’ announcement late last month of a six-month delay to beginning processing openly transgender recruits in the military “sends a dispiriting message to the estimated 12,800 transgender personnel who currently serve

the country." By questioning the effect of transgender soldiers on the "readiness and lethality of the force," Mattis' memorandum "undermines the service of thousands of veterans and current service members," "discourages potential recruits," and "leaves transgender troops who have come out of the closet in the past year unsure of their future."

Wall Street Journal.

"Keystone Kops Collusion." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/11) says in an editorial that the emails released by Donald Trump Jr. show farcical ineptitude, but that the main effect of the Russian hacking so far has been to hurt the Trump presidency.

"Why Xi Jinping Fears Liu Xiaobo." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/11) argues that Chinese President Xi Jinping's refusal to release imprisoned pro-democracy activist and Nobel Laureate Liu Xiaobo in order for him to seek treatment for late-stage liver cancer in Germany illustrates the Chinese government's fear that its most prominent dissident will tell the world of his abuse at the hands of his government during his 11 years in prison. This abuse included authorities' refusal to provide him follow-up treatment for his hepatitis, which very likely led to his liver cancer. The Journal concludes that Xiaobo deserves an opportunity before he dies to deliver his testimony.

"After Victory In Mosul." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/11) editorial calls the victory in Mosul a milestone in the fight against ISIS, and similarly warns that the hard-fought victory will be short-lived if Baghdad and the US repeat the mistakes they made after the "surge" of 2007-2008. The Journal urges the Administration to negotiate a modest US military presence that will remain in Iraq.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Email To Trump Jr. Says Clinton Info Was Part Of Moscow's Trump Support](#)
[Senate Delays August Recess As Health Bill's Fate Hangs In Balance](#)
[Google Pays Professors To Boost Washington Influence](#)
[One Game Warren Buffett Doesn't Play: Chicken](#)

New York Times:

[Russian Dirt On Clinton? 'I Love It,' Donald Trump Jr. Said](#)
[Rancor At White House As Russia Story Refuses To Let The Page Turn](#)
[Natalia Veselnitskaya, Lawyer Who Met Trump Jr., Seen As Fearsome Moscow Insider](#)
[The Deep Industry Ties Of Trump's Deregulation Teams](#)
[North Koreans In Russia Work 'Basically In The Situation Of Slaves'](#)
[Police Mourn Slain Officer, As Do The Bronx Residents She Served](#)

Washington Post:

[Backpage Contractor Created And Lured Sex Ads](#)
[Iraq Hails A Bitter Victory In Mosul](#)
[FDA Nod Could Clear Path For 'Living Drug'](#)
[Trump Jr. Emails Contradict Denials](#)
[A Russia Revelation Unlike Any Other](#)
[A Staff Under 'Category 5' Siege](#)

Financial Times:

[Paris And LA To Hold 2024 And 2028 Olympics](#)
[Trump Jr Welcomed Russian Offer To Damage Clinton](#)
[US Oil Exports Forecast To Top Most In OPEC By 2020](#)
[Snap Downgraded By Lead IPO Underwriter As Shares Fall](#)

Washington Times:

[Donald Trump Jr.'s Disclosure Of Emails Reignites Questions About Russian Dealings](#)
[Democrats Intentionally Used Disinformation From Russia To Attack Trump, Campaign Aides](#)
[McConnell Cancels Two Weeks Of Senate Recess, Blames Democrats' Obstruction Of Agenda](#)
[House Funding Bill Sets Up Shutdown Showdown Over Trump's Border Wall](#)

[Social Security Reform Grinds To A Halt On Capitol Hill After Trump's Pledge Not To Touch It](#)
[Maryland Attorney General Pushes Republican Bounds Of Lawsuits Against Trump](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Jr Email; Russia Meddling Investigation-Russian Lawyer; Russia Meddling Investigation-Legality; Russia Meddling Investigation-Congress; Marine Cargo Plane Crash; San Francisco Airport-Close Call; NYC Fallen Officer; Philadelphia-Men Missing; Takata Airbag Recall; Florida-Water Rescue; MLB News; Cincinnati Zoo.

CBS: Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Jr Email; Russia Meddling Investigation-WH; Russia Meddling Investigation-Congress; Russia Meddling Investigation-Legality; Russia Meddling Investigation-Sen. Warner Interview; Marine Cargo Plane Crash; USA Gymnastics-Sex Abuse Trial; Florida-Water Rescue.

NBC: Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Jr Email; Russia Meddling Investigation-Russian Lawyer; Russia Meddling Investigation-Legality; Marine Cargo Plane Crash; Healthcare Reform Bill; NYC Fallen Officer; San Francisco Airport-Close Call; Olympic-Host Cities Announced; Florida-Water Rescue; Kermit The Frog-New Voice Actor; Lottery Winner Family Charity.

Network TV At A Glance:

Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Jr Email – 31 minutes, 35 seconds

Marine Cargo Plane Crash – 5 minutes, 45 seconds

San Francisco Airport-Close Call – 3 minutes, 30 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Jr Email; Marine Cargo Plane Crash; Healthcare Reform Bill.

CBS: Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Jr Email; Joe Scarborough Leaves Republican Party; Marine Cargo Plane Crash; Wall Street News.

FOX: Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Jr Email; Healthcare Reform Bill; Joe Scarborough Leaves Republican Party; Marine Cargo Plane Crash.

NPR: Russia Meddling Investigation-Trump Jr Email; Marine Cargo Plane Crash; Gaza-Living Conditions; Minor League News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — No public schedule announced.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Delivers remarks at the National Student Leadership Conference; delivers remarks at Bryant's Rent-All.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Aging Committee hearing on nutrition – Hearing on 'Nourishing our Golden Years: How Proper and Adequate Nutrition Promotes Healthy Aging and Positive Outcomes', with testimony from Duke University School of Medicine Professor Dr Connie Bales; Harvard Medical School Assistant Professor of Medicine Seth Berkowitz; Maine SNAP-Ed at the University of New England Program Manager Elizabeth Pratt; and retired healthcare worker Pat Taylor Location: Rm 562, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://aging.senate.gov/>

9:30 AM Senate Judiciary Committee considers FBI director nominee – Nominations hearing considers Christopher Wray to be FBI Director * President Donald Trump nominated the former Department of Justice official last month, having fired James Comey as director the month before – a move that led to controversy after the DoJ cited Comey's handling of a probe into former Secretary of State and Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server, only for his termination letter to mention the agency's probe into contacts between Russia and the Trump campaign * Wray previously worked as personal attorney for New Jersey Governor Chris Christie during his 'Bridgagate' scandal Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

9:30 AM Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on FY'18 Indian Health Service budget – Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing 'To review the FY2018 budget request for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Indian Health Service', with testimony from IHS Acting Director Rear Adm. Michael Weahkee, Deputy Director Rear Adm. Chris Buchanan, Medical Director Capt. Michael Toedt, and Deputy Director for Management Operations Elizabeth Fowler Location: Rm 124, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg,

Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

9:30 AM Senate Armed Services Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers David Trachtenberg to be Principal Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy; Owen West to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict; Ryan McCarthy to be Under Secretary of the Army; and Charles Stimson to be Department of the Navy General Counsel Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

9:45 AM Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations of Annie Caputo and David Wright to be Nuclear Regulatory Commission members; and Susan Parker Bodine to be Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, plus consideration of 'S. 1447, the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act of 2017', 'S. 1359, John F. Kennedy Center Reauthorization Act of 2017', 'S. 1395, a bill to revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in Delaware', five General Services Administration resolutions, and substitute amendments to 'S. 822, the Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development Act of 2017' and to 'S. 810, a bill to facilitate construction of a bridge on certain property in Christian County, Missouri, and for other purposes' * Held immediately before the later hearing Location: Rm 406, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee Business Meeting, hearing on the Taylor Force Act – Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of nomination of Mark Andrew Green to be USAID Administrator * Immediately followed by Hearing on 'Consideration of the Taylor Force Act', with testimony from Council on Foreign Relations Senior Fellow for Middle Eastern Studies Elliott Abrams * Taylor Force Act would stop U.S. aid payments to the Palestinian Authority until the PM has 'terminated payments for acts of terrorism against U.S. and Israeli citizens to any individual who has been convicted and imprisoned for such acts, to any individual who died committing such acts, and to family members of such an individual', as is named after a former U.S. Army officer killed in March 2016 Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM POSTPONED: Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on security sector assistance and foreign policy – POSTPONED: Hearing on 'Managing Security Sector Assistance to Support Foreign Policy', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs Tina Kaidanow; and Defense Security Cooperation Agency Director Vice Adm. Joseph Rixey Location: S-216, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Public Works Committee hearing on infrastructure financing – Hearing on 'The Use of TIFIA and Innovative Financing in Improving Infrastructure to Enhance Safety, Mobility, and Economic Opportunity', with testimony from Riverside County Transportation Commission (CA) Executive Director Anne Mayer; Transurban North America Group General Manager Jennifer Aument; and Smart Growth America Vice President for Real Estate Policy and External Affairs Christopher Coes * Held immediately after the earlier business meeting Location: Rm 406, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Joint Economic Committee hearing on job vacancies – Hearing on 'A Record Six Million U.S. Job Vacancies: Reasons and Remedies', with testimony from Manhattan Institute Economics21 Program Director Diana Furchtgott-Roth; Columbus State Community College President Dr David Harrison; Honda North America Technical Workforce Development Manager Scot McLemore; and University of Michigan Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy Associate Professor Dr Betsey Stevenson Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.jec.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/JointEconCmte>

10:00 AM Senate Transportation Committee hearing on 'how transportation stakeholders are combating human trafficking' – Hearing on 'Force Multipliers: How Transportation and Supply Chain Stakeholders are Combatting Human Trafficking', with testimony from Truckers Against Trafficking Coalition Building Specialist Esther Goetsch; Issara Institute Technology Solutions to Trafficking in Global Supply Chains Technical Consultant Samir Goswami; and Polaris Director of Government Relations and Public Policy Keeli Sorensen Location: Rm 253, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

2:15 PM Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee third hearing on U.S. leadership in the Asia-Pacific – East Asia, The Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy Subcommittee hearing on 'American Leadership in the Asia Pacific, Part 3: Promoting Democracy, Human Rights, and the Rule of Law', with testimony from Center for Strategic and International Studies Korea Chair Robert King, and Southeast Asia Program Deputy Director Murray Hiebert; and U.S. Institute of Peace Asia Center Senior Advisor Derek Mitchell Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg,

Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Appropriations subcommittee marks up FY'18 Military Construction / Veterans Affairs bill – Military Construction, Veteran Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee markup hearing on Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations bill Location: Rm 124, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

2:30 PM Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearing on visa overstays – Border Security and Immigration Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining the Problem of Visa Overstays: A Need for Better Tracking and Accountability', with testimony from Department of Homeland Security Inspector General John Roth; Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Border, Immigration, and Trade Michael Dougherty; Customs and Border Protection Office of Field Operations Deputy Executive Assistant Commissioner John Wagner; and Immigrations and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations National Security Investigations Division Deputy Assistant Director Louis Rodi Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Indian Affairs Committee legislative hearing – Legislative hearing on 'S. 943, A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct an accurate comprehensive student count for the purposes of calculating formula allocations for programs under the Johnson-O'Malley Act, and for other purposes', 'S. 1223, A bill to repeal the Klamath Tribe Judgment Fund Act', and 'S. 1285, A bill to allow the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians to lease or transfer certain lands', with testimony from Bureau of Indian Education Director Tony Dearman; Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians Chief Warren Brainard; Native American Rights Fund Senior Attorney Don Wharton; and National Johnson-O'Malley Association President Carla Mann Location: Rm 628, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://indian.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/IndianCommittee>

US House: 8:30 AM Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on Tibet – Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on 'Tibet: Freedom of Religion', with witnesses – U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom Commissioner Dr Tenzin Dorjee, Tibetan Mongolian Buddhist Cultural Center Director Arjia Rinpoche, deceased monk Tenzin Delek Rinpoche's niece and family spokeswoman Nyima Lhamo, and former Under Secretary of State for Civilian Security, Democracy and Human Rights and Special Coordinator for Tibetan Issues' Senior Advisor Todd Stein – describing the conditions of religious life for Tibetans, sharing their experiences with restrictions on religious freedom and related human rights, analyzing the potential political and strategic consequences of continued repression of Tibetans, and offering recommendations for U.S. Govt policy Location: Rm 2255, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://tlhrc.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/TLHRCommission>

10:00 AM House Judiciary Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 469, Sunshine for Regulations and Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act' and 'H.R. 2851, Stop the Importation and Trafficking of Synthetic Analogues Act' Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM Fed Chair Yellen presents Monetary Policy Report to House Financial Services Committee – House Committee on Financial Services hearing on 'Monetary Policy and the State of the Economy', with testimony from Federal Reserve Board Chair Janet Yellen, presenting her semi-annual Monetary Policy Report to Congress and discussing the state of the economy Location: Rm 2128, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.federalreserve.gov> <https://twitter.com/federalreserve>

10:00 AM Oversight hearing on 'Care Where It Counts: Assessing VA's Capital Asset Needs' Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee oversight hearing on federal offshore oil and gas development on the OCS – Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'Evaluating Federal Offshore Oil and Gas Development on the Outer Continental Shelf', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management Katharine MacGregor; University of South Carolina School of the Earth, Ocean, & Environment Professor Dr James Knapp; Consumer Energy Alliance Executive Vice President Michael Whatley; Stop Offshore Drilling in the Atlantic founder Margaret Howell; and Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association Offshore Committee Director Lori LeBlanc Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on combating the opioid crisis –

Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Combating the Opioid Crisis: Battles in the States', with testimony from Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals Director Rebecca Boss; Virginia Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Brian Moran; Maryland Lieutenant Governor Boyd Rutherford; and Kentucky Secretary of the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet John Tilley Location: Rm 2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM Hearing on 'The Next Farm Bill: Technology & Innovation in Specialty Crops' Location: Rm 1300, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://agriculture.house.gov/>

10:00 AM House Technology subcommittee hearing on 'fire grant programs' – Research and Technology Subcommittee hearing on 'U.S. Fire Administration and Fire Grant Programs Reauthorization: Examining Effectiveness and Priorities', with testimony from U.S. Fire Administration Acting Administrator Dr Denis Onieal; International Association of Fire Chiefs President and Chair of the Board John Sinclair; Fairfax County (VA) Professional Fire Fighters and Paramedics – International Association of Fire Fighters Local 2068 President John Niemiec; National Volunteer Fire Council First Vice Chair Steve Hirsch; Illinois Fire Service Institute Research Program Director Dr Gavin Horn; and National Association of State Fire Marshalls President Butch Browning, Jr. Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM Joint Economic Committee hearing on job vacancies – Hearing on 'A Record Six Million U.S. Job Vacancies: Reasons and Remedies', with testimony from Manhattan Institute Economics21 Program Director Diana Furchtgott-Roth; Columbus State Community College President Dr David Harrison; Honda North America Technical Workforce Development Manager Scot McLemore; and University of Michigan Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy Associate Professor Dr Betsey Stevenson Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.jec.senate.gov
<https://twitter.com/JointEconCmte>

10:00 AM House Infrastructure subcommittee hearing on FASTA implementation – Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management Subcommittee hearing on 'Implementing the Federal Assets Sale and Transfer Act (FASTA): Maximizing Taxpayer Returns and Reducing Waste in Real Estate', with testimony from General Services Administration Acting Administrator Tim Horne; Department of Veterans Affairs Capital Asset Management Service Director Brett Simms; Office of Pittsburgh Mayor William Peduto Chief of Staff Kevin Acklin; and Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington Vice-Chair Richard Painter Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on 'Beyond Microfinance: Empowering Women in the Developing World' – Hearing on 'Beyond Microfinance: Empowering Women in the Developing World', with testimony from Women's World Banking President and CEO Mary Ellen Iskenderian; Massachusetts Institute of Technology Sloan School of Management Associate Professor of Applied Economics Dr Tavneet Suri; and Georgetown University Institute for Women, Peace and Security Executive Director Melanne Vermeer Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

10:15 AM House Workforce Committee hearing on redefining joint employer standards – Hearing on 'Redefining Joint Employer Standards: Barriers to Job Creation and Entrepreneurship', with testimony from Boston University School of Law Professor Michael Harper; FedEx Ground Vice President Richard Heiser; HR Policy Association Senior Labor and Employment Counsel Roger King; DD Franchise Director of Franchise Development Jerry Reese II (on behalf of International Franchise Association); National Employment Law Project General Counsel and Program Director Catherine Ruckelshaus; and Dwyer Group COO Mary Kennedy Thompson (on behalf of International Franchise Association) Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:15 AM Health Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining Medical Product Manufacturer Communications' Location: Rm 2322, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:30 AM House Appropriations Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'FY 2018 Agriculture Appropriations Bill' and 'FY 2018 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill' Location: Rm 2359, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

11:00 AM House Small Business Committee hearing on SBA Office of the CIO – Hearing on 'Help or Hindrance? A Review of SBA's Office of the Chief Information Officer', with testimony from SBA CIO Maria Roat Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

12:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda for the week including ‘H.R. 23 – Gaining Responsibility on Water Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 2810 – National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018’, and consideration of ‘H.R. 2664 – Enhancing Detection of Human Trafficking Act’, ‘H.R. 2200 – Frederick Douglass Trafficking Victims Prevention and Protection Reauthorization Act of 2017’, as amended, and ‘H.R. 2480 – Empowering Law Enforcement to Fight Sex Trafficking Demand Act’ under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

1:00 PM House Veterans’ Affairs subcommittee markup hearing – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee markup hearing on ‘H.R. 2006, VA Procurement Efficiency and Transparency Act’, ‘H.R. 2749, Protecting Business Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 2781, Ensuring Veteran Enterprise Participation in Strategic Sourcing Act’, and ‘H.R. 3169, VA Acquisition Workforce Improvement and Streamlining Act’ Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

2:00 PM House Veterans’ Affairs subcommittee markup hearing – Economic Opportunity Subcommittee markup hearing on ‘H.R. 282, Military Residency Choice Act’, ‘H.R. 1690, Department of Veterans Affairs Bonus Transparency Act’, and ‘H.R. 2772, VA Senior Executive Accountability Act’ (‘SEA Act’) Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on FY’18 budget for ‘advancing U.S. interests in the Western Hemisphere’ – Western Hemisphere Subcommittee hearing on ‘Advancing U.S. Interests in the Western Hemisphere: The FY 2018 Budget Request’, with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Francisco Palmieri; and USAID Acting Assistant Administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean Sarah-Ann Lynch Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

2:00 PM House Government Reform subcommittees joint hearing on GSA acquisition – Government Operations Subcommittee and Information Technology Subcommittee joint hearing on ‘General Services Administration – Acquisition Oversight and Reform’ Location: Rm 2154, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

2:00 PM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on regulatory relief for community financial institutions – Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee hearing on ‘Examining Legislative Proposals to Provide Targeted Regulatory Relief to Community Financial Institutions’, with testimony from Tioga State Bank President and CEO Robert Fisher (on behalf of Independent Community Bankers of America); River Region Credit Union President and CEO Rick Nichols (on behalf of Missouri Credit Union Association); Center for Responsible Lending Director of Federal Advocacy Scott Astrada; and George Mason University School of Law Associate Professor J.W. Verret Location: Rm 2128, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

2:30 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on terrorism in Southeast Asia – Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee hearing on ‘Black Flags over Mindanao: Terrorism in Southeast Asia’, with testimony from Center for Strategic and International Studies Transnational Threats Project Director Thomas Sanderson; Counter Extremism Project Research Analyst Supna Zaidi Peery; University of Missouri Assistant Professor Dr Sheena Greitens; and Center for American Progress Senior Fellow Michael Fuchs Location: Rm 2200, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

3:00 PM Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee markup hearing on FY 2018 Appropriations Bill Location: Rm 2008, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

3:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on ‘H.R. 2810, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018’ (amendment consideration) Location: H-313, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

3:00 PM Dem Reps. Eddie Bernice Johnson and Don Beyer host ‘National Security Implications of Climate Change’ roundtable – House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology Ranking Member Eddie Bernice Johnson and Vice-Ranking Member Don Beyer host roundtable on ‘Science and Policy Perspectives: National Security Implications of Climate Change’, featuring Pennsylvania State University Center for Solutions to Weather and Climate Risk Director (and former U.S. Navy Chief Oceanographer) Rear Adm. (Ret.) Dr David Titley, former Chief of Naval Operations’ Climate Change Task Force member Rear Adm. (Ret.) Ann Phillips, American Security Project CEO Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Stephen Cheney, former U.S.

Ambassador to Nigeria John Campbell, George Washington University Associate Professor of International Affairs Dr Marcus King, and former Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Environmental Security Sherri Goodman Location: Rm 340, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://democrats.science.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SciCmteDems>

4:30 PM Homeland Security Subcommittee markup hearing on FY 2018 Appropriations Bill Location: Rm 2008, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

Other: 8:30 AM GOP Sen. Mike Lee speaks at AEI on federalism – Republican Sen. Mike Lee speaks at the American Enterprise Institute on localism and social capital, discussing why ‘federalism is key to restoring civic connectedness and faith in the American government’ Location: AEI, 1789 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.aei.org/> <https://twitter.com/AEI>

8:30 AM ‘The U.S. Global Food Security Strategy’ CSIS discussion – ‘The U.S. Global Food Security Strategy: Progress, Setbacks, and Forward Momentum’ Center for Strategic and International Studies discussion, with speakers including Democratic Sen. Bob Casey and The Lugar Center President (and former Sen.) Richard Lugar, followed by panel discussion featuring Overseas Private Investment Corporation Ag and Project Finance Director Bruce Cameron, Millennium Challenge Corporation Department of Compact Operations Sector Operations Deputy Vice President Lona Stoll, and USAID Bureau for Food Security Chief Scientist Robert Bertram Location: CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Ave, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

9:30 AM Bipartisan Sens Tim Kaine and Jeff Flake speak on Congressional authorization at Wilson Center – ‘The War on ISIS: The Forgotten Need for Congressional Authorization’ Wilson Center Director’s Forum discussion, on ‘whether Congress is abdicating authority to authorize wars to the executive branch and the practical implications of the situation’. Participants include Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine and Republican Sen. Jeff Flake Location: Wilson Center, Ronald Reagan Bldg, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave, Washington, DC <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/> <https://twitter.com/TheWilsonCenter>

10:00 AM NPC Newsmaker on movement to elect more independents to public office – National Press Club Newsmaker news conference with Alaska Governor Bill Walker and elected officials from Alaska, Iowa, and Maine who were elected as independent candidates without the support of a political party, to discuss the movement to elect more independents to public office in 2018 and beyond. Participants include Iowa State Sen. David Johnson, Alaska State Rep. Jason Grenn, and Maine State Rep. Owen Casas Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC <http://press.org/> <https://twitter.com/PressClubDC>

WITA/WITF Awards Dinner, aka ‘The Trade Prom’ – WITA/WITF Annual Awards Dinner, aka ‘The Trade Prom’ – joint event of the Washington International Trade Association and the Washington International Trade Foundation. Honorees include Democratic Rep. Rick Larsen and Republican Sen. Jeff Flake Location: Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.wita.org [#TradeProm](https://twitter.com/WITA_DC)

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: “Maybe the most interesting thing about the Trumps is anytime there’s a weird story, if you dig just a little bit deeper, it gets weirder.”

Jimmy Kimmel: “After Donald spent a year hammering Hillary about emails, he may finally get brought down by an email.”

Jimmy Kimmel: “And did you see Hillary Clinton today? So this afternoon Hillary Clinton made a short statement in front of a group of her supporters in upstate New York. ‘Ha, ha, ha, ha, ha.’”

Stephen Colbert: “Who could have predicted an email scandal would taint a presidential campaign?”

Stephen Colbert: “Sorry. I got a little cough because of this smoking gun. ... And just a reminder, these emails were leaked by Donald Trump Jr. He is his own Deep Throat. He is deep-throating

himself. "

Stephen Colbert: "Naturally, when Don, Jr. learned that a hostile foreign power was trying to undermine our democracy, he immediately reported it to the FBI. Just kidding."

Stephen Colbert: "As a lawyer close to the case said, 'They're in the soup too.' Yup, they're all sharing a big old cup o' colludles."

Trevor Noah: "For a whole year, we have been wondering did the Trump campaign collude with the Russia to affect the US presidential election, and finally we have an answer. And I don't care which side you're on, we all wanted an answer for so long. For so long, everyone was, like, 'There is so much smoke but no fire. We're on the ground dying from smoke inhalation.'"

Trevor Noah: "Like it or not, people, this is a big blow to the President and his Administration because the question has changed now. It's no longer 'Was there collusion?' It's now 'How much collusion was there?' And all because of his own son. Donald Trump Jr. It's the first thing Trump regrets putting his name on. I bet you now he's going to have the name removed. Sorry, Jr., your new name is the 60 Riverside Drive."

Conan O'Brien: "Donald Trump Jr. released a series of emails showing he tried to collaborate with the Russians before the election. When he heard this, Donald Trump said, 'Good luck trying to connect me to Donald Trump Jr. because there's no way that's happening.'"

Conan O'Brien: "White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus has dismissed the latest Trump-Russia story as, quote, 'a nothing burger.' When requested about his strange choice of words, he explained, 'My name is Reince Priebus, okay?'"

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DOI In The News

Secretary Zinke On The All-American Outdoor Experience.

During an interview Tuesday on [Fox News](#) (7/18), Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said that he wants the country to "vacation American." Zinke said he is looking at "expanding opportunities in our parks." He wants "public/private partnerships to utilize innovation in the private market...to make sure we have a great experience."

Meanwhile, [Alabama Live](#) (7/18, Thornton) reports that the Interior Department on Tuesday was set to hold a "Made in America Outdoor Recreation Event." The event was to "display recreation products by American outdoor companies."

Committee Approves \$31.4B Interior, EPA Spending Bill.

[The Hill](#) (7/18, Henry) reports that the House Appropriations Committee has "approved a bill to cut the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) funding by \$528 million but reject several deep cuts sought by President Trump." The panel "voted 30-21 on Tuesday to send to the House floor its \$31.4 billion funding bill for the EPA, the Interior Department and other programs." The article notes that "on the whole, the funding bill is worth \$824 million less than current levels but \$4.3 billion more than Trump's budget request."

House Budget Could Lead To Alaska Refuge Drilling. [The Hill](#) (7/18, Cama) reports the GOP budget proposal released by the House on Tuesday could result in oil and natural gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The House Budget Committee is asking the Natural Resources Committee to reduce the government deficit by \$5 billion over five years, which Democrats and environmentalists say would come from drilling revenues. Rep. John Yarmuth, the top Democrat on the Budget Committee, said Democrats may propose an amendment removing the ANWR provision.

Federal Spending Proposal Calls For Review Of Wolf Genetics. The [AP](#) (7/19) reports that "environmentalists are concerned that a proposed spending plan for the U.S. Interior Department calls for a study to determine whether Mexican gray wolves are a genetically distinct subspecies." According to the article, "a report accompanying the legislation suggests federal wildlife officials would be required to determine the validity of the Mexican wolves' designation as a subspecies of the gray wolf." Red wolves also would be reviewed.

Secretary Of The Interior Ryan Zinke Addresses Chesapeake Bay Crabbing Concerns.

In an interview with [WUSA-TV](#) Washington (7/18), Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke addressed environmental issues in the Chesapeake Bay. Zinke talked about the quality of water and crabbing concerns.

Freeman, O&C Commissioners Meet With Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

The [Roseburg \(OR\) News-Review](#) (7/18, Cegavske) reports that Douglas County Commissioner Tim Freeman met Sunday in Medford with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "to discuss the future of O&C timberlands." Freeman, the president of the Association of O&C Counties, "and other members of that association met with Zinke to discuss the impact on their counties of the loss of

shared revenue from federal timberlands formerly owned by the Oregon & California Railroad." According to Freeman, "their message was focused on what would happen to those counties if 40,000 acres of O&C lands were included in an expansion of the Cascade Siskiyou Monument."

Deputy Nominee Still Advising Calif. Water District.

[E&E Publishing](#) (7/18, Doyle) reports that "Interior Department nominee David Bernhardt has kept advising California's politically active Westlands Water District even after he withdrew his formal registration as a lobbyist last year." As the Senate "prepares for its first vote" Wednesday afternoon on "Bernhardt's nomination to serve as the department's deputy secretary, opponents are scrambling to uncover more documentary evidence of his ongoing private-sector work." According to the article, "through a series of state Public Records Act requests, environmental activists in California have already picked up some of Bernhardt's trail."

The Interior Department Is About To Become A Front Group For Oil And Gas. For the "Pundits" blog of [The Hill](#) (7/18, Mitchell, Contributor), Kelly Mitchell, the Climate Campaign director of Greenpeace USA, writes that "in its latest brazen move to give the middle finger to ethical standards, the Trump administration is trying to push through a nominee for deputy secretary at the Interior Department with enough conflicts of interest concerns to make ethics watchdogs short circuit." Mitchell warns that David Bernhardt, "darling lobbyist of the oil and gas industry who regularly sues the Interior Department on behalf of corporate clients, could be number two in command of protecting public lands and waters." Mitchell claims that "Bernhardt's career proves that his allegiance will remain with his extractive energy clients, not with everyday people." Mitchell calls on "every Senator who cares about protecting public lands and public waters for their communities and saving species that could disappear forever" to "reject David Bernhardt's nomination as deputy secretary of the Interior Department."

ALEC, Western Conservatives Summit Converge On Downtown Denver This Week.

The [Denver Post](#) (7/18, Eason) reports that Denver will host "a pair of high-powered political conferences at the Colorado Convention Center" this week. The bigger of "the two is the Centennial Institute's Western Conservative Summit, an annual gathering of conservative Christians from across the region," and "the other is the annual meeting of the American Legislative Exchange Council." The article notes that "the two events feature a star-studded cast of Colorado Republicans and national political figures, including former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, U.S. Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and U.S. Sen. Cory Gardner."

Wyoming Looks To Defend Lift Of Federal Coal Moratorium.

[Law360](#) (7/18, Powell) reports that "the state of Wyoming pushed Tuesday to step into a challenge to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's decision to lift the moratorium on the federal coal-leasing program imposed last year so that it can defend against seeing the freeze reinstated." Wyoming "moved to intervene in a case in which the states of California, New York, New Mexico and Washington allege that the federal government flouted the National Environmental Policy Act."

Hearing Scheduled For Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act.

[Yellowstone Insider](#) (7/18, Reichard) reports that "officials have scheduled a hearing for the Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act," sponsored by Sen. Jon Tester." The legislation "aims to ban new mining claims on 30,000 acres of public land in the Paradise Valley, just north of Yellowstone National Park. The hearing will be held "next Wednesday and be heard by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests and Mining."

Additional Coerage: Interior Department Canceled Climate Expert Meeting With Zuckerberg: Report.

Additional coverage that the Interior Department "canceled plans for a climate change expert from the United States Geological Survey to join Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg during his visit to Montana's Glacier National Park last weekend" was provided by [The Hill](#) (7/18, Greenwood), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/18, Rein), the [New York Daily News](#) (7/18, Hensley), and [Raw Story](#) (7/18, Brigham).

Will Interior Secretary Zinke Live Up To Expectation On Oil And Gas?.

In a column for [The Hill](#) (7/18, Alexander, Contributor), Taxpayers For Common Sense President

Ryan Alexander writes that “after only four months,” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “has not wasted any time issuing 10 secretarial orders, considering more than a dozen rule changes and posting almost 300 notices.” However, Alexander argues, “the challenge and opportunity at the Department of Interior is tackling the well-documented shortcomings of our nation’s energy and mineral management programs.” Alexander points out that the Government Accountability Office “has issued dozens of reports on the department’s oil and gas portfolio alone, detailing problems with general oversight of onshore and offshore oil and gas production, production volume verification, liabilities, permit processing, bonding, royalty rates, general revenue, natural gas emissions and more.” Alexander writes that “Zinke has voiced support for managing oil, gas, coal and other natural resources with taxpayers in mind.”

Maine Voices: Administration Needs To Heed Katahdin Woods And Waters Supporters.

In a piece for the [Portland \(ME\) Press Herald](#) (7/19, Pohlmann), Lisa Pohlmann writes that public comments on the review of national monuments “reveal nearly unanimous endorsement of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.” According to Pohlmann, “reading the comments, it is clear that the vast majority of people see Katahdin Woods and Waters as good news for the region, for Maine and for the nation.” Pohlmann hopes that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and President Trump will “acknowledge the overwhelming support and heed the wishes of the vast majority of Americans and protect this gift to our nation forever.”

Good Public-Lands Policies = Good Politics, Good Business.

In a piece for the [Huffington Post](#) (7/18, Kurzel, Contributor), Brian Kurzel, Executive director of the National Wildlife Federation Rocky Mountain Regional Center, writes that Utah lost the “prestigious Outdoor Retailer shows to Colorado from Utah after attempts by a vocal minority to dismantle our country’s public-lands heritage.” Kurzel says “the outdoor recreation industry understandably sees hostility toward public lands as bad business.” According to Kurzel, “Colorado leaders understand that public lands, wildlife and outdoor recreation are integral to the state’s prosperity and quality of life.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Beloit Ho-Chunk Casino Proposal Gets A Boost.

The [Beloit \(WI\) Daily News](#) (7/18, Montgomery) reports that “interests from the federal, state and local level to bring a Ho-Chunk Nation casino to Beloit are hailing progress on the plan following a meeting last week” with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Officials on Monday said “the project is set to be decided by the BIA within two years, and if approved would head to Gov. Scott Walker for final approval or denial.” According to the article, “parties involved in the process believe Beloit’s plan could get favorable BIA review due to strong support in the city and public need due to Beloit’s high unemployment and poverty rates.”

Feds’ Assurances On Puget Sound Tribe’s Reach Pleases Farm Group.

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (7/18, Jenkins) reports that “a Washington farm group says it’s relieved federal officials have made clear that a north Puget Sound tribe’s new constitution doesn’t expand the tribe’s jurisdiction to privately owned farmland, a concern that the tribe’s chairman says was overblown.” The Interior Department “approved July 7 a proposal by the Swinomish Indian tribe to delete references in its constitution to reservation boundaries set in 1873.” Bureau of Indian Affairs Northwest director Stanley Speaks “told the tribe in a letter that the constitutional amendment won’t expand the tribe’s territory.” The letter “responded to concerns of farmers, homeowners, businesses and Skagit County commissioners that the tribe would use the new description of its authority to gain control over land outside its 7,000-acre reservation.”

Court Tosses Title IX Lawsuit Brought By Ex-Haskell Indian Nations Student.

[KCUR-FM](#) Kansas City, MO (7/18, Margolies) reports that “a federal judge has dismissed the lawsuit of a former Haskell Indian Nations University student who says she was raped by two of the school’s football players.” The order by U.S. District Judge J. Thomas Marten held “that the government and university were immune from damages under the doctrine of sovereign immunity and that the ex-student had other remedies against the employees.” Marten did, however, “allow her to amend her lawsuit to sue the government for violating the Privacy Act,

which regulates the collection and use of personal information by federal agencies.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Land Withdrawal Battle Visits St. Paul, Without The Range.

The [Virginia \(MN\) Mesabi Daily Tribune](#) (7/18, Burnes) reports that “Iron Range business, labor and community groups followed through of their boycott of a U.S. Forest Service hearing on a federal land mining moratorium near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness on Tuesday in St. Paul.” Instead, they “focused their energy toward the second Forest Service hearing, which is slated for July 25 in Virginia.” Also, “in boycotting, a group of 17 organizations wrote an open letter to the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, published online and in a full page ad in the Star Tribune on Tuesday.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (7/18, Smith) and the [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (7/18, Davis).

Skeletal Remains Found In Idaho Hundreds Of Years Old.

The [AP](#) (7/18) reports that “authorities say human bones found protruding from a badger hole in southwestern Idaho are hundreds of years old and not connected to a crime.” The remains were found “in April in high desert sagebrush steppe by state fish and game workers who stumbled across the bones while out on a routine patrol.” The remains have been turned over to the Bureau of Land Management. Lara Douglas, the bureau’s regional manager, “says BLM will work with Indian tribes claiming the bones to determine what the next appropriate steps would be.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

McNerney Offers Delta Tunnels Alternative.

The [Lodi \(CA\) News-Sentinel](#) (7/18, Bays) reports that Rep. Jerry McNerney is wasset to bring a bill before Congress Tuesday “to propose an alternative to the California WaterFix tunnels, also known as the Twin Tunnels, proposed in the Delta.” McNerney “voiced his opposition to WaterFix, stating that the environmental risks associated with construction of the project outweigh the predicted benefits, stressing the need for an alternative that encourages different regions in California to supply their own water.” His bill, “which he estimates will cost around \$12 million, will be largely funded by reducing tax breaks for the oil and natural gas industries, specifically for expenses incurred at wells that do not produce oil or gas.”

Feds Work To Get Scoggins Dam Ready For The Big One.

[KOIN-TV](#) Portland, OR (7/18, Becker) reports that “the federal government will begin work next week to determine the best way to improve the earthquake resistance of Scoggins Dam in Washington County.” The dam was “built in the 1970s, and so not designed to withstand intense earthquakes.”

WaterFix Twin Tunnel Delta Plan Is The Only Answer.

In an op-ed for the [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (7/18, Gordon), Dan Gordon, CEO of Gordon Biersch warns that “without upgrades to improve our water delivery infrastructure and to better protect the Delta environment, our region’s water supply is at risk.” Biersch argues that the California WaterFix is “the only viable plan to upgrade the water delivery infrastructure that is so vital to our region.” He adds that California WaterFix is “the only plan supported by leading environmental scientists and water experts, in addition to farmers, community groups, businesses, labor unions, water agencies, engineers and public safety leaders.” Biersch concludes that “it’s time to move WaterFix from planning to construction.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Proposal For Expanded Takeover Of Kuskokwim Fishery Fails.

[KYUK-TV](#) Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, AK (7/18, Eurich) reports that the Federal Subsistence Board has “turned down a proposal to take over fisheries management authority on the Kuskokwim River.” According to the article, “board members cited two reasons for opposing the proposal

from Dave Cannon, a former biologist from Aniak." The article says that "in a vote of seven to one, the Federal Subsistence Board asserted its support of existing management."

City, Groups Seek Dam Solution.

The [Arkansas Democrat Gazette](#) (7/18, Gute) reports that "removing the Lake Bella Vista dam would improve water quality, restore the ecological system and cost less than rebuilding it, according to a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." Melissa Lombardi "spoke Monday with David Wright, Bentonville Parks and Recreation director; Erin Rushing, executive director of NWA Trailblazers; and six members of the Friends of Little Sugar Creek." According to the article, "Lombardi's presentation included seven possible government funding sources for dam removal."

National Park Service

National Park Proposal In Senate Attached To Energy Bill.

The [Ste. Genevieve \(MO\) Herald](#) (7/18) reports that "the proposal that would allow the National Park Service to designate a national historical park in Ste. Genevieve has become part of an 891-page bill known as the Energy and Natural Resources Act of 2017." The proposal would "eventually allow the National Park Service to manage two historic properties on St. Mary's Road — the Bauvais-Amoureux House, owned by the Missouri Department of Natural Resources and operated by Missouri State Parks, and the Bequette-Ribault House, which is owned by Chaumette, Inc. — as well as the Kern-Delassus House on Highway 61."

Small U.S. Towns Brace For Rare Solar Eclipse, And Crowds, In August.

[Reuters](#) (7/18, Saphir) reports that Grand Teton National Park is preparing "the first total solar eclipse in the lower 48 U.S. states since 1979" as "kind of like a fire," according to Denise Germann, a public information officer at Grand Teton National Park. The article says that "the 480-square-mile park's campsites are completely booked, and it expects visitors to pour in from all over, including the bigger Yellowstone National Park, just north of the path of totality." The park will "waive its \$30 entry fee to keep traffic from backing up."

Grand Canyon To Celebrate Latino Conservation Week With Free Event.

[Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#) (7/18) reports that Grand Canyon National Park is "inviting Latino families and youth to visit the park and explore their public lands during Latino Conservation Week July 17-21." Grand Canyon's Latino Heritage Intern Aileen Palma "said hosting an event to encourage the Latino community to engage with National Parks and public lands is an important step in promoting preservation and stewardship." She said, "By providing ranger programs in Spanish, we are not only increasing Grand Canyon's educational outreach but also creating an environment where Latinos feel welcomed and engaged."

California Blaze Destroys 8 Structures Near Yosemite.

The [AP](#) (7/18, SMITH, SONNER) reports that "as wildfires rage throughout the western U.S., one California blaze in the rugged mountains outside of Yosemite National Park destroyed eight structures and forced thousands of nearby residents to flee their homes." The Northern California blaze is "threatening at least 1,500 homes as well as powerlines that provide electricity to the park, officials said." The park was "open Tuesday but several roads frequented by tourists were closed."

Additional Coverage: D.C.'s Proposed WWI Memorial Gets Redesign.

Additional coverage that the National Capital Planning Commission last Friday "reviewed the most updated proposal for the planned WWI Memorial at Downtown's 1.75-acre Pershing Park" was provided by the [Curbed Washington](#) (7/18, Goldchain).

Additional Coverage: Nebraska Park Rangers Connect With Afghan Students.

Additional coverage that rangers in Scotts Bluff National Monument are "connecting with students in Afghanistan via the internet as a learning opportunity" was provided by the [AP](#) (7/18).

Additional Coverage: Tractor Belonging To Last Homesteader Finds Home In Nebraska.

Additional coverage that "a tractor that belonged to the last homesteader under the Homestead Act of 1862 has found a new home in Nebraska at the Homestead National Monument of America

near Beatrice" was provided by the [AP](#) (7/18).

Office Of Insular Affairs

Federal Grant OK'd To Prevent Brown Tree Snake From Spreading.

[KUAM-TV](#) Dededo, GUM (7/17, Licanto) reports that the Office of Insular Affairs will distribute "\$3.5 million to prevent" the brown tree snake "from spreading to Hawaii, the Northern Marianas and Micronesia." The money is "part of a broader DOI effort to combat invasive species in the region." Interior "says the brown tree snake is one of the most widely-known damaging pests."

Senate OKs 'Indispensable' Palau Compact In NDAA.

In a piece for [Breaking Defense](#) (7/17, Clark), Colin Clark writes that Sen. John McCain's Senate Armed Services Committee has approved the Palau Compact language in the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act. Clark supports making payments to Palau, because "if the Pacific is the most important theater, then the islands of Palau are surely among the most important pieces of real estate for the US."

US Geological Survey

USGS Helps Create New Drought Monitor, Looks At Faster Moving Conditions.

[KDLT-TV](#) Sioux Falls, SD (7/18, Johnson) reports that "South Dakota and much of the Northern Great Plains are going through a drought," and "while federal and state agencies rely on the U.S. Drought Monitor to manage those conditions, the US. Geological Survey's Center is developing a new system to help them see and respond to changes faster." The center has been "working with the University of Nebraska to develop a new drought monitoring system." According to the article, "the 'Quick Drought Response Index' or 'QuickDRI' became operational in June."

USGS Map Reveals Geologic History Of Mauna Loa Volcano's NE Flank.

[Big Island \(HI\) Now](#) (7/18) reports that "the new 'Geologic map of the northeast flank of Mauna Loa volcano, Island of Hawai'i,' the culmination of many years of work by Hawaiian Volcano Observatory (HVO) geologists, was recently published by the U.S. Geological Survey."

Top National News

Media Analyses: Trump Frustrated And Angry Over Failure Of ACA Repeal Effort.

Coverage of what multiple reports call the "collapse" of Republican efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, and of President Trump's frustration over the failure, portray the GOP as in disarray over its inability to act on a longtime priority. Several analyses contrast Trump's campaign assertion that killing the ACA would be easy, and his portrayal of himself as a deal-maker, with the difficulties he has faced in advancing the legislation. On Capitol Hill, Senate Majority Leader McConnell's plan for a clean repeal vote is already being called "dead" due to opposition from several Republicans.

David Muir said in the lead story on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/18, lead story, 3:50) that the President was "visibly frustrated and disappointed," with "one of his major campaign promises...dead after members of his own party blindsided him. He is lashing out tonight, saying he's heard for seven years that his party vowed to repeal and replace Obamacare, and they didn't; and his newest salvo: Let Obamacare fail." On the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/18, story 2, 1:50, Mason), Chip Reid reported, "President Trump interrupted a lunch with Afghan war veterans to vent his frustration over the failed Republican healthcare bill. ... He pointed the finger of blame primarily at Democrats. But that's a difficult argument to make when Republicans control the White House and both houses of Congress, and after he promised again and again that he would get it done." Lester Holt said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/18, story 2, 2:10), "The collapse of the GOP healthcare plan is highlighting the failing to deliver on a key campaign promise, with other items on the agenda stalled, and the fights don't get any easier from here."

The [AP](#) (7/18, Werner, Fram) reports that Trump "declared Tuesday it's time to 'let Obamacare fail' after the latest GOP health care plan crashed and burned in the Senate, a stunning failure" for Trump, McConnell, "and a party that has vowed for years to abolish the law."

The [Washington Post](#) (7/18, Johnson) writes that Trump's promise to repeal and replace the ACA "is nowhere close to being fulfilled, despite his repeated, confident assertions on the campaign trail that it could be done in just a day."

The [New York Times](#) (7/18, Sullivan) reports that Trump "said early Tuesday that Democrats and 'a few' Republicans were at fault for the collapse of health care legislation in the Senate, and restated his strategy to let the Affordable Care Act 'fail.'" [On Twitter](#), the President "said, 'We will return,' but he provided no specifics." The [Washington Post](#) (7/18, A1, Sullivan, Eilperin) says that the President's "latest comments appeared likely to intensify the current political uncertainty on Capitol Hill, where GOP leaders were debating what to do next." [McClatchy](#) (7/18, Kumar, Clark) says Capitol Hill Republicans "are in a state of political paralysis, saddled with a White House that doesn't know how to win votes" but afraid to break with Trump "because the base is still overwhelmingly behind" him.

The [AP](#) (7/18, Lemire) writes, "It was a far cry from 'The buck stops here.'" Trump "flipped the script from Harry Truman's famous declaration of presidential responsibility and declared Tuesday, 'I am not going to own it.'" But he "can't now avoid a share of the blame for the stall-out of that repeal effort." Hallie Jackson said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/18, story 2, 2:10), "For President Trump in the healthcare blame game, the buck stops somewhere else." Trump: "We're not going to own it. I'm not going to own it." Jackson: "That's despite GOP control of the White House and both chambers of Congress, and despite the President's 2013 tweet on leadership: 'Whatever happens, you're responsible. If it doesn't happen, you're responsible.'"

Sen. Chris Coons said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/18) that Trump's comments were "heartless. We're talking about real people here, literally tens of millions of people. ... To simply throw his hands up and say, 'I'm not responsible, I have nothing to do with this, we'll simply let the insurance markets fail and then begin to work toward some sort of replacement plan,' that's just callous." Sen. Bernie Sanders said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (7/18), "It's really beyond belief that we have a president of the United States who is working overtime to sabotage the healthcare that millions of Americans receive." Sen. Jeff Merkley [tweeted](#), "With #TrumpCare dead, @realDonaldTrump is actively rooting for insurers to leave markets & raise premiums. Cynical, immoral & destructive."

The [New York Times](#) (7/18) editorializes, "So far, Mr. Trump is viewing health care policy through the same narrow lens he uses for everything: his political standing." He said the GOP "should 'let Obamacare fail' in order to have another shot at replacing it, as if the health of millions of Americans wasn't at stake." Gloria Borger said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/18), "It's a very cynical statement for a president to make. This isn't leadership. This is the President saying, 'Let it fail.' You know what happens if it fails? People lose insurance."

Several analyses look at Trump's determination to reverse President Obama's achievements. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/18, Lauter) writes, "Rarely has a president taken office so focused on undoing his predecessor's works as Donald Trump." But "six months in, he has little to show." Peter Baker of the [New York Times](#) (7/18, A1) writes in a front-page story, "President Trump's demolition project just got shut down, at least for now. ... The art-of-the-deal negotiating skills he boasted about on the campaign trail last year have not closed the deal." Philip Bump of the [Washington Post](#) (7/18) writes, "Trump's central pitch...was a simple one: I am a dealmaker, and I will make deals." But Trump "can't close the deals."

The [New York Times](#) (7/18, Badger, Quealy) writes that Trump, "the master brander, has never found quite the right selling point for his party's health care plan," promising "'great healthcare,' 'truly great healthcare,' 'a great plan' and health care that 'will soon be great.'" But for a politician who has shown remarkable skill distilling his arguments into compact slogans, those "pitches have fallen far short of the kind of sharp, memorable refrain that can influence how millions of Americans interpret news in Washington."

On its front page, the [Washington Post](#) (7/18, A1, Costa, Snell, Sullivan) runs a 1,700-word account of "how Trump and Republicans failed," writing that the "dramatic collapse of the GOP proposal in the Senate was hardly a shock to most, especially those intimately involved in a venture that has been deeply troubled since the House passed its version in May." While "nearly every GOP senator was eager to check the box of repealing and replacing" the ACA, "many were also distressed by the possible costs of upending a law that has grown deep roots in states, risen in popularity and is relied upon by some Republican governors."

Trump could take some action on healthcare in the near term. [Politico](#) (7/18, Demko) reports that the President "has toyed for months with the idea" of cutting off ACA subsidy payments "to force Democrats to the negotiating table," and he may still do so. Politico says that an immediate halt of the approximately \$7 billion in subsidies "would likely tip the already shaky

Obamacare markets into chaos." The [New York Times](#) (7/18) writes that a halting of subsidies, or an Administration refusal to enforce the ACA's individual mandate, would "tend to raise prices, discourage insurer participation and make Obamacare shakier than it would be otherwise." The [Washington Post](#) (7/18, Goldstein, Cunningham) reports that the President has yet to decide on his course, which "creates worrisome unpredictability for the 10 million Americans who buy health plans through the law's insurance marketplaces." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/18, Mathews, Evans) and [Bloomberg News](#) (7/18, Tracer) also report on the current uncertainty.

McConnell Says Stand-Alone Repeal Vote Will Take Place. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/18, story 2, 2:10, Muir) reported that McConnell said he "will hold that next week to repeal Obamacare and worry about the fix sometime later." But ABC's Mary Bruce reported, "Already, this last-ditch effort to save their promise to repeal seems dead on arrival. Are you seeing any kind of consensus around a 'Plan D'?" Sen. Lindsey Graham: "You can go all the way to 'Z,' right?" Nancy Cordes reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/18, lead story, 2:50, Mason), "Senate Republicans were reeling today after their hail Mary pass fell short. Three moderate Republican women" – Sens. Shelly Moore Capito, Susan Collins, and Lisa Murkowski – "announced they would not vote to repeal Obamacare without a replacement," leaving it short of the votes needed to advance.

The [New York Times](#) (7/18, A1, Kaplan) reports that Capito said in a statement, "I did not come to Washington to hurt people. I cannot vote to repeal Obamacare without a replacement plan that addresses my concerns and the needs of West Virginians." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/18, A1, Peterson) and [McClatchy](#) (7/18, Pugh) also report that the announcements by the three senators has essentially blocked repeal, while [The Hill](#) (7/18, Carney) reports that Sen. Rob Portman has also indicated he opposes stand-alone repeal. Lester Holt said in opening [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/18, lead story, 2:40) that the "Republican effort to start anew on healthcare suffered what appears to be a fatal blow today, leaving Obamacare the law of the land."

Susan Page of [USA Today](#) (7/18) writes, "Never mind. The GOP's seven-year promise to repeal the Affordable Care Act appeared to end Tuesday, at least for the time being, with Obamacare intact and Republicans in disarray." McConnell said he will bring stand-alone repeal to "a vote next week anyway, but other Republicans – even Trump – seemed ready to give up." Dan Balz of the [Washington Post](#) (7/18) writes, "By any measure, the collapse of the Senate health-care bill represents an epic failure for the Republican Party and a major embarrassment" for the President. Charles Krauthammer said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (7/18), "This is an epic fail. This is historic. This is seven years of arguing gone down the drain. And I think they're at the end of the road."

[USA Today](#) (7/18) editorializes, "So much for repeal-and-replace. Republicans did not have a viable alternative to the ACA when they staged their first repeal vote seven years ago. They don't now, and in all probability would not in two years even if the repeal measure were to pass." USA Today calls for "a bipartisan effort on the best approach, retain and repair." The [Washington Post](#) (7/18) similarly editorializes, "If enough people in each of the two parties accept that Obamacare is here to stay and that it requires fixes, the next agreements would come fairly easily. ... Democrats and Republicans should be able to support reinsurance programs," and "should fully fund a program that helps low-income people pay out-of-pocket health-care costs." Sen. Mark Warner [tweeted](#), "We saw democracy work today with #Trumpcare's failure. It's time to abandon the partisan repeal effort & fix healthcare in a bipartisan way."

In his [Washington Post](#) (7/18) column, Hugh Hewitt also calls for "a bipartisan approach – if Democrats will have it. A health-care deal could be done, leaving the fringes of both party caucuses on the outside looking in." Neera Tanden and Topher Spiro of the Center for American Progress write in the [Washington Post](#) (7/18), "There's a better path forward. The American people have voiced an undeniable desire to see leaders from both parties come together and forge a stronger health-care system for all." They call for guaranteed continued payment of ACA subsidies, and reimbursement of insurers "for covering high-cost patients who need more expensive medical treatments." Holman Jenkins writes in his [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/18) column that though the ACA is a confusing mishmash of policies, it could be overhauled into a workable program that could replace Medicaid.

William Galston of the Brookings Institution writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/18) that the GOP had seven years to come up with a workable ACA alternative, and did not do so, and the Senate GOP is now too divided to come up with something. A contrary view comes from Marc Thiessen, who writes in his [Washington Post](#) (7/18) column, "McConnell is now trying to get on to the bill indirectly by forcing a vote on the Republicans' 2015 clean repeal bill, letting it fail, and then moving to the repeal-and-replace legislation. This is a shift in tactics, not a concession of

defeat.”

[Roll Call](#) (7/18, Stewart) reports that McConnell “is facing mounting criticism from politicians and pundits on both sides of the aisle,” and David Faris of [The Week](#) (7/18) writes that “thus far these GOP legislators are on track to be the least productive group since at least the Civil War,” despite control of both houses.

Pence: “Congress Needs To Do Their Job Now.” The [New York Post](#) (7/18, Fredericks) reports, “Vice President Pence on Tuesday praised his boss and slammed Congress after the stunning failure of the GOP-led Senate to even hold a vote” on the replacement bill. Pence, addressing the National Retail Federation annual summit, said, “Inaction is not an option. Congress needs to step up. Congress needs to do their job, and Congress needs to do their job now.”

Paul: Senators Who Backed Repeal In 2015 Should Vote For It Now. [Breitbart](#) (7/18, Boyle) reports that Capito and Murkowski both voted for repeal in 2015, and Sen. Rand Paul said that if all senators who have backed repeal in the past vote for it now, it will pass. Paul said, “I think everyone who promised a vote to repeal Obamacare ought to do it, particularly those who voted for an identical bill two years ago.” Paul writes in [USA Today](#) (7/18), “I watched my colleagues campaign on repeal. I watched them vote on it in 2015. Now I’m calling for them to keep their promises, stick to the principles they ran on and voted on, and end the harm Obamacare has done to our health care system.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/18) says in an editorial that Paul and other conservative opponents of McConnell’s replacement bill like Sens. Mike Lee and Jerry Moran will claim ideological purity without having to bear responsibility for the consequences, and for keeping in place a law that they abhor.

Schumer Suggests Three “Easy” Fixes To ACA. The [Washington Post](#) (7/18, O’Keefe, Sullivan) reports that Senate Minority Leader Schumer on Tuesday “cited three ‘easy’ fixes to quickly stabilize the insurance markets.” Schumer “believes there’s bipartisan support to ensure that the Trump administration will continue making the Affordable Care Act’s cost-sharing reduction payments,” and also urged the Senate to adopt a proposal from Sens. Tom Carper and Tim Kaine “that would create a permanent reinsurance program for the individual health insurance market.” He also touted a bill by Sen. Claire McCaskill “that would enable people living in predominantly rural counties that lack health insurers to buy insurance from the health insurance exchange in D.C., where most lawmakers and their staff members buy coverage.”

Kasich Says ACA Exchanges Need To Be Improved. Gov. John Kasich writes in the [New York Times](#) (7/18), “Despite weeks of hard effort, the Senate plan was rejected by governors in both parties because of its unsustainable reductions to Medicaid.” But “just taking up the fatally flawed House plan is not an answer,” and “simply repealing Obamacare without having a workable replacement is just as bad.” Kasich writes that the ACA exchanges “need immediate improvements,” and “one vital improvement would be to provide adequate tax credits. ... Companies should also be required to continue following reasonable guardrails like ensuring minimum coverage that is genuinely useful and covers pre-existing conditions.” Kasich also says that increasing the quality of care through better pay and training would ultimately reduce costs.

Kasich said on [CNN’s The Lead](#) (7/18), “We know that the insurance exchanges need to be fixed. Democrats will tell you that, Republicans will tell you that. I suggested a long time ago that that ought to be the focus and that’s where I think it ought to be now.”

Media Analyses: Failure Could Hinder 2018 GOP Senate Campaigns. The [Washington Times](#) (7/18, Boyer) reports that Trump said Tuesday that the collapse of the effort “has motivated him to campaign to get more Republicans elected next year.” Trump told reporters, “The majority margin is so small, we’re going to have to go out and get more Republicans elected in ‘18. And I’ll be working very hard for that to happen.” However, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/18, Hook, Radnofsky) reports that some in the GOP think the failure of the healthcare push will hurt Republican efforts at expanding the party’s Senate majority.

Dave Weigel of the [Washington Post](#) (7/18) writes that 10 Democratic senators are up for reelection next year in states carried by Trump, “a factor that Republicans once thought would scare incumbents into making deals. Instead, Democrats have grown more confident about their 2018 chances, with few top-tier candidates jumping into ‘Trump state’ races, and credible Democrats running for seats in Nevada and Texas.” And “in all of those races, it’s not clear how ‘Obamacare’ will play, or how Republicans will play it.”

Trump Had Second Meeting With Putin At G20 Summit.

Word that President Trump and Russian President Vladimir spoke privately for a second time at

the G20 summit in Germany earlier this month was met with generally negative media coverage and commentary, with many reports and pundits calling the meeting unusual and inappropriate, particularly since Trump was not accompanied by an American interpreter. Coverage of the previously undisclosed meeting between the two leaders prompted several [tweets](#) from Trump Tuesday evening in which he said the “fake news” story of the “secret dinner” was “sick,” and that the “press knew” the dinner was taking place.

[Reuters](#) (7/18) reports that according to “a White House official,” Trump and Putin “held a second, previously undisclosed meeting at the G20 summit earlier this month in Germany.” The official “did not say how long the second meeting took place or what was discussed.” The [Washington Post](#) (7/18, Deyoung, Rucker) says the conversation, which is “likely to stoke further criticism, including perhaps from some fellow Republicans in Congress, that he is too cozy with the leader of a major US adversary,” took place “at a dinner for G20 leaders, a senior administration official said.” Trump, who “left his own seat to occupy a chair next to Putin,” was “alone, and Putin was attended only by his official interpreter.” The Post says it “underscores the extent to which Trump was eager throughout the summit to cultivate a friendship with Putin.”

The [AP](#) (7/18) reports that press secretary Sean Spicer and NSC spokesman Michael Anton confirmed that the two leaders “spoke privately” at the dinner. Anton “said the discussion was casual and should not be characterized as a ‘meeting’ or even a less formal, but official, ‘pull-aside.’” [USA Today](#) (7/19, Eversley) reports that the White House acknowledged that Trump “spoke briefly” with Putin, but “insisted it was just a normal part of presidential duties and denied news reports surfacing Tuesday that it was a second private meeting.” The [Washington Times](#) (7/18, Boyer) says the White House “hit back” at the media reports and quotes “a White House official” as saying, “There was no ‘second meeting’ between President Trump and President Putin, just a brief conversation at the end of a dinner. ... The insinuation that the White House has tried to ‘hide’ a second meeting is false, malicious and absurd.”

However, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/18, Ballhaus) reports that the White House disclosed the second conversation only after Ian Bremmer, president of the Eurasia Group, reported it earlier Tuesday, and the [New York Times](#) (7/18, Davis) says it “rais[es] new questions about [Trump and Putin’s] relationship as the cloud of Russia investigations continues to shadow the Trump administration.” The Times adds that the “intimate dinner conversation, of which there is no official United States government record is the latest to raise eyebrows,” adding that “foreign leaders who witnessed it later commented privately on the oddity of an American president flaunting such a close rapport with his Russian counterpart.”

Sen. Chris Coons said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (7/18) that Trump’s reliance on Putin’s translator is “a basic failure in terms of national security protocol” because there was no one there “who could help him understand from an American perspective what was being said.” Sen. Richard Blumenthal said on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (7/18) that the meeting, which lasted a “full hour,” “certainly merits a read out” for the American people. However, he said the only source would be “the President himself, and he may not remember everything that was said, which is why staff always accompanies” the President for such a meeting.

[Axios](#) (7/18) also says it is “highly unusual for a US president to meet with a Russian leader with only Russian staff present and violates national security protocol (though Trump might not have been aware of that).” Axios adds that a statement from the White House says that “all the leaders circulated throughout the room during the dinner and Trump spoke ‘briefly’ with Putin and they used the Russian translator since Trump was with a translator who only spoke Japanese.” The statement adds that claiming the meeting “was hidden is ‘false, malicious and absurd.’”

Trump reacted to media coverage of the meeting in a [tweet](#) Tuesday evening, writing, “Fake News story of secret dinner with Putin is ‘sick.’ All G 20 leaders, and spouses, were invited by the Chancellor of Germany. Press knew!” Trump followed that tweet with [another](#) saying, “The Fake News is becoming more and more dishonest! Even a dinner arranged for top 20 leaders in Germany is made to look sinister!” Reacting to the tweets on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (7/18), correspondent Pamela Brown said, “Trump seems to have a misunderstanding of what is now being reported today. ... We knew the actual dinner was going on, but apparently this is a conversation after the dinner, and a senior White House official told CNN this discussion was nearly an hour and only included President trump, Putin and a Russian translator.”

David Gergen said on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (7/18), “It is the President’s duty to circulate and meet foreign leaders in an informal pull-aside way,” but it is “entirely inappropriate for a president to sit down in the way Donald Trump did with Putin.” Ryan Lizza of The New Yorker said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (7/18) this was “a massive failure of President Trump’s staff. ... To not have staff work that would make sure that they had someone there so that...the

American side had a true account or frankly a translator who might mistranslate something, you would at least want an American translator there so you know you're getting an honest translation of the meeting." Lizza added, "It's puzzling they didn't disclose it. ... Why is it that every time a senior administration official meets with a Russian it doesn't get disclosed until it leaks out?"

Russian Developer Identified As Eighth Attendee At Trump Jr. Meeting.

A lawyer for Russian developer Ike Kaveladze said Tuesday that his client was the eighth person to attend the June 2016 meeting at Trump Tower arranged by Donald Trump Jr. Coverage is largely negative, depicting the news as the latest rendition of, as [ABC World News Tonight's](#) (7/18, story 3, 2:05, Muir) chief investigative correspondent Brian Ross called it, an "ever-changing story" about the meeting, which has become a focus for special counsel Robert Mueller.

The [AP](#) (7/18, Braun) reports that Attorney Scott Balber told the Washington Post and CNN that Kaveladze attended the meeting "to help translate." According to Balber, "Kaveladze works for developers Emin and Aras Agalarov and was there to represent them." The [New York Times](#) (7/18, Lafraniere, Goldman) says Balber "described Mr. Kaveladze as a longtime American citizen who is fluent in Russian and nearly fluent in English." Said Balber, "They had somebody show up at the meeting to make sure the favor was executed, that they carried through on it. And now they are in the middle of this tremendous storm." Jeff Pegues reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/18, story 3, 2:20, Mason) that Balber "said Kaveladze doesn't remember saying a single word, left scratching his head, and wondering, why am I here?"

[Politico](#) (7/18, Cheney, Samuelsohn) reports that Kaveladze "was once identified as a key figure in a Congressional money laundering probe." Kaveladze was mentioned in "news stories in 2000, when Congress was examining Russian money laundering through US financial institutions." His identity, Politico adds, "is among many facts about the 2016 meeting that Trump Jr. has failed to disclose in multiple public statements," and "his background may add to the questions members of Congress and investigators have about the meeting, which Trump officials say was brief and inconsequential but which Democrats call evidence of collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia."

Ross reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/18, story 3, 2:05, Muir) that while Trump Jr. "says he's been transparent," with word of Kaveladze's attendance at the meeting, "the ever changing story changes again." Ross added that "it really has been a slow drip, and it helps explain why this meeting has become such a focus" for Mueller whose "team wants to talk with each of the eight people in the room." The [Washington Post](#) (7/18, Helderman, Hamburger) also says the Trump Tower meeting "has emerged as a key focus of the investigation of the Trump campaign's interactions with Russians." In "the first public indication that Mueller's team is investigating the meeting," Balber said that he received a call from a Mueller representative over the weekend "asking if Kaveladze would agree to be interviewed. Balber said his client would cooperate." [USA Today](#) (7/19, Johnson, Estepa) quotes Balber as saying, "Mr. Kaveladze intends to fully cooperate."

According to Sen. Dianne Feinstein, Mueller has also given the Senate Judiciary Committee approval to publicly interview Trump Jr. and former Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort, the [Washington Post](#) (7/18, Demirjian) reports. Feinstein said the panel plans to call both men, but "it remains unclear if either will appear." The Post says their testimony would be lawmakers' "first chance to publicly question both men about the alleged ties between President Trump's campaign and Russia." Meanwhile, [Reuters](#) (7/18) reports that leaders of the Senate Intelligence Committee said Tuesday that they want to interview Trump Jr., former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort, "and everyone else" who was at the meeting. Asked by reporters "if he wanted the committee to call in the attendees," Chairman Richard Burr said, "Sure, sure." Ranking Democrat Mark Warner "also said the committee wanted to see everyone who had been at the meeting."

Sen. Joe Manchin, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/18), "We know it's illegal to take any contribution – financial contribution – from any...foreign country. ... It just tells you common sense" that "if that is not legal, shouldn't it be illegal for us to have meetings with people for those same purposes?" Asked if he was suggesting that the Trump campaign committed an illegal act, Manchin said, "I think the facts will come out and someone will have to make that determination."

Carlson: Based On Current Collusion Standards, Clinton Colluded With Russia In 2010. On [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (7/18), Tucker Carlson said "this Russian narrative has changed the rules here in Washington maybe forever. ... Americans who have contact with them, any

contact at all, are committing treason." Carlson asked what that means for Hillary Clinton who in 2010, while Secretary of State, "publicly opposed sanctions" on the Russian government. "At the very say time," Carlson continued, Bill Clinton "was paid half a million dollars to deliver a speech in Moscow to financial firms set to benefit from the removal of the sanctions his wife opposed. ... Since we're doing the math, the Clintons payday was ten times greater than what General Michael Flynn received for speech in 2015. Does that mean that Bill Clinton colluded ten times as much as General Flynn colluded?"

Media Analyses: After Healthcare Defeat, Republicans Looking For Legislative Win With Tax Cut Plan.

House Republicans released a blueprint for their 2018 budget resolution that includes calls for cutting individual and business taxes to largely negative media coverage. Reports cast the measure as an effort score a legislative win in the wake of the Republican healthcare bill's failure in the Senate, and many question whether it can pass the House amid divisions inside the GOP, including many of the same issues that stalled Republican healthcare efforts.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/18, Rubin) says Republicans are turning to tax reform as they look for a legislative victory in the wake of their apparent defeat on healthcare. Rep. Tom MacArthur said, "It ratchets up pressure on us to get something done. It also makes it difficult to move forward with anything controversial because of a fear of it falling apart. ... We have to get things done that matter to the American people, and tax reform is one of them." Similarly, the [New York Times](#) (7/18, Rappeport) describes Republicans as "reeling" from the failure of their efforts to repeal the ACA and are seeking "to secure a signature achievement in President Trump's first year in office." The Times says Republicans "trying to move on quickly to the next big thing: tax legislation." A plan released Tuesday as part of the House Budget Committee's 2018 budget resolution blueprint "calls for reducing tax rates for businesses and individuals." The plan "calls for consolidating tax brackets and cutting rates, repealing the alternative minimum tax and switching the United States from a worldwide tax system to a territorial tax system, which would tax only the domestic income of corporations."

The [Washington Times](#) (7/18, McLaughlin) reports that the budget plan "sets 2018 discretionary spending levels at \$1.13 trillion, with \$621 billion in defense spending and \$511 billion in non-defense programs." In addition, it "includes more than \$200 billion in spending cuts to mandatory spending programs." The measure "also includes instructions for a 'reconciliation' process that would pave the way for a party-line vote in the Senate on reshaping the federal tax code." However, according to the Times, "members of the House Freedom Caucus signal that they don't believe the budget resolution can pass the lower chamber — raising questions about whether the budget blueprint is basically dead on arrival."

While House Budget Committee Chairwoman Diane Black "assured reporters Tuesday that the blueprint would emerge from her committee," the [Washington Post](#) (7/18, Debonis) says "action on the House floor remains in doubt" as intraparty fighting "over spending, health care and other matters continues to cast doubt on whether the budget blueprint can survive a House vote." The [AP](#) (7/18, Taylor) says the plan "is crucial because its passage would pave the way to pass a tax overhaul this fall without the fear of a filibuster by Senate Democrats." However, the measure "proposes trillions of dollars in cuts to the social safety net and other domestic programs and puts congressional Republicans at odds with Trump over cutting Medicare." The AP says it is unclear "whether GOP leaders can get the budget measure through the House." While conservatives "want a larger package of spending cuts to accompany this fall's tax overhaul bill," moderates "are concerned cuts to programs such as food stamps could go too far."

Another [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/18, Rubin, Davidson) says there are political and procedural hurdles confronting the GOP effort, including many of the same issues that led to the defeat of their healthcare bill, and [Reuters](#) (7/18, Morgan) says GOP leaders are facing "the same divisions between conservatives and moderates that helped killed their efforts to replace Obamacare." [Politico](#) (7/18, Scholtes, Ferris, Bade) reports that a House GOP whipping operation Monday night found "dozens of Republican lawmakers who say they can't commit right now — as well as several hard 'no's' — to voting for the partisan bundle of federal funding measures, according to Republican lawmakers and aides." That result, Politico said, "underscores GOP leadership's ongoing difficulty in appeasing the party's most fiscally conservative wing while still holding onto support from moderates, and serves as a reminder that ideological differences within the House Republican conference are likely to force the majority to continue making deals with Democrats to keep the government funded."

Administration Discussing 20% To 25% Corporate Tax Rate. [Politico](#) (7/18, Dawsey, Becker, Lorenzo) cites "administration officials and other advisers" who say the Administration "is

privately discussing a corporate tax rate in the 20 percent to 25 percent range." While an outline released by the Administration in April mirrored Trump's "campaign pledge to cut the corporate rate to 15 percent from 35 percent," Politico says the Administration is now "aiming for a more realistic goal to notch a major policy win after its health care struggles." Trump "has been peppering CEOs, aides and others in the business world with questions about how low the rate would need to be to help companies grow," and some executives and lobbyists "have cited a rate in the 20s, one White House official." That "has become a prevailing view among a number of senior officials and advisers."

House Passes Bill Delaying Obama-Era Pollution Standards.

The [AP](#) (7/18, Biesecker) reports that the House voted 229 to 199 on Tuesday to pass the Ozone Standards Implementation Act of 2017, which "delays by another eight years the implementation of 2015 air pollution standards" and "makes key technical changes that environmentalists say will weaken the Clean Air Act, including switching the EPA's mandated review of air quality standards from every five years to every ten."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"The Trumpcare Bonfire." The [New York Times](#) (7/18) editorializes, "So far, Mr. Trump is viewing health care policy through the same narrow lens he uses for everything: his political standing." He said the GOP "should 'let Obamacare fail' in order to have another shot at replacing it, as if the health of millions of Americans wasn't at stake."

"Louisiana's Big Step On Justice Reform." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (7/19, Board) recalls that in June, "Louisiana passed one of the most ambitious criminal-justice reform packages in the country." The Times says the move "would have been remarkable coming from any state," but it is "historic coming from Louisiana," which "has long held the dubious distinction of locking up the most people per capita in America." The Times says the move is "also a rebuke to Attorney General Jeff Sessions and his retrograde mind-set on criminal justice, which clings to the notion that locking more people up for more time is the best way to deal with crime." If Sessions could abandon "his outdated worldview long enough," the Times concludes, "he might see that across America – and particularly in the deep-red South from which he hails – new approaches to justice reform are rightly winning the day."

"Chris Christie's No. 1 Fan." A [New York Times](#) (7/19, Board) editorial says opinion surveys indicate that New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is state's "the most unpopular" governor "in modern history," in part because of his ability to transform every issue so it is "about himself." The Times says the governor "even spent two days last week auditioning for a host job on WFAN, the sports talk radio station," although among the "more substantive reasons for New Jerseyans to be upset with Mr. Christie" was "his 2010 decision to block a desperately needed train tunnel under the Hudson River to Manhattan." He has now voiced support for Gateway, a proposed tunnel project, the future of which is uncertain because Christie cannot "even be sure he will make it as a radio host." Nonetheless, the Times argues, Christie's constituents are "tired of feeling like the backdrop to his ambition" and "have obviously wearied of it."

Washington Post.

"Liu Xiaobo's Widow Has Suffered More Than Enough. China Should Release Her From House Arrest." As the mental and physical health of Liu Xia – the wife of recently deceased Chinese dissident and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Liu Xiaobo – deteriorates due to her seven-year unofficial house arrest, the [Washington Post](#) (7/18) wonders in an editorial, "Is there no limit to the cruelty China's rulers are willing to deploy in their unending quest to squelch and punish free speech and free thought?" The Post insists that China must stop "hounding" Liu and the rest of her "innocent family." Agreeing with Liu's 2012 statement that "Kafka could not have written anything more absurd and unbelievable than this," the Post urges Secretary Tillerson, President Trump, and Congress to continue their pressure on Beijing to leave Ms. Liu in peace.

"Trump's Voter-Fraud Commission Itself Is A Fraud." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/18) says that it is President Trump's "voter fraud commission" that's "the real fraud," adding, "If ever a federal commission embarked on a 'study' with a predetermined outcome, this is it." The Post says, "In contrast with its members' unwarranted obsession with fraud, the panel shows no inclination to examine the huge spike in reported attempts to penetrate voter-registration

systems ahead of the 2016 elections in more than 20 states. ... And while the commission is also charged with studying voter suppression, it includes no members who have focused on that problem, despite the fact that federal courts have repeatedly intervened in recent years to slap down efforts at suppression in states, mainly led by Republicans."

"Republicans, Ignore Trump's Call To 'Let Obamacare Fail.' Do This Instead." The [Washington Post](#) (7/18) editorializes, "If enough people in each of the two parties accept that Obamacare is here to stay and that it requires fixes, the next agreements would come fairly easily. ... Democrats and Republicans should be able to support reinsurance programs," and "should fully fund a program that helps low-income people pay out-of-pocket health-care costs."

Wall Street Journal.

"The ObamaCare Republicans." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/18) says in an editorial that Sen. Rand Paul and other conservative opponents of Senate Majority Leader McConnell's replacement healthcare bill, like Sens. Mike Lee and Jerry Moran, will claim ideological purity without having to bear responsibility for the consequences, and for keeping in place a law that they abhor.

"California's Climate Cap And Spend." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/18) argues that the seven California state Republican lawmakers who recently joined 48 Democrats to reauthorize the state's carbon cap-and-trade program from 2020 through 2030 delivered Gov. Jerry Brown the biggest legislative victory of his tenure, sabotaged their own political fortunes, and betrayed their constituents. The Journal contends that the legislation will have a minimal effect on reducing emissions and adds that California Republicans will now face greater difficulty using carbon tax opposition as part of their 2018 campaign platforms.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[GOP Stares Down Loss On Healthcare Push](#)
[Health Insurers Brace For New Uncertainty After GOP Bill's Collapse](#)
[Discovery Communications And Scripps Networks In Merger Talks](#)
[Foreign Buyers Pump Up US Home Prices](#)
[America's Farmers Turn To Bank Of John Deere](#)

New York Times:

["Let Obamacare Fail," Trump Says As GOP Health Bill Collapses](#)
[Trump Finds That Demolishing Obama's Legacy Is Not So Simple](#)
[Trump And Putin Held A Second, Undisclosed, Private Conversation Behind A Chinese Powerhouse, A Web Of Family Financial Ties](#)
[Saudi King's Son Plotted Effort To Oust His Rival](#)
[Frances Gabe, Creator Of The Only Self-Cleaning Home, Dies At 101](#)

Washington Post:

[Iran's President, Hard-Liners Face Off](#)
[8th Person Identified In Meeting At Trump Tower](#)
[A Party At War With Itself Hits A Wall On Healthcare](#)
["It's An Insane Process": How Trump And The GOP Failed](#)
[Health Bill Collapse Roils Republicans](#)
[Trump Had 2nd Sit-Down With Putin](#)

Financial Times:

[Oil Industry Warns US Over New Russia Sanctions](#)
[Goldman Sachs Trading Woes Expose Bank Weakness](#)
[Irish Economy Smaller Using "De-Globalised" Data](#)
[Netflix Executives Keep Hitting Bonus Bullseyes](#)

Washington Times:

[On Obamacare Plan B, Republican Opponents Say Insurance Markets Can't Count On Hope](#)
[Trump: 'Let Obamacare Fail'](#)
[House Republican Budget Proposal Paves Way For Tax Reform, Another Intraparty Battle](#)

[D.C. Metro System Replaces All Old Rail Cars With Safer Series](#)
[Manchin's Vulnerability Sets Up West Virginia's First Competitive GOP Primary In Modern History](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Healthcare Reform Bill Dead-WH; Healthcare Reform Bill Dead-Congress; Russia Meddling Investigation; Minneapolis-Police Violence; Meningitis-Baby Death; OJ Simpson Parole Hearing; Iran-Nuclear Deal; Out Of State Car Buying; Long Island-Boating Accident; Diabetes Statistics; Airfare Savings; Airport Worker.

CBS: Healthcare Reform Bill Dead-Congress; Healthcare Reform Bill Dead-WH; Russia Meddling Investigation; Minneapolis-Police Violence; Cincinnati-Police Violence Trial; Vatican-Embezzling Trial; Iran-Nuclear Deal; Opioid Epidemic; Dennis Hastert Release; West Coast-Wildfires; Oldest Track Athlete; First Lunar Landing Artifact.

NBC: Healthcare Reform Bill Dead-Congress; Healthcare Reform Bill Dead-WH; Healthcare Reform Bill Dead-Impact; Minneapolis-Police Violence; Opioid Epidemic; Dennis Hastert Release; Alzheimer-Sleep Quality; Travel Savings; Rome-Metro Accident Scare; OJ Simpson Parole Hearing; Afghan Teens-International Robot Competition.

Network TV At A Glance:

Healthcare Reform Bill Dead – 16 minutes, 20 seconds
Minneapolis-Police Violence – 7 minutes, 5 seconds
Russia Meddling Investigation – 4 minutes, 25 seconds
Opioid Epidemic – 3 minutes, 35 seconds
Iran-Nuclear Deal – 2 minutes, 35 seconds
Dennis Hastert Release – 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Healthcare Reform Bill Dead; Minneapolis-Police Violence; West Coast Wildfires.

CBS: Healthcare Reform Bill Dead; Trump-Putin Meeting; Minneapolis-Police Violence; Car Heat-Child Death; Diabetes Statistics.

FOX: Healthcare Reform Bill Dead; Trump-Putin Meeting; US Russia Diplomat Appointment; House Budget Plan.

NPR: Healthcare Reform Bill Dead; House Budget Plan; Minneapolis-Police Violence.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with US Ambassador to the People's Republic of China Terry Branstad; has lunch with members of Congress; leads a Made in America roundtable.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in the first meeting of the Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity; has lunch with the President and members of Congress; joins the President to participate in a Made in America roundtable; participates in a meeting with Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb.

US Senate: 9:00 AM Senate Intelligence Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Robert Storch to be National Security Agency Inspector General; Isabela Patelas to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Intelligence and Analysis; and Susan Gordon to be Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Business Meeting, hearing on USPS actions during the 2016 campaign season – Business Meeting, to consider nomination of David Pekoske to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for the Transportation Security Administration * Immediately followed by hearing on 'The Postal Service's Actions During the 2016 Campaign Season: Implications for the Hatch Act', with testimony from U.S. Postal Service letter carrier Timm Kopp, Acting Deputy Inspector General William Siemer, and Postmaster General and CEO Megan Brennan; and Office of Special Counsel Acting Special Counsel Adam Miles Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

10:00 AM Senate Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – National Parks Subcommittee legislative hearing, with testimony from National Park Service Acting Deputy Director for Operations Robert Vogel Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington,

DC <http://energy.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Senate Commerce Committee considers FCC nominees – Nominations hearing considers Ajit Varadaraj Pai (reappointment), Jessica Rosenworcel (reappointment), and Brendan Carr to be Federal Communications Commission members Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the Foreign Agents Registration Act – Hearing on 'Oversight of the Justice Department's (Non) Enforcement of the Foreign Agents Registration Act: Lessons from the Obama Administration and Current Compliance Practices', with testimony from Fusion GPS' Glenn Simpson; Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the National Security Division Adam Hickey; FBI Counterintelligence Division Assistant Director Bill Priestap; Department Of Justice Inspector General Michael Horowitz; and Hermitage Capital Management (UK) CEO William Browder * Fusion GPS was previously behind the 'Steele dossier' of allegations against then-president-elect Donald Trump's alleged activities and connections in Russia that emerged in January, while a spokesman for President Trump has recently accused the firm of being involved in attempting to set up Donald Trump, Jr. Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee Executive Session – Executive Session, with agenda including consideration of nominations of Marvin Kaplan and William Emanuel to be National Labor Relations Board members Location: Rm 430, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Environment Committee legislative hearing on 'HELP for Wildlife Act' – Legislative hearing on 'S. 1514, the Hunting Heritage and Environmental Legacy Preservation (HELP) for Wildlife Act', with testimony from Wyoming Game and Fish Department Chief Game Warden Brian Nesvik; Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Director Jeff Crow; Ducks Unlimited CEO (and former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director) Dale Hall; The Chesapeake Bay Foundation Vice President for Environmental Protection & Restoration Kim Coble; and Michigan Technological University School of Forest Resources and Environmental Science Associate Professor Dr John Vucetich Location: Rm 406, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

1:30 PM AFT president and Congressional Dems rally to 'oppose education budget cuts' – American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten, AFSCME President Lee Saunders, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, and fellow Democrats Sen. Bob Casey and Reps. Bobby Scott, Keith Ellison, Mark Pocan, and Mark Takano participate in a rally with educators to 'oppose education budget cuts and efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act' Location: East Lawn, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.aft.org <https://twitter.com/AFTUnion>

1:30 PM Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Thomas Bowman to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs; Brooks Tucker to be Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Congressional and Legislative Affairs; James Byrne to be Department of Veterans Affairs General Counsel; and Michael Allen, Amanda Meredith, and Joseph Toth to be U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims Judges Location: Rm 418, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/VACHair>

2:00 PM Closed Hearing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

2:00 PM Senate Foreign Relations Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Luis Arreaga to be U.S. Ambassador to Guatemala; and Sharon Day to be U.S. Ambassador to Costa Rica Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

4:00 PM Senate Dems hold hearing on influence of foreign money on U.S. elections – Democratic Policy and Communications Committee holds hearing on 'Democracy For Sale: How Our Broken Campaign Finance System Allows Foreign Governments to Buy Influence in Our Elections and What We Can Do About It', chaired by Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse and with participants including DPCC Chair Debbie Stabenow and other senators. Witnesses are experts in election law and the influence of foreign money: Federal Election Commission Commissioner Ellen Weintraub, American Enterprise Institute Resident Scholar Norm Ornstein, Campaign Legal Center Senior Director and General Counsel Larry Noble, Center for Responsive Politics Executive Director Sheila Krumholz, and Center for American Progress Director of Government & Democratic Reform Liz Kennedy Location: SVC 208-209, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC dpcc.senate.gov

4:15 PM OAS secretary general testifies to Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on Venezuela – Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues Subcommittee hearing on 'The Collapse of the Rule of Law in

Venezuela: What the United States and the International Community Can Do to Restore Democracy', with testimony from Organization of American States Secretary General Luis Almagro Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://foreign.senate.gov/>

US House: 9:30 AM Helsinki Commission hearing on cigarette smuggling – Helsinki Commission hearing on 'A Hazy Crisis: Illicit Cigarette Smuggling in the OSCE Region', with witnesses Phillip Morris International Senior Vice President and General Counsel Marc Firestone, George Mason University Terrorism, Transnational Crime, and Corruption Center Director Louise Shelley, and University of Ottawa Adjunct Professor of Law David Sweanor Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 106, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

9:30 AM House Appropriations Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'FY 2018 State, Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill', 'FY 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Bill', and 'Interim Suballocation of Budget Allocations for FY2018' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2359, Washington, DC
<http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Veterans' Affairs Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on legislation including 'H.R. 95, Veterans' Access to Child Care Act', 'H.R. 282, the Military Residency Choice Act', 'H.R. 918, the Veteran Urgent Access to Mental Healthcare Act', 'H.R. 1058, the VA Provider Equity Act', 'H.R. 1690, the Department of Veterans Affairs Bonus Transparency Act', as amended, 'H.R. 2006, the VA Procurement Efficiency and Transparency Act', 'H.R. 2749, the Protecting Business Opportunities for Veterans Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2772, the VA Senior Executive Accountability Act' ('SEA Act'), 'H.R. 3218, H.R. 3218, the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017', and 'H.R. XXX, To require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide educational assistance to certain former members of the Armed Forces for education and training as physician assistants of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to establish pay grades and require competitive pay for physician assistants of the Department, and for other purposes' Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

10:00 AM POSTPONED: Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Congressional Oversight of Independent Regulatory Agencies' Location: Rm 2128, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM Oversight Subcommittee hearing on 'Efforts to Combat Waste, Fraud, and Abuse in the Medicare Program' Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources Committee legislative hearing – Legislative hearing on 'H.R. 1274, State, Tribal, and Local Species Transparency and Recovery Act', 'H.R. 2603, Saving America's Endangered Species Act' ('SAVES Act'), 'H.R. 3131, Endangered Species Litigation Reasonableness Act', 'H.R. 424, Gray Wolf State Management Act of 2017', and 'H.R. 717, Listing Reform Act', with testimony from bipartisan Reps. Dan Newhouse, Collin Peterson, Pete Olson, Louie Gohmert, and Bill Huizenga; biologist and TV host Jeff Corwin; Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts Glenn Hegar; Holsinger Law Manager Kent Holsinger; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Deputy Director Greg Sheehan; and Wyoming Governor's Policy Advisor David Willms Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM Hearing on 'The State of Infrastructure in Rural America' Location: Rm 1300, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://agriculture.house.gov/>

10:00 AM House Infrastructure subcommittee hearing on implementation of water resources development acts – Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee hearing on 'Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Implementation of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 and the Water Resources Development Act of 2016', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Douglas Lamont; and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Commanding General and Chief of Engineers Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM House Technology Committee hearing on energy innovation – Hearing on 'Energy Innovation: Letting Technology Lead', with testimony from Oklo President and CEO Dr Jacob DeWitte; University of California-Los Angeles (UCLA) Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering Associate Professor Dr Gaurav Sant; Harvard University John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences Research Professor of Technology and Public Policy Dr Venky Narayanamurti; and AES Energy

Storage Market Development Director Kiran Kumaraswamy Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, to mark up legislation including ‘H.R. 378, To amend title 5, United States Code, to enhance the authority under which Federal agencies may pay cash awards to employees for making cost saving disclosures, and for other purposes’, ‘H.R. 1132, To amend title 5, to provide for a 2-year prohibition on employment in a career civil service position for any former political appointee, and for other purposes’, ‘H.R. 2989, To establish the Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commission’, ‘H.R. 3210, To require the Director of the National Background Investigation Bureau to submit a report on the backlog of personnel security clearance investigations, and for other purposes’, and ‘H.R. 3244, To amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for annual surveys of Federal employees, and for other purposes’ Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee markup hearing – Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee markup hearing on ‘H.R. XXX, Staff Draft on Highly Automated Vehicle Testing and Deployment’ Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM Markup hearing on the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2018 Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC <http://budget.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/housebudgetGOP>

10:00 AM Pratt & Whitney engine on Capitol Hill, including photo op with bipartisan Reps. John Larson and Thomas Rooney – Geared Turbofan (GTF) jet engine manufactured by Pratt & Whitney, designed to reduce noise, improve fuel efficiency, and lower emissions, stops on Capitol Hill, with Pratt & Whitney President Bob Leduc. Includes photo opportunity with Democratic Rep. John Larson and Republican Rep. Tom Rooney Location: South Capitol Street Southwest, Washington, DC www.pw.utc.com <https://twitter.com/prattandwhitney>

11:00 AM Larry Kudlow testifies to House Small Business Committee – Hearing on ‘Reversing the Entrepreneurship Decline’, with testimony from CNBC Senior Contributor Larry Kudlow; Miami University President Dr Gregory Crawford; Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council President and CEO Karen Kerrigan; and Broadmark Capital CEO Joe Schocken Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

11:30 AM North American Meat Institute Annual Hot Dog Lunch – North American Meat Institute Annual Hot Dog Lunch in celebration National Hot Dog Day and National Hot Dog Month. Eight vendors are expected to serve over 3,500 hot dog and sausage products. Event is hosted by North American Meat Institute and Honorary Congressional Co-Chairs Republican Rep. Michael Conaway and Democratic Rep. Collin Peterson. Attendees include former baseball players Jim Palmer and Al Hrabosky and U.S. Olympic Softball Gold Medalist Jennie Finch Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Courtyard, Washington, DC www.meatinstitute.org <https://twitter.com/MeatAMI>

12:00 PM House debates bills on natural gas pipelines and cross-border energy infrastructure – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including ‘H.R. 2910 – Promoting Interagency Coordination for Review of Natural Gas Pipelines Act’ and ‘H.R. 2883 – Promoting Cross-Border Energy Infrastructure Act’ Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

1:00 PM House Democratic Caucus Chairman Joe Crowley and Vice Chair Linda Sanchez hold pen and pad Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1416, Washington, DC <http://www.dems.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseDemocrats>

1:30 PM AFT president and Congressional Dems rally to ‘oppose education budget cuts’ – American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten, AFSCME President Lee Saunders, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Minority Whip Steny Hoyer, and fellow Democrats Sen. Bob Casey and Reps. Bobby Scott, Keith Ellison, Mark Pocan, and Mark Takano participate in a rally with educators to ‘oppose education budget cuts and efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act’ Location: East Lawn, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.aft.org <https://twitter.com/AFTUnion>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee markup hearing – Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade Subcommittee markup hearing on ‘H.R. 425, FTO Passport Revocation Act of 2017’ and ‘H.R. 1196, Counterterrorism Screening and Assistance Act of 2017’ Location: Rm 2200, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

2:00 PM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on North Korea – Monetary Policy

and Trade Subcommittee hearing on 'Restricting North Korea's Access to Finance', with testimony from SAIS U.S.-Korea Institute Visiting Scholar William Newcomb; Foundation for Defense of Democracies Senior Fellow Anthony Ruggiero; Center for a New American Security Senior Fellow Elizabeth Rosenberg; and Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs Korea Working Group Director Dr John Park Location: Rm 2128, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

2:00 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee oversight hearing on the Magnuson-Stevens Act – Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'Exploring the Successes and Challenges of the Magnuson-Stevens Act', with testimony from Lund's Fisheries' Jeff Kaelin; Hawaii Longline Association President Sean Martin; Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Executive Director Nick Wiley; and recreational angler and outdoor writer Charles Witek Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

2:00 PM Tax Policy Subcommittee hearing on 'How Tax Reform Will Simplify Our Broken Tax Code and Help Individuals and Families' Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

2:00 PM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on agricultural guestworkers – Immigration and Border Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Agricultural Guestworkers: Meeting the Growing Needs of American Agriculture', with testimony from Republican Rep. David Valadao; Frey Farms President and CEO Sarah Frey; Gebbers Farms orchard owner Jon Wyss; and United Farm Workers Vice President Giev Kashkooli Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on the U.S.-Caribbean Strategic Engagement Act – Western Hemisphere Subcommittee hearing on 'Implementing the U.S.-Caribbean Strategic Engagement Act', with testimony from Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs and U.S. Special Coordinator for Haiti Kenneth Merten Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

2:15 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on Saudi Arabia's 'troubling' educational curriculum – Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade Subcommittee hearing on 'Saudi Arabia's Troubling Educational Curriculum', with testimony from Hudson Institute Center for Religious Freedom Director Nina Shea; Foundation for Defense of Democracy Senior Fellow Dr David Weinberg; former Rep. Frank Wolf; and International Center for Religion and Diplomacy President Emeritus Dr Douglas Johnston Location: Rm 2200, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

2:30 PM Markup hearing on 'H.R. 2823, Affordable Retirement Advice for Savers Act' Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

Other: 8:15 AM Elon Musk and NASA Acting Administrator Lightfoot speak at ISS R&D Conference – Annual International Space Station Research and Development Conference continues, with speakers today including Tesla and SpaceX CEO Elon Musk, NASA Acting Administrator Robert Lightfoot and Bigelow Aerospace Founder and President Robert Bigelow Location: Omni Shoreham Hotel, 2500 Calvert St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.astronautical.org/> <https://twitter.com/astrosociety>

8:30 AM 'America's Arctic Economic Ambitions' CSIS discussion – 'America's Arctic Economic Ambitions: Opportunities and Limitations' Center for Strategic and International Studies and Senate Arctic Caucus discussion. Speakers include Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski, and Independent Sen. Angus King Location: CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Ave, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

8:30 AM Bipartisan lawmakers speak at 'Stand for Free Speech' event – 'Stand for Free Speech' event at Sheridan Circle, the site of a 16 May clash between protesters and security guards for visiting Turkish President Recep Erdogan. Speakers include Republican Reps. Dana Rohrabacher and Dave Trott and Democratic Rep. Jim McGovern Location: Sheridan Circle Northwest, Washington, DC <https://anca.org/> https://twitter.com/ANCA_DC

8:30 AM GOP Sen. Tom Cotton at U.S. Chamber of Commerce event – U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for Legal Reform (ILR) and Center for Capital Markets Competitiveness (CCMC) host Republican Sen. Tom Cotton for an event focused on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's final arbitration rule, including its implications for the business community and next steps Location: U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 1615 H St NW, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com <https://twitter.com/USChamber>

9:00 AM Dem Sen. Tim Kaine speaks on U.S. foreign policy at Brookings – Democratic Sen.

Tim Kaine speaks on 'A 21st Century Truman Doctrine?' at Brookings Institution, discussing U.S. foreign policy and the themes from his new article in Foreign Affairs, 'A new Truman Doctrine: Grand Strategy in a hyperconnected world' Location: The Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu>
<https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst> #NatSec

9:00 AM CAP discussion on 'Attacks and Advances in Voter Registration' – 'Attacks and Advances in Voter Registration' Center for American Progress discussion, with Center for American Progress President and CEO Neera Tanden, Secretaries of State Alex Padilla (California) and Nellie Gorbea (Rhode Island), Alliance for Youth Action Executive Director Sarah Audelo, Generation Progress Executive Director Maggie Thompson, and Chicago Votes Executive Director Stevie Valles Location: Center For American Progress, 1333 H St NW, Washington, DC www.americanprogress.org <https://twitter.com/amprog>

9:00 AM '2017 Congressional Pig Book' released – Citizens Against Government Waste release '2017 Congressional Pig Book', a database of pork projects identified by CAGW, and the 2017 Pig Book Summary, profiling 'the most egregious examples' from the fiscal year (FY) 2017 appropriations bills. Speakers at press conference include Republicans Sens. Jeff Flake and Joni Ernst and Reps. Mark Walker, Bill Fores, Ron DeSantis and Jim Banks, who discuss 'the current state of earmark reform, the earmark moratorium, and what must be done to permanently stop members of Congress from practicing their swinish ways' * GOP Sen. John McCain had also been scheduled to speak, but is recovering from surgery for a blood clot * This year marks CAGW's 25th edition of the Pig Book Location: Phoenix Park Hotel, 520 North Capitol Street Northwest, Washington, DC www.cagw.org <https://twitter.com/GovWaste>

7:30 PM Former Vice President Al Gore attends special screening of 'An Inconvenient Sequel' in Washington, DC – Special screening of environmental documentary 'An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power', attended by former Vice President Al Gore, directors Bonni Cohen and Jon Shenk, and producers Jeff Skoll, Diane Weyermann and Richard Berge. The movie is a follow-up to Davis Guggenheim's 2006 documentary 'An Inconvenient Truth', with Gore returning to front an investigation into how close we are to a real energy revolution. Released in select theaters 28 Jul and expanding to theaters nationwide 4 Aug Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC <https://twitter.com/aitruthfilm> #AnInconvenientSequel

DNC voting rights commission press conference as the Commission on Election Integrity meets for first time – Democratic National Committee Commission on Protecting American Democracy from the Trump Administration press conference, as the Presidential Commission on Election Integrity – formed by President Donald Trump in May – meets for the first time * Members of the DNC Commission include Let America Vote President Jason Kander, Democratic Sen. Cory Booker and Reps. Terri Sewell, Joaquin Castro, Grace Meng and Gwen Moore, Kentucky Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes, Massachusetts Attorney General Maura Healey, California Secretary of State Alex Padilla, Colorado House Speakers Crisanta Duran, Maricopa County Recorder Adrian Fontes, DNC Vice Chair Louisiana state Sen. Karen Carter Peterson, and District of Columbia Attorney General Karl Racine * The Presidential Commission is due to issue a report next year, 'reviewing ways to strengthen the integrity of elections in order to protect and preserve the principle of one person, one vote' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.democrats.org/> <https://twitter.com/TheDemocrats>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "According to the Weather Channel, tropical storm Don is not a threat to the United States unless it runs for President. Then it will be a disaster. The funny thing about it is the name of the storm; there's no connection to the President. They come up with these names for these storms way ahead of time. This just happened to be the next name in the rotation. What makes it even weirder is the name may have set for the next big storm in the Pacific Ocean, and I'm not making this up, will be Hillary."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Meanwhile, tropical storm Don Jr. is headed toward Russia right now. No one knows why."

Jimmy Kimmel: "I do want to say, to be fair, it was hard for DJTJ and for Jared Kushner and Paul Manafort to know how many Russians would be in the meeting because sometimes they hide the smaller Russians inside the bigger Russians."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Forty-one percent of Americans support impeachment for Donald Trump. That includes President Trump himself. He cannot wait to get the hell out of there."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Trump said today the Senate should just move on and let Obamacare fail without replacing it, which I have to say, it's refreshing to have a President who's okay with letting his fellow Americans die just to prove his point."

Stephen Colbert: "I have some sad news tonight. As of 10:48 p.m. Eastern last night, the GOP healthcare bill was pronounced dead of terminal sucking. Yeah. I clap when I'm heartbroken, too."

Stephen Colbert: "It was always a long-shot because the Republicans control only all three branches of government. Can't be expected to do everything."

Stephen Colbert: "But the Republicans have a great backup plan. Senate Majority Leader...Mitch McConnell can introduce a bill simply repealing Obamacare with no replacement. You know, just take it away and don't fix it. You know how when your car gets a flat tire, you remove it, then cut the brakes and let it roll into a crowd of uninsured old people."

Trevor Noah: "No! Trumpcare no more! Now I have no idea how I'm going to die! I don't know why we're surprised. The words 'Trump' and 'care' were never destined to be together."

Trevor Noah: "Republicans have been saying forever that Obamacare is going to fail. It's in a death spiral! But after years of them trying to kill it, it is somehow the only thing that's still around. All of their healthcare plans collapsed immediately. They're like, 'Obamacare is dead. Check out our plan. Oh, my God, plan? Wake up, plan. Wake up!'"

Trevor Noah: "While the GOP's healthcare dreams were crumbling, Trump was hosting a play party at the White House celebrating something called 'Made in America Week' where the President checked out guitars, wrestled with baseball bats, and his favorite activity, fake driving a truck. Yeah, and everyone was like, 'The fire is behind you in the White House!'"

Trevor Noah: "Even though this is 'Made in America Week,' let's turn to something that wasn't made in America. Donald Trump's presidency."

Jimmy Fallon: "The big story is that the Republican bill to repeal and replace Obamacare has officially fallen apart. But Republicans say they're just going to let Obamacare fail while they regroup and figure out a new plan. And Democrats said, 'Hey, that's the same thing we're doing with Trump.'"

Seth Meyers: "Republicans announced last night that the latest GOP healthcare plan will not be moving forward, making this the second draft of the bill to fail in the Senate. Though when it comes to President Trump, the third time's the charm."

Seth Meyers: "That's right. It's the second draft of the Republican healthcare bill to fail in the Senate. 'What's a second draft?' asked the writer of 'Transformers.'"

Seth Meyers: "After the failure of the GOP healthcare plan, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell outlined plans to repeal Obamacare without a bill to replace it. The same way we got rid of Obama without a good plan to replace him."

Seth Meyers: "Scott Pruitt being the head of the EPA is the same as New York's food inspector being a rat with a clipboard."

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DOI In The News

As Interior Secretary Swaggers Through Parks, His Staff Rolls Back Regulations.

In an analysis, the [New York Times](#) (7/25, Davenport, Fandos) reports that as Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who professes his admiration of Teddy Roosevelt, visits public lands in the West to gather input on his department's review of recent national monument designations, "a crew of political appointees in Washington has begun rolling back the conservation efforts" put in place during the Obama Administration. The Times highlights that Interior staff filed a legal proposal on Tuesday "to rescind the nation's first safety regulation on hydraulic fracturing," "are exploring a proposal to loosen safety rules on underwater drilling equipment put in place after the 2010 BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico," "have rolled back an Obama-era order to block coal mining on public lands and delayed carrying out a regulation controlling emissions of methane...from oil and gas wells," and is conducting "a review of federal protections of the sage grouse." The Times adds that Zinke's cultivation of his "rugged image" is said to "getting old" to conservationists, while "the oil and gas lobby says it is delighted" with the policy moves.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Times](#) (7/25, Wolfgang).

Secretary Zinke Expected To Visit Las Cruces This Week. The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (7/25) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "expected to travel to New Mexico this week as part of a review of two national monuments in the state." U.S. Sen. Tom Udall expects Zinke will "be coming to New Mexico this week to evaluate" the Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument and Rio Grande del Norte National Monument. The article says that "the mayors of Las Cruces, Mesilla, Anthony, and Sunland Park as well as Doña Ana County Commission Chairwoman Isabella Solis announced Tuesday that they have scheduled a meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday to talk about the OMDP national monument."

The [AP](#) (7/26) reports that Zinke is "slated Thursday to take part in a public meeting at the Las Cruces Convention Center with the mayors of Las Cruces, Mesilla, Anthony and Sunland Park."

Additional coverage was provided by [KRWG-FM](#) Las Cruces, NM (7/25) and [KRWG-FM](#) Las Cruces, NM (7/25).

Our View: Monument Review Is Chance To Make Areas Better For Recreation. The [Havasu \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (7/26) editorializes that "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's review of national monuments in the West offers an opportunity to rights some wrongs and, if done properly, to actually make those large parcels of federal land even better." The paper thinks there is an opportunity for "the business-oriented administration" to "figure out a model to convert the recreational demand at national parks to recreational use at national monuments."

Packed House Expected For Trump In Youngstown.

In coverage of President Trump's address in Youngstown, Ohio on Tuesday evening, the [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (7/25, Ludlow) reported before the rally that "prior to his Youngstown remarks, Trump and First Lady Melania Trump are scheduled to attend a ceremony to honor about 150 area veterans and their families as part of 'American Heroes Week.'" Secretary of

Energy Rick Perry, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, and Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin “also are to attend the event at AMVETS Post 44 in suburban Strothers.”

New Deputy Assistant Secretary For Fish, Wildlife and Parks Visits Montana.

The [Bitterroot \(MT\) Star](#) (7/25) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “recently announced the appointment of two Deputy Assistant Secretaries to serve as leaders at the Department.” According to the article, “Aurelia Skipwith will serve as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks and former House Natural Resources senior staffer Katharine MacGregor will serve as a Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management.” Skipwith recently visited the Lee Metcalf National Wildlife Refuge. She “said that she is visiting places across the country to get a feel for the land she will be managing and get a sense of the local needs and priorities.”

Gov’t Scientist Claims He’s A Victim Of Retaliation From Trump.

The [Daily Caller](#) (7/25, Pearce) reports that an Interior Department official “appeared on National Public Radio and MSNBC’s “Morning Joe” Monday, accusing the Trump administration of demoting him because of his political beliefs.” Joel Clement, the DOI’s Office of Natural Resources Revenue senior advisor, “wrote an op-ed in The Washington Post last week claiming that his reassignment was retaliation for speaking ‘truth to power.’”

Has Trump Sidelined, Restricted Government Scientists? Yes. Joe Davidson writes in the [Washington Post](#) (7/25) that the Trump Administration is hostile toward science, saying scientists are restricted from providing advice to government officials and from using terms such as “climate change.” According to the Union of Concerned Scientists, the Administration is creating a “hostile environment for scientific staff” contributing to “a culture of fear” that is “undermining scientific research and communication.” Davidson references the case of “outspoken Interior Department scientist” Joel Clement, who “said his forced reassignment was Trump administration retribution” for speaking out against climate change in Alaska Native communities.

Outdoor Retailer Brings Products, Politics For Last Utah Show.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (7/25, O’Donoghue) reports that “the political and emotional tug-of-war over the destiny of Utah’s public lands is on center stage this week as Outdoor Retailer Summer Market begins its four-day run in Salt Lake City beginning Wednesday.” The article notes that “this year’s event features former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, who will keynote an industry breakfast on Wednesday with remarks also offered by Montana Gov. Steve Bullock.” Organizers are also planning “a Wednesday release of a state-by-state look at the economic impacts of outdoor recreation and will host a march from 4-6:30 p.m. Thursday from the Salt Palace Convention Center to the state Capitol.”

Report: Utah’s Coal Industry Fading While More Eco-friendly Outdoor Recreation Surges.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (7/25, Maffly) reports that “nearly \$400 billion worth of high-quality coal lies under lands protected by the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument, but the best thing for Utah would to leave this black bounty where it is – in favor of embracing cleaner energy sources and outdoor recreation, both of which abound in the Beehive State,” according to a new report. The report from the group Alliance for a Better Utah “highlights the coal industry’s ever-dimming future and rising prospects of eco-based tourism.” Jonathan Ruga, an Alliance for a Better Utah board member, said, “Outdoor recreation provides 76 times as many jobs in Utah as coal – 1220,000 versus 1,600 – and 27 times as much in salary and wages – \$3.6 billion versus \$132.8 million.”

Battle Intensifies To Contain Montana Wildfire, Largest In U.S.

[Reuters](#) (7/25) reports that “more than 600 firefighters in Montana battled on Tuesday to halt the spread of the biggest wildfire in the United States after it torched buildings, seared grasslands and drove scores of people from their homes.” The Lodgepole Complex fire was “20 percent contained after laying waste to 250,000 acres (101,171 hectares) of timber, brush and range land near the Missouri River, according to the National Interagency Coordination Center.” The blaze has “forced 50 people from their homes and destroyed 22 structures, it said.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Federal Official Works To Promote ‘Robust’ Tribal Economies.

The [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (7/25, Dalrymple) reports that an Interior Department official “visited the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation Tuesday, outlining his goals for improving economic development of Indian Country.” Gavin Clarkson, deputy assistant secretary of Indian Affairs for policy and economic development, “told attendees of the MHA Energy Symposium how he wants to change federal policies to empower tribes economically.” Clarkson “said energy development is critical for tribal economic development and his goal is to remove hurdles, such as burdensome regulations, that slow down development on reservations.”

Under Trump, Tribal Land Ownership Is Not A Priority.

In an analysis for the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (7/25, Smith), Anna V. Smith writes that “during President Barack Obama’s eight-year tenure, tribal sovereignty, the power by which tribes govern themselves, was a prime concern.” However, Smith expects a shift under the Trump Administration, pointing to “proposed budget cuts to the Interior Department’s Bureau of Indian Affairs and the de-prioritization of major land initiatives.” She notes that “within the first six months of President Donald Trump’s administration, the Department of Interior has renewed its interest of energy development and tribal land privatization.” Smith says “that differs starkly from Obama policies, which focused on both acquiring and consolidating land for tribal nations.” She also notes that “one of the most ambitious efforts to that end, the Land Buy-Back Program, will not continue under Trump.”

Bureau Of Land Management

BLM: Coal Lease In Routt County Part Of ‘Make America Safe Through Energy Independence’.

The [Craig \(CO\) Daily Press](#) (7/25) reports that Peabody Energy is seeking a new coal lease in Routt County that would allow it to access “640 acres and, potentially, 4.1 million tons of federally-owned coal.” The Bureau of Land Management is “characterized their evaluation” of Peabody’s lease request as “part of the Trump Administration’s ‘priority to make America safe through energy independence.’”

Red Spring Boardwalk At Red Rock Closed For Safety Reasons.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (7/25, Brean) reports that “a portion of the Red Spring boardwalk at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area has been closed indefinitely due to safety concerns.” The Bureau of Land Management “blocked access to the lower portion of the walkway at the Red Spring picnic area on July 19 because the wood was deteriorating and had become unsafe, said spokesman John Asselin.” He said that “the closed portions of the boardwalk eventually will be replaced, but the BLM does not yet have a timeline for the work.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

W&T, Otto Set To Drill In US Gulf.

[Upstream Online](#) (7/25) reports that W&T Offshore and Otto Energy have “contracted a rig to drill at the South Timbalier (ST) 224 prospect in the Gulf of Mexico.” According to Otto, “the initial exploration plan for the ST 224 gas prospect has been submitted and approved by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Offshore Energy Today](#) (7/25).

Delaware Senators Oppose Atlantic Ocean Seismic Testing.

The [AP](#) (7/25) reports the two US senators from Delaware, Tom Carper and Chris Coons, “are asking the Trump administration to reject applications from companies seeking to conduct seismic surveys in the Atlantic Ocean, a first step toward offshore drilling.” The senators “said in a joint statement Tuesday that they and leaders in Delaware coastal communities oppose the surveys, which help map potential drilling sites for oil and natural gas.” The AP adds “many other East Coast lawmakers and environmental groups also oppose such surveying, saying loud sounds from seismic air guns could hurt marine life.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

Delta Tunnels Project Reaches Key Milestone As Opponents May Sue.

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (7/25, Hearden) reports that California has “reached a key milestone in its \$15.7 billion proposal to build tunnel bypasses around the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta as an environmental group is threatening to sue to stop it.” California’s Department of Water Resources on July 21 “certified that environmental reviews for the project, dubbed California WaterFix, meets all requirements under the state’s Environmental Quality Act.” However, Barbara Barrigan-Parilla, executive director of the organization Restore the Delta, “said the plan is ‘deeply flawed’ in that it would not create water supply reliability amid a period of increased and prolonged droughts but will saddle ratepayers with up to 75 years of debt.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Fish Killed In Nebraska After Water Diversion Stops.

The [AP](#) (7/25) reports that “officials say thousands of fish have died since a utility company was forced to stop diverting water from an eastern Nebraska river into its power canal.” The fish were “killed after water flow from the Loup River to the Loup Public Power District’s canal shut off July 15.” Jeff Schuckman, a regional fisheries manager at the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission’s Norfolk office, “estimated the number of dead fish is in the ‘tens of thousands.’”

Man Accused Of Smuggling King Cobras In Potato Chip Cans.

The [AP](#) (7/25, Balsamo) reports that “a man was arrested on federal smuggling charges Tuesday after customs officers intercepted a shipment with three live king cobras hidden inside potato chip canisters that were being mailed to his California home, U.S. prosecutors said.” Rodrigo Franco was “scheduled to be arraigned Tuesday afternoon in Los Angeles on a charge of illegally importing merchandise.” He “faces up to 20 years in prison.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Chattanooga \(TN\) Times Free Press](#) (7/25), the [Daily Mail](#) (7/25, Balsamo), [Newsday \(NY\)](#) (7/25, Balsamo), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (7/25, Balsamo), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (7/25, Balsamo), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/25, Michael Balsamo |, Ap), and [WTVR-TV Richmond \(VA\)](#) Richmond, VA (7/25).

Additional coverage was provided by [CNN](#) (7/25, Moshtaghian, McKirdy), the [Washington Post](#) (7/25, Horton), the [Sand Hills \(NE\) Express](#) (7/25) and [KMBC-TV Kansas City \(MO\)](#) Kansas City, MO (7/25).

Hilton Head Is Having A Closed Meeting With U.S. Fish And Wildlife To Discuss A Piping Plover Protection Area.

The [Hilton Head Island \(SC\) Packet](#) (7/25, Kincaid) reports that “Port Royal Plantation residents should soon have an easier way to access the beach after a federally protected shorebird caused a half-mile stretch to be closed earlier this month.” The article says that “after about 90 minutes of closed-door discussion Tuesday afternoon, representatives of the plantation, town of Hilton Head, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agreed to create an access point for residents and several other changes, according to Scott Liggett, director of public projects and facilities and chief engineer for the town.” He said “the town was given the authority by the Fish and Wildlife Service to create an access point at beach marker 125 so that Port Royal Plantation residents can enter the beach through the Ocean Point South entrance.”

Comments Show Good And Bad Of Red Wolf Plan.

The [Washington \(NC\) Daily News](#) (7/25, Hudson) reports that “a 60-day public comments period for the Red Wolf Recovery Program came to an end Monday.” According to Lilibeth Serrano, public affairs specialist, “between written and verbal comments submitted, USFWS received a total of 12,265 comments.” Serrano said, “As we develop a Draft Environmental Assessment and a proposed 10(j) rule, we will consider all comments received. We are still sorting through the nature of all the comments, so it is hard to describe in absolute terms. In general, I can say that we’ve seen a mix of criticism and support.”

Former Fish And Wildlife Service Employee Charged With Burglary, Theft From Office.

The [Grand Island \(NE\) Independent](#) (7/25, Bahr) reports that “a former employee of the U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service is being charged with burglarizing the office, which is in the Crane Trust Nature and Visitor Center along Interstate 80." John Cochnar "used to work at the Fish and Wildlife Service's Ecological Services field office." Cochnar is "also accused of stealing money from the Crane Trust."

Proposed Izembek Road Would Be Massive Expense For Budget-strapped State.

In an op-ed for the [Juneau \(AK\) Empire](#) (7/25, Epstein), Lois Epstein, the Arctic program director for The Wilderness Society, argues that the proposed road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge is "a huge new expense" that the state of Alaska can't afford. Epstein, "roughly one out of 10 state road construction dollars for one year would go to the wilderness segment of the Izembek road, trading off road safety and capacity upgrades throughout the rest of the state, with potentially significant, adverse safety impacts to the state's population." Epstein urges state legislators to "show fiscal leadership and choose not to include funds in the FY18 capital budget for the proposed Izembek road."

Column: Mexican Gray Wolf Plan Doesn't Work For Rural Arizona.

In an op-ed for the [Prescott \(AZ\) Daily Courier](#) (7/25, Flake), Sen. Jeff Flake claims that "the recovery process for the Mexican gray wolf has proved to be another example of the federal government's disregard for local concerns." Flake argues that the revised recovery plan that was released last month "does not reflect an honest attempt on behalf of the federal government to work with those most directly impacted by wolves on the landscape." Flake vows to "intend to make it clear the most recent draft has substantial flaws and that the agency must better take into account the voices of Arizona's ranchers and rural residents."

National Park Service

Wild Horse Dies After Eating Dog Food In Maryland.

The [AP](#) (7/25) reports that "officials say a wild horse had been found dead after eating dog food that someone improperly stored at Assateague Island National Seashore." The National Park Service "said in a statement that the body of the 7-year-old mare called Chama Wingapo was found dead in a campground on Thursday." According to the statement, "an investigation found the horse had ingested a 'large quantity' of dog food days earlier on July 17." A necropsy concluded "the dog food caused a blockage and resulted in a ruptured intestine, causing death."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [ABC News](#) (7/25), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (7/25), the [Daily Mail](#) (7/25), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (7/25), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (7/25), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (7/25, Press), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (7/25).

Additional coverage was provided by [USA Today](#) (7/25, The (salisbury) and [Horse](#) (7/25, Raia).

Zion Trail Closed By Mudslide To Be Repaired With \$1M Grant.

The [AP](#) (7/25) reports that "a popular Zion National Park trail closed by a large mudslide several years ago will get be repaired with a \$1 million grant." The Eccles Foundation is "giving the grant to the National Park Foundation Tuesday to repair the Middle Emerald Pools Trail, which has been closed since December 2010 after severe rain storms caused a large mud slide." The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (7/25, Brean) reports that "he donation also is expected to fund national park adventures for up to 20,000 Utah schoolchildren through such National Park Foundation programs as Concrete to Canyons and the Open OutDoors for Kids initiative."

NPS Designation Pays Off For Waco Mammoth Site.

[KWTX-TV](#) Waco, TX (7/25, Lopez) reports that the Waco Mammoth National Monument is "seeing some benefit from its National Park Service designation." According to Waco city spokesman Larry Holze, "during the first three months of 2017, a report from the finance department shows a bump in revenue from the site." The city was "expecting to make about \$195,000 during the first quarter," but "the report shows the city made \$325,000 during that time."

Richland National Park Visitor Center Dedicated.

The [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (7/25, Cary) reports that a dedication ceremony was held Tuesday for the Richland visitor center at the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. The center "that has served as a gateway for tours of Hanford's historic B Reactor since 2009 has had \$127,000 of

improvements made by the Port of Benton." Kris Kirby, superintendent of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, said at the dedication, "This is probably the most developed tour operation of the three parks."

UNL Student Teams Up With National Park Service For Eclipse Plan.

[KLKN-TV](#) Lincoln, NE (7/25, Petersen) reports that "for the last several months, UNL student Austin Arens has created maps for the solar eclipse event on August 21st, planned at Homestead National Monument of America." The maps of site will be "used to show areas for parking, tents, bathrooms, and vendors." Park Superintendent Mark Engler said, "With the help from all those external groups like the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, we're going to be putting on, hosting a number of special programs and activities that people are not only going to be able to enjoy on eclipse Monday."

Lightning Sparks Wildfire In Dinosaur National Monument.

The [AP](#) (7/25) reports that "a wildfire has sparked in Dinosaur National Monument after lightning struck a tree in windy and dry conditions." The blaze "had burned about half a square mile (1 square kilometer) as of Monday afternoon." According to Monument spokesman Dan Johnson, "crews closed the Canyon Overlook to use it as a base for fire operations, but no structures have been threatened and no campers have been evacuated."

Thomas Edison National Historical Park Displays "The Origins Of Sound Recording" Exhibit.

[Tap Into New Jersey](#) (7/23) reports that "in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of French inventor Édouard-Léon Scott de Martinville's birth, West Orange's Thomas Edison National Historical Park (TENHP) hosted an international symposium entitled 'The Origins of Sound Recording: Edouard-Léon Scott de Martinville Bicentennial Symposium.'" The National Park Service "recently announced the release of an online exhibit and videos that share the latest historical research into the beginnings of recorded sound technology." According to the article "a physical version of the exhibit, which includes a full-scale replica 1859 Scott phonograph, is on display at TENHP this summer through Aug. 27."

Time To Give The Finger Lakes Region Its Due.

In an editorial, the [Rochester \(NY\) Democrat & Chronicle](#) (7/25) supports "legislation that would authorize the National Parks Service to take step one toward designating the Finger Lakes region as a National Heritage Area." The bill, introduced by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand and sponsored in the House by Rep. Tom Reed, "would require the National parks Service to conduct a feasibility study in Monroe, Ontario, Wayne, Livingston, Cayuga, Chemung, Cortland, Onondaga, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, and Yates counties." The paper argues that "the Finger Lakes region is a jewel worthy of national attention."

In an editorial, the [Auburn \(NY\) Citizen](#) (7/26) urges both Democrats and Republicans to support the bill. The editorial argues that "at very least, it seems like a no-brainer to get this bill, which simply calls for a feasibility study, passed to see what the potential could be."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Interior Provides \$409,885 To Guam.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (7/25) reports that Acting Interior assistant secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula "made available \$409,885 to preserve natural and cultural resources and protect against invasive species in Guam." Pula said, "We are especially pleased that Congress was able to provide some extra funding in [fiscal year] 2017 to mitigate and control the coconut rhinoceros beetle and little fire ant in Guam. All funding supports Gov. Eddie Calvo's efforts in protecting Guam's natural resources now and for the future."

Trump Official Signals Willingness To Reconsider Independent Oversight For V.I. Education Funds.

The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (7/25, O'CONNOR) reports that the Virgin Islands' education officials are "hopeful a \$3 million financial requirement by the federal government could soon be reduced." At a press conference Monday at Government House in Charlotte Amalie, Gov. Kenneth Mapp said that "U.S. Education Department officials, including U.S. Education Secretary Betsy

DeVos, have pledged to look into the situation.” According to the article, “federally mandated third-party fiduciary responsibilities — independent accountants hired to oversee the department’s expenditures — cost the V.I. Education Department about \$3 million per year,” and “ending the oversight requirement has been a goal of the Mapp administration, as well as the previous administration of Gov. John deJongh.”

China Takes More Of A Lead With Climate Change Efforts In The Pacific.

[Loop Pacific](#) (7/25) reports that “small island states are turning to other nations like China to garner more support for climate change efforts in the region.” Joseph Veramu, a policy analyst and consultant for the Fiji government, “said its Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama is on a mission to get developed nations to reduce emissions and China seems committed to do more to support.” Interestingly, “Pacific nations have grown closer not only to China, but also the European Union and India.”

Office Of Surface Mining

DOI Mining Decision Can Be Challenged, 10th Circ. Says.

[Law360](#) (7/25, Goldberg) reports that “the Tenth Circuit on Tuesday reversed a lower court’s dismissal of a coal miner’s challenge of an enforcement decision by a U.S. Department of the Interior administrative law judge, saying such decisions are final and subject to judicial review once the agency’s appeals board declines to stay them.”

Top National News

Trump Says He’s “Very Disappointed” In Sessions, Won’t Say If He’ll Fire Him.

President Trump’s continued public criticism of Attorney General Sessions receives heavy media coverage including more than 10 minutes of reporting on the network news broadcasts – two of which led with the story – as well extensive print coverage and cable commentary. The coverage is largely negative for Trump, casting him as trying to precipitate Sessions’ resignation rather than firing him and highlighting criticism of his comments and tweets from conservative groups, former Justice Department officials, and Republican lawmakers as well as Democrats who believe Trump is trying to install a new attorney general who will put a stop to special counsel Robert Mueller’s investigation.

In an interview with the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/25, Bender), Trump expressed disappointment in Sessions, but would not say whether he plans to fire him. Trump told the Journal, “I’m very disappointed in Jeff Sessions.” Asked how long he could continue criticizing his Attorney General without firing him Trump said, “I’m just looking at it. ... I’ll just see. It’s a very important thing.” The [Washington Times](#) (7/25, Miller) reports that Trump said in a Rose Garden press conference Tuesday that “time will tell” what is in Sessions’ future.

[The Hill](#) (7/25, Fabian) quotes Trump as saying during the press conference, “If he was going to recuse himself, he should have told me before taking office. ... I think that’s a bad thing not for the president, but for the presidency.” [Reuters](#) (7/25) says that in comments which fed speculation that Sessions will not last long in his job, Trump said in the news conference, “I want the attorney general to be much tougher. ... I want the leaks from intelligence agencies, which are leaking like rarely have they ever leaked before, at a very important level. These are intelligence agencies we cannot have that happen.”

Anthony Mason said in the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (7/25, lead story, 3:45) that Trump gave Sessions “a very public, very humiliating thrashing” Tuesday. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/25, story 3, 2:55), anchor Lester Holt described Trump as “publicly belittling” Sessions, and Kristen Welker said that Trump “has been scathing, calling Sessions beleaguered and weak.” [Bloomberg News](#) (7/25, Olorunnipa, Talev) says Trump has “unleashed a torrent of public criticism against” Sessions in “an apparent campaign to pressure Sessions to quit,” and the [Washington Post](#) (7/25, Johnson, Branigin) says Trump’s “onslaught raised questions about Sessions’s tenure as attorney general.”

On Tuesday morning, Trump [tweeted](#), “Attorney General Jeff Sessions has taken a VERY weak position on Hillary Clinton crimes (where are E-mails & DNC server) & Intel leakers!” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/25, Stokols) says Trump’s tweet seemed to be urging Sessions to launch a criminal investigation of Clinton. In another [tweet](#) Tuesday, Trump suggested that people in

control at the FBI are Clinton sympathizers. Trump wrote, "Problem is that the acting head of the FBI & the person in charge of the Hillary investigation, Andrew McCabe, got \$700,000 from H for wife!" [Newsweek](#) (7/25, Kutner) reports that the FBI "has defended McCabe, saying he did not help his wife fundraise and did not begin overseeing the Clinton investigation until after his wife's campaign was over."

[Reuters](#) (7/25) reports that Trump "raised questions, without offering evidence, about Ukrainian support for his Democratic presidential rival, Hillary Clinton," writing in a [tweet](#), "Ukrainian efforts to sabotage Trump campaign – 'quietly working to boost Clinton.' So where is the investigation A.G." He "did not elaborate or offer evidence about any role Ukraine may have played in the 2016 election." Ukraine's Embassy in Washington "denied Kiev had tried to influence the US election," [tweeting](#), "We stand by our words that the government of Ukraine didn't help any candidate in (the) election. Ukraine is proud of bipartisan support in the US."

Citing Trump's tweets, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/25) says Trump is "keeping up pressure" on Sessions, while [The Hill](#) (7/25, Balluck) says Trump's tweets "underlin[ed] the sense that he wants to be rid of his attorney general." The [New York Times](#) (7/25, Sullivan, Shear) says the tweets "were the latest in a string of attacks on Mr. Sessions," which Jake Tapper described on [CNN's The Lead](#) (7/25) as an "escalating campaign of public humiliation to push out" the Attorney General. CNN senior White House correspondent Jeff Zeleny said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (7/25) that Trump is "indeed shaming him, he's humiliating him, but he's not saying if he intends to fire him. There is a bit of mystery at the White House over how long this will go on."

In the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/25, lead story, 3:55, Muir), Jonathan Karl described the President as "publicly seething" over Sessions' decision to recuse himself and added that White House aides say Trump "exploded in anger" when Sessions announced his decision, and did so again "following the announcement of Special Counsel Robert Mueller." Tucker Carlson said on [Fox News Tucker Carlson Tonight](#) (7/25) that the Russia investigation itself is "unfair to the presidency," but "publicly attacking Jeff Sessions for all of that – that is nuts."

The [AP](#) (7/25, Lemire, Colvin) reports that White House communications director Anthony Scaramucci said in an interview with radio host Hugh Hewitt that Trump is "obviously frustrated" and that he and Sessions "need to work this thing out." When Hewitt said it is clear that Trump wants Sessions gone, Scaramucci replied, "you're probably right." White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (7/25) that Trump is "certainly frustrated and disappointed in the Attorney General for recusing himself. ... That frustration certainly hasn't gone away."

Meanwhile, [Politico](#) (7/25, Nelson, McCaskill) says "conservatives and some White House advisers are cautioning Trump against seeking his ouster." According to Politico, chief strategist Steve Bannon "has emphasized that firing Sessions is a risky move that would cast the White House in a negative light and potentially unleash a political disaster, according to a senior White House aide." Politico adds that "conservative outside groups and leaders came to Sessions' defense on Tuesday." Major Garrett said in the lead story for [CBS Evening News](#) (7/25, lead story, 3:45) that "conservative groups rushed to Sessions' defense...after learning he wanted to stay in the job. Their message to President Trump: You're playing with fire, and continued roughing up of Sessions could promote a first genuine backlash from the President's conservative activist base."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/25) reported Trump's "public flogging" of Sessions "isn't sitting well" with some "Republican senators." [McClatchy](#) (7/25, Clark) reports that Trump is learning "a bitter Washington lesson" that "you don't pick a fight with one of the Senate's guys," and it "could cost him politically in a Senate where he badly needs Republican support for his lengthy agenda." The [AP](#) (7/25, Lemire, Colvin) says Trump's "ongoing criticism...drew a fiery response" from Sen. Lindsey Graham, who said, "Jeff Sessions is one of the most decent people I've ever met in my political life. ... President Trump's tweet today suggesting Attorney General Sessions pursue prosecution of a former political rival is highly inappropriate." Sens. Richard Shelby and Thom Tillis "also voiced support of their former colleague. But the White House only turned up the heat further." [Reuters](#) (7/25) also reports on Graham's comments.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/25, Wilber, Viswanatha, Reinhard) reports that former Justice Department officials also defended Sessions and expressed concern that if Trump were to fire him, it could result in the resignations of other top DOJ officials and trigger a constitutional crisis.

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/25) editorial is highly critical, likening Trump's suggestion that Sessions prosecute Clinton to something one would see from the Erdogan government in Turkey or the Duterte government in the Philippines. A [Washington Post](#) (7/25) editorial similarly says

that "there is a serious point to be made about the difference between the United States of America and a state ruled by personal whim." The US "has been the envy of the world because certain norms have been accepted." The Post argues that the stakes are higher than "the careers of a particular attorney general or special counsel." When Trump "attacks that process and seeks revenge on his opponents," he "betrays bedrock American values. It's crucial that other political leaders say so."

In what it sees as a sign of "the potential political danger ahead," [USA Today](#) (7/25, Przybyla) says "the diversity of conservatives rallying behind Sessions is significant," ranging from "the alt-right Breitbart News and conservative talk host Rush Limbaugh to family values and anti-immigration groups." CNN White House correspondent Sara Murray said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/25) that "some Administration officials are making the case to President Trump to keep Sessions on board and they're pointing to that outpouring of support that Sessions is getting from Republican senators, but even they acknowledge this rift may be too far gone for these men to mend fences." In the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/25, lead story, 3:55, Muir), Karl cited "people close to the President" who believed "he was on the verge of firing Sessions. One person who intervened was close Trump friend and adviser, Newt Gingrich." While "the firing didn't happen...Gingrich afterwards cautioned the story is not over."

However, the defense of Sessions from Republicans was not universal. The [Washington Times](#) (7/25, Persons) reports that reacting to the idea that Sessions might be dismissed, House Speaker Ryan said during his weekly press briefing that Trump "gets to decide what his personnel is." Ryan added, "He's the executive branch, we're the legislative branch, he determines who gets hired and fired in the executive branch, that's his prerogative." [Politico](#) (7/25, Wright, Kim, Cheney) reports that some Republicans "sought to both praise Sessions while also rationalizing Trump's tweets attacking him." Sen. John Kennedy said, "I think Jeff Sessions is a good man. ... But he works for the president of the United States." Rep. Dave Brat "said Trump's broadsides against Sessions were a reflection of the president's frustration with Democratic opponents and perceived media bias," and Rep. Trent Franks "called Sessions a 'noble public servant and a valued human being,'" and "said he believes the president thinks so too, despite the criticism."

Meanwhile, in another story, [Politico](#) (7/25, Wright, Kim, Cheney) says Democrats "suggested an ulterior motive...saying the president could be laying the groundwork to install a new attorney general who would rein in special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia probe." For example, Senate Minority Leader Schumer said, "Many Americans must be wondering if the president is trying to pry open the office of attorney general to appoint someone during the August recess who will fire Special Counsel Mueller and shut down the Russia investigation." [Reuters](#) (7/25) quotes Schumer as saying, "Democrats will never go along with the recess appointment if that situation arises. ... We have some tools in our toolbox to stymie such action. We're ready to use every single one of them."

Sen. Joe Manchin said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (7/25), "I just would say that the next person, if Jeff's not going to be there, the next person's going to have a much more strenuous time coming through confirmation process because we want to make sure people in the Justice Department put the rule of law above any one human being or any one party."

Sen. Mazie Hirono said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (7/25), "I think it's outrageous that the President is now going after the senator who was the first out of the chute to endorse him and who the President called the smartest person in Washington, DC and now because I think he's very afraid of where the Russian investigation is heading that he's going after Jeff Sessions."

Sen. Chris Coons said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/25), "I'll remind you that the reason [Trump is] disappointed" is that Sessions "appropriately recused himself from an ongoing investigation into the potential collusion between the Russians and the Trump campaign." Coons said his concern is that Trump's true intention is to get Sessions to resign "so he can appoint someone to attorney general who will be willing to take decisive action against Bob Mueller."

Appearing on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/25), Rep. Adam Schiff, ranking Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, said Trump "wants to fire...Sessions, but he would rather not have to do it, so he's trying to force him to resign. And he wants to do that so that he can bring in a new attorney general that will limit the scope of what" special counsel Mueller can investigate. Schiff added, "We cannot allow that to happen."

Rep. Joaquin Castro said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (7/25), "I was somebody who said that Jeff Sessions should not have gotten the job. I've said previously he should resign. So I'm in a very weird position. ... On the one hand, I don't want to allow Donald Trump to dictate the terms of the Russia investigation because him forcing out Jeff Sessions to me seems like a prelude to essentially do away with Bob Mueller and the country cannot allow him to do that. On the other

hand, I also think that Jeff Sessions has a lot of conflicts of interest and for that reason, he shouldn't be in that job." Castro added, "In the next few days, I think we will probably see Jeff Sessions gone."

Rep. Eric Swalwell said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (7/25), "I believe that Jeff Sessions has to go for different reasons than Donald Trump. He wasn't forthcoming with the Senate and the American people about his Russian ties, and he was a part of the James Comey firing. For those reasons, I don't think he can remain the top law enforcement officer. Donald Trump, his reasons are he's not loyal and that he won't attack and go after and prosecute Donald Trump's political opponents."

Allies Say Sessions Does Not Intend To Resign. [Reuters](#) (7/25, Ainsley) reports that while Sessions' allies say Trump is trying to pressure the Attorney General to quit, rather than fire him, he does not intend to resign. Reuters cites "two people close to Sessions" who say he "has been deeply offended by the public berating from his boss, but his resolve to stay is strong." The [Washington Post](#) (7/25, Barrett, Rucker, Horwitz) says Sessions' chief of staff Jody Hunt recently told White House Chief of Staff Reince Priebus that Sessions "had no intention of stepping down." The Post cites "people familiar with the conversation" who said that Hunt "made it clear to Priebus that Sessions 'plans to move forward with his agenda in the department and he has no plans for resigning.'" These people also said that Priebus "did not say Trump planned to fire Sessions if he did not leave."

Charles Hurt of the Washington Times said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (7/25), "What is the endgame here? If he is trying to humiliate Sessions into quitting, he's going to be left with [Deputy Attorney General] Rod Rosenstein, and do you think that the Senate...is going to give him a new attorney general? I don't think that they are. I don't really understand what the endgame here is except to just humiliate Jeff Sessions." Kathleen Parker writes in her [Washington Post](#) (7/25) column that while Trump expects loyalty from others, he "offers little" in return. In early 2016, Sessions "bet the farm on this reality-show celebrity," but now that he has "recused himself from involvement in the FBI's Trump-Russia investigation – and, therefore, from defending the president, as Trump sees it – Sessions is no longer useful."

Rosenstein Cites Trump Inaugural Address In Speech To NAACP. [Politico](#) (7/25, Gerstein) reports that Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein "demonstrated his loyalty to Trump" Tuesday, using an address to the NAACP's annual convention "to pay homage to Trump by citing one of his most polarizing speeches: the inaugural address where he railed against 'carnage' in the streets of America." Rosenstein said, "In President Trump's inaugural address, he said that Americans want great schools for their children, safe neighborhoods for their families and good jobs for themselves. These are just and reasonable demands." Rosenstein did not mention "Trump's extraordinary public taunting of Sessions," but "did draw attention to Sessions' anti-crime efforts." Politico describes the reaction to Rosenstein's speech as "tepid" and "chilly."

Cruz Denies He Is Under Consideration To Replace Sessions. The [Washington Times](#) (7/25, Boyer) reports that Sen. Ted Cruz denied reports that Trump is considering him to replace Sessions, calling them "false" and saying that "he considers Mr. Sessions a friend and a 'strong conservative.'" Cruz said, "I was proud to vote to confirm Jeff and to vigorously defend his confirmation, and I'm deeply gratified that we have a principled conservative like a Jeff Sessions serving as attorney general. ... My focus is and will remain on fighting every day to defend 28 million Texans in the US Senate."

Trump Rallies Supporters In Youngstown, Ohio.

President Trump on Tuesday evening held a campaign-style rally in Youngstown, Ohio, where he touted the Senate's vote earlier in the day to open debate on the repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act, hailed his Administration's efforts to combat the immigration policies of so-called "sanctuary cities," vowed to continue focusing heavily on job creation, railed against the media, and generally revved up an audience of supporters.

The [Youngstown \(OH\) Vindicator](#) (7/26, Skolnick) reports that Trump "was in full campaign mode speaking to a full house at the Covelli Centre," and the audience "of close to 7,000 – not including a few who were turned away – at Tuesday's presidential rally loved it." Trump "spoke of campaign promises he says he will keep, including building a wall along the Mexican border, repealing then replacing Obamacare, and bringing back jobs that are long gone, including those at steel mills that closed in the 1970s." And Trump "was quick to blame the media for not highlighting his accomplishments, criticizing the 'fake news filter' and saying he had Tuesday's rally so he could 'speak directly to the American people.'"

Reporting from Youngstown, the [Toledo \(OH\) Blade](#) (7/25, Troy) says that Trump, during

the "campaign-style rally with enthusiastic supporters," reiterated "promises to bring back jobs and put America's economic interests first as he vowed in his political campaign here last year. The Covelli Centre's capacity of about 7,000 people was filled as the hall thundered with cheers for Mr. Trump's assertions, including boasts of having pulled the US out of the Pacific trade and Paris climate change agreements negotiated by his predecessor."

On its website, [WFMJ-TV](#) Youngstown, OH (7/25, Manion) quoted Trump as telling the crowd, "Finally, I am back in the heartland, away from the swamp of Washington DC." WFMJ-TV added that in reaction to Trump's assertion that he was in Youngstown "to stop the 'fake news media' and talk straight to the voters," the crowd responded "with chants of 'CNN sucks.'" Said Trump, "This has been a difficult week for the media, because I force them to travel around the country and cover tens of thousands of proud Americans who want to defend our country, our culture, our values." The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (7/25, Cawthorne) also briefly reported on the crowd's chant of "CNN sucks."

The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (7/25, Richardson) reports that during the rally, Trump "issued a warning to senators who might oppose the Senate plan to overhaul the" ACA, telling the crowd, "Any senator who votes against repeal and replace is telling America that they are fine with the Obamacare nightmare." The Plain Dealer adds, "You couldn't tell by the crowd that Trump's approval rating isn't great, hovering in the mid-30s to low-40s. Trump has courted controversy after controversy since taking over in January, but the throng of supporters decked out in his signature red 'Make America Great Again' trucker caps were unfazed at the Youngstown rally."

On its website, [WKBN-TV](#) Youngstown, OH (7/25) reported that Trump promised "that under his presidency, the state of Ohio would thrive," vowing "that he would bring jobs back to the area, telling Valley residents, 'Don't sell your house.' 'I'll tell ya what, I rode through your beautiful roads coming up from the [Youngstown Warren Regional] Airport and I was looking at some those big, once-incredible job-producing factories,' Trump said," adding, "And my wife Melania said, 'What happened?' I said, 'Those jobs have left Ohio.' They're all coming back. They're all coming back."

The [Columbus \(OH\) Dispatch](#) (7/25, Ludlow) reports that Trump "faces a challenge to bring industry back to the Youngstown-Warren area," where "there are 1,300 fewer manufacturing jobs than a year ago, federal figures show. And, about 1,000 GM workers recently were laid off at plants than make the Chevrolet Cruze." Even so, "the crowd of Trump enthusiasts found hope in his words. 'Industry is so stagnant in the Valley. My kids had to move to Cleveland,' said Anna Pera, 65, of Canfield. 'But, it's time to make America great, it really is. I believe in what he wants to do for America.'"

The [Washington Times](#) (7/25, Miller) reports that at the rally, Trump "rekindled the energy from his campaign," pledging "that he would continue to defy the 'fake news' and keep fulfilling the promises he made to the American people. 'Tonight we are going to set aside the cynics and the critics because we know exactly why they are so bitter. Because day after day,' he said, 'we are keeping our promises to the people and we are putting – finally, finally, finally – finally we are putting America first.'"

On its website, [Fox News](#) (7/25, Pappas) reported that while Trump "celebrated the Senate's procedural vote earlier in the day on repealing ObamaCare," he "avoided discussing his frustration with Attorney General Jeff Sessions." Fox News added that Trump "delivered a freewheeling speech, reminiscent of those given during the 2016 campaign, on a variety of topics. 'I'm here this evening to cut through the fake-news filter and speak straight to the American people,' he said."

The [AP](#) (7/25, Salama) reports Trump "arrived in Ohio for a victory lap on Tuesday night with the very voters who helped put him in office. 'We're now one step closer to liberating our citizens from this Obamacare nightmare and delivering great health care for the American people,' Trump" said. The AP says that the visit "to Youngstown, a staunchly working-class, union-heavy enclave that has long helped anchor Democrats in Ohio, served as a welcome distraction from Washington for a president who loves to relive his once-unlikely Election Day win."

Similarly, [CNN](#) (7/25, Merica) reported on its website, "For Trump, returning to the campaign trail for his sixth campaign rally as president marked a reprieve from the conflict in Washington." In his speech, the President "confronted criticism of his unprecedented style, saying his unconventional approach is necessary to change the country for the better." Said Trump, "Sometimes they say he doesn't act presidential. And I say, 'hey look, great schools, smart guy, it's so easy to act presidential but that's not going to get it done. In fact, I said, it is much easier to act presidential than what we are doing here tonight, believe me."

The [New York Times](#) (7/25, Baker) reports that Trump "was in his element and bathing in

the adulation of the crowd" at Tuesday's rally, as audience members "shouted and cheered and whistled and jumped up on chairs to see him. Finally, the president even invited one of them to take the microphone for a minute. 'Every one of these people love you, sir,' said the man, wearing a T-shirt that said 'TRUMP WON – Deal With It.'" The Times adds, "For a president who has not gotten a lot of love lately inside" Washington, "hitting the road in recent days has been a political booster shot. Three out of the last four days, the famously homebody president with the low approval ratings has escaped the Washington free-fire zone to seek more appreciative audiences."

In an analysis for [Roll Call](#) (7/25), John Bennett says, "As he delivered parts of his" speech, "it well could have been July 2016 with then-Republican nominee Trump at the podium. The world is more unsafe than ever. The United States has been run for too long by 'stupid' politicians. People who wish to Americans harm are pouring over the southern border. Other countries are taking advantage of US workers and consumers. And there is only one person capable of change all of that: Donald J. Trump."

On its website, [CNN](#) (7/25, Kopan) reported that in his speech, Trump "railed against sanctuary cities," drawing "out a long and graphic description of violent gang members torturing and killing young women. 'These are the animals that we've been protecting for so long,' Trump said. 'Well, they're not being protected any longer folks. And that is why my administration is launching a nationwide crackdown on sanctuary cities.'"

[Politico](#) (7/25, Karni) reported that returning to the "longtime Democratic stronghold" of Youngstown, Trump sounded "almost unchanged from the candidate who campaigned [t]here last year, as he confidently doubled down on promises he has yet to keep." However, "what was ostensibly the biggest good news of Trump's day – the Senate vote to move ahead on repealing Obamacare – appeared in his speech only as an afterthought," as the President "appeared more animated when he spoke about cracking down on undocumented immigration, sanctuary cities, and 'radical Islamic terrorism' than when he touched on the legislative victory that puts him one step closer to fulfilling a campaign promise."

[The Hill](#) (7/25, Beavers) reported that Trump "mocked a protester demonstrating at" yesterday's event, "telling the crowd that 'he's going back home to mommy.' 'Boy, he's a young one. He's going back home to mommy. Oh is he in trouble. He's in trouble,' Trump said, appearing unfazed by the disruption. 'And I'll bet his mommy voted for us, right?' he added."

Writing for the [Washington Examiner](#) (7/25), Tom Rogan says that Trump "was in his favorite place" during yesterday's event: "At the center of an adoring crowd of fans, delivering punches to his many enemies seen and unseen. ... The crowd loved it." Rogan adds, "Whatever one thinks of Trump, he knows how to please his supporters. When we in the media consider Trump's very real political difficulties, we sometimes ignore the strength of his base in consolidating their chosen leader."

YSU Political Scientist Explains Why Youngstown Gave Trump "Hero's Welcome." Salena Zito – writing for the [New York Post](#) (7/25, Zito) – says that Trump "received a hero's welcome in" Youngstown, which "is a good representation of the towns that feel left behind in America for the past few decades. Trump has punctuated that in the three previous visits he has done in Mahoning County since announcing his" White House run. Youngstown State University political scientist Paul Sracic told Zito, "Coming here is not just about Youngstown. This is a small city, but Youngstown symbolizes sort of that blue-collar working-class community that has seen better days. When Trump comes here he's not only talking to voters here. He's talking to similarly situated voters across the country." Sracic added, "The Youngstown community has been falling apart because there aren't enough jobs here to keep the kids here; in Trump, they finally got somebody who seems to get the fact that this is a problem."

In an online article for [TIME](#) (7/25, Elliott), Philip Elliott writes about speaking with Trump supporters in Youngstown, such as "70-year-old former salesman" Bruce Logan, who "had been a registered independent who usually voted for Democratic candidates. Then, along came Trump," and Logan "registered last year as a Republican so that he could support Trump in his primary, and then worked to help him" defeat "Hillary Clinton last year. 'He shoots straight from the gut. He's not your typical politician,' Logan" said "as he spent hours waiting in line to hear from the President directly at a rally. 'He is exactly what this country needs right now.' Adds his wife, 68-year-old, Carol: 'He's the first politician with rocks.' They are hardly alone here in this corner of northeast Ohio, a one-time Democratic stronghold that also once was a hub of the American steel industry."

WPost Analysis: Trump's "Simplistic View Of" Youngstown "Is Stuck In Time." Under the headline "Steel Valley's Youngstown Is Much More Complicated Than Trump Portrays," the [Washington Post](#) (7/25, Johnson) reports that Trump on Tuesday "escaped the roiling turmoil of

Washington," traveling to Youngstown "to rally with his supporters in [the] former steel town." The Post says that Trump's "simplistic view of" Youngstown, "located in what was once known as 'Steel Valley,' is stuck in time. Youngstown suffered closures of steel mills in the 1970s and '80s that laid off thousands, tanked the local economy and led to a mass exodus of residents. But the region has evolved significantly since then, and few say they expect Trump to revive the steel industry here as he has promised. Instead, those living in Youngstown and its suburbs are worried about health care, the schools their children and grandchildren attend, the opioid crisis that now kills more Ohioans than car crashes, the care of military veterans, and the region's overall economy."

Politico Analysis: Trump Faces Challenge In Retaining Support Of Ohio Democrats. Under the headline "Trump Tests The Loyalty Of The Ohio Democrats He Won," [Politico](#) (7/25, Karni) reported ahead of Trump's Tuesday address, "Down-and-out Youngstown, Ohio, last year became emblematic of the power of...Trump's campaign. With his populist message targeting white working-class voters, he outperformed every GOP nominee since Richard Nixon won the Democratic stronghold of Mahoning County. Today, the blue-collar town represents one of the looming challenges of Trump's presidency, six months in: how to keep the support he won as a populist candidate, when he flipped disgruntled Democrats and independents to his side of the ledger, while in many cases governing like a plutocrat who has so far failed to deliver on many of his campaign promises."

AP Analysis: As President, Trump Has Largely Traveled To States He Won. The [AP](#) (7/25, Bykowicz, Lemire) reported on a "review" it conducted of President Trump's travels since being inaugurated, saying, "Of his 33 domestic trips out of Washington, he's set foot in non-Trump voting states only seven times other than to stay at his own golf property in Bedminster, New Jersey. The AP's count does not include the president's frequent day trips to his nearby Virginia golf course. He also has not journeyed too far, traveling west of the Mississippi River only once and so far dodging the Mountain and Pacific time zones."

Kushner, Manafort Meet With Congressional Investigators.

President Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner, and his former campaign chairman Paul Manafort were on Capitol Hill Tuesday to meet with congressional investigators looking into Russian interference in the 2016 election.

The [AP](#) (7/25, Jalonick, Day) reports that Kushner spent about three hours in a closed-door meeting with member of the House Intelligence Committee. [Bloomberg News](#) (7/25, House, Pettypiece) reports that lawmakers described Kushner as "cooperative and forthcoming" during the meeting. According to ranking committee Democrat Adam Schiff, it was "a very productive session – an opportunity to ask about a range of issues the committee was concerned about," and Kushner "was receptive to returning to the committee for more questioning, he said." However, Schiff said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (7/25) that "we can't accept any representation on its face," because "we have seen, unfortunately, with other members of the Trump family and organization that they will say one thing and then the truth will prove to be something quite different."

[Politico](#) (7/25, Cheney) quotes Rep. Mike Conaway, who is leading the panel's investigation, as saying, "His answers were forthcoming and complete. He satisfied all my questions." According to Rep. Peter King, "a staunch Trump defender," Democrats "struggled to extract new information out of Kushner despite insinuating – in what he described as repetitive lines of questioning – that he wasn't revealing everything." King said, "Obviously, they were trying to prove a point, which they couldn't prove. ... The whole tone of the questions was that there was more there and they couldn't find it." The [CBS Evening News](#) (7/25, story 4, 0:25, Mason) briefly mentioned Kushner's meeting with the panel.

The [AP](#) (7/25, Jalonick, Day) reports that Manafort "met with bipartisan staff of the Senate intelligence committee," in a discussion that was "confined to his recollection of a June 2016 meeting with a Russian lawyer at Trump Tower, according to two people familiar with the interview." One of the people said Manafort "also turned over his contemporaneous notes documenting the meeting," and the other "said Manafort has agreed to additional interviews with the Senate intelligence committee staff on other topics." The [Washington Post](#) (7/25, Helderman, Demirjian) says Manafort's notes "could provide a key contemporaneous account of a meeting that has emerged as a focus of investigations into Russia's interference in the 2016 campaign by both Congress and Special Counsel Robert Mueller."

Senate Panel Rescinds Subpoena For Manafort. The [New York Times](#) (7/25, Sullivan, Goldman, Haberman) reports that Manafort's meeting with the House committee came as the

Senate Judiciary Committee, which is conducting its own investigation, “announced that it issued a subpoena for Mr. Manafort to appear at a hearing on Wednesday.” However, the panel “later rescinded the subpoena and canceled his appearance.” Manafort’s lawyers are “working out how and when he will be interviewed by the committee.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/25, Tau) says Manafort and investigators came to an agreement that will allow Manafort to avoid testifying publicly about Russian interference in the 2016 election. A [Reuters](#) (7/25) story posted Tuesday evening cites “a source familiar with the issue” who said Manafort “is going to ‘continue discussions’ with Senate investigators.”

In a story posted before the subpoena was rescinded, the [Washington Times](#) (7/25, Dinan) reported that Chairman Charles Grassley and ranking Democrat Dianne Feinstein “said they were fed up with delays and restrictions Mr. Manafort was trying to impose on their investigation, so they will compel him to appear.” A [Reuters](#) (7/25, Zengerle, Becker) story posted before the subpoena was rescinded said the subpoena “was a sign lawmakers are willing to push hard as they probe Russia’s role and potential collusion by the Republican’s campaign.”

[USA Today](#) (7/25, Johnson, Kelly) reports that Donald Trump Jr., “who had been expected to meet with investigators, was also no longer scheduled to appear.” Feinstein told Fox News that both Manafort and Trump Jr. “would appear before the committee ‘hopefully in September.’” Feinstein said, “The staffs are negotiating and it just got too close and members need to prepare and they need to get documents to be able to prepare, so that’s what we’ve set upon now.”

Fusion GPS Founder To Meet Privately With Senate Judiciary Committee. [The Hill](#) (7/25, Greenwood) reports that Grassley and Feinstein said Tuesday that Glenn Simpson, co-founder of Fusion GPS, “the firm tied to the controversial opposition research dossier” on Trump “has agreed to speak to the Senate Judiciary Committee behind closed doors,” in return for the panel dropping the subpoena issued last week after he “declined the committee’s request to appear before lawmakers in a public hearing.”

Justice Department IG To Discuss His 2016 Election Probe Before Senate Panel. [Politico](#) (7/25, Gerstein) reports that the Justice Department’s Office of Inspector General has been investigating “several issues key to the Russia saga since before President Donald Trump’s inauguration.” Inspector General Michael Horowitz, who “has offered few public indications of the status of his probe,” is “likely to make his first public statements at a hearing in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee about the status of his inquiry – and whether he’ll acquiesce to any of the many requests from Republicans and Democrats to expand his review to include the firing of former FBI director James Comey or other developments.”

Republicans Reject Measure To Force Treasury To Turn Over Trump-Russia Documents. [Bloomberg News](#) (7/25, Dexheimer) reports that Republicans on the House Financial Services Committee “rejected an attempt by Democrats to force the Treasury Department to turn over any documents it has that show financial ties between President Donald Trump and Russia.” Rep. Maxine Waters’ measure, which “would have compelled the Treasury to provide any records detailing connections that Trump, his family and his closest advisers have with Russian banks and Deutsche Bank AG,” was “dealt...a major setback on Tuesday,” as Republicans voted “to report it unfavorably to the full House.” [Reuters](#) (7/25, Schroeder) says committee Chairman Jeb Hensarling “said the panel would not be spending any time exploring Trump’s financial network,” and cited “open investigations by congressional committees and a special counsel into conclusions by US intelligence agencies that Russia interfered in the 2016 election campaign to help New York businessman Trump win.”

Putin Spokesman: Kremlin Did Not Order Kushner-Gorkov Meeting. The [AP](#) (7/25) reports that Russian President Vladimir Putin’s spokesman, Dmitri Peskov, said Tuesday the Kremlin did not order the meeting between Kushner and Vneshekonombank head Sergei Gorkov, which Kushner included in his statement to Congress on Monday. Kushner “said he had been asked to meet with Gorkov by Sergei Kislyak, then the Russian ambassador.” Peskov told reporters, “These contacts do not require any authorization from the Kremlin and they were not carried out on behalf of the Kremlin.”

Benczkowski Defends His Work For Alfa Bank. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/25, Wilber, Viswanatha) reports that Brian Benczkowski, Trump’s nominee to run the Justice Department’s criminal division, defended his work for the Russian bank Alfa Bank during testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee and said he would recuse himself for two years from overseeing any investigations involving the bank. The [Washington Post](#) (7/25, Zapotosky) reports that Benczkowski “defended working for the institution, saying it was in line with the work he had done throughout his career in the private sector.”

Applebaum: Rise Of Trump And Rise Of Putin Are Connected. In her [Washington Post](#) (7/25)

column, Anne Applebaum cites Donald Trump Jr.'s claim in 2008 that "Russians make up a pretty disproportionate cross-section of a lot of our assets," as evidence that "Russian money...enriched Trump and his family. ... In that sense the rise of Trump and the rise of Putin are connected." To Applebaum, this explains the President Trump's "affinity for the Russian president" and why Mueller's "investigation has reportedly decided to look closely at past Trump family real estate transactions."

Jenkins: Comey Accidentally Helped Trump Win Election. Holman Jenkins Jr. writes in his [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/25) column that while former FBI Director Comey intended his interventions into the 2016 election to aid Hillary Clinton, they inadvertently resulted in a Trump victory.

Senate Rejects First GOP Healthcare Bill After Narrowly Approving Motion To Proceed.

Coverage of the Senate's vote to proceed to debate on measures to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act focuses on how close the vote was, with only the return of Sen. John McCain and a tie-breaking vote from Vice President Pence making it possible. Most of the coverage of the vote is centered on McCain's dramatic return, as well as his speech criticizing the process and warning that he does not support the legislation itself as it stands. The early coverage of the close vote is superseded by the first vote on new legislation itself, which failed by a wide margin.

[Reuters](#) (7/25, Oliphant) reports, "In a first vote of the many likely to come this week, the plan to repeal and replace Obamacare that Senate Republicans have been working on for months failed" on a vote of [43-57](#). It would have needed 60 votes to advance. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/25, Mascaro, Bennett) reports that Republicans "quickly shot down what was once their leading proposal for repealing and replacing" the ACA. [Roll Call](#) (7/25, Williams) reports that the measure included an amendment from Sen. Ted Cruz "that would have allowed insurers to offer plans that are noncompliant with the current requirements in the health care law, so long as they offer a compliant option," as well as an amendment from Sen. Rob Portman "that would have, among other things, poured an additional \$100 billion into a state stability fund."

[The Hill](#) (7/25, Carney) reports that the bill "was widely expected to fail." [Bloomberg News](#) (7/25, Litvan, Dennis) reports that the Senate is now expected to vote Wednesday "on an amendment similar to an Obamacare repeal bill passed in 2015 by the Senate" but vetoed by President Obama. That proposal "is also expected to fail, and it will be followed by a number of other proposals."

[Politico](#) (7/25, Diamond) reports that Senate Majority Leader McConnell may instead push "a 'skinny repeal' plan that would leave major parts [of the ACA] intact while knocking out its mandates, but also allow the Senate to move a repeal bill to conference with the House if they can't agree on a more comprehensive measure." However, the [New York Times](#) (7/25, Sanger-Katz) writes, "many independent analysts have concluded that, without a mandate, health insurance would become more expensive and cover fewer people." And while GOP leaders "have assailed the health law's large tax increases" and "complained about Obamacare's burdensome insurance regulations," this option would repeal just one tax and leave the regulations in place.

[Politico](#) (7/25, Shepard) reports that a new Politico/Morning Consult poll finds that "just 36 percent of voters support repealing Obamacare without a replacement," while 50 percent are opposed.

Motion To Proceed Passes, With Pence Breaking Tie. Much of the earlier coverage of the passage of the motion to proceed focused on the return of McCain to the Senate. In the lead story on [NBC Nightly News](#) (7/25, lead story, 2:50), Lester Holt called it "an emotional and remarkable moment" when McCain's return "brought Republicans and Democrats to their feet in a thundering ovation." McCain "cast his critical vote, and then deliver[ed] a stunning rebuke on the state of politics in America and what's been lost in the process." McCain: "Stop listening to the bombastic loud mouths on the radio, television, and Internet. To hell with them. We're getting nothing done, my friends. We're getting nothing done." Though he voted for the motion to proceed, McCain said, "I will not vote for this bill as it is today. It's a shell of a bill right now. We all know that."

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (7/25, story 2, 3:00, Muir), Mary Bruce reported, "Less than a week after being diagnosed with brain cancer, McCain swoop[ed] in to cast a critical vote on healthcare. ... McCain cast his vote, and then he spoke his mind. For 15 minutes, he railed against the dysfunction in Washington." The [CBS Evening News](#) (7/25, story 2, 2:40, Mason) reported that "it took a tie-breaking vote from the Vice President and the return of John McCain" to approve the motion to proceed. The [New York Times](#) (7/25, Steinhauer) headlines a report "McCain Returns To Washington To Cast A Vote To Help The President Who Derided Him." The

[Washington Post](#) (7/25, Viebeck) reports that McCain “received a hero’s welcome on Capitol Hill.”

The [New York Times](#) (7/25, A1, Pear, Kaplan) reports that “the victory could be fleeting: Senate Republicans still have no agreement on a repeal bill.” [USA Today](#) (7/25, Collins) reports, “The Senate launched into an uncertain legislative adventure” as McConnell “cajoled enough of his Republican colleagues to begin consideration of legislation to repeal Obamacare despite having no idea what the final bill will look like.” McCain “voted in favor of debating the bill but then gave a speech excoriating the process the Senate is using to craft the legislation and suggesting it was likely to fail anyway.”

The [Washington Post](#) (7/25, A1, Sullivan, Eilperin, O’Keefe, Snell) reports that the Senate “embarked on a freewheeling process to rewrite” the ACA, but “schisms” within the GOP “threatened to leave the party far short in the coming days of its ambitious goal to undo major parts” of the law. Still, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/25, A1, Armour) calls the vote a victory for McConnell, who had delayed any vote three times due to GOP divisions. On [CNBC’s Closing Bell](#) (7/25), John Harwood called the vote “very impressive and a surprise, especially since Mitch McConnell had seemed to indicate that the process had reached a dead end just a few days ago.”

The [Washington Times](#) (7/25, Howell) reports, “As the Senate clerk called the voting roll, Democrats sat in their chairs refusing to vote and glared at Republicans,” and “protesters in the gallery shouted, ‘Kill the bill! Don’t kill us!’ Their cries could still be heard once they were shoed into the hallway.”

[USA Today](#) (7/25) editorializes, “McConnell bypassed the normal process of Congress, the committee system,” and “has come up with two partial repeals of the ACA and one total repeal. All have elicited significant opposition, largely because they would result in 23 million to 32 million fewer people having health insurance. Now McConnell has cajoled all but two Republican senators to begin debate on a mystery bill that not only has not gone through committee, it does not even exist.”

The [New York Times](#) (7/25) similarly editorializes that McConnell “browbeat and cajoled 50 members of his caucus to vote to begin a debate on health care without even telling the country which of several competing bills he wanted to pass.” The proposals “vary in severity, but all of them would leave millions more people without health insurance and make medical care unaffordable for many low-income and middle-class families. It is clear that Mr. McConnell does not much care which of these proposals the Senate passes; for whatever reason – pride, White House pressure, sheer cussedness – he just wants to get a bill out of the Senate.”

In his [Washington Post](#) (7/25) column, George Will writes, “Congress’s continuing self-degradation is writ large in a process that brought us to Tuesday, when most Republican senators knew only this: They would vote to begin consideration of a bill that they might have to pass in order to find out what is in it.” However, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/25) says in an editorial that the vote was a vindication for McConnell, but warns that the GOP caucus will need to retain discipline as votes proceed on a wide array of Democratic amendments meant to create divisions.

Trump Calls Vote “A Big Step,” Thanks McCain For Returning. The [Washington Times](#) (7/25, Miller) reports that the President “applauded...the Senate vote to open debate.” Speaking at a joint news conference with Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri in the Rose Garden, Trump said, “This was a big step.” [Politico](#) (7/25, Nussbaum) reports that Trump “acknowledged a difficult path remains to actually passing legislation.” He said, “This is the tough vote to get. Now we’re all going to sit together and we’re going to try and come up with something that’s really spectacular.”

[The Hill](#) (7/25, Bowden) reports that Trump also thanked McCain for returning to Washington, [tweeting](#), “@SenJohnMcCain-Thank you for coming to D.C. for such a vital vote. Congrats to all Rep. We can now deliver grt healthcare to all Americans!” The [AP](#) (7/25, Salama) reports that later in Youngstown, Ohio, Trump said “the nation was one step closer to liberation from the ‘Obamacare nightmare.’”

DSCC Blasts Flake, Heller Over Healthcare Votes. [The Hill](#) (7/25, Savransky) reported that the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee on Tuesday took aim at Sens. Jeff Flake and Dean Heller for voting in favor of the motion to proceed. DSCC spokesman David Bergstein said in that Heller “has shown the people of Nevada they can’t ‘trust him to stand up for their care,’” referring to the GOP lawmaker “as a ‘deciding vote.’” Bergstein also said Flake “voted to ‘give big insurance companies and the wealthiest few another tax break.’” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (7/25, Montero) reports that a Heller [tweet](#) “about why he chose to ‘vote to move forward and give us the chance to address the unworkable aspects of Obamacare’ generated more than 5,300 replies within three hours of posting it,” the “vast majority” of them expressing “anger, or eagerness to donate to his opponent.”

Scott: “Obamacare Is Failing.” Sen. Tim Scott writes in [USA Today](#) (7/25), “The unavoidable

fact right now is that the ACA is failing. ... Our plans will reform Medicaid, ensure that it is serving those it was created to help (people with disabilities, children and those most in need) and sustain it for future generations." Scott writes, "Obamacare is failing, and our plan provides a better path forward."

McCarthy: House Will Return From Recess If Needed. The [Washington Times](#) (7/25, Dinan) reports that the House is still planning to begin its five-week summer recess after this week, "but GOP leaders said they'll bring the chamber back to vote should the Senate approve an Obamacare repeal." House Majority Leader McCarthy said, "We will call the House back in to finish the job."

Boehner Says ACA Will Not Be Repealed. However, [USA Today](#) (7/25, Shesgreen) reports that in a private speech in Las Vegas, ex-House Speaker John Boehner said, "They're not going to repeal and replace Obamacare. It's been around too long, and the American people have gotten accustomed to it." The [Washington Post](#) (7/25, Costa) also covers Boehner's remarks.

Collins Recorded Criticizing Trump Budget And "Unattractive" Farenthold. The [AP](#) (7/25, Kerr) reports, "Sen. Susan Collins got caught Tuesday at the end of a hearing with a microphone that was still hot – and captured her ripping President Donald Trump and making fun of a fellow lawmaker who had been critical of her on health care." Collins criticized Trump's proposed 2018 budget as "incredibly irresponsible," and made "unflattering remarks" about Rep. Blake Farenthold (R-TX) "a day after he blamed 'some female senators from the Northeast' for blocking health care legislation." She told Sen. Jack Reed, "I don't mean to be unkind but he's so unattractive it's unbelievable." The [New York Times](#) (7/25, Rogers) reports that Collins "also said she was taken aback when she realized" that Farenthold referenced the duel between Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton in his criticism. [Bloomberg News](#) (7/25, Blum) and an online [Washington Post](#) (7/25, Bump) report also cover the conversation.

Trump Says He May Reappoint Yellen Or Name Cohn To Lead Fed.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/25, Davidson) reports that in a Tuesday interview, President Trump said that he may renominate Fed Chair Janet Yellen for another term, but that he is also considering National Economic Council Director Cohn and "two or three" other candidates. Trump said of Yellen, "I like her; I like her demeanor. I think she's done a good job. I'd like to see rates stay low. She's historically been a low-interest-rate person." The Journal points out that Trump was very critical of Yellen during his presidential campaign. [Bloomberg News](#) (7/25, Torres) says that other possible candidates include Glenn Hubbard of Columbia University's business school, Fed Governor Jerome Powell, and ex-Fed Governor Kevin Warsh.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"The Senate's Healthcare Travesty." The [New York Times](#) (7/25) editorializes that Senate Majority Leader McConnell "browbeat and cajoled 50 members of his caucus to vote to begin a debate on health care without even telling the country which of several competing bills he wanted to pass." The proposals "vary in severity, but all of them would leave millions more people without health insurance and make medical care unaffordable for many low-income and middle-class families. It is clear that Mr. McConnell does not much care which of these proposals the Senate passes; for whatever reason – pride, White House pressure, sheer cussedness – he just wants to get a bill out of the Senate."

"Fixing Blame Won't Fix The Subways." The [New York Times](#) (7/25) argues in an editorial that New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio "need to knock off the finger-pointing" and cooperate to address "the crisis afflicting the city's subways."

"Britain Sees Brexit's Threats More Clearly." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (7/26) says "since the British voted to leave the European Union," thus far "the only results are increasingly gloomy prognoses for Britain." As negotiations continue, the Times says, "visions of a painless divorce and new opportunities for a 'global Britain' will most likely wither further, but the infighting will not," because demands "to halt Brexit will grow." The Times concedes "another referendum is not popular, and the result would be uncertain"; however, "there is nothing undemocratic about reviewing the pros and cons of Brexit as the trade-offs become clearer. A move this fateful should not be declared off-limits to a continuing national debate."

Washington Post.

“This Is Not Okay.” Citing President Trump’s public attacks on Attorney General Sessions, a [Washington Post](#) (7/25) editorial says that “there is a serious point to be made about the difference between the United States of America and a state ruled by personal whim.” The US “has been the envy of the world because certain norms have been accepted.” The Post argues that the stakes are higher than “the careers of a particular attorney general or special counsel.” When Trump “attacks that process and seeks revenge on his opponents,” he “betrays bedrock American values. It’s crucial that other political leaders say so.”

“The Migrants Who Died In Misery Last Weekend Won’t Be The Last.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (7/25) argues that the human smuggling incident in San Antonio that resulted in 10 immigrants dead and more than a dozen still hospitalized will not be the last such case, asserting that the demand for low-wage labor will continue to attract workers willing to take great risks to enter the country. The Post adds that although the Administration has reduced illegal border crossings, it has fostered an “inhospitable political environment” for illegal immigrants. The editorial concludes, “Without an overhaul of the nation’s dysfunctional immigration laws, don’t expect illegal immigration or human trafficking or further terrible tragedies to end anytime soon.”

“Change J.E.B. Stuart High School’s Name.” A [Washington Post](#) editorial.

Wall Street Journal.

“Trump’s Sessions Abuse.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/25) editorial is highly critical of President Trump’s attacks on Attorney General Sessions, likening Trump’s suggestion that Sessions prosecute Clinton to something one would see from the Erdogan government in Turkey or the Duterte government in the Philippines.

“Repealing The Arbitration Rule.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/25) applauds the House vote Tuesday to repeal a rule by Consumer Financial Protection Bureau chief Richard Cordray to ban mandatory arbitration. The Journal argues that according to the CFPB’s own study, consumers who prevail in arbitration recovered \$5,389 on average, while those joining class action lawsuits received an average of \$32, with attorneys making an average of \$1 million. The Journal urges the Senate to join the House in repealing the ban.

“A GOP Gallows Reprieve.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (7/25) says in an editorial that the Senate vote to proceed to debate on measures to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act was a vindication for Majority Leader McConnell, but warns that the GOP caucus will need to retain discipline as votes proceed on a wide array of Democratic amendments meant to create divisions.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Health Debate Rolls On After First Option Fails](#)
[Trump Eyes Tax-Code Overhaul, With Emphasis On Middle-Class Break](#)
[Caterpillar Boosts Outlook, Signaling Cautious Optimism](#)
[New Challenge To US Power: Chinese Exceptionalism](#)

New York Times:

[Senate Votes Down Broad Obamacare Repeal](#)
[In Trump’s World, “Very Weak” Sessions Twists In Wind](#)
[McCain Returns To Cast Vote To Help The President Who Derided Him](#)
[Trump Finds Reason For The US To Remain In Afghanistan: Minerals](#)
[At A Moment Of Success, USC Is Rocked By Scandal](#)
[\\$800 Million Subway Rescue Plan Adds Cars And Subtracts Seats](#)

Washington Post:

[Scouts Speech Brings Backlash](#)
[In Return To Senate, McCain Urges Bipartisanship](#)
[N. Korea On Fast Track To Nuclear Missile](#)
[Deported Va. Teen Killed In Tex. Was Trying To Get Back To US In Truck](#)
[Senate Begins Debate On Health Bill](#)
[Standoff Between Trump And Sessions Escalates](#)

Financial Times:

[Greece Raises €3bn In First Bond Sale For Three Years](#)
[Trump Steps Up Attacks On Attorney-General](#)
["Wake-Up Call" For Male Health As Sperm Counts Drop](#)

Washington Times:

[Court Calls DC Gun Law Unconstitutional](#)
[CTE Disease In Brain Tied To Football Injuries](#)
[IRS Finally Agrees To Act On Last Case For Tea Party](#)
[Senate Republicans Win Vots To Begin Debate On Health Care](#)
[Unschooling, Hungry Children Will Carry Plight Into Future](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Trump-Sessions; McCain Returns-Healthcare Bill; Russia Sanctions Bill; Summer Camp-Kid Dies; NYC Train Collision Investigation; US-Iran Navy Close Call; Houston-Drunk Pedestrian; Implanted Employee ID; Sea World-Last Killer Whale Dies; Minneapolis-Police Violence Investigation; Missouri Traffic Accident; Inflight Crew Feud; Football-Head Trauma; Barbara Sinatra Dies; Rescued Puppy.

CBS: Trump-Sessions; McCain Returns-Healthcare Bill; Russia Sanctions Bill; Russia Meddling Investigation-Kushner; Texas-Immigrants Trailer Deaths; US-Iran Navy Close Call; Coast Guard-Budget; Brain Games; Implanted Employee ID; Andy Warhol Art Recovered; Barbara Sinatra Dies; Wrestling-Political Satire.

NBC: McCain Returns-Healthcare Bill; Healthcare Reform Plan; Trump-Sessions; Russia Sanctions Bill; US-Iran Navy Close Call; Football-Head Trauma; Arizona-Flood Deaths; Sea World-Last Killer Whale Dies; Ford Explorer-Carbon Monoxide Leak; Barbara Sinatra Dies; New Girl Scout Badges; Money-Life Satisfaction; Colorado-Rock Climbers.

Network TV At A Glance:

Trump-Sessions – 10 minutes, 35 seconds
McCain Returns-Healthcare Bill – 9 minutes, 35 seconds
US-Iran Navy Close Call – 2 minutes, 15 seconds
Russia Sanctions Bill – 1 minute, 10 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Healthcare Reform Plan; McCain Returns-Healthcare Bill; Trump-Sessions; Russia Meddling Investigation-Kushner.

CBS: McCain Returns-Healthcare Bill; Healthcare Reform Plan; Trump-Sessions; Texas-Immigrants Trailer Deaths; Volkswagen Emission Cheating; Barbara Sinatra Dies; Wall Street News.

FOX: Healthcare Reform Plan; Russia Sanctions Bill; Ohio-Capital Punishment.

NPR: Healthcare Reform Plan; Trump-Boy Scouts Jamboree; McCain Returns-Healthcare Bill; Russia Sanctions Bill; Texas-Bathroom Law.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Delivers remarks to the American Legion Boys Nation and the American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation; participates in a jobs announcement.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Delivers remarks to White House interns; joins the President to participate in a jobs announcement.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Aging Committee hearing on curing Type I Diabetes – Hearing on 'Progress Toward a Cure for Type I Diabetes: Research and the Artificial Pancreas', with testimony from actor Paul Sparks; NIH National Institute of Diabetes and Kidney Diseases Director Griffin Rodgers; 10-year old Type 1 diabetes sufferer Charlie Albair; 17-year old Type 1 diabetes sufferer Lorynn Watt; and JDRF 2017 Children's Congress Chair Mom Angie Platt, and member (and her son) Jonathan – a 14-year old Type 1 diabetes sufferer Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 106, Washington, DC <http://aging.senate.gov/>

9:45 AM Senate Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Public Lands, Forests

and Mining Subcommittee legislative hearing, with testimony from bipartisan Sens. Orrin Hatch and Jon Tester; National Forest System Associate Deputy Chief Glenn Casamassa; and Bureau of Land Management Acting Deputy Director of Operations John Ruhs Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energy.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on 'attempts to influence U.S. elections', though with no testimony from President Trump's son – Hearing on 'Oversight of the Foreign Agents Registration Act and Attempts to Influence U.S. Elections: Lessons Learned from Current and Prior Administrations', with testimony from Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the National Security Division Adam Hickey; FBI Counterintelligence Division Assistant Director Bill Priestap; Department of Justice Inspector General Michael Horowitz; and Hermitage Capital Management (UK) CEO William Browder * Former Donald J. Trump for President campaign manager Paul Manafort and Fusion GPS' Glenn Simpson have been subpoenaed to testify, although Simpson's lawyer has said he is on vacation and would invoke the Fifth Amendment if forced to appear * President Donald Trump's son Donald Trump, Jr. was previously scheduled to testify, but is instead due to hold a private meeting with the Committee * Follows a meeting involving Trump, Jr., Manafort, White House Senior Advisor (and President Trump's son-in-law) Jared Kushner, and Russian attorney Natalia Veselnitskaya in June 2016 Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 226, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Ronald Batory to be Federal Railroad Administration Administrator; Mark Buzby to be Maritime Administration Administrator; Peter Davidson to be Department of Commerce General Counsel; and Karen Dunn Kelley to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Economic Affairs Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

10:00 AM Treasury Secretary Mnuchin testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on FY'18 budget – Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee hearing on 'Review of the FY2018 Budget Request for the U.S. Department of the Treasury', with testimony from Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin; Internal Revenue Service Commissioner John Koskinen; and Department of the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration J. Russell George Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 138, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee hearing on South Sudan, nominations hearing – Africa and Global Health Policy Subcommittee hearing on 'South Sudan's Conflict and Famine', with testimony from Heritage Foundation Douglas and Sarah Allison Center for Foreign Policy Senior Policy Analyst for Africa and the Middle East Joshua Meserve; and U.S. Institute of Peace consultant Payton Knopf, and visiting expert Aly Verjee * Immediately followed by nominations hearing considering Michael Arthur Raynor to be U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia; Maria Brewer to be U.S. Ambassador to Sierra Leone; and John Desrocher to be U.S. Ambassador to Algeria Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, with agenda including legislation including 'S. 1584, to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to reauthorize the Judicial Conference of the United States to redact sensitive information contained in financial disclosure reports of judicial officers and employees, and for other purposes', 'S. 288, Regulatory Predictability for Business Growth Act of 2017', 'S. 1199, Border Enforcement Security Task Force Reauthorization Act of 2017', 'S. 938, Procurement Fraud Prevention Act', 'S. 1208, Strengthening the Department of Homeland Security Secure Mail Initiative Act', 'H.R. 1293, to amend title 5, United States Code, to require that the Office of Personnel Management submit an annual report to Congress relating to the use of official time by Federal employees', 'H.R. 1679, FEMA Accountability, Modernization and Transparency Act of 2017', 'H.R. 195, Federal Register Printing Savings Act of 2017', and 'H.R. 194, Federal Agency Mail Management Act of 2017' Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

10:00 AM Business Meeting, to consider 'S.1514, the Hunting Heritage and Environmental Legacy Preservation for Wildlife Act' Location: Rm 406, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

11:00 AM Capitol Hill rally for 'greater investments in affordable housing' – Rally on Capitol Hill to raise awareness about 'the lack of affordable housing' and call on Congress to 'fully invest in affordable housing solutions that help low income families', hosted by the National Low Income Housing Coalition and the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding as part of the 'Our Homes, Our Voices' National Week of Action. Speakers include Democrats Sen. Chris Van Hollen and Reps. Charlie Crist, Adriano Espaillat, Sheila Jackson Lee, Barbara Lee, David Price,

Mark Takano, and Maxine Waters, Miriam's Kitchen Homeless Rights Advocate Waldon Adams, CSH federally assisted housing resident Emily Marinuik, National Alliance to End Homelessness President and CEO Nan Roman, and National Coalition for the Homeless Rights Advocate Steve Thomas Location: Upper Senate Park, 200 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, DC www.nlihc.org
<https://twitter.com/NLIHC>

12:00 PM Business Meeting, to consider committee print of 'S.1598 Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017' Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC
<http://veterans.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/VACHair>

2:00 PM Helsinki Commission briefing on Central and Eastern Europe – Helsinki Commission briefing on 'Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe: Renewing the Promise of Democratic Transitions', examining the current state of democracy in Central and Eastern Europe, analyzing efforts to address the region's challenges, and discussing the declaration adopted 1 Jun by civil society representatives, members of business communities, and others which seeks to reinvigorate the region's democratic trajectory, support democratic and economic reform, and strengthen the transatlantic partnership. Speakers include Center for International Private Enterprise Managing Director Andrew Wilson, Institute for Economic and Social Reforms (Slovakia) Director Peter Golias, Transparency International (Hungary) Chair Andras Loke, Civil Development Forum (Poland) Vice-President Marek Tatala, International Republican Institute Regional Director for Europe Jan Surotchak, and German Marshall Fund Senior Resident Fellow Jonathan Katz Location: The U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC-215, Washington, DC
<http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

2:30 PM Senate Indian Affairs Committee oversight hearing on GAO reports on trafficking of American Indian and Alaska Natives – Oversight hearing on 'The GAO Reports on Human Trafficking of American Indian and Alaska Natives in the United States', with testimony from Government Accountability Office Director of Homeland Security and Justice Issues Gretta Goodwin; Department of Justice Office of Tribal Justice Director Tracy Toulou; Bureau of Indian Affairs Acting Deputy Director for Justice Services Jason Thompson; and Covenant House Alaska Executive Director Alison Kear Location: Rm 628, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://indian.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/IndianCommittee>

2:30 PM Senate Governmental Affairs subcommittee hearing on federal infrastructure permitting – Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations hearing on 'Cutting Through the Red Tape: Oversight of Federal Infrastructure Permitting and the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council', with testimony from American Municipal Power CEO Marc Gerken; U.S. Chamber of Commerce Senior Vice President for the Environment, Technology & Regulatory Affairs William Kovacs; Natural Resources Defense Council Legislative Director Scott Slesinger; Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council Acting Executive Director Janet Pflieger; Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Associate General Counsel for Energy Projects Jacqueline Holmes; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Assistant for Water Resources Policy Robyn Colosimo; and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Assistant Director of Ecological Services Gary Frazer Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

4:30 PM Republican Sen. James Lankford meets National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency Deputy Director-nominee Susan Gordon Location: Washington, DC
<http://www.lankford.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenatorLankford>

US House: 10:00 AM Hearing on 'Office of National Drug Control Policy: Reauthorization in the 115th Congress' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC
<http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources Committee markup hearing concludes – Markup hearing concludes on legislation including 'H.R. 825, Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act', 'H.R. 873, Global War on Terrorism War Memorial Act', 'H.R. 1418, To amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide that Alexander Creek, Alaska, is and shall be recognized as an eligible Native village under that Act, and for other purposes', 'H.R. 1491, Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Land Affirmation Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2083, Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act', 'H.R. 2199, Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2316, Cooperative Management of Mineral Rights Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2371, Western Area Power Administration Transparency Act', 'H.R. 2582, Confirming State Land Grants for Education Act', 'H.R. 2611, Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site Boundary Modification Act', 'H.R. 3279, Helium Extraction Act of 2017', and 'H.R. 3281, Reclamation Title Transfer and Non-Federal Infrastructure Incentivization Act' * Began yesterday Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM Congressional Black Caucus Twitter town hall on 'Trumpcare' – Congressional

Black Caucus Twitter town hall on 'Trumpcare' and 'how it will negatively impact all Americans', with CBC Chairman Cedric Richmond, Assistant House Minority Leader James Clyburn, and fellow Democratic Reps. Bobby Scott, Gwen Moore, Marcia Fudge, Joyce Beatty, and Robin Kelly taking over the Caucus' Twitter account and responding to questions and comments from tweeters via Twitter's video-reply technology Location: TBD <https://cbc.house.gov/>
[#CBCOnHealthcare](https://twitter.com/OfficialCBC)

10:00 AM Hearing on 'Renegotiating NAFTA: Opportunities for Agriculture' Location: Rm 1300, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://agriculture.house.gov/>

10:00 AM Markup hearing on 'H.R. 391, Asylum Reform and Border Protection Act' and 'H.Res. 446, Resolution of Inquiry' Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM House Energy subcommittee hearing on the nation's wholesale electricity markets – Energy Subcommittee hearing on 'Powering America: A Review of the Operation and Effectiveness of the Nation's Wholesale Electricity Markets', with testimony from Southwest Power Pool President and CEO Nick Brown; California Independent System Operator Corporation Vice President for Market and Infrastructure Development Dr Keith Casey; Midcontinent Independent System Operator Executive Vice President for Operations Richard Doying; PJM Interconnection Vice President for Federal Government Policy Craig Glazer; New York Independent System Operator President and CEO Bradley Jones; Electric Reliability Council of Texas Senior Vice President and COO Cheryl Mele; and ISO New England President and CEO Gordon van Welie Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Education and the Workforce subcommittee hearing on 'earn-and-learn opportunities' – Higher Education and Workforce Development Subcommittee hearing on 'Expanding Options for Employers and Workers Through Earn-and-Learn Opportunities', with testimony from Cianbro Vice President Mike Bennett; Kentucky Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education State Chair Stacey Johnson Hughes, and student Robert Peglow; and Newport News Shipbuilding Vice President of Manufacturing and Material Distribution Rob Hogan Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:00 AM Hearing on 'U.S. Cyber Diplomacy', with testimony from U.S. Coordinator for Cyber Issues Christopher Painter Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

10:00 AM House Science, Space, and Technology subcommittee hearing on STEM and computer science education – Research and Technology Subcommittee hearing on 'STEM and Computer Science Education: Preparing the 21st Century Workforce', with testimony from STEM Education Coalition Executive Director James Brown; Code.org Chief Academic Officer Pat Yongpradit; University of California-Berkeley Executive Vice Chancellor Dr A. Paul Alivisatos; and Micron Technology Foundation Executive Director Dee Mooney Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:15 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on special needs plans – Health Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining the Extension of Special Needs Plans', with testimony from National MLTSS Health Plan Association President Larry Atkins; former Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Federal Coordinated Health Care Office Director Melanie Bella; and SCAN Health Plan CEO Chris Wing Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2322, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

11:00 AM House Small Business Committee hearing on cybersecurity insurance – Hearing on 'Protecting Small Businesses from Cyber Attacks: the Cybersecurity Insurance Option', with testimony from SureFire Innovations President Robert Luft; Zurich Insurance North America Senior Vice President and Head of Specialty Products Errors & Omissions Erica Davis (on behalf of American Insurance Association); Munich Re U.S. Vice President and Cyber Risk Practice Leader Eric Cernak (on behalf of Reinsurance Association America); and Risk Advisory Services Security and Privacy Consulting Principal Daimon Geopfert Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

11:00 AM House Administration Committee hearing on the Library of Congress – Hearing on 'Oversight of the Library of Congress' Strategic Plan', with testimony from Librarian of Congress Dr Carla Hayden Location: Rm 1310, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://cha.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAdmnGOP>

11:00 AM Capitol Hill rally for 'greater investments in affordable housing' – Rally on Capitol Hill to raise awareness about 'the lack of affordable housing' and call on Congress to 'fully invest in affordable housing solutions that help low income families', hosted by the National Low Income

Housing Coalition and the Campaign for Housing and Community Development Funding as part of the 'Our Homes, Our Voices' National Week of Action. Speakers include Democrats Sen. Chris Van Hollen and Reps. Charlie Crist, Adriano Espaillat, Sheila Jackson Lee, Barbara Lee, David Price, Mark Takano, and Maxine Waters, Miriam's Kitchen Homeless Rights Advocate Waldon Adams, CSH federally assisted housing resident Emily Marinuik, National Alliance to End Homelessness President and CEO Nan Roman, and National Coalition for the Homeless Rights Advocate Steve Thomas Location: Upper Senate Park, 200 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, DC www.nlihc.org <https://twitter.com/NLIHC>

11:30 AM House Homeland Security markup – Markup: H.R. 2626, H.R. 2805, H.R. 3202, H.R. 3284, H.R. 3328, H.R. 3359, and H. Res. 447. https://homeland.house.gov/markup/markup-h-r-2626-h-r-2805-h-r-3202-h-r-3284-h-r-3328-h-r-___-h-res-447/ Location: HVC-210 Capitol Hill homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

12:00 PM House expected to begin debate on 'Make America Secure Appropriations Act, 2018' – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include beginning consideration of 'H.R. 3219 – Make America Secure Appropriations Act, 2018', plus consideration of legislation – possibly including 'H.R. 3210 – SECRET Act of 2017', 'H.R. 1927 – African American Civil Rights Network Act of 2017', as amended, and 'H.Res. 317 – Calling for the unconditional release of United States citizens and legal permanent resident aliens being held for political purposes by the Government of Iran', as amended, 'H.R. 2370 – Escambia County Land Conveyance Act' – under suspension of the rules * Administration has said it supports passage of 'H.R. 3219', and that President Donald Trump would likely sign it if it reached his desk Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on the U.S.-Qatar relationship – Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee hearing on 'Assessing the U.S.-Qatar Relationship', with testimony from Foundation for Defense of Democracies Senior Vice President Dr Jonathan Schanzer; The Washington Institute for Near East Policy Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence Director Dr Matthew Levitt; and Center for a New American Security Middle East Security Program Director Ilan Goldenberg Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

Other: 8:00 AM NAACP Annual Convention continues – National Association for the Advancement of Colored People 108th Annual Convention, final day Location: The Baltimore Convention Center, 1 West Pratt Street, Baltimore, MD Baltimore <http://www.naacp.org> <https://twitter.com/NAACP>

8:30 AM GOP Sen. Bob Corker discusses Russia, Iran, and foreign policy at Washington Post event – The Washington Post hosts Senate Committee on Foreign Relations Chairman Bob Corker for an interview with columnist David Ignatius, discussing the Committee's efforts to expand sanctions against Russia and Iran, the status of the Iranian nuclear deal, President Donald Trump's proposed State Department budget, and the U.S. response to 'other foreign policy flare ups around the globe' Location: The Washington Post Live Center, 1301 K St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.washingtonpost.com/> <https://twitter.com/washingtonpost>

9:00 AM GOP Sen. Dan Sullivan speaks on the North Korean ballistic missile threat at Heritage Foundation – Republican Sen. Dan Sullivan speaks at Heritage Foundation on 'What a North Korean Ballistic Missile Threat Means for the U.S. Missile Defense System', followed by discussion with Center for Strategic and International Studies International Security Program Senior Fellow Thomas Karako, RAND Senior Political Scientist Austin Long, and Heritage Foundation Northeast Asia Senior Research Fellow Bruce Klingner Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

7:15 PM Young Americans for Liberty National Convention – Young Americans for Liberty National Convention, with today's speakers including Republican Sen. Rand Paul Location: Sheraton Reston Hotel, 11810 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston, VA www.yaliberty.org <https://twitter.com/YALiberty>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Stephen Colbert: "You know how the Republicans have been trying to repeal and replace Obamacare? Well, since Trump's been in office, they've tried three times, and they've failed. But they finally figured out why they failed. They failed because people knew what was in their bill."

Stephen Colbert: "The bill was a total mystery. It's like 'Westworld.' No one knows exactly what's

going on, but it's probably going to be a bad thing for women."

Stephen Colbert: "If none of the senators know what they voted for, it's potentially both good and bad at the same time. It's a black box we can't see inside. It's 'Schrodinger's Healthcare.' But the cat is probably dead, because it doesn't have health insurance."

Stephen Colbert: "It's no surprise [President Donald Trump] went to the Boy Scouts. With all his scandal, he's good at putting out fires."

James Corden: "This afternoon, Republicans in the Senate narrowly won a vote on Obamacare. And when I heard this news, I was bummed. And then I found out it was simply a vote to begin debating the future of Obamacare, which raises the question, what the heck have they been doing this whole time?"

James Corden: "The vote was 50-50, so Vice President Mike Pence was the deciding vote after the tie, which is weird because, usually, when Trump needs to fix a tie, he goes with scotch tape."

James Corden: "All I know is whoever ends up replacing Jeff Sessions is going to have some pretty tiny shoes to fill."

Trevor Noah: "But first, we begin the show with the Boy Scouts, the young men who learn about civic responsibility and tying knots, unlike the Girl Scouts who drift America with their cookie ponzi scheme."

Trevor Noah: "Yesterday at the National Jamboree in West Virginia, the Boy Scouts got a speech from America's most powerful adolescent, President Trump."

Trevor Noah: "The effort to repeal and replace Obamacare appeared to be deader than Trump's prospects on Tinder."

Trevor Noah: "I don't know who's more original, Hollywood or Senate Republicans. So many sequels. Healthcare Bill 1, 2, Healthcare Bill In Space, Healthcare Bill Versus Predator, the one where the Predator lost because of preexisting conditions."

Trevor Noah: "So the new GOP plan is to reinvent the national healthcare system by Thursday? I admire their optimism. We haven't been able to do this in seven years, let's try it in three days."

Trevor Noah: "If you're really confused by what's happening, you're probably a Republican senator who has to vote on third."

Trevor Noah: "Mitch McConnell was so hell-bent on getting this passed, he forced a man just diagnosed with brain cancer to come to Washington to vote. McCain was probably like, 'What the hell, Mitch, don't you know I could be dying?' McConnell is like, 'If we cared about people dying, we wouldn't be doing this bill. Now shut up and vote'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Today, Senate Republicans voted to move forward in the process to repeal and replace Obamacare even though they don't know exactly what they're going to be voting on. That's like going into the hospital and telling the surgeon, 'Surprise me.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "The heads of the healthcare voting centers are saying that they had no clue what they've been voting on. Then America said, 'Hey, just like us during the election.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "This morning, two senators were caught on a hot mic calling President Trump crazy, and when the news came out, literally every member of the Senate was like, 'Wait, was it me?'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Last night, President Trump gave a big speech at the Boy Scouts of America National Scout Jamboree. And this is cool, his healthcare bill won the award for scariest campfire story."

Jimmy Fallon: "I saw that this week, Democrats announced their new slogan, 'A Better Deal, Better Jobs, Better Wages, Better Future.' And Republicans announced their new slogan, 'Shorter Slogan.'"

Seth Meyers: "White House Communications Director Anthony Scaramucci reportedly told his staff today, quote, 'You're either going to stop leaking, or you're going to get fired.' Replied the leaker, 'You can't fire me, I'm the President.'"

Seth Meyers: "The Girl Scouts have announced that they will offer 23 new badges focused on science, technology, engineering, and math, while the Boy Scouts have announced they're just going to lay low for a while."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump spoke yesterday at the Boy Scouts jamboree and bragged about his election victory over Hillary Clinton. And every Scout in attendance earned the merit badge for eye rolling."

Seth Meyers: "According to the Washington Post, President Trump is considering Ted Cruz as a replacement for Attorney General Jeff Sessions. And if you thought Jeff Sessions was bad, you were right."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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DOI In The News

Zinke Says Government Is Failing Tribes, Deflects Budget Concerns.

[Law360](#) (6/13, Westney) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "told a National Congress of American Indians conference Tuesday that federal programs serving tribes aren't working, as NCAI officials and tribal leaders raised concerns about funding cuts to such programs in the Trump administration's proposed budget."

The [Connecticut Mirror](#) (6/13, Pazniokas) reports that Zinke "pledged to establish a relationship of respect and consultation with the nation's 567 federally recognized tribes and reassured them that President Trump's deep budget cuts at Interior were not a prelude to dismantling the Bureau of Indian Affairs." Zinke said in remarks delivered at the Mohegan Sun gambling resort, "My pledge is to work with you, partner with you and be your advocate and fix a system that is broken."

Additional coverage was provided by the [New London \(CT\) Day](#) (6/13, Shanahan).

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Makes Stop In Hooksett.

[New Hampshire Public Radio](#) (6/13, Greene) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "stopped at the Bass Pro Shop in Hooksett Tuesday afternoon, appearing with Governor Chris Sununu and State Fish and Game Executive Director Glenn Normandeau." At the store, Zinke "signed a ceremonial \$1.1 billion check for fish and wildlife conservation programs."

The [Concord \(NH\) Monitor](#) (6/14, Reid) reports that Zinke "enthusiastically recited the state's motto and listed off attributes that he said make it perfect for his announcement: 'very outdoors, loves hunting, loves traditional land use, making sure the land is open to the public.'" He said, "That's what the funds are used for. They're used for restoration, the wildlife refuges, access. ... It's really a program paid for by hunters and fishermen that protects hunting and fishing and the great outdoors."

[WBIN-TV](#) Concord, NH (6/13) reports that Zinke said, "For nearly eight decades, the nation's hunters and anglers have generated billions of dollars to protect wildlife and habitat simply by purchasing items that help them engage in the outdoor activities they enjoy. Their support has helped state wildlife agencies protect our country's environmental legacy for future generations of hunters, fishers, recreationalists, and conservationists."

US Interior Chief To Visit Maine Monument Under Review.

The [AP](#) (6/14, Whittle) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "heading to Maine on

Wednesday to see Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument as part of a tour of national monuments that are under review." Zinke is "scheduled to spend the day driving, hiking and canoeing through the monument grounds and waters."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [ABC News](#) (6/14, Whittle), [Business Insider](#) (6/14, Whittle), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/13, Whittle), the [North Platte \(NE\) Telegraph](#) (6/14, Whittle), the [Oklahoman](#) (6/14, Whittle), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/14, Whittle), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (6/14, Whittle), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (6/14, Patrick Whittle |, Ap), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/14, Whittle), and [KGMB-TV Honolulu \(HI\)](#) Honolulu (6/14, Whittle).

Visit Should Convince Interior Secretary That Monument Is Welcome Addition To Maine, America.

In an editorial, the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (6/13) welcomes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and surrounding area. The paper says that "it is important for him to meet with area residents firsthand and to spend time exploring the monument land himself before making a recommendation to the president." The paper argues that Maine Gov. Paul LePage was wrong in claiming that "there wasn't enough public discussion of the land preservation and that local residents don't want it." It hopes that Zinke will recognize this after his visit.

The Katahdin Region Can Thrive Alongside The Monument. In an op-ed for the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (6/13, King), Sen. Angus King touts the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument as an economic "pillar" of the community. King writes about how he has "heard from businesses throughout the area – from hardware store owners, grocers, and lumber retailers to recreational equipment suppliers, lodge and inn operators, and realtors – who have all testified that the monument has been a much-needed boost to their businesses and the regional economy as a whole." He also notes that "these positive developments have led many local elected officials who once opposed the monument to reverse their positions and work unabashedly to secure its success."

Let's Welcome Interior Secretary Zinke To Our National Monument. In his column for the [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (6/13, Smith), George Smith also welcomes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to Maine. Smith reprints his testimony in favor of the designation of the monument last year at a public hearing hosted by Sen. Angus King and the Director of the National Park Service.

Deciphering Protections Inside Bears Ears Monument Designation.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (6/13, O'Donoghue) reports that "when Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced a preliminary recommendation that contemplates shrinking the boundaries of the Bears Ears National Monument, one of the key points he emphasized is that some of the land is already subject to special management restrictions." Zinke's interim report "notes there are 11 wilderness study areas inside the monument that comprise 381,000 acres and are managed by the Bureau of Land Management." According to the article, "the lands have to be in the same or better condition than they were 41 years ago to ensure Congress has the ability to invoke permanent wilderness protection." The article notes "that year is significant, 1976, when Congress passed the Federal Lands Policy Management Act that set up the majority of Utah's wilderness study areas — vast amounts of land that have remained in limbo since then."

Additional coverage of Zinke's recommendation on Monday to redraw the boundaries of Bears Ears National Monument was provided by [Fox News](#) (6/13, O'Reilly), the [Christian Science Monitor](#) (6/13, Wood), [PBS NewsHour](#) (6/13, McCombs), [Fronteras](#) (6/12, Morales), the [Los Alamos \(NM\) Daily Post](#) (6/13), [Courthouse News](#) (6/12, Renda), and [WRC-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (6/13, McCombs, Daly).

Tribune Editorial: Zinke Leaves Bears Ears Dispute Unsettled. In an editorial, the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (6/13) argues that "the best thing that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke could have done about the Bears Ears National Monument in southeastern Utah was absolutely nothing." According to the paper, "what Zinke did was tantalizingly close to that." It says that "by admitting that some of the area deserves eternal protection, making a vague suggestion about redrawing the monument's borders, calling on Congress to get involved and extending the time for public comments, the secretary has created a little breathing room." The paper hoes that, "when it is all over, a significant amount of land that is sacred to the area's Native Americans will be indeed protected, that the tribes involved will possess some unquestioned legal authority over what happens there and that future monument designations will be done in a way that creates more consensus and less division." Until then, it concludes that "Bears Ears should remain just the national monument it has been designated," "because, right now, nobody has a better idea."

California's Senators Ask Residents To Tell The Federal Government To Stay Away From

The State's National Monuments.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/13, Wire) reports that "California's senators are trying to prevent changes to six national monuments in the Golden State, and they're asking Californians to help by sending comments to the Interior Department." In a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris wrote, "On behalf of all Californians, we urge that these national monument designations are preserved with their present boundaries, to ensure these special places remain for generations to come."

Porterville Wants Giant Sequoias Reduced. The [Visalia \(CA\) Times-Delta](#) (6/13, Lindt) reports that the Porterville City Council "approved a draft letter to the Secretary the Interior to reduce the size of the Sequoia National Monument by about two-thirds." The letter, "approved unanimously, seeks to return the protective zone to its 1992 size." They recommend that the "Giant Sequoia National Monument's boundaries be reduced to the approximate 90,360 acres established by Proclamation 6457, and encourage the use of active forest management by the Forest Service in protection of the Giant Sequoia Groves, in addition to fulfilling the commitment of developing a Visitors Center for the Monument."

Residents Support Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (6/14, Gibbs) reports that "Doña Ana County leaders are speaking up in support of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument and announcing the results of a new poll showing overwhelming support among county residents." According to the article, "the poll of 400 registered voters in Doña Ana County, conducted by the Las Cruces Green Chamber of Commerce from May 13-17, shows that 63 percent oppose any reduction of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, compared to 26 percent who support reducing protections." The survey "also shows Democrats, Republicans and independents all fell positively toward the monument."

Possible Monument Downsizing Prompts Hold Our Ground Effort. The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (6/13, Puckett) reports that "a group from Montana is calling for protections of national monuments in response to President Trump's decision to review monuments designated by presidential executive order since 1996." According to the article, "launched Monday to protect national monuments with cultural, historical and scientific value, Hold Our Ground has produced a television commercial and a series of social media videos demanding monument protection stay in place for the Missouri Breaks." Hold Our Ground is "encouraging history buffs, hunters, anglers and others who recreate on the river to tell the Trump administration to decline to review the Breaks monument, which could lead to modifications," says member Larry Epstein.

NM Must Speak Up Again For Its Livelihood. In an op-ed for the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (6/14, Miyagishima), Las Cruces Mayor Ken Miyagishima touts "what the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks and Río Grande del Norte national monuments bring our constituents and visitors in economic benefits, quality of life and natural assets." According to the mayor, "since designating the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument in 2014, the town of Mesilla's tax revenues have increased and Las Cruces' lodgers' tax revenues are also up." Miyagishima asserts that "the outcome from protected public lands is clear – people and businesses located around places like the Río Grande del Norte National Monument reap the benefits of protection."

Our View: Monument Review A Moving Target. The [Medford \(OR\) Mail Tribune](#) (6/14) editorializes that "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recommendation to scale back Utah's Bears Ears National Monument may pose less of a threat to Southern Oregon's Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument than supporters fear." The paper acknowledges that "Zinke's proposal to ask Congress to modify management rules for portions of Bears Ears might have a better outcome than leaving it up to the White House." However, it concludes that "this administration is determined to undo what previous presidents put in place" so "the future of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument is far from assured."

Tester: Trump Budget Guts Forest, Park Funding.

The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (6/13, Puckett) reports that Sen. Jon Tester "told reporters Tuesday that President Trump's budget proposes 'radical' cuts for parks, forests and land acquisition that will harm the state's outdoor economy." Joining Tester were Randy Newman, "who hosts two outdoor TV programs, former Glacier National Park Superintendent Chas Cartwright and Marne Hayes, executive director for Montana Outdoors." Tester "said he would work through the appropriations process to help get funding restored but said there are so many cuts it would be difficult."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (6/13, Chaney) and the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (6/13, Wright).

Washingtonians Take Center Stage At Will On The Hill.

The "In The Know" blog of [The Hill](#) (6/13, Costello) reports that the Shakespeare Theater Company "hosted the annual tradition, Will on the Hill, where notable Washingtonians take to the stage and act out classic theater with a modern political twist." According to the article, "the cast poked fun at the president and themselves in their production, 'Met by Moonlight,' a take on *Midsummer Night's Dream*, in which Oberon (Kahn), a forest deity, and his assistant, Puck (Pancholy), encounter two park rangers (Swallow and Fontana), and the four then try to stem the flow of people fleeing the heat of D.C. in the summer." The Washington-based cast members included Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (6/13, Heil).

Why A Cabinet Of Kiss-Ups Is A Big Problem For Trump.

In the "On Leadership" blog of the [Washington Post](#) (6/13), Jena McGregor writes that the "effusive praise" of President Trump in his first full Cabinet meeting Monday "drew mockery from Democratic corners." McGregor cites "management experts" as saying the praise likely cuts "down on the kind of dissenting views Trump will need to lead the country well." In addition, "research shows that when people feel like they need to engage in flattery, it makes them resentful, slows down strategic change and can even prompt subordinates to make negative comments to the press."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

DOI Blasts Nooksack Group's Bid For Redo In Funding Row.

[Law360](#) (6/13, Powell) reports that the Interior Department "urged a Washington federal judge Monday to stay firm on a recent decision dismissing the purported Nooksack Indian Tribal Council's lawsuit claiming that the agency has wrongly refused to pay roughly \$14 million in funding, saying there's no reason to reconsider."

Mashpee Selectmen Show Support For Wampanoag's Land Into Trust Battle.

The [Cape Cod \(MA\) News](#) (6/13) reports that "selectmen in Mashpee have restated their support for the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe's continued effort for getting land into trust." The tribe is "currently in a legal dispute after a lower court ruled in favor of Taunton residents who challenged the federal ruling which placed land into trust in Taunton and Mashpee." Selectmen sent a letter to the Interior Department "expressing their support for the federal government's remand application."

Bureau Of Land Management

Law Professors Urge Court To Continue Hearing Fracking Regulation Case.

[E&E Publishing](#) (6/13) reports dozens of law professors submitted an amicus brief urging the 10th US Circuit Court of Appeals to continue hearing a case stemming from the Obama Administration's rule for hydraulic fracturing on public and tribal lands. The 29 professors said that freezing the case would leave an incorrect decision stand. The brief said, "The Order contains fundamentally erroneous legal principles of statutory interpretation and administrative law. ... Yet under an abeyance and potentially drawn-out new rulemaking, the Order would remain extant and could solidify further incorrect precedent in other cases even if it were ultimately vacated and rendered moot."

BLM Oil And Gas Lease Auction Brings In Over \$720,000.

The [Fairfield \(MT\) Sun Times](#) (6/13) reports that "bids on oil and gas leases in northern and southeastern Montana brought in \$720,843 in an online auction held June 13, by the Bureau of Land Management." The auction "included 156 parcels encompassing approximately 69,000 acres of federal minerals in Big Horn, Carter, Custer, Fallon, Garfield, Powder River and Rosebud Counties were offered at auction."

Winds Push Northwest Colorado Wildfire To Over 5K Acres.

The [AP](#) (6/13) reports that "one of two large wildfires burning in northwestern Colorado has spread to more than 5,000 acres (2,023 hectares)." According to the article, "wind gusts of over

70 mph (113 kph) on Monday fueled the growth of the Dead Dog Fire 10 miles (16 kilometers) north of Rangely." Bureau of Land Management spokesman David Boyd said "that the fire moved more than 4 miles (6 kilometers) because of the winds, which also grounded firefighting aircraft."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Glenwood Springs \(CO\) Post Independent](#) (6/13).

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Eni Submits Alaska Drilling Plans.

[Offshore Engineer](#) (6/13, Sustaita) reports that Italian oil major Eni has submitted its proposal to the Bureau of Ocean Management "for a drilling program offshore Alaska, from the man-made island, Spy Island Drillsite (SID) in the Beaufort Sea." According to the article, "Eni's proposed exploration plan (EP) is for the exploratory drilling of the company's Nikaitchuq North Project, consisting of four exploration wells, two mainbores and two sidetracks from the Italian giant's existing SID man-made gravel island, on the State of Alaska lease." BOEM has "30 calendar days to evaluate the EP in accordance with federal law and regulations."

Additional coverage was provided by [Upstream Online](#) (6/13) and the [Alaska Journal of Commerce](#) (6/13, Brehmer).

Bureau Of Reclamation

Phoenix City Council OKs Colorado River Conservation Plan.

The [AP](#) (6/13) reports that the Phoenix City Council has "unanimously approved an agreement with tribal, state and federal leaders to help protect the Colorado River and preserve water levels in Lake Mead." The agreement reached Tuesday "with the state, the Gila River Indian Community and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation will save the equivalent of 35 percent of the Colorado River water used annually by Phoenix residents." The deal also will "fund a contribution of 13 billion gallons of Colorado River water to system conservation in Lake Mead this year."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Arizona Republic](#) (6/14) and [KJZZ-FM Phoenix \(AZ\)](#) Phoenix (6/13, Kuhn).

Decision Coming On California's Delta Tunnels Water Project.

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (6/13, Sabalow, Kasler) reports that California's "most powerful water agencies have set a September goal to decide whether they're going pay" for the Delta tunnels project. Meanwhile, "in greater Sacramento and throughout the Delta, farmers, environmental groups and elected officials remain deeply mistrustful of the proposal." Delta-area lawyers have "promised a nasty court fight if the tunnels, known officially as California WaterFix, get the go-ahead."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Groups File Formal Petition To Ban Cyanide Traps In Wyoming.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (6/13, Peterson) reports that "a coalition of environmental groups formally petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on Tuesday asking for a ban of M-44s, a cyanide trap used to kill coyotes across the state." The article notes that "many of the groups, which include Western Watersheds Project, WildEarth Guardians and the Center for Biological Diversity, filed a similar petition in Idaho in March." Wildlife Services, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, "decided to remove all M-44s from private, state and federal land in Idaho." Erik Molvar, executive director of Western Watersheds Project, said, "We're not at war with native wildlife, and it is irresponsible to allow poison landmines to be sown anywhere in Wyoming. Wildlife Services got rid of M-44s in Idaho, and they should do the same in Wyoming before more pets, and even people, get hurt or killed."

Historic Island Opens To Public.

The [Green Bay \(WI\) Press-Gazette](#) (6/13, Welter) reports that "the recently completed renovations to the Plum Island dock and breakwater will allow more visitors to one of the jewels among the protected islands managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." A study of the island's structures "found it will cost about \$7 million to either stabilize or renovate buildings

including the lighthouse on nearby Pilot island.”

Public Input Sought On Wildlife Refuge Drive.

The [Fremont \(OH\) News-Messenger](#) (6/13) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking public input “on a draft Compatibility Determination for the Wildlife Drive at Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge.” Written comments will be accepted through June 27.

Another Wacky Find At Airport Customs: A Stuffed Puffin.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/13, Aratani) reports, “A traveler on a flight from Iceland brought along an unusual keepsake: a taxidermied Atlantic Puffin.” The bird “was discovered by U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents at Baltimore-Washington International Marshall Airport earlier this month.” CBP notified US Fish and Wildlife Service, “which seized the bird on Jun. 6.” The Post says possession of the stuffed puffin “violates the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.” CBP Port of Baltimore area port director Dianna Bowman is quoted as saying, “Customs and Border Protection enforces all manner of agriculture protection laws, including laws concerning threatened and endangered animal species...CBP agriculture specialists are our nation’s front line protectors of our nation’s agriculture industries and they take their job very serious.”

Additional coverage was provided by [WJLA-TV Washington \(DC\)](#) Washington (6/13).

Our View: Lean On Administration To Deal With Fish And Wildlife.

In an editorial, the [Havasu \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (6/14) notes that “it has been a year since the controversial boating restrictions were introduced at the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge.” The paper is glad that “we now have an administration that has shown a willingness to consider economic interests over environmental ones,” but “what that means for the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge is anybody’s guess.” The paper hopes that “if boating restrictions resurface,” then “they’ll have a smaller scope and will be introduced in a way that is considerate of all those impacted — particularly Lake Havasu’s boating community.”

National Park Service

Lawmakers Seek Historic Site Designation For Ste. Genevieve.

The [AP](#) (6/13) reports that “members of Missouri’s congressional delegation are renewing efforts to designate the Mississippi River town of Ste. Genevieve as a national historic site.” Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill, Republican Sen. Roy Blunt and Republican Rep. Jason Smith “on Monday introduced legislation to establish the Ste. Genevieve National Historic Site and designate it as part of the National Park Service.” The legislators “introduced similar legislation last year.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [St. Louis \(MO\) Post-Dispatch](#) (6/13, Raasch) and [KFVS-TV Cape Girardeau \(MO\)](#) Cape Girardeau, MO (6/13, Dobrinick).

Pauli Murray’s Historic Home In Durham Gets Federal Grant To Become Accessible.

The [Durham \(NC\) Herald Sun](#) (6/13, Vaughan) reports that “the historic Pauli Murray House will become wheelchair accessible as the interior is restored, thanks to a National Park Service grant.” The park service “awarded a grant for \$237,575 to the Pauli Murray Center for History & Social Justice, which is set to open in 2020.” National Park Service Acting Director Michael Reynolds said in the announcement, “Through the African American Civil Rights Grant Program, we’re helping our public and private partners tell unique and powerful stories of the African-American struggle for equality in the 20th century.”

Yellowstone Sees Drop In Visitation Partly Because Of Storms.

The [AP](#) (6/13) reports that “partly because of late spring snowstorms, fewer people visited Yellowstone National Park in May when compared with a year ago.” However, “it was still the second busiest May on record at the world’s first national park.” Yellowstone “hosted more than 419,600 visits during May, down 5.6 percent from May 2016’s 444,600 visits.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (6/13).

Strong Start For Glacier Visitation.

The [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (6/13, Wilson) reports that “more than a quarter of a million people entered” Glacier National Park “during the first five months of 2017, according to the National Park Service estimate.” The article notes that “that’s the second-highest total in park history for

that time period, second only to the first five months of 2016." Also, "last month's 177,256 visitors to Glacier was similarly the second-busiest May in park history — down 13.2 percent from last year."

Philadelphia Region Saw Record 42 Million Visitors In 2016.

[Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/13, Loyd) reports that "the Philadelphia region has seen an uptick in visitors annually for the last seven years, after a tourism slump in 2008 and 2009 due to the recession." Of note, Independence National Historical Park "saw 5.07 million visitors in 2016." Meanwhile, "outside the city, the big attractions were Valley Forge National Historical Park which drew 2.4 million, up nearly 14 percent over the 2.1 million in 2015."

Rockslide Blocks Popular Entrance To Yosemite National Park.

The [AP](#) (6/13) reports that "a large rockslide has blocked one of the main roads into Yosemite National Park that will remain closed at least through the weekend, an official said Tuesday." According to park spokesman Scott Gediman, "about 4,000 tons (3,600 metric tons) of rock detached from a cliff on Monday, blocking El Portal Road."

Additional coverage was provided by [CBS News](#), the [Los Angeles \(CA\) Times](#) (6/13, Rocha) and the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (6/13, Oide).

Park Service Asks For Delay In Cumberland Rezoning.

The [Golden Isles \(GA\) News](#) (6/13, Jackson) reports that the National Park Service has "asked the Camden County Commission to delay the proposed rezoning of about 1,000 acres of private property on Cumberland Island National Seashore." In a letter sent Monday to county commissioners, superintendent Gary Ingram "said 'valuable progress' is being made in negotiations about proposed zoning and code changes for the barrier island."

Replacement Of Canyon Rim Boardwalk System Begins This Month.

The [Beckley \(WV\) Register-Herald](#) (6/13) reports that the National Park Service has "received funds to replace the boardwalk system at Canyon Rim Visitor Center in New River Gorge National River." According to the article, "the entire project is expected to take several months and closures are necessary to ensure the safety of visitors to the area and to allow the construction to progress as quickly as possible."

Daines Is Right: The National Park System Needs To Do More To Protect Workers.

In an editorial, the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (6/13) lauds Sen. Steve Daines for leading Senate subcommittee "that was looking into workplace problems within the National Park Systems." The paper calls it "an important move by an important person." That is, "if a Montana Republican cannot condone the behavior, in a Republican Congress, that means things must change."

Why We Preserve Our National Parks: Big Bend National Park.

In a piece for the [Huffington Post](#) (6/13, Preservation, Contributor), the National Trust For Historic Preservation calls for helping the National Park Service to "tackle their backlogs and conduct ongoing maintenance." Doing so would "create a richer experience for park visitors and locals, increasing economic prosperity and cultural vitality in legions of national parks across the country." It urges support for the National Park Service Legacy Act, which "would dedicate time and investments to repairing NPS's roads, facilities, and park structures."

Office Of Insular Affairs

DOI Powers Utilities In Territories, FAS.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (6/14) reports that Acting Interior assistant secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula "made available this week \$380,447 in maintenance assistance funding from the Office of Insular Affairs to support two regional initiatives and one local initiative that support and bolster capacity for the power utilities in all main islands of the Pacific U.S. insular areas." Pula said, "Electrical power is costly for residents in the territories and freely associated states. We do all we can to help them keep costs down through building local capacity and facilitating collaboration of ideas and expertise."

Interior Releases \$7.8M For American Samoa.

[Marianas Variety](#) (6/14) reports that the Office of Insular Affairs has “released \$7.8 million remaining in grant assistance for fiscal year 2017 to the American Samoa Government through the Office of Insular Affairs’ Operations Grant Program.” Interior Acting Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas Nikolao Pula said, “These funds are critical for government operations in the territory of American Samoa. We are pleased to transmit the remaining funds on behalf of the administration.”

Office Of Surface Mining

Trump Clings To Coal As Worldwide Demand Plummet.

The [AP](#) (6/13, Biesecker) reports that demand for coal is “plummeting worldwide” and coal’s share of global energy consumption is continuing to fall, “even as President Donald Trump has made reviving the long-struggling U.S. coal mines the bedrock of his administration’s energy policy.” Meanwhile, “renewable energy made big gains, growing 14 percent in 2016.” The AP states, “as Trump doubles down on coal, the rest of the world appears headed in the opposite direction.”

US Geological Survey

Latest Upgrade Of Kilauea Summit Seismic Stations Completed.

[Big Island \(HI\) Now](#) (6/13) reports that “field engineers at the USGS Hawaiian Volcano Observatory (HVO) recently completed a multi-year effort to upgrade a subset of seismic stations at the summit of Kilauea Volcano.” Beginning in 2014, “each of the stations was progressively upgraded with a new-generation broadband seismometer, solar-power system, radio, antenna, enclosure and cabling.” According to the article, “the new enclosures for the seismometers were designed with better insulation properties to buffer the effects of changing temperatures throughout the day.”

Officials Agree To Fund Most Of Missouri’s Threatened Stream Gauges.

The [Springfield \(MO\) News-Leader](#) (6/13) reports that the U.S. Geological Survey and the Missouri Department of Natural Resources have “agreed to spend more than half a million dollars to pay for dozens of water gauges across the state.” USGS and DNR will join “to fund 42 of the 49 river and stream gauges for which funding was previously threatened, said Amy Beussink, director of the USGS Missouri Water Science Center in Rolla.” According to a copy of the agreement, “DNR will pay \$461,203 and the USGS will chip in \$106,800 in federal matching funds.”

Top National News

Sessions: Claims Of Russia Collusion An “Appalling And Detestable Lie.”

Media reports cast Attorney General Sessions as defiant, forceful, and aggressive in his [testimony](#) to the Senate Intelligence Committee. Almost universally, reports highlight Sessions’ claim that the suggestion that he was involved in colluding with Russia during the 2016 campaign is an “appalling and detestable lie.” Coverage focuses heavily on questions surrounding Sessions’ meetings with Russian officials during the campaign and his role in the firing of former FBI Director Comey, while Sessions’ refusal to discuss his private conversations with President Trump – which prompted allegations of stonewalling from Democrats on the panel – also receives a great deal of attention.

The [New York Post](#) (6/13, Fredericks) reports that Tuesday’s hearing “was initially going to take place behind closed doors – but ranking committee members decided to make it public.” In his opening statement, Chairman Richard Burr told Session this was “his opportunity to ‘separate fact from fiction and set the record straight on a number of allegations reported in the press.’” Media reports indicate that Sessions appears to have seized that opportunity as [Politico](#) (6/13, Kim, Gerstein) says he “forcefully denied” any collusion and [Roll Call](#) (6/13, Bennett) reports that Sessions “aggressively denied” any collusion, while [USA Today](#) (6/13, Johnson, Kelly) reports that an “animated” Sessions said, “Let me state this clearly. I have never met with or had any conversations with any Russians or any foreign officials concerning any type of interference with

any campaign or election. I was your colleague in this body for 20 years, and the suggestion that I participated in any collusion...to undermine the integrity of our democratic process is an appalling and detestable lie."

Similar characterizations of Sessions' testimony appear across the media. For example, Lester Holt said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/13, story 2, 2:30) that Sessions "came out forcefully in his own defense," while Kasie Hunt described him as "defiant." The [New York Times](#) (6/13, Savage, Huetteman, Ruiz) describes Sessions' testimony as "highly contentious," while the [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/13, Tanfani) says Session delivered "sometimes impassioned testimony," during which he "repeatedly rebutted any suggestions that he had any improper contacts with Russian authorities – but he also repeatedly said he did not recall details of the meeting he had."

[Reuters](#) (6/13, Ainsley, Zengerle) reports that Sessions "had a series of tense exchanges with Democrats" on the committee. In one, Sen. Ron Wyden told Sessions, "I believe the American people have had it with stonewalling. Americans don't want to hear that answers to relevant questions are privileged," to which Sessions replied, "I am not stonewalling." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/13, Viswanatha, Sonne, Wilber) cites the exchange with Wyden as evidence of the heated tone during Tuesday's hearing. Wyden said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/13) that Sessions "refused to address the most basic issues today. Why didn't he recuse himself sooner? What did the President say to him about firing Director Comey? Look, the bottom line is that we have had one of these Trump officials after another and they basically say they're not going to respond to questions because they don't feel like it."

[McClatchy](#) (6/13, Leavenworth) says Sessions also "faced tough questioning from Sen. Kamala Harris," and "appeared visibly relieved when Harris' time allotment ran out." The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/13, Cohen) offers a more positive assessment, saying Democrats went into the hearing "ready to attack" but Sessions "offered a tough defense."

[The Hill](#) (6/13, Williams) says Sessions delivered a "fiery opening statement" during which he "denied rumors that he had a third, previously unreported private meeting with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak during the campaign." However, later in his testimony, Sessions "said that it was 'possible' the third meeting with Kislyak occurred, arguing that he would have 'gladly reported it... if I remembered it, or if it actually occurred.'" According to the [Washington Post](#) (6/13, Horwitz, Zapotosky), Sessions "took particular aim at news reports about a possible meeting he had with a Russian official during an April 2016 event at the Mayflower hotel." While he "acknowledged being at the event and said he had conversations with those there," he "did not remember any with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak." Said Sessions, "If any brief interaction occurred in passing with the Russian ambassador during that reception, I do not remember it," and if such a conversation did occur, it was "certainly nothing improper."

[USA Today](#) (6/13, Cummings) reports that Sen. Tom Cotton, referring to the Sessions-Kislyak meeting at the Mayflower, asked Sessions about his affinity for spy fiction and then inquired, "Have you ever, in any of these fantastical situations, heard of a plot line so ridiculous that a sitting United States senator and an ambassador of a foreign government colluded at an open setting with hundreds of other people to pull off the greatest caper in the history of espionage?" USA describes Sessions as "effusively grateful for Cotton's attempt to paint those theories as absurd," adding that he said, "Thank you for saying that, Senator Cotton. It's just like through the looking glass. I mean what is this?"

In an analysis for the [Washington Post](#) (6/13), Callum Borchers writes that Sessions' defense for failing to disclose his meetings with Kislyak come down "to a critical distinction: At times during the presidential race, he acted as a surrogate for Donald Trump. At other times, he acted as a US senator." Because those roles were separate, Sessions believes his statement during his confirmation hearing that he had no communications with the Russians "should not be viewed as dishonest." Borchers adds, however, that Sessions does not always see that division, adding that "Sessions couldn't or wouldn't say whether he was acting as a surrogate or a senator" at the Mayflower event.

Tom Bevan of Real Clear Politics said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/13), "I thought Sessions was passionate and sincere in his defense, and drove a stake through the heart of the collusion argument," but "I don't know it's going to convince anybody, any Democrats, anybody who thought that there is collusion or obstruction, he probably didn't change any minds in that regard."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/13, Horwitz, Zapotosky) focuses on Sessions' repeated refusal to discuss his private conversations with Trump, reporting that in "a number of testy exchanges," he "said he would not discuss his conversations with Trump because of long-standing Justice Department policy that protected private conversations between cabinet secretaries and the

president." A [USA Today](#) (6/13, Page) analysis similarly says that while Sessions "angrily denied any wrongdoing in his campaign contacts with Russian officials or the steps he later took at the Justice Department leading to Comey's ouster," he "refused to respond to a series of questions about President Trump's actions and motivations."

Pierre Thomas said in the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/13, lead story, 5:35, Muir) that Sessions was "defiant," adding that he "repeatedly protect[ed] any conversations he had with the President." CNN senior legal analyst Jeffrey Toobin said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/13) that Sessions did not "formally cit[e] executive privilege, referring to some confidentiality which was apparently of his own invention."

To [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/13, Dennis), Sessions sought "to preempt questions from the panel about conversations" with the President, which Nancy Cordes said in the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/13, lead story, 3:45, Pelley) "frustrated Democrats, who accused Sessions of stonewalling about his conversations with Mr. Trump." Cordes added that "one top Democrat said tonight...that perhaps Sessions and other top officials should be held in contempt of Congress if they won't answer these questions about the President."

[Roll Call](#) (6/13, Bennett) reports that Sessions cited "the potential that the White House could assert executive privilege – which has not yet happened." The Attorney General said, "I am protecting the right of the president ... to assert it if he chooses, and there may be other privileges that apply in this circumstance." Sessions added "that he was unsure if there was any additional clarity he could provide to members of the Intelligence panel in a closed session." Jim Acosta said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/13) that according to the White House, Sessions "did not discuss with aides over here whether the President was asserting executive privilege and the President was not invoking it, so Sessions was essentially just dodging those questions during his testimony and the Republican-led committee simply allowed Sessions to do that."

Sen. Chris Murphy said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/13) that "the very fact that he continues to not be able to testify to the conversations with the President suggests that there is something that he could be hiding." That, alongside the Deputy Attorney General's refusal in closed session to "give us any information about how he put together that memo that created the justification for Comey's firing," suggests "that there's a potential obstruction of justice charge here that no one wants to testify to."

John Dickerson said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/13, story 3, 1:30, Pelley) Sessions is "asserting a privilege the President has not asserted. He's saying the President might some day assert exclusive privilege." Similarly, Gloria Borger said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/13), "This was General Sessions not talking at all about the President, not invoking any kind of executive privilege but allowing the fact if the President wanted to some time in the future, he didn't want to stand in the way or get in the way of that. I think there were a lot of Democrats, particularly Senator Heinrich, who basically said, 'You are obstructing our investigation.'"

A [New York Times](#) (6/13) editorial says that after giving "false testimony" to a Senate committee during his confirmation hearing, Sessions on Tuesday "lowered a broad cone of silence around all his communications with President Trump," citing "a supposedly longstanding policy at the Justice Department — although he couldn't confirm that it existed in writing or that, if it did, he had actually read it." Sessions, the Times argues, "has no intention to answer any of those questions now or in the future." In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (6/13) says committee Democrats "failed to land any knockout blows, nor did Sessions punch any meaningful holes in Comey's damaging testimony about President Trump." USA Today adds that Sessions "often came across as forgetful, testy and defensive, his testimony sprinkled with the 'do not recall' that reek of the lawyerly way public officials often evade accusations in Washington." In an accompanying op-ed for [USA Today](#) (6/13), RNC Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel takes a very different view, writing that Sessions "proved his unwavering commitment to transparency and dedication to upholding the integrity of the Justice Department."

The [AP](#) (6/13, Tucker, Werner) reports that Sessions "also rejected any idea of misconduct in the ouster of FBI Director James Comey." Citing Comey's claim that "implored" Sessions "to make sure he was never left alone with the president again – but that Sessions didn't respond," the AP quotes the Attorney General as saying, "He didn't recall this, but I responded to his comment by agreeing that the FBI and Department of Justice needed to be careful to follow department policy regarding appropriate contacts with the White House." [Breitbart](#) (6/13, Mason) reports that the Attorney General "took Comey to task for saying Sessions had 'shrugged' as if to say 'what do you want me to do' when the now-fired FBI director asked Sessions to help him avoid impropriety in his communications with the White House."

[Townhall](#) (6/13, O'Brien) reports that in response to requests that he "expand on his

involvement in the firing of Comey," Sessions explained that the President "asked him and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein for their opinions on Comey and to put it in writing." Sessions said, "There was a clear view of mine and Rosenstein that we had problems" at the FBI, adding that Comey had demonstrated his unfitness for the job "when he denied prosecution of Hillary Clinton after the email probe," which Sessions called a "usurpation of authority." Rep. Adam Schiff said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (6/13) that Sessions "avoided really answering questions about whether his letter, Rod Rosenstein's memo were a pretext and they knew they were a pretext for the Comey firing, and from my perspective, Congress can not let those non-answers stand. We're going to go have to press to get answers, and we're going to have to force them to invoke privilege if that's what they intend to do."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/13, Noble) reports that Sessions "called it 'absurd; that his own recusal would bar him from making the recommendation that former FBI Director James B. Comey be fired, noting recusal in the case should not preclude him from managing Justice Department components."

Steve Hayes of The Weekly Standard said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/13), "He was weakest in talking about privilege and refusing to answer questions and explaining why he was refusing to answer questions. He was also relatively weak and trying to explain his role of why James Comey was dismissed and why the White House had given the convoluted explanation it gave. But overall, a good witness for the White House. It was a good day for the Trump Administration."

NYTimes Analysis: Harris Cut Off During Questioning For Second Time. The [New York Times](#) (6/13, Rogers) reports that Sen. Kamala Harris, who "employs a rapid-fire questioning pace more commonly seen in courtroom," was "cut off by Republican senators on Tuesday as she questioned" Sessions. This is "notable" the Times says, because it marks "the second time in a week that Ms. Harris, who is of Indian and Jamaican descent and is the only minority woman on the committee, was interrupted by two male colleagues during a hearing."

Miller Says Sessions "Knocked Away The Hysteria" From Harris. Former Trump campaign spokesman Jason Miller prompted a heated exchange with USA Today's Kirsten Powers when he said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (6/13) that Sessions "knocked away the hysteria from Kamala Harris and some of the Democrats who wanted to make this a partisan show." Powers [questioned](#) (6/13), how "asking some tough questions" made Harris hysterical. Powers added, "She was very dogged but I wouldn't say she was any more dogged than Ron Wyden was, would you say that? ... It's just women that usually are called hysterical."

Comey Friend Turns Over "Relevant Materials" To FBI. [ABC News](#) (6/13, Siegel) reports that Columbia Law School professor Daniel Richman, a friend of Comey's who leaked details of the former FBI director's "alleged interactions with President Donald Trump to the media based on Comey's notes, has turned those materials over to the FBI." In a message to ABC News, Richman wrote, "Special counsel has been in contact with the committee to discuss access. In the meantime, I am turning the relevant materials over to the FBI."

Cohen Asked To Testify Before House Intelligence Committee Sept. 5. [Reuters](#) (6/13) reports that the President's personal attorney Michael Cohen "said he has been asked to testify on Sept. 5 before the House Intelligence Committee, Bloomberg reported on Tuesday."

Inglis: Charges Facing Trump Are More Serious Than Charges Against Clinton. In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (6/13), former Rep. Bob Inglis, who was a member of the House Judiciary Committee that considered the impeachment of President Bill Clinton, writes that Clinton "was impeached for charges less serious than the ones before us now." Inglis adds that although "it's not time to start drafting articles of impeachment, it is time to pursue this investigation into Russian meddling in our presidential election with vigor, without friends to reward and without enemies to punish."

Russian Hackers Tried To Access Voter Databases In Dozens Of States. Jeff Pegues reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/13, story 4, 2:05, Pelley) that while the intelligence community "concluded late last year, that the Russian government's cyberattacks were designed to help the Trump campaign," CBS News "has learned those efforts were even greater than previously reported." In the campaign's final weeks, "hackers tried to gain access to voter databases in more than two dozens states" but "former US officials now say they can't be sure that voter registration data in some states wasn't taken." Pegues added that officials still "do not believe the hacks impacted the outcome of the election." The [Washington Times](#) (6/13, Blake), citing a Bloomberg [report](#), says voting systems in more than "three dozen states-- nearly twice as many as previously thought -- bore the brunt of a Russian cyberattack during the November presidential election."

President Derides “Fake News,” White House Says There Is “No Intention” To Fire Mueller.

Newsmax editor-in-chief Christopher Ruddy’s claim Monday on [PBS’ NewsHour](#) that the President is considering the dismissal of special counsel Robert Mueller sparked a great deal of speculation and discussion in Washington. So much so, that Ruddy “appeared on CNN Tuesday morning to walk back his earlier statements.” Kristen Welker reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/13, story 3, 2:40, Holt) that Trump is “under fire” over the “explosive allegations.” and on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/13, story 2, 1:30, Muir), Cecilia Vega said that “the White House is pushing back, saying Ruddy does not speak for the President.” Margaret Brennan reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/13, story 2, 2:20, Pelley) that “the White House says that President Trump interviewed Mueller for the FBI director job just a day before the Justice Department announced that he’d serve as an impartial special counsel. Confidants of the President say this presents yet another conflict for Mueller.”

John Roberts said on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (6/13), “Sources tell Fox News President Trump was upset about the firestorm Ruddy ignited and dispatched the communications team to get the clarification. The President took aim at the press for not checking its facts, [tweeting](#), ‘Fake news is at an all-time high. Where is their apology to me for all of the incorrect stories???’”

The [New York Times](#) (6/13, Thrush, Haberman, Davis) says that soon after Mueller’s appointment Trump “began entertaining the idea of firing [him] even as his staff tried to discourage him from something they believed would turn a bad situation into a catastrophe, according to several people with direct knowledge of Mr. Trump’s interactions.” The Times adds, “For now, the staff has prevailed.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/13, Bennett) reports that deputy White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters traveling with the President on Tuesday that he has “no intention” of firing Mueller. Sander said, “While the president has the right to, he has no intention to do so.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/13, Westwood) also reports on Sanders’ comments.

Also Tuesday, the [Washington Times](#) (6/13, Noble) reports, Deputy Attorney General Rosenstein “tamped down” the rumors during testimony before a Senate appropriations committee. Rosenstein told the panel he is aware of “no secret plan” to fire Mueller “and indicated it would only be appropriate to do so if there was good cause to support it.” [Reuters](#) (6/13) quotes Rosenstein as saying, “Director Mueller is going to have the full degree of independence that he needs to conduct that investigation appropriately.”

[Politico](#) (6/13, McCaskill, Cheney) cites House Speaker Ryan’s expression of “confidence” in Mueller and Sen. Dianne Feinstein’s prediction that such a move “would destroy any shred of trust in the president’s judgment that remains over here,” but adds that while “prominent Washington figures bat down the idea that Mueller could be shown the door, the debate is still aiding the White House’s efforts to try to discredit the former FBI director and push the idea that the sprawling Russia probe is a vendetta against Trump.” Under the headline “How Trump could fire the special counsel (if he were foolish enough to try),” a [Washington Post](#) (6/13, Bump) analysis lays out the steps “of how that might progress.”

Democratic lawmakers were, nonetheless, suspicious. In an interview on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (6/13) before Attorney General Sessions’ testimony before the Senate Intelligence Committee, Sen. Richard Blumenthal said that he wants a commitment from Sessions “that he will resign if the President of the United States fires Bob Mueller.” Rep. Adam Schiff was asked on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (6/13) how Republicans would react if Trump fired Mueller. Schiff said, “I would hope that would be the last straw for many Republicans that have stayed their hand and not been willing to speak out, if he were to take this step with all its echoes of Watergate. I would hope that what Congress would do would be to take up a law...so that Bob Mueller could be reappointed because I don’t think Congress would sit still and allow the President to pick his own investigator.”

[Politico](#) (6/13, Caygle, Bresnahan) reports that House Minority Leader Pelosi believes Trump will “self-impeach” and that “Democrats should wait for the Russia investigations — especially special counsel Robert Mueller’s probe — to play out before pushing to remove him from the Oval Office.” Pelosi also believes that firing Mueller “would be enough to push Republicans to begin seriously considering acting against the president on their own.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/13) argues in an editorial that a “decision to dismiss Mueller and abort the investigation” would be “disastrous.” The [Washington Post](#) (6/13) also warns against firing Mueller, arguing in an editorial that it would, “more than anything else the president has done in office, firm up a case that Mr. Trump is obstructing justice.”

Trump: Lynch Gave Clinton Cover During Email Probe. The [New York Post](#) (6/13, Moore)

reports that in a [tweet](#) Tuesday, President Trump accused former Attorney General Lynch of giving Hillary Clinton cover during the investigation into her use of a private email server. Trump wrote, "A.G. Lynch made law enforcement decisions for political purposes...gave Hillary Clinton a free pass and protection. Totally illegal!."

Trump Talks Healthcare, Apprenticeships In Visit To Wisconsin.

President Trump's brief visit to Wisconsin on Tuesday, accompanied by Labor Secretary Acosta, Education Secretary DeVos, and Ivanka Trump, receives relatively light coverage, mainly limited to in-state media and brief items in some national outlets. Though the President discussed both the push to repeal the Affordable Care Act and his call for an apprenticeship program for young people, most coverage focuses on the latter. And while reporting is basically straightforward, a few articles highlight the fact that the President, now pushing an apprenticeship plan, famously hosted a TV show called "The Apprentice."

The [Wisconsin State Journal](#) (6/13, DeFour) reports that the President visited Wisconsin "to promote apprenticeships and attend a fundraiser that Gov. Scott Walker is billing as 'one of the biggest events we've ever had for a statewide elected official.'" During a discussion with Walker, state government officials, business leaders, and students at Waukesha County Technical College, Trump "mentioned that he and Walker were negotiating with a 'major, major incredible manufacturer of phones and computers and televisions.' ... It wasn't immediately clear to which company Trump was referring, but Walker recently traveled to Japan for a trade mission." [WFRV-TV](#) Green Bay, WI (6/13, 10:07 p.m. CDT) reported that Trump "hinted that a major employer could be bringing jobs to Wisconsin."

The [Milwaukee Journal Sentinel](#) (6/13, Glauber, Gilbert) reports that during the "whirlwind trip," Trump discussed the Affordable Care Act at Milwaukee's Mitchell International Airport, talked about his planned apprenticeship program at the college, "and returned to Milwaukee to raise campaign cash for Walker. ... On the airport tarmac, he spoke for four minutes about 'Obamacare victims.'" [Wisconsin Radio Network](#) (6/13, Beckett) reports on its website that Trump "used a brief speech in Milwaukee Tuesday to continue his call for Congress to repeal" the ACA.

[WITI-TV](#) Milwaukee (6/13, 5:33 p.m. CDT) reported that Trump "met with two families he's calling victims of the Affordable Care Act." [WAOW-TV](#) Wausau, WI (6/13, 10:03 p.m. CDT) showed a clip of Trump saying, "Millions of American families, and I mean millions, continue to suffer from Obamacare, while congressional Democrats obstruct our efforts to rescue them. And I'll tell you, that's exactly what's happening. The Democrats have let you down big league." In response, Sen. Tammy Baldwin [tweeted](#), "@POTUS, the people who are let down 'bigly' are Americans who want solutions, not partisan bickering."

In a piece headlined "Who Else But Trump To Call For A Nation Full Of Apprentices?" the [AP](#) (6/13, Boak, Thomas) reports, "The man who parlayed a run on TV's 'The Apprentice' into a winning presidential campaign said Tuesday the nation needs a stronger system of apprenticeship to match workers with millions of open jobs." [GM Today \(WI\)](#) (6/13) writes that during his brief presidential bid, Walker was critical of Trump, saying, "We don't need an apprentice in the White House." But during Trump's Tuesday visit, the President both discussed apprenticeships and raised money for his ex-rival. [WAOW-TV](#) Wausau, WI (6/13, 10:03 p.m. CDT) reported that Trump "commended" Walker "for developing workforce programs for students across the state, but says the nation needs stronger apprenticeship programs."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/13, Miller) reports that Trump "said enhancing training and educational opportunities to help young people to get good-paying jobs 'is one of the most important questions facing' their generation." [The Hill](#) (6/13, Fabian) reports that the President "said it requires a change in mentality from institutions of higher learning, which typically offer two- and four-year degrees." [Politico](#) (6/13, Kullgren) reports that Trump is expected to follow up the visit by signing "an executive order Wednesday that would virtually eliminate oversight of government-subsidized apprenticeship programs. ... The draft executive order would shift certification of federally funded apprenticeship programs from the Labor Department to grant recipients."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/13, Wagner) reports that as the President "has pushed workforce development this week, critics have charged that other actions he is pursuing would hurt the people he says he wants to help." His budget proposal would cut the Labor Department budget by 21 percent in the next fiscal year, including "a 40 percent cut to the Labor Department's Wagner-Peyser Employment Service, which supports about 14 million job seekers annually and last year helped nearly 6 million people find jobs."

[Reuters](#) (6/13) reports in a brief item that Trump also said he was "making progress on

behalf of Wisconsin dairy farmers in a dispute with Canada over its trade practices." Trump said, "We are making big progress on opening things up."

On arrival, the President [tweeted](#), "Just arrived in Wisconsin to discuss JOBS, JOBS, JOBS! #MAGA". He later [tweeted](#), "Just got back from Wisconsin. Great day, great people!" Twitter discussion was light; comments from anti-Trump protesters in Milwaukee were shared on Twitter under the hashtag [#TrumpInWI](#). [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/13, Epstein) reports that Trump won Waukesha County "by 2-to-1 over Democrat Hillary Clinton" last year. The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/13, Jashinsky) says those number are the "reverse image" of the President's current national approval rating.

Meadows: Freedom Caucus Considering \$1.5 Trillion Debt Ceiling Increase.

[Politico](#) (6/13, Bade) reports Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows said after a group meeting yesterday that some of his conservative colleagues favor a \$1.5 trillion raise in the debt limit, compared to the Administration's proposed \$2.5 trillion lift. Meadows said the \$1.5 trillion raise would put the deadline for revisiting the contentious issue past the 2018 mid-term elections.

WPost: Mnuchin Is Administration's "Adult In the Room" Regarding Debt Ceiling. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/13) writes that Treasury Secretary Mnuchin espoused a view of "simple realism" when he said in congressional testimony on Monday that Congress should adopt additional borrowing authority, as "the debt ceiling should not be a Republican issue or a Democrat issue." The Post finds Mnuchin to be the "adult in the room, with respect to government debt," as he made two important clarifications that show the Administration's intention to maintain the "risk-free" status of Treasury securities, which "undergird the global financial system." First, Mnuchin said a failure to increase the debt limit would "create a serious problem." Second, he recommended that it would be best to pass such legislation well before August and without amendments.

Hiltzik: Trump's EPA Cuts Revisit "Morale-Sapping Approach" Of Reagan-Era Administrator.

Columnist Michael Hiltzik writes for the [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/13) that President Trump's proposed budget presents the EPA with the most "devastating cuts" of any federal agency. The proposal would cut the agency's budget by 31 percent, but because two programs for clean water and drinking water infrastructure will maintain complete funding, the rest of the EPA would experience an effective cut of 42 percent. According to former EPA attorney and Environmental Protection Network organizer Ruth Greenspan Bell, the cuts seem like "a full-frontal attack," as "everything at EPA is so intertwined": "Science is tied into the regulatory process, permitting, enforcement." Hiltzik points to Reagan-era EPA Administrator Anne Gorsuch's similar vision for scaling back the agency's reach, saying that her "morale-sapping approach made her job all the more difficult."

Fed Set To Raise Rates On "Brighter Economic Outlook."

The [AP](#) (6/13, Wiseman) reports that "the Federal Reserve is set to raise short-term interest rates Wednesday for the third time in six months – a vote of confidence in the American economy and especially in the resilience of the U.S. job market." However, the AP writes, "neither the U.S. nor the world economy is likely to regain the robust health that prevailed before the recession struck a decade ago." The article adds that "the IMF foresees the global economy growing 3.5 percent this year — up from 3.1 percent in 2016 but well below the 4 to 5 percent growth typical of the mid-2000s." The AP writes, "A big problem is that the richest countries can't count on steadily growing workforces to drive expansion because their populations are aging," and "across the globe, for reasons that largely confound economists, countries are struggling to generate the acceleration of worker productivity that normally underpins prosperity."

House Passes VA Reform Bill.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/13, Rosenblatt) reports that in a 368-55 vote on Tuesday, the House approved The Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017, which will "make it easier for the troubled Veterans Affairs Department to fire managers accused of misconduct." The measure "would make it easier to fire employees for cause, adds some protections for whistleblowers and puts more power in the hands of Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin," but civil service unions condemned it, arguing it is "an end-run around long-standing protections for government employees and whistle-blowers." [The Hill](#) (6/13, Mitchell) says the measure, which was already approved by the Senate, now goes to President

Trump is “expected to sign it.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/13, story 4, 0:20, Holt) also reported on the bill.

Tillerson Says He Still Supports Paris Climate Deal, But Respects Trump’s Decision.

[Roll Call](#) (6/13, Nawaguna) reports Secretary of State Tillerson, who backed the US staying in the Paris climate agreement, told lawmakers on Tuesday that his views have “never changed,” but that he respects President Trump’s decision to withdraw from the international accord. Asked by Sen. Ben Cardin during testimony Tuesday if he had changed his position on the agreement, Tillerson said, “I will tell you that the president was quite deliberative on the issue and took some time to make his decision, particularly after he had heard from European counterparts. My views were heard out. I respect that the president heard my views, but I respect the decision he’s taken.”

Trump Tells Tangier Island Mayor Not To Worry About Sea-level Rise.

[USA Today](#) (6/14, Vaughn) reports, “President Trump phoned Tangier Island Mayor James ‘Ooker’ Eskridge Monday after viewing a CNN report about the Virginia island’s struggle with rising sea levels,” telling him “not to worry about sea-level rise.” Eskridge said Trump said, “Your island has been there for hundreds of years, and I believe your island will be there for hundreds more.” Eskridge added that he responded to Trump, “The stuff you are doing is just common-sense stuff. I believe you’re for the working man – and you want people to get back to work – you’re for the military, and Israel and religious liberties – it’s all the stuff that we value. I believe you came along for such a time as this.”

EPA Looks To Halt Emission Rules For Two Years.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/13, Siciliano) reports the EPA is now looking to halt the Obama Administration’s emission rules for hydraulic fracturing for two years, rather than the initial 90-day stay. The EPA said, “Under the proposal, sources would not need to comply with these requirements while the stay is in effect. Since issuing the final rule, EPA has received several petitions to reconsider certain aspects of the rule.” The agency said the delay is needed to conduct a review of the methane emission rules. [The Hill](#) (6/13, Henry) reports the EPA’s announcement must undergo a 30-day public comment period. Environmental groups have already sued over the EPA’s decision to implement a stay of the regulations limiting methane leaks at drilling sites.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Jeff Sessions Clams Up In Congress.” A [New York Times](#) (6/13) editorial says that after giving “false testimony” to a Senate committee during his confirmation hearing, Attorney General Sessions on Tuesday “lowered a broad cone of silence around all his communications with President Trump,” citing “a supposedly longstanding policy at the Justice Department — although he couldn’t confirm that it existed in writing or that, if it did, he had actually read it.” Sessions, the Times argues, “has no intention to answer any of those questions now or in the future.”

“How To Protest In Russia.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/14, Board) calls Alexei Navalny, the organizer of anti-corruption protests in Russia, a “master of mobilization” who has captured the world’s attention. The Times explains Navalny and other critics of the Kremlin “have succeeded in mobilizing the internet and social media to maintain a lively opposition in major cities” by targeting “what is arguably the most vulnerable attribute of the ruling elite: its corruption.” The Times concedes Navalny “will not defeat Vladimir Putin for the Russian presidency in March 2018,” but his strategy is remarkable because it focuses on wealthy, corrupt Russian leaders, which “Putin cannot facilely dismiss as the work of a hostile West.”

Washington Post.

“North Korea’s Outrageous Treatment Of A US Student Must Not Go Unpunished.” A [Washington Post](#) (6/13) editorial says North Korea’s treatment of American college student Otto Warmbier “should not go unpunished” and calls on President Trump to make security the release of three other Americans held by Pyongyang “a priority.” The US, it argues, “should also move quickly to step up sanctions on the regime of Kim Jong Un.”

“By Firing Mueller, Trump Would Make A Stronger Case That He Is Obstructing Justice.” The

[Washington Post](#) (6/13) warns President Trump against firing special counsel Robert Mueller, arguing in an editorial that it would, “more than anything else the president has done in office, firm up a case that Mr. Trump is obstructing justice.”

“It’s Time To Get Realistic About The Debt Ceiling.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/13) writes that Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney espoused a view of “simple realism” when he said in congressional testimony on Monday that Congress should adopt additional borrowing authority, as “the debt ceiling should not be a Republican issue or a Democrat issue.” The Post finds Mulvaney to be the “adult in the room, with respect to government debt,” as he made two important clarifications that show the Administration’s intention to maintain the “risk-free” status of Treasury securities, which “undergird the global financial system.” First, Mulvaney said a failure to increase the debt limit would “create a serious problem.” Second, he recommended that it would be best to pass such legislation well before August and without amendments.

Wall Street Journal.

“Uber’s Growing Pains.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/13) writes that as Uber Chief Business Officer Emil Michael stepped down on Monday and CEO Travis Kalanick said yesterday he would take an indefinite leave from the company, the firm is at a crossroads. Reforming “workplace culture” is important, and changing management is logical since workplace culture usually flows from the top. However, Kalanick’s determined entrepreneurial spirit was a key factor in Uber’s meteoric growth. Therefore, if management of the tech firm relies on its legal and human-resources teams, it won’t survive, let alone maintain its status as the dominant ride-hailing app in most US cities.

“Otto Warmbier’s Homecoming.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/13) editorial says American college student Otto Warmbier’s fate underscores the inappropriate nature of Dennis Rodman’s latest visit this week to Pyongyang.

“Pennsylvania’s Lesson For Illinois.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/13) editorializes that Pennsylvania took a positive first step toward addressing its pension woes – it has up to \$70 billion in liabilities – when Gov. Tom Wolf signed a bill on Monday that would enroll new state employees in “hybrid” retirement plans featuring defined-contributions from employees and smaller ones by the government. The Journal says the plan, effective 2019, has the advantages of eliminating taxpayer risk for new hires and giving employees the option of portability. Current workers would have the option to switch to the new plan. The Journal recommends that Connecticut and Illinois take note of Pennsylvania’s policy.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Uber CEO Travis Kalanick To Take Indefinite Leave Of Absence](#)

[Sessions Calls Russian Collusion Allegation An ‘Appalling And Detestable Lie’](#)

[Wall Street Veteran Leads Search For Next Fed Chief](#)

[Total Eclipse: Oil Giant Sees Its Future In Electricity](#)

New York Times:

[Jeff Sessions Denies Collusion, Deploring ‘Detestable Lie’ In Senate Testimony](#)

[Trump Stews, Staff Steps In, And Mueller Is Safe For Now](#)

[Uber Embraces Major Reforms As Travis Kalanick, The CEO, Steps Away](#)

[Otto Warmbier, Detained American, Is Evacuated From North Korea In A Coma](#)

[On A Tiny Norwegian Island, America Keeps An Eye On Russia](#)

[As Church Shifts, A Cardinal Welcomes Gays: They Embrace A ‘Miracle’](#)

Washington Post:

[U-Va. Student Released By N. Korea In A Coma](#)

[With Each Puff, A Deeper Socioeconomic Gap](#)

[Northam Fends Off Perriello In Va.](#)

[Sessions Silent On Talks With Trump](#)

[Uber CEO On Leave As Firm Tries To Repair Its Culture](#)

Secret Meeting Offers Prospect Of Wider Talks

Financial Times:

[Macron Leaves Door Open To UK Staying In EU](#)
[Japan Inc's Silence Over Toshiba Sends Chill Across Tokyo](#)
[Uber Chief Travis Kalanick To Take Indefinite Leave](#)
[Cristiano Ronaldo Accused Of €14.8m Tax Fraud](#)

Washington Times:

[Sessions Calls Talk Of Russian Collusion A 'Detestable Lie,' Says Comey Fired Over Clinton Probe](#)
[Gillespie Ekes Out GOP Win In Virginia Governor's Race; Northam Easily Claims Democratic Victory](#)
[Minority Judicial Nominations By Trump Would Pose Political Dilemmas For Democrats With U.S. Pullback, China Pursues Further Foothold In Latin American Business](#)
[No Apologies: ICE Chief Says Illegal Immigrants Should Live In Fear Of Deportation](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Sessions Senate Hearing; Trump-Special Counsel; Healthcare Reform Plan; North Korea Detainee Released; Georgia-Escaped Fugitives Manhunt; NYC-Carbon Monoxide Leak; Severe Weather; Ohio-Killing Spree; Bill Cosby Trial; Teen Texting Suicide Trial; Ohio-Highway Chase; Uber-Shake Up; NBA Finals-MVP.

CBS: Sessions Senate Hearing; Trump-Special Counsel; Sessions Senate Hearing-Expert Opinion; Russia Meddling Investigation; Bill Cosby Trial; Georgia-Escaped Fugitives Manhunt; North Korea Detainee Released; Uber-Shake Up; Afghanistan-US Soldiers Murdered; NBA Finals-MVP.

NBC: North Korea Detainee Released; Sessions Senate Hearing; Trump-Special Counsel; Veteran Affairs Reform Plan; Uber-Shake Up; Bill Cosby Trial; Georgia-Escaped Fugitives Manhunt; Afghanistan-US Soldiers Murdered; SUV Headlight Safety; Oprah-Not Running 2020; Young Girl-Thanking Officers; Wedding Proposal.

Network TV At A Glance:

Sessions Senate Hearing – 13 minutes, 20 seconds
North Korea Detainee Released – 8 minutes, 15 seconds
Trump-Special Counsel – 6 minutes, 30 seconds
Georgia-Escaped Fugitives Manhunt – 5 minutes, 45 seconds
Afghanistan-US Soldiers Murdered – 1 minute

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: London High-Rise Fire; Sessions Senate Hearing; Bill Cosby Trial; Healthcare Reform Plan; North Korea Detainee Released; War In Afghanistan.

CBS: Sessions Senate Hearing; Trump-Special Counsel; Bill Cosby Trial; North Korea Detainee Released; War In Afghanistan; Wall Street News.

FOX: London High-Rise Fire; North Korea Detainee Released; Sessions Senate Hearing; Bill Cosby Trial; Georgia-Escaped Fugitives Manhunt.

NPR: Sessions Senate Hearing; Bill Cosby Trial; UK-France Meeting.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Gives remarks at the Apprenticeship Initiative kickoff; signs an Executive Order.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Gives remarks at the National Association of Home Builders Legislative Conference.

US Senate: 9:45 AM Senate Judiciary Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers John Kenneth Bush to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit; Kevin Christopher Newsom to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit; and Damien Michael Schiff to be a U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judge Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Public Works Committee legislative hearing on the Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act – Legislative hearing on 'S. 517, the Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act', with testimony from Advanced Biofuels Business Council Executive Director R. Brooke Coleman;

Clean Air Task Force Senior Counsel Jonathan Lewis; Sheetz Executive Vice President Mike Lorenz; Briggs & Stratton Corporation Chairman, President, and CEO Todd Teske; and Ecoengineering Principal Engineer Dr Janet Yanowitz Location: Rm 406, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Senate Transportation Committee hearing on self-driving vehicles – Hearing on ‘Paving the Way for Self-Driving Vehicles’, with testimony from Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers President and CEO Mitch Bainwol; NVIDIA Corporation Vice President and General Manager of Automotive Business Rob Csongor; American Center for Mobility President and CEO John Maddox; and Mothers Against Drunk Driving National President Colleen Sheehey-Church Location: Rm 253, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Homeland Security Committee hearing on violent extremism – Hearing on ‘Ideology and Terror: Understanding the Tools, Tactics, and Techniques of Violent Extremism’, with testimony from Stanford University Hoover Institution Research Fellow Ayaan Hirsi Ali; Muslim Reform Movement co-founder Asra Nomani; Institute of World Politics President Dr John Lenczowski; and former National Counterterrorism Center Director Michael Leiter Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenRonJohnson>

10:00 AM Senate Finance Committee Executive Session – Executive Session, with agenda including consideration of nominations of Eric Hargan to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services; David Malpass to be Under Secretary of the Treasury; Andrew Maloney to be Deputy Under Secretary of the Treasury; and Brent James McIntosh to be Department of the Treasury General Counsel Location: Rm 215, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://finance.senate.gov>

10:30 AM Defense Secretary Mattis testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on FY’18 budget – Defense Subcommittee hearing on ‘Review of the FY2018 Budget Request for the U.S. Dept. of Defense’, with testimony from Secretary of Defense James Mattis; and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Joseph Dunford, Jr. Location: Rm 192, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

11:00 AM Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on FY’18 Congressional budgets – Legislative Branch Subcommittee hearing on ‘Review of 2018 Budget Requests for the Senate Sergeant at Arms, U.S. Capitol Police’, with testimony from Senate Sergeant at Arms Frank Larkin; and U.S. Capitol Police Chief Matthew Verderosa Location: Rm 124, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

2:00 PM Senate Energy and Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Water and Power Subcommittee legislative hearing, with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Water and Science Scott Cameron; Western Area Power Administration Administrator and CEO Mark Gabriel; Harlowton, MT, Mayor Jeff Sell; Yuma County Water Users’ Association General Manager Tom Davis; Patterson Lake Homeowners Association President Tom Fisher; Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District Chief Engineer/CEO Mike Hamman; and Brookfield Renewable Energy Group Vice President for Northeast Operations Christopher Wynn Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.energy.senate.gov

2:30 PM VA Secretary Shulkin testifies to Senate committee hearing on FY’18 and FY’19 budgets – Hearing on ‘Fiscal Year 2018 Budget for Veterans’ Programs and Fiscal Year 2019 Advance Appropriations Requests’, with testimony from Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin; Acting Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Management and Department of Veterans Affairs CFO Edward Murray; Acting Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Information and Technology Rob Thomas; Veterans Health Administration CFO Mark Yow; Veterans Benefits Administration Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary James Manker; National Cemeteries Division Deputy Under Secretary for Finance and Planning and CFO Matthew Sullivan; Paralyzed Veterans of America Associate Executive Director of Government Relations Carl Blake; Disabled American Veterans Assistant National Service Director LeRoy Acosta; Veterans of Foreign Wars National Legislative Service Director Carlos Fuentes; and Vietnam Veterans of America National President John Rowan Location: Rm 418, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Ryan Phillippe testifies to Senate Aging Committee hearing on military caregivers – Hearing on ‘Military Caregivers: Families Serving for the Long Run’, with testimony from actor Ryan Phillippe; Elizabeth Dole Foundation founder Elizabeth Dole; RAND Corporation Senior Behavioral Scientist Terri Tanielian; veteran caregiver Mary Hahn and veteran Thomas Ward; veteran caregiver Melanie Swoboda and veteran Sgt. 1st Class (Ret.) Joe Swoboda; and veteran caregiver Wanda Ickes and veteran Sgt. (Ret.) Samuel Ickes Location: Rm 106, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://aging.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on FY'18 NNSA budget – Energy and Water Development Subcommittee hearing on 'Review of the FY2018 Budget Request for the National Nuclear Security Administration', with testimony from NNSA Administrator (and Under Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Security) Lt. Gen. (Ret.) Frank Klotz, Acting Deputy Administrator for Defense Programs Philip Calbos, Acting Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation David Huizenga, and Deputy Administrator for Naval Reactors Adm. Frank Caldwell, Jr. Location: Rm 138, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

2:30 PM Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee hearing on southeast Europe – Europe and Regional Security Cooperation Subcommittee hearing on 'Southeast Europe: Strengthening Democracy and Countering Malign Foreign Influence', with testimony from Atlantic Council Executive Vice President Damon Wilson; SAIS Foreign Policy Institute Fellow Dr Majda Ruge; National Endowment for Democracy Associate Director for Europe Ivana Cvetkovic Bajrovic; and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Hoyt Brian Yee Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

3:00 PM Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee hearing on tax reform – Hearing on 'Tax Reform: Removing Barriers to Small Business Growth', with testimony from S Corporation Association President Brian Reardon; AICPA Tax Executive Committee Chair Annette Nellen; and Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center Director Mark Mazur Location: Rm 428A, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://sbc.senate.gov/>

5:00 PM Community College Innovation Challenge finalists on Capitol Hill – Community College Innovation Challenge Finalists' Reception on Capitol Hill, with members of the House of Representatives and Senate meeting the finalists from the third annual Challenge, in which the National Science Foundation and American Association of Community Colleges annual invite teams from across the country to submit 'innovative solutions grounded in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to solve some of the nation's most pressing challenges'. Reception includes all 10 finalist teams showcasing their projects, and the NSF and AACC announcing the top three finalists * Event follows a four-day Innovation Boot Camp, where the students learn 'how to put their proposals into action to make real-world change' Location: Rm 485, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.nsf.gov/> <https://twitter.com/NSF#CCIChallenge>

US House: 9:00 AM Hearing on 'The FY 2018 Foreign Affairs Budget', with testimony from Secretary of State Rex Tillerson Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

9:30 AM Helsinki Commission hearing on Romania – Helsinki Commission hearing on 'The Romanian Anti-Corruption Process: Successes and Excesses', with witnesses – Mayer Brown Special Counsel Mark Gitenstein, Center for Strategic and International Studies Senior Vice President Heather Conley, foreign policy commentator and consultant David Clark, and Freedom Capital Chairman Philip Stephenson – examining the current state of the process with the goal of understanding its successes and excesses and how best to respond Location: SVC 212-210, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

10:00 AM Department of Defense Intelligence and Overhead Architecture Subcommittee closed hearing on 'Ongoing Intelligence Activities' Location: HVC-304, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseIntelComm>

10:00 AM Treasury Secretary Mnuchin testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing – State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee 'Department of the Treasury – International Programs Budget Hearing', with testimony from Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin Location: Rm 2359, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Federal Lands Subcommittee legislative hearing on discussion draft of the 'Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act' (aka 'SHARE Act') Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Energy subcommittee hearing on state security planning and emergency preparedness – Energy Subcommittee hearing on 'States' Perspectives on Energy Security Planning, Emergency Preparedness, and State Energy Programs', with testimony from National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners First Vice President John Betkoski III; Michigan Agency for Energy Executive Director Valerie Brader; Washington State Department of Commerce Assistant Director Michael Furze; Georgia Environmental Finance Authority Energy Resources Division Director David Gipson; Public Utility Commission of Texas Executive Director Brian Lloyd; and National Association of State Energy Officials Executive Director David Terry Location: Rm

2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Financial Services Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on ‘H.R. 1422, the Flood Insurance Market Parity and Modernization Act’, ‘H.R. 1558, the Repeatedly Flooded Communities Preparation Act’, ‘H.R. 2246, the Taxpayer Exposure Mitigation Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 2565, To require the use of replacement cost value in determining the premium for flood insurance coverage under the National Flood Insurance Act, and for other purposes’, ‘H.R. 2868, the National Flood Insurance Program Policyholder Protection Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. XXXX, the National Flood Insurance Program Administrative Reform Act of 2017’, and ‘H.R. XXXX, the 21st Century Flood Reform Act’ Location: Rm 2128, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Ways and Means Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on ‘H.R. 2742, Modernizing the Interstate Placement of Children in Foster Care Act’, ‘H.R. 2857, Supporting Families in Substance Abuse Treatment Act’, ‘H.R. 2834, Partnership Grants to Strengthen Families Affected by Parental Substance Abuse Act’, ‘H.R. 2866, Reducing Barriers for Relative Foster Parents Act’, ‘H.R. 2847, Improving Services for Older Youth in Foster Care Act’, and ‘H.R. 2842, Accelerating Individuals into the Workforce Act’ Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

10:00 AM House Judiciary Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on ‘H.J.Res. 76, Granting the consent and approval of Congress for the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of Maryland, and the District of Columbia to enter into a compact relating to the establishment of the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission’, ‘H.J.Res. 92, Granting the consent and approval of Congress for the Commonwealth of Virginia, the State of Maryland, and the District of Columbia to amend the Washington Area Transit Regulation Compact’, ‘H.R. 495, Protection of Children Act’, and ‘H.R. 2826, Refugee Program Integrity Restoration Act’ Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:15 AM Health Subcommittee hearing on ‘Examining the Extension of Safety Net Health Programs’ Location: Rm 2322, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:15 AM House Workforce subcommittee hearing on legislative reforms to the National Labor Relations Act – Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee hearing on ‘Legislative Reforms to the National Labor Relations Act: H.R. 2776, Workforce Democracy and Fairness Act; H.R. 2775, Employee Privacy Protection Act; and, H.R. 2723, Employee Rights Act’, with testimony from McGuireWoods partner Seth Borden; Communications Workers of America General Counsel Guerino Calemine III; Karen Cox of Dixon, IL; and Michigan Health and Hospital Association Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff Nancy McKeague Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

11:00 AM Rep. Peter DeFazio; House members join Pilots Of American Airlines, Flight Attendants, others for Capitol Hill Rally – On Flag Day, pilots of American Airlines join U.S. Rep. Peter DeFazio, flight attendants, aviation workers, their families and supporters for a Capitol Hill rally to support the American flag and urge passage of H.R. 2150, the Flags of Convenience Don't Fly Here Act, bipartisan legislation introduced by DeFazio and supported by 54 additional co-sponsors. “H.R. 2150 would prohibit the Department of Transportation from issuing a permit to a foreign airline unless DOT determines that it is not establishing itself in a particular country just to avoid regulations — a so-called “flag of convenience” scheme that allows companies to skirt international labor standards, outsource cheap labor from low-wage countries, and take advantage of weak safety and security oversight.” Participants include: Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.); Rep. Paul Cook (R-Calif.); Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson (D-Texas); Rep. Bill Johnson (R-Ohio); Captain Dan Carey, President of the Allied Pilots Association; Captain Lee Collins Location: Capitol Grounds, Corner of First Street SE and Independence Ave, across from Library of Congress.

11:00 AM House Small Business Committee hearing on ‘SBA’s failed 2014 agency restructure’ – Hearing on ‘A Cautionary Tale: A Review of SBA’s Failed 2014 Agency Restructure’, with testimony from Small Business Administration Acting Inspector General Mike Ware, and COO Joseph Laddo Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

11:00 AM Markup hearing on ‘H.R. 2825, the Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act of 2017’ Location: HVC 210, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov

<https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

11:30 AM Conversations with Conservatives event – Conversations with Conservatives session, with Republican Reps. Dave Brat, Warren Davidson, Andy Harris, Thomas Massie, Mark Sanford, and Mark Walker meeting traditional press and bloggers to discuss issues of the day * Chaired by Reps. Raul Labrador, Jim Jordan, and Mark Meadows Location: Rm 2247, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://jordan.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/conversations#CWC115>

12:00 PM House expected to debate VETERAN Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include 'H.R. 2372 – VETERAN Act' and beginning consideration of 'H.R. 2579 – Broader Options for Americans Act' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM Secretary of State Tillerson testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on budget – State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee 'Department of State – Budget Hearing', with testimony from Secretary of State Rex Tillerson Location: Rm 2359, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee marks up End Neglected Tropical Diseases Act – Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee markup hearing, on 'H.R. 1415, End Neglected Tropical Diseases Act' Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

2:15 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on famines in Africa – Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee hearing on 'Africa's Current and Potential Famines', with testimony from Alliance to End Hunger Executive Director Emeritus Tony Hall; Chicago Council on Global Affairs Senior Fellow for Global Food and Agriculture Roger Thurow; and InterAction Director for Humanitarian Practice Julien Schopp Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

5:00 PM Community College Innovation Challenge finalists on Capitol Hill – Community College Innovation Challenge Finalists' Reception on Capitol Hill, with members of the House of Representatives and Senate meeting the finalists from the third annual Challenge, in which the National Science Foundation and American Association of Community Colleges annual invite teams from across the country to submit 'innovative solutions grounded in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) to solve some of the nation's most pressing challenges'. Reception includes all 10 finalist teams showcasing their projects, and the NSF and AACC announcing the top three finalists * Event follows a four-day Innovation Boot Camp, where the students learn 'how to put their proposals into action to make real-world change' Location: Rm 485, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.nsf.gov/> <https://twitter.com/NSF#CCIChallenge>

Other: 8:30 AM 'Building a Competitive U.S.-Mexico Border' conference – 'Building a Competitive U.S.-Mexico Border' conference hosted by the Wilson Center Mexico Institute and the Border Trade Alliance, to discuss 'improving border management in order to strengthen the competitiveness of both the U.S. and Mexico'. Speakers include Republicans Sen. John Cornyn and Rep. Will Hurd, Democratic Rep. Henry Cuellar, Customs and Border Protection Acting Commissioner Kevin McAleenan, Mexico Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Geronimo Gutierrez, San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer, Arizona Governor Doug Ducey, and State Department Border Coordinator Hillary Quam Location: Wilson Center, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave, Washington, DC <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/> <https://twitter.com/TheWilsonCenter>

9:00 AM 2017 CSIS-JETRO Conference – 2017 Center for Strategic and International Studies-Japan External Trade Organization Conference on 'Asia-Pacific Economic Integration and the Role of the United States and Japan', with Democratic Rep. Rick Larsen, JETRO Chairman and CEO Hiroyuki Ishige, and CSIS President and CEO John Hamre Location: CSIS, 1616 Rhode Island Ave, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

6:00 PM Endowment for Middle East Truth's 'Rays of Light in the Darkness' Annual Dinner – Endowment for Middle East Truth's 'Rays of Light in the Darkness' Annual Dinner, honoring Israeli Ambassador to the U.S. Ron Dermer, Republican Sen. Jim Inhofe, Republican Rep. Mark Meadows, Democratic Rep. Juan Vargas Location: Washington, DC www.emetonline.org

6:00 PM National Partnership for Women & Families Gala Dinner – National Partnership for Women & Families Gala Dinner. Distinguished honoree and keynote speaker is Democratic Sen. Kamala Harris Location: Washington Hilton, 1919 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.nationalpartnership.org/> <https://twitter.com/NPWF>

7:30 PM CFA Annual Awards Dinner – Consumer Federation of America Annual Awards Dinner, for awards recognizing individuals who have made exceptional progress in American consumerism by improving the marketplace, eliminating fraud, promoting consumer health and safety, and providing consumer information. Honorees include Democratic Rep. Bobby Rush, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Chairman Martin Gruenberg, Center for Digital Democracy Executive Director Jeffrey Chester, National Cooperative Bank President and CEO Charles Snyder, and The Nation Institute Investigative Fund Reporting Fellow Susan Antilla Location: Capital Hilton, 1001 16th Street Northwest, Washington, DC <http://www.consumerfed.org/>
<https://twitter.com/consumerfed>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: “Senate Democrats accused [Attorney General] Jeff Sessions of stonewalling, which the attorney general adamantly denied. Although he did add if he did decide to stonewall, the Mexicans would definitely be paying for it.”

Stephen Colbert: “I’m sure you know everyone is talking about America’s favorite new reality TV show, ‘So You Think You Can Testify About Russia.’ Today’s contestant: Attorney General and Last Surviving Little Rascal, Jeff Sessions.”

Stephen Colbert: “As soon as Sessions sat down, everyone had the same question, are you now, or have you ever hidden any pots of gold?”

Stephen Colbert: “Attorney General Sessions, you’re not answering, even though the President hasn’t claimed executive privilege, and you haven’t claimed executive privilege. So what are you claiming, white privilege?”

Stephen Colbert: “Wait a second. Everybody knows there was communication between Russia and Michael Flynn. That’s why he was fired. Sessions really seems to know nothing. Which explains why he was the first senator to endorse Trump.”

Trevor Noah: “The play was so violent, Delta pulled out. Terrible news for the Public Theater, but a great opportunity for United Airlines!”

Trevor Noah: “At some point, we’re going to have to stop saying Trump is committing political suicide. Alright, Donald Trump don’t die, people. Donald Trump is the Transformers movie of politics. No matter how bad it gets, it’s never over.”

Trevor Noah: “Jeff Sessions uses that line all the time: ‘I recuse myself from the Russia investigation, but I will not recuse myself from these nachos, yeah! Wait, \$5 for guacamole? I recuse myself!’”

Jimmy Fallon: “Attorney General Jeff Sessions testified in Congress today as part of the Russia investigation. And it wasn’t a good sign when they asked him if he swore to tell the truth and nothing but the truth, and he said, ‘Da.’”

Jimmy Fallon: “During his testimony, Sessions said he doesn’t recall having any conversations with Russian officials at the Mayflower Hotel. Then John McCain interrupted to talk about being on the Mayflower.”

Jimmy Fallon: “Jeff Sessions said he doesn’t recall meeting with any Russians at the Mayflower. For those of you who don’t know, ‘doesn’t recall’ is the Washington term meaning, ‘I definitely recall, and I’m in trouble.’”

Seth Meyers: “Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich has published a new book titled ‘Understanding Trump,’ and I have to say it’s a pretty quick read.”

Seth Meyers: “It seems like every day, the news surrounding the Russia scandal and the firing of

former FBI Director James Comey gets more intense and more unbelievable. It's like every time we think we're on top of crazy mountain, a cloud blows away and there is another peak to climb."

Seth Meyers: "Trump's our first President to spend more time watching 'The Situation Room' than he does in the actual situation room."

Conan O'Brien: "After winning the NBA championship – this is a big story – the Golden State Warriors unanimously decided to skip the traditional visit to the White House. They're skipping it. After hearing this, Melania Trump said, 'Wait, you can do that?'"

Conan O'Brien: "A new report came out and found that the employees at a Trump clothing factory in Indonesia are subject to low wages and verbal abuse. And even they wouldn't change places with Sean Spicer."

Conan O'Brien: "It's rumored that President Trump's upcoming trip to the UK is on hold because he's worried about angry protests. Yeah. I have to admit, of all the wars I thought Trump might restart, I wasn't counting on revolutionary."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



DATE: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2017 7:00 AM EDT

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DOI In The News

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- Navajo-Hopi Observer (AZ): Zinke Says Tribes Are 'Happy' To Have Bears Ears Modifications; Tribes Disagree.
- Deseret (UT) News: Counties Drawing Maps On Preferred Monument Boundaries.
- Albuquerque (NM) Journal: Las Cruces City Council Opposes Changes To OMDP Monument.
- KRWG-FM Las Cruces (NM): Pearce Introduces Bill To Increase Access To Federal Lands.
- Livingston (MT) Enterprise: Locals Seek Action From Steve Daines On Fed Mining Ban.

- Houma (LA) Courier: Grant To Help Open Bayou Country Sports Park.
- Grand Junction (CO) Daily Sentinel: A Different Letter To Secretary Zinke.
- The Hill: National Parks Have More To Offer Than Gas — Why Won't The Government Protect Them?

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- New Deadline Set In Tribal Remand.
- In Hardin, One Jail Is Overcrowded; The Other Sits Empty.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Bloomberg BNA: Interior Prepares To Issue Rule On Fracking On Federal Land.
- Daily Caller: Environmentalists Sue Trump Over Alleged Coal Industry Ties.
- Denver Post: Non-motorized Recreation On BLM Lands Contributes \$54 Million To Arkansas River Valley Economy.
- Carlsbad (NM) Current-Argus: BLM Pays State \$70 Million Owed From Sept. Lease Sale.
- East Idaho News: BLM: Gap Fire Was Caused By Shooters Illegally Shooting Exploding Targets.
- Elko (NV) Daily Free Press: BLM Posts Environmental Study.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Bill Aims To Have California Save Water For A Not-so-rainy Day.
- Rural Water Projects Bill Receives Hearing.
- Arkansas River Levels Peak After U.S.
- Napa County Still Weighing Berryessa Resorts Decision.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Orange County (CA) Breeze: OCTA And Wildlife Officials Preserve 1,300 Acres Of Wilderness.
- Great Falls (MT) Tribune: Living With Grizzly Bears Challenges Montana.
- Ronan Valley (MT) Journal: Comprehensive Conservation Plan Process Begins At Nat'l Bison Range.
- Salem (OR) Capital Press: Agencies Watch For First Western Washington Wolfpack.
- Morristown (NJ) Daily Record: With Dams Gone American Shad Return To Musconetcong River.
- Forum of Fargo-Moorhead (ND): Two Northeast SD Men Sentenced For Shooting 200 Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants.
- Bangor (ME) Daily News: Maine Man Pleads Guilty To Illegal Trafficking In Baby Eels Valued At \$375K.
- Medium: Sunrise And Sage-Grouse On Sacred Ground.

National Park Service

- Chelsea Now: Google Supports Stonewall National Monument With \$1M.
- Los Angeles Times: It Was 127 Degrees In Death Valley, And Miserable Just About Everywhere Else.
- Omaha (NE) World-Herald: Bill Nye Is Coming To Nebraska For Anticipated Solar Eclipse.
- Arizona Daily Star: Fee Increases Proposed For Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.
- U.S. News & World Report: Glacier National Park Trail Closed Due To Grizzlies.
- U.S. News & World Report: Highway Closed By Water In Central Wyoming Reopens.
- Bangor (ME) Daily News: Carriage Roads In Acadia National Park To Be Resurfaced.
- Savannah (GA) Morning News: Cumberland Rezoning Postponed To Allow Park Service Negotiations.
- U.S. News & World Report: Rural Cemetery In Ramsey County Listed In National Register.
- Washington Times: Additional Coverage: Olympic Champ And Capital-area Native Dawes Advocates For National Parks And Discusses Motherhood.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Samoa News: Petition Wants To Keep Am.
- Guam Daily Post: Decolonization Advocates Weigh In On Puerto Rico Vote.
- Samoa News: The Future Prospects For American Samoa's Political Status.
- Samoa News: Definition Of AS Cultural Fishing Practices Still Being Debated.
- Marianas Variety: Global Coral Bleaching May Be Ending, US Agency Says.
- St. Croix Source: The V.I. Budget Crisis, Part 11: Education, Where The Big Spending Is.
- Marianas Variety: Mumps Outbreak In The Marshalls Continues To Spread.
- Pacific (GUM) Daily News: War Claims Application Available Now.
- Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR): Reducing Greenhouse Emissions Is An Economic Imperative For Territory.

Office Of Surface Mining

- King II Coal Mine Expansion Proposal Splits Crowd.

Top National News

- Fox News: Trump Takes Veiled Shot At Obama, Signals Loss Of Faith In China's North Korea Efforts.
- Fox News: Media Analyses: Handel Victory Big Win For Trump, Another Setback For Democrats.
- Charleston (SC) Post and Courier: Republican Norman Wins Special Election To Succeed Mulvaney.
- New York Times: NYTimes Analysis: Trump Moves To Roll Back Obama's Labor Legacy.
- Washington Examiner: Thune: Plan To Privatize Air Traffic Controllers Doesn't Have Enough Committee Votes.
- New York Times: NYTimes A1 Analysis: Climate Change Likely To Increase Disruptions To Air Travel.
- Bloomberg BNA: Cities, States Take On Brunt Of Climate Responsibility.
- Washington Post: EPA Notifies BOSC Members Their Terms Won't Be Renewed.

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DOI In The News

Zinke Defends Trump's Sharp Cuts At Interior: 'This Is What A Balanced Budget Looks Like.'

The [Washington Post](#) (6/20, Fears) reports that in testimony before the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Tuesday, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "defended the \$1.6 billion in funding cuts that President Trump has proposed for his department," telling the panel that "this is what a balanced budget looks like." However, Democrats on the committee "took issue with the \$400 million that the national parks would lose in fiscal 2018," and "questioned the \$370 million in cuts the Bureau of Indian Affairs would face." Committee Republicans, however, "applauded the Trump administration's proposals to invest in energy exploration on public lands, including a controversial move to open the Arctic to oil and gas exploration after the Obama administration closed it."

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (6/20, Cama, Henry), [The Hill](#) (6/20, Wheeler), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/20, Wolfgang), the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (6/20, Kapoor), [Oil Change International](#) (6/20, Redman), [Oil Change International](#) (6/20, Redman), and [The Fuse](#) (6/20, Piotrowski).

Interior Secretary Advocates For Cutting Up To 4,000 Jobs At Agency. The [Huffington Post](#) (6/20, D'angelo) reports that "thousands of federal workers at the Interior Department could soon find themselves out of a job as the Trump administration looks to reorganize the agency and cut its funding by 12 percent." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke noted that President Trump's 2018

budget request would “slash funding by \$1.6 billion — to \$11.7 billion — and support just shy of 60,000 full-time staff, a reduction of roughly 4,000.” In written testimony, Zinke wrote, “To accomplish this, the Department will rely on a combination of attrition, reassignments, and separation incentives. Actual attrition rates and acceptance of separation incentives will determine the need for further action to reduce staffing.”

[E&E Publishing](#) (6/20, Lunney) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke indicated “that the department is looking at relocating more resources out West as part of a larger management reorganization.” Zinke said, “The way we are organized currently is, we’re all different bureaus reporting to different regions. We’re not very good at joint operations,” he added. He gave an example of a river with both trout and salmon, meaning different agencies inside and outside of Interior could have jurisdiction.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Summit \(CO\) Daily](#) (6/20, Fixler) and the [Glenwood Springs \(CO\) Post Independent](#) (6/20, Fixler).

Senators: Trump’s Interior Budget Is Going Nowhere. [The Hill](#) (6/20, Henry) reports, “Senators of both parties on Tuesday poked holes in President Trump’s budget request for the Interior Department, which cuts funding for the agency by 11 percent.” During a Tuesday hearing, Sen. Lisa Murkowski told Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “that the budget is ‘better than what we have seen in the last few years,’ but that it’s still not going anywhere on Capitol hill.” Murkowski said, “I don’t expect many of [the cuts] to become a reality, especially those that target popular programs.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (6/20, Siciliano) and the [Business Insider](#) (6/20, Siciliano).

Zinke Pledges To Enforce Obama-Era Methane Rule Amid Rewrite. The [AP](#) (6/20, Daly) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said the department will enforce regulations designed to restrict methane emissions from oil and gas production, even though the rule is being rewritten to be more industry friendly. Responding to questions from the Senate Energy Committee, Zinke agreed that flaring methane at drill sites is wasteful, and that he hopes to design a rule ensuring taxpayers are getting fair royalty values while not punishing the industry. Zinke said, “It’s a public asset we’re flaring, and we need to incentivize it so it’s used and not wasted.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/20, Siciliano) reports Sen. Maria Cantwell, the top Democrat on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, said Zinke is skirting the law when he planned to review the rule cutting methane emissions from hydraulic fracturing on public lands. Cantwell said, “You cannot just change this rule without notice and without comment. ... You cannot make up your own new regulations without due process.” When she asked Zinke if he was following the Administrative Procedures Act, the Interior Secretary responded that he is following all procedures within the law. Zinke also said he plans to have a public notice and comment period when revising the regulation. [Greenwire](#) (6/20) reports Sens. Cantwell and Udall sent a letter to Zinke arguing the Administrative Procedure Act does not allow for a delay of rules that are already in effect. The letter said, “The effect of this claim is to allow the Department, according to its whim, to suspend properly promulgated regulations with no public notice and comment nor any legal reasoning beyond an unsubstantiated claim that ‘justice requires’ suspension of a rule that has already gone into effect.”

Additional coverage was provided by [The Hill](#) (6/20, Henry).

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [ABC News](#) (6/20, Daly), [Fox Business](#) (6/20, Daly), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (6/20, Daly), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (6/20, Daly), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (6/20, Daly), the [Winston-Salem \(NC\) Journal](#) (6/20, Daly), the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (6/20, Daly), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (6/20, Daly), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (6/20, Daly), and [WMUR-TV Manchester \(NH\)](#) Manchester, NH (6/20, Daly).

GOP Senator To White House: Hands Off Oil And Gas Payments To Gulf Coast States. [Route Fifty](#) (6/20, Lucia) reports that Sen. Bill Cassidy pressed Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Tuesday “about a proposal in President Trump’s budget plan to redirect billions of dollars in offshore oil and gas revenues away from Gulf Coast states.” Cassidy’s comments “concerned the Trump administration’s push to overhaul how money is distributed under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, or GOMESA.” Zinke “expressed an openness to working with Cassidy to address his concerns about the payments.”

Canyons Of The Ancients Not “Currently” Under Priority Review, Ryan Zinke Tells Cory Gardner. The [Denver Post](#) (6/20, Paul) reports that Sen. Cory Gardner “said Tuesday he was ‘encouraged’ by comments from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke about the future of Canyon of the Ancients, whose protected status as a national monument was put in question early last month as part of a broader federal review.” Zinke stated, “It is currently not on our priority review list.” Gardner said later, “I’m encouraged Secretary Zinke stated today that Canyons is not currently on the

department's priority review. I'll continue to...do all that I can to protect Canyons of the Ancients."

Zinke: Maine Monument's Foes And Fans Will Be 'Enthusiastic' About Recommendation. The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (6/20, Sambides) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "once again hinted Tuesday that he won't advise President Donald Trump to get rid of Maine's national monument." Speaking to Sen. Angus King of Maine during a Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing, "Zinke predicted that both Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument's supporters and its opponents will be 'enthusiastic' about the recommendations he will make to President Trump on Aug. 24." Zinke said, "I am sure you are going to be enthusiastic about the recommendation as well as the governor. I have talked to the governor, and I think we have a reasonable approach with the recommendation that all parties will be satisfied with."

King Advocates For Acadia National Park Advisory Commission To Interior Secretary. [WAGM-TV](#) Presque Isle, ME (6/20, Lumpkin) reports that during a Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing Tuesday, Sen. Angus King "spoke in support of the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission to Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke." King's comments "come after the Department of the Interior earlier this year suspended meetings of all national park advisory commissions across the country – including the Acadia Commission in Maine – while the National Park Service conducts a review of them." Zinke "responded that the purpose of the review was to gain a better understanding of what the advisory commissions have accomplished over the years, and noted that the commissions could apply for an exemption if they would like to meet."

Al Franken Butts Heads With Interior Secretary Over Climate Change. The [Huffington Post](#) (6/20, D'angelo) reports that Sen. Al Franken "clashed with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Tuesday on the subject of climate change, calling out the Trump Cabinet member for downplaying melting glaciers in Glacier National Park." At Tuesday's budget hearing before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Franken "pointed to data released last month by the U.S. Geological Survey — a bureau Zinke oversees — and Portland State University showing that the park's glaciers have shrunk an average of 39 percent since 1966." According to the article, "with limited time, Franken moved on to the larger climate crisis, asking Zinke if he knows how much warming government scientists are predicting by 2100 under a business-as-usual scenario."

Zinke Says Tribes Are 'Happy' To Have Bears Ears Modifications; Tribes Disagree.

The [Navajo-Hopi Observer \(AZ\)](#) (6/20, Capriccioso) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "misrepresenting tribal positions about his plan to reduce a yet unspecified portion of the Bears Ears National Monument while increasing tribal co-management of the site, according to tribal officials and their lawyers." In a June 12 press call hosted by Sen. Tom Udall, the vice-chair of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Navajo Nation Attorney General Ethel Branch "said the tribe's leaders have maintained a consistent position that they support the monument designation." Natalie Landreth, "a lawyer with the Native American Rights Fund who represents the Hopi, Zuni and Ute Mountain Ute Tribes on Bears Ears issues," said, "It's unclear exactly what the secretary is suggesting, so until we know more details about what he's talking about, it's difficult to have a view on it. Our initial reaction on behalf of the three tribes we represent is that this was really a cynical effort to distract Indian country from the devastating blow of reducing the size of the monument."

Let The Floodgates Of Protest Open Over Bears Ears. In an op-ed for the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (6/20, Worthy), Crista Worthy writes that "though Zinke might not be listening, many Americans have spoken up in defense of Bears Ears and the other national monuments now under 'review.'" She notes that "in addition to the 90,000 individual comments as of May 25, dozens of groups like the Sierra Club and Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance gathered feedback, which amounted to over 685,000 additional public comments in support of Bears Ears, and tens of thousands of comments in support of other national monuments." According to Worthy, "when combined they show support for Bears Ears and other national monuments at more than 99 percent, all gathered during this short 15-day comment period."

Counties Drawing Maps On Preferred Monument Boundaries.

The [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (6/20, O'Donoghue) reports that "Kane and Garfield counties are drawing new monument boundaries for Grand Staircase-Escalante at the request of the U.S. Department of the Interior as part of an ongoing review of 27 controversial national monument designations across the country." Rep. Mike Noel "told members of the Commission for the Stewardship of Public Lands that producing a consensus map for the monument is no easy task given the amount

of land involved — 1.9 million acres.” According to the article, “there were initially two interim maps produced for Grand Staircase-Escalante’s potential new boundaries, but Noel said the Interior Department wants one working map for the monument from which to make its recommendations to President Donald Trump.”

Las Cruces City Council Opposes Changes To OMDP Monument.

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (6/20, Soular) reports that Las Cruces city councilors unanimously approved “a measure Monday opposing curtailment or elimination of the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.” Councilors “heard from many proponents, including several business owners, and opponents, including some ranchers who rehashed concerns about the monument’s size.” The city council’s statement expresses support for the national monument and “it also opposes a curtailment or elimination of the monument.”

Pearce Introduces Bill To Increase Access To Federal Lands.

[KRWG-FM](#) Las Cruces, NM (6/20) reports that Rep. Steve Pearce has “introduced a bill to increase access to public lands for hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting.” The Make Public Lands Public Act will “amend the Land and Water Conservation Fund to increase public access to federal lands by maintaining and restoring existing roads, trails, and rights of way.” Pearce said, “In New Mexico and across the west, private, state, and federal lands are intermingled, resulting in a checkerboard issue that diminishes access to public lands for hunting, fishing, and shooting sports. These lands belong to the people, and we must ensure that sportsmen and women have the ability to participate in outdoor recreation as their parents and grandparents did before them. This bill will not only bring greater recreational enjoyment and economic growth to New Mexico, but will increase conservation efforts that are funded by these activities.”

Locals Seek Action From Steve Daines On Fed Mining Ban.

The [Livingston \(MT\) Enterprise](#) (6/20, Kearney) reports that “area business owners who want to see some local public lands permanently withdrawn from mining are asking Congress to get moving” on the “Yellowstone Gateway Protection Act.” Sen. Jon Tester introduced the bill in April. Karrie Kahle, a spokeswoman for the YGBC said Monday, “We’re asking Sen. Daines to request a hearing of the bill by July before the August recess. We’re urging him to support his constituents in our community and to act for a hearing and get this bill passed to protect our economy and our way of life.... He’s our Congressman, and we’d like to have his support on the act.”

Grant To Help Open Bayou Country Sports Park.

The [Houma \(LA\) Courier](#) (6/20, Boudreaux) reports that “Terrebonne Parish government has received the first grant check for the Bayou Country Sports Park.” Christopher Pulaski, Terrebonne’s director of planning and zoning, said the parish received the money from the Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant. The parish was “awarded the entire grant, totaling a \$250,000 reimbursement that the parish is putting back into the park.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Thibodaux \(LA\) Daily Comet](#) (6/20, Boudreaux).

A Different Letter To Secretary Zinke.

In an open letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke published in the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (6/20, Spehar), columnist Jim Spehar offers a response to the commissioners of Mesa County’s “litany of supposed grievances regarding Department of Interior policies and practices.” Spehar hopes Zinke will “accept and support the decisions they would have you revisit and, like others in our community, look forward, not backward in your important responsibility of overseeing our public lands.”

National Parks Have More To Offer Than Gas — Why Won’t The Government Protect Them?

For the “Pundits” blog of [The Hill](#) (6/20, Korenblat, Contributor), Ashley Korenblat, CEO of cycling tour company Western Spirit Cycling and managing director of Public Land Solutions, writes that “our public lands are bringing long-term sustained growth to rural economies, while simultaneously protecting America’s best idea: our national parks.” Korenblat argues that “communities that used to depend on the coal, oil, gas and timber now have an opportunity to supplement those revenue sources by investing in access to recreation assets.” However, “poorly planned energy development could threaten these communities.” Korenblat warns that the Dinosaur National Monument, Canyonlands, Chaco Canyon, Capitol Reef, Carlsbad Caverns, Mesa

Verde and Zion National Parks are “all threatened by oil and gas leases on adjacent lands.” Korenbalt concludes that “as local governments and businesses increasingly benefit from land in its natural state, the Bureau of Land Management needs to acknowledge that resource extraction is no longer the only way to make a living off the land.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

New Deadline Set In Tribal Remand.

The [Falmouth \(MA\) Enterprise](#) (6/20, Houghton) reports that “The federal government has set a new timeline of Tuesday, June 27, for a decision on the remand process in the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe’s legal proceedings.” David H. Tennant, an attorney representing East Taunton plaintiffs in the lawsuit, confirmed on Tuesday that the Interior Department has “set a new date of June 27, just over a week from the original intended deadline for a decision.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Fall River \(MA\) Herald News](#) (6/20, Winokoor), the [Taunton \(MA\) Daily Gazette](#) (6/20, Winokoor), the [Cape Cod \(MA\) Times](#) (6/20, Lindahl), the [Raynham \(MA\) Call](#) (6/20, Winokoor), and the [Nation Sun News](#) (6/20).

In Hardin, One Jail Is Overcrowded; The Other Sits Empty.

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (6/20, Hudson) reports that “Hardin’s vacant private prison will get another look from Big Horn County, which is again searching for options to alleviate its ailing jail facility.” Late last year, the Bureau of Indian Affairs “began negotiating a lease to take over the facility as a regional detention center for Native American inmates.” A BIA spokeswoman “confirmed in February that a lease was in the works and estimated for April,” but “since then, the agency has not responded to multiple inquiries about any potential deal.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Interior Prepares To Issue Rule On Fracking On Federal Land.

[Bloomberg BNA](#) (6/19, Kovski) reports the Interior Department soon may issue a rule to replace the Obama Administration’s regulation governing hydraulic fracturing on federal and tribal lands. The department is under pressure from the US Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, where it requested a stay of the case over the regulation. Federal attorneys for the Interior must file their next brief no later than June 20, and having a proposed rule at the Office of Management and Budget will allow the attorneys to say that the BLM needs the court to halt litigation while the rule-making takes place.

Additional coverage was provided by [Law360](#) (6/20, Goldberg).

Environmentalists Sue Trump Over Alleged Coal Industry Ties.

The [Daily Caller](#) (6/20, Follett) reports that the Center for Biological Diversity “filed a lawsuit Tuesday against the Trump administration over its alleged ties to the coal industry, asking for public records of meetings between U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) officials and coal industry executives.” The group submitted a Freedom of Information Act request “in March to obtain information about meetings between BLM officials and coal industry lobbyists.” The center says “it filed suit Tuesday after BLM ignored its FOIA request.”

Non-motorized Recreation On BLM Lands Contributes \$54 Million To Arkansas River Valley Economy.

The [Denver Post](#) (6/20, Blevins) reports that “non-motorized recreation on Bureau of Land Management mountains around the Upper Arkansas River Valley contributed more than \$54.3 million to local economies according to a ‘quiet use’ economic impact report released Tuesday.” The report, “prepared by ECONorthwest economic consulting firm and paid for by The Pew Charitable Trusts, showed more than three-quarters of all recreational visits to BLM-managed land on the eastern flank of the Continental Divide along the Arkansas River were for ‘quiet recreation,’ meaning the visitors did not twist a throttle or stomp a gas pedal during their visit.” According to the report, “those 1.23 million visits — tallied from BLM 2015 visitor data — accounted for \$54.3 million in spending, with \$39 million of that coming from non-local visitors.” The report “showed those hikers, climbers, paddlers and cyclists supported 693 jobs in the rural region.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KXRM-TV](#) Colorado Springs, CO (6/20, Asperin).

BLM Pays State \$70 Million Owed From Sept. Lease Sale.

The [Carlsbad \(NM\) Current-Argus](#) (6/20, Hayden) reports that “nearly \$70 million owed to the state of New Mexico by the Bureau of Land Management has been paid off.” The article says that “the \$69.9 million is a portion of the proceeds allotted to the state from a record-breaking BLM oil and gas lease sale held in September that netted \$145 million for 36 Permian Basin parcels.” BLM New Mexico spokeswoman Donna Hummel “confirmed the payment was made on May 30.”

BLM: Gap Fire Was Caused By Shooters Illegally Shooting Exploding Targets.

The [East Idaho News](#) (6/20) reports that “investigators have determined that the June 8th Gap Fire was caused by shooters illegally using exploding targets.” [KIFI-TV](#) Idaho Falls, ID (6/20) reports that the BLM “said the conditions for a wildfire aligned perfectly the day of the Gap Fire, and the potential of exploding targets to start wildfires is why the BLM Fire Prevention Order is in place.”

BLM Posts Environmental Study.

The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (6/20) reports that “an environmental study and findings conducted by the local Bureau of Land Management office are available for public review until July 5.” The Elko District Office “completed a field project environmental assessment that analyzed the proposed implementation of demonstration study plots for pseudomonas fluorescens strain D7 on up to 50 acres.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

Bill Aims To Have California Save Water For A Not-so-rainy Day.

The [McClatchy](#) (6/20, Siripurapu) reports that “after years of drought, the state of California is bracing for water,” and “Congress is trying to help manage such drastic shifts in California’s water levels.” On Thursday, the House “plans a vote on legislation sponsored by Rep. Tom McClintock, R-Calif., that aims to help the state capture more of that water to save for a future dry season.” The bill is expected to pass the House.

Rural Water Projects Bill Receives Hearing.

The [Sidney \(MT\) Herald](#) (6/20) reports that Sen. Steve Daines’ bill “to provide much-needed authorization for Montana rural water infrastructure received a legislative hearing in the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water and Power last week.” The Clean Water for Rural Communities Act “authorizes two Bureau of Reclamation rural water projects: the Dry-Redwater Regional Water Authority System and the Musselshell-Judith Rural Water System.”

Arkansas River Levels Peak After U.S.

Bureau Of Reclamation Conducts Water Release. The [Canon City \(CO\) Daily Record](#) (6/20, Matott) reports that “the Arkansas River was flowing at about 4,100 cubic feet per second on Tuesday, hitting a new peak level for this year.” Kyle Horne, “programs director at the Cañon City Area Recreation and Park District and co-chairman for the Royal Gorge Whitewater Festival, said the river is running high again after the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation released water from Twin Lakes Reservoir.”

Napa County Still Weighing Berryessa Resorts Decision.

The [Napa Valley \(CA\) Register](#) (6/20, Eberling) reports that “Napa County after a year of research remains interested in managing the Lake Berryessa resort renovation effort, but wants a little more information before taking the plunge.” The county “wants to offer 55-year contracts to run resorts, but needs permission from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for this longer-than-usual time frame.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

OCTA And Wildlife Officials Preserve 1,300 Acres Of Wilderness.

The [Orange County \(CA\) Breeze](#) (6/20) reports that the Orange County Transportation Authority “joined with officials from federal and state wildlife agencies and local environmental leaders on Tuesday to announce the completion of plans to protect 1,300 acres of open space, ensuring that it remains free from development forever.” Tuesday’s event “marked the culmination of more than 10 years of work between the agencies to finalize the plans related to the Measure M Freeway Environmental Mitigation Program, which protects natural habitat and rare animal and plant species in Orange County.” According to the article, “the certification of the final conservation plans, known as the Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan and the associated environmental impact report, is the culmination of OCTA’s work with both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.” Paul Souza, Regional Director of the Wildlife Service’s Pacific Southwest Region, said, “Our work with OCTA, the state and other partners to develop this plan is an example of proactive conservation planning the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is spearheading across Southern California. This plan provides assurances that crucial transportation projects can go forward efficiently while safeguarding Orange County’s priceless natural resources.”

Living With Grizzly Bears Challenges Montana.

The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (6/21, Puckett) reports that “managing and living with a growing grizzly bear population once the threatened species loses federal protection was the focus of a panel discussion Tuesday during the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee meeting.” The IGBC is “conducting a three-day summer meeting in this Rocky Mountain Front community.” According to the article, “the focus of a two-hour panel discussion was transitioning from recovery to management in both the North Continental Divide Ecosystem in northcentral and northwestern Montana and the greater Yellowstone area.”

Comprehensive Conservation Plan Process Begins At Nat’l Bison Range.

The [Ronan Valley \(MT\) Journal](#) (6/20, Soptelean) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has started “the process for creating a Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the National Bison Range and other conservation lands in Lake and Flathead counties.” The initial public meeting was held June 6 in Polson and another was held June 7 in Kalispell. Toni Griffin, “a FWS refuge planner from Denver, said the effort is the beginning of a three-year process.”

Agencies Watch For First Western Washington Wolfpack.

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (6/20, Jenkins) reports that “federal and state biologists are watching a male wolf in Western Washington to see whether he has a traveling companion.” The Washington Department of Fish Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “trapped a male wolf June 8 in Eastern Skagit County.” According to Washington Department of Fish Wildlife wolf policy coordinator Donny Martorello, “if he stays in the area, it will suggest he’s found a mate.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Omak-Okanogan County \(WA\) Chronicle](#) (6/20, Hires).

With Dams Gone American Shad Return To Musconetcong River.

The [Morristown \(NJ\) Daily Record](#) (6/20, Radel) reports that “small schools of American shad” were found “swimming above the site of the former Hughesville Dam in Warren County” in June. The fishermen’s report was “quickly followed up by biologists from New Jersey’s Bureau of Freshwater Fisheries who captured shad at the base of the Warren Glen Dam in Holland Township.” Eric Schrading, Supervisor of the N.J. Field Office for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said, “The confirmation of American shad in the Musconetcong River marks a significant milestone in the effort to restore this fish in the Delaware River Basin.”

Two Northeast SD Men Sentenced For Shooting 200 Pelicans, Double-crested Cormorants.

The [Forum of Fargo-Moorhead \(ND\)](#) (6/20, Amundson) reports that “two northeast South Dakota men will lose their hunting privileges for three years and pay restitution of \$10,850 for shooting and killing more than 200 pelicans and double-crested cormorants in the spring of last year on small lake in Day County.” Brant Nelson and Kirk Nelson were “convicted in federal court of taking, killing and possessing migratory birds.” They were “sentenced to 36 months of probation.”

Maine Man Pleads Guilty To Illegal Trafficking In Baby Eels Valued At \$375K.

The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (6/20, Brogan) reports that “a 38-year-old Woolwich man pleaded guilty on Friday to illegally trafficking in poached elvers — juvenile American eels — in 2012.”

Michael Squillace pleaded guilty to violating the federal Lacey Act. Squillace “faces up to five years in prison with a maximum of 3 years supervised release.”

Sunrise And Sage-Grouse On Sacred Ground.

In a piece for [Medium](#) (6/12, Strickland), Jennifer Strickland of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Lakewood, Colorado, writes about seeing “the iconic dance of the greater sage-grouse on Native American lands.” Speaking of the Wind River Reservation, Pat Hnilicka, a biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said, “This place is a national treasure. It provides wonderful, intact, diverse habitat for pretty much the full complement of species native to the Northern Rockies. I’m very grateful to the Tribes for allowing us to assist them in conserving their incredible fish and wildlife resources.”

National Park Service

Google Supports Stonewall National Monument With \$1M.

The [Chelsea Now](#) (6/20, Schindler) reports that Google has “committed \$1 million to support efforts at the LGBT Community Center to develop oral histories and other narratives related to the Stonewall Rebellion of 1969 that can be preserved and disseminated in digital formats.” The funding, “announced at a press conference on Sun., June 18 — the beginning of Pride Week in Manhattan — will allow the Center to partner with the National Park Foundation (NPF), a nonprofit advocacy group that supports the mission and facilities of the US National Park Service, to enhance the experience visitors enjoy when they travel to the Stonewall National Monument.”

It Was 127 Degrees In Death Valley, And Miserable Just About Everywhere Else.

Here’s How We Coped. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/20, Sahagun) reports that Death Valley on Tuesday “hit 127 — seven degrees shy of the hottest day ever recorded on the planet.” The article says that “facing a full week of temperatures above 120 degrees, officials at the national park’s headquarters — 190 feet below sea level — are bracing for heat-related illness and injuries.”

Additional coverage was provided by [CNN](#) (6/20, Kravarik).

Bill Nye Is Coming To Nebraska For Anticipated Solar Eclipse.

The [Omaha \(NE\) World-Herald](#) (6/20, Mertes) reports that Bill Nye, “the longtime fact advocate and host of the Netflix series ‘Bill Nye Saves the World,’ will join the rangers at Homestead National Monument of America to highlight the new Eclipse Explorer Junior Ranger program.” Nye plans to visit “on Aug. 21, the day of a solar eclipse.” The article notes that “the new program is a collaboration between National Park Service programs and the astronomy educational resources of the Planetary Society, of which Nye is the CEO.”

Fee Increases Proposed For Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

The [Arizona Daily Star](#) (6/20) reports that Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument is “proposing increased park entrance and camping fees.” In addition, “an amenity fee for the Ajo Mountain Drive van tour, which has been free of charge, is also proposed.” Acting Superintendent Rijk Morawe said, “The increase in fees would allow the park to continue to protect, preserve, improve facilities and services and share the special places here at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument with current and future visitors. Increasing the fees will bring the park into compliance with the current nationwide National Park Service fee structure and address many unfunded needs to improve the overall visitor experience.”

Glacier National Park Trail Closed Due To Grizzlies.

The [AP](#) (6/20) reports that “a popular trail in Montana’s Glacier National Park is closed temporarily because of grizzly bears frequenting the area.” The Avalanche Creek Trail is “temporarily closed after the park received reports of up to six different grizzly bears in the Avalanche area.” The park said Monday that “the temporary closure will likely last several days, and will give park managers the opportunity to assess bear behavior and movement, allow the bears to move to more remote areas, and identify any needed additional actions.”

Highway Closed By Water In Central Wyoming Reopens.

The [AP](#) (6/20) reports that “flood warnings continued Tuesday for Wind and Little Wind rivers in

Fremont County as well as the South Fork of the Shoshone River in Park County and the Green and New Fork rivers in Sublette and Lincoln counties." Grand Teton National Park officials "report that high water has caused erosion problems on some roads." The National Park Service is "making repairs where it can and monitoring the situation for public safety."

Carriage Roads In Acadia National Park To Be Resurfaced.

The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (6/20) reports that the National Park Service will be "resurfacing 13 miles of the 45-mile carriage road system in Acadia National Park beginning on Tuesday, June 20." According to the article, "sections of the carriage roads in the vicinity of Jordan Pond, Wildwood Stables, and Bubble Pond will be closed on a rolling basis during weekdays 7 a.m.-5 p.m. through September to complete the work." The project is "funded in the amount of \$400,000 by the National Park Service's cyclic maintenance program and is being completed under contract with Harold MacQuinn, Inc. of Ellsworth, Maine." Superintendent Kevin Schneider said, "The investment of park funding will help ensure the protection of this historic resource and provide for its enjoyment for many years to come."

Cumberland Rezoning Postponed To Allow Park Service Negotiations.

The [Savannah \(GA\) Morning News](#) (6/20, Landers) reports that "a last-minute request from the National Park Service has postponed a controversial decision on rezoning private property within Cumberland Island National Seashore." The Camden County Board of Commissioners "last week voted to allow time for negotiations between the park and private landowners rather than moving forward with either an ongoing zoning variance request or a new zoning district." Environmental groups welcomed the decision.

Rural Cemetery In Ramsey County Listed In National Register.

The [AP](#) (6/20) reports that the Sons of Jacob Cemetery in Ramsey County has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Additional Coverage: Olympic Champ And Capital-area Native Dawes Advocates For National Parks And Discusses Motherhood.

Additional coverage that former Olympic gymnast Dominique Dawes has teamed up with the National Park Foundation "to help families and individuals 'find their park' and to help them discover lesser-known parks," was provided by the [Washington Times](#) (6/20, Althoff).

Office Of Insular Affairs

Petition Wants To Keep Am.

Samoa Marine Protection. The [Samoa News](#) (6/20) reports that "an environmental group has launched an online petition aimed at preventing American Samoa's Rose Atoll Marine National Monument from losing its protected status." The Pacific Environment is "directing the petition to the US Secretary of Interior Ryan Zinke, who last month issued a federal notice seeking public comments on the review." The petition requests Zinke "not to modify the area's boundaries, management or allowed uses."

Decolonization Advocates Weigh In On Puerto Rico Vote.

The [Guam Daily Post](#) (6/18, Cruz) reports that "members of Guam's Commission on Decolonization are looking carefully at Puerto Rico's recent political status plebiscite as a cautionary tale for Guam's self-determination process moving forward." Guam Independence Task Force co-chair Michael Lujan Bevacqua, said, "Puerto Rico, as the largest and also geographically closest colony of the U.S., in many ways will set the limits of what is or isn't possible for Guam in its own quest for decolonization. In the unlikely case that Puerto Rico becomes a state, it may help Guam should it choose to become formally included in the union. But regardless of what happens, should there be sustained efforts in Washington, D.C., for some sort of political status change for the island, it will increase the chances of Guam receiving some assistance or attention."

The Future Prospects For American Samoa's Political Status.

The [Samoa News](#) (6/19, Sagapolutele) reports that "in his presentation to a United Nation's Decolonization regional seminar, ASG Office of Political Status, Constitution, and Federal Relations

executive director, Tapaau Dr. Daniel Aga emphasized that the territory's form of government going forward must be 'firmly vested in the authority of the people of American Samoa.'" According to the article, "the presentation covered four specific issues, according to a revised copy of Tapaau's written presentation posted recently by the Decolonization Committee on its website."

Definition Of AS Cultural Fishing Practices Still Being Debated.

The [Samoa News](#) (6/17, Sagapolutele) reports that "a 'draft paper' has been prepared providing options for consideration by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council in regards to the Large Vessel Prohibited Area (LVPA) in territorial waters, and the consideration of American Samoa's cultural fishing practices." The options, "outlined in the draft paper, follows a Honolulu Federal Court ruling in favor of American Samoa, saying that the US National Marine Fisheries Service's decision in 2016 to reduce the LVPA in territorial waters is invalid, and that NMFS's adoption of the 2016 LVPA rule, which became effective on Feb. 3, 2016 'was arbitrary and capricious.'"

Global Coral Bleaching May Be Ending, US Agency Says.

The [Marianas Variety](#) (6/21) reports that "coral reef bleaching may be easing after three years of high ocean temperatures, the longest such period since the 1980s, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said on Monday." The agency's experts "said satellite data and other analysis showed widespread bleaching was no longer occurring in the three ocean basins — Atlantic, Pacific and Indian — 'indicating a likely end to the global bleaching event.'" Scientists from the NOAA "said they will closely monitor sea surface temperatures and bleaching 'over the next six months to confirm the event's end.'"

The V.I. Budget Crisis, Part 11: Education, Where The Big Spending Is.

In an analysis of the V.I. government's budget crisis, the [St. Croix Source](#) (6/20, Kossler) focuses on education spending. It notes that "in a \$1 billion budget, the V.I. Education Department is by far the biggest item, with \$167 million from the V.I. budget and another \$38 million in federal funding."

Mumps Outbreak In The Marshalls Continues To Spread.

The [Marianas Variety](#) (6/19, Johnson) reports that "a mumps outbreak that started in March in Majuro could be slowing based on official data from the Ministry of Health — but health officials warn the true number of cases could be as high as 3,000 even though the confirmed and probable number is listed as 1,033 as of late last week." Meanwhile, "with thousands of islanders from the outer islands, Ebeye and the United States in Majuro for summer church conferences, the opportunity for further spread is increased." The article notes that "it is the biggest outbreak of mumps in the Marshall Islands in decades and started up following a large outbreak late last year in the American state of Arkansas in an area where about 15,000 Marshall Islanders live."

War Claims Application Available Now.

The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (6/19, Babauta) reports that "the federal government has begun accepting applications for Guam war claims." Eligible people will have one year to file a claim.

Reducing Greenhouse Emissions Is An Economic Imperative For Territory.

In an op-ed for the [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (6/17), Delegate to Congress Stacey Plaskett pledges to "work with Congressional leaders to develop policy options that address the impacts of climate change and to create economically viable options to reduce climate risk and protect our economy, security, and infrastructure." According to Plaskett, "without the Paris Agreement, our local government will need to be the driver for incentives to create jobs and grow renewable energy industries for which the territory is a prime area."

Office Of Surface Mining

King II Coal Mine Expansion Proposal Splits Crowd.

The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (6/20, Shinn) reports that "an open house Tuesday at the Breen Community Building focused on the expansion of a coal mine west of Durango drew ardent supporters and skeptics." The GCC Energy King II Coal Mine is "set to run out of reserves in

about two years, and the company is asking for a 950-acre expansion of the underground workings." A decision on the permit is expected in the fall.

Top National News

Trump Takes Veiled Shot At Obama, Signals Loss Of Faith In China's North Korea Efforts.

There is extensive media coverage of President Trump's remarks and tweets Tuesday following the death of American student Otto Warmbier, in which the President appeared to blame the Obama Administration for failing to secure Warmbier's release sooner. Reports also noted Trump's statement that efforts by China to pressure Pyongyang have "not worked out" – something a number of analyses view as a possible shift in his approach to North Korea. James Rosen, for example, reported on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (6/20) that Trump "tweeted out what could prove to be a major shift in the US approach to the entire complex of problems presented by North Korea."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/20, Boyer) reports the President said Warmbier's death was "a total disgrace." Speaking to reporters at the White House, Trump added, "It's a disgrace what happened to Otto. It should never, ever be allowed to happen. And frankly, if he were brought home sooner, I think the results would have been a lot different. ... He should have been brought home a long time ago."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/20, story 8, 0:35, Muir) reported that while the President said Warmbier "should have been brought home sooner," former NSC spokesperson for Obama Administration, Ned Price, said, "We had no higher priority than the securing the release of Americans detained overseas. These tireless efforts resulted in the release of at least ten Americans from North Korean custody. It's painful that Mr. Warmbier was not among them." The [New York Daily News](#) (6/20, Silverstein) also reports the statement by Price.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/20, Nakamura) says Trump also "appeared to lose faith in China's ability to pressure North Korea to curb its abusive behavior, throwing into question how his administration plans to contain the rogue nation's growing nuclear threat." [Politico](#) (6/20, Nelson) likewise says Trump "appeared to give up on the notion that China might be able to pressure North Korea into behaving better on the world stage," [tweeting](#), "While I greatly appreciate the efforts of President Xi & China to help with North Korea, it has not worked out. At least I know China tried!"

The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/20, story 8, 1:35, Mason) briefly reported on the President's tweets, which the [New York Times](#) (6/20, Landler, Harris) says were delivered in "an almost cavalier" manner "given how ardently he had sought the cooperation of President Xi Jinping of China." The Times adds that "taken together, the developments are a major complication for Mr. Trump's approach to North Korea, which he has called America's most urgent foreign threat." Zack Beauchamp writes for [Vox](#) that Trump "seems like he's declaring failure in some kind of campaign by China to help the United States bring North Korea in line."

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/20, Browne) analysis says Trump ceases the verbal hostilities he unleashed on the campaign trail amid hopes that Xi will use his influence to halt Pyongyang's nuclear program. It is unclear now if they will resume if the President has in fact determined that the strategy is not working.

[Business Insider](#) (6/20, Lockie), however, reports that "senior administration officials...told CNN not to read too much into [the President's tweet], and that they did not know what he meant by it." [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/20, Sharp, Wadhams) reports White House press secretary Sean Spicer "didn't signal any change in the administration's approach to North Korea" in Tuesday's briefing, saying the US "will continue to apply economic and political pressure and try to continue to work with our allies."

[Breitbart](#) (6/20, Spiering) says Trump's "new focus on North Korea might have been sparked" Warmbier's death, but [Reuters](#) (6/20, Holland, Brunnstrom) says it was "unclear whether [Trump's] remark represented a significant shift in his thinking." Former Ambassador Christopher Hill told MSNBC, "I think the president is signaling some frustration, he's signaling to others that he understands this isn't working, and he's trying to defend himself, or justify himself, by saying that at least they tried as opposed to others who didn't even try."

Eric Levitz of the [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (6/20) criticizes the President's tweets, saying "the fact that the American president is an emotionally volatile reality star — who publishes his foreign-policy musings directly to the internet — has always been dangerous. In the context of a military standoff with a nuclear-weapons state, it may prove fatally so."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/20, story 6, 2:25, Holt), Andrea Mitchell said the President's remarks come ahead of US-China talks in Washington on Wednesday. North Korea, the [AP](#) (6/20) reports, is "expected to be among the issues discussed" at Wednesday's talks. Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said Tuesday that Beijing "remains committed to banishing nuclear weapons from the Korean Peninsula and working with the US and others on restarting talks over the issue."

Asked on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (6/20) if more sanctions would impact North Korea, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Bob Corker said, "The only sanctions that matter are the ones coming from China and...we all know that. It's almost becoming a cliché. They've got to step up to the table." Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse likewise said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (6/20), "The country that has the most leverage is China, and to the extent that we could prevail upon China to crank up its economic pressure, I think that would probably be the most effective way to do something on the sanction side."

Senators Urge US To Ban North Korea Travel By Americans. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/20, story 6, 2:25, Holt), Andrea Mitchell said that "despite warnings, 1,000 Americans still visit North Korea every year. The company that took [Otto] Warmbier was still taking people 11 days ago," but "now telling NBC News, it will no longer take US citizens there." [USA Today](#) (6/20, Shesgreen) reports that in the wake of Warmbier's death, the Administration and "top lawmakers in Congress said Tuesday that they were considering dramatic new restrictions on Americans' ability to travel to North Korea." Both Republicans and Democrats said Tuesday that banning tourist visits to North Korea "could be an effective response" to Warmbier's death, depriving the regime of "desperately needed revenue" and preventing it from using American citizens "as leverage." State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said the Administration is "contemplating that right now." The [AP](#) (6/20) reports Secretary of State Tillerson "has been weighing such a move since late April, when American teacher Tony Kim was detained in Pyongyang, a senior State Department official said." However, the official cautioned that "no ban is imminent."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/20, Fifield) reports the State Department has "steadily ratcheted up its travel advisory for North Korea," and efforts to restrict US citizens from traveling to North Korea "are likely to gain new momentum" in the wake of Warmbier's death. The Post notes that a bill is already before the House to limit travel to North Korea for American citizens, and Warmbier's death "could prompt the Senate to consider the same."

US Flies B-1 Bombers Over Korean Peninsula. In what the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/20, story 8, 1:35, Mason) called "a show of force, the US flew two B-1 bombers over the Korean Peninsula" on Tuesday.

US Detects Activity At North Korean Nuclear Test Site. Two US officials have told [CNN](#) (6/20, Starr, Labott, Cohen) that US spy satellites have detected "new activity at North Korea's underground nuclear test site for the first time in several weeks." The officials said it is "not yet clear if the activity indicates a sixth nuclear test is imminent, but noted there is concern that North Korea could set off a test during Wednesday's visit to Washington by top Chinese diplomats and military officials."

Moon: "Maximum Pressure" Needed On North Korea. The [CBS Evening News](#) (6/20, story 8, 1:35, Mason) reported that South Korean President Moon Jae-in will travel next week to the White House for "talks on de-escalating the North's nuclear threat," and in an interview with CBS' Norah O'Donnell said leader Kim Jong-Un "currently has a blind faith that his nuclear and missile programs will protect him and his regime. So we must show and teach North Korea that this belief is incorrect. If North Korea gives up its nuclear program and missile programs and wants to start a dialogue, then I believe we can send a message that we will not threaten Kim Jong-Un's regime, and we can even provide assistance to them. And that is why I fully agree with President Trump that we need stronger sanctions and pressure on North Korea to the level that we have never reached before, maximum pressure."

Iran Opposition Group: North Korean Scientists Advising Tehran On Ballistic Missiles. The [Washington Times](#) (6/20, Scarborough) reports that a "leading Iranian opposition group" said Tuesday Tehran has increased production and testing of ballistic missiles since the 2015 nuclear deal under advice from North Korean scientists. The National Council of Resistance of Iran issued "a white paper that the dissidents say identifies and documents work at 42 missile centers operated by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps." According to the Council a dozen of those sites had never been disclosed before. The North Koreans have reportedly shown Iran "how to dig tunnels and build 'missile cities' deep inside mountains to prevent destruction by airstrikes, among other projects."

China Invites Ivanka Trump, Jared Kushner To Visit Beijing. [Reuters](#) (6/20, Spetalnick) reports China has invited President Trump's daughter, Ivanka Trump, and son-in-law, Jared Kushner, to visit Beijing later this year, a White House official said Tuesday. The Chinese invitation was first reported by [Bloomberg Politics](#) (6/20), which said details of the possible trip are "still under discussion, according to a US official and a Chinese official who asked not to be identified."

Warmbier's Family Requests No Autopsy Be Performed. [NBC Nightly News](#) (6/20, story 6, 2:25, Holt) reported that the coroner's office in Ohio said Tuesday "that no autopsy will be conducted on the body of Otto Warmbier at his family's request. Only an external examination was performed with no conclusions made about the cause of death."

Media Analyses: Handel Victory Big Win For Trump, Another Setback For Democrats.

In a contest widely cast by the media as a referendum on President Trump, ex-Georgia Secretary of State Karen Handel (R) – strongly backed by the President – on Tuesday [won](#) the special election to succeed now-HHS Secretary Tom Price, defeating ex-congressional aide Jon Ossoff (D), who raised millions of dollars from Democrats across the US. With 100% of precincts reporting, Handel led Ossoff 52%-48%. Reports and analyses cast Handel's victory as a big win for Trump, a reassuring outcome for congressional Republicans, and another in a series of special-election setbacks for Democrats. On Tuesday night, Trump [tweeted](#), "Congratulations to Karen Handel on her big win in Georgia 6th. Fantastic job, we are all very proud of you."

Shelby Holliday of the Wall Street Journal said on [Fox News](#) (6/20), "Karen Handel going to Washington is not just a win for Karen Handel. It's a huge win for the White House. Big win for Paul Ryan. In Karen Handel Republicans now have yet another House member who is fiscally conservative, who shared their conservative social values."

CNN political director David Chalian said on [CNN Tonight](#) (6/20), "This is a big victory for Republicans. ... This was the best shot Democrats in these special elections to really try to make a victory in the Trump era and they came up short, which now of course, is going to create a whole series of questions about how the Democratic party should run in the year of Donald Trump because they came up short here."

John King said on [CNN Tonight](#) (6/20), "Donald Trump picked four Republican House members to join his cabinet. At the close of business tonight, Republicans will have held all four of those seats. Only this one in Georgia was viewed as competitive. ... Democrats can say we're closer than 2016, closer than 2012, closer than last time. But close doesn't count. Democrats can say, 'Yes the climate is better for us,' but they're still not winning."

David Axelrod said on [CNN Tonight](#) (6/20), "There's no doubt that if Democrats had won this district, it would have been an earthquake on both sides of Pennsylvania Avenue. The White House would have been reeling and been faced with questions whether Trump was mentioned a lot or not down there about whether there was a referendum on him, and on the Hill...people would be very, very nervous. You'd see incumbents more serious about retiring and you'd see less of an appetite for supporting some of the Trump priorities and standing up for Trump in the Congress. They avoided that disaster, but it wasn't a stellar showing for Republicans."

Jason Johnson said on [MSNBC's The Last Word](#) (6/20) that Republicans "spent \$23 million – spending like Tom Brady's salary to keep a seat that had been in Republican hands for 20 years. That's not something that you want to have to think about. if you're a Republican next year heading into 2018, knowing that the public is going to be more energized, more excited and possibly unhappy about the healthcare bill."

Fox News politics editor Chris Stirewalt said on [Fox News](#) (6/20), "The head winds that Republicans are facing are real. They shouldn't pretend they aren't facing serious challenges. ... Republicans have head winds and the President is not that popular right now. All that said, if the checkmark was on the other box, what Paul Ryan would be facing tomorrow, what Mitch McConnell would face in the Senate is revolt."

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (6/20, Niesse) reports that in her victory speech, Handel "thanked...Trump and other prominent Republicans who supported her in the nationally watched runoff, leading to cheers of 'Trump, Trump, Trump' from the crowd at the Hyatt Regency in Dunwoody." In another report, the [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (6/20, Bluestein) reports that with Handel's win, "the GOP and...Trump avoided an embarrassing defeat in the most expensive US House contest in history. ... Her victory will be cast as a win for Trump, who campaigned for Handel and hurled a string of antagonizing tweets at Ossoff. And it could buoy jittery GOP incumbents who worry that allying with Trump in competitive districts could doom them."

The [New York Times](#) (6/20, Martin, Fausset) reports that Handel "overcame a deluge of liberal money to" defeat Ossoff, "who emerged from obscurity to raise \$25 million from

progressives across the country eager to express their anger at Mr. Trump. That fervor quickly elevated what would otherwise have been a sleepy local race into a high-stakes referendum on Mr. Trump." Handel's "surprisingly easy" win "averted a humiliating upset for" the GOP and "showed that Republicans skeptical of Mr. Trump remain comfortable supporting more conventional candidates from their party." The Times adds, "For Democrats, the loss was demoralizing after questionable 'moral victories' in two earlier special election defeats, for House seats in conservative districts in Kansas and Montana."

The [Washington Post](#) (6/20, Costa, Kane, Viebeck) reports that Trump's "hopes of steadying his presidency and his agenda on Capitol Hill were given a lift" with Handel's win, which "will bring fresh attention to a beleaguered Democratic Party that has suffered a string of defeats in special elections this year despite an angry and engaged base of voters who dislike" the President. Her victory "may also embolden Republicans in Washington to press ahead on an ambitious policy agenda that has yielded few legislative victories since Trump's inauguration in January." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/20, A1, Hook, McWhirter, Epstein) reports that Handel's win illustrates that Trump still retains some political clout in the GA6.

[USA Today](#) (6/20, Collins) reports that Handel's win kept "in GOP hands a seat Democrats had hoped would be the first evidence that the party can retake control of the House." USA Today adds, "Democrats around the country poured a record-breaking \$23 million for Ossoff," and the Democrat "had the support of more than 11,000 volunteers, according to his campaign, but it didn't prove to be enough." Handel "had a series of high-profile supporters such as Vice President Pence," and Trump "also fundraised on her behalf and offered his support on Twitter."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (6/20, Halper) reports that though "the close election result is sobering for the" GOP "in a conservative district it customarily wins by double digits without much effort, the victory helps the party avert – for now – potentially much more damaging fallout for the White House and Republicans in Congress. 'It's a huge disappointment for Democrats, who really did put all their eggs in this one basket, feeling as though it was the kind of district – upscale, higher education, higher income voters that went only narrowly for Trump – that if there's any movement nationally, it should show up in this district,' said Stuart Rothenberg, a veteran nonpartisan elections analyst."

On its website, [NPR](#) (6/20, Taylor) reported that the contest "became framed by some as a referendum on Trump and his agenda, and the win may ease GOP fears – for now – that its base wouldn't stay engaged heading into the 2018 midterms." NPR added, "Democrats have so far been unable to prove that they can turn resistance against Trump – with marches and protests – into actual victories the ballot box. The Georgia race was their best shot to do that, and they fell just short." The [AP](#) (6/20, Barrow, Foody) reports that Handel's "margin allows Republicans a sigh of relief," though "the result in a historically conservative district still offers Republicans a warning that Trump, for better or worse, will dominate the looming campaign cycle."

The [Washington Times](#) (6/20, McLaughlin) reports that Handel "emerged victorious" on Tuesday, "beating back the 'Resistance' movement and defending a seat in the wealthy Atlanta suburbs that Republicans have held for nearly 40 years." The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/20, Drucker) reports that Handel's win provides "a much-needed lift to...Trump and GOP majorities in Congress." The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (6/20, Scher) reported that Ossoff "was branded by Handel as the Democratic establishment's hand-picked candidate and criticized frequently for not living in the district they were competing to represent. Ossoff was also criticized for collecting nearly 97 percent of his fundraising haul from out-of-state donors."

Writing for [National Review](#) (6/20), Dan McLaughlin said that Tuesday's outcome is "a costly and depressing victory for the Republicans, bled white defending their own turf, and a debacle for Democrats, who came home empty-handed and must be able to win districts like GA-06 if they are to take control of the House in 2018 and carry out their chief policy goal of impeaching President Trump."

In the "Right Turn" blog on the website of the [Washington Post](#) (6/20), Jennifer Rubin – a right-leaning writer who has been extremely critical of Trump – says, "The rational response is that this race does not indicate either that the Republicans are cooked in 2018 nor that they can breathe a sigh of relief and continue to cling to Trump. ... If a district rated as safely Republican in past years is now a virtual tossup, that's one sign that Republicans under Trump have an uphill climb to reach highly educated, suburban voters."

Media Analyses: GOP Successfully Turned Race Into "A Referendum On Nancy Pelosi." The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/20, Drucker) reports that Congressional Leadership Fund, a super PAC aligned with House Speaker Ryan, "had a strategy to keep" the GA6 "from slipping away: Make the contest a referendum on Nancy Pelosi." The group "rediscovered a familiar antidote to Trump's drag and Handel's standoffishness in its internal polling: Pelosi, the House minority

leader from California, who would once again become speaker in a Democratic takeover. If Republicans could make...Ossoff synonymous with Pelosi liberalism, disinterested GOP voters who might otherwise skip an irregular congressional election would be motivated to show up. It worked."

[Politico](#) (6/20, Schneider) reports that the outcome was "deflating [for] Democrats who yearned for a special election rebuke to...Trump." However, Trump "is not the only unpopular politician in the country, and Republicans once again used House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi as a bogeyman in a major House race, linking Ossoff to her in TV ads, in door-to-door conversations with voters and even in the televised debates between Ossoff and Handel."

On the [CNN](#) (6/20, Cillizza) website, Chris Cillizza writes, "Everyone knew the Democratic base was ginned up beyond belief at the chance to send Trump a message about his performance in the first 150 days of his administration. The big question mark was whether the GOP base – perhaps worn down by Trump's seemingly never-ending series of self-inflicted wounds – would be equally as intense. It turns out that they were motivated – as has been the case since at least 2010 – by the idea of Ossoff as nothing more than a Pelosi henchman. Republican strategists successfully convinced GOP voters that a vote for Ossoff was a vote for values anathema to their own."

After Loss, Some Question Ossoff's "Centrist" Campaign Approach. Under the headline "Ossoff Chose Civility And It Didn't Work. How Do Democrats Beat Trump?", Paul Kane writes in an analysis for the [Washington Post](#) (6/20) that Ossoff's "decisive" loss "is sure to spark more questions about what type of candidates and what type of message Democrats need in the Trump era. The most passionate Democratic activists have wanted a full-frontal assault on Trump and congressional Republicans, angrily denouncing party leaders for not aggressively supporting other, more progressive candidates." However, "Ossoff chose the high priest route instead of the fierce warrior. It was civil disobedience rather than civil unrest. And he still lost."

Writing for the [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (6/20, Kilgore), Ed Kilgore says, "There may be some intra-party recriminations among Democrats that Ossoff was too 'centrist,' or counted too much on swing-voter persuasion rather than mobilizing first-time voters in the district's small-but-growing minority communities. And the loss (along with another, more surprising, near miss in South Carolina tonight) means Democrats will almost certainly enter the 2018 election cycle without that satisfying mark in the W column to encourage donors and help recruit candidates."

On its website, [WSB-TV Atlanta](#) (6/20, Dupree) reported that Tuesday's outcome "left some Congressional Democrats pained, and searching for answers. 'We need a genuinely new message, a serious jobs plan that reaches all Americans, and a bigger tent not a smaller one,' said Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA), who has tried to sharpen the election message of Democrats since coming to Congress after the 2014 election."

Writing for [Vox](#) (6/20), Matthew Yglesias says, "The fact that the district was competitive is a sign that the GOP majority is at risk" in 2018; "the question is simply what can Democrats do to put themselves over the top? One thing they might want to try is developing a substantive policy agenda to run on. They came close this time, and they'll just need to put forth an attractive package for voters in the 2018 midterms."

Ahead of the election outcome, Anthony Mason reported on the [CBS Evening News](#) (6/20, story 4, 2:15, Mason) that "Trump barely won the district in November. Now some are looking at today's vote as a referendum on him." also ahead of Tuesday's election outcome, Steve Osunsami reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (6/20, story 5, 2:15, Muir), "Hillary Clinton was two percent away from winning this district, so a poor showing tonight would look terrible." Under the headline "Game Over: Karen Handel Beats Jon Ossoff In Georgia Special Election," [Townhall](#) (6/20, Vespa) also reported on the election results.

Republican Norman Wins Special Election To Succeed Mulvaney.

As expected, ex-state Rep. Ralph Norman (R-SC) on Tuesday [defeated](#) tax attorney Archie Parnell (D) in the special election to succeed now-OMB Director Mulvaney. With 100% of precincts reporting, Norman led Parnell 51%-48%. The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (6/20, Brown) calls Norman's victory "the first sign that Republican support in the Palmetto State is unwavering in the era of President Donald Trump." Even so, adds the Post and Courier, Parnell "still came within about 3 percentage points of beating Norman in a district that Mulvaney won by 20 percentage points in November over Democrat Fran Person, a former aide to Vice President Joe Biden."

Under the headline "Republican Aligned With Trump Wins South Carolina House Seat," the [AP](#) (6/20, Kinnard) quotes Norman as saying in an interview after his election win, "Everybody's

had their differences with President Trump. He's a polarizing president, but I think a majority of the people like what he's doing." The [Columbia \(SC\) State](#) (6/20, Marchant) reports that Norman, in his victory speech, said, "I believe with (Republican President Donald) Trump in the White House, we have a great opportunity as conservatives," adding, "Washington needs leaders to help maintain the God-given right of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

[Politico](#) (6/20, Robillard) called the outcome "closer than expected," adding that the SC5 "swung drastically to Democrats: Mulvaney defeated...Person by 21 percentage points in November, and Trump won the district by 18 percentage points. Norman, a conservative hardliner in the state legislature who won a primary runoff against a more moderate opponent with the help of the Club for Growth, has said he would join the House Freedom Caucus if elected."

The [Huffington Post](#) (6/20, Marans) reported that Norman "campaigning heavily on his commitment to helping Trump enact his agenda, including the repeal of Obamacare. He has also embraced raising the Social Security retirement age and, following last week's shooting of House Majority Whip Steve Scalise and others at a baseball field, said he believes more members of Congress should carry guns." HuffPost added that Trump "recorded a robocall for Norman over the weekend and tweeted his support for the GOP candidate on Monday." [Roll Call](#) (6/20, Pathé) reported that Norman "has fully embraced Trump, saying in a Saturday morning interview that the president is still popular in the district."

On its website, [Fox News](#) (6/20) reported that the SC5 contest "garnered far less national attention than Tuesday's other special election" in the GA6, though "national surrogates found time to stump for both candidates, as Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and former South Carolina Sen. Jim DeMint campaigned with Norman. Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez made the rounds for Parnell." The [Daily Caller](#) (6/20, Stucky) reported that Norman "was widely expected to win." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/20, Epstein) also reports on Norman's victory.

NYTimes Analysis: Trump Moves To Roll Back Obama's Labor Legacy.

In what the [New York Times](#) (6/20, Scheiber) casts as "a major step to alter the direction of federal labor policy," President Trump is "positioning the National Labor Relations Board to overturn a series of high-profile Obama-era decisions" by "filling two vacant seats and swinging the board from Democratic to Republican control." Doing so would enable Trump to reverse several Obama-era actions. On Monday, "the White House announced the nomination of Marvin Kaplan, a lawyer serving on a federal health and safety commission, to one of two vacant seats on the board," and "a second nomination is expected shortly." While supporters "said the nominations would restore a state of normality to the agency," critics "expressed concern that the nominations would undermine the labor rights of the rising proportion of the work force that is nonunionized, in addition to those who are union members."

Thune: Plan To Privatize Air Traffic Controllers Doesn't Have Enough Committee Votes.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (6/20, Siegel) reports that Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Chairman Sen. John Thune told reporters Tuesday that his committee does not have "the votes necessary to advance a plan by President Trump to privatize the country's air traffic control system." Arguing "that the House will have to take the lead on Trump's air traffic proposal if it is to proceed successfully," Thune said, "No, we don't have the votes to pass that in our committee at the moment. ... We'll see what the House is able to do and we'll proceed accordingly. But if that issue were to get addressed, it would probably have to be on the floor in conference."

NYTimes A1 Analysis: Climate Change Likely To Increase Disruptions To Air Travel.

The [New York Times](#) (6/20, A1, Wichter) reports that as the global climate changes, disruptions to air travel "are likely to become more frequent, researchers say, potentially making air travel costlier and less predictable with a greater risk of injury to travelers from increased turbulence." For instance, American Airlines recently has been forced to cancel more than 40 flights in Phoenix because of high temperatures that make takeoff impossible due to thinner air. According to airline industry analysis firm R. W. Mann & Company President Robert Mann, though airlines are working to increase their efficiency, their efforts to prepare for the long-term effects of climate change are as of yet insufficient. The Times says that since there's so little data available regarding how climate change affects aviation and so many factors at play, "it can be hard to attribute any one service disruption to global warming."

Cities, States Take On Brunt Of Climate Responsibility.

[Bloomberg BNA](#) (6/19, Silverman) reports that some US states and cities are taking on the mantle of combating climate change from the federal government after President Trump announced his decision to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris climate agreement. The Democratic governors from New York, California and Washington have already “formed an alliance of states that plan to meet the pact’s goals.” In addition, “nine other states have joined the U.S. Climate Alliance and more than 1,200 cities, businesses, and colleges formed a separate group called *We Are Still In.*” Vicki Arroyo, executive director of the Georgetown Climate Center at Georgetown University Law Center, argues that cities and states are eager to act because “they are on the front lines when it comes to the impact and costs of climate change and extreme weather events.”

In an “Editorial-Observer” column in the [New York Times](#) (6/20, Thompson), Vikas Bajaj and Stuart A. Thompson write that while there is “no replacing the federal role in setting the larger climate agenda, without which the country is unlikely to meet more ambitious targets,” states and cities should still continue to “fight for sensible climate policy in the absence of a sensible president.”

In an op-ed in [USA Today](#), (6/20, Waxman) Henry Waxman, former Democratic congressman from California, argues that the private sector may have the best opportunities to address climate change now that the federal government is pulling back from its role. He describes various climate-friendly actions taken by industry behemoths, and attributes them to “strong, concerted pressure by groups like Greenpeace.”

Majority Of Americans Oppose Withdrawal From Paris Climate Agreement. The [AP](#) (6/20, Biesecker, Swanson) reports that “less than one-third of Americans” support President Trump’s decision to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement, according to a survey conducted by the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Researcher. Moreover, 52 percent of Americans “worry that withdrawing will actually hurt the economy.”

UN Chief Warns That US Disengagement Will Have Consequences. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/20, Fassihi) reports that during his first news conference as Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres warned that other actors will fill the space left by the United States as it continues to disengage from global issues, including climate change and other aspects of foreign policy.

EPA Notifies BOSC Members Their Terms Won’t Be Renewed.

The [Washington Post](#) (6/20, Mooney, Eilperin) reports that the EPA has notified that their membership on the EPA’s Board of Scientific Counselors will not be renewed when they end in August. The Post adds that “five meetings of subcommittees of the board, planned for the late summer and the fall, will now be canceled because of lack of membership.” The Post says the move continues “a scientific shake-up that has already triggered resignations and charges from some researchers that the administration is politicizing the agency.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“The Health Care Of Millions Depends On A Few Senators.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/21, Board) criticizes both Senate and House versions of the new healthcare bill for having “a callous disregard for the health care of millions of people plus a kind of frantic wish to pass something, no matter how destructive and poorly thought out, that lets President Trump and other Republicans claim that they have repealed Obamacare.” The Times outlines provisions in the bill that it says are particularly harmful to constituents in Republican senators’ states, and urges Republican senators to “defy their party and fight for their constituents” by opposing the bill.

“More Doubts Are Raised Over Mrs. May’s Leadership.” A [New York Times](#) (6/20, Board) editorial says after “two terrible weeks,” British Prime Minister Theresa May’s political credibility “was further eroded” by her “slow and seemingly uncaring response” to the Grenfell Tower fire that killed at least 79 people. May is now “severely handicapped as she opens formal talks on Brexit with the European Union this week,” the Times says, but “she cannot hope to gain the political credibility she needs for a successful Brexit negotiation without simultaneously pursuing a domestic agenda that addresses Britain’s domestic inequalities.”

“Tired Of The Suspense On Mayoral Control Of Schools.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (6/21, Board) says the issue of whether to extend mayoral control over a school system “is not a

standard left-vs.-right issue," and even many conservative state lawmakers agree a mayor "must have control for the sake of stability and efficacy." In New York, however, state Republican Sen. John Flanagan has hinged support for mayoral control over New York City public schools on Mayor Bill de Blasio's agreement to increase the "number of charter schools the city will allow." The Times stresses that the least favorable outcome is reverting "to the old system, with policies set by 32 community school districts whose earlier incarnations were distinguished by cronyism and corruption more than by pedagogical excellence."

Washington Post.

"Children Are Dying Because Of America's Lax Gun Control Policies." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/20) writes that a report published Monday in the journal Pediatrics lays out "grim numbers" on gun fatalities: almost 1,300 children are killed annually by gunshot wounds, and about 6,000 are wounded. This amounts to more than three children killed daily and more than 15 wounded. The Post says "so commonplace are bloody weekends" such as the one that preceded the report's release that gun-related deaths are the third-leading cause overall of child fatalities. Citing the report's emphasis on the importance of safely storing guns to prevent shootings – unintentional and intentional – the Post says lawmakers should enact storage standards despite the NRA's "lunacy."

"The Supreme Court Has A Chance To Rein In Partisan Gerrymandering." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/20) says the Supreme Court will "hear a challenge to one of the most egregious examples of partisan mapmaking, raising hopes that, after two centuries, the justices may find their way to setting some limits on this increasingly corrupt practice." The Post opines that "if the court were to quash Wisconsin's legislative map, it would deter future bad behavior by putting statehouses across the country on notice: Don't go too far in rigging the system." However, the Post says that it will be difficult for judges to distinguish between "acceptable and excessive politicization" and "redistricting, a power assigned to the legislative branch, could effectively become a judicial enterprise." Meanwhile, according to the Post, if the court declines to strike down the Wisconsin map, "the political battle to curb gerrymandering must continue, steeply uphill though it may be."

"Will The Trump Administration Send Iraqi Minorities Home – And Into Danger?" In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (6/20) calls the deportation of Iraqi Christians "morally reprehensible" and a violation the UN Convention Against Torture, which "prohibits the return of a person to a country where patterns of mass human rights violations provide substantial grounds for believing they may be tortured." In the Post's view, the "potential harm is real enough at least to warrant a case-by-case review."

Wall Street Journal.

"Trump To Cordray: You're Not Fired." An editorial in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/20) urges President Trump to fire Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) director Richard Cordray.

"Free Speech For Sex Offenders." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/20) says that to praise the Supreme Court's unanimous decision in *Packingham v. North Carolina*, in which the court ruled that the First Amendment preserves the right of sex offenders to use social media. The Journal says that while the Internet poses new challenges, the court's decision shows that Constitutional rights apply regardless of the platform.

"The Illinois Capitulation." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (6/20) writes that Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner's announcement last night that the state would raise income taxes from 3.75 percent to 4.95 percent in order to end a multi-year budget impasse with Democrats amounts to a political defeat. Rauner campaigned on lowering the income tax to three percent. Rauner also proposed last night to freeze property taxes – a move that could provide some election contrast with Democrats – in order to reduce the state's backlog of unpaid bills by \$4 billion. The Journal says the root problem of Rauner's proposal is that it includes next to none of the reforms the state needs to remain competitive with neighboring states and rehabilitate its fiscal health.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Oil Returns To Bear Market](#)

[GOP's Karen Handel Beats Democrat Jon Ossoff In Georgia House Race](#)
[How To Survive The Retail Crisis: A Master Class From TJ Maxx](#)
[Ford's Plan To Import Cars Veers From Mexico To China](#)

New York Times:

[China Falls Short On Curbing North Korea, Trump Says](#)
[Karen Handel Wins Georgia Special Election, Fending Off Upstart Democrat](#)
[Haven For Recovering Addicts Now Profits From Their Relapses](#)
[GOP Rift Over Medicaid And Opioids Imperils Senate Health Bill](#)
[Despite Concerns About Blackmail, Flynn Heard CIA Secrets](#)
[Too Hot To Fly? Climate Change May Take A Toll On Air Travel](#)

Washington Post:

[McConnell To Roll Out Rewrite Of Health Law](#)
[A Trump Conflict In Proposed HUD Cuts](#)
[In Slice Of Midwest, Labor Shortage Weighs On Economy](#)
[Hundreds Of Americans Visit N. Korea Each Year Despite Warnings](#)
[GOP Retains House Seat](#)

Financial Times:

[Barclays And Former Executives Charged With Fraud](#)
[José Mourinho Accused Of €3.3m Spanish Tax Fraud](#)
[Merkel Picks Up The Flag To Face Right-wing Challenge](#)
[French Defence Minister Goulard Resigns As Party Investigated](#)

Washington Times:

[Isolated From Washington Establishment, Trump Struggles For Presidential Victories](#)
[Republican Handel Wins Runoff For Georgia Seat In House](#)
[Iran Gets North Korean Expertise In Building Up, Testing And Hiding Its Ballistic Missiles](#)
[Christians With 'Grave Concern' About Persecution Fight Deportations Of Iraqi Criminals In U.S.](#)
[Brexit Puts Gibraltar's U.K. Subjects Between 'The Rock' And Hard Places](#)
[Former DHS Chief Jeh Johnson To Testify About Putin's Meddling, Obama's Validity In Ending It](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Brussels Terror Attack; United-Flight Turbulence; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Georgia-House Special Election; Minnesota Police Violence; US-Russia Jet Fly-By; Released Detainee Dies; Healthcare Reform Bill; New York City-Worker Accident; OJ Simpson Parole Hearing; Breast Cancer Risk; Vitamin Pills Overdose; Girl Singer.

CBS: Severe Weather-Heat; Severe Weather-Storms; Brussels Terror Attack; Georgia-House Special Election; Trump Presidency-Public Opinion; Healthcare Reform Bill; White House-Transparency; South Korean President Interview; Minnesota Police Violence; Portugal-Wildfire; United-Flight Turbulence; Grizzly Bear-Product Test.

NBC: Healthcare Reform Bill; Weather Forecast; Severe Weather; United-Flight Turbulence; Brussels Terror Attack; US-North Korea Relations; US-Russia Jet Fly-By; Georgia-House Special Election; OJ Simpson Parole Hearing; Opioid Epidemic; Singing Janitor; South Korean Zoo-Baby Elephant.

Network TV At A Glance:

Weather – 9 minutes, 20 seconds
Healthcare Reform Bill – 7 minutes, 15 seconds
Georgia-House Special Election – 5 minutes
Brussels Terror Attack – 4 minutes, 5 seconds
US-Russia Jet Fly-By – 3 minutes, 35 seconds
United-Flight Turbulence – 3 minutes, 5 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Georgia-House Special Election; Healthcare Reform Bill; Brussels Terror Attack; Severe Weather.

CBS: Georgia-House Special Election; South Carolina-House Special Election; US-North Korea Relations; Severe Weather; OJ Simpson Parole Hearing; Wall Street News.

FOX: Georgia-House Special Election; Brussels Terror Attack; Severe Weather.

NPR: Georgia-House Special Election; Trump-Texas Sanctuary Cities Law; Minnesota Police

Violence.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in a Make America Great Again Rally.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Delivers remarks at the US Department of Justice National Summit on Crime Reduction and Public Safety; participates in a call with Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akinci.

US Senate: 9:00 AM Senate Armed Services subcommittee hearing on U.S. Navy shipbuilding programs – Seapower Subcommittee hearing on 'Navy Shipbuilding Programs', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition Allison Stiller; Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Integration of Capabilities and Resources (N8) Vice Adm. William Lescher; and U.S. Marine Corps Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration, Marine Corps Combat Development Command Commanding General, and U.S. Marine Forces Strategic Command Commander Lt. Gen. Robert Walsh Location: Rm 232A, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

9:30 AM Interior Secretary Zinke testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on FY'18 budget – Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing 'To review the FY2018 budget request for the U.S. Department of the Interior', with testimony from Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget, Finance, Performance, and Acquisition Olivia Barton Ferriter; and Department of the Interior Office of Budget Director Denise Flanagan Location: Rm 124, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

9:30 AM Senate Intelligence Committee hearing on 'Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. elections' – Hearing on 'Russian Interference in the 2016 U.S. elections', with testimony from Department of Homeland Security Office of Intelligence and Analysis Cyber Division Acting Director Dr Sam Liles, and National Protection and Programs Directorate Office of Cyber and Infrastructure Analysis Director Brandon Wales; FBI Counterintelligence Division Assistant Director Bill Priestap; National Association of State Election Directors Midwest Regional Representative Michael Haas; University of Michigan Professor of Computer Science & Engineering Dr J. Alex Halderman; and Illinois State Board of Elections Executive Director Steve Sandvoss Location: Rm 216, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Transportation Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers David Pekoske to be Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for the Transportation Security Administration Location: Rm 253, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on gangs – Hearing on 'The MS-13 Problem: Investigating Gang Membership, its Nexus to Illegal Immigration, and Federal Efforts to End the Threat', with testimony from Customs and Border Protection U.S. Border Patrol Acting Chief Carla Provost; Department of Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement Director Scott Lloyd; Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division Kenneth Blanco; and Immigration and Customs Enforcement Executive Associate Director of Enforcement and Removal Operations Matthew Albence, and Homeland Security Investigations Acting Executive Associate Director Derek Benner Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, to consider nominations of Russell Vought to be Office of Management and Budget Deputy Director; and Neomi Rao to be OMB Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Administrator Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

10:15 AM USTR Lighthizer testifies to Senate Finance Committee on FY'18 budget – Hearing on 'The President's Trade Policy Agenda and Fiscal Year 2018 Budget', with testimony from U.S. Trade Representative Amb. Robert Lighthizer Location: Rm 215, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://finance.senate.gov>

10:30 AM Senate Homeland Security Committee hearing on 'cybersecurity regulation harmonization' – Hearing on 'Cybersecurity Regulation Harmonization', with testimony from BITS/Financial Services Roundtable President Christopher Feeney; Information Technology Industry Council President and CEO Dean Garfield; Health Information Trust Alliance founder and

CEO Daniel Nutkis; and Oklahoma Office of Management and Enterprise Services CIO Bo Reese
Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

10:30 AM Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on FY'18 U.S. Air Force budget –
Defense Subcommittee hearing on 'Review of the FY2018 Budget Request for the U.S. Air Force',
with testimony from Secretary of the Air Force Heather Wilson; and U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff
Gen. David Goldfein Location: Rm 192, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

11:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee closed briefing on the 2017 Trafficking in
Persons Report – Closed briefing on 'Preparing for the 2017 Trafficking In Persons Report', given
by State Department Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Ambassador-at-Large
Amb. Susan Coppedge Location: S-116, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

11:00 AM Senators Join Advocates, Kids in Superhero Costumes in "Save Our Health Care"
Action on Capitol Hill – Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY), Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI),
Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), Senator Al Franken (D-MN), Senator Maggie Hassan (D-NH),
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), and Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT) will join with a coalition of
progressive organizations, health care advocates, and parents and kids dressed in superhero
costumes, for a speak out on Capitol Hill opposing the repeal of the Affordable Care Act and its
replacement with the Republican plan. For more information:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1490776790966115/> Contacts: Madison Donzis;
madison@unbendablemedia.com, (210) 488-6220; Brett Abrams, brett@unbendablemedia.com,
(516) 841-1105. Location: East Lawn of the U.S. Capitol Building, by the Senate steps.

12:15 PM Dem Sens. Jack Reed and Sherrod Brown introduce Military Consumer
Enforcement Act – Democratic Sens. Jack Reed and Sherrod Brown introduce Military Consumer
Enforcement Act, which would 'empower the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to oversee
and enforce compliance with certain existing provisions of the Servicemember Civil Relief Act', via
teleconference briefing with former CFPB Office of Servicemember Affairs Assistant Director Holly
Petraeus and Ret. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. James Cody Location: TBD <http://reed.senate.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/SenJackReed>

2:30 PM Energy Secretary Perry testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on FY'18
budget – Energy and Water Development Subcommittee hearing on 'Review of the FY2018
Budget Request for the U.S. Department of Energy', with testimony from Secretary of Energy
Rick Perry Location: Rm 138, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

2:30 PM VA Secretary McDonald testifies to Senate Appropriations subcommittee on FY'18
and FY'19 budgets – Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee
hearing on 'Review of the FY2018 Budget Request for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs',
with testimony from Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin; Veterans Health Administration
Acting Under Secretary Dr Poonam Alaigh; Veterans Benefits Administration Acting Under
Secretary Thomas Murphy; and National Cemetery Administration Interim Under Secretary for
Memorial Affairs Ronald Walters Location: Rm 124, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

2:30 PM Senate Transportation subcommittee hearing on commercial space / U.S. Govt
partnership – Space, Science, and Competitiveness Subcommittee hearing on 'Reopening the
American Frontier: Promoting Partnerships Between Commercial Space and the U.S. Government
to Advance Exploration and Settlement', with testimony from NASA Kennedy Space Center
Director Robert Cabana; Relativity co-founder and CEO Tim Ellis; University of Texas at Austin
Cockell School of Engineering Associate Professor of Aerospace Engineering and Engineering
Mechanics Dr Moriba Jah; Nanoracks CEO Jeffrey Manber; SpaceX President and COO Gwynne
Shotwell Location: Rm 253, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://commerce.senate.gov>

3:00 PM Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on GAO and CBO FY'18 budgets –
Legislative Branch Subcommittee hearing on 'Review of the FY2018 Budget Requests for the GAO
& CBO', with testimony from U.S. Comptroller General Gene Dodaro; and Congressional Budget
Office Director Dr Keith Hall Location: Rm 192, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

3:30 PM Senate Dems hold hearing on 'ways the GOP health care bill would devastate rural
America' – Democratic Policy and Communications Committee Chair Debbie Stabenow and fellow
Democratic Sens. Bill Nelson, Al Franken, Joe Manchin, Tammy Baldwin, Elizabeth Warren, Heidi
Heitkamp, Maggie Hassan, and Catherine Cortez-Masto hold hearing on 'America Speaks Out:
How the Republican Health Care Bill Would Devastate Rural America', featuring witnesses Uplift

Executive Director Heidi Mansir, University of Alaska-Anchorage student Moira Pyhala, Community Health Alliance CEO Chuck Duarte, former West Virginia State Rep. Denise Campbell, Community Hospitals and Wellness Centers (CHWC) President and CEO Phil Ennen, Marshfield Clinic Health System Chief Medical Officer Dr Mark LePage, and National Farmers Union President Roger Johnson Location: SVC 203, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC dpcc.senate.gov

US House: 10:00 AM Former DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson testifies to House Intelligence Committee task force as part of Russia investigation – House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence Russia Investigative Task Force hearing, with testimony from former Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson Location: HVC-210, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseIntelComm>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on Egyptian-American Enterprise Fund and Tunisian-American Enterprise Fund – Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee hearing on 'Grading the Egyptian and Tunisian Enterprise Funds', with testimony from Egyptian-American Enterprise Fund Chairman James Harmon; and Tunisian-American Enterprise Fund Chairman Bowman Cutter Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACrepublicans>

10:00 AM House Financial Services Committee markup hearing continues – Markup hearing continues on 'H.R. 1422, the Flood Insurance Market Parity and Modernization Act', 'H.R. 1558, the Repeatedly Flooded Communities Preparation Act', 'H.R. 2246, the Taxpayer Exposure Mitigation Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2565, To require the use of replacement cost value in determining the premium for flood insurance coverage under the National Flood Insurance Act, and for other purposes', and 'H.R. 2875, the National Flood Insurance Program Administrative Reform Act of 2017' * Begun 15 Jun Location: Rm 2128, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee legislative hearing on a discussion draft of 'Helium Extraction Act of 2017', with testimony from University of California-Los Angeles Department of Physics and Astronomy Professor Dr Stuart Brown; Tacitus Ventures Corporation (Canada) President Jason Demers; Air Products Helium Vice President and General Manager Walter Nelson; and Bureau of Land Management Senior Advisor for Minerals and Realty Management Tim Spisak Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Technology subcommittee hearing on advances in environmental technologies – Environment Subcommittee hearing on 'Leading the Way: Examining Advances in Environmental Technologies', with testimony from Saildrone COO Sebastien De Halleux; Panasonic Avionics Chief Atmospheric Scientist Dr Neil Jacobs; and Oregon State University College of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences Professor in Ocean Ecology and Biogeochemistry Dr Burke Hales Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on broadband coverage in the U.S. – Communications and Technology Subcommittee hearing on 'Defining and Mapping Broadband Coverage in America', with testimony from Information Technology & Innovation Foundation Senior Telecommunications Policy Analyst Doug Brake; Mosaik CEO Bryan Darr; Connected Nation Vice President of Government Affairs Brent Legg; Matthey Consulting Principal Carol Matthey; and Westminster, MD, City Council President Dr Robert Wack Location: Rm 2123, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Judiciary Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 495, Protection of Children Act', 'H.R. 2826, Refugee Program Integrity Restoration Act', and 'H.R. 1096, Judgment Fund Transparency Act' Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

11:00 AM House Small Business Committee hearing on the Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee – Hearing on 'Partners in Commerce: The Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee', with testimony from International Trade Administration Trade Promotion Coordinating Committee Director Patrick Kirwan; Small Business Administration Associate Administrator for International Trade Peter Cazamias; and Missouri Department of Economic Development International Trade and Investment Office Manager Ann Pardalos Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

12:00 PM House debates Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including 'H.R. 1873 – Electricity Reliability and Forest Protection Act' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

12:30 PM Congressional Pollinator Protection Caucus co-hosts briefing on pollinator health and conservation – Congressional Pollinator Protection Caucus (co-chaired by bipartisan Reps. Alcee Hastings and Jeff Denham), in cooperation with the Pollinator Partnership and the American Society of Landscape Architects, hosts briefing on the status of pollinator health and conservation actions. Panel features American Beekeeping Federation President Gene Brandi, Organization for Bat Conservation Executive Director Rob Mies, U.S. Geological Survey Associate Director for Ecosystems Anne Kinsinger, and Federal Highway Administration Office of Project Development & Environmental Review Environmental Protection Specialist/Research Coordinator Deirdre Remley Location: Rm 340, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.alceehastings.house.gov <https://twitter.com/RepHastingsFL>

2:00 PM POSTPONED: House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on 'monetary policy v. fiscal policy' – POSTPONED: Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee hearing on 'Monetary Policy v. Fiscal Policy: Risks to Price Stability and the Economy' Location: Rm 2128, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

2:00 PM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on OMB budget – Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee 'Office of Management and Budget – Budget Hearing', with testimony from OMB Director Mick Mulvaney Location: Rm 2359, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

2:00 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee legislative hearing on 'H.R. 2662 Restoring Accountability in the Indian Health Service Act of 2017', with testimony from Republican Rep. Kristi Noem; Indian Health Service Acting Director Rear Adm. Chris Buchanan; Rosebud Sioux Tribal Health Board Chairman William Bear Shield; Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation Business Council Member Andy Joseph; Ho-Chunk Nation Legislature District 5 Representative Robert TwoBears; and National Indian Health Board Great Plains Area Representative Victoria Kitcheyan Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

2:30 PM Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee markup hearing on '2018 National Defense Authorization Act' Location: Rm 2212, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

3:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 2842, the Accelerating Individuals into the Workforce Act' Location: H-313, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

3:00 PM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on FBI budget – Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Subcommittee 'Federal Bureau of Investigation – Budget Hearing', with testimony from FBI Acting Director Andrew McCabe Location: Rm 2358-C, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

3:30 PM GOP Rep. John Duncan discusses medical professionals crossing state lines to help the needy – Republican Rep. John Duncan talks about 'the need for more states to allow medical professionals to volunteer their health care services across state lines to the nation's neediest,' via press conference Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.duncan.house.gov <https://twitter.com/RepJohnDuncanJr>

4:00 PM Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee markup hearing on '2018 National Defense Authorization Act' Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

Other: 7:45 AM National Association of Manufacturers Annual Manufacturing Summit continues – National Association of Manufacturers Annual Manufacturing Summit. Day two speakers include Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta and House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy * Agenda also includes Congressional office visits Location: Grand Hyatt Washington DC, 1000 H St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.nam.org> <https://twitter.com/ShopFloorNAM>

8:00 AM Colorado Capital Conference – Colorado Capital Conference, hosted by bipartisan Sens. Cory Gardner and Michael Bennet, Colorado Mesa University and the University of Colorado to provide residents across Colorado a better understanding of the federal legislative process Location: Washington, DC www.cu.edu <https://twitter.com/CUSystem>

9:00 AM The Washington Post hosts 'Addiction in America' forum – The Washington Post hosts 'Addiction in America' forum, examining the roots of the country's opioid crisis and solutions for combating addiction in America, including the role of doctors in managing patients' pain. Speakers include Democrats Sen. Ed Markey and Rep. Diana DeGette, Republican Rep. Greg Walden, Brandeis University Heller School for Social Policy and Management Opioid Policy

Research Co-Director Dr Andrew Kolodny, Baltimore City Commissioner of Health Dr Leana Wen, former Rep. Patrick Kennedy, and PhRMA Vice President of Research and Policy Anne Pritchett
Location: The Washington Post Live Center, 1301 K St., NW, Washington, DC
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/> <https://twitter.com/washingtonpost>

1:00 PM GOP Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer speaks at FSR on financial regulation – Financial Services Roundtable discussion on ‘Financial Regulation: What to Expect from the Trump Administration and Congress’, with remarks from Republican Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer, Counselor to the Treasury Secretary Craig Phillips and FSR CEO Tim Pawlenty, and panel discussion on the ‘CHOICE Act’ and next steps on the regulatory horizon with Citi’s Julie Bell Lindsay, Patomak Global Partners’ Paul Atkins, and American Action Forum’s Douglas Holtz-Eakin Location: FSR, 600 13th St. NW, Washington, DC www.fsround.org <https://twitter.com/fsroundtable>

7:00 PM Annual Congressional Women’s Softball Game – Ninth Annual Congressional Women’s Softball Game: Members of Congress vs. the Washington, DC Press Corps (aka the Bad News Babes), raising funds for Young Survival Coalition – an organization dedicated to issues unique to young women who are diagnosed with breast cancer. Members of Congress team features Sens. Shelley Moore Capito, Kirsten Gillibrand, and Catherine Cortez Masto, and Reps. Cheri Bustos, Kathy Castor, Mia Love, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Kathleen Rice, Martha Roby, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Debbie Wasserman Schultz, Nanette Diaz Barragan, Lisa Blunt Rochester, Stephanie Murphy, Claudia Tenney, and Norma Torres plus coach Rep. Ed Perlmutter, with the Bad News Babes team containing representatives from the Huffington Post, New York Times, Roll Call, NBC News, ‘PBS NewsHour’, MSNBC, NPR, Texas Tribune, POLITICO, Chicago Sun Times, Vice, Cook Political Report, LA Times, ABC News, Real Clear Politics, and CNN Location: Watkins Recreational Center, 420 12th St SE, Washington, DC <http://www.congwomensoftball.org/> <https://twitter.com/CWSSoftballGame>

Mortgage Bankers Association National Advocacy Conference continues – Mortgage Bankers Association National Advocacy Conference continues, including keynote address by House Committee on Financial Services Rep. Jeb Hensarling Location: Grand Hyatt Washington, 1000 H Street Northwest, Washington, DC <http://www.mbaa.org> <https://twitter.com/MBAMortgage>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: “White House press secretary Sean Spicer might soon be moving to another job in the Administration. He’s reportedly in the process of interviewing his own replacements. They’re looking for someone who’s cool under pressure, well-briefed on policy, and can keep a straight face when saying, ‘Yes, the gentleman from Infowars.’”

Stephen Colbert: “At yesterday’s press briefing, not only didn’t Spicer not allow cameras, he also prohibited audio recordings. It’s a big change from his usual press briefings, where only information is prohibited.”

Stephen Colbert: “Supposedly, Spicer isn’t actually being fired. He’s being promoted to White House communications director, which means he’s ‘leading search for his own replacement.’”

James Corden: “On Monday, Donald Trump met with the President of Panama and bragged that the US built the Panama Canal. ... Trump’s bringing up a project from 100 years ago like he had something to do with it. So I guess if he never builds his border wall, he can always take credit for the one in China.”

Trevor Noah: “Bernie! I miss his passion! He’s so passionate about everything. Bring that bill out! He probably says that in restaurants all the time. Bring that bill out! Stop being a coward and bring out that bill!”

Jimmy Fallon: “The White House is reportedly taking Sean Spicer off of all press briefings and moving him to a more senior role focused on strategy, which I think is the political version of saying someone’s moving to a farm upstate.”

Jimmy Fallon: “[White House aide Steve] Bannon said this. He said because, quote, ‘Sean got fatter.’ You know you’re in bad shape when Steve Bannon thinks you let yourself go.”

Jimmy Fallon: "When asked if he feels good about the case, Trump's lawyer's lawyer said, 'Talk to my lawyer.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "Ivanka Trump met with Republican senators today to talk about paid family leave. The senators were like, 'We'll totally pay for your family to leave. How much you want? We're in.'"

Seth Meyers: "Qatar Airways, today, was named airline of the year at the Paris Air Show while United was named heavyweight champion by the WWE."

Seth Meyers: "It was alleged yesterday that former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn failed to report a trip he took to Saudi Arabia to pursue a joint US-Russian business venture. How many trips did Michael Flynn take? He's like the Anthony Bourdain of treason."

Conan O'Brien: "Trump adviser Steve Bannon told reporters yesterday that the White House has been doing fewer press briefings because Sean Spicer got fatter. That's what Bannon said. Bannon then went home to his mirror-less house."

Conan O'Brien: "There is a rumor that the White House will find a new place for Press Secretary Sean Spicer, a new place. All they told Spicer was it's on a big farm upstate where you can run and play with all the other press secretaries."

Conan O'Brien: "A new study just came out and it found that after a few months of Donald Trump, most Americans now have a favorable view of President George W. Bush. When reached for comment, the ghost of Richard Nixon said, 'Here I come, baby!'"

Conan O'Brien: "The US experienced a series of internet outages all across the US. Things got so bad, we momentarily surpassed China in productivity."

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DOI In The News

Trump Budget Would Focus Interior On Energy Extraction, Reduce Climate Research.

The [New York Times](#) (5/23, Plumer, Davenport) reports that according to the White House’s budget plan, \$36 billion will be raised over the next 10 years “by selling off major American energy resources and infrastructure, opening up vast new areas of public land for oil and gas drilling, and redirecting state revenues from oil and gas royalties back to Washington.” The Times says that while Congress is “highly unlikely” to approve the cuts, “the document lays down a detailed marker of the administration’s energy philosophy.”

The [Washington Post](#) (5/23, Dennis) reports the White House budget proposal would cut the Interior Department budget by about 12 percent and shift “the agency’s focus toward promoting fossil fuel drilling and extraction on public lands and in federal waters.” Under the proposal, “onshore fossil fuel programs would receive \$189 million annually, an increase of \$24 million; offshore programs would get \$343 million, including a \$10 million increase to update the nation’s five-year offshore drilling plan.” Meanwhile, an additional \$16 million would go to the Bureau of Land Management’s “oil and gas management program to accelerate the rate at which its staff processes permit applications and addresses right-of-way requests for infrastructure projects.”

[Greenwire](#) (5/23) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said “that the budget request ‘speaks to the overall mission of Interior and funds our highest priorities.’” Zinke “said it ‘wasn’t an easy job’ putting it together, but he wanted to make sure the budget reflected his priority of ‘shoring up our infrastructure and shoring up our front line’ – meaning the department’s federal managers and rangers.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/23, Carlton) reports that climate change and other science programs would receive less funding under the budget, and climate programs would be consolidated. Zinke has said that many of the programs are duplicative.

Additional coverage was provided by [NPR](#) (5/23, Siegler), the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (5/23, Siciliano), the [Chicago \(IL\) Sun-Times](#) (5/23, Sweet), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#), the [Ogden \(UT\) Standard-Examiner](#) (5/23), the [Morning Consult](#) (5/23, Fitzpatrick, Gheorghiu), and [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (5/23, Passut).

White House Budget Would Reduce Spending On Climate Change. [The Hill](#) (5/23, Cama) reports Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney said former President Obama

was “spending too much of your money on climate change, and not very efficiently.” He denied the Administration is “anti-science,” adding, “we want to do some climate science, but we’re not going to do some of the crazy stuff the previous administration did.” The [Washington Post](#) (5/23, Guarino) reports, “Mulvaney invoked a musical that, seven years ago, won a government grant worth nearly \$700,000,” incorrectly stating that the National Science Foundation awarded the grant last year. [E&E Publishing](#) (5/23) reports the White House’s proposed budget is “a sharp rebuke of the energy and environmental policies pushed for the past eight years by the Obama administration.”

[USA Today](#) (5/23, Rice, King) reports scientists say the proposed budget, in the words of USA Today, “guts funding for climate science” by cutting funding at NASA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). David Doniger of the Natural Resources Defense Council said the budget “savages” the agencies’ programs, and Ken Kimmell, president of the Union of Concerned Scientists, said the proposal would “stall out U.S. technological innovation and scientific research, and the country’s capabilities to respond to extreme weather and national security threats.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/23, Siciliano) also covers this story.

Proposed Budget Would Cut Clean Air, Water Programs. The [AP](#) (5/23, Biesecker) reports the White House budget proposal “slashes funding for the Environmental Protection Agency by nearly one-third,” including “dramatic cuts to clean air and water programs.” President Trump and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt “have called for increased fossil fuel production while expressing doubt about the scientific consensus that man-made carbon emissions are the primary driver of global warming.” Meanwhile, “environmentalists said the administration’s spending plan, if adopted by Congress, will lead directly to more pollution-related illnesses and deaths.”

Budget Proposal Would Cut Clean Coal Research. [Bloomberg News](#) (5/23, Natter) reports that despite President Trump’s promise to bring about “clean coal,” but his budget proposal would cut research into carbon capture and storage research from more than \$200 million a year to \$31 million, an 85 percent reduction. Brad Crabtree, vice president of fossil energy for the Great Plains Institute, said, “I think at some point the administration is going to have to decide whether they intend to keep their commitments to ensuring a future for coal.”

Renewables Budget Would See 70 Percent Cut. The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/23, Siciliano) reports the Energy Department’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy would see its budget cut by 69.3 percent under the Trump budget proposal to \$636 million. The move “stoked the ire of climate change activist and environmentalists who are vowing to restore the funds by lobbying lawmakers to oppose them.” Some argue the “cut would cede global leadership on energy efficiency and clean energy to countries such as China.”

Science Cuts Said To Be Bad For Economy. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/23, Netburn) reports the American Assn. for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) estimated that the White House budget proposal “represented a 16.8% decrease in overall funding for scientific research compared with the current budget.” Rush Holt, a former congressman who heads AAAS, “said science and research have been a source of economic growth for the country as well as the primary driver of improvements in public health, energy, agriculture and overall quality of life as well as the nation’s economic well-being.”

Budget Plan Would Sell Half Of Strategic Oil Reserve. [CNN Money](#) (5/23, Egan) reports President Trump’s budget plan would sell half of the strategic oils reserve. While the US has become a leading producer of oil due to the shale oil boom, “some energy analysts warn that selling half the SPR could backfire, especially in today’s uncertain world.” Carl Evans, senior crude oil analyst at energy market research firm Genscape, said the move would put “more risk onto the consumer” and “does seem like a short-term cash grab.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/23, Siciliano) reports Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney said that by selling the oil gradually, it the sale could be done “without having a dramatic impact on prices.” He called the reserve “no longer necessary” due to increased domestic production.

Also covering this story are the [San Antonio Express-News](#) (5/23), [Platts](#) (5/23), the [Washington Times](#) (5/23, Wolfgang), and [Reuters](#) (5/23, Rampton).

Budget Plan Would Allow ANWR Drilling, End Oil Revenue Sharing. [Roll Call](#) (5/23, Dillon, Nawaguna) reports that among the “variety of legislative changes to boost federal revenue from the oil and gas industry” the budget request includes are allowing federal drilling leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and ending “the sharing of federal revenues from offshore oil and gas drilling leases with the Gulf Coast states.”

[Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (5/23, Osborne) reports the Gulf funds “are set aside under the law to protecting the Gulf coastline, with money directed to maintaining levees and other infrastructure,

hurricane relief and preventing further erosion of wetlands that are fast disappearing along the Gulf Coast," as established under the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act. The [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (5/23) also covers this story.

Budget For Territories, Micronesia Announced. The [Hawaii Free Press](#) (5/23) reports that Trump "proposed \$591.9 million for Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) for the benefit of the U.S. Territories of Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Freely Associated States of the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands through the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA)."

The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (5/24, Austin) reports that the Interior Department said: "The president's budget allows Interior's Office of Insular Affairs to continue with its core mission of empowering insular area communities by improving quality of life, creating economic opportunity, and promoting efficient and effective governance. The funding allows OIA to continue providing grants for technical assistance, implementing sustainable energy plans and invasive species control. OIA also works closely with the USVI Governor's office to balance all of the Governor's priorities with the resources available."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (5/24, Sablan, Raymundo).

Wild Horse Group Wants Funding To Save Mustangs. The [Daily Caller](#) (5/23, Picket) reports that the American Wild Horse Campaign "on Tuesday demanded President Trump intervene on the proposed Interior Department's budget and save American Mustangs from being slaughtered by the Bureau of Land Management." Suzanne Roy, Executive Director of the AWHC "said the Bureau of Land Management requested Congress to allow the slaughter of over 46,000 captured mustangs and burros that Roy says is on the verge of extinction." Roy said, "This lethal budget is wildly out of step with the wishes of the American people, and the American public will not stand for this travesty."

Lawmakers Preparing To Oppose Administration Budget Plan. [Reuters](#) (5/23, Gardner) reports, "Lawmakers from both parties worried the proposal" to sell half the SPR "would undermine the drilling industry and make the country vulnerable to supply shocks." They raised concerns that the move "could dampen crude prices and hurt drilling companies still recovering from a price crash in 2014. Trump had campaigned on a promise to revive the drilling industry." The SPR proposal's future "could depend in part on Republican Senator Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, a member of the appropriations committee and the head of the chamber's energy panel." She previously opposed selling a modest amount of oil from the reserve in 2015, "saying the reserve should not be used as an ATM."

[The Hill](#) (5/23, Henry, Cama) reports Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Chairwoman Lisa Murkowski called the SPR plan "Crazy," and House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop, "If you're not replenishing [the oil], then [the plan] doesn't make any sense at all." Additionally, "the Trump administration also faced harsh criticism for its proposal to end the revenue sharing system that allows Gulf of Mexico states to get a share of federal royalties from offshore oil and natural gas drilling."

Secretary Zinke Praises Progress On Reducing Violent Crime In Indian Country.

The [Gardnerville \(NV\) Record Courier](#) (5/22) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "praised a recent announcement by the Department of Justice on the progress being made in coordinated federal, state, tribal and local efforts that are reducing the incidence of violent crime across the Nation." The Indian Country Federal Law Enforcement Coordination Group, "an assembly of sworn federal law enforcement officers and other stakeholders who have responsibilities in Indian Country, was created in response to suggestions by federal law enforcement officials who sought to enhance coordination and provide improved federal law enforcement services to Tribal communities." Zinke said, "I am very happy to see that the Indian Country Federal Law Enforcement Coordination Group has been an integral part of this effort and is focusing on violent crime on Tribal reservations. The Federal Government provides significant public safety resources to Indian Country, with numerous departments and agencies delivering and supporting law enforcement services."

30,000 Comments Submitted On Monument Designations.

The [AP](#) (5/23) reports that "more than 30,000 people have offered their thoughts about the country's protected areas, including ones near Hawaii, in the first five days of President Donald Trump's call for monument designation public comment." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "expected to recommend to the president after the comment period whether any of the

monuments protecting natural resources should have boundaries changed or rescinded." The article notes that "a majority of the public comments so far, including those specifically written in regard to the marine national monument; have urged the Trump administration to keep the protections in place."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (5/23), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (5/23), and the [State College \(PA\) Centre Daily Times](#) (5/23).

Two Republican Lawmakers Ask Trump To Leave Canyons of The Ancients National Monument Intact.

The [AP](#) (5/23) reports that "two Republican members of Congress from Colorado are asking the Trump administration not to change the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, one of more than two dozen monuments under review for possible modification." Sen. Cory Gardner and Rep. Scott Tipton "said Tuesday the southwestern Colorado monument preserves thousands of archaeological sites while allowing traditional uses of the land." According to the article, "their recommendation is likely to get a close hearing in the GOP administration."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (5/23) and the [Oklahoman](#) (5/23).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (5/23, Perkins) and the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (5/24, Harmon).

Massachusetts' Top Environmental Official Hopes For Northeast Marine Monument Modifications.

The [Gloucester \(MA\) Times](#) (5/23, Norton) reports that Massachusetts' "top environmental official hopes the Trump administration modifies President Barack Obama's 2016 designation of a marine monument area off the Massachusetts coast, which is on the Trump administration's list of areas under review." Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matt Beaton said, "Yeah, I think modified in the sense that it echoes what we put forward in our original comment letter, recognizing the work that went into the ocean management [sic] plan and the public process around this issue." He "did not express a preference for desired modifications, but said, 'Hopefully the new administration takes those points into account and with future action makes appropriate decisions that reflect, you know, the opinions of the states.'"

Additional coverage was provided by [WWLP-TV](#) Springfield, MA (5/23, Norton).

Secretary Zinke Discussed Border Wall With Right-Wing Journalist.

The [Huffington Post](#) (5/23, D'angelo) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "held a video call in April with an infamous right-wing internet troll and a virtual reality entrepreneur to discuss the Trump administration's plans to construct a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border." The article says that "Zinke's half-hour call with Charles 'Chuck' Johnson, the CEO and founder of Gotnews.com, and Palmer Luckey, the founder of Oculus VR, occurred just after lunch on April 12, according to a recently published log of Zinke's scheduled meetings last month." A spokeswoman for the agency said, "Regarding setting up the meeting, a friend of the Secretary's suggested he talk with them about their technology. As a result, they had a very brief meeting with the Secretary. There was no action after."

Trump Administration Urged To Leave National Monuments Alone.

In an editorial, the [Santa Rosa \(CA\) Press Democrat](#) (5/24) emphasizes the "strong display of public support" for national monuments. It urges the Trump Administration to leave these "treasures intact as part of our national heritage."

Utah's Senators Take Different Stances On Bears Ears.

In his column for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (5/23, Gehrke), Robert Gehrke writes that "Utah's senators are not seeing eye to eye on what steps President Donald Trump should take when it comes to Bears Ears National Monument." While Sen. Mike Lee is "pushing hard for fully rescinding the entire monument," Sen. Orrin Hatch is "taking a different approach, pushing the White House to dramatically shrink it, but leave a piece or pieces of the monument preserved, according to interviews with a half-dozen sources familiar with the behind-the-scenes lobbying effort." Whatever the ultimate decision will be, Gehrke concludes that "the debate seems to be over the most effective way to dismantle the monument and gut the authority of future presidents to protect our nation's treasures."

Editorial: Maine Gov. LePage Refuses To See Benefits Of Monument.

The [Bangor \(ME\) Daily News](#) (5/23) editorializes that Maine Gov. Paul LePage “doesn’t like” the Woods and Waters National Monument, “so he is going to do everything in his power – this time preventing state crews from installing signs – to undermine it.” The paper says that “in his latest stunt, the governor has refused to allow directional signs for the monument to be placed on Interstate 95 and state roads leading to it.” The editorial concludes that “the Katahdin monument is a positive addition to Maine, and the state’s governor should be encouraging people to go visit.”

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National Park Service

Deadline Looms For Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program.

The [AP](#) (5/23, Contreras) reports that historic Route 66 “soon may be dropped from a National Park Service preservation program, which would end years of efforts aimed at reviving old tourist spots in struggling towns.” According to the article, “a federal law authorizing the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program is set to expire in two years, and some lawmakers are working to save the program or get Congress to designate Route 66 as a National Historic Trail.” The deadline “also has Route 66 enthusiasts and preservation advocates scrambling to make sure the program or an alternative is maintained for the ‘Mother Road.’”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (5/23, Contreras), the [Business Insider](#) (5/23, Contreras), the [Chicago \(IL\) Sun-Times](#) (5/23), the [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (5/23, Contreras), the [Daily Mail](#) (5/23, Contreras), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (5/23, Contreras), the [New York Daily News](#) (5/23, Contreras), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (5/23, Contreras), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (5/23, Contreras), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/23, Contreras), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (5/23, Contreras), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (5/23, Contreras), [KPIX-TV San Francisco \(CA\)](#) San Francisco (5/23), and [KGMB-TV Honolulu \(HI\)](#) Honolulu (5/23, Contreras).

Fort Monroe Transfer To Be Completed Soon.

The [Newport News \(VA\) Daily Press](#) (5/23, Ressa) reports that the Fort Monroe Authority’s gift to the National Park Service “should be completed shortly.” The transfer of “beach and the grassy open space to the east of Fenwick Road” will “create the unified national monument Gov. Terry McAuliffe has pushed for since 2014, his communications director said.” However, “federal officials, even after McAuliffe’s lobbying efforts at the White House, did not want to accept a tract of state-owned land to the west of Fenwick, known as the West Wherry Quarter, where the now-shuttered post exchange and the city’s community center are located, said Brian Coy, the governor’s communications director.” Coy “said the governor did not intend to ask Washington to accept the West Wherry Quarter, since federal officials made clear that there were not interested in taking on the cost of razing buildings and maintaining the area as open space for a park.”

New River Gorge Offering Free Water Safety Instruction.

The [AP](#) (5/24) reports that “water safety instruction will be given this weekend at New River Gorge National River.” The National Park Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are “offering their annual safety program on Saturday and Sunday.”

Fish and Wildlife Service

Maine Senators Support Plan To Ease Sea Urchin Shipping Burden.

The [AP](#) (5/24) reports that “Maine’s U.S. senators are on board with a plan to make it easier for seafood dealers to export sea urchins and sea cucumbers outside of the United States.” The lawmakers “say unnecessary inspections result in the highly perishable seafood products to be held in warehouses for long periods of time, increasing the likelihood that they will go bad.” Sen. Susan Collins and Sen. Angus King “say their proposal would prevent the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from burdening the industry with inspections that they say are repetitive.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [ABC News](#) (5/24), [Fox Business](#) (5/24), the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (5/23), the [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (5/23), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (5/23), and

the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/24).

Okefenokee Fire To Keep Memorial Day Crowds Away.

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (5/23, Poole) reports that Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge will be closed on Memorial Day, "generally pretty busy for the refuge," because of "massive wildfires that have burned more than 150,000 acres." The article notes that "even parts of the refuge that have not been burned won't be open." According to Susan Heisey, supervisory refuge ranger, "the refuge will remain closed until it has been deemed safe for visitors to reenter the area."

Bald Eagle Numbers Soaring In Southeast Michigan.

The [Monroe \(MI\) Evening News](#) (5/23, Cousino) reports that "more bald eagles are being seen in southeast Michigan, according to monitoring efforts by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service." John Hartig, manager of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, said that "since 1991, there has been a steady increase in the number of occupied eagle nests a year in metropolitan Detroit." The article says that "from 2012-15, at least 25 active nests have been documented each year, resulting in the fledgling of 28 or more young a year." It also notes that "the most recent survey data from 2015 shows that there were 14 occupied nests in Monroe County and six occupied nests in Wayne County that produced a total of 21 eaglets."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Adrian \(MI\) Daily Telegram](#) (5/23, Cousino).

No Eaglets Found In Nests Near Fermi 2 Plant.

The [Monroe \(MI\) Evening News](#) (5/23, Cousino) reports that a "team of wildlife biologists and volunteers" were unable to locate "any young eagles in a dense, tree-lined marsh at DTE Energy's Fermi 2 nuclear power plant here Monday morning." But they "did find both a male and a female baby eagle later Monday at the U.S. Silica quarry in Rockwood." The four-person team consisted of "two biologists from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and two volunteers" and they "walked deep into a forest just a few hundred feet north and west of the Fermi 2 cooling towers looking for three nests that were identified earlier this year from airplane flyovers." The team discovered two nests "using GPS coordinates, but there were no eaglets to be seen."

Additional Coverage: Oil Company Takes Measures To Protect Pregnant Polar Bear.

Additional coverage that Hilcorp, LLC is "going to great lengths to protect a pregnant polar bear who has established a den in a snow bank near one of its operations off the northern coast of Alaska" was provided by [Forbes](#) (5/23, Blackmon).

Bureau of Land Management

Bill Would Revive Roadway Plans Through Tortoise Habitat.

The [St. George \(UT\) Spectrum](#) (5/23, DeMille) reports that Rep. Chris Stewart is "pushing for legislation that would mandate federal land managers to step aside and make room for a controversial roadway that would cross through habitat of the endangered Mojave desert tortoise north of St. George." Stewart's bill, H.R. 2423, "would order the federal government to 'grant any necessary rights-of-way for the northern transportation route,' more commonly known as the Northern Corridor, as drawn up by county transportation planners and stick to the protocols for authorizing utility lines as included in a 1996 plan created for the tortoise habitat." Stewart argued the legislation "seeks to clarify directions included in a 2009 Omnibus Public Land Management Act, which directed the Bureau of Land Management to 'identify' a route for the northern corridor as part of its planning process for the area but did not explicitly describe an exact route or mandate that a road be allowed."

Defense Cost In Bunkerville Standoff Case Over \$1M.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (5/23, Wilson) reports that "taxpayers already have spent over \$1 million to provide legal representation for the 19 men accused of participating in the 2014 armed standoff in Bunkerville." According to the article, "as of last week, the federal government had paid \$1,028,154.30 to defense lawyers, investigators, paralegals and others who have played a role in defending those accused of staging a mass assault on federal agents who, in April 2014, tried to seize rancher Cliven Bundy's cows from public lands." The article says that "the \$1 million figure is likely to balloon in the coming months as federal prosecutors proceed with the three remaining trials in the high-profile case."

Judge Finds Teen's Firework Caused Table Rock Fire.

The [Idaho Statesman](#) (5/23, Sowell) reports that "an Ada County judge found Tuesday that 19-year-old Taylor Kemp caused last summer's Table Rock fire when a Roman candle he lighted tipped over and ignited nearby dry grass." Magistrate James Cawthon "said the evidence presented over two days showed Kemp more likely than not caused the fire that destroyed a house, threatened dozens of others and burned 2,500 acres of land near the Boise monument." After Cawthon's ruling, "testimony shifted to the damage caused by the fire." Of note, the Bureau of Land Management, which "fought the fire on the ground and by dropping fire retardant from the air, is seeking \$250,000."

New Report Details How Southern Arizona Wildfire Started.

The [AP](#) (5/23) reports that "a new report details how a southern Arizona wildfire started and quickly spread after an off-duty Border Patrol agent went target shooting with an explosive powder." The fire "damaged nearly 19 square miles" of the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. The Bureau of Land Management "announced on Tuesday that it had reopened parts of the areas closed off because of the fire."

Additional Coverage: BLM Investigating Fire That Damaged Guard Station In Bears Ears.

Additional coverage that the Bureau of Land Management is "investigating a suspicious fire that damaged a remote guard station in Utah's Bears Ears National Monument" was provided by the [AP](#) (5/23).

US Geological Survey

Glacier National Park Losing Its Glaciers.

The [New York Times](#) (5/24, Popovich) reports that Glacier National Park is "losing its glaciers." They "shrank by more than a third between 1966 and 2015, according to new data from the United States Geological Survey and Portland State University."

USGS To Study Fuel Break Effects On Wildfires, Sage-grouse.

[Wildfire Today](#) (5/23, Pohl) reports that the U.S. Geological Survey is preparing for "a project across the Great Basin studying how effective fuel break are, simultaneously evaluating their ecological costs and benefits." The USGS said in a statement, "We want to determine the extent to which fuel breaks can help protect existing habitat from wildland fires, paying particular attention to how such breaks affect sagebrush habitat, sage-grouse, and other sagebrush-dependent species."

Additional Coverage: USGS Removes Climate Change Language From News Release.

Additional coverage that the United States Geological Survey "deleted a sentence acknowledging the link between climate change and sea level rise from an official agency press release" was provided by the [Union of Concerned Scientists](#) (5/23, Halpern), [MSNBC](#) (5/23, Benen), and the [Daily Caller](#) (5/23, White).

Additional Coverage: California Likely To Roll Out Earthquake Warning System Next Year.

Additional coverage that "California will probably introduce a limited public earthquake early warning system next year" was provided by [Government Technology](#) (5/23, Lin).

Securing America's Energy Future

Offshore Energy Development

Environmental Groups Send Letter To Secretary Zinke Against Offshore Drilling.

[ClimateWire](#) (5/23) reports more than 130 environmental and advocacy groups wrote a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, saying that plans to open the Atlantic, Arctic, Pacific and Gulf of Mexico to offshore drilling would be an unacceptable level of risk for coastal communities and ecosystems. The letter said, "Our future depends on clean renewable energy, not sacrificing our precious waters for oil that harms our families' health and pollutes our oceans." This past

weekend saw events organized by environmental groups across almost 20 states to protest offshore energy extraction and in support of clean energy. [E&E Daily](#) (5/23) reports Interior Department spokeswoman Heather Swift defended the plan. She said, "Offshore oil and gas development helps fund conservation and cultural preservation grants like the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the Historic Preservation Fund. ... Responsible offshore energy development is a critical component of the work at Interior, bringing billions of dollars to the Treasury every year. We look forward to increasing that revenue under President Trump's American Energy First policies."

Angelle Resigns From Louisiana Public Service Commission.

The [AP](#) (5/23) reports that Scott Angelle "resigned Tuesday from his elected seat on the Louisiana Public Service Commission, a job the Republican held since 2013." Angelle's "resignation came the day he started his new job" leading the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement.

Onshore Energy Development

Environmental Groups Hope Study Leads To End Of Mountaintop Removal Mining.

The [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (5/23, Ward) reports that "West Virginia environmental groups on Tuesday urged a National Academy of Sciences panel to look carefully at the public health impact of strip mining, saying they hope more scrutiny of the issue will lead to a ban on the practice." According to the article, "several panels of citizen group representatives, industry officials and state regulators...spoke to and took questions from the National Academy committee that is investigating a series of previously published studies that revealed coalfield residents living near mountaintop removal operations face increased risks of a variety of illnesses and premature death." The article says that "Tuesday's meeting is part of an effort by an 11-member committee from various fields – ranging from epidemiologists to mining engineers and medical experts to regulatory decision-makers – to examine existing studies, identify research gaps and look for 'new approaches to safeguard the health of residents living near these types of coal-mining operations,' according to the project's study plan."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (5/23, Virtanen).

With Coal Jobs Not Expected To Return, Kentucky Seeks To Address Unemployment.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/23, Campo-Flores) reports coal production in Kentucky is on the decline, and despite vows by President Trump to return coal jobs, many analysts say that systemic changes in the energy market, including cheap natural gas and the growing cost of extracting eastern Kentucky coal, will prevent that outcome. Projects seek to deal with the growing unemployment, including a drone-testing facility, a high-tech greenhouse, and software-coding training programs. Additionally, Berkeley Energy Group is seeking to create a 100 megawatts solar power facility on a reclaimed strip mine.

Renewable Energy

Renewable Energy Employs Almost 10 Million People Globally.

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/23, Habboush) reports an International Renewable Energy Agency report says that "renewable energy employed 9.8 million people last year, up 1.1 percent from 2015, led by solar photovoltaic at 3.09 million jobs." Over the past two years "growth has slowed" while "solar photovoltaic and wind categories more than doubled their number of jobs since 2012, the first year assessed."

Bipartisan Group Of Legislators Seeks To Revive Clean Energy Tax Credits, Extend Nuclear Production Credit.

[Bloomberg BNA](#) (5/23, Dabbs, Kern) reports a bipartisan coalition of legislators is seeking to revive expired clean energy tax credits "for solar energy, fuel cells, microturbines and small-scale wind energy, among other industries" as well as "an early extension of a nuclear production credit." They are expected to seek to add the bill to a larger legislative vehicle, such as a comprehensive overhaul of the tax code, although "congressional leaders indicate that individual revivals and extensions may violate the spirit of an overhaul."

Wind Power Conference Meets In California.

The [San Diego Union-Tribune](#) (5/23, Nikolewski) reports California state Senate President pro Tem Kevin de León, in his keynote address at the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) WindPower 2017 Conference and Exhibition, said, "President Trump's fossil-fuel fetish, economically, does not make any sense." However, "some of the wind industry's executives were much more conciliatory," although AWAE's board chairman Tristan Grimbert, CEO of San Diego-based EDF Renewable Energy, told the crowd, "The political context is a little challenging." Still, he declared, "We are not just here to stay but to grow and grow and grow." Kiernan said that while his group isn't planning to seek an extension of the production and investment tax credits being phased out by 2019, he added, "We are calling for a level playing field." As other sources of electricity have permanent tax credits and so, "We're hoping that ... Congress will look, as we're phasing down ours, look at everybody else's public support and phase them down or somehow levelize it."

Empowering Native American Communities

Op-Ed: Native American Objects Should Be Returned To Their Rightful Home.

In an op-ed for [Newsweek](#) (5/23, Thornton), Russell Thornton, chair of the Native American Repatriation Review Committee, writes that the Interior Department warned the Andover Newton Theological School in Newton, Massachusetts against selling a sacred fishhook. Thornton argues that "repatriations to restore the linkage should occur expeditiously." He concludes that "rights of Native American tribes to their religions and sacred objects may or may not be inherent, but they are granted by the U.S. Government through AIRFA and NAGPRA."

Tackling America's Water Challenges

Little Wood River Reservoir Campground Drinking Water Closed Due To Bacteria.

[Clearwater \(ID\) Tribune](#) (5/23) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation has "detected coliform bacteria in the drinking water system at Little Wood River Reservoir Campground." According to the article, "the system has been shut off; however, the campground and related facilities are unaffected and will remain open during the camping season." Upper Snake Field Office Manager Ryan Newman said, "There will be no drinking water available at Little Wood campground for an indefinite period of time. Out of concern for public safety, the water system has been shut off while we inspect and treat the well."

Renovations Still Underway At Conconully RV Campground.

The [Wenatchee \(WA\) World](#) (5/23, Mehaffey) reports that "unexpected problems with a new well will delay the much-awaited reopening of a popular RV campground on the upper reservoir in Conconully." However, "a spokesman for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation says that the agency is working as quickly as possible to complete renovation of the 11 RV campsites at what is now being called the Conconully Lake RV Campground."

Top National News

Administration Unveils Budget To Bipartisan Criticism.

Media coverage of the \$4.1 trillion budget proposal the Trump Administration sent to Congress on Tuesday is largely negative, focusing on the plan's spending cuts across a range of programs and highlighting the negative reaction from lawmakers in both parties. For example, in a brief report on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/23, story 9, 0:25, Muir), David Muir said the plan drew criticism from "lawmakers on both sides of the aisle," and Lester Holt said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/23, story 5, 1:55, Holt) that it is already "getting push-back from both sides." NBC's Casey Hunt added that the proposal "landed...in Congress with a thud."

On its front page, the [New York Times](#) (5/23, Kaplan) describes congressional Republicans' reaction to Trump's budget as "open hesitation," but adds that "it was not clear that they could come up with an alternative that could win over conservatives and moderates while clearing a path for the tax cuts and policies they have promised for years." The Times adds that the coming budget battle "mirrors the continuing health care fight, in which concessions to Republican moderates alienate conservatives, while overtures to conservatives lose moderate votes."

[The Hill](#) (5/23, Elis) reports that the Administration plan, which is titled, "A New Foundation for American Greatness," seeks "\$1.5 trillion in nondefense discretionary cuts and \$1.4 trillion in Medicaid cuts over the course of a decade, while adding nearly half a trillion dollars to defense spending." It would "dramatically reshape federal spending, cutting anti-poverty and safety net programs, but leaving Medicare and the retirement portion of Social Security untouched." [Politico](#) (5/23, Scholtes, Ferris) says the budget "breaks with Republican orthodoxy on domestic programs, funds programs he threatened to cut, increases spending where he called for less, and cuts parts of government he promised not to touch." Politico goes on to outline "the contradictions and unrealistic projections spattered throughout the lengthy budget proposal."

A [USA Today](#) (5/23, Today) analysis assesses the "winners and losers" in Trump's plan. Among the "winners," according to USA Today, are the Pentagon, Social Security and Medicare, border security, new parents, and school vouchers, while "losers" include farmers, the able-bodied poor, federal employees, tax reform, and the 2011 bipartisan budget agreement.

The [Washington Times](#) (5/23, Miller) says that the plan "puts numbers to President Trump's priorities, boosting military spending by 10 percent and slashing a slew of social welfare programs that the administration deemed a waste of money," but [Reuters](#) (5/22, Rampton) says it is "unlikely to be approved in its current form." While the "austere budget," which would "cut \$3.6 trillion in government spending over the next decade," is "not expected to survive on Capitol Hill," it nonetheless "puts numbers on Trump's vision of a government that radically cuts assistance to lower-income Americans."

[Roll Call](#) (5/23, McCrimmon) reports that during a White House briefing Tuesday, OMB Director Mulvaney, who will go to Capitol Hill this week "to try to sell" the plan, "framed the proposal as a 'taxpayer first' budget that would trim needless federal spending and reinvigorate the economy with massive tax cuts and deregulation." Democrats, meanwhile, "slammed Trump's plans to bulldoze domestic discretionary spending and cut social safety net programs like food stamps and health care for kids." Ylan Mui said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (5/23) that Senate Minority Leader Schumer called Trump's budget "a meat cleaver to the Middle Class," and Sen. Claire McCaskill predicted on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (5/23), "I think you're going to see a lot of people push back on this budget. By the way, I anticipate that's going to be bipartisan. ... I really don't think there's an appetite on either side of the aisle for this President's budget."

According to the [AP](#) (5/23, Taylor, Crutsinger), Trump also "drew rebukes...from some Republican allies for the plan's jarring, politically unrealistic cuts to the social safety net for the poor and a broad swath of other domestic programs." Senate Majority Whip Cornyn said the plan is "Basically dead on arrival." Sen. Bill Cassidy said, "I don't think the president's budget is going anywhere."

[Reuters](#) (5/23, Cowan) says that while Trump's plans "to slash federal aid to the poor, the sick and people living in rural areas reflect conservatives' demands for a smaller federal government," they "target many of the very people who voted for him last November" and "could trigger a backlash for Republicans, complicating efforts to keep control of the U.S. Congress in the 2018 midterm elections." According to Reuters, many GOP lawmakers, "seeing a budget they think will be tough to sell back home, greeted it warily." Similarly, [USA Today](#) (5/23, Przybyla) reports that the plan "could be particularly punishing for the rural, working-class voters who overwhelmingly supported Trump." According to USA Today, it "takes aim at programs used disproportionately by people without college degrees, who voted for Trump by six points, including food assistance, crop subsidies and education and job training."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/23, Davidson, Peterson, Andrews) also highlights the bipartisan pushback against the plan, and says that while House Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows praised the spending cuts, he expressed concern about the plan to reduce funding for Meals on Wheels. Meadows said, "Meals on Wheels, even for some of us who are considered to be fiscal hawks, may be a bridge too far." [McClatchy](#) (5/23, Clark) says Trump may have given Republicans "leery of supporting him a great gift: a spending plan that calls for deep cuts to some of the country's most popular programs – and one they can rail against." McClatchy focuses on criticism of the plan from "vulnerable" Republicans, who are "up for election in congressional districts that Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton won." McClatchy cites of several examples, saying these lawmakers were "quick to denounce the plan, looking to contrast themselves with Trump."

Michelle Singletary is likewise very critical of the plan in her [Washington Post](#) (5/23, Singletary) column, arguing that the Administration "wants to balance the federal budget in part on the backs of the poor, the sick and the marginalized." Singletary adds that while the "wildly overreaching" and "cruel" proposal "is likely to look tremendously different by the time it's signed into law," it "speaks volumes about what the administration thinks of struggling low- and middle-

income people.”

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/23) editorial is also critical of the proposal, although for a different reason. The journal says Trump’s plan vindicates former Sen. Bob Kerrey, who argued in the 1990s that other programs would eventually feel the pinch if entitlements were not reformed. Like Democrats, the Journal argues, Trump is avoiding Social Security and Medicare and, as a result, every other government priority is left struggling for the remaining funds. In an editorial, [National Review](#) (5/23) makes a similar argument, saying that “if your budget priorities include an increase in defense spending and avoiding cuts to Social Security and Medicare – and these are President Trump’s priorities – then any effort to locate savings in the budget will put tremendous pressure on non-defense discretionary spending.” Trump’s “promise to enact ‘one of the biggest tax cuts in American history’” makes that pressure “very intense indeed.” National Review adds that the proposal “is ill-advised in many of its particulars and incompetent in others, but as a statement of priorities, it is very much what one would expect from a conventional Republican president — perhaps too much so.”

Administration Lays Out Infrastructure Plan As Part Of Budget. [Politico](#) (5/23, Gardner) reports that the Administration “finally laid out its long-promised vision for a \$1 trillion national infrastructure plan” in “a six-page fact sheet packaged with President Donald Trump’s \$4.1 trillion proposed 2018 budget.” The plan “laid out a vision for \$200 billion in direct federal spending over the next decade on needs such as roads, bridges, tunnels, railroads and expanded broadband, along with incentives for states, cities and private investors and efforts to reduce the burdens of regulations.”

The [Washington Post](#) (5/23, Wagner) cites an analysis from Senate Democrats which says Trump’s budget would “actually cut more federal spending on [infrastructure] programs than it would add.” While Trump’s budget “proposes to spend \$200 billion over the coming decade to make good on a campaign promise to spur \$1 trillion in new investments in roads, bridges, airports, waterways and other ailing infrastructure,” the analysis released by Schumer’s office “cites \$206 billion in cuts to an array of infrastructure programs included in Trump’s budget document over the coming decade.”

Reuters Analysis: Defense Spending Increase Falls Short Of Trump’s Campaign Promises. A [Reuters](#) (5/23, Stone) analysis says that while the Administration budget increases spending for defense, “it falls short of campaign promises to rebuild the U.S. Navy and a ‘historic’ increase in military spending.” While Trump “is seeking a \$52 billion hike for the Pentagon as part of an overall defense spending increase of \$54 billion,” that is “only 3 percent more than what former President Barack Obama had sought in his long-term budget plan.” Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain called the proposal “inadequate” and “dead on arrival.”

In response to criticism from “defense hawks” like McCain and House Armed Services Chairman Mac Thornberry, that the Administration’s proposed increase in defense spending is insufficient to “deliver on the president’s promise to ‘rebuild the military,’” the [Washington Post](#) (5/23, Lamothe) says defense officials said that “they’ve asked for modest growth now and will likely want even more money in 2019.” Acting Pentagon comptroller and chief financial officer John Roth told a news conference, “\$52 billion, I would argue that isn’t chump change. ... That’s a pretty significant increase in the defense budget that we’re requesting here. And we’re not done. We’ll take a look once we have the new defense strategy.”

Roberts, Moran Blast Trump’s Proposed Cuts To Crop Insurance. [McClatchy](#) (5/23, Wise, Lowry) says two of the “most powerful Republican advocates” for farmers in the Senate “slammed” Trump’s proposal “to slash crop insurance, warning those and other budget cuts would badly wound one of the president’s most loyal constituencies.” Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts and Appropriations Committee member Jerry Moran “vowed to fight the president’s plan to cut crop insurance by \$28.5 billion over 10 years.” McClatchy describes Roberts as “visibly annoyed” as he called the cuts “not viable” and “very troubling” for Kansas. However, like a number of other reports this morning, McClatchy adds that it is likely “the cuts won’t ever become law.”

Officials Say Proposal Won’t Impact Those On Track For Public Service Student Loan Forgiveness. The [Washington Post](#) (5/23, Douglas-Gabriel) reports that Education Department officials said Tuesday that the Administration budget’s call to eliminate the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program will not impact “the hundreds of thousands of doctors, lawyers, teachers and social workers on track” to benefit from it. According to the officials, the proposal “would only affect people entering college or continuing on to graduate school after July 1, 2018.”

Plan Could Set Stage For Work Requirements For Housing Subsidies. The [Washington Post](#) (5/23, Jan) says Trump’s budget would make “the most dramatic cuts to the Department of

Housing and Urban Development since President Ronald Reagan slashed the agency's funding in the early 1980s and leaves a wide opening for introducing work requirements for people who receive federal housing subsidies." According to the proposal, by 2019, HUD "plans to present more comprehensive changes that include a 'a path for work-able families to move toward self-sufficiency.'" However, the plan "does not offer further details about how work requirements, which would require statutory change, would be introduced."

Budget Would Cut \$3.1 Billion From Energy Research. The [New York Times](#) (5/23, Plumer, Davenport) reports that according to the plan, \$36 billion will be raised over the next 10 years "by selling off major American energy resources and infrastructure, opening up vast new areas of public land for oil and gas drilling, and redirecting state revenues from oil and gas royalties back to Washington." Meanwhile, it "would cut \$3.1 billion from energy research programs at the Energy Department, an 18 percent reduction from last year's spending." Critics argue that such cuts "could imperil American leadership in cutting-edge clean energy industries." The Times says that while Congress is "highly unlikely" to approve the cuts, "the document lays down a detailed marker of the administration's energy philosophy."

Meanwhile, the [Washington Post](#) (5/23, Mooney) highlights what it calls "an extremely deep cut aimed at the government's leading clean energy research office." The plan provides "just \$636 million in new funding in 2018" for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, marking a 69 percent decline from the \$2.069 billion allocated in 2017. [Bloomberg News](#) (5/23, Habboush) reports that the International Renewable Energy Agency's annual report on the industry says renewable energy "employed 9.8 million people last year, up 1.1 percent from 2015, led by solar photovoltaic at 3.09 million jobs."

Media Analyses: Trump's Growth Predictions Are Unrealistic. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/23, Furman), Jason Furman, a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, and a former chairman of the White House Council of Economic Advisers, argues that Trump's budget makes unrealistically optimistic predictions about economic growth. The plan, he writes, assumes long-term growth of 3 percent, which is a percentage point higher than professional forecasters and 1.1 percentage points higher than the CBO forecast.

An analysis in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/23, Ip) says that while the Administration sets a goal of 3 percent economic growth, it does not offer a plan to get there, while the [New York Times](#) (5/23, Appelbaum) says in its own analysis that while the White House is "projecting faster economic growth as a consequence of tax cuts," it is not "projecting the cost of those tax cuts: that is, the loss in tax revenue."

Trump Budget's Paid Medical Leave Proposal Debated. A [USA Today](#) (5/23) editorial argues that a proposal "for paid medical leave of up to six weeks" is "one of the better new ideas in the Trump budget." It is, USA Today argues, "the germ of a good idea amid an epidemic of bad ones." In an accompanying [USA Today](#) (5/23, Somin) op-ed, Ilya Somin is professor of law at George Mason University, argues that despite the "superficial appeal" of the leave proposal, it is "likely to harm families more than it helps." Mandatory paid leave, Somin writes, "must somehow be paid for" and "potential beneficiaries are likely to end up with lower salaries, fewer benefits of other types, or both."

Trump: Manchester Attackers Are "Evil Losers In Life."

President Trump's characterization of the Manchester attackers as "evil losers" during comments in Bethlehem received ample media attention, although it was generally covered as a subtopic within the story about Britain raising its terror threat level. The [Washington Post](#) (5/23, Borchers) reports Trump "appeared to be going for impact" when he spoke about the attackers, while [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/23, story 5, 1:15, Muir) showed Trump saying the attackers were "evil losers" and the [CBS Evening News](#) (5/23, story 4, 0:55, Pelley) noting that he "won't call them monsters because they would like that term. They would think that's a great name. I will call them from now on losers because that's what they are. They're losers. And we'll have more of them. But they're losers, just remember that."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (5/23, story 3, 1:35, Holt) reported Trump "linked the fight against terror to Middle East peace." Trump was shown saying, "Peace can never take root in an environment where violence is tolerated, funded and even rewarded." Jim Acosta reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/23) "took notice of the timing of his remarks that were to jump start Middle East peace talks." Trump said, "It's interesting that our meeting took place on this morning of horrible death to young people. This wicked ideology must be obliterated, and I mean completely obliterated, and the innocent life must be protected. All innocent lives."

Jeff Zeleny reported at [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/23) that fighting extremism was "already

the key focus of the President's first trip abroad" and was made "even more urgent in the aftermath in the attack in England." Zeleny said the President's words are coming far faster than his policies to combat terror and "he has yet to unveil his plans to fight the Islamic State which claimed responsible for Manchester attack."

Acosta also reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/23) that the President also [tweeted](#), "We stand in absolute solidarity with the people of the United Kingdom." Meanwhile, John Roberts said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (5/23) that the Manchester bombing is "certain to change the tone of the President's last two stops on this nine-day trip" and "may give a tough talking President new leverage to seek some of the reforms on security and trade that he's really after."

Deputy Assistant to the President Sebastian Gorka noted on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (5/23) that Trump called terrorists "evil losers," and added, "Why? This is a war with evil. These people aren't unemployed or suffering political disenfranchisement. This is evil walking the earth that must be obliterated. Secondly, he said they are not going to call them monsters. Monsters are frightening. These people are cowards. Nothing less. Evil cowards. As the President said, they will be obliterated."

NYPost Analysis: Trump's Comments "Shot Down As 'Playground' Talk On Twitter." The [New York Post](#) (5/23, Fonrouge) reports President Trump's "decision to call the terrorists responsible for the deadly Manchester attack 'evil losers' has been shot down as 'playground' talk on Twitter." The Post says individuals "across the world collectively rolled their eyes at Trump when he announced he wouldn't be calling the terrorists responsible for killing 22 people at an Ariana Grande concert 'monsters' and instead opted for the more schoolyard-appropriate rebuke."

Sen. Murphy: "Many Of Us Are Worried" Administration's "Rhetoric" Could Lead To Attack In US. [Breitbart](#) (5/23, Hanchett) reports Sen. Chris Murphy said on CNN's "Situation Room" that "many of us are worried about some of the rhetoric of the Trump administration, because we worry that that combined with robust online recruitment might end up in an attack like this happening in the United States."

Robbins: Trump Right About Fight Against Terrorism Being "Battle Between Good And Evil." In a [USA Today](#) (5/23, Robbins) op-ed, James Robbins – a former special assistant to the secretary of defense – says the Manchester attack shows Trump is correct that the fight against terrorism is "a battle between good and evil." Robbins says the "insidious" attack "sought to maximize human carnage" and "targeted young people who would have no inkling of what he was up to as he mingled among them."

British Authorities Say Another Terror Attack Could Be "Imminent."

Britain on Tuesday raised its terror threat from "severe" to "critical," which means an attack could be imminent. Coverage highlights the British government's decision to raise the threat level, while spending comparably little attention on the identity of the attacker, Salman Abedi, and ISIS' claim of responsibility.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/23, Boyle) says the announcement "marks the first time in 10 years that the government has deemed the threat level from international terrorism" to be its highest possible rating. According to the Times, the warning level over the past decade "has shifted between substantial and severe, meaning that at all times officials believed that an attack was at least a 'strong possibility.'"

[Bloomberg News](#) (5/22, Penny, Ross) reports British Prime Minister Theresa May – who announced the decision after meeting with top security officials, said intelligence analysts' decision to raise the threat level "means that their assessment is not only that an attack remains highly likely but that a further attack may be imminent."

[BBC News \(UK\)](#) (5/23) reports May indicated the decision came after authorities were unable to determine if Abedi acted alone in carrying out the attack. May said, according to the [New York Times](#) (5/23, Yeginsu, Erlanger), "it is a possibility we cannot ignore that there is a wider group of individuals linked to this attack."

The [New York Post](#) (5/23, Perez) reports thousands of armed military personnel are being moved throughout Britain to support and replace local officers, as part of a "well-established plan known as 'Operation Temperer.'" [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/23, lead story, 3:50, Muir) reported that "up to 5,000 military troops will now be deployed at key sites and on the streets of Britain, a striking sight in a country where ordinary policemen don't carry firearms. Those troops will free up police resources to go on the hunt for more suspects." The [AP](#) (5/23) says armed soldiers could be used instead of police to secure public events. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/23, A1, Kantchev, Bird, Gauthier-Villars) quotes May as saying, "Members of the armed forces deployed in this way will be under the command of police officers."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/23, lead story, 4:15, Pelley) said a “major anti-terror investigation is now trying to determine whether” Abedi “acted alone, as the police first said, or whether he had help in planning his attack and building his bomb.” The [Washington Post](#) (5/23, A1, Witte, Adam) similarly reports Greater Manchester Chief Constable Ian Hopkins said law enforcement’s top priority is to “establish whether [Abedi] was acting alone or as part of a network.” Hopkins said Abedi executed the bombing alone and “was carrying an improvised explosive device, which he detonated, causing this atrocity.” However, the Post adds that experts indicated “it was unlikely that Monday’s attack had been carried out without help.”

Richard Engel reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/23, story 2, 3:10, Holt) US intelligence officials said Abedi “likely received training abroad by a terrorist group, but his allegiances are unclear.” Engel added that a US intelligence official says there “is a concern that he was part of a cell, a cell that still could be planning more attacks.”

Brian Ross reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/23, story 2, 2:20, Muir) that Abedi “was once one of the 500 young men known to British authorities as possible terrorists,” but the government did not consider him an imminent threat. However, Brian Todd reported on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (5/23) that “a British counterterrorism official says so far authorities there have discovered no evidence of a link between suspected attacker Salman Abedi and an established terror group.”

Authorities Probing Whether Bomber Was Trained In Libya, Syria. [The Times \(UK\)](#) (5/24, Swerling, Hamilton, Haynes, Keate) reports Abedi “had recently returned from Libya” and [Fox News](#) (5/23) says on its website that “investigators are attempting to learn whether the university dropout attended a terrorist training camp” there. The [Telegraph \(UK\)](#) (5/23, Malnick) reports Abedi “had links to fellow Libyan terrorist, Abdalraouf Abdallah and his brother Mohammed.” The Telegraph adds that security services are looking into whether Abedi “is part of a network which has links to Mohamed Abrini.”

[The Sun \(UK\)](#) (5/23, Wells, Sullivan, Dale, Reilly, Sales, Diaz) reports it can “reveal” the “sick terrorist” Abedi “had secret jihadi training during family trips to Syria.” The Sun adds that while the “monster” was born and grew up in Britain, Abedi’s family was from Libya and visited the country “regularly in recent years.” According to the Sun, “sources said there were fears Abedi may have taken advantage of the conflict to make the simple journey across the Med to Syria without alerting the British authorities.”

[Reuters](#) (5/22, Super) reports May said that while “all acts of terrorism are cowardly,” the Manchester attack “stands out for its appalling sickening cowardice, deliberately targeting innocent, defenseless children and young people who should have been enjoying one of the most memorable nights of their lives.”

WPost Analysis: Attack May Have Targeted Women. The [Washington Post](#) (5/23, McAuley) reports that if ISIS carried out the attack, the “targeting of women” – at a concert “meant to celebrate female empowerment” and in which many victims “were young British women” – “could have been intentional.” Ariana Grande, the Post says, is a “self-styled ‘dangerous woman’” who is “famous for lyrics that seek to champion female power and routines that exalt the female body.” The Post says “many of the women” attending the vigil for victims on Tuesday saw “the attack on the concert was an attack on women.”

Police Constable Asks For “Patience And Calm.” [USA Today](#) (5/23, Hjelmggaard) reports Hopkins, during a vigil for the victims of the bombing, “asked for patience and calm in the ethnically diverse city of more than 500,000.” Hopkins said, “We understand that feelings are very raw right now and people are bound to be looking for answers.” Hopkins added, “However, now, more than ever, it is vital that our diverse communities in Greater Manchester stand together and do not tolerate hate.”

US Cities Also Concerned About Attacks On “Soft Targets.” Tom Costello reported at [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/23, story 6, 2:10, Holt) that terrorists are increasingly attacking “soft targets.” Costello said that “today, with US police increasing their visibility in cities across the country, concern about the 32 million people who will attend music festivals this summer.” He said “medical teams are teaching ‘stop the bleed’ courses, so everyday Americans nationwide can learn to save lives in a terror attack.” DC Police Chief Peter Newsham said that regardless of how far back you move perimeters, “crowds are still going to gather at some point. So it gives somebody who is inclined to create a terrorist incident that opportunity to do it.” Meanwhile, “police insist ‘see something, say something’ is often the key to preventing an attack.”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/23, story 4, 1:25, Muir) also reported that “state, federal, and local authorities are now working to identify potentially vulnerable ‘open venues’ here, ranging from sporting events to concerts.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/23, story 3, 2:25, Pelley)

reported that “within minutes of the attack in Manchester, New York City police dispatched heavy weapons teams to high-profile locations like Madison Square Garden. In the Dallas area, police also made a show of force at a John Legend concert.” Former Assistant FBI Director Ron Hosko “says terrorists view people entering and exiting events, from papal masses to hockey games, as easy targets. Typically, security is relaxed when an event ends. You exhale because the event’s over.” Meanwhile, “the FBI has said that terrorist attacks in this country could have been stopped if only someone had reported suspicious activity.”

NYTimes, WPost, USA Today, WSJournal Say Unity, Outreach Key To Combating Terrorism. The [New York Times](#) (5/23) editorializes the “quickest way for open societies to lose the freedoms they enjoy and the Islamic State seeks to destroy would be to whip up divisive ethnic, racist and religious hatreds.” The [Washington Post](#) (5/23) editorializes the “Incomprehensible” and “sickening” attack “should redouble the determination of civilized nations to combat the evil that imbues the Islamic State and its followers.” The Post says the response to the attack by Manchester’s residents “as thousands of people of all races and faiths gathered for a vigil in the city’s Albert Square” is a positive step “focuses on uniting rather than dividing a diverse society.”

[USA Today](#) (5/23) editorializes that law enforcement and community leaders must “make it easy for first- or second-generation immigrants to step forward with their valuable insights about people who’ve become radicalized.” USA Today adds that “inflammatory rhetoric about banning all Muslims, or labeling Islam a hateful religion, only makes this more difficult.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/23) editorializes that integration of Muslim areas is key to overcoming terrorism, saying that governments must work to address the problem within Muslim communities that are isolated from mainstream society.

WTimes Analysis: Attack “Underscores Complaints” Europe Is In “Denial” About “Islamic Terrorism” Threat. The [Washington Times](#) (5/23, Scarborough) reports the “Manchester massacre underscores complaints from counterterrorism analysts that Europe has fallen into denial about the threat of Islamic terrorism.” The Times says this is occurring as Europe “has become home to thousands of migrants from Islamic State-infested Syria and other Muslim-majority countries.”

Ex-CIA Chief Says He Was Concerned About Trump Campaign’s Russian Contacts.

While there were several threads in the ongoing coverage of the investigations into whether President Trump’s campaign colluded with Russian officials, most outlets emphasize former CIA director John Brennan’s testimony before the House Intelligence Committee, in which he said was concerned during the campaign. Another significant thread was the appearance of DNI Coats before the Senate Armed Services Committee, in which he declined to comment on a [Washington Post](#) report that he and NSA Director Rogers were pressured by the President – but did say that he would discuss his conversations with the President with special counsel Robert Mueller’s team if asked.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/23, story 6, 2:05, Muir) reported that Brennan “said associates of the Trump campaign were in touch with the Russians and often, and that it worried him.” ABC’s Mary Bruce: “On Capitol Hill today, blunt talk from the former CIA director.” Brennan: “I encountered, and am aware of, information and intelligence that revealed contacts and interactions between Russian officials and US persons involved in the Trump campaign.” Bruce: “For the first time, John Brennan saying during the campaign, he was concerned about ties between the Russians and the Trump campaign – so much so, he thought the FBI should investigate.” On the [CBS Evening News](#) (5/23, story 5, 3:20, Pelley), Nancy Cordes reported, “By last July, he said, the volume of contacts was large enough to warrant the creation of a working group, made up of agents from the CIA, FBI, and NSA.” Brennan: “Having been involved in many counter-intelligence cases in the past, I know what the Russians try to do. ... Frequently, individuals who go along the treasonous path do not even realize they’re along that path until it gets to be a bit too late.”

Peter Alexander reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/23, story 4, 2:25, Holt) that Brennan “says he never saw proof of collusion.” But [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (5/23) said that while Brennan “stopped short of saying he saw clear evidence that collusion took place between Russia and the Trump campaign, he said he saw a need for serious investigation on whether Russian officials were working on Trump’s behalf wittingly or unwittingly.” [Townhall](#) (5/23, Vespa) reports, “Brennan also said that in terms of hard evidence of collusion, he doesn’t know. What he does know is that there was enough to warrant an inquiry.”

The [New York Times](#) (5/23, Apuzzo) reports that Brennan said that in early August 2016, he warned Alexander Bortnikov, the director of Russia’s Federal Security Service, “not to meddle in the election.” The Times says his “warning proved futile.” [USA Today](#) (5/23, Kelly) reports that

Brennan “declined to identify Trump campaign officials who had contact with Russian officials, saying that the information was classified and had been provided to the committee on a classified basis.” The [Washington Post](#) (5/23, Miller) reports that the FBI investigation “has scrutinized Trump associates including Paul Manafort, Trump’s former campaign manager; Carter Page, who was once listed as a foreign policy adviser to Trump; and former national security adviser Michael Flynn.”

The [AP](#) (5/23, Sullivan, Riechmann) reports that Brennan’s testimony “was the clearest public description yet of the significance these contacts play in counterintelligence investigations that continue to hang over the White House,” and [Politico](#) (5/23, Wright) similarly reports that his remarks “are the most direct acknowledgment yet by a current or former US official that Russia sought to recruit Americans to help in its effort to affect the 2016 contest.”

Rep. Jim Himes (D-CT) said on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (5/23), “I think that my Republican colleague was hoping to get the answer that he had seen no evidence of collusion. To be very careful about what Brennan said, Brennan didn’t give him quite the answer he wanted. He said, ‘I saw contacts that raised some concerns.’”

Rep. Mike McCaul (R-TX) told [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (5/23) that the allegations made by Brennan are serious and need to be investigated. McCaul said that lawmakers were told in October “that the Russians were in fact attempting to influence our elections. Whether they had an impact or not was still unclear at that time. ... But, it was very clear to me that Russian intelligence and military were attempting to influence our elections.”

David Gergen said on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (5/23) that “the Trump people” are “going to push back against Brennan. They’re going to say he’s a lackey of President Obama, he was an Obama appointee, and he was trying to stick it to the President wherever he could today.” Gergen added that Brennan “spent 25 years in the CIA, rode through the ranks of Republican administrations as well as Democratic administrations.”

The [Washington Post](#) (5/23) says in an editorial, “Brennan’s testimony made only more imperative a full investigation of Russia’s election-year hacking, any sort of Trump campaign collusion and any after-the-fact attempt to foil this question-asking. Yet even as the public case for such an investigation continues to strengthen, revelations about Mr. Trump’s apparent attempts to challenge the FBI’s inquiry into these questions continue to roll in.”

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (5/23, Gertz) writes that as CIA director from 2013 until January, “Brennan initiated a number of reforms that critics say have weakened the agency, including weakening the CIA operations directorate, its spying branch, by mixing in analysts with espionage and covert action specialists.” [Reuters](#) (5/23, Zengerle, Chiacu), [McClatchy](#) (5/23, Schofield), the [Washington Times](#) (5/23, Boylan), and [The Hill](#) (5/23, Williams) also cover Brennan’s testimony.

Coats Declines To Comment On Report Of Pressure From Trump. On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/23, story 6, 2:05, Muir), Mary Bruce reported that after the Washington Post reported that Trump “asked two of his top intelligence officials to publicly deny any coordination with the Russians, one of those officials, the Director of National Intelligence, pressed by lawmakers today, would neither confirm nor deny.” Coats: “It’s not appropriate for me to comment publicly on any of that.” Bruce: “For now, the Director isn’t saying anymore.” The [Washington Post](#) (5/23, Nakashima) reports that Coats was asked about the report at a hearing of the Senate Armed Services Committee. He did say that if asked by special counsel Robert Mueller, “he would provide details of his conversation with Trump to Mueller.” Coats said, “I certainly will provide them with what I know and what I don’t know.”

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (5/23, story 5, 3:20, Pelley), Nancy Cordes reported, “CBS News has confirmed that the President asked Coats to push back on the FBI’s Russia investigation. Mr. Trump made the same request of NSA Director Mike Rogers.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/23, Tau, Jamerson) reports that when asked if he had spoken with Rogers about any such request, Coats replied, “That is something that I would like to withhold, that question, at this particular point in time.”

[Politico](#) (5/23, Nelson) reports that Sen. Marco Rubio said Tuesday that if the Post report is accurate, “the scope of problems created would extend far beyond the Russia investigation.” Rubio said on [CNN’s New Day](#) (5/23), “It goes further in my mind, as a member of the Intelligence Committee, than just the focus on the Russia investigation. I think it goes into the very nature of the intelligence community’s work and its ability to work with the executive branch and the presidency.”

Rep. Joaquin Castro (D-TX) said on [CNN’s The Lead](#) (5/23), “If the media reports are true and if the President did what is being reported, then I think there’s a pretty credible case of

obstruction of justice, both in the firing of [ex-FBI Director] Jim Comey and also in...asking members of the intelligence community to say that there was no collusion really without evidence one way or the other."

Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/23) that he would like to have Coats come before the House Intelligence Committee and would like to ask him about conversations with Trump regarding investigations into Russian meddling. He said he'd also like to have Rogers answer similar questions before the committee. Rep. Chris Stewart (R-UT) said on [CNN's New Day](#) (5/23), "It would be troubling for this president or any president to be viewed as interfering or take actions that would be interfering with any investigation and one of the things we would want to understand."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/23, Cloud) and [Washington Times](#) (5/23, Morton) have brief reports.

Senate Intelligence Committee Indicates Flynn Could Be Held In Contempt. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/23, story 4, 2:25, Holt), Peter Alexander reported that the Senate Intelligence Committee is "zeroing in on" Flynn, "ruling out immunity and threatening to hold him in contempt of Congress if he refuses to turn over subpoenaed documents." Senate Intelligence Chairman Richard Burr: "I've said that everything is on the table. That's not our preference today. We would like to hear from Gen. Flynn. We'd like to see his documents." The [Washington Post](#) (5/23, Demirjian) reports that Vice Chairman Mark Warner "said the panel would not specify what measures it would pursue 'before we actually take the ultimate sanctions step' of voting to hold Flynn in contempt." [USA Today](#) (5/23, Johnson, Kelly) says the committee "accelerated its pursuit" of Flynn "issuing two new subpoenas for his business records – and raising the specter" of holding Flynn in contempt of Congress.

Sen. Chris Murphy told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/23) that Burr and Warner "are taking the right steps. They are going to give him another opportunity to do right by this committee and turn over these documents, but they have made it very clear that if he doesn't take this second opportunity, then there's a contempt charge at the end of this."

Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/23) that he doesn't believe Flynn's Fifth Amendment protections extend to his business documents. He said the House Intelligence Committee will "be entertaining the same options in terms of our subpoena which I hope will go out shortly to obtain these documents." He said they would also be open to holding Flynn in contempt and that they are "certainly a long way from making any judgment about" granting Flynn immunity.

Trump Retains Kasowitz As Counsel. The [Washington Post](#) (5/23, Wagner, Parker) reports, "President Trump has retained the services of a trusted lawyer, Marc E. Kasowitz, to help him navigate" the investigations into his campaign. Kasowitz, "who has known Trump for decades, has represented Trump in numerous cases, including on his divorce records, real estate transactions and allegations of fraud at Trump University." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/23, Ballhaus, Bender) reports that two senior White House officials confirmed the hire, though neither the White House nor Kasowitz had any official comment. [The Hill](#) (5/23, Fabian) reports, "It's unclear whether Trump will enlist other lawyers to work with Kasowitz."

Depositions Coming In Dossier Defamation Suit Against BuzzFeed. [McClatchy](#) (5/23, Hall, Gordon) reports that attorneys for Russian technology magnate Aleksej Gubarev, who is suing BuzzFeed for defamation over its publication of "a former British spy's dossier about Russia's alleged scheme" to help Trump win the presidency, "will seek within the next two weeks to take sworn testimony from its editor and several reporters."

Fox News Retracts Seth Rich Report, But Hannity Remains Defiant. The [New York Times](#) (5/23, Victor) reports, "Fox News on Tuesday retracted a May 16 story about the murder" of former Democratic National Committee staff member Seth Rich, "which has stirred conspiracy theories that have been pushed by Sean Hannity." In a statement, Fox News said, "The article was not initially subjected to the high degree of editorial scrutiny we require for all our reporting. Upon appropriate review, the article was found not to meet those standards and has since been removed." The [Washington Post](#) (5/23, Phillips) reports that Fox News and its Washington affiliate "reported last week that Rich had leaked 44,053 DNC emails and 17,761 attachments to a now-deceased WikiLeaks director. The stories immediately gained traction on social media and among conservative news outlets – even as Rich's family rejected the reports."

[The Hill](#) (5/23, Concha) reports that Hannity "ripped his critics and the mainstream media on his nationally syndicated radio program Tuesday, saying, 'I am not Fox.com or FoxNews.com, I retracted nothing.'" He continued, "For those accusing me of pushing a conspiracy theory, you are the biggest phony hypocrites in the entire world." [Deadline Hollywood](#) (5/23, Patten) reports

that Hannity said Monday “that his heart was ‘not troubled in the least’ over reports of FNC staffers being ashamed of his beating of the drum that the 27-year old Rich may have been murdered by potentially politically connected operatives for allegedly communicating with WikiLeaks.”

The Drudge Report links to a [Gateway Pundit](#) (5/23, Hoft) piece stating that hacker Kim Dotcom “admitted on Saturday that he was part of an operation along with Seth Rich to get stolen DNC emails to Wikileaks” and said that “he is willing to come to the US and give testimony if it is required.” In [a statement](#) on his website, Kim Dotcom writes, “I know that Seth Rich was involved in the DNC leak.”

Rich’s parents Mary and Joel Rich write in the [Washington Post](#) (5/23), “Imagine having to face every single day knowing that your son was murdered. ... Imagine that every single day, with every phone call you hope that it’s the police, calling to tell you that there has been a break in the case. Imagine that instead, every call that comes in is a reporter asking what you think of a series of lies or conspiracies about the death. That nightmare is what our family goes through every day.”

Ignatius: 2018 Shaping Up To Be “Impeachment Election.” David Ignatius writes in his [Washington Post](#) (5/23) column, “For all Mueller’s probity, this investigation has an inescapable political destination. Mueller must refer any evidence of wrongdoing by Trump himself to the House of Representatives as evidence of possible ‘high crimes and misdemeanors’ that might warrant impeachment.” Since the “GOP-dominated House” would be unlikely to “begin impeachment proceedings, even on strong evidence of obstruction...the real collision point ahead is the 2018 midterm election. This will be the ‘impeachment election,’ and it may be as bitterly contested as any in decades.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“When Terrorists Target Children.” The [New York Times](#) (5/23) editorializes the “quickest way for open societies to lose the freedoms they enjoy and the Islamic State seeks to destroy would be to whip up divisive ethnic, racist and religious hatreds.”

“Vermont’s D.I.Y. Approach On Marijuana.” The [New York Times](#) (5/24) editorializes, “Vermont is on the verge of becoming the ninth state to legalize the recreational use of marijuana, but, being Vermont, it is taking an earthier, grow-it-yourself approach – one that could become a model for others.” Legislation “that would let people 21 and older keep two flowering and four young marijuana plants at home” and let them “possess up to one ounce of the drug...resembles that of the District of Columbia.” The Times recommends that Gov. Phil Scott “sign this sensible measure.”

Washington Post.

“The Best Response To The Tragedy In Manchester.” The [Washington Post](#) (5/23) editorializes the “Incomprehensible” and “sickening” attack in Manchester “should redouble the determination of civilized nations to combat the evil that imbues the Islamic State and its followers.” The Post says the response to the attack by Manchester’s residents “as thousands of people of all races and faiths gathered for a vigil in the city’s Albert Square” is a positive step “focuses on uniting rather than dividing a diverse society.”

“Trump Pushes The Boundaries On The Russia Probe – Again.” The [Washington Post](#) (5/23) says in an editorial that former CIA Director Brennan’s testimony “made only more imperative a full investigation of Russia’s election-year hacking, any sort of Trump campaign collusion and any after-the-fact attempt to foil this question-asking. Yet even as the public case for such an investigation continues to strengthen, revelations about Mr. Trump’s apparent attempts to challenge the FBI’s inquiry into these questions continue to roll in.”

“Was Maryland Stabbing Death A Hate Crime?” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/23) writes that “answers are needed,” as investigators seek to determine whether race was a motive in the “senseless and horrible tragedy” of the fatal stabbing of Richard Collins – who was black – by Sean Urbanski – who is white. Police have charged Urbanski, a University of Maryland student, with the murder of Collins, also a student, as a “totally unprovoked” attack. The Post finds it important that the FBI has been called in to investigate whether the murder was a hate crime, as Urbanski “appears to have publicly identified with a Facebook group that posts racist material.” The Post concludes that a “continued effort against the bigotry that sadly still divides this

country.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Trump’s Bob Kerrey Budget.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/23) editorial says President Trump’s budget proposal vindicates former Sen. Bob Kerrey, who argued in the 1990s that other programs would eventually feel the pinch if entitlements were not reformed. Like Democrats, the Journal argues, Trump is avoiding Social Security and Medicare and, as a result, every other government priority is left struggling for the remaining funds.

“Ending North Korea’s Cyber Impunity.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/23) points to evidence the cybersecurity firm Symantec released on Monday connecting a North Korean hacking syndicate, the Lazarus Group, to the Wannacry ransomware attack, and says the international community must address Pyongyang’s hackers as a threat just as serious as its nuclear program and missile testing. The Journal warns additional sanctions terminating North Korea’s access to foreign currencies will likely increase hacking efforts, and suggests implementing much tougher sanctions, including those proposed by Rep. Ed Royce, to punish Pyongyang for its criminal activities.

“Jihad In Manchester.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/23) editorializes that integration of Muslim areas is key to overcoming terrorism, saying that governments must work to address the problem within Muslim communities that are isolated from mainstream society.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Ex-CIA Director Brennan Sheds Light On Escalating Russia Probe](#)
[Britain Raises Terror Alert Level After ISIS Claims Deadly Suicide Bombing](#)
[Google Vs. Uber: How One Engineer Sparked A War](#)
[Bipartisan Pushback Greet’s Trump’s Proposed Budget](#)

New York Times:

[Ex-CIA Chief Reveals Mounting Concern Over Trump Campaign And Russia](#)
[Terror Alert In Britain Is Raised To Maximum As ISIS Claims Manchester Attack](#)
[In Manchester, A Loud Bang, Silence, Then Screaming And Blood](#)
[Trump’s Saudi Arabia Trip Figures Into Plan For Palestinian Deal](#)
[Republicans, Pushing Aside Trump’s Budget, Find Few Alternatives](#)
[Malaysian Money. Opulent Ideas. But Now, For Park Lane, A Forced Sale.](#)
[Roger Moore, Who Played James Bond 007 Times, Dies At 89](#)

Washington Post:

[Russia Contacts Alarmed Brennan](#)
[Privatizing Assets To Modernize The Rest](#)
[Steep Budget Cuts Don’t Sit Well With Many In GOP](#)
[Google Data Mine Digs Into Credit-Card Privacy Renewed Privacy Issue Over Google Ad Program](#)
[Britain Raises Threat Level To ‘Critical’](#)
[A Bang, A Brief Silence, Then ‘Absolute Mayhem’](#)

Financial Times:

[UK Raises Terror Threat After Manchester Bombing](#)
[Nigeria’s Chibok Girls Still Waiting To Go Home](#)
[Us Files Fiat Suit Alleging Emissions Violations](#)

Washington Times:

[Europe’s Denial Of Islamic Terrorism Threat Perplexes Security Specialists](#)
[Amid Shock And Grief, Britons Are Told ‘A Further Attack May Be Imminent’](#)
[Brennan: Russia Recruited Americans To ‘Wittingly And Unwittingly’ Influence The 2016 Election](#)
[Trump Requests \\$24.5-Million-Per-Mile Border Wall, U.S. Choice Of Immigrants](#)
[Montana Voters To Send New Lawmaker, Health Care Message To Congress](#)
[Trump Sends Optimistic Budget To Pessimistic Congress](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Manchester Bombing; Manchester Bombing-Suspect; Manchester Bombing-Victims; Manchester Bombing-US Cities Reactions; Manchester Bombing-Trump; Russia Meddling Investigation; Severe Weather; California-Fuel Tank Explosion; Budget Proposal; Roger Moore Dies; Manchester Bombing-Locals Help.

CBS: Manchester Bombing; Manchester Bombing-Locals Help; Manchester Bombing-US Cities Reactions; Manchester Bombing-Trump; Russia Meddling Investigation; Alcohol-Breast Cancer; Univ of Maryland Murder; Dina Merrill Dies; Roger Moore Dies; Manchester Bombing-Memorial.

NBC: Manchester Bombing; Manchester Bombing-Suspect; Manchester Bombing-Trump; Russia Meddling Investigation; Budget Proposal; Manchester Bombing-US Cities Reactions; Roger Moore Dies; Alcohol-Breast Cancer; Manchester Bombing-Locals Help.

Network TV At A Glance:

Manchester Bombing – 29 minutes, 25 seconds
Russia Meddling Investigation – 7 minutes, 50 seconds
Manchester Bombing-US Cities Reactions – 6 minutes
Manchester Bombing-Trump – 3 minutes, 45 seconds
Budget Proposal – 2 minutes, 20 seconds
Alcohol-Breast Cancer – 2 minutes, 10 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Russia Meddling Investigation; Trump-Vatican Visit; Manchester Bombing; Newark Airport Temp Closed; Wall Street News.

CBS: Manchester Bombing; Russia Meddling Investigation; Trump-Vatican Visit; Budget Proposal; Newark Airport Temp Closed.

FOX: Manchester Bombing; Budget Proposal.

NPR: Trump-Vatican Visit; Russia Meddling Investigation; Manchester Bombing.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.**White House:**

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in an audience with His Holiness Pope Francis; participates in a bilateral meeting with Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin; tour the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica; participates in a bilateral meeting with President Sergio Mattarella of Italy; participates in a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni of Italy; take an official photo with Their Majesties King Philippe; participates in a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Charles Michel of Belgium.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a listening session with small businesses and job creators in the community in Baton Rouge, LA; delivers remarks at Cajun Industries.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Armed Services subcommittee hearing on a 355-ship U.S. Navy – Seapower Subcommittee hearing on 'Industry Perspectives on Options and Considerations for Achieving a 355 Ship Navy', with testimony from Ingalls Shipbuilding President Brian Cuccias; General Dynamics Executive Vice President for Marine Systems John Casey; and Shipbuilders Council of America President Matthew Paxton Location: Rm 232A, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Vishal Amin to be U.S. Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator; Stephen Elliott Boyd to be Assistant Attorney General for Legislative Affairs; and Lee Francis Cissna to be U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Homeland Security Committee hearing on transnational criminal organizations – Hearing on 'Border Insecurity: The Rise of MS-13 and Other Transnational Criminal Organizations', with testimony from Suffolk County Police Department (NY) Commissioner Timothy Sini; Chelsea Police Department (MA) Criminal Investigative Division Detective Scott Conley; and Montgomery County Police Department (MD) Chief J. Thomas Manger Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

10:30 AM Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on FY'18 U.S. Navy and Marine Corps budgets – Defense Subcommittee hearing 'To review of the President's Fiscal Year 2018

funding request and budget justification for the U.S. Navy and U.S. Marine Corps', with testimony from Acting Secretary of the Navy Sean Stackley; Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson; and U.S. Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert Neller Location: Rm 192, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

11:00 AM Republican Sen. James Lankford speaks at Conference on International Religious Persecution Location: Capitol Hill, Washington, DC <http://www.lankford.senate.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/SenatorLankford>

1:00 PM Leadership Conference Education Fund release report on economic security – Leadership Conference Education Fund release 'In Their Own Words: Working People and the Need for Policies that Provide Economic Security' report, reviewing and calling for policy initiatives in 'six areas critical to the life of every American worker: higher wages, affordable family leave, paid sick days, fair scheduling, access to health care, and basic living standards'. Speakers include The Education Fund Executive Vice President and Director of Public Policy Nancy Zirkin, democrats Sen. Patty Murray and Reps. Bobby Scott and Rosa DeLauro, The Education Fund Director of Human Rights Policy June Zeitlin, Family Values @ Work Co-Executive Director Wendy Chun-Hoon, National Council on Disability Executive Director Rebecca Cokley, National Women's Law Center Federal Reproductive Rights and Health Director Janel George, Mothering Justice Director of Action and Organizing Staci Lowry and Labor Council for Latin American Advancement Director of gender equality Monica Ramirez Location: SVC-210, Capitol Visitors Center, Washington, DC www.civilrights.org <https://twitter.com/civilrightsorg>

2:15 PM Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee second hearing on U.S. leadership in the Asia-Pacific – East Asia, The Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy Subcommittee hearing on 'American Leadership in the Asia-Pacific, Part 2: Economic Issues', with testimony from U.S. Chamber of Commerce Senior Vice President For Asia Tami Overby; and University of Maryland School of Public Policy Professor and Dean Dr Robert Orr Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on a committee print of 'S.1094 – Department of Veterans Affairs Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017' Location: Rm 418, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/VACHair>

2:30 PM Senate Judiciary subcommittee hearing on 'law enforcement access to data stored across borders' – Crime and Terrorism Subcommittee hearing on 'Law Enforcement Access to Data Stored Across Borders: Facilitating Cooperation and Protecting Rights', with testimony from Deputy Assistant Attorney General for the National Security Division Brad Wiegmann; UK Deputy National Security Advisor Paddy McGuinness; Microsoft Corporation Chief Legal Officer Brad Smith; American University Washington College of Law Associate Professor Jennifer Daskal; and Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General Digital Evidence Laboratory Director Christopher Kelly * Rescheduled from 10 May Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Armed Services subcommittee hearing on DOE atomic energy defense activities and programs – Strategic Forces Subcommittee hearing on 'Department of Energy Atomic Energy Defense Activities and Programs', with testimony from Under Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Security Frank Klotz, and Acting Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management Susan Cange; National Nuclear Security Administration Deputy Administrator for Naval Reactors Adm. James Caldwell, Jr.; and Government Accountability Office Director of Natural Resources and Environment David Trimble Location: Rm G50, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://armed-services.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

2:30 PM Senate Commerce subcommittee hearing on 10 years of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act – Consumer Protection, Product Safety, Insurance, and Data Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Pool Safety: The Tenth Anniversary of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act', with testimony from Nancy Baker – mother of Virginia Graeme Baker; ZAC Foundation co-founder Karen Cohn; Association of Pool & Spa Professionals President and CEO Rich Gottwald; and American Red Cross Director of Aquatics Centennial Initiatives Connie Harvey Location: Rm 253, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov>

Annual Foster Youth Shadow Day – Annual Foster Youth Shadow Day, with 100 former foster youth – wearing teal sashes to represent National Foster Care Month – visiting their Members of Congress to learn how bills become laws and share their experiences in the nation's child welfare system Location: Capitol Hill, Washington, DC fosteryouthcaucus-

karenbass.house.gov

US House: 9:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee oversight hearing on 'federal natural resources laws gone astray' – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'Examining Impacts of Federal Natural Resources Laws Gone Astray', with testimony from DC Cattle Company owner David Cook; Napa County, CA, Supervisor Diane Dillon; Washington County, UT, Deputy Attorney Celeste Maloy; and Nageezi, NM, Chapter House Member Kendra Pinto Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

9:30 AM Hearing on 'Oversight of the FBI's Independence' Location: Rm 2154, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

9:30 AM OMB Director Mulvaney testifies to House Budget Committee – Hearing on 'The President's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget', with testimony from Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney Location: Rm 1334, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://budget.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/housebudgetGOP>

9:45 AM MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE ON MEDICARE FOR ALL LEGISLATION – Participants: Congressman John Conyers, Jr., Dean of the U.S. House of Representatives; Congressman Keith Ellison, Congressional Progressive Caucus Co-Chair; Congressman Ro Khanna; Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee; Congresswoman Bonnie Watson Coleman; Congressman Jamie Raskin; Congressman Adriano Espaillat; Congressman Peter Welch; Dr. Philip Verhoef, Assistant Professor of Medicine and Pediatrics, ICU physician, University of Chicago; Jean Ross, RN., Co-President, National Nurses United; Additional Members of Congress. Media RSVP to Shadawn.reddick-smith@mail.house.gov Location: House Triangle, near the corner of New Jersey Ave. and Independence Ave.

10:00 AM Dem Rep. Grace Meng holds panel discussion on menstrual hygiene policies – Democratic Rep. Grace Meng holds panel discussion on 'how current menstrual hygiene policies at the local, state, and federal level have negative outcomes for women's health, safety, and wellbeing' and what can be done to address them, featuring Period Equity co-founder Laura Strausfeld, Women's Voices for the Earth (WVFE) Director of Science and Research Alexandra Scranton, Seventh Generation Director of Mission Advocacy and Engagement Ashley Orgain, United Nations Population Fund Washington Office Director Sarah Craven, and Bringing Resources to Aid Women's Shelters (BRAWS) Executive Director Holly Seibold * Held ahead of World Menstrual Hygiene Day (28 May) Location: Rm 2255, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
meng.house.gov <https://twitter.com/RepGraceMeng>

10:00 AM House Judiciary Committee markup hearing continues – Markup hearing continues on 'H.R. 2431, Michael Davis, Jr. and Danny Oliver in Honor of State and Local Law Enforcement Act', 'H.R. 2407, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Reauthorization Act', 'H.R. 2406, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Authorization Act', and 'H.R. XXXX, Secret Service Reauthorization Act' * Began 18 May Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM House Ways and Means Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 2372, VETERAN Act', 'H.R. 2579, Broader Options for Americans Act', and 'H.R. 2581, Verify First Act' Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

10:00 AM House Transportation Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'HR 2518, The Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2017', 'HR 2548, The FEMA Reauthorization Act of 2017', 'HR 2547: a bill to support the Nation's veterans by expanding to all Veterans Administration medical professionals the ability to provide physical examinations on eligible veterans and issue the medical certificates required for the operation of a commercial motor vehicle if certain requirements are met', 'HR 1684, the Disaster Support for Communities and Homeowners Act', 'HR 2258, the Active Duty Voluntary Acquisition of Necessary Credentials for Employment (ADVANCE) Act', and 'HR 2593, The Federal Maritime Commission Authorization Act of 2017' Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM House Science subcommittees joint hearing on the overhead cost of research – Research and Technology Subcommittee and Oversight Subcommittee joint hearing on 'Examining the Overhead Cost of Research', with testimony from National Science Foundation Institution and Award Support Division Director Dale Bell; Government Accountability Office Director of Natural Resources and Environment John Neumann; Duke University Associate Vice President of Finance and Compliance Officer James Luther; and Ohio University Department of Economics Distinguished Professor Emeritus Dr Richard Vedder Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM Agriculture Secretary Perdue testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee on budget – Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee ‘Budget Hearing – USDA Office of the Secretary’, with testimony from Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue; and U.S. Department of Agriculture Chief Economist Dr Robert Johansson, and Budget Officer Michael Young Location: Rm 2362-A, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on National Guard and reserves – Defense Subcommittee ‘National Guard and Reserve Hearing’, with testimony from National Guard Bureau’s Gen. Joseph Lengyel; Army Reserve Chief Lt. Gen. Charles Luckey; Navy Reserve Chief Vice Adm. Luke McCollum; Marine Corps Forces Reserve Commander Lt. Gen. Rex McMillian; and Air Force Reserve Chief Lt. Gen. Maryanne Miller Location: H-140, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on the GSA – Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee hearing on ‘General Services Administration’, with testimony from GSA Administrator Tim Horne Location: H-310, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM POSTPONED: Transportation Secretary Chao testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing – POSTPONED: Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee ‘Department of Transportation Budget Hearing’, with testimony from Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao Location: Rm 2358-A, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:30 AM VA Secretary Shulkin testifies on FY’18 budget at House Veterans Affairs Committee hearing – Hearing on ‘U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2018’, with testimony from Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin, Acting Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology Rob Thomas, and Acting Assistant Secretary for Management and Department of Veterans Affairs CFO Edward Murray; Veterans Health Administration CFO Mark Yow; Veterans Benefits Administration Acting Principal Deputy Under Secretary James Manker; and National Cemetery Administration Deputy Under Secretary for Finance and Planning and CFO Matthew Sullivan + written statements from Disabled American Veterans; Paralyzed Veterans of America; The American Legion; and Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

10:30 AM House Education Committee hearing on ‘empowering students and families to make informed decisions on higher education’ – Hearing on ‘Empowering Students and Families to Make Informed Decisions on Higher Education’, with testimony from American Institutes for Research Vice President Dr Mark Schneider; American Enterprise Institute Resident Fellow Jason Delisle; Institute for Higher Education Policy Vice President of Policy Research Mamie Voight; and Pepperdine University President and CEO Andrew Benton Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

11:00 AM Education Secretary DeVos testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee hearing – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee ‘Department of Education Budget Hearing’, with testimony from Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos Location: Rm 2358-C, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

11:00 AM Architect of the Capitol testifies to House Administration Committee – Hearing on ‘Oversight of the Architect of the Capitol’s Office of Inspector General’, with testimony from Architect of the Capitol Stephen Ayers, and Inspector General Christopher Failla; and Government Accountability Office Director of Financial Management and Assurance Beryl Davis Location: Rm 1310, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://cha.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAdmnGOP>

12:00 PM House expected to vote on Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act – Houses meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of ‘H.R. 953 – Reducing Regulatory Burdens Act of 2017’, beginning consideration of ‘H.R. 1973 – Protecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse Act’ and ‘H.R. 1761 – Protecting Against Child Exploitation Act of 2017’, and consideration of legislation under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

1:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee markup hearing – Western Hemisphere Subcommittee markup hearing on ‘H. Res. 201, Expressing support to the Government of Argentina for its investigation into the terrorist bombing of the Embassy of Israel in Buenos Aires on March 17, 1992’, ‘H. Res. 259, Expressing concern and condemnation over the political, economic, social, and humanitarian crisis in Venezuela’, ‘H. Res. 336, Reaffirming a strong

commitment to the United States – Mexico Partnership’, and ‘H.R. 1918, Nicaragua Investment Conditionality Act of 2017’ Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

1:00 PM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on Indian Health Service budget – Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee ‘Budget Hearing – Indian Health Service’, with testimony from Indian Health Service Acting Director Rear Adm. Chris Buchanan, Acting Chief Medical Officer Capt. Michael Troedt, and Acting Office of Finance and Accounting Director Ann Church Location: Rm 2007, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

1:30 PM Bipartisan Reps. Walter Jones, John Garamendi, and John Duncan call for debate on war in Afghanistan – Republican Reps. Walter Jones and John Duncan, and Democratic Rep. John Garamendi hold press conference regarding ‘H.R. 1666, to prohibit funds for activities in Afghanistan, and discuss the ‘necessity to debate the 16 year war in Afghanistan’ Location: House Triangle, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC jones.house.gov <https://twitter.com/repwalterjones>

1:30 PM Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on religious freedom – Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on ‘Freedom of Belief: Countering Religious Violence’, with witnesses – U.S. Committee on International Religious Freedom Chair Rev. Thomas Reese, Pew Research Center Director of Religion Research Alan Cooperman, Princeton University Professor of Jurisprudence Robert George, and Center for Global Policy Senior Analyst Dr Kamran Bokhari – presenting testimony informed by their work on freedom of belief, and discussing ‘which policies are effective and which need to be reevaluated’ Location: Rm 2255, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://tlhrc.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/TLHRCommission>

2:00 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee legislative hearing on a discussion draft of ‘H.R. XXXX. Community Reclamation Partnerships Act’, with testimony from Pennsylvania Deputy Secretary of Environmental Protection for Active and Abandoned Mine Operations John Stefanko (on behalf of Interstate Mining Compact Commission, and National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs); Trout Unlimited President/CEO Chris Wood; and Appalachian Voices Senior Legislative Representative Thom Kay Location: Rm 1324, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

2:00 PM House Appropriations subcommittee oversight hearing on ‘high-risk American Indian and Alaska Native programs’ – Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee oversight hearing on ‘High-Risk American Indian and Alaska Native Programs (Education, Healthcare, Energy)’, with testimony from Government Accountability Office Education, Workforce and Income Security Team Director Melissa Emrey-Arras, Health Care Team Director Kathleen King, and Natural Resources and Environment Team Director Frank Rusco Location: Rm 2007, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

2:00 PM Treasury Secretary Mnuchin testifies to House Ways and Means Committee on FY’18 budget – House Committee on Ways and Means hearing on President Donald Trump’s fiscal year 2018 budget proposals for the Department of Treasury, with testimony from Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

2:00 PM House Veterans’ Affairs subcommittee hearing on VA financial management – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on ‘VA Financial Management’, with testimony from Deputy Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Finance Laurie Park; Veterans Benefits Administration Acting Deputy CFO Mitchel Sturm; Government Accountability Office Director of Financial Management and Assurance Beryl Davis; Department of Veterans Affairs Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations Nick Dahl, and Office of Inspector General Financial Audit Division Director Sue Schwendiman; and The American Legion Pension Maintenance Center and Debt Management Team Leader Julie Larsen Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

2:00 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on Department of the Navy FY’18 budget – Seapower and Projection Forces Subcommittee hearing on ‘Department of the Navy FY 2018 Budget Request for Seapower and Projection Forces’, with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition Allison Stiller; U.S. Marine Corps Deputy Commandant for Combat Development and Integration Lt. Gen. Robert Walsh; and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Integration of Capabilities and Resources Vice Adm. William Lescher Location: Rm 2212, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on Iran – Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade Subcommittee hearing on ‘Nuclear Deal Fallout: The Global Threat of Iran’, with testimony from American Foreign Policy Council Senior Vice President Ilan Berman; Council on Foreign Relations Senior Fellow for Middle East Studies Dr Ray Takeyh; and Brookings Institution Center for Middle East Policy Senior Fellow Dr Daniel Byman Location: Rm 2172, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

2:00 PM House Oversight subcommittees joint hearing on ‘Sue and Settle’ agreements – Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee and Interior, Energy, and Environment Subcommittee joint hearing on ‘Sue and Settle’ Agreements: Part I’, with testimony from U.S. Chamber of Commerce Senior Vice President of Environment, Technology and Regulatory Affairs William Kovacs; Simplot Livestock Company’s Darcy Helmick; Holsinger Law’s Kent Holsinger; and environmental and natural resources law professor Justin Pidot Location: Rm 2154, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

3:00 PM DHS Secretary Kelly testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee on budget – Homeland Security Subcommittee hearing on ‘The DHS FY 18 Budget Request’, with testimony from Secretary of Homeland Security John Kelly Location: Rm 2358-A, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

3:30 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on ground force modernization – Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee hearing on ‘Ground Force Modernization Budget Request’, with testimony from Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology’s Military Deputy Lt. Gen. Paul Ostrowski; U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Staff (G-8) Lt. Gen. John Murray; and U.S. Marine Corps Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources Lt. Gen. Gary Thomas, and Marine Corps Systems Command Commanding General Brig. Gen. Joe Shrader Location: Rm 2118, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HASCRpublicans>

3:30 PM House Dem Financial Services Committee members host roundtable on community development programs – House Committee on Financial Services Ranking Member Maxine Waters and fellow Democratic members Dan Kildee and Emanuel Cleaver host roundtable discussion on ‘how the administration’s proposed elimination of the Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) programs would create suffering for whole communities, increase poverty, hunger, and homelessness, and reduce affordable housing and economic development opportunities across the country’, featuring Gary, IN, Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson, Marion, VA, Mayor David Helms, Allentown, PA, Mayor Ed Pawlowski, Orange County, NC, Commissioner Renee Price, Abode Communities President and CEO Robin Hughes, National Community Development Association President Bonnie Moore, Council of State Community Development Agencies Director Bill Shelton, and N Street Village Executive Director Schroeder Stribling Location: HVC-215, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC democrats-financialservices.house.gov <https://twitter.com/FSCDem>

House Oversight Committee deadline for FBI to provide any memos made by former Director James Comey – Deadline set by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform for the FBI to provide the committee with all memoranda, notes, summaries, and recordings relating to any communications between former FBI Director James Comey and President Donald Trump * Request followed a New York Times report that said then-Director Comey memorialized the content of phone calls and meetings with President Trump, including one in which the president reportedly referenced the agency’s investigation of former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn and said ‘I hope you can let this go’, which the committee said raises questions over whether the president attempted to influence or impede the investigation * President Trump suddenly fired Director Comey earlier this month, with subsequent reports attributing it to either the latter’s handling of a probe into former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton’s use of a private email server or of a probe into possible links between Russia and the Trump campaign Location: TBD <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

Annual Foster Youth Shadow Day – Annual Foster Youth Shadow Day, with 100 former foster youth – wearing teal sashes to represent National Foster Care Month – visiting their Members of Congress to learn how bills become laws and share their experiences in the nation’s child welfare system Location: Capitol Hill, Washington, DC fosteryouthcaucus-karenbass.house.gov

Other: 10:30 AM FDIC chair announces Q1 2017 bank and thrift industry earnings – Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Chairman Martin Gruenberg announces Quarterly Banking Profile data for Q1 2017 via press briefing, including discussion of industry earnings Location: FDIC, 550 17th Street NW, Washington, DC www.fdic.gov <https://twitter.com/FDICgov>

12:00 PM Dem Sen. Chris Coons speaks on ‘voting rights in the Trump era’ – Democratic

Sen. Chris Coons delivers remarks and participates in a Q&A about 'voting rights in the Trump era,' at an event hosted by the Brennan Center for Justice at the National Press Club Location: National Press Club DC, 529 14th St, NW, Washington, DC coons.senate.gov
<https://twitter.com/SenCoonsOffice>

2:00 PM DoJ National Missing Children's Day commemoration – Department of Justice annual National Missing Children's Day commemoration, with Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein presenting awards honoring two law enforcement officers, two Internet Crimes Against Children task forces and a private citizen for their efforts to recover missing and abducted children and investigate cases of child sexual exploitation and child pornography Location: Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, DC <http://www.usdoj.gov>
<https://twitter.com/TheJusticeDept>

5:30 PM Jewish Primary Day School of the Nation's Capital Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Lecture, with speaker Republican Sen. John McCain Location: Sixth and I Historic Synagogue, 600 I St NW, Washington, DC www.jpds.org

CBO releases cost estimate for House-passed American Health Care Act – Congressional Budget Office releases cost estimate for 'H.R. 1628 – American Health Care Act of 2017', which passed the House of Representatives on 4 May * House Republicans were criticized for passing the bill – their legislation to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act – before the CBO could prepare a cost estimate * Republicans in the Senate have indicated that they will draft their own version of the legislation rather than taking up the House-passed version Location: TBD
www.cbo.gov/ <https://twitter.com/USCBO>

Organic Trade Association Annual Policy Conference continues – Organic Trade Association Annual Policy Conference Day Two, with officials sharing their perspectives on the critical issues confronting U.S. agriculture and its growing organic sector. Speakers include Democratic Reps. Jimmy Panetta, and Tim Ryan, and Republican Rep. John Faso Location: The Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.ota.com <https://twitter.com/OrganicTrade>
#ORGANICWEEKDC

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Trump has a meeting with the Pope tomorrow at the Vatican. And you know he's dreading that. It's like getting called to the principal's office. Only, instead of detention, you go to hell as a result."

Jimmy Kimmel: "The President released his budget today for the upcoming year, and it's exactly what you would guess it would be. It cuts programs for the poor and the elderly to give tax breaks to the rich. It's like Robin Hood if Prince John was the good guy."

Jimmy Kimmel: "According to a report by the Washington Post, the President asked two top intelligence officials to publicly deny evidence of collusion, and also asked them to find ways to get FBI Director James Comey to drop his investigation, just like an innocent person would do."

Stephen Colbert: "Just today, this morning, the Trump Administration unveiled their 2018 budget, titled, 'A New Foundation For American Greatness,' which is just slightly grandiose for a financial document. It's like calling your grocery list 'A Bold Vision For Yogurt And Dog Food.'"

Stephen Colbert: "[Budget Director] Mike Mulvaney told reporters, 'We are no longer going to measure compassion by the number of programs or the number of people on those programs. We are going to measure compassion by the number of people we help get off of those programs.' Yes, it's like the old saying, 'Give a man fish, he eats for a day. Take away his fish, we've got all the fish! Woo-hoo! Fish party!'"

James Corden: "[President Trump] asked the Director of National Intelligence and the head of the NSA to lie for him. What was he thinking? He does realize they're intelligence chiefs, right? Intelligence. It's right there in their titles."

James Corden: "This Russian investigation into Trump is like one of those Russian nesting dolls, except every time you open one, the doll inside is somehow bigger. And instead of it being a doll,

it's a horrible conspiracy concocted by Russian hackers to systematically erode America's democratic freedoms."

James Corden: "Trump is going to visit the Pope tomorrow, and I bet they'll get along because it looks like both of them are living a life of celibacy."

James Corden: "A White House memo contained a typo that said Donald Trump wants to promote 'lasting peach' between Israel and Palestine. I'm surprised they went with a peach. I always thought of Trump as more of an orange guy."

Jimmy Fallon: "Trump just released his new budget proposal. And Bernie Sanders says his cuts to Medicaid are just cruel. Yeah, but Bernie will get his medicine the same way he has always, finding an old pill in his suit pocket."

Jimmy Fallon: "Yesterday, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos said that people who oppose school choice are flat Earthers. She was like, 'Which is ridiculous, because everyone knows the earth is a cube.'"

Seth Meyers: "Former CIA Director John Brennan testified today that there was contact between President Trump's campaign and Russian officials. However, still no contact between Donald and Melania."

Seth Meyers: "President Trump released a 2018 budget plan today, titled 'A New Foundation For American Greatness.' Boy, you can tell that from the name, Trump loves this budget. When he doesn't love something, he'll give it a boring name like 'Eric.'"

Seth Meyers: "President Trump will meet with Pope Francis tomorrow at the Vatican. 'I can't wait to ask him why he wears that ridiculous thing on his head,' said the Pope."

Conan O'Brien: "Donald Trump's budget director said people need to stop taking government money and get a job."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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DOI In The News

New Interior Secretary Ready To Work With Alaska Natives On Sharing Federal Management Duties.

The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (5/30, DeMarban) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "said on Tuesday he would work to give Alaska Natives more opportunities to take over wildlife management and other federal responsibilities." Zinke "said the Interior Department needs to look at more opportunities to 'get government out of the way' and give Alaska Native villages more input into federal decisions affecting their communities."

[KTUU-TV](#) Anchorage, AK (5/30, Carpenter) reports that "Zinke met with more than 40 Alaska Native leaders Tuesday for an hour and a half round table discussion." Zinke said, "Why can't we allow villages to manage their destiny? And that means being an active participant in managing mammal populations, fish populations rather than having sometimes a smaller voice I think maybe they should have the voice."

Additional coverage was provided by [Coastal Television \(AK\)](#) (5/30, Athens), [KTUU-TV Anchorage \(AK\)](#) Anchorage, AK (5/30, Essig), [KTVA-TV Anchorage \(AK\)](#) Anchorage, AK (5/31, Leval), and [KTVF-TV Fairbanks \(AK\)](#) Fairbanks, AK (5/30, Brennen).

U.S. Secretary Of The Interior Ryan Zinke & Senator Lisa Murkowski Conduct Memorial Day Ceremony.

The [Coastal Television \(AK\)](#) (5/30, Athens) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is "conducting an approximated week-long tour around the Arctic Circle to Norway, Greenland and Alaska, spearheaded by U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski." Zinke along with Murkowski and Gov. Bill Walker, "held a Memorial Day Ceremony with Rolling Thunder at Byer's Lake." Zinke will "participate in a variety of events, that includes remarks at AOGA's Annual Conference tomorrow, Wednesday May 31st."

Interior Secretary Zinke Visits Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

[Fox News](#) (5/30) reports on Interior Secretary Zinke's visit to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Zinke spent Memorial Day "sharing war stories with other veterans."

Murkowski Campaign Chief Named To Interior Department Post.

The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (5/30, Martinson) reports that Steve Wackowski, “who led Sen. Lisa Murkowski’s 2016 campaign for re-election, will serve as a senior adviser for Alaska affairs for the Department of Interior, Secretary Ryan Zinke announced Tuesday.” Wackowski will “work for the Interior Department from Anchorage, which marks a shift from the previous administration, when former Alaska adviser Kim Steven Elton worked from Washington, D.C.” Zinke said in a statement, “A lifelong Alaskan and Air Force Major, Steve is perfectly qualified to advise me on Alaskan issues. His broad range of experience will prove to be invaluable as the Department focuses on future energy opportunities in Alaska, the welfare of Alaska Natives, and the vast expanses of lands and waters under Interior’s management.”

Bears Ears Critics’ Numbers Are Misleading: A Look At Early Monument Sizes.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (5/30, Maffly) reports that “Bears Ears National Monument critics routinely point to the sprawling reach of President Barack Obama’s proclamation, taking in the swath of canyon country from the San Juan River north to Indian Creek, as the monument’s chief defect.” However, “to drive that point, monument critics have relied on misleading numbers to back their claim that large monuments fall outside the norm of the 1906 statute, which gave presidents broad authority to set aside public land to protect objects of scientific interest.” The article says that “a comparison of monument designations by Obama and President Theodore Roosevelt show that recent proclamations, on average, are not that much larger than those a century ago, when Congress passed the Antiquities Act, which Roosevelt invoked with great zeal to safeguard the nation’s natural heritage from looters, miners and loggers who were then misappropriating the West’s resources.”

Listen To The Bears Ears And Protect National Treasures. In an op-ed for [USA Today](#) (5/30, Shoff), Emily Brendler Shoff writes about “what it’s actually like to experience” the Bears Ears National Monument. Shoff acknowledges that she is “guilty of favoring wilderness preservation over every other use for land,” but asks, “couldn’t the same be said for those in the opposite camp, who only see land for its profit potential?”

Fishermen Hoping To Reel In Obama-Era Conservation.

The [Boston Herald](#) (5/31, Villani) reports that “New England fishermen are looking for a seat at the table as the Trump administration mulls whether to make any adjustments to an Obama-era marine monument off Cape Cod that has drawn criticism for the potential impact on the fishing industry.” The [New Bedford \(MA\) Standard-Times](#) (5/30, Metzger) reports that on Tuesday, the New England Fisheries Management Council’s Habitat Committee “recommended that the regulatory council provide feedback to the Trump administration” about the designation of the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument. According to the article, “while the committee members did not delve into what the letter should say during Tuesday’s meeting, the council chairman, former Rep. John Quinn, the director of public interest at the UMass School of Law in Dartmouth, made clear he believes the council should have jurisdiction.”

With Coal Leases Back, Enviros Want Appeal Restarted.

[Law360](#) (5/30, Phillis) reports that “two environmental groups have asked the D.C. Circuit to restart their appeal challenging the environmental analysis of the federal coal leasing program, arguing that the U.S. Department of the Interior’s decision to revive the practice made their case relevant again.”

Gazette Opinion: Zinke Must Keep His Park Promises.

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (5/30) editorializes that “we have to go back 130 years to find a threat to national parks more drastic than the 2018 Trump administration budget.” It notes that “earlier this year, before the Senate confirmed” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s appointment, “he wrote a Gazette guest opinion in which he listed three priorities.” However, the paper argues that “the proposed budget cuts are contrary to Zinke’s avowed priorities.” The paper calls on Zinke “to honor his pledge to step up support for our national parks.”

In Our View: Safeguard Monuments.

In an editorial, the [Clark County \(WA\) Columbian](#) (5/30) urges President Trump to “recognize the importance” of public lands and “eschew any desire to remove protections in exchange for the extraction of fossil fuels or the creation of mining activity.” The paper argues that “the monuments are pristine areas that provide numerous recreational opportunities along with a

sense of an America that will outlast us all." It adds that "the benefits of pulling resources out of these areas would provide short-term benefits that enrich the extractors but deliver irreversible damage for the public."

With Trump, A Full-Scale Assault On Protections For U.S.

Public Lands. In an analysis for [Yale University \(CT\) Environment 360](#) (5/30, Robbins), Jim Robbins writes that "while legal experts say that revoking federal protection for...national monuments is unlikely, conservationists, environmentalists, and outdoors enthusiasts warn that the Trump administration and its allies are already moving decisively to make dramatic changes in the federal government's management of public lands." According to Robbins, "these include efforts to slash funds for managing federal lands, cutting budgets for the acquisition of new protected areas, allowing large-scale fossil fuel development on public lands where resource extraction is now prohibited, eliminating citizens groups that advise officials on stewarding federal lands, and considerably weakening the Endangered Species Act, which could lead to more resource extraction and economic activity on public lands."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

County Plans Lawsuit Over Spokane Tribe's Casino In Airway Heights.

The [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (5/30, Sokol) reports that "Spokane County leaders plan to sue the federal government over its role in approving the Spokane Tribe's long-planned \$400 million gaming and retail development on the West Plains." Construction of the Spokane Tribe Economic Project "began last fall after receiving final approval from Gov. Jay Inslee." The year before, the Interior Department "determined the casino would have no negative impact on the surrounding community." The county commissioners "approved a lawsuit against the Interior Department at their Tuesday afternoon meeting."

Feds, Calif. Tribe Push To Nix Suit Over Casino Project.

[Law360](#) (5/30, Lidgett) reports that the Interior Department and the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians have "doubled down on their bids for a quick win in the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians' suit challenging a decision that authorized the North Fork tribe to conduct gaming on an off-reservation site in the same county as the Picayune's casino." The federal government and the North Fork Rancheria "both filed bids Thursday in support of their separate summary judgment motions in California federal court."

Lawmakers Hear Details On Meth Problem During State Meeting.

The [Riverton \(WY\) Ranger](#) (5/30, Silva) reports that the Bureau of Indian Affairs "believes increased incidence of aggravated assault on the Wind River Indian Reservation is tied to a rise in meth use among the community." BIA police chief Will Mathews "provided the information in report on BIA activity to the Select Committee on Tribal Relations meeting May 23 in Lander." He said, "It's a big problem. It's not so much the quantity they're running across, it's the acts of people that are on it."

Bureau Of Indian Education

Native American Education Groups Respond To Proposed Budget Cuts.

[Politico Morning Education](#) (5/30, Wermund) reports that "education advocates for Native American children are protesting Trump proposals to cut the Bureau of Indian Education budget within the Interior Department by 12 percent and to eliminate a combined \$65 million in funding for two Education Department programs that serve Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian students." If those proposals are enacted, the government would be "blatantly disregarding its federal trust responsibilities" and "expressly ensuring that education is no longer a viable path for a better life and a better future for millions of Americans," says Cheryl Crazy Bull, president of the American Indian College Fund.

Bureau Of Land Management

Strong Support For BLM Buying Land On Wyoming Mountain.

The [AP](#) (5/30) reports that “a proposal for the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to buy about 1,800 acres on top of a mountain in northern Wyoming has strong support.” According to the article, “more than a dozen organizations, agencies and individuals – ranging from the Greater Yellowstone Coalition to the Park County Commission – have written letters supporting the proposed federal purchase of the land on Sheep Mountain west of Cody.” But it is uncertain whether the BLM “can come up with the money.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Powell \(WY\) Tribune](#) (5/30, Baker).

BLM To Hold Wyoming Oil And Gas Lease Sale In September.

The [AP](#) (5/30) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is “offering 140 parcels totaling about 118,000 acres in Wyoming for its next oil and gas lease sale.” The sale, which “includes parcels located in Big Horn, Campbell, Converse, Crook, Fremont, Goshen, Johnson, Niobrara, Sheridan, Washakie and Weston counties,” is “scheduled for Sept. 21 and will be conducted online.”

County Commissioners Support BLM Public Land Lease Sales.

[KKCO-TV](#) Grand Junction, CO (5/30, Moore) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is “taking public comment until June 9, before they lease 27,000 acres of Mesa and Garfield counties public land to oil and gas companies.” According to the article, “as the deadline for public comment draws closer, Mesa County Commissioners and environmental groups are butting heads.”

Additional Coverage: Trump’s Proposed Budget Could Threaten An American Icon.

Additional coverage that President Trump’s proposed budget could threaten wild horses was provided by [USA Today](#) (5/30), [Quartz](#) (5/30, Livni), and the [Huffington Post](#) (5/30, Bershadker, Contributor).

Bureau Of Reclamation

Lawsuit From 2001 Klamath Shutoff Draws Many Claims.

The [AP](#) (5/30, Dillemoth) reports that “more than 1,500 claims covering 3,523 parcels and more than 160,000 acres on Klamath Project land are now under review by the United States as part of the class-action lawsuit surrounding the ‘Takings’ case.” According to the article, “the trial’s closing arguments adjourned May 9, roughly three months following a trial that lasted more than a week at the Federal Court of Claims in Washington, D.C.” Local water attorney Bill Ganong, special counsel to the case, said, “That last week, we had a lot of people coming into the office, asking for help or wanting to make sure they had it (Notice of Appearance form) filled out right.” He added, “The turnout demonstrates that a lot of people were hurt and that a lot of land did not get irrigated. If we prevail and if the United States has to pay on a per-acre basis, it’s going to be a significant amount of money.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (5/31, Dillemoth).

Lower Brule Tribe Won’t Be Forced To Pay Back Missing Taxpayer Funds.

The [Sioux Falls \(SD\) Argus Leader](#) (5/30, Ellis) reports that the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe will “not be required to pay back nearly \$1.5 million in missing taxpayer funds, prompting concerns from two members of the state’s congressional delegation and the organization that uncovered widespread financial mismanagement.” The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation “announced that the tribe will only be required to pay back \$54,190.” Michael Ryan, the Bureau of Reclamation’s Great Plains regional director, “said in a press release that the bureau and tribe worked together to reach a number that the tribe would repay.” Ryan said, “Reclamation made a decision after careful review of the facts and findings of the audit, while staying in close coordination with the tribe.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Groups Seek To Block Construction At Former Nuclear Site.

The [Denver Post](#) (5/30, Aguilar) reports groups opposed to public access to Rocky Flats National

Wildlife Refuge are seeking a preliminary injunction “to block construction of a visitor center or trails.” The groups argue more analysis is needed of the environmental risks; the site was used to process “a vast mix of toxic chemical and nuclear substances.”

Alaskan Oil Finds Spur Hopes Arctic Refuge May Hold Large Reserves.

[E&E Publishing](#) (5/30) reports new discoveries on Alaska’s North Slope are reviving hopes that the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge may also house large petroleum reserves. Federal scientists are saying that the Arctic refuge has rock formations that are very similar to the oil finds in northern Alaska. USGS research geologist Dave Houseknecht said the government licensed two 3D surveys in the Alaska reserve, but that there are no plans to reassess the Arctic refuge because no new well data or seismic studies have been conducted since 1998.

‘Secretive’ Onondaga Lake Plan Needs More Public Input, Group Says.

The [Syracuse \(NY\) Post-Standard](#) (5/30, Coin) reports that “the state and federal governments spent 10 years compiling an Onondaga Lake restoration plan, but the public hasn’t been given a chance to provide meaningful feedback, said a group that sued to help clean up the lake.” Samuel Sage, president of Syracuse-based Atlantic States Legal Foundation, “said the public hasn’t had enough time or opportunities to comment on the plan that seeks to compensate the public for damages caused by decades of industrial pollution.” In a letter to the state Department of Environmental Conservation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Sage wrote, “The public is only just now becoming aware of this process and should be afforded additional time to comment on the record.”

Grizzly Killing Near Missoula Leaves Neighbors Wondering

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (5/30, Chaney) reports that “a black-bear hunter reportedly killed a large grizzly bear in the hills 5 miles northeast of Missoula on May 16, but federal wildlife officials have released few details about the incident.” U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spokesman Ryan Moehring wrote in a press release on Tuesday, “The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in conjunction with its partners at Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks, is actively investigating the self-reported killing of a grizzly bear by a black bear hunter in the Johnson Creek drainage near Bonner.” He added, “This is an active, ongoing investigation and the Service will share more information with the public when the circumstances of the case permit.”

Second Large Release Of Endangered Toads Planned; Unique Species Once Thought Extinct Finds Hope.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (5/30, Peterson) reports that on Wednesday, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, “along with landowners, volunteers and other organizations, plans to release another batch of about 900 toads into the Laramie-region wetlands.” Mindy Meade, wildlife biologist with the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, an arm of the Fish and Wildlife Service, said, “Everything is voluntary. So no one is under any pressure to do anything with regard to our efforts, and so it can be a difficult decision, but it is nothing that we rush on our end.”

Federal Judge Dismisses Remaining Counts In Lawsuit Against Purple Line.

The [Washington Business Journal](#) (5/30, Neibauer) reports that on Tuesday, Judge Richard Leon “dismissed the remaining counts in a lawsuit filed to stop the Purple Line, though his previous ruling ordered that state and federal transit authorities to launch a new ridership study remains in place.” The article explains that the judge’s final order will allow Maryland officials to appeal the judge’s initial ruling. According to the article, the judge’s initial ruling “will force a new study and perhaps a lengthy delay – and maybe the final death blow – to the light-rail project.”

The [WTOP-FM](#) Washington (5/30, Smith) and [Engineering News-Record](#) (5/30, Parsons) also report on the story.

Deadly Bat Fungal Infection Cases Confirmed In Stokes County.

The [Watauga \(NC\) Democrat](#) (5/30, Sherrill) reports that white-nose syndrome, “which was diagnosed in 2006 and first detected in North Carolina in 2011 in Avery County, was documented in winter bat surveys in January and February” by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission and N.C. State Parks in Stokes County. According to the NCWRC, “this is the farthest east that WNS has been documented in North Carolina and the first case in the Piedmont.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Stanly \(NC\) News Press](#) (5/30, Drye).

National Park Service

Gettysburg National Military Park Superintendent Reassigned.

The [Hanover \(PA\) Evening Sun](#) (5/30, Levy) reports that Ed Clark, “the three-year superintendent of the Gettysburg National Military Park has been reassigned, according to a National Park Service official.” Clark was “stationed at the Harper’s Ferry Center in West Virginia as of May 26, said Cinda Waldbuesser, the chief of staff for the northeast regional office of the National Parks Service.” Waldbuesser said, “Regional directors can use their discretion to move staff as needed to ensure National Park Service needs are best met. The acting regional director for the northeast region felt this move was in the best interest of regional and park needs.”

The [Harrisburg \(PA\) Patriot-News](#) (5/30, Vigna) reports that “there was no way to determine whether an ongoing investigation into the park in April by The Office of the Inspector General of the U.S. Department of the Interior had anything to do with Clark’s departure.”

Reward Upped To \$25K For Info About Yellowstone Wolf Death.

The [AP](#) (5/30) reports that Yellowstone National Park is “offering a reward of up to \$25,000 for information about the shooting death of a rare white wolf near Gardiner, Montana.” Park Superintendent Dan Wenk “says due to an outpouring of donations the park established the Yellowstone Resources Rewards Fund.” Any remaining funds will be “used for future resource violation cases in the park.”

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [Philly \(PA\)](#) (5/30), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (5/30), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (5/30), the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (5/30, Press), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (5/30), [Fox News](#) (5/30), and the [Daily Mail](#) (5/30).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Idaho State Journal](#) (5/30) and [KTVH-TV Helena \(MT\)](#) Helena, MT (5/30).

Public Comment Period Extended On Grand Canyon Bison Plan.

The [AP](#) (5/30) reports that the National Park Service has “extended the length of a public comment period on a plan to reduce the number of bison found near the Grand Canyon’s North Rim through lethal and nonlethal means.” Comment will now be received through June 14.

Coverage by the AP was picked up by the [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (5/30), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (5/30), the [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (5/30), the [Stamford \(CT\) Advocate](#) (5/30), the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (5/30), and [KFDA-TV Amarillo \(TX\)](#) Amarillo, TX (5/30).

Additional coverage was provided by [KJZZ-FM Phoenix \(AZ\)](#) Phoenix (5/30).

Crater Lake National Park Low On Water.

[Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (5/30) reports that Crater Lake National Park is “running low on water.” The Klamath Tribes has “placed a water call on the Wood River, the river Annie Creek flows into.” According to the article, “as a temporary solution for the water shortage before the park’s summer tourism season gets underway, park officials are having to truck in water from California.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Salem \(OR\) Statesman Journal](#) (5/30) and the [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (5/31).

Idaho World War II-Era Internment Camp Opens Visitor Center.

The [AP](#) (5/30) reports that a new visitor center has opened at the Minidoka War Relocation Center. Hanako Wakatsuki, chief interpreter for the Minidoka National Historic Site, noted that “the visitor center has on-site staff for the first time since the National Park Service began developing the location.” The article says that visitors can now “take guided tours or walk through the camp on their own.”

Report On Response To Tennessee Wildfires Expected In July.

The [AP](#) (5/31) reports that the National Park Service “says it expects to release a review in mid-to late July of its response to a November wildfire in Great Smoky Mountains National Park that turned deadly.” According to the article, “a seven-member committee began in February to study how the fire was handled.” National Park Service staff is reviewing the report. Committee leader Joe Stutler, “a senior adviser with Deschutes County forestry in Oregon, said the report is meant to be constructive, not punitive.”

Two Of Hawaii’s National Parks Will Increase Admission Fees To \$25.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/30, Jones) reports that Haleakala National Park and Hawaii Volcanoes National Park will “increase fees from \$20 to \$25 per vehicle starting Thursday.” Also, “for pedestrians and bicyclists, the fee will climb from \$10 to \$12.” The article notes that “the increased fees will bring Hawaii’s two national parks in line fee-wise with other parks that provide similar services.”

The Powerful Story Behind Glacier Bay National Park’s New Totem Poles.

[Smithsonian](#) (5/30, Blakemore) reports that “in honor of the Huna Tlingit’s connection to the area, two gigantic totem poles—each weighing 2,000 pounds and rising 20 feet tall—have been erected in Bartlett Cove” at Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. According to the article, “members of the Hoonah Indian Association and national park employees carried the poles to a newly dedicated Huna tribal house by hand, then erected them in a ceremony that included dancing and speeches.” The agency wrote in a press release, “It was clear that a physical manifestation of pride in culture, strengthening connections to homeland, and the success of collaboration, the Eagle and Raven poles now stand tall for all to see.”

Scouts Honor Fallen Veterans.

The [Greeneville \(TN\) Sun](#) (5/30) reports that “Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts from the Nolachuckey District (Greene, Hawkins and Hancock counties) honored fallen veterans by placing American flags on graves at Andrew Johnson National Cemetery in observance of Memorial Day.” According to the article, “over 70 Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, adult leaders, parents, and siblings, working with the National Park Service, placed flags on the over 2,000 graves in the cemetery on Friday.”

The National Park Service Brings Enchantment To Hidden Ranch This Summer.

[KCET-TV](#) Los Angeles (5/30, Hemmerlein) reports that “this summer marks the return of musicians, dancers and bathing beauties to Peter Strauss Ranch as part of the National Park Service’s Arts in the Parks program – one that features free art installations and performances to draw visitors back to this historic site.”

Man Dies After Falling From Top Of Tennessee Waterfall.

The [AP](#) (5/30) reports that the National Park Service “says a 37-year-old man has died after falling from the top of a 100-foot high waterfall in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.” According to officials, “park rangers responded immediately and determined the victim had fallen 80 feet and was deceased.”

Additional Coverage: Christian Geologist Sues Grand Canyon For Religious Discrimination.

Additional coverage that a creationist geologist has filed a lawsuit over the rejection of his Grand Canyon study was provided by [Fox News](#) (5/30), the [New York Post](#) (5/30), and [Rewire](#) (5/30, Littlefield).

Office Of Insular Affairs

Micronesian Starling Nesting Project Hatches Over 200 Successes.

The [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (5/27, Mora) reports on “the culmination of a 15-month effort to increase the population of Micronesian starlings on Guam.” A team of researchers and Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas scientists “began installing nest boxes resistant to brown tree snakes on utility poles on Andersen Air Force Base in November 2015.” According to the article, “a total of 206 starling chicks have grown enough to fly from their nest box homes, the Navy announced in a May 26 press release.”

Don’t Cut Discretionary Funding For Impact Of Regional Migrants.

In an editorial, the [Pacific \(GUM\) Daily News](#) (5/30) criticizes President Trump’s budget proposal for cutting “\$3 million in discretionary funds used to offset the financial impact of regional migrants from the Freely Associated States.” It argues that “rather than cutting support to our community, the federal government should give us more money to provide educational and other services to people from the Freely Associated States.” The paper urges the federal government to “keep its promises to Guam and the region. The Compacts of Free Association benefit the United States, and the United States should pay for the impact of its agreements in the region.”

Top National News

Cohen Refuses Hill Investigators' Request For Information In Russia Probe.

Media reports portray word that President Trump's personal attorney Michael Cohen has become a focus of the congressional investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election as evidence of an expanding probe. The coverage universally reports that Cohen refused a request from investigators to provide information and testimony related to contacts he had with people connected to the Russian government, but several also indicate that subpoenas could be issued to obtain the requested information.

In its lead story, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/30, lead story, 3:10, Muir) reported that Cohen, "a man who knows the deepest secrets, has become a focus of the expanding congressional investigation," and the [Washington Examiner](#) (5/30, Quinn) says Cohen, a "notoriously feisty defender of Trump," is "now one of the people included in the widening congressional probe into Russia's meddling in the 2016 election." [The Hill](#) (5/30, Savransky) cites an NBC News report which said that "the request letters sent to Cohen were the same ones sent to former Trump aides Carter Page, Roger Stone, Paul Manafort and Michael Flynn."

Similarly, [Politico](#) (5/30, Samuelsohn) reports that Cohen "is among a growing list of Trump associates to come under congressional or federal scrutiny." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/30, Bender, Stokols) cites the congressional investigation's expansion to his inner circle as one of the new realities confronting Trump since his return from overseas. [Axios](#) (5/30, Allen) cites "a White House source" who said the President's "skittish staff claims it is rallying around a new mentality: 'It's us against the world.'" This, as "crisis is shifting the power dynamics a bit" and "six people close to Trump...are under the microscope of investigators."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (5/30, story 2, 2:10, Glor) said Cohen "refused to cooperate," and [ABC News](#) (5/30, Ross, Mosk) reports on its website that Cohen said in an email, "I declined the invitation to participate, as the request was poorly phrased, overly broad and not capable of being answered." The [New York Times](#) (5/30, Huetteman) says Cohen's refusal "may prompt lawmakers to issue subpoenas, compelling him to provide documents, testimony or other records."

Rep. Jackie Speier said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (5/30) that "the request has been made and he declined it and in all likelihood there will be subpoenas issued that he'll be compelled to respond to." Speier added that "this is not a fishing expedition. This is furthering our review on whether or not associates of the Trump campaign were in coordination and/or collusion with the Russians who were attempting to turn the election."

Lawmakers Request Information From Epshteyn. In a separate story on its website, [ABC News](#) (5/30, Ross, Mosk, Madden) said that "yet another Trump associate, Boris Epshteyn, has acknowledged that he has received a request for information from lawmakers." Epshteyn "confirmed to ABC News that he has received a lengthy list of questions from the House Intelligence Committee." Epshteyn's lawyer said in a statement that Epshteyn "has received a broad, preliminary request for information from the House Intelligence Committee. This is a voluntary request. Mr. Epshteyn has not been subpoenaed nor do we anticipate that he will be."

Page Seeks To Testify, Citing "False Information" From FBI, CIA. The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/30, Sheppard) reports that in a letter to the House Intelligence Committee on Monday, former Trump adviser Carter Page asked to address the panel directly and "says neither the FBI nor the CIA are telling the truth about his role, which has resulted in an 'ongoing barrage of false information' in the last three months." Page wrote, "I have learned from your Committee staff on this Memorial Day holiday that I might not be immediately afforded the opportunity to address the false or misleading testimony by James Comey, John Brennan, et al. as per our previously scheduled appointment for next week. ... In the interest of finally providing the American people with some accurate information at long last, I hope that we can proceed with this straight dialogue soon."

Comey In Talks With Mueller About Senate Intel Committee Testimony. [USA Today](#) (5/30, Johnson, Kelly) reports that former FBI Director Comey "has started preliminary discussions with special counsel Robert Mueller about his intention to testify before the Senate Intelligence Committee about his communications with the president, as part of the panel's ongoing inquiry into possible collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia, USA TODAY has learned." USA Today cites "a close associate of Comey" who "said Tuesday that Mueller is not expected to block the former director from appearing before the Senate panel," but added that the appearance

"would occur only after Comey is fully debriefed for the federal investigation."

Flynn Agrees To Share Documents With Senate Panel. The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/30, Giaritelli) cites "multiple reports Tuesday evening" which said that former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn "has agreed to share some documents with the Senate Intelligence Committee."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/30, A1, Nissenbaum), meanwhile, reports on its front page that as Flynn was traveling the country on behalf of then-candidate Trump last fall, his firm, the Flynn Intel Group, was producing a documentary for a Turkish businessman who paid the firm \$530,000 to improve Turkey's image in the wake of a failed military coup. That contract, the Journal says, resulted in legal problems for Flynn, who failed to disclose to the federal government until March that his firm was paid to represent Turkish interests.

NYTimes Analysis: Four GOP Senators "Integral" To Senate Intel Committee Probe. In an analysis, the [New York Times](#) (5/30, Hulse) reports that GOP Sens. Susan Collins, James Lankford, Roy Blunt, and Marco Rubio "are emerging as a bloc integral to the Senate Intelligence Committee's investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 presidential election." That panel's investigation "is widely considered the premier inquiry, the one with the necessary jurisdiction and the best chance of producing a credible outcome," and the four senators "loom large as a crucial element in getting there." The Times says they "have made it clear that they are determined to see it through to a conclusion that would satisfy the public and their colleagues in both parties." They have, the Times adds, "quietly coalesced into something of an informal working group within the Intelligence Committee, pushing the investigation forward and consulting not only with each other" and Chairman Richard Burr, but also ranking Democrat Mark Warner.

Senate Democrats Seek To Keep Focus On Trump's White House Meeting With Russian Diplomats. The [AP](#) (5/30, Lardner) reports that Senate Democrats are seeking to keep attention focused on President Trump's May 10 White House Oval Office meeting with "top Russian diplomats" and are "peppering [his] national security team with questions about the damage they believe Trump caused by sharing top-secret intelligence with the Russians" at that meeting.

Cummings Seeks Documentation Of Coats, Rogers Conversations With Trump. [Politico](#) (5/30, Wright) report that Rep. Elijah Cummings, the ranking Democrat on the House Oversight Committee is asking DNI Coats and NSA Director Rogers "to turn over any documentation of their conversations with President Donald Trump relating to the FBI or congressional investigations into Trump's ties to Russia." Cummings' request comes in the wake of a Washington Post [report](#) which said that President Trump asked the officials "to publicly deny that there is evidence showing the Trump campaign colluded with Russia to sway the presidential election in Trump's favor."

Franken: Everything Points To Collusion. The [AP](#) (5/30) reports that during a joint appearance with David Letterman in New York City on Tuesday, Sen. Al Franken "said 'everything points to' collusion" between the Trump campaign and the Russians. While Franken "did not cite any evidence," he said, "My feeling is that there was some cooperation between the Trump campaign and the Russians. I think everything points to that. ... They just haven't been acting like people who have nothing to hide."

Nunes: Democrats Believe Independent Commission Will Say Clinton Was Cheated. The [Washington Examiner](#) (5/30, Giaritelli) cites a Los Angeles Times [report](#) which said that House Intelligence Chairman Devin Nunes "said Democrats are unsatisfied with congressional probes into Russia because they believe only an independent commission will come to the conclusion Hillary Clinton was cheated." According to the Times story, Nunes told the Tulare County Lincoln Day Dinner in April, "The Democrats don't want an investigation on Russia. They want an independent commission. Why do they want an independent commission? ... Because they want to continue the narrative that Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump are best friends, and that's the reason that he won, because Hillary Clinton would have never lost on her own; it had to be someone else's fault." The Examiner adds that Nunes told the Times that "reporting his comments nearly two months later was an example of 'fake news.'"

Drew: Trump's Hold On Presidency Is Slipping. In a nearly 4,000-word piece for the [New York Review of Books](#) (5/25), Elizabeth Drew writes that Trump's "troubles will continue to grow as the investigators keep on investigating and the increasingly appalled leakers keep on leaking." Drew questions how long Trump can "keep blaming his failures to deliver on others – Democrats, the 'dishonest media,' the Washington 'swamp.'" Drew adds that while that is uncertain, "what is knowable is that an increasingly agitated Donald Trump's hold on the presidency is beginning to slip."

Hannity Says He Is "Making Progress" In Rich Murder Investigation. The [Washington Examiner](#)

(5/30, Mayfield) reports that a week after he "said he would back down from sharing conspiracy theories" about the death of murdered DNC staffer Seth Rich, Sean Hannity [said](#) on his Fox News program Tuesday that "he is 'making progress' on unearthing the truth behind what really happened." Hannity said, "Now I can report, I am making progress. We will have a lot more coming probably sooner than later." Hannity added that the "country deserves the truth, because this impacts so much of what the narrative in this country is now about, which is the left and their conspiracy theory."

USAA To Resume Advertising On Hannity's Program. The [AP](#) (5/30, Bauder) reports that after it received "heavy criticism" from "many of the military members and veterans that it serves" for its decision to pull advertising from Sean Hannity's Fox News Channel show, the USAA financial services firm said Tuesday that it is reinstating advertising on the program. USAA pulled its ads "following Hannity's reporting on a discredited conspiracy theory involving the death of a Democratic National Committee staff member."

White House Continues To Defend Kushner.

Media reports describe the White House as coming to the defense of President Trump's son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner, who reportedly sought to establish back-channel communications with the Russian government during the presidential transition. [NBC Nightly News](#) (5/30, story 3, 2:30, Guthrie) reported that President Trump and his advisers "are forming a new crisis management team" as the White House is "struggling to fend off questions about...Kushner's connections with Russia during the transition."

[Politico](#) (5/30, Karni) says Kushner has made "no open acknowledgment" that "he has transformed from behind-the-scenes West Wing power broker to its lead distracting story." Politico cites "multiple White House sources" who say Kushner "emerged from the holiday weekend intent on dismissing his increased public scrutiny in connection with the FBI's ongoing Russia probe as nothing more than a public relations problem that will blow over."

[The Hill](#) (5/30, Williams) describes Kushner as "embattled" and says the White House "offered a vigorous defense" of him. On Tuesday, Trump [retweeted](#) "a single-source Fox News article reporting that the Russian ambassador, not Kushner, had suggested a secure back channel for communication." Later in the day, White House press secretary Sean Spicer "sought to cast doubt on the veracity of media reports that Kushner had sought a secret communications channel with Russia during the presidential transition, while simultaneously defending Kushner's alleged conduct." While Spicer told reporters, "Your question assumes a lot of facts that are not substantiated by anything but anonymous sources that are being leaked out," he "also pointed to remarks from senior administration officials that 'in general terms ... back channels are an appropriate part of diplomacy.'"

[USA Today](#) (5/30, Groppe) likewise says that while Spicer "questioned the credibility of the report, he referred to recent comments made by National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster and Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly supporting the practice of back-channel communications as an appropriate part of diplomacy." Spicer "also said Kushner's attorney has volunteered to share information on the Russian meetings with the congressional committees investigating Russia's interference in the election." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (5/30, story 3, 2:40, Muir) reported that "Kushner didn't get much help from...Spicer."

The [Washington Times](#) (5/30, Persons) reports that in an appearance on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (5/30), presidential counselor Kellyanne Conway "attributed President Trump's successful foreign trip to his son-in-law and adviser Jared Kushner's foreign relationships," and "said the White House is not concerned about the reports Mr. Kushner discussed back-channel communications with the Russians." Conway told Fox, "As you heard McMaster and Kelly say over this weekend, they're not concerned," she said. "Back channels like this are the regular course of business and that's really all that we know. And I think it's important to recognize that the president has expressed full confidence in Jared Kushner."

In that same vein, associate editor Matt Vespa writes at [Townhall](#) (5/30) that such back-channel communications are "completely normal and acceptable, according to Department of Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly." Former DNI Clapper "also said that back channeling is a long-standing practice," and "even the Obama administration used this method of communication in 2008 to reach out to Iran." Vespa adds that "there is still zero evidence to suggest that Trump officials colluded with the Russians" and it is "unknown if Jared Kushner is a target, but what we do know is that he hasn't been charged with any wrongdoing."

Rep. Gregory Meeks was asked on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/30) about the "different explanations about the purpose of a meeting that Kushner had with an influential Russian

banking chief who has close ties to Putin," with Wolf Blitzer saying the White House claimed Kushner "was acting as an official for the transition" while the "bank put out a statement saying they met with Kushner in a financial capacity on account of his family's real estate business." Meeks said that as a former prosecutor, the "first thing that would jump at me is a cover-up."

Sen. Brian Schatz said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/30) that it is "one thing to establish a diplomatic backchannel for the purpose of avoiding a miscalculation or war. It is an entirely different thing" for an individual in an "incoming Administration without an official appointment to the White House to try to set up a secure communications channel and to evade your own government. That is strange in the extreme. It is weird and deserves an explanation."

Rep. Jackie Speier was asked on [CNN's The Lead](#) (5/30) if it is premature for the DNC to be calling on the President to fire Kushner. Speier said, "I think that certainly he should be given the opportunity to tell his side of the story. I think the question that has to be asked is whether or not he should continue to have his security clearance during this time of probing." Kathleen Parker writes in her [Washington Post](#) (5/30) column that while Kushner "surely deserves a chance to explain his actions before he's indicted in the public square," as "a senior adviser to the president, he has become a liability without family blood to protect him." Parker concludes by asking, "Without blood to bind him, what's to prevent Kushner getting the boot?"

Grassley Wants Investigation Into Promotion Of Kushner Companies Project. [Reuters](#) (5/29, Harney) reports that Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Grassley "has called for an investigation into 'potentially fraudulent statements and misrepresentations' made by companies promoting investment in a property development involving" Kushner Companies, the family company of White House adviser Jared Kushner. Citing a Reuters report, Grassley "requested a review of claims made by Chinese migration agency Qiaowai and the US Immigration Fund (USIF) in the marketing of the One Journal Square project in Jersey City, New Jersey to potential investors in China." USIF contracted with Qiaowai "to market projects including One Journal Square to potential investors through the controversial EB-5 scheme."

Trump Blasts Anonymous Sources, Then Retweets Story Citing One. [USA Today](#) (5/30, Estepa) reports that President Trump "doesn't like anonymous sources," based on "his first [tweet storm](#) after his first foreign trip abroad while in office," in which he wrote, "Whenever you see the words 'sources say' in the fake news media, and they don't mention names....," "...it is very possible that those sources don't exist but are made up by fake news writers. #FakeNews is the enemy!" However, "that strong dislike for anonymous sources didn't keep him from [tweeting](#) on Tuesday a story that relies exclusively on a single anonymous source." According to the anonymous source in the Fox News story, "it was not [Jared] Kushner's idea that a secure communications line be established between Russian officials and the Trump administration."

Sununu: Back-Channel Efforts Could Be Linked To Obama Intel Leaks. In an appearance on CNN Tuesday, former New Hampshire Gov. John Sununu said "that the White House's efforts to have a back-channel relationship with Russia could've been over suspected leaks in the intelligence community," the [Washington Times](#) (5/30, Persons) reports. Sununu said, "There might have been concern that the intelligence community was feeding Obama the information that he probably shouldn't have had. ... If that was a concern, and I doubt it was, if that was a concern, they were pretty smart to have those feelings weren't they?" Sununu also argued that efforts to create back channel communications "are completely normal for an incoming administration." He said, "It is not unusual. You guys have made back channel a derogatory term. Back channel is a positive asset. Nixon could not have done China without a back channel."

Reynolds: Obama Administration "Politically Weaponized" Intel Agencies. In an op-ed for [USA Today](#) (5/30), University of Tennessee law professor Glenn Harlan Reynolds questions whether the "recently unveiled Obama administration program of massively spying on political opponents in violation of clearly established law" is worse than the Watergate scandal. Reynolds writes that after World War II, "we gave massive power to the national security apparatus" in "the belief that professionalism and patriotism would lead people in those agencies to refuse to let their work be used for partisan political purposes." He adds that it "seems apparent that we overestimated the patriotism and professionalism of the people in these agencies, who allowed them to be politically weaponized by the Obama administration."

CNN: "Sources" Say Russians Talked About Having "Derogatory" Info On Trump, Aides.

Dianne Gallagher reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (5/30), "Sources are telling CNN that the Russian government officials talked about having...potentially derogatory information during the 2016 election. It was about then-candidate Trump and some of his top aides. One of those sources saying that the information was financial in nature." Gallagher continued that

conversations collected by US intelligence “suggest the Russians believed they had the ability to influence the Administration with the information.” The sources cautioned that the claims “could have been fake or even exaggerated as part of Russia’s greater disinformation campaign,” but former DNI James Clapper “warned, ‘I will just say that there were a series of communications and dialogues that we grew – I say we, members of the intelligence community that were aware of it, --were very concerned about.’” Rep. Gregory Meeks said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (5/30) that the news provides another reason why an independent commission is needed to look into all of the Russia allegations.

Rep. Jackie Speier said on [CNN’s The Lead](#) (5/30) that “the Putin playbook has been around for a long time, and it’s all about getting kompromat, getting stuff on individuals to be able to use something against them, and it wouldn’t surprise me if they had derogatory information on the President.”

Putin: Election Meddling A “Fiction” Created By Defeated Democrats. The [Washington Times](#) (5/30, Miller) reports that in an interview published Tuesday in the French newspaper Le Figaro, Russian President Vladimir Putin “called allegations of interference in the US presidential election a ‘fiction’ created by Democrats as an excuse for their defeat at the ballot box.” Putin said, “They simply lost, and they must acknowledge it. ... They want to explain to themselves and prove to others that they had nothing to do with it, their policy was right, they have done everything well, but someone from the outside cheated them. It’s not so. ... People who lost the vote hate to acknowledge that they indeed lost because the person who won was closer to the people and had a better understanding of what people wanted.”

Trump: Russian Officials Laughing At US Over Investigations. [Politico](#) (5/30, Nelson) reports that in a tweet Tuesday morning, President Trump wrote that “Russian officials must be laughing at the US” over the investigations into Russian involvement in the 2016 election. Trump, who “has referred to the investigations as a ‘witch hunt’ and ‘fake news,’” [tweeted](#), “Russian officials must be laughing at the US & how a lame excuse for why the Dems lost the election has taken over the Fake News.”

The [Washington Times](#) (5/30, Persons) reports that in response to Trump’s tweet, Rep. Adam Schiff criticized Trump “for his conduct with Russian officials in the Oval Office.” Schiff [tweeted](#), “They were certainly laughing in the Oval Office, but that had more to do with your conduct than anything else. And who can blame them?”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (5/30, Willon) reports that in a May 20 talk with reporters, Schiff described his late March visit to the White House “to view classified documents that Trump said would help prove his claim that President Obama had ordered wiretaps at Trump Tower.” Schiff said NSC lawyers would not allow his staff director, Michael Bahar, in the room to view the documents. After being invited into the Oval Office, Schiff told Trump about the situation, and Trump “said he had no problem with the congressman’s staff member reviewing the documents, Schiff recalled.” Ultimately, “Schiff and his staff director were invited in to review the records.”

Democratic Senators Say Trump’s Budget Will Hurt Rural Areas.

The [AP](#) (5/30, Jalonick) reports that President Trump’s budget proposal is drawing fire from Democratic senators from rural states who say it would have “significant negative impacts” on rural America. In a letter to Trump Tuesday, 29 Democratic senators, “singled out the rural development cuts and the proposed elimination of an account that pays for rural water and wastewater infrastructure projects.” They wrote, “These reductions would undermine the ability of local communities to support rural home ownership, provide clean drinking and waste water systems and promote access to critical services such as rural hospitals, police and firefighters. ... If enacted, these cuts would have a damaging impact on rural communities throughout the country.”

Economists: Trump’s Prediction Of Three Percent Growth Is “Wildly Optimistic.”

[Politico](#) (5/30, White) reports that while President Trump “is betting much of his first term on a bold promise that tax cuts, revamped trade deals and deregulation will unleash the kind of sustained economic boom the United States hasn’t seen since the dot-com days of the late 1990s,” even if he manages to get the tax cuts through Congress, “many economists argue that the administration’s predictions – for nearly a decade of at least 3 percent economic growth – are wildly optimistic and unlikely to materialize.” Moreover, some of his plans “could backfire and constrict economic growth.”

Hewitt: Trump Can Solve Tax-Reform Crisis Through Federal Gas Tax Hike.

In the [Washington Post](#) (5/30), columnist Hugh Hewitt writes that in order to address the tax reform crisis, President Trump should embrace “a solution that is obvious and equitable – and that ought to be easy”: raising the federal gas tax from its 1993 level of 19 cents per gallon. The tax – which now brings in \$35 billion annually – could bring in up to \$100 billion per year if raised by 50 cents per gallon. Hewitt says this revenue boost would allow for corporate tax rate cuts, an end to the “military-crippling” sequester, a “real” increase in defense spending, a drop in marginal income-tax rates, and, “crucially,” increased local infrastructure spending.

USA Today: Trump’s Plan To Sell Oil Reserves Would Leave Americans Vulnerable.

In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (5/30) condemns President Trump’s proposal to sell off half of America’s oil reserve to raise an estimated \$16.6 billion to reduce the federal deficit. USA Today compares the situation to “a person with a lot of credit card bills taking items to the pawn shop rather than curtailing his spending or enhancing his income.” Alternatively, Trump’s approach could be billed as “the buy-high, sell-low school of budgeting.” USA Today finds irony in that “the push to sell is coming principally from the party that preaches fiscal responsibility, the GOP, when it could hardly be called responsible.” USA Today says the reserves are needed in case of “major oil disruption” because even with fracking and other new production techniques, American oil fields wouldn’t be capable of ramping up production fast enough to meet demand.

Meanwhile, Philip Verleger – who has studied oil markets since 1971 – writes in a [USA Today](#) (5/30) op-ed that Trump is “right” on his proposal, which “would be a good start on selling all the oil.” Verleger says the Strategic Petroleum Reserve “is a failed economic experiment.” Created to address shortages, the SPR was never used when oil reached \$100 per barrel, thus economic activity was disrupted. However, futures markets “have allowed for the hedging of more than 2 billion barrels of oil,” which makes “it possible to dampen price fluctuations” and makes the SPR “superfluous.”

Guessing Game Continues About Trump’s Decision On Paris Accord.

[Politico](#) (5/30, Restuccia) reports the President’s “advisers have sent wildly different messages to US allies about the president’s willingness to remain in the Paris climate agreement – adding to the confusion as he appears set to render a verdict this week.” Politico adds that “Trump vowed during the presidential campaign to ‘cancel’ the Paris agreement,” but ventures that “the climate discussions at the G-7, paired with a lobbying campaign from Pope Francis and other leaders, could have changed” his mind. Meanwhile, some “US officials were convinced as recently as last week that Trump would remain in Paris,” but “others are just uncertain. ‘I’ve stopped trying to figure it out,’ said one longtime climate negotiator.”

On its front page, the [New York Times](#) (5/30, A1, Shear, Cardwell) refers to “a divided White House staff, anxious corporate executives, lawmakers and foreign leaders” who “are fiercely competing for...Trump’s ear this week as he nears a decision.” The Times adds that “for a president not steeped in policy intricacies, the decision is vexing,” because “on both sides are voices he profoundly respects: chief executives of some of the world’s largest companies urging him to remain part of the accord and ardent conservatives like Stephen K. Bannon, his chief strategist, and Scott Pruitt, his Environmental Protection Agency administrator, tugging him toward a withdrawal from the 195-country agreement.”

While interviewing Rep. Gregory Meeks on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (5/30), Wolf Blitzer reported that White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer “refused to say whether or not the President believes that humans are a cause of climate change” as President Trump considers whether to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement. Meeks said that if Trump ends up taking the US out of the deal, “It would send to the rest of the world a message that the United States does not care about this planet that we all share and does not care about multi-lateral agreements that we make with other nations.”

Coal CEO Murray Says Cohn, Ivanka, Tillerson Wrong On Paris Accord. [Bloomberg Politics](#) (5/30, Malik, Fu, Chatterley) reports “the US coal industry’s most outspoken champion says...Trump needs to stop taking advice from his daughter Ivanka Trump, Gary Cohn and other top advisers on climate change policy and withdraw from the landmark Paris climate agreement.” Robert E. Murray, “founder and chief executive officer of coal miner Murray Energy Corp.,” told Bloomberg Television that “Trump needs to get out of the accord because countries from the US to India need coal to deliver reliable, low-cost electricity.” Said Murray, “Hopefully he’ll listen to those who voted for him and not to some members of his staff. ... Meaning Gary Cohn, Ivanka Trump, Rex Tillerson. They’re wrong in their advice to the president.”

Obama Advisers Warn Of Link Between Climate Change, Disease Epidemics. Brian Deese, a

senior adviser on climate change and energy policy to former President Obama, and Ronald A. Klain, a former White House Ebola response coordinator and a senior adviser to Hillary Clinton's campaign, explain in a [Washington Post](#) (5/30) op-ed how climate change can increase "the spread of dangerous epidemics and the risk of a global pandemic." Deese and Klain say this "link between climate and disease is most often identified through the spread of disease vectors such as mosquitoes," but they warn that "a second, and less appreciated, interaction between climate change and epidemics occurs when humans and animals are forced to compete for dwindling habitat and resources." The authors accuse the Administration of being "engaged in a form of double denial" about these "intrinsically global threats" by "slashing funding for the science to fight disease and climate change."

Fed's Brainard Adds To Expectations Of June Rate Hike.

The [New York Times](#) (5/30, Appelbaum) reports "a speech by a Federal Reserve governor Tuesday underscored a basic shift in Fed policy: The central bank now needs to be convinced that quarterly rate increases are a bad idea." Lael Brainard, "a Federal Reserve governor, told the New York Association for Business Economics that the Fed should raise its benchmark interest rate 'soon,' despite new evidence that inflation remains below the level the Fed desires." The Times adds "the comments by Ms. Brainard reinforced expectations that the Fed will raise rates in mid-June at its next meeting, particularly because she has been a consistent advocate of caution."

Stocks Finish Lower. [CNBC](#) (5/30, Imbert) reported "US equities closed lower on Tuesday as investors digested key economic data, but a rise in tech stocks helped cap losses." The Dow "fell about 50 points, with Goldman Sachs contributing the most losses," the Nasdaq "traded 0.1 percent despite shares of Amazon breaking above \$1,000 for the first time," and "the S&P 500 slipped 0.1."

Obama Advisers Warn Of Link Between Climate Change, Disease Epidemics.

Brian Deese, a senior adviser on climate change and energy policy to former President Obama and current Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Business and Government senior fellow at Harvard's Kennedy School, and Ronald A. Klain, a former White House Ebola response coordinator and a senior adviser to Hillary Clinton's campaign, explain in a [Washington Post](#) (5/30) op-ed how climate change can increase "the spread of dangerous epidemics and the risk of a global pandemic." Deese and Klain say this "link between climate and disease is most often identified through the spread of disease vectors such as mosquitoes," but warn "a second, and less appreciated, interaction between climate change and epidemics occurs when humans and animals are forced to compete for dwindling habitat and resources." The authors accuse the Administration of being "engaged in a form of double denial" about these "intrinsically global threats" by "slashing funding for the science to fight disease and climate change."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Donald Trump's Insult To History." A [New York Times](#) (5/31) editorial says the "tectonic plates of Europe are shifting, and President Trump is at the heart of this upheaval." The Times says German Chancellor Angela Merkel "bluntly made that point on Sunday," and it "became clear that the United States is no longer the reliable partner her country and the rest of Europe have long depended on." In what the Times calls a "bright spot," Merkel "seems committed to playing a lead role as the United States pulls back."

"A Meaningful Move On Voting Rights In Alabama." A [New York Times](#) (5/31) editorial says last week, "more than 100 years late, Alabama took an important step toward excising a toxic slice of white supremacy from its Constitution and restoring voting rights to perhaps thousands of people, disproportionately black, with criminal records." The Times says Alabama's new law is "a small but meaningful move toward welcoming more of those people back to full participation in civic life, and to counteracting the stench of white supremacy that lingers there."

"Gov Walker Would Drug Test The Poor." The [New York Times](#) (5/31) editorializes that as he prepares to run for a third term, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker "is hoping the Trump administration will allow his state to be the first in the nation to mandate the drug screening of childless individuals who apply for Medicaid help." The Times warns that if Walker succeeds, "other conservative states will most likely consider the step."

Washington Post.

“Trump Told Sissi He Wouldn't ‘Lecture’ Him. So Sissi Cracked Down On Civil Society.”

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/30) says President Trump's “unqualified support for Sunni Arab dictatorships” has emboldened Egyptian President Abdel Fatah al-Sissi. After Trump assured Sissi that US would not “lecture” Egypt's “domestic repression,” Sissi “returned to Cairo last week and immediately doubled down” by ratifying “a new law imposing unprecedented restrictions on civil society groups.” The Post says the law was in the past “widely condemned as draconian,” and blowback from Sens. Lindsey O. Graham, John McCain, and other leaders in Congress “apparently gave the regime pause.” After “his second embrace by Mr. Trump in less than two months, however, Mr. Sissi moved forward,” and Trump “appears indifferent to the subsequent repression.” Thus, the Post says, “it will be up to Congress to respond,” and they “should block the distribution of new military aid to Egypt until the nongovernmental-organizations law is repealed or revised and political prisoners released.”

“The Supreme Court Rises Above Politics.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/30) notes four rulings handed down by the Supreme Court on Tuesday on issues ranging from statutory rape to patent protection, and it notes that while the rulings “may not be the most exciting or remarkable,” they “were all unanimous, or nearly so.” The Post argues that “in the country's tense political atmosphere, the political branches of government too often operate on the principle that ‘because the other side is for it, we must be against it,’” and notes that “thankfully, the judicial branch has not reached that low, instead evincing more dedication to professional restraint than it often gets credit for.”

“The Portland Train Victims Were Heroes.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (5/30) praises the willingness of three bystanders – two of whom were killed and the other injured – “to stand up against bigotry and hate” when they intervened as two young women – one with a hijab – were being “terrorized with anti-Muslim insults” by Jeremy Joseph Christian on a commuter train in Portland, Oregon. The Post says President Trump's “unequivocal condemnation” of the attacks on [Twitter](#) was welcome and needed. The Post says, “Sadly, some may learn the wrong lessons from Portland's tragic events, using them as reason not to say or do something when someone needs help,” but it's important to understand that the three who saved the day “didn't have capes. They were just human beings that we all have the capacity to be,” in the words of a speaker at a vigil in their honor.

Wall Street Journal:

“The White House Mess.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/30) urges President Trump to overhaul his White House team, but cautions him that his own management style (described as chaotic) is at the root of his communication woes. To the Journal, Trump operates in a chaotic atmosphere, and that makes his team's job nearly impossible.

“Lawyers Get Lassoed.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/30) editorializes that on Tuesday the Supreme Court ruled 8-1 that out-of-state plaintiffs may not sue a railroad company in Montana because the company is not incorporated in that state, the plaintiffs do not live there, and the injuries did not occur there. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg wrote for the majority that “Our precedent explains that the Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process Clause does not permit a State to hale an out-of-state corporation before its courts when the corporation is not ‘at home’ in the State and the episode-in-suit occurred elsewhere.” The Journal praises the ruling as a limitation on “forum shopping.”

“The Bureaucracy's Judges.” As the DC Circuit Court of Appeals is set to rule on a case addressing whether administrative law judges at the SEC are unconstitutional, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (5/30) writes in an editorial that even if the appellate court rules in favor of the judges, the issue is one the Supreme Court should settle. The Constitution's Appointments Clause says the President “shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint...Officers of the United States, whose Appointments are not herein otherwise provided for.” However, agency judges are appointed by career bureaucrats, a system the Journal says allows the products of an ever-expanding federal bureaucracy to ensure its perpetuity.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Uber Fires Driverless-Car Executive At The Center Of Google Legal Battle](#)
[US Tests Missile Defense Amid North Korea Tensions](#)
[Mike Flynn's Pro-Turkey Work: An Unfinished Documentary To Boost Country's Image](#)
[Steven Cohen's Hedge-Fund Comeback Shoots For A Record Target: \\$20 Billion](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Advisers Wage Tug Of War Before Decision On Climate Deal](#)
[Blind Spots In Trump's Trade Tirade Against Germany](#)
[In Chicago's Crisis Of Violence, Some Signs Of Hope](#)
[The Billionaire Gadfly In Exile Who Stared Down Beijing](#)
[Free Play Or Flashcards? New Study Nods To More Rigorous Preschools](#)
[Bangladesh Cyclone Wreaks Havoc In Rohingya Refugee Camps](#)

Washington Post:

[Democrats' Left Wing Raises Stakes In Virginia Primary](#)
[President's Window For Early Wins Is Shrinking](#)
[Trump, Merkel Not Giving Ground](#)
[Opioid Crisis In US Fueling Chaos In Mexico](#)
[Progressive Portland Confronts Murderous Hate](#)

Financial Times:

[Amazon Ascent To \\$1,000 Highlights Tech Stock Surge](#)
[Consumer Spending Rise Boosts Hopes For US Economy](#)
[China's Cyber Security Law Rattles Multinationals](#)
[Temer Says Brazil Coalition Steady Despite Scandal](#)

Washington Times:

[More Than 5,500 Illegals Registered To Vote In Virginia In Last Decade: 1,852 Actually Cast Ballots](#)
[Successful US Missile Interceptor Test Cast As Warning To North Korea, Iran](#)
[White House Says "Full Steam Ahead" On Trump Agenda](#)
[New York Secessionists Look To Constitutional Convention As Best Chance To Split State](#)
Obama's 2016 Regulations To Cost Economy \$2 Trillion A Year

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Russia Meddling Investigation; Russia Meddling Investigation-Flynn; Russia Meddling Investigation-Kushner; US Missile Defense; Tiger Woods-DUI; Oregon Train Stabbing Trial; Severe Weather; NYC Sky Diving Accident; Former Panama Leader Dies; Singer Battles Breast Cancer; Cleveland Police Fired; Water Park Accident; Three Mile Island Closure; Ariana Grande-Manchester Performance; Spelling Bee.

CBS: White House Media Team; Russia Meddling Investigation; US-German Relations; Mosul Assault; US Missile Defense; Oregon Train Stabbing Trial; Cleveland Police Fired; Tiger Woods-DUI; Former Panama Leader Dies; US-Cuba Trips; College Graduation Commencements.

NBC: US Missile Defense; Oregon Train Stabbing Trial; Russia Meddling Investigation-Kushner; US-Germany Relations; White House Media Team; Tiger Woods-DUI; Former Panama Leader Dies; Mortgage Cyber Scam; Ariana Grande-Manchester Performance; Hollywood-Women; France-Tennis Player Banned; Young Inventor.

Network TV At A Glance:

Russia Meddling Investigation – 10 minutes, 50 seconds
US Missile Defense – 6 minutes, 20 seconds
Tiger Woods-DUI – 5 minutes, 40 seconds
Oregon Train Stabbing Trial – 4 minutes, 25 seconds
White House Media Team – 3 minutes, 10 seconds
US-German Relations – 3 minutes, 10 seconds
Former Panama Leader Dies – 1 minute

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: JetBlue-Laptop Fire; Orlando Airport-Gun Scare; US Missile Defense; Russia Meddling Investigation; White House Media Team.

CBS: US Missile Defense; White House Media Team; Tiger Woods-DUI; Ariana Grande-Manchester Performance; Kathy Griffin Apology; Wall Street News.

FOX: Russia Meddling Investigation-Kushner; Russia Meddling Investigation-Flynn; Oregon Train Stabbing Trial; Orlando Airport-Gun Scare.

NPR: White House Media Team; Mosul Assault; Georgia-House Special Election; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc of Vietnam.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President for an expanded bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc of Vietnam.

US Senate: On recess until 5 June.

US House: On recess until 5 June.

Other: 9:00 AM Special Olympic Committee president speaks at Brookings on learning programs – Special Olympic Committee President Timothy Shriver speaks at Brookings Institution 'Future of Children' event on 'the future of school-based social and emotional learning programs', including the release by Brookings and Princeton University of the latest issue of The Future of Children – a journal that promotes effective, evidence-based policies and programs for children. Rush NeuroBehavioral Center Executive Director Clark McKown also speaks Location: Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> [#FutureOfChildren](https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst)

9:30 AM Free State Foundation annual Telecom Policy Conference – Free State Foundation Annual Telecom Policy Conference, themed 'A New Direction for Communications Policy: Less Regulation, More Investment and Innovation', with speakers including Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai, Federal Trade Commission Bureau of Consumer Protection Acting Director Tom Pahl and Bureau of Competition Acting Director Tad Lipsky, former OMB Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs Administrator Howard Shelanski, CTIA President and CEO Meredith Attwell Baker, Comcast Corporation Senior Executive Vice President David Cohen, MMTCA President and CEO Kim Keenan, Brookings Institution Nonresident Senior Fellow Blair Levin, Boston College Law School Professor Daniel Lyons, AT&T Senior Executive Vice President of External and Legislative Affairs Robert Quinn, and FSF President Randolph May and Senior Fellow Seth Cooper Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC freestatefoundation.org [#FSFConf9](https://twitter.com/FSFthinktank)

5:00 PM Vietnamese PM Nguyen speaks at Heritage Foundation – 'Opportunities and Challenges to Peace, Security, Cooperation and Development in the Asia-Pacific and the Growth of Vietnam–U.S. Comprehensive Partnership' Heritage Foundation address by Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, outlining Vietnam's views on issues facing the Asia-Pacific region, and the potential for U.S.–Vietnam cooperation Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Sen. John McCain, fellow Republican, said he doesn't like this at all. He says allegations of ties between Trump's campaign and Russia are reaching Watergate size and scale. I understand what Sen. McCain is saying. But Watergate was different. Watergate was some guys breaking into a hotel. This is a guy with a hotel breaking into the White House."

Trevor Noah: "Greg Gianforte was elected Montana's new Republican congressman, elected just a day after body slamming a reporter who had the nerve to ask him a question about the House Republicans' healthcare bill, which you've got to admit, is a pretty gangster response. 'How are the people going to pay their hospital bills?' 'You tell me, bam!'"

Trevor Noah: "Former Trump National Security Adviser Michael Flynn says he's going to plead the fifth rather than testify to Congress. He won't speak to anyone unless they are Russian spies."

Trevor Noah: "So now, basically, we've got Jared, Flynn, Jeff Sessions, Paul Manafort, Carter

Page, and, just today, Trump's lawyer Michael Cohen, all linked to the Russians in some way or the other. Wouldn't it be funny if everyone in Trump's campaign was talking to the Russians except Trump? But only because the Russians didn't trust him."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Marianas Variety: DLNR Gets \$181K Grant For Eradication Of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle On Rota.
- Focus Taiwan: Taiwan To Give Visa Waivers To Six Pacific Allies: President.
- Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR): Mapp Ends Curfew, Issues \$3 Million In Tax Refunds; DSNAP To Rollout Mid-November.

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- The Hill: West Coast Dems Lead Call To Fund Early Warning System For Earthquakes.
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- Associated Press: Trump Wants To Sign Tax Bill By Christmas.
- Bloomberg News: Republicans Delay Release Of Tax Plan Until Thursday.
- Washington Times: Trump Says Announcement On Businesses Returning To US Coming "Very Soon."
- Axios: EPA Official Says Obama Administration Had Legal Basis For Methane Rule.
- Associated Press: Pruitt To Replace Members Of EPA Advisory Boards.

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DOI In The News

Lawmakers Demand Accountability For Puerto Rico's \$300M Whitefish Deal.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/31, Siciliano, Siegel) reports US senators yesterday "demanded accountability for the \$300 million no-bid contract that Puerto Rico's power company gave to a tiny firm from the same small town as Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke." Sen. Jon Tester of Montana "asked for someone to be held accountable for the Whitefish contract, during the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee hearing on hurricane response." Sen. Ron Johnson "the chairman of the committee, said in his opening statement that the 'issue with Whitefish is Exhibit A of how careful we need to be with spending taxpayer money.'"

FEMA Chief Says Agency Didn't Know About Whitefish Contract. FEMA Administrator Brock Long says FEMA would probably not have approved a Hurricane Maria recovery contract that Puerto Rican officials recently canceled, according to many of the news outlets covering Long's appearance before a congressional committee. [Bloomberg News](#) (10/31, Flavelle) reports Long "testified Tuesday that his agency didn't know about a \$300 million no-bid contract to rebuild Puerto Rico's electrical grid until after it was awarded, and likely wouldn't have approved it." But Ron Johnson, who chairs the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, said the panel was warned in June about FEMA's "continued failure to manage disaster relief funds adequately." In response, Long stated, "We have a lot of work to do when it comes to training and ensuring the grant monitoring," but the Puerto Rico power restoration agreement "was not our contract."

The [AP](#) (10/31, Biesecker) reports Long told committee members that "no lawyer inside FEMA would have ever agreed to the language in that contract." In a separate coverage of the Senate hearing, the [AP](#) (10/31) reports Long "said he...needs additional legal authority from Congress to build the power grid in Puerto Rico back better than it was before."

Scandals Pile Up For Interior Secretary.

The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (10/31, Worby) reports that "several events" have recently "come to light that raise questions" about Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "ethical practices." The latest is the controversy over "the now-revoked Whitefish Energy contract for grid repair in Puerto Rico." According to the article, "some of the controversies – including allegations that Zinke has mixed professional and personal business, dodged campaign finance laws and generally demonstrated dubious ethics – have led watchdog groups to call for investigations."

Nonprofits Go After Interior Official Who Joined American Petroleum Institute.

[Politico Influence](#) (10/31, Meyer) reports that "three-left leaning nonprofit groups" want the Interior Department's top ethic official to weigh in on whether "a former senior official who left for a job with the oil industry violated conflict-of-interest laws by participating in meetings about oil and gas policy in the weeks before her departure." The request refers to Megan Bloomgren, who "joined Interior's beachhead team in December and left the department in June to go work for the American Petroleum Institute."

Trump's 'Review' Of Utah Monument Was Over Before It Started.

The [Huffington Post](#) (10/31, D'Angelo) reports that "six months after signing a pair of executive orders threatening the future of 27 national monuments, President Donald Trump reportedly phoned Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) to inform him that he would follow through on Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recommendation to shrink Bears Ears National Monument, a 1.35 million-acre area in southern Utah that President Barack Obama declared a national monument in 2016." According to the article, "seemingly every comment and action the administration made leading up to Friday had suggested Bears Ears was headed for the chopping block, and that the review – at least for this particular monument – was mostly for show." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "insisted early on that 'there is no predetermined outcome on any monument.'" However, "like Trump, he has consistently criticized recent monument designations, suggesting Bears Ears and other monuments wouldn't survive intact."

Rob Bishop To Announce Big Energy Bill Pushing Oil, Gas Development.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/31, Siegel) reports that Rep. Rob Bishop, chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, "soon will introduce a comprehensive federal energy lands bill that would aim to facilitate offshore and onshore oil and gas development by easing federal permitting responsibilities and giving more authority to states." Bishop said in a statement, "America's shale revolution ushered in an era of energy leadership and innovation. As state and private lands benefited from greater investment and development, misguided federal policies prevented our vast federal estate from experiencing the same fortune." The legislation, "expected to be considered by the House in the coming weeks, would overhaul existing regulatory frameworks for energy development on the Outer Continental Shelf and federally-owned onshore land."

House GOP Sees Smooth Sailing For Forest Management Bill.

The [Morning Consult](#) (10/31, Gheorghiu) reports that "House Republicans expect to pass a bipartisan bill tackling forest resilience on Wednesday, with further action likely in the Senate, as California's wildfires add urgency to finding a comprehensive solution." However, "many Democrats, and almost half of California's delegation in the House, support competing legislation, which has more than four times as many co-sponsors, that's focused solely on funding and doesn't try to roll back environmental regulations that limit logging." The legislation introduced by Rep. Bruce Westerman "that's scheduled for a Wednesday floor vote would reduce the risk of wildfire by offering different options to the U.S. Forest Service to fund fire suppression, without changing funding levels, and by creating access for loggers to thin overgrown forests."

2 States Warn Trump Against Big Changes In Sage Grouse Plan.

The [AP](#) (10/31, Elliott) reports that "two Western governors on Tuesday warned the Trump administration against making big changes" in a plan to protect the greater sage grouse, "saying it would send a message to states not to bother working together to save other imperiled species." Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper and Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead "said a 2015 conservation plan designed to save the greater sage grouse was the product of long negotiation among state and federal governments, conservation groups, industry and agriculture." However, "not all Western governors support the 2015 plan." Idaho Gov. C. L. "Butch" Otter "filed a lawsuit shortly after the plan was released, contending the Obama administration illegally imposed federal land-use restrictions."

Bill Cassidy Balks At Trump Administration's Offshore Oil Revenue Figure, Seeks Review.

The [New Orleans Times-Picayune](#) (10/31, Broach) reports Sen. Bill Cassidy is reviewing the Trump Administration's accounting of the revenue from the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act after reports Louisiana will only get half of the \$140 million it expected to receive. Cassidy said, "We're trying to do our own individual verification of those numbers. ... I'm not saying they're wrong. I'm not saying they're right."

Judge Gives Reprieve To Montana Coal Mine, Averting Layoffs.

The [AP](#) (10/31, Brown) reports that "a central Montana coal mine averted dozens of imminent layoffs on Tuesday after a judge allowed work on an expansion of the mine to proceed while the government reconsiders the project's contribution to climate change." The ruling by U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy "allows Signal Peak Energy to remove up to 170,000 tons of coal from federal leases adjacent to its Bull Mountain Mine north of Billings." Attorneys for the Trump Administration "had backed the company's request in court to modify that earlier ruling."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Tribes' Lawyers Tell Interior It Must Accept Casino Deal.

The [Connecticut Mirror](#) (10/31, Pazniokas) reports that "two national law firms representing the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan tribal nations pressed the federal government Tuesday with a letter insisting the Interior secretary has no choice but to approve their gaming agreements with Connecticut and clear the way for them to jointly develop a commercial casino in East Windsor." The letter comes just days after a meeting at the Bureau of Indian Affairs, "where the tribes and the state's congressional delegation failed to move the department off its puzzling stance of neither rejecting nor approving amendments to the tribes' gaming compacts." According to the article, "the refusal to give a clear answer was a victory for MGM Resorts International, which has fought for two years in Hartford and Washington, D.C., to block the East Windsor casino and protect the market for an MGM casino scheduled to open next year in nearby Springfield."

Additional coverage was provided by the [New London \(CT\) Day](#) (10/31, Hallenbeck) and the [Connecticut Post](#) (10/31, Haar).

Bureau Of Land Management

Energy Industry Again Seeking To Block BLM Venting/Flaring Rule.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (10/31, Nemece) reports that "the Independent Petroleum Association of America (IPAA) and the Western Energy Alliance (WEA) late Friday sued to halt the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) natural gas flaring and venting rules" as some are taking effect in January. The lawsuit was filed in the US District Court in Wyoming and said that the operators are in a "game of regulatory chicken" following the rulings against the Department of the Interior. IPAA spokesperson Dan Naatz said "the Interior Department has already signaled its intent to delay the impending compliance deadlines by one year, but it must abide by a lengthy notice and comment process for public input." Naatz added that "while we applaud this step, our member companies need to know what rules they will be operating under in just a few months' time."

BLM Names Pocatello Field Office Manager.

[KIFI-TV](#) Idaho Falls, ID (10/31) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has announced Melissa Warren will be the new manager of the Pocatello Field Office. Acting District Manager Lance Brady "said Warren has a strong background in lands and reality and a solid grasp of how BLM functions in its day-to-day activities." Warren has been manager of BLM's Tuscon Field Office in Arizona. S

Oil, Gas Leases Proposed Close To Livingston.

The [Livingston \(MT\) Enterprise](#) (10/31) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is "preparing to offer oil and gas leases in Park County." In a recently issued proposal, "the agency would offer nine lease parcels on 670 BLM acres and 3,637 private acres, totaling 4,307 acres, predominantly on lands between Livingston and Springdale. Small parcels north of Wilsall would also be included."

Conservationists Fight Proposed Ruby Mountains Oil Development.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (10/31, Brean) reports that "conservationists are bashing the latest move to open more federal land in Nevada to oil exploration, this time in the Ruby Mountains of Elko County." The U.S. Forest Service is "studying whether to make 54,000 acres in the Rubies, about 370 miles north of Las Vegas, available for lease to oil and gas developers for the first time." The Bureau of Land Management "requested the evaluation of the forest land in early August, after a developer expressed interest in a lease there."

Wyoming, Ranching Group Enter Lawsuit Over Wild Horse Gather Near Rock Springs.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (10/31, Rosenfeld) reports that "the state of Wyoming and a ranching group have entered into the latest in a series of contentious lawsuits over the presence of wild horses in southwest Wyoming, pitting wild horse advocates against the Bureau of Land Management." On Tuesday, Wyoming and the Rock Springs Grazing Association were "granted permission to enter the current dispute over a horse gather in three regions of southwest

Wyoming near Rock Springs, where the BLM recently rounded up wild horses in accordance with a 2013 settlement between the ranching group and the federal government.”

Bureau Of Land Management Las Cruces District Sponsors Photo Contest.

The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (10/31) reports that the Bureau of Land Management Las Cruces District is “sponsoring a photo contest and inviting public land users to submit their favorite photographs of a special landscape, plant, animal or object located on public land.” According to the article, “the grand prize winner will receive a 2018 Las Cruces District Office Annual Pass valued at \$30, with their photograph printed on it.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

DuPont Funds Help Expand Stuarts Draft Preserve.

The [Waynesboro \(VA\) News Virginian](#) (10/31, Stuart) reports that Stuarts Draft’s Cowbane Prairie Natural Area Preserve has been enlarged by 84 acres “thanks to the state’s purchase of land with funds from the DuPont South River settlement.” The article adds that “a donation of land also helped add to the preserve, which contains rare and imperiled plants.” According to Wendi Weber, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service northeast regional director, “expansion of the preserve will benefit numerous species, including several kinds of birds, affected by the mercury contamination.”

Herd Gets Annual Checkup At Wildlife Refuge.

[KCNC-TV](#) Denver (10/31, Mason) reports that “the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge held its annual bison herd roundup and tagging Tuesday.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “conducted a heard health check on more than 100 bison.” It was “part of a nationwide effort to conserve genetically pure bison and keep the species healthy and thriving.”

National Park Service

Park Service Superintendent Terry Brown Is Bridging The Racial Divide.

[NBC News](#) (10/31, Cottman) reports that Terry Brown, “the first African-American National Park Service Superintendent to oversee Fort Monroe National Monument, has adapted to an unusual workspace that once served” as Confederate Army General Robert E. Lee’s military home. Brown has “embarked on a profound mission to help bridge the racial divide in Virginia by sharing the historical account of Fort Monroe.” Brown said, “My challenge is protecting these stories and telling these stories in a fair and sensible way. I look at U.S. parks and Fort Monroe as comfort zones because people won’t have these kinds of tough conversations about slavery if they don’t feel comfortable.”

Historic Keane Wonder Mine Reopens To Public.

The [Ridgecrest \(CA\) Daily Independent](#) (10/31) reports that Death Valley National Park “plans to reopen historic Keane Wonder Mine to the public starting on Tuesday, November 7.” Superintendent Mike Reynolds said, “We’re so excited to be able to open this site up to the public again! The mine, tramway, and mill are charismatic.”

Wildlife Camera Catches Uncollared Mountain Lion Roaming The Hollywood Hills.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/31, Easter) reports that “an uncollared mountain lion was caught on camera roaming the Hollywood Hills just after midnight recently — the first official evidence of a cougar inhabiting a specially preserved parcel of land in Laurel Canyon, wildlife advocates say.” According to the article, “the Oct. 26 image was snapped by a wildlife camera placed somewhere on a 17-acre plot that CLAW and the Laurel Canyon Assn. helped preserve from development.” Kate Kuykendall of the National Park Service said, “It’s unusual for us to have confirmed sightings in that area.”

Route 66 Hotel Project Aims For December Opening.

The [AP](#) (10/31) reports that “developers of an \$18 million project along historic Route 66 say they are aiming for a December opening of the revamped property.” The upgrade of “the storied El Vado motor lodge in Albuquerque includes a boutique hotel, a new mixed-use building next

door and an events center." According to the article, "the lobby of the hotel will have a taproom that will feature local brews, and General Manager Carrie Confair is lining up different businesses to operate food trucks at the site."

Crater Lake Seeks Public Comment On Trail Plan.

The [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (11/1, Hamway) reports that Crater Lake National Park seeks input "on a management plan that will shape the park's trail system over the next quarter-century." The park is "working on a comprehensive trail management plan that will guide the national park's approach to trail infrastructure and visitor usage for the next 25 years." The public scoping period ends on Nov. 13.

Office Of Insular Affairs

DLNR Gets \$181K Grant For Eradication Of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle On Rota.

[Marianas Variety](#) (11/1, Lirio) reports that "the U.S. Office of Insular Affairs has awarded the CNMI Department of Lands and Natural Resources \$181,048 for Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle detection, eradication and prevention on Rota." In a statement on Tuesday, Gov. Ralph D.L.G. Torres "said upon learning of the rhino beetle outbreak on Rota, the CNMI Office of Grants Management began the grant application immediately." While visiting Washington, D.C. "for meetings with the White House and other federal departments, Governor Torres said he also met with Assistant Interior Secretary for Insular Affairs Douglas W. Domenech to emphasize the need for expedited funding to address the rhino beetle problem in Rota."

Taiwan To Give Visa Waivers To Six Pacific Allies: President.

[Focus Taiwan](#) (10/31, Hsin-hui, Low) reports that Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen "announced Tuesday that Taiwan will soon give visa waivers to the nationals of its six diplomatic allies in the Pacific." During her address to the Legislature of the Marshall Islands, "Tsai said she believed the decision will further enhance Taiwan's relations with these Pacific nations, which also include Kiribati, Nauru, the Solomon Islands, Palau, and Tuvalu." She "said her administration's 'steadfast diplomacy' policy, with a focus on 'mutual assistance for mutual benefits,' is aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation and substantial ties with Taiwan's diplomatic allies to develop relationships that are reciprocal and mutually beneficial."

Mapp Ends Curfew, Issues \$3 Million In Tax Refunds; DSNAP To Rollout Mid-November.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (10/31) reports that Gov. Kenneth Mapp "during his hurricane recovery press briefing on Monday, ended the territory-wide curfew." The decision "comes nearly two months after Hurricane Irma devastated St. Thomas, and more than 6 weeks following Hurricane Maria's ravaging of St. Croix." It also "comes as the Virgin Islands Water and Power Authority (WAPA) continues to make progress in power restoration — 38 percent of St. Thomas has been restored, 19 percent of St. Croix and 14 percent of St. John." However, "with most of the territory's main thoroughfares still dark, and all but two traffic lights on St. Croix operable as of Monday, Mr. urged residents to be careful."

US Geological Survey

West Coast Dems Lead Call To Fund Early Warning System For Earthquakes.

[The Hill](#) (10/31, Bowden) reports, "A group of Democrats representing western states has sent a letter to White House budget chief Mick Mulvaney urging the Trump administration to include funding for an earthquake early-warning system in the fiscal 2018 budget." The group "urge[d] Mulvaney to adopt Early Earthquake Warning (EEW) systems, such as those employed during Mexico City's earthquake last month." They are seeking "\$16.1 million to be included in the budget for the continued development and operation of the EEW for the West Coast, called ShakeAlert."

Additional Reading.

- *5 Earthquakes Recorded Tuesday In Central Oklahoma By USGS.* [Seattle Times](#) (10/31).
- *Earthquake Of Magnitude 6 Strikes Off Ambon In Indonesia: USGS.* [Reuters](#) (10/31).

Stephen Trimble: Mr. President, It's Not Too Late To Save Bears Ears.

In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/1, Trimble), author Stephen Trimble urges President Trump to "turn back to the tribes before you finalize your attack on the integrity of Bears Ears, Grand Staircase-Escalante and other national monuments." Trimble beseeches Trump: "Mr. President, it's not too late. Heed the outpouring of rage and grief rolling toward you. Preserve our national monuments as designated. Do not diminish them, do not open them to destructive resource extraction, but cherish them, manage them, protect them."

Making National Parks More Expensive Will Only Make Them Whiter.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (10/31, White), author Dan White argues that raising fees at national parks will only exacerbate the "long-standing ethnicity gap." He claims that "if the price increases go into effect, all lower-income Americans stand to be priced out." Moreover, "advocates say fee hikes could have an oversize impact on communities of color by creating a new disincentive for groups that have stayed away from, or felt discouraged from, visiting national parks, for reasons including fearful historical associations with wilderness areas and a perceived lack of cultural relevancy."

Congress At A Crossroads: We Can Prevent Further Wildfire Tragedy.

For the "Congress" blog of [The Hill](#) (10/31, Bishop), Rep. Rob Bishop urges his colleagues to support the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017. Bishop asserts that "it is no longer debatable that proactive management — prescribed burns, salvaging of dead trees, responsible timber harvesting, among other prescriptions — reduce wildfire severity." He argues that "whether Congress passes the Resilient Federal Forests Act as a stand-alone bill or includes similar provisions in a future legislative package, we must enact reforms to increase the pace and scale of hazardous fuel reduction."

National Forests Deserve Better Than House And Senate's Wildfire Bills.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (10/31, Christensen, Franklin), Norm Christensen, Ph.D., a research professor of ecology and the founding dean of the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University, and Jerry Franklin, Ph.D., a professor of forest ecosystems at the University of Washington, calls the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017 is "a misguided bill that would seriously damage our national forests and reduce Americans' ability to have a say in how these forests are managed." They argue that "wildfire funding should concentrate on prevention programs such as controlled burning and fuel reduction." They assert that "better legislative options that provide the necessary resources for those on the ground, maintain the ecological health of the forests, and keep the voice of the American people involved are needed."

The Park Service Needs To Do More To Connect.

In an op-ed for the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (11/1, Franzen), August Franzen, an intern with the National Park Service in Seattle, writes about the "barriers" that "exist throughout the National Park Service." According to Franzen, "the agency has gotten so used to its own existence that it has a hard time connecting with new audiences." He claims that "the parks have worked so hard to appeal to people who look like me — white, male and comfortable in hiking boots — that they have trouble going any further." As a result, "people who know the parks will visit them, and people who don't, won't." Franzen writes that "these are the challenges that my internship was created to address, and the challenges that motivated me to join."

President Trump's Claim That He 'Turned West Virginia Around' By Cutting Regulations On Mining.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/1, Lewis) analyzes President Trump's claim that he "turned West Virginia Around" by cutting regulations on mining. The piece acknowledges that "since taking office, Trump has cut several Obama-era regulations on mining and energy production," and in the first quarter of 2017, West Virginia, a major energy-producing state, saw a 3 percent increase in gross domestic product, the broadest measure of the economy." But the piece concludes that Trump does not deserve the credit, largely because Trump's actions have not had time to impact the economy. As a result, "for trying to capitalize on the hard work of West Virginians, Trump earns Four Pinocchios."

Additional Reading.

- *Our View: National Parks Becoming Victims Of Own Success.* [Central Maine](#) (11/1).
- *Susan Shelley: 'Rim Of The Valley' Plan Offers Politicians A Place In The Sun.* [Los Angeles Daily News](#) (10/31, Shelley).
- *Montana's Congressional Delegation's 'Alternative Facts' On Lynx.* [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (10/31, Garrity).
- *Cutler: The Deregulation President.* [Roanoke \(VA\) Times](#) (11/1, Cutler).

Top National News

Trump Orders Increased Vetting Of Foreign Visitors After New York Terror Attack.

The deadly truck attack near Ground Zero in New York City dominated the network news broadcasts – the networks spent more than 37 minutes on the story – and the cable shows Tuesday night. The attack also receives saturation coverage in print and online. Much of the coverage focuses on the details of the attack, which authorities are casting as an act of terrorism, as well as President Trump's reaction, including his order that DHS step up the extreme vetting of foreign visitors to the US.

In its lead story, the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/31, lead story, 2:50, Mason) reported that at least eight people were killed and at least 11 were injured "in the deadliest act of terror in this city since 9/11, and it happened just block from the World Trade Center." A 29-year-old suspect, originally from Uzbekistan, is accused of using a truck to mow down bikers and pedestrians on a bicycle path. [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/31, story 3, 2:40, Holt) reported on eyewitness accounts of the attack, with correspondent Savanna Guthrie saying: "According to one witness, the truck was traveling at a high rate of speed, about 40 to 50" miles per hour. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/31, lead story, 3:25, Muir) reported in its lead story that witnesses saw the driver exit the vehicle with "what turned out to be two fake guns." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/31, story 5, 1:00, Muir) and the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/31, story 4, 1:45, Glor) reported from Bellevue Hospital where they said some of the injured were taken. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/31, West, King, Gay) also reports on the attack, providing accounts from eyewitnesses.

Sean Hannity said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (10/31) that Trump [tweeted](#) Tuesday night, "I have just ordered Homeland Security to step up our already Extreme Vetting Program. Being politically correct is fine, but not for this!" The [Washington Times](#) (10/31, Miller) says Trump "did not elaborate on what exactly he had ordered done."

The [New York Times](#) (10/31, Mueller, Rashbaum, Baker) says the President responded to the attack in a [tweet](#), writing, "In NYC, looks like another attack by a very sick and deranged person. Law enforcement is following this closely. NOT IN THE U.S.A.!" [Reuters](#) (10/31, Cherelus, Trotta) reports that Trump, "who has pressed for a ban on travelers entering the United States from some predominantly Muslim countries," [tweeted](#), "We must not allow ISIS to return, or enter, our country after defeating them in the Middle East and elsewhere. Enough!" In another [tweet](#), Trump wrote, "My thoughts, condolences and prayers to the victims and families of the New York City terrorist attack. God and your country are with you!" The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/31, Mayfield) reports that Vice President Pence [tweeted](#) that he was "saddened by the tragedy in NYC. Our prayers are w/the victims, their families & first responders. Those responsible must be held accountable."

Lester Holt said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/31, story 5, 1:05) that while Trump "did not explicitly call this an act of terror," he "did appear to link it to ISIS." Likewise, the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/31, story 5, 1:10, Glor) said Trump "gave [the attack] an ISIS inspiration, or at least indirect ISIS linkage." [Bloomberg News](#) (10/31, Sink, Fletcher) reports that Trump "was briefed on the incident earlier Tuesday by White House chief of staff John Kelly, and press secretary Sarah Sanders said he would be updated as more details became known." In a statement from the White House Tuesday evening, Trump said, "Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims of today's terrorist attack in New York City and their families. ... My Administration will provide its full support to the New York City Police Department, including through a joint investigation with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. We offer our thanks to the first responders who stopped the suspect and rendered immediate aid to the victims of this cowardly attack." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/31, story 6, 1:00, Muir) reporting Trump is "continuing to be updated by his national security team."

Suspect Entered US On "Diversity Visa" Trump Has Sought To End. [NBC Nightly News](#)

(10/31, story 2, 0:55, Holt) reported federal authorities have named the suspect as Sayfullo Saipov. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/31, story 2, 1:50, Muir) reported that authorities say he came to the US "under the diversity visa program, which offers a lottery for people from countries with few immigrants to America." [Breitbart](#) (10/31, Binder) says Trump and "pro-American immigration reformers have demanded an end to" the program, which "gives out 50,000 visas every year to foreign nationals from a multitude of countries, including those with known terrorist problems – such as Afghanistan, Algeria, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Syria, Trinidad and Tobago, Venezuela, Yemen, and Uzbekistan." The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/31, Mayfield) also points out Trump's support for "legislation that would end the program." The [New York Times](#) (10/31, Kilgannon, Goldstein) cites a "law enforcement official" who said Saipov "is an Uzbek national who came to the United States in 2010" through Kennedy International Airport, "and apparently remained in the United States after that."

The [AP](#) (10/31, Long, Pearson) reports that Saipov "has a Florida driver's license but may have been staying in New Jersey." The [Washington Post](#) (10/31, Merle, Barrett, Lowery, Siegel) reports that Dilnoza Abdusamatova "said that Saipov stayed with her family in Cincinnati for his first two weeks in the country because their fathers were friends." Abdusamatova "said that Saipov then moved to Florida to start a trucking company."

[CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (10/31) reported that Saipov left a note in the truck that, according to a law enforcement official, "claimed he...went on this attack in the name of ISIS." The [New York Post](#) (10/31, Celona) says Saipov "had the notes written in Arabic inside his Home Depot rental truck along with a picture of the ISIS flag, according to law enforcement sources."

The [Daily Caller](#) (10/31, Bennett) says police "are not looking for any other suspects in the attack." The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/31, story 2, 1:40, Glor) similarly said that investigators believe Saipov was "acting alone," but intelligence officials will still be searching databases to find out details, including "where he's traveled and who he has been in contact with," as well as his Internet history.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/31, Donati, Sonne) says the attack highlights the increasing threat of terrorism from Central Asia. Fran Townsend, Homeland Security adviser to President George W. Bush, said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/31, story 3, 2:15, Mason) that "one of the things [investigators will] look at, we know that this man, the truck driver, was from originally Uzbekistan," which "has an Islamic extremist group, the IMU, the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan and they were established in 1998. In 2015, they moved from an affiliate of Al Qaeda to ISIS. ... And so, the FBI investigators are going to look to see whether or not he was motivated by the IMU, or another extremist group."

FBI Takes Lead In Investigation. [Politico](#) (10/31, Lima) reports that the Administration "announced that the FBI and the New York City Police Department were mounting a joint investigation into the attack." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/31, story 7, 0:45, Muir) reported Attorney General Sessions spoke with FBI Director Wray by phone regarding the attack "and what to do about it." [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/31) reported the FBI has now taken the lead in the case.

[The Hill](#) (10/31, Fabian) reports that New York City Mayor Bill De Blasio "called the incident an 'act of terror' that targeted 'innocent people.'" In its lead story, [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/31, lead story, 3:20, Holt) showed De Blasio saying, "This was an act of terror, and a particularly cowardly act of terror, aimed at innocent civilians."

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said on [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (10/31), "All the evidence we have suggests that he was acting alone, the so-called lone wolf syndrome. You have to remember a couple years ago they telegraphed this, that they were going to go to individual acts. They said use a knife, car, truck or what ever you can get. That's what this was." Citing witness accounts that the driver yelled, "Allahu Akbar!" as he got out of the truck, [USA Today](#) (10/31, James, McCoy) reports that New York City Police Commissioner James O'Neill "said the statement and the method of attack led police to conclude it was a terrorist act."

"Today is just latest in which attackers have used car or truck to mow people around the world," [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/31, story 6, 2:15, Holt) reported, with Tom Costello mentioning truck attacks in Nice, London, Barcelona, Stockholm, Berlin, and Ohio State University, before noting that "for years, ISIS and Al Qaeda called for this kind of low tech attack." Jim Sciutto said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/31), "We know ISIS has encouraged their supporters to use vehicles in attacks." Ray Kelly said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/31, story 4, 1:30, Muir), "This is the nightmare scenario, no question about it." On [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/31, story 4, 1:10, Holt), counterterrorism analyst Bill Bratton argued, "It's actually fortunate more people

weren't injured in this incident. There's a major school there getting out a few minutes after this event occurred."

James Rosen said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (10/31) that DHS officials and a member of the House Intelligence Committee "are portraying it as most likely a copycat attack based on similar uses of motor vehicles as weapons in acts of terrorism in big cities. A spokesperson for acting DHS Secretary Elaine Duke after noting that Duke she had been briefed in the attack stated, 'We have recently seen attacks like this throughout the world.'" Rep. Joaquin Castro, a member of the House Intelligence Committee, "told Fox News tonight, 'More people are being inspired. It certainly looks like a copycat thing, but it's too early to make that determination.'"

The [Washington Times](#) (10/31, Ernst, Morton) reports that while there was "no immediate claim of responsibility from the Islamic State, al Qaeda or any other terrorist group...pro-ISIS web sites were openly exulting in the attack." Meanwhile, in cable appearances Tuesday evening, lawmakers' comments indicated a belief that ISIS was behind the attack. For example, House Homeland Security Committee Chairman Mike McCaul said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (10/31), "I believe when an individual yells out allahu akbar, all the indicators and hallmarks of an act of terror and I think that's true in this case. ... I believe as we are crushing the caliphate, defeating ISIS in Mosul and Raqqa, this is going to be the new sort of age or chapter of terror that we are going to see are these vehicles, these knives and explosive devices."

Sen. Richard Blumenthal said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/31) that ISIS "has been on the run and on the defensive in Iraq and the Middle East and certainly it has boasted about metastasizing in effect this cancer of attacks on democracies all around the world. So it's attempting to reach America, the greatest democracy in the world, would not be surprising."

Sen. Chris Coons said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/31), "Earlier this week, just yesterday we had a hearing in the Senate where we asked the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State about what we can expect as the amount of territory that ISIS controls in the Middle East is shrunk through action by the United States military and our coalition forces and one of the things they said is we will see ISIS around the world try and carry out attacks."

Former National Security council staffer Gillian Turner said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (10/31) that if this was an ISIS attack, "their turn to reliance on the use of vehicles, the weaponization of vehicles, is something that is going to have catastrophic consequences for decades to come. While ISIS' reach is definitively global thanks to the Internet, this particular tactic makes all terrorism local for the effective future. It means they can reach into any community anywhere in the world, at any time and find recruits and sympathizers who are willing and able to go forth and carry out terrorist attacks."

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/31) editorial likens the attack to attacks this year in Las Ramblas in Barcelona, London Bridge and Stockholm, and last year on Bastille Day in Nice and at a Berlin Christmas market, and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/31, Lee, Hansen) says a US Transportation Security Administration report issued this year titled "Vehicle ramming attacks: Threat landscape, indicators and countermeasures," says "that in the last three years, at least 173 people have been killed and more than 700 wounded in 17 ramming attacks around the world."

NYC Deploying Extra Security As A Precaution. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/31, story 3, 2:05, Muir) reported that while authorities believe this was a lone wolf attack and do not believe there is an ongoing threat, with "millions...out for Halloween, and the annual parade in Manhattan," "major steps are being taken tonight to protect families." New York will deploy additional officers throughout the city. Cuomo said, "You'll see them in the airports, you'll see them in the tunnels. It's not because there's any evidence of any ongoing threat or any additional threat, it is just out of vigilance and out of caution." De Blasio said, "The bottom line is, we are going to go about our business in this city, we're not going to be deterred."

Media Analyses: Trump Seeks To Distance Himself From Papadopoulos.

Coverage of the aftermath of Special Counsel Robert Mueller's indictments of Paul Manafort and Rick Gates, and the revelation of George Papadopoulos' plea agreement, contrasts efforts by President Trump and the White House to distance Trump from Papadopoulos with pieces on Papadopoulos' role in the 2016 campaign. The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/31, story 6, 2:10, Mason) reported, "President Trump today tried to put distance between himself and the investigation into Russian interference in the election...despite the indictment of his former campaign chairman and a guilty plea by a former campaign adviser." CBS' Major Garrett: "[On Twitter](#), President Trump falsely claimed Paul Manafort's alleged offense took place long before he came to the campaign. But the indictment alleges Manafort lied to federal officials and carried out a money laundering scheme during his tenure as campaign chairman and while advising the

transition.”

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/31, story 8, 3:10, Muir), Jonathan Karl reported, “[On Twitter](#), the President lashed out at former campaign adviser George Papadopoulos, who pleaded guilty to lying about his contacts with the Russians: ‘Few people knew the young low level volunteer named George, who has already proven to be a liar. Check the Dems.’ Trump once called him an ‘excellent guy,’ and sat just a few seats away from him during a national security meeting in March 2016.” Chief of Staff Kelly “acknowledged in an interview with Fox News that the special counsel’s investigation is distracting President Trump.” Kelly: “It is very distracting to the President, as it would be to any citizen, to be investigated for something, while at the same time trying to carry the weight of what being President of the United States means.”

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/31, story 7, 2:30, Holt), Kristen Welker reported that Papadopoulos’ guilty plea “is providing fresh insight into Robert Mueller’s investigation into Russia’s attempt to influence the presidential campaign. ... NBC News has learned that one of those questioned just last week was Sam Clovis, a Trump campaign aide who appeared to approve of Papadopoulos request to go to Russia for the campaign. But his lawyer says would never have agreed to that.” Reporter Shirish D  te: “Are you going to pardon Mr. Manafort?” Trump: “Thank you all, thank you.” Welker: “The President ignored questions today, but called Papadopoulos a low-level volunteer and proven liar.”

The [AP](#) (10/31, Tucker, Day) reports that Trump “dismissed” Papadopoulos “as a ‘liar’ and a mere campaign volunteer, but newly unsealed court papers outline the former adviser’s frequent contacts with senior officials and with foreign nationals who promised access to the highest levels of the Russian government.” The [New York Times](#) (10/31, Baker) reports that Trump “did not deny” that Papadopoulos “worked to collaborate with Russia. He simply brushed off his significance and focused on the fact that Mr. Papadopoulos pleaded guilty to lying to the F.B.I. to cover up the contacts with Russia.”

The [Washington Times](#) (10/31, Miller) reports that White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said that the Trump campaign has fully cooperated with the investigation and in fact informed on Papadopoulos. She said, “Papadopoulos is an example of someone doing the wrong thing while the campaign was doing the right thing. ... What Papadopoulos did was lie and that’s on him, not the campaign.”

[Politico](#) (10/31, Nelson) reports that Trump “cast the Manafort charges as a vindication, of sorts, for the campaign.” However, [USA Today](#) (10/31, Przybyla) reports that the “series of charges unsealed early Monday morning is a significant step in the federal investigation of Russian attempts to influence the 2016 presidential election, which Trump has previously dismissed as a ‘hoax’ and a ‘witch hunt.’” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/31, Radnofsky) reports that while the President mentioned the indictments on Monday, Tuesday was the first time he addressed Papadopoulos’ plea.

CNN’s Dan Merica [tweeted](#), “Trump’s claim that Papadopoulos was nothing but ‘low level volunteer named George’ belies what Mueller laid out.” Yahoo! News’ Olivier Knox [tweeted](#), “The ‘coffee boy’? Papadopoulos appears to have been empowered to speak publicly for Trump quite extensively.” [Reuters](#) (10/31) also reports on Trump’s remarks.

Papadopoulos Was In Regular Contact With Top Campaign Officials. The [Washington Post](#) (10/31, Helderman, DeYoung, Hamburger) reports that though Trump “belittled” Papadopoulos, “interviews and documents show that Papadopoulos was in regular contact with the Trump campaign’s most senior officials and held himself out as a Trump surrogate as he traveled the world to meet with foreign officials and reporters.” And while “some top campaign aides appeared to rebuff Papadopoulos’s persistent offers to broker a meeting” with Russian President Vladimir Putin, there is “no sign they told him directly to cease his activities or sought to end his affiliation with the campaign.”

On its front page, the [New York Times](#) (10/31, A1, Rosenberg, Lafraniere, Apuzzo) examines how the Trump campaign rushed to assemble a foreign policy team in the spring of 2016 as his “surprise march to the nomination had left the party’s establishment openly questioning whether he had the foreign policy experience.” The group was “almost immediately written off as a collection of fringe thinkers and has-beens and unknowns,” and some “have now created far deeper problems for Mr. Trump.”

Some Trump Allies Seek Tougher Line On Mueller, Though Not Firing. The [Washington Post](#) (10/31, Rucker, Costa) reports that “despite his growing frustration with an investigation he has roundly dismissed,” the President “has been cooperating with Mueller and lately has resisted attacking him directly, at the urging of his attorneys inside and outside the White House.” But some Trump allies including Steve Bannon “have said they think the president’s posture is too

timid" and "are urging a more combative approach to Mueller that would damage his credibility and potentially kneecap his investigation."

The Post reports that even these advisers are not suggesting Trump fire Mueller, and [Politico](#) (10/31, Nelson) reports that Sanders said the President is not considering defunding Mueller's inquiry, and the [Washington Post](#) (10/31, Demirjian, Sullivan) reports that "several GOP senators" including Sens. Bob Corker, Jeff Flake, John McCain, and Richard Shelby said that they would oppose any such action.

The [New York Times](#) (10/31) editorializes, "If there were any remaining hope that Republicans would accept the precise, methodical work" of Mueller, a "veteran, highly respected, Republican-appointed law enforcement official – the man Newt Gingrich once called a 'superb choice to be special counsel' – it has evaporated in a fog of propaganda and delirious conspiracy theories." Mueller "is doing the job he was hired to do."

Politico's Roger Simon [tweeted](#), "I am really, really pleased that Robert Mueller is so smart and the people he is up against are so stupid."

Mueller's Team To Speak With Hicks, Other Current White House Officials. [Politico](#) (10/31, Karni, Dawsey) reports that White House Communications Director Hope Hicks is scheduled to speak with Mueller's team "in mid-November, following the president's trip to Asia. ... Mueller's team is also expected to interview three or four other current White House officials as early as this week, according to an administration official."

Mueller May Be Able To Compel Subjects' Lawyers To Testify. The [Washington Post](#) (10/31, Barrett, Zapotosky) writes that "a little-noticed court filing unsealed this week" as part of Mueller investigation indicates that he is "willing to use suspects' lawyers to provide evidence against them." The US District Court unsealed an opinion from Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell saying that "one of Manafort's former lawyers could be compelled to testify to the grand jury" – an exception to the tradition of attorney-client privilege.

NYTimes Analysis: Mueller Lieutenant "An Expert" In Getting Defendants To Flip. The [New York Times](#) (10/31, A1, Flegenheimer) has a front-page profile of prosecutor Andrew Weissmann, who once focused on New York's Genovese crime family and is now "a top lieutenant" to Mueller. Weissmann "is an expert in converting defendants into collaborators – with either tactical brilliance or overzealousness, depending on one's perspective."

Trump: Podesta's Exit "Has The Dems In A Dither." [Politico](#) (10/31, McCaskill) reports that Trump "claimed Tuesday that Monday's "biggest story" was Democratic lobbyist and Podesta Group founder Tony Podesta 'running from his firm.'" The President [tweeted](#) (10/31), "The biggest story yesterday, the one that has the Dems in a dither, is Podesta running from his firm. What he know about Crooked Dems is earth shattering. He and his brother could Drain The Swamp, which would be yet another campaign promise fulfilled. Fake News weak!"

[Politico](#) (10/31, Meyer) reports that Podesta's resignation "sent K Street scrambling, as lobbyists rushed to make sure they're in compliance with the" rules governing the representation of foreign powers. The indictment names the Podesta Group as a company that lobbied a company allegedly under control of Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, his political party and the Ukrainian government.

[Townhall](#) (10/31, Pavlich) reports that ex-FBI and CIA Leon Panetta told CNN on Monday evening that Mueller "is just getting started and that Democrats should also be nervous." Panetta said, "We are at the beginning of this investigation, not at the end of it. ... There will be other trails of evidence that will be followed by Bob Mueller. I think there's probably a very good bet that additional indictments will be forthcoming and could involve members of both parties."

DNC's Perez Declines To Offer Details On Fusion GPS Payments. The [Daily Caller](#) (10/31, Pollock) reports that Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez "stonewalled reporters Tuesday by refusing to divulge any concrete information about the DNC's financial payments to Fusion GPS." Perez told reporters, "Opposition research is not simply something that ought be done, it would be malpractice not to do it." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/31) says in an editorial that the Washington press corps has so far protected Fusion GPS, lashing out at those who have questioned its role in the 2016 campaign.

Jim Rutenberg of the [New York Times](#) (10/31) writes, "As Mr. Mueller and his team home in on people connected to President Trump...the president and his allies in the conservative media sphere are pointing at the Democrats and Hillary Clinton." The [Washington Post](#) (10/31) says in an editorial that the GOP focus on whether "the Democrats collude[d] with Russian nationals to tip the election against" Trump, and on the Uranium One deal, is because Trump "needs a distraction, and his surrogates, some Republican members of Congress, right-wing media and even some people in mainstream outlets are helping him gin up outrage" against Hillary Clinton.

Democrats Mull Strategy Of How To Discuss Mueller Probe On Campaign Trail. The [Washington](#)

[Post](#) (10/31, O'Keefe, Weigel) reports that Mueller's probe "is not expected to become a dominant theme for Democrats on the campaign trail as the party continues grappling with how to talk about President Trump. ... The Russia investigation 'is important to talk about, but I don't think it's something that you can focus entirely on,'" said Minnesota Democratic Chairman Ken Martin. But Guy Cecil, who heads Democratic super PAC American Priorities Action, "said that despite the reservations of some, the Russia story would be part of the party's 2018 focus, especially after the indictments. 'That took what had been a complicated story and it simplified it,' he explained."

Facebook, Google, And Twitter Testify On Russian Trolls, But Resist Legislative Action. The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/31, story 7, 2:10, Mason) reported, "Social media executives total a Senate subcommittee today that Russian-linked accounts began trying to interfere with the election in 2015, and they kept at it long after the voting had ended." CBS' Nancy Cordes: "Executives from Facebook, Twitter, and Google told Senators today that Russian trolls were more prolific than they initially believed, posting 80,000 pieces of content on Facebook alone between 2015 and this summer. .. Most of the posts and ads originated from one office building in St. Petersburg, Russia, where an operation innocuously named the Internet Research Agency uploaded 1,100 videos to YouTube and published more than 131,000 divisive messages on Twitter."

[The Federalist](#) (10/31, Payton) reports that the "so-called 'troll farm' with connections to the Russian Kremlin" organized political rallies in the US with the goal of increasing divisions. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/31, story 8, 1:55, Holt), Jo Ling Kent reported, "One ad by Russian group calling itself Heart Of Texas falsely claimed that Hillary Clinton had a 69% disapproval rating among veterans. A second ad erroneously told Americans they could vote for Hillary by texting." The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (10/27, Furst) looks at whether a July 2016 rally against police brutality in St. Paul was one of the group's efforts.

[Politico](#) (10/31, Scola, Gold) reports that Facebook general counsel Colin Stretch told senators that the Internet Research Agency "after Nov. 8 centered on 'fomenting discord about the validity of his [Trump's] election.'" That's a change from Russia's pre-election activity, which was largely centered on trying to denigrate Clinton.

The [New York Times](#) (10/31, Kang, Fandos, Isaac) reports that the executives "appeared on Capitol Hill for the first time on Tuesday to publicly acknowledge their role in Russia's influence on the presidential campaign, but offered little more than promises to do better." [USA Today](#) (10/31, Kelly) reports that representatives of the three companies "stopped short Tuesday of endorsing a bipartisan bill that would require them to disclose who is paying for political ads that appear on their online platforms," instead highlighting "the voluntary steps they are taking to ensure they don't violate federal election law." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/31, story 10, 0:25, Muir), the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/31, Cloud), and the [Washington Times](#) (10/31, Dinan) have brief reports.

Kremlin Calls Charges Of Election-Meddling "Baseless." The [Washington Post](#) (10/31, Filipov) reports that the Kremlin "dismissed as 'baseless' and 'ludicrous' the notion that charges leveled by" Mueller "constituted proof of Russian meddling in US political affairs." Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters, "From the outset we have been completely baffled over these baseless, unproven accusations against our country, about alleged attempts to interfere with US elections. We don't want to be any part of this process, and we'd prefer that these proceedings not facilitate the intensification of already rampant Russophobic hysteria."

David Ignatius writes in his [Washington Post](#) (10/31) column, "Next comes the overtly dangerous part: When covert operations are exposed, nations sometimes adopt more aggressive actions. ... As the world focuses on Russian mischief, will the Kremlin move the dial up or down?"

NYTimes Analysis: Manafort's Big Spending On Clothes Draws Attention. The [New York Times](#) (10/31, Friedman) looks at "the approximately \$1.3 million Mr. Manafort spent during two shopping sprees in New York and Beverly Hills," writing that "at least when it comes to politics, fancy clothes or even just an unseemly focus on clothes have been a stand-in for (at best) bad character and (at worst) corruption for years." The Times cites the cases of ex-Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell, as well as Gingrich, who "had a \$500,000 line of credit at Tiffany & Co."

White House: Trump Will Not Visit DMZ During Visit To South Korea.

The [AP](#) (10/31, Colvin) reports the White House said Tuesday that President Trump will not visit the Demilitarized Zone during his upcoming trip to South Korea in "a break from many previous administrations." A "senior Administration official" said there is not enough time in the President's schedule to accommodate a visit to the border zone. Instead, Trump will visit Camp Humphreys, a military base outside Seoul, "to highlight the US-South Korean partnership."

State Dept. Official: US Pursuing Direct Diplomacy With North Korea. [Reuters](#) (10/31,

Mohammed, Spetalnick) reports exclusively that the US is “quietly pursuing direct diplomacy with North Korea, a senior State Department official said” Tuesday, despite President Trump’s public assertion that such talks are a waste of time. Using the so-called “New York channel,” US negotiator Joseph Yun “has been in contact with diplomats at Pyongyang’s United Nations mission, the official said.” There is “no sign, however, that the behind-the-scenes communications have improved” the relationship.

Democrats Introduce Bill That Would Prevent Trump From Launching First Strike On North Korea.

[Reuters](#) (10/31, Zengerle) reports that a group of Democratic senators introduced a bill Tuesday aimed at preventing President Trump from launching a nuclear first strike on North Korea “on his own.” The measure would prevent the President from launching an attack on North Korea, “or spending any money on a military strike, without congressional approval, unless North Korea has first attacked the United States.” Sen. Chris Murphy, the bill’s lead sponsor, told reporters, “I worry that the President’s enthusiasm will not be checked by the advisers around him.”

Report: 200 Killed In North Korea Nuclear Test Site Accident. [Bloomberg News](#) (10/31, Tweed) reports that as many as 200 people “may have died when tunnels collapsed at a North Korean nuclear test site in October, TV Asahi reported, citing unidentified people familiar with North Korean matters.” Roughly 100 people “got caught in a collapsed tunnel” near the Punggye-ri site “around Oct. 10, while the others were trapped in a further collapse during a rescue attempt, TV Asahi said.”

Trump Wants To Sign Tax Bill By Christmas.

A day before Republicans are expected to reveal their tax overhaul plan, President Trump “predicted a grand signing ceremony before Christmas at” what he called “the biggest tax event in the history of our country,” the [AP](#) (10/31, Thomas, Lucey) reports. Peaking in the Roosevelt Room alongside “the heads of more than a dozen business and trade allies,” Trump said, “The process is complicated but the end result will not be that complicated. It’s going to be: People are going to pay less tax by a lot, companies are going to pay less tax by a lot – that’s a big difference – and companies are going to start rebuilding and they’re going to stay here.” [The Hill](#) (10/31, Fabian) quotes the President as saying, “I want the House to pass a bill by Thanksgiving. I want all the people standing by my side when we sign by Christmas, hopefully before Christmas.”

Republicans Delay Release Of Tax Plan Until Thursday.

In a story posted just before 10 p.m. Tuesday, [Bloomberg News](#) (10/31, Murphy, Basu) reports that the House Ways and Means Committee has postponed the release of the Republican tax bill – which had been planned for Wednesday – until Thursday “amid unresolved questions about the timing of a corporate tax rate cut and other proposals.” While Chairman Kevin Brady said members of his committee were “pleased with the progress” that has been made, Bloomberg says “the one-day delay reflects the challenge of crafting – and then passing – a complex bill by the Thanksgiving deadline that House Speaker Paul Ryan has imposed.” [Politico](#) (10/31, Bade, Becker, Faler, Lorenzo) calls the delay “an ominous sign for a direly needed legislative accomplishment for President Donald Trump and his party.”

A [New York Times](#) (10/31, Rappeport, Tankersley) story posted earlier Tuesday reports that “many key details remain[ed] in flux.” Republicans are “struggling with how to make the math work, including how to treat the wealthiest Americans, whether to get rid of some of the most valuable tax deductions and whether to make the income tax cuts temporary.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/31, Mascaro, Puzanghera) says that while Republicans “remained divided on some issues, particularly how to pay for the cuts they favored, other details were coming into focus.”

Republicans Close To Deal To Preserve Deduction For State And Local Property Taxes. [Reuters](#) (10/31, Morgan, Becker) reports that Republicans were nearing a deal Tuesday “to preserve a federal tax deduction for state and local property taxes, but not income tax payments, potentially removing a major obstacle to progress on their US tax overhaul plan.” According to Rep. Tom Reed support for a “sweet spot” compromise was building “among high-tax state lawmakers who have resisted the tax overhaul due to its proposed repeal of the state and local tax, or SALT, deduction.” Reed told reporters that the compromise “goes a long way to listen to their plight, respond to their needs.” Reuters adds that House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady told radio commentator Hugh Hewitt on Tuesday that the tax package “will maintain the federal deduction for SALT property tax payments, but not SALT income tax payments.”

GOP Tax Plan Will Not Phase-In Corporate Tax Rate Cut. Ylan Mui said on [CNBC’s Closing Bell](#) (10/31), “Two sources who have been briefed on the Republican tax plan are telling me that

there will be no phase-in of the corporate tax rate. There had been some potential discussion of having that corporate tax phase in over four to five years. Now I'm hearing that that will not be included in the Republicans' plan that will be released tomorrow." Mui added that Sen. John Thune said "he is not personally in favor" of phasing in the corporate tax rate, "but in the Senate he's not taking it off the table." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/31, Hughes, Rubin) says President Trump pushed back against reports that Republicans were considering phasing in the cut. Before a meeting with business trader group leaders Tuesday, Trump said, "We're not looking for that, no. We're not looking for that. ... Some people have mentioned that. Hopefully not."

Trump Says Announcement On Businesses Returning To US Coming "Very Soon."

The [Washington Times](#) (10/31, Miller) reports that President Trump said at a White House meeting with business leaders that a "major announcement was coming soon about companies returning to the United States, which he credited to the tax reform effort." Trump said, "We have companies that really want to move back into the United States now because of what we're doing with taxes. And some big ones are going to be announcing very soon."

EPA Official Says Obama Administration Had Legal Basis For Methane Rule.

[Axios](#) (10/31, Harder) contributor Amy Harder says that one senior EPA official is claiming that "President Obama had a strong legal case to limit emissions of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, from new oil and gas wells." Obama cited the EPA's 2009 endangerment finding, which found that "greenhouse gas emissions, including methane, endanger public health and welfare indicate 'a level of responsibility for the agency to consider.'" Moreover, he argued that "any change in approach or application will require an equally robust record." The American Petroleum Institute opposes direct regulation on methane emissions. According to API vice president for Regulatory and Economic Policy Kyle Isakower, "That's really the concern about methane being regulated for new sources. It triggers the existing source standard, which would put significant cost on hundreds of thousands of wells, many that are low-producing."

Meanwhile, [Reuters](#) (10/31, Volcovici) quotes Sen. Tom Carper, top Democrat on the Senate environment committee, as saying, that Pruitt's decision was part of an EPA effort to "delegitimize the work of nonpartisan scientists." Sen. Carper adds, "this crusade endangers the health of every American, and it cannot be tolerated."

Pruitt To Replace Members Of EPA Advisory Boards.

The [AP](#) (10/31, Biesecker) reports that EPA Administrator Pruitt said that he "intends to replace the outside experts that advise him on science and public health issues with new board members holding more diverse views." In announcing the changes, Pruitt "suggested many previously appointed to the panels were potentially biased because they had received federal research grants. The 22 boards advise EPA on a wide range of issues, including drinking water standards and pesticide safety."

[USA Today](#) (10/31, King) reports that Pruitt told reporters, "We want to ensure that the American people have confidence...in the process and that the advisers that we have in each of these respective capacities are providing independent, arms-length input to us as we make decisions." The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (10/31, Harrington) reports that during the last three years of the Obama Administration, "members sitting on just three of the agency's scientific advisory boards received \$77 million in EPA grants."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/31, Dennis, Eilperin) reports that while Pruitt "did not announce his selections for new appointees," a list obtained by the Post "from multiple individuals familiar with the likely appointments includes several categories of experts – voices from regulated industries, academics and environmental regulators from conservative states, and researchers who have a history of critiquing the science and economics underpinning tighter environmental regulations."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"That Crazy Talk About Robert Mueller." The [New York Times](#) (10/31) editorializes, "If there were any remaining hope that Republicans would accept the precise, methodical work" of special counsel Robert Mueller, a "veteran, highly respected, Republican-appointed law enforcement official – the man Newt Gingrich once called a 'superb choice to be special counsel' – it has

evaporated in a fog of propaganda and delirious conspiracy theories." Mueller "is doing the job he was hired to do."

"Constitutional Convention: Thanks, But No Thanks." The [New York Times](#) (10/31) editorializes that New Yorkers should vote "no" to Ballot Proposal 1, which asks if there "shall there be a convention to revise the Constitution and amend the same," and which will be put to a vote across the state on Tuesday. The Times reasons that "the likelihood of a con-con yielding the most desperately needed reforms is disappointingly low, and the possibility of its accomplishing nothing at significant cost, or, worse, setting New York back even further, is worrisomely high." The Times opines that the more appropriate route for voters to take is to vote lawmakers who can't make needed changes out of office when they come up for re-election.

Washington Post.

"Trump Pulls Another Stunt Of Cynical Distraction." The [Washington Post](#) (10/31) says in an editorial that the GOP focus on whether "the Democrats collude[d] with Russian nationals to tip the election against" President Trump, and on the Uranium One deal, is because Trump "needs a distraction, and his surrogates, some Republican members of Congress, right-wing media and even some people in mainstream outlets are helping him gin up outrage" against Hillary Clinton.

"A Legal Change That Could Help Stop The Next Harvey Weinstein." The [Washington Post](#) (10/31) editorializes that "the story of Harvey Weinstein is partly a story of secrecy," which "involves Mr. Weinstein's use of confidential settlements and non-disclosure agreements that kept his victims and employees from speaking out." The Post adds that "powerful men engaged in sexual misconduct often use similar legal tools to bury controversy." The Post notes that some are "pushing for federal legislation to prohibit employers from mandating private arbitration for civil rights complaints." The Post argues that "laws alone can't change a culture in which powerful men feel entitled to prey on those around them," but "reducing secrecy would be an important step toward holding predators accountable and diminishing their opportunity to transgress multiple times."

"Ralph Northam Should Repudiate This Offensive Anti-Gillespie Ad." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/31, Board) weighs in on the Latino Victory Fund's ad against Virginia Republican gubernatorial candidate Ed Gillespie, saying, "There is no question that if this were a race to the bottom, Mr. Gillespie would be the winner, having spent millions of dollars on ads that use specious claims and appeals to race and ethnicity to scare and divide." However, the ad depicting "Gillespie voters as white supremacists looking to run down minority children is not only wrong, it is deeply offensive. [Democratic gubernatorial candidate Ralph] Northam should say so."

Wall Street Journal.

"Tax Credit Bidding War." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/31) argues against calls from Sens. Marco Rubio and Mike Lee to at least double the child tax credit, which is currently \$1,000 per child. The Journal casts the tax credit as income redistribution and says a better use of the funds could be to finance lower tax rates on capital and labor, which would help create opportunity and increase incomes.

"The Terror In Tribeca." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/31) editorial likens Tuesday's truck attack in New York City to attacks this year in Las Ramblas in Barcelona, London Bridge and Stockholm, and last year in Nice and at a Berlin Christmas market.

"The Press Loves Fusion GPS." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/31) says in an editorial that the Washington press corps has so far protected Fusion GPS, lashing out at those who have questioned its role in the 2016 campaign.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Eight Killed In Terror Attack In New York](#)

[GOP Tax Plan Won't Cut Rate For Highest Earners](#)

[In Mainstream Move, Bitcoin Poised To Join Oil, Gold In Futures Trading](#)

[Inside The Decline Of Sears, The Amazon Of The 20th Century](#)

New York Times:

[Manhattan Terror Attack Kills 8 And Injures 11](#)
[A Mangled School Bus, Bodies Everywhere: "It Was Surreal"](#)
[Andrew Weissmann, Mueller's Legal Pit Bull](#)
[Tech Executives Are Contrite About Election Meddling, But Make Few Promises On Capitol Hill](#)
[Trump Foreign Policy Advisers Were Brought On To Solve A Political Problem. Now They Are One.](#)
[De Blasio Finds Biggest Win In Pre-K, But Also Lasting Consequences](#)

Washington Post:

[Former Adviser Touted Ties To Trump Campaign](#)
[Trump Allies Split Over Whether To Battle Mueller](#)
[In Shift, GOP Proposal Won't Lower Rate For The Wealthiest](#)
[As Northam's Lead Slips, Other Races Have An Edge](#)

Financial Times:

[Carles Puigdemont Vows To Lead Catalan Fight From Brussels](#)
[Samsung Shakes Up Top Leadership](#)
[Mueller Probe Casts Spotlight On UK-Based Academic](#)
[CME To Offer Bitcoin Futures](#)

Washington Times:

[At Least 8 Dead In Vehicle Attack; Feds Investigating As Islamist Terrorism](#)
[Russians Fomented Discord In U.S. Over Issues More Than Candidates, Social Media Execs Say](#)
[Trump Campaign Gave Feds The Goods On Papadopoulos, Says White House](#)
[Mueller's Investigation Shows Aggressive Approach](#)
[Afghanistan Security Deteriorates As Military Ramps Up Trump's War Strategy](#)
[Spacey's Outing Follows Political Sex Scandal Playbook](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: NYC Truck Attack; NYC Truck Attack-Suspect; NYC Truck Attack-Security Measures; NYC Truck Attack-Expert Comment; NYC Truck Attack-Victims; NYC Truck Attack-WH Response; NYC Truck Attack-Law Enforcement Response; Russia Meddling Investigation-White House; California School Shooting; Russia Meddling Investigation-Social Media; Kevin Spacey Sex Harassment Scandal; Tampa Serial Killer Search; NYC Truck Attack-Recap.

CBS: NYC Truck Attack; NYC Truck Attack-Suspect; NYC Truck Attack-Expert Comment; NYC Truck Attack-Victims; NYC Truck Attack-WH Response; Russia Meddling Investigation-White House; Russia Meddling Investigation-Social Media; NYC Truck Attack-Analysis; NYC Truck Attack-Recap.

NBC: NYC Truck Attack; NYC Truck Attack-Suspect; NYC Truck Attack-Eyewitnesses; NYC Truck Attack-Expert Comment; NYC Truck Attack-WH Response; NYC Truck Attack-Past Vehicle Attacks; Russia Meddling Investigation-White House; Russia Meddling Investigation-Social Media; Kevin Spacey Sex Harassment Scandal; Play Stage Crash; Most Popular Candy; Houston Hurricane Recovery.

Network TV At A Glance:

NYC Truck Attack – 37 minutes, 20 seconds
Russia Meddling Investigation – 12 minutes, 20 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: NYC Truck Attack; Tax Reform Plan; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery.

CBS: NYC Truck Attack; Baseball World Series; White House-Tax Reform.

FOX: NYC Truck Attack; Russia Meddling Investigation.

NPR: NYC Truck Attack; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery; US Consumer Confidence; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Holds a Cabinet Meeting; signs the National Veterans and Military Families Month Proclamation; has lunch with Vice President Mike Pence, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson,

and Secretary of Defense James Mattis; meets with the Chairwoman of the Republican National Committee; signs H.J. Res. 111 – Disapproving of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Arbitration Agreements Rule.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate Intelligence Committee holds hearing with Facebook, Twitter, and Google testifying – Hearing on 'Social Media Influence in the 2016 U.S. Elections', with testimony from Facebook Vice President and General Counsel Colin Stretch; Twitter General Counsel Sean Edgett; and Google Senior Vice President and General Counsel Kent Walker Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Banking Committee Executive Session, nominations hearing – Executive Session, to consider the nominations of David Ryder to be U.S. Mint Director; and Hester Peirce and Robert Jackson Jr. to be Securities and Exchange Commission members * Immediately followed by nominations hearing considering Scott Garrett to be Export-Import Bank of the United States President, Kimberly Reed to be First Vice President, Spencer Bachus III (reappointment), Claudia Slacik (reappointment), and Judith Delzoppo Pryor to be Board of Directors members, and Mark Greenblatt to be Inspector General Location: Rm 538, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://banking.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Leonard Steven Grasz to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit; Terry Doughty to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana; Terry Fitzgerald Moorer to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Alabama; and Mark Saalfield Norris Sr. to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 226, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Irwin Steven Goldstein to be Under Secretary of State For Public Diplomacy; Rebecca Eliza Gonzales to be U.S. Ambassador to Lesotho; Lisa Johnson to be U.S. Ambassador to Namibia; James Randolph Evans to be U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg; and Sean Lawler to be U.S. Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of ambassador during his tenure of service Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers James Bridenstine to be NASA Administrator; Dana Baiocco to be a Consumer Product Safety Commission Commissioner; Dr Neil Jacobs to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Environmental Observation and Prediction; and Nazakhtar Nikakhtar to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Analysis Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov>
<https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

10:00 AM Helsinki Commission briefing on the Western Balkans – 'The Western Balkans: Perspectives from OSCE Field Missions' Helsinki Commission briefing, with three Americans who currently hold, or have recently held, senior positions on OSCE Missions in the region – OSCE Mission to Skopje Deputy Head Jeff Goldstein, former OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina Head Jonathan Moore, and former OSCE Mission to Serbia Deputy Head Michael Uyehara – commenting on developments in those countries during their assignment, the efforts undertaken by their respective missions to assist those countries, and the effectiveness of the OSCE as a multilateral tool for enhancing stability and promoting reform, while OSCE Secretariat Conflict Prevention Centre Director Amb. Marcel Pesko comments on the organization's field work from the Secretariat perspective, and the challenges not only to OSCE field activity in the Western Balkans but throughout the OSCE region Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC-202, Washington, DC <http://www.osce.org> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

2:30 PM Oversight hearing on 'Building Tribal Economies: Modernizing Tax Policies that Work for Indian Country' Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 628, Washington, DC <http://indian.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/IndianCommittee>

2:30 PM Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee hearing on energy and international development – Multilateral International Development, Multilateral Institutions, and International Economic, Energy, and Environmental Policy Subcommittee hearing on 'Energy and International Development', with testimony from United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative and Sustainable Energy for All CEO Rachel Kyte; Rice University's Dr Todd Moss; Purpose Climate Lab Program Director Joao Talocchi; and Energy Systems Network President and CEO Paul Mitchell Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

US House: 10:00 AM POSTPONED: FEMA Administrator Long testifies to House Homeland Security Committee – POSTPONED: Hearing on 'Assessing FEMA's Preparedness and Response

Capabilities', with testimony from Federal Emergency Management Agency Administrator Brock Long; and San Juan, Puerto Rico, Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC 210, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

10:00 AM House Science subcommittee hearing on low dose radiation research – Energy Subcommittee hearing on 'The Future of Low Dose Radiation Research', with testimony from Government Accountability Office Director of Science and Technology Issues John Neumann; Northwestern University Professor Radiation Oncology and Radiology Dr Gayle Woloschak; and Harvard Medical School Professor of Radiology Dr James Brink Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2318, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM National Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Overview of 16 Years of Involvement in Afghanistan' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Program – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining the Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery Program', with testimony from Department of Housing and Urban Development Acting Inspector General Helen Albert Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on consumer credit data security – Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee hearing on 'Securing Consumers' Credit Data in the Age of Digital Commerce', with testimony from Consumer Data Industry Association President and CEO Francis Creighton; Hudson Cook Partner Emeritus Anne Fortney; Symantec Senior Director of Global Government Affairs and Policy Jeff Greene; and Harvard Kennedy School Adjunct Lecturer in Public Policy Bruce Schneier Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM USAID Administrator Green testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee oversight hearing – State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'Accountable Soft Power in the National Interest', with testimony from USAID Administrator Mark Green Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on net neutrality and antitrust – Regulatory Reform, Commercial and Antitrust Law Subcommittee hearing on 'Net Neutrality and the Role of Antitrust', with testimony from Federal Trade Commission Acting Chairman Maureen Ohlhausen, and Commissioner Terrell McSweeney; NTCA (The Rural Broadband Association) Senior Vice President for Industry Affairs & Business Development Michael Romano; and former FTC Commissioner Robert McDowell Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM North Korean defector testifies to House Foreign Affairs Committee – Hearing on 'An Insider's Look at the North Korean Regime', with testimony from former Embassy of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the United Kingdom Deputy Chief of Mission Thae Yong-ho Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

10:00 AM Helsinki Commission briefing on the Western Balkans – 'The Western Balkans: Perspectives from OSCE Field Missions' Helsinki Commission briefing, with three Americans who currently hold, or have recently held, senior positions on OSCE Missions in the region – OSCE Mission to Skopje Deputy Head Jeff Goldstein, former OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina Head Jonathan Moore, and former OSCE Mission to Serbia Deputy Head Michael Uyehara – commenting on developments in those countries during their assignment, the efforts undertaken by their respective missions to assist those countries, and the effectiveness of the OSCE as a multilateral tool for enhancing stability and promoting reform, while OSCE Secretariat Conflict Prevention Centre Director Amb. Marcel Pesko comments on the organization's field work from the Secretariat perspective, and the challenges not only to OSCE field activity in the Western Balkans but throughout the OSCE region Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC-202, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

10:15 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on FirstNet – Communications and Technology Subcommittee hearing on 'Oversight of FirstNet: State Perspectives', with testimony from The Digital Decision founder Robert LeGrande II; Virginia Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Brian Moran; First Responder Network Authority CEO Michael Poth; AT&T Senior Vice President Christopher Sambar; and New Hampshire Statewide Interoperability Coordinator John Stevens Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2322, Washington, DC

<http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

11:30 AM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on the Heartbeat Protection Act – Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice hearing on ‘H.R.490, the Heartbeat Protection Act of 2017’, with testimony from Reproductive Rights and Justice Project Clinical Lecturer in Law Priscilla Smith; Cleveland State University Professor of Law David Forte; American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Fellow Dr Kathi Aultman; and Center for Urban Renewal and Education (CURE) founder and President Star Parker Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2237, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

12:00 PM House debates Resilient Federal Forests Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including ‘H.R. 2936 – Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017’, as well as consideration of legislation including ‘H.R. 3903 – Encouraging Public Offerings Act of 2017’, as amended, ‘H.R. 1585 – Fair Investment Opportunities for Professional Experts Act’, as amended, ‘H.R. 425 – FTO Passport Revocation Act of 2017’, as amended, ‘H.Res. 422 – Urging adherence to the ‘one country, two systems’ policy as prescribed in the Joint Declaration between the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and the Government of the People’s Republic of China on the Question of the Hong Kong’, as amended, ‘H.R. 3279 – Helium Extraction Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 1488 – The Indiana Dunes National Park Act’, as amended, and ‘H.R. 1074 – To repeal the Act entitled ‘An Act to confer jurisdiction on the State of Iowa over offenses committed by or against Indians on the Sac and Fox Indian Reservation’ under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

1:00 PM Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on Central America – Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on ‘Human Rights and Humanitarian Challenges in Central America’, with witnesses – United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) Deputy Regional Representative Chiara Cardoletti-Carroll, Freedom House Director for Latin American Programs Carlos Ponce, Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA) Senior Associate for Citizen Security Adriana Beltran, Latin America Working Group Education Fund (LAWG) Executive Director Lisa Haugaard, Kids in Need of Defense (KIND) Gender and Migration Initiatives Director Rachel Dotson, and U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Migration and Refugee Services Director of Policy Ashley Feasley – providing an update on the quality of democracy in the region, the relationship between corruption, organized crime, and human rights violations, some of the significant human rights problems affecting the region, and the countries’ capacity to address the resulting humanitarian crisis Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2255, Washington, DC <http://tlhrc.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/TLHRCCommission>

1:00 PM House Judiciary subcommittee hearing on the Executive Office of Immigration Review – Immigration and Border Security Subcommittee hearing on ‘Oversight of the Executive Office of Immigration Review’, with testimony from EOIR Acting Director James McHenry Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2141, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

2:00 PM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on data security – Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee hearing on ‘Data Security: Vulnerabilities and Opportunities for Improvement’, with testimony from Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association President and CEO Kenneth Bentsen Jr.; H.B. Wilkinson Title Company President Daniel Mennenoh (on behalf of American Land Title Association); and Mission Federal Credit Union President and CEO Debra Schwartz (on behalf of National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions) Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

2:00 PM House Intelligence Committee task force holds hearing with Facebook, Twitter, and Google testifying – Russia Investigative Task Force hearing, with testimony from Twitter General Counsel Sean Edgett; Facebook General Counsel Colin Stretch; and Google Senior Vice President and General Counsel Kent Walker Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseIntelComm>

3:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on ‘H.R. 3922 – Community Health And Medical Professionals Improve Our Nation Act of 2017’ Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

3:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on ‘H.R. 849 – Protecting Seniors’ Access to Medicare Act of 2017’ Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

Other: 8:00 AM GPU Technology Conference – GPU Technology Conference on latest developments in Artificial Intelligence for gov’t, healthcare, cybersecurity, defense, and self-driving cars. Speakers include Democratic Sen. Gary Peters, Republican Reps. Darrell Issa and John Ratcliffe, National Science Foundation Director France Cordova, Office of the Under

Secretary of Defense Director of Defense Intelligence Lt. Gen. John Shanahan, Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School Vice Chairman of Radiology Keith Dreyer, CIA Deputy Director for Science and Technology Dawn Meyerriecks, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army Richard Kidd, and NVIDIA Vice President of Developer Programs Greg Estes Location: Ronald Reagan Building and ITC, 1300 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC www.nvidia.com/en-us/gtc-dc <https://twitter.com/nvidia>

9:00 AM Foreign ministers of Niger, Chad, Burkina Faso, and Mali speak at CSIS – ‘The Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel: An African-led Response to Insecurity in the Sahel’ Center for Strategic and International Studies Africa Program and Europe Program discussion, with foreign ministers from the Sahel nations of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger discussing the joint force, its progress to date, and their strategy for engaging with external partners, including the United States and France. Speakers include Nigerien Foreign Affairs Minister Ibrahim Yacoubou, Malian Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Minister Abdoulaye Diop, Burkinabe Foreign Affairs Minister Alpha Barry, Chadian Foreign Affairs Minister Brahim Hissein Taha, Mauritanian Defense Minister Amadou Bathily Diallo, and G5 Sahel Permanent Secretary Najim Elhadj Mohamed Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

9:30 AM Pakistan Ambassador to the U.S. speaks at George Washington University – Pakistan Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry speaks at George Washington University on international and regional issues facing Pakistan Location: George Washington University, 1957 E St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.gwu.edu/index.cfm> <https://twitter.com/GWtweets>

10:00 AM CSIS press briefing on President Trump’s trip to Asia – Center for Strategic and International Studies press briefing ahead of President Donald Trump’s trip to Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Hawaii, discussing the ‘expectations and implications of the trip, including the President’s participation in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders’ Meeting and the U.S.-ASEAN Summit’ Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

12:00 PM CFR preview President Trump’s Asia trip – Council on Foreign Relations preview ‘Trump’s Trip to Asia’, via conference call with CFR Asia Studies Director Elizabeth Economy, CFR Japan Studies Senior Fellow Sheila Smith, and CFR Program on U.S.-Korea Policy Director Scott Snyder * President Donald Trump departs 3 Nov for a trip that includes stops in Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam, and the Philippines Location: TBD www.cfr.org https://twitter.com/CFR_org

Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs annual awards dinner – Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs Annual Awards Dinner, including presentation of the Henry M. ‘Scoop’ Jackson Distinguished Service Award to Republican Rep. Michael McCaul, Democratic Rep. Eliot Engel and Hudson Bay Capital Management CEO Sander Gerber Location: Marriott Marquis Washington, DC, 901 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC www.jinsa.org <https://twitter.com/jinsadc>

House Ways and Means Committee members introduce tax reform bill – House Committee on Ways and Means members introduce tax reform bill * President Donald Trump introduced his tax reform plan, based on work with Members of Congress, in September. It includes shrinking the current seven individual tax brackets into three (12%, 25%, and 35%), roughly doubling the standard deduction, reducing the corporate tax rate to 20%, and limiting the maximum tax rate for small businesses to 25% Location: TBD <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Stephen Colbert: “Yesterday, Special Counsel Robert Mueller indicted Trump campaign chairman...Paul Manafort on 12 charges, including ‘conspiracy against the United States,’ which I believe is a legal term meaning ‘getting Trump elected.’”

Stephen Colbert: “For Trump, it could be the spookiest Halloween ever, because I’m pretty sure Mueller is ready to drop off a few more flaming bags of poop.”

James Corden: "After Trump campaign staffer George Papadopoulos was arrested in connection with the Russia investigation, the White House is distancing themselves from him, with one Trump ally saying Papadopoulos was nothing more than a coffee boy. ... Honestly, I think that might be a typo. I think they meant covfefe boy."

James Corden: "The Trump ally minimized the role Papadopoulos had in the campaign, saying he 'never had a role, never got paid, never a staffer, and never did anything.' Now, that could be anyone. Ivanka, Jared, Donald Junior, Eric."

James Corden: "In an interview on Fox News last night, White House Chief of Staff John Kelly defended Confederate monuments, saying that the cause of the Civil War was merely 'a lack of ability to compromise.' Compromise? It was a war over slavery, not a Saturday afternoon haggling over the price of a Honda Civic."

Trevor Noah: "Pray to God you are in the room with Grassley when there is a fire because he will find the exit. He will find it. The only catch is you have to ask him about Manafort. 'There is no escape. We're going to die.' 'What happened with Manafort?' 'I found a trap door!'"

Trevor Noah: "This is the man people hold up as the voice of reason in the Trump White House. 'As long as General Kelly is there, we've got a chance!' We're starting to learn he is as Trumpy as the rest of them. You just didn't know it because he doesn't tweet."

Jimmy Fallon: "A little weird, though. While the kids were trick-or-treating, the White House was playing trick-or-treason."

Jimmy Fallon: "This is very cool. I saw that the hosts of the Today show dressed up as country singers. The hosts of Good Morning America dressed up as superheroes, while the hosts of Fox and Friends denied that it was Halloween."

Seth Meyers: "In an interview yesterday, White House Chief of Staff John Kelly said the Civil War was caused by a lack of ability to compromise. Even weirder, he said that Pearl Harbor was an air traffic control issue."

Seth Meyers: "According to a new poll, Mitch McConnell is the nation's least popular senator, which explains the festivities over at Ted Cruz's office."

Conan O'Brien: "A recent poll came out showing that the approval rating for President Donald Trump has fallen on the historic all-time low of 33 percent. In response, Trump said, 'You hear that? Historic! I'm in the history books.'"

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DOI In The News

Ryan Zinke Creates Panel To Look At National Park Fees.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/7, Siciliano) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Tuesday announced the creation of a new "Made in America Recreation Advisory Committee." The new advisory panel's "primary aim is to provide advice to him on establishing public-private partnerships across all public lands 'with the goal of expanding access to and improving infrastructure on public lands and waterways,' the Interior Department said." It will "focus on better ways to exact fees from national park visitors and make sure the fees go toward improving park infrastructure." Zinke said, "By forming this committee, I look forward to hearing from the best and the brightest in our private sector on how to improve the public experience on our federal lands and waters by expanding access for all Americans."

Vacancies Vex Leaders And Lawmakers Alike.

[E&E Publishing](#) (11/7) reports that "key Interior Department vacancies" have remained unfilled "for an unusually long time, leaving Secretary Ryan Zinke's management team problematically short-handed." Only "four Interior nominees, including Zinke, have been confirmed to date by the Republican-controlled Senate." Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift noted, "In the cases of every one of our nominees, they have taken longer than the previous administration or have actually set records for the longest waits thus far." She added, "The department has continued to do its work as efficiently as possible, and we are lucky to have such incredible talent in acting roles. However, when the secretary does not have his team in place, it forces people to juggle multiple jobs simultaneously."

Puerto Rico Utility Says Its Boss Is Too Busy For Washington Hearing.

[Reuters](#) (11/7) reports the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority "declined to send its executive director to Washington for a hearing on Tuesday before a key U.S. House of Representatives committee, saying he was too busy working on restoring power to the hurricane-hit island." Ricardo Ramos was "due to testify at the House Natural Resources committee, which has expressed concern about contracts issued by the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) for rebuilding its power grid after it was devastated in September by Hurricane Maria." PREPA Chairman Ernesto Sgroi told the committee in a letter, "Having him off the island for the three days required to come to Washington D.C. would undoubtedly disrupt our restoration effort."

[The Hill](#) (11/7, Henry) reports Rep. Rob Bishop, House Natural Resources Committee chairman, "said Tuesday he has more questions for Puerto Rican authorities about their controversial hurricane recovery contract with a small Montana energy firm." He indicated that documents given to the committee "raised fresh concerns about the island's \$300 million contract

with Whitefish Energy.” The deal was rescinded “last month amid questions from lawmakers and government watchdogs.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/7, Scurria) reports that PREPA is only generating power at 42% of capacity, almost seven weeks after Hurricane Maria.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (11/7, Siegel). [E&E Publishing](#) (11/7) provides coverage of the power restoration efforts and the Whitefish contract.

Limited Space For Interior Official’s Speech.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (11/8) reports that “limited spaces remain available for a Grand Junction speech” by Kate MacGregor, acting assistant secretary for land and minerals management. MacGregor will “discuss the Interior Department’s ‘Role in Energy Dominance’ at a regular meeting of the Grand Junction Petroleum and Mining Club.” The meeting will be held Nov. 16 at Two Rivers Convention Center.

Interior IG Finds Inaccurate DATA Act Information.

[MeriTalk](#) (11/7, Lynch) reports that the Inspector General for the Interior Department “assessed the information that the agency submitted under the DATA Act, and found that some of the data was incomplete or inaccurate.” According to the article, “the IG found 16 of 385 transactions tested were incomplete; 53 were not timely; 145 did not meet quality standards; and 145 were not accurate.” Mary Kendall, deputy IG for DOI, said in the report, “We assessed the data submitted and found that, while it contained most of the required information and conformed to the OMB [Office of Management and Budget] and Treasury standards, there were deficiencies in completeness, timeliness, quality, and accuracy of the data submissions we sampled.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Your \$20 Million Loan Went Bust? The Trump Team Has A Job For You.

[ProPublica](#) (11/7, Arnsdorf) reports that “as a deputy assistant secretary for policy and economic development in the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Indian Affairs, Gavin Clarkson oversees a small program that guarantees loans for Indian businesses.” According to the article, “Clarkson is particularly well acquainted with the loan guarantee program he now supervises: He played a key role in a convoluted transaction that flopped and left the Interior Department fending off a \$20 million liability that is still in litigation years later.” That figure “represents about 25 percent of the amount the program can guarantee in a year, and until the case is resolved, that money cannot be used to guarantee new loans.”

\$1.4 Billion Buyback Of Tribal Land Ending This Month.

[Courthouse News](#) (11/7, Reese) reports that “the Indian land buyback program makes its final offers on land purchases Nov. 27.” According to the article, “through Oct. 27, completed land purchases have totaled \$1.4 billion, with 2.1 million acres going back to Native Americans on their reservations through the land buyback program.” The article notes that “while the land buyback program wraps up Nov. 27, the scholarship portion of the Cobell settlement will continue in perpetuity.”

Justices Seem Inclined To Side With Tribe In Casino Case.

The [AP](#) (10/31) reports that Supreme Court justices “suggested Tuesday that they would side with a Native American tribe in Michigan in a case that arose out of the tribe’s construction of a casino.” Michigan resident David Patchak sued in 2008 but Congress eventually shut down further litigation. The Supreme Court “is now deciding whether Congress’ act was constitutional.”

Also reporting are [The Hill](#) (11/7, Wheeler), [Roll Call](#) (11/7, Ruger), the [Washington Examiner](#) (11/7, Lovelace), and [Education Week](#) (11/7, Walsh).

State Officials Press For Approval Of Tribal Amendments.

The [New Haven \(CT\) Register](#) (11/7, Stuart) reports that Sens. Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy and Rep. Joe Courtney sent a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “five days ago asking him to take action on a request from Connecticut’s two federally recognized tribes.” In the Nov. 2 letter, they requested “approval for the amendments to the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribal Nation’s compacts with the state of Connecticut.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [New London \(CT\) Day](#) (11/7, Hallenbeck).

Bureau Of Land Management

Judge Delays Trial Start For Bundy, Sons In Nevada Standoff.

The [AP](#) (10/31, Ritter) reports that “trial was postponed at the last minute Tuesday for Nevada rancher Cliven Bundy, two of his sons and a co-defendant accused of leading an armed uprising against government agents in 2014, amid questions about whether federal prosecutors in Las Vegas turned over complete evidence records to defense teams.” Chief U.S. District Judge Gloria Navarro “pushed the start date back to Nov. 14 and set a rapid briefing schedule around hearings Wednesday and Monday.” The central issue is “whether recordings or written notes show what an FBI agent in a command post trailer observed with a camera placed on a hilltop to monitor activities at the Bundy ranch ahead of the April 2014 standoff that stopped a roundup of Bundy cattle from what is now Gold Butte National Monument.”

Also reporting are the [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/7, Montero), [Reuters](#) (11/7, Smith), and [USA Today](#) (11/7, Anglen, Republic).

Congressman Introduces A Bill To Transfer BLM Ground To Hyde Park.

The [Logan \(UT\) Herald Journal](#) (11/7, Macavinta) reports that Hyde Park City would “gain about 80 acres of land from the Bureau of Land Management if a bill introduced Tuesday by Rep. Rob Bishop is approved.” Bishop said, “The BLM has land it can’t use, but the city can, and it actually makes sense.” According to Mayor Bob Christensen, “the city would like to obtain the land and use it for an additional water source, to be surrounded by a park and trails that could tie into the Bonneville Shoreline Trails.”

Appellate Court Sets New Deadline In BLM Fracking Rule Fight.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (11/7, Passut) reports that “an appellate court panel in Denver said it wants to hear more arguments over an Obama-era rule governing hydraulic fracturing (fracking) on public and tribal lands, and ordered the Trump administration and environmental groups to file responses over the matter by mid-November.” In two separate orders Monday in U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit Court, Judges Mary Beck Briscoe, Harris Hartz and Jerome Holmes ordered the Bureau of Land Management and “a coalition of six environmental groups to file responses to rehearing requests by four Western states and two energy industry groups by Nov. 20.”

New Path Eyed For High-Voltage Transmission Lines In Idaho.

The [AP](#) (11/7, Ridler) reports that “federal officials have released their latest analysis on proposed routes for two high-voltage transmission lines in southwestern Idaho intended to modernize the Pacific Northwest’s energy grid.” The draft environmental assessment released by the Bureau of Land Management “late last week covers two segments of the Gateway West project proposed by Idaho Power and Rocky Mountain Power.” The Gateway West project is “one side of a giant triangle of transmission lines that Rocky Mountain Power says are necessary to meet future demands in the region and improve reliability.”

Gold Bar Project Gets Green Light.

The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (11/7) reports that the Bureau of Land Management is “allowing work to begin at the Gold Bar site, after completing its analysis of McEwen Mining Inc.’s proposal for the mine.” The project is “expected to create 120 new jobs.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

House Takes Up Offshore Drilling Overhaul.

[UPI](#) (11/7, Graeber) reports that House leaders have scheduled a markup hearing for the Accessing Strategic Resources Offshore Act, or ASTRO, for Wednesday. The measure would give the Interior Department the authority to move ahead with new lease sales “as soon as practicable.” Rep. Rob Bishop, R-Utah, said he supports the bill because it would “make the U.S. energy dominant.”

Scalise Bill Would Incentivize Energy Production With Revenue Sharing.

The [Ripon Advance](#) (11/7) reports that House of Representatives Majority Whip Rep. Steve

Scalise (R-LA) introduced a bill last week that would encourage energy production in the US. The bill entitled the "Strengthening the Economy with Critical Untapped Resources to Expand (SECURE) American Energy Act" includes "smoother permitting structures, revenue sharing, and expanded access to renewable and conventional resources." The bill requires the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to conduct studies over the potential wind lease sales off the coasts of California, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Huffington Post](#) (11/7, D'Angelo).

Bureau Of Reclamation

Hoeven Introduces Lot Purchase Bill For Jamestown Reservoir.

The [Jamestown \(ND\) Sun](#) (11/7) reports that Sen. John Hoeven has "introduced legislation that would let cabin owners on Jamestown Reservoir buy the lots on which their cabins sit from the federal government." The legislation would "also transfer all remaining U.S. Bureau of Reclamation lands around the reservoir to state and local government ownership, according to information from Hoeven's office."

Lake Managers Request Title Transfer.

The [Norman \(OK\) Transcript](#) (11/8, Hampton) reports that in March, the Central Oklahoma Master Conservancy District "paid off its 50-year loan to the Bureau of Reclamation for the lake's construction." The article notes that "paying off the mortgage meant the district could ask the Bureau of Reclamation to transfer the lake's title to COMCD." However, "the proposition of a title transfer of the lake property" has "turned into a tug-of-war between COMCD and the Oklahoma Tourism Department."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge Manager John Hartig Named Fulbright Scholar.

The [Southgate \(MI\) News Herald](#) (11/7, Suchyta) reports that "newly named Fulbright Scholar John Hartig, Ph.D., of Trenton, Manager of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, has begun research in Canada to evaluate 32 years of Great Lakes remediation." Hartig will "spend the next six months at the Basillie School of International Affairs in Waterloo, Ontario working as part of a project to determine what has been achieved and learned in more than three decades of Great Lakes clean up in degraded 'areas of concern.'" The hope is "to apply the best practices and lessons learned to not only sustain the Great Lakes restoration efforts but to share the knowledge with other countries working to restored polluted bodies of water and ecosystems."

Ensuring The Health Of A Herd.

The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (11/7, Scott) reports that "as one of the three initial reserves set aside for the preservation of American bison, the National Wildlife Refuge in Moiese continues to play an important role in the success story of recovery of the once endangered plains bison." According to Bernie Petersen, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's acting project manager at the National Bison Range, "since 1908, the National Bison Range has played an important role in the successful recovery of the striking creatures, as well as preserving their genetic health." Last month, "refuge managers, biologists, veterinarians, and others assessed the herd's health condition and genetics during the annual bison roundup, conducted each year to preserve the genetics of the prized herd, considered among the strongest and purest in the nation."

Environmental Group Wants To Sue U.S.

Government To Get Protection For Rare Keys Lizard. [WLRN-FM](#) Miami (11/7, Klingener) reports that the Center for Biological Diversity has "notified the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of its intent to sue the agency over its decision not to list the Florida Keys mole skink, along with 24 other species proposed for protection." According to the center, "sea level rise inundates the skinks' coastal habitat, and they also face threats from habitat loss, pollution and predation by cats and other predators."

National Park Service

New Interactive App Launched For National Mall Visitors.

[WJLA-TV](#) Washington (11/7, Carter-Conneen) reports that the National Park Service is “encouraging National Mall visitors to download a new augmented reality, mobile gaming experience.” With assistance from fifth graders from D.C.’S School Within School, the American Recreation Coalition and National Park Service “launched the Agents of Discovery app on the National Mall.” The free, educational app for kids “features what it calls mission sites with quizzes along the way.”

DC Circ. Backs Park Service’s Grand Teton Elk Reduction Plan.

[Law360](#) (11/7, Rodriguez) reports that “the D.C. Circuit on Tuesday affirmed the federal government’s 15-year plan to reduce the elk population in Wyoming’s Grand Teton National Park, ruling the environmental analysis for the plan was adequate to cover changes the government made to the plan after its implementation.”

Students Connect To Culture At Grand Teton National Park.

The [AP](#) (11/7, Cassutt) reports that 33 sixth-grade students from Arapahoe Middle School visited Grand Teton National Park in September. The trip was part of “a field trip arranged in part to connect the Northern Arapaho students to the cultural and historical heritage of the park.”

Zion National Park’s Biggest Headache: Keeping Toilets Clean.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/7, Maffly) reports that “thousands of gallons of human waste stored by two outhouses” in Zion National Park give the area “the aura of an open sewer despite the park’s efforts to contain the odors.” According to the article “park managers installed them several years ago for visitors who receive the call of nature while hanging out at the knife-edge vista rising between Cathedral Mountain and Observation Point.” On Monday, park officials closed the West Rim Trail “for a few hours as the fecal remains were – ahem – evacuated by helicopter.” The operation will continue Thursday “as the last of the 32 barrels, each weighing 500 pounds, are flown out, emptied and returned.” Park geologist Dave Sharrow said, “This is a bad spot for a toilet, but if we took them out there would be poop behind every bush. We encourage people to use the toilet at the Grotto Trailhead.”

Brown Boobies Spotted Nesting For The First Time On The Channel Islands.

The [Ventura County \(CA\) Star](#) (11/7, Carlson) reports that “a tropical bird known for its webbed feet and plunging dives has been found nesting for the first time in Channel Islands National Park.” Late last week, biologists counted “102 brown boobies and four of their nests on a small, rocky islet off Santa Barbara Island.” Biologists “plan to keep tabs on the new residents, checking to see if nesting numbers increase or when they might be able to spot larger chicks.”

Beach Access And Park Issues.

The [Island Free Press \(NC\)](#) (11/7, Crist) reports that “easier access to South Beach is on the way, thanks to a wintertime project by the National Park Service (NPS) that focuses on the former ORV ramp 45 just south of the Point.” Because of “changes to the off road vehicle management plan that stemmed from the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, the road that leads to this isolated beach will be improved, shortening the walk to the oceanfront.” Cape Hatteras National Seashore Superintendent David Hallac said, “This will be a rehabilitation of that road. We’ll be bringing the [condition of the road] back to how it used to be. It won’t be a paved road, just an improved dirt road with clay and shell on it – similar to ramp 44.”

Suspension Of Boat Launch Fees At Lake Meredith Extended.

[KFDA-TV](#) Amarillo, TX (11/7, Johnson) reports that the National Park Service will “extend the suspension of boat launch fees at Lake Meredith for another year.” The fees will “now be suspended until April 1 of 2019.” Lake Meredith National Recreation Area Superintendent Robert Maguire said, “With the lake levels just starting to approach historic levels and installation of new infrastructure not yet completed, it is in the best interest for the community and all park visitors to extend the fee suspension one more year.”

York, Lancaster, Chester SC Students Participate In Teen CEO Day.

The [Rock Hill \(SC\) Herald](#) (11/7, Harris) reports that “Teen CEO Day, held in Winthrop University’s coliseum, brought together eighth-graders from York, Lancaster and Chester County to talk with local businesses about careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics,

or STEM.” According to the article, “nearly 5,000 local students got a chance to learn about careers in robotics, medicine, park service and other science and technology fields that exist locally.” Katherine Lynn, a park ranger with Kings Mountain National Military Park, “said she spoke with students about the variety of STEM-related careers the U.S. National Park Service offers.” Lynn said, “We hope more people, especially in the local area, become aware of the National Park Service as a career and the opportunities it has.”

Fort Mitchel Added To National Register Of Historic Places.

The [Bluffton \(SC\) Today](#) (11/7) reports that Fort Mitchel on Hilton Head Island was recently added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Osuna Adobe Placed On National Register Of Historic Places.

The [Rancho Santa Fe \(CA\) Review](#) (11/7, Billing) reports that Rancho Santa Fe’s Osuna Adobe was recently added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Additional Coverage: Anger As US National Parks Plan High-season Price Hikes.

Additional coverage of the proposal to raise fees at national parks was provided by [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (11/8, Chubb).

Office Of Insular Affairs

Murkowski Leads Congressional Trip To Hurricane-Ravaged Puerto Rico And U.S. Virgin Islands.

The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (11/7, Martinson) reports that a bipartisan coalition of lawmakers visited Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands “over the weekend to assess recovery from extreme hurricane damage.” Sen. Lisa Murkowski, chair of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and “the congressional delegation visited damaged neighborhoods and the Schneider Medical Center in St. Thomas, U.S Virgin Islands, according to the committee.” Murkowski “plans to hold an Energy Committee hearing next week to examine recovery efforts on the island.”

US Geological Survey

Scientists Say Maui Sewage Injected Into Ocean Damages Coral.

The [AP](#) (11/7) reports that “discharge from a sewage treatment facility in West Maui has been damaging the coral reefs off Kahekili Beach Park for years, according to a study by federal scientists.” The study by the U.S. Geological Survey “found pollution is not only eroding the reef, but is also inhibiting new coral growth.” However, Maui County spokesman Rod Antone “said on Friday that the findings contradict data from other studies that show the coral reef at Kahekili is getting healthier.”

Additional Reading.

- *How Can We Save America’s Vanishing Beaches? California Shows The Way, According To Surfrider Report.* [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (11/7, Connelly).
- *Magnitude 6.5 Quake Hits Papua New Guinea: USGS.* [Reuters](#) (11/7).

Opinion Pieces

The SECURE American Energy Act Only Endangers Public Lands.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (11/7, Metcalf), Peter Metcalf, the vice chairman of the Outdoor industry’s Conservation Alliance, criticizes Rep. Rob Bishop’s SECURE American Energy Act. According to Metcalf, the bill “would give handouts to corporate polluters and special interests at the expense of our irreplaceable public landscapes and wildlife that Americans of all stripes – including hikers, bikers, climbers, sportsmen and campers – depend on and seek out for recreation and enjoyment.” Metcalf also asserts that the bill is “a direct assault on transparency and accountability that severely limits the public’s input in management decisions made regarding our shared natural resources.”

Our View: Good Riddance To Mislabeled Canyon Mining Ban.

In an editorial, the [Havasu \(AZ\) News-Herald](#) (11/8) supports the Trump Administration's plan to repeal "a ban on uranium mining on a million acres of Northern Arizona." The paper points out that "the land withdrawn from mining is mostly miles away from the canyon itself and – in the areas of actual or proposed mines – is buffered from the canyon by miles of protected national monument or national park land." The paper also notes that "mining can provide jobs as well as a strong addition to a tax base limited by the vast amounts of government land in the county as well as the rest of Northern Arizona."

Additional Reading.

- *Fitzgerald: An Elitist Plan For Yosemite.* [Stockton \(CA\) Record](#) (11/7, Fitzgerald).
- *Our Voice: Federal Wildfire Fix Needed By Summer.* [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (11/7).
- *Our Largest Wildlife Refuge Is Also The Most Vulnerable.* [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (11/7, Graham).
- *OPINION: Protest In Durango Over BLM Methane Rule Delay.* [Pagosa \(CO\) Daily Post](#) (11/7, Bowie).

Top National News

Trump Warns North Korea: Do Not "Try Us."

Coverage of President Trump's remarks to the South Korean parliament Wednesday are being cast as contrary to his remarks to reporters in Seoul on Tuesday in which he called on North Korea to "make a deal." Media outlets had cast those earlier comments as a shift and softening of his tone towards North Korea.

During Wednesday's address, [USA Today](#) (11/7, Jackson) reports President Trump said the world cannot tolerate a "rogue regime" that threatens "nuclear devastation," and called on all countries to increase economic and diplomatic pressure on North Korea. "All responsible nations must join forces to isolate the brutal regime of North Korea," Trump told South Korean lawmakers. The [AP](#) (10/26, Lemire, Colvin) reports the President "delivered a sharp warning" to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, telling him the weapons he's acquiring "are not making you safer. They are putting your regime in grave danger."

[Reuters](#) (11/7, Holland, Spetalnick) quotes Trump as saying, "Do not underestimate us and do not try us." His "return to harsh language against North Korea comes a day after he appeared to dial back some of his bellicose rhetoric that had fueled fears across east Asia of the risk of military conflict." On Tuesday, Trump offered "a diplomatic opening" to Pyongyang to "make a deal," but in Wednesday's speech, Trump "went mostly on the attack."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/7, Parker, Nakamura) calls the remarks "a hard-line speech aimed at rallying international pressure against North Korea," and [Breitbart](#) (11/7, Spiering) says the President sent "a strong message" to North Korea.

The [Washington Times](#) (11/7, Boyer), however, reports that during the "stern 33-minute address," Trump "recited a long list of the communist regime's crimes against its own citizens, including forced labor, torture, forced abortions and religious persecution" before offering it "a path to a much better future." [Axios](#) (11/7, Britzky) likewise says Trump said he was prepared to offer North Korea "a path to a far better future," but only if the regime gives up its nuclear ambitions.

The [AP](#) (11/7, Lemire, Colvin) said Trump's call Tuesday for North Korea to "come to the table" and "make a deal" marked a "striking shift of tone." All three networks reported Tuesday night on the President's comments, which [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/7, story 4, 1:00, Karl) called "a dramatic change in tone." [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/7, story 4, 2:25, Holt) dubbed it "a slightly softer tone," and the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/7, story 6, 2:00, Mason) referred to as "a new approach to dealing with North Korea's nuclear threat." Margaret Brennan said Trump "notably chose not to repeat his ridicule of Kim Jong-Un."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/7, Nakamura, Parker) similarly says the President "avoided the type of heated rhetoric he has employed in the past," and asserted that his Administration is making "a lot of progress." Said Trump, without elaborating, "I do see certain movement, yes, but we'll see what happens." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/7, Bennett) says Trump "spoke in unusually measured tones," and while saying he has seen "certain movement," offered no specifics, noting that his Administration likes "to play our cards a little bit close to the vest." The

Times notes that Trump's call for a deal came "five weeks after he publicly dismissed the possibility of diplomacy with North Korea," saying on Twitter that Secretary of State Tillerson was "wasting his time trying to negotiate with Little Rocket Man."

Trump, [Bloomberg News](#) (11/7, Jacobs, Kong, Wadhams) reports, "toned down his harsh rhetoric toward North Korea" in remarks that were "a far cry from his comments in recent months," when he promised "fire and fury" against the nation. With his remarks, Bloomberg says, Trump "went further than he has before, amid the recent tensions, in saying he was open to engaging with Kim's regime." [Reuters](#) (11/7, Holland, Spetalnick, Kim) likewise says Trump made "a more conciliatory appeal than ever before." Taking a "more measured, less confrontational tone," Trump urged North Korea to "do the right thing."

The [New York Times](#) (11/7, Davis, Landler, Choe) says Trump "brought a message of reassurance to South Korea...moving to bolster an anxious ally." Instead of threatening preemptive action against the North, the Times says the President "said he prayed that using military force would not be necessary."

[Politico](#) (11/7, Restuccia) says Trump "cast the North Korean nuclear threat as a global crisis that requires greater cooperation from every nation," and also "appeared to take a dig at China," saying, "It is unacceptable that nations would help to arm and finance this increasingly dangerous regime." [Reuters](#) (11/7, Spetalnick, Holland) reports that the next stop on Trump's trip is Beijing, where he is "expected to press a reluctant President Xi Jinping to tighten the screws further on Pyongyang, US officials say."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/7, Bender, Youssef) reports that there was no immediate North Korean reaction to Trump's comments, but as Trump met with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, [USA Today](#) (11/7, Hjelmggaard) reports North Korea "reaffirmed its determination to strengthen its nuclear weapons program." In a commentary, the state-run Rodong Sinmum said, "As long as the US and its followers continue their hostile acts against us, we will further bolster our nuclear, precious sword of justice."

Sen. James Risch (R-ID) said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (11/7), "I think what President Trump has shown in the last 72 hours is an accommodation towards what South Korea's position is. Having said that, he has not walked back at all his determination that he's going to defend the country and defend the allies, and I'm sure that that is what he wants to convey to our allies over there."

Asked on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (11/7) about President Trump's "optimism" that a deal is on the horizon, Sen. Angus King (I-ME) said, "I don't know what he knows in terms of the imminence of any kind of discussions. I think we're not necessarily close to a deal. What I hope we're close to is talking...because a military action, we've heard all kinds of data in the last few weeks about how difficult that would be." King added, "The other piece this has to involve is China. China is the only country that really has any true power over North Korea."

Suzanne DiMaggio, a senior fellow at New America, and Joel S. Wit, a senior fellow at the US-Korea Institute at the Johns Hopkins University, write in the [New York Times](#) (11/7, DiMaggio, Wit) that Trump's comments Tuesday in Seoul were "certainly better than his past bluster, but they still fall far short of what is needed." They argue that Trump "could begin reducing tensions by stating clearly that diplomatic engagement with Pyongyang is his administration's first choice and that the United States is ready to proceed down this road, working with its allies and partners."

In [USA Today](#) (11/7), Director of Policy and Advocacy of the Council of Korean Americans Jessica Lee writes that the US "can, and must, do more to de-escalate tension and give diplomacy a chance. We believe, as most Korean Americans do, that there is no substitute for US leadership on this issue. The time to lead is now."

A [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/7) editorial, meanwhile, says that while Trump praised Moon Jae-in for "great cooperation" on containing the threat from North Korea, the South Korean leader's recent actions suggest that he is an unreliable friend. The Journal argues that Moon favors appeasing Kim Jong Un to lower tensions, even at the expense of his own country's security.

Trump Scraps Surprise DMZ Visit Due To Weather. [Bloomberg News](#) (11/7, Jacobs) reports President Trump "scrapped plans for a surprise visit" to the Demilitarized Zone on Wednesday due to thick fog. Trump's helicopter flew "within five minutes of the landing zone, while South Korean President Moon Jae-in was diverted to an alternative location, Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters." The visit was intended to be a symbol of "the strength of the alliance." [USA Today](#) (11/7, Jackson) reports that while White House officials had left the DMZ off the President's official schedule, "tentative plans for a visit were in the works."

South Koreans Demonstrate To Show Both Support, Disapproval Of Trump. The [AP](#) (11/7,

Tong-Hyung) reports that “hundreds of South Koreans took to the streets of Seoul on Tuesday for two separate demonstrations, one to show support” for visiting President Trump and the other to “voice disapproval” of the US leader. Surrounded by “thousands of police officers and a tight perimeter...hundreds of anti-Trump protesters rallied” near the US Embassy. Across the street, hundreds of Trump supporters “waved the US and South Korean flags” and chanted “USA!” when Trump’s motorcade passed by.

China Curbs Tourism To North Korea Ahead Of Trump Visit. Sources told [Reuters](#) (11/7, Wong, Pearson) on Tuesday that Chinese tour operators based in the border city of Dandong “have been told to halt trips to the North Korean capital Pyongyang.” Reuters notes that tourism is “one of the few remaining ways North Korea earns hard currency,” and Chinese tour operators said they were caught off guard by the move. The Chinese Foreign Ministry did not immediately comment.

Senate Banking Committee Approves New North Korea Sanctions. [Reuters](#) (11/7, Zengerle) reports the Senate Banking Committee unanimously approved new sanctions on North Korea on Tuesday, “seeking to send a message of strength” as President Trump visits Asia. As well as “strengthening existing sanctions and Congressional oversight,” the measure will target “foreign financial institutions – in China and elsewhere – that provide services” to those targeted for North Korea-related sanctions by the Congress, executive order or UN Security Council resolution.

US Building Up Military In The Pacific. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/7, story 6, 2:00, Holt), Richard Engel reported that it is “hard to deny that US is increasingly ready for war” with North Korea, “even if it says it doesn’t want one. The highest concentration of naval powers [is] coming together in years in the Pacific: three carrier strike groups; 32,000 US troops in South Korea; reinforced missile defense systems and more F-35 jets to the region, a show of the force that speaks louder than words.”

AP Analysis: Trump At A Distinct Disadvantage In Meeting With Xi. The [AP](#) (11/7, Pennington) reports that when President Trump arrives Wednesday in Beijing, the “grandeur of its welcome for the larger-than-life American president will mask a sobering reality.” While President Xi Jinping is China’s “most powerful figure in a generation,” Trump is “unpopular and untrusted, pursued by political scandal and questions over his temperament as commander in chief of the world’s most formidable military.” As a result, the AP says Trump “is at a distinct disadvantage against” Xi during this week’s talks, which are expected to focus on North Korea and trade.

[Politico](#) (11/7, Restuccia, Johnson) reports that “few observers expect Trump to rock the boat on the ground in Beijing, where Trump will be seeking Xi’s continued help with the effort to stop North Korean leader Kim Jong Un’s nuclear program.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/7, Browne) says Trump’s visit is an opportunity for the two nations to make deals, but Asian governments are worried Trump, looking for a foreign-policy success, will be tempted to strike a bargain with Beijing.

[USA Today](#) (11/7, Ullmann), meanwhile, reports that Taiwan is watching Wednesday’s meeting between Trump and Xi with “deep apprehension,” fearing its future “might be a factor in any deal the leaders strike on North Korea or trade.” Taiwanese officials fear Trump “might alter the United States’ long-standing policy of support for Taiwan” to gain concessions from Xi on North Korea and trade.

Bannon: China Is “An Enemy” And “Not A Strategic Partner.” [Breitbart](#) (11/7, Riehl) reports former White House chief strategist Steve Bannon warned Tuesday that China is “an enemy of incalculable power and they’re not a strategic partner. They are an enemy and we have to understand that.”

Trump Use Of Term “Indo-Pacific” Draws Attention. [Politico](#) (11/7, Nelson) reports that “when Americans talk about the region that includes China, Japan and Korea, they usually refer to Asia-Pacific,” but President Trump “wheeled out a different phrase in remarks Tuesday that’s rapidly become the watchword” of his Asia trip: “Indo-Pacific.” The Administration’s use of “Indo-Pacific,” puts the US “on the side of regional allies eager to balance Chinese influence.” While Administration officials “haven’t yet laid out a detailed vision for what precisely it means,” Trump is expected to give “a major address on the American relationship with the region” at the APEC leaders’ summit in Vietnam.

Trump Praises His New Jersey Golf Club During Speech To South Korean Parliament. The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/7, Correll) reports President Trump “lauded his New Jersey golf club” during his address Wednesday to the South Korean National Assembly. “Korean golfers are some of the best on earth,” Trump said. “In fact, and you know what I’m going to say, the Women’s US Open was held this year at Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster, N.J., and it just happened to be won by a great Korean golfer.” The Examiner says that “although Trump’s comments were

met by applause," they "also received pushback for attempting to promote Trump's businesses."

Trump: "Hundreds More" Could Have Died In Texas Under Stricter Gun Laws.

The President's response during a news conference in Seoul with South Korean President Moon Jae-in to a question about the Texas shooting generated extensive, generally unfavorable print media coverage. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/7, story 3, 1:00, Muir) was the only major newscast to report them. Reports cast Trump as irritated by the issue, and contrasted his reaction to the tragedy to his approach to the terror attack in New York City. To the [New York Times](#) (11/7, Landler), "the carnage in Texas has overshadowed Mr. Trump's trip to Asia, and his response to questions about it has hardened as the questions have kept coming." On Monday in Tokyo, "he described the gunman as a 'very deranged individual,'" but yesterday he "invoked street violence in Chicago as a reason to be suspicious of tighter gun regulations." The [Chicago Tribune](#) (11/7) quotes Trump as saying, "Look at the city with the strongest gun laws in our nation – Chicago. ... Chicago is a disaster, a total disaster." The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (11/7, Spielman) reports that later in the day, Mayor Rahm Emanuel accused the President "of 'pointing fingers'...instead of leading on gun control."

The comments that sparked the most media attention, however, came in response to question about whether "extreme vetting" for visa applicants should also be applied to would-be gun owners. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/7, story 3, 1:00, Muir) showed Trump saying, "If you did what you're suggesting, there would have been no difference three days ago. And you might not have had that very brave person who happened to have a gun or a rifle in his truck, go out and shoot him and hit him and neutralize him." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/7, Bennett) reports Trump "seemed to chafe at being asked about gun policy," and quoted him as saying, "Instead of having 26 dead, he would've had hundreds more dead."

[Politico](#) (11/7, Nelson) says "Trump appeared to bristle at even the mention of gun control," the [Washington Post](#) (11/7, Nakamura) that he "appeared irritated by the question and suggested it was not appropriate to talk about 'in the heart of South Korea,'" and [Fox News](#) (11/7) that he "appeared annoyed...and asked if it was an appropriate question given the timing and the venue."

[ABC News](#) (11/7), meanwhile, says the President's response to the Texas shooting "has been compared with his reaction to the terror attack in New York City just last Tuesday, where he waited only hours before stating he had directed the Department of Homeland Security to institute strict vetting procedures and called for Congress to change immigration policy." The [AP](#) (11/7) similarly indicates that "Trump's more muted response to gun violence contrasts with his swift call for legislative and military action following the Oct. 31 truck attack in New York City." According to [CNN](#) (11/7, Diamond), "Trump has called for 'extreme vetting' of immigrants from Muslim-majority countries in response to terrorist incidents," but "he has resisted any action on gun laws in response to the deadly mass shootings that have occurred during his time in office."

In an analysis, the [AP](#) (11/7, Pane, Bellisle) says "gun-rights supporters have seized on the Texas church massacre as proof of the well-worn saying that the best answer to a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun." Yet "gun-control advocates...say the tragedy shows once more that it is too easy to get a weapon in the US." The AP adds that "to no one's surprise, many Americans on opposite sides of the gun debate are using the latest mass shooting to reaffirm their opinions about firearms, drawing very different lessons from the rampage that left 26 people dead."

Sen. Chris Murphy said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/7), "There is no way to prepare for somebody walking into a church with tactical gear, with a weapon that was designed for the military to kill as many people as quickly as possible. Truly, the only way to prepare for that inevitability is to stay home and never go out. So instead, we have to be on the offense. Instead, we have to make sure people like this do not get guns. Instead, we have to make sure that guns like that, that can do that much damage in that short of a period of time, stay in the hands of the military." Murphy added that "we are not powerless to stop this and people here in Congress need to wake up here and realize that."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/7, Rosenberg, Horton, Berman) says the shooting "has brought sharp attention to the deep-rooted gun culture in parts of rural Texas and how many believe that open access to weapons and greater citizen vigilance is the best deterrent to gun violence." The Post adds that "such views are deeply at odds with those calling for stricter gun controls in the United States."

Cornyn Opens Door To Bipartisan Review Of Background Check System. The [Washington Times](#) (11/7, Dinan) reports "top Republicans said Tuesday that there may be room for a limited

gun debate in the wake of this weekend's church shooting in Texas – though they said it'll be limited to trying to make sure the background check system works." Sen. John Cornyn "said he'll begin drafting a bill that would remind government agencies of their duty to provide information to the background check system, and would offer incentives to try to earn more cooperation from states as well." Said Cornyn, "I believe there is an opportunity for us to work here on a bipartisan basis." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/7, story 5, 0:40, Muir) also reported that "there are bipartisan calls in Congress to strengthen the background check system, including" one from Cornyn.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/7, lead story, 2:35, Martin) reported that "FBI statistics indicate not just the Air Force, but the entire Department of Defense almost never files a report unless the offender also received a dishonorable discharge, a slightly harsher punishment than...Kelley's bad conduct discharge." CBS added that "more than 11,000 dishonorable discharges have been entered into the database but only one for domestic violence, and one for mental health. In other words, the failure to flag Kelley to the FBI may not have been an isolated oversight, but part of a pattern."

The [AP](#) (11/7, Burns) reports Defense Secretary Mattis "said Tuesday he has directed the Pentagon inspector general to review circumstances of the Kelley case and 'define what the problem is.'" Air Force Secretary Wilson, meanwhile, said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (11/7), "What happened in Texas was absolutely that awful this weekend, and I think all of us were heartbroken. But that's why we have launched a full-scale review of what happened in this case and every other one like it."

Pentagon Health Nominee Thinks Civilians Having Assault Rifles Is "Insane." [Politico](#) (11/7, O'Brien) reports that Dean Winslow, Trump's nominee "to be the assistant secretary of Defense for health affairs," described the ability for civilians to gain access to semi-automatic assault rifles as "insane." Winslow said during his confirmation hearing with the Senate Armed Services Committee that "I think that's an issue not as much for this committee, but elsewhere," prompting Sen. John McCain to quickly interject that he didn't think that was in Winslow's "area of responsibility or expertise." McCain also urged Winslow to clarify his written views on abortion or risk jeopardizing his confirmation.

Sen. King: Assault Weapons Should Not Be Banned. The [Washington Times](#) (11/7, Chasmar) reports Sen. Angus King said on MSNBC's Morning Joe that "assault weapons are nothing more than semi-automatic hunting rifles 'in costume' and therefore shouldn't be banned."

Democratic Lawmaker Walks Out During House Moment Of Silence For Victims. [CNN](#) (11/7, Diaz) reported "a Democratic lawmaker walked out of a moment of silence for the Texas shooting victims on Monday night to protest a lack of action on gun safety after mass shootings in the United States." The [Washington Post](#) (11/7, Wootson) says "Rep. Ted Lieu's national profile skyrocketed as he became the acerbic foil to the nation's tweeter in chief, blasting...Trump with incessant and sharply worded responses to presidential posts." The Post recounts that "while his colleagues were inside the House chambers on Monday, having a moment of silence for the victims, Lieu was outside, phone in selfie position, being the opposite of silent." Lieu wrote on Facebook, "I've been to too many moments of silences. In just my short career in Congress, three of the worst mass shootings in U.S. history have occurred. I will not be silent. What we need is we need action. We need to pass gun safety legislation now."

Gunman Escaped New Mexico Mental Hospital In 2012. [KPRC-TV](#) Houston (11/7, 6:09 p.m. CST) reported that Kelley "briefly escaped a mental facility near El Paso in 2012." Kelley "was ordered by the military to a New Mexico mental health facility in 2012." A police report obtained from the El Paso police department "shows Kelley escaped the facility before getting picked up by police at a downtown El Paso bus station." Responding officers say Kelley "was facing military charges, trying to catch a bus out of state, caught sneaking firearms onto Holloman Air Force Base and he was attempting to carry out death threats against military superiors." Patients at the facility "tipped off staff that Kelly was planning something. The military investigated and...found he was ordering weapons and tactical gear to a P.O. box in San Antonio." The [San Antonio Express-News](#) (11/7, Downs) also says Kelley "had been checked into the facility following an attempt to sneak firearms into an Air Force base in a plot to carry out the death threats he made against his chain of command, according to [police records](#)." [KHOU-TV](#) Houston (11/7, Homer), meanwhile, said Kelley had been "sent to the Peak Behavioral Health Services Center in Santa Teresa, New Mexico after beating his wife and child while stationed at Holloman Air Force Base."

The [New York Times](#) (11/7, Pérez-Peña) notes "the report filed by the El Paso officers says that the person who reported Mr. Kelley missing from the hospital advised them that he 'suffered from mental disorders,' and that he 'was attempting to carry out death threats' against 'his

military chain of command.” The report also indicated “the man ‘was a danger to himself and others as he had already been caught sneaking firearms onto Holloman Air Force Base.” The [Washington Times](#) (11/7, Richardson), [AP](#) (11/7, Vertuno, Weissert, Weber) and [Reuters](#) (11/7, Herskovitz, Garza), among other news outlets, also report the story.

Armed Man Who Wounded Gunman Invokes God, Says He’s Not A Hero. The [Dallas Morning News](#) (11/7, Steele) reports that in an interview with [KHBS-TV](#) in Fort Smith, AK Stephen Willeford recounted his experiences. Willeford “and another good Samaritan, 47-year-old Johnnie Langendorff, have been celebrated as heroes for their quick action in confronting...Kelley.” Said Willeford, “I’m no hero. I am not. ... I think my God, my Lord protected me and gave me the skills to do what needed to be done.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/7, Rosenberg, Horton, Berman) notes Trump has praised Willeford as a “hero.”

FBI Unable To Access Kelley’s Phone So Far. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/7, Pearce) reports “the FBI has been unable to access the phone of the Texas church gunman, officials said Tuesday, voicing their frustration with the tech industry as they try to gather evidence about...Kelley’s motive.” Christopher Combs, special agent in charge of the FBI’s San Antonio bureau, said in a news conference, “With the advance of the technology and the phones and the encryptions, law enforcement – whether that’s at the state, local or federal level – is increasingly not able to get into these phones.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (11/7, lead story, 3:30, Holt) showed Combs saying, “They are in the process of looking at the phone. Unfortunately at this point in time, we’re unable to get into the phone.” The development, says [Bloomberg News](#) (11/7, Shields), is “renewing tension between tech companies that protect devices with encryption and law enforcement agencies investigating crimes.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/7, Ailworth, Hobbs) runs a similar report.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/7, lead story, 3:20, Gutman), meanwhile, reported that “as authorities continue to process the scene at the First Baptist Church, tonight, we learned that the day of the massacre wasn’t...Kelley’s first time at the church. Officials tell us Kelley attended the church’s fall festival on Halloween, October 31,” and “when he came back on Sunday, he wore a skeleton mask over his face, blasting off hundreds of rounds in the deadliest shooting in Texas history.”

Trump Courts Democratic Senators On Tax Reform.

[Politico](#) (11/7, Schor) reports that President Trump called a dozen Democratic senators from Asia on Tuesday in an effort to build support for tax reform, but he “didn’t appear to change many minds.” According to Sen. Sherrod Brown, Trump argued that “rich people get hurt in this bill. ... We made it clear that we don’t agree with that.” Politico says Democrats “reiterated their interest in a bipartisan process rather than the closed-door, one-party approach that congressional Republicans have taken so far on tax legislation.” Sen. Chris Coons said, “This was more a conversation about our desire to have a seat at the table and to be able to contribute ideas that would genuinely help the middle class, strengthen manufacturing, make our country more competitive, than it was specific negotiations.” While Democrats “appreciate the effort and outreach,” Coons added, “I think every one of us expressed our deep frustration that this meeting happened very late in the process.”

Brady Leaves Open Possibility Of Repealing ACA’s Individual Mandate In Tax Bill.

[Roll Call](#) (11/7, McPherson) reports that while the House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady’s amendment to the GOP tax plan, which was “adopted on a party-line vote,” did not include a repeal of the ACA’s individual mandate, Brady on Tuesday “left open the possibility” that a repeal “could eventually make it into the GOP’s tax overhaul.” Brady told radio host Hugh Hewitt “that he’s asked for an updated cost estimate on repealing the individual mandate, indicating he won’t make a final decision until he sees that.” Said Brady, “I have been asked to consider it, and that’s exactly what we’re doing.” However, House Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows is predicting that “there’s no way” the bill will include a repeal, the [AP](#) (11/7) reports. According to Meadows, there is concern among Republican leaders that “mixing the tax overhaul measure and a key element of the party’s failed health care bill could complicate the tax drive.”

Schumer Predicts Spending Bill Will Include DACA Fix.

The [Washington Times](#) (11/7, Dinan) reports that Senate Minority Leader Schumer said Tuesday that the end-of-year spending bill being crafted by Congress will provide permanent legal status for Dreamers, “and said President Trump will have to sign it.” Schumer told reporters, “We feel

very strongly that DACA must pass and must pass by Dec. 31. ... We think we're going to have a good number of our Republican colleagues join us." Schumer also predicted that Trump "would sign whatever bill reaches his desk," saying, "If DACA is in the omnibus he won't veto it, is my prediction."

Syria To Join Paris Climate Agreement, Leaving Only US Opposed.

The [New York Times](#) (11/7, Friedman) reports Syria announced during UN climate talks in Bonn, Germany on Tuesday that it would sign the Paris agreement on climate change. The move, "which comes on the heels of Nicaragua signing the accord last month, will leave the United States as the only country that has rejected the global pact." Asked about the move, White House spokeswoman Kelly Love said, "As the president previously stated, the United States is withdrawing unless we can re-enter on terms that are more favorable for our country."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/7, Dennis) says Syria's decision to join the accord "brought another round of rebukes for the Trump Administration." Michael Brune, executive director of the Sierra Club, said in a statement, "As if it wasn't already crystal clear, every single other country in the world is moving forward together to tackle the climate crisis, while Donald Trump's has isolated the United States on the world stage in an embarrassing and dangerous position."

[USA Today](#) (11/7, Rice) reports Alden Meyer of the Union of Concerned Scientists said, "Syria's announcement that it will join the Paris agreement leaves President Trump in not-so-splendid isolation as a result of his irresponsible and ignorant decision to withdraw the United States from the most comprehensive effort ever to confront the mounting climate crisis."

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/7) reports Glen Peters, research director of the Center for International Climate Research in Oslo, contends, "President Donald Trump's June 1 decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement may have inadvertently strengthened all other nations' resolve." Peters added, "This is one side benefit of the Trump thing. It plays a role in galvanizing the remaining 200 or so countries. ... So he may actually achieve the opposite and strengthen the Paris Agreement." [Reuters](#) (11/7, Doyle) reports "the United Nations welcomed Syria's statement as a declaration of intent to adhere to the Paris pact. But it said Damascus had not yet filed any of the official documents to sign up."

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (11/7, Newman), [CBC \(CAN\)](#) (11/7), [The Hill](#) (11/7, Savransky) and the [AP](#) (11/7, Press) also provides coverage of this story.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Let The People Pick The President." The [New York Times](#) (11/7) editorializes that the Electoral College should be eliminated, and that states that are undecided about the National Popular Vote compact, which commits states to pledge their electoral votes to the popular vote winner, should sign on. The Times dismisses the Electoral College as "a 200-year-old constitutional anachronism designed in part to appease slaveholders and ratified when no one but white male landowners could vote." Additionally, the Times laments the fact that modern presidential campaigns can focus on only a handful of key states instead of targeting voters in all of them.

"Virginia Rejects Your Hateful Politics, Mr. Trump." In an editorial the [New York Times](#) (11/7) calls Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam's win in the Virginia governor's race "a stinging and welcome rebuke to President Trump and white nationalism." The Times adds that Gillespie "chose to dog-whistle himself breathless in pursuit of the state's pro-Trump white voters, and the president attested to his make-America-great-again credentials." Gillespie's decision "to lay his principles on the altar of Trumpism made Mr. Northam's win doubly important, as a triumph over the politics of racial division, and as a lesson for other Republicans tempted to adopt Mr. Trump's vile tactics as their own."

Washington Post.

"A Triumph Of Decency Over Dread." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/7, Board) calls Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam's win in the Virginia governor's race "a victory of decency, civility and moderation over fear, dread and barely veiled racist coding." The outcome, adds the Post, "was a repudiation not only of...Gillespie...but also more fundamentally of the racially divisive Trump campaign playbook, which Mr. Gillespie, ditching his reputation as a traditional and fair-minded conservative, embraced whole-hardheartedly."

“The Killer Responsible For More Yearly Deaths Than AIDS, Malaria, And TB Combined.” A [Washington Post](#) (11/7) cites a study in the British medical journal the Lancet, which found that pollution is a “global killer responsible for more yearly deaths than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined.” The study said pollution is associated with “1 in 6 premature deaths, 9 million people in 2015.” The Post says critics of environmental regulation “often overstate the potential costs of pollution controls and discount the benefits.” The study, the Post argues, “should remind leaders in the United States and elsewhere that, though there are costs associated with restricting pollution, countries also incur costs by failing to do so.”

“Let This Sick 10-Year-Old Girl Stay In The Country.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/7) editorializes that Rosa Maria Hernandez, a 10 year old undocumented immigrant with cerebral palsy who was detained during her recovery from surgery, should have her immigration status regularized by federal officials so that she can remain in the country. The Post opines that “the amount of effort already expended to go after this sick little girl is just astounding and clearly out of whack with President Trump’s stated promise to go after ‘bad hombres.’” Hernandez was placed in a federal detention center 150 miles away from her home last week before being released back to her family.

“These Are The Questions To Ask About the Trump-Russia Connection.” A [Washington Post](#) (11/7) editorial says it counts nine of President Trump’s associates who “had direct contact with Russian officials during the campaign and presidential transition.” The Post says it is “beyond dispute that the Russian government sought to help the Trump campaign and that some campaign officials were open to overtures from Russia. The question is how far that cooperation went and who on the campaign was aware of it.” Trump’s “tweeted declarations of ‘NO COLLUSION!’ are not sufficient.”

Wall Street Journal.

“South Korea’s Bow To Beijing.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/7) editorial says that while President Trump praised South Korean President Moon Jae-in for “great cooperation” on containing the threat from North Korea, the South Korean leader’s recent actions suggest that he is an unreliable friend. The Journal argues that Moon favors appeasing Kim Jong Un to lower tensions, even at the expense of his own country’s security.

“Koskinen’s Parting Gift From The IRS.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/7) says that with Commissioner John Koskinen exiting, the IRS on Tuesday confirmed that for the first time, it has started to enforce the Affordable Care Act employer mandate. The agency has sent letters to companies that employ more than 50 workers that have yet to provide what the ACA deems as qualifying coverage to its employees. The Journal, which casts the move as a way for Koskinen to hit back at Republicans who took aim at the IRS over the agency’s targeting of Tea Party groups, says enforcing the mandate will hurt smaller companies and the economy. The Journal criticizes Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin for not overruling Koskinen and delaying enforcement of the mandate until the IRS had more time to better prepare businesses for the move.

“Trump’s Antiterror Omission.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/7, Board) editorializes that President Trump’s lack of a coherent strategy for handling detained terrorists creates national security risks and demonstrates a lack of seriousness regarding an important facet of our national approach to terror. The Journal criticizes Trump’s mixed messaging regarding Sayfullo Saipov, with Trump first indicating openness to sending him to Guantanamo before changing course and advocating for the death penalty for the attacker on Twitter. The Journal also unfavorably compares Trump’s general policies of how to handle captured terrorists to the policies of President

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[US Prepares Show Of Strength As Trump Urges North Korea Talks](#)
[Lapses In Gun Buyers’ Records Come Under Scrutiny](#)
[Jet-Set Debt Collectors Join A Lucrative Game: Hunting The Superrich](#)
[ADP Boss Taunts Ackman: This Was A ‘Whooping’](#)

New York Times:

[With Virginia, Voters Give Democrats First Big Wins Of The Trump Era](#)
[Phil Murphy Is Elected Governor Of New Jersey, In A Lift For Democrats](#)
[Texas Gunman Once Escaped From Mental Health Facility](#)
[In Saudi Arabia, Where Family And State Are One, Arrests May Be Selective](#)
[How Business Titans, Pop Stars And Royals Hide Their Wealth](#)
[De Blasio Coasts To Re-Election, As Second-Term Challenges Await](#)

Washington Post:

[Black Wealth A Target In Anthem Debate](#)
[Shooter Escaped Facility In 2012](#)
[Senate GOP Could Break From House On Tax Plan](#)
[For Republicans, A Grim Omen For The Midterms](#)
[Democrats Jolt Trump's Party With Firm Message](#)

Financial Times:

[Saudi Arabia Accuses Iran Of 'Act Of War' As Tensions Rise](#)
[Wall St Warns Trump Team Of Brexit 'Point Of No Return'](#)
[Forbes Says Wilbur Ross Lied About Being A Billionaire](#)
[Google Owner Tests First Driverless Car On City Streets](#)

Washington Times:

[Ralph Northam Wins Of Virginia's Governor's Race](#)
[Republicans Agree To Debate Gun Control After Background Check System Fails](#)
[Anti-Trump Voters Swarm Virginia Polls To Send Message To President](#)
[Doctors Fear Obesity Diagnosis Will Embarrass Patients](#)
[Catalonian Drive For Freedom Stirs Feelings Of Repression, Discrimination](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Texas Church Shooting; Texas Church Shooting-Gunman; Trump-Asia Tour; Texas Church Shooting-Trump; Russia Meddling Investigation; Gubernatorial Elections; Weinstein Sexual Harassment; Roy Halladay Dies; Highway Shootout; Teacher Threatens Student; Twitter-Higher Character Limit; Texas Church Shooting-Survivor.

CBS: Texas Church Shooting; Texas Church Shooting-Gunman; Texas Church Shooting-Victims; Texas Church Shooting-Video Analysis; Roy Halladay Dies; Trump-Asia Tour; Weinstein Sexual Harassment; Paris Climate Accord; Gubernatorial Elections; Painting-Ownership Dispute.

NBC: Texas Church Shooting; Texas Church Shooting-Victims; Weinstein Sexual Harassment; Trump-Asia Tour; South Korea-US Military; Gubernatorial Elections; Roy Halladay Dies; Health-Alcohol And Cancer; Miami-Airport Security Breach; Van Gogh Painting Found; Twitter-Higher Character Limit; Honest Judge.

Network TV At A Glance:

Texas Church Shooting – 22 minutes, 45 seconds
Weinstein Sexual Harassment – 6 minutes, 45 seconds
Trump-Asia Tour – 5 minutes, 25 seconds
Gubernatorial Elections – 2 minutes, 30 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Gubernatorial Elections; Trump-Asia Tour; Roy Halladay Dies; Wall Street News.

CBS: Trump-Asia Tour; Gubernatorial Elections; Texas Church Shooting; Roy Halladay Dies.

FOX: Trump-Asia Tour; Gubernatorial Elections; Roy Halladay Dies.

NPR: Trump-Asia Tour; Texas Church Shooting; Gubernatorial Elections.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in an embassy meet and greet in Seoul, South Korea; delivers a speech to the National Assembly; participates in a wreath laying ceremony; will have tea with President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China and Madame Peng Liyuan; tours the Forbidden City and view an opera performance with President Xi and Madame Peng; has dinner

with President Xi and Madame Peng.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Visits victims of the First Baptist Church shooting; participates in a briefing with local law enforcement officials; meets with families of the victims of the First Baptist Church shooting; delivers remarks at a prayer vigil for the victims of the First Baptist Church shooting.

US Senate: 9:45 AM Senate Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee Executive Session – Executive Session, with agenda including ‘S. 1693, Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act of 2017’ and ‘S. 1668, A bill to rename a waterway in the State of New York as the ‘Joseph Sanford Jr. Channel’, and the nominations of Dana Baiocco to be a Consumer Product Safety Commission Commissioner, James Bridenstine to be NASA Administrator, Neil Jacobs and Nazakhtar Nikakhtar to be Assistant Secretaries of Commerce, Bruce Landsberg to be a National Transportation Safety Board member, Raymond Martinez to be Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration Administrator, Diana Furchtgott-Roth to be Assistant Secretary of Transportation, and Leon Westmoreland to be an Amtrak Board of Directors member Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 106, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

10:00 AM Current and former Equifax and Yahoo! officials testify to Senate Commerce Committee on consumer data security – Hearing on ‘Protecting Consumers in the Era of Major Data Breaches’, with testimony from Equifax Interim CEO Paulino do Rego Barros Jr.; former Equifax CEO Richard Smith; former Yahoo! CEO Marissa Mayer; Verizon Communications Deputy General Counsel and Chief Privacy Officer Karen Zacharia; and Entrust Datacard Corporation President and CEO Todd Wilkinson * Follows 2013 data breach at Yahoo! that affected 3 billion user accounts and another earlier this year at Equifax that hit around 145 million people Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 106, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on impacts of lawsuit abuse – Hearing on ‘The Impact of Lawsuit Abuse on American Small Businesses and Job Creators’, with testimony from National Federation of Independent Business Small Business Legal Center Senior Executive Counsel Elizabeth Milito; Yeshiva University Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law Professor Myriam Gilles; and Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom partner John Beisner (on behalf of U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for Legal Reform) Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee considers Kirstjen Nielsen to be DHS secretary – Nominations hearing considers Kirstjen Nielsen to be Secretary of Homeland Security * President Donald Trump announced the nomination of the Principal Deputy White House Chief of Staff last month Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 342, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

10:00 AM Senate Environment Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Kathleen Hartnett White to be a Council on Environmental Quality member; and Andrew Wheeler to be Environmental Protection Agency Deputy Administrator Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 406, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

2:30 PM Senate Indian Affairs Committee legislative hearing – Legislative hearing on ‘S. 1400 Safeguarding Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act of 2017’ and ‘S. 465 Independent Outside Audit of the Indian Health Service Act of 2017’, with testimony from Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs John Tahsuda III; Indian Health Service Deputy Director for Management Operations Elizabeth Fowler; Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation Chairman Dave Flute; and Pueblo of Acoma, NM, Governor Kurt Riley Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://indian.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/IndianCommittee>

3:00 PM U.S. ambassador to the U.N. briefs Senate Foreign Relations Committee – Closed briefing on ‘A Readout Of Ambassador Haley’s Recent Trip To Africa’, given by U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Amb. Nikki Haley Location: U.S. Capitol, S-116, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

3:00 PM POW/MIA commemorative chair unveiled on Capitol Hill – Commemorative chair unveiled and dedicated in the U.S. Capitol’s Emancipation Hall in honor of U.S. prisoners of war and the tens of thousands of service members missing in action. Participants include House Speaker Paul Ryan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Democrats Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Rep. Stephen Lynch, and veterans’ advocacy groups Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Emancipation Hall, Washington, DC www.speaker.gov <https://twitter.com/SpeakerRyan>

US House: 10:00 AM House Science subcommittees joint hearing on geoengineering –

Environment Subcommittee and Energy Subcommittee joint hearing on 'Geoengineering: Innovation, Research, and Technology', with testimony from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Chief Scientist for Climate Science Dr Phil Rasch; Niskanen Center Director of Climate Policy Dr Joseph Majkut; Cornell University Senior Research Associate Dr Douglas MacMartin; and University of Washington Joint Institute for the Study of the Atmosphere and Ocean Marine Cloud Brightening Project Principal Director Kelly Wanser Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2318, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs subcommittees joint hearing on Afghanistan and Pakistan – Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee and Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee joint hearing on 'The President's Plan for Afghanistan and Pakistan: Objectives and Resources', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of State and Acting U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan Alice Wells; and USAID Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs Administrator's Assistant Gregory Huger Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

10:00 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on the international financial institutions – Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee hearing on 'Administration Priorities for the International Financial Institutions', with testimony from Under Secretary of the Treasury for International Affairs David Malpass Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Veterans' Affairs Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 4242, the VA Care in the Community Act' and 'H.R. 4243, the VA Asset and Infrastructure Review (AIR) Act of 2017' Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

10:00 AM Health Subcommittee hearing on 'MACRA and Alternative Payment Models: Developing Options for Value-based Care' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Education and Workforce subcommittees joint hearing on impacts of opioids – Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education Subcommittee and Higher Education and Workforce Development Subcommittee joint hearing on 'Close to Home: How Opioids are Impacting Communities' Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:00 AM House Government Reform subcommittee hearing on moving the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem – National Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Moving the American Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem: Challenges and Opportunities', with testimony from American Enterprise Institute Senior Fellow John Bolton; Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs President Dore Gold; Northwestern University Professor of Law Eugene Kontorovich; Zionist Organization of America President Morton Klein; and Israel Policy Forum Policy Director Dr Michael Koplow Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2167, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM POSTPONED: House Oversight subcommittees joint hearing on cybersecurity of voting machines – POSTPONED: Information Technology Subcommittee and Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee joint hearing on 'Cybersecurity of Voting Machines' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources Committee markup hearing concludes – Markup hearing concludes on 'H.R. 995, 21st Century Respect Act', 'H.R. 1532, Poarch Band of Creek Indians Land Reaffirmation Act', 'H.R. 1800, To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer certain Federal land to facilitate scientific research supporting Federal space and defense programs', 'H.R. 2504, To ensure fair treatment in licensing requirements for the export of certain echinoderms', 'H.R. 2907, Planning for American Energy Act of 2017', 'H.R. 3469, To designate the bridge located in Blount County, Tennessee, on the Foothills Parkway (commonly known as 'Bridge 2') as the 'Dean Stone Bridge', 'H.R. 3905, Minnesota's Economic Rights in the Superior National Forest Act', 'H.R. 4239, Strengthening the Economy with Critical Untapped Resources to Expand American Energy Act' ('SECURE American Energy Act'), and 'S. 140, To amend the White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Rights Quantification Act of 2010 to clarify the use of amounts in the WMAT Settlement Fund' * Began yesterday Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:15 AM Markup hearing on 'H.R. 3989, USA Liberty Act' and 'H.R. 170, Protect and Grow American Jobs Act' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2141, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:30 AM TSA Administrator Pecoske testifies to House Homeland Security Committee –

Hearing on 'Preventing the Next Attack: TSA's Role in Keeping Our Transportation Systems Secure', with testimony from Transportation Security Administration Administrator Vice Adm. (Ret.) David Pekoske Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC
homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

10:30 AM House Military Veterans Caucus event on the benefits of assistance dogs for vets – House Military Veterans Caucus, with Canine Companions for Independence, hosts event on the benefits of assistance dogs for veterans, including a demonstration of the commands the dogs can perform specific to individuals living with post-traumatic stress disorder. Participants include Caucus Co-Chairs bipartisan Reps. Mike Thompson, Gus Bilirakis, Collin Peterson, and Tom Rooney, Canine Companions for Independence CEO Paul Mundell, Staff Sgt. (Ret.) Charlie Linville and his assistance dog Devon, Department of Veterans Affairs Center for Compassionate Innovation Health Systems Specialist Heather Luper, and other Canine Companions trainers and assistance dogs Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 340, Washington, DC
<http://mikethompson.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RepThompson>

11:00 AM House Small Business Committee hearing on SBA Office of Veterans Business Development – Hearing on 'Hiring More Heroes: A Review of SBA's Office of Veterans Business Development', with testimony from Small Business Administration Associate Administrator for Veterans Business Development Barbara Carson Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2360, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

12:00 PM House expected to vote on Hydropower Policy Modernization Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of 'H.R. 3043 – Hydropower Policy Modernization Act of 2017', and beginning consideration of 'H.R. 2201 – Micro Offering Safe Harbor Act' Location: Washington, DC
<http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee hearing on the interagency transition assistance program – Economic Opportunity Subcommittee oversight hearing on 'A Review of the Interagency Transition Assistance Program and the Need for Enhanced Outcome Measurements' Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on the Kingpin Designation Act – Western Hemisphere Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining the Effectiveness of the Kingpin Designation Act in the Western Hemisphere', with testimony from former Drug Enforcement Administration Office of Financial Operations Chief Donald Semesky Jr.; former Department of Justice prosecutor David Hall; Foundation for Defense of Democracies Center on Sanctions and Illicit Finance Senior Fellow Dr Emanuele Ottolenghi; and Wilson Center Latin American Program Deputy Director Eric Olson Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC
<http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

2:00 PM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on safeguarding the U.S. financial system – Terrorism and Illicit Finance Subcommittee hearing on 'Financial Intelligence and Enforcement: Treasury's Role in Safeguarding the American Financial System', with testimony from Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Sigal Mandelker Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC
<http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

3:00 PM POW/MIA commemorative chair unveiled on Capitol Hill – Commemorative chair unveiled and dedicated in the U.S. Capitol's Emancipation Hall in honor of U.S. prisoners of war and the tens of thousands of service members missing in action. Participants include House Speaker Paul Ryan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Democrats Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Rep. Stephen Lynch, and veterans' advocacy groups Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Emancipation Hall, Washington, DC www.speaker.gov
<https://twitter.com/SpeakerRyan>

6:00 PM 'The US and Southeast Asia on the Eve of President Trump's Visit' event – 'The US and Southeast Asia on the Eve of President Trump's Visit' event, hosted by the East West Center in Washington and the Congressional Caucus on ASEAN, highlighting the current status of U.S.-ASEAN relations and cooperation in the fields of security, trade, and business during President Donald Trump's first visit to the Asia-Pacific region. Speakers include Caucus Co-Chair Democratic Rep. Joaquin Castro, Singapore Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Ashok Mirpuri, former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs David Shear, US-ASEAN Business Council Vice President for Policy Marc Mealy, Human Rights Watch Asia Advocacy Director John Sifton, former Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for Southeast Asia and the Pacific Barbara Weisel, and East-West Center Director Dr Satu Limaye Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2168, Washington, DC www.eastwestcenter.org <https://twitter.com/EastWestCenter>

Other: 9:00 AM Ivorian President Ouattara speaks at CSIS – Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara speaks at Center for Strategic and International Studies conference on Cote D'Ivoire's first compact with the Millennium Challenge Corporation and the country's economic, political, and security outlook. Other speakers include MCC Acting CEO Jonathan Nash, Ivorian President's Secretary General Patrick Achi and Special Advisor Abdourahmane Cisse, Corporate Council on Africa President and CEO Florizelle Liser, Entrepreneurial Solutions Partners West Africa Manager Teddy Roux, independent political analyst Edwige Depagne-Sorgho, and Bechtel Corporation Global Head of Sustainability Tam Robert Nguyen Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

9:30 AM GOP Sen. Cory Gardner keynotes Heritage Foundation event on the U.S. and South Korea – The Trump Administration and the Future of the ROK-U.S. Alliance' Heritage Foundation discussion, with keynote from Republican Sen. Cory Gardner and panelists including Center for a New American Security Asia-Pacific Security Program Senior Advisor and Senior Director Patrick Cronin, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Asia Program Senior Fellow James Schoff, Korea Institute for Defense Analyses Center for Security and Strategy Director Park Chang-kwoun, Woodrow Wilson International Center Asia Program Director Abraham Denmark, South Korea Ewha Womans University's Park Ihn-hwi, Korea Institute for Defense Analyses Research Fellow Kim Jin-a, Brookings Institution Korea Studies Chair Jung H. Pak, Former South Korea Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff Gen. (Ret.) Jung Seung-jo, and Korea Institute for Defense Analyses Senior Research Fellow Cho Nam-hoon Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC www.heritage.org <https://twitter.com/Heritage>

11:00 AM Agriculture Secretary Perdue honors USDA vets – Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue recognizes the contributions of veterans serving throughout the Department, and highlights upcoming USDA resources for vets, in honor of Veterans Day * He holds a press gaggle immediately following the observance Location: U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1400 Jefferson Dr SW, Washington, DC www.usda.gov <https://twitter.com/USDA>

7:00 PM Mercy Corps Humanitarian Hero Award ceremony – Mercy Corps Humanitarian Hero Award ceremony, honoring Democratic Sen. Jeff Merkley and Republican Sen. Todd Young Location: The Whittemore House, 1526 New Hampshire Ave NW, Washington, DC www.mercycorps.org <https://twitter.com/mercy Corps>

7:00 PM Got Your 6 Storytellers event in DC – Got Your 6 hosts its Washington, DC Storytellers program, an annual event that celebrates 'the accomplishments and inspirational stories of the nation's veterans.' Speakers include Republican Reps. Phil Roe and Brad Wenstrup, and Democratic Rep. Tim Walz Location: Capitol Hill, Washington, DC <http://www.gotyoursix.org/> [#VetInspired](https://twitter.com/GotYourSix)

Annual CAPG Colloquium – CAPG Colloquium, 'Healthcare Reform: The Saga Continues', with keynote speakers including CAPG President and CEO Donald Crane, Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden, Republican Reps. Greg Walden and Pat Tiberi, Anthem Chairman, President and CEO Joseph Swedish, and National Association of Medicaid Directors Executive Director Matt Salo Location: Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Avenue Northwest, Washington, DC <http://www.capg.org/> <https://twitter.com/CAPGVoice>

SINET Showcase – SINET Showcase event – 'Highlighting and Advancing Innovation', featuring representatives from both public and private sectors including the State Department, Air Force, Army, Postal Service, Department of Defense, Department of Homeland Security, Monsanto, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Google, VISA, BAE Systems, JPMorgan Chase and Co., Sony Group, SEI, National IT Federal Reserve, and Verizon Location: The National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW, Washington, DC www.security-innovation.org <https://twitter.com/SINETconnection>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "We have so much to get to, starting as we often do with President Trump, who has been in Asia for four days. Still no mushroom cloud, so that's a positive."

Jimmy Kimmel: "Tomorrow is the one-year anniversary of Donald Trump winning the election. Isn't it crazy to think we're already 80 percent of the way through this presidency?"

Jimmy Kimmel: "A lot of people say Trump hasn't accomplished anything. That's unfair. Because

since this time last year, he's played golf more than 70 times, and that's a record, folks."

Stephen Colbert: "According to the military newspaper 'Stars & Stripes,' Trump had tacos, a burrito, and curly fries, which shows, I think, just how far we've come. Because just 10 years ago, fries, like everything in the military, had to be straight."

Stephen Colbert: "Of course, it's tough for Trump to be overseas, because that's where all the foreigners are."

James Corden: "Melania Trump joined the first lady of Japan, Akie Abe, in a fourth-grade calligraphy lesson during a visit to a Tokyo school. ... At one point during the calligraphy lesson, Melania Trump leaned over to Akie Abe and asked for help. After Akie showed her how to use the brush, Melania was like, 'No, I mean help me!'"

Trevor Noah: "Someone assaulted a sitting US senator. That's crazy. What's even crazier is that after only one night in jail, the man was released. Like, he broke a senator's ribs and he's already out. I'm going to take a shot in the dark and say that he's white."

Seth Meyers: "Former White House Chief Strategist Steve Bannon said this weekend that he tries to be bad cop to President Trump's good cop. Wow. Imagine what a bad cop you have to be for Donald Trump to be your good cop."

Seth Meyers: "According to a CNN poll, President Trump's approval rating has reached a new low of 36 percent. He's so unpopular, pretty soon it's just going to be Fox & Friend."

Conan O'Brien: "Did you know this? President Trump's approval rating among African-Americans is now at 4 percent. I know what you're thinking. When did it go up?"

Conan O'Brien: "Things not going too well for Trump. This week, a federal judge banned his former campaign manager Paul Manafort from leaving the country. He can't leave the country. So now, if Manafort wants to meet with Russians, he'll be forced to go to any night club in Manhattan."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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DOI In The News

Idaho Sen. Risch Aide Named To Interior Water, Science Job.

The [Idaho Statesman](#) (11/14, Barker) "Letters from the West" blog reports Timothy R. Petty, an aide to Idaho Republican Sen. Jim Risch, was appointed Monday as the Interior assistant secretary overseeing the Bureau of Reclamation and the US Geological Survey. Petty, a hydrologist, "has a doctorate from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks" and "served Risch as deputy legislative director and legislative assistant on issues of water, natural resources, environment, science, technology and telecommunications and space." Petty previously served as acting assistant Interior secretary and deputy assistant secretary for water and science under President George W. Bush.

Senate Minority Whip To Meet With Zinke After Hold On Interior Nominees.

[Morning Consult](#) (11/14, Gheorghiu) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke will meet with a group of Democratic senators led by Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin Tuesday "about his recommendations to President Trump to reduce the size of certain national monuments, according to a Senate aide." Zinke agreed to Durbin's request for a meeting in response to a public letter last week "announcing a hold on four Interior Department nominees."

Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch's Office Says President Donald Trump Is Expected To Significantly Downsize Two Sprawling Utah National Monuments.

The [AP](#) (11/14, Price) reports in continuing coverage that Utah Sen. Orrin Hatch's office said Tuesday that the Trump Administration "is expected to significantly downsize two sprawling Utah national monuments that protect more than 3 million acres of the state's red rock country." In his testimony before a Utah legislative public lands committee, Ron Dean, Hatch's Central and Eastern Utah Director, "testified...that he expects Bears Ears National Monument will be cut by at least 80 percent of its current size, while Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument will be reduced by about 40 percent to 60 percent." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who visited both monuments in May, "told The Salt Lake Tribune on Monday that he thinks Bears Ears will end up larger than two existing national parks in Utah, keeping the monument at least 180,000 acres (728 square kilometers)."

Whistleblower Sues Interior Department For Information On Staff Shuffle.

The [Huffington Post](#) (11/14, D'Angelo) reports Joel Clement, a "scientist-turned-whistleblower who resigned from the Interior Department in October citing" Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's "poor leadership" and "resume of failure" is suing the agency to "obtain information concerning his own reassignment and that of several of his former colleagues." Clement alleged that in July "he was transferred to a position for which he had no qualifications because he warned about the dangers of climate change." The department's inspector general also is "investigating the job shifts to determine whether they were done legally."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Trump Appointee To Bureau Of Indian Affairs Resigns After Interior's IG Slams The Loan Program He Oversaw.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/14, Eilperin) reports Gavin Clarkson, a senior Bureau of Indian Affairs official appointed by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in June, "resigned Monday after the department's inspector general issued a scathing report on the loan program he oversaw." The IG report found the BIA's division of capital investment (DCI), which falls under its Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED), "did not have adequate controls in place and managed the [loan program] with limited oversight from IEED, creating unnecessary risk for an already risky program." Prior to serving in the Trump Administration, "Clarkson served as a consultant for tribes that received loans under the program, including a controversial \$22.5 million loan for the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe that helped finance the purchase of a brokerage firm that eventually went under."

Secretary Ryan Zinke Among Those Excited To Take Part In #RockYourMocs This Year.

The [Nation Sun News](#) (11/14) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke is participating in "#RockYourMocs week." Zinke and "thousands across the nation are expressing Native pride by wearing moccasins to work, to school and just about everywhere." Zinke said he "plans to sport a pair of Crow moccasins."

Oglala Sioux Tribe Working To Protect Children.

[KOTA-TV](#) Rapid City, SD (11/14, Huntington) reports Oglala Sioux tribal leaders have brought together stakeholders for its Child Protective Services "for a three day summit in Rapid City to brainstorm solutions." The Pine Ridge CPS reached a state where the tribal council considered in April "turning over the program to state control." OST Vice President Darla Black said, "When I met with the employees, they were neglected." He adds, "Bottom line? The program's neglected. They didn't have vehicles, they're underfunded." Amber Sierra, a Bureau of Indian Affairs employee who oversees the contract the bureau has with the tribe for Child Protective services, said, "We look at our children and my children and the grandchildren and the kids that we protect every day and we have to decide, 'How do want them to grow up?'"

Bureau Of Land Management

Videos Lead Defense Opening In Bundy Standoff Trial In Vegas.

The [AP](#) (11/14, Ritter) reports that on Tuesday, a federal grand jury "got a first look...at videos of confrontations involving armed federal agents and Bundy family members that rancher Cliven Bundy's lawyer said provided a catalyst for an April 2014 gunpoint standoff and a trial now underway in Las Vegas." The AP says "one clip that attorney Bret Whipple said spread widely on the internet showed Bundy's sister, Margaret Huston, thrown to the ground by a federal agent. ... Another clip showed Bundy's son, David Bundy, hauled to the ground and arrested on the shoulder of a state highway by two agents who approached him for taking photos of armed men with guns on a ridge top near the Bundy ranch."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/14, Montero) reports that "the high-profile case is expected to push into 2018 as federal prosecutors aim to prove the Bundy family and militia leader [Ryan] Payne tried to stop the federal government from seizing cattle that were grazing on public land by threatening a federal officer, carrying and using a firearm and engaging in a conspiracy." Whipple also "argued that Bundy had tried to pay the state of Nevada the grazing fees because he didn't recognize BLM sovereignty over grazing land, and he said the family held water rights in the areas in which the cattle were grazing."

Trump's Team May Move The Bureau Of Land Management Headquarters To Salt Lake City.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/14, Burr) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke told The Salt Lake Tribune that he is considering moving Bureau of Land Management headquarters out West, perhaps Salt Lake City or Denver. Zinke told the newspaper, "We're certainly looking at where would be the right place," noting that the "preponderance of activity is in the West" for BLM's activities. Colorado Republicans Sen. Cory Gardner and Rep. Scott Tipton "legislation in May that would authorize moving the BLM's headquarters to a Western state."

Judge Weighs Motion To Dismiss Twin Metals Mining Lawsuit.

The [AP](#) (11/14) reports US lawyers “asked a federal judge Tuesday to dismiss a lawsuit by developers of the proposed Twin Metals copper-nickel mine who are seeking to regain their mineral rights leases, arguing that their dispute belongs in a different court.” Twin Metals sued to get leases back after the Obama administration last December declined to renew long-standing leases the company needs for the underground mine it wants to build in northeastern Minnesota. The Bureau of Land Management “first issued the leases in 1966 to a predecessor of Twin Metals and renewed them in 1989 and 2004. But by the time Twin Metals sought another renewal in 2012, strong opposition had developed to copper-nickel mining in northeastern Minnesota, primarily because of concerns about the pristine Boundary Waters.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Group To Sue Trump Administration For Not Protecting Florida Lizard.

The [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (11/14, Todaro) reports the Center for Biological Diversity on Monday “filed a notice of its intent to sue the Trump administration for not protecting a lizard that lives distinctly in the Florida Keys.” The group said that the US Fish and Wildlife Service denied requests to protect the Florida Keys mole skink in October in opposition to the Endangered Species Act. The Center for Biological Diversity “first requested protection of the mole skink in 2010, and in 2015 the Fish and Wildlife Service concluded that the lizard might warrant for protection under the Endangered Species Act’s, the Miami Herald reports.”

Gov. Ivey Announces \$33 Million For Restoration And Conservation Projects In Alabama.

[WPMI-TV](#) Mobile, AL (11/14) reports Alabama Gov. Kay Ivey announced Tuesday the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has approved over \$33.5 million for five new projects and amendments to two existing projects “which focus on the restoration and conservation of Alabama’s natural resources.” Ivey said, “This additional \$33 million in funding for Alabama from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will further strengthen our long-term recovery efforts along the Gulf Coast. The commitment of our local, state, and federal partners to ensure the long-term sustainability of our coastal areas is greatly appreciated.” The settlement from BP and Transocean for their part in the Deepwater Horizon Spill “directs a total of \$2.54 billion to NFWF to establish a Gulf Environmental Benefit Fund (GEBF) over a five-year period to support ecological projects in all five Gulf States. A total of \$356 million will be paid into the GEBF for conservation projects dedicated to the State of Alabama.”

Environmental Groups Push Back On Cheney Amendment Allowing Birds To Be Killed; Industry Supportive.

The [Gillette \(WY\) News Record](#) (11/14, Richards) reports conservationists are fighting back against an amendment proposed by US Rep. Liz Cheney’s (R-WY) to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act that limits liability for energy companies that accidentally kill “migrating birds, whether by an oil field disposal pit or a solar farm.” In a statement Wednesday, the Audubon Society “pointed to the number of ways industry contributes to bird deaths, including 500,000 to 1 million birds a year killed in oil waste pits and some 175 million birds annually killed by power lines, according to according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service estimates.”

Jane Goodall Urges U.S. Senate To Halt Quest For Arctic Refuge Oil.

[Reuters](#) (11/14, Gardner) reports primatologist Jane Goodall sent a letter to every US senator Tuesday “urging them to oppose a push in the U.S. Congress to allow oil drilling” in ANWR. According to Reuters, the GOP-led Senate “is trying to open up the 1002 region on the coastal plain of the ANWR, a region inhabited by Gwich’in natives, caribou herds, polar bears and millions of birds that migrate to six of the world’s seven continents.” Goodell wrote in the letter, “If we violate the Arctic Refuge by extracting the oil beneath the land, this will have devastating impact for the Gwich’in people for they depend on the caribou herds to sustain their traditional way of life.” A group of 37 US scientists whose research focuses on Arctic wildlife told senators that drilling in ANWR would be “incompatible with the purposes for which the refuge was established.”

National Park Service

Culpeper Town Council Opposes Shenandoah Rate Increase.

The [Fredericksburg \(VA\) Free Lance-Star](#) (11/14, Johnston) reports the Culpeper Town Council unanimously agreed Tuesday evening that increasing the entrance fee to Shenandoah National Park from \$25 to \$70 for a four-day pass will hurt tourism, but Councilman Jon Russell said the increase might be necessary. Russell "said he had talked to officials at the Department of Interior and learned that Shenandoah National Park has an \$11 million maintenance backlog and needs the fee increase to upgrade its almost-90-year-old facilities." However, Councilman Pranas Rimeikis argued, "I am appalled at the idea that the Interior Department is putting [this increase] on the backs of the localities."

Clallam Commissioners Ready Letter To National Park Service Over Fee Hike.

The [Peninsula \(WA\) Daily News](#) (11/14, Major) reports Clallam County commissioners are drafting a letter to the National Park Service "urging the federal government to reconsider increasing the entry fee at 17 national parks up to \$70." The letter says, "While we would be supportive of increased entrance fees to help bridge the funding gap, we are extremely concerned that the proposed increase to \$70 per vehicle is too steep."

Flight 93 Tower Of Voices To Be Built By Altoona Contractor.

The [Pittsburgh Tribune-Review](#) (11/14) reports a contractor from Altoona, Leonard S. Fiore, Inc., was awarded the construction contract to build the Flight 93 National Memorial's Tower of Voices, "the final phase of major construction of the Somerset County memorial's original design." According to the Tribune-Review, the tower is a "musical instrument, designed as a visual and audible reminder of the passengers and crew. The shape and orientation of the 93-foot-tall tower are designed to optimize air flow through the tower walls to reach the interior chamber."

Here's What It Costs To Maintain An Empty RFK Stadium.

The [Washington Business Journal](#) (11/14, Cooper) reports the District of Columbia paid over \$2 million for security and maintenance at Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium last fiscal year, "a dollar amount that will likely be taken into account as the city and Events D.C. decide what's next for the aging edifice." The Department of General Services' maintains RFK, but "Events D.C., the District's sports and conventions authority, manages the facility and books events there." It is "leading an effort to redevelop the RFK campus, but exactly when the main part of the project, the replacement of the stadium itself, would move forward is unclear."

Lawmakers Ask National Park Service To Rethink Plan To Ban Recreation On The Mall.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/14, Ruane) reports DC Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton and six other local members of the House of Representatives asked the National Park Service Tuesday to "reconsider its proposal to band recreational activities on the grounds of the Washington Monument." The legislatures also asked NPS to "reconsider its proposed increase in fees for use of its ballfields elsewhere on the Mall and in Rock Creek Park."

Redmond Downtown Historic District Added To National Register.

[KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (11/14) reports on its website that the Oregon Parks and Recreation Center said Tuesday the Redmond Downtown Historic District has been added to the National Register of Historic Places. According to KTVZ, the district "embraces the historic commercial core of Redmond, including 43 downtown buildings." Oregon's State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation "recommended the district's nomination during their June meeting and on October 30, the district was formally listed by the Keeper of the National Register in Washington, D.C."

Office Of Insular Affairs

US Education Secretary Visits CAHS, UVI.

[St. Croix Source](#) (11/10, Shimmel) reports Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos "toured Charlotte Amalie High School Wednesday, listening more than she spoke as she met with CAHS Principal Alcede Edwards and his administrative team." A spokesperson for DeVos said her trip to St. Thomas was "part of an assessment tour of U.S. states and territories affected by recent hurricanes – Harvey in Texas and Louisiana, Irma in the Caribbean and Florida and Maria in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands." DeVos said she wanted to see how large the problems were after the hurricanes and what her department would have to do to help. "We know that we are working with many challenges and are dealing with in the interest of getting children back to

school and back to a routine and some sense of normalcy," DeVos said.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (11/8) reports that after the campus tour, DeVos "sat in the midst of C.A.H.S. students and listened as they spoke about their challenges. Seniors voiced their concerns about the connectivity issues prohibiting them from filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and juniors inquired about colleges' willingness to assist students from disaster areas." She encouraged the students to remain positive and "she assured them that the U.S. Department of Education would make concessions where it can for students hailing from disaster-stricken areas like the U.S. Virgin Islands." She also described federal assistance as "a process, not an event."

Mapp, Senators To Visit D.C. To Discuss V.I.'s Needs With Congress.

[St. Croix Source](#) (11/8) reports Gov. Kenneth Mapp and members of the Virgin Islands Senate will head to Washington, DC, next week to meet with members of Congress and Congressional staffers to discuss federal assistance to help the territory rebuild after two being hit by two category 5 hurricanes. V.I. Delegate to Congress Stacey Plaskett said in his announcement of the trip, "I look forward to testifying alongside him, the governor of Puerto Rico and the resident commissioner of Puerto Rico on 'Hurricane Recovery Efforts in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.'" Plaskett said Mapp will testify before both the Senate and House committees. Plaskett also said Congressional delegations will visit both the V.I. and Puerto Rico "to view the devastation and let our fellow citizens know they are not forgotten."

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (11/8, Gilbert) reports the goal of the V.I. delegation's visit to Washington is "to win Congressional support for the \$7.49 billion ask, which follows an assessment of damage sustained during Hurricanes Irma and Maria. By comparison, Puerto Rico's initial estimate of damage was \$95 billion."

Virgin Islands GOP Begg Congress Not To Give Them 'Blank Checks' For Hurricane Repairs.

The [Daily Caller](#) (11/14, Phippen) reports Republican representatives from the Virgin Islands were in Washington, DC, this week "to push legislators to avoid spending unchecked millions on disaster aid that could lead to waste and corruption." Jevon Williams, a committeeman representing the Virgin Islands in the Republican National Committee, said in a statement, "We are here telling our fellow Republicans in the administration and Congress that strict scrutiny is needed to recover and rebuild our island communities."

Status Quo 'Unacceptable'; Governor Prefers Statehood.

The [Guam Daily Post](#) (11/13, Kerrigan) reports Gov. Eddie Calvo said he believes the resolution adopted last week by the UN's Special Political and Decolonization Committee is a "victory on the road to self-determination." Calvo said in an interview with the Guam Daily Post that he did not agree with everyone who testified in favor of the resolution, noting he took exception to remarks by US representative who objected and was quoted as saying that many on Guam preferred the "status quo" over independence or other options. Calvo said, "The status quo is just unacceptable," adding, "I'm an advocate of statehood, personally. But I'm not going to try and influence the Commission on Decolonization."

Reviving Seafaring Traditions.

The [Guam Daily Post](#) (11/12, Lujan) reported that the "rebirth of ancient seafaring traditions in the Micronesian region is slowly becoming a new-age reality." The first Okeanos Marianas canoe arrived in Rota earlier this week "after first stopping at its home base in Saipan, and before then, made rounds to several islands throughout the South Pacific." The canoe was expected to depart Rota early Tuesday morning "for a short visit to Guam to pick up lumber for another canoe being built in Saipan." According to the Daily Post, the Okeanos Marianas canoe "ushers in a new era of transportation for the Northern Mariana Islands, combining ancient seafaring traditions with modern, environmentally rooted upgrades."

US Geological Survey

USGS Science Center In Va. Set To Close.

[Greenwire](#) (11/14, Streater, Hotakainen) reports a US Geological Survey science center in Reston, Virginia, is closing down. The facility "receives a major sum of its annual funding from the

agency's climate program," which is being cut by the Trump Administration.

More Small Quakes Rattle Monterey County.

The [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (11/15, Ma) reports a "3.8 magnitude earthquake rattled Monterey County again on Tuesday after a swarm of tremors shook the area Monday, according to the U.S. Geological Survey." The earthquake struck at "5:23 p.m. about 13.6 miles northeast of Gonzales at a depth of 3.3 miles." At 5:15 p.m., a few minutes earlier, "a 3.3 earthquake struck about a half-mile away at a depth of 2.6 miles." Later that evening, at 10:58 p.m. local time, USGS reported "a preliminary magnitude 2.5 earthquake struck near Gilroy, California" at a depth of 5 kilometers.

Top National News

Trump Touts "Tremendously Successful" Asia Trip.

President Trump ended his five-nation tour of Asia on Tuesday as media analyses cast doubt on whether it resulted in many tangible results. The [AP](#) (11/14, Lemire, Colvin) reports that Trump hailed the "tremendous amounts of work" on trade and "said nations around the globe have been put on notice that the US will demand improved trading conditions." Speaking to reporters in Manila, Trump said the "fruits of our labor are going to be incredible." Before heading back to Washington, he [tweeted](#), "The United States has to be treated fairly and in a reciprocal fashion. The massive TRADE deficits must go down quickly!"

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/14, Sink, Jacobs) reports the President "ended his swing through Asia, hailing progress toward his goal of reducing the US trade deficit." While Trump "spent the bulk of his public appearances emphasizing the need to reduce trade deficits," and announced he will be making a "major statement" when he returns to Washington, he "neither publicly requested nor received specific assurances to address issues like market access and intellectual property theft" during his trip.

[USA Today](#) (11/14, Maresca) similarly says that while Trump hailed what he called a "tremendously successful" trip, "some analysts questioned whether the tour was a public relations show with few concrete achievements." Speaking to reporters on Air Force One after departing Manila, the President said, "I think the fruits of our labor are going to be incredible, whether it's security of our nations, whether it's security of the world or whether it's trade." Political expert Richard Javad Heydarian "saw little in the way of tangible accomplishments," and noted that nations announced last week that they would push ahead with the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) without the US. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/14, Bennett, Bierman) says Trump "demonstrated how willing he was to be flattered and to flatter back, while getting little in return, at least for now."

[Politico](#) (11/14, Restuccia) says that "as he flies home to Washington, former diplomats and Asia experts were talking about how China came out ahead – and they noted he is returning to Washington largely empty-handed." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/14, Bender) says that Trump emphasized his rapport with the leaders who hosted him, and he is returning to the US with a great deal of cordiality with those leaders, but little in the way of concrete outcomes.

A [USA Today](#) (11/14, Jackson) analysis says that despite Trump's "sense of triumph," the trip's success "depends on what he – and China, North Korea, South Korea, and Japan, among others – do in the months or years ahead." For example, while Trump "says he's seeking new trade deals with Asian partner...if he does not follow through, those countries may simply decide to trade more among themselves." While Trump "wants to see other countries – especially China – ratchet up economic and diplomatic pressure on North Korea," it is "up to them to decide whether to take action," and there is "no guarantee that pressure from North Korea's neighbors will actually get the rogue nation to give up its nuclear weapons."

A [New York Times](#) (11/14, Davis) analysis says that "like most things that Mr. Trump undertakes, the president treated the grueling 12-day trip...as a test of his own personal charisma and stamina, a marathon charm offensive that he vowed would yield quick results. Never mind that it is not at all clear what he actually achieved." The Times says Trump left China "without any concrete agreements on opening Chinese markets," and his "America First" message "fell flat in Vietnam, where other nations moved forward" on the TPP.

[Reuters](#) (11/14, Chalmers, Holland) similarly says that for Asian leaders, Trump's "go-it-alone instincts must have represented a puzzling departure from his predecessors, who were – to varying degrees – standard bearers of multilateralism, democracy and human rights." Another [New York Times](#) (11/14) story says Trump's "mixed messages left allies unsure of America's

staying power and fed a growing sense that China, not the United States, drives the agenda in the region." Trump, the Times adds, "was an often bewildering figure to countries that had already viewed this new president with anxiety."

David Ignatius writes in the [Washington Post](#) (11/14) that during the trip, Trump "rarely explained details of U.S. policy" and "mostly asked other leaders for help, lauded their virtues and embraced their worldviews." Trump also "praised himself at nearly every stop, telling reporters on the way home that the trip had been 'tremendously successful' with 'incredible' achievements." Ignatius adds that the trip may "prove to be historic, but probably not in the way he intends. It may signal a U.S. accommodation to rising Chinese power, plus a desire to mend fences with a belligerent Russia – with few evident security gains for the United States." Ignatius concludes, "The Asia trip left me feeling that we're watching an American retreat, accompanied by a shiny brass band."

In an analysis for the [Washington Times](#) (11/14, Curl), Joseph Curl takes a much different tone, writing that "by all accounts OVER THERE, the trip was a resounding success," but "the U.S. media tried to play 'gotcha' throughout the trip," such as when "CNN edited a video to make it look like Mr. Trump – the boorish and impatient American – dumped a whole bowl of fish food into a pond while feeding goldfish with Mr. Abe. In fact, Mr. Abe had done the exact same things seconds before." The Times says Trump's trip was a "surprising success," but "you wouldn't know that if you're only source of news is the mainstream media."

After Trump Intervention, UCLA Players Returned To US. The [AP](#) (11/14, Harris) reports that three UCLA basketball players detained in China on suspicion of shoplifting "are on a plane back to Los Angeles." Pac-12 Commissioner Larry Scott said Tuesday the matter "has been resolved to the satisfaction of the Chinese authorities." The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/14, story 10, 0:20, Mason) said the players "can thank President Trump for getting them out of China," and [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/14, story 7, 0:25, Holt) reported that "Trump personally appealed" to Chinese President Xi Jinping on their behalf. The [Washington Post](#) (11/14, Denyer, Nakamura, Bontemps) says Trump had asked the Chinese leader to help resolve the case of the three players.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/14, Schilken) reports the three players "are not facing any charges in China, according to a person close to the situation," but it "was not clear whether the resolution of the case came as a result of insufficient evidence or a negotiated deal." [Politico](#) (11/14, Nelson) says that apart from Trump's intervention, the case "has garnered additional attention because of the involvement of Ball, the younger brother of Los Angeles Lakers star rookie Lonzo Ball." The [Washington Times](#) (11/14, Boyer) also reports on the case, as does the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/14, Areddy).

Writing in the [Daily Caller](#) (11/14, Greene), Jena Greene criticizes media coverage of the case, saying that "the buzz around these three players has been relatively mum relative to the storm [Ryan] Lochte had to endure" after the incident during the 2016 Olympics. Lochte "urinated on the side of a gas station, and was treated like a war criminal," while the UCLA players "allegedly stole from a store, and haven't gotten a fraction of the coverage." Greene adds, "Misbehavior abroad is apparently only interesting when the perpetrator is white."

WSJournal Analysis: Asian Nations Favor Third Alternative Over US Or China. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/14, Browne) reports that while the accepted narrative has been that the decline of the US will mean the rise of China, the remaining members of the TPP have moved toward a trade deal that provides a more liberal alternative to China's economic model and favors multilateralism as the US pushes for agreements with individual nations.

WPost Accuses Trump Of Selective Criticism Of Human Rights Abuses. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/14) contrasts Trump's condemnation of human rights abuses in North Korea with his praise for Chinese President Xi Jinping, "who has just elevated his intolerant and iron-fisted rule to a cult of personality not seen since Mao. Mr. Xi suffocates freedom and throws dissidents into prison." The Post says the trip showed "that human rights and democracy are seen by the president not as universal principles demanding attention everywhere, but as cudgels to be rolled out selectively, to criticize tyrants and rights abusers when convenient, and to be easily ignored elsewhere."

Sessions Says He Didn't Lie To Congress About Russian Contacts With Trump Campaign.

Media coverage of Attorney General Sessions' testimony Tuesday before the House Judiciary Committee is heavy, including nearly eight minutes of reporting on the network news broadcasts and extensive discussion on cable. Nearly all of the coverage is negative in tone, casting doubt on Sessions' recollections about Trump campaign contacts with Russia and portraying him as

defensive over suggestions that he had intentionally misled lawmakers.

Justice Correspondent Jeff Pegues said on [The CBS Evening News](#) (11/14, story 4, 2:00, Mason) that it "was clear from his opening statement that...Sessions knew" he would face questions about his previous testimony. Sessions: "I will not accept and reject accusations that I have ever lied. That is a lie." Pegues: "But when committee Democrats started questioning him, he was not so certain." Sessions: "I don't recall. I don't believe so. I don't know." [USA Today](#) (11/14, Kelly) reports that "many of the questions" during Sessions' five and a half hours of testimony "focused on seemingly inconsistent statements that Sessions has made about his knowledge of the Trump campaign's contact with Russian officials."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/13, Zapotosky, Horwitz) reports that Sessions "again revised his account of what he knew about the Trump campaign's dealings with Russians," telling the panel that "he now remembered adviser George Papadopoulos saying in March 2016 that he knew people who might be able to help arrange a Trump-Putin meeting." Pete Williams reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/14, story 5, 2:10, Holt) reported that in a "revision from Sessions' previous testimony," the Attorney General "said he now does remember meeting" Papadopoulos. He "says news reports about that meeting refreshed his memory." Sessions: "I don't think it's right to accuse me of doing something wrong. I had no participation in any wrongdoing with regard to influence in this campaign improperly."

Senior justice correspondent Pierre Thomas said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/14, story 3, 3:45, Muir) that while Sessions "said he did not remember details of the meeting, he says he does remember what he told Papadopoulos," and [Politico](#) (11/14, Gerstein, Cheney) reports that "Sessions said that despite his lack of clarity on what transpired at the March 2016 meeting, he believes he rejected the suggested meeting with Putin." Sessions said, "I believe that I wanted to make clear to him that he was not authorized to represent the campaign with the Russian government, or any other foreign government, for that matter. ... But I did not recall this event, which occurred 18 months before my testimony of a few weeks ago, and would gladly have reported it."

The [AP](#) (11/14, Tucker, Gurman) says Sessions "displayed a hazy memory of the Trump campaign's discussions about and dealings with Russians in the 2016 election, denying he ever lied to Congress about those contacts but blaming the chaos of the race for fogging his recollections." Sessions "strongly disputed allegations that he was not truthful in earlier testimony about Trump campaign contacts with Russian officials," saying, "I will not accept and reject accusations that I have ever lied."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/14, Viswanatha, Tau) reports that some Democrats have said that revelations of interactions between Papadopoulos and Carter Page with Russia raise questions of whether Sessions told the truth when he denied knowing of any such contacts. However, the [Washington Free Beacon](#) (11/14, Crabtree) says Sessions "vehemently defended himself," and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/14, Decker) says Sessions "angrily denounced accusations that he had intentionally misled members of Congress about any Russian interference in the presidential campaign," while [Bloomberg News](#) (11/14, Strohm, House) reports that Sessions "denied he lied or misled Congress...saying he simply forgot" about the meeting.

[Reuters](#) (11/14, Lynch, Strobel) reports that while Sessions' acknowledgment that "he was aware of contact between Donald Trump's election campaign and Russian intermediaries" did not "reveal any new link between the Trump team and Russia," it was "another example of the top U.S. law enforcement official offering a different version of events as lawmakers try to work out if the Trump campaign colluded with Russia in the 2016 election."

The [Washington Times](#) (11/14, Noble) reports that committee Democrats "pushed the attorney general further, asking whether in light of the disclosures, Mr. Sessions wanted to change prior testimony he gave in which he said he had no contact with Russian officials about the Trump campaign." Reading from a statement, Sessions said, "I stand by this testimony about the intelligence committee. ... I have never met with or had any conversations with any Russians or any foreign official concerning any interference with the campaign or election in the U.S. Further I have no knowledge of any such conversations by anyone connected to the Trump campaign." The [New York Times](#) (11/14, Apuzzo, Fandos) says while Sessions "was supposed to be an influential force in the administration," he "has twice amended his sworn testimony, creating a distraction for the White House and renewing questions about whether the Trump administration is concealing its connections with Russia." Democrats, the Times adds, criticized him "for what they said was repeatedly making inaccurate statements."

Rep. David Cicilline said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/14), "Throughout the hearing, the Attorney General said on many, many occasions 'I just don't recall.' He said his testimony

remained the same, but of course, he gave very different testimony to the Senate committee. And then he refused to answer questions as we probed more about the Comey firing and about Mr. Papadopoulos saying those involved conversations with the Executive Branch and I don't want to answer them or I can't answer them. ... I think the principal lesson that we learned from this hearing is that the independence of the Attorney General has been significantly undermined and he did nothing today to restore confidence in the members of the committee and the American people that the Justice Department remains independent from the Executive Branch." Sen. Ed Markey said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/14), "I think what's happening with the Attorney General and his memory is it seems to be improved every time that there is a leak about Russian contacts with the Trump campaign and then almost invariably the Attorney General remembers. And I think that's been a constant pattern throughout the course of this past year with the Attorney General in the same way that Donald Trump Jr. is constantly being reminded of things that happened that he forgot to disclose as well with regard to his contacts with those that might have been trying to compromise the campaign."

House Oversight Committee Chairman Trey Gowdy said on [Fox News The Story](#) (11/14), "I don't think [Sessions] persuaded the committee, because I don't think the committee is very open-minded. I think his audience was the American people, and I think they understand sometimes it's hard to recall the details of conversations from 12 months ago. Ironically, in every courtroom across the country, we have this concept called a 'refresh recollection' where a witness forgets something and then the lawyer will hand them a document or a photo that refreshes their recollection. We don't do that in Congress. We want to play 'got you,' and if you don't remember a room that you were in 12 months ago or a person you met outside of a restaurant, we think we have a perjury case. So, I don't think anybody's mind was changed because I don't think anybody went with an open mind."

Charles Hurt of the Washington Times said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/14), "As far as the questions from the Democrats, questioning about the varying statements, if you go back to the original statements where they are claiming he misled them or he lied, there were exchanges between Senators Al Franken and Pat Leahy. Those questions were specifically asked in terms of, 'Were you part of this conspiracy to conspire with Russia to rig the election?' Each of those questions, he answered factually correctly at the time. Now it's all theatrics. They are just trying to make him look bad in trying to sort of do everything they can to associate the Trump campaign with Russia."

Sessions Rejects Jordan's Call For Special Counsel To Investigate Clinton. Reports also highlight a testy exchange with Rep. Jim Jordan during which Sessions rebuffed Jordan's call for a special counsel to investigate Hillary Clinton, saying such a move would require "a factual basis that meets the standard of a special counsel." The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/14, story 4, 2:00, Mason) reported that Republican lawmakers "pressed Sessions to investigate Hillary Clinton over a controversial uranium deal involving a Russian company and her handling of emails." [Bloomberg News](#) (11/14, Farrell) reports that Sessions was "pressed" to "commit to a probe into the Obama administration," but responded with "a blunt retort: Not yet." When "confronted" with "a list of allegations" by Jordan, who "said it looks like there's more than enough to proceed," Sessions said, "'Looks like' is not enough of a basis to appoint a special counsel." During what [The Hill](#) (11/14, Williams) describes as a "heated exchange" with Jordan, Sessions said that it would require "a factual basis that meets the standard of a special counsel" for the Justice Department to appoint one. Sessions added, "We will use the proper standards and that's the only thing I can tell you, Mr. Jordan. ... You can have your idea, but sometimes we have to study what the facts are and to evaluate whether it meets the standards it requires."

Jordan said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (11/14), "On one hand, he said he was not recused from that. On the other hand, he said maybe I would have to check to see if I'm supposed to be recused from that. [Rep. Matt] Gaetz asked him those questions, and within the same five minutes, he said two different things." Gaetz said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (11/14) that "we had a lack of clarity from the Attorney General, and just like you, are frustrated. We are frustrated. We've been calling for three and a half months for an investigation into these scandals because if we allow them to continue, we erode the rule of law. The Attorney General at one point said that he would have the power to appoint a special counsel, and then later he said he wasn't sure, and that may be subject to a recusal. So, we left today without a straight answer on whether or not there would be a special counsel or even what the time frame would be. That's frustrating."

Rep. Ron DeSantis said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (11/14), "Let's just take Trump-Russia collusion. Not only is there not evidence of collusion, but we know – or we think that the dossier that was used to justify some of this surveillance was done through the Democratic Party paying

and Christopher Steele, and obviously he had to pay some of these Russians to be able to get some of this information. We need to know, and Jeff Sessions would not answer, whether the FBI paid Christopher Steele for that, how much did they pay him, and whether they used it for the FISA warrant."

□ [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/14, story 3, 3:45, Muir) reported Sessions is also "under pressure from President Trump, who has been pushing the Justice Department to investigate his political opponents." ABC (Thomas) added that "just ten days after the President's comments, Sessions' office informed Congress prosecutors would look into naming a special counsel to investigate the Clinton Foundation. But tonight, the Attorney General insists, he's not a pawn of the President." To Pete Williams of □ [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/14, story 5, 2:10, Holt), Sessions "seemed to be speaking to two audiences, showing White House he's aware what the President wants, but telling Congress there's a high bar to appointing a special counsel."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/14, Barrett) says Sessions' "suggestion that he may appoint a special counsel to investigate Hillary Clinton has alarmed current and former Justice Department officials who fear he will further politicize the embattled agency." The suggestion "has raised fresh questions about the independence of the Justice Department in the Trump administration." The [New York Times](#) (11/14, Baker) reports that if a new investigation of Clinton is authorized, "it would shatter norms established after Watergate that are intended to prevent presidents from using law enforcement agencies against political rivals."

In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (11/14) says that whether a special counsel is appointed or not, "the pressure to do so is clear, from both Republicans in Congress and Mr. Trump, who has threatened Mr. Sessions's job if he fails to prosecute Mrs. Clinton." The Times describes as "alarming" the "push for the Justice Department to undertake a politically motivated investigation of a president's political opponent, and purely as revenge for an actual investigation already underway." Similarly, a [Washington Post](#) (11/14) editorial says the "demands for the politically motivated prosecution of Mr. Trump's former political opponent are profoundly inappropriate and degrading to democracy." While the Justice Department "appears to be holding firm against the president," it "remains under pressure."

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley said on □ [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (11/14), "The reason that I asked for special counsel is because the extent to which Mueller was head of the FBI at the time of the Uranium One stuff and he's special counsel in the Trump-Russia investigation, I suggested that maybe another special counsel would bring about more independence and more credibility to the investigation. But if it's going on within the Department of Justice and people that aren't had anything to do with it at that time or weren't close to the leadership of the Department of Justice or the FBI at that time, if they can carry it out, I'm satisfied with that."

The [New York Times](#) (11/14, Sullivan) reports on the Uranium One deal in which the Obama Administration, while Clinton was Secretary of State, allowed the Russian nuclear agency Rosatom to buy the company, which "had access to the United States uranium supply." People linked to Uranium One "had donated millions of dollars to the Clinton family's charitable organization, the Clinton Foundation," and "questions have been raised about whether there were any connections between deal's approval and the donations to the Clinton Foundation." While the Justice Department said Monday "that it was looking into whether to appoint a special counsel to investigate Mrs. Clinton and the Uranium One deal," there has been "no evidence that donations to the Clinton Foundation influenced the Uranium One deal." Sean Hannity said on □ [Fox News' Hannity](#) (11/14), "If you listen very closely to Sessions today, he is suggesting that it would take 'a factual basis that meets the standards of a special counsel' in order for the DOJ to make that type of appointment. Those words, I can assure you, were carefully crafted. Sources told me earlier this month, and we reported it right here on this show, that Sessions has not, hear me, has not recused himself in the Uranium One scandal, and if there is an ongoing investigation, Sessions isn't going to – can't reveal all that in an open setting in front of Congress."

FBI Probing Money Transfers From Russian Foreign Ministry To Embassies. [BuzzFeed](#) (11/14, Leopold) reports that the FBI and other federal agencies investigating Russian involvement in the US election are looking into more than 60 wire transfers from the Russian foreign ministry to its embassies in nearly 60 countries between Aug. 3 and Sept. 20, 2016, most with "a memo line referencing the financing of the 2016 election."

House Democrats To Introduce New Articles Of Impeachment Against Trump. [The Hill](#) (11/14, Lillis) reports that the office of Rep. Steve Cohen says a group of House Democrats on Wednesday will "introduce new articles of impeachment against President Trump, representing the broadest effort yet to oust him as commander in chief." Rep. Luis Gutierrez "will team up with

Cohen in the effort," but it is "unclear how many other Democrats will join the pair, and neither office would say what grounds the articles will cite."

Ukraine Seeks To Question Manafort As A Witness. [Reuters](#) (11/14, Williams, Polityuk) reports that Serhii Horbatiuk, head of special investigations at the Ukraine general prosecutor's office, said Ukraine "is puzzled by the lack of a U.S. response to requests it has made to question former Donald Trump campaign chief Paul Manafort as a witness over two cases involving misuse of Ukrainian state funds." Horbatiuk "told Reuters Ukraine had sent requests in 2014 and 2015 to question representatives of a law firm and Manafort. He said Ukraine had received reassurances from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) that the requests would be met, but without result."

Russia Moves To Retaliate For US Designation Of RT As A Foreign Agent. The [Washington Post](#) (11/14, Roth) reports that Russian lawmakers have proposed "legislation that could designate nearly all foreign media in the country as 'foreign agents,' a move to retaliate for a similar U.S. requirement aimed at Russia's state-funded RT television station." Lawmakers on Wednesday are expected to approve the legislation, which "represents a significant expansion in a tit-for-tat targeting of foreign media following allegations of Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. presidential election." The measures would enable the Russian Ministry of Justice to "require any media organizations in the country that receive foreign funding, whether from governments or private individuals, to join a registry, issue special disclaimers on articles and submit financial reports under penalty of fines or a possible ban on operations."

Medvedev Says He Met "Friendly" Trump At ASEAN Summit. [Bloomberg News](#) (11/14, Anishchuk) reports Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said Tuesday that he spoke with President Trump at the ASEAN summit in Manila, describing him as "an open, friendly person" even amid heightened tensions between the two countries. With Trump "sitting practically next to me, we had the chance to talk" at a dinner in Manila, Medvedev said Tuesday, according to the Tass news service. "The bad thing is that despite the contacts, the opportunity to discuss some issues, our relations are degrading day after day. They're at the lowest point in recent decades."

US Hires Company With KGB Ties To Guard Moscow Embassy. The [New York Times](#) (11/14, Higgins) reports that after Russia ordered American diplomatic missions to slash their staff by 755 employees, the State Department made up "for the loss of security guards axed" by hiring a private Russian company. Under a \$2.8 million no-bid contract awarded by the Office of Acquisitions in Washington, security guards at the US Embassy in Moscow and at US Consulates in St. Petersburg, Yekaterinburg and Vladivostok will be provided by Elite Security Holdings, "a company closely linked to the former top K.G.B. figure, Viktor G. Budanov." A "State Department official" said that Elite Security and individuals associated with it had been "vetted" with "relevant national and local agencies" and did not pose a threat risk. "US missions around the world work constantly under intelligence and physical security threats," the official said. "This contract does not change that fact."

UK, Spanish Prime Ministers Say Russian Entities Interfered In European Elections. The [Washington Post](#) (11/14, Booth, Birnbaum) reports that "the prime ministers of Britain and Spain have separately accused Russian entities – including some allegedly supported by the state – of meddling in European elections and have vowed to foil them." The allegations from British Prime Minister Theresa May and Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy "stand in stark contrast to remarks made over the weekend by President Trump, who appeared to defend the Russian president."

Milbank Cites Evidence Trump Jr. Is "Dumb As A Post." Dana Milbank writes in the [Washington Post](#) (11/14) that President Trump's "best excuse" amid mounting evidence of Russia collusion "may be that his people were too incompetent to organize a conspiracy." There is, Milbank adds, "clear and compelling evidence that Donald Trump Jr. is dumb as a post." As evidence, Milbank cites Trump Jr.'s contacts with Wikileaks, his meeting with Russians during the campaign, and his Twitter feed, which "skews Low Playground, with vulgar words, jokes about bestiality and sexual assault and a quip about pretending to be gay so he can put his hands up women's skirts. When he ventures into big-boy topics, he gets in big trouble."

Klion: The Left Should Embrace Trump-Russia Investigation. In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (11/14, Klion), David Klion, a writer and editor covering United States-Russia relations, says that many on the political left see "questions about Russia's interference in last year's election [as] a frustrating distraction." However, as special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation "closes in on more Trump associates like Paul Manafort and Michael Flynn, it seems clear that the Russia story is only going to get bigger." Klion argues that the left "should embrace it," as Trump's "Russia ties illustrate the dangers of inequality and elite corruption – and point to the

need for radical solutions.”

Senate GOP Adding ACA Individual Mandate Repeal To Tax Plan.

Coverage of the Senate GOP’s move to add to its tax plan a repeal of the Affordable Care Act’s individual mandate was cast by many media outlets as a surprise move that may increase the difficulty of passing the measure. The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/14, story 7, 0:25, Mason) reported Senate Republicans said their tax plan would remove the Affordable Care Act’s individual mandate for most Americans to pay a penalty if they don’t have health insurance. Reducing the number of insured Americans would reduce the amount spent on subsidizing health “plans helping to pay for tax cuts.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (11/14, story 2, 2:15, Holt) reported the fight over the ACA is “roaring back” as the Senate GOP’s adding the repeal of the ACA mandate to their “sweeping and controversial tax plan” has “set off a firestorm.” NBC (Welker) called it “a risky and surprising move,” and NBC News Political Contributor Steve Schmidt warned, “It may be a poison pill.” As the House GOP tax plan doesn’t have this provision, Welker said that the “two chambers will have to reconcile yet another major difference in their two plans. All underscoring the challenges ahead.”

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/14, Armour, Peterson) reports that while GOP leaders had been wary of complicating the tax effort with healthcare provisions, a Senate GOP aide said that Sen. John Thune and Sen. Pat Toomey pitched the idea; President Trump has also expressed support for such a move. In response, industry stakeholders, America’s Health Insurance Plans, Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, and the American Medical Association, wrote urging congressional to keep the mandate, warning that its repeal would lead to premium increases and a drop in the number of uninsured Americans.

The [New York Times](#) (11/14, Kaplan, Tankersley) reports the Congressional Budget Office said the provision would increase the average health insurance premium in the individual market by about 10 percent and result in 13 million fewer Americans being covered by health insurance by the end of a decade. The GOP move “risks reigniting the contentious debate over health care that Republicans found themselves mired in for much of the year.” said Republican Sen. Susan Collins said, “I personally think that it complicates tax reform.” Meanwhile, Democrats said the mandate repeal would, in the Time’s words, “underwrite tax cuts for the rich at the expense of people who buy insurance on the individual market.” Sen. Patty Murray said, “Americans have stood up and spoken loudly for the last year saying they do not want the markets destabilized, and their provision in the tax bill that they are talking about will really destabilize the marketplaces.”

The [Washington Post](#) (11/14, A1, Paletta, Debonis) calls adding the individual mandate repeal to the GOP Senate tax plan “a major change of strategy” that “would cause substantial political problems.” Not only is it “likely” to remove any hope of Democratic support, but “the prospect of adding millions to the ranks of the uninsured could trouble moderate Republicans who voted down previous repeal efforts.” Sen. John McCain, one of the three GOP senators who voted against repealing the Affordable Care Act, “declined to say whether he’d back a tax bill that included repeal.” Meanwhile, projections showing large corporations and the wealthy benefiting the most from the GOP plan have the Senate GOP leadership “under pressure” to increase its middle-class benefits, despite “struggling to ensure that the legislation does not add too much to the budget deficit.”

Similarly, the [AP](#) (11/14, Gordon) calls the GOP move a “surprise” that “upended” debate over the measure, turning it “into an angry partisan referendum on health care and” the ACA just as the tax measure “was inching closer to passage following months of fine-tuning and compromise.” In response, “feeling ambushed without advance notice, minority Democrats exploded in anger.”

[Reuters](#) (11/14, Becker, Cornwell) reports the GOP is “raising new political risks and uncertainties” for the tax measure. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell “infuriated Democrats and left some senior Republicans unsure what comes next,” saying, “We’re optimistic that inserting the individual mandate repeal would be helpful and that’s obviously the view of the Senate Finance Committee Republicans as well.”

However, [Bloomberg News](#) (11/14) reports Sen. John Thune, the chamber’s No. 3 Republican, said, “We wouldn’t have proceeded if [Senate Majority Whip John] Cornyn wasn’t confident he could get to” the 50 votes needed to pass a bill. Similarly, [Politico](#) (11/14, Haberkorn, Kim, Becker) reports that “several key swing-vote lawmakers” indicated “they’re open to the idea.” Sen. Pat Toomey said on [CNBC’s Closing Bell](#) (11/14), “We are going to include a

provision to repeal this very onerous tax on low-income Americans.”

[USA Today](#) (11/14, Jackson) reports that on Monday President Trump suggested on that the repeal be included, although Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney told reporters, “If adding a repeal of the individual mandate makes it easier to pass, great. If keeping it off makes it easier to pass, we’ll take that as well.” USA Today adds, “Trump focused on using the budget savings from the repeal to bring down the top tax bracket.”

In an analysis on the [New York Times](#) (11/14) “The Upshot” blog, Margot Sanger-Katz writes that while the individual mandate “has long been the most loathed” part of the Affordable Care Act, economic studies suggest that it prevents “an unhappy spiral of rising prices and lower rates of insurance coverage.” The mandate has been compared to a leg of a three-legged stool and that removing the mandate would tip the stool, “broken and useless.” However, the Congressional Budget Office recently indicated it is considering GOP complaints of “the mandate’s overstated importance,” writing in a report that the agency is revising its methods to estimate the effects of repealing the individual mandate and expects “smaller” estimate effects of repeal on the budget and health insurance coverage, which would make the mandate “less valuable as a means to pay for tax cuts” but also “less central to the success of future health care overhaul ideas.” Among other outlets covering this story are the [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/14, Mascaro, Puzanghera), [Roll Call](#) (11/14, Williams), [The Hill](#) (11/14, Bolton, Sullivan, Jagoda), the [Washington Times](#) (11/14, Dinan, Sherfinski), and [Breitbart](#) (11/14, Carney).

Ryan: House Didn’t Include Individual Mandate Repeal To Avoid Needless Complications. Asked in a [Fox News](#) (11/14) town hall why the Senate GOP’s Affordable Care Act individual mandate repeal is not in the House GOP tax bill, House Speaker Ryan said, “We didn’t want to complicate tax reform and make it harder.” He added, “We are in favor of repealing the individual mandate but we didn’t want to needlessly complicate the passage of tax reform given we do not have the votes before to get this to the Senate.”

Poll: Americans Don’t Believe GOP Bill Will Raise Their Wages.

The [New York Times](#) (11/14) reports that a new survey “suggests even the party’s strongest supporters aren’t buying” the argument that the GOP tax plan “to cut corporate taxes will increase wages for American workers.” The “national survey of 9,504 adults conducted for The New York Times by the online polling firm SurveyMonkey” found that “78 percent of respondents...did not believe they would receive a raise if their employer received a tax cut.” Moreover, about “70 percent of self-identified Republicans – and roughly 65 percent of people who said they strongly approved of President Trump’s performance in office – said they didn’t think they would get a pay increase.” Overall, the survey “found that 52 percent of respondents said they disapproved of the plan, compared with 44 percent who said they supported it.”

As GOP Awaits Trump’s Direction On Moore, McConnell Floats Sessions As Write-In Candidate.

On Tuesday, pressure continued to mount on embattled Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore (R), as more Republicans called for him to step aside amid allegations of sexual assault, the RNC pulled its support from the candidate, and GOP congressional leaders plotted strategies for a path forward in the Dec. 12 special election for the former seat of now-US Attorney General Jeff Sessions. Meanwhile, several reports focus on what role President Trump may play as the controversy over Moore reaches a fever pitch.

[Politico](#) (11/14, Isenstadt, Johnson, Dawsey) reported that President Trump may have “to decide whether to push out Attorney General Jeff Sessions in a Hail Mary attempt to save the Alabama Senate seat Sessions once held.” Politico said that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell on Monday “discussed the Alabama situation with White House chief of staff John Kelly and Vice President Mike Pence,” proposing “a dramatic idea: that Sessions run as a write-in candidate or be appointed to the seat.” Politico added, “It’s a vexing call for Trump. If he tries to pressure Moore out of the race, as some people close to the White House expect him to do, there’s no guarantee that the candidate will oblige.”

The [AP](#) (11/14, Fram, Chandler) reports, “With Alabama Republicans reluctant to block Moore and enrage his legions of loyal conservative supporters, national GOP leaders were turning to Trump as their best chance of somehow turning the tide.” The AP adds, “Two Washington Republicans, speaking on condition of anonymity to describe private conversations, said they didn’t know what Trump would do, but said the White House shares McConnell’s concerns about Moore. While few think Trump could persuade Moore to step aside, several are hoping he can convince the Alabama state party to take some action.”

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/14, story 3, 2:35, Holt), Gabe Gutierrez reported, "Amid a growing political firestorm," McConnell "is publicly floating the idea of...Sessions as write-in alternative to...Moore." NBC broadcast a clip of McConnell – addressing the Wall Street Journal's CEO Council – saying, "The Alabamian who would fit the standard would be the Attorney General. He is totally well-known and extremely popular in Alabama."

[Reuters](#) (11/14, Oliphant, Whitesides) reports that McConnell, speaking on Tuesday with reporters, said "that he wants to work with the White House to explore ways to" prevent "Moore from taking office." McConnell "said he had been in contact with...Trump and others about sexual misconduct allegations against Moore." Of Moore, McConnell said, "He's obviously not fit to be in the United States Senate, and we've looked at all the options to try and prevent that from happening." Reuters adds that McConnell "said later in the day that Sessions...would be a plausible write-in candidate. 'He fits the mold of somebody who might be able to pull off a write-in,'" McConnell said.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/14, Weaver) reports that McConnell "publicly floated the idea of" having Sessions run as a write-in candidate. McConnell "made the comments to the Wall Street Journal's CEO Council while talking about who could mount a successful write-in campaign, like Sen. Lisa Murkowski did in Alaska in 2010." Said McConnell, "The name being most often discussed may not be available, but the Alabamian who would fit that standard would be the attorney general. He's totally well-known and is extremely popular in Alabama." McConnell added, "That obviously would be a big move for him and for the president."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/14, Hughes) quotes McConnell as saying of Moore, "His campaign is collapsing." And of his conversation with Trump about the situation, McConnell said, "Obviously we're in a discussion here about how to salvage this seat if possible." [The Hill](#) (11/14, Bolton) reported that McConnell, speaking with reports, "said no final decision had been made and it would await further discussions with Trump. McConnell told reporters that Trump called him from Vietnam last week to discuss what to do about Moore." McConnell, commenting on "his discussions with White House officials and colleagues," told reporters, "We've looked at all the options. This close to the election it's a very complicated matter."

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/14, Pettypiece, Litvan) reports that McConnell "reiterated that Moore is 'obviously not fit' to hold office and that he's discussing 'all the options' with the White House for keeping Moore out of the Senate while maintaining the seat for Republicans. The election is 'up to the people of Alabama to make this decision,' McConnell said while adding, 'From a Republican point of view, we would hope to save the seat and that might require a write-in, and all of those things are under discussion.'"

[USA Today](#) (11/14, Shesgreen) reports that National Republican Senatorial Committee chief Sen. Cory Gardner on Monday "said the Senate should vote to expel Moore if he wins the Alabama contest. McConnell did not explicitly endorse that idea when asked about it on Tuesday. But he suggested it was one of several options Republicans were considering." The [New York Times](#) (11/14, Stack) runs a piece examining "the options" the GOP has for dealing with Moore and the Senate race, saying that Republicans could run a write-in candidate or possibly move back the date of the election. If Moore wins, says the Times, Republicans could move to hold a vote to expel him from the Senate.

Under the headline "Republicans Seek To Derail Roy Moore And Salvage Senate Seat," the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/14, Hook, Hughes) reports on the various options Republicans are mulling to torpedo the bid of Moore and prevent Democrats from capturing the seat. In a [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/14, Kalt) op-ed, Michigan State University law professor Brian Kalt says that under the US Constitution, if Moore wins the election, he is required to be seated by the Senate. Kalt adds that the Senate lacks the legal authority to exclude Moore, should he win, but does have the ability to vote to expel him, once he was formally seated.

Sessions Says He Has "No Reason To Doubt" Moore's Accusers. On its website, [CNN](#) (11/14, Kopan) reported that during an appearance before the House Judiciary Committee, Sessions "said Tuesday he did not doubt the accusations leveled against" Moore. Responding to Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), who asked, "Do you believe these young women?", Sessions replied, "I have no reason to doubt these young women." On the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/14, story 5, 2:00, Mason), Manuel Bojorquez reported that Sessions "sided against the man who wants his old Senate seat." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/14, Decker) reports that Sessions "would not say whether he believed Moore should be seated if he wins the December runoff. He said he has been advised by Department of Justice ethics officials to 'not be involved' in the campaign."

RNC Pulls Its Support For Moore. [Politico](#) (11/14, Isenstadt) reported that the RNC is pulling its support for Moore, "leaving him increasingly isolated as he confronts charges of sexual

misconduct with teenagers. The RNC is pulling out of a joint fundraising agreement it had with Moore, according to a senior party official briefed on the decision," and "is also canceling a field program it had set up ahead of the state's Dec. 12 special election. The committee had about a dozen paid canvassers in Alabama working for Moore. It will no longer transfer any money to the race."

[The Hill](#) (11/14, Carter) reported, "New documents filed Tuesday with the Federal Election Commission show the RNC is no longer listed alongside other groups involved in the joint fundraiser. The two parties now listed on the documents include 'Judge Roy Moore for US Senate' and the Alabama Republican Party. The initial FEC filing, dated Oct. 24, included both the RNC and National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC)."

Ryan: Moore "Should Step Aside." The [AP](#) (11/14) reports that House Speaker Paul Ryan on Tuesday "joined a growing chorus of Republican officials calling on Moore to leave the race saying that he believes the women who have accused Moore of sexual misconduct." On its website, [CNN](#) (11/14, Mattingly, Fox, Watkins) reported that Ryan, during an appearance on CNN, said of Moore, "He should step aside. Number one, these allegations are credible. Number two, if he cares about the values that he claims to care about, then he should step aside."

However, the [Washington Post](#) (11/14, Sullivan, Scherer, Kane) reports that the "growing criticism" of Moore by Washington's GOP leaders "has yet to sweep over key Republicans in Alabama, many of whom are standing by the former judge or staying silent on the controversy. The sharply contrasting reactions coming out of Washington and Alabama underscore the challenge Republican leaders face as they try to force Moore out of the race." The Post adds that GOP "officials in Alabama continued to express skepticism about the accusations made against Moore, saying that they are still waiting for the evidence to back up the allegations."

"Vulnerable" Heller Says Moore Should Withdraw From Race. The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (11/14, Joecks) reports that Sen. Dean Heller (R-NV) on Tuesday "became the latest Republican senator to urge" Moore to step aside. In a statement, Heller – who faces a difficult reelection race next year – said, "I believe the women who have come forward. Roy Moore should do what is best for the conservatives of Alabama and step aside." The [Nevada Independent](#) (11/14, Snyder) reports, "A progressive Super PAC, American Bridge 21st Century, launched a digital ad campaign over the weekend targeting Heller for staying silent on the allegations surrounding Moore. Heller is up for re-election in 2018 and is widely considered one of the most vulnerable senators in the nation."

Alabama Poll: Moore Leads Jones 49%-43%; 8% Undecided. In an "exclusive," [WALA-TV](#) Mobile, AL (11/14, Grip) reported on its website that a FOX10 News/Strategy Research poll of 3,000 Alabama likely voters, taken Nov. 13, shows Moore leading ex-US Attorney Doug Jones (D) 49%-43%; 8% were undecided. In a similar poll taken "two weeks ago," Moore led Jones 52%-41%, with 7% undecided. WALA-TV added, "When asked if the recent sexual misconduct allegations against Moore had influenced their support, 36 percent of all likely voters said they intended to vote for Jones anyway, 35 percent said the allegations made them more likely to vote for Moore, 11 percent said the allegations made it less likely they would vote for Moore and 18 percent said they were either undecided, or that the allegations made no difference to them." [Breitbart](#) (11/14, Poor) also reported on the poll results.

National Poll: 60% Of US Voters, Including 50% Of Republicans, Say Moore Should Quit Race. [Politico](#) (11/14, Shepard) reported that a Politico/Morning Consult nationwide poll of 1,993 US voters, taken Nov. 9-11, "shows voters nationally find the allegations against...Moore credible – and a majority thinks Moore should drop out of the race." In the survey, "which was conducted prior to the most recent allegations against Moore leveled by Beverly Young Nelson, who said Monday that Moore sexually assaulted her when she was 16 years old," 59% said "they considered the original allegations against Moore outlined in a Washington Post article last week very or somewhat credible," including 49% of GOP voters, while 17% said "the allegations are 'not too credible' or not credible at all." And 60% said they "think Moore should not continue his campaign," including 50% of Republicans.

Moore: "I'm Being Harassed By The Media," Those "Pushing Allegations." On its website, [CNN](#) (11/14, Tatum) reported that during a Tuesday appearance at a church conference in Jackson, Alabama, Moore said "he's being hounded by the news media over sexual allegations against him." Moore is quoted as saying, "Why do you think they're giving me this trouble? Why do you think I'm being harassed by media and by people pushing allegations in the last 28 days of the election? ... After 40-something years of fighting this battle, I'm now facing allegations and that's all the press wants to talk about." The [AP](#) (11/14, Fram) reports that Moore also said "there is a 'spiritual battle' going on in American politics as he faces mounting pressure from national Republicans to drop out of the race."

Hannity Gives Moore "24 Hours" To Satisfactorily Explain His "Inconsistencies." Sean Hannity said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (11/14) that Moore "has 24 hours. He must immediately and fully come up with a satisfactory explanation for your inconsistencies. ... You must remove any doubt. If you can't do this, then Judge Moore needs to get out of this race. This country has way too many issues and problems. The American people deserve a hundred percent truth and honesty. We needed correct answers the first time on issues this serious. Judge Moore, you owe that to the people of Alabama, the Republican Party that you represent, and to the country which is suffering under so many problems."

USA Today (11/14, Snider) reports that Fox News host Sean Hannity "is being targeted with an advertiser boycott, the third this year, a relief to critics riled by the conservative pundit's comments. But do they hurt him with Fox and its viewers?" USA Today says, "Viewership of the show took a hit earlier this year during a period in which he was targeted by ad boycotts – and his show was temporarily moved an hour later from its traditional 9 p.m. ET time slot because of the departure of Bill O'Reilly. Back at the old hour, it's bounced back. Hannity drew an average of 2.5 million during the April-September months, down from his 2.87 million in the year's first three months of the year. ... Since returning to his 9 p.m. slot, ET slot, the show has drawn an average of 3.2 million total viewers, according to Nielsen."

WSJournal: If Moore Won't Quit, It'd Be Better For GOP For Him To Lose. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/14, Board) says that if Moore won't quit the race and Trump won't urge him to do so, it'd be better for Republicans if Moore is defeated. Otherwise, says the Journal, Democrats and the press will use Moore as a cudgel in 2018 to batter GOP candidates.

In a [USA Today](#) (11/14, Zeigler) op-ed, Alabama Auditor Jim Zeigler (R) says that if Moore steps aside, "it would cause an automatic pickup of a Democratic seat in the Senate. ... A defeat of Moore would mean the Republican Senate majority is reduced to 51-49, a dangerous number when the present 52-48 split is already not an effective working majority. It would endanger Senate confirmation of Supreme Court appointments and the Trump agenda. The people of Alabama voted for Trump despite sexual innuendo. They will vote for Roy Moore."

In an editorial, [USA Today](#) (11/14, Board) says, "Driven by the Trump presidency and the Harvey Weinstein moment born after weeks of sickening accusations about rape, sexual harassment and abuse in entertainment, finance, journalism and politics, there's little doubt the country is moving toward greater gender equality. If this special election helps push that forward, it will have served a purpose well beyond Alabama."

Democrat Jones' Ad Alludes To Moore Allegations. Meanwhile, the [Washington Post](#) (11/14, Weigel) reports that Jones, the Democrat battling Moore in the special election, "is running the first TV ad about the allegations" involving "Moore, in a meticulous and careful way." In the spot, "a number of unnamed 'Republican voters' explain why they 'just can't' stick with their party in the" race. A pair "of the voters refer, unmistakably but subtly, to allegations of Moore's improper conduct with teenage girls. ... 'He's already been removed from office twice,' says one voter. 'And this time, it's even worse,' says another. 'You read the story and it just shakes you,' says a female voter. Another female voter finishes the thought: 'Just awful.'"

The [Washington Times](#) (11/14, McLaughlin) reports, "In the ad, self-identified Republican voters say are backing Mr. Jones because they can't stomach Mr. Moore, noting that the former chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court was removed from the bench, and once again is engulfed in controversy. 'I am a Republican, but Roy Moore? No way,' a man says in the spot, which also alludes to the allegations of sexual misconduct that women leveled against Mr. Moore in a recent Washington Post report." Some of the voters "say the story is 'Just awful,' 'I just don't trust him,' 'He is too divisive' and 'Don't decency and integrity matter anymore?'"

NYTimes Analysis: National Democrats Providing Stealth Support For Jones. The [New York Times](#) (11/14, Burns, Martin) reports, "National Democratic groups have not spent a dollar on their own television or radio commercials promoting Mr. Jones," and Democrats' "most popular campaigners, such as former President Barack Obama and Senator Bernie Sanders...have not set foot in the state." However, "the national Democrats' ostensibly arm's-length treatment of Mr. Jones belies a far deeper investment in the race," as the party has helped the candidate raise cash and has blasted "Republicans who have been slow to denounce" Moore. Moreover, some "liberal activist groups have begun deploying organizers to Alabama to help prepare get-out-the-vote efforts for Mr. Jones."

Limbaugh: With Targeting Of Moore, McConnell Sending Message To Bannon. [Breitbart](#) (11/14, Poor) reported that Rush Limbaugh on Tuesday said on his radio program that "the recent sexual misconduct allegations aimed at...Moore had been inspired by...McConnell...who had backed Moore's former opponent Sen. Luther Strange (R-AL) in the earlier primary contests." Limbaugh

opined that the “charges were meant to send a message to former Donald Trump chief strategist...Steve Bannon, who has publicly said he seeks to take on all Republicans that back McConnell as Senate Majority Leader.” Limbaugh is quoted as saying that “what’s really driving this is Mitch McConnell saying to Steve Bannon, ‘Really? You think you’re going to get your guys elected? You think you are going to get your guys elected and me kicked out of here? Really? Seriously? OK, watch this.’”

Editorial Published In Three Alabama Newspapers Rips Moore As “Grossly Unfit For Public Office.” [Politico](#) (11/14, Nelson) reported, “An [editorial](#) published by three of Alabama’s largest newspapers on Monday called...Moore ‘grossly unfit for office’ in the wake of allegations that he initiated sexual encounters with girls as young as 14 when he was in his 30s. ‘Roy Moore simply cannot be a US Senator. Even if his party and many of its adherents still think it possible, it is unthinkable – for his state, and his country,’ wrote the AL.com editorial board, which feeds newspapers in Birmingham, Mobile and Huntsville.”

The Federalist’s Davidson: “Moore Is No Conservative.” Writing for [The Federalist](#) (11/14, Davidson), John Daniel Davidson said that even in the wake of the Moore allegations, “it’s hard to understand why voters in Alabama are only just now realizing that he is unfit for office. They should have known years ago, when his contempt for the rule of law twice got him removed from the Alabama Supreme Court.” Davidson said “those incidents...reveal that Moore is no conservative and has little use for the American constitutional order that conservatives hold dear.”

NYTimes Analysis: Moore’s Hometown Remains “Bitterly Divided” Over Him. Reporting from Gadsden County, Alabama, under the headline “Roy Moore, Long Divisive In His Hometown, And Even More So Now,” the [New York Times](#) (11/14, Bidgood, Fausset) says, “Etowah County, the largely rural slice of northeast Alabama where Mr. Moore was raised and currently lives, was bitterly divided about Mr. Moore before the allegations. And it remains so now.” The Times reports that “Moore, many people say, clearly had a fondness for younger women in decades past.” However, “around Gadsden, a city of 36,000...opinions about the recent allegations tend to follow lines that were etched long before.” The Times adds that “even in a place that has long ago been polarized over Mr. Moore, there are hints of nagging doubt among his supporters, and admissions by critics that they still want more clarity about the allegations.”

Alabama Pastor: Caller Claiming To Be A WPost Reporter Offered Cash For Damaging Info On Moore. The [Washington Post](#) (11/14, Eltagouri, Wong) reports, “A pastor in Alabama said he received a voice mail Tuesday from an individual falsely claimed to be a reporter with The Washington Post and seeking women ‘willing to make damaging remarks’ about...Moore in exchange for money.” The Post adds, “Pastor Al Moore of Creola, Ala., said that he received the call on his cellphone a little after 7 a.m. Tuesday from a private number, which he did not answer. The caller, claiming to be ‘Bernie Bernstein,’ left a 27-second voicemail, which Moore played for local CBS-affiliate WKRG. ‘I’m a reporter for the Washington Post calling to find out if anyone at this address is a female between the ages of 54 to 57 years old, willing to make damaging remarks about candidate Roy Moore for a reward of between 5,000 and 7,000 dollars,’ the caller said in the voice mail.”

Report: Moore Story Receiving Much More Extensive Coverage Than Menendez Trial. The [Washington Times](#) (11/14, Harper) reports that the press “has provided intensive coverage of the ongoing woes of...Moore, and the coverage often showcases melodrama, speculation and sensationalism. Reporters and anchors, in fact, frequently repeat the same ‘damning accusations’ and key phrases against Mr. Moore says Rich Noyes, research director of the Media Research Center. ... ‘From the evening of November 9 through the morning of November 13, the ABC, CBS and NBC morning and evening newscasts have generated 79 minutes, 42 seconds of coverage of the Moore case,’ says Mr. Noyes.” In comparison, says Noyes, since the federal corruption trial of Sen. Bob Menendez (D-NJ) “began Sept. 5, ABC and CBS managed to produce two minutes of coverage combined and NBC has offered none.”

DOJ: Trump Tweets Are Official Statements Of The President.

The [Washington Times](#) (11/14, Blake) reports that, in response to questioning by US District Judge Amit Mehta, Justice Department lawyers wrote in an eight-page submission entered in DC federal court that the agency is treating tweets by President Trump “as official statements of the President of the United States.” The issues came up in a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit against the Justice Department, CIA, the Office of Director of National Intelligence, and the Pentagon by Politico reporter Josh Gernstein and the James Madison Project government accountability group seeking records relating to the dossier compiled by former British spy

Christopher Steele on Trump's alleged ties to Russia. Acting Assistant Attorney General Chad Readler wrote that while the plaintiffs argue Trump's tweets calling the dossier fake indicate such records exist, "The Court cannot assume that the President was expressing a view based on 'some knowledge and understanding' provided by these agencies."

House Narrowly Passes Flood Insurance Overhaul.

[Politico](#) (11/14, Warmbrodt) reports that the House of Representatives passed "a bill that would reauthorize and overhaul the National Flood Insurance Program...in a 237-189 vote." If passed into law, "the bill would reauthorize the NFIP for five years and enact several operational changes championed by Financial Services Chairman Jeb Hensarling (R-Texas), the fiscal conservative who led an effort to pare back the program as part of the reauthorization bill." Opponents of the bill from both parties argued that the "committee's proposals threatened homeowners and local economies."

Puerto Rico's Electric Utility Ignored Own Legal Advice On Whitefish Deal.

The [AP](#) (11/14, Daly) reports that Puerto Rico's electric utility "ignored advice from its own lawyers before signing an expanded contract worth \$300 million with a tiny Montana company," Whitefish, "to repair its damaged power grid," according to newly released documents. Law firm Greenberg Traurig "recommended that the state-run power authority be allowed to terminate the deal within 10 days for any breach by the company" and "that the utility be allowed to seek damages from Whitefish and that the company be required to hold a bond for such a large contract." These recommendations were ignored.

Half Of Power Grid Will Be Restored By Wednesday. [USA Today](#) (11/14, King) reports that "half of Puerto Rico's power grid will be back up Wednesday," but full power restoration might not come for several months. Officials in the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico "are exploring different ways to modernize their systems," including increased reliance on renewable energy sources.

Democratic Governors Aided By "Shadow Staff Supplied By Climate Change Advocacy Groups."

The [Washington Times](#) (11/14, Richardson) reports, "It may look as if Democratic governors – not climate change activists – are driving the campaign to 'fill the void' left by President Trump's exit from the Paris agreement, but that's not necessarily the impression left by behind-the-scenes emails," which showed "that the governors who descended this week on the Bonn climate summit had plenty of help – not just from state aides, but also from a kind of shadow staff supplied by climate change advocacy groups and funded by liberal foundations in support of the ambitious foreign policy effort." The "emails obtained via open records requests by Competitive Enterprise Institute senior fellow Chris Horner shows state employees relying on activists for organizational and communications work in what he described as 'outsourcing government off the books.'"

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Mrs. May's Tribulations." A [New York Times](#) (11/14) editorial says "hardly a day goes by without new revelations of sleaze or ministers' doing their own thing," further complicating British Prime Minister Theresa May's "brutally complex and consequential task of extricating Britain from the European Union." Brexit "has all but paralyzed the government already," and the "political mess" within May's government "has made the going far tougher and the uncertainties far greater." On a positive note, the Times says, "what's happening in Britain is at its core a democratic debate – furious, bitter and divisive, to be sure – over the fundamental conflict of national identity and supranational organizations in a confusing and rapidly changing world," including in the US. While the outcome of this debate is unclear, "it is democracy, and there is no reason yet to fear that the center cannot hold."

"Attorney General Jeff Sessions Doesn't Recall." In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (11/14) says that whether a special counsel is appointed or not, "the pressure to do so is clear, from both Republicans in Congress and [President] Trump, who has threatened [Attorney General] Sessions's job if he fails to prosecute Mrs. Clinton." The Times describes as "alarming" the "push for the Justice Department to undertake a politically motivated investigation of a president's political opponent, and purely as revenge for an actual investigation already underway."

“Torches And Hate On The March In Poland.” The [New York Times](#) (11/14) editorializes that perhaps the most troubling aspect of the Polish nationalist march on Saturday “was that the words from an old Polish nationalist song that were the march’s slogan – ‘We want God’ – were cited by President Trump to huge applause on his visit to Warsaw in July.” The Times says this “ugly nationalism sweeping through the Western world, and especially Central Europe, may be a passing phase in a difficult transition and a confusing world,” but “the disgusting slogans on display in Warsaw and the fictions and paranoia behind them must be relentlessly exposed for what they are and condemned, and the right-wing, populist governments that condone them must be censured, not embraced.”

Washington Post.

“There Are No Grounds For Special Counsel To Investigate Hillary Clinton.” A [Washington Post](#) (11/14) editorial says the “demands for the politically motivated prosecution of Mr. Trump’s former political opponent are profoundly inappropriate and degrading to democracy.” While the Justice Department “appears to be holding firm against the president.,” it “remains under pressure.”

“Trump Loves Human Rights – When Convenient.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/14) contrasts President Trump’s condemnation of human rights abuses in North Korea with his praise for Chinese President Xi Jinping, “who has just elevated his intolerant and iron-fisted rule to a cult of personality not seen since Mao. Mr. Xi suffocates freedom and throws dissidents into prison.” The Post says Trump’s Asia trip showed “that human rights and democracy are seen by the president not as universal principles demanding attention everywhere, but as cudgels to be rolled out selectively, to criticize tyrants and rights abusers when convenient, and to be easily ignored elsewhere.”

“Fix Metro Now. Or Face The Consequences.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/14) finds hope that fixing Metro, “the Washington area’s infrastructural linchpin,” can go beyond the “stoppages and temporizing” that have “best that elected officials could offer.” The Post notes the recent weakening of the GOP “stranglehold” in Virginia’s legislature and a recent report by former transportation secretary and Republican congressman Ray LaHood, who “exposed as bunk many of the excuses favored by foot-dragging politicians” – that “Metro is wildly profligate, or mismanaged, or provides terrible service” – and, “amply supported by evidence,” concluded “that Metro urgently needs a new, earmarked means of raising \$500 million more annually.” The Post warns that Metro “is teetering on the brink” and that officials will have to quickly “get serious” about long-term solutions “or explain why they’ve set the stage for the region’s economic decline.”

Wall Street Journal.

“The Roy Moore Mess.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/14, Board) says that if Alabama Republican Senate candidate Roy Moore won’t quit the race and President Trump won’t urge him to do so, it’d be better for Republicans if Moore is defeated. Otherwise, says the Journal, Democrats and the press will use Moore as a cudgel in 2018 to batter GOP candidates.

“Ruling Out The ABA On Judges.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/14) calls for the GOP to stop allowing the American Bar Association to vet judicial nominees. In particular, the Journal argues the ABA’s liberal bias is evident in its label of Brett Talley as not qualified to serve as a federal judge. The Journal argues the organization stretched an article on not broadening Supreme Court rights ruling into suggesting he would ignore *Roe v. Wade* and that, unable to find issues with Talley’s integrity or temperament, unfairly argues that, as Tally never sat on the bench, he lacks the requisite trial experience.

“Venezuela Goes Bust.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/14) says the success of any attempt by Venezuela to restructure its debt and claw out of default depends on whether the nation’s economy has a realistic chance of growing again – a near-impossible goal without policies in place that will free it. If the Venezuelan government resorts to seizing assets in the US and elsewhere because it cannot settle with its bondholders, the Journal says, it will serve as a stark reminder of why government investments in socialist regimes is unwise.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[US Manufacturing Rides Rising Tide](#)
[Senate GOP Adds Healthcare Twist To Tax Overhaul Plan](#)
[GOP Seeks To Derail Moore, Salvage Senate Seat](#)
[The Class Of 1994, Venezuela's Golden Generation, Is Fleeing The Country](#)

New York Times:

[Senate Plans To End Obamacare Mandate In Revised Tax Proposal](#)
[Sessions Says He Did Not Lie To Congress On Contacts With Russia](#)
['Lock Her Up' Becomes More Than A Slogan](#)
[An Alabama Senate Candidate Keeps Democratic Leaders Away — But Not Their Money](#)
['I Am Alive': Survivors Of Iran Earthquake Mourn As Government Scrambles To Help](#)
[Zimbabwe's Military, In Apparent Takeover, Says It Has Custody Of Mugabe](#)
[A Statue Stirs To Life In Washington Square Park](#)

Washington Post:

[Damaged Bodies, Healing Hearts](#)
[Sessions Changes His Account Of Russia Dealings](#)
[Senate GOP Seeks To End Part Of ACA In Tax Bill](#)
[Prospect Of New Special Counsel Rattles Justice](#)
[Suit Alleges Laxness Enabled Sex Abuser At Pr. George's School](#)

Financial Times:

[Venezuela Slips Deeper Into Crisis After Default](#)
[Sessions Moves To Quell Furor Over Clinton Foundation Probe](#)
[French Minister Turns Up Heat On EDF Over Shift To Renewables](#)
[David Davis Promises City Of London Special Post-Brexit Travel Regime](#)

Washington Times:

[Democrats Use Loss Of Deduction To Drown Out Message About Tax Bill's Benefits To Middle Class](#)
[Senate Republicans' Tax Plan Includes Repeal Of Obamacare Mandate](#)
[Teen Suicide Rate Suddenly Rises With Heavy Use Of Smartphones, Social Media](#)
[ICE Agents Rebel, Say Trump 'Betrayed' Them By Retaining Obama's People](#)
[Democratic Governors Outsource Climate Campaigns To Activist Groups, Emails Reveal](#)
[Explosions, Military Tanks And Soldiers On Streets Of Zimbabwe Put Mugabe's Rule In Doubt](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: California Elementary School Shooting; Tampa-Possible Serial Killer; Russia Meddling Investigation-Sessions; Roy Moore-Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Congress-Sexual Harassment Policy; Tax Reform Plan-Obamacare Repeal; Uber-County Attorney Fired; West Coast Storm; Las Vegas-Plane Escape; Wine-Weight Effect; Bakery Charity.

CBS: California Elementary School Shooting; Sandy Hook Shooting Families-Lawsuit; Tampa-Possible Serial Killer; Russia Meddling Investigation-Sessions; Roy Moore-Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Congress-Sexual Harassment Policy; Tax Reform Plan-Obamacare Repeal; Mediterranean African Refugees; Health-Digital Pill; Arrested US College Students Return; Hijab Barbie Doll; National Zoo-Pandas.

NBC: California Elementary School Shooting; Tax Reform Plan-Obamacare Repeal; Roy Moore-Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Congress-Sexual Harassment Policy; Russia Meddling Investigation-Sessions; Presidential Power-Nuclear Strike; Arrested US College Students Return; Tampa-Possible Serial Killer; ISS Pizza Delivery; Da Vinci Painting; Diamond Auction; Charity-Auto Repair.

Network TV At A Glance:

Roy Moore-Sexual Misconduct Allegations – 8 minutes
Russia Meddling Investigation-Sessions – 7 minutes, 55 seconds
California Elementary School Shooting – 6 minutes, 50 seconds
Tampa-Possible Serial Killer – 5 minutes, 55 seconds
Congress-Sexual Harassment Policy – 5 minutes, 15 seconds
Tax Reform Plan-Obamacare Repeal – 4 minutes, 35 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Roy Moore-Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Tax Reform Plan-Obamacare Repeal; California Elementary School Shooting; Zimbabwe Instability.

CBS: California Elementary School Shooting; Roy Moore-Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Russia Meddling Investigation-Sessions.

FOX: California Elementary School Shooting; Sandy Hook Shooting Families-Lawsuit; Roy Moore-Sexual Misconduct Allegations.

NPR: Roy Moore-Sexual Misconduct Allegations; Clinton Foundation-DOJ; Russia Meddling Investigation-Sessions; California Elementary School Shooting.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — No public events scheduled.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joined by Governor Greg Abbott, Secretary of Energy Rick Perry, and FEMA Administrator Brock Long, participates in a briefing on Hurricane Harvey relief and recovery efforts in Texas; delivers remarks at the 2017 Republican Governors Association Annual Conference.

US Senate: 9:00 AM U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission releases Annual Report to Congress Location: U.S. Capitol, Rm 902, Washington, DC <http://www.uscc.gov/> https://twitter.com/USCC_GOV

9:00 AM Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, 'to consider, pursuant to 'H. Con. Res. 71, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2018', reconciliation legislation to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish and administer a competitive oil and gas program in the non-wilderness portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, known as the '1002 Area' or Coastal Plain' Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC www.energy.senate.gov

9:30 AM Helsinki Commission hearing on Turkey's detention of U.S. citizens – Helsinki Commission hearing on 'Prisoners of the Purge: The Victims of Turkey's Failing Rule of Law', with witnesses – Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Jonathan Cohen, American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) Executive Counsel CeCe Heil, Jacqueline Furnari – daughter of detained pastor Andrew Brunson, and Freedom House Nations in Transit Project Director Nate Schenckan – examining the factors contributing to the detention of U.S. citizens (particularly Brunson) and U.S. consulate employees in Turkey, as well as the judicial processes to which they have been subject Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 124, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers James Ho and Don Willett to be U.S. Circuit Judges for the Fifth Circuit; Claria Horn Boom to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Kentucky; John Broomes to be U.S. District Judge for the District of Kansas; Rebecca Grady Jennings to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Kentucky; and Robert Earl Wier to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky, with testimony from American Bar Association Standing Committee on the Federal Judiciary Chair Pamela Bresnahan Location: Rm 226, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Surgeon general testifies to Senate HELP Committee – Hearing on 'Encouraging Healthy Communities: Perspective from the Surgeon General', with testimony from Surgeon General Vice Adm. Jerome Adams Location: Rm 430, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Environment Committee hearing on reducing air emissions – Hearing on 'Promoting American Leadership in Reducing Air Emissions Through Innovation', with testimony from University of Wyoming School of Energy Resources Director Kip Coddington; National Association of Manufacturers Vice President Ross Eisenberg; and BlueGreen Alliance Director Zoe Lipman Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 406, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

12:00 PM CAPAC and Dreamers urge passage of the DREAM Act – Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus members, including Democratic Reps. Judy Chu and Mark Takano, urge the passage of a bipartisan DREAM Act (which would allow certain immigrant youth, including tens of thousands of Asian American and Pacific Islander Dreamers, to gain lawful permanent residence and U.S. citizenship) before the end of the year, via press conference with Asian American and Pacific Islander Dreamers and community leaders Location: House Triangle,

Washington, DC <http://capac-chu.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/CAPAC>

2:00 PM POSTPONED: Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee hearing on attacks on U.S. diplomats in Cuba – POSTPONED: Western Hemisphere Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights and Global Women's Issues Subcommittee hearing on 'Attacks on U.S. Diplomats in Cuba: Response and Oversight', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs Francisco Palmieri; Diplomatic Security Service Assistant Director of International Programs Todd Brown; and State Department Bureau of Medical Services Medical Director Dr Charles Rosenfarb Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 419, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

2:00 PM Voice for Adoption launches its 2017 Adoptive Family Portrait Project – Voice for Adoption hosts Capitol Hill reception launching its 2017 Adoptive Family Portrait Project. The 13th annual signature project celebrates families who have adopted children from foster care, with the primary goal of raising awareness among Members of Congress about 'the real experiences and needs of families that have adopted children who were in the foster care system' Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC <http://voice-for-adoption.org/>

2:00 PM Helsinki Commission briefing on religious freedom – 'Religious Freedom Violations in OSCE Region: Victims and Perpetrators' Helsinki Commission briefing, discussing religious freedom victims, violators, and violations in the OSCE region, including recommendations for what govts and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe institutionally should do to prevent and respond to violations, and featuring the intersection between security, a chronic justification for violations, and religious freedom. Panelists are State Department Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor's Amb. Michael Kozak, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom Chairman Dr Daniel Mark, University of Minnesota Associate Professor of Political Science Dr Kathleen Collins, and Jehovah's Witnesses General Counsel Philip Brumley Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 385, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

2:30 PM Senate Appropriations subcommittee hearing on VA efforts to prevent opioid overmedication – Military Construction, Veteran Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on 'VA Efforts to Prevent and Combat Opioid Overmedication', with testimony from Department of Veterans Affairs Inspector General Michael Missal, and Acting National Program Director for Pain Management Dr Friedhelm Sandbrink; Veterans Health Administration Chief Officer for Specialty Care Dr Laurence Meyer; and Marvin Simcakoski – father of a vet who overdosed under VA care Location: Rm 124, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

2:30 PM Senate HELP Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Brig. Gen. (Ret.) Mitchell Zais to be Deputy Secretary of Education; James Blew to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Planning, Evaluation, and Policy; Timothy Kelly to be Assistant Secretary of Education for Career, Technical, and Adult Education; Kate O'Scannlain to be Department of Labor Solicitor; and Preston Rutledge to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Employee Benefits Security Administration Location: Rm 430, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

US House: 9:00 AM U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission releases Annual Report to Congress Location: U.S. Capitol, Rm 902, Washington, DC <http://www.uscc.gov/> https://twitter.com/USCC_GOV

9:00 AM Dem Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee co-hosts panel on eliminating violence against women and girls – Democratic Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems briefing, 'Eliminate All Forms of Violence Against All Women and Girls', the second event of a new series exploring each element of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal number 5, 'Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls'. Speakers include Futures Without Violence Senior International Policy Advocate Lelia Milani, journalist Rebecca Gale, International Labor Rights Forum Executive Director Judy Gearhart, AFL-CIO Global Worker Rights Specialist Cassandra Waters and Just Be Founder and Director Tarana Burke Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2045, Washington, DC www.ifes.org [#SDG5](https://twitter.com/IFES1987)

9:30 AM Helsinki Commission hearing on Turkey's detention of U.S. citizens – Helsinki Commission hearing on 'Prisoners of the Purge: The Victims of Turkey's Failing Rule of Law', with witnesses – Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Jonathan Cohen, American Center for Law and Justice (ACLU) Executive Counsel CeCe Heil, Jacqueline Furnari – daughter of detained pastor Andrew Brunson, and Freedom House Nations in Transit Project Director Nate Schenckan – examining the factors contributing to the detention of U.S. citizens (particularly Brunson) and U.S. consulate employees in Turkey, as well as the judicial

processes to which they have been subject Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 124, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

9:30 AM VA Secretary Shulkin testifies to House Appropriations subcommittee on electronic health record – Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Subcommittee oversight hearing on '2018 Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record', with testimony from Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin; and Department of Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record Modernization Program Executive John Windom, and Office of Information and Technology Executive in Charge Scott Blackburn Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2362-A, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Science, Space, and Technology Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 4376, the Department of Energy Research Infrastructure Act of 2017', 'H.R. 4377, the Accelerating American Leadership in Science Act of 2017', 'H.R. 4378, the Nuclear Energy Research Infrastructure Act of 2017', 'H.R. 4375, the STEM Research and Education Effectiveness and Transparency Act', 'H.R. 4323, the Supporting Veterans in STEM Careers Act', 'H.R. 4254, the Women in Aerospace Education Act', and 'H.R. 3397, the Building Blocks of STEM Act' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2318, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H. Res. 336, Reaffirming a strong commitment to the United States-Mexico Partnership', 'H. Res. 401, Urging China, South Korea, Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, India, and all nations to outlaw the dog and cat meat trade and to enforce existing laws against the trade', 'H. Res. 407, Condemning the persecution of Christians around the world', 'H.R. 1164, Taylor Force Act', 'H.R. 1415, End Neglected Tropical Diseases Act', 'H.R. 2712, Palestinian International Terrorism Support Prevention Act of 2017', 'H.R. 3542, Hamas Human Shields Prevention Act', 'H.R. 3776, Cyber Diplomacy Act of 2017', and 'H. Con. Res. 90, Condemning ethnic cleansing of the Rohingya and calling for an end to the attacks in and an immediate restoration of humanitarian access to the state of Rakhine in Burma' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

10:00 AM Markup hearing on 'H.R. 170, Protect and Grow American Jobs Act' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2141, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM House Energy and Commerce subcommittee markup hearing – Environment Subcommittee markup hearing on 'H.R. 1917, Blocking Regulatory Interference from Closing Kilns (BRICK) Act of 2017', 'H.R. 453, Relief from New Source Performance Standards Act of 2017', 'H.R. 350, Recognizing the Protection of Motorsports Act of 2017', and 'H.R. 1119, Satisfying Energy Needs and Saving the Environment (SENSE) Act' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee legislative hearing on 'H.R. 212, Expediting Funding for Efficient Contracting Tribes Act' ('EFFECT Act'), 'H.R. 2320, Samish Indian Nation Land Conveyance Act of 2017', and 'H.R. 3225, Oregon Tribal Economic Development Act', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs John Tahsuda III; Samish Indian Nation Chairman Tom Wooten; Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians Chairman Mark Ingersoll; Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Vice Chairman Brian Porter; and Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments Executive Director Charleen Fisher Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Government Reform Committee hearing on IGs' recommendations – Hearing on 'Recommendations and Reforms from the Inspectors General', with testimony from Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency Chair (and Department of Justice Inspector General) Michael Horowitz, and Legislation Committee Executive Chair (and Peace Corps Inspector General) Kathy Buller; and Department of Homeland Security Inspector General John Roth Location: Rm 2154, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM Labor Secretary Acosta testifies to House Education and Workforce Committee – Hearing on 'Examining the Policies and Priorities of the U.S. Department of Labor', with testimony from Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2175, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:30 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Federal Lands

Subcommittee legislative hearing on 'H.R. 801, Route 66 National Historic Trail Designation Act', 'H.R. 2888, Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park Establishment Act', 'H.R. 3979, Keep America's Refuges Operational Act', and 'H.R. 4266, Acadia National Park Boundary Clarification Act', with testimony from Republican Reps. Darin LaHood, Jason Smith, and Bruce Poliquin; National Park Service Acting Deputy Director for Operations Sue Masica; Rt. 66 Road Ahead Partnership Chairman William Thomas; National Wildlife Refuge Association Director of Government Affairs Caroline Brouwer; Ducks Unlimited Virginia State Chairman Dan Ross; and Eaton Peabody attorney Tim Woodcock Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:45 AM Pelosi to Hold Gabrielle Giffords–Leo J. Ryan Cloakroom dedication – Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi will host a dedication ceremony to name the House Democratic Cloakroom in honor of former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and the late Congressman Leo J. Ryan. Participants: Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi; Former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ); Patricia Ryan, daughter of the late Congressman Leo J. Ryan (D-CA); Senator Jeff Flake (R-AZ); Congresswoman Jackie Speier (D-CA); Congresswoman Frederica Wilson (D-FL). Location: H-207, Rayburn Room, The Capitol. <http://www.democraticleader.gov/> <https://twitter.com/NancyPelosi>

11:00 AM House Small Business Committee hearing on cybersecurity – Hearing on 'Federal Government and Small Businesses: Promoting Greater Information Sharing for Stronger Cybersecurity', with testimony from Threat Sketch founder and CEO Rob Arnold; e-Management CEO Ola Sage; ACT – The App Association President Morgan Reed; and McAfee Chief Public Policy Officer Thomas Gann Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2360, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

12:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include consideration of 'H.R. 4174 – Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2017', as amended, 'H.R. 2672 – To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 520 Carter Street in Fairview, Illinois, as the 'Sgt. Douglas J. Riney Post Office', 'H.R. 2873 – To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 207 Glenside Avenue in Wyncote, Pennsylvania, as the 'Staff Sergeant Peter Taub Post Office Building', 'H.R. 3369 – To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 225 North Main Street in Spring Lake, North Carolina, as the 'Howard B. Pate, Jr. Post Office', and 'H.R. 3821 – To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 430 Main Street in Clermont, Georgia, as the 'Zachary Addington Post Office' under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

12:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on 'H.R. 1 – Tax Cuts and Jobs Act' Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

12:00 PM CAPAC and Dreamers urge passage of the DREAM Act – Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus members, including Democratic Reps. Judy Chu and Mark Takano, urge the passage of a bipartisan DREAM Act (which would allow certain immigrant youth, including tens of thousands of Asian American and Pacific Islander Dreamers, to gain lawful permanent residence and U.S. citizenship) before the end of the year, via press conference with Asian American and Pacific Islander Dreamers and community leaders Location: House Triangle, Washington, DC <http://capac-chu.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/CAPAC>

2:00 PM Helsinki Commission briefing on religious freedom – 'Religious Freedom Violations in OSCE Region: Victims and Perpetrators' Helsinki Commission briefing, discussing religious freedom victims, violators, and violations in the OSCE region, including recommendations for what govts and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe institutionally should do to prevent and respond to violations, and featuring the intersection between security, a chronic justification for violations, and religious freedom. Panelists are State Department Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor's Amb. Michael Kozak, U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom Chairman Dr Daniel Mark, University of Minnesota Associate Professor of Political Science Dr Kathleen Collins, and Jehovah's Witnesses General Counsel Philip Brumley Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 385, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

2:00 PM Congressional Israel Victory Caucus and their Israeli counterparts at Middle East Forum event – Middle East Forum hosts 'Organizing for Israel Victory' event, featuring the co-chairs of the Congressional Israel Victory Caucus – Republican Reps. Ron DeSantis and Bill Johnson – and the leading members of the Knesset Israel Victory Caucus – Oded Forer and Dr Avraham Neguise. The former discuss their efforts to advance the Israel victory agenda on Capitol Hill, their campaign against 'wasteful spending on the failed 'peace process', and their

work with the Zionist movement in Israel, while the latter discuss their work in the Knesset to 'secure an Israel victory and their plans to advance a national movement in Israel to support this goal' * Both caucuses were organized by Middle East Forum Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.meforum.org/> <https://twitter.com/meforum>

2:00 PM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on cyber threat information sharing – Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection Subcommittee hearing on 'Maximizing the Value of Cyber Threat Information Sharing', with testimony from Council on Foreign Relations Senior Fellow Robert Knake (on behalf of Global Resilience Institute); American Express Vice President for Cyber Intel & Incident Response Ann Barron-Dicamillo; Anomali Federal Solutions Architect Manager Patricia Cagliostro; and USTelecom Association Senior Vice President for Cybersecurity Robert Mayer Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

2:00 PM House Oversight subcommittees joint hearing on the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act – Government Operations Subcommittee and Information Technology Subcommittee joint hearing on 'The Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act (FITARA) Scorecard 5.0' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

2:30 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on development finance in Asia – Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee hearing on 'Development Finance in Asia: U.S. Economic Strategy Amid China's Belt and Road', with testimony from Center for Strategic and International Studies Project on Prosperity and Development Director Daniel Runde; National Bureau of Asian Research Senior Vice President for Research Roy Kamphausen; and U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission Commissioner (and former USAID Assistant Administrator for Asia) Jonathan Stivers Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

4:00 PM Events to mark the 150th anniversary of the National Center for Education Statistics – 'A Forum and Reception for the National Center for Education Statistics: Commemorating 150 Years of Innovation – and Exploring Future Opportunities', hosted by the American Educational Research Association, American Statistical Association, and Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics. Speakers include bipartisan Reps. Paul Mitchell and Suzanne Bonamici, former NCES Commissioner Jack Buckley, National Board of Education Sciences Chair Larry Hedges, and former National Board of Education Sciences Chair Bridget Terry Long Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rms 430 and 562, Washington, DC <http://www.aera.net> [#NCES150](https://twitter.com/AERA_EdResearch)

5:30 PM Blue Star Families launch Annual Military Family Lifestyle Survey – Blue Star Families present the findings of the Annual Blue Star Families Military Family Lifestyle Survey, which provides those who are serving with 'an opportunity to share what's really going on inside military families', with the results providing feedback to national decision-makers on the current state of the military family. Speakers include Congressional Military Family Caucus Co-chairs bipartisan Reps. Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Sanford Bishop, Blue Star Families CEO Kathy Roth-Douquet and Chair of the Board of Directors Sheila Casey, USAA Military Affairs Relationship Director Mike Kelly, and Syracuse University Vice Chancellor for Veterans and Military Affairs Michael Haynie Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Foyer, Washington, DC www.bluestarfam.org <https://twitter.com/BlueStarFamily>

Other: 9:00 AM National Academies convocation on 'revitalizing the university-industry-government partnership' – 'A National Convocation on Revitalizing the University-Industry-Government Partnership in Support of Research in Science, Engineering, and Medicine': National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine convene leaders of business and industry, federal and state govt, higher education, and other sectors of society. Speakers include bipartisan Reps. Daniel Lipinski and Virginia Foxx, as well as Celia Merzbacher (Oak Ridge National Laboratory), Rush Holt (American Association for the Advancement of Science), Jeannette Wing (Columbia University), Freeman Hrabowski (University of Maryland-Baltimore County), Neal Lane (Rice University), Michael McPherson (American Academy of Arts and Sciences), Chad Holliday (Royal Dutch Shell), and Marcia McNutt (NAS) Location: National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC www.nas.edu/ <https://twitter.com/NASciences>

3:30 PM Congressional briefing on maternal mortality in the U.S. – American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists 'Maternal Mortality in the United States: Understanding the Problem and Finding Solutions' briefing, with ACOG President Haywood Brown, Preeclampsia Foundation Executive Director Eleni Tsigas, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division of Reproductive Health Director Wanda Barfield, and physician and patient advocate Larry Bloomstein * Co-hosted with the Preeclampsia Foundation, the Society for Maternal-Fetal

Medicine, and the March of Dimes in cooperation with Congressional Caucus on Maternity Care Co-chairs Republican Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler and Democratic Lucille Roybal-Allard Location: U.S. Capitol, HC-8, Washington, DC www.acog.org <https://twitter.com/acognews>

4:30 PM Conversation on climate change to mark opening of Quaker Welcome Center on Capitol Hill – Friends Committee on National Legislation marks the opening of the new Quaker Welcome Center marked with conversation about climate change and the environment, featuring Republican Rep. Ryan Costello and Democratic Rep. Anna Eshoo * The Quaker Welcome Center will host education and mobilization programs for Quakers and other like-minded advocates visiting Washington, helping them to comfortably and effectively lobby their representatives and senators Location: 205 C St NE, Washington, DC www.fcnl.org <https://twitter.com/FCNL>

7:00 PM U.S. ambassador to the U.N. keynotes U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum event on South Sudan – ‘Our Walls Bear Witness: South Sudan – Where Do We Go From Here?’ program organized by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide, including keynote from U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Amb. Nikki Haley, and panel featuring journalist and videographer Simona Foltyn, correspondent Jason Patinkin, South Sudan Young Leaders Forum member Nyagoah Tut Pur, and Simon-Skjodt Center visiting fellow Jon Temin Location: U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, 100 Raoul Wallenberg Place SW, Washington, DC <http://www.ushmm.org/> https://twitter.com/CPG_USHMM #SouthSudan

Education Reform Now hosts annual Camp Philos – Education Reform Now hosts 4th annual Camp Philos. Event is a gathering of stakeholders in the education reform movement to discuss policy, advocacy, and ‘how we can better deliver on the promise of a high-quality public education for every child’. Attendees include Democrats Sen. Maggie Hassan and Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, former Secretaries of Education Arne Duncan and John King, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, Teach for America CEO Elisa Villaneuva Beard, Empower Schools CEO Chris Gabrieli, and Let America Vote President Jason Kander * An evening reception takes place at National Museum of Women in the Arts, 1250 New York Ave NW, Washington, DC (15 Nov) Location: The Fairmont Hotel, 2401 M St NW, Washington, DC <https://campphilos.org/>

WACA 2017 National Conference – World Affairs Councils of America (WACA) 2017 National Conference ‘The Future of American Leadership’, with speakers including Democratic Sen. Jeff Merkley and former New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson Location: Capital Hilton, 1001 16th St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.worldaffairsCouncils.org> <https://twitter.com/WACAmerica>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: “Donald Trump is back in Washington, where he has a lot of Fox & Friends to catch up on his DVR.”

Jimmy Kimmel: “The Senate Foreign Relations Committee had a hearing to discuss whether President Trump should continue to have the sole authority to launch a nuclear weapon or whether his iPad should have some parental controls put on it.”

Jimmy Kimmel: “Yesterday, we learned that Donald Trump Jr. ... was in regular contact with WikiLeaks during his father’s campaign, which might have something to do with why Donald Trump said he loved WikiLeaks during the campaign more times than he said he loved Melania.”

Stephen Colbert: “[Attorney General Jeff] Sessions’ testimony to the House Judiciary Committee covered a wide range of issues, and Sessions had the same answer for a lot of them. ‘I don’t recall. I don’t recall. I don’t recall it. I do not recall. I don’t recall it. I had not recalled.’”

James Corden: “Attorney General Jeff Sessions testified for hours on Capitol Hill today regarding the Trump campaign’s connections with Russia. During his testimony, it seemed Jeff Sessions had a bit of a memory problem. At one point, he was called out for saying ‘I don’t recall’ multiple times. ... He just said he doesn’t recall how many times he said ‘I don’t recall.’ I don’t recall the last time I saw someone who didn’t recall how many times they didn’t recall.”

James Corden: “Speaking of the Russia investigation, it was revealed today that Donald Trump Jr. did, in fact, exchange private messages with WikiLeaks during the campaign. ... In October 2016, WikiLeaks direct messaged Donald Jr. on Twitter, asking him to promote a negative story

they put out about Hillary Clinton. Donald Jr. replied – and this is absolutely true – ‘Already did that earlier today.’ Man, these guys are so in sync, it’s like they’re...cooperating? No, that’s not it. Collaborating? No. Oh yeah, colluding. That’s the word.”

Trevor Noah: “This was the end of President Trump’s first Asian trip. According to the critics, it was amazing. And by critics, I mean Trump.”

Trevor Noah: “The Chinese government is subsidizing with hundreds of billions of dollars because they know renewable energy is a business opportunity that China can sell to the rest of the world like everything else at Wal-Mart.”

Seth Meyers: “According to a national poll, only 16 percent of Americans believe that Republican Alabama candidate Roy Moore should stay in the Senate race following allegations of sexual misconduct with teenagers. Sixteen percent, or as Moore calls it, old enough percent.”

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DATE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2017 6:00 AM EST

Holiday Message

In observance of the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday, we will not publish on Thursday, November 23, 2017 and Friday, November 24, 2017. Service will resume on Monday, November 27, 2017. We wish our readers a safe and happy holiday.

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- American Security News: Petty Tapped For Interior Department Post On Water And Science.
- Politico: FEC Probes Discrepancies At Former Zinke PAC.
- CNN: National Historic Site In Puerto Rico Reopens After Hurricane.
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- WWBT-TV Richmond (VA): Richmond Congressman, Interior Secretary Tackle Sexual Harassmen.
- Government Executive: Senate Seeks Much Smaller Spending Cuts Than Trump And The House, At Some Agencies.
- CBS News: How Trump's National Monuments Decision Could Affect Massive Deposit Of Fossils.
- U.S. News & World Report: Yellowstone Mining Opponents Press Gianforte To Join Cause.
- Casper (WY) Star-Tribune: Forest Service Will Consider Changes To Sage Grouse Protections.

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- Calif. County Asks 9th Circ. To Rehear Tribal Casino Row.

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- Natural Gas Intelligence: Trump Administration, Enviros Urge Court To Leave BLM Frack Ruling Intact.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Las Vegas Children Study Birds On International Migratory Bird Day.

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

- Investment In Partnership Is Good For Energy Dominance.

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- Brush (CO) News-Tribune: Colorado Parks & Wildlife To Receive \$100K Grant.
- Arizona Republic: How A Border Wall Could Drive The Jaguar Extinct In America.

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- The Hill: Park Service Expands Comment Period For Proposed Entry Fee Price Hike.
- The Hill: National Park Store Sold Trump Wine, Says Feds Weren't Involved.
- Washington Post: Silence Again Surrounds A Police Shooting In Fairfax County, This Time By U.S. Park Police.
- U.S. News & World Report: JFK Birth Centennial Ending On Assassination Anniversary.
- Salt Lake (UT) Tribune: Arches Road Construction Nears End, Will Take A Break For Thanksgiving Weekend.
- Pensacola (FL) News Journal: Gulf Islands National Seashore Road Closures Cause Travel Headaches.

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- Saipan (MNP) Tribune: Over 460 Coconut Rhino Beetles, Larvae Collected.

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- Conservation Groups Argue Peabody Leases Were Improperly Approved.

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- Additional Reading.

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- Reuters: Trump: AT&T Purchase Of Time Warner "Not A Good Deal For The Country."
- Politico: Murkowski Backs Individual Mandate Repeal's Inclusion In Tax Bill.

- Washington Times: Senate Security Spending Bill Includes Funds For Border Wall.
- Los Angeles Times: FCC Chairman Proposes Repeal Of Net Neutrality Rules.
- Washington Free Beacon: Gallup Poll Finds Worry About Economy At Lowest Level In 18 Years.
- New York Times: Whitefish Suspends Puerto Rico Work Over Unpaid Bills.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "Who To Blame For Your Subway Nightmare."
- Washington Post.
 - "The United States Torments Its Poorest Neighbor."
 - "Jeff Sessions Keeps Waging His Failing War Against Sanctuary Cities."
 - "Why Would Trump Choose This Academic To Lead The Census Bureau."
- Wall Street Journal.
 - "Trump's Dubious Trust-Busting."
 - "Keystone XL On The Cusp."
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Big Picture

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Washington Schedule

- Today's Events In Washington.

Last Laughs

- Late Night Political Humor.

DOI In The News

Zinke: 'The Only Thing I've Hunted In Africa Is Terrorists'.

[The Hill](#) (11/21, Samuels) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Tuesday "pushed back against a photo circulating on the internet that purported to show him with a hunted elephant amid backlash on a decision to lift a ban on importing elephant trophies." Zinke tweeted, "The only thing I've hunted in Africa is terrorists." The article notes that "Zinke is not the man in the image, and the photo was first posted in 2016."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/21, Yilek) reports that "Snopes, a fact-checking website, has rated the claim as false. The man in the photo is actually Ian Evans, a Scottish farmer."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Independent Journal Review](#) (11/21, Fink).

Marine Corps War Memorial Finally Commemorates Iraq, Afghanistan.

The [Marine Corps Times](#) (11/21, Schogol) reports that a ceremony was held Tuesday at the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial to unveil new engravings that recognize the Afghanistan and Iraq campaigns. The [Washington Times](#) (11/21, Harper) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "As the Deputy Commander of Special Forces in Iraq and retired Navy SEAL, I saw the commitment, patriotism, and fortitude that American service members and their families display while serving our country. Our warriors who serve in Iraq and Afghanistan see more frequent deployments as our nation has been at sustained combat for longer than in any previous point in our nation's history. The Iraq and Afghanistan veterans are warriors in the field and leaders in the community. I salute them and am grateful for their service."

Local TV coverage was provided by [Raleigh-Durham \(NC\) Spectrum News](#) , [KNVN-TV](#) Chico, CA (11/21), and [WRLH-TV](#) Richmond, VA (11/21).

Petty Tapped For Interior Department Post On Water And Science.

[American Security News](#) (11/21) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke lauded the selection of Timothy Petty as the next assistant secretary for water and science at the Interior Department. Zinke said, "Dr. Tim Petty brings years of quality service and experience to the team at the department, and we could not be happier with the President's choice for the position. Dr. Petty has served as the acting assistant secretary and deputy assistant secretary for Water and Science at the department before, and we are excited to put him back to work for the American people in the [President Donald] Trump Administration."

FEC Probes Discrepancies At Former Zinke PAC.

[Politico](#) (11/21, Lefebvre) reported that the Federal Election Commission is requesting “a leadership PAC previously affiliated with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to provide more details about its direct mail spending and to account for a \$200,000 discrepancy in its account, among other issues in its most recent campaign finance report. SEAL PAC, which Zinke launched after winning his first congressional race in 2014, has until Dec. 26 to address the issues identified by the FEC, according to a request sent Monday” that “also asks about incomplete information related to some donors, excess contributions and potentially misclassified spending, some of which occurred after Zinke’s affiliation with the leadership PAC ended when he joined President Donald Trump’s Cabinet in March.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (11/21, Siegel).

National Historic Site In Puerto Rico Reopens After Hurricane.

[CNN](#) (11/21, Green) reports that “by next week, two important areas of a national historic site in San Juan, Puerto Rico, damaged by Hurricane Maria will be open to visitors and back to normal operations.” The National Park Service announced Tuesday that “public tours resumed Tuesday at the Castillo San Cristóbal area of San Juan National Historic Site, and officials expect Castillo San Felipe del Morro to reopen as early as next week.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, “For over 400 years, Castillo San Felipe del Morro has stood as guardian and symbol of Puerto Rico’s heritage, and it’s also a major tourism attraction for visitors from all over the world. I’m incredibly proud of the National Park Service and entire Interior family, who have been working nonstop to reopen this important cultural and tourism attraction. Part of rebuilding communities means rebuilding revenue streams so folks can get back to work, earn a living and care for their families. The National Park Service will continue to work closely with the people of Puerto Rico to restore life into this vibrant community.”

V.I. National Parks Reopen.

The [St. Thomas Source](#) (11/21) reports that “Christiansted National Historic Site and Buck Island Reef National Monument on St. Croix and Trunk Bay Beach at V.I. National Park on St. John all reopened Monday, the U.S. Interior Department announced.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, “I couldn’t be more proud of the hard work of National Park Service staff, volunteers, and their partners in the Virgin Islands. Their commitment to the park and to the community is inspiring. I’ve heard many stories of staff tending to the needs of the park and their neighbors before even taking care of themselves.” He added, “We have a long way to go, but every day we make progress toward getting these parks fully functional to visitors and back to providing important economic support to these communities as they return to normal.”

Richmond Congressman, Interior Secretary Tackle Sexual Harassmen.

[WWBT-TV](#) Richmond, VA (11/21, Sullivan) reports on the sexual harassment complaints among employees in the National Park Service. Congressman Don McEachin has “joined other lawmakers in demanding the National Park Service put a stop to it.” He has “called for another hearing on the issue,” saying to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke during a budget hearing in June, “You have declared a zero-tolerance policy with the promise of updating policies, including new training requirements and new reporting procedures, but I would suggest to you that that is not enough.”

Senate Seeks Much Smaller Spending Cuts Than Trump And The House, At Some Agencies.

[Government Executive](#) (11/21, Katz) reports that “Senate Republicans are poised to fund several key agencies at significantly higher levels than the Trump administration requested, though Democrats are still decrying what they see as overly harsh reductions.” Notably, “at the Interior Department, a Senate measure unveiled on Monday would cut spending from current levels by just 1 percent.” The cutback “would be \$370 million less severe than the House proposal and \$470 million less than the administration’s request.” The article notes that “while the House bill also included language supporting separation incentives at Interior, such provisions were not included in the Senate bill.” Also, “at components such as the National Park Service, the Senate actually proactively spoke out against any workforce cuts.”

How Trump’s National Monuments Decision Could Affect Massive Deposit Of Fossils.

[CBS News](#) (11/21) reports that scientists are raising concerns that a decision to downsize the

Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument "could damage one of the richest deposits of dinosaur bones in the world." The article notes that "in the two decades since the 1.9 million-acre patch of desert was designated a national monument, 25 new species of dinosaurs have been discovered in its sands." Paleontologist Andy Farke said, "There's a possibility that fossils may be lost or destroyed. Things like fossil theft and vandalism. Once that record of our planet's history is gone, you know, we've lost something from the American story."

Yellowstone Mining Opponents Press Gianforte To Join Cause.

The [AP](#) (11/21, Brown) reports that "opponents of two gold mines proposed near Yellowstone National Park pressed Tuesday for Montana's lone U.S. House member to seek federal legislation to withdraw public lands near the park from future mining." According to the article, "after a measure stalled in the Senate, businesses and conservation groups said the support of U.S. Rep. Greg Gianforte is crucial to making permanent a temporary mining ban enacted last year on 47 square miles (121 square kilometers) of land north of Yellowstone." Gianforte "said in a statement Tuesday that he intends to introduce legislation on the issue but did not specify when that would happen or offer details on its contents."

Forest Service Will Consider Changes To Sage Grouse Protections.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (11/21, Richards) reports that the Forest Service is "considering changes to sage grouse management in the West, a charge led by the Interior Department since earlier this year due to what the Interior Secretary described as Western 'anger' about federal overreach." In Wyoming, the Forest Service plans may focus on "grazing rights, a key complaint from ranchers." A spokesman for the Forest Service "said opening up the plans in light of the BLM decision to do the same was 'prudent' so that practices are manageable for ranchers, industry and others."

Additional coverage of the sage grouse issue was provided by the [Powell \(WY\) Tribune](#) (11/21, Davis).

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Tribal Leaders Take Aim At Oil And Gas Development.

The [AP](#) (11/21, Bryan) reports that "Native American activists and tribal leaders from around New Mexico are joining the chorus of environmentalists who have been fighting for years to stop oil and gas development." According to the article, "they are part of a groundswell as tribes across the U.S. organize around land issues, from a pipeline in North Dakota and the disputed boundaries of a national monument in Utah to concerns about the encroachment of energy development in an area of the Southwest dotted with archaeological sites tied to a civilization that gave rise to many of the region's modern tribes."

Calif. County Asks 9th Circ. To Rehear Tribal Casino Row.

[Law360](#) (11/21, Lidgett) reports that "a California county on Monday urged the Ninth Circuit to rethink a panel ruling backing a lower court's support of the U.S. Department of the Interior's decision to take land into trust for a proposed Lone Band of Miwok Indians casino." Amador County "asked the panel to review en banc an October decision that upheld the DOI's lower court win in a case in which the county argued the tribe's casino project near Sacramento shouldn't have been greenlit."

Bureau Of Land Management

Trump Administration, Enviros Urge Court To Leave BLM Frack Ruling Intact.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (11/21, Passut) reports the Trump Administration and environmental groups are arguing on the same side, albeit for different reasons, over an Obama-era rule governing hydraulic fracturing on public and tribal lands. In separate filings, attorneys for the environmental coalition and the BLM ask the US Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit Court to reject calls from four western states, two industry groups, and an Indian tribe for a rehearing over the rule. The BLM is looking to keep the rule intact so it can rescind the regulation, perhaps as early as January. Environmental groups want the court to issue a mandate to officially vacate the district court ruling, which would temporarily revive the regulation.

Bureau Of Reclamation

Las Vegas Children Study Birds On International Migratory Bird Day.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (11/21, Erickson) reports that “about 30 other local children gathered at Tuesday’s International Migratory Bird Day event, a collaboration by Clark County Parks and Recreation and local environmental groups to teach children about bird migration.” According to the article, “experts showed children different bird eggs and nests, led games and passed out coloring books with pictures of birds.” Nathan Lenon, a biologist with the Bureau of Reclamation, “helped a little girl with pigtails and big, black sunglasses look for birds through binoculars.”

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Investment In Partnership Is Good For Energy Dominance.

The [World Oil](#) (11/21) reports that Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement Director Scott A. Angelle “participated in meetings with BSEE staff, industry, Air Force leadership, and other stakeholders Tuesday and Wednesday in California.” Angelle said, “BSEE continues to develop partnerships with all stakeholders, all in an effort to enhance the Nation’s energy program while not backing away from the requirements for safe and environmentally-sustainable operations. We need robust energy production from the OCS and it must be safe and environmentally-sustainable.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Colorado Parks & Wildlife To Receive \$100K Grant.

The [Brush \(CO\) News-Tribune](#) (11/21) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced that it plans “to award a \$100,000 cooperative agreement to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife for the restoration of Gunnison Sagegrouse habitat.” The project “includes mechanically treating (mowing) areas of encroaching pinyon-juniper trees that currently have healthy established sagebrush understory within Gunnison sage-grouse habitat.” Also, “the treatment will remove remnant tree skeletons that remain from fire where current understory exhibits sagebrush reestablishment.”

How A Border Wall Could Drive The Jaguar Extinct In America.

The [Arizona Republic](#) (11/21, Loomis) reports that “the jaguar’s fate could hinge on the fate of President Donald Trump’s border-wall proposal.” Biologists and wildlife advocates believe “jaguars could pair off north of the border someday, if Americans leave the trail open and if a female follows it.” However, building “an impenetrable wall” would mean “the species will go extinct in this country.”

National Park Service

Park Service Expands Comment Period For Proposed Entry Fee Price Hike.

[The Hill](#) (11/21, Henry) reports that the National Park Service is “giving the public an extra month to comment on its proposal to hike entry fees at popular parks.” The public comment period for the proposal was extended “Tuesday to allow for another month of input, according to the Park Service website.” The NPS was “originally due to take comments through Thanksgiving, but its new deadline is Dec. 22.”

The [AP](#) (11/21) reports that “the Park Service said it wanted to accommodate interest from Congress and the public. More than 65,000 comments already have been submitted.”

Also reporting are the [Washington Examiner](#) (11/21, Siegel), the [Seattle Times](#) (11/21, Mapes), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (11/21, Harris), the [Loveland \(CO\) Reporter-Herald](#) (11/21), and [KTVH-TV](#) Helena, MT (11/21).

National Park Store Sold Trump Wine, Says Feds Weren’t Involved.

[The Hill](#) (11/21, Cama) reports that “a store in Virginia’s Shenandoah National Park sold wine

produced by the Trump Winery as recently as September." According to the article, "the stores are operated by Delaware North Cos., which agrees to pay fees to the National Park Service (NPS) based on the annual revenues of its operations on park property." Mark Leach, "who manages the Shenandoah stores for Delaware North, said NPS and park managers had no role in the wine purchase decisions." NPS spokesman Jeremy Barnum "stressed that it was Delaware North that decided to sell the wine, not the park." Barnum said, "The National Park Service authorizes concessioners to sell categories of retail goods and products like t-shirts, baseball hats, and in this case wine. However, the NPS does not specify what brands of these products should be sold."

Silence Again Surrounds A Police Shooting In Fairfax County, This Time By U.S. Park Police.

On Tuesday morning, the [Washington Post](#) (11/21, Jackman) reported that the U.S. Park Police "shot a man in Fairfax County, Va., on Friday night." The Post add: "The man is in critical condition. And that's about all we know." According to the Post, "The Park Police refuse to identify the man they shot. Or the officer who shot him. Or why the officer shot him."

On Tuesday night, the [Washington Post](#) (11/21, Weil) reported that the FBI said it is investigating the shooting. According to the Post, "Two Park Police officers opened fire after pursuing a car that they said was connected with a hit-and-run crash in Alexandria. The chase ended in the the Mount Verrnon area of the county at Fort Hunt Road and Alexandria Avenue."

JFK Birth Centennial Ending On Assassination Anniversary.

The [AP](#) (11/22) reports that "a year of events marking the 100th anniversary of President John F. Kennedy's birth is drawing to a close exactly 54 years after his assassination." National park rangers at the John Fitzgerald Kennedy National Historic Site will "lay a wreath outside Kennedy's childhood home in Brookline, Massachusetts, and a 21-gun salute by an honor guard will follow."

Arches Road Construction Nears End, Will Take A Break For Thanksgiving Weekend.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/21, Wharton) reports that Arches National Park officials say a road construction project that "included resurfacing, restoring and rehabilitating 23 miles of roads and pullouts" is nearing completion. According to the article, "with favorable weather, the project could be completed by the end of November or early December."

Gulf Islands National Seashore Road Closures Cause Travel Headaches.

The [Pensacola \(FL\) News Journal](#) (11/21, Gabriel) reports that "ongoing roadwork in Gulf Islands National Seashore prompted 167 people to cancel campground reservations for the Thanksgiving holiday, the National Park Service said." Brent Everitt, a spokesman for Gulf Islands National Seashore, "said the park service was working to reopen the two roads as soon as possible."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Over 460 Coconut Rhino Beetles, Larvae Collected.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (11/22) reports that "combined efforts to eradicate the coconut rhinoceros beetle infestation on Rota have successfully thwarted over 439 grubs and 39 adult beetles." Ray Roberto, coordinator for the DLNR Invasive Species, "said that personnel have been tracking the CRB count since the beginning of October and that grubs have been collected and destroyed." Roberto said, "We are very appreciative of the combined efforts of our agencies and extend our gratitude to the grant funding that was recently awarded by the Office of Insular Affairs to continue these efforts."

Office Of Surface Mining

Conservation Groups Argue Peabody Leases Were Improperly Approved.

[Wyoming Public Radio](#) (11/21, McKim) reports that "conservation groups WildEarth Guardians and the Sierra Club recently filed a complaint with the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, OSMRE, over two coal leases approved in 2012." The groups claim "Peabody Energy's North and South Porcupine leases, which expanded the North Antelope Rochelle mine in the Powder River Basin, were improperly approved and that the company should no longer be

allowed to mine there.” The complaint urges “OSMRE to investigate the leases, which were signed by a district manager of the Bureau of Land Management rather than a state manager.”

US Geological Survey

NASA’s Discovery Of ‘Water’ On Mars Might Actually Be Sand, New Study Finds.

The [U.S. News & World Report](#) (11/21, Newman) reports that “the water that NASA revealed might be on Mars is most likely sand, according to a new U.S. Geological Survey study.” In 2015, NASA scientists “confirmed they had strong evidence that dark streaks – known as ‘recurring slope lineae’ – cascading down mountainsides on the red planet were caused by water.” However, “on Monday, the journal *Nature Geoscience* published a study conducted by a team of researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey, the Planetary Science Institute, the University of Arizona and Durham University in England that revealed the darker streaks were more likely grains of sand and dust rather than seeping water.” USGS scientist and lead author Colin Dundas said in a statement, “We’ve thought of RSL as possible liquid water flows, but the slopes are more like what we expect for dry sand. This new understanding of RSL supports other evidence that shows that Mars today is very dry.”

Also reporting are the [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/21, Khan), [Fox News](#) (11/21, Cofield), [Newsweek](#) (11/21, Osborne), and the [Economic Times \(IND\)](#) (11/21).

Additional Reading.

- *The Real Science Behind The Unreal Predictions Of Major Earthquakes In 2018.* [Washington Post](#) (11/21, Kaplan).
- *U.K. Water Companies Sometimes Use Dowsing Rods To Find Pipes.* [NPR](#) (11/21, Domonosk).
- *Parts Of A Deer With Chronic Wasting Disease Entered Oregon.* [Oregonian](#) (11/21, Monroe).
- *Geologists Keep Finding More Northwest Earthquake Faults.* [Oregon Public Broadcasting](#) (11/21, Banse).
- *Finding Fault(s): Geologists Keep Finding More Nearby Earthquake Makers.* [Ashland \(OR\) Jefferson Public Radio](#) (11/21, Banse).

Opinion Pieces

The Voice Missing From The Elephant Trophy Debate? Africans.

Rosie Cooney, chair of the International Union for Conservation of Nature’s Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group, writes in the [Washington Post](#) (11/21) that the debate over US elephant trophy imports from Zimbabwe and Zambia lacks voices from those living alongside the elephants. Cooney argues that the “first step” to resolving the issue “is to recognize that outrage from afar never solved a local problem. We need to hear the voices of local people. Well-meaning people in the West need to stop shouting and start listening.”

Realini: National Monuments Inspire Entrepreneurs.

In an op-ed for the [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (11/21, Realini), Carol Realini, a member of the Conservation for Economic Growth Coalition, supports “the protection of public lands for the quality of life they provide as well as their economic importance.” According to Realini, “not only do protected public lands like national parks and monuments support robust recreation and tourism industries, they also act like magnets for economic activity – drawing companies and talented employees alike, that seek out these incredible places.” Realini claims that the Trump Administration’s “attack on our national monuments is an affront to entrepreneurs who choose to live and work near America’s greatest asset: our protected public lands.”

Congress Must Fix Wildfire Funding Problem.

In an op-ed for the [Tallahassee \(FL\) Democrat](#) (11/21, Morgan), Temperince Morgan, the executive director for The Nature Conservancy in Florida, urges Congress to “provide funding for fire suppression and change the way the U.S. pays to fight wildfires.” Morgan notes that “when the U.S. Forest Service and Department of the Interior do their annual budgeting, they have to plan for costs based on past fire seasons, but fires are increasing.” According to Morgan, “fighting fires drains the agencies’ budgets of money that could go toward making sure forests are healthy

and provide the benefits expected of our nation's public lands." As a result, "they are forced to borrow funds from programs like recreation and forest health to make up shortfalls."

Additional Reading.

- *President Trump Puts His Indifference To The Environment On Hold For Elephants.* [Huffington Post](#) (11/21, D'Angelo).
- *Don't Trim Grand Staircase. If Anything, Expand It..* [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (11/22, Worthy).
- *National Parks Belong To American People.* [Montana Standard](#) (11/22, Abbey).
- *Monument Expansion Result Of A Faulty Process.* [Eugene \(OR\) Register-Guard](#) (11/22, Roberts).
- *Elephants' Reprieve: How About The Rest Of The Animal Kingdom?* The [Baltimore Sun](#) (11/21).
- *Lifting Of Wildlife Trophy Ban Would Be Unacceptable.* [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (11/21, Chumbley).
- *Editorial: Study Of Surface Mining, Health Issues Should Resume.* [Williamson \(WV\) Daily News](#) (11/21).
- *Lindblom: Western Wildfires Hurt Virginia, Too, But Congress Can Help.* [Martinsville \(VA\) Bulletin](#) (11/22, Lindblom).
- *Drones Intrude On The Outdoor Experience.* [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (11/21, McEachern).
- *No Drilling In North America's Serengeti.* [Coastal View News \(CA\)](#) (11/21, Graham).
- *Protecting An Endangered Species.* [Keyser \(WV\) Mineral Daily News Tribune](#) (11/21, Sanerib).
- *A Troubling Look At The Human Toll Of Mountaintop Removal Mining.* [Yale University \(CT\) Environment 360](#) (11/21, Schiffman).

Top National News

Media Analyses: Trump Tacitly Endorses Moore.

Addressing reporters at the White House on Tuesday, President Trump publicly spoke for the first time about allegations that Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore sexually assaulted teenage girls decades ago, saying that the Republican has denied the accusations. Trump also blasted the Democrat in the Dec. 12 special election, ex-US Attorney Doug Jones. Coverage casts Trump as having tacitly endorsed Moore.

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/21, story 2, 2:50, Holt), Lester Holt reported that Trump is "ending his silence, acknowledging Moore's denial [of the allegations] and extending him backhanded endorsement by urging voters not to support" Jones. NBC's Kristen Welker added, "About face. President Trump initially distanced himself from...Moore. But today, all but endorse[d] him. Is an accused child molester better than a Democrat?" Trump was shown saying, "He totally denies it. He says it didn't happen. You have to listen to him, also. You are talking about, he said 40 years ago, this did not happen."

In the lead segment for the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/21, lead story, 2:40, Mason), Anthony Mason flatly asserted that "Trump has decided it is better to have an accused serial sexual predator in the Senate than a Democrat." CBS broadcast a clip of Trump saying, "I can tell you one thing for sure, we don't need a liberal person in there, a Democrat." CBS' Margaret Brennan added that Trump "voiced support for...Moore, who is facing multiple sexual misconduct allegations, including with teen-aged girls when he was in his 30s." Trump: "Well, he denies. I mean, Roy Moore denies it. And by the way, he gives a total denial. And I do have to say 40 years is a long time. He has run eight races, and this has never come up."

[USA Today](#) (11/21, Jackson) reports that Trump "all but endorsed" Moore, telling reporters that "he doesn't want another Democrat in the US Senate and" emphasizing the GOP candidate's "denials of multiple allegations of sexual misconduct involving teenage girls. 'I can tell you one thing for sure: We don't need a liberal person in there, a Democrat,' Trump" said. And of the accusations, Trump said, "Roy Moore denies it; that's all I can say."

Under the headline "Trump Backs Roy Moore For Senate Seat Despite Sex Allegations," [Bloomberg News](#) (11/21, Sink) reports that Trump "effectively backed" Moore and "attacked Jones, a former federal prosecutor, declaring, 'You don't need somebody who's soft on crime, like Jones.' Trump also said Jones was 'bad on borders, bad with the military, bad for the Second Amendment.'" The [New York Times](#) (11/21, Shear) reports that "Trump's defense of Mr. Moore and his rejection of" Jones "in the race were tantamount to an endorsement of Mr. Moore, who

has been abandoned by nearly all of the Republican establishment in Washington.”

[The Hill](#) (11/21, Fabian, Hagen) reported, “With Moore refusing to exit the race, Trump has apparently decided to give a tacit endorsement to the embattled candidate in the hopes that a victory in Alabama will keep his agenda on track. It’s a departure from just two weeks ago, when the White House sought to distance itself from Moore and even suggested he might need to step down.”

The [Washington Post](#) (11/21, Nakamura) reports that Trump “appeared to offer support” for Moore, “saying the former state judge ‘totally denies’ allegations that he sexually molested underage girls years ago.” Trump also blasted Jones “as being ‘terrible on crime, terrible on borders.’” [Reuters](#) (11/21, Mason) reports that Trump “defended” Moore, telling reporters the candidate “had denied allegations of sexual misconduct and emphasizing that he did not want” Jones “to win. Trump has previously said that Moore should step aside if the allegations were true.”

The [AP](#) (11/21, Miller) says that Trump “discounted allegations of sexual assault against...Moore,” addressing “the swirling controversy...for the first time since top Republican leaders called on Moore to step aside more than a week ago.” Trump “noted that the allegations concerned behavior alleged to have happened decades ago. ‘Forty years is a long time,’ Trump said, questioning why it took so long for Moore’s accusers to come forward.” The AP adds that White House press secretary Sarah Sanders “had said only that Trump ‘thinks that the people of Alabama should make the decision on who their next senator should be.’”

Under the headline “Trump Backs Moore, Saying Candidate ‘Totally Denies’ Allegations By Women,” the [Washington Times](#) (11/21, Boyer) reports that Trump “stood up for” Moore, while the [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/21, Bierman) says the President “even left the door open for campaigning on behalf of Moore. ‘I’ll be letting you know next week,’ he said.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/21, Westwood) says that Trump “seemingly sided with Moore” in saying “he believed the former state supreme court judge’s denials.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/21, Radnofsky, Hook), [New York Post](#) (11/21, Fredericks), [Breitbart](#) (11/21, Spiering), [Townhall](#) (11/21, Brown), [Politico](#) (11/21, Tamborrino), and [Roll Call](#) (11/21, Bennett) are among the media outlets offering similar reports on Trump’s remarks.

In an online “analysis” for [CNN](#) (11/21, Cillizza), Chris Cillizza said that Trump’s remarks about Moore are “only likely to add to his party’s growing problems in the race.” Cillizza added, “Everything Trump said...about Moore and the Alabama Senate race runs directly opposite of what the leaders within the national GOP have said in recent weeks. Literally everything. The boost Moore will get from Trump’s comments will make it that much harder to remove the controversial judge from the race or to organize a serious write-in campaign against him.”

In another online analysis for [CNN](#) (11/21, Zeleny), Jeff Zeleny said that Trump’s “decision to embrace” Moore “was rooted in several factors, but one of the biggest: the noise and confusion from a recent tidal wave of sexual harassment and misconduct allegations from Hollywood to media to politics. ‘(It) made it easier and easier to stick with Moore,’ a Republican source close to the White House said.” Zeleny added that Trump’s comments “also reflect precisely what he has been arguing in the West Wing for the last few days: Moore is denying the charges. He isn’t wavering. So who are we to try and step in? Two Republicans familiar with the President’s thinking offered that explanation about his comments.”

Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA) said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (11/21), “It’s not surprising that Donald Trump would really defend all of Roy Moore’s denials, because he’s been denying all the 16 women that have come forward already. These are both men with long histories of women coming forward with these allegations.”

Rep. Mike Quigley (D-IL) said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (11/21), “To paraphrase [Trump’s] own daughter, there’s a special place in hell for those who back a child abuser for the United States Senate. There is absolutely no worse place we can go from here. It’s just unimaginable. ... Let’s just remember, this is a candidate, Trump, who has a lot of women alleging the same sorts of thing about him, so I think in his own mind this is okay, especially if time has passed.”

CNN political director David Chalian said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (11/21), “What is astonishing is that [Trump] has now basically endorsed an accused child molester for the United States Senate. He is going to go down there, perhaps, if he does, and...he’s going to help Roy Moore. ... The core Trump supporters who overlap a lot with the core Moore supporters are going to be feel energized to have the President on board with this campaign.”

Rep. Charlie Dent (R-PA) said on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (11/21) that “Moore would be a terrible addition to the Senate. He should not be elected. He was disqualified before the recent

allegations of sexual misconduct. He should not be elected. I would never support a man like that."

Amy Walter of the Cook Political Report said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/21), "What's remarkable about the way that Roy Moore has been running the campaign is he's been focused solely on Roy Moore and he has spent very little time talking about Doug Jones. Today, his campaign [is] going out and defending themselves, going after the credibility of these women. ... If you are Roy Moore and you're spending more time trying to defend and discredit women than you are talking about policies or about your opponent, that is not a great place to be a couple weeks out from Election Day."

Politico: In Private Talks, Trump Expressed Doubt About Moore Accusers' Allegations. [Politico](#) (11/21, Isenstadt) reported that Trump's "near-endorsement" of Moore came after "days of behind-the-scenes talks in which he vented about Moore's accusers and expressed skepticism about their accounts. During animated conversations with senior Republicans and White House aides," Trump "said he doubted the stories presented by Moore's accusers and questioned why they were emerging now, just weeks before the election, according to two White House advisers and two other people familiar with the talks. The White House advisers said the president drew parallels between Moore's predicament and the one he faced just over a year ago when, during the final weeks of the 2016 campaign, Trump confronted a long line of women who accused him of harassment" – allegations Trump "adamantly denied."

Poll: Moore Leads Jones 47%-45%. In an "exclusive," [WBRC-TV](#) Birmingham, AL (11/21, Journey) reported on its website that a Raycom News Network/Strategy Research poll of 3,000 likely Alabama voters shows Moore leading Jones 47%-45%, with 5% undecided and 3% saying they intended to write in a candidate. The report did not indicate when the new poll was in the field, but WBRC-TV said, "The new poll suggests allegations against Moore have chipped away at his lead, which was [11 points] in a November 8th Raycom News Network poll conducted by Strategy Research."

Poll By Firm That Has Worked For Moore: Moore Leads By Six Points. [Breitbart](#) (11/21, Boyle) reported that a WT&S Consulting (R) poll of 11,641 Alabama likely voters, taken Nov. 18-20, shows Moore leading Jones 46.4%-40.%, with 13% undecided. The poll "includes 60.9 percent Republicans and 39.1 percent Democrats – approximately the margins by which President Donald Trump defeated failed 2016 Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Rodham Clinton in Alabama." Breitbart said that WT&S Consulting "has done some work for the Moore campaign this election cycle, but before the runoff in the GOP primary where Moore" unseated appointed Sen. Luther Strange.

Nationwide Poll: 60% Say Moore Should Be Expelled From Senate If Elected. [The Hill](#) (11/21, Delk) reported that in a Quinnipiac University national poll of 1,415 US voters, taken Nov. 15-20, 60% of those surveyed said "Moore should be expelled from the chamber if he wins" the Dec. 12 election, while 28% said he "should not. Republicans were the only voter group in the survey to say Moore should not be expelled from the Senate, 49 to 33 percent, while the majority of voters in every other category of political party, gender, and education level said the Senate should remove him from office."

Under the headline "Nearly Half Of Republicans Do Not Want Roy Moore Expelled If He Wins: Poll," the [Washington Times](#) (11/21, Persons) quotes Quinnipiac's Tim Malloy as saying, "Roy Moore may make it to the Senate chambers, but an overwhelming majority of American voters would like to rip the welcome mat out from under him and send him packing back to Alabama."

Jones Ad Invokes Ivanka Trump, Sessions, Shelby. [Politico](#) (11/21, Strauss) reported that the Jones campaign is "airing two new television ads aimed at winning over Republicans who could be persuaded to cross over and vote for the Democrat. One ad, called 'Voices,' began airing Monday night and highlights Ivanka Trump, Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Ala.), and Attorney General Jeff Sessions saying they have no reason to doubt the accusations of a number of women who have accused Moore of pursuing them romantically while he was in his 30s and they were teenagers."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/21, Weigel, Scherer) reports that in that ad, the President's "daughter is quoted saying of the Moore allegations: 'There's a special place in hell for people who prey on children.' Sessions is quoted from a congressional hearing where he was asked about the Moore story: 'I have no reason to doubt these young women.' Shelby, who has been critical of Moore, is quoted on his plan to write in another name on the ballot." [The Hill](#) (11/21, Greenwood) reported that in the spot, a narrator adds, "Conservative voices putting children and women over party – doing what's right."

Woman In UAB Sex Abuse Case: Jones A Hypocrite For Stance On Moore Accusers. [Alabama](#)

[Live](#) (11/21, Yurkanin) reported that Brittany Benefield, “who sued her university in 2001 over sexual abuse she allegedly suffered as a 15-year-old,” says that “Jones questioned the timing and motivation of her accusations while defending employees of the University of Alabama at Birmingham in a \$40 million lawsuit. ... Jones has said he finds Moore’s accusers credible. ‘I find it to be the height of hypocrisy that he sets his campaign to be on the moral high ground against Roy Moore,’ said Benefield. In public statements about the case, in his role defending university officials, Jones cast doubt on her claim that the university officials were responsible. ‘The charges against UAB administrators and coaches are entirely without merit and represent nothing more than a cynical attempt to extort money by slandering this institution and its employees,’ Jones said at the time.”

Moore Camp Offers “New Evidence” Undermining Accusers’ Claims. The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/21, Morrongiello) reported that supporters of Moore “offered several pieces of ‘new evidence’ on Tuesday that they claimed should discredit the two women who accused” Moore “of sexual assault.” For example, ex-Moore chief of staff Ben Dupree “said Leigh Corfman...was lying when she claimed” Moore “would pick her up around the corner from her mother’s house when she was barely a teenager and take her back to his home. ‘Corfman claims that Moore picked her up around the corner from her house. However, according to public records, we’ve been able to find that Corfman’s supposed pick-up place was more than a mile away from her mother’s house,’ Dupree said, claiming that Corfman was living with her father at the time.”

Trump: AT&T Purchase Of Time Warner “Not A Good Deal For The Country.”

President Trump on Tuesday “stood by his criticism” of AT&T’s deal to buy Time Warner, Inc., [Reuters](#) (11/21, Bartz) reports. As he left the White House for Florida, Trump said, “I’m not going to get involved in litigation, but personally I’ve always felt that that was a deal that’s not a good deal for the country. ... I think your pricing’s going to go up, I don’t think it’s a good deal for the country.” The Justice Department has sued to stop the deal, and Reuters says the case will get more attention than other merger challenges “because Trump has been a vocal critic of Time Warner’s CNN, and opposed AT&T’s purchase of Time Warner on the campaign trail last year.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/21) editorial takes a negative view of the DOJ lawsuit, arguing that whether or not Trump inspired it, the suit misunderstands markets and undercuts the rule of law.

[The Hill](#) (11/21, Greenwood) reports that that DOJ “allegedly demanded earlier this month that AT&T sell off CNN’s parent company from Time Warner as a condition for regulatory approval of the sale,” which “immediately prompted questions about whether it was politically motivated, given Trump’s frequent criticism of CNN.” [Bloomberg News](#) (11/21, Sink) reports that during the campaign, Trump said his Administration would not allow the merger, and “he’s tweeted repeated criticism of CNN since assuming office. Lawyers for the two companies may argue that Trump’s statements indicate undue political influence over regulators considering the merger.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/21, Radnofsky, Fitzgerald) also reports on Trump’s comments.

Murkowski Backs Individual Mandate Repeal’s Inclusion In Tax Bill.

[Politico](#) (11/21, Diamond) reports that Sen. Lisa Murkowski wrote in an [op-ed](#) for the Alaskan newspaper Daily News-Miner that she supports efforts to repeal the ACA’s individual mandate. Murkowski wrote, “I have always supported the freedom to choose. ... I believe that the federal government should not force anyone to buy something they do not wish to buy, in order to avoid being taxed.” Murkowski’s support “may be a boon for Senate Republicans’ tax legislation, which includes mandate repeal and is expected to be taken up on the Senate floor next week.” However, a Murkowski spokesperson “told POLITICO that the comments should not be construed as support for the tax bill, which does not yet appear to have sufficient support to pass the chamber.”

Senate Security Spending Bill Includes Funds For Border Wall.

The [Washington Times](#) (11/21, Dinan) reports that the new homeland security bill released by Senate Republicans this week includes “\$1.6 billion for the first installment of President Trump’s border wall.” The measure does not use the term “wall” but “calls for \$1.6 billion in funding for ‘physical barriers’ and border roads – matching Mr. Trump’s original request for money to build or repair fencing along 74 more miles of the U.S.-Mexico line.” A House security spending bill “with the money included” has already passed.

WPost Analysis: Administration Building A “Bureaucratic Wall” To Limit Immigration. The [Washington Post](#) (11/21, Sacchetti, Miroff) reports that while Trump’s vision of a wall along the US-Mexico border “may never be realized, and almost certainly not as a 2,000-mile physical

structure spanning sea to sea," in "a systematic and less visible way, his administration is following a blueprint to reduce the number of foreigners living in the United States – those who are undocumented and those here legally – and overhaul the US immigration system for generations to come." According to the Post, "federal officials are wielding executive authority to assemble a bureaucratic wall that could be more effective than any concrete and metal one." The Administration has "moved to slash the number of refugees, accelerate deportations and terminate the provisional residency of more than a million people, among other measures." The White House, the Post adds, "is attempting to shift the country back toward the tighter controls on immigration in place before the 1960s."

FCC Chairman Proposes Repeal Of Net Neutrality Rules.

FCC Chairman Ajit Pai on Tuesday proposed repealing net neutrality rules, a move that media reports largely case as a victory for large Internet service providers like AT&T, Comcast, and Verizon. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/21, Puzanghera) says the move set up "a vote next month to roll back the controversial Obama-era initiative," and "triggered another round in a fight dating to 2003 over whether the government should be actively involved in assuring the unfettered flow of information on the internet or leave it to market forces." While Republicans, "who now have a 3-2 majority on the FCC, are poised to win this latest battle," marking "a significant victory in the party's deregulatory push since Trump took office," the fight "is probably headed to courts, assuming the FCC repeals the rules as expected in a vote on Dec. 14." Pai, the [AP](#) (11/21) reports, believes the net neutrality rules "discourage the ISPs from making investments in their network that would provide even better and faster online access." Pai said in a statement, "Under my proposal, the federal government will stop micromanaging the internet."

The [New York Times](#) (11/21, Kang) takes a decidedly negative tone toward Pai's proposal, saying it "clear[s] the way for companies to charge more and block access to some websites." The Times adds that the "clear winners" will be "the giant companies that provide internet access to phones and computers, which have fought for years against broadband regulations." To the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/21, McKinnon, Knutson), the plan is a victory for cable and wireless companies that will make way for deals between ISPs and online media and other services. Similarly, the [Washington Post](#) (11/21, Fung) says Pai's move "hands a win to broadband companies such as AT&T, Verizon and Comcast."

[Reuters](#) (11/21, Shepardson) also calls the plan "a victory for big internet service providers such as AT&T Inc, Comcast Corp and Verizon Communications," and [USA Today](#) (11/21, Snider) reports that while passage of the plan "would be seen as a victory for big telecom and cable companies such as AT&T, Comcast and Verizon," consumer advocates and Net media companies "including Facebook, Google and Netflix are concerned that telecom and cable companies could give preferential benefit to their own services and content." Similarly, [The Hill](#) (11/21, Neidig) says that while the move "is a win for companies like Verizon, Comcast and AT&T," to "net neutrality supporters, repealing the rules means giving those companies a free pass to block, slow or favor certain internet content."

[Politico](#) (11/21, McGill) reports that the plan was "quickly blasted" by the FCC's two Democrats, Jessica Rosenworcel and Mignon Clyburn. Rosenworcel called it "ridiculous and offensive" to Americans and Clyburn "said it is a giveaway to the country's largest communications companies." The plan also drew fire from congressional Democrats. Rep. Frank Pallone and Sens. Ron Wyden, Ed Markey and Brian Schatz "all slammed the announcement, with Markey calling for a 'firestorm of opposition.'" to the plan. [Bloomberg News](#) (11/21, Shields) says House Minority Leader Pelosi blasted the proposal, saying in an email that it is "an all-out assault on the entrepreneurship, innovation and competition at the heart of the internet. ... The administration is moving to destroy the openness and dynamism of the internet." Meanwhile GOP Reps. Greg Walden and Marsha Blackburn praised Pai's plan, saying it shows the FCC "understands the importance of making sure the internet continues to flourish under a light-touch regulatory regime,"

The [Washington Times](#) (11/21, Richardson) describes "outrage" over the plan from "Democrats, progressives and celebrities who have made net neutrality a cause celebre." In addition to lawmakers, actor and comedian Patton Oswalt "posted a tweet calling on supporters to 'bombard' Mr. Pai, listing his email and phone number." NARAL Pro-Choice America said the proposal "would make it harder to get information on how & where to access abortion. And it will make it harder for activists to organize against Trump's anti-choice, racist, extremist agenda." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/21, story 11, 0:25, Muir) briefly reported on the proposal Tuesday evening.

A [New York Times](#) (11/21, Saba) analysis says the Administration is "scrambling its media

signals" as DOJ sued to block the merger at the same time the FCC "intends to scrap rules that force internet providers to treat web traffic equally." The Times says Trump Administration "watchdogs...roaming all over the field," stands "in contrast to President Barack Obama's tenure, when the F.C.C. and the Justice Department looked to the same lodestar for guidance on competition." Meanwhile the Trump Administration's "confused approach makes for a blurry regulatory picture."

In an op-ed for [Roll Call](#) (11/21), Sen. Ted Cruz and FCC Commissioner Michael O'Rielly write that the Obama Administration "made the decision to set aside decades of bipartisan agreement and enact a radical proposal that reclassified the internet as a regulated public utility." Those regulations "give federal bureaucrats new authority to regulate pricing and terms of service and eventually even collect billions in new taxes." Pai "seeks to repeal the so-called Open Internet Order and return the internet to its original classification as an information service, which allowed the internet to flourish." However, there are already "scores of politicians and state and local regulators who have indicated an interest in replicating the Obama administration's fatally flawed rules at the state and local level," which is why "it is imperative that the FCC establish a strong deregulatory federal framework for broadband regulations and preempt state and local regulators from having the opportunity to implement the next internet power grab."

Gallup Poll Finds Worry About Economy At Lowest Level In 18 Years.

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (11/21, Meyer) reports that a new Gallup poll found "Americans' worry about the economy are at the lowest level seen in 18 years, according to a poll from Gallup." According to the poll, "only 15 percent of Americans see the economy as a top problem facing the United States." However, Americans "are increasingly seeing poor government as a major problem." Twenty-three percent "say they are dissatisfied with government, which is a response that rates higher than any other issue and has remained the top problem for every month this year."

Whitefish Suspends Puerto Rico Work Over Unpaid Bills.

The [New York Times](#) (11/21, Robles) reports that Whitefish Energy Holdings, the power company hired to help restore power to Puerto Rico, will be "standing down" because of the tens of millions of dollars it is owed for several weeks of work. Despite being fired last month "after widespread criticism and multiple investigations of a \$300 million contract it received to help repair the island's power grid," Whitefish and the workers it employed "were supposed to stay on the job until the end of the month." Whitefish "has billed about \$103 million – and \$83 million is still outstanding."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Who To Blame For Your Subway Nightmare." The [New York Times](#) (11/21) editorializes that the failure within New York's subway system "has plenty of fathers: governors and mayors who, one after another, siphoned money from mass transit to pay for whatever else suited their budgetary fancy." The Times ridicules the current system as featuring cars that "now wheeze along at the mercy of warped tracks, frayed cables and a signal system that was state of the art, maybe, when Americans were dancing the jitterbug." The Times points to George Pataki's tenure as New York governor as the beginning of a streak of elected officials who have been willing to divert money away from the system in favor of other priorities.

Washington Post.

"The United States Torments Its Poorest Neighbor." The [Washington Post](#) (11/21) editorializes that the Administration's decision "to expel nearly 60,000 Haitians who have lived legally in the United States since a massive earthquake devastated their homeland in 2010" means that "the world's richest and most powerful country is intentionally giving the Western Hemisphere's poorest and most vulnerable nation a gratuitous kick in the rear end." The Post calls DHS assertions that the number of displaced Haitians has decreased significantly and that Haiti can receive normal levels of returned citizens both "unsubstantiated" and "specious." The Post concludes by labeling the decision "a beggar-thy-neighbor policy unworthy of a great power and unsuited to a nation with a tradition of compassion."

"Jeff Sessions Keeps Waging His Failing War Against Sanctuary Cities." A [Washington Post](#)

(11/21) says that while the Trump Administration “is on an impressive judicial losing streak” against sanctuary cities, it “remains undeterred, as the Justice Department girds for more battles whose stakes – a few million dollars in federal funds withheld from offending cities – make a mockery of the dire rhetoric deployed by officials in Washington.” The Post argues that the Administration “has no valid legal justification for its insistence that state and local law enforcement officers act as proxies for federal immigration agents and no basis for threatening to withhold funding if they refuse.”

“Why Would Trump Choose This Academic To Lead The Census Bureau.” The [Washington Post](#) (11/21) editorializes that Thomas Brunell, President Trump’s reported preferred candidate for the role of deputy director of the Census Bureau, would be a poor choice for the position. The Post points to Brunell’s “political affiliations and previous work” as factors that could “harm perceptions of the bureau’s integrity, an institution in which Americans must have complete faith.” The Post asserts that Census Bureau leaders should be “seasoned in government operations and ready to take on a huge management challenge” due to the perennially underfunded nature of the bureau.

Wall Street Journal.

“Trump’s Dubious Trust-Busting.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/21) editorial takes a negative view of DOJ’s lawsuit to block AT&T’s acquisition of Time-Warner, arguing that whether or not President Trump inspired it, the suit misunderstands markets and undercuts the rule of law.

“Keystone XL On The Cusp.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/21) editorializes that the risks presented by the proposed Keystone XL pipeline are more than justified because of the project’s economic benefits. The Journal opines that the true agenda of critics of the pipeline is to keep oil from being removed from the ground at all, which the Journal finds to be an unrealistic goal. The Journal also asserts that pipelines are the safest way to deliver crude oil.

“China’s Burma ‘Solution.’” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/21) editorial says that as international calls for action against the Burmese army over the Rohingya humanitarian crisis intensify, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi proposed a solution that would likely encourage the Burmese government to continue mistreating the Muslim minorities. The Journal says Wang’s remarks signal that Beijing’s support for the Burmese army remains steadfast, threatening to accelerate Burma’s shift toward extreme nationalism.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[FCC Plans To End Net Neutrality In Win For Cable, Wireless Firms](#)
[Waking Up Alone: How Elite Plotters Toppled Mugabe’s 37-Year Reign](#)
[Mueller Probes Jared Kushner’s Contacts With Foreign Leaders](#)
[Uber Reveals Data Breach And Cover-up, Leading To Two Firings](#)
[Harvard Faces DOJ Probe Over Affirmative-Action Policies](#)

New York Times:

[FCC Plans Net Neutrality Repeal In A Victory For Telecoms](#)
[How Trump’s Hands-Off Approach To Policing Is Frustrating Some Chiefs](#)
[Trump Defends Roy Moore, Citing Candidate’s Denial Of Sexual Misconduct](#)
[Democrats Move Swiftly Against Conyers Amid Latest Harassment Charges](#)
[Toronto Transit Chief Is Tapped To Run New York’s Ailing Subways](#)
[They Stayed Put, but Their City Disappeared](#)
[Robert Mugabe Resigns As Zimbabwe’s President, Ending 37-Year Rule](#)
[‘Hi, Drumstick.’ President Trump Pardons A Turkey, And Likes It.](#)

Washington Post:

[Trump Boosts Moore In Ala.](#)
[FCC Moves To End Net Neutrality Standard](#)
[Zimbabwe’s Longtime Leader Steps Down](#)
[Airbnb Takes Up Residence In DC’s Debate On Gentrification](#)
[How Trump Is Building A Wall Of Bureaucracy](#)

Financial Times:

[Robert Mugabe Steps Down As President Of Zimbabwe](#)
[Apple's iPhone X Assembled By Illegal Student Labor](#)
[Harassment In The Workplace: FT Readers Share Their Experiences](#)
[EU And UK Aim To Strike Brexit Divorce Deal Within 3 Weeks](#)

Washington Times:

[Courts Use Trump's Pontificating To Rule Against His Policies](#)
[Progressives Erupt Over FCC Proposal To Repeal Obama-Era Net Neutrality Rules](#)
[Pakistan's Islamic Schools Rife With Child Sex Abuse That Goes Unpunished](#)
[Putin's Plan To End Syrian War Strengthens Russian Influence In Middle East](#)
[South Korean Party Leader Choo Sees Promise In Trump's Hawkish Stand On North Korea](#)
[Brazil Nears Constitutional Ban On Abortion With No Exceptions](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Trump-Roy Moore; Charlie Rose Fired; Michigan Rep-Sexual Harassment Settlement; Holiday Travel Rush; Weather Forecast; Russia-Syria Meeting; Border Patrol Agents Attacked; Zimbabwe Dictator Resigns; Black Friday Shopping; Alabama-Escapee Manhunt; FCC-Net Neutrality Roll Back; HBO Cyber Attack Suspect Charged; Thanksgiving-American Turkey.

CBS: Trump-Roy Moore; Charlie Rose Fired; Charlie Rose Fired-CBS; Cleveland Rape Crisis Center; Michigan Rep-Sexual Harassment Settlement; Immigration Policy-Protected Status; Zimbabwe Dictator Resigns; TSA-New Screening Procedure; Uber-Security Breach; WH-Turkey Pardon; Workplace Harassment.

NBC: Uber-Security Breach; Trump-Roy Moore; Charlie Rose Fired; Michigan Rep-Sexual Harassment Settlement; Border Patrol Agents Attacked; Argentine Missing Sub; Holiday Travel Rush; Generic Drug Price; Harvard-Discrimination Lawsuit; Alaska-Northern Lights; WH-Turkey Pardon; High School Principal-Charity.

Network TV At A Glance:

Charlie Rose Fired – 11 minutes, 40 seconds

Trump-Roy Moore – 8 minutes, 45 seconds

Michigan Rep-Sexual Harassment Settlement – 3 minutes, 35 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: David Cassidy Dies; Uber-Security Breach; Trump-Roy Moore; Michigan Rep-Sexual Harassment Settlement.

CBS: David Cassidy Dies; Trump-Roy Moore; Charlie Rose Fired; Uber-Security Breach; Black Friday Shopping.

FOX: Michigan Rep-Sexual Harassment Settlement; Trump-Roy Moore; Charlie Rose Fired; David Cassidy Dies.

NPR: Trump-Roy Moore; Michigan Rep-Sexual Harassment Settlement; Federal Reserve Appointment; David Cassidy Dies; FCC-Net Neutrality Roll Back.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — No public events scheduled.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: On recess until 27 November.

US House: On recess until 27 November.

Other: No relevant event scheduled.

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Stephen Colbert: "First Cosby, then Weinstein, now Charlie Rose. Who's next? Yoda? 'Mmm, tense you seem, shoulders I will rub. Reported to HR I am.'"

Stephen Colbert: "But of all the recent sexual abuse allegations, the creme de la creep is

Alabama Senate candidate and founder of 'take daughter from school day,' Roy Moore."

James Corden: "It was announced that the Donald J. Trump Foundation, the Trump family's charity, is shutting down. He's shutting down his charity right before Christmas. If Trump wasn't going to be visited by three ghosts on Christmas Eve before, he definitely is now. Apparently, Trump said he's closing the foundation because he already has his hands full with too many other charity cases like Eric, Donald Junior, Ivanka. Not Tiffany, she's out on her own, and she knows that."

James Corden: "The Attorney General says they can't shut down the charity because it's currently being investigated. I guess when they heard Trump was doing something nice for other people, they were, like, 'This sounds suspicious. We need to investigate.'"

James Corden: "The President pardoned two turkeys today and then immediately criticized them on Twitter for not being grateful enough."

James Corden: "Yesterday, Melania Trump welcomed the official White House Christmas tree. Take a look. That poor, lifeless thing, standing behind the tree."

Jimmy Fallon: "Today, the White House held its annual turkey pardon, and President Trump pardoned a turkey named Drumstick, which was nice until he told the turkey, 'Okay, now you pardon me.' No, sorry, he didn't mean that. That's not how it works."

Jimmy Fallon: "CBS just fired Charlie Rose after allegations of sexual harassment. Yep. They told him to clear out his desk, put on some pants, and leave."

Jimmy Fallon: "If all the sexual assault allegations coming out of the entertainment industry or news agency have got you down, you can take a break and distract yourself with the sexual assault allegations coming out of Washington."

Seth Meyers: "An Alabama pastor expressed his support for accused Senate candidate Roy Moore in a recent interview and said, quote, 'There are some 14-year-old who, the way they look, could pass for 20.' He's the pastor of the First Church of the Virgin Mary, according to her, anyway."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



DATE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2017 6:00 AM EST

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DOI In The News

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- Associated Press: Eni Receives Federal Permit For US Arctic Offshore Drilling.
- Wall Street Journal: GOP Closes In On Opening Arctic Wildlife Refuge To Drilling.
- E&E Publishing: Legal Challenges Mount As Clock Ticks On Elephant Decision.
- Great Falls (MT) Tribune: Greater Sage Grouse Management Comment Period Extended.
- Ashland (OR) Jefferson Public Radio: Utah Congressman Seeks To Re-Open Area In SW Oregon To Mining.
- FedTech: Interior, VA And DOJ Chart The Way Forward On IT Reform.

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- House OKs Calif. Tribe Land Deal With Feds.
- DC Circ. Backs Toss Of Calif. County's Tribal Casino Fight.

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- Alleged Haskell Rape Victim Settles With Federal Government In Civil Lawsuit.

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- Denver Post: Senate Committee Votes To Block Killing Healthy Wild Horses.
- Associated Press: Lawsuit Seeks To Block California Desert Water Project.
- Associated Press: Self-Taught Rocket Scientist Eyes Monday For New Launch Date.
- Ruidoso (NM) News: County Could Lose \$32,020 In Federal Swap For State Trust Land.
- Billings (MT) Gazette: Agencies Cooperate To Improve Fence For Wyoming Pronghorns.
- Coos Bay (OR) World: Coos Bay Bureau Of Land Management Sells 3 Million Board Feet Of Timber.

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- Cape Wind Fight Spins On.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Associated Press: Threatened Snake Long Gone From Colorado River Re-Appears.
- Joplin (MO) Globe: Neosho Fish Hatchery Awaits Ponds Completion.
- Lawrence (KS) Journal World: Prairie Park Nature Center Aids In National Efforts To Save Endangered Black-footed Ferret.
- New Richmond (WI) News: Erin Baillargeon Earns USFWS Volunteer Of The Year.

National Park Service

- Salt Lake (UT) Tribune: Have An Opinion About The Proposed Fee Hikes For Popular National Parks? The Comment Period Has Been Extended.
- E&E Publishing: Experiment Puts Mall Rats On Birth Control.
- Associated Press: Lawmakers Push For Historic Trail Status For Route 66.
- Anniston (AL) Star: Park Service Concerned About Courthouse Sites.
- Associated Press: Remains Of Ancient Sea Cow Unearthed On California Island.
- Associated Press: Rocky Mountain Park To Expand Native American Representation.
- Salt Lake (UT) Tribune: Utah's Famed Bighorn Sheep Thriving In Zion National Park, So State Plans To Move Some To Bears Ears.
- Ocala (FL) Star-Banner: Fort King: Reconstructed.
- Santa Rosa (CA) Press Democrat: Future Of Point Reyes Cattle Ranches At Stake In National Park Service Planning Process.
- Firehouse: Brian Johnson Named Structural Fire Branch Chief At National Park Service.
- Oneida (TN) Independent Herald: Black Creek Fire Tower Added To National Register Of Historic Places.
- St. Joseph (MO) News-Press: Benton Club On National Registry Of Historic Places.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- St. Thomas Source: WAPA Restores Power To 40 Percent Of Territory More Than Two Months After Hurricanes.
- Radio New Zealand: Palau Under Pressure From China Over Taiwan Link.
- Saipan (MNP) Tribune: CHCC Is Ready To Apply Green Cards For Its Longtime Nurses.
- New Zealand Herald: Marshall Islands: Concrete Dome Holding Nuclear Waste Could Leak.
- CNBC: Hawaii To Resume Cold War-era Nuclear Attack Warning Siren Tests Due To The North Korea Threat.
- Marianas Variety: Governor: CW Issue Needs US Congressional Action.
- Guam Daily Post: Calvo Uses Hearse To Call For Legislature To Hear \$125M Borrowing, Tax Increase Proposal For GMH.
- Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR): Thousands Of Jobs May Be Headed To St. Croix And Texas Following Trump Deals With Chinese Oil And Gas Giant.
- Marianas Variety: More Independents Join GOP.
- Virgin Islands Consortium (VIR): VI Republicans Urging Trump And GOP Not To Give Blank Check To VI

Government.

US Geological Survey

- Washington Post: Bali Volcano Has A History Of Explosive Eruptions And Global Climate Impacts.
- Daily Mail: Methane Ecosystem Found In Caves Of The Yucatan Peninsula.

Opinion Pieces

- The Trump Judiciary Threatens Federal Public Lands.
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- NBC: Media Analysis: Most Powerful ICBM Yet Is North Korea's Response To Trump.
- ABC: Media Analyses: Judge's Ruling On CFPB Head A Victory For Trump.
- ABC: Trump Suggests Government Shutdown Possible After Democrats Skip Meeting.
- NBC: Tax Bill Closing In On 50 Votes After Trump Meets With Senate Republicans.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "Senate Considers Making A Terrible Tax Bill Even Worse."
- Washington Post.
 - "What's One More Bad Thing In The GOP Tax Bill? Ask The Polar Bears."
 - "Egypt Answers Terrorism With Familiar Incompetence."
 - "Congress, Surprise Us."
- Wall Street Journal.
 - "A Trigger Warning On Taxes."
 - "A Drama Queen Loses Her Head."
 - "Fourth Amendment Showdown."

Big Picture

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Washington Schedule

- Today's Events In Washington.

Last Laughs

- Late Night Political Humor.

DOI In The News

Trump To Visit Utah Next Week, Expected To Announce Monument Decision.

[Reuters](#) (11/28, Holland, Rampton, Volcovici) reports that President Trump "is expected to announce his decision on whether to reduce the size of two national monuments" where drilling and mining are currently banned during a visit to Utah on Monday. Environmental groups and Native American tribal organizations are planning to protest Trump's visit, and legal challenges are expected over the decision. Meanwhile, industry groups like the American Petroleum Institute "have said in the past that both Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante were unfairly designated as monuments and needed to be reviewed."

The [AP](#) (11/28) reports that Sen. Orrin Hatch's spokesman Matt Whitlock "said Tuesday that the president accepted Hatch's invitation to visit Utah to discuss Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments." Hatch and Utah Gov. Gary Herbert "say Trump called them in October to announce he would approve Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recommendation to downsize the two monuments protecting more than 3.6 million acres (14,600 square kilometers)."

Also reporting are the [Washington Post](#) (11/28, Eilperin), the [Washington Examiner](#) (11/28, Siegel), the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/29, Burr), the [San Juan \(UT\) Record](#) (11/28), the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (11/28, Roche), the [Aspen \(CO\) Times](#) (11/28, Condon), the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (11/28, Burr), the [Westerner](#) (11/28, DuBois), [KSL-TV Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (11/28, Roch), and [KNRS-FM Salt Lake City](#) Salt Lake City (11/28).

Eni Receives Federal Permit For US Arctic Offshore Drilling.

The [AP](#) (11/28, Joling) reports the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement has approved an application from Eni to drill exploratory wells in the Beaufort Sea. Drilling could begin next month from Spy Island as Eni plans to use extended-reach drilling methods to hit submerged land. BSEE's Alaska region director Mark Fesmire said the agency conducted a thorough review of Eni's well design, testing procedures and safety protocol before approving the plans.

[Reuters](#) (11/28, Gardner) reports BSEE director Scott Angelle said developing Arctic resources is a "critical component to achieving American energy dominance." Environmentalists criticized the move, with the legal director for oceans at the Center for Biological Diversity Kristen Monsell saying, "The Trump administration is risking a major oil spill by letting this foreign corporation drill in the unforgiving waters off Alaska."

[The Hill](#) (11/28, Henry) reports Eni already owns the leases that it is looking to explore. Angelle also said, "BSEE is committed to working with our Alaskan Native and industry partners by taking a thoughtful and balanced approach to oil and gas exploration, development and production in the Arctic." The [Washington Examiner](#) (11/28, Siegel) reports that this is the first time in two years that the BSEE has approved drilling exploration in the Arctic Ocean.

Also reporting are [E&E Publishing](#) (11/28), [Offshore Engineer](#) (11/28, Boman), [E&P Magazine](#) (11/28, Addison), the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (11/28, Harball), [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (11/28, DeMarban), the [Spokane \(WA\) Spokesman-Review](#) (11/28, Joling), [CBS News](#), the [Huffington Post](#) (11/28, D'Angelo), and [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (11/28, DeMarban).

GOP Closes In On Opening Arctic Wildlife Refuge To Drilling.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/28, Puko) reports the GOP is closer to opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as the tax reform bill moves to the Senate floor. Sen. Lisa Murkowski's Committee on Energy and Natural Resources passed a bill to open ANWR drilling earlier this month and the Budget Committee approved the measure. However, the House has not passed a similar provision, but leaders from both chambers will likely negotiate over whether to include it in the final tax bill. The [Seattle Times](#) (11/28, Mapes, Bernton) reports Sen. Maria Cantwell has promised to make every effort to stop the measure. She said, "We are going to have to fight on the floor to try to stop this. ... It's a backdoor process that only needs 51 votes. They would never get it in the normal process."

[The Hill](#) (11/28, Cama) and [Vox](#) (11/28, Irfan) also provided coverage.

Legal Challenges Mount As Clock Ticks On Elephant Decision.

[E&E Publishing](#) (11/28, Doyle) reports that the Interior Department is "still struggling amid growing legal challenges to work out what to do about elephant trophy imports from Zimbabwe and Zambia." The decision by President Trump is likely to attract legal challenges. In a suit filed this week, Friends of Animals and the Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force "challenged the Fish and Wildlife Service's original decision earlier this month to lift the 3-year-old ban on the elephant trophy imports." And "a reversal of the Fish and Wildlife Service's extensively studied decision to lift the ban could invite a legal challenge from critics claiming the U-turn was 'arbitrary and capricious' and violated the Administrative Procedure Act."

Greater Sage Grouse Management Comment Period Extended.

The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (11/28, Dettmer) reports that "the public comment period for Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's Secretarial Order 3353, an order drafted to look at revisions to land management amendments for the greater sage grouse has been extended by the Bureau of Land Management to Dec. 1, 2017 —giving constituents four more days to provide feedback." The revisions, Zinke said, are intended to "protect sage-grouse and their habitat while also ensuring conservation efforts do not impede local economic opportunities." But "groups coming out against Zinke's proposed amendments say the amendments brings greater sage grouse protections back to square one and undermines the work already put in by stakeholders."

Utah Congressman Seeks To Re-Open Area In SW Oregon To Mining.

[Ashland \(OR\) Jefferson Public Radio](#) (11/28, Moriarty) reports that Rep. Rob Bishop "recently sent a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, urging them to review the validity of all Obama-era mineral withdrawals, and the Southwestern Oregon Mineral Withdrawal, in particular." Under Obama, Bishop's letter says, "millions of acres of Federal land were inappropriately withdrawn from mineral access due to false premises of environmental protectionism and the intentional misuse of statutory authority." In response, Sens. Jeff Merkley

and Ron Wyden, and Rep. Peter DeFazio “wrote a three-page letter to Zinke and Perdue, urging them to disregard what they called Bishop’s ‘flawed’ request for a review.”

Interior, VA And DOJ Chart The Way Forward On IT Reform.

[FedTech](#) (11/28, Goldstein) reports that “agencies are still trying to figure out how they will respond” to the Modernizing Government Technology Act “and its promise of working capital funds to modernize IT.” To assist them “chart a course forward, the nonprofit Partnership for Public Service partnered with Accenture and released a blueprint earlier this month to spur improvements in federal technology management.” At an event in Washington earlier this month to discuss the blueprint, “several agency IT leaders discussed how they have put the ideas behind the report into practice in digital transformation initiatives.” At the Interior Department, CIO Sylvia Burns “said the agency got its senior leadership involved in discussions on how to comply with the Federal Information Technology Acquisition Reform Act.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

House OKs Calif. Tribe Land Deal With Feds.

[Law360](#) (11/28, Macagnone) reports that “the House of Representatives approved a bill Tuesday that would greenlight a land deal between the federal government and the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians that has been the subject of litigation in California.” The bill from Rep. Doug LaMalfa “retroactively recognizes the U.S. Department of the Interior’s decision earlier this year to take more than 1,400 acres of land into trust for the tribe, and passed on a voice vote Tuesday.”

DC Circ. Backs Toss Of Calif. County’s Tribal Casino Fight.

[Law360](#) (11/28, Lidgett) reports that “the D.C. Circuit on Monday backed a lower court’s decision to toss a California county’s suit challenging a U.S. Department of the Interior decision supporting a proposed tribal casino, saying the tribe and the county agreed in a 1987 deal that the tribe would be treated as a federally recognized reservation.”

Bureau Of Indian Education

Alleged Haskell Rape Victim Settles With Federal Government In Civil Lawsuit.

The [Lawrence \(KS\) Journal World](#) (11/28, Shepherd) reports that “the U.S. government has paid to settle a lawsuit by a former Haskell Indian Nations University student who said she was raped by two fellow students in a dorm in 2014, her attorney says.” According to court documents, “the remaining portion of Jane Doe H versus Haskell et al was closed Tuesday, after the plaintiff and the federal government agreed to dismiss it with prejudice.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KCUR-FM](#) Kansas City, MO (11/28, Margolies).

Bureau Of Land Management

Senate Committee Votes To Block Killing Healthy Wild Horses.

The [Denver Post](#) (11/28, McGhee) reports that the Senate Appropriations Committee’s “vote to block killing healthy wild horses has heartened advocates for the free-roaming mustang herds who fear the Bureau of Land Management wants to eliminate thousands to manage exploding herd populations.” The action on Nov. 20, “followed a July vote by the House Appropriations Committee that would make it possible for the Interior Department’s BLM to euthanize healthy wild horses.” According to the article, “the final decision on the animals’ future will be made during negotiations between the House and the Senate to reach a consensus on the two versions of the spending bill for the Interior Department.”

Lawsuit Seeks To Block California Desert Water Project.

The [AP](#) (11/28, Jablon) reports that “environmental activists sued Tuesday to halt a plan to pump water from beneath the Mojave Desert and sell it to Southern California cities and counties.” The lawsuit takes aim at the decision by the Bureau of Land Management “allowing Cadiz Inc. to build a 43-mile pipeline to transfer the water from its desert wells into the Colorado River Aqueduct so

it can be sold to water districts." The BLM "released guidelines during the Obama administration to block construction of the pipeline along an existing federal railroad right of way, but the Trump administration reversed them this year and the project is on a priority infrastructure list." The lawsuit claims "the new guidelines would illegally permit construction of the pipeline on public land, including the newly created Mojave Trails National Monument, 'while circumventing laws enacted to protect human health and the environment.'"

Also reporting are the [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (11/28, Roth), [Courthouse News](#) (11/28, Renda), and [Law360](#) (11/28, Crosby).

Self-Taught Rocket Scientist Eyes Monday For New Launch Date.

The [AP](#) (11/28, Graham) reports that a man who plans to launch himself in a rocket to prove that the earth is flat has rescheduled his experiment for Monday. Mike Hughes was "scheduled to blast off last weekend, but he didn't have the proper permits from the Bureau of Land Management." Hughes has "relocated his launch pad about 4 miles from its original spot so he takes off and lands on private property." The BLM "said he still needs to fill out the permits." However, "Hughes contends that shouldn't be required since he's flying on private land and has permission."

County Could Lose \$32,020 In Federal Swap For State Trust Land.

The [Ruidoso \(NM\) News](#) (11/28, Stallings) reports that "a proposed land swap between the federal Bureau of Land Management and the New Mexico State Land Office could result in 17,215 acres in Lincoln County switching ownership and the county losing \$32,030 in annual compensation dollars for nontaxable federal land." In exchange, Deputy Land Commissioner Laura Riley "told commissioners last week the state will earn more revenue from the acreage than it did from the land that would be swapped to federal ownership in the Rio Grande Del Norte/Sabinoso Wilderness."

Agencies Cooperate To Improve Fence For Wyoming Pronghorns.

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (11/28, Beckwith) reports that "the Bureau of Land Management Cody Field Office recently collaborated with the Wyoming Department of Transportation, Wyoming Game and Fish Department and Friends of a Legacy to replace the bottom strand of barbed wire with smooth wire on a fence east of Cody along State Highway 32." The fence is on the eastern edge of the McCullough Peaks Wild Horse Herd Management Area. According to the article, "the bottom wire was also raised to 16 inches off the ground to allow pronghorn, which need space to crawl under fences, to easily pass underneath."

Coos Bay Bureau Of Land Management Sells 3 Million Board Feet Of Timber.

The [Coos Bay \(OR\) World](#) (11/28) reports that "the Coos Bay District of the Bureau of Land Management sold 3.2 million board feet of timber, worth \$450,242.70, at an oral auction on Nov. 17."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Cape Wind Fight Spins On.

The [Cape Cod \(MA\) Times](#) (11/28, Stening) reports that "opponents of the stalled Cape Wind project have appealed a federal agency's decision to allow the offshore wind energy developer to maintain its long-term federal lease in Nantucket Sound, where the company had planned to build 130 wind turbines." The notice of the appeal was filed on Nov. 21 with the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

Fish And Wildlife Service

Threatened Snake Long Gone From Colorado River Re-Appears.

The [AP](#) (11/29) reports that "a threatened snake that hasn't been seen along the lower Colorado River in a century has apparently repopulated an area south of Lake Havasu City." U.S. Fish and Wildlife service spokesman Jeff Humphrey "said Tuesday that biologists first spotted the northern Mexican gartersnake along the Bill Williams River in west-central Arizona." They later found it on the Colorado River at the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge.

Neosho Fish Hatchery Awaits Ponds Completion.

The [Joplin \(MO\) Globe](#) (11/28, Kagubare) reports that “the Neosho Fish Hatchery is within days of completing its six-month construction project to update three of its six fishing ponds.” Bruce Hallman, environmental education specialist, noted that “the last time the ponds were improved was in the 1930s.” He said, “It will just make everything look better here and more efficient.”

Prairie Park Nature Center Aids In National Efforts To Save Endangered Black-footed Ferret.

The [Lawrence \(KS\) Journal World](#) (11/28, Hlavacek) reports that black-footed ferrets are “making a modest comeback on the prairie they once freely roamed — thanks, in part, to the work of Prairie Park staff and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologists.” Marty Birrell, nature interpretive supervisor at Prairie Park, “feels optimistic after this month’s trip to the 1,100-acre tract in western Kansas, where she and her colleagues helped capture, tag and vaccinate wild-born ferrets.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has “yet to release data from this month’s survey, but Birrell said her team located at least 20 ferrets during her time on the site.”

Erin Baillargeon Earns USFWS Volunteer Of The Year.

The [New Richmond \(WI\) News](#) (11/28, Lindfors) reports that “New Richmond Middle School seventh grade science teacher Erin Baillargeon was presented with the prestigious Volunteer of the Year Award by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wildlife Biologist and Volunteer Coordinator Chris Trosen during a brief ceremony Thursday afternoon, Nov. 16.” Baillargeon, “along with her students, took on the responsibility for care and upkeep of several hundred wild lupine plugs in the middle school’s greenhouse during the school year.” At the end of the school year, Baillargeon, “minus her students’ help, became the sole caretaker for the army of plants.”

National Park Service

Have An Opinion About The Proposed Fee Hikes For Popular National Parks? The Comment Period Has Been Extended.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/29, Maffly) reports that “in the face of intense public interest, much of it critical,” the National Park Service is has extended the public comment period to “on its controversial proposal to boost entrance fees to \$70 per vehicle at its most popular parks.” The NPS is “now accepting comments for a second month, until Dec. 22, as it weighs whether to implement the proposal, amend it or abandon it in favor of solutions that don’t rely so heavily on visitors.”

Meanwhile, [Arizona Public Media](#) (11/28, Sieg) reports that Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich has “joined 10 of his counterparts in other states across the country in opposition to the price hike.” According to the article, “in a letter addressed to the acting director of the National Park Service, the attorneys general quote naturalist John Muir, who once wrote that people need ‘beauty as well as bread.’”

Experiment Puts Mall Rats On Birth Control.

[E&E Publishing](#) (11/28, Hotakainen) reports that “under a pilot project set to begin in the coming weeks, a contraceptive bait called ContraPest will be fed to rats around the food kiosk at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.” The project is “the brainchild of Arizona-based SenesTech Inc., which says it makes more sense to target the reproductive capabilities of rats to try to eliminate them in the long run instead of relying on toxic poisons to kill them immediately.” Mike Litterst, chief of communications for the National Parks Service’s National Mall and Memorial Parks, said, “This has been approved by the EPA and has been used in other metropolitan areas, including Chicago and New York City.”

Lawmakers Push For Historic Trail Status For Route 66.

The [AP](#) (11/28) reports that “lawmakers are pushing Congress to give historic trail status to Route 66 to help preserve the iconic roadway, which passes through Missouri and seven other states.” The U.S. House Natural Resources subcommittee considered legislation on Nov. 15. Rep. Darin LaHood, who introduced the bill, said, “The federal government already recognizes the importance of Route 66. If signed into law, it (the bill) will designate Route 66 as a National Historic Trail ensuring that the National Park Service will have the authority to assist and support states and local communities in preserving, promoting and economically developing Route 66 for

generations to come.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Williams \(AZ\) Grand Canyon News](#) (11/28, Windes).

Park Service Concerned About Courthouse Sites.

The [Anniston \(AL\) Star](#) (11/28, Cunningham) reports that “the city of Anniston and the National Park Service differ on the best site for a new federal courthouse, but officials with the two bodies say they may yet find common ground.” The NPS, “in a letter commenting on assessments of three proposed downtown sites for the courthouse, said it supports one just west of Zinn Park.” The agency “wrote that it has concerns about two other sites, both near its new Freedom Riders National Monument.”

Remains Of Ancient Sea Cow Unearthed On California Island.

The [AP](#) (11/28) reports that “scientists say they’ve unearthed fossil remains of a sea cow that lived in the shallow waters off Southern California’s Channel Islands some 25 million years ago.” The National Park Service announced Tuesday that “the fossil skull and rib cage were discovered this summer on Santa Rosa Island, about 50 miles northwest of Los Angeles.” According to Yvonne Menard of the NPS, “two researchers from the U.S. Geological Survey found the skull and rib cage in a steep ravine while mapping earthquake faults.”

Additional coverage was provided by [USA Today](#) (11/28, Carlson), [Southern California Public Radio](#) (11/28), [KTLA-TV Los Angeles](#) Los Angeles (11/28, Bloom), and [KNBC-TV Los Angeles](#) Los Angeles (11/28).

Rocky Mountain Park To Expand Native American Representation.

The [AP](#) (11/28) reports that Rocky Mountain National Park is “expanding its representation of Native Americans with the help of indigenous-focused University of Colorado groups and tribal representatives.” According to the article, “meetings began in the fall to devise a plan to expand representation of indigenous people’s lives.” The article says that “tribal members from Wyoming and Oklahoma were able to attend, while members from Utah, Colorado and Montana tribes have upcoming meetings with park officials.”

Utah’s Famed Bighorn Sheep Thriving In Zion National Park, So State Plans To Move Some To Bears Ears.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (11/28, Maffly) reports that “a multi-year relocation program” of bighorn sheep in Zion National Park is “set to begin next month after more than three years of study.” In the coming weeks, “state wildlife workers will capture 50 Zion sheep, mostly females, fit them with radio collars and release them in San Juan County, according to Rusty Robinson, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources big game coordinator.” The aim is “to augment Utah’s most imperiled bighorn herd, which inhabits a unit called San Juan North located west of the Abajo Mountains in Bears Ears National Monument and the Needles district of Canyonlands National Park. ”

Fort King: Reconstructed.

The [Ocala \(FL\) Star-Banner](#) (11/28, Cundiff) reports that the grand opening of the newly reconstructed Fort King at the Fort King National Historic Landmark will be held this weekend. Events will “feature a reenactment of the December 1835 attack by Seminole chief Osceola and his men that triggered the Second Seminole War.”

Future Of Point Reyes Cattle Ranches At Stake In National Park Service Planning Process.

The [Santa Rosa \(CA\) Press Democrat](#) (11/28, Kovner) reports that “the future of cattle ranching and herds of tule elk in the Point Reyes National Seashore is at stake in a policy-setting process that will culminate in four years and is already attracting thousands of public comments.” The National Park Service has “received about 2,800 comments on a list of six tentative management alternatives, including one that maintains the status quo for 24 families engaged in beef and dairy cattle ranching and three others that would eliminate or reduce ranching.”

Brian Johnson Named Structural Fire Branch Chief At National Park Service.

The [Firehouse](#) (11/28) reports that “Brian Johnson has been named Structural Fire Branch Chief for the National Park Service Division of Fire and Aviation Management. He succeeds Hal Spencer, who retired earlier this year.”

Black Creek Fire Tower Added To National Register Of Historic Places.

The [Oneida \(TN\) Independent Herald](#) (11/28) reports eight properties across Tennessee have added to the National Register of Historic Places. They include the Black Creek Fire Lookout Tower, "a fire lookout tower in Carroll County, the Tennessee War Memorial Building in Nashville, the Mt. Zion Negro School in Gibson County, the Blue Springs Lutheran Church and Cemetery in Greene County, the Farmers and Merchants Bank in Lawrence County, the Harrison Mill Farm in Maury County and Pottsville General Store in Maury County."

Benton Club On National Registry Of Historic Places.

The [St. Joseph \(MO\) News-Press](#) (11/28, Welch) reports that "the Benton Club of St. Joseph has been added to the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service."

Office Of Insular Affairs

WAPA Restores Power To 40 Percent Of Territory More Than Two Months After Hurricanes.

The [St. Thomas Source](#) (11/28) reports that "about 40 percent of the Water and Power Authority's electrical customers, more than 49,000 of them, have been re-energized since Hurricanes Irma and Maria battered the territory in September, officials said Monday at a Government House news conference." Gov. Kenneth Mapp has "set a target date of Christmas for 90 percent electricity, while Water and Power Authority Executive Officer Julio Rhymer's estimate was year-end." That prompted Mapp to challenge, "I'm not giving him that extra week."

Palau Under Pressure From China Over Taiwan Link.

[Radio New Zealand](#) (11/28) reports that Taiwan observers are "warning the country's allegiance with Palau could be disastrous for the Micronesian nation." Last week, China reportedly "banned its travel agencies from arranging visits to Palau, where Chinese tourists were more than half of its visitors last year." The Taiwan Strategy Research Association's Fabrizio Bozzato "said China was partly responding to the visit of Taiwan's president, Tsai Ing-wen, to several Pacific allies including Palau last month."

CHCC Is Ready To Apply Green Cards For Its Longtime Nurses.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (11/28, Cabrera) reports that "even before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services made a 3,000 cut in the number of slots for foreign workers in fiscal year 2018, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is already in the midst of plans to apply for permanent residency visas for its long-term nurses." CHCC CEO Esther Muña "said the corporation is looking for appropriate visa categories for its nurses and staff, either H-1B or EB-2 visas." Muña "said the Commonwealth Health Center, which CHCC operates, already has a nurse that CHCC had applied for an EB-2 visa. Many of CHC's nurses are Filipino nationals."

Marshall Islands: Concrete Dome Holding Nuclear Waste Could Leak.

The [New Zealand Herald](#) (11/27, Killalea) reports that "rising sea levels and climate change threaten to unleash highly radioactive plutonium into the Pacific Ocean in a nightmare scenario for those who live in the Marshall Islands where dozens of nuclear blasts took place in the 1940s." Water has begun to penetrate a massive concrete dome "containing the toxic waste with radioactive material leaking out."

Hawaii To Resume Cold War-era Nuclear Attack Warning Siren Tests Due To The North Korea Threat.

[CNBC](#) (11/28) reports that "Hawaii this week will resume monthly statewide testing of its Cold War-era nuclear attack warning sirens for the first time in about 30 years, in preparation for a potential missile launch from North Korea, emergency management officials said on Monday." According to officials, "wailing air-raid sirens will be sounded for about 60 seconds from more than 400 locations across the central Pacific islands starting at 11:45 a.m. on Friday, in a test that will be repeated on the first business day of each month thereafter."

Governor: CW Issue Needs US Congressional Action.

[Marianas Variety](#) (11/27, Todiño) reports that Gov. Ralph D.L.G. Torres on Thursday "reiterated the need for U.S. congressional action to address the CNMI's lack of workers." Last week,

“despite the pleas of the CNMI government and business community to reduce it by only one, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security reduced the number of CW-1 permits for fiscal year 2018 by 3,000 — to 9,998 from 12,998.” Torres “said he will continue to communicate with U.S. Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan ‘make every effort to introduce’ legislation in the U.S. Congress”

Calvo Uses Hearse To Call For Legislature To Hear \$125M Borrowing, Tax Increase Proposal For GMH.

The [Guam Daily Post](#) (11/16) reports that Gov. Eddie Calvo’s staff “this morning parked a hearse right at the entrance to the Guam Congress building and posted messages on the vehicle to call for legislature to hear a \$125M borrowing and tax increase proposal for Guam Memorial Hospital.” Calvo’s press release said the hearse “symbolizes the consequence of the legislature’s inaction to hold a public hearing on two life-saving GMH bills.” It stated, “The bills, if passed, would fully fund the Guam Memorial Hospital every year. They would modernize medical equipment and facilities so that all the people of Guam, rich and poor, have access to quality healthcare right here at home.”

Thousands Of Jobs May Be Headed To St. Croix And Texas Following Trump Deals With Chinese Oil And Gas Giant.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (11/17) reports that “the talk of additional jobs at Limetree Bay Terminals through Sinopec is more promising” following President Trump’s trip to China, “where he worked to broker billions of dollars in energy deals.” According to the article, St. Croix’s economy “could benefit greatly from the hundreds — if not over a thousand — additional job opportunities to be made available at Limetree Bay.”

More Independents Join GOP.

[Marianas Variety](#) (11/17, Erediano) reports that “more politicians who previously ran as independents are joining the NMI Republican Party, according to the local GOP chairman, Department of Public Works Secretary James Ada.” Ada noted that “besides House minority bloc member Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero, former independent Rep. Roman C. Benavente of Precinct 1 has submitted his letter of intent to run on the GOP slate next year.” Ada added “Sen. Justo S. Quitugua, a former Democrat who ran as an independent in 2014, also wants to seek reelection as a Republican.”

VI Republicans Urging Trump And GOP Not To Give Blank Check To VI Government.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (11/15) reported that Republican leaders from the U.S. Virgin Islands were in Washington earlier this month “telling the White House and Congress not to write a blank check to the Government of the Virgin Islands.” According to the article, “in a series of meetings, GOP leadership from the hurricane-devastated islands of St. Croix, St. Thomas and St. John are pushing for greater federal scrutiny of the territorial government, which the GOP says was in shambles before hurricanes Irma and Maria struck.”

US Geological Survey

Bali Volcano Has A History Of Explosive Eruptions And Global Climate Impacts.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/28, Fritz) reports that “a giant, suffocating ash cloud hovers over the island of Bali in Indonesia, and neither geologists nor local officials know what the simmering volcano will do next.” According to the article, “if Agung’s eruptions become more intense,” it could “alter global temperature for months — maybe years.” The U.S. Geological Survey said, “A pyroclastic flow will destroy nearly everything in its path. With rock fragments ranging in size from ash to boulders traveling across the ground at speeds typically greater than [50 mph], pyroclastic flows knock down, shatter, bury or carry away nearly all objects and structures in their way.”

Methane Ecosystem Found In Caves Of The Yucatan Peninsula.

The [Daily Mail](#) (11/28, Borkhataria) reports that “researchers have discovered a methane-fueled ecosystem that feeds bacteria in the underground rivers and flooded caves of Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula.” The study, “conducted by researchers at Texas A&M University at Galveston, the US Geological Survey and a team of collaborators from Mexico, The Netherlands, Switzerland and

other US institutions, claims to be the most detailed ecological study ever for a coastal cave ecosystem that is always underwater."

Opinion Pieces

The Trump Judiciary Threatens Federal Public Lands.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (11/28, Leshy, Echeverria), John D. Leshy, a distinguished professor of law emeritus at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law, and John D. Echeverria, a professor of law at Vermont Law School, writes that judges that President Trump appoints to federal courts pose a threat to public land. They point to a Nov. 3 decision handed down by Susan Braden of the U.S. Court of Federal Claims, which said "that cattle ranchers using public lands with the permission of the U.S. Forest Service are entitled to financial compensation from U.S. taxpayers because the government's efforts to protect endangered species on those lands allegedly took their water rights in violation of the U.S. Constitution." The professors of law take issue with Braden's statement of the facts, as well as her legal reasoning, and conclude that "it represents a klaxon alarm about what may be in store for the public lands, the courts and the rule of law under the current president."

Additional Reading.

- *Hunting Can Be Good For Lions And Elephants.* [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/28, Anderson, Downey).
- *Zinke Remains Trump Cabinet's Most Deplorable Member.* [Newsmax](#) (11/28, Carlson).
- *The West Grapples With History Through Its Place Names.* [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (11/28, Lydon).
- *Are Minnesota's Public Lands Up For Sale?.* [St. Cloud \(MN\) Times](#) (11/28, Zabokrtsky) .
- *American Horror Show: Trophies From Canned Lion Hunts Continue To Flow Into The U.S. Despite ESA Protection.* [Wisconsin Gazette](#) (11/27, Pacelle).
- *Congress Needs To Treat Wildfires Like The Disasters They Are.* [Poughkeepsie \(NY\) Journal](#) (11/28, Mahar).
- *Proposed National Park Fees Need Modification.* [Westminster \(CO\) Window](#) (11/28, Christopher).
- *OUR OPINION: Sign Online Petition In Support Of Historic Tax Incentives.* [Sioux City \(IA\) Journal](#) (11/29).

Top National News

Media Analysis: Most Powerful ICBM Yet Is North Korea's Response To Trump.

North Korea's launch of another Intercontinental ballistic missile garnered extensive media, including the lead stories on all three networks last night. Outlets highlighted that the missile launched Tuesday was the most advanced yet for Pyongyang, and cast the launch as a response to recent comments by President Trump and actions by the Administration. For example, Richard Engel, noting that this was the first launch by the North "in months," said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/28, story 3, 2:35, Holt), "Why now? Political payback. President Trump threatened the regime while in South Korea earlier this month. The President followed up with a tweet saying he would never call Kim Jong-Un short or fat." Likewise, in its lead story, [Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/28) reported that "the latest provocation comes more than a week after President Trump put North Korea back on the state sponsor of terrorism list," and "after Trump warned North Korea, 'do not try us,' in a speech in South Korea earlier this month."

[AFP](#) (11/28) calls Tuesday's launch "a major challenge to...Trump after he slapped fresh sanctions on Pyongyang and declared it a state sponsor of terrorism," and [Bloomberg News](#) (11/28, Kong, Tweed, Wadhams) similarly calls it North Korea's "first provocation since...Trump labeled the country a state sponsor of terrorism earlier this month."

In its lead story, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/28, lead story, 2:25, Muir) called the launch a "direct provocation to the US President." The ICBM tested Tuesday that flew "higher and longer than any [North Korea] has launched before." The missile flew 2,800 miles, remaining in the air for 50 minutes before falling into the Sea of Japan. Experts "say if angled for distance

instead of altitude, the same missile could reach deep into the US mainland, including Washington, DC." [USA Today](#) (11/28, Bacon, Michaels) reports the missile "appeared to have a range of 8,100 miles, the longest tested, and capable of reaching Washington, DC."

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (11/28, Heretik) reports Defense Secretary Mattis told reporters the missile "went higher, frankly, than any previous shot they've taken. It's a research and development effort on their part to continue building ballistic missiles that can threaten everywhere in the world basically." The [AP](#) (11/28, Pennington, Kim) says the "big unknown, however, is the missile's payload. If, as expected, it carried a light mock warhead, then its effective range would have been shorter, analysts said."

[Politico](#) (11/28, Klimas, Morgan) reports that "some experts viewed the latest test as noteworthy because it was conducted in the middle of the night in North Korea," which made it "harder for the US to track." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/28, Cheng) reports Abraham Denmark, a former senior Asia policy official at the Pentagon during the Obama Administration and now a director at the Wilson Center, said, "Firing at night, from a potential mobile missile, demonstrates that North Korea is closer than ever to a credible nuclear deterrent against the United States."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/28, Stiles) reports the President, addressing reporters at the White House, "seemed to brush off the significance of the launch," and the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/28, lead story, 2:20, Mason) said that after the North "defied" the US, Trump told reporters, "We will take care of it," and while "he did not say how," Secretary of State Tillerson responded to the launch by "call[ing] for stricter enforcement of UN sanctions...including the right to stop, board, and search vessels transporting goods to and from the North." [Politico](#) (11/28, Tamborrino) reports Tillerson condemned the launch in a statement saying, "All nations must continue strong economic and diplomatic measures." [USA Today](#) (11/28, Bacon, Michaels) reports the State Department announced it is launching "an international effort to step up pressure on North Korea that could include interdicting ships carrying goods to and from that country." Spokeswoman Heather Nauert said, "We have always been very clear that we would be open to talks with North Korea. But North Korea is not showing it is willing to sit down and talk."

Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (11/28), "North Korea is everybody's problem. And anybody who doubted that saw that today. This President in bringing on board and talking to Japan and China and South Korea and...the UN Security Council voting twice unanimously in unprecedented fashion to sanction North Korea shows that the world is responding to Donald Trump's leadership as President and commander-in-chief."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/28, Fifield) reports the "74-day break in missile testing, the longest pause in a year that has been marked by big advances and a steady salvo of launches, had generated some hope that diplomatic efforts could gain traction." A [Washington Post](#) (11/28, Taylor) analysis says Tuesday's launch "seems to dash the idea that Pyongyang's lull in weapons testing over the past two months indicated a willingness to negotiate." Instead, the Post says the "slowdown in testing in the last quarter of each year seems to be due to seasonal changes."

The [New York Times](#) (11/28, Choe) reports that "six minutes after the launch, South Korea conducted its own missile test off its east coast, demonstrating its ability to strike North Korean missile launching sites," and [Reuters](#) (11/28, Kim, Stewart) reports the UN Security Council is scheduled to meet on Wednesday to discuss the latest missile launch.

Sen. Lindsey Graham said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/28) that the North Koreans are "clearly...not listening to the Chinese." He also said he does not agree with Trump that Russian President Vladimir Putin can help in dealing with the North. Graham [added](#) that he hopes North Korea understands that Trump "is not going to allow" it to have nuclear weapons that can reach the US, because "if we have to go to war to stop this, we will."

Sen. Dan Sullivan said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/28) that he's "very concerned" about the possibility that North Korea could launch a missile that could hit "not just" Alaska, but the US mainland. Sullivan called for "more sanctions, credible military options" to back up diplomacy, and "more robust missile defense."

Tom Rogan of the Washington Examiner said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/28), "What you do see in specific terms here is the North Koreans showing a capability that far exceeds anything we've seen up until this point. I think there will be some shock in the White House and the Pentagon and the intelligence community about what has happened. For President Trump now, the critical decision is, do you exert pressure on China, specifically Chinese financial entities, or do you take military action because what we have seen here with this test is the failure of – or the unwillingness I think more likely – of the Chinese government to put the kind of pressure on Kim Jong-un's regime that would be necessary to force him to the table."

Matt Schlapp of The Hill said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (11/28), "I don't blame Donald

Trump for this. You can say his diplomatic approach has not worked yet, but he inherited a 20 year problem which was to kick the can down the road. ... He is faced with terrible options and he's got to do something that takes away this nuclear menace from reaching our allies and maybe even our own shores."

Adam B. Ellick and Jonah M. Kessel of the [New York Times](#) (11/28) write, "This is the story of two novice and reckless leaders — one 33 years old, the other 71 years old — taking their countries toward what we fear is a needless collision. The risk of war is greater than the public appreciates," and "now, with war more likely than ever, talks are even more urgent."

Recent Meetings Raise Fresh Concern Over Possible Iran-North Korea Ties. The [Washington Times](#) (11/28, Taylor) reports that a "series of recent high-level meetings between Iranian and North Korean officials has prompted fresh concern in US national security circles about the depth of military and ballistic missile technology cooperation between the two American adversaries," according to the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. The think tank, which is "known for its critical posture toward Iran's government, says in an analysis that US intelligence has spotted Iranian defense officials in North Korea over the past year — raising the specter that Pyongyang and Tehran might be sharing certain military technological advances with each other."

Media Analyses: Judge's Ruling On CFPB Head A Victory For Trump.

In a ruling that is universally cast as a victory for the Administration, a federal judge ruled Tuesday that President Trump can install his own director at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/28, story 7, 0:30), the only network newscast to cover the ruling, David Muir said, "President Trump winning the battle over control of the nation's top consumer financial watch dog," while [USA Today](#) (11/28, McCoy, Johnson) says US District Judge Timothy Kelly "sid[ed] with the Trump Administration" and "refused to block the appointment of Mick Mulvaney as interim director."

[Politico](#) (11/28, Guida) describes "a big victory" for Trump, adding that Kelly "said there was not a substantial likelihood that the case would succeed on its merits." [Reuters](#) (11/28) reports that Kelly "said the agency was part of the executive branch and he saw nothing in the law that prevented budget director Mick Mulvaney from holding the two positions."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/28, Hsu, Heath) also says Kelly "refused to block" Mulvaney's appointment, adding that by denying CFPB deputy director Leandra English's request for a temporary restraining order, Kelly "acknowledged that the case raised constitutional issues." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/28, Puzanghera) says Kelly, who President Trump nominated this year, "hand[ed] a victory to President Trump and opponents of the independent watchdog agency."

The [New York Times](#) (11/28, Rogers, Bernard) reports that Kelly "deliver[ed] a legal victory to the White House," and gave "a boost" to Trump's "deregulation push," while [Bloomberg News](#) (11/28, Harris) says Kelly "rebuffed English, who sued to Nov. 26, contending she is entitled to the provisional post," in an outcome that "cast a shadow over her contention the 2010 Dodd-Frank Wall Street reform legislation controls the line of temporary succession at the agency and not the broader federal statute relied upon by the president to designate Mulvaney."

While the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/28, Clozel) reports that English's attorney, Deepak Gupta, said she would appeal Kelly's decision, the [New York Post](#) (11/28, Fredericks) reports that the ruling drew praise from the White House. Spokesman Raj Shah said, "The Administration applauds the court's decision, which provides further support for the president's rightful authority to designate Director Mulvaney as Acting Director of the CFPB. ... It's time for the Democrats to stop enabling this brazen political stunt by a rogue employee and allow Acting Director Mulvaney to continue the bureau's smooth transition into an agency that truly serves to help consumers."

The [Washington Times](#) (11/28, Boyer) reports Competitive Enterprise Institute General Counsel Sam Kazman said CEI was "glad to see this attempt at bureaucratic self-perpetuation fail," and Consumer Bankers Association President and CEO Richard Hunt said his group looks forward "to working with acting CFPB Director Mick Mulvaney to bring transparent and balanced consumer protections to all customers and small businesses."

A [USA Today](#) (11/28) editorial casts the dispute as "proof of how desperately Republicans want to defang the aggressive agency," and says Kelly's ruling leaves Trump "in position to nominate a new director," which means "efforts to undermine this strong consumer champion are well underway." Dana Milbank argues in the [Washington Post](#) (11/28) that "under the statute that created the CFPB...it should now be rightfully run by Leandra English." Nevertheless, "a Trump-appointed federal judge, to nobody's surprise, ruled in Trump's favor." Milbank adds that "ultimately, the 'coup' will succeed" because Trump "will eventually be able to install a director who can defang the watchdog — and Wall Street bankers and corporate lobbyists will plant their flag of conquest at another agency."

However, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/28) takes a different view, editorializing that Kelly's denial of English's petition constituted a hilarious development in the ongoing struggle for leadership of the bureau. The Journal mocks English for staging photo-ops with Sen. Elizabeth Warren before the ruling from Kelly, and asserts that she must now decide whether to walk away in embarrassment or stay on as deputy under Mulvaney.

"Anonymous Donors" Financing English's Lawsuit. According to the [Daily Caller](#) (11/28, Pollock), English's lawsuit is being financed by "secret donors." In an interview with [CNBC's Power Lunch](#) (11/27), Gupta "confirmed...that English is not paying for his hourly fees, but rather unknown anonymous donors are." Gupta "appeared caught off guard when CNBC hosts asked who was financing his effort," and "stumbled over his words in his first answer and said some form of unidentified 'structure' was being put in place to accept funds from anonymous donors." He said, "Well, uh, it's, it's not, um, Miss, um English, um, ah. There are ethics lawyers that we've consulted, and we have a structure set up that is with ethics rules and, um, we'll and we'll be talking about that once we have that." Asked "repeatedly...who is paying for the case," Gupta replied, "It's just not appropriate for me to be talking about that right now."

CBA President: CFPB Should Be Run By A Commission. In an op-ed for [USA Today](#) (11/28, Hunt), Richard Hunt, president and CEO of the Consumer Bankers Association, does not address Kelly's ruling but argues that the CFPB's mission "is far too vast and far too important for a single director to play both judge and jury for nearly every financial decision Americans make." Hunt writes that "a sole director at the CFPB is unworkable" and calls on Congress "to fix it with legislation to create a bipartisan, Senate-confirmed commission."

WSJournal Sees Hilarity In Court Ruling Against Leandra English. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/28) editorializes that federal judge Timothy Kelly's denial of Leandra English's petition to block Mick Mulvaney from serving as acting director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau constituted a hilarious development in the ongoing struggle for leadership of the bureau. The Journal mocks English for staging photo-ops with Sen. Elizabeth Warren before the ruling from Kelly, and asserts that she must now decide whether to walk away in embarrassment or stay on as deputy under Mulvaney. The Journal opines that the controversy has been humiliating for English.

Trump Suggests Government Shutdown Possible After Democrats Skip Meeting.

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/28, story 4, 2:10, Muir), Jonathan Karl reported, "It was just a couple of months ago that President Trump was chumming around in the Oval Office with Democratic leaders Chuck Schumer and Nancy Pelosi, striking a temporary spending deal on their terms. ... But today, the President found himself flanked by empty chairs," with Schumer and Pelosi "boycotting a planned bipartisan sit-down after Trump attacked them on Twitter." Schumer: "The President said, 'I don't see a deal' three hours before our meeting, before he heard anything we had to say." Karl: "Schumer and Pelosi said, thanks, but no thanks." Trump: "They've been all talk, and they've no action. And now it's even worse. Now it's not even talk."

[Politico](#) (11/28, McCaskill) reports that Trump "taunted them on Twitter." At 9:17 a.m., Trump [tweeted](#), "Meeting with 'Chuck and Nancy' today about keeping government open and working. Problem is they want illegal immigrants flooding into our Country unchecked, are weak on Crime and want to substantially RAISE Taxes. I don't see a deal!"

On the [CBS Evening News](#) (11/28, story 2, 1:10, Mason), Nancy Cordes reported, "They were supposed to discuss government funding, which is set to run out next week. ... You're never going to stop the President from tweeting, so does this mean that going forward you're not planning to sit down with him?" Schumer: "All he has to do is say he's serious and wants to undergo a real negotiation, and we'll sit down with him."

[Breitbart](#) (11/28, Key) reports that Schumer told reporters, "There are serious issues in front of us. We don't have time to waste. We don't have games to play. ... If the President reverses course and decides he wants to be a constructive force, working with both sides to forge a bipartisan deal, we're happy to meet with him anytime, anywhere, any place."

[The Hill](#) (11/28, Fabian) reports that Trump "tore into" them for skipping the meeting. [USA Today](#) (11/28, Collins) reports that Trump told reporters that "he was 'not that surprised'" that the Democrats canceled. The [Washington Times](#) (11/28, Miller) reports that Trump warned that a government shutdown after December "could be unavoidable, and he blamed Democratic leaders for forcing it."

[Breitbart](#) (11/28, Key) reports that Trump said of a shutdown, "I would absolutely blame the Democrats if it happens it's going to be over illegals pouring into the country, crime pouring into the country, no border wall, which everybody wants. I got elected partially because of a

border wall. ... They want high taxes. We want low taxes. So there are a lot of big differences. So we'll see what happens as to shutdown." Kellyanne Conway said on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (11/28) that Schumer and Pelosi "are not there representing the opposition party. They are there as the minority leaders of the two chambers in Congress."

The [Washington Post](#) (11/28, O'Keefe, Sullivan) reports that the "breakdown in talks between Trump and Democrats will put more pressure" on Senate Majority Leader McConnell and House Speaker Ryan, "who both attended the White House meeting, to find a way forward on spending negotiations while they also race to wield their majorities to try to pass a sweeping tax bill this month." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/28, Peterson) reports that a short-term spending measure keeping the government operational through the end of December is expected to pass soon.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/28, Bennett, Bierman) writes that Trump "runs the risk of alienating partners he needs to move his agenda forward. And he needs Democrats in coming weeks as much as at any time in his presidency." Senate Majority Whip Cornyn "noted that it will take 60 votes in the Senate to pass the spending bill. 'We have 52 Republicans. We can't do it by ourselves,' he said."

[Reuters](#) (11/28), the [Washington Times](#) (11/28, Dinan), and [Roll Call](#) (11/28, Bennett) also report.

Trump Says Democrats Holding "Troop Funding Hostage." [Politico](#) (11/28, Lima) reports that in a later tweet, the President accused the Democrats "of holding military funding 'hostage' in their end-of-year negotiations to avert a government shutdown." Trump [tweeted](#), "After North Korea missile launch, it's more important than ever to fund our gov't & military! Dems shouldn't hold troop funding hostage for amnesty & illegal immigration. I ran on stopping illegal immigration and won big. They can't now threaten a shutdown to get their demands."

WPost Analysis: Long Trump-Schumer Relationship Not Enough To Overcome Differences. On the front page of the [Washington Post](#) (11/28, A1, Fisher), Marc Fisher looks at the long relationship between Trump and Schumer, who "were never pals," but "got along fine, two power players who had never quite been accepted in the inner circle of their chosen fields, two sharp-elbowed guys who led with their mouths and won power in part by mastering the art of being in the news." While "people in both parties thought" that their relationship "might provide a path out of Washington's political paralysis," Tuesday's events revealed "the limits of that relationship."

Tax Bill Closing In On 50 Votes After Trump Meets With Senate Republicans.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (11/28, lead story, 2:40, Holt) opened by reporting that "Senate Republicans made headway" on their tax plan on Tuesday, with the measure passing through committee.

President Trump is "putting in face time to try to move the bill forward." The [CBS Evening News](#) (11/28, story 3, 1:20, Cordes) reported that the President lunched with Senate Republicans, "where he sparred with senators who still have concerns about the party's tax plan. Wisconsin's Ron Johnson thinks the tax cuts favor corporations at the expense of small businesses." Johnson: "I thought it was a fine-and-dandy exchange. I didn't feel threatened at all."

The [AP](#) (11/28, Fram, Taylor) reports that the Senate Budget Committee advanced the measure on "a party-line 12-11 vote...as a pair of wavering Republicans – Wisconsin's Ron Johnson and Tennessee's Bob Corker – fell into line, at least for the moment. In more good news for the GOP, moderate Sen. Susan Collins of Maine said it was a 'fair assumption' that she was likelier to support the bill" after saying that the President had "agreed to make property taxes up to \$10,000 deductible instead of eliminating that break entirely." [Reuters](#) (11/28, Morgan, Cornwell) reports that Republicans "rammed forward" the measure.

[Bloomberg News](#) (11/28, Kapur, Wasson) reports that the outlook for the bill "brightened" after the President "addressed GOP Senate holdouts in a closed-door, lunchtime session. The GOP meeting was 'somewhat of a lovefest,' Trump said later Tuesday." [USA Today](#) (11/28, Shesgreen, Fair) reports that GOP leaders "remained optimistic" that the bill would pass "in the next few days, while at the same time acknowledging that the vote will likely be very close." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/28, A1, Rubin, Peterson) reports that both Collins and Corker said they are closer to backing the final measure. [Politico](#) (11/28, Kim, Becker, Wilhelm) reports that "key GOP swing votes inched closer to backing the legislation" on Tuesday.

The [Washington Post](#) (11/28, A1, Debonis, Werner, Paletta) reports that though Trump "clashed with Johnson," he "appeared to make substantial progress toward winning" Collins' vote. The President "signaled openness to Collins's demands, which include paying federal subsidies to help lower-income Americans afford health coverage." Johnson's opposition "is based on his

complaints that the bill would not sufficiently lower taxes for millions of businesses that are effectively taxed through the individual income tax code."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (11/28, Mascaro) reports that Senate Majority Leader McConnell "acknowledged that changes were still being made to win over votes." He said, "We do have a few members who have concerns and we're trying to address them. We know we will not be able to go forward until we get 50 people satisfied, and that's what we're working on." [McClatchy](#) (11/28, Clark) reports that third-ranking Senate Republican Sen. John Thune predicted a vote this week "and said leadership was negotiating 'a path forward' with Collins and the others." Sen. Lindsey Graham said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (11/28), "I think they're very close to a deal."

The [New York Times](#) (11/28, A1, Rappeport, Kaplan) writes that "passage of the tax overhaul, which seemed uncertain on Monday, strengthened considerably on Tuesday." But "several hurdles remain," including "resolving differences with the House version of the tax bill, which differs in significant ways from that of the Senate. Both bills cut taxes on businesses and individuals, but differ in the scope and timing of those cuts."

The [New York Times](#) (11/28) editorializes, "This is how Senate Republicans compromise these days: They could make their enormously unpopular tax bill, which lavishes benefits on corporations and wealthy families, more generous to real estate tycoons and hedge fund billionaires to win over" Johnson and Sen. Steve Daines, "who say the legislation doesn't do enough for small businesses." McConnell "is trying to rush the bill to a vote by the end of the week...to give lawmakers and the public as little time as possible to analyze and understand the bill."

The [Washington Times](#) (11/28, Sherfinski), [The Hill](#) (11/28, Bolton, Weixel), and [Roll Call](#) (11/28, McPherson) also have reports.

Trump Tells Senators That He Backs Alexander-Murray ACA Bill. [Bloomberg News](#) (11/28, Kapur) reports that the President told the senators that he backs the Affordable Care Act market stabilization bill offered by Sens. Lamar Alexander and Patty Murray, "which may help bolster support for the tax-cut legislation headed for a vote this week." However, the [Washington Times](#) (11/28, Miller) reports that Trump said that is contingent on passage of "a tax cut bill that eliminates the individual mandate."

Fate Of Bill Could Rest With McCain. The [New York Times](#) (11/28, Rappeport) reports that "once again, it could all come down to" Sen. John McCain, who was responsible for killing the GOP healthcare bill earlier this year. McCain "has been fairly tight-lipped about his views on the tax overhaul speeding through the Senate, saying he sees some problems with the existing bill but is waiting for a final plan before making a decision."

WSJournal Opposes Corker's Proposed Trigger. In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/28) opposes Corker's proposal for a trigger to return some rates to current levels six years from now if revenues are lower than expected. The Journal warns that no one can predict when a recession might hit, and forcing such an increase could exacerbate one.

Vulnerable Democrats Oppose Tax Bill. The [Washington Post](#) (11/28, Weigel) reports that though some moderate Democrats up for re-election next year in states won by Trump in 2016 were once viewed as possible yes votes, all 48 members of the Democratic caucus are expected to oppose the plan. Sen. Joe Manchin, "who has voted with the Trump administration more than any other Democrat in Congress, described a repetitive drama that had played out for months. He'd sit for productive conversations with the Trump administration, then watch as none of his ideas appeared in the Republican product." Sens. Joe Donnelly and Heidi Heitkamp had also been seen as possible supporters.

GOP, Democratic Senators Debate Bill On CNN. CNN on Tuesday evening hosted a debate on tax reform featuring two Republican senators and two Democratic senators. Sen. Ted Cruz [said](#), "If you're a taxpayer, this bill benefits you. ... We should be working to cut taxes for every single taxpayer in America." Sen. Tim Scott [said](#), "Our goal in this tax reform conversation is to deliver your money back in your paychecks. So that as my mother had to struggle paycheck to paycheck, those single mothers struggling paycheck to paycheck will be able to have more of their hard-earned money so that they can take care of their families and, at the same time, create an economy that creates the jobs of the future here in America, here at home. That's what this tax reform does."

The Democrats took a much different view of the bill. Sen. Bernie Sanders [said](#), "Mark my words. The day after or soon after this legislation passes, if it does...these guys are going to come back and they are going to say, 'Oh my goodness, the deficit is soaring. We have got to cut Social Security. We have got to cut Medicare and Medicaid and education and programs that the middle class and working families desperately need.' This is a disastrous piece of legislation."

Sen. Maria Cantwell [said](#), "Raising taxes on the middle class is wrong. And that's what this bill does. It is also wrong to cut the cooperative tax rate without having a promise of how that is really going to raise wages and impact productivity."

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (11/28, story 3, 2:30, Muir) and [NBC Nightly News](#) (11/28, story 2, 2:15, Holt) both ran features on the possible impact of the bill on Americans of various income levels. The [New York Times](#) (11/28, Casselman) looks at "What The Tax Bill Would Look Like For 25,000 Middle-Class Families" via a chart representing "how big a tax cut (or tax increase)" each of 25,000 household "in the broadly defined middle class...would get under the bill in 2018."

Protesters Arrested Outside Senate Budget Committee Hearing. [The Hill](#) (11/28, Delk) reports that Capitol Police "arrested 36 people protesting outside a Senate Budget Committee hearing on the GOP tax bill" on Tuesday morning, arresting "all 36 on charges of disrupting Congress in their protest."

WPost Opposes ANWR Drilling Measure Added To Tax Bill On Tuesday. In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/28) notes that "on Tuesday, Republicans on the Senate Budget Committee added to their already malformed tax legislation a provision that would open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and natural gas drilling. This is a poor idea that senators should resist sneaking into law while most of Washington is preoccupied with a major tax overhaul."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Senate Considers Making A Terrible Tax Bill Even Worse." The [New York Times](#) (11/28) editorializes, "This is how Senate Republicans compromise these days: They could make their enormously unpopular tax bill, which lavishes benefits on corporations and wealthy families, more generous to real estate tycoons and hedge fund billionaires to win over" Sens. Ron Johnson and Steve Daines, "who say the legislation doesn't do enough for small businesses." Majority Leader McConnell "is trying to rush the bill to a vote by the end of the week...to give lawmakers and the public as little time as possible to analyze and understand the bill."

Washington Post.

"What's One More Bad Thing In The GOP Tax Bill? Ask The Polar Bears." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (11/28) notes that "on Tuesday, Republicans on the Senate Budget Committee added to their already malformed tax legislation a provision that would open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and natural gas drilling. This is a poor idea that senators should resist sneaking into law while most of Washington is preoccupied with a major tax overhaul."

"Egypt Answers Terrorism With Familiar Incompetence." A [Washington Post](#) (11/28) editorial says Egyptian President Abdel Fatah al-Sissi's response to the "merciless attack" on a mosque last Friday was "familiar: an angry television speech promising 'brute force,' a showy bombing raid, and attacks on media reporting." The Post argues Sissi's government "has used terrorism as a pretext for the most severe political repression in Egypt's modern history," offering "a textbook example of how not to respond to Islamist extremism." The Post notes President Trump nonetheless "remains a fan" of Sissi. Trump "called the strongman after the Sinai attack and tweeted, inexplicably, that it showed the need for 'the WALL' and 'the BAN.'" The Post concludes in saying Trump and Sissi "are partners in obtuseness" in the fight against ISIS in Egypt.

"Congress, Surprise Us." A [Washington Post](#) (11/28) editorial says Congress has failed to act on banning bump stocks, so "some states and cities are trying to fill the gap." The Post notes that this week the Supreme Court "let stand a Maryland law banning the sale of these weapons," and says, "Hopefully that will encourage more states to take similar action while they wait for Congress to do its job."

Wall Street Journal.

"A Trigger Warning On Taxes." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/28) opposes Sen. Bob Corker's proposal for a trigger to return some rates to current levels six years from now if revenues are lower than expected. The Journal warns that no one can predict when a recession might hit, and forcing such an increase could exacerbate one.

"A Drama Queen Loses Her Head." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/28) editorializes that federal judge Timothy Kelly's denial of Leandra English's petition to block Mick Mulvaney from serving as

acting director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau constituted a hilarious development in the ongoing struggle for leadership of the bureau. The Journal mocks English for staging photo-ops with Sen. Elizabeth Warren before the ruling from Kelly, and asserts that she must now decide whether to walk away in embarrassment or stay on as deputy under Mulvaney. The Journal opines that the controversy has been humiliating for English.

“Fourth Amendment Showdown.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (11/28) editorializes about a case the Supreme Court will hear today, *Carpenter v. US*, which the Journal claims challenges decades of Fourth Amendment law. In an investigation of a string of armed robberies, investigators obtained location data from a suspect’s wireless carrier. The Journal argues that the collection of such data does not constitute an unreasonable search under the Fourth Amendment, since it does not reveal the content of any communication. The Journal also notes that Congress has created the legal framework for the collection and use of such data, and argues that lawmakers, not the courts, should make these decisions.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Senate Tax Revamp Gains Traction](#)

[Strange Bedfellows: Democrats And Trump Blow Up 20-Year Consensus On Trade](#)

[Korean Missile Test’s Trajectory Puts Washington In Range](#)

[Oil Prices Chase \\$60 After A Year Of Surging Demand](#)

[Uber Ex-Employee Alleges Covert Tactics To Steal Rivals’ Secrets](#)

New York Times:

[Republicans Clear Major Hurdle As Tax Bill Advances](#)

[Trump Feuds With Democrats Ahead Of A Possible Government Shutdown](#)

[North Korea Fires A Ballistic Missile, In A Further Challenge To Trump](#)

[Trump Once Said The ‘Access Hollywood’ Tape Was Real. Now He’s Not Sure.](#)

[Olympic Doping Diaries: Chemist’s Notes Bolster Case Against Russia](#)

[Pushing New Yorkers Beyond The End Of The Line](#)

Washington Post:

[Tax Bill Advances In Senate As Skeptics Signal Their Support](#)

[In Recession-Hit Venezuela, Even Sex Is In Crisis](#)

[Schumer And Trump Share The Schmooze. Is It Enough?](#)

[Libyan Found Guilty In 2012 Attacks In Benghazi](#)

[Missile Launch Appears To Put DC In Range](#)

Financial Times:

[Pope Avoids Word ‘Rohingya’ As He Calls For Peace In Myanmar](#)

[Uber Accused Of Running Secret Competitive Intelligence Unit](#)

[Irish Deputy PM Resigns To Save Government](#)

[UK Bows To EU Demands With Breakthrough Offer On Brexit Bill](#)

Washington Times:

[More North Korean Tests Likely To Come After Launch Of Most Sophisticated Missile So Far](#)

[Iranian-North Korean Talks Raise Specter Of Cooperation On Military, Ballistic Missile Technology](#)

[Judge Rules In Favor Of Trump In Battle Over CFPB Leadership](#)

[Benghazi Suspect Convicted On 4 Of 18 Criminal Charges, Acquitted Of Murder](#)

[Supreme Court Case On Same-Sex Wedding Cakes: Artistic Expression Vs. Civil Rights](#)

[Democrats Move Toward Showdown By Refusing To Meet With Trump](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: North Korea Missile Test; Tampa-Serial Killer; Tax Reform Plan-Effects; Government Funding Meeting; Libya US Consulate Attack Trial; Washington Post-Failed Conservative Sting; CFPB Appointment; Prince Harry Engagement; Florida-Missing Teen; Marriage-Dementia; Pets-Bone Product Recall; Wingsuit Jumpers; Climate Change-Polar Bears.

CBS: North Korea Missile Test; Government Funding Meeting; White House-Tax Reform Plan; John Conyers Sexual Allegations; Roy Moore Campaign; Washington Post-Failed Conservative

Sting; Texas Church Shooting-Lawsuit; YouTube-Child Videos; Weinstein-Sexual Allegations; Russia-Celebrity Politician; Prince Harry Engagement.

NBC: White House-Tax Reform Plan; Tax Reform Plan-Effects; North Korea Missile Test; Ivanka Trump-India Trip; State Dept Turmoil; Libya US Consulate Attack Trial; Prince Harry Engagement; Drones-Flight Danger; Jerusalem-Sacred Site; Indonesia-Volcano Eruption; Grammys Nominations; Climate-Personalities; Holiday Shopping; Young Adults Charity.

Network TV At A Glance:

Tax Reform Plan – 8 minutes, 45 seconds

North Korea Missile Test – 7 minutes, 20 seconds

Prince Harry Engagement – 5 minutes, 35 seconds

Washington Post-Failed Conservative Sting – 4 minutes, 50 seconds

Government Funding Meeting – 3 minutes, 20 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: North Korea Missile Test; Tax Reform Plan; Government Funding Meeting; CFPB Appointment; Wall Street News.

CBS: North Korea Missile Test; Tax Reform Plan; John Conyers Sexual Allegations; Tampa-Serial Killer; Pope-Myanmar Visit.

FOX: North Korea Missile Test; John Conyers Sexual Allegations.

NPR: North Korea Missile Test; Tax Reform Plan; Rep. Gutierrez Retirement; John Conyers Sexual Allegations.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Gives remarks on tax reform.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Prosecutors Against Gun Violence hold emergency summit in Washington, DC – Prosecutors Against Gun Violence hold legislation-focused emergency summit in Washington, DC, with topics including the Gun Violence Prevention Order Act and the Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act. Participants include Democratic Sen. Dianne Feinstein, Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr., Los Angeles City Attorney Mike Feuer, district attorneys / county attorneys / prosecutors / city attorneys / state attorneys from New York, Nevada, Missouri, Minnesota, Massachusetts, Indiana, California, Colorado, Washington state, Georgia, Wisconsin, Florida, Michigan, and Pennsylvania, and members of law enforcement Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm G-11, Washington, DC <http://www.prosecutorsagv.org/>

9:30 AM Senate HELP Committee considers HHS secretary nominee – Nominations hearing considers Alex Azar to be Secretary of Health and Human Services * President Donald Trump announced the nomination of the pharmaceutical company executive earlier this month, following the resignation of Tom Price over his use of chartered aircraft * Azar has been criticized over his career, having previously spoken out in defense of drug prices and in support of private companies that audit federal health care programs to locate overpayments to health care providers Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Stuart Kyle Duncan to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit; David Ryan Stras to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Eighth Circuit; Fernando Rodriguez Jr. to be U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Texas; and Andrei Iancu to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Director * Consideration of the Duncan and Stras nominations has proved controversial, because Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley has gone against the tradition of requiring 'blue slips' of approval from the senators of judicial nominees' states, instead arguing that the slips are a tradition rather than a rule and that most previous chairmen of the committee have not stuck to it strictly Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 226, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of nominations of Kathleen Hartnett White to be a Council on Environmental Quality member; and Andrew Wheeler to be Environmental Protection Agency Deputy Administrator, as well as 19 General Services Administration resolutions Location:

Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 406, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Congressional briefing on 'Voices of Women and Girls on Menstruation, Dignity, and the Issue of Access' – Congressional briefing on 'Voices of Women and Girls on Menstruation, Dignity, and the Issue of Access', presented by BRAWS: Bringing Resources to Aid Women's Shelters in cooperation with Democratic Sens. Tim Kaine and Gerry Connolly and the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law Legislation Clinic. Girls in schools, women and girls in shelters, and women who were formerly incarcerated share their personal experiences with limited or restricted access to menstrual products, with the event highlighting 'the need for thoughtful public policy solutions to this pervasive problem' Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Rm 203-202, Washington, DC <http://www.braws.org> [#MenstruationMatters](https://twitter.com/BRAWSSorg)

10:15 AM Senate Dems on Tax bill and families – The Senate Democrats will call on the Republicans to come back to the negotiating table and work with Democrats on tax reform that will "bring tax relief to the middle class". Speakers: Senator Bob Casey (D-PA); Senator Mazie Hirono (D-HI); Nina Borgia-Aberle from Tuscon, Arizona; Jamie Davis Smith from Washington, D.C. Contacts: Jacklin Rhoads (Casey), (202) 228-6367; Will Dempster (Hirono), (202) 224-9813. Location: LBJ Room U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-211

10:30 AM Nominations hearing considers Barry Lee Myers to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

11:45 AM Domestic violence organizations and law enforcement speak in support of Fix NICS Act – Domestic violence organizations and law enforcement 'show strong support for the Fix NICS Act – a bipartisan bill that would address the deadly connection between domestic violence fatalities and an abuser's ability to access firearms' via press conference. Participants include Fix NICS Act co-sponsors bipartisan Sens. John Cornyn (invited) and Chris Murphy, National Network to End Domestic Violence President and CEO Kim Gandy, domestic and gun violence survivors, and National Sheriffs' Association Executive Director Jonathan Thompson Location: Senate Swamp, Washington, DC www.nnedv.org <https://twitter.com/nnedv>

2:00 PM Dem Sen. Ron Wyden and small business owners discuss the tax bill – Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden speaks on Main Street Alliance press call on the Senate tax bill, discussing the long and short-term impacts of the tax bill for small businesses and their communities with Main Street Alliance Legislative Policy Director Sapna Mehta, O'Neill Construction Group Owner Maurice Rahming (Portland, OR), The Coronado and Dark Hall Coffee Co-Owner Emily Spetrino (Phoenix), Good Karma Farms Owner Amy Grant (Belfast, ME), and Popcorn Heaven Owner ReShonda Young (Waterloo, IA Location: TBD mainstreetalliance.org <https://twitter.com/mainstreettweets>

2:30 PM Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of a committee print of 'S.XXXXX, Caring for our Veterans Act of 2017' Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 418, Washington, DC <http://veterans.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/VACChair>

3:00 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

US House: 10:00 AM House Judiciary Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 38, Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act', 'H.R. X, Fix NICS Act', and 'H.R. 2666, AMBER Alert in Indian Country Act' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2141, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM House Government Reform subcommittees latest joint hearing on Regulatory Reform Task Forces – Interior, Energy, and Environment Subcommittee and Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee joint hearing on 'Regulatory Reform Task Forces Check-In Part III' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2157, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM House Financial Services subcommittee latest hearing on housing finance – Housing and Insurance Subcommittee hearing on 'Sustainable Housing Finance: The Role of Ginnie Mae in the Housing Finance System', with testimony from Government National Mortgage Association Acting President Michael Bright Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources Committee oversight hearing on modernizing NEPA – Oversight hearing on 'Modernizing NEPA for the 21st Century', with testimony from former Council on Environmental Quality General Counsel Dinah Bear; Longview/Kelso Building and Construction Trades Council President Mike Bridges; Common Good Chairman Philip Howard; and Converse County, WY, Commissioner Jim Willox Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining VA's Failure to Address Provider Quality and Safety Concerns' Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

10:00 AM House Transportation subcommittee hearing on UAS – Aviation Subcommittee hearing on 'Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration: Emerging Uses in a Changing National Airspace', with testimony from aeronautics and astronautics professor Dr Juan Alonso; Southern Company Executive Vice President and Chief Transmission Officer Billy Ball; AirMap General Counsel William Goodwin; The Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International President and CEO Brian Wynne; and Federal Aviation Administration Deputy Administrator Daniel Elwell, and Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Office Director Earl Lawrence Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM House Science subcommittee hearing on the WOTUS rule – Environment Subcommittee hearing on 'The Future of WOTUS: Examining the Role of States', with testimony from Arizona State Land Department Deputy Commissioner Wesley Mehl; Chilton Ranch rancher James Chilton Jr.; American University Washington College of Law Adjunct Associate Professor Ken Kopocis; and Pacific Legal Foundation Senior Attorney Reed Hopper Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2318, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on algorithms – Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee hearing on 'Algorithms: How Companies' Decisions About Data and Content Impact Consumers', with testimony from University of Chicago Law School Professor Dr Omri Ben-Shahar; University of Pennsylvania Department of Computer and Information Science Professor Dr Michael Kearns; Yale Law School Information Society Project Resident Fellow Kate Klonick; Georgetown Law Center on Privacy and Technology Deputy Director Laura Moy; University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law Professor Frank Pasquale; and MIT Sloane School of Management Distinguished Professor of Management Science and Professor of Marketing Dr Catherine Tucker Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on USDA's role in disaster recovery – Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on 'USDA's Role in Disaster Recovery', with testimony from Acting Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture for Farm Production and Conservation Rob Johansson; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Acting Chief Leonard Jordan; and USDA Farm Service Agency Acting Administrator Steve Peterson Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2362-A, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on U.S. Forest Service supplemental budget – Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on 'Supplemental Oversight – US Forest Service', with testimony from U.S. Forest Service Chief Tony Tooke Location: Rm 2007, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on Saudi Arabia and Lebanon – Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee hearing on 'The Latest Developments in Saudi Arabia and Lebanon', with testimony from Council on Foreign Relations Senior Fellow for Middle Eastern Studies Elliott Abrams; Middle East Institute Vice President for Policy Analysis, Research, and Programs Dr Paul Salem; and Brookings Institution Center for Middle East Policy Senior Fellow Dr Tamara Cofman Wittes Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

10:00 AM House Workforce subcommittee hearing on the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation – Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee hearing on 'Financial Challenges Facing the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation: Implications for Pension Plans, Workers, and Retirees' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2175, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:15 AM House Energy subcommittee hearing on financial trading in the electricity markets – Energy Subcommittee hearing on 'Powering America: Examining the Role of Financial Trading in the Electricity Markets', with testimony from Red Wolf EnergyTrading CEO Wesley Allen (on behalf of Financial Marketers Coalition); PJM Interconnection Senior Vice President and General Counsel Vince Duane; California ISO Director of Market Monitoring Dr Eric Hildebrandt; Jenner & Block partner Max Minzner; NRG Energy Senior Vice President of Operations Chris Moser; and TPC Energy CEO Noha Sidhom (on behalf of Power Trading Institute) Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2322, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>

<https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:30 AM House Democratic Leaders to Hold Post-Caucus Press Conference – Participants: Joe Crowley (D-NY), Chairman of the Democratic Caucus; Linda Sánchez (D-CA), Vice Chair of the Democratic Caucus Location: HVC Studio A — Capitol Visitor Center crowley.house.gov
<https://twitter.com/repjoecrowley>

11:00 AM Congressional briefing on hurricane recovery in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands – PICO National Network, National Latino Evangelical Coalition (NaLEC), and Democratic Rep. Darren Soto host Capitol Hill briefing on the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands following the September hurricanes. Speakers/participants include Ponce, Puerto Rico, Mayor Mayita Melendez, Caguas, Puerto Rico, Mayor William Miranda Torres, representatives from the U.S. Virgin Islands, PICO National Network chief of staff Denise Collazo, and NaLEC president Rev. Dr Gabriel Salguero Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 441, Washington, DC www.piconetwork.org <https://twitter.com/PICOnetwork>

11:00 AM House Small Business Committee hearing on federal regulations on the small trucking industry – Hearing on ‘Highway to Headache: Federal Regulations on the Small Trucking Industry’, with testimony from B.L. Reeve Transport President Monte Wiederhold (on behalf of Owner-Operated Independent Drivers Association); True Blue Transportation owner Marty DiGiacomo (on behalf of National Association of Small Trucking Companies); Atlas PyroVision Entertainment Group CEO Stephen Pelkey (on behalf of American Pyrotechnics Association); and National Ready Mixed Concrete Association President Robert Garbini Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2360, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

12:00 PM House aims to pass bill on mandatory training in workplace rights for everybody in the chamber – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including consideration of ‘H.Res. XXXX – Requiring each Member, officer, and employee of the House of Representatives to complete a program of training in workplace rights and responsibilities each session of each Congress, and for other purposes’ under suspension of the rules, as well as ‘H.R. 3905 – Minnesota’s Economic Rights in the Superior National Forest Act’ Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM House Oversight subcommittees joint hearing on cybersecurity of voting machines – Information Technology Subcommittee and Intergovernmental Affairs Subcommittee joint hearing on ‘Cybersecurity of Voting Machines’, with testimony from Acting Under Secretary of Homeland Security for National Protection & Programs Christopher Krebs; Louisiana Secretary of State Tom Schedler; Virginia Department of Elections Commissioner Edgardo Cortes; University of Pennsylvania Associate Professor of Computer and Information Science Dr Matthew Blaze; and Brookings Institution Governance Studies Fellow in National Security Law Susan Klein Hennessey Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

2:00 PM House Financial Services subcommittees joint hearing on legislation to counter terrorism and illicit finance – Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee and Terrorism and Illicit Finance Subcommittee joint hearing on ‘Legislative Proposals to Counter Terrorism and Illicit Finance’, with testimony from Webster Bank Executive Vice President and Chief Risk Officer Daniel Bley (on behalf of Mid-Size Bank Coalition of America); Condor Consulting President John Byrne; Bank of America Global Head of Financial Crimes Compliance William Fox (on behalf of The Clearing House); Global Witness US Office Deputy Head Stefanie Ostfeld; and Financial Integrity Network President and co-founder Chip Poncy Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on Alzheimer’s – Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee hearing on ‘A Global Update on Alzheimer’s Disease’, with testimony from NIH National Institute on Aging Deputy Director Marie Bernard; NIH Fogarty International Center Director Roger Glass; New York University Alzheimer’s Disease and Related Dementias Family Support Program Research Professor Dr Mary Mittelman; Global Alzheimer’s Platform Foundation Chief Scientific Officer Dr Richard Mohs; and Splaine Consulting Principal Michael Splaine Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

2:00 PM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on SBA and GSA supplemental budgets – Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee hearing on ‘Supplemental Oversight – Small Business Administration and General Services Administration’, with testimony from GSA Acting Administrator Timothy Horne; and SBA CFO and Associate Administrator for Performance Management Timothy Gribben Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2359,

Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

3:00 PM House Rules Committee hearing – Hearing on ‘H.R. 1699, the Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act of 2017’ and ‘H.R. 4182, the Ensuring a Qualified Civil Service Act of 2017’ Location: U.S. Capitol, H-313, Washington, DC <http://www.rules.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RulesReps>

4:00 PM House Natural Resources Committee markup hearing begins – Markup hearing begins (Wednesday – Opening Statements Only) on ‘H.R. 1778, To provide that an order by the Secretary of the Interior imposing a moratorium on Federal coal leasing shall not take effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted, and for other purposes’, ‘H.R. 2630, La Paz County Land Conveyance Act’, ‘H.R. 3117, Transparency and Honesty in Energy Regulations Act of 2017’, ‘H.R. 3607, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish fees for medical services provided in units of the National Park System, and for other purposes’, ‘H.R. 3979, Keep America’s Refuges Operational Act’, ‘H.R. 4299, To provide for the indefinite duration of certain military land withdrawals, to improve the management of lands currently subject to such withdrawals and to make the management of such lands more transparent, and for other purposes’, and ‘H.R. 4300, Admiral Lloyd R. ‘Joe’ Vasey Pacific War Commemorative Display Establishment Act’ * Concludes tomorrow Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

Other: 8:45 AM POLITICO Playbook Interview with GOP Sen. Marco Rubio – POLITICO Playbook Interview with Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, hosted by POLITICO’s Anna Palmer and Jake Sherman, with welcome remarks from Financial Services Roundtable CEO Tim Pawlenty Location: The Liaison Capitol Hill, 415 New Jersey Ave, NW, Washington, DC www.politico.com <https://twitter.com/POLITICOEvents>

10:00 AM Media Equality Project on Congressional harassment and calls for resignations – The Media Equality Project is bringing “Bill Clinton’s victims, other luminaries, including Dr. Alveda King, niece of the late Martin Luther King, and others to Washington to confront Senator Franken, (D-MN) Congressman John Conyers, (D-MI) and Congressman Joe Barton (R) TX”. Media interview requests available. The group is also calling for the resignation of Franken, Conyers and Barton. Contact: aj.publius@gmail.com Location: National Press Club, First Amendment Room, 529 14th Street, NW Washington, D.C.

10:00 AM Cuba Trade magazine releases study on trade benefits with Cuba to U.S. farm states – Cuba Trade Magazine and U.S. Agriculture Coalition for Cuba release new white paper ‘Trade with Cuba: A White Paper on Trade Benefits to U.S. Farm States’, via conference call with participants including Republican Rep. Rick Crawford, U.S. Agriculture Coalition for Cuba Co-Chair Paul Johnson, and Cuba Trade magazine Publisher Richard Roffman and Editor-in-Chief JP Faber Location: TBD <http://www.cubatrademagazine.com/>

11:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers supplemental budget – Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on ‘Supplemental Oversight – US Army Corps of Engineers’, with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works Ryan Fisher; and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Deputy Commanding General for Civil and Emergency Operations Maj. Gen. Ed Jackson Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2362-B, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

11:30 AM AG Sessions and Acting DEA Administrator Patterson announce new tools to combat the opioid crisis – Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Acting Drug Enforcement Administration Administrator Robert Patterson announce new tools to combat the opioid crisis, via press conference Location: Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave, Washington, DC www.justice.gov <https://twitter.com/TheJusticeDept>

1:00 PM NASA discusses science investigations launching on the next SpaceX commercial resupply flight to the ISS – NASA discusses select science investigations launching on the next SpaceX commercial resupply flight to the International Space Station – targeted for launch next week at the earliest – via media teleconference featuring Made in Space president and CEO Andrew Rush, LaunchPad Medical CEO Brian Hess and CFO Grayson Allen, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center project scientist Dong Wu, University of Colorado-Boulder lead scientist Peter Pilewskie, NASA Johnson Space Center principal investigator Joseph Hamilton, and NASA Ames Research Center mission scientist Yasaman Shirazi Location: TBD <http://www.nasa.gov> <https://twitter.com/NASA>

6:00 PM Bipartisan Reps. Adriano Espaillat and Mia Love speak at The Hill event – The Hill host ‘Leadership in Action: The Hill’s Newsmaker Series’ event with Democratic Rep. Adriano Espaillat and Republican Rep. Mia Love discussing how to cut through bipartisan gridlock Location: Constitution Hall, 3501 Nebraska Ave NW, Washington, DC thehill.com

[#TheHill](https://twitter.com/TheHill) #TheHillNewsmaker

6:00 PM World Affairs Council Embassy Series event with Singapore Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Ashok Kumar Mirpuri Location: 3501 International Place, NW, Washington, DC
<http://www.worldaffairsdc.org> https://twitter.com/wac_dc

6:00 PM Norwegian Christmas tree lighting ceremony at Union Station – Annual Norwegian Christmas tree lighting ceremony at Union Station in Washington, DC, featuring Norway Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Kare Aas and special guests * Tree is a gift from the people of Norway to the people of the U.S. as thanks for assistance during and after World War II and for continued friendship since then Location: Union Station, 50 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC <http://www.norway.org/> <https://twitter.com/NorwayUS>

7:30 PM Sarah Sanders keynotes APPF Annual Red, White and Blue Gala – American Principles Project Foundation Annual Red, White and Blue Gala, with keynote from Press Secretary Sarah Sanders Location: Mayflower Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC www.americanprinciplesproject.org <https://twitter.com/approject>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Trevor Noah: “Republicans have set a goal of passing their tax bill through the Senate this week. This plan would cut taxes for everyone as long as your last name is ‘Corporation.’”

Jimmy Fallon: “I read that Trump lied about his own heritage for decades, claiming that his family was Swedish to help sell apartments. And he’s still claiming that he’s Swedish so IKEA will build his wall.”

Jimmy Fallon: “It’s been rough for the President. In fact, his first wife Ivana says he really misses his old life. You remember Trump’s old life, where he played golf, watched ‘Fox & Friends,’ and sent crazy tweets all day.”

Jimmy Fallon: “Get this, I read that the White House may ban staffers from using their smartphones while at work. In related news, President Trump just resigned from office. ‘That’s it, I quit. That is finally enough.’”

Seth Meyers: “Newt Gingrich recently said that the best way to communicate with President Trump is through the Fox News shows ‘Fox & Friends’ and ‘Hannity,’ while the worst way to communicate with Trump is to marry him.”

Seth Meyers: “President Trump commented on North Korea’s missile launch today, saying, quote, ‘We will take care of it.’ That’s it? I have to say, I don’t find it comforting that the President talked about enemy missiles the same way a dermatologist talks about a weird mole.”

Seth Meyers: “Bernie Sanders was nominated for a Grammy today for the audio book of ‘Our Revolution: Future To Believe In.’ He was nominated in the ‘Shouted Word’ category.”

Seth Meyers: “Vice President Mike Pence announced today that he will travel to Israel next month to address its legislative body. And this is scary: While he’s out of the country, Trump will be in charge.”

Conan O’Brien: “Bernie Sanders has been nominated for a Grammy Award for best audio book. Of course, Bernie supporters are already complaining that the Grammys are rigged so that Hillary will win.”

Conan O’Brien: “Prince Harry is getting married. That’s exciting news. Genealogy experts say that Prince Harry and his fiancée, Meghan Markle, are actually distant cousins. After hearing they were related, Queen Elizabeth finally gave the couple her blessing.”

Jordan Klepper: “So Project Veritas floated a fake Roy Moore accuser in front of the Washington Post to see if they’d bite. And they didn’t. They did not. Fishing is not always about catching fish. It’s just about baiting hooks and hanging out with bros and trying to get an honest, God-fearing

cowboy into the Senate, regardless of what nine women allege.”

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- Fence Post: ITIF, Independent Scientists Call On Interior To Reverse Policy Against GM Seeds.
- Federal Computer Week: Do Agencies Need More Flexibility For Reorgs?
- High Country (CO) News: What's Driving An Interior Whistleblower To Dissent?
- The East Oregonian: Lawmakers Focus On Air Pollution From Wildfire.
- Eastern Arizona Courier: Opinion: We Need More Westerners In Key Positions.

- U.S. News & World Report: Ryan Zinke's Royalty Police Committee Needs An Advocate For Taxpayers.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Calif. Group Aims For Quick Win In Tribal Casino Land Row.
- Wind Farm Cos. Say 10th Circ. Wrong On Tribal Mineral Lease.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Elko (NV) Daily Free Press: Wild Horse Advisers To Meet In Colorado.
- Salt Lake (UT) Tribune: Latest Federal Oil And Gas Leases Mired In Protests Over Pollution Worries For Utah's Uinta Basin.
- Associated Press: Durango-area Residents Say No Notice Of Possible Oil, Gas Field.
- Associated Press: BLM Wants Land Near National Park Included In Oil Lease Sale.
- San Pedro Valley (AZ) News-Sun: Court Case Will Shape County's Future.
- KFDX-TV Wichita Falls (TX): BLM Settlement Sent To Justice Department.
- Rawlins (WY) Times: BLM Rounding Up Horses At Red Desert Complex.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- NY Officials Seek To Expand Offshore Wind Energy Projects.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Farmers Lose \$30M Suit Against Gov't Over Water Rights, Fish.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- E&E Publishing: Protection For Tiny Darter Contrasts Admin Moves On Grizzlies.
- U.S. News & World Report: New England Gets Over \$1.2M In Grants For Fish, Wildlife.
- The Hill: Don't Create Safe Haven For Wildlife Trafficking — Reject SAVES Act.
- Washington Examiner: A Law To Eliminate Federal Subsidies And Wasteful Spending That Nobody Will Even Introduce.

National Park Service

- Washington Post: This 45-foot Statue Of A Naked Woman Could Be Coming To The Mall For Four Months.
- DCist: Norton Will Introduce A Bill To Remove Statue Of Confederate General In Judiciary Square.
- U.S. News & World Report: Kuster Bill Passed To Rename Saint-Gaudens A National Park.
- KNDU-TV Yakima (WA): African American History At Hanford Nuclear Site Focus Of WSU Tri-Cities, National Park Service Project.
- Florida Keys Citizen: Fee Changes At Park On Hold.
- Finger Lakes (NY) Times: Carrying The Torch Girl Scout Convention In SF.
- U.S. News & World Report: Park To Demolish Yurt On North Rim As Health Precaution.
- Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel: Chimney Tops Trail In Smokies, Where Gatlinburg Fire Began, To Reopen.
- Marquette (MI) Mining Journal: Park Service Releases Plan For Public Review Regarding Use Of Personal Watercraft.
- Grand Canyon (AZ) News: Lisa Carrico Named Deputy Superintendent At Grand Canyon.
- Alaska Public Radio Network: Additional Coverage: Ban On Hovercraft Use Within Alaska Preserve Stands, Another Appeal May Come Up.
- Washington Post: Additional Coverage: A Rare Moment: Roughly 100 Baby Loggerhead Sea Turtles Hatch In Maryland.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- NBC: Trump Praises Federal Response In Puerto Rico, Calls For Debt To Be Forgiven.
- Virgin Islands Daily News: Federal, Local Auditors Find V.I. Public Finance Authority Practices Led To \$150 Million In Questionable Expenses.

Office Of Surface Mining

- Lawmakers Try Again On Miners' Pension Bill.

US Geological Survey

- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- CNN: Trump: Gun Laws Will Be Discussed "As Time Goes By."
- Associated Press: Pence Touts Administration Tax Plan In Arizona.
- Washington Times: Study: Trump "The Least Regulatory President Since Ronald Reagan."

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "On Guns, Nevada's Leaders Are Overruling Their Voters."
 - "Chaos In Catalonia."
- Washington Post.
 - "The Lives We Have Lost."
- Wall Street Journal.
 - "Trump And The Fed."
 - "Evening The Cuban Score."
 - "Supreme Court 'Gobbledygook.'"

Big Picture

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Washington Schedule

- Today's Events In Washington.

Last Laughs

- Late Night Political Humor.

DOI In The News

Interior Secretary Investigated Over Speech To Donor's Hockey Team.

[Reuters](#) (10/3, Volcovici) reports that the Office of Special Counsel "is investigating whether Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke broke the law when he gave a speech to a professional hockey team owned by a political donor in June, the agency said on Tuesday." Zinke "is already being investigated by the Interior Department's inspector general in connection with his travels and the use of private charter flights, amid heightened scrutiny into private plane use by administration officials." The Campaign for Accountability "complained last week that a speech Zinke gave on June 26 to the Vegas Golden Knights, a National Hockey League team based in Las Vegas, violated the Hatch Act barring executive branch employees from engaging in political activity." The team "is owned by Bill Foley, chairman of Fidelity National Financial Inc and a donor to Zinke's congressional campaigns."

Interior, EPA Chiefs: No Plans To Pay For Charter Flights. The [AP](#) (10/3, Daly) reports that "two of President Donald Trump's Cabinet members say they do not plan to reimburse the government for charter flights costing tens of thousands of dollars." Representatives of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Environmental Protection Agency chief Scott Pruitt "say the trips were pre-approved by ethics officials in their respective agencies and were part of their official duties." Heather Swift, a spokeswoman for Zinke, "said Tuesday all of Zinke's travel – including a military flight with Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue to view wildfires in Montana in August – were approved by career officials at the department."

What About Lola? [Politico Morning Energy](#) (10/3, Andragna) reports that "two House Democrats want Interior's inspector general to expand its newly announced investigation into Secretary Ryan Zinke's non-commercial travel to also include his wife, Lola, in light of her involvement with a GOP Senate campaign in Montana." Raul Grijalva and Donald McEachin wrote in a letter Monday, "Because the secretary's spouse is leading a Senate campaign in Montana, tax-payer funded travel for Mrs. Zinke, especially to or from Montana, deserves heightened scrutiny."

Government To Reopen Sage Grouse Lands For Potential Mining Projects.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/4, Carlton) reports that the Interior Department has scrapped an Obama-era planned mining ban covering 10 million acres in Western states that was aimed at protecting the greater sage grouse. The decision reopens areas in Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah and Wyoming to mining and is expected to be announced in a Bureau of Land

Management press release on Friday morning. Bureau of Land Management acting Director Mike Nedd said in a statement, "Secretary Zinke has said from the beginning that by working closely with the states, who are on the front lines and a valued partner in protecting the health of these lands, we can be successful in conserving greater sage grouse habitat without stifling economic development and job growth."

Blackfeet Leaders Skeptical Of Zinke's Monument Recommendation.

The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (10/3, Scott) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recommendation to add the Badger-Two Medicine area near Glacier National Park to the list of monuments was met with "mixed reactions." Harry Barnes, chairman of the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council, "said while furnishing the Badger with permanent protection is among his top priorities, he's leery of a federal designation that could trammel the tribe's sovereign rights." Lou Bruno, who "has been advocating for protections in the Badger-Two Medicine area for more than 30 years," urged "Zinke to reaffirm his department's lease cancellations and previous lease buybacks rather than add it to the diminishing list of national monuments."

ITIF, Independent Scientists Call On Interior To Reverse Policy Against GM Seeds.

The [Fence Post](#) (10/3) reports that the Information Technology and Innovation Foundation, "one of the world's top science and technology think tanks, along with a group of independent scientists, yesterday submitted a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke calling on the department to reverse a Fish and Wildlife Service policy that phased out the use of genetically modified seeds." The letter "argues that the policy was improperly adopted three years ago and stands at odds with the conservation objectives of the Fish and Wildlife Service." The group writes, "The prohibition of 'genetically modified' crops is a wrong-headed and anti-environmental policy, and the conceit that it is being advanced out of respect for a 'land ethic' is indefensible."

Do Agencies Need More Flexibility For Reorgs?

[Federal Computer Week](#) (10/3, Gunter) reports that "expansion of shared services and reductions in workforce are expected to feature prominently in the White House's plan to reorganize the federal government, but agencies may need some legislative help to fully implement their proposals." The article says that "when it comes to the workforce, the current administration differs sharply from its predecessor, with widespread cuts proposed for civilian agencies," but "realizing those staff reductions could also require process changes." Scott Cameron, the Interior Department's principal deputy assistant secretary for policy, management and budget, said he "can't help but wonder if they're going to need a significant number of early outs or buyouts used governmentwide as part of reshaping the workforce." If so, Cameron proposed "that delegating the Office of Personnel Management's authority to review buyouts on a person-by-person basis to the agency level would be remarkably more efficient."

What's Driving An Interior Whistleblower To Dissent?

The [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (10/3, Shogren) reports on what is motivating Joel Clement, "until recently the department's top climate change official," to be a "vocal dissident inside a cabinet agency in the Trump administration." In July, Clement "started publicly criticizing the new administration and filed a whistleblower complaint," and "now he's urging other civil servants to join him in exposing the ways the Trump administration is betraying the core missions of federal agencies." After being reassigned to the Office of Natural Resource Revenue, "Clement hasn't quit, he says, because of the 'very slim chance' he could return to his previous position and help the Interior Department take climate change seriously." He says, "Every one of the bureaus is going to have mission failure if we don't pay attention to climate change."

Lawmakers Focus On Air Pollution From Wildfire.

The [East Oregonian](#) (10/3, Plaven) reports that the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, chaired by Rep. Greg Walden, "will hold a hearing Wednesday examining the impacts of large fires on air quality, releasing massive amounts of particulate matter and greenhouse gases into the atmosphere." Walden said "he is looking forward to hearing more from the panel Wednesday on what they can do about the fire situation moving forward." He said, "Enough is enough. It's time that decisions about when and how to fight these fires takes into account the impact they have on air quality and human health."

Opinion: We Need More Westerners In Key Positions.

In an op-ed for the [Eastern Arizona Courier](#) (10/3, Flake), Sen. Jeff Flake is pleased to see that the Interior Department is “well stocked with Westerners.” He notes that “there are still more spots to fill at the Department of the Interior, including director of the Bureau of Land Management, assistant secretaries for Fish, Wildlife and Parks, and for Water and Science.” Flake has “prioritized filling these roles as soon as possible,” and is “hopeful we will soon see even more Arizonans and Westerners in these and other positions.”

Ryan Zinke’s Royalty Police Committee Needs An Advocate For Taxpayers.

In an op-ed for [U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/3, Alexander), Ryan Alexander, president of Taxpayers for Common Sense, raises concerns that the newly re-established Royalty Policy Committee has no one “to advocate or speak up on behalf of the taxpayer.” Alexander writes “that is a problem for a group charged with assessing how public resources are valued and reviewing policies to determine whether taxpayers are fairly compensated for those resources, through rents, royalties and fees.” She concludes: “For the sake of making a dent in our daunting national debt, we hope that despite the absence of a taxpayer advocate, the new committee will put the nation’s resource owners – federal taxpayers – first.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Calif. Group Aims For Quick Win In Tribal Casino Land Row.

[Law360](#) (10/3, Phillis) reports that “a California community group asked the D.C. district court for a quick win in its bid to block the U.S. Department of the Interior’s decision to acquire land in trust for a tribe for the purposes of gaming, arguing that the wrong government official made the decision.” Stand Up for California! “along with three individuals said Sunday the law specifies who can make the decision to approve the Wilton Rancheria’s request to have land acquired in trust for gaming.”

Wind Farm Cos. Say 10th Circ. Wrong On Tribal Mineral Lease.

[Law360](#) (10/3, Rodriguez) reports that “wind energy developers on Monday asked the Tenth Circuit to reconsider a panel’s ruling that they should have gotten a mineral lease from the Osage Nation and approval from the Bureau of Indian Affairs before engaging in surface construction of an Oklahoma wind farm.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Wild Horse Advisers To Meet In Colorado.

The [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (10/3) reports that “the Bureau of Land Management’s National Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board will meet Oct. 18-19 in Grand Junction, Colorado, to discuss the pressing challenges of wild horse and burro overpopulation on public lands and the impacts they are having on the range.” Acting BLM Director Michael Nedd said, “The rapid growth rate and chronic overpopulation of the West’s wild horses are already affecting the health of the animals and the resources on which they and many other species depend. To be effective in solving this challenge, we must work together to explore a wide variety of solutions to an unsustainable situation.”

Latest Federal Oil And Gas Leases Mired In Protests Over Pollution Worries For Utah’s Uinta Basin.

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (10/3, Maffley) reports that the Bureau of Land Management’s upcoming oil and gas lease sale in Utah is facing opposition from public health, wilderness, and environmental groups. The main concern is that the upcoming Dec. 11 lease sale could negatively impact the Uinta Basin’s ozone levels. The US EPA is set to place Duchesne and Uintah Counties in non-compliance over ozone emissions, a move that is expected on Oct. 15 or later. The EPA action could put a “damper on future drilling and require industry to stem the clouds of fumes rising from the oil patch.” Utah Physicians for a Healthy Environment President Dr. Brian Moench said, “A pollution crisis will inevitably lead to a public health crisis, and there is preliminary evidence that one may already be occurring with high rates of perinatal deaths in the Uinta Basin.”

Durango-area Residents Say No Notice Of Possible Oil, Gas Field.

The [AP](#) (10/4) reports some southwestern Colorado residents are saying they did not receive notice of a possible gas and oil field development next to several homes. Residents of the Shenandoah subdivision near Durango say they were not notified of a public comment period that ends October 10. Bureau of Land Management spokeswoman Shannon Borders said there was a news release and letters sent to affected property owners in June.

BLM Wants Land Near National Park Included In Oil Lease Sale.

The [AP](#) (10/3) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has recommended that a 120-acre plot of land bordering the Theodore Roosevelt National Park be leased for oil and gas. The lease sale has been recommended for March of 2018. BLM said that the "administration's goals of promoting America's energy independence" are consistent with the proposed lease sale. Public comments are open through Oct. 20.

Court Case Will Shape County's Future.

The [San Pedro Valley \(AZ\) News-Sun](#) (10/3, Petermann) reports that "legal proceedings will begin this month in a Maricopa County Superior Court to decide federal water rights in the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA), with the outcome of the case expected to shape the future of Cochise County." The Bureau of Land Management has "petitioned for the right to 44,000 annual acre-feet of water in the SPRNCA, drawing a legal challenge from state and local authorities." According to the article, "trial dates are scheduled into January 2018 and a final decision in the case may not be rendered for more than a year after the proceedings end, local officials have said."

BLM Settlement Sent To Justice Department.

[KFDX-TV](#) Wichita Falls, TX (10/3, Cottingham) reports that "the proposed settlement terms are still pending the approval of the U.S. Department of Justice in the Bureau of Land Management settlement." Robert Henneke, the attorney representing the landowners, "who accuse the BLM of executing an 'arbitrary seizure' of land along the 116-mile strip of the red river said the DOJ is supposed to file a status update with the court Tuesday."

BLM Rounding Up Horses At Red Desert Complex.

The [Rawlins \(WY\) Times](#) (10/3, Lease) reports that the Bureau of Land Management office in Rawlins "decided to curb the number of wild horses at the Red Desert Complex." The BLM's Sarah Beckwith "said the removal of horses could occur in 2018."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

NY Officials Seek To Expand Offshore Wind Energy Projects.

The [AP](#) (10/3) reports officials in New York "are seeking to expand offshore wind generation in the Atlantic Ocean." New York "has proposed four new sites for wind energy projects to the federal Bureau of Ocean Energy Management" and "officials say they are asking federal regulators to expedite the process." Each of the "four proposed sites announced Monday are in areas south of Long Island and closer to New Jersey."

[E&E Publishing](#) (10/3) reports director of the New York Offshore Wind Alliance Joe Martens said, "If New York State continues on this path, it will be the national leader in renewable energy and offshore wind, with Long Island at the center of a new clean energy economy. ... Other states are vying for this status, so New York needs to move aggressively and smartly."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Farmers Lose \$30M Suit Against Gov't Over Water Rights, Fish.

[Law360](#) (10/3, Rodriguez) reports that "a federal judge on Friday tossed a lawsuit filed by a group of southern Oregon and northern California farmers who sought \$30 million from the U.S. government for withholding water from their operations and sending it to rivers that provide the habitat for several endangered fish species." [E&E Publishing](#) (10/3, Doyle) reports that "in a 75-page opinion, U.S. Court of Federal Claims Judge Marian Blank Horn concluded the farmers' long-ago loss of irrigation water in southern Oregon and Northern California did not amount to a taking

for which compensation was owed." Horn "concluded that the Bureau of Reclamation's shut-off of water to the farmers was, however painful, in service to the 'senior water rights' held by the region's Klamath, Yurok and Hoopa Valley tribes." Horn wrote, "The government's actions in 2001, did not, therefore, constitute a taking of these plaintiffs' property under the Fifth Amendment to the United States Constitution."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Protection For Tiny Darter Contrasts Admin Moves On Grizzlies.

[E&E Publishing](#) (10/3, Doyle, Lunney) reports that "kicking off a series of long-awaited decisions," the Fish and Wildlife Service yesterday proposed listing the trispot darter as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Separately, FWS officials are "proposing that the candy darter found in Virginia and West Virginia also be listed as threatened." Meanwhile, "the populations of two other species, the holiday darter and the bridled darter, were deemed stable enough to not need ESA protections." The article compares the decisions on the darter with the announcement in July that Yellowstone-area grizzly bears would lose ESA protections.

Additional coverage was provided by [Courthouse News](#) (10/3, YOUNG-GRINDLE).

New England Gets Over \$1.2M In Grants For Fish, Wildlife.

The [AP](#) (10/3) reports that New England is "getting over \$1.2 million in grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to restore forest and river habitat for native bird and freshwater fish populations." The projects "supported by the 10 grants will open 117 miles of streams for eastern brook trout, river herring and Atlantic salmon by modifying and replacing 24 failing culverts, and other barriers." They will also "improve nearly 1,000 acres of habitat for birds, engage at least 485 community volunteers in restoration and deliver technical assistance to over 2,500 landowners." The grants, announced Tuesday, were awarded through the New England Forests and Rivers Fund.

Don't Create Safe Haven For Wildlife Trafficking — Reject SAVES Act.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (10/3, Hemley), Ginette Hemley, senior vice president for Wildlife Conservation at World Wildlife Fund, "marks the one-year anniversary of the signing into law of the END Wildlife Trafficking Act." The legislation, "which promotes international cooperation to curb poaching and wildlife trafficking, and increases federal penalties for wildlife crimes, enjoyed overwhelming bipartisan support." However, "a bill now making its way through the House of Representatives could give relief to wildlife traffickers just when we have them on the ropes, while also damaging America's credibility on the world stage." According to Hemley, "the deceptively named 'SAVES' Act, or H.R. 2603, would strip existing Endangered Species Act protections from species 'not native to the United States.'" Hemley claims that the bill "would leave many of the most trafficked species on the planet more vulnerable, including elephants, rhinos, tigers, and hundreds of other species of mammals, birds, reptiles and fish."

A Law To Eliminate Federal Subsidies And Wasteful Spending That Nobody Will Even Introduce.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/3, Smith), Cameron Smith, general counsel and vice president of implementation for the R Street Institute, writes that an update to the Coastal Barrier Resources Act is the kind of legislation that should garner bipartisan support. According to Smith, "environmentalists should want to update the law because it protects sensitive habitats." And "fiscal conservatives should support the modernization because the law eliminates wasteful federal spending and subsidies." However, "nobody in Congress has introduced the necessary legislation to make that happen."

National Park Service

This 45-foot Statue Of A Naked Woman Could Be Coming To The Mall For Four Months.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/3, Stein) reports that activists want to install "a 45-foot-tall statue of a nude woman, weighing in at 16,000 pounds," on the National Mall. The statute would be the main attraction at the annual "Catharsis on the Mall" in November and would be in place through March. Mike Litterst, a spokesman for the National Park Service, "said the agency is reviewing

permits for the statue, adding that it's 'plausible' that the agency would allow such a large and striking sculpture to remain through the winter months."

Norton Will Introduce A Bill To Remove Statue Of Confederate General In Judiciary Square.

[DCist](#) (10/3, Sadon) reports that D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton plans to introduce legislation to remove the statue of Albert Pike this week, "with the blessing of the Freemasons themselves." According to the article, "as the polarized debate about monuments and statues honoring Confederate generals grew in the wake of the violence in Charlottesville, local activists pointed to Pike and demanded his likeness come down, too." The National Park Service, "which has no recent records of removing a statue from land it controls, says it is agency policy not to remove a statue for any reason unless directed by Congress."

Kuster Bill Passed To Rename Saint-Gaudens A National Park.

The [AP](#) (10/3) reports that the House has passed a bill by Rep. Annie Kuster "that would redesignate the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in New Hampshire as a national park, in recognition of its artifacts and properties." Kuster "said Tuesday that by renaming the site a national park, it is her hope that more visitors will be encourage to visit the site in Cornish to learn about sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens' impact on America's artistic heritage." Sens. Maggie Hassan and Jeanne Shaheen "introduced a similar bill in the Senate."

African American History At Hanford Nuclear Site Focus Of WSU Tri-Cities, National Park Service Project.

[KNDU-TV](#) Yakima, WA (10/3) reports that Washington State University Tri-Cities was "recently awarded a \$73,000 grant in partnership" with the National Park Service "to research and document the African American migration, segregation and overall civil rights history at the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, Hanford." Michael Mays, WSU Tri-Cities director of the Hanford History Project, "said the African American story and perspective remains largely undocumented and untold at the Hanford nuclear site, which is one of three locations of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park." According to Mays, the plan for the project is "to examine existing documentation, conduct new research and interview African American community members throughout the Pacific Northwest in order to better understand the African American experience at Hanford."

Fee Changes At Park On Hold.

The [Florida Keys Citizen](#) (10/4) reports that "due to Hurricane Irma's impact on South Florida, the U.S. Department of the Interior has put on hold making changes to Everglades National Park's recreation and commercial use authorization fees until further notice." Everglades National Park Superintendent Pedro Ramos said, "While we are steadfast in our long-term commitment to enhance our visitor amenities while decreasing our maintenance backlog, our immediate attention will be to work with the community around us on our recovery efforts."

Carrying The Torch Girl Scout Convention In SF.

The [Finger Lakes \(NY\) Times](#) (10/3, SHAW) reports that "Girl Scouts from New York and Pennsylvania will celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote in New York state Oct. 13 and 14." The Carrying the Torch Girl Scout convention will be held at the Women's Rights National Historical Park, the Seneca Falls Community Center and the Gould Hotel. Ami Ghazala, park superintendent, said, "The National Park Service at the Women's Rights National Historical Park is thrilled to partner with Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways for this exciting project. It is our goal to remind all that girl's and women's stories have always been part of the American story."

Park To Demolish Yurt On North Rim As Health Precaution.

The [AP](#) (10/4) reports that Grand Canyon National Park officials "plan to demolish a yurt that had been available for backcountry hikers and backpackers to use on the North Rim." Park officials "say the yurt located at CC Hill will be demolished this fall as a precaution to protect park visitors and employees from conditions conducive to rodent exposure and the accompanying risk of medical infections such as hantavirus." According to officials, "there's no diagnosis or indication of infectious disease relating to rodent exposure from the yurt."

Chimney Tops Trail In Smokies, Where Gatlinburg Fire Began, To Reopen.

The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (10/3, Ahillen) reports that "the Chimney Tops Trail near the

location where the disastrous Gatlinburg wildfires began will be reopened to the public Friday, the National Park Service announced in a news release Tuesday." Acting park Supt. Clay Jordan said, "We are excited to complete the work on the Chimney Tops Trail in time for the fall color season in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. We understand that many people have a strong emotional tie to the Chimney Tops Trail and its reopening has been a priority for moving forward in our recovery from the fire event."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (10/4).

Park Service Releases Plan For Public Review Regarding Use Of Personal Watercraft.

The [Marquette \(MI\) Mining Journal](#) (10/3) reports that the National Park Service has "released an Environmental Assessment regarding the use of personal watercraft on the surface of Lake Superior, within Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore." The agency's "preferred alternative in the EA would allow the continued limited use of PWC on the surface of Lake Superior within the park, between the park's western boundary near Sand Point, to the east end of Miners Beach." The public comment period ends Nov. 2.

Lisa Carrico Named Deputy Superintendent At Grand Canyon.

The [Grand Canyon \(AZ\) News](#) (10/3) reports that Lisa Carrico, "a 33-year veteran of the National Park Service (NPS), has been selected as deputy superintendent of Operations and Science at Grand Canyon National Park." Grand Canyon Superintendent Christine Lehnertz said, "We are so pleased that Lisa will join us at Grand Canyon; her strong leadership skills and dedication to employees will help us as we continue to build a respectful and inclusive workplace. Lisa's passion for the mission of the National Park Service and experience across the service make her the ideal candidate to advance the park into its second century."

Additional Coverage: Ban On Hovercraft Use Within Alaska Preserve Stands, Another Appeal May Come Up.

Additional coverage that a federal Appeals Court ruled Monday that the National Park Service can ban hovercraft operating on Alaska rivers that flow through national preserves was provided by the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (10/3, Bross).

Additional Coverage: A Rare Moment: Roughly 100 Baby Loggerhead Sea Turtles Hatch In Maryland.

Additional coverage of the hatching of about 100 loggerhead sea turtles at Assateague Island was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (10/3, Hedgpeth) and the [Baltimore Sun](#) (10/3, Dance).

Office Of Insular Affairs

Trump Praises Federal Response In Puerto Rico, Calls For Debt To Be Forgiven.

President Trump's visit Tuesday to Puerto Rico is overshadowed in the media by the latest developments in Las Vegas. While all three networks covered the President's trip, they all led with the shooting investigation and dedicated twice the amount of airtime (just under 14 minutes versus just under seven minutes) to the story. Media coverage of his visit to Puerto Rico, nevertheless, is heavy with coverage highly critical of the President's remarks about the death toll on the island from the storm and its debt. Ron Mott reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/3, story 6, 2:20, Holt), for example, that the President "rais[ed] eyebrows when comparing the death toll Puerto Rico to Hurricane Katrina in 2005." The President "also raised the cost of the disaster," and "left Puerto Rico more than an hour ahead of schedule, no reason given for that." The [AP](#) (10/3, Colvin) reports that "at least parts of the itinerary were drawn to ensure a friendly reception: Trump was visiting the houses of pre-selected families waiting on their lawns." At the same, the AP says "large-scale protests against Trump, talked about in advance, failed to materialize," and [USA Today](#) (10/3, Dorell) reports from San Juan that Trump's visit "drew thanks from victims of Hurricane Maria who said it would shine a light on their problems, but some faulted him for playing politics with their island's disaster."

The [Washington Times](#) (10/3, Morton) reports the President also called Tuesday "for Puerto Rico to have its crippling debt forgiven and said it's tough luck for the Wall Street holders of the debt." Trump, it says, "took considerable political heat" for tweeting after the storm that Puerto Rico was already suffering because of its huge debt burden, "which liberals interpreted as blaming the victim." But the Times says Trump "may have meant something else – that post-hurricane

rebuilding may require that debt to be eliminated." Trump said in an interview with Geraldo Rivera on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (10/3), "We are going to work something out. We have to look at their whole debt structure. They owe a lot of money to your friends on Wall Street. We will have to wipe that out. It's going to have to be, you can say good-bye to that. I don't know if it's Goldman Sachs, but whoever it is, you can wave good-bye to that. The debt was massive on the island."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/3, Parker) says Trump's "focus" during Tuesday's visit was on the "unbelievable" and "incredible" job that his Administration has done so far. He "repeatedly played down the destruction to the island," telling local officials they should feel "very proud" they haven't lost hundreds of lives like in "a real catastrophe" like Hurricane Katrina. The Post says Trump was "upbeat and, at times, playful during the visit, often sounding more like an athletic coach congratulating his team after a winning season than a president addressing American citizens at a moment of crisis."

On [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/3, story 4, 2:20, Muir), Jonathan Karl said that "at a church in San Juan, President Trump tossed paper towels to hurricane victims as if he were playing basketball. ... Sitting right next to Puerto Rico's governor, he touted the death count as if he were keeping score." Trump was shown saying: "If you look at a real catastrophe like Katrina, and you look at the tremendous, hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of people that died, what is your death count as of this moment? Seventeen?" Karl added, "And even as he talked up the federal recovery effort...the President couldn't help but bring up the high cost." Trump: "I hate to tell you, Puerto Rico, but you've thrown our budget a little out of whack."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/3, story 6, 2:05, Mason) showed the President saying, "Flashlights! You don't need the them anymore!" David Begnaud added, "President Trump seemed unaware that 94 percent of the island is still without power. He handed out supplies like prizes, lobbing paper towels into the crowd." While the Administration "has been criticized for a slow response following Hurricane Maria...the President awarded himself an 'A+,'" before "remind[ing] the island of its debts." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/3, Nicholas, Campo-Flores) reports the President reiterated that he believes Puerto Rico must step up its efforts. "On a local level, they have to give us more help," Trump told reporters. "But I will tell you, the first responders, the military, FEMA, they have done an incredible job in Puerto Rico."

[Reuters](#) (10/3, Rampton, Stargardter) reports the President "expressed satisfaction on Tuesday with the federal response," while the [Washington Times](#) (10/3, Miller) says he "strenuously objected to portrayals in the news media and from the San Juan mayor of a lackluster emergency response on the island." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/3, Hennessy-Fiske, King) reports Trump "lavished praise on local officials who spoke highly of him, while taking a veiled swipe at San Juan's mayor, who had previously characterized initial recovery efforts as ineffective." Trump said Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz had "come back a long way," but "without detailing what in Cruz's stance had changed." Cruz, the Times notes, "was among those who shook hands with the president on his arrival, but she was not invited to speak."

[CNN](#) (10/3, Diamond) reports on its website that the "bulk of Trump's remarks on Tuesday" "focused on praising his administration's response to the destructive hurricane, even as more than half of residents still lack access to potable water and as nearly all of the island remains without power." The President, reports the [AP](#) (10/3, Colvin), said his visit was "not about me" but then "praised local officials for offering kind words about his administration's recovery effort and invited one to repeat the 'nice things' she'd said earlier."

In an interview with Geraldo Rivera on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (10/3, 9:48 p.m. EST, Rivera) on Tuesday night, Trump said, "We may have done our best work here, but it hasn't been appreciated. But actually, if you see over the last couple of days, people are seeing what we've done. The runways are open. The ships are pouring in. A lot of things are happening. It's great."

[Miami Herald](#) (10/3) columnist Andres Oppenheimer writes that when Trump "playfully threw paper towels to the crowd of Hurricane Maria victims during his visit to Puerto Rico – as if he were a rock star tossing T-shirts to a concert crowd – he reminded me of late Venezuelan populist leader Hugo Chavez." Populist leaders, he writes, "put themselves at center stage and make it look as if people in need are getting their goodies thanks to them, rather than as a result of the government's duty to take care of them in extreme situations." Also "like Chavez," he adds, Trump "is an incompetent leader who constantly brags about things that, in reality, are often total fiascos."

CNN political director David Chalian said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/3), "I thought it was a great thing the President went to Puerto Rico and he was there," but his comments seemed "a bit awkward at times because everything, as is the case with Donald Trump, very often is

about the reflection back on him, his grading and his performance and his reviews."

Boris Sanchez said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/3) that "there was an expectation that he might change the tone from the very aggressive one that he took this weekend, questioning the leadership abilities of Puerto Rico officials and being less than receptive to offering aid to the island. We didn't see a full change from the President today. Instead, we saw some colorful moments."

Former Clinton campaign manager John Podesta writes in the [Washington Post](#) (10/3, Podesta) that as Trump visits Puerto Rico, "he has a lot to answer for, given his tone-deaf tweets," and argues that the President "would do well to abandon his Trump First agenda and finally put the people of Puerto Rico who need his help first."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/3, Hui), meanwhile, reports that Oxfam America "took the unusual step Tuesday of criticizing the US government for its 'slow and inadequate' response" in Puerto Rico, "saying that the Trump administration's faltering relief efforts has forced it to intervene." In a statement, Oxfam America President Abby Maxman said, "We're hearing excuses and criticism from the administration instead of a cohesive and compassionate response."

San Juan Mayor Hopeful After Trump Visit. The [AP](#) (10/3) reports San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz said "she's hopeful" that President Trump and his Administration "have a better handle on the island's needs after visiting Tuesday." Cruz tweeted that the meetings between local officials and White House staff were "productive," and said she "hopes new channels of communication with the White House 'put in motion what is needed' to save lives." However, Cruz "was critical of Trump himself in an interview with CNN," saying he sometimes "spouts" comments "that really hurt the people of Puerto Rico."

Asked on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/3) if Trump's visit will help the people of Puerto Rico, Cruz said, "I think his staff understands now and have all the data they need. I would hope the President of the United States stops spouting out comments that really hurt the people of Puerto Rico because rather than commander-in-chief in chief he sort of becomes mis-communicator-in-chief."

The [Washington Times](#) (10/3, Persons) reports that responding to Trump's comment about Puerto Rico throwing "our budget out of whack," Cruz said, "It doesn't make you feel good. I would hope that the president of the United States stops spouting out comments that really hurt the people of Puerto Rico because rather than commander-in-chief he sorta becomes mis-communicator-in-chief."

Trump Meets Offshore With Governor Of Virgin Islands. The [New York Times](#) (10/3, Fausset) reports that on Tuesday, as President Trump prepared to meet with Virgin Islands Gov. Kenneth Mapp "on a Navy amphibious assault ship offshore, the residents of the island of St. Croix were busy putting together lives and neighborhoods wrenched apart by Hurricane Maria." DHS officials "said it would have been logistically challenging for President Trump to visit because of the widespread destruction."

Sources: White House To Seek \$29B Disaster Aid Package. According to the [AP](#) (10/4, Taylor), a "senior Administration official and top Capitol Hill aides" say the Administration is "finalizing a \$29 billion disaster aid request that combines \$16 billion to shore up the government-backed flood insurance program and almost \$13 billion in new relief for hurricane victims." The request is expected on the Hill "as early as Wednesday."

House Republicans Seek \$1 Billion In Medicaid Funds For Puerto Rico. A congressional aide told [Reuters](#) (10/3) on Tuesday that Puerto Rico could receive \$1 billion in additional funding for Medicaid under a proposal from House Republicans. Republicans on the House Energy and Commerce Committee "included the request for more Medicaid funding for Puerto Rico as part of a separate bill to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program." The measure is scheduled to be voted on in committee Wednesday.

Aid Distribution Delayed By "Bureaucratic Choke Points." The [New York Times](#) (10/3, Healy, Robles, Nixon) reports that two weeks after Hurricane Maria, "basic aid is now trickling into towns," but many residents are "still receiving just meager portions, and delivery is being hampered by bureaucratic choke points that have put ill-equipped and overburdened local mayors in charge of figuring out how to haul supplies from regional drop-off points to their storm-ravaged towns." Governor Ricardo Rosselló "acknowledged at a news conference on Tuesday that officials were still working out kinks that have prevented the distribution of relief supplies sent to the island," and "announced that the government would provide trucks to the municipalities that needed them."

David Muir reported on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/3, story 5, 3:10) that over the weekend, he visited a neighborhood just 15 minutes from the airport in San Juan. Muir spoke to

residents in an apartment building who “were still without power and running water.” Muir asked residents if they have “seen any emergency officials or members of the government” or received any aid. They said they had not.

Death Toll In Puerto Rico Rises To 34. The [New York Times](#) (10/3, A1, Landler) reports that “shortly after Mr. Trump departed the island,” Gov. Ricardo Rosselló told reporters that the death toll had risen to 34. The [AP](#) (10/4) reports Rosselló said the death toll “included 19 people who died as a direct result of the storm and 15 whose deaths were caused indirectly by the storm.”

Clinton: Puerto Rico “Most Tragic” Example Of Trump Only Serving His Base. [The Hill](#) (10/3, Thomsen) reports Hillary Clinton called President Trump’s response to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico “the most tragic example” of him only catering to his supporters. Asked by Michele Jawando, a host of the Center for American Progress’ “Thinking Cap” podcast, how Trump’s response to the hurricane showed his “neglect of communities of color,” Clinton responded, “I think we’ve seen it for months now. And I think Puerto Rico is the latest and most tragic example of having a president who is only the president for people who agree with him. There’s not any real attempt to reach out beyond that base that he’s cultivated.”

Economics Professor: “Price Gouging” After Disasters Good For The Public. George Mason University economics professor Donald J. Boudreaux argues in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/3) that criticisms of price gouging in the wake of natural disasters are misplaced. Boudreaux says high prices are an essential way to ensure that resources get where they are desperately needed.

Federal, Local Auditors Find V.I. Public Finance Authority Practices Led To \$150 Million In Questionable Expenses.

The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (10/4, O’CONNOR) reports that “a joint federal and territorial audit of the Public Finance Authority raises questions about as much as \$150 million in fiscal mismanagement over seven years.” The audit revealed “\$50 million in discrepancies between how money was spent and an additional \$101.1 million in questionable expenditures between the years 2009 and 2015.” The reports were “released publicly Monday, as territorial officials began to make the case for hundreds of millions of dollars in federal recovery aid for the aftermath of hurricanes Irma and Maria.”

Don’t Write A Check To The Virgin Islands Government. In an op-ed for the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/3, Lennox), Dennis Lennox, a public affairs consultant and political commentator, and former executive director of the Republican Party of the Virgin Islands, writes that fiscal crisis in the Virgin Islands is “most certainly worse” after “category five hurricanes Irma and Maria devastated America’s Caribbean.” Lennox argues that “the Virgin Islands should get its fair share of federal assistance, but it’s doubtful that the territorial government can responsibly administer all the money that will be transferred from the federal treasury.” However, instead of giving money to Gov. Kenneth E. Mapp, Lennox urges President Trump and Republican appropriators in Congress to “direct money for the Virgin Islands to the Department of Interior, which oversees the U.S. territories.” He argues that “Interior could then directly distribute the money, ensuring it actually goes toward recovery and isn’t mismanaged by the V.I. territorial government.”

Office Of Surface Mining

Lawmakers Try Again On Miners’ Pension Bill.

[The Hill](#) (10/3, Cama) reports that “coal-country lawmakers launched a new effort Tuesday to pass legislation to shore up pensions for thousands of coal miners and their families.” The bipartisan group spearheaded by Sen. Joe Manchin “introduced a new bill that would use excess funds meant for mine cleanups and borrow some general Treasury money to pay for pension checks.” The legislation, the American Miners Pension Act, “would shift some money out of the Abandoned Mine Land (AML) fund and into the pension fund.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Pittsburgh Post-Gazette](#) (10/3, Moore).

US Geological Survey

Additional Reading.

- **Biologists On The Trail Of ‘Brain-eating Amoebae’.** [Phys \(UK\)](#) (10/3, Fulton-Bennett).
- **Colorado’s Gore Range Was Named After A Bloodthirsty 19th Century Aristocrat. Is It Time For A Change?** [Summit \(CO\) Daily](#) (10/3, Fixler).

- *Risk Of Human-Triggered Earthquakes Laid Out In Biggest-Ever Database.* [Scientific American](#) (10/3, Witze).

Top National News

Trump: Gun Laws Will Be Discussed “As Time Goes By.”

While ongoing coverage of the mass shooting in Las Vegas focused primarily on the investigation, the renewed debate over gun control is also getting coverage. President Trump briefly addressed the matter before departing for Puerto Rico, but on Capitol Hill, Republican leaders said that it was too soon to discuss possible legislation. Analyses indicate that the prospects for gun control legislation are extremely slim.

[CNN](#) (10/3, Landers) reports that the President “said Tuesday that the US will ‘be talking about gun laws as time goes by’ in the wake of the Las Vegas shooting.” The President “was asked about a gun bill currently making its way through the House that would loosen restrictions on purchasing gun silencers. Trump said that he would talk about that later.” The President’s remarks were mostly overlooked by the broadcast network newscasts, with Hallie Jackson on [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/3, story 5, 2:00, Holt) saying that “gun laws seem unlikely, and President is not engaging, at least not yet.” ABC and CBS did not report on the President’s comments.

The [Washington Times](#) (10/3, Boyer) writes that Trump “has consistently spoken out for Second Amendment rights as a candidate,” and the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/3, Morrongiello) reports that “White House talking points circulated to allies of the Trump administration on Tuesday urged Republicans to resist new gun control measures that would ‘curtail the freedoms of law abiding citizens.’”

[USA Today](#) (10/3, Przybyla) reports that when Trump arrives in Las Vegas today, he “is likely to offer sympathy to the victims – but not propose any changes to gun laws. ... According to a White House statement about the trip, Trump is going ‘to offer his support to those recovering from their wounds, and to thank the courageous first responders.’”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/3, story 5, 2:00, Holt) reported, “Tragedy here has plunged this country back into one of the most heated debates of our time, the fight over the gun laws. Specifically the device used by this killer to modify his guns into machine guns.” NBC’s Hallie Jackson: “Reignited gun debate now centers on a piece of plastic like this. It’s a bump stock, and the Las Vegas shooter purchased two before the attack. The device allows a semiautomatic gun to fire faster...almost like an automatic. They’re legal, but Congress may reconsider.” Sen. John Thune: “Turn semiautomatic weapons into virtually automatic weapons, that’s something I think we’ll take a look at.” Sen. Lindsey Graham: “All things that make America safer and don’t infringe on the Second Amendment, count me in.” Jackson: “So you think it’s time to have policy debate?” Graham: “Yeah, I think so, I think it’s a good time have a hearing.”

However, the [AP](#) (10/3, Daly) reports that “Republican leaders made clear Tuesday that Congress will take no action on gun legislation in the wake of the massacre in Las Vegas. They refused to entertain Democratic demands to expand background checks for gun purchases and tighten restrictions on semi-automatic weapons, but also shelved their own House bill that would have loosened access to gun silencers.” Senate Majority Leader McConnell told reporters, “I think it’s premature to be discussing legislative solutions, if there are any.”

The [Washington Post](#) (10/3, Debonis, Snell) reports that House Speaker Ryan said that GOP leaders “have no plans to advance a bill that would make it easier for Americans to buy gun silencers.” Ryan said, “That bill is not scheduled now; I don’t know when it’s going to be scheduled.” But [Townhall](#) (10/3, Pavlich) writes that reports that imply that Ryan “shelved a vote” due to Las Vegas “are false. The bill in question...was never scheduled for a vote this week.”

House Majority Whip Scalise, who recently returned to Congress after being shot, was asked on [Fox News’ The Story](#) (10/3) if his own experience and the situation in Las Vegas have changed his views on the Second Amendment. Scalise said that some of the gun control proposals “wouldn’t have done anything to stop this. The gunman actually cleared background checks. To promote some kind of gun control I think is the wrong way to approach this.”

Marc Thiessen writes in his [Washington Post](#) (10/3) column, “The speed with which some on the left rushed to politicize this incident was pathetic but not surprising. ... Should we have another debate about gun control? Sure. But not while bodies were still in the streets and we still did not know what weapons were used or how they were acquired.”

[USA Today](#) (10/3, Gaudiano) reports, “Democrats are calling for passage of expanded background checks legislation and they want GOP leaders to appoint a bipartisan select

committee on gun violence to address gun violence." The [New York Times](#) (10/3, Stolberg) reports that Democrats are "frustrated by years of futility on gun safety legislation." Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA) said, "We are stuck. We have asked time and time again of our Republican counterparts to please engage in this discussion of how do we stop gun violence, and they are completely unwilling to do anything to help us out on that issue."

Sen. Chris Murphy said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (10/3), "I think it's a very convenient tool of the gun lobby to say there's got to be a 24, 48-hour waiting period before we talk about change. The fact of the matter is the entire country is focused on why this happened. And the reality is that much of it is rooted in the evil inside this one individual, but much of it is also rooted in our laws which allowed him to get his hands on weapons that are illegal in almost every other civilized country."

Rep. Jim Himes (D-CT) said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (10/3), "Waiting is one of the many tools that the folks who would have us do absolutely nothing on gun safety employ. They say it's too soon. It's too soon to politicize. It's too soon to act. I don't remember after 9/11 when people flew airplanes have buildings, I don't remember thinking what we need to do is wait and not take action."

The [New York Times](#) (10/3, Ember) reports that the satirical website The Onion published the headline "'No Way to Prevent This,' Says Only Nation Where This Regularly Happens" for the fifth time on Monday.

Shooter's Girlfriend A "Person Of Interest" In Investigation. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/3, story 2, 2:00, Muir) reported that shooter Stephen Paddock's "long-time girlfriend...is now being called a person of interest." ABC's Brian Ross: "Authorities tonight labeled the shooter's girlfriend, Marilou Danley, as central to the ongoing investigation, much more than simply a witness...especially after the discovery by police of so many weapons, so much ammunition, and explosives at the home they shared in Mesquite, Nevada." The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/3, lead story, 3:15, Mason) reported that Clark County Sheriff Joseph Lombardo "called her 'a person of interest,' and said he expects substantial information in the next 48 hours." The [AP](#) (10/3, Ritter, Balsamo) reports that Lombardo said that Danley "has been speaking with police from the Philippines."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/3, story 2, 2:20, Holt), Stephanie Gosk reported that Danley "flew to the Philippines around September 25, around the same time Paddock wired \$100,000 to a bank in that country. ... Danley is an Australian citizen who appears to have traveled multiple times to the Philippines, where she was born." [Reuters](#) (10/3, Kumar, Sage) reports that one official "said the working assumption of investigators was that the money was intended as a form of life insurance payment for Danley." [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/3) said Danley is cooperating with authorities. The [New York Times](#) (10/4, Gabler, Dougherty) reports that Danley arrived in the US from the Philippines late Tuesday night, according to officials.

Paddock Remains "An Enigma" To Investigators. Considerable coverage is devoted to emerging background on Paddock, as well as on the timeline of his actions. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/3, lead story, 3:40, Muir) reported that he "was firing for nine minutes after that first 911 call came in," and "had a camera attached to a cart in the hallway, so he would know when police were moving in." Lester Holt said on [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/3, lead story, 3:30) that it was an "intricate setup, his weapons modified for maximum killing, and strategically placed cameras."

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (10/3, Breaun) reports that Lombardo said that "when police and security officers closed in" on Paddock, "he may have been watching their every move through cameras placed in the hallway." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/3, Pearce, Carcamo) reports that Paddock "apparently 'pre-planned extensively' for the attack, Lombardo said." The [Washington Post](#) (10/3) reports that the "massacre was possibly in the planning stages for days."

The [New York Times](#) (10/3, Medina, Pérez-Peña, Goldman) reports that Paddock "created a ring of surveillance around him, with video cameras in his suite and in the hallway, law enforcement officials said on Tuesday." At least one of his rifles "was outfitted with a 'bump stock,' a device that enables a gun to fire hundreds of rounds per minute, like a machine gun." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/3, Kamp, Frosch, Lazo) reports that authorities have found 49 guns linked to Paddock, including 23 they say he brought to his hotel room. On the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/3, story 2, 2:15, Mason), Jeff Pegues reported that Paddock may "initially had a different target. A source briefed on the police investigation said he tried to get a hotel room near a music festival featuring Chance the Rapper and Lorde, a week earlier. But the specific suites he'd requested weren't available."

[USA Today](#) (10/3, Johnson, Madhani) says that Paddock "remains very much an enigma to

authorities." The 64-year-old "was older than the typical assailant in a mass shooting incident," and "investigators also have not indicated that the gunman exhibited any warning ahead of the assault." His brother said that he had "lived a comfortable life and had no-known mental health illnesses or other problems." The [New York Times](#) (10/3, Times) calls Paddock "a wealthy gambler and amateur golfer."

Among the other network coverage, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/3, story 3, 4:15, Muir) covered the medical response, and the [CBS Evening News](#) (10/3, story 8, 0:40, Mason) and [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/3, story 3, 2:20, Holt) response from the community.

US Easily Leads Worlds In Civilian Firearms. [USA Today](#) (10/3, Hjelmggaard) reports under the headline "Americans Really Like Their Guns" that "Americans own 42% of about 650 million civilian firearms worldwide, according to the Small Arms Survey" – 90 firearms per every 100 residents. Yemen, "the country with the second highest number of firearms per 100 people – 55 – is one of the Arab world's poorest countries and is fighting a bloody civil war."

NYTimes Calls AEI Chart On Gun Violence "Spurious." The [New York Times](#) (10/3, Qiu) fact-checks what it calls a "spurious chart" published "by the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative-leaning think tank in Washington, to argue that more guns don't necessarily translate to more gun homicides." UCLA Second Amendment expert Adam Winkler said the AEI's "point that more permissive gun laws did not lead to a huge spike in gun violence has merits...but the chart itself, he said, 'is a bunch of hokey.'" While its data "on the spike in the number of firearms and the decline in the homicides by firearms are accurate," there is "no proof that these two trends are connected. Crime, whether or not committed with guns, has generally declined over the past two decades."

Gunmaker Share Increases More Modest Than After Past Incidents. The [New York Times](#) (10/3, Hsu) reports that though stock prices for firearm companies rose this week in "an apparent continuation of a morbid trend linked to mass shootings," investors "were more muted than they had been in recent years, a sign of Wall Street's increasing skepticism about how much influence mass shootings can exert on gun control legislation, especially in a Trump administration."

Democrats To Target Heller On Gun Control In 2018 Race. [The Hill](#) (10/3, Bolton) reports that Sen. Dean Heller "will be at the center of a new fight over gun control following the mass shooting" in his home state. Democrats "and liberal activists plan to scrutinize Heller's record on gun control and his co-sponsorship of a controversial bill to deregulate suppressors." Meanwhile, the [Washington Free Beacon](#) (10/3, Scher) reports that during a Tuesday appearance on MSNBC, businessman Danny Tarkanian, who is mounting a GOP primary challenge to Heller, said "that he would consider gun control legislation if elected to the Senate next year."

Statistician Says Research Changed Her Mind About Gun Control. In a [Washington Post](#) (10/3) op-ed, Leah Libresco, a statistician and former writer for FiveThirtyEight, writes that her research into "the strictly tightened gun laws in Britain and Australia" led her to conclude "that they didn't prove much about what America's policy should be. Neither nation experienced drops in mass shootings or other gun related-crime that could be attributed to their buybacks and bans. ... We save lives by focusing on a range of tactics to protect the different kinds of potential victims and reforming potential killers, not from sweeping bans focused on the guns themselves."

WPost Lists Mass Shooting Victims In Editorial. The [Washington Post](#) (10/3) lists the fatalities of various mass shootings dating back to 1999 in a 1,600-word editorial, displaying a list of some 300 names that does not include all of those killed on Monday. The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/3, story 4, 2:45, Mason) and [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/3, story 4, 2:40, Holt) reported on some of Monday's victims.

Pence Touts Administration Tax Plan In Arizona.

The [AP](#) (10/3, Christie) reports that Vice President Pence was in Arizona Tuesday "to tout the administration's tax overhaul plan." During a discussion with local business and community leaders "on the need for tax reform," Pence said, "Our plan is based on four simple principles. ... Reducing taxes for working families, simplifying the tax code, cutting taxes for businesses large and small, and making it possible for American companies to bring profits home to American to create jobs and opportunities here." The [Arizona Republic](#) (10/3, Sanchez, Gardiner) says Pence and Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey "pitched Republicans' tax proposal to a pre-selected group of small-business owners and supporters." They "said the plan would lower tax rates for small businesses, allowing owners to hire more employees and pay higher wages."

Study: Trump "The Least Regulatory President Since Ronald Reagan."

The [Washington Times](#) (10/3, Harper) quotes an “analysis by Wayne Crews, vice president of policy at the Competitive Enterprise Institute,” as saying, “President Trump is the least regulatory president since Ronald Reagan. His administration has only proposed 1,241 rules, 13 percent less than Barack Obama’s first year, 42 percent lower than George W. Bush’s, and 72 percent lower than Bill Clinton’s.” The Times adds, “The Federal Register – which literally contains government agency rules and notices, now stands at 45,678 pages. Last year at this time...Obama’s Federal Register contained 67,900 pages, and ultimate[ly] ended up with 97,110 pages for 2016, an ‘all-time record,’ Mr. Crews says.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“On Guns, Nevada’s Leaders Are Overruling Their Voters.” The [New York Times](#) (10/4, Board) editorializes that in November, Nevada residents voted in favor of requiring “background checks for most private gun sales, closing a loophole in federal law.” Those measures have not yet been implemented, however, “because state officials have claimed, with little evidence, that there’s no way to carry out the policy.” The Times concedes that such background checks may “not have prevented the massacre in Las Vegas on Sunday night,” but ultimately Gov. Brian Sandoval is “thwarting the will of Nevada voters.” The Times adds that “members of Congress offer thoughts and prayers after mass shootings without doing anything to prevent gun violence,” a response that has “become a maddening ritual.”

“Chaos In Catalonia.” The [New York Times](#) (10/2) says in an editorial that the actions of Spanish police “succeeded mostly in deepening a political crisis.” Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy “had the law largely on his side,” but Barcelona “now has the television images and the solidarity and sympathy they generate, leaving the prime minister looking like an intransigent bully and rendering any possible political resolution of the conflict more remote.” The Times argues that while “political solutions, probably involving greater autonomy for Catalonia,” exist, “so long as Mr. Rajoy and Mr. Puigdemont remain intransigent, these will remain out of reach.”

Washington Post.

“The Lives We Have Lost.” The [Washington Post](#) (10/3) lists the fatalities of various mass shootings dating back to 1999 in a 1,600-word editorial, including some 300 names that does not include all of those killed on Monday.

Wall Street Journal.

“Trump And The Fed.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/3) wonders if President Trump will select Janet Yellen or Jay Powell as the next Federal Reserve chair and embrace a monetary policy that favors the affluent but does little to help the economy – a monetary policy against which Trump campaigned. The Journal argues that Trump instead needs to select an outsider and reformer, such as former Fed Governor Kevin Warsh or economist John Taylor, as the next Fed Chairman in order to ensure his economic growth agenda will not be at odds with monetary policy.

“Evening The Cuban Score.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/3) says so-called apologists for the Cuban regime complain that the US’ response to the health attacks on American diplomats in Havana will make it more difficult to secure visas and visit family members in both nations, but this frustration should be directed at Raúl Castro, not the Administration. For Castro’s regime to be viewed as a respected member of the civilized international community, the Journal asserts, it must first act in a civilized manner, meaning it must comply with its obligation under the Vienna Convention to ensure foreign diplomats’ safety and well-being.

“Supreme Court ‘Gobbledygook.’” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/3) editorializes that the key question in the arguments in the Wisconsin gerrymandering case before the Supreme Court Tuesday came from Chief Justice Roberts, who concentrated on the risks to the judiciary if the court invalidated a state electoral map on political grounds.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Yahoo Triples Estimate Of Breached Accounts To 3 Billion](#)
[Las Vegas Gunman Planned 'Extensively'](#)
[Buffett Invests In Pilot Flying J](#)
[The Downside Of Baseball's Data Revolution—Long Games, Less Action](#)

New York Times:

[Kennedy's Vote Is In Play On Voting Maps Warped By Politics](#)
[Meticulous Planning By Las Vegas Gunman Before He Opened Fire](#)
[Drawn To Las Vegas For The Music, Victims' Retreat Turned Into A Trap](#)
[Aid Is Getting To Puerto Rico. Distributing It Remains A Challenge.](#)
[Trump Lobs Praise, And Paper Towels, To Puerto Rico Storm Victims](#)
[US Expels 15 Cuban Diplomats. In Latest Sign Détente May Be Ending](#)
[Lincoln Center Scraps A \\$500 Million Geffen Hall Renovation](#)

Washington Post:

[Self-Driving Cars Make You Uneasy? Meet Iris.](#)
[Gunman In Vegas Seemed To Plan Each Move](#)
[Flood Of Wounded Brought Injuries Rarely Seen In US](#)
[Hunting For A Killer, Using The Geometry Of Gunfire](#)
[New Friends And Old Lovers Alike Feel The Loss](#)

Financial Times:

[Donald Trump In Puerto Rico Defends Response To Disaster](#)
[EU To Hit Amazon With Bill For Luxembourg Back Taxes](#)
[Fidelity International To Link Fees To Performance In Overhaul](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump's Voter Base On The Line With Talk About Gun Control 'As Time Goes By'](#)
[Supreme Court Struggles With Judges' Role In Drawing Political Maps](#)
[Administration Officials Push DACA Path To Citizenship, Contradict Trump's Stance](#)
[Republicans Signal Compromise To Retain State And Local Tax Deduction](#)
[Mattis Demands More Transparency From Iran But Says Nuclear Deal In U.S. Best Interest](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Las Vegas Shooting-Gunman; Las Vegas Shooting-Person Of Interest; Las Vegas Shooting-Medical Responses; Hurricane Recovery-Trump Puerto Rico Visit; Hurricane Recovery-Puerto Rico; Tom Petty Dies; New York City-Bomb Explosion Video; Cuba-US Diplomats Withdrawal; Health-Obesity And Cancer; Las Vegas Shooting-Heroic Efforts.

CBS: Las Vegas Shooting; Las Vegas Shooting-Gunman; Las Vegas Shooting-Eyewitness; Las Vegas Shooting-Victims; Las Vegas Shooting-Weapons; Hurricane Recovery-Trump Puerto Rico Visit; Tom Petty Dies; Las Vegas Shooting-Citizen Responses.

NBC: Las Vegas Shooting-Gunman; Las Vegas Shooting-Person Of Interest; Las Vegas Shooting-Citizen Responses; Las Vegas Shooting-Victims; Las Vegas Shooting-Gun Control Debate; Hurricane Recovery-Trump Puerto Rico Visit; Yahoo-Cyber Security Breach; Tom Petty Dies; Las Vegas Shooting-Community.

Network TV At A Glance:

Las Vegas Shooting – 37 minutes, 15 seconds
Hurricane Recovery-Trump Puerto Rico Visit – 6 minutes, 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Las Vegas Shooting; Las Vegas Shooting-Person Of Interest; Hurricane Recovery-Trump Puerto Rico Visit; Cuba-US Diplomats Withdrawal.

CBS: Las Vegas Shooting; Las Vegas Shooting-Person Of Interest; Las Vegas Shooting-Gun Control Debate; Hurricane Recovery-Trump Puerto; Cuba-US Diplomats Withdrawal; Iran Nuclear Deal-Mattis.

FOX: Las Vegas Shooting; Las Vegas Shooting-Gun Control Debate.

NPR: Las Vegas Shooting; Hurricane Recovery-Trump Puerto Rico Visit; US Car Sales; Equifax Breach-House Hearing.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Arrives in Las Vegas, Nevada; Visits with patients and medical professionals; visits with civilian heroes and first responders.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 9:00 AM Senate Aging Committee hearing on robocalls – Hearing on 'Still Ringing Off The Hook: An Update on Efforts to Combat Robocalls', with testimony from Federal Trade Commission Bureau of Consumer Protection Division of Marketing Practices Associate Director Lois Greisman; Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro; USTelecom Vice President for Law & Public Policy Kevin Rupy; and BBB Institute for Marketplace Trust President Genie Barton
Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 562, Washington, DC <http://aging.senate.gov/>

9:15 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee top secret briefing on withdrawal of personnel from the U.S. Embassy in Cuba – Closed / Top Secret briefing on 'Ordered Departure of Personnel from the U.S. Embassy in Havana, Cuba', given by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security and State Department Bureau of Diplomatic Security Assistant Director for International Programs Christian Schurman; Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs John Creamer; State Department Bureau of Medical Services Medical Director Dr Charles Rosenfarb; and a senior CIA official * Last week, the State Department ordered over half the staff at the embassy in Havana to return to the U.S. – having previously given staff the option to do so – in the wake of a series of mysterious 'health attacks' that has left U.S. members of the diplomatic community and intelligence operatives with hearing loss and brain damage, following reports of unidentified high-pitched noises and other sensations Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC-217, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

9:30 AM Markup hearing on 'S. 1827, the Keeping Kids' Insurance Dependable and Secure (KIDS) Act' Location: Rm 215, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://finance.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Environment and Public Works Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Michael Dourson, Matthew Leopold, David Ross, and William Wehrum to be Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrators; and Jeffery Baran to be a Nuclear Regulatory Commission member Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 406, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Former Equifax head due to testify to Senate Banking Committee – Hearing on 'An Examination of the Equifax Cybersecurity Breach', with testimony due from Richard Smith, who retired as Equifax chairman and CEO with immediate effect between the announcement of the hearing and today Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 538, Washington, DC
<http://banking.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Stephanos Bibas to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit; Liles Clifton Burke to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama; Michael Joseph Juneau to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Louisiana; A. Marvin Quattlebaum Jr. and Tilman Eugene Self III to be U.S. District Judges for the Middle District of Georgia; and John Demers to be Assistant Attorney General for the National Security Division Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 226, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of nomination of John Mitnick to be Department of Homeland Security General Counsel, as well as legislation including 'S. X, TSA LEAP Pay Reform Act of 2017', 'S. 146, Border Security Technology Accountability Act of 2017', 'S. X, Direct Hire of Students and Recent Graduates Act of 2017', 'S. X, Temporary and Term Appointments Act of 2017', 'S. X, Voluntary Separation Incentive Payment Adjustment Act of 2017', 'S. 1847, Homeland Security for Children Act', 'S. X, FITARA Enhancement Act of 2017', 'S. X, Reporting Efficiently to Proper Officials in Response to Terrorism Act of 2017', 'S. 1281, Hack the Department of Homeland Security Act', 'S. 1769, Connected Government Act', 'S. X, Whistleblower Protection Coordination Act', 'S. 1305, U.S. Customs and Border Protection Hiring and Retention Act of 2017', 'S. 1791, Presidential Allowance Modernization Act of 2017', and 'H.R. 70, Federal Advisory Committee Act Amendments of 2017' Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 342, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

10:00 AM Senate Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee Executive Session – Executive Session, with agenda including self-driving vehicle legislation (to be introduced), 'S

1872, TSA Modernization Act', 'S. 1015, the National Suicide Hotline Improvement Act of 2017', and 'S. 1534, Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2017', and the nominations of Ann Marie Buerkle to be Consumer Product Safety Commission Chairman and Commissioner, Walter Copan to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology, Howard Elliott to be Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration Administrator, Timothy Gallaudet to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, and David Redl to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

10:30 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee nominations hearing, hearing on the future for Iraq's minorities – Senate Committee on Foreign Relations nominations hearing * Immediately followed by hearing on 'The Future of Iraq's Minorities: What's Next After ISIS', with testimony from 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative Distinguished Senior Fellow Frank Wolf; and National Defense University Institute for National Strategic Studies Center for Strategic Research Director Dr Denise Natali Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

12:15 PM Senate Select Committee on Intelligence leaders update on Russia inquiry – Senate Select Committee on Intelligence Chairman Richard Burr and Vice Chairman Mark Warner update on the status of the Committee's inquiry into Russian interference in the 2016 U.S. elections, via press conference Location: U.S. Capitol, S-325, Washington, DC burr.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/SenatorBurr>

1:30 PM Bicameral Dems call for Congress to reject 'Ryan-McConnell' tax plan – Congressional Progressive Caucus and Democratic Members of Congress and advocates call on Congress to reject the 'Ryan-McConnell' tax plan, via press conference with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and Democratic Reps. Mark Pocan, Raul Grijalva, Lloyd Doggett, Rosa DeLauro, Barbara Lee, Jan Schakowsky, Keith Ellison, and Pramila Jayapal, Winnie Stachelberg (Center for American Progress), Nicole Gill (Not One Penny), Frank Clemente (Americans for Tax Fairness) and MomsRising Member Suzanne Greenwood Location: House Triangle, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://pocan.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/repmarkpocan>

2:00 PM Bipartisan Sens. Dick Durbin and Lindsey Graham and over 100 DREAMers call for passage of DREAM Act – Bipartisan Sens. Dick Durbin and Lindsey Graham and other bipartisan elected representatives call on their colleagues to join them in supporting the DREAM Act – which would protect DACA recipients and provide them with protection from deportation and work authorization – via press conference with over 100 DREAMers, who are in Washington, DC, to call on their Members of Congress to pass the legislation Location: U.S. Capitol, Senate Swamp, Washington, DC www.fwd.us https://twitter.com/fwd_us

2:30 PM Business Meeting, to consider 'S. 943, Johnson-O'Malley Supplemental Indian Education Program Modernization Act' Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC <http://indian.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/IndianCommittee>

2:30 PM Senate Budget Committee begins marking up FY'18 Budget Resolution – Markup hearing begins on the Senate Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2018 * Concludes tomorrow Location: Rm 608, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://budget.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateBudget>

2:30 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

2:30 PM Former Equifax head testifies to Senate Judiciary Committee – Privacy, Technology and the Law Subcommittee hearing on 'Equifax: Continuing to Monitor Data-Broker Cybersecurity', with testimony from former Equifax Chairman and CEO Richard Smith; Arizona State University Global Security Initiative Director of Strategic Research Initiatives Jamie Winterton; and University of Tulsa Tandy School of Computer Science Assistant Professor of Cyber Security & Information Assurance Tyler Moore * Follows data breach at Equifax that potentially exposed the personal information of 143 million Americans Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 226, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Indian Affairs Committee oversight hearing on gaming – Oversight hearing on 'Doubling Down on Indian Gaming: Examining New Issues and Opportunities for Success in the Next 30 Years', with testimony from National Indian Gaming Commission Chairman Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri; Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs John Tahsuda III; Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe President Keeny Escalanti; Forest County Potawatomi Chairman Gus Frank; and National Indian Gaming Association Chairman Ernest Stevens Jr. Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC <http://indian.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/IndianCommittee>

2:30 PM Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Melissa Sue Glynn to be Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Enterprise Integration; Cheryl Mason to be Board of Veterans' Appeals Chairman; and Randy Reeves to be Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Memorial Affairs Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 418, Washington, DC <http://veterans.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/VACChair>

3:00 PM Senate HELP Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Cheryl Stanton to be Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division Administrator; David Zatezalo to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health; and Peter Robb to be National Labor Relations Board General Counsel Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

3:00 PM Helsinki Commission co-hosts briefing on attacks on journalists in Russia – 'Systematic Attacks on Journalists in Russia and Other Post-Soviet States' joint Helsinki Commission / House Freedom of the Press Caucus briefing, addressing 'key questions regarding journalists in Russia and other post-Soviet states: their important role and impact; concerns over their rights, safety, and protection; and future support and promotion of media freedom in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) region'. Panelists are Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty President and CEO Thomas Kent, Voice of America Director Amanda Bennett, Committee to Protect Journalists Europe and Central Asia Program Coordinator Nina Ognianova, and Echo of Moscow Washington DC Correspondent Karina Orlova Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC-208, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

US House: 9:00 AM House Dems Press Event Honoring Las Vegas Shooting Victims; Demand Commonsense Gun Violence Prevention Legislation – House Democrats hold press event to honor the victims of the horrific mass shooting in Las Vegas and to demand commonsense gun violence prevention legislation. Democrats call for the immediate passage of the bipartisan King-Thompson legislation to "strengthen life-saving background checks, and establishing a bipartisan Select Committee on Gun Violence to study and report back common sense legislation". Participants: House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi; Rep. John Lewis (D-GA); Former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords; Rep. Mike Thompson, Chair, Gun Violence Prevention Task Force (D-CA); Rep. Robin Kelly (D-IL); House Democrats. Location: House East Front Steps U.S. Capitol. <http://www.democraticleader.gov/> <https://twitter.com/NancyPelosi>

9:00 AM Oversight Subcommittee hearing on 'IRS Reform: Challenges to Modernizing IT Infrastructure' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2020, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

9:00 AM GOP Rep. David Schweikert keynotes 'Paying for Tax Reform' Capitol Hill event – 'Paying for Tax Reform' Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget Capitol Hill event, focused on the prospects for tax reform. Republican Rep. David Schweikert keynotes, on 'the need for fiscally responsible tax reform', before panels of experts – former Senate Budget Committee Chief Economist and Senior Tax Advisor Jim Carter, former Senate Committee on Finance Deputy Staff Director and General Counsel Mac Campbell, former House Committee on Ways and Means Majority Chief Tax Counsel Dave Olander, American Action Forum's Gordon Gray, Tax Foundation's Kyle Pomerleau, Tax Policy Center's Eric Toder, American Sustainable Business Council's John O'Neill, and CRFB's Marc Goldwein – discuss options to pay for tax reform and lessons learned from past tax reform efforts Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2325, Washington, DC crfb.org <https://twitter.com/BudgetHawks>

9:30 AM House Agriculture Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, to consider 'H.R. 2936, Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2521, South Carolina Peanut Parity Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2921, National Forest System Vegetation Management Pilot Program Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2941, Kisatchie National Forest Land Conveyance Act', and 'H.R. 3567, To authorize the purchase of a small parcel of Natural Resources Conservation Service property in Riverside, California, by the Riverside Corona Resource Conservation District, and for other purposes' Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1300, Washington, DC <http://agriculture.house.gov/>

10:00 AM Markup hearing on 'H.R. 3441, Save Local Business Act' Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources Committee markup hearing concludes – Markup hearing concludes on 'H.R. 210, Native American Energy Act', 'H.R. 424, Gray Wolf State Management Act of 2017', 'H.R. 717, Listing Reform Act', 'H.R. 1274, State, Tribal and Local Species Transparency Act and Recovery Act', 'H.R. 1488, The Indiana Dunes National Park Act', 'H.R. 2600, To provide for the conveyance to the State of Iowa of the reversionary interest held by the United States in

certain land in Pottawattamie County, Iowa, and for other purposes', 'H.R. 2603, Saving America's Endangered Species Act' ('SAVES Act'), 'H.R. 2897, To authorize the Mayor of the District of Columbia and the Director of the National Park Service to enter into cooperative management agreements for the operation, maintenance, and management of units of the National Park System in the District of Columbia, and for other purposes', and 'H.R. 3131, Endangered Species Litigation Reasonableness Act' * Began yesterday Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM Markup hearing on 'H.R. 3711, Legal Workforce Act' and 'H.R. X, Agricultural Guestworker Act' Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM House Space subcommittee hearing on radioisotope production and NASA's Cassini spacecraft – Space Subcommittee hearing on 'Powering Exploration: An Update on Radioisotope Production and Lessons Learned from Cassini', with testimony from NASA Planetary Science Division Deputy Director David Schurr; Deputy Assistant Secretary of Energy for Nuclear Infrastructure Programs Tracey Bishop; Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory chief scientist for space science in the space exploration sector Dr Ralph McNutt Jr.; and Government Accountability Office Director of Natural Resources and Environment Shelby Oakley Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2318, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on State Department Antiterrorism Assistance Program – Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee hearing on 'State Department's Antiterrorism Assistance Program: The GAO Review', with testimony from Government Accountability Office Assistant Director of International Affairs and Trade Jason Bair Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

10:00 AM House Financial Services Committee hearing on the SEC – Hearing on 'Examining the SEC's Agenda, Operations, and Budget', with testimony from Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Jay Clayton Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Energy and Commerce subcommittee hearing on air quality impacts of wildfires – Environment Subcommittee hearing on 'Air Quality Impacts of Wildfires: Perspectives of Key Stakeholders', with testimony from Oregon State University College of Forestry Professor Dr John Bailey; Florida State Forester Jim Karels; Murphy Company Vice President of Resources Knox Marshall; and The Nature Conservancy Director of Restoring America's Forests Dr Christopher Topik Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC
<http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Infrastructure subcommittee hearing on rail stakeholders' perspectives – Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee hearing on 'Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Rail Stakeholders' Perspectives', with testimony from Association of American Railroads President and CEO Edward Hamberger; Amtrak Co-CEO Wick Moorman, and Executive Vice President for Planning, Technology, and Public Affairs Stephen Gardner; American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association President Linda Darr; Loram Maintenance of Way Senior Advisor of Industry Relations Tom DeJoseph; and AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department President Larry Willis Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM Markup hearing on 'H.R. 3548, the Border Security for America Act' Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC-210, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov
<https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

10:30 AM CANCELED: Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee markup hearing Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC
<http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

10:30 AM Markup hearing on 'H.R. 849, Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act of 2017' Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1100, Washington, DC
<http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

11:00 AM House Small Business Committee hearing on tax reform – Hearing on 'Small Business Tax Reform: Modernizing the Code for the Nation's Job Creators', with testimony from Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council Entrepreneur-In-Residence and Small Business Counsel Kristie Arslan; MotionMobs President Taylor Peake; Shared Economy CPA partner Miguel Centeno; and American University Kogod School of Business Tax Policy Center Managing Director Caroline Bruckner Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC

<http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

12:00 PM Rep. Waters To Unveil Legislation To Hold Megabanks Like Wells Fargo Accountable – Press conference on Ranking Member Waters' new legislation, the Megabank Accountability and Consequences. Participants: Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA), Ranking Member of the Committee on Financial Services; Rep. Al Green (D-TX), Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations; Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) ; Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA). Media RSVP to Kalina. Francis@mail.house.gov Location: 421 Cannon House Office Building <http://www.house.gov/waters/> <https://twitter.com/MaxineWaters>

12:00 PM House expected to begin debate on 'FY' 18 Republican Budget Resolution' – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include beginning consideration of 'H.Con.Res. 71 – Fiscal Year 2018 Republican Budget Resolution' Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

1:00 PM House Commerce subcommittee markup hearing – Health Subcommittee markup hearing on 'H.R. 849, Protecting Seniors' Access to Medicare Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2465, Steve Gleason Enduring Voices Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2557, Prostate Cancer Misdiagnosis Elimination Act of 2017', 'H.R. 3120, To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to reduce the volume of future electronic health record-related significant hardship requests', 'H.R. 3245, Medicare Civil and Criminal Penalties Update Act', 'H.R. 3263, To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend the Medicare independence at home medical practice demonstration program', 'H.R. 1148, FAST Act of 2017', 'H.R. 3271, Protecting Access to Diabetes Supplies Act of 2017', 'H.R. XX, HEALTHY KIDS Act', and 'H.R. XX, CHAMPION Act' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

1:30 PM Bicameral Dems call for Congress to reject 'Ryan-McConnell' tax plan – Congressional Progressive Caucus and Democratic Members of Congress and advocates call on Congress to reject the 'Ryan-McConnell' tax plan, via press conference with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and Democratic Reps. Mark Pocan, Raul Grijalva, Lloyd Doggett, Rosa DeLauro, Barbara Lee, Jan Schakowsky, Keith Ellison, and Pramila Jayapal, Winnie Stachelberg (Center for American Progress), Nicole Gill (Not One Penny), Frank Clemente (Americans for Tax Fairness) and MomsRising Member Suzanne Greenwood Location: House Triangle, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://pocan.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/reppmarkpocan>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on 'Iranian-backed militias in the Middle East' – Terrorism, Nonproliferation, and Trade Subcommittee hearing on 'Iranian Backed Militias: Destabilizing the Middle East', with testimony from The Washington Institute for Near East Policy Fellow Dr Michael Knights; Center for Strategic and International Studies Senior Associate Aram Nerguizian; American Enterprise Institute Resident Scholar Dr Kenneth Pollack; and Center for Strategic and International Studies International Security Program Senior Fellow and Deputy Director Melissa Dalton Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

2:00 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee legislative hearing on 'H.R. 146, Eastern Band Cherokee Historic Lands Reacquisition Act', 'H.R. 2402, San Juan County Settlement Implementation Act', and 'H.R. 2606, Stigler Act Amendments of 2017', with testimony from Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Principal Chief Richard Sneed; Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye; and Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

3:00 PM House Natural Resources Committee member forum on supporting recovery in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands – House Committee on Natural Resources member forum on potential legislative actions within the Committee's jurisdiction to reinforce ongoing rescue and recovery efforts in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

3:00 PM Helsinki Commission co-hosts briefing on attacks on journalists in Russia – 'Systematic Attacks on Journalists in Russia and Other Post-Soviet States' joint Helsinki Commission / House Freedom of the Press Caucus briefing, addressing 'key questions regarding journalists in Russia and other post-Soviet states: their important role and impact; concerns over their rights, safety, and protection; and future support and promotion of media freedom in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) region'. Panelists are Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty President and CEO Thomas Kent, Voice of America Director Amanda Bennett, Committee to Protect Journalists Europe and Central Asia Program Coordinator Nina Ognianova, and Echo of Moscow Washington DC Correspondent Karina Orlova Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC-208, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov>

<https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

5:30 PM Pet Night on Capitol Hill – Pet Night on Capitol Hill, hosted by the Human Animal Bond Research Institute and the Pet Leadership Council to give members of Congress and their staff an opportunity to meet with pet care industry leaders, the veterinary community, animal welfare advocates and research organizations. Includes presentation of 'Pets' Best Friend' awards to several members of Congress, and announcement of the Cutest Pets on Capitol Hill contest winners by the Animal Health Institute Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2043, Washington, DC [petnightoncapitolhill.com https://twitter.com/HABRITweets](https://twitter.com/HABRITweets)

Other: 8:00 AM The Hill hosts forum on health care – The Hill hosts forum on 'Innovating to Improve Patient Health: A Solutions Conversation', featuring policymakers, health industry leaders, employers, and providers discussing strategies to improve health outcomes. Headliner conversations from Democratic Rep. Ami Bera and Republican Rep. Bill Johnson. Panel includes CVS Health Executive Vice President and Chief Medical Officer Troyen Brennan, Continental Realty Corporation Vice President of Human Resources Crystal Frey, American Association of Nurse Practitioners President Joyce Knestrick, and National Coalition on Health Care President and CEO John Rother Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC [thehill.com https://twitter.com/TheHillEvents #WhatsNextHealth](https://twitter.com/TheHillEvents)

8:25 AM Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella speaks at an Economic Club of Washington, DC event Location: Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group, 1330 Maryland Avenue Southwest 1250, Washington, DC [www.economicclub.org https://twitter.com/TheEconomicClub](https://twitter.com/TheEconomicClub)

9:00 AM GOP Sen. Mike Lee and Rep. Rob Bishop discuss national monuments at the Heritage Foundation – 'National Monuments and the Communities They Impact: Views Beyond the Beltway' Heritage Foundation event, co-hosted with The Sutherland Institute, with Republicans Sens. Mike Lee and Rep. Rob Bishop, Navajo Nation's Ryan Benally, Maine Snowmobile Association Executive Director Bob Meyers, Atlantic Offshore Lobsterman's Association President Grant Moore, The Sutherland Institute President Boyd Matheson, The Sutherland Institute Coalition of Self-Government in the West Director Matthew Anderson, and Property and Environment Research Center Research Fellow Hannah Downey Location: Heritage Foundation, 214 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC [www.heritage.org https://twitter.com/Heritage](https://twitter.com/Heritage)

9:00 AM CIA / GW public conference on national security with current and former CIA directors – CIA's fourth public conference on national security, 'The Ethos and the Profession of Intelligence', co-hosted by the George Washington University Center for Cyber and Homeland Security. This year's theme is 'Achieving Strategic Advantage', with speakers including CIA Director Mike Pompeo and former CIA Directors John Brennan, Michael Hayden, Porter Goss and William Webster Location: George Washington University, 730 21st St NW, Washington, DC [http://www.gwu.edu/index.cfm https://twitter.com/GWtweets](http://www.gwu.edu/index.cfm)

10:00 AM Black Methodist United unveil action plan on jobs at NPC – Black Methodist United hold press conference and unveil 'Action Plan on Issues of Jobs of the Unemployed and Underemployed' at the National Press Club, featuring Democratic Rep. Maxine Walters Location: National Press Club, 529 14th St, NW, Washington, DC

10:30 AM POSTPONED: OMB Director Mulvaney speaks at The Washington Post – POSTPONED: Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney speaks at The Washington Post, interviewed by the newspaper's James Hohmann, about White House plans to overhaul the tax code and broader efforts to cut federal regulation * Event held as part of The Daily 202 Live event series Location: The Washington Post Live Center, 1301 K St NW, Washington, DC [http://www.washingtonpost.com/ https://twitter.com/washingtonpost](http://www.washingtonpost.com/)

12:00 PM Dem Sen. Chris Murphy speaks on Iran at CAP Action Fund – 'On the Brink with Iran and North Korea' Center for American Progress Action Fund discussion, with opening remarks from Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy on the upcoming Trump administration decision on Iran and its implication for U.S. national security on two fronts. Followed by panel discussion with former Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman, former National Security Adviser to Vice President Joe Biden, Jake Sullivan, and former Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs Kelly Magsamen Location: Center for American Progress, Action Fund, 1333 H St NW, Washington, DC [www.americanprogressaction.org https://twitter.com/CAPaction](https://twitter.com/CAPaction)

3:00 PM House Speaker Paul Ryan discusses tax reform in Facebook Q&A session with former House Speaker Newt Gingrich Location: TBD [www.speaker.gov https://twitter.com/SpeakerRyan](https://twitter.com/SpeakerRyan)

U.S.-China Law Enforcement and Cybersecurity Dialogue – U.S.-China Law Enforcement and Cybersecurity Dialogue, with delegations chaired by Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Acting

Secretary of Homeland Security Elaine Duke, and State Councilor and Minister of Public Security Guo Shengkun, respectively. Agenda includes increasing cooperation on repatriations, fugitives, counternarcotics, and cybercrime * Marks the conclusion of the first round of cabinet-level dialogues agreed to by Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping in April, following the earlier U.S.-China Diplomatic and Security Dialogue, Comprehensive Economic Dialogue, and Social and Cultural Dialogue Location: Washington, DC www.justice.gov <https://twitter.com/TheJusticeDept>

U.S.-Korea FTA Joint Committee second special session – Joint Committee under the U.S.-Korea (KORUS) Free Trade Agreement second special session * U.S. Trade Representative Amb. Robert Lighthizer called the first special session – held in Seoul, South Korea, in August – at the direction of President Donald Trump, as a dialogue to consider matters affecting the operation of the agreement, including ‘possible amendments and modifications to resolve several problems regarding market access in Korea for U.S. exports and, most importantly, to address the significant trade imbalance’ Location: Washington, DC www.ustr.gov <https://twitter.com/USTradeRep>

Under Secretary of State Shannon attends working lunch with South Korean ambassador – Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Thomas Shannon attends a working lunch with South Korea Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Ahn Ho-young, and meets Norway Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Kare Aas and Norwegian First Secretary of the Embassy Thomas Bruusgard at the State Department Location: Washington, DC www.state.gov <https://twitter.com/StateDept>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Stephen Colbert: “Today is the 13th day after Hurricane Maria, yet another disaster struck Puerto Rico. Donald Trump visited the island.”

James Corden: “President Trump finally traveled to Puerto Rico today amid criticism of his response to Hurricane Maria. Ninety-five percent of the island is still without power. So to make sure the people of Puerto Rico don’t miss out on his crazy tweets, Donald Trump went there to deliver them in person.”

James Corden: “Officials have discovered yet another personal email account that Jared Kushner and Ivanka Trump have been using for official White House business, bringing the total to three. They have three accounts. ... This is either a massive breach of protocol, or Jared Kushner is like the rest of us and can’t remember passwords.”

James Corden: “Apparently, a data breach that Yahoo previously said affected just a portion of their users actually affected all three billion Yahoo accounts. I know, even crazier, all three billion Yahoo email accounts belong to Jared Kushner.”

Trevor Noah: “But first, as we all know, two weeks ago, Puerto Rico was devastated by a category five hurricane and, today, President Trump went to the island to finish them off.”

Trevor Noah: “Moving on to the mass shooting in Las Vegas. The shooter was a 64-year-old man from Florida with no criminal record and he owned 42 guns. Oh, and also, apparently, he was a multi-millionaire, which means, right now, he doesn’t fit any profile of any mass shooter. And you know who’s having a hard time processing all that information? The good people at Fox News.”

Jimmy Fallon: “Today, President Trump flew to Puerto Rico. He was like, ‘These conditions are horrible, how can anyone live like this?’ And then they said, ‘Sir, this is LaGuardia. We’re just refueling.’”

Jimmy Fallon: “That’s right, today, Trump went to Puerto Rico to survey the damage done by the hurricane, and Mike Pence will go there tomorrow to survey the damage done by the President.”

Seth Meyers: “President Trump visited Puerto Rico today, where he met with hurricane survivors. ‘We love you, Donald,’ said banner he brought from home.”

Seth Meyers: “Politico has published a new profile on Robert Mueller and the ongoing Russia

investigation. We have one reporter saying that asking Mueller for inside information would be like asking him to watch a porn movie with you. 'I'll watch a porn movie with you,' said Ted Cruz."

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- Las Vegas Sun: Additional Coverage: Sage Grouse Lands Reopening For Mineral Development.
- Washington Times: Saving Public Lands For Working Americans.
- Florida Times-Union: Mark Woods: Some Swamps (and Rivers And Lakes) We Shouldn't Drain.
- Billings (MT) Gazette: Guest Opinion: Hot Lotto And Selling Our Public Lands.
- Washington Post: Interior Secretary Zinke's Claim That The U.S.Has Struggled To Produce 'Low-Cost, Abundant And Reliable Energy'.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- DOI, Calif. Tribe Urge End To Group's Anti-Casino Suit.

Bureau Of Land Management

- Associated Press: Suit Seeks To Stop Oil-Gas Drilling On 9 Public Land Parcels.
- Natural Gas Intelligence: BLM Green Lights Up To 146 NatGas Wells In Long-Disputed Colorado Area.
- Uintah Basin Standard (UT): BLM Fracking Rules On Ute Tribal Lands Remains Uncharged.
- E&E Publishing: Landowners Call On BLM To Probe Well Plugging .
- KTVB-TV Boise (ID): Idaho Inmates Work To Restore Sage Grouse Habitat.
- Elko (NV) Daily Free Press: Thomas Mitchell: Jobs And Wildlife Can Coexist.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- SLO Council Opposes Offshore Oil And Gas Drilling After Trump Order.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- Big Water Tunnels Project OK'd By Southern California Agency.

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

- Gas Prices Inching Lower After Hurricanes.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- E&E Publishing: Little Owl Sparks A Large ESA Flap.
- Newsweek: Thousands Of Bats Slaughtered Annually In Asia End Up On EBay And Etsy For Artsy Americans.
- Scottsbluff (NE) Star-Herald: Ex-US Fish And Wildlife Worker Takes Plea Deal In Theft Case.
- Mount Desert (ME) Islander: Dealer Pleads Guilty To Buying Poached Elvers.
- Moscow-Pullman (ID) Daily News: Our View: Walruses Are In Danger, But Not Enough For Feds To Care.

National Park Service

- WTOP-FM Washington: Lasers Vs. Grime: Park Service Says Treatment Wiped Out Jefferson Memorial's Black Film.
- Naples (FL) Daily News: Florida DEP Renews Oil Exploration Permit In Big Cypress.
- Flathead (MT) Beacon: Glacier Park Attracts More Than 3 Million Visitors In 2017.
- U.S. News & World Report: Traffic Accident Kills 4 Bison In Grand Teton National Park.
- Alaska Public Radio Network: State And Park Service Look To Make Parks Highway Safety Improvements.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Washington Post: WPost Analysis: Video Trump Tweeted Out Overstates Federal Role In Puerto Rico Recovery.
- KKTU-TV Colorado Springs (CO): Dog Hailed A Hero In Puerto Rico Recovery Efforts.

US Geological Survey

- Salt Lake (UT) Tribune: Will 'Negro' Name Stick To Utah Canyon?
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- ABC: Trump Again Hits Corker On Twitter Amid Concerns About Impact On GOP Agenda.
- Fox News: Administration Moves To Repeal Clean Power Plan.
- USA Today: Trump Says He Will Sign Order Allowing Health Insurance Purchases Across State Lines.
- USA Today: Supreme Court Dismisses Travel Ban Challenge.

- Philly (PA): Trump To Push Tax Plan In Pennsylvania Wednesday.
- Bloomberg News: Trump Says Changes To Tax Plan Coming In Next Few Weeks.

Editorial Wrap-Up

- New York Times.
 - "Mr. Trump Nails Shut The Coffin In Climate Relief."
- Washington Post.
 - "Erdogan Is Bullying America. Trump Should Do Something."
 - "Trump's Moves On NAFTA Risk Massive Damage."
 - "DC Is Right To Stand Down On Its Concealed-Carry Law."
- Wall Street Journal.
 - "Tax Reform And Deficits."
 - "An Outrageous Prosecution."
 - "Alien Torts Unlimited."

Big Picture

- Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Washington Schedule

- Today's Events In Washington.

Last Laughs

- Late Night Political Humor.

DOI In The News

At Least 15 Dead In Northern California Wildfires.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/10, lead story, 2:50, Holt) reported in its lead story that "at least 15 people have died" in Northern California "amid the blitz of wildfires in a scale not seen there in decades." NBC (Fryer) added that "seventeen large explosive wildfires are burning, scorching more than 115,000 acres, prompting federal government to declare a major disaster." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/10, Kohli, Willon, Sahagun) reports that Vice President Pence visited California's emergency management headquarters, where he said that President Trump has approved a "major disaster declaration" for the state. [USA Today](#) (10/10, Weise, Bacon) reports that President Trump said from the White House, "The federal government will stand with the people of California, and we will be there for you."

In its lead story, The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/10, lead story, 2:45, Blackstone) reported that some "200 people are still missing in the Northern California fires." CBS added that "there's a fear that winds just now beginning to pick up, that they could spread this destruction even further." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/10, lead story, 3:45, Gutman) reported in its lead story that "there is zero percent containment on all the major fires here in Northern California." In a separate story, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/10, story 2, 4:15, Muir) reported on the "apocalyptic" devastation in one Santa Rosa neighborhood.

The [New York Times](#) (10/10, Hsu) says the fires "have dealt a devastating blow to the important wine and tourism industries, destroying several historic wineries and threatening the remaining grape harvest in the Napa and Sonoma valleys." The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/10, story 10, 1:40, Villarreal) reported on the Paradise Ridge Winery, where "nearly 100,000 bottles of wine were destroyed Sunday night." CBS added that "at least six other wineries in this area have burned to the ground."

The [New York Times](#) (10/10, A1, Fuller, Pérez-Peña, Bromwich) reports that the Northern California fires are "part of an outbreak of blazes stretching almost the entire length of the state." In a separate story, The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/10, story 2, 1:55, Strassmen) reported that wildfires in Southern California "have followed a similar pattern. In Anaheim Hills, south of Los Angeles, Canyon Heights Drive lost five homes in three hours." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/10, story 3, 0:20, Muir) reported that thousands were forced to evacuate.

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/10, A1, Ailworth, Lovett) reports that Ken Pimlott, chief of California's firefighting agency, CAL-FIRE, anticipates that one of the fires will be among the 20 most destructive in the state's history.

UMF Professor Studying Western Megafires. The [Franklin County \(ME\) Daily Bulldog](#) (10/10)

reports that Drew Barton, a professor of biology at the University of Maine at Farmington, and his collaborator, Helen Poulos of Wesleyan University, have “received a continuing grant of nearly \$30,000 from the National Park Service and the Western National Parks Association to examine 30 years of changes in the forests in Arizona’s Chiricahua Mountains and how these fires are changing the nature of the forests.” Barton’s and Poulos’ research is looking at “megafires and providing land managers with critical information.” First, they’re examining “how these fires are changing the nature of the forest – large pine forested areas are being lost and replaced by scrubby oaks.” Also, “they are developing a model and map of the remaining live trees and dead wood in the Chiricahua National Monument so land managers can predict where the next fire is likely to occur and how large, intense and dangerous it is likely to be.”

Trump Is Ignoring How Fires Spread In The West. In an op-ed for the [San Luis Obispo \(CA\) Tribune](#) (10/10, Miller), Char Miller, a professor of environmental analysis at Pomona College, writes that with “major fires erupting across the West this summer – and now into fall” – it “seems the right time to carefully assess wildland fire, its climate drivers and forest health consequences.” But the Trump Administration’s “key wildfire officials – Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt – have refused to acknowledge the primary role that dangerous climatological factors, such as drought, heat and wind, play in energizing and propelling wildland fire.” Instead, the officials are “fingering ‘radical environmentalists’ who allegedly have scuttled timber sales that would have removed trees and reduced ignition sources.” Miller acknowledges that “thinning forests to create defensible space near communities has a place among the strategies required to respond intelligently to wildland fire.” However, “decades of data show that intense logging creates more destructive fires than the ones that burn through roadless areas, parkland and wilderness.”

GOP Pushes Overhaul To Antiquities Act.

The [Daily Caller](#) (10/10, Pearce) reports that “the House Committee on Natural Resources will markup a bill to make major reforms to the Antiquities Act Wednesday. Rep. Rob Bishop, “who chairs the committee, announced his bill and the scheduled markup session in a statement Monday.” Bishop said in a statement, The 1906 Antiquities Act was originally intended as an executive tool to protect historical and archeological artifacts and structures under threat. Regrettably, this worthy goal has been manipulated for ulterior political purposes.”

Antiquities Act Is A Menace To Constitutional Government. In an op-ed for the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/10, Bishop), Rep. Rob Bishop writes that “there is no more flagrant violation of this principle of our government than the repeated abuse of the Antiquities Act in the designation of national monuments.” Bishop argues that “any honest reading reveals that it was created to protect ‘landmarks,’ ‘structures,’ and ‘objects’ – not vast swaths of land.” He concludes that “the time has come for Congress to reform the Antiquities Act and rein in the president.”

Lawmakers To Revisit Revenue-Sharing Fight.

[E&E Daily](#) (10/10) reports that a House subcommittee will meet on Wednesday to review a draft bill that would “ease offshore drilling in federal waters while also steering revenues to certain coastal states.” Known as the “Accessing Strategic Resources Offshore (ASTRO) Act,” the bill would direct “50 percent of the revenue from offshore oil and gas production to the general treasury, with another 50 percent directed to a separate account to be distributed to certain coastal states.”

Panel To Consider Bill To Expand Western Renewables.

[E&E Daily](#) (10/10, Smith-Schoenwalder) reports that “a House Natural Resources subcommittee will hear four bills this week on public land issues, including one that would facilitate renewable energy and promote economic development in the West.” H.R. 2630, from Rep. Paul Gosar, “would authorize the Interior secretary to convey about 8,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management land to La Paz County, Ariz., a move that would allow the county to ‘take advantage of one of their best assets, sunshine,’ according to Gosar.” The Subcommittee on Federal Lands will “hear testimony on three other bills: H.R. 219, from Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), to correct the Swan Lake hydroelectric project survey boundary and to convey the remaining land within the corrected boundary to Alaska. H.R. 3373, from Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.), to amend the District of Columbia Stadium Act of 1957 to add 50 years under the lease that allows D.C. to use the parking facilities and underground area of the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium. H.R. 3607, from Rep. Tom McClintock (R-Calif.), to authorize the Interior secretary to establish fees for medical services provided in units of the National Park System.”

Zinke's Travels: Ski Resort And Alaskan Steakhouse.

[Politico](#) (10/10, Whieldon, Lefebvre) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has "attended at least two additional political fundraisers while traveling for official business, including a weekend ski getaway less than three weeks after he was sworn in where donors paid up to \$3,000 to attend, according to sources and documents reviewed by POLITICO." The article says that "Zinke's previously undisclosed attendance at the events adds to scrutiny he is facing over his habit of mixing political activities with official business when traveling outside of Washington, D.C., and to questions over travel expenses incurred by members of President Donald Trump's Cabinet." Politico adds that "in addition to the fundraisers, Zinke has held at least a half-dozen other events with big donors or influential conservative organizations while on official trips."

Additional coverage was provided by the [New York Post](#) (10/11, Tacopino) and [Business Insider](#) (10/10, Abadi).

Ethics Chief 'Deeply Concerned' About Actions By Top Federal Officials. The [New York Times](#) (10/10, Lipton) reports that David J. Apol, the acting head of the Office of Government Ethics, "sent a letter to all federal agencies late last week warning that he is 'deeply concerned that the actions of some in government leadership have harmed perceptions about the importance of ethics.'" The letter, which called on federal workers to act honorably, did "not include specifics about what actions by Trump administration employees have elevated his concerns." The Times notes that the two-page memo came six days after former Health and Human Services Secretary Price announced his resignation following questions over his use of private and government planes.

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (10/10).

Trump's Interior Head: If We Take Down Confederate Statues, American Indians Will Complain Next.

The [Huffington Post](#) (10/10, D'Angelo, Liebelson) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "says that if Confederate monuments are taken down, there's no telling how far America might go – Native Americans could call for the removal of statues commemorating leaders who orchestrated violence against their ancestors." In an interview with Breitbart published Sunday, Zinke said, "Where do you start and where do you stop? It's a slippery slope. If you're a native Indian, I can tell you, you're not very happy about the history of General Sherman or perhaps President Grant." Zinke "told Breitbart that the Trump administration will not remove any monuments from federal land, including Confederate monuments." He said, "When you try to erase history, what happens is you also erase how it happened and why it happened and the ability to learn from it."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Daily Intelligencer \(NY\)](#) (10/10, Levitz).

Environmentalists Oppose Commercial Fishing Within Northeast Marine National Monument.

[WRNI-FM](#) Providence, RI (10/10, Brookins) reports that "local environmentalists are worried allowing commercial fishing within the boundaries" of the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument "would harm the area's ecosystem and biodiversity." Advocacy group Environment America "believes commercial fishing should remain banned because they said the monument is home to hundreds of species, including deep-sea corals and migratory fish, and serves as an entanglement-free zone for endangered marine mammals." On the other hand, the New England Fishery Management Council supports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recommendations. Janice Plante, spokeswoman for the council, "said the agency is best equip to regulate New England fisheries because that's what they were designed to do."

Additional Coverage: Sage Grouse Lands Reopening For Mineral Development.

Additional coverage that the Interior Department is "reopening 10 million acres of federal lands in Nevada and five other Western state for mineral development after finding that mining has no impact on sage grouse populations" was provided by the [Las Vegas Sun](#) (10/10).

Saving Public Lands For Working Americans.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Times](#) (10/10, Barron), Christopher R. Barron, the president of Right Turn Strategies, writes that "from the moment he descended that escalator to announce his candidacy in 2015, Donald Trump vocally and forcefully broke with establishment Republican orthodoxy on a number of issues – including the issue of public lands." But despite his "pledges, and at the urging of special interests and a handful of disgruntled members of Congress, President Trump issued an executive order this spring instructing Secretary of the Interior Ryan

Zinke to review all presidential designations or expansions of national monuments of greater than 100,000 acres since Jan. 1, 1996." Barron asserts that "for tens of millions of working-class Americans, the folks who were the backbone of the Trump revolution, public lands are an essential part of their life." He concludes that "as President Trump weighs how to move forward on the question of public lands, monuments and national parks, he should once again put the interests of working-class Americans above those of the establishment elites."

Mark Woods: Some Swamps (and Rivers And Lakes) We Shouldn't Drain.

In his column for the [Florida Times-Union](#) (10/10, Woods), Mark Woods writes that he doesn't doubt that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "loves the outdoors." But he raises concerns about the Trump Administration's stance on public lands, in light of Zinke's recommendations following the review of recently designated national monuments.

Guest Opinion: Hot Lotto And Selling Our Public Lands.

In an op-ed for the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (10/10, Bucks), Dan Bucks, who served as Montana Director of Revenue from 2005-2013, likens Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's pursuit of "energy dominance" on federal lands to the 2015 "Hot Lotto" scandal. Bucks claims that they both "rig outcomes in violation of the law, and unfairly hand over the American people's wealth to only a favored few." According to Bucks, "Interior is now picking coal, oil and gas companies as the predetermined winners and ceding control of our public lands to them." He warns that "it is rushing to sell coal, oil and gas to companies at bargain basement prices and under lax rules—shortchanging the American people both now and for years to come."

Interior Secretary Zinke's Claim That The U.S.Has Struggled To Produce 'Low-Cost, Abundant And Reliable Energy'.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/11, Lewis) analyzes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's claim that "our country has inherited an energy-dependent country from previous generations, and in recent years, we've struggled to be self-sufficient in producing low-cost, abundant and reliable energy," which was made during a speech at the Heritage Foundation on Sept. 29, 2017. The article finds that "Zinke's claim that the U.S. has struggled to produce 'low-cost, abundant, and reliable energy sources' just doesn't square with the current state of domestic energy production." It notes that "even though the United States does not produce 100 percent of its energy domestically, in 2016, domestic energy production increased to 86 percent after hitting historic lows in 2005." According to the article, "the crux of Zinke's claim is that regulation increases the cost of U.S. production, and to achieve his vision of becoming an 'energy superpower,' the United States needs to cut the red tape." However, "instead of focusing on all the gains made by the energy industry over the past several years, Zinke obscures the reality of the domestic energy production." For this, Zinke is given "Four Pinocchios."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

DOI, Calif. Tribe Urge End To Group's Anti-Casino Suit.

[Law360](#) (10/10, Posses) reports that the Interior Department and the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians have "doubled down on quick-win requests in litigation challenging an off-reservation casino, telling a federal court that taking an advocacy group's view would essentially eviscerate the department's authority to issue procedures allowing gambling when a state refuses to negotiate." The parties "offered reply briefs on Friday in further support of their summary judgment bids and in opposition to a quick win request by individual citizens and community groups."

Bureau Of Land Management

Suit Seeks To Stop Oil-Gas Drilling On 9 Public Land Parcels.

The [AP](#) (10/10) reports that three environmental groups and San Miguel County in Colorado have filed suit against the federal government over nine oil and gas lease sales in the state that could threaten the Gunnison sage grouse. The lawsuit accuses the Bureau of Land Management of not consulting wildlife managers and not conducting required reviews prior to selling the leases this year. Plaintiff environmental groups include Rocky Mountain Wild, the San Juan Citizens Alliance,

and Conservation Colorado.

BLM Green Lights Up To 146 NatGas Wells In Long-Disputed Colorado Area.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (10/10, Nemec) reports that the Bureau of Land Management approved SG Interests Ltd to develop natural gas operations near Paonia, Colorado in the North Fork Valley. BLM approved the company for up to 146 natural gas wells as part of the Bull Mountain Unit Master Development Plan that spans almost 20,000 acres.

BLM Fracking Rules On Ute Tribal Lands Remains Uncharged.

The [Uintah Basin Standard \(UT\)](#) (10/10) reports on the impact of the Wyoming v. United States court ruling regarding Obama administration-era hydraulic fracturing rules for the Ute Indian Tribe. As a result of the ruling, "federal regulations that existed before March 2015 will remain in effect while the United States completes the procedural steps to formally repeal those same rules." The Ute Tribal Business Committee released a statement saying: "We hope that the Tenth Circuit will take this opportunity to decide this important issue of federal Indian law now, instead of allowing BLM to continue to violate both tribal sovereignty and federal law."

Landowners Call On BLM To Probe Well Plugging .

[E&E Publishing](#) (10/10, King) reports that landowner advocates requested that federal and state regulators make additional information available about abandoned and plugged gas wells in Wyoming in a September 22 letter to the Bureau of Land Management. Gas wells in Pavillion, Wyoming have shown evidence of corroded casings, which has sparked concerns that Encana Corp.'s gas wells may be leaking gas into water supplies, according to Pavillion Area Concerned Citizens Chairman John Fenton.

Idaho Inmates Work To Restore Sage Grouse Habitat.

[KTVB-TV](#) Boise, ID (10/10, Parris) reports that "after months of hard work, a group of women at the South Boise Women's Correctional Center are putting the final touches" on a project "to keep the greater sage grouse off the Endangered Species List." They are "helping grow native plants that will be used to restore the birds' native habitat." . The seedlings will be delivered to the Bureau of Land Management "to help restore sage grouse habitats that were destroyed by recent wildfires."

Thomas Mitchell: Jobs And Wildlife Can Coexist.

In his column for the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (10/11, Mitchell), Thomas Mitchell writes that "the Interior Department under Montanan Ryan Zinke is displaying an uncommon outbreak of common sense." Mitchell supports the Bureau of Land Management's move to cancel the Obama Administration's "prohibition of mining on 10 million acres of federal lands across six Western states, including Nevada." Mitchell asserts that "jobs and wildlife can coexist when just a little common sense is applied."

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

SLO Council Opposes Offshore Oil And Gas Drilling After Trump Order.

The [San Luis Obispo \(CA\) Tribune](#) (10/10, Wilson) reports that the San Luis Obispo City Council has "resolved to oppose any new oil and gas drilling off the California Coast, in response to an executive order signed in April by President Donald Trump that could open the door to offshore leases." According to the article, "citing climate action as a major city goal and joining a campaign led by the Center for Biological Diversity, the council unanimously passed a resolution voicing opposition to any new or expanded fossil fuel extraction in the Pacific Ocean." The resolution states, "Oil drilling presents a clear and ever-present danger to the health and safety of residents, businesses and economies, with the threat of an oil spill potentially wreaking havoc on ecosystems, on human health, and economic activities. Fracking and related techniques, where water and chemicals are injected under high pressure to crack rock formations and free up petroleum products, are linked to water and air pollution, health concerns, and harm to marine wildlife."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Big Water Tunnels Project OK'd By Southern California Agency.

The [AP](#) (10/10, Melley) reports that "the powerful Metropolitan Water District voted Tuesday to pay its share of the \$16 billion project to build two massive tunnels to pipe water from Northern California to Southern California cities." The AP says that "the 28-6 vote gives Gov. Jerry Brown's ambitious project an important boost of support – and guarantees more than a quarter of the funding – after an influential agricultural group withdrew its backing last month." However, the fate of the tunnels "remained somewhat uncertain."

Also reporting are the [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/10, Boxall), the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/10, Sabalow, Kasler), the [Los Angeles Daily News](#) (10/10, Chou), and the [Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (10/10).

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Gas Prices Inching Lower After Hurricanes.

[UPI](#) (10/10, Graeber) reports that according to AAA, despite 90 percent idle oil production due to Hurricane Nate, US motorists will see gas prices decrease. AAA spokesperson Jeanette Casselano said "the latest demand figures show the lowest since the week Hurricane Harvey hit and can likely be the beginning of a downward demand trend indicating even cheaper gas prices to come this fall." UPI states that "the federal government said it expected gas prices to be around \$2.40 for most of the month and drop to \$2.23 per gallon by December."

Fish And Wildlife Service

Little Owl Sparks A Large ESA Flap.

[E&E Publishing](#) (10/10, Doyle) reports that the Fish and Wildlife Service is "scrambling to save its interpretation of a crucial but notoriously ambiguous phrase in the Endangered Species Act." What Arizona U.S. District Judge Rosemary Márquez "next decides in a lawsuit over the pygmy-owl could buffet officials and other species alike." The ESA phrase in question is "significant portion of its range." According to the article, "a decision is pending, even as attorneys disagree over the current status of Márquez's original order."

Thousands Of Bats Slaughtered Annually In Asia End Up On EBay And Etsy For Artsy Americans.

[Newsweek](#) (10/10, Hugo) reports that "bats are being killed in Southeast Asia specifically to sell to American dead-bat enthusiasts, much of the supply on eBay and Etsy." According to the article, "between mid-2000 and 2013, the United States imported 114,927 bats," and "a total of 113,200 of those bats were dead—that's nearly 9,000 slaughtered bats per year." These figures "may be conservative because many imports are simply never seen." William Karesh, executive vice president for health and policy at EcoHealth Alliance, said, "I think it's under-reported because all they know is what they find. Fish and Wildlife doesn't have the staffing levels to monitor every bag, every suitcase, every box, every container that comes to every port."

Ex-US Fish And Wildlife Worker Takes Plea Deal In Theft Case.

The [AP](#) (10/9) reports that "a December sentencing is scheduled for a former U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service worker who'd been charged with burglarizing the service office in Wood River." According to court records, John Cochnar "pleaded no contest Thursday to two counts of theft after prosecutors dropped two burglary counts." His sentencing is set for Dec. 8.

Dealer Pleads Guilty To Buying Poached Elvers.

The [Mount Desert \(ME\) Islander](#) (10/10, Rappaport) reports that "last March, a federal grand jury indicted Woolwich elver dealer William Sheldon, now 71, on seven charges relating to buying and selling illegally harvested juvenile eels over a four-year period beginning in 2011." Last Thursday, Sheldon plead guilty "to one count of violating the federal Lacey Act, admitting to buying elvers from an undercover U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agent in April 2013 that had been illegally harvested in South Carolina and elsewhere."

Our View: Walrus Are In Danger, But Not Enough For Feds To Care.

The [Moscow-Pullman \(ID\) Daily News](#) (10/10, Malott) editorializes that "climate change has

forced the walrus to adapt and save itself for the time being," but "rather than step up to help solve the problem, Fish and Wildlife has decided the walruses aren't worth the money or effort because they're hanging on for now." The paper says that "listing the walrus on the endangered species list was an opportunity to shine a light on the reality of climate change." However, it concludes that "unless it starts affecting how we humans get our food, our current federal government clearly isn't going to care."

National Park Service

Lasers Vs. Grime: Park Service Says Treatment Wiped Out Jefferson Memorial's Black Film.

[WTOP-FM](#) Washington (10/10, Moore) reports that "a high-tech method using lasers to clean a grimy black coating on the Jefferson Memorial's dome has proved so successful, officials now want to give the rest of the monument a laser scrub-down, the National Park Service said Tuesday." [WRC-TV](#) Washington (10/10, Vesoulis) reports that "the test's success will allow them to clean the rest of the memorial." Justine Bello, an architectural conservator, said, "The level of clean that was achieved exceeded our expectations. We were able to clean the stone in a safe manner that protected both this cultural resource and the surrounding natural environment as well."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (10/11, Weil).

Florida DEP Renews Oil Exploration Permit In Big Cypress.

The [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (10/10, Staats) reports that Florida has "renewed a permit to allow a Texas company to continue a controversial search for oil in the Big Cypress National Preserve." Environmental groups had urged the Department of Environmental Protection to not allow Burnett Oil Co. "to resume the work, which has left behind muddy ruts and damaged trees." Burnett's "new permit, which is dated Friday, expires Oct. 5, 2018, and is subject to a 21-day challenge period."

[Florida Politics](#) (10/10, Powers) reports that "Democratic gubernatorial candidate Gwen Graham on Tuesday blasted a state decision to renew an oil exploration permit in the Big Cypress National Preserve in the Everglades." Graham said, "Protecting Big Cypress National Preserve is vital to preserving and restoring Florida's Everglades. The state should be working to end oil drilling in the Everglades, not expand it. As governor, I will fight to protect our clean land and water from oil drilling and fracking."

Glacier Park Attracts More Than 3 Million Visitors In 2017.

The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (10/10, Franz) reports that "more than 3 million people have visited Glacier National Park in 2017 making it the busiest year in park history." The article says that "according to data released by the National Park Service on Tuesday, 3.3 million people had visited the park through September, a 12.9 percent increase during the same nine-month period in 2016." The article notes that "total visitation in Glacier Park was down in September compared to the same month last year due to the Sprague Fire, which closed a large swath of the west side of the park, including the popular Going-to-the-Sun Road."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (10/11) and [KTVQ-TV](#) Billings, MT (10/10, Bragg).

Traffic Accident Kills 4 Bison In Grand Teton National Park.

The [AP](#) (10/10) reports that Grand Teton National Park rangers are "investigating a traffic accident that left four bison dead in northwest Wyoming." The incident "occurred Oct. 2 in the park on a foggy night on U.S. 26/89/191 when a pickup truck hit one bison on the highway, rolled and then struck and killed three more nearby bison." According to the National Park Service, "the Casper woman who was driving alone escaped with minor injuries."

State And Park Service Look To Make Parks Highway Safety Improvements.

The [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (10/10, Bross) reports that the state of Alaska and the National Park Service are "teaming up to improve safety on the Parks Highway near the entrance to Denali." According to Alaska Department of Transportation project engineering manager Carl Heim, "the area around milepost 231 where the highway crosses a bridge over the Nenana River, is a popular place with park visitors walking to trails on the other side." Heim "said the state

plans to rebuild the bridge with an attached sidewalk.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

WPost Analysis: Video Trump Tweeted Out Overstates Federal Role In Puerto Rico Recovery.

Jenna Johnson of the [Washington Post](#) (10/10, Johnson) writes that a nine-minute video “about Puerto Rico relief efforts that President Trump tweeted out this week...provides the kind of narrow, positive view of relief efforts in Puerto Rico that the president has been trying to convey amid the humanitarian crisis there – a montage of stacks of bottled water, helicopters moving concrete slabs and supplies, boats carrying medical items and trucks hauling diesel.” But the “selectively edited compilation” overstates the federal role, including clips of local efforts without identifying them as such. Johnson says that the video “shows the extent to which Trump and his administration are portraying the federal government’s handling of the disaster in Puerto Rico in the best possible light, despite the enduring power, water and health problems there.”

Puerto Rico Health System In Critical Condition. The [New York Times](#) (10/10, A1, Robles) reports that numerous sick people in Puerto Rico are in “mortal peril” almost three weeks after Hurricane Maria’s destruction. HHS Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response Robert Kadlec said, “The devastation I saw, I thought was equivalent to a nuclear detonation. Whatever you do, will be almost insufficient to the demand and need that is out there for these 3.5 million Americans in Puerto Rico. We are doing everything we can with what we have, and we have a lot.”

Island Still 84% Without Power. The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/10, story 7, 2:10, Mason) reported, “It is a slow road to recovery in Puerto Rico, nearly three weeks after Hurricane Maria hit. FEMA says commercial airline service is back to 100%, and 78% of gas stations are open. But only about a third of cell towers are working, and 84% of the power is still out. The death toll is up to 45.” The [New York Times](#) (10/10, Caron) reports that Gov. Ricardo Rosselló said Friday that “the goal is to have 25 percent of the electrical system restored ‘within the next month.’”

FreedomWorks’ Tamny Opposes Puerto Rico Debt Forgiveness. John Tamny of the Center for Economic Freedom at FreedomWorks writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/10) that forgiving Puerto Rico’s debt would only make the territory’s situation worse by letting inept leaders off the hook. He argues that in order to pay off the debt, Puerto Rico will need to strengthen private enterprise to promote growth, which will help all residents.

Dog Hailed A Hero In Puerto Rico Recovery Efforts.

[KKTV-TV](#) Colorado Springs, CO (10/10) reports that “a small pup is being hailed a hero for leading a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) employee to her owner in Puerto Rico during recovery efforts.” USFWS employee James Casey was “conducting a security assessment of a closed hospital in Humaco when he noticed Agua the dog. Casey, from Texas, was with 30 Interior Department responders on a mission for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.” According to the article, “Casey and the rest of the team followed Agua,” and “when they got to the bottom of a hill, they found a woman, the dog’s owner.”

US Geological Survey

Will ‘Negro’ Name Stick To Utah Canyon?

The [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (10/10, Maffly) reports that the fight over the name of Negro Bill Canyon “remains a sore point of contention in Utah, one that may finally be put to rest this week.” The U.S. Board on Geographic Names is “expected to vote Thursday whether to change the canyon’s name, using the pioneer’s surname rather than a race-based nickname that no one ever called him during his lifetime.” The Board on Geographic Names “voted down a name change in 2001, citing a lack of support.” However, “officials with the Bureau of Land Management and Grand County have since reversed their stances, while the Utah Committee on Geographic Names voted against a name change.”

Additional Reading.

- ***Earthquake: Magnitude 3.0 Quake Strikes Near Salton Sea.*** [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/10, Quakebot).

- *Magnitude 6.3 Quake Hits Northern Chile: USGS.* [Reuters](#) (10/10).

Top National News

Trump Again Hits Corker On Twitter Amid Concerns About Impact On GOP Agenda.

Coverage of President Trump's criticisms of Sen. Bob Corker continues for a third day, but the volume of reporting has declined. Corker has not been responding to the President's ongoing Twitter gibes, and while some of the most recent reporting focuses on the President's Tuesday dubbing of the Tennessean as "Liddle Bob Corker," there is more space given to analysis of the potential damage to the GOP agenda. Reporting also includes speculation that Corker's concerns about Trump are widely shared among Capitol Hill Republicans who have not been as outspoken.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/10, story 6, 2:00, Muir) reported on "the war of words" between the two. ABC's Jonathan Karl reported that Corker "infuriated the President by saying this to New York Times." Corker: "He doesn't realize that, you know, that we could be heading towards World War III with the kinds of comments that he's making." Karl: "'The Failing @nytimes set Liddle' Bob Corker up by recording his conversation,' the President [tweeted](#) today. 'Was made to sound a fool, and that's what I am dealing with!' But...it was, in fact, Corker who asked the New York Times to record the interview."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/10, story 5, 1:50, Mason) called it "the latest episode of the Republican family feud." CBS' Margaret Brennan: "In this audio clip, the Senator clearly consents to being taped." Corker: "I know they're recording it, and I hope you are, too." Brennan: "In that interview, Corker said Mr. Trump may be headed towards World War III. Today, White House spokesperson Sarah Sanders weighed in." Sanders: "Sen. Corker is certainly entitled to his own opinion, but he's not entitled to his own facts." Brennan: "She then repeated the erroneous claim that Corker supported the Iran nuclear deal, even though he voted against it."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/10, story 3, 2:15, Holt), Kristen Welker reported that "party leaders are urging both sides to cool it. The family feud could derail the entire fall GOP agenda." [Breitbart](#) (10/10, Spiering) reports that "White House reporters repeatedly asked" Sanders "about Trump's feud with Corker, wondering how it would help the president pass his big-ticket items in the Republican-led Senate."

The [AP](#) (10/10, Werner) reports that Trump "lashed out" at Corker, "continuing a feud with the Tennessee Republican. ... Fellow GOP senators, treading carefully, avoided siding with Trump or Corker. But leading lawmakers called on both men to end a quarrel that could imperil the Republican agenda on Capitol Hill." The [New York Times](#) (10/10, Baker) reports that Trump "escalated his attack" on Corker "by ridiculing him for his height, even as advisers worried that the president was further fracturing his relationship with congressional Republicans just a week before a vote critical to his tax cutting plan." However, the [Washington Times](#) (10/10, Boyer) reports that the President said that his tax reform plan is not in jeopardy. He told reporters, "The people of this country want tax cuts."

[USA Today](#) (10/10, Jackson) reports that Trump also "waved off...Corker's recent claim that his threats against other countries and reckless rhetoric could put the nation 'on a path to World War II,' telling reporters that 'we were on the wrong path before' he took office." [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/10) reported that during a meeting in the Oval Office with former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Trump said, "We were on the wrong path before. All you have to do is take a look. If you look over the last 25 years through numerous administrations, we were on a path to a very big problem – a problem like this world has never seen. We're on the right path right now, believe me."

[The Tennessean](#) (10/10, Boucher) reports that the White House "won't weigh in" on whether Corker should resign. Sanders "said it is up to Corker and the people of Tennessee to decide" if he should leave office early. [Roll Call](#) (10/10, Bennett) says that Tuesday was "the third full day of the Trump-Corker feud." However, [Politico](#) (10/10, Everett) reports that Corker "had no response to Trump's latest taunt as of Tuesday; he and his office have kept quiet since giving a lengthy interview to the New York Times on Sunday. Corker's remarks – aside from saying the president could trigger World War III, Corker accused him of treating his job like a reality show – marked the harshest criticism by a sitting Republican senator of Trump yet."

Paul Kane of the [Washington Post](#) (10/10, Kane) writes that on Tuesday, "a collective, if private, acknowledgment emerged that Corker was speaking for most Senate Republicans when he stood up to a Trump taunt," but "you wouldn't know it from senators' public pronouncements. After Corker tweeted on Sunday that the White House had been turned into 'an adult day-care

center,' most Republicans were silent – deciding to ride out this moment with the belief that it would fade away."

Rep. Elijah Cummings (D-MD) was asked on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (10/10) what he hears from his Republican colleagues in the House about Trump. Cummings said, "I hear the same things that Sen. Corker said. And I have been asking them, why don't they say these things in public? I think many of them are concerned about being the victim of a tweet. Other ones are worried about having somebody run against them from the right."

Rep. Eric Swalwell (D-CA) said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/10), "If Sen. Corker is indeed correct that other senators have expressed this concern, if you have seen something, it's time to say something. He shouldn't be the only one. We need other patriots to come forward because the stakes are too great if we don't stop this president from taking us to a nuclear war."

Leonard Pitts writes in his [Miami Herald](#) (10/10) column, "Yes, he's childish and incompetent. Is that really news by now? But of course, it wasn't that assessment...that made jaws drop over the weekend so much as it was the person making it. ... But whatever satisfaction one might derive from hearing Trump hammered by his own troops is insufficient to blunt the anger that rises close behind." Pitts also writes that Corker was an enthusiastic supporter of Trump during the 2016 campaign.

NYTimes Analysis: Administration's Claims On Corker's Iran Deal Role Are "Misleading." The [New York Times](#) (10/10, Qiu) writes under the headline "Trump Misleadingly Blames Bob Corker For Iran Deal" that Trump's blaming of Corker for the Iran nuclear deal "is a misleading charge: Mr. Corker...repeatedly spoke out against the accord to limit Tehran's nuclear program before it was brokered by world powers in 2015." Sanders said Monday, "Sen. Corker worked with Nancy Pelosi and the Obama Administration to pave the way for that legislation, and basically rolled out the red carpet for the Iran deal." That was a reference to a 2015 bill that Corker "sponsored and pushed through...to give Congress some say over the deal, as Republicans demanded at the time." The bill ultimately passed 98-1 in the Senate and 400-25 in the House.

LA Times Analysis: Trump Resisting Kelly's Efforts To Rein In His Impulses. The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/10, Bierman, Decker, Bennett) reports that the President "by many accounts has bristled" at efforts at management imposed by White House Chief of Staff Kelly "and continues – usually alone on mornings, nights and weekends – to act on his own gut sense, using his own lines to contact allies outside the White House and, using Twitter, to reach those millions of supporters he calls 'my people.'" This continued on Tuesday as Trump "tweeted a schoolyard taunt about Corker's height." The Times writes, "Allies see signs that Trump is frustrated with Kelly and increasingly unwilling to be managed, even just a little."

Administration Moves To Repeal Clean Power Plan.

EPA Administrator Pruitt on Tuesday issued a proposed rule that would eliminate the Obama-era climate rule known as the clean power plan. Pruitt said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (10/10), "The President made a promise to the American people that the EPA would not be an agency that picks winners and losers as we generate electricity in this country. The past administration made a commitment to declare war on coal. And effectively yesterday and today, that war is over. The war on coal is over." The [Washington Post](#) (10/10, Eilperin) quotes a statement from Pruitt, which said, "We are committed to righting the wrongs of the Obama administration by cleaning the regulatory slate. ... Any replacement rule will be done carefully, properly, and with humility, by listening to all those affected by the rule."

[The Hill](#) (10/10, Cama) reports that the action is "a win to fossil fuel companies, business groups and Republicans – including Pruitt, the former Oklahoma attorney general – who fought the climate plan from the start."

The [Washington Times](#) (10/10, Wolfgang) says the move, which follows through on one of the President's "vows to coal country," will be "challenged in court, with environmental groups and Democrats quickly vowing to fight any move to repeal the CPP." But Pruitt "says he's on solid legal footing, and that repeal will save as much as \$33 billion over the next 13 years." The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (10/10, Harrington) likewise cites "senior Trump administration officials" who said the repeal "would save \$33 billion in avoided compliance costs by 2030."

[Reuters](#) (10/10, Gardner, Flitter) says the EPA "did not issue a timeline on replacing the plan, only saying it would issue a rule in the 'near future,'" which "could delay fresh investment in electricity generation, an industry rife with aging plants, analysts said." The [New York Times](#) (10/10, Friedman) reports that "those adept at reading between the lines of dense federal documents say the subtext reads more like: 'Don't hold your breath,'" adding that "industry leaders and environmental activists predict that...nothing will take its place for possibly years to

come." A [New York Times](#) (10/10) editorial calls the move "deeply disheartening," and argues that if Pruitt offers a substitute plan, "it won't amount to much, surely not the closing of any coal-fired plants."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/10, Puko) reports that despite the Administration's plans to repeal the rules, some of the nation's biggest power companies including American Electric Power Co., NRG Energy Inc. and Southern Co., say they will move forward with investments in renewable and gas-fired electricity and will make climate change part of their corporate strategy.

CNN: Pruitt Lifted Environmental Restrictions On Bristol Bay After Meeting With Mining CEO. On [CNN's Anderson Cooper 360](#) (10/10), Cooper highlighted EPA Administrator Pruitt's "decisions to lift the protections of a pristine area in Alaska that could pave the way for a massive new mine there." Pruitt "made the decision after meeting with a mining executive." Senior investigative correspondent Drew Griffin added that at the May 1 meeting at EPA headquarters, the CEO of Pebble Ltd. Partnership asked Pruitt "to withdraw environmental restrictions on Alaska's Bristol Bay" imposed by the Obama Administration "to stop that company from building a massive mine." Pruitt "quickly agreed" and "little more than an hour" after the meeting, "EPA staffers were shocked to receive this email obtained exclusively by CNN which says, 'We have been directed by the administrator to withdraw the restrictions.'" Griffin added that "multiple sources" say Pruitt "made that decision without a briefing from any of EPA's scientists or experts."

Trump Says He Will Sign Order Allowing Health Insurance Purchases Across State Lines.

[USA Today](#) (10/10, Korte) reports that President Trump said Tuesday that he will bypass Congress and sign an executive order to allow consumers to buy health insurance across state lines. Trump said, "They'll be able to cross state lines, and they will get great, competitive healthcare, and it will cost the United States nothing. ... But it will be great, great healthcare for many, many people — a big percentage of the number of people that we were talking about for failed Obamacare." The Post points out that with the executive action, Trump "is doing something he often criticized Obama doing," but White House press secretary Sarah Sanders "said Trump has a clear mandate to take action with or without Congress."

[Reuters](#) (10/10, Abutaleb, Mason) says the order "is expected to allow Americans to buy stripped-down health insurance policies, a step some experts say would further undermine the Obamacare law that Trump opposes." The [AP](#) (10/10, Murphy) says the coverage "could wind up costing some shoppers less if the policies don't have to meet the coverage requirements of individual states or the Affordable Care Act. But that's true largely for customers with good health."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/10, Levey) reports that the Administration is "reportedly looking specifically at ways to loosen health insurance regulations and promote wider use of a form of insurance known as association health plans." The Times provides "a rundown of how these plans work and what the administration's moves could mean for Americans and their health insurance."

Supreme Court Dismisses Travel Ban Challenge.

[USA Today](#) (10/10, Wolf, Korte) reports that the Supreme Court on Tuesday "dismissed a major challenge to President Trump's travel ban on majority-Muslim countries" because "it has been replaced by a new version, sending the controversy back to the starting block." According to USA, "the ruling is a victory for the Trump administration, which had asked the court to drop the case after Trump signed a proclamation Sept. 24 that replaced the temporary travel ban on six nations with a new, indefinite ban affecting eight countries," an action that the justices ruled "made the court challenge moot." The decision "effectively wipes the record clean in" the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, "one of two federal appeals courts that had struck down major portions of Trump's travel ban." USA notes that a separate case from the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals "remains pending because it includes a ban on refugees worldwide that won't expire until later this month," but the Supreme Court "is likely to ditch that case."

The [New York Times](#) (10/10, Liptak) reports that if the 9th Circuit case is dismissed, "a politically charged clash between presidential power and claims of religious discrimination that could have produced a blockbuster decision will instead end with a whimper." According to the Times, "a new wave of litigation aimed at" the Trump Administration's "latest policies, announced last month, is already underway, and appeals in those cases may yet reach the Supreme Court," but for now, "what could have been one of the marquee cases of a busy term was removed from the docket."

The [Washington Times](#) (10/10, Dinan) reports that while the 4th Circuit "had only ruled Mr. Trump's 90-day pause unconstitutional, the 9th Circuit had also ruled the president's 120-day

halt on refugee admissions to be illegal," and "that 120-day period expires later this month, suggesting that at least, for now, it remains a live controversy." Justice Sonia Sotomayor "dissented from the court's order, saying she would have instead just sent the case back to the lower appeals court to be continued."

Trump To Push Tax Plan In Pennsylvania Wednesday.

[Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/10, Tamari) reports that President Trump will visit Pennsylvania Wednesday, to tout his tax reform plan, "the best remaining chance for a major legislative victory in his first year, when a president's power is typically highest." When Trump delivers a speech outside Harrisburg, "the script calls for him to explain how the plan would help middle-class workers like truck drivers, according to a senior White House official who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity." However, there "would be little surprise if festering battles with fellow Republicans or NFL players feature just as prominently...as taxes."

Trump Says Changes To Tax Plan Coming In Next Few Weeks.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/10, Sink) reports that President Trump said Tuesday that he will make changes to his tax plan in the next few weeks. Speaking to reporters in the Oval Office, Trump said, "We'll be adjusting a little bit over the next few weeks to make it even stronger, but I will tell you it's become very, very popular." However, Trump "didn't specify what kind of changes he expects to make to the plan." [Reuters](#) (10/10) says Trump said his ongoing feud with Sen. Bob Corker will not hurt his push for tax reform. Asked if the "spat with Corker would affect the tax effort," Trump said, "I don't think so, no."

Politico: Trump Repeats False Claim That US Is Highest-Tax Nation In The World. [Politico](#) (10/10, Nussbaum) says Trump reiterated a claim he has "repeated over and over again," that the US is the highest-taxed nation in the world. However, the claim is "false – something fact checkers have been pointing out since 2015, when Trump first began declaring it on the campaign trail." Politico adds that White House press secretary Sarah Sanders "sought for the second time in less than a week to defend the comment by saying, in effect, that Trump did not mean what he said." Sanders argued, "We are the highest taxed corporate tax [sic] in the developed economy. That's a fact." When a reporter pointed out that that the President said "we're the highest taxed nation in the world," Sanders replied, "The highest taxed corporate nation. Seems pretty consistent to me. Sorry, we're just going to have to agree to disagree."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Mr. Trump Nails Shut The Coffin In Climate Relief." A [New York Times](#) (10/10) editorial calls the Administration's move to repeal the Clean Power Plan "deeply disheartening," and argues that if EPA Administrator Pruitt offers a substitute plan, "it won't amount to much, surely not the closing of any coal-fired plants."

Washington Post.

"Erdogan Is Bullying America. Trump Should Do Something." A [Washington Post](#) (10/10) editorial says President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Turkey "appears well on its way to becoming an outlaw state," and argues that there's "no question" that the Administration, "which has persisted in describing Mr. Erdogan as a close ally, must now stand up to his bullying." The Post writes that while the "long-standing US alliance with Turkey should be preserved, to the extent that is possible with Mr. Erdogan in power," it "cannot come at the expense of tolerating hostage-taking and assaults on the US rule of law. Mr. Erdogan should be made to understand that he is risking a rupture of relations that will do far more harm to his regime than to the United States."

"Trump's Moves On NAFTA Risk Massive Damage." A [Washington Post](#) (10/10) editorial says that "the future of the U.S. economy" will be at stake Wednesday when "representatives of the United States, Canada and Mexico will begin a fourth and possibly pivotal round of negotiations on overhauling" NAFTA. The Post argues that if President Trump, who it describes as "a demagogic NAFTA critic," makes "an unwise move on NAFTA, he could seriously hurt workers on all sides, and he would be directly responsible. And so far, he seems to be sticking to dangerous positions on the trade agreement."

"DC Is Right To Stand Down On Its Concealed-Carry Law." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/10) writes that DC city officials were right when they decided last week not to appeal a

July court ruling that struck down the city's requirement that people have a "good reason" to obtain a concealed-carry permit. The Post argues that given the makeup of the Supreme Court and its decision to expand the individual right to bear arms in the city under *District of Columbia v. Heller*, "the District's caution in not wanting to be the prod for further loosening of gun laws is understandable." The Post adds that there are still appropriate checks on carrying a concealed firearm in the city, such as 16 hours of training and an extensive background check.

Wall Street Journal.

"Tax Reform And Deficits." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/10) editorial cites the CBO's reports Friday that the fiscal 2017 budget deficit grew for the second consecutive year to \$668 billion and argues that unless economic growth accelerates the federal budget will never be balanced.

"An Outrageous Prosecution." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/10) editorial decries reporter Ayla Albayrak's conviction by a Turkish court, which it says is the consequence of the repressive environment President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has created in Turkey since a failed coup in 2016.

"Alien Torts Unlimited." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/10) editorializes that in a case the Supreme Court will hear today, foreign citizens are claiming the right to sue foreign corporations for injuries that occur on foreign soil in US courts. The Journal argues that such a right would unduly expand corporate liability for torts, as well as the jurisdiction of US courts. In *Jesner v. Arab Bank*, 6,000 foreign plaintiffs sued the Jordanian Arab Bank for injuries caused by Hamas and other terrorist groups in Israel, arguing that Arab Bank approved automatic electronic wire transfers through the US-based CHIPS system for foreign terrorists. Plaintiffs invoked the 1789 Alien Tort Statute. The Journal argues that in 1980 the Supreme Court erred in holding that US courts could review cases involving foreigners for violations of international norms, and that the court should not allow the claims in *Jesner*.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[P&G Says Peltz Has Lost Bid For Board Seat: He Presses On](#)

[The Reason Investors Love Spinoffs: Juicier Returns](#)

[Deadly California Wildfires Rip Through Once-Safe Areas](#)

[Family Ties, Leaks And A Wedding: Inside The Political Scandal Rocking South Africa](#)

New York Times:

[Wildfires Burn Out Of Control Across Northern California: 17 Are Dead](#)

[Kobe Steel's Falsified Data Is Another Blow To Japan's Reputation](#)

[Gwyneth Paltrow, Angelina Jolie And Others Say Weinstein Harassed Them](#)

[Puerto Rico's Healthcare Is In Dire Condition, Three Weeks After Maria](#)

[He Excelled As A Detective, Until Prosecutors Stopped Believing Him](#)

Washington Post:

[Black Man Beaten At Va. Rally Now Faces Charges](#)

[Lebanese Turn Against Refugees After Brutal Killing](#)

[3 Women Accuse Weinstein Of Rape](#)

[Thousands Flee As California Wildfires Rage On](#)

[How Sean Hannity Learned To Channel Red-State Rage](#)

Financial Times:

[Catalan Leader Steps Back From Immediate Independence Declaration](#)

[P&G Says Nelson Peltz Has Lost Battle For Board Seat](#)

[Theresa May Silent On How She Would Vote In Second Brexit Poll](#)

[Global Childhood Obesity Rises 10-Fold In 40 Years](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Unsettles Allies By Picking Fights With Republicans](#)

[Trump Threatens To Kill Tax Breaks For NFL Stadiums: Goodell Tells Teams To Stand For Anthem](#)

['Baffling' Gun-Free Zones In D.C. Thwart Concealed-Carry Permit Holders](#)

[Trump Will Try To Sell Tax Plan In Pennsylvania, But Political Base Begins To Fray](#)

[Weinstein's Sexual Harassment Scandal Tarnishes Hollywood, Democratic Party](#)
[Catalonia's President Proposes Cooling-Off Period Before Secession Talks With Spain](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: West Coast Wildfires-Northern California; West Coast Wildfires-Impacted Family; West Coast Wildfires-Southern California; West Coast Wildfires-Tracking; Weinstein-Sexual Harassment Scandal; Trump-Republicans Relations; Las Vegas Shooting-Security Guard; North Carolina-Airport Bombing Attempt; Texas Tech-Officer Shot; NFL-National Anthem Standing Rule; West Coast Wildfires-Recovery.

CBS: West Coast Wildfires-Northern California; West Coast Wildfires-Southern California; Weinstein-Sexual Harassment Scandal; Las Vegas Shooting-Security Guard; Trump-Republicans Relations; Syria-Raqa Assault; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery; North Carolina-Airport Bombing Attempt; Texas Tech-Officer Shot; West Coast Wildfires-Impacted Family.

NBC: West Coast Wildfires; Weinstein-Sexual Harassment Scandal; Trump-Republicans Relations; North Korea-Cyber Attacks; Opioid Epidemic; NFL-National Anthem Standing Rule; WHO-Child Obesity; UK Royal Family-Baby Number Three; Charitable Marathon Runner.

Network TV At A Glance:

West Coast Wildfires – 18 minutes, 15 seconds

Weinstein-Sexual Harassment Scandal – 8 minutes, 40 seconds

Trump-Republicans Relations – 6 minutes, 5 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: West Coast Wildfires; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; Weinstein-Sexual Harassment Scandal; Navy-Destroyer Collision Investigation.

CBS: West Coast Wildfires; Weinstein-Sexual Harassment Scandal; North Korea Threats; Magazine Companies-Lacking Sales; Baseball News.

FOX: West Coast Wildfires; Weinstein-Sexual Harassment Scandal; US Team-World Cup.

NPR: West Coast Wildfires; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; North Korea Threats; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Leads an expanded bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Trudeau of Canada; gives remarks on tax reform in Harrisburg, PA.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 3:30 PM Congressional briefing on 'The Intersection of Trademarks and Brands' – U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Intellectual Property Center, in collaboration with INTA and the Congressional Trademark Caucus, hosts Congressional briefing on 'The Intersection of Trademarks and Brands: A Dialogue with Famous Brands and Law Enforcement'. Bipartisan Sens. Chris Coons and Chuck Grassley and Reps. John Ratcliffe and Ted Deutch lead the discussion, with other speakers including National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center Deputy Director William Ross, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Commissioner for Trademarks Mary Boney Denison, and NBA Properties Executive Vice President and Deputy General Counsel Ayala Deutch Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Meeting Room South, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com <https://twitter.com/USChamber>

On recess until 16 October.

US House: 10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on 'how covered entities utilize the 340B Drug Pricing Program' – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining How Covered Entities Utilize the 340B Drug Pricing Program', with testimony from Northside Hospital Director of Finance and System Controller Shannon Banna; AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin President and CEO Mike Gifford; Mission Health Systems President and CEO Dr Ronald Paulus; Johns Hopkins Hospital Executive Vice President and COO Charles Reuland; and Carolina Health Centers President and CEO Sue Veer Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Financial Services Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on legislation including 'H.R. 1645, the Fostering Innovation Act of 2017', 'H.R. 1699, the Preserving

Access to Manufactured Housing Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2148, the Clarifying Commercial Real Estate Loans', 'H.R. 2201, the Micro Offering Safe Harbor Act', 'H.R. 3072, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection Examination and Reporting Threshold Act of 2017', 'H.R. 3299, the Protecting Consumers' Access to Credit Act of 2017', 'H.R. 3312, the Systemic Risk Designation Improvement Act of 2017', 'H.R. 3758, the Senior Safe Act of 2017', 'H.R. 3857, the Protecting Advice for Small Savers Act of 2017', 'H.R. 3903, the Encouraging Public Offerings Act of 2017', 'H.R. 3911, the Risk-Based Credit Examination Act', 'H.R. 3948, the Protection of Source Code Act', 'H.R. 3971, the Community Institution Mortgage Relief Act of 2017', 'H.R. 3972, the Family Office Technical Correction Act of 2017', and 'H.R. 3973, the Market Data Protection Act of 2017' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC
<http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Oversight subcommittee hearing on U.S. Govt role in protecting international religious freedom – National Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Review of the U.S. Government's Role in Protecting International Religious Freedom' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Federal Lands Subcommittee legislative hearing on 'H.R. 219, Swan Lake Hydroelectric Project Boundary Correction Act', 'H.R. 2630, La Paz County Land Conveyance Act', 'H.R. 3373, To amend the District of Columbia Stadium Act of 1957 to extend for an additional 50 years the lease under which the government of the District of Columbia uses the ground under and the parking facilities associated with Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium', 'H.R. 3607, To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish fees for medical services provided in units of the National Park System, and for other purposes', with testimony from Republican Rep. Paul Gosar; Southeast Alaska Power Agency CEO Trey Acteson; Events DC President and CEO Gregory O'Dell; National Park Service Acting Deputy Director for Operations Bob Vogel; and La Paz County, AZ, Chairman of the Board of Supervisors D.L. Wilson Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on Iran – Hearing on 'Confronting the Full Range of Iranian Threats', with testimony from The Washington Institute for Near East Policy Distinguished Visiting Fellow (and former U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, to Turkey, and to Albania) James Jeffrey; Jewish Institute for National Security of America Gemunder Center Iran Task Force Co-Chair (and former U.S. European Command Deputy Commander) Gen. (Ret.) Charles Wald; and Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Geoeconomics and Strategy Program Senior Fellow (and former Vice President's National Security Adviser / former State Department Director of Policy Planning) Jake Sullivan Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

10:00 AM House Infrastructure subcommittee hearing on highways and transit stakeholders' perspectives – Highways and Transit Subcommittee hearing on 'Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Highways and Transit Stakeholders' Perspectives', with testimony from Missouri Department of Transportation Director Patrick McKenna (on behalf of American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials); Granite Construction President and CEO James Roberts (on behalf of Transportation Construction Coalition); North America's Building Trades Unions Secretary-Treasurer Brent Booker; Associated Industries of Missouri President and CEO Ray McCarty (on behalf of National Association of Manufacturers); and Sound Transit CEO Peter Rogoff Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM CFTC Chairman Giancarlo testifies to House Agriculture Committee on 2017 agenda – Hearing on 'Examining the 2017 Agenda for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission', with testimony from CFTC Chairman J. Christopher Giancarlo Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1300, Washington, DC <http://agriculture.house.gov/>

10:00 AM House Technology subcommittees joint hearing on undercover GAO review of NIST security vulnerabilities – Oversight Subcommittee and Research and Technology Subcommittee joint hearing on 'NIST's Physical Security Vulnerabilities: A GAO Undercover Review', with testimony from Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Administration Lisa Casias; National Institute of Standards and Technology Acting Director Dr Kent Rochford; and Government Accountability Office Forensic Audits & Investigative Service Director of Audit Services Seto Bagdoyan Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:15 AM House Dems call for removal of 'job outsourcing provisions' within NAFTA – Democratic Reps. Rosa DeLauro, Marcy Kaptur, Keith Ellison, and Debbie Dingell call for Investor-

State Dispute Settlement rules be eliminated from the North American Free Trade Agreement during renegotiation, via press conference. The lawmakers say ISDS 'makes it less risky for big corporations to outsource good paying American jobs' Location: House Triangle, Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/delauro/> <https://twitter.com/rosadelauro>

10:30 AM Hearing on 'Transforming GPO for the 21st Century and Beyond: Part 4' Location: Rm 1310, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://cha.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAdmnGOP>

11:00 AM House Small Business Committee latest hearing on the Paperwork Reduction Act – Hearing on 'Evaluating the Paperwork Reduction Act Part II: Are Burdens Being Reduced?', with testimony from Environmental Protection Agency Acting Assistant Administrator and Acting CIO Dr Steven Fine; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Deputy Director for Policy Stephen Guertin; Department of Labor CIO Gundeep Ahluwalia; and Food and Drug Administration CIO Todd Simpson Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

12:00 PM House expected to begin debate on whistleblower protection bill – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include beginning consideration of 'S. 585 – Dr. Chris Kirkpatrick Whistleblower Protection Act of 2017', plus consideration of 'H.R. 2105 – NIST Small Business Cybersecurity Act of 2017', as amended, 'H.R. 2763 – The Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer Improvements Act of 2017', as amended, 'S. 190 – Power And Security Systems (PASS) Act', 'S. 920 – National Clinical Care Commission Act', 'H.R. 378 – Bonuses for Cost-Cutters Act of 2017', as amended, 'H.R. 2196 – To amend title 5, United States Code, to allow whistleblowers to disclose information to certain recipients', 'H.R. 2229 – All Circuit Review Act', 'H.R. 2989 – Frederick Douglass Bicentennial Commission Act', as amended, 'H.R. 3031 – TSP Modernization Act of 2017', as amended, and 'H.R. 3243 – FITARA Enhancement Act of 2017' under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee legislative hearing – Economic Opportunity Subcommittee legislative hearing, on legislation including a draft bill entitled 'To amend title 38, United States Code, to eliminate the applicability of certain provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act to housing and business loan programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs', a draft bill entitled 'To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the use of educational assistance provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs for flight training programs', a draft bill entitled 'To authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make grants to eligible organization for the provision of transition assistance to members of the Armed Forces recently separated from active duty service', and a draft bill entitled 'To amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the designation of State approving agencies for multi-State apprenticeship programs for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs' Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

2:00 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee legislative hearing on a discussion draft of 'H.R. XXXX, Accessing Strategic Resources Offshore Act' ('ASTRO Act'), with testimony from Van Ness Feldman Senior Policy Advisor Mary Landrieu; South Carolina State Sen. Stephen Goldfinch; American Petroleum Institute Director of Upstream and Industry Operations Erik Milito; and The Bromwich Group founder and Managing Principal Michael Bromwich Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

2:00 PM Trade Subcommittee hearing on 'Opportunities to Expand U.S. Trade Relationships in the Asia-Pacific Region' Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1100, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on Lebanon – Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee hearing on 'U.S. Policy Toward Lebanon', with testimony from Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Michael Ratney; and USAID Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Middle East Jeanne Pryor Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on State Department / USAID budget for Africa – Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee hearing on 'The State Department and USAID FY 2018 Africa Budget', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Donald Yamamoto; and USAID Acting Assistant Administrator for Africa Cheryl Anderson Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2200, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HFACRepublicans>

2:00 PM Government Operations Subcommittee hearing on 'Security Clearance Investigation Challenges and Reforms' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

2:00 PM House Commerce subcommittee markup hearing – Communications and Technology Subcommittee markup hearing on 'H.R.XXX, a bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to reauthorize appropriations for the Federal Communications Commission, to provide for certain procedural changes to the rules of the Commission to maximize opportunities for public participation and efficient decisionmaking, and for other purposes' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

3:30 PM Congressional briefing on 'The Intersection of Trademarks and Brands' – U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Intellectual Property Center, in collaboration with INTA and the Congressional Trademark Caucus, hosts Congressional briefing on 'The Intersection of Trademarks and Brands: A Dialogue with Famous Brands and Law Enforcement'. Bipartisan Sens. Chris Coons and Chuck Grassley and Reps. John Ratcliffe and Ted Deutch lead the discussion, with other speakers including National Intellectual Property Rights Coordination Center Deputy Director William Ross, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Commissioner for Trademarks Mary Boney Denison, and NBA Properties Executive Vice President and Deputy General Counsel Ayala Deutch Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Congressional Meeting Room South, Washington, DC www.uschamber.com <https://twitter.com/USChamber>

4:00 PM House Natural Resources Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 3990, National Monument Creation and Protection Act' and 'H. Res. 555, Of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Secretary of the Interior to transmit, respectively, certain documents and other information to the House of Representatives relating to the executive order on the review of designations under the Antiquities Act' Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

Other: 8:15 AM The Hill forum on prospects for tax reform – The Hill hosts 'Cracking the Tax Code: Prospects for Reform' forum, on the latest tax overhaul proposals and their potential impact on taxpayers, the economy, and beyond, with speakers including Council of Economic Advisers Chairman Kevin Hassett, Democratic Rep. Richard Neal, Republican Rep. Peter Roskam, U.S. Chamber of Commerce Vice President for Tax Policy and Chief Tax Counsel Caroline Harris, Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council President and CEO Karen Kerrigan, EY Americas Tax Policy Leader and partner Cathy Koch, and Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget President Maya MacGuineas Location: Newseum, 555 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC thehill.com <https://twitter.com/TheHillEvents> #TaxRateTalk

8:30 AM G24 Deputies Meeting – G24 Deputies Meeting, ahead of tomorrow's G24 Ministerial Meeting Location: Washington, DC <http://www.g24.org>

8:30 AM Bipartisan Reps. Don Bacon and Rick Larsen speak on U.S. defense needs – Republican Rep. Don Bacon and Democratic Rep. Rick Larsen speak at Brookings Institution Foreign Policy program discussion on U.S. defense needs and priorities Location: Johns Hopkins University SAIS, 1740 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst>

9:00 AM CSIS and the Canadian Govt host symposium on the Multilateral Development Bank systems – 'Towards a Shareholder Consensus on the MDB System' Center for Strategic and International Studies symposium, hosted with the Canadian Govt, with panel discussions on optimizing the financials of the Multilateral Development Bank systems and improving development outcomes as a system. Speakers include Canadian Finance Minister Bill Morneau, African Development Bank Chief Risk Officer Tim Turner, Center for Global Development Senior Fellow and President Emeritus Nancy Birdsall, former U.S. Executive Director to the World Bank Sara Aviel, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development Chief Evaluator Joe Eichenburger, Canadian Deputy International Development Minister Diane Jacovella, and World Bank Vice President for Operations Policy and Country Services Manuela Ferro Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

10:00 AM Dem Rep. Richard Neal keynotes BPC discussion on retirement policy – 'An Issue for All Ages: Retirement in America' Bipartisan Policy Center discussion, on where retirement policy stands and where it is headed, with keynote from Democratic Rep. Richard Neal and panel discussion with former Public Trustees of the Social Security and Medicare Trust Funds Charles Blahous III and Robert Resichauer, State Street Global Advisors President and CEO Ronald O'Hanley, Young Invincibles Director of Regional Strategy Eve Rips, and UnidosUS Office of Research, Advocacy and Legislation Vice President Eric Rodriguez Location: Bipartisan Policy

Center, 1225 I St NW, Washington, DC www.bipartisanpolicy.org
https://twitter.com/BPC_Bipartisan

10:30 AM Pakistani interior minister speaks at SAIS – Pakistani Federal Minister for Interior Ahsan Iqbal speaks on ‘Pakistan’s Efforts in Internal and Regional Security’ at SAIS Dean’s Forum
Location: SAIS, 1619 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.sais-jhu.edu>
<https://twitter.com/SAISHopkins>

11:30 AM GOP Rep. Patrick McHenry speaks at FSR roundtable on tax reform – Financial Services Roundtable hosts ‘America’s Tax Reform Opportunity – A CEO Conversation on Igniting the Economy’, with Republican Rep. Patrick McHenry, American Action Forum President Doug Holtz-Eakin, Business Roundtable President and CEO Joshua Bolten, and Financial Services Roundtable President and CEO Tim Pawlenty
Location: Financial Services Roundtable, 600 13th St NW, Washington, DC www.fsround.org <https://twitter.com/fsroundtable>

1:30 PM Dem Rep. Bill Pascrell discusses impact of GOP tax plan on small businesses – Democratic Rep. Bill Pascrell discusses how the Republican tax plan does ‘very little for the vast majority of small businesses’, via press call with Main Street Alliance Legislative Policy Director Sapna Mehta, Center for American Progress Action Fund Senior Director of Tax Policy Alexandra Thornton and Foley-Waite Associates Owner (Bloomfield, NJ) Kelly Conklin
Location: TBD
www.americanprogressaction.org <https://twitter.com/CAPaction>

5:30 PM World Bank President Kim and IMF Managing Director Lagarde speak at Civil Society Townhall – World Bank President Jim Yong Kim and International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde speak at a Civil Society Townhall meeting ahead of this weekend’s IMF / World Bank Annual Meetings
Location: The World Bank, 1818 H St NW, Washington, DC www.worldbank.org <https://twitter.com/WorldBank>

7:00 PM Congressional Football Game – Congressional Football Game, with members of Congress and NFL legends facing the U.S. Capitol Police, with proceeds benefiting the United States Capitol Police Memorial Fund, Our Military Kids and A Advantage 4 Kids. Participating lawmakers including bipartisan Reps. Pete Aguilar, Don Bacon, Nanette Barragan, Jack Bergman, Mike Bishop, Mike Bost, James Comer, Rick Crawford, Carlos Curbelo, Rodney Davis, Jeff Denham, Chuck Fleischmann, Richard Hudson, Evan Jenkins, Joe Kennedy, Roger Marshall, Martha McSally, Alex Mooney, Markwayne Mullin, Jimmy Panetta, Tom Reed, Cedric Richmond, Pete Sessions, David Valadao, Marc Veasey, Mark Walker, Tim Walz and Bruce Westerman * Prior to the game, the NFL host a Play Football Clinic for area youth, including the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Washington, the DC Department of Parks and Recreation and students who attend Gallaudet University’s elementary and middle schools (5:45 PM EDT)
Location: Gallaudet University, Hotchkiss Field, 800 Florida Ave NE, Washington, DC congressionalfootballgame.com
<https://twitter.com/nfl>

Fortune Most Powerful Women Summit concludes – Fortune Most Powerful Women Summit – ‘premiere gathering of women leaders in business, govt, academia, philanthropy, and the arts’. Speakers today include White House Counselor to the President Kellyanne Conway
Location: Mandarin Oriental, Washington DC, 1330 Maryland Avenue Southwest, Washington, DC
<http://www.fortuneconferences.com/> <https://twitter.com/FortuneMPW>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: [Referring to President Trump’s comment that he would compare his IQ with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson] “No intelligent person would get into an IQ contest with his own Secretary of State, right? Just that rules you out right there. ... I guarantee the next day, Kellyanne Conway would be saying that the lower the number, the better the score.”

Stephen Colbert: [Referring to Sen. Bob Corker’s interview with New York Times] “All this time, we’ve been worried the next war would be caused by artificial intelligence. Turns out the real danger is natural stupidity.”

James Corden: [Referring to President Trump’s tweet calling Sen. Bob Corker ‘Little Bob’] “So Donny made fun of little Bobby for being short. If you’re just joining us, no, I’m not reporting things my six-year-old saw on the playground today. I’m sharing news from the White House.”

James Corden: “Let’s face it, once a grown man challenges another grown man to a head-to-

head IQ test, we don't really need to see the results of the IQ test. They're both idiots."

Jimmy Fallon: "President Trump is back to golfing. And he played with Lindsey Graham yesterday and said that it was wet and windy. Luckily, some people from Puerto Rico came and threw their paper towels at him."

Jimmy Fallon: "Meanwhile, I read that the US is suspending visa applications from Turkey. Trump was like, 'Don't worry, we'll have them back for Thanksgiving.'"

Seth Meyers: "The New Yorker today released an audio of fired Hollywood movie producer Harvey Weinstein begging a model to come into his room to watch him shower. And by the looks of him, I'm guessing that shower never happened. I mean, the rest of us need one."

Seth Meyers: "House Speaker Paul Ryan will visit Puerto Rico this Friday. Wow. First Trump gave them paper towels, now he's giving them a wet blanket."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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Bureau Of Indian Affairs

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Bureau Of Land Management

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- U.S. News & World Report: Public, Private Land Boundaries Blur In Rural Central Ore.
- Salem (OR) Capital Press: BLM Experiments With 'Flexible' Grazing Permits.
- Salem (OR) Capital Press: Oregon Ranchers Petition For Supreme Court Review.

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- Victoria (TX) Advocate: Wells Important To Endangered Species To Be Repaired.
- Citrus County (FL) Chronicle: Shatz Saga Ends With Public Win.

National Park Service

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- U.S. News & World Report: National Park In North Dakota To Reduce Bison Herd.
- U.S. News & World Report: 7 Historic Tlingit Pieces Returned To Southeast Alaska.
- Saratogian (NY): Groundbreaking Held For Surrender At Saratoga Project.
- KTLA-TV Los Angeles: In First, Mountain Lion P-55 Crosses Back Over 101 Freeway To Return To Santa Monica Mountains.
- West Plains (MO) Daily Quill: MSU-WP Receives \$200,000 Grant For New Amphitheater.
- New London (CT) Day: Hodges Square Listed On National Register Of Historic Places.
- Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel: National Park Service Legacy Act Addresses Underfunding.

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- Reuters: U.S. Official Says Not Ruling Out Eventual Direct Talks With North Korea.

US Geological Survey

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- Associated Press: Trump Calls For "Massive Tax Relief" In Heritage Foundation Speech.
- ABC: Judge Blocks Trump's Latest Travel Ban.
- Roll Call: Bipartisan House Climate Solutions Caucus Gains Influence.
- Washington Examiner: Appeals Court Urged To Rule On Obama-Era Climate Rules By States,

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DOI In The News

GOP Lawmakers Open Door To Arctic Drilling.

[NBC News](#) (10/17, Seitz-Wald) reports that the Senate budget bill contains a provision that could allow drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Environmentalists are especially concerned because the measure is part of a filibuster-proof legislative process that Republican lawmakers hope to use to pass tax reform. Sen. Lisa Murkowski said, "This provides an excellent opportunity for our committee to raise \$1 billion in federal revenues while creating jobs and strengthening our nation's long-term energy security."

[Reuters](#) (10/17, Gardner) reports Senate Democrats promised to fight the measure, saying it would destroy a pristine wilderness. Sen. Edward Markey said, "This Republican budget scam to hand over the wildest place left in America to Big Oil should be removed from the budget and put on ice." Democrats are hoping Republican Sens. John McCain and Susan Collins will support the effort to block drilling.

[The Hill](#) (10/17, Cama) reports the Senate Democrats are planning an amendment to prevent the GOP from using the budget process to allow ANWR drilling. Markey said, "We're going to work together with our colleagues to determine just the right moment in this budgetary process to make this amendment. ... But we are going to do so, and we are reaching out to Republicans to try to make this as bipartisan as we can. It should be a bipartisan issue." Sen. Maria Cantwell said, "It tells you something that this idea does not stand on its own. It tells you that every time it has to be paired with something else as almost a sneak attack, you have to vote for this because of these other issues."

The [AP](#) (10/17, Daly), [Bloomberg News](#) (10/18, Natter, Dlouhy), the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (10/17, Siegel), and [Hull \(MA\) Times](#) (10/17, Norton) also provide coverage.

Protect Alaska's Last Great Wilderness From Oil Drilling. In an op-ed for the [New York Times](#) (10/18, Robards, Schaller), Martin Robards, regional director for the Arctic Beringia program at the Wildlife Conservation Society, and George Schaller, a senior conservationist at W.C.S. and vice president of Panthera, oppose drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. They assert that "the Arctic refuge must continue to be preserved as a symbol of America's natural heritage." The authors urge Congress to "stop its headlong rush to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas exploration and extraction."

Alaska Native Leader Nominated For Indian Affairs Post.

The [AP](#) (10/17) reports that "federal officials say Arctic Slope Regional Corp. official Tara Sweeney has been nominated by President Donald Trump to be the next assistant Indian Affairs secretary." Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke announced the nomination Tuesday. Sweeney,

executive vice president for external affairs for the regional Native corporation, "says would strive to develop strong relationships with tribes and 'create a more effective voice' for them."

The [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/17, Demer, Martinson) reports that "the announcement about Sweeney came on the eve of the Alaska Federation of Natives' annual convention in Anchorage, the biggest representative gathering of Native people." According to the article, "the reaction on Tuesday bordered on ecstatic."

Also reporting are the [Alaska Public Radio Network](#) (10/17, Ruskin), [Alaska Native News](#) (10/17), the [Native American Times](#) (10/17), and [Law360](#) (10/17, Lidgett).

U.S. Congressman Seeks Information On Interior Dept. Coal Study Funds.

[Reuters](#) (10/17, Flitter) reports that Rep. Raul Grijalva is asking the Interior Department "to explain what happened to \$400,000 officials there said they were withholding from a study about the health impacts of coal mining," according to a letter to the agency released to the public on Tuesday. In his letter, Grijalva "said time had already run out for the department to spend the money, which it received during the 2016 fiscal year as a grant from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine and was obligated to spend within two years." Grijalva "said it appeared the department had decided not to spend it on the coal mining study 'because of fears that it would conclusively show that mountaintop removal coal mining is a serious threat to the health of people living in Appalachia.'" In a statement, Heather Swift, an Interior Department spokeswoman, "said agency began reviewing all of its grants and partnerships worth more than \$100,000, 'in order to ensure the department is using tax dollars in a way that advances the department's mission and fulfills the roles mandated by Congress.'" Swift "said the grant for the study was put on hold as part of the review."

Drilling Near Dinosaur National Monument Draws Criticism.

The [New York Times](#) (10/18, Nash) reports that critics say that possible new drilling leases near Dinosaur National Monument is "emblematic of changes that will affect a wide range of other parks and monuments, as well as those who visit them." The Bureau of Land Management has "announced that in December it will auction gas and oil drilling rights on 94,000 acres, or 146 square miles, of land, some of it near the park's entrance road." The BLM "said it would take steps to minimize visibility, including light shields, noise mufflers and 'placement of exhaust systems to direct noise away from noise sensitive areas' and 'avoiding unnecessary flaring of gas.'" The article notes that "more gas and oil drilling is part of the Trump administration's announced goals of what the president has referred to as 'energy dominance.'"

Former National Parks Employees Bash Zinke Monument Review.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/17, Siciliano, Seigel) reports that "more than 350 former National Park Service employees sent a letter to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Tuesday opposing his review of national monuments." Members of the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks wrote to Zinke, "Your approach to the national monuments under review is antithetical to Teddy Roosevelt's conservation legacy and what President Roosevelt believed should be done for present and future generations."

The Energy 202: This Hunter Helped Zinke Get His Job. Now He Says Zinke Is Putting "Our Public Lands At Risk."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/17, Grandoni) reports that Backcountry Hunters & Anglers Executive Director Land Tawney backed fellow Montanan Ryan Zinke's nomination to lead the Interior Department, but is now raising concerns about Zinke's stance on public lands and his "approach to national monuments." Tawney "still has kind words for Zinke, calling him 'a proven leader.'" But "as to the question of whether he still regards him as an ally, Tawney split the difference." He said, "What we've always done is we've applauded [Zinke] for the things that we think he's doing that are beneficial to hunters and anglers, then we've held him accountable on the other end of that."

Library Wins Award And Attracts Scholars.

The [E&E](#) (10/17) reports that the Government Publishing Office has named the Interior Department's newly refurbished library the 2017 "Library of the Year" for the Federal Depository Library Program. The article notes that "the award is the first time a government department has been singled out, among the roughly 1,150 federal depository libraries nationwide." The award arrives "as the facility formally reopened Oct. 4 following a 3 ½-year building renovation."

California, New Mexico Challenge White House Favors To Oil, Gas & Coal.

[Courthouse News](#) (10/17, Iovino) reports that “on the heels of two victories over efforts to roll back Obama-era regulations, California and New Mexico launched a fresh challenge Tuesday against the Trump administration’s repeal of higher royalty payments to states for oil, gas and coal leases on public lands.” On Oct. 5, U.S. Magistrate Judge Elizabeth Laporte “overturned a rule that delayed an emissions-reducing, waste-prevention regulation for oil and gas wells on federal land,” and in August, Laporte “found the Interior Department unlawfully postponed another rule that boosted royalty payments to states for fossil fuels extracted on federal and Indian lands.” In their lawsuit filed Tuesday, California and New Mexico “claim the Interior Department’s latest repeal of the royalties rule was arbitrary and capricious because the agency ‘failed to supply a reasoned basis’ for its decision.”

Interior Dept. Moves For Quick Win In Canceled Lease Suit.

[Law360](#) (10/17, Lidgett) reports that the Interior Department on Monday “moved for a quick win in a suit accusing it of arbitrarily canceling a mineral lease in northwestern Montana, telling a D.C. federal judge that it had actually given ample notice before terminating the lease.” The federal government “filed a cross-motion for summary judgment in a suit from W.A. Moncrief, a family-owned oil and gas business based in Texas, which challenged the ‘wrongful cancellation’ of a 35-year-old lease in an area of Lewis and Clark National Forest.”

Idaho Wary Of Obama ‘Leftovers’ Working On Sage Grouse Plan.

The [AP](#) (10/17, Ridler) reports that “Idaho has to be vigilant monitoring the federal government’s creation of a new sage grouse conservation plan because of federal employees who worked on the previous plan that’s too restrictive, Gov. C.L. ‘Butch’ Otter said.” At an Idaho Land Board meeting Tuesday, Otter told state workers, “You have to know and you have to realize that there are a lot of prior administration folks still in those bureaus. We have to recognize that we also have a lot of leftovers that were designers of the sage brush focal areas.”

Colorado Ranked Best For Outdoor Recreation, Energy, Public Lands.

The [Denver Post](#) (10/17, Blevins) reports that the Center for Western Priorities ranked Colorado as the best at protecting and enhancing the state’s public lands. Fourteen factors were considered as Colorado beat Montana, Utah, Wyoming, New Mexico, Nevada, Arizona, and Idaho regarding “policies governing outdoor recreation, energy development and access to public lands.” Colorado ranked second for energy development and outdoor recreation.

Gazette Opinion: It May Be A Flag, But Not One We’ll Salute.

In an editorial, the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (10/17) criticizes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for ordering that the Department of the Interior Secretary flag “be flown above the Interior’s office building when he is there, and taken down when he leaves.” The paper asserts that “the gesture isn’t symbolic, as Zinke’s staff would have you believe, it’s exactly what’s wrong with government.” It argues that “having the heraldry of a flag announcing that Zinke is in the building is an elitism that seems more fit for royalty and demonstrates that Zinke believes a certain amount of genuflection is order.” The paper also takes issue that Zinke’s personalized commemorative coins that he hands out to staff and visitors. It says that “these actions are pompous and a betrayal of his Montana roots.”

Commentary: Zinke Taking First Step To Reduce Fires.

In an op-ed for the [Elko \(NV\) Daily Free Press](#) (10/17, Hartman), attorney Jim Hartman writes that “while climatological factors like drought, heat and wind are primary factors in the wildfires currently raging throughout Northern California, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke last month took important steps to begin reversing nearly three decades of federal neglect in prevention of forest wildfires.” Zinke “issued a memo instructing his land managers and park superintendents to use their ‘full authority’ to begin clearing the dead and dying trees and vegetation that clog federal lands and are a tinderbox for Western wildfires.” Hartman says that “beyond Zinke’s memo, Congress will need to pass legislation to make it easier to thin excess timber out of forests and to salvage fire-killed timber while it still has value.”

The piece also appears at the [Gardnerville \(NV\) Record Courier](#) (10/17, Hartman).

An ‘Ill-conceived’ Road Through Alaskan Wilderness.

In a piece for the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (10/17, Whitehill), Barry Whitehill, a board member

for the Alaska chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, opposes a road through the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, which “offers waterfowl and brown bear hunting that are unsurpassed.” He argues that the refuge is “rich with sensitive wildlife that should remain protected.” He concludes that “with the science saying that no road should be built through the Izembek Refuge, it’s time for Alaska to agree.”

Together We Can Protect Our Cherished National Parks.

In an op-ed for the [Inland Valley \(CA\) Daily Bulletin](#) (10/17, Torres), Rep. Norma Torres pledges “to do everything I can to uphold national monument designations and make sure local communities and economies are not hurt by the administration’s proposed changes.” Torres wants “to increase Latino participation in the national parks and ensure that monuments inspired by Latino leaders like César E. Chávez are protected, so future generations of Americans can visit them and become inspired by their meaning.” Torres concludes that her “goal is to make sure all Americans, no matter their religion, race or sexual orientation feel welcome and have access to our national parks and monuments, and that the parks reflect the history, culture and heritage of our great country.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Interior Dept., Warm Springs Tribes In Land Buy-back Program.

[KTVZ-TV](#) Bend, OR (10/17) reports that acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs John Tahsuda “announced Tuesday that the Interior Department has signed an agreement with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon to guide implementation of the Land Buy-Back Program for Tribal Nations.” Tahsuda said, “Following the department’s announcement of its revised strategy to maximize the consolidation of fractional interests, I am pleased to announce the agreement with the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs to implement the Buy-Back Program.”

Federal Agency Backs Montana Tribe’s Ouster Of Its President.

The [AP](#) (10/17) reports that the Bureau of Indian Affairs “says officials with a Montana Indian tribe acted within their authority when they removed the tribe’s president from office for reportedly neglecting his duties.” The BIA “declared its backing for the decision to remove President Jace Killsback in a letter to the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council.” The council “said in a statement that the BIA decision ‘removes any doubt’ that its members were within their rights to remove Killsback.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (10/17, Wilson) and [KTVQ-TV](#) Billings, MT (10/17, Goare).

10th Circ. Won’t Revisit Osage Nation Wind Farm Lease Case.

[Law360](#) (10/17, Phillis) reports that “the Tenth Circuit on Tuesday declined to revisit its decision that said wind farm developers should have obtained a mineral lease from the Osage Nation along with Bureau of Indian Affairs approval before starting surface construction for an Oklahoma wind farm.” The decision “means that the Tenth Circuit panel’s decision from September in favor of the Osage Nation through the Osage Minerals Council will hold.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Interior Clears Calif. Project With Friends In High Places.

[E&E Publishing](#) (10/17, Jacobs, Doyle) reports that the Trump Administration has “cleared the way for a controversial project that would suck groundwater from under Southern California’s Mojave Desert and sell it to water providers.” On Friday, the Bureau of Land Management “wrote that Cadiz Inc.’s plan to build a 43-mile pipeline along a railroad right of way did not require the agency’s approval.” BLM acting Director Michael Nedd “wrote that the agency’s new legal opinion concludes that the owner of the right of way, the Arizona and California Railroad, may lease part of it for the pipeline.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (10/17, Shogren).

Public, Private Land Boundaries Blur In Rural Central Ore.

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/17, Hamway) reports that in rural central Oregon, "the lines between public and private property" sometimes "get blurred." Incursions, "known as trespasses," are "common in this part of eastern Central Oregon, where even surveyors with the BLM aren't always entirely sure where public land ends and private property begins." Some cases grab "local headlines," but "in most cases of trespass, the infraction goes unnoticed for long periods of time, and unattended to for even longer."

BLM Experiments With 'Flexible' Grazing Permits.

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (10/17, O'Connell) reports that Mike Courtney, manager for the Bureau of Land Management's Twin Falls District, "may finally get the chance to implement a more common-sense grazing approach to controlling weeds and minimizing the wildfire risk in the Berger Resource Conservation Area." Courtney will "apply to include the grazing area south of Buhl in a BLM pilot project, testing a new approach intended to increase flexibility in grazing permits." The BLM is "offering funding for Western states to implement and study about a dozen 'outcome-based grazing' pilot projects, hoping the outcomes will support enacting the philosophy on a much broader scale."

Oregon Ranchers Petition For Supreme Court Review.

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (10/17, Perkowski) reports that "an Oregon ranching couple is asking the U.S. Supreme Court to revive their lawsuit against the U.S. Bureau of Land Management over grazing and water rights." A decision by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals "upheld the dismissal of the case earlier this year, effectively allowing BLM to shirk its obligations, according to Jesse and Pamela White of Malheur County." Lawyers "for the federal government have until Nov. 9 to respond to the White's petition to the Supreme Court."

Bureau Of Reclamation

Folsom Auxiliary Spillway Is Complete.

The [Folsom \(CA\) Telegraph](#) (10/17, Zirin) reports that "after nine years, the completion ceremony for the Folsom Dam Auxiliary Spillway was held Tuesday morning with various representatives and officials who played a large role in its development." The event was hosted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento District and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Rep. Doris Matsui, who "played a major role with the idea of the project," said, "I knew how important it was. I feel like I have been the project manager to a certain degree, but I have to say the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation, as well as all the partners with the state and locals, worked together to make this possible."

Additional coverage was provided by [Engineering News-Record](#) (10/17, Aragon).

Brown Administration Says It Will Consider One-tunnel Delta Project.

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/17, Kasler, Sabalow) reports that the Santa Clara Valley Water District "rejected Gov. Jerry Brown's plan to build twin tunnels beneath the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta but said it would support a smaller, less expensive project. A top state official said the Brown administration is willing to consider such an approach." The board "voted 7-0 to give the Delta plan 'conditional support,' but only if it involves one tunnel instead of two." According to the article, "the board's vote indicated the district would be willing eventually to commit more than \$200 million to the project," but "that's well below the \$600 million or more in support it had been considering."

Etna High Students Assist With Weather Balloon Launch.

The [Siskiyou \(CA\) Daily News](#) (10/17) reports that "students at Etna High School recently had an opportunity to assist National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation personnel with the launch of weather balloon sent up to collect wildfire related data."

Legislation Aimed At Saving Snake River Dams Is Sound.

The [Walla Walla \(WA\) Union-Bulletin](#) (10/17) editorializes that the Interior Department "made a wise decision to support the goals of legislation proposed by U.S. Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, R-Spokane, U.S. Rep. Dan Newhouse, R-Sunnyside, and others to protect the four Lower Snake River dams from a federal judge's overzealous ruling." The paper argues: "Allowing a judge's ruling to usurp federal control of the dams is bad public policy. Allowing Congress to establish

control and work within the agreed-upon framework makes sense.”

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Gulf Of Mexico Oil Spill Triggers BSEE Panel Investigation.

[World Oil](#) (10/17) reports that a panel investigation was started Monday by BSEE Gulf of Mexico Region Director Lars Herbst following a LLOG Exploration Offshore subsea oil flowline releasing oil into the Gulf of Mexico. Herbst said “BSEE places great emphasis on making certain all oil and gas operations on America’s Outer Continental Shelf are safe.” Herbst also said “this panel investigation is a critical step in ensuring BSEE determines the cause, or causes, of the incident and develops recommendations to prevent similar events from occurring in the future.” The panel consists of incident investigators, inspectors, and engineers.

[Newsweek](#) (10/17, Sinclair) also reports.

Fish And Wildlife Service

Grizzly Advocates Can’t Agree On What’s Best For The Bear.

The [Missoulian \(MT\)](#) (10/17, Chaney) reports that “with heated exchanges and soft warnings, a roomful of deeply invested wildlife advocates forecast stormy passage of a coming effort to end federal protection of grizzly bears in the northern Rocky Mountains.” The article says that “in a preview of what faces the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee’s Missoula meetings in November and December, an informal gathering on Tuesday debated what remains to be done before those northern continental divide bears reach recovery.” The Northern Continental Divide Ecosystem Subcommittee is scheduled to November 29 in Missoula. According to the article, “its decisions get forwarded on to the full Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee meeting on December 12 and 13, also in Missoula.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Montana Public Radio](#) (10/17, Whitney).

Neighbors File Lawsuit To Stop Walmart In Endangered Pine Rockland.

The [Miami Herald](#) (10/17, Staletovich) reports that “four years ago when Miami-Dade County took out a newspaper ad to rezone part of the Richmond pine rocklands...it listed special exceptions requested by the developer,” but it didn’t include “a Walmart-anchored shopping center, including an LA Fitness, and 900 apartments.” This week, neighbors sued, “claiming the ‘layman’s’ description in the public notice failed to adequately tell them just what was planned for the 138-acre parcel off Coral Reef Drive — the largest piece of the globally imperiled forest outside Everglades National Park.” In a statement Tuesday, Palm Beach County developer Peter Cummings “said through a spokesman that the project followed all requirements.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is “reviewing the habitat conservation plan Cummings submitted and expects to have a decision by year’s end, spokesman Ken Warren said.”

Wells Important To Endangered Species To Be Repaired.

The [Victoria \(TX\) Advocate](#) (10/17, Priest) reports that “water wells needed during droughts by endangered whooping cranes will be repaired thanks to a \$75,000 grant.” The wells were damaged by Hurricane Harvey. According to Wade Harrell, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services’ whooping crane recovery coordinator, “the grant comes from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and is part of a larger grant given to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to cover Harvey’s damage to its southwest region.”

Shatz Saga Ends With Public Win.

In an editorial, the [Citrus County \(FL\) Chronicle](#) (10/17) lauds the transfer of Shatz Island to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to become part of the Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge. The paper says that “the change in ownership greatly increases the chances that the land will be shielded from development for public enjoyment, and citizens should feel privileged to call such a scenic spot their own.” The paper hopes “the USFWS ownership helps Shatz Island become a place the public can enjoy respectfully and legally, a reminder that while development is necessary and unstoppable, preservation is sometimes of greater benefit.”

National Park Service

Crew Completes Stabilization Efforts On Montana Dormitory.

The [AP](#) (10/17) reports that “the efforts to stabilize the remains of a historic Montana dormitory that was severely damaged by an Aug. 31 wildfire are done.” According to the article, “a 10-person national park crew was flown from the Sperry Chalet hotel building on Monday after working for two weeks to brace the structure in a race against winter conditions.” The Glacier National Park Conservancy “covered the cost of stabilization efforts by raising \$111,200 from private donors.”

National Park In North Dakota To Reduce Bison Herd.

The [AP](#) (10/17) reports that Theodore Roosevelt National Park is “reducing the size of its bison herd this week in a move that will benefit several Native American tribes.” A majority of the animals from park will “help supplement tribal herds through the InterTribal Buffalo Council.” According to wildlife biologist Blake McCann, “the reduction roundup is to prevent the bison herds from getting too large to ensure there’s enough available forage for the grazing animals.”

7 Historic Tlingit Pieces Returned To Southeast Alaska.

The [AP](#) (10/18) reports that “seven historic Tlingit pieces that were in East Coast museums for decades have been returned to Southeast Alaska.” The relics were brought back to Alaska through the efforts of the Central Council of Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska. According to the article, “they will be stored through the National Park Service, with access being granted to the Tlingit clans.”

Groundbreaking Held For Surrender At Saratoga Project.

[Saratogian \(NY\)](#) (10/17, Post) reports that “officials on Tuesday held a ceremonial groundbreaking for a project designed to educate and inspire future generations about the Surrender at Saratoga on Oct. 17, 1777.” According to the article, “plans call for a memorial park at the exact spot, about a mile south of Schuylerville, where British General John Burgoyne turned over his sword to American General Horatio Gates, following the history-changing Battles of Saratoga.” Amy Bracewell, Saratoga National Historical Park superintendent, said, “Our ancestors started something big here. Our work to develop this site will keep the fire of freedom alive for generations to come.”

In First, Mountain Lion P-55 Crosses Back Over 101 Freeway To Return To Santa Monica Mountains.

[KTLA-TV](#) Los Angeles (10/17, Pamer) reports that “about 2 1/2 months after he crossed the 101 Freeway for the first time, a young male mountain lion has successfully ventured over those 10 lanes of divided pavement a second time.” The mountain lion, “known as P-55, is believed to have crossed the 101 Freeway last week, according to the National Park Service, which has been studying local cougars for 15 years.” The passage “marked the first time wildlife biologists are aware of a mountain lion crossing the 101 Freeway twice.”

MSU-WP Receives \$200,000 Grant For New Amphitheater.

The [West Plains \(MO\) Daily Quill](#) (10/17) reports that “Missouri State University-West Plains (MSU-WP) has been awarded a \$202,137 grant from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to help fund the construction of an outdoor amphitheater just west of the Smith-London Centennial Bell Tower between Franklin and Pennsylvania avenues.” The article notes that “the 50/50 matching grant is being funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) administered by the National Park Service (NPS).”

Hodges Square Listed On National Register Of Historic Places.

The [New London \(CT\) Day](#) (10/17) reports that the Hodges Square Historic District has been officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the National Park Service. The designation was made on Oct. 10.

National Park Service Legacy Act Addresses Underfunding.

In an op-ed for the [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (10/17, Bryant), Michael J. Bryant, chair of the Tennessee Council of Trout Unlimited, writes that his group “recently delivered a letter to the Tennessee congressional delegation in support of the National Park Service Legacy Act.” The chapter is “deeply concerned about the backlog of badly needed repairs in the Great Smoky

Mountains National Park and in national parks across the country." The group is urging members of Congress to support the legislation, "which would tackle this chronic underfunding."

In an op-ed for the [Bakersfield \(CA\) Californian](#) (10/18, Graber), David Graber, who represents the Coalition to Protect America's National Park, also urges Congress to pass the National Park Legacy Act. He writes that "the bill also will open up opportunities for partnerships between the public and private sectors to bring about needed park repairs. Deferred maintenance of our parks will be properly addressed."

Office Of Insular Affairs

U.S. Official Says Not Ruling Out Eventual Direct Talks With North Korea.

[Reuters](#) (10/17, Kelly, Nichols) reports Deputy Secretary of State John Sullivan said Tuesday that the US is not ruling out the eventual possibility of direct talks with North Korea. "Eventually, we don't rule out the possibility of course of direct talks," Sullivan said in Tokyo after talks with his Japanese counterpart. "Our focus is on diplomacy to solve this problem. ... We must, however, with our allies, Japan and South Korea and elsewhere, be prepared for the worst, should diplomacy fail."

US Geological Survey

Agency Urges Committee To Properly Fund Stream Gauges.

The [AP](#) (10/17) reports that "members of the Joint Legislative Committee on Flooding have heard warnings that West Virginia needs more comprehensive funding for the stream gauges that help warn residents of impending high waters." West Virginia Conservation Agency Executive Director Brian Farkas "told the committee Monday that several state and federal agencies scramble annually to fund a network of stream gauges." The article notes that "this year's current stream gauge network cost is about \$1.8 million, with over three-quarters of funding coming from the U.S. Geological Survey and other federal agencies."

Additional Reading.

- *Students From Across Maine Take Part In Science Day In Augusta.* [Central Maine](#) (10/17, Pafundi).
- *Sea Level Rise Summit Draws Big Crowd, Renews Attention To Resiliency.* [Naples \(FL\) Daily News](#) (10/17, Staats).
- *28 Years After Loma Prieta: Is The Bay Area Ready For 'The Big One'?* [Huffington Post](#) (10/17, Littman).
- *Earthquake: 3.2 Quake Strikes Near Santa Ysabel.* [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/17, Quakebot).
- *Small Earthquake Hits New Hampshire.* [Boston Globe](#) (10/17, McDonald).
- *Small Quake In Northeast Arkansas; No Damage Or Injuries.* [KATV-TV](#) Little Rock, AR (10/16).
- *Get Ready For Earthquake Drills During Great Central U.S. ShakeOut.* [WKRN-TV](#) Nashville, TN (10/17).
- *The Hunt For The Brain-Eating Amoebas Of Yellowstone.* [Wired](#) (10/18, Simon).

Top National News

Trump Open To Senate Deal On ACA Subsidies, But GOP Noncommittal.

Coverage of the bipartisan deal reached by the leaders of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee to extend Affordable Care Act subsidies for two years while giving states greater latitude in permitting bare-bones policies is straightforward, sticking to the basic outline of the deal. Analyses say that prospects are unknown, with Democrats quickly embracing the idea and Republicans remaining noncommittal. President Trump's remarks expressing openness to the plan are portrayed as a reversal from the hard-line stance he had expressed hours earlier.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/17, story 2, 2:35, Muir) reported that the President "seem[ed] to reverse course, earlier today calling Obamacare virtually dead after his decision to slash more than \$7 billion in subsidies to help working class families. Then, two senators announcing they have a bipartisan fix to save those subsidies for now. And late today, the

President says he now supports the idea." ABC's Mary Bruce: "In the Oval Office this morning, President Trump declared [that] Obamacare is on its last leg...but just minutes later, he seemed to back a new bipartisan deal to restore" the subsidies. On [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/17, story 2, 0:30, Holt), Peter Alexander reported that Trump has "repeatedly insisted Obamacare is dead, but tonight he appears to be signaling an openness to this deal."

The [AP](#) (10/17, Werner, Fram) reports that Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Chairman Lamar Alexander and ranking member Sen. Patty Murray "joined in announcing a plan Tuesday aimed at stabilizing America's health insurance markets in the wake of" Trump's "order to terminate" the subsidies. Trump "spoke approvingly of the deal, but some conservatives denounced it as an insurance company bailout, making its future uncertain."

[USA Today](#) (10/17, Berry) reports that the agreement "would involve a two-year extension of federal payments to insurers that Trump halted last week." Alexander said, "This agreement avoids chaos. Over the next two years, I think, Americans won't have to worry about the price of health [insurance] and being able to buy insurance in the counties where they live." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/17, Mascaro) reports that the plan would allow ACA payments to insurers, and "in return, Congress would make changes to allow states greater ability to waive certain insurer policy requirements to allow for cheaper plans."

The [New York Post](#) (10/17, Fredericks) reports Trump said during Rose Garden appearance with Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, "This is a short-term deal, because we think ultimately block grants going to the states is going to be a very good solution." [Reuters](#) (10/17, Abutaleb, Cowan) reports the President "said it would help get Obamacare through a 'very dangerous little period.'" However, [USA Today](#) (10/17, Jackson) reports that earlier in the Oval Office, Trump had said, "Obamacare is a disgrace to our nation." [Politico](#) (10/17, Haberkorn, Cancryn) says that for the compromise to succeed, Trump "will have to agree to prop up a law he just spent months trying to repeal."

The [New York Times](#) (10/17, Kaplan) reports that Alexander said the deal would "give states 'more flexibility in the variety of choices they can give to consumers,' which should appeal to Republican lawmakers." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/17, A1, Armour, Peterson) reports that the compromise would expand eligibility to the ACA's limits on bare-bones "catastrophic plans" that offer low premiums but high deductibles, something that Republicans have sought. The [Washington Post](#) (10/17, A1, Sullivan, Eilperin) reports, "Republican leaders did not immediately endorse the Alexander-Murray framework, raising new questions about whether it would find any traction." Senate Majority Leader McConnell said at his weekly news conference, "We haven't had a chance to think about the way forward yet."

But the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/17, King, Leonard) reports that Senate Minority Leader Schumer said the proposal "received 'broad support' during a lunch with Democrats." [Politico](#) (10/17, Haberkorn) reports that at that lunch meeting, Sen. Chris Murray "described the agreement as a deal 'in principle' and [said that] Democrats seemed 'receptive.'" Sen. Angus King told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/17, 6:17 p.m. ET) that the Democrats are making "significant concessions," but said he that would vote in favor of the compromise to keep healthcare premiums from rising drastically. Sen. Edward Markey told [CNN's Situation Room](#) (10/17, 5:11 p.m. EDT) that he supported the "wise, sensible, and bipartisan" short-term fix.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/17, Edney, Wasson, Litvan), the [Washington Times](#) (10/17, Boyer), and [The Hill](#) (10/17, Fabian) have similar reports on the compromise plan.

States, Insurers Scramble To Raise Rates Following Trump's Subsidies Move. Carolyn Johnson writes in the [Washington Post](#) (10/17) "Wonkblog" that on Monday, state insurance regulators and insurers "scrambled to raise premiums for insurance plans sold on" ACA exchanges. Some insurers are only now raising prices following Trump's decision to end ACA subsidy payments, but in several states, "insurance companies had already priced in a possible end" of the subsidies "to their rate requests, anticipating President Trump's move."

Trump Calls For "Massive Tax Relief" In Heritage Foundation Speech.

The [AP](#) (10/17, Colvin) reports that President Trump "took his tax sales pitch to a conservative think tank Tuesday evening," telling the Heritage Foundation's President's Club that his plan "would be a boon to the economy, boosting growth and jobs." Trump said, "Let's give our country the best Christmas present of all: massive tax relief." [Politico](#) (10/17, Cook, Lima) reports that Trump delivered "a speech filled with economic optimism to a receptive audience of donors." Trump said, "Working closely with the Heritage Foundation, Ronald Reagan cut taxes to unleash the economic miracle of the 1980s. You understand that lower taxes mean bigger paychecks, more jobs and stronger growth. At the heart of our plan is a tax cut for everyday working

Americans.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/17, Lawler) reports that Trump “said he is almost enticed back into the corporate world by his own tax plan.” The [Washington Times](#) (10/17, Boyer) reports, “Saying that the plan to cut corporate taxes would result in the lowest rates for small businesses in 80 years, the president said to laughter, ‘It makes me want to immediately go back into business.’” [Breitbart](#) (10/17, Spiering) reports that Trump also “celebrated the recent economic high of the stock market, pointing out that it had reached 23,000 for the first time in history.”

W. James Antle III writes in the [Washington Examiner](#) (10/17) that “with healthcare stalled indefinitely, despite Trump’s confident predictions they finally have the Senate votes to overhaul Obamacare, getting a tax bill passed ahead of next year’s midterm elections has taken on greater importance.”

WPost Analysis: Tax Code Overhaul Increasingly Unlikely. Tory Newmyer of the [Washington Post](#) (10/17) writes that Republicans “are aiming this week to take a significant stride toward their goal of a tax code rewrite,” but that goal “is both shrinking and moving away from them.” The GOP is aiming at “fundamentally remaking the tax system – including a permanent reduction in business tax rates.” But the “dim outlook is only growing dimmer” because the GOP needs to “raise an enormous amount of revenue to pay for those lowered rates, and they don’t have anything approaching a consensus about how to do that.”

Judge Blocks Trump’s Latest Travel Ban.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/17, story 6, 0:25, Muir) reported that US District Judge Derrick Watson in Hawaii blocked “President Trump’s latest version of his travel ban” just hours before it was set to take effect. The [CBS Evening News](#) (10/17, story 8, 0:25, Mason) said Hawaii had sued over the executive order, “arguing the ban on citizens from Syria, Libya, Iran, Yemen, and Chad is an unlawful attempt to exclude Muslims from the US.” Hawaii did not, however, challenge travel restrictions involving North Korea or Venezuela. The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/17, Kendall) reports the judge issued a nationwide temporary restraining order that stops the Administration from enforcing the ban on people from the six countries.

[NBC Nightly News](#) (10/17, story 6, 0:30, Holt) reported the judge who stopped enforcement of the latest order is the same judge who blocked an “earlier version of the travel ban.” NBC added that there’s another challenge pending in Maryland, “and both undoubtedly will ultimately wind up before the Supreme Court.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/17, Kaleem) says that the DOJ, “which has argued that the ban is needed to protect Americans from potential terrorism, is expected to challenge the ruling.” [Reuters](#) (10/17, Levine, Torbati) reports the DOJ “called Watson’s ruling ‘incorrect’ and said it would appeal ‘in an expeditious manner.’”

[USA Today](#) (10/17, Wolf, Gomez) reports that in a statement, the White House “called Watson’s ruling ‘dangerously flawed’ and a threat to national security,” asserting “the latest version of the travel ban was a carefully constructed measure implemented after a thorough review by the departments of Homeland Security, State, Defense and Justice.” The statement read, “These restrictions are vital to ensuring that foreign nations comply with the minimum security standards required for the integrity of our immigration system and the security of our Nation.” [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (10/17) paraphrased White House press secretary Sarah Sanders as saying “the decision undercuts the President’s efforts to keep the American people safe.”

The [AP](#) (10/17) says Hawaii had argued “the updated ban is a continuation of President Donald Trump’s ‘promise to exclude Muslims from the United States.’” The [Washington Post](#) (10/17, Zapotosky) reports that in his 40-page decision, Watson wrote that the latest ban “suffers from precisely the same maladies as its predecessor: it lacks sufficient findings that the entry of more than 150 million nationals from six specified countries would be ‘detrimental to the interests of the United States.’” Watson also wrote that the executive order “plainly discriminates based on nationality” in contravention of federal law and “the founding principles of this Nation.”

The [New York Times](#) (10/17, Yee) quotes Watson as writing, “Professional athletes mirror the federal government in this respect: they operate within a set of rules, and when one among them forsakes those rules in favor of his own, problems ensue.” [Politico](#) (10/17, Gerstein) says this line “may be an oblique reference to Trump’s recent criticism of National Football League players for kneeling in protest during the National Anthem.”

The [Washington Times](#) (10/17, Dinan) quotes Watson as writing, “Although national security interests are legitimate objectives of the highest order, they cannot justify the public’s harms

when the President has wielded his authority unlawfully.”

Bipartisan House Climate Solutions Caucus Gains Influence.

[Roll Call](#) (10/17, Nawaguna) reports that the growing House Climate Solutions Caucus demonstrated its effectiveness for the first time when the all but one member of the bloc voted against an effort to strip the 2018 defense spending bill of its requirement to plan for global warming. “We know for sure that we can block bad policy,” said Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R), “and that’s significant.” Although only three Republican members of the caucus signed an Oct. 13 letter affirming the group’s support for the Clean Power Plan, caucus members “are confident the group will grow to a point where it can make legislative changes.” Right now Rep. Curbelo said he views the group’s role as a “blocking minority within the majority,” and moving forward, “he wants the coalition to be an ‘ideas factory.’”

Republican Losses In 2018 Could Cripple Climate Solutions Caucus. [E&E Daily](#) (10/17) reports that Democrats are singling out 79 Republican-head seats to target in 2018 elections, 24 of whom are GOP members of the Climate Solutions Caucus. If the Democrats succeed in taking back the House, it could “come at the cost of the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus,” which “can only add members in bipartisan pairs, so a Republican loss drops a Democrat from the body.”

Appeals Court Urged To Rule On Obama-Era Climate Rules By States, Environmental Groups.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/17, Siciliano) reports “environmental groups and aligned states” on Tuesday urged the DC Circuit Court of Appeals “to issue its long-awaited decision on the Clean Power Plan and reject the Trump administration’s arguments for holding its ruling in permanent suspension after proposing to repeal the centerpiece of the Obama administration’s climate agenda last week.” The coalition said in a brief filed with the court, “This court should deny respondent Environmental Protection Agency’s latest request for indefinite abeyance. ... Because EPA has not established the necessary grounds for the requested abeyance and because the case involves a time-sensitive statutory obligation to protect the public health and welfare from grave threats, the court should decide this fully briefed and argued case on the merits.”

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Mr Trump Outdoes Himself In Picking A Conflicted Regulator.” A [New York Times](#) (10/17) editorial says President Trump has “made a habit of filling important jobs with people dedicated to undermining the laws they’re supposed to administer while pampering the industries they’re supposed to regulate,” and “yet no nomination has been as brazen, as dangerous to public health and as deserving of Senate rejection as that of Michael Dourson to run the EPA office in charge of reviewing chemicals used in agriculture, industry and household products.” Dourson’s nomination is “enthusiastically endorsed by the chemical industry,” but “horrifies environmental groups, public health advocates, firefighters and scientists.” The Times says it “would take just a few Republicans to block the nomination,” and urges senators to “think hard about the impact their votes could have on the health of Americans for years to come.”

Washington Post.

“Janet Yellen Deserves A Second Term As Fed Chair.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/17) writes that President Trump should select Janet Yellen for a second term as Federal Reserve Chairman because of her experience with steadily raising interest rates and with the unwinding of the Fed’s asset purchasing program, her encouragement and defense of safeguards on financial institutions, and her relative flexibility compared with the other candidates. The Post concludes that her selection would signal the preservation of the Federal Reserve’s independence from politicization and “would send a reassuring message of continuity.”

“The Hope For Change In Venezuela Suffers A Crushing Blow.” A [Washington Post](#) (10/17) editorial says “hopes that Venezuela could emerge from its catastrophic political and economic collapse by democratic means suffered a crushing and perhaps terminal blow on Sunday” when the government of Nicolás Maduro staged elections for provincial governors. Polls showed the opposition, “which reluctantly agreed to participate, would win up to two-thirds of the races,” and yet the results “announced by pro-regime election authorities were nearly the opposite.” The Post

argues that Sunday's result suggests that a free and fair democratic election in Venezuela "is no longer possible."

"Saying Farewell To A Local Icon Of National Renown." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (10/17) writes offers a farewell message for The Post's former vice president of communications, Vincent E. Reed, who died Tuesday at the age of 89. The Post says Reed "leaves a rich legacy" in the lives of the students who benefited from the school he created – Benjamin Banneker Academic High School – and the educators "helped by the support and guidance he provided from his position at The Post."

Wall Street Journal.

"The Realtors Take A Tax Hostage." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/17) writes that The National Association of Realtors' attack on GOP tax legislation is based upon their desire to keep middle-class tax rates high to preserve their mortgage interest deduction subsidy. The Journal concludes that Republicans should stand firm against the housing lobby's efforts against the GOP plan.

"Jerry Brown's Title IX Veto." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/17) editorial board praises California Governor Jerry Brown's (D) Sunday veto of a bill that would have codified the Obama Administration's "Dear Colleague" guidance, which said universities would lose federal funds if they did not create courts to litigate Title IX campus sexual assault claims. The Journal urges politicians to stay focused on their principles in spite of desire to buck the Trump Administration.

"Prosecutorial Impunity." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/17) editorializes about Tuesday's ruling by the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals that absolved prosecutors for the use of false information in the prosecution of hedge fund founder David Ganek. Ganek had sued the prosecutors, seeking damages after the prosecution had put his hedge fund out of business. The appeals court ruled that the prosecutors were immune from liability. The Journal calls this another example of abusive behavior by prosecutors, and it urges the Justice Department to investigate the incident and to discipline the prosecutors.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Senators Reach Deal To Shore Up Health Markets](#)
[Soros Transfers \\$18 Billion To Foundation, Creating Instant Giant](#)
[US-Backed Forces Say They Have Taken Last Islamic State Urban Stronghold](#)
[The Other Brother: Bob Weinstein Was An Abusive Boss](#)

New York Times:

[2 Senators Strike Deal On Health Subsidies That Trump Cut Off](#)
[Raqqa, ISIS 'Capital,' Is Captured, US-Backed Forces Say](#)
[As Party Gathers, Xi Jinping Displays A Firm Grip On Power](#)
[Inside A Secretive Group Where Women Are Branded](#)
[Navy SEALs Were Ready If Pakistan Failed To Free Family Held As Hostages](#)
[Women Denounce Harassment In California's Capital](#)

Washington Post:

[Latest Healthcare Effort Quickly Stalls](#)
[US-Backed Force Says Raqqa Free Of ISIS](#)
[Despite Decision Against Uber, London's Rivalry Between Traditional, Modern Transit Continues](#)
[Drug Czar Pick Bows Out Amid Criticism Of Law](#)
[Judge Largely Halts Latest Version Of Travel Ban](#)

Financial Times:

[US-Backed Forces Claim Victory Over ISIS In Raqqa As Jihadis Flee](#)
[Airbus Challenges Boeing With Vow To Create US Jobs](#)
[Wall St Banks Boosted By Lending To Rich Clients](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Supports Bipartisan Short-Term Fix To Stabilize Obamacare](#)

[Judge Blocks Trump's Travel Ban For Third Time](#)
[Islamic State's 'Caliphate' Dissolves, But Ideology, Operations Spread Around World](#)
[New York Times' Social Media Policy Only Hides Political Bias, Doesn't Eliminate It](#)
[Biden And Kasich Claim Political Center, Turn Bipartisan Talk Against Trump](#)
[After Year In Coffin, Thai King's Body Prepared For Royal Cremation](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: NFL Owners Meeting; Bipartisan Healthcare Plan; White House-Fallen Soldiers Call; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal; California Wildfires; Travel Restriction Blocked; Syria-Raqqa Assault; Ohio-Police Violence; Cold Medicine Murder; Texas Air Balloon Crash Investigation; Ford Explorers-Call For Recall; Aspiring Kid.

CBS: Opioid Epidemic-Marino Nomination Withdrawn; Opioid Epidemic-Hard Hit Area; Texas Air Balloon Crash Investigation; McCain, Biden-Trump Criticisms; White House-Fallen Soldiers Call; Syria-Raqqa Assault; Ford Explorers-Call For Recall; Travel Restriction Blocked; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal; Young Political Candidates.

NBC: White House-Fallen Soldiers Call; Bipartisan Healthcare Plan; Wall Street Records; Opioid Epidemic-Marino Nomination Withdrawn; Opioid Epidemic-Chinese Imports; Travel Restriction Blocked; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal; United Overbooking Investigation; Texas Air Balloon Crash Investigation; Syria-Raqqa Assault; Ford Explorers-Call For Recall; NFL Owners Meeting; GMO Apple; Brooklyn-Loose Cow; Creative Chemistry Class.

Network TV At A Glance:

White House-Fallen Soldiers Call – 8 minutes, 15 seconds
Opioid Epidemic – 6 minutes, 25 seconds
Syria-Raqqa Assault – 6 minutes, 15 seconds
Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal – 4 minutes, 50 seconds
Ford Explorers-Call For Recall – 4 minutes, 20 seconds
Travel Restriction Blocked – 1 minute, 20 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Travel Restriction Blocked; Bipartisan Healthcare Plan; NFL Owners Meeting; Maryland-Hate Crime Trial; Wall Street News.

CBS: Bipartisan Healthcare Plan; Travel Restriction Blocked; Opioid Epidemic; White House-Fallen Soldiers Call; California Wildfires.

FOX: Bipartisan Healthcare Plan; California Wildfires; Weinstein Sexual Harassment Scandal.

NPR: Travel Restriction Blocked; California Wildfires; NFL Owners Meeting; Amazon Sexual Harassment Scandal.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Speaks with Governor Kim Reynolds of Iowa by telephone; participates in a meeting with the Senate Finance Committee; has lunch with Vice President Mike Pence.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — No public schedule announced.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Senate HELP Committee Executive Session – Executive Session, with agenda including nominations of Patrick Pizzella to be Deputy Secretary of Labor; Cheryl Stanton to be Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division Administrator; David Zatezalo to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health; Janet Dhillon and Dr Daniel Gade to be Equal Employment Opportunity Commission members (with Dhillon to be chair, upon confirmation); Carlos Muniz to be Department of Education General Counsel; Peter Robb to be National Labor Relations Board General Counsel; and Gerald Fauth III, Kyle Fortson, and Linda Puchala to be National Mediation Board members Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Hearing on 'Oversight of the U.S. Department of Justice', with testimony from Attorney General Jeff Sessions Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Governmental Affairs Committee considers nominees for OPM and GSA heads – Nominations hearing considers Jeff Pon to be Office of Personnel Management Director, and Michael Rigas to be Deputy Director; and Emily Murphy to be General Services Administration

Administrator Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 342, Washington, DC
<http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

10:00 AM Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Business Meeting – Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations of Michael Dourson, William Wehrum, Matthew Leopold, and David Ross to be Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrators; Paul Trombino III to be Federal Highway Administration Administrator; and Jeffery Baran to be a Nuclear Regulatory Commission member (reappointment) Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 406, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

2:00 PM Helsinki Commission briefing on Nagorno-Karabakh – ‘Averting All-out War in Nagorno-Karabakh: The Role of the U.S. and OSCE’ Helsinki Commission briefing, with former Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group Co-Chairs Carey Cavanaugh and James Warlick and International Crisis Group Europe & Central Asia Program Director Magdalena Grono assessing the current state of the dispute over the region in the South Caucasus, the Minsk Group format, and the prospects for achieving a lasting peace Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 188, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

2:30 PM Senate Foreign Relations Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Thomas Carter for the rank of ambassador during his tenure of service as U.S. Representative on the Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization; Jennifer Gillian Newstead to be State Department Legal Adviser; and Manisha Singh to be Assistant Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Governmental Affairs subcommittee hearing on federal support for research – Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management Subcommittee hearing on ‘Broken Beakers: Federal Support for Research’, with testimony from University of Virginia Center for Open Science Executive Director Dr Brian Nosek; Cato Institute Adjunct Scholar Dr Terence Kealey; and University of Michigan Office of Research Health Sciences Associate Vice President for Research Rebecca Cunningham Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 342, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

US House: 2:00 PM Helsinki Commission briefing on Nagorno-Karabakh – ‘Averting All-out War in Nagorno-Karabakh: The Role of the U.S. and OSCE’ Helsinki Commission briefing, with former Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Minsk Group Co-Chairs Carey Cavanaugh and James Warlick and International Crisis Group Europe & Central Asia Program Director Magdalena Grono assessing the current state of the dispute over the region in the South Caucasus, the Minsk Group format, and the prospects for achieving a lasting peace Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 188, Washington, DC <http://www.csce.gov> <https://twitter.com/HelsinkiComm>

On recess until 23 October.

Other: 8:00 AM Bipartisan Sens. Lamar Alexander, Bill Cassidy and Tim Kaine discuss next steps on healthcare – ‘Healthcare: What’s Next?’ Axios360 conversation on the next steps in healthcare policy, with Republican Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bill Cassidy and Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine Location: AJAX, 1011 4th St NW, Washington, DC www.axios.com [#Axios360](https://twitter.com/axios)

9:00 AM Washington Post hosts ‘Addiction in America: A Nation Responds’ event – ‘Addiction in America: A Nation Responds’ Washington Post discussion on how the nation is responding to America’s opioid epidemic, with Office of National Drug Control Policy Acting Director Richard Baum discussing the Trump administration’s approach to the crisis, Democratic Sen. Maggie Hassan and Republican Sen. Rob Portman addressing legislative options and regulatory challenges, CVS Health President and CEO Larry Merlo speaking on the search for solutions to the crisis, and Leidos Chairman and CEO Roger Krone on understanding the opioid crisis and next steps. Other speakers include The Washington Post Health and Medicine Reporter Lenny Bernstein and Video Reporter Alice Li Location: The Washington Post, 1301 K St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.washingtonpost.com/> <https://twitter.com/washingtonpost>

2:30 PM Greek PM Tsipras speaks on ‘Greece in a new era’ at Brookings – Brookings Institution Hutchins Center on Fiscal and Monetary Policy and Foreign Policy host Alan and Jane Batkin International Leaders Forum, with Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras delivering a keynote address on ‘Greece in a new era: Pillar of stability and economic hub in the crossroads of three continents’ Location: The Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> [#FutureEU](https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst)

5:30 PM Dem Sen. Elizabeth Warren speaks at National Women’s Law Center Awards Dinner – National Women’s Law Center Awards Dinner, honoring NWLC Founders and Co-Presidents

Emerita Nancy Duff Campbell and Marcia Greenberger. This year's keynote speakers is Democratic Sen. Elizabeth Warren Location: Marriott Marquis, 901 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC www.nwlc.org <https://twitter.com/nwlc>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "They have a policy where if an animal escapes a slaughterhouse, it gets to go free. Isn't that great? The bull is being sent to a rehabilitation facility for misbehaving cows. That's the good news. The bad news is it is also where they sent Harvey Weinstein."

Trevor Noah: "Speaking of hairy creatures, yesterday President Trump held a surprise press conference with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, which is kind of the worst surprise ever. 'Surprise, I brought Mitch McConnell!' Boo! What kind of surprise party is [with] Mitch McConnell?"

Trevor Noah: "I don't know, something's fishy here. They sound less like real friends and more like Trump trying to get Mitch a green card. 'This gentleman, I'm going to say Mitch, right, Mr. Immigration Officer, this relationship is special, it's so special.' 'That's what you said about Melania.'"

Trevor Noah: "See what [President Trump] said? 'President Obama never called. I call and I write. I also haven't called and I didn't write. But I do, except when I don't, which is now.'"

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- The Hill: Alaska Senators Tell Trump Not To Change Name Of Mountain.
- Associated Press: Government Accountability Office Says Climate Change Already Costing U.S. Billions.
- Associated Press: Congressional Democrats Want Probe Of Delta Tunnels Project.
- E&E Publishing: Can Solar Save A Huge Coal Plant? Zinke's Thinking About It.
- Washington Examiner: Ryan Zinke's Ties To 'Scam PAC' Being Scrutinized By GOP.

- Grand Junction (CO) Business Times: Event To Feature Deputy Interior Secretary.

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- Lawsuit Filed To Block County Board Of Supervisors' Approval Of Camp 4 Agreement.
- Bill To Build Grand Canyon Tram Goes Before Navajo Lawmakers.
- Navajo Nation 'Rejects' DOJ Move Not To Prosecute Ex-Officer.

Bureau Of Land Management

- The Hill: Poll: Utah Voters Divided On Future Of Two National Monuments.
- Associated Press: 2 In Nevada Standoff Case Take Plea Deals, Avoid 3rd Trial.
- Associated Press: Federal Land Manager To Idaho National Guard: Stop Building.
- Durango (CO) Herald: BLM Pulls Plan To Auction Oil And Gas Lease Near Shenandoah.
- E&E Publishing: Enviro Warn Of No More Parks; Critics Say 'Ridiculous.'
- E&E Publishing: Trump's 'Energy Independence' Order: Where Do Things Stand?

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

- Developers Plan Wind Farms Off Jersey as Christie Era Ends.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- California Makes Critical Repairs In Century-Old Levee System.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Houston Chronicle: Texas Researchers Hope Grants Will Stop Spread Of Disease Threatening State's Bats.
- Tri-City Herald (WA): Fish And Wildlife Police Seize Pot On Hanford Reach National Monument.
- NW News Network: Fishermen, Researchers Try To Outsmart Bait-Robbing Seabirds To Save Them.

National Park Service

- Arizona Daily Sun: Losing Lake Powell's Quagga Mussel Invasion Battle, But Trying To Win The War.
- Washington Post: Celebrity Ambassadors Put Lesser-Known U.S. National Parks In The Limelight.
- Forbes: Burt's Bees Cofounder On Why She Gave Away 87,000 Acres In Maine.
- Washington Free Beacon: Park Service Cancels Funding For Project 'Honoring Legacy' of Black Panther Party.
- Reading (PA) Eagle: Help Support National Parks.
- Southwest Colorado Journal: Wild Burros Raft Grand Canyon Rapids.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- Associated Press: Guam Delegate Suggests Options To Save Chamorro Land Trust.

US Geological Survey

- Torrington (WY) Telegram: 100-Year Floods Prompt Drone Visit At Historic Site.
- Pasadena (CA) Now: Pasadena Earthquake Expert Kenneth Hudnut to Receive National Award for Service, Leadership in Geodesy.
- Oregonian: How Will 'Really Big One' Earthquake Shake Out? Researchers Run 50 Simulations.

Top National News

- Associated Press: Largest US Grid Operator Rips Perry Plan To Subsidize Coal, Nuclear Power.
- Washington Examiner: Senate Dems Question Why Unconfirmed EPA Nominee Dourson Is Already Working.
- Bloomberg News: Trump Order Allows Refugee Admittance, Imposes Stricter Vetting.
- The Hill: Costs Of Security For EPA Administrator On The Rise.
- Washington Times: Ross: Congress Will Work Out Details Of Tax Reform Plan.
- Reuters: Reuters/Ipsos Poll: Fewer Than Third Support Trump Tax Plan.
- New York Times: NYTimes Analysis: Climate Change Causing Fluctuations In Europe's Olive Oil Production.
- New York Times: Industry Representatives Lobby Senators To Preserve NAFTA.
- New York Times: Bureau Of Labor Statistics: Manufacturing Job Market Will Further Decline In Next Decade.

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DOI In The News

Democrats Call For Investigation Of \$300 Million Contract For Firm With Ties To Zinke.

There was significant coverage of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's ties to an small company from his hometown that was awarded a major contract to help restore power to Puerto Rico's power grid. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (10/24, story 7, 2:10, Muir) reported a "Montana company [was] given the contract to get the power back on" in Puerto Rico "with just two workers when it landed that contract." ABC (Thomas) added, "Whitefish Energy, a private Montana company with just two full-time employees, awarded a \$300 million contract by the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority. The company showcasing its work on Twitter," but "some Democrats are already calling for an investigation into that contract" to Whitefish Energy – a firm from the "hometown of Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/23, A1, Mufson, Gillum, Davis, Hernández) first reported the story which said that the company had "only two full-time employees on the day Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico." Whitefish Energy "signed the contract...with the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) to fix the island's electrical infrastructure." The company "has 280 workers on the island...a majority of whom are subcontractors." Former DOE official Susan Tierney said, "The fact that there are so many utilities with experience in this and a huge track record of helping each other out, it is at least odd why [the utility] would go to Whitefish. ... I'm scratching my head wondering how it all adds up."

The [AP](#) (10/24, Daly) reports the Interior Department "denied that Zinke, a former Montana congressman, played any role in the contract award. Zinke's son had a summer job at a Whitefish construction side." The department said in a statement, "Neither the secretary nor anyone in his office have taken any meetings or action on behalf of this company." Furthermore, the statement said Zinke knows Whitefish CEO Andy Techmanskis "because they both live in a small town where everyone knows everyone." Techmanskis visited Puerto Rico on vacation in late summer "and established contact with PREPA and discussed potential future work, company spokesman Chris Chiames said Tuesday. When Maria hit Sept. 20, Whitefish was one of the companies that power authority officials were able to reach by satellite phone." Chiames said in a telephone interview, "We got here quicker than anybody else and we built a plan that PREPA had confidence in."

PREPA's executive director Ricardo Ramos told reporters that Whitefish was the first company "available to arrive, and they were the ones that first accepted terms and conditions for PREPA," according to the [AP](#) (10/24, Daly). Ramos added, "The doubts that have been raised about Whitefish, from my point of view, are completely unfounded." [NPR](#) (10/24, Ouellet) reports Ramos explained Whitefish's selection was a matter of timing and convenience. He told NPR, "We knew there was going to be a direct hit, so we wanted as much resources as possible." He said Whitefish's name "popped up on several fronts." According to Ramos, PREPA received bids from several companies in the period between Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria. PREPA shortlisted

two companies, including Whitefish. He also pointed out Whitefish did not ask for a payment guarantee, and it was awarded the PREPA contract. [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/24, story 6, 1:50, Gutierrez) showed Ken Luce, a Whitefish Energy spokesperson, defending the company by saying, "Others were just not willing to take the risk and get on a plane to go ask for business."

The [New York Times](#) (10/24, Acosta, Healy) reports "the House Committee on Natural Resources said on Tuesday that it was looking into the contract." Parish Braden, the panel's communications director, "said that members of the panel would travel to Puerto Rico this week to seek more answers about the details of the contract and how it was reached." Moreover, "Sen. Maria Cantwell, Democrat of Washington, asked the Government Accountability Office to investigate the circumstances surrounding Whitefish's contract."

The [AP](#) (10/24, Daly) reports Rep. Raul Grijalva of Arizona, senior Democrat on the House Natural Resources Committee, said Tuesday that "Congress needs to understand why the Whitefish contract was awarded and whether other, more cost-effective options were available." Grijalva said lawmakers also need to understand why the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Army Corps of Engineers and public sector utilities "failed in Puerto Rico to conduct the disaster-response planning they carried out ahead of other disasters this year" in Texas, Florida and other states.

In a statement to [ABC News](#) (10/24, Dooley, Ebbs, Hoyos), Democratic Rep. Luis Gutierrez of Illinois added, "There is something very fishy about the Whitefish deal. I have been here 25 years and this doesn't pass the smell test." In contrast to such skepticism, Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL) said Whitefish "showed up at the right place at the right time and that's how they got the contract." Rubio added, "We want to see restoration pick up. Every day that they're without power is a day that economy isn't functioning and it's another day people are suffering."

Additional coverage is available at [The Hill](#) (10/24, Savransky), [NPR](#) (10/24), [ABC News](#) (10/24), [Talking Points Memo](#) (10/24), [Daily Beast](#) (10/24), [Daily Beast](#) (10/24), [Huffington Post](#) (10/24), [MSNBC](#) (10/24, Benen), [The Week](#) (10/24, Weber), [Salon](#) (10/24, Rozsa), [Slate](#) (10/24, Olmstead), [Vanity Fair](#) (10/24, Levin), [Esquire Magazine](#) (10/24, Pierce), [Vice](#) (10/24, Lubben), [Mic](#) (10/24, Smith), [MLive \(MI\)](#) (10/24, Raven), [New York Post](#) (10/24, Moore), [Independent \(UK\)](#) (10/24, York), [Daily Mail](#) (10/24, Earle), [Public Radio International](#) (10/24, Shankar), and [Splinter News](#) (10/24, Sheehan).

Sources that picked up AP reporting include the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/24, Daly), [ABC News](#) (10/24, Dooley, Ebbs, Hoyos), [Arizona Daily Star](#) (10/24), [Chicago \(IL\) Daily Herald](#) (10/24), [Daily Mail](#) (10/24), [Fox Business](#) (10/24), [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/24), [MSN](#) (10/24), [New York Daily News](#) (10/24), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/24), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/24), [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/24, Daly), and [Yahoo! Finance](#) (10/24).

WPost: Contract "Deserving Of More Scrutiny." The [Washington Post](#) (10/24) editorializes that in contrast to the situation in Texas and Florida, "more than a month after Maria made landfall on" Puerto Rico "roughly 8 out of 10 residents are still without power." While "the sorry, preexisting state of Puerto Rico's power system...clearly accounts for some of the delay...that doesn't excuse the bad planning and questionable decisions that have marked the response to a calamity that was so clearly anticipated." To the Post, "giving a no-bid \$300 million contract to a company that had just two full-time employees on the day Maria struck is, at best, curious and deserving of more scrutiny."

Governor Slams Army Corps Of Engineers. [NBC Nightly News](#) (10/24, story 6, 1:50, Gutierrez) reported that amid the continuing power outages, Puerto Rico's governor "slammed the Army Corps of Engineers' response so far." Gov. Ricardo Rosselló was shown saying, "There's no sense of urgency." NBC added, "The Army Corps insists it's working hard to meet the governor's goal to restoring power to 95 percent of the island by mid-December."

Interior Proposes Raising Fees At Popular National Parks.

[The Hill](#) (10/24, Henry) reports the Interior Department is considering higher peak-season fees at 17 of its most popular national parks "during their busiest five-month periods." The agency said the increased fees would "help ensure that they are protected and preserved in perpetuity and that visitors enjoy a world-class experience that mirrors the amazing destinations they are visiting." In a statement, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said, "The infrastructure of our national parks is aging and in need of renovation and restoration." Zinke added, "We need to have the vision to look at the future of our parks and take action in order to ensure that our grandkids' grandkids will have the same if not better experience than we have today. Shoring up our parks' aging infrastructure will do that." President Trump proposed trimming the National Park Service's budget by 12.9 percent this year, "despite concerns from officials with the department and in

Congress about the state of the Park Service's infrastructure."

The [AP](#) (10/24, Fonseca) reports visitors to the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, Yellowstone, and other popular parks "would be charged \$70 per vehicle, up from the fee of \$30 for a weekly pass. At others, the hike is nearly triple, from \$25 to \$70." The National Park Service estimates it will raise \$70 million a year with the proposal "at a time when national parks repeatedly have been breaking visitation records and putting a strain on park resources." According to the AP, the proposal would not affect selected free weekends and holidays at parks throughout the year.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (10/24, Martin) reports NPS will accept public comment on the proposal until Nov. 23 at its public comment website. The proposal could go into effect as early as next spring. It would also increase fees for commercial vehicles entering the parks. [Money](#) (10/24, Calfas) reports NPS has not "proposed any price increases for its America the Beautiful passes, which are \$80 and grant access to more than 2,000 federal sites, including those potentially getting a comparable price tag for just one visit."

The [Huffington Post](#) (10/24) reports Democrats were "quick to slam the park free proposal." Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ), the ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee, said in a statement, "We should be encouraging more people to get outdoors and enjoy our great natural wonders instead of discouraging them by raising park entrance fees." Meanwhile, Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) said in a statement, "While Secretary Zinke flies around on private jets using our taxpayer dollars, he is hiking up the fees all American families pay to enjoy our National Parks."

Additional coverage is available at [Reuters](#) (10/24, Coffman), [Axios](#) (10/24, Britzky), [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (10/24, Siciliano), [CNN](#) (10/25, Park), [USA Today](#) (10/25, Cummings), [Oregonian](#) (10/24, Hale), [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (10/24), [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (10/24, Friesen), [Denver \(CO\) Post](#) (10/24, Blevins), [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (10/24, Franz), [Belleville \(IL\) News-Democrat](#) (10/24, Donald), [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (10/24, O'Donoghue), [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (10/24, Martinson), [Palm Springs \(CA\) Desert Sun](#) (10/24, Simon), [KTLA-TV Los Angeles \(CA\)](#) Los Angeles (10/24, Pamer), and [KTVX-TV Salt Lake City \(UT\)](#) Salt Lake City (10/24, Francis).

Sources that picked up AP reporting include the [Washington \(DC\) Post](#) (10/24, By Felicia Fonseca |, Ap), [ABC News](#) (10/24), [Arizona Daily Star](#) (10/24), [Arizona Republic](#) (10/24), [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (10/24, Fonseca), [Daily Mail](#) (10/24), [Fox Business](#) (10/24), [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/24), [New York Daily News](#) (10/24), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/24), [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (10/24), [Springfield \(OH\) News Sun](#) (10/24), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/24), [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/24, Fonseca), and [Waterloo-Cedar Falls \(IA\) Courier](#) (10/24).

Trump To Auction Off A Vast Swath Of The Gulf Of Mexico To Oil Companies.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/24, Fears) reports the Trump Administration "made history Tuesday in proposing that nearly 77 million acres in the Gulf of Mexico be made available for companies wanting to purchase federal oil and gas leases – the largest offering ever in the United States." The Post adds that "in announcing the sale, the Interior Department compared the targeted waters to 'about the size of New Mexico' and said the first lease sales off Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida are scheduled for March next year." The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) "offered assurances that the environment would be protected as additional leases are sold in the gulf." Vincent DeVito, Interior's counselor for energy policy, touted the benefits of the sale, saying, "People need jobs, the Gulf Coast states need revenue, and Americans do not want to be dependent on foreign oil." According to the Post, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "first broached such a sale shortly after he took office in March, proposing to offer 73 million acres for leases."

The [Washington Times](#) (10/24, Wolfgang) reports Zinke "announced the massive lease sale, slated for March 2018, on Tuesday morning, and said the move is a key component of the administration's effort to tap US energy reserves and reap the economic benefits that come along with them." Said Zinke, "In today's low-price energy environment, providing the offshore industry access to the maximum amount of opportunities possible is part of our strategy to spur local and regional economic dynamism and job creation and a pillar of President Trump's plan to make the United States energy dominant."

The [AP](#) (10/24, Daly) reports the sale "includes all available unleased areas on the Gulf's Outer Continental Shelf, a reflection of the Trump administration's strategy to maximize oil and gas drilling on federal lands and waters." Nevertheless, only a few of the available tracts are expected to receive bids. "A similar lease sale in August drew bids on just 90 offshore tracts totaling about a half-million acres – less than 1 percent of the 76 million acres available," the AP said. The proposed sale sparked criticism from Rep. Raul Grijalva of Arizona, the top Democrat on

the House Natural Resources Committee, who “said Zinke and congressional Republicans were taking credit for an Obama-era policy to offer oil and gas leases from all available tracts in the Gulf, rather than separating the western and eastern Gulf areas from the more productive” central Gulf region.

According to the [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/24), “Many Gulf coast lawmakers and political leaders praised the new lease sale.” [Reuters](#) (10/24) reports BOEM spokesman John Filostrat said, “We’re hoping to get a healthy number of bids, more so than we did in August.”

Also covering this story are the [Washington \(DC\) Examiner](#) (10/24, Siegel), [Rigzone](#) (10/24, Veazey) and [Offshore Magazine](#) (10/24). Sources that picked up AP reporting include [ABC News](#) (10/24), [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/24), [Baton Rouge \(LA\) Advocate](#) (10/24), [Boston \(MA\) Herald](#) (10/24), [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (10/24), [Daily Mail](#) (10/24), [Fox Business](#) (10/24), [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/23), [New York Daily News](#) (10/24), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/24), [Tampa \(FL\) Tribune](#) (10/24), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/24), and the [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/24, Daly).

Alaska Senators Tell Trump Not To Change Name Of Mountain.

In continuing coverage, [The Hill](#) (10/24, Anapol) reports on Alaska Sen. Dan Sullivan (R) recalling during a speech at the Alaska Federation of Natives’ annual conference that during a meeting in March with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, President Trump offered to reverse the Obama-era order that changed the name of Mt. McKinley to Denali. According to the Alaska Dispatch News, Sullivan said of Trump, “He looked at me and said, ‘I heard that the big mountain in Alaska also had – also its name was changed by executive action. Do you want us to reverse that?’” Sullivan said he and fellow Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R) “jumped over the desk” and told the president, “No! No. Don’t want to reverse that.”

The [AP](#) (10/24) reports Alaska spent decades trying to get North America’s tallest mountain recognized as Denali, an Athabascan word meaning “the high one,” which Alaskans widely used. As a presidential candidate, Trump tweeted his displeasure with then-Interior Secretary Sally Jewell issuing an order in 2015 ordering the name change.

Sources that picked up AP reporting include [ABC News](#) (10/24), [Daily Mail](#) (10/24), [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/17), [MSN](#) (10/24), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (10/24), [Stamford \(CT\) Advocate](#) (10/24), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/24), and [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/24, Bohrer).

Government Accountability Office Says Climate Change Already Costing U.S. Billions.

The [Associated Press](#) (10/24, Biesecker) reports a Government Accountability Report released Monday said climate change is costing US taxpayers billions of dollars each year, “with those costs expected to rise as devastating storms, floods, wildfires and droughts become more frequent in the coming decades.” The report found “the federal government has spent more than \$350 billion over the last decade on disaster assistance programs and losses from flood and crop insurance,” a figure that does not include the “massive toll from this year’s wildfires and three major hurricanes, expected to be among the most costly in the nation’s history.” The authors “reviewed 30 government and academic studies examining the national and regional impacts of climate change” and also “interviewed 28 experts familiar with the strengths and limitations of the studies, which rely on future projections of climate impacts to estimate likely costs.” The AP mentions that President Trump, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and Energy Secretary Rick Perry “question the scientific consensus that carbon released into the atmosphere from burning fossil fuels is the primary driver of global warming.”

Sources that picked up AP reporting include [CBS News](#), (10/24) [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/24), [Austin \(TX\) American Statesman](#) (10/24), [Chicago \(IL\) Tribune](#) (10/23, Biesecker), [Daily Mail](#) (10/23), [Houston \(TX\) Chronicle](#) (10/24, Biesecker), [Globe and Mail \(CAN\)](#) (10/24), and [San Francisco \(CA\) Chronicle](#) (10/24).

Congressional Democrats Want Probe Of Delta Tunnels Project.

The [AP](#) (10/24) reports five Congressional Democrats from California and one Arizona Democrat on Tuesday requested a new federal probe of Gov. Jerry Brown’s \$16 billion proposal to build two giant water tunnels. The request followed a federal audit that “found that the U.S. Interior Department improperly used taxpayer money to help fund planning for the project.” The Democrats are asking the US General Accounting Office “to determine whether that funding was legal.”

Sources that picked up AP reporting include [Kansas City \(MO\) Star](#) (10/24), [Sacramento](#)

(CA) Bee (10/24), [U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/24), and [Washington \(DC\) Times](#) (10/24).

Can Solar Save A Huge Coal Plant? Zinke's Thinking About It.

[E&E Publishing](#) (10/24, Patterson, Storrow) reports Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke met with South African billionaire Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong and two members of his company, NantWorks, to discuss the possibility of using high-powered solar technology at the Navajo Generation Station, one of America's largest coal plants, "as the Trump administration searches for a way to keep the facility from closing." The northeast Arizona facility is "scheduled to retire in 2019 after four utilities with a stake in the facility voted to close it earlier this year." The Interior Department is a minor owner in the plant, which the Trump Administration opposes shuttering. According to the article, Zinke's meeting "appeared to catch some of the administration's allies off guard." For example, the "economies of the Navajo and Hopi tribes are heavily reliant on the coal industry, and tribal leaders have loudly opposed plans to close NGS." In an email, Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift wrote that the department is interested "in an economic pathway where NGS operates post-2019."

Ryan Zinke's Ties To 'Scam PAC' Being Scrutinized By GOP.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/24, Siegel, Siciliano) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "has helped raise money for political operatives in Washington that conservatives are now accusing of misleading donors, Politico reported Tuesday." The report found Zinke "has donated to groups linked to Scott Mackenzie," who runs a Virgin Islands GOP political action committee that hosted Zinke at a fundraiser in March. The Politico investigation found many Republicans have distanced themselves from Mackenzie "because critics say he operates 'scam PACs' that generate small donations from conservative voters, and spend the money on overhead and consultants." For example, Republican Texas Rep. Will Hurd said many of Mackenzie's firms "are preying on seniors." According to the Examiner, there is no evidence linking Zinke's relationship with Mackenzie to anything illegal, "but the relationship with the consultants and PACs is raising eyebrows, Politico reports."

Event To Feature Deputy Interior Secretary.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Business Times](#) (10/24) reports the Grand Junction Petroleum and Mining Club is hosting a presentation featuring Kate MacGregor, deputy assistant secretary for land and minerals management at the Department of the Interior, Nov. 15. According to the article, McGregor's presentation is titled, "The Department of the Interior's Role in Energy Dominance."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Iron Eyes To Ask For Necessity Defense In DAPL Case

. The [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (10/24, Dura) reports that a Standing Rock Sioux tribe member Chase Iron Eyes was charged with a felony for inciting a riot and a misdemeanor for criminal trespass, to which, he will be raising the necessity defense on November 3. Chase Iron Eyes is an attorney himself and was a candidate for the US House in 2016. Iron Eyes said "given the Dakota Access Pipeline's imminent threat to my tribe's and my family's only water supply, I ultimately had no choice but to resist on the front lines." The Bismarck Tribune adds that "Iron Eyes faces up to five years in prison, if convicted. He is scheduled for a felony jury trial on Feb. 8."

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (10/24, Nicholson, Karnowski) reports that "an American Indian activist and former U.S. congressional candidate in North Dakota accused of inciting a riot during protests against the Dakota Access oil pipeline says he'll seek to present a "necessity defense" — justifying a crime by arguing it prevented a greater harm."

Lawsuit Filed To Block County Board Of Supervisors' Approval Of Camp 4 Agreement.

The [Lompoc \(CA\) Record](#) (10/24, Hodgson) reports a Santa Ynez Valley ranch "filed a complaint against the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors as a whole and its members individually seeking to prevent their approval of a memorandum of agreement with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians." The lawsuit involves "the 1,427-acre Camp 4 property east of Highway 154 and west of Highway 246 that was purchased by the Chumash tribe in 2010 with the intent of building tribal housing, a community center and other improvements." The Bureau of Indian Affairs, at the tribe's request, "issued a decision to take the land into trust, which would allow the

tribe to develop the property outside the jurisdiction of county and state laws, result in a loss of tax revenues to the county and fail to compensate the county for services provided." The lawsuit alleges the tribe's proposed development "of 415 residences and a 12,000-square-foot community center fails to meet all provisions of the Santa Ynez Valley Community Plan, which the supervisors have admitted."

Bill To Build Grand Canyon Tram Goes Before Navajo Lawmakers.

The [AP](#) (10/25) reports the Navajo Nation Council will review legislation to build an aerial tram into the Grand Canyon during Tuesday's special session. The legislation "has struggled to gain widespread support." Developers claim it will "revitalize the region's economy," but opponents argue "it would desecrate the area." The Navajo Nation would need to invest \$65 million to start the project.

Navajo Nation 'Rejects' DOJ Move Not To Prosecute Ex-Officer.

The [AP](#) (10/24) reports from Tse Bonito, NM that "the Navajo Nation says it's angered by a U.S. Justice Department decision not to prosecute a former Winslow, Arizona, officer who fatally shot a 27-year-old Navajo woman." Navajo Nation Attorney General Ethel Branch said on Tuesday "the tribe is planning to sue over the matter early next year. The tribe had asked the Justice Department to look into the March 2016 shooting of Loreal Tsingine." Justice Department spokesman Devin O'Malley said on Tuesday that "the evidence thoroughly was reviewed but officials couldn't prove beyond a reasonable doubt that Austin Shipley willfully used excessive force when he shot Tsingine."

Bureau Of Land Management

Poll: Utah Voters Divided On Future Of Two National Monuments.

[The Hill](#) (10/24, Henry) reports a poll released Tuesday by the Salt Lake Tribune and the University of Utah found 51 percent of respondents supported shrinking the Bears Ears National Monument. However, 53 percent of voters "also said the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument should be preserved and not split into smaller monuments, something supported by 27 percent of those polled." Bear Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante are two of nearly 30 large national monuments that the Interior Department is considering changes for. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "has said he will recommend President Trump shrink Bears Ears, a 1.3-million acre expanse established by the Obama administration late last year containing cultural sites from Native American tribes." Zinke is also expected to "recommend Trump shrink Grand Staircase-Escalante, a 1.8-million acre monument established by President Clinton in 1996."

2 In Nevada Standoff Case Take Plea Deals, Avoid 3rd Trial.

The [AP](#) (10/24) reports two defendants pleaded guilty to lesser charges to "avoid a third trial and the possibility of more time in federal custody for bearing assault-style weapons during a 2014 confrontation with federal agents near a ranch owned by Nevada cattleman and states' rights figure Cliven Bundy." According to the AP, their plea deals "narrow the focus of an upcoming trial for Bundy, two adult sons and a close associate," who are accused of "leading a conspiracy to enlist a self-styled militia to prevent federal Bureau of Land Management agents from enforcing court orders to remove Bundy cattle from desert rangeland in what is now Gold Butte National Monument."

Sources that picked up AP reporting includes [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (10/24), [Minneapolis \(MN\) Star Tribune](#) (10/19), [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (10/24) and [U.S. News & World Report](#) (10/24).

Federal Land Manager To Idaho National Guard: Stop Building.

The [AP](#) (10/24, Boone) reports the Bureau of Land Management sent a formal cease and desist letter ordering the Idaho National Guard to cease construction of a "tank crossing on a road in a national conservation area in the state until an environmental analysis is finished and the BLM decides whether to grant a permit." Both sides called the issue a "rare misunderstanding in a long-standing positive relationship in the area that contains key habitat for eagles, falcons and hawks." BLM's Snake River Birds of Prey Manager Amanda Hoffman said in an email, "The Guard is an active and positive partner with the BLM in their environmental stewardship of the Orchard Combat Training Center."

BLM Pulls Plan To Auction Oil And Gas Lease Near Shenandoah.

The [Durango \(CO\) Herald](#) (10/24, Romeo) reports a spokesman with the Bureau of Land Management said the agency has pulled a 40-acre tract on the southern border of the Shenandoah subdivision from an oil and gas lease sale set for March in response to “public backlash earlier this month when Shenandoah residents said the agency did not properly notify them of the sale or a public comment period.” The potential development of the land “also drew concern over noise, traffic and general health risks associated with nearby oil and gas development.”

The [AP](#) (10/24) also reports on this story.

Enviros Warn Of No More Parks; Critics Say ‘Ridiculous.’

In a 2,500-word piece, [E&E Publishing](#) (10/24, Yachnin) reports critics of House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop’s legislation to overhaul the Antiquities Act claim it will not only “mandate strict guidelines for the creation of national monuments but would lessen the chances for new national parks in the decades ahead.” Bishop “has dismissed such correlations as unfounded.” Before a Natural Resources panel passed the bill along party lines earlier this month, Bishop stated, “The idea that Grand Canyon or Zion National Park would never have been created without this is misinformation.” However, conservation advocates “have seized on that data to argue that Bishop’s new legislation would have prevented the creation of sites like the former Grand Canyon and Arches national monuments, and potentially derailed the process through which those lands became national parks.”

Trump’s ‘Energy Independence’ Order: Where Do Things Stand?

[E&E Publishing](#) (10/24) reports that this month, the Trump administration “hit two milestones in their wide-ranging examination of Obama-era rules” that could be considered burdensome to U.S. energy producers. EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt “formally proposed a repeal of the Clean Power Plan” just days after the Bureau of Land Management “unveiled its plan to postpone key parts of a rule the Obama administration introduced to limit venting, flaring and leakage of natural gas from energy operations on public and tribal lands.” President Trump is also credited with disbanding “an interagency working group that focused on the social cost of carbon and related tools that put a dollar amount on the impacts of carbon, nitrous oxide and methane.”

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Developers Plan Wind Farms Off Jersey as Christie Era Ends.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/24, Ryan) reports, “after years of being sidelined by New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, wind farm developers are dusting off plans for massive offshore turbines that may someday generate more electricity than a nuclear reactor.” As governor, Christie “effectively blocked wind farms off his state’s coast by never fully implementing a program that would subsidize the projects.” Bloomberg writes that Christie’s departure “presents a potentially rich market for offshore wind,” with low power prices and a geographical position “midway between offshore wind development sites in New England and the Southeast, making the state a potential hub for ferrying supplies to build projects in other states.” The article quotes US Wind Director of Project Development Paul Rich, “New Jersey has all the classic elements for offshore wind to work. The time is right, and the market is ripe.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

California Makes Critical Repairs In Century-Old Levee System.

The [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (10/24, Hearden) reports California wader agencies spent \$80 million this summer to repair “30 of the most critically impaired levees after last winter’s rains, but there were 10 others that they couldn’t get to, officials said.” According to the Capital Press, a “sense of urgency prevailed this summer after high river levels during a historically wet winter exposed weak spots in roughly 1,600 miles of levees in the Central Valley.” Among the most troubled areas “is the Feather River below the Oroville Dam, whose spillways nearly failed in February.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Texas Researchers Hope Grants Will Stop Spread Of Disease Threatening State's Bats.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (10/24, Stuckey) reports that the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation on Tuesday announced the award of \$1.3 million in grant funding for six initiatives to halt the spread of white nose syndrome, which "has killed millions of North American bats." Around \$600,000 will fund projects in Texas, where researchers just recently discovered the first incidence of the disease. Southern Company is listed among the partners that funded the grants. The [AP](#) (10/24) also covers the announcement of the grant funding from the "Bats for the Future Fund," which "includes the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Shell Oil and Southern Co."

Fish And Wildlife Police Seize Pot On Hanford Reach National Monument.

The [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (10/24, Cary) reports officials seized a marijuana crop on the Hanford Reach National Monument. A US Fish and Wildlife Service scientist "surprised a person carrying a weapon earlier this month in a remote area north of the Columbia River near Saddle Mountain Lake, an area that is closed to the public." The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife "responded to what initially was suspected of being an illegal hunt," but instead found an active marijuana growing operation where 200 to 300 plants "had been harvested, dried and prepared for transportation, according to officers."

Fishermen, Researchers Try To Outsmart Bait-Robbing Seabirds To Save Them.

[NW News Network](#) (10/23, Banse) reports researchers from Oregon and Washington published a report recommending the best tactics to avoid bycatch, particularly endangered species such as the short-tailed albatross. The report "recommends either fishing at night or deploying bird-scaring streamers on a line towed from a mast." The US Fish and Wildlife Service, citing the research, "recently directed regulators at NOAA Fisheries to require the West Coast longline fleet use one of the two options." According to a FWS report published earlier this year, "there has been one confirmed case of a short-tailed albatross being killed in longline gear since 2002 off the Oregon, Washington and California coasts."

National Park Service

Losing Lake Powell's Quagga Mussel Invasion Battle, But Trying To Win The War.

The [Arizona Daily Sun](#) (10/22, Gardner) reports on the futile attempts by researchers over a decade to keep adult quagga mussels from taking over Lake Powell. Experts believe it is "impossible to entirely eradicate the" invasive species from taking over Lake Powell. According to the article, the "mussels latch on to the walls of Glen Canyon Dam and the hundreds of boats skimming the lake's waters." More than \$1 million each year has been spent on containment efforts since researchers first discovered the invading mussels. Organizations in the surrounding states are "working together on containment efforts that include inspecting boats, educating boaters [about] the infestation, bolstering staff, levying costly fines to uncooperative boaters and investing in decontamination equipment."

Celebrity Ambassadors Put Lesser-Known U.S. National Parks In The Limelight.

The [Washington Post](#) (10/23, Sachs) reports that for its 101th birthday, the National Parks Service and National Park Foundation "launched Parks 101, an ongoing online series that will introduce the masses to lesser-known destinations within the 417-site system." The goal of the series is to encourage visitors to start attending its minor locations. "The places that are iconic are well worth visiting," said Will Shafroth, president and chief executive of the foundation, "but we wanted to spark interest in the places that hardly anyone knows about." He explained the series includes videos and social media posts by celebrity ambassadors and focuses on destinations that offer a diversity of experiences.

Burt's Bees Cofounder On Why She Gave Away 87,000 Acres In Maine.

[Forbes](#) (10/24, Wang) reports that Roxanne Quimby, the co-founder of lip balms and lotions manufacturer Burt's Bee, used her fortune to purchase "thousands of acres of land across the country, aiming to preserve the land rather than develop it." Last year, Quimby "donated roughly

\$75 million worth of her holdings to the National Park Service – over 87,000 acres overall – and \$6 million to other causes.” As part of her entrepreneurship, Quimby “learned about a problem in national parks called inholding – parcels of privately-held land sitting inside of government-owned parks.” As a result, she “decided to allocate \$10 million towards a project that will buy up then donate inholdings in various parks in the U.S.” When NPS’ 100th anniversary occurred in 2016, she “turned over \$10 million worth of inholdings (150 acres in all) she acquired over the years to the federal government, and donated around 87,500 acres of land in Maine to create a national monument called Katahdin Woods and Waters.”

Park Service Cancels Funding For Project ‘Honoring Legacy’ of Black Panther Party.

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (10/24, Harrington) reports the National Park Service said it will no longer provide funding for a project “honoring the legacy” of the Black Panther Party after the agency was criticized for spending taxpayer money on the controversial group. NPS said in the grant awarded for the project, “Committed to truthfully honoring the legacy of [Black Panther Party] BPP activists and the San Francisco Bay Area communities they served, the project seeks to document the lives of activists and elders and the landscapes that shaped the movement.”

Help Support National Parks.

The [Reading \(PA\) Eagle](#) (10/25, Banowetz) reports Brooks Sports continues to support the US National Park System “with the introduction of its National Parks Collection, a series of its Cascadia 12 trail running shoes, socks and T-shirts that raise money for the National Park Service.” Interested runners can select from “special editions of the shoe that are designed to honor Yellowstone, Yosemite, Mount Rainier and Great Smoky Mountain National Park, and a technical T-shirt designed for each of those parks is also available.” Five percent of the wholesale cost of each item will be donated to the NPS.

Wild Burros Raft Grand Canyon Rapids.

The [Southwest Colorado Journal](#) (10/24, Mimiaga) reports on the story of the National Park Service transporting wild burros on rafts or by helicopter out of Grand Canyon in 1980-81. Back then, the NPS “had long wanted to get rid of the growing burro population in the Grand Canyon because they competed with native wildlife for grazing lands.” The “unconventional round-up” of the beasts of burden “involved custom-built rafts with corrals and ramps, professional boaters.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

Guam Delegate Suggests Options To Save Chamorro Land Trust.

The [AP](#) (10/24) reports Guam Del. Madeleine Bordallo “has proposed five options to save the Chamorro Land Trust program, which has been challenged in court by the federal government.” According to the Pacific Daily News, the US Department of Justice lawsuit claims the local government violated the federal Fair Housing Act “for discriminating against non-Chamorros.” The program “aims to hold public land for indigenous Chamorros, who can lease 1-acre tracts for \$1 a year for 99 years. The Land Trust Commission also leases land for commercial use to non-Chamorros.” The AP explains the Federal government “sued after a Caucasian Tamuning resident earlier this year filed a complaint with federal housing officials, stating he was prohibited from applying for a lease under the Chamorro Land Trust.”

US Geological Survey

100-Year Floods Prompt Drone Visit At Historic Site.

The [Torrington \(WY\) Telegram](#) (10/24, Albers) reports that after experiencing 100-year flood events the past two years, Fort Laramie National Historic Site superintendent Tom Baker reached out for help. Don Weeks, physical resources program manager for the Intermountain Region of the National Park Service, recalled Baker asking, “Is this the new normal? I think what I need is some sort of river management plan.” To assist in the flood management planning, the team turned to Mark Bauer and Todd Burton of the US Geological Survey’s Unmanned Aircraft Systems Project Office. Project planning started in February, “and last week, Bauer and Burton brought an \$80,000 drone to the park – complete with an estimated \$70,000 LiDAR payload.” According to the Telegram, Bauer and Burton “completed a total of 11 flights, most of which were at 150 feet

above ground level, with a few flights at 400 feet above ground level." Bauer estimated "USGS will take a few weeks to process and deliver its findings back to the National Park Service, which will then perform additional data analysis and begin making flood plain management decisions."

Pasadena Earthquake Expert Kenneth Hudnut to Receive National Award for Service, Leadership in Geodesy.

[Pasadena \(CA\) Now](#) (10/24) reports USGS geophysicist Kenneth Hudnut was chosen to receive the 2017 Ivan I. Mueller Award for Distinguished Service and Leadership at the 2017 American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting this December in New Orleans. The award acknowledges "major achievements in service to and/or leadership within the field of geodesy." According to the article, Hudnut "applies new technologies such as GPS and lidar (light detection and ranging) to earthquake research as a geophysicist for the USGS in Pasadena."

How Will 'Really Big One' Earthquake Shake Out? Researchers Run 50 Simulations.

The [Oregonian](#) (10/24) reports a University of Washington research project ran 50 simulations on how a massive earthquake could disrupt the Northwest. The simulations used combinations "of three factors: The quake's epicenter, how far inland it would rupture and which parts of the fault would produce the most intense shaking, according to the university." Erin Wirth, a postdoctoral researcher who led the project, explained in a statement, "There had been just a handful of detailed simulations of a magnitude-9 Cascadia earthquake, and it was hard to know if they were showing the full range. With just a few simulations you didn't know if you were seeing a best-case, a worst-case or an average scenario. This project has really allowed us to be more confident in saying that we're seeing the full range of possibilities."

Top National News

Largest US Grid Operator Rips Perry Plan To Subsidize Coal, Nuclear Power.

The [AP](#) (10/24, Levy) reports that PJM Interconnection, the nation's largest electric grid operator, "said a Trump administration plan to change the way electricity is priced to reward coal and nuclear power is both unworkable and potentially against the law." PJM operates the grid "covering 65 million people from Illinois to Washington, D.C." It "submitted formal comments on the plan late Monday to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission." PJM's president and CEO, Andy Ott said in a conference call with reporters, Energy Secretary Rick Perry's plan is not "workable." In fact, Ott added, "we do believe it's contrary to law and, again, will not really solve any problems." PJM "said the plan would undermine the reliability of markets, intrude on state policies and represent a radical departure from the commission's policies."

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/23, Traywick) reports PJM Interconnection CEO Andrew Ott, said, "I don't know how this proposal could be implemented without a detrimental impact on the market," adding that Perry's proposal is "discriminatory" and inconsistent with federal law. Ott's remarks "echo concerns raised by other grid operators, which on Monday asked the commission to reject Perry's proposal. The New York Independent System Operator, ISO New England and the Midcontinent Independent System Operator filed comments jointly with a coalition of organizations that wouldn't be affected," including the "Electric Reliability Council of Texas, the California Independent System Operator, and the Southwest Power Pool." In their comments the group said, "The proposal threatens to undermine price formation and competition in the nation's organized electricity markets."

[EnergyWire](#) (10/24, Kuckro) reports that Ott "said PJM...has been discussing for a year 'the need to properly value' reliability in the context of energy price formation." Ott said, "A better and least-cost solution would be to do proper valuation of resource attributes through a market construct rather than the proposed approach to do a regulatory construct." Ott said that providing compensation to a "subset of generators" is "discriminatory in the sense that it tries to differentiate between resources providing very similar or the same services to the grid." Ott added, "We think it is discriminatory and inconsistent with the Federal Power Act."

The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (10/24, Funk) reports that the trade groups "counter that there is just no evidence that allowing the old plants to shut down and retire would in any way weaken the reliability of the high-voltage grid, echoing an earlier PJM analysis that the grid it manages in Ohio and 12 other states would be fine if 86 percent of the power came from gas turbines."

[Crain's Cleveland Business](#) (10/24) reports that even though the "rule appears to target PJM specifically," Ott said, "the PJM market is more diverse and reliable today than we've seen."

Tesla Urges FERC To Drop Coal, Nuclear Subsidy Plan. [Bloomberg News](#) (10/23, Doan) reports that Elon Musk's Tesla Inc. "waded into an intensifying debate" this week over whether US coal and nuclear plants "should be paid for their ability to supply around-the-clock power." Last month, Energy Secretary Rick Perry outlined a plan to "create special payments for plants capable of stockpiling 90 days' worth of fuel at their sites." In a filing to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Monday, "Tesla urged the agency to dismiss Perry's proposal, saying it 'completely excludes the benefits of energy storage and distributed energy resources.'" Tesla instead urged the agency to "reprioritize" its efforts to "allow for more energy storage to compete in wholesale power markets" and "criticized Perry's plan for 'pre-determining' the kinds of resources that should receive payments."

Even Some Coal Generators Lukewarm To Perry Plan. [Bloomberg News](#) (10/24, Traywick) reports that while some coal generators including Dynegy Inc., are "poised to profit from Energy Secretary Rick Perry's plan to change power market rules" – that "doesn't mean they've thrown their full support behind it." Dynegy, "with about 9.5 gigawatts of coal-fired capacity, went as far as to file comments opposing it." Dynegy said, "Even from the perspective of a coal generator, the proposed rule should not be adopted because it would substantially, and potentially irreversibly, harm the nation's competitive electricity markets." NRG Energy, with "nearly 9 gigawatts of coal capacity" and Entergy Corp., with 2.2 gigawatts of coal capacity "also urged the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to proceed with caution."

Senate Dems Question Why Unconfirmed EPA Nominee Dourson Is Already Working.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/24, Siegel) reports that Democratic senators want to know why Michael Dourson, President Trump's unconfirmed nominee to lead the EPA's toxic chemicals office, is already working at the agency as a top advisor to Administrator Scott Pruitt. In a letter, the senators wrote, "Your appointment creates the appearance, and perhaps the effect, of circumventing the Senate's constitutional advice and consent responsibility for the position to which you have been nominated."

Trump Order Allows Refugee Admittance, Imposes Stricter Vetting.

[Bloomberg News](#) (10/24, Sink) reports President Trump "has ended his ban on admitting refugees to the US but will enact stricter vetting procedures for them, administration officials said." The [Washington Times](#) (10/24, Dinan) says the "new restrictions" will be imposed on "refugees from 11 mostly-Muslim target countries," who officials said "still pose too much of a danger to be admitted without a compelling national interest." Trump "issued a new executive order re-starting general worldwide refugee processing, updating the policy after a 120-day pause he ordered earlier this year as part of his "extreme vetting" policy."

The [Washington Post](#) (10/24, Miroff) reports "Administration officials said the State Department took the lead in developing the new vetting procedures, along with the Department of Homeland Security and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence." These "new rules do not adjust the number of refugees the United States will accept in the next 12 months, which Trump has limited to 45,000, the lowest level since the Refugee Act was created in 1980." [USA Today](#) (10/24, Korte) reports "acting Secretary of Homeland Security Elaine Duke said the new screening measures 'provide an opportunity for the United States to welcome those in need into our country, while ensuring a safer, more secure homeland.'" [Reuters](#) (10/24, Torbati, Rosenberg) indicates that according to a memo seen by Reuters, sent by the Administration to Congress on Tuesday "ahead of the government announcement on new refugee vetting measures, the administration also will place on hold a program that allows for family reunification for some refugees resettled in the United States."

The [New York Times](#) (10/24, Baker, Liptak) reports "refugee advocates said the new order is objectionable, noting that refugee applicants were already carefully screened and that no American has been killed in a terrorist attack by a refugee in the current era of concern over foreign-sponsored terrorism dating to the Sept. 11 attacks." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/24, Meckler, Harris), which broke the story about the new rules, quotes Eric Schwartz, President of Refugees International, who ran the refugee program at the State Department during the Obama Administration, as saying, "My fear and my expectation is that this will not be heightened scrutiny but rather an outright ban against refugees that have represented a majority of those coming into the United States in recent years."

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/24) defends the concept of increasing scrutiny of would-be refugees, but worries that the new policy seems to have a different aim: to reduce their number. To the Journal, that may reflect the government's lack of confidence in its inability to

properly identify potential terrorists from the pool of asylum applicants.

Supreme Court Dismisses Last Remaining Travel Ban Appeal. The [New York Times](#) (10/24, Liptak) reports that the Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed “the last remaining appeal in a pair of cases challenging President Trump’s executive order, issued in March, that sought to limit travel to the United States.” The March order was replaced in September with broader restrictions that have “already been blocked by federal district courts in Hawaii and Maryland,” so Tuesday’s dismissal “mostly amounted to judicial housekeeping, clearing out challenges to the March order as the justices await eventual appeals from the one issued in September.” In its brief, unsigned disposition, the court said the March order had expired, “making the case moot.”

[Reuters](#) (10/24, Hurley) notes “the justices had been scheduled to hear arguments in the two consolidated on Oct. 10.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (10/24, Lovelace), [The Hill](#) (10/24, Wheeler) and [Daily Caller](#) (10/24, Daley), among other news outlets, also report the story.

The [Washington Times](#) (10/24, Dinan, Noble) reports, meanwhile, that “the Trump administration on Tuesday filed a notice that [it] intends to appeal the Hawaii judge’s ruling to the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals.” Hawaii Attorney General Doug Chin, “who filed the case, said ‘we stand ready to defend it.’”

Costs Of Security For EPA Administrator On The Rise.

[The Hill](#) (10/24, Shelbourne) reports that according to a report by CNN the Environmental Protection Agency’s “security expenses” are rising to “an unprecedented level.” The agency “is adding security personnel for its administrator, Scott Pruitt, the report said, citing more threats against him than individuals who held the Cabinet position in prior administrations.” The Hill adds, “Salaries for Pruitt’s security personnel will total \$2 million alone, the network calculated.” EPA spokeswoman Liz Bowman said, “We decline to comment on security measures taken months ago to protect the administrator.”

Ross: Congress Will Work Out Details Of Tax Reform Plan.

The [Washington Times](#) (10/24, Persons) reports Commerce Secretary Ross “said Tuesday that details of President Trump’s tax plan need to be ‘ironed out.’” Ross told [Bloomberg Daybreak](#), “What the president put forward is a framework. It’s a conceptual framework. It’s his objectives. ... But there are lots and lots of details to be ironed out, and that, very appropriately, is the work of Congress.”

Reuters/Ipsos Poll: Fewer Than Third Support Trump Tax Plan.

[Reuters](#) (10/24, Becker, Kahn) reports “fewer than a third of Americans support Donald Trump’s tax-cut plan, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Tuesday.” Moreover, “the poll found that more than two-thirds of registered voters said reducing the US federal budget deficit is more important than cutting taxes for the wealthy or for corporations.” Reuters adds that “Trump’s plan would balloon the deficit and add to the \$20 trillion national debt, according to critics and independent analysts.”

NYTimes Analysis: Climate Change Causing Fluctuations In Europe’s Olive Oil Production.

The [New York Times](#) (10/24, Sengupta) reports, “The heat wave that swept across southern Europe this summer, which scientists say bore the fingerprints of human-induced climate change,” has transformed the olive oil industry “into an increasingly risky business – at least in the Mediterranean, the land of its birth.” Rabobank analyst Vito Martielli credited the bad harvests in three of the last five years to what he “called weather-related ‘shocks.’” While vacillations in the olive oil supply may not impact global hunger, the Times says, “the impact of climate change on such a hardy and high-end product is a measure of how global warming is beginning to challenge how we grow food.”

Industry Representatives Lobby Senators To Preserve NAFTA.

The [New York Times](#) (10/24, Swanson, Kitroeff) reports that more than “130 representatives” from the automotive, retail, and other industries “stormed Capitol Hill on Tuesday in an extraordinary show of force against a Republican president they fear will cripple or kill the North American Free Trade Agreement.” The industry representatives “met with senators on Tuesday to ratchet up pressure on lawmakers — many of whose constituents work for companies dependent on Nafta — to keep the deal intact.” Tuesday’s effort, which was organized by the US Chamber of Commerce, comes as Administration proposals to rewrite the agreement “have triggered alarm bells among automakers, retailers, agricultural companies and other businesses, who say the

provisions the United States is pushing are 'poison pills' that would hurt American companies and jobs."

In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/24), Jim Bair, president of the US Apple Association, argues that while President Trump has called NAFTA the "worst trade deal ever made," the US apple industry has thrived under the agreement. Terminating it, he writes, could result in a large tariff on exported apples and reduced earnings for apple growers and their employees.

Bureau Of Labor Statistics: Manufacturing Job Market Will Further Decline In Next Decade.

The [New York Times](#) (10/24, Casselman) reports that according to a study by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, "a decade from now, the American economy could look much the way it does today – only more so," increasingly "dominated by the service sector amid the continued erosion of manufacturing jobs." It will also be "more polarized in both earnings and geography," and "more tilted toward jobs that require at least a bachelor's degree." The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (10/24, Meyer) notes the study also found "employment is projected to grow by 11.5 million from .156,100,000 to 167,600,000, an increase of 0.7 percent. This is greater than the 0.5 percent growth seen in the previous decade from 2006 through 2016, which included the recession that began in December 2007."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Public Art Takes Flight." A [New York Times](#) (10/24) editorial.

Washington Post.

"Jeff Flake's Diagnosis Is Right But It's Not Enough." The [Washington Post](#) (10/24) says in an editorial that conservatives may be "chastened by [Sen. Jeff Flake's] example." Republicans "who fancy themselves true conservatives...should stand up against Mr. Trump's noxious politics" But they must also "fashion an agenda and a political style that can compete successfully in primaries against Trumpism. Until they do, all the eloquence in the world will not be enough."

"Interpol Should Not Be Abused As Putin's Tool Of Revenge." A [Washington Post](#) (10/24) editorial says Interpol "has been attempting to halt abuse of the red-notice system," but argues that the reform effort "needs to run deeper and guard against politicization of the Interpol diffusion notices, too. The United States should also be on guard against diffusion notices intended to silence dissent. It is wrong to allow Mr. Putin's vengeful rants to be translated into action. Magnitsky's legacy is that violations of human rights will not be tolerated, and those who speak out will not be silenced."

"The Government Needs To Get Its Act Together In Puerto Rico." The [Washington Post](#) (10/24) editorializes that in contrast to the situation in Texas and Florida, "more than a month after Maria made landfall on" Puerto Rico "roughly 8 out of 10 residents are still without power." While "the sorry, preexisting state of Puerto Rico's power system...clearly accounts for some of the delay...that doesn't excuse the bad planning and questionable decisions that have marked the response to a calamity that was so clearly anticipated." To the Post, "giving a no-bid \$300 million contract to a company that had just two full-time employees on the day Maria struck is, at best, curious and deserving of more scrutiny."

Wall Street Journal.

"A Bipartisan Drug Cartel?" A [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/24) editorial takes issue with a Washington Post and "60 Minutes" investigation which implied that the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act, which was sponsored by Rep. Tom Marino, who recently withdrew from consideration to be director of ONDCP, ended the DEA's authority to go after illegal shipments of prescription drugs, noting that the main source for the story was former DEA official Joe Rannazzisi who is now a consultant for lawyers suing the opioid industry.

"Terrorists And Travel." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/24) defends the concept of increasing scrutiny of would-be refugees, but worries that the new policy seems to have a different aim: To reduce their number. To the Journal, that may reflect the government's lack of confidence in its inability to properly identify potential terrorists from the pool of asylum applicants.

"Illinois's Latest Criminals." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (10/24) criticizes Illinois

State Senate Democrats and seven Republicans for voting to override Gov. Bruce Rauner's veto of the "Collective Bargaining Freedom Act," which bans right-to-work zones in the state and threatens officials who enact them with a class-A misdemeanor.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Rift Widens Within GOP In Battle For Control Of Party](#)

[Wealthier Depositors Pressure Banks To Pay Up](#)

[China Boosts Powers Of Xi Jinping As Equal To Mao](#)

[Buildings Across US Are Wrapped In Same Panels That Fueled Deadly London Fire](#)

New York Times:

[Jeff Flake, A Fierce Trump Critic, Will Not Seek Re-Election For Senate](#)

[Another Republican Call To Arms, But Who Will Answer?](#)

[Consumer Bureau Loses Fight To Allow More Class-Action Suits](#)

[Across Myanmar, Denial Of Ethnic Cleansing And Loathing Of Rohingya](#)

[China Enshrines 'Xi Jinping Thought.' What Does That Mean?](#)

[US Must Let Undocumented Teenager Get An Abortion, Appeals Court Says](#)

[Some Schools Reopen In Puerto Rico, Making Do Without Power](#)

Washington Post:

[Amid Politics Of Extremes, Northam Sticks To Solid Résumé And Mild Image](#)

[China Puts Xi On Par With Mao In Party Pantheon](#)

[Clinton Campaign, DNC Funded Russia Info](#)

[Republicans' Dilemma: Speak Out Or Hope Silence Pays Off](#)

[2 GOP Senators Issue Blunt Warnings On Trump](#)

Financial Times:

[AfD Accuses Bundestag Rivals Of Nazi-Era Tactics](#)

[Strong US Earnings Lift Confidence In Global Outlook](#)

[Surge In Morocco Migrants Raises Alarm In Spain](#)

[Xi Jinping Confirmed As China's Most Powerful Leader Since Mao](#)

Washington Times:

[Congress Launches 2 Investigations Into Obama Administration Dealings](#)

[Trump's Republican Unity Luncheon Backfires As Sen. Jeff Flake Quits, Unleashes Wrath](#)

[Conservative Groups Get Behind Bannon Revolt Against Republican Establishment](#)

[Court Dismisses Government Objections, Says Illegal Immigrant Has Right To Immediate Abortion](#)

[Trump Signs New Order Restricting Refugees From 11 'High Risk' Countries](#)

[Thousands Of Islamic State Fighters Return To Home Countries; Russia No. 1 Source](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: GOP Senators-Trump; Niger US Casualty Investigation; Severe Weather; Weather Forecast; Tampa-Serial Killer Manhunt; SF Airport Close Call Investigation; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery; Hillary Clinton Email Investigation; Michigan-Highway Prank Murder; Cleveland Police Standoff; Pittsburgh Bank Robbery; Lottery Policy Change; Young Basketball Player.

CBS: GOP Senators-Trump; Niger US Casualty Investigation; SF Airport Close Call Investigation; Severe Weather; Sandy Hook Shooting Investigation Report; Las Vegas Shooting Investigation; Exercise-Health Benefits; Hollywood Director Sexual Harassment; Hawaii-Walking And Texting Fine; Robert Guillaume Dies; NFL Player Training.

NBC: GOP Senators-Trump; GOP Senators-Expert Comment; Niger US Casualty Investigation; Cuba-US Embassy Sonic Attack Investigation; Michigan-Highway Prank Murder; Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery; Heath-Cancer Gene Therapy; Robert Guillaume Dies; Sears-Discontinuing Whirlpool; Lottery Policy Change; Baseball World Series.

Network TV At A Glance:

GOP Senators-Trump – 12 minutes, 35 seconds

Niger US Casualty Investigation – 6 minutes, 50 seconds
Puerto Rico Hurricane Recovery – 4 minutes
SF Airport Close Call Investigation – 3 minutes, 30 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Consumer Protection Law Repeal; Hurricane Relief Bill; GOP Senators-Trump; Manafort-Money Laundering; Baseball World Series; Wall Street News.

CBS: GOP Senators-Trump; Tax Reform Bill; Baseball World Series; Consumer Protection Law Repeal; Russian Dossier Investigation.

FOX: 2010 Nuclear Deal Investigation; Michigan-Highway Prank Murder; Vaccination Study.

NPR: GOP Senators-Trump; White House-Refugee Resettlement Plan; Baseball World Series; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Receives a briefing on hurricane recovery efforts in Dallas, TX; participates in a roundtable with Republican National Committee (RNC) supporters; gives remarks at a Dallas Trump victory reception.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a Gillespie for Governor event; delivers keynote remarks at In Defense of Christians' annual Solidarity Dinner for Christians in the Middle East.

US Senate: 9:15 AM Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Seapower CLOSED hearing – Subcommittee hearing on Major Threats Facing Naval Forces and the Navy's Current and Planned Capabilities to Meet Those Threats. Witnesses: Admiral William F. Moran, USN, Vice Chief of Naval Operations; Jason A. Reynolds, Director, Special Programs Office of the Chief of Naval Operations. <https://www.armed-services.senate.gov/hearings/17-10-25-major-threats-facing-naval-forces-and-the-navys-current-and-planned-capabilities-to-meet-those-threats> Location: Room SVC-217, The Office of Senate Security in the Capitol Visitor Center

9:30 AM Arctic Refuge Day of Action and rally – Gwich'in leaders and conservationists call on Congress to 'keep the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge out of the budget process', at rally with Democratic Reps. Jared Huffman and Raul Grijalva, Alaska Wilderness League Executive Director Adam Kolton, and Gwich'in Steering Committee Executive Director Bernadette Demientieff Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC www.alaskawild.org <https://twitter.com/alaskawild>

10:00 AM POSTPONED: Senate Intelligence Committee holds hearing with President Trump's personal attorney invited to testify – POSTPONED: Senate Select Committee on Intelligence holds hearing with Michael Cohen – personal attorney to President Donald Trump – having been invited to appear * Cohen was originally scheduled to speak with the committee in a closed interview, but defied committee requests to refrain from public comment and released a public statement, leading the committee to postpone the interview and reschedule his appearance in an open session Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Environment and Public Works Committee Business Meeting, legislative hearing – Business Meeting, with agenda including nominations of Michael Dourson, William Wehrum, Matthew Leopold, and David Ross to be Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrators; Paul Trombino III to be Federal Highway Administration Administrator; and Jeffery Baran to be a Nuclear Regulatory Commission member (reappointment) * Immediately followed by legislative hearing on 'S. XXXXXX, the Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation Act of 2017' Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 406, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Hearing on 'The Economic Outlook with CEA Chairman Kevin Hassett' Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1100, Washington, DC www.jec.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/JointEconCmte>

10:00 AM Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee top secret briefing on Nigeria – Africa and Global Health Policy Subcommittee closed / top secret briefing on 'Nigeria Security Update', given by Acting Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Donald Yamamoto; and State Department Regional and Arms Transfers Office Director Mike Miller Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC-217, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee hearing on the commercial satellite industry – Hearing on 'The Commercial Satellite Industry: What's Up and What's on the Horizon', with testimony from SpaceX Vice President of Satellite Government Affairs Patricia Cooper; ViaSat CEO Mark Dankberg; Intelsat CEO Stephen Spengler; and OneWeb

founder and Executive Chairman Greg Wyler Location: Rm 253, Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

10:30 AM Senate Veteran's Affairs committee business meeting – Business Meeting: Meeting to Consider Pending Nominations: Melissa Sue Glynn, Nominee to be Assistant Secretary for Enterprise Integration; Randy Reeves, Nominee to be Under Secretary for Memorial Affairs; Cheryl L. Mason, Nominee to be Chairman of the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

<https://www.veterans.senate.gov/hearings/business-meeting-meeting-to-consider-pending-nomination-10252017> Location: S-216 U.S. Capitol

10:30 AM House and Senate Dems Call for Passage of the Bipartisan Dream Act – Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Chair of the House Democratic Caucus Rep. Joe Crowley (D-NY), Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA), and Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) join university presidents and chancellors to call for urgent passage of the bipartisan Dream Act. Speakers will highlight the contributions of Dreamers to campuses throughout the country and the positive impact Dreamers have on higher education. Additional speakers: Nejvi Bejko, Dreamer; Leezia Dhalla, Dreamer; Michael J. Sheeran, S.J., President of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU); Gary May, Chancellor for the University of California, Davis; Kristina Johnson, State University of New York Chancellor; Satish Tripathi, President of the University at Buffalo; Havidan Rodriguez, President of the University at Albany. Location: SVC 208 durbin.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/SenatorDurbin>

10:30 AM Senate Governmental Affairs Committee votes on nominees for OPM and GSA heads – Business Meeting, with agenda including consideration of nominations of Jeff Pon to be Office of Personnel Management Director, and Michael Rigas to be Deputy Director; and Emily Murphy to be General Services Administration Administrator Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 342, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

11:00 AM Congressional Gold Medal presented to Filipino WWII vets – House of Representatives and Senate leadership present a Congressional Gold Medal in honor of Filipino veterans of World War II, for their service and sacrifice during the war. Event participants include House Speaker Paul Ryan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin, vets and their next of kin, and other Members of Congress * Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian honor Congress can bestow. A single medal has been struck to honor all the vets Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Emancipation Hall, Washington, DC <http://speaker.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SpeakerRyan>

12:00 PM Childhood cancer research foundation hosts Congressional briefing – St. Baldrick's Foundation luncheon briefing on Capitol Hill, with panels discussing advances in immunotherapy and pediatric oncology research and the challenges and opportunities in drug development and treatment. Bipartisan Sens. Marco Rubio and Michael Bennet act as honorary Congressional hosts * Time approximate * Foundation is the largest private funder of childhood cancer research grants Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC-212-210, Washington, DC <http://www.stbaldricks.org/> <https://twitter.com/stbaldricks>

2:30 PM Business Meeting, to consider 'S. 1223, Klamath Tribe Judgement Fund Repeal Act' Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 628, Washington, DC <http://indian.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/IndianCommittee>

2:30 PM Senate Aging Committee hearing on working and aging with disabilities – Hearing on 'Working and Aging with Disabilities: From School to Retirement', with testimony from Indiana University Professor Emeritus Dr David Michael Mank; University of Illinois-Chicago Professor Dr Tamar Heller; Jeff Smith; and Spurwink President and CEO Eric Meyer Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 562, Washington, DC <http://aging.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Indian Affairs Committee legislative hearing – Legislative hearing on 'S. 1870, the Securing Urgent Resources Vital to Indian Victim Empowerment Act 2017', 'S. 1953, the Reauthorization of the Tribal and Law Order Act of 2010', and 'S. 1942, a bill to direct the AG to review, revise and develop law enforcement and justice protocols appropriate to address missing and murdered Indians', with testimony from U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma R. Trent Shores; Bureau of Indian Affairs Director Bryan Rice; Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation Chairman Dave Flute; Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation Business Councilman Joel Boyd; and Native Women's Society of the Great Plains Director Carmen O'Leary Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 628, Washington, DC <http://indian.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/IndianCommittee>

US House: 10:00 AM House Judiciary Committee markup hearing continues – Markup hearing continues on 'H.R. X, Agricultural Guestworker Act' and 'H.R. 3711, Legal Workforce Act' * Began

yesterday Location: Rm 2141, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://judiciary.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseJudiciary>

10:00 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on housing finance reform – Housing and Insurance Subcommittee hearing on ‘Sustainable Housing Finance: Private Sector Perspectives on Housing Finance Reform’, with testimony from BlackRock Managing Director Kevin Chavers (on behalf of Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association); First Federal Savings Senior Vice President Brenda Hughes (on behalf of American Bankers Association); First State Bank President and CEO Samuel Vallandingham (on behalf of Independent Community Bankers of America); Center for Responsible Lending Executive Vice President Nikitra Bailey; and Tower Federal Credit Union President and CEO Rick Stafford (on behalf of National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions) Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittees joint hearing on combating the opioid crisis – Health Subcommittee and Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee joint hearing on ‘Federal Efforts to Combat the Opioid Crisis: A Status Update on CARA and Other Initiatives’, with testimony from Drug Enforcement Administration Deputy Assistant Administrator for Diversion Control Neil Doherty; Food and Drug Administration Commissioner Dr Scott Gottlieb; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use Dr Elinore McCance-Katz; CDC Principal Deputy Director Dr Anne Schuchat; and NIH National Institute on Drug Abuse Director Dr Nora Volkow Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on Down syndrome – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee hearing on ‘Down Syndrome: Update on the State of the Science and Potential for Discoveries Across Other Major Diseases’, with testimony from bipartisan Reps. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Cheri Bustos, and Pete Sessions; Global Down Syndrome Foundation founder, CEO, and President Michelle Sie Whitten; University of California-San Diego Down Syndrome Center for Research and Treatment Executive Director Dr William Mobley; University of Colorado School of Medicine Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome Executive Director Dr Joaquin Espinosa; and Global Down Syndrome Foundation’s Frank Stephens Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2358-C, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAppropsGOP>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources Committee oversight hearing on greater sage grouse recovery – Oversight hearing on ‘Empowering State Based Management Solutions for Greater Sage Grouse Recovery’, with testimony from Idaho House Speaker Scott Bedke; Utah Division of Natural Resources Deputy Director Darin Bird; Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation Director John Tubbs; and Board of Eureka County Commissioners (NV) Chairman J.J. Goicoechea Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Technology subcommittee holds hearing on Russian software allegedly used for hacking – Oversight Subcommittee hearing on ‘Bolstering the Government’s Cybersecurity: Assessing the Risk of Kaspersky Lab Products to the Federal Government’, with testimony from National Institute of Standards and Technology Chief Cybersecurity Advisor Donna Dodson; General Services Administration CIO David Shive; Play-Action Strategies President James Norton; and International Institute for Strategic Studies Director of Future Conflict and Cyber Security Sean Kanuck * Follows reports alleging that Russian hackers could use Kaspersky Lab’s software to conduct espionage Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2318, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM Hearing on ‘The Economic Outlook with CEA Chairman Kevin Hassett’ Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1100, Washington, DC www.jec.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/JointEconCmte>

10:00 AM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on the president’s Iran decision – Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee hearing on ‘The President’s Iran Decision: Next Steps’, with testimony from Foundation for Defense of Democracies Senior Advisor on Science and Nonproliferation (and former International Atomic Energy Agency Deputy Director General) Dr Olli Heinonen; United Against Nuclear Iran CEO (and former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations for Management and Reform) Mark Wallace; and Council on Foreign Relations Senior Fellow in U.S. Foreign Policy (and former White House Coordinator for the Middle East, North Africa, and the Gulf Region) Dr Philip Gordon * Earlier this month, President Donald Trump announced his strategy on Iran, including withdrawing certification of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Tehran’s nuclear program, which he has previously described as ‘one of

the worst deals I've ever seen' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

10:30 AM House and Senate Dems Call for Passage of the Bipartisan Dream Act – Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Chair of the House Democratic Caucus Rep. Joe Crowley (D-NY), Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA), and Senator Kamala Harris (D-CA) join university presidents and chancellors to call for urgent passage of the bipartisan Dream Act. Speakers will highlight the contributions of Dreamers to campuses throughout the country and the positive impact Dreamers have on higher education. Additional speakers: Nejvi Bejko, Dreamer; Leezia Dhalla, Dreamer; Michael J. Sheeran, S.J., President of the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities (AJCU); Gary May, Chancellor for the University of California, Davis; Kristina Johnson, State University of New York Chancellor; Satish Tripathi, President of the University at Buffalo; Havidan Rodriguez, President of the University at Albany. Location: SVC 208 durbin.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/SenatorDurbin>

10:30 AM House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee hearing on VBA overpayments – Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining How VBA Can Effectively Prevent and Manage Overpayments', with testimony from Veterans Benefits Administration Deputy Under Secretary for Field Operations Willie Clark, and Compensation Service Director Beth Murphy; Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Management Debt Management Center Acting Director Roberta Lowe; The American Legion National Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Division Deputy Director David Spivey; Disabled American Veterans Assistant National Legislative Director Shane Liermann; and Veterans of Foreign Wars National Legislative Service Deputy Director John Towles + written submission from National Association of County Veterans Service Officers Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

11:00 AM Congressional Gold Medal presented to Filipino WWII vets – House of Representatives and Senate leadership present a Congressional Gold Medal in honor of Filipino veterans of World War II, for their service and sacrifice during the war. Event participants include House Speaker Paul Ryan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin, vets and their next of kin, and other Members of Congress * Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian honor Congress can bestow. A single medal has been struck to honor all the vets Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Emancipation Hall, Washington, DC <http://speaker.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SpeakerRyan>

11:00 AM House Small Business subcommittee hearing on GAO report – Contracting and Workforce Subcommittee hearing on 'GAO Audit Reveals Half-Measures Taken by Small Business Advocates', with testimony from Government Accountability Office Director of Financial Markets and Community Investment William Shear; Small Business Administration Associate Administrator for Government Contracting and Business Development Robb Wong; and Department of Homeland Security Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization Director Kevin Boshears Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2360, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

11:00 AM House Administration Committee hearing on state voter registration list management – Hearing on 'State Voter Registration List Management', with testimony from Indiana Secretary of State Connie Lawson; and American Civil Liberties Union Voting Rights Project Director Dale Ho Location: Rm 1310, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://cha.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseAdmnGOP>

12:00 PM House expected to vote on Sunshine for Regulations and Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include completion of consideration of 'H.R. 469 – Sunshine for Regulations and Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act of 2017', as amended, plus consideration of legislation (possibly including 'H.R. 1698 – Iran Ballistic Missiles and International Sanctions Enforcement Act', as amended, 'H.Res. 359 – Urging the European Union to designate Hizballah in its entirety as a terrorist organization and increase pressure on it and its members', as amended, 'H.R. 3342 – Sanctioning Hizballah's Illicit Use of Civilians as Defenseless Shields Act', as amended, and 'H.R. 3329 – Hizballah International Financing Prevention Amendments Act of 2017', as amended) under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

2:00 PM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on FCC oversight – Communications and Technology Subcommittee hearing on 'Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)', with testimony from FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, and Commissioners Brendan Carr, Mignon Clyburn, Michael O'Rielly, and Jessica Rosenworcel Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm

2322, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>
2:00 PM Dem Reps. Alma Adams and Nydia Velazquez host 'Necessity as a Driver of Women's Entrepreneurship' roundtable – Democratic Reps. Alma Adams and Nydia Velazquez host 'Small Business Roundtable: Necessity as a Driver of Women's Entrepreneurship' – during National Women in Small Business Month – focusing on 'how the unique factors that drive women to become small business owners (including child care, career opportunity, and gender discrimination in the workplace) have an outsized influence over minority women and their need to start their own small businesses to continue providing for their families'. Witnesses are WANDA – Women Advancing Nutrition Dietetics and Agriculture founder and CEO Tandra Raye Stevenson, Esteem Logic President/CEO Kristina Francis, Create& co-founder and Chief Design Strategist Maia Sciupac, National Women Business Council Executive Director Esther Morales, and National Women Business Council Director of Policy and Research Anna Rorem Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2360, Washington, DC <http://adams.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/RepAdams>

2:00 PM House Ways and Means subcommittee hearing on the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill process – Trade Subcommittee hearing on 'Miscellaneous Tariff Bill: Providing Tariff Relief to U.S. Manufacturers Through the New MTB Process' Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1100, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

2:00 PM Economic Opportunity Subcommittee markup hearing Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

2:00 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs Subcommittee legislative hearing on 'H.R. 215, American Indian Empowerment Act of 2017', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs John Tahsuda III; Navajo Nation Vice President Jonathon Nez; Santa Clara Pueblo Governor J. Michael Chavarria; Tribal Economic Growth Alliance representative Henry Cagey; Indian Land Tenure Foundation President Cris Stainbrook; and Compass Lexecon Executive Vice President Eric Henson Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1324, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

2:00 PM House Oversight subcommittees joint hearing on the IRS – Health Care, Benefits, and Administrative Rules Subcommittee and Government Operations Subcommittee joint hearing on 'Ongoing Management Challenges at IRS', with testimony from Department of the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration J. Russell George, and Deputy Inspector General for Inspections and Evaluations Gregory Kutz; and Internal Revenue Service Deputy Commissioner for Operations Support Jeffrey Tribiano, and CIO Gina Garza Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

2:00 PM House Financial Services Committee hearing on the Equifax data breach continues, following call from Dem members – Hearing continues on 'Examining the Equifax Data Breach', with testimony from Massachusetts Assistant Attorney General Sara Cable; National Consumer Law Center Staff Attorney Chi Chi Wu; TransUnion President and CEO James Peck; Equifax Interim CEO Paulino do Rego Barros Jr.; Experian CEO Brian Cassin; Georgetown University Law Center Center on Privacy and Technology Deputy Director Laura Moy; and U.S. PIRG Consumer Advocate Mike Litt * The additional day to the hearing was demanded by the Committee's Democratic members under the committee's rules, and they have selected the witnesses Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

7:00 PM House Dems speak on chamber floor on General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina 150th annual session – Democratic Reps. G. K. Butterfield, David Price, and Alma Adams deliver remarks on the House of Representatives floor recognizing the upcoming (30 Oct – 1 Nov) 150th annual session of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina * Time approximate Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC [Butterfield.house.gov](http://butterfield.house.gov) <https://twitter.com/GKButterfield>

Other: 8:30 AM Inter-American Dialogue hosts Latin America Energy Conference – Inter-American Dialogue hosts Latin America Energy Conference, discussing 'the most critical energy policy issues in the region', with keynotes from White House Special Assistant to the President for International Energy and Environment David Banks and Mexican Deputy Secretary of Energy Cesar Emiliano Hernandez Ochoa, Inter-American Dialogue President Michael Shifter, Republican Rep. Jeff Duncan, Verisk Maplecroft Head of Oil & Gas Risk RoseAnne Franco, Holland & Knight Partner Jose Vicente Zapata Lugo, Eurasia Group Latin America Director Risa Grais-Targow, Inter-American Development Bank Energy Division Chief Ariel Yepez, State Department Bureau of

Energy Resources Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary Sue Saarnio, and Berkeley Research Group Managing Director Adam Borison Location: Inter-American Dialogue, 1155 15th St NW, Washington, DC www.thedialogue.org https://twitter.com/The_Dialogue #DialogueEnergy

8:30 AM GOP Sen. Bob Corker speaks on 'Ending Modern Slavery' at CSIS – 'Ending Modern Slavery' Center for Strategic and International Studies discussion, with Republican Sen. Bob Corker and Principality of Liechtenstein Financial Intelligence Unit Director Daniel Thelesklaf Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

9:00 AM Bipartisan Sens. Chris Murphy and Bill Cassidy speak at Health 202 Live launch – The Washington Post launches The Health 202 Live series, which will 'bring a sharp analysis of The Health 202 newsletter to stage featuring in-depth, live interviews with policymakers and industry leaders in Washington, DC and outside the Beltway'. Event speakers discuss 'the current status of health care reform efforts, the future of Medicare and Medicaid and the state of the insurance marketplace'. Speakers include Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy, Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy, Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin, America's Health Insurance Plans President and Chief Executive Marilyn Tavenner, Covered California Executive Director Peter Lee, Florida Covering Kids and Families Project Director Jodi Ray, National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable Executive Director Ryan Clary, and Harvard Law School professor and Law School's Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation Faculty Director Robert Greenwald Location: The Washington Post, 1301 K St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.washingtonpost.com/> <https://twitter.com/washingtonpost>

9:15 AM Dem Sen. Ben Cardin speaks on senior leadership and diversity at CSIS – 'Transformational Leadership in International Affairs' Center for Strategic and International Studies discussion on senior leadership and diversity. The conference examines 'strategic imperatives for diversifying the senior ranks of U.S. national security agencies and look at new talent management approaches in leading U.S. global companies'. Speakers include Democratic Sen. Ben Cardin, Diversity and Leadership in International Affairs Project Executive Director Deborah McCarthy, former State Department Director General Ruth Davis, and CSIS President and CEO Dr John Hamre Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

9:30 AM Labor Secretary Acosta attends Kemp Forum on 'Opportunity in the New Digital Economy' – Jack Kemp Foundation, in partnership with the Internet Association, hosts 'Opportunity in the New Digital Economy' Kemp Forum, with Secretary of Labor Alexander Acosta, Republicans Sens. Ben Sasse and Tim Scott, and Rep. Will Hurd, President's Assistant for Strategic Initiatives Chris Liddell, Federal Trade Commission Commissioner Terrell McSweeney, Walmart Senior Vice President of Global Public Affairs and Government Relations Dan Bryant, former FCC transition team lead Mark Jamison, Progressive Policy Institute's Michael Mandel, Economists Incorporated's Hal Singer, Entropy Economics' Bret Swanson, Jack Kemp Foundation's Jimmy Kemp, and Internet Association President and CEO Michael Beckerman Location: 101 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC www.jackkempfoundation.org <https://twitter.com/kempfoundation>

12:30 PM 'Stop the Rollback of Our Clean Car Standards' campaign launched – 'Forward, Not Backward: Stop the Rollback of Our Clean Car Standards' campaign launched, to 'protect vehicle fuel efficiency and greenhouse gas emission standards' and educate and mobilize the public to call out and halt automakers' rollback efforts. Speakers on press call include Democratic Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, Sierra Club Executive Director Michael Brune, Environment America Executive Director Margie Alt, Public Citizen President Robert Weissman, Greenpeace Projects Director Leila Deen, and Safe Climate Campaign Director Dan Becker Location: TBD www.sierraclub.org <https://twitter.com/sierraclub>

12:30 PM Singaporean PM Lee speaks at Council on Foreign Relations – Council on Foreign Relations hosts Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, discussing U.S.-Singapore bilateral relations as well as strategic challenges and opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region Location: Council on Foreign Relations, 1777 F St NW, Washington, DC www.cfr.org https://twitter.com/CFR_org

1:30 PM Annual Attorney General's Awards Ceremony – 65th Annual Attorney General's Awards Ceremony, recognizing Department of Justice employees and others for distinguished public service. Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein deliver remarks Location: DAR Constitution Hall, 1776 D St NW, Washington, DC <http://www.usdoj.gov> <https://twitter.com/TheJusticeDept>

Annual Congressional Correspondents' Dinner – 73rd Annual Congressional Correspondents' Dinner, including announcement of the winners of the Joan S. Barone Award, David Bloom Award, and Jerry Thompson Award. Event features keynote speaker House Speaker Paul Ryan, and 'The

Daily Show with Trevor Noah' correspondent Roy Wood Jr. and guest emcee Bobby Bones
Location: National Building Museum, 401 F St NW, Washington, DC rtcacaphill.org
<https://twitter.com/rtcadinner>

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Donald Trump's merchandise team is trying to make Halloween great again. For real. They have a new hat. ... The hat goes for \$45. It is already sold out. Like the Trump Administration, it is only available for a limited time."

Stephen Colbert: "You might recall that [Sen. Bob] Corker called the White House 'an adult daycare center.' Okay, clever, but not entirely accurate. With Trump, you also need a night shift."

Stephen Colbert: "It came out that [Bill] O'Reilly settled a sixth sexual harassment claim, paying \$32 million to a longtime Fox News analyst for, among other things, allegedly sending her gay pornography. But because it was from Bill O'Reilly, all of those gay porn stars said 'Merry Christmas' before coming down your chimney."

James Corden: "In a series of tweets, Trump called Corker a 'lightweight.' He called him 'incompetent,' and he mocked his height by once again calling him 'Little Bob Corker.' So, looks like the First Lady's anti-bullying initiative still has a ways to go."

James Corden: "At one point, Corker told reporters that Trump's legacy will be, 'the debasement of our nation.' Yeah, debasement. As in, when Trump starts a war, I'll be hiding in the-basement."

Jimmy Fallon: "Republican Senator Jeff Flake announced that he will not seek reelection and said the GOP was headed in the wrong direction. Or as Trump calls it, 'Flake news.'"

Seth Meyers: "A protester posing as a journalist threw Russian flags at President Trump as he arrived at the Capitol today and shouted, 'Trump is treason!' Then she went back to her book tour."

Seth Meyers: "Tomorrow is Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner's eighth wedding anniversary. If you're wondering what to get them, how about out? Get them out."

Conan O'Brien: "President Trump and Bob Corker are in a feud after Corker compared the White House to a daycare center. When they heard this, 3-year-olds everywhere said, 'Oh, no, do not lump us in with that guy.'"

Conan O'Brien: "Bill O'Reilly revealed that he is mad at God for putting him through his sexual harassment scandal. Today, God refused to comment."

Conan O'Brien: "A California elementary school was under fire for putting up a Donald Trump scarecrow. Even worse, 30 percent of the crows still think that Trump scarecrow is doing a great job."

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DOI In The News

National Monuments Could Benefit Rural Economies In The West.

The [AP](#) (9/5, McPhillips) reports that experts say “the presence of national monuments – and their size – can help bolster” rural, local economies. In 2016, a group of more than 100 economists, including three Nobel laureates, urged then-President Obama to protect federal lands in the West’s future economic interests. The group wrote a letter stating, “The rivers, lakes, canyons, and mountains found on public lands serve as a unique and compelling backdrop that has helped to transform the western economy from a dependence on resource extractive industries to growth from in-migration, tourism, and modern economy sectors such as finance, engineering, software development, insurance, and health care.” Headwaters Economics published a report analyzing 11 rural counties in western states, which showed that income per capita was \$436 more for every 10,000 acres of protected lands within their boundaries. Headwaters Economics Policy Director Chris Mehl said, “It’s the story of the West: 90 percent, if not all, job creation is in services. Non-service jobs – manufacturing, construction and extraction like timber and mining – have remained flat, and service jobs – like accounting, law and hospitality – have grown.”

Trump’s Monument Review Is As Secretive As Obama’s Designations. For the “Pundits” blog of [The Hill](#) (9/5, McKenna, Contributor), Kara McKenna, counsel at the Cause of Action Institute, writes that “it seemed like a positive step when President Trump in April issued an executive order seeking public input for a review of national monument designations over the last two decades.” However, “it now appears that any hope for additional transparency may have been premature.” McKenna criticizes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for choosing “to submit only a draft report to the White House” instead of submitting a “publicly available report.” According to McKenna, this adds “more fuel to one of the biggest criticisms of the Antiquities Act – a total lack of transparency in the process.”

North Dakota’s Congressional Delegation Expected To Attend Trump Speech.

The [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (9/5, Dalrymple) reports that “North Dakota’s Congressional delegation is expected to attend Wednesday as President Donald Trump gives a speech from the Mandan refinery.” Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND) said that Energy Secretary Rick Perry, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Scott Pruitt, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin also are expected to attend. The Tribune adds, “Kathy Neset, a geologist and owner of Neset Consulting, said she was asked to be part of a small group to greet Trump at the refinery on behalf of the North Dakota Petroleum Council.” A separate article by the [Bismarck \(ND\) Tribune](#) (9/5, Dalrymple) reports Trump is expected to say, “I want all of America to be inspired by the North Dakota example. ... This state is a reminder of what can happen when we promote American jobs instead of obstructing them.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/5, Siciliano) reports Trump’s address will be delivered “in the shadow of a large oil refinery owned by the company Andeavor, which recently went from being the fifth to the fourth largest refiner in the nation.” The White House approached the company “about using the refinery for the speech last Thursday.”

Western Wildfires Endanger Beloved Sites At National Parks.

[NPR](#) (9/5, Wamsley) reports that “wildfires burning in the Western U.S. are threatening some of America’s most treasured national parks.” The article highlights fires in Glacier National Park and Yosemite National Park. Meanwhile, “a cold front moving through the Eastern U.S. is carrying smoke from the Western fires.”

The [AP](#) (9/5, FLACCUS, GERANIOS) reports that “dozens of wildfires burning in western U.S. states” have “sent smoke into cities from Seattle to Denver — prompting health warnings and cancellations of outdoor activities for children by many school districts.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Newsmax](#) (9/5, Krausz).

Facing Another Catastrophic Wildfire Season, Congress Must Act. For the “Pundits” blog of [The Hill](#) (9/5, Smith, Contributor), Nick Smith, the executive director of Healthy Forests, Healthy Communities, urges Congress “to turn its attention to reforming forest management policies.” Smith argues that the practice of “fire borrowing” should be stopped “because it has an enormously disruptive effect on the agency and its ability to manage public lands.” Smith argues urges Congress to pass the bipartisan Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017, which “shows that it’s possible to expedite projects under existing federal environmental laws, while promoting collaboration among diverse stakeholders and resolving disputes without costly litigation.” He concludes that “new policies are needed to promote science-based, active forest management

that is desperately needed on federal lands to protect our forests and communities.”

Week Ahead: Lawmakers To Consider Harvey Aid.

[The Hill](#) (9/5, Henry, Cama) reports that the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee will “hold a confirmation hearing for four Trump nominees on Thursday.” Notably, the committee will hear from Joseph Balash, “the nominee to be assistant Interior Secretary for Land and Mineral Management, and Ryan Nelson, the Interior Solicitor nominee.”

OIG Finds Millions In Possible DOI Fraud.

The [Daily Caller](#) (9/5, Pearce) reports that “two GOP representatives are demanding answers from the Department of the Interior (DOI) after a report revealed the potential for widespread fraud in \$815 million worth of DOI grants awarded in 2014 and 2015, a Tuesday letter read.” Reps. Rob Bishop and Bruce Westerman “want documents detailing the procedures of a DOI program that awards grants to federal agencies for the purpose of purchasing land, according to the letter.” The lawmakers are “concerned unreported grant money from taxpayers may be used to repeat past abuses such as using grant money to build swimming pools and bars on federally protected land, the letter says.”

Vince Bzdek: Don’t Drain The Swamp; Move It From Washington, D.C., To Colorado.

In his column for the [Colorado Springs \(CO\) Gazette](#) (9/5, Bzdek), Vince Bzdek supports moving “the headquarters of the Bureau of Land Management, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Bureau of Reclamation out of Washington to Denver,” as proposed by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke. Calling the move “logical,” and pushing for relocating other agencies in the federal bureaucracy, Bzdek argues that “if the federal government were less concentrated and more integrated into the population it governs, perhaps it would be seen as more equitable and in tune.” Bzdek concludes that “if we really believe in government of, by and for, now might be the best time to put that government out, around and among us all.”

Time To End Recreation Welfare On Public Lands.

In an op-ed for the [Helena \(MT\) Independent Record](#) (9/5, Anderson), Terry L. Anderson, a fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, dismisses arguments that the “outdoor economy depends on our federal lands.” Instead, citing a study by the Property and Environment Research Center, Anderson, claims that “the outdoor industry and its customers are heavily subsidized.” He also notes that “the same study showed that our federal lands take in almost \$20 for every dollar spent on mineral land management.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

New Court Aims To Keep Native American Foster Kids Connected To Family, Culture.

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (9/5, Tollefson) reports that “in July, Montana’s 13th Judicial District began operating the nation’s fifth Indian Child Welfare Act court.” Officials are hoping the court will “improve outcomes for all Native American kids experiencing abuse or neglect.” According to the article, “those involved say poor communication and lack of relationships in the past stymied progress on the cases, but all that is changing.”

Bureau Of Land Management

North Dakota Minerals May Be Included In Oil Lease Sale.

The [AP](#) (9/5) reports that Bureau of Land Management (BLM) “officials are taking public input on whether to include” federally owned minerals in a March lease sale. The agency received an “expression of interest” to lease the federally owned minerals, a bureau spokesman said. An environmental assessment will be publicly available starting on Sept. 30.

Burning Man Says US Tried To Stop Sunday Fire After Death.

The [AP](#) (9/5) reports that “a co-founder of the Burning Man countercultural festival has said U.S. officials urged event organizers to cancel a Sunday burning ceremony or beef up security after a man died from a fire the night before.” Burning Man co-founder Crimson Rose “said the Bureau of Land Management intervened in light of the death of Aaron Joel Mitchell, 41.” Rose said the BLM

“urged organizers to cancel the Sunday night burning of a temple but allowed the event on the condition that the festival set up a metal fence and deploy 350 security guards to prevent people from approaching the fire.”

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Gulf Refineries Start To Come Back Online.

The [Houston Chronicle](#) (9/5, Blum) reports Flint Hills Resources confirmed that its Corpus Christi refinery is fully back online, one day after Valero Energy said it resumed normal operations. Citgo’s Corpus refinery is almost back to full capacity, as a spokeswoman said, “Corpus Christi Refinery personnel are now working diligently to restore operations to normal.” The [Houston Business Journal](#) (9/5) reports Marathon’s Galveston Bay refinery is operating at reduced capacity because of closures along the Houston Ship Channel. Phillips 66 has restarted operations at its terminals in Freeport, Beaumont and Pasadena, but it is still working to reopen its Sweeny refinery. The [AP](#) (9/5) reports Valero is also working to restart operations at its Port Arthur refinery. Total’s Port Arthur plant remains shut-in. The [Daily Caller](#) (9/5) reports the Department of Energy said eight refineries, representing 11.4 percent of US refining capacity, are starting restart procedures.

[Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (9/5) reports, refining should be the most affected subsector, as outages are widespread and supply concerns remain. Midstream companies with Gulf Coast exposure continue to have outages, “but structure damage appears to be mild.” Output in the Gulf of Mexico was returning to normal over the weekend, and the BSEE said only 14 production platforms remained evacuated. Enterprise Products Partners said the Mont Belvieu complex resumed commercial operations. Enterprise said, “While a final assessment of certain locations is still underway, the company has not incurred significant physical damage to facilities. ... Operationally, the partnership continues to face challenges resulting from curtailments or allocations by some critical third-party service providers.”

Additional coverage was provided by [Platts](#) (9/5, Magill).

Fish And Wildlife Service

Feds, Enviros Agree To End ESA Suit Over Minn. Forest.

[Law360](#) (9/5, Sieniuc) reports that “environmentalists and the federal government have agreed to withdraw from a suit accusing the U.S. Forest Service of violating the Endangered Species Act by using an outdated biological review to approve projects that could harm animals in Minnesota’s Superior National Forest.” U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan “ordered the case tossed on Friday after plaintiffs Center for Biological Diversity and Earthworks and defendants including the Forest Service, the U.S. Department of the Interior and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service filed a stipulation of voluntary dismissal.”

Comment Period Extended For Bison Range.

The [Ronan Valley \(MT\) Journal](#) (9/5, Soptelean) reports that “the public comment period for a new comprehensive conservation plan for the National Bison Range, Ninepipe Wildlife Refuge and other area conservation lands in Lake and Flathead counties has been extended.” According to Bernardo Garza, a planning team leader with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Denver, “a 30-day extension began Aug. 30.”

Quino Checkerspot Butterfly: The Unlikely Latest Angle To Trump’s Border Wall Fight.

In a piece for [U.S. News & World Report](#) (9/5, Nesbit), Jeff Nesbit that “the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agency last week awarded contracts for the first four prototypes of The Wall along America’s southern border, which Trump continues to place at the top of his domestic agenda in talks with budget leaders in Congress.” But “the only thing now standing in the way of initial construction of those four prototypes for Trump’s border wall near San Diego is an environmental and scientific review lawsuit brought by the Center for Biological Diversity that focuses largely on the plight of the Quino checkerspot butterfly and two other threatened species (the coastal California gnatcatcher and the San Diego fairy shrimp) that would be impacted by it.”

National Park Service

Washington Monument To Get \$10M Upgrades, Reopen Spring 2019.

The [AP](#) (9/6) reports that the Washington Monument is “modernizing its elevator and a getting permanent area for safety checks and visitor screenings.” The National Park Service “said Tuesday it awarded a contract for the more than \$10 million project to a Maryland construction company following a months-long process.” According to officials, “the monument is expected to reopen in spring 2019 after reliability issues with the elevator caused it to close in August 2016.”

Also reporting are the [Washington Post](#) (9/5, Hedgpeth), the [Washington Business Journal](#) (9/5, Sernovitz), and [WRC-TV Washington](#) (9/5, Barnes).

Trump Fans And ‘Juggalos’ Will Share National Mall In DC On Sept.

16. [Fox News](#) (9/6, Mikelionis) reports that “the National Park Service staff in Washington, D.C., is bracing for a busy day Sept. 16.” On that day, “supporters of President Trump will be sharing space on the National Mall with fans of the hip hop act Insane Clown Posse.” NPS spokesman Mike Litterst “said the agency is prepared to ensure public safety despite multiple events on the same day – a liberal march and a wedding are also planned – and to protect free-speech rights on the federal property.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [Washington Post](#) (9/5, Stein).

Jackson To Welcome Six New U.S. Citizens.

The [Jackson Hole \(WY\) News & Guide](#) (9/5, Gross) reports that 43 new citizens will be naturalized on Wednesday at this year’s annual ceremony at Yellowstone National Park, according to the U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services. The National Park Service and United States Citizen and Immigration Services “first signed an agreement in 2006 to connect America’s newest citizens to national parks and enhance the meaning and stature of citizenship ceremonies, according to a USCIS press release.”

Idaho Racing To Combat Deadly Bat Fungus.

The [AP](#) (9/5) reports “officials are scrambling to slow a deadly fungal disease that has killed millions of bats before it eventually spreads to Idaho.” The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is working with the “National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Idaho Power Co. and Idaho National Laboratory to monitor for the fungus.” The fungus “kills bats during hibernation, when their energy reserves are critically low.”

Yosemite Ranger: Falling Tree Branch Injures 2 Park Visitors.

The [AP](#) (9/5) reports that “officials at Yosemite National Park say two people were injured when a tree branch broke loose during strong wind gusts and crashed down onto a family’s car.” Ranger Jamie Richards “said Tuesday that an adult and child were flown by a medical helicopter Sunday evening to a nearby hospital for treatment.” According to Richards, “park officials immediately sent a work crew to the area to cut down dead trees along the roadside and remove other dangerous tree limbs.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

Trump Signals Willingness To Boost Arms Sales To Asia Allies.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/5, story 6, 1:45, Muir) reported President Trump, “after approving South Korea’s request for more powerful warheads on its own missiles, signaled that more hardware is on the way to the region.” The President [tweeted](#), “I am allowing Japan and South Korea to buy a substantially increased amount of highly sophisticated military equipment from the United States.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/5, Cheng) reports that the Pentagon declined to provide specifics, but is unaware of any pending sales.

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/5, story 6, 2:10, Holt), Richard Engel said, “South Korea today bearing its teeth at North Korea in live fire drills that are now almost daily. North Korea making threats, too, at the US, warning more ‘gift packages’ will be headed towards the United States.”

The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/5, story 7, 2:10, Mason) reported that a “top North Korean diplomat today described his country’s recent missile and nuclear tests as ‘gift packages’ addressed to the US, and he warned more are on the way, even in the face of international condemnation.” [USA](#)

[Today](#) (9/5, Michaels) reports that despite the threats, North Korea “probably can’t yet reach US cities with nuclear-tipped missiles, analysts say.” There is, however, little debate that North Korea “is on a path to being able to reach US targets.”

Meanwhile, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/5, story 6, 1:45, Muir) reported Russian President Vladimir Putin warned the US on Tuesday “to tone down the rhetoric.” Putin is “suggesting that belligerence won’t work,” and “urged dialogue to solve this crisis.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/5, story 6, 2:10, Holt) said Putin is “expressing support for North Korea, saying Russia won’t back new sanctions, instead blasting military hysteria, and saying North Korea would rather eat grass than give up its nuclear weapons.” [USA Today](#) (9/5, Hjelmggaard) reports Putin warned that “ramping up military hysteria in such conditions is senseless” and called for a diplomatic solution.

[Reuters](#) (9/5, Nebehay, Kim) reports Russia’s UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia also said Tuesday that a US bid for the Security Council to vote on Sept. 11 on new sanctions is “a little premature.” Nebenzia told reporters, “I don’t think we’ll be able to rush it so fast.”

An [AP](#) (9/5, Lederman) analysis of the US’ options says Sunday’s nuclear test and “recent missile tests suggest Kim is undeterred” by sanctions, and “there’s strong reluctance from countries including China and Russia, both permanent Security Council members, to do more sanctioning.”

The [New York Times](#) (9/5, Perlez) reports the Trump Administration has “bet on China to stop North Korea’s nuclear program...but in doing so, the White House may be misreading the complexity of China’s relationship with North Korea, one that successive generations of Chinese leaders have struggled to manage.” The Times says “there is growing resentment against Mr. Kim inside China, both in the general public and the policy establishment.”

Another [New York Times](#) (9/5, Perlez) piece says that the Trump Administration is “expected to press China to impose an oil embargo on the North,” which the US has called for before, but “Beijing has almost always refused.” However, “no previous American administration has pressed the case as an implicit choice between cutting off the fuel and potential military action. That puts President Xi Jinping of China in a particularly difficult position.”

Sen. Ben Cardin said on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (9/5), “China is the country that can change the equation in North Korea’s calculation. I understand that China may have a different agenda than the United States. China wants to make sure that there is a communist North Korea. The United States wants to make sure that North Korea doesn’t develop a nuclear capacity that could endanger the United States. Both China and the United States would like this done without a military option. We got to find a common agenda working with China, and maybe Russia, that can tone down this crisis.”

Sen. Ed Markey said on [MSNBC’s Morning Joe](#) (9/5), “We have to basically deal with China, say we do not want to collapse the North Korean regime. That’s their greatest fear, that there will be an influx of refugees from North Korea, and ultimately, the Korean Peninsula will be united and there will be a democracy on the Chinese border. We have to tell them that’s not our goal, that if they cooperate...then we have a chance to really put pressure on this North Korean government. But we have to go to the table with the North Koreans, as the Chinese have been insisting that we do.”

A [Washington Post](#) (9/5, Fifield) analysis, meanwhile, examines “why is Kim Jong Un so hell-bent on joining the nuclear club?” The Post concludes that since the Korean War, North Korea has existed “in a state of insecurity, with the totalitarian regime telling the population that the United States is out to destroy them – again,” and “it is in this context that...the Kim regime has sought” nuclear weapons.

The [AP](#) (9/5, Klapper, Burns, Pennington) reports that “as worrying as North Korea’s nuclear advance is for America,” it “might be even more unnerving for South Korea and Japan,” who are “ponder[ing] if they’ll one day need atomic arsenals of their own.” South Korean Defense Minister Yoon Young-kwan on Monday “suggested bringing back the US nuclear weapons was worth consideration,” and Japan’s “defense planners are weighing if they need an offensive, conventional missile strike capability to respond to a North Korean attack.”

[USA Today](#) (9/5, Maresca) reports that as tensions rise with North Korea, “many analysts believe information — rather than military force — can be the key to bring about change in North Korean society from the inside.” While the regime’s nuclear and military threat “must be taken seriously, an overly confrontational approach by Trump plays into dictator Kim’s hands, said Sokeel Park, country director of Liberty in North Korea, an organization that helps rescue and resettle refugees.” Kim Seung Chul, a defector who came to South Korea in 1994, “also believes that information is key to changing his homeland.”

David Ignatius writes in his [Washington Post](#) (9/5) column, “Is Kim’s position a charade?”

Let's find out. No new US-South Korean exercises are scheduled until next March. That offers a six-month window to push Pyongyang to explore options. As history shows, the consequences of making a mistake in war are calamitous."

[Washington Post](#) (9/5) columnist Kathleen Parker writes that the "can-kicking strategy (i.e., containment and diplomacy) seems a not-irrational substitute for mutual annihilation," and a [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/5) editorial argues that antimissile defense systems can protect the US from the threat posed by North Korea.

Top National News

Administration Moves To Phase Out DACA As Trump Calls On Congress To "Legalize" It.

To condemnation from Democrats, immigration activists and CEOs, among others, the Administration announced yesterday that it has begun phasing out the Obama-era DACA program – even as it asked Congress to pass legislation addressing the fate of the 800,000 affected migrants. A number of media analyses, however, cast doubt on Congress' ability to fulfill President Trump's mandate. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/5, story 5, 1:40, Bruce), for example, pointed out that "lawmakers have already tried and failed more than 10 times to act on this issue," and the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/5, story 2, 2:10, Cordes) that "congressional inaction was what led President Obama to resort to DACA in the first place." Moreover, the [New York Times](#) (9/5, Shear, Davis) notes White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders "would not say whether the president would support a stand-alone bill," and indicated instead that he "would support legislation to protect" the "young immigrants...as part of a broader immigration overhaul to strengthen the border, protect American jobs and enhance enforcement." [McClatchy](#) (9/5, Kumar, Ordoñez) also says "the White House...is willing to trade protections of Dreamers for money that would fund a wall on the southern border."

Another [New York Times](#) (9/5, Alcindor, Stolberg) story also reports that "Republican leaders indicated" yesterday that in order to pass DACA, "they will need sweeteners" such as "funding for a border wall," but the [Washington Post](#) (9/5, O'Keefe, Weigel) reports that "senior Democratic aides said" they "will oppose any attempt to spend federal dollars" on the wall, and will also "oppose the RAISE Act." [Politico](#) (9/5, Kim, Bade, Caygle) notes Sens. Dick Durbin and Lindsey Graham yesterday "urged Congress to take up a DACA fix this month," but "the Senate's second-ranking Senate Republican quickly dismissed that possibility." Said Majority Whip John Cornyn, "There's no way. ... We will take that up. I'm confident. But there's no way that it will stand alone." Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Chuck Grassley "concurred, saying he doesn't believe a standalone bill granting legal status to Dreamers can pass Congress by itself."

In the President's words, as noted by [USA Today](#) (9/5, Jackson, Johnson, Gomez), "the legislative branch, not the executive branch, writes these laws." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/5, Bennett, Tanfani) notes that Trump also said in a White House statement, "I do not favor punishing children, most of whom are now adults, for the actions of their parents." [Reuters](#) (9/5, Holland), meanwhile, indicates that Trump "denounced Obama's program as an 'amnesty-first approach' toward illegal immigrants and pressed his nationalist 'America First' message."

Trump had taken to Twitter earlier in the morning to address the issue, [writing](#), "Congress, get ready to do your job – DACA!" The President [added](#), "Make no mistake, we are going to put the interest of AMERICAN CITIZENS FIRST! The forgotten men & women will no longer be forgotten." He later [tweeted](#), "I look forward to working w/ D's + R's in Congress to address immigration reform in a way that puts hardworking citizens of our country 1st." [Breitbart](#) (9/5, Munro) runs a story on Trump's remarks titled "Donald Trump: 'Young Americans Have Dreams Too.'" The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/5, Quinn) says the President "further defended his decision to rescind DACA during his remarks Tuesday afternoon and said lawmakers he's spoken to are eager to draft legislation addressing DACA beneficiaries." Said Trump, "I can tell you, speaking to members of Congress, they want to be able to do something and do it right. ... And really we have no choice, we have to be able to do something, and I think it's going to work out very well, and long-term it's going to be the right solution."

Finally, in the evening, Trump [tweeted](#), "Congress now has 6 months to legalize DACA (something the Obama Administration was unable to do). If they can't, I will revisit this issue!" [Breitbart](#) (9/5, Pollak) calls that last tweet "a rare negotiating blunder" by the President, who "may have backed himself into signing whatever form of DACA Congress passes," while [Axios](#) (9/6, Lawler) says "hinting at a way out would seem to undermine Trump's efforts to pressure Congress to act."

Beyond the grim forecast on a potential legislative solution, media coverage of Trump's decision was overwhelmingly unfavorable. The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/5, lead story, 2:50, Mason) opened its broadcast stating, "A promise kept by... Trump is a dream lost for thousands of undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children." To [USA Today](#) (9/5, Korte), Trump faced a "stark choice: Seek consensus and move to the middle, or... side with his economic nationalist base." To the [Washington Post](#) (9/5, Nakamura), Trump's decision "comes as the president... seeks to rally his conservative base." Philip Bump, meanwhile, titles his online analysis – also for the [Washington Post](#) (9/5, Bump) – "With DACA, Trump Again Prioritizes His Base Over What's Politically Popular." On [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/5, story 4, 2:25, Holt), on the other hand, Kristen Welker said Trump's "base is accusing" him "of punting on a core campaign promise."

Chris Cillizza headlined its piece for [CNN](#) (9/5) "DACA Decision Confirms It: Trump Has Killed The Bush Version Of The GOP," and says the Administration's "view – that the rule of law trumps (ahem) all else when it comes to the nation's immigration problems – is a massive reversal from views espoused by George W. Bush in his two terms as president and in the autopsy document produced by the Republican National Committee in the wake of the party's disastrous 2012 presidential election loss." Jason Sattler warns Republicans in [USA Today](#) (9/5) that "when we need a shortcut to explain why it's a bad long-term strategy to scapegoat immigrants for short-term gain, we point to California – where the GOP has become a sloppy karaoke version of its old self, a larger third-party that may not even field a candidate for governor in next year's general election." To Sattler, the GOP's demise began with its support of Prop. 187 in 1994.

Writing for [National Review](#) (9/5, Bauer), Fred Bauer argues that politically, the Administration is engaging in "a huge gamble. If the Republican caucus tries to pass a stand-alone fix along the lines of the DREAM Act (which would give full legal status to those covered by DACA), it could be in a lose-lose situation: Either it will succeed and infuriate the GOP base, or it will fail, as numerous attempts to pass the DREAM Act have in the past." But if "the caucus unifies around a deal trading the DREAM Act for center-right immigration reforms, it could advance conservative policy goals and strengthen its political hand."

The [AP](#) (9/5, Colvin, Gurman) reports "Trump's announcement came the same day as a deadline set by a group of Republican state officials who said they would challenge DACA in court unless the Trump administration rescinded the program." The AP adds that Sanders "said the president had been given a choice between the 'likely sudden cancellation of the program by a judge' or 'an orderly wind-down that preserved the rule of law,' and made the best decision in light of those options." Likewise, the [Washington Times](#) (9/5, Dinan, Noble) reports, DHS "portrayed the decision as the lesser of two evils, saying that the program's legality was so tenuous that a judge could have ended the program instantly, throwing hundreds of thousands of Dreamers into immediate chaos."

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (9/5) that he is withdrawing the threat of litigation against the Administration. Paxton added, "We are pleased with the result. We are grateful that he rescinded this and that we are now under a President that is actually following the Constitution and acting within the scope of his authority." Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (9/5), "DACA violates the United States Constitution in two different ways. It also violates three different federal statutes and it's not just my opinion. You've had lower federal courts already say that. So it is illegal and should end now. We shouldn't say we recognize it is illegal and we recognize it is violating our constitution but let's keep on violating the constitution for six months or however long. We need to end it and we need to start looking after United States citizens first."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/5, Bennett, Tanfani) reports, meanwhile, that "notably," the President "left it to" Attorney General Sessions "to make the announcement, not himself," and the [New York Times](#) (9/5, Apuzzo, Ruiz) that the AG "not only served as the administration's spokesman, he also spoke directly to Mr. Trump's base in a blunt, uncompromising way that the president himself was uncomfortable doing."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/5, Nakamura) notes that "in announcing the decision at the Justice Department," Sessions "said that former president Barack Obama, who started the program in 2012 through executive action, 'sought to achieve specifically what the legislative branch refused to do.'" Sessions referred to Obama's move as an "open-ended circumvention of immigration law through unconstitutional authority by the executive branch," and "said the program was unlikely to withstand court scrutiny."

[Bloomberg News](#) (9/4, Talev, Olorunnipa, Edgerton) reports that "rejecting calls to show compassion for the young immigrants covered by the program," Sessions said, "The

compassionate thing to do is end the lawlessness, and enforce our laws and if Congress chooses to make changes to those laws, to do so through the process enforced by our founders in a way that advances the interests of the American people." Sanders "echoed the point," telling reporters, "It's not cold-hearted for the president to uphold the law."

To Sessions, [Roll Call](#) (9/5, Bennett) reported, "the immigration program 'contributed to a surge of minors' coming across America's southern border," sparking "'terrible' consequences across the country." Sessions also "contended the Obama program put the country at greater risk of 'crime, violence and terrorism.'" The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (9/5, Sweet), the [New York Post](#) (9/5, Schultz), [Townhall](#) (9/5, O'Brien), and the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/5, Meckler), among other news outlets, also report the announcement along similar lines. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/5, story 4, 3:20, Vega), meanwhile, reported that in a "memo obtained by ABC News, the Trump Administration urges members of Congress to say Dreamers should prepare to self-deport, saying, they should prepare for and arrange their departure from the United States, including proactively seeking travel documentation." The "backlash" was "immediate."

[McClatchy](#) (9/5, Ordoñez, Kumar) recounts that Sessions "walked into the White House two weeks ago with a blunt message for his boss: The Obama-era program that keeps hundreds of thousands of people safe from deportation is unconstitutional. And setting aside any sentimentality, the attorney general told the president he would not defend the program in court." And "that was when Donald Trump decided he had no choice." A "source familiar with the conversation" tells McClatchy, "Once Sessions told Trump he would not defend DACA in court, he left Trump without any other legal options."

On its front page, the [New York Times](#) (9/5, A1, Jordan) profiles several successful Dreamers. For example, the Times reports that "as Mr. Sessions spoke, Marcela Zhou, a Dreamer and third-year medical student at the University of California, Los Angeles, paused between patients she was seeing at a clinic to watch the announcement."

In a blog post for the [Washington Post](#) (9/5, Capehart), Jonathan Capehart wrote that "listening to Sessions prattle on about respect for the rule of law after his boss ignored it last month to pardon a racist former sheriff is World Series-level gall." The move "fits with the reprehensible zeitgeist that has always enveloped Sessions since before he took the helm of the justice department." Rep. Maxine Waters "was as unsparing in her assessment of him as she has been on the president during an interview on my podcast 'Cape Up' in May." Said Waters, "I think he's a racist, and I think that he absolutely believes that it's his job to keep minorities in their place."

[USA Today](#) (9/5, Jackson, Johnson, Gomez) reports DHS "will immediately stop accepting applications to the DACA program – but current recipients would not be affected until March 5 of next year." This "gives Congress time to find a legislative solution to replace the program, which currently shields some 800,000 young immigrants from deportation." According to [The Hill](#) (9/5, Lillis, Bernal, Savransky), "the new guidelines still allow for DACA enrollees to remain in the program and retain work permits well beyond that date, in some cases." The Hill added that "for those whose eligibility is set to expire within the next six months, DHS is accepting renewal applications until Oct. 5 – creating the potential for enrollees to remain in the program almost two years after the so-called phaseout." The [New York Post](#) (9/5, Moore, Schultz) outlines a similar timeline in its report.

Sean Hannity said in his opening monologue on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (9/5) that the "destroy Trump establishment media" is "predictably" in "freak out mode about the President's decision," but, "what they won't tell you is that DACA was, in fact, unconstitutional. The President is right to let Congress decide on the issue of immigration laws in this country. That's how a system of checks and balances is supposed to work. The executive branch can't usurp power from the legislative branch. You remember how President Obama himself admitted this many, many times before ever signing this executive order on DACA. He admitted it was unconstitutional, for him to change immigration laws all on his own."

Jonah Goldberg of National Review said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/5), "I think on the constitutional or civic merits...Trump made exactly he right decision. I don't think – even the Obama administration said it was supposed to be temporary program. The title 'D' in DACA is 'deferred.' It was always supposed to be followed up by real legislation. Presidents aren't supposed to make law. ... On the other hand, politically, I think this is a hot mess. I think that Donald Trump is setting up Congress for potentially disastrous failure and at the same time – he wants to punt this so that he doesn't have to make this very hard decision that puts him either on the wrong side of the base or on the wrong side of everybody else."

Jeff Zeleny said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/5), "I am told by a senior White House

official it was like a tug-of-war in the West Wing of the White House. All these advisers and outside advisers who the President listens to were largely telling him different things, but business leaders and others were urging him not to do anything draconian here. We're told he's not happy necessarily with this decision but was trying to find a spot in the middle."

Cotton said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/5), "Trump was put in this situation by...Obama," who "created this program without congressional approval five years ago even though he himself said he didn't have the legal authority. I think...Trump struck a sensible middle ground and said that in six months he's going to stop renewing these work permits for illegal immigrants in their 20s and 30s who were brought here through no fault of their own. That should give Congress time to pass legislation that would not only perhaps codify that program but also address some of the consequences of the action like encouraging future illegal immigration or allowing those people who might get legal status to also make their parents, the people who created the situation, citizens as well."

Rep. Mark Meadows said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/5), "Obviously I support the President's decision. One of the things that's perhaps is not getting reported a whole lot is the jurisprudence that is out there would suggest this was going to go away, anyway. So it is incumbent upon Congress to act. So, the President took a decisive action. He did it in a way that gave Congress six months to deal with it. You saw Dick Durbin and Lindsey Graham working together already trying to try to look at some legislative fix. But more importantly, any solution is going to have to start, really, with securing our southern borders."

Rep. Paul Gosar writes in [USA Today](#) (9/5), "I applaud the president's work in upholding the rule of law and his decision to cease the Obama administration's unconstitutional amnesty program."

Meanwhile, notes [USA Today](#) (9/5, Shesgreen, King), "Rep. Mike Coffman, a Colorado Republican who represents suburban Denver, plans to make an end-run around House GOP leaders by filing a 'discharge petition' on the Bridge Act, a bipartisan bill that would grant DREAMers legal status for three years."

Trump Evangelical Advisers Claim Credit For Six-Month Delay. The [Washington Post](#) (9/5, Sellers) reports "members of the president's Evangelical Advisory Board claimed credit" for Trump's decision on DACA including "a built-in six-month delay." Said Tony Suarez, executive vice president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, "We are responsible for this extension [the president] is offering. That's our work." Suarez "said he and NHCLC President Samuel Rodriguez have worked on behalf of the so-called 'dreamers' since the advisory board was formed during the campaign last summer and stepped up pressure on the White House last week, making calls and delivering letters signed by Hispanic pastors to the president. Then, on Friday, a handful of the evangelical pastors met with Trump," and "at that Oval Office meeting, which neither Rodriguez nor Suarez was able to attend, Jentezen Franklin, a white pastor from a multi-ethnic church near Atlanta, made a personal plea to the president on behalf of the dreamers."

Decision Sparks Protests. The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/5, story 3, 2:00, Blackstone) reported that "the decision to end DACA sparked protests across the country," with "thousands" gathering "near the White House and outside Trump Tower in New York." High school students, moreover, "staged a walkout in downtown Denver, and in Los Angeles." [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/5, story 4, 2:25, Holt) referred to "protests erupting nationwide," and (Welker) to "sound and fury with protesters storming major cities all across the country."

The [Bergen \(NJ\) Record](#) (9/5, Alvarado) reports "nearly a dozen people were arrested during an immigration demonstration outside Trump Tower," and the [Washington Post](#) (9/5, Sacchetti, Stein) that "undocumented immigrants and their supporters yelled, 'Shame!' in front of the White House and got arrested in front of Trump Tower in New York City."

Obama: Trump Move "Cruel," "Self-Defeating," "Wrong." [Reuters](#) (9/5) reports Obama said on [Facebook](#) yesterday that "the Trump administration's decision to rescind a program Obama instituted to protect from deportation illegal immigrants who were brought to the United States as children was 'cruel,' 'self-defeating' and 'wrong.'" The [Washington Post](#) (9/5, Johnson) quotes Obama as writing, "Ultimately, this is about basic decency." [USA Today](#) (9/5, Estepa) notes that Obama also said that "now that the issue has been punted back to Congress" lawmakers should "protect these young people and our future." The [Washington Times](#) (9/5, Boyer), the [New York Post](#) (9/5, Moore), [McClatchy](#) (9/5, Welsh), the [AP](#) (9/5, Holland), [Politico](#) (9/5, Dove), [The Hill](#) (9/5, Thomsen), and [Breitbart](#) (9/5, Spiering), among other news outlets, also report Obama's post.

In an analysis piece, [Politico](#) (9/5, Dove) says Obama is "purposefully keeping quiet –

even as his team was already quietly consulting on steps forward Tuesday with activists and strategists." Yesterday's "statement – written in his Washington office on Tuesday and so much in Obama's voice that it even includes his 'let's be clear' tic – there's nothing about what to put in a bill, only the principles at stake and the need to do something." While he "sees protecting Dreamers as a major part of his legacy, but doesn't want Republicans to back away from a bill because they're supporting something that their base's favorite bogeyman wants."

[Vox](#) (9/5, Stein) noted, meanwhile, that former Vice President Biden also "condemned the Trump administration's decision," writing on [Facebook](#), "These people are all Americans. ... So let's be clear: throwing them out is cruel. It is inhumane. And it is not America."

In Apparent Break With Party, Feinstein Says DACA Was "On Shaky Legal Ground." The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/5, Mehta) reports Sen. Dianne Feinstein "signaled Tuesday that she believes...Obama's executive order to protect young immigrants who were brought into the US as minors was on shaky legal ground, and said that is why Congress must act." The senator told MSNBC, "DACA was executive order. Legal is the law of passage of something. ... You know there are 10 attorneys general that are prepared to sue. I don't want to get into that. The point is DACA is here and we've got 800,000 young people who depend on this." Chuck Todd "said that Feinstein's answer implied that the program was 'on shaky legal ground,'" to which Feinstein replied, "It is. ... That's why we need to pass a law, and we should do it." The Times adds that "Feinstein's remarks are likely to fuel criticism among the most liberal members of her party."

Gutierrez: Trump Moving Toward "Full-Throated Endorsement Of White Supremacy," Kelly "Has No Honor." The [Chicago Tribune](#) (9/5, Skiba) reports that "Rep. Luis Gutierrez, a Chicago Democrat and longtime advocate on immigration issues, were among the most pointed," yesterday "accused the Trump administration of being on a 'very dangerous trajectory towards the full-throated endorsement of white supremacy – the likes of which we haven't seen in the open from a sitting president for a century.'"

The [Washington Post](#) (9/5, Weigel) notes Gutierrez also said, "General Kelly is a hypocrite who is a disgrace to the uniform he used to wear. ... He has no honor and should be drummed out of the White House along with the white supremacists and those enabling the president's actions by 'just following orders.' "

Emanuel To Incoming High School Students: Chicago Schools A "Trump-Free" Zone. The [Washington Times](#) (9/5, Chasmar) reports Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel yesterday "assured incoming high schoolers that they need not to worry about...Trump ending the 'Dreamers' program, saying Chicago Public Schools are a 'Trump-free' sanctuary for young illegal immigrants." Said the mayor, "Chicago, our schools, our neighborhoods, our city, as it relates to what President Trump said, will be a Trump-free zone. You have nothing to worry about."

The [Chicago Sun-Times](#) (9/5, Dudek, Fitzpatrick) reports, "It was no accident that the mayor, who's been courting Hispanic voters as his popularity has flagged among the African-Americans who elected him, chose Solorio Academy High School to ring in the new school year because nearly a third of Solorio's students are undocumented immigrants."

Mexico "Profoundly Laments" Trump Decision. The [Washington Post](#) (9/5, Partlow) reports the Mexican government "said Tuesday that it 'profoundly laments' the decision by the Trump administration to phase out the program that protects hundreds of thousands of young immigrants from deportation." The [Washington Times](#) (9/5, Dinan) notes that in a statement, Mexico also "said it will take back the hundreds of thousands of its citizens currently living in the US without permission." Said the government, "Mexico will receive Dreamers who return to our country with open arms. ... In accordance with instructions from President Enrique Peña Nieto, the agencies of the federal government are strengthening their efforts to offer them the greatest support, take advantage of their talents and skills, and fully integrate them into our society and national economy."

WPost, NYTimes, USA Today Blast Trump; WSJournal Blames Both Parties. The [Washington Post](#) (9/5) writes in an editorial that Trump "ducked, dodged and shunted the issue to Congress." His "order is an assault on economic logic," and "unless Congress acts, the United States will suffer along with the dreamers."

The [New York Times](#) (9/5) editorializes that "Trump didn't even have the guts to do the job himself. Instead, he hid in the shadows and sent his attorney general...to do the dirty work." Adds the Times, "Contrast that with President Obama's willingness to defend a policy that has always had detractors."

[USA Today](#) (9/5) editorializes that "in six months...the president is likely to find himself right where he is today. He could inflict real damage on himself, his party and his country by letting the deportations go into effect. He could institute another delay. Or he could try to

negotiate some face-saving deal with Democrats and Republican pragmatists to pass a DACA law." But "in the meantime" he "is playing right into the hands of Democrats, who might otherwise be troubled by their internal divisions and inability to win elections between the two coasts."

On its editorial page, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/5) criticizes Trump's campaign rhetoric threatening to end DACA, but argues that Obama should not have moved unilaterally in establishing it – and that the former president acted cynically in a bid to score political points and put Republicans in a bind. The Journal goes on to criticize both parties' handling of the issue, and suggests a deal could be made whereby Congress approves the program in exchange for added border security.

More Condemnation Of Administration. [Bloomberg News](#) (9/5, Bass) reports "companies from a broad range of industries, including technology, finance and retail, swiftly condemned the Trump administration's decision to end a program preventing the deportation of immigrants illegally brought to the US as children." Wrote Facebook Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg, "It is particularly cruel to offer young people the American Dream, encourage them to come out of the shadows and trust our government, and then punish them for it." [Politico](#) (9/5, Overly) also says "Trump's decision to end the Dreamers program is inflaming his rift with America's corporate leaders – a group he once touted as a key ally for his business-friendly administration." Politico adds "a slew of top CEOs and business groups slammed the move – warning of the human toll and its impact on the nation's economy."

[USA Today](#) (9/5, Guynn) reports, "Don't mess with DACA. That was the message from major technology companies." Apple and Microsoft, "two of the companies to come out swinging against the president's decision to dump Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA, pledged to shield employees who could face legal troubles or deportation."

[Townhall](#) (9/5, O'Brien) indicated "Trump just lost his CEO for the United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce after his decision." Javier Palomarez, "who announced his resignation Tuesday, explained" that "Sessions's DACA announcement was the last straw," saying, "This disgraceful action goes against not only the values of this country, but also against the promise of this administration to focus homeland security resources towards individuals who have committed violent crimes and pose a threat to communities across the country."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/5, Balingit) says "education leaders Tuesday swiftly condemned...Trump's decision...warning the move will disrupt the lives of hundreds of thousands of students."

The [Washington Times](#) (9/5, Persons), meanwhile, notes "US Conference of Bishops President Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston blasted...Trump's plan to remove protections from children brought to the US illegally as 'reprehensible.'"

Rep. John Garamendi said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/5) that this is a "quid pro quo. It's a deal. The President has structured a deal putting 800,000 young men and women, young Dreamers, on the line in exchange for his border wall. That's what this is all about. He is putting at risk those 800,000 people."

Maggie Haberman of the New York Times said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (9/5) that Trump "had very few good options here given what he was facing, given what he had promised. You could argue he shouldn't have campaigned on a platform that included ending DACA. But he was all over the map in terms of what he wanted to do with this program. I do believe he was genuinely conflicted about this. I don't think that changes the feelings on what they're doing. I think that punting it over to Congress – he knows full well that Congress could not do a healthcare repeal. ... This is basically pushing the blame off to someone else, and I don't know how well that flies when his whole thing during the campaign was, I alone can fix this broken system."

Political commentator Paul Begala said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (9/5), "Who knows...what happens in that desperately mangled brain of his, and I think the only way to read it, 'I love these young people, and I have heart, but I'm going to kick them all out of the country – 800,000 of them who have done nothing wrong.' It's incoherent. I think politically he couldn't have hurt himself more. Even the Trump voters, most Trump voters don't want to kick these young people out of the country. And the notion that Ken Paxton, the Attorney General of Texas...is pushing Donald Trump around is pretty appalling."

Rep. Ruben Gallego said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/5), "You're basically destabilizing their lives. These young men and women have started families, bought homes, started businesses, some of them are police officers, firefighters, some have joined the military and are now veterans and we're going to cruelly take them away from this life." Gallego added that if Congress does not "act to stop the President," Dreamers "will be deported. The way ICE is

operating right now, they don't care who they are nabbing and grabbing. They'd rather go for the easiest targets. They're going to go for people that they know are good citizens. They know they have steady routines. They're going to...start taking these young men and women and their families, anyone they encounter. At the end of the day all they want to do is hit their quotas and that's what's going to happen."

Gloria Borger said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/5), "I think the real story here is the President was faced with a real problem. He had been on the campaign trail consistently saying that he wanted to end DACA, and then he had also said since he came into office, he spoke to President Obama about it, he spoke to others about it and he said that he really cared about the dreamers. Well, how do you square those two things? It's very difficult. So, what he did was he said, 'Okay, I'm going to pass the buck. I'm going to pass the buck here to Congress and let's see if Congress can resolve it.'"

Dreamer Killed Trying To Rescue Harvey Victims. The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/5, story 6, 2:25, Villafranca) reported that Harvey's death toll "includes a 31-year-old undocumented immigrant who could have faced deportation next year. Instead, he died a hero." CBS (Villafranca) added that Alonso Guillen "came to the US from Mexico when he was 15 to live with his dad, a permanent resident. He signed up for DACA, and as a Dreamer was working towards citizenship." He "and a friend drove 120 miles from Lufkin, Texas to Houston, to rescue people stuck in an apartment. They were in a boat that hit a bridge and capsized." His body was found downstream four days later.

Daily Caller Says Most Dreamers Are Adults; NYTimes Says "Typical" Dreamer Came To US At Age Six. The [Daily Caller](#) (9/5) reported that "CNN and MSNBC are repeating the false claim that DACA recipients are 'children' or 'kids,' while actually most are adults." DACA "recipients were illegally brought to the United States by their parents when they were children," but "the minimum age to apply for the program is 15 years old," and "in fact, the majority of the applicants were over the age of 20 based on 2014 data from the US government. Some have estimated that the average age of dreamers is 25 or 26 years old – hardly children." [USA Today](#) (9/5, Gomez), meanwhile, reports "those affected were brought illegally to the United States as children. Now, at an average of 25, many know no other country than the US."

The [New York Times](#) (9/5, Parlapiano, Yourish), meanwhile, analyzes the program in a story headlined "A Typical 'Dreamer' Lives In Los Angeles, Is From Mexico And Came To The US At 6 Years Old."

Poll: 58% Support Allowing Dreamers To Stay, 15% Want Them Removed. [Politico](#) (9/5, Shepard) reports that according to a POLITICO/Morning Consult poll, "voters overwhelmingly support allowing undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children to stay in the country." Fifty-eight percent "think these undocumented immigrants...should be allowed to stay and become citizens if they meet certain requirements – a sentiment which goes well beyond the existing DACA program." Meanwhile, "another 18 percent think they should be allowed to stay and become legal residents, but not citizens," and "only 15 percent of voters think these undocumented immigrants should be removed or deported from the country." Politico adds that "support for allowing these immigrants to remain in the U.S. spans across party lines: 84 percent of Democrats, 74 percent of independents and 69 percent of Republicans think they should stay."

Newsweek: Melania Trump's Immigration Attorney A Supporter Of DACA. Writing on the website of [Newsweek](#) (9/5), Melina Delkic said that first lady Melania Trump's attorney, Michael Wildes, "who once vouched for the former model regarding her immigration status, is 'prayerful' that President Barack Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) immigration program won't be dismantled by the Trump administration and Congress. He says he works to help DACA beneficiaries, whom he calls 'good souls.'" Delkic added that Wildes' "father, Leon Wildes, planted the seeds of DACA when he represented the musician John Lennon in his deportation trial and clarified the meaning of deferred action in a court of law."

After Having Opposed DREAM Act, Tester Criticizes Trump Over DACA Repeal. The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (9/5, Griswold) reported that Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT), who was among "the five Democratic senators who joined Republicans to defeat the DREAM Act," on Tuesday chided Trump "for revoking similar protections of so-called 'Dreamers.' In 2010," the Montana Democrat "voted against the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, which would have granted legal residency status to illegal immigrants who were brought to the United States as minors. Tester voted against a similar bill in 2007." In a Tuesday statement, Tester said of Trump's decision to revoke DACA protections, "America's immigration system is badly broken and needs fixing, but breaking a promise to these children-who are here through no fault of their own-is not the solution." Tester faces reelection next year.

Trump Tells GOP Leaders Tax Reform Will Create “Millions Of New Jobs.”

During a White House meeting Tuesday with “the so-called Big Six tax negotiators – National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, House Speaker Paul Ryan, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and the leaders of the congressional tax-writing committees,” President Trump “promoted a tax overhaul as essential to boosting economic growth,” [Bloomberg News](#) (9/5, Sink) reports. [Politico](#) (9/5, Conway) quotes Trump as saying, “We’re going to reduce taxes for companies, and those companies are going to produce jobs. ... Tax reform that follows these principles will create millions of new jobs and ensure that more products are stamped with the very beautiful letters and words, ‘Made in the U.S.A.’” Trump added, “It’s time to lower our taxes, bring back our wealth and make America the jobs magnet that it can become, and pretty quickly.”

[Politico](#) (9/5, White, Cook) describes Trump as “increasingly fixated on slashing the top corporate tax rate to 15 percent,” which “pretty much no one else working on the issue in the White House or Congress thinks is workable.” During Tuesday’s meeting, Trump “again expressed his strong desire to hit the 15 percent target, from today’s 35 percent.” However, “a senior official working on tax reform,” said, “You can’t get to 15 percent and anyone who has a back of an envelope can make that calculation. ... And he may not like that truth, but it’s the truth. It’s just math.”

[Roll Call](#) (9/5, Bennett) reports that “Trump and top aides say they want any eventual tax measure to receive some Democratic support,” but adds that “the effort will be an uphill fight even if it becomes a Republican-only push” due to divisions “among GOP members and the president about where to set individual and corporate rates; if and how any rate cuts would be paid for; and whether the plan could be permanent or would require an expiration date,” as well as “differences about how it might affect the deficit.”

In a story posted before Tuesday’s meeting, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/5, Rubin) said that with Republicans eyeing completion of tax reform before year’s end, the “Big Six” have little time to tackle a number of difficult decisions concerning the details of the plan. The Journal adds that if they fail to get the measure through Congress, it will be a political defeat.

Heitkamp To Fly To North Dakota With Trump Today On Air Force One. On its website, [CNN](#) (9/5, Diamond) reported that Trump “is giving his efforts to wrangle red state Democrat support for his tax reform push the Air Force One treatment.” CNN added that Heitkamp, “the first Democrat to join Trump on the presidential jet, will travel with him Wednesday for the flight to her state of North Dakota, where Trump will continue his push to drive up public support for tax reform. ‘Pending any critical votes in the US Senate, Sen. Heitkamp plans to join President Trump for his visit to North Dakota. She also plans to travel with the President on Air Force One,’ Heitkamp spokeswoman Julia Krieger said.” [Politico](#) (9/5, Everett) reported that the President is offering “Heitkamp far warmer treatment than he gave” Sen. Claire McCaskill (D-MO) during his visit to Missouri last week. Politico said the fact that Heitkamp will join the President on Air Force One suggests “Trump won’t attack the vulnerable Heitkamp as he did similarly imperiled McCaskill.”

The [Washington Post](#) (9/5, Rucker) reports that the White House is touting Heitkamp’s planned travel with Trump on Air Force One “as the first indication of bipartisan support for overhauling the tax code. Trump will be touting his tax plan at the Andeavor oil refinery in Heitkamp’s hometown of Mandan.” The Post adds, “In his speech Wednesday, Trump intends to pressure Heitkamp to support his tax-reform agenda – in part by reminding North Dakotans that the last time Congress passed meaningful tax reform, in 1986, during Ronald Reagan’s presidency, their Democratic senator voted yea,” according to excerpts of the President’s planned remarks.

The [Washington Times](#) (9/5, Miller) reports that according to “prepared remarks provided by the White House,” Trump will say in today’s speech, “Both of the Reagan tax cuts passed by a Democratic majority in the House, a Democratic speaker and the vast majority of Democrats in the Senate, including a Democratic senator from the great state of North Dakota.” Trump will further say, “If Democrats continue their obstruction, if they don’t want to bring back your jobs, raise your pay and help America win, voters should deliver a clear message: Do your job to deliver for America or find a new job.”

[Reuters](#) (9/5, Rampton, Holland) reports that in Heitkamp, Trump “has found at least one Democrat willing to entertain his tax reform pitch.” Reuters adds that Heitkamp on Friday “said both parties need to work together on tax reform, which she views as critical for businesses and families in her state.” [USA Today](#) (9/6, Jackson) reports that Trump “won 63% of the vote in North Dakota in November, and Heitkamp’s bid for re-election next year is rated a tossup by the

nonpartisan Inside Elections.”

WTimes Analysis: Time Running Short For Republicans To Repeal ACA.

The [Washington Times](#) (9/5, Howell) reports that congressional Republicans are facing “a swiftly closing window to repeal Obamacare using GOP votes alone.” While Republican leaders began the year by passing a budget written with the purpose repealing the ACA “while avoiding a Democratic filibuster,” according to the Senate parliamentarian their ability to do so “will expire when the fiscal year ends Sept. 30, meaning it’s time for the GOP to use it or lose it.” The Times says it appears “the clock will run out on their efforts, as bipartisan leaders pivot toward a short-term bill to shore up the markets before sign-ups begin this fall.”

McCarthy: GOP Won’t Start Wall Fight Until “Later In The Year.”

[Politico](#) (9/5, Conway) reports that House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy said Tuesday on [Fox Business Mornings with Maria](#) that House Republicans plan to pass a three-month continuing resolution to fund the government in September and “will push any fight over President Donald Trump’s border wall until later this year.” McCarthy also “said Republicans still intend to pass a budget this month because ‘it allows us to go to reconciliation to start tax reform.’”

WPost A1: Conservative Charities Fueled Trump’s Exit From Climate Accord.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/5, A1, O’Harrow) reports on its front page that “for nearly two decades...the Cooler Heads Coalition, an umbrella group of tax-exempt public charities and other nonprofit organizations,” led efforts to “cast doubt on the gravity of climate change and thwart government efforts to address it.” Their efforts were “part of a wave that crested with [President] Trump’s rejection on June 1 of the Paris agreement.” The Coalition’s leader, Myron Ebell, told the Post, “He made the decision. We helped create the circumstances. When you are persistent, good things can happen.” The Post says the “story behind the coalition illuminates the influential, little-known role that tax-exempt public charities play in modern campaigns to sway lawmakers and shape policy in the nation’s capital, while claiming to be nonpartisan educational organizations.”

DOJ Won’t Appeal Ruling Against Obama-Era Overtime Rule.

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (9/5, McMorris) reports that, ending “one of the most controversial regulatory decisions from the Obama era,” the Justice Department will not appeal Judge Amos Mazzant’s decision striking down the Obama Labor Department’s move to increase the salary threshold of white collars and administrative workers who have to be paid overtime from the current below \$23,660 to \$47,476. Mazzant held the rule was “unlawful” because classes of workers Congress exempted from overtime considerations would have received benefits.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Donald Trump’s Cowardice On ‘Dreamers.’” Regarding President Trump’s decision on DACA, The [New York Times](#) (9/5) editorializes that “Trump didn’t even have the guts to do the job himself. Instead, he hid in the shadows and sent his attorney general...to do the dirty work.” Adds the Times, “Contrast that with President Obama’s willingness to defend a policy that has always had detractors.”

“An Incoherent Strategy On North Korea.” A [New York Times](#) (9/6, Board) editorial warns President Trump’s approach so far to North Korea “have not only produced zero positive results but they have also sowed confusion about his intentions,” as Trump “and his team seem unable or unwilling to put together a realistic and coherent strategy that goes beyond pressure tactics and harsh rhetoric to include a serious effort to engage the North Koreans.” The Times points to “some inexplicable errors along the way,” and says while Kim Jong-un has not signaled whether he “is interested in talking,” the President “needs to test the possibility before design or miscalculation leads to war.”

“Myanmar Intensifies Its Abuse Of Rohingya.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/5) writes that Burma’s government has intensified violence against the Muslim Rohingya minority in its Rakhine State – killing nearly 400 people and causing tens of thousands of Rohingya to flee the state since the government began its most recent operation on August 25. The Post condemns the government’s actions as “a colossal moral failure” and argues that Burmese leader Aung San Suu Kyi must give her people their rights.

“City To The News: Hang In.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/5) expresses hope that the New York Daily News, recently acquired by Tronc, will continue to retain its “New York-ness” and “brashness” as a tabloid newspaper that for “nearly a century” has offered blunt assessments of politics and current events.

Washington Post.

“Trump’s Heartless Decision.” The [Washington Post](#) (9/5) writes in an editorial that President Trump “ducked, dodged and shunted the issue to Congress.” His order on DACA “is an assault on economic logic,” and “unless Congress acts, the United States will suffer along with the dreamers.”

“A Welcome Change Of Course From The Trump Administration.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/5) applauds the Administration for announcing new rules in the Department of Housing and Urban Development to rein in what the Post describes as a “dubious” and “non-transparent” program that diverts resources “from less affluent first-time home buyers to seniors who already own homes” – the Federal Housing Administration’s Home Equity Conversion Mortgage program, more commonly known as the “reverse mortgage.”

“Montgomery County Should Approach Council Changes With Care.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/5) writes that Montgomery County’s Charter Review Commission – which is considering proposals to reshape the nine-member Montgomery County Council by reducing or eliminating the four at-large members whom some see as carrying unequal voting advantage – should consider any council changes carefully, given that it has been 27 years since the last change and that any changes would require a referendum.

Wall Street Journal.

“The Dreamer Debacle.” On its editorial page, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/5) criticizes President Trump’s campaign rhetoric threatening to end DACA, but argues that Obama should not have moved unilaterally in establishing it – and that the former president acted cynically in a bid to score political points and put Republicans in a bind. The Journal goes on to criticize both parties’ handling of the issue, and suggests a deal could be made whereby Congress approves the program in exchange for added border security.

“The Godfather Of Missile Defense.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/5) editorial argues that antimissile defense systems can protect the US from the threat posed by North Korea.

“Making Canada Great Again.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/5) editorial writes that according to the Globe and Mail, Canadian NAFTA negotiators spent Sunday’s talks trying to persuade their US counterparts to pass a federal law negating right-to-work laws, which they argue are stealing job through lower-cost labor. The Journal notes that this is the same argument President Trump makes against Mexico.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Array Of Threats Stir Up Markets](#)

[Trump Rescinds Protections For DACA Immigrants](#)

[Automation Kills Jobs In Retail—And Replaces Them With Better Ones](#)

[Lego Hits Brick Wall With Sales, Sheds 8% Of Workforce](#)

New York Times:

[Trump Moves To End DACA And Calls On Congress To Act](#)

[After 16 Futile Years, Congress Will Try Again To Legalize ‘Dreamers’](#)

[Worried And Frustrated, ‘Dreamers’ Say They Won’t Give Up](#)

[North Korea’s Nuclear Arsenal Threatens China’s Path To Power](#)

[Crisis Is Over At Texas Plant, But Chemical Safety Flaws Remain](#)

[Red Sox Used Apple Watches To Help Steal Signs Against Yankees](#)

Washington Post:

[Trump Orders DACA’s End, Challenges Congress](#)

[‘This Is Our Country,’ Program’s Beneficiaries Say, Promising A Fight](#)

[Syrians Break An ISIS Siege In A Victory For Assad](#)
[Fla. Areas Evacuate As Irma Strengthens](#)
[‘A Disaster On Top Of A Disaster’](#)
[How Charities’ Long Fight Fueled Climate-Pact Exit](#)

Financial Times:

[Trump Ends ‘Dreamers’ Immigration Program](#)
[Putin Says Sanctions Drive Against North Korea Is Pointless](#)
[UTC And Rockwell Eye Economies Of Scale From \\$30bn Deal](#)
[Lego Suffers First Drop In Revenues In A Decade](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Phaseout Of DACA Gives Congress Six Months To Devise Solution For Dreamers](#)
[Congressional Path To Dreamer Protections Unclear](#)
[Al Franken Will Use Senate Blue-Slip Tradition To Block Trump Judiciary Nominee](#)
[U.S. Poised To Sell Military Weapons To Pacific Allies In Response To North Korean Nuclear Tests](#)
[Democrat Heitkamp To Appear With Trump Wednesday](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: Hurricane Irma-Forecast; Hurricane Irma-Florida Preparation; Hurricane Irma-Puerto Rico Preparation; DACA Repeal-White House; DACA Repeal-Congress; North Korea Threats; Hurricane Harvey-Vehicle Damages; West Coast-Wildfires; Tokyo-NYC Flight Bird Strike; North Carolina-Cold Medicine Murder; Drunk Driving-Social Media Post; Elderly-Children Community Connection.

CBS: DACA Repeal-White House; DACA Repeal-Congress; DACA Repeal-Reactions; Hurricane Irma-Forecast; Hurricane Irma-Preparation; Hurricane Harvey-Dreamer; North Korea Threats; British Royal-Paparazzi Ruling; MLB-Cheating Scandal; Berry Gordy Jr Mansion On Sale; Elderly Sailor.

NBC: Hurricane Irma-Florida Preparation; Hurricane Irma-Puerto Rico Preparation; Hurricane Irma-Forecast; DACA Repeal-White House; DACA Repeal-Reactions; North Korea Threats; Hurricane Harvey-Recovery; North Carolina-Cold Medicine Murder; West Coast-Wildfires; MLB-Cheating Scandal; Surviving WW2 Veterans.

Network TV At A Glance:

DACA Repeal – 16 minutes
Hurricane Irma – 15 minutes, 5 seconds
North Korea Threats – 6 minutes, 5 seconds
Hurricane Harvey – 5 minutes, 30 seconds
West Coast-Wildfires – 55 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning’s Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Hurricane Irma; DACA Repeal; Arizona-F15 Crash.

CBS: Hurricane Irma; DACA Repeal; NAFTA Renegotiation; MLB-Cheating Scandal; Hurricane Harvey-Gasoline Price.

FOX: DACA Repeal; Hurricane Irma.

NPR: DACA Repeal; Hurricane Irma; Hurricane Harvey-Recovery; North Korea Threats.

Washington Schedule

Today’s Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Speaks with President Xi Jinping of China; participates in a tax reform event with workers from the energy sector.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President to meet with congressional leadership; joins Director of the National Security Agency (NSA) Michael Rogers to tour the agency and participate in a series of briefings.

US Senate: 10:00 AM Senate Finance Committee Executive Session – Executive Session, to consider the nominations of Gilbert Kaplan to be Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade; Matthew Bassett to be Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services; and Robert Charrow to be Department of Health and Human Services General Counsel Location: 215 Dirksen, U.S. Capitol <http://finance.senate.gov>

10:00 AM Senate Commerce Committee hearing on the FCC Lifeline program – Hearing on

'Addressing the Risk of Waste, Fraud and Abuse in the Federal Communications Commission's Lifeline Program', with testimony from Government Accountability Office Forensic Audits & Investigative Service Director of Audit Services Seto Bagdoyan; South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Commissioner Chris Nelson; Citizens Against Government Waste Director of Technology and Telecommunications Policy Deborah Collier; George Mason University School of Law Adjunct Professor Dr Jeffrey Eisenach; and Free Press Deputy Director and Senior Counsel Jessica Gonzalez Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC
<http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Amy Coney Barrett to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit; Joan Louise Larsen to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit; Eric Dreiband to be Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division; William Campbell Jr. to be U.S. District Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee; and Thomas Lee Robinson Parker to be U.S. District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 226, Washington, DC
<http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee hearing on the individual health insurance market for 2018 – Hearing on 'Stabilizing Premiums and Helping Individuals in the Individual Insurance Market for 2018: State Insurance Commissioners', with testimony from Oklahoma Department of Insurance Commissioner John Doak; Washington State Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler; Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance Commissioner Julie Mix McPeak; Insurance Commissioner of Pennsylvania Theresa Miller; and Alaska Division of Insurance Director Lori Wing-Heier Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC
<http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Governmental Affairs Committee hearing on the U.S. health care system – Hearing on 'The History and Current Reality of the U.S. Health Care System', with testimony from Miami University Department of Economics Professor and Director of Graduate Studies Dr Melissa Thomasson; University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy Dean Dr Katherine Baicker; and Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center on Health Insurance Reforms Research Professor Sabrina Corlette Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC
<http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

10:30 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on the U.S.-Turkey relationship – Hearing on 'Priorities and Challenges in the U.S.-Turkey Relationship', with testimony from Council on Foreign Relations Senior Fellow for Middle East and Africa Studies Dr Steven Cook; and Harvard Kennedy School Democracy in Hard Places Initiative Fellow Dr Amanda Sloat Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 419, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

11:00 AM Senate Appropriations subcommittee markup hearing – Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee markup hearing on Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations bill Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 124, Washington, DC
<http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

2:00 PM State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee markup hearing on Fiscal Year 2018 appropriations bill Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 124, Washington, DC <http://appropriations.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateApprops>

US House: 10:00 AM POSTPONED: House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on the future of FEMA – POSTPONED: Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications Subcommittee hearing on 'The Future of FEMA: The Administrator's Perspective' Location: CVC 210, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources subcommittee legislative hearing – Energy and Mineral Resources Subcommittee legislative hearing on 'H.R. 2661, State Mineral Revenue Protection Act', 'H.R. 2907, Planning for American Energy Act', and 'H.R. 3565, Federal Land Freedom Act', with testimony from Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association Vice President of Regulatory Affairs A.J. Ferate; Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission Executive Director Mike Smith; Petroleum Association of Wyoming Vice Chairman Paul Ulrich; University of Utah S.J. Quinney College of Law Associate Professor John Ruple Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Ways and Means subcommittee hearing on challenges facing the SSA over disability benefits – Social Security Subcommittee hearing on 'Determining Eligibility for Disability Benefits: Challenges Facing the Social Security Administration' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2020, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

10:00 AM House Science subcommittees joint hearing on EPA's IRIS Program – Environment Subcommittee and Oversight Subcommittee joint hearing on 'Examining the

Scientific and Operational Integrity of EPA's IRIS Program', with testimony from Ramboll Environ principal Dr Kenneth Mundt; Exponent senior managing scientist Dr James Bus; and Johns Hopkins University's Dr Thomas Burke Location: Rm 2318, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://science.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseScience>

10:00 AM House Energy Committee hearing on the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act – Hearing on 'Powering America: Reevaluating PURPA's Objectives and its Effects on Today's Consumers', with testimony from Kent County, MI, Department of Public Works Director Darwin Baas; Solar Energy Industries Association counsel Todd Glass; Alliant Energy Vice President for Iowa Operations Terry Kouba; Xcel Energy Vice President for Policy and Federal Affairs Frank Prager; Idaho Public Utilities Commission Commissioner Kristine Raper; and Domtar Paper Company Senior Manager for Energy Contracts Stephen Thomas Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM Hearing on 'The Sharing Economy: Creating Opportunities for Innovation and Flexibility' Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:15 AM Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee hearing on 'EPA Oversight: Unimplemented Inspector General and GAO Recommendations' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2322, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

11:00 AM House Small Business Committee hearing on streamlining federal permitting – Hearing on 'Expediting Economic Growth: How Streamlining Federal Permitting Can Cut Red Tape for Small Businesses', with testimony from Covington & Burling Senior Counsel Philip Howard; Springfield Underground President Louis Griesemer (on behalf of National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association); Missoula Electric Cooperative General Manager Mark Hayden; and U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce CEO Margot Dorfman Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

2:00 PM House Ways and Means subcommittee hearing on declining employment among working-age men – Human Resources Subcommittee hearing on 'Missing from the Labor Force: Examining Declining Employment among Working-Age Men' Location: Rm 1100, Longworth House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

2:00 PM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on combating the financing of small terrorist attacks – Terrorism and Illicit Finance Subcommittee hearing on 'Low Cost, High Impact: Combating the Financing of Lone-Wolf and Small-Scale Terrorist Attacks', with testimony from The Washington Institute for Near East Policy Stein Program on Counterterrorism and Intelligence Director Dr Matthew Levitt; Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft partner Joseph Moreno; George Washington University Program on Extremism Deputy Director Seamus Hughes; and Barclays Global Head of Financial Crime Frederick Reynolds Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

Other: 9:00 AM CSIS discussion on 'How to Organize Military Space' – 'How to Organize Military Space' Center for Strategic and International Studies Aerospace Security Project symposium, exploring 'how military space enterprise should be organized with the increasing importance of space as a warfighting domain'. Speakers include Republican Rep. Mike Rogers, Lockheed Martin Space Security Vice President Marc Berkowitz, former Secretary of the Air Force Deborah Lee James, former U.S. Strategic Command and U.S. Air Force Space Command Commander Gen. (Ret.) C. Robert Kehler, and Senate Committee on Armed Services Professional Staff Member Daniel Lerner Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

12:00 PM House votes on Hurricane Harvey relief funding package – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda including consideration of 'H.R. X – Making supplemental appropriations for disaster relief requirements for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2017' – funding to deliver relief in the wake of the impacts of Hurricane Harvey on Texas and nearby states – under suspension of the rules * Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin has said he and President Donald Trump believe that Congress should combine any vote on a \$7.9 billion disaster relief package with a vote on extending the debt limit – having previously said that the nation would exhaust emergency borrowing measures around 29 Sep (with the statutory borrowing limit having been reached in March), Secretary Mnuchin recently said the costs of Hurricane Harvey have brought that deadline forward and that funding rebuilding could be difficult without extending the limit. The House relief package, however, is a

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "I hope you had a good Labor Day. In case you don't know history, Labor Day was established all the way back in 1894 as a way to give Americans an extra day to dread going back to work after the weekend. And it's been very successful. ... When we left, we were busy reliving the Civil War. Now we're back with the good old-fashioned Korean War."

Jimmy Kimmel: "It seems like [President Trump's] main agenda is just to undo everything Obama did. I hope he doesn't bring Bin Laden back to life."

Jimmy Kimmel: "The President's spokesperson said it was a difficult decision, the President's been debating it for months, but ultimately Donald Trump believes that if these kids want to be American, they have to do it the right way, by marrying Donald Trump."

Stephen Colbert: "According to reporters on the scene, 'the President didn't meet a single storm victim, see an inch of rain, or get near a flooded street.' It was surprising. He's been closer to a flood in a Russian hotel room."

James Corden: "This morning, Donald Trump decided to end DACA, a program that protects young undocumented immigrants from being deported. So, now, this means a lot of immigrants may get sent back to their native countries. When she heard this, Melania said, 'I volunteer as tribute.'"

James Corden: "The immigrants who have benefited from DACA are called dreamers. [Attorney General Jeff] Sessions explained that the kids will still be 'dreamers,' but more of a 'Nightmare On Elm Street' sort of way."

James Corden: "'Not my bride.' Of course, Putin and Trump aren't married. Trump would never marry someone who is only seven years younger than him."

Trevor Noah: [Referring to Attorney General Jeff Sessions' announcement of DACA repeal] "Very smart, President Trump. How do you soften the blow when telling the kids the bad news? You get one of Santa's elves to do it. Nicely played."

Trevor Noah: "Even the big tech companies are strongly against sending these kids back to their birth countries. I'm telling you this, if Amazon says you can't return something, then you know you're doing something wrong."

Trevor Noah: "You know, if you really love someone, putting their fate in the hands of Congress is a pretty weird way to show it. I wouldn't even trust Congress to water my plants while I'm away. Mitch McConnell would be giving excuses, like, 'We intended to water the plants, but the plant watering initiative included 'Planned Parenthood,' so we had to let it die.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "It was announced today that President Trump is ending the DACA program, and may deport immigrants who came to the US decades ago. Many people are outraged, while Melania was like, 'Well, rules are rules. So, see ya. Take care.'"

Jimmy Fallon: "But first, Trump wants the end the DACA program, but only after a six-month delay. You know, because by then, it will be President Pence's problem."

Jimmy Fallon: "In fact, President Obama called Trump's decision to end DACA wrong and cruel, but if Obama really wants to save DACA, he should say he hates it. Then Trump will say, 'In that case, I love it.'"

Seth Meyers: "Former President Obama today criticized President Trump's decision to end the DACA program. Of course, the only reason Trump wants to end it is because he thinks DACA is

Obama's middle name."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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DOI In The News

Zinke Directs More Aggressive Approach To Prevent Wildfires.

The [AP](#) (9/12, Daly) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Tuesday "directed all land managers and park superintendents to be more aggressive in cutting down small trees and underbrush to prevent wildfires as the smoke-choked West faces one of the worst fire seasons in a decade." In a memo, Zinke said the Trump Administration will "take a new approach and work proactively to prevent fires 'through aggressive and scientific fuels reduction management' to save lives, homes and wildlife habitat." According to the article, "Zinke's memo did not call for new spending, but he said federal officials 'must be innovative' and use all tools available to prevent and fight fires."

The [Washington Times](#) (9/12, Richardson) reports that Zinke in a statement, "This Administration will take a serious turn from the past and will proactively work to prevent forest fires through aggressive and scientific fuels reduction management to save lives, homes, and wildlife habitat." The move was welcomed by "Western Republicans frustrated with the 'let it burn' approach." They said "Zinke's more aggressive directive on forest management was long overdue."

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by the [Washington Post](#) (9/12, Daly), the [Brownsville \(TX\) Herald](#) (9/12, Daly), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (9/5, Daly), the [New Canaan \(CT\) News](#) (9/12, Daly), the [New Haven \(CT\) Register](#) (9/12, Daly), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (9/12, Daly), the [Washington Times](#) (9/12, Daly), the [Daily Mail](#) (9/12, Daly), the [Japan Times](#) (9/12), and [KHO-TV Spokane \(WA\)](#) Spokane, WA (9/12).

Additional coverage was provided by the [Deseret \(UT\) News](#) (9/12, O'Donoghue).

FEMA Approves Grants To Help With Strawberry Fire. The [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (9/12) reports Montana Sen. Jon Tester (D) and Gov. Steve Bullock said Tuesday that "the Strawberry Fire in northcentral Montana has been approved to receive disaster aid" from a Fire Management Assistance Grant that "makes FEMA funding available to pay 75 percent of the state's eligible firefighting costs." The Tribune notes that "Bullock met with FEMA Administrator Brock Long last week to ask that grant requests be expedited and approved and to help Montanans impacted by the fires."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/12, Etehad) provides in-depth coverage of the wildfires.

Interior's 'Unusual' Transfer Of Senior Executives Spurs Official Probe.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/12, Davidson) reports that "in response to a request from eight Democrats on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee," the Interior Department's Office of Inspector General "is examining the extraordinary and politically suspect reassignment of dozens of Senior Executive Service (SES) members." The Democrats' request came "after one Interior senior executive, Joel Clement, wrote a Washington Post article that said he was reassigned and 'retaliated against for speaking out publicly about the dangers that climate change poses to Alaska Native communities.'" On Monday, Sen. Maria Cantwell, one the

Democrats seeking probe “welcomed the review, saying ‘there are serious questions that need to be answered about the treatment of public servants who have dedicated their careers to the Department of the Interior.’”

Survey: Wildlife Activities Big Business.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Business Times](#) (9/12) reports that the Interior Department “released the preliminary results of the latest Fish and Wildlife Service survey tracking participation and spending in wildlife-related activities. The agency has conducted the survey nearly every five years since 1955.” The survey said that “Americans spent more than \$150 billion participating in fishing, hunting and other wildlife-related activities in 2016.” For 2016, the survey “found 101.6 million Americans – about 40 percent of the population aged 16 years and older – participated in wildlife-related activities.”

Sally Jewell Defends Interior Department Legacy.

In an interview with the [High Country \(CO\) News](#) (9/12, Calvert), former Interior Secretary Sally Jewell defended the policies of the Obama Administration, which included undertaking “a ‘forward-looking reform agenda,’ emphasizing science-based land and water conservation, renewable energy development on public land, and better relations with Native American tribal nations.” Among the achievements that Jewell touted were building “a strong nation-to-nation relationship with Indian Country across the board” and “engaging the next generation broadly” on public land issues.

No, President Trump, National Monuments Are Not A ‘Land Grab’.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (9/12, McGinty), Katie McGinty, the former chairwoman of the White House Council on Environmental Quality, disputes the characterization of recent national monument designations as a “federal land grab” by the Trump Administration. McGinty points out that “national monument designations can only be had for properties already part of federal landholdings.” She also notes that “any use allowed on the property before a designation – like grazing and logging for example – is retained.”

Want To Put ‘America First’?

Protect Our Public Lands For The Millions Of Americans Who Rely On Them. In an op-ed for the [Independent Journal Review](#) (9/12, Barron), Chris Barron, President of Right Turn Strategies and the former organizer of LGBT for Trump, writes that “in the coming battles over the future of our public lands, President Trump should listen to those around him who both understand the importance of our heritage and who share the President’s America First agenda.” One person is his son Donald Trump, Jr., who has asserted, “We have to keep public lands public.” Barron concludes that “instead of bowing to the will of those who oppose his vision and worked against his election, President Trump should continue to listen to the voices of outdoorsmen like Don Jr. and protect public lands for the tens of millions of working class Americans who rely on them.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Ongoing Problems Land Tribal Oversight Agencies On GAO ‘High-risk’ List.

[Cronkite News](#) (9/12, Clair) reports that “federal agencies that oversee tribal schools, lands and health care still suffer from weak leadership, a lack of oversight and mismanaged resources, despite nearly a decade of prodding from the Government Accountability Office.” The article says “that lack of progress landed the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Indian Education and Indian Health Services on the GAO’s ‘high-risk list’ earlier this year, and will be the focus of a Senate hearing Wednesday on the agencies’ ongoing shortcomings.” The article notes that “a lack of sufficient funding is one area out of the control of the agencies that was cited by the GAO, which also said ‘sustained congressional attention’ to the agencies would help bring about change.” However, “other problems – including a lack of leadership and cumbersome bureaucracy that has stifled tribal economic development – were laid directly at the feet of the agencies.”

New Agreement With Feds Sparks Nooksack Election: ‘We’ve Got A Lot Riding On This’.

The [Seattle Times](#) (9/12, Shapiro) reports that “the Nooksack tribe may finally be on the verge of solving a long-running, disenrollment dispute that sparked lawsuits, a showdown with the federal government and an order to close the tribe’s last remaining casino.” According to the article, “a

memorandum of agreement between Nooksack Chairman Bob Kelly and Michael Black, the U.S. Department of the Interior's acting assistant secretary for Indian affairs, calls for temporarily restoring the tribe's federal funding and a special election Dec. 2 for four council seats." The agreement "paved the way for the reopening, over the weekend, of the Northwood Casino in Lynden."

Feds Allow Nooksack Tribe To Reopen Northwood Casino. The [AP](#) (9/12) reports that "the Nooksack Tribe has reopened its casino north of Bellingham." The Nooksack Northwood Casino "reopened Saturday with limited operations after a June closure ordered by the National Indian Gaming Commission." A commission spokeswoman "said Monday the tribal chairman and the commission had reached a settlement, but details weren't immediately available."

US Judge Cites Tribal Sovereignty In Dismissing Coal Lawsuit.

The [AP](#) (9/12, Bryan) reports that "a U.S. district judge cited tribal sovereignty in dismissing a lawsuit aimed at shutting down a coal-fired power plant and adjacent mine near the Arizona-New Mexico border." The lawsuit by environmental groups was "targeting the 2015 approval by the U.S. government of a lease extension for the Navajo Mine and the Four Corners Power Plant." The groups claimed that the Interior Department and other agencies "did not consider clean-energy alternatives or possible effects on endangered species in the region when they approved the 25-year extension." In the order issued Monday, Judge Steven Logan of Phoenix "tossed the case since the mine is owned by a corporation created by the Navajo Nation, which makes it immune from such legal challenges." Logan "said the case could not move forward without the mine as a defendant."

Bureau Of Indian Education

Education Secretary Betsy DeVos Tells Casper Audience That Country 'Must' Rethink Schools.

The [Casper \(WY\) Star-Tribune](#) (9/12, Klamann) reports that Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, speaking Tuesday in Casper, Wyoming as she kicked off a six-state "Rethink Schools" back-to-school tour, praised local school choice policies "while urging nationwide educators to move away from what she called an outdated model for educating students." The paper quotes DeVos saying, "It's time to rethink schools. For far too many kids, this year's first day back to school looks and feels a lot like last year's first day back to school. And the year before that, and the generation before that, and the generation before that."

[U.S. News & World Report](#) (9/12, Camera) reports that DeVos "slammed the established 'education system' Tuesday," saying the tour's purpose is to "highlight innovative ways educators are meeting the needs of students in K-12 and higher education." DeVos will travel to Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, and Indiana, visiting "a variety of schools, including traditional and charter public schools, religious and other private schools, home school cooperatives, traditional four-year colleges and universities, as well as community colleges and other career-focused certification programs." This piece reports that Woods Learning Center uses "a 'teacher-powered' model that does not employ a principal. Students enrolled in the school move through lessons at their own pace using a competency-based learning model."

The [Billings \(MT\) Gazette](#) (9/12, Hoffman) reports that DeVos' second stop of the day was at St. Stephens Indian School in Arapahoe, Wyoming. Superintendent Frank No Runner told DeVos that "students still carry historical trauma from the boarding school era and other abuses," but stressed that "that's not an excuse for low student achievement." DeVos "made no sweeping statements about the schools or...policies," but "consistently praised mentions of parent and student involvement in school planning."

Additional coverage was provided by [Politico Morning Education](#) (9/12, Leonor).

Bureau Of Land Management

Tri-County Fire Safe To Expand Fuel Reduction Work With New Federal Grant.

[KTVH-TV](#) Helena, MT (9/12, Ambarian) reports that the nonprofit Tri-County Fire Safe Working Group will be "able to help more homeowners in Lewis and Clark, Broadwater and Jefferson Counties protect themselves from wildfires, thanks to an additional federal grant." The group has received \$50,000 from the Bureau of Land Management. The award "comes after the group got a

larger grant from the BLM earlier this year.”

Chaco Canyon Needs Protection.

In an editorial, the [Santa Fe New Mexican](#) (9/12) warns that leasing land near Chaco Culture National Historical Park “could have devastating consequences for New Mexico’s cultural treasures.” The paper asserts that “until it is better understood what drilling for oil and gas — including the use of the fracking process — might do to the irreplaceable archaeology of Chaco Canyon, these leases should not go forward.” It concludes that if the Trump Administration “does not agree, then tribes, activists and all concerned people will have to fight this.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

Bureau Of Reclamation Seeks Help With Colorado River Data Flow.

[FedScoop](#) (9/12, Chappellet-Lanier) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation “would like to better handle the streams of data that describe and support the Colorado River Basin, so the bureau and its partners have taken to Challenge.gov to search for innovative data visualization solutions.” Participants in the “Colorado River Basin Data Visualization Challenge” should take historical, current and projected data on weather, climate conditions, streamflows and more and then develop data visualization approaches that will “improve data exploration, analysis, interpretation, and communication.” The agency is “laying \$60,000 on the line for the competition — individual awards will range from \$5,000 to \$20,000 for successful solutions, the Bureau said.”

Watchdog Group Blasts U.S. Bureau Of Reclamation.

The [Central Valley \(CA\) Business Times](#) (9/11, Reclamation) reports that “three recent federal investigations have found the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation misspending more than \$100 million in funds but the agency has not committed to significant reforms nor to punishing any responsible officials, charges the environmental watchdog organization Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility.” PEER Senior Counsel Paula Dinerstein said, “At Reclamation, even massive misappropriation means never having to say you are sorry. Reclamation’s posture of denying wrongdoing but promising not to do it again merely suggests it will seek out other shady ruses rather than genuinely reform its grant process.” The group has “been pressing both Reclamation’s parent agency, the Department of Interior, as well as the U.S. Congress to step in, but so far there has been no action, it says.”

Who’s Watching Out For Taxpayers On Twin Tunnels? In an editorial, the [Chico \(CA\) Enterprise-Record](#) (9/12) calls the “audit by the federal government about the twin tunnels,” released last week, “very damning.” But the paper expects that “the state will move doggedly ahead, insisting it has done nothing wrong; Brown will assiduously avoid any questions or give any speeches about the twin tunnels; the state will reimburse the federal government with taxpayer money; the federal government will ease up because the No. 2 person in the federal Department of the Interior under Donald Trump used to work as a lobbyist at the huge Westlands Water District in the San Joaquin Valley; and LaMalfa and other politicians will back off as soon as the heat subsidies because, well, those water districts in the bottom half of the state make very nice campaign contributions.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Bills Would Remove Protections For Gray Wolf Population.

The [Detroit News](#) (9/12, Burke) reports that “a U.S. House committee is expected to vote Wednesday to advance two bills that would remove the gray wolf in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin from the federal endangered species list.” The Sportsmen Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act “in part would ‘take wolf recovery and delisting out of the hands of the courts and will return wolf management and conservation to the states, where they belong,’ said Anna M. Seidman, director of government affairs and director of litigation for the Safari Club International.” Seidman testified at a Tuesday hearing before the Federal Lands Subcommittee of the House Natural Resources Committee hearing on the bill.

The [Detroit Free Press](#) (9/12, Spangler) reports that during the hearing, “Democrats voiced deep concerns about other portions of the legislation, including measures that would make it easier for people to buy firearm silencers and put more of a legal and financial burden on law

enforcement when stopping a vehicle suspected of potentially transporting a firearm across state lines." According to the article, "with so much before Congress between now and the end of the year, it could be caught in a logjam and Democratic members of the U.S. House, while outnumbered with Republicans in the majority, will likely try to do all they can to slow it, especially because of the firearm portions of the bill."

Wildlife Managers Seek To Regain Authority To Kill Problem Cormorants.

The [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (9/13, Kennedy) reports that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is "about to take its first major step to regain the authority to kill problematic cormorants via depredation permits, a move that could reopen site-specific shooting of the aquatic birds in Minnesota and other Great Lakes states by next spring." Tom Cooper, regional chief of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Migratory Bird Program in Bloomington, "said the agency will publish a draft environmental assessment within weeks for a plan that would provide more accountability and a new, big-picture look at cormorant population effects before fish farmers, lakeshore property owners, bait suppliers and others can receive authority to kill cormorants." He "said the first step in regaining permitting authority deals with depredation related to human health and safety, damage to aquaculture, damage to private property and concern for nesting species crowded out by cormorants."

National Bison Range Roundup Postponed Amid Montana Smoke.

The [AP](#) (9/13) reports that "wildfire smoke and the danger of new fires have prompted federal wildlife managers to postpone the annual roundup at the National Bison Range." The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service "said Tuesday the roundup was scheduled for Oct. 2 and 3." No new date has been set.

Tennessee Hasn't Updated Endangered Species List In 16 Years.

The [AP](#) (9/12) reports that "an audit has found that the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency has not updated the state's endangered species list in 16 years, even though it is required to do so every two years." Comptroller Justin Wilson's office "said in the audit released Tuesday that the state is also running afoul of an agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to annually submit additions and deletions from the list of threatened species." The audit "finds that the failure to update the list since 2000 could put more species at risk of becoming extinct and could cause Tennessee to lose federal grants." According to the article, "the head of the state wildlife agency's biodiversity division was unaware of the reporting requirement until 2013, and officials are in the process of creating a new endangered species list."

Man Caught In Probe Of Lake Trout Trade On Lake Michigan.

[MLive \(MI\)](#) (9/12) reports that "a Ludington fish dealer who bought and sold Lake Michigan lake trout that was illegally harvested by a tribal fisherman has agreed to plead guilty to a felony charge of false labeling of fish." The charge is "linked to a three-year, undercover investigation by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an effort to protect the sought-after game fish whose population is maintained primarily by stocking."

It's Time To Limit Abusive, Taxpayer-Fun.

In a piece for the [Daily Caller](#) (9/12, Mooney), Kevin Mooney writes that "instead of allowing environmental groups with hundreds of millions of dollars in assets to file an endless chain of lawsuits at taxpayer expense, Congress should move decisively to end abusive practices that subtract from local conservation efforts, according to recent testimony delivered before House committees." Mooney supports "reforming both the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA)."

National Park Service

Hurricane Irma: Smoky Mountains 'Minimally' Damaged.

The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (9/12, Ahillen, Hickman) reports that "National Park Service personnel have begun assessing the damage from the hurricane and reopening roads and facilities around the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on Tuesday morning." Park spokeswoman Dana Soehn said, "Overall, the park was minimally impacted by winds and rain associated with Hurricane Irma. Crews are still clearing downed trees and limbs along Newfound

Gap Road and Clingmans Dome Road, but most lower elevation roads have reopened."

Charleston's Fort Sumter Still 3 Feet Deep In Water From Tropical Storm Irma. The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (9/12, Kropf) reports that Fort Sumter "remains filled with 3 feet of water from Tropical Storm Irma's rains and tidal surge, the National Park Service said Tuesday afternoon." According to the article, "there was some damage to the fort's docking pier and to some of the interior facilities but no artifacts appear to be harmed." Dawn H. Davis, public affairs officer for Fort Sumter National Monument and the Charles Pinckney National Historical Site, said that "it will be several days before the fort will be open to the public."

Blue Ridge Parkway Closed In NC As Irma Remnants Hit Mountains. [WNCN-TV](#) Raleigh-Durham, NC (9/12) reports that "as the remnants of Hurricane Irma hit western North Carolina many downed trees meant the closure of the Blue Ridge Parkway, officials said." The National Park Service "Tweeted several photos of trees blocking the parkway."

The Petersen House, Where Lincoln Died, Will Close For Six Months In December.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/12, Ruane) reports that "Washington's Petersen House, where Abraham Lincoln died after being shot in Ford's Theatre, will close Dec. 25 for six months of historic preservation work and upgrades, the National Park Service and the Ford's Theatre Society said Tuesday." The project will "replace the existing fire suppression system, update historic furnishings and wallpaper, and perform general preservation and maintenance, the groups said in a statement." The house is "expected to reopen in June, 2018."

Eclipse Helps Make Past Month Busiest August Ever For Yellowstone.

The [Cody \(WY\) Enterprise](#) (9/12) reports that Yellowstone National Park "had its busiest August ever, attracting 916,166 visits last month." According to the article, "the nearly 9 percent increase over the same period in 2016 was partly attributable to the solar eclipse of Aug. 21."

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (9/12).

'It's Not Over Yet'.

The [Flathead \(MT\) Beacon](#) (9/12, Franz) reports that "while many thought record-shattering visitation" at Glacier National Park "would be how history books remember 2017, it will likely be overshadowed by the fires that brought that historic season to an early end." Superintendent Jeff Mow at a packed public meeting in West Glacier last week, said, "The summer of 2017 was already a remarkable one in so many ways. It's been a long summer, and it's not over yet." According to the article, "while many in attendance at the Sept. 6 public meeting wanted to know what was next for the three major fires in the park, many also wanted to know what would happen with the remains of Sperry Chalet and what was being done to protect Lake McDonald Lodge, both beloved structures built in the 1910s." Mow "said that as soon as it's safe, the park will conduct a structural assessment on Sperry Chalet and record what is left of the National Historic Landmark." He added that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "called for a full investigation into how the chalet burned."

Feds Seek Forfeiture Of Money Seized In Yellowstone National Park.

[Yellowstone Insider](#) (9/12, Reichard) reports that "federal authorities are asking to keep over \$20,000 in money seized earlier this summer in Yellowstone National Park." The U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Wyoming "filed a civil complaint last Wednesday seeking said forfeiture." According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephanie Hambrick, "who presented the complaint, the cash should be forfeited because it was 'furnished and intended to be furnished in exchange for a controlled substance.'"

Additional coverage was provided by the [Powell \(WY\) Tribune](#) (9/12, Baker).

Carver Bust Back On Display At Monument.

The [Joplin \(MO\) Globe](#) (9/12, Kagubare) reports that a bust of George Washington Carver was reinstalled last Friday at George Washington Carver National Monument "after a two-month restoration." According to the article, "the bust's upgrade was intended to resemble the original sculpture." The project cost the park \$6,500.

MasterChef Jr. Winner Appears At Upcoming Festival.

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (9/12, Brett) reports that Family Day/Culture Festwill be held Sept. 23 at and around the Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site. National Park Service Superintendent Judy Forte said in a statement, "Visitors from across the country and the world

are invited to spend a day of fun, educational, enriching and participatory experiences." The festival is "a joint venture of the National Black Arts Festival, National Park Service, Historic District Development Corporation and Sweet Auburn Works, and sponsored by Georgia Pacific."

Windstorm Damages Buildings, Vehicles At Death Valley.

The [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (9/12, Brean) reports that "powerful wind from an isolated thunderstorm tore the roof off a historic building and caused other damage in Death Valley National Park on Monday." According to the article, "the sudden microburst struck Stovepipe Wells and the park's administrative and staff housing area at Cow Creek, blowing the windows out of four employee-owned vehicles and damaging at least six structures, including an office building dating back to the Civilian Conservation Corps era of the 1930s." The article says that "after the winds subsided, park rangers discovered the missing roof of the historic building and covered computers and office equipment inside to protect them from the rain."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/12, Tchekmedyan).

Smokejumpers Mop Up Potato Fire On Santa Cruz Island.

The [Santa Barbara \(CA\) Independent](#) (9/12, Hamm) reports that "U.S. Forest Service smokejumpers — three out of Redding and one from Alaska — are now mopping up the Potato Fire on Santa Cruz Island, inland from Potato Harbor." The article notes that "this is the first time smokejumpers have battled a fire at Channel Islands National Park, according to a statement from the National Park Service." Superintendent Russell Galipeau added, "We greatly appreciate the rapid response by the U.S. Forest Service smokejumpers to suppress this remote island fire in its early phases, especially given the many wildfires currently burning in the West."

Concessioner Selected For Boat Services At Grand Teton's Jenny Lake.

The [Oil City Wyoming](#) (9/12) reports that National Park Service Intermountain Regional Director Sue Masica "announced the selection of Jenny Lake Boating, Inc. to provide boat shuttle service, scenic interpretive boat tours, and non-motorized boat rentals at Jenny Lake in Grand Teton National Park." The new ten-year concession contract is expected to start January 1, 2018.

Chip Minemyer: Flight 93 Site's Champions Pass Baton To Future Tellers Of 'Monumental' Story.

In a piece of the [Allentown \(PA\) Morning Call](#) (9/13, Minemyer), Chip Minemyer, editor of The Tribune-Democrat in Johnstown, writes that during the anniversary activities held Monday at the Flight 93 National Memorial near Shanksville, park leaders recognized the efforts behind a "\$62 million project that will be complete when the Tower of Voices is standing near the park entrance next September." This year's activities included the "soundbreaking" on Sunday for the Tower of Voices near the park entrance on Route 30.

Office Of Insular Affairs

Dept. Of Interior Expedites Release Of \$223 Million In Advance Payments To USVI In Wake Of Irma.

The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/12) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke "announced on Friday that Interior will be expediting the rum-cover over advance payment of \$223,925,000 for estimated FY 2018 collections in the U.S. Virgin Islands." The move follows President Trump's "Thursday approval and signing of a disaster declaration for the territory, which unlocks emergency federal funding for those affected by Hurricane Irma." Zinke said, "These funds will be critical to operations in the USVI as the Governor and emergency teams work to recover from the impacts of Hurricane Irma. The people of the U.S.VI will need all the support they can get."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (9/11).

Trump To Visit U.S. Virgin Islands In Wake Of Irma; More Police, National Guard, Arrive On St. John. The [Virgin Islands Consortium \(VIR\)](#) (9/12) reports that President Donald will "visit the U.S. Virgin Islands 'within the next six or seven days,' Governor Kenneth Mapp said during a press conference at Government House late Monday." Mapp said he had a conversation with Trump, and Trump "expressed his full support for the territory in providing disaster relief, following the calamitous state Hurricane Irma left St. Thomas and St. John in."

Additional coverage was provided by the [Conde Nast Traveler](#) (9/11, Carey) and [WBUR-FM](#)

Boston (9/10, Dwyer).

On The U.S. Virgin Islands, Anger And Resentment After Irma. The [Think Progress](#) (9/12, CRUNDEN) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “applauded the White House for its efforts in the U.S. Virgin Islands specifically.” Zinke in a press release, “The Department of the Interior actions in the USVI are part of our responsibility for federal policy related to the U.S. territories. We commend the cooperative actions of the White House, USVI government, FEMA and the whole federal family to provide urgent relief to the Virgin Islands.”

More Than 2,000 Americans Evacuated From Caribbean.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/12, story 3, 1:35, Muir) reported that “more than 2,000 Americans” who were caught in the Caribbean when Hurricane Irma hit “have now made it out onto US military planes and on private cruise ships, as conditions on those islands continue to deteriorate.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/12, story 3, 3:00, Mason) reported that the Puerto Rico National Guard evacuated an estimated 300 to 400 Americans from St. Martin. CBS said that while “all the major airports in Florida have reopened...most are operating at about half the normal capacity, and there is still a huge backlog of travelers. More than 17,000 flights in the US and the Caribbean were canceled because of Irma.”

Trump: North Korea Sanctions “Nothing Compared To What Will Have To Happen.”

The [AP](#) (9/12, Pennington) reports President Trump said that the new UN sanctions on North Korea “are nothing compared to what ultimately will have to happen” to stop its nuclear program. The ban on textile exports and the crude oil import cap “fell short of Washington’s goals: a potentially crippling ban on oil imports and freezing the international assets of Kim and his government.” Trump called the sanctions “just another very small step – not a big deal.” Meanwhile, Susan Thornton, America’s top diplomat for East Asia, told the House Foreign Affairs Committee, “The success of the pressure strategy will depend on cooperation from international partners, especially Beijing.”

[Reuters](#) (9/12, Rampton, Brunnstrom) reports Trump said, “I don’t know if [the sanctions vote] has any impact.” US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley said, in Reuters’ word, the new sanctions could cost North Korea “an additional \$500 million or more in annual revenue.” She added, “If North Korea continues its dangerous path, we will continue with further pressure.”

Mnuchin Warns Of Additional Measures Against China If It Doesn’t Abide By Sanctions.

[Bloomberg News](#) (9/12, Mohsin, John) reports Treasury Secretary Mnuchin, during an event at CNBC’s Delivering Alpha conference in New York, warned that if China doesn’t follow the new UN sanctions against North Korea, “we will put additional sanctions on them and prevent them from accessing the U.S. and international dollar system – and that’s quite meaningful.” At a House Foreign Affairs Committee hearing, Chairman Ed Royce called for targeting, in Bloomberg’s words, “major Chinese banks, including Agricultural Bank of China Ltd. and China Merchants Bank Co., for aiding Kim’s regime.” Additionally, Assistant Treasury Secretary Marshall Billingslea said in prepared remarks that North Korean bank representatives “operate in Russia in flagrant disregard of the very resolutions adopted by Russia at the UN.”

The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (9/12, Johnson) reports Billingslea said, “Unfortunately, I cannot tell the committee today that we’ve seen sufficient evidence of China’s willingness to truly shutdown North Korea’s revenue flows, to expunge North Korean illicit actors from its banking system, or to expel the various North Korean middlemen and brokers who are continuing to establish webs of front companies.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/12, Talley) reports Billingslea said that recent sanctions against Chinese companies sent a “message to China,” and that China “urgently needs to take demonstrable public steps to eliminate North Korea’s trade and financial access” to avoid future measures.

[Reuters](#) (9/12, Rampton, Brunnstrom) reports that, when asked about cutting off Chinese banks from the US financial system, White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said, “All options are on the table.”

North Korea Condemns New Sanctions. The [Washington Post](#) (9/12, Lee) reports North Korea “condemned” the new UN sanctions and “doubled down on its warning that” for its role in economically pressuring the country, “the United States would ‘suffer the greatest pain’ it has ever experienced.” North Korean Ambassador Han Tae Song said Washington “fabricated the most vicious sanction resolution.”

Greg Palkot reported on [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (9/12) that as the “world is trying to head off a conflict with North Korea,” the UN Security Council on Monday approved a new set of sanctions against Kim Jong-un’s regime. Fox showed Defense Secretary Mattis saying, “These are

the most severe sanctions yet. We will see what choices the North Koreans make." According to Palkot, North Korea's "early choice" is "defiance." Fox showed Han Tae Song, North Korea's Ambassador to the UN, saying: "The DPRK is ready to use in the form of ultimate means. The first countermeasures by DPRK will make the US suffer the greatest pain it's ever experienced in its history."

From Pyongyang, Will Ripley reported on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/12) that North Korea's government is condemning the new sanctions "in the strongest possible terms, and they are threatening to redouble their efforts to develop weapons of mass destruction." Ripley said that in his 15 trips to North Korea, he hasn't seen any significant impact from previous sanctions. He said in his travels in the country, "the people who we are allowed to see" are "not starving or at least they don't appear to be." He said he's seen more cell phones, more products on store shelves, and more cars in the streets. Ripley added that the North's economy actually grew nearly four percent last year "despite this mounting economic pressure. But of course, sanctions do take a long time to kick in."

South Korea To Establish "Decapitation Unit." The [New York Times](#) (9/12, Choe) reports South Korea, seeking "to keep the North on edge and nervous about the consequences of further developing its nuclear arsenal," is establishing a brigade-size special forces "decapitation unit," the Spartan 3000, to target the North's leadership. The publicly announced move is part of an effort to deter Kim Jong-un from hostilities. Additionally, "the South's increasingly aggressive posture is meant to help push North Korea into accepting President Moon Jae-in's offer of talks." However, such a measure can be used preemptively and raise questions about whether South Korea and the United States "are laying the groundwork to kill or incapacitate Mr. Kim and his top aides before they can even order an attack." Additionally, "many say they doubt that the threat is enough to deter Mr. Kim" and that only possible "nuclear retaliation will suffice."

US, South Korea Conducting Live Fire Exercise. Meanwhile, on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/12), Greg Palkot reported that the US and South Korea are "prepar[ing] for the military option" against North Korea, with US marines joining South Korean forces in a live fire exercise. Palkot said the marines he spoke with "told us these exercises are purely defensive in nature." Palkot said that while those marines "don't pay much attention to the offense of words and actions of North Korea, many US officials do, no doubt a reason why the marines are out there."

Commonwealth Supports Universal Health Coverage For Pacific Islands.

[Matangi Tonga](#) (9/12) reports that "an agreement to achieve universal health coverage and address non-communicable diseases in the Pacific region was signed by the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Pacific Community (SPC) on 8 September in Apia, Samoa." The Memorandum of Understanding "means both parties will work together using their resources and networks for health protection and promotion in the region."

Pacific Leadership Focussed On Improving Lives Of Islanders.

[Radio New Zealand](#) (9/11) reports that New Zealand's Foreign Minister Gerry Brownlee "says Pacific leaders are determined to develop the economic potential of each of their island countries." Brownlee "made this comment after attending the Pacific Islands Forum leaders summit in Apia, where he was standing in for New Zealand's prime minister Bill English." Brownlee said "that the Pacific Islands' leadership is well focussed on interacting with other countries to improve living standards for their own people."

US Geological Survey

Tribes Plan Protest To Change Yellowstone Valley, Peak Names.

The [AP](#) (9/12, Gruver) reports that "two tribes plan to demonstrate in favor of renaming a valley and a mountain in Yellowstone National Park, places they say are associated with one man who advocated slaughter of Native Americans and another who carried it out." Leaders of the Blackfoot Confederacy and Great Sioux Nation will "gather Saturday at Yellowstone's North Entrance near Gardiner, Montana, tribal officials said Tuesday." The tribes aim "to change the name of Hayden Valley, a subalpine valley just north of Yellowstone Lake, to Buffalo Nations Valley." They also seek "to change the name of Mount Doane, a 10,550-foot (3,216-meter) peak five miles east of the lake, to First People's Mountain." The U.S. Geological Survey's Board on Geographic Names has "received several emails on the issue but no official proposal to change the names of Hayden Valley or Doane Mountain, Geological Survey officials said."

Additional Reading.

- *Scientists Say Damage To Florida's Coral Reef Has Made The State More Vulnerable To Storm Surges.* [Washington Post](#) (9/12, Harvey)
- *Using Data Analytics To Make Chicago's Beach Water Safer.* [Government Technology](#) (9/12, Thornton)
- *'Yikes, This Is Bad Press': Internal Emails Show Federal Employees Asking Why A Climate Scientist's Meeting With Mark Zuckerberg Was Canceled.* [Motherboard](#) (9/12, Emerson)
- *For Charleston, Chainsaws, Muck And Mosquitoes Come With The Sun In Irma's Aftermath.* The [Charleston \(SC\) Post and Courier](#) (9/12, Smith)
- *Farmers, Beekeepers Put Aside Differences To Aid Bees.* [Salem \(OR\) Capital Press](#) (9/12, Gunderson)
- *32 Animal Conservationists Nominated For 2018 Indianapolis Prize.* [WXIN-TV](#) Indianapolis (9/12)
- *Small Earthquake Recorded In NW Oklahoma.* [KWTW-TV](#) Oklahoma City (9/12)

Top National News

Trump To Travel To Florida Thursday To Survey Hurricane Damage.

[USA Today](#) (9/12, Jackson) reports the White House announced that President Trump will travel to Florida on Thursday to survey the damage from Hurricane Irma. Press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters, "The president and the entire administration continue to monitor the situation in Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Florida, Texas and all areas affected by Hurricanes Irma and Harvey." She also said that "details of the trip – including the exact location – are still being worked out." [The Hill](#) (9/12, Fabian), however, reports that the FAA "posted a travel advisory Tuesday that covers Fort Myers, on Florida's west coast," which "typically issued before the president travels to a destination in the US."

Jim Acosta said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/12), "We're hearing through our sources that it appears at this point that [the President] will be in the Ft. Myers area, that part of southwest Florida that was so hard hit. ... This will obviously be another test for the President when he arrives on the ground down there."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/12, lead story, 3:10, Holt) and the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/12, lead story, 2:50, Mason) both briefly mentioned the President's trip in their lead stories, and [Reuters](#) (9/12) also reports briefly on the announcement by Sanders. The White House also tells [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/12, story 4, 2:40, Holt) that the President "is looking into possibility, down the line, of making a trip [to the US Virgin Islands], but at a time when it won't imperil those relief efforts." The [New York Post](#) (9/12, Rachman, Fears) reports Virgin Islands Gov. Kenneth Mapp "said late Monday night" that Trump is planning to visit "within the next six or seven days." On its front page, the [Washington Post](#) (9/12, A1, Faiola) likewise reports on Mapp said in a telephone interview that "Trump...called him Monday and was due to survey the Virgin Islands damage this week. He would find, the governor said, an efficient response."

The [Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#) (9/12, Dupree) notes that "this would be the second trip in recent weeks to an area hit hard by a tropical system; Mr. Trump made two trips to the Gulf Coast, stopping in Texas and Louisiana, to get a look at damage and recovery efforts after Hurricane Harvey."

The [New York Post](#) (9/12, Perez) similarly notes that the President, joined by First Lady Melania Trump, made two visits to Texas last month following Hurricane Harvey. "My concern continues for all impacted by the hurricanes," the first lady tweeted Tuesday. "Will fly to #Florida on Thursday w @potus to survey the damages from #HurricaneIrma." [Politico](#) (9/12, Nelson) reports that shortly after Sanders' announcement, Stephanie Grisham, a spokeswoman for Melania Trump, tweeted, "@flotus will travel to #Florida w POTUS on Thurs to survey aftermath of #HurricaneIrma."

Administration Earns "Bipartisan Praise." The [Washington Post](#) (9/12, Nakamura) reports that "facing off against a pair of historic storms," the Trump Administration "has earned bipartisan praise for coordinating the federal response with state and local officials, avoiding the type of catastrophe that marked the Bush administration's response to Katrina." While the pair of storms "wreaked widespread destruction that will take years and billions of dollars to recover from," the Post says that "for a Trump administration whose first eight months has been marked by internecine squabbles and a lack of legislative accomplishments, the initial competence in

managing the storms represented a relief — and a rare chance to take credit.” Overall, “emergency management veterans said, Trump and his team deserve acknowledgment for getting through the first phase of the crisis in a way that inspired public confidence.”

Virgin Islands Delegate Stacey Plaskett said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/12) that Irma “hit us almost direct impact while it was a Category 5. ... So St. Thomas and St. John have been tremendously affected by it. ... But I have to say we’ve had great support from FEMA, from the Department of Defense. Our governor has been working very closely with the federal government, along with our local emergency management agencies, first to prepare for this and now in the aftermath.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/12, story 4, 2:40, Holt) reported that a Coast Guard cutter loaded up with supplies traveled to St. Thomas on Tuesday. Also on board, TSA officers “with the critical goal of getting airport back up and running.”

Without mentioning the Trump Administration, the [New York Times](#) (9/12, A1, Fausset) reports on its front page that Hurricanes Harvey and Irma “may have revealed a largely unnoticed truth often buried under the news of unfolding tragedy: The United States appears to be improving in the way it responds to hurricanes, at a time when climate scientists say the threats from such storms, fueled by warming oceans, are growing only more dire.” The Times says the 9/11 attacks “revolutionized the way American government coordinated disaster response,” and Hurricane Katrina “stimulated a new and robust conversation about the power of natural disasters, and, more specifically, forced Americans to rethink the growing threats from floodwater.”

Politico Analysis: Democrats Refrain From Using Storms To Criticize Trump's Climate Policies. [Politico](#) (9/12, Holden, Schor) reports Hurricanes Harvey and Irma have “handed Democrats their most potent opportunity in half a decade to hammer Republicans on climate change – with the massive storms giving tens of millions of Americans an up-front glimpse of the types of devastation the world faces if the warming planet spawns a surge in extreme weather. But instead, they’re mostly keeping quiet.” For now, Democrats “appear to be heeding the warnings of Trump appointees” like EPA Administrator Pruitt, who said last week that it’s “very, very insensitive to the people in Florida” to talk about climate change now. Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), “said he doesn’t view the immediate aftermath of Harvey and Irma as heightening the sense of urgency to talk about global warming.”

WPost Analysis: Trump's Praise Of Coast Guard Gives Service "Much-Needed" Boost. The [Washington Post](#) (9/12, Horton) reports that on Sunday, President Trump “singled out the Coast Guard for its suddenly high profile amid dueling catastrophic hurricanes, first during Harvey in Texas and now its early work providing assistance in the Florida region” in the wake of Hurricane Irma. The Post says Trump’s “praise for the Coast Guard is a much-needed confidence boost for the service, which was roiled by early Trump administration proposals to cut \$1.3 billion from its budget to help pay for the planned wall on the US-Mexico border.”

[USA Today](#) (9/12, Moniuszko), however, reports that during Late Night on Monday, host Seth Meyers “didn’t hold back while making fun of President Trump’s comments on the storm,” which praised the Coast Guard’s “branding.” “You’d think applauding the bravery of emergency responders like the Coast Guard would be one of the easiest things a president could do – but even that, it seems, is too much to ask of Donald Trump,” Myers said. “Branding? The Coast Guard doesn’t need to improve their brand, they’re the Coast Guard. They’re not Arby’s.”

Daily Caller Analysis: Telethon Gets "Political." In a report that was the lead story on Drudge Report Tuesday night, the [Daily Caller](#) (9/12) reports Stevie Wonder kicked off Tuesday’s “Hand In Hand” telethon to raise money for hurricane recovery “by getting political.” Wonder started the telethon, which was broadcast on every major network, by saying, “Anyone who believes that there’s no such thing as global warming must be blind or unintelligent.”

GOP Senators To Introduce “Last-Ditch” ACA Repeal Measure Wednesday.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/12, Ferrechio) reports that Sens. Lindsey Graham, Bill Cassidy, Dean Heller, and Ron Johnson “will introduce legislation Wednesday that would provide the Senate with a last-ditch opportunity to repeal and replace Obamacare before a Sept. 30 deadline.” The measure “would provide the \$1.2 trillion for Obamacare’s Medicaid expansion and tax credits to states in an attempt to get the states to develop their own healthcare programs.”

However, [Politico](#) (9/12, Everett, Haberkorn) describes Republicans as “paralyzed” over how to deal with healthcare, as they are “caught between a bipartisan effort to shore up Obamacare and the opportunity to take one last swing at their years-long promise to repeal the law.” While Graham, Cassidy, Heller and Johnson are “making a last gasp effort to repeal some of the law

and replace it with a block grant program to the states,” Sen. Lamar Alexander is trying to work with Sen. Patty Murray “on a bill to shore up the insurance markets, but the two health committee leaders are already at odds over including looser regulations with the package.” Senate Majority Leader McConnell on Tuesday “refused to rule out votes on either a repeal or a fix of Obamacare, wary of picking sides among his caucus and aware that both proposals divide the Senate GOP.”

Short: Trump May Not Tie Fate Of DREAMers To Wall Funding.

In what [Reuters](#) (9/12, Oliphant, Cowan) describes as “the latest signal that the Republican president wants to see if he can engage Democrats as well as Republicans in trying to enact his agenda,” White House legislative director Marc Short told reporters at Christian Science Monitor [breakfast](#) Tuesday that President Trump “will not necessarily insist on including funding for a border wall with Mexico in legislation to address” the DACA program. Short said that while the President is still committed to his campaign promise to build the wall, “whether or not that is specifically part of a DACA package or a different legislative package, I am not going to prejudge here today. ... I don’t want to bind ourselves into a construct that makes reaching a conclusion on DACA impossible.” The [Washington Times](#) (9/12, Dinan) says Short “said the president is not backing off his determination to see barriers erected along the US-Mexico line, but said where that pops up in the legislative process remains to be seen.”

[USA Today](#) (9/12, Przybyla) says the White House “appears to be clearing the way for a deal on protecting DREAMers, a move which could have bipartisan backing in Congress.” Senate Minority Leader Schumer “said it’s a ‘very, very good thing and good progress’ if Trump separates wall funding and DACA.”

To [Breitbart](#) (9/12, Munro), Short “appeared to trade a quick DACA amnesty in exchange for a pro-business tax break – not a border wall or the wage-boosting, merit immigration RAISE Act – by declaring there is a ‘new season of bipartisanship’ after Trump reached out to Democrats following his decision to end Obama’s amnesty.”

[Politico](#) (9/12, Kim, Restuccia) says the President is “sending public and private signals that he is ready to deal on legislation protecting young undocumented immigrants and won’t demand funding for a border wall.” In addition to Short’s comments, House Minority Leader Pelosi said Tuesday that “Trump told her in private that he would sign the Dream Act – a bill that would provide a path to permanent legal status for so-called Dreamers – and that he wants ‘some border security.’” According to Pelosi, she and Schumer “pressed Trump on protection for Dreamers during the Oval Office meeting last week.” Said Pelosi, “‘You pass it, I’ll sign it, I want some border stuff.’ That’s what he said. ... We always want border stuff, so that’s not a problem. Especially with all the technologies.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/12, Mascaro, Bennett) reports that Pelosi said Democrats are seeking a vote on such legislation “as soon as this month.”

Meanwhile, the [New York Times](#) (9/12, Alcindor) reports that while Republicans promised “quick work to shield young, undocumented immigrants from President Trump’s decision to end their federal protections, lawmakers have tied themselves in knots trying to figure out how to proceed – with only six months to find a way forward.” Rep. Mike Coffman “pulled back a petition he had initiated to force the House to take up legislation to protect so-called Dreamers,” a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on the matter “was canceled this week,” and House Judiciary Committee Chairman Rep. Bob Goodlatte “said he would not move on any such legislation before he addressed criminal alien gangs and border security.”

Author: Many Claims About DREAMers Are “PR-Style Hooey.” In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (9/12), author Mickey Kaus argues that “a lot of what’s said about the dreamers is PR-style hooey.” While many were, as former President Obama said, “brought to this country by their parents,” the only requirement to “qualify as a protected dreamer under the various plans,” is that one must “have entered the country illegally before age 16.” Moreover, the claim that “dreamers are college-bound high school grads or military personnel” is “an exaggeration,” as the only requirement “is that the dreamer enroll in a high school course or an ‘alternative,’ including online courses and English-as-a-second-language classes.” Kaus adds that “dreamers are not especially highly skilled” and “their median hourly wage is only \$15.34, meaning that many are competing with hard-pressed lower-skilled Americans.”

DHS Grants Waiver To Allow Replacement Of Border Fencing In California. The [Washington Times](#) (9/12, Dinan) reports that DHS on Tuesday issued a new waiver allowing the Administration “to breach environmental laws to replace border fencing in southern California – though officials said they still intend to try to comply with as much of the law as possible.” The move “will help Customs and Border Protection (CBP) replace several miles of fencing near the Calexico port of entry.” DHS said in a statement, “While the waiver eliminates DHS’s obligation to

comply with various laws with respect to covered projects, the Department remains committed to environmental stewardship with respect to these projects."

Ryan Told Private Dinner Only One Member Wants Border Wall. [Breitbart](#) (9/12, Mason) reports in an exclusive that House Speaker Ryan told a private dinner earlier this year that "he thought only 'one member' wanted to build a wall across the entire US-Mexico border," according to "multiple sources with direct knowledge of the comments," including former Rep. Tom Tancredo. Tancredo told Breitbart, "Ryan told a group of Republicans he met with...that only one person wants a wall. ... Of course he means only one person in his entourage and of the leadership. ... I know several people in Congress who want a wall and I know that there are millions of Americans who want a wall."

Media Analyses: Trump Seeking Deal With Democrats On Taxes.

The [Washington Times](#) (9/12, Miller) reports "President Trump is ready to" work with Democrats on tax reform, starting by hosting Democratic Sens. Heidi Heitkamp, Joe Donnelly, and Joe Manchin at a White House dinner. White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said that the belief that Americans should have lower taxes "is a common goal that a lot of people want to come together on" and has, in the Times' words, "widespread agreement on both sides of the aisle." While Democrats and Republicans are "starkly divided" on tax cuts to the wealthiest Americans, Sanders said, "The president, I think, has demonstrated both in the business world and as president that he can make deals and that certainly is what he is planning to do."

[Politico](#) (9/12, Becker, Lorenzo) reports the dinner could be Trump's "biggest step yet in reaching out to Democrats on" taxes and "a wake-up call to Republicans." Manchin, Donnelly, and Heitkamp are willing to see if they can find "common ground on issues like retirement security and stopping the offshoring of jobs" and "see little political downside" in seeking a deal – all three are seeking reelection next year "in states the president won handily." In a statement, Donnelly said he wanted to work with Trump on using tax reform to prevent companies from moving jobs offshore. Heitkamp has said tax overhaul must protect working families and retirees. Manchin said he won't support a tax overhaul that adds to the federal debt and opposes passing it using reconciliation, but "broke with his party by saying he was open to cutting taxes for the wealthy and corporations in a revamped system."

The [New York Post](#) (9/12, Schultz, Moore) casts the dinner as a continuation of Trump's "push for bipartisanship." Sen. John Thune, who was also invited to the dinner, said the White House is realizing "it's always easier to get things done if you have bipartisan cooperation."

Asked on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (9/12) about President Trump's deal with Democratic leaders, Sen. Joni Ernst said, "I don't have anxiety over that. I think tax reform is a must do. And if we are in the chair steering that conversation, I'm okay with that." Ernst added, "I don't want to see another situation where we fail to get our policies across the finish line. If it takes a couple more moderate members of the Democratic Party joining us in this effort, I'm happy to have them along."

Rep. Jim Jordan said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (9/12), "The biggest focus for me is to make sure we do not function in a revenue-neutral world," which he called "Washington speak for the tax burden stays the same, we're going to shift around who pays what. ... Under that scenario what always happens is the connected class, with all the high paid lobbyists, they get a good deal and middle class families get the shaft. So let's just lower taxes for families and let's construct a tax code that's conducive for economic growth."

Dinner Invitation May Expose Divide Among Democrats. The [St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#) (9/12, Rassch) reports that while Sens. Heidi Heitkamp, Joe Donnelly, and Joe Manchin "are getting the open-door treatment from the Trump White House," the other seven Democratic senators up for reelection in states won by President Trump last year are not, revealing "a potential divide" among Democrats that "could have a big effect on policy debates" and the 2018 mid-term elections, as "Democrats who oppose a tax-reform bill that gets Democratic votes would be ripe 2018 campaign advertising targets in states won by Trump." The Post-Dispatch focuses on Sen. Claire McCaskill, who the President has cast as one of the "'obstructionists' he said are thwarting his agenda."

Pence To Travel To Indiana To Woo Donnelly. [Politico](#) (9/12, Nussbaum) reports that, in an effort to court Democratic Sen. Joe Donnelly on tax reform, Vice President Pence will travel to Indiana twice in September and once in October to "turn up the heat on one of the most vulnerable Democrats heading into the 2018 midterms."

Divided GOP Presents Obstacles For Tax Overhaul. The [Washington Post](#) (9/12, Paletta, Sullivan, Snell) reports the White House and Republican leaders are seeking "more agreement

upfront" on a tax overhaul "rather than risk late defections that doom the entire process," in contrast to their strategy on repealing the ACA. However, the efforts "are coming up against the same obstacle that has vexed President Trump all year: divided Republican lawmakers."

Negotiators have been "forced...to consider scaling back their plan" even before presenting it to the rank and file. The White House and GOP congressional leaders haven't agreed on which tax breaks to eliminate to pay for tax cuts. While Trump advisers "are pressing to eliminate or reduce several popular tax deductions," such as interest on corporate debt, state and local income taxes, and the mortgage interest deduction, "Congressional leaders, for instance, believe the mortgage deduction is too popular to reduce, according to several officials familiar with the discussions."

GOP Urged To Create Tax Plan Helping Average Workers. Former chief of staff to Rep. Jack Kemp David M. Smick, in an op-ed in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/12), writes that the rules of reconciliation and fears of losing the votes of Republican outliers in the Senate mean that tax changes helping middle-class families have little chance of becoming long-term policy and the GOP will be tempted to seek modest changes to help corporations. However, business has done well since the financial crisis while wage earners have fared poorly, and Smick argues the GOP should seek robust tax-reform that will help middle-class families and create robust economic growth. In particular, Smick warns against allowing tax loopholes through pass throughs such as S-class corporations. Smick warns that if the GOP doesn't produce a tax plan that helps average workers, Trump may turn to Democrats to pass tax reform.

Median Household Income Up, Job Openings At Record High.

The Census Bureau said Tuesday that the median US household income increased 3.2 percent in 2016 to \$59,039, marking its second straight yearly increase "as the long-running economic recovery generated broad gains in prosperity," the [New York Times](#) (9/12, A1, Appelbaum) reports. For the American middle class, the [Washington Post](#) (9/12, Long) says, 2016 was the "highest-earning year ever." According to the Census Bureau, "the uptick in earnings occurred because so many people found full-time jobs – or better-paying jobs – last year." The Post adds that the poverty rate "also fell to 12.7 percent, the lowest since 2007, the year before the financial crisis hit." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/12, Leubsdorf) reports that the percentage of Americans lacking health insurance also declined from 9.1 percent in 2015 to 8.8 percent in 2016.

[USA Today](#) (9/12, Davidson) says the Census Bureau report "underscores that in the final two years of the Obama administration, low- and middle-income Americans made noticeable progress after struggling in the early years of the economic recovery." USA Today adds that during his 2016 campaign, President Trump argued that President Obama "had left working Americans behind" and "appealed to a base of blue-collar households with an agenda centered on tax cuts and a get-tough trade policy aimed at reclaiming manufacturing jobs." However, Trump "also has proposed cutting federal assistance for low-income households and rolling back the Affordable Care Act, which has provided health insurance to millions more Americans."

[Reuters](#) (9/12), meanwhile, reports the monthly Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey (JOLTS) released by the Labor Department Tuesday shows that job openings in the US reached a record high in July, "suggesting a slowdown in job growth in August was an aberration and that the labor market was strong before the recent disruptive hurricanes." Job openings "increased by 54,000 to a seasonally adjusted 6.2 million," their "highest level since the data series started in December 2000." The report, says Reuters, "showed the labor market continued to tighten amid a scarcity of workers."

Gallup Analyst: 80 Percent Of Americans "Satisfied" With Their Standard Of Living. The [Washington Times](#) (9/12, Harper) reports that Gallup analyst Jim Norman says that "80 percent of the nation say they are 'satisfied' with their current standard of living, and the pollster's complex but revealing 'well-being index' now stands at 54, a record high." According to Norman, "The percentage of Americans saying their standard of living is getting better has risen from 62 percent in 2016 to 64 percent so far this year, with a corresponding drop in the percentage saying it is getting worse, from 22 percent to 19 percent."

Stocks Indexes Close At Record Highs. [Reuters](#) (9/12, Carew) reports that the major stock indexes posted record highs Tuesday. The Dow added 61.49 points to close at 22,118.86. The S&P 500 climbed 8.37 points to 2,496.48 and the Nasdaq ended the day 22.018 points higher at 6,454.28.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“Senators In Search Of A Foreign Policy.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/13, Board) outlines a “range of problems facing the United States abroad,” and laments “a robust foreign policy led by a reinvigorated State Department that right now is suffering from presidential neglect, poor leadership and an absence of professional firepower in pivotal positions.” The Times says Sens. Lindsey Graham and Patrick Leahy, two lawmakers who “understand the urgency of helping” the State Department “recover from the damages inflicted by” President Trump, have “won unanimous committee approval for a \$51 billion bill for the State Department and foreign aid, about \$11 billion more than the administration requested.” Because there “is no sign that Mr. Trump and his team understand its core mission and its importance in a turbulent world,” the Times argues, “The rest of Congress should ensure that a strong version of it becomes law.”

“How Not To Sustain Prosperity.” Citing the 2016 Census report, a [New York Times](#) (9/13) editorial says “President Trump clearly inherited an economy on the upswing,” but “The question is whether his administration and the Republican-controlled Congress will sustain the momentum, or even reverse it.” The Times explains that despite the economy’s improvement, “broad prosperity remains elusive,” but “Republican policy makers seem determined to undo the progress that has been made.” For example, the Times says, the Administration “opposed Obama-era rules to update the nation’s overtime-pay protections for salaried workers, arguably the single most important policy option to raise middle-class pay,” and both Trump and the House Budget Committee “issued budget proposals for 2018 that call for deep spending cuts to safety-net programs.” These “giant steps backward,” the Times argues, would result in “greater income inequality” by shifting “income up the economic ladder.”

Washington Post.

“The Supreme Court Should Strike Down Wisconsin’s Gerrymandering.” The [Washington Post](#) (9/12) editorializes that the Supreme Court “has long kept a distance from arguments over gerrymandering,” but early next month, “the justices will hear a challenge to the 2011 redrawing of Wisconsin’s state legislative map by Republican lawmakers – a demonstration of how increasingly powerful technology allows partisan mapmakers to distort representation with ever-greater precision.” The Post adds that “using computer modeling, Wisconsin’s Republican-controlled legislature produced districts so unbalanced that, in 2012, Republicans won a supermajority in the state assembly even after losing the popular vote.” The Post argues that “while the question of just where to draw the line between acceptable and unconstitutional partisan gerrymanders may be far from simple in many instances, Wisconsin’s is an extreme case,” and contends that “the judiciary cannot and should not be the sole solution to this crisis, but it has a valuable role to play in reassuring Americans that their votes matter.”

“Tom Price Decides He Doesn’t Want Medicare To Save Money.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/12) laments “the coming crisis” if Medicare is not reformed and says “waste scored a victory when Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price decided to stop or scale back ‘bundled payment’ experiments the Obama administration had begun.” Under the program, hospitals would be given “a flat payment covering the duration of a procedure and recovery.” Those “whose costs came in under the fee could keep the difference. Those whose did not would lose money.” The Post argues that “Price should be expanding the programs he is trying to end.”

“Metro Gets A Sudden Lifeline.” A [Washington Post](#) (9/12) editorial.

Wall Street Journal.

“How Florida Saved Taxpayers” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/12, Board) editorializes that reforms undertaken by taxpayer-backed Citizens Property Insurance Corp. have allowed it to cover all the claims from Hurricane Irma. Next, the Journal urges Florida to move on tort reform before the next big hurricane hits the state.

“The Al Franken Standard.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/12) writes that in light of Sen. Al Franken’s recent announcement that he will refuse to return his blue slip on the nomination of a judge to the Eight Circuit, Judiciary Chairman Chuck Grassley should suspend Sen. Franken’s blue slip. The Journal contends that Grassley has full authority to suspend the blue slip tradition on a case-by-case should senators obstruct the nomination process.

“Joseph Rago And A Disease Called Sarcoidosis.” A [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/12, Board) editorial.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Goldman Banks On Lending To Grow](#)

[Herculean Task As Crews Race To Restore Power](#)

[Apple Unveils New iPhone X To Fend Off Growing Competition](#)

[There's A Speeding Mass Of Space Junk Orbiting Earth, Smashing Into Things](#)

New York Times:

[Amid Chaos Of Storms, US Shows It Has Improved Its Response](#)

[South Korea Plans 'Decapitation Unit' To Try To Scare North's Leaders](#)

[White House Weighs Lowering Refugee Quota To Below 50,000](#)

[Median US Household Income Up For 2nd Straight Year](#)

[Edith Windsor, Whose Same-Sex Marriage Fight Led To Landmark Ruling, Dies At 88](#)

[De Blasio, Seeking Second Term, Wins An Easy Victory](#)

[After More Than 20 Years, Newark To Regain Control Of Its Schools](#)

Washington Post:

[Paychecks Hit High For Middle Class](#)

[Push For Tax Cuts Runs Into Old Problem: A Divided GOP](#)

[Apple Edges Closer To Fraught Age Of Facial Recognition Tech](#)

[42 Years Later, A Guilty Plea In Murder Of Md. Sisters](#)

[Florida Prepares For Days — And Maybe Weeks — Without Power](#)

[After Irma, A Former Gem In The US Virgin Islands Is Reduced To A Wasteland](#)

Financial Times:

[UK Cites Fox News As Hurdle To Rupert Murdoch's Sky Deal](#)

[Thousands Protest In France Against Macron's Labour Reforms](#)

[North Korea's Opaque Trading Network Keeps Economy Afloat](#)

[South Africa Businesses Under Pressure To Cut KPMG Ties](#)

Washington Times:

[Liberals With Eye On Presidency Rush To Support Sanders's 'Medicare For All' Bill](#)

[Trump Punishes Sanctuary Countries, Halts Visas For Nations That Refuse To Cooperate On Deportations](#)

[Islamic State's Rumiya Magazine Glosses Over Losses To Boost Terrorist Morale](#)

[Stunning Testimony: Voting Machines Can Be Hacked Without A Trace Of Evidence](#)

[Ken Burns Goes Back To War: Vietnam Documentary Tells Uneasy Story From All Sides](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: Hurricane Irma-Florida Keys; Hurricane Irma-Utility Damage; Hurricane Irma-Caribbean; Hurricane Jose-Forecast; Hurricanes-Vehicle Damages; Baltimore Police Violence Trial; Steve Bannon Interview-Comey Firing; Maryland Abduction Cold Case; Apple-New Product Announcement; California-Street Vendor Police Bribery; Parking Lot Plane Crash; Edith Windsor Dies; Hurricane Irma-Recovery.

CBS: Hurricane Irma-Florida Keys; Hurricane Irma-Utility Damages; Hurricane Irma-Caribbean; Hurricane Harvey-Recovery; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach; Russia Meddling-Special Council Investigation; New Hampshire Police Violence Investigation; Edith Windsor Dies; Parking Lot Plane Crash; Apple-New Product Announcement.

NBC: Hurricane Irma-Florida Keys; Hurricane Irma-US Navy Rescue Missions; Hurricane Irma-Utility Damages; Hurricane Irma-Caribbean; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach; Edith Windsor Dies; Menopause-Hormone Therapy Safety; Parking Lot Plane Crash; Trump-Grand Child; Sleeping Together With Dog; Apple-New Product Announcement.

Network TV At A Glance:

Hurricane Irma – 29 minutes, 20 seconds

Apple-New Product Announcement – 4 minutes, 50 seconds

Equifax-Cyber Security Breach – 4 minutes, 35 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Hurricane Irma; Baltimore Police Violence Trial; Philadelphia Amtrak Crash Trial.

CBS: Hurricane Irma; UN-North Korea Sanctions; Edith Windsor Dies; Apple-New Product Announcement; Wall Street News.

FOX: Trump-Tax Reform; Hurricane Irma; Amazon HQ-Boston.

NPR: Hurricane Irma; Macron-Caribbean Aid Pledge; Sen. Sanders-Healthcare Bill; Trump-Tax Reform; Seattle Mayor Resigns.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with the Domestic Policy Council; meets with Senator Tim Scott; participates in a bipartisan meeting.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Joins the President to meet with the Domestic Policy Council; joins Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats and Director of the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency Robert Cardillo to tour the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and participate in a series of briefings.

US Senate: 10:00 AM POSTPONED: Senate Judiciary Committee hearing on long-term impacts of immigration – POSTPONED: Hearing on 'The Long-term Impact of Immigration: Exploring Reforms to our Nation's Guest Worker Programs and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, and their Potential Impact on the American Economy and Local Communities', with testimony from Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Border, Immigration, and Trade Michael Dougherty; Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration Senior Policy Advisor John Martin; Economic Policy Institute Director of Immigration Law and Policy Research Daniel Costa; Howard University Department of Political Science Associate Professor Dr Ron Hira; Center for Immigration Studies Director of Policy Studies Jessica Vaughan; AFL-CIO Department for Professional Employees President Paul Almeida; U.S. Chamber Of Commerce Senior Vice President for Labor, Immigration and Employee Benefits Randel Johnson; and American Action Forum President Dr Douglas Holtz-Eakin Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 226, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Governmental Affairs subcommittee latest hearing on OMB memo on the federal workforce – Regulatory Affairs and Federal Management Subcommittee hearing on 'Examining OMB's Memorandum on the Federal Workforce, Part II: Expert Views on OMB's Ongoing Government-wide Reorganization', with testimony from Grant Thornton Public Sector Principal Robert Shea; Heritage Foundation Research Fellow Rachel Greszler; Cato Institute Director of Tax Policy Studies Christopher Edwards; and National Treasury Employees Union National President Tony Reardon Location: Rm 342, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenRonJohnson>

10:00 AM Senate Environment Committee hearing on CCUS – Hearing on 'Expanding and Accelerating the Deployment and Use of Carbon Capture, Utilization, and Sequestration', with testimony from Office of the Wyoming Governor Policy Advisor Matthew Fry; NRG Energy Vice President of Development David Greeson; and Energy Futures Initiative Distinguished Associate Dr S. Julio Friedmann Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 406, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:00 AM Senate Commerce Committee hearing on automated trucks – Hearing on 'Transportation Innovation: Automated Trucks and Our Nation's Highways', with testimony from Colorado State Patrol Chief Scott Hernandez; Navistar CEO Troy Clarke; International Brotherhood of Teamsters General Secretary-Treasurer Ken Hall; National Safety Council President and CEO Deborah Hersman; and American Trucking Associations President and CEO Chris Spear Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC <http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

11:30 AM GOP Sen. James Lankford's public schedule – Republican Sen. James Lankford meets with Archbishop of Oklahoma City Paul Coakley (11:30 AM CDT); and accepts National Religious Broadcasters' 'Faith and Freedom Award', Willard Hotel, 1401 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC (5:30 PM CDT) Location: Washington, DC <http://www.lankford.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenatorLankford>

11:30 AM Bicameral GOP and new USFS chief 'press for urgent forest management reforms' – Senate Western Caucus Chairman Steve Daines and Congressional Western Caucus Chairman Paul Gosar 'press for urgent forest management reforms' via media availability with new U.S. Forest Service Chief Tony Tooke, and Republican Rep. Bruce Westerman Location: Senate Swamp, Washington, DC <http://www.daines.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SteveDaines>

12:00 PM AACR release 'Cancer Progress' report at Congressional briefing – American Association for Cancer Research host Congressional briefing to unveil the AACR Cancer Progress Report 2017, which 'showcases progress against cancer from the past year, and underscores the importance of robust, sustained, and predictable growth in funding for the National Institutes of Health, National Cancer Institute, and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration'. Speakers include AACR President Michael Caligiuri and CEO Margaret Foti, University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine Department of Translational Genomics Chair John Carpten, and cancer survivors Carrie Best and Terri Woodhull * Briefing is held in cooperation with Democratic Sen. Chris Van Hollen Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 485, Washington, DC <http://www.aacr.org> <https://twitter.com/aacr>

2:00 PM Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders introduces Medicare for All bill – Independent Sen. Bernie Sanders and Senate co-sponsors announce the introduction of the Medicare for All Act of 2017 Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC [sanders.senate.gov](https://www.sanders.senate.gov) <https://twitter.com/SenSanders>

2:30 PM Senate Indian Affairs Committee Business Meeting, oversight hearing on GAO recommendations on high-risk programs – Business Meeting, to consider 'H.R. 984, Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act of 2017', 'S. 1285, Oregon Tribal Economic Development Act', and 'S. 1333, Tribal HUD-VASH Act of 2017' * Immediately followed by oversight hearing on 'High Risk Indian Programs: Progress and Efforts in Addressing GAO's Recommendations' Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 628, Washington, DC <http://indian.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/IndianCommittee>

5:30 PM Dem Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand hosts annual New York Farm Day on Capitol Hill – Democratic Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand hosts 16th annual New York Farm Day on Capitol Hill, bringing together over 40 farmers and producers from every corner of New York State. Event includes a meeting with the Agriculture working group, and a reception in the evening Location: 325 Russell Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://gillibrand.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenGillibrand>

Senate Democratic Rural Summit, titled 'A Better Deal for Rural America' Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 902, Washington, DC <http://www.democrats.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateDems>

US House: 10:00 AM POSTPONED – House Foreign Affairs subcommittees joint hearing on budget proposal for AfPak – Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee and Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee joint hearing on 'The President's FY 2018 Budget Request for Afghanistan and Pakistan', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Alice Wells; and USAID Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs Administrator's Assistant Gregory Huger Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

10:00 AM House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Markup. – Markup: H.R. 3731 Secret Service Recruitment and Retention Act of 2017; H.R. 3739 Presidential Allowance Modernization Act of 2017; H.R. 1701 Eliminating Government-funded Oil-painting Act; H.R. 3019 Promoting Value Based Procurement Act of 2017; H.R. 3737 Social Media Use in Clearance Investigations Act of 2017; H.R. 3071 Federal Acquisition Savings Act of 2017; and H.R. 2331 Connected Government Act. H.R. 294 To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2700 Location: 2154 Rayburn. <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:00 AM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on North Korea – Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittee hearing on 'A Legislative Proposal to Impede North Korea's Access to Finance', with testimony from Institute for Science and International Security President David Albright; Foundation for Defense of Democracies Senior Fellow Anthony Ruggiero; Heritage Foundation Senior Fellow for Northeast Asia Bruce Klingner; and Center for a New American Security Energy, Economics, and Security Program Director Elizabeth Rosenberg Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

10:00 AM House Workforce subcommittees joint hearing on the Save Local Business Act – Workforce Protections Subcommittee and Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee joint hearing on 'H.R. 3441, Save Local Business Act', with testimony from Proskauer Rose partner Zachary Fasman; Twin City T.J.'s President Tamra Kennedy (on behalf of International Franchise Association); MacDonald Companies CEO Granger MacDonald (on behalf of National Association of Home Builders); and Altshuler Berzon partner Michael Rubin Location: Rm 2175, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://edworkforce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/EdWorkforce>

10:00 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on 'Big Relief for Small Business' – Environment Subcommittee hearing on 'Big Relief for Small Business: Legislation Reducing Regulatory Burdens on Small Manufacturers and Other Job Creators', with testimony from Penn State College of Medicine Professor Dr Rebecca Bascom (on behalf of American Thoracic Society); Olympus Power Director of Environmental Affairs Vincent Brisini; Hardy Manufacturing Company President and owner Frank Moore; Sonoma Raceway President and General Manager Steve Page; Endicott Clay Products President and CEO Ryan Parker; and AT Strategies Principal Alexandra Teitz (on behalf of Sierra Club) Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:00 AM House Infrastructure subcommittee hearing on economic development stakeholders' perspectives – Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management Subcommittee hearing on 'Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Economic Development Stakeholders' Perspectives', with testimony from SEDA-Council of Governments Assistant Executive Director Bill Seigel; Land of Sky Regional Council Executive Director Justin Hembree; Great Falls Development Authority President and CEO Brett Doney; Hartford Mutual Insurance Company President and CEO Steve Linkous; and Georgetown Climate Center Adaption Program Manager Jessica Grannis Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM House Ways and Means Committee markup hearing – Markup hearing on 'H.R. 3726, Stark Administrative Simplification Act of 2017', 'H.R. 3727, To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to include additional telehealth services for purposes of MA organization bids, and for other purposes', 'H.R. 3729, Comprehensive Operations, Sustainability, and Transport Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2824, Increasing Opportunity through Evidence-Based Home Visiting Act', and 'H.R. 2792, Control Unlawful Fugitive Felons Act of 2017' Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1100, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

10:00 AM House Natural Resources Committee markup hearing concludes – Markup hearing concludes on 'H.R. 210, Native American Energy Act', 'H.R. 424, Gray Wolf State Management Act of 2017', 'H.R. 717, Listing Reform Act', 'H.R. 1274, State, Tribal and Local Species Transparency and Recovery Act', 'H.R. 2603, Saving America's Endangered Species Act' ('SAVES Act'), 'H.R. 3131, Endangered Species Litigation Reasonableness Act', and 'H.R. 3668, Sportsmen's Heritage and Recreational Enhancement Act' ('SHARE Act') * Began yesterday Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

10:00 AM House Homeland Security subcommittee hearing on suspicious activity reporting – Counterterrorism and Intelligence Subcommittee hearing on 'Sixteen Years After 9/11: Assessing Suspicious Activity Reporting Efforts', with testimony from Acting Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security for Intelligence Operations Robin Taylor; New Jersey State Police Superintendent Rick Fuentes; Boston Police Commissioner Bill Evans; and Northern Virginia Regional Intelligence Center Deputy Director Joseph Flynn Location: HVC 210, U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC homeland.house.gov <https://twitter.com/HouseHomeland>

10:00 AM House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform Business Meeting Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

10:15 AM House Commerce subcommittee hearing on modernizing FDA regulation of over-the-counter drugs – Health Subcommittee hearing on 'Modernizing FDA's Regulation of Over-the-Counter Drugs', with testimony from American Academy of Pediatrics Chair Bridgette Jones; Consumer Health Products Association President and CEO Scott Melville; Pew Charitable Trusts Health Care Products Project Director Kirsten Moore; Pharma and Biopharma Outsourcing Association President Gil Roth; Holland and Knight partner Michael Werner (on behalf of Public Access to SunScreens Coalition); and Food and Drug Administration Center for Drug Evaluation and Research Director Dr Janet Woodcock Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2322, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

10:30 AM House Veterans' Affairs subcommittee legislative hearing – Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee legislative hearing, on legislation including a draft bill entitled 'Veterans Fair Debt Notice Act of 2017' Location: Rm 334, Cannon House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

11:00 AM House Small Business Committee hearing on the HUBZone program – Hearing on 'Serving Small Businesses: Examining the Effectiveness of HUBZone Reforms', with testimony from GCC Technologies co-owner, Executive Vice President, and COO Shirley Bailey (on behalf of HUBZone Contractors National Council); attorney at law Robert Schuerger II; TDEC President

Dennis DuFour; and Wovenware COO and co-founder Carlos Melendez Location: Rm 2360, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://smallbusiness.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SmallBizGOP>

11:30 AM Bicameral GOP and new USFS chief 'press for urgent forest management reforms' – Senate Western Caucus Chairman Steve Daines and Congressional Western Caucus Chairman Paul Gosar 'press for urgent forest management reforms' via media availability with new U.S. Forest Service Chief Tony Tooke, and Republican Rep. Bruce Westerman Location: Senate Swamp, Washington, DC <http://www.daines.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SteveDaines>

12:00 PM House expected to continue debate on omnibus govt funding bill – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include continued consideration of 'H.R. 3354 – Make America Secure and Prosperous Appropriations Act, 2018', and beginning consideration of 'H.R. 3697 – Criminal Alien Gang Member Removal Act' * Administration has said it supports passage of 'H.R. 3354' and that President Donald Trump would sign it if it reached his desk * Last week, Congress passed a short-term continuing resolution to extend govt funding through early December Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

1:00 PM House Commerce subcommittee markup hearing – Health Subcommittee markup hearing on 'H.R. 1148, Furthering Access to Stroke Telemedicine (FAST) Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2465, Steve Gleason Enduring Voices Act of 2017', 'H.R. 2557, Prostate Cancer Misdiagnosis Elimination Act of 2017', 'H.R. 3120, to reduce the volume of future electronic health record-related significant hardship requests', 'H.R. 3245, Medicare Civil and Criminal Penalties Act', 'H.R. 3263, to extend the Medicare Independence at Home Medical Practice Demonstration program', and 'H.R. 3271, Protecting Access to Diabetes Supplies Act of 2017' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2123, Washington, DC <http://energycommerce.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HouseCommerce>

2:00 PM Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on 'Multi-Sector Partnerships to Combat Human Trafficking' – Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on 'Multi-Sector Partnerships to Combat Human Trafficking', with witnesses – State Department Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons Acting Deputy Director Laura Rundlet, Electronic Industry Citizenship Coalition Director of Public Policy Carlos Busquets, International Justice Mission Policy Director Tim Gehring, and Human Rights First Anti-Trafficking Campaign Senior Associate Annick Febrey – presenting testimony on their experiences and sharing recommendations on how best to strengthen efforts against trafficking by fostering multi-sectoral initiatives Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2255, Washington, DC <http://tlhrc.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/TLHRCommission>

2:00 PM Oversight Subcommittee hearing on 'IRS Reform: Resolving Taxpayer Disputes' Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1100, Washington, DC <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysandMeansGOP>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on Venezuela – Western Hemisphere Subcommittee hearing on 'The Venezuela Crisis: The Malicious Influence of State and Criminal Actors', with testimony from Center for Strategic and International Studies Americas Program Senior Associate Dr R. Evan Ellis; Caracas Chronicles Executive Editor Francisco Toro; and Stanford University Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies Center for International Security and Cooperation Senior Research Scholar and Associate Director for Research Dr Harold Trinkunas Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2200, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on Liberia – Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee hearing on 'The Future of Democracy and Governance in Liberia', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Donald Yamamoto; USAID Acting Assistant Administrator for Africa Cheryl Anderson; National Endowment for Democracy Senior Director of Africa Programs Dave Peterson; Weeks Educational and Social Advocacy Project founder and Executive Director Aurelia Curtis; International Foundation for Electoral Systems Regional Director for Africa Rusdhi Nackerdien; and National Democratic Institute Senior Associate and Regional Director for Central and West Africa Dr Christopher Fomunyoh Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

Other: 8:00 AM Republican Sen. Joni Ernst hosts 'Coffee with Joni' for Iowans in Washington, DC Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 111, Washington, DC www.ernst.senate.gov <https://twitter.com/senjoniernst>

8:30 AM GOP Sen. Rob Portman and Dem Rep. Paul Tonko discuss strategies to tackle opioid epidemic at The Hill event – The Hill hosts 'America's Opioid Epidemic: Search for

Solutions', with Republican Sen. Rob Portman and Democratic Rep. Paul Tonko discussing national and local strategies to tackle the nation's opioid epidemic. Other speakers include Association of State and Territorial Health Officials Executive Director Michael Fraser, Shatterproof Founder and CEO Gary Mendell, Johns Hopkins Broadway Center for Addiction Director Kenneth Stoller, Victory Bay Recovery Center Outreach Coordinator Vanessa Vitolo and National Institute on Drug Abuse Director Nora Volkow Location: AJAX, 1011 4th St NW, Washington, DC thehill.com <https://twitter.com/TheHillEvents> #OpioidSolution.

9:00 AM Rory Staunton Foundation National Forum on Sepsis – Rory Staunton Foundation Fourth National Forum on Sepsis, 'Keeping our Children Safe from Sepsis', including keynote from Democratic Sen. Chuck Schumer Location: American Federation of Teachers, 555 New Jersey Ave NW, Washington, DC www.rorystauntonfoundationforsepsis.org

10:30 AM Dem Rep. Ro Khanna discusses proposed bill to reform H-1B and L-1 visas at Atlantic Council – Atlantic Council South Asia Center hosts a discussion with Democratic Rep. Ro Khanna, who addresses his proposed bill centered on reforming the H-1B and L-1 visas for high-skilled workers Location: Atlantic Council, 1030 15th Street Northwest, Washington, DC <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/> <https://twitter.com/ACSouthAsia> #ACSouthAsia

10:45 AM House Speaker Paul Ryan participates in the AP Newsmaker Interview Series to discuss tax reform Location: AP Bureau, 1100 13th St NW Washington, DC www.speaker.gov <https://twitter.com/SpeakerRyan>

12:00 PM Tax Foundation hosts GOP Sen. Ted Cruz for a discussion on tax reform – Tax Foundation hosts 'A Path to Consensus Tax Reform: An Address From Senator Ted Cruz With Panel Discussion', with Republican Sen. Ted Cruz delivering a keynote address outlining his path forward for achieving consensus tax reform. Speech followed by a panel discussion with Tax Policy Center Director Mark Mazur, American Action Forum Director of Fiscal Policy Gordon Gray, and Tax Foundation Director of Federal Projects Kyle Pomerleau * Sen. Cruz's Twitter account recently 'liked' an explicit video. The 'like' was in place for approximately 40 minutes before being removed Location: Hillsdale College Kirby Center, 227 Massachusetts Ave NE, Washington, DC <http://www.taxfoundation.org/> <https://twitter.com/taxfoundation>

12:00 PM 'National Save the U.S. EPA Day' press conference at NPC – Save the U.S. EPA holds 'National Save the U.S. EPA Day' press conference at the National Press Club, with speakers including Democratic Rep. Debbie Dingell, Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign Director Mary Anne Hitt, National Wildlife Federation President and CEO Collin O'Mara, AFGE Council 238 President John O'Grady and American Federation of Government Employees Chief of Staff Brian DeWyngaert Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW, Washington, DC savetheusepa.org <https://twitter.com/SavetheUSEPA>

4:30 PM CSIS discussion on 'Hurricane Irma: The Aftermath and Caribbean Disaster Response' – 'Hurricane Irma: The Aftermath and Caribbean Disaster Response' Center for Strategic and International Studies discussion on the consequences of Hurricane Irma and how the international community can best respond. Speakers include Antigua and Barbuda Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Sir Ronald Sanders, Netherlands Ambassador to the U.S. Amb. Henne Schuwer, and Caribbean Central American Action Executive Director Sally Yearwood Location: Center for Strategic and International Studies, 1616 Rhode Island Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.csis.org> <https://twitter.com/CSIS>

6:00 PM GW hosts town hall discussion on the state of politics and media in 2017 – George Washington University hosts town hall discussion on the state of politics and media in 2017, about 'the state of the union in this era of fake news, what the future holds, and what role the media plays'. Topics include the Trump administration's decisions on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, North Korea, and other major issues. Speakers include Democratic Rep. Brendan Boyle, communication strategist Howard Opinsky, Brilliant Corners Research & Strategies President Cornell Belcher, The Communication Center Executive Communication Coach Jeffrey Blount, NPR national political correspondent Mara Liasson, and CNN European politics reporter Hadas Gold Location: George Washington University School of Media and Public Affairs, Washington, DC [/www.gwu.edu](http://www.gwu.edu) <https://twitter.com/GWTweets>

Airlines for America Annual Commercial Aviation Industry Summit – Airlines for America (A4A) Annual Commercial Aviation Industry Summit. Speakers include Republican Rep. Paul Mitchell, American Airlines Chairman and CEO Doug Parker, Alaska Airlines President and CEO Brad Tilden, Southwest Airlines Chairman and CEO Gary Kelly, former Secretary of Transportation James Burnley, and UPS Director of Safety, Global Aviation Strategy and Public Policy Capt. Houston Mills Location: National Press Club, 529 14th Street NW, Washington, DC <http://summit.airlines.org/> <https://twitter.com/AirlinesDotOrg> #A4ASummit

NAFCU Congressional Caucus concludes – NAFCU Congressional Caucus concludes.

Speakers today include U.S. Rep. Tom Emmer, Republican Sens. Tom Cotton Location: Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, 400 New Jersey Avenue Northwest, Washington, DC
<http://www.nafcu.org> <https://twitter.com/NAFCU> #NAFCUCaucus

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: "Hillary Clinton's new book came out today. It is called 'What Happened.' That's not a joke. That's what it is called. This is why Hillary lost. A real President doesn't write books. They write tweets."

James Corden: "Texas Senator Ted Cruz is coming under fire because, late last night, his official Twitter account liked a pornographic video. So, if you ever meet Ted Cruz on the campaign trail, you might want to think twice before shaking that hand."

Trevor Noah: "Everyone is freaking out about this and calling it a possible scandal all because a politician may have watched porn. Come on, people. No big deal. Everyone watches porn. Alright? It's part of being a norm human being, which is exactly why we know Ted Cruz didn't do it."

Jimmy Fallon: "I guess Hillary Clinton's book 'What Happened' came out today, and I heard that it's almost 500 pages long. Unfortunately, the only person with enough time to read it is Hillary Clinton."

Seth Meyers: "Hillary Clinton's new book titled 'What Happened' was released today, as was Putin's new book 'Me.'"

Seth Meyers: "President Trump will reportedly visit China in November. 'Oh, can you pick up my handbags?' asked Ivanka."

Conan O'Brien: "On Twitter last night, someone discovered that Republican Senator Ted Cruz liked a tweet from a porn account. As you can imagine, that was one very embarrassing day for that porn account."

Conan O'Brien: "The new iPhone will be able to track stair climbing and mountain hiking. The big question is, will it have any features for Americans?"

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DOI In The News

Zinke Puts 'Big Buck Hunter' In Interior Dept Cafeteria To Promote Hunting.

In its "Blog Briefing Room" blog, [The Hill](#) (9/19, Delk) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke added the "Big Buck Hunter" arcade game to the Interior Department's cafeteria this week. Zinke installed "the hunting themed arcade game in the cafeteria in an effort to promote hunting, announcing the addition in a tweet on Tuesday." Zinke tweeted, "To highlight #sportsmen contributions 2 conservation I installed Big Buck Hunter in the employee cafeteria. Get excited for #hunting season!"

Also reporting are the [Washington Examiner](#) (9/19, Siciliano), [CNN International](#) (9/19, Tatum), [USA Today](#) (9/19, King), the [Shreveport \(LA\) Times](#) (9/19, King), [WENY-TV Elmira \(NY\)](#) Elmira, NY (9/19, Tatum), and [WZVN-TV Fort Myers \(FL\)](#) Fort Myers, FL (9/19, Tatum).

Senate Panel Approves Trump Energy Nominees.

[The Hill](#) (9/19, Cama) reports the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee on Tuesday "approved five of President Trump's nominees for energy positions in the federal government." The Hill says senators "easily approve[d]" Federal Energy Regulatory Commission nominees Kevin McIntyre and Richard Glick, "Ryan Nelson to be the Interior Department's solicitor, Joseph Balash to be Interior's assistant secretary for land and mineral management and David Jonas to be general counsel at the Energy Department." The votes "send all of the nominees to the full Senate for a confirmation vote, which has not yet been scheduled." DOE and Interior "currently have only two Senate-confirmed officials, making it difficult for the Trump administration to move

on some of its major policy priorities at those departments.”

Also reporting are the [Washington Examiner](#) (9/19, Siciliano, Seigel), [Alaska Dispatch News](#) (9/19, Martinson), the [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (9/20, Harmon), [Law360](#), and [Natural Gas Intelligence](#) (9/19, Bradley).

Company Named To Build Next Step Of Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project.

The [Farmington \(NM\) Daily Times](#) (9/19) reports that the Bureau of Reclamation has “awarded a \$62 million construction contract to build a section of pipeline for the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project.” The Interior Department “announced on Sept. 15 that the contract was awarded to Oscar Renda Contracting Inc., a subsidiary of Southland Holdings in Roanoke, Texas.” Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke said in a release, “The project is critical to providing a much-needed, long-term, sustainable water supply for people on the Navajo and Jicarilla Apache reservations and the City of Gallup. It is also the cornerstone of our commitments under the Navajo Nation San Juan River Water Rights Settlement.”

Wonders Of Wildlife Prepares For Opening.

The [Joplin \(MO\) Globe](#) (9/20, Goodwin) reports that the Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium will “open to the public on Friday, but it was open Tuesday for a media preview at its adjoining location with Bass Pro Shops at East Sunshine and South Campbell avenues in Springfield.” A gala Wednesday is “expected to be attended by former Presidents George W. Bush and Jimmy Carter; U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke; Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens; conservation leaders; and celebrities.”

Trump Promise To Restore Mount McKinley Name Is Up In The Air.

The [Cleveland Plain Dealer](#) (9/19, Eaton) reports that after promising to reverse the name change of Mount McKinley to Denali while campaigning, President Trump has “been silent on whether the mountain’s name should be changed.” The article notes that earlier this year, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke “told Alaskan media the peak should keep the name Denali.”

ODOT Gets \$1 Million To Clean Up Wildfire Damage.

The [Portland \(OR\) Tribune](#) (9/19) reports the Oregon Department of Transportation will receive a \$1 million emergency relief grant from the US Department of Transportation “to clean up roads and highways damaged or threatened by the summer’s wildfires.” The Tribune attributes the grant to the work of Oregon’s Congressional delegation, particularly Sens. Ron Wyden and Jeff Merkley. [KATU-TV](#) Portland, OR (9/19) and [KPTV-TV](#) Portland, OR (9/19) also reported on the grant.

SD Congressional Delegation Continues To Fight For DC Booth.

The [Black Hills \(SD\) Pioneer](#) (9/19, Watson) reports that “South Dakota’s congressional delegation has requested vacant employee positions at the D.C. Booth Historic National Fish Hatchery and Archives be filled.” A letter sent Monday to Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “outlined the importance of the hatchery as well as the staffing decline since officials at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began discussing the closure of the hatchery in June 2013.” The delegation of Sens. John Thune, and Mike Rounds, and Rep. Kristi Noem, wrote, “The D.C. Booth Fish Hatchery is critically important to the Spearfish community, its economy, and its residents, as more than 160,000 people visit the Hatchery each year. The Hatchery has provided jobs and volunteer opportunities in the community, and it exemplifies a successful federal public lands partnership.”

Kevin Bogardus: Obama Appointees Negotiated Next Job While On The Job At Interior.

[Federal News Radio \(DC\)](#) (9/19) reports that “a half dozen Interior Department appointees were negotiating private sector jobs toward the end of the Obama administration.” According to the report, “they recused themselves from important policy deliberations.”

Preserving An American Tradition: Maintaining Access And Increasing Opportunities On Our Public Lands.

For the “Congress” blog of [The Hill](#) (9/19, Bishop), Rep. Rob Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, writes that “to ensure conservation and economic growth can be created by our federal lands, it is important to have access to outdoor activities on America’s public lands, and to have secure Second and Tenth Amendment rights.” Bishop urges Congress to

pass the “Sportsmen’s Heritage and Recreational Enhancement (SHARE) Act.” According to Bishop, “maintaining access and increasing opportunities on our public lands will help ensure our natural resources are conserved in perpetuity, and helps sustain good, family supporting jobs for millions of Americans.”

More Logging On Public Land Means More Wildfires.

In an op-ed for the [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (9/19, Ambrose, Baxter), Anthony Ambrose and Wendy Baxter, both with the Department of Integrative Biology at UC Berkeley, highlight “the remarkable differences in wildfires in unlogged areas versus clear-cut forestland.” They argue that “protecting Giant Sequoia National Monument doesn’t just make scientific sense, it reduces risk of mega-fires – a risk that is now amplified in Cascades-Siskiyou National Monument in Oregon, which has been recommended for significant cutbacks.” They are dismayed that “timber industry executives – and now the Trump administration – continue to pursue their logging agenda that will leave forests irreversibly damaged and open to fire.” The authors warn that “increased commercial logging in these forests will result in the removal of the largest, most ecologically important and fire-resistant trees.”

Editorial: Cascade-Siskiyou Should Be Shrunk.

In an editorial, the [Bend \(OR\) Bulletin](#) (9/19) agrees with Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s recommendation that the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument should be shrunk. The paper highlights that in his recommendation, “Zinke notes that the expanded monument contains more than 40,000 acres of Oregon and California Railroad Revested Lands (O&C Lands) that were set aside by Congress in 1937 to provide sustained timber harvest funds for Klamath County and every county west of the Cascade Mountains summit but Clatsop.” The paper concludes that “unlike his predecessors, Zinke clearly sees the value of keeping public land open to the public and assuring that earlier promises such as those given when the O&C Lands were set aside in 1937 be honored.”

A Smaller Gold Butte No Big Deal.

In an editorial, the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (9/20) supports downsizing the Gold Butte National Monument. The paper notes that “monuments designated under the Antiquities Act are supposed to be confined to the ‘smallest’ area necessary to protect the objects deserving of protection.” It concludes that “the idea that a slight reduction in Gold Butte’s size will result in environmental catastrophe — particularly in a state where some 85 percent of the land is already under the domain of distant Beltway bureaucrats — is patently ridiculous.”

Bears Ears Is Sacred To Native Americans.

But Heritage Isn’t All Equal For Trump. In an op-ed for [The Guardian \(UK\)](#) (9/19, NoiseCat), Julian Brave NoiseCat, criticizes Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s recommendation to shrink the Bears Ears National Monument. According to NoiseCat, “Bears Ears is one of the most powerful and historic cultural and spiritual centers of the first peoples of the south-west.”

Don’t Mess With National Monuments.

In an editorial, the [Concord \(NH\) Monitor](#) (9/20), credits Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke for visiting “most or all of the 27 monuments on Trump’s list before making his recommendations.” The paper notes that “the nation should keep the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, he said, but he went on to suggest that the park allow ‘active timber management.’” The editorial says that “if Zinke means commercial logging, his plan should be opposed. If it’s instituted, lawsuits should be launched.”

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Hearing Scheduled For Act That Would Grant Lumbee Full Federal Recognition.

[WBTW-TV](#) Florence-Myrtle Beach, SC (9/19, McGee) reports that the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs “announced Tuesday that a hearing has been scheduled for Congressman Robert Pittenger’s Lumbee Recognition Act.” Pittenger said, “This is the next step in bringing Lumbee recognition up for a vote. We are working closely with the Lumbee Tribe and other leaders to ensure a strong showing next Tuesday.” The hearing was scheduled for September 26.

Island Near NE Tip Of Minnesota Returned To Chippewa Band.

The [AP](#) (9/19) reports that an island off the northeast tip of Minnesota has been returned to the Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. Grand Portage Chairman Norman Deschampe “says the band appreciates the role The Nature Conservancy played in restoring the island to tribal ownership.” The Bureau of Indian Affairs “agreed to place the island in trust on the band’s behalf.”

Also reporting are the [Duluth \(MN\) News Tribune](#) (9/19, Myers) and [WDIO-TV Duluth \(MN\)](#) Duluth, MN (9/19).

Stink Over Acme Sewer.

The [Traverse City \(MI\) Record-Eagle](#) (9/19, Troutman) reports that “an Acme Township development likely won’t be impacted by a letter from Gov. Rick Snyder’s office to a federal agency.” However, “the two-page note sent in June could delay Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians officials’ bid to put 158 acres of land near Meijer into trust — an action that will make it effectively tax exempt.” According to the article, “the letter informs the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs of a long-standing sanitary sewer permit violation on the property.”

Bureau Of Land Management

Obama Turned ‘A Blind Eye’ To Fired Interior Official’s Corruption, GOP Rep Says.

The [Daily Caller](#) (9/19, Pearce) reports that Rep. Rob Bishop “accused the Obama administration of ignoring the unethical and illegal behavior of a former Department of the Interior official Monday.” Bishop “made the charge after Bureau of Land Management (BLM) law enforcement official Dan Love was fired Friday.” Bishop said in a statement, “The previous administration turned a blind eye to corruption and promoted a culture of mismanagement at the Department of the Interior. I applaud Interior for taking a strong stand and reasserting the basic principle that there are consequences for federal employees who blatantly disregard the law and steamroll elected officials and public trust. Love’s exit is welcome.”

BLM Rounds Up 86 Horses Near Rangely.

The [Grand Junction \(CO\) Daily Sentinel](#) (9/20, Webb) reports that the Bureau of Land Management has “wrapped up a wild-horse removal project south of Rangely after capturing 86 animals.” The BLM “ended the helicopter-based operation Monday.” According to the article, “eighty-five of the horses were shipped to the BLM’s Cañon City holding facility and will be made available for adoption or sale.” The article says that “one colt that was about 4 months old was euthanized based on an on-scene veterinarian’s recommendation because it had a pre-existing severe leg injury.”

BLM And Partners Sponsor National Public Lands Day Events.

The [Las Cruces \(NM\) Sun-News](#) (9/19) reports that “the Bureau of Land Management, Friends of the Organ Mountains and Southern New Mexico Trail Alliance are sponsoring three events Saturday, Sept. 30, to celebrate National Public Lands Day.” The events will be held at the Dripping Springs Natural Area.

Bureau Of Ocean Energy Management

Block Island Wind Farm Tracking Birds and Bats.

[Offshore Wind](#) (9/19) reports that Deepwater Wind has “installed a wildlife tracking station on the easternmost foundation platform at the Block Island wind farm, America’s first offshore wind farm, to assist researchers in their studies of bird and bat activity off the Atlantic Coast.” The project, funded by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, will “provide researchers from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the University of Rhode Island (URI) and the University of Massachusetts (UMass) Amherst with data on offshore movement of high priority species to inform conservation efforts.”

Additional coverage was provided by [North American Windpower](#) (9/19, Lillian) and [Power Engineering](#) (9/19).

Fishing Industry Takes More Action Against New York Offshore Wind Lease.

[North American Windpower](#) (9/19, Lillian) reports that “a group of fishing organizations, businesses and communities, led by the Fisheries Survival Fund (FSF), has taken more action to halt the lease of Statoil’s planned wind farm off the coast of New York.” The suit, filed against the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, is “seeking summary judgment and requesting the court to invalidate the lease, which was awarded to Norwegian firm Statoil to develop the New York Wind Energy Area (NY WEA) late last year.” The groups claim “BOEM’s process for awarding the lease failed to properly consider the planned wind farm’s impact on area fish populations and habitats, shoreside communities, safety, and navigation.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

Westlands Water District Says It Won’t Help Pay For Delta Tunnels.

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (9/19, Kasler, Sabalow) reports that “an influential group of San Joaquin Valley farmers Tuesday voted against helping to pay for the Delta tunnels, denying Gov. Jerry Brown crucial financial support for the \$17.1 billion project.” Westlands Water District’s board of directors “voted 7-1 against participating in the project, known officially as California WaterFix.” Westlands is “the first major water agency to vote on the project, and other big districts are expected to make their decisions in the coming weeks.”

In an editorial, the [Stockton \(CA\) Record](#) (9/19) says that the audit that showed the Interior Department, “secretly, and improperly, contributed nearly \$85 million” toward the Delta tunnels erodes the public’s trust. The paper questions why people should believe proponents who “say the project will not have a detrimental impact on the Delta.” The editorial concludes that “state officials should realize these tunnels are not the way to solve California’s water woes and that underhanded dealings will only continue to erode any efforts to solve this problem.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (9/19, Smith) and the [Ventura County \(CA\) Star](#) (9/19).

Bureau Of Safety And Environmental Enforcement

Scott Angelle Says The Country Should Focus On ‘Energy Dominance’.

The [Lafayette \(LA\) Daily Advertiser](#) (9/19, Stickney) reports that Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement director Scott Angelle spoke Tuesday to the Louisiana Oil & Gas Association autumn meeting. He said, “The country can find its energy vision by not settling for the 1980s goal of energy independence. We’re seeking energy dominance.” Angelle asserted that the Trump Administration can promote energy development without “relaxing environmental protections.” He said, “One-hundred percent of the people in this room enjoy the beach, clean air, a morning hunt or walking in the park. I refuse to believe this group cares less about the environment than others.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

The Wall — Eminent Domain May Claim Private Property For Trump Wall.

In a series of comprehensive pieces, the Arizona Republic examines various issues with the border, including the proposed border wall, the danger faced by border crossers, and the work of Border Patrol agents, among other issues. In a 3,000-word piece, the [Arizona Republic](#) (9/19) reports on the potential use of eminent domain to claim private property for the border wall. In another piece, the [Arizona Republic](#) (9/19) reports on the death of Border Patrol agent Brian Terry, and his family’s quest to ensure more security along the border. The [Arizona Republic](#) (9/19) separately reports in a 9,000-word piece about a “mission...to film the border, evaluate the existing fences, document this invisible line as it exists in 2017 – before any construction begins on what President Donald Trump has repeatedly called ‘a big, beautiful wall.’” The [Arizona Republic](#) (9/19) also reports on commerce along the border and the possibility that a tax on Mexican imports may be used to pay for the border wall. The [Arizona Republic](#) (9/19) also features an examination of the endangered species in the border area and how a border wall could affect the species. The [Arizona Republic](#) (9/19) reports on the dangers faced by border crossers in a separate piece, including environmental and dealing with human smuggling organizations tied to the cartels. The [Arizona Republic](#) (9/19) separately reports on deaths of

migrant crossers who take “risky” paths to avoid Border Patrol agents. The [Arizona Republic](#) (9/19) also reports on US ranchers along the border and their “run-ins with border crossers and drug mules.” The [Arizona Republic](#) (9/19) reports on the presence of vigilantes who patrol the border looking for “smugglers or drug traffickers,” specifically the Arizona Border Recon Group who “volunteer to patrol border land” and are “armed with rifles and guns.” In a separate piece, the [Arizona Republic](#) (9/19) reports on the Tohono O’odham people and the effect a border wall may have in dividing the tribe. Finally, the [Arizona Republic](#) (9/19) reports on the work and risks faced by the Border Patrol, who are often alone and can “go without seeing another living being” during patrol shifts.

Federal Officials Designate Mississippi Fish As Threatened.

The [AP](#) (9/19, Amy) reports that the pearl darter will “soon be designated as threatened, federal authorities said Tuesday.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service “proposed the listing last year and will make it official on October 20.” According to FWS spokeswoman Connie Dickard, “the listing will have little impact on private property owners.”

‘I’iwi Receives Protection Under Endangered Species Act.

[Big Island \(HI\) Now](#) (9/19) reports that “the ‘i’iwi, also known as the scarlet honeycreeper, will be protected as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act, the US Fish and Wildlife Service announced.” The FWS “determined that listing was warranted based on a review of the best information available for the ‘i’iwi, gained through exhaustive research, public comments and independent scientific peer reviews.” Mary Abrams, project leader for the Service’s Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office, said, “In recent years, the ‘i’iwi population has been in sharp decline, due to threats from habitat loss, invasive species and avian diseases, particularly avian malaria. These threats have affected all forest birds, not just the ‘i’iwi. Conservation that benefits the ‘i’iwi will undoubtedly benefit other Hawaiian forest birds.”

Also reporting is the [Maui \(HI\) Time Weekly](#) (9/19, Pignataro).

West Palm Sues US Agencies Over State Road 7 Extension Approval.

The [Palm Beach \(FL\) Post](#) (9/19, Kennedy) reports that the city of West Palm Beach, Florida “filed in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on Sept. 12, against the Army Corps of Engineers, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Federal Highway Administration and Environmental Protection Agency” for approvals made on the State Road 7 project. The city sued the agencies for approving the “unnecessary and environmentally harmful roadway project in violation of multiple environmental laws.”

Also reporting is [WPEC-TV West Palm Beach \(FL\)](#) West Palm Beach, FL (9/19, Maradiaga).

Ritchie Calls On Federal Government To Move Quickly On Cormorant Management.

The [Watertown \(NY\) Daily Times](#) (9/20, Block) reports that state Sen. Patricia A. Ritchie is “calling on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to move more quickly to give states the ability to manage double-crested cormorants.” Ritchie said, “This is something that needs to be dealt with now. The data is out there, I don’t think any more data is needed to confirm the cormorant population was out of control and affecting the fishing industry.” Meanwhile, the FWS is “planning to release a draft environmental assessment “within weeks” that could give some authority for local residents to kill the birds in select circumstances.”

Refuge Plans New ‘Gateway To The Outdoors’.

The [Chinook \(WA\) Observer](#) (9/19, Nile) reports that the Willapa National Wildlife Refuge has “rough designs for a new headquarters and visitor center that could be built at either one of the two sites being considered on the federal preserve.” Manager Jackie Ferrier “said the staff has long outgrown its offices in a cramped 1940s building at 3888 U.S. Highway 101.” According to the article, “although the project has yet to be funded, officials have been taking in design and site ideas at public meetings.”

DNRC Faces Tough Questions At Bottling-plant Hearing.

The [Daily Inter Lake \(MT\)](#) (9/19, Reilly) reports that “the Montana Artesian Water Company’s plan to bottle Creston’s groundwater drew fresh scrutiny Tuesday morning.” Montana’s Department of Natural Resources and Conservation “opened a multi-day hearing to decide whether to grant the company, founded by Flathead resident Lew Weaver, a water-use permit to tap the aquifer.” Representatives of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were among those that

raised concerns.

Also reporting are [Montana Public Radio](#) (9/19, Kreimer) and [KTVO-TV Billings \(MT\)](#) Billings, MT (9/19, Miller).

California Condor Takes Flight In Wild After Near Extinction.

The [AP](#) (9/20, Chea) reports that “three decades after being pushed to the brink of extinction, the California condor is making a comeback in the wild, but constant vigilance is needed to ensure the endangered bird doesn’t reverse course.” Notably, plans also “underway to release some captive-bred condors in Redwood National Park in 2019 to establish a population near the California-Oregon border.”

The Oil-Drunk Trump Administration Needs To Leave Alaska Refuge Alone.

In an editorial, the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/19) says that the Trump Administration needs to leave the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge alone and not allow seismic testing to assess the oil potential because it is a bad idea for both environmental policy and energy strategy. The editorial says, “The future of the global environment hinges on the decisions we make now about our energy sources, and taking even a baby step toward developing new sources of fossil fuels — especially in one of the harshest climate zones in the world — would be foolhardy and dangerous.”

[E&E Publishing](#) (9/19) also provides coverage of the move towards the Arctic Refuge.

Airbnb For Monarch Butterflies Can Prevent Demise.

In an op-ed for the [San Jose \(CA\) Mercury News](#) (9/19, Festa), David Festa, senior vice president of ecosystems programs at Environmental Defense Fund, writes that “there is a new wildlife solution that taps into the sharing economy to create new habitat for butterflies.” Festa calls for investing “in farmers and ranchers who already manage much of the habitat appropriate for milkweed.” According to Festa, “farmers and ranchers from California to Texas to Missouri now have the opportunity to participate in an emerging program called the Monarch Butterfly Habitat Exchange, which rewards them for restoring and enhancing monarch habitat in field edges, buffer zones, marginal lands and rangelands – areas that would not decrease productivity.”

National Park Service

National Mall Faces Space Crunch For Global War On Terror Memorial.

The [Washington Times](#) (9/19, Richardson) reports that “more memorials are seeking space on and near the National Mall as their sponsors seek to ensure that honoring the past never gets old.” According to the article, “the latest project vying for turf in the country’s most exclusive real estate district is the Global War on Terror Memorial, which got off to a fast start last week with a \$1 million donation from NewDay USA toward a goal of raising \$40 million to \$50 million in seven years.” The article notes that “other high-visibility projects in the pipeline include those commemorating former Presidents John Adams and Dwight D. Eisenhower, the doughboys of World War I, the Peace Corps and those who fought in Operation Desert Storm against Iraq.”

Man Arrested For Using Penny To Deface Lincoln Memorial.

[Newsweek](#) (9/19, Perez) reports that “a man was arrested after he vandalized the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. with a penny on Monday afternoon, authorities said.” U.S. Parks Police “say they caught Nurtilek Bakirov, 21, as he tried to write an ‘M’ into two pillars on the famous shrine.” However, “closer inspection revealed the words ‘HYPT’ and ‘MEAK’ carved into the memorial to the 16th president, police said.”

Also reporting are the [New York Daily News](#) (9/19, Brennan) and [WTTG-TV Washington](#) Washington (9/19, McGrady).

D.C. Councilmember Says National Park Service Would Charge Him With Trespassing For Removing Confederate Statue.

[WAMU-FM](#) Washington (9/19, Lefrak) reports that on Tuesday, the D.C. Council members Jack Evans and Mary Cheh introduced a resolution to remove a monument to Confederate Brigadier General Albert Pike from Judiciary Square. However, the article notes that “the statue was erected by an act of Congressional approval, and transferred to the jurisdiction of the National Park Service in 1977.” Therefore, “for it to be removed, Congress must pass a bill authorizing the removal, and the Park Service must oversee the process.”

NAACP Pushes To Remove Battle Of Chickamauga Monument In Tennessee.

[Fox News](#) (9/19) reports that “the local chapter of the NAACP is pushing a petition, that’s already garnered more than 2,000 signatures, calling for the removal of a Confederate statute commemorating one” of the Civil War Battle of Chickamauga’s “main players – Confederate Lt. Gen. Alexander P. Stewart – from outside Tennessee’s Hamilton County Courthouse.” But “since the monument is part of the National Park Service, and therefore federally protected, it’s not going anywhere anytime soon.” Kim Coons, who works with the park, said, “The monuments will stay here. And the reason they exist is because both sides reunified here to place the markers to tell the stories of the people who fought here.”

Federal Grant To Send Baltimore Students On Field Trips To 3 Historical Sites.

The [Baltimore Patch](#) (9/19) reports that Rep. John Sarbanes on Tuesday announced that the National Park Foundation will “award \$142,820 to support field trips for Baltimore City fourth graders to visit Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, Gwynn Falls in Baltimore National Heritage Area and Hampton National Historic Site.” Funding comes from NPF’s Open Outdoors for Kids program. In addition to Baltimore, the program will “provide \$2 million in grant funding to 130 National Park Service sites around the country and help bring more than 200,000 students to national parks for outdoor educational field trips during the 2017-2018 school year.”

Docks, Marinas Get Repaired After Microburst On Lake Powell.

The [AP](#) (9/20) reports that “authorities say repairs are nearly finished to property in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area that was damaged by last week’s microburst along the Arizona-Utah border.” According to the article, “a sudden, powerful downward gust of wind swamped or sank dozens of powerboats and jet skis last Thursday on Lake Powell and resulted in damages to the park’s docks and marinas.” Also, “at the Wahweap Marina, water, power and sewer weren’t available and the dock was damaged.” National Park Service officials “say most of the piers and docks have been repaired as of Tuesday and the Wahweap Marina should be reopened soon.”

Fly Fishing On A Day Of Healing For Veterans.

[WNEP-TV](#) Scranton, PA (9/19, Mataloni) reports that a group of veterans spent a “beautiful, late-summer day fly fishing on the Delaware River in the Poconos” as part of “Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing.” It was “the first time the National Park Service has teamed up with ‘Project Healing Waters.’” The NPS “hopes to host ‘Project Healing Waters’ during both the spring and fall seasons.”

49 Become U.S. Citizens At Yosemite National Park.

[KMPH-TV](#) Fresno, CA (9/19, Vang) reports that “the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and the National Park Service joined to present a naturalization ceremony Tuesday at Glacier Point Amphitheater in Yosemite National Park.” According to a USCIS spokesperson, the 49 new U.S. citizens came “from 15 countries that included United Kingdom, Australia, Bulgaria, Zambia, China, India and Mexico.”

New Muir Woods Reservation System Aims To Reduce Overcrowding, Traffic Congestion.

The [Napa Valley \(CA\) Register](#) (9/19) reports that the National Park Service has “selected a new parking and shuttle reservation system at the Muir Woods National Monument in Marin County.” Ace Parking Management Inc. will “manage on-site parking at the popular tourist destination.”

Office Of Insular Affairs

Trump Declares Emergency As Hurricane Maria Heads Toward Puerto Rico.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/19, story 2, 2:20, Muir) reported that Hurricane Maria is “already deadly and battering the Caribbean.” Maria made landfall in Dominica with 160 mph winds. Dominica Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerrit: “I believe we caught a very bad blow. There appears to be a lot of destruction.” The [New York Times](#) (9/19, Semple, Ramzy) reports that Skerrit said Dominica “sustained ‘mind boggling’ damage.” Skerrit wrote on Facebook, “So far we have lost all what money can buy and replace. ... My greatest fear for the morning is that we will wake to news of serious physical injury and possible deaths as a result of likely landslides triggered by persistent rains.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/19, story 3, 2:00, Mason) reported the Caribbean

island of Tortola is “bracing for the worst.”

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/19, Correll) reports that President Trump has “issued an emergency declaration for the US Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, making the territories eligible for federal funding for disaster relief.” In a [tweet](#) Tuesday evening, Trump wrote, “Puerto Rico being hit hard by new monster Hurricane. ... Be careful, our hearts are with you – will be there to help!”

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/19, story 2, 2:20, Muir) said that as Puerto Rico braces for impact, more than three million US citizens are “at risk” there, with some “warned to evacuate or risk death.” [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/19, story 2, 2:30, Holt) reported that the San Juan airport is shutting down as Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rossello “warns of catastrophic impact.” Rossello said on [CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360](#) (9/19) that “conditions are deteriorating rapidly. We are expecting a very tough hurricane, the worst hurricane in modern history in Puerto Rico. So for the past couple of days, we’ve been organizing so that we can get people out of harms way.”

Rep. Jennifer Gonzalez-Colon said on [CNBC’s Closing Bell](#) (9/19) that Puerto Rico has “never been hit by a hurricane of this category before since 1928. At that time, there were more than 5,000 people who lost their lives in that kind of hurricane. So we’re very concerned. The Governor has taken measures. I’ll tell you that FEMA and all the Federal agencies in the island are doing a wonderful job moving people and actually we got more than 500 shelters this time and asking people to move and be safe.”

Meteorologist Eric Fisher said on the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/19, story 4, 0:35, Mason) that Maria “has a very tight core, meaning the winds, the most destructive ones are right around the eye, but that eye bearing down on St. Croix, as well as Puerto Rico, as we head into early on Wednesdays morning, just before daylight, crossing the island as a catastrophic hurricane.” The [Washington Post](#) (9/19, Samenow) says a warning statement from the National Weather Service “carried an apocalyptic tone,” warning people to expect “‘catastrophic damage’ from winds to 160 mph, including ‘structural damage to sturdy buildings, some with complete roof and wall failures.’” The statement “also predicts ‘devastating to catastrophic flooding’ from rainfall amounts of 12 to 18 inches, with isolated totals exceeding 25 inches.”

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/19, story 3, 1:10, Holt) reported that Puerto Rico could see a storm surge of six to nine feet before Maria continues to Turks and Caicos on Friday. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/19, story 3, 0:55, Zee) reported that Maria will keep “well east of Florida and...away from the Carolinas in all of the computer modeling as we go into next week.”

US Geological Survey

Earthquake Outside Mexico City Kills At Least 226.

On Tuesday, less than two weeks after suffering a magnitude 8.1 earthquake, Mexico was again struck by a powerful quake. Reporting on the quake led all network news outlets. Coverage focused predominately on the rising death toll, devastation, and domestic rescue efforts.

In its lead story, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/19, lead story, 3:05, Muir) reported the “massive” 7.1 earthquake struck less than 100 miles from Mexico City on Tuesday afternoon. Dozens of deaths have already been reported, and “authorities say this death toll will go much higher.” Meanwhile, rescuers are trying to reach people trapped in the rubble. In its lead story, the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/19, lead story, 2:00, Mason) reported dozens of children remain trapped in a collapsed school in Mexico City. Elsewhere, “The roofs of a shopping center caved in. The airport runway is cracked. A government building sits tilted on its side. Many, many people are injured, and even more still feeling panicked.” Leading [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/19, lead story, 2:40, Holt), correspondent Miguel Almaguer similarly reported the quake “toppled buildings in Mexico City,” and while “thousands” fled into the streets, “untold numbers of people are trapped or missing.” Mexico has declared a state of emergency as it braces for aftershocks.

At the end of its broadcast, the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/19, story 11, 0:40, Mason) updated the death toll to at least 100. On Tuesday night, the head of Mexico’s Civil Defense agency, Luis Felipe Puente, increased the confirmed death toll to 149, but the [AP](#) (9/19, Stevenson) in updated coverage said at least 226 people have been confirmed dead. The [New York Times](#) (9/19, Semple, Malkin) reports the death toll included “scores in the state of Morelos, close to the epicenter of the quake, and dozens here in the capital, Mexico City.” On Twitter, Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto announced he had immediately returned to Mexico City. Earlier on Tuesday, “Peña Nieto attended a memorial service for those killed in the 1985 earthquake.”

The [Washington Post](#) (9/19, Partlow) reports the US Ambassador to Mexico, Roberta Jacobson, said one US Embassy staffer broke an elbow in the earthquake, but that no other Embassy workers were harmed. While Mexico City has a large American expatriate community, she said there have been no reports of affected US citizens. The embassy building "did not appear to sustain structural damage, Jacobson added."

Top National News

Trump Slams "Rocket Man" At UN, Threatens To "Totally Destroy" North Korea.

Media coverage of President Trump's address Tuesday to the UN General Assembly is widespread, with most reports focusing on his comments about North Korea. Outlets overwhelmingly cast the President as toughening his stance on Pyongyang, threatening to "totally destroy" North Korea and repeating his "Rocket Man" nickname for leader Kim Jong-Un.

All three networks covered the President's speech, dedicating seven-and-a-half minutes of total airtime, but none of them led with it. Jonathan Karl said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/19, story 4, 2:25, Muir) that while he "has spoken of fire and fury...today, President Trump went even further, raising the possibility of wiping North Korea off the map." Trump was shown saying: "The United States has great strength and patience, but if it is forced to depend itself or its allies, we will have no choice but to totally destroy North Korea." Trump then "directly referred to North Korean dictator...by his new nickname: 'Rocket Man.'" Trump: "Rocket Man is on a suicide mission for himself and for his regime."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/19, story 4, 2:40, Holt), Hallie Jackson said the comment was "met with gasps inside the room." Jim Sciutto said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (9/19) that "a senior UN diplomat in the room" said that "when Trump uttered those words...the diplomats in the room were taken aback. It, in his words, 'felt like a wind had swept through the room,' an emotional response from those present unlike anything they had heard from an American President before." According to [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/19), "an official" says the comment was added to the President's speech Tuesday morning.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/19, story 5, 2:25, Mason) said that during "his debut," Trump "vowed to work with [world leaders] for peace, but threatened to wipe one nation off the face of the earth." Trump, [Bloomberg News](#) (9/19, Talev, Wadhams) says, "bluntly threatened North Korea with annihilation," and the [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/19, Wilkinson, Bierman) says he "delivered a forceful inaugural speech" that "ranged from warlike to flowery and that challenged some long-cherished tenets of US foreign policy." In particular, he "caused a stir when he mocked...Kim...as 'Rocket Man on a suicide mission' and threatened his 'depraved regime.'" [The Hill](#) (9/19, Fabian) similarly says that the President's comments "caused a stir among the crowd of leaders and diplomats at the UN and represented his starkest ultimatum yet against North Korea," while the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/19, Stokols, Fassih) was more measured, saying that the speech drew a mixed reaction.

[USA Today](#) (9/19, Jackson) writes that "even as he addressed deadly serious issues that could involve American forces, the reality television star-turned-president deployed a colorful array of Trumpian phrases to make his points before the traditionally staid United Nations delegates." With regards to Kim, [Bloomberg News](#) (9/19, Talev, Wadhams) says Trump "at times cast aside conventions of political and diplomatic dialogue in favor of the aggressive dialect of social media," and [McClatchy](#) (9/19, Hadley) says he "used harsh and mocking language when addressing" the North Korean leader. John Roberts said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/19) that Trump "left no room for interpretation or ambiguity, demanding Kim Jong-un give up his nuclear program or else."

[Reuters](#) (9/19) says Trump "escalated his standoff with North Korea...threatening to 'totally destroy' the country of 26 million people and mocking its leader." His remarks, Reuters adds, "rattled world leaders." Using what the [AP](#) (9/19, Lemire, Superville) calls "dark language reminiscent of his 'American carnage' inaugural address," Trump delivered a "combative debut speech to the UN General Assembly, threatened to 'totally destroy' North Korea." The AP adds that while his "lashing was a vigorous restatement of what's been said by US leaders before," it was "likely to hit home harder for being intensely delivered in diplomatic prime time at the UN General Assembly."

The [New York Times](#) (9/19, Baker, Sengupta) says the "bellicose speech...drew a series of good-versus-evil lines that forecast confrontations to come," but the President "singled out North Korea for his harshest words, broadening his indictment of the Pyongyang government beyond

just its pursuit of nuclear weapons to its treatment of its own people and captured foreigners." And "without mentioning it by name," Trump also "chastised China for continuing to deal with its rogue neighbor," saying, "It is an outrage that some nations would not only trade with such a regime, but would arm, supply and financially support a country that imperils the world with nuclear conflict." The [New York Post](#) (9/19, Moore) reports that while Trump "thanked members of the UN Security Council, which has imposed several rounds of sanctions against North Korea," he also "chided those countries that still do business with Pyongyang."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/19, Nakamura, Gearan) reports that following the speech, White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders "sought to temper the idea that Trump's remarks about North Korea were a break from past US policy."

The [Washington Times](#) (9/19, Boyer) reports Sen. Dianne Feinstein criticized Trump for using his UN address "as a stage to threaten war," while Sen. David Perdue said he is "glad" that Trump and Ambassador Haley are getting more aggressive with the UN. Sen. Ben Cardin said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/19), "I don't think his remarks were well received by our allies." He added that the "international community should be there to help us" deal with the threat posed by the North, but "the President's comments put a wedge in our international coalition."

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce said on [CNN's The Lead](#) (9/19), "These aren't the words I would have used. But what I'll share with you here is that in point of fact our biggest challenge right now is applying full diplomatic and financial pressure on North Korea and getting compliance from these other countries to do it."

Rep. Andre Carson said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/19) that Trump was being his "provocative" self in his threats to North Korea. Carson added that "to President Trump's credit...you have to be firm with those who threaten to do us harm," but "having said that, in our firmness we should not ostracize those trying to keep the peace."

The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/19, story 7, 2:50, Mason) reported on an interview with former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who said "you can't deal with a rogue state like" North Korea "by yourself. You have to have great, tight relationships with all, or lots of other countries, particularly the surrounding countries. And, unfortunately, America is going in the other direction."

A [Washington Post](#) (9/19, Blake) analysis says Trump's "oddly chosen colloquialisms masked what was a pretty astounding escalation of his rhetoric when it comes to North Korea. Just to be clear: The president of the United States threatened to wipe a country of 25 million people off the map." James Rubin, however, writes in a [Politico Magazine](#) (9/19) analysis headlined "Trump's UN Speech Was Bad, But Let's Not Lose Our Heads" that despite "the screaming headlines about Trump's threat to destroy North Korea, that comment was merely a somewhat blunter statement of US declaratory policy going back decades."

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/19, Scarry) reports that Trump "disturbed some in the press" after vowing to "destroy" North Korea. MSNBC host Lawrence O'Donnell [tweeted](#) that Trump "threatened to commit a war crime" by threatening North Korea, while a reporter for the Huffington Post "seemed to suggest Trump's harsh comments may justify the rogue state's actions," saying, "Gee, Kim Jon-un is so irrational for wanting nuclear weapons."

A [USA Today](#) (9/19) editorial calls the President's threat to "destroy" North Korea "deeply unsettling," and argues that though he "rightly called upon all nations to isolate Kim's murderous regime," he "undermined that goal with the kind of man-to-man tabloid bombast...that raises Kim's stature and makes him more, rather than less, likely to cling to the nuclear arsenal that he thinks will guarantee his survival."

David Ignatius writes in his [Washington Post](#) (9/19) column that the "most surprising thing" about Trump's address "was how conventional it was. He supported human rights and democracy; he opposed rogue regimes; he espoused a global community of strong, sovereign nations. Pretty shocking stuff." But "because he's Trump, the zingers got the headlines: He repeated his childish, snarky (but sort of funny) playground denunciation of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un," as well as his "bombastic threat" to "totally destroy" North Korea. Ignatius writes that what worries him about Trump's speech is "that it was so conventional. If Trump is going to deal successfully with North Korea, he'll truly have to think outside the box."

Poll: 82% Of Republicans Back Military Strike Against North Korea If Diplomacy Fails. The [Washington Times](#) (9/19, Harper) reports that a new Gallup poll shows the "American attitude toward North Korea appears to be evolving – and not necessarily in a docile direction." The poll shows that the number of Americans who would support a US military response is "significantly higher" these days. While the percentage of Democrats who favor military action "has hardly changed since 2003: 37 percent now vs. 41 percent then," the "major shift has been among

Republicans, whose support for military action is up 23 percentage points.”

Bolton: Tillerson Pursuing “Wrong Policy” On North Korea. The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/19, Gehrke) reports former Ambassador John Bolton said Tuesday that Secretary of State Tillerson backs “the wrong policy” on North Korea. Hours after the President’s UN address, Bolton “dismissed” Tillerson’s assertion that the US has imposed sanctions on North Korea in order to induce a “constructive, productive dialogue” with the regime. Said Bolton, “We’ve had constructive dialogue with North Korea for 25 years; it doesn’t work. That’s the wrong policy.”

Colin Powell: Ignore North Korea When It Launches Missiles. The [Detroit Free Press](#) (9/19, Jesse) reports that hours after President Trump threatened to “totally destroy” North Korea if it launched nuclear weapons, former Secretary of State Colin Powell “said a different tactic would be better.” Speaking at the University of Michigan, Powell said, “Let’s not go crazy every time they shoot missiles. Start ignoring them and maybe you can find a different way to solve this. It would probably drive them crazy if we ignored one of their launches and after the media interest went away, it would die down.”

Trump At UN: Iran Nuclear Deal An “Embarrassment.”

President Trump’s criticism of the Iran nuclear deal during Tuesday’s address to the UN General Assembly also receives significant media attention, including mentions on all three networks last night. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/19, story 4, 2:25, Muir) reported Iran’s delegation listened as Trump accused the country “of funding terrorism and lashed out at the nuclear agreement negotiated with President Obama and America’s European allies.” Trump: “The Iran deal was one of the worst and most one-sided transactions the United States has ever entered into. Frankly, that deal is an embarrassment to the United States.” Trump, who ABC noted didn’t say if the US would withdraw from the agreement, “cast this moment as a turning point for the UN.” Trump: “It is entirely up to us, whether we lift the world to new heights or let it fall into a valley of disrepair. If the righteous many do not confront the wicked few, then evil will triumph.” The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/19, story 5, 2:25, Mason), however, said Trump “implied he might pull out” of the deal.

[The Hill](#) (9/19, Chalfant) reports Trump insisted that “it is time for the entire world to join us in demanding that Iran end its pursuit of death and destruction.”

[Fox News’ Special Report](#) (9/19) reported Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu “loved” Trump’s comments on Iran. Fox showed Netanyahu saying of Trump’s address: “I have listened to countless speeches in this hall. I can say this: none were bolder, none were more courageous and forthright than the one delivered by President Trump today. President Trump rightly called the nuclear deal with Iran, he called it an embarrassment. I couldn’t agree more.” [Breitbart](#) (9/19, Danan) also reports Netanyahu’s reaction.

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/19, story 4, 2:40, Holt), Hallie Jackson reported that Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, by contrast, accused Trump “of ignorant hate speech.” [Fox News’ Special Report](#) (9/19) reported Zarif [tweeted](#), “Trump’s ignorant hate speech belongs in medieval times, not the 21st century. UN -unworthy of a reply.”

Iran, [Reuters](#) (9/19) reports, denounced Trump’s remarks as “shameless and ignorant” and “said his speech on Tuesday showed his lack of knowledge about Tehran’s fight against terrorism.” State media quoted Zarif as saying, “Trump’s shameless and ignorant remarks, in which he ignored Iran’s fight against terrorism, displays his lack of knowledge and unawareness.”

[CNN’s Situation Room](#) (9/19) reported Trump’s assertion that the Iran nuclear deal is “one of the worst and one-sided transactions the United States has ever entered into” was also “a cause of concern” for French President Emmanuel Macron, who said, “If we simply throw out this agreement, there is nothing to replace it. And if you have nothing, then it’s the same situation as North Korea, and I don’t want to find myself in a no man’s land.”

[Politico](#) (9/19, Toosi) reports that “in public, in private, and with few exceptions,” world leaders gathered at the UN this week are urging Trump “not to follow through on his threat to derail the Iran nuclear deal. But so far, Trump shows no sign of listening to them.” The issue, Politico says, will “take center stage on Wednesday,” when Secretary of State Tillerson joins a multinational meeting on the nuclear deal that will also be attended by Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, marking “the first time the two men will meet face-to-face.”

[CNN](#) (9/19, Watkins) reports on its website that House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Ed Royce said Tuesday that the US “should focus on enforcing the nuclear agreement with Iran instead of renegotiating it.” Speaking to CNN’s Jake Tapper, Royce said, “I think we should enforce the hell out of the agreement and thereby force compliance on the part of Iran.”

Rep. Andre Carson said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (9/19) that withdrawing from the deal

would be a “tremendous mistake” that “brings us closer to war.” Carson commended the Obama Administration for securing the pact, and said he thinks the “deal is working” and “is worth it.” Sen. Ben Cardin said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/19) said “our concern” is that Trump will “rip up” the nuclear agreement despite Iran not being in violation of the deal. He said if Trump did tear up the deal, “we would be the ones walking away,” and “our allies would be scratching their heads.”

Tillerson: Deal's Sunset Provisions “Not A Sensible Way Forward.” [Reuters](#) (9/20, Mohammed, Irish) reports Secretary of State Tillerson said Tuesday that the nuclear agreement's “sunset” clauses, under which some restrictions against Iran's nuclear program are slated to expire in 2025, “simply is not a sensible way forward.” Said Tillerson, “It's just simply...kicking the can down the road again for someone in the future to have to deal with.”

Rouhani: “No One Will Trust America Again” If It Leaves Nuclear Deal. “Minutes before” Trump “ripped Iran,” Lester Holt of [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/19, story 5, 3:00) sat down with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, who warned that if the US pulls out of the nuclear deal, “no one will trust America again. ... Because after such a possible scenario, which country would be willing to sit across the table from the United States of America and talk about international issues?” When asked if he'd ever sit down with President Trump, Rouhani replied, “When the United States government in very transparently speaks of an aim of regime change in Iran, talking in bilateral fashion becomes very meaningless. In the current atmosphere, I do not see the current requirements for such a meeting.” Rouhani also dismissed the Trump Administration's attempts to put Iran in the same basket as North Korea, saying, “North Korea has said in very straightforward manner that it seeks nuclear weapons. ... Iran is completely the opposite point.”

Families Of Americans Imprisoned In Iran Welcome Trump's Call For Their Release. The [Washington Free Beacon](#) (9/19, Crabtree) reports that “families and advocates for Americans imprisoned in Iran applauded President Trump for demanding the release of all US prisoners and others unjustly detained in Tehran” during his speech Tuesday. Family members of Siamak and Baquer Namazi, a father and son who are being held in Iran, “also urged Trump to take urgent action to try to secure their release. ”

Former Iranian Political Prisoner Urges Regime To Acknowledge 1988 Executions. Former Iranian political prisoner Shabnam Madadzadeh writes in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/19) that in 1988, an estimated 30,000 Iranians – mostly members of the opposition group Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK) – were executed. Madadzadeh calls on Iran's leaders to acknowledge the killings and hold the mullahs responsible for them accountable. The first step, he says, is the establishment of an independent international investigation.

Trump Calls Out Venezuela, Cuba In UN Speech.

The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/19, story 5, 2:25, Mason) reported in his address to the UN General Assembly on Tuesday, President Trump “called Cuba and Venezuela failed socialist states. He said Venezuela has descended into chaos after illegitimate elections.” Trump: “We are prepared to take further action if the government of Venezuela persists on its path to impose authoritarian rule on the Venezuelan people.” [McClatchy](#) (9/19, Ordoñez) reports that during his address, Trump threatened “further action” against Venezuela and “promised not to lift sanctions against Cuba until the government in Havana makes fundamental reforms.” In a speech that McClatchy says “moved quickly from criticism of America's adversaries to dire warnings of nuclear war,” Trump “singl[ed] out Venezuela and Cuba for, he said, delivering only ‘anguish and failure’ to its people.” The President also “called on world leaders to do more to help the people of Venezuela and not look the other way as their government destroys democratic institutions.”

[Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/19) reported Venezuela had a “sharp reaction” to Trump's speech, as the regime “didn't like being called out for imposing a brutal dictatorship.” [Bloomberg News](#) (9/19, Bristow) reports Venezuela said in a statement that it is prepared to defend itself against aggression from US and its allies. Venezuela will “keep defeating in the political and diplomatic spheres” what “it described as an onslaught of nefarious threats against its sovereignty.”

Newsweek: Trump's Condemnation Of Socialism Met With “Laughter,” “Weak Applause.” In what [Newsweek](#) (9/19, Haltiwanger) calls “perhaps the most awkward moment of Trump's speech,” when Trump “criticized socialism during his speech...he seemed to expect roaring approval from the audience. Instead, world leaders responded with laughter and weak applause.” Conservative commentator Bill O'Reilly “perhaps described it best,” saying, “Most fascinating part of Trump [United Nations] speech: After lambasting socialism, he paused, perhaps waiting for applause. None came. Stony silence.”

In UN Speech, Trump Vows To Always Put America First.

Also garnering media attention is the President's vow to put America first during his UN remarks. The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/19, story 5, 2:25, Mason), for example, reported that in his first address to the UN General Assembly, President Trump "told the leaders of the world he will always put America first and said they should put their countries first, too." [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/19) said Trump's "address started much like a campaign speech, minus the applause from his conservative base, as the President talked about making America first." While Trump "tried to win over a world body he has ridiculed as ineffective," he also "made it clear he's ready to go it alone on a variety of fronts."

[Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/19) reported Trump "says it's not his intent to nation build or impose democracy through military...action, but rather to create global stability by partnering with nations that put the well-being of their citizens first." Trump was shown saying that as President, "I will always put America first. Just like you, as the leaders of your countries, will always and should always put your countries first."

The President, says the [New York Times](#) (9/19, Baker, Sengupta), "defended his America First policy and argued that nationalism can be reconciled with common causes," repeatedly using the word "sovereignty" to "describe his approach in a setting where the term traditionally has been brandished by nations like Russia and China to deflect criticism of their actions."

On its front page, the [Washington Post](#) (9/19, A1, Jaffe, DeYoung) says Trump "hammered the principle of national sovereignty...but then outlined an agenda that would keep the United States deeply engaged in the world." In a [New York Times](#) (9/19) analysis, Mark Landler similarly writes that Trump "offered a strikingly selective definition of the concept, threatening to act aggressively against nations like North Korea, Iran and Venezuela, whose policies he opposes, yet saying almost nothing about Russia, which seized territory from its neighbor, Ukraine, and meddled in the American presidential election."

[USA Today](#) (9/19, Korte) says Tuesday's address "was perhaps the most aggressive speech ever delivered by a US president at the UN," but "amid the provocative language, the widely anticipated address also provided a clear articulation of Trump's emerging worldview. He envisions an international order in which each nation pursues its own self interests — and cooperates only when those interests converge."

[Politico](#) (9/19, Toosi, McCaskill) reports Trump "urged nations to band together to fight 'evil' — even as he extolled the virtue of respecting national sovereignty and insisted that America isn't looking to impose its 'way of life' on others." The "at-times contradictory remarks," Politico adds, were "filled with soaring rhetoric that touched on everything from 'God' to 'chaos,' and the dark tones were reminiscent of Trump's inaugural address, in which he promised to bring an end to 'American carnage.'"

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/19) editorializes that while Trump is right to challenge the UN and promote "national sovereignty," there is no substitute for US leadership on the global stage. Max Boot writes for [USA Today](#) (9/19) that "the Trump Doctrine is selfishness squared. Just as Trump has never done anything in his life that did not benefit him personally, so he cannot imagine any nation acting for the general good. In his private life, it's me first. In his foreign policy, it's America First."

[Wall Street Journal](#) (9/19) columnist Gerald F. Seib writes that Trump offered world leaders a concise summary of his approach to world affairs, declaring: "We are guided by outcomes, not ideology."

[Reuters](#) (9/19, Mason, Holland) writes that "among the many signals" that Trump sent in his speech, "one was especially clear: former chief strategist Steve Bannon's White House departure has not muted the president's 'America First' foreign policy instincts."

Reaction to the President's address in the media and lawmakers was generally split along party lines. Of note, however, the [New York Times](#) (9/19) — which is typically very critical of the President — writes on its editorial page that the UN "isn't the venue one would expect for threatening war. Yet that's what President Trump did in his first address to the General Assembly." But overall, the Times says Trump's "largely benign comments about the United Nations were encouraging, considering he once condemned it as useless and having no place in his 'America First' vision."

A [Washington Post](#) (9/19) editorial says that "for those who have been alarmed by President Trump's retreat from traditional American values, there were reassuring moments" Tuesday. Trump, it says, "rightly and scathingly attacked regimes that deprive their own people of liberty, such as those in North Korea and Venezuela." And "less reassuring" were Trump's "schoolboy taunts" of "Rocket Man." And then, "somewhere in between, there was Mr. Trump's repeated

emphasis on sovereignty.”

[Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/19) reported that Rep. Mark Takano called Trump's speech “shockingly reckless.” Rep. Barbara Lee tweeted, “Dangerous rhetoric & abdication of values” from President Trump. By contrast, Mitt Romney said Trump “gave a strong and needed challenge to UN members to live up to its charter and to confront global challenges.” New Gingrich said Trump's speech “is historic and sets a new standard. Sovereignty and national interest are reasserted as principles.”

Rep. Andre Carson noted on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/19) that Trump in his speech “praised” the State Department. Carson found that “interesting, because his proposal in his budget makes the deepest cuts in State Department history.”

Gloria Borger said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/19), “This was a speech that you can say is full of bombast, which it was, but is the first time we heard laid out completely, clearly Donald Trump's vision for the world. He took on North Korea directly. He took on Iran directly. He took on Venezuela. He took on Syria directly And he also, in addition to taking on those bad actors, he made the case that we foot a lot of the bill in the United Nations and that has to change. There are a lot of people in the audience that would be upset about it. People who will not upset about it are Donald Trump's base and lots of Republicans.” A [McClatchy](#) (9/19, Kumar) analysis says Trump “delivered the message of the voters who elected him.”

Mara Liasson of NPR said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/19), “This is what the White House wanted. I thought the speech had something for everyone. For people who wanted some tough, nationalist populist rhetoric, it was in there. I thought it was a step back from the UN bashing that Trump had done during the campaign.”

Catherine Lucey of the AP said on [Fox News' Special Report](#) (9/19) that Trump “really put the world on notice today. The President came in with a clear message he wanted to deliver. If you've been watching his speeches throughout the year and the campaign, it really was a continuation of a vision we've seen from him before. This was a dark interpretation of the state of affairs in the world, but it revealed his frustration and the way he thinks, and it's the way he thinks he needs to deliver the message. This is the kind of rhetoric he's comfortable with. This is the way he wants to communicate. He wanted to make a stand today.”

In his opening monologue on [Fox News' Hannity](#) (9/19), Sean Hannity said of Trump's address, “This is what leading on the world stage actually looks like. President Trump refused to appease and capitulate to countries like Iran and the hate America crowd in North Korea, countries that want to see Israel wiped off the map.” Hannity added that Trump “is receiving very high praise for his very bold and direct address.”

White House Joins Graham-Cassidy Push, But Bill's Prospects Remain Uncertain.

On Tuesday, the White House threw itself into the effort to pass the Graham-Cassidy bill to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, but reports portray the bill's prospects as uncertain despite the optimism of Sen. Lindsay Graham – with the vote of Graham's close friend Sen. John McCain again possibly proving decisive.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/19, story 6, 2:00, Muir) reported on the “last-ditch effort” in the Senate “to kill Obamacare, but time is running out. They have to get it done by next week.” ABC's Mary Bruce: “Tonight, the mad dash to deliver. Mr. Vice President, are you finally going to get health reform done?” Vice President Pence: “We're making progress.” Bruce: “Just six working days left for Republicans to overhaul Obamacare with a simple majority vote. The White House tonight is fully on board; the President's working the phones.” Pence: “All-in.” Bruce: “The new GOP plan ends Obamacare subsidies and the Medicaid expansion. Instead, states will get some money to use as they see fit.” Graham: “Here's the choice for America: socialism or federalism when it comes to your healthcare.”

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/19, Mascaro) reports that the President “is making a big push to revive the Republican healthcare overhaul days before a Senate deadline.” Pence, who was in New York with the President for the General Assembly meeting, “returned to the Capitol to tell Republican senators: ‘Now is the time. We have 12 days.’” [Breitbart](#) (9/19, Moons) reports, “Pence said that President Trump is ‘a great believer in federalism.’ The Vice President indicated that this fact moved the Trump Administration to spend the past six weeks ‘in discussions about the way forward, about [Graham's and Sen. Bill Cassidy's] development of the bill’ and have ‘provided administration resources to support their analysis.’”

[The Hill](#) (9/19, Carney) reports that Graham told reporters on Tuesday, “I really believe we're going to get 50 Republican votes. I've never felt better about where we're at.” Guy Benson of [Townhall](#) (9/19) writes that Graham told reporters that House Speaker Ryan “pledged to him

that if the Senate passes the legislation, the House will follow suit – but that the House will not take up a bill that merely props up Obamacare with more bailout-style money, which is the ‘compromise’ sought by Democrats.” [Townhall](#) (9/19, O'Brien) additionally reports that Graham has been working with Stephen Bannon, who he dubbed “Darth Vader,” as well as “figures like Alan Greenspan [and] Jeb Bush,” to help win support. [Reuters](#) (9/19, Cornwell) reports that Senate Majority Leader McConnell said on the floor that “lawmakers should act because ‘our opportunity to do so may well pass us by if we don’t act soon.’”

The deciding vote could be McCain’s, and the [New York Times](#) (9/19, Stolberg) writes that the bill is testing the very close bond between McCain and his close friend Graham – “who is so closely identified with Mr. McCain that when he arrived in the Senate after serving in the House, he was called ‘McCain’s mini-me.’” The [Washington Times](#) (9/19, Howell) reports that McCain “refused to tip his hand Tuesday.” He told reporters, “I have nothing to say. I have nothing to say.”

Margot Sanger-Katz writes in the [New York Times](#) (9/19) “The Upshot” that “the bill faces substantial challenges.” Sen. Rand Paul “is a hard no, which makes the math difficult,” the bill contains “a huge redistribution of money between states in the bill’s formula” that would negatively impact “states with must-get senators,” and “the timing is tight, and the bill still has a long way to go.” However, ACA repeal “is a core promise for Republicans,” and the GOP is motivated to get it done.

Sen. Ben Cardin said on [CNN’s Situation Room](#) (9/19), “We’ve been working the last two weeks, Democrats and Republicans, in order to improve the Affordable Care Act. That’s what the American people want us to do. ... But what the Cassidy bill would do is significantly reduce coverage in this country. Tens of millions of people lose coverage. And more tragically, the progress we’ve made against abuse of practices with insurance companies...is at great risk with the Cassidy bill. It’s moving again in the wrong direction.”

In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/19) calls the bill “about as execrable as the others that GOP lawmakers previously failed to approve,” and the process “as sloppy and partisan as the one to which” McCain and other senators “objected earlier in the summer. The outcome would be no less destructive.”

Timothy Jost of Washington and Lee University Law School writes in the [Washington Post](#) (9/19) that Graham-Cassidy would “hand the states block grants and abandon to them millions of Americans whom the ACA now helps. ... It would effectively strangle the efforts of states – predominantly Democratic – that have been most successful in extending coverage under the ACA’s Medicaid expansion, tax credits and cost-sharing reductions. Conversely, it would lavish funding on states – predominantly Republican – that have resisted the coverage expansion opportunities the ACA offered.”

CNN Analysis: With “Private Outreach,” Trump Trying To Smooth Relations With Senate Republicans. On its website, [CNN](#) (9/19, Raju) reported that earlier this summer, Trump “had a contentious phone call with” Sen. Lisa Murkowski “and also berated her on Twitter, accusing her of letting the country down for voting against GOP plans to gut Obamacare. But behind the scenes, Trump has since tried to make nice, inviting her to a private lunch earlier this month – something that seems to have defused tensions, at least for now..” CNN added, “The private outreach is part of a more concerted White House effort to repair relations Trump damaged with his own party over a tumultuous August, following the failure of the GOP effort to repeal Obamacare and a slew of White House controversies.” The effort “comes at a critical time: The White House is desperately trying to revive its health care push before a September 30 deadline – and needs senators like Murkowski to salvage the President’s agenda.”

Bipartisan Group Of Governors Opposes Graham-Cassidy. The [New York Times](#) (9/19, A1, Pear, Kaplan) reports that a bipartisan group of governors “including five Republicans and a pivotal Alaskan independent urged the Senate on Tuesday to reject a last-ditch push to dismantle the Affordable Care Act.” Govs. Charles Baker of Massachusetts, Steve Bullock of Montana, John Bel Edwards of Louisiana, John Hickenlooper of Colorado, John Kasich of Ohio, Terry McAuliffe of Virginia, Brian Sandoval of Nevada, Phil Scott of Vermont, Bill Walker of Alaska, and Tom Wolf of Pennsylvania signed [a letter](#) opposing Graham-Cassidy, while Govs. Larry Hogan of Maryland and Chris Sununu of New Hampshire “expressed similar concerns in separate statements.”

The [Washington Post](#) (9/19, A1, Sullivan, Snell, Eilperin) says that Walker “holds sway” over Sen. Lisa Murkowski, “a potentially decisive vote,” while Sandoval “is now at odds” with Sen. Dean Heller, “who is a co-sponsor of the bill.” The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/19, King) reports that “a group of 15 Republican governors” announced their support for the bill in a Tuesday letter.

Americans For Limited Government Backs Bill. [Breitbart](#) (9/19, Moran) reports that

Americans for Limited Government President Rick Manning endorsed the bill on Tuesday, saying, "We are encouraged that the Senate is close to passage on the Cassidy-Graham bill, which is the last best chance for Republicans to keep their basic promise to repeal and replace Obamacare."

Kimmel: Cassidy "Just Lied Right To My Face." On [ABC's Jimmy Kimmel Live](#) (9/19), host Jimmy Kimmel criticized Cassidy for saying on his show earlier this year that he would enact "the Jimmy Kimmel test" to protect families from losing health coverage. Kimmel said, "He got a lot of credit and attention for coming off like a rare, reasonable voice in the Republican Party when it came to healthcare. ... [Cassidy] just lied right to my face." Kimmel's segment on the bill ran seven minutes.

Senate Republicans Tentatively Agree On \$1.5 Trillion Tax Cut Plan.

The [AP](#) (9/19, Taylor) cites "congressional officials" who said that "top Republicans" on the Senate Budget Committee "have reached a tentative agreement on a tax plan that would add about \$1.5 trillion to the government's \$20 trillion debt over 10 years." Panel member, Sen. Bob Corker, "said on Tuesday that Republicans have 'potentially gotten to a very good place' on agreeing to how much the upcoming tax measure might cost, once the Senate's tax writers have blended together rate cuts, additional revenue raised through curbing tax breaks, and the beneficial effects of what he called 'pro-growth tax reform.'" While Corker "didn't offer a number...officials familiar with the Senate Budget panel's internal discussions said the allowance for the tax measure would amount to \$1.5 trillion."

Ylan Mui said on [CNBC's Closing Bell](#) (9/19) that committee Republicans "are looking at a package of between \$1 trillion to \$2 trillion in tax cuts." [Politico](#) (9/19, Ferris, Scholtes) reports that Corker and Sen. Pat Toomey have "reached a compromise on the scope of tax breaks." Corker "has not yet said if he's agreed to the \$1.5 trillion in tax breaks over a decade that GOP senators reportedly have been considering," but he "acknowledged to reporters asking about the \$1.5 trillion figure: 'I think you guys already know what the number is. I'm not going to say it.'" The [New York Times](#) (9/19, Rappeport, Kaplan) reports that while Republicans "say a tax cut of this magnitude will stimulate economic growth enough to offset any deficit impact," critics "say a deficit-financed tax cut is at odds with longstanding Republican calls for fiscal discipline, including that tax cuts not add to the ballooning federal deficit." A short story in the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/19, Hughes, Rubin) also reports on the tentative agreement.

Hatch: Tax Reform Should Include Dividend Deduction. [Reuters](#) (9/19) reports that Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch said Tuesday that allowing US companies "to deduct dividend payments to shareholders from federal income tax could overcome problems facing Republican efforts to overhaul the US tax code." Speaking at the opening of a tax reform hearing, Hatch "said he sees the proposal known as 'corporate integration' as a way to end the perceived double taxation of US companies through tax legislation."

Jordan, Meadows: Tax Plan Must Help Families, Grow The Economy. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/19), Reps. Jim Jordan and Mark Meadows, the former and current chairmen of the House Freedom Caucus, that the Freedom Caucus has been told not to offer tax reform legislation and to wait for leadership's bill, which they will not be able to see until after they vote for the 2018 budget. Jordan and Meadows argue that the Freedom Caucus will pass the budget if they are sure the tax plan will reduce taxes for families and grow the economy.

Report: Cutting Wasteful Spending Would Balance Budget In Three Years.

According to a report from Citizens Against Government Waste titled "Prime Cuts 2017," Congress "could balance the budget in three years" if it would "cut unnecessary and wasteful spending in the federal government," the [Washington Free Beacon](#) (9/19, Meyer) reports. The report "outlines 607 recommendations to cut inefficient government spending that would not only balance the budget within three years but also save taxpayers \$336.2 billion in the first year and \$2.3 trillion over five years."

Pruitt Questions Whether Climate Change Is An "Existential Threat."

EPA Administrator Pruitt said on [Fox News' Fox & Friends](#) (9/19), "With this climate change, we know certain things. We know the climate is always changing. We know that humans contribute to it in some way. To what degree to measure that with precision is very difficult. But what we don't know is we are in a situation where it's an existential threat. Is it unsustainable with respect to what we see presently. Let's have a debate about that, bring scientists in, red team scientists, blue team scientists and have a discussion about the importance of this issue so the American people deserve that type of objective, transparent discussion."

Brown: Trump's Claims About Paris Agreement Are "Fake." California Gov. Jerry Brown was asked on [CNN's The Lead](#) (9/19) about President Trump's claim that China got a better deal than the US in the Paris agreement. Brown said, "China is doing more than the US right now. They are closing down coal plants. They are massively investing in solar and wind. They are mastering battery technology, which will help America. So this point that America got a bad deal is fake. It's more fake than any fake news assertion by President Trump."

Federal Report On Climate To Be Released In November.

[E&E Publishing](#) (9/19) reports a study that warns "of the dire consequences of climate change that some feared would be suppressed under the Trump administration is tentatively set to be publicly released Nov. 3." The report, which is part of the National Climate Assessment, "spans more than 600 pages and has received input from 13 federal agencies." Texas Tech University climate scientist Katharine Hayhoe said, "While the full report is 600 pages long, it can be summarized in one sentence: It's real, it's us, it's serious, and the window of time to prevent dangerous impacts is closing fast." E&E adds that "a draft of the report drew national attention in recent months after The New York Times highlighted the study's findings and fears the Trump administration would hide the results."

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

"Warmongers And Peacemakers At The UN." The [New York Times](#) (9/19) writes on its editorial page that the UN "isn't the venue one would expect for threatening war. Yet that's what President Trump did in his first address to the General Assembly." But overall, the Times says Trump's "largely benign comments about the United Nations were encouraging, considering he once condemned it as useless and having no place in his 'America First' vision."

"Even College Doesn't Bridge The Racial Income Gap." A [New York Times](#) (9/20, Board) editorial examines how "racial pay gaps have expanded the most for college graduates, which makes it seem clear that discrimination is a leading cause." The Times adds, "The racial pay gap is narrower among women, but the gender pay gap in average hourly earnings is large," in part because "black women at all education levels are likelier to be their family's sole or primary provider, and thus more attached to the work force." The Times questions why "economic disparities persist even among college-educated workers," and cautions, "Racism and sexism are entrenched, and leaders need to acknowledge that and address the problem head-on."

Washington Post.

"Another Execrable Healthcare Bill Proves Bad Ideas Never Die." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/19) calls the Graham-Cassidy healthcare bill "about as execrable as the others that GOP lawmakers previously failed to approve," and the process "as sloppy and partisan as the one to which" McCain and other senators "objected earlier in the summer. The outcome would be no less destructive."

"Trump Undermines His Own Advocacy For Human Dignity." A [Washington Post](#) (9/19) editorial says that "for those who have been alarmed by President Trump's retreat from traditional American values, there were reassuring moments" during his address to the UN General Assembly Tuesday. Trump, it says, "rightly and scathingly attacked regimes that deprive their own people of liberty, such as those in North Korea and Venezuela." And "less reassuring" were Trump's "schoolboy taunts" of "Rocket Man." And then, "somewhere in between, there was Mr. Trump's repeated emphasis on sovereignty."

"Who Pays For The White House To Lawyer Up?" The [Washington Post](#) (9/19) editorializes that as special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation "apparently gathers steam, so does a debate over an Office of Government Ethics rule prohibiting anonymous donations to legal defense funds of government employees. While no such defense fund has yet been set up" for Trump's aides, "its creation would help staffers shoulder the costs of the high-quality legal representation needed to weather questioning. ... And the recent confusion over OGE rules shows that it's time for the office to make clear its position on requiring donor disclosures."

Wall Street Journal.

"Trump Shock At Turtle Bay." The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/19) editorializes that while President Trump is right to challenge the UN and promote "national sovereignty," there is no substitute for

US leadership on the global stage.

“James Madison Weeps.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/19) writes that a new Brookings Institution survey of more than 1,500 undergraduates found that most did not know hate speech was constitutionally protected, half agreed with shouting down speakers with whom they disagreed, and a fifth believed in the use of violence against speakers. The Journal concludes that many college students are clueless about free speech.

“All Mr. Comey’s Wiretaps.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/19) says in an editorial that a Paul Manafort wiretap would show that there was indeed federal wiretapping of Trump Tower, where Manafort has owned a condo since 2006, during the campaign.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today’s Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Trump Issues Dire Warning To North Korea In Address To UN](#)
[Heavy Debt Crushed Owners Of Toys ‘R’ Us](#)
[CEO Catches Stranger After Hours, Prompting Espionage Charges](#)
[How Antifa Violence Has Split The Left](#)

New York Times:

[With Combative Style And Epithets, Trump Takes America First To The UN](#)
[Trump Offers A Selective View Of Sovereignty In UN Speech](#)
[Powerful Earthquake Strikes Mexico, Killing Over 100](#)
[Senate Republicans Embrace Plan For \\$1.5 Trillion Tax Cut](#)
[Republican Leaders Defy Bipartisan Opposition To Health Law Repeal](#)
[Aung San Suu Kyi, A Much-Changed Icon, Evades Rohingya Accusations](#)
[A ‘Quest For Justice’ For A Murdered Civil Rights Pioneer, 52 Years Later](#)

Washington Post:

[GOP Health Bill Hits Hurdle In Resistance From Governors](#)
[Trump Makes Defiant UN Debut](#)
[Robust Emphasis On Sovereignty Echoes President’s Domestic Agenda](#)
[Puerto Rico Prepares For Direct Hit By Maria](#)
[Ugly Past, Unattractive Present For Biggest Confederate Monument](#)
[Scores Dead After Powerful Quake Jolts Mexico](#)

Financial Times:

[Trump Threatens To ‘Totally Destroy’ North Korea](#)
[Theresa May Prepares €20bn EU Budget Offer](#)
[Russian-Built Nuclear Plant Revives Chernobyl Fears](#)
[Aung San Suu Kyi Defends Handling Of Rohingya Crisis](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Defines ‘America First’ To Wary World Leaders At U.N., Warns North Korea And Iran](#)
[Senate Republicans Close To Pushing Through Obamacare Repeal](#)
[National Mall Faces Space Crunch For Global War On Terror Memorial](#)
[In U.N. Address, Trump Replaces Obama’s Soft Talk With Big Stick](#)
[At Least 149 Dead In Mexico After Magnitude 7.1 Earthquake](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night’s Network News:

ABC: Mexico City Earthquake; Hurricanes-Caribbean; Hurricane Tracking; Trump-UN Address; Russia Meddling Investigation-Manafort; Congress-Healthcare Reform; Louisiana-Racial Murders; Wheaton College-Football Team Hazing; Florida-Hospital Outrage; Russia Military Training Accident; Toys R Us-Bankruptcy; Disabled Pilot.

CBS: Mexico City Earthquake; Mexico City Earthquake-Expert Comment; Hurricanes-Caribbean; Hurricane Tracking; Trump-UN Address; Russia Meddling Investigation-Manafort; Michael Bloomberg Interview; Guns In Classrooms; Louisiana-Racial Murders; Toys R Us-Bankruptcy; Mexico City Earthquake-Situation Update.

NBC: Mexico City Earthquake; Hurricanes-Caribbean; Hurricane Tracking; Trump-UN Address; Iranian President Interview; Red Cross Controversy; Toys R Us-Bankruptcy; Florida Sinkhole;

Dodge Trucks Recall; Wrong Baby Registry; Children Night Lights.

Network TV At A Glance:

Mexico City Earthquake – 10 minutes, 15 seconds
Hurricanes – 9 minutes, 30 seconds
Trump-UN Address – 7 minutes, 30 seconds
Russia Meddling Investigation-Manafort – 4 minutes, 35 seconds
Toys R Us-Bankruptcy – 2 minutes, 20 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Mexico City Earthquake; Hurricanes; Louisiana-Racial Murders; Congress-Healthcare Reform.

CBS: Mexico City Earthquake; Hurricanes; Trump-UN Address; Russia Meddling Investigation-Manafort; Sanctuary Cities; Wall Street News.

FOX: Mexico City Earthquake; Hurricanes; Trump-UN Address.

NPR: Hurricanes; Mexico City Earthquake; Trump-UN Address; Congress-Healthcare Reform.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Participates in an expanded meeting with the King of Jordan; participates in an expanded meeting with the President of the Palestinian Authority; attends a working lunch with African leaders; participates in an expanded meeting with the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; participates in an expanded meeting with the President of Egypt.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Delivers remarks at a UN Security Council high-level debate on reform of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations; joins the President for an expanded meeting with the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; joins the President for an expanded meeting with the President of Egypt.

US Senate: 9:00 AM Senate Aging Committee hearing on disaster preparedness and response – Hearing on 'Disaster Preparedness and Response: The Special Needs of Older Americans', with testimony from former New Orleans Health Commissioner Karen DeSalvo; University of South Florida School of Aging Studies Professor / Florida Policy Exchange Center on Aging Director Dr Kathryn Hyer; Portlight Inclusive Disaster Strategies CEO/President Paul Timmons Jr.; and Wilkes-Barre, PA, Fire Chief/Emergency Management Coordinator Jay Delaney Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 562, Washington, DC <http://aging.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Judiciary Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Allison Eid to be U.S. Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit; Annemarie Carney Axon to be U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama; Michael Lawrence Brown and William Ray II to be U.S. District Judges for the Northern District of Georgia; and Thomas Alvin Farr to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 226, Washington, DC <http://judiciary.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Environment and Public Works Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Michael Dourson, Matthew Leopold, David Ross, and William Wehrum to be Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrators; and Jeffery Baran to be a Nuclear Regulatory Commission member Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 406, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:30 AM Republican Sen. James Lankford meets with Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney Location: Washington, DC <http://www.lankford.senate.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/SenatorLankford>

1:00 PM Dem Sen. Jack Reed and military consumer advocates hold briefing on the CFPB arbitration rule – Democratic Sen. Jack Reed and military consumer advocates hold briefing on 'how the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's arbitration rule directly benefits the military community and helps protect service members from financial frauds and abuses', and 'how the CFPB rule directly impacts Equifax and Wells Fargo customers'. Other participants include Commissioned Officers Association Deputy Executive Director John McElligot, Public Justice Executive Director Paul Bland, and Wells Fargo fake account victim Tracey Kilgore Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 538, Washington, DC <http://reed.senate.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/SenJackReed>

2:30 PM Senate Governmental Affairs subcommittee hearing on end of the year spending –

Federal Spending Oversight and Emergency Management Subcommittee hearing on 'Prudent Planning or Wasteful Binge? Another Look at End of the Year Spending', with testimony from Section 809 Panel Commissioner Dr Allan Burman; Mercatus Center at George Mason University Senior Research Fellow Dr Jason Fichtner; and Government Accountability Office Director of Strategic Issues Heather Krause Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 342, Washington, DC <http://hsgac.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenateHSGAC>

US House: 9:00 AM Dem Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee co-hosts event on ending all discrimination against all women and girls – 'Target One: Ending All Forms of Discrimination Against All Women and Girls Everywhere' – the inaugural event of a new breakfast series hosted by Democratic Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) exploring each element of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) #5, 'Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls'. Participants include University of Delaware Assistant Professor of Women and Gender Studies Dr Kara Ellerby, Smash Strategies partner Susan Markham, and IFES Director of Monitoring and Evaluation and Public Opinion Research Rakesh Sharma Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2045, Washington, DC www.ifes.org [#SDG5](https://twitter.com/IFES1987)

10:30 AM Pelosi, others ahead of HBCU Roundtable – House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Congresswoman Alma Adams, Congressman Bobby Scott, and Members of the Congressional Black Caucus will deliver brief remarks ahead of a roundtable with Historically Black Colleges And Universities (HBCU) Presidents and Chancellors to discuss legislative priorities. Remarks will be delivered at the top of the meeting. Location: Gabe Zimmerman Room, HVC-215 Capitol Visitor Center The Capitol. <http://www.democraticleader.gov/> <https://twitter.com/NancyPelosi>

12:00 PM Pelosi Weekly briefing – Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi will hold her weekly press conference. Location: HVC Studio A (Enter through HVC-117), Capitol Visitor Center. <http://www.democraticleader.gov/> <https://twitter.com/NancyPelosi>

On recess until 25 September.

Other: 7:30 AM Air, Space & Cyber Conference continues with Defense Secretary Mattis keynote – Air Force Association Annual Air, Space & Cyber Conference and Technology Exposition continues, with final day keynote from U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis Location: Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, 201 Waterfront St, National Harbor, MD National Harbor www.afa.org [#ASC17](https://twitter.com/AirForceAssoc)

8:00 AM U.S. Black Chambers Policy Breakfast – U.S. Black Chambers Policy Breakfast, with panel discussions on 'Doing Business with Corporate America', and 'Public Sector Contracting: Diverse Supply Chains on a Local Level'. Speakers include Democratic Rep. Cedric Richmond Location: NCTA – The Internet & Television Association, 25 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC www.usblackchambers.org <https://twitter.com/usblackchambers>

9:00 AM Department of Labor releases updated child labor report and apps – Department of Labor simultaneously releases an update to its annual child labor report, representing 'the most comprehensive research product to date on the state of child labor in over 130 countries worldwide'; a new app entitled 'Comply Chain', designed to help businesses root out child labor, forced labor, and modern slavery from global supply chains; and an updated version of the smartphone app 'Sweat & Toil', which contains information on goods produced by child labor or forced labor, and the latest findings on govts' efforts to address child labor (9:00 AM EDT) * Deputy Under Secretary of Labor for International Labor Affairs Martha Newton participates in briefing on the releases at the Washington Foreign Press Center, National Press Building, 529 14th St NW, Washington, DC (11:00 AM EDT) Location: TBD <http://www.dol.gov> <https://twitter.com/USDOL>

11:30 AM HUD Secretary Carson pen-and-pad on hurricane recovery efforts – Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Ben Carson discusses HUD's role in the long-term recovery efforts for Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. Topics will include CDBG-DR funding, the timeline for recovery, and what people in the affected region can expect from HUD, via pen-and-pad with select reporters. Other participants include Associate General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Housing Janet Golrick, General Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy Development and Research Todd Richardson, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Grant Programs Stan Gimont Location: Robert C. Weaver Federal Building, 451 7th St, Washington, DC <http://www.hud.gov/> <https://twitter.com/HUDNews>

2:00 PM Brookings Institution discussion on Saudi Arabia and 'Vision 2030' – 'Saudi Arabia looks forward: Vision 2030 and Mohammed bin Salman' Brookings Institution Intelligence project discussion, with Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs Senior Fellow Karen Elliott House discussing the findings from her new paper 'Saudi Arabia in Transition', which analyzes the

progress the Saudis have made and the challenges they face in implementing Vision 2030 – a plan to modernize its economy and society while allowing it to maintain its hold on power – amidst the recent changes in leadership Location: The Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> <https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst>

8:00 PM Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Celebration of Leadership in the Fine Arts – Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Celebration of Leadership in the Fine Arts, honoring Spike Lee, Yolanda Adams and Simone Paulwell * Organized in cooperation with the Congressional Black Caucus Spouses Visual and Performance Arts Scholarship program Location: Sidney Harman Hall, 610 F St NW, Washington, DC www.cbcfinc.org <https://twitter.com/CBCFInc>

Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Legislative Conference – Congressional Black Caucus Foundation 47th Annual Legislative Conference, themed 'And Still I Rise'. Includes National Action Network panel discussion with NAN Founder and President Rev. Al Sharpton and Democratic Sen. Cory Booker on diversity in asset management (12:30 PM EDT) Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt Vernon Pl, Washington, DC www.cbcfinc.org/alc <https://twitter.com/CBCFInc> #CBCFALC17

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: “[Donald Trump] spoke to the representatives of one people in the UN General Assembly. The President was a little bit disappointed. Usually when Donald Trump meets with representatives from different countries, there’s a swimsuit competition, and they wear sashes. Instead, he was forced to make a speech.”

Jimmy Kimmel: “Usually if Donald Trump wants to yell at that many foreigners in one day, he has to visit like nine of his construction sites.”

Jimmy Kimmel: “[Donald Trump] said Kim Jong-Un was ‘Rocket Man’ on a suicide mission. If you want to insult Kim Jong-Un, maybe don’t make it sound like he’s an action-packed movie franchise. Just call him Kim.”

Stephen Colbert: “Speaking of traveling, Donald Trump is on a trip to a very hostile region, New York City.”

Stephen Colbert: “[Donald Trump is] in town because this morning, he gave his first official address at, I want to say, Starfleet Academy. Radical Klingon extremists. They violated the neutral zone. We had no choice.”

Stephen Colbert: “We learned over the weekend that Trump lawyers are clashing over how much to cooperate with the Russia inquiry. If only those Trump lawyers were around when he decided how much to cooperate with Russia.”

James Corden: “During the speech, Trump threatened to ‘totally destroy North Korea,’ which can only mean one thing: He’s going to run for President of North Korea.”

James Corden: “Donald Trump Jr. has decided to give up his Secret Service protection in order to have more privacy. He said it got annoying having Secret Service guys always standing around, listening in, and making it almost impossible for him to call Russia to receive further instructions.”

Trevor Noah: “Trump’s address included many familiar themes. How much great he’s doing as President, how great the country is doing with him as President, how much he’s President, did I mention he’s President?”

Trevor Noah: “It is refreshing to see an American leader who is not going to dictate to the world. In fact, Donald Trump almost wants nothing to do with the world. It’s like Trump looks at the globe and all he sees is a map full of Erics.”

Trevor Noah: "So Trump's new policy, no interfering with how other countries are run, unless he doesn't like how other countries are run."

Jimmy Fallon: "President Trump gave his big speech at the UN General Assembly today, and at one point he threatened to totally destroy North Korea. He said he has a good plan to do it too. He's going to run for President of North Korea."

Seth Meyers: "Trump also said during his address that if North Korea continues working on its nuclear program, the US will have no choice but to totally destroy North Korea. Oh, my God. Trump is going to run for President of North Korea!"

Seth Meyers: "A lawyer who was part of the investigation that led to the impeachment trial of former President Bill Clinton recently said the Special Counsel, Robert Mueller, is trying to set a tone to, quote, 'strike terror in the hearts of people of Washington,' which used to be Steve Bannon's job."

Seth Meyers: "Senate Republicans led by Lindsey Graham and Bill Cassidy have revived the effort to repeal Obamacare. Again? Usually when a bad idea comes back this many times, Johnny Depp is in it."

Conan O'Brien: "Today at the UN, President Trump threatened to return immigrants to their home countries. After making those comments, he got a standing ovation from Melania. She wants to go home."

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[US Department of the Interior News Briefing](#)



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- Los Angeles Times: Civil Servants Charge Trump Is Sidelining Workers With Expertise On Climate Change, Environment.
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- Federal Computer Week: Congress Questions Cancelled Shared Service Effort.
- Conversation (UK): Interior Secretary Zinke Invokes Teddy Roosevelt As Model, But His Public Land Policies Don't.
- The Hill: Native Tribes Deserve Respect For Work On The Bears Ears Monument.
- Salt Lake (UT) Tribune: Commentary: Strong Economies Need Protected Public Lands.
- Washington Post: No, We Can't — And Shouldn't — Stop Forest Fires.

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

- Montana Tribe Relinquishes Jail To Bureau Of Indian Affairs.
- Lumbee Recognition Bill Gets Hearing In Washington.
- Hoeven Leads Bipartisan Call To Address Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking In Indian Country.

Bureau Of Land Management

- San Bernardino (CA) Sun: Feinstein Contends That Cadiz Project Would Contaminate Water Supply.
- U.S. News & World Report: New Mexico Authorities To Investigate Livestock Killings.
- Twin Falls (ID) Times-News: BLM Resource Council To Meet.
- Oregonian: Ken Medenbach Seeks Judge's Permission To Attend Bundy Trial In Nevada.

Bureau Of Reclamation

- US, Mexico Expand Pact On Managing Overused Colorado River.
- Dispute Over Delta Smelt Reignites Despite Wet California Winter.

Fish And Wildlife Service

- Politico Morning Energy: Republicans Eye Budget Process For ANWR Opening.
- U.S. News & World Report: Utah Residents Ask Supreme Court To Hear Prairie Dog Case.
- Courthouse News: Additional Coverage: Greens Wage Long Fight Against Copper Mine In Arizona Mountains.
- Lompoc (CA) Record: Jenny Loda: Saving Salamanders A Highway At A Time.

National Park Service

- Washington Post: The National Park Service Showed That Its Bottled Water Ban Worked — Then Lifted It.
- Oregonian: National Parks Offering Free Admission For 3 Days This Fall.
- KOTA-TV Rapid City (SD): Historic Trail Receives Major Overhaul After Years Of Neglect.
- Knoxville (TN) News Sentinel: Science Workshops Bring Knox County Teachers To Great Smoky Mountains.
- U.S. News & World Report: Burn Ban Eased In North Cascades And Northwestern Region.
- Tri-City Herald (WA): Open House For Hanford National Park Manager.
- Beckley (WV) Register-Herald: Park Superintendent Keeps Returning To W.Va.
- Fairbanks (AK) News-Miner: Every Kid In A Park Was Amazing.

Office Of Insular Affairs

- NBC: Trump Defends Federal Response To Hurricane Maria.
- Washington Examiner: Utilities Brace For Tough Slog In Puerto Rico After Trump Boosts Funding.
- ABC: Trump: US Ready To Use "Devastating" Force On North Korea.
- Saipan (MNP) Tribune: Casino Rakes In Over \$1 Billion.
- Saipan (MNP) Tribune: Project Manager Of MCC Int'l Gets Prison Term.
- Virgin Islands Daily News: St. Croix Gets Standing Curfew, St. Thomas Airport To Reopen.
- St. John Source: Mapp Expects CEKA To Reopen Thursday To Commercial Flights.

US Geological Survey

- Atlanta Journal-Constitution: USGS Sees Widespread Beach Erosion From Maria.
- Additional Reading.

Top National News

- ABC: McConnell Says Senate Will Not Vote On Graham-Cassidy, Killing ACA Repeal For Now.

- New York Times: Trump To Propose Tax Plan In Indianapolis Today.
- New York Times: Trump Included Chad In Travel Ban Over State Department, Pentagon Objections.
- Washington Times: Construction Has Begun On Prototypes For Border Wall.

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DOI In The News

Interior Secretary Zinke Says Nearly One-Third Of Department's Employees Disloyal.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/26, Halper) reports that Monday, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke addressed a group gathered for the National Petroleum Council and said that nearly one-third of the department's employees are disloyal. In its "Blog Briefing Room" blog, [The Hill](#) (9/26, Greenwood) reports Zinke said, "We do have good people. But the direction has to be clear and you've got to hold people accountable."

The [AP](#) (9/26, Daly) reports that House Natural Resources Committee member Rep. Raul Grijalva said Tuesday that Secretary Zinke should "apologize to the public servants he is supposed to be leading." Grijalva added that Secretary Zinke "should be well aware that loyalty is earned. And you don't earn it – or deserve it – with divisive comments like these."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/26, Fears, Eilperin) reports that Energy and Natural Resources Committee ranking member Sen. Maria Cantwell disapproved of Zinke's comments and said, "The public servants at [Interior] deserve respect from the man charged with leading them – not cheap shots in the press." Cantwell added that the comments "betray a fundamental misunderstanding of the role of federal civil service." The Coalition to Protect America's National Parks, Public Lands Foundation, and Association of Retired Fish and Wildlife Service Employees "also took issue with the remarks" in a joint statement, calling them "deeply insulting."

Also reporting are the [Washington Post](#) (9/26), the [Washington Post](#) (9/26, Grandoni) the [Washington Free Beacon](#) (9/26, Crookston), [Bloomberg News](#) (9/26, Daly), [CNN International](#) (9/26, Green), the [Daily Caller](#) (9/26, Rodgers), [MSNBC](#) (9/26, Benen), [Fox News](#) (9/26), the [New York Daily News](#) (9/26), the [Bristol \(VA\) Herald Courier](#) (9/26, Daly),

Coverage by the AP was also picked up by [U.S. News & World Report](#) (9/26, Daly), the [Bozeman \(MT\) Daily Chronicle](#) (9/26, Daly), the [Great Falls \(MT\) Tribune](#) (9/26, Daly), the [Daily Mail](#) (9/26, Daly), the [Minneapolis Star Tribune](#) (9/22, Daly), [Philly \(PA\)](#) (9/26, DALY, COLVIN), the [Boston Herald](#) (9/26), the [Washington Post](#) (9/26, Daly), the [Washington Times](#) (9/26, Daly), [ABC News](#) (9/26, Daly), the [Daily Mail](#) (9/25), the [New York Daily News](#) (9/26, Daly), and [MSN](#) (9/26, Daly).

Interior's Astonishing Deep State: 30 Percent 'Not Loyal To The Flag'. In a piece for the [Washington Times](#) (9/26, Chumley), Cheryl K. Chumley urges Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke to fire those who are not loyal. Chumley also praises Zinke's plan to reorganize the department to put "decision-making into the hands of state agents." and move "some of Interior's agencies —

like the Bureau of Land Management — to areas in the West.”

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke Catches Flak For Comments. In an editorial, the [Las Vegas Review-Journal](#) (9/27) defends Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s comments, explaining that “his point was that many bureaucrats under his command are captive to a radical green agenda and are impediments to reform.” But “for the sin of speaking the truth,” the paper says, Zinke became the target of Democrats. The paper poses rhetorically: “Is it really so egregious that agency heads would prefer employees willing to carry out the president’s agenda, in line with existing laws, to those who have other ideas?” The editorial concludes that “far from being controversial, Mr. Zinke’s comments this week are encouraging.”

Perry Wants The Biggest Energy ‘Arsenal’.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/26, Siciliano, Seigel) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, addressing a National Clean Energy Week symposium, “said solar energy development would be better served on rooftops rather than on public lands.” According to Zinke, “putting solar cells on land is not the best use because that land cannot be used for purposes other than energy.”

US Interior Chief Wants Smaller Monuments, But Not At Home.

The [AP](#) (9/25, Brown) reports that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, “a rumored candidate for U.S. Senate in 2018 or governor in 2020, appears to be carving out an exception for Montana from Trump’s agenda to open more public lands to natural resources development.” The article notes that “in Zinke’s home state, the former congressman who has long harbored higher political ambitions is recommending Trump create a new national monument out of the forests bordering Glacier National Park, to the disappointment of a company that wants to drill for natural gas there.” Zinke has also “decided to leave intact a 590-square-mile (1,528-square-kilometer) monument that for 16 years has stirred the kind of impassioned local opposition that Zinke cited in justifying changes to monuments elsewhere.” Also, “he wants to curb mining along Montana’s border with Yellowstone National Park.”

NM Democrats Urge White House To Reject Zinke’s Monument Recommendations.

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (9/26, Coleman) reports that Democrats in New Mexico’s congressional delegation wrote to White House Chief-of-Staff John Kelly yesterday “urging him to keep the state’s newest national monuments as they are, and to reject Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s report recommending possible changes, calling it riddled with errors.” New Mexico’s delegation Democrats wrote to Trump, “We were disheartened by the recent news of the Department of the Interior’s recommendations to the President regarding modifications to national monuments, including Rio Grande del Norte and Organ Mountains – Desert Peaks in New Mexico. We were concerned that there are several factual errors included in the report’s summaries of these two monuments which were used to justify recommended changes.”

WV Parks, Pools And Campgrounds Get Federal Funding.

The [Charleston \(WV\) Gazette-Mail](#) (9/26, Steelhammer) reports that “West Virginia’s share of the 2017 Land and Water Conservation Fund includes \$774,984 for state and local outdoor recreation projects.” The money will “help pay for additional power and water hookups at Pipestem Resort State Park’s campground, the restoration of Benwood City Park’s swimming pool in Marshall County, a parking lot at Mill Race Park in Parsons, and two new group picnic shelters at parks in Berkeley County.”

Additional coverage was provided by the [AP](#) (9/27) and [West Virginia Public Broadcasting](#) (9/26, McCormick).

New Mexico Gets \$1.1M For Outdoor Recreation Projects.

The [AP](#) (9/27) reports that “more than \$1.1 million in federal grants will be distributed to New Mexico for outdoor recreation and conservation projects.” The funding, recently announced by the Interior Department, comes from the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Members of New Mexico’s congressional delegation “said Tuesday that the grants help fuel jobs in the state and an outdoor recreation industry that contributes billions of dollars nationwide.”

Civil Servants Charge Trump Is Sidelining Workers With Expertise On Climate Change, Environment.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/26, Halper) reports that the Trump Administration’s actions to reassign personnel have “signaled deep suspicion of many of the civil servants on the government payroll,

particularly when their work has involved confronting climate change or enforcing the environmental protections and other regulations the White House is working to roll back." At the Interior Department, Secretary Ryan Zinke's "shuffling of staff and his suggestion before Congress that he would use reassignments to push employees out of government has triggered a probe by the department's inspector general and given fuel to the whistle-blower complaint" filed by Interior employee Joel Clement .

Federal Judge Dismisses Case Regarding Power Plant, Coal Mine.

The [Albuquerque \(NM\) Journal](#) (9/26, Smith) reports that "a federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit brought by environmental groups against federal agencies for the extension of operations for the Four Corners Power Plant and Navajo Mine." Environmental groups argued "federal agencies violated the Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Administrative Procedure Act for approving the 25-year extension of operations for the power plant and the expansion of strip mining at the mine." U.S. District Court Judge Steven P. Logan "ordered the case dismissed without prejudice, meaning it cannot be refiled based on the same grounds, on Sept. 11."

Congress Questions Cancelled Shared Service Effort.

[Federal Computer Week](#) (9/26, Rockwell) reports, "The agreement between the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of the Interior's financial management service provider was abandoned earlier this year because of missed deadlines and cost overruns, agency officials told a congressional panel, and could mark a turning point in how shared services are approached."

Interior Secretary Zinke Invokes Teddy Roosevelt As Model, But His Public Land Policies Don't.

In a piece for the [Conversation \(UK\)](#) (9/26, Freemuth), John Freemuth, Professor of Public Policy and Executive Director, Andrus Center for Public Policy, Boise State University, writes that "Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's recommendations to shrink four national monuments and allow fossil fuel development activities on others is just the latest sign that this administration sees natural resource use and extraction as the highest priority for public lands." Freemuth compares Zinke to Cecil Andrus, who led the Interior Department during the Carter Administration. Freemuth writes that Zinke "began his tenure at the Interior Department with pure symbolism: He rode to the agency's headquarters on horseback and professed to be a conservationist in the mold of Theodore Roosevelt. Then he took a different path."

Native Tribes Deserve Respect For Work On The Bears Ears Monument.

In an op-ed for [The Hill](#) (9/26, Branch), Ethel Branch, attorney general at the Navajo Nation Department of Justice, credits the Obama Administration for incorporating a "collaborative management model" for the Bears Ears National Monument. However, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, Utah Gov. Gary Herbert and "other Utah officials have made public statements suggesting that the Bears Ears Commission provides an inadequate form of tribal management." Branch claims that the Bears Ears National Monument, "uniquely enriched by tribal voices and traditional knowledge, can become one of the jewels of our national conservation system." Branch concludes that "the proclamation and the significant hard-earned role of the five tribes in designing the future of the monument through the Bears Ears Commission should not be changed."

Commentary: Strong Economies Need Protected Public Lands.

In an op-ed for the [Salt Lake \(UT\) Tribune](#) (9/26, Callaghan), Drew Callaghan, the Outreach Specialist for the American Independent Business Alliance, asserts that "strong public lands protections fuel thriving economies." Callaghan argues that "while relaxed regulations may benefit specific companies in the short-term, those activities undermine the land's value in other ways." Callaghan points to "the greater economic benefits of safeguarding public lands and waters." He concludes that "robust public lands protections don't just benefit the environment; they serve people, local businesses, and the economies on which we all depend."

No, We Can't — And Shouldn't — Stop Forest Fires.

In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (9/26, Hanson), Chad Hanson, a research ecologist with the John Muir Project, and Mike Garrity, executive director of the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, criticizes action proposed to "ostensibly...save our National Forests from fire by allowing

widespread commercial logging on public lands." The authors claim that "this position is out of step with current science and is based on several myths promoted by commercial interests." The authors call "this narrative" a "scientifically bankrupt smoke screen for rampant commercial logging on our public lands."

Bureau Of Indian Affairs

Montana Tribe Relinquishes Jail To Bureau Of Indian Affairs.

The [AP](#) (9/26) reports that "a northern Montana tribe returned control of a jail to the Bureau of Indian Affairs after tribal officials say they couldn't afford to operate it." The BIA "took control of the detention facility on the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation last week after tribal officials reached out to the bureau for assistance." According to Fort Belknap Tribal President Mark Azure, "the move wasn't something either party wanted, but there wasn't enough funding for the facility."

Lumbee Recognition Bill Gets Hearing In Washington.

The [Fayetteville \(NC\) Observer](#) (9/26, Woolverton) reports that Lumbee Tribal Chairman Harvey Godwin and Rep. Robert Pittenger "argued to a Congressional subcommittee on Tuesday that Congress should give full federal recognition to Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina." Godwin told the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Indian, Insular, and Alaska Native Affairs, "This enduring quasi-legal status for the Lumbee Tribe has resulted in unequal protection for our tribal members." Pittenger, "who has sponsored a bill to confer full recognition to the tribe," asserted that it was "an issue of fairness."

Hoeven Leads Bipartisan Call To Address Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking In Indian Country.

The [Ripon Advance](#) (9/26) reports that "in response to domestic violence and human trafficking in Native American communities," Sen. John Hoeven "led a congressional call on Friday for federal officials to undergo training to help recognize and respond to those situations." Hoeven, the chairman of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, "led a bipartisan group of nine senators in calling for enhanced training for federal officials working in Indian country in a letter to Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and National Indian Gaming Commission Chairman Jonodev Chaudhuri." Hoeven said, "The presence of federal officials across Indian Country could serve as an important resource in our efforts to combat human trafficking. Connecting these federal employees with the training and education they need to recognize and help prevent these crimes against Native Americans is an important step. As chairman of the Indian Affairs Committee, I will continue to advance this and similar efforts to promote greater public safety throughout tribal communities."

Bureau Of Land Management

Feinstein Contends That Cadiz Project Would Contaminate Water Supply.

The [San Bernardino \(CA\) Sun](#) (9/26, Steinberg) reports that "as the Cadiz project seems increasingly likely to go forward, Sen. Dianne Feinstein issued a statement contending the underground desert water could ultimately contaminate much of Southern California's water supply." Feinstein said in the statement, "For close to two decades, Cadiz has been trying to ram through a water extraction project that would harm the Mojave Desert. And now we hear from the Metropolitan Water District that the water Cadiz wants to extract could contain dangerous chemicals that pose a threat to the safety of Southern California's water supply." Cadiz officials "dispute Feinstein's claim, denying that the project's groundwater would be brought into the Colorado River Aqueduct without treatment to screen out potentially harmful contaminants."

New Mexico Authorities To Investigate Livestock Killings.

The [AP](#) (9/26) reports that "authorities in southeastern New Mexico are teaming up to investigate a string of livestock killings." Eddy County Sheriff Mark Cage "says his jurisdiction covers more than 5,000 square miles (12,950 square kilometers) and his deputies can't be everywhere at once so a task force is being formed to help with the problem." Cage has "deputized a Bureau of Land Management ranger to help with the case and is working with other local and federal

agencies and organizations.”

BLM Resource Council To Meet.

The [Twin Falls \(ID\) Times-News](#) (9/26) reports that a Bureau of Land Management advisory group will meet on Wednesday at the agency’s Twin Falls office. The group is “slated to discuss the 2017 fire season, potential use of unmanned aircraft to manage resources, travel planning and other issues.” Twin Falls District Manager Mike Courtney said in a statement, “We receive valuable input from our RAC members who represent diverse interests ranging from energy development and livestock grazing to dispersed recreation and historic and archaeological interests. Their feedback helps us to make better informed decisions when it comes to on-the-ground management of public lands.”

Additional coverage was provided by [KLIX-AM](#) Twin Falls, ID (9/26, Weeks).

Ken Medenbach Seeks Judge’s Permission To Attend Bundy Trial In Nevada.

The [Oregonian](#) (9/26, Bernstein) reports that “public lands occupier Ken Medenbach, who called the Bundys his heroes on the witness stand last fall, is urging a judge to allow him to attend their federal criminal trial in Nevada next month.” Medenbach’s probation officer has “already rejected the request.” On Tuesday, Medenbach’s defense attorney “filed a motion asking U.S. District Judge Michael J. McShane to overrule the denial.”

Bureau Of Reclamation

US, Mexico Expand Pact On Managing Overused Colorado River.

The [AP](#) (9/26, Elliott) reports that “the United States and Mexico have agreed to renew and expand a far-reaching conservation agreement that governs how they manage the overused Colorado River, which supplies water to millions of people and to farms in both nations, U.S. water district officials said.” The deal to be signed Wednesday “calls for the U.S. to invest \$31.5 million in conservation improvements in Mexico’s water infrastructure to reduce losses to leaks and other problems, according to officials of U.S. water districts who have seen summaries of the agreement.” The agreement “also calls on Mexico to develop specific plans for reducing consumption if the river runs too low to supply everyone’s needs, said Bill Hasencamp of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.”

Dispute Over Delta Smelt Reignites Despite Wet California Winter.

The [Sacramento \(CA\) Bee](#) (9/26, Sabalow, Kasler) reports that despite the “wettest winter on record for Northern California,” a “dispute continues between farms and cities wanting to receive more water and environmental groups fighting for the Delta’s fragile population of tiny smelt.” Environmentalists are “opposed to a proposal championed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Southern California water interests to ramp up pumping from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta starting next week.” Regulators at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service could “decide as soon as Friday whether to approve the plan.”

Fish And Wildlife Service

Republicans Eye Budget Process For ANWR Opening.

[Politico Morning Energy](#) (9/26, Adragna) reports that Senate Republicans plan “to use their fiscal 2018 budget blueprint to lay the groundwork for new energy production in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge by using special rules that would allow them to avoid a Democratic filibuster.” According to the article, “while the budget document couldn’t mandate specific policies, it would enable Senate Energy Chairman Lisa Murkowski to write legislation that would remove restrictions on drilling in ANWR that could be bundled into a massive tax reconciliation package that needs just 50 votes in the Senate.” The article says that “soing so would realize a long-standing goal of Republicans and oil companies, while attracting vehement opposition from environmental groups and virtually all Democrats.”

Utah Residents Ask Supreme Court To Hear Prairie Dog Case.

The [AP](#) (9/26, McCOMBS) reports that “residents in southern Utah asked the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday to hear their case claiming federal safeguards for Utah prairie dogs have prevented

them from doing what they want with their private property." People for the Ethical Treatment of Property Owners want "the high court to review a March decision by the Denver-based 10th Circuit Court of Appeals that sided with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on the issue." According to the article, "the request likely won't be considered by the Supreme Court until mid-November at the earliest."

Additional Coverage: Greens Wage Long Fight Against Copper Mine In Arizona Mountains.

Additional coverage of the lawsuit filed against an Arizona copper mine for its impact on the habitat of jaguars was provided by [Courthouse News](#) (9/26, Poole).

Jenny Loda: Saving Salamanders A Highway At A Time.

In an op-ed for the [Lompoc \(CA\) Record](#) (9/26, Loda), Jenny Loda, reptile and amphibian staff attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity in Oakland, writes that wildlife undercrossings were have been built to help the recovery of tiger salamanders. The project is a collaboration between Caltrans, state Department of Fish and Wildlife and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. She says that "that work would never have occurred without Endangered Species Act protections. The success of these and similar recovery projects shows just how much we need this core environmental law. It also highlights the danger posed by legislative attacks from congressional Republicans attempting to weaken or dismantle critical endangered species protections."

National Park Service

The National Park Service Showed That Its Bottled Water Ban Worked — Then Lifted It.

The [Washington Post](#) (9/26, Fears) reports that National Park Service on Friday, prompted by a FOIA request, released a study finding that its decision in 2011 to eliminate bottled water sales "prevented up to 112,000 pounds of plastic from being sold and discarded each year, along with up to 140 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions." The Trump Administration's Department of the Interior rescinded the ban in August.

Also reporting are [USA Today](#) (9/26), [Newsweek](#) (9/25, Valencia), and [Mother Jones](#) (9/26, Nix).

National Parks Offering Free Admission For 3 Days This Fall.

The [Oregonian](#) (9/26, Hale) reports that the National Park Service will waive entrance fees at national parks "on Sept. 30 for National Public Lands Day, and on Nov. 11 and 12 for Veterans Day."

Historic Trail Receives Major Overhaul After Years Of Neglect.

[KOTA-TV](#) Rapid City, SD (9/26) reports that "the historic Blackberry Trail that connects Mount Rushmore National Memorial to the Centennial Trail is back open to foot traffic and horseback riding." The National Park Service, the Mount Rushmore Society and "many more partners raised \$200,000 to take on rehabilitation of the trail." Cheryl Schreier, park superintendent of Mount Rushmore National Memorial, said, "It feels so wonderful and outstanding and part of it is because we had so many partners and donor involved that helped to make this come to fruition. Now we have a safe trail for both hikers and equestrian users; and it is just a wonderful trail to get people out into a different habitat of Mount Rushmore,"

Science Workshops Bring Knox County Teachers To Great Smoky Mountains.

The [Knoxville \(TN\) News Sentinel](#) (9/26, Ahillen) reports that "thirty middle school and high school teachers and two administrators from the Knox County School District" last week participated in a new program called the Smokies Science Immersion Teacher Workshop. According to the article, "the connection between the park and Knox County Schools has been growing for some time, but this was the first of what both sides hope will be many such workshops." Joy Absher, Great Smoky Mountains National Park education branch chief, said, "We try to work with local counties surrounding the park and find ways that they can bring some of the resources of the park back to the classroom. This is a very important goal for us. Even if students can't make it to the park, teachers can make them aware of the nature around them."

Burn Ban Eased In North Cascades And Northwestern Region.

The [AP](#) (9/26) reports that "officials have lifted a ban on campfires in North Cascades National

Park, which officials say compliments the rescinding of campfire restrictions throughout the northwestern part of the state." North Cascades National Park Service Complex spokeswoman Denise Shultz "said Tuesday the ban put into place earlier this month because of extreme fire danger is over, effective immediately."

Open House For Hanford National Park Manager.

The [Tri-City Herald \(WA\)](#) (9/26, Cary) reports that "the first National Park Service manager for the Hanford portion of the Manhattan Project National Historical Park will be welcomed to the Tri-Cities at an open house Wednesday." According to the article, "both Becky Burghart, the park site's new manager, and Sue Masica, the director of the Intermountain Region of the National Park Service, are scheduled to attend."

Park Superintendent Keeps Returning To W.Va.

The [Beckley \(WV\) Register-Herald](#) (9/26, Nelson) reports that Lizzie Watts, superintendent of the New River Gorge National River, Gauley River National Recreation Area and Bluestone National Scenic River, is "finally here to stay." According to the article, "after traveling and working all over the country, Watts applied for a job in West Virginia." Watts said, "This will be my last assignment. I am here for good."

Every Kid In A Park Was Amazing.

In a piece for the [Fairbanks \(AK\) News-Miner](#) (9/26, Cotter), Adia Cotter, Supervisory Park Ranger, Alaska Public Lands Information Center Fairbanks., writes that "this month, the National Park Foundation made it possible for 64 fourth-graders from Joy Elementary to visit Denali National Park." Students "explored the visitor center, attended a ranger program and hiked one of Denali's entrance trails. Before boarding a bus home, students socialized with Denali's newest members of the kennel." Cotter hopes "the amazing experience will stick with them for years to come," and "planted a seed of adventure in their fertile minds."

Office Of Insular Affairs

Trump Defends Federal Response To Hurricane Maria.

Amid criticism of the federal response to Hurricane Maria, President Trump announced Tuesday that he will visit Puerto Rico next week. The story garners heavy media coverage, much of which is negative for the President, casting him as being on the defensive about the federal response and suggesting he was preoccupied by his feud with the NFL and did not fully appreciate the magnitude of the crisis.

Gabe Gutierrez reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/26, lead story, 3:00, Holt) that Trump "announced he would visit Puerto Rico next week and defended federal response." Trump: "We got 'A+'s on Texas and Florida, and we will also on Puerto Rico. But the difference is this is an island sitting in the middle of the ocean." The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/26, story 2, 1:45, Mason) showed the President saying, "Everybody has said it's amazing the job that we've done in Puerto Rico. We're very proud of it. I think we're really getting really good marks for the work we're doing. So I think we've done a really good job." While Margaret Brennan added that Trump "said Puerto Rico's governor personally thanked him today for the federal response," Wolf Blitzer said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/26), "The President's words are at odds with the situation on the ground in Puerto Rico." Ron Brownstein, senior editor of The Atlantic, said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/26), "I don't think there are many people in Puerto Rico who would describe this as a great job."

[USA Today](#) (9/26, Jackson) reports that the Administration "been accused of giving short shrift to growing humanitarian crisis on Puerto Rico," and the [AP](#) (9/26, Kellman, Superville) says Trump "pushed back aggressively and repeatedly against criticism that he had failed to quickly grasp the magnitude of Maria's destruction or give the US commonwealth the top-priority treatment he had bestowed on Texas, Louisiana and Florida after previous storms."

David Muir said in the lead story for [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/26, lead story, 2:35) that Trump is "defending himself." Senior White House correspondent Cecilia Vega added that Trump "brush[ed] off questions about whether he's been preoccupied by his battle with the NFL." Trump: "Was I preoccupied? Not at all. Not at all. I have plenty of time on my hands. All I do is work." However, Jim Acosta said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/26), "On social media the President has made it clear where his focus lies, on the NFL players protesting during football

games. He has tweeted about the NFL 24 times since Saturday compared to just four times on Puerto Rico." Julie Pace of the AP said on [Fox News Special Report](#) (9/26) that Trump "can say he wasn't distracted but it was his tweeting and messaging on the NFL that pushed to the forefront and overshadowed what FEMA and other agencies actually were doing for Puerto Rico."

[Politico](#) (9/26, Nelson) reports that Trump "has ramped up his tweets about the devastation in the past 24 hours," but he "appeared to place some blame on Puerto Rico for its poor infrastructure and financial crisis, while heaping praise on his administration's response." On Tuesday, Trump "pledged that more help is on the way for the territory, while expressing appreciation for compliments directed his administration's way," [tweeting](#), "Thank you to Carmen Yulin Cruz, the Mayor of San Juan, for your kind words on FEMA etc. We are working hard. Much food and water there/on way." The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/26, Siciliano) reports that Trump "said the federal government will fully pay for recovery assistance to Puerto Rico, which senior utility industry officials praised as a necessary step in helping to restore the island's nearly completely destroyed electric grid."

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/26, Ballhaus, Hughes) says acting DHS Secretary Duke also defended the federal response and said that as access opens, more resources will arrive. In the lead story for the [CBS Evening News](#) (9/26, lead story, 2:35, Mason), David Begnaud reported that while "FEMA says it has the supplies it needs, with more aid arriving," there are "huge challenges to delivering it." Alex De La Campa, FEMA: "And because we are an island, there's no trucks or roads that we can bring commodities. So everything had to be, we need to bring everything via airplane or via barge."

Puerto Rico Del. Jennifer Gonzalez Colon said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/26) praised Trump's plan to visit the island, saying it will be "more than helpful. It will show that he cares. It will show he is sending the right amount of resources to the island and to the people who are there, waiting to get food, to get water, to get gasoline, to have their power grid." In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/26) says Trump's "silence over the weekend about Puerto Rico while he fomented controversy over football caused worry about whether Puerto Rico would be a priority for the administration." However, Monday's trip to the island by homeland security adviser Bossert and FEMA Director Long, as well as Trump's planned visit "are hopefully signs of the administration taking the crisis seriously."

The [New York Post](#) (9/26, Tacopino) reports that two days after Hillary Clinton "pleaded" with the President to send the Navy hospital ship the USNS Comfort to aid the crisis in Puerto Rico, the Administration sent the ship to the island. FEMA Administrator Long said Tuesday "that a flotilla of ships were on their way to the island – including the USNS Comfort." Long said, "We're dramatically increasing the federal footprint that's there." The [Washington Post](#) (9/26, Lamothe) says Clinton's "call to action took off, with a petition on the website Change.org garnering more than 100,000 signatures in three days and critics expressing frustration with the hashtag #SendtheComfort."

Eva Pilgrim said on [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/26, story 2, 2:10, Muir) that San Juan Mayor Carmen Yulin Cruz said that "bureaucratic red tape is holding up relief efforts." Cruz: "President Trump, please. Whatever you need to do. Let FEMA do their job." Daniel Kaniewski, deputy director for national preparedness for FEMA, was asked on [CNN's The Lead](#) (9/26) if the federal government is treating Puerto Rico with the same urgency as the crises in Texas and Florida, Kaniewski said, "To us, certainly at FEMA and our federal partners there is no difference between the territories and the US states here on the continental US. However, there is a huge challenge involved, right. The only way we can get the supplies and personnel there is by air or by ship. So it's certainly more challenging, but it is absolutely our responsibility to do this. And I feel...we are doing it well and we are doing it as best as anybody can possibly be expected to do it." However, Dana Milbank writes in the [Washington Post](#) (9/26) that the Administration's "failure to help Americans in Puerto Rico with the same urgency it gave those in Texas and Florida furthers a sad suspicion that the disparate treatment has less to do with logistics than language and skin color."

Lester Holt reported on [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/26, story 2, 1:00) that in "remote parts of Puerto Rico, calls for help are written on rooftops" as "families desperate for aid" and "roads are obliterated with mudslides and flooding." Also on [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/26, story 12, 0:50), Holt praised the efforts of the Air National Guard to "deliver essentials to fellow Americans in need." Said Holt, "We know the people of Puerto Rico are grateful, and we're grateful to the men and women of the Air National Guard."

A front-page story in the [Washington Post](#) (9/26, A1, Schmidt) reports that residents and local officials in the city of Morovis, 37 miles southwest of San Juan, "said they had received no

help from Puerto Rican officials and had no contact with federal agencies," and "Puerto Ricans across the island have echoed those frustrations as advocates off the island have begun to put pressure on the Trump administration." The [New York Times](#) (9/26, Fausset, Blinder) reports on efforts to restore service at the Luis Muñoz Marín International Airport.

Lawmakers Warn That Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands Could Become A Katrina-Like Political Disaster. [McClatchy](#) (9/26, Douglas, Daugherty) says "lawmakers from both parties warned Tuesday" that the Administration's response in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands "could become a Hurricane Katrina-like political disaster if he does not respond to the storms' aftermath more decisively." [Politico](#) (9/26, Caputo) quotes Sen. Marco Rubio as saying before a meeting with Vice President Pence, "This has the potential of being a serious humanitarian crisis in a US territory impacting United States citizens. ... There's going to have to be a lot more hands-on federal engagement for us to be able to successfully carry out the mission." Rubio added, "Right now, it's not just a function of Congress passing a bill tomorrow and flooding Puerto Rico with a billion dollars. They have a capacity problem in terms of absorbing it and distributing it to the right people and the right places. ... What I'm more concerned about in the next 48 to 72 hours is ensuring that we don't have a Katrina-style event. I'm not claiming that's where we're heading. I'm saying I want to avoid that from being even a possibility."

Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA) said on [CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/26), "I wish the President would spend less time telling us what a wonderful job he's doing and more time focused on what we'll need to do in the immediate aftermath of this territory disaster and over the long term because I think he really risks being perceived the same way that George Bush was, as being indifferent to the plight of people in this case, in Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands."

In an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (9/26), Mari Carmen Aponte, who previously served as acting assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs and as the US ambassador to El Salvador, calls on elected officials to "prioritize relief for Puerto Rico before the crisis gets worse." Aponte adds that the military, FEMA, and private organizations must be given "the resources they need to respond quickly," and the Trump Administration "should also immediately waive the Jones Act's restrictions on foreign ships' transporting cargo to Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands." In an op-ed for [USA Today](#) (9/26), Your Say editor Josh Rivera addresses Trump, writing, "It is great that you are coming to Puerto Rico next week, but you need to act now." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/26) editorial also calls for the suspension of the Jones Act to provide relief to Puerto Rico.

Rosselló: Without Aid, Millions Of Puerto Ricans Will Flock To US. Puerto Rico Gov. Ricardo Rosselló said on [MSNBC's Morning Joe](#) (9/26), "My call to Congress is take action now. This is a major disaster. We need the funding necessary to act appropriately." Rosselló added that "if we don't have that, you'll see thousands if not millions of Puerto Ricans flocking to the United States which will cause a demographic severe problem in Puerto Rico as well as in the United States."

FDA Warns Of Drug Shortages. [USA Today](#) (9/26, Bomey) reports that the Food and Drug Administration is warning that there could be shortages of key drugs "after Hurricane Maria brought Puerto Rico's drug manufacturing industry to a standstill." According to FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, "We may soon face critical shortages if we don't find a path for removal or ways to get production back up and running."

American Medical Students Rescued From Dominica. [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/26, story 3, 1:25, Muir) reported that hundreds of American medical students who were stranded on the island of Dominica have been rescued and are "now on their way home and to safety."

Maria To Cause Rough Surf Along East Coast Of US. The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/26, story 3, 0:20, Mason) reported that North Carolina will "get a glancing blow from Maria, now a tropical storm." CBS added that "storm surge and tropical storm watches and warnings extend to the Virginia coast." [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/26, story 4, 0:20, Muir) reported Maria will cause "rough surf and dangerous rip currents from Florida to Maine over the next few days" before "making a hard right turn" and "going out to sea."

Utilities Brace For Tough Slog In Puerto Rico After Trump Boosts Funding.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/26, Siciliano) reports President Trump yesterday "said the federal government will fully pay for recovery assistance to Puerto Rico." The statement was "praised" by "senior utility industry officials...as a necessary step in helping to restore the island's nearly completely destroyed electric grid." American Public Power Association President Sue Kelly said, "We thank President Trump for authorizing 100-percent cost sharing by the federal government for 180 days of emergency work to help begin the process of repairing damaged energy infrastructure." The APPA "represents a segment of the utility sector that is nonprofit and

government-owned, such as the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority." [The Hill](#) (9/26, Fabian) reports that next Tuesday President Trump is scheduled to travel to Puerto Rico "to survey damage from Hurricane Maria." Trump "told reporters at the White House that damage on the ground prevents any earlier travel to the island, which he said has been 'literally destroyed.'" [Axios](#) (9/26, Vavra) reports President Trump "was updated on the latest recovery and relief efforts in Puerto Rico" in the Situation Room yesterday. Energy Secretary Perry and EPA Administrator Pruitt were among those in attendance.

The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/26, Siegel) reports in a second article that the Department of Defense "said Tuesday that 80 percent of the electricity transmission system in Puerto Rico and all of the island's power distribution network, which brings power to customers, is damaged from Hurricane Maria." In addition "only 11 of 69 hospitals in Puerto Rico have fuel or power."

[Reuters](#) (9/26, Respaut, DiSavino) reports officials are "still taking stock of what is expected to be a months-long effort to rebuild the island's power system, keeping much of its 3.4 million people in darkness for an extended period." A complete "damage assessment has been difficult because of the limited ability to get flights to the island and as federal agencies have been concentrating on life-saving efforts and providing power to crucial infrastructure like hospitals." Reuters adds that "rebuilding will be a challenging task" for PREPA, which is "already regularly criticized by residents for frequent outages and rates higher than every U.S. state other than Hawaii." A separate article by [Reuters](#) (9/26, Reuters) reports "highway signs and traffic poles were scattered across highways around the island on Tuesday, with intersections turned into obstacle courses as cars drove over and around tangled wires and other debris" and "broken transmission towers...were visible."

Perry Pitches Idea Of Sending SMRs To Help Puerto Rico. [Greenwire](#) (9/26) reports Energy Secretary Perry on Tuesday "pitched an unconventional lifeline for the hurricane-battered territory. Little nuclear plants." Perry "said the United States should consider hoisting small modular reactors aboard large military aircraft." At a clean energy conference, Perry said, "Wouldn't it make abundant good sense if we had small modular reactors that literally you could put in the back of a C-17, transport to an area like Puerto Rico, push it out the back end, crank it up and plug it in? ... It could serve hundreds of thousands." He "made the pitch to highlight ongoing work at DOE's national labs and suggested developers of small reactors could be offered incentives in a tax reform package."

National Guard Head: Puerto Rico Clean-up Will 'Challenge The System'. [The Hill](#) (9/25, Mitchell) reports that "the clean-up efforts for U.S. territories following Hurricane Maria are expected to be far more complicated and lengthy than those for Florida and Texas in the wake of Hurricane Harvey, according to the head of the National Guard Bureau." Gen. Joseph Lengyel "said Monday that it will be 'a harder response scenario' to restore power and necessary infrastructure, likely taking months." Lengyel said, "Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands are not Texas and Florida. They're out here in the middle of the ocean. It's more complicated to get people here, it's more complicated to fix the power grids, it's more complicated to fix a whole lot of other things."

Trump: US Ready To Use "Devastating" Force On North Korea.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/26, story 9, 0:20, Muir) reported briefly that President Trump warned Tuesday that the US is prepared to use "devastating" military action against North Korea, if necessary, after it threatened to shoot down US war planes. During a joint press conference with Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, [Bloomberg News](#) (9/26, Talev, Jacobs, Mohsin) reports Trump said, "We are totally prepared for the second option – not a preferred option – but if we take that option it will be devastating I can tell you that. For North Korea that is called the military option. If we have to take it we will."

[Politico](#) (9/26, McCaskill) and the [Washington Times](#) (9/26, Boyer) also report Trump's remarks, while the [Washington Post](#) (9/26, Gearan) reports he also "thanked China for helping rein in North Korea and claimed that international pressure" on North Korea "is beginning to work, marking a change in tone amid concerns that tensions with Pyongyang are escalating dangerously." Trump, the Post says, "made a point of praising Chinese President Xi Jinping for his efforts to squeeze" North Korea, while "in other settings – usually Twitter – Trump has complained about lackluster Chinese cooperation and suggested he could punish China economically if it did not do more."

On [NBC Nightly News](#) (9/26, story 4, 2:00, Holt), Andrea Mitchell said that despite Trump's "angry words and new sanctions, the Secretary of State [is] saying the goal is [a] diplomatic solution, and Pentagon seeing no signs of increased military threat." The [Wall Street](#)

[Journal](#) (9/26, Schwartz, Talley, Wong) similarly reports that US officials on Tuesday emphasized the urgency of diplomatic attempts to ease tensions with North Korea amid recent heightened rhetoric. Secretary of State Tillerson will travel to Beijing on Thursday, where spokeswoman Heather Nauert said the Secretary will lay the groundwork for Trump's trip to China this year. "The fact that Secretary Tillerson has been here for nine months now and is now making his second trip to China – that's significant," Nauert said.

[Reuters](#) (9/26, Holland, Ali) reports that while "bellicose statements by Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in recent weeks have created fears that a miscalculation could lead to action with untold ramifications," Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph Dunford said Tuesday that the US "has not detected any change in North Korea's military posture reflecting an increased threat." The [AP](#) (9/26, Lardner) reports Dunford said, "We haven't seen military activity that would be reflective of the charged political environment that we're seeing."

[Washington Post](#) (9/26) columnist David Ignatius writes that although US officials "have said repeatedly that America is seeking a diplomatic solution to the nuclear crisis with North Korea," Trump's "insulting comments" toward Kim "appear to have made such a negotiated settlement more difficult." According to Ignatius, "experienced Korea watchers believe that Trump's threats have deepened Kim's resistance to concessions and that the North Korean leader is unlikely to back down in the face-off with Washington." Ignatius argues that "the humbling lesson that Trump must learn: He has blustered his way to the edge of a cliff. Now he must stop fulminating and start dealing."

Kathleen Parker writes in her [Washington Post](#) (9/26) column that "how this unfunny comedy resolves itself is anyone's guess, which is the problem, isn't it? Nothing like real diplomacy or containment seems plausible in the current scenario."

US Imposes Additional Sanctions On North Korea. The [New York Times](#) (9/26, Gladstone) reports that the US "added eight North Korean banks and 26 individuals to its sanctions blacklist on Tuesday." The action, announced by the Treasury Department, "affects North Koreans working in China, Russia, Libya and the United Arab Emirates." Treasury Secretary Mnuchin said, "We are targeting North Korean banks and financial facilitators acting as representatives for North Korean banks across the globe." The [Washington Times](#) (9/26, Boyer) reports President Trump said at Tuesday's news conference that the sanctions will further "isolate the North Korean menace." [Politico](#) (9/26, Guida) also reports the move.

North Korea Using GOP Analysts To "Make Sense" Of Trump. According to the [Washington Post](#) (9/26, Fifield), North Korean government officials have been "quietly trying to arrange talks with Republican-linked analysts in Washington, in an apparent attempt to make sense of President Trump and his confusing messages to Kim Jong Un's regime." The outreach began "before the current eruption of threats between the two leaders but will probably become only more urgent as Trump and Kim have descended into name-calling." One source with "direct knowledge of North Korea's approach to Asia experts with Republican connections" said, "Their number one concern is Trump. They can't figure him out."

Despite His Parents' Claim, Warmbier's Autopsy Showed No Signs Of Torture. The [Cincinnati Enquirer](#) (9/26, Saker) reports that the Hamilton County coroner examining Otto Warmbier "found he had a collection of small scars on his body, but none appear serious enough to indicate he was tortured while he was imprisoned in North Korea." The coroner's report, which The Enquirer obtained Tuesday, "only deepened the mystery of what happened to the 22-year-old University of Virginia student" during more than a year in North Korean custody. The Enquirer also notes that Warmbier's parents, Fred and Cindy Warmbier, appeared on national television Tuesday morning for the first time since their son's death. Fred Warmbier accused North Korean officials of "torturing their child to the point," saying that "it looked like someone had taken a pair of pliers and rearranged his bottom teeth." After the Warmbiers' morning appearance on Fox News, President Trump [tweeted](#), "Otto was tortured beyond belief by North Korea." But the coroner's examination of Warmbier "did not indicate the young man's teeth had been disfigured." In fact, it said, "The teeth are natural and in good repair."

[NBC Nightly News](#) (9/26, story 4, 2:00, Holt) also reported Warmbier's parents are alleging that North Korea "tortured" their son, while [ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/26, story 10, 0:45, Muir) showed Fred and Cindy Warmbier discussing seeing their son after he was brought back to the US: "We heard this howling, involuntary, inhuman sound. He was staring blankly into space, his face jerking violently. He was blind. He was deaf. As we looked at him and tried to comfort him, it looked like someone had taken a pair of pliers and rearranged his bottom teeth."

[CNN's Situation Room](#) (9/26) reported that the Warmbiers want to designate North Korea a state sponsor of terrorism. CNN's Brian Todd said a State Department official told CNN "they'll

do that if there's evidence that warrants it." [Fox News Special Report](#) (9/26) showed State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert saying, "This is something we constantly assess. I know [Secretary of State Tillerson] has certainly...looked at it in the past when it came to Otto Warmbier. I don't know if that is something we are looking at today."

Casino Rakes In Over \$1 Billion.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (9/26, Encinares) reports that "Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC earned over \$1 billion in gross gaming revenue from January to July 2017, according to documents obtained by Saipan Tribune." The documents, "obtained from the Commonwealth Casino Commission, showed that, factoring in the 5-percent business gross revenue tax, IPI paid the Commonwealth government a total of \$53.4 million for the period from January to July 2017."

Project Manager Of MCC Int'l Gets Prison Term.

The [Saipan \(MNP\) Tribune](#) (9/26, De La Torre) reports that "one of five indicted for allegedly harboring illegal Chinese workers pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge yesterday as part of a plea deal and was slapped with a six-month prison term." MCC International project manager Yuqing Zhao "pleaded guilty in federal court to unlawful employment of aliens—a misdemeanor charge." He was "given credit for 12 days of time served."

St. Croix Gets Standing Curfew, St. Thomas Airport To Reopen.

The [Virgin Islands Daily News](#) (9/26, O'CONNOR) reports that Gov. Kenneth Mapp has "officially installed the curfew on St. Croix between noon and 4 p.m., he told a press conference Monday at Government House." He said, "Twelve noon to 4 p.m. in the afternoon is now the standard window. We're making that going forward, it's now a daily routine. So businesses can plan to open during that hour, expand the services." The St. Thomas-St. John curfew "remains fixed at the moment from 6 p.m. until 9 a.m., meaning residents there have nine hours to conduct business."

Mapp Expects CEKA To Reopen Thursday To Commercial Flights.

The [St. John Source](#) (9/26, Livingston) reports that "Cyril E. King Airport on St. Thomas will reopen for commercial flights on Thursday and St. Croix's Henry E. Rohlsen Airport may open next week, Gov. Kenneth Mapp said Monday in his daily news conference updating the progress on hurricane recovery." Because of "construction at the airport, Mapp urged passengers to get to the airport four hours ahead of the flight to give airlines enough time to process all passengers."

US Geological Survey

USGS Sees Widespread Beach Erosion From Maria.

The [AP](#) (9/26) reports that "the U.S. Geological Survey says two-thirds of the beaches in North Carolina, Virginia and Maryland have a high chance of eroding as Hurricane Maria swirls offshore." The USGS Coastal Change forecast "shows about 60 percent of North Carolina dunes will be eroded, and 5 percent of that coastline will be under sea water." In Virginia, "it shows two-thirds of the beaches north of the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay are likely to erode, and a third overwashed." In Maryland, "high water could reach and erode sand dunes along two thirds of the coastline, with less than 5 percent of the dunes overwashed."

Additional Reading.

- *Watch Molten Rock Ooze From Cracks In The Earth In Hawaii.* [Washington Post](#) (9/26, Fritz).
- *USGS Reports Second Kansas Earthquake This Week.* [Hays \(KS\) Post](#) (9/26).
- *Looking At The Human Factors In Disasters.* [Wilmington \(OH\) News Journal](#) (9/26, Snarr).
- *Magnitude 4.3 Earthquake Strikes Near Ferndale, California.* [San Francisco Chronicle](#) (9/26).

Top National News

McConnell Says Senate Will Not Vote On Graham-Cassidy, Killing ACA Repeal For Now.

[ABC World News Tonight](#) (9/26, story 7, 2:10, Muir) reported that the "newest effort to kill

Obamacare...is dead on arrival. There will be no vote." ABC's Mary Bruce: "Republicans are conceding defeat." Sen. Bill Cassidy: "We've made the decision. Since we don't have the votes, we will postpone that vote. Am I disappointed? Absolutely." The [CBS Evening News](#) (9/26, story 4, 0:15, Mason) said in a brief report, "The latest attempt by Senate Republicans to repeal Obamacare is dead. The GOP leadership pulled the plug today when it became clear they didn't have the votes to pass the bill."

The [AP](#) (9/26, Werner) reports that Cassidy and Sen. Lindsey Graham "promised to try again at a later date," while President Trump "railed against 'certain so-called Republicans' who opposed the GOP effort. But for now, Trump and fellow Republicans who vowed for seven years to abolish" the Affordable Care Act "will leave it standing and turn their attention to overhauling the nation's tax code instead."

[USA Today](#) (9/26, Page) writes, "Repeal and replace: RIP." Republicans are now "left with hard choices about what to do now. And how to explain it to their voters." The [New York Times](#) (9/26, A1, Kaplan) reports that Senate Majority Leader McConnell "officially pulled the plug" on Tuesday, "telling senators they will not vote on the measure and effectively admitting defeat in the last-gasp drive to fulfill a core promise of President Trump and Republican lawmakers."

[Politico](#) (9/26, Kim, Haberkorn, Everett) reports that McConnell said, "We haven't given up on changing the American healthcare system. ... We're not going to do it this week, but it still lies ahead of us. We haven't given up on that. Where we go from here is tax reform." Vice President Pence "also told Republicans they should keep working on health care and not give up just because a key procedural deadline to pass the bill with a simple majority expires" after this week. But [Roll Call](#) (9/26, Rahman) reports that Pence "opted not to make a last-ditch pitch to Republican senators Tuesday to vote for" Graham-Cassidy.

[Bloomberg News](#) (9/26, Litvan, Dennis), [Reuters](#) (9/25, Cornwell, Cowan), the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/26, A1, Peterson, Armour), and the [Washington Times](#) (9/26, Howell) also report on McConnell's announcement, while Paul Kane of the [Washington Post](#) (9/26) writes that Tuesday was an exceptionally bad day for McConnell, with the ACA defeat, ally Sen. Bob Corker's retirement, and the defeat of Sen. Luther Strange in the Alabama GOP runoff.

[USA Today](#) (9/26, Groppe) writes that it is "unclear whether the bipartisan attempts to fix some of Obamacare's problems – which were derailed by the latest repeal bill – can now be successful." The [Washington Post](#) (9/26, A1, Sullivan, Eilperin, Snell) reports that Senate Finance Chairman Orrin Hatch and some other Republicans "argued that the ongoing instability would backfire on Democrats and build momentum for the ACA's eventual repeal." The [Washington Examiner](#) (9/26, King) reports that "some division already exists among lawmakers on the best step for taking up the repeal fight again." Some want to tack ACA repeal on to a budget resolution "that would give them reconciliation authority to pass tax reform with only 51 votes. But others are wary of that approach since it might gum up the effort to overhaul the tax code."

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/26, Mascaró, Levey) reports, "Congress faces at least two pressing deadlines: Federal money for the Children's Health Insurance Program...expires on Saturday," and premiums for ACA plans for 2018 "need to be finalized this week, with insurers not knowing whether the federal government will continue payments that help make costs affordable." [The Hill](#) (9/26, Carney) reports that Senate Majority Whip Cornyn "is floating potentially tying a bipartisan deal on stabilizing the health insurance market to structural reforms favored by Republicans."

The [Washington Post](#) (9/26) says in an editorial, "With one more repeal-and-replace effort in flames, Republicans face a choice. They can continue to live in a fantasy world in which it is possible simultaneously to uproot Obamacare, slash federal spending on health care and widen health-care coverage. Or they can finally accept reality and strike a deal with Democrats to improve the Affordable Care Act."

[USA Today](#) (9/26) editorializes, "Even after Tuesday's decision not to bring the latest effort to a vote before the deadline the end of this week for passing a Senate bill by a simple majority, there are Republicans who want to continue this self-flagellation and war on everyday Americans. ... What this spectacle shows is how captive many Republicans are to a narrow band of hard-right voters and an even narrower band of big-money donors who are demanding results from the GOP-controlled Congress."

In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/26) faults Sen. Rand Paul for Graham-Cassidy's failure, arguing that his purist stance resulted in the continuation of the ACA, which he strongly opposes.

Trump To Propose Tax Plan In Indianapolis Today.

President Trump will travel to Indianapolis Wednesday to propose what the [New York Times](#)

(9/26, Thrush) describes as “an aggressive and expensive rewrite of the federal tax code,” as the White House “attempt[s] to navigate a narrow political path on an issue that administration officials believe can reboot Mr. Trump’s presidency.” The [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/26, Rubin, Bender) says Republicans are anxious for a legislative victory, and the tax plan is their best chance to impact a national issue since taking gaining control of both the legislative and executive branches.

[USA Today](#) (9/26, Przybyla) reports that as Trump pitches the plan, he will apply “a hard lesson from the failing effort to repeal Obamacare: enlist a few Democrats.” Trump will make the announcement alongside Democratic Sen. Joe Donnelly, who is planning to travel with him. To [Politico](#) (9/26, Strauss, Nussbaum), Donnelly’s appearance with Trump is “the latest example of an endangered Democratic senator from a red state looking to show some bipartisan credibility.”

[Bloomberg News](#) (9/26, Edgerton, Brody) says Wednesday’s announcement “marks only the start of what could be a brutal fight in Congress among lawmakers who disagree on key elements of the plan,” and [The Hill](#) (9/26, Jagoda) says Trump “has been reaching out to Democrats in an effort to get their support.” The Hill adds that the President said during a White House meeting with a bipartisan group of lawmakers on the House Ways and Means Committee that the Republican tax plan “will include ‘nearly doubling’ the standard deduction and increasing the child tax credit.” Trump told the group, “We will cut taxes tremendously for the middle class. Not just a little bit but tremendously.” [Reuters](#) (9/26, Morgan) reports that Trump told the lawmakers, “I’ve asked lawmakers of both parties to join us to discuss our framework. ... It’s time for both parties to come together.”

[USA Today](#) (9/26, Przybyla) also reports that Trump will “unveil a plan to dramatically slash the corporate tax rate and collapse individual income tax brackets.” At a dinner Monday with grassroots supporters, Trump “said he has asked his staff to confirm that the plan would represent ‘the biggest tax cut in American history’ by comparing the rates to the 1986 tax plan passed under former President Ronald Reagan, according to a dinner attendee.” USA Today adds that Trump’s plan “would lower the corporate rate to 20% and collapse the current individual tax brackets from seven to three: 12%, 25% and 35%, according to lobbyists briefed on the plan.” The [Los Angeles Times](#) (9/26, Puzanghera, Mascaro) says while “businesses would receive huge tax cuts and many middle-class Americans would see relief,” many “specifics, such as whether the individual tax cuts would favor the wealthy, are still to be worked out.” A brief [New York Post](#) (9/26, Tacopino) story also reports on the tax proposal.

Pence To Pitch Tax Reform In Detroit. The [Detroit News](#) (9/26, Gerstein) reports that Vice President Pence will visit Detroit on Wednesday and Thursday “to talk about tax reform and visit a leading auto supplier.”

Von Drehle: Time Is Short To Pass Tax Reform. David Von Drehle writes in the [Washington Post](#) (9/26) that time is running out for Republicans to pass tax reform. Von Drehle adds that at a recent White House meeting, Sen. Roy Blunt told Trump and Treasury Secretary Mnuchin “that tough decisions must be made right away.” Blunt “believes tax reform is a must-do before the December break. Failure to get it done by then would send the GOP into an election year with little to show for the luxury of one-party rule.” Blunt said, “Winning here is pretty important...for the party and for the economy.” Von Drehle asks how “tweeting about football players [will] help achieve that victory.”

MetLife CEO Says Corporate Leaders Must Give Up Loopholes. In an op-ed for the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/26), Steven Kandarian, chairman, president and CEO of MetLife Inc., calls on business leaders to put the national interest ahead of the corporate interests and be willing to forego loopholes, credits and deductions.

Trump Included Chad In Travel Ban Over State Department, Pentagon Objections.

The [New York Times](#) (9/26, Cooper, Shear, Searcey) cites “administration officials” who said that President Trump’s inclusion of Chad in his updated travel ban “came over the objections Pentagon and State Department officials, who argued that alienating the nation, one of America’s more reliable counterterrorism allies in Africa, risked harming long-term national security interests.” While Acting DHS Secretary Duke recommended that Chad be included, Pentagon and State Department officials “were opposed to banning travelers from Chad, concerned about American interests, as were diplomats at the American embassy in the capital of N’Djamena, administration officials said.”

[USA Today](#) (9/26) argues in an editorial that even if the latest travel ban is constitutional, “it still appears arbitrary.” The ban, USA Today adds, “holds little promise of making Americans safer.” David Bier, an immigration policy analyst at the Cato Institute, writes in an op-ed for the [Washington Post](#) (9/26) that Trump’s travel ban “is nothing more than a political document, not

one with any legal or national security basis.”

Construction Has Begun On Prototypes For Border Wall.

US Customs and Border Protection said in a short notice Tuesday that construction has begun on “prototypes for President Trump’s border wall,” the [Washington Times](#) (9/26, Dinan) reports. According to the notice, “the building began in San Diego on eight prototypes, which had been awarded over the summer.” The prototypes “are between 18 and 30 feet, and will be evaluated on how well they deter climbers, how well they withstand breach attempts and what sort of awareness they allow agents who patrol the border.” Four of the prototypes are concrete walls and four are non-concrete.

Editorial Wrap-Up

New York Times.

“A Corruption Case Worth Repeating.” In an editorial, the [New York Times](#) (9/26, Board) compares a federal appeals court’s decision Tuesday “to overturn the 2015 corruption convictions of the former Albany powerhouse Dean Skelos and his son” to “a July decision in which a different set of appellate judges set aside a jury verdict against Sheldon Silver, the former Assembly speaker” who “had been found guilty of, among other things, steering New York State grants to a cancer doctor who then referred patients to his law firm.” The Times explains in both cases, the appeals courts based their decisions on a 2016 US Supreme Court decision “that narrowed the definition of what kinds of misconduct could support corruption charges.” The Times says the Supreme Court ruling, “and the reversals of the Silver and Skelos verdicts that flowed from it, haunts the efforts to clean up Albany by putting people like Mr. Silver and Mr. Skelos behind bars.”

“How Gun Controls Work Beyond Washington.” A [New York Times](#) (9/27, Board) editorial says while President Trump’s Administration, “beholden” to the National Rifle Association, “quickly overturned a regulation the Obama administration had issued that would have banned lead ammunition and fishing tackle in federal wildlife refuges,” the state of California “passed an enlightened bill” credited with saving the California condor from “the brink of extinction 30 years ago” to a population of about 450. The Times says Republican representatives are now considering a proposal that would “make it more difficult for federal regulators to control armor-piercing bullets.” Unlike California state lawmakers who “stood up to the gun lobby and protected the condor,” says the Times, Congress cannot “muster similar wisdom and courage” to reject legislation that will pose “a particular threat to police officers.”

Washington Post.

“Time For Republicans To Accept Reality.” The [Washington Post](#) (9/26) says in an editorial, “With one more repeal-and-replace effort in flames, Republicans face a choice. They can continue to live in a fantasy world in which it is possible simultaneously to uproot Obamacare, slash federal spending on health care and widen health-care coverage. Or they can finally accept reality and strike a deal with Democrats to improve the Affordable Care Act.”

“Puerto Rico Needs Help. Here’s What We Can Do.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/26) says President Trump’s “silence over the weekend about Puerto Rico while he fomented controversy over football caused worry about whether Puerto Rico would be a priority for the administration.” However Monday’s trip to the island by homeland security adviser Bossert and FEMA Director Long, as well as Trump’s planned visit “are hopefully signs of the administration taking the crisis seriously.”

“Tackle Football Is Not For Children.” In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (9/26) writes that it “defies logic” to allow children to play tackle football, given the “dangers that football may present to their developing brains.” The Post cites a Boston University study published last week that found that exposure to repetitive head impacts in children under the age of 12 “may double the chances of developing behavioral problems and triple the risk of experiencing depression.”

Wall Street Journal.

“Trump’s Too-Big-To-Fail Punt.” In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/26) describes financial regulators’ failure to determine whether to remove AIG’s “systemically important financial institutions” label during this past Friday’s Financial Stability Oversight Council meeting as a political punt by the Administration. The Journal argues that Friday’s decision highlights the

need for the Treasury Department to clarify the government's review process for financial institutions and drop its appeal of MetLife's challenge to its too-big-to-fail status.

"The Obamacare Saviors." In an editorial, the [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/26) faults Sen. Rand Paul for Graham-Cassidy's failure, arguing that his purist stance resulted in the continuation of the ACA, which he strongly opposes.

"Second-Class Puerto Rico." A [Wall Street Journal](#) (9/26) editorial calls for the suspension of the Jones Act in order to provide needed relief to Puerto Rico.

Big Picture

Headlines From Today's Front Pages.

Wall Street Journal:

[Saudi Arabia Lifts Ban On Women Driving](#)

[Senate Scraps Vote On GOP Measure To Repeal Health Law](#)

[Bribery, Kickbacks Alleged At Top NCAA Basketball Programs](#)

[Why Your Orange Juice Might Be From Brazil: Florida's Trees Are Dying](#)

[Equifax CEO Smith To Exit Following Big Data Breach](#)

New York Times:

[Senate Republicans Say They Will Not Vote On Health Bill](#)

['This Is Like In War': A Scramble To Care For Puerto Rico's Sick And Injured](#)

[US Climate Change Policy: Made In California](#)

[Trump To Propose Sweeping Tax Cut For Corporations And Individuals](#)

[Roy Moore Wins Senate GOP Runoff In Alabama](#)

[Saudi Arabia Agrees To Let Women Drive](#)

Washington Post:

[In A Sharp Turn, Saudi Arabia To Let Women Drive](#)

[In Puerto Rico, A Lifeline Cut By Maria](#)

[Lacking Support, GOP Drops Its Healthcare Bill](#)

[GOP To Unveil Tax Plan But Defer Contentious Choices](#)

[College Basketball Coaches Face Corruption Charges](#)

Financial Times:

[Macron Makes Radical Appeal For More Powerful EU](#)

[Yuriko Koike Turns Japan Poll Into Showdown With Shinzo Abe](#)

[Equifax Chief Quits Over Data Breach](#)

Washington Times:

[Trump Cuts Obama's Refugee Target In Half, Takes More Christians Than Muslims](#)

['White Plague': France On Track For Muslim Majority As Native European Populations Dwindle](#)

[Justice Department Fights Restrictions On Freedom Of Thought And Speech At Public Colleges](#)

[Supreme Court To Consider Drawing Line On Partisanship In State Legislative Districting](#)

[Trump Vows To 'Fix The Mess' Of North Korea](#)

[Republicans Try To Sell Trump's Outreach To Hispanics As Democrats Mock Message](#)

Story Lineup From Last Night's Network News:

ABC: White House-Hurricane; Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Hurricane-Caribbean; Hurricane Tracking; California-Wildfire; White House-NFL Conflict; Congress-Healthcare Reform Plan; Alabama Senator Race; White House-North Korea; Dead North Korean Captive-Parents Interview; NCAA Bribery Scandal; OJ Simpson Parole; Saudi Arabia-Women Driving Ban Lifted; TV Show Ending; Twitter-Character Limit Increased; Wedding Accident.

CBS: Hurricane-Puerto Rico; White House-Hurricane; Hurricane Tracking; Congress-Healthcare Reform Plan; White House-NFL Conflict; Alabama Senator Race; Trump Administration-Costly Flights; Saudi Arabia-Women Driving Ban Lifted; Amazon New HQ Bid; Indonesia-Active Volcano; NCAA-Bribery Scandal; Twitter-Character Limit Increased; Philadelphia-New City Statue.

NBC: White House-Hurricane; Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Alabama Senator Race; Dead North Korean Captive-Parents Interview; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach; California-Wildfire; Saudi Arabia-Women Driving Ban Lifted; NCAA-Bribery Scandal; Twitter-Character Limit Increased; Wedding Accident; NFL News; Hurricane-Air National Guard.

Network TV At A Glance:

Hurricane – 9 minutes

White House-Hurricane – 7 minutes, 20 seconds

Alabama Senator Race – 6 minutes, 20 seconds

Saudi Arabia-Women Driving Ban Lifted – 2 minutes, 45 seconds

Story Lineup From This Morning's Radio News Broadcasts:

ABC: Alabama Senator Race; Russia Meddling Investigation; Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Wall Street News.

CBS: Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Alabama Senator Race; Tax Reform Plan; DEA Director Resigns; Wall Street News.

FOX: Alabama Senator Race; Tax Reform Plan; Congress-Healthcare Reform Plan.

NPR: Alabama Senator Race; Hurricane-Puerto Rico; Equifax-Cyber Security Breach; Wall Street News.

Washington Schedule

Today's Events In Washington.

White House:

PRESIDENT TRUMP — Meets with the Secretary of State Rex Tillerson; gives remarks on tax reform.

VICE PRESIDENT PENCE — Participates in a House Republican retreat regarding tax reform; participates in a tax reform meeting with conservative leaders; participates in a Michigan GOP Dinner.

US Senate: 9:30 AM Dem Rep. Ted Deutch's Washington Summit for South Florida business and community leaders continues – Democratic Rep. Ted Deutch hosts Washington Summit for South Florida business and community leaders continues, to cover issues including boating safety regulations, customs and border protection, immigration policy, tax reform, Pell Grants, Port Everglades improvement projects, climate change resiliency plans, and other local and national topics. Speakers today include members of bipartisan, bicameral members Florida's congressional delegation include Sen. Marco Rubio and Reps. Mario Diaz-Balart, Charlie Crist, Matt Gaetz, Alcee Hastings, Cathy Castor, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Lois Frankel and Dennis Ross, and Pennsylvania's Republican Rep. Tim Murphy Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, First St NE, Washington, DC teddeutch.house.gov <https://twitter.com/repteddeutch>

10:00 AM VA Secretary Shulkin testifies to Senate committee hearing on suicide prevention – Hearing on '#BeThere: What More Can Be Done to Prevent Veteran Suicide?', with testimony from Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin; Department of Veterans Affairs Assistant Inspector General for Healthcare Inspections John Daigh Jr., and Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Executive Director Dr David Carroll; University of Utah National Center for Veterans Studies Executive Director Craig Bryan; and National Alliance on Mental Illness for Montana Executive Director Matthew Kuntz Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 418, Washington, DC <http://veterans.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/VACHair>

10:00 AM Senate HELP Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Patrick Pizzella to be Deputy Secretary of Labor; Janet Dhillon and Dr Daniel Gade to be Equal Employment Opportunity Commission members (with Dhillon to be chair, upon confirmation); and Carlos Muniz to be Department of Education General Counsel Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 430, Washington, DC <http://help.senate.gov/>

10:00 AM Senate Environment Committee hearing on forest management to mitigate wildfires – Hearing on 'Forest Management to Mitigate Wildfires: Legislative Solutions', with testimony from Office of the Wyoming Governor Policy Advisor Jessica Crowder; American Forest Resources Council General Counsel Lawson Fite; and National Wildlife Federation President and CEO Colin O'Mara Location: Dirksen Senate Office Building, Rm 406, Washington, DC <http://epw.senate.gov/public/>

10:30 AM Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Ann Marie Buerkle to be Consumer Product Safety Commission Chairman; Rear Adm. (Ret.) Timothy Gallaudet to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere; Howard Elliott to be Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration Administrator; and Dr Walter Copan to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 253, Washington, DC

<http://commerce.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/SenateCommerce>

10:45 AM Senate Foreign Relations Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Kathleen Fitzpatrick to be U.S. Ambassador to Timor-Leste; and Daniel Kritenbrink to be U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

12:00 PM Senate Broadband Caucus telemedicine expo – Senate Broadband Caucus, in partnership with American Telemedicine Association, hosts telemedicine expo, highlighting ‘the important role broadband plays in advancing telemedicine’ and featuring several demonstrations of ‘technologies and innovations that are changing the way health care is delivered’ Location: Hart Senate Office Building, Rm 216, Washington, DC <http://www.capito.senate.gov/> <https://twitter.com/SenCapito>

12:30 PM Minnesota rural health care providers speak at Congressional briefings on opioid reduction efforts – Representatives of CHI St. Gabriel’s Health – a rural health care provider serving Little Falls, MN – testify to Congressional leaders on its successful opioid reduction initiative, following an invitation from Democrats Sen. Al Franken and Rep. Rick Nolan. House of Representatives staff briefing in Rm 121, Cannon House Office Building (12:30 PM EDT) followed by Senate staff briefing in Rm G11, Dirksen Senate Office Building (2:30 PM EDT) Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.mnhospitals.org/> <https://twitter.com/MNHospitals>

2:00 PM Senate Natural Resources subcommittee oversight hearing on encouraging the next generation to visit national parks – National Parks Subcommittee oversight hearing on ‘Encouraging the Next Generation to Visit National Parks’, with testimony from National Park Service Deputy Director for Management and Administration Lena McDowall; Niantic Civil and Social Impact Manager Yennie Fuller; Kupu Hawaii CEO John Leong; NIC Vice President Angela Fultz Nordstrom; AccessParks CEO Tim Rout; and National Park Foundation President and CEO Will Shafroth Location: Rm 366, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://energy.senate.gov/public/>

2:15 PM Senate Foreign Relations Committee nominations hearing – Nominations hearing considers Richard Duke Buchan III to be U.S. Ambassador to Spain; Richard Grenell to be U.S. Ambassador to Germany; and Edward McMullen Jr. to be U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as to be U.S. Ambassador to Liechtenstein Location: Rm 419, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://foreign.senate.gov/>

2:30 PM Senate Indian Affairs Committee oversight hearing on trafficking of American Indian and Alaska Natives – Oversight hearing on ‘The GAO Reports on Human Trafficking of American Indian and Alaska Natives in the United States’ * Rescheduled from 26 Jul Location: Rm 628, Dirksen Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://indian.senate.gov> <https://twitter.com/IndianCommittee>

2:30 PM Closed Briefing: Intelligence Matters Location: Rm 219, Hart Senate Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://intelligence.senate.gov>

3:00 PM Senate Small Business Committee hearing on SBA’s hurricanes response – Hearing on ‘An Early Review of SBA’s Response to the 2017 Hurricanes’, with testimony from Small Business Administration Associate Administrator for Disaster Assistance James Rivera; JAX Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Daniel Davis; and University of Houston Research Professor Dr Steve Lawrence Location: Russell Senate Office Building, Rm 428A, Washington, DC <http://sbc.senate.gov/>

US House: 9:00 AM House GOP hold ‘member retreat on tax reform’ – ‘House Republican member retreat on tax reform’ held at National Defense University at Fort McNair (9:00 AM EDT, no media access), followed by news conference at the U.S. Capitol (around 3:00 PM EDT) * President Donald Trump is today releasing details on a framework for tax cuts and reforms which he and bicameral Congressional Republicans have developed, via remarks in Indianapolis Location: Washington, DC www.speaker.gov <https://twitter.com/SpeakerRyan>

9:30 AM CANCELED: Oversight hearing on ‘Empowering State Based Management Solutions for Greater Sage Grouse Recovery’ Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/NatResources>

9:30 AM Dem Rep. Ted Deutch’s Washington Summit for South Florida business and community leaders continues – Democratic Rep. Ted Deutch hosts Washington Summit for South Florida business and community leaders continues, to cover issues including boating safety regulations, customs and border protection, immigration policy, tax reform, Pell Grants, Port Everglades improvement projects, climate change resiliency plans, and other local and national topics. Speakers today include members of bipartisan, bicameral members Florida’s congressional delegation include Sen. Marco Rubio and Reps. Mario Diaz-Balart, Charlie Crist, Matt Gaetz, Alcee

Hastings, Cathy Castor, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Lois Frankel and Dennis Ross, and Pennsylvania's Republican Rep. Tim Murphy Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, First St NE, Washington, DC teddeutch.house.gov <https://twitter.com/repteddeutch>

10:00 AM POSTPONED: House Infrastructure subcommittee hearing on highways and transit stakeholders' perspectives – POSTPONED: Highways and Transit Subcommittee hearing on 'Building a 21st Century Infrastructure for America: Highways and Transit Stakeholders' Perspectives' Location: Rm 2167, Rayburn House Office Bldg, Washington, DC <http://transportation.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/Transport>

10:00 AM NO LONGER ON CALENDAR: House Foreign Affairs subcommittees joint hearing on budget proposal for AfPak – NO LONGER ON CALENDAR: Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee and Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee joint hearing on 'The President's FY 2018 Budget Request for Afghanistan and Pakistan', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Alice Wells; and USAID Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs Administrator's Assistant Gregory Huger Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

12:30 PM Minnesota rural health care providers speak at Congressional briefings on opioid reduction efforts – Representatives of CHI St. Gabriel's Health – a rural health care provider serving Little Falls, MN – testify to Congressional leaders on its successful opioid reduction initiative, following an invitation from Democrats Sen. Al Franken and Rep. Rick Nolan. House of Representatives staff briefing in Rm 121, Cannon House Office Building (12:30 PM EDT) followed by Senate staff briefing in Rm G11, Dirksen Senate Office Building (2:30 PM EDT) Location: U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC <http://www.mnhospitals.org/> <https://twitter.com/MNHospitals>

2:00 PM Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on Nigeria – Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission hearing on 'Nigeria: Conflict in the Middle Belt', examining the international community's role in helping the Nigerian Govt address the violent attacks and widespread human rights abuses involved in the ongoing inter-communal conflict between predominately-Muslim cattle-herding nomadic groups and mostly-Christian settled farming populations. Witnesses – International Crisis Group Deputy Program Director for Africa EJ Hogendorf, U.S. Institute of Peace Senior Program Officer for Africa Programs Oge Onubogu, Search for Common Ground Conflict Analyst for Nigeria Olubukola Ademola-Adelehin, and 21st Century Wilberforce Initiative Executive Director Elijah Brown – present testimony on the human rights challenges in the Middle Belt and explore possible solutions Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2255, Washington, DC <http://tlhrc.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/TLHRCCommission>

2:00 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on Rwanda – Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations Subcommittee hearing on 'Rwanda: Democracy Thwarted', with testimony from Acting Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Donald Yamamoto; Democracy in Rwanda Now Coordinator for the U.S. (and former Rwanda Defense Force Major) Robert Higiro, and Coordinator for Canada David Himbara; and Search for Common Ground Africa Programs Manager Mike Jobbins Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2200, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

2:00 PM House Ways and Means Committee Democrats hold forum on tax reform – House Committee on Ways and Means Democratic forum on tax reform, held by Ranking Member Richard Neal and other Democratic members, along with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and other House Democrats. Panelists include author Bruce Bartlett, Washington Center for Equitable Growth Executive Director and Chief Economist Heather Boushey, Center for American Progress Senior Fellow Seth Hanlon, and Center on Budget and Policy Priorities Deputy Director of Federal Tax Policy Chye-Ching Huang * President Donald Trump is today releasing details on a framework for tax cuts and reforms, developed with bicameral Congressional Republicans, via remarks in Indianapolis Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, HVC 215, Washington, DC <http://democrats.waysandmeans.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/WaysMeansCmte>

2:00 PM NO LONGER ON CALENDAR: Health Care, Benefits, and Administrative Rules Subcommittee hearing on 'Cybersecurity of the Internet of Things' Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2154, Washington, DC <http://oversight.house.gov/> <https://twitter.com/GOPoversight>

2:30 PM House Armed Services subcommittee hearing on U.S. Army tactical network modernization – Tactical Air and Land Forces Subcommittee hearing on 'The Army's Tactical Network Modernization Strategy', with testimony from U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Staff (G-6) Lt. Gen. Bruce Crawford; U.S. Army Combined Arms Center Mission Command Center of Excellence Director Maj. Gen. James Mingus; and Department of the Army Program Executive Officer for Command, Control and Communications-Tactical Gary Martin Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2212, Washington, DC www.armedservices.house.gov

<https://twitter.com/HASCRepublicans>

2:30 PM House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing on Burma – Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee hearing on ‘Burma’s Brutal Campaign Against the Rohingya’, with testimony from Heritage Foundation Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy Asian Studies Center Director Walter Lohman; Refugees International Senior Advocate for Human Rights Daniel Sullivan; Congressional Research Service Foreign Affairs, Defense, and Trade Division Specialist in Asian Affairs Dr Michael Martin; and U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide Program Manager Andrea Gittleman Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2172, Washington, DC <http://www.hcfa.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/HouseForeign>

3:00 PM House Natural Resources subcommittee oversight hearing on reducing catastrophic wildfire risk – Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee oversight hearing on ‘Exploring Solutions to Reduce Risks of Catastrophic Wildfire and Improve Resiliency of National Forests’, with testimony from Ravalli County, MT, Commissioner Greg Chilcott; Geos Institute Chief Scientist Dr Dominick DellaSala; American Forest Resource Council General Counsel Lawson Fite; and Yakama Nation Intertribal Timber Council President Philip Rigdon Location: Longworth House Office Building, Rm 1334, Washington, DC <http://naturalresources.house.gov>
<https://twitter.com/NatResources>

3:00 PM House Veterans’ Affairs subcommittee hearing on GI Bill-approved apprenticeship programs – Economic Opportunity Subcommittee hearing on ‘How to Improve Access to GI Bill Approved Apprenticeship Programs and How these Programs Benefit Veterans’ Location: Cannon House Office Building, Rm 334, Washington, DC <http://veterans.house.gov/>
<https://twitter.com/HouseVetAffairs>

3:00 PM House Financial Services subcommittee hearing on the Family Self-Sufficiency Program – Housing and Insurance Subcommittee hearing on ‘Overview of the Family Self-Sufficiency Program’, with testimony from Preservation of Affordable Housing President and CEO Aaron Gornstein; Abt Associates Director of Housing and Community Initiatives Jeffrey Lubell; Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County Executive Director Stacy Spann; Housing Partnership Network Senior Vice President for Policy Kristin Siglin; and Compass Working Capital Executive Director Sherry Riva Location: Rayburn House Office Building, Rm 2128, Washington, DC <http://financialservices.house.gov> <https://twitter.com/FinancialCmte>

4:00 PM House meets for legislative business – House of Representatives meets for legislative business, with agenda expected to include the consideration of ‘S. 327 – Fair Access to Investment Research Act of 2017’ and ‘H.R. 3229 – To protect the safety of judges by extending the authority of the Judicial Conference to redact sensitive information contained in their financial disclosure reports, and for other purposes’ under suspension of the rules Location: Washington, DC <http://www.house.gov/>

Other: 9:00 AM Washington Ideas Forum continues – Washington Ideas Forum, hosted by The Atlantic in partnership with the Aspen Institute, continues. ‘Leaders from politics and govt to business and culture’ convene to ‘tackle the issues confronting the country and the world, including politics and policy, economics and trade, race and justice, education, global affairs, technology, and beyond’. Speakers today include Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin, The Boeing Company Chairman of the Board, President and CEO Dennis Muilenberg, Newsmax CEO Christopher Ruddy, American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation CEO Richard Besser, Paradigm Founder and CEO Joelle Emerson, The Allstate Corporation Chairman and CEO Tom Wilson, Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture Director Lonnie Bunch, WeWork Co-founder and CEO Adam Neuman, The VR Company Founder and CEO Guy Primus, and The Washington Post Executive Editor Martin Baron Location: Sidney Harman Hall, 610 F St NW, Washington, DC WashingtonIdeas.com
<https://twitter.com/WashingtonIdeas> #WashingtonIdeas

9:15 AM Dem Rep. Richard Neal speaks at FSR discussion on tax reform – Financial Services Roundtable discussion on ‘How tax reform can secure the futures of America’s workers’, with Democratic Rep. Richard Neal, Putnam Investments CEO Robert Reynolds, and a panel discussion on what policymakers can do to better help the nation’s workers, with former Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Retirement and Health Policy J. Mark Iwry, Employee Benefit Research Institute President and CEO Harry Conaway, American Enterprise Institute Senior Economic Fellow James Pethokoukis, and Wholesale Distribution of Transamerica Vice President and Managing Director Chad Brown Location: Financial Services Roundtable, 600 13th St NW, Washington, DC www.fsround.org <https://twitter.com/fsroundtable>

1:00 PM Dem Sen. Michael Bennet speaks on ‘incentives that distort Congress’ – Center for American Progress hosts ‘Distortion and Dysfunction: Incentives Facing the U.S. Congress’

armchair discussion with Democratic Sen. Michael Bennet, who addresses the range of incentives that distort Congress and feed dysfunction, from the effects of money in elections to revolving door politics, growing partisanship, and other factors Location: Center for American Progress, 1333 H St NW, Washington, DC www.americanprogress.org <https://twitter.com/amprog>

1:00 PM VA Secretary Shulkin at briefing on research on suicide prevention – Friends of VA Medical Care and Health Research (FOVA) briefing on ‘The Science of Veteran Suicide: VA Research in Prevention and Intervention’, with presenters Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin, Rocky Mountain VA Medical Center Mental Illness Research Education and Clinical Center Director Dr Lisa Brenner, Canandaigua VA Medical Center Center of Excellence for Suicide Prevention Executive Director Dr Wilfred Pigeon, and Portland VA Medical Center Center to improve Veterans’ Involvement in Care (CIVIC) Director Steven Dobscha Location: U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, SVC 201-200, Washington, DC <http://www.friendsofva.org/>

2:00 PM Dems Sen. Tom Udall and Rep. David Price speak on money in politics at Brookings – ‘Democracy at risk: Solving critical problems threatening U.S. elections’ Brookings Institution discussion on ‘solutions to the systemic problems facing democracy, the barriers that exist to achieving these solutions, and how they can be overcome’. Panelists include Democrats Sen. Tom Udall and Rep. David Price, Democracy 21 President Fred Wertheimer, Common Cause President Karen Hobert Flynn, and former Chief G.W. Bush White House Ethics Lawyer and University of Minnesota Law School Professor Richard Painter Location: The Brookings Institution, 1775 Massachusetts Ave NW, Washington, DC <http://www.brookings.edu> [#MoneyinPolitics](https://twitter.com/BrookingsInst)

6:00 PM The Hill hosts celebration of Latino leaders in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month – The Hill hosts ‘The Changing Face of America: Celebrating Latino Leaders’, in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, with Democratic Reps. Michelle Lujan Grisham and Joaquin Castro and Republican Reps. David Valado and Will Hurd discussing how Congress addresses issues important to the Hispanic community Location: WeWork Dupont Circle, 1875 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC thehill.com [#TheHillLatino](https://twitter.com/TheHillEvents)

6:00 PM IAVA Salutes Awards Reception – Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America Salutes Awards Reception honoring ABC News Chief Global Affairs Correspondent Martha Raddatz (IAVA Salutes Award for Leadership in Journalism) and Democratic Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (IAVA Salutes Award for Leadership in Government) Location: Recording Industry Association, 1025 F St NW, Washington, DC iava.org <https://twitter.com/iava>

6:30 PM Partnership for Public Service annual Sammies gala – Partnership for Public Service 2017 Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals (Sammies) awards ceremony, paying tribute to seven ‘public servants who have improved the lives of Americans and others around the world’. CBS’ ‘Face the Nation’ chief Washington correspondent and moderator John Dickerson hosts, with presenters and distinguished guests including Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin, Secretary of Veterans Affairs David Shulkin and Deputy Secretary Thomas Bowman, Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney, bipartisan Reps. Debbie Dingell, Blake Farenthold, Eleanor Holmes Norton, David Price, and Keith Rothfus, National Institutes of Health Director Francis Collins, General Services Administration Acting Administrator Tim Horne, Office of Personnel Management Acting Director Kathleen McGettigan, author Michael Lewis, Segway inventor Dean Kamen, President’s Assistant and Director of Strategic Initiatives Chris Liddell, and Deputy National Security Advisor for Strategy Dina Powell Location: Andrew W. Mellon Auditorium, 1301 Constitution Ave NW, Washington, DC www.ourpublicservice.org [#Sammies2017](https://twitter.com/RPublicService)

Last Laughs

Late Night Political Humor.

Jimmy Kimmel: “The Graham-Cassidy Healthcare Bill, a bill I’ve been speaking out against all week, did not pass. Senator McConnell decided to pull the vote. They didn’t have the votes. I haven’t been this excited about something being dead since Bin Laden.”

Stephen Colbert: “The GOP plan to repeal Obamacare is officially dead! Got nothing, no pulse. No. They pulled the plug. That is something I’ve said three times now.”

Stephen Colbert: “In addition to the countries named in the first executive order, the revised travel ban was expanded to include people from Chad, North Korea, Venezuela, and the Golden State Warriors.”

James Corden: "The Cowboys knelt before the national anthem as a protest, but then stood while it was being played. Isn't that trying to have it both ways? Like 'I'm on a hunger strike but only between meals.' ... Conservatives immediately blasted the move, saying it disrespected the sacred minutes before the national anthem, which are for peeing and buying nachos."

James Corden: "Yesterday, officials confirmed that at least six of President Trump's closest advisers used private email to discuss official White House business. In a related story, Hillary Clinton was hospitalized today after rolling her eyes so hard she threw her back out."

Trevor Noah: "We shouldn't get too happy because this isn't the first time we have been told it's dead. Like it might be really sick, but it keeps surviving. You know what it's like? It's almost as if the Republican health bill also has Obamacare."

Trevor Noah: "You know, here on the Daily Show, we work really hard to get the facts right. But we're not perfect. So tonight, I'm sorry to say that we have to issue a rare the Daily Show retraction. ... So last night, we reported an official in Trump's White House, Jared Kushner, used a private email account to conduct official White House business, and that statement was wrong. It wasn't an official. It was many officials."

Jimmy Fallon: "When he heard the GOP healthcare bill failed again, Trump said, 'You're not going to believe it, but I think I have to take a knee for this.'"

Seth Meyers: "Senate Republicans announced today they will not hold a vote on the Graham-Cassidy Bill to repeal and replace Obamacare, after they were unable to secure enough support. But Republicans plan to come back with a new plan, where they just slash the tires on all the ambulances."

Seth Meyers: "After President Trump called for pro athletes to be fired if they didn't stand for the national anthem, Nike released a statement yesterday in support of athletes and their right to freedom of expression. Then they introduced a new line of \$400 kneeling shoes."

Conan O'Brien: "An employee for the Buffalo Bills quit after the entire team took a knee during the national anthem on Sunday. Meanwhile, an employee for the Los Angeles Chargers quit after watching them play on Sunday."

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Subject: U.S., Mexico set aside Trump tensions for Colorado River deal
Date: Friday, September 29, 2017 5:06:53 AM

U.S., Mexico set aside Trump tensions for Colorado River deal

By Esther Whieldon

09/29/2017 05:02 AM EDT

The water-sharing pact signed this week by the U.S. and Mexico emerged despite tensions caused by President Donald Trump's policies on immigration and trade, showing the negotiators' willingness to take on problems caused by shrinking supplies from the Colorado River, according to western water experts.

That deal signed Wednesday was supported by state water agencies and major users in both countries, and sets out procedures to reduce off-take during times of drought that are expected to persist for the foreseeable future.

"Water is the lifeblood of this region," Jennifer Pitt, Colorado River Project director for the National Audubon Society, said in an interview. "It is fundamentally important to the economies of southwestern U.S. and northwestern Mexico. ... It's just too important for the two countries not to have good relations over [it] and not have a plan in place about how to manage supplies reliably for that enormous population."

Representatives from the International Boundary and Water Commission of the United States and Mexico signed the pact, called [Minute 323](#), that largely carries forward for another nine years a prior agreement that was due to expire this year. Water levels at the Colorado River's most important reservoir, Lake Mead, have been plummeting, and both the U.S. and Mexico could have faced the threat of mandatory supply cuts starting as early as next year.

The river supplies drinking water to tens of millions of people in both countries and irrigation for millions of acres of agriculture, both of which would suffer unless the countries reached a deal.

Federal officials failed to sign a deal before the end of the Obama administration, [raising fears](#) that Trump's calls to build a wall along the Mexican border and the reopening of NAFTA would undo years of progress in the negotiations. But the officials, supported by state water agencies and Mexico water license holders, knew they had to reach a deal or risk years of litigation in a crisis that would force them to choose between cutting off water supplies to farms and sensitive wildlife habitats or to major population centers.

"In a crisis, you would have winners and losers, and some of the biggest losers would be agriculture and the environment," said Ted Kowalski, director of the Colorado River initiative at the Walton Family Foundation. "I think it's highly unlikely the Bureau of Reclamation is going to turn off the city of Las Vegas or the city of Phoenix."

So the officials continued plodding away at negotiations, hoping the Trump administration would in the end agree to a deal.

The water agency officials were "largely insulated from the political conversation between Washington, D.C., and Mexico," said Chuck Cullom, Colorado River programs manager for the Central Arizona Project. The water managers "focused on providing the greatest benefits for the country and the communities ... rather than the political winds that might be blowing in a number of directions," he said in an interview.

The basin states made reaching a deal a top priority this year, according to Pitt.

"There's a long-standing balance of power between the states and the federal government on the Colorado River where the federal government tries to as much as possible defer to the states, who are really the owners of the water. So as the states made it clear to the incoming administration this was a priority, the administration said, 'We will support you on this,'" she said.

A key sticking point in the negotiations had been Mexico's insistence that the lower basin states of California, Arizona and Nevada first agree to a drought contingency plan under which they would voluntarily conserve additional water beyond mandatory cuts in order to increase reservoir levels.

Mexico officials were worried they would be left holding the bag if a water crisis occurred before the states reached a deal. But Mexico eventually agreed to make additional cuts once the states pass a contingency plan.

Mexico is very dependent on the upstream dams in the U.S. for its water delivery, since a 2010 earthquake damaged its dams. But Mexico also took the position that the original 1944 treaty between the countries only required it to cut supplies if the U.S. suffered extreme drought, a vague term that left too much open to interpretation.

"That was a big concession for Mexico to follow our lead," said Tom Buschatzke, director of the Arizona Department of Water Resources. But the U.S. also agreed to fund \$31.5 million in water efficiency projects in Mexico through 2026 and to explore the possibility of investing in a desalinization plant that could help address future water supply challenges.

What made the deal possible is "the hard work that long preceded Trump," said Stephen Mumme, a political science professor at Colorado State University. "This is a classic example of ... a situation where not doing it could be really costly, and the sheer complexity of the number of players and the importance of the U.S. stake in this policy arena really overrode the Trump administration," he said.

"It's a good example in my mind of the limits of rhetorical breast beating and name calling and wall building."

To view online:

<https://www.politicopro.com/agriculture/story/2017/09/us-mexico-set-aside-trump-tensions-for-colorado-river-deal-162721>

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Subject: "UGH!": Zinke's wife's travel caused some headaches for Interior staff
Date: Monday, November 20, 2017 5:05:41 AM

'UGH!': Zinke's wife's travel caused some headaches for Interior staff

By Ben Lefebvre

11/20/2017 05:03 AM EDT

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's wife caused some frustration for Interior staffers when traveling with him on official business, according to new records that a liberal watchdog group says uncover the potential misuse of government resources.

The records document Lola Zinke's last-minute requests to join high-level dinners and additions to the guest list for a conservative group's event near their home in Southern California earlier this year. The Western Values Project filed a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit last month to force Interior to release more than 100 pages of [documents](#) related to Lola Zinke's trips with her husband and interactions with Interior staff. Shared first with POLITICO, the documents shed new light on the outsize profile Lola Zinke has established compared with the typical Cabinet secretary's spouse, including her dictating people to invite to a town hall hosted by the conservative Young America's Foundation for her husband.

New emails also reveal a celebratory dinner the Zinkes attended that was organized in part by a major GOP donor who gave heavily to Ryan Zinke's congressional campaigns. And they show Interior staffers had to accommodate a last-minute request for her to join the secretary at an official dinner with Alaska's governor. The records cover two trips Lola Zinke joined in the first three months of her husband's tenure as well as some other interactions with Interior staff, such as coordinating her attendance at a White House briefing for Cabinet members' spouses.

While the department says Lola Zinke paid her own way, the records show Interior used staff time to coordinate some of her activities while traveling with her husband. And the trips gave her access to high-level politicians and GOP activists and donors who could benefit her as a political operator in her own right.

"These emails show that the leadership at the Department of Interior treats basic ethical standards like an inconvenience," Western Values Project Executive Director Chris Saeger said. "If Secretary Zinke is willing to be so sloppy with something as elementary as this, then god only knows how they're handling big decisions about energy and public lands behind closed doors."

Interior says Lola Zinke pays her own way when she accompanies her husband and that travel is cleared by ethics officials in advance.

"DOI incurred no expenses due to Mrs. Zinke's presence" with the secretary, Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift said in an email Friday.

Interior's inspector general and the independent Office of Special Counsel are investigating the former Montana congressman and Navy SEAL's travel expenses and appearance at political events while on official trips, including those where he was accompanied by his wife. Last

week, the IG's office said it could not conduct a thorough investigation because Interior had kept [inadequate records](#). Among other problems, the watchdog said it had "not been able to determine the full extent to which Lolita Zinke, the Secretary's wife, accompanied the Secretary on official travel." Interior officials blamed the shortcomings on inadequate procedures left in place by the Obama administration.

The new records show the secretary's wife helped decide the guest list for a Young America's Foundation town hall forum with Ryan Zinke on April 17 at its Reagan Ranch in Santa Barbara, Calif., part of a weeklong official trip in the state. Lola Zinke joined her husband for national parks tours and meetings with government officials throughout the week, as well as for a private tour of the Reagan Ranch galleries led by Andrew Coffin, YAF's vice president.

Lola Zinke sent a "list of people I have invited to the event" to two Interior staffers, according to a series of April 7 emails. Caroline Boulton, a special assistant to the secretary, forwarded the list on to an official at YAF, with a warning that more could be added. Interior redacted the names of Zinke's guests before releasing the email.

"She's expecting some of them to bring plus ones and also her list is not yet final," Boulton wrote. "She's said that she doesn't have emails for them all since many of them have been personally told about the event, but I wanted you to have the list!"

YAF is a key pillar of the conservative movement with alumni ranging from White House officials to prominent journalists. The group's donors have reportedly [included](#) the Koch brothers, among others.

Lola Zinke is active in conservative politics. The Santa Barbara native was a member of President Donald Trump's [Hispanic outreach](#) team during the 2016 campaign, and in September she became chairwoman for the Senate campaign of Troy Downing, a Montana businessman hoping to unseat Sen. [Jon Tester](#) next year.

Lola had previously [faced criticism](#) for accompanying her husband on the California trip. She posted a [photograph on Twitter](#) from Gov. Jerry Brown's office and accompanied her husband to meetings with DOI regional staff in Sacramento and trips to Fresno and the national parks at Yosemite, Sequoia and Kings Canyon, the trip manifests show.

The trip also included five days in Santa Barbara and then four days in Zinke's hometown in Whitefish, Mont., an upscale part of the state where the couple owns a home and other real estate.

The secretary bringing his wife along on official trips isn't illegal as long as the government doesn't pay for her expenses. But it can be an ethically gray area, depending on the circumstances, said Craig Holman, government affairs lobbyist with good-governance watchdog Public Citizen.

"Spousal travel, especially when paid for by the spouse, suggests that the trip may have less to do with official duties and more resembles a family vacation partially paid for by taxpayers," Holman said.

When Lola Zinke joined an official trip to Norway, Greenland and Alaska, she appears to have caused some headaches by deciding to stay longer than expected. Ryan Zinke sent his staff scrambling to make last-minute arrangements so she could accompany him to dinner with the

governor of Alaska and other dignitaries in Anchorage, according to new emails.

Interior staffers apparently found out about the change in plans second-hand from an aide to Sen. [Lisa Murkowski](#) (R-Alaska), who also was on the trip, along with other senators and their spouses, according to a May 27 email from Director of Scheduling and Advance Russell Roddy to other colleagues at Interior — one day before Lola Zinke had been scheduled to return to Washington.

"I have heard that Mrs. Zinke was now maybe not going to fly out from Fairbanks Sunday morning ... so, I asked Annie if she happened to talk to Mrs. Zinke about her plans. She said Mrs. Zinke said she was now going to head to Byers Lake and Anchorage with RKZ and fly out of Anchorage on Tuesday," Roddy wrote. "UGH! We have all kinds of planes, trains and automobiles manifests to now scramble with."

It is unclear what led to the change in plans. Before the trip, Lola Zinke had apparently been trying to secure a seat on a military plane back to Washington, but the Senate staffer coordinating the trip told Interior that it would be a "safer bet" for her to fly commercial because Ryan Zinke would not be with her. The military typically does not like when members of Congress try to get their spouses on military planes without the member being present, according to an email from Boulton relaying guidance she had received. "There's a lot of ifs in that, so let me know if you want me to keep pushing on the" military return flight, Boulton wrote to Lola Zinke on May 18.

Lola Zinke joined her husband at a May 29 dinner in Anchorage with Alaska Gov. Bill Walker and other state officials.

"The Secretary personally paid the State of Alaska for Mrs. Zinke's meal," Swift said. Lola Zinke flew home on a commercial flight from Anchorage the following day.

Lola Zinke also accompanied her husband to an April 10 dinner in Washington that was organized with the help of one of his past campaign donors, Burt Sugarman, who has donated heavily to Republicans.

"We are very excited that Sec Zinke accepted the event," wrote Phil Anderson, president of lobbying firm Navigators Global who helped organize the April 10 dinner sponsored by the National Geographic Society, in a March 24 email to Boulton. "As you know, Burt Sugarman first discussed the dinner with Sec Zinke."

Sugarman and his wife, the former Entertainment Tonight anchor Mary Hart, are members of the National Geographic Society's board of directors.

The Sugarmans gave a combined \$10,800 to Zinke's 2016 congressional campaign, out of more than \$180,000 they gave to GOP candidates and committees in the last election cycle, according to FEC documents.






On April 27, Lola Zinke was invited to an ethics briefing at the White House for Cabinet spouses. "They stressed the importance of attending since important ethics rules will [be] discussed and questions can be answered by White House counsel," Boulton wrote in an email to Lola Zinke.

"Thank you!" she replied. "It's a good thing I'll be in town then."

To view online:

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From: <smf53@aol.com>
To: huntrgrp@aol.com
Subject: UNITER NOT DIVIDER
Date: Monday, October 09, 2017 9:49:05 PM

<!--[if !vml]--><!--[endif]-->

COLUMBUS – UNITER NOT DIVIDER

By Scot Faulkner
304-716-6235
smf53@aol.com

[Published in Newsmax]

Columbus and his achievements are about unity. The forces of political correctness have no idea what they are talking about.

Columbus' discovery of the Western Hemisphere permanently reconnected the Earth for the first time since the Pangea super continent broke apart 175 million years ago.

A brief period of record low sea levels, caused by the last Ice Age, allowed pre-history humans to migrate into the Americas from Europe around 20,000 BC. An Asian land bridge opened another short-lived migration corridor along the Alaskan coast in 12,000 BC. The indigenous people of the Americas were actually its "first immigrants". Rising seas then sealed them off from the rest of the world.

It was inevitable that humankind would ultimately reconnect. It was only a matter of time. The Viking sagas chronicle exploration and fishing settlements in Newfoundland around 1,000 AD. This is when warmer global temperatures made Greenland and the Arctic waters suitable for navigation and far northern lands viable for habitation. Others may have stumbled upon the Americas, but their interactions were short lived and isolated. The reunification of Earth would have to wait another 400 years.

Unique forces of economics, history, and knowledge eventually led to reunifying humankind and the world's ecosystems.

The events that set Columbus and his three ships towards destiny began with the fall of Constantinople on May 29, 1453 to the Ottoman Empire. The Islamic Ottomans took control of all the overland connections to India and China. They made the Silk Road, and other lucrative trade links to the East, prohibitively expensive and problematic.

In 1412, the Portuguese began methodically establishing an alternative sea-based trade route to Asia. In 1488, Bartholomew Diaz rounded the Cape of Good Hope. Portugal, with its line of African forts and massive fleet, aspired to join the Ottomans in controlling Asian trade.

No other European power was capable of competing against these two international

forces as most were locked in internal strife or were content with being regional powers.

On January 2, 1492, Spain defeated the last Islamic forces on the Iberian Peninsula. The dual monarchy of Ferdinand and Isabella turned their vision of conquest to competing with Portugal.

Christopher Columbus was uniquely situated to make the Spanish Monarchs' dream come true. Besides being a skilled seaman, Columbus was a highly astute scholar. He spent years acquiring knowledge about the Atlantic Ocean, including what would become known as its "trade winds", which would speed travel.

Columbus was at the center of the debate over the size of the Earth. Educated people knew the Earth was round, but they differed on its size. No ship's crew could be provisioned to sail west over a vast ocean all the way to China. Columbus was armed with knowledge of the Vikings and knew a large land mass was much closer than current wisdom assumed. His mistake was thinking it was Asia, not an entire undiscovered hemisphere.

Columbus convinced the Spanish Monarchs it was good business and a wise investment to underwrite an expedition sailing west into the unexplored areas of the Atlantic Ocean. The Monarchs knew that Spain would become a major world power by building their own trade monopoly if Columbus was successful.

Starting on August 3, 1492, the single most pivotal action in the Earth's human history began. On October 12, 1492, Columbus and his landing party stepped onto a Caribbean beach and nothing would ever be the same.

The "Columbian Exchange" fundamentally altered the Earth's ecosystem and its human history. The "New World" introduced dietary staples like corn, potatoes, peanuts, tomatoes, squash, pumpkins, pineapples, avocados. "Old World" domesticated animals such as horses, pigs, cattle, cows, and goats fanned out through the Americas, while onions, lettuce, peaches, wheat, rice, sugar, and apples took root.

Detractors scoff, stating that the people of the Americas knew where they were and did not need to be discovered. Anti-Columbus historians decry the spread of disease and conquest that devastated the first peoples of the Americas. Reunifying the world after 175 million years had irreversible consequences, good and bad. None of Americas' cultures had a maritime tradition outside of brief fishing and hunting sojourns within sight of land. Reunifying the Earth was only going to happen from the "Old World". The mingling of flora and fauna created impacts that resonate to this day.

Columbus is rightly recognized as the person who changed the world. He embodies humanity's striving to acquire and apply knowledge, and our desire to explore. Many South American nations, along with Italy and Spain, celebrate Columbus and the day everything changed.

The United State celebrated the 300th Anniversary of this epic moment in 1792. It became our nation's official holiday in 1937.

We should be honoring this unifying moment in history instead of trying to erase it.

[Scot Faulkner advises corporations and governments on how to save billions of dollars by achieving dramatic and sustainable cost reductions while improving operational and service excellence. He served as the Chief Administrative Officer of the U.S. House of Representatives. He also served on the White House Staff, and as an Executive Branch Appointee.]

From: Tara Sweeney
To: [Mashburn, Lori](#)
Subject: Update
Date: Monday, September 25, 2017 6:05:12 PM

Hi Lori,

I heard from Senator Sullivan, through some of his conversations, that there is discussion about whether to do an announcement in two weeks or during the Secretary's live feed during the AFN conference. Can you confirm?

I ask because I am scheduled to go to Iceland for work during the AFN convention, and if I need to be present during that time- I need to notify the event organizers in Iceland that I cannot participate in the scheduled discussions. I also need to let the Arctic Economic Council executive committee know as I am also scheduled to participate in the next phase of the strategic planning for the organization. It will also take place the week of AFN.

Any assistance and guidance you may have is appreciated. I hope all is well!

Regards,
Tara

From: Getto, Leila
To: [Lori Mashburn](#)
Subject: updates in bold
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2017 1:20:00 PM

Accepted:

11/21 – US Marine Corps Unveiling of the Iraq and Afghanistan engraving at Iwo Jima

12/16 - National Wreaths Across America Day (Arlington National Cemetery)

Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

~~Event Postponed by organizers due to fire - 10/21 – DEPA BOD Meeting (CA)~~

Outstanding Invitations in Process:

1/26-28 – Houston Safari Club Annual Meeting (Houston, TX)

1/29 – Society of Range Management Annual Meeting (Reno, Nevada)

Declining

11/14 – George Rogers Clark National Historical Park Quarter Launch (Vincennes, Indiana)

11/15 Motorcycle Industry Council Symposium (Carson, CA)

11/29 Association of California Water Agencies 2017 Fall Conference and Exhibition (Anaheim, CA)

12/1-2 – Western Governors Association Annual Meeting (Phoenix, AZ)

12/5-7 America Outdoors Association's 29th Annual Marketing and Management Conference for Outfitters and Adventure Resorts (Reno, NV)

12/5 – NY Stock Exchange Ringing of the Bell & remarks at Wells Fargo Financial Symposium Event (NYC)

12/6 American Exploration and Mining Association Annual Meeting (Reno, NV)

12/8 - Valley Industry and Commerce Association Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)

12/11 – Veterans Day Commemoration (Prussia, PA)

12/14 – Leadership Missoula (Missoula, Montana)

12/8 – DOI Toastmasters event (Washington, DC)

12/9 – Western Caucus Foundation Winter Policy Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)

1/11/18 – EEI CEO and Board Conference (Phoenix, AZ)

2/9-10 Associated General Contractors Western Chapter Annual Meeting (La Jolla, CA)

2/23/18 – West Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Association Annual Meeting (Grand Junction, CO)

Leila Sepehri Getto
U.S. Department of the Interior
Immediate Office of the Secretary
Deputy Director, Scheduling and Advance
Direct: (202) 208-5359
Cell: (202) 706-9435

From: Getto, Leila
To: [Lori Mashburn](#)
Subject: updates in bold -- thank you!
Date: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 11:43:22 AM

Accepted:

12/16 - National Wreaths Across America Day (Arlington National Cemetery)

1/22 – Alaska Federation of Natives - Challenges at America’s Northernmost Border

2/9 – Western Hunting & Conservation Expo (Salt Lake City, Utah)

3/6-7 – CERA Week (Houston, Texas)

Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

Outstanding Invitations in Process:

1/12-13 – Montana Outfitters and Guides Association Winter Convention (Helena, MT)

1/13 – Battle of Cowpens 237th Anniversary Event

1/23-26 National Shooting and Sports Foundation Annual SHOT Show (Las Vegas, NV)

1/26-28 – Houston Safari Club Annual Meeting (Houston, TX)

1/29 – Society of Range Management Annual Meeting (Reno, Nevada)

1/31-2/3 Safari Club International Annual Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)

2/8- Texas Public Policy Foundation Policy Orientation (Austin, TX)

2/12 – The Corps Network National Conference (Washington, DC)

Declining

12/11 – Veterans Day Commemoration (Prussia, PA)

12/14 – Leadership Missoula (Missoula, Montana)

12/8 – DOI Toastmasters event (Washington, DC)

12/9 – Western Caucus Foundation Winter Policy Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)

1/4 – Dallas Safari Club Annual Meeting (Dallas, TX)

1/11/18 – EEI CEO and Board Conference (Phoenix, AZ)

2/9-10 Associated General Contractors Western Chapter Annual Meeting (La Jolla, CA)

2/23/18 – West Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Association Annual Meeting (Grand Junction, CO)

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From: Getto, Leila
To: [Lori Mashburn](#)
Subject: Updates in bold ... thank you!
Date: Friday, December 22, 2017 3:47:21 PM

SECRETARY SPEAKING INVITATIONS

Accepted:

1/22 – Alaska Federation of Natives - Challenges at America’s Northernmost Border (DC)
2/3 Safari Club International Annual Meeting (Las Vegas, NV)
2/9 – Western Hunting & Conservation Expo (Salt Lake City, Utah)
2/12 – The Corps Network National Conference (Washington, DC)
2/12/14 - National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) 2018 Executive Council Winter Session (DC)
2/16 - 2018 Miami International Boat Show All-Industry Breakfast (Miami, FL)
3/6-7 – CERA Week (Houston, Texas)
Open (date TBC)- Americans for Tax Reform (DC)
Open (date TBC)- Detroit Economic Club

Outstanding Invitations in Process:

2/14 - Keynote Speaker at the Award for Conservation Excellence (ACE) (Charleston SC)
3/12 - National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers 2018 Preservation Policy Luncheon (DC)

Declining

1/4 – Dallas Safari Club Annual Meeting (Dallas, TX)
1/8-10 - Domestic Energy Producers Alliance BOD Retreat (Oklahoma City, OK)
1/10-13 - Archery Trade Association Trade Show (Indianapolis, IN)
1/11/18 – EEI CEO and Board Conference (Phoenix, AZ)
1/12-13 – Montana Outfitters and Guides Association Winter Convention (Helena, MT)
1/13 – Battle of Cowpens 237th Anniversary Event
1/23-26 National Shooting and Sports Foundation Annual SHOT Show (Las Vegas, NV)
1/26-28 – Houston Safari Club Annual Meeting (Houston, TX)
1/29 – Society of Range Management Annual Meeting (Reno, Nevada)
2/8- Texas Public Policy Foundation Policy Orientation (Austin, TX)
2/9-10 Associated General Contractors Western Chapter Annual Meeting (La Jolla, CA)
2/23/18 – West Slope Colorado Oil and Gas Association Annual Meeting (Grand Junction, CO)

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From: Triebisch, Margaret
To: [Lori Mashburn](#); [Davis, Natalie](#)
Subject: USGS National Geospatial Program 3D Elevation Program FY17 Public Webinars
Date: Wednesday, July 12, 2017 12:58:39 PM

Would this require a meeting waiver? The Webinars are scheduled for August 10th and August 17th. My initial thought is no, but wanted to check with you.

The 3D Elevation Program (3DEP) initiative is being developed to respond to needs for high-quality topographic data and for a wide range of other three-dimensional representations of the Nation's natural and constructed features.

The primary goal of 3DEP is to systematically collect enhanced elevation data in the form of high-quality light detection and ranging (lidar) data over the conterminous United States, Hawaii, and the U.S. territories, as well as interferometric synthetic aperture radar (ifsar) data over Alaska.

The 3DEP initiative is based on the results of the National Enhanced Elevation Assessment (NEEA), which indicated an optimal benefit to cost ratio for Quality Level 2 (QL2) data collected over 8-years to complete national coverage. The implementation model for 3DEP is based on multi-agency partnership funding for acquisition, with the USGS acting in a lead program management role to facilitate planning and acquisition for the broader community, through the use of government contracts and partnership agreements.

The annual Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) is a competitive solicitation issued to facilitate the collection of lidar and derived elevation data for the 3D Elevation Program (3DEP).

Federal agencies, state and local governments, tribes, academic institutions and the private sector are eligible to submit proposals.

The 3DEP public webinars will introduce this opportunity to the broadest stakeholder community possible and provide a summary of the BAA application procedures.

<https://nationalmap.gov/3DEP/>

Thanks,
Margaret

--

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From: Hanson, Tanner
To: [Hanson, Tanner](#)
Cc: [Small, Jeff](#)
Subject: Western Caucus Encourages Trump to Think Big and Act Big-League in Monuments Review
Date: Thursday, November 09, 2017 5:36:18 PM



For Immediate Release
Contact: Tanner Hanson

Date: November 9, 2017
Tanner.Hanson@mail.house.gov

Western Caucus Encourages Trump to Think Big and Act Big-League in Monuments Review



WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Congressional Western Caucus Chairman **Paul A. Gosar D.D.S. (AZ-04)**, Western Caucus Members **Andy Biggs (AZ-05)** and **Doug LaMalfa (CA-01)**, and **Congressman Daniel Webster (FL-11)** issued the following statements after 24 Members of Congress sent a letter to President Trump applauding his monument review and offering recommendations for monuments:

“By issuing his Executive Order to review recent monument designations, President Trump showed he was committed to making sure our land policies make sense and work in the national economic interest,” said **Congressman Gosar**. “More than that, though, his action is demonstrative of his Administration’s commitment to the United States being a nation ruled by the laws, executed faithfully - not by one man doing as he pleases. There is overwhelming reason to believe the previous Administration did not share any of these goals, as evidenced by President Obama’s frenzied use of the Antiquities Act. Today, we are grateful to President Trump for considering these recommendations as we continue working to right past wrongs on the path to American energy dominance and economic prosperity.”

Congressman Biggs stated, “The Western Caucus is working closely with the Trump administration to provide comments and recommendations on the twenty-seven monuments under review. These efforts are a good first step to overturn some of President Obama’s unconstitutional land grabs. Moving forward, our Caucus will be working together to reform the outdated 1906 Antiquities Act. It is time to bring more jobs and economic freedom to the West, and I am confident that President Trump and Secretary Zinke share our affinity to see this happen.”

“The original intent of the Antiquities Act was to set aside the smallest area of land possible in order to protect sites of historical or other significance, however, those parameters have been largely ignored in recent years,” said **Congressman LaMalfa**. “Under previous Presidents, most notably the Obama Administration, this abuse of Executive power has truly gotten out of hand. In the case of the Cascade-Siskiyou monument that now bleeds into California’s 1st district, unaccountable expansion now limits the public’s access to the land and limits the federal

government's ability to properly manage it. I'm happy to see the President is serious about reviewing and reforming this antiquated law, and I hope this recommendation to accept local input is considered thoroughly."

"President Obama's administration abused the powers of the Antiquities Act with unprecedented monument designations that removed millions of acres of land from productive economic use and local control. Hundreds of millions of these acres included marine monuments in the Pacific; a similar future monument designation in the Gulf could destroy Florida's tourist and fishing economy. I am encouraged that President Trump and Secretary Zinke are reviewing these Obama-era actions and urge them to take appropriate action to rescind or reduce many of these monument designations. We must work with the Trump administration to reform the Antiquities Act to prevent future abuse. I am confident we can find solutions that preserve and protect archeological sites, which is the purpose of the Antiquities Act, without harming our growing economy," said **Congressman Webster**.

Background:

Today, Congressional Western Caucus Chairman Gosar (AZ-04) and Western Caucus Member Andy Biggs (AZ-05) led a letter signed by 24 Members of Congress encouraging President Trump "to think big and act bigger" in his monuments review resulting from [Executive Order 13792](#) issued on April 26, 2017.

The 24 signers of the letter include: Representatives Mark Amodei (NV-02), Brian Babin (TX-36), Andy Biggs (AZ-05), Dave Bratt (VA-07), Paul Cook (CA-08), Kevin Cramer (ND-At Large), Jeff Duncan (SC-03), John Duncan (TN-02), Blake Farenthold (TX-27), Trent Franks (AZ-08), Paul Gosar (AZ-04), Walter Jones (NC-03), Steve King (IA-04), Doug LaMalfa (CA-01), Doug Lamborn (CO-05), Tom McClintock (CA-04), Steve Pearce (NM-02), Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen (AS-At Large), Pete Sessions (TX-32), Randy Weber (TX-14), Daniel Webster (FL-11), Ted Yoho (FL-03) and Don Young (AK-At Large).

The letter was endorsed by: the American Farm Bureau Federation, Americans for Responsible Recreation Access, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association and the Public Lands Council.

To read the full letter and recommendations click [HERE](#).

Based on the parameters of President Trump's April 2017 Executive Order Secretary Zinke announced in the [Federal Register](#) that his review would include 27 different land and marine monuments.

The letter sent today is consistent with the Executive Order and recommends the revision, and in some cases, rescission of national monuments unilaterally designated by presidents in the last 20 years that are larger than 100,000 acres and/or that lacked public outreach and coordination with relevant stakeholders.

By going back to the drawing board and coordinating with state and local stakeholders, President Trump has an excellent opportunity to ensure communities are not harmed by the executive overreach of previous presidents and that these designations follow the spirit and letter of the law.

This letter emphasizes the extent to which the signer's consensus on monuments is that they must be statutorily compliant – i.e. in keeping with the "smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects" clause of the Antiquities Act, and that they must be of demonstrated scientific or historic interest. As such, the parameters forming this consensus necessarily demand the shrinking or rescission of a majority of the monuments under review.

The president's authority to set aside land for monuments and national parks is derived from the outdated Antiquities Act of 1906, which was intended by Congress to be used to protect prehistoric Indian ruins and artifacts on federal lands in the West. More than one hundred years later, the original intent of this law, which included language to limit these designations to "the smallest area compatible with proper care and management of the objects," has been misused to the point of abuse. Compared to early application of the Antiquities Act, where the average size of a national monument was merely 422 acres, in recent years it became commonplace for a monument to exceed a million acres in size.

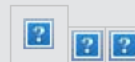
President Obama exceeded the intent of the Antiquities Act more than any other president in the history of the United States. With designations including the 1.35 million acre Bears Ears National Monument in Utah and the 300,000 acre Gold Butte National Monument in Nevada, President Obama designated or expanded 34 national monuments, more than any other president in history. These unilateral declarations locked-up 553,555,000 million acres of land and water.

National monument designations under the Antiquities Act typically have significant consequences that negatively affect grazing rights, water rights, wildfire prevention and other land management activities. These declarations also result in some of the most restrictive land-use regulations possible and also greatly impact hunting, fishing, OHV and other recreational activities.

Unilateral designations that circumvent Congress typically result in devastating consequences for rural America and our future economic prosperity. For every new acre claimed for the federal government, there is an acre of private, economically-productive land lost. Such actions exacerbate challenges for local communities to fund public necessities like education and infrastructure, since lands added to the federal rolls can no longer be taxed.

###

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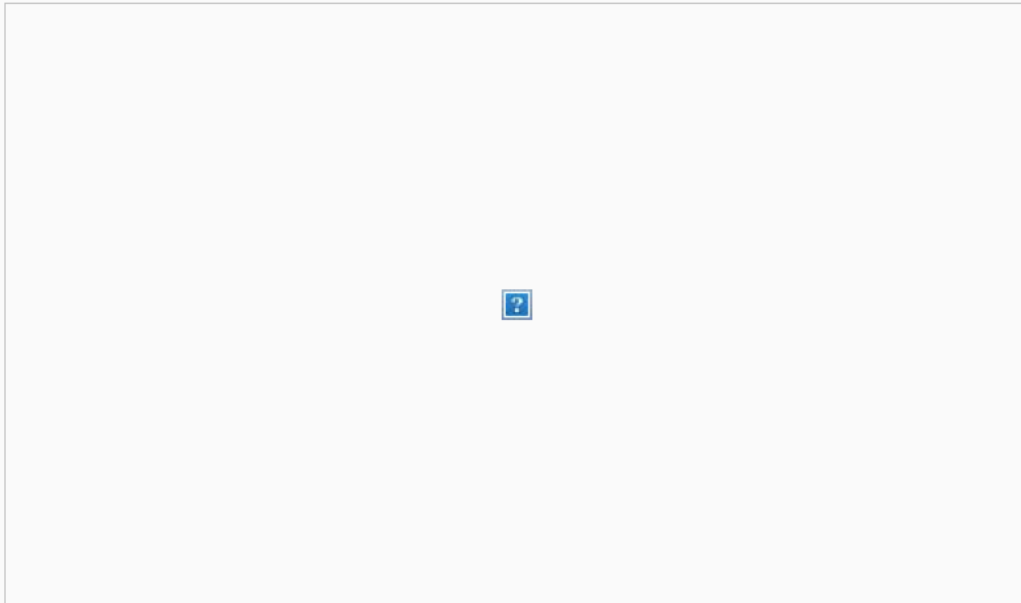


From: Hanson, Tanner
To: [Hanson, Tanner](#)
Cc: [Small, Jeff](#)
Subject: Western Caucus Reboot 11.04.2017
Date: Saturday, November 04, 2017 4:11:46 PM



Week of 11.04.2017

House Passes Westerman's Resilient Federal Forests Act in Bipartisan Vote



On Wednesday, November 1, Congressional Western Caucus Chairman **Paul A. Gosar D.D.S. (AZ-04)**, Speaker of the House **Paul Ryan (WI-01)**, House Majority Leader **Kevin McCarthy (CA-23)**, Chief Forestry Officer **Bruce Westerman (AR-04)**, Executive Vice Chairman **Scott Tipton (CO-03)**, Chief Rules Officer **Dan Newhouse (WA-04)**, Chief Defense and Interior Officer **Chris Stewart (UT-02)**, Chairman Emeritus **Steve Pearce (NM-02)**, House Conference Chair **Cathy McMorris Rodgers (WA-05)**, and Members Reps. **Doug Collins (GA-09)**, **Kristi Noem (SD-AL)**, **Kurt Schrader (OR-05)**, **Mimi Walters (CA-45)**, **Paul Cook (CA-08)**, **Jeff Denham (CA-10)**, **Doug LaMalfa (01)**, **Glenn 'GT' Thompson (PA-05)**, **Doug Lamborn (CO-05)**, **Tom Emmer (MN-06)**, **Liz Cheney (WY-AL)**, and **Greg Gianforte (MT-AL)** issued statements following passage on the House Floor of Rep. Westerman's H.R. 2936, the Resilient Federal Forests Act.

Speaker Ryan said, "The Resilient Federal Forests Act addresses the obstructionist litigation by requiring litigants opposing forest management activity to come to the table rather than just saying "no." The legislation also incentivizes and rewards collaboration and encourages local participation in forest health projects. This legislation also fixes the fire "borrowing" issue, making sure these agencies have the funds they need to fight wildfires throughout the summer, and to start managing our forests proactively."

Congressman Gosar said, "Today, the House has taken a major step forward in making our

federal forests healthy again. We have demonstrated our commitment to halting the practice of fire borrowing so that the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service don't have to rob fire prevention accounts in order to finance fire suppression. And we have finally passed reforms that will clear the way for proactive forestry management by the Forest Service once again. The cumulative effect of these actions will be that in a few years' time, phrases like 'wildfire season' and figures like \$2.5 billion dollars spent on nearly nine million acres burnt will sound like made-up fictions. But before that can happen, the Senate needs to take a vote and the President needs to put his signature on my friend Congressman Westerman's great bill."



"This year has proven to be another catastrophic year for wildfires," **Congressman Westerman** said. "Dozens of lives have been lost, thousands of homes destroyed, and millions of acres burned. Congress spoke today and said enough is enough. We must give the Forest Service the tools it needs to stop these fires before they start. We must end the practice of fire borrowing and treat wildfires as the natural disasters they are, funding recovery efforts through FEMA. We must do what is right for our environment and stop these catastrophic wildfires. I thank Speaker Ryan, Leader McCarthy, and Chairman Bishop for their leadership on this issue and I thank my co-sponsors on both sides of the aisle."

Majority Leader McCarthy said, "Our federal forests are a tinderbox, and our current policy of neglect and over litigation created the conditions for wildfires. I've visited the results of this neglect, seen the communities wiped of the map, and walked through completely destroyed forests. In my own district, the Erskine Fire burned over 48,000 acres last year and destroyed nearly 300 homes.



"Devastating wildfires have ravaged the West, taking lives, destroying property and causing significant damage to our precious environment. These large wildfires are the result of decades of misguided forest management strategies, which have left federal land management agencies focused on firefighting rather than on managing forests to reduce these types of catastrophic fires in the first place," said **Congressman Tipton**. "The Resilient Federal Forests Act will take necessary steps to reverse this trend by streamlining the permitting process for management activities such as removing dead and downed timber, and allowing agencies to work with local experts to proactively mitigate devastating insect infestations."

"My constituents know as well as anyone the immense threat that wildfires pose to local communities. In just the past four years, the 4th District of Washington has seen the two largest fires in state history. We have lost hundreds of homes, business, and structures. My constituents are still struggling to recover from the Carlton Complex Fire in 2014 and the Okanogan Complex Fire in 2015. The human toll has been high. Several residents have lost their lives, including three firefighters in 2015. Active forest management is a matter of saving lives and livelihoods, of protecting our communities, and ensuring our constituents' healthy and safety, which is why I am proud to support passage of this legislation," stated **Congressman Newhouse**.

Congressman Stewart said: "Without a doubt, current federal policies have contributed to recent catastrophic wildfires. Wildfire management begins with proper land management. This bill reverses the tide of federal mismanagement and removes heavy handed regulations that have paralyzed forests managers for decades. I am proud that the House passed this legislation. Now the Senate must act to ensure we have healthy forests for generations to come."

To see the full press release, including background information and the statements of all 21 Members, click [HERE](#). Read bill text is [HERE](#).

Reps. Westerman and Gianforte Discuss Healthy Forests and Wildfires

On October 30th, Reps. Westerman and Gianforte sat down with KBZK Montana to discuss the worsening wildfire problem across the nation and in Montana, as well as the active management forestry strategies that will alleviate it.

Click [HERE](#) or on the picture below to watch the interview.



Majority Whip Scalise, Chair of House Natural Resources Bishop Introduces Oil & Gas Bill

On November 3rd, House Majority Whips Steve Scalise and House Natural Resources Chairman Rob Bishop introduced H.R. 4239, the “Strengthening the Economy with Critical Untapped Resources to Expand American Energy Act,” or SECURE American Energy Act. This bill would promote domestic energy development on America’s Outer Continental Shelf as well as its onshore federal acreage.



House Natural Resources issued a statement on the bill, noting “Provisions in H.R. 4239 provide regulatory certainty and reliability, expand access to both conventional and renewable resources, establish revenue sharing with states, and streamline energy permitting processes to make federal lands and waters a competitive and attractive place for responsible development.”

“The SECURE American Energy Act incentivizes offshore energy production by establishing revenue-sharing agreements for Alaska and qualified Atlantic states, and raises existing revenue-sharing caps so that Louisiana and other states can receive hundreds of millions in additional dollars to restore our coast. I am proud to introduce this important legislation with my colleagues Congressman Rob Bishop of Utah, Congressman Henry Cuellar of Texas, and Congressman Vincente Gonzalez of Texas,” **Scalise said**. “The SECURE American Energy Act opens up more areas for responsible energy exploration, creating good jobs in communities all across our country. Our bill empowers states and optimizes onshore resource management by delegating certain permitting functions to state regulatory agencies instead of Washington. I’m proud to introduce this important bipartisan bill with my colleagues, and I look forward to passing it through the House and getting it on President Trump’s desk so he can sign it into law and we can create more jobs.”

“The SECURE American Energy Act harnesses responsible development on America’s federal lands to create long term energy strength and stability. Through cooperative federalism and commonsense regulatory practices we can fundamentally improve the way our federal lands and waters are managed for oil, gas and wind development. I thank Whip Scalise for his leadership and members on both sides of the aisle for their work and contributions to this bipartisan bill, and look forward to swiftly moving it through Committee and the House,” **Bishop said**.

Read the full House Natural Resources Committee press release [HERE](#). Bill text can be found [HERE](#).

House Easily Passes Rep. Cramer’s Vegetation Management Pilot on Suspension Vote



On Tuesday, October 31, the House of Representatives passed another forestry bill – Western Caucus Member Kevin Cramer’s H.R. 2921, the National Forest System Vegetation Management Pilot Program Act of 2017. Rep. Cramer’s bill would authorize the U.S. Forest Service to “create a privately-funded pilot program to conduct limited and selective vegetation management near utility infrastructure outside of a right-of-way.”

“A reliable supply of electricity is important on many levels, from human health and safety to commercial productivity,” said Cramer. “Yet, deep within forests managed by federal agencies the risk for outages has been elevated with declining forest health and increased forest fires. Utility companies want to keep the electrons flowing, but a high liability standard keeps them from vegetation management beyond their right-of-way. My bill creates a pilot program completely funded by participating utility companies under a reduced liability standard near their right-of-way so companies will go in to reduce potential hazards to disrupt reliable service.”

Click [HERE](#) to read Rep. Cramer’s full press release on H.R. 2921’s passage. Read the bill [HERE](#).



Watch **Congressman Andy Biggs (AZ-05)** discuss his efforts working with Western Caucus and the Trump Administration in order to roll back cumbersome Obama regulations like CERCLA, the Workplace Examination Rule, BLM restrictions on recreational hunting, Sage Grouse management plans, and more. Click [HERE](#) or on the picture above to watch the

address.



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From: U.S. Department of the Interior
To: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov; interior_news@updates.interior.gov
Subject: What They Are Saying: President Trump and Secretary Zinke's Nomination of Tara Sweeney
Date: Wednesday, October 18, 2017 3:48:06 PM

news release



Date: October 18, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

What They Are Saying: President Trump and Secretary Zinke's Nomination of Tara Sweeney

Alaska Daily News: ["The White House announced the pick Monday. The reaction on Tuesday bordered on ecstatic"](#)

Alaska Dispatch News: Alaska Native leaders say Tara Sweeney is well suited for Trump's top Indian affairs job. "Sweeney is tough and smart with the political savvy and instincts to negotiate bureaucracy, said Gloria O'Neill, who has long worked with Sweeney on boards and projects."

KTUU-Alaska: Steady praise for the Alaskan chosen by President Trump for top Indian Affairs job. "Alaskan politicians commented on the nomination following the news, which was announced late Monday afternoon. The nomination was met with near-universal approval from the Alaskan lawmakers."

Alaska Public Media: Applause sounds for Alaskan selected for Indian Affairs post at Interior. "Her nomination has Alaska's U.S. senators literally cheering. Sen. Lisa Murkowski: 'What a fabulous, fabulous nomination.' Sen. Dan Sullivan: 'Historic. Super-well qualified.'"

Indianz: National Congress of American Indians looks forward to Tara Sweeney confirmation. "The Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs is charged with the federal responsibility to protect tribal sovereignty, treaty rights, and the trust relationship," NCAI President Brian Cladoosby said on Tuesday. "This nomination is an important step by the administration, and we look forward a swift confirmation by the United States Senate...We appreciate the administration's commitment to efficiently staffing important positions within governmental departments directly affecting Indian Country, and we look forward to hearing from Ms. Sweeney about her goals and plans for working with tribal leaders to ensure the government-to-government relationship is upheld."

ELECTED OFFICIALS

Senator Lisa Murkowski said Sweeney has her full support: “Tara has a very strong record of professionalism and accomplishment in Alaska, across the country, and internationally, especially with the indigenous people of the circumpolar north. She has significant experience on Arctic issues and chaired the Arctic Economic Council. She is an expert on energy, infrastructure, broadband, economic development, Native self-determination, and a wide range of policy issues that will come before her. Secretary Zinke could not have chosen a better leader to help him fulfill the federal government’s trust responsibility, and I know Tara has the heart and drive to excel in this position.”

Congressman Don Young said Sweeney was an outstanding choice: “Tara’s knowledge, experience and leadership will go a long way in straightening out the BIA, allowing it to run more efficiently for the good of all First Americans. She has extensive experience not only in business, but also within Alaska Native groups and organizations. Tara knows first-hand the fight for Native empowerment and self-determination because she’s been on the front lines for years. There’s long been a problem with Native issues not receiving the priority they deserve but with Tara Sweeney at the helm, I have no doubt the Department of Interior will be paying close attention and the voices of our Native communities will be heard. Tara follows in great Alaskan footsteps, those of my dear friend Morris Thompson, and will do a fantastic job working on behalf of American Indians and Alaska Natives across the country.”

Sen. Dan Sullivan said it was a historic appointment for Alaskans: “I’ve worked with Tara Sweeney for years and I have witnessed first-hand her integrity, her strong leadership skills and her devotion to public service. Tara has a deep love for our state and people, and is relentless in her commitment to securing a better future for Alaska and the nation. With her long history of advocating for Alaska Native cultural values, rights, and economic opportunity, I can’t think of anyone better to have as our nation’s next Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs.”

Governor Bill Walker praises the nomination of Tara Sweeney: "Tara's selection for this position is cause for celebration in Alaska. In each of my conversations with Secretary Zinke, I have encouraged him to include Alaskans for significant roles in his department. Tara's leadership in seeking self-determination and economic development for the people of the Arctic has been exemplary. As an Inupiaq tribal and corporate leader, she has sought the necessary balance between economic development and sustaining the ways of life and cultures of Alaska's First People. While many will be sad to see her leave ASRC, Tara's expertise will serve our state and nation well in this new role."

NATIVE LEADERS

Jackie Johnson Pata with the National Congress of American Indians: "I commend the Secretary for his choice of Tara Sweeney for the Position of Assistant Secretary. Tara's diverse experience in the areas of energy, natural resources, and tribal governance will be a welcome addition to the Department of Interior and NCAI looks forward to working with Tara in her new capacity."

John Berrey, Chairman of the Quapaw Tribe in Oklahoma. “Since March when he was sworn in, Secretary Zinke has been assembling a top-notch team of professionals to help him lead the Interior Department. With Tara Sweeney’s nomination, the Secretary is showing he means business when it comes to reforming the BIA and improving the delivery of services to

Indian people. Tara's long and dedicated service to the Alaska Federation of Natives, the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and, most recently, the Arctic Economic Council, will be what is needed in the BIA's top official. I thank the secretary for this nomination and pledge to help Tara achieve success for Native people any way I can."

Leonard Smith, Executive Director of the Native American Development Corporation:

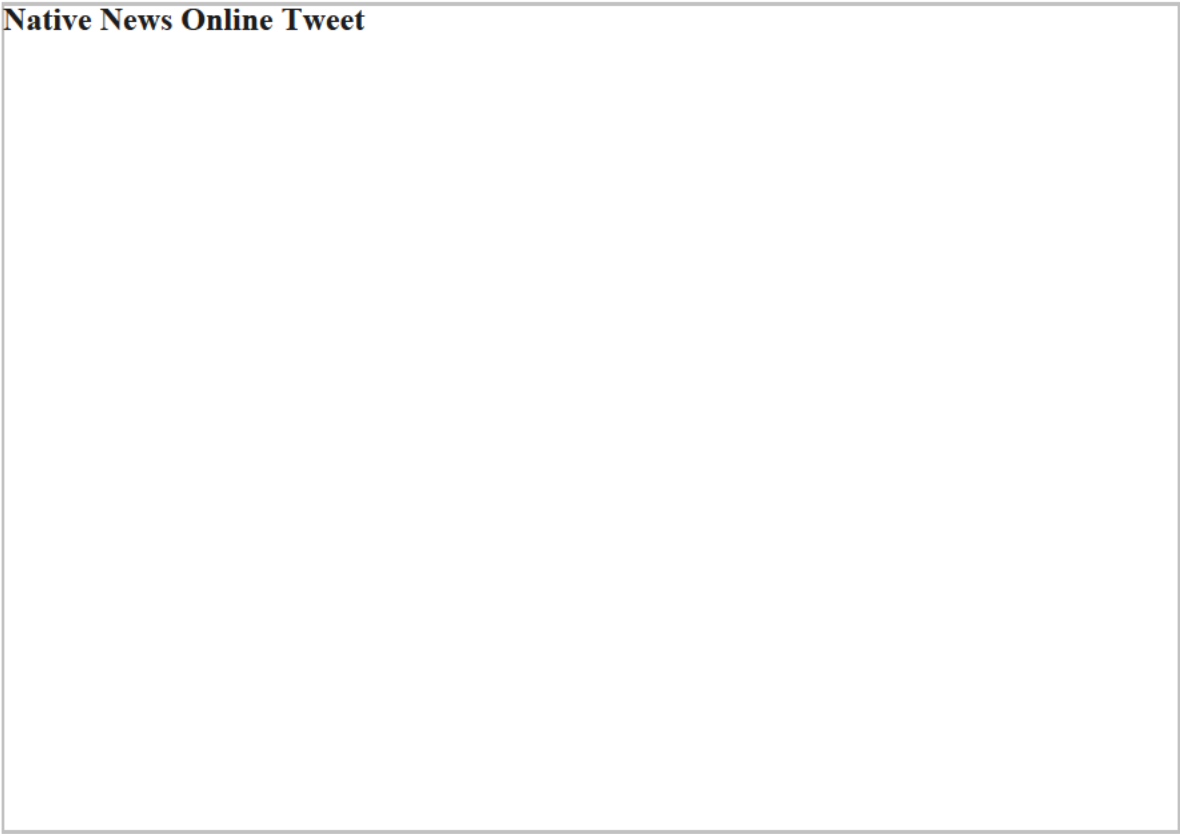
"Ms. Sweeney's background consists of the right elements to assist our economic development efforts with the tribes we serve in Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota towards economic sustainability. Her experience in energy, capital, government contracting and economic development give her the depth of knowledge to develop legislative solutions to federal policies that hinder economic development with tribal nations. We feel confident she will be able to promote stronger federal support through collaboration with other federal, state and private resources for implementation of the infrastructure necessary for economic growth and sustainability."

Julie Kitka, President of the Alaska Federation of Natives: "In these critical times, Ms. Tara Sweeney will serve as a strong Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. Her experience with empowering Native Americans is unparalleled and she will help all tribes achieve great self-determination. There is not a Tribe or Alaska Native corporation that she would not help. I have had the opportunity to work alongside Ms. Sweeney for over a decade, I've seen her in action and she is driven by results."

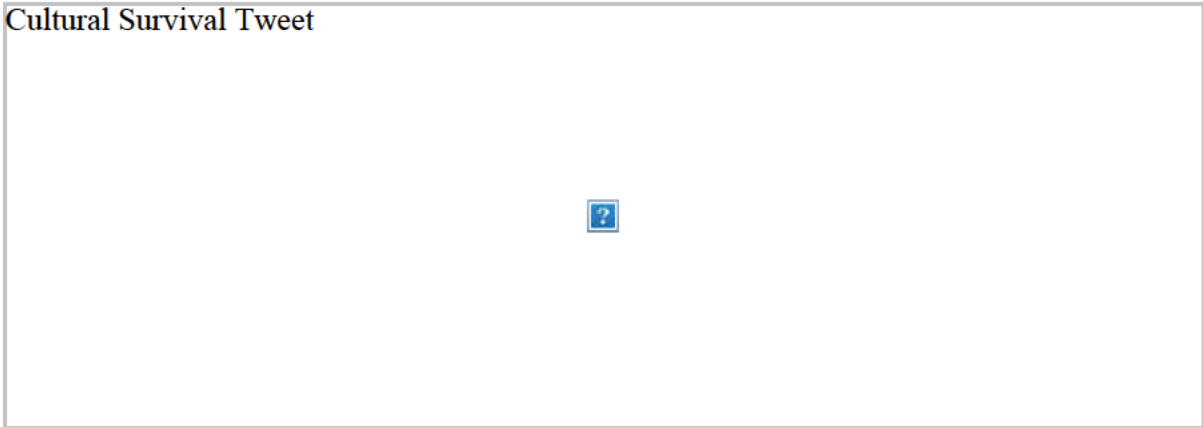
David Solomon, a Gwich'in activist from Fort Yukon: "Oh it's awesome! It's good to see our Native leader be in the front line now. We've been recognized.' Solomon was in Washington, D.C. to rally opposition in the Senate to drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. ASRC owns subsurface rights in the refuge and Sweeney has been a lead advocate in favor of drilling there. But Solomon takes a broader view and says Sweeney's selection is "good for Alaska Natives."

TWITTER RESPONSE

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Erica Martinson Tweet



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Subject: Where is Trump's Cabinet? It's anybody's guess
Date: Tuesday, December 26, 2017 10:54:48 AM

Where is Trump's Cabinet? It's anybody's guess

By Emily Holden

12/26/2017 09:02 AM EDT

The Cabinet members carrying out President Donald Trump's orders to shake up the federal government are doing so under an unusual layer of secrecy — often shielding their schedules from public view, keeping their travels under wraps and refusing to identify the people and groups they're meeting.

A POLITICO review of the practices of 17 Cabinet heads found that at least eight routinely decline to release information on their planned schedules or travels — information that was more widely available during the Obama and George W. Bush administrations. Four other departments — Agriculture, Labor, Homeland Security and Education — provide the secretaries' schedules only sporadically or with few details. The Treasury Department began releasing weekly schedules for Secretary Steven Mnuchin only in November.

In addition, at least six Cabinet departments don't release appointment calendars that would show, after the fact, who their leaders had met with, what they discussed and where they traveled — a potential violation of the [Freedom of Information Act](#), which says agencies must make their records "promptly available to any person." At least two departments — Education and the Environmental Protection Agency — have released some of those details after watchdog groups sued them.

This information clampdown is occurring with little oversight by Trump's White House, which said only that agencies should follow the law when it comes to deciding what information to release.

"The White House does not issue guidance specifically addressing the daily schedules of Cabinet agency heads," deputy press secretary Hogan Gidley said in a statement. On the other hand, he added, "The White House expects federal agencies to comply with FOIA requests."

Government watchdog groups and activists who closely follow the departments' policies said the secrecy is more than just a Trumpian swipe at political enemies and a meddlesome news media: It's an attempt, they say, to conceal the special access that some powerful interests have gotten in shaping policies that directly affect them.

"How officials spend their time is the best window into what their priorities are," said Austin Evers, a former Obama State Department lawyer who heads the watchdog group American Oversight, which has sued for the calendars of EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos. "When public officials resist public disclosure of what they do, people should be skeptical of what they're trying to hide."

Criticisms that some agency heads are concealing meetings with businesses they're supposed to regulate have been leveled especially often against Pruitt, a former Oklahoma attorney general who has made it his explicit mission to ease regulatory burdens on industries including oil, gas, coal, auto manufacturing and agriculture.

Pruitt meets frequently with leaders of these and other industries, based on the three months of [detailed calendar records](#) that American Oversight managed to pry out of EPA under a court order. But the agency makes it difficult to track his activities in real time — refusing to provide schedules or advisories of his upcoming meetings, confirm his attendance at specific events, or say what city he plans to be in on a given day.

Recent events that EPA refused to disclose ahead of time include a speech Pruitt delivered at a fuel marketers' conference in Chicago co-sponsored by BP, whose U.S. oil and gas interests are governed by EPA regulations. Pruitt's staff wouldn't even say where he was headed that day, after POLITICO asked about a tip that he was seen sitting in first class on a Delta Air Lines flight.

Earlier this month, EPA wouldn't disclose information about a dinner discussion that Pruitt was holding with a pro-business think tank in D.C. It gave no advance notice that he was traveling to Morocco on a trip that included a discussion of the country's interest in importing U.S. natural gas, a fuel source his agency helps regulate. EPA also wouldn't confirm that Pruitt was scheduled to speak this month in Nashville before the American Legislative Exchange Council, a conservative policy organization — even though the printed program listed him as a lunchtime speaker. (ALEC later said Pruitt had canceled.)

Even after the fact, EPA resists releasing the detailed calendars that would make it easier for journalists and watchdogs to track how often Pruitt meets with business leaders before making decisions that benefit their bottom lines.

The records released to date offer some clues, however: In May, for instance, Pruitt met with executives from an automotive company, Fitzgerald Truck Sales, to discuss an Obama-era air pollution rule for refurbished heavy trucks, according to the calendars obtained by American Oversight. Six months later, Pruitt agreed to [weaken](#) the rules, as the company had requested.

The partial meeting records released to date reveal similar meetings Pruitt has held with auto executives affected by his upcoming decision on whether to ease greenhouse gas requirements for cars and trucks; coal mining and power executives opposed to Obama-era regulations on their industries; and developers that received Pruitt's approval to seek a permit for a proposed gold and mineral mine in Alaska, according to documents previously obtained and analyzed by The New York Times and The Washington Post.

Alarmed that many more such examples must exist, at least three watchdog and environmental groups have filed separate suits seeking detailed copies of Pruitt's calendars. The New York Times and reporter Eric Lipton filed a similar suit against EPA this month, arguing in court documents that calendars are "often the only way the public has visibility into who provides Administrator Pruitt with input as he devises policy positions that affect all Americans."

Pruitt "uses the word transparency a lot," said Ann Weeks, legal director for the Clean Air Task Force, an environmental group not involved in the suits. But she added, "To whom is the transparency being offered? Because it's not the American people because we're not able even to see who he's talking to."

EPA spokeswoman Liz Bowman calls the criticism baseless, arguing that the agency is providing more information to the public than past administrations, "despite lawsuits from The New York Times for the sake of scoring political points and making headlines." As evidence, she cites actions such as listing EPA's upcoming regulatory actions online — as required by law — as well as a posting a public online [calendar](#) for Pruitt that often omits the names of the people he's meeting with and the topic of discussion.

"The fact is that the current EPA is the most transparent EPA has been in years," Bowman said.

Pruitt isn't the only Cabinet member holding unpublicized meetings with businesses or groups who have a stake in his decisions.

While the Interior Department readily provides calendars after the fact for Secretary Ryan Zinke, it doesn't publish his schedule ahead of time for events such as a [September speech](#) to the National Petroleum Council, whose members include companies that drill for oil and gas on federal land. (He made headlines that day by declaring that 30 percent of Interior employees aren't "loyal" to his and Trump's agenda.) It also issued no advance notice of political fundraisers he attended in Alaska, Montana and the Caribbean that are now under investigation by government watchdogs.

In August, after Zinke's wife [tweeted photos](#) showing her and him relaxing along the Bosphorus, an Interior spokesperson would not say when the secretary had left the U.S., when he was returning or whether the trip to Turkey was a vacation.

Similarly, when then-Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price went to an Ohio drug manufacturer in April as part of a listening tour about the opioid epidemic, Price only [tweeted](#) about the trip once he had already visited. HHS's press office also didn't email national news organizations about the trip until two days later — after he published an op-ed in the Cincinnati Enquirer that mentioned it.

Since Sept. 29, when Price [resigned](#) following POLITICO's revelation that he had charged taxpayers for at least \$1 million in private and military flights, HHS has refused to publish schedules for acting Secretary Eric Hargan. Department employees responding to POLITICO's request for Price's calendars have said they're swamped with FOIA requests they're working to fulfill.

The departments of Commerce, Energy, Transportation and Veterans Affairs and the office of U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer also do not release advance schedules for their leaders.

"These are top public officials who work for the U.S. citizens, and they have a right to know who they're meeting with and what they're doing," said Sean Moulton, the open government program manager at the Project on Government Oversight, a watchdog group.

Several of the Trump agencies' policies on releasing schedules and calendars are notably more restrictive than either the Obama or Bush administrations — though they, too, faced criticism for lack of transparency.

Former Vice President Dick Cheney won a [court battle](#) to avoid having to disclose details about his energy task force's meetings with industry executives, rejecting a challenge by the Sierra Club and the conservative group Judicial Watch. Under Obama, The Associated Press [sued](#) the State Department for copies of former Secretary Hillary Clinton's calendars. The department said at the time that it was coping with a load of records requests but "does its best to meet its FOIA responsibilities."

More than 40 journalism and watchdog organizations also [objected](#) in 2015 to what they called a growing array of "constraints on information in the federal government" under Obama, including agencies that prohibited rank-and-file staff from talking to reporters.

Hiding information ultimately harms the agencies themselves, said Christine Todd Whitman, who led EPA during Bush's first term and said she posted her schedule for the entire EPA staff to see and made reporters aware when she was traveling.

"It all leads to an atmosphere of distrust, even if you're doing absolutely nothing wrong," Whitman said.

She added that she is wary of Pruitt's secrecy and has been "startled" by his frequent meetings with industry. "I worry about meeting with people who might have enforcement action coming before the agency, and, on the flip-side, seeming at this point to be locking out the environmentalists, because you've got to hear from both sides," she said.

Under Obama, Education Secretary Arne Duncan's staff emailed reporters a schedule of his upcoming week of activities, typically on Fridays. DeVos, in contrast, provides a much sparser public schedule that often omits meaningful details about the vast majority of her meetings.

The Department of Homeland Security also released weekly alerts during the Bush and Obama eras for the news media about its secretary's events, even if it wasn't always complete. Under Trump, DHS has yet to issue such schedules on a regular basis, although its staff will confirm information about specific events.

Obama Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx not only provided his weekly schedule in advance but held monthly question-and-answer sessions with reporters. Trump's DOT chief, Elaine Chao, declines to provide advanced schedules, and has yet to hold this type of session in Washington, D.C.

Bush's environmental agencies also publicized any events where leaders would speak publicly, said Jim Connaughton, who headed the White House Council of Environmental Quality at the time. And under Obama, then-EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy noted that her office provided a week-ahead guidance about her activities and regularly published her calendars after the fact.

"When we were delayed at all, we would certainly hear from reporters," McCarthy said.

But the Energy Department didn't publish then-Secretary Ernest Moniz's schedules when Obama was in the White House — and doesn't publish them for Secretary Rick Perry now. In both cases, however, DOE staff have sent advisories to the press for most of the secretaries' public events.

The Project on Government Oversight has called for years for Cabinet-level secretaries to at

least publish their calendars online, calling it "the fundamental floor of what all agencies should be disclosing."

"It has been hit or miss, even under the Obama administration," Moulton said. But he said the Trump White House set the tone when it announced in April that it would refuse to publish its visitor logs on the grounds of "national security risks and privacy concerns," breaking with the Obama administration's policy. (POLITICO has responded by publishing its own [unofficial White House visitor log](#), based on publicly available information.)

Agency officials offer varying explanations for not releasing this information, including a crush of backlogged FOIA requests, as well as previous statements by EPA and the Education Department that they're concerned about security. EPA staff said Pruitt has gotten an unusually high number of death threats — several times more than former Obama's agency chiefs received — while DeVos' staff noted that her public appearances have drawn [protesters](#), including a crowd that briefly blocked her from entering a D.C. middle school in February.

On the other hand, Cabinet members who have immense security concerns are more open about their plans, including Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, whose offices issue daily advisories to the media about their public plans.

Pruitt and DeVos also don't lack for protection: Each has a round-the-clock security entourage, unusual by the standards of their predecessors. DeVos' security detail, projected to cost as much as [\\$6.54 million](#) during the current fiscal year, consists of U.S. marshals. Pruitt maintains tight secrecy even when he's in his headquarters a few blocks from the White House, according to news reports that say he [restricts employees' access](#) to his office area, ordered a \$25,000 [soundproof communications chamber](#) installed in his office and recently had his office [swept for bugs](#).

For some of Trump's Cabinet appointees, who include wealthy business executives with little exposure to the often-harsh scrutiny of public life, secrecy may be less about hiding a policy agenda than about discomfort with the spotlight.

DeVos, the billionaire charter school activist who never before held public office, puts some of her events on social media but leaves them out of her department's official communications with the news media.

People following her online might have known she had met with the Saudi education minister in October — based on a photo she posted on [Flickr](#) — but the department never issued any information about it or said what they had discussed. The state-run Saudi Press Agency was more forthcoming, [disclosing](#) that the leaders had talked about "the importance of educational cooperation" between their countries' universities.

In November, DeVos visited Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C., where she [said in a later post on Instagram](#) that she learned about education for the deaf and hard of hearing. The Education Department issued no advisories before or after the event.

DeVos' public schedule is riddled with so many omissions that U.S. News and World Report [lamented](#) in October that "civically engaged citizens" would have had no way of knowing she planned to speak at a Future Farmers of America convention in Indianapolis, attend a round

table on students with disabilities or make a March visit to a Catholic school in Orlando.

Mnuchin, the former Goldman Sachs partner turned Treasury secretary, was slow to begin releasing his weekly schedule — in contrast to former Obama Treasury Secretary Jack Lew, who put one out every day. In June, when Mnuchin [talked regulations and tax reform](#) with former Federal Reserve Chair Ben Bernanke at the Brookings Institution, the public's first clue came when Mnuchin [tweeted](#) about it afterward.

In late December, Labor Secretary Alexander Acosta issued only an after-the-fact news release when he visited hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Some agencies, including the departments of Justice, Agriculture and Housing and Urban Development, provide partial guidance about their secretaries' schedules, either to the public or on background or off-the-record for the media. HUD, for example, usually provides reporters with an emailed heads-up about Secretary Ben Carson's official events, although it doesn't publicize all his appearances — his schedule didn't include his attendance at last month's [opening](#) of the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C., for instance.

Even the less-forthcoming agencies insist that they're following the law and keeping the public informed.

"Every official event that is open to the public is posted on the Secretary's public schedule," Education Department press secretary Liz Hill wrote in a response to questions. "There isn't a 'transparency issue' simply because members of the media want more of a heads up."

Even so, Hill confirmed that security is a factor as the department plans and issues information on DeVos' public schedule.

Pruitt's admirers even praise him for stiff-arming reporters' request for information: A [story](#) Dec. 15 in The Weekly Standard — which EPA's press office distributed by email hours later — lauded Pruitt's "fearless defiance of his political and media foes." The story's first paragraph notes that POLITICO and The New York Times ask EPA for Pruitt's upcoming schedule every week, and "the press office ignores the emails."

Sen. [Jim Inhofe](#), a Republican ally from Pruitt's home state of Oklahoma, said the EPA chief has "a job to do and he doesn't want to be distracted on everything."

"He may be working on something that is the best interest in the United States that would not be doable if the other side were to find out about it," Inhofe said.

While the law doesn't compel agencies to create advance schedules for the news media, FOIA does require them to turn over records such as their leaders' appointment calendars after the fact. Congress has also directed agencies to automatically make available any records they anticipate would be in high demand — a category some legal experts say includes the calendars of agencies' top officials.

"People have a right to know what officials are doing day to day," said Kevin Goldberg, a lawyer focusing on First Amendment and FOIA issues at the Washington firm of Fletcher, Heald & Hildreth. He added, "There should be and there is a way to do this proactively. ... It doesn't seem to make sense that in 2017 we can't get that right."

Congress told agencies in a 2016 update to hew to a presumption of openness, but that command has been slow to take hold. Goldberg, whose clients include the American Society of News Editors and the Association of Alternative Newsmedia, said it's too soon to say whether the lag is because of typical bureaucratic inertia or ill intent from the Trump administration.

But Goldberg said the administration has sent some worrying signals. Those include the Justice Department's lag in carrying out a late-Obama-era proposal to implement a "release to one, release to all" policy for FOIA records. Under that policy, any documents an agency releases under FOIA would be automatically made available to everybody.

Margaret Townsend, a lawyer for the Center for Biological Diversity, one of the environmental groups suing EPA, argued that it's also illegal for agencies to create two sets of calendars — a barebones one for media and public consumption, and a more detailed set for internal use — and then refuse to provide the latter in response to FOIA requests. But EPA appears to be doing just that.

EPA has declined several requests to offer an on-the-record explanation of its refusal to release the calendars. In court documents responding to lawsuits, the agency described American Oversight's FOIA request as "overbroad" and said EPA staff had conversations about what the Environmental Defense Fund was seeking for several months before the activist group filed suit.

Moulton, of the Project on Government Oversight, called it "troubling" that agencies have forced groups to resort to litigation to obtain records that have long been recognized as subject to FOIA.






"There are simple and complex requests," he said. "This should be one of those simple requests."

Anthony Adragna, Caitlin Emma, Nick Juliano, Lauren Gardner, Kathryn Wolfe, Ben Lefebvre, Alex Guillén, Darius Dixon, Wesley Morgan, Jacqueline Klimas, Rachana Pradhan, Josh Gerstein, Ted Hesson, Lorraine Woellert, Patrick Temple-West, Doug Palmer, Adam Behsudi, Connor O'Brien, Catherine Boudreau, Helena Bottemiller Evich, Ian Kullgren, Michael Crowley, Victoria Guida, Adam Cancryn, Stephanie Beasley, P.J. Joshi and Andrew Restuccia contributed to this report.

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Date: Friday, September 29, 2017 7:08:01 PM

White House to Cabinet: No private air travel without Kelly's approval

By Matthew Nussbaum

09/29/2017 07:03 PM EDT

The White House cracked down on Cabinet officials' use of private planes Friday, telling them chief of staff John Kelly must approve almost all travel on "government-owned, rented, leased, or chartered aircraft," after Health and Human Services Secretary Tom Price [resigned](#) over his own taxpayer-funded flights.

Mick Mulvaney, the director of the Office of Management and Budget, sent out the memo soon after Price's resignation was made public. His exit came after [a series of POLITICO reports](#) about his frequent use of private planes to conduct government — [and sometimes personal](#) — business.

"In light of recent events, the President has asked me to remind the heads of all executive departments and agencies of Administration policies on travel," Mulvaney wrote.

He reminded the department and agency heads that, by regulation, "Government-owned, rented, leased, or chartered aircraft should not be used for travel by Government employees except with specific justification."

"However, beyond the law and formal policy, departments and agencies should recognize that we are public servants," Mulvaney wrote. "Every penny we spend comes from the taxpayer. We thus owe it to the taxpayer to work as hard managing that money wisely as the taxpayer must do to earn it in the first place."

Mulvaney added: "Put another way, just because something is legal doesn't make it right."

Officials should stick to commercial travel "with few exceptions," he wrote.

In the wake of the controversy, other administration officials' travels have come under scrutiny. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has used military planes for some trips, [POLITICO reported](#), while EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin have also raised eyebrows with their travel itineraries.

President Donald Trump was livid over the Price scandal and accepted his resignation on Friday.

"We have great secretaries, and we have some that actually own their own planes, so that solves that," Trump told reporters earlier on Friday.

To view online:

<https://www.politicopro.com/health-care/story/2017/09/white-house-to-cabinet-no-private-air-travel-without-kellys-approval-162795>

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Not really



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Subject: Whitefish Energy hires first lobbyist as scrutiny of Puerto Rico contract mounts
Date: Monday, October 30, 2017 12:46:57 PM

Whitefish Energy hires first lobbyist as scrutiny of Puerto Rico contract mounts

By Ben Lefebvre

10/30/2017 12:44 PM EDT

Whitefish Energy has retained a former House Democrat to lobby on its behalf, following numerous calls for investigations into how the small Montana firm won a lucrative contract to help rebuild Puerto Rico's electric grid.

Former Rep. Dennis Cardoza, a "Blue Dog" Democrat from California, said he would "meet people on the Hill" to make the case that Whitefish won the contract fairly, but he declined to provide details beyond that. Lawmakers from both parties have called for investigations into how the small, 2-year old company from Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's hometown won a \$300 million contract to help Puerto Rico recover from Hurricane Maria. The Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority said it would [cancel](#) the contract Sunday after an outcry over how the recently formed, two-man company was hired in the first place.

Congress is not the only one looking into Whitefish's operations in Puerto Rico. The Wall Street Journal reported on Monday that the FBI has [opened an investigation](#) into the contract, citing people familiar with the matter.

Whitefish Energy retained Cardoza last Wednesday, and his firm Foley & Lardner LLP is in the process of filling lobbyist registration work with Congress, Cardoza told POLITICO Monday. Cardoza's other lobbying clients include California health care, real estate and water interests, according to disclosure records.

The law firm has advised Whitefish Energy on contract issues in the past, Cardoza said, but declined to say exactly when that business relationship began.

"They've been a client for a while," Cardoza said.

Whitefish has not previously had any registered federal lobbyists working on its behalf, according to disclosure records.

Puerto Rico's federal oversight board, which Congress put in place to oversee the territory's economic and fiscal recovery, plans to focus much of its scheduled meeting Tuesday on the beleaguered electric utility, according to a source familiar with the agenda.

Zinke said Friday he had "[absolutely nothing to do](#)" with the company or how it won the contract.






In a [statement](#) Sunday, Whitefish said it was "very disappointed" with Puerto Rico's decision to cancel the contract, a move the company said would further delay restoring power to the island's residents.

Colin Wilhelm contributed to this report.

To view online:

<https://www.politicopro.com/financial-services/story/2017/10/whitefish-energy-hires-first-lobbyist-as-scrutiny-of-puerto-rico-contract-mounts-164123>

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Subject: WTAS: President Trump and Secretary Zinke Praised for National Monument Report
Date: Wednesday, December 06, 2017 3:01:12 PM

news release



Date: December 6, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

WTAS: President Trump and Secretary Zinke Praised for National Monument Report

What They Are Saying About Secretary Zinke's final report to President Trump on the National Monument Review

Wall Street Journal: "Over the past few days, thousands have marched in Salt Lake to oppose the decision. The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance denounced the order as "the single most harmful attack any president has ever launched on public lands." The group claims the Trump Administration acted "at the behest of ideological extremists and dirty energy barons," adding that the decision is "an insult to the tribes that advocated to protect Bears Ears." Calm down, guys. Most of the two million newly undesignated acres are still public lands, subject to rigorous federal and state protections. The Trump Administration increased Native American representation on the advisory Bears Ears Commission... In other words, the Trump Administration's order not only ends federal overreach but restores power to local people. That's a monumental and welcome change."(editorial: "The Right Move on Monuments" [Wall Street Journal](#), 12-5-17)

Deseret News (Utah): Advocates for shrinking the monument lands, including Utah's all-Republican congressional delegation, heralded Trump's decision as the right fit for Utah. Rep. John Curtis said, "Now that the president has created two new monuments in my congressional district, the time has come for Congress to ensure that these sites are managed the right way. In the coming days, I look forward to introducing legislation to ensure we are just doing that." Rep. Chris Stewart said the Grand Staircase monument has been a burden on his constituents in the area. "President Trump had the courage that no other president had. He listened to local voices that had been left out of the decision-making process for too long," Stewart said. Rep. Rob Bishop, chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, called Trump's proclamations "a first step" toward protecting precious areas while respecting the people who live there."The next steps will be to move beyond symbolic gestures of protection and create substantive protections and enforcement and codify in law a meaningful management role for local governments, tribes and other stakeholders," Bishop said. ("Native American tribe coalition to sue Trump for shrinking Bears Ears," [Deseret News \(Utah\)](#), 12-4-17)

[Deseret News \(Utah\) - Opinion](#): “I am sure President Donald Trump didn’t realize it, but today, in his shrinking of the two designations made by President Barack Obama and President Bill Clinton, he actually created a more important monument — a monument to the way Utah gets things done. The President listened to the combined voices of individual citizens, tribal members, small communities and elected officials from the county, state and federal levels. He responded to their calls and drastically reduced the size of both the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante monuments. It’s an important moment in Utah history...The changes brought about by the president’s actions were truly the culmination of countless, and often thankless, hours of effort by an army of individuals and groups. Our federal delegation, including Chairman Rob Bishop, Sen. Mike Lee and Sen. Orrin Hatch, Rep. Mia Love, Rep. Chris Stewart and former Rep. Jason Chaffetz, all deserve praise and thanks. Their dedicated staffs in Washington and in Utah did much of the hard work and heavy lifting to drive this decision. Gov. Gary Herbert and members of the Utah Legislature worked tirelessly to make today a reality. Committee staff in Washington, along with Secretary Ryan Zinke and his entire team at the Department of Interior, should also receive high praise. The president’s desire to make a difference for the hardworking, and often forgotten, Utahns in our rural counties also played a critical part.” (editorial: “There is no ‘I’ in Utah,” [Deseret News \(Utah\)](#), 12-4-17)

[Americans for Tax Reform](#): Americans for Tax Reform President Grover Norquist had this to say: "President Trump and Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke should be applauded for working to correct past executive overreach by Presidents Obama and Clinton. This is a fight about the use and enjoyment of public lands by the public. The reality is that American outdoorsmen and women have a vested interest in conservation. Compare them to the federal government, which is a frequent abuser of America’s natural beauty, whether it’s polluting the San Juan River in Colorado or extorting the organizers of Burning Man for unnecessary fees in the desert of Nevada. The Trump and Zinke effort to rein in the abuse of the Antiquities Act is extremely important in the fight against radical special interests and bureaucrats. From Presidents Kennedy to Coolidge, Wilson, and Eisenhower, Presidents have scaled back federal monuments 18 times in the past. This is a great first step in the march towards restoring property and land use rights of the West." [Americans for Tax Reform](#), 12-4-17)

[National Cattlemen's Beef Association](#): The National Cattlemen’s Beef Association and Public Lands Council applauded the White House’s announcement that Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments will be reduced in size. Dave Eliason, president of the Public Lands Council said, “Previous administrations abused the power of the Antiquities Act, designating huge swaths of land as national monuments without any public input or review. Rural communities in Utah and across the West have paid the price. Sweeping designations locked up millions of acres of land with the stroke of a pen, undermining local knowledge and decimating rural economies.” Craig Uden, president of the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association said, “We are grateful that today’s action will allow ranchers to resume their role as responsible stewards of the land and drivers of rural economies. Going forward, it is critical that we reform the Antiquities Act to ensure that those whose livelihoods and communities depend on the land have a voice in federal land management decisions.” (Cattlemen Respond to National Monument Reductions: "Egregious Example of Federal Overreach Corrected in Win for Rural Communities", [National Cattlemen's Beef Association](#), 12-4-17)

[Washington Post](#): Trump’s move to shrink the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante national monuments by more than 1.1 million acres and more than 800,000 acres, respectively, immediately sparked an outpouring of praise from conservative lawmakers. Gov. Gary R.

Herbert of Utah characterized the action as “an opportunity to push a reset button on these areas” and derided as myth “this idea that somehow there will be some wholesale development” on lands removed from the designation. “There is a lot of scaremongering” about future oil derricks and natural gas wells, he said, but “the only thing that smacks of energy is the uranium” that will now become available near Bears Ears and coal near Grand Staircase-Escalante. (“Trump shrinks two huge national monuments in Utah, drawing praise and protests”, [Washington Post](#), 12-4-17)

OTHER TOP QUOTES

Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT): “President Trump did the people of Utah a great favor today by rolling back harmful land use restrictions in southern Utah,” Sen. Lee said. “The president has done his part and now it is time for Congress to act to protect the people of Utah from federal overreach in the future. That is why I will be introducing legislation later this week that would give Utah similar protections from Antiquities Act abuse that the states of Wyoming and Alaska currently enjoy.”

Rep. Chris Stewart (R-Utah): “The Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument resides in my district. I have seen firsthand the damage that the monument has caused to the local economy. My constituents have been in a desperate need of change, and today President Trump delivered. President Trump had the courage that no other president had. He listened to local voices that had been left out of the decision-making process for too long. On behalf of the county commissioners, the state legislators who represent the area, and the entire federal delegation, we say thank you, Mr. President.”

Rep. John Curtis (UT-3): “I am grateful to President for coming to Utah to help us resolve this important issue. Now that the President has created two new monuments in my congressional district, the time has come for congress to ensure that these sites are managed the right way. In the coming days, I look forward to introducing legislation to ensure we are just doing that.”

San Juan County Commissioner Rebecca Benally (D): “Thank you Secretary Zinke, for coming to San Juan, Kane, and Garfield counties and listening to the local grassroots people. Your boots on the ground approach was unexpected, but well received and appreciated. Thank you Senator Hatch. You and your staff have been champions for us. Thank you for never giving up. For believing we could rectify a wrong and for being a fighter for San Juan County and our people. Thank you President Trump. Thank you for not being a typical politician and passing us over. Thank you for caring about San Juan County. We may be only 15,000 strong, but we matter. We appreciate you willing to take the backlash from the special interest groups as you stand for the people and the economy of San Juan County.”

Rep. Paul Gosar (AZ-4): “Today's announcement by President Trump shows that he and Secretary Zinke are committed to smart, restrained and proper application of the Antiquities Act. His decision takes power from unaccountable Washington bureaucrats doing the dirty work of special-interest groups and gives it back to the people where it belongs. By shrinking the national monument footprint in Utah by more than two million acres, President Trump is correcting past overreach by previous presidents, supporting the multiple-use doctrine for public lands required by federal law and giving local communities a voice by restoring traditional uses. And unlike past Presidents, President Trump heard the people, listened closely to their ideas, and acted. Thank you, President Trump, for keeping another promise and taking action to ensure past presidents abuse of a more than one hundred-year-old law

doesn't lock-up the West."

Rep. Andy Biggs (AZ-5): President Trump's reductions of the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante Monuments in Utah are a welcome relief to western landowners. The west has been negatively affected for decades, and government has not constrained its unlawful acquisition of these lands. Earlier this year, I led a letter with Chairman Gosar to Secretary Zinke to recommend the total rescission of these two monuments. I am glad that the two monuments will be significantly reduced, and I trust that the Trump administration will continue to relinquish the federal government's grasp on these lands.

Rep. Raúl Labrador (ID-1): "I support President Trump's decision to correct his predecessors' overreach and scale back the monument designations to reflect local concerns and respect the right of ordinary Americans to make a living. Radical environmentalists will howl, but the fact remains that the Antiquities Act has been abused by presidents of both parties. Now we need to move forward on a permanent legislative solution to restrain abuse of presidential power over our public lands."

Rep. Doug Lamborn (CO-5): "I support the President's decision. This rolls back harmful overreach by the previous administration. Instead of using the law to protect antiquities, it's been wrongfully used to restrict development. It's also made it more difficult to take care of our national lands."

Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes: "Today, with the designation of five new monument units, President Trump has taken a historic step to correct the hubris of past administrations. The new designations are much closer in scope to the 'smallest areas compatible with proper care and management' of protected objects, as required by the Antiquities Act. These corrections were made after extensive input from local citizens and interests, including tribal members, conservationists, ranchers, hunters, business owners and elected representatives. President Trump and Secretary Zinke have found a balance that considers the needs of our local communities and still protects the singular, stunning, and sacred lands of our state for future generations. Over the history of the Antiquities Act, national monuments have been reviewed and modified by subsequent presidents. It is no surprise, given the disproportionate original designations, that President Trump would reduce these monuments to be more consistent with the intent of the Antiquities Act. Such remedial measures would not be necessary if Congress would clarify the limits of initial monument designations. I echo the statement of Secretary Zinke that executive power under the Act is no substitute for congressional action. We are hopeful that our elected representatives in Washington, D.C. will pass legislation that makes political games with Utah's public lands less likely in the future. The Utah Attorney General's Office will continue to monitor the process with interest and will continue to protect Utah, its people, and its lands, from federal overreach."

National Rifle Association: "The NRA applauds President Trump and Secretary Zinke's decision to restore access to public lands in Utah. Under the Trump Administration, decisions regarding national public lands are transparent and being made with the input of America's sportsmen and women. Hunters and sportsmen serve as the backbone of modern natural resource management in the United States. It's refreshing that the Trump Administration values their input," said Chris W. Cox, NRA-ILA executive director. "Our nation's remarkable resource management successes over the last century have only been possible because of traditional uses, such as hunting and recreational shooting. President Trump and Secretary Zinke have ushered in a new era for hunters and sportsmen ensuring that they remain an important partner in preserving and utilizing America's public lands."

Americans for Prosperity Vice President of External Affairs, Chrissy Harbin released the following statement: “Previous administrations abused their power under the Antiquities Act in order to keep land off limits. President Trump and Secretary Zinke’s actions in reviewing and resizing past administration’s monument designations is a welcome step in reducing government overreach. We will continue to work with lawmakers in Congress and the Department of Interior to prioritize conservation efforts, encourage sustainable economic development, and empower the voice of local communities.”

Americans for Prosperity-Utah’s State Director, Evelyn Everton released the following statement: “President Trump’s decision to resize these national monuments after historic federal land seizures is a huge victory for the state of Utah. With over \$18 billion of maintenance work needed on federal lands managed by federal agencies, the federal government has proven to be a poor caretaker of federal lands. We applaud the Trump administration’s actions in ensuring local economies that depend on the land’s resources will not be harmed and important historic objects and sites at national monuments will be protected. This will increase economic competitiveness, especially in rural parts of the state.”

Competitive Enterprise Institute’s Myron Ebell Comments on Trump’s Proclamations Downsizing two Utah National Monuments: "CEI applauds President Trump’s proclamations today that significantly reduce the size of Grand Staircase-Escalante and Bears Ears National Monuments in Utah. This is great news for the people of rural Utah who have been locked out of using and enjoying millions of acres of federal lands. And it is a great first step in redressing the multiple abuses of the Antiquities Act of 1906 by Presidents Obama, George W. Bush, and Clinton. Now that President Trump has redressed some of the wrongs done to the people of rural Utah, we hope he will next rescind or reduce similarly outrageous National Monument designations in Maine, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, and California.

FreedomWorks Foundation Applauds Trump’s Shrinking Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalanta: “Today we applaud President Trump, Interior Secretary Zinke, and their teams for arriving at a reasonable approach to these national monuments. We agree that priceless historic and natural wonders should be protected for future generations to enjoy. However, we find it despicable that the previous administration preyed on this nonpartisan sentiment in order to achieve political objectives that included expanding the power of the federal government over the states and obstructing industries they didn’t like. Unilaterally declaring national monuments larger than some states is ridiculous on its face. We know our activists in Utah and across the country appreciate the Trump administration’s more humble approach to the power of his pen and phone.”

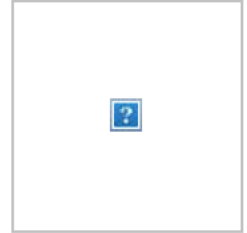
Sutherland Institute applauds reduction of two monuments, calls for reform of Antiquities Act: “The administration should be commended for listening to the voices of San Juan, Kane and Garfield county locals whose lives and livelihoods are connected to the public land they love. When a president of either political party, with the stroke of a pen, can set aside hundreds of thousands – if not millions – of acres, local voices are drowned out by big, and well-funded, outside interests.”

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- Thursday, 8/24: 9:00 – 12:00
- Friday, 8/25: 9:00 – 11:00, 12:00 – 1:30, 1:30 – 4:30

Thank you Lori,
Dave

Energy Topics

Committees and Congress	Legislature, Admin & Agencies	
House Appropriations Committee	Army Corps of Engineers	John Barrasso
House Energy and Commerce Committee	BLM	John Shimkus
House Natural Resources Committee	BOEM/BSEE	John Thune
House Oversight and Government Reform Committee	Bureau of Reclamation	Ken Calvert
House Science, Space and Technology Committee	Congress	Lamar Alexander
House Transportation and		Lisa Murkowski

Infrastructure Committee	Courts	Marcy Kaptur
Senate Commerce Committee	DOE	Maria Cantwell
Senate Energy And Natural Resources Committee	EPA	Mike Simpson
Senate Environment And Public Works Committee	Executive Branch	Paul Tonko
Senate Finance Committee	FERC	Peter DeFazio
Companies	Interior Department	Raul Grijalva
BP	NOAA	Rick Perry
Exxon Mobil	NRC	Rob Bishop
Economy and Budget	Pipeline And Hazardous Materials Safety Administration	Ron Wyden
Appropriations	U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service	Ryan Zinke
Budget	USDA	Scott Pruitt
Electricity/Fuels	White House	Sheldon Whitehouse
Biofuels	Nuclear Energy	Stephen Burns
Coal	Yucca Mountain	Tim Murphy
Electricity/Grid	Other	Tom Carper
Energy Storage	2018	Tom Steyer
Ethanol	2020	Tom Udall
Fuels	Batteries	Real Estate/Infrastructure
Gas Prices	Business	Dams/Levees
Hydraulic Fracturing	Energy Influence	Infrastructure
Keystone XL Pipeline	Land & Water Conservation Fund	Transportation
Natural Gas	Loan Guarantees	Regulations & Standard Practices
Offshore Drilling	Mass Transit	Clean Air Act
Power	Mining	Clean Water Act
Energy/Environment	Opinion	Regulations
Agriculture	Science	Renewable Fuel Standard
Conservation	States	Renewable Portfolio Standards
Nuclear	Tax Incentives	TSCA
Oil	Taxes	Water Resources Development Act
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Renewables	Transition 2017	Waterways
Solar	People	Technology, Internet & Security
Utilities	Betty McCollum	Cybersecurity
Water	Bill Shuster	Technology
Global Affairs	Bobby Rush	Water
International	Charles Grassley	Desalination
Russia	Colette Honorable	Drinking Water

Green Energy	Cory Gardner	Drought
Climate Change	Diana DeGette	Energy-water Nexus
Energy Efficiency	Dianne Feinstein	Flood Control
Geothermal	Earl Blumenauer	Ground Water
Green Tech	Ed Markey	Surface Water
Hydroelectric	Frank Pallone	Wastewater
Wind	Fred Upton	Water Law
Industry & Advocacy Groups	Greg Walden	Waters Of The United States
Advocacy	Jason Chaffetz	Wetlands
Lobbying	Jim Inhofe	

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From: U.S. Department of the Interior
To: lori_mashburn@ios.doi.gov; interior_news@updates.interior.gov
Subject: Zinke Applauds President Trump's Nomination of Tim Petty for Interior Department
Date: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 11:11:32 AM

news release



Date: November 14, 2017
Contact: Interior_Press@ios.doi.gov

Secretary Zinke Applauds President Trump's Nomination of Tim Petty for Interior Department

Petty brings decades of scientific work, and diverse Alaska, California, and Idaho experience to Interior

WASHINGTON – Yesterday, President Donald J. Trump announced the nomination of Dr. Timothy R. Petty to be the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the U.S. Department of the Interior. U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke cheered the nomination. The Assistant Secretary for Water and Science is responsible for overseeing the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR).

Dr. Petty currently serves as Deputy Legislative Director and Legislative Assistant on issues of water, natural resources, environment, science, technology and telecommunications and space for U.S. Senator James E. Risch of Idaho, a member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Previously, Dr. Petty served as Acting Assistant Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water & Science at DOI under President George W. Bush.

“Dr. Tim Petty brings years of quality service and experience to the team at the Department, and we could not be happier with the President’s choice for the position,” **said Secretary Ryan Zinke**. “Dr. Petty has served as the Acting Assistant Secretary and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water & Science at the Department before, and we are excited to put him back to work for the American people in the Trump Administration.”

“I am grateful to President Trump and his administration for this opportunity to serve at the Department of Interior,” **said Dr. Tim Petty**. “Secretary Zinke has a clear vision for addressing our nation’s water and earth science challenges, and I would be humbled to work alongside him to advance responsible solutions.”

“Throughout Tim Petty’s eight years of service in my office, he has proven his background in and deep understanding of the complex nexus of water and science,” **said Senator James Risch**. “I can’t imagine a more qualified individual than Tim to support the Secretary of the

Interior as Assistant Secretary for Water & Science. I don't feel my office is losing his incredible talent, rather our country is gaining it and will be exceptionally served under his leadership."

"As a member of Senator Risch's staff, Dr. Petty has intimate knowledge of Idaho's water rights and the legal status of state control over water within our borders," **said Senator Mike Crapo**. "Idahoans, and water users in general, are getting the right nominee for Interior in Dr. Petty."

"I applaud Secretary Zinke on his nomination of Tim Petty for Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at DOI," **said Congressman Mike Simpson**. "There is no doubt in my mind that Tim's experience at DOI and in Congress will serve the agency well. It is also great for Idaho that someone with such direct knowledge of the issues in our state will be leading the way on solutions. I look forward to working with Tim and congratulate him on his nomination."

"I am extremely pleased to hear that Tim Petty was tapped by the current administration to serve as Assistant Secretary for Water and Science for the Department of the Interior," **said Idaho Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter**. "Tim has a deep understanding of western water and environmental issues and will be a valuable resource for the Department and the State of Idaho."

"I strongly support Dr. Tim Petty's nomination to be Assistant Secretary for Water and Science," **said former U.S. Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne**. "When I was Secretary of the Interior, I worked with him. Tim is thoughtful. He listens to all viewpoints. He is a problem solver. He has experience in working on issues related to water and science. These skills are essential for the policy leader who will oversee the US. Geological Survey and the Bureau of Reclamation."

"Dr. Petty is an exceptionally qualified individual that brings a critical combination of scientific understanding and on the ground experience to water management," **said Ian Lyle, the Executive Vice President of the National Water Resources Association**. "His experience in water began on an Indiana farm and ranged to federal service in the Department of the Interior and the U.S. Senate. He is an unflappable professional that treats every point of view fairly. Tim's perspective, demeanor and leadership will be vital as the nation works to meet the challenges facing agricultural and municipal water supply."

"Dr. Petty has demonstrated a passion for water resources from an early age. He understands that maintaining a safe and plentiful water supply is critical to the health and prosperity of our nation," **said Dr. William Schnabel, the Director of Institute of Northern Engineering at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks**. "He appreciates the power contained within our flowing waters - a power that can be constructive when harnessed for energy, or destructive when unleashed during times of flood. Moreover, he recognizes that utilizing our ever-growing capacities for science, technology, and engineering is the key to managing our nation's water supply now and in the future. Dr. Petty's experience provides him with a unique blend of administrative acumen and well-grounded scientific insight. This experience, combined with his unassailable integrity, will serve Dr. Petty well as our new DOI Assistant Secretary for Water & Science."

"We are thrilled to learn of Dr. Petty's nomination as Assistant Secretary for Water and Science," **said Paul Arrington, the Executive Director and General Counsel of the Idaho Water Users Association**. "As a Congressional Staffer focusing on water issues in the office

of Senator Risch (ID), we had the opportunity to work closely with Dr. Petty on resource issues. His expertise, combined with his ability to understand different sides of difficult issues, make him a natural choice for this position.”

Dr. Petty earned a Ph.D. from the University of Alaska Fairbanks; an M.S. from University of Maryland University College; and a B.S. from Purdue University (Indiana). Prior to his current Senate service, Dr. Petty worked for U.S. Senators Connie Mack of Florida and Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania. In addition, Dr. Petty worked in California and Indiana as a geologist and hydrogeologist.

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Subject: Zinke appoints Utah hill staffer as acting BLM director
Date: Thursday, November 16, 2017 12:12:38 PM

By Esther Whieldon

11/16/2017 12:10 PM EDT

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has appointed Brian Steed, the former chief of staff for Rep. [Chris Stewart](#) (R-Utah), as acting director of the Bureau of Land Management.

Mike Nedd, a career staffer who had been acting director since March, announced the change in a Wednesday email to all BLM staff, which POLITICO obtained today.

Steed joined Interior in October as deputy director of programs and policy and Nedd said in the email he and BLM Acting Deputy Director John Ruhs "have come to know [Steed's] ethic, his intellect, and his passion for our multiple-use and sustained yield mission."

Nedd said he will become acting deputy director for operations and that Ruhs will return to his job as BLM Nevada state director.

"Brian has been an incredible asset to the Bureau since his first day," Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift said in an email. "We are excited to have him temporarily step into this leadership role. We couldn't be more thankful to Mike Nedd for leading the Bureau during the initial transition. Nedd helped execute big wins for sportsmen's access, multiple-use, and energy development on BLM lands over the past few months."





The agency did not comment on whether Steed may have limitations on carrying out his responsibilities now that the Vacancies Act requirements kicked in this week.

That law states that unless the president has nominated someone for a Senate-confirmed position, any person filling that role in an acting capacity cannot carry out certain functions assigned by law or regulation beginning 301 days after that vacancy occurred. President Donald Trump has not announced an appointment for BLM director.

To view online:

<https://www.politicopro.com/energy/whiteboard/2017/11/zinke-appoints-utah-hill-staffer-as-acting-blm-director-097432>

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Date: Saturday, December 09, 2017 10:06:25 PM

Zinke denounces reporting on helicopter rides

By Ben Lefebvre

12/09/2017 10:04 PM EDT

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Saturday attacked POLITICO's coverage of his use of \$14,000 in taxpayer-funded helicopter rides in the D.C. area — but offered no facts that contradicted the [story](#) that ran Thursday.

"Here are the [#facts](#) the DC media refuses to print," Zinke said in a [statement](#) on his official Twitter account. "Recent articles about official Interior Department helicopter usage are total fabrications and a wild departure from reality."

His statement went on to note — as POLITICO's story had said — that the trips in question had included a visit to an emergency management exercise in West Virginia and a flyover of a power line project in Virginia.

Zinke also defended a separate helicopter flight last summer over two national monuments in Nevada. POLITICO had [reported](#) in September on that flight, which Interior Department documents said cost at least \$40,000.

POLITICO's reporting was based on records that the Interior Department had released under the Freedom of Information Act. Zinke's travels got more attention Friday in a [follow-up story](#) by The Associated Press that mentioned all the helicopter trips.

In his statement Saturday, Zinke wrote: "On these instances, I conducted an aerial survey of a million acres of federal monument lands, an aerial survey of power line project which was under scrutiny for possible compensatory migration corruption from the previous administration, and a national comment authority directed emergency response exercise." He added that all his trips "were thoroughly vetted and scrutinized."

Zinke's tweet came as prominent Democrats criticized his use of U.S. Park Police helicopters to fly between Washington, D.C., and the events in West Virginia and Virginia. The use of the speedy aircraft also allowed him to fit in two events in D.C. — a horseback ride through Rock Creek Park with Vice President Mike Pence, and the swearing-in ceremony of Rep. [Greg Gianforte](#) (R-Mont.), Zinke's successor in the congressional seal and a donor to Zinke's past campaigns.

Senate Environment and Resources Committee ranking member [Maria Cantwell](#) (D-Wash.) said [in a tweet](#) Friday that she had asked Interior's inspector general to add the helicopter flights to [its investigation](#) of the secretary. The IG's office is already looking into Zinke's past mixing of official business with political events, including his use of a charter flight after speaking to the Las Vegas professional hockey team owned by a major donor.

In one of the flights POLITICO wrote about this week, Interior's staff at first approved Zinke's

use of a Park Police helicopter to travel to a July 7 meeting of boating industry representatives in Yorktown, Va. Days later, it added an overview of a proposed high-voltage transmission line site to the same trip.

In justifying the use the helicopter, Interior's staff said on June 29 that it was needed to ensure he could make it back to D.C. in time to for his "official event" with Pence. The Park Service approved the request on July 1, and Interior staff added the transmission line site review to the itinerary on July 6, according to official emails. The helicopter trip cost about \$6,250.

"Following his visit to Yorktown, Secretary Zinke must return to Washington D.C. to attend an official event with Vice President Mike Pence at Rock Creek Park," an Interior staffer said in a July 4 email.

Earlier, Zinke and his chief of staff, Scott Hommel, used a helicopter to fly from the capital to attend an emergency management exercise in Shepherdstown, W.Va., on June 21. Interior staff justified the flight by saying Zinke needed to attend Gianforte's swearing-in in Washington earlier in the day. That flight cost \$8,000.

"Scott confirmed that we would like to use the helicopter to go round trip," Zinke's special assistant Caroline Boulton wrote in a June 16 email to department schedulers.






Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift had defended the flights in an email POLITICO published Thursday: "The swearing in of the Congressman is absolutely an official event, as is emergency management training," she wrote. "Shame on you for not respecting the office of a Member of Congress."

According to official Interior documents, Zinke also used a Bureau of Land Management helicopter on July 30 to survey the Gold Butte and Basin and Range national monuments outside Las Vegas as part of the national monument review President Donald Trump had tasked him with. Zinke proposed reducing the size of both monuments.

To view online:

<https://www.politicopro.com/energy/article/2017/12/interior-secretary-zinke-dc-helicopter-rides-are-real-stories-are-fabrications-217113>

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From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
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Subject: Zinke names members to royalty committee, including PAC donor
Date: Friday, September 01, 2017 1:05:01 PM

By Ben Lefebvre

09/01/2017 01:00 PM EDT

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has named the members of the agency's new committee reviewing royalty policies, including at least one representative from a company that donated to his PAC.

Zinke appointed 20 primary and 18 alternate members to the group, which will advise on policy and management of Interior's mineral revenue program, the agency said in a [press release](#). Interior is considering tweaking its royalty assessment policy, and BOEM is mulling whether to tie rates to commodity prices.

Interior has also postponed enforcing an Obama-era rule changing requirements for reporting production and royalty payments for coal, oil and natural gas extracted from federal lands. A Northern California district court judge earlier this week [called](#) the delay "unlawful."

Vincent DeVito, Interior counselor to the secretary for energy policy, will serve as committee chairman.

Six energy companies will have representatives on the committee, including Cloud Peak Energy, a coal mining company based in Wyoming that [donated](#) \$10,000 to Zinke's PAC during the 2016 election cycle, when he was a Montana congressman.

Cloud Peak's donation was the maximum amount allowed to go to political candidates, according to campaign cash monitor [Open Secrets](#).






Other members on the committee include representatives of six energy states, including Texas, Alaska and Wyoming, and four representatives of native American tribes.

WHAT'S NEXT: The committee will hold its first meeting Oct. 4.

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Subject: Zinke traveled on charter, military planes
Date: Thursday, September 28, 2017 7:50:14 PM

Zinke traveled on charter, military planes

By Ben Lefebvre

09/28/2017 07:47 PM EDT

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and his aides have taken several flights on private or military aircraft, including a \$12,000 charter plane to take him to events in his hometown in Montana and private flights between two Caribbean islands, according to documents and a department spokeswoman.

Zinke is at least the fourth senior member of the Trump administration to have used non-commercial planes at taxpayer expense, along with EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and HHS Secretary Tom Price. President Donald Trump has [fumed](#) at Price's pricey travel, and Democrats say the revelations demonstrate a cavalier attitude by Cabinet members toward excessive spending.

Interior Department spokeswoman Heather Swift said Zinke's charter or military plane trips were booked only after officials were unable to find commercial flights that would accommodate Zinke's schedule, and that all were "pre-cleared by career officials in the ethics office." Swift said she had not spoken to Zinke about whether he would reimburse the government for the cost of the flights, as [Price plans to do](#) for some of the \$400,000 tab he racked up on charter flights.

On June 26, a Beechcraft King Air 200 carried Zinke and several staffers from Las Vegas to Glacier Park International Airport in Kalispell, Mont., about a 20-minute drive from Zinke's home in Whitefish, according to his [official schedule](#). The flight cost \$12,375, Swift said.

Zinke left after speaking at an event for the city's new professional hockey team, the "Vegas Golden Knights Development Camp Dinner," according to his schedule. Earlier in the day, he had been in Pahrump, Nev., for an announcement related to public lands.

Zinke's flight left Las Vegas at 8:30 p.m. PST and landed around 1:30 a.m. MST in Kalispell. The secretary stayed overnight at his residence, Interior documents show.

Las Vegas is one of the main [connecting](#) airports for commercial flights to Glacier International. Commercial flights between the two cities are available for several hundred dollars a ticket, according to travel planning websites.

In Whitefish, Zinke attended the Western Governors' Association's annual meeting, where he spoke for about 20 minutes without taking questions. He then had a private lunch with association members. In the afternoon Zinke was the subject of a photo shoot with GQ magazine at Lake McDonald and fished while being interviewed by Outside Magazine, the records show.

Zinke and staffers flew commercial back to Washington, D.C., the next day, according to the

records.

The trip was not the first in which Interior booked a private jet for Zinke. [On March 31](#), Interior chartered two flights to take Zinke and staff from St. Croix to St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands to attend the centennial of the Danish government turning the islands over to the United States. Another two flights were chartered to return to St. Croix later that night.

Swift said she did not know how much the flights cost but that no other arrangements were available.

Commercial flights between the two islands generally run a few hundred dollars, according to travel booking websites.

In May, Zinke and his wife, Lolita, used a military aircraft to travel to Norway. From there, they flew on a military plane to Alaska for events organized by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. The trip included charter planes to travel within Alaska, a common occurrence in the large, remote state. The Zinkes paid for Lolita's share of the trip, the full cost of which was not immediately available, Swift said.






Zinke also took a military helicopter from Fort Bliss to review the Organ Mountains monument in New Mexico in June, and he used a Bureau of Land Management helicopter to review the Basin and Range National Monument on July 30. "It is difficult to survey a half-million-acre piece of land with few roads by foot or car in an hour and a half," Swift said.

Along with Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, Zinke took a military plane to Ravalli County, Mont., to check on wildfires in the area in August. "The military plane was used because of a very tight travel window, with no viable commercial airline options to transport two secretaries, security details, and associated USDA, Forest Service and Interior staff to Missoula in the time required," said USDA spokesman Tim Murtaugh. The cost of the flight was not immediately available, but the two agencies plan to reimburse the Air Force, Murtaugh said.

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Subject: Zinke's travels: Ski resort and Alaskan steakhouse
Date: Tuesday, October 10, 2017 6:32:51 PM

Zinke's travels: Ski resort and Alaskan steakhouse

By Esther Whieldon and Ben Lefebvre

10/10/2017 06:29 PM EDT

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has attended at least two additional political fundraisers while traveling for official business, including a weekend ski getaway less than three weeks after he was sworn in where donors paid up to \$3,000 to attend, according to sources and documents reviewed by POLITICO.

Zinke's previously undisclosed attendance at the events adds to scrutiny he is facing over his habit of mixing political activities with official business when traveling outside of Washington, D.C., and to questions over travel expenses incurred by members of President Donald Trump's Cabinet. In addition to the fundraisers, Zinke has held at least a half-dozen other events with big donors or influential conservative organizations while on official trips.

Zinke, a former Montana congressman who became secretary March 1, started his fundraising appearances even before attending a March 30 Virgin Islands Republican Party fundraiser in St. Croix that POLITICO [reported](#) last week, at which donors paid up to \$5,000 per couple for a photo with him. The Justice Department's Office of Special Counsel, which is investigating Zinke's use of travel and political activities in office, has been asked by a watchdog group to look into his appearance there.

In the first of the newly disclosed appearances, Zinke attended a mid-March fundraiser at a ski resort in Big Sky, Mont., organized by committees affiliated with Republican Sen. [Steve Daines](#), according to two attendees who saw him there. And in May, Zinke briefly stopped by a fundraiser for GOP Rep. [Don Young](#) at a steakhouse in Anchorage, Alaska, a spokesman for Young's campaign told POLITICO.

All three fundraisers occurred on trips that Zinke took for official Interior Department business. The Hatch Act and other federal laws allow Cabinet secretaries to participate in partisan political activities only if they do so on their own time and do not use any governmental resources. Federal Election Commission records for the campaign committees do not list any reimbursement payments to Interior for the events.

"Both law and common sense tell us that taxpayer resources are supposed to be used when you're doing the taxpayers' business [but] are not supposed to be used to help candidates get elected," said Brendan Fischer of the nonprofit watchdog organization Campaign Legal Center.

An Interior Department spokeswoman did not respond to specific questions about Zinke's attendance at the events nor whether the campaigns reimbursed Interior for any of his travel expenses, but she said ethics officials sign off on the secretary's trips and all of them comply with the law.

"The Interior Department under the Trump Administration has always and will always work to ensure all officials follow appropriate rules and regulations when traveling, including seeking commercial options at all times appropriate and feasible, to ensure the efficient use of government resources," Interior spokeswoman Heather Swift said in a statement.

Other guests attending the Montana fundraiser included Sens. [John Hoeven](#) (R-N.D.) and [Lisa Murkowski](#) (R-Alaska), according to an invitation to the March 17-19 event [posted by a local political blog](#) earlier that month. Donors were asked to contribute \$3,000 if they were attending on behalf of a political action committee or \$1,500 for an individual. Another [invitation](#) for events that weekend obtained by POLITICO sought donations as low as \$500 to attend two dinners for Daines.

Hoeven hosted his own reception Friday night before the Daines dinner and a lunch Saturday, according to a campaign [invitation](#) obtained by POLITICO, which also informed guests that they could purchase "discounted ski lift tickets" at the resort.

Zinke was not named on the invitations, but his [official schedule](#) lists him as attending a "welcoming reception" for Daines on Friday night, spending "personal time with Senator Murkowski" at Big Sky Resort on Saturday and attending a "reception & dinner" for Daines that evening.

Two sources who attended the Daines fundraiser recalled seeing Zinke there. One of the sources, a lobbyist, said Zinke attended the Friday night social and the breakfast buffet the next day. The lobbyist said that when Daines introduced Zinke on Friday night, the Montana senator mentioned that Zinke was the state's first Cabinet secretary.

The Hatch Act bars Zinke from taking part in political events while acting in his official role as Interior secretary, which includes being identified by his title in invitations. But Richard Painter, a University of Minnesota professor and former White House chief ethics lawyer under President George W. Bush, said Daines referring to Zinke's Cabinet position doesn't appear to violate the law.

Zinke "should take reasonable steps to make sure people aren't using his official title" and not use the title himself at political events, Painter said. "But I don't know that he has an obligation to jump in and tell the senator he can't do that."

The secretary spent most of the day that Friday touring Yellowstone National Park, which the Interior Department manages through the National Park Service. He did not have any other official events listed on his schedule for Saturday and flew back to Washington, D.C., on Sunday.

A [report](#) posted by Interior on Zinke's March travel expenses shows that he claimed 75 percent of his per diem that Friday and did not claim any lodging or reimbursements over that weekend, which he took as personal days off. He did fly home on official taxpayer-funded travel, however.

The Young fundraiser occurred May 31, when Zinke was in Anchorage for a speech to the Alaska Oil and Gas Association's annual conference, where he signed a secretarial order for an updated assessment of how much oil exists in part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The invitation to the reception, a copy of which was obtained by political blog [Must Read Alaska](#) and shared with POLITICO, does not list Zinke as a special guest, nor does it say how much

donors had to contribute to attend.

FEC records for the Alaskans for Don Young campaign committee show it received \$9,800 in campaign contributions from individuals and political action committees on that day.

Young's campaign spokesman, Matt Shuckerow, said in an email that Zinke made "only very brief remarks" at the event, and that the campaign did not confirm his attendance in advance and did not require guests to pay to attend. "Not only did the campaign seek out the guidance of the Interior Department's ethics personnel prior to the event, it took concerted efforts to follow their strict guidance," Shuckerow said. He did not say whether the campaign reimbursed the Interior Department for any costs associated with Zinke's trip.

Zinke's calendar for that day includes a brief stop at Sullivan's Steakhouse in Anchorage, the same venue listed on the invitation, for a "Rep. Don Young Reception." Later that night, Zinke went to dinner with representatives of sportsmen's groups, according to his schedule.

The Anchorage stop came in the middle of a weeklong trip that included the use of a military plane to fly from Washington, D.C., to Norway, Greenland and then Alaska. Interior paid for Zinke and three Interior staff members to take the flight. Zinke's wife, Lola, also accompanied him on the trip but reimbursed the government for the cost of her seat, Interior has said.

In both of the newly disclosed appearances, Zinke did not pose for photos with high-dollar donors, as had been the case with the Virgin Islands Republican Party fundraiser. POLITICO's report on Zinke's appearance in that photo line led Walter Shaub, a former director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics who is now with the Campaign Legal Center, to ask the Office of Special Counsel to open [a Hatch Act investigation](#). The OSC typically opens investigations in response to complaints it receives, but a spokesman declined to comment on the status of Shaub's request.

Still, some watchdogs question whether Zinke is focused enough on his day job given how much attention he has paid to politics.

"There's always the risk that a high-level government official spending more time involved in political events may not be attending to their official duties," said Nick Schwellenbach, director of investigations at Project On Government Oversight.

To view online:

<https://www.politicopro.com/agriculture/story/2017/10/zinkes-travels-ski-resort-and-alaskan-steakhouse-163110>

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